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From: "Joshua Dorner" <jdorner@americanprogress.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/6/2010 11:29:52 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Follow-up Materials from Background Briefing on the Chamber's Foreign Funding, fyi

U.S. Chamber & Foreign Funding Resources:

I. The original exclusive ThinkProgress post on the Chamber's foreign funding.

II. The latest ThinkProgress post: Inconvenient Facts That The Chamber Hasn't Refuted .

III. Today's Progress Report , "The Chamber's Foreign Influence," detailing the situation and the facts.

IV. U.S. Chamber Watch's site at www.fixtheuschamber.org . **Contact Samantha Brown at bsamantha@gmail.com for more information** on the Chamber's activities, including a full list of attack ads the Chamber has run and is running and the Chamber's endorsements.

V. A **press call tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.** with ThinkProgress' Faiz Shakir and Lee Fang and Senator Al Franken, who has publicly called for an investigation of the Chamber's foreign funding.

Call info: (877) 210 – 8943 Conference ID: 16738967

VI. The Facts on the Chamber's Foreign Funding (see below).

WHAT WE KNOW…

- **CHAMBER AGRESSIVELY FUNDRAISING OVERSEAS FOR GENERAL FUNDS.** The Chamber has received hundreds of thousands of dollars—if not millions—in foreign donations from countries like **Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.), India, Russia, China**, and elsewhere following an aggressive public fundraising campaign. ThinkProgress has identified several foreign entities created by, run by, or affiliated with the Chamber that return hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to the Chamber's general fund. Some of these corporations are even state-owned entities controlled by foreign governments. To recap, we know of at least three ways the Chamber takes in foreign money:
    - Direct contributions from the foreign firms, such as BP or Siemens, that are among its 300,000 members.
    - Direct contributions from foreign firms under the auspices of "Business Councils" located in various foreign countries. Our investigation has discovered that the U.S.-Bahrain Business Council and U.S.-India Business Council have raised at least $300,000 in such direct contributions to the Chamber.
    - Indirect contributions from foreign firms who belong to their local "AmCham," which itself in turn pays dues to the U.S. Chamber's general account.
- **CHAMBER RUNNING $75 MILLION ATTACK CAMPAIGN AGAINST DEMS USING GENERAL FUNDS.** As of September 15, the Chamber has spent more than $6.7 million to run more than 8,000 ads on behalf of GOP Senate candidates alone. A new round of highly misleading ads began targeting House members this week. The Chamber says it will spend some $75 million on this year's election—paid for out of the same general fund that the foreign money is going into.
- **CHAMBER DISCUSSING IMPORTANCE OF 2010 ELECTION TO FOREIGN ENTITIES.** To galvanize foreign businesses, the Chamber has commissioned former Ambassador Frank Lavin — who served as the McCain-Palin Asia campaign director and has appeared on television multiple times recently saying a Democratic Congress is bad for business — to speak before various foreign Chamber affiliates to talk about the stakes for the 2010 midterm elections.
- **WE'VE SEEN THIS MOVIE BEFORE.** The Chamber was exposed for having secretly taken approximately $20 million from the health insurance industry, which it then used to launch anti-health reform ads against Democrats. More recently, the Chamber, which receives money from BP, called on taxpayers to help foot the bill for BP's oil disaster in the Gulf. Another secret $1 million in funding from Fox News' parent corporation was also recently uncovered.

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WHAT THE CHAMBER SAYS…

- **ADMITS TO TAKING FOREIGN FUNDS. "**The Chamber is proud to have global companies among our membership."

- **TRUST, DON'T VERIFY.** The Chamber denies the allegations and claims they have "a system" in place. As the *New York Times* notes today: "Money, however, is fungible, and **it is impossible for an outsider to know** whether the group is following its rules."
  - When pressed further to explain whether foreign funds are going into the same fund used for the political attack ads, the Chamber didn't deny that that was the case and once again refused to answer basic questions: **"We don't feel obligated to answer that question** because we follow all applicable law, and no foreign money funds our voter education activities."

WHAT THE LAW SAYS…

- **ILLEGAL FOR FOREIGN ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO SPEND IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS.** Under the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA), it is illegal for "foreign nationals" to "directly or indirectly" contribute, donate, or spend funds in connection with any federal, state, or local election in the U.S.

- **ILLEGAL FOR AMERICAN ENTITIES—LIKE THE CHAMBER—TO SOLICIT FOREIGN FUNDS FOR AMERICAN ELECTIONS.** As MoveOn's letter to the Department of Justice noted: "It is not only unlawful for a foreign national to make such a contribution, directly or indirectly, it is also unlawful for anyone "to solicit, accept or receive" such a contribution "from a foreign national." 2 U.S.C. §441e(a)(2)."

CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION…

- **MOVEON.** MoveOn sent a letter to the Department of Justice Tuesday requesting that it began an immediate investigation of the Chamber's potentially illegal activities. MoveOn has also launched a petition calling for the investigation and its members are calling on local TV stations to immediately take down the Chamber's ads.

- **SENATOR FRANKEN.** Senator Al Franken wrote to the Federal Election Commission Tuesday and requested that they too began an immediate investigation, as well close certain loopholes that could allow foreign spending in American elections.

PERRIELLO GETS AHEAD OF POTENTIAL FOREIGN MONEY IN HIS DISTRICT…

- Rep. Tom Perriello held a conference call with reporters Tuesday night to denounce foreign money in American elections:
  - "This latest move is beyond outrageous, to being fundamentally un-American and undemocratic." [*Lynchburg News & Advance*, 10/5]
  - "On Tuesday, Perriello called on his opponent Sen. Robert Hurt to stand-up against what he calls an 'organization with shadow funding'." [WDJB-TV, 10/5]

SECRET MONEY THREATENS TO DROWN OUT REAL PEOPLE'S VOICES…

- Secret money from corporate special interests — foreign and domestic — threatens to drown out the voices and concerns of everyday Americans. Right-wing third-party groups are preparing to spend a whopping $400 MILLION, much of it from secret sources, to buy our election. The American people — not special interests — should decide our elections.

Josh Dorner
Communications Director, Progressive Media
tel 202.481.8153
cel 202.679.7570

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

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E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/14/2015 11:19:46 AM
Subject: NYT: Hillary Clinton's Chipotle Order: Above Average

New low:

Hillary Clinton's Chipotle Order: Above Average

APRIL 14, 2015
Kevin Quealy
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/15/upshot/hillary-clintons-chipotle-order-above-average.html?smid=tw-nytimes&abt=0002&abg=1&_r=0

On Monday, Hillary Rodham Clinton ordered a burrito bowl at a Chipotleoutside Toledo, Ohio.

Let others deconstruct her apparent anonymity or how her visit comparedwith President Obama's. Here's what The Upshot can contribute: Is Mrs. Clinton's order like the normal Chipotle meals of everyday Americans, or is it polarizing?

(Elsewhere in Monday's news: Russia may start selling a missile defense system to Iran; Marco Rubio is running for president; the United States may not have followed its own rules regarding drone strikes intended to minimize casualties. So ask yourself: Are you sure you need to be reading this?)

Our knowledge about what is normal and what is not comes from about 3,000 online orders from GrubHub, which some colleagues and I used to find out what people actually order at Chipotle. (All the data is online, by the way, so you also could have done this crucial analysis.)

Hillary Clinton, Just an Unrecognized Burrito Bowl Fan at ChipotleAPRIL 13, 2015

At the time of this writing, much about Mrs. Clinton's order was still unknown. We do know that it was a chicken bowl (with guacamole, according to ABC News). Less known, but critical: Did she get rice and beans, which are free with the order? What about fajita vegetables, or more than one kind of salsa? Even more important, from a calorie perspective: Did she include cheese and sour cream? This information, much like the contents of some of her emails when she was secretary of state, we may never know.

Continue reading the main story

At Chipotle, How Many Calories Do People Really Eat?

How healthy are the meals people actually order for themselves at Chipotle? We decided to try to find out.

For this exercise, let's assume she ordered both rice and beans, as most people do, and included one salsa — let's say the fresh tomato salsa, the most popular. Then we'll assume she ordered either sour cream or cheese, but not both. Shredded cheese is the mild favorite among the masses, but more important, it's also my preference, and if Mrs. Clinton is going to get my vote, she's going to have to prove that she's just like me. (Nutritionally, the difference between them won't affect the math too much.) Also, lettuce. Almost everyone orders lettuce! I have proof. And, of course, the side of guacamole, which is not free.

So here's our potentially presidential order: chicken bowl, white rice, black beans, fresh garden salsa, shredded cheese, lettuce and guacamole.

Photo
A surveillance camera image of Hillary Rodham Clinton ordering at a Chipotle in Maumee, Ohio, on Monday.

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According to Chipotle's nutritional calculator, this comes to 840 calories, 11.5 grams of saturated fat and 1,720 milligrams of sodium.

Continue reading the main story

RECENT COMMENTS

Joey

39 minutes ago

Gotta love the "peoples' champion" but heard that John Cena is a little miffed and wants his belt back.

TXSaint

1 hour ago

Less essential analysis, for sure.Agree with M. Wykowsi -- wish you would have spent half the time you spent on this drivel on something...

M. Wykowski

1 hour ago

Congratulations - you have done more research on Hilary's Chipotle lunch than all the Mainstream Media did combined on Benghazi.

Answer: Mrs. Clinton's order was healthier than the average American's order, with significantly fewer calories, saturated fat and sodium than most orders do. Specifically, almost 75 percent of meals ordered at Chipotle had more calories than Mrs. Clinton's; about 75 percent had more sodium; and about 70 percent had more saturated fat.

Photo
The nutritional information of the potentially presidential Chipotle order.

As it happens, Mr. Obama also seems to prefer Chipotle orders with many fewer calories than is typical. When he visited one in June 2014, he ordered a burrito bowl with white rice and guacamole, sparing himself the 300 calories that come automatically with every Chipotle tortilla.

CONTINUE READING THE MAIN STORY28COMMENTS

If Mrs. Clinton (or Mr. Obama) had ordered sour cream, it would add about 115 calories, 7 grams of saturated fat and 30 milligrams of sodium, making the meal more "normal" but still with fewer calories than 65 percent of meals.

Put another way, the order is kind of normal — but really, who are we kidding? It's way better than average.

You may resume your lives.

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/

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CAPrY%2B5KJ%3DNG%2BVs-khDVpe-L%3DbP5%3DqvPcZTS5FDam5LixueQsKA%40mail.gmail.com.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Jeremy Funk" <funk@americansunitedforchange.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/12/2008 3:44:25 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Somewhere even Dick Cheney is saying, "Whoa."

AMERICANSUNITED FOR CHANGE

www.americansunitedforchange.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: Jeremy Funk, 202-470-5878**
DATE: September 12th, 2008

Only after 8 years of Bush-Cheney neo-con, "shoot first, ask questions later" foreign policy could a Candidate for Vice-President of the United States matter-of-factly threaten war with nuclear power Russia -- and it not be a bigger deal.

"When asked by [ABC News's Charlie] Gibson if under the NATO treaty, the U.S. would have to go to war if Russia again invaded Georgia, **[Sarah] Palin responded: "Perhaps so**. I mean, that is the agreement when you are a NATO ally, is if another country is attacked, you're going to be expected to be called upon and help." [ABC News, 9/11/08]

Somewhere even Dick Cheney is saying, "*Whoa.*"

In the same interview, Governor Palin, who is vying to be one step removed from the "red button," did not know what the Bush Doctrine of pre-emptive war is – a policy she ought to be extremely familiar with as her partner Senator John McCain promises "there will be other wars ," wants to keep U.S. troops policing an Iraqi civil war for '100 years' or more, and asininely jokes about "bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb bomb[ing]" Iran:

http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2008/09/palin-didnt-kno.html

Palin Didn't Know What the Bush Doctrine Was

Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

Charles Gibson just asked Sarah Palin what she thought of the Bush Doctrine. Here's the transcript as best as I can make it out.

> Gibson: do you agree with the bush doctrine?
>
> Palin: in what respect, Charlie?
>
> Gibson: well, what do you interpret it to be?
>
> Palin: His world view?
>
> Gibson: the Bush doctrine, in September 2002, before the Iraq war.
>
> Palin: I believe that what president bush has attempted to do is rid this world of Islamic terrorists who are hell-bent in destroying our nation. There have been blunders along the way, though. there have been mistakes made, and with new leadership, and that's the beauty of American elections, of course, and democracy, is with new leadership comes opportunity to do
>
> Gibson: the bush doctrine is we have the right of self-defense, preemptive strike against any country we think is going to attack us. do you agree with us?

Clearly Palin did not have the foggiest idea what Gibson meant. This is absolutely huge. The Bush doctrine of preemption and the National Security Strategy of 2002 was the central element of debate for almost 2 years in the foreign policy community and in the country during the run up to the invasion of Iraq and in the years after. It was probably the single greatest shift in U.S. foreign policy in a generation.

There were pages and pages of ink spilled on this and it took up hours of debate. It was a central issue in the 2004 campaign. For her to not know what it is, raises serious questions about her experience and preparation to potentially be the leader of the free world.

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-30-

Jeremy J. Funk
Communications Director
Americans United for Change
Office: 202.470.5878
Cell: 605.366.3654
funk@americansunitedforchange.org
www.AmericansUnitedforChange.org

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/9/2015 11:47:16 AM
Subject: Re: TWEETS 9/9

Re-upping these for the morning. Retweets may be a bit behind the times but the tweets should still be ok.

On Wed, Sep 9, 2015 at 11:08 AM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

TWEETS 9/9

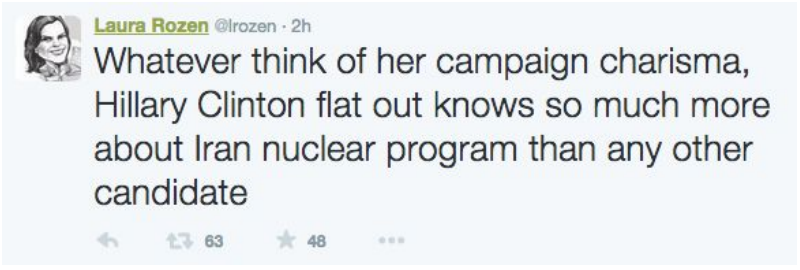
Evidence that unions push policies — higher minimum wage, $ for schools, govt programs — that benefit workers http://nyti.ms/1hXdo4W @amprog (139)

.@HillaryClinton's history confronting Iran's support for terrorism & countering its nuclear ambitions is unmatched
https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/factsheets/2015/09/08/counter-threats-from-iran/ (140)

Falling cost of batteries and distributed solar signal a major shift. It's time to open up the grid. http://www.vox.com/2015/9/9/9287719/utilities-monopoly?utm_campaign=vox&utm_content=article%3Afixed&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter#
Want to piss off some utilities? Really great long-form piece from Vox about breaking down public utilities and opening up the grid to innovation...
(140)

RETWEETS 9/9





--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

--
Milia Fisher

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Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 8:52:22 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

You all think wjc's joke is too much about her kinda wishing after hour 8 that Bernie would come through the door with his damn email line ..,?
I think it's funny and confident and the room would love it.

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
>
> > All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…
> > Thinking.
> >
> > **From:** Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
> > **To:** Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
> > **Cc:** Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com " <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com>, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
> >
> > I was kidding!
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Not ninnies.
> > >
> > > We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.
> > >
> > > **From:** Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> > > **Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
> > > **To:** Matt Paul
> > > **Cc:** Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
> > > **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
> > >
> > > Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

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Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

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A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and

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poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/14/2008 3:44:55 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/14/08

Main Topics: Georgia-Russia war, Jerome Corsi book

Summary of Shift:

The Russian Georgian conflict remains the primary subject of the political news cycle. In the past three days, there has been a steady increase in the number of voices challenging the traditional media's narrative that McCain has leverage when speaking about Georgia. For example, on CNN Errol Louis remarked on the conflict of interest Scheunemann poses for McCain. In the same segment, Politico's Beth Frerking contradicted herself by first emphatically praising McCain's response to the crisis, then minutes later stating, "the last thing we need right now is saber rattling." The aggressive effort by progressive organizations to rebut Jerome Corsi has succeeded to the extent that media voices are almost all framing the book as negative, fairly inaccurate, 'swift boating.' On several networks, liberal pundits hammered Cori's erroneous claims and history of bigoted comments. Finally in political coverage, some time was devoted to unions attacking WalMart for coercing employees to vote Republican and lengthy segments were devoted to the news that Hillary Clinton will receive a roll call vote at the Democratic Convention.

In other news, there were segments about allegations that a Chinese athlete lied about her age in the Olympics and mechanical problems with Obama's plane. The broadcast networks continue to more or less favorably cover new drilling options (shale, North Dakota, offshore) with tepid mentions of environmental concerns or the long-term impact on climate change.

Highlights:

1. Jerome Corsi Book Discussed
   a. MSNBC: Maddow and guest eviscerate Corsi, claims in book, footnotes, publisher
   b. MSNBC: Del Walters says Corsi's book is literary equivalent to asking 'do you still beat your wife?'
2. FNC: Holtz-Eakin Defends McCain promise against tax increases, waffling on SS payroll taxes
3. CNN: Louis Invokes Scheunemann In Discussing McCain And Obama Response To Georgia-Russia War
4. MSNBC: Phil Gramm Spotted at McCain event
5. MSNBC: Smith among long list of Senators abandoning McCain and the GOP

Highlights, No Clips:

1. FNC: O'Reilly and Rove discuss 'bump' in polls for McCain because of Georgia-Russia war
2. CNN: RICK WARREN: [Obama's] not a Muslim and both of these men you know to my understanding are Christians. They're not evangelicals. That's an important point. I don't think either of them are necessarily evangelicals.

Clips:

Highlight #1

Maddow Attacks Jerome Corsi, Publisher, Evaluates The Various Charges Against The Book
(MSNBC 08/14/08 8:40pm)

RACHEL MADDOW: This Sunday when the New York Times publishes its list of best selling books, the Obama Nation by Jerome Corsi will debut at number one in nonfiction. The subtitle leftist politics and the cult of personality is published by Threshold Positions, a subdivision of Simon and Shuster – the chief editor of the imprint is former Dick Cheney adviser Mary Matalin. Best seller or not, the assertions in Corsi's book, and the cast of characters surrounding its publication, stretched the credulity of its classification of nonfiction. If the name of Jerome Corsi is familiar to you, its probably because of his role in concocting wild lies about John Kerry's war record in 2004 [...] You may also remember Corsi's apology for the word raghead to describe Muslims on the website FreeRepublic. He also apologized for using the phrase boy bumpers, though I still have no idea what that was all about. You may remember Corsi for his sober allegations that Hillary Clinton is a lesbian, that John Kerry is both a Jew and a Communist, and his allegations that Muslims actually worship Satan. You may remember Corsi for his recent book attacking the liberal myth that oil is a finite resource. Since he, Jerome Corsi, has learned how to

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make new oil. You may remember Corsi for his scholarly rebuke of George Bush's secret plan to merge the United States into Mexico. [...]

ERIC BURNS: [...] One of the things that gives a book cache, a nonfiction book, is footnotes. You look at the back of the book, all these footnotes, dozens of pages, and you say this guy did a lot of research. Well, before the show tonight, and I didn't have time to do more [...] but of the first 11 footnotes in the book, nine of the-in nine of them, Corsi quotes Corsi. In other words, he quotes previous writings of his own. [...] It's a dubious practice to say the least. [...]

BURNS: Bulk sales means instead of an individual going into buy the book, an organization buys dozens of books, hundreds of books, maybe even thousands of books. What this means is the whole picture of the book's popularity is skewed. What has happened here, this isn't my opinion, and I'll tell you why it's not my opinion in just a minute, but what has happened is that several conservative groups have bought large numbers of they're giving them out to fellow conservatives or for all I know they're putting them on the shelves somewhere. The New York Times, recognizing this, will put the book at number one on the best seller list this week with a dart next to it. The dart means bulk sales, you can't trust the figures.

Del Walters: Corsi's Book is Literary Equivalent to Asking: Do You Still Beat Your Wife? (MSNBC 08/14/08 07:56pm)
DEL WALTERS: I think the problem with that particular book it is the political, the literary equivalence to do you still beat your wife. I talked to Kathleen Kennedy Townsend one time, and she said that now a days in politics you not only have to be prepared to respond to your record and your reputation but also all the things they may say about you that have absolutely no basis in fact. The problem with these books are they print them. Someone is going to see it on a newsstand and they are going to say you know there's a whole book about this. And then they are going to look at the back of it and say well look at the publishing company that published it. And they are going to say there must be some fire there because there is an awful lot of smoke. It may be completely true, and that is what the Obama campaign is trying to do. But how do you answer all of those charges, how do you say that I don't beat my wife anymore, I never beat my wife? Well people are going to say, if you do then you protest too much, and if you don't then they are going to say well there must be a grain of truth there. I think that this thing is very, very troubling.

DAVID SCHUSTER: [...] Corsi is, as described by the Obama spokesperson, a discredited liar who is peddling another piece of garbage in order to continue the Bush, Cheney politics. [...]

MICHELLE BERNARD: [...] He's absolutely got to respond to them, because people know John McCain, people are still trying to figure out who Barack Obama is and that's why this book was published when it was. [...]

Highlight #2
Cavuto Challenges Holtz-Eakin On McCain's Budget Plan, Reconciling Spending And Tax Cuts (FNC 08/14/08 4:20pm)
NEIL CAVUTO: The gist of this is we have to find a way to pay for our government. And things have gotten pretty crazy over the years so who better to sort of balance that within the folks who've benefitted - the rich. What do you make of it?

DOUG HOLTZ-EAKIN: Let's be clear what's going on here. Senator Obama has a long and very clear record of voting 94 times in his career as a Senator for higher taxes. That includes a vote when he was claiming he wanted to cut taxes for people under 250,000 going back to the Senate and voting for higher taxes for people with 200,00...

CAVUTO: Well, be careful. Your guy is hardly the virgin mary on this issue. He was against the President's tax cuts for good reason at the time, so he too has changed his position on it.

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Let us also remember that Senator Obama has proposed a million dollars in earmarks for every year he's been a working Senator. So, what goes on when he hits the campaign drill? You know his record as well as anyone. He says he will take public financing, then he explains to his supporters no. He says he'll do town halls with John McCain, but he doesn't appear in any.

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CAVUTO: No, no, no. Let's stick to the tax issue [cross talk] this is important. We have a candidate who claims the opponent, the Democratic opponent is a tax hiker, yet we have a candidate in your guy, John McCain, who cannot account for his spending with his aggressive tax cuts he's planning. Which goes? Which is real?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: John McCain ran on a tax cut in 2000. He has a proven record he has never voted for any kind of tax increase in his life - he would not support Barack Obama's policies.

CAVUTO: But he's also saying he's not ruling out the possibility of having to raise taxes. He's not a do or die on that issue right?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: He has said, and this came up in the context of Social Security, that he understands negotiations, he understands how it gets done in the Congress, you have to let everyone bring their proposals to the table.

CAVUTO: That sounds to be that he's open to tax hike. Your criticizing the Obama folks for stating it, you're hinting at it.

HOLTZ-EAKIN: No. That is saying they could send their bad ideas to the table. That's their right. He will bring his ideas to the table: controlling spending, lower taxes, jobs for American workers,

Highlight #3
Louis Invokes Scheunemann In Discussing McCain And Obama Response To Georgia-Russia War (CNN 08/14/08 7:43pm)
BETH FRERKING, POLITICO: This is a sweet spot for John McCain. He's looked extremely authoritative. He's looked very relaxed and confident whenever he's spoken about this. I think that's obviously to his advantage. [...]

ERROL LOUIS: I think there are some problems with John McCain on all this stuff. I certainly don't buy into the hype that he's saying all the right things. If you consider that his top foreign policy adviser until 90 days ago was a paid client of the Georgian government. If you consider that John McCain – and that client is now calling in his favor- Saakashvili is now calling in his favor, what we need now is action, not just words. I mean he's expecting him now as a candidate or even as President to try to pull the cat out of the fire. You know the mixture of private and public aims is not particularly attractive [...]

FRERKING: Probably the smartest thing for all of them to do is wait and watch, talk about their concerns, talk about the concerns of the American people, watching, I think the last thing we need right now is saber rattling given that we have troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. I think the smartest thing to do is be counted and be seen.

Highlight #4
Phil Gramm Spotted at McCain Event (MSNBC 08/14/08 07:59pm)
DAVID SHUSTER: Someone that was seen with John McCain today, you may remember Phil Gramm and some comments that he made several seeks ago that John McCain quickly distanced himself from. [...]

[Clip of Gramm's Comments]

SHUSTER: Now John McCain very quickly distanced himself from Phil Gramm but there was Phil Gramm today at a John McCain event. The picture of Phil Gramm in the audience with John McCain. I mean at a certain point don't the democrats, they didn't run an ad on Phil Gramm, aren't they essentially giving John McCain a free pass on this. And that would suggest that John McCain isn't as tough as he needs to be.

[...]

MICHELLE BERNARD: He's got to be careful to be the agent of change, but he's also got to go negative if he wants to win.

Highlight #5
Gordon Smith, One in a Long Line of Senators Abandoning McCain and the Convention (MSNBC 8/14/08 08:14pm)
RACHEL MADDOW: Senator John McCain is finding himself bereft of buddies this summer. Republican Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon is the latest runaway; he has quit as state co-chair for McCain's campaign. Smith insists he is not trying to distance himself from the presumptive nominee. He says he's merely focusing his efforts on his own reelection campaign. But considering the position of co-chair is mainly honorary requiring little more from Senator Smith than the use of his name, and considering Senator Smith has been running re-election ads linking himself both to Senator John Kerry and Senator Barack Obama, even though in 04' he called Kerry French and socialist, the claim that Smith isn't trying to separate himself from McCain and from the R after his own title, rings a little hollow. Senator Smith just the latest in a string of GOP Senators to back away from McCain and the GOP. [...]

BOB HERBERT: Who's going to be there? He's going to be a lonely guy.

MADDOW: Isn't this weird? 10 out of 49 Republican Senators. Almost a fifth are not going. [to the GOP Convention]

HERBERT: The short answer is this is weird. The Republican's are demoralized, the Republican's in congress are demoralized, and they have reason to be demoralized. Things are really turning against them. They don't have the issues; they are running away from Bush, who was incredibly unpopular. McCain has turned out not to be a great candidate. [...] That conservative to the right philosophy has pretty much played out, it's bankrupt now. [...]

MADDOW: [...] Heading into the general election campaign how would McCain strategize against the Democrats casting him too close to Bush. [...] With all of these defections, not only form the convention but from McCain personally, is are Republicans making a distinction between McCain and Bush. Do these defections represent an assessment by Republican Senators that running away from McCain is the same thing as running away from Bush and has the same political imperative.

HERBERT: Yea I think that's what's going on. The ones that are running away are definitely assuming that the voters are going to see McCain linked up there with Bush. [...]

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This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Ian Sams" <isams@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/12/2015 3:45:54 PM
Subject: Re: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks

This is priceless

On Apr 12, 2015, at 10:43 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Can we draw smiley faces at the top of the page?

Or just give them the attached.*

Kidding, please don't share the attached.

On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:37 PM, Adrienne Elrod <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> FYI - our talkers tomorrow already have our positive "the reviews are in" doc. This is just an addendum that is only going to a handful of folks who are going on tv tomorrow
>
> On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:35 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Agree on need for positive stuff. If we're not already let's add the topper but send them all the great stuff we've put together today so that people aren't seeing this in a vacuum.
> >
> > On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:31 PM, Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Can we start with a positive line like - despite the overwhelmingly positive response to Hillary's message, the GOP went into attack mode.
> > >
> > > On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:15 PM, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > Hey folks. Here are some points we pulled together for surrogates going on TV -- not a wide blast -- on how to respond to day one attacks on HRC. Thoughts? Adrienne/Karen/etc. can get to surrogates once we're all good.
> > > >
> > > > Thanks.
> > > > Ian
> > > >
> > > > **OPENING DAY -- SURROGATE TALKING POINTS ON GOP ATTACKS**
> > > >
> > > > Today we've seen a wide range of attacks from the entire GOP field and their allies. Below are some points to respond -- keeping the focus on Hillary's desire to focus on voters while the Republicans are trotting out tired attacks on her.
> > > >
> > > > - **Republicans can focus on attacking her, but Hillary is focused on meeting voters and having real conversations about issues facing everyday Americans.** This is the start of the different kind of campaign that Hillary wants to run -- one that is squarely focused on having a conversation with voters -- answering their questions, asking them questions and sharing ideas.
>
> - **Meanwhile, Republicans want to be the champions for those at the top.** While Hillary is talking to voters and focused on everyday Americans, every single Republican candidate has offered the same tired attacks and the same economic agenda that Americans know rob them of the stability they've worked so hard for -- with a top-down agenda that would stack the deck even more in favor of those at the top.
>
> - **Americans have responded clearly that they appreciate Hillary's focus on their issues and their lives**, so if Republicans want to keep their focus on tired political attacks, that's their choice.

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If pressed on specific GOP attacks on foreign policy/HRC's record at the State Department, stemming from Jeb Bush's video or other attacks:

Job number one for Hillary as Secretary of State was to restore America's leadership after it was badly eroded by eight years of the Bush administration's foreign policy -- two wars, damaged alliances, diminished moral standing, no stopping Iran's nuclear program, and no action on climate. She's proud of her accomplishments.

- Hillary led the effort to build a worldwide coalition to impose the toughest sanctions in history against the Iranians, which forced them to the negotiating table and gave us our best shot at preventing them from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
- Hillary brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, which prevented a wider war and protected Israel's security.
- Hillary stood up to Putin by strengthening NATO, encouraging Europe to find alternative sources of energy, and called him out for trying to rebuild the Soviet Empire.
- Hillary worked with President Obama to get every major developing country, including China and India, to agree for the first time to reduce their carbon emissions and be held accountable for it.
- Hillary put internet freedom, LGBT rights, and women's rights on the global agenda, and defending human rights advocates on the frontlines around the world.
- And, of course, she was part of the President's team making the decision to launch the raid against bin Laden.

Jeb Bush may attack Hillary's time as Secretary of State now, but it's just negative politics meant to gin up his Republican base.

- Jeb Bush in 2013: "Former Secretary Clinton has dedicated her life to serving and engaging people across the world in democracy. These efforts as a citizen, an activist, and a leader have earned Secretary Clinton this year's Liberty Medal." [National Constitution Center, 6/27/2013]

Jeb Bush is advocating for the same failed foreign policy that led us to misguided wars and degraded our nation's standing in the world.

- Jeb Bush on George W. Bush: "I will tell you that I'm the only Republican that was in office when he was office as President that never disagreed with him. And I'm not going to start now. Why would I do that now after two years? …I'm not going to start now. It's just – 'til death do us part." [CNN interview]

--
Ian Sams | Rapid Response Associate
Hillary for America
(423) 915-6592 | @IanSams
Gchat: icsams

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To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/5580677016926619023%40unknownmsgid.
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From: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Ron Klain" <ron.klain@revolution.com>
"Karen Dunn" <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com>
jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com
kcosta@hillaryclinton.com
ssolow@hillaryclinton.com
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Robert Barnett" <rbarnett@wc.com>
Date: 2/3/2016 4:31:16 PM
Subject: Fwd: CNN Town Hall Full Transcript 2.3.16

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Melissa Cantrell <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: February 3, 2016 at 11:20:59 PM EST
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: CNN Town Hall Full Transcript 2.3.16

ANDERSON COOPER: Welcome.
BERNIE SANDERS: It's good to be with you.
ANDERSON COOPER: So, you have had, obviously, quite a few days -- it's been quite a whirlwind for you. I understand your campaign says you've raised at least $3 million since Iowa. I'm wondering, out there, in New Hampshire today, what are you feeling? What sort of momentum - are you Feeling The Bern?
BERNIE SANDERS: We're feeling great. Yes, I am, now that you ask. We're feeling really great. I think the message that we are bringing forth is resonating with the American people. And you talked about money - one of the things that has happened in our campaign, Anderson, which has blown me away, it really has, is that we have received 3.5 million individual contributions. That is more than any candidate in the history of the United States up until this point, and you know what the average contribution is?
ANDERSON COOPER: $27.
BERNIE SANDERS: Hey, you heard! And that's pretty – and in a day of Super PACs, where people are raising huge amounts of money from Wall Street and the drug companies, the fact that millions of individual contributions from working people and the middle class who want us to go forward, and to transform this country in very significant ways, is very moving to me.
ANDERSON COOPER: I'm just going to ask a couple of questions, and then we'll really going to get it over to the audience. There is an expectations game being played. And we've been seeing this from both campaigns in New Hampshire. Hillary Clinton's campaign keeps pointing to the fact that you're from a neighboring state; that you're way up in the polls. Are you still an underdog?
BERNIE SANDERS: Of course we're an underdog. We are taking on the most powerful political organization in the country. And that's, you know, the Clinton organization. Secretary Clinton, obviously, ran here in 2008 and she won. Her husband ran here several times before that. So this is her fourth campaign in that family [ph] here in New Hampshire. It is clear that many people in New Hampshire do know me, because I come from a neighboring state. And I think we have support, because people over the years have seen the work that I am doing in standing up for working families and the middle class. But in general, we started this campaign nationally, as you well know, 40, 50 points behind Secretary Clinton. We had no money, we had no organization, and we had relatively little name recognition. I think it's fair to say, we have come a pretty long way in the last nine months.

ANDERSON COOPER: you are -- i mean, according to the latest cnn poll, you're up some 23 points, some

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people say or believe here in new hampshire. obviously, we know polls can get it wrong. how do you not underperform here? because there is an expectation --

BERNIE SANDERS: because that's the media game! that's what media talks about. who cares? the point is, underperform -- the point is, we're going to work as hard as we can to win. and after we do hopefully well here, we're going to go on to nevada and then south carolina and do as well as we can all over this country. i got to say, in all due respect, that's media stuff. over, you know, i think some of these polls --

ANDERSON COOPER: you don't look at polls, your campaign?

BERNIE SANDERS: sure we do, but some of these polls are off the charts. i mean, we're not -- i think this is going to be a very close election here in new hampshire.

ANDERSON COOPER: there's been some back and forth on the campaign trail today about, is **Hillary Clinton** a progressive? we're going to get to that later on, because we've got some questions from the audience about that and some other questions. but senator barbara boxer, a supporter of **Clinton**, came back, fired back basically at your campaign today, at you, saying, of course **Hillary Clinton** is a progressive, and asked, you know, is -- that bernie sanders is a democrat on some days. you had said that **Hillary Clinton** is a progressive on some days. is that fair? because there are some democrats who -- i mean, in your heart, are you a democrat?

BERNIE SANDERS: sure. i have made a decision to run for the democratic nomination to be president of the united states. i was, for 16 years, in the house democratic caucus, for 9 years in the senate democratic caucus. right now, i am the ranking member of the budget committee, appointed by the democratic leadership and membership. a couple of years ago, i was very proudly the chairman of the senate veterans committee. so, of course i am a democrat. i am running for the democratic nomination. in terms of secretary **Clinton**, and i know the media is kind of making a big deal about this, all that i said, which is simply true, is, i think it was in november in ohio, you may recall this --

ANDERSON COOPER: yes.

BERNIE SANDERS: i don't know the context of it, but secretary **Clinton** said, "some people call me a" -- i'm paraphrasing. some people call me a moderate, and i proudly, you know, say that i am a moderate. that's what she said. so what all i said is, you can't say you're a moderate on one day and be a progressive on another day. some of my best friends are moderates. i love moderates, but you can't be a moderate and a progressive. they are different.

ANDERSON COOPER: We'll talk more about that, but I want to go to our first guest. Chris Brownell, he's an office administrator in Nashua. He says he's leaning towards supporting you, but he's got some questions about your tax policies.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Senator Sanders, the first thing I hear about you is that you're going to raise taxes on the middle class. I support my family on a salary of $41,000 a year. I'm wondering if you raise my taxes, how does that help me?

BERNIE SANDERS: Can I stand up?

ANDERSON COOPER: You can do whatever you want.

BERNIE SANDERS: Okay. Chris, thanks very much for that good question. This is what we are going to do. The United States is the only major country on earth that doesn't guarantee health care to all people and we end up spending far, far more per capita on health care, as do the people of any other country, Canada, UK, France, whatever. What we are going to fight for is a Medicare for all single-payer program. Which would provide comprehensive health care to your family and every family in America. So, let me tell you what we do. We raise your taxes if you're somewhere in the middle of the economy, about 500 bucks, but you know what we're going to do? For health care, we're going to reduce your health care costs by $5,000. So you're going to pay a little bit more in taxes, but you're no longer going to have to pay private health insurance premiums. Now, I've been criticized for this. But I believe that health care is a right of all people, that we should not have these deductibles and co-payments. We should not be paying the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, and our Medicare-for-all program will guarantee comprehensive

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care to all people and save middle class families some thousands of dollars a year.
ANDERSON COOPER: Chris, let me just ask you, does that math work for you?
AUDIENCE MEMBER: I mean, if it saves me on health insurance premiums, I will gladly pay more taxes.
BERNIE SANDERS: See, and Chris, what happens in politics -- I don't want to shock anybody in the office -- sometimes people distort things. I've had 30-second ads run against me years ago – “Bernie is going to raise your taxes!” But they forget to say, we're going to do away with your private insurance premiums. Bottom line here is, we spend almost three times more per person than the British, 50% more than the French. We can save substantial sums of money and my Medicare for all system is funded in a very progressive way. Yes, you'll pay a little bit more, but your health premiums will disappear.
ANDERSON COOPER: That's assuming you can get that through, though.

BERNIE SANDERS: Well, that's – you know, that's, that’s true. But all of what I am trying to do assumes something. When I talk about making public colleges and universities tuition-free, and doing that, and paying for that through a tax on Wall Street speculation, when I talk about rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure – which, as you know, is in disrepair all over this country – and talk about doing away with huge loopholes that major corporations now enjoy, so that in a given year you have these large corporations making billions, not paying a nickel the taxes, because they're putting their money in the Cayman Islands – now, how do we get these things through? What this campaign is about is not just electing a president; it is creating a political revolution, where millions of people – many of whom have not been involved in the political process – stand up and demand a government which represents all of us, not just wealthy campaign contributors. That's how we make change.
ANDERSON COOPER: Let me ask you – when you use – when you use the term "revolution," it makes some people nervous. What's wrong with evolution?
BERNIE SANDERS: Well, I think what we – you know, we had the – remember the Reagan revolution and the Gingrich revolution? Well, my revolution is a little bit different. But it is a process. Look, let's be clear: we have one of the lowest voter turnouts of any major country on Earth. In the last election, where Republicans won a huge victory, 63% of the American people didn't vote. 80% of young people didn't vote. Now, when people don't vote, there's a political vacuum that's created, and I will tell you how it's filled: it's filled by lobbyists and campaign contributors who could care less about the middle class, who are there to protect the wealthiest people in this country. So what we are trying to do – and I would tell you, Anderson, with some success – is bring working people and young people and lower income people into the political process. And when that happens, you know what? We will raise the minimum wage, we will have health care for all people, we will make public colleges and universities tuition-free.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want you to meet Jason Telerski, he’s in IT management – he’s in IT management, he says you are his dream candidate, but he does have some concerns.

BERNIE SANDERS: “But’s” always make me nervous. Alright Jason, fire away.

JASON TELERSKI (AUDIENCE MEMBER): You are my dream candidate in a lot of ways. The message of your campaign really speaks to me. And on some issues I feel like you actually speak for me. But I also know that a lot of people don’t have the same class-based view of the world that I do and I think you do as well. I’ve seen all of your debates and I just don’t see you connecting with people that view the world through a religious or racial lens – people that see those as the powerful forces in our society. I’m wondering what you can do to better engage with the broader electorate, to understand – to understand their points of view – demonstrate that you can be a better leader for them.

BERNIE SANDERS: Very good question and thank you for it. We are reaching out as strongly as we can, for example, to the African American community and to the Latino community. And I think we are gaining more and more support in those communities for a couple of reasons. Number one, within the African American community, it’s not only an economic issue – raising the minimum wage and providing jobs – youth unemployment for African American kids now is 51%. So those are important issues. But I will tell you what else is an important issue and that is the criminal justice issue. That fact that we have more people in jail than any other country, disproportionately African American and Latino. That fact that Blacks and whites do marijuana at about an equal level and yet four times more Blacks get arrested. The fact that Blacks are

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more likely to be stopped by police in a vehicle and get arrested than whites. Those are huge issues. And what I have said and repeat, to a virtually all-white state but I'll say this all over the country, there will be no president who will fight harder to end institutional racism than I will and we have got to reform a very, very broken criminal justice system. It breaks my heart, and I know it breaks the hearts of millions of people in this country, to see videos on television of unarmed people, often African Americans, shot by police. That has got to end and these are issues I take very seriously, Jason.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want to follow up, because Jason also mentioned faith, which is something you've spoken a little bit about. You're Jewish, but you say you're not actively involved in organized religion. What do you say to a voter out there who says, and who sees faith as a guiding principle in their lives and want it to be a guiding principle in this country?
BERNIE SANDERS: It's a guiding principle in my life. Absolutely, it is. Now, everybody practices religion in a different way. To me, I would not be here tonight, I would not be running for president of the United States if I did not have very strong religious and spiritual feelings. I believe that as a human being, the pain that one person feels, if we have children who are hungry in America, if we have elderly people who can't afford their prescription drugs, you know what? That impacts you, that impacts me. And I worry very much about a society where some people spiritually say, "It doesn't matter to me, I got it, I don't care about other people." So my spirituality is that we are all in this together and that when children go hungry, when veterans sleep out on the street, it impacts me. That's my very strong spiritual belief.
ANDERSON COOPER: Senator, I want you to meet Denise Bernard, she was wounded in the Boston Marathon bombing. She says she's undecided. She's got a question about terrorism.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, I am a fortunate survivor from the Boston bombing, and it has changed my life. And one of the biggest things is participating in events, large events, and I'm running the marathon again –
BERNIE SANDERS: Good for you.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: --this year with my husband. And our children are gonna be out there. Thank you. [Applause.]
Thank you. So my kids are gonna be out there spectating and I can only think about their safety while they're out there, so my question to you is what are your plans keeping us safe from terrorism?

BERNIE SANDERS: Okay. For a start, in my view, we have got to crush ISIS, for a start. And as somebody who voted against the war in Iraq, what i believe is we've got to learn the lessons of that war. So we have to destroy ISIS, but we have to be not just tough, we have to be smart. And that means, we work with a large coalition, led by on the ground Muslim troops. King Abdullah of Jordan made the point, it will be Muslim troops who will destroy ISIS, because ISIS has hijacked their religion. The United States, the UK, France, Germany, Russia provide support, in my view, to the troops on the ground. So we've got to crush them. Internally, what we have got to do is significantly improve intelligence and i think we are not as strong as we can be in communicating with intelligence agencies all over this country. If people come into this country, they have got to be screened -- i happen to believe that we should accept refugees from the Middle East, from Syria and Afghanistan, but i also appreciate the concern that others have, that we have got to screen those people, absolutely, thoroughly. There needs to be better coordination between federal, state, and local police. We have to work, which is very hard, making sure that we are tracking internet transmission of information, where ISIS has been successful in getting information out of recruiting people. But your concerns -- and again, thank you, you're a symbol of courage, that you went through that horror in Boston and you're going back and running again. Thank you for your courage.
ANDERSON COOPER: I wanted to just follow up, just briefly on that. There is a disconnect. Democrats in Iowa who said that terrorism was the most important issue for them, they back Secretary Clinton over you by 37 points. Why do you think that is? Why do you think they see her as more ready to handle that?

ANDERSON COOPER: I wanted to just follow up, just briefly, on that. There is a disconnect. Democrats in Iowa who said that terrorism was the most important issue for them, they backed Secretary Clinton over you by 37 points. Why do you think that is? Why do you think they see her as more ready to handle that?
BERNIE SANDERS: Well, I think because she has a great deal of experience. She was secretary of state of our country for four years. But I would say, Anderson, that the key foreign policy vote in modern American history was whether or not we should go into Iraq. And Secretary Clinton was in the Senate then, I was in the house then. We both listened to the same evidence. I made the decision, which I think history will

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conclude was the right decision, not to go to war. And if people want to go to my website, berniesanders.com , check out what I said in 2002. And it gives me no joy at all to say that much of what I feared would happen did, in fact, happen in terms of the destabilization of the region. So I think in terms of foreign policy, I have the judgment. We've been all over this world, met with foreign policy leaders and I am confident that we can assemble a team that would do a great job.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want you to meet Gabrielle Graves, she's a student here in New Hampshire, she's an independent voter, but she's supporting you.

GABRIELLE GRAVES (VOTER): Hi. So I'm from Brooklyn, New York, like you are, and my question is that I've experienced and I've witnessed a lot of police brutality and racial unjustice [sic]. And I want to know, like, I think and I do believe that it is neighborhoods primarily of people of color, low-income neighborhoods that are disproportionately affected by unjust policing. And I want to know if you are to be elected as president of the United States, what would you do to enact change and combat this racial injustice?

BERNIE SANDERS: Gabrielle, you have asked an important question that is on the minds of millions of people, not just African-Americans, but all people. Here's what I would do. For a start. And I speak as a former mayor. I was mayor of Burlington, Vermont, as many know, who worked very closely with our police department, and believe that the vast majority of police officers in this country are hard-working, are honest, and are trying to do their best doing very, very difficult work. But if a police officer breaks the law, like any other public official, that police officer must be held accountable. That's number one. Number two, you have seen on television, as I have, local police departments that look like occupying armies. We have got to demilitarize local police departments, make them part of the community, not invading armies. Third -- third, and very importantly, we have got to make police departments look like the communities that they serve. So if there's a diverse community, the police department should reflect that diversity. Fourthly, in terms of police action, the federal -- police departments are run by local governments, but the federal government can play an important role in helping to fund model-type programs -- for example, I think we have to rethink the use of lethal force. I think, too often, lethal force goes first rather than last. Obviously, there are times when policeman must use their guns and use them as quickly as possible. But I think what we need to do is figure out ways to train police departments so that police officers, so that lethal force is the last resort, not the first resort. Those are some of the things I would do.

ANDERSON COOPER: i want to ask you, because i think people don't know much about your background on this subject. it's interesting, 54 years ago, you were on the front lines of trying to desegregate school housing at the university of chicago. you were even arrested –

BERNIE SANDERS: don't tell anybody that.

ANDERSON COOPER: what was it that motivated a 20-year-old white kid from brooklyn to do that?

BERNIE SANDERS: it's hard to say what motivates anybody. i think, as a kid, my parents weren't political. my brother was a little bit, i many parents were not. but, you know, like in any school, you see big kids picking on little kids, you know? and i resented that. i always did. and, you know, injustice bothered me very, very much. and when i went to the university of chicago, i had the opportunity to -- i wasn't a great student, i have to -- i have to admit it. in fact, i learned more off-campus -- i shouldn't say this to other students, though -- do your homework, study –

ANDERSON COOPER: got a lot of teachers in this room.

BERNIE SANDERS: but i learned a lot off of campus. i got involved in a group some may know, some may not, called the converse of racial equality. we got involved in a group trying to desegregate housing. we also got involved in efforts to desegregate the school system there and i got arrested. but i think, you know, as far back as i can remember, and anderson, i can't tell you why, but injustice is something that i have always fought throughout my life.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want you to meet Keith Howard. He was a veteran, he was homeless after serving in the army. He's now the executive director of Liberty House, which is a transitional facility for former homeless vets. He says he's undecided. Keith, welcome.

QUESTION: Yeah, Senator Sanders, throughout this election cycle, we at Liberty House have been contacted by a number of republican presidential candidates. To date, we've not heard from any democrats. Have you ceded the support of veterans to the republicans? And if your answer is no, what is your evidence?

BERNIE SANDERS: What is my evidence? My evidence is that I'm the former chairman of the U.S. Senate

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committee on veterans' affairs. That I introduced along with the support of the American Legion, the VFW, the DAV, the Vietnam vets of virtually every major veterans organization, the most comprehensive veterans' health care legislation in the modern history of the united states of America.
And sadly enough, you know, it's one thing for republicans to talk about how much they love veterans. I got two republican votes on a comprehensive bill supported by virtually the entire veterans committee. But I didn't give up. What i did then is work with people like John McCain, Jeff Miller over in the House, and we passed -- wasn't my ideal bill, I compromised -- but it was the most significant piece of veterans health care legislation passed in modern history. We put some $16 billion into veterans' health care, as well as in taking care of veterans in a number of other areas.
So, it's easy for politicians to give speeches. But what my work in the senate has been involved is making sure that veterans in this country get the best quality health care possible, get their benefits when they need them, not wait years and years. And we've made some progress on that. Do our best to end veterans' homelessness, and President Obama put a lot of money into that, and we have had some success. Still have a way to go.
So I think if you check my record, it will tell you that i received the awards, the highest award, from the American Legion and the VFW for my work on veterans issues. So I'm proud of that.

COOPER: Let me follow up on that. You were on the Veterans Affairs committee for 8 years. You headed it for 2 years. There were 18 Inspectors General talking about problems plaguing the VA. Why did it take so long, and did it take you too long to act?

SANDERS: Fair question. And I think the answer is [INAUDIBLE]

QUESTION:
That might not share our deeply held goals in order to achieve a more perfect union?

BERNIE SANDERS: Marjorie, thank you for your question. It is just not accurate to say, I know some times people may portray me with this respect, it is not accurate to say it is this way or the highway. Let me give you some examples, I just mentioned that I compromised significantly with people like John McCain and Republicans in the House to pass what is regarded as the most significant piece of veterans' legislation passed in many, many years. Second of all, when I was in the House of Representatives, there were years Marjorie where I received more votes, I won more amendments than any other member of the House of Representatives because I reached out where there was common ground with Republicans. So I think I have a history of being able to work with Republicans when there is common ground. But here is the major point that I want to make, and I will continue to do that, but here is the truth and it is a unpleasant truth, and I know that not everybody here will agree with me. In my view, we have a Congress today that is much more interested in doing the bidding of the wealthy and the powerful, Wall Street, and the drug companies, and the fossil fuels industries rather than the needs of the American people. And I believe that we are not going to make the real changes that we need dealing with the grotesque level of wealth and income inequality – reforming a corrupt campaign finance system, which allows billionaires to buy elections dealing with climate change. Making sure we don't continue to pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs when last year the three major drug companies made 45 billion in profit [AUDIO GLITCH]. We've got to change all of that, well were we can we work with our Republican friends, but change in my view but history tells us has always come from the bottom on up – that's what the Civil Rights movement was about, that's what the women's movement was about, that's what the gay movement was about, that's what the environmental is about. And what we need right now is a very profound and deep movement in this country where millions of people in fact get involved and say, I'm sorry, my kid is not going to have to graduate a hundred thousand dollars in debt – that's wrong. My mom is entitled to decent health care and prescription drugs that she can't afford. Those are the kinds of movements that we need, and that's how we'll bring about real change in this country.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want you to meet Mark Vines, [ph] he's a Boy Scout Master, he said he decided to support you in the primary. Your question.
MARK VINES: Good evening, Senator.
BERNIE SANDERS: That's because I was a Boy Scout too.

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MARK VINES: Good evening, Senator. Four of our last five presidents were elected and served two terms. Do you see any limitations for yourself in the ability to serve two terms to enact these sweeping changes that you envision for our country?
BERNIE SANDERS: I don't, Mark. You know, we'll take on term at a time. Got to get to the first term first.
ANDERSON COOPER: You would be 83 at the end of your second term.
BERNIE SANDERS: Well, you know, thank goodness - let's not be ageist here!
ANDERSON COOPER: I'm not, I'm not.
BERNIE SANDERS: You know, I am, thank god, in good health. And one can't predict the future, one never knows what happens tomorrow. But thank God I have - when I was a kid, I was a long-distance runner. I was not quite the marathon runner, but I was a cross-country runner. And I've had good endurance and good strength my whole life. so, you know, if I am fortunate enough to win the general election, and we do well, yes, I would like to run for re-election.
ANDERSON COOPER: You got a lot more energy than I do certainly. We're going to take a quick break. We're going to be right back with more audience questions for Senator Sanders. You're watching the CNN Democratic presidential town hall, live from New Hampshire.

ANDERSON COOPER: welcome back to the cnn democratic presidential town hall at the derry opera house in new hampshire. we're here with senator bernie sanders. let's continue the questions. i want to play for senator sanders a clip from hillary clinton's speech monday night after the iowa caucuses. let's listen.

HILLARY CLINTON SPEECH CLIP: here's what i want you to know. it is rare, it is rare that we have the opportunity we do now. to have a real contest of ideas. to really think hard about what the democratic party stands for and what we want the future of our country to look like if we do our part to build it. i am a progressive who gets things done for people.

ANDERSON COOPER: there were a lot of your supporters, who when they heard that, didn't think -- or expressed their belief that she's not a progressive. we talked about this a bit at the beginning. but just so we're clear, do you think that hillary clinton is a progressive?

BERNIE SANDERS: let me just say this. i have enormous respect for hillary clinton. i've known her for 25 years. and it's unfortunate in politics, and everybody should know this -- what media often want you to do, and you're asked this question, i'm sure it's the same for hillary clinton, "beat her up, tell me something terrible about her, attack her," because that will make the news. i have tried my best not to do that. you're looking at a guy who has been in politics a long time [applause] and i have never run a negative ad in my life. and i look forward to never running a negative ad in my life, okay? i don't think people deserve that. we have to -- as secretary clinton just said, that's what politics is about. it's a debate on the issues. secretary clinton has a long and distinguished public career. she has worked with children, when she began, and god only knows that we need a lot of work, given the fact that we have the highest rate of childhood poverty of any country on earth. so i respect her, i thought she did a good job as secretary of state. i served with her in the senate. we worked together on some issues. but there are other issues, anderson, where i think she is just not progressive. i do not know any progressive who has a super pac and takes $15 million from wall street. that's just not progressive. as i mentioned earlier, the key foreign policy vote of modern american history was the war in iraq. the progressive community was pretty united in saying, "don't listen to bush. don't go to war." secretary clinton voted to go to war. virtually all of the trade unions and millions of working people understand that our trade policies, nafta, cafta, permanent normal trade relations with china, et cetera, have been written by corporate america and the goal of it is to be able to throw american workers out on the street, move to china and other low-wage countries, and bring their products back into this country. and that's one of the reasons why the middle class of this country and the working class is struggling so hard. secretary clinton has been a supporter in the past of various trade policies, nafta and pmtr with china. reluctantly and after a lot of pressure on her, she came out against the tpp and i'm glad that she did. every sensible person understands that climate change is real, it is caused by human activity, and we have got to transform our energy system away from fossil fuel. for a long time, secretary clinton was talking about the benefits of the keystone pipeline. well, there are no benefits to excavating and transporting some of the dirtiest fossil fuel in the world. i was in the lead in opposition to the keystone

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pipeline. i'm in opposition to the pipeline right here in new hampshire and the pipeline in vermont. i think we have got to move aggressively away from fossil fuel if we're going to leave this planet in a way that's healthy and habitable for our kids. so those are just some of the areas. [applause]

ANDERSON COOPER: Just one quick follow-up to that. There's a new book called "Buyer's Remorse: How Obama Led Progressives Down," you gave it a ringing endorsement --
BERNIE SANDERS: No, I didn't give it an endorsement.
ANDERSON COOPER: Tell me what you did.
BERNIE SANDERS: I wrote a blurb for it, you may have the blurb there, and what the blurb said is that I think the next president should be very aggressive in bringing people into the political process. And that, I believe, from the bottom of my heart, and if elected president, that will be a top priority of mine.
ANDERSON COOPER: Did President Obama let progressives down?
BERNIE SANDERS: I think in some areas, progressive -- for example, in the trade area. Right now, I think they signed today the TPP in New Zealand. I think it is a continuation of bad trade policies. The president supports it, I strongly disagree with it. On the other hand, let's be very clear. And I got a little bit upset that our Republicans friends suffer from a very serious illness called amnesia. They forgot what the economy of this country was like seven years ago when we were losing 800,000 jobs a month, when we were running up a $1.4 trillion deficit, and by the way, the world's financial system was on the verge of collapse. President Obama and Vice President Biden have taken us a very, very long way from those dismal days. Are we where we want to be today? No. But we have come a long way and President Obama deserves an enormous amount of credit for that.
ANDERSON COOPER: Senator, as you know, in a recent poll, I'm sure, 88% of adults in New Hampshire said heroin abuse is a very serious problem in the state. I want you to meet David Cote, a recovery coach who's in long-term recovery himself. He says he's undecided, leaning towards you. David, thanks for being here. What's your question?

DAVID COTE: Thank you. Thank you, Senator, for hearing me. I come to you tonight as the father of a teenager. I have a young teenage daughter. And my biggest concern these days is the availability of opiates and other drugs, substances on the street, and the effects that they have on our youth and on our citizens. My question to you is, we're losing 129 people a day in this country. In the city of Manchester, we're losing one person a week at –
BERNIE SANDERS: Unbelievable.
DAVID COTE: You know, minimally. And my question to you is, if -- what would you do in order to secure recovery services for those that have slipped through the cracks of prevention and moved on to treatment?
BERNIE SANDERS: Thank you very much for your question. It is a crisis here in New Hampshire. And by the way, there's a crisis in Vermont. You may recall our governor gave his State of the Union speech a year ago on this issue. Because people think, well, New Hampshire and Vermont, these are rural states, not a problem. You're right, it is a terrible problem. What do we do? For a start, we understand that substance abuse and addiction is a health issue, not a criminal issue. And when I talk about moving toward universal health care, what I understand that to be – and it is absolutely imperative that it be – is understanding that mental health and addiction is part of health care. And what that means is that when people need treatment, they shouldn't have to wait three months. When they need it, they should be able to get it. So that means we need a revolution in this country in mental health care to address the causes of addiction and provide treatment. And I was to a treatment center in Manchester, which is kind of peer-oriented. Former people who had addiction work with other people. That's one approach. There are many other approaches. But the bottom line is, we have a very, very serious crisis in this country, and we have got to make sure that when people need the help, they get the help. And the other question that we have to ask is – and it's a tough question, nobody I know knows the answer – why is it? Why is it? One of the reasons, by the way, is I think that doctors are prescribing opiates in a way that they have got to cut back a little bit on. They're giving out a whole lot of pills. A friend of mine got a mole removed. He got 50 very strong painkilling drugs. And these drugs are rampant, kids are using them, getting addicted and then getting into heroin. So I think we've got to talk to the pharmaceutical industry about what they're producing, doctors what they're prescribing, and we have to make treatment available to people when they need it.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want you to meet Raul Bernal. He's a Democrat. He says he's undecided.

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BERNIE SANDERS: First name is?

RAUL BERNAL (AUDIENCE MEMBER): Raul.

BERNIE SANDERS: Raul.

RAUL BERNAL (AUDIENCE MEMBER): Great. Senator Sanders, thank you very much for a great campaign you've run. Voters in Iowa, voters in New Hampshire, had had an opportunity to get to know you, to understand the details of your platform in forums just like this. And while I'm inspired by your passion on the issues, one of the concerns I have is your electability in a general election where there's less opportunity for you really to connect with voters.

BERNIE SANDERS: Good.

RAUL BERNAL (AUDIENCE MEMBER): And, you know, can you win in other parts of the country?

BERNIE SANDERS: Good. Excellent question. Look, in the real world, there are people, I hesitate to say this in this room, but there are people who like Donald Trump. I know. There are. Not in this room, but there are. And, you know, that's the world. We are a diverse political nation. And there are people who like and respect Hillary Clinton and people who like me and so forth and so on. And I don't object – somebody will stand up and say, "I support Hillary Clinton." That's fine, you know. But what I don't – I object to – is people say, "Well Bernie, I really like you. I like your ideas. I like your record. But I'm not going to vote for you because you can't win. Okay? So let me address that issue. Number one, I'm not a great fan of polls. Not even CNN polls. But CNN had a poll, as I recall, and what that poll said is that Bernie Sanders ran significantly better against Donald Trump than did Hillary Clinton. Okay? There was another poll that said the same thing. Because among other things, I do very well with Independents. And that's one of the reasons why we are doing well against Republicans. So number one, some of these polls have me way, way ahead of Donald Trump, further so than Secretary Clinton. Number two, look at battleground states like New Hampshire. The last poll I saw in New Hampshire had me 19 points ahead of Donald Trump – Secretary Clinton, one point. Okay? Similar results, not quite so strong in Iowa and Wisconsin. Okay. Polls – forget the polls, they go up and down. What else? Democrats win elections when there is a large voter turnout. That's what Obama did in 2008. Republicans win elections when people are demoralized and give up on the political process. I believe, and I think an objective assessment of my campaign and Secretary Clinton's campaign – she's running a good campaign – but I think an objective assessment would say that there is more excitement in energy in our campaign. We are bringing out working class people who have previously given up on politics. We are bringing out large numbers of young people. So if you want to win in November – and I want us to defeat Republicans, Secretary Clinton's want us to defeat Republicans – everybody in this room understands that we don't want some right-wing Republican in the oval office. But I believe, quite honestly, that I am the strongest candidate to do that because I think I can drive a large voter turnout, bring in new energy into the democratic party.

ANDERSON COOPER: Let me ask you, because as you know, in this state, an independent, and there are a lot of independents in this state, they can vote in the Republican primary, they can vote in the Democratic primary. There are some voters out there, independent voters, who are trying to decide between you or Donald Trump. What would you say to them?
BERNIE SANDERS: This is what I would say. I would say that examine Trump's record carefully. And it is not only his bigoted remarks against Latinos, suggesting that Mexicans that are coming into this country are rapists or criminals or drug dealers. Or his absurd remark that we should not allow Muslims into this country. Even above and beyond those outrageous bigoted statements, take a look at what he stands for economically. This country has millions of people struggling economically. I believe we should raise the minimum wage to fifteen bucks an hour over the next couple of years. Trump says, no $7.25 an hour, we should not raise the minimum wage. Most workers don't agree with that. Trump in a Republican debate said wages are too high in America! Really? Too high in America? That was what was said in a Republican debate. And here's another one that kind of blows me away. Trump is, as you know, a well-known scientist. Brilliant scientist. And he has concluded after years of studying the issue that climate change is a hoax

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brought to us by the Chinese. Now that shocked me Anderson because I thought that he would've thought it was a hoax brought to us by the Mexicans or the Muslims. Chinese I didn't quite get. But if you examine his agenda it is not an agenda for working Americans. He wants to give hundreds of billions of tax breaks to the top two tenths of one percent. So I think, and I would love the opportunity. Frankly, I'm prejudiced, but I want Trump to win the Republican nomination. And I would love the opportunity to run against him. I think we would win by a lot.

ANDERSON COOPER: We just have a few more, actually, if you'll take a seat. So we just have time for a few more questions. We've covered a lot of important policy issues. There's a lot of folks out there who really don't know much about you, so i thought we would ask a couple of sort of lighter questions, just to kind of get to know you. i read one of your daughters say, that if you had a car or if they sold cars with manual locks and windows, that's the kind of car you would get. So what kind of car do you actually have?

BERNIE SANDERS: I have a small Chevrolet. It is one of the smallest Chevys that they make

ANDERSON COOPER: Do you know what year its from?

BERNIE SANDERS: Yeah, it's about 5 years old.

ANDERSON COOPER: Okay, not bad.

BERNIE SANDERS: A red car. It's pretty good on mileage, but yeah

ANDERSON COOPER: Is it true you chop your own wood?

BERNIE SANDERS: I wouldn't go that far. People in Vermont and New Hampshire would laugh at me. What I do do is, you know, we have a wood stove and I [sound effect]

ANDERSON COOPER: You also, in 1987, when you were mayor of Burlington. You recorded an album of folk classics. How are those pipes doing? We're in an opera house. Any [inaudible] in your future?

BERNIE SANDERS: Let me say this. If you're looking at a President who can carry a tune, I'm not the guy. I hope I have other attributes, but singing is not one of them. It's the worst album, actually its selling very well because people are buying it. It's the worst album ever recorded. People can't believe how bad it is.

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ANDERSON COOPER: Along the same lines, Larry David is hosting SNL this weekend. He does a pretty good imitation of you. Do you do a Larry David imitation?

BERNIE SANDERS: Anderson, I'm gonna -- I know you've been in journalism for a long time –

ANDERSON COOPER: Are you doing Larry David right now? [cross talk]

BERNIE SANDERS: I am Larry David. And you didn't get it!

ANDERSON COOPER: What's your proudest moment? Either professionally or personally?

BERNIE SANDERS: I think my proudest general moment is being married for 27 years, having four great kids, some of them are here tonight, and seven very beautiful grandchildren. That's my proudest.

ANDERSON COOPER: If we ask -- your wife, Jane, is here. If we asked her to describe you in one word, what word do you think she'd use?

BERNIE SANDERS: Tell 'em, Jane.

ANDERSON COOPER: Anti?

BERNIE SANDERS: Integrity.

ANDERSON COOPER: I thought you said anti-greed, okay. Integrity.

ANDERSON COOPER: i want to give you 30 seconds to make a closing argument in new hampshire.

BERNIE SANDERS: thank you. i enjoyed it. this is called democracy and i loved it. our country faces enormous problems. if i believe that establishment politics and establishment economics could solve the problems, i would not be for president. the sad truth is that we have a rigged economic system, people are working longer hours for low wages, almost all new wealth and income is going to the top 1%. we have a corrupt campaign finance system, which is undermining democracy and allowing billionaires to buy elections. if elected president, i will do my best, working with the american people as we revitalize our democracy to take those issues on to rebuild the american middle class and become the country that all of us know that we have the potential to be. thank you all very much.

ANDERSON COOPER: senator sanders. thank you very much. when we come back, hillary clinton takes the stage, taking questions from the audience. we'll be right back.

ANDERSON COOPER: Welcome back to the CNN democratic presidential town hall at the Derry Opera House in New Hampshire. Thanks very much for being with us, you heard from democratic candidate Bernie

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Sanders. Please welcome former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.
Have a seat.
HILLARY CLINTON: Hello.
ANDERSON COOPER: Welcome.
HILLARY CLINTON: Thank you very much.
ANDERSON COOPER: You've obviously had a pretty incredible several past couple days. Congratulations on winning in Iowa, New Hampshire has always been good to the Clintons. How does it feel out there?
HILLARY CLINTON: It feels great. I've had just an amazing time. We landed in the middle of the night from Iowa, still pretty pumped up about winning there and then got to work the next day. And I'm seeing a lot of old friends, meeting a lot of new people. I have an uphill climb and I'm going to climb as high and hard as I can, because I want to make my case to the people of New Hampshire. As you said, they're people that I feel very close to. They've been good to my husband, to me, my family.
But what's most important is the first in the nation primary. It truly is a great opportunity to get out there, explain what you want to do as president, present your ideas, and get vetted by the people of New Hampshire.
ANDERSON COOPER: Bernie Sanders said just a short time ago said that he is the underdog here. Your campaign has said he comes from neighboring Vermont, you guys are down in the polls. Do you feel you do better when you're fighting from behind?
HILLARY CLINTON: You know, I don't know. I –
ANDERSON COOPER: Does it bring out something in you?
HILLARY CLINTON: Well, the intensity of the experience and the importance of trying to convey what's at stake in this election because to me obviously Tuesday's a really big deal with the primary, but the goal has to be to prevent the republicans from getting back into the white house and undoing all the progress that has been made under President Obama.
And so I -- I'm very proud of the campaign that senator sanders and I are running. I mean, we really have focused on issues. We share a lot of the same big progressive goals, but we have different ways of going about them, we bring different experiences. But we are contrasting on issues, compared to the republicans who I think are contrasting on insults. And I think it's a better contest where we can take our ideas to groups like this throughout New Hampshire, get questions, have people vet them and then let the voters make up their minds.

ANDERSON COOPER: You talk about progressive values, earlier in the day Sen. Sanders was asked if you were a progressive, he said 'some days.' Are you really a progressive? In the past you have said you said you plead guilty to being a moderate.

HRC: Well, you know, you asked me this question in the first debate, right?

COOPER: I did, and it's coming up again today.

HRC: And I said, I'm a progressive who likes to get things done and I was somewhat amused today that Sen. Sanders has set himself up to the gatekeeper on who is a progressive because under the definition that was flying around on twitter and statements by the campaign, Barack Obama would not be a progressive, Joe Biden would not be a progressive, Jeanne Shaheen would not be a progressive, even the late great Senator Paul Wellstone would not be a progressive. So I'm not going to let that bother me. I know where I stand, I know who stands with me, I know what I've done. But I don't think it helps for the Senator to be making those kinds of comparisons because clearly, we all share a lot of the same hopes and aspirations for our country that we want to see achieved. And I don't think it's appropriate if Planned Parenthood endorses me, or the Human Right Campaign endorses me, you know, they're thrown out of the progressive wing and put into the establishment. That's just not, that's just not anything we need to do. Let's have a good contest of ideas, let's contrast where we stand and that's what I intend to do for the next couple of days.

ANDERSON COOPER: It would obviously be historic if you were elected president, first of all.
HILLARY CLINTON: You think so? Yeah. [Applause]
ANDERSON COOPER: I've studied a little bit of history. Um, but it seems like young women aren't rallying

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to this potentially historic moment. And I say this in Iowa, among women under 30, Senator Sanders beat you by 70 points.

HILLARY CLINTON: That's amazing. Yeah, look, you know, I was very fortunate to have a great team of young people, men and women, supporting me. But I accept the fact that I have work to do to convey what I stand for, what I've accomplished, what I want to do for young people in our country.

ANDERSON COOPER: Why do you think it is?

HILLARY CLINTON: I don't really know, Anderson. I think…here's what I want young people to know. They don't have to be for me, I'm going to be for them. It doesn't really matter. If they are not supporting me, I will be their president, I will do everything I can to give them the opportunities they deserve. As I speak with young people across the country in Iowa, New Hampshire and elsewhere, I do sense this real feeling of being somehow disadvantaged, put on the wrong side of American opportunity, and I understand that. I mean, these student debt problems, the feeling that the jobs that are out there are not producing the kind of income or opportunity that young people believe they should be able to get. But at the same time, I'm so impressed by the intensity, the level of commitment from this generation, to really going after discrimination, going after racism, and sexism, and the kind of abuses the LGBTQ community members have – looking for ways to bring more justice in the economy, in the environment, fighting climate change. So I'm impressed with them, and I'm going to do everything I can to reach out and to explain why good ideas on paper are important, but you've got to able to translate them into action to get results for people. I have a lot of experience doing that, I think I can deliver positive change for young people in our country, and I hope I have the chance to win their support.

ANDERSON COOPER: What's wrong with a revolution?

HILLARY CLINTON: Well, that's for Senator Sanders to explain because that certainly is the core of his message to young people. I have a different take on it. I think the progress that we have made and particularly the Democratic Party has made, has been hard fought for, hard won, and must be defended. So I want to defend the Affordable Care Act. It is one of the great accomplishments, not only of this president but of the Democratic Party going back to Harry Truman. The Republicans are [applause] you know, the Republicans are determined to repeal it and they tried 62 times just to turn it back to the insurance companies. Senator Sanders and I share the same goal. We want to get to universal health care coverage. Before it was called Obamacare it was called Hillarycare, as you remember.

ANDERSON COOPER: I remember.

HILLARY CLINTON: I fought really hard, the insurance companies and the drug companies spent millions against me. I know what it's like to go up against the status quo and special interests. So when President Obama succeeded, I was thrilled. I don't agree with Senator Sanders that we should start over, that we should throw our country into a contentious national debate about health care again. We're at 90% coverage. I'm going to fix what needs to be fixed, we're going to move from 90 to 100, which is a lot easier to get to than starting at zero to get to 100. So we have a difference and I think that is important.

ANDERSON COOPER: i want you to meet some of the folks in our audience.

HILLARY CLINTON: sure, sure.

ANDERSON COOPER: this is dave scanell. he's a high school english teacher from manchester. he said he's undecided.

DAVE SCANELL: hi secretary clinton.

HILLARY CLINTON: hi.

DAVE SCANELL: you, the next president will have as many as three supreme court appointments to make. i'm wondering beyond abortion, are there any issues on which you would impose or assert a litmus test? and if your answer is no, aren't issues like marriage equality, campaign finance, just so vital to what we believe in as democrats that you would have to know the answer as to how these justices would rule before you make the nomination?

HILLARY CLINTON: i'll tell you what, dave, i do have a litmus test, dave. i have a bunch of litmus tests

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because i agree with you. the next president could get as many as three appointments. one of the many reasons we can't turn the white house over to the republicans again is because of the supreme court. i'm looking for people who understand how the real world works, who don't have a knee-jerk reaction to support business -- to support the idea that money is speech, that gutted the voting rights act. i voted for the reauthorization of the voting rights act when i was in the senate. it passed 98-0 based on a very extensive set of hearings and research. supreme court comes along, they substitute their judgment for the congress, signed by george w. bush. that is one of our problems. they have a view that i just fundamentally disagree with about what the way we have to keep the balance of power in our society is. so they have given way too much power to corporations, they have given citizens united the biggest gift to the koch brothers, karl rove, and all of those folks whose values i don't share and who are doing everything they can to try to turn the clock back. we have to preserve marriage equality. we have to go further to end discrimination against the lbgt community, we have got make sure to preserve roe v. wade, not let it be nibbled away or repealed. we've got work to do. and here's how i think about it. because when i was a senator, i had to vote on supreme court justices. i'm looking for people who are rooted in the real world, who know that part of the genius of our system, both economic and government, is this balance of power. if it gets too far out of whack so that business has too much power, any branch of the government has too much power, the delicate balance that makes up our political system and the broad based prosperity we should be working for in our economy is the worse off for it. so have i very strong feelings about what i am looking for if i am given the honor of appointing somebody to the supreme court.

ANDERSON COOPER: Want you to meet Jim Kinhan, a Democrat said he's supporting you.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Madam Secretary, I'm pleased to see you. This may come a little bit from right field but it's very personal to me and resonates probably with many other people who are elderly dealing with health issues. The question is coming from me as a person who is walking with colon cancer. And I'm walking with colon cancer with the word terminal very much in my vocabulary, comfortably and spiritually. But I wonder what leadership you could offer within an executive role that might help advance the respectful conversation that is needed around this personal choice that people may make as we age and deal with health issues or be the care givers of those people to help enhance their end of life with dignity?
HILLARY CLINTON: First of all, thank you for being here, thank you so much for being part of this great New Hampshire primary process and thank you for your support. And I really appreciate your asking the question. I have to tell you this is the first time I've been asked that question.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: I figured that.
HILLARY CLINTON: Yes. I really --
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Maybe any candidate.
HILLARY CLINTON: And I thank you for it because we need to have a conversation in our country. There are states, as you know, that are moving to open up the opportunity without criminal liability for people to make this decision in consultation by their families, even in some cases with medical professionals, but the issue is whether the medical professionals want to be involved or just be counselors. So it is a crucial issue that people deserve to understand from their own ethical, religious faith-based perspective. So here's how I think about it. I want as president to try to catalyze that debate. Because I believe you're right. This is going to become an issue more and more often. We are on the good side having people live longer but often then with very serious illnesses that they can be sustained on but at some point don't want to continue with the challenges that poses. So I don't have any easy or glib answer for you. I think would I want to really immerse myself in the ethical writings, the health writing, the scientific writings, the religious writings. I know some other country, the Netherlands and others, have a quite open approach. I'd like to know what their experience has been because we have to be sure that nobody is coerced, nobody's under duress and that is a difficult line to draw. So I thank you, I thank you so much for raising this really important, absolutely critical question that we're all going to have to do some thinking about.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.
HILLARY CLINTON: Hi, Michael.
MICHAEL FIELD: Hi, Secretary Clinton. As senator and as Secretary of State, you have a history of interventionist foreign policy that is troubling to many Democratic voters, including myself. As a voter who's opposed to the United States being the world's policemen, can you assure me that as president, you would not expand our military involvement abroad?
HILLARY CLINTON: No, I can't, Michael. I mean, I'd like to be able to say I could. But here's what I can say

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– I have learned and have been really in the crucible of making a lot of hard decisions over the last years, and military force must always be a last resort, not a first choice. That is one of the biggest differences between me and the Republicans. I worked very hard as Secretary of State to do what I could diplomatically to avoid conflict. That's why I worked to get the coalition together to impose sanctions on Iran so that we could get them to the negotiating table in order to test whether we could get an agreement to put a nuclear weapons agreement in place. I did that in large measure motivated by my deep concern that the absence of effective diplomacy might very well have sparked an arms race among some very unstable nations in the region and maybe even led to conflict. I will do everything I possibly can to avoid sending American troops abroad, getting us involved in military conflicts, but I can't in good conscience stand here and tell you that there would never be any circumstances in the time that I served as president where it very well might be in America's best vital national security interest. So I want to be honest with you. I will do what I can. I will stand against adventurism, ill-thought out missions. I will not send American combat troops to Iraq or Syria – that is off the table. That would be a terrible mistake. We will continue to use special forces, and we have to, because of the kinds of threats we face: you know, the network of terrorist organizations – not just ISIS, but others who are part of this unfortunate network that stretches from North Africa to South Asia – pose serious threats to friends, allies, and partners, as well as to ourselves. And we've got to keep our country safe, and we have to work with the rest of the world to try to defeat ISIS, to end that terrorist threat. So I will be a very careful, deliberate decision-maker when facing hard choices, because I know what's at stake. And I know you can understand why there can't be, from me anyway, a blanket statement, but I want to assure you I will be transparent, I will be open, and I will explain to the American people if any occasion arises where we do have to take military action to protect ourselves or our close friends and partners.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want to follow up, yesterday on Capitol Hill, the Senate Armed Services Committee – the Commandant of the Marine Corps said that he thinks, and I quote, "all eligible and qualified men and women should register for the draft," talking about selective service. Do you think women should also have to register for selective service like men?

HILLARY CLINTON: You know, first time I heard that yesterday, and here's the reasoning as best I understand from listening to the testimony excerpts: that if we are going to open combat positions to qualified women so that they can compete to be Army Rangers, they can compete to be Navy SEALs, they can compete to be Infantry Officers in the Marines, then we have expanded the definition of the all-volunteer military. I have to think about whether I think it's necessary to go as far as our military officers are recommending. You know, from my perspective the all-volunteer military has worked and we should not do anything that undermines it because it had provided a solid corps of people who are willing to serve our country. The idea of having everybody register concerns me a little bit unless we have a better idea of where that's going to come out. Where I want people to register – I want every young person to register at the age of 18 to be able to vote automatically. [Applause] You know, if we had a system like that I would be very, very pleased about it. I have a hard time imagining the kind of national emergency that would require the use of the selective service system. So I just have to be better informed about why they are making this recommendation.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want you to meet Rebecca Hutchinson, she's a former state Representative in New Hampshire. She says she's undecided and she's got a question for you.

HILLARY CLINTON: Hi, Rebecca.

REBECCA HUTCHINSON (AUDIENCE MEMBER): Hi. Thank you. I feel in a way I sort of have a follow-up to the previous question. You clearly have very impressive foreign policy experience and I've heard you point out to us that President Obama chose you and trusted you to be his Secretary of State. But I get stuck when I think about you voted for the Iraq War, which you now say was a mistake. What have you learned since that vote that could give me confidence that you wouldn't make a mistake of that magnitude again?

HILLARY CLINTON: I think that's a very fair question. I did make a mistake and I admitted that I made a mistake and in large measure that mistake really rose from the Bush administration's approach to what they

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thought they could accomplish in Iraq. The very explicit appeal that President Bush made before announcing the invasion, that getting that vote would be getting a strong piece of leverage in order to finish the inspections. And he made that comment. And the UN inspector Hans Glick said give us the time, we will find out. Give us the hammer over their head, namely the vote, and we will be able to find out what they still have in terms of WMD. And the Bush administration didn't give him the time. And that was a breach of faith in my view. But you know, I gave him the vote in large measure because I thought that would give us the time and we would find out, short of an invasion. Turned out not to be and I really regret that's the way President Bush proceeded. That would not be something you would have to worry about with me. If I tell you we're gonna do diplomacy and hang tough and get answers, that's exactly what we will do.
ANDERSON COOPER: I want you to meet Sean Bourque, he's a Democrat from Derry. He says he is a supporter of yours. Sean?
HILLARY CLINTON: Hi, Sean.
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hey. Once you become the nominee, and are elected, how are you going to protect yourself from right wing attacks?
HILLARY CLINTON: Well Sean, I've had a lot of practice. [Laughter.] You know, I could laugh up here but it's not easy. It is a brutal experience and when it first started happening to me back in the early nineties when I was working on health care, and, you know, I was just unrecognizable to myself. What talk radio was saying, what Republican members of Congress and their allies were saying, I was just stunned. I could not understand how they got away with it. And I have had to learn to take criticism seriously but not personally. And by that I mean this. The very fair question from Rebecca. People ask you questions and criticize you, think about it seriously. There are lessons to be learned often from people who don't agree with you. But don't take it personally so it just paralyzes you, or it literally stops you in your tracks. And now that I've been talking about it for so many years, my understanding of the political tactics of the other side uses is pretty well versed. They play to keep. They play to destroy. They are constantly doing whatever they can to win. And they have a history now going back 30, 36 years of going after people they can't otherwise stop unless they engage in negative attacks. So right now for example a couple of hedge fund billionaires have started a super PAC to run ads against me. Karl Rove has solicited money from Wall Street to run ads against me. I view that as perversely flattering because clearly they know I mean what I say and I will do what I say and I will stand in their way and I will stop them from perpetuating an agenda on America that is bad for democracy, bad for our economy, bad for our society. So I know I have to keep defending against them but I'm the one who has the experience to do that. It's unlike anything you've ever gone though to be the subject of tens of millions of dollars of untrue terrible attacks. Now the Koch brothers say they're gonna spend $750 million to defeat the Democratic nominee. I'm still standing, and I will be standing, so don't worry about that.

ANDERSON COOPER: Let me just quickly follow up. You mentioned a tax on the early 90s. Do you still believe there's a vast right-wing conspiracy?
HILLARY CLINTON: Don't you?
ANDERSON COOPER: I'm asking you.
HILLARY CLINTON: Yeah. It's gotten even better funded. You know, they brought in some new multi-billionaires to pump the money in. look, these guys play for keeps. They want to control our country. Senator Sanders and i agree on that completely. They want to rig the economy so they continue to get richer and richer, they could care less about income inequality. they solve their consciences by giving big money to philanthropy and getting great pictures of them standing in front of whatever charity they donated to but make no mistake, they want to destroy unions, they want to go after any economic interests that they don't believe they can control. They want to destroy our balance of power. They want to go after our political system and fill it with people who will do their bidding. i said today in Dover, you know, i don't think all of the republican candidates are so ill informed about climate change that they say they don't know because they're not scientists. They're just doing the bidding of the Koch brothers. They're told don't you dare say climate change is real because we're in the fossil fuel business. So this is exactly what they are up to. and, yes, it is probably -- look, at this point it's probably not correct to say it's a conspiracy because it's out in the open. there is no doubt about what they're doing and who the players are and what they're trying to achieve and they're shopping among the republicans candidates to figure out who among them will most likely do their bidding. So just know what we're up against because it's real and we're going to beat it, but it's going to take everybody working together. [applause]

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ANDERSON COOPER: Meet Allison. She's an independent torn between you and Senator Sanders.
HILLARY CLINTON: Hi Allison.
ALLISON PYOTT (VOTER): I'm sensing a theme here. First, thank you so much for all you've done for our country and for women.
HILLARY CLINTON: Thank you.
ALLISON PYOTT (VOTER): My question's a number of factors, some you've just described, have eroded trust in you. What will you do to regain that trust, engender trust in Americans and me?
HILLARY CLINTON: Well, thank you for starting by saying it's related to what I just said. And I acknowledge this as personally painful as it is. When you have been subjected to the level, the velocity of attacks that come every day, even if there is no factual basis to it, it's just normal for people to say, gosh, there's got to be something, why do they keep saying this and then we do that. You know, I testify for 11 hours, there's nothing to Benghazi, they don't give it up, they keep coming after it. So I know that I have to really demonstrate as clearly as I can *who* I am, *what* I stand for and what I've always done. I've always been guided by the same values, I have always listened to people and I've always worked as hard as I could to produce results for people. So when I ran for the Senate the first time and I was out there and, you know, people were barraging, I was running first against Rudy Giuliani and all of that, I was able to just keep going and tell people here's who I am, here's what I do, I want to do this with you and I won and then since years later when I ran, I got a higher percentage. And then I did have, as you all remember, a really tough campaign against then-Senator Obama. We saw each other very up close and personal. And he wins and turns and asks me to be his Secretary of State because he trusts me, he trusts my judgment, he trusts my experience. So all I can do is to just get up every day and work to do what I believe our country needs, find ways to help people, whether it's on mental health or addiction or autism or student loans, whatever it might be and I trust the American people. I trust the people of New Hampshire to see my lifetime of work and service and to sort out all of the static and to know that I will work my heart out for you. and that's what I hope you will understand.

ANDERSON COOPER: i want to welcome rabbi sevette, he's an independent, said he's unsure of his vote.
RABBI JONATHAN SPIRA-SAVETT: another rabbi taught that every person has to have two pockets and in each pocket they carry a different note. in one pocket it says the universe was created for me and in the other pocket the note says i am just dust and, a. ashes. i want you to take a moment and tell us what you would tell bus your two pockets. how do you cultivate the ego that we all know you must have, a person must have to be the leader of the free world and also the humility to recognize that you can't be expected to be wise about all the things that the president has to be responsible for.
ANDERSON COOPER: another absolutely wonderful question. thank you, rabbi. i think about this a lot. i feel very fortunate that i am a person of faith, that i was raised in my church and that i have had to deal and struggle with a lot of these issues about ambition and humility, about service and self-gratification, all of the human questions that all of us deal with but when you put yourself out into the public, i think it's incumbent upon you to be as self-conscious as possible. this is hard for me. you know, i never thought i'd be standing on a stage here asking for people to vote for me of president. i always wanted to be of service. i met my husband who was such a natural, knew exactly what he wanted to do. i was happy to support him while i worked in the children's defense fund and legal services and taught law and had our daughter. i never thought i would do this. so i have had to come to grips with how much more difficult it often is for me to talk about myself than to talk about what i want to do for other people or to tell stories about, you know, the man i met in rochester whose aids medicine is no longer affordable. that can grip me and make me feel like there's something i can do about that. so i'm constantly trying to balance how do i assume the mantle of a position as essentially august as president of the united states and not lose track of who i am and what i believe in and do what i want to do to serve. i have that dialogue at least once a day in some setting or another. and i don't know that there is any ever absolute answer. like, okay, universe, here i am, watch me roar or, oh, my gosh, i can't do it, it's just overwhelming, i have to retreat. it's that balance that i keep to try to find in my life that i want to see back in our country and it will be something that i continue to talk about with a group of faith advisers who are close to me. i great scripture lesson every morning from a minister that i have a really close personal relationship with. and, you know, it just g me grounded. he gets up really early, sends it to me so there it is in my inbox at 5 a.m. i have friends who are rabbis who send me notes, give me readings that are going to be discussed in services. so i really appreciate all that incoming. and the final thing i would say because, again, it's not anything i've ever talked about this much publicly, everybody

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knows i have lived a very public life for the last 25 or so years. and so i've had to be in public dealing with some very difficult issues and personal issues, political, public issues. and i read a treatment of the prod call son by a jesuit poet and i read that parable and there was a line in it that became a lifeline for me and it basically is practice the discipline of gratitude. so regardless of how hard the days are, how difficult of the decisions are, be grateful, be grateful for being a human being, being part of the universe, be grateful for your limitations, know that you have to reach out to have more people with you to support you, to advise you, listen to your critics, answer the questions, but at the end be grateful, practice the discipline of gratitude and that has helped me enormously. [applause]

ANDERSON COOPER: we're going to have more questions from the audience for secretary clinton when we come back.

ANDERSON COOPER: Welcome back to the CNN democratic presidential town hall at the Derry Opera House in New Hampshire. We are here with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. I want to play a piece of video from Senator Sanders the other night in Iowa after the votes came in, and get you to respond.

SANDERS CLIP: We do not represent the interests of the billionaire class, Wall Street or corporate America. We don't want their money. And I am very proud to tell you that we are the only candidate on the democratic side without a super PAC.

And the reason that we have done so well here in Iowa, the reason I believe we're going to do so well in New Hampshire, and in the other states that follow. The reason is the American people are saying no to a rigged economy!

ANDERSON COOPER: We got a number of questions, even from people who support your policies, who say they do believe that you represent the interests of Wall Street and corporate America. How do you respond?

HILLARY CLINTON: Well, look, that's just not the case. And I did represent New York, obviously. There was no doubt that I took on a lot of what was going on down on wall street, including calling them out on the mortgage issues, calling for a consumer financial protection bureau, even before we got one created, calling for changes in CEO pay.

But I honestly think that the best answer to this is the fact that everybody that I know who looks at what's happening in this campaign sees the same thing. The Wall Street interests, the money interests, the republican political interests are spending a lot of money to try to defeat me. So I just find it kind of a strange argument.

I happen to agree with senator sanders. I'm not just going after Wall Street, though. I think that's too narrow a target. I think we need to go after a company like Johnson Controls that is trying to avoid paying taxes after all of us bailed it out by pretending to sell itself in a so-called inversion in Europe. It’s a perversion. It should be stopped.

I want to go after the hedge funds that have bought up drug companies. You know Valeant Pharmaceuticals, Turing Pharmaceutical, taking drugs that have been around a long time and upping the price. I take seriously the obligation that I would have as president, once again to try to get the deck unstacked, to get the odds favoring the average American again.

But I just have to -- I have to respectfully say I think senator sanders' target is too small. I really do. I respect him going after the big banks. I agree with him no, bank is too big to fail, no executive too powerful to jail. But we actually passed the process to be able to take on banks that pose excessive risk in our financial system in Dodd-Frank. So let's know the next president has to implement, but doesn't have to achieve that.

Here's what I want to do. I want to go after all the other culprits. It wasn't just the big banks. It was the insurance company, AIG. It was the investment bank Lehman Brothers, it was countrywide mortgage, it was Wachovia. There were a lot of bad actors. If you all you do is look over here, I’m telling you, they're going to be over there in the shadow banking sector just cooking up all kinds of ways to once again put our economy at risk.

I’ve got no argument that we need to take on this vested interest. I just have a wider group that i think we need to go after, from pharmaceuticals, insurance companies, shadow banking and other corporations that I think are undermining our economy and frankly they are undermining our democracy.

This Johnson Control thing really infuriates me. We bailed them out. The Republicans wanted the auto industry to just fail. They didn't care about the millions of jobs. Barack Obama and the democratic congress gave them a bailout. It turned out to be a good deal. All of us paid for it. They paid back the treasury, so we

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didn't lose any money and we saved millions of jobs – and the auto industry just had a great year. Johnson Controls was one of those begging for the bailout and now they're not going to pay their taxes? We're going to go right after that. That is absolutely wrong and we need to be focused on getting a fix to that.

ANDERSON COOPER: One of the things Sen. Sanders points to and a lot of your critics point to is you gave 3 speeches to Goldman Sachs, you were paid $675,000 for 3 speeches, was that a mistake? Was that a bad error in judgment?

HRC: Look I made speeches to lots of groups. I told them what I thought. I answered questions.

COOPER: But did you have to be paid $675,000?

HRC: Well, I don't know. That's what they offered. You know, every Secretary of State that I know has done that.

COOPER: But they were retired from office and not running for another office.

HRC: Well I wasn't running. I wasn't committed to running. I didn't know whether I would or not

COOPER: You weren't planning on running for President again?

HRC: You know I didn't. When I was Secretary of State I said several times, you know I think I'm done. You know, so many people came to me, started talking to me, the concerns I had about the Republicans taking back the White House because I think they wrecked what we achieved in the 90s with 23 million new jobs and incomes going up for everybody. I did not want to see that happen again. I want to defend President Obama's accomplishments and the progress we've made so we can go further. So yeah I was convinced. But anybody, anybody who knows me that thinks they can influence me, name anything they've influenced me on. Just name one thing. I'm out here everyday saying I'm going to shut them down, going after them, jailing them if they should be jailed, to break em up. They're not giving me much money now, I can tell you that much. Fine with me, I'm proud to have 90% of my donations from small donors. And 60%, the highest ever from women which is something I'm really really proud of.

COOPER: So just to be clear, that's not something you regret those 3 speeches?

HRC: No I don't. Because I don't feel that I pay any price for it and I'm very clear about what I will do and you're on notice.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want to see if chris lopez is here. Chris, there you are. Chris is an independent with a question for secretary clinton. She says she undecided, I should point out.

HILLARY CLINTON: hi, chris.

CHRIS LOPEZ: hi. thanks for taking my question. i see a lot of hypocrisy in this country when I have a really hard time getting the medicine I need and yet it's really easy to get alcohol. What will you do to decriminalize marijuana so people -- so I and people like me can get the pain and spasm relief that we need?

HILLARY CLINTON: I will do a lot, Chris, because we have an opportunity to do much more with respect to research into marijuana, what it can do to help people with the kinds of conditions you've just briefly described. I want to move it from a schedule one drug to a schedule two so we can begin do more research – the NIH and a lot of universities so can begin to try to find out because i want you to know what we know from science. but i also want you to be able to use it while we're doing the research. And so many states as, as you know, have moved to provide legal protection for the use of medical marijuana. I support that, I think the states are the laboratories of our democracy. i think we should be learning about what works, what

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doesn't work. different states have actually listed the kind of illnesses and conditions it can be used for. are they right, we don't know. that's why we to do the research. i also want you to know what dosage is right, what interacts with the other medication you're taking. I want to accelerate this because I have no doubt that there are very real benefits for people. We know in chemotherapy, and we know from other conditions in using the right amount of the right kind of marijuana. I just want to make sure it's the right amount and the right kind. that's why i want to get that research up and going as quickly as possible. But you said something else which i think is really important. We can't be here in New Hampshire and not talk about the addiction problem in New Hampshire. not talk about the fact that there have been more deaths by overdoses than car crashes in this state. Not talk about the lives that are being destroyed, the people that i meet, the grandmothers raising their grandchildren because they've lost their children. i just left a rally in Manchester and a woman grabbed my hand and she said i just lost my son to an overdose. So I have been working with elected officials like Senator Shaheen, like Governor Hassan, like Governor Shumlin of Vermont who supports me, to try to figure out how do we put together a new approach, a new law enforcement approach so first time, low-level drug users are not sent to jail, but instead we have more treatment and recovery programs. There are 23 million people who need help in our country – both alcohol and drugs – there are 10 percent of kind of spaces that they need to take care of those people. So we got to work on law enforcement, we got to work on doctors to understand better when they prescribe opioids, which is often the first step toward heroin. We have to have every police department equipped with naloxone, which is the antidote to reverse overdose and lives in New Hampshire. So all of this here fits together. You deserve answers about marijuana, and we deserve more treatment for people who are addicted to drugs and alcohol for other kinds of challenges. So that's what I want to do.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want you to meet - this is Julie Carignan, she's from from Windham. Julie?
HILLARY CLINTON: Hi.
JULIE CARIGNAN: Hi. Thank you for taking my question. I'm the proud mother of five girls, two of my own, three step daughters. And unfortunately they are all Feeling The Bern. And I would like to know what you would do to convince them to vote for you.
HILLARY CLINTON: How old are they?
JULIE CARIGNAN: They're in their - 21, 22, a couple 23's and a 25-year-old.
HILLARY CLINTON: Well, first of all, tell them I'm just – I'm glad they're interested in politics and I really mean that. I want them to be involved. I want them to feel like I felt when I was that age, some years ago, and getting excited and interested in politics for the first time. I also want them to take a look at my record, what I have done my entire life, starting as a young lawyer, working for the Children's Defense Fund, taking on the problem of juveniles incarcerated with adults in South Carolina; trying to gather information to end segregated academies in the South. I want them to know I was a legal services lawyer standing up for equality under the law, defending people's rights because I believe passionately that those of us who have the opportunity to serve should serve. And then I hope they will look at what I have accomplished from starting the Children's Health Insurance Program that insures 8 million kids, looking at ways to try to be smart in reforming our adoption and foster care system with very partisan Republicans when I was First Lady, getting health care for our National Guard, helping to negotiate and implement a treaty to reduce nuclear weapons, a long list. And the reason I say that is I think it's very important that as people move toward the primary on Tuesday, whatever your age, you really think about what someone is proposing and what their record is about getting it done. And as I've said and I mean it absolutely, I have the highest respect for Senator Sanders. But as the Concord Monitor said today in its writing about this, you know, it's very hard to see how any of his proposals could ever be achievable. So I don't want to overpromise. We've had too much of that. I want to tell people what I will do, I want to be specific because I do want - to go back to the question I was asked earlier - recreate the trust that seems to have been splintered in America. We need to set big goals again. I am all for that, I have big ambitious goals, affordable college, early childhood education, making sure that we're on the path to paid family leave, all of which will help your daughters. But I also want them to hold me accountable. I want them to say, okay, how is that actually going to happen? What do we have to do to make it? We've got to get 60 votes to break a filibuster in the Senate. Nancy Pelosi has said we're not going to revisit health care. We're going to stick with the Affordable Care Act. That's exactly where I am. We're going to improve it. Because I am somebody who wants to actually produce a real difference in people's lives. I am a progressive who gets results and I will be a progressive president who gets results. And the final thing I would say is, it is still the case that there are challenges and

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obstacles to young women's ambitions. And I'm going to try to break the highest and hardest glass ceiling. I hope it splinters completely. And I hope for your daughters it opens doors that might not be open right now. Regardless of whether any of them ever do anything politically, but in their lives, their professions, how they're treated, I hope it does give them more of a sense of empowerment. That's what I want for my daughter and my amazing granddaughter and that's what I want for your daughters.

ANDERSON COOPER: just as we did with senator sanders, we've talked about a lot of important policy issues. i want to ask a couple of personal questions for voters to get --

HILLARY CLINTON: you don't think they know everything?

ANDERSON COOPER: i don't know, we'll see about that. it's interesting to me. as you said, you have been one of the most famous women in the world now for decades. you have no anonymity. if you could be anonymous for just one day, what would do you?

HILLARY CLINTON: i used to do this in the white house. and, you know, i would put on a baseball cap and sunglasses and, you know, sweatpants and a sweatshirt and pull my hair back and i would go walk and i would tell the secret service they had to wear casual clothes, htey had to take the thing out of their ears, they had to look like they were just tourists. i had the best time. i would end up over on the mall sometimes walking around and a family would come up and say "would you mind taking our picture in front of the white house?" and i'd say, "i'd be happy to". so there's nothing i like better than to be anonymous, as hard as that is to achieve. so i would spend the day out in nature, taking a long walk, walking through one of the beautiful towns here in new hampshire, stopping in a cafe, stopping in a bookstore, you know, maybe calling some of my friends, some of whom are here tonight, and say "don't tell anybody but meet me there." that's what i want to do. and it's what i get the great joy out of. i am so fortunate that i still have my friends from grade school and every other phase of my life. they keep me grounded, they keep my honest, they deflate my head, they deal with the universe in one pocket and the dust and ashes in the other. so any time i get to spend time with them and then of course it would have to end with seeing my granddaughter because that's the creme de resistance.

ANDERSON COOPER: what does she call you?

HILLARY CLINTON: she calls me grandma, grandma. she's working really hard on words and it was so thrilling, they came to iowa that last weekend because we obviously weren't going to leave and so they got in late in the night saturday night and sunday morning i'm getting ready and bill and i are having coffee and everything. so chelsea brings her in and she sees me and she goes grandma! and honest to goodness, the caucus could have ended right there. i would have been perfectly happy saying, the best thing has happened to me right this minute in iowa. so that's where i'd end my day.

ANDERSON COOPER : You talk about the circle of friends you have. Obviously, in 2011 your mom passed away. In 2008 she was part of your campaign. And you wrote about how at the end of the day you would sit around the table, kick off your shoes and talk about everything that had happened. What advice do you think she would give you today in this campaign this year?
HILLARY CLINTON: My mother truly is my inspiration because see had such a terrible, miserable life and was abandoned and rejected by her own family and was out at the age of 14 working as a house maid. And her resilience, her love, her ability to have her own family, to take such care of us to me was, you know, to me the ultimate of accomplishment in any life. And she would always give me the advice she gave me as a little girl. You know, you get knocked down, everybody gets knocked down. What matters is whether you get up and when you get up what do you do? How do you behave? Are you going to be bitter, angry, upset? Are you going to try to be positive, get something done, help somebody else? And I'm sure that's exactly what she would be saying now. She would be encouraging me, she'd be very proud, a little apprehensive because, you know, it's a brutal business being in politics and people say things about those you love, whether it's your daughter or someone else. So she was -- she was very supportive but you could tell, you know, how much pain she kind of absorbed from time to time. So I would sit with her and I would say, "Don't listen to that stuff, mom." And she'd say, "Well, I have to know what they're saying about you."

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I'd say, you know, “Don't put yourself through that.” So that would be what she'd be doing now I think, too.

ANDERSON COOPER: I want you to be able to make a closing argument to the people in New Hampshire.
HILLARY CLINTON: Oh. Well thank you. Well first of all, thanks again for being part of this process, this first in the nation primary. You know, I said earlier today, some people said, well, you know, Senator Sanders is ahead – and I respect that – and so maybe, you know, I should go on to the next states. And I said, absolutely not. New Hampshire has been so good to me and my family, and I love campaigning in New Hampshire. I love this process. So you're going to have to put up with me. I'm going to be going around the state, going to as many events as I can, answering as many questions, trying to talk about what I am offering. I really believe that we have a chance to build on the progress we've made and to get results for people, to get the economy producing more good jobs, to get incomes rising again. That's my goal. I will not raise middle class taxes, because the middle class hasn't even yet recovered from the Great Recession. We're going to stick with the Affordable Care Act, we're going to make it work, we’re going to get early childhood education, affordable college, and pay down student debt – a lot of the agenda that is important to our country, particularly to young people. And we're going to defend our rights. We're going to defend a woman's right to make her own health care decisions, we're going to defend Planned Parenthood, we're going to defend marriage equality and end discrimination against LGBT Americans. And we’re going to take on the gun lobby, because it is absolutely unconscionable to have 33,000 people a year die from gun violence. So please, join me in this campaign. I hope you will come out and vote for me on Tuesday, and I will fight for you every single day in the White House. Thank you all very much.

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From:	"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
To:	"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
Date:	3/21/2015 11:01:20 AM
Subject:	Re: SCHWEIZER / Clinton Cash

Adding Kristina who is poking around as well

> On Mar 21, 2015, at 5:54 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> wrote:
>
> Definitely would be good to get a copy…
>
>
> <Clinton Cash - Annoucement Release.doc>

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/1/2014 7:06:33 AM
Subject: News Update - Friday, August 1

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, August 1

Headlines:

- **Israel Declares Gaza Truce Over, 50 Die in Gaza Shelling**
- **IDF Soldier Feared Kidnapped, 2 Other Soldiers Killed**
- **US Envoy Seeks Extension of Gaza Truce**
- **Netanyahu Reprimands Cabinet Ministers for Politicking During War**
- **Abbas Seeks Broad Support for War Crimes Charges**
- **Under Fire and Out of Cash, U.N. Overwhelmed by Gaza Crisis**
- **Israel Has to Keep Hamas from Rebuilding once Gaza Fighting Ends**
- **Islamist Surge Threatens Mideast Powers**

Commentary:

- **The Economist: "Israel - Winning the Battle, Losing the War"**
  - Editorial
- **LA Times: "Israel's Doctrine of Proportionality in Gaza"**
  - By Dore Gold

Reuters

Israel Declares Gaza Truce Over, 50 Die in Gaza Shelling

Israel declared a Gaza ceasefire over on Friday and killed more than 50 Palestinians in renewed shelling, saying militants had breached the truce shortly after it began and apparently captured an Israeli soldier. The 72-hour break announced by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was the most ambitious attempt so far to end more than three weeks of fighting, and followed mounting international alarm over a rising Palestinian civilian death toll. The ceasefire was to be followed by Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Cairo on a longer-term solution.
See also, "IDF: Hamas used ceasefire to kidnap soldier; ceasefire over" (Ynet News)

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Jerusalem Post

IDF Soldier Feared Kidnapped, 2 Other Soldiers Killed

A Hamas attack on IDF soldiers in southern Gaza, which occurred an hour and a half after the start of a humanitarian truce, ended with the suspected kidnapping of a soldier, the IDF said Friday. Second Lt. Hadar Goldin, a 23-year-old Givati officer from Kfar Saba, was named as the IDF soldier presumed to be abducted by Hamas. His family has been notified. Two other soldiers were killed during the incident. Their families have been notified. Terrorists emerged from a tunnel shaft, and a suicide bomber detonated himself in the vicinity of soldiers. Heavy exchanges of fire ensued, before one of the IDF soldiers was kidnapped, a senior army source said.

See also, "Israel's tunnel vision" (Share Harris, Foreign Policy)

Agence France Presse

US Envoy Seeks Extension of Gaza Truce

The No. 2 US diplomat will head to Cairo and seek to extend beyond 72 hours a truce agreed upon by Israel and Hamas, a senior US official said Friday. Deputy Secretary of State William Burns — a veteran career diplomat frequently tasked with delicate missions — will travel to Egypt this weekend to take part in talks as part of the three-day truce that took effect Friday, the official said. The official said Burns would look to see if the two sides can extend the truce in the deadly conflict, especially as negotiators need time to travel to Cairo. Israeli officials rarely meet during the Jewish Sabbath that starts at sundown on Friday.

Jerusalem Post

Netanyahu Reprimands Cabinet Ministers for Politicking During War

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu lashed out at his ministers for playing politics during Operation Protective Edge at Thursday's cabinet meeting. "I call upon you not to harm the special unity that there is among us right now," Netanyahu said. "Watch your words, be careful with your actions. Above all, cabinet ministers must present a personal example to the entire public. At this time, the nation expects all of us, especially cabinet ministers, to unite behind a common goal." The prime minister referred to a book by his brother, the late Entebbe commander Yonatan Netanyahu, who wrote that the wars of the Jews started after the fighting, not before it was over.

Associated Press

Abbas Seeks Broad Support for War Crimes Charges

Nearly a month into Israel's fierce assault on Hamas in Gaza, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is facing mounting domestic pressure to seek war crimes charges against Israel at the International Criminal Court. He has hesitated in the past because such a move would instantly put the Palestinians on a risky collision course with Israel. But with about 1,400 Palestinians killed in Gaza, according to health officials, Abbas has signaled he might move ahead — cautiously. Palestinian officials said Thursday that Abbas asked all Palestinian political factions, including Hamas and the smaller group Islamic Jihad, to give their written consent to such a move. Different PLO factions signed up in a meeting in the West Bank earlier this week, while Abbas is still waiting for a response from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, they said.

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Reuters

Under Fire and Out of Cash, U.N. Overwhelmed by Gaza Crisis

The United Nations in Gaza is struggling to withstand a flood of almost a quarter of a million refugees into shelters that have repeatedly come under Israeli fire. Out of cash, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the main U.N. body in the impoverished enclave of 1.8 million Palestinians, says it can barely handle the humanitarian crisis unleashed by more than three weeks of fighting between militants and Israel. Asked to explain the scale of the civilian suffering to an Arab news station, an UNRWA spokesman simply burst into tears.

LA Times

Israel Has to Keep Hamas from Rebuilding once Gaza Fighting Ends

Determined to avoid a repeat of the fighting in the Gaza Strip, Israel is seeking to build support for having an international force take charge of preventing the Palestinian militant group Hamas from rearming once the conflict is over. One sticking point remains: finding countries willing to take on the job. The idea, floated repeatedly by top Israeli officials in recent days, comes at what could be a key point in the 3-week-old conflict. With the announcement of a 72-hour cease-fire starting Friday morning, the Israelis apparently believe they are close to destroying the bulk of the tunnels that Hamas, which controls Gaza, has spent years digging and fortifying, and a significant portion of the group's arsenal of rockets.

Wall Street Journal

Islamist Surge Threatens Mideast Powers

The eruptions of Islamist violence in the Gaza Strip, Syria and Iraq have begun shaking the Middle East to its core, increasing the likelihood that a new order will emerge when the dust starts to settle. The region's traditional power centers—Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Israel—are all threatened by the surge of Islamist forces that aim to disrupt the status quo. Even Shiite Iran, which often stokes Islamist movements, is finding that the surge of Sunni extremism is threatening its position in the region. The hope among U.S. officials and U.S. allies is that, in the long run, those traditional powers—which are more often rivals than partners—will find common interest in curbing the extremist forces.

The Economist – July 31, 2014

Israel - Winning the Battle, Losing the War

Editorial

HAMAS has ruled Gaza since 2007 and there is not much to admire. The Islamist party is harsh, narrow-minded and intolerant of dissent. Its charter is anti-Semitic. It fires rockets into Israeli territory and builds tunnels under it to kill or kidnap Israeli soldiers. It knows that the Israeli attacks it provokes will kill hundreds of Palestinian civilians, which will garner sympathy around the world. It is also weaker than it was, for it is now losing the military battle against Israel.

By contrast Israel is the most successful state in the Middle East. It is the region's only true democracy—a hub of invention, enterprise and creativity. Israel has overwhelming firepower in the fight in Gaza. Most of its people are united behind their soldiers and have the firm backing of America's Congress. Yet, though Israel is winning the battle, it is struggling in the war for world opinion (see article). That matters in part because Israel is a cosmopolitan trading country that looks to its American ally for security, but also because Israel needs to hear some of what its critics are saying.

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Anti-Semitism: a very light sleeper

A generation ago, Israel had the best of the argument with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation, in many ways a less vile outfit than Hamas. Young Europeans spent their gap years on kibbutzim. The Western world cheered when Israeli commandos rescued Jewish hostages from the terminal building in Uganda's Entebbe airport in 1976.

But as the occupation of Palestinian territory has dragged on, sympathy has seeped away. In a poll published in June, before the destruction of Gaza, the citizens of 23 countries put the balance of those who think Israel is a good or bad influence on the world at minus 26%, ranking it below Russia and above only North Korea, Pakistan and Iran. A growing number of Europeans call Israel racist (with the sinister flourish that Israelis, of all people, should know better). And even in America, where a solid majority backs Israel, the share that thinks its actions against the Palestinians are unjustified has risen since 2002 by five percentage points, to 39%. Among 18- to 29-year-olds, Israel is backed by just a quarter.

Many Israelis, and their most fervent supporters in Congress, see today's hostility as the culmination of a long process of demonisation, double standards and delegitimisation. They have a point. Holding a country to high standards, as Israel's critics do, can be a compliment—yet against Israel, morality is often used as a cudgel. The common slur that Israel is an apartheid state ignores the fact that Israel's minorities, such as the Druze, Arabs and Bahais, are protected by the country's independent courts—including the highest, which has a sitting Arab Israeli judge. The "BDS" campaign to impose boycotts, encourage divestment and introduce sanctions calls not just for an end to the occupation of the West Bank and for equal rights, but also for the right of return of all Palestinian refugees—in other words, for the erosion of Israel as a Jewish homeland. Protests in France against the fighting in Gaza led to attacks on synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses.

No wonder that many Israelis feel that the world is against them, and believe that criticism of Israel is often a mask for antipathy towards Jews. But they would be wrong to ignore it entirely. That is partly because public opinion matters. For a trading nation built on the idea of liberty, delegitimisation is, in the words of an Israeli think-tank, "a strategic threat". But it is also because some of the foreign criticism is right.

Please, hear them

That begins with the scale of the violence in Gaza. Some 1,400 Palestinians have died in the past few weeks, compared with 56 Israeli soldiers and four civilians. Even allowing for Hamas's brutality, no democracy should be happy with a military strategy that results in the death of so many children (let alone the crass claim from Israel's ambassador to Washington that its soldiers deserve a Nobel peace prize). The destruction is driving support towards Hamas and away from the moderate Palestinians who are Israel's best chance for peace.

But more than that, Israel needs to hear what its critics say about the need for a two-state solution, which remains the only one that will work. Time is not on Israel's side. Palestinians may already outnumber Israelis in the lands they share. Without two states, Israelis and Palestinians will be left with one that contains them both. The risk for Israel is of either a permanent, non-democratic occupation that disenfranchises Palestinians, or a democracy in which Jews are in a minority. Neither would be the Jewish homeland with equal rights for all that Israel's founding fathers intended.

America's secretary of state, John Kerry, has made a Herculean effort to forge

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peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians along the lines of two states for two peoples. When the talks broke down, a few months ago, he blamed Israel's settler lobby. That outraged right-wing Israelis. And now the left has joined in the derision because he proposed a ceasefire in Gaza that Israelis thought favoured Hamas. But Mr Kerry is right. If Israel continues to build settlements in the occupied territory, it will gobble up land that would belong to an independent Palestinian state, making peace harder to reach.

The same goes for what appears to be Israel's strategy towards both Gaza and the West Bank. Having created a huge open-air prison in Gaza, Israel remains committed to a blockade that contains Hamas—but also ensures that ever more Palestinians grow up angry. On the West Bank, Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, has gone backwards: he has said that Israel cannot relinquish security control of the West Bank for fear of Islamist attack. That implies an intention to consolidate the occupation, thus withdrawing all hope from Palestinian moderates. The West Bank would be likely to explode too, then, while the demographic clock ticked on.

For all the blood and misery in Gaza, Mr Netanyahu will soon have a chance to show he has heard the critics. Having won his battle, he could return to the negotiating table, this time with a genuine offer of peace. Every true friend of Israel should press him to do so.

LA Times – July 31, 2014

Israel's Doctrine of Proportionality in Gaza

By Dore Gold

The images of destruction after the battle between the Israel Defense Forces and Hamas that began July 20 in the Shajaiya neighborhood in the Gaza Strip have caused many to declare, in a now-frequent refrain, that the IDF is behaving "disproportionately." Some commentators are simply dressing up in sophisticated language their belief that Israel is using excessive force, but others clearly mean to accuse Israel of violating the laws of war — specifically, of violating the doctrine of proportionality. These accusations have no merit.

Shajaiya was not just another neighborhood in Gaza, but rather a crown jewel of Hamas' effort to intertwine civilians and terrorists to complicate Israel's ability to defend itself. Shajaiya was crisscrossed with an elaborate network of underground bunkers and tunnels containing equipment for the manufacture of rockets, storage facilities for rockets and other weapons, and launching sites from which the rockets were fired at Israeli towns. It was a civilian area where Hamas embedded its most important military capabilities, precisely to encourage condemnation of Israel should the IDF be forced to fight there.

Moreover, multiple attack tunnels whose exit points are in Israel had entrance points in Shajaiya. These tunnels allow Hamas to cross under the border fence and penetrate Israeli territory to carry out attacks on civilians. Mothers in Israeli villages near the Gaza border feared that terrorists would emerge from the tunnels, kidnap their children and drag them back as hostages to the Gaza Strip, a concern that became more terrifying when handcuffs and tranquilizers were found in the tunnel system.

Shajaiya encapsulates the challenge Israel faces in the Gaza conflict: How can Israel defend itself without being accused of violating the principle of proportionality?

Israel had three choices in how to deal with Shajaiya. First, it could have decided that it had every right to use overwhelming force to neutralize the neighborhood with air power, ignoring the question of collateral damage to civilians, much like the Allied bombing campaigns of World War II, or NATO's three-month campaign

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against Yugoslavia in 1999, in which 40,000 homes were destroyed. This option was not even a consideration for the IDF.

Second, looking at how Hamas had embedded its military capabilities within civilian neighborhoods, Israel could have decided there was nothing it could do, thus allowing Hamas to strike at Israeli population centers with impunity. Such a decision would have granted Hamas a license to kill Israelis, something no Israeli government — or, indeed, any accountable democracy — could do.

Finally, there was the decision that Israel ultimately made: Separate, as much as possible, the civilian population from the Hamas fighters and arms in their midst. This required getting the Palestinian population to evacuate potential target areas by multiple means: dropping leaflets with evacuation routes, breaking into Hamas radio broadcasts with warnings about specific areas, Arabic-language telephone calls to homes and text messages to cellphones. While the notification process was underway, an Israeli drone would hover over the area that was to be cleared to ensure that residents had left.

Against this Israeli effort, Hamas employed a counter-strategy of trying to prevent civilians from heeding Israeli warnings. On July 8, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri appeared on local television and called on Gazans to serve as human shields against Israeli air attacks. Hamas enforcers sought to dissuade civilians from fleeing. And, anticipating a ground incursion into neighborhoods like Shajaiya, Hamas booby-trapped whole rows of homes, hoping to collapse them on Israeli soldiers. This only magnified the scale of the destruction.

It should be recalled that proportionality in international law has a very specific meaning: It is the calculation a military commander must make as to whether the military advantage to be gained by the use of force is greater than the probable harm that may be inflicted on the surrounding civilian population. Anyone who complains about "disproportionality" must explain exactly what the IDF should have done to neutralize the terrorist threat from Shajaiya while causing less destruction than what occurred.

War between an embattled democracy, like Israel, and a terrorist organization, like Hamas, inevitably produces certain asymmetries. Israel heavily invested in the defense of its population, including air raid shelters as well as a missile defense system, known as Iron Dome. Where did Hamas put the billions of dollars it obtained from supporters like Qatar? It built the system of attack tunnels and an arsenal of missiles. Yet there are those who wrongly infer Israeli intent to cause civilian casualties from the greater damage suffered by Hamas, which resulted from a war Hamas imposed, and from its readiness to sacrifice the lives of its people to advance its extremist goals.

Dore Gold served as Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations from 1997 to 1999. He is an advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and president of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

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To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/9/2015 1:10:20 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: A Republican schism on taxes -- Scrap the code? Or be practical?

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A Republican schism on taxes — Scrap the code? Or be practical?



Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist (AFP Photo/Jim Watson)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— While the GOP's rigidity when it comes to opposing any new tax increase is well known, a robust debate is playing out on the right about what exactly tax reform should look like.

Grover Norquist, the conservative crusader who runs Americans for Tax Reform, says he's happy that so many more presidential candidates have detailed plans for how they'd like to change the tax code compared to four years ago. "Republicans putting these plans down on paper is really healthy," he said. "They're all generally moving in the right direction."

The GOP field falls into two camps: those who want to simplify the existing code and those who want to blow it up and start from scratch. Who falls into which group closely mirrors the larger ideological cleavage in the field between the pragmatists and the ideologues.

The incrementalists: John Kasich and Jeb Bush each call for reducing the number of tax brackets from seven to three and setting the top marginal income tax rate at 28 percent. (The top rate now is 39.6 percent.) Marco Rubio, working with Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), proposed three rates on individuals: 35 percent, 25 percent and 15 percent. Chris Christie also advocates going to three rates, with his top rate at 28 percent. Even Donald Trump backed three rates: 10 percent, 20 percent and 25 percent, with a 15 percent corporate tax rate.

The start-from-scratch crowd: Ted Cruz calls for starting over with an across the board flat tax rate of 10 percent. Rand Paul backs a slightly higher flat rate of 14.5 percent on individuals. Both the Texas and Kentucky senators propose controversial business taxes that have been compared to the value-added tax used in Europe. Ben Carson wants a tax model based on the tithing called for in the Bible, but he has not laid out specifics in a way that can be scored by economists. Rick Santorum endorses a 20 percent flat tax, with special breaks for manufacturers.

For 90 minutes yesterday at Norquist's office, economic policy advisers representing five of the GOP campaigns argued with each other each other about the dueling approaches.

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Bush adviser Danny Heil nodded to the fact that voters see flat taxes as regressive and that across-the-board cuts tend to benefit the rich more than the poor. That, he explained, would make the Cruz and Paul plans a tougher sell in a general election. He said the Bush plan is the most comprehensive thing that is achievable within "the existing system" and that it could be "readily implemented."

Rubio's campaign policy director, Johnny Slemrod, said there are things to like about other plans but the Florida senator's focus is on offering something that actually has a chance of getting enacted. He said theirs is "the most realistic plan to get there."

Kasich adviser Kerry Knott called Trump's plan "a fantasy" that has no chance of ever going into effect, and he criticized Cruz and Paul for supporting ideas that sound good in theory but don't work in practice.

Cruz and Rand's representatives, meanwhile, made the case that the flat tax makes the most economic sense. Because of the venue and the nature of the debate, they did not engage about the huge deficits that several of these plans could lead to.

One flash point between the Floridians: Jeb thinks an internet sales tax is necessary for fairness while Rubio promises to veto it.

— Steve Forbes is out this week with a new book, "Reviving America," that makes an exhaustive case for a 17 percent flat tax for individuals and corporations. The two-time presidential candidate said several candidates are "just about there" with the plans they've rolled out so far. He criticizes the "traditionalists" who want piecemeal fixes instead of a total overhaul. "The best thing is to start all over again," Forbes said. "Don't negotiate with yourself! Put the purist thing out!" He says it is dangerous to keep multiple tax rates because, like rabbits, they multiply.

Forbes, who stumped for Rick Perry four years ago, told the 202 that he will "probably" endorse again this year. "I feel like I'm in the dating game," he said. "I'm an agitator. That's my role now."

— Thinking ahead: Even if there's a Republican president in 2017, Norquist predicts that Paul Ryan will still be in the driver's seat on tax reform and exert more influence over the outcome than anyone else. Overhauling the code is the new Speaker's pet issue, and he made clear when he agreed to give up his chairmanship of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee that he was not going to let go. Grover told the 202 that he hopes debating these approaches now will make it easier to pass something during the first few months of the next Republican administration.

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Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— The third Paris attacker who blew himself up at the Bataclan concert hall was identified as 23-year-old French national Fouad Mohamed-Aggad. He had traveled to Syria in 2013. (BBC)

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Foued Mohamed-Aggad, the third bomber at the Bataclan music hall, posted this picture of himself on Facebook last year. (AFP/Getty Images)

— NO DEAL…YET: The House is still struggling to approve a government spending bill before Friday, when the government will shut down if there's no action. With time running out, leaders might move a short-term bill to extend funding for a bit while they continue negotiating. Sticking points include GOP riders to prevent Syrian and Iraqi refugees from entering the U.S.; attempts to block President Obama's environmental

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regulations; and a weakening of financial reforms in the Dodd-Frank Act.

MEET THE "HOPE YES, VOTE NO" CAUCUS: The spending bill is one of new Speaker Paul Ryan's first tests of how well he can control his right flank. As Mike DeBonis puts it, Ryan needs to persuade the 120 or so members of the "Hope yes, vote no" caucus, meaning those Republicans who "privately fear the repercussions of a federal shutdown or default but have been compelled to vote against compromise bills because of political pressure from the right." Along with the 40 or so House Freedom Caucus-members, this bloc of Republicans has bucked leadership on a series of key spending and debt limits votes since the GOP retook the House majority in 2011. Bringing them in line is a central factor to determine whether Ryan succeeds where John Boehner failed.

GET SMART FAST:

1. Iraqi forces say they have driven ISIS out of large portions of Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's largest province, after a seven-month occupation. (Mustafa Salim and Hugh Naylor)
2. Russia for the first time hit ISIS targets in Syria using missiles it launched from a submarine stationed in the Mediterranean. (Reuters)
3. The House passed a bill that imposes new restrictions on the visa waiver program by a 407-to-19 vote. "But there are key differences between the House bill and a measure from Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), which has not yet been scheduled for a vote," Karoun Demirjian reports. The House measure has the backing of travel industry lobbyists, who aspire to water down any reforms as much as possible.
4. U.S. and Cuban officials met in Havana to begin negotiating a possible settlement for $1.9 billion worth of American assets seized by Fidel Castro in the early 1960s. (Nick Miroff)
5. The Supreme Court appears divided along partisan lines as to whether "one person, one vote" means all residents in a given area, or just eligible voters, with John Roberts saying voters and Sonia Sotomayor saying it's not that simple during oral arguments for what could be a landmark case from Texas. Separately, the justices decided unanimously that a Maryland man can challenge that state's redistricting plan, something lower courts had dismissed. (Robert Barnes)
6. The Chicago Teachers' Union will begin to vote on whether to strike after talks with the school district have gone nowhere. (Emma Brown)
7. Ratings show 46 million people watched Obama's Sunday speech from the Oval Office, up from the 33 million who watched his State of the Union this January. (Deadline)

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8. Speaking of that, Fox Business Network announced it will host another GOP presidential debate on Jan. 14, two days after Obama's final State of the Union.
9. A suspected burglar who was hiding in a Florida pond was killed by an alligator. (Yahoo)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS

1. Diane Rehm will retire from WAMU after the presidential election, ending a nearly 40-year radio career. (Paul Farhi)
2. Bernie Sanders compared the poverty he saw during a tour of Baltimore to a third-world country, but he made news for refusing to engage with reporter questions about terrorism. *"Don't ask about ISIS today,"* his spokeswoman told reporters before a press conference. (John Wagner)
3. Martin O'Malley, trying to appeal to liberal college students, attacked the Sanders plan to tackle climate change as "not good enough." (Iowa City Press-Citizen)
4. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) became the fourth senator to endorse Bush.
5. Ben Carson unveiled a 16-member foreign policy team that lacks any real star power or big names. (Jose A. DelReal)
6. Iowa social conservative activist Bob Vander Plaats and his group, the Family Leader, are widely expected to endorse Ted Cruz on Thursday. Vander Plaats backed Rick Santorum in 2012 and Mike Huckabee in 2008, both of whom went on to win the caucuses.
7. The executive director of the House Freedom Caucus, Steve Chartan, is joining Cruz's Senate office in a policy role. (Politico)
8. The Union Leader editorial board attacks Cruz today for becoming more hawkish to match the mood.
9. Solicitor General Don Verrilli urged the Supreme Court not to review Bob McDonnell's corruption conviction and two-year sentence. (Matt Zapotosky)
10. The environmentalist who founded the North Face clothing company, Douglas Tompkins, died during a kayaking trip in Chile. He was 72. (Reuters)

LATEST ON THE TRUMP FALLOUT:

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Donald Trump in South Carolina (Reuters/Randall Hill)

"I WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS RACE," Trump told my colleagues Steven Ginsberg and Robert Costa over breakfast last week. The full Q&A, with great scenes and fun dialogue, is worth reading .

IS HE SERIOUS?: Trump is again flirting with an independent bid or, at the very least, daring Republican leaders: "A new poll indicates that 68% of my supporters would vote for me if I departed the GOP & ran as an independent," he tweeted last night.

IS TRUMP THE NEW GEORGE WALLACE? Dan Balz, the Post's chief correspondent, floats it on the front page of our paper: "Nothing in modern politics equates with the kind of rhetoric now coming from Candidate Trump. There are no perfect analogies. One must scroll back decades for echoes, however imperfect, of what he is saying, from the populist and racially based appeals of then-Alabama Gov. George Wallace in 1968 and 1972 to the anti-Semitic diatribes of the radio preacher Charles Coughlin during the 1930s.

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Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace stands in the “school house door” confronting National Guard Brig. Gen. Henry Graham at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on June 11, 1963. (AP Photo)

“Historian David Kennedy of Stanford University said there are few comparisons, adding that, in branding an entire religious class of people as not welcome, Trump “is further out there than almost anyone in the annals of [U.S.] history.” More of what Professor Kennedy told Dan about Trump: “We’ve known for a long time that we’re just less trustful as a people. We have less confidence in our major institutions and our leaders. … He gets denounced routinely when he does these things and everyone gets up and says this is not a voice we should listen to. But nobody has credibility on the other side. Nobody has the cultural authority to put this guy down. … All the condemnation in the world falls on deaf ears.”

Post columnist Dana Milbank mocks the NRSC for comparing Trump to Wendell Willkie, the 1940 GOP nominee, and argues that he’s a lot more like Benito Mussolini. “And not only because of the superficial: Trump’s chin-out toughness, sweeping right-hand gestures and talk of his ‘huge’ successes and his ‘stupid’ opponents all evoke the Italian dictator’s style.”

HATEFUL WORDS HAVE REAL-LIFE CONSEQUENCES: There here have been

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two dozen attacks documented against Muslims in the U.S. since the Paris attacks, including a pig's head being thrown at a mosque, according to USA Today . Indiana Democratic Rep. Andre Carson, one of two Muslims in Congress, announced that he received a death threat . He blames politicians for "fanning the flames of bigotry."

MANY REPUBLICANS RESPONDED FORCEFULLY: "This is not conservatism ," said Speaker Paul Ryan. South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, a daughter of Indian immigrants, called it "an embarrassment to the Republican Party": "It's absolutely un-American, it's unconstitutional, it defies everything this country was based on and it's just wrong." (Charleston Post and Courier)

BUT SOME GOP LEADERS ARE BEING TEPID: "I don't agree," RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said when asked about the Trump proposal. "We need to aggressively take on radical Islamic terrorism but not at the expense of our American values. *That's as far as I'm going to go."* If Republicans again blow a winnable presidential election in 2016, that quote will be in autopsies explaining why.

DEMOCRATS CAPITALIZE: Hillary, in an open letter to Muslims , bashed what she called the Republican failure to dismiss Trump's "prejudice and paranoia," by noting other GOP candidates' remarks about the Islamic faith.

Bernie, on "The Tonight Show" last night , ripped into Trump as a "demagogue": "What somebody like a Trump is trying to do is to divide us up. A few months ago, we were supposed to hate Mexicans. He thinks they're all criminals or rapists. Now we're supposed to hate Muslims. And that kind of crap is not going to work in the United States of America."

IS TRUMP GOING TO WALK IT BACK? Trump told ABC's Barbara Walters that his ban would probably be "short term." He added that he has "tremendous relationships" with Muslims and they agree with him "100 percent." He also denied that he is a bigot. "You know when I came out against illegal immigration, everybody said the same thing," he said. "Two weeks later, everybody was on my side, including the members of my own party." The most memorable line from the interview might be him saying, "I'm the worst thing that's ever happened to ISIS."

TRUMP STILL LEADS THE GOP POLLS:

- Cruz vaulted into second place among Republicans in a Suffolk/USA Today national poll, earning 17 percent of likely voters' support behind Trump's 27 percent. Rubio is third at 16 percent, and Carson dropped to 10 percent. (Philip Bump)

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- Trump's lead in New Hampshire grew by 6 points, to 32 percent, in a CNN/WMUR poll that was conducted just before the Muslim proposal. He held an 18-point lead over second-place Rubio. (CNN)

A REALLY COOL NEW POLLING TOOL: Morning Consult has built out a free platform called Morning Consult Intelligence that lets anyone search and analyze over 50,000 current and historical survey questions from top polling organizations. It's much more sophisticated than any of the other free tools out there. Researchers can filter based on the polling or media organization and the date of the survey. A post on the Monkey Cage blog explains more on what should be a helpful resource for operatives, journalists and historians.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:



Tashfeen Malik, center, and Syed Rizwan Farook, right, go through Chicago's O'Hare airport on July 27, 2014. (Courtesy of ABC News)

The latest from San Bernardino –> "Both attackers pledged allegiance to the Islamic State," by Adam Goldman, Missy Ryan, Julie Tate and Abby Philip: "Federal authorities believe the Facebook posting from one of the attackers who killed 14 people here last week was made on behalf of both shooters … The Facebook posting said, 'We pledge allegiance' to the leader of the Islamic State, using the name Khalifah Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi Al Qurashi, the emir of the self-proclaimed Islamic State. … This new detail

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illustrates what federal officials described Monday as the radicalization of both attackers."

"The FBI remains keenly interested in a former neighbor who provided the military-grade rifles … The neighbor, Enrique Marquez, legally purchased the rifles — semiautomatic AR-15s manufactured by DPMS and Smith & Wesson — in California. … An official with the Islamic Center of Corona-Norco, in Corona, Calif., the mosque Syed Farook's brother Raheel regularly attended, said he believed that Marquez had periodically attended the center. … Marquez was also married to a woman who appears to be a relative of Tatiana Farook, the wife of Syed's brother Raheel, according to county records. Both Marquez and the bride, Russian-born Mariya Chernykh, list the same home address as Raheel Farook, and Raheel and Tatiana Farook were witnesses to the couple's marriage. The Corona mosque is listed as the couple's religious center. … Marquez, who works as a security guard at Walmart and had lived next door to the Farook family for years, could become a subject of the investigation depending on what the FBI learns, one official said."



In this Oct. 20, 2014, frame from dash-cam video provided by the Chicago Police Department, Laquan McDonald, right, walks down the street just before being shot 16 times by officer Jason Van Dyke. (Chicago Police Department via AP,)

Important reform –> "FBI to sharply expand system for tracking fatal police shootings," by Kimberly Kindy: "The FBI's system for tracking fatal police shootings is a 'travesty' and the agency will replace it by 2017, dramatically expanding the information it gathers on violent police encounters in the United States, a senior FBI official said

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Tuesday. The new effort will go beyond tracking fatal shootings and, for the first time, track any incident in which an officer causes serious injury or death to civilians, including through the use of stun guns, pepper spray, and even fists and feet. … The data will also be 'much more granular' than in the past and will probably include the gender and race of officers and suspects involved in these encounters, the level of threat or danger the officer faced, and the types of weapons wielded by either party. The data also will be collected and shared with the public in 'near real-time,' as the incidents occur … instead of being tallied in aggregate at the end of each year."



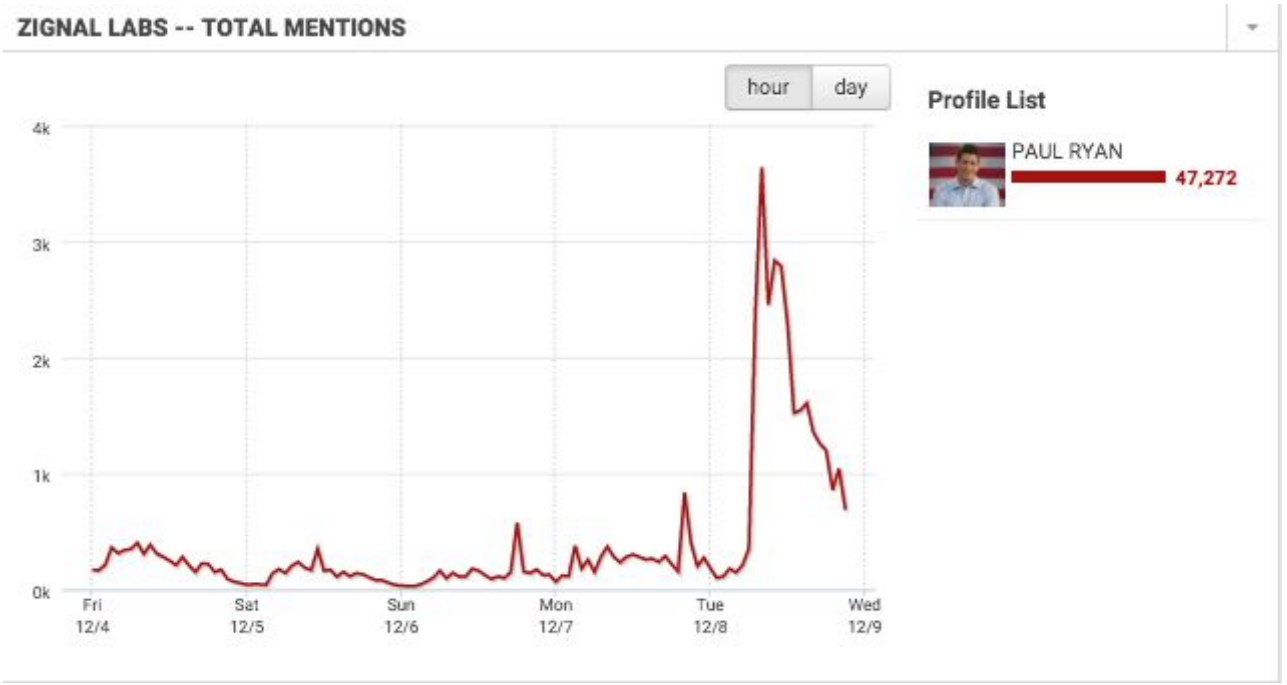
The Eiffel Tower lights up with the slogan "Action Now," referring to the U.N. climate change conference, on Sunday night. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

Update from Paris –> "Amid GOP jeers from Washington, U.S. diplomats seek progress toward a climate deal," by Joby Warrick and Chris Mooney: "On Wednesday, diplomats from 195 countries attending the talks are expected to produce a new draft of the proposed climate accord that narrows differences over the key issues of transparency and compensation and financial aid for poorer countries. A bloc of developing nations that includes India is demanding that wealthier states finance their transition to cleaner energy while also compensating them for economic losses resulting from man-made climate change. The leader of India's delegation to the talks suggested Tuesday that the United States and other developed countries were morally obligated to pay for a problem that was largely created by the industrial West."

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SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Ryan vs. Trump. Paul Ryan saw his share of the social media spotlight spike yesterday when he took on Trump, saying his call for banning Muslim immigrants “is not what this party stands for.” Of the 23,000 Tweets that mentioned Ryan yesterday, 13,700 (or 60 percent) also mentioned Trump. Here’s a look at the jump in Ryan mentions, via our analytics partners at Zignal Labs:



–Pictures of the day:

Leonardo DiCaprio sat down with Secretary of State John Kerry on the sidelines of the Paris climate talks:

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(leonardodicaprio)

Rick Santorum recognized a 2012 front page while visiting the Des Moines Register:

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(@RickSantorum)

On his trip to Ukraine, Vice President Biden met with families of U.S. embassy staff:

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(vp)

–Tweets of the day:

J.K. Rowling tweeted that Trump is worse than Voldemort:



(@jk_rowling)

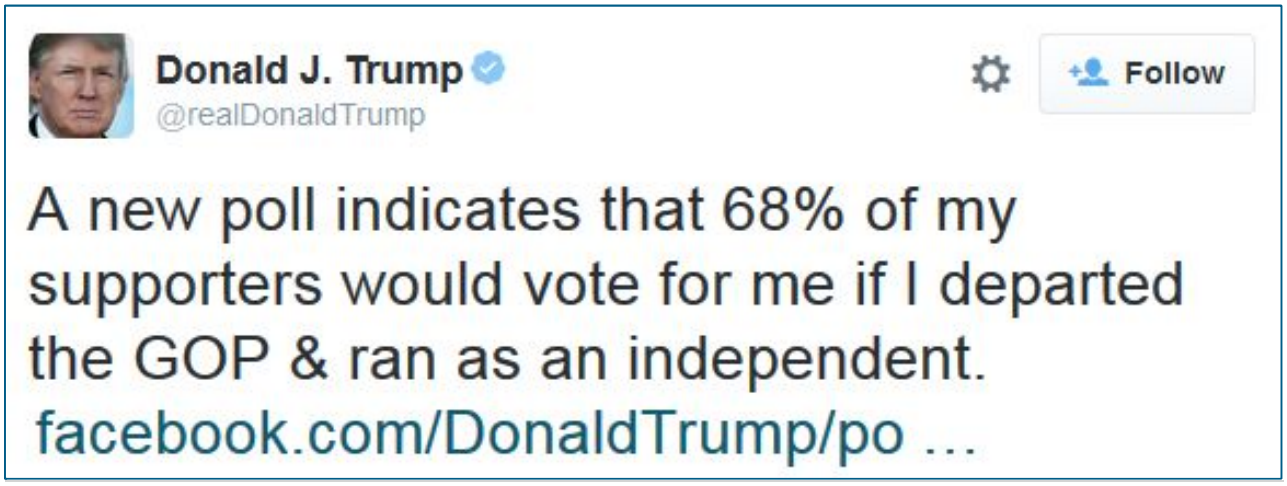
Hillary Clinton urged her twitter followers to counter Trump with this message:

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(@HillaryClinton)

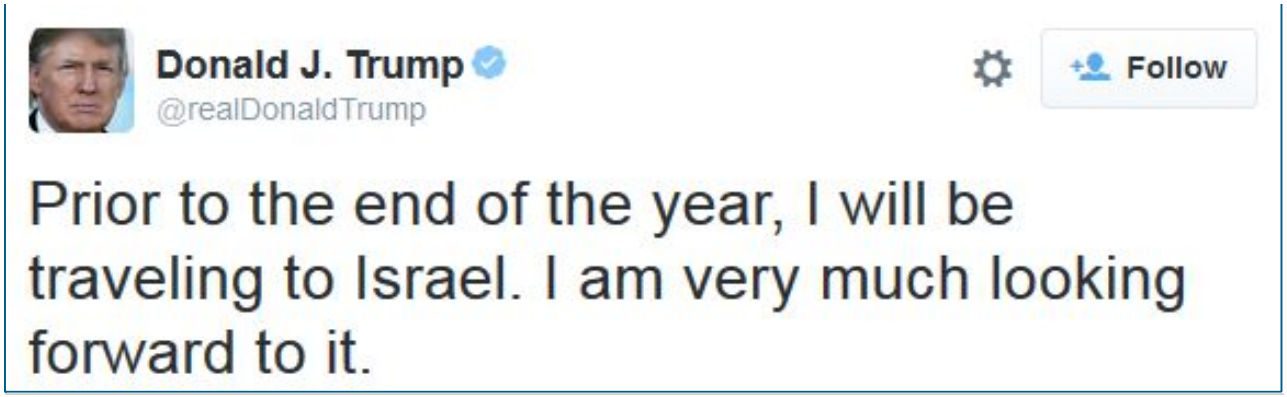
Trump wasn't shy about airing the possibility of a third-party run:



(@realDonaldTrump)

He reiterated plans to travel to Israel within the next few weeks:

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(@realDonaldTrump)

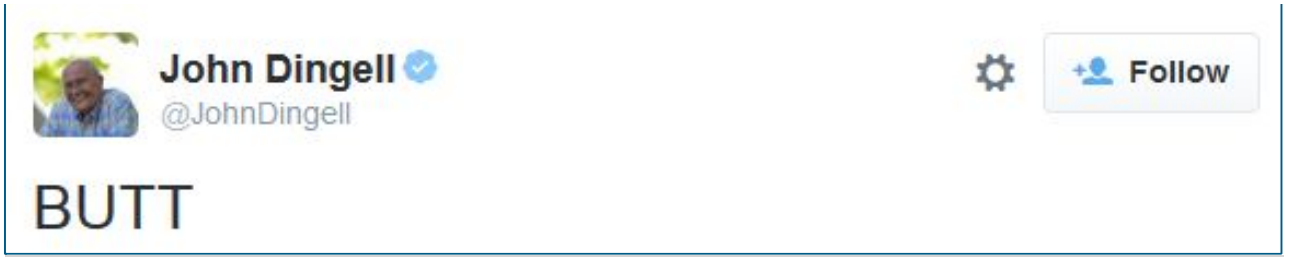
The Pataki family celebrated a major milestone:



(@GovernorPataki)

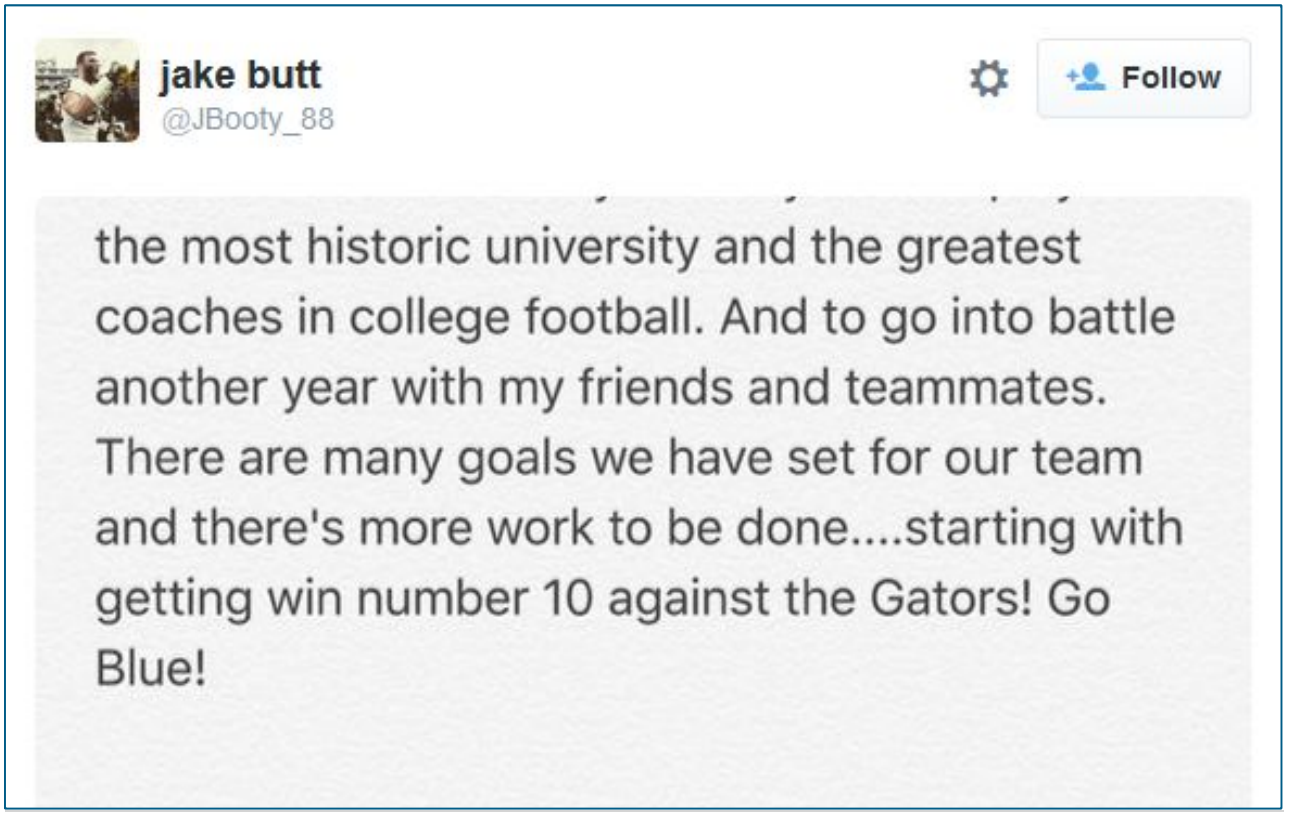
Former Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) raised eyebrows with this out-of-the-blue tweet:

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(@JohnDingell)

Turns out it was in reference to this news from Michigan tight end Jake Butt:

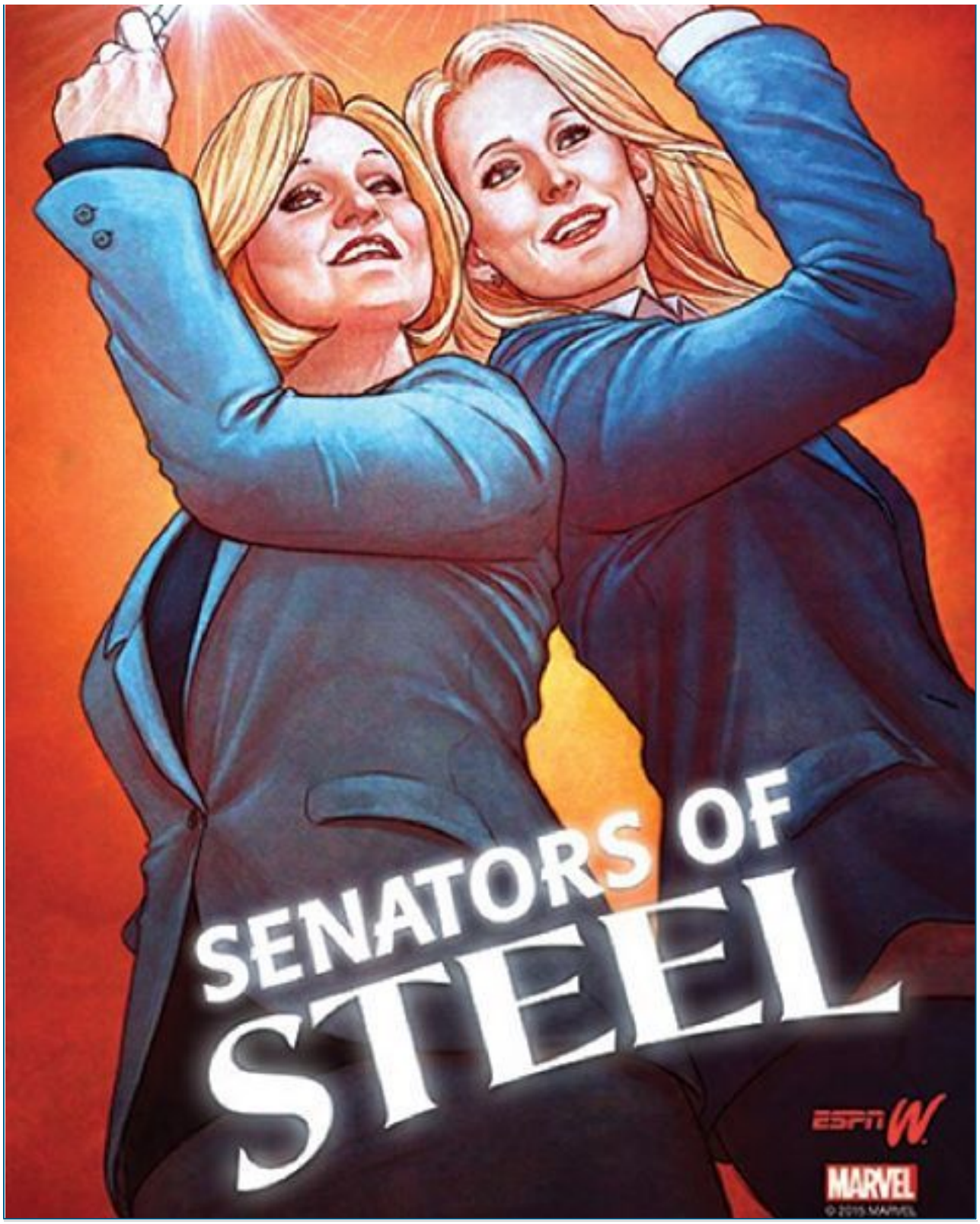


(@JBooty_88)

–Instagrams of the day:

Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) were turned into cartoon superheroes by espnW in honor of their work on campus sexual assault:

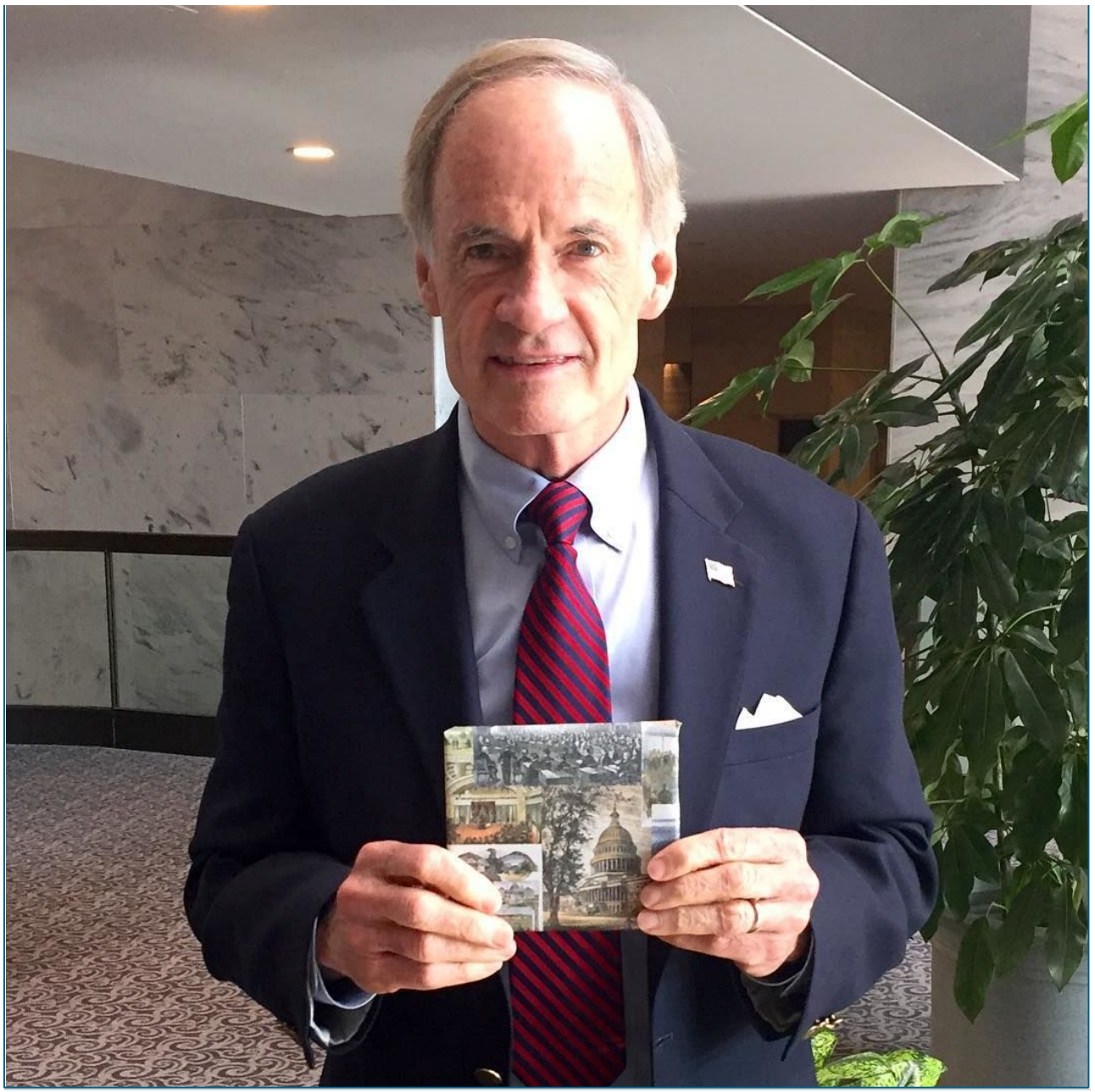
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(clairecmc)

Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) shared his Secret Santa gift — an Adele album — for Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.):

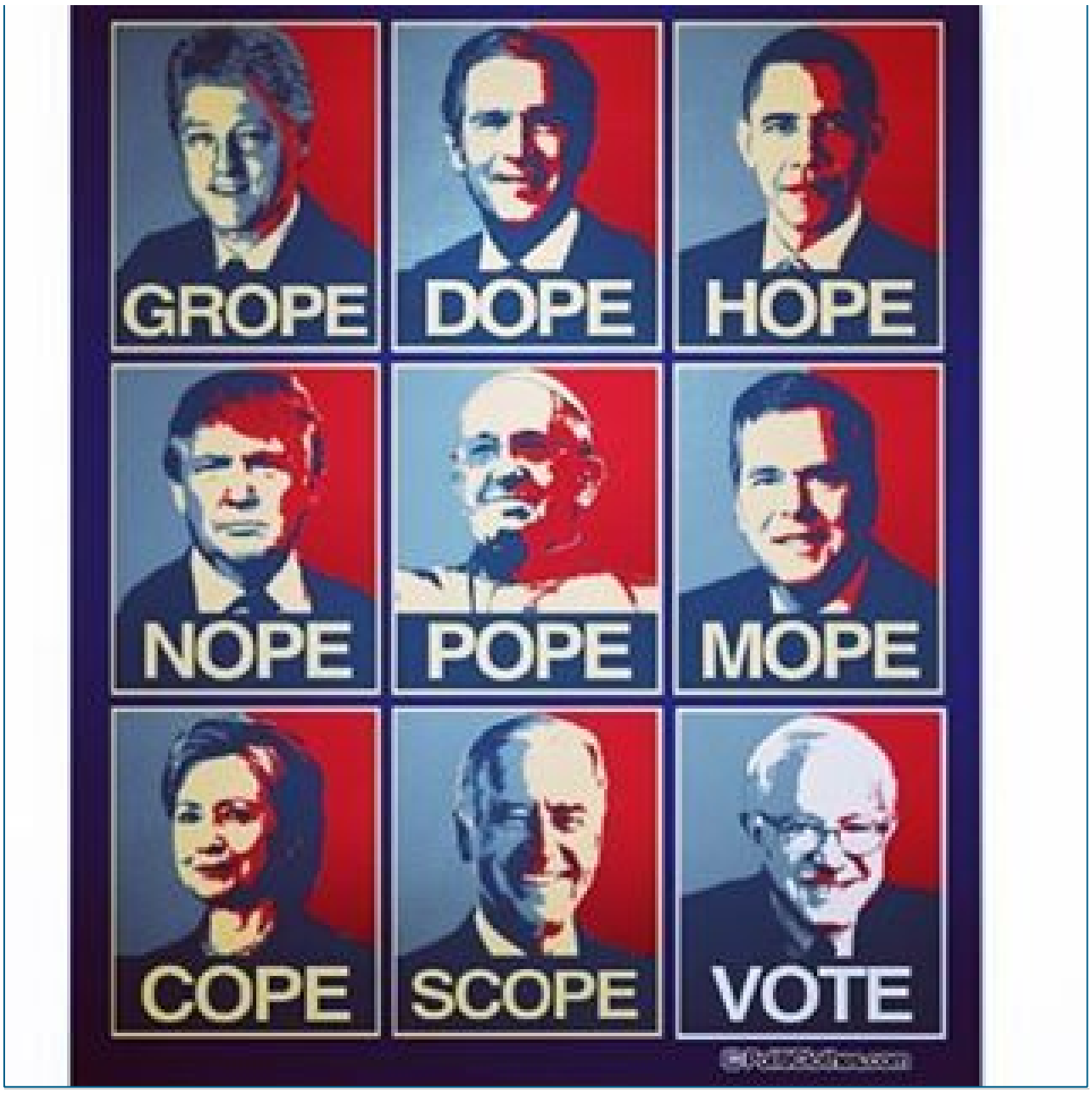
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(senatorcarper)

Filmmaker Michael Moore shared this image:

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(michaelfmoore)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "Joe Biden, his son and the case against a Ukrainian oligarch," by James Risen: "When Vice President Biden traveled to Kiev, Ukraine, on Sunday for a series of meetings with the country's leaders, one of the issues on his agenda was to encourage a more aggressive fight against Ukraine's rampant corruption and stronger efforts to rein in the power of its oligarchs. But the credibility of the vice president's anticorruption message may have been undermined by the association of his son, Hunter Biden, with one of Ukraine's largest natural gas companies, Burisma Holdings, and with its owner, Mykola Zlochevsky, who was Ukraine's ecology minister under former President Viktor F. Yanukovych before he was forced into exile. Hunter Biden, 45, a former Washington lobbyist, joined the Burisma board in April 2014. … Geoffrey Pyatt went on to call for an investigation into 'the misconduct' of the prosecutors who wrote the letters. In his

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speech, the ambassador did not mention Hunter Biden's connection to Burisma. But Edward C. Chow, who follows Ukrainian policy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the involvement of the vice president's son with Mr. Zlochevsky's firm undermined the Obama administration's anticorruption message in Ukraine."

— Associated Press, "Clinton intervened for firm after request to son-in-law, " by Stephen Braun: "As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton intervened in a request forwarded by her son-in-law on behalf of a deep-sea mining firm to meet with her or other State Department officials after one of the firm's investors asked Chelsea Clinton's husband for help setting up such contacts, according to the most recently released Clinton emails. The lobbying effort on behalf of Neptune Minerals Inc. came while Clinton was advocating for an Obama administration push to win Senate approval for a sweeping Law of the Sea Treaty. … Clinton ordered a senior State Department official in August 2012 to look into the request. Her action came three months after an investor in the mining firm emailed Marc Mezvinsky, Chelsea Clinton's husband and a partner in Eaglevale Partners LP, a New York hedge fund, asking for his help in setting up State Department contacts."

— Wall Street Journal, "Nancy Pelosi drives hard bargain with Paul Ryan on spending, taxes" by Kristina Peterson: "The two House leaders are facing their first serious battle of wills over Congress's pile of year-end legislation. Republicans will grade Ryan, elected speaker in late October, on how many conservative policy measures he manages to attach to the spending bill needed to prevent a shutdown when the government's funding runs out Friday night. Pelosi, determined to block as many GOP policy measures as she can, is demonstrating to the new speaker that Democrats' support on must-pass legislation won't come cheap. As such, she is working to prevent Republicans from securing all but the slimmest of policy victories. … Long known as a tough negotiator, Pelosi has stepped up her efforts in recent days on both the spending bill and legislation addressing a slew of lapsed and expiring tax breaks known as 'extenders.' On the spending bill, she has sought to block all GOP policy measures, or 'riders,' that Democrats don't like."

— Politico, "Cruz takes climate-science detour from campaign trail ," by Darren Goode: "Ted Cruz took a break from the campaign trail on Tuesday to dive headlong into an aggressive Capitol Hill attack on mainstream climate science — the kind his fellow Republican presidential contenders have mainly sought to avoid.
Less than eight weeks before the crucial Iowa caucuses in which he's leading the latest polls, Cruz convened a Senate subcommittee hearing where he criticized environmentalists as 'alarmists' and questioned 'the objectivity of climate research.' Also joining the hearing were a half-dozen Democrats, only too eager to get another chance to lampoon the GOP

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as a party that opposes science. … Cruz's main thrust was an argument that has long been a talking point among right-wing climate skeptics — that some satellite records show that global temperatures have barely budged since 1998."

— New York Times Magazine, "Trudeau's Canada, again ," by Guy Lawson: "Justin Trudeau, who is 43, was still working on getting his staff to call him 'Prime Minister.' For years, he was 'Justin,' and staff members often still referred to him that way. 'It's like your really smart friend suddenly became prime minister,' Kate Purchase, his communications director, told me. … Pierre Trudeau gave his son a front seat to history. When he was a boy, Justin met Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan (who recited verses from the poem ''The Shooting of Dan McGrew'); Richard Nixon toasted the toddler in Ottawa, predicting he would become prime minister someday. But the younger Trudeau told me he never discussed the subject with his father until the last year of his life. … Justin Trudeau's lack of qualifications to be prime minister were obvious, as was his lack of his father's erudition — but he considers himself to have undergone his own peculiar kind of schooling. Trudeau points out that he has visited nearly 100 countries, many of them for international summit meetings with his father, which provided an intimate understanding of statecraft."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Arnold Schwarzenegger had quite the response to climate change deniers. From Facebook : "There are two doors. Behind Door Number One is a completely sealed room, with a regular, gasoline-fueled car. Behind Door Number Two is an identical, completely sealed room, with an electric car … I'm guessing you chose the Door Number Two, with the electric car, right? Door number one is a fatal choice – who would ever want to breathe those fumes? This is the choice the world is making right now."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Rupert Murdoch calls for a halt to influx of refugees. From the Hollywood Reporter : "Has Trump gone too far?" tweeted the owner of Fox News and the Wall Street Journal, without answering his own question. "Regardless, public is obsessed on radical Muslim dangers, Complete refugee pause to fix vetting makes sense," he wrote. "Hours after his initial post, Murdoch said he was not endorsing Trump, just supporting his idea."

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DAYBOOK:

— What's happening today on the campaign trail: Hillary Clinton holds town halls in Waterloo and Urbandale, Iowa. Ben Carson is in Ypsilanti, Mich. for a town hall and a luncheon. Marco Rubio, also in Michigan, rallies supporters in Waterford Township. Jeb Bush attends a young professionals event in Manchester, N.H., and a reception in New York City. John Kasich addresses the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City. Martin O'Malley hears from students at the University of California, Berkeley.

— On the Hill: The House and Senate meet at 10 a.m.

— At the White House: President Obama delivers remarks at an event commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 13th amendment. Later, he holds a bilateral meeting with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, the hosts a Hanukkah reception.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Stay informed — because stupid people are ruining America," Herman Cain told an Atlanta crowd last night at a Ben Carson rally. "God blessed me with a voice and a big mouth and I'm going to use it to try to wake people up and convert some of the stupid people."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "Sunshine is probably in short supply today with morning clouds slow to break-up," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "We'll call it mostly cloudy, but with a light breeze from the south still able to help push afternoon highs to near 50 to the mid-50s. Perhaps some periods of partial sun this afternoon."

— The Caps moved into first place in their division after beating the Detroit Red Wings 3-2 in a shootout. (Isabelle Khurshudyan)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

— Ever wonder what breed the 2016 presidential candidates would be if they were dogs? BuzzFeed has you covered:

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(BuzzFeed Video)

— White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Trump's comment about Muslims "disqualifies" him from becoming president, as he lit into The Donald:

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(C-SPAN)

— John Kasich's super PAC released a video juxtaposing Ronald Reagan talking about the GOP being a party of inclusion against Trump reading aloud from his proposal to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. Watch here .

— From Arlington National Cemetery, Tom Brokaw reflects on Trump's "dangerous proposal." Watch the 2.5-minute package here .

— Eagles of Death Metal, the band performing at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris when it was attacked last month, trekked back to a memorial at the site. Watch here .
U2 welcomed the California rockers onstage at the conclusion of their concert, rescheduled because of the attack, to perform.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/27/2008 12:16:06 PM
Subject: [big campaign] CLIPS LIST: Pottsville, PA: McCain Rally 10/27/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Jacob, on the ground in Pottsville. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights

- Says Obama is running to be Redistributionist in Chief. I'm running to be Commander in Chief.
- Repeats (slimmed-down) attack on Obama for saying in a radio interview that one of the "tragedies" of the civil rights movement is that it didn't bring about "redistributive change."
    - Says Obama said that even though lower taxes on investment help our economy, he favors higher taxes on investment for "fairness" -- "There's nothing "fair" about driving our economy into the ground."
    - Repeats that Obama's more interested in controlling wealth than in creating it
- Scoffs at Obama for saying we should look at environmental concerns, etc. when considering nuclear power

Pottsville, PA: McCain Rally 10/27/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- about 4000 ppl, VERY enthusiastic crowd
- Tracker saw about 30 demonstrators outside pre-event yelling 'Tell Your Mama Vote Obama!'
- State Reps. Gary Hornberger and Dave Argall give brief intro remarks: Obama will tax and spend
- Cindy intros mccain
    - you make my heart so warm
    - when we started on this 18mo. ago it was a family affair [someone yells cindy's hot?]
    - we had a vested interest in iraq - our son was there
    - leadership and character to be pres - he has always put his country first
    - lived his life by code of conduct - duty honor - what a wonderful pres. he'll make

Speech Highlights

TY. wont cindy make a great FLOTUS? and wont palin make a great VP? shes smart, tough, reformer, wonderful family person and she'll take on old boy netwrk of DC. ty for your enthusiastic support of her. Todd is 4x snow mobile champ. think anyone in DC coudl scare him or her?

lets start out with a msg tonight: we need to win PA. i need your help over next 8 days so we can bring real change to DC.

some ST: we cant spend next 4 yrs as weve spent last 8. we have to act, we need a new direction and we have to fight for it. ive been fighting ofr this country since i was 17 and i ahve the scars to prove it.

I have a plan to hold the line on taxes and cut them to make America more competitive and create jobs here at home. no one knows better than you in PA how badly we need to create jobs and get our econ. going again. We're going to double the child deduction for working families. We will cut the capital gains tax. And we will cut business taxes to help create jobs, and keep American businesses in America. [john mccain! john mccain!]

Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse. Keeping taxes low creates jobs, keeps money in your hands

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and strengthens our economy.

If I'm elected President, I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money. Senator Obama will. And he can't do that without raising your taxes or digging us further into debt. I'm going to make government live on a budget just like you do.

I will freeze government spending on all but the most important programs like defense, veterans care, Social Security and health care until we scrub every single government program and get rid of the ones that aren't working for the American people. And I will veto every single pork barrel bill Congresses passes. DNA of bears or whatever - you will know their names, i will make them famous.

I'm not going to spend $750 billion dollars of your money just bailing out the Wall Street bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. I'm going to make sure we take care of the working people who were devastated by the excesses of Wall Street and Washington.

I have a plan to fix our housing market, so that your home value doesn't go down when your neighbor defaults, and so that people in danger of defaulting have a path to pay off their loan. so that ppl can achieve american dream of owning a home.

If I'm elected-- when im elected President, we're going to stop spending $700 billion to buy oil from countries that don't like us very much.

in the debate the other night, i talked about how much i admired obama's rhetoric. but you listen to whats behind his words. he said he would "consider" offshore drilling. we talked about nucl, and he said well you have to consider the enviro, and -- that's right, drill baby drill. We will invest in all energy alternatives -- nuclear, wind, solar, and tide. We will encourage the manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric automobiles. We will invest in clean coal technology. let me remind you: the USA sits on worlds largest coal reserves - we can do clean coal and create millions of jbos. i see a few old navy vets - there's 1 from my old ship - we've sailed navy ships around the world w/ nucl plants on them. the french, the japanese, the british. they store and reprocess. 80% of french energy comes from nuclear. We will lower the cost of energy within months, and we will create millions of new jobs. millions

you know, We've learned more about Senator Obama's real goals for our country over the last two weeks than we learned over the past two years, and that only because Joe the plumber asked him a question in Ohio. That's when Senator Obama revealed -- but not for the first time -- he wants to quote "spread the wealth around."

Now, Joe didn't ask for Senator Obama to come to his house, and he didn't ask to be famous. He certainly didn't ask for the political attacks on him from the Obama campaign. Joe's dream is your dream -- to own a small business that will create jobs, and the attacks on him are an attack on small businesses all over the country. Small businesses employ 84 percent of Americans, and we need to support small businesses, not tax them.

After months of campaign trail eloquence, we've finally learned what Senator Obama's economic goal is: to spread the wealth. In a radio interview revealed today, he said the same thing -- that one of the "tragedies" of the civil rights movement is that it didn't bring about "redistributive change."

You see, Senator Obama believes in redistributing wealth, not in policies that grow our economy and create jobs. He said that even though lower taxes on investment help our economy, he favors higher taxes on investment for quote "fairness." There's nothing "fair" about driving our economy into the ground. We all suffer when that happens, and that is the problem with Senator Obama's approach to our economy. He is more interested in controlling wealth than in creating it ... in redistributing money instead of spreading opportunity. I am going to create wealth for all Americans, by creating opportunity for all Americans.

Senator Obama is running to be Redistributionist in Chief. I'm running to be Commander in Chief. Senator Obama is running to spread the wealth. I'm running to create more wealth. Senator Obama is running to punish the successful. I'm running to make everyone successful.

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My opponent's massive new tax increase is exactly the wrong approach in an economic slowdown. The answer to a slowing economy is not higher taxes, but that is exactly what is going to happen when the Democrats have total control of Washington. [boos, someone yells something about "spending!"] We can't let that happen. We need pro-growth and pro-jobs economic policies, not pro-government spending programs paid for with higher taxes.

This is the fundamental difference between Senator Obama and me. We both disagree with President Bush on economic policy. The difference is that he thinks taxes have been too low, and I think that spending has been too high.

If we are going to change Washington, we need a President who has actually fought for change and male it happen. The next President won't have time to get used to the office. We face many challenges here at home, and many enemies abroad in this dangerous world. i will bring our troops home in victory and honor and not in defeat.

just the other day, a couple days ago, Senator Biden warned a group of fatcat contributors out on the W. Coast -- he warned us that Senator Obama would be tested with an international crisis. I have been tested. Senator Obama hasn't. i know how to work with our friends and i know how to treat our enemies. biden is the gift that keeps on giving.

Senator Biden referred to how Jack Kennedy was tested in the Cuban Missile Crisis and I have a little personal experience in that. I was on board the U.S.S. Enterprise, and I sat in a cockpit on the flight deck waiting to take off. We had a target. I know how close we came to a nuclear war and I will not be a president that needs to be tested.

We know Senator Obama won't have the right response to that test, because we've seen the wrong response from him over and over during this campaign. He opposed the surge strategy that is bringing us victory in Iraq and will bring us victory in Afghanistan. He said he would sit down unconditionally with the world's worst dictators. [boos] When Russia invaded Georgia, Sen. Obama said the invaded country should show restraint. He's been wrong on all of these. When I am president, we are going to win in Iraq and win in Afghanistan, and our troops will come home in victory and honor.

Let me give you a little straight talk. Let me give you the state of the race today. There's eight days to go. We're a few points down. The pundits have written us off, just like they've done before. My opponent is working out the details with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid of their plans [boos] to raise your taxes, increase spending, and concede defeat in Iraq. He's measuring the drapes, and he's planned his first address to the nation for before the election. [yelling, incl. "let the ppl have a vote!"] I guess I'm old fashioned about these things -- I prefer to let the voters weigh in before presuming the outcome.

What America needs now is someone who will finish the race before the starting the victory lap, someone who will fight to the end, and not for himself but for his country.

I have fought for you most of my life, and in places where defeat meant more than returning to the Senate. [yelling] There are other ways to love this country, but I've never been the kind to back down when the stakes are high.

let me just say to you, I know you're worried. [yelling] America is a great country, but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future.

Let me ask you a few questions real quickly. Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

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I'm an American. You are Americans, and we choose to fight. Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight. [usa! usa!]

Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our country and our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for your children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Now, let's go out win this election in PA and get this country moving again.

God bless you, god bless you all, and god bless the USA.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/30/2008 5:41:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Roundtable in Des Moines, IA 09/30/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good neWall Street: we were able to capture the event via online streaming video. Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights

- Stresses "inaction is not an option."
- said he spoke to Bush about 2 things he hasn't done but should ("The Administration can take these actions with the stroke of the pen to help alleviate the crisis gripping our economy")
    - 1- Treasury should used its Exchange Stabilization Fund "as creatively as possible" to back money market accounts
    - 2- Treasury should take action / use its $1Tr authority to purchase mortgages
- advocates bringing FDIC insurance cap up to $250k
- Asked about issues surrounding mark-to-market balance sheets, McCain floats idea of having a freer average (Godlasky follows up that 3-yr rolling average could be good idea)
- continues to push bipartisanship, transparency and accountability --
    - Says WHEN the economy recovers, taxpayer should be first person paid back.
    - emphasizes need to restore confidence and convince American people that this affects Main St, not just helping pockets of Wall St
- Says that he remembers a time when people were held accountable; Cox should be held accountable

Des Moines, IA: McCain Economic Roundtable 09/30/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- 250-300 people (small area, but at full capacity: 200 ppl seated + 50 ppl standing balcony / on stairs):
    - combo of EFCO employees and local townspeople
- public invitation-only event
- Venue: EFCO Co (they make cylinders that pull concrete into)
- 8 local press cameras + standard traveling press
- Tracker didn't see any demonstrators
- More security/ scrutiny of audience than recent events
- Prior to McCain's remarks, EFCO employee spoke about what the company did
- McCain gave brief prepared remarks on economy and then a business roundtable
    - Rountable: Miriam Erickson Brown, Richard Jurgers, Tom Godlasky, Larry Zimpleman, Don Lambero

PREPARED REMARKS
We are in the greatest financial crisis of our lifetimes. Congressional inaction has put every American and the entire economy at the gravest risk. Yesterday the country and the world looked to Washington for leadership, and Congress once again came up empty-handed.

I am disappointed at the lack of resolve and bipartisan good will among members of both parties to fix this problem. Bipartisanship is a tough thing; never more so when you're trying to take necessary but publicly unpopular action. But inaction is not an option.

Businesses all over the country cannot borrow to finance their own operations and pay their bills. If we do nothing, many may fail.

Sonic Corporation, a drive-in restaurant chain based in Oklahoma, learned on Thursday that one of its lenders, GE Capital, had stopped extending new loans to the chain's franchisees. That will block plans to rebuild restaurants, add equipment and open new locations. When small businesses like Sonic franchisees can't borrow, contractors don't get the remodeling work, equipment-makers lose sales, and restaurants go out of business. It hurts the entire community.

When financing dries up, students can't get loans.

In Wisconsin, more than 100 Milwaukee Area Technical College students couldn't access private loans to fund their education. Fortunately the school was able to come up with emergency loans, but this temporary arrangement cannot continue. Markets need to work so that people can get financial help and students can be educated.

Again, inaction is not an option.

In light of the House's failure to act, this morning, I spoke to the President about two things that the administration has not done, but should do following the inaction of Congress:

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First, the Treasury has already used its Exchange Stabilization Fund to back money market accounts. I encourage it to use it this fund as creatively as possible to provide backstop for accounts across our financial system to maintain confidence on the part of savers and investors.

And second, the recent housing bill gave the government nearly $1 trillion in authority to purchase mortgages. Housing and mortgages are at the root of this crisis. I encourage Treasury to take action to shore up mortgage values.

The Administration can take these actions with the stroke of the pen to help alleviate the crisis gripping our economy. I urge them to do so.

Also, the FDIC should quickly be granted the authority to increase the deposit insurance cap from $100,000 to $250,000 so that families do not have to worry about their money. We cannot allow a crisis in our financial system to become a crisis in confidence.

I call on everyone in Washington to come together in a bipartisan way to address this crisis. I know that many of the solutions to this problem may be unpopular, but the dire consequences of inaction will be far more damaging to the economic security of American families and the fault will be all ours.

I will continue to do whatever I can to aid in a constructive answer to the challenge before us.

- TY all for being here
- i planned to be here to discuss challenges to businesses small and large, esp in Midwest
- btw i'm happy to be in Des Moines, in IA
- My father was born in Council Bluffs. but in full disclosure, my grandparents were travelling at the time. i can't claim too much in that respect, except the pleasure of visiting this great state. I <3 IA state fair, its food and boar.
- it's heartalnd of america, where economy rests and values rest--
- interested in hearing from ppl who contribute so much to our economy
- this may be and is the greatest financial crisis of our lives -- we have to act and do it together in bipartisan fashion - im committed to that -- plenty of time for blame, and ill talk about that, the failings of Fannie/Freddie, and the failins of Wall St and in DC -- but now we need to hear what ppl have to say

- MIRIAM ERICKSON BROWN: many assue that business owners like me will vote GOP and my employees will vote Dem. our employees make $50 - 60k / year. what would you say to them for why they should follow their leadership?
    - we are facing high fuel costs, 625 employees. 3rd-generation family own. we face high HC-- costs increased 40%. and high milk prices.
    - MCCAIN: impossible for you to pass all those costs onto the consumer?
    - ERICKSON BROWN: yes, milk costs, fuel costs (transportation)
    - MCCAIN: has that caused you not to hire?
    - ERICKSON BROWN: yes, we've had to pull out of some places of distribution, we can't afford all the places b/c of fuel. we've done less innovation b/c our costs are concentrated elsewhere.
    - MCCAIN: had to lay off?
    - ERICKSON BROWN: no, but we aren't hiring.
    - MCCAIN: i'll address cost of fuel and transportation and price of pkging. it all has to do with cost of energy. there's no doubt we're transferring $700B / yr to buy oil from countries that don't like us very much. our dependence has grown dramatically rather than setting onto energy indep. it's all of the above, all of the ways in which we can generate energy sources within the USA and eliminate this dependence. nuclear pwr is controversial in some minds. but we can store and reprocess. the british, french and japanese all reprocess. it's a security issue that we have spent nuclear fuels stored outside nucl pwr plants - that's a natl security risk. nuclear pwr isnt only answer, but it reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
    - MCCAIN: despite what may have been said by someone else, we'll have to continue to build clean coal plants so we don't continue polluting and making greenhouse gases. as we achieve energy indep, we'll lower costs of fuel. offshore drilling has to be done now. it can be a bridge as we exploit off our coasts.
    - MCCAIN: we need to develop flex fuels, hybrid, hydrogen, batteries. the key to american economy rests in part in developing these. we are most innovative. we can do it. it'll create millions of jobs. i want you to have capability to transport your high-bulk product in ways taht are clean, energy-efficient and not foreign-dependent. ppl say we cant, we can do this. id be glad to talk about other problems we face. energy indep is key to reduce costs, american economy and make sure we're not dependent on ppl like Chavez and Mid East

- RICHARD JURGERS: fuel costs. our customers see impact of higher gas prices at pump but don't see how that affects other things. we've had unprecedented rises in costs from pkging to transportation, and we have no choice but to pass it on. american consumers hurt
    - MCCAIN: i don't support subsidies for ethanol. i support ethanol. i don't support tariff on imported sugar. the brazilians have been able to adopt flex fuel policy so that majority of cars are fueled by sugar-based, corn-based ethanol. we have to give ppl choice at pump. the more available, teh lower the cost will be.
    - MCCAIN: also, if detroit, which is now developing automobiles, e.g. the Volt, that is incredible step fwd in technology -- if they produce these new, and im confident they will, we ought ot give voter credit, incentive to buy it. and i'm confident it'll happen soon. and soon we'll have battery-powered cars. im confident that with right kind of incentives and tech and the smartest, most productive nation in world, we'll regain the lead and create millions of jobs. same question-- what has this done to your ability to have new employees?
    - JURGERS: we've been blessed, we're employee-owned. we added 2500 jobs last yr and anticipate 200 or so more this yr. we've been able to navigate trouble waters, we're proud. it's caused us to adjust our market strategies

- TOM GODLASKY (CEO of Aviva, 5th lgest ins. co in world, HQ'd in London, publicly-owneD). we've been very fortunate that US business growing rapidly. but we've gone from credit crisis to liquidity crisis. if we can get liquidity down to Main St, these businesses will get us out of troubled times. we need govt action, but we also need to have loans available and made.
    - MCCAIN: we are seeing a dramatic reduction in liquidity and avail. of credit. its reaching now a pt that we're hearing ppl who are applying for loans for new car are being denied or temst too onerous. is that your experience?

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- GODLASKY: while we've been fortunate to date, the consumer will sit on their hands. and they should. theyre uncertain about their financial futures. times will change but if we can encourage liquidity to flow to Main St, itll make time shorter.
- MCCAIN: 1 of the reasons Congress failed to act effectively is b/c it hasnt sunk in that the ppl being hurt are Main St, the engine of our economy, faMain St being able to stay in homes, buy new home, new car; sm businesses. credit drying up. there's a perception that this is just for Wall St. i don't want to give anything to Wall St. i want the exec pay to anyone involved to be at level of highest-paid govt work. we need accountability, transparency. WHEN the economy recovers, taxpayer should be first person paid back. i think the american ppl are beginning to understand. unfortunately we are trying to fix the blame rather the problem. the time to put politics aside is certainly long past.
- GODLASKY: the mark-to-market balance sheets has been raising questions, but you need 2 sides of a market. if you don't, you have a depressed market, with domino effect.
- MCCAIN: many believe that has been difficulties more daunting in getting back to recovery. but we want to avoid errors of past that allows some to have more liquidity than they actually did. 1 idea is a freer avg. what do you think? we don't want to tell americans that somethigns being improperly valued.
- GODLASKY: even in times of duress now where it's undervalued, so to get some sort of rolling 3-yr avg has some value. we're trying to avoid either/or, inflated avg or more depressed.
- MCCAIN: there has to be greater transparency w/ any measure of this nature b/c ppl will be skeptical. i think it ought to be somethign considered.

- LARRY ZIMPLEMAN (CEO of Fortune 250 company): I appreciate all your earlier comments about importance of Washington acting quickly. about making sure Americans connect Wall ST with Main St, we're 1 of leaders in America in 401k plans. and we estimated that yesterday, in midst of Wall Street correction, 401k account lost like $850B in value while debating a $700b value.

  - MCCAIN: i was told overall $1.3T
  - ZIMPLEMAN: this are for avg investors, not Wall Street titans.
  - MCCAIN: Can you give example of avg loss?
  - ZIMPLEMAN: 5% down. if you had $100k in account yesterday, you had $95k by end. you contributed $5k yesterday (laughs)
  - MCCAIN: YTD?
  - ZIMPLEMAN: Since last August, 20-25% decline. Liek you, i'm optimistic. my question is about regulatory structure we have. we happen to be in ins, but also regulated by SEC and banking. what are your thoughts about current structure? natl regulators and state regulators? questions about efficiency and oversight. better ways to reform regulatory oversight?
  - MCCAIN: most of these agencies were designed for very different economy. now in global econ @ speed of light. now they're stovepiped while there's been merging of transactions and interests. so we have alphabet soup of agencies, which has to be reformed and merged. Paulson, when he took over, 1 of first proposals was to streamline and update these agencies, to make them more efficient. i hope we'll be looking carefully at that. also, 1 other aspect: it's time we held ppl accountable, whether in ballot booth or their holding of appointed offices. theres' a time i recall where ppl were held accountable-- they mightve been good ppl, but if they didnt carry out their responsbilities effectively, then we found someone else to do the job. i believe SEC chair didnt carry out the job well, so as fine a person as he is, we ought to hold ppl accountable. (applause) voters hold elected officials accountable. we should hold appointees accountable.
  - ZIMPLEMAN: i wont render my personal opinion on Cox. but voters have been behind trend of where problem was. it actually started with residential mortgages. how can you do a financial crisis when you cant even put a reasonable price on securities. i support the criticisMain St of Cox and i still dont know that theyve gotten up to the curve.
  - MCCAIN: other factor is the cozy relationship b/t execs at Freddie and Fannie and members of Congress. i did a couple yrs ago speak up and supported legislation that was successfully stymied by special inteersts and we're paying heavy price.

- DON LAMBERO: the markets for capital wasnt best when we started but we found a way to get loans to build a chain, always with idea to take it public. that wasnt possible until Reagan became President, and the markets opened and we were able to take our idea to the marketplace. i worry that in today's market, a person will not be able to take their idea to marketplace. can we get thru this such that there will be money for entrepreneur to take their ideas to market place?

  - MCCAIN: we can and we must b/c they're the american dream adn we don't want to throttle that or restrict. at the same time, we have severe crisis of confidence among Americans that this is system that doesnt take care of fatcats on Wall Street but takes care of ppl like yourself on Main St. we have to go to american ppl and make sure they have the confidence that the changes we make will be to their benefit and not for Wall Street or insiders. thats the key. this is a situation where failure is not an option. b/c the consequences of us not fixing this situation and restoring confidence-- i don't think, if we pass this legislation, which is not perfect, that we would've ever fixed $350B. b/c we wouldve spent money and restored confidence. so

- AL JENNINGS: i represent the host of this event. a # of employees represent our jobs, we're private company, more than half our earnings will come from export business this yr. fuel costs up our costs, steel costs also went up dramatically adn that's a major raw material for us.

  - MCCAIN: who's your major competitor worldwide?
  - JENNINGS: # of competitors in US. worldwide, germany and europe.
  - MCCAIN: do you have unfair competition?
  - JENNINGS: you're talking about china. we literally refuse to go to china. there are 2 major trade shows going to china. we've sent 2 reps, 1 who speaks fluent chinese and 1 who can relay Main Stg back to us. we're afraid of us.
  - JENNINGS: fiscal YTD we're up more worldwide that in US. our business trails economic cycle. we're in paper as concrete company, we havent poured concrete for 50 yrs. they still don't know what we do.
  - MCCAIN: they don't appreciate what i do either.
  - JENNINGS: we're primary supplier of Freedom Towers. and to repair bridge in MN.
  - MCCAIN: you should be very proud of that.
  - JENNINGS; nucl pwr is an absolute must and as soon as we can get ppl to recognize, we have companies that are preparing construction of them, but we need that support for this to happen. when you have all these serviceppl in the country but they're not procducing anything worthwhile, we're all out of it.
  - MCCAIN: energy indep means jobs and econ growth and stopping exodus of $700B of your money per year. i congratulate you JENNINGS, on your success. exports are key to our econ recovery. we shouldnt practice protectionism, we should open global markets and compete all over world. some don't give us a level playing field and we need to prosecute when that happens. but overall we need to understnad importance of free trade.

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- TY all. ive spent so much time in this state. i read Thunderbolt Kid. It's an LOL read. it gave me some very pleasant moments on trail. this state and these ppl are the heartland of america. and i have great confidence that we'll build stronger and more prosperous america. we have to do it together, above politics. i want you to urge all of us to do it for sake of our kids and grandkids. TY for this great opportunity, i look fwd to coming back here again and again.

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	12/19/2014 7:10:35 AM
Subject:	12.19.14 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	12.19.14 Weekend Package.docx



Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below. Happy holidays!

12.19.14 Weekend Package

1. **Hillary Clinton's Remarks on Race and our Criminal Justice System**
2. **Hillary Clinton Denounces the Use of Torture by United States**
3. **Hillary Clinton: A Lifetime Champion of the Middle Class**
4. **Eleven Things You Should Know About Hillary Clinton**

HILLARY CLINTON'S REMARKS ON RACE AND OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

BACKGROUND: *At an event Tuesday in New York for the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, Hillary Clinton once again addressed the issue of race relations and our criminal justice system in light of recent events in Ferguson, Missouri and Staten Island. She addressed this issue in Boston earlier this month, as well as in San Francisco this summer.*

Highlights from Hillary's remarks on December 16, 2014:

"We can stand up together and say 'Yes, black lives matter.'"

"[Robert Kennedy] understood everyone in every community benefitted when there is respect for the law, and when everyone in every community is respected by the law."

"Policies, politics, priorities matter, but values matter even more. And it is possible…to restore a sense of community and potential to families struggling, worrying, disappointed, discouraged, revitalizing and re-stitching the fraying fabric of American life. It is possible to keep us safe from terrorism and reduce crime and violence without relying on torture abroad or unnecessary force or excessive incarceration at home."

"African American men are still far more likely to be stopped and searched by the police, charged with crimes, and sentenced to longer prison terms…a third of all black men face the prospect of prison during their lifetimes, and by some estimates, young black men are more than 20 times more likely to be shot dead by a police officer than a young white man."

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"We know that there are so many police officers out there every day inspiring trust and confidence, rather than fear and frustration; honorably doing their duty; putting themselves on the line to save lives, not take them. We can build on that. We can work to restore the balance to our public life, our economy."

Highlights from Hillary's remarks on December 4, 2014:

"I know that a lot of hearts are breaking, and we are asking ourselves, 'Aren't these our sons? Aren't these our brothers?'"

"Each of us has to grapple with some hard truths about race and justice in America…When one stops and realizes a third of all Black men face the prospect of prison during their lifetimes, what devastating consequences that has for their families, and their communities, and all of us."

"We have allowed our criminal justice system to get out of balance. And I personally hope that these tragedies give us the opportunity to come together as a nation to find our balance again."

"I'm very pleased that the Department of Justice will be investigating what happened in Ferguson or Staten Island. Those families and those communities and our country deserve a full and fair accounting as well as whatever substantive reforms are necessary to ensure equality, justice, and respect for every citizen…I support the President's announcement of a task force on policing."

"We all know there are decent, honorable, brave police officers out in our communities every single day, inspiring trust and confidence rather than fear and frustration. So let's learn from the best examples. Let's invest in what works."

"The most important thing each of us can do is to try even harder to see the world through our neighbors' eyes. To imagine what it is like to walk in their shoes, to share their pain and their hopes and their dreams. These tragedies did not happen in some far-away place. They didn't happen to some other people. These are our streets, our children, our fellow Americans, and our grief…We are all in this together, we can all do better."

Highlights from Hillary's remarks on August 28, 2014:

- "Watching the recent funeral for Michael Brown, as a mother, as a human being, my heart just broke for his family because losing a child is every parent's greatest fear and an unimaginable loss."
- "This is what happens when the bonds of trust and respect that hold any community together fray. Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone, not in America. We are better than that."
- "We cannot ignore the inequities that persist in our justice system. Inequities that undermine our most deeply held values of fairness and equality."
- "Imagine what we would feel and what we would do if white drivers were three times as likely to be searched by police during a traffic stop as black drivers, instead of the other way around. If white offenders received prison sentences ten percent longer than black offenders for the same crimes. If a third of all white men – just look at this room and take one-third – went to prison during their lifetime. Imagine that. That is the reality in the lives of so many of our fellow Americans and so many of the communities in which they live."
- "I applaud President Obama for sending the Attorney General to Ferguson and demanding a thorough and speedy investigation. That's both appropriate and necessary to find out what happened, to see that justice is done, to help this community begin healing itself."
- "It was 51 years ago today that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called us to live out the true meaning of our creed, to make the dream real for all Americans. And that mission is as fiercely urgent today as when he stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the hot August sun all those years ago. So we have a lot of work to do together."

Hillary Clinton Denounces the Use of Torture by United States

Background: At an event honoring her deep commitment to human rights, Hillary Clinton spoke forcefully on Tuesday regarding the use of torture by the United States. Her remarks were given at a speech at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights Gala. Her speech followed the release of a report on the CIA's interrogation methods. 12/14

- Clinton denounced the practice of torture by the United States and advocated for laws that ban torture.

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- Clinton emphasized that the practice of torture is not in line with the values for which our country stands.As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton consistently opposed the use of torture by the United States. 12/09

- Clinton said that the U.S. must hold itself accountable to the same international law that it holds other nations - including a ban on torture.

- Clinton said the U.S. would participate in the U.N.'s Universal Periodic Review of its own human rights record.

As Senator, Hillary Clinton condemned the Bush Administration's use of torture to fight terrorism and wrote that torture does not reliably assist our intelligence community. 11/07 10/07

In Hillary Clinton's memoir, *Hard Choices*, she praised President Obama's 2009 executive order banning torture.

Remarks of Hillary Clinton Following Release of CIA Torture Report at RFK Center for Justice and Human Rights Gala:

- "Yes, the threat of terrorism is real and urgent, scores of children were just murdered in Pakistan, beheadings in the Middle East, a siege in Sydney, these tragedies not only break hearts but should steel our resolve and underscore that our values are what set us apart from our adversaries."

    - "Today we can say again in a loud and clear voice, the United States should never condone or practice torture anywhere in the world."

    - "That should be absolutely clear as a matter of both policy and law, including our international treaty obligations, and if that requires new legislation, then Congress should work with President Obama to quickly enact it and it shouldn't be an issue of partisan politics."

- "America is at our best when our actions match our values."

Remarks of Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State on Use of Torture by United States:

- The U.S. "can and must do a better job of addressing the mistaken belief that these tactics are ever permissible." 6/7/12

- "When nations violate human rights and undermine the rule of law, even in the pursuit of terrorists, it feeds radicalization, gives propaganda tools to the extremists, and ultimately undermines our efforts. The international community cannot turn our eyes away from the effects of these tactics because they are part of the problem." 6/7/12

- "By holding ourselves accountable, we reinforce our moral authority to demand that all governments adhere to obligations under international law; among them, not to torture." 12/14/09

Remarks of Hillary Clinton as Senator on Use of Torture by United States:

- **"**Torture 'cannot be American policy. Period." 10/4/07

- **"**Torture is morally wrong. It is against the law. It betrays our most fundamental values, damages our credibility around the world, and harms U.S. national security." 5/17/08

- Torture "does not bear reliable fruit in intelligence gathering." 10/4/07]

- "The world we want is also a world where human rights are respected. By surrendering our values in the name of our safety, the Bush administration has left Americans wondering whether its rhetoric about freedom around the world still applies back home. We have undercut international support for fighting terrorism by suggesting that the job cannot be done without humiliation, infringements on basic rights to privacy and free speech, and even torture."

Excerpt by Hillary Clinton in *Hard Choices* memoir on President Obama's Torture Ban:

- "In 2009, there was no denying that our country's approach to human rights had gotten somewhat out of balance. On his second full day in office President Obama issued an executive order prohibiting the use of torture or official cruelty by any U.S. official and ordered the closure of Guantánamo Bay (a goal that has not yet been achieved). He pledged to put human rights back at the heart of our foreign policy."

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TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON: A LIFETIME CHAMPION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

"With all due respect, it is not rich people who made America great. It is the vast American middle class. It is the upward mobility of people who thought they could do better than their parents."

–Hillary Clinton

BACKGROUND: Hillary Clinton has dedicated her life to ensuring that hardworking Americans can succeed. In uncertain times, families need faith that opportunity for their children and grandchildren is alive and well. Hillary Clinton wants the American Dream to be a real possibility for every child and every family across our nation.

Hillary Clinton knows that tomorrow's shared success starts with today's child, and her dedication to children began long before she ever entered public office. In fact, her first job out of law school was for the newly-formed Children's Defense Fund, an organization she would later chair.

Hillary Clinton has worked to expand access to early childhood education for children of lower-income families. As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton introduced her husband to the HIPPY program, which expanded early childhood education to economically disadvantaged children. In the Senate, Clinton partnered with Kit Bond in an effort to expand voluntary full-day pre-K for children from low-income families. Today, as part of the Too Small to Fail Initiative to improve the health and well-being of children five and under, Hillary Clinton is working to close the "word gap" for kids in low-income families who often have smaller vocabularies than their classmates.

Hillary Clinton has worked to increase health coverage for millions of children in low-income and working families through the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program she helped created as First Lady. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton looked for ways to strengthen the program, introducing bills to allow states to expand it.

Hillary Clinton's record proves she believes that every American should be able to earn an equal day's pay for an equal day's work. As a Senator, Hillary Clinton introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act and was an original cosponsor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton supported increasing the minimum wage and voted repeatedly to protect and increase it. She was an original cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, and authored the 2006 and 2007 Standing with Minimum Wage Act to tie Congressional salary increases to an increase in the minimum wage.

As a Senator, Hillary Clinton supported progressive tax policies that required millionaires to pay their fair share. She opposed tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations in 2001 and 2003, and she supported a variety of middle-class tax cuts, including tax credits for student loan recipients, and keeping in place the tax cuts for those who make under $250,000 a year.

- Clinton has said "that inherited wealth and concentrated wealth is not good for America," and she has consistently voted against repealing the estate tax on millionaires, doing so in 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Hillary Clinton supported working families going through difficult times through no fault of their own. In the Senate, she was a bipartisan leader on fighting to extend emergency unemployment benefits.

BOTTOM LINE: Leading the charge for equal pay for equal work, fighting to increase wages, strongly advocating for progressive tax policies and access to education and healthcare to help middle-class families – Hillary Clinton has fought for an America and a future where everyone can rise to their potential.

HILLARY CLINTON'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

In her many public appearances over the past year, Hillary Clinton has continued to advocate for the middle class by sharing her vision all over the country:

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In a speech to a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf, "Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start.'" According to Politico, Clinton "gave one of her strongest political speeches since her 2008 campaign ended in June 2008 as she headlined a women-focused event for Democratic gubernatorial Tom Wolf in Pennsylvania. Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start,' as well as women's pay equity and her gauzy first days as a new grandmother. For the first time in months, Clinton's public talk was neither a dry recitation of public policy nor a self-reflection about her tenure as secretary of state." [Politico , 10/9/14]

Clinton's language at a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf was "some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class." According to Politico, "The remarks were some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class. They came after she was accused of being out of touch for her comment in June about being 'dead broke' when she left the White House, and for giving paid speeches at exorbitant prices." [Politico, 10/9/14]

The theme of Clinton's speech at an event for Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Tom Wolf was working families. According to BuzzFeed, "The thread running through Clinton's message here in Pennsylvania, the state she won six years ago in a primary against Barack Obama, was working families — a theme she teased repeatedly throughout her speech with populist undertones, mentions of her granddaughter, and stories about her own trips as a child to Scranton, where Clinton's father, Hugh, was born to a working-class immigrant family." [BuzzFeed , 9/9/14]

In Pennsylvania, Clinton criticized the power of corporations, siding with middle-class families. According to the Wall Street Journal, "Though she and her husband have raised more than $1 billion from U.S. companies and corporate officials over the last two decades, Mrs. Clinton signaled that she sided with everyday families struggling to pay bills and keep afloat. Corporations, she said, 'seem to have all the rights, but none of the responsibilities of people …' She decried practices that pay women less than men for the same work and took aim at politicians who've belittled women's rights. 'A 20th century economy will not work for 21st century families,' she said." [Wall Street Journal , 9/9/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she would fight to restore and re-open the middle class. According to TPM, "The notion of 'upward mobility' was central to Clinton's message to the New American audience in May. She described it as 'time-tested wisdom' that was 'at the heart of what I believe is the basic bargain of America.'… Here is how Clinton described that basic bargain of America, as she sees it, in May: 'No matter who you are or where you come from, if you work hard and play by the rules, you'll have the opportunity to build a good life for yourself and your family.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she can address income inequality and gender inequality. According to TPM, "So income inequality has been a big part of the message. But it's also been married to inequality between the sexes. At both the New American and CAP events, the same factoid made an appearance: That three-quarters of jobs that rely on tips -- like 'waiters, bartenders and hairstylists' as she said on both occasions -- are held by women…. And she said Thursday that these issues should be used to mobilize voters -- in the 2014 midterms and moving forward." [TPM , 9/22/14]

In recent speeches, Clinton has taken a tougher stance on big business, likely in "an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism" she may need in 2016, according to Reuters. According to Reuters, "Long viewed as an ally by Wall Street, likely 2016 presidential contender Hillary Clinton has increasingly been taking banks and big business to task while on the campaign trail for Democrats across the country…. This is a change of tone for the former New York senator, who faced criticism for her Wall Street ties as recently as September, after appearing with Goldman Sachs (GS.N) chief executive Lloyd Blankfein. Allies and analysts see it as an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism that Clinton may need in order to broaden her appeal in a potential 2016 Democratic primary contest." [Reuters , 11/2/14]

During a New Hampshire midterm event, Clinton discussed expanding economic opportunity and raising the minimum wage. According to the Boston Globe, "Clinton spoke in New Hampshire about expanding economic opportunity, raising the minimum wage, and protecting women's rights. She acknowledged that, across the country, there is 'a lot of anxiety and insecurity.' But the former secretary of state and US senator from New York struck a hopeful note: She bookended her remarks talking about her new granddaughter and said seeing another generation in the family focuses the mind on what's important. Clinton said she and her husband were raised to believe the American Dream was within your reach if you worked hard. 'You should not,' Clinton told a packed gymnasium, 'have to be the grandchild of a governor or a senator or a former secretary of state or a former president to believe that the American Dream is in your reach.'" [Boston Globe , 11/2/14]

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In midterm campaign appearances, Clinton has been echoing populist notes. According to Bloomberg, Clinton "has been sounding more populist notes of late as a campaign-trail advocate for Democratic candidates who are on the ballot next week. That's an important turn as she contemplates a run for president in 2016 because Clinton's biggest weakness among Democrats, and some Republicans, is the perception that she's too close to Wall Street and corporate America…. And the more anti-corporate tone is pleasing to the ears of liberals who have pined for Senator Elizabeth Warren, a scourge of Wall Street banks, to challenge Clinton for the Democratic nomination. And, they say, it's a message Clinton can use against Republicans because many in the GOP have turned wary of Wall Street and big corporations since the 2008 financial crash." [Bloomberg , 10/27/14]

During a midterm appearance in New York, Clinton clarified earlier comments about companies and job creation, while maintaining the same theme: "Clinton's for the little guy." According to Bloomberg, "Days after Republicans feasted on her claim that corporations don't create jobs, Hillary Clinton tried Monday to 'be absolutely clear about what I've been saying for a couple of decades.' 'So-called trickle-down economics has failed,' Clinton said as she stumped for Representative Sean Patrick Maloney in New York. 'Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in an America where workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out–not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas.' While campaigning Friday for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley, Clinton created a stir–and drew criticism from Republicans–by saying, 'Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs.'…The cleaned-up message, though, hits at the same theme: Clinton's for the little guy." [Bloomberg , 10/27/14]

While campaigning for Democrats in the midterm election, Clinton frequently tells voters that "everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance." According to a CNN, an investigation into Clinton's most common lines on the trail found that Clinton frequently tells voters, "'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance...' Clinton has focused a great deal on economic populism on the stump, an issue other Democrats thinking about seeking the presidency in 2016 have started to tweak Clinton on. 'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance to keep going and to make something of themselves,' Clinton said in Iowa earlier this year. 'That was one of the most important lessons of my life.' Clinton usually uses the line to encourage compassion from a crowd, and to show that she has compassion, too." [CNN , 10/28/14]

In a San Francisco speech, Clinton revealed some of what may be her economic message: "Who's on your side?" According to the Washington Post, "Here in San Francisco on Monday, Clinton gave a spirited call to arms to Democrats as she road-tested what is likely to be her economic message if she runs again. The November midterms, she said, come down 'to a simple question: Who's on your side?' She sounded close to her party's populist marrow when she decried the erosion of economic security for many working Americans, and a long way from her tone-deaf remark earlier this year about being 'dead broke' when she and Bill Clinton left the White House in 2000. 'It's time to elect leaders who will fight for everyone to get a fair shot at the American dream,' Hillary Clinton said." [Washington Post , 10/21/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she could finish the economic recovery begun by Obama. According to TPM, "Clinton seems to have a handle of the line she wants to toe: Obama saved us from worse economic struggles (as his defenders have been saying for years), but the work isn't over. Implicit, of course, is that she -- if she runs -- would finish the job. 'We haven't seen a full recovery from the economic crash,' Clinton said Thursday at CAP. 'When the president came in, he deserves an enormous amount of credit for staunching the bleeding and preventing a further deterioration and getting us out of that ditch we were in. But we know unless we change our policies, a lot of the benefits are not going to be broadly shared.' 'It's not just about more jobs for more people and better paying jobs,' she said. 'It's making sure that the people themselves get to keep those benefits and build that future back that they are so desperate to see for themselves.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

In an interview with PBS this summer, Hillary said : "Bill and I have had terrific opportunities, both of us…have worked hard, but we've been grateful for everything that we've been able to achieve, and sadly that's just not true for most Americans today…It's important that we all try to figure out what we're going to do, and that's what I've done my entire life, fighting for a higher minimum wage, or family leave…equal pay for equal work…I think my record speaks for itself."

At a speech at the Aspen Ideas Festival in June, Hillary said : "At the end of the day, we're all on the same team. We're on the American team. And we've got to do a better job of getting our economy growing again and producing results and renewing the American Dream so that Americans feel that they have a stake in the future and that the economy and the political system is not stacked against them, because that will erode the trust that is at the basis of our democracy."

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ELEVEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HILLARY

Secretary Clinton helped restore America's leadership and standing in the world during a time of global challenges and changes. Secretary Clinton worked tirelessly to revitalize American diplomacy and strengthen alliances by traveling nearly a million miles for hundreds of meetings with foreign leaders in 112 countries. As America's lead diplomat, Secretary Clinton understood the importance of engaging the public and took diplomacy directly to people around the world. Just as she was as a senator, Secretary Clinton was a workhorse, often taking on difficult challenges and addressing them directly around the world.

Secretary Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history. Secretary Clinton helped impose the toughest sanctions in Iran's history by getting Russia and China on board. Even the Wall Street Journal editorial board noted that, "Clinton surely pulled out every stop to get Russia and particularly China…on board." And as Howard Dean recently told CNN , "Hillary Clinton cranked up the sanctions for the first time under President Obama that actually made the Iranians come to the table."

Secretary Clinton played an integral role in the New START Treaty with Russia. Secretary Clinton played an active role in reaching a missile reduction agreement with Russia, working to push it through the Senate and securing more than the necessary two-thirds majority. She entered the treaty into force in Munich with her Russian counterpart. As a result of the treaty's passage, there will be fewer nuclear missile launchers . Simply put, the world is safer.

Secretary Clinton supported the raid that brought Osama bin Laden to justice. As NBC's Brian Williams reported on his website, "Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recommended an air strike with no forces on the ground. CIA Director Panetta supported a raid by Special Forces and so did Secretary of State Clinton."

Secretary Clinton helped avert all-out war in Gaza by negotiating a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians. In November 2012, after eight days of violence, Secretary Clinton negotiated a Gaza cease-fire with Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. In an article titled "Hillary Clinton scores Gaza cease fire success," Politico noted that, "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got a Gaza cease-fire right at the moment hope seemed dead for a rapid end to the violence…"

Secretary Clinton played a role in bringing one war to an end and planning for the end of another. Working closely with Department of Defense colleagues and as part of the President's national security team, Secretary Clinton played a role in the end of war in Iraq and in beginning a transition in Afghanistan, with all NATO allies having agreed to stand-up a post withdrawal support plan. As President Obama told 60 Minutes , it was "all a consequence of the great work that Hillary did and her team did and the State Department did in conjunction with our national security team."

Secretary Clinton was critical in America's "pivot to Asia" strategy. As Martin Indyk of the Brookings Institute wrote in Foreign Policy, "The 'pivot' to East Asia will probably be Obama's most lasting strategic achievement… [but] it is Clinton's too. She laid the groundwork, built the relationships, and developed the complex architecture of the new strategy — and she turned up at that pivotal moment in Vietnam in July 2010 to declare the U.S. commitment to the region." Secretary Clinton earned praise for her work in opening up Burma, a place that had not been visited by a Secretary of State in 50 years.

Secretary Clinton worked to build the coalition to oust Qadhafi and stop massacres in Libya. As the Washington Post reported upon the end of NATO operations in Libya, "U.S. officials and key allies are offering a detailed new defense of the approach and Clinton's pivotal role – both within a divided Cabinet and a fragile, assembled-on-the-fly international alliance. What emerges from these accounts is a picture of Clinton using her mixture of political pragmatism and tenacity to referee spats among NATO partners, secure crucial backing from Arab countries and tutor rebels on the fine points of message management."

Secretary Clinton engaged in economic statecraft. Secretary Clinton's focus on economic engagement resulted in increased

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investment through three new free trade agreements (Colombia ,Panama and South Korea) and 15 Open Skies agreements including with Japan, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Secretary Clinton brought the State Department into the 21st Century. Secretary Clinton helped the State Department adapt to emerging issues such as cyber security by creating the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online. She recognized the important role of energy in U.S. foreign policy and helped create the Bureau of Energy Resources to protect our energy infrastructure and influence how nations move to cleaner fuel.

Secretary Clinton elevated the cause of women's rights to new heights. Secretary Clinton recognized women's rights as a major foreign policy issue. It is, according to Newsweek, the area of "hardships faced by women and girls across the world–that her impact has been most profound." Hillary convinced the White House to allow her to create a new position at the State Department: Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. Newsweek continued, "Across the world, in diverse and deeply reactionary cultures, Clinton and [Ambassador-at-Large] Verveer have spoken and fought to liberalize attitudes on women's role in the economy, girls' schooling, women's health, domestic violence, issues arising from war and conflict, and myriad other concerns."

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From:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
To:	"rapidresponse (rapidresponse@barackobama.com)" <rapidresponse@barackobama.com>
Date:	9/14/2012 5:04:04 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-Five Reasons We Can't Trust Romney With Our National Security

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-creamer/five-reasons-we-cant-trus_b_1884366.html

Five Reasons We Can't Trust Romney With Our National Security

The events of the last forty-eight hours have made it indisputably clear: America cannot trust Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan with our national security.

This morning's *Huffington Post* headline summarized what it called, "The Verdict: Most Craven and Ill-Advised Move…Not Worthy of A President… Bungle… Utter Disaster…. Not Presidential… Lehman Moment… Over the Top… Desperate;…Awesomely Awful".

Notwithstanding the horrible reviews, Romney and his campaign tripled down on their criticism of President Obama and the American diplomats who were on the ground and about to come under attack.

Romney's Neo-Con foreign policy adviser, Richard Williamson, told the *Washington Post*that, "There is a pretty compelling story that if you had a President Romney, you'd be in a different situation." He's right about that. We'd be in a very different and dangerous situation if Mitt Romney were in charge of American national security. There are at least five reasons why every American should be frightened at the prospect of Mitt Romney as Commander-in-Chief.

1). Mitt Romney has no guiding principles when it comes to foreign policy – or anything else for that matter – but one: his own personal ambition. Tuesday night Romney demonstrated once again that he would take any cheap shot that he thought would serve his ambition to be President, regardless of its impact on American national security or our people on the ground.

Of course this is nothing new. Romney has demonstrated time and time again that he has no lasting commitment to principle whatsoever. He has gone from being pro-choice to ardently anti-abortion; morphed from a Massachusetts moderate to a "severe conservative"; demonstrated his willingness to buy companies, load them with debt, bleed them dry and destroy the lives of workers and communities all to make money for himself and his investors.

After favoring immigration reform in the past, Romney became the most anti-immigrant major Presidential candidate in modern history.

Romney drafted and passed RomneyCare and then promised to repeal a similar bill when one was passed by President Obama and a Democratic Congress. Why? Because that's what thought was necessary to get the Republican nomination for President.

Romney has no North Star guiding his behavior except his desire to enhance his own personal wealth and his own driving ambition.

Someone like that is the last guy you want trust to make the tough decisions to protect American national security. Great statesmen are people who think more about the next generation than the next election. They are people who are willing to take the political heat because they are committed to doing what is right to protect the American people. They are heroes of John Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage*, not the men described in John Dean's book on the Nixon White House, *Blind Ambition*.

2). Mitt Romney has no vision. In his acceptance speech to the Republican Convention he made fun of President Obama's concern for global climate change and his commitment toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. Romney actually opposed passage of the START II Treaty with Russia that reduced nuclear weapons to their current levels.

Romney flat-out opposes -- makes fun of -- investments in renewable energy sources that would begin the process of freeing us from the tyranny of Big Oil – and oil dictators – and addresses the problem of climate change.

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Rather than support movements to limit the exploding growth in the world's population, Romney actually opposes support for birth control.

Have you ever heard *word one* from Romney about protecting our natural resources, or investment in de-salinization, or strengthening the international co-operation needed to deal with cyber-security, or frankly any of these critical issues?

Mitt Romney seems to have absolutely no interest in or knowledge of history or the forces that are changing the world. And he certainly has never expressed a long-term view of how he might hope to shape the world as President of the United States. Let's face it, the guy is shallow.

Voters correctly want leaders with vision, because as the great baseball player Yogi Berra used to say: "If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there."

3). The Romney-Ryan team has less experience in foreign policy than any two candidates for America's top offices since World War II.

Barry Goldwater may have scared the bejesus out of many Americans, but at least he was a Lt. Colonel in the Army Air Corp during World War II and had served on the Armed Services Committee in the Senate.

When Senator Barack Obama ran for President, he chose the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Joe Biden, as his running mate.

Collectively Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan have zero foreign policy experience. And it shows.

4). Romney has demonstrated he has no capacity to empathize with other people. He has no idea how to put himself in their shoes – or even to understand how they hear the things he is saying. That's one of the main reasons why, as Senator Kerry said at the Democratic Convention, Romney's "foreign policy tour" earlier this summer was more like a "blooper reel." It's why, when it comes to foreign affairs, Romney is a bull in the china closet.

Romney seems incapable of understanding that when you're asked about your opinion of preparations for the London Olympics in London days before the event, the Brits might be offended when (presumably to demonstrate how much he knew about running Olympic games) he questioned their readiness. He apparently had no clue that Palestinians might take offense when he said he thought that their economic problems stemmed from their "culture."

Romney is typical of wealthy people who think they are very "cosmopolitan" because they can jet around the world and stay in first class hotels, but don't have a clue how normal people – or other cultures – experience the world. He is upper-class parochial. He thinks everyone thinks and talks and believes the same way as his classmates at prep school or colleagues in the Bain boardroom.

5). Romney has surrounded himself with many of the same Neo-Con foreign policy advisers that got America into the horrific War in Iraq. One of those advisers, Richard Williamson, actually had the audacity to argue that "respect for America has gone down" under President Obama. Maybe in some parallel universe.

In fact, every international poll showed that George Bush, Dick Cheney and their Neo-Con crew caused respect for the United States to plummet to new lows. And under President Obama respect for America and its values has massively increased. But then again, as the Romney campaign has made clear, they won't allow their campaign to be governed by "fact checkers."

If we needed reminding, this week made indelibly clear that a guy with no principles except his own ambition, and no vision whatsoever, will allow himself to be led around by the nose by the passionate Neo-Cons who want a restoration of the Bush-Cheney years. Romney's performance should serve as a warning to all Americans: If you liked the Iraq War, you'll love Mitt Romney's foreign policy.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com . *He is a partner in Democracy Partners and a Senior Strategist for Americans United for Change. Follow him on Twitter @rbcreamer.*

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From:	"German Marshall Fund" <europeprogram@gmfus.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	2/5/2016 4:15:38 AM
Subject:	New GMF Policy Brief - After the Terror Attacks of 2015: A French Activist Foreign Policy Here to Stay?

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After the Terror Attacks of 2015: A French Activist Foreign Policy Here to Stay?

The shock over the 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris could have been a turning-point in both France's domestic and international policies, and more specifically in its military engagement in the Syrian crisis and the fight against jihadist terrorism. Many have seen a more activist French foreign policy resulting from the November attacks. Yet, deeper trends in French foreign and security policy frame its recent initiatives on the international stage, accompanying President François Hollande's diplomatic activism and France's strategic priorities in the European neighborhoods and at the global level. The newly robust and activist French foreign policy that assumes more security responsibilities and steps up its military and diplomatic engagement comes from a crystallization of deeper trends that had been developing for a few years, at both international and domestic levels.

In this new GMF Policy Paper , authors Dr. Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer, Martin Michelot, and Martin Quencez analyze the shaping and the implementation of France's recent diplomatic and military actions in light of shifts in the strategic environment and blurring lines between domestic and foreign policies. France's post-November 13th focus on the fight against terrorism will increase its reliance on US military leadership and capabilities in the MENA region, and on NATO's and European partners' resolve to deter Russia in the East. The expectations that France has of its Allies in supporting this agenda may create further tensions at the heart of NATO, as we approach the Warsaw summit. The challenges faced by French "leadership from the front" mirrors those faced by U.S. "leadership from behind": European countries are neither willing to follow France's military initiatives, nor able to share the leadership on security issues. Despite military overstretch at home and abroad, France has become the United States' most reliable European partner for power projection operations, but also competes directly with the United States, by deploying a hyper-pragmatic economic diplomacy with the Gulf States, Egypt, and Iran. Finally, the French domestic context has changed since the 2015 terrorist attacks, blurring the lines between traditional political postures and between domestic and foreign policy, making Hollande fully accountable for his foreign policy decisions, and allowing opposition leaders to criticize and question the efficiency of his military engagements and his exercise of diplomacy.

Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer, Martin Michelot, Martin Quencez, "After the Terror Attacks of 2015: A French Activist Foreign Policy Here to Stay?," GMF Europe Policy Paper, February 4, 2016.

Dr. Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer is a senior transatlantic fellow and the director of the Paris office of The German Marshall Fund of the United States. Martin Michelot is a non-resident fellow at GMF's Paris office, and director of research at the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in Prague. Martin Quencez is a program officer in GMF's Paris office.

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From:	"Nancy Rotering" <Nancyrr@nancyroteringforcongress.com>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	8/18/2015 5:27:02 AM
Subject:	My position on the Iran deal

NANCY ROTERING

Democrat *for* Congress

Friends,

Within the next few weeks, Congress will be voting on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the Iran Deal). As a Jewish American running for United States Congress, I have been asked my position on the Iran Deal. It is important to remember the goal of this global agreement – to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. While I have serious concerns about the proposed deal, rejecting the deal without providing a realistic or credible alternative is an irresponsible disservice to all who are concerned about the security of the United States, Israel and the world.

My opponents both have stated their rejection of the deal. Before the ink was dry, Bob Dold (R) came out against the deal and called upon Brad Schneider (D) to join him in his opposition, which Brad did. Unfortunately, neither Bob nor Brad offers a viable alternative to the proposed deal because there is none.

Careful analysis and discussion with diverse opinion leaders here at home and in Israel have led me to the conclusion that we have no alternative but to accept this imperfect deal.

Rejecting this deal would not return the negotiating nations to the table. It would not maintain the current sanctions. Instead, it would eliminate any opportunity to roll back or effectively monitor Iran's nuclear capabilities. Rejecting this deal would isolate the US and deliver a blow to American credibility around the world, both with its negotiating partners, as well as with its adversaries. Rejecting this deal would also pave the way for the removal of international sanctions and result in an Iran closer to, not farther from, gaining access to a nuclear weapon.

It is easy to imagine terms that we all would have preferred to be included in the deal. However, redrafting this globally negotiated deal is not an option and without this deal, we will be facing an uncontained, unmonitored Iran.

While the US should make it absolutely clear that all options will remain on the table, this is the time to work with our allies to ensure strict Iranian adherence to its obligations, to solidify our strong defense partnership with Israel, and to work together to enhance the security of the Middle East.

Sincerely,

Nancy

www.NancyRoteringForCongress.com

Paid for by Nancy Rotering for Congress, Inc.

PO Box 18
Highland Park IL, 60035

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/10/2016 2:00:16 PM
Subject: Latest News from the American Security Project

ASP Newsletter: BGen. Cheney's Insight into Marine Training and A Vision for Libya

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ASP CEO BGen. Cheney Provides Insight on Marine Training



ASP CEO BGen. Stephen A. Cheney and Col. Michael A. Malachowsky provide insight into the supposed failings of the Marine Corps in their training of female recruits.

Click here for more .

A Vision for Libya



Before European governments rush towards renewing intervention in Libya, it is essential to address what kind of war is being fought there. Beyond this understanding, the past two decades have taught us the importance of defining an achievable vision for Libya's future, in order that concrete steps and measurable goals

March 10, 2016

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ASP in the News

ASP & Lloyd's Risk Forum: Pathways to City Resilience
ASP

General Fusion Awarded $12.75 Million from Sustainable Development Technology Canada
General Fusion CEO Nathan Gilliland

Fortinet Signs Agreement with NATO: Will Sharing and Actionable Threat Intelligence Help Curb Cybersecurity?
Fortinet CTO & Co-Founder Michael Xie

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can be implemented and pursued.

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Upcoming Events

Puerto Rico on the Brink: Energy, Economy, and Security



Puerto Rico, America's largest Caribbean territory, has long been an important U.S. geopolitical outpost and now finds itself on the verge of catastrophe under the weight of massive debt and a costly, inefficient energy supply. The impacts have triggered a large-scale resettlement to the U.S. mainland where gridlock has turned the Island's future into a political hot potato rather than an issue of long-term strategic importance for U.S. national security.

As Congress recommits itself to a resolution, understanding the issues plaguing Puerto Rico through the lens of energy security and risk management offers opportunities to reverse the current trends, gain political support and address the future of 3.3 million U.S. citizens on the island.

Monday, March 21st, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
Lunch refreshments will be served from 12:00pm – 12:30pm.

American Security Project
1100 New York Ave., 7th Floor, West Tower, Washington DC 20005

Click here to RSVP

On Our Blog

Climate, Energy, and National Security

Environmental Business Journal Interviews ASP CEO Stephen Cheney

C. Alexander Doyle

ASP CEO BGen Stephen Cheney was recently interviewed by the Environmental Business Journal regarding the connections between climate change and international security.

ASP CEO Stephen Cheney Interviewed by Arizona PBS Cronkite News

C. Alexander Doyle

During the Pathways to City Resilience event sponsored by the American Security Project and Lloyd's of London, Arizona PBS Cronkite News interviewed ASP CEO Stephen Cheney in regards to

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climate change, drought, and what Arizona can do to become more resilient.

Two Cheers for the President's Announcement on Clean Energy
Andrew Holland
There are important additions to the President's budget to increase funding for clean energy innovation.

Nuclear Security

North Korea Satellite Launch Prompts Missile Defense Discussion
Bryn Woollacott
International efforts to limit North Korea's ability to project military power have failed as this weekend the state launched an object into orbit. The U.S. and South Korea have discussed the deployment of missile defense systems to combat this threat, which may further escalate the situation.

Russian Aggression Prompts Refocused U.S. Spending
Bryn Woollacott
Secretary Ashton Carter has stated that the next defense budget must focus on "a return to great-power conflict" to guard against Russian aggression.

Public Diplomacy

Crouching Panda, Hidden Potential: Public Diplomacy in China
Nicole Bohannon
What do cultural diplomacy and Kung Fu Panda 3 have in common? Creative collaboration that could be the difference between a flop and a blockbuster.

The Zika Virus – A Window Into Future Security Threats
Nicole Bohannon
Over the next 20-30 years, a major epidemic could decide a country's stability. There must be international networks designed for earlier detection and coordination.

Asymmetric Operations

A Vision for Libya
Elias Stahl
Before European governments rush towards renewing intervention in Libya, it is essential to address what kind of war is being fought there.

Don't Ignore Africa: Terrorism in Africa
C. Alexander Doyle
As stories are coming out showing the slow, but sure, decline of ISIS, the international community needs to shift its focus to terrorism in Africa.

Dissecting Turkey: Our NATO Ally's Interest in the Middle East
Elias Stahl
The United States must question whether Erdogan is pursuing what is in Turkey's strategic interest or the AKP's. What is Erdogan's vision for the Middle East, and how does it conflict with American policy goals?

After ISIS: Issues and Questions for Stability
C. Alexander Doyle
If you follow the news closely, it seems that everyone has an answer on how to weaken or destroy ISIS. However, it seems that very few people are having the conversation on what happens after ISIS.

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Does the world just expect ISIS to be defeated and suddenly everything will be alright?

[On the Table? Turkey's Kurdish Policy]
Elias Stahl
In a prescient article for The American Interest, Dov Friedman first exposes Turkey's divergent policy approach for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and the Syrian Kurdish administration (PYD), and then prescribes Turkish policy with the PYD to mirror its KRI counterpart more closely.

Energy Security

[Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act Unanimously Passes in the House]
Andrew Vaccaro
On February 29th, the House unanimously passed H.R. 4084, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act. The energy bill seeks to support federal research and development, as well as stimulate private investment for advanced nuclear technology.

[Cheney and Holland in WSJ: America's Chance to Help Break Russia's Energy Dominance]
Andrew Vaccaro
ASP CEO and BGen Stephen Cheney and senior fellow for energy and climate Andrew Holland recently published an article in The Wall Street Journal on how increased U.S. exports of LNG can help break Russian energy dominance in Europe.

[Energy Security in the U.S. Army]
Andrew Vaccaro
Although the U.S. Army is making progress in energy efficiency and meeting renewable energy marks, there is still a need for increased resiliency for their installations by way of on-site power generation and micro-grids.

American Competitiveness

[Four National and Global Economic Trends That Will Mark This Century]
Elias Stahl
A look at four troubling macroeconomic and demographic trends that will shape this century.

[Fortinet's Joe Sykora Honored as One of CRN's 2016 50 Most Influential Channel Leaders]
American Security Project
Fortinet, a network security products and services company serving on ASP's Business Council, has been awarded one of CRN's 2016 Most Influential Channel Leaders.

[CEO of ASP BGen Stephen Cheney Reflects Concern over Proposed Zoomlion-Terex Merger]
Elias Stahl
BGen Stephen Cheney, CEO of the American Security Project, expressed concern over the proposed buyout of the US crane-company Terex.

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About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

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To:	aphillips@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	6/12/2015 9:33:41 PM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.13.14
Attachments:	6.13.15 H4A News Clips.docx

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June 13, 2015

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Roosevelt Island to Shine Under the Hillary Clinton Spotlight // NYT // Joshua Jamerson – June 12, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's decision to use Roosevelt Island, the two-mile sliver of land mashed between Queens and Manhattan, as the backdrop Saturday for her first major stump speech sent a small but noticeable ripple through the island's previously scheduled weekend plans.

For example, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, where Mrs. Clinton will speak, rescheduled a children's event that had been set to take place there to accommodate the Clinton team.

"We made the date available by moving one event," said Sally Minard, president of the park, adding that the Clinton campaign did not request the rescheduling of the children's event. "Obviously, you can't do anything in New York City without making someone unhappy."

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Mrs. Clinton's speech also happens to land on the same weekend as Roosevelt Island Day, an annual block party-type event intended to celebrate the island and its residents.

"They scheduled it when they scheduled it, it happens to be the same day as Roosevelt Island Day, we've done this for 18 years, and it is what it is," said Sherie Helstien, vice president of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association.

Ms. Helstien was recently quoted in The New York Post as saying the Clinton event would be "horrendous logistically" for the community, which has one subway stop, the famed Roosevelt Island Tramway, and one road for vehicular traffic for people to come onto and leave the island.

She suggested a large number of vehicles could be cause for concern.

"We're going to do what we do and she's going to do what she does, and we'll see what happens," Ms. Helstien said.

Janet Falk, a member of the residents association, said she couldn't predict if attendance would take a hit at the Roosevelt Island celebration because of the Clinton rally. "Residents of Roosevelt Island and of New York will vote with their feet," she said.

Still, several community leaders, including Ms. Helstien, say the events have about a mile of distance between them, and there should be enough room for both Roosevelt Island Day and the Clinton speech, which is expected to draw a fair share of news media.

Jeffrey Escobar, the residents association president, said Mrs. Clinton's event should be good for the island's reputation to fellow New Yorkers and to tourists.

"If you talk to some people around the city, they might only know Roosevelt Island for the Tramway," Mr. Escobar said. "Any exposure for us is always good."

With regard to transportation, the F train will not see a change in service, a Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesman said.

But the Tramway, which usually runs every 15 minutes during off-peak hours, will run about every seven minutes on this particular Saturday. It can carry up to 110 people per ride.

Samir Dagher, 41, moved to Roosevelt Island in September. Though he said the expected influx of people on the island probably won't affect him, he said he did not understand why Mrs. Clinton's campaign picked the small island to officially kick off her candidacy.

"Certainly, it'd be nice to do it in a place that doesn't have only one road in," Mr. Dagher said, comparing the access with "a big farm in Iowa."

While GOP fixates on foreign policy, Hillary Clinton goes domestic // WaPo // Anne Gearan & Dan Balz – June 12, 2015

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While Republican presidential hopefuls warn of Iranian duplicity and Russian aggression and accuse President Obama of allowing the rise of Islamic State militants, the most experienced foreign-policy hand in the 2016 race says almost nothing about events beyond U.S. shores.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who served four years as secretary of state and was known as a national security hawk in the Senate before that, is preparing for a campaign in which economic and kitchen-table issues are at the forefront.

The disconnect says much about the nature of the crowded Republican primary contest, in which conservative-leaning voters hold sway, and the different landscape that Clinton is navigating as she makes her second run for the Democratic nomination.

Republican primary voters tend to care about foreign policy at higher rates anyway, but this year overseas issues present opportunities for candidates to distinguish themselves from one another and paint Obama as weak.

Obama is as much or more of a foil for Republicans at this stage of the race, and the improving economy may leave less room to attack the president on domestic issues.

Clinton — who headed the State Department during Obama's first term — is also a frequent target for Republican foreign-policy criticism, but she is confining her own critiques of GOP policies to domestic issues such as voting rights.

[Will Hillary Clinton's State Department experience be a liability?]

In her calculation, foreign policy will not be a central question during a primary contest against far-lesser-known Democratic rivals, and far less important than in past elections when it comes to the general election.

There is not a word about foreign policy in a memo that Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook sent to key supporters this week. The memo is a primer for a speech Clinton will deliver Saturday to lay out a campaign agenda focused squarely on those in, or aspiring to, the American middle class. A preview video released by the campaign Friday made only a brief reference to her time as secretary of state, and foreign policy will probably get only a few lines in her speech.

"She will outline her vision for America's future and her roadmap to help everyday American families get ahead and stay ahead," Mook wrote.

Since entering the race on April 12, Clinton has addressed social and economic issues such as same-sex marriage, the crush of college debt and paid family leave. She has called for overhauls of the nation's immigration, criminal justice and voting systems.

Her only public remarks about foreign policy have come in response to news media questions about her tenure as secretary of state — she said she's proud of it — and the changing nature of the conflict in Iraq.

She also has brusquely said she will let voters decide what they think about the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi, Libya, while she was the country's top diplomat. She said she wants the State Department to release her e-mail correspondence about the Libyan terrorist attacks as quickly as possible.

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Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said he's not positive Clinton will do an overseas swing ahead of the first primary contests early next year.

"I'm not sure she needs to," Podesta said in an interview. "She doesn't need to go to England to prove she knows the difference between the queen and the prime minister."

Meanwhile former Florida governor Jeb Bush is in Europe this week on a tour intended to look presidential. He arrived in Germany mere hours after Obama had left the annual summit of the Group of Seven wealthy nations, and finishes the visit Friday in Estonia.

Fellow Republican hopefuls Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin have taken similar trips of late, all seeking a measure of commander-in-chief gravitas and a means to attack the sitting Democratic president. Walker arrives in Canada for a six-day trip on Friday.

The passport parade to Europe, Israel and other strategic places is sure to continue as Republicans vie for the 2016 nomination.

At candidate forums in Iowa and New Hampshire and South Carolina and in television interviews, the GOP prospects focus on foreign crises such as the advance of the Islamic State terrorist group as threats to American security and leadership.

This is the first election cycle since 2000 in which foreign wars or the threat of terrorism have not been dominant issues for Democrats. Although the next president is likely to inherit problems including the ongoing Syrian civil war and the precarious future of the U.S.-backed government in Iraq, Clinton's Democratic challengers aren't saying much more about foreign policy than she is.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is running as an economic populist to Clinton's left. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley is also trying to appeal to far-left ambivalence about Clinton, mostly on social and economic issues.

"He has talked about how he voted against the first Gulf War back in '91, and he led opposition to the Iraq war," Sanders spokesman Michael Briggs said. "But his basic concern is the 40-year decline of the American middle class."

Former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee has been the toughest on Clinton over her 2003 Senate vote in favor of the Iraq war. Chafee said Clinton "didn't do her homework" ahead of that vote, which would become one of the main reasons she lost the 2008 nomination to Obama.

Former Virginia senator Jim Webb, a former Navy secretary, speaks frequently about American leadership and takes some indirect shots at Clinton. Webb has said he is considering a candidacy but has not made it official.

At least one of the six planned Democratic debates is likely to focus on foreign policy, which could give long shots like Chafee a chance to show up Clinton. But Clinton does not appear concerned either about that risk or about a Republican focus on foreign policy that Democratic strategists contend is less about public opinion and more about opportunism.

When former Texas governor Rick Perry announced his candidacy last week, he put it this way, using a common acronym for Islamic State: "The world has descended into a chaos of this president's own making, while his White House loyalists construct an alternative universe where ISIS is contained."

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On Saturday in Boone, Iowa, at a gathering hosted by Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), one after another of the candidates talked about threats overseas.

Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) said he would be prepared to send U.S. troops back into Iraq to fight Islamic State forces and said the lack of leadership has been crippling to this country.

“I’m weary of being walked over,” he said. “I’m weary of being disrespected as a nation. I’m weary of [Russian President Vladimir] Putin. I’m weary of China taking advantage of us. I’m weary of terrorists growing in strength. . . . I’m tired of leading from behind. I want to lead from the front. I want America to come back.”

Walker described Islamic State as a virus. “I, on behalf of your children and mine, would rather take the fight to them instead of waiting until they bring the fight to us,” he said. “We need to lead from the front again in America.”

Businesswoman Carly Fiorina challenged the administration for trying to negotiate a deal with Iran to contain its nuclear ambitions. On her first day in office, she said, she would send a message to the supreme leader of Iran, warning that unless the Iranians opened up all their nuclear facilities, the United States would enact “the most punishing economic sanctions” yet.

Clinton advisers are braced for constant attacks on Obama’s record as a way to get to Clinton but see the GOP candidates as hamstrung when it comes to alternative policies, particularly the issue of sending in ground troops to try to destroy Islamic State. They believe Clinton’s experience in foreign policy will outweigh the Republican criticisms and are confident that many voters see her as prepared to take strong action herself as president.

They say they are content for Republicans to try to make the general election about foreign policy, arguing that she would be able to counter their criticisms with relative ease. They believe that those who care most about making the election about foreign policy are largely Republicans who vote in the primaries and caucuses.

One Clinton adviser literally broke into laughter when asked whether the team anticipated that foreign policy would be the central issue of the campaign.

“If it were a foreign policy election, we would feel great about our chances,” the adviser said. “But we don’t see it as a foreign policy election.”

Hillary Clinton portrayed as ‘a fighter’ in new campaign video **// WaPo // Jose DelReal – June 12, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign on Friday released a video touting the Democratic candidate's four decades in public service, part of an effort to emphasize her personal biography ahead of her much-anticipated campaign launch rally Saturday.

"Everyone deserves a chance to live up to his or her god given potential," Clinton says in the video. "That's the dream we share. That's the fight we must wage."

As the Clinton campaign readies for its formal launch on Roosevelt Island in New York City Saturday, she and her team are turning their attention to communicating a strong rationale for her candidacy. The video paints Clinton as a "fighter" -- the name of the video -- whose presidential ambitions are an extension of her lifelong commitment to public service. The theme is perhaps also an attempt to re-frame Clinton's divisive public persona into a

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strength, meant to evoke loyalty among her base.

The five-minute video features pictures and clips from Clinton's days at a student to her tenure as secretary of state, underscoring her campaign's push to emphasize her biography in a more personal way than she did in the 2008 election. Key moments from Clinton's career are highlighted throughout the video, including her famous 1995 speech on women's rights in Beijing, her time in the Senate, and even her tumultuous -- and failed -- attempt to reform health care during former president Bill Clinton's administration.

"It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food or drowned or suffocated simply because they are born girls," Clinton is shown saying in a video excerpt from her Beijing speech. "Human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights once and for all."

Wonk Warrior // Politico // Glenn Thrush – June 12, 2015

Hillary Clinton hasn't always been a profile in political courage, but she's had her moments. One of them came in late December 2006, a month before Clinton announced her first run for the presidency, as she huddled with her team to discuss policy proposals to differentiate her from two rivals flanking her on the left, Barack Obama and John Edwards.

The conversation, which included former Clinton White House aides like Gene Sperling and Neera Tanden, who still have the candidate's ear today, bogged down on the biggest, nastiest policy fight of her life, health care. Several of Clinton's top advisers, the '90s debacle fresh in everyone's mind, counseled her to avoid proposing an individual mandate, the politically unpopular requirement that the uninsured buy insurance or face penalties.

When it came to the widely unpopular individual mandate, however, she was adamant about plowing ahead, according to a former aide who related the story.

"If I run for president, I'm going to run on universal health care," Clinton told the group—and authorized attacks on her Democratic opponent Obama for opposing a mandate (he would eventually embrace it as president, much to Clinton's amusement).

"What's the point of running if I'm not going to run on universal health care?" she asked her team.

Eight years later, on the eve of Clinton's formal campaign kickoff in New York this weekend, the "what's the point of running?" question looms over the presumptive Democratic front-runner and her campaign. Over the past few months, even some of Clinton's most fervent and loyal supporters have fretted to me, over and over, that she hasn't yet articulated a compelling rationale for her second race for the White House beyond the sense that it's finally her turn and her political view that she's facing a relatively weak Republican field.

Clinton is no Teddy Kennedy, who suffered the most infamous case of lockjaw in political history when asked why he wanted to be president during the 1980 campaign; Her problem is that she's far more interested in the how than the why of the presidency, and views her greatest assets as a willingness to engage all participants in a debate and a workmanlike capacity to hammer out policy solutions.

Clinton's big speech will be a rare opportunity to change that narrative. It will be held at New York's Roosevelt Island—a none-to-subtle signal that she's aligning herself with FDR, the boldest of Democratic presidents and the one who established the deepest personal connection with voters—something Clinton has struggled to do throughout her three-decade career. And she'll do so with a broad progressive agenda, her advisers told me, studded with policy proposals to be unveiled in greater depth in a series of speeches this summer, starting with an ambitious plan to cut student debt and lower tuition and a program to coax corporations into paying their workers more. Clinton's staff believes this is where the campaign will be won or lost—it will signal to voters, and to ideologically driven Obama donors, that she's every bit as committed to their cause as Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders—or the Hillary Clinton of 1993 for that matter.

This isn't some pro forma exercise for Clinton, who started her professional career working on child welfare

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programs and sits, poolside, with briefing books when she's on vacation. Policy is what Hillary Clinton lives for, and her team is committed to portray her as a wonk warrior, which has the added virtue of being true. In 2008, the candidate emphasized her inevitability and her toughness (she was obsessed with the idea that male voters would view a woman as a weak potential commander-in-chief), but for 2016, she's building her strategy around a series of domestic policy rollouts.

How she's doing this is equally telling: Advisers told me it was an elaborate, even West Wing-style policy process, with concentric circles of advisers and pollsters who are cooking up a comprehensive economic policy, some of which will be for public consumption, some of which will be employed if she's elected. Over the past year, Clinton has quietly met with a rotating—and sharp-elbowed—cast of Democratic economic experts, pollsters, staffers and advocates to craft a just-so economic program to attack wage stagnation and economic inequality. The very explicit goal has been political: to invent a program for Clinton that captures the popular imagination—and, to no small extent, redefines a candidate with a trustworthiness problem.

"We're talking about three- and four-hour meetings, briefing papers, weeks of back-and-forth," says Clinton's communications director Jennifer Palmieri, who says the candidate will unveil pieces of her agenda, one by one, in a series of events starting in July and stretching to the fall. "This is the foundational work of the election. She's a wonk. This is stuff she loves to do."

What's emerging—and her staff maintains she's made no big decisions on the stickiest subjects, such as whether to propose tax increases and Wall Street regulation—are classic Clinton thread-the-needle proposals, albeit with a slightly sharper needle, pointing unmistakably to the left.

Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz had a one-on-one meeting with Clinton last December to discuss his aggressive progressive agenda, pushing for deep tax cuts against the wealthy and pay cuts for CEOs. She already knew the subject inside out, he told me, and probed him for details on how some of his proposals could be implemented. Like most of the economists and advocates she's met with recently, Stiglitz left satisfied he'd gotten a fair hearing, but with no concrete commitment.

"I would be surprised at this point that she would want to make it clear where she is going on the specifics, so I wouldn't expect to hear that from her anytime soon," said Stiglitz, who worked on Bill Clinton's economic team—then went on to become one of the country's most influential champions of economic equality. "My sense was that she was very responsive to the overall agenda. … It's important for her to get elected, but we want to make sure that she understands that we have to deal with the failure of the system overall, and not just make small changes."

The goal, according to a dozen people close to the process who spoke to POLITICO, is to find the "sweet spot"—bold solutions that aren't too bold. She has tasked her small in-house policy team led by former State Department aide Jake Sullivan with a pragmatic mission: Attack the biggest problems—higher education debt, a tax system that encourages short-term gain over long-tern investments, out-of-control CEO pay, crumbling infrastructure, the non-job-security "gig" economy, women's pay equity—in a way that satisfies a restive left wing of the party. But do it without needlessly alienating general election voters, or potential donors.

"She wants to do just enough," is how one New York-based Clinton donor who speaks to both Clintons regularly put it.

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As important—and complex—as the health care debate was seven years ago when Clinton last ran for president, it's dwarfed today by the sheer magnitude of the structural problems in the American economy, a sapping of dynamism and middle-income purchasing power that has given consumers (and voters) a permanent sense of the blahs, even as big banks and corporations book record profits.

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Two years ago, Tanden, now the head of the Clinton-friendly Center for American Progress—who is still in frequent contact with Clinton and CAP founder John Podesta who is the campaign's chairman—embarked on an ambitious effort to create a comprehensive Democratic blueprint for tacking these problems. The effort didn't have Clinton's official sanction, but she was kept in the loop and its mission statement fits Clinton's own private assessment of the problem. Middle-income wage stagnation and growth that benefits only the wealthiest "is an economic problem that threatens to become a problem for [the] political system—and for the idea of democracy itself," the report found.

The report, co-authored by Larry Summers, the former treasury secretary for Clinton's husband who later emerged as a contentious leader of Obama's initial economic team in the White House and whose mere presence in Clinton's camp makes Warren and other liberals nervous, but he too was an enthusiastic backer of the campaign's pragmatic progressive approach. Many of the positions that will form the core of Clinton's platform are in it, I'm told—from phased-in minimum wage hikes pegged to local market conditions to the elimination of "carried interest" tax breaks for hedge funds to the extension of the Earned Income Tax Credit to encompass a greater number of working-class Americans.

But progressives, and many in Clinton's camp, don't merely want a carefully wrought, rational program—they crave a crusade against inequality that will unify the party and rebrand a high-odometer candidate. And they wonder if she can ever really be the apostle the party faithful crave.

Clinton can match Sanders on the finer points of policy (her college affordability plan is geared, in part, to outflank him on the left) but she's too much of an establishment figure—and maybe too rich—to authentically approximate his blue tea party populist rage. "People are just profoundly disgusted with an economy in which the rich and the corporations are doing fundamentally well and they are struggling," Sanders told me, when I asked what the crowds have been telling him at recent, well-attended campaign events.

"People don't want this system to continue, period," added Sanders who said he plans to unveil a comprehensive tax plan in the not-too-distant future. "They want the right to pay their fair share of taxes. People do want the Wall Street banks broken up… I don't want to talk about any other candidates but I've been talking about this my entire career."

Every campaign puts out some kind of big economic plan—almost all of them are pieced together, Frankenstein-like compendiums of previous programs and poll-tested formulations geared at wooing a particular voter group, and most of course have little chance of passing. Some, like Steve Forbes' "flat tax" plan in 1996, are designed to provoke a national argument, and only the rarest of them all—like Ronald Reagan's 1980 tax-cut crusade—represent the core of a campaign's actual thinking or the rebranding of a movement. A lot of Democrats think the party's 2016 platform needs to fit into that last category if Clinton is to inspire her base and reach out to disaffected working-class whites.

"I think there's an effort to create post-Obama economic agenda," says Felicia Wong, CEO of the Roosevelt Institute, a progressive think tank—and one of the dozens of outside economic advisers Clinton and her small policy staff have consulted in recent weeks. "We are talking eight years after the financial crisis—we have had sluggish growth for the majority of Americans. These are structural problems, and I have to believe … Mrs. Clinton will recognize this."

Clinton, in a speech last month, channeled liberal economists like Thomas Picketty and Stiglitz—not to mention Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley, who are waging long-shot campaigns against Clinton from the left. "Where is it all going?" asked Clinton, referring to the sputtering recovery from the Great Recession. "Economists have documented how the share of income and wealth going to those at the very top, not just the top 1 percent but the top 0.1 percent, the 0.01 percent of the population, has risen sharply."

Still her first big progressive test so far in this campaign ended in an incomplete: She has flatly refused to take a

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side in the fight over the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership, an agreement she touted as Obama's secretary of state, and the raging intraparty debate over whether to fast track the agreement.

The dodge confirmed longheld suspicions about Clinton on the left. Warren—who has opted for a gadfly role rather than challenging Clinton in the primary—recently told a TV interviewer, "It's up to others to say whether they stand there as well, or if they stand in some different place," a clear allusion to Clinton. In an email to supporters in late April, O'Malley, once a Clinton ally and now her sharpest critic, tweaked Clinton for not making a "hard choice" on the pact—a play on Clinton's recent memoir Hard Choices. Echoing Warren, he added that "American workers... deserve to know where their leaders stand."

Clinton's aides are confident she can weather the storm, and quietly applauded President Obama's recent declaration that Warren "was a politician like everybody else."

But Warren's ascendance is clearly a sore point with the candidate herself. Nothing annoys Clinton quite so much as hearing someone giving the upstart Massachusetts senator credit for a policy stance Clinton herself espoused years earlier.

Recently, when an adviser mentioned Warren was receiving plaudits for a mortgage relief proposal, an exasperated Clinton asked a staffer to "dig up my 2007 [housing] plan"—and distribute it to reporters.

***

For the most part, however, Clinton has courted, not confronted, the left. Her policy shop has already laid out a series of proposals geared toward energizing the party's base (and denying the progressive high ground to Sangers and O'Malley), mostly by doubling down on many of the measures already adopted by the Obama administration: Last week, for example, she unveiled a plan for automatic voting registration and blasted states, like Ohio, which have restricted ballot access. She also came out early in favor of same-sex marriage and LGBT rights—renouncing her husband's Defense of Marriage Act, and vowed to expand Obama's immigration reform executive order if she inherits a recalcitrant GOP Congress.

She has also surrounded herself with leading progressive theorists and researchers. Arguably, the most influential thinker Clinton's orbit these days is Harvard professor and political scientist Robert Putnam, whose recent work on the lack of social mobility in underprivileged communities has captured her imagination and influenced her approach to policy prescriptions.

Clinton—who devoured his most recent book Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis, met with Putnam for several hours in May and peppered him with questions about his research, which have centered on the structure of families and the role of a parents' educational attainment in determining the economic mobility of their children. She has also rekindled a relationship with Harvard economist Lawrence Katz, who was the chief economist at her husband's labor department and has also studied the link between economic opportunity and mobility. Another economist Clinton is close to: CAP's Heather Boushey, who has studied the impact of economic inequality and families.

But tougher issues lie just ahead—especially for a candidate who's going to run on her wonk credentials. Stiglitz, with the support of Warren and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, put out his own report on how to tackle inequality. It covered much of the same territory as the CAP report—but featured more radical solutions. Clinton's team took it seriously, and have grilled Stiglitz and his team repeatedly on the proposals. One advocate told me they have been especially intrigued by his criticism of intellectual property rights protections in international trade agreements, which Stiglitz believes constrain innovation and investment.

But the team is less enamored with provocative Stiglitz proposals like breaking up big banks, as Sanders proposed, or jacking up corporate tax rates on companies that pay their executives too much. The emphasis, people close to the process say, is on a slightly less nasty-sounding campaign for "corporate responsibility," using leverage in the tax code to level the playing field to bend Wall Street toward economic justice.

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Clinton and her small team are gaming out dozens of ideas in a series of conference calls and memos, but a few a have emerged as favorites, including a proposal floated by Maryland Democratic Rep. Chris Van Hollen to strip tax deductions from companies who don't provide reasonable raises for workers. Clinton's team is also looking into various permutations of a tax on stock trades, as a way to incentivize longer-term capital investment over quick-turn profit taking in the market and buy-backs.

It's a complex undertaking, and Clinton's policy chief Jake Sullivan has organized the effort to resemble a through-appropriate-channels paper trail that resembles the process Clinton used as first lady and in her Senate office.

There has been the usual jockeying for position in Clinton's circle, a practice campaign chairman John Podesta recently told a friend was equivalent to the "junior high school lunchroom stuff." But so far, it's been a pretty no-drama operation, especially compared with the relative free-for-all of the 2008 campaign.

The policy process Clinton had developed is modeled on the way her husband and his White House staff ran the National Economic Council, which in turn, had been borrowed from the process used by the National Security Council. It's no accident that Sullivan, the hyper-organized aide tasked with running the policy operation in Brooklyn, was often Clinton's proxy at Situation Room meetings when he was at the State Department.

Sullivan may be a fast study but he is relatively inexperienced in domestic policy, so he's being assisted by two trusted outsiders who serve as standby advisers for the staff and Clinton herself—CAP's Tanden and Gene Sperling, who recently left the Obama administration where he served as head of the NEC.

An occasional adviser is Larry Summers, but his role has largely been confined to offering his expertise to staffers who requiring on-the-fly macro economics seminars, according to people familiar with the situation.

Summers, whose bid to become Fed chairman was derailed by Warren, is anathema to the left who sees him as a protector of the Wall Street status quo—but Clinton has pointedly told critics that she won't allow outside opinions to limit the people she talks to. Nonetheless, Summers, back at Harvard, is not considered particularly influential at the moment, even though both Clintons respect his counsel.

"Larry is trying to elbow his way in," is how one senior Democrat described the situation.

If there's a tug-of-war inside Clinton's campaign, it's over just how far she can afford to go. Clinton, as she did in 2008, is often the one who pumps the brakes; people close to her say she often asks aides to game out the backlash against any given proposal, and sends their memos back with a raft of questions and information requests.

But many on Clinton's team believe she has wide latitude for action, especially when it comes for taxing the super-rich in new and creative ways, citing public and private poll data; indeed, chief pollster Joel Benenson's last presidential campaign, Obama's victorious 2012 reelection, was rooted in a pledge to raise high-end taxes, and he's told his new colleagues that the environment is even more favorable now.

Yet there are obvious political reasons for Clinton not to rush out a detailed set of proposals that might stoke rather than settle intraparty tensions, at least on such lightning-rod subjects as inequality-busting tax policy or cracking down on over-the-top CEO pay.

She also wants to quantify the threat posed by the left wing of the party—to see how much enthusiasm Sanders and O'Malley generate. As importantly, she needs to see how the Republican field shakes out—and which issues emerge from the GOP debates, which begin in late summer.

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Yet, by the same token, many liberal Democrats, including Warren and de Blasio—and potential big-money donors to Clinton-allied super PACs—are also adopting a wait-and-see approach about her.

Earlier this week de Blasio praised Sanders and said he was impressed by Clinton's initial campaigning—but told the city press corps he won't attend her campaign kickoff on Roosevelt Island.

When will de Blasio, campaign manager of Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign in New York, endorse her? When she offers a "larger vision for addressing income inequality," he said.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Adam Smith (6/12/15, 7:08 am) – Jeb "plans to say that people inside DC can't fix DC" politico.com/playbook/0615/..., will raise money in DC a few days later blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/ ...

Jennifer Jacobs (6/12/15, 10:19 am) – JUST IN: The Iowa Straw Poll is dead

By unanimous vote, the Iowa GOP board just voted to kill it.

Alex Seitz-Wald (6/12/15, 1:33 pm) - Sanders to @mitchellreports: "It is hard for me to understand how you can run for president of the U.S. and not take questions [from press]"

Annie Karni (6/12/15, 3:29 pm) - 07 story on Clinton reintroing herself through mom and Midwest roots does read like it cld be written today: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/06/02/AR2007060201257_pf.html ...

CNBC (6/12/15, 5:34 pm) - MORE: Dow Jones reports State Dept. unable to issue passports & visas due to tech issue; officials haven't ruled out hack as source of issue

John Roberts (6/12/15, 6:52 pm) - Gov. Walker told me off camera that his presidential announcement would likely be around the 2nd week of July

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

For Hillary Rodham Clinton, her mother will loom large in campaign // WaPo // David Fahrenthold – June 12, 2015

She was given up by her father at age 8, sent across the country alone on a train with her 3-year-old sister. Later, living with strict grandparents in California, she was confined to her room for a year — leaving only for school — for the offense of trick-or-treating.

Dorothy Rodham, the late mother of Hillary Rodham Clinton, will play a major role in her daughter's formal campaign kickoff speech Saturday in New York City.

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Clinton will cast her mother as symbolic of the “everyday Americans” that she wants the power to help, aides say.

But that is under-selling her story. Rodham — who died in 2011 at age 92 — lived an extraordinary life, which began with abandonment and loneliness, moved through the stifling comfort of mid-century suburbia, and ended with her daughter as the most prominent woman in American politics.

Along the way, Rodham gave her daughter things that had been missing from her own childhood: a stable family, a college education.

And one thing that Rodham’s own childhood had been full of: toughness.

“We moved into this new house, new neighborhood, and she would come in crying and screaming about the fact that she’d been set upon by a group of children, mostly her age, and this one girl who was exactly her age, Suzy, across the street,” Rodham recounted on Oprah Winfrey’s TV show in 2004.

This was an often-told story of Clinton’s childhood: Her mother told her to go back out and confront the bully. “She came in one day, and I said, ‘You know, this is just about enough, Hillary. You have to face things and show them you’re not afraid.’ ”

Rodham was born Dorothy Howell in 1919 in Chicago, the daughter of a firefighter. But her parents fought violently, according to press reports, and then divorced. When her father could not care for them, Rodham and her sister were sent to live with his parents in Alhambra, Calif., near Los Angeles.

But her grandparents were dour and strict, and Rodham moved out at age 14. In the grip of the Depression, she worked as a housekeeper while attending high school.

After graduation, Rodham made a last attempt to reconnect with her parents. She went back to Chicago, where her mother and her mother’s new husband had promised to pay for her college education.

But when she got there, they reneged. No college. They asked Rodham instead to work as their housekeeper.

In her 2003 memoir, “Living History,” Clinton wrote: “Once I asked my mother why she went back to Chicago. ‘I’d hoped so hard that my mother would love me that I had to take the chance and find out,’ she told me. ‘When she didn’t, I had nowhere else to go.’ ”

In 1937, Rodham met her future husband when she applied for a job as a secretary at the Columbia Lace Co. Hugh Rodham worked as a curtain salesman there.

They married in 1942 and moved to suburban Park Ridge. Hugh Rodham ran a business, and his wife stayed at home and raised three children: Hillary, the oldest (Dorothy Rodham liked the name because it sounded exotic and unusual), and two younger brothers.

Hugh was a conservative Republican and would often talk about how Americans ought to be self-reliant and the government shouldn’t give handouts. But his wife often debated him at dinner. “Now, wait a minute,” she would say, according to a 2007 profile in The Washington Post. “Sometimes things happen to people that they have no control over.”

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Their daughter listened and sometimes sought to play peacemaker — an early exposure to the two warring camps of American politics.

“I think it was part of the balance I created in my own life, it became a balancing of all my different influences and values,” Clinton once told The Post. “A lot was worth admiring in the sense of rugged individualism. But it didn’t explain enough for me about the world, or the world as I would want it to be.”

Rodham encouraged her daughter to go to college, and Clinton eventually chose Wellesley College in Massachusetts. Her daughter was going off into the world much better-armed than Rodham herself had been: older, better educated, headed to a college where she would achieve even more.

“Aside from a few trips away with girlfriends,” she says, “Hillary hadn’t really been away from home. I loved having my kids around, and when she went to Wellesley, well, it was really, really hard to leave her. After we dropped her off, I just crawled in the back seat,” Rodham told The Post later, “and cried for 800 miles.”

Hugh Rodham died in 1993, just after his daughter had moved into the White House as first lady. Dorothy Rodham later moved to New York, after her daughter became a senator from that state, and then to Washington.

Rodham largely avoided the public spotlight. But when her daughter ran for president the first time, in 2008, Rodham appeared at some campaign events. She appeared again at the announcement that her daughter had fallen short of the presidency and was ending her run.

“I ran as a daughter who benefited from opportunities my mother never dreamed of,” Clinton said then. It is a theme she will pick up again on Saturday, as the next campaign formally begins.

Could a skywriter crash Hillary Clinton’s campaign launch? **// WaPo // Philip Bump – June 12, 2015**

On Saturday, from the southern tip of New York City's Roosevelt Island, Hillary Clinton will wholeheartedly launch her campaign to be president of the United States.

Intentionally or not, Roosevelt Island has the distinct advantage of being small, with limited points of entry, meaning that the risk of disruption from Clinton's opponents should be minimal.

The park will offer beautiful vistas of the city around Clinton, as she speaks. Imagine a raised platform down at the end of these rows of trees, an adoring crowd waving "Hillary 2016" signs over their heads as they cheer.

And then imagine a plane flying by in the clear blue sky overhead, writing the word "BENGHAZI."

New York City is a very good place for aerial advertising. A lot of people in not-a-lot of space. Airplane-based advertising is not uncommon at all. A Geico banner regularly patrols up and down the Hudson River behind a small prop plane. A few weeks ago a plane wrote out "NERO" over a luxurious party on a yacht. (It was supposed to write "ZERO." Oops.)

So why wouldn't some of the more clever people at the RNC or on Rand Paul's team figure out that they should hire an airplane, too? What better way to get some headlines?

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There are different ways of doing both banners and skywriting, Ted de Reeder of National Sky Ads explained when I spoke with him by phone. His company does the sorts of banners that are composed of a series of tall red letters strung out behind the plane, and the skywriting that is five planes flying in formation. "They do it digitally, like the old dot-matrix printers," he explained, with planes turning the writing on and off, sort of like below.

The white parts are when the planes create smoke, working from right to left.

Of course, the planes aren't fighter jets. They're what de Reeder referred to as "two-sixes," with 650 horsepower. "It sounds like Hell's Angels," he said. (All of the pilots his company uses are American Airlines captains working on their day off.) The letters the planes write are the size of the Empire State Building and stretch for miles.

Now, you may notice a problem above: The skywriting only works on clear days (which Saturday in New York is not expected to be). The planes burn a mix of biodegradable oil ("it's a lot like K-Y,' de Reeder said) and water. "It goes in the exhaust chamber and it comes out as smoke."

Joel (who declined to offer a last name), who works for AirAds, said that using color in the smoke requires a different sort of plane. The plane "burns it off pretty hot, so any coloring burns off, too." The only group equipped to do it effectively, he said, was the French Air Team, which probably wouldn't rent itself out for the Ted Cruz campaign.

Skywriting, he said, is visible for an "eight-to-10-mile radius" -- but the duration for which they can be read varies depending on wind. Wind dissipates the smoke.

Joel's planes also fly printed banners, which they make in-house. Those can only be seen for a few blocks, which would certainly be enough for viewers (and cameras) on Roosevelt Island. But there's a catch: You can't fly a banner there. Since planes dragging banners fly lower (given that the banner needs to be small enough to get aloft but large enough to be able to be read), those planes aren't allowed to fly over the city. They are only allowed to go up the Hudson, over the George Washington Bridge ("Having traffic problems?") and back down the river to New York Harbor. Roosevelt Island, situated in the East River between Queens and Manhattan, isn't accessible.

In other words, it would have required a lot of luck for skywriting to interfere with Clinton tomorrow, based largely on the weather. (It's supposed to bepartly cloudy, but de Reeder said that wasn't good enough.)

For what it's worth, neither of the companies I spoke with indicated that they'd been hired to do so anyway -- though neither seemed to have many concerns about doing so. "I do a lot of controversial stuff," de Reeder told me. "I don't discriminate. 'Vote for Change,' and then the next one up is, 'Impeach Obama.' Whatever."

An if you're thinking that this article might inspire someone to get a plane up tomorrow: Nope. It takes a few weeks to bring a project together. But there is more than enough time to contact Joel or de Reeder for all of your "Impeach Clinton" needs.

Bill Clinton Is Attending Hillary Clinton's Campaign-Policy Meetings **// WSJ // Erica Orden – June 12, 2015**

Hillary Clinton‘s campaign on Friday gave some clues to how it would use one of its biggest potential assets: former President Bill Clinton.

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"We're going to be leaning on him for fundraising. We're going to be leaning on him for retail campaigning," Mrs. Clinton's communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, said at a panel discussion in Manhattan. "We will lean on him all the time for strategic advice."

Mr. Clinton has already been attending some of Mrs. Clinton's policy meetings, according to Ms. Palmieri, who said such meetings are regularly scheduled for between three and four hours.

"He doesn't come to every meeting that we have, but he does join his wife often in our discussions, and it's always fascinating.... because it's always something no one else said," Ms. Palmieri said.

Ms. Palmieri waved off the notion that Mr. Clinton has been kept out of the campaign limelight, saying, "I don't think he's in the background now. He's not a background kind of guy."

Mr. Clinton has given a number of recent interviews, most of them focused on questions surrounding donations by foreign governments to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation. But until now he hasn't hit the campaign trail with his wife.

On Saturday, however, at Mrs. Clinton's rally on New York City's Roosevelt Island, Mr. Clinton will make his first public campaign appearance, along with the couple's daughter, Chelsea. They aren't scheduled to have speaking roles, however.

In the final moments of Friday's panel, Mr. Clinton received another dose of attention, when Mrs. Clinton's campaign manager, Robby Mook, was asked to perform his impersonation of the former president.

"I may lose my job over this," Mr. Mook said, before complying with the request. "I'm so glad to be here today," Mr. Mook said in a drawl, while displaying Mr. Clinton's signature thumb-over-fist hand gesture. "Great program."

Bill Clinton on donor flap: 'No one has ever asked me for anything' **// Politico // Nick Gass – June 12, 2015**

Bill Clinton rejected the idea that donors to his family's foundation received special treatment while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state, suggesting that any allegations that have arisen over the last few months are purely political in nature.

"Nobody even suggested it or thought about it or talked about it until the political season began, and somebody said, 'Well, what about this?'," Clinton said during an interview taped this week in Denver during a Clinton Global Initiative event.

No one has ever asked him for anything, Clinton said, adding that he does not know if those companies were seeking favor from his wife's position as secretary of state. Political partisans and investigative journalists have not found anything particularly odious, apart from what "Clinton Cash" author Peter Schweizer deemed as a "smoking gun" in the pattern of behavior.

"I don't know. You never know what people's motives are, but in this case, I'm pretty sure that everybody that gave to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake saw what they saw on television, were horrified and wanted to make a difference," he said, adding that he did not "think Hillary would know either."

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For example, Clinton said, the United States has always had to lobby for American-made airplanes, noting that Boeing had worked with the State Department while also donating to the foundation's relief efforts following the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

"She was pretty busy those years, and I don't — I never saw her study a list of my contributors," he went on to say. "No one has ever asked me for anything or any of that."

The interview is set to air in full this Sunday on CNN's inaugural episode of "State of the Union with Jake Tapper."

Kickoff rally logistical risks **// Politico // Daniel Lippman – June 12, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's long-awaited and once delayed kickoff rally on Saturday is being billed as poignant and celebratory re-introduction of the dynastic political figure, but it holds no shortage of potential logistical headaches and things that could just go plain wrong.

The setting is a memorial park at the southern tip of Roosevelt Island, Four Freedoms Park, which channels the values Franklin D. Roosevelt outlined in his 1941 State of the Union address — freedom of speech, religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

The park is full of symbolism, but it's not all that convenient to get to.

"We've got one skinny street running down the length of the island … [and] we have no idea how the Clinton campaign is coming here, either a caravan of Escalades or helicopter or what," said Matthew Katz, the former president of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association.

Since parking on the island is very limited, most people are expected to get to the island either on NYC's Subway's F Train or the tram from Manhattan's 59th Street, which will be running tomorrow on weekday schedules.

"How people will get on and off the island is a question that I'm not prepared to answer," said Katz. "I don't know how they'll do that, especially given that the northern part of the island where we live will be rather congested with tons of people out on the street celebrating us."

Then there's the weather.

Clinton's campaign kickoff rally has doors open at 9:30 am with Clinton expected to speak late morning. According to an email to attendees, "there will be airport style security" and prohibited items include umbrellas.

There's a forecast of scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon with a 40 percent chance of rain, according to Weather.com. As long as the event proceeds on time, never a sure bet in political rallies, Clinton's rally could dodge the storms, although the forecast says it'll be cloudy in the morning, not ideal for all the images coming out of the event.

And Clinton has already caught some bad headlines for bumping a planned event for kids in the park called "Imagination Playground" to play with blue "oversized, architectural blocks."

While that event was postponed, residents are moving forward with the other activities associated with the 18th

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annual Roosevelt Island Day.

Even though he's a Hillary supporter and said he looked forward to knocking on doors for her in Pennsylvania, Katz said the campaign was "tone deaf" to have their rally on the same day as Roosevelt Island Day.

"[It's] the one day that we celebrate ourselves, [and] they are coming here and as far as we know, are going to be at the southern tip of the island and not mix with us," he said. "We will be out in the street planting flowers, clearing up the debris from the winter, giving kids pony rides, hotdogs" and holding a blood drive.

Still, residents say they're excited and honored that Clinton chose their island to hold her inaugural rally in their often-forgotten part of New York and hope it gets their island, situated in the East River between Manhattan and Queens, a burst of positive publicity.

Katz's wife, Sherie Helstein, currently the vice president of the association, said "it's a good thing for us. It's putting us in the news. Roosevelt Island is being recognized as a place."

"A lot of people still don't know where we are or that we exist," she said, adding that residents often feel they don't have much say in governing themselves given that the 147-acre island is formally governed by a public benefit corporation run by the state.

Current Residents Association president Jeffrey Escobar said in a statement that "the coming of the Campaign to the South of the Island will be a great opportunity to introduce both Secretary Clinton and those visiting the heart of the Island to our great community."

Campaign manager Robby Mook contrasts Hillary Clinton, Obama on immigration // Politico // Annie Karni – June 12, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign manager Robby Mook for the first time on Friday positioned her stance on immigration directly in relation to President Barack Obama, saying she "is advocating for going even further than President Obama on immigration, to stop deporting the parents of these DREAMers who are contributing to our economy, and are valuable members of our society."

Clinton has advocated expanding Obama's executive actions to allow millions or more undocumented immigrants to obtain legal protection and work permits. But campaign officials in the past have used the issue to draw a distinction with the Republican field, not the president.

"Specifically in the policy that she was proposing, she wanted to make it easier for families to appeal some of these deportation decisions, parents of DREAMers who might be facing deportation," Mook explained of the policy differences between Obama and the former Secretary of State.

In a panel discussion hosted by POLITICO Playbook Friday night, Mook was joined by communications director Jennifer Palmieri at New York University in Manhattan, in advance of Clinton's much-anticipated kickoff rally Saturday morning on Roosevelt Island. The speech is expected to be light on policy details, but beginning this summer, Palmieri said, Clinton will begin rolling out one policy proposal each week.

The roll of former President Bill Clinton, they said, will be visible, even though he does not have a speaking roll at the kickoff event and so far has not appeared with Clinton on the trail. "We're going to be leaning on him for fundraising," Palmieri said, calling him a huge asset to the campaign. "We're going to be leaning on him for retail

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campaigning."

The top campaign officials were diplomatic when asked about New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, who served as Clinton's campaign manager in her 2000 Senate race but who so far has refused to endorse her and has declined to attend her kickoff.

While de Blasio's connection to Clinton is well known, Mook revealed he also has a personal bond with the mayor. "Bill de Blasio is a very good friend," Mook said. "I remember bringing up a whole caravan of cars to help volunteer on his Public Advocate race."

But he seemed to gently push back against de Blasio's attempts to build for himself a national profile as a progressive leader by refusing to back Clinton. "He has got a lot going on running New York City," Mook said. "He's busy with that. He's been a strong advocate on a lot of issues, that's great. We all have the same goal here and that is to get this deck unstacked against the middle class."

Mook also downplayed the influence of Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren on moving Clinton to the left. "There have been a lot of folks out there weighing in," he said. "She's one of many voices."

Palmieri also said the campaign was open to an appearance by Clinton on "Saturday Night Live," where she is mocked as maniacally power-hungry and unrelatable by comedian Kate McKinnon. Clinton resisted such a move in 2008.

"The idea has merit," Palmieri said, admitting the entire team found the Clinton impersonation hilarious. "SNL has been a great platform for her, it's been a great platform for President Obama."

Progressives lash out at Clinton on trade **// Politico // Jonathan Topaz and Ben Schreckinger – June 12, 2015**

Liberals have a message for Hillary Clinton in the wake of Friday's House vote on trade: Refusing to take a stand is worse than standing against us.

Anti-trade Democrats, including influential activists in early primary states, say that Clinton's vague comments on the campaign trail about fast-track authority for the Trans-Pacific Partnership — a measure put in grave danger on Friday by a revolt among House Democrats — signal her silent support for the ambitious free trade expansion. What's worse, they say, is that her strategic silence renews suspicions about her authenticity.

"If you really want to be a leader, you really ought to say where you are on an issue," said Ken Sagar, president of the Iowa AFL -CIO.

"It was a missed opportunity," said New York City mayor Bill de Blasio, the progressive leader who has declined to endorse Clinton several times despite running her 2000 Senate campaign.

Even as organized labor and progressives prevailed on Friday with House Democrats holding firm against pressure from the White House to approve a measure needed to seal the larger trade deal, condemnation of Clinton was still swift and sharp.

"No one's surprised. No one. No one. No one," said New Hampshire liberal activist and radio host Arnie Arnesen. "The fact that she took no position is exactly what we expected … If you're running only to be safe, then how can you lead? How can you lead? I don't see leadership. I see fear."

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No wonder, said Arneson, that “progressives don’t trust her.”

Clinton has been in a tight position on the trade deal, a centerpiece of the administration’s pivot to Asia, which began during Clinton’s tenure as secretary of state. She risks being portrayed as a flip-flopper and alienating business interests if she comes out strongly against the negotiations for the 12-nation trade pact, while voicing support would alienate the progressive base she’s been eagerly courting.

“In some ways, for her, this was a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don’t,” said Steve Rosenthal, a Democratic strategist with ties to organized labor, adding that Clinton has “a lot to prove” to unions on fighting for the middle class.

Labor leaders in Iowa said they reached out to the Clinton campaign as late as Tuesday to urge the candidate to oppose the trade promotion authority for the TPP, which unions maintain will harm American workers. Though Clinton has said in the past that “the TPP needs to include strong protections for workers, the environment, intellectual property, and innovation,” she has not weighed in on fast-track authority. The Clinton campaign didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

“I think by her sitting it out, it says she’s supported the president on this … I’m taking her lack of an answer as an answer,” said Steve Abbott, president of the Communications Workers of America Iowa State Council, who spoke to Clinton campaign officials this week.

Several progressives said Clinton’s silence was more alarming than vocal support of TPA and TPP would have been. “It’s almost worse to not take a stand either way,” said Christopher Schwartz, head of the Iowa chapter of the Americans for Democratic Action. “Even though we’re completely opposed to trade promotion authority and TPP, I’d much prefer to know where a candidate stands.”

It’s another indication that Democratic primary voters have concerns about whether Clinton is being straight with voters. A quarter of Democrats in a recent CNN poll said they wouldn’t describe Clinton as honest or trustworthy.

The contrast is particularly glaring in her contest against Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who vocally opposed the North American Free Trade agreement signed by Clinton’s husband and has been very specific on policy on the stump.

Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, another rival for the Democratic nomination who also opposes fast-track authority, have both taken shots at Hillary for her mushy stance.

“If she’s against this, we need her to speak out right now,” Sanders told reporters in Washington on Thursday. In a subsequent interview, Sanders agreed with the suggestion that her silence amounts to a “cop-out.”

US President Barack Obama and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi walk through a hallway after meeting with House Democrats at the US Capitol on June 12, 2015 in Washington, DC. President Barack Obama Friday went to Congress Friday for a frantic round of lobbying ahead of a crucial vote on his sweeping trans-Pacific trade agenda. The House of Representatives is expected to vote mid-day Friday on final passage of so-called Trade Promotion Authority, and while Republican leaders are confident they have the momentum to get it across the finish line, the vote remains a toss-up.

Clinton remains the overwhelming favorite to win her party’s nomination, and miffed progressives say she still has time to weigh in.

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Larry Cohen, who served as president of the Communications Workers of America until this week and continues to spearhead anti-TPP efforts, called Clinton's approach to the deal a "major disappointment," but said, "It's not too late. We expect and hope that Secretary Clinton will speak out."

Ilya Sheyman, executive director of MoveOn.org Political Action, called it "disappointing" that Clinton hadn't yet joined other Democratic presidential hopefuls on the issue, but said "she still has time to do so" with House Republicans looking at more votes next week.

Economist Robert Reich, who served as Bill Clinton's labor secretary, said he too was disappointed with Clinton's silence, but that ample opportunity remains to embrace a progressive economic agenda — possibly even during her much-hyped kickoff rally on Saturday.

"She is playing it very cautiously," said Reich. "The issues she's taken a position on — immigration, voting rights and criminal justice — are all commendable but they're not especially risky. They appeal to important constituents whose turnout on Election Day is critical. On the other hand, she hasn't yet taken on the structure of the economy. She may Saturday. I'm hoping she does."

How Would Hillary Clinton 'Reshuffle' Economic Inequality? // NPR // Mara Liasson – June 12, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign for president is about to enter a new phase. At her first big rally this Saturday in New York City, she will make an unusually personal speech about how her upbringing forged her commitment to helping others.

Soon after, Clinton will begin laying out her positions on a broad range of economic policy questions. In the past few months, we've learned her positions on immigration, campaign finance reform, voting rights, and gay marriage. But we don't know yet what she wants to do about the number one economic issue of the 2016 campaign — stagnating middle class incomes.

Clinton does talk about the economy a lot on the campaign trail, but so far only in broad strokes. She says she wants everyone to have the same chances she had — and that, as she said visiting a brewery in May, "here in Washington we know that unfortunately the deck is still being stacked for those at the top."

She says that her job is to take that deck and "reshuffle the cards" but what does that mean?

"Paramount is how we're going to have an economy that grows for everyone, that's inclusive, in which middle class families and people struggling to get into the middle class can get ahead as the economy grows," said Neera Tanden, an informal advisor to Clinton and president of the left-leaning Center for American Progress.

So would she address economic inequality the way Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders propose by breaking up the big banks,or increasing Social Security Benefits?

Right now, said former Clinton White House aide Bill Galston, it's really not clear.

"Clinton has very deliberately appropriated progressive populist phrases from the Warren wing of the Democratic party. That leaves entirely unanswered the question of what the full economic narrative would be when she spells it out," he said.

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She'll start spelling it all out Saturday in her big kick off speech. Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said that's when Clinton will talk about the conditions of the country and "why people haven't seen their wages rise even as we've seen private sector job growth come back in this country."

He says she'll also talk about "what she wants to do to make sure that people get ahead and stay ahead. She'll lay out a template for that, and then through the course of the Summer and into the Fall she'll get specific about what policies she thinks she' can achieve to help people succeed in life," he said.

In those Summer and Fall speeches, Clinton will lay out her plans for college affordability, early childhood education, Wall Street reform and paid family leave. At some point she will say exactly how high she wants the minimum wage to be, and how she'd finance big investments in infrastructure. And, her aides say, she'll also eventually explain how she plans to solve one part of the income inequality puzzle — that even when profits and productivity go up, wages do not follow.

"The hard work, the productivity that you contribute to the the profitability and the success of the businesses that you work for should be reflected in those paychecks so that people feel that the work ethic is really paying off for them," she said last month.

Exactly how Clinton proposes to get productivity and wage growth back in sync will depend on why she thinks the middle class is struggling. Theres a big debate about this going on inside the Democratic Party. The Elizabeth Warren wing thinks the middle class is suffering because the top 1 percent grabbed more than their share. On the other side are Democrats who believes the deck is not just stacked, its been transformed — by the big forces of global competition and technology.

Clinton doesn't believe those dueling narratives are mutually exclusive, according to Podesta, and he said she will make that very clear.

"By the time people are going to the polls and voting, people will know exactly what she wants to do. And I think offer a vision that will be appealing to a broad section of Americans," he said.

Many of her supporters say the sooner she lays out that vision the better. Her unfavorable ratings have been growing, and majorities of voters tell pollsters that she is not honest and trustworthy. Neera Tanden thinks the best way to address those political problems is with a robust policy agenda. And it has the added benefit of playing to Clinton's authentic political strengths. As Tanden points out, Clinton is first and foremost a workhorse and a policy wonk.

"That's always been an asset for her," she said. "In a campaign in which you are continually discussing the way you want to solve people's problems is another way to communicate how you're on their side and care about their concerns."

So the question the Clinton campaign would like to ask is not whether she is honest and trustworthy but whether voters can trust her to fight for them and their families.

Hillary's star-studded bash replaced Rangel's party at the Plaza Hotel // Crains New York // Eric Engquist – June 12, 2015

It would be understandable if Rep. Charles Rangel feels a bit peeved that Hillary Clinton is throwing a star-studded fundraiser for her presidential campaign June 27 at the Plaza Hotel.

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It was supposed to be Mr. Rangel's party.

According to an insider, the longtime Harlem congressman had planned to throw his annual birthday fundraiser at the same venue, on the same night, with the same stars—Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett, and, yes, Hillary Clinton.

But somehow it became a Hillary for America event. Tickets start at $2,700.

"They're doing the Charlie Rangel birthday gala," said the source, "without Charlie Rangel."

Two spokesmen for Ms. Clinton's campaign did not respond to an inquiry yesterday about the alleged turn of events.

For Mr. Rangel, his displacement is not just a personal slight but a significant financial setback. The veteran Democrat is desperately trying to retire the campaign debt from his 2014 re-election bid, which now stands at about $140,000.

At one time, Mr. Rangel's birthday event alone would have raised that amount several times over. When he chaired the House Ways and Means Committee, his gala took in $500,000 or $600,000. In other years, $200,000 or more would pour in.

But since then, Mr. Rangel, who was serenaded by colleagues on his 85th birthday yesterday in Washington, has been tarred by an ethics scandal, lost his committee chairmanship, been relegated to minority status in the House and announced that he will not seek re-election in 2016. Other than nostalgia, there is little reason for donors who transact in political currency to write Mr. Rangel a check anymore.

Mr. Rangel's fundraising prowess did recover as the toxicity he took on from his ethics problems abated. But anyone who has contributed the maximum allowed by law to his 2014 campaign can no longer give. Because donations are being used to pay expenses from that race, the contribution limits still apply.

It could not be determined yesterday whether Ms. Clinton is distancing herself from Mr. Rangel to avoid any risk to her White House bid. The congressman became a lightning rod for criticism by the Republican establishment when details of his transgressions emerged from 2007 through 2009, notably his failure to report $75,000 in rental income from his Dominican Republic beach condo on his tax returns.

It was also revealed that Mr. Rangel's campaign was housed in a rent-stabilized apartment, separate from the two combined apartments in which he resides and a fourth rent-stabilized unit. Rent-regulated housing may only be used as a primary residence.

Mr. Rangel was even derided for storing an old Mercedes in a congressional garage that was supposed to be used only for active vehicles.

"There's genuine affection for Charlie, especially in the New York delegation," the insider said. "I think they know that the mistakes he made, the mistakes his staff made, were not raw corruption and greed. There were no bags of cash. They were mistakes and errors, and he admitted to all of them."

Even if Ms. Clinton decides to steer clear of Mr. Rangel, according to the source, his camp is hoping Ms. Clinton

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will make up for the fundraiser switch by dispatching her husband, Bill Clinton, to the rescheduled Rangel birthday bash, now slated for August. The former president is still as much of a draw as his wife, who is the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination in 2016.

In the meantime, City Councilwoman Inez Dickens is hosting a $1,000-a-head fundraiser for Mr. Rangel in her Manhattan home Thursday. Ms. Dickens is an influential council member and an expected candidate for the Assembly seat that Keith Wright would vacate if he wins the Democratic primary for Mr. Rangel's House seat next year.

Answering the 'Why' : Previewing Hillary Clinton's Launch Speech // NBC // Chuck Todd, Mark Murray and Carrie Dann – June 12, 2015

As Hillary Clinton is set to appear at her first big campaign-style event on Saturday, it's worth remembering that she never gave a why-I'm-running-for-president speech at the beginning of her campaign in 2007. Her launch was a video of her speaking to the camera that she wanted a conversation with American voters. "Let's talk, let's chat, let's start a dialogue about your ideas and mine." But there was nothing about WHY she was the best person to lead the country over the next four to eight years, or even WHY she wanted the job. By contrast, Obama answered the WHY in his Feb. 10, 2007 kickoff, using Abraham Lincoln's Springfield, IL as the backdrop:

By ourselves, this change will not happen. Divided, we are bound to fail. But the life of a tall, gangly, self-made Springfield lawyer tells us that a different future is possible. He tells us that there is power in words. He tells us that there is power in conviction... That's why I'm in this race. Not just to hold an office, but to gather with you to transform a nation." Obama's WHY: He was the only presidential candidate who could truly transform the country.

Here was even Mitt Romney's WHY at his presidential announcement in June 2011: "All of these experiences -- starting and running businesses for 25 years, turning around the Olympics, governing a state -- have helped shape who I am and how I lead... Turning around a crisis takes experienced leadership and bold action." Translation: I'm the businessman and turnaround artist this country's economy needs!

A sneak peak at part of the "why" Hillary will lay out on Saturday

The Clinton campaign insists we'll hear the WHY from her on Saturday. And we're already getting some clues about what it will be. First is the location -- Roosevelt Island in New York City -- as a way to invoke both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. "Clinton chose a park honoring FDR in the state where she served as senator for eight years, a choice campaign officials say is meant to invoke Roosevelt's legacy," MSNBC's Alex Seitz-Wald reports. "'She could have chosen anywhere to make her announcement,' said Felicia Wong, the President of the Roosevelt Institute, a progressive think tank dedicated to carrying on the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. 'By choosing this venue, she and her team have put themselves squarely in the legacy and the spirit of Franklin Roosevelt, who re-wrote the rules of the 20th century.'" Another clue is Hillary's expected focus on her mother. "As a child, Dorothy Rodham was abandoned by her parents and sent to live with strict relatives. Not able to bare it anymore, she ran away at 14 and worked as a housekeeper for a kind-hearted woman who took her in and showed her what parenting should look like. That trauma and resilience, Clinton has said, taught her and how to be tough and made her want to help people in difficult circumstances," Seitz-Wald adds. So, to put Saturday another way, it's fair to call it the first-EVER Hillary Clinton presidential announcement address

Changes of conviction? Or changes of convenience?

In her speech tomorrow, Hillary is also expected to embrace being a progressive -- more than she ever did at this point in 2007. Yet don't forget that she has made quite a few position changes to get her: supporting gay marriage, backing immigration-reform changes beyond President Obama's executive actions, favoring drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants, supporting normalization with Cuba. It will be interesting to see if these changes tomorrow come across as changes of conviction or changes of convenience/ One other thing to keep in mind about tomorrow: Delivering big speeches at rallies has never been one of Hillary's strengths.

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Hillary Clinton is not on Snapchat, but we just found some compelling evidence that it's coming soon //
Business Insider // Will Haskell – June 12, 2015

It looks like Hillary Clinton is going to start campaigning on Snapchat any day now.

The presidential hopeful is already popular on Instagram after only two days on the service. So I tried to see if I could find Clinton on Snapchat — and it turns out, every name she could possibly use has already been reserved.

This means that either someone's planning a fake account, or the Clinton campaign is stockpiling the names themselves.

A Snapchat spokesperson wouldn't speak on the record about Clinton's possible involvement with Snapchat, and Clinton's press team has not responded to a request for comment.

If Clinton is planning a Snapchat effort, she won't be the first. Presidential contenders Martin O'Malley, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio already use Snapchat to share information about their campaigns.

I did some digging on Snapchat in an effort to figure out how and when Secretary Clinton will engage with the photo sharing platform.

I found that the following usernames are currently taken:

The "pending" message usually shows up when a user hasn't added you back yet because they've set their account to private. It also appeared when we tried to send a snapchat to Senator Rubio's account, which is already in action:

Excitement about Clinton's Snapchat plans exploded on Twitter shortly after she posted her first Instagram.

The photo and video sharing app is used by 50 million people, the median age of whom is 18, according to Forbes. Snapchat offers a valuable platform for candidates to engage young voters.

“There is no harder riddle to solve in politics than reaching young Americans who are very interested in the future of their country but don’t engage with traditional news,” Dan Pfeiffer, a former senior advisor to President Obama, told the New York Times. “Snapchat may have just made it a whole lot easier to solve this riddle.”

Snapchat has been staffing up in preparation for the 2016 election. In May, Dylan Byers at Politico reported that Snapchat was seeking "content analysts" to assist with 2016 election coverage. "We're looking for political junkies and news aficionados to join our team in NYC to help review Snaps that are submitted to Our Story events, and cover the 2016 presidential race and other news events for Snapchat," a job posting read.

Many have predicted that Snapchat will shape the 2016 election in the same way that Facebook and Twitter shaped the election of Barack Obama in 2008.

The former Secretary of State should have no difficulty attracting attention when she does begin to use Snapchat.

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She cannonballed into the world of Instagram this week and already made a big splash.

In just two days, she's acquired 121,000 followers. That number blows Marco Rubio (with 13,000) Rand Paul (with 27,200) and Jeb Bush (with 11,900) out of the water.

Candidates Martin O'Malley, Bernie Sanders and Lincoln Chafee have a combined number of 11,358 followers. Clinton outpaces each of these Democratic opponents by over 100,000 followers.

Clinton's posts are also popular. This video, which rapidly summarizes Secretary Clinton's career in public service, received 10,400 likes.

This #tbt that she posted yesterday received over 13,000 likes.

That's more than twice the combined number of likes that Bush, Rubio and Paul received on their last Instagram.

Clinton, who's spent much of the last two months traveling New Hampshire and Iowa to speak about her accomplishments as a champion and leader of the American people, follows no one.

Bill Clinton opens up about his relationship with Hillary **// CNN // Dan Merica – June 12, 2015**

Bill and Hillary Clinton rarely talk about their relationship with one another. But in an interview set to air Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," the former president opened up about the woman he said he trusts with his life.

"Whenever I had trouble, she was a rock in our family," Clinton said during an emotional interview with CNN's Jake Tapper in Denver.

"I trust her with my life, and have on more than one occasion," he said, describing his wife as someone who helped him through some of the most trying times of his life.

Bill Clinton described how his wife helped him through years "plagued with self-doubt" in his late 20s and offered him someone to not only lean on, but to help guide him through perilous moments in his career.

"I was the youngest former governor in American history in 1980 on election night. I got killed in the Reagan landslide," Clinton remembered. "People I had appointed to office would walk across the street, they were so afraid of the new regime in Arkansas, and would not shake hands with me. My career prospects were not particularly bright."

"And she never blinked. She just said, 'Hey. It'll turn around. I believe in you. You've got this,'" he said.

Close friends and aides of the Clintons regularly tell reporters about how close the couple, is despite operating on largely different schedules.

"I talk to him on the phone a lot," Hillary Clinton said in May when a voter asked where her husband was.

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Bill and Hillary Clinton were married in 1975 after meeting at Yale University. Their relationship has been publicly tested a number of times, including during Bill Clinton's public impeachment trial and his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"The most difficult decisions I have made in my life were to stay married to Bill and to run for the Senate from New York," Clinton wrote about the Lewinsky affair in "Living History," her first memoir.

Though the two rarely speak about their relationship, they have opened up in the past.

During Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential run, Bill Clinton told voters in Ames, Iowa, that early in their relationship he told Hillary Clinton to dump him so she could focus on her own political career.

He said he thought she was "the most gifted person I'd ever met" and that it "would be wrong for me to rob her of the chance to be what I thought she should be."

Bill Clinton said she responded with a laugh and the now false response: "I'm not going to run for anything, I'm too hardheaded."

The former president said in 2014 that their relationship was, in a way, a 52-year pact.

"We were married a very long time when she was always, in effect, deferring to my political career," he said. "I told her when she got elected to the Senate from New York that she'd given me 26 years, and so I intended to give her 26 years. Whatever she wanted to do was fine with me. If she wanted to know my opinion, I would tell her, but she had carte blanche to make whatever decisions she wanted, and tell me what I was supposed to do about it."

So far, Bill Clinton hasn't played any role in his wife's presidential campaign. Although the former commander-in-chief will be with Hillary Clinton when she holds the first rally of her campaign on Saturday, he has yet to travel or raise money for her, something the regularly did in 2008.

Instead, Bill Clinton has been focused on his $2 billion philanthropic enterprise: The Clinton Foundation. His interview with CNN came during the annual meeting of Clinton Global Initiative America in Denver, where foundation supporters made nearly 80 pledges to address a wide array of domestic issues.

Bill Clinton reflected on their 40 years of marriage in his interview with Tapper.

"We built a life together based on the things we cared about, the things that we loved," he said. "We were blessed with a daughter who turned out pretty well I would say. We have been very blessed."

The entire Bill Clinton interview will air on Sunday at 9 a.m. on CNN's "State of the Union" with Jake Tapper.

One Tough Mother // Slate // John Dickerson – June 12, 2015

Tough mother. That's both the theme of Hillary Clinton's big speech on Saturday and the emerging theme of her

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campaign. According to a preview of her remarks, Clinton will talk about her mother's struggles and how they guide her and her campaign, which the candidate has fashioned around four tough fights. Since announcing her campaign in April, at every stop Clinton has said she will advocate for families, remove money from politics, increase wages for the middle class, and protect America. How is she going to do these things? She's going to fight.

The speech, like all campaign speeches, is an attempt to define the terms of the election in a way that highlights the candidate's attributes. (My presidential campaign, for example, would be founded on the obvious truth that the American dream can only be restored through asides and rejoinders made by blond, middle-aged fathers.) If Clinton is a scrappy fighter, why not define the election that way? It's not a stretch. This is what voters talk about when they describe what they want in a candidate. Does the candidate get my life and will she go to bat for me? Does she have my back? Political scientists will tell you that if voters forge that kind of connection with a candidate, they will then project all kinds of other favorable qualities on that person.

Clinton's strategy is one her husband often employed. No matter what personal or political troubles Bill Clinton found himself in, he always presented himself as a tireless fighter, someone who'd go into pitched battle for voters. The blunt political calculation is that even if voters don't find Hillary Clinton trustworthy—and only 42 percent do in a recent CNN poll—they will support the person who they think will fight for their interests. As Ron Brownstein has argued, Hillary Clinton doesn't need Americans to trust her.

Fight, fight, fight. Clinton rarely misses an opportunity to raise her gloves, even when she is making a joke about something else. "I'm aware I may not be the youngest candidate in this race," Clinton told Democrats in South Carolina in May. "But I have one big advantage: I've been coloring my hair for years. You're not going to see me turn white in the White House. And you're also not going to see me shrink from a fight." Friday the campaign released a Web video titled "Fighter." (If by now you haven't gotten the message, the candidate may have to come over and beat you up.)

There are other reasons the tough-mother pitch makes sense for Clinton. It establishes her genuine roots, which shows voters she is not distant from their concerns despite her newfound wealth. Bill Clinton did a version of this at the 1992 Democratic convention when the film The Man from Hope (a story also centered around a mother) helped upend the idea some voters had that he was a child of privilege. The message also allows Clinton to talk about her start in politics, which was founded around the kinds of fights she says she will wage now. She is not a newcomer to the fight for programs that help children and families. That display of continuity will help a candidate whose positions on aspects of immigration reform and same-sex marriage have changed since the last time she ran.

Clinton's framing speech comes after a week of conversation—kicked off by a New York Times analysis—about whether Clinton is going to run to the left at the expense of voters in the middle or run a more centrist campaign. The Clinton team argues it's a false choice. She can appeal to Democrats by talking about immigration reform, campaign finance reform, and same-sex marriage while appealing to the majority of independent and swing voters who hold those views, too. "It is a uniquely Acela corridor analysis to assume issues like paid medical leave or addressing corporate excess are 'base' issues," says David Axelrod, who is not associated with the Clinton campaign. "The economic pressures people feel are real and broad."

On an issue like immigration, for example, a recent Pew poll showed that 72 percent of the public favors some legal status for undocumented workers, a position that is closer to Clinton's than the one held by the majority of GOP candidates.

The Clinton team also argues that swing states like Ohio, Florida, and Iowa can't be won simply by turning out the Democratic base. Clinton is pushing for criminal justice reform, and so are several Republican candidates. She talks about the economic tilt toward Wall Street, and so does Rick Perry. Americans supported more government action to address the country's growing income gap by 57 percent to 39 percent in a recent CBS/New York Times poll. When she talks about portability of health care across state lines, she is consciously echoing a Republican position. If she were making a big pitch for the party's liberal wing, she would be advocating for a single-payer health care system as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sander is.

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If anyone would like a preview of Clinton's mother-based speech, watch this recording of her appearance before thousands of camp counselors in March. At roughly the 52-minute mark, she gives a long answer about her mother's qualities. One story she tells is of her mother's advice after Clinton came home crying after being bullied: "There's no room for cowards in this house." That's one tough mother.

What It Means for Hillary Clinton's Campaign to Get Real Tomorrow // ABC News // Liz Kreutz – June 12, 2015

Saturday marks an unofficial, official turning point in Hillary Clinton's campaign.

The "ramp up phase" -- a term used by Clinton's campaign to describe the first two months of Clinton's candidacy -- will come to an end and her "official" campaign will kick-off.

This transition will be marked by Clinton's first big campaign rally at Roosevelt Island in New York City on Saturday, where Clinton will deliver a speech laying out her vision for her campaign, followed by a 5-day swing through all four early voting states: Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

So, what's really the difference between Part 1 and Part 2?

Here's how the new era of Clinton's campaign might differ, if really much at all, from the first one.

Growing Bigger

Part 1: In the ramp-up phase, Clinton has kept it small. Most of her campaign events have been low-key, intimate round-tables at local businesses, such as bike shops, craft breweries and coffee houses.

Part 2: Beginning Saturday, things are about to get bigger. In this next phase, Clinton will start hosting more large rallies and town halls. But, aides said, round-tables will still be part of the mix, too.

Getting Personal

Part 1: During campaign events so far, Clinton has spoken generally about policy and made mentions of her mother, father and granddaughter, Charlotte.

Part 2: Clinton's now about to get even more personal. Clinton's campaign released a video today about Clinton's life ahead of Saturday's rally. And on Saturday, Clinton is set to focus her remarks around the story of her late-mother, Dorothy Rodham, whose early life was full of trauma and abandonment. Clinton is expected to use her mother's story, and the lessons of resilience she learned from her, as a running motif out on the trail.

Expanding Access

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Part 1: As has been widely documented, Clinton has been criticized for keeping the media at arm's length during her ramp-up period.

Part 2: In this next era, Clinton is expected to have a much more open relationship with the press, or so we're told. Clinton's aides say she'll host more press gaggles, answer more questions, and even begin making big television appearances, too.

Getting Wonkier

Part 1: Clinton has delivered a few policy-oriented speeches over the past two months, but overall her campaign has been relatively light on proposing policies so far.

Part 2: We're now entering the wonky phase. Aides said Clinton is ready to roll out a number of specific policy proposals in a series of speeches over the coming months.

Changing Travel

Part 1: Clinton's early part of the campaign has brought us scenes of an "everyday" Clinton road-tripping to Iowa in her Scooby van and flying around the country on commercial flights.

Part 2: Clinton will likely continue to fly on commercial planes as much as possible, but as her travel schedule gets busier, it could prove to be a logistical challenge. Don't be surprised if Clinton also begins opting for private plane travel instead.

Increasing Family

Part 1: Clinton has traveled solo to all of her campaign events so far. Although she talks about her family on the trail –- namely her mother, father and new granddaughter –- Bill and Chelsea Clinton have been notably absent from the road.

Part 2: Bill and Chelsea Clinton will both make their first official campaign appearance at Hillary Clinton's rally on Saturday. But while their role on the trail will continue to pick-up throughout the next part of her campaign, neither are expected to do much campaigning any time soon.

Raising Money

Part 1: In this initial part of the campaign, Clinton has spent almost an equal amount of time campaigning as she has spent raising money for her campaign.

Part 2: Don't expect much difference here. So long as Clinton's campaign needs money, Clinton will keep up –- and probably ramp up -– her fundraising efforts.

Ragin Cajun: 'Put your pantsuit on and let's go!' // The Washington Examiner // Paul Bedard – June 12, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The old Clinton team is saddling up for their last roundup, this time for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, set to re-announce her bid Saturday in New York City.

Longtime Clinton advisor James Carville is heading up her effort to win Virginia, which the GOP has declared a must win if they are to beat the former first lady and secretary of state.

Presumably in association of former Clinton aide and current Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Carville and Team Hillary plan to mount an aggressive fight to keep Virginia blue and in her column.

Carville, the Louisiana native known as the "Ragin Cajun," on Friday sent supporters an invitation to "let your hair down" and "put your pantsuit on" at a Clinton rally at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., June 26.

He called her the "right person" to be president and he tied the expected popularity of the event to the GOP, writing, "Tickets are selling faster than Republicans deciding they're running for president."

Carville has been part of the Clinton family for years and is credited with helping Bill Clinton win his first election.

His full note is below:

You are invited to let your hair down (I would but I don't have any!) and join us for what is bound to be one fantastic evening.

On June 26th, Democrats from across the commonwealth are coming together to hear Hillary Clinton speak in Fairfax. And, you can join us too.

I have been a longtime friend and supporter of Hillary Clinton. There is no doubt in my mind that she is the right person to serve as president of the United States.

Hillary has bold ideas, but you won't hear what she has to say if you don't grab a ticket soon. These tickets are selling faster than Republicans deciding they're running for president.

Trust me, you won't want to miss this event. So, put your pantsuit on and let's go!

I hope you can join us to watch my friend Hillary on June 26.

Thanks,

James Carville

No-Fly Zone Ordered For Hillary Clinton's New York City Kickoff Rally // ABC News // Josh Margolin, David Kerley and Matt Hosford – June 12, 2015

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Federal officials today took the rare step of creating a "no-fly zone" around the site of Hillary Clinton's campaign kickoff rally in New York City on Saturday.

The Federal Aviation Administration established the protective zone in the form of a so-called "Notice to Airmen" announcing that a section along Manhattan's East Side will be temporarily transformed into "national defense airspace."

The FAA website lists the reason as "Temporary flight restrictions for VIP Movement" and cites the federal law that the FAA employs to ban flights over events attended by the president, vice president or other key dignitaries.

"The United States government may use deadly force against the airborne aircraft if it is determined that the aircraft poses an imminent security threat," according to the notice.

Clinton's rally -- planned as the largest event of her presidential campaign so far -- will take place on Roosevelt Island, a narrow sliver of land in the East River located between Manhattan and Queens.

As the wife of former President Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton is still guarded by a Secret Service detail. The former president is expected to attend tomorrow's event.

"This is highly unusual," a spokesman for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, told ABC News. The "no fly zones," also known as "Temporary Flight Restrictions" are issued about 1,000 times a year, according to the association. But they usually are not issued for candidates for president.

In a statement to ABC News, the United State Secret Service said it "establishes temporary flight restrictions in advance of protective visits" but did not elaborate.

The Clinton campaign did not respond to a request for comment nor did a spokesman for New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

City officials objected to the restriction because of the effect it is expected to have on popular sightseeing helicopters. The no-fly zone will not have any impact on commercial jets landing and taking off from nearby LaGuardia Airport.

When Clinton was first lady, such a no-fly zone was not established for appearances she made. And even now, the FAA typically does not put such restrictions in place for the current first lady, Michelle Obama, for events she attends unless her husband, the president, is there as well.

Clinton's Grassroots Army // The Sun Sentinel // Anthony Man – June 12, 2015

As she prepares to launch the second phase of her presidential candidacy Saturday, her campaign has been pursuing a less-noticed, but intense effort aimed at recruiting the army of grass-roots volunteers that could secure a victory in the 2016 election.

Her campaign has sponsored a series of gatherings throughout Florida to sign up supporters who will spend the coming months spreading the word at festivals, parades and other community events; invite people into their homes for house parties; and attempt to recruit friends, family and neighbors into the Clinton fold.

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Much of the focus in the two months between the April 12 video in which Clinton announced her candidacy and Saturday's "official campaign launch" has been on Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada, the four states whose early primaries and caucuses give them outsized roles in deciding the presidential nominee.

Clinton's only Florida visit since entering the race was a May 28-29 fundraising tour that took her to Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, Parkland and Heathrow in the Orlando area.

The grass-roots organizing activity in Florida underscores lessons learned from Barack Obama's successful 2008 campaign, when early mobilizing helped produce legions of loyal activists who proved critical to his defeating Clinton for the Democratic nomination and winning the presidency. The Clinton campaign "really did get out-organized by Obama," said Kevin Hill, a political scientist at Florida International University.

"We learned from the Obama campaign," said Terrie Rizzo, who is officially neutral as chairwoman of the Palm Beach County Democratic Party. "Early organizing pays dividends."

Sandy Ducane, the Clinton campaign's Florida grass roots organizer — the only paid staffer in the state right now — told an early June gathering of volunteers in Pompano Beach why they're important.

"It's volunteer groups, it is the grass roots organizing that really is the engine that allows the candidate to move forward," Ducane said. "Debates and advertising and yard signs only take you so far in an election. And we all know that it's those sporadic voters, the occasional voters, [and] getting them out to vote is really what pushes a candidate over the finish line."

Even though it's nine months before the Florida presidential primary and 17 months until the general election, state Rep. Lori Berman, D-Lantana, a Clinton supporter, said it's not too early to start mobilizing. "When the time comes, you have your whole system in place and you're able to activate it and get everybody out there doing what they need to be doing," she said. "I hate to be trite and use cliches, but the early bird gets the worm."

Cynthia Busch, also neutral because she's vice chairwoman of the Broward Democratic Party, said starting now allows a campaign to make sure key volunteers are well trained, teams work well together, and existing volunteers can bring in new faces. "The sooner the better," she said.

Republicans said it's a good strategy. "I would say that's very smart for them," said Daniel Ruoss of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, chairman of the Florida Federation of Young Republicans. "You can never start too early, certainly in Florida."

The Clinton campaign said efforts are under way in all 46 states that aren't part of the early four. But there's no place it's more important than Florida. Having won the Sunshine State's primary in 2008, Clinton can't afford the kind of embarrassment that would stem from anything less than a stellar performance in the state's March 16, 2016, primary.

And the Florida is critical to each party's hopes of winning the White House, given the Sunshine State's status as the largest swing state in the country — awarding more than 10 percent of the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency. The benefits of organized, well trained and loyal supporters could prove critically important in Florida if one of the state's Republican favorite sons, former Gov. Jeb Bush or U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio is the Republican nominee.

Hill said parts of Florida — "Broward and Palm Beach [counties] especially" — are Clinton territory. But that

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doesn't mean sufficient votes will come automatically in either the primary or the general election; Clinton needs to make sure her supporters are energized and turn out to vote.

And that's where people like Veronica Block come in.

Block, 44, who lives west of Boca Raton, said she's a regular voter, but has never been involved in any kind of political activity — until she she attended the organizing meeting in Pompano Beach.

Afterward, the recently widowed stay-at-home mother and part-time photographer did exactly what strategists want from all their volunteers: took to social media, telling friends why she likes Clinton and asking them to join her helping the campaign.

Block also signed up to join a volunteer team that plans to work the crowd on Clinton's behalf at the Kikin' It Country Music Festival on June 27. Block said she's ready to do "anything that I can do to help."

"I have never been as excited about anything like this," she said.

Most of the people, based on a show of hands, are veteran campaign volunteers. Carol Osno, a Democratic activist from Pompano Beach who has been involved in many campaigns, showed up wearing a Clinton button from 2008.

But there were other newcomers, like Block. Kathy Sklare of Deerfield Beach said the prospect of a Clinton presidency has her so excited that she's going to volunteer on behalf of the campaign.

"I've never liked politics. [But] I said to myself a while back, if Hillary runs again, I'm going to help her win," she said. "It's in my heart and my soul. I need to do it, and accomplish this. It's my goal. And Hillary, I love her and want to see her win."

The campaign has held 51 organizing meetings and house parties in Florida as part of the "Ramp Up Grassroots Organizing Program."

Other elements:

•Volunteers are hosting events in their homes Saturday, bringing together people to watch when Clinton delivers her launch speech from the Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island in New York City before heading to Iowa. Florida supporters have 19 watch parties planned throughout the state.

•The campaign is holding small-scale fundraisers, such as a June 18 event headlined by former Florida Senate Democratic Leader Nan Rich of Weston. It costs $25, far less than the $2,700 required to attend one of the May fundraisers that featured Clinton in person.

Lisa Lickstein, a Democratic donor and activist in Palm Beach County, said small fundraisers do more than bring in money. "We know that people who give a small amount at the beginning of campaigns can be counted on to talk to their friends about why."

All the events are aimed at an exponential growth in numbers of people and excitement.

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One thing missing from the events is Clinton herself.

Unlike larger donors and voters in early states who get to see and hear the candidate in person, people who come to the organizing events have to make due with a life-sized, cardboard, cutout photograph of the former secretary of state, former U.S. senator and former first lady.

Cutouts are popular with Clinton supporters, with many taking pictures with their phones — and, like Block, sharing them on Facebook and Instagram.

When Lickstein organized a group that rented a booth at the SunFest music festival in West Palm Beach, she campaign got sign-up information from about 590 people willing to volunteer.

With an estimated attendance of 175,000 attending SunFest from April 29 to May 3, Lickstein said there was a constant stream of people who stopped to take selfies with "cardboard Hillary."

"There was just tremendous enthusiasm, really a great deal of emotion," she said. "People really wanted to connect with her."

Anita Mitchell, former chairwoman of the Palm Beach County Republican Party, said the South Florida reaction doesn't mean Clinton will prevail in Florida. The region, Mitchell said, is "progressive. It's liberal. It's her backyard. Low fruit for her."

Hillary Clinton headed to Charleston area for 2nd SC stop **// The State // Jamie Self – June 12, 2015**

Hillary Clinton is heading to the Lowcountry on Wednesday for her second visit to South Carolina since announcing her White House bid.

The 2016 Democratic frontrunner will hold a forum in the Charleston area focused on youth job training and apprenticeship programs, a campaign aide said, adding that more details about the stop will be released later.

The campaign has set up more than two dozen watch parties and launch-day house parties in the Palmetto State timed with Clinton's official campaign launch event Saturday in New York City.

The former first lady and secretary of state announced her campaign on April 12 and has been campaigning in early primary states in small, controlled events and roundtable discussions with students, educators and small-business owners.

Clinton made a one-day stop in Columbia last month, meeting with minority women business owners and speaking to a group of Democratic women gathered for a conference at the State House.

Hillary Clinton: "The History Of Women Has Been A History Of Silence" **// Elle // Megan Friedman – June 12, 2015**

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A day before her official campaign kickoff, Hillary Clinton released a new ad on YouTube that highlights her 40 years in public service.

The clip, called "Fighter," shows photos and footage from her entire career, from law student to Secretary of State. She talks about her work with children, and doesn't shy away from her failed attempt at healthcare reform while serving as First Lady. "You have to get up off the floor and you keep fighting," she says, a theme that she echoes throughout the ad.

The campaign video also talks about her historic speech in Beijing, where she declared, "human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights," and her time as Senator from New York during the September 11 attacks. Whether or not you support her for president, nobody can deny she's had an incredible career.

Hillary Clinton's 'talking points' for 'friends and allies' just leaked // Business Insider // Hunter Walker – June 12, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign spokeswoman Adrienne Elrod sent out a memo containing "talking points" for "friends and allies" on Friday afternoon.

Business Insider obtained a copy of the memo, which includes a preview of Clinton's speech Saturday and details of the campaign's early efforts in primary states.

There has been much speculation about the role Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, will play in his wife's campaign. The memo notes Clinton is "expected" to attend the speech, but will not be speaking.

"President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton are expected to attend, but the speaking program will feature Hillary Clinton exclusively," the memo said.

The memo, which was designed to help Clinton's supporters and campaign surrogates stay on message, also credits Clinton with taking "bold progressive stands on key issues" including "criminal justice reform," "immigration reform," and "voting rights," and "equal pay." The preview of Clinton's Saturday speech echoes what a Clinton campaign official told Business Insider about the remarks on Thursday.

Clinton announced her presidential campaign in April. So far, she has been in what her team has described as a "ramp up" phase with relatively small-scale events in early primary states. Saturday's speech will be the kickoff of a new phase of Clinton's campaign. The "talking points" memo sent out by Elrod included a segment on what "comes next" for Clinton's campaign including her plan to detail more specific policies "in the coming weeks and months."

"Hillary Clinton will lay out her vision on a range of economic issues that are key to helping everyday Americans get ahead and stay ahead," the memo said.

The memo also details Clinton's plans for the days immediately after the launch including events in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"The campaign has said we expect a competitive primary, and we've taken nothing for granted since the start of the campaign. This trip is the latest example that our focus is on the early four primary states and winning the nomination," the memo said.

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The Clinton campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Business Insider about the memo.

Read the full memo below (linked to)

Meet the political operative trying to make Hillary Clinton popular // Fortune // Nina Easton – June 12, 2015

Michelle Obama is a hugely popular First Lady. But it wasn't always that way. As a candidate's wife in 2008, she stirred widespread indignation for suggesting that her husband's political rise was "the first time in my adult life I am really proud of my country."

Aides jumped to her rescue and started softening her image, granting interviews to women's magazines and steering clear of hot-button issues. But when Kristina Schake, 45, arrived in 2010 as the First Lady's communications director, she amped those efforts into overdrive. Remember the self-parodying "mom dance" with Jimmy Fallon? Schake's fingerprints were all over that one. Potato sack races across the East Room with the Late Night host (captured, of course, on Pinterest)? Schake. The supposed "undercover" shopping trip to Target? Schake again.

A master of political optics, Schake's job deputy communications director is to accomplish the same for former First Lady Hillary Clinton as the candidate tries to layer a warmer image on top of her leadership experience. Schake is also known as a stern enforcer of her boss' image, often to the consternation of many around her, including the press. But even her critics are in awe of her handiwork. On Obama's staff, Kristina was also credited with having helped recruit corporate partners to leverage thinly-resourced initiatives (think Disney DIS -0.61% and Walmart WMT -0.70% signing on to Obama's "Let's Move" campaign to fight childhood obesity.)

When Schake first approaches a mission, she does so with consideration and caution. "We both like lots of preparation, lots of reading, lots of wading around waist-deep in water before making a decision," says her big sister Kori Schake. In the case of Michelle Obama, she adds, "Kris watched her carefully, [studying] how to draw out what already exists—that warmth and caring. My sister found ways for her to express those traits in ways that would be comfortable for her in a public space."

Kristina Schake, the daughter of a Pan Am pilot, grew up traveling the world. Her sister Kori was eight years older, so Kristina and Kori were often wandering through cities by themselves. And invariably, they would land in art galleries and museums, roaming through some of the world's great collections of paintings and sculptures. "Her fascination with art is the key to why she is so great at her work," Kori Schake tells me. "She is incredibly good at seeing patterns on big canvases. She has a love for looking at art and understanding how it reflects underlying culture."

Kori—a scholar at Stanford University's Hoover Institution—is a Republican who served with George W. Bush's National Security Council and later as foreign policy and defense adviser to GOP presidential candidate John McCain. But that hasn't stopped her from being her sister's biggest fan—offering up what she considers to be the highest compliment available in national politics: "She is a ruthless political operative, and she'd be insulted if I didn't say anything else."

When the Schake girls and their brother were growing up in Sonoma, California (with two high school years in Berlin for Kristina), the politics they saw mostly consisted of their mother carrying a placard in favor of a school bond initiative. Kristina was a cheerleader and student council president before heading east to attend Johns Hopkins University.

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Back in California after college, her career centered on helping the causes of liberal celebrities, such as actor/director Rob Reiner's push for a 50-cent cigarette tax to fund early childhood education. Schake also helped Maria Shriver, then California's first lady, to expand her star-studded women's conference. She worked with Al Gore's Live Earth concerts.

And with her public affairs partner, Chad Griffin, now president of the Human Rights Campaign, Kristina Schake fought Proposition 8, the California initiative to ban same-sex marriage. In what was to become a trademark Schake touch, she was able to humanize the gay plaintiffs in a court challenge to Prop. 8 that also brought together the legal dream team of conservative Ted Olson and liberal David Bois. In addition to her passion for gay rights, Schake was involved in a 2004 campaign supporting stem-cell research.

She took on a high-glam corporate job with L'Oreal in 2013, and later took leave in Germany, where she and her uber-patient boyfriend arrived and had to turn around within days when the Clinton camp came calling.

Watch for those Schake fingerprints all over the humanize-Hillary crusade. Clinton launched her campaign in Iowa and New Hampshire traveling in a "Scooby Doo" van named for the 1960s cartoon. Aides insisted it was Clinton's idea because the van reminded her of the characters' Mystery Machine.

But I suspect another source.

Schake.

New York Times fund keeps donors anonymous **// Politico // Dylan Byers – June 12, 2015**

The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund, a charity run by members of the Times Company's board of directors and senior executives, received more than $29 million in charitable contributions over the last five years from mostly anonymous donors, tax records obtained by the On Media blog show.

The Neediest Cases Fund's 990s show a total of $29,310,945 in donations between 2010 and 2014, but the Times does not provide a list of the donors. Eileen Murphy, the Times' Vice President of Corporate Communications, said "donations from trusts and estates of amounts more than $100,000 are generally invested in an endowment and are acknowledged or disclosed publicly," while "other donations (many thousands of them) are applied to the current year's campaign and are sent directly to seven social services agencies who work with the City's neediest."

"Our policy not to publicly acknowledge donors to the Neediest Cases Fund is in keeping with the common practice of the vast majority of charities and respectful of each individual donor's expectation of privacy," Murphy said. (Other newspaper funds, including those of The Los Angeles Times and The Chicago Tribune, do provide a list of donors, though those donors are asked to decide whether or not they would like to have their names listed.)

The Times' policy meant that the company did not disclose a $100,000 donation in 2008 from Bill and Hillary's Clinton Family Foundation, recently reported by the Washington Free Beacon. The Times has said that the CFF originally sent a $100,000 check to the fund in 2007, months before the paper endorsed Hillary Clinton in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, then sent a replacement check in 2008 after the original went missing. Murphy has said that "this donation and our editorial board's endorsement of a candidate in the 2008 Democratic primary have absolutely no connection to one another."

In recent months, the Times has been a leading critic of the secrecy surrounding donations to the Clinton

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Foundation, the global philanthropic initiative that has been at the center of controversy following reports that donations to the foundation may have influenced Hillary Clinton's actions as Secretary of State. (The Clinton Foundation is separate from the CFF.)

In April, the Times editorial board called on Clinton to provide a "full and complete disclosure of all sources of money going to the foundation" in order to lay such suspicions to rest. "It's an axiom in politics that money always creates important friendships, influence and special consideration," the editorial board wrote. "Wise politicians recognize this danger and work to keep it at bay."

The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund received $5,952,238 in donations in 2010, $5,543,976 in 2011, $5,906,280 in 2012, $6,535,759 in 2013 and $5,372,692 2014, for a total of $29,310,945 over the five-year period. These donations are administered by the New York Times Company and go directly to seven social services agencies in New York, including Brooklyn Community Services, the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, and the Children's Aid Society.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'MALLEY

Martin O'Malley hires digital director **// MSNBC // Nisha Chittal – June 12, 2015**

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley's presidential campaign has made two key new hires, bringing on two veteran digital strategists into high-level roles in the campaign, a spokeswoman confirmed exclusively to msnbc.

Madeleine Perry is joining the O'Malley campaign as digital director. Perry was formerly the digital director for Connecticut Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal, where she managed the senator's digital and social media strategy. She is a veteran in the digital political space, and her résumé includes work for the Democratic National Committee and Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown's 2012 re-election campaign.

Additionally, the O'Malley campaign has also hired Ian Ferguson to serve as director of data and analytics. Ferguson served as national regional data director for the Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast for President Obama's 2012 re-election campaign, and also has worked on data and analytics for a number of private firms.

O'Malley's digital team has a battle ahead of them to generate more buzz about their candidate on social media than his Democratic opponents, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. According to data provided by Facebook, 84,000 people on Facebook generated 120,000 interactions related to O'Malley on the day of his announcement. Compare that to Clinton, who had 4.7 million people generating over 10.1 million interactions related to her on the day of her April 13 announcement — and even Bernie Sanders, who had 592,000 people generating over 1.2 million interactions related to him on the day of his April 30 announcement.

But the campaign has already been finding ways to set themselves apart in the digital space — O'Malley is one of the few 2016 candidates actively using Snapchat, the messaging platform popular with millennials and teenagers. The campaign used the app to tease O'Malley's May 30 campaign announcement in Baltimore and has continued to use it to share behind-the-scenes moments on the campaign trail with Snapchat users. It's an early indicator that the O'Malley campaign seems willing to experiment with new platforms, and Perry's hiring will likely help shape a stronger digital strategy going forward.

SANDERS

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The war on the middle class // The Boston Globe // Bernie Sanders – June 12, 2015

HERE IS THE reality of the American economy. Despite an explosion in technology and a huge increase in worker productivity, the middle class continues its 40-year decline. Today, millions of Americans are working longer hours for lower wages and median family income is almost $5,000 less than it was in 1999.

Meanwhile, the wealthiest people and the largest corporations are doing phenomenally well. Today, 99 percent of all new income is going to the top 1 percent, while the top one-tenth of 1 percent own almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent. In the last two years, the wealthiest 14 people in this country increased their wealth by $157 billion. That increase is more than is owned by the bottom 130 million Americans – combined.

Over the last 40 years, the largest corporations in this country have closed thousands of factories in the United States and outsourced millions of American jobs to low-wage countries overseas. That is why we need a new trade policy and why I am opposed to the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership now before Congress.

Large corporations and their lobbyists have created loopholes enabling corporations to avoid an estimated $100 billion a year in taxes by shifting profits to the Cayman Islands and other offshore tax havens. That is why we need real tax reform which demands that the very wealthy and large corporations start paying their fair share of taxes.

Corporate America has mounted vigorous anti-union campaigns, making it harder for workers to collectively bargain for decent wages and benefits. That is why we must make certain that workers are given a fair chance to join a union.

Meanwhile, US companies are buying back billions of dollars of their own stock in a way that manipulates stock prices, hurts the economy and, by the way, used to be against the law.

Instead of putting resources into innovative ways to build their businesses or hire new employees, corporations are pumping their record-breaking profits into buying back their own stock and increasing dividends to benefit their executives and wealthy shareholders at the expense of their workers. It is a major reason why CEOs are now making nearly 300 times what the typical worker makes. We must demand an end too stock buybacks.

We also must do a lot more to rebuild the middle class, check corporate greed, and make our economy work again for working families.

We need to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour over the next several years. With 70 percent of the economy dependent on consumers buying goods and services, the best way to expand the economy is to raise wages and create good jobs to increase the purchasing power of the American people.

We need to pass pay equity for women workers. It is not acceptable that women receive 78 cents on the dollar compared to male workers doing the same job.

We need to make certain that every worker in this country receives guaranteed paid sick leave and vacation time.

We need to encourage business models that provide employees the tools to purchase their own businesses through Employee Stock Ownership Plans and worker-owned cooperatives. Workers at employer-owned companies are more motivated, productive, and satisfied with their jobs.

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It is time to say loudly and clearly that corporate greed and the war against the American middle class must end. Enough is enough!

OTHER

Pelosi to oppose Obama on trade **// The Hill // Christina Marcos – June 12, 2015**

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) in a meandering but dramatic floor speech on Friday announced her vote against a measure providing assistance to workers displaced by trade.

“If TAA slows down the fast-track, I’m prepared to vote against TAA," Pelosi said.

Pelosi announced her opposition to the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program just before it went down in the House, with 302 lawmakers voting against it.

The failure of TAA could sink a broader trade package that includes President Obama's request for fast-track trade authority.

Pelosi's move is a rare split with Obama, who visited Capitol Hill on Friday morning and pleaded with Democrats to back the measure.

The California Democrat had been under pressure from liberal groups to oppose the trade package. While many had expected Pelosi to vote against fast-track, also known as Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), her opposition to TAA took many by surprise.

Pelosi argued that opposing TAA now would give Democrats leverage for a trade package they view as more favorable.

“We want a better deal for American workers,” Pelosi said.

A group of liberal House Democrats opposed to the trade package, including Reps. Rosa DeLauro (Conn.) and Brad Sherman (Calif.), applauded when Pelosi announced her opposition to TAA.

Richard Trumka, the president of the AFL-CIO who has been aggressively lobbying Democrats to vote against the fast-track deal, praised Pelosi in a statement just minutes after the TAA bill failed on the House floor.

"Nancy Pelosi has always fought for working families and today her leadership on the trade package vote was instrumental in the House voting against another bad trade deal," he said.

"She stood up against corporate interests and as always put first the people who are too often left out of trade agreement discussions. I applaud Rep. Pelosi’s bravery and leadership on this and look forward to working with her on good trade bills."

Trumka had previously threatened that Democratic senators who backed fast-track during a May vote will be held accountable, and warned that labor could sit out the 2016 elections over trade.

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GOP

BUSH

Longtime Bush Adviser Focuses On Jeb's Messaging **// NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 12, 2015**

In the last week, there have been numerous news accounts about reassignments and changes in the political team being put together by Jeb Bush.

But when the former Florida governor's advisers rolled out a list of staff appointments and titles this week, one name that was not on it was Chris Mottola. A veteran political advertising strategist who worked on George W. Bush's 2004 presidential re-election campaign, Mr. Mottola is said to be an old friend of Jeb Bush's longtime adviser, Mike Murphy.

Mr. Mottola's eventual role in the campaign once it begins next week is unclear, and a spokesman for Mr. Bush, Tim Miller, declined to comment. But two people familiar with Mr. Mottola's current role said that he had been advising the team on messaging and strategy related to Monday's planned campaign kickoff.

If Mr. Mottola does take an official role with the campaign, among the open questions is whether he would contribute on television ads. That role is currently expected to go to Jon Downs, of FP1 Strategies. Mr. Downs's colleague, Danny Diaz, was named campaign manager this week. Mr. Mottola did not respond to an email for comment.

Mr. Bush is not expected to actually begin airing television commercials until later in the Republican contest, but his aides confirm that he will spend money on a digital ad purchase pegged to his announcement tour next week. The purchase is aimed at building his list of both grass-roots supporters and small-dollar donors.

"We want to collect as much data and information as possible," Mr. Miller said.

Jeb Bush's Family Values **// NYT // Andrew Rosenthal – June 12, 2015**

In many campaigns, one candidate or another is asked to answer for comments he or she made in the past. The answer is usually gibberish – that was a long time ago, or I was trying to say something else. This week's entry is – not shockingly given how many times he has tripped over his own tongue lately – Jeb Bush.

The former Florida governor made some achingly stupid comments about welfare in the early '90s, when he was running (unsuccessfully) for that post for the first time, and in a subsequent book. The general strain of these comments is that women on welfare should quit whining and find a man.

"If people are mentally and physically able to work, they should be able to do so within a two-year period," he said in 1994 while running for governor. "They should be able to get their life together and find a husband, find a job, find other alternatives in terms of private charity or a combination of all three."

Mr. Bush also said: "How you get on welfare is by not having a husband in the house – let's be honest here." He

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added: “Men are not on welfare. That’s the point.”

The reason that more women were on Aid to Families with Dependent Children, a program that has changed its name since and its benefits, is relatively plain. The fathers of their children abandoned them. The program was designed for that purpose. There are not a lot of men on the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program either, Mr. Bush.

On Tuesday, there was some attention in the press to Mr. Bush’s 1995 book “Profiles in Character” (as opposed, of course, to Courage).

Here are some particularly insightful quotes:

“One of the reasons more young women are giving birth out of wedlock and more young men are walking away from their paternal obligations is that there is no longer a stigma attached to this behavior, no reason to feel shame.”

“There was a time when neighbors and communities would frown on out-of-wedlock births and when public condemnation was enough of a stimulus for one to be careful.”

So what does Mr. Bush think now? Don’t ask him, because you won’t get a real answer. On Thursday, traveling in Europe to pretend he has foreign policy experience, Mr. Bush said he was trying to focus on missing fathers and to say that single parents face a “huge challenge.”

“From the perspective of children it’s a huge challenge for single moms and it hurts the prospects, it limits the ability of children to live lives with purpose and meaning,” Bush said. Talk about profiles in character.

Jeb Bush plans a ‘hopeful, optimistic’ speech to kick off campaign // WaPo // Karen Tumulty & Ed O’Keefe – June 12, 2015

For six months, former Florida governor Jeb Bush has been running for president while demurring that he is not an official candidate. With the fan-dance phase of the campaign about to end, he offered a peek Friday at the "hopeful, optimistic" themes he plans to sound when he makes his formal announcement Monday.

Bush is spending the final days of his pseudo-candidacy on a swing through Germany, Poland and Estonia, part of an effort to burnish his credentials as a potential commander-in-chief.

“I’ve been thinking about what I’m going to say, for sure, and prior to this trip," he told reporters. "I hope that the message will be a hopeful, optimistic one. It won't dwell too much on the past. I will talk about why it is important to change directions. I will talk a little bit about, hopefully, the leadership skills that are necessary to solve problems."

He also indicated, however, that he will offer his two terms of governor of Florida as evidence of how he would run the country.

"I had the opportunity as governor of a state where a lot of things happened. Some people liked them. Some people didn’t. But there’s no question, you ask friend and foe alike, that Florida was changed by my leadership, and I think it changed for the better," Bush said. "And so I’ll talk about that. And there will be some lines of good

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humor as well, I hope."

When Bush first announced his interest last year, surprising many Republicans, he had seem poised to move to the head of the field as the favorite of the GOP establishment. But despite the advantages of his pedigree, his family's political network and fundraising capabilities, he has yet to break out in the early polls. One obstacle is the perception that he is too moderate for a party that has swung to the right.

Two days before Bush officially joins the crowded field of candidates running to be the 2016 standard-bearer, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton will hold a major rally in New York City. Asked about her candidacy, Bush demurred for now, saying that domestic political battles should not be waged by candidates when they are overseas.

"Mrs. Clinton was secretary of state for four years under President Obama. She has a record. It is a record she will have to defend, and I believe that this is not an appropriate place to be talking about American politics," he said. "There will be ample chances to show the differences between myself and Hillary."

One challenge for Bush on that score will be navigating around his own last name, and the memories it invokes of the foreign policies of the last two Republican presidents, who happened to be his brother and father.

As he traveled through Europe this week, Bush often invoked the deft, widely admired manner in which the 41st president, George H.W. Bush, operated as the Cold War ended. He has not mentioned the more unpopular, unilateralist approach of his brother, George W. Bush, who was the 43rd president.

His itinerary reinforced those themes. On Friday, he was briefed by officials at the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence here, which functions as a sort of think tank for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and is run by some of the member nations of that Western alliance. He also met with Estonian Foreign Minister Keit Pentus- Rosimannus, and was scheduled to dine with Estonian President Toomas Ilves at the presidential palace.

"If you think about it in terms of history, my dad’s managing of the cooperation with great leaders of his time, managing the fall of the Soviet Union, it has been talked about at every stop that we’ve made," Bush said.

He said that when he was in Poland on Wednesday and Thursday, he was often reminded of the 1987 speech that his father gave in Krakow, which the elder Bush insisted be carried uncensored on national television there.

"It was a spark," Jeb Bush said. "It was something that was so breathtaking for Poles who could never believe anything that they saw on television. Think about how much change has taken place in these years. It’s a good reminder that we're a lot freer now than we were, and we need to protect that freedom. And that’s why the United States needs to be engaged."

With Bush in Europe, aides at his campaign headquarters in Miami have spent the past few days putting the finishing touches on what's promised to be a dramatic and social media-driven launch.

Bush will launch his bid Monday afternoon at Miami Dade College with an announcement speech expected to last about 15 minutes. His remarks will touch on three general themes, according to aides familiar with the plans.

First, Bush will embrace the atmospherics of the campus, part of a public university system with more than 10 locations across South Florida that boasts the nation's largest Hispanic student body. Bush has spoken at the

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college several times, and his brother, George W. Bush, delivered a commencement address there in 2007. Aides said Bush considers the venue an ideal place to launch a campaign expected to make aggressive overtures to the country's expanding Latino voting population and other groups less prone to support GOP candidates.

Bush also plans to cast himself as a proven "fix it" agent, who revamped Florida's economy and government over eight years while enacting a conservative governing agenda. The defense of his record will serve as a direct contrast with the four presidential candidates serving in Congress: Sens. Ted Cruz (Tex.), Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.), Rand Paul (Ky.) and Marco Rubio (Fla.).

Over the course of his early travels, Bush has often used the phrase "Right to Rise" — a moniker that is also the name of his leadership PAC and a super PAC poised to support his candidacy. Bush and his campaign are expected to provide a fuller definition of the phrase in the coming days, starting with testimonials from people who say they were helped by his work as governor or as an education reform advocate in the years since.

Once Bush launches his campaign, he's planning a whirlwind, three-day tour of New Hampshire, Iowa and South Carolina, with several public events and private meetings scheduled. Aides said that Bush is likely to continue the format of the public appearances he's held during his exploratory phase, which generally include a brief opening speech followed by roughly 45 minutes of questions from attendees.

On Friday, he also got an early boost of support from several senior Florida Republicans — a blow to Rubio, another popular statewide elected official.

Among those pledging to back Bush are Pamela Bondi, the state attorney general; Jeff Atwater, the state's chief financial officer; and Adam Putnam, the state agriculture commissioner. Eleven of Florida's 17 Republican congressmen are also backing him, including Miami's three Cuban American lawmakers: Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Mario Diaz-Balart and Carlos Curbelo. Several others, including Reps. Dennis Ross and Gus Bilirakis, have long ties to Bush, dating back to before he won the governor's office in 1998.

Jeb Bush Faulted Over Use of Florida Tax Money **// WSJ // Beth Reinhard – June 12, 2015**

The Republican governors who are weighing presidential campaigns often talk about the jobs they have created in their states, drawing a contrast to potential rivals who serve in a gridlocked Congress.

But one facet of the economic plans adopted by many GOP governors is coming under criticism from conservatives within the party—their use of taxpayer money to encourage businesses to expand or relocate across state lines.

Tax incentives and financial awards to businesses are increasingly out of favor in a party that sees corporate subsidies and the Export-Import Bank, which helps support U.S. exports, as examples of "crony capitalism."

The latest example of the rising opposition comes from the Club for Growth, a free-market advocacy group, which is criticizing former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for overseeing state spending increases that included $310 million to lure a biomedical research institute to Florida.

The Club's appraisal of Mr. Bush's economic record, reviewed by The Wall Street Journal ahead of its release, says the effort to spur the biotech industry didn't generate as many jobs as promised.

"We want to frame what we think the right agenda should be for the Republican nominee, and when we see a

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candidate whose record shows they have used tax dollars to pick winner and losers, we are going to point it out as bad policy," said David McIntosh, the Club for Growth president and a former Indiana congressman.

"What was a standard approach for Republican governors for a while, we're now seeing a growing movement against," he said.

A spokesman for Mr. Bush, Tim Miller, said the state's investment in research institutes "diversified the economy, created high-wage jobs and contributed to significant scientific research advances."

At least three other active or likely candidates—Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry—are expected to face similar criticism from the Club for using tax dollars to promote economic development.

In 2012, the libertarian Cato Institute criticized Mr. Walker for tax breaks intended to draw business to the state, which the group said "clutter the tax code." In Texas, the Legislature has moved to curtail incentive programs touted by Mr. Perry.

The Club for Growth's report on Mr. Bush praises the former two-term governor as an aggressive tax cutter who vetoed $2 billion in spending and pioneered a Medicaid privatization program.

But it criticizes Mr. Bush for a $310 million package to persuade California-based Scripps Research Institute to build a research center in Palm Beach County. One state economic analysis said the deal could lead to 50,000 new jobs, but the Club's analysis says "the expansion of the biotech industry never materialized."

Mr. Miller, the Bush spokesman, said the Scripps money came from a temporary increase in the federal matching funds for Medicaid.

"Rather than increasing entitlement spending, Gov. Bush made a strategic one-time investment in a sector that is integral to economic growth," Mr. Miller said. He said 1.3 million jobs were created while Mr. Bush was governor.

Mr. Walker has defended state incentives to the Kohl's department store chain and is currently lobbying state and local lawmakers for a plan to spend $250 million in public money for an arena for Milwaukee's pro basketball team.

Mr. Christie awarded more than $5 billion in tax incentives since he took office in 2010, at a rate outpacing his Democratic predecessors. Critics have said that too many of the awards have gone to existing New Jersey companies moving within the state, rather than attracting new businesses. Mr. Christie's administration has said the incentives are essential to keeping companies in the high-cost state.

The Club, which is known for running attack ads against centrist Republicans, isn't planning to endorse a candidate in the GOP presidential primary. However, Mr. McIntosh said the group may run negative ads against Republican candidates who have raised taxes, and it already aired one such spot about former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Along with corporate subsidies by state governments, the Export-Import Bank has become a top target of the Club for Growth. It is running ads against Ex-Im supporters in Congress noting that several GOP presidential candidates oppose the federal agency.

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Here's Jeb Bush Talking In 1995 About Restoring Shame To Society // Buzzfeed // Andrew Kaczynski & Megan Apper – June 12, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's push to restore shame to society appears to have been a part of his regular stump speech as head of the Foundation for Florida's Future, an organization he founded to stay publicly active during the time between his first, failed run for governor and his second successful run.

In a chapter "The Restoration of Shame" of his 1995 book, Profiles in Character Bush bemoaned the loss of the stigmatization of having children outside marriage and the need to restore shame to society for having kids out of wedlock, taking public assistance, and in schools. He fondly cited the use of corporal punishment in one school district to institute shame noting the school district had never had a school shooting.

In an October 1995 speech on public policy in Georgia, Bush made similar remarks on the need to restore shame to society. Bush singled out public assistance and the lack of the "shotgun wedding" as key areas where there was less shame than the 1960s.

"First, we need to restore shame," Bush said. "There is no shameful behavior anymore in America. You can do just about anything you want to do, and no one minds. In fact, we are so numbed by what's happened around us that we've turned it off.

Bush described a conversation about a young student killing a each shrugged off by a bystander as an ordinary event.

"As I've described, my disgust and sadness for a teacher getting killed by a 10 year old, how troubling that is — I was in an elevator and the person next to me kind of shrugged it off and said, 'Well, it happens all the time.' And I can understand how people respond to this, because, if you don't, you can go crazy. If you saw the things that are going on it would be very difficult to do it. So the natural response is to say, 'Well, that's just the way it is.' I don't think so."

Bush said the "sense of shame" needs to be restored to society so certain attitudes become perverse in your family, neighborhood, and community.

"I believe that we need to restore a sense of shame, so that certain behavior makes you blush. Certain behavior becomes such that you don't accept it. And little by little perhaps that type of attitude becomes perverse not just in your family, but in your neighborhood, and perhaps in your community. And over time begin to restore a sense of shame for behavior that is outrageous."

Bush said such shame existed in the 1960s saying in that decade many people declined public assistance and adoption was a more accepted option for newly born children than abortion.

"It is the type of shame that existed for example in the 1960s, when half of the people who were qualified to accept public assistance didn't take it because they thought it was shameful. It's the type of activity that made adoption a much better option than bringing a child to term without the ability to take care of that child or abortion. It's sense of shame that created the shotgun wedding. Does anybody hear about the shotgun wedding anymore? It's the sense that used to exist about people who were very talented or intelligent cheating in school. It's the sense we don't have that makes our culture so debased and so appreciated over time."

On Thursday, Bush spoke about the book with reporters during his European trip.

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“As it relates to the book, the book was written in 1995,” he said. “My views have evolved over time, but my views about the importance of dads being involved in the lives of their children hasn’t changed at all. In fact, since 1995, if you look at the — I spoke in the book about cultural indicators — the country has moved in the wrong direction, the 40-plus percent out-of-wedlock birth rate and you think about this from the perspective of children, it puts a huge, it’s a huge challenge for single moms to raise children in the world that we’re in today. And it hurts the prospects, it limits the possibilities of young people being able to lives of purpose and meaning.”

How a silent FEC lets Jeb Bush play by his own fundraising rules **// CNN // Karl Sandstorm – June 12, 2015**

No one would dispute that competitors, regardless of their sport, are entitled to know what the rules are. Basic notions of fair play require that the rules be known and enforced even-handedly. Yet when it comes to elections, there appears to be no rule book, and the umpires seem reluctant to make any politically tough calls.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's long-standing claim of non-candidacy -- expected to finally end in coming days -- has highlighted the complete inattention to basic fairness in campaign financing by the very regulatory agency responsible for its oversight.

For months now, Bush has avoided actually saying he is a candidate, while fully acting as if he is one. Bush's campaign claims he is not breaking any rules by raising unlimited funds -- tens of millions of dollars -- from individuals, corporations and trade groups that would be illegal and subject to possible criminal prosecution if he indeed were a candidate. Federal law prohibits corporations, trade groups and labor unions from contributing directly to candidates, and limits an individual's donations to $2,700 per candidate in an election.

Is the Bush "non-campaign" evidence that the law can be easily evaded?

Whether the answer is yes or no, someone needs to make the call. The key decision maker in this case is the Federal Election Commission, a six-member panel (three Republicans and three Democrats) that has -- on this issue and on a host of others -- failed in its most basic responsibility to tell the public what the law is. Just a few recent examples demonstrate the agency's failure to make timely critical decisions.

For one, federal law prohibits foreign nationals from making contributions and expenditures in any election. Does this broad prohibition cover money spent to influence the outcome of a ballot measure? Or can a foreign government spend unlimited sums seeking to influence a state or local referendum? Commission regulations simply do not provide an answer.

There was however, a complaint on which the Commission deadlocked in April. The staff's legal analysis in that case suggests that foreign nationals and governments may spend unlimited funds to influence state and local ballot measures. If the Commission indeed believes that this spending is lawful, it should act and propose a rule allowing foreign governments and corporations to influence ballot measures rather than not making a call at all, which is what it chose to do. The public and Congress would then have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposal as well.

Another example is the provision of federal election law that prohibits government contractors from making contributions in federal elections. Can that law be easily circumvented by having the parent company of a government contractor make the contribution? Or, if the parent is the government contractor, could a wholly-owned subsidiary company make the contribution?

Despite recent enforcement matters that have raised these questions, the Commission has failed to produce a regulation that provides an answer. This leaves open the possibility that major federal contractors may find an easy -- and profitable -- avenue around the prohibition.

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A last example of a major question of federal election law that the Commission is leaving unanswered is whether the dozens of organizations that are spending tens of millions of dollars to influence our federal elections must disclose their donors to the public. The Commission has provided little useful guidance.

As a consequence, the public is being left in the dark not only about hundreds of millions of dollars that will be spent in the coming year to influence who will be our next President, but also about whether the law allows these vast sums of money to go unreported. Again, whatever the answer may be, it should not be a matter of private thinking among the Commissioners. The public is entitled to know the rules and expect that they will be enforced.

It should come then as no surprise that a "non-candidate" such as former Gov. Bush believes the continuing silence of the umpires is license to play ball by his own rules. As the players take the field for next year's elections, they should all have the same rule book and have confidence that the Commission will ignore the booing and make the tough calls. If you get paid to be an umpire, you need to do your job.

Bush book from 1995 becomes 2016 issue // USA Today // David Jackson – June 12, 2015

A book on character co-written by Jeb Bush in 1995 had been all but forgotten — until he decided to explore a White House bid in 2016.

Now Democrats are spotlighting passages of the book Profiles in Character in which Bush called for “the restoration of shame” to help combat out-of-wedlock births, youth crime and destructive behavior in general.

“It seems that any life decision that diverges from Jeb Bush’s carefully curated life is deserving of shame,” says a Medium post by Lauren Dillon, research director for the Democratic National Committee. “Anyone who is struggling to make the best of a difficult situation should be ridiculed.”

Asked about the book during this week’s trip to Europe, Bush said many of his views have “evolved” since its publication in 1995, “but my views about the importance of dads being involved in the lives of children hasn’t changed at all.”

Most of the criticism surrounds the comments about single motherhood and parenting.

The Bush book says that “one of the reasons more young women are giving birth out-of-wedlock” is that “there is no longer a stigma attached to this behavior.”

Bush told reporters that his ire is not directed at women, but at men who abandon their responsibilities as fathers.

The nation continues to move in “the wrong direction” on the out-of-wedlock birth rate, Bush said, and “it’s a huge challenge for single moms to raise children in the world that we’re in today … It hurts the prospects, it limits the possibilities of young people being able to live lives of purpose and meaning.”

Bush and aides said he tried to combat these challenges as governor of Florida by stepping up enforcement of child support payments and increasing punishments for domestic violence.

With the women’s vote a crucial part of the 2016, look for Democrats and perhaps other critics to cite passages from Bush’s 1995 book on character.

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Wrote Dillon of the DNC: “So now that we’ve had a lesson in Jeb Bush’s “character,” let’s not forget how he really feels about you, your family, and your friends when he launches his campaign to be our next President.”

Jeb Bush to women on welfare in 1994: 'Get a husband' **// CNN // Eric Bradner – June 12, 2015**

Jeb Bush insisted during his unsuccessful first run for the Florida governor's office that an alternative to welfare for women is to "find a husband."

The Republican 2016 presidential contender's comments came in the heat of a 1994 campaign that has come back to haunt him -- particularly as he seeks to run an inclusive campaign aimed at broadening the GOP's appeal.

That year, Bush, with a more strident style and in a different era in the debate over welfare reform, saw a controversial remark he made in July seized on by reporters and by his opponent. Bush said that marriage is one of three options for women to get off welfare assistance.

"If people are mentally and physically able to work, they should be able to do so within a two-year period. They should be able to get their life together and find a husband, find a job, find other alternatives in terms of private charity or a combination of all three," Bush said.

Bush's comments were well-publicized at the time, and have occasionally popped up in coverage of his presidential campaign since then. But they've taken on new importance in the wake of reports this week of similarly controversial social commentary in a 1995 book.

Bush sought to explain his book's commentary that single parents face less public shaming during a press conference in Europe on Thursday, saying he meant to focus on missing fathers and that children born to single parents face "huge challenges."

"From the perspective of children it's a huge challenge for single moms and it hurts the prospects, it limits the ability of children to live lives with purpose and meaning," Bush said.

In 1994, when Republican primary opponent Jim Smith hit Bush for those comments in a television commercial, Bush didn't back away in a September news conference.

"How you get on welfare is by not having a husband in the house -- let's be honest here," he said.

"Men are not on welfare, that's the point," Bush said. "That's the point -- men are not on AFDC."

It was a reference to Aid to Families with Dependent Children, a federal welfare program that was ended in 1996 and replaced by the more restrictive program Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Bush's refusal at the time to back away from his comments were interpreted by Florida media as a signal he expected his stance to assist him in the GOP primary.

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Bush's comment that men don't receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits wasn't quite right, a state Health and Rehabilitative Services Department official told The Palm Beach Post at the time.

A "small percentage" of the program's support goes to men, the official said, and about 5,000 of the families that received benefits were headed by a male and a female, compared to 250,000 families total collecting benefits.

Bush's social commentary on marriage from the 1990s has caused his campaign headaches in recent days.

An excerpt from his 1995 book "Profiles in Character" was published in news reports Tuesday. In it, Bush asserted that out-of-wedlock births were caused by single parents no longer being shamed and ridiculed.

"One of the reasons more young women are giving birth out of wedlock and more young men are walking away from their paternal obligations is that there is no longer a stigma attached to this behavior, no reason to feel shame," he wrote. "Many of these young women and young men look around and see their friends engaged in the same irresponsible conduct. Their parents and neighbors have become ineffective at attaching some sense of ridicule to this behavior. There was a time when neighbors and communities would frown on out-of-wedlock births and when public condemnation was enough of a stimulus for one to be careful."

In another section, Bush wrote that a lack of a father is a good indication of who will ultimately contribute to "social ills" and have children out of wedlock in the future.

"For young girls, there is a correlate effect of fatherlessness that can be measured by sexual activity and the rate of out-of-wedlock childbearing. Studies have shown that girls who grow up without fathers run a greater risk not only of adolescent childbearing but of divorce as well," he wrote.

Jeb Bush's 2016 launch strategy: Be the tortoise, not the hare **// CNN // Dana Bash – June 12, 2015**

If the 2016 presidential campaign was boiled down to a fable, Jeb Bush's would be the one about the tortoise and the hare, and he would be the tortoise -- slow, steady and ultimately, the winner.

In conversations with multiple Bush advisers and confidantes in the run up to his official White House launch Monday, a singular theme emerges from inside his close-knit world: Patience.

Team Bush seems to say it as much to remind themselves, as they do the pundit and donor classes. They know patience is not an easy watch-word when today's politics moves at warp speed.

"It doesn't happen in a day," said Al Cardenas, Bush's long time friend who will serve as a senior adviser on his presidential campaign.

Perhaps pleading for patience is a sign that Bush is too old school to succeed in this insta-world of immediate gratification and results. Or, as his advisers insist, it's proof that he's the adult in the room who can see beyond the here and the now -- not just for his own fate, but for the country.

"We all cover this kind of in the here and now, and who's winning and who's losing is important, and I respect that," Bush told reporters in Germany this week.

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"But if you have a strategy, and you think about it over the long haul, is the better approach at least for me," he said.

Regardless, being the tortoise not the hare reveals a reality inside Bush world as he prepares to make his candidacy official: he's not going to run away with a quick and easy path to the Republican presidential nomination. Not even close.

His failure to pull ahead in the polls, much less scare any of his more than dozen potential competitors away from running makes that fact painfully obvious.

And then, there's the calendar. Bush aides are not playing the typical lowering expectations game when warning they might not win in early contest states. It's not being coy -- it's a real challenge.

The first caucus state of Iowa is more obvious fertile ground for a Midwestern governor, like Scott Walker, or another candidate running as a social conservative who can also appeal to the desire for an outsider.

Advisers say they see their best first shot at winning in New Hampshire, but the Bush family -- both George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush - had mixed results in that primary over the years.

They feel their best bet is on the long game, gobbling up delegates during big multi-state contest days later in 2016.

The only way to test that premise is to be prepared to settle in for the long haul with money and manpower -- which Bush advisers say they have done.

"Since Eisenhower, every single nominee that the party has come up with is the nominee who has had the best resources and the best organization and so far that's Jeb Bush," Cardenas said.

"I consider Jeb Bush the favorite to win this thing just because we hit every mark that every other successful nominee has hit, and in a more significant way than any other candidate," he added.

To bolster that -- especially the fundraising part of the equation -- not only will the Bush team release record money totals for his Super Pac and pac in the coming weeks -- they are also working to raise big dollars for his actual presidential campaign as soon as it starts Monday-- which is much harder to do because of limits.

Bush's finance director has already asked bundlers -- donors who help coordinate and raise money from other donors -- to raise $27,000 between Monday and the end of the month.

Bush advisers say to expect an announcement speech Monday that reflects the only kind of campaign he said he would run when launching his exploratory phase in December, and that is an optimistic one.

Those close to the former Florida Governor say he has made clear internally that he will play hardball politics when necessary, but he won't set a scare tactic tone from the stump, even though he admits it may make it easier to get some GOP votes.

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"I kind of know what my job is, it's to develop a message that's hopeful and optimistic about the future of the country, to develop ideas that will give people a sense that they can lift up, and to tell them about my leadership skills to make it so," Bush told reporters here in Europe.

Bush aides privately admit that, after being out of politics and public office for 9 years, it has taken some time for him to shake off the rust. Several days of stumbles last month on what should have been a well-rehearsed answer on the Iraq war his brother started, was the starkest example.

But getting polished again politically has been a work in progress in less extreme ways as well -- like finding his own patience with voters in town hall settings asking him off the wall questions - the kind candidates who slog through Iowa and New Hampshire either become so used to it helps them succeed, or disdain so much it comes through and makes it hard to connect.

Still, Bush confidantes insist many of those "what are they talking about" moments on the trail are actually an intellectual rush for Bush, a self-described policy wonk who likes a good chance to spar about ideas.

On this five-day trip to Europe, Bush -- who is known for flashes of impatience and being stubborn, has shown he is getting more practiced at the happy warrior thing.

Through three countries in five days, meetings with world leaders and interactions with the American press traveling with him, he has been staying on message -- seeming to enjoy not only private discussions, but also playing tourist (something his brother, George W. Bush, famously had little patience for and did not do much when traveling as president).

Inside his Florida headquarters, they know one of the biggest challenges Jeb Bush still faces is his last name. Sources admit one of his biggest hurdles will be making voters see him as Jeb, not just another Bush.

"It's going to take a while for voters to get beyond the Bush identity to a Jeb identity," admits Cardenas, not just a close friend of Jeb's, but the entire Bush clan.

In fact, Bush advisers say he hasn't been able to pull ahead of the pack because of his name, not despite of it.

They insist comparisons to George W. Bush in 2000, when he was able to clear the field by building a big war chest and locking up talented staff early, are unfair -- because the Bush name was a plus back then. At that time there was a bit of GOP nostalgia for his father, George H. W. Bush, who was defeated by Bill Clinton in 1992.

Now, in the 2016 election cycle, the Bush name for many Republicans means big spending and government bailouts. Nevermind that it is the ultimate establishment dynasty -- at a time when even unaffiliated GOP strategists say there is a clear yearning for an outsider.

What staff shakeup?

Bush confidantes both inside and outside the campaign insist the buzz about internal turmoil and squabbling -- prompted largely by his sudden decision to replace his campaign manager and move him into a senior adviser role -- is way overblown.

They argue that what Bush said publicly isn't spin, it's actually true -- now that as he got to know these men and what their strengths are, he realized they would be better off moved around.

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But that does speak to another Bush challenge unique among most other top tier candidates. Despite being an established political presence, he has been out of the game for nearly a decade and is forming a campaign team from scratch.

Unlike most of his competitors who are currently in office and have political operatives and policy aides around they know and feel comfortable with, Bush only has a small but fiercely loyal kitchen cabinet led by long time aide Sally Bradshaw, and includes GOP consultant Mike Murphy, who will run Bush's Super Pac, which means, by law, as of Monday the two will not be able to talk political strategy.

A challenge for Bush going forward is expanding his circle and extending trust and confidence in new people.

Al Cardenas is in that small circle of old friends. He says he has wanted Bush to run president for years, and that Monday will be emotional for him, and for Jeb Bush himself.

"He's spent a lot of time thinking about this -- a good chunk of 2014. -- He's been traveling the country and making sure if he did this he could do it in a positive way and that he could find a structure where his message can get across, and I believe he's confident he has done that and can do that," Cardenas said.

RUBIO

Marco Rubio is now at the top of the Republican presidential field // WaPo // Chris Cillizza and Aaron Blake – June 12, 2015

Look at any national poll on the 2016 Republican presidential race and you will see somewhere between three and five candidates clumped at the "top" of the field — all winning somewhere between 9 and 14 percent. It's fair, given that clumping, to conclude that the race lacks a front-runner.

But there's a difference between a race without a clear front-runner and a race in which there's no discernible momentum among the top tier of candidates. And what we currently have is the latter, not the former.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio is the candidate trending upward in that top pack. It's a trajectory he's been on since he announced his candidacy almost two months ago. Rubio's charisma, personal story and youth have combined to make him the "it" candidate for the GOP at the moment.

Rubio has also been helped by the slippage of his two main rivals for the nomination: Jeb Bush and Scott Walker. Bush weathered a very difficult last week — shaking up a campaign that he hasn't even announced yet amid faltering poll numbers and whispers that his fundraising might fall short of its goals for the first six months of the year. Walker has largely stayed out of the glare of the national media over the past six weeks or so, but his brief foray on the big stage earlier this year — think "I don't know" if President Obama is a Christian — weren't exactly confidence-inspiring for Republicans looking to see if he is ready to take the helm.

Beyond that top three, most unaligned Republican strategists we talk to — and there aren't many since roughly 200 people are running for the GOP nomination — see a significant drop-off in the likelihood of any of the remaining candidates winning the nomination. The most common name we hear as an alternative to the Big Three is Ohio Gov. John Kasich. And it's possible, but he remains in the very early stages of a candidacy (he's not announced yet) so we'll play a bit of wait-and-see for him.

Add it all up and you get Rubio, the youngest member of this massive GOP field, as a first among equals. For now.

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Below are the 10 candidates seen as having the best chance of winding up as the nominee. The rankings are determined by polling, conversations with various Republican strategists and a pinch of our own sense of things.

To the line!

10. Bobby Jindal: The governor of Louisiana is running: That we (almost) know for sure. The formal announcement is set for June 24 in downtown New Orleans. But Jindal's standing is his home state is dismal, and there's very little excitement about him in national GOP circles. His best hope is to hang around the race long enough that voters tire of a lot of their other options. (Previous ranking: 9)

9. Rick Perry: The former Texas governor seems genuinely excited about his second run for president. He even ran onstage at an event in Iowa last weekend. It's somewhat surprising for a guy who once didn't really seem that interested in running for president and then, when he did run in 2012, ran a disastrous campaign. But Perry is the longtime governor of a huge state. And American politics loves a reclamation project, right? (Previous ranking: 10)

8. Chris Christie: Christie and his team insist they are taking the long view on 2016. No, he isn't where they want him to be today, but regular people still aren't paying any attention and won't be for some time. Christie got some good news this week when the New Jersey state Supreme Court affirmed the legality of his cuts to the state's public employee pension fund. He's also staffing up. (Previous ranking: 8)

7. Mike Huckabee: The former Arkansas governor and 2008 Iowa caucus winner keeps litigating the culture wars — something the larger GOP probably doesn't want but still speaks to a key audience in the party, particularly in Iowa and South Carolina. Huckabee is the top claimant to the social conservative mantle in the field, and he's broadly popular in the larger GOP, but we're still waiting for him to show he's running the caliber of campaign that can actually win the nomination — in large part the fundraising aspect. (Previous ranking: 4)

6. Rand Paul: The conventional wisdom among the GOP smart set about the Kentucky senator has changed completely since the start of 2015. At that time, there was a sense that Paul had a real chance at being the nominee based on his strong base among libertarian-leaning Republicans and his appeal to other, less-vocal GOP constituencies. But the heightened concern within the Republican rank and file about national security and terrorism badly complicates Paul's noninterventionist views. Even if Paul wins every libertarian vote in the primary, if he can't expand beyond that bloc, it won't be nearly enough. (Previous ranking: 5)

5. John Kasich: Nobody benefits from Bush's stumbles as much as the Ohio governor. Both are pretty clearly running for GOP establishment support, and Kasich recently suggested his window is larger if Bush doesn't run strong. That's totally accurate. But we also have yet to see Kasich really debut on the national scene. And his 2000 presidential campaign was hardly a tour de force, ending shortly after it began. He moves up because it looks like he's going to run and Bush looks weakened. (Previous ranking: 7)

4. Ted Cruz: Here's what the Texas senator has going for him: (1) unquestioned dominance in the tea party lane of the primary, (2) deeply committed supporters and (3) a group of well-funded super PACs backing him. In a very crowded field, that likely means Cruz will be able to stick around for a very long time. But if he ever makes it into a one-on-one fight with any of the people rated higher than him here (Nos. 1-3), it's still very hard to see him winning that battle. (Previous ranking: 6)

3. Scott Walker: Walker, as we mentioned above, has kept a low profile these last few months. What Walker does have is momentum in Iowa where he and his team are — smartly — lavishing time and money. Iowa is a state that Walker probably has to win given that neither New Hampshire nor South Carolina seems like a place where he is a natural fit. At the moment, he's probably the favorite to do just that. (Previous ranking: 3)

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2. Jeb Bush: Bush's struggles mask the fact that he's still very likely to be the best-funded candidate in the field, and he's broadly liked within the GOP establishment. Put plainly: Republican power brokers aren't going to desert him until it's clear that his goose is cooked (or close to it). And there is so, so much time left in the primary. At this time in 2008, after all, we were talking about whether John McCain was done for. (Previous ranking: 1)

1. Marco Rubio: See above. (Previous ranking: 2)

Who's Laughing Now? Marco Rubio Mocks New York Times Article on His Finances // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – June 12, 2015

Florida Senator Marco Rubio joked with Republican bigwigs Friday about a recent New York Times article about his past financial struggles, which mentioned that he once spent $80,000 dollars on a "luxury speedboat."

Rubio has disputed that description and he turned it into a joke into before a Utah gathering hosted by Mitt Romney. "My wife and I have been blessed," Rubio deadpanned. "We've even been able to buy a luxury speedboat, cleverly disguised as a family fishing boat." The wisecrack won applause and laughter from the crowd.

"The latest attack by the New York Times and others," Rubio contended, "is that I'm not rich enough to be president."

That story—along with another article the Times ran several days earlier about traffic tickets accrued by Rubio and his wife—has been a boon to the senator's presidential bid, people close to him say. His campaign has been fundraising off the news pieces, and he even gained some sympathy from comedian Jon Stewart.

In Utah, the Floridian took a swipe at Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton over her own finances: "I do not have a family foundation that has raised $2 billion, some of it from foreign entities."

In a half-hour speech speech followed by a question-and-answer session, Rubio spoke of everything from the economy and domestic politics to foreign policy. He called Vladimir Putin "evil." And in a signature line, the 44-year-old lawmaker lamented that the United States remains "plagued by leaders who are trapped in the past."

The son of Cuban immigrants also reiterated his position to reform immigration sequentially, starting with tougher enforcement and bringing illegal immigration "under control." More broadly, he said his party cannot be seen as antagonistic toward Hispanics when asked about immigration and the Latino vote.

"When you think someone doesn't care about people like you it's hard to listen to anything else they're saying," he said. "So we have to confront that."

Rubio said Republicans should have a plan for the millions of Americans—including in his home state of Florida—who might lose health insurance subsidies if the Supreme Court invalidates that portion of President Barack Obama's signature health care law later this month. "I'm not sure we've arrived at a consensus yet," he said, stopping short of endorsing specific proposals for those affected. Republican leaders insist they're prepared to act.

A Senate colleague and presidential rival, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, talking to reporters at the Utah event, made a similar point. "We have an obligation as a party to not just complain but to work with the president

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if he'll work with us," Graham said. "What do you do with people with subsidies?

"I want to make sure there's a meaningful transition here so they're not left out in the cold," he added.

Everybody is flipping out over The New York Times' 'attacks' on Marco Rubio // Business Insider // Colin Campbell – June 12, 2015

The New York Times' scrutiny of Sen. Marco Rubio's (R-Florida) past is stirring up controversy on the presidential campaign trail.

Fox News and the conservative-leaning media have been covering the paper's stories on Rubio relentlessly. Other GOP presidential candidates have been pressed to weigh in. And Rubio himself appears to be milking the issue for all its worth.

Many of these conservatives criticized The Times for allegedly being too aggressive in two recent stories examining Rubio's record. One report last week revealed the traffic violations he and his wife received. Earlier this week, the other report documented his risky personal-finance decisions, including the purchase of three homes and an $80,000 boat while reportedly not having enough cash to balance the liabilities.

Fox's Sean Hannity devoted two segments of his Thursday night show to skewering the articles — with the full participation of Rubio's presidential campaign.

"We take these attacks very seriously — as we need to. Clearly, The New York Times has an agenda here," Rubio's communications director, Alex Conant, declared on the show.

Conant also fired off a press release on Tuesday slamming the "elitist" newspaper and arguing that the senator's finances are actually quite sound.

Hannity's other segment on the topic featured Robin Leach, the former host of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous," doing a dramatic reading of the second Times article in order to mock the idea that Rubio lives a luxurious life.

Of course, Republicans slamming The Times is nothing new. Its left-leaning editorial board and headquarters in heavily Democratic New York City have long made it a favorite target for GOP presidential candidates, some of whom have questionably claimed they don't even read the prominent paper.

However, the backlash over the Rubio articles has been notably intense. Former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania), a rival presidential candidate, called the stories "petty." Storms of critics have blasted the newspaper on social media and right-leaning news outlets have run story after story questioning the reporting. Even "The Daily Show" host Jon Stewart, who leans left, torched the reports this week.

As many observers have noted, all the attention benefits Rubio's White House ambitions by rallying conservatives around his cause and advertising his relatively relatable background.

Rubio's campaign clearly agrees. His team has released multiple fundraising messages about The Times' stories and claimed earlier this week that they raised $100,000 in five days because of the reports. Two of the fundraising emails featured "#RubioCrimeSpree" in their subject lines in order to make fun of Rubio's four traffic

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violations since 1997.

Rubio himself signed an email Friday morning continuing to raise money off The Times.

"Like millions of Americans, I had to take out student loans to pay for college and law school, and only paid them off recently. But the biggest debt I have is to America," he wrote. "Look, I know these attacks are part of running for president, but the fact remains that we can't rely on the media to tell our campaign's story. And that's why I need your help."

For its part, The Times' Washington bureau chief, Carolyn Ryan, previously defended the paper's scrutiny of Rubio as part of how it approaches all presidential candidates.

"The vote for president is the most personal vote that Americans cast," she told The Washington Post after the traffic-ticket story. "Voters want to know about these candidates — not just as policy-makers, but as people. It is not at all unusual or unexpected for us to scrutinize candidates' backgrounds and their lives through public records."

Robin Leach's segment on Hannity's show can be viewed below:

PAUL

Rand Paul doesn't run with the herd **// Politico // Kyle Cheney – June 12, 2015**

It's practically a campaign-trail cliché: An Iowa interest group or deep-pocketed donor demands an audience of presidential contenders, and the candidates dutifully answer the call, flocking to assorted pig roasts or single-issue summits to test their messages and shake hands with potential supporters.

But not Rand Paul.

The Kentucky Republican was noticeably absent from last week's so-called Roast and Ride, a rollicking get-together hosted by Paul's colleague, Sen. Joni Ernst, in Iowa. He turned down an invitation to former Gov. Mitt Romney's gathering of presidential candidates in Utah this weekend in favor of a swing through Southern California. He skipped last month's Southern Republican Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City (and his PATRIOT Act filibuster kept several other senators from attending as well). Earlier this year, he also took a pass on a prominent Iowa agriculture summit and a gathering of White House wannabes hosted by Iowa Rep. Steve King.

While Paul's rivals for the Republican nomination have ricocheted from one high-profile Iowa gathering to the next, Paul's been mounting a quieter series of solo events, skipping the impersonal cattle calls to burnish his image as a man untethered from conventional campaigning.

To his critics, it's a risky strategy that could turn off activists he'll need in January.

"Sen. Paul needs to do something his dad never could, and that's grow his base of support," said Tim Albrecht, a Republican strategist and former aide to Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, referencing former Texas Rep. Ron Paul's three presidential bids. "Ignoring traditional Republicans is not a particularly effective tactic in Iowa, and if he hopes to be successful here, he's got to engage the grass roots beyond his father's loyal sycophants."

But Paul's campaign is emphatic: Paul's not against cattle calls — he attended New Hampshire's First in the Nation Summit in April and is still considering attending the Family Leader's July 18 summit in Iowa — but the less he

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shares a stage with his rivals, the more it bolsters his image as an atypical Republican who's ready to engage segments of the GOP electorate that have long been overlooked.

"While some candidates are limited to group-style events, Sen. Paul is able to engage communities outside of traditional Republican comfort zones," said campaign spokesman Sergio Gor. "He's in early states on a weekly basis, but he's also working on expanding the GOP by showing up in places like UC Berkeley, Detroit and Silicon Valley."

To some operatives, Paul's decision to skip big gatherings suggests he's posturing like a front-runner. "Candidates that consider themselves as front-runners often do that because they don't want to share the stage with candidates of a lesser stature," said one veteran New Hampshire operative. "In a state like Iowa — Iowa has a lot of cattle calls. In a state like New Hampshire, we don't have many … It's always good to make your own news but at the same time, you need to pay respect to the activists."

In fact, during Ernst's event, Paul was traveling in New Hampshire, a three-day swing that followed his efforts in the Senate to block the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act. But much of his travel has taken him to states that play a minimal role in selecting the Republican nominee.

While his opponents have congregated at large events, Paul has opted to parachute into often-ignored communities like Irvine, California, and Windsor Mill, Maryland, where Republican audiences are unaccustomed to the presidential campaign treatment.

Paul hinted at his calculus on Tuesday, when he addressed the Baltimore County Republican Party — a group that readily admitted being overlooked by other Republican candidates. "You showed me you can win in Maryland," Paul said, referencing last year's election of Republican Gov. Larry Hogan. "I think we can win across the country when we become a bigger, more diverse, more inclusive party."

His gesture was clearly reciprocated by an enthusiastic crowd. "He's showing up in places where the Republican Party, let's be honest, we haven't done a very good job," said Dan Bongino, who introduced Paul at the event.

It's not that Paul isn't deeply aware of the importance of the early states — in fact he may need strong finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire to justify a continued campaign. But appealing to Republicans in blue states and forgotten corners is about a larger strategy of proving his electability in the general election, supporters say, a trait that could influence Iowans.

Steve Sukup, a prominent Iowa supporter of Paul, guessed that a third of Iowa voters will pick a candidate based on electability. "For the third of the Republicans that want somebody who can win in November '16, showing that you're willing to get the independent votes and a portion of the swing Democrats — he could do well," Sukup said.

Sukup said the senator has made up for skipping the big Republican cattle calls with a frenetic schedule of solo events, like an appearance in Davenport with Sen. Chuck Grassley earlier this month.

"The philosophy is to target your audiences, and ones that want to come hear you, those are the ones who you want to solidify for the caucus," he said. "I think he has a very specific message, and I think it's going to resonate with enough Iowans that he can bring them to his events instead of doing the mix and match."

Even Paul's critics aren't sure his unorthodox campaign hurts him among Iowans. "Sen. Paul is one of the most interesting creatures in the world," said Joni Scotter, a Republican activist who said she won't be with Paul in the primary but would support him in a general election. "Iowa's so used to him doing that. But his supporters are the ones that count. They go along with that 100 percent. I think they find it quite intriguing."

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Scotter said she suspected Paul skipped the Ernst event because it would've been awkward to come face to face with her so soon after he riled his Senate colleagues by blocking their version of a PATRIOT Act reauthorization.

For now, Paul's unusual schedule doesn't appear to be costing him. He still clocks in near the top of the polls in Iowa and New Hampshire. He's got a built-in base of libertarian-tinged support loyal to his father and has spent much of his time trying to reach young minority voters who he's argued have largely been poorly served by Democrats and overlooked by Republicans.

But the early-state power brokers are watching. Branstad, through a spokesman, hinted that candidates who eschew prominent gatherings in his state do so at their own peril.

"When meeting with candidates, the governor and [lieutenant] governor encourage them to attend as many of the major Iowa gatherings as possible," said Branstad spokesman Jimmy Centers. "We've seen from events like the Republican Party of Iowa's Lincoln Dinner or U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst's Roast and Ride that these gatherings afford candidates the opportunity to meet with hundreds of Iowans in one place."

Rand Paul returns to California's conservative corridors to court donors // LA Times // Kurtis Lee – June 12, 2015

Often, presidential candidates venture to California for a single purpose: to raise campaign cash.

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky is no exception. He traveled immediately in the days after his April campaign kickoff to a state that serves primarily as the ATM for national political campaigns, and he returned Friday both for fundraisers and to deliver the keynote address at an annual gathering of Orange County Republicans in Irvine.

He then travels to San Diego on Saturday to speak at a Lincoln Day Dinner.

"He's the kind of person whose message resonates with the entire state," Eric Beach, Paul's campaign finance chairman, told The Times in April.

Both stops this weekend are set before friendly audiences in some of the most conservative parts of the state and will give Paul opportunities to try to attract more donors.

Erik Weigand, executive director of the Orange County Republican Party, said Friday's event will be attended by state and federal GOP lawmakers, such as Reps. Darrell Issa of Vista and Mimi Walters of Laguna Niguel.

"We reached out several months ago to all of the likely presidential candidates and Sen. Paul got back to us right away," Weigand said. "I think it shows his interest in Orange County and Republicans across the state."

Paul, who has tapped himself as a "different kind of Republican," has also forged into California's Democratic strongholds more than any of the nearly dozen GOP presidential hopefuls.

In the past year, he's delivered a speech at UC Berkeley and held discussions in Silicon Valley with executives from Facebook and eBay. Last month he opened an office in San Francisco in an effort to tap into the tech field and court donors who might find appeal in his libertarian leanings.

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In a California centric op-ed essay Paul wrote in the Washington Times two years ago, he argued that for his party to have success it must "broaden and sharpen" its message so that it "can compete everywhere, every time, for every vote — coast to coast."

"Republicans reaching out to new audiences doesn't mean being less conservative, but applying libertarian and constitutional principles where they are sorely needed on multiple issues," wrote Paul.

Paul has himself looked to appeal to a wider base of voters. He's visited inner cities and college campuses, talking about issues such as reducing penalties for drug use and policing practices as he courts young and minority voters.

WALKER

Scott Walker and the Fate of the Union **// NYT // Dan Kaufman – June 12, 2015**

On his first day of work in three months, Randy Bryce asked his foreman for the next day off. He wanted to go to the Capitol in Madison, Wis., and testify against a proposed law. Bryce, a member of Milwaukee Ironworkers Local 8, was unloading truckloads of steel beams to build a warehouse near Kenosha, and he needed the job. He has an 8-year-old son, his debts were piling up and a 10-hour shift paid more than $300. But the legislation, which Republicans were rushing through the State Senate, angered him enough to sacrifice the hours. Supporters called it a "right to work" bill, because it prohibited unions from requiring employees to pay dues. But to Bryce, that appealing name hid the true purpose of the bill, which was to destroy unions.

The next morning, Bryce, who is 50 and has close-cropped black hair and a horseshoe mustache, woke up at 5:30, got dressed in his usual jeans, hoodie and Local 8 varsity jacket with an I-beam and an American flag stitched on the back and drove 90 miles to Madison in his gray Mustang. Despite the February chill, crowds had begun to gather in the square outside the Capitol. The scene was reminiscent of a similar one that played out four years earlier, in 2011, when thousands of people occupied the Capitol's rotunda for more than two weeks to protest Act 10, a law that demolished collective-bargaining rights for nearly all public employees. The protests in Madison were the first significant resistance to the ascendant Tea Party and helped set the stage for Occupy Wall Street. For Wisconsin's governor, Scott Walker, it was the moment that started his conservative ascent. "The Republican Party has a demonstrated, genuine hero and potential star in its ranks, and he is the governor of Wisconsin," Rush Limbaugh said last year. The unions, Democrats and other perceived enemies, he continued, had "thrown everything they've got at Scott Walker, and he has beat them back without one syllable of complaint, without one ounce of whining. All he has done is win." Walker is expected to announce in the next few weeks that he is entering the 2016 presidential race.

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It is particularly bitter for Walker's opponents that his rise has taken place in Wisconsin, a blue state with a long history of labor activism; it was the first state in the nation to grant collective-bargaining rights to public employees, in 1959. Walker, who declined to be interviewed for this article, has won three races for governor, one a recall effort, and each time he took more than a third of the votes from union households. He was able to do this by making "labor" seem like someone else — even to union members — and pitting one faction against another. Four years ago, in a private exchange captured by a documentary filmmaker, he revealed his successful strategy to a billionaire supporter who asked him if Wisconsin would ever become a right-to-work state. Walker responded enthusiastically, explaining that Act 10 was just the beginning of a larger effort. "The first step is, we're going to deal with collective bargaining for all public-employee unions," he said, "because you use divide-and-conquer."

At the Capitol, dozens of state troopers (who kept their bargaining rights) and Capitol police officers (who lost theirs) were now patrolling the rotunda to prevent it from being occupied again. The Senate hearing room was already packed, so Bryce watched the hearing on monitors outside while he waited for his turn to speak. First came the expert witnesses. James Sherk, an economist at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said that unions operate as cartels: "They try to control the supply of labor in an industry so as to drive up its price, namely wages.

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But like all cartels, these gains come at the cost of greater losses to the rest of society." Greg Mourad, a spokesman for a lobbying organization called the National Right to Work Committee, which has received significant funding from the conservative billionaire Koch brothers, compared the experience of being made to pay union dues to being kidnapped and extorted. Gordon Lafer, a political scientist at the University of Oregon, noted on the other hand that while right-to-work laws in other states had generated no identifiable economic gains, they did drive down wages for union and nonunion workers alike.

Ordinary citizens got their chance to speak in the afternoon. Nearly all of them opposed the bill. A crane operator cited statistics showing that workers in right-to-work states are killed on the job more frequently. "Are you prepared to be accountable for the deaths that being a right-to-work state can create?" he asked. Anthony Anastasi, the president of Ironworkers Local 383, broke down in tears as he pleaded to the legislators, "Please think about the families that will be impacted by this."

At 6 p.m., Bryce's name finally appeared on the list of coming speakers. He paced the hallway outside the hearing room in anticipation. But 20 minutes later, Stephen Nass, the Republican senator who is the chairman of the Labor and Government Reform Committee, announced that there was a "credible threat of disruption" and that the hearing would be adjourned so the committee could vote to move the bill forward (it passed). A labor organizer, it turned out, had told The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that some people planned to stand up in protest at 7 p.m., when testimony was to be cut off. ("I went through Act 10 — it was ugly," Nass said earlier in the hearing, referring to the difficulty some senators experienced reaching various parts of the Capitol after the rotunda was occupied. "We had to go through a tunnel like rats. We don't want to go through that again.") About a hundred people were still in line to testify. A chant of "Let us speak" erupted. But Nass quickly took the committee members' votes and was then escorted out, with his two Republican colleagues, by a phalanx of state troopers.

Bryce still wanted to speak. He had lost a day's wages, and the committee's two Democratic senators had remained to hear more testimony. State troopers were now blocking the door to the hearing room, though, so he decided to address a group of protesters in the hallway outside instead.

"My name is Randy Bryce," he began in a loud voice. "I've been a member of Ironworkers Local 8 since 1997. I've had the privilege in that time to work on many of Wisconsin's landmarks, private businesses and numerous other parts of our infrastructure." As he spoke, the protesters began to quiet. Bryce described how he had wandered from job to job after he left the Army, how Local 8's apprenticeship program had given him direction, a real career. Finally, he presented the case against what he called "a blatant political attack" on his union. "All of our representatives are elected," he said. "All of the decisions that we make are voted on. The general membership is given monthly reports on how every dime is spent. Every dime spent is voted on. Unlike what is taking place this week, Ironworkers Local 8 is pure democracy. I am disappointed beyond words at not just what this bill contains, but how it is being passed."

Two days later, just after the full Senate approved the bill that would make Wisconsin the 25th right-to-work state, Scott Walker was in Maryland, attending the Conservative Political Action Conference, the annual showcase for conservative activists and Republican presidential hopefuls. At a question-and-answer session, one attendee asked Walker how he, as president, would confront the threat from radical Islamist groups like ISIS. Walker's answer was simple, and may in the end define his candidacy. "If I can take on 100,000 protesters," he said, "I can do the same across the world."

At the foot of a hill in Bay View, a quiet Milwaukee neighborhood near Lake Michigan, stand seven pear trees. In front of them is a small wooden plaque that recounts the events of May 5, 1886, when some 1,500 workers, most of them Polish immigrants, marched on the Rolling Mills iron plant. The Milwaukee Iron Company built the plant and the neighborhood where its employees lived, and it demanded in return that they work as many as 16 hours a day, six days a week. A citywide strike for an eight-hour day and better working conditions had shut down every large factory in Milwaukee except Rolling Mills, and as the marchers began climbing the hill toward this last holdout, members of the Wisconsin National Guard fired down on them. They killed seven people, including a 13-year-old boy. Jeremiah Rusk, the governor of Wisconsin, had given the order. "I seen my duty, and I done it," he later said. At the time he thought he might become president, but in the end he never ran. Until 1986, when the Wisconsin Labor History Society began holding an annual commemoration, the Bay View Massacre was largely forgotten. In 1996, the society planted the pear trees, one for each person killed.

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Many of the great labor battles that followed the Bay View Massacre — Pittsburgh's Homestead Strike of 1892; Colorado's Ludlow Massacre of 1914 — also ended in violent defeat for the workers. Yet the defeats, in their very brutality, also forged a sense of solidarity that eventually produced great labor victories, including the eight-hour workday, enshrined into federal law during the Depression, and the passage of the 1935 Wagner Act, which guaranteed the right to strike and remains labor's greatest means of leverage. That same year, the American Federation of Labor fully chartered A. Philip Randolph's Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, a black union. From 1935 to 1947, union membership in the United States quadrupled, from 3.5 million workers to nearly 15 million workers, fueled by the pro-union policies of the New Deal and a labor shortage during World War II. By the mid-'50s, more than a third of American workers belonged to a union.

In 1941, when the movement was still ascending, William Ruggles, a 40-year-old editorial writer for The Dallas Morning News, coined the slogan "right to work." Ruggles was alarmed by the growing strength of the labor movement, which in his view was intent on forcing all workers into unions. He proposed a constitutional amendment that would prohibit workers from having to pay dues to a union in order to hold a job in a "union shop." "If the country does not want it, let us say so," he wrote. "If we do want it, adopt it and maintain forever the right to work of every American."

The day after the editorial was printed, a Houston political activist named Vance Muse called Ruggles to ask permission for his organization, the Christian American Association, to pursue the proposal. Ruggles agreed and suggested to Muse that he call it a "Right to Work Amendment." Muse, an avowed racist — he told a United States Senate committee in 1936, "I am a Southerner and for white supremacy" — held a special animus toward unions, which he believed fostered race-mixing. In "Southern Exposure," a 1946 book about racism in the South, the muckraking journalist Stetson Kennedy quoted Muse's pitch on the need for right-to-work, in which he said: "White women and white men will be forced into organizations with black African apes, whom they will have to call 'brother' or lose their jobs."

But Muse was also an effective fund-raiser — he received support from General Motors and the du Pont family, among others — and lobbyist. In 1944, the Christian American Association sponsored the amendment that made Arkansas one of the country's first right-to-work states. By 1947, 10 more states, most of them in the South, had become right-to-work, embodying the growing national backlash against labor brought on by the Red Scare. That same year, over President Harry Truman's veto, Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act, which undercut the Wagner Act by placing numerous restrictions on unions, among them a clause granting states the power to become right-to-work. Muse died in 1950, but his campaign had already been taken over by more mainstream proponents. In 1955, Fred Hartley, the former congressman from New Jersey who helped draft Taft-Hartley, founded the National Right to Work Committee. Three years later, Kansas legislators, with the enthusiastic support of the oil magnate Fred Koch, David and Charles Koch's father, adopted a right-to-work amendment. By 1963, 19 states were right-to-work. Since then, six more have adopted the measure, including, in the past three years, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin.

As state legislatures chipped away at unions, other forces were also at work. Some union bosses turned corrupt. Manufacturers began pursuing cheaper labor overseas. Automated systems replaced skilled workers in industry after industry. And some politicians saw a chance to show that they were not beholden to "special interests."

In the fall of 1980, Ronald Reagan, then a Republican presidential candidate, sent a letter to Robert Poli, the president of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization, seeking the endorsement of the union, many of whose members were military veterans and socially conservative. "You can rest assured," Reagan wrote, "that if I am elected president, I will take whatever steps are necessary to provide our air traffic controllers with the most modern equipment available and to adjust staff levels and workdays so that they are commensurate with achieving a maximum degree of public safety." The union gave Reagan its endorsement.

Eight months later, after contract negotiations with the Federal Aviation Administration failed, the members of the union voted to strike, violating an oath signed by federal employees. Reagan was unsympathetic. After 48 hours, he invoked a provision of Taft-Hartley and not only fired more than 11,000 air traffic controllers, but also had them permanently replaced. The union's strike fund was frozen, many of its local leaders were imprisoned and, until 1993, the former strikers were banned from the Civil Service. Since Reagan broke that union, the number of large-scale strikes begun in a given year in the United States has fallen to 11 (last year) from 145 (in 1981). In 2014, only 11 percent of all American workers and 7 percent of private-sector workers belonged to a

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union.

The night before Walker announced his plans for Act 10 to the public, he gathered his cabinet in the governor's mansion for a private dinner and a pep talk. During the dinner, Walker stood up and held aloft a picture of Reagan. He singled out the firing of the air traffic controllers as "one of the most defining moments" of Reagan's political career — a moment, he said, that "was the first crack in the Berlin Wall."

Randy Bryce wasn't always a labor activist. He grew up in Milwaukee's "policeman's ghetto," a working-class neighborhood on the city's southwestern edge. His father was a beat cop, his mother a doctor's secretary. In 1983, Bryce enlisted in the Army so he could pay for college and was stationed for a year at Soto Cano air base in Honduras, then a launching point for American covert operations in Nicaragua and El Salvador. "My dad was conservative," Bryce said. "When I was in the Army, I was, too. I was into Reagan, but it was more America first, U.S.A., U.S.A."

After his discharge, Bryce briefly attended the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, but was found to have testicular cancer and dropped out to receive treatment. He lucked into an experimental trial at a medical college that cured him and eventually landed a job assisting homeless veterans. "I remember talking to a vet," he said. "He was an atomic warrior in the Cold War, and he showed me his back. It looked like someone poured acid on it." The government wouldn't help the man, Bryce said, because he was unable to prove that the injury was caused by exposure to an atomic test. "It couldn't have been made more clear to me that vets were disposable resources," he said. Bryce heard about Local 8's apprenticeship program from a patient in his mother's office. After completing his four-year ironworker's apprenticeship, he became more involved in the union. Since Act 10 passed in 2011, he has run unsuccessfully for State Senate and State Assembly and now serves as Local 8's political coordinator. After protesting the passage of right-to-work laws in Indiana and Michigan, Bryce began a grass-roots organizing campaign against the bill in Wisconsin.

In southeastern Wisconsin, union ironworkers earn $55 an hour and receive $33 of that in pretax income. (The difference goes to funding their pensions, health care and training.) The pretax pay for a unionized ironworker in Iowa, a right-to-work state since 1947, tops out at $26 an hour. In Texas, also a right-to-work state since 1947, the sole ironworkers' local offers pretax wages of $18 an hour. Nonunion workers in the state doing the same job make about $8 an hour. "A mile of U.S. highway in Texas costs close to the same as it does in Wisconsin, certainly not less than half," Colin Millard, an organizer for the Iron Workers International Union, told me. "So it is only a question of who makes the money — the workers or the owners."

Ironwork is a dangerous job. It has the sixth-highest fatality rate in the country, according to a Bloomberg News analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data. A 2011 University of Michigan study concluded that the fatality rate in construction trades was 40 percent higher in right-to-work states. Local 8 offers a four-year training program that requires more than 7,000 hours of combined classroom and on-the-job study. Even many right-to-work proponents single out the building trades' training programs, like Local 8's, as exemplary.

That is one reason many Wisconsin business owners, who might be expected to cheer the demise of unions and welcome cheaper labor costs, have not done so. Contractors rely on the unions to certify and drug-test workers and keep their workers current on new technologies and job skills. Collectively, Wisconsin's trade unions contributed more than $30 million last year to training programs.

Bill Kennedy, the president of Rock Road Companies, a family-owned asphalt-paving operation with headquarters in Janesville, Wis., flew back early from a Florida business trip to testify against the right-to-work bill at the same Senate hearing where Bryce tried to speak. Kennedy also helps run the Wisconsin Contractors Coalition, an organization of business owners whose positions on labor issues counter those of Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, the most powerful statewide business lobby, which has pushed hard for right-to-work. Within a few months of its founding in 2014, Kennedy's coalition attracted nearly 450 like-minded businesses that collectively employ some 120,000 people. Like many of the group's members, Kennedy voted for Walker and contributed to each of his campaigns.

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“There’s this misguided myth that unions and management don’t get along,” Kennedy told me the day after the hearing. Rock Road was founded in 1913 by Kennedy’s grandfather. It was a hauling business until the Depression, when it began bidding on government-funded projects like railroad beds and town roads. At its summertime peak, Kennedy’s company employs about 150 workers. His opposition to right-to-work is rooted in pragmatism. “It’s a business bottom-line issue,” he said. “Right-to-work is going to compromise my quality, my competitiveness. The unions are my partner. They’re almost like a screening agency.” Kennedy’s greatest fear is that right-to-work will undermine the unions’ contribution, and eventually the quality and skills of his employees. “This is a working system,” he said. “I have never understood this right-to-work agenda.”

Even when he was attacking public unions for robbing the taxpayers of Wisconsin, Walker consistently praised private-sector unions, particularly those in the construction trades, calling them “my partners in economic development.” During his first term, many of those unions, including Local 8, backed Walker’s effort to rewrite the state’s environmental law so that an enormous iron-ore mine could be built in a pristine section of northern Wisconsin, a few miles from a Chippewa Indian reservation. The mine, which was never built, was fiercely opposed by Native American tribes and conservationists, but the mining company promised to deliver hundreds of union jobs, creating a split in Walker’s broad-based opposition.

In 2010, Terry McGowan, the president of Local 139, a statewide union of 9,000 heavy-machinery operators, endorsed Walker, because he had promised to increase highway funding and build more roads. McGowan supported him again last year, but since then, he has come to reconsider. Testifying at a right-to-work State Assembly hearing in February, McGowan’s voice cracked as he described the death, three days earlier, of Ryan Calkins, a 33-year-old union operating engineer who got caught in a drilling rig while working on a highway interchange in Milwaukee. “Remember that name — Ryan Calkins — because he will just be a little blurb in the newspaper,” McGowan told the legislators. Five hours after Calkins was killed, McGowan said, he received a call from a lawyer for Calkins’s employer; it needed someone who knew how to operate the specialized drill to help remove the mutilated body. McGowan sent one of his union members, who had trained at Local 139’s facility in central Wisconsin. “Now we’re talking about possibly taking training and safety away from our industry?” McGowan asked in disbelief.

A few days after McGowan testified, I went to see him at Local 139’s impressive new glass-and-steel union hall in wealthy suburban Waukesha County, a stronghold of support for Walker. McGowan greeted me warmly, but I could see he was still shaken by Calkins’s death. “I gained a lot of respect for the guy that I called, because he made it very obvious he didn’t want to do it,” McGowan said. “But he said he was not going to allow a fellow operating engineer to sit wrapped around that drill bit in that weather and freeze solid. You could hear his family in the background. I’m sure he was looking at his wife and kids while I was talking to him.”

In his testimony, McGowan described his members as “beer-drinking, gun-toting, pickup-driving rednecks” and reminded legislators that many of his workers are politically conservative and usually vote Republican. Local 139’s special relationship to Republican politicians was made clear when Scott Fitzgerald, the State Senate majority leader and the sponsor of the right-to-work bill, floated the idea of exempting McGowan’s union, along with a few others.

“One side of the aisle likes the work we do, but not our organization, while the other side likes our organization, but not what we do,” McGowan told me. He had lobbied heavily on behalf of the iron-ore mine. “I was surprised that the United Steelworkers fought the mine so hard, when the mine would have used their equipment. The mine became political, and a lot of the unions that opposed it; they did it so that Walker couldn’t get a victory out of it. My thinking was: jobs.”

Fidgeting behind his desk, McGowan rubbed his bald scalp and half-smiled. “I sort of trusted the guy,” he said, recalling his 2010 endorsement of Walker. “I took some bullets at the time from the other unions.” When Walker’s “divide and conquer” video was released in 2012, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel asked McGowan about the governor’s remarks. McGowan told the paper that the phrase “divide and conquer” troubled him. “It means turning worker against worker,” he said.

Last fall, McGowan met with Walker, who was seeking a contribution and another endorsement for governor, at a small campaign office in Wauwatosa, outside Milwaukee. “I looked across the table at him, and I said, ‘We are both

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God-fearing men,' " McGowan told me. " 'If you can tell me that right-to-work will not come on your desk, then I will take you for your word.' He looked me in the eyes, and he said, 'It will not make it to my desk.' He was looking for a contribution, and I was looking for a commitment. We both got what we came for. He kept his, and I lost mine."

In 1956, the Republican Party platform declared: "The protection of the right of workers to organize into unions and to bargain collectively is the firm and permanent policy of the Eisenhower administration." President Richard Nixon enthusiastically courted the white "hard-hat vote," winning a majority of union households in the 1972 election. During a news conference announcing the replacement of the air traffic controllers, Reagan boasted of his union bona fides as a lifelong member of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. who led the Screen Actors Guild in its first-ever strike. Walker's own consistent praise for private unions appears, with the passage of right-to-work, to have come to an end, and with it any sense that his party must even pretend to support labor.

Many union leaders worry that if Walker is elected president, Congress could pass a national right-to-work bill. In January, Representative Steve King, Republican of Iowa, introduced such a bill in the House; it now has 98 co--sponsors. In February, Senator Rand Paul, Republican of Kentucky, sponsored a similar bill, which now has co--sponsors in Mitch McConnell, the majority leader, and 15 other Republicans.

In this sense, passing Act 10 was a kind of audition for Walker. "If we can do it in Wisconsin, we can do it anywhere — even in our nation's capital," he wrote in his 2013 book, "Unintimidated." The origins of Wisconsin's right-to-work bill, meanwhile, showed whom he might have been trying to impress. As revealed by the Center for Media and Democracy, a watchdog organization based in Madison, Wisconsin's law was a virtual copy of a 1995 model bill promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council, an organization based in Arlington, Va., that disseminates model legislation for a consortium of corporations and conservative private backers, including the Koch brothers.

A law with language that closely tracks that model bill was enacted in Michigan in 2012. Similarly worded proposals were introduced this year in Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico and West Virginia, but they failed to advance. Missouri's right-to-work bill, which was also more or less identical to the model bill, passed both houses this year, only to be vetoed by Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, early this month. A few weeks after signing the right-to-work bill, Walker gave a private talk in New York to a group of powerful Republican donors that included David Koch. Koch later told reporters that he believes that Walker will be the eventual Republican presidential nominee. "I thought he had a great message," Koch said after the meeting to a reporter for The New York Observer. "Scott Walker is a tremendous candidate."

But if Wisconsin is a model for what Walker might achieve nationally, it is worth examining his results so far. Walker credits Act 10 in part for the decline in Wisconsin's unemployment rate since he took office in 2011 and has said he considers right-to-work "one more arrow in that quiver" for the creation of jobs. But since 2011, the state has fallen to 40th out of the 50 states in job growth and 42nd in wage growth, according to an analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics dataconducted by The Capital Times of Wisconsin. Act 10, officially called the Wisconsin Budget Repair Bill, was supposed to fix persistent budget shortfalls by lowering labor costs and eliminating union rules. But Wisconsin's two-year projected budget deficit has actually increased; in May, the Legislature approved a $250 million cut to the state's prized university system to help close the gap. Wisconsin is now among the top 10 states people move out of.

Right-to-work bills like Walker's have also had negative consequences. When Michigan implemented a similar law in 2013, 16.3 percent of its workers belonged to a union; within a year, the percentage dropped to 14.5. That may not seem like a precipitous decline, but the loss erodes the collective-bargaining power of the unions and will almost certainly be reflected in lower wages across the board, as it has been in other states that have passed similar laws. In a New York Times Op-Ed article, Lawrence Mishel, the president of the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute, called the decline of union bargaining power in the United States "the single largest factor suppressing wage growth for middle-wage workers over the last few decades." And a recent study by two economists for the International Monetary Fund connected the decline in union membership in advanced economies to the overall rise of income inequality. It is not just pushing down the wages of the working class, they wrote; it is also increasing the incomes of the wealthiest 10 percent.

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Wisconsin legislators are now considering repealing the state's prevailing-wage law, a Depression-era law requiring public construction projects to pay the going wage in a given area as determined by a survey of local employers. In places with high union membership, the union wage becomes the standard, which then raises the scale for nonunion workers. Like right-to-work, the prevailing-wage bill is being promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council in states across the country; measures rolling it back recently passed in West Virginia and Nevada. Walker has said that repealing the prevailing-wage law is not "a priority" — a phrase he also used about the right-to-work bill — but in May, he promised to sign such a bill if it reached his desk.

In early March, I visited Dave Poklinkoski, the president of Local 2304, an electricians' union, at his office in Madison, where he was drawing up a right-to-work-compliant union contract. "Divide and conquer, it works," Poklinkoski said. "It works real well." He dug out his iPad from under a pile of papers and pulled up an editorial cartoon by Mike Konopacki that showed a bloodied Terry McGowan, the Local 139 president, with a sword in his back, the hilt and handle in the shape of Walker's head, labeled "R-T-W."

It didn't matter if everyone knew that Walker had broken a promise to a union leader, because now it was clear, at least in Wisconsin, that Walker no longer needed labor. "Wisconsin has become a kind of laboratory for oligarchs to implement their political and economic agenda," Poklinkoski said. "We're small enough that they can carry it out. Can they carry it out on the national level? We'll find out."

Two weeks after Walker signed the right-to-work bill, Local 8 held a monthly meeting in its union hall just outside Milwaukee. On the way there, I drove past Miller Park, the Milwaukee Brewers' stadium, which Bryce worked on in 2000, during the final phase of its construction. It was the project he was most proud of. From the Interstate, I could see the elaborate arched ironwork crowning the stadium's top. It reminded me of a photograph I had glimpsed on the wall of Bryce's home showing him and two other ironworkers decking the top of the stadium. They looked tiny in the far distance, but you could tell how strong the wind was from the way a tarp was blowing.

Bryce's grandfather, Eugene, had taken the photo. He used to drive by the stadium several times a week, because he loved watching Bryce work. It was difficult to see Bryce and his co-workers, 350 feet in the air and bracing against the wind, as members of a cartel, as the Heritage Foundation economist had described unions in his Senate testimony. Miller Park had claimed the lives of three Local 8 ironworkers, who fell 300 feet to their deaths when a giant crane collapsed into the stadium on a fiercely windy day.

Bryce arrived at the Local 8 meeting straight from work, wearing mud-caked overalls. He walked into the office to pay his $53 in monthly dues and then chatted with a few other ironworkers before wandering into the meeting hall. After the men recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the recording secretary read the minutes from the previous month's meeting, the executive board began a series of briefings: the prospects for building a new arena for the Milwaukee Bucks, the restructuring of the local's dental plans, what happened at the annual conference of the international union in Las Vegas.

Last on the agenda was Bryce's political report. He stood up and started talking. He told the union workers about being locked out of the Senate hearing. He told them about the next day, when he went back to protest and was thrown out of the Senate debate for shouting, "This bill is turning Wisconsin into a banana republic." He talked about his organizing trips in anticipation of right-to-work and the dispiritingly small crowds at the rallies. He implored Local 8's members to become more active and not to think of themselves as elite tradesmen whose concerns were distinct from those of other workers and other movements. "Unions are not separate from the community," he said. "We build the community. Yet you're seen as the enemy, the reason people are broke. We have to stop this union-versus-nonunion mentality."

After the meeting, Bryce headed out to the parking lot. There had been some defeats, he acknowledged, but he still saw the attacks on unions as an opportunity to build solidarity. "At last month's meeting, I talked about how the only way to fight back is to stage a massive general strike," he said. "It doesn't need to be that, but we do need to build ourselves up to a strength where theyfear that. Now they're not afraid of anything, because we haven't done anything to fight back."

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Bryce blamed the timidity of both union leaders and the rank-and-file, as much as the Republicans, for allowing Act 10 and right-to-work to become law. “People think that unions are useless today, that we’re dinosaurs,” he said. “Well, how did that happen? We let it happen. The labor movement has become lazy, because it’s something that’s been handed to us.” He leaned against his Mustang and stared out into the industrial landscape surrounding the parking lot.

“A lot of guys in our local didn’t see Act 10 as being important for ironworkers,” Bryce said, because it targeted public employees. “I would ask them, how can you say there are good unions and bad unions? It’s an idea that they’re trying to kill — it’s not the union itself. This is the strategy they’re using to do it. They’re splitting everything up. They’re going after them first, then it’s going to be somebody else. Then they’re going to get to us too.”

Scott Walker hardens abortion stance ahead of his likely White House bid // WaPo // Jenna Johnson – June 12, 2015

It came out of nowhere: an open letter from Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker declaring his support for a ban on abortions once pregnancies reach 20 weeks.

The missive delighted antiabortion activists in the state — and set off a scramble in the State Capitol here because no such legislation had actually been introduced.

The restrictions, approved this week by the state Senate and likely to be passed by the Republican-dominated state Assembly, underscore the extent to which Walker — who has not yet announced his candidacy — is positioning himself to be the most fervent antiabortion candidate in the Republican field of presidential hopefuls.

The stance could help Walker win votes in conservative early-voting states, especially those with large numbers of evangelical Christian voters. But others are competing for those voters as well, including his main rivals of the moment, former Florida governor Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

Walker is opposed to abortion in all cases — including when a pregnancy is the result of rape or incest — and he has received near-perfect ratings from antiabortion activist groups. As governor, Walker forced five health-care centers to close after stripping Planned Parenthood of funding, and he signed a law that required ultrasounds for women before they have an abortion.

Proponents of abortion rights have declared Walker’s record on the issue one of the most “dangerous” and “extreme” they have seen.

But Walker has an unexpected problem: Despite his record, he seemed to soften his rhetoric on abortion during his run for reelection last year, raising suspicions among some antiabortion activists that he wasn’t necessarily with them.

“I take him at his word, but it’s even more compelling to take him at his word when it’s coupled with action in his state,” said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, a national group opposed to abortion.

Dannenfelser said that for the past year she has pressured potential 2016 contenders to publicly support a ban on abortions after 20 weeks, and shetracks their positions on her group’s Web site. Former Texas governor Rick Perry (R) signed a 20-week abortion ban into law in 2013, while Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) introduced federal legislation that attracted statements of support from Bush, Rubio and five other Republicans who are declared or likely 2016 candidates.

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Earlier this year, Dannenfelser criticized Walker for not joining in. In early March, Walker issued the “open letter on life” posted on the Susan B. Anthony List’s Web site; the declaration came two days after he struggled to answer questions about his abortion positions clearly on “Fox News Sunday.”

“I will sign that bill when it gets to my desk and support similar legislation on the federal level,” Walker wrote in the letter. “I was raised to believe in the sanctity of life and I will always fight to protect it.”

As written, the Wisconsin legislation would ban abortions after 20 weeks unless a “medical emergency” occurred. Doctors who performed abortions after that point could be charged with a felony, facing up to $10,000 in fines or 31/2 years in prison. The parents, including the father, could also sue for damages. There are no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

Walker told local reporters last week that he would sign the legislation into law with or without that exception.

“I think for most people who are concerned about that, it’s in the initial months where they’re most concerned about it,” Walker said of pregnancies related to rape and incest.

That comment quickly prompted criticism.

“Really?” said state Sen. Lena C. Taylor, a Democrat from Milwaukee. “How does he know what goes on in the minds of pregnant women who have been raped or who have experienced incest, who are survivors? How does he know?”

Democrats have also criticized Walker for defending his state’s mandated ultrasounds by gushing about seeing his son’s first ultrasounds years ago. “It’s just a cool thing out there,” he said of such photos.

As a young lawmaker in the Wisconsin Assembly in the 1990s, Walker helped write and pass legislation that requires women seeking an abortion to wait 24 hours and that bans a seldom-used procedure known by opponents as “partial-birth abortion.” Walker unsuccessfully tried three times to pass legislation that would protect doctors, pharmacists and other health-care workers who refuse to engage in procedures that conflict with their religious beliefs, including performing an abortion, using stem cells or dispensing some birth-control drugs. He also tried unsuccessfully to require minors to obtain parental consent before having an abortion.

In campaign-style appearances in Iowa and South Carolina, Walker has bragged about stripping Planned Parenthood of state funding while governor. Planned Parenthood officials say the funding went to non-abortion services such as cancer screenings and providing birth control and that the cut forced them to close five health centers in rural areas that do not perform abortions.

When Walker ran for reelection last year, Democratic opponent Mary Burke slammed his record on women’s health issues. Walker avoided discussing abortion and declined to complete a Pro-Life Wisconsin survey, forfeiting the group’s endorsement. As he lagged in the polls, his campaign released an ad that defended the ultrasound law but also gave some the impression that he supported leaving abortion decisions to women and their doctors.

“He sees the polling that we see, and he knows that it’s not popular to say you want to ban abortion in Wisconsin,” said Nicole Safar, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin’s policy director.

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Now that Walker might compete for the Republican nomination, he is touting his record. A clear majority of Republicans are opposed to abortion in most cases and express support for a variety of restrictions, including bans after 20 weeks into a pregnancy. Evangelical Christians are among the most opposed, and they made up 57 percent of GOP caucus-goers in Iowa in 2012 and half of all GOP primary voters in states where exit polls are available.

Walker steps into less popular territory in espousing absolute opposition to abortion. For example, a large majority of Americans say a woman should be able to get an abortion if the pregnancy is a result of rape.

When asked last weekend why he opposes abortion in all cases, Walker simply stated that he's pro-life — and then went after Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton for favoring fewer restrictions on abortion.

"Which I think," he said, "puts her squarely out of touch of where most Americans are at."

Scott Walker: 'I Ran Against a Woman' and Won - Bloomberg Politics // Bloomberg //

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker on Friday offered up a not-so-subtle suggestion that he has what it takes to beat Hillary Clinton, recalling the time he "ran against a woman."

Speaking to donors at Mitt Romney's E2 Summit in Utah, Walker pointed to his re-election victory in November 2014 against Democrat Mary Burke, and suggested that it's "quite offensive" for Democrats to suggest that women only care about abortion.

"The women I talk to care about a whole bunch of things," he said.

"I don't think the answer is to run away from your positions."

"They care about making sure our schools are living up to the expectations of our children and our grandchildren. They care about making sure our sons and daughters who go to college can graduate with a degree and actually find a job," he said. "They care about being able to make decisions about their health care, instead of having the government do it through Obamacare."

The governor has drawn extra attention from Democrats and abortion-rights groups this month, after saying that he'll sign legislation calling for a 20-week abortion ban in his state, even if it doesn't include an exemption for rape or incest.

Walker, who is expected to join the race for the GOP nomination for president, said Republicans shouldn't shy away from their views, but that tone matters.

"I don't think the answer is to run away from your positions," he said. "Just make it clear to the American people that this is where you stand."

In 2016, Walker said his party should "transfer that same strategy" in trying to confront Democrats, "whether it's me or somebody else."

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Recently, Republican women, including presidential candidate and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, have also been asserting loudly that their party holds the best ideas for women and that Democrats shouldn't hold a near-monopoly on their vote because of social issues.

Walker, who has in recent months taken a tougher stance on immigration, also celebrated the U.S. as a land of opportunity for immigrants, as he criticized a government that he said fosters "dependency" instead of providing opportunity.

"The reason they came here was because it was one of the few places left in the world where it didn't matter what class you were born in, it didn't matter what your parents did for a living," he said. "In America, you can do and be anything you want."

Several Republican candidates have struggled to present themselves as acceptable both to the party's primary voters, who often support deportations of immigrants, and donors, who often favor a path to legal status. Walker faced accusations of flip-flopping on immigration in March, after he dropped his support of "amnesty" for the millions of immigrants living in the country without authorization.

Citing collective bargaining law, Scott Walker says Wisconsin's rank on ACT test has risen to second //
Politifact // Tom Kertscher – June 12, 2015

Gov. Scott Walker is a contender for president largely because of the collective bargaining reforms -- affecting teachers and most other public employees -- that he signed into law following massive protests in Madison.

On June 2, 2015, at a Florida gathering of announced and likely Republican candidates for the White House, Walker credited the March 2011 law for what he said was Wisconsin's improved ranking on the ACT college preparation test.

"A lot of protesters at the time claimed that public education was going to fail," Walker said, then went on to list changes made by what is known as Act 10.

"I'm proud to tell you that today, we no longer have seniority or tenure. That means we can hire and fire based on merit, we can pay based on performance. That means we can put the best and the brightest in our classrooms and we can pay them to be there.

"I said the proof is in the pudding; the facts don't lie. Four years later, graduation rates are up, third-grade reading scores are up, ACT scores are now second-best in the country for states where more than half the kids take the exam."

Saying Wisconsin's ACT scores are now second-best suggests Wisconsin's ranking on the test has improved since Act 10 and that the law played a role.

Let's see.

Where we've been

Two previous fact checks help set the table for evaluating Walker's claim.

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1. In February 2011, with the protests being carried out daily, the Wisconsin Democratic Party claimed that the five states that outlaw collective bargaining for teachers all ranked below 44th in the nation in test scores, while Wisconsin ranked second. PolitiFact National rated the claim False, partly because the data cited for both major college preparation tests -- the ACT and the SAT -- was a decade old.

More importantly, in terms of evaluating Walker's claim, our colleagues concluded after talking with experts that "it's impossible to know whether collective bargaining has any role in causing test scores to rise. That's because countless other demographic, economic and cultural factors play a role in shaping a state's test scores."

2. In June 2014, we rated Mostly True a Walker claim that graduation rates and third-grade reading scores in Wisconsin were higher than when he took office in January 2011. Both numbers were up compared with the year before Walker took office. But we found that some credit may be owed to prior elected officials, because the trend lines hadn't really changed much going back deeper into the pre-Walker era.

We also noted in that item that Wisconsin students' longstanding high-achievement scores on the ACT are well known.

But let's flesh them out.

Here are Wisconsin's average composite scores on the ACT, and where Wisconsin ranked among the states where more than half the students take the exam. Those are the ones Walker specifically cited in making the claim. We took a look at the three years before and the three years after 2011, when Act 10 was adopted.

So, Wisconsin's rank moved from third to second in 2012, the year after Act 10 was adopted, and has remained there.

But that's not because Wisconsin's long-stable composite score has improved. Indeed, the score is virtually unchanged since Act 10.

Moreover, as we noted previously, there is no evidence to show how any one factor affects ACT scores -- particularly an indirect factor such as a personnel policy like Act 10.

Matthew Di Carlo, senior research fellow at the Albert Shanker Institute, which studies education policy, reiterated that it would be "enormously complicated" to determine how any one factor such as socioeconomic status affects ACT scores. That's all the more true for changes in collective bargaining -- a policy that affects personnel rather than one, such as tutoring, that directly affects student learning, he said.

And while Act 10 could have some indirect effects on ACT scores -- such as through the retention of teachers -- those effects couldn't be gauged for some period of years, Di Carlo said.

Our rating

Walker said that four years after his collective bargaining law took effect, ACT scores in Wisconsin "are now second-best in the country for states where more than half the kids take the exam."

There is an element of truth in Walker's statement, in that Wisconsin's rank moved from third to second in 2012, the year after the Act 10 collective bargaining reforms were adopted. But the rank didn't improve because of an improvement in Wisconsin's score. And there is no evidence that Act 10 affected the ranking.

For a statement that has an element of truth but ignores critical facts that would give a different impression, we rate the claim Mostly False.

Scott Walker, Professors Clash Over Tenure in Wisconsin // US News // Allie Bidwell – June 12, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Tensions over tenure are running high in Wisconsin as part of a battle between government and higher education that's providing a possible preview of one White House hopeful's education platform.

Wisconsin is the only state in the country where academic tenure is protected by law, but a budget plan approved by the GOP-controlled legislature's Joint Finance Committee would remove that safeguard for professors in the state university system and cut its budget by $250 million. The plan is backed by Gov. Scott Walker – who's expected to announce in the coming weeks that he's running for the Republican presidential nomination – and would shift control of the tenure policies to the university system's board of regents.

Republican lawmakers have said the change is simply a shift in power, and Walker spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said the change was part of a larger plan to give the university system more power over creating its own policies. But the proposal would also greatly expand provisions for how and when tenured faculty can be laid off or fired. Those provisions include budgetary constraints and program changes, and the proposal has been met with fierce opposition from professors in the state university system.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the faculty senate called an emergency meeting this week and passed a resolution condemning the plan.

The budget proposal also changes state law regarding shared governance, which gives faculty members deciding power on issues like curriculum, instruction and personnel matters. It instead would give faculty an advisory responsibility on those issues.

Such language, the faculty members said in their resolution, "will lead to the demoralization and/or departure of substantial numbers of faculty, will have negative repercussions for recruiting outstanding new faculty, and will seriously damage UW-Madison's national competitiveness and the faculty's ability to grow the economic future of the state and to serve its students and its citizens."

"If we allow ourselves to be led down this path laid out before us, other great universities will follow. Then there will be nobody left to 'follow the indications of truth wherever they may lead,'" associate professor David Vanness said during the Tuesday meeting, referring to a plaque outside the campus' main administration building that commemorates the academic pursuit of truth. "We will sift where it is safe to sift. We will winnow where we are told to winnow. Our pace of discovery will slow and our reputation will falter."

National organizations, too, have chimed in on the issue. In a letter to the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents and University of Wisconsin System President Ray Cross, the American Association of University Professors said the changes in tenure and due process, combined with the proposed budget cut, "amount to a direct attack on higher education as a public good."

"Tenure and due process do not only protect individual faculty members in their teaching, research, and publication efforts, as well as their right to speak on matters of public concern," wrote Rudy Fichtenbaum, the association's president. "They also protect the collective right of the faculty to participate in the formulation of academic policy and budget priorities and to use their professional expertise to recommend hiring and retaining faculty and administrators so that the university system can best serve the public interest and the citizens of the state."

Walker and the Republican-controlled state legislature have repeatedly been at odds with the state's higher education community. The 2015-17 budget originally proposed a $300 million cut to the university system, which has since dropped to $250 million but is still opposed by faculty.

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In an op-ed this week for the Quad-City Times, Walker touted his record on education, saying "quality training and a solid education are vital components of wage growth and economic mobility."

"And the affordability of that education is an important consideration, especially for families whose children are heading to college," Walker wrote. "That's why our last budget committed the highest level of need-based financial aid in state history, and froze tuition at the University of Wisconsin for two years. Our current budget continues the tuition freeze for another two years."

When he first took office in 2011, Walker also passed a law – Act 10 – that limited the collective bargaining rights of public sector unions, including teachers unions. He has credited the changes with increasing student test scores and graduation rates, and has since referred to the combined higher education budget cuts and push to grant more flexibility to the university system as "the Act 10 of higher education."

His moves involving unions and higher education, considered traditional bastions of liberalism in conservative circles, have made Walker a GOP hero and raised his national profile ahead of his likely 2016 run. But such aggressiveness may not necessarily distinguish him from the rest of the crowded Republican presidential field.

Barmak Nassirian, director of federal policy relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, says that based on his track record, Walker would take a "very instrumental view" of higher education should he win the White House.

"That is not in itself, frankly, atypical for lots of policymakers, Republican and Democrat, who view higher education in almost sort of strictly competitiveness, jobs, economic development terms," Nassirian says. "You take more of a rigid-like productivity perspective on how higher education ought to be run and how it ought to be managed and funded. So you look around on a fairly short horizon and attempt to identify those programs that tend to be good vocational preparation venues and take a kinder approach to them than you might to those things that might not be able to demonstrate in concrete terms why they're worth funding."

In this Jan. 13, 2015, file photo, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker acknowledges people in the gallery during Governor's State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature in the Assembly chambers at the state Capitol in Madison, Wis. Walker has transformed Wisconsin politics, winning three elections in four years and signing laws that weaken unions, crippling a key component of the Democratic Party. But the likely Republican presidential contender has had less success changing Wisconsin’s economy and budget. The state lags in job growth and its budget faces a shortfall. It’s a record that complicates Walker’s path in early primary states as he sells himself as a reformer.

Ann Marcus, a professor of higher education at New York University-Steinhardt, also says Walker "could do less damage" as president than as a governor.

"The federal government doesn't have such a large role in higher education. The key area for federal involvement is financial aid, including loans," Marcus says. "However, the federal government does not have a role in faculty issues, nor in curriculum. Nor does it have a role in direct funding of colleges and universities. States are the key player, and in the U.S., there is great variation among the states in terms of priorities, funding [and] controls."

She adds: "Walker may be experiencing a short-term benefit with his attacks on higher education, but I believe ... that he will experience some significant pushback once the people of Wisconsin have had a chance to see the consequences."

Walker's Our American Revival political committee did not respond to reques*ts for comment from U.S. News*.

The governor – who is among the top contenders for the GOP nomination, according to recent polling – has said

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he won't make an announcement on entering the presidential race until after the state's budget business is concluded at the end of June.

The Koch Brothers Usually Have Scott Walker's Back. Not This Time. **// Mother Jones // Russ Choma – June 12, 2015**

The Koch brothers and their political machine have long been key allies of Wisconsin governor and presumptive 2016 hopeful Scott Walker. With the GOP presidential field getting more crowded by the day and political observers wondering who will win the Koch Primary—and the financial backing of these billionaires and their donor network—Walker has sparked a controversy in his home state in which and he and Team Koch are on opposite sides.

When Walker announced a plan last week to spend $250 million in taxpayer money for a proposed $500 million basketball arena in downtown Milwaukee, the local chapter of the Koch-founded advocacy group Americans for Prosperity joined the chorus of detractors who condemned the project. The National Basketball Association is demanding the new venue and is threatening that the Milwaukee Bucks franchise may have to move if the arena isn't built by 2017. This has put Walker in a tough spot. The failure to retain the team would be an ugly black eye for Walker, but the plan to spend taxpayer funds propping up a highly lucrative private business is irritating Wisconsin Republicans and Democrats alike.

While Walker's forays into union-busting had strong conservative backing, the political dynamics involved in the public financing of sports arenas and stadiums are much different. Across the nation in recent years, conservatives and progressive groups and activists have questioned the notion that financing arenas for sports franchises with taxpayer funds will spur the local economy. And Walker is feeling the backlash.

Wisconsin Democrats predictably oppose Walker's plan, but few of his fellow Republicans are rushing to join him in standing with the NBA. At the moment, 12 of 19 GOP state senators are against the idea. In the state's lower chamber, Walker's not faring much better. State representative David Murphy (R), who recently called Walker's plan to slash $300 million from the state university system "a bold vision for the future," declared, "I'm not a believer in government supporting sports arenas for millionaire players and billionaire owners."

Perhaps most mortifying for Walker is that the plan is being publicly panned by the Wisconsin chapter of Americans for Prosperity. It was AFP that came to Walker's aid when his anti-union legislation sparked massive rallies and protests in 2011 and again when Walker came close to being ousted from office in a recall effort. But Wisconsin's AFP chapter is vociferously dumping on the stadium deal.

"The current deal is based on fuzzy math, complicated accounting and millions of taxpayer dollars," AFP state director David Fladeboe said last week. "This proposal needs to be rejected and the people of Wisconsin need to be protected."

"This proposal needs to be rejected and the people of Wisconsin need to be protected," said AFP's state director last week.

The fuzzy math Fladeboe is referring to comes from Walker's sales pitch for the arena proposal, which has the less-than-catchy tagline: "Cheaper to Keep Them."

Walker contends that if the Bucks leave, the state will miss out on millions in tax revenue, not the least of which will come from the wealthy athletes who play at the new arena. And, Walker has argued, if the arena isn't built, the lot it's slated to be constructed on will never generate as much economic activity as a basketball arena would bring.

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Critics of the proposal say that Walker's numbers, specifically the $250 million price tag, seem understated. One estimate is that the real price, when the long-term interest costs are factored in, will be at least $320 million. Another estimate pegs the cost at $400 million. Either way, the cost is greater than the savings of $300 million that are supposed to come from Walker's proposed cuts in the University of Wisconsin system for the next two years.

Walker's plan may be a very public air ball if he doesn't find a way to devote serious time and political capital to selling the project. That may be difficult, since Walker's focus increasingly seems to be on his possible presidential bid. He is already spending a significant amount of time out-of-state in places such as Iowa—trips that are irritating some allies—and his attention will only grow more divided if he launches a presidential campaign.

If the state Senate does not approve the inclusion of Walker's arena project in the state's annual budget by the end of June, the debate will drag on until the fall—prime campaigning time for Iowa's bellwether caucus. At that point, in order to avoid the loss of one of the state's three professional sports teams, Walker may have to shift his focus away from the campaign trail to manage a contentious budget fight that his staunchest allies have abandoned him on.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz Cherry-Picks Terrorism Comments **// HuffPo // D'Angelo Gore – June 12, 2015**

The following post first appeared on FactCheck.org.

Sen. Ted Cruz has criticized President Obama and the White House for not mentioning how religious discrimination fueled terrorist attacks in Paris and Libya this year. But to make his point, Cruz focuses on certain remarks and ignores others.

Discussing the killing of four people at a Jewish supermarket in Paris, Cruz claimed Obama "described that attack as a, quote, 'random act of violence.' " Obama never said those words. He denounced "vicious zealots who ... randomly shoot a bunch of folks in a deli," and the White House said Obama meant the victims were random, not the attack. Obama previously had described it as an act of anti-Semitism.

Cruz also claimed that "when ISIS beheaded 22 Coptic Christians, the White House put out a statement saying they were killed because of their Egyptian citizenship." The White House statement referred to those killed as "Egyptian citizens," not Egyptian Christians. But it didn't say they were killed because of their nationality.

Cruz, a GOP presidential candidate, made his statements at a May 30 town hall in New Hampshire hosted by radio host Jeff Kuhner. He had made the same claims at a Family Research Council retreat for pastors in Washington, D.C., on May 21.

Fellow Republican candidates Rick Perry and Mike Huckabee have made similar statements in the past.

Let's review what Obama and the White House said about those terrorist acts.

Not a Random Act

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On Jan. 9, Amedy Coulibaly shot and killed four people, and held more than a dozen others hostage, inside Hyper Cacher, a kosher grocery store in Paris. Prior to the attack, Coulibaly, according to a Reuters report, had called BFM-TV, a French TV station, “to claim allegiance to [the] Islamic State, saying he wanted to defend Palestinians and target Jews.”

Cruz, during the town hall meeting, claimed that Obama, at the time, suggested that Coulibaly’s actions were “random” and unrelated to religion.

Cruz, May 30: A few months ago, when we saw the horrific terrorist attack in Paris, President Obama described that attack as a, quote, “random act of violence.” When radical Islamists with butcher knives go into a kosher deli to murder Jews because of their Jewish faith, there ain’t nothing random about that at all.

Cruz is not the only Republican presidential contender to have criticized Obama’s comments.

A Feb. 11, statement from former Texas Gov. Rick Perry said that he was “appalled that President Obama has chosen to deny the vicious anti-Semitic motivation of the attack on a kosher Jewish grocery in Paris on January 9th.”

And former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, in a Feb. 11, Facebook post, wrote that “Obama said it’s entirely legitimate ‘to be deeply concerned when you’ve got a bunch of violent, vicious zealots who behead people or randomly shoot a bunch of folks in a deli in Paris.’ ” Huckabee went on to write, “But it wasn’t ‘random.’ It was a Jewish deli. One of the radical Islamic ‘zealots’ even told French TV that they were singling out Jews.”

Here is Obama’s complete statement from the Vox interview, published Feb. 9, with Executive Editor Matthew Yglesias:

Obama, Feb. 9: Look, the point is this: my first job is to protect the American people. It is entirely legitimate for the American people to be deeply concerned when you’ve got a bunch of violent, vicious zealots who behead people or randomly shoot a bunch of folks in a deli in Paris. We devote enormous resources to that, and it is right and appropriate for us to be vigilant and aggressive in trying to deal with that — the same way a big city mayor’s got to cut the crime rate down if he wants that city to thrive. But we also have to attend to a lot of other issues, and we’ve got to make sure we’re right-sizing our approach so that what we do isn’t counterproductive.

The following day, in a press briefing, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest attempted to clarify Obama’s statement.

“I believe the point that the president was trying to make is that these individuals were not specifically targeted. These were individuals who happened to randomly be in this deli and were shot while they were there,” Earnest told reporters. “So if you want to question the president’s placement of the adverb in the sentence, the adverb in this case being ‘randomly,’ you can. But that’s the point the president was trying to make.”

When Jonathan Karl of ABC News asked if Obama had “any doubt that that deli was attacked because it was a kosher deli,” Earnest said, “no.”

And Obama didn’t “deny the vicious anti-Semitic motivation of the attack,” as Perry had claimed. Even before the Vox interview and Earnest’s clarification, the president had said that the terrorist attack was motivated by anti-Semitism.

In a Jan. 22, statement for a United Nations meeting on the rise of anti-Semitism, Obama said: “Anti-Semitic attacks like the recent terrorist attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris pose a threat that extends beyond the

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Jewish community. They also threaten the values we hold dear — pluralism, diversity, and the freedoms of religion and expression."

And on Jan. 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, another statement from Obama said that "the recent terrorist attacks in Paris serve as a painful reminder of our obligation to condemn and combat rising anti-Semitism in all its forms."

Egyptian Christians

Cruz also claimed that "when ISIS beheaded 22 Coptic Christians, the White House put out a statement saying they were killed because of their Egyptian citizenship." He added, "That is not why they were killed."

But that is not what the White House statement said.

On Feb. 15, an Islamic State faction in Libya released video of its mass execution of 21, not 22, Coptic Christians from Egypt. According to a BBC News report, "A caption made it clear the men were targeted because of their faith."

It's true that a statement from Earnest, the White House press secretary, referred to those killed as "Egyptian citizens" without mentioning that they were also Christians. But the statement also made no mention of a motive for the killings, as Cruz claimed it had.

Earnest, Feb. 15: The United States condemns the despicable and cowardly murder of twenty-one Egyptian citizens in Libya by ISIL-affiliated terrorists. We offer our condolences to the families of the victims and our support to the Egyptian government and people as they grieve for their fellow citizens. ISIL's barbarity knows no bounds. It is unconstrained by faith, sect, or ethnicity. This wanton killing of innocents is just the most recent of the many vicious acts perpetrated by ISIL-affiliated terrorists against the people of the region, including the murders of dozens of Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai, which only further galvanizes the international community to unite against ISIL.

This heinous act once again underscores the urgent need for a political resolution to the conflict in Libya, the continuation of which only benefits terrorist groups, including ISIL. We call on all Libyans to strongly reject this and all acts of terrorism and to unite in the face of this shared and growing threat. We continue to strongly support the efforts of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General Bernardino Leon to facilitate formation of a national unity government and help foster a political solution in Libya.

The administration did mention that the victims were Christians after that.

This is what Secretary of State John Kerry said on Feb. 18 at a White House summit on violent extremism:

Kerry, Feb. 18: Earlier this week, with the release of a video showing the medieval murder of 21 Coptic Christians from Egypt on a beach in Libya, the world has once again been reminded of the absolutely unspeakable and undeniable evil of ISIL, which many of us prefer to call Daesh. Twenty-one innocent people were violently executed en masse in the most grotesque way simply because of their faith, and though Daesh has proven that it doesn't need any rationale to kill people.

And on Feb. 19, President Obama, during a speech at the same summit, said that "ISIL-linked terrorists murdered Egyptians in the Sinai Peninsula, and their slaughter of Egyptian Christians in Libya has shocked the world."

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Cruz, Paul push for ban on indefinite detention of US citizens **// The Hill // Jordain Carney – June 12, 2015**

Two 2016 presidential competitors have joined forces to get a ban on the indefinite detention of U.S. citizens included in an annual defense policy bill.

Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.), both of whom are running for president, have joined up with other senators to introduce an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), currently before the Senate, that would ban indefinite detention of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, without being charged or given a trial, unless authorized by Congress.

Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah), Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) also put their names on the provision.

"The Constitution does not allow President Obama, or any President, to apprehend an American citizen, arrested on U.S. soil, and detain these citizens indefinitely without a trial," Cruz said in a statement. "While we must vigorously protect national security by pursuing violent terrorists and preventing acts of terror, we must also ensure our most basic rights as American citizens are protected."

The senators added that they hoped the amendment would clarify "ongoing legal ambiguities," including that idea that Americans can be indefinitely detained under the 2001 authorization for the use of military force, which authorized military operations against al Qaeda.

The senators note that the 2001 authorization "cannot be construed as acts of Congress that permit indefinite detention."

Paul added, "We can and will vigorously investigate and prosecute all who seek to do us harm, and we can do so while respecting the constitutional liberties of American citizens."

Paul and Cruz have argued that previous NDAAs have given the administration the ability to indefinitely detain Americans.

The senators got a similar amendment included in the Senate's NDAA in 2012, but it wasn't in the final bill signed by President Obama.

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie's Foreign Trips Cost Taxpayers $120,000 **// AP // Jill Colvin – June 12, 2015**

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's recent foreign trips to the United Kingdom, Mexico and Canada cost New Jersey taxpayers nearly $124,000, his office says.

The numbers, released by his office Friday evening, cover security and security-related transportation expenses for each trip, as well as the expenses incurred by Christie's official photographer.

While the trips have been billed as official trade missions to encourage investment in the state, they also provided Christie, a governor with little foreign policy experience, a chance to build his foreign policy resume as he

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considers a run for the Republican nomination for president. The trips included meetings and photo ops with world leaders as well as speeches.

Christie's three-day trip to the United Kingdom in February was the most expensive of the three, costing taxpayers $62,653.19, according to the numbers provided by his office. A trip to Canada in early December 2014 cost taxpayers $29,800, while a trip to Mexico that September cost $21,822.06.

In all, taxpayer dollars will cover $114,275 in security and transportation costs, which includes state troopers' airfare and hotel costs, but not their salaries. In addition, taxpayers will cover $9,617.79 in expenses logged by Tim Larsen, Christie's chief of photography and visual communications.

That brings the total bill incurred by taxpayers for the three trips to $123,893.04.

Christie and his traveling delegations' other travel expenses were paid for by Choose New Jersey, a non-profit state economic development group funded by corporate donations, which aims to promote investment and job creation in the state. The governor's office declined to provide those costs and the group has not responded to numerous requests for comment in recent months.

Media outlets have been requesting the totals since Christie returned from Mexico. A spokesman for the governor's office, Kevin Roberts, declined to comment further.

Christie's trips included several foreign policy speeches, numerous closed-door meetings with local officials and plenty of photo ops with world leaders.

In Mexico last September, Christie delivered a speech criticizing President Barack Obama for failing to approve construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline and called for stronger relations with Mexico and Canada. He also traveled to the city of Puebla with President Enrique Peña Nieto, where he received an enthusiastic welcome from students in an outdoor arena.

In the United Kingdom in February, Christie met behind closed doors with British Prime Minister David Cameron and enjoyed a soccer match. He also drew controversy when he said parents should have some measure of choice when it comes to vaccinating their children. He later walked those comments back.

The security costs from the three recent trips are similar to the nearly $40,000 taxpayers paid for Christie's first trade mission to Israel and Jordan in April 2012.

Christie told an audience in Washington recently that he's eying additional travel — potentially to Latin America — later this year.

Christie says he'll make a decision about whether he's running for the Republication presidential nomination later this month.

Chris Christie takes a veiled swipe at Rand Paul over Patriot Act **// MSNBC // Aliyah Frumin – June 12, 2015**

In an apparent swipe at Sen. Rand Paul, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie on Friday blasted politicians who have tried to raise money off of their opposition to the Patriot Act – going as far as calling such actions a “disgrace.”

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During his opening remarks at a town hall meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Christie told the crowd that the president's No. 1 priority is to protect Americans. "And yet, you've got folks—some of them running for president—who stood on the floor of the United States Senate and weakened our country and then sent out videos of it to try and raise money."

"They bragged about how much money they raised ... To me, that's a disgrace," added the governor, who is expected to announce whether he will officially run for president in the next few weeks. Christie has argued for the re-authorization of the Patriot Act, arguing it's an important tool to combat terrorism.

It's an issue that has divided Republicans, and Christie's latest criticism seems aimed at differentiating himself from the rest of the emerging GOP field.

Paul, who has announced that he'll seek the 2016 GOP nomination, held an 11-hour filibuster-like speech in May to argue against the government's surveillance of Americans' phone records, insisting it tramples of civil liberties and allows the government to spy on innocent people. Afterward, he sent out emails to supporters asking for cash with subject lines like "Last night I put NSA spying on life support."

On May 31, some provisions of the Patriot Act – including a program allowing the government to collect phone records of millions of Americans – expired after the Senate was unable to pass legislation to extend them. Most of those provisions were eventually restored through the USA Freedom Act earlier this month. However, the law was changed to stop the NSA from continuing its mass phone data collection, with phone companies retaining the data. The NSA can get information about specific individuals if it is approved by a federal court.

Similar to Paul, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas has said he is against a clean extension of the Patriot Act. After a recent federal appeals court ruling that the government's collection of millions of Americans' phone records is illegal, Cruz said the ruling confirmed what many Americans already know—that the NSA "went too far in collecting phone records."

Like Christie, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush have argued in favor of the Patriot Act.

Christie has frequently butted heads with Paul over the issue of surveillance. In May, the governor accused Paul of "siding with" NSA leaker Edward Snowden (who the governor called a "criminal") by opposing efforts to extend the Patriot Act. At the town hall on Friday, Christie painted himself as the only potential or declared candidate who has real world experience fighting terrorism. He pointed to his nomination by then-president George W. Bush to be U.S. Attorney in New Jersey right before the 9/11 attacks and how he used tools, including the Patriot Act, to go after terrorists.

The governor's trip to the first-in-the-nation caucus state is his first visit there in three months. By contrast, he has taken nine trips to the early voting state of New Hampshire this year alone. Christie told the crowd on Friday that there was a common misconception that his bold and sometimes brash style would not go over well in Iowa. "I haven't met one person in Iowa who wasn't direct," said the governor. Such critics, he insisted, "misunderstand me, and they misunderstand you."

Surveys indicate Christie would have an uphill battle in the Hawkeye State. According to an average of polling data compiled by RealClearPolitics surrounding the Iowa Republican Presidential Caucus, Christie garners just 4.2% support and is eighth place behind Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (18.2%), Rubio (11%), Paul (8.6%), former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (9.4%), Bush (9.2%), Cruz (7.6%) and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson (8.4%).

Chris Christie hits Ted Cruz for 'hypocrisy' on disaster aid // CNN // Ashley Killough – June 12, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Chris Christie accused likely presidential rival Ted Cruz of "hypocrisy" for supporting federal emergency aid after last month's devastating floods in Texas but voting against government relief funding two years and a half years ago after Superstorm Sandy wrecked the East Coast.

The New Jersey governor, who was holding a town hall Friday during the final leg of his two-day trip to Iowa, was making the argument that the next president needs to be someone who understands what it's like to sustain a natural disaster -- unlike "some of our friends in Congress, right?"

"We have Senator Cruz -- who voted against Sandy relief -- now he says he's got floods in Texas. He says 'Hey, we need some help down here in Texas.' It's great, right?" asked Christie, who is expected to announce his presidential decision in the coming weeks.

He also referred to Colorado lawmakers who made similar protests to the Sandy bill but supported federal relief when floods hit their state in 2013.

Cruz expressed support for federal funds for his state in late May despite voting against a massive package in early 2013 dedicated to post-Sandy recovery efforts. Standing on what he said was a matter of principle, he and other conservatives argued that the bill contained too much extra money for items unrelated to the storm.

At the time, Christie ripped into Congressional Republicans for delaying a vote on the package. Congress ultimately passed a scaled-back version worth $9.7 billion in early January 2013. Later that month, it approved a much larger package worth $50 billion.

"People get religion real quick," Christie said Friday, before taking on a tone of voice in an imitation of Cruz. "'All of the sudden the principled vote that I'm making here on the floor of the United States Senate is I'm not going to spend this kind of money on this kind of thing unless it happens in my state. And then if it does, then it's an absolutely appropriate expenditure of money.' I mean, come on. Come on."

Christie said Texas should still get the funds "because what's more important is not his hypocrisy; it's the people of his state who are suffering and there are communities that need to be rebuilt."

In a statement to CNN, Cruz said Christie is a "good man" and noted that he has defended Christie amid the Bridgegate scandal. But he argued that his view hasn't changed, saying he supports federal aid as long as it is limited to recovery and relief efforts.

"I like and respect Chris Christie; indeed, I've been vocal defending him from unfair charges that have been leveled his direction. Whatever insults are launched, I'm not going to respond in kind. He's a good man. On the merits, my view is exactly the same as it was before: of course, the federal government should assist with disaster aid, whether for Hurricane Sandy or for flooding in Texas. But politicians in Washington shouldn't load up disaster relief with billions in unrelated pork-barrel spending."

Christie attended NBA Finals on PAC's dime **// The Hill // Mark Hensch – June 12, 2015**

Gov. Chris Christie (R-N.J.) attended Game 3 of the NBA Finals earlier this week with a ticket paid for by his political action committee, a report says.

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Christie's Leadership Matters for America PAC funded his travel to Cleveland on Tuesday for the hotly anticipated basketball game, according to the National Journal.

It also bought Christie's near-courtside seat to the game between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Golden State Warriors.

Christie's state spokesman told the National Journal on Thursday afternoon that the governor's appearance at the contest was "through the PAC," it said.

His spokesman added that Christie, a possible 2016 GOP presidential candidate, was in Ohio attending private and fundraising meetings the day of tipoff.

He declined to discuss any link those activities may have had with Tuesday night's NBA game.

The National Journal said on Thursday that Christie's PAC had not filed any receipts or disbursements with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) over his attendance at Tuesday night's game.

The Columbus Dispatch posted Twitter photos on Wednesday showing Christie sitting next to Urban Meyer, the head football coach for Ohio State University, during Tuesday night's game.

Christie has previously faced questions over his spending habits at other sporting events.

An analysis released last month found that Christie had spent about $300,000 in taxpayer funds on food and drinks during his five years in office.

New Jersey Watchdog reported on May 11 that Christie had doled out more than $82,000 at MetLife Stadium, home of the New York Giants and New York Jets franchises in the National Football League (NFL).

The New Jersey Republican State Commission (NJRSC) later reimbursed the state for the full $300,000, thus ensuring no cost to taxpayers.

Christie has additionally stopped using his office's expense account while at sporting venues.

The New Jersey governor has said he is close to deciding whether he will seek the White House next year.

Should he run, he would enter one of the most crowded GOP presidential fields in history.

Republicans currently have nine official candidates on their ballots, with more possible in the coming months.

GRAHAM

Lindsey Graham Challenges Republican Rivals on Debt Ceiling // TIME // Zeke Miller – June 12, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham is seeking to differentiate himself from his GOP presidential rivals any way he can. On Friday he opens up a new front—challenging his opponents to take a stance on raising the federal debt limit.

Bitter internal divisions within the GOP aired in 2011 and 2013, bringing the U.S. to the brink of defaulting on its obligations. A similar fight is brewing for this fall, when the nation will once again hit its borrowing cap, this time in the shadow of a presidential primary and for the first time with Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress.

“At the end of the day, something has to be done. We can’t default,” Graham told reporters at the E2 Summit, organized by former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney. “There will be a bunch of people in our party and in theirs saying no, no, no. Somebody’s got to find a way to say yes.”

“When you look at the number of Republicans who say we will never raise the debt ceiling if you put a gun to their head, you’re going to have to get Democrats to do this,” he added. “It’s going to be a challenge for our party and I think people running to be president should speak about what would you do as president, what would you do as a person wanting to be president when it came time to lift the debt ceiling. Because it is about leadership.”

In laying down the gauntlet, the South Carolina defense hawk is further positioning himself as a contrarian on party orthodoxy, with his support for immigration reform and efforts to combat climate change. Graham is also attempting to force his Republican opponents, who are navigating between the wishes of the business community to avoid more uncertainty and the frustration among the conservative base with the growth of the federal government, into a tougher spot.

Presidential Candidate Lindsey Graham Introduces 20-Week 'Pain-Capable' Late-Term Abortion Ban in Senate; Promises Vote in 2015 // The Christian Post // Sam Smith – June 12, 2015

Presidential candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., reintroduced legislation in the Senate Thursday that would ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy except in cases of rape and incest, a measure that passed the House of Representatives by a 242-184 vote last month.

At a Capitol Hill news conference, Graham promised that the bill, titled the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, would be debated and voted on this year.

"This legislation is groundbreaking yet simple at the same time. What I love most about this piece of legislation is how simple it is," Graham said. "Do you believe that at 20 weeks in the pregnancy, five months, when medical encyclopedias are encouraging young parents to sing to their child because they can begin to recognize the voice, that this is a stage in development where you should be very excited because your child is well on their way? Does the government have a legitimate and compelling interest to protect that baby? The answer, I believe, is yes."

Graham reasoned that since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Roe v. Wade, medical sciences have advanced enough to acknowledge that unborn children at 20 weeks of pregnancy are capable of feeling excruciating pain and that there is a reasonable governmental interest in protecting those unborn children.

"Roe v. Wade was about medical viability. Roe v. Wade acknowledges that there is a compelling state interest in protecting the unborn child," Graham argued. "The standard of medical practice in America is that if you operate on an unborn child at 20 weeks, which happens fairly often ..., you have to provide anesthesia to the baby because they are capable of feeling extreme pain.

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"Here is the choice for America — if a doctor is required to provide anesthesia to the child to help save its life because they feel pain in the process of being operated on, is it OK for society to say, 'Well, at that stage in the pregnancy we don't want the operation to be an abortion?'" Graham continued. "I believe that most Americans will say yes."

The United States is one of just seven countries in the world that doesn't ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, putting the U.S. in the same "club" as systemic human rights violators such as China and North Korea.

"This bill would put us out of a league of nations who have refrained from protecting children after that point. We are one of only seven nations that have refrained from protecting children after 20 weeks," Susan B. Anthony List president Marjorie Dannenfelser said at the press conference. "We are in the company of China, North Korea, Vietnam and others. That is not the human rights club that we would like to be in and we need to be out."

Graham said that there are some exceptions in the legislation for pregnancies that occur as a result of rape or incest and said that women would need to report the claim of incest or rape to a counselor or medical doctor at least 48 hours prior to the abortion.

When asked whether Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., would push this bill for debate, Graham explained that McConnell is one of the co-sponsors of the bill and promised a vote by year's end.

"He is very favorable to this bill and I think he is a co-sponsor and we will find time on the calendar," Graham asserted. "I can promise you a debate in 2015 and a vote."

Graham's bill could force some of his Republican colleagues, who are representing historically Democratic states, to take a position on this legislation, which some pundits claim could hurt their reelection chances. But the legislation could also force a few Democratic senators who represent historically conservative states to do the same.

"Don't get into politics if you don't want to talk about things like this. This is why you want to get elected, I think. Whether you are for or against it, this is something worth talking about," Graham said. "I think if you are in the House or the Senate, voting on this issue is required because it is an important issue. What we are looking for is a debate with those who oppose this. Tell me the upside of this. ... What are we achieving here? How are we a better nation? What is your theory of the case? Why do we want to let this happen this late in the pregnancy?

"I am dying for that debate and I am going to insist that we have that debate because we are a member of seven nations that I don't think represent who we are as Americans," Graham added.

Should the measure pass in the Senate, it could be vetoed by President Barack Obama, although he stated earlier this week that every child ought to have the opportunity to reach their "God-given potential."

"And we agree with President Obama on what he said earlier this week, here in Washington, D.C., when he spoke before the Catholic Health Association. He said this: 'A shared belief that every human being made in the image of God deserves to live in dignity. All children, no matter who they are or where they come from or how much money they were born into, ought to have the opportunity to achieve their God-given potential,'" Family Research Council President Tony Perkins explained at the press conference.

"Well, that potential, that opportunity, it begins with life," Perkins continued. "So I call upon President Obama and his party to withdraw their opposition to this bill; and I call upon President Obama to pledge his support for this measure that would help bring his administration's policies in line with his political rhetoric."

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Currently, 13 states have laws banning abortions after 20 weeks.

SANTORUM

For Candidates Like Rick Santorum, the Line Can Be Long to Take Flight // NYT // Ashley Parker – June 12, 2015

The 2016 presidential season may have started early — but expect it to go long.

At least that was the message from Spencer Zwick, who was the finance chairman for former Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, at the 2012 Republican presidential nominee's annual donor retreat in Park City.

Speaking to reporters Thursday night, Mr. Zwick said he did not see the Republican nominee race "as an early knockout."

The reason? "If you're at 1 percent in the polls, why would you get out?" he said. "There is no downside to staying in the race. In the worst case, you might get a TV show after it all."

Look no farther, Mr. Zwick said, than Rick Santorum —a Republican presidential candidate again in 2016 who, despite little campaign infrastructure and money in 2012, forced Mr. Romney into a prolonged primary fight.

Mr. Zwick recalled a moment during the 2012 campaign, when he was waiting to catch a JetBlue red-eye back to Boston after a presidential debate in Las Vegas. The Romney team, he said, was "in full swing" — with a private charter plane and full campaign apparatus.

"And I was waiting in line at the JetBlue red-eye, and about 30 people behind me was Rick Santorum, waiting to get on a middle seat to fly to Boston to be able to go New Hampshire," Mr. Zwick recalled, shaking his head in mix of awe and admiration. "It dawned on me right there, wow, there is no barrier to entry. As long as you can have enough money to buy a commercial airline ticket to get to the next state, you've got a ticket, you can go. It was like this surreal moment I had on the campaign. Here were we, building this massive infrastructure and this political machine, and you know, Senator Santorum is standing there with his carry-on bag, getting in line."

And, Mr. Zwick added, Mr. Santorum "wasn't even Group 1. I was at least in the even more space section."

"This guy was on national TV, debating," he added, and yet "there was no campaign infrastructure."

So, Mr. Zwick concluded, expect the JetBlue primary — where just about any candidate, especially one with a wealthy donor and a "super PAC," can stay in the race — to go on, and on, and on.

Rick Santorum says he'd welcome an endorsement from Caitlyn Jenner // NY Daily News // Aliza Chasan – June 12, 2015

Rick Santorum would welcome an endorsement from former Olympic gold medalist Caitlyn Jenner if she offered one.

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“You accept their vote, but do you accept her?” CNN’s Erin Burnett asked him in an interview Thursday night.

“My job as a human being is to treat everybody with dignity and respect, period, stop, full stop. No qualification to that,” the Republican presidential contender said.

In the past Santorum has said he would refuse to attend same-sex weddings. He’s also compared homosexuality to both incest and bestiality.

"Do I have to agree with their positions on issues or how they see America? Of course not,” Santorum said Thursday.

But a vote is a vote to Santorum.

“Because people vote for you for all sorts of reasons, and that’s fine. And I accept whatever reason anybody wants to vote for me, whoever they are,” he said.

He may have to fight Lindsey Graham for a Jenner backing though.

“If Caitlyn Jenner wants to be a Republican, she is welcome in my party,” Graham told CNN on Sunday.

HUCKABEE

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee making weekend campaign swing through South Carolina // AP – June 12, 2015

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is returning to South Carolina.

The Republican presidential hopeful begins his trip on Friday with a meet and greet at The Beacon Drive-In Restaurant in Spartanburg.

From there, he's holding a reception with the Spartanburg County GOP before taking part in the Bridging the Gap Quarterly Leadership Series. Huckabee is ending the day with an event with Benjamin House Ministry in Moore.

On Saturday, Huckabee is making stops in Gaffney and Indian Land before taking a tour of Keer America Manufacturing. In the afternoon, he's attending a barbecue hosted by the York County Republican Party in Rock Hill.

Anti-Huckabee super PAC formed // Arkansas News // John Lyon – June 12, 2015

A former Republican presidential candidate has created a super PAC to oppose Mike Huckabee’s second presidential bid, saying he wants to educate voters about Huckabee’s “horrific record as governor of Arkansas.”

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Truth Squad 2016 is the creation of Fred Karger of Los Angeles, who unsuccessfully sought the Republican presidential nomination in 2012. Karger is a political consultant, gay rights activist and former Hollywood actor who appeared in “Airport 1975” and “Rich Man, Poor Man.”

The super PAC said in a news release Friday it is “the first super PAC formed specifically to oppose a Republican candidate for president in 2016” and pledged to “help those whose lives were forever changed by Governor Huckabee’s actions tell their stories.”

The release includes excerpts from a Seattle Times interview with Kim Renninger, widow of Sgt. Mark Renninger, one of four police officers killed in Parkland, Wash., in 2009 by Maurice Clemmons, who had been paroled in Arkansas. Clemmons had been sentenced to 108 years in prison in Arkansas, but in 2000 Huckabee shortened his sentence, making him eligible for parole.

Renninger told the newspaper she wants to hold Huckabee accountable by telling her story because, although he was not the only person involved in Clemmons’ release — the state Parole Board had unanimously recommended that Huckabee grant executive clemency, and it ultimately voted to release Clemmons on parole — “the person who got this ball rolling was Huckabee.”

Huckabee spokeswoman Alice Stewart responded in a statement, “SuperPACs are typically funded by powerful Washington and Wall Street elites, and no one is a bigger threat to them than Gov. Huckabee, an outsider fighting for Main Street Americans. It’s heartbreaking that these widows are being exploited for the political benefit of these secret-agenda-driven SuperPAC donors. This is Washington-DC-style, gutter politics at its worst.”

Stewart said Huckabee’s heart grieves for the four slain police officers. She also pointed out that the Parole Board members who voted to release Clemmons were all appointed by former Democratic governors Bill Clinton and Jim Guy Tucker.

Huckabee served as governor of Arkansas from 1996 to 2007. In 2008, he finished second to Arizona Sen. John McCain in the Republican presidential primary race.

A super PAC in support of Huckabee’s campaign, Pursuing America’s Greatness, was created earlier this year.

KASICH

Kasich: Trade Is Critical to National Security **// Fox News // Matthew Kazin – June 12, 2015**

Prior to the House vote Friday on President Obama’s trade deal, Ohio Gov. John Kasich told FBN’s Neil Cavuto that the legislation stands to impact more than just the U.S. economy.

“It’s not just economic; it’s also a national security issue as well, where we can have access and involvement in parts of the world where it’s vital,” Kasich said.

The Republican governor added: “I believe that trade is a very important part of national security, and to turn this deal down, I think, would be bad.”

However, Kasich said the trade deal has pros and cons.

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“It is best for our economy, and there are going to be workers who will be hurt,” he said. “We have to make sure that they’re going to be retrained and there’ll be opportunities for them.”

In addition to trade deal talk, Kasich also discussed the possibility of a 2016 bid for the White House.

“We’re getting closer and closer to making a decision,” he said. “I don’t want to do this just for the sake of it. I need to know that I could win.”

John Kasich Strives for Self-Control // Bloomberg News // Ben Brody – June 12, 2015

John Kasich seems to know the rap against him: He's cranky, unfocused, and impulsive. But ahead of the scrutiny of a possible presidential run, the Republican governor of Ohio is testing out a new disciplined persona.

"Everything you say now is under a microscope so I've got to think more like a scientist," he said Friday in an interview with Bloomberg Politics' Mark Halperin from Mitt Romney's E2 Summit in Utah.

That meant parrying when asked if he felt that he was competing with other candidates and hopefuls at the event, including Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, who has cast himself as a proven conservative election-winner.

“How's this discipline going?”

"The minute I say something about him, then it’s like I’m going after him," Kasich said. Later, he asked: "How am I doing on this discipline?"

"I’ve got a lot of energy and I need to know how to dose it out," he added, saying he'd learned that after a brief presidential run in 2000.

He likewise held back on policy prescriptions, saying a military commander would have to say how many troops the U.S. should send to combat ISIS as part of a coalition, not him.

During his address at the summit, he concentrated on his biography, touting his meeting with Richard Nixon as a college freshman, his adherence to Reagan's philosophy since before his 1982 election to the House, and his work on balancing budgets. He joked about his time as a Fox News host, saying he was a "giant television star."

He only returned to concrete policies only when outlining his fiscally conservative policies as governor and his willingness to leave a pathway to legal status for immigrants who are in the country illegally.

On taxes, too, he was firmer with Bloomberg. "The most important thing to do" for growth, he said, is not reform of the income tax code for individuals but "to give these companies incentive to invest instead of buying back stock and keeping their profits in Europe."

Despite making moves toward a run, Kasich also nearly shrugged off the ambition.

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"If I... get in, try my best, and I don't win, you know, I would have tried my best," he said.

And he couldn't resist making a comparison to state hero LeBron James, the Cleveland Cavaliers superstar who led his team to the NBA finals.

Both Buckeye Staters "want to take it to the hole and make sure you score," Kasich said. "Very competitive. Have fun too."

Kasich inches 'closer and closer' to 2016 decision **// The Hill // Rebecca Shabad – June 12, 2015**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R) said Friday he's getting "closer and closer" to making a decision about whether to run for president.

"I wouldn't be out here if I wasn't interested, and we're getting closer and closer to making a decision. It's a discipline process because I don't want to do this just for the sake of it. I need to know that I could win and look at what I bring is a record that's unique," Kasich said in an interview on Fox Business Network.

Kasich expressed confidence he has the necessary qualifications to lead the White House by touting his records in Congress and as governor of Ohio on both defense and fiscal issues.

"I served on the Defense Committee. I was Chairman of the Budget Committee in Washington when we balanced the budget, and Ohio has had a massive turnaround, and I was in the private sector for 10 years. No one has all of that," he said.

Kasich predicted during the interview that critical votes on trade would pass in the House on Friday.

The lower chamber, however, later rejected a vote on a bill that would provide aid to workers who would be displaced by a future trade deal. A subsequent vote on fast-track authority that allows Congress to take an up or down vote on a trade deal, but not amend it, passed. It won't go to the president's desk because of a procedural rule.

The Ohio governor is hinting further at a 2016 run with a June 24 trip to the early-voting state of Iowa.

Kasich served in the House from 1983 until early 2001.

CARSON

Ben Carson polling well among millennials **// Politico // Christina Animashaun – June 12, 2015**

The Republican Party's most unlikely presidential candidate continues to defy the odds on the road to the GOP primary. But Ben Carson's campaign hopes may not survive if he tries to appeal to grass roots conservatives and tea partiers alone.

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Carson's presidential ambitions may compel him to ease the growing tension with children in Baltimore, who grew up knowing him as the one of world's greatest surgeons — or depending on the children, knowing very little about him at all.

We're talking about the millennials.

Last month, Carson topped the Harvard University's Institute of Politics millennial poll, a nationwide survey focused 18- to 29-year-olds. Though the poll did not present a clear GOP front-runner among that age set, the results showed Carson narrowly ahead of Rand Paul and Ted Cruz.

Millennials make up nearly a quarter of the U.S. population and currently outnumber the baby boomers, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. And with their voting participation on the rise, this group could become a crucial element in the 2016 election season.

Doug Watts, the communications director for Carson's 2016 presidential campaign, credits name recognition as the foundation of any candidate trying to win votes.

"The two sets of groups that seem to know Ben Carson really well [are] people 45 and older and people 18- to 24-year-olds," Watts said. "The younger voters know [a] lot more about Ben Carson than the general public. They were assigned [to] reading his books. They were aware of [his] story."

The retired neurosurgeon's first political splash came during his speech at the National Prayer Breakfast two years ago, where he doggedly embraced not being politically correct and criticized the Affordable Care Act as President Barack Obama sat only one seat from him.

But for Wake Tech political student Markeece Young, Carson's speech at the National Prayer Breakfast served as another first.

"That was the first time I learned who Ben Carson was," he said.

Known in the blogosphere as the Young Black Republican, Young is a political junkie. Scrolling through his Twitter stream reveals an unapologetic support for the GOP and pictures of him alongside Ted Cruz and Donald Trump.

Young watched Carson stumble on the campaign with political gaffes on gay rights issues. The 19-year-old activist attributes those blunders to Carson's political inexperience, but the candidate's bold statements have rubbed him and other millennial voters the wrong way by making light of issues most important to them, Young says.

"When he says he thinks selfies are stupid," Young said, "That is not how you start your youth outreach by downing something that is wildly popular in our culture."

Surprised that Carson is polling well among the millennial base, Young argued that voters his age tend to support flashier and more inexperienced candidates, such as Obama. Young, however, is not voting for Carson in the Republican primary because he doesn't believe Carson can resonate with youth as well as Paul or Cruz can.

"He hasn't been in any political or leadership positions already," Young said. "I think he needs more seasoning."

Carson is known for pulling himself up from the bootstraps in the face of heavy adversity growing up in Detroit.

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Last month, the retired neurosurgeon visited with faith and community leaders in the wake of Freddie Gray's death in Baltimore, a city that is a marker of the Carson's historical success.

Ibrahim Auguste, a 21-year-old science major at the Community College of Baltimore County, had seen Carson several times in Auguste's years growing up in Baltimore. He stood in the crowded conference room of the Bilingual Christian Church, a 15-minute drive west of Johns Hopkins Hospital, where Carson served as director until 2013. He thought Carson's uplifting messages for city residents glided over the hard realities.

"People, in general, have been victims of racial prejudice and police brutality." Auguste said. Harvard's IOP poll shows that a large proportion of millennial voters are focused on the U.S. justice system and the #BlackLivesMatter movement. For Auguste, the GOP hopeful needs to identify systemic issues affecting his adopted hometown.

"Ah, man," Auguste said, recalling his thoughts when he listened to Carson speak. "You're really disconnected right now."

Kory Boone, chairman of the Maryland Young Republicans, knew of the neurosurgeon in the context of black history and his accomplishments in education. However, with a crowded field of GOP candidates, Boone believes Carson will have to step up even more if he hopes to improve his reach among younger voters.

"We need to stop being on the defensive when it comes to these issues, especially with millennials," Said Boone who said Republican candidates should campaign more on college campuses. "We need to articulate our message better. I believe that's what we need to do as a party."

Ben Carson: "What You See In Communist Countries" Is "What We've Got Now" In America // Buzzfeed // Christopher Massie – June 12, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson said Wednesday that regulations in the United States are akin to those in communist countries.

The retired neurosurgeon made the comments while answering a question by Iowa conservative radio show host Jan Mickelson on "Section 8 housing regulations" that allegedly stipulate that Eastern Iowans "have to recruit from Chicago their poverty-afflicted individuals to bring them to Iowa in order to qualify for Section 8 Housing."

Carson said the regulations were indicative of "what you see in communist countries."

"This is just an example of what happens when we allow the government to infiltrate every part of our lives," Carson said. "This is what you see in communist countries where they have so many regulations encircling every aspect of your life that if you don't agree with them, all they have to do is pull the noose. And this is what we've got now."

Carson argued that these "dozens of regulations" were part of a process that proves "exactly what Thomas Jefferson predicted."

"Every month dozens of regulations—business, industry, academia, every aspect of our lives—so that they can control you," Carson said. "And this is exactly what Thomas Jefferson predicted. He said the people would become lackadaisical, they would not be vigilant, the government would grow, it will infiltrate every part of their lives, and it will take over."

Carson finished his recounting of Jefferson's predictions by saying that "just before we become another type of government, the people would wake up."

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“But just before—just before we become another type of government, the people would wake up,” he said. “I’m hoping that this is the time when they wake up.”

Ben Carson in Cleveland: Health care not a right, but a 'responsibility for a compassionate society' //
Cleveland News // Henry J. Gomez – June 12, 2015

Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon and Republican presidential candidate, used a medical conference here Friday to deliver his latest critique of President Barack Obama's signature health care program.

"The thing I really detested about the Affordable Care Act was you had government saying, 'We don't care what you, the people think. This is what you're going to do. End of story.' And that completely turns it on its head," Carson told more than 100 attendees at Cleveland Clinic Children's Pediatric Innovation Summit.

Carson, whose political identity soared after blasting Obamacare while the president sat nearby at the 2013 National Prayer Breakfast, added that he "very much wants people to have good health care." He also asserted that the U.S. spends "almost twice as much as the next closest nation on health care" -- a claim that the independent fact-checkers at PolitiFact found flaws with earlier this year.

"Is health care a right in this country? I don't believe so," Carson said at the close of his nearly 45-minute keynote speech, delivered at downtown's Global Center for Health Innovation. "But I believe it is a responsibility for a compassionate society. And we are a compassionate society. Physicians need to get involved. Five physicians signed the Declaration of Independence. ... We need to be the ones who drive this if we're going to be successful as a society."

Carson's speech had been relatively light on the politics until that point. For most of his time on stage he leaned comfortably on a lectern and delivered a conversational version of his life story. He grew up in poverty but went on to become a famed pediatric neurosurgeon at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he was known for leading the first successful operation to separate twins joined at the head.

At times he sprinkled in pointed commentary.

"My mother worked extraordinarily hard, two three jobs at a time, getting up and leaving at 5 in the morning and getting back after midnight," Carson said. "The key thing for her is she never became a victim. She just didn't want to be dependent. She occasionally accepted some aid, but for the most part she stayed off of government aid. She didn't want us to feel like we were victims, either.

"I find it amusing that some people like to criticize me," he continued. "They say, 'Well, Carson grew up very poor, and he must have accepted government aid, so why does he want to withdraw it from people now?' Which is just total lies. I have no desire to withdraw aid from people who actually need it."

The speech was Carson's second public appearance in Cleveland in three months. He headlined the Cuyahoga County Republican Party's Lincoln Day dinner in April.

Carson is likely to return here Aug. 6, for the first GOP presidential debate, which Fox News will broadcast live from The Q. The cable network only will invite candidates who have averaged in the top 10 of recent national polls.

It's a threshold Carson should have little trouble meeting, based on his recent standings in the top third of a

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crowded field. But he has expressed concern about rules that could exclude Carly Fiorina, the only woman in the race, and others polling in the low single digits. This week, Fox News announced it will televise an afternoon forum for the candidates who don't qualify for the prime time debate.

"I'm happier with it than what they were doing before," Carson told the Northeast Ohio Media Group in an interview after his Friday speech. "I actually do think Carly will get there. I've known Carly for a long time. She's a smart cookie."

Cleveland also will host the 2016 Republican National Convention.

FIORINA

Carly Fiorina Shows Us Just How Weird America's Tax System Is // NYT // Josh Barro – June 12, 2015

Last week, Carly Fiorina's presidential campaign made an offer to reporters that was tantalizing to me, but probably to few other people on the planet: If we came in person to her campaign headquarters in Virginia, we could review her state income tax returns.

Ms. Fiorina had already put her and her husband's federal income taxes for 2012 and 2013 online, along with a disclosure of financial assets that is much more detailed than required by law. (Ms. Fiorina, a former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard, and her husband have a net worth of precisely $58,954,494.88, according to her disclosure forms.) But I was mostly interested in the Fiorinas' state income tax returns because they demonstrate a distinct — and distinctly annoying — feature of American taxes: the way states clamber over one another, trying to tax the same income, often generating a lot of paperwork but not much revenue.

Mr. and Ms. Fiorina had to file taxes in no fewer than 17 states in 2013, many of them with only the most tenuous connection to the Fiorinas or their financial interests. In 11 of those states, their tax bill was less than $250.

Carly Fiorina at a campaign event in Iowa this month. Credit Dave Kaup/Reuters

Of course, the Fiorinas make more money than most people, about $2.5 million in 2013, which is a major reason they were taxed in so many states. But the tax rules that cause the Fiorinas to have around a 1,000-page stack of state income tax returns also hit many Americans with more moderate incomes, requiring them to file multiple state income tax returns.

In the Fiorinas' case, consider Michigan. The Fiorinas do not live or work in Michigan. They do not own a business or income-producing real estate there. Ms. Fiorina did not collect speaking fees from Michigan in 2013. But the Fiorinas do invest in a variety of funds, which generate income in a variety of places, including $946 in 2013 that was attributable to Michigan. So, the Fiorinas had to file a tax return there, which was 58 pages long, and reflects a liability of $40, which they paid.

And then they got the money back.

The Fiorinas' home state of Virginia gave them a tax credit of $40, fully offsetting the Michigan tax bill, because Virginia had already taxed the same income Michigan taxed. That's how the American system of state income taxes generally works: Your home state taxes you on all your income; states where you don't live tax you on the income you earned in those states; then, because some of your income has been taxed twice, your home state credits you back — but only up to the amount of tax you paid on that income in your home state.

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You don't have to pity the Fiorinas, who presumably did not sweat the cost of getting 17 state income tax returns prepared. But you don't have to be an ex-C.E.O. to get hit with an interstate tax burden.

For example, you could be me. I filed 2014 taxes in two states: New York, where I live and work; and California, where I once appeared on a television show (Fun fact: with Carly Fiorina). I owed $67 to California, and New York gave me back $55 as a credit. So nonresident income taxation cost me $12 in actual taxes, far less than the $40 I paid TurboTax to generate an additional state's return.

The more common reason to end up in this situation is cross-border commuting: If you live in one state and work in another, it's likely you're stuck with the obligation to file tax returns in multiple states, with little impact on your actual total tax payment.

There is not much justification for this complex structure, which is why other advanced countries generally do not emulate it. Many other rich countries do not have subnational income taxes at all. Those that do generally have a much simpler rule: You pay income tax where you live.

If Carly Fiorina were running for prime minister of Canada, there would have been no similar stack of provincial tax returns for me to page through. In Canada, you pay tax on all your personal income to whatever province you were a resident of on the last day of the year. Business income is only a little more complicated: You pay tax on business income in places where your business has a permanent establishment, not wherever you give a speech or have a consulting client. Switzerland is a country that prizes local government autonomy much as America does, but it also uses the Canadian pay-where-you-live model.

Some American states have figured that our system is convoluted and have established bilateral tax agreements to make it less so. Residents of Virginia who earn income in Maryland pay tax just to Virginia, and vice versa. But agreements like these don't exist everywhere.

Sometimes that's because there aren't enough taxpayers to justify negotiating the agreement: The Fiorinas' situation of living in Virginia and earning in Michigan is probably not very common. Sometimes it's because the fiscal benefits flow mostly in one direction: A lot more people live in New Jersey and earn income in New York than vice versa, so New York would lose revenue on a deal to simplify taxes for commuters.

Because of those parochial interests, tax harmonization tends to happen when it's enforced from above: Canada's last-day-of-the-year residency rule is imposed by its federal government. Do not hold your breath for a similar assertion of federal power here.

Carly Fiorina Blames Unions, Dodd Frank And Democrats For Gender Inequality // Think Progress // Alice Ollstein – June 12, 2015

On Thursday, former HP CEO and Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina told the DC-based libertarian think tank Competitive Enterprise Institute her views on the "state of women in America."

She spoke candidly about the sexism she has faced in her own career — including being called a "bimbo" multiple times, being forced to attend a corporate meeting held at a strip club, and being asked patronizing questions on the campaign trail. But Fiorina also insisted that the U.S. is the greatest country in the world for women.

"Women here have achieved more than anywhere else in the world," she told reporters on a conference call before the speech. She later told the audience, "My story — from secretary to CEO to candidate for President — is only possible in this country."

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The line won enthusiastic applause, but ignores the substantial list of countries where women have already risen from middle class backgrounds to running the country. Fiorina need only to look to Latin America to find, right now, former guerrilla fighter Dilma Rousseff as President of Brazil, former attorney Cristina Fernández de Kirchner as President of Argentina, and former political prisoner Michelle Bachelet as President of Chile. Decades ago, Margaret Thatcher, Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi were elected to lead England, Pakistan and India, respectively. In more recent history, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf led Liberia and Han Myeong-sook led South Korea.

Looking beyond just the presidency, 97 other countries in the world have a higher percentage of women their national legislatures than the U.S. — which sits just behind Kenya and Indonesia, and only slightly ahead of the United Arab Emirates. At the pace the U.S. is going, researchers at the organization FairVote estimate the nation won't achieve gender equality in elected office for another 500 years.

Still, Fiorina insisted in her speech, "Women have more opportunities [here] than anywhere else on earth."

Again, the data does not support this claim.

Other countries, mainly in Northern Europe and just over the border in Canada, have much more equal representation in corporate boardrooms, largely because of diversity quotas written into law. In overall workforce participation, the U.S.' international ranking has been on a downward slide since 1999, mostly because they have not adopted the family leave and work/life balance policies favored by most of the world. In fact, out of 185 countries, the U.S. is one of just three that doesn't guarantee paid maternity leave.

Last year, France passed a sweeping gender equality law that not only set pay equality and provided both maternity and paternity leave, it fulls covers the cost of first-trimester abortions.

Fiorina, though she defined feminism on the press call as believing "every woman has the opportunity to choose their own life," is an outspoken opponent of abortion rights. She told reporters Thursday that if elected president she would support a ban on all abortions after 20 weeks, a bill pushed by Republicans in Congress many times, most recently this week.

While Fiorina did acknowledge the worsening gender pay gap in her speech, she told reporters she does not support current proposals, like the Paycheck Fairness Act, that would make it easier for women to discover and challenge pay discrimination.

"A woman is protected today by law from gender discrimination in her paycheck," Fiorina said. "She should use the law to its fullest extent. I think leading by example is far more important than imposing it on others, so I would reform the civil service so it becomes a meritocracy."

She also declined to support calls for better family leave policies, saying, "We need to be very careful not to overreach. When well-meaning legislation to help juggle work and family goes too far, it hurts women."

Instead, Fiorina faulted unions, Dodd Frank Wall Street reform, and economic policies from "the Left" for the current state of gender equality, vowing as President to go after all three. Yet the wage gap for unionized women is 40 percent smaller than that of non-unionized women. And while the wage gap has been shrinking among unionized workers, while the overall gap hasn't budged in a decade.

Fiorina's speech ended with a plea for the GOP to "reclaim" feminism, saying progressives have turned it "a left-leaning political ideology where women are pitted against men and used as a political weapon to win elections."

Yet she reminded the crowd: "If we as a party want to win, we have to win with women."

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The RNC agrees, and after women helped propel President Obama to victory in two elections, they wrote about the need to "improve our brand with women throughout the country."

Neither the RNC nor Fiorina has called for backing policies that women overwhelmingly support, from raising the minimum wage to making all private employers cover birth control in their health insurance to legislating equal pay for equal work.

OTHER

Two-year sentence for GOP operative convicted of illegal coordination // WaPo // Matt Zapotosky & Matea Gold

A former Republican political operative convicted in a first-ever federal criminal case of illegal coordination between a campaign and a purportedly independent ally was sentenced Friday to two years in prison — a lighter punishment than prosecutors sought but one that still served as a sharp warning.

Under questioning from U.S. District Judge Liam O'Grady, 34-year-old Tyler Harber said: "I'm guilty of this. I knew it was wrong when I did it." But Harber said he was not motivated by greed or a lust for power: he simply wanted to win an election and believed what he was doing was a common — if illegal — practice.

"I got caught up in what politics has become," Harber said.

Harber — who managed the unsuccessful 2012 congressional campaign of Virginia Republican Chris Perkins — admitted in February that he helped create a super PAC and arranged for it to buy $325,000 in ads to help Perkins's campaign, then lied to the FBI about his misdeeds. Federal prosecutors hailed Harber's guilty plea and sentence as "an important step forward in the criminal enforcement of federal campaign finance laws," and they indicated that they are ramping up scrutiny of the close ties between political campaigns and their ostensibly independent supporters.

The watershed prosecution comes as super PACs are playing increasingly prominent roles in national politics. Nearly all the 2016 White House contenders are being helped by outside groups run by their friends or former strategists — in many cases, operating in close proximity. But complaints about potentially illegal coordination have stalled before the Federal Election Commission, which is mired in partisan gridlock.

Top federal officials issued strong statements Friday warning that candidates and consultants should tread carefully as the 2016 race heats up.

Assistant Attorney General Leslie R. Caldwell said political operatives should "think twice about circumventing laws that promote transparency in federal elections" and encouraged party and campaign insiders to act as whistleblowers. In court, federal prosecutor Richard Pilger asked O'Grady to send Harber to prison for three years and 10 months, saying such a term would send a message to the campaign world that "how you win matters."

Harber's defense attorneys argued that a sentence of a year and eight months was more appropriate. They asserted that Harber, a married father of two, was already financially ruined and was unlikely to ever again work in the field where he was once a rising star.

"The whole thing is foolish, given the consequences to himself," defense attorney Shannon Quill said.

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Though O'Grady's sentence was closer to defense attorneys' request than prosecutors', top election law attorneys said the aggressive stance by the Department of Justice should put donors and political consultants on guard.

"I think the department is trying to deliver a very clear message that it affirmatively wants to bring criminal coordination cases, and it is simply looking for the right opportunities to do so," said Robert Kelner, who heads the political law practice at Covington & Burling.

Kenneth Gross, a former associate general counsel at the FEC, called the department's posture "a shot across the bow."

"This shows they are willing to venture into areas of criminal enforcement in the 2016 election, beyond what they had done previously," Gross said.

In court, O'Grady peppered all those involved with critical inquiries. He asked Pilger detailed questions about the money involved in the scheme. He told Harber he did not understand what could have possibly motivated his crime, and wondered aloud why the operative did not simply have someone else take over the super PAC.

For his part, Harber repeatedly took responsibility for his actions, though he asserted he was motivated in-part by watching other people do the same things and get away with them. He said he started the super PAC — which he did not name, though federal records indicate was likely the National Republican Victory Fund — as a legitimate operation, then began using it nefariously to help Perkins campaign.

"It wasn't for greed; it wasn't for power," Harber said. "It was money in an attempt to win a race."

Perkins ultimately lost by a sizeable margin to Democratic incumbent Gerald E. Connolly to represent Virginia's 11th District in 2012.

In addition to admitting illegal coordination, Harber conceded that his super PAC — which was donor-funded — paid $138,000 to his mother's company for work that was never performed and used $118,000 of that cash for personal expenses.

Harber's sentencing comes as watchdog groups are appealing to the Justice Department to investigate such cases. Last month, Democracy 21 and the Campaign Legal Center called on the department to look into the ties between former Florida governor Jeb Bush and his associated super PAC.

But campaign finance lawyers noted that the facts in Harber's case were unusually clear-cut, involving a scheme to enrich himself and then lying to the FBI.

"It's an extreme case," said Anthony Herman, a former FEC general counsel. "I think it's quite possible that this may be unique, or one of a few we will see."

Still, Cleta Mitchell, a top Republican election law attorney, said that Harber's prosecution challenges the notion that there is no enforcement of campaign finance rules.

"It may take a while, and I wish the FEC could figure out a way to move things faster," she said. "But the law is still

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there and anybody who thinks it isn't proceeds at their own peril."

All those involved in Harber's case seemed keenly aware of the political climate. Prosecutors argued a significant punishment was necessary in-part because of the surge in spending by outside groups since the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision, which allowed corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts independently on political activity. Quill referenced news reports about candidates delaying the announcement of their campaigns "so they don't fall under these rules."

O'Grady commented that he hoped conduct like Harber's was "not as rampant" as the former operative seemed to believe.

After the hearing, Harber declined to comment. He left the courtroom with his family and will report to prison at a later date.

Christie, Walker, Rubio are unsparing in blunt pitches to 2016 donors at Romney retreat // AP // Steve Peoples and Julie Bykowicz

Govs. Scott Walker and Chris Christie said presidential rivals in the Senate don't do anything. Sen. Marco Rubio denounced "old ways" in an indirect slap at older contenders. Sen. Lindsey Graham said his party may be going down a "death spiral" if it doesn't embrace minority and younger voters.

In elbowing for attention Friday at a luxury mountainside donor retreat convened by 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney, several 2016 contenders let loose some elbows at each other. Most did not name names, but Christie did.

"If you want to know how little they know," he said of senators, "watch what Rand Paul has done the last two weeks."

The existing and prospective presidential candidates employed some unusually blunt rhetoric in drawing contrasts with each other as they addressed the donors and activists.

Asked why senators seem to be popular as presidential candidates, Christie said, "Because they don't have to do anything."

"If you don't have to do anything you can be as popular as you like because you can say anything," the New Jersey governor went on. He then took his swing at Paul, the Kentucky senator who did not attend, for his tactics in the Senate that delayed and helped to reshape government surveillance programs.

Both Graham and another potential candidate, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, said the eventual nominee must get on board with an immigration overhaul or risk losing the presidency.

"Nobody is going to vote for a party that's going to break their family apart," Graham said. The South Carolina senator said the party's lost ground with minorities and younger voters means a "demographic death spiral."

Kasich also urged Republicans to accommodate many of the immigrants who are living in the country illegally. "They've been God-fearing, hard-working people in many cases," he said.

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They were among the 2016 contenders pitching for the support of about 300 top political donors and strategists connected to Romney. Former technology executive Carly Fiorina is on Saturday's schedule — after a morning skeet-shooting session led by Graham.

Even while calling for a civilized Republican debate, Walker charged that GOP senators seeking the White House haven't accomplished anything in Washington.

He said his party's 2016 presidential class should be divided into two groups. "There are fighters and there are winners," the Wisconsin governor said, describing the fighters as the senators in the race.

"They have yet to win anything and accomplish anything."

Rubio did not engage Walker but drew a sharp contrast between the older and younger crop of candidates.

"Yesterday is over," the 44-year-old Florida senator declared, repeating a common theme designed to distinguish himself from leading Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republican Jeb Bush. "The old ways of doing things aren't working anymore."

"Some have said I should have waited my turn," Rubio said. "I didn't know there was a line."

Bush was invited to Romney's gathering, but was in Europe on Friday.

Romney's invitation-only event gave the Republican contenders an opportunity to connect with 250 leading donors and political operatives.

Some attendees started their day hiking with Romney and his wife at 6 a.m. Others played flag football with Rubio. Among other activities: a hot air balloon ride, outdoor yoga and horseback riding with Ann Romney.

Sisterhood Is Sour: How Republican Women Are Going After Hillary Clinton // Bloomberg News // Emily Greenhouse – June 12, 2015

On Thursday night in Washington, Carly Fiorina, the only woman running for the Republican nomination, delivered the keynote address at a red-meat-themed event: the “Bourbon and BBQ Bash” held by the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a nonprofit that celebrates limited government and free markets. The tagline for the dinner read “Liberty served smooth and smokin’.”

Fiorina spoke about the years she spent as CEO at Hewlett-Packard, but her focus was not on business and the bottom line. It was on women: “a conversation,” in her words, “about the state of women in America.”

Fiorina has never before held elected office, and she may not yet make it into the prime time presidential debate.1 But by stressing her gender in her presidential campaign, Fiorina communicates to voters that there's an option beyond Hillary Clinton. “Fiorina has been trying to send a signal that Clinton is not your only choice if you want to see a woman break the highest, hardest glass ceiling,” observes Jennifer Lawless, the Director of the Women & Politics Institute at American University’s School of Public Affairs.

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“Who else can take her on as a woman?”

Debbie Walsh, Center for American Women and Politics

This has become Fiorina's chief calling card at Republican candidate cattle calls. By speaking as a woman about a woman—and by defining herself against that woman—Fiorina finds, to the delight of her party, that she can criticize Clinton like nobody else.

In February, at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland, Fiorina socked Clinton—who famously declared that “women's rights are human rights” at a United Nations conference 20 years ago—on her record on so-called women’s issues. “She tweets about women’s rights in this country and takes money from governments that deny women the most basic human rights,” Fiorina said of the former secretary of state, referring to donations the Clinton Family Foundation took from foreign donors. “She tweets about equal pay for women but won’t answer basic questions about her own offices’ pay standards.” She went on to challenge Clinton's history and her impressive résumé, booming on the CPAC stage, “Mrs. Clinton, name an accomplishment!”

In Fiorina's stump speech, she speaks movingly of surviving breast cancer, of losing her job, and of losing her stepdaughter—displays of vulnerability that show strength, which some might call a historically female strategy. (They certainly ring of a TED Talk by a woman who has read Brené Brown.) But a remarkable amount of her discourse centers on gender. Fiorina's labor to find her place within the GOP tent also means finding space for feminism within the GOP. This is savvy as well as palatable. She uses her platform to criticize the woman who has come closest to the American presidency, opposing Clinton in ways and in terms that a man wouldn't dare.

Subtly and not-so-subtly, Fiorina is making the case that she's the politician best positioned to confront the Democrat most likely to win her party's nomination. “Who else can take her on as a woman?” asked Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

In Fiorina's speech Thursday, a personal reflection about being a woman in America, Clinton's name went unuttered. But a day earlier, the super-PAC Carly For America released a biting ad attacking Clinton. The title employed one of Fiorina's favorite refrains: “Titles are not accomplishments.”

Campaign trailing

Fiorina challenges Clinton inch by inch and step by step. Clinton officially entered the presidential race, and all of a sudden came Fiorina's antagonistic video in response. Fiorina goes after Clinton on everything, as Bloomberg’s Melinda Henneberger has written, “from conflicts of interest to wearing her sunglasses inside that Chipotle.” Fiorina even launched a campaign website at Ready to Beat Hillary.com—a push to undermine the 'Ready for Hillary' movement.

In late May, Fiorina held a news conference outside a Clinton event in South Carolina. She listed scandal after scandal, then asked, “How can we trust Clinton?”

It looked almost like stalking, then pouncing; that ugly word 'catfight' enters the mind. Could this be anything but a transparent attempt to grab the attention of the massive press entourage that accompanies Clinton wherever she goes? Fiorina was absolute in her response. She told reporters, “I planned this trip many, many weeks ago, so perhaps she’s following me. I have never been following Mrs. Clinton.”

And yet it's not only in South Carolina that Fiorina's proximity with Clinton has been noticeable, as Nia-Malika Henderson has pointed out in the Washington Post. Just take a look at the women's book covers:

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This is the new playbook for women in the GOP, and Fiorina's not the only one to read it. Last weekend at the inaugural “Roast and Ride,” Iowa Senator Joni Ernst played host to a slate of Republican presidential candidates, and shepherded a parade of 300 motorcycles, in honor of patriots and veterans. Revved up, roaring, and real down-home: here was a new kind of political carnival. Then Dana Bash of CNN asked her about Hillary.

“It's not enough to be a woman,” she said. If those words sounded familiar, there was a reason.

Last fall, before the midterm elections, Clinton, not yet a presidential candidate, went to Cedar Rapids to campaign on behalf of Ernst's Democratic opponent, Bruce Braley. She took up women’s issues, which were getting an unusual amount of play in the campaign. “It’s not enough to be a woman,” Clinton said, behind the podium at a union hall. She spoke of birth control, mammograms, health and reproductive justice. “You have to be committed to expand rights and opportunities for all women.”

This weekend, Ernst mockingly echoed Clinton. “You have to care about women's issues,” Ernst said. “Women's issues here in Iowa are that we have a strong economy; we have jobs that our sons and daughters can go off to someday; we have a great educational system. And women want strong national defense. We want to know that our families are going to be safe.”

Diminished fraternity among the sorority

It wasn’t always this way. Walsh of the Center for American Women and Politics recalls a period where “the women in the Senate had a kind of agreement among themselves that they would not go in and campaign against each other.” Barbara Mikulski, the first Democratic woman elected to the Senate who wasn’t taking her father or husband’s seat, has long worked to build relationships among women in the Senate, hosting dinners and “power workshops” for female senators on both sides of the aisle. Mikulski and Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, a Republican, have worked together to improve breast cancer research, mammogram standards, and the space program. After the death of Geraldine Ferraro, the Democrat who in 1984 became first woman to be placed on a major party’s national ticket, Hutchinson spoke in universal terms, saying, “We’ve all faced the same obstacles. We’ve all been turned down or trivialized.”

More recently, when Nancy Pelosi became the first female Speaker of the House in 2007, under President George W. Bush, there was bipartisan praise from female politicians.

When the Obama presidential campaign asked Hillary Clinton to go after Sarah Palin in 2008, after the former governor of Alaska was tapped to be Senator John McCain’s running mate, Clinton refused. “The day she was nominated, the Obama campaign did contact me and asked me if I would attack her," Clinton said last year on NBC. “I said, ‘Attack her for what—for being a woman? Attack her for being on a ticket that's trying to draw attention? There'll be plenty of time to do what I think you should do in politics, which is draw distinctions.’”

It’s hard to imagine such a display of female solidarity now. Even Fiorina herself has evinced a change in tone. In 2010, she told Amy Chozick, then reporting for the Wall Street Journal, “Women are still held to a different standard and scrutinized more than men are.” She said that it happened to Sarah Palin. She said, “It happened to Hillary.” A kind of empathy, or even sympathy.

And then this April, Fiorina said, “Hillary Clinton must not be president of the United States—but not because she’s a woman.”

Some of this has to do with the success Democrats had using the 'war on women' as a rallying cry against Republicans in 2012. In the run-up to the 2016 election, the GOP has caught on. Republicans are working to claim

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the trope as its own, with the bellicose Fiorina in the front lines.

Ann Selzer, an Iowa pollster—who was assigned to a fellowship in Mikulski's congressional office in the early 1980s, before Mikulski began her many terms in the Senate—speculates that Fiorina might have looked at poll numbers for 2008, when Clinton opposed then-senator Barack Obama in the primary, and saw that Clinton had captured the excitement of women who wanted to have a female president. "The Republicans have a woman problem," Selzer put it. "So as a Republican, Fiorina says, maybe there's some people I can bring in. Because if Republicans deal with the woman problem—even a bit—they win."

Party before gender

Jennifer Lawless of American University's Women & Politics Institute chalks it up to polarization. "I think that what we've seen, especially in the last ten or fifteen years is that, with this increase in party politicization, whether you have a D or R before your name is far more important than whether you have an X or Y chromosome," she said.

In the 1980s and 1990s, not only were there fewer women in Congress, but there were significant number of moderate Republican women. After redistricting, Lawless explained, moderate Republicans were replaced by Democrats. "There used to be room for solidarity and working together on what was traditionally seen as women's issues – pay equity or reproductive rights. But now, the Republican women in congress are indistinguishable from men who are in Congress. There's very little opportunity to work across the aisle just because you're a woman."

There's the added bonus, for Fiorina and Ernst, that criticism "is seen as less gendered because it's a woman saying it about another woman. If men were saying it, it could be seen as gendered/sexist," said Walsh. (Recall that Clinton's team worked to portray her 2000 Senate rival Rick Lazio as a sexist bully—with positive results for her.)

Walsh observed the play of gender among Republican women, the boasting of behavior that's often seen as masculine—Ernst rides a motorcycle alongside (and in front of) the guys, Fiorina trumpets her time riding on a John Deere tractor (and questions whether Clinton's ever done the same). Walsh wondered whether, in this climate of women-attacking-women, they would still defend each other from blatant sexism.

"So sad to see women simply attack Clinton for running when we need more women in the proverbial pipeline," Donna Brazile, a Democratic political strategist, lamented. "If they could just stop their attacks and start recruiting more women to run for office, we could finally end up with more women serving in office."

A year ago this week, Palin tweeted a picture of an excerpt from Clinton's memoir, in which Clinton wrote, "I was not going to attack Palin just for being a woman appealing for support from other women. I didn't think that made political sense."

Now that a woman is the frontrunner, maybe it does.

Mitt Romney And Republican Presidential Hopefuls: All One And The Same! **// Correct The Record – June 12, 2015**

Today, Mitt Romney will welcome six Republican hopefuls including Marco Rubio, Scott Walker and Lindsey Graham to his conclave in Utah to audition for his support. One may ask – why are these potential Republican candidates elbowing each other to win the backing of a failed presidential candidate who purposefully sought to exclude 47% of America?

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The truth is that this cycle's Republican hopefuls are nearly indistinguishable from Mitt Romney when it comes to their policies on issues affecting women, LGBT rights, and how to grow the economy. Marco Rubio, Scott Walker and Lindsey Graham have the same botched, cookie cutter, last-century policy visions benefitting only the wealthiest of Americans. These extremist positions haven't worked for Americans in the past and won't work in the future.

If Mitt Romney and the Republican party failed in 2012, why is the GOP chasing after Romney's endorsement in 2016? Instead of adapting to advocate for the interests of all Americans, Republicans are proud to show that they're still all one and the same.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Chinese hack compromised security-clearance database **// WaPo // Ellen Nakashima – June 12, 2015**

The Chinese breach of the Office of Personnel Management network was wider than first acknowledged, and officials said Friday that a database holding sensitive security clearance information on millions of federal employees and contractors also was compromised.

In an announcement, the OPM said that investigators concluded this week with "a high degree of confidence" that the agency's systems containing information related to the background investigations of "current, former and prospective" federal employees, and others for whom a background check was conducted, were breached.

The OPM is assessing how many people were affected, spokesman Samuel Schumach said. "Once we have conclusive information about the breach, we will announce a notification plan for individuals whose information is determined to have been compromised," he said.

The announcement of the hack of the security-clearance database comes a week after the OPM disclosed that another personnel system had been compromised. The discovery of the first breach led investigators to find the second — all part of one campaign by the Chinese, U.S. officials say, evidently to obtain information valuable to counterespionage.

"This is potentially devastating from a counterintelligence point of view," said Joel Brenner, a former top counter-intelligence official for the U.S. government, speaking about the latest revelation. "These forums contain decades of personal information about people with clearances . . . which makes them easier to recruit for foreign espionage on behalf of a foreign country."

Last week, the OPM announced that a database containing the personal information of about 4 million current and former federal employees was hacked. Privately, U.S. officials said the Chinese government was behind the breach. The administration has not publicly pointed a finger at Beijing.

The breach of that data system affected 4.1 million individuals — all 2.1 million current federal civilian employees and 2 million retired or former employees. Information on officials as senior as Cabinet secretaries may have been breached. The president's and vice president's data were not, officials said.

China has dismissed the hacking allegations, with a Foreign Ministry spokesman last week calling them "irresponsible and unscientific."

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The separate background-check database contains sensitive information — called SF-86 data — that includes applicants' financial histories and investment records, children's and relatives' names, foreign trips taken and contacts with foreign nationals, past residences, and names of neighbors and close friends.

That database was also breached last year by the Chinese in a separate incident, and the new intrusion underscores how persistent and determined Beijing is in going after data valuable to counterespionage.

"The adversary is obviously very interested in that data," said a U.S. official, who, like several others who were interviewed, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation.

The discovery of the second compromise was not exactly a surprise. "It's like cancer," a second U.S. official said. "Once you start operating on the cancer, you find it has spread to other areas of the body."

Employees of intelligence agencies, such as the CIA, generally do not have the records of their clearance checks held by the OPM, although some do, officials said.

"That's the open question — whether it's going to hit CIA folks," the second official said. "It would be a huge deal. They could start unmasking identities."

Matthew Olsen, a former National Security Agency general counsel and former head of the National Counter-terrorism Center, said the breach is "truly significant." The data can be used in many different ways to target people, "whether it's blackmail, to recruit, to punish individuals in China who are connected to people in the United States."

In the past year or two, the Chinese government has begun building massive databases of Americans' personal information obtained through cyberespionage. Besides the series of OPM intrusions, a federal government contractor that conducted background investigations for the OPM and the Department of Homeland Security was hacked last year by the Chinese. And Beijing has been linked to penetrations of several health insurance companies that hold personal data on tens of millions of Americans.

"Who can be surprised?" Brenner said. "They're making a concerted effort to gather vast quantities of information about Americans. This is perfectly clear. That they have all this clearance information is a disaster."

President Obama, as with previous high-profile breaches, has been briefed on the investigation. What steps, if any, the administration can or should take in response is a difficult discussion, current and former officials said.

"There are a whole array of things we need to do across the board, from raising our defenses to making sure that this stuff isn't actually on the criminal underground to understanding the full scope" of the breach, the first official said. "We haven't gotten there yet."

What complicates this case is that unlike many other Chinese breaches of U.S. networks, the OPM hacks do not involve theft of commercial secrets. Last year, the United States indicted five Chinese military officials on charges of commercial cyberespionage. With traditional espionage, the options are fewer.

"You're not going to start a shooting war over this," a former intelligence official said. "We need to improve our defenses. We also want to go on the offense."

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Offensive actions might include directing a U.S. agency to locate the servers holding the stolen data and deleting or altering the data, the former official said.

The administration timed its announcement last week of the initial OPM breach to comply with its own policy, as reflected in proposed legislation, to notify individuals of a breach within 30 days of concluding that there is a "reasonable basis to believe" that personal information has been compromised, the first U.S. official said.

Although the breach was discovered in April, it was not until early May that investigators determined that employees' personal data probably was taken. That led to the announcement last week even though, the official said, the investigation was not complete.

During a briefing for congressional staff last week, Ann Barron-DiCamillo, a senior DHS official, tried to explain the delay in alerting employees to the breach. "It takes time to do the forensics and to understand what's happened, and even to understand what data, if any, has been exposed," she said, according to notes taken by a congressional aide.

The breach, she said, took place in December. "It took awhile to pinpoint what actually went out the door because it happened six months ago," she said.

House Deals Blow to Obama's Bid for Trade Deal, Rejects Worker-Aid Program // WSJ // Siobhan Hughes, Kristina Peterson & William Mauldin – June 12, 2015

House Democrats dealt President Barack Obama a major setback in his bid for expanded trade-negotiating powers, roundly rejecting on Friday a workers-aid program that was a key component of the bill and leaving the White House's trade agenda in limbo.

While stinging, the vote was not the last word in the trade fight, as House Speaker John Boehner (R., Ohio) said there would be a re-vote by Tuesday on extending the aid program, which is designed to help workers hurt by international trade.

But Friday's defeat showed the degree to which Mr. Obama's trade agenda is on shaky ground in Congress. The House voted against the workers-aid program by 126-302. To improve those numbers, House Republican leaders, the White House and pro-trade businesses will need to find ways to win over a combination of Democrats who are skeptical of the overall trade push and Republicans leery of supporting the aid package.

It also underscored the waning influence of a second-term president, particularly on an issue many Democrats see as toxic to their re-election prospects, given concerns in their districts that U.S. jobs are being sent overseas.

Mr. Obama, who traveled to Capitol Hill on Friday morning, and to a charity congressional baseball game the night before, made impassioned pleas to members of his party to support "fast track," which gives the president the ability to submit trade deals to Congress for an up-or-down vote without amending it.

Mr. Boehner said after the vote that the onus was on Democrats to devise a way forward.

"Republicans did our part, and we remain committed to free trade because it is critical to creating jobs and growing our economy. I'm pleased that a bipartisan House majority supported trade promotion authority," Mr.

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Boehner said, referring to a separate vote on fast track on Friday.

Democrats' ability to take down the trade bill was made possible by House Republican leaders' decision to hold two separate votes on the legislation that was passed by the Senate last month. The calculus was that Democratic votes on the first part, the workers-aid program, would compensate for opposition from Republicans. GOP votes for fast track, meanwhile, would offset Democratic opposition there.

Instead, Democrats abandoned the first part in droves, raising questions about whether they would be any more supportive next week. While most of them support the workers-aid measure, they knew its rejection would take down the fast-track bill.

"Its defeat, sad to say, is the only way that we would be able to slow down the fast track," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.), who ended months of neutrality to side with liberals who voted against the worker-aid program as a way to sink Mr. Obama's trade agenda.

Derailing fast track, even temporarily, further strains the negotiations that the U.S. is trying to wrap up with 11 countries around the Pacific, including Australia, Japan and Vietnam. Discernible progress on the remaining difficult issues in the deal, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, has all but halted recently as officials from U.S. trading partners wait for Congress to act on fast-track legislation, which is also known as trade promotion authority.

"Unless this is promptly remedied with an affirmative vote cast soon, it is doubtful that TPP partners will be willing to seriously re-engage," said Daniel Price, former economic adviser to President George W. Bush and managing director at Rock Creek Global Advisers, a consultancy.

The coming days are expected to include a new frenzy of lobbying by both sides, as Mr. Obama and his allies on trade get a second chance. There were signs on Friday of potential horse trades. Mrs. Pelosi said prospects for passage of a fast-track bill would "greatly increase" if bolstered by another Democratic priority, such as a "robust highway bill."

Congress has for years been unable to pass a multiyear highway bill, and a current short-term bill expires at the end of July. The White House and Democrats have long pushed for a multiyear bill, which many see as essential to completing long-term infrastructure projects that will also boost jobs.

Pro-trade House lawmakers also have another key piece of ammunition as they enter weekend negotiations: The House voted 219-211 on the second part of the bill, granting Mr. Obama fast-track authority. It drew the support of 28 Democrats, more than expected. Pro-trade House lawmakers also secured passage of a separate customs and enforcement measure that includes new tools to combat unfair trade practices.

After the vote, Mr. Obama urged the House to act quickly.

"These kinds of agreements make sure that the global economy's rules aren't written by countries like China; they're written by the United States of America," Mr. Obama said in a statement. "And to stand in their way is to do nothing but preserve the long-term status quo for American workers, and make it even harder for them to succeed."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest dismissed the defeat of the worker-aid program as a "procedural snafu," the same words he had used to describe an earlier, temporary defeat in the Senate on the fast-track bill.

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But the House has long been more suspicious of trade deals, and the stall in the House represented a more personal blow because Mr. Obama had courted Mrs. Pelosi assiduously, showing up at the congressional baseball game and meeting with her personally on Friday morning before making a rare, last-minute visit to the Capitol to urge Democrats to "play it straight" and vote for the piece of the bill that would extend the workers-aid program.

Mr. Obama has promised that he would support Democrats in the face of expected attacks from labor unions opposed to fast-track legislation. Some Democrats said that was not enough.

"I don't know if it's a matter of just hearing from the president," said Rep. Danny Davis (D., Ill). "I would need to hear from the people in the Seventh Congressional District in Illinois."

Mr. Obama's call to "play it straight" was a bitter pill for House liberals, who thought House leaders had already been devious by establishing the two-step procedure.

As it became clear that House Republican leaders and Mr. Obama had lined up enough support to win passage of the portion of the bill granting fast-track negotiating power, liberals saw only one choice: to vote against the worker-aid portion of the bill even though it helped many of their own constituents, workers who lose jobs as a result of international trade.

"It was not the opponents who came up with this crazy procedure. If they had played it straight, we could play it straight," said Rep. Brad Sherman (D., Calif.). "What's the good of having a little bit of trade-adjustment assistance if we lose millions of jobs because we put them on a fast track to Asia?"

White House trade push not getting help from DNC **// Politico // Edward-Isaac Dovere – June 12, 2015**

Texas Democratic Party chair Gilberto Hinojosa had just put out a statement opposing President Barack Obama's trade platform when his cell phone starting flashing with a blocked number. He assumed White House political director David Simas was calling to ask him to stop.

Hinojosa didn't pick up.

"What was he going to do? We're pretty firm on our opposition to this," Hinojosa recalled in an interview. "This is an issue very important to labor and environmentalists, and the Texas Democratic Party has a very strong connection to labor, as does the Democratic National Committee."

As Obama and his aides make the final push for votes during a trade showdown in the House, they are getting little help from the Democratic party apparatus — the Democratic National Committee, state parties or even smaller Democratic groups.

President Barack Obama and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif. leave meeting with House Democrats on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, June 12, 2015. The president made an 11th-hour appeal to dubious Democrats on Friday in a tense run-up to a House showdown on legislation to strengthen his hand in global trade talks. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

It's not just that Democratic officials are sitting on their hands: 19 state parties are actively opposing the president's trade package, passing resolutions against fast-track authority and the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement the president wants to finish negotiating once that's in place.

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White House officials argue that this is a case of Democratic institutions — including Democratic lawmakers facing a make-or-break vote on the trade agenda on Friday — being out of sync with actual Democratic voters.

"There's a profound disconnect between where Democratic voters are today versus where they were even five, six years ago—the most pro-trade voters in the country are Democratic voters," Simas said. Within the Democratic coalition, he added, "there are large majorities that are now in favor of trade."

Recent polls back him up. A May poll by the non-partisan Pew Research Center found that 58 percent of Democrats said free trade agreements are good for the country, while just 33 percent described them as bad. Support for trade deals has rebounded among Democrats since the 2008 recession, when only 34 percent of Democrats described them as "a good thing" and 50 percent said they were bad.

But the White House hasn't had much luck getting backing from party organizations. Obama aides started out trying to make the progressive argument for trade, then retrenched to trying to get Democratic groups to at least stay neutral. That didn't always work.

The DNC, which would normally provide support for a Democratic president, hasn't backed him up in any public way, choosing to stay out of the fight. (DNC chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) has yet to take a position ahead of Friday's vote.)

"We understand and the White House understands that there is and has been a diversity of views within the party on this issue for a long time, which we respect, and that is unlikely to change," said DNC press secretary Holly Shulman. "Our role has simply been to give the White House opportunities to give information and answer questions from our members and state parties."

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks during a rally with local residents, Saturday, May 30, 2015, in Ames, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

That included a May call with state party chairs in which Simas presented the pro-trade argument and answered questions. When word got out about that call, labor representatives got the DNC to put together a separate call with the same group to rebut the White House.

The White House argues that it wasn't trying to get people to any set position on trade, or under the impression that putting the information out would directly influence votes on the Hill.

"There's zero bank-shot," Simas said. "This was about, and was executed as, giving information to folks at the DNC and others who didn't have the information, or our perspective as to why the president was doing what he's doing, and why it's so important."

Being on the other side of the president, Hinojosa said, is painful. But nothing Obama has said was enough to convince Democrats in Texas to trust him on this.

"It's not so much that we don't trust him. We trust him with our lives. What we don't trust is some of the multinational corporations," he explained.

Party officials said that a major factor in their decision to not to support the president on trade is organized labor,

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which has spent a lot of time and money cultivating state-level Democratic officials.

“As goes organized labor in America, so does the Democratic Party — especially state parties,” said Jason Perkey, the executive director of the South Carolina Democrats and president of the Association of State Democratic Party Executive Directors. “They are our strongest allies and most steadfast supporters, year in and year out.”

In late April, the South Carolina Democratic Party nearly passed a resolution strongly opposing the president’s trade agenda, before it was stopped by a procedural maneuver initiated by former DNC chair Don Fowler, who ran the national party during Bill Clinton’s first term. Fowler made two arguments: the people pushing the resolution didn’t have all the information, and the Democratic president deserved the support of the state Democratic Party.

The “stand-with-the-president” argument hasn’t worked in other states. In Maine, state Democratic chair Phil Bartlett said he made the case to the executive committee himself, along with some of the arguments that he’d heard from the White House. But they passed a resolution against fast-track trade authority in mid-May anyway. Bartlett said he knows that the White House would have preferred they hadn’t.

“I understand their position wanting us to sort of keep quiet. From our perspective, once you have so many Democratic leaders from across the country speaking out, including our elected leaders, it becomes much more an issue of whether it’s appropriate for us to weigh in,” he said. “We didn’t view it as being an effort to insult and push back against the president.”

While mayors across the country have formed perhaps the strongest bloc of support for Obama on fast track, a number of local Democratic organizations and majority-Democratic city councils have passed their own anti-trade resolutions, including in Seattle and San Francisco (where Democratic Mayor Ed Lee supports fast-track).

Meanwhile, the president’s also getting limited support from what’s left of his own Organizing for Action group, despite an impassioned speech to their conference in Washington at the end of April, asking them and others to trust him when he said the new trade deals would fit completely with his record of watching out for working people.

A news release from OFA showed three women in a lobby holding signs, waiting to see their local representatives and the lead volunteer in Washington State at her computer, writing a letter to the editor.

“Trade policy is a hot topic on OFA’s digital organizing platform Connect,” the release noted.

Some state officials insist that the polls don’t reflect Democratic opinion in their states.

“It’s easy to characterize this as simply a labor issue, but this is deeper for our state than one group of stakeholders,” said David Pepper, the chair of the Ohio Democratic Party, which was the first to pass an anti-TPA resolution.

Contrary to the numbers the White House cites, Pepper said he’d had conversations with people all over the state still complaining about NAFTA and worried about the secrecy surrounding the Pacific trade pact. In his experience, there’s no disconnect between the Democratic organizations opposed to TPA and the voters.

“In Ohio, you go town to town, and you will find deep concerns about the negative consequences of past trade deals, lessons not learned, and real concern about this as well,” Pepper said. “I have little doubt that in Ohio at least, those speaking out against it are representing their districts well.”

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INTERNATIONAL

ISIS Is Winning the Social Media War, U.S. Concludes // NYT // Mark Mazzetti & Michael Gordon – June 12, 2015

An internal State Department assessment paints a dismal picture of the efforts by the Obama administration and its foreign allies to combat the Islamic State's message machine, portraying a fractured coalition that cannot get its own message straight.

The assessment comes months after the State Department signaled that it was planning to energize its social media campaign against the militant group. It concludes, however, that the Islamic State's violent narrative — promulgated through thousands of messages each day — has effectively "trumped" the efforts of some of the world's richest and most technologically advanced nations.

It also casts an unflattering light on internal discussions between American officials and some of their closest allies in the military campaign against the militants. A "messaging working group" of officials from the United States, Britain and the United Arab Emirates, the memo says, "has not really come together."

Document: State Department Memo on the Islamic State Group

The blunt assessment comes amid broader criticism that the military campaign against the Islamic State is flagging. The group's fighters recently took over the city of Ramadi in western Iraq and have occupied Falluja and Mosul for more than a year.

State Department officials have repeatedly said that "countermessaging" the Islamic State is one of the pillars of the strategy to defeat the group. But Obama administration officials have acknowledged in the past that the group is far more nimble in spreading its message than the United States is in blunting it.

The internal document — composed by Richard A. Stengel, the State Department's under secretary for public diplomacy and public affairs and a former managing editor of Time magazine — was written for Secretary of State John Kerry after a conference of Western and Arab officials in Paris this month on countering the Islamic State.

A communiqué issued at the meeting took note of the Islamic State's gains and expressed the coalition's determination to remove the group from the territory it held in Iraq and Syria. The document was issued in the name of Mr. Kerry, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius of France and Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq. Mr. Kerry was in Boston recuperating from a broken leg, but he spoke to the meeting by phone.

Mr. Stengel noted that the message from the conference — that a disparate coalition of nations was resolute in destroying the Islamic State — fell flat, with news media reports highlighting how little of substance seemed to emerge from the meeting.

"From the outside, it mostly seemed exactly like business as usual," he wrote.

The memo, labeled "sensitive but unclassified," was given to The New York Times by an Obama administration official.

Mr. Stengel did not respond to a request for comment. John Kirby, the State Department spokesman, said that the memo "acknowledges what we've made clear in the past: We must do a better job at discrediting ISIL in the

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information space." Mr. Kirby was using an acronym for an alternate name for the group, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

"The memo is an assessment not of the larger counter-ISIL messaging effort, but how the small group of coalition members communicates internally and externally," Mr. Kirby said, adding that Mr. Kerry would "take into consideration" Mr. Stengel's ideas and recommendations.

Spokesmen for the British and Emirati Embassies in Washington declined to comment.

This year, administration officials said they planned to expand the State Department's Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, a tiny office created in 2011 to combat terrorist messages on the Internet in real time. The center employs specialists fluent in Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi and Somali to counter terrorist propaganda and misinformation, offering a competing narrative that seeks to strike an emotional chord. The analysts also post messages on English-language websites that jihadists use to recruit, raise money and promote their cause.

Mr. Stengel has also sought to work with other coalition members, particularly Arab ones, to discredit the Islamic State in the hope of stemming the flow of foreign fighters to the group. Mr. Kerry has said that the effort to "start drying up this pool" of potential volunteers may be even more important than military efforts.

When Mr. Kerry traveled to the Middle East in September to start building a coalition against the Islamic State, Mr. Stengel went with him to meet with Arab officials and establish what he called "a communications coalition, a messaging coalition, to complement what's going on the ground."

A crucial part of the public diplomacy has involved encouraging Arab religious leaders, Muslim scholars and Arab news media organizations to denounce the Islamic State as a distortion of Islam. State Department officials have praised the United Arab Emirates for establishing its own center to counter the Islamic State's prodigious propaganda.

But Mr. Stengel's assessment makes clear that American officials believe that much more needs to be done.

In the memo, he proposes to Mr. Kerry that a "communications hub" be created somewhere in the Middle East — staffed by representatives from the various coalition members — that would perform "daily and weekly messaging around coalition activities" to fight the Islamic State, and that would have a spokesman in Baghdad.

But even this, he said, would face hurdles.

"This seems like an obvious and simple solution — but I am sure it is not as easy as it sounds for a hundred different reasons," he wrote.

Still, Mr. Stengel did have one piece of good news for Mr. Kerry from the Paris conference. An event at the Louvre intended to focus on the Islamic State's destruction of antiquities in Syria and Iraq, Mr. Stengel said, was a success and could be followed up with an entire conference on the issue.

The conference, he wrote, could bring together "dealers, auction houses, collectors, scholars" and others to highlight that trafficking in antiquities is a "war crime" and a "tool of terrorism," and is financing the Islamic State's "dark game."

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U.S., Europe ready new sanctions to deter Putin on Ukraine **// CNN // Elise Labott – June 12, 2015**

he United States and the European Union are finalizing further sanctions against Russia that could be imposed if Moscow takes additional military action in Ukraine, senior U.S. administration officials and European diplomats said Thursday.

The sources stressed that no decisions have been made yet to put additional measures in place. This week's renewed fighting triggered a discussion of additional sanctions, they said, but the fighting ended before a decision to act was made.

The sources said the potential new measures to be presented to Western leaders range from adding names and companies to the current sanctions to imposing broader penalties on Russia's financial, energy and defense sectors.

The point at which Russian military moves would prompt new sanctions is a case of "you know it when you see it," a senior administration official said. "It could be any major assault anywhere across the line of contact. We all know what we are talking about, and we want to be prepared and have stuff ready to go in case we need it."

"There is a whole range of different options leaders will have available to respond to any renewed Russian aggression, to which we could respond pretty quickly and vigorously. We are not talking about weeks," the official said.

Discussion of additional sanctions comes as the EU is widely expected to renew trade and personal sanctions on Russia over its actions in Ukraine when they expire toward the end of the month.

Both the U.S. and EU have linked the lifting of sanctions to implementation of a peace accord hammered out in February by Russia with the leaders of Ukraine, France and Germany in the capital of Belarus.

The so-called Minsk Agreement has been repeatedly violated. The U.S. and EU claim that most of those violations were by Russia and the separatists it supports. Some of the fiercest fighting since the agreement came this week, with heavy artillery fire reported near Donetsk.

The European parliament passed a resolution calling on EU governments to keep the measures in place after Russian President Vladimir Putin traveled to Italy Wednesday in what many in the West saw as a bid to break European solidarity on the sanctions.

"Europe has acted with more unity than most people expected, including Putin himself," one of the senior administration officials said.

A European diplomat briefing reporters Thursday noted that this week's violence strengthened European resolve to maintain the current measures.

"The concerns that we all began to feel about additional violations and suggestions there were troops and equipment coming across the border from Russia ... all that in fact was quite useful in getting European nations collectively to grasp that now is not the time to start softening the position we are taking on sanctions," the European diplomat said.

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President Barack Obama said in Austria on Monday that he'd convinced European leaders to maintain the economic sanctions. The extension of sanctions was one of his chief goals at this week's G7 meeting in the Bavarian Alps. Obama said Europe and the United States stand ready to impose new sanctions if violence increases.

The sources said that while they prefer not to impose the new sanctions, they hope the knowledge that they are being prepared will deter Putin from taking further action.

"It is both preparation and also a degree of credible messaging," the European diplomat briefing reporters said. "One is to make very clear that if there are further acts of aggression that we can move quickly. The other is to let it be known we are serious about being ready to do that as a deterrent."

The diplomat stressed, "We would rather not to have to do that, but it needs to be clear that if that is the direction Putin's Russia goes in, that we will react."

U.S. officials and European diplomats insist the sanctions are taking a toll on the Russian economy, where the ruble has plummeted in value.

But they admit the sanctions have done little to prevent Putin from continuing the campaign in Ukraine or curb aggression by separatists in Eastern Ukraine.

In total, more than 6,000 people have died in the fighting in Eastern Ukraine since the conflict began last year, according to the United Nations.

MISCELLANEOUS ADDED BY STAFF

Shut Up About the Clinton Foundation's Problems for a Minute to Look at Its Programs // Inside Philanthropy // Kiersten Marek and David Callahan – June 12, 2015

With all the hype in the media about the Clinton Foundation, we wonder how many Americans actually know what the foundation does—or how many members of the media, for that matter.

Listening to news reports, you'd think the sole purpose of this outfit is to help the Clintons get rich and do favors for their shady friends. And while, to be sure, some of the reports about specific donors have been troubling—and suggest questionable judgment by the Clintons—what's missing is a broader, more balanced look at how the foundation mobilizes money for good causes and who, in reality, puts up most of that money. (Hint: It's not dictators looking for favors from the State Department.) While people shouldn't stop asking hard questions about the foundation, they should pay more attention to its approach and programs.

In fact, the Clinton Foundation stands as one of the more successful efforts of recent years to mobilize new resources for philanthropy. Since its founding in 2001, it has raised nearly $2 billion, according an independent review by the Washington Post. Yes, chunks of that money have come from the Clintons' network of political donors and corporate friends, which is how fundraising often works: You hit up the rich people you know for your causes. And, sure, some of them may not have the purest motives for ponying up, especially if you're someone who can return favors later, but that's the nature of the game.

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Philanthropic fundraising is more like political fundraising than many may imagine. You think every hedge fund guy who gives big at the Robin Hood's annual gala is solely focused on poor kids in East New York? Or that every tech leader who recently listened to Marc Benioff's pleas and chipped in to fight poverty in the Bay Area has a heart of gold? Or that everyone sitting on MoMA's board is only there because they love art? Come on.

If you look too closely at how the sausage is made for any large fundraising operation, you probably won't like what you see. And that's all the more true if America's messiest power couple is making the sausage.

The other missing context here is this: Intermediaries like the Clinton Foundation and donor networks play a growing role in philanthropy, which is generally a good thing. In fact, some think that peer-driven and collaborative efforts to mobilize money is one of the most exciting trends in philanthropy. This approach is particularly popular among women donors, who've built some of the stronger philanthropy networks of recent years.

Meanwhile, another exciting trend in philanthropy—also embodied by the Clinton Foundation—is how funders are creating deeper partnerships with government and business in order to leverage money and have bigger impact.

But a downside of these schmooze-and-fund models, which can have many moving parts—both in terms of where money comes from and where it goes—is that there's more room for conflicts of interest, or the appearance of such, than with a traditional private foundation.

Overall, you can bash the Clintons for their well-known flaws; but you also have to give them a lot credit for harnessing one of the top power networks in U.S. society to a range of good causes and advancing the state of philanthropy. Bill Clinton may be no saint like Jimmy Carter; but it's a good thing that he didn't decide to focus on oil painting after leaving the White House.

As for what the Clinton Foundation's causes are, you'd think we would all know that by now, given the deluge of media attention around the foundation. But most of us probably know more about Sidney Blumenthal's consulting gig than, say, the foundation's work in Africa. Speaking of which, it's not just places like Africa where the foundation works, it's also in different parts of America.

The latest Clinton Global Initiatives (CGI) America conference, which was just held in Denver, offers a good snapshot of this part of the foundation's mission. It and involved a long list of sponsors including the Kresge Foundation and the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, as well as a number of corporate sponsors including Toyota Motors North America, CH2M, Cheniere Energy, the Coca-Cola Company, Freeport-McMoRan Inc., Noble Energy, APCO Worldwide, and Diageo.

The conference convened more than 1000 leaders from business, foundation, NGO, and government sectors to advance solutions that encourage economic growth, support long-term competitiveness, and increase social mobility in the United States.

As part of this conference, CGI America attendees made 79 new "Commitments to Action"—specific and measurable plans for addressing significant challenges. These 79 new actions cover a wide array of policy areas including access to education and job training, financing for small businesses, clean energy solutions, and more.

So what do some of these new commitments look like? Here's just a taste. A more extensive list of the commitments is available here.

Economic Development/Financial Inclusion

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Campaign for Every Kid’s Future

Commitment By: Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED)

Partners: National League of Cities, Senator Chris Coons, Utah Education Savings Plan, I Have A Dream Foundation, Kansas University, Washington University in St. Louis, the Harold Alfond Scholarship Fund, Office of Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, Colorado Department of Human Services, City of St. Louis, City of San Francisco

In 2015, CFED and its partners are launching the Campaign for Every Kid’s Future, which will ensure that 1.4 million children have savings set aside for college by the year 2020. CFED will assist local and state agencies in advocating, designing, and raising matching dollars for CSA programs through an online platform.

Unleashing the Power of One in Three

Commitment By: Association for Enterprise Opportunity; Daria Shehaan

Partners: American Dream Fund; Citi Foundation; Count Me In for Women's Economic Independence; Grameen Foundation; Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Inc.; Mercy Corps; On Deck Capital; Oregon Microenterprise Network (OMEN); Sam's Club; Wal-Mart Corporate Affairs

This partnership will continue building on a successful program started in 2011 that gives more loans to microbusiness owners and entrepreneurs. The new goal is to deploy $10 million in microloans by the end of 2016 with the help of the Sam’s Club Giving Program.

Environmental and Disaster Relief

Urban Watershed Protection & Restoration in Development

Commitment By: Vulcan Inc.

Partners: Salmon-Safe

This project aligns real estate development in the Puget Sound region with water quality and ecosystem protection. Over the next three years, they are committing to the goal of making all development projects in the Seattle region have net zero impact on the Puget Sound watershed.

Improving Disaster Resilience & Recovery in the US

Commitment By: Toyota; St. Bernard Project (SBP)

Partners: Corporation for Community and National Service (CNCS)

Toyota and its partners are committing to train 140 Americorps members each year in the "Toyota Production System philosophy." The project will also provide post-disaster rebuilding training at no cost to grantees engaged in disaster recovery work. The resulting commitment: 30 communities will be trained to understand and mitigate risk, and a total of 420 AmeriCorps members will receive training from Toyota over the course of this

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commitment.

Education

Wash Time is Talk Time: Early Literacy Promotion in Laundromats

Commitment By: Coin Laundry Association (CLA); Too Small to Fail

Partners: Laundry Project; Jumpstart; University of Arkansas; First 5 Alameda County (F5AC); Encore.org

In 2015, this partnership is committing to help nearly 800 parents engage in talk time with their children, at 5,000 laundromats in underserved communities across the country. This project will create bilingual English and Spanish toolkits and booklets with resources to help parents, laundromat owners, and community volunteers use their time to teach children through talkking, reading, and singing.

Play Time is Talk Time: Early Literacy in Playgrounds

Commitment By: Shane’s Inspiration

Partners: Landscape Structures, Inc. (LSI); Too Small to Fail (TSTF)

Similar to the laundromat idea, this program aims to reach families with playgrounds that are enriched with talking, reading, and singing educational signs and panels that incorporate visuals and messages designed to boost a child’s early brain development by prompting fun, vocabulary-rich conversations, stories, and songs while adults and children play together.

Expanding the Reach of STEM and Creative Writing

Commitment By: YMCA

Partners: Time Warner Cable; 826 National

The goal here is to take 826 National's STEM and Creative Writing curriculum and disseminate it to about 200,000 young people nationwide, for the purpose of helping students become more aware of STEM careers and what the field is really about.

These new commitments to action are great to see from many of the main players in the philanthropic efforts for the U.S. To learn more about the Clinton Foundation's work, check out its five main areas for grantmaking:

1. Climate Change
2. Economic Development
3. Global Health
4. Health and Wellness
5. Women and Girls

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From: "Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 8/5/2015 11:28:58 AM
Subject: Re: AFP-IK; Unintimidated PAC (Walker PAC); J Street (pro-Iran nuclear deal) placing this week

I have checked in with Hassan to see what they know.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:26 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

AFP is only NH and not IA?

On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:09 PM, Demastrie, Jesse <Jesse.Demastrie@gmmb.com > wrote:

No update on American for Prosperity-IK yet. Stations have not been told what "IK" means nor have spots been received yet. Spending looks to be very large over 3 weeks 8/10-8/30. WMUR alone took $800k, with total for state over $1.1 million over the 3 weeks.

Unintimidated PAC (Walker PAC) has placed in Iowa to run 9/8-9/21 – a :60 – and 10/6-2/1 (30s).

J Street (pro Iran nuclear deal) – new spending
8/5 – 8/10
Total $432K

8/6
Total $4K
Washington, DC, ~5 GRPs, $4K – cable only

8/5 – 8/10
Total $428K – broadcast and cable
Portland, OR, ~165 GRPs, $32K
Philadelphia, ~190 GRPs, $83K
Detroit, ~540 GRPs, $138K
Baltimore, ~510 GRPs, $90K
Denver, ~250 GRPs, $85K

Ad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDZClQADEsA

From: Demastrie, Jesse
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2015 3:41 PM
To: Andrew Bleeker; Brian Fallon; Christina Reynolds; David Binder; Demastrie, Jesse; Elan Kriegel; Huma Abedin; Jason Rosenbaum; Jen Palmieri; Jesse Ferguson (HRC); Jester, Daniel; Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; John Podesta; Kaye, Anson; Kristina Schake; Lenar, AJ; Mandy Grunwald; Margolis, Jim; Marlon Marshall (HRC); Matt Dover; Matt Paul; Michael Halle; Michael Vlacich; Nick Merrill; Oren Shur (HRC); Oxhorn, Liz; Pinelo, Greg; Rimel, John; Robby Mook (HRC); Teddy Goff; Tony Carrk
Subject: Americans for Prosperity-IK; Hispanic Democrats for Trump

Americans for Prosperity-IK is starting to place for 8/10-8/30 in New Hampshire (Boston, Manchester, Portland, and Burlington). We don't yet know what "IK" stands for or what the spot is but will let you know if/when we hear.

Hispanic Democrats for Trump
8/6
Total $1,340 – cable only

Ad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmiwXBeO8U4
Spot applauds Trump for being such so offensive that he ends up helping Democrats.

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Denver, ~10 GRPs, $1K

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+**gmmb** cause the effect

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/9/2008 2:58:18 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/09/08

Main Topics: McCain on Iran, McBush, cigarette joke

Summary of Shift: Pentagon reverses course after it awards contract to Europe. Indrid Betancourt's freedom continued to receive vast amounts of airtime. Jesse Jackson made some rather distasteful remarks in regard to the presumptive democratic nominee, for which he immediately apologized. That story was central to tonight's news programming. The missile tests Iran ran today took up seemingly only slightly more coverage than Jackson's remarks.

Highlights
1) McCain interviews
   a. CBS: McCain suggests we must avoid impending second holocaust
   b. ABC: McCain suggests that we must avoid impending second holocaust
   c. NBC: Williams asks McCain about his newest ad
2) FNC: Graham likens Ahmadenijad to Hitler and diplomacy to appeasement
3) McBush
   a. MSNBC: McCain sounds like Cheney
   b. MSNBC: On Iran, McCain is identical to Bush
4) CNN: Panel finds McCain's kill Iran with cigarettes joke to be basically dismissable
5) MSNBC: Delay on Iran: 'We should've moved a lot earlier'

No Clip
6) CBS: *Entertainment Tonight* does a piece on Cindy's hair
7) MSNBC: *Hardball* discusses McCain's most recent joke, plays "Bomb, bomb, bomb" clip
8) MSNBC: Contrasts McCain's 2004 quote to Maliki Quote
9) MSNBC: Hegseth argues that Maliki's statement is good news, a sign of the surge working
10) MSNBC: Veteran calls McCain out on voting record at town hall

Clips
Highlight #1
Couric Presses John McCain on Iran, His Budget Plan and the State of His Campaign (CBS 07/09/08 6:33pm)
KATIE COURIC: The presidential candidates were quick to react to Iran's nuclear test . . . Republican John McCain called for, quote, "meaningful sanctions." Earlier today, I asked Sen. McCain about a possible attack by Israel against Iran. [cut to interview] Would you discourage Israel if their leadership came to you as President and said we're going to strike Iran's nuclear sites?

JOHN MCCAIN: I can't get into that kind of hypothetical but the Iranians are testing these missiles not because of action on the part of the Israelis in my view. This is part of a calculated plans [sic], developing nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. And nations led by all of our European friends as well as other countries, we have to impose meaningful, tough effective sanctions on the Iranians to modify their behavior. We cannot ever allow a second Holocaust.

COURIC: Do you get a sense, Sen. McCain, that an attack by Israel on Iran is imminent?

MCCAIN: I have no idea. I know this, that Iran continues to develop nuclear weapons in violation of various treaties and their own commitments and we need to do everything we can to modify that behavior in the form of very tough economic and other sanctions. Their economy is not strong because they have a lousy government.

COURIC: What do you think should be done right now that isn't been done in that department?

MCCAIN: Impose tough sanctions. There are European financial institutions extending unlimited lines of credit to

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the Iranians. Shut all that down. Make things very, very tough economically on the Iranians and trade and other ways and I think it can have a beneficial effect.

COURIC: Beyond a summer gas tax plan that nobody thinks will pass, are you offering any kind of relief to the American people who as you know are really struggling right now?

MCCAIN: Well, uh, we've got quickly, um go offshore if the states agree and explore and exploit those areas. If you lift the moratorium on offshore exploration, uh, I think that will send a signal and have an affect on gas prices immediately. The gas tax holiday was just a chance to give some people a little bit of relief [laughs] that's all it was. A lot of people say it was a gimmick and wouldn't work. A lot of people who are driving the furtherest [sic] in the oldest cars are low income Americans, really would like to have a little bit of relief.

COURIC: Your advisors say you're promising to balance the budget by the end of your first term, Sen. McCain. Are you personally making this commitment to the American people?

MCCAIN: Yes. Absolutely. And if we reduce spending, then we can do it. It all has to do with spending. It all has to do with discipline, which is out of control.

COURIC: What's your reaction to leading economists who say it's all but impossible to meet that goal? That you'd have to cut spending or raise taxes beyond what anyone could anticipate is possible. Is it really achievable?

MCCAIN: I'm saying that there is five Nobel laureates and 300 economists who think my economic plan is a good one. I say that those that disagree, I respect their opinion but growth and revenue increases is what will balance the budget.

COURIC: Some Republicans meanwhile have privately complained that your campaign organization is in disarray and if you can't effectively run a campaign, how can you effectively run the country? What's your response to that?

MCCAIN: My response is that I do town hall meetings all the time. And not a single person in the town hall meetings says, "How's your campaign organization doing?" What they say is, "How you going to get my health care affordable?" "I'm worried about my job." "I can't afford to drive my car anymore." "How am I going to, uh, er, keep my home loan, stay in my home, afford my mortgage." That's what they're talking about. That's what I'm talking about.

John McCain Invokes Specter of a Second Holocaust with Regard to Iran (ABC 07/09/08 6:44pm)
JOHN MCCAIN [on Iranian missile tests]: It's alarming. It's part of the overall effort on the part of the Iranians to acquire nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. I strongly feel that we must enact meaningful and powerful sanctions, joined by our European allies and others who consider this threat very seriously.

CHARLES GIBSON: But, with all due respect, that's what the president has been calling for for some time in reaction to the Iranians and it hasn't gotten us anywhere

MCCAIN: Well, we haven't done it, Charlie. I hope that this may be a catalyst to actually come together and impose these sanctions on the Iranians. At the end of the day, also we cannot afford to have a second holocaust.

[...]

GIBSON: [...] Well John McCain has been hammering away at Barack Obama for his position on Iran and he's also criticizing Obama for changing position on a number of other issues [...].

GIBSON: I'm curious, there's been a lot of speculation in the press about whether your opponent may be shifting positions in some areas, moving to the center, a little more right than he was in the primaries. Do you see him shifting positions?

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MCCAIN: It appears so, although I have not been pa ying real close attention, but I would say on the issue of Iraq, I'm glad he's going for the first time in 900 days. I'm glad he is, for the first time, asking for a sit-down briefing with General Petraeus and I would be very interested in what his position on Iraq is when he returns.

GIBSON: You're not ready yet to call him a flip-flopper?

MCCAIN: Oh, it's obvious that what I say doesn't affect American public opinion nearly as much as what he says does.

GIBSON: You think so?

MCCAIN: Well, the fact is he has changed his positions on FISA, on public financing, on his agreement that he says he'd go back any time, any place to have a town hall meeting with me. We were before the same organization yesterday. We could have just stood there together and answered their questions. I think LULAC would have gotten a lot more out of it. He said that he would do that. He said he would take public financing for the general election if I did as well and said that he agreed to it, but those things will be judged by the American people, but I won't hesitate to point 'em out.

Williams Asks McCain about His New Ad, Iran (MSNBC 07/09/08 7:20pm)
BRIAN WILLIAMS: . . . since this day, again, started with that missile launch of Iran, that topic dominated a morning round of interviews, ours included, with the presumptive nominee John McCain . . .

MCCAIN: Hopefully, at this event, it will serve as a catalyst that will gel all of the different factors that have been out there that will allow us to act with our friends and allies in the most effective fashion and modify Iranian behavior but we cannot allow a second Holocaust.

WILLIAMS: Senator, let's switch to the domestic campaign. You have a new ad out that contrasts a lot of behavior in this country in, one presumes, the sixties with your record of service. What it says is your record of patriotism, love of country. In the ad you say we live in a dangerous world and you call the US economy a shambles, which seems to be a tougher, more morose message than you've been using on the campaign trail. Do you stick by that message?

MCCAIN: I think our economy, it, it, it is certainly in dire situation. We continue to see the economy deteriorate. We continue to see the increase in a price of a gallon of gas. We continue to see jobs lost in this country and we have a great deal to do.

WILLIAMS: The ad seems to play on the word "hope" many times and in the script it appears in quotes, "don't 'hope' for a better life, vote for one," . . . the implication is rather clear, but matched against the video, say the height of the domestic uprising, 1968, your opponent was about six years old. What are you trying to imply about what he was doing during the Viet Nam years as opposed to what we know you were doing?

MCCAIN: [laughs] I-I-I'm not, I think the point is that this nation has be--, was united after the Ronald Reagan came to the presidency, we joined together in common cause we joined together to win the Cold War. Now we face new challenges, the threat of radical Islamic extremism, we're in two wars, we were just discussing the Iranian threat and we have major challenges obviously to our economy and our children's' future. I'm trying to say that I'm prepared to take on those challenges.

Highlight #2
Lindsey Graham Invokes Hitler in Relation to Iran (FNC 06/09/08 4:05pm)
DAVID ASMAN: […] is there any room for dialogue do we have to stand tough?

LINDSEY GRAHAM: The dialogue has to be between the world community and Iran. We have to be tough. The world should unite around the idea that this missile testing along with Iran's refusal to abandon their nuclear weapons program presents a grave danger to the world. So the right solution to this problem is not to sit down unilaterally with the Iranians and give them something. It is for the world to coalesce around the idea that Iran will punished if they move forward with their efforts to get a nuclear weapon and put it on top of the missile.

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ASMAN: We do not have to give our man anything if we sit down and talk to them.

GRAHAM: What are you going to talk to them about?

[long silence]

ASMAN: You cannot think of anything?

GRAHAM: No. [...] Talk does not matter to Iran. They will respond to action and I do not want a military engagement with Iran. It would be a very difficult task for us, the world at large, but talking is not going to work. What we need to do is impose sanctions that will.

They depend on gasoline. The western world, China and Russia can change Iranian behavior if we act. Talking will embolden these people. Acting will deter them.

ASMAN: We just had a release of hostages in Venezuela and we had been in this almost endless conversation. Hugo Chavez got in the middle of it. We had been told time and time we have to sit down with the rebels. The sitting down obviously did nothing but in power the rebels and Hugo Chavez at the same time. Is there a similarity here in these situations?

GRAHAM: Yeah, the Colombian president took matters into his own hand. They came up with the military strategy that was marvelous [...]. We sat down with Hitler and it never worked. Give him one more country. Appease this guy. Talking with Iran is a form of appeasement.

We need world action, not just United States action, not just Israeli action. The world needs to rally around the idea that we' re not going to let Iran get a nuclear weapon.

ASMAN: Would we support Israel if, on its own, it tried to take out those nuclear installations?

GRAHAM: In my opinion there is time to avoid that choice. Now is the time to act decisively with the world, speaking with one voice, but here is the question for the world. Are we going to sit on the sidelines and allow a nuclear weapon and missile technology to start world war three? The answer to me is not.

ASMAN: Israel will not. The question is, will we support it if they act unilaterally?

GRAHAM: It is my belief that the scenario of Israel attacking Iran is not a good scenario for the world or Israel, we need to avoid that if possible. If I'm the Israeli prime minister I am not going to sit the sidelines and listen to the rhetoric coming out of Iran, watch this weapons test and their nuclear program mature without doing something. The worst option in my opinion is to do nothing while you still can do something.

Highlight #3
Matthews: McCain Sounds Like Cheney (MSNBC 07/09/08 5:55pm)
JOHN MCCAIN: We cannot allow a second Holocaust.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: . . . a second Holocaust. Of course John McCain there this morning referring to the test firing of the Iranians . . . Jill Zuckman, a second Holocaust, it looks to me like politics is in play here. Serious politics.

JILL ZUCKMAN: Well, Sen. McCain has taken a very hard line on Iran for a very long time and one of the things he talks about is President Ahmedinijad's own words. Calling Israel a, "stinking corpse," calling the Holocaust a "myth." He goes on and on ad on like that and Sen. McCain is very clear that he doesn't think Iran should get any benefit of the doubt from the United States . . .

MATTHEWS: . . . is this usual politics in America? . . . anything unusual about it? Over the line? Within the line? Appropriate politics, whatever?

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JOAN WALSH: I think a little bit over the line. I mean, "second Holocaust"? Come on. Again, this is John McCain helping Barack Obama because he sounds like a lunatic and he makes clear that he's running for Bush's third term. He sounds like a neocon in the room with Cheney planning the next strike on Iran. It's really beyond mainstream politics in my opinion.

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Sometimes I do hear Dick Cheney talking when John McCain talks.

WALSH: Absolutely.

Republicans in Senate Move Towards Obama's Position on Iran While McCain Sticks With Bush (MSNBC 07/09/08 5:07pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Here's Sen. McCain talking to Brian Williams . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: This kind of progress and this kind of testing that the Iranians are making is here and now and it cries out for collective action to cut off now the liens of credit that the Iranians are getting to cut off now the trade and diplomatic activities . . . we're in a situation where we have to act now . . . we can't just wait until next January to take meaningful action.

MATTHEWS: Andrea, I feel like one of those people with the earphones on trying to figure out the translation there. What is the difference there between what Barack said and what McCain said?

ANDREA MITCHELL: Barack Obama is saying that we should have aggressive diplomacy . . . John McCain is saying we need sanctions, economic punishment, diplomatic pressure on Iran, not diplomatic engagement. Interestingly Dick Luger, the Republican vice chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee during a hearing on Iran this afternoon agreed with Barack Obama . . . Luger and other Republicans are beginning to move to the side of those Democrats . . . calling for some kind of diplomatic involvement with Iran without preconditions. The McCain position is identical to the Bush position but it is not universally accepted within the Republican Party.

MATTHEWS: Let's talk about the politics on the home front. Everybody in America, practically, roots for Israel in a general sense, obviously people that are Jewish have a deeper commitment than most people. But there's also a huge Christian conservative element in this country that's deeply pro-Israeli. When John McCain made a statement, here, let's talk a look at what he said . . .

MCCAIN: If Iran attacked Israel, I'd have no doubt that the entire nation would erupt in conflict. The Irani—the Iraqis would have to respond, as any nation does that's attacked and the entire region and the United States would probably be drawn into the conflict . . .

MATTHEWS: Sen. McCain also talked this morning about the possibility of a second Holocaust, that's certainly incendiary language politically.

ROGER SIMON: . . .Sen. McCain has used that as his argument for staying in Iraq . . . we have to have a peacekeeping presence in the region otherwise we face open warfare. The problem is, the other bite you showed, Sen. McCain calls for isolating Iran. The trouble with isolation is, once you isolate them, then what'd you have left?

Highlight #4
On Iran 'Joke,' Borger Says: That's Just McCain Being McCain (CNN 07/09/08 6:41pm)
WOLF BLITZER: What do you make of Senator McCain joking—and it was clearly, he was trying to be funny—when he said, you know the US is exporting a lot of cigarettes to Iran and he said maybe that's good 'cause they'll all die from the cigarettes then he quickly said, 'You know, I'm just joking.'

DAVID BRODY: I mean, obviously McCain's critics will say he's got an itchy trigger finger so clearly, a comment like that isn't gonna play well initially, but let's take a step back here for a moment and go to pre-implosion McCain. Remember that where he was the front-runner and a lot of people said that he was too guarded, that

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he was too close to the vest and he didn't really open up too much and he needed to get back to that straight talk express.

Well, you know, some of those moments are really gonna have to work for him to be successful. In other words, he may have a bomb like the one we're talking about today and the 'Bomb […] Iran' one as well. That may backfire, but, if he gets nine out of ten right, it actually could actually [sic] help him a little bit.

BLITZER: When you're running for president, you've gotta have a filter.

JACK CAFFERTY: Well, you know, the cigarettes are slower than 'bomb […] Iran' as was just suggested. The essence of the story is that our sales of exports from this country to Iran are up more than ten-fold during the seven and a half years of the Bush administration. They've gone from $8 million a year to $150 million a year while President Bush stomps around, talking tough about sanctions.

'We gotta crack the whip. We gotta isolate Iran.' We're selling 'em cigarettes and braziers and a whole bunch of other things to the tune of about $150 billion a year. It's a hypocrisy with a capitol HIP.

[…]

GLORIA BORGER: I say let McCain be McCain. This is who John McCain is and you knew it was real because his wife started jabbing him in the back, telling him to be quiet and this is John McCain. The public ought to get to know who he is.

Highlight #5
Tom Delay Expresses Classic Liberal Views on Deficit, Declares Willingness to Bomb Iran (MSNBC 07/09/08 5:07pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Let me ask you about your Republican party which you have fought so hard and some people would say over the top in winning for . . . Tom Davis . . . he said if the Republican Party were a dog food, it would be taken off the shelves right now, is it that bad?

TOM DELAY: It's pretty bad and I'm done pointing fingers . . .

MATTHEWS: A lot of people would say the biggest thing that went wrong with the Republican party wasn't the personality of this president or ther war in Iraq but the fact that Republicans weren't Republicans, they ran up big spending in the last seven years . . .

DELAY: We did balance the budget, back in the 90s—

MATTHEWS: I'm talking about the last eight years. Did you know the national debt has gone from 6,000,000,000,000 to 10,000,000,000,000?

DELAY: And we fought a war.

MATTHEWS: I know. 4 trillion. That didn't all go to the war.

DELAY: Almost 1 trillion of it is the war.

MATTHEWS: 4. Trillion.

DELAY: Yup.

MATTHEWS: The world economy's 50 trillion. We owe 10 trillion.

DELAY: I understand but as a percentage of GDP it has grown a little but—

MATTHEWS: What are you, John Kenneth Galbraith?

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DELAY: No.

MATTHEWS: Those are the old liberal arguments, it's a percentage of GDP. You don't think overspending has been a problem for the Republicans?

DELAY: The perception of overspending has been a problem for Republicans. And it's a bad problem for the Republicans . . . it's not spending, it's redefining government, we need to go back to constitutional principles that go back to our base . . . they want to see leadership, and they're starting to do that. Whether our members can do that by '08, I don't know . . .

MATTHEWS: Do you think we're going to go to war before the election?

DELAY: I think it's possible.

MATTHEWS: . . . Olmert's got a weak government in Israel. He might . . . feel in a position to show his strength? . . . we may decide, Dick Cheney may say, influence the president, say, if Israel has to attack, it'll take them two thousand sorties to do the job, we can do it in a day, why don't we do it clean and get it over with because we'll get blamed anyway?

DELAY: And particularly if Obama is the next president.

MATTHEWS: Tell me what you think as a conservative hawk, do you think we should move over there--

DELAY: Absolutely.

MATTHEWS: --between now and the election?

DELAY: We should've moved a lot earlier.

MATTHEWS: What should we do?

DELAY: First and foremost we should blockade Iran, quit dallying around in all this diplomatic and sanctions . . .

[. . .]

DELAY: We should never take a military strike off the table.

MATTHEWS: What if Olmert calls up you and says, "should I go?"

DELAY: I'd say go. But maybe we want to go too. . .

MATTHEWS: Is that where you are on that right now?

DELAY: Yes.

MATTHEWS: Go.

DELAY: No. Not right now. But if things deteriorate over the next two to three months . . .

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Do you think that's a common thought around the White House crowd? The Dick Cheney crowd? Are they thinking about acting now, while they still have a chance to end that nuclear threat from Iran?

DELAY: I can't answer that . . .

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--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)
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From: "Demetrio Fábrega" <mecof05@hotmail.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/10/2016 5:07:04 AM
Subject: Crossroads comments

Dear Mr. Podesta:

I presume that there are very few observations of mine, which could be of use to Mrs. Clinton, but I do believe that she should do something about the repetitious content of Sanders attacks. There are too many functional illiterates now in the world and more than half of the population of the United States are a part of the irrational masses that the illiteracy produces. One cannot reason without an acceptable assimilation of language. I remember that Heidegger said that “man speaks first and then thinks”, and he also wrote that “we were given the PROMISE of language”. Germany after World War I was also in that situation and Goebels taught us that if a people is told the same lie a thousand times, the people is drawn to believe it. It is Trump’s main asset but Sanders is also using it.
There are a few things that may be of use.

1.
He definitely opened himself to a definitely destructive attack when he referred to the achievements of the Cuban revolution. The health service of Cuba is as good or better than the French, but to establish that in the United States his revolution has to be an armed revolution. A culture of helping each other to the extent the Cuban people have achieved has to be made up with an absolute control of the media and the education. Sanders understood that very well but he does not mention anything beyond saying that “the people have to stand up”, “the people must rise”. Lenin and Mao also used to say that, because it was understood that it meant “to rise in arms”. The use of the language faculty is so irrepleaceable that Cuban have placed great importance to it in their education system. Even Stalin recommended workers organizations to learn Russian well with no swearing words and no foreign words. Sanders does not explain how he is going to manage to fulfill most of his promises. He says that the people must stand up. If the speaker is not clear, the listener does not reason what he hears.

2.
Whenever Sanders cannot give a proper answer or a proper explanation, he repeats the words of the question and goes on to repeat what he always says in connection with the subject.

3. The American people will not want a revolution as the one Sanders is preaching. They may be willing to live an “evolution”. Sanders would not be able to fulfill his promises even if he changes to Constitution to be President for three terms. The change has to be gradual: strengthening and improving what has already been achieved.

4. Stress that repeating the same thing always is a fascist technique. That it is what Trump is doing by not allowing the people to reason, by not explaining anything, by saying the opposite of what he has already said if there is a strong reaction against. Trump last week asked the people in a meeting to raise their hands and swear. I suppose it was to swear their support although I did not hear that part.

5. Finally, I feel rather sure that Turner does not know what Chalia and Burnett and others in CNN are doing constantly working for Trump. Somebody should tell him that he is being used as Nazi media were used.

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From: "American Security Project" <events@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/11/2015 8:05:30 AM
Subject: Hill Briefing: Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy - December 15, 2015

Join ASP on December 15th for a briefing in the U.S. Senate to discuss the breakthroughs and advancements made in fusion research.

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Hill Briefing: Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy

December 15, 2015

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Location:
American Security Project

385 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20 515

Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy will be held Tuesday, December 15 in 385 Russell from 12:00pm – 1:30pm. This event will be an opportunity for leaders in fusion energy from the private sector and research labs to discuss the significant progress made in advancing fusion and what this clean, safe, and abundant energy source means for America's national security and energy future.

Leading experts in fusion from the public and private sector will discuss the new developments that have been featured over the last several months in major media outlets like Time Magazine, the New York Times, Science, and Nature. ASP is the leading think tank detailing a plan for the future of fusion. We are excited to facilitate a greater understanding this complex but revolutionary energy source.

Lunch refreshments will be served throughout the event.

Please arrive by 12:00pm for registration.

The event will be begin promptly at 12:00pm.

ASP
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Resources:

Private Investors Back Nuclear Fusion Energy

Fusion Energy – The National Security Requirement

Fusion White Paper – 10 Year Plan for American Energy Security

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Panel Includes:

Moderator:

- Mr. Andrew Holland

Panelists:

- Dr. Dennis Whyte - MIT Director of Plasma Science and Fusion Center
- Mr. Michael Delage - General Fusion
- Dr. Douglas Witherspoon - President and Chief Scientist of HyperV Technologies Corp.
- Dr. Richard Barth - Senior Vice President of Tri Alpha Energy

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To: Friend <JohnPodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 2/12/2016 9:03:35 AM
Subject: Hypocrite Alert! Obama Talks Income Inequality at $33K Per Plate Fundraiser

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Christine Rousselle



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) released a hilarious new ad lampooning the printer destruction scene from the movie Office Space.
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Congress Passes North Korea Sanctions, Ryan Says "Strategic Patience" is Not Working

Cortney O'Brien

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Yes, I know that there's no such thing as assault weapons, but let's just entertain this awful piece of liberal jargon for the sake of argument.
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Cortney O'Brien



Obama Talks Income Inequality At $33k-per-Ticket Fundraiser
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Hold Me Closer, Bernie Sanders

Christine Rousselle

Here's some Friday fun.
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Trump: 'I'm Capable of Changing To Anything I Want to Change To'

Guy Benson

Fox News anchor Bret Baier tweeted this quote from Donald Trump's recent interview with Greta Van Susteren, prodding me to snark that it'll be fascinating to watch Trump's cult of personality cheer on his inevitable mass amnesty proposal.
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VIDEO: Senate Bans Sale of Goods From Slave Labor

Legislation that would ban the sale of products made through slave labor is on its way to becoming a law.
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VIDEO: Obama To Create Three New National Monuments

According to the Washington Post, the president is expected to designate 1.8 million acres of land in California as national monuments on Friday.
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VIDEO: MSNBC Host Calls Hillary Clinton Spokesman a 'Desperate Hack'

Joe Scarborough had some tough words for Clinton after her campaign's attacks on the integrity of federal investigators.
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Double Shooting At High School in Arizona, Say Police

Cortney O'Brien

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/10/2014 9:10:10 AM
Subject: Dahr Jamail | Open Source Farming: A Renaissance Man Tackles the Food Crisis

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Dahr Jamail, Truthout: Given Anthropogenic Climate Disruption and our dwindling capacities for producing enough healthy food, a cutting-edge farming technique that dramatically increases produce yields from a design engineer in Port Townsend, Washington, may well already be filling a critical void.

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European Court Finds CIA Interrogation Techniques "Amounted to Torture"

Sharon Adams, Truthout: The European Court of Human Rights concludes that so-called enhanced interrogation techniques - specifically approved by John Yoo and Jay Bybee for use by the CIA on Abu Zubaydah at a Polish black site - amounted to torture.

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US Presidents Reconsidered - By Death Toll

Peter Handel, Truthout: In this interview with Al Carroll, author of *President's Body Counts: The Twelve Worst and Four Best American Presidents Based on How Many Lived or Died Because of Their Actions*, US presidents are reviewed on a wholly new basis.

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For Disenfranchised Haitian Islanders, Tourism Signals a Paradise Lost

Judith Scherr, Inter Press Service: Haitian islanders of Ile à Vache are angry at their exclusion from the government decision-making process that has opened the island for investment - investments that place residents' futures in limbo.

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Sam Pizzigati, Too Much: Wealth's current tilt to the top sometimes seems almost eternal. But can our economy "self-correct"? A provocative new paper out

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The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

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"Humanitarian Emergency" Does Not Suspend the Constitution on War Powers

Robert Naiman, Truthout: President Obama gave a speech Thursday night purporting to justify US military strikes in Iraq. But Obama failed to clearly explain why his decision to order airstrikes in Iraq without Congressional authorization is Constitutional and legal.

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Truthout Interviews Tanya Lee on Native American Gender-Based Violence

Ted Asregadoo, Truthout: Tanya Lee speaks about the startlingly high rates of gender-based violence among Native American and Native Alaskan communities and the lack of access the victims of that violence have to the justice system.

Watch the Interview

Women Warriors Take Environmental Protection Into Their Own Hands

Amantha Perera, Inter Press Service: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change estimates that women comprise one of the most vulnerable populations to the fallout from extreme weather events. Increasingly, women are taking a front seat in community action campaigns in Asia, Africa and Latin America aimed at safeguarding the environment.

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Leaked Documents Show Spyware Used to Snoop on US Computers

Jeff Larson and Mike Tigas, ProPublica: Software created by the controversial UK based Gamma Group International was used to spy on computers that appear to be located in the United States, the UK, Germany, Russia, Iran and Bahrain, according to a leaked trove of documents.

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Gar Alperovitz, AlterNet: As climate change continues to generate bigger storms and more intense flooding to the point that even insurance companies are beginning to sue cities for inadequate drainage capacity, can we find a way forward?

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This week in Speakout:

Roger Annis questions the motives behind powerful countries pressuring Russia over Ukraine, and in a separate essay, warns of propaganda coming from Kiev; **Lisa Dawson** reveals videos documenting corrections officers using extreme force on incarcerated people suffering from various forms of mental illness; **adam buchanan** notes the Supreme Court is immune to generational changes in the US and is thus out of step with changing views; **Dr. James Zogby** warns a deterioration in mainstream American attitudes toward Arabs and Muslims could lead to civil rights abuses; **Kathy Kelly** reports on acts of mercy from Kabul; **Lawrence Davidson** describes how the need to recognize human rights came about and points out that Israel is a big violator; **Reprieve** warns that a Guantánamo Bay detainee on hunger strike is suffering from a

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life-threatening health collapse; **Steve Fleischli** - with comic duo **Conan O'Brien** and **Andy Richter** - helps inform Californians as the state faces historic drought conditions; **P.L. Thomas** reflects on James Baldwin and encourages the public to revisit the fiery intellectual who would have turned 90 this month; **John LaForge** demolishes the official story on the necessity of using atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and details the massive human tragedy that resulted; and more.

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From:	"Stephen Hadley" <stephenjhadley@me.com>
To:	"Brewington, Autumn A" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com>
Date:	1/14/2014 7:00:02 AM
Subject:	Re: updated draft

Autumn --

I think it looks great. Let's go with it.

Thanks for all you great work!

Steve

Stephen J. Hadley
(202) 220-5061

> On Jan 14, 2014, at 1:40 PM, "Brewington, Autumn A" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com> wrote:
>
> How's this?
>
> U.S. officials are struggling again with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. After painful and prolonged negotiations, they concluded a draft bilateral security agreement last year that lays the foundation for leaving U.S military forces in Afghanistan after 2014. It is expected to involve 8,000 to
> 10,000 U.S. troops with counterterrorism, training and other responsibilities in support of Afghan forces.
>
> Most U.S. experts on Afghanistan believe that such a residual force is critical if Afghan forces are to continue to professionalize. Only with such help will they have a reasonable chance of containing the Taliban and giving Afghan authorities the space to negotiate a political settlement that includes the Taliban. Some NATO forces would also remain, but only if U.S. troops stay.
>
> Most experts also believe that without such residual forces, the billions of dollars in financial support promised for Afghan security forces and for Afghanistan’s economic development will not materialize. Few believe that any Afghan government would survive long without this assistance. So the stakes are high — for Afghanistan and for preserving the investment of lives and treasure that the United States and its coalition allies have made over the past 12 years.
>
> Initially Karzai said he would sign the agreement after a loya jirga, or traditional congregation of Afghan leaders, approved the pact. The loya jirga approved the deal in November, but Karzai soon demanded further concessions: an end to counterterrorism raids into Afghan homes at night, active U.S. support for the peace process with the Taliban, and non-interference in the April presidential election that will determine Karzai’s successor. Lately he has threatened to leave the matter to his successor.
>
> U.S. officials have responded by pressuring Karzai directly and indirectly. They have set a succession of deadlines and said the agreement must be signed in “weeks, not months.” So far, nothing has worked. U.S. officials need an alternative approach.
>
> One option would be for President Obama to make a public statement praising Afghanistan’s progress in assuming responsibility for its security; improving the education, health and well-being of its citizens; and preparing for the April election. To support that progress, Obama would say, he has directed U.S. forces to curtail all but essential night raids. He is committed to facilitating the peace process, he would note, and pledges full support for an election free from all outside influences.
>
> These statements would not represent a major U.S. policy change, but together they would offer Karzai a face-saver if he really wishes to sign the security agreement.
>

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> Next, Obama could announce the number of troops that he is prepared to leave in Afghanistan post-2014 and direct the Pentagon to develop plans on that basis. He would call on our NATO allies to announce similar force commitments.
>
> This step would go a long way toward reassuring Afghan presidential candidates, and the Afghan people, of America's post-2014 presence. The lack of such reassurance has become a source of serious instability, threatening the election and the morale of Afghan security forces. For similar reasons, Obama should at this point resist any pressure to set a date for the termination of the post-2014 U.S. deployment.
>
> Third, Obama could state that while he is willing to sign the bilateral security agreement with Karzai he is also willing to sign it with the next Afghan president. U.S. officials should then stop pressuring Karzai — or anyone else — for a signature before the April election. Such pressure only strengthens Karzai's hand, encourages further delay and makes the United States look desperate.
>
> Obama should make clear that his commitment of troops is dependent, ultimately, on the bilateral security agreement being signed. But a post-election signing by a new Afghan president would give more than enough time to complete the necessary U.S. military planning before year's end. Indeed, experts say that even without the deal, U.S. forces could remain in Afghanistan after 2014 under the existing status-of-forces agreement, though our allies would have to negotiate a new agreement for their forces with the new Afghan government.
>
> Washington Post/ABC News polling last month suggested that more than 60 percent of Americans believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting. But the same poll also found that 55 percent support leaving some U.S. forces for training and "anti-insurgency" operations. And lawmakers' public statements suggest that a post-2014 deployment would have bipartisan support in Congress.
>
> Obama should avoid any suggestion that he might embrace a "zero option" and leave no U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014. Almost every Afghan expert believes it would destabilize Afghanistan, threaten the outcome of the presidential election and ultimately risk the collapse of Afghan security forces. This would profoundly affect U.S. security interests. Afghanistan would once again become a haven for terrorists — who, history shows, would ultimately attack U.S. interests and territory. Afghanistan would contribute to destabilizing a nuclear-armed Pakistan. And the Afghan people would forfeit all the progress they have made, with our help, in building a more tolerant, inclusive, secure and prosperous society.
>
> Afghanistan's presidential election is less than three months away. U.S. policy must not be based on frustration with Karzai's mercurial behavior but on ensuring the election of a legitimate successor to Karzai with whom the United States can sign a security agreement that is overwhelmingly in the interests of both countries.
>
> The writer was national security adviser in the George W. Bush administration.
>
> _____
> Autumn Brewington
> Op-Ed Page Editor
> Autumn.Brewington@washpost.com
> 202-334-5120
>
> _____
> From: Stephen Hadley <stephenjhadley@me.com>
> Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 1:26 PM
> To: Brewington, Autumn A; Brewington, Autumn A
> Cc: Aysha Chowdhry; Catherine Eng; Hiatt, Fred; Diehl, Jackson K
> Subject: Re: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it
>
> Autumn --
>
> Very nice job, as usual. Just a few points of mine and then responses to your questions.
>
> 1. The Loya Jirga approved the deal in November, 2013.

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>
> 2. Karzai's request was not for a "pledge" of non-interference in the election but actual non-interference -- and that was one reason he gave for waiting till after the election, to see whether the United States actually interfered or not. So I would go back to the original: "non-interference in the April presidential election that will determine Karzai's successor."
>
> 3. As to Obama's statement giving Karzai "a face-saving way out," I think the reader will not understand what we are saying if we don't follow with the original phrase "if he really wishes to sign the BSA."
>
> 4. On the paragraph on which Obama fixes the troop numbers, the introductory word should not be "Alternatively" but "Secondly." This is all one statement, given at one time. This is the second point Obama must make in the speech. For we won't know for some time after the speech is given whether Obama's statements in the prior paragraph are enough to move Karzai to sign the BSA. And even if he signs it, Obama will still need to announce the troop number in this statement since the number is NOT in the BSA. So "Secondly" was right.
>
> 5. The results of the poll on public support for the U.S. operations in Afghanistan and for leaving a residual force was published in your paper. I am forwarding the site (which Aysha found) to you separately.
>
> 6. In the second to last paragraph, it's not just that the zero option would "threaten the safety of the presidential election" but would "threaten the outcome" (as I original wrote) in many ways: as you suggest, threaten the safety, but if the zero option did collapse the Afghan security forces, the election might not even be held -- or the turn out (especially in Sunni areas) would be so low that the outcome would have no legitimacy. This is why "threaten the outcome" seemed the right term.
>
> Let me know if there is anything else you need from us.
>
> And please confirm that you received these comments.
>
> Thanks again for your great work on this piece.
>
> Steve
>
>
> Stephen J. Hadley
> (202) 220-5061
>
>> On Jan 14, 2014, at 12:07 PM, "Brewington, Autumn A" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com> wrote:
>>
>> Thanks so much for your patience, and I apologize for the delay. Can you let me know, please, how this looks?
>>
>> Best regards,
>
>> Autumn
>>
>> U.S. officials are struggling again with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. After painful and prolonged negotiations, they concluded a draft bilateral security agreement last year that lays the foundation for leaving U.S military forces in Afghanistan after 2014. It is expected to involve 8,000 to 10,000 U.S. troops with counterterrorism, training and other responsibilities in support of Afghan forces.
>>
>> Most U.S. experts on Afghanistan believe that such a residual force is critical if Afghan forces are to continue to professionalize. Only with such help will they have a reasonable chance of containing the Taliban and giving Afghan authorities the space to negotiate a political settlement that includes the Taliban. Some NATO forces would also remain, but only if U.S. troops stay.
>>
>> Most experts also believe that without such residual forces, the billions of dollars in financial support promised for Afghan security forces and for Afghanistan’s economic development will not materialize. Few

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believe that any Afghan government would survive long without this assistance. So the stakes are high — for Afghanistan and for preserving the investment of lives and treasure that the United States and its coalition allies have made over the past 12 years.

>>

>> Initially Karzai said he would sign the agreement after a loya jirga, or traditional congregation of Afghan leaders, approved the pact. The loya jirga approved the deal in XXX, but Karzai soon demanded further concessions: an end to counterterrorism raids into Afghan homes at night, active U.S. support for the peace process with the Taliban, and a pledge of? non-interference in the April presidential election that will determine Karzai's successor. Lately he has threatened to leave the matter to his successor.

>>

>> U.S. officials have responded by pressuring Karzai directly and indirectly. They have set a succession of deadlines and said the agreement must be signed in "weeks, not months." So far, nothing has worked. U.S. officials need an alternative approach.

>>

>> One option would be for President Obama to make a public statement praising Afghanistan's progress in assuming responsibility for its security; improving the education, health and well-being of its citizens; and preparing for the April election. To support that progress, Obama would say, he has directed U.S. forces to curtail all but essential night raids. He is committed to facilitating the peace process, he would note, and pledges full support for an election free from all outside influences.

>>

>> These statements would not represent a major U.S. policy change, but together they would offer Karzai a face-saving out.

>>

>> Alternatively, Obama could announce the number of troops that he is prepared to leave in Afghanistan post-2014 and direct the Pentagon to develop plans on that basis. He would call on our NATO allies to announce similar force commitments.

>>

>> This step would go a long way toward reassuring Afghan presidential candidates, and the Afghan people, of America's post-2014 presence. The lack of such reassurance has become a source of serious instability, threatening the election and the morale of Afghan security forces. For similar reasons, Obama should at this point resist any pressure to set a date for the termination of the post-2014 U.S. deployment.

>>

>> Third, Obama could state that while he is willing to sign the bilateral security agreement with Karzai he is also willing to sign it with the next Afghan president. U.S. officials should then stop pressuring Karzai — or anyone else — for a signature before the April election. Such pressure only strengthens Karzai's hand, encourages further delay and makes the United States look desperate.

>>

>> Obama should make clear that his commitment of troops is dependent, ultimately, on the bilateral security agreement being signed. But a post-election signing by a new Afghan president would give more than enough time to complete the necessary U.S. military planning before year's end. Indeed, experts say that even without the deal, U.S. forces could remain in Afghanistan after 2014 under the existing status-of-forces agreement, though our allies would have to negotiate a new agreement for their forces with the new Afghan government.

>>

>> Recent polling suggests that more than 60 percent of Americans believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting. [DO YOU HAVE A LINK FOR THIS?] But the same poll also found that 55 percent support leaving some U.S. forces for training and "anti-insurgency" operations. And lawmakers' public statements suggest that a post-2014 deployment would have bipartisan support in Congress.

>>

>> Obama should avoid any suggestion that he might embrace a "zero option" and leave no U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014. Almost every Afghan expert believes it would destabilize Afghanistan, threaten the safety of the presidential election and ultimately risk the collapse of Afghan security forces. This would profoundly affect U.S. security interests. Afghanistan would once again become a haven for terrorists — who, history shows, would ultimately attack U.S. interests and territory. Afghanistan would contribute to destabilizing a nuclear-armed Pakistan. And the Afghan people would forfeit all the progress they have made, with our help, in building a more tolerant, inclusive, secure and prosperous society.

>>

>> Afghanistan's presidential election is less than three months away. U.S. policy must not be based on

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frustration with Karzai's mercurial behavior but on ensuring the election of a legitimate successor to Karzai with whom the United States can sign a security agreement that is overwhelmingly in the interests of both countries.
>>
>> The writer was national security adviser in the George W. Bush administration.
>>
>>
>>
>>
>> _____
>> Autumn Brewington
>> Op-Ed Page Editor
>> Autumn.Brewington@washpost.com
>> 202-334-5120
>>
>> _____
>> From: Stephen Hadley <stephenjhadley@me.com>
>> Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 10:54 AM
>> To: Brewington, Autumn A
>> Cc: Aysha Chowdhry; Catherine Eng
>> Subject: Re: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it
>>
>> Autumn --
>>
>> Great. Standing by and will turn to it promptly.
>>
>> Steve
>>
>> Stephen J. Hadley
>> (202) 220-5061
>>
>>> On Jan 14, 2014, at 10:30 AM, "Brewington, Autumn A" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> I will have an edited draft back to you in the next hour; and thanks for e-mailing all of us. The e-mail was somehow delayed in getting to my inbox, so I'm glad Fred saw it right away.
>>>
>>> Cheers,
>>>
>>> Autumn
>>>
>>> _____
>>> Autumn Brewington
>>> Op-Ed Page Editor
>>> Autumn.Brewington@washpost.com
>>> 202-334-5120
>>>
>>> _____
>>> From: Stephen Hadley <stephenjhadley@me.com>
>>> Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 10:37 PM
>>> To: Hiatt, Fred; Hiatt, Fred; Diehl, Jackson K; Diehl, Jackson K; Brewington, Autumn A; Brewington, Autumn A
>>> Cc: Aysha Chowdhry; Catherine Eng
>>> Subject: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it
>>>
>>> All --
>>>
>>> The purpose is to help the Administration out of the box on the signature of the BSA. The op ed reflects a lot of input from U.S. experts on the subject, some key Afghan leaders, and from some Administration officials. I

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believe that the Administration would find it helpful -- and this is a problem that certainly needs solving.
>>>
>>> Let me know what you think.
>>>
>>>
>>> "U.S. officials are struggling again with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. After painful and prolonged negotiations, they reached agreement on a draft "bilateral security agreement" or BSA. The draft BSA lays the foundation for leaving U.S military forces in Afghanistan after the end of 2014. It is expected to involve 8,000 to 10,000 U.S. troops with counterterrorism, training, and other responsibilities in support of Afghan forces.
>>>
>>> Most U.S. Afghanistan experts believe such a residual force is critical if Afghan forces are to continue to improve and professionalize. Only with such help will they have a reasonable chance of containing the Taliban and giving Afghan authorities the space to negotiate an inclusive political settlement including the Taliban. Some of our NATO allies will also leave forces but only if we do.
>>>
>>> Most experts also believe that without such residual forces, the billions of dollars in financial support promised for the Afghan security forces and for Afghanistan's economic development simply will not materialize. Without this assistance, few believe any Afghan government can survive for very long. So the stakes are high -- for Afghanistan, and for preserving the investment of lives and treasure that the United States and its coalition allies have made over the last twelve years.
>>>
>>> Initially President Karzai said he would sign the BSA after its approval by a traditional convocation of Afghan leaders called a Loya Jirga. The BSA received overwhelming approval, But Karzai nonetheless declined to sign. He has required further concessions: an end to counterterrorism raids into Afghan homes at night, active U.S. support for the peace process with the Taliban, and non-interference in the April election to choose President Karzai's successor. Lately he has threatened not to sign at all and to leave it to his successor.
>>>
>>> U.S. officials have responded by pressuring President Karzai directly and indirectly and setting a succession of missed deadlines, most recently saying that the BSA must be signed in "weeks, not months." So far, nothing has worked. U.S. officials need an alternative approach.
>>>
>>> One option would be for President Obama to make a public statement along the following lines.
>>>
>>> First, he would praise Afghanistan's progress in assuming greater responsibility for its security, in improving the education, health, and well-being of its citizens, and in preparing for the upcoming Presidential election. He would state that, to support that progress, he has directed U.S. forces to curtail all but essential night raids, he is committed to facilitating the peace process, and pledges full support for an April election free from all outside influences.
>>>
>>> These statements would not represent a major U.S. policy change, but together they would offer President Karzai a face saver if in fact he wishes to sign the BSA.
>>>
>>> Second, President Obama would announce the specific number of troops that he is prepared to leave in Afghanistan post-2014 and direct the Pentagon to develop plans on that basis. He would call on our NATO allies to announce similar force commitments.
>>>
>>> This step would go a long way to reassuring the candidates for the Afghan Presidency and the Afghan people of America's post-2014 presence. The lack of such reassurance has become a source of serious instability, threatening the success of the Afghan election and the morale of the Afghan security forces. For similar reasons, President Obama should resist any pressure to set at this point a date for the termination of the U.S. post-2014 deployment.
>>>
>>> Third, President Obama would state that while he is willing to sign the BSA with President Karzai, he is also willing to sign it post-April with a new Afghan President. U.S. officials should then stop pressuring President Karzai -- or anyone else -- for a signature before the April election. Such pressure only strengthens President Karzai's hand, encourages further delay, and makes the United States look weak and desperate.
>>>

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>>> President Obama should make clear in his statement that his troop commitment is dependent upon the ultimate signature of the BSA. But a post-election April or May signing by a new Afghan president would give more than enough time to complete the necessary U.S. military planning before the end of the year. Indeed, informed experts say that even without the BSA, U.S. forces could remain in Afghanistan after 2014 under the existing Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) (although our allies would have to negotiate a new SOFA for their forces with the new Afghan government).
>>>
>>> Recent polling suggests that over 60% of the American people believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting. But the same poll suggests that 55% support leaving some U.S. forces for training and "anti-insurgency" operations. And public statements by members suggest that a post-2014 deployment would have bipartisan Congressional support.
>>>
>>> President Obama should avoid any suggestion that he might embrace a "zero option" and leave no U.S. troops post-2014. Almost every Afghan expert believes it would destabilize Afghanistan, place the Presidential election in doubt, and ultimately risk the collapse of the Afghan security forces. It would profoundly affect U.S. security interests. Afghanistan would become once again a safe haven for terrorists -- who, history shows, would ultimately attack U.S. interests and territory. Afghanistan would contribute to destabilizing a nuclear-armed Pakistan. And the Afghan people would forfeit all the progress they have made (with our help) in building a more tolerant, inclusive, secure, and prosperous society.
>>>
>>> There are less than three months to go before elections to replace President Karzai. U.S. policy must not be based on frustration with Karzai's mercurial behavior. It must be based on ensuring the election of a legitimate successor to President Karzai with whom the United States can sign a BSA that is overwhelmingly in the interests of both countries."
>>>
>>>
>>> All -- That's it. May be a little long for you but Autumn has shown great skill in helping to shrink my stuff without losing the substance. And I will help. At the same time, the subject is important enough to warrant an extended treatment.
>>>
>>> Thank you for your consideration.
>>>
>>> Steve
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Stephen J. Hadley
>>> (202) 431-9797

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From: politicalUnit@abcnews.go.com <politicalUnit@abcnewsnow.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/2/2015 11:21:32 PM
Subject: The Note - Could 2016 Be The Hillary and Joe Show?

abc NEWS

The Note: Could 2016 Be The Hillary and Joe Show?

August, 03, 2015 9:12 AM
By MICHAEL FALCONE



Gerald Herbert/AP Photo

NOTABLES

--JOE BIDEN 'NOT SAYING NO': Vice President Joe Biden 's political operation has entered a more active phase in recent days, with several moves being contemplated to clear the way for him to run for president should he choose to do so, two longtime Biden advisers tell **ABC's RICK KLEIN .** The vice president himself has not authorized any specific moves, but nor has he objected, a signal Biden confidantes take as suggesting he's serious about potentially challenging Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination. "He's not saying no," one adviser said. "This is his time to figure it out." Among the potential moves are efforts to restart a moribund fundraising operation, launch a new political action committee, and find a way to channel the energies of a "Draft Biden" movement that's now not being led by Biden insiders. One adviser said the new actions would roll out over the next 30 to 45 days. http://abcn.ws/1eL6aPv

--FLASHBACK: When **ABC's GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS** interviewed Biden on "Good Morning America" in January, he said "there's a chance" that he would challenge Clinton, but added, "I don't think I have to make up my mind until the summer." In the interview he said he considered the presidential contest "wide open on both sides."

--ANALYSIS -- ABC's RICK KLEIN: The confluence of forces and events that have led Joe Biden to this point are deep and vast, from Democratic unease with Hillary Clinton's campaign performance to the shattering turmoil in the vice president's personal life, all at this particular stage of his career. Now, with his political machine whirring into service, the calculus becomes pretty simple: what does Biden himself want? The buzz and now the maneuverings are happening without the vice president's authorization, but with at least his acquiescence. Aides and advisers say no decision is imminent. The

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goal now for those who support him is to make sure he would have what he needs in place - not what Hillary Clinton has, of course, but enough to make a third presidential run realistic for Biden.

--WHAT TEAM BIDEN IS SAYING: Over the weekend, New York Times opinion columnist Maureen Dowd reported that before he died of brain cancer in May, Beau Biden "tried to make his father promise to run, arguing that the White House should not revert to the Clintons and that the country would be better off with Biden values" and that the vice president has been "talking to friends, family and donors about jumping in." Kendra Barkoff, a spokeswoman for Biden, issued the following statement on Saturday: "As the Biden family continues to go through this difficult time, the Vice President is focused on his family and immersed in his work. In recent weeks, the Vice President has worked on the nuclear deal with Iran, traveled across the country to highlight the Administration's economic priorities, and more." http://abcn.ws/1eL6aPv

--BY THE NUMBERS: In the most recent ABC News-Washington Post poll released July 20, Clinton stood at the head of the Democratic pack with the backing of 63 percent of registered Democrats compared to 14 percent for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and 12 percent for Biden. However, the poll also found that less than half -- 42 percent -- of Clinton's supporters described themselves as "very enthusiastic" about her candidacy. Seventy-two percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents said they are satisfied with their choice of candidates, potentially leaving some wiggle room for Biden.

HILLARY ON THE AIR

HILLARY CLINTON'S $2 MILLION TELEVISION ADS: ALL ABOUT HER MOM. There's one person Hillary Clinton really wants the voters of America to get to know more than anybody else. And her name is Dorothy Rodham, **ABC's LIZ KREUTZ** notes. Dorothy is Clinton's late mother. She died in 2011. But she's playing a starring role in her daughter's presidential campaign, and is the focus of Clinton's first television ads. On Tuesday, Clinton's campaign will begin broadcasting two TV ads in Iowa and New Hampshire. The one-minute spots, which will air over the course of five weeks, emphasize Clinton's mother's story over her own. The first ad, titled "Dorothy," is almost completely devoid of any discussion of Clinton's credentials. Instead, it's focused on recounting her mother's trauma-filled childhood. "I think about all the Dorothy's all over America who fight for their families, who never give up," Clinton says while video of a mother tucking her daughter in to bed plays. "That's why I'm doing this. That's why I've always done this. For all the Dorothy's." http://abcn.ws/1Ijoncz

FIVETHIRTYEIGHT IN THE NOTE

THERE'S NO PERFECT WAY TO SORT THE CANDIDATES FOR A PRIMARY DEBATE. From FiveThirtyEight's HARRY ENTEN: "Does Fox News' use of national polls to sift a top 10 from the 17-strong GOP field make sense? That's just one of several big questions about understanding each candidate's actual chance of winning the nomination. Gov. Scott Walker, for example, currently leads Iowa surveys -- how much does that matter? Does Walker's lead in Iowa mean more than Donald Trump's short tenure atop national and New Hampshire polls? How about former Gov. Jeb Bush's barrels of money and Gov. Chris Christie's early endorsements? None of these measurements is a perfect predictor, and we don't have a very large sample size when it comes to open primary elections in the modern era. But that doesn't mean there's no signal in these early metrics, and some have been more predictive than others." http://53eig.ht/1KoVPrz

HAPPENING TODAY: Today, the Granite State is in the spotlight. The New Hampshire Union Leader's Voters First Presidential Forum is this evening and almost all of the GOP candidates will be there, **ABC's SHUSHANNAH WALSHE** notes. Donald Trump, Mike Huckabee, and Jim Gilmore are out, but everyone else will be there. **Ted Cruz, Scott Walker, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ben Carson, John Kasich, Carly Fiorina, Bobby Jindal, Lindsey Graham, George Pataki, Rick Perry, Rick Santorum, Rand Paul** and **Marco Rubio** are all expected to attend. It's at 6:45 PM Eastern tonight at St. Anselm College in Manchester. The event is a response to the debates and the ten candidate limit, but don't call it a debate, instead candidates will be questioned individually by a moderator.

THE BUZZ

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BERNIE SANDERS LANDS A SWEET ENDORSEMENT FROM BEN & JERRY'S CO-FOUNDER. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders has landed the sweetest food endorsement so far of the 2016 election cycle: Ben Cohen, the co-founder of Ben & Jerry's. The ice cream magnate spoke Sunday to a gymnasium of supporters in Franklin, New Hampshire, telling them "as a person who has been his constituent for the last 30 years, I can tell you: this guy is the real thing." In an interview with **ABC's BRAD MIELKE,** Cohen explained his involvement. "Finally, there's a politician worth working for," he said with a grin. "So I'm working for him." Along with an endorsement and some prepared remarks, the former CEO, 64, brought along ice cream. A line formed around the front door as he personally handed out favorites, including Chocolate Fudge Brownie and Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough, to anyone who wanted a scoop. Nearly all of the hundreds of attendees stayed. It was ice cream weather, too. A day after sweating through his shirt at a town hall without air conditioning, Sanders spoke for almost 90 minutes, over the whir of several fans. http://abcn.ws/1DkbB48

DONALD TRUMP PLAYS DOWN DEBATE EXPECTATIONS. Republican presidential contender Donald Trump played down expectations for the first GOP debate slated for Thursday, saying "I'm not a debater" and he would not be "throwing punches" against his opponents on the stage. "These politicians, I always say, are all talk no action. They debate all the time," Trump told **ABC's JONATHAN KARL** on "This Week" Sunday. "I don't debate, I build. I've created tremendous jobs, I've created a great company." "Maybe my whole life is a debate in a way, but the fact is I'm not a debater, and they are," Trump added. "With that being said, I look forward to it, we'll see what happens." The current 2016 GOP frontrunner went on to say that he doesn't anticipate attacking his opponents on the stage, saying that every attack he's made on the campaign trail has been a counterattack, according to **ABC's RYAN STRUYK**. "I don't think I'm going to be throwing punches," he said. "I'm not looking to attack." http://abcn.ws/1IDVz56

BERNIE SANDERS RESPONDS TO POSSIBLE JOE BIDEN RUN. Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders said he's "very fond" of Vice President Joe Biden, but that "the American people... want to go beyond conventional establishment politics," **ABC's MARYALICE PARKS** report. Sanders made the statements in response to a question from **ABC's JONATHAN KARL** about Biden considering another run for president. Sanders suggested that voters are looking for a change in 2016 . "The government has to respond to the needs of the middle class, not the billionaires," he said, "I think that's what going on in this country, and I am not sure conventional politics will do it anymore." As for his primary challenger Hillary Clinton, Sanders refused to answer "yes or no" as to whether he thinks the former secretary of state and Democratic frontrunner is honest and trustworthy. According to a Quinnipiac poll released last week, 57 percent of registered voters do not think she is trustworthy. "I have a lot of respect for Hillary Clinton," Sanders said. "I am not going to be engaging in personal attacks against her." http://abcn.ws/1hdtDec

5 STORIES YOU'LL CARE ABOUT IN POLITICS THIS WEEK, courtesy of **ABC's SHUSHANNAH WALSHE:** http://abcn.ws/1E1FNf1

RICK SANTORUM CALLS GOP DEBATE RULES 'ARBITRARY'. Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum said Sunday that the criteria for the first Republican debate this week, which will limit participation to the Top 10 GOP candidates according to recent national polls, are "arbitrary," **ABC's BEN GITTLESON** notes. "These national polls are irrelevant," Santorum, a former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania who ran for president in 2012, said on ABC's "This Week." "I was at 1 percent in the national polls four years ago and ended up winning 11 states, four million votes, won the Iowa caucus." Santorum is polling low nationally and is not expected to gain entry to the first Republican debate on Thursday, according to an ABC News analysis. http://abcn.ws/1MDZCQD

--REINCE RESPONDS: Republican National Committee Chair Reince Priebus responded to criticism from Santorum and others by saying he was grateful that the first two debates would include all the candidates, even if the ones polling lower would be featured in a lower-profile forum earlier in the evening. "We're proud of the fact that everyone running is going to have an opportunity," Priebus said on "This Week" Sunday. "And the reality is, and it might be a little harsh, but you can't necessarily treat someone that's polling at 18 or 20 percent the same as someone that's polling at a half a percent or 1 percent." **WATCH:** http://abcn.ws/1LYLb9h

WHAT AUGUST COULD MEAN FOR THE IRAN DEAL. For weeks, President Obama has had the

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ear of Democrats on the Iran nuclear agreement, meeting with members one-on-one and dispatching his advisers to hearings and briefings on Capitol Hill. But with members leaving town until September, the administration is losing its greatest asset in the lobbying campaign: proximity. **ABC's BEN SIEGEL** explains: http://abcn.ws/1MDaa3y

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

LINDSEY GRAHAM AND JOHN MCCAIN'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE. Lindsey Graham took his secret weapon to New Hampshire this weekend: John McCain. The two attended several functions, including a barbecue for veterans, a house party, an outdoor concert and a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, **ABC's BRAD MIELKE** reports from the Granite State. McCain is still revered by many New Hampshire Republicans, and Graham tried to tap into that enthusiasm as they took questions together. Graham stumped for McCain in 2008, along with Joe Lieberman. Together, they were known as the "three amigos." Over the weekend, McCain returned the favor. "Great experiences in my life have been in New Hampshire," said McCain, who surprised many by winning the 2000 and 2008 primaries. "If you've been impressed today, as I hope you have been, by this candidate, then I want you to do me one favor. Tell your friends, "go see Lindsey Graham." http://abcn.ws/1M4YI0D

WHO'S TWEETING?

@markknoller: The @VP has no public events today. He's staying home in Wilmington, says his office.

@jonallendc: .@HillaryClinton pushes narrative she passed up riches to work for kids. Tougher sell after making $141M in 8 yrs. http://www.vox.com/2015/8/2/9088271/Hillary-Clinton-first-ads-2016 ...

@JenniferJJacobs: 6 months out from Iowa caucuses, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders tied for most days in Iowa of the Dems. http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/elections/presidential/caucus/2015/08/01/state-race-iowa-caucuses/31008137/ ...

@ron_fournier: This is the only story you need to read about @realDonaldTrump this week http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/donald-trump-2016-trumping-20150731 ... via @AndyKroll

@JohnJHarwood: Christie: "I'm against $15 minimum wage." Against $10? "We'd have to talk about it." http://www.cnbc.com/2015/08/03/christie-if-youve-got-the-best-product-be-patient.html ...

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From: "Gene Karpinski, League of Conservation Voters" <josh_hicks@lcv.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/31/2012 8:59:20 AM
Subject: Trick or Treat?

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Dear John,

Happy Halloween!

With only 6 days to go before the election, the race to the White House continues to tighten. Whether or not November 6th is a trick or a treat depends on just a few key states and races across the country.

We simply have to stop Mitt Romney and his Dirty Energy allies from gaining control. I don't think I have to tell you how devastating a President Romney would be for the environmental movement. Thanks to your steadfast support of LCV and LCV Victory Fund, we have continued to run a highly effective and targeted campaign in some of the tightest races in the country.

As you will see below, we recently and significantly have expanded our efforts. We are still trying to raise a final $250,000 for LCV Victory Fund in these closing days.

With deep appreciation,

Gene

Presidential and Senate Races Remain Close

LCV has been able to go back into important key states to make one final push for President Obama and some of our environmental champions in the Senate.

– In Colorado, LCV announced a new $850,000 television ad campaign re-launching an ad featuring a former employee of a local wind turbine manufacturing plant who says he "got laid off because Mitt Romney and his friends in Congress want to eliminate tax credits for wind energy." The ad features Chris Maese of Pueblo, Colo., who built wind turbines at Vestas' Pueblo facility. Vestas is the world's largest wind turbine manufacturer. In the ad, Maese talks about how Romney's opposition to extending the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind energy helped cause his layoff in August. The ad is airing in the Denver media market through Election Day.

– In Arizona, LCV Victory Fund and Majority PAC launched a new $1.2 million television ad campaign outlining the risks of sending former uranium mining lobbyist Jeff Flake to the Senate. Flake has worked in Congress to allow mining for radioactive uranium near the Grand Canyon and Colorado River, which would endanger the drinking water of 25 million Americans, while taking campaign cash from his mining industry allies. The ad, "Two Jobs," is airing through Election Day.

– In Virginia, earlier this week, LCV and Majority PAC launched an $800,000 ad buy in Virginia against George Allen. The ad targets George Allen's cozy relationship with special interests like the oil and gas industry. The ad will run through Election Day in key markets in Virginia. You can view the ad, "Worked for Them," by clicking here .

– In Wisconsin, LCV has announced its involvement in the Wisconsin Senate race with a $1 million dollar ad buy designed to help make Tammy Baldwin the next United States Senator. LCV is launching two ads that will air through Election Day. "Cash ," running in the Milwaukee media market, highlights how Tommy Thompson cashed in when he joined a lobbying firm in Washington. "Allies ," running in the Madison media market, outlines how Baldwin has worked with President Obama to create clean energy jobs and would build on those efforts in the United States Senate.

Update on Massachusetts Senate Race

I'm sure you are following the Massachusetts Senate race as closely as I am at this point. Most of the recent polls seem to be pointing in a good direction. LCV made the decision to spend over $1 million dollars to help send Elizabeth Warren to the US Senate. Here are a couple highlights of what we are doing:

- LCV kicked off our campaign late this summer with an unprecedented field effort to reach swing voters in the Boston suburbs. We've already knocked on nearly 200,000 doors and we're continuing to expand our campaign.

- We also launched a four-part mail program to expose Brown's ties to Big Oil and his 278 votes against President Obama's agenda. This targeted program will reach 150,000 persuadable households across the

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state.

Update on the Michigan Clean Energy Ballot Measure

The only place in which clean energy will be explicitly on the ballot in November is in Michigan, where the voters will decide on Proposition 3, which would increase the state's production of clean renewable energy to 25 percent by 2025.

Both major utilities in Michigan are fiercely opposing the initiative, which is supported by labor unions, nurses, environmental groups and a broad array of organizations. In a year where oil and coal companies have spent millions of dollars attacking clean energy, passing Proposition 3 in a Midwestern industrial state like Michigan would send a clear message that clean energy is central to rebuilding the economy and creating millions of good-paying jobs. LCV is working closely with Michigan LCV in this critical campaign, which has recently received the endorsement from former President Bill Clinton.

Please check out my op-ed earlier this month on this important issue by clicking here .

LCV Action Fund Surpasses $2.1 million raised with *GiveGreen*

LCV Action Fund has now raised and contributed over $2.1 million in support of environmental candidates this cycle, thanks to many of you, and it continues to increase. If you haven't yet done so, **now is the time to donate as generously as you can to pro-environment political candidates.** For environmental voters like you, the best giving strategy is to "bundle" your contributions with contributions from others who share your environmental values. Bundling through LCV Action Fund's *GiveGreen* magnifies the power of your contribution by calling attention to the environmental values that drive you to support the candidate in the first place. Visit www.givegreen.com today to support LCV Action Fund's featured environmental champions.

Join Us for LCV's Post-Election Report, Analysis, and Discussion

What impact did you and LCV have on the outcome of the 2012 elections? What does the new political landscape mean for the environment? Please join LCV senior political strategists for an in-depth analysis of the election results and for a preview of what we can expect in the months ahead. **The call will be held on Thursday, November 8th at 2 p.m. EST.** To receive the call-in number, please contact Josh Hicks at (202) 454-4565 or Josh_Hicks@lcv.org.

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From:	"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Marc Elias" <melias@perkinscoie.com>
Date:	3/21/2015 1:37:31 PM
Subject:	Re: SCHWEIZER / Clinton Cash

Oh that's a great idea. I'll get a chain going on that.

On Sat, Mar 21, 2015 at 8:34 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Feels like what Brock is good at.
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> > On Mar 21, 2015, at 6:43 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > That would be big - we are having a hard time finding it.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> >> On Mar 21, 2015, at 6:36 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
> >>
> >> May have a line on it
> >>
> >>>> On 3/21/15, 3:01 PM, "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
> >>>
> >>> Adding Kristina who is poking around as well
> >>>
> >>>
> >>>
> >>>>>> On Mar 21, 2015, at 5:54 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >
> >>>>>> wrote:
> >>>>>>
> >>>>>> Definitely would be good to get a copyŠ
> >>>>>>
> >>>>>>
> >>>>>> <Clinton Cash - Annoucement Release.doc>
> >>

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 5:12:45 AM
Subject: Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

That's basically the goal of the BDS letter.

On Fri, Jul 3, 2015 at 12:11 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I was just thinking: has she made a clear statement on Israel yet? I get this question from donors all the time. Does she need to state her principles on Israel before Iran? Or do both at the same time?

On Jul 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html

Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama

But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran deal.

By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT

Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.

But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.

Story Continued Below

Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test;

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donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

"That's just smart politics," said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. "Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was?"

Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was "very supportive of the negotiating process," the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. "So it seemed like she was supporting it," recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a "perception" problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

"Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I've got my own relationships," she

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said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal. "I know Michael well, but I haven't read the book," she said.

At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel's security. "She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel," recalled Jacobs. "And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer."

Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. "She said 'I'm going to do what's in the best interest of the U.S.,' and that was the end of it," Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, "although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it's got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people." He urged Jewish donors "to take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits," adding: "I'd hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support."

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton's senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

"It's a tricky issue for her," said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran "are going to put her in a box."

Clinton's allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. "I know where she stands, but I can't talk about it," Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, "She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don't need to worry about this."

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He soon backtracked, saying "I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal."

And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn't hold as much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

"Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount of love for the Clintons, but I don't think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is," said the donor.

Saban's representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban's financial support will not be conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn't going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

"Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No," he said. "Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3."

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. "Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It's broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate," he said. "So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama's support who will at least give her view a more open-minded assessment."

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

"If there's a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her," said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group's members regard her as too hawkish for their tastes.

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“For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy,” said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street’s PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his support for a deal to the candidate.

“She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community.”

Authors:

View Comments

--
Ian Sams
(423) 915-6592

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 5/21/2008 1:15:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 5/21

08 Election Daily News Clips
May 21st, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10am BUSH: Meets with the National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the White House

1:25pm BUSH: eets with the Maronite Patriarch of Lebanon

8:30pm McCain: Finance Reception in Irvine, CA

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain adviser's work as lobbyist comes to light (USA TODAY 5/21/08)
By Matt Kelley
John McCain's top foreign policy adviser lobbied the Arizona senator's staff on behalf of the republic of Georgia while he was working for the campaign, public records show. Randy Scheunemann, founder of Orion Strategies, represented the governments of Macedonia, Georgia and Taiwan between 2003 and March 1, according to the firm's filings with the Justice Department. In its latest semiannual report, the firm disclosed that Scheunemann had a phone conversation in November about Georgia with Richard Fontaine, an aide in McCain's Senate office.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-05-20-McCainadviser_N.htm

Lobbyists: This is our thanks?
By: Jeanne Cummings (Politico 5/21/08)
A lobbyist purge is under way as McCain seeks to wrest the reformist title from Democrat Barack Obama.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0508/10497.html

McCain, Obama clash over U.S. Cuba policy (Miami Herald 5/21/08)
BY BETH REINHARD AND CASEY WOODS
John McCain used a Cuban Independence Day speech in Miami to hammer Barack Obama on foreign policy as Florida takes center stage in the presidential campaign.
http://www.miamiherald.com/979/story/541014.html
Link to transcript of speech: http://www.miamiherald.com/1060/story/540029.html

McCain Vows to Keep U.S. Trade Embargo on Cuba (WSJ 5/21/08)
By DAVID LUHNOW and ELIZABETH HOLMES; Page A6
Position Sharpens Divide With Obama; Approval in Miami... John McCain told Cuban-Americans Tuesday that he would maintain the decades-old U.S. trade embargo on Cuba if he is elected president, and he attacked Barack Obama for his willingness to meet with Cuba's leader.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121133196540109195.html?mod=googlenews_wsj
See NYT - Cuba Is Topic as McCain Continues Attack on Obama: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/21/us/politics/21mccain.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin
See LA Times - McCain, in Miami, promises to continue isolating Cuba: http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain21-2008may21,0,1186564.story

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McCain Assails Obama Over Readiness To Talk With Hostile Foreign Leaders (Washington Post 5/21/08)
By Glenn Kessler and Juliet Eilperin; A07
Sen. John McCain stepped up his assault on Sen. Barack Obama's foreign policy credentials at a rally in Miami yesterday, criticizing Obama's willingness to talk to Cuban President Raul Castro and other hostile foreign leaders without preconditions. But McCain's argument was undercut when a 2006 video emerged of former secretary of state James A. Baker III, a prominent McCain supporter, saying that "talking to an enemy is not in my view appeasement."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/20/AR2008052001777.html

McCain Courts Cuban Vote in Florida Visit (NPR 5/21/08)
by Greg Allen
Morning Edition - Sen. John McCain pays a visit to a reliable Republican voting bloc, addressing Cuban-American voters in Miami. The presumptive GOP presidential nominee hopes anti-Castro sentiment will help him carry Florida in November's general election.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=90664126
Link to audio: javascript:NPR.Player.openPlayer(90664126, 90664104, null, NPR.Player.Action.PLAY_NOW, NPR.Player.Type.STORY, '0')

Hagel Suggests McCain Will Change Tune If Elected (Washington Post blog 5/21/08)
By Glenn Kessler
Sen. John McCain may be blasting Sen. Barack Obama now for his willingness to meet with Iran's leaders, but Sen. Chuck Hagel -- a close friend of McCain's -- suggested tonight that McCain's rhetoric stems from presidential politics, not conviction.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/05/20/hagel_suggests_mccain_will_cha.html

Obama leads McCain in cash on hand (AP 5/21/08)
By JIM KUHNHENN
Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, his presidential money apparatus slowed only slightly, raised more than $31 million in April, outdistancing Republican John McCain, who nevertheless enjoyed his best fundraising month yet.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iU_P23eyGmxqE8EEa7ba6r86BpIwD90PR6CG0
See also: http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/05/mccain-has-reco.html

Obama sets sights on McCain in fundraising war (Politico 5/21/08)
By: Jeanne Cummings
Obama thumps McCain and Dem rival. The potential, yawning financial gap between the two candidates turns an historic GOP advantage on its head.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0508/10515.html

Adm. John McCain's Lessons from Vietnam (WSJ blog 5/21/08)
By: Steven Waldman
The New York Times Magazine published an interesting piece this week about how Sen. John McCain's Vietnam experience has shaped his Iraq policy. But it left out a highly salient factor: His father.
http://blogs.wsj.com/politicalperceptions/2008/05/21/adm-john-mccains-lessons-from-vietnam/

Judges stance bolsters McCain (Washington Times 5/21/08)
By Ralph Z. Hallow
Prominent conservatives and activists are indicating they will put aside their differences with presumptive Republican presidential nominee Sen. John McCain and rally their supporters to his side because of one issue: federal judgeships.
http://washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080521/NATION/522218600/1001

John McCain: A Man Apart (Essence 5/20/08)
By Tatsha Robertson
In an exclusive interview, ESSENCE talks to the presumptive Republican nominee John McCain about engaging Black America, fixing public school education and his plan to beat Obama
http://www.essence.com/essence/lifestyle/voices/0,16109,1807698-1,00.html

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Baker Says Talking with Enemies is Not Appeasement (Washington Post blog 5/20/08)
By Glenn Kessler
A video clip of former secretary of state James A. Baker is making the rounds of the Internet, providing an interesting counterpoint to the furious argument between Sen. Barack Obama and the Republicans over whether it is proper to talk to enemies. President Bush started a furor when, during a speech to the Israeli parliament last week, he said that negotiating with "terrorists and radicals" such as Iran was "the false comfort of appeasement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history."
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/05/20/baker_says_talking_with_enemie.html#more

Chafee: 'It's a different John McCain' running for president than the one I served with in the Senate (ThinkProgress 5/20/08)
In an interview with Fox News's Neil Cavuto today, former Rhode Island senator Lincoln Chafee, who recently left the Republican Party to become an Independent and is supporter of Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), said "there are two John McCains":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/05/20/chafee-its-a-different-john-mccain-running-for-president-than-the-one-i-served-with-in-the-senate/

McCain's '97 Lobbyist Bill Would Cripple Current Campaign (Huffington Post 5/20/08)
By Sam Stein
Senator John McCain has a lobbyist problem. This past week, as several aides resigned because of their work representing unsavory governments, his campaign implemented a new policy governing these potential conflicts of interest. That led to the departure of additional staffers, including former Rep. Thomas Loeffler, a key adviser and fundraiser.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/05/20/mccains-97-lobbyist-bill_n_102662.html

While Attacking Obama, Romney Forgets That Bush Met With Putin 'In His First Year Of Office' (ThinkProgress 5/20/08)
On Fox & Friends this morning, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney added to Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) and President Bush's attacks against Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) over his openness to engaging with the leaders of rogue states like Iran. Romney said that "without precondition, in his first year of office," no president should "sit down" with leaders like Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad or former Russian President Vladimir Putin:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/05/20/romney-putin-first-year/

McCain to Attend NAACP Convention (AP 5/21/08)
What a difference a nomination makes. Now that he's wrapped up the Republican nomination for president, Sen. John McCain has decided to attend the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Cincinnati in July. A year ago when he was just one of a pack of GOP contenders, he turned down the civil rights group's invitation.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1808186,00.html

Things younger than John McCain (Chicago Tribune blog 5/20/08)
By Don Frederick
Later this week, John McCain's campaign is expected to confront head-on questions about his physical fitness to be president -- an issue stemming partly from his age -- with the release of his medical records and a briefing from doctors.
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/05/things_younger_than_john_mccai.html

John McCain's Misadventures in the Skin Trade (NY Observer 5/20/08)
by Matt Haber
Remember back when HDTV was still emerging and internet list-makers began compiling which stars would suffer the most under the format's punishing clarity? Cameron Diaz was tagged for acne scars. Renee Zellwegger's "lightly botchy red face" was noted in Time. John Travolta's hair was called into question. Now, will presumptive Republican presidential candidate John McCain suffer the same fate?
http://www.observer.com/2008/john-mccains-misadventures-skin-trade

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McCain's Savannah Press Conference (TIME blog 5/20/08)
Posted by Joe Klein
At a press conference here, I just asked John McCain about why he keeps talking about Obama's alleged willingness to talk to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has no power over Iranian foreign policy, rather than Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who does. He said that Ahmadinejad is the guy who represents Iran in international forums like the United Nations, which is a fair point. When I followed with the observation that the Supreme Leader is, uh, the Supreme Leader, McCain responded that the "average American" thinks Ahmadinejad is the boss. Didn't get a chance to follow up to that, but I would have asked, "But isn't it your job to correct those sorts of mistaken impressions on the part of the American public?" Oh well.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/05/mccains_savannah_press_confere.html

McKinnon To Step Aside From McCain Effort (Washington Post blog 5/20/08)
By Chris Cillizza
Mark McKinnon, the lead media consultant for Sen. John McCain's (Ariz.) presidential bid, is stepping down from that role -- making good on a pledge he made last year not to work against Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.) in the fall campaign.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/05/mckinnon_to_step_aside_from_mc.html#

McCain Campaign: Obama's "Reckless" -- So Please Contribute To Us (Atlantic Online 5/20/08)
By Marc Ambinder
Here's the latest fundraising solicitation from the McCain campaign:
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/05/mccain_campaign_obamas_reckles.php

McCain taps Florida director (Politico blog 5/20/08)
By Jonathan Martin
John McCain has reached into Florida Gov. Charlie Crist's inner circle to find his Sunshine State campaign director. Arlene DiBenigno, a top aide on Crist's 2006 gubernatorial campaign before becoming his deputy chief of staff in Tallahassee, took the reins of McCain's Florida effort on May 15. She'll be based in Tallahassee.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0508/McCain_taps_Florida_director.html

McCain taps familiar face to run mid-Atlantic (Politico blog 5/20/08)
By Jonathan Martin
Trey Walker, a longtime South Carolina operative and John McCain backer, is being brought up to run the mid-Atlantic region for the senator's campaign, according to a McCain spokesman.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0508/McCain_taps_familiar_face_to_run_midAtlantic.html

Attacking Black (Politico blog 5/20/08)
By Ben Smith
MoveOn puts its catalogue of Charlie Blacks unsavory clients on air. Noam also spots a rather amazing line in the Times: Rick Davis pitching himself to clients as a "Washington insider." The lobbying mess seems unlikely to go away, and has turned into a bit of a media treasure hunt.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0508/Attacking_Black.html
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMEfv2V2u74

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

It's time for straight talk, not clichés, about Cuba (Miami Herald 5/21/08)
BY MICHAEL PUTNEY
Get ready for a fresh blast of gale force rhetoric about Cuba, some it refreshing but most as stale as last week's ropa vieja. The winds starting blowing yesterday with remarks by John McCain to mark Cuba Independence Day and will continue later this week with a speech to the Cuban American National Foundation by Barack Obama.
http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/other_views/story/541055.html

Democrats and Our Enemies (WSJ 5/21/08)
By JOSEPH LIEBERMA; Page A19
How did the Democratic Party get here? How did the party of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy drift so far from the foreign policy and national security principles and policies that were at the core of its identity and its purpose?

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http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB121132806884008847.html

BUSH NEWS

Bush Team Criticizes New Report About Iran (NYT 5/21/08)

By STEVEN LEE MYERS

The White House sharply criticized a news organization on Tuesday for the second time in two days over reports about administration policy toward Iran, dismissing an Israeli report that President Bush was preparing to order an attack on Iran before leaving office in eight months.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/21/washington/21prexy.html

See also: http://www.salon.com/politics/war_room/2008/05/20/iran_denial/index.html?source=refresh

Bush to attend EU-US summit in Slovenia: White House (AFP 5/20/08)

US President George W. Bush will attend an EU-US summit in Slovenia in June as part of a European tour including stops in Germany, Italy, the Vatican, France and Britain, the White House announced Tuesday.

http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5ghEPcRsGNHaNfVc05XGUGLsJFpYg

McCain Taps Bush's Money-Raising Ability (US News & World Report 5/20/08

President Bush is planning to ride to John McCain's rescue, at least when it comes to collecting money. Bush will headline a fundraising event with McCain in Phoenix May 27 and is expected to do two more funders for McCain and other GOP candidates May 28 at events in Utah hosted by former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

http://www.usnews.com/articles/news/campaign-2008/2008/05/20/mccain-taps-bushs-money-raising-ability.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Kennedy's Brain Tumor 'Very Bad News' (ABC 5/21/08)

By ALLYSON T. COLLINS

Senator Likely Faces Tough Odds in Battle Against Tumor... Many of us may not have heard the term "malignant glioma" before today. In short, it's a cancerous brain tumor -- and the diagnosis now facing Mass. Sen. Edward Kennedy.

http://abcnews.go.com/Health/CancerPreventionAndTreatment/story?id=4896380&page=1

Agreement in Lebanon to End Political Crisis (NYT 5/22/08)

By NADA BAKRI and ALAN COWELL

The Hezbollah-led Shiite opposition and the Lebanese government backed by the West and Saudi Arabia, reached an agreement on Wednesday to resolve an 18-month political crisis that has crippled the country and recently triggered the worst fighting since the 1975-1990 civil war.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/22/world/middleeast/22lebanon.html?hp

House passes bill to sue OPEC over oil prices (Reuters 5/20/08)

By Tom Doggett Tue May 20, 2:27 PM ET

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved legislation on Tuesday allowing the Justice Department to sue OPEC members for limiting oil supplies and working together to set crude prices, but the White House threatened to veto the measure.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080520/ts_nm/congress_opec_dc;_ylt=At3Xoj1N8jN2El.ThPcNH0.s0NUE

Obama Claims Delegate Majority (WSJ 5/21/08)

By Jackie Calmes

Barack Obama edged closer to the delegates needed for the Democratic presidential nomination and won a big victory Tuesday in Oregon's primary, even as Hillary Clinton crushed him for a second straight week in a border South state, this time Kentucky, and vowed to continue to fight.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121134258761009871.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

Oregon Democratic Primary (AP 5/21/08)

Candidate	Votes	%
Barack Obama	330,533	58%
Hillary Clinton	235,937	42%

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http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates/primaries/states/or/d/
Link to telephone exit poll results: http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/primaries/results/epolls/#ORDEM

Kentucky Democratic Primary (AP 5/21/08)
Kentucky Democratic Primary Results
Candidate Votes %
Hillary Clinton 459,145 65%
Barack Obama 209,771 30%
Uncommitted 18,029 3%
John Edwards 14,182 2%
http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates/primaries/states/ky/d/
Link to exit poll results: http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/primaries/results/epolls/index.html#KYDEM

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director, Tracking/Media Monitoring
Progressive Media USA
sdubois@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To:	Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date:	6/21/2015 7:23:38 PM
Subject:	Iran Nuclear Deal

Dear Jake,

I have sent several detailed notes on the Iran nuclear deal, and will avoid repetition. But with the June 30 deadline fast approaching (although it may be extended), and with Hillary certain to be pressed on whether she supports the deal and will urge Congress not to disapprove it, I wanted to share a few thoughts.

1. This could well be a voting issue for many moderates in the Jewish community. The mainstream organized leadership will almost certainly oppose the deal, along with Israel and all the Republican candidates, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, and perhaps Egypt.

2. While we cannot be sure until there is a final agreement, it appears that many of the open issues since the preliminary accord, may be resolved in Iran's favor:

(1) Enriched uranium will stay in Iran for dilution, rather than be sent to Russia or France for reprocessing.

(2) Sanctions will not be phased-out commensurate with compliance, as the US Fact Sheet indicated after the last "agreement", but may come off more quickly. This will transfer billions to Iran and enhance its funding for terrorism and its efforts to gain hegemony in the region.

(3) It is not clear what Iran will be required to do on PMD, if anything. This was required of Iraq by the UNSC in September 2002. Iran should be held to the same standard. They have yet to answer 11 of the 12 IAEA questions, yet UN sanctions will be lifted.

(4) Russia, China and Iran itself may be able to block "snapback" sanctions if there is a violation of the agreement. US companies will be disadvantaged compared to European companies, since many US non-nuclear sanctions will remain, while all EU sanctions are nuclear-related.

(5) Military sites (Parchin) are likely to be off the table for inspections.

(6) Iran will likely be able to do research on advanced centrifuges, which enrich more uranium more rapidly than the current generation. This would markedly reduce the breakout time in the last years of the accord. Presidenr Obama has conceded this point (e.g. David Sanger article in NYT, April 8, 2015)

(7) Iran will have an industrial size nuclear program, and will be left as a "nuclear capable state".

(8) Iran will be able to keep 1000 centrifuges at Fordo.

(9) Nothing in the agreement will limit its support for terrorism.

3. That said, there are likely to be positive aspects to the agreement.

(1) The Arak plutonium plant will be effectively dismantled.

(2) There will be more intrusive IAEA inspections, since Iran will sign the Additional Protocol of thr NPT.

(3) The number of centrifuges will be cut by 2/3.

(4) Iran will be a year away from breakout. It would still need to develop a nuclear weapon that can fit on a missile.

(5) Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium from 10 tons to 700 pounds.

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(6) Ten years is a long time and Iran's conduct may moderate.

4, Hillary cannot oppose the agreement given her position as the President's Secretary of State and should urge its approval by Congress under Corker-Cardin. But she can and should point out concerns with it (as she did, unfortunately from my perspective, on TPP/TPA). More broadly, she should appear more muscular I her approach than the President's. The statement I suggested a few months ago still would be appropriate. But she should also say the following:

(1) As President, she would never consider Iran a strategic partner in the region. Quite the contrary, she would do all she can to oppose Iranian misconduct.

(2) Our allies in the region must know that we will stand behind them and supply them with the means to defend themselves and avoid the region tilting to Iran, including bunker-busting bombs Bush and Obama refused to provide to Israel.. Defense treaties should be considered so any attack by Iran would be considered an attack against the US.

(3) Bibi should be invited for early talks on how the partnership with Israel can be strengthened to combat Iran and Israel's other avowed enemies.

(4) A common agenda should be forged with Israel and our Arab allies.

(5) If the US itself believes Iran has cheated, as President, she would reimpose US sanctions, even if Russia-China-Iran say there was no violation. She would work to get the EU to also reimpose their sanctions.

(6) It is just as unacceptable for Iran to develop a nuclear weapon after the expiration of the agreement, as it is during the agreement, given the nature of the regime. Therefore, while she would not be president, all means should be used to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 4:33:15 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> That's because you love your own joke.
>
> But I think it is okay.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > I don't think so.
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
> > LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.
> >
> > Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.
> >
> > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > **Grunwald Communications**
> > **202 973-9400**
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> > To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
> > Subject: Re: Call with HRC
> >
> > I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
> > Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
> > On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
> > On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > Here's Obama in 2007:
> > >
> > > Barack Obama, 2007
> > >
> > > Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.
> > >
> > > [Responding to audience] I love you back.
> > >
> > > A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will

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not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

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And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Here is latest draft
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
> > the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
> > discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From:	"Bishop Desmond Tutu & Tikkun Magazine" <magazine@tikkun.org>
To:	Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date:	8/20/2014 7:53:33 AM
Subject:	Bishop Tutu's Appeal to the Israeli People; Plus Former Israeli Soldier on Why It's Hard to Believe Israel's Military

Tikkun { tē-kün } to heal, repair, and transform the world

Editor's Note: When we send out articles, we do not mean to imply that we are endorsing those articles, but only that we believe it important for our community to know about the positions being articulated in the articles. Our positions can be found in the editorials found in *Tikkun* magazine!

My Plea to the People of Israel: Liberate Yourselves by Liberating Palestine

By Desmond Tutu | Aug. 14, 2014 | reprinted from Ha'aretz

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, in an exclusive article for Haaretz, calls for a global boycott of Israel and urges Israelis and Palestinians to look beyond their leaders for a sustainable solution to the crisis in the Holy Land.



A child next to a picture of Nelson Mandela at a pro-Palestinian rally in Cape Town. August 9, 2014 Photo by AP

The past weeks have witnessed unprecedented action by members of civil society across the world against the injustice of Israel's disproportionately brutal response to the firing of missiles from Palestine. If you add together all the people who gathered over the past weekend to demand justice in Israel and Palestine – in Cape Town, Washington, D.C., New York, New Delhi, London, Dublin and Sydney, and all the other cities – this was arguably the largest active outcry by citizens around a single cause ever in the history of the world.

A quarter of a century ago, I participated in some well-attended demonstrations against apartheid. I never imagined we'd see demonstrations of that size again, but last Saturday's turnout in Cape Town was as big if not bigger. Participants included young and old, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, agnostics, atheists, blacks, whites, reds and greens ... as

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one would expect from a vibrant, tolerant, multicultural nation. I asked the crowd to chant with me: “We are opposed to the injustice of the illegal occupation of Palestine. We are opposed to the indiscriminate killing in Gaza. We are opposed to the indignity meted out to Palestinians at checkpoints and roadblocks. We are opposed to violence perpetrated by all parties. But we are not opposed to Jews.”

Earlier in the week, I called for the suspension of Israel from the International Union of Architects, which was meeting in South Africa. I appealed to Israeli sisters and brothers present at the conference to actively disassociate themselves and their profession from the design and construction of infrastructure related to perpetuating injustice, including the separation barrier, the security terminals and checkpoints, and the settlements built on occupied Palestinian land. “I implore you to take this message home: Please turn the tide against violence and hatred by joining the nonviolent movement for justice for all people of the region,” I said.

Over the past few weeks, more than 1.6 million people across the world have signed onto this movement by joining an Avaaz campaign calling on corporations profiting from the Israeli occupation and/or implicated in the abuse and repression of Palestinians to pull out. The campaign specifically targets Dutch pension fund ABP; Barclays Bank; security systems supplier G4S; French transport company Veolia; computer company Hewlett-Packard; and bulldozer supplier Caterpillar. Last month, 17 EU governments urged their citizens to avoid doing business in or investing in illegal Israeli settlements. We have also recently witnessed the withdrawal by Dutch pension fund PGGM of tens of millions of euros from Israeli banks; the divestment from G4S by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and the U.S. Presbyterian Church divested an estimated $21 million from HP, Motorola Solutions and Caterpillar.

It is a movement that is gathering pace. Violence begets violence and hatred, that only begets more violence and hatred. We South Africans know about violence and hatred. We understand the pain of being the polecat of the world; when it seems nobody understands or is even willing to listen to our perspective. It is where we come from. We also know the benefits that dialogue between our leaders eventually brought us; when organizations labeled “terrorist” were unbanned and their leaders, including Nelson Mandela, were released from imprisonment, banishment and exile. We know that when our leaders began to speak to each other, the rationale for the violence that had wracked our society dissipated and disappeared. Acts of terrorism perpetrated after the talks began – such as attacks on a church and a pub – were almost universally condemned, and the party held responsible snubbed at the ballot box.

The exhilaration that followed our voting together for the first time was not the preserve of black South Africans alone. The real triumph of our peaceful settlement was that all felt included. And later, when we unveiled a constitution so tolerant, compassionate and inclusive that it would make God proud, we all felt liberated. Of course, it helped that we had a cadre of extraordinary leaders. But what ultimately forced these leaders together around the negotiating table was the cocktail of persuasive, nonviolent tools that had been developed to isolate South Africa, economically, academically, culturally and psychologically. At a certain point – the tipping point – the then-government realized that the cost of attempting to preserve apartheid outweighed the benefits. The withdrawal of trade with South Africa by multinational corporations with a conscience in the 1980s was ultimately one of the key levers that brought the apartheid state – bloodlessly – to its knees. Those corporations understood that by contributing to South Africa’s economy, they were contributing to the retention of an unjust status quo. Those who continue to do business with Israel, who contribute to a sense of “normalcy” in Israeli society, are doing the people of Israel and Palestine a disservice. They are contributing to the perpetuation of a profoundly unjust status quo. Those who contribute to Israel’s temporary isolation are saying that Israelis and Palestinians are equally entitled to dignity and peace.

Ultimately, events in Gaza over the past month or so are going to test who believes in the worth of human beings. It is becoming more and more clear that politicians and diplomats are failing to come up with answers, and that responsibility for brokering a sustainable solution to the crisis in the Holy Land rests with civil society and the people of Israel and Palestine themselves. Besides the recent devastation of Gaza, decent human beings everywhere – including many in Israel – are profoundly disturbed by the daily violations of human dignity and freedom of movement Palestinians are subjected to at checkpoints and roadblocks. And Israel’s policies of illegal occupation and the construction of buffer-zone settlements on occupied land

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compound the difficulty of achieving an agreement settlement in the future that is acceptable for all.

The State of Israel is behaving as if there is no tomorrow. Its people will not live the peaceful and secure lives they crave – and are entitled to – as long as their leaders perpetuate conditions that sustain the conflict. I have condemned those in Palestine responsible for firing missiles and rockets at Israel. They are fanning the flames of hatred. I am opposed to all manifestations of violence. But we must be very clear that the people of Palestine have every right to struggle for their dignity and freedom. It is a struggle that has the support of many around the world. No human-made problems are intractable when humans put their heads together with the earnest desire to overcome them. No peace is impossible when people are determined to achieve it. Peace requires the people of Israel and Palestine to recognize the human being in themselves and each other; to understand their interdependence.

Missiles, bombs and crude invective are not part of the solution. There is no military solution. The solution is more likely to come from that nonviolent toolbox we developed in South Africa in the 1980s, to persuade the government of the necessity of altering its policies. The reason these tools – boycott, sanctions and divestment – ultimately proved effective was because they had a critical mass of support, both inside and outside the country. The kind of support we have witnessed across the world in recent weeks, in respect of Palestine.

My plea to the people of Israel is to see beyond the moment, to see beyond the anger at feeling perpetually under siege, to see a world in which Israel and Palestine can coexist – a world in which mutual dignity and respect reign. It requires a mind-set shift. A mind-set shift that recognizes that attempting to perpetuate the current status quo is to damn future generations to violence and insecurity. A mind-set shift that stops regarding legitimate criticism of a state's policies as an attack on Judaism. A mind-set shift that begins at home and ripples out across communities and nations and regions – to the Diaspora scattered across the world we share. The only world we share.

People united in pursuit of a righteous cause are unstoppable. God does not interfere in the affairs of people, hoping we will grow and learn through resolving our difficulties and differences ourselves. But God is not asleep. The Jewish scriptures tell us that God is biased on the side of the weak, the dispossessed, the widow, the orphan, the alien who set slaves free on an exodus to a Promised Land. It was the prophet Amos who said we should let righteousness flow like a river.

Goodness prevails in the end. The pursuit of freedom for the people of Palestine from humiliation and persecution by the policies of Israel is a righteous cause. It is a cause that the people of Israel should support. Nelson Mandela famously said that South Africans would not feel free until Palestinians were free. He might have added that the liberation of Palestine will liberate Israel, too.

--Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Archbishop Desmond Tutu on *Embracing Israel/Palestine*:

Rabbi Michael Lerner's book *Embracing Israel/Palestine* is a must-read for those who care about peace in the Middle East. It is provocative, radical, persuasive, and if given the attention it deserves, could make a major contribution to reconciliation. Please read this book!

[Available on Kindle from Amazon.com and in paper from www.tikkun.org/eip]

Former Israeli Soldier Idan Barir on Why It's Hard to Believe Israel's Claim That It Did Its Best to Minimize Civilian Deaths

Among the difficult reports streaming in from Gaza over the past few weeks, two especially

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painful events have captured my attention.The first was the shelling of a UN school building in Jabaliya, where a number of families that had escaped or been forced to flee their homes had taken refuge. At least 15 civilians were killed, and dozens more wounded . Israel argued they were targeting an area from which fire had been directed at Israeli forces. The second was the bombing of a bustling market in the Shuja'iya neighborhood. At a time of precious few opportunities for civilians to safely buy food and other vital supplies, 16 people were killed and around 200 were wounded . Shops, stalls and merchandise were burned or destroyed. Harsh criticism of Israel followed each incident but -- as in the past -- Israel defended its actions, arguing that it was targeting militants and doing its best to avoid civilian casualties.

I served as a crew commander in the Israeli artillery corps at the beginning of the Second Intifada, and I feel compelled to counter this claim from Israel. The images, evidence and army reports from recent operations in Gaza -- of more than 1,900 deaths (a number which will likely increase by the time you read this) and a large amount of the population left without shelter -- show that Israel has deployed massive artillery firepower . Such firepower is impossible to target precisely. Artillery fire is a statistical means of warfare. It is the complete opposite of sniper fire. While the power of sharpshooting lies in its accuracy, the power of artillery comes from the quantity of shells fired and the massive impact of each one. In using artillery against Gaza, Israel therefore cannot sincerely argue that it is doing everything in its power to spare the innocent.

The truth is artillery shells cannot be aimed precisely and are not meant to hit specific targets. A standard 40 kilogram shell is nothing but a large fragmentation grenade. When it explodes, it is meant to kill anyone within a 50-meter radius and to wound anyone within a further100 meters. Furthermore, the humidity in the air, the heat of the barrel, and the direction of the wind can all cause unguided shells to land 30 or even 100 meters from where they were aimed . That is a huge margin of error in somewhere as densely packed as Gaza. The imprecision of this weaponry is so great that Israeli forces are compelled to aim at least 250 meters away from friendly troops to ensure their safety -- even if those troops are sheltered. In military terms, this distance is called the "safe range of fire." In 2006, when shelling was first used against the Gaza Strip, the "safe range of fire" for Palestinian civilians was reduced from 300 to just 100 meters. Shortly afterwards, a stray shell landed inside the home of theGhabeen family in Beit Lahiya, killing a young girl, Hadeel, and wounding other members of her family.

In response to this and similar tragedies, human rights organizationsappealed to the Israeli High Court of Justice to cease this lethal practice, and in June 2007 the Attorney-General announced that no more artillery fire was to be used in the Gaza Strip. But just a few years later, during Operation Cast Lead , extensive artillery fire was again aimed at the heart of the Gaza Strip. And up until the recent ceasefire, throughout Operation Protective Edge, Israel has fired thousands of artillery shells into Gaza -- causing intolerable harm to civilians and widespread destruction, the extent of which will only be fully exposed when the fighting ceases. It's true that in at least some cases, the army has informed civilians of its plans to attack a certain area and advised them to leave. But this in no way excuses the excessive damage and huge toll on civilian lives.

I write this with great sorrow for civilians hurt on both sides. Sorrow for our soldiers who have fallen in this operation, and sorrow for the future of my country and the entire region. I know that as I write, soldiers like me have fired shells into Gaza. They had no way of knowing who or what they would hit. Faced with so many innocent casualties, it is time for us to state very clearly: this use of artillery fire is a deadly game of Russian roulette. The statistics, on which such firepower relies, mean that in densely populated areas such as Gaza, civilians will inevitably be hit as well. The IDF knows this, and as long as it continues to use such weaponry, it will be hard to believe when it claims to be minimizing civilian deaths.

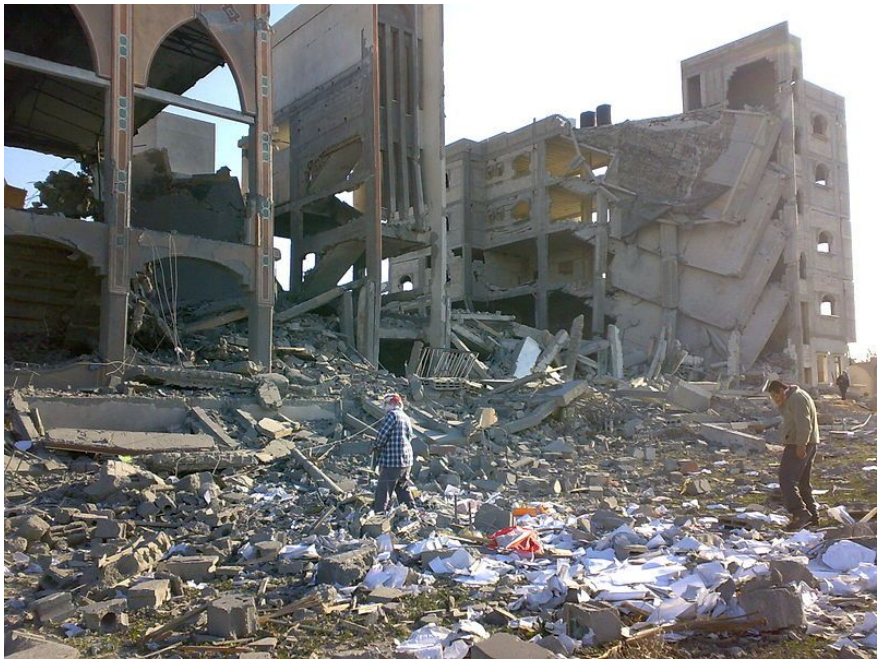
As a former soldier and an Israeli citizen, I feel compelled to ask today: have we not crossed a line?

Idan Barir served in the Israeli artillery corps during the Second Intifada and is a member of Breaking the Silence

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As Repression Escalates on U.S. Campuses, an Account of My Ordeal With the Israel Lobby and UC

By William Robinson, Truthout | News Analysis



A building in Rafah destroyed by the Israelis during Israel's assault on Gaza in January 2009. Shortly after Israel concluded its month-long Operation Cast Lead in Gaza, Professor William Robinson was targeted for repression for including material critical of Israel in his course materials. Professor William Robinson of UCSB was the target of a campaign of intimidation, silencing, and political repression that included techniques described in the "Hasbara handbook" by the Israel lobby in contravention of academic freedom and university rules. He describes the experience here.

The latest Israeli carnage in Gaza has provoked worldwide condemnation of Israel for its continued war crimes and its illegal occupation of Palestinian territories. In response, the Israeli state and its allies and agents are stepping up campaigns of intimidation, silencing, and political repression against opponents of its policies. Israel may continue to win military battles - after all, it has the fifth most powerful military on the planet - but it is losing the war for legitimacy. In the wake of its bloody attacks on schools, hospitals and United Nations refugee centers in Gaza, support has intensified around the world for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign. The BDS campaign in the United States has taken off, above all, on university campuses, which is why the Israel lobby is so intent on targeting academia.

Five years ago, I was attacked by the Israel lobby in the United States, led by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and nearly run from the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), where I work as a professor of sociology, global and Latin American studies. The campaign against me lasted some six months and garnered worldwide attention, but I am hardly alone. Dozens, perhaps hundreds, of professors and student groups have been harassed and persecuted for speaking out against Israeli occupation and apartheid and in support of the Palestinian struggle. Some of these cases have been high profile in the media and others have gone relatively unknown. The latest victim, Steven Salaita, a respected scholar and professor of English literature and American Indian Studies, was fired in August from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, for denouncing on social media the most recent Israeli atrocities in Gaza.

The persecution to which I was subjected involved a litany of harassment, slander, defamation of character and all kinds of threats against the university by outside forces if I was not dismissed, as well as hate mail and death threats from unknown sources. More insidiously, it involved a shameful collaboration between a number of university officials and outside forces from the Israel lobby as the university administration stood by silently, making a mockery of

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academic freedom.

The disciplinary procedure initiated against me by UCSB officials involved a host of irregularities, violations of the university's own procedures, breaches of confidentiality, denial of due process, conflicts of interest, failure of disclosure, improper political surveillance, abuses of power and position, unwarranted interference in curriculum and teaching and so on. As I would discover during the course of the ordeal, individuals inside the university and in positions of authority had linked up with agents of the lobby outside the university in setting out to prosecute me.

Dozens, perhaps hundreds, of professors and student groups have been harassed and persecuted for speaking out against Israeli occupation and apartheid and in support of the Palestinian struggle. I may well have been run from the university if it were not for graduate and undergraduate students (together with a handful of committed colleagues), who early on in the persecution set up the Committee to Defend Academic Freedom that launched a worldwide campaign in my defense. This in turn sparked a good portion of the faculty into action, several months into the campaign of persecution against me, to defend my academic freedom. This campaign also generated widespread support for me off campus, pressure that eventually forced the university to back down and the Israel lobby to give up and move on to targets of harassment elsewhere, thereby demonstrating that this lobby is not invincible, and indeed, is increasingly vulnerable. The entire story is documented on the committee's website . During the course of the six-month campaign the committee and I were able to piece together the events that are here reconstructed - in part and in brief - to the best of my knowledge.

Operation Cast Lead and the Israel lobby's Inside-Outside Strategy

On January 18, 2009, Israel concluded its month-long Operation Cast Lead in Gaza, which left 1,400 Palestinians dead and thousands more wounded, up to 80 percent of them civilians. The following day, one week into our winter quarter classes, I forwarded to the LISTSERV for my course on the sociology of globalization optional reading materials drawn from the international press for classroom discussion that evening on the Israel-Palestine conflict. The reading materials included among other items a Reuters news article reporting that a Jewish editor of the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle had been sacked for publishing an article by a Jewish-American journalist who visited the West Bank and denounced the occupation. They also included a photo-essay that had been circulating on the internet and that juxtaposed Israeli atrocities in Gaza and Nazi atrocities in Warsaw, along with a commentary of my own, including this paragraph:

The Israeli army is the fifth most potent military machine in the world and one that is backed by a propaganda machine that rivals and may well surpass that of the U.S., a machine that dares to make the ludicrous and obnoxious claim that opposition to the policies and practices of the Israeli state is anti-Semitism. It should be no surprise that a state founded on the negation of a people was one of the principal backers of the apartheid South African state not to mention of the Latin American military dictatorships until those regimes collapsed under mass protest, and today arms, trains, and advises military and paramilitary forces in Colombia, one of the world's worst human rights violators.

My course on the sociology of globalization takes up vital and controversial issues that impact global society and each class meeting starts with a discussion of some current affair, such as Operation Cast Lead. However, two students of the 80 enrolled in the course, whom I have never met and did not know, apparently did not feel that they should receive any course material that challenged their beliefs. Instead of attending class that evening, they made contact with the Hillel organization on campus who then took them to meet with the ADL, the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, Stand With Us, and several other Jewish organizations and faculty members of campus. The ADL and these other organizations then went into action.

External monitoring and censorship of course conduct is a violation of faculty academic freedom and was not a legitimate part of the university's complaint procedure.

First, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Zionist organization in Los Angeles, sat down with one of the students to film her, with her face blotted out (the film stated the student "has asked to protect her identity for fear of reprisal"), as she claimed she was intimidated by my course

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material, and then posted the film on YouTube under the title "Jewish Students Shocked by UCSB Professor's Demonizing Email." The Wiesenthal Center called for me to be punished and accused me of anti-Semitism until they learned that I am of Jewish background, and then charged instead that I was a "self-hating Jew."

Next, the students met with the local ADL chapter in Santa Barbara, and were apparently instructed by the ADL and its affiliated groups to contact the Charges Office at UCSB and lodge a grievance against me. The Charges Office is set up by the University to receive grievances over possible violation by faculty members of the Faculty Code of Conduct (e.g., sexual harassment, racial bias, etc.). The Charges Office is expected to investigate possible violations, and to dismiss frivolous charges, that is, charges that clearly do not involve a violation of the code.

What I did not know at the time, but would soon learn, is that two of the three officers of the Charges Office belonged to the Zionist community in Santa Barbara that had already begun to combine against me, and that at least one of them, Aaron Ettenberg, had already made contact with the outside groups working with the students. Ettenberg, was a former president of the Santa Barbara B'nai B'rith, the parent organization of the ADL. Neither of these two revealed their affiliations or recused themselves due to the blatant conflict of interests. To the contrary, we would soon learn that Ettenberg met with Rabbi Arthur Gross-Schaeffer, director at the time of the Santa Barbara chapter of Hillel, a Jewish organization linked with the ADL, and an outspoken leader of the pro-Israeli Jewish community in Santa Barbara, to consult with him about my case prior to the university's decision to investigate me.

This explains why, on February 9 the director of the local ADL Chapter Cynthia Silverman sent me a letter protesting my course materials and accusing me of violating a number of items of the Faculty Code of Conduct. How did the ADL come into possession of my course material? Copies of this ADL letter were sent to my department chair, to UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang, and to then-UC President Mark Yudof (himself an outspoken Zionist). The campaign now picked up steam. Three days later, Martin Scharlemann, who was the chair of the Charges Office, summoned me "urgently" to meet with him to discuss the complaint that the students had lodged with the Charges Office. I was by told by Scharlemann's staff assistant, Stephanie Smagala, that it was "imperative" that I come down that very afternoon due to "an urgent situation." I did not understand at the time why such alarm, why Scharlemann was treating this as an emergency situation, whereas this was but a routine student grievance evidently not involving any urgent matter such as sexual assault, possible violence, or anything remotely of that nature, and strictly referred to two students' disagreement with the content of course material, a course that they had dropped.
At the same time as the university's Charges Office was organizing its prosecution, I was contacted through a mediator by Rabbi Gross-Schaeffer, who had previously met with Charges Office member Aaron Ettenberg. This mediator, a colleague of mine, then set up a confidential meeting between the two of us. "We [the Israel lobby] will pull back if you meet our conditions," he told me. You need to "ask for repentance, to apologize for what you have done." I told Gross-Schaeffer that I had done nothing morally objectionable and more so, I had not violated any rules, codes or procedures at the university and was acting fully within my rights of academic freedom. "Well apparently there are people at the university that disagree with you and are prepared to move forward against you if you do not repent," he replied.

Contriving Charges

The charges against me were entirely contrived. There is absolutely nothing in the Faculty Code of Conduct that even remotely suggests that my course material violated any item of the code. In my February meeting with Scharlemann and his staff assistant Smagala, the two asked several questions entirely inappropriate and outside of their jurisdiction, including as to whether I had placed on the course syllabus the topic of the Israeli-Palestine conflict, which suggested that the two believed they were empowered as part of the complaint procedure to examine the content of my course and to determine what was and was not relevant to that content.

Such external monitoring and censorship of course conduct is a violation of faculty academic freedom and was not a legitimate part of the university's complaint procedure. Although the materials I distributed were relevant for my course, even if they had not been, their inclusion in

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the course reading material would not have violated the Faculty Code of Conduct. Neither Scharlemann nor Smagala had any right to assess what was relevant for my courses on globalization (or indeed any other topics of sociology).

The charges amounted to a blatant attempt at political censorship and an illegitimate use of the university's grievance procedure. These gross violations by the Charges Office, as well as the contact between the Charges Office and outside pressure groups from the Israel lobby and other irregularities and violations of university rules and procedures as this persecution unfolded were brought to the attention of university officials of the highest levels, right up to Chancellor Yang and Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas, upon whom it was incumbent to defend my academic freedom and the integrity of the university. Yang chose, however, to ignore my insistence that he and the university defend my academic freedom and put an end to what was becoming a charade. In fact, he expressed more anxiety about the harassment campaign organized by Stand With Us and its members' threats to withdraw funding from the university if I were not fully prosecuted.

A week later, Scharlemann notified me that the two students had filed formal written complaints and I was expected to reply and defend myself. The farcical and politicized nature of the attacks against me now became apparent. Here is an excerpt from one of the student complaints (the full complaints are posted on the website):

An important issue is the distinction between the legitimate criticism of policies and practices of the State of Israel, and commentary that assumes an anti-Semitic character. The demonization of Israel, or vilification of Israeli leaders sometimes through comparisons with Nazi leaders, and through the use of Nazi symbols to caricature them, indicates an anti-Semitic bias rather than a valid criticism of policy. I found these parallel images intimidating, disgusting, and beyond a teacher role as an educator in the university system. I feel that something must be done so other students don't have to go through the same intimidating disgust I went through . . . He has also violated the universities policies by 'participating in or deliberately abetting disruption, interference, or intimidation in the classroom (Part II, Section A, Number 5). Robinson has done so through this intimidating email which had pushed me to withdraw from this course and take another one . . . By Robinson using his university email account he attaches his thoughts with that of the university and they become a single entity sharing the same ideas."

The second letter repeats the accusation of anti-Semitism, a definition lifted verbatim from the U.S. State Department and then continues: In all the years of schooling and higher education I have never experienced an abuse of an educator position . . . To hide behind a computer and send this provocative email shows poor judgment and perhaps a warped personality. The classroom and the forum of which higher education is presented needs to be safe and guarded so the rights of individuals are respected. handle [sic] . . . The fact that the professor attached his views to the depiction of what my great grandparents and family experienced shows lack of sensitivity and awareness. What he did was criminal because he took my trust and invaded something that is very personal. I felt as if I have been violated by the professor. Yes I am aware of Anti-Semitism, but to abuse this position in an environment of higher education where I always thought it to be safe, until now, is intimidating. This professor should be stopped immediately from continuing to disseminate this information and be punished because his damage is irreversible.

The actual charges contained in the students' letters were simply absurd; they included a long list of charges copied straight from the Code of Conduct, including those against romantic relations with students, despite the fact that I had never met the students in question, and charges against the use of university property for commercial gain, which had no bearing whatsoever on the case. The letters of complaint, in fact, opened up with the bizarre charge that I actually violated my own right to present controversial material. They included the charge of discrimination, even though my only act for which the students submitted a grievance was to have sent reading material uniformly to the entire class, for which reason by definition discrimination was not involved. The litany of charges included also violations of the canons of intellectual honesty, speaking in private capacity while creating the impression that I represented the university, and so on. And all these accusations were generated by nothing more than an optional reading sent by internet to the entire course LISTSERV and that represented some 1/10th of 1 percent of the assigned reading material for the course.

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"Apparently, they have decided enough vulnerability exists in the university community . . . They're making this (the Robinson case) into a litmus test to silence criticism of Israel."

In matter of fact, the students' grievance was based strictly on their objection to the content of course material. This fact, indeed, is not in dispute, as is apparent from the text of their letters. According to the University of California procedures, a grievance procedure is available to students who feel that they may have been disadvantaged, graded unfairly, or otherwise discriminated against on account of disagreements with the professor's views, not when the students merely disagree with a professor's views, or with the views expressed in course readings. To the contrary, the very preamble to the University's Faculty Code of Conduct states that the primary purpose of the code is to protect faculty's right to academic freedom, e.g., to protect faculty from frivolous complaints by students.

I was bewildered at the time as to why Scharlemann refused to reject the claims as frivolous. Given that there was no substantiation of the students' long list of complaints and that the only basis for the students' complaint was an optional reading they received by email that criticized the Israeli government as part of a course on global affairs, what could Scharlemann possibly have found in these student letters to have led him not to inform the students that it was frivolous? I only learned subsequently that behind Scharlemann and several other university officials involved in my persecution was the malicious intent of a web of individuals outside the university representing the Israel lobby and coordinating with the students and university officials.

For much of March and into April Scharlemann ignored my request for him to substantiate the basis of his decision to press forward rather than dismiss the case. The university waited more than two months before actually informing me of exactly what was the charge against me, that is, exactly what aspect of the Code of Conduct I was alleged to have violated. On April 5, Scharlemann sent to me what is known as a "charges sheet," which accused me of distributing "highly partisan" material to my students "accompanied by lurid photographs" and "was unexpected and without educational context," that I had engaged in "coercion of conscience" as a result of which "two enrolled students were too distraught to continue with the course."

In fact, the University's Faculty Code of Conduct nowhere states that course material must not be "partisan" or that "lurid" images are violations of the code. Indeed, not a single one of the charges against me are stipulated in the code as violations. The charges amounted to a blatant attempt at political censorship and an illegitimate use of the university's grievance procedure. I asked Scharlemann for explanations, e.g., what he meant by "lurid photos." In my letter requesting further explanation, I wrote:

'Lurid' is defined by Webster's as 'vivid in a harsh or shocking way.' In what way is the introduction of images vivid in a harsh or shocking way a violation of the Faculty Code of Conduct? Why would photos of military conflict not be 'harsh and shocking'? And why would their presentation in a University course be a violation of the Faculty Code of Conduct? . . . By suggesting that images that document shocking events and "partisan" material should not be introduced into a university course your charges sheet appears to advocate - beyond the suppression of academic freedom - outright political censorship. The Faculty Code of Conduct does not, in any way, proscribe "partisan" material or images that are vivid in a harsh and shocking way. To the contrary, the code establishes as the right of faculty the 'right to present controversial material relevant to a course of instruction' and its very Preamble states that the intent of the code is to protect academic freedom.

Scharlemann ignored my letter, and more seriously, so did all of the university administrators to whom I wrote demanding an explanation for this political persecution and demanding that the university protect and defend my academic freedom. Instead, this Charges Office proceeded to establish a special investigative and prosecutorial committee (known on my campus as an Ad Hoc Committee) to further investigate my alleged violations and apply possible sanctions.

Enter the ADL's (and Mossad's) Abraham Foxman. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), with 34 regional offices in North American, a staff of 400, and a $32 million annual budget, is one of the core organizations of the Israel lobby in the United States, exposed by U.S. political scientists John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt in their study "The Israel lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy." The ADL has a long and sordid history of spying on, slandering and vilifying critics of Israel -

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victims of its infiltration have included the NAACP, the ACLU, Greenpeace, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination League, and thousands of private citizens, among others - in cooperation with Israel's foreign intelligence service, Mossad. ADL director Abraham Foxman is an international lobbyist for Israel who has met frequently with national and world leaders, including all U.S. presidents since Richard Nixon, and who brags that he has direct access to the office of the Israeli Prime Minister.

On March 19, Foxman arrived at UCSB for a meeting hosted by Religious Studies professor Richard Hecht and attended by Deans David Marshall and Michael Young and several faculty members. Cynthia Silverman by his side, Foxman demanded that the university take action against me. Some of the meeting participants told me that Foxman requested the meeting at UCSB for the sole purpose of demanding that university officials investigate me for introducing course materials critical of Israeli state policies. In fact, the only agenda item of this meeting was my case. History professor Harold Marcuse, who attended the meeting, later stated: "When the meeting started, Foxman quickly launched into what I would call a rant about what he said was an anti-Semitic email that professor Robinson sent to his class. We then had an open discussion about Foxman's comments and the charges against Robinson. In my recollection, that was the only thing we talked about at the meeting. Nothing else was discussed."

Alongside the ADL, the organization Stand With Us launched a nationwide and worldwide campaign to pressure the university to fire me, including a petition drive and a letter-writing campaign. Stand With Us' founding mission is to counter criticism of Israel on university campuses worldwide, according to its website. Created in 2001, its site openly calls college campuses a "modern-day battlefront" for Israel. "Today Israel faces a new global threat, one that is fought in the media, on university campuses, and in the court of public opinion," reads the Stand With Us home page, while its Bay Area chapter is even more candid: "Our mission is to stand up to anti-Israel speech wherever it may surface," reads the site. "We are (unofficially) representing the state of Israel."

In late 2008, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee announced that it would target U.S. universities, especially big state universities, starting with the University of California.

Stand With Us representatives threatened a campaign to have pro-Israel donors cut off financial donations to UCSB if I were not prosecuted. For instance, Stand With Us sent a letter to Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas dated March 16 and posted at ww.standwithus.com . The letter states that Stand With Us board member Leah Yadegar was in contact with the two student complainants. It stated that Yadegar then "distributed the email widely to UCSB donors, media, and Jewish organizations, including Stand With US," and that Stand With US board member Howard Waldow, a UCSB donor, discussed my case with Chancellor Yang at a reception.

At the time, Roz Rothstein, international director for Stand With Us, told the UCSB student newspaper, The Daily Nexus, that the campaign against me could set a precedent for more action against Israel critics at other universities. My colleague Richard Falk, who was a visiting professor of global studies at UCSB and the UN's special rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories, commented at the time that Rothstein's remarks indicated a "disturbing" escalation in pro-Israel pressure on college campuses in general, and at UCSB in particular. "Apparently, they have decided enough vulnerability exists in the university community for them to mobilize pressure campaigns," Falk said. "They're making this (the Robinson case) into a litmus test to silence criticism of Israel."

Falk was right; the Israel lobby had made my case a litmus test. On the other hand, I was carried away by support from around the world as international pressure mounted on the university to put an end to my persecution. The university received letters in support of me and demanding that the charges be dropped from dozens of professional associations and community organizations, among them, the National Lawyers Guild, California Scholars for Academic Freedom, the Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America, the editorial board of the UK-based scholarly journal Race and Class, the Global Studies Association, and the March 25 Coalition, an immigrant rights coalition in Southern California. It also received petitions signed by thousands of people from around the United States and the world, and countless letters from individuals from all five continents, a sampling [http://sb4af.wordpress.com/] of which have been posted. The Committee to Defend Academic Freedom organized a teach-in on May 21 that left standing room only in the auditorium and

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media in attendance from around Southern California.

A Secret Absolution

The Ad Hoc Committee set up to investigate me in April concluded its investigation into me on May 15and found that I was not in violation of the Faculty Code of Conduct. Yet Chancellor Yang kept these results secret from me and from the public for another six weeks, until June 24. Since Chancellor Yang and his immediate underlings, including Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas, ignored my correspondence with them, I do not know from the horse's mouth what their motives were for continuing to apply political pressure on me for another six weeks. Were they waiting for a major Jewish donation to the university to be consummated before publicly announcing their dismissal of the charges against me? Was the Israel lobby still conspiring on how to move forward in persecuting me?

On June 10, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Education, a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit, had come to my defense in the name of First Amendment rights and academic freedom. One of their Attorneys, Adam Kissel, wrote the chancellor warning him that if all charges against me were not dropped by 5 pm on June 24, his organization would launch a major media campaign and a law suit against the University of California. An hour or so before this deadline, the university chose to inform me of the decision, made six weeks earlier and kept secret, that the charges against me had already been dropped.

But the administration was also under mounting pressure from my colleagues. Spurred on by my students, whose mobilization in my defense included a sit-in at the chancellor's office and threats of more sit-ins, an international petition drive, and other public protests, my colleagues mobilized against the improprieties. Some 100 faculty members and 20 heads of departments signed a petition protesting the university's handling of the accusations against me. And on June 8, some 80 faculty members filled a Senate meeting and passed a motion to investigate the irregularities surrounding my case. By this time, my case had garnered worldwide media attention and the university was in the spotlight as public pressure mounted. Yet the university administration refused to put an end to the witch-hunt. Instead, Chancellor Yang sent me a message via an intermediary: "Stop embarrassing the university."

"Scholars whose work is critical of Israeli policies have been denied jobs, denied tenure, and in general have their lives made difficult not because of academic criteria, but because of political interference."

Following the dismissal of charges against me, I submitted a 40-page grievance to the UCSB Academic Senate. According to the Senate's bylaws, a committee should have investigated the litany of irregularities, violations of procedure, breaches of confidentiality, conflicts of interest, failure of disclosure, improper political surveillance, abuses of power and position, and other acts of misconduct against me as a faculty member, some of which has been discussed here and all of which can be found at the website , including original letters and documents pertaining to the case. Nonetheless, the Senate chose to investigate exactly one single violation - that of Ettenberg's undisclosed conflict of interest - and then exonerated him. How did they reach this decision to exonerate? According to the Senate's letter to me in response to my grievance, they simply asked him if he had a conflict of interest and he said he did not!

Whereas the allegations against me took just a few minutes to make, and the Senate investigation into breaches of my rights took but one word to dismiss, I had to suspend my research and professional activities and put on hold my personal life for the duration of the six months, in which I had to defend myself against frivolous allegations. Indeed, across the country whenever such persecutions are launched the burden falls on those that are targeted to defend themselves, often tying up the individual's time and life for months and generating great emotional stress.

UCSB has yet to honor my demand that the institution apologize for the ordeal it put me through and the damage done to my professional reputation.

Nazi Propaganda Minister Goebbels' Tactics on U.S. Campuses

Yet that ordeal is but a fly in the face of the horrific crimes to which the Palestinians are subjected on a daily basis by Israeli occupation, apartheid, and periodic massacres. It is, in

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addition, something faced by dozens, perhaps hundreds, of faculty and students who chose not to back down in the face of McCarthyist repression in their commitment to speaking truth to power.

In late 2008, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee announced that it would target U.S. universities, especially big state universities, starting with the University of California. AIPAC director Howard Kohr acknowledged at the 2009 annual convention the erosion of Israel's legitimacy, warning that there was a huge and growing international campaign against Israeli policies. "No longer is this campaign confined to the ravings of the political far left or far right," he said, "but increasingly it is entering the American mainstream".

In their 2009 article in Tikkun , University of California at Irvine professor David Theo Goldberg and UCLA professor Saree Makdsisi noted that "no fewer than 33 distinct organizations - including AIPAC, the Zionist Organization of America, the American Jewish Congress, and the Jewish National Fund - are gathered together today as members or affiliates of the Israel on Campus Coalition," whose stated objective is to generate "a pro-active, pro-Israeli agenda on campus. There is accordingly, disproportionate and unbalanced intervention on campuses across the country by a coalition of well-funded organizations, who have no time for - and even less interest in - the niceties of intellectual exchange and academic process." They note that "scholars whose work is critical of Israeli policies have been denied jobs, denied tenure, and in general have their lives made difficult not because of academic criteria, but because of political interference."

They go on to observe how this apparatus systematically uses disinformation and misinformation, blatant fabrications, character assassination, and so on. The objective is not to engage in rational dialogue based on exchange of ideas in the search for truth, but "to create an environment of fear and intimidation on and off campuses, in which any criticism of Israeli policies is subject to sanctions and censorship." Then they note:

The Hasbara Handbook: Promoting Israel on Campus, which is distributed to campus activists by organizations like Stand With Us, explains that it is often better to score points than to engage in actual arguments, and offers an explanation for how, in its own words, 'to score points whilst avoiding debate'. Point-scoring, the Hasbara Handbook explains, "works because most audience members fail to analyze what they hear. Rather, they register only a key few points, and form a vague 'impression' of whose argument was stronger." Part of the strategy is to recycle the same claims over and again, in as many settings as possible. 'If people hear something often enough,' the document points out, 'they come to believe it.

Needless to say, this was precisely the tactic developed by the Nazi Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, which he called "the big lie ." Goldberg and Makdsisi continue:

The Hasbara Handbook offers several other propaganda devices, all of which can be seen vividly at play in the coverage of the UCLA Gaza panel and other similar events, including again, the Robinson affair. 'Creating negative connotations by name calling is done to try to get the audience to reject a person or idea on the basis of negative associations, without allowing a real examination of that person or idea,' the handbook states with remarkable bluntness, in advocating this tactic. It also suggests using the opposite of name-calling, to defend Israel by what it calls the deployment of 'glittering generalities' (words like 'freedom', 'civilization', 'democracy') to describe the country, manipulating the audiences' fears, etc.

I can attest that these Goebbelsian tactics - when backed by the economic resources and political influence of the Israel lobby and in the context of U.S. state support for, and sponsorship of, the Israeli Zionist project - are often effective. Such tactics cower many people, not just politicians, but academics who become scared to even mention any criticism of Israel or support for Palestinians in their classrooms, their research and their public appearances. I see this almost every day in my own professional work in academia, and of course in the media.

We are morally compelled to speak out against injustice, in this case, against Israeli repression, colonialism, and apartheid, even when it means we run the risk of facing the wrath of the powerful, on our campuses and in the larger society.

In my case, while some colleagues came out courageously and publicly in my defense (and many were aroused by the student mobilization to come out in support of academic freedom yet

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still kept themselves arms-length from me), many others, it seemed to me almost overnight, started to avoid me once the lobby placed a scarlet letter on my forehead. I became a pariah on campus. Some colleagues would literally turn the other way when they saw me; others would comment in hushed tones as I approached. Cowardly administrators avoided me like the plague, fearful of damaging their own status or security, principles-be-damned.

Political repression of the nature executed by the Israeli lobby and its agents and supporters can wreck lives and careers and leads to self-censorship among journalists, politicians, academics and other public figures. It results in a kind of perverted hegemony in the Gramscian sense - the forging of a coerced consensus, or at least the appearance of one, imposed by intimidation and backed up by the threat of sanctions.

However, that hegemony has been eroding in the face of Israeli atrocities, defiant intellectuals committed to justice such as (most recently) Steven Salaita, and the spread of the BDS campaign and other movements in support of Palestinian rights. My own case shows that Israel lobby is not omnipotent; it does not enjoy uncontested power. To the contrary, those who choose to side with justice and are willing to speak truth to power may find that they are swept away by support from all corners of the globe.

Finally, a word on academic freedom: When academic freedom is suppressed, the university becomes an indoctrination camp where truth is subordinated to ideology and power. Academic freedom is the life blood of the university. Any attack on such freedom exercises a chilling effect on the ability of the university community to engage in open debate and exchange of ideas on contemporary matters. Free speech and academic freedom are such threats to the Israel lobby, and indeed, to all anti-democratic, authoritarian, or totalitarian projects, precisely because it proscribes censorship and prohibits any attempt to limit what is and is not acceptable to research, to teach, to question and to debate, and precisely because academic freedom thrives on controversy and critical thinking.

It is no wonder academic freedom was suppressed in Nazi Germany, in apartheid South Africa, in military dictatorships in Latin America, in the former Soviet Union, in the United States - under McCarthyism and at many other times, such as the present moment - and elsewhere. Our mission as educators is to help develop citizens who can think critically and independently on the burning issues of our day, who can search out the truth without fear of what they will find. I believe this search for the truth inevitably leads us to a position of justice; silence in the face of social injustice is complicity in that injustice. We are morally compelled to speak out against injustice, in this case, against Israeli repression, colonialism, and apartheid, even when it means we run the risk of facing the wrath of the powerful, on our campuses and in the larger society.

The list would be very long of those I must thank for their principled support in 2009 for my right to academic freedom and free speech. I would like to acknowledge above all sociology graduate students at UCSB Yousef Baker (now Dr. Baker) and Maryam Griffin (soon to be Dr. Griffin), UCSB sociology professors Geoff Raymond and Verta Taylor, distinguished professor emeritus Richard Falk, Kevin Robinson and Marielle Mayorga-Robinson. The content of this article is my sole responsibility and acknowledgment of these individuals does not suggest in any way that they agree with the content herein or share my views.

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William I. Robinson is professor of sociology, global and international studies, and Latin American studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. His latest book is Global Capitalism and the Crisis of Humanity

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Nothing will come of Israel's quiet: The dead died and the killers killed in Gaza only to ensure another brief interlude of quiet for Israelis

By Gideon Levy

The Tel Aviv Port was bustling again this weekend. A boisterous Indian food festival took place in the farmer's market and hordes of screaming children were riding the merry-go-round — a

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retro model with old-fashioned cars as the speakers blasted songs from yesteryear. Thousands of Israelis filled the eateries, went shopping for trifles and strolled to the sound of breaking waves. Did a war really just happen?

We still haven't reached an agreement, yet that agreement is already behind us. The papers are eking out one more round of stories on courage, and in the homes of the bereaved parents the grief is there to stay. The wounded and shock victims are recovering and the south is still apprehensive, but it's still summer and Israel is merry again.

The sirens are silent, the experts have gone and the nonsense is back. Israel is back to its bubble. Protective Edge, what was that? Was that before Pillar of Defense or after Summer Rains? A momentary sense of oppression and fear has dissipated. After all, what did Israel seek? Quiet. What else could it ask for? One or two more years of denial, repression, illusion and living a lie — but mainly inaction. This is what the masses clamored for in the biggest protest during the war — for quiet for the south. Quiet. Simply quiet. Who could be for terror and against quiet? "Send me quiet in a box, from a distant land," wrote the poet Yona Wallach.

This must be Israelis' most self-righteous and revolting demand. They want quiet and the hell with the surrounding noise and its causes. Let Gaza suffocate and the West Bank bow its head, as long as we have quiet. The victims didn't die for nothing; they died for the benefit of our quiet. The rubble didn't just pile up, it served the goal of achieving quiet. The lives of dozens of soldiers and 2,000 Palestinians were sacrificed to the phony quiet. International condemnation, fissures in our democracy, blows to our economy, thousands maimed, hundreds of thousands of homeless, the hatred over there — all in the service of Israel's quiet.
"Silence is filth – sacrifice blood and spirit for the hidden glory," wrote right-wing leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky in that song before the state was established. This was a war of choice. This was obvious when Israel launched its wild hunt for Hamas men in the West Bank after the kidnapping and murder of the three teenagers. It was a war of choice fought for nothing, as is evident now. Aside from the destruction of the tunnels, which were discovered by surprise and whose threat has been exaggerated, the war will bring no benefit to Israel. Nothing. The dead died and the killers killed only to ensure another brief interlude of quiet for Israelis. This is the price they paid, and Gaza paid a thousand times more just so Israelis could enjoy themselves at the Tel Aviv Port. If the border crossings had been opened and prisoners released before the first shot was fired, everything might have been avoided. But Israel, which always proves that it only understands force, is only ready for small concessions after the fighting. It only lets violent organizations chalk up achievements. The negotiations with Hamas are more serious than any held with the Palestinian Authority, and Israel has already given Hamas more than it ever gave PA President Mahmoud Abbas. Israel only wants quiet so it can bury its head in the sand for a few more years. Quiet in Israel during a siege of Gaza? There's no such thing. During the next quiet period, Israel once again won't lift a finger. Gaza will be forgotten and the West Bank will disappear, both the siege and the occupation. When the rockets start falling again in a year or two, Israel will awaken and complain bitterly.

How dare they? How dare they do this to us again? What gall to interrupt us just when we're strolling in the port, which Israel has and Gaza will never have. This is Israel's only goal – to maintain the present situation and sanctify the quiet. The Palestinians can go to hell. Don't disturb Sleeping Beauty during her afternoon nap, or ever for that matter.

Original article can be found at http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.610853

Gaza: What does the future hold for the children?

By Kevin Connolly, BBC News

The conflict is the most deadly military operation to have taken place in Gaza since the second Intifada. For children in Gaza, living through war must seem like an habitual part of life. Is it possible to imagine what the future may hold for them? A day will come when the area around the seaside hotel we use in Gaza will be flooded with tourists, and they will marvel at the distant horrors of the past. It has happened on the Mediterranean before - look at Sicily and Tunisia

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after World War Two - and one day it will happen here. But it will not be any day soon.

Tourists will find Gaza waiting. The half-finished building next door already has signs offering pizza and ice cream, even though there's no pizza, no ice cream and no-one to buy them anyway. Nature has certainly done its bit. Nowhere is evening more beautiful. The sun smears the surface of the sea with copper-coloured light as though it had skidded across the waves and come to a halt on the horizon. It is at this time of day that the half-built building teems with life.



The United Nations says it is sheltering more than 250,000 internally displaced persons in their Gaza schools

Refugees from other parts of Gaza are living there, one family to a room. They probably calculated Israel would not bomb a building next to a hotel full of foreigners. The adults are quietly impressive. Women scurry between the entrances to different staircases on the hot, flat roof carrying huge kettles of boiling water. At the sound of naval gunfire they barely raise an eyebrow or spill a drop. The children fizz with energy and curiosity, singing out their names across the gap between the buildings and demanding to know ours. They quickly learn to wait until we are on air using the balcony's portable satellite dish, before shouting across. They know that our desperate requests for quiet then have to be mimed, much to their amusement.
I find myself worrying what the future holds for them. Gaza is cursed by history and geography as surely as it is blessed by nature. If you are a six-year-old in Gaza, you have already lived through three separate wars - the ugly and brutal confrontations with Israel which flared in 2008, 2012 and again this year. It is as though Gaza is a kind of junction box where the dysfunctional neural wiring of the Middle East fused a long time ago.



At present, the UN puts the current death toll of Operation Protective Edge at 1,975

British imperial forces seized Gaza from the Turks in 1917 during the closing stages of World War One, one of those victories that made the Holy Land Britain's prize - and its problem. Gaza was first bombed from the air 97 years ago in a grim and dangerous overture to a century which is ending as it began. Israeli tanks first appeared here in 1956 as part of the disaster of the Suez crisis. Although Israel returned the land to Egypt the following year. In the Six Day War of 1967

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Israel came back and has occupied Gaza - or controlled life inside it - ever since. Just as Gaza appears to have bent in every hot, historical wind to blow across the deserts here, it now seems that almost every crisis elsewhere in the modern Middle East makes life a little worse. Gaza is run by the Islamist militant organisation Hamas, an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood. At one point, Hamas appeared to be navigating the treacherous cross-currents of the Arab Spring effortlessly. It seemed able to count, at different points, on the support of Syria, Egypt and Iran - all powerful regional players.



An Israel air strike that appeared to target four boys playing on a Gaza beach sparked worldwide condemnation

Now, through a combination of misjudgement and misfortune, it can count on none of them. This is a desperate time for Hamas. Without allies - and especially without a regime in Egypt prepared to turn a blind eye to weapons smuggling - the organisation suddenly seems friendless. It does not have enough money to pay the salaries of government workers in Gaza and will struggle to replace the thousands of rockets it has fired at Israel in recent weeks. In times of peace it has no diplomatic cards to play against the Israeli government. When violence flares, as it has done this month, it can at least demand concessions in return for agreeing to stop again.These confrontations are hopelessly asymmetrical. Many of Hamas's rockets are out-of-date or home-made, compared with Israel's powerful and sophisticated weapons.



Damage to infrastructure in Gaza has been catastrophic: a power plant, schools and hospitals were hit

And yet, decisive victory seems to elude Israel, just as it eludes Hamas. The fighting will probably end in ways which are ambiguous and unsatisfactory, just as it has in the past. That will be tough on the civilians of southern Israel, who will almost certainly find themselves running for their air-raid shelters again in future. But it will be tougher still for those children on the roof next door. They have no air-raid shelters and very little chance of escaping to the wider world as long as Israel and Egypt maintain strict controls on all movement across Gaza's borders. So these thoughts do not end with some neat aphorism which offers a little hope for the future. You just wonder how long it will be before those children, who have lived through three wars, find themselves living through a fourth. And you wonder what will become of them.

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The original article can be found here .

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From:	"Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org>
To:	"Peter Ogden" <pogden@americanprogress.org>
	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	6/22/2015 5:21:41 PM
Subject:	Re: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version

John and team,

Here's the revised version with those edits:

*****
As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. Increasing financing for sustainable development and decreasing financing for projects that add considerable climate risk will be essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals. That will require applying high environmental and social standards to our investments going forward. China will host the G20 next year in the midst of a growing international dialogue on sustainable investment standards. What is China's strategy for leveraging the G20, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the South-South Cooperation Fund, the Silk Road Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral forums to help establish common global standards in financing for sustainable development?

*****

I'll hold until 11:00pm tonight in case folks have additional thoughts/edits. If no one pipes up with additional changes I'll send this version out at 11pm tonight. (Then Premier Li's team can get to work figuring out how to answer.)

Many thanks all for weighing in on this. Since we are submitting in advance the exact wording is quite important.

Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
Director for China Policy
Center for American Progress
Direct Line: (202) 741-6359
Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Peter Ogden
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:50 PM
To: John Podesta
Cc: Melanie Hart; John Norris; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Eryn Sepp; Eryn Sepp (EG)
Subject: Re: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version

I like it, especially the use of "decreasing," which would get them pointed in the right direction (but also provide enough flexibility that they might go for it).

On Jun 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Looks good. One change I wouldn't use sustainable financing. Could be misinterpreted. I'd use financing for sustainable development in the two positive references and maybe decreasing financing for projects that add considerable climate risk in the negative reference
What do others think?
On Jun 22, 2015 1:36 PM, "Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org > wrote:

> Hello John,
>
> Below is the refined question you just conveyed via phone:
>
> *****
> As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. Increasing sustainable financing and decreasing unsustainable financing will be essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals. That will require applying high environmental and social standards to our investments going forward. China will host the G20

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next year in the midst of a growing international dialogue on sustainable investment standards. What is China's strategy for leveraging the G20, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the South-South Cooperation Fund, the Silk Road Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral forums to help establish common global standards for sustainable financing?

*****

Will hold on sending until I receive either a green light or additional edits.

Background notes of potential interest:

Last Friday Zhang Gaoli attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia and delivered remarks re China's plans for the 2016 G20. His speech was very general but did contain some positive indicators: he said G20 nations should develop new driving forces for sustainable growth of the global economy. He also focused on China's Silk Road initiative, which he welcomed other countries to join. That suggests they are at least thinking about linking these other programs in with G20.

Terminology re China hosting G20: Turkey currently enjoys talking about the fact that they hold the "G20 presidency" but thus far Chinese state press is using the term "chair" instead of presidency.

The 2015 G20 summit will be November 14-15 in Turkey. Then Turkey hands the baton to China. The 2016 summit will be in Hangzhou, China (likely next fall, exact date TBD).

Thanks,
Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
Director for China Policy
Center for American Progress
Direct Line: (202) 741-6359
Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Molly Elgin-Cossart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Re: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

Makes sense to combine - and perhaps leading with G20 will draw out some responses about that, too.

- I wonder whether it's useful to nail down any specifics on high quality, e.g. investing in sustainable technologies and services, in ways that comply with high social and governance standards - the downside is the risk of getting too focused on a back and forth on governance, though could be interesting to specify each component to see if he responds to each.
- In the SDG financing world, China's official position is that ODA is still the main vehicle, so may be useful to say something to the effect of "increasing sustainable development financing, including harnessing a broader range of sources towards sustainable development is essential ". (REF recent official Chinese gov position paper on post-2015 which states: "Development financing should be enhanced with North-South cooperation serving as the main channel." This statement is a pure political play, since domestic resources are the main vehicle of SD financing and drove China's own rise, not to mention ODA is not terribly sustainable, but this line plays well with developing countries.) This may be adding too much into a single question, but thought it worthwhile to flag.

Cheers,
Molly

From: Melanie Hart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: RE: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

John and team,

Pete combined the G20 questions into one shorter one and added a separate one on finance. Here's some updated suggested text from Pete:

(1) As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. How will China use its G20 presidency next

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year to drive further progress on these two issues?

(2) Relatedly, increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

I think Pete's finance language is excellent. My one concern is that if we send 2 questions, they might pick what is easiest to respond to rather than what we would find most interesting. One option would be to combine further, perhaps as follows:

As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. It is in this environment that China is taking on the G20 presidency, and many observers around the world will be watching next year to see how China leverages the G20 to drive further progress on these two issues. Observers will also be monitoring whether and to what degree China leverages the AIIB to achieve these important goals. Increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

Additional thoughts/reactions from the team?

Melanie

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From: Eryn Sepp [mailto:esepp@equitablegrowth.org]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 12:55 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang
Importance: High

Hi Everyone—

John wants to respond on here to you all. He thinks we need to combine the two questions into one, and put a high standards sustainable finance question in.

Melanie, do we know who else is getting to ask questions?

John, the plain text is below:

To: John Podesta
From: Melanie Hart, Erin Auel, Molly Elgin-Cossart, Pete Ogden, John Norris
Re: **Quick Response Needed – Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang**
Date: June 19, 2015

You are attending the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) think tank summit in Beijing June 26-27. There will be a side meeting with Li Keqiang. Around 40 guest scholars and officials will attend. **You are one of the high-level conference speakers invited to attend the Li Keqiang meeting. You have also been invited to ask Premier Li a question.** In that meeting only four people will ask questions (yourself included). CCIEE tells us the questions must be submitted in advance, no later than Monday evening (June 22) U.S. time. We should treat this as a hard deadline.

We suggest posing the following question:

Next year China will host the G20. Many nations around the world will be watching to see how China handles its G20 presidency and what that tells us about how China's rise will impact multilateral institutions. What does the Chinese government currently consider to be its top priorities for China's 2016 G20 presidency? As you know, 2015 is a very big year for

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sustainable development and climate change. We hope to see big progress this year on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Paris. Is the Chinese leadership thinking about how China can use its G20 presidency to unify and strengthen G20 support for implementing multilateral agendas on sustainable development and climate change?

Please share your thoughts asap (and no later than Monday evening) so that we can pass your preferred question on to Premier Li's team.

Additional meeting details below.

I. Meeting Format

Li will lead the meeting and do most of the talking. He has selected four people, including you, to ask questions. There is no pre-set theme for the meeting, but we have been told you are welcome to ask questions on topics including sustainable development, think tank cooperation, and economic issues.

II. Potential Participants

The meeting hosts have invited about 40 guest scholars and officials to attend the meeting. That group includes:

BAN Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (video speech)
Romano PRODI, President of the Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation, Professor at China Europe International Business School, Former Prime Minister of Italy
Danilo TURK, Professor of International Law, Former President of Slovenia
Kevin RUDD, President of the Asia Society Policy Institute, Former Prime Minister of Australia
Sir Don MCKINNON, Chairman of New Zealand China Council, Former Commonwealth Secretary General, Former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand
Grzegorz W. KOLODKO, Founder and Director of Transformation, Integration and Globalization Economic Research, Former Deputy Premier of Poland
Thomas SARGENT, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor of Economics at New York University
WU Hongbo, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations
William BURNS, President of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Nubuo TANAKA, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Former Executive Director of International Energy Agency

III. Biography of Li Keqiang

<image001.jpg>Li Keqiang (Ke-chung) is the second-highest ranking official in the CCP. He is currently a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, premier of the State Council and secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. From 2008-2013, he was vice premier of the State Council and deputy secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. In this role, he oversaw a portfolio of issues including economic development, price controls, finance, climate change, and macroeconomic management. During that time, he also directed the Three Gorges Project Construction Committee and of South-to-North Water Diversion Construction Project Committee. In 2013, he became Premier of the State Council. He has focused on economic development and meeting China's growth targets. He has also led efforts to set targets for reducing energy intensity, cap coal use, and boost renewable capacity. At a meeting of the National Leading Group on Climate Change on June 12, 2015, he backed China's commitments through the UNFCCC, stating "China stands ready to work with all other parties to ensure a comprehensive, balanced and strong agreement at the upcoming Paris Conference."

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/24/2015 3:27:06 PM
Subject: New News! (12/24/15)

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

News as of December 24th, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community in public policy

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the TCG Team!

Polls

Trump and Cruz move higher: #1 Donald Trump - 39%. #2 Ted Cruz - 18%, up from last month. **#3 Marco Rubio** and **Ben Carson** - tied **10%** each. **#4 Chris Christie** at **5%.** *CNN* **[Poll]**

Trump ahead in New Hampshire; **Cruz** tops the polls in Iowa. *RealClearPolitics* **[Poll]**

Half of U.S. voters embarrassed with Trump as president: Among GOP: **Trump 28%**, **Cruz 24%**, **Rubio 12%**, **Carson 10%** ... In GOP, "58% of those who name a candidate might change their mind ... Only 23% of all voters would be proud to have Trump as president." *Quinnipiac* **[Poll]**

Percentage of Christians in U.S. drifting down, but still high: "75% of Americans identify with a Christian religion ... Christian identification is down from 80% in 2008 ... 5% of Americans identify with a non-Christian religion, little changed ... 20% have no formal religious identification ... up 5% since 2008." **Frank Newport**, *Gallup.org* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

U.S. held secret contacts with Syria: "The Obama administration pursued secret communications with elements of Syria's regime over several years in a failed attempt to limit violence and get President Bashar al-Assad to relinquish power ... [T]he U.S. looked for cracks in the regime it could exploit to encourage a military coup, but found few. ... Unlike the secret White House back channel to Iran, however, the Syria effort never gained momentum and communication was limited." **Nour Malas and Carol E. Lee (Past TCG Speaker),** *WSJ* **[More]**

What the Führer means for Germans today: "Seventy years after **Adolf Hitler**'s death, how Germans see him is changing. *Economist* **[More]**

Has Europe reached the breaking point?: "A refugee crisis, a Greek debt showdown, Russian aggression and terrorism in the streets. How 2015 has threatened to undo the European Union." **Jim Yardley,** *N.Y. Times Magazine* **[More]**

Baghdad harms the ISIS fight by not paying Kurdish anti-ISIS fighters: "The [Kurdish] Peshmerga, who are holding the front line in the global effort to defeat ... ISIS, ... have now gone without paychecks for three months. ... Much of the blame lies with the Iraqi central government." **Juleanna Glover,** *WSJ* **[More]**

Negotiating the whirlwind - Major piece about **John Kerry (Past TCG Speaker)**: **David Remnick**, *New Yorker* **[More]**

The debate over encryption: Stopping terrorists from 'going dark': "Today's messaging systems are often designed so that companies' own developers cannot gain access to encrypted content." **Richard Burr,** *WSJ,* **[More]**

US power grid vulnerable to foreign hacks: "About a dozen times in the last decade, sophisticated foreign hackers have gained enough remote access to control the operations networks that keep the lights on ... Many of the substations and equipment that move power across the U.S. are decrepit and were never built with network security in mind; hooking the plants up to the Internet over the last decade has given hackers new backdoors in." **Garance Burke & Jon Fahey,** *AP* **[More]**

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Iranian hackers infiltrated New York dam in 2013: "Iranian hackers infiltrated the control system of a small dam less than 20 miles from New York City two years ago, sparking concerns that reached to the White House ... America's power grid, factories, pipelines, bridges and dams-all prime targets for digital armies-are sitting largely unprotected on the Internet." **Danny Yadron**, *WSJ* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Climate Change and "The Siege of Miami": "As temperatures climb, so, too, will sea levels." **Elizabeth Kolbert**, *New Yorker* **[More]**

David Brooks: 2015 Sidney Awards... given for some of the year's best long-form essays, congregate, coincidentally, around a theme: the excessive individualism of American society, and the ways human beings try to create community for good or ill. The first winner is **Sebastian Junger**'s piece **(TCG Speaker)** 'How PTSD Became a Problem Far Beyond the Battlefield,' from Vanity Fair." **David Brooks,** N*YTimes* **[More]**

Why America is Moving Left: Peter Beinart explains why he believes **Barack Obama** will be the Democrat's **Ronald Reagan** -- a President that changes the trajectory of American ideology. Because of **Obama**'s many successful achievements, **Beinart** argues, the next president, whether Republican or Democrat, will govern in a more progressive fashion than their party's previous Commander-in-Chief. *Atlantic* **[More]**

2016 Campaign

"**Winning strategy drives Trump's 'chaos'**: "[I]n city after city, Trump hews closely to his stump speech ... The words vary, but the themes stay the same - all in service of solidifying and expanding his core audience of blue-collar white men. Staples ... include pledges to build a wall on the southern border at Mexico's expense; stop Mexico, China and Japan from 'ripping off' the U.S. in trade; and arm more Americans to gun down terrorists … "In the Deep South , he shows his firebrand side ... He sometimes tones down his rhetoric in Iowa ... [H]is popularity has only grown, even as he has offended women, Mexicans, the disabled, Muslims and other groups. ... Like a veteran politician, Trump keeps promises vague. He pledges trillions ... in tax cuts, but also preservation of all Social Security and Medicare benefits. He vows to stop ... theft of American jobs by China and Mexico, but skirts details." **Michael Finnegan,** *LA Times* **[More]**

Clinton using Trump's taunts against him: "'We are not responding to Trump,' ... Jennifer Palmieri ... responded to Mr. Trump ... on Twitter. 'But everyone who understands the humiliation this degrading language inflicts on all women should,' she added, tacking on the campaign's girl-power hashtag #ImWithHer. ... Behind the scenes, the Clinton campaign mobilized a wide network of female supporters to denounce Mr. Trump as 'sexist.'" **Amy Chozick and Maggie Haberman,** *NYT* **[More]**

"Donald Trump Isn't the biggest narcissist in the GOP field. Ted Cruz is": "I know a televangelist candidate when I see one": "[I]f you listen closely you will find that he sells everything with the exact same level of zeal. Whether he is condemning the Islamic State or ordering a ham sandwich, the invective is identical. When a speaker oversells everything, it calls everything he says into question, and it begs questions regarding authenticity and genuineness." **Curt Anderson,** *Politico* **[More]**

"Carson hints at major campaign shakeup, then takes it back," by *Politico*'s **Kyle Cheney** and **Nolan D. McCaskill**: "Ben Carson moved quickly to shut off speculation about a high-level campaign shakeup Wednesday, just hours after he stoked the notion of wholesale personnel changes in a pair of interviews in his Maryland home. In a late-scheduled appearance on CNN, Carson distanced himself from interviews ... in which he hinted that a shakeup was imminent, comments that were echoed and augmented by aides who applauded him for being back in charge of his campaign." **[More]**

Erick Erickson: "Ted Cruz Will Be the Nominee": "It is... obvious that **Cruz** and **Rubio** are where the race will ultimately be....I would give the edge to **Ted Cruz** right now... [H]is path forward is less crowded." **[More]**

Cruz tackles the Wall Street Journal: The paper's conservative editorial board says he's disingenuous and demagogic. The senator says the paper is shilling for **Marco Rubio**… Editorial page editor **Paul Gigot**, who notes the *Journal* hasn't endorsed a presidential candidate since **Herbert Hoover**, said the paper's differences with Cruz are rooted in ... substantive policy differences." **Kyle Cheney & Hadas Gold,** *Politico* **[More]**

Clinton's Debate Focus Is G.O.P. Field; Parrying Democrats, Swinging at Trump: In the third Democratic Debate, **Hillary Clinton** framed next year's presidential election as a choice between her rationality and the "recklessness" of Republican nominees. **Jonathan Martin** and **Amy Chozick**, *NYT* **[More]**

"Rubio reassures nervous donors his strategy is on track," by : "On a Tuesday afternoon call, ... the Florida senator ... pushed back on the recent media narrative that he's running a passive campaign ... 'I'm amused at those stories,' Rubio said ... 'Just because we aren't telling the media our strategy doesn't mean we're not organized' ... Rubio went on to detail his recent schedule, pointing out that over the past week he had visited all four early states."**Alex Isenstadt,** *Politico* **[More]**

GOP worries over Senate with Presidential battle: "State polls show New Hampshire's Senate race is one of the tightest, with incumbent Sen. Kelly Ayotte facing Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan. Voters in the swing state tend to be moderate, and some centrist Republicans have grown alarmed over the potential impact of nominating Mr. Trump or ... Cruz."

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Heather Haddon, *WSJ* **[More]**

Will the GOP mount a third-party challenge to Trump?: "[A]Trump nomination represents ... a victory that leaves significant slices of the party unwilling or unable to accept the outcome. ... [T]he odds on massive defections are very high." **Jeff Greenfield,** *Politico* **[More]**

The Economy

Lobbyists shield a tax loophole worth $1 billion; exceptions added late to bill: Rule change is delayed for Casino, Hotel and Wall St. interests; "The small changes, and the enormous windfall they generated, show the power of connected corporate lobbyists to alter a huge bill ... with little time for lawmakers to consider. ... [T]here were thousands of other add-ons and hard to decipher tax changes." **Eric Lipton & Liz Moyer**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Notable Books and Film

"'*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*' Opens to Cosmic $517M Global Launch," by The Hollywood Reporter's Pamela McClintock: "'Force Awakens' stunning performance sets a new standard for how much the North American box office can expand when the right movie comes along, and puts even more pressure on Hollywood studios to eventize their tentpoles." **[More]**

Rick Shenkman, "Political Animals: Why Our Stone Age Brains Get in the Way of Smart Politics" (out Jan. 5) **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Norton Garfinkle - Growing a Great Economy: Abraham Lincoln's Relevance

Wednesday, January 13, 2016; Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband - The Great Refugee Crisis

Wednesday, January 27, 2016; Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable Lord Christopher Patten, Chancellor of Oxford University

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Common Good Forum on "Security and Opportunity in Turbulent Times"

Friday, May 20, 2016, 8am-4pm, Sessions all day on national and economic security

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff, Isabelle Lehner and Isaac Getlan, and our volunteers: Emily Samuels and Andrea Noel.

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From: "Gene Karpinski, League of Conservation Voters" <feedback@lcv.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/26/2011 3:57:49 AM
Subject: Worst. Bill. Ever.

Tell Congress to reject the biggest assault ever on our air, water, lands and wildlife.

John,

The House Republican leadership has just upped the ante on their already unprecedented assault on our nation's bedrock environmental laws.

This week, as part of the Interior and Environment spending bill, House Republican leaders and other pro-polluter lawmakers are pushing a series of amendments that represent the most egregious attack ever on our air, land, water and wildlife.

The spending bill contains more than three dozen anti-environment policy measures that have absolutely no place in a budget measure, won't save the country a penny and are nothing more than giveaways to various special interest polluters.

Click here to e-mail your member of Congress. Tell them to reject this extreme assault on vital environmental safeguards that protect the air our children breathe and the water they drink.



Tell Congress to reject the biggest assault ever on our air, water, lands & wildlife.

The egregious policy provisions include measures that -- if enacted into law -- would threaten Americans' lives and well-being by blocking limits on harmful air pollution, increase pollution in sources of drinking water for 117 million Americans, cause animal and plant species to become extinct by denying them Endangered Species Act protections, and threaten the iconic Grand Canyon with toxic pollution from uranium mining. And these are just a handful of the dirty and dangerous provisions included in this legislation!

While we recognize that some spending cuts are necessary to reduce our federal deficit, the cuts in this particular legislation would have a devastating impact on Americans' health and environment. Those cuts include budget reductions of 18 percent for the EPA, 80 percent for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and 21 percent for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Click here to e-mail your member of Congress. Tell them to reject this extreme legislation that is nothing more than a giveaway to Big Oil, Dirty Coal and other corporate polluters.

As if the underlying bill weren't harmful enough, we expect members of Congress to offer anti-environmental amendments on the floor that would wreak even greater havoc on Americans' health and environment and keep us dependent on expensive and dangerous energy sources.

Fortunately, President Obama has threatened to veto this harmful legislation, noting that a number of the measures in the bill are "ideological and political provisions that are beyond the scope of funding legislation." However, we cannot afford to let House Republican leaders push this legislation without a fight. We must expose their extreme anti-environment efforts. **Click here to e-mail your representative.**

Thank you,

Gene Karpinski
President
League of Conservation Voters

To Unsubscribe Click Here

POWERED BY blackbaud nonprofit software

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/12/2008 5:38:38 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/12/08

Main Topics: Guantanamo; McCain on free trade, energy and education; McCain and women; McLobbyist; 'Not too important' comments; Bipartisan McCain vs. Warmonger McCain; Joint town halls?; Attacks on VP vetters

Summary of Shift:
The Supreme Court ruling that Gitmo detainees have the right to challenge their detentions in civilian court makes big news; Obama and McCain comment, coming down along party lines. The ruling is widely hailed as a blow to the Bush administration and a door-opener to close down Gitmo. Pundits are also abuzz about Obama's 'fight the smears' website and whether or not his wife is fair political game. Ron Paul ends his GOP presidential bid. McCain targets Eric Holder, another of Obama's VP vetters, and Obama fires back on McCain vetter Culvahouse. Also, killer tomatoes and deadly weather in the Midwest continue to eat up news time.

Highlights:
1. Gitmo
   a. McCain: I've Always Wanted Guantanamo Closed
   b. Bash: McCain Worked with Bush on the Gitmo Legislation the Supreme Court Ruled Against
2. McCain holds town hall in NYC
   a. Fox News airs it live
   b. Post-event analysis: friendly crowd, unpopular stances on NAFTA and education, and too few women in the crowd
3. Reaction to 'Not too important' comments, Day 2
   a. McCain: The Response to My 'Not Too Important' Comment is We Need Town Halls
   b. Olbermann Puts McCain's "Not Too Important" Quote in Context
4. McCaskill and Blitzer take McLobbyist swipes while discussing Senate bill to close disclosure loophole for foreign lobbyists
5. McCain team hits Obama on trade and energy issues
   a. Pfotenhauer Claims McCain's Economic Policies Will Get Economy Moving Again, Obama's Will Push Us Deeper Into Recession
   b. McCain: The Colombia Trade Agreement is Extremely Important
   c. McCain: Barack Obama has no nuclear component to his energy plan
6. Polls show McCain hurt by McSame, helped by Iraq
   a. McCain benefiting from drop in anxiety over Iraq
   b. DC Local News covers McCain's popularity drop due to ties to Bush
   c. "Hardball": Tying McCain to Bush a high priority for Obama
7. Democrats attack McCain's age as it proves to be a major issue on voter's minds
8. McCain's foreign policy problem: staying In Iraq is costly and unsafe, incomparable to Japan/Europe
9. Fox panel debates McCain's bipartisan appeal versus unappealing stances on Iraq and trade
10. Bash: Candidates hit each other on VP vetters while also promising positive campaign
11. McCain's media darling status scrutinized on "Countdown"
12. George W Bush addresses world from Italy
13. CNN panel: Attacks on Michelle Obama have racist undertones, very different from more benign attacks on Cindy (No Clip)
14. Woman-to-woman, Carly to speak to Hillary voters (No Clip)

Clips:
Highlight #1
McCain: I've Always Wanted Guantanamo Closed (CNN LS 06/12/08 11:30am)
JOHN MCCAIN: I was just informed of the Supreme Court decision [to give Gitmo detainee rights to trial in Federal Courts]. I haven't had the chance to read the opinion yet. It obviously concerns me. These are unlawful combatants. They are not American citizens, but um--and I think that we should pay attention to Justice Roberts' opinion in this decision, but it is a decision the Supreme Court has made. Now we need to move

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forward.

MCCAIN: As you know I always favored [the] closing of Guantanamo Bay and I still think that we ought to do that.

McCain Worked with Bush on the Gitmo Legislation the Supreme Court Ruled Against (CNN 06/12/08 6:36pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Dana there is political fallout, obviously, from this decision. The McCain is, at least in his past decisions, no big fan of Gitmo as it's called, Guantanamo Bay, what's the reaction to this decision?

DANA BASH: He's in no way a fan of Guantanamo Bay; he wants it closed. But despite all that, he actually was somebody who worked on the legislation and agrees with President Bush on this issue. So he was not very happy with this decision, as was pretty much every Republican. It was quite interesting Wolf, that this really fell on party lines. You had most of the Republicans saying this is outrageous, from their perspective, these people actually do have legal recourse. That it's just through the military courts, it's not necessarily through the civil courts. They say that's exactly where they should be. And democrats saying, no no no no, finally they are going to get their civil rights that are due to them. What is going to be interesting, particularly from the perspective of John McCain since he was actually involved in crafting this, is what he's going to propose doing now, given the fact that he wants to be the guy in the White House, just like Barack Obama does. And this is something that, as Jack and Jeff both pointed out, leaves a big question mark as to what happens with these people.

Highlight #2
Live Broadcast of McCain Town Hall in NYC (Fox News 06/12/08 7:00pm)
[on Iraq and the war on terror]
JOHN MCCAIN: My friends, right now we are in a struggle against a great and evil and a great threat and transcendental threat to everything we stand for and believe in it is called radical Islamic extremist you know it as well as I do. We are in two wars the central battlefield according to General Petraeus is the war in Iraq. The war in Afghanistan is long and hard and tough but in Iraq it is where we are succeeding

[on taxes and health care]
JOHN MCCAIN: My Friends, there are many sharp differences between myself and Senator Obama he wants to raise taxes which I think makes the economy worse I want to lower taxes. He wants the government to make the choices for the families on health care I want the families to make the choices and not the government

[on the youth vote and ties to Bush]
FEMALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: My question is with how your campaign is going to approach the youth vote a lot of independents are being won over by the Obama campaign in many ways because of the alternative media channels that they have been using [indistinguishable] and a lot of young Republicans who would have previously been absolutely behind your campaign feel some what disassociated, disconnected with the party often times because of Bush policies and the administrations. I am wondering what your message to them is to tell them that a vote for you is a youth vote as well.

JOHN MCCAIN: Well thank you, In case I didn't mention it I respect Senator Obama and I admire his success in securing the nomination of the Democratic Party and I think he has done a very admirable job in motivating a lot of young Americans to his cause. And I congratulate him on that. And I think it is going to be a real competition for young peoples votes. One of the reason's why I go on Saturday Night Live, Jon Stewart, and MTV town halls and all kinds of other venues is so that I will have a better opportunity to communicate with young people. If you missed my skit on Saturday Night Live the other night I said the primary qualification to be President of the United States is to be very very very very old.
[Applause]
MCCAIN: That's part of it, but when I do communicate with young people and the internet of course is a major way to do that today in most respects I have got to commuinicate to them that I will give them a more prosperous and a safer world and a nation then the one that I had and that is the important aspect that is what young people want today. They want to know that I will give them a safe and a secure future. I intend to compete in the battle of Ideas and with a positive plan of action for education for training for job oppurtunities all those things that are paramount not only to all Americans but especially to young Americans as well.

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[on Supreme Court nominees]
MALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you, Senator. The only thing that I disagree with you on tonight is that I think that many people in the room, including myself, do believe that you are a hero. As the father of a 10 year old and a 7 year old in a public school, I look to the future, too, and I look to what this country is going to look like. I am an Hispanic American in New York. Like many of my fellow Americans, I am conservative, economically. I am conservative socially, and I look to you as our future president to have part of your legacy be the people you appoint to the Supreme Court. What character traits are you looking for in the people that will serve for many, many years and help shape your legacy?

JOHN MCCAIN: I thank you. As we are talking about the youth vote, we are also going to have to compete for the Hispanic-Latino vote as well, and I believe I can do that. I have record in my home state of Arizona, working actively with the Hispanic community. I received over 70% of the votes, and I believe, could you tell me a little bit, a little bit more about your background, that indicates this concern, just a bit more?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, certainly. I grew up here in New York, in the Bronx. When I grew up in the Bronx, I really did not know what a Republican looked like, but when I went to college and became an attorney, and, most importantly, when I became a father, and I began to look at the platforms of the party, I realized more and more that my beliefs as a Hispanic, as a Catholic, as a father, as a professional were inline with the platforms of the Republican party, and when I looked at your record in particular, Senator, that energized me. I was a McCain guy well before this campaign, and, to me I look at a person' s character, and that is why I asked what character traits you' re looking for in the supreme court justices you will be appointing?

MCCAIN: Now, I understand your question better. I think it could be epitomized to a large degree in Chief Justice John Roberts. I think he represents the kind of Supreme Court Justice -- I am sorry, initially, I had a little trouble understanding your question , but, now, I certainly do, particularly when it comes to supreme court decisions. When you mentioned that you are a social conservative, I think that is something that is also true in a lot of the Hispanic community. Justice Roberts, in my view, even though I may disagree from time to time with his decisions, I think he is the kind of person want on the United States Supreme Court. There can be two, as many as three, vacancies, two or even as many as three, and I want to make sure that any nominee that I make would be one who has a proven record of strict interpretation of the constitution of the United States and not legislate from the bench. So my answer is that I would have them, that kind of person, as my nominee, and, incredibly to me, Senator Obama voted against Judge Alito, and he voted against John Roberts. I still do not understand that, because it is the president in the result of an election who should nominate these nominations, and it is up to the congress, in my view, to ratify, if that person is qualified. Voted for Justices Ginsberg and Braier. I didn't agree with their judicial philosophy but elections have consequences. That is what elections have, and I think we should have voted, whether they're qualified or not, and, clearly, how someone could view Justice Roberts and Justice Alito as unqualified and vote against them is certainly a radical departure from the way we have generally acted in the United States Senate.

Fox Town Hall Wrap-Up: Friendly Crowd, Alienating on NAFTA and Education, and Not a Lot of Women (FNC 06/12/08 7:52pm)
SHEPARD SMITH: John McCain wrapping up a town hall meeting in Federal Hall in lower Manhattan, [...] in what turned out to be a very, a very friendly crowd. [...] I reported at the top of this hour that the campaign had told us at Fox News that the audience would be made up of Republicans, Democrats and Independents we now have received a clarification from the campaign [...] [that the] McCain campaign distributed tickets to supporters, Mayor Bloomberg who of course is a registered Republican and other independent groups. [...] So how'd he do? [...] Did we learn anything?

CARL CAMERON: That John McCain can be vigorous, that he can wander the room, he can take some fairly friendly questions—they weren't exactly spitballs or curves—and take the opportunity to go after Barack Obama as he did on tax cuts, on trade and a host of other issues. Not a lot of new policy here. But it's a fairly typical display of what a John McCain town hall meeting is. And you saw him sort of go back to one individual who asked a question, and say give me a little bit of your personal story so I can understand the context more—that's a tool he uses quite often.
[...]
JUAN WILLIAMS: I was taken by the idea that he says openly 'I'm for free trade.' Because I think that there's a possibility there that a lot of people you know hurting in terms of economic times and he says he

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understands [...] But he says he's for free trade. And that's a very difficult issue for him, especially in the Midwest and some of those swing states. […] The one other thing […] is when he talked about education, he said the NYC public schools were doing a good job; I think he'd get lots of argument there. […] Again, I think for lots of people who would be core Republicans, lots of people that he needs to embrace him before he can start to reach out, Shep, it might be a little off-putting to hear him be such a fan of free trade, such a fan of what everyone agrees would be public schools in need of reform.
[…]
RICH LOWRY: This is a candidate fundamentally driven by issues of character and national security. […] Those I think overshadow his positions on the issues. […] What I thought was interesting was the big dog that didn't bark. […] You had a lot of discussion of energy policy in this town hall without the 'D' word coming up. Every single elected Republican in the country right now is grabbing everyone they can by the lapels and saying 'Drill! Drill! Drill!' And that McCain is not on board with that just shows you how he is indeed a different kind of Republican for better or worse.
[…]
PATRICIA MURPHY: He I think went after the Independents; we heard a lot about peace and prosperity and reform. No mention of George W Bush, no mention of socialist issues whatsoever. […] From my perspective as a woman on the panel, that audience was about two-thirds male. If he wants to get those Clinton Democrats, he needs to do better than that.
[…]
MURPHY: I think his tone was really good. He came across as not partisan at all, certainly not angry, somebody who is very much in touch with economic issues and gas prices. […] But again, the visuals weren't so hot for him. Not a lot of women in that audience. There aren't a lot of women surrounding him on that campaign either, so I think he needs to do better than that.

Highlight #3
McCain: The Response to My 'Not Too Important' Comment is We Need Town Halls (CNN LS 06/12/08 11:30am)
JOHN MCCAIN: [...] This is why we need town hall meetings. This is why we need to go to the American people and stand before them and have them ask the questions and us give the answers. My position on the war in Iraq has been very, very clear. Very clear.

MCCAIN: I opposed the failed strategy that was failing, argued for the strategy that's succeeding and it's winning and it's winning and the key is not to do what Senator Obama said we had to do and that is set artificial dates for withdrawal and also, to this day, refuses to acknowledge that the surge is succeeding. We are winning.

MCCAIN: So the key to it is success and withdrawal; success and withdrawal. General Petraeus has said that Senator Obama's plan could lead to disastrous consequences. He testified before congress.

MCCAIN: So we have a very clear choice here. That's what this is all about. We have a choice to pursue Senator Obama's path, which is artificial dates for withdrawal, which could lead to chaos, which could eventually lead to a wider war or stay with the strategy that is succeeding and we will be able to withdraw and we will come home with victory and honor not in defeat. That's what this debate is all about and anything else is frankly not on the major subject of what I believe and know is succeeding.

MCCAIN: In the three major cities in Iraq today, Mosul, Baghdad and Basra the Iraqi government and military are in charge with American support. That was the object of the surge. There is no disputing facts on the ground.

MCCAIN: We're now in the 800 and something or other day since Senator Obama has visited Iraq. Since--before the surge even began and incredibly he has still not asked to sit down with General Petraeus, our commanding general and be briefed by him on the situation in Iraq. I hope he will do so soon.

Olbermann Puts McCain's "Not Too Important" Quote in Context (MSNBC 06/12/08 8:48pm)
KEITH OLBERMAN: Finally tonight, as promised, a special comment on Senator John McCain's conclusion that it's not too important when American forces come home from Iraq. Thoughts offered more in sorrow, than in anger. For two full days now the Senator and his supporters have been outraged by what they see as the subtraction of context from this extraordinary remark. This is sadly, the excuse of our time for everything. Still, if the Senator claims truncation, we will correct that first.

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["Not Too Important" Clip Shown]

And there's the context of what Senator McCain said. Well not quite Senator. The full context is that the Iraq you see is a figment of your imagination. This is not a war about honor and victory sir. This is a war that you, and the president you seek to succeed, conned this nation into. Yes sir, you. Of the prospect of the war in Iraq you said […]

[John McCain clip, September 24, 2002]

[John McCain clip, September 29, 2002]

[John McCain clip, March 24, 2003]

[John McCain clip, March 18, 2004]

[John McCain clip, January 31, 2005]

[John McCain clip, January 3, 2008]

[John McCain clip, May 18, 2008]

That Senator McCain is context. You have attested to a fairly easy success, an overwhelming victory in a very short period of time in which we would be welcomed as liberators. Which you assured us would not require our troops to stay for decades, but merely for years, from which we could bring them all home, since you noted many Iraqi's resent American military presence, in which all those troops coming home will be staying there, not being injured, for 100 years, but most will be back by 2013, and the timing of the return of them is not that important. That Senator McCain is context. And that Senator McCain is madness.

Highlight #4

McCaskill and Blitzer Swipe at McLobbyist while Discussing Senate Bill to Close Disclosure Loophole for Foreign Lobbyists (CNN 06/12/08 6:13pm)

WOLF BLITZER: On Capitol Hill, two top Senate Democrats are offering up a bill aimed at closing some of those loopholes used by lobbyists for foreign clients. Those loopholes sometimes allow the lobbyists to keep their activities secret. This is a sensitive issue for John McCain because several former lobbyists working for his campaign had past dealings abroad. Some have resigned in recent weeks.

[…]

CLAIRE MCCASKILL: This bill came about because we learned that the Iraqi government had hired lobbyists. And some of us were very offended at the idea that our tax dollars were being used to hire lobbyists to lobby us. [...] We're hoping that Senator McCain will co-sponsor the legislation. It shouldn't be controversial. These foreign entities ought to be operating in the light of day if they're trying to influence the United States.

[…]

BLITZER: So you can say that your decision and Senator Schumer's decision to introduce this legislation has nothing to do with the lobbyists who are working for the McCain campaign? It's not designed to embarrass that campaign?

MCCASKILL: It is designed to make sure, especially right now, under this economy, our dollar is so weak. Foreign companies are rushing into the United States to try to catch bargains. They're trying to buy businesses, buy land, influence our government--we need to know all about that right now. The fact that senator McCain has a lot of lobbyists working for him, and that they may have some of these clients, that is ancillary to our focus. Frankly, if Senator McCain wants to show the American people he's serious about this process, he ought to join us in this legislation.

Highlight #5

Pfotenhauer Claims McCain's Economic Policies Will Get Economy Moving Again, Obama's Will Push Us Deeper Into Recession (FNC 06/12/08 5:10pm)

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BILL HEMMER: Now to the other side where the battle is being waged on taxes in a big way. Nancy is a senior policy advisor to the McCain campaign. Good evening Nancy, welcome back here.

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Good Evening, thanks for having me.

BILL HEMMER: When it comes to taxes, the issue is this I believe. The question is, what do voters want?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Well I think what voters want, is the tax policies and the economic policies that are going to get the economy moving again. Because they're worried. They're worried about rising gas prices, rising grocery prices, and they're afraid they're not going to be able to make ends meat. And I think it's absolutely clear that Senator Obama's path takes us to a deeper recession, and it's been proven in the past here, and also in other countries. Where as Senator McCain's path of low taxes, lower federal spending, and an avid and enthusiastic approach to free trade takes us to economic growth. So if you care about gas prices, if you care about those grocery prices that are driven up by energy, the cost of energy if you will, then you need to be with Senator McCain. And I just think that Senator Obama's plans are the antithesis of what we need, on the path that we need to be following. Look at the windfall profits tax that he's advocating for right now.

BILL HEMMER: Let me just interject this. The reason why I asked you that question is because it was a big topic for Barack Obama today. […]

[Video Clip]

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Basically, Senator McCain is building on what we know works, and he's doing it at a time when we desperately need it. Where as Senator Obama's raising income taxes, raising the amount of wages subject to the payroll tax, which is huge. It's going to give the U.S. what many experts believe to be, one of the highest effective marginal tax rates in the industrialized world. It's terrible economic policy, as I say, impressively bad. Where as Senator McCain's talking about lowering taxes on the productive sector of the economy, he's going to eliminate the AMT, which catches the average family that's caught in that about $2700 dollars and it's going to give them a $5,000 dollar per family credit for health insurance. He's going to keep the capital gains rate low, and remember 55 percent of the people who benefit from that make less than $50,000 dollars a year. So Senator Obama can wax rhapsodic with his rhetoric, nothings going to change the reality. His path is the wrong path, Senator McCain's path is the path to prosperity.

McCain: The Colombia Trade Agreement is Extremely Important (CNN LS 06/12/08 11:30am)
JOHN MCCAIN: [...] the Colombia Free Trade Agreement is far more important than a trade agreement. It's an affirmation or a rejection of the cooperation, friendship and enormous support that the Colombian government and people have given us in trying to stem the flow of illegal drugs into the United States of America.

MCCAIN: [If] We reject, as the speaker of the house had, even a vote on a a Colombia free trade agreement it sends a message throughout our hemisphere that we don't address the concerns and try to help our friends. Senator Obama said that he would unilaterally--unilaterally-
-renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement where 33% of our trade exists and you know what message that sends? That no agreement is sacred then.

MCCAIN: If someone declares that as President of the United States they would unilaterally negotiate it. I'm for free trade and I will stand for free trade and [incoherent] of all the difficulties and economic struggles we're in today there's a little bright spot and that's our exports and to--and protectionism does not work and it will not work and I look forward to that debate between myself and Senator Obama.

McCain: Barack Obama Has No Nuclear Component to His Energy Plan (CNN LS 06/12/08 11:30am)
REPORTER: Tax credits for wind and solar expire this year and you've missed some critical votes on that issue. How do you plan--will you be there next time and how do you plan on voting?

JOHN MCCAIN: I think we need tax credits for the development of alternate energy. We need to invest in pure research and development but we also need very badly nuclear power. We're not going to attain energy

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independence nor will we reduce greenhouse gas emissions successfully without developing rapidly nuclear power plants all across this country. [...] I noticed that nuclear power is absent from Senator Obama's energy plan.

Highlight #6

McCain Benefiting From Drop in Anxiety Over Iraq (MSNBC 06/12/08 6:45pm)

JOHN HARWOOD: Absolutely it's changing, it's responding to events on the ground. Iraq was a throbbing migraine headache for the republican party, for President Bush, for John McCain not too long ago. That's lessoned considerably, and that's good news for John McCain. But of course, to Chuck Todd's point from earlier, that just increases the onus on him to come up with an economic message. But clearly he is benefiting from the reduction in the level of anxiety. About Americans, even though they are sick of the war, it's simply not the same situation as it was a year ago.

Local News Covers McCain's Popularity Drop Due to Ties to Bush (NBC-WRC-DC, 06/12/08 6:11pm)

STEVE HANDELSMAN: McCain's approval rating has dropped in the three months since he locked the GOP nomination. Down from 45 percent to 39 percent, due in large part, say the pollsters, to McCain's ties to the unpopular President.

Tying McCain to Bush and Making This a Third Term a High Priority for Obama (MSNBC 06/11/08 5:12pm)

CHRIS MATTHEWS: […] his connection with George W. Bush, who really is one of the least popular presidents in a long time. He may look good in history books, but not right now. How does Barack deal with that or exploit that?

STEVE MCMAHON: Well President Bush has an approval rating, as you pointed out, in the low 20s, it's extremely low. John McCain has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Bush policies. He's gone from being a maverick who opposed many of those policies, like the tax cuts, he was critical of the war. To being a being a big supporter of the President's policy on Iraq and on the President's economic policies. And with people wanting a change, tying John McCain to George Bush and making this a third term for George Bush is very important for the Obama [inaudible].

CHRIS MATTHEWS: Show pictures together, put them together hugging? What do you do?

MCMAHON: Well I think you just say, let's take a look at the President's economic policies, let's take a look at where John McCain is on those policies. John McCain wants to stay in Iraq, Obama wants to get out of Iraq. He wants to continue the Bush economic policies and tax cuts, Senator Obama wants to go in a different direction. His view on health insurance [cut off].

MATTHEWS: To make your point, this is staggering.

Highlight #7

Democrats Attack McCain's Age as It Proves to be a Major Issue on Voter's Minds (MSNBC 06/11/08 5:33pm)

CHRIS MATTHEWS: […] McCain's age could be a serious issue for voters here in the U.S. And Democrats, some say, are quietly trying to remind voters that McCain is not exactly young. Shuster does it again. Here's David Shuster with a look at that question.

DAVID SHUSTER: For democrats, it was a golden opportunity.

["Not too important" clip shown]

Within hours the Obama campaign and democrats in Congress attacked, claiming McCain implied that when troops come home is unimportant. But they quietly also used the controversy to turn to something else. McCain's age. Listen carefully.

[Susan Rice response clip shown]

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Throughout the day, other democrats also attacked McCain by repeating the word confused, and they added words including "oblivious" and "out of touch". It's not the first time this year the language has seemed loaded. Last month in response to a McCain attack on him

[Obama Clip Shown- "losing his bearings"]

Age has long been a campaign issue, and sometimes candidates have hammered their opponents over it directly.

[…]

Yesterday, on MSNBC, democrats including John Kerry insisted that by using the words "confused" as Kerry did, it was not to make McCain's age an issue.

[Kerry clip shown]

But today John McCain took issue with allegations that he is confused.

JOHN MCCAIN: I'm obviously disappointed with a comment like that.

SHUSTER: Regardless of the Senator's reaction and democrat's denials, John McCain's age is clearly on the minds of many voters. The latest NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found that 10 percent found that McCain is too old, and that it's the first issue that comes to mind when they think of him.

Highlight #8
McCain's Dilemma, Staying In Iraq is Costly and Unsafe, Incomparable to Japan/Europe (MSNBC 06/12/08 8:07pm)
DANA MILLBANK: Well McCain's got a problem here, as you pointed out, he wants to keep mentioning the word withdrawal. But, yet, his basic philosophy here is we need a long term commitment of troops, kept out of harms way, he says. And the problem with that, could be, that not only is there a financial cost, but if he's going to make the analogy to Europe and Japan and to South Korea; those are safe places, are safe places to keep our troops. It's not at all clear, that even with the success that's been made that Iraq is a safe place to garrison our troops for 20 to 30 years, let alone 100.

Highlight #9
McCain's Bipartisan Appeal versus Unappealing Stances on Iraq and Trade (FNC 06/12/08 6:34pm)
MEGYN KELLY: Ok, let's start with this McCain virtual town hall meeting. Terry, he's trying to win over, you got to hand it to him, cause this isn't meant, so much, to get the Republicans on the fringe or even the independents. He's going for the Democrats, for Hillary Clinton supporters. Smart and will it work?

TERRY HOLT: Well there's that obvious opportunity there, only about half the people who came out of the Pennsylvania primary between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama said they would vote for Barack Obama. So there is an opportunity among Democrats there, among Clinton supporters, who might have recognized her credibility on national security issues, for example, or on other issues. But really, for John McCain, there is really only one candidate in this race people, that has a track record of working across party lines, and who has a real legitimate appeal among independents, and it's John McCain. It's not Barack Obama, who's a harsh partisan. And I think that's where John McCain has a distinct advantage, as this general election match-up takes shape.

KELLY: How bout it David? Cause McCain, in the most recent poll, suggested that Americans trust him more when it comes to foreign policy. They trust Obama more when it comes to the economy. But him more when it comes to foreign policy, and Hillary Clinton was farther to the right than John McCain when it comes to issues like the war in Iraq and Iran. So does he have a chance of winning them over?

DAVID SIROTA: Well I think, to counter the point that was just made, that John McCain is still the only candidate in the race that is for staying in Iraq for 100 or what was it, 10,000 years, he's made

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comments like that.

KELLY: Oh come on David, you know that's out of context.

[…]

SIROTA: I'm not spinning! He's the only candidate in the race that wants to stay in Iraq. He's the only candidate in the race that wants to continue and expand NAFTA. These are issues of major importance to independent voters, to republican voters. I mean, this is a candidate that's running on let's expand NAFTA at a time when the Wall Street Journal poll says that 72 percent of republicans want a change in our NAFTA style policies. So I think that presents a huge opening for Barack Obama on economic class issues and on the war in Iraq.

KELLY: Terry, I'll give you a quick rebuttal then I want to move on to topic two.

HOLT: Well NAFTA was in 1994, it's 2008. John McCain's always going to put America first, he's going to put the country first, and we need to open new markets so we can create jobs in this country and people can continue to have prosperity in their lives. We need to get this economy going.

Highlight #10
Candidates Hit Each Other on VP Vetters While Also Promising Positive Campaign (CNN 06/12/08 6:35pm)
DANA BASH: Ironically in the same press conference he raised questions about Eric Holder, McCain renewed his call for a debate on the issues with joint town hall meetings.

Highlight #11
McCain's Media Darling Status Scrutinized (MSNBC 06/12/08 8:14pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: Has the McCain campaign successfully intimidated the media at this point?

RACHEL MADDOW: The McCain campaign has two things going on with the media. One is, behind the scenes they are being very aggressive in terms of lobbying the media, lobbying the media left, right, and center in terms of the way they want McCain to be spoken about. They are lobbying the media, for example, on taxes. Saying, that we should be describing, members of the media should be describing what Barack Obama wants to do in terms of rolling back Bush's tax cuts as a tax increase, not as a rollback on Bush's tax cuts. And some members of the media go along with that sort of thing. I think some others, more rightfully see that as the subject of a news story as John McCain's trying to manipulate the media. But the other thing he's got going for him is essentially his 26 years in Washington, having been a media darling of the media on purpose. He cultivated a relationship with the media that involves them giving him the benefit of the doubt. Like you were talking about with Howard Fineman earlier, this sort of leeway that he's given, so that we talk about what he really meant rather than what he really said. The only way you get to that sort of relationship with the media is if you have a relationship with reporters that you think you can call on that supersedes your actual record and what you are documented as actually saying.

Highlight #12
George W Bush Addresses World from Italy (FNC 06/12/08 1:45pm)
Full transcript: http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/06/20080612-10.html

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director - Tracking/Media Monitoring
Progressive Media USA
sdubois@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7681 (office)
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From: "Jonathan Garthwaite" <THeditor@TownHallmail.com>
To: Friend <JohnPodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/8/2016 8:09:34 AM
Subject: Four More States Head to the Polls Tonight

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Must Reads

Super Tuesday Round Two

Cortney O'Brien



Another Super Tuesday is upon us. Michigan, Mississippi, Idaho and Hawaii are up for grabs in tonight's contests. In other words, it's going to be a long night.
[Keep Reading]

Rubio Campaign Goes 'Nuclear' Over Shoddy CNN Report Suggesting Advisers Want Senator To Drop Out

Matt Vespa



Guy mentioned this briefly at the end of his post after breaking down the recent polls, where it's truly do or die for Rubio on March 15.
[Keep Reading]

Better Business Bureau Confirms: Trump University Had a D- Rating

Katie Pavlich



During last week's Fox News GOP debate in Detroit, Donald Trump was confronted by anchor Megyn Kelly about Trump University.
[Keep Reading]

White House Demands Peace From Israeli, Won't Directly Hold Palestinians Accountable For Stabbing Attacks

Katie Pavlich



Oh, Great: IAEA Says Iran Nuclear Deal Prevents Them From Reporting On Violations

Matt Vespa



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Romney Uses Rubio and Kasich Campaigns to Continue Bashing Trump
Cortney O'Brien



Chuck Norris Endorses Ted Cruz
Christine Rousselle



Iran Tests New Ballistic Missiles: "The Power of Velayat"
Justin Holcomb



Unelectable: Trump's Unfavorable Rating Spikes to 67 Percent Nationally
Guy Benson



Democrats Will Bury This Video If They Want To Keep The White House



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Oh No: North Korea Threatens Super Awesome 'Nuclear Strike of Justice' Against U.S., South Korea
Matt Vespa

A day than ends in "y."
[Keep Reading]



Crunch Time: Rubio Racking



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Columnists & Tipsheet

The Republican Establishment is Worse Than Trump
John Hawkins



Random Thoughts
Thomas Sowell



Trump Rejects Advice to Become More Presidential
Ed Klein



Underachievers of the World Unite!
Mike Adams



Is Ted Cruz as Tough as Donald Trump?
David Limbaugh



Razzle Dazzling Ourselves
Cal Thomas



The World Is Getting Worse, But This Time America Won't Save It
Dennis Prager



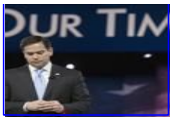
Will the Oligarchs Kill Trump?
Pat Buchanan



Political Cartoons



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Up Large Early Vote Lead in Florida...Or Eyeing Exit?

Guy Benson

The current conventional wisdom percolating across the media is that Marco Rubio may be finished.
[Keep Reading]



Another Judge Dismisses Ted Cruz Birther Case

Katie Pavlich

In case you missed it yesterday, a judge in Illinois threw out a lawsuit arguing Texas Senator Ted Cruz isn't eligible to be the President of the United States.
[Keep Reading]



Controversy: Meeting Between Obama and Netanyahu Cancelled

Katie Pavlich

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to meet with President Obama later this month while in Washington D.C. for the annual AIPAC conference.
[Keep Reading]



Finally: The Democratic Candidates Are Asked About Abortion

Cortney O'Brien

During Monday night's Democratic town hall on Fox News, Bret Baier asked Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders to try and defend their radical views on abortion – a task they have until now largely been spared.
[Keep Reading]



Sanders Tells Bret Baier That 'Being a Human Being' Guarantees One's Right to Health Care

Cortney O'Brien

Bernie Sanders participates in Fox News town hall.
[Keep Reading]

Bearing Arms

ICYMI: South Carolina House Votes To Nullify Federal Gun Regulations | Matt Vespa

Title IX Makes the Case for Campus Carry | Jenn Jacques

Don't Buy The Gun And Lose The Freedom | Jenn Jacques

Michigan, Mississippi: Hillary Is Coming for Your Guns | Bob Owens

Georgia Senate to Vote on Campus Carry Bill | Jenn Jacques

Political News

Virginia becomes first U.S. state to regulate fantasy sports | Reuters News

Senator Schumer expects 'mainstream nominee' for Supreme Court | Reuters News

Death Valley comes alive with super bloom of flowers | Reuters News

Bobbi Kristina Brown's boyfriend tried to save her life - lawyer | Reuters News

Former Sarkozy protegee launches bid for French presidential primaries | Reuters News

Obamacare in Full Effect
Plus: 2014 Senate Races



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From:	"John Delicath" <jonwdeli@gmail.com>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	10/7/2008 4:05:06 PM
Subject:	[big campaign] McCain lies about bomb Iran joke

Bill Bennett repeated the lie on CNN after the debate.

McCain was not joking with a group of veteran buddies. His comments came at a town hall event in South Carolina where media reports did not identify an audience member who asked McCain if he would attack Iran. McCain said later that he was joking with veterans, but that does not appear to be the case, and when the media followed up, he made another incredibly insensitive remark.

CNN reported , at an April 18, 2007 campaign event in South Carolina: "McCain was asked if there is a plan to attack Iran. McCain began his answer by changing the words to a classic Beach Boys' song. "You know that old Beach Boys song, Bomb Iran?" the Republican presidential candidate said. Then, he sang. "Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran."

According to CNN:

He finished his answer by discussing the Iran's nuclear ambitions and the country's desire to wipe Israel off the map to emphasize the real dangers that it poses to the world.
"The senator was adding levity to the discussion and the crowd reacted with laughter," campaign spokesman Kevin McLaughlin said. "He went on to discuss the seriousness of issue."

NPR had this report:

April 20, 2007 · Republican presidential contender Sen. John McCain (AZ) joked about bombing Iran this week during a campaign appearance in Murrells Inlet, S.C.

McCain was asked by an audience member about possible U.S. military action in Iran.

"How many times do we have to prove that these people are blowing up people now, never mind if they get a nuclear weapon. When do we send them an airmail message to Tehran?" a man in the crowd asked.

In response, McCain said, "That old, eh, that old Beach Boys song, Bomb Iran" — which elicited laughter from the crowd. McCain then chuckled before briefly singing — to the tune of the chorus of the Beach Boys' classic "Barbara Ann" — "Bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb, anyway, ah ...."

The audience responded with more laughter.

The AP reports that McCain was asked Thursday about this and the attention it's getting and had this to say:

"Please, I was talking to some of my old veterans friends," he told reporters. "My response is, Lighten up and get a life."

When reporters asked if the joke was insensitive, McCain said: "Insensitive to what? The Iranians?"

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From: "Monica Huegel" <mhuegel@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 11/18/2015 6:28:15 AM
Subject: Re: Inquiry: Politico | Encryption and Anonymization

FYSA:

Hillary Clinton: "The Same Networks That Help Organize Movements For Freedom Also Enable Al-Qaida To Spew Hatred And Incite Violence Against The Innocent." "Because amid this unprecedented surge in connectivity, we must also recognize that these technologies are not an unmitigated blessing. These tools are also being exploited to undermine human progress and political rights. Just as steel can be used to build hospitals or machine guns, or nuclear power can either energize a city or destroy it, modern information networks and the technologies they support can be harnessed for good or for ill. The same networks that help organize movements for freedom also enable al-Qaida to spew hatred and incite violence against the innocent. And technologies with the potential to open up access to government and promote transparency can also be hijacked by governments to crush dissent and deny human rights." [Secretary Clinton Remarks on Internet Freedom, 1/21/10]

On Wed, Nov 18, 2015 at 12:16 PM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

And Monica

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2015, at 12:15 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Adding Laura as well.

From: Sara Solow [mailto:ssolow@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: Inquiry: Politico | Encryption and Anonymization

Agree with Jake. Man this is tough. Is there evidence that bad guys -- not just dissidents but terrorists or whatever -- have also benefitted from the technologies supported by the Internet freedom agenda? Either way, I think the talking points Jake put down, from Ben, stay the same.

On Nov 18, 2015, at 11:53 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Adding Tony and Sara S, and others from comms. This is going to be a challenge. I think we should give a comment on the anonymizing tools and punt on backdoors (she'll have more to say on that tomorrow).

On anonymizing tools, Ben Scott has suggested the following talking points. Boiled down, the points are:

1-The bad guys could already get crypto -- we helped the good guys get it.

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2-The Internet Freedom investments in these technologies were strongly bipartisan (and remain so).

Talking Points:

➢ Secretary Clinton's Internet Freedom agenda is a signature achievement at the State Department. She elevated human rights in a digital era to the top tier of foreign policy issues and built a new kind of diplomacy around harnessing the power of technology to serve the foreign policy goals of the United States.

➢ The Internet Freedom programs that invest in software development were designed to help people help themselves. Authoritarian governments will not willingly grant freedom of expression or the right to privacy. But technology can empower people with secure communications tools.

➢ Making secure communications tools usable for the average citizen in authoritarian societies was a central goal of Secretary Clinton's. She achieved that goal. The latest generation of Internet Freedom technologies is so user-friendly that even Silicon Valley giants have taken up the tools built by tiny NGOs.

➢ Of course, the leaders of America's Internet Freedom policies are aware that secure communications technologies can cut both ways. Providing people with tools powerful enough to resist intervention by their own governments means that our own security services will be challenged as well. This question was thoroughly reviewed and debated at the time the Internet Freedom agenda was launched.

➢ Secretary Clinton joined the consensus view of Congressional leaders from both parties that supporting Internet Freedom technologies requires uncompromising commitment to the security of users. And while we will do all we can to support the work of law enforcement, the steadfast protection of fundamental rights around the world puts us on the right side of history.

➢ A bipartisan group of Congressional leaders have supported and funded these programs for many years. Since 2008, Congress has appropriated more than $200 million to enable these innovative Internet Freedom programs. Since 2014, under Republican leadership in Congress, the annual allocation for Internet freedom programs has increased to $50.5 million.

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➢ Following Secretary Clinton's push for Internet Freedom, uptake of these Internet Freedom tools has grown from hundreds of thousands of regular users to more than 900 million people in 60 countries who use these technologies to exercise their rights in the digital world.

From: Teddy Goff [mailto:tgoff@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 11:48 AM
To: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: Inquiry: Politico | Encryption and Anonymization

just giving JDP and JS a heads up on this in case they aren't on HRCRR@.

On Wed, Nov 18, 2015 at 11:24 AM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> I assume we don't have anything on this just yet....
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> Resent-From: <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
> From: Joe Marks <jmarks@politico.com >
> Date: November 18, 2015 at 11:15:57 AM EST
> To: "nmerrill@hrcoffice.com " <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
> Subject: Comments on encryption and anonymization
>
> Hi Nick,
>
> I'm working on a story today about the renewed debate over end to end encryption following the Paris attacks. One thing the article explores is Sec. Clinton's support for anonymizing tools such as Tor for political dissidents when she was secretary and whether that may be a political liability.
>
> Can the campaign comment on whether that support may be a liability and/ or whether Sec. Clinton has a firmer position on government backdoors for encryption since the Re/Code interview in February where she called it a "classic hard choice?"
>
> My deadline is 2 p.m.
>
> Thanks,

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Joe

--

Joseph Marks

Reporter, Cybersecurity

Politico Pro

703-647-8776 (desk)

202-664-7910 (cell)

jmarks@politico.com

@Joseph_Marks_

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To: "Eryn M. Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 7:53:16 AM
Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gregory McGowan <gmcgowan@podestagroup.com >
Date: May 4, 2015 at 4:26:00 PM GMT+2
To: Everyone <PA-Everyone@podesta.com >
Subject: Podesta in the News Today

PODESTA IN THE NEWS: 05.04.2015

Note: numerous blogs are continuing to repost last week's DeSmog Blog article as well as the following Breitbart piece that was published over the weekend.

Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One
By: Ben Shapiro, Breitbart

Breitbart

May 1, 2015

Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One

By: Ben Shapiro

If you love the team that put together the Clinton Foundation and all of its various corrupt dealings with foreign nations, you'll love the Hillary Clinton 2016 campaign. It now turns out that John Podesta, chair of Hillary's presidential campaign – and the same man who called the allegations of Peter Schweizer's Clinton Cash "conspiracy theories" – has a brother who runs a company, The **Podesta Group**, that lobbied the State Department on behalf of Uranium One while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State and beyond.

Uranium One is, of course, the uranium firm that sent a "flow of cash" to the Clinton Foundation as the Russian government gained increasing ownership of the company; the State Department had to sign off on the Russians' encroachment into the American uranium market. The Clinton Foundation did disclose its relationship with Uranium One in Hillary's State Department disclosures. According to the Daily Caller, Uranium One "paid the **Podesta Group** $40,000 to lobby the State Department, the Senate, the National Park Service and the National Security Council for 'international mining projects,' according to a July 20, 2012 filing."

Hillary's relationship with John Podesta goes back to the first Clinton administration. During Bill Clinton's second term, Podesta acted as chief of staff. After leaving, he created the Center for American Progress, a Clinton-backed leftist think tank designed to forward the political goals of the Clintons. As the Christian Science Monitor reported when Podesta joined Hillary Clinton's campaign back in January:

Podesta is the guy people call on when the going gets tough: He served as Bill Clinton's chief of staff from 1998 to 2001, helping control a series of crises including Clinton's impeachment trial. The Obama administration brought him on to help the President steer a path through Congressional impasses and to avert embarrassments like the Affordable Care Act's botched rollout.

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Podesta's relationship with the Clintons didn't waver during Hillary's time in the White House; his own ties with the Obama administration grew stronger when he became a senior advisor to the Obama administration in late 2013, before resigning this year to join Hillary's campaign.

Podesta isn't the only member of the Clinton team embroiled in Clinton Foundation corruption. Hillary's new top fundraiser is Dennis Cheng, the former chief development officer for the Clinton Foundation, which means he did all the fundraising for that organization. Cheng has not been asked any questions thus far about his relationship with the Clinton Foundation or the new Clinton 2016 campaign.

Just as President Obama magically transformed his campaign organization, Obama for America, into a political action group, Organizing for Action, to lobby for his preferred governmental policies, Hillary Clinton has transformed the Clinton Foundation and its constellation of allies into her 2016 campaign.

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From: "Clinton, Press Office \(Clinton\)" <Press_Office@clinton.senate.gov>
To:
Date: 12/4/2007 12:26:19 AM
Subject: Clips: Tue 12/4

Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Tuesday, December 4th, 2007

Front Pages

The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/pages/pageone/scan/index.html

Daily News: http://www.nydailynews.com/front/covers/

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Albany Times Union: http://www.timesunion.com/news/frontpage/

HRC Articles/Mentions

Feds Probe Sept. 11 Insurance Fund *AP*
http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Attacks-Health.html?pagewanted=print

Paulson Sees Limited Aid In Rate Plan *NYT*
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Paulson Says Mortgage Plan Ready This Week *Reuters*
http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-usa-subprime-paulson.html?pagewanted=print

Paulson Outlines Mortgage Aid Plan *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/03/AR2007120302339_pf.html

Candidates Hold To Their Stances On Iran *NYT*
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Clinton Portrays Obama As Talker, Not Actor *DMR*
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007712040394

Political Memo: **Clinton Aims For Anger Without Making People Mad** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/us/politics/04clinton.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Top Democrats Intensify Attacks *Concord Monitor*
http://concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071204/NEWS01/712040359/1012/NEWS

As Iowa Race Tightens, Clinton Decides The Best Defense Is A Good Offense *WP*
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War Of Words Between Clinton, Obama Rages On *USAT*
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Hillary's Slip Is Showing After Barack Attacks *Newsday*
http://www.newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/tuesday/nation/ny-ushill045487095dec04,0,6851018,print.story

Hillary Slams Obama 'Present' Votes On Abortion, Gun Laws *Chicago Sun-Times*
http://www.suntimes.com/news/politics/obama/679446,CST-NWS-obama04.article

Will Clinton's Obama Attacks Backfire? *Time*

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http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1690519,00.html

Hillary Clinton Steps Up Attacks On Rival Barack Obama's Character *NY Daily News*
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Clinton Cranks Up Rhetoric Against Obama *AP*
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In Iowa, Clinton Doubts Obama's Political Courage *Reuters*
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Clinton Goes After Obama In Clear Lake Stop *Globe Gazette*
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Obama Draws Clinton's Ire Over Early Ambition *NY Sun*
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Obama In Boston: Change That Doesn't Include Bush Or Clinton *NY Observer*
http://www.nyobserver.com/print/61283/full

Vulnerable Democrats See Fates Tied To Clinton *NYT*
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Liberal Activists Plan To Air First Non-Republican Negative Ad Against Clinton *Fox News*
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,314841,00.html

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Hsu Associates Touted His Connections *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/business/la-na-hsu3dec03,1,6308602.story

New Hampshire: Bail Set In Clinton Standoff *NYT*
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Teary Wife Vows To Stand By Hillary Clinton Bomb Hoax Suspect *NY Daily News*
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Poll: Clinton Leads Obama, Edwards In New Hampshire Presidential Primary *AP*
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New Poll Shows Hillary Clinton Leading Democrats In South Carolina *AP*
http://www.nbcaugusta.com/news/local/12079711.html

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Hill, Rudy Poll Fault *NY Post*
http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/12042007/news/nationalnews/hill__rudy_poll_fault_585061.htm

Op-ed: **Keeping NH Warm By Sen. Hillary Clinton** *Union Leader*
http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?articleId=2a80d208-378b-4ef8-ab5b-477ffd2e7fbd&headline=Sen.+Hillary+Clinton%3a+Keeping+NH+warm

LTE: **Our Veterans Need Their Own GI Bill** *Newsday*

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http://www.newsday.com/news/opinion/ny-opletc5486776dec04,0,3779448,print.story

LTE: **Public Well-Served By Clinton, Schumer Offices** *Syracuse Post-Standard*
http://www.syracuse.com/articles/opinion/index.ssf?/base/opinion-3/1196503035176960.xml&coll=1

Op-ed: **Hillary Should Play Her Gender Card To The Hilt By Robin Gerber** *Newsday*
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Column: **As In '84, Early States Could Trip U.S. Front-Runner By David Yepsen** *DMR*
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007712040358

Column: **Why Independents Hold The Key By Gerald F. Seib** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119673557559612712.html

Blog Post: **A Man Date And A Movie** *Ezra Klein*
http://ezraklein.typepad.com/blog/2007/12/a-man-date-and.html

Blog Post: **Defending Barack** *Taylor Marsh*
http://www.taylormarsh.com/archives_view.php?id=26644

Blog Post: **Going For The Trifecta In Iowa** *Left Coaster*
http://www.theleftcoaster.com/archives/011438.php

Blog Post: **Can We Take Candidates' Kindergarten Pronouncements Off The Table?** *Carpetbagger Report*
http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/13796.html

Blog Post: **Clinton Campaign Goes Overboard** *Oliver Willis*
http://www.oliverwillis.com/archives/2007/12/03/clinton-campaign-goes-overboar/

2008

Obama And Huckabee Look To Rewrite Iowa Script *Reuters*
http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/news/news-usa-politics-iowa.html?pagewanted=print

Giuliani's Firm Lobbied For Bill Considered Threat *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/us/politics/04giuliani.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Romney Hopes To Ease Qualms On His Faith *WP*
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Huckabee Chafes At 'Front-Runner' Label *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/03/AR2007120301856_pf.html

How Paul Could Change Race *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119672794515312455.html

Column: **Edwards's Hope By E. J. Dionne Jr.** *WP*
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Column: **Un-Mormon And Unchristian By Richard Cohen** *WP*
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http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-oe-goldberg4dec04,1,2801169.column?coll=la-news-a_section

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http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/03/AR2007120301769_pf.html

Op-ed: **Don't Need 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' By Nathaniel Frank** *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-oe-frank4dec04,1,7031077.story?coll=la-news-a_section

New York

Facing Tough Times, Spitzer Prepares For Budget Battle *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/nyregion/04budget.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

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Citing Past Troubles At Indian Point, State Urges Panel To Deny License Extension *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/nyregion/04nuke.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

National

Calculating Energy Bill's Real Figures *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/washington/04fuel.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Now Online, A Guide To Detainee Treatment *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/03/AR2007120301976_pf.html

Report: FDA So Underfunded, Consumers Are Put At Risk *USAT*
http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2007-12-02-fda_N.htm

Study Finds Gaps Between Doctors' Standards And Actions *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/03/AR2007120301771_pf.html

Life Was Lost In Maelstrom Of Suspicion *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/us/04contractor.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Op-ed: **No Bailouts For Borrowers By Andy Laperriere** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119672746089712445.html

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http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/opinion/04tue2.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Op-ed: **Living With HIV, Dying Of Cancer By Mark Wainberg** *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/03/AR2007120301622_pf.html

WSJ Editorial: **Corporate Tax War**
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119673397691112663.html

Political/Administration/Capitol Hill/Media

As Clock Ticks, Congress And White House Stand Firm *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/washington/04bush.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Analysis: **Bush Steps Up Attacks On Congress** *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/03/AR2007120301803_pf.html

For Congress, Election Imperils Balanced Budget *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-na-taxes4dec04,1,7901493.story?coll=la-headlines-frontpage

New Allegations Test Craig's New Boldness *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/03/AR2007120300520_pf.html

Column: **Congress Has A Way Of Making Witnesses Speak: Its Own Jail By Adam Cohen** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/opinion/04tue4.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Iraq/Afghanistan

Afghanistan Measure Could Avoid Impasse Over Iraq Funding *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119673460162712683.html

Red Crescent Says 25,000 Iraqi Refugees Have Returned *NYT*
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U.S. Senses A Rise In Activity By Al Qaeda In Afghanistan *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/world/asia/04gates.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Military Weighs Recruiting Afghan Tribes To Fight Taliban *WP*
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Op-ed: **A Microscopic Insurgent By Mark D. Drapeau** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/opinion/04drapeau.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Column: **Now And Forever By Bob Herbert** *NYT*
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Op-ed: **With The Afghan Army By Ann Marlowe** *WSJ*
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International

U.S. Finds Iran Halted Its Nuclear Arms Effort In 2003 *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/world/middleeast/04intel.html?hp=&pagewanted=print

News Analysis: **An Assessment Jars A Foreign Policy Debate About Iran** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/washington/04assess.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

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Pakistani Rivals Threaten Boycott Of Elections *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/world/asia/04pakistan.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

U.S. Debating Shift Of Support In Somali Conflict *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/03/AR2007120301096_pf.html

NYT Editorial: **A Tale Of Two Strongmen**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/04/opinion/04tue1.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/14/2008 1:49:35 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/14

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 14th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

11am BUSH: Briefing on the global war on terror at the Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters in Langley, Virginia

11:30am BUSH: Briefing on the situation in Georgia at the Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters in Langley, Virginia

5pm McCain: Speech in Aspen, CO
- Tracking scheduled for this event

News Clips:

MCCAIN GEORGIA/SCHEUNEMANN NEWS

In Split Role, McCain Adviser Is Sometimes a Lobbyist (NYT 8/14/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
When Senator John McCain led a Senate investigation three years ago of Jack Abramoff, the disgraced lobbyist who later pleaded guilty to fraud charges, Mr. Abramoff's old firm turned to a former McCain campaign adviser for help. The firm, Greenberg Traurig, which had quickly cut its ties to Mr. Abramoff, hired Randy Scheunemann, who had been the McCain campaign's foreign policy adviser in 2000 — and is again this year — for advice on handling the Senate investigation.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/14/us/politics/14mccain.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&ref=politics&adxnnlx=1218682840-67X/dE4UvrRTBT2L1T34pQ&pagewanted=print

McCain adviser got money from Georgia (AP 8/13/08)
By PETE YOST
John McCain's chief foreign policy adviser and his business partner lobbied the senator or his staff on 49 occasions in a 3 1/2-year span while being paid hundreds of thousands of dollars by the government of the former Soviet republic of Georgia.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iG-8I87S5w4QP8CPIrx2wh8irqmgD92HK3480

Did Scheunemann Engineer McCain's 2005 Nobel Prize Nomination Of Georgian President For Financial Gain? (ThinkProgress 8/13/08)
...there appears to be more evidence of Scheunemann using McCain for financial gain. In 2005, operating as Georgia's lobbyist, Scheunemann may have engineered McCain's nomination of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili's for the Nobel Peace Prize just before his contract with the Georgian government was due to expire.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/13/georgia-mccain-nobel/

McCain pushes hard line against Russia; aides attack Obama (CNN 8/13/08)
* Russia's participation in WTO, G-8 at risk because of Georgia, McCain says
* McCain says crisis should not be used to score political points
* Obama's response to crisis reveals foreign policy inexperience, McCain aide says
* Obama's top foreign policy aides say McCain willing to "shoot from the hip"
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/13/candidates.georgia/index.html

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McCain: 'In the 21st century, nations don't invade other nations.' (Think Progress 8/13/08)
In recent days, Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) rhetoric toward Russia has mostly been overblown bluster, including an accusation that the country wanted to restore its old empire. However, since a cease-fire was announced and his predictions were proven wrong, McCain has backtracked, saying there won't be a Cold War. To justify his new position, he told reporters in a press conference today:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/13/mccain-21-century/

McCain's Call To Not Politicize Georgia Conflict Goes Unheeded By His Supporters (CBS blog 8/13/08)
by Ryan Corsaro
John McCain told reporters today that he does not want the hostile attacks of Russia on its neighboring country Georgia to be politicized in this campaign, despite the fact that his members of his campaign have been doing so this week.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/13/politics/fromtheroad/entry4349367.shtml
See San Francisco Chronicle's "Pelosi warns Lieberman for undercutting Obama": http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2008/08/13/MNRL12AEMM.DTL

McCain says Senate allies will head to Georgia (CNN blog 8/13/08)
John McCain said Wednesday that two of his strongest Senate supporters, Lindsey Graham and Joe Lieberman, would be heading to the nation of Georgia in their role as lawmakers, to report back on the conflict in that country.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/13/mccain-says-senate-allies-will-head-to-georgia/

Georgian president to McCain: Move 'from words to deeds' (CNN blog 8/13/08)
By Peter Hamby
Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili on Wednesday called for John McCain and other American leaders to do more for Georgia in their response to the conflict in his country.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/13/georgian-president-to-mccain-move-from-words-to-deeds/
Link to video: http://www.cnn.com/video/#/ video/world/2008/08/13/am.intv.georiga.pres.saakasvhili.cnn

MCCAIN NEWS

Social Security Too Hot to Touch? Not in 2008 (NYT 8/14/08)
By LARRY ROHTER
Ignoring the warnings that Social Security can derail political careers, Senator John McCain has infuriated his party's right wing by saying that "everything has to be on the table" in discussions about keeping Social Security solvent. Mr. McCain, the presumed Republican presidential nominee, does indeed seem to have put everything on the table. In the space of one week, he opened the door to an increase in Social Security taxes, denied he would raise payroll taxes and then, through an ally, called a tax increase a "dumb idea." He has also sowed confusion about whether he favors privatizing Social Security, or continuing with the current system.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/14/us/politics/14retire.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

McCain Tech Plan to Continue Hands-Off Approach to Regulation (WSJ 8/14/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES and AMY SCHATZ; Page A4
Under fire for being a technophobe, John McCain will unveil a technology agenda that bundles previously announced pro-business proposals with continued support for a hands-off approach to regulation.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121867827436739337.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Candidates Court 'Big Business Brands' (WSJ 8/14/08)
By MONICA LANGLEY; Page A4
Obama, McCain Woo Famous CEOs in Bid To Burnish Their Economic Credentials
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121867559474039187.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

US candidates resist diluting climate plans (Financial Times 8/14/08)
By Edward Luce
...Given the economic climate, neither candidate finds much profit in drawing attention to their plans - and when

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they do it is usually in the context of achieving "energy independence" rather than tackling global warming. Yet neither has given in to the temptation to water them down.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/c1ddea7a-69a3-11dd-91bd-0000779fd18c.html

Ralph Reed's link to McCain brews storm of criticism (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 8/14/08)
By AARON GOULD SHEININ
Ralph Reed's involvement in an upcoming Atlanta fund-raiser for John McCain has the presidential candidate fending off an onslaught of criticism from Democrats. Reed, the former head of the Christian Coalition, was tied to the corruption scandal involving Jack Abramoff, the highly paid Washington lobbyist now serving a six-year prison term. Much of the Abramoff scandal was exposed by an investigation led by McCain when he chaired the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.
http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/08/14/ralph_reed_mccain.html

Cindy McCain is injured by a handshake (LA Times 8/14/08)
By Seema Mehta
An 'enthusiastic supporter' in Michigan apparently aggravated an existing condition, and the GOP presidential candidate's wife is treated for a minor sprain at a local hospital.
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-trailcindy14-2008aug14,0,5635143.story

Fox News to air Obama, McCain documentaries (Reuters 8/14/08)
Fox News Channel will devote key segments of its primetime schedule in the next week to documentaries on Barack Obama and John McCain.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080814/tv_nm/candidates_dc;_ylt=AkHQzmEne6AVo8q40i.P74hsnwcF

McCain withholds support for auto company loan guarantees (Detroit News 8/14/08)
By Gordon Trowbridge
On a Michigan campaign swing dominated by the conflict between Russia and Georgia, Republican John McCain on Wednesday declined to support any of several proposals to provide loan guarantees to the domestic carmakers.
http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080813/METRO/808130478

Mich. Republicans make pitches for McCain VP (Detroit Free Press 8/14/08)
By Kathleen Gray and Dawson Bell
John McCain came to Michigan on Wednesday to raise money. But some Michigan Republicans had another agenda: lobbying for native son and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney as McCain's running mate.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-14-mccain_N.htm

McCain to visit Aspen Thursday (9News 8/13/08)
By: Jeffrey Wolf
A day after a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney, Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain will be back in Colorado on Thursday. McCain will spend his day at the Aspen Institute.
http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=97595&catid=346

McCain and a Pro-Choice VP? (Brody File 8/13/08)
Oh my. John McCain said today that a pro-choice running mate shouldn't necessarily be ruled out. ... Analysis? Hold on for a moment I need someone to bring me the smelling salts. I've fainted. If McCain picks a pro-choice running mate it will be a disaster within the Evangelical community. I've decided to come up with a new term. If McCain picks a pro-choice running mate there will be an "Evangelical Implosion."
http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/427651.aspx
See WaPo blog's "Veepstakes: McCain's Pro-Choice Trial Balloon?": http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/08/veepstakes_a_pro-choice_trial.html
See Weekly Standard blog's "McCain: Won't Rule Out Pro-choice Running Mate": http://www.weeklystandard.com/weblogs/TWSFP/2008/08/mccain_wont_rule_out_prochoice_1.asp

Another GOP senator to skip convo (FirstRead 8/13/08)
By Doug Adams
Sen. Pat Roberts (KS) is now the eighth Republican senator to announce that they will not attend the GOP

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Convention in St. Paul, Minn., next month. Roberts spokeswoman told the Topeka Capital Journal today that Roberts will be campaigning that week, finishing up his 105 county statewide tour during the convention week. Four others who've announced they won't be attending are -- Ted Stevens (AK), Elizabeth Dole (NC), Gordon Smith (OR), and Susan Collins (ME). All are running for re-election and are in close races. (Collins may have the easiest race, but she's never been a close ally of McCain.)
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/08/13/1263992.aspx

McCain's Lobbyists Raked In $1 Billion From U.S. Clients, Study Says (Huffington Post 8/13/08)
The non-partisan group Campaign Money Watch has come up with another startling figure for those who follow the presidential money chase. According to an analysis performed by the group, McCain's top fundraisers and aides have collected nearly $1 billion in fees from U.S. companies in the past decade -- specifically, $930,949,819.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/13/report-mccains-lobbyists_n_118659.html
Link to Campaign Money Watch Press Release: http://www.campaignmoney.org/pressroom/2008/08/13/the-nearly-1-billion-connection-mccain-and-his-lobbyists-clients

Infidelity and the White House (Politico blog 8/13/08)
By Ben Smith
Elements of the left (including ... John Edwards) have been raring to go after John McCain over alleged infidelity three decades ago, and Alan Colmes did last night on Fox (above), on the theory that if you're going to condemn Edwards, you should condemn McCain.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/Infidelity_and_the_White_House.html?showall

Cindy McCain: Private Heiress And Philanthropist [includes audio] (NPR 8/13/08)
by Ted Robbins
All Things Considered -- As the wife of Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain, Cindy McCain has a high public profile and she's often at her husband's side. But she is also heiress to the Hensley and Co. beer distributorship in Phoenix. And when it comes to the family business, Cindy McCain resolutely refuses to comment.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93567413&ft=1&f=1102

Meghan McCain Writes Childrens' Book About Her Father (CBS blog 8/13/08)
by Ryan Corsaro
The press got a peek today at the newest book written by a member of the McCain campaign – his daughter, Meghan. The illustrated book, entitled "My Dad, John McCain" and printed by Simon and Schuster (a division of CBS Corp.), is a biography of the senator's life told from the perspective of Meghan, who is in her twenties and blogs online about her father's campaign. The book begins with Meghan writing, "There are a few things you need to know about my dad, and one is that he would be a great president."
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/13/politics/fromtheroad/entry4347527.shtml

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

We Are All Georgians (WSJ 8/14/08)
By JOHN MCCAIN; Page A13
For anyone who thought that stark international aggression was a thing of the past, the last week must have come as a startling wake-up call. After clashes in the Georgian region of South Ossetia, Russia invaded its neighbor, launching attacks that threaten its very existence. Some Americans may wonder why events in this part of the world are any concern of ours. After all, Georgia is a small, remote and obscure place. But history is often made in remote, obscure places.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121867081398238807.html?mod=todays_us_opinion

Russia's War Is The West's Challenge (Washington Post 8/14/08)
By Mikheil Saakashvili; A17
Russia's invasion of Georgia strikes at the heart of Western values and our 21st-century system of security. If the international community allows Russia to crush our democratic, independent state, it will be giving carte blanche to authoritarian governments everywhere. Russia intends to destroy not just a country but an idea.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/13/AR2008081303364_pf.html

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The Wrong Force for the 'Right War' (NYT 8/14/08)
By BARTLE BREESE BULL
BARACK OBAMA and John McCain have plenty of disagreements, but one thing they are united on is promising a troop surge in Afghanistan. Senator McCain wants to move troops to Afghanistan from the Middle East, conditional on continued progress in Iraq. Senator Obama goes much further, arguing that we should have sent last year's surge to Afghanistan, not Iraq, that Afghanistan is the "central front" and that we must rebuild Afghanistan from the bottom up along the lines of the Marshall Plan.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/14/opinion/14bull.html?pagewanted=print

Who got Georgia into this? (LA Times 8/14/08)
Rosa Brooks
Actions by Bush and McCain misled the country into thinking the U.S. would come to its aid.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-brooks14-2008aug14,0,289750.column?track=rss

Commentary: Russian crisis a McCain opportunity, Obama risk (CNN 8/14/08)
By Leslie Sanchez
Images of 1968 Czechoslovakia invasion helped elect Richard Nixon
Russia-Georgia conflict plays to John McCain's strengths on foreign policy, she says
McCain showed strength, Barack Obama looked hesitant, Sanchez says
Sanchez: Obama should cut his vacation short to address the crisis
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/13/sanchez.russia/index.html

Why Can't Candidates Be Celebrities? (TIME 8/14/08)
By MICHAEL GRUNWALD
John McCain's campaign has been working overtime to ridicule Barack Obama as The One, the rock-star celebrity with adoring fans, the politician with the chutzpah to announce his candidacy in a speech about Abraham Lincoln. So it was a bit surprising to watch the opening of McCain's town hall meeting in York, Pa., on Tuesday. ...What's not such a good thing is the way campaign culture tries to slap down candidates who don't seem to fit someone's definition of "ordinary Americans." One would think the presidency would require a rather extraordinary American, but modern candidates are apparently supposed to pretend to be just like us.
http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1832685,00.html?xid=feed-yahoo-full-nation

The Obama Tax Plan (WSJ 8/14/08)
By JASON FURMAN and AUSTAN GOOLSBEE; Page A13
Even as Barack Obama proposes fiscally responsible tax reform to strengthen our economy and restore the balance that has been lost in recent years, we hear the familiar protests and distortions from the guardians of the broken status quo.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121867201724238901.html?mod=todays_us_opinion

BUSH NEWS

Bush takes tougher stance on Georgia conflict (LA Times 8/14/08)
By Peter Spiegel and Julian E. Barnes
Facing criticism from conservatives, he orders Rice to Georgia and accuses Russia of seizing territory. Along with humanitarian aid comes Pentagon promise to help rebuild Georgia's army.
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-fg-usrussia14-2008aug14,0,6687167.story
See ABC blog's "Bush Cuts Vacation Short to Focus on Russia/Georgia Conflict": http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/08/bush-cuts-vacat.html

Bush Dispatches Rice, Sends Aid to Georgia in Show of Support (Bloomberg 8/14/08)
By Ken Fireman
President George W. Bush staged a show of support for war-burdened Georgia, as the first American military plane carrying aid landed in the capital of Tbilisi and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice prepared to visit.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=asSfWX61IVdI&refer=home

Putin's war enablers: Bush and Cheney (Salon 8/14/08)
By Juan Cole
Russia's escalating war on Georgia reveals the consequences of the Bush administration's long assault on the

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international rule of law.
http://www.salon.com/opinion/feature/2008/08/14/bush_putin/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Russians begin Georgia handover (BBC 8/14/08)

Russian troops have begun handing over control of the area around the town of Gori to Georgian security forces.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7560100.stm

Russia to U.S.: Choose us or Georgia (CNN 8/13/08)

Russia pressed the United States on Wednesday to choose between "a real partnership" with Moscow or an "illusory" relationship with U.S. ally Georgia. Washington said it's sticking with Georgia.

*Russian Foreign Minister: U.S. must choose between Russia, Georgia
*Rice: Any cease-fire violation would risk Russia's status as partner
*Russian military action in Georgia "must stop now," Rice says
*Bush warns Russia not to interfere with humanitarian shipments

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/13/us.russia.diplomacy/index.html

15,000 Russian troops in Georgia, U.S. administration officials say (CNN 8/13/08)

* U.S. says Russian troops moved across border in past several days
* Bush warns Russia over reported cease-fire violations
* Georgia, Russia accuse each other of breaking the truce
* First U.S. humanitarian aid flight lands in Georgian capital

http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/08/13/georgia.russia.war/index.html?iref=24hours

Iraq minister: US troops will pull out in three years under deal (London Times 8/14/08)

By Deborah Haynes
American soldiers will withdraw from cities across Iraq next summer and all US combat troops will leave the country within three years, provided the violence remains low, under the terms of a draft agreement with the Iraqi Government.
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/iraq/article4526313.ece

Greenspan Sees Bottom In Housing, Criticizes Bailout (WSJ 8/14/08)

By DAVID WESSEL; Page A1
Alan Greenspan usually surrounds his opinions with caveats and convoluted clauses. But ask his view of the government's response to problems confronting mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and he offers one word: "Bad."
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121865515167837815.html

Source: Powell has not decided on presidential endorsement (CNN 8/13/08)

* Powell adviser says the retired general is "holding his cards close"
* Powell tells ABC he won't go to Democratic National Convention this month
* Former secretary of state has said he might vote Democrat or independent
* Source says Powell likes McCain but hasn't found a reason to vote for him

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/13/powell.candidates/index.html
See FoxNews's "Kristol: Colin Powell to Endorse Barack Obama": http://elections.foxnews.com/2008/08/13/kristol-colin-powell-to-endorse-barack-obama/

New Books Aim To Unweave the Obama Narrative (Washington Post 8/14/08)

By Eli Saslow; A01
In two autobiographies and dozens of speeches, Barack Obama has weaved the narrative that defines his campaign: An introspective boy gradually comes to terms with his mixed-race heritage and emerges with an "unprejudiced" worldview. He enters politics because of his "love of country" and succeeds by staying faithful to his morals and "transcending the partisan divide."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/13/AR2008081303959_pf.html
See USA Today's "Presidential race one for the books": http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/2008-08-13-books_N.htm

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Kerry vs. Corsi (Politico blog 8/13/08)
By Ben Smith
John Kerry is launching a website, Truth Fights Back, to defend Obama and other Democratic candidates against attacks. The site, paid for by his leadership PAC, goes after the "80 lies" in a new book by Jerome Corsi, whose 2004 attack on Kerry's military record helped sink the Democrat's campaign, but whose Obama book seems likely to remain on the margins this year.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/Kerry_vs_Corsi.html?showall

Middle Class Again the Focus of Second Obama Olympic TV Spot (The Page 8/14/08)
The Land of Lincolner will release yet another TV ad focusing on his plan for the middle class later Thursday. The spot will start airing on national cable in all 50 states during the Games Monday. Developing...
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/14/obama-to-unveil-second-olympic-tv-spot/

Obama Ad: McCain's Economics 'Book' (NYT blog 8/13/08)
By Kate Phillips
Each major presidential candidate in recent weeks has taken to featuring the other in TV advertisements, and usually in unflattering ways. The latest, from Senator Barack Obama's campaign, begins with a picture of his opponent, Senator John McCain, on the mocked-up cover of a book entitled "Economics." (Note the special "foreword" by President Bush.)
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/13/obama-ad-mccains-economics-book/
Link to video of ad ("Book"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KYSeGl4bks

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From: "Wilson Center" <IonRatiu-Award@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/30/2015 7:14:17 AM
Subject: Invitation: 2015 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award Workshop

To view this email as a web page, click here

Global Europe

Wilson Center

Political Challenges of Contemporary Azerbaijan

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Established in 2005, the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award (IRDA) aims to bring visibility and international recognition to the ideas, ideals and accomplishments of individuals around the world who are working on behalf of democracy. Previous awardees include Mustafa Nayyem (Ukraine, 2014), Angela Kocze (Hungary, 2013), Aung San Suu Kyi (Myanmar, 2012), Nabeel Rajab (Bahrain, 2011), Oleg Kozlovsky (Russia, 2010), Adam Michnik (Poland, 2009), Eleonora Cercavschi (Moldova, 2008), Anatoli Mikhailov (Belarus, 2007), Saad Ibrahim (Egypt, 2006), and Sergio Aguayo (Mexico, 2005).

2015 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award Recipient

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Speakers

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Professor of History, University of Massachusetts; former Wilson Center Fellow

Richard Kauzlarich
Director, Center for Energy Science and Policy and Adjunct Professor, George Mason University; former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan and Bosnia & Herzegovina

Richard Morningstar
Founding Director, Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council; former U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan

Christian F. Ostermann
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Cory Welt

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Associate Director & Associate Research Professor, Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies; Co-Director, PONARS Eurasia, The Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/5/2014 6:14:40 AM
Subject: News Update, Tuesday, August 5

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Tuesday, August 5

Headlines:

- **Israel Withdraws Troops, 72-Hour Gaza Truce Begins**
- **Netanyahu Applauds Destruction of Gaza Tunnels, But Still Wary of Threat**
- **U.S. Diplomacy on Gaza Has Little Sway on Israel**
- **Palestinian FM Seeks War Crimes Case Against Israel at ICC**
- **Hamas: We Destroyed Israel's Deterrence**
- **Gaza Minister: War Caused $5 Billion Worth of Damage**
- **Lieberman Slams Plan to Involve Mahmoud Abbas in Gaza**
- **Obama Signs Funding Package for Israel's Iron Dome**

Commentary:

- **Washington Post: "Time for Netanyahu to Make Peace in Gaza"**
  - By David Ignatius
- **Financial Times: "Arab Turmoil Makes Israel Reckless and Complacent"**
  - By Gideon Rachman

Reuters

Israel Withdraws Troops, 72-Hour Gaza Truce Begins

Israel pulled its ground forces out of the Gaza Strip on Tuesday and started a 72-hour ceasefire with Hamas mediated by Egypt as a first step towards negotiations on a more enduring end to the month-old war. Minutes before the truce began at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT), Hamas launched a salvo of rockets, calling them revenge for Israel's "massacres". Israel's anti-missile system shot down one rocket over Jerusalem, police said. Another hit a house in a town near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. There were no casualties. Israeli armour and infantry withdrew from the Gaza Strip ahead of the truce, with a military spokesman saying their main goal of destroying cross-border infiltration tunnels had been completed. "Mission accomplished," the military tweeted.
See also, "IDF troops leaving Gaza: 'We'll be back again'" (Ynet News)

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Jerusalem Post

Netanyahu Applauds Destruction of Gaza Tunnels , But Still Wary of Threat

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu issued a statement Tuesday praising the IDF and Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) for neutralizing the terror tunnels from Gaza, but reiterated that there is no guarantee of 100 percent success. “This was a complicated action taken by heroic soldiers under difficult combat conditions,” Netanyahu said. He said the tunnels' destruction harmed a strategic Hamas weapon in which they invested tremendously over the years. The tunnels would have allowed Hamas to kidnap and murder numerous civilians and IDF soldiers in simultaneous attacks from a number of different tunnels that penetrated into Israel.

New York Times

U.S. Diplomacy on Gaza Has Little Sway on Israel

When the State Department condemned Israel’s strike on a United Nations school in Gaza on Sunday, saying it was “appalled” by this “disgraceful” act, it gave full vent to what has been weeks of mounting American anger toward the Israeli government. The blunt, unsparing language — among the toughest diplomats recall ever being aimed at Israel — lays bare a frustrating reality for the Obama administration: the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has largely dismissed diplomatic efforts by the United States to end the violence in Gaza, leaving American officials to seethe on the sidelines about what they regard as disrespectful treatment.

Reuters

Hard-Liner Rivlin to Become Israel's Next President

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad al-Malki said there was "clear evidence" of war crimes by Israel during its offensive in Gaza as he met International Criminal Court prosecutors on Tuesday to push for an investigation. Malki visited The Hague shortly after Israel and the Palestinian Islamist Hamas movement that rules Gaza entered a 72-hour truce mediated by Egypt in an effort to pave the way for an extended ceasefire.

Ynet News

Hamas: We Destroyed Israel's Deterrence

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said Tuesday that one of the main results of the operation was "the destruction of Israeli deterrence." "The Palestinian people now have confidence in their ability to stand firm and fight," he added. Meanwhile, Hamas officials told Hezbollah-affiliated Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar on Tuesday that "despite the fact the al-Qassam Brigades are bound by the ceasefire, they won't be afraid to respond to any infiltration or ground operation, even if it requires operating beyond the border." Hamas official Ismail Radwan said the Islamist movement agreed to a ceasefire "on the condition the other side fills all of its terms and stops all forms of aggression in the Gaza Strip."

Times of Israel

Gaza Minister: War Caused $5 Billion Worth of Damage

Gaza minister accused Israel of causing over $5 billion worth of damage in the Gaza Strip since its military launched a large offensive there on July 8, Palestinian media reported. Mufeed al-Hasayneh, the minister of public works, said tens of thousands of homes had been completely or partially destroyed, and that infrastructure in the Strip had sustained severe damage as well, the Palestinian news agency Ma’an reported Monday. “The three areas that have undergone the most intense destruction are Shejaiya, Beit Hanoun, and Abasan,” Hasayneh said.

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Ha'aretz

Lieberman Slams Plan to Involve Mahmoud Abbas in Gaza

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman is opposed to integrating Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas into any arrangement in the Gaza Strip following the cease-fire. Lieberman presented this stance at a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting on Monday, a senior Israeli official said. "To think of Abu Mazen [Abbas] as an ally in the Gaza Strip is a serious mistake," Lieberman said during the meeting. "Abu Mazen may act against Hamas in Gaza, but he also acts against us in the international forums. It is he who pushed the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva to establish a commission of inquiry and he who is pushing for processes against us in the UN Security Council in New York."

Ynet News

Obama Signs Funding Package for Israel's Iron Dome

President Barack Obama signed a bill Monday granting an additional $225 million in US taxpayer dollars for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system. The defense system has been highly effective in the current round of violence between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. It allows Israel's military to shoot down incoming rockets or mortars headed toward major population centers in Israel. Israeli officials say it has a success rate as high as 90 percent. The US has provided hundreds of millions of dollars for Iron Dome in the past. The new package is intended to replenish Israel's capabilities.

Washington Post – August 4, 2014

Time for Netanyahu to Make Peace in Gaza

By David Ignatius

Now it's Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's turn to show that he has the vision and leadership to build a durable cease-fire that could empower Palestinian moderates and begin building a pathway from the hell on earth that is Gaza.

Many people, including me, sharply criticized U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry a week ago for seeking a quick Gaza cease-fire that would have strengthened Hamas and its allies, Qatar and Turkey. Hamas didn't deliver, the fighting resumed and the process had the effect of undermining moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Kerry was widely attacked, especially in Israel.

Kerry isn't the problem today, however. Over the past week, he has been crafting a cease-fire plan that seeks to stabilize Gaza under the leadership of Abbas and the moderate Palestinian Authority. After an initial truce, negotiators would gather in Egypt for talks about Gaza's future. Abbas would select the members of the Palestinian delegation, and the authority (with the support of the international community) would have overall responsibility for the rehabilitation of Gaza. The Palestinian delegation is already in Cairo, waiting for the talks to begin. It's headed by Azzam al-Ahmad, a leader of Abbas's Fatah movement and the person who brokered the reconciliation agreement in April between Fatah and Hamas.

Israel wants quiet in Gaza, but it seems undecided now whether it wants to negotiate a broader peace agreement. The Israelis agreed to a cease-fire Monday, and there were news reports that the country had agreed to an additional 72-hour truce. But the cabinet had reportedly decided over the weekend against joining the Cairo talks. Hopefully, Netanyahu will seek a broader deal that might reduce the likelihood of future conflict.

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The thrust of Kerry's new plan is to leverage Hamas's unity pact with Fatah and its pledge to transfer authority in Gaza to the authority. As a first step, the Palestinian Authority and its U.S.-trained security service would assume responsibility for policing the Rafah crossing from Gaza into Egypt, as well as the passages into Israel. That's a big deal, as it would give Abbas's security chief, Majid Faraj, control over the most strategic ground in Gaza.

The authority would begin paying the salaries of Palestinian civil servants in Gaza, assuming that the details could be worked out. The agreement might also move toward disarmament of all terrorist groups in Gaza by building on a promise Hamas made in a 2011 unity plan that the Palestinian Authority's security service would be the only armed force in Gaza. This would also uphold Abbas's insistence on "one government, one law, one gun."

In all these ways, Kerry is now headed in the right direction — away from strengthening Hamas and toward empowering the moderates on whom hopes for a more stable and secure Gaza depend.

The question is whether Netanyahu has the courage and political clout to move in the same direction, toward a new framework for Gaza, rather than return to the battered status quo ante — with continued Hamas rule and the recurring wars that some Israelis have described as "mowing the lawn."

It will be hard for the Israeli leader to embrace this new vision for Gaza because he would have to reverse his earlier opposition to the Fatah-Hamas reconciliation agreement, which he denounced as an embrace by Abbas of Hamas's terrorist ideology. Netanyahu would also have to be prepared to truly open Gaza to the free flow of people and goods in return for disarming the terrorist groups. Netanyahu faces a real leadership dilemma. He has prevailed over Hamas and its tunnels in Gaza, albeit at a terrible cost to Palestinian civilians. But his popularity at home is dropping, with his approval ratings down 20 points from their peak of 82 percent when he ordered the ground invasion. Though Netanyahu may not realize it, he needs Kerry's diplomatic help to consolidate the gains of the war. The question is whether the Israeli leader has the boldness to leverage his military success in a way that brings greater lasting security for Israelis, and reduces the Palestinian suffering in Gaza.

Israel's continued refusal to attend the peace talks in Cairo would mean returning to the status quo ante and waiting for the next round of fighting. It would be a mistake. Netanyahu could open new opportunities by treating Abbas as a real partner — starting by helping him to gain control of Gaza. Netanyahu can go down in history as the statesman who achieved greater security for Israelis as well as a measure of dignity for Arabs.

History shows us that in the aftermath of Arab-Israeli wars, there are rare opportunities for diplomacy. Kerry, stung by the criticism that his peacemaking was helping Hamas a week ago, appears ready for such a creative moment now. Is Netanyahu?

Financial Times – August 4, 2014

Arab Turmoil Makes Israel Reckless and Complacent

By Gideon Rachman

When last week I saw a White House spokesman say that Israel's bombing of a UN school was "totally indefensible", I briefly thought that I had witnessed something new. Surely the Americans had never before been that strong in condemning Israel? But a colleague with a longer memory reminded me that Israel's siege of west Beirut in 1982 had provoked President Ronald Reagan (yes, Reagan) to

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telephone Menachem Begin, the Israeli prime minister, and accuse him of perpetrating a "holocaust". There is nothing new about Israeli military action killing hundreds of civilians. There is also nothing new about the international outcry it provokes.

In the 32 years since Reagan called Begin, the Berlin Wall has fallen, the Soviet Union has collapsed, China has been transformed, apartheid has ended and the internet has revolutionised communication. But the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has rolled ever onwards – with two intifadas, three invasions of Gaza, further wars in Lebanon and innumerable failed peace initiatives.

While the Israelis and the Palestinians remain locked in bloody conflict, however, the region around them is changing fast. For the moment, those changes are actually making Israel less vulnerable to international condemnation. In the longer term, shifts in global power suggest that Israel's future will be bleak, particularly if it does not make peace with the Palestinians.

For now, Israel is benefiting from the fact that the Arab world, which has acted as the chief advocate for the Palestinians in previous conflicts, is ripping itself apart. Syria and Iraq are engulfed by conflict, and Libya is in turmoil. The Egyptian government itself has killed hundreds of supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo and regards Hamas as an offshoot of the Brotherhood. Saudi Arabia, the other big power in the Arab world, is also deeply hostile to Hamas.

Outside the region, geopolitical shifts are taking the edge off the anti-Israel backlash. The governments of Russia, India and China are deeply concerned about the threat of radical Islam at home. Last week more than 100 people were killed in the Chinese province of Xinjiang, after fighting provoked by Muslim separatists. Russia also has 20m Muslim citizens and, after waging two brutal wars in Chechnya, is paranoid about Islamist militancy. Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, is a Hindu nationalist, who himself is accused of connivance in anti-Muslim violence.

These political shifts are not reflected in official diplomacy. China, Russia and India voted in favour of an investigation of possible Israeli war crimes in Gaza, at the recent session of the UN Human Rights council. (EU countries abstained and the US voted against.) But there is something formulaic about the condemnation. An Israeli official says that in high-level meetings between Israeli and Chinese leaders, the Chinese spent "roughly 20 seconds" on Palestine. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, and President Vladimir Putin of Russia get on famously.

Yet while Israel's traditional enemies are becoming less hostile, its allies are becoming less friendly. The relationship between Mr Netanyahu and US President Barack Obama is chilly – and some Israeli officials are openly contemptuous of John Kerry, the US secretary of state. Opinion polls in the US also suggest that young people are much less sympathetic to Israel than older groups are. However, such shifts may take decades to filter through into US policy. Israel's position in Washington is deeply entrenched. The US Senate voted unanimously to support the Gaza assault and the Obama administration has combined its condemnation of Israeli actions with continued aid and arms sales.

Many European leaders are openly appalled by Israel's actions in Gaza and Europe's large Muslim population has been at the forefront of anti-Israel demonstrations. But Europe's Muslims are an often marginalised and unpopular group. Manuel Valls, the French prime minister, has condemned anti-Semitic demonstrations which he says have fused the "Palestinian cause, jihadism, the detestation of Israel and the hatred of France". Any such fusion helps Israel because it reduces sympathy for the Palestinians.

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Israel has long been concerned about the possibility of EU sanctions. But the measures under discussion, for example banning imports from illegal Israeli settlements, would be largely symbolic in their impact. Surveying this global picture, Israel seems to have decided that it can afford to ignore international condemnation of the Gaza war. That calculation may prove correct, as far as the current conflict is concerned.

But the political shifts that are now helping Israel look much more ominous in the long run. Turmoil in the Arab world may briefly have produced a constellation of forces that is helpful to Israel. But that situation could easily change. And some of the rising forces in the region – most obviously Isis in Iraq – make Hamas look moderate.

More broadly, a relative decline in US power is bad news for a country that is, in cultural terms, an outpost of the west. America's willingness to entangle itself in Middle Eastern conflicts is declining. That means that, long term, Israel's security can only be guaranteed by achieving peace with its neighbours. Reducing Gaza to rubble and killing hundreds of civilians every few years makes that prospect ever more distant.

But a security-obsessed Israeli government, backed by an ever more rightwing public, seems to have given up thinking about the long term.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
www.centerpeace.org

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/17/2008 7:12:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Kansas City, MO 07/17/08

Hello All,
Just off the phone with our tracker Jacob who is on the ground in Kansas City, MO today. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sepeatedly says "we've succeed in Iraq"
- Says we need more troops in Afghanistan
- Says we "should fund" stem cell research, though hopefully skin cell research will make this debate "academic"

Kansas City, MO - McCain Town Hall Meeting 07/17/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

BACKGROUND DETAIL
* 1000 – 1500 peeps
* Exceptionally enthusiastic crowd
* A 'Straight Talk TOWN HALL' sign
* Large American flag, big even for a McCain eventt
* Another sing that says, 'KANSAS CITY WELCOMES JOHN MCCAIN'
* Opened with prayer, followed by pledge of allegiance

Opening Remarks

- question of what kind of change are we having in DC, the right change, not the wrong change. not rhetoric.
- starts with gas prices. you need a break from the gas tax. it hurts the lowest-income Americans first
- Congress should say today that we're going to lift the ban on offshore oil drilling.
- we should get it done immediately. and i understand some states don't want to do that.
- energy is an enviro issue, economic issue and security issue.
- we need exploration and exploitation of our own fuels. but we also need altnernative.
- Nuclear power is crucial. it's safe.
- Obama opposes nuclear power. he should change his official seal to 'no we can't' or 'no we won't'
- We need to keep taxes low
- we need to talk about health care, education.
- but more so, Iraq and Afghanistan-- it's popped up a lot in the last few days. Dems like Reid and Obama all said the war was lost. After 9/11 America was on the brink of defeat and we were about to lose a conflict and lose a war. And i was trying to secure the GOP nomination. And i said we needed a new strategy and many pundits said my political ambitions were at an end.
- Petraeus's strategy has succeeded. even though the success is fragile and could be easily reversed if we did what Obama wanted, I'm confident we'll win this war.
- obama has never asked to sit down with Petraues, he's been to Iraq once, he's never been to Afghanistan, he's never acknowledged Iraq strategy has succeeded.
- I was very interested that Obama announced his strategies BEFORE he went. I usually issue my policy statements when i get back. I hope he'll sit down and understand what's at stake here.
- What happens in Iraq affects Afghanistan. Yes we need more troops in Afghanistan.
- "I'm happy to tell you we have succeeded in Iraq" and unless we reverse this winning strategy, we'll win this war. It can't be an artificial timetable for withdrawal.
- I can inspire Americans to serve a cause greater than themselves. I have that record. Many years ago, I was in a prison camp in North Vietnam, and they said I could go home early because my dad happened to be an admiral. but code of conduct said otherwise. so i put my country first.

Question & Answer

- 1Q) Obama has a record of protecting sex offenders. What would you do to protect America against onslaught of a sexualized culture?
    - MCCAIN: I don't know of that record of Obama's and I believe him for not having that. But technology makes this a more dangerous world. Internet child pornography is enabled. Human trafficking is increased. But it also comes back to the family and the parents. And i will do everything to address this terrible issue. I am proud of my record of protecting the rights of the unborn. This is a great difference between myself and Obama. Obama voted against a ban on partial-birth abortions, "that's a hideous procedure"
    -

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- 2Q) I lost my nephew in Iraq. I don't want it to be in vain. How will you achieve the goals of winning in Iraq from a Dem congress?
    - MCCAIN: i see your nephew was killed in fallujah; that was one of the great battles in American history.
    - I believe I can convince my colleagues based on the facts on the ground. the facts on the ground are clear. A lot of pundits and Dem politicians said the war was lost, but most Americans are smart know that we are succeeding adn "we have succeeded in Iraq" rather than the losing strategy saying we'll withdraw. theyre the same people who said we would fail. they were wrong then and wrong now. I know Americans' frustrations wanting to get out. I want to get out too but with honor.
    - As soon as i do that, i will stop this wasteful pork-barrel spending in Congress.

- yay for MO national guard and vets.
- MCCAIN: I remind you it doesn't take a lot of skill to get shot down
- 3Q) How do you feel on stem cell research?
    - MCCAIN: We should fund it. There are now new technology advances called skin cell research, which I hope will make this discussion an academic one. so we wouldnt have to do stem cell research. But at the moment I support stem cell research because of its potential for helping people.

- 4Q) Cost of health care is high, but govt too involved. What can we do to pressure our govt OUT of health care?
    - MCCAIN: 6 months ago, health care wouldve been top issue. but gas prices, etc have taken over. we've seen this movie before, it was called HillaryCare. We're not going to do it again. That's what Obama wants to do. WE need outcome-based care. give every Am family $5k credit, community health centers, GAPs because there are "uninsurables." We need to have state and fed govt establish risk pools. Also wellness and fitness; there's an alarming increase in obesity in youth.

- 5Q) my child was stolen in a fraudulent adoption and we've been fighting corrupt courts to get him back. I hear youre against court corruption and corrupted lobbies, but also that you want to loosen standards on adoption. What are you going to do?
    - MCCAIN: I'd be happy to examine your situation. I'm a STRONG believe in adoption, want to make it very possible for women who face a difficult situation. I will continue my advocacy for the unborn and the born. I'd be happy to see what i can ascertain given the facts of your case.
    - FOLLOWUP: What can you do to help support natural parents' rights in the process of adoption?
    - MCCAIN: I have supported faith-based organizations and making proceedings go as quickly as possible. my record is very clear on my support of adoption because it's vital for those who support the rights of the unborn.

- 6Q) why not drill for oil domestically?
    - MCCAIN: Gridlock in Washington. we need to lift the ban on OCS drilling. And to devleop batteries for cars. I support alternative fuels. jokes "In iowa i used to have a glass of ethanol every morning before breakfast" but i dont think we should subsidize it. BTW i lost iowa. France reprocesses spent nuclear fuel. Why is it Obama opposes that? I call this the Lexington project. there's green technologies out there. It'll be a boon for America's economy. we have to eliminate the gridlock in DC and demand people put their country first.
    - FOLLOWUP: Like health care, trying to figure out a universal solution isnt going to work. So i agree with you.

- 7Q) What will you do for bipartisanship when youre in office?
    - MCCAIN: I have a record of it. Obama has the most extreme record. 1st priority is setting priorites. 2nd is reforming government, restore trust and confidence. we have a broken SS system, broken Medicare. I want to be President to do the hard things.

- 8Q) We need leadership at the top level to address educaiton, drop out rates.
    - MCCAIN: You're right. Yesterday i talked to the NAACP, that wonderful and venerated org, about education. I believe in choice and competition, NCLB was a good beginning that needs to be fixed. I believe in vouchers and charter schools. They're trying to eliminate charter school system in DC that thousands of Afr-American parents are trying to get their kids into. NYC and NOLA are great examples of charter schools. we need to reward good teachers and find bad ones new jobs.

- 9Q) How are we going to make sure we take care of vets when they come home?
    - MCCAIN: Technology allows us to get people from battlefield to care faster. But there are long lines. "This is a tough war," a lot of PTSD will need to be treated.

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- 10Q) Trying to bring his fiance over from the Phillipines but I can't get her over here.
    - MCCAIN: Majority of our office is vets' and immigration issues. In terms of the overall implications of your question, "this meeting is adjourned." We tried before and failed. We have to secure the borders first and then comprehensive immigration reform. We need tamper-proof biometrics docs. And employers that still hire these people should be prosecuted. And we have to treat people here in a human fashion. And another thing: on Mexican border, there's a tremendous battle between Mexican govt and drug dealers. It's not just an immigration problem, it's a drug problem. Through Amerita, we'll for the first time try to stop the threat of these drug cartels. Drug cartels are sending these things in that kills are kids.

- 11Q) [Young Republicans shirt] It seems like we've come to full-out hatred between liberals and conservatives. How will you restore unity
    - MCCAIN: I worry about that a lot. there is a poison atmosphere politically in the USA. Too often we question people's patriotism because we disagree with them. I respect Obama, and his success and his getting so many people into politics. I will run a respectful campaign. When I go to the floor of the Senate and I vigorously disagree, I don't question their patriotism because I might have to work across the aisle with them and it's inappropriate. And we need it now more than ever. Congress only misses a recess and a pay raise and right now what's going on is not healthy for America because we'll have to work together. I will be the President of all people, and that's how I will convince Americans to stop acting this way.

- This state is important, i'll need you. I'm the underdog. They've counted me out several times, they've buried me. But i'll be back. Thank you and God bless USA.

--
Sara DuBois
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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/2/2014 8:40:27 AM
Subject: Given Scant Information, Activists Struggle to Fight New Pipeline in Iowa

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Given Scant Information, Activists Struggle to Fight New Pipeline in Iowa

Mara Kardas-Nelson, Truthout: Farmers and environmental activists are trying to fight a proposed pipeline that would bring Bakken crude through Iowa. With little information from the company or the government, however, they're left in the dark - and are struggling to organize across ideological divides.

Read the Article

The National Security State Has Filled Us With Fear but Not Improved Our Well-Being

Tom Engelhardt, Haymarket Books: None of the frameworks we normally call on to understand the national security state capture the irrationality, genuine inanity and actual madness that lie at its heart. Perhaps reimagining what has developed in these last decades as a faith-based system - a new national religion - would help.

Read the Excerpt

Truthout Interviews on Domestic Abuse, State Violence and the Case of Marissa Alexander

Ted Asregadoo, Truthout: Tasasha Henderson, Monica Trinidad and Ash Stephens talk about domestic abuse, state violence and the upcoming trial of Marissa Alexander - a Florida woman who may face up to 60 years in prison because of the state's mandatory minimum sentencing laws.

Watch the Interview

This Is What Happens When You Criticize Teach For America

George Joseph, The Nation: While Teach For America has failed at providing the nation with many long-term educators, it has provided a stream of political operatives who have gone on to help fuel their former organization's expansion and codify its narrow, corporate vision of education reform.

Read the Article

You Just Got "Richsplained"

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

The Time to Act Is Now: IPCC Issues "Final Word" on Climate Change

Read the Article at The Guardian

The Pentagon's Plans for a Spy Service to Rival the CIA Have Been Pared Back

Read the Article at The Washington Post

States Ditch Electronic Voting Machines

Read the Article at The Hill

Exxon Fighting to Keep Public From Seeing 900,000 Pages of Documents

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Marjorie E. Wood, OtherWords: According to Steve Siebold - a multimillionaire and author of the book *How Rich People Think* - billionaires like Walmart founder Sam Walton's affluent heirs deserve their wealth because they think, feel and act differently than ordinary people.

Read the Article

Plastics Chemical Linked to Changes in Baby Boys' Genitals

Lindsey Konkel, Environmental Health News: Boys exposed in the womb to high levels of di-isononyl phthalate - a chemical found in vinyl products - are born with slightly altered genital development, according to new research.

Read the Article

Telling the Stories of Victims in Indiana Serial Killings

Ava Thompson Greenwell, The Chicago Reporter: "What will it take for African-American female crime victims to get the national news coverage they deserve? Perhaps more African-American women journalism managers are needed."

Read the Article

Japan's Natural Perils and Promises, in the Wake of Fukushima

Nassrine Azimi, The Asia-Pacific Journal: If natural disasters are simply unavoidable, then for a country smaller than the state of California and with more than three times the population, the presence of nuclear power plants seems, to say the least, a little akin to playing Russian roulette.

Read the Article

Fear Factor: Ebola and the Politics of Paranoia

Nicholas Powers, The Indypendent: Ebola will ultimately be contained or tragically burn itself out among the poor. It is not a species threat. Yet the waves of terror sweeping across the world have already moved us rightward, reinforcing a conservative vision across the divide between the Third and First Worlds.

Read the Article

in Oil Spill Lawsuit
Read the Article at InsideClimate News

Probe of an FBI Agent's Misconduct Leads to the Release of Prisoners Convicted of Drug Charges
Read the Article at The Washington Post

Federal Judge: Washington Redskins Team Can Sue Five Native Americans
Read the Article at MSNBC

Angela Davis | From Michael Brown to Assata Shakur, the Racist State of the US Persists
Read the Article at The Guardian

This week in Speakout:

Gail Smith writes about the urgent need to approve emergency clemency for Niurca Torres; **Norman Solomon and Marcy Wheeler** report on a new campaign starting with a billboard in Seattle near Amazon headquarters questioning why the CIA is on Amazon's cloud; **Lamont Lilly** suggests the police report on 17-year-old Lennon Lacy's death conceals a lynching in North Carolina; **Robert Bruce Ware** dissects racism as it relates to state violence and "open carry" gun rights; **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial** and **Suffrage Wagon News Channel** announce a partnership to observe November 15 as the "Night of Terror" campaign against women's suffrage activists; **Reprieve** reports that 76 members of Congress have demanded to see tapes of the abusive force-feeding practice at Guantánamo Bay; activists from **Gas Free Seneca** put their bodies on the line to protect Seneca Lake and the Finger Lakes from a gas storage facility built by an out-of-state corporation; **Tony Pereira** excoriates a California Department of Food and Agriculture plan to allow pesticide spraying anywhere, any time; **Tamanna Rahman and Brendan Smith** talk about how nurses have become frontline climate workers; and more.

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From: "Karen Pierce" <piercekl@law.georgetown.edu>
To: "All Students" <allstudents@law.georgetown.edu>
"All Faculty and Staff" <AllFacultyandStaff@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 3/3/2015 2:25:16 PM
Subject: March Wellness Newsletter

March 2015 Wellness Newsletter



Hello Everyone!
It's great to know that warmer weather is right around the corner. Our days are getting brighter with Daylight Savings Time starting March 8th and spring's arrival on the 20th. I hope you'll get out and enjoy the city as the weather gets nicer. March is **National Nutrition Month**. Check out some facts and tips about healthy eating in the pages below. **Sleep Awareness Week** falls around spring break, so we hope that added incentive will help you get the ZZZ's that you need. We will also be bringing awareness to the **ABA-inspired National Mental Health Day for Law Students** later this month, and you'll find the details below.
I hope you have a wonderful spring break. In the Jesuit tradition of care for the whole person, I challenge you to stop and smell the flowers, take some deep breaths and put yourself first. Rest, rejuvenate, laugh, and play.
Yours in Health,
Karen Pierce
Director of Wellness Promotion

On Wednesday, March 25th we will be bringing awareness to the **ABA-inspired National Mental Health Day for Law Students.** Join us in the chapel area at **3:30 pm** for a bowl of ice cream. We'll have general information about mental health resources and counseling services available to you. Other events taking place that day will include:

12:10 pm **Meditation** in Gewirz 109
12:45 pm **Walk** to the Botanical Gardens (45 minutes). Meet on the 2nd floor near the guard desk at New Jersey Avenue.
1:00 pm **Yoga**, Studio 3, Sport & Fitness Center
5:00 pm **Yoga**, Studio 3, Sport & Fitness Center

As National Mental Health Day draws closer, it is a good time to remind our community that we have confidential counseling services here on campus. The **Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)** office is located in Gewirz room L102-G**.** To schedule an appointment, call (202) 687-6985. The office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. After hours and on weekends, a CAPS clinician can be reached by calling (202) 444-7243.

The D.C. Bar Lawyer Assistance Program offers off-campus counseling. Students may receive up to 12 counseling sessions free. For more information, please call (202) 347-3131 or visit the D.C. Bar Lawyers Assistance Program website . Our own **wellness web page** offers some valuable resources that you can check out at http://www.law.georgetown.edu/campus-life/health-wellness/center-for-wellness-promotion/index.cfm. From our page, you can link to LawLifeline, an online resource for law school mental health. Take advantage of the self-evaluator tool on the Georgetown page. http://www.lawlifeline.org/lawgeorgetown .

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Below are some food facts to think about...

Fast Food Facts

Did You Know . . .

- Quizno's large classic sub has 3,550 milligrams of sodium? That's equal to 13 single-serving bags of potato chips (KREM.com).
- Papa John's Meat Pizza for One has more calories than six Twinkies (KREM.com)?
- One serving of Panera's New England Clam Chowder has more saturated fat than an entire package of bacon (KREM.com)?
- You're probably underestimating how many calories you eat at Chipotle? Studies show the average customer underestimates calories by 21%, thinking they eat about 630 calories in a burrito when in reality it's closer to 900 calories (Public Health Nutrition).
- One Double Quarter-Pounder with Cheese from McDonald's has over 35% of the average 2000 calories suggested for the average person to consume in a day (thedailymeal.com)?

Sweet Tooth

Did You Know . .

- Reducing your added sugar intake can also reduce your risk of heart disease? In a study of sugar's effects on the heart, participants who consumed more than a fifth of their calories from added sugars doubled their risk of heart disease (WZZM13.com).
- The average U.S. adult consumes about 22 teaspoons of added sugars a day? That's close to four times the recommended total for women and double for men (WZZM13.com).
- Chocolate can decrease your risk of a heart attack? Chocolate contains phytochemicals, which help lower blood pressure, reduce inflammation, and increase HDL (good cholesterol). Dark chocolate is recommended, as it contains more phytochemicals than milk chocolate (medicalxpress.com).
- Chocolate does NOT cause acne? Acne does not appear to be caused by any specific food, but rather by acne-causing bacteria, an excess of skin oil, and a buildup of dead cells within the pores (medicalxpress.com).
- White chocolate is not chocolate at all? It's a confection made from sugar, vanilla, cream, and cocoa butter, but does not contain any chocolate (medicalxpress.com).

Watch What You Eat!

Did You Know . . .

- Eating foods rich in fiber can reduce your blood sugar? It can also help keep you full, enhance regularity, prevent heart disease, and keep your body free from cholesterol or toxic build-up. Whole fruits, vegetables, whole and unprocessed grains, root vegetables, nuts, seeds, beans, and legumes are all rich in fiber (onegreenplanet.org).
- Artificial trans fats are not suitable for human consumption? Producing them involves high pressure, heat, and hydrogen gas in the presence of a metal catalyst. It also drastically increases your risk of heart disease (care2.com).
- Eggs can be among the healthiest foods you can eat? Eggs were unfairly demonized because the yolk is high in cholesterol. Studies have shown that the cholesterol from eggs doesn't raise blood cholesterol in a majority of people. New studies also show eggs have no effect on heart disease on otherwise healthy individuals. The truth is that eggs are rich in nutrients and most of those nutrients are found in the yolk (care2.com).
- Organic and gluten-free foods are not necessarily healthier? You can still make plenty of junk foods out of organic ingredients. And while naturally gluten-free food is fine, processed gluten-free foods are often made with ingredients that are more harmful than their gluten-containing counterparts (care2.com).
- Eating less sodium could help our entire country? Reducing the sodium Americans eat by 1,200 mg per day could save up to $20 billion a year in medical costs (fitness.gov).

National Sleep Awareness Week

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As law students we all know how important sleep is, though it seems like all too often we don't rest nearly as much as we know we should. National Sleep Awareness Week is March 2-8, conveniently running right up to spring break when we can all catch some needed shut-eye and recharge our batteries.
Sleep has all sorts of health benefits, as if you needed another reason to hit the hay!

- Insomnia is a risk factor for a wide variety of health problems, including anxiety, depression, heart attack, rheumatoid arthritis, and osteoporosis (Journal of Sleep Research).
- Sleep can help you eat better! Just one night of no sleep increases cravings for calorie-dense foods, like pizza and donuts, over healthier alternatives (University of California, Berkeley).
- A lack of sleep can lead to depression. A study of people diagnosed with depression or anxiety were more likely to sleep less than six hours a night (Sleep in America).

A lack of sleep has led to many disastrous effects!

- The explosion at the nuclear facility at Chernobyl, widely considered the worst disaster of its kind, was partly caused by engineers that had been working for over 13 hours straight.
- The third mate at the helm of the Exxon-Valdez oil spill was allegedly asleep at the wheel at the time of the crash after having only taken a "catnap" in the previous 16 hours.
- The meltdown at Three Mile Island, the worst nuclear incident on American soil, was attributed to human error on the part of shift workers who were sleep deprived.

So how can you get better at catching some ZZZ's?

- Having consistency in your schedule (consistency with the time you get up in the morning, meal schedules, and bed times) has been shown to lead to better sleep (Journal of Gerontology: Series B).
- Make sure you get good sleep regularly, recovery sleep does not improve brain functioning (American Journal of Physiology-Endocrinology and Metabolism).
- Don’t go to bed hungry, but don’t eat a big meal right before getting into bed. If you want a bedtime snack, keep it bland and light (Harvard Medical).
- If you can’t fall asleep after 15 to 20 minutes, get out of bed and go into another room. Do something relaxing, such as reading quietly with a dim light (Harvard Medical).



Do you struggle with **managing your time**? Our CAPS counselors recently presented a workshop to discuss strategies for better time management and avoiding procrastination. You can watch the program at http://apps.law.georgetown.edu/webcasts/eventDetail.cfm?eventID=2561.

Thought for the Day:
“What to do with a mistake –
recognize it,
admit it,
learn from it,
forget it.”
~ Dean Smith

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From:	"Jesse Lehrich" <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date:	6/1/2015 2:05:49 PM
Subject:	June 1st Nightly Press Traffic Summary

June 1st Nightly Press Traffic Summary

- The New York Times (Maggie Haberman) is doing an online story for tomorrow about Clinton, Sanders, and O'Malley meeting with the American Federation for Teachers to court their endorsement.
- Newsweek (Emily Cadei) is doing a story on campaigns using Medium that will highlight Brian Fallon and John Podesta's posts that helped push back on the Clinton Cash narrative.
- CNN is releasing a new national poll tomorrow that will show a slight dip in Hillary Clinton's numbers. They are attempting to also fold into the story the Des Moines Register poll from today to make the case that the race is tightening, though the same poll was viewed by other (including NYT) as a sign of Clinton's continued strength.
- San Francisco Chronicle is doing a story on Hillary Clinton indicating that Citizens United will serve as a litmus test for her Supreme Court nominees.
- Washington Post (Roz Helderman) is working on a piece about the Clinton Foundation accepting donations from Qatar. They've spoken to a workers' rights leader who asserted that at the very least, nobody should accept money from Qatar without calling them out for their unacceptable standards for workers. The Foundation is handling most of the pushback, but we highlighted a speech she gave in Qatar where she did offer criticism on this front.
- Maggie Haberman is working on a story about Marc Elias working with Robby Mook on voting rights lawsuits 2 years ago. We are pushing back on the notion that this was a coordinated political effort to help Hillary Clinton, noting that fighting back against voter suppression has long been a priority of both HRC and the Democratic Party at large.
- The New York Post is writing on Hillary Clinton speaking about moving to phase out coal at today's fundraiser
- Business Insider is doing a story about Martin O'Malley attacking Hillary over her lack of a policy plan to rein in Wall St. and the big banks.
- Other stories that are still outstanding include:
    - Jonathan Martin on mobilization vs. persuasion
    - Anne Gearan on Super Saver program
    - Anna Palmer on female donors
    - Ruby Cramer on Robby Mook
    - Olivia Knox on White House/Clinton camp coordination
    - Laura Meckler on domestic policy rollout this summer

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From:	"Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	"Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	10/28/2008 4:29:07 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] MMR: McCain/Palin Interview - "disapointed in Paulson", Ridge makes rounds - "questionable associations" reflect poor judgment, Giuliani puts Obama in "Marxist Group", Harwood/Scarborough concede Obama not socialist

Media Monitoring Report:

Highlights:

1. MSNBC: Giuliani - Barack Obama Started the Socialist Conversation With Joe the Plumber
   GIULIANI: 'The campaign didn't raise this. Barack Obama raised it. He's the one who told Joe The Plumber I want to spread the wealth, he's the one who said I'm gonna raise capital gains tax whether it increases revenue or not. He is the one in his book he says that he deliberately wanted to associate with certain groups of people. He mentions belonging to that group, Marxist professors, things like that."
2. MSNBC: John Harwood States Firmly that McCain Supports all Proposals He Deems as Socialism; Scarborough Concedes- It is not Socialism
   HARWOOD: John McCain favors redistribution, okay? He favors a progressive tax system, he favors refundable healthcare tax credits to people who don't pay taxes, which is what he's attacking Barack Obama for, his solution for social security is to take money that's scheduled to go in benefits for rich people and give it to people who make less money...
3. CBS: Tom Ridge touts McCain's moderate appeals in Pennsylvania, Obama's far left policies to redistribute wealth. Supports V.P. choice of Palin and ignores Ted Stevens effect
   TOM RIDGE: And I think, particularly if you take a look at a battleground state like Pennsylvania, they don't drive their political cars in the far left lane. I think that on some of these issues, Senator Obama, as Senator Clinton pointed out is probably even outside the mainstream of his own party. And if you get a President Obama with a Senator Reid, and a Speaker Pelosi, and a vice president who says that your it's your patriotic duty to pay more taxes. I don't think Pennsylvanians think that they're under taxed. I don't think they are prepared to pay more taxes, and they certainly don't want a Supreme Court with activist judges who take upon the responsibility to bring economic justice, with redistributing the wealth.
4. FNC: Ridge uses Rashid Khalidi to question Obama's judgment, philosophy
   TOM RIDGE: It is clear that during his young political career he has associated himself with people out of the mainstream of America thought, mainstream of the Democratic Party, extremists, whether he was dealing with the Minister in Church, the domestic terrorist Ayers, now this revelation. Bottom line it suggests, certainly, questionable judgment. Does it reflect a certain philosophy? Is it part of a philosophy that suggests that you got to have a activist judges, that view redistribution of wealth as a matter of economic justice? It just raises a lot of unanswered questions and that's one of the challenges throughout this entire campaign. We have a very gifted speaker, but untested in any significant way, totally inexperienced. But as we learned as we grew up, questionable associations, you got to be careful who you're hanging around with.
5. CNBC: McCain says he's "disappointed" by Paulson, wants to buy up bad home loans, and uses Biden's comments on national security to warn against untested, unqualified Obama
   JOHN MCCAIN: I've been tested, to start with. Second of all, Senator Biden was right, Senator Biden was correct. If Sarah or I had said that, could you imagine the reaction? Scaring Americans, etc. But Senator Biden had it right, this is an untested individual, who has been wrong on the things he's been tested about. He still refuses to acknowledge that he was wrong on the surge. When Russia committed aggression against Georgia, he asked Georgia to exercise restraint. He said he would sit down with the Castro brothers, Chavez, Ahmadinejad without any preconditions, thereby legitimizing their radical, aggressive, anti-American, anti-peace positions. So I agree with Joe Biden, I couldn't have said it better myself first, but he's right. This is an inexperienced person who so far, has exercised bad judgment about national security.

Clips:

Highlight #1

Giuliani: Barack Obama Started the Socialist Conversation With Joe the Plumber (MSNBC, Morning Joe, 10/28/08)

JOE SCARBOROUGH: The problem though of course, he has a mixed message. He talks about more

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government programs while he talks about cutting spending. This is a guy that calls Barack Obama a socialist for wanting to let Bush's tax cuts lapse, he opposed Bush's tax cuts-

RUDY GIULIANI: No, no, no he doesn't call him a socialist because he wants to let Bush's tax cuts lapse. –

SCARBOROUGH: The whole campaign is suggesting that-

GIULIANI: The campaign didn't raise this. Barack Obama raised it. He's the one who told Joe The Plumber I want to spread the wealth, he's the one who said I'm gonna raise capital gains tax whether it increases revenue or not. He is the one in his book he says that he deliberately wanted to associate with certain groups of people. He mentions belonging to that group, Marxist professors, things like that.

[…]

SCARBOROUGH: There is a lot of fear and loathing going on out there in middle America. I know because I get tons of emails suggesting that the world as we know it will come to an end if Barack Obama is elected President. You're a guy who's worked with Democrats and Republicans. You had to be a Republican Mayor of New York. If Obama wins its not the end of this country as we know it is it? He's not a socialist is he? It's not the worst thing that could possibly happen. …

GIULIANI: It's much more important that we elect John McCain. … No matter who we elect, this country is going to move on. We are a great country, we all have different views and the reality is I think I'm pretty darn right that McCain makes a big difference for this country. … But the reality is the country can sustain anything.

Highlight#2
John Harwood States Firmly that McCain Supports all Proposals He Deems as Socialism; Scarborough Concedes- It is not Socialism (MSNBC'S "Morning Joe", 10/28/08)
WILLIE GEIST: Now (the Redistribution of wealth issue) just fell into his lap, because of something Barack Obama said, why haven't they been seizing on this earlier? [..]

JOE SCARBOROUGH: [...]They really should have seized on it earlier, [...]the second Obama talked about spreading the wealth, they should have been a lot more aggressive, you've got- what is your theme? And you go with one theme and you hammer it home, especially when you have all of this- the clutter out there, and they haven't done that...

JOHN HARWOOD: It may be though guys,[...]because they knew about this ahead of time but an earlier point in the campaign, when they weren't as needy as they are now, thought it was ridiculous, because it is ridiculous.

SCARBOROUGH: What's ridiculous?

HARWOOD: This whole redistributive change stuff.

SCARBOROUGH: That's ridiculous to you?

HARWOOD: John McCain favors redistribution, okay? He favors a progressive tax system, he favors refundable healthcare tax credits to people who don't pay taxes, which is what he's attacking Barack Obama for, his solution for social security is to take money that's scheduled to go in benefits for rich people and give it to people who make less money...

SCARBOROUGH: Okay, you're talking about John McCain and [...]

HARWOOD: I'm talking about John McCain and what I'm saying is the exact charge that he's making against Barack Obama- that he favors policies that take more from people at the top and give to people at the bottom- he also favors.

SCARBOROUGH: Okay, if you want to go down that path, you can say that John McCain also is one of the only two republicans that voted against this tax, the Bush tax cuts, which he's now championing [...]

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HARWOOD: Yes, yes! Which is part of the incoherence problem that you mentioned earlier, saying he was against it and now he's for it.

SCARBOROUGH: But if this is the tack they've decided to take they should have weighed in, and I agree with you completely[...]

HARWOORD: You're right

SCARBOROUGH: But I will tell you, I am personally concerned by any politician that talks about the redistribution of wealth- that the Warren court was not radical enough, I'm concerned when somebody tells a guy that wants to start a small business that he should be for spreading the wealth- these are things that cause concerns, not just conservative- fiscal conservatives [...]

HARWOOD: It's a matter of degree

SCARBOROUGH: [...]McCain, in the end, is just not the man to fight back against this message is he?[...] There would be better fiscal conservatives to carry this message forward, right?

MARK HALPERIN: There's no question. [...] But isn't it the case, that if one of these guys is president for eight years, after eight years, if Barack Obama's president, the government would be substantially bigger, than if John McCain were president for eight years [...]

HARWOOD: I would say bigger, I don't know how substantially bigger. [...]When the candidate who's accusing him of wanting to redistribute, is also proposing the same thing, it sort of sounds like just words.
[...]

Highlight #3
Tom Ridge touts McCain's moderate appeals in Pennsylvania, Obama's far left policies to redistribute wealth. Supports V.P. choice of Palin and ignores Ted Stevens effect (CBS, 10/27/08, 7:11am)
MAGGIE RODRIGUEZ: Last week you said McCain would be fairing much better in your state had he chosen you as a running mate. Sarah Palin certainly is trying really hard. She's been there eleven times, four more times today. Do you think she's been a drag on the ticket in your state?

GOV. TOM RIDGE: Well first of all, I said that Senator McCain chose a vice presidential candidate not to win one state, but someone who had appeal across the board in all 50 states. It would be like saying, would Senator Obama be doing even better in Pennsylvania if he had Ed Rendell as a running mate, I suspect he would. So, at the end of the day, it's really not about vice presidential candidates it's about presidential candidates, and John McCain's record of reform, his record of bi-partisanship, his willingness to bring fiscal discipline to Washington, and to cut taxes is a message that resonates across Pennsylvania.

[…]

RODRIGUEZ: Yesterday Alaska Republican Senator Ted Stevens was convicted on corruption. Do you think that this will at all effect the McCain-Palin race?

RIDGE: Absolutely not. At the end of the day, I think Ed did identify the issue that's going to drive much of the voting patterns throughout Pennsylvania and around the country and that's the economy. And I think, particularly if you take a look at a battleground state like Pennsylvania, they don't drive their political cars in the far left lane. I think that on some of these issues, Senator Obama, as Senator Clinton pointed out is probably even outside the mainstream of his own party. And if you get a President Obama with a Senator Reid, and a Speaker Pelosi, and a vice president who says that your it's your patriotic duty to pay more taxes. I don't think Pennsylvanians think that they're under taxed. I don't think they are prepared to pay more taxes, and they certainly don't want a Supreme Court with activist judges who take upon the responsibility to bring economic justice, with redistributing the wealth. The job is to create wealth. That's what presidents should do, not to share it or redistribute it. And I think John's plan, focusing on the energy sector, giving incentives to small businesses, research and

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development tax credits, linking all those together to drive us out of this economic mess, as well as leading the world with an experienced man in the world of military and foreign policy, fighting the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the combination of experienced and tested leader is exactly what Pennsylvanians are looking for, and I suspect will vote for come election day.

Highlight #4
Ridge uses Rashid Khalidi to question Obama's judgment, philosophy [FNC, Fox and Friends, 10/28/08]
PETER SCHIFF: Who is Rashid Khalidi, and why does he matter?

TOM RIDGE: Well, I know very little about it other than, it's been explained to me, he might have been an ex leader of the PLO, a terrorist organization. What it suggests is a trend here of associations that call in Senator Obama's judgment. I really don't know too much about the individual, other than it's a late story. And again, it's an association with someone of questionable associations and Senator Obama has quite a few of those. It's a trend here that should cause some people some concern.

[…]

It's this association with a spokesman of President Bush, when he designated Arafat as a terrorist, and the organization as a terrorist organization, it is clear that during his young political career he has associated himself with people out of the mainstream of America thought, mainstream of the Democratic Party, extremists, whether he was dealing with the Minister in Church, the domestic terrorist Ayers, now this revelation. Bottom line it suggests, certainly, questionable judgment. Does it reflect a certain philosophy? Is it part of a philosophy that suggests that you got to have a activist judges, that view redistribution of wealth as a matter of economic justice? It just raises a lot of unanswered questions and that's one of the challenges throughout this entire campaign. We have a very gifted speaker, but untested in any significant way, totally inexperienced. But as we learned as we grew up, questionable associations, you got to be careful who you're hanging around with.

Highlight #5
McCain says he's "disappointed" by Paulson, wants to buy up bad home loans, and uses Biden's comments on national security to warn against untested, unqualified Obama (CNBC, 10/28/08, 9:40am)
MARIA BARTIROMO: We're in a financial crisis, clearly. We're expecting further layoffs and further banks to go belly-up. Why should the American people believe and feel that the two of you have your hands on the wheel and can take us out of this?

JOHN MCCAIN: Well because we have a plan of action to get America's economy going again. Maria, it has to do with a wide range of prescriptions. But one of them is, to keep people in their homes. Look, it was the housing crisis that started this, ok? Fannie and Freddie, it was the catalyst that blew this whole thing up. And frankly, the administration is not doing what I think they should do, and that's going in and buy out these bad mortgages, give people mortgages they can afford, stabilize home values and start them back up again. They did that during the depression, it was called the homeowners loan corporation. We got to keep taxes low. We've got to cut spending. We've got to find alternative fuels, including offshore drilling and nuclear power. And we have to have a positive agenda for job creation. But I'd like to start with keeping people in their homes.

BARTIROMO: So over the short-term, your plan is to keep people in their homes and buy those mortgages. Over the longer term?

MCCAIN: Over the longer term, as happened by the way during the Great Depression, was over time, money came into the treasury. Obviously we have to stabilize our financial institutions. We have to unfreeze credit. How do you do all that? You create jobs in America. And we can do that in a broad variety of ways and one of them is to stop this $700 billion transfer to countries that don't like us very much. Now I know the price of oil is down temporarily and that's reflective of a lot of conditions in the world. But we still have to free ourselves of our dependence on foreign oil. Because over time, it still is a finite resource.

BARTIROMO: Governor Palin, what about that? Now oil is around $60 barrel. Is it still an important issue to become energy-independent? And how do you do it?

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SARAH PALIN: Now is the opportunity to seize this and to be able to invest in the domestic solutions that are here now for that offshore drilling that is safe and responsible, for the nuclear we need to tap into, and the alternative sources. Drilling for the sources we know are here and flowing the natural gas in the pipelines that we're building up there in Alaska also. Now is the opportunity that we have and we better seize it. We cannot lull ourselves into this false sense of security, just because the price of a barrel of oil is $64. It's about half of what it had been even when we were speaking last time. But no, now is our opportunity, the domestic solutions that are there, we tap into them, we become less and less beholden on foreign sources of energy, and we circulate these hundreds of billions of dollars a year in our own country, creating jobs for Americans.

MCCAIN: And look who we're depending on? Look at the part of the world we're depending on. Look at Hugo Chavez? It's a matter of national security. And by the way, nuclear power, which I'm a big proponent of, as you know, reduces greenhouse gas emissions dramatically. So it's environmental, it's natural security and it's economic issue. It's not the only answer, but building 45 new nuclear power plants creates 700,000 jobs in America.

BARTIROMO: Speaking of national security, Joe Biden said if Obama is elected, he'll be tested in the first six months. In your view, who is most likely to test him and how would you handle it differently?

MCCAIN: I've been tested, to start with. Second of all, Senator Biden was right, Senator Biden was correct. If Sarah or I had said that, could you imagine the reaction? Scaring Americans, etc. But Senator Biden had it right, this is an untested individual, who has been wrong on the things he's been tested about. He still refuses to acknowledge that he was wrong on the surge. When Russia committed aggression against Georgia, he asked Georgia to exercise restraint. He said he would sit down with the Castro brothers, Chavez, Ahmadinejad without any preconditions, thereby legitimizing their radical, aggressive, anti-American, anti-peace positions. So I agree with Joe Biden, I couldn't have said it better myself first, but he's right. This is an inexperienced person who so far, has exercised bad judgment about national security.

SARAH PALIN: It wasn't just Joe Biden though. It was confirmed by Madeline Albright too, saying of course, he was stating fact, that there would be that testing of someone who is inexperienced, not ready to lead, as Joe Biden had been telling us all along in the primary that Barack Obama is not ready to be Commander in Chief.

BARTIROMO: Do you worry about the attacks, I know I am but that's not the question, but there's been so much mud slinging going on. People want answers and solutions here. There are many issues I'd like to get to. In addition to taxes, unions. Why haven't you made the union issue a campaign issue? That is, the right to have a secret ballot. Why isn't this a major issue on your agenda?

MCCAIN: We've talked about it a lot, and unfortunately there's three or four issues that you can get out strongly. We've been talking about for a long time, this is a threat to the fundamental of labor management relations. It's fundamental to democracy, the right to have a secret ballot. The way that Senator Obama envisions and the unions, and this is their big push, they've gotten commitments from Senator Obama and Senator Biden. A union organizer goes to your house and says, hey, Joe, can I sign you up for the union? That is, we all know what that opens the door to. It's dangerous for America, it's dangerous to small business. And I think it's a threat to one of the fundamentals of democracy.

BARTIROMO: Will you veto the bill?

MCCAIN: In a New York minute, if I may say that. I will do everything in my power to block such legislation. And imagine, Senator Obama and Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid pushing the union agenda, it would be very, very unfortunate.

BARTIROMO: Let me go back to the tax issue. Over the long term, you want to keep taxes low. We're spending $10 billion a month on the war in Iraq. Why not make the American people pay for it?

MCCAIN: Because we study history. History shows that if you practice protectionism, and isolationism and at the same time you raise taxes, you send an economy from a recession into a depression. That's history. The guy's

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name was Herbert Hoover. And it was aided and abetted later on. This is the worst time to raise anyone's taxes. And obviously, Senator Obama has now, thanks to Joe the Plumber and other research, have authenticated, he wants to redistribute the wealth. He wants to quote spread the wealth around by taking money from one group of Americans and giving it to another. And as you know, that number, level of income goes down and down and down.

MARIA BARTIROMO: Will you ask Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson to stay on, at least temporarily, if you win?

MCCAIN: I think it would depend on the situation at the time. I'm disappointed that Secretary Paulson has not put the first emphasis on buying these home loan mortgages, and keeping people in their homes. So, I admire and respect him, but I certainly would have somebody who would give that our highest priority. As you know, the chairperson of the FDIC has also agreed with that. Get the home values under control, and back up again.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/16/2008 3:38:20 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain at Values Forum in Lake Forest, CA 08/16/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Kelli, on the ground in Lake Forest, CA. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights

- McCain cites failure of his 1st marriage as greatest personal moral failure
- Says to him, faith means 'i'm saved and forgiven'
- w/r/t taxes, jokes that "rich" is defined as $5m, says he doesn't want to tax the rich or anyone, doesnt want class warfare -
- Cites offshore drilling as the most significant position he's changed his mind on since 10 yrs ago
- says he would support fed. marriage amendment if SCOTUS applied MA marriage law to other states
- retells cross story from POW camp but adds "for a minute it was just 2 christians standing there"
- says he is "proud of Bush" for SCOTUS nominations
- Says his 'most gut-wrenching decision' was not taking early release from POW camp
- Says we'll have to 'step up our ability to monitor' in question about natl security vs. rts to privacy

Lake Forest, CA: McCain at Joint Values Forum 08/16/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- About 100 demonstrators at various locations around Church: mostly pro-McCain; also pro-Paul, pro-Obama; pro-life (pics of dead babies etc) [tracking footage NOT available]
- Very tight security: secret service, local police (including the cavalry division, bike cops and cops on segways), and church security guards.
    - Many guests told their tickets were not good for entrance into the auditorium and instead were diverted to several different tents with screens set up.
    - Visitors with the correct tickets were turned away if they had large purses, cameras or cell phones.
    - The street entrances to the church were blocked off by police, audience members and press parked off site and were shuttled in.
- Only certain networks were allowed into the event. Others, incl. many local affiliates, put in a cafeteria at the church compound with live audio feed and projection of live video feed onto 2 screens.

Speech Highlights

- 1Q) Leadership. Who are the 3 wisest ppl you know you would rely on heavily in an Administration?
    - JM: First would be Petraeus, 1 of the great generals, took us from defeat to victory in Iraq. 4th of July a year ago L. Graham and I in Baghdad. Only someone like DP could motivate someone like that. (2) John Lewis - continues to serve and have optimistic view of USA. can teach us about serving selflessly. (3) Meg Whitman
- 2Q) What's been your greatest moral failure and the greatest moral failure of USA?
    - JM: Mine, and i have been a very imperfect person, is the failure of my 1st marriage. USA's has

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been thruout our existence perhaps we haven't devoted ourselves to causes greater than our self-interest, although we've been teh best at it in the world. After 9/11, we shouldnt have told ppl to go shopping but to expand our volunteers, expand our great missions in USA and across the world, esp in Rwanda. And a lil pandering here, the 1st lines in your book are this is not about you and that means serve a cause greater than your selfinterest.

- 3Q) An example of where you led against your party's interests and maybe against your own best interests for the good of USA?
    - JM: By strange coincidence, I wasnt elected Miss Congeniality again this year. Climate change, spending, torture, the list goes on where I've put my country first and reached across the aisle. 1 of the times, probably the most trying, when I was first in Congress adn very dedicated to Reagan--he won the cold war without firing a shot--he wanted to send troops to Beirut in a peacekeeping mission and my knowledge and background told me that was bad. as many know, 100 marines gave their lives for that. it was tough to go against my party and be called disloyal.

- 4Q) What's the most significant position you held 10 years ago that you don't hold today?
    - JM: Offshore drilling. we gotta drill now and here. I know that there are some here in Cal-i-fornia that disagree with that position. Could i also mention this is a natl security issue? we're sending $700b to countries that dont like us very much, incl. to terrorists. We cannot allow it. Let me say, too, at the town hall mtgs that i have every day energy is what's on ppls minds every day, so let me take a sec. We have to do everything: wind, solar, hybrid cars, hydrogen cars, and it has to include nuclear. Everyone wants to imitate the French. we now have a pro-American president of french.

- 5Q) Most gut-wrenching decision you ever had to make and what'd you do to make it?
    - JM: Long ago and far away in prison camp in N Vietnam. My father was high-ranking admiral and they offered me early release. Code of conduct said we left in order we arrived adn i had a friend Alvarez that had come before. i was not in good physical condition, but i said no. In full disclosure i didnt know the war was going to last another 3 yrs. not only the toughest decision but also i'm the happiest with that decision as any i've made.

- 6Q) What does being a Christian mean to you? and what does it mean in your everyday life?
    - JM: It means i'm saved and forgiven. And not just the US but the world. The vietnamese kept us in prison 2-3 or solitary confinement. they would sometimes bind us. 1 night a guard came in adn loosened the ropes. 4 hours later tightened them and left. on Xmas we were lined up outside cell and same guard drew a cross in the sand and then rubbed it out and walked a way. for a minute, it was just 2 christians standing there.

- 7Q) 40million abortions since Roe v. Wade. For ppl who believe life begins at conception, thats a holocaust. What point is a baby entitled to human rights?
    - JM: at the moment of conception. i have a 25-year pro-life record, in Cong, Senate and I will be pro-life POTUS with pro-life policies.

- 8Q) Ok, define marriage.
    - JM: Union b/t man and woman, b/t one man and one woman. are we going to get back to SCOTUS or should i here?

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- FOLLOWUP: was CA Sup Ct ruling wrong?
- JM: I believe they were wrong. I believe we should preserve unique status of marriage. It doesn't mean they can't enter into legal agreements. If a fed court decided AZ would have to follow same rules as MA, then i'd favor a constitutional amendment. but it's a states decision.

- 9Q) Would you favor fed amendment for embryonic stem cell research given new developmetns in technology?
  - JM: difficult decision for those in pro-life community but i've come down on side of embryonic stem cell rsch, though i think skin cell rsch will make this debate academic.

- 10Q) Does evil exist and should we contain it, ignore it or defeat it?
  - JM: Defeat it. i will follow bin laden to the gates of hell and i know how to get him. central battleground is in iraq. its not just in AQ, its not just in iraq; theyre establishing cells here in USA too.

- 11Q) Whcih existing SCOTUS justices would you NOT have nominated?
  - JM: with all due repsect, Justices Ginsberg, Breyer, Souter and Stevens.
  - WHY?
  - JM: POTUS has enormous responsiblity in picking lifetime appts. Should not legislate from the bench. and btw, Justices Alito and Roberts are 2 fo my most recent faves and i'm proud of Bush for nominating them.

- 12Q) Would you insist that faith-based orgs not discriminate on faith in order to receive federal funding?
  - JM: Absolutely not.

- 13Q) USA 18th in education but 1st in education. 80(?)% of Americans believe in merit pay. I don't want your stump but--
  - JM: Yes yes and find bad teachers another line of work. Choice and compeition (repeats), home schools, charter. I want every American to have same choice as Cindy and I and Obamas had. Charter and home-schools work. Vouchers in DC works. [goes into stump] NYC is reforming, NOLA. We gave everyone chance to go to school but what good does it do to send them to failing school?

- 14Q) On taxing, define the rich. Give me a # on difference b/t middle class and rich.
  - JM: Some of the richest ppl i know are most unhappy. richness should be defined by home, education and ability to give children a better world. i dont want to tax the rich, i dont want class warfare or redistribution of wealth. there are small business ppl working 16 hours / day that some would define as rich. lets give ppl tax credits for health care, let's not have the govt take over. if youre just talking about income, how about $5M? seriously--and i'm sure that comment will be distorted--we want to keep taxes low and increase revenue. spending's been the probelm. we spent $3m of your money studying DNA for bears. we laugh about it but we cry. while youre paying at the pump, theyre on vacation. we should stop them and call them back. we cant raise taxes in tough economic times. i want to give working americans a better shot at having a good life. Americans are hurting: unemployment, foreclosure, education, affordable health care. We need to give Americans hope and confidence in the future. and i can inspire, i can lead.

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- 15Q) [not time for this w. obama] Right to privacy vs. national security?
    - JM: we must preserve rt to privacy for all citizens, incl. secret ballot for union members. we've had technological advances over 20-30 yrs letting our enemies have remarkable ability to communicate. through cyberspace, etc, ppl can communicate. so we'll have to step up our ability to monitor. sometimes within USA sometimes not. Congress needs to address it in bipartisan fashion. our inability to work things out was compromising our ability to ward off terrorist attacks.

- 16Q) What's worth risking American lives?
    - JM: freedom. natl security. we must temper that with the ability to affect the outcome. wars have started in obscure places that have later inveloped us. we cant right every wrong but we can be a beacon of hope and liberty for the world. there are conflicts we cant settle. the most precious thing we have is american blood. we have shed our blood for freedom of other countries - no other country in world has done that. we've succeed in other ways. we won the Cold War w/o firing a shot b/c of our ideology. and communism was wrong and evil, and we defeated it jsut as we can defeat islamic extremism.
- FOLLOWUP: What's your criteria for war?
    - JM: American natl security interest.
- FOLLOWUP: What about Darfur? or massive killingi n Georgia?
    - JM: our obligation is to stop what we can. rwanda. we've got to do more to stop genocide in darfur. we should supply logistics and aid ot help the Africans. we have to be committed to never say 'never again' again?

- 17Q) What about Russia's aggressions?
    - im sad to sit here while such terrible things are happening. 118k are being affected in that country. it was 1 of first christian nations in 14th cent. Saaskishvili was educated in US. in georgia they achieved a revolution, achieved prosperity. and now russians are aggressing. we need a ceasefire. they need to respect territorial integrity.
    - it's about energy. russians are using energy as weapon against europeans. we need to send a msg to the russians that this behavior is not acceptable in 21st century.

- 18Q) Religious persecution- what would you do to put pressure on so-called allies, e.g. china, iraq, that dont allow religious frdm?
    - JM: bully pulpit is one of President's greatest assets. Reagan called to take down this wall and he was todl not to. our judeo-christian principles dictate that we do what we can to help ppl aroudn the world. in dark corners of world, lil countries like belarus yearn to be like us. but we remain the most unusual experiment in history adn im proud to be a part of it. i know what it's like without it.

- 19Q) Would you consider something akin to president's emergency plan for AIDS for children who become orphans? assisting families take in these children?
    - JM: i think we need to make adoption more available in USA--thats why so many ppl go abroad for it. My great hero T. Roosevelt was 1st to talk about adoption. [anecdote about cindy adopting Bridget from bangladesh. she's 17 and our life is blessed]

- 20Q) why do you want to be POTUS?

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    - JM: I want to insipre a generation of americans to serve a cause greater than their self-interest. i think americas best days are ahead of us. but we also face a # of challenges, domestic and foreign -- these past few days have shown us that mroe. i've always put my country first, from military to House of Reps to Senate. America watns hope, optimism, bipartisanship. i ahve record of reaching across the aisle. america thinks its time to sit down together. when i go to gee's bend and meet the Afr-American women there who are lovely and go to other places where they probably won't vote for me, they know that i will be president of every american and i will always put my country first?

- 21Q) What will you say to ppl that question me asking you these questions in a church?
    - JM: I'd like to be in every venue in america. this is an important election. our nation was founded on judeo-chrisitan values. im happy to be in a place where you've done so much good.

- [standing ovation]
- warren brings them both on stage, they shake hands

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	9/25/2015 7:26:18 AM
Subject:	TWEETS: US-China Announcement

These with input from Kristina and the Climate guys.

TWEETS:

The US and China are following up their joint announcement last November with domestic policy action (1/3)

The US has adopted the first-ever carbon pollution standards for power plants and new efficiency standards for trucks and appliances (2/3)

China has added more than 55 GW of wind, solar & nuclear since last November = 800 wind turbines or 1 nuclear plant every week (3/3)

Read my statement on US-China climate announcements on @TheBriefing2016: https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/factsheets/2015/09/25/republicans-get-it-wrong-on-china-and-climate-change/

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid@googlegroups.com "Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com> "Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/29/2015 11:36:53 AM
Subject:	5.29.15 HRC TV Coverage

National

-- Report on an RNC ad that showed HRC and WJC speaking about income inequality juxtaposed against a ticker of HRC and WJC's speaking fees; Julie Roginsky said attacks on the Clintons' wealth was unwarranted; Roginsky mentioned FDR and JFK came from wealthy families; Dana Perino noted Fiorina gave all of what she raised for her charities to her charities whereas the Clintons gave 13 cents on the dollar. Fox News' The Five , 5.29.15

-- Report on MOM's entry into the 2016 race; Halperin said MOM had a chance to be the prominent HRC alternative but that Sanders had outflanked him; reported Sanders was the cooler candidate, going after HRC, and the liberal's liberal. Bloomberg's With All Due Respect , 5.29.15

-- Reported on the NYT story about WJC accepting a $500,000 donation for The Clinton Foundation in exchange for WJC to give a speech to a charity; WJC's open letter about The Clinton Foundation that he sent today; reported on Nancy Pelosi saying the Clinton would have to answer questions about The Clinton Foundation; Halperin said the most ominous of the three stories was a tie between the NYT and Pelosi's comment; Heilemann said the Pelosi comment was the most ominous given that Pelosi did not more fully come to HRC's defense. Bloomberg's With All Due Respect , 5.29.15

-- Report on HRC not giving a definitive answer about the TPP; Schultz said Americans deserve an answer about what HRC thinks about the TPP; showed footage of Sanders talking about HRC's perspective on the TPP on Wednesday; Schultz said HFA said they were frightened of Sanders; panel with Larry Cohen, Genevieve Wood, and Lori Wallach; Cohen said it was important for HRC to speak out against fast-track; Wood said HRC had to give some answers on TPP; Wood said HRC was not speaking out because she didn't have to. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 5.29.15

-- Report on MOM's entry into the 2016 race; interviewed Mark Plotkin; Plotkin said Sanders was polling higher than MOM; Cavuto said the inevitable nominee is not always the inevitable nominee; Plotkin mentioned MOM worked for Gary Hart and Hart beat Mondale; Plotkin said it was important to win early. Fox News' Your World , 5.29.15

-- Report on Quinnipiac University poll that showed Rand Paul and Marco Rubio trailing HRC by four points apiece; interviewed Caitlin Huey-Burns; Huey-Burns said Paul was building momentum; Huey-Burns said Paul could represent a matchup with HRC, questioned whether Paul could make it through a Republican primary; Huey-Burns said Rubio was capitalizing on his youth against HRC. Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting , 5.29.15

-- Interviewed Perry Bacon; Bacon noted that MOM's mom has worked for Barbara Mikulski for 30 years; said

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Mikulski endorsed HRC recently; Bacon, "This gets you to the point of how bad this is" for O'Malley. MSNBC's The Cycle, 5.29.15

-- Panel with Robert Gibbs, Kurt Anderson, Janelle Ross, and McKay Coppins; Anderson said MOM would be a fine candidate in another year; Coppins said if he were MOM, he'd be upset that half the coverage of him was about how hard he would hit HRC. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 5.29.15

-- Discussion about HRC's Southern accent in Columbia on Wednesday; panel with Robert Gibbs, Kurt Anderson, Janelle Ross, and McKay Coppins; Ross said it was sad this was one of the major news stories of the week; Ross said it may that HRC had a case of nerves and adopted an accent when she tried to connect with people; Ross noted BHO does the same thing by putting on a black preacher accent when speaking with black audiences. MSNBC's NOW With Alex Wagner , 5.29.15

-- Report on the Happy Hearts Fund's $500,000 donation to The Clinton Foundation in exchange for WJC speaking at their event; interviewed Ed Henry; used footage of WJC at the Happy Hearts Fund; Henry said HFA officials said there was a good story to tell about philanthropy at The Foundation; Henry said HFA officials said that WJC would be at HRC's rally on June 13th; Henry said the question was whether HFA was keeping WJC off the campaign trail due to the scandals popping up. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson , 5.29.15

-- Interviewed Nancy Pelosi; Roberts brought up the Quinnipiac poll that said a majority of respondents did not trust HRC; Roberts asked Pelosi whether HRC could be a successful candidate without people's trust; Pelosi noted the same poll showed majorities said HRC was a good leader and could relate to people; Pelosi said some of the numbers were probably affected by negative stories; Pelosi zoomed out to that there would still be a primary with MOM and Bernie Sanders in the race; Pelosi said it was clear HRC was way out front and that people were excited about having a woman President as capable as HRC; Roberts asked about the NYT story about WJC's appearance at a charity event only after the charity agreed to donate to The Clinton Foundation; Pelosi said the Clintons would have to answer for The Foundation but that she would imagine WJC's appearance increased the take and the money that went to The Clinton Foundation was for a good cause as well; Roberts asked Pelosi about WJC's "we have to pay the bills" comment; Pelosi noted that HRC was the candidate; Pelosi said she was glad HRC came out for campaign finance reform; Roberts asked if HRC was the nominee then whether Democrats in the House could ride HRC's coattails to a majority; Pelosi said she hoped so. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.29.15

-- Report on how the 2016 GOP candidates are competing for poll numbers; Gloria Borger mentioned that Carly Fiorina getting national attention by showing up where HRC is and using HRC's press entourage to gain national attention. CNN's Wolf , 5.29.15

-- Report on Republicans coming out with an ad that shows HRC talking about everyday Americans while scrolling through a list of HRC's millions of dollars in speaking fees; Jackie Kucinich said that was a potential point of attack for Republicans against HRC; Kucinich noted HRC adopted a lot of EAW's talking points on purpose to push back against the narrative that HRC is in league with big banks. Fox News' Happening Now , 5.29.15

-- Report on the NYT story about WJC receiving an award from the Happy Hearts Fund when the group offered a $500,000 donation to The Clinton Foundation; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry profiled the Happy Hearts Fund; Henry said the money given to the Foundation could have built ten schools; Henry said he spoke to HFA officials who said there was no lasting damage from the stories about The Clinton Foundation, said HFA officials said there was a lot of philanthropy going on during the time; Henry noted HRC's big roll out was happening on June

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13th and the WJC would be there; noted WJC would not do any solo events for the campaign for a few months after the roll out; shifted into talk about MOM; Henry said there were questions about whether MOM could be viable; played MOM's "Hail to the Chief" campaign ad. Fox News' Happening Now , 5.29.15

-- Interviewed Chuck Todd about MOM; Todd said MOM could in hindsight wish he'd announced three months ago; Todd mentioned the Baltimore riots that could hurt MOM. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.29.15

-- Interviewed Chuck Todd; Mitchell said she heard young people say they were intrigued by Bernie Sanders; Todd said HRC had the reputation for being risk-adverse; Todd said millennials may gravitate towards Sanders, the non-risk-adverse candidates; shifted into conversation about how Sanders may be the chief Dem against HRC instead of O'Malley; Mitchell said HFA officials told her they wanted to raise $100 million this year for the primary, said HFA officials told her the $2 billion number was crazy; reported on HFA's 50-state strategy; reported that HFA was serious about fighting in the primaries; reported that the way HRC addressed race and gender issues in SC was interesting; Todd said what was missing for Sanders was talk about immigration and race; Todd said Sanders was not as connected yet to black and Hispanic voters in the Democratic base, said he didn't know how Sanders could connect. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 5.29.15

-- Discussion about pay-for-play allegations against HRC and WJC; pointed to WJC giving speech in Saudi Arabia prefacing State increasing funds for projects in Saudi Arabia a few months later; reported on The Clinton Foundation paying Sidney Blumenthal $10,000 per month; Kirsten Powers pointed out that Saudi Arabia was an ally of the United States, noted that money going to The Clinton Foundation was going to good works; Powers disputed the notion The Foundation was a slush fund for the Clintons; Powers pointed to the NYT story from Friday where it seemed shady that someone made a $500,000 donation to The Foundation until she saw that the money went to build ten schools in Indonesia; discussed Norway's donation to The Clinton Foundation; Powers said diplomats get overruled all the time, said there was no proof of causation; discussed Blumenthal; Powers said you should judge someone based on facts not coincidence; noted HFA officials said they saw no long-term damage from the series of Foundation stories; noted HFA was putting together a battle plan based on The Foundation's good works; noted HFA expected a competitive election, planned to keep WJC away from campaign events; led into conversation about how WJC did not help HRC on the campaign trail; Tantaros said the Clintons deal with problems the same way; Tantaros said if WJC had apologized to Paula Jones then he would not have had to pay $700,000 and lose his law license; Faulkner noted the undisclosed donors from CHAI, said there was a lot to be investigated; Faulkner noted something nefarious had to be proven to show criminality and maybe to convince voters. Fox News' Outnumbered , 5.29.15 [Part Two]

-- Interviewed Mark Murray; report on O'Malley's likely announcement; Murray said O'Malley's biggest competition to get into the next tier of candidates was Bernie Sanders; said O'Malley was trying to make a generational argument against HRC. MSNBC's News Nation , 5.29.15

-- Led with MOM playing "Hail to the Chief"; led into discussion about MOM's likely entry into the 2016 race; panel with AB Stoddard and Charlie Hurt; Stoddard said MOM thought he could bring youth to the race; Stoddard said MOM did not begin to have the experience to go toe-to-toe with HRC; Hurt said MOM's pitch was he wasn't a Clinton or a socialist; Hurt mentioned Baltimore; Stoddard said HRC had been running since 2005 and HRC means business; Stoddard said if MOM got aggressive against HRC then he could be a real player if HRC had a health issue. Fox News' Happening Now , 5.29.15

-- Report on MOM's likely candidacy announcement on Saturday; reported on Quinnipiac poll that showed 80% of respondents did not know enough about MOM to have an opinion on him; profiled MOM; noted WJC once wrote to MOM that he could "go all the way"; noted MOM supported HRC over BHO in 2008; said polls showed MOM trailing badly in the polls; said MOM took slight jabs at HRC but had not attacked aggressively; led into

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O'Malley's connection to Baltimore and the Freddie Gray's riots; reported O'Malley was not welcomed well in Baltimore after the Gray riots; shifted into brief report that HRC was fundraising in Florida on Friday; interviewed Marc Caputo and Alex Seitz-Wald; Caputo said early polls showed Florida was HRC's to lose; Caputo said the Quinnipiac Poll released on Thursday showed Rubio would do better against HRC than Bush; Diaz-Balart asked why HRC was not hosting a campaign stop in Florida; Seitz-Wald said he asked that question to campaign officials in Brooklyn on Thursday, said officials said it was not time yet; Seitz-Wald reported HFA's fundraising was in direct response to Bush's fundraising; Caputo noted it was challenging to find HRC on the campaign trail; Caputo said HRC was going to have a public event in Florida but so far had decided against it; Caputo said the Tampa Bay Times asked HRC what her position was on off-shore oil drilling and that the campaign wouldn't respond; Caputo said John Morgan asked a question about HRC's stance on medical marijuana, said the campaign was not clear on what HRC's position is; Seitz-Wald said HFA was going to ignore MOM right now; Seitz-Wald said MOM need to focus on Sanders before he could go after HRC. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 5.29.15

-- Showed Bush's comments on HRC's inability to distance herself from BHO's foreign policy during a speech at the University of Michigan on Thursday; report on how foreign policy would affect 2016; interviewed Chuck Todd; Todd said the public did not like George W. Bush's foreign policy which made it challenging for Jeb Bush to make that argument against HRC. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 5.29.15

-- Report on Peggy Noonan's op-ed The Hillary Clinton Paradox; discussion about how Americans don't care about HRC's scandals; Mika said she hadn't met a single person who cares; Mika and Willie Geist said HRC has huge qualifications to be POTUS; Mika said she has questions for HRC, noted a woman at one of her book signings asked Mika to lay off of HRC; Scarborough said even with Monica Lewinsky that WJC's approval ratings went up afterwards; Harold Ford, Jr., said there was a body of the Clintons' work that people could look to; Ford said WJC restored the Democratic Party and balanced the budget; Ford said HRC's greatest achievement was advocating for women. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.29.15

-- Interviewed Peter Schweizer; reported on The Clinton Foundation paying Sidney Blumenthal $10,000 a month while Blumenthal was advising HRC at State and doing business with Libyan companies; shifted into talk of The Clinton Foundation's shell companies in the UK, Sweden, and Canada; Schweizer said the FBI or someone needs to launch a criminal investigation into The Clinton Foundation; Hannity conspired that HRC's emails may be stored somewhere in Utah due to the Patriot Act; Schweizer said it was almost certain HRC's server was hacked. Fox News' Hannity , 5.28.15

-- Report on Paula Jones' interview with the Daily Mail; used footage from Jones' interview; panel with Ainsley Earhardt, Deneen Borelli, and Jedediah Bila; Hannity pondered how HRC could be the candidate of women's rights with WJC's history and The Clinton Foundation accepting money from Saudi Arabia; Earhardt said you couldn't put WJC's mistakes on HRC; Borelli said we have no idea what's going to come out with WJC on "orgy island"; Bila said HRC was not who she claimed to represent, given the server and The Foundation. Fox News' Hannity, 5.28.15

-- Used footage of Fiorina's interview with Andrea Mitchell in Columbia on Wednesday; led into a panel about Fiorina's campaign style; panel with Andrea Tantaros and Jessica Tarlov; Tantaros said HRC was waiting on the GOP men to overreach, said Fiorina takes that ability away from HRC; conversation about how HRC pays women less than men and about The Clinton Foundation taking money from Saudi Arabia; Tarlov noted that HRC paid women on her Senate staff the same as men under a different metric; shifted into conversation about HRC's shifting drawl in front of black audiences; Tantaros said HRC's drawl made her look authentic; Hannity asked Tarlov for three specific reasons she was supporting HRC; Tarlov said HRC was a driving force behind Lilly Ledbetter, advocating to raise the federal minimum wage; Tarlov was cut off; Tantaros said HRC only looked out for one woman. Fox News' Hannity , 5.29.15

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-- Interviewed Danny Vargas about the GOP debates; Vargas noted the GOP had a strong bench whereas the Democrats only have HRC; Vargas said there was not a lot of enthusiasm behind HRC; Maddow said Democrats had no worries about organizing their debates because the party lined up behind HRC; Maddow noted the GOP was the party with serious problems going into 2016. MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show , 5.28.15

-- Report on HFA's campaign store; noted HRC's pantsuit tee; panel with Greg Gutfeld and Bernard McGuirk; Gutfeld noted there was no blue dress in the store; noted into conversation about Rand Paul and Bernie Sanders' stores; both Gutfeld and McGuirk noted the HFA store was not selling bottoms because WJC does not wear pants. Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor , 5.28.15

-- Let Me Finish… segment on HRC's Columbia stop on Wednesday; Matthews said HRC spoke in the words, thoughts, and feelings of a real human being in Columbia; Matthews said HRC spoke openly about her desire to be President; Matthews said HRC went further by talking about dying her hair, said people want to feel for POTUS; Matthews said HRC showed she knew how to make people feel for her in Columbia. MSNBC's Hardball With Chris Matthews, 5.28.15

-- Report on HRC showing her authentic self during her Columbia speech on Wednesday; contrasted her authenticity problem from 2008 with her authenticity now; used footage of HRC's hair comment from Columbia; panel with Heidi Przybyla, Perry Bacon, and Liz Mair; Matthews said HRC laid it right out there that she wanted to be President; Przybyla noted Mark Penn gave HRC bad advice in 2008 when he told her to be tough; showed HRC's NH victory speech in 2008 where she seemed guarded; Mair said HRC does not come across as authentic; Matthews said he disagreed; used footage HRC talking about having seen the presidency up close and personal; Bacon said HRC was experienced, noted black activists were supporting HRC; Bacon said HRC made a mistake not using a state.gov email. MSNBC's Hardball With Chris Matthews , 5.28.15

-- Comedic bit about the 2016 candidates; noted Bernie Sanders was running for President; showed footage of news anchors dismissing Sanders; commented on how people in the news made Sanders sound crazy; showed footage from Sanders' launch; Stewart said Sanders was not crazy; Stewart joked the difference between Sanders and HRC, besides that HRC has her own server and he's not sure if he's online unless he hears a dial tone, is that HRC has image handlers who tell her to comb her hair; joked about HRC's accent in SC; Stewart said he would take care of the Lindsey Graham impressions. Comedy Central's The Daily Show , 5.28.15

-- Report on Richard Trumka's comment that the AFL-CIO could hold back an endorsement of HRC; led with footage of Bernie Sanders hitting HRC for not giving a definitive answer on the TPP; panel with AB Stoddard, Steve Hayes, and Charles Krauthammer; Stoddard said HRC had access to the current draft of the TPP; Stoddard linked HRC's demurral on the TPP with her demurral on the Keystone XL pipeline; panelists agreed HRC would probably come out against the TPP; Hayes noted that HRC's pivot to Asia centered around the TPP; Krauthammer said this points to HRC having no legacy as Secretary of State; Baier noted the most recent Quinnipiac poll showed HRC's trustworthiness was underwater; Stoddard said if HRC did not win the general election that it would not be due to the TPP. Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier , 5.28.15

-- Report on Richard Trumka calling out HRC on the TPP; Ed Henry reports; showed footage of Trumka from his USA Today interview; reported the unions could offer a weak endorsement; noted HRC was trying to keep the left happy; said HRC had flip-flopped on same-sex marriage and drivers licenses for illegal immigrants; noted HRC supported BHO during her Columbia speech on Wednesday; showed the Quinnipiac University poll that showed the majority of Americans thought HRC had strong leadership qualities; speculated Americans may not be able to be a middle-class champion due to her speaking fees and WJC's shell corporation; showed

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Quinnipiac poll that showed a slim majority of Americans said HRC cared about their problems; reported on The Clinton Foundation paying Blumenthal $10,000 per month while giving HRC advise on Libya; Henry mentioned he just attended an event at HFA headquarters; Henry said HFA officials said the negative stories were a part of a 20-year GOP playbook of attacking the Clintons; Henry said HFA officials were feeling good about the early stages, said officials did not see any permanent damage from Foundation stories; Henry said HFA officials acknowledged that if HRC gets the nomination that the general election would be a dogfight. Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier, 5.28.15

States

South Carolina

-- Report on a federal judge's order for the State Department to start releasing HRC's emails; reported the release will involve 30,000 emails on June 30th; said the release would continue through January 2016; reported HRC said she wanted the emails released as soon as possible. WSPA 7 On Your Side at 11pm , Greenville (SC), 5.28.15

Iowa

-- Report on Rand Paul signing books in Davenport on Thursday; used footage of Paul saying he was the only candidate beating HRC in polls in Colorado, New Hampshire, Iowa, and Pennsylvania. WHBF Local 4 News at 6 PM, Davenport (IA), 5.28.15

-- Report on Rand Paul signing books in Davenport on Thursday; reported Paul said he was different from the other GOP candidates; used footage of Paul saying, "Many of these policies came under the first Clinton. Do we want another Clinton? Is this Clinton going to be any different than the first Clinton?" WQAD News 8 at 10 , Davenport (IA), 5.28.15

New Hampshire

-- Report on Pataki's announcement in New Hampshire; included Pataki's comment about HRC and the Democrats being the party of privilege. WMUR News 9 at Six , Manchester (NH), 5.28.15

Nevada

[No Pertinent Coverage]

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Andres Moreno" <andres@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Andres Moreno" <andres@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 10/12/2008 11:49:47 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: Palin Rally in Clairsville, Oh 10/12/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Kelli, on the ground in Ohio. Below are the notes from our call.

Clairsville, OH: Palin Rally 10/12/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- 1,500 in attendance mostly white families
- 6 cameras, 4 trucks, 2 still photographers plus a very small contingent of traveling Press
- When Palin says who is responsible for economic crisis - various audience members yell out "Barney Frank"
- Local police and sheriff as well as usual Secret Service
- Heavily staffed with volunteers but only a few campaign staffers have been seen
- tons of signs and chum
- Tracker saw no demonstrators but arrived too early to make it likely to see them
- Country bluegrass band playing mostly "Girl themed" songs: American Girl, Every thing's better with a girl in it, Little Sister ect.
- Pom pom's and Country First signs handed to crowd. A few signs also say: "Clean Coal? You Betcha!"
- Event in a hay field in front of a big red barn, with Victory painted on the side with 20 foot letters
- hay bales for the vip's to sit on. Huge Crane holding up huge American Flag

Speech Highlights
Palin:

Thank you for the warm introduction, being here on a hot day you know no matter what others say I like small town folk like me because they just get it. Hits Obama for comment on clinging to guns and religion, says John McCain will put America first.

[crowd chants USA]

McCain is his own man, he is a Maverick, doesn't run with the herd

The only man in the race that isn't afraid to use the word victory when talking about the two words. I want to hear Barack Obama say he wants America to win. John spent 5 and a half years as a POW – he is the kind of man I want to be the next Commander in Chief - Those of you who have served in the past let us honor you, raise your hands. We thank you for your service and sacrifice – JM is always proud to be an American. Our opponents do always talk about the past, they look to the past because that is where you find blame.

… There is anger about the insider dealing in Washington, anger about the DC elite. John McCain is going to turn your anger into action. In a time of great economic worry, he will help you keep your jobs, go to school and all of us afford healthcare. We are going to fix our economy

[Talks about education] parents know how to educate their child. Have government on your side.

We will balance our federal budget in the next ten years. Where we are with the federal government, we have to quite digging the whole we are in. We have to pass a spending freeze for all but the most important, like veterans care.

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As a mayor and governor, I eliminated personal property taxes, and small business inventory taxes. Then as governor suspending our state fuel tax. With a surplus in our state, returning it back to the people of Alaska, because it is their money and they know how to spend it better then government.

John McCain proposed a solution important for retired Americans who invest in the stock market. Folks forced to sell at these current lows that is not fair. He has called for the rules to be suspended as soon as possible. That will help our estimed senior citizens
He will help bring stability to our housing market because of predatory lenders. We can fix it with that big bailout that congress past. I know that all the working government from their government is be on our side. We are going to get this economy back on track
You can not afford increased taxes right now, so listen closely to our opponents plans, Obama voted 94 times for increasing taxes, even on people making more then $42,000 a year. He wants to spend a trillion dollars more. America is in deep debt.
America is in debt, and he will get us in deeper…. Its that common sense conservatism that is John McCain, in times like these the last thing we need is another tax increase, America can't afford another big spender in the White House.

John and I also, on a mission to set this country on a path to energy independence. Drill baby drill, you got it [crowd chants Drill baby Drill] You bet, and this one is my baby, your right. What we have to do to get our country to energy independence. We need to build more nuclear power plants. Clean Coal, lets talk coal [crowd chants - mine baby mine] that is new, and we haven't heard that at the rallies, that is good, may I plagiarize that. There is more coal in this country then oil in Saudi Arabia. Why aren't we using it? Joe Biden [crowd boos] he said there is no such thing as clean coal. Rather Biden approves of it or not, JM and I will develop clean coal here in America. Our plan for coal will make more jobs. You know those resouce development jobs are darn good job my husband works in oil in AK. The first dude your right. I know all about those oil productions, energy production jobs, my family is recipients of the benefits of those jobs. Blue color jobs.

Our money is going to other countries that don't necessarily like us, asking them to ramp up production, that is non-sense. We are going to safely drill for the billions of barrels of oil that we have here in America. John and I have talked about another mission he would like me to focus on, one that is near and dear to my heart, to focus on families with special needs. These childrens can inspire a special kind of love, a love more Americans need to get a hold of. These children are not a problem, they are a priority, we need to show them the heart of America. The truest messure of any society is how it treats those who can not speak for itself. Who is more vulnerable then our children. I had to say a lot of pryers, I didn't know what to expect. I had to admit I was scared, we had to ask for strength and understanding. Everyone belongs in the circle of protection. Every child has something to contribute to the world, if we give that child a chance

[crowd chants Sara]

There are the world standards of perfection, what you see in the magazines, and then there are Gods standards. Gods standards are the final measure. Every child is beautiful before god, and dear to him for their own sake. We all stand to learn more from my child then he does from us. We do not feel scared anymore, we feel blessed. I fought for and helped secure additional funds for children with needs. As a VP I will make sure these families have a friend in the Whitehouse.

It is not mean spirited, or being negative to ask to look at my opponents record. Look at my opponents partial birth abortion votes, I am not being negative. I am asking you to look and judge for yourself. We believe in the forward movement of freedom and not the growing expansion of government.

… We still believe that America is that shining city on a hill. I thank god we have a man who is ready to lead it. With heroics and trust worthy deeds and not just words.

The private sector, that is where it is at. Government is not the answer, too often it is the problem. We will put country first. Help me Ohio to help put John McCain in the White House. We know who the bad guys are, the terrorist, and those who would sympathize and support those terrorist who would seek to destroy all the we value. Those are the bad guys. In the economy it is those who have been greedy, and corrupt. We know who

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the good people are, it is you, we will end the arrogant and selfish practices of DC.

You will hear our opponents say they will fight for you, there is only one man in this race who has every really fought for you. He has the courage to keep on fighting for you. That man is John McCain. Thank you OH.

Thanks,

--
Andres Moreno
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
ProgressiveAccountability.org (PAO)
202-609-7688 (office)
703-501-6566 (cell)
andres@progressiveaccountability.org

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/11/2015 7:31:54 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday February 11, 2015 Afternoon Roundup



Correct The Record Wednesday February 11, 2015 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton fought to prevent voter intimidation #HRC365 https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/4069/cosponsors … [2/11/15, 12:21 p.m. EST]

Pres. Bill Clinton @billclinton: Tweeting is easier than birdie-ing! Welcome @BHaasGolf ! [2/10/15, 11:07 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

BuzzFeed: "Full Transcript Of BuzzFeed News' Interview With President Barack Obama"

Pres. Obama: "Hillary Clinton I know much better than I know Jeb Bush, and I think she'd be an outstanding president."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "This terrible poll shows Elizabeth Warren beating Hillary Clinton"

"How do you get results so far afield of any polling we've seen to date? You say a bunch of positive/liberal-friendly things about Warren before you ask the head-to-head question."

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The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Paul: 'I blame' Clinton for ISIS conflict”

“Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) on Wednesday accused former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of helping to spur unrest in the Middle East that led to the current battle against militants from the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.”

Washington Post column: Ruth Marcus: “Brian Williams needs to go”

“Clinton’s sniper-fire statement is, no doubt, a blot on her record. It is not a disqualifying blot. Journalists come to the job with only their credibility to offer. We expect less from politicians in terms of total truth-telling. Spin is part of the business model. You could legitimately decide that Clinton’s sniper story is disqualifying, but you must then deal with Ronald Reagan witnessing the liberation of Nazi death camps. Either way, the untenable nature of Williams’s position becomes even clearer. Imagine that Clinton’s sniper story becomes a campaign issue. How does Williams, in the anchor chair, comfortably report that news, even after six months away?”

Articles:

BuzzFeed: “Full Transcript Of BuzzFeed News’ Interview With President Barack Obama”

[Interview by Ben Smith]

February 11, 2015, 12:13 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] BuzzFeed Editor-in-Chief Ben Smith sat down with President Barack Obama. Twenty-two minutes, eighteen questions.

FULL TRANSCRIPT:

BuzzFeed News: So, eight years ago, today actually, you announced your campaign in Springfield. I read that speech last night and I was struck by how much it’s a generational call to your generation, I guess to some degree mine. You use the word “generation” 13 times in the speech. Now, two of the leading candidates for the next presidential nomination are of the previous generation, and I wonder if you find that at all disappointing?

President Obama: Well, they’re both obviously highly qualified candidates. Hillary Clinton I know much better than I know Jeb Bush, and I think she’d be an outstanding president. My understanding is that everybody else is younger than me, which—

Wasn’t that the idea?

Obama: —I guess matches up with my gray hair. But, you know ultimately what people are going to be looking for in the next president is what they always look for in a president and that is somebody who is attuned to the hopes and dreams of the American people at a particular moment in time. When I ran in 2008, I think what people understood was that the middle class had been left behind for a pretty long stretch of time. We had been involved in very costly wars that didn’t seem to have necessarily made us safer and they were looking for change and, you know, I suspect that

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the next candidates are going to be grappling with some of the issues that I talked about at the State of the Union: How can we make sure that we have broad-based prosperity now that we're out of crisis? How do we deal with terrorism in a way that's smart and effective? How do we address long-term issues like climate change that sometimes are really hard to do politically? So I think it will be a fascinating debate.

You were elected with this new coalition of young people, people of color, women, and I wonder, is that a coalition that the next Democratic nominee — Hillary Clinton or not — inherits?

Obama: I don't think any president inherits a coalition. I think any candidate has to win over people based on what they stand for, what their message is, what their vision is for the future. I think what's true is that I've done very well among younger Americans, and that's always been something I've been very proud of: our ability to reach out to get people involved who traditionally have not always gotten involved or have been skeptical about politics. I think the fact that we got a lot of support from African-Americans or Latinos or Asian-Americans is just reflective of the shifts in the country. I think it's also important to remember that I won Iowa, which doesn't have one of the most diverse populations in the country. I think there's been, you know, talk that there's a need to reach out more to older Americans or middle America or white working-class families that Democrats haven't done as well on, but that hasn't been unique to me, that's been going on for a while.

Do you think that's right, that there is a need to reach out to them more?

Obama: I absolutely do. I think that one of the biggest challenges in our politics is always how do we get all of us to recognize what we have in common. And there's so many forces that push us apart. Race is just one of them. You've got the rural-urban divide. You have states that are traditionally very Republican versus very Democrat. North-South. But one of the great things about being president is you travel around and it turns out everybody's struggling with the same things, everybody's hoping for the same things. People's values are pretty common, and what I said during the State of the Union is something I still believe, which is that we are more unified than our politics would let on, and the question — particularly during presidential elections — is can we get our politics to give voice to those common things?

If I can move on to the Affordable Care Act. We reported yesterday that the office supply store Staples is — I'm sure this is an issue you've heard about before — is telling its workers that it will fire them if they work more than 25 hours a week. A manager had told a worker we talked to that "Obama's responsible for this policy," and they're putting these notices on the wall of their break room saying that. I wonder what you'd say to the CEO of Staples, Ronald Sargent, about that policy?

Obama: What I would say is that millions of people are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act. Satisfaction is high. The typical premium is less than 100 bucks.

But this is a specific consequence…

Obama: No, I'm gonna answer the question. And that there is no reason for an employer who is not currently providing health care to their workers to discourage them from either getting health insurance on the job or being able to avail themselves of the Affordable Care Act. I haven't looked at Staples stock lately or what the compensation of the CEO is, but I suspect that they could well afford to treat their workers favorably and give them some basic financial security, and if they can't, then they should be willing to allow those workers to get the Affordable Care Act without cutting wages. This is the same argument that I've made with respect to something like paid sick leave. We have 43 million Americans who, if they get sick or their child gets sick, are looking at either losing their paycheck or going to the job sick or leaving their child at home sick. It's one thing when you've got a mom-and-pop store who can't afford to provide paid sick leave or health insurance or minimum wage to workers — even though a large percentage of those small businesses do it because they know it's the right thing to do — but when I hear large corporations that make billions of dollars in profits trying to blame our interest in providing health insurance as an excuse for cutting back workers' wages, shame on them.

Moving on to Russia. You started this presidency with a very productive relationship with President Medvedev and the relations are now probably at their worst since the Cold War. How much of that do you ascribe to Vladimir Putin's character?

Obama: You know, I don't want to psychoanalyze Mr. Putin. I will say that he has a foot very much in the Soviet past. That's how he came of age. He ran the KGB. Those were his formative experiences. So I think he looks at problems through this Cold War lens, and, as a consequence, I think he's missed some opportunities for Russia to diversify its economy, to strengthen its relationship with its neighbors, to represent something different than the old Soviet-style aggression. You know, I continue to hold out the prospect of Russia taking a diplomatic offering from what they've done in

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Ukraine. I think, to their credit, they've been able to compartmentalize and continue to work with us on issues like Iran's nuclear program. But, if you look at what's happened to the Russian economy, even before oil prices collapsed, it is not an economy that's built for the 21st century. Unfortunately, those forces for modernization inside of Russia, I think, have been sidelined. That's bad for Russia and, over time, it's bad for the United States, because if Russia is doing badly, the concern is that they revert to old expansionist ideas that really shouldn't have any application in the 21st century.

We asked our readers [for] questions and we got a lot of questions about weed. One guy, Shawn Gould from Wilmington, it's a familiar situation. He has a felony marijuana possession conviction, so he can't get a job. He said he can't get a job at Boston Market. A kind of problem that disproportionately affects young black men like him. This is obviously a policy challenge you've spent your whole career — one of them — thinking about, but you've been president for six years. What do you say to him?

Obama: We have tried to begin a process of reforming how we deal with nonviolent drug offenses, starting with Eric Holder, our attorney general, providing different criteria for evaluation for U.S. attorneys, suggesting to them they don't always just have to charge the maximum in order for them to do a good job. In fact, sometimes it's more appropriate to look at whether a charge against a nonviolent drug offender is the right charge. We are reaching out to judges and lawyers — both prosecutors and defense bar — to look at how we can begin to more systematically change sentencing when it comes to nonviolent drug offenses. We've revamped the pardoning office in the Justice Department because, traditionally, we weren't reaching a lot of nonviolent offenders who, if they received a pardon, perhaps would be in a better position to get employed. Overall — and the final thing is our office of drug prevention policy, one of the things we're trying to do is move off just an enforcement/incarceration strategy more to a public health, treatment strategy. When you look at the progress we've made in reducing teen smoking, for example, or promoting seatbelt use: It's not because we criminalize things, alone — although in the case of seatbelts, obviously, you can get a ticket — a lot of it just had to do with public education. The same is true on drug abuse. Unfortunately, we've short-changed that side and the consequences have been particularly devastating in certain segments of the community that need to be addressed.

I want to move to the big LGBT news of yesterday, but first we had a very specific question from a reader who worked for you, a federal lawyer who's transgender named Emily Prince. Federal policy bars discrimination against transgender people under health care plans covered under the ACA, but federal worker plans largely don't cover gender reassignment surgery. Should they?

Obama: You know, I haven't looked at that policy. My general view is that transgender persons, just like gays and lesbians, are deserving of equal treatment under the law. And that's a basic principle. As you mentioned, my sense is that the Supreme Court is about to make a shift, one that I welcome, which is to recognize that — having hit a critical mass of states that have recognized same-sex marriage — it doesn't make sense for us to now have this patchwork system and that it's time to recognize that, under the equal protection clause of the United States, same-sex couples should have the same rights as anybody else.

There are a few officials in Alabama, starting with Judge Roy Moore, but also a number of probate judges, who are resisting that. Do you see shades of George Wallace in the schoolhouse door?

Obama: Well, I… look, I won't… I won't say it's a perfect analogy, but there's a core principle here that's at stake, which is we have a supremacy clause in our constitution. When federal law is in conflict with state law, federal law wins out. My understanding — my recollection is that Judge Moore had a similar problem with a federal court ruling that you couldn't put a huge Ten Commandments statue in the middle of your courthouse and, ultimately, federal law was obeyed, and I think that the same thing will end up happening here.

Is there anything you'd say to him?

Obama: You know, I think that the courts at the federal level will have something to say to him.

David Axelrod wrote in his book that you hated and weren't good at, he said, "bullshitting" about your position on marriage in '08. Why did you feel you had to do it?

Obama: Well, you know, I think David is mixing up my personal feelings with my position on the issue. I always felt that same-sex couples should be able to enjoy the same rights, legally, as anybody else, and so it was frustrating to me not to, I think, be able to square that with what were a whole bunch of religious sensitivities out there. So my thinking at the time was that civil unions — which I always supported — was a sufficient way of

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squaring the circle. That, OK, we won't call it "marriage," we'll call it "civil unions," same-sex couples will have the same rights as anybody else, but the word "marriage" with its religious connotations historically would be preserved for marriages between men and women. Where my evolution took place was not in my attitude toward same-sex couples, it was in understanding the pain and the sense of stigma that was being placed on same-sex couples who are friends of mine, where they'd say, "You know what, if you're not calling it marriage, it doesn't feel like the same thing. Even if you gave me the same rights, the fact that I'm being treated differently or the love that we feel is somehow segmented off, that hurts." It was because of those conversations that I ended up shifting positions, that civil unions, in fact, were not sufficient rather than marriage. But I think the notion that somehow I was always in favor of marriage per se isn't quite accurate. What I was in favor of is making sure that…

Despite that old questionnaire?

Obama: Well, yeah. The old questionnaire, you know, is an example of struggling with what was a real issue at the time, which is how do you make sure that people's rights are enjoyed and these religious sensitivities were taken into account? You know, these are the kinds of things you learn as you… move forward in public life: that sometimes you can't split the difference. That sometimes you just have to be very clear that this is what's right. And what I'm very proud of is to see how rapidly the country has shifted and maybe the small part that I've played, but certainly my Justice Department and others have played, in this administration in getting to where we need to be.

I have sort of an organizing question about that, which is if you talk to people who were involved in your initial coalition — you have labor union activists, civil rights activists, environmentalists, and LGBT rights activists — it's the LGBT rights activists right now who feel most totally fulfilled by your administration, by what you've done. I wonder, did they do something right? Did they push you harder? Or was it just their moment and it really wasn't about what they did?

Obama: Yeah, I, you know, I think it was a matter of… It was an idea whose time had come. I also think that, unlike sometimes issues of race or even in some cases economic status, I think that there are a lot of people, including Supreme Court justices, who have somebody in their family or somebody that they know who's gay and, as more and more people came out of the closet and they said, "Well, gosh, well, I love that person." It changed—

So you don't give the organized community credit as much as the cultural change?

Obama: Well, no no no. I mean, I think the organized community did an excellent job. But, look, the immigrants' rights organizations have done an excellent job, the civil rights organizations have done an excellent job. I think that a lot of it had to do with the willingness of people to recognize the regard they had for the LGBT communities or people in their families. But part of it is also, frankly, that an issue like nondiscrimination for the LGBT community is a little bit easier than the issues of inner-city poverty, right? You not discriminating against a gay person may require you to undergo some change of mind, but it doesn't require you to potentially — calling on the government to provide more support for impoverished children so that they've got day care that's high quality.

We've just got a couple more minutes and there are a couple national security questions I wanted to get in in that time. First, lot of complicated parts in this surveillance debate, but there's one thing you could do with the stroke of the pen, which is ending the bulk collection of metadata. Why haven't you?

Obama: Well, what we've done is called on Congress to create a program that preserves what we need in order to fight against potential terror attacks on the homeland while addressing the concerns of privacy critics and libertarians.

But why not stop the program now?

Obama: Well, because I'm still hopeful that we can actually get a bill passed… You know, there is bipartisan support for the bill, and, as has been true in a lot of instances, including on immigration, my preference is always to actually get legislation passed because it's a little longer lasting.

And finally I wanted to ask you about Kayla Mueller. She was confirmed dead today, and I wondered both if you had any reaction to her murder and, really, how do you tell a family that the United States government is not going to do all it can or we have a policy of not doing all we can in these situations?

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Obama: Well, first of all, my immediate reaction is heartbreak. I've been in touch with Kayla's family. She was an outstanding young woman and a great spirit, and I think that spirit will live on. I think the more people learn about her, the more they appreciate what she stood for and how it stands in contrast with the barbaric organization that held her captive. But I don't think it's accurate then to say that the United States government hasn't done everything that we could. We devoted enormous resources — and always devote enormous resources — to freeing captives or hostages anywhere in the world, and I deployed an entire operation at significant risk to rescue not only her, but the other individuals that had been held, and probably missed them by a day or two precisely because we had that commitment. The one thing that we have held to is a policy of not paying ransoms with an organization like ISIL. And the reason is that once we start doing that, not only are we financing their slaughter of innocent people and strengthening their organization, but we're actually making Americans even greater targets for future kidnappings… You know, it's as tough as anything that I do, having conversation with parents who understandably want — by any means necessary — for their children to be safe, and we will do everything we can, short of providing an incentive for future Americans to be caught.

And I understand the policy review underway, you're ruling out ransoms. Is anything even being considered there?

Obama: Just as a general rule, what we don't want to do is make other American citizens riper targets for the actions of organizations like this.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "This terrible poll shows Elizabeth Warren beating Hillary Clinton"

By Aaron Blake

February 11, 2015, 12:04 p.m. EST

MoveOn.org wants Elizabeth Warren to run for president -- so much so that it has commissioned a poll with the very clear purpose of making Warren's potential candidacy look as good as possible.

Mission accomplished. The just-released poll from YouGov shows Warren ahead of Clinton 31 percent to 24 percent in Iowa and 30-27 in New Hampshire.

How do you get results so far afield of any polling we've seen to date? You say a bunch of positive/liberal-friendly things about Warren before you ask the head-to-head question.

In fairness to MoveOn, the group discloses up-front that this is what's known as an "informed ballot" -- i.e. information is shared about candidates before the head-to-head question is asked. MoveOn emphasizes that no negative information is shared about the other candidates (including Clinton), which is a trick often used in such polling.

What MoveOn doesn't disclose is that the only candidate for whom positive information is shared is Warren. And there is a lot of positive information -- 10 statements, in fact.

A sampling:

· "Elizabeth Warren wants to extend the same low interest rates that the federal government gives big Wall Street banks to college students who receive government loans for their education."

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· "The absolute last thing we should do (to Social Security) is allow the program to begin to be dismantled inch by inch. We should be talking about expanding Social Security benefits -- not cutting them."

· "No one should be above the law. If you steal a hundred bucks on Main Street, you're probably going to jail. If you steal a billion bucks on Wall Street, you darn well better go to jail too."

· "People feel like the system is rigged against them. And here's the painful part: they're right.... Oil companies guzzle down billions in profits. Billionaires pay lower tax rates than their secretaries."

· "Sen. Warren says, 'I came out of a hardworking, middle-class family. I came from an America that created opportunities for people like me, and I now see an America where the government works for people who already have money and power.... We need to remind politicians that they don't work for the big banks -- they work for us.'"

· The takeaway here: If Warren runs for president and is somehow able to run a campaign in which she is the only candidate allowed to share positive information about herself, then she might -- emphasis on might -- have a chance of beating Clinton.

If anything, this poll should discourage Warren from changing her mind and running.

Here's the poll, in case you want to explore:

[POLL]

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Paul: 'I blame' Clinton for ISIS conflict"

By Ben Kamisar

February 11, 2015, 12:30 p.m. EST

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) on Wednesday accused former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of helping to spur unrest in the Middle East that led to the current battle against militants from the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

"One of the people I blame for a lot of this, frankly, is Hillary Clinton," he said on Fox News's "America's Newsroom."

"The disaster that is Libya is now a breeding ground for terrorists and also a breeding ground for armament. I really do blame Hillary Clinton's war in Libya for creating a lot of the chaos that is now spreading throughout the Middle East."

Paul has repeatedly needled Clinton ahead of the two politicians' potential 2016 bids, this time when host Bill Hemmer asked for his take on President Obama's proposed authorization to fight ISIS, sent to Congress Wednesday. The proposal includes vague language that limits the president from "enduring offensive ground combat" but would allow him to authorize limited ground operations and have soldiers target ISIS forces and their associates.

But the plan hasn't been welcomed with open arms on Capitol Hill. Some Democratic lawmakers told The Hill that the language may still be too broad, while Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) said in a statement that he's concerned the president's language isn't broad enough to give "our military commanders the flexibility and authorities they need."

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While Paul said “the president has to do much more” to combat ISIS, and that America should consider directly arming Kurdish fighters on the ground, he admitted that there has been some improvement.

“They have been pushed back,” he said about ISIS. “I don’t think they are gaining ground."

But he pivoted back to Clinton and said that her push to arm rebels in Syria fighting against President Bashar Assad helped bring weapons into “the hands of ISIS," and criticized her for unrest in Libya.

“I think Hillary’s war in Libya and then Hillary’s admonition, the president’s admonition, and frankly some Republicans' admonition to get involved in the Syrian civil war has actually now created a bigger problem, which is ISIS,” he said.

Washington Post column: Ruth Marcus: “Brian Williams needs to go”

By Ruth Marcus

February 10, 2015, 7:27 p.m. EST

Indecision may not be the best quality in a columnist, but in the case of NBC News anchor Brian Williams, that’s what I find in myself: I doubt that the six-month suspension the network announced Tuesday night is enough, and I think he needs to step down.

My hesitation over asserting that Williams cannot continue in the anchor chair has two components. The first is simple human compassion. Williams seems like a nice guy, with an endearing capacity for poking fun at himself. Those who are enjoying his predicament must be more certain about their own infallibility than I am about mine. Kicking people when they’re up is a lot more sporting than when they’re in a fetal crouch. A six-month suspension is pretty severe.

The second, which gives me far more pause and necessitates the antiquated practice of trial before sentencing, is the essential mystery of memory. We may sincerely believe what did not actually happen.

For years my friend Amanda Bennett told the story of attending the wrong wedding, only to realize her mistake when a bride she didn’t know walked down the aisle. One day Amanda recounted this tale, only to be informed, by the friend to whom the wedding escapade had actually happened , that it wasn’t her story at all. Amanda had somehow appropriated it as her own. It was too good not to retell.

Amanda is smart and tough and an experienced journalist — a former big-city newspaper editor. Her reporting in this instance was sincere but faulty, in the service not of self-promotion but of self-deprecation.

Science supports this possibility. False memories take root. Fragments of experience recombine and emerge as falsehoods — not deliberate lies but untrue nonetheless. This is why the entire context matters so much in Williams’s case: Is his tale of being in a helicopter under fire another example of shifting, faulty memory, or is it part of a pattern of puffery, including Hurricane Katrina? The latter would undercut the likelihood that the helicopter story was a moment of memory gone haywire.

Assume, though, that the evidence tends in the direction of deliberate misstatement. How should we think about the appropriate consequence? Not every journalistic transgression deserves the career equivalent of a death penalty. A single episode of plagiarism, for example, should be judged in

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the context of an entire career — punished severely but, in certain cases, with a sanction short of dismisssal.

In Williams's case, some thoughtful observers argued that his transgression did not rise to the level of firing (or resignation) because it did not go to the essence of his job — "not a fundamental part of his primary responsibilities," as the New York Times' David Carr put it.

This analysis misperceives the role of news anchor — as NBC itself recognized: "As Managing Editor and Anchor of 'Nightly News,' Brian has a responsibility to be truthful and to uphold the high standards of the news division at all times," Deborah Turness, the president of NBC News, said in a statement.

To the extent that the job is more than merely reading words off a teleprompter, it is to be the institutional voice of trust and reason, reassuring in a crisis, the ultimate reliable narrator. When issues of trustworthiness become a distraction, the anchor loses his credibility, and therefore his perch.

Some discussion of Williams's fate has involved his central role at NBC and whether the network could "afford" to lose its most recognizable franchise. This is the network version of "too big to fail" — that Williams is too important to can. I see it the opposite way: Williams's elevated status subjects him to a higher standard of behavior, and more rigorous consequences. The face of NBC News cannot afford to be so scarred.

Thinking about Williams requires grappling with the consequence of Hillary Clinton's untrue story of coming under sniper fire in Bosnia. If I am correct in concluding that Williams should not continue in the anchor role at NBC, must I then believe that Clinton is unqualified to be president? If I distinguish between the two, is that because of pro-Clinton, pro-Democrat bias? Would I judge more harshly were a Republican candidate involved?

Here, I can only offer my best effort to analyze the two cases objectively. Clinton's sniper-fire statement is, no doubt, a blot on her record. It is not a disqualifying blot. Journalists come to the job with only their credibility to offer. We expect less from politicians in terms of total truth-telling. Spin is part of the business model. You could legitimately decide that Clinton's sniper story is disqualifying, but you must then deal with Ronald Reagan witnessing the liberation of Nazi death camps.

Either way, the untenable nature of Williams's position becomes even clearer. Imagine that Clinton's sniper story becomes a campaign issue. How does Williams, in the anchor chair, comfortably report that news, even after six months away?

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From:	"Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	8/13/2008 12:36:44 PM
Subject:	[big campaign] Tracking Clip of the Day- McCain: "In the 21st Century, Nations Don't Invade Other Nations"

Enjoy!

QUESTIONER: [...] You said that heightened security for the Baltic states and Poland might be in order. Can you talk a little bit more about what shape that might take?

JOHN MCCAIN: Well, [pauses] when I say that I, I think that we need to make sure that our NATO allies are work closely with us. I think it's important that everyone recognize throughout the world that in the NATO alliance, an attack on one is viewed as an attack on all. But I, I don't think we're gonna reignite the Cold War here with Russia. I think this is a very serious situation. But I don't see this as a return to nuclear standoffs, et cetera et cetera. I want to have a dialogue with the Russians, I want them to get out of Georgian territory as quickly as possible. And I am interested in good relations between the United States and Russia. But in the 21st century, nations don't invade other nations. And we, we will decide in subsequent days as whether degree of provocation and what, who was right and who was wrong. But you cannot justify the extent and the degree of the Russian intervention in Georgia. [...] So my point is that all of us show solidarity together and do whatever we can to make sure that behavior in the 21st century is one of respect for the sovereignty and independence of nations. And that includes the country of Georgia. That's what I meant by that in my response. Yes, sir. Yes, maam.
(Media Avail; Birmingham, MI 08/13/08)
To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeHpXffvGvY
To Download: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/lhfq5md6md

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/13/2008 5:09:50 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain/Palin Rally in Virginia Beach, VA 10/13/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights
[McCain Highlights]

- Compares Obama to Hoover: "The last president to do what Senator Obama wants to do- raise taxes and restrict trade in a bad economy was Herbert Hoover. That didn't turn out too well."
    - Continues: They say those who don't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. Well, my friends, I know my history lessons, and I sure won't make the mistakes Senator Obama will.
- Promises 'Workers who already have health care insurance from their employers will keep it and have more money to cover costs.'
- Says "I know what fear feels like ... what hopelessness feels like ... I felt those things once before. I will never let them in again. I'm an American. And I choose to fight."
- Concedes he's low in the polls but says 'Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.'
- Pep talk feel: litanies of "I have a plan," and "[We have to] fight for"

[Palin Highlights]

- Acknowledges that there's a lot of anger about insider dealing of lobbyists, and greed on Wall Street and about arrogance of washington elite, *and anger about voter fraud* [crowd cheers].
    - Implores: America, let john mccain turn that anger into action.
- Adds on: "Drill baby drill and *mine baby mine* "

Virginia Beach, VA: McCain/Palin Rally 10/13/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Cindy intros Palin
    - crowd chants "john mccain! john mccain!" then "sarah! sarah!"
    - i can't even see where all the ppl end in the back
    - thank you, i know there are many, many vets here today
    - when it came time for john and i to decide to make this run, it was a very personal decision for both of us - we have 2 sons in military (marine corps and navy) and most importantly b/t us and the palin family, there are 3 young men also representing the army - we are so proud of these young men and all those serving for our frdm and frdm of those less fortunate, aren't we proud to be an american today?
    - this man behind me, my best friend and my husband has served this country since he was 17yo - he is the only person in thise race w/ kind of experience, leadership and more importantly the kind of character that it takes to be pres - he and sarah have served causes greater than self-interest since the day they entered politics
    - campaign stands for more: reform, peace and prosperity. when he came to me a few months ago and

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said you know i might just want a woman on the steering wheel for this country, i said absolutely! there is no one better for this job!
    - so i have job of introing to you a friend of mine, a friend of all of us and the next VPOTUS

- On stage: John, Sarah, Todd and Cindy
- Sign reads "Obama Bin Lyin'"

Speech Highlights
[Palin Highlights]

- thank you so much. yes VA! it is so good to be here. thank you! so good to b here w/ next FLOTUS. ty for warm welcome, and Bocephus, thank you sir! VA beach, this is so beatufilu. so filled w/ good hardworking patriotic americans, no place id rather be. this will come down to the wire. and teh road to vicotory will run right thru the Hampton Rds. we're counting on you to help send mccain to WH. are you ready to make mccain the next POTUS? [announcer voice] and are you ready to shake things up in washington?
- good to be here in home of naval station in 'Norfork' and naval aviator station, Oceania. so good to visit these places w/ mccain. he served his country in uniform for 22 yrs, 5 1/2 yrs as POW. can we recognize you in crowd who have served? ty!
- for campaign that says its all about the future, they sure do a lot of pointing fingers in the past. strategy wearing a lil too thin. they look to the past where you find blame. we are joining you in looking to the future b/c thats where you find solutions. [NOBAMA! NOBAMA!]
- we know across america there's a lot of anger about insider dealing of lobbyists, and greed on Wall Street and about arrogance of washington elite, and anger about voter fraud [cheers]. america, let mccain turn that anger into action. he's confronted wasteful spending and corruption and as president he will end it
- mccain's economic recovery plan will help ppl keep jobs, stay in homes, afford college and health care. we need mccains econ plan to get econ back on right track
- he's got the guts to confront $10T debt. we'll balance the budget by the end of our term
- we'll bring tax relief to every american and every business so businesses can hire more ppl and create jobs
- in our admin, we'll set nation firmly on path towards energy independence - we need to drill here and drill now - we need american energy resources [drill baby drill] drill baby drill, thats right. youre right. drill baby drill and mine baby mine - we need american energy resources brought to you by americans
- all american ppl are asking for is govt be on our side so we can have good job in our hometown. w/ lower taxes and progrowth agenda, we'll get economy moving again, i promise you that.
- on nov 4th, itll come down to what we believe in. what mccain and i believe in is what reagan believed in: the fwd movement of freedom, not the constant expansion of govt. we believe the best of america is not gathered in DC but in ppl here who grow our food and fight our wars, who protect us and our frdm. we so believe in the promise of this country and all the opportunities we wish for ourselves and our kids. we believe america is still shining city on hill. we have man who inspires us w/ deeds and not just words.
- youre gonna hear from now until election day OOs go on and on about how they'll "fight for you" - since he wont say it for himself, i say it for him: there is only 1 man in this race who has ever really fought for you. [john mccain! john mccain!]
- he is the only man w/ the courage to keep on fighting for you. my privilege to intro the next POTUS, mccain! god bless you!

[McCain Highlights]

- thank you, isn't this a great VPOTUS, sarah palin? im proud. i can hardly wait to intro her to DC and the ppl who will know that times will be different and change is coming
- hank williams, jr, thank you for the highlight of the program
- George allen and john warner, 2 of my old friends, are here, ty for your courage and service
- my son, doug, lives here on beach. this was my first duty station yrs ago and it's like coming back
- and the great honor of my life ot be able to serve my country in good times and bad, i will always look back on those i knew in military as those i love best
- and thank you for this large turnout

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FULL PREPARED REMARKS

Three weeks from now, you will choose a new President. Choose well. There is much at stake.

[some straight talk:] These are hard times. Our economy is in crisis. Financial markets are collapsing. Credit is drying up. Your savings are in danger. Your retirement is at risk. Jobs are disappearing. The cost of health care, your children's college, gasoline and groceries are rising all the time with no end in sight. While your most important asset -- your home -- is losing value every day.

Americans are fighting in two wars. We face many enemies in this dangerous world, and they are waiting to see if our current troubles will permanently weaken us.

The next President won't have time to get used to the office. He won't have the luxury of studying up on the issues before he acts. He will have to act immediately. [cheers] And to do that, he will need experience, courage, judgment and a bold plan of action to take this country in a new direction. We cannot spend the next four years as we have spent much of the last eight: waiting for our luck to change. The hour is late; our troubles are getting worse; our enemies watch. We have to act immediately. We have to change direction now. We have to fight. [And you and I know how to do that]

I've been fighting for this country since I was seventeen years old, and I have the scars to prove it. If [you elect me] President, I will fight to take America in a new direction from my first day in office until my last. I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it.

I'm not going to spend $700 billion dollars of your money just bailing out the Wall Street bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. I'm going to make sure we take care of the people who were devastated by the excesses of Wall Street and Washington. I'm going to spend a lot of that money to bring relief to you, and I'm not going to wait sixty days to start doing it.

I have a plan to protect the value of your home and get it rising again by buying up bad mortgages and refinancing them so if your neighbor defaults he doesn't bring down the value of your house with him.

I have a plan to let retirees and people nearing retirement keep their money in their retirement accounts longer so they can rebuild their savings.

I have a plan to rebuild the retirement savings of every worker.

I have a plan to hold the line on taxes and cut them [cheers] to make America more competitive and create jobs here at home.

Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse. Keeping taxes low creates jobs, keeps money in your hands and strengthens our economy.

The explosion of government spending over the last eight years has put us deeper in debt to foreign countries that don't have our best interests at heart. It weakened the dollar and made everything you buy more expensive.

If I'm elected President, I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money, on top of the $700 billion we just gave the Treasury Secretary, as Senator Obama proposes. [crowd boos, chants "Nobama! nobama!] Because he can't [spend that much] without raising your taxes or digging us further into debt. I'm going to make government live on a budget just like you do.

I will freeze government spending on all but the most important programs like defense, veterans care, Social Security and health care until we scrub every single government program and get rid of the ones that aren't working for the American people. And I will veto every single pork barrel bill Congresses passes. [i'll make them famous, you'll know their names]

If I'm elected President, I won't fine small businesses and families with children, as Senator Obama proposes, to force them into a new huge government run health care program [boos, someone shouts get your ??? out of

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here!] , while I keep the cost of the fine a secret until I hit you with it. I will bring down the skyrocketing cost of health care with competition and choice to lower your premiums, and make it more available to more Americans. I'll make sure you can keep the same health plan if you change jobs or leave a job to stay home.

I will provide every single American family with a $5000 refundable tax credit to help them purchase insurance. Workers who already have health care insurance from their employers will keep it and have more money to cover costs. Workers who don't have health insurance can use it to find a policy anywhere in this country to meet their basic needs.

If I'm elected President, I won't raise taxes on small businesses, as Senator Obama proposes, and force them to cut jobs. I will keep small business taxes where they are, help them keep their costs low, and let them spend their earnings to create more jobs.

If I'm elected President, I won't make it harder to sell our goods overseas and kill more jobs as Senator Obama proposes. I will open new markets to goods made in America and make sure our trade is free and fair. And I'll make sure we help workers who've lost a job that won't come back find a new one that won't go away.

The last President to raise taxes and restrict trade in a bad economy as Senator Obama proposes was Herbert Hoover. That didn't turn out too well. They say those who don't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. Well, my friends, I know my history lessons, and I sure won't make the mistakes Senator Obama will.

If I'm elected President, we're going to stop sending $700 billion to countries that don't like us very much. I won't argue to delay drilling for more oil and gas and building new nuclear power plants in America, as Senator Obama does. We will start new drilling now. We will invest in all energy alternatives -- nuclear, wind, solar, and tide. We will encourage the manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric automobiles. We will invest in clean coal technology. We will lower the cost of energy within months, and we will create millions of new jobs.

[btw, next time obama says nuclear plants need to be made safe, take him over to one of our nuclear-powered navy ships and ask those men and women.]

Let me give you the state of the race today. We have 22 days to go. We're 6 points down. The national media has written us off. [boos] Senator Obama is measuring the drapes, and planning with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid to raise taxes, increase spending, take away your right to vote by secret ballot in labor elections, and concede defeat in Iraq. [boos] [my friends, i wont concede defeat in iraq, i'll bring them home in victory and honor] But they forgot to let you decide. My friends, we've got them just where we want them.

What America needs in this hour is a fighter; someone who puts all his cards on the table and trusts the judgment of the American people. I come [proudly] from a long line of McCains who believed that to love America is to fight for her. I have fought for you most of my life. There are other ways to love this country, but I've never been the kind to do it from the sidelines.

I know you're worried. America is a great country, but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future. Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. [crowd chants: Yes! Yes! yes! yes!] But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

I know what fear feels like. It's a thief in the night who robs your strength.

I know what hopelessness feels like. It's an enemy who defeats your will.

I felt those things once before. I will never let them in again. I'm an American. And I choose to fight.

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Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight.

Fight for a new direction for our country.

Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for our children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
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202-609-7681 (office)
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From: "Andrew Schwartz" <externalrelations@csis.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/24/2015 2:22:38 PM
Subject: Video: Brzezinski on the World

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CSIS | CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Dear Colleagues,

Today CSIS releases the first episode of an extraordinary 3-part series of video interviews called "Brzezinski On the World " featuring CSIS Counselor and Trustee Zbigniew Brzezinski himself!

Former national security advisor Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski recently sat down with Dr. Jon Alterman, Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair in Global Security and Geostrategy, and research assistant Ben Daus-Haberle for a conversation on the state of the world in the era of global politics and global risks. Drawing on a storied career in public service, Dr. Brzezinski combines his unique historical perspective with fresh insights into the challenges and opportunities facing policymakers in 2015.

"Brzezinski On The World " will be released in three episodes over the next three weeks.

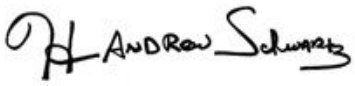
In this first five-minute episode, Dr. Brzezinski analyzes how the United States should think about its relations with Russia and China.

I'm sure you will find it as fascinating, insightful, and timely as I do.



I always welcome your feedback and look for a note from me next week when we release episode 2 of "Brzezinski On The World."

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H. Andrew Schwartz
Senior Vice President for External Relations
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
www.csis.org





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From:	"Lauren Weiner" <Weiner@americansunitedforchange.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	12/23/2008 9:20:59 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Brad Woodhouse's Huffington Post Column: Another presidential legacy gets the Orwellian treatment

THE HUFFINGTON POST

THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY



Brad Woodhouse

Posted December 23, 2008 | 02:12 PM (EST)

Another presidential legacy gets the Orwellian treatment; Reagan got away with it, George W. will not

The jig has been up for some time now for the once revered Bush administration PR machine with the President's job approval rating failing to crack the fortieth percentile in more than two years. In fact, the President's numbers never really rebounded since 2005 following his hugely unpopular attempt to privatize Social Security; the tragic milestone of 2000 fallen U.S. soldiers hit and surpassed in Iraq; and of course, his administration's woefully inept response to Hurricane Katrina.

That year, Katrina's wake washed away whatever credibility remained following the exposure of this Administration's penchant for payola , staged "town hall meetings," disingenuously named initiatives like "Clear Skies" and "Healthy Forests," fabricated news reports praising the President's prescription drug program, gallingly inappropriate stunts like strutting across an aircraft carrier in a flight suit to declare "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq, and even a phony reporter planted in White House press briefings as a lifeline. Such propaganda tactics would make "The Ministry of Truth" from George Orwell's dystopian classic 1984 blush.

And now the same folks that brought us the needless $3 trillion war in Iraq have the mother of all swan songs left in store: redefining the Bush legacy as something other than a failure. Weekly Standard senior writer and GOP insider Stephen Hayes let slip earlier this month that an unofficial White House PR campaign is afoot - which Hayes dubbed the "Bush Legacy project" -- with the mission of highlighting what they believe are the President's accomplishments and shirking responsibility for the more numerous and far more consequential failures.

For instance, during the first in a series of scheduled media "exit interviews" with the President, ABC's Charlie Gibson asked Bush if he could have a "do-over," what it would be. In true "mistakes were made" form, Bush shrugged off any personal responsibility, replying: "[T]he biggest regret of all the presidency has to have been the intelligence failure in Iraq. A lot of people put their reputations on the line and said, you know, the weapons of mass destruction, is a reason to remove Saddam Hussein. It wasn't just people in my administration."

In reality, more than a few people formerly in his administration have come forward as witnesses to a serious failure of leadership, not intelligence, including former counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke and former CIA national intelligence officer Paul Pillar. Collectively, they tell a tale of a White House that cherry-picked questionable intelligence supporting the claim that Iraq harbored weapons of mass destruction and blatantly ignored intelligence that contradicted it. A White House that pressured Clarke and others to find any way to link the 9-11 attacks to Saddam Hussein. A White House that outed an undercover CIA operative in retribution for her husband going public about dubious claims Bush made about Iraq pursuing nuclear material in Africa.

Their accounts perhaps provide some explanation why Bush, when asked why he rarely mentioned Osama bin Laden anymore during a March 2002 press briefing, -- just six months after the attacks of 9-11 - replied: "I don't know where he is. I'll repeat what I said. I truly am not that concerned about him." By that time, the mastermind behind the most deadly attack ever on American soil who shamefully remains at large today on Bush's watch had already become an afterthought in the most costly bait and switch scheme in our nation's history.

No further proof is needed that the White House PR team is a shell of its former self with their decision to allow the always loveable, reassuring face of Vice-President Dick Cheney back on the airwaves again, despite the recent CNN poll that found 1 and 5 Americans think he is the worst VP ever . Darth Buckshot is still up to his old Jedi mind tricks, confidently looking the American people straight in the eye and insisting that waterboarding isn't torture and that the unimaginable human and

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financial toll of the war in Iraq was well worth it. Not stopping there, during an interview with ABC News , Cheney said he adamantly disagreed with Karl Rove's recent statements that if the intelligence concluded that Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, the nation probably would not have gone to war. And when asked on Fox News Sunday this weekend what he thought was the "highest moment the last eight years," Cheney didn't skip a beat: "Well, I think that the most important, the most compelling, was 9/11 itself, and what that entailed." 9/11, his proudest moment? Clearly Dick didn't get the memo.

According to the Los Angeles Times , the White House recently felt the need to distribute a memo to Cabinet members and other high-ranking officials with vague talking points on what Bush accomplished the last 8 years, just in case they find themselves at a loss of words during their final round of public speeches. The memo reportedly includes such talking points as "responded with bold measures to prevent an economic meltdown;" "kept the American people safe;" and maintained "the honor and the dignity of his office."

No word yet whether the highlight reel will include the President's assault on labor or the 6 million fewer Americans that have health insurance since he took office; or the nearly 2 million lost jobs and the more than 2.5 million homes have that been foreclosed on so far this year; or the national debt nearly doubling to over $10 trillion thanks to repeated irresponsible tax cuts for millionaires in a time of war.

No word yet whether the talking points on the unnecessary and mismanaged war in Iraq will note the over 4,200 dead Americans soldiers and over 30,000 more wounded; or how we are less safe as a result after yanking critical military resources from the central front on terror in Afghanistan.

We can expect some self congratulation on the President's education program, but not for the millions of children left behind thanks to its underfunded mandate. No word yet whether the systematic effort to manipulate climate change science and mislead policymakers and the public about the dangers of global warming will make the list. Or how about all the sweeping deregulations written by and for their biggest supporters from the big drug, financial, insurance and oil companies that delivered record profits for each industry at our expense?

And what of the deep recession the nation has struggled through for the last year? The White House memo reportedly proclaims that Bush "responded with bold measures to prevent an economic meltdown." Indeed, another "Mission Accomplished." The millions of Americans who have lost their jobs and homes this year or saw their retirement evaporate on Wall Street apparently owe the President a debt of gratitude.

The White House will no doubt keep attempts at white washing recent presidential history relatively quiet for now. Because, really, how would it look for the sitting President to be focusing his remaining days in office repairing his legacy rather than on the enormous problems left in its wake, like the half a million more jobs that disappeared last month?

But while the administration's subtle efforts at an extreme legacy makeover may seem laughable today considering Bush's painfully obvious culpability for the nation's woes -- that doesn't mean those efforts should be left unchecked at any level. Just ask the Reagan administration.

In 1987, President Reagan's job approval rating plummeted to 42 percent during the height of the Iran-Contra scandal. However, in the remaining months of his presidency, Reagan went largely unchecked and managed to leave office with a 63 percent approval rating -- allowing his conservative disciples to redefine his presidency as an example of successful conservative governance. A remarkable feat, to be sure, for a legacy of unhinged deficit spending, draconian cuts in federal assistance to local governments, a homelessness boom, and a refusal to acknowledge the fledgling AIDS epidemic. Reagan got away with repairing his legacy on the way out the door; George W. cannot be allowed to do the same.

Fearing a repeat of history, Americans United for Change launched a preemptive strike in January 2008 with a multi-million dollar "Bush Legacy Project" of our own with the goal of cementing into history how 8 years of failed Bush-conservative polices have ruined our economy, threatened our national security and sacrificed so many key domestic priorities. The effort included a national television ad aired around Bush's final State of the Union address and culminated with a 5 month long national Bush Legacy Bus Tour , a 45 foot, 23 ton museum on wheels featuring interactive exhibits on Bush's worst policy failures. The Bush Legacy Bus traveled 24,000 miles, visited 42 states, and was visited by tens of thousands of Americans while parked in front of the local constituent offices of Bush's conservative enablers in Congress.

The Bush legacy should be remembered as a grand and failed experiment of what happens when conservatives are in complete control of the government. Conservative ideology rails against government, argues that government is the problem, not the solution. So when a government run by conservatives is faced with the most important responsibility any government has - to protect its citizens - is it any wonder you wind up with a tragedy of epic proportions like Katrina?

For helping drive a stake in the heart of conservative governance for years to come, Bush actually deserves all the credit and thanks in the world.

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E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

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From:	"Maura Pally" <mpally@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/19/2015 5:28:06 PM
Subject:	Re: FOR REVIEW: Statement for NYT story on Clinton Cash

Agree. I like it, especially the "twisting previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories". I suspect we might be able to get repeat use of out of that one.

From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2015 8:23:11 PM
To: Brian Fallon
Cc: ha16@hillaryclinton.com; john.podesta@gmail.com; Cheryl Mills Contact; Craig Minassian mmedia; Maura Pally; Robby Mook; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: Statement for NYT story on Clinton Cash

Thanks Brian - looks good

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2015, at 8:09 PM, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

All,

As you are all aware, Jo Becker from the NYT's investigative unit is one of several reporters at work on stories based on material provided by the publisher of the upcoming Clinton Cash book. Jo's story is scheduled to run in as soon as one week.

Separately, this afternoon, Amy Chozick from the NYT called us to indicate she had obtained a copy of the book on her own and intends to file a separate story tomorrow. Her story will not unpack all of the book's claims -- she will leave that to Jo. Instead, she will do a more process-y story about the book's existence, the fact that the publisher has approached multiple media outlets in advance of the book's publication to spoon-feed them some of the book's research, and also remark on the fact that Rand Paul continues to drop hints about the book's contents such that it appears they may be some coordination with individual Republican campaigns.

We think this story, though it was not originated by us, could end up being somewhat helpful in casting the book's author as having a conservative agenda. Moreover, we think Amy is suspicious of the arrangements that the book's publisher has reached with the various media outlets (including her own paper). In fact, Jo Becker is apparently trying to get this story killed because she thinks it will undermine her investigative piece later this month. But so far it is running in tomorrow's paper.

Amy is seeking a response from us on what our approach is to the looming publication of the book and the apparently well coordinated rollout. We have drafted the below response, and wanted you all to see it and provide feedback before we sent it off. Please note, however, that in order to get the statement into the story, we probably need to provide it by about 8:30 tonight. So apologies for the tight turnaround, but here it is:

> "We always expected that while Hillary Clinton was focused on how to help everyday Americans get ahead, the Republicans would focus their efforts on attacks rather than ideas. It appears that this book is being used to aid this coordinated attack strategy, twisting previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories. It will not be the first work of partisan-fueled fiction about the Clintons' record, and we know it will not be the last."

Thank you,

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Brian

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From:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	10/29/2015 3:43:55 PM
Subject:	RE: Clinton Foundation News & Guidance: Donor Update

Hi all - we wanted to update you on news surrounding today's donor release and encourage you to share on your social media channels.

Perry Yeatman, a Clinton Foundation donor and Clinton Global Initiative member, posted an op-ed about why she supports the Clinton Foundation and the value she sees in CGI.

> *"The heart of CGI is smart people, with good intentions, committed to partnering in new ways in order to accomplish valuable and life-saving work for those in need - humans, animals and the planet. Why not simply applaud both the work that's being done and the fact that it's even possible in the first place?"*
>
> *"Sensational headlines may get attention but I'm less interested in headlines than trendlines - many of which are now moving in the right direction. I would ask that if we really want to scrutinize something, we scrutinize all the life-changing work CGI has done and it's all too rare ability to bring people together to make the world a better place. Why? Because we need even more of that, not less."*

Read it here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/perry-yeatman/why-the-clinton-global-in_b_8421930.html
Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/659861771059118080

The Hill wrote about new CGI commitments and members and how, compared to the same period last year, donations have increased during the first three quarters of this year.

> *"[CGI] Commitments include 'efforts to employ 40,000 health workers around the globe; rebuild schools and infrastructure after the Nepal earthquake; major corporations joining to improve their parental support policies; and professional training for garment workers worldwide.'"*
>
> *"First-time CGI members include Apple, Cardinal Health, GlaxoSmith Kline, Xerox and Zurich Insurance, the source said."*
>
> *"Instead of these controversies driving donors away, more people sent checks to the foundation during the first three quarters of 2015 than they did over the same period last year."*

Read it here: http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/presidential-races/258603-clinton-foundation-donors-keep-giving-despite-scrutiny
Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/thehill/status/659842910100316160

The Washington Post also wrote about how donations to the Clinton Foundation are up over last year, and the high level of transparency of the Foundation.

> *"According to the foundation, donations are up — both measured in dollars given and in number of contributions to the charity, which runs health, environmental and education programs around the world. A spokesman said there were also more sponsors this year of the foundation's annual multi-day Clinton Global Initiative in New York in September, countering reports that corporate supporters had backed off because of a newly politicized atmosphere around the gathering."*
>
> *"While it is not required to disclose its donors by law, the Clinton Foundation has done so annually since 2008, when it agreed to publish donor names as part of an agreement with the White House when Hillary Clinton was nominated to become secretary of state. The charity announced in the spring that it would disclose donors more frequently, updating the list once a quarter, part of new measures taken when Hillary Clinton launched her presidential campaign."*

Read it here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/10/29/clinton-foundation-says-donations-are-on-the-rise/
Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/postpolitics/status/659822369364668416

In case you missed it, this afternoon Donna Shalala posted a retrospective of the Foundation's work this past quarter on the Clinton Foundation blog:

> *"Compared to this time last year, donations are up—both in terms of the amount donated and the number of donors. And, as was the case in previous years, about 90 percent of donations were in the amount of $100 or less."*

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"But whether it's $5 or $5,000, every single donation matters, and collectively they are enabling us to help more people in more places live their best life story."

Read it here: https://www.clintonfoundation.org/blog/2015/10/29/our-donors-and-important-work-they-make-possible

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From: Clinton Foundation Press Office
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 3:57 PM
To: Clinton Foundation Press Office <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Subject: Clinton Foundation News & Guidance: Donor Update

Today, the Clinton Foundation updated its donor posting with contributors who gave in the third quarter of 2015, which included CGI's Annual Meeting. We wanted to make sure you were aware and had information about today's news. We were pleased with the results this quarter, because:

- Total amount donated to the Clinton Foundation in the first three quarters of 2015 is higher than the same period in 2014.
- The number of donors is higher compared to the first three quarters of 2014.
- Consistent with previous years and the first two quarters of 2015, approximately 90 percent of donations were $100 or less.
- CGI sponsorship revenue rose in 2015, with 33 new and returning sponsors. These include Procter & Gamble, The Coca-Cola Co., Microsoft, Goldman Sachs, Cisco, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Gap Inc., NRG Energy, Swiss Reinsurance Co., the Rockefeller Foundation and Western Union.
- Membership in CGI is strong, with 16 of the 30 companies in the Dow Jones industrial average part of CGI. First-time CGI members this year included Apple, Cardinal Health, Xerox and Zurich Insurance.

Donna Shalala posted a retrospective of the Foundation's work this past quarter on the Clinton Foundation blog:

"The Clinton Foundation has a strong commitment to transparency and accountability. In fact, we take measures that make us one of the most transparent nonprofits in the world—including disclosing all of our donors on a quarterly basis. We released the latest update just today."

"Compared to this time last year, donations are up—both in terms of the amount donated and the number of donors. And, as was the case in previous years, about 90 percent of donations were in the amount of $100 or less."

Read it here: https://www.clintonfoundation.org/blog/2015/10/29/our-donors-and-important-work-they-make-possible

Last month, Bob Harrison, the CEO of the Clinton Global Initiative, wrote an op-ed about how support for CGI has strengthened:

"Despite our mission, some have characterized the turnover of a handful of CGI's sponsors as 'trouble' for CGI and 'abandoning' the Clintons, but this is just another example of critics trying to politicize philanthropy, and the facts don't bear out the argument."

"At CGI, corporations not only provide funding, but also apply their expertise in management, technology, manufacturing, distribution and research to help non-governmental organizations and foundations be more effective. These corporate commitments are providing better access to education and healthcare in the developing world, creating jobs and improving infrastructure in the U.S, and protecting the environment."

Read it here: http://www.foxbusiness.com/business-leaders/2015/09/22/corporations-stay-committed-to-clinton-global-initiative/
Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/646441578366672896
Share the piece on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/clintonglobalinitiative/posts/10153246430420318

And yesterday, the Chronicle of Philanthropy reported on the Foundation's hiring of Kevin Thurm as the new Chief Operating Officer:

"Kevin Thurm will serve as executive vice president and chief operating officer, Ms. Shalala said in a message to foundation staff. He will focus on strategy, day-to-day operations, and the Clinton Foundation's administrative units. He will report directly to Ms. Shalala."

"'Kevin has been a trusted colleague and partner since he served as my chief of staff and then deputy secretary for HHS in the '90s, where he oversaw major policy and management issues, including the implementation of legislative initiatives like the Government Performance and Results Act and challenges like the 'Y2K' computer programming situation,' Ms. Shalala said, referring to the fear in 1999 of a breakdown in important communications when computers switched to 2000."

Read the story here: https://philanthropy.com/article/Shalala-Hires-Former-Colleague/233964

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The support to the Clinton Foundation has enabled specific programs to expand their work and reach even more individuals across the globe. Over the past three months, we have seen many examples of this work in the news:

An Associated Press article looked at Commitments to Action that came out of CGI's Annual Meeting, profiled the unique commitment model. The piece cites several commitments, including:

> *"One such pledge has led to financial education for more than 1.2 million poor women and youths and scholarships for more than 10,000 students in Kenya. Another has spawned more than 430 successful online crowdfunding campaigns for projects centered on women and girls. A third, aimed at enlisting African-American churches in combatting HIV and AIDS, has trained more than 500 religious leaders."*
>
> *"We're in the middle of defining the terms of our interdependence in a world where so much of our identity is caught up in our differences," Bill Clinton said. "So our job, as citizens — those of us who have no political power — is to do what we can to build up the positive forces of our interdependence and reduce the negative ones."*

Read the piece here: http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/bill-clinton-global-initiative-results-34083188

In September, the Atlantic wrote about the importance of closing the word gap not only to resolve education consequences, but also to improve health outcomes saying, *"Children with more words do better in school. Adults who were good students and earned a college degree have longer life expectancies."* The article sites Too Small to Fail's "Talking is Teaching" campaign as one of the organizations focusing on this issue.

> *"There are certainly people watching, from state health officers in California and Indiana to academics at the University of Kansas. The White House has issued a 'call to action' to reduce the word gap, spotlighting the Georgia program specifically. And the Clinton Foundation has launched 'Talking is Teaching' through its early childhood Too Small to Fail campaign."*

Read the article here: http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/09/georgias-plan-to-close-the-30-million-word-gap-for-kids/403903/

At the beginning of September, Reuters published an article about climate change's effects on island nations and how the Clinton Climate Initiative's Islands Energy Program is helping to develop sustainable, renewable energy solutions.

> *"Dymphna van der Lans, CEO of the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), which is working with around a dozen Caribbean and East African island nations to develop and roll out renewable energy strategies, said there was both a moral and economic imperative for such states to transition away from costly diesel imports."*

Read the article here: http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/01/us-islands-climatechange-energy-idUSKCN0R13BB20150901

In August, Refinery29 posted a story about the Clinton Foundation's recent trip to Haiti, where they got a firsthand look at our work there and what we're doing to empower girls and women.

> *"I think there is such a case for optimism about Haiti," Chelsea says. "And also really about what women can do when we're truly unfettered." These female entrepreneurs strive for success not because it will bring them wealth or fame, but because with steady employment, they're able to economically support not just their families but also other women as well.*

Read the article here: http://www.refinery29.com/2015/08/92969/chelsea-clinton-foundation-haiti-women-empowerment#.mfdbkf:4DM6

In August, Forbes wrote about how the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership is working with CropConnect Enterprises to streamline the farming process in India. This partnership empowers farmers and reduces agricultural waste.

> *"Partnering with former president Bill Clinton and Canadian philanthropist Frank Giustra's Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, [CropConnect Enterprises] is currently working to create joint platform across India's often ignored northeastern states. They plan to introduce a crop cycle that allows farmers to maintain a sustainable business throughout the year by growing different types of fruits and vegetables."*

Read the article here: http://www.forbes.com/sites/abehal/2015/08/18/in-indias-disorganized-agricultural-sector-a-connector-of-crops-to-markets/

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	7/20/2014 7:45:14 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Sunday July 20, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday July 20, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "The GOP's 2016 Hillary paradox"

"One thing is obvious, Republicans don't want to run against Hillary Clinton. That's why they are running a full campaign, now, to stop her from entering the race," said Adrienne Elrod of American Bridge's "Correct the Record," a group already established to defend the former first lady from GOP attacks.

"Republicans know she will win. You don't expend that kind of money, capital and time unless you are scared. Republicans are well aware that her forward thinking vision for the middle class and the record of accomplishment she has built can't be stopped," she continued.

Telegraph (U.K.): "Hillary Clinton, interview: 'Forgiveness is hard'"

Sec. Clinton: "What stayed with Clinton was a respect for those who got up after being knocked down. No matter how rejected, betrayed or mistreated you feel, you don't become a whiner."

CBS (Minnesota): "Hillary Clinton Signing Books In St. Paul Sunday "

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will be in St. Paul this afternoon. Clinton will be signing copies of her memoir 'Hard Choices' at Common Good Books on Snelling Avenue from 2:15 to 4:15 p.m."

New York Daily News: "James Carville mocks anti-Clinton book"

"He [Carville] dismissed suggestions that Clinton could face a serious challenge from the liberal wing of the Democratic Party."

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New York Times column: Maureen Dowd: "A Popular President"

"As Hillary stumbles and President Obama slumps, Bill Clinton keeps getting more popular."

Politico: "What we learned from liberals at Netroots Nation"

"At a high-profile gathering of progressives this week, Hillary Clinton was tolerated, Barack Obama was pitied, and Elizabeth Warren was treated like a hero."

Politico: "Dean recounts time on the trail"

Dean: "'I don't think she's [Sen. Warren's] going to get in unless Hillary doesn't run,' he said. 'In which case I know you're going to do everything you can to make sure she goes in, whether she likes it or not.'"

Washington Post: "Clinton, despite stratospheric poll numbers, is very likely to face primary opposition"

"Despite those stratospheric numbers, it's a near-certainty that Clinton will face some sort — or sorts — of primary opposition. Which begs the question: Why?"

Washington Free Beacon: "Riley: Paul, Obama Have Similar 'Disengagement' Foreign Policies"

"Wall Street Journal editorial board member Jason Riley said Sen. Rand Paul (R., Ky.) and President Obama had similar foreign policies of disengagement Sunday on Meet the Press."

Articles:

Telegraph (U.K.): "Hillary Clinton, interview: 'Forgiveness is hard'"

By Chrissy Iley

July 20, 2014, 8:00 a.m. EDT

It has been said many times that Hillary Clinton's lack of warmth and empathy cost her the 2008 Democratic candidacy. A friend of mine who is a respected editor told me that she finds her smug and cold.

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Before our meeting, I watched her appearance on BBC One's magazine programme The One Show, a televisual happening that was described as "Einstein doing Play School". I'd go one step further: it was Einstein loving every second of being on Play School. Everything Clinton was asked she responded to with charm, apparent sincerity and, most surprising of all, firecracker wit.

When asked if she prefers the dress sense of Dolly Parton or Angela Merkel she replied: "Dolly for night time, Angela for day." And when asked who was her favourite president, Bill Clinton or Barack Obama, she said that she was glad to have served Obama, who had taken the US out of the worst recession since the Great Depression and introduced universal health care, and glad to be married to Bill who rebooted the economy and created 23 million jobs.

When Rylan Clark, the television presenter most famous for crying hysterically on The X Factor, referred to her on ITV as "babe", she beamed. She can take anything in her stride. But strength doesn't mean froideur in her case. When she arrives for our meeting in a suite at Claridge's, there's none of the pushy, sullen security that's been described in the press and on Twitter.

She enters with her aide, smiling. She is wearing black trousers and a white jacket patterned with tiny black and yellow flowers, pointed flats. She is curious: why is [the Telegraph magazine] Seven called Seven? Why have I flown in from LA? It's as if she's trying to feel her way around me, make a connection. She admires my necklace, a gold chain with charms, and while you could think this was a politician's ploy to get me on side, she's wearing a more dainty version of the same necklace herself, so it seems genuine. She has huge eyes; blue, round, inquiring.

She's here, of course, to promote her memoir, Hard Choices, in which she chronicles her exhilarating and gruelling life as Secretary of State, the world's number-one diplomat, visiting 112 countries in four years. A life of tough decisions and minimal sleep.

She tackled it with gusto and seems to have derived great satisfaction from the job. David Miliband, when he was Foreign Secretary, said, and I paraphrase, that you could have a laugh with Hillary.

Does she really think it's important to trade jokes when the agenda is so serious? "Oh, Chrissy, it's so important, I mean really. National security is serious and dangerous. If you don't have time to be a human being and let your hair down, have a joke, you can lose perspective on what you are doing. And so I have had fun with David, and others."

"Fun" is not the first adjective most people would attach to Hillary Clinton and there is not much "fun" in her memoir. The most moving part of the book is when she talks about her mother, Dorothy Rodham, who had a cruel, abusive and neglected upbringing. Dorothy, who died in 2011, was rejected by her own parents and sent from Chicago to California when she was eight to live with strict disciplinarian grandparents who showed her no love.

Dorothy went out trick or treating one Hallowe'en without permission and as punishment was confined to her room for an entire year. Yet she took solace in the comfort of strangers and any small acts of decency. She became a lifelong campaigner for social justice, as well as a caring wife and mother. How did Dorothy influence the person Hillary became?

"When I was a very little girl, all I knew was that she was my mother. As I got older, probably into my teen years, I could reflect. She was devoted and she was fun. She was an active, involved person in our church and in our school. When I learnt about the terrible set of issues and challenges she faced as a child, my admiration for her grew. I didn't know how she did it; how she came from what she experienced to be what I experienced. It was extraordinary."

What stayed with Clinton was a respect for those who got up after being knocked down. No matter how rejected, betrayed or mistreated you feel, you don't become a whiner. Dorothy never did. If you are a victim, you never move on.

Much has been made of the fact that Monica Lewinsky's visit to London briefly coincided with Clinton's. In a recent Vanity Fair article, Lewinsky described herself as "arguably the most humiliated woman in the world". That is taking the victim role by storm. One could argue that in that particular three-way it was Hillary Clinton who was the most humiliated. The man she loved and stood by cheated on her and it all played out in public.

How did she take that humiliation and turn it around so dramatically? "I moved on," she says simply.

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Judging from her Vanity Fair interview, Lewinsky hasn't moved on. Does she feel a little sorry for her?

"I think she is someone who has to express her own feelings. I can't characterise her, that wouldn't be right. I'm just grateful that I made the choices I made, to move forward and from that I've had an extraordinary set of opportunities and experiences." In her book she also talks about the necessity for forgiveness. Did she find it easy?

"No, no," she says emphatically. "Forgiveness is a hard choice. It's liberating to be able to reach the point in your life where you feel you can forgive. Everybody feels they have been trespassed upon and nearly everybody has trespassed on somebody else, maybe not intentionally."

Did the Lewinsky scandal make her and Bill stronger as a couple? "I feel that we always had a close relationship. It doesn't mean that we haven't disappointed each other or fallen short in some way because, of course, we each have in everyday life. There are things that you do or fail to do. I feel very blessed to have a partner in life who supports me, who is enthusiastic about what I want to do, who has been a great father and who will be a fabulous grandfather."

Throughout the interview there is direct and indirect clucking about the advent of her first grandchild; Chelsea is to give birth in the autumn. But I don't think for a minute that her new role as a grandmother – however longed for – would interfere with any decision to run for the presidency. Hard Choices is full of vivid descriptions of dramatic events – the killing of Osama bin Laden being the most dramatic of all – that leave the reader in no doubt that Clinton loved the adrenalin of her job at the heart of government.

Was it hard to keep the bin Laden operation secret from Bill?

"It was hard in two ways," she says. "Hard because I had to keep it from everybody. I had to do the work, the analysis and the recommending based on my own efforts, and I had to keep it from my husband because of the admonition we couldn't tell anybody. I'd have loved to have talked it over with him because I value his advice and experience, but I didn't. And when President Obama called him and the other living presidents about what had happened, he said to Bill, 'I assume Hillary has told you.' He said, 'No, she hasn't told me anything.' I laughed about it with him later and he said, 'Well good, people will know you can keep a secret.' "

Did Bill keep (non-sexual) secrets from her when he was in office? "Yes, he did. I don't think very many, but there are some things that you are expected to keep secret. Even though in our cases we could add value in thinking through these decisions together, we didn't."

How does she think the dynamic of their relationship has changed since she stepped out of his shadow and became a powerful figure in her own right and his public profile has declined?

"I don't think he will ever be anything but a public person, especially in our country. He has his work with the [Clinton] Foundation, his special envoy work with the UN, some of the work that President Obama has asked him to do, and he has an enormously high profile. So I view it as a conversation we started many years ago in law school [both went to Yale], where we each tried to support and really listen to each other.

"When I was Secretary of State, there were many things we could talk over, and we did. We view ourselves as being very much partners in our marriage."

I interviewed Bill Clinton once, briefly, and found him to be hugely charismatic. What's he like around the house? Is he electric all the time?

She guffaws. "I know that when I see it! No, he is very much an around-the-house husband; let's clean up the kitchen, let's take the dogs for a walk, what are we going to do with our garden? Very matter-of-fact, everyday issues."

Was she aware that, thanks to her image as a strong woman, she has become something of a gay icon?

"Really?' she purrs. "That is so touching to hear that. I have a chapter called 'Unfinished Business' about women's rights and gay rights. To me you cannot be fully human, fully civilised, unless you recognise humanity in everyone. Our country has made a lot of progress in issues of racism and sexism and homophobia, but many places around the world are dangerous for women and dangerous for gays, and we have to keep working."

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As a feminist, Clinton is unswerving. On Twitter, she describes herself as “wife, mom, lawyer, women and kids advocate, US senator, Sec. State, author, dog owner, hair icon, pantsuit aficionado, glass ceiling cracker, TBD”. She says she was thinking of naming her book “The Scrunchie Chronicles” because of all the attention paid to her hair.

Did she feel, being a woman in power, she had to modify the way she dressed?

“When I was younger and women first started to get in public positions, in my case the law, we went through a period where we wore those little ribbon ties, little bows. We tried to figure out what was our appropriate dress. Now you can be aware of conventions but not be a slave to them. I wear pants of various kinds because it solves a lot of problems. Different jackets, heels of different heights, but I also like to wear something that is more fun, more happy, not be so predictable.”

Her coat today is a happy coat. If it were a cocktail, it would be a margarita.

“Yes, thank you. I happen to love margaritas and it was my mother’s favourite drink. It’s a happy drink.” Nevertheless, her clothes in the past have been criticised. Combined with all the other criticism that has come her way, particularly the on-going furore surrounding her handling of the 2012 assault on the US consulate in Benghazi, in which the US ambassador died, it has, she says, forced her to develop the skin of a rhinoceros. Is there any criticism that still hurts?

“I feel like I’ve run the gauntlet. When somebody is saying something about another person that is unfair, it’s not that it’s about me so much as the meanness that can be displayed towards people. I don’t like that. It used to bother me and I would get frustrated and then I didn’t have the energy for it any more. And I also thought, ‘If I’m spending energy worrying about what somebody is saying about me, then how am I ever going to make the point I want to make?’

"So now I wear my hair how I want it. I’ll wear my glasses if I want to. Women should not be entrapped by those expectations. This book is to encourage young women, in particular, to find their style, their identity and their voice.”

I wonder if she is referring to what has been dubbed “the Beyoncé voters” – single women who have been categorised as a new demographic of potential voters who Clinton will need if she decides to run for president.

“I think what you have to do is make the case that Congress has an enormous impact on matters that are important to you. If you are worried about your student loan, saving for a house, worried about the conditions in the workplace, it’s not just the president you elect, it’s who you elect to Congress. Single women have not been a target for that kind of message.”

Much has been made of the fact that she would be quite an old president (she would be 69). She has also had a health scare – a blood clot that caused her to collapse in 2012. Today, however, she appears healthy and full of brio. Does she have a fitness regime other than the yoga I’ve read about? “Clearing closets makes my head fitter,” she says. “I love a project that has a beginning, middle and end.” She feels liberated from the throwing away of old clothes. “I love the letting go,” she says, laughing.

What will she do if she decides not to run?

“Work in the foundation that Bill and I started and that my daughter is also a member of, the three of us together. I’m going to keep fighting for women’s full participation, their equality and opportunity in every society. I have more than enough to do, it’s just a question of making these hard choices of where I want to put my energy and emphasis.”

Does Bill want her to run?

“He wants me to do whatever I decide to do.”

Having seen the job first-hand, what is the best and worst thing about being president? “The best thing is you can help people solve their problems

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and manage difficult situations. The worst thing is it's a never-ending daunting set of responsibilities that 24/7 is not enough time to deal with."

She described her campaign for the Democratic candidacy as physically and emotionally exhausting, which is surely nothing compared to the stress of being the actual president. Hasn't she noticed how quickly and dramatically they age?

"Yes. Just look at them, they go in young and vigorous and go grey." Does that worry her? "No, because I can colour my hair!"

She caused brouhaha by announcing how, when they left the White House at the end of the Clinton presidency, they were completely broke. Yet she makes vast amounts from public speaking and book deals and, together, they are estimated to be worth around $55 million. Can she remember what it was like to really be poor?

"Absolutely, yes. Bill and I started off scraping our way through law school. We each had to work several jobs to get through and each had student loans to pay off."

When they got married, there was no money for a proper wedding reception. They had a do at home and she wore an off-the-peg dress she bought the day before. What does she like spending her money on these days? "Experiences. Going to the theatre. Going on vacations to new places."

What keeps her awake at night, apart from jet lag? "I sleep very well, but I do worry about violence from extremists, rogue states that have nuclear weapons. We all worry about that."

Towards the end of the book, when she talks about her mother's death, she quotes Inayat Khan, founder of the Sufi order: "I have loved and been loved."

"I love that quote," she says. "I think it describes any long-term relationship because clearly sometimes you are in greater need than your partner and sometimes it is reversed." She doesn't think that women love doing the loving?

"That's not been my experience. I think there are different phases in men's and women's lives. I know a lot of men who are now retired who are much more loving now than when they were working 16-hour days." Who could she possibly have in mind, I wonder?

For the first time in our interview, the possible future leader of the Free World, is not in the mood for jokes. Finally, there is that flash of steel everybody talks about.

CBS (Minnesota): "Hillary Clinton Signing Books In St. Paul Sunday "

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 20, 2014, 10:15 a.m.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will be in St. Paul this afternoon.

Clinton will be signing copies of her memoir "Hard Choices" at Common Good Books on Snelling Avenue from 2:15 to 4:15 p.m.

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The store's event manager said that Clinton asked for "a comfy chair" and a slightly higher platform if she wants to stand for a while. He said she's bringing her own pen.

Tickets for this event are sold out.

Clinton will also be one of the speakers at the annual Starkey Hearing Foundation Gala Sunday evening.

"Hard Choices" reached the top of the New York Times' bestseller list for hardcover nonfiction.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "The GOP's 2016 Hillary paradox"

By Alexandra Jaffe

July 20, 2014, 10:30 a.m. EDT

The GOP can't live with Hillary Clinton running for president, but they can't live without her either.

Most Republicans see the former secretary of State as a formidable challenger, albeit a flawed one. Her sheer presence does perhaps more to excite the GOP base than any other Democratic Party figure alive today, aside from President Obama.

It's the Clinton paradox: The candidate they're most worried about beating is also the candidate they may most want to run against in 2016 to both draw out their voters and open up donors' pocketbooks.

"If Hillary Clinton runs, she brings a such a questionable record with plenty of old and new baggage that her candidacy will likely light up Republicans' intensity to keep her out of the White House. Everything from strong Republican fundraising numbers and tremendous grassroots support will be aided by a Clinton candidacy," said Ron Bonjean, a GOP strategist and former congressional leadership staffer.

From Sens. Marco Rubio (Fla.) to Ted Cruz (Texas) to, most recently, Ron Johnson (Wis.), Republican presidential prospects have knocked her as eminently beatable to rev up their own base

But that boast is more than just bluster — it's an assertion that's based in the facts of the past few months as she stumbled through her book tour rollout and revealed she still has many of the same flaws that tanked her unsuccessful bid in 2008.

Over the past two months, Clinton has often come across as stiff or combative in media interviews, especially over the fallout from the 2012 terrorist attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

Never comfortable with the press and skeptical of journalists, she's made repeated gaffes on the issue of her wealth that have contributed to the perception of her as out-of-touch, one of Republicans' favorite volleys against her in advance of 2016.

Matt Beynon, an adviser to former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, who's considering a 2016 bid, noted she may not deserve the reputation she has as a gifted politician.

"President Clinton was probably the best politician of his generation and far too much of his aura is automatically transferred to her," he said, noting that she's lost the only truly tough high-profile race she faced, against President Obama in 2008.

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Her husband has indeed defended her on the wealth issue, but Hogan Gidley, a longtime adviser to former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Santorum, both of whom are considering 2016 bids, said that may have made it even worse.

“She doesn’t have the same credibility with blue-collar workers that Bill Clinton does, because Bill Clinton lived it. Bill Clinton grew up poor. She’d have trouble making that case against someone like a Mike Huckabee, like a Rick Santorum, who have lived it, who can speak to middle-class, blue-collar workers,” he said.

That lack of credibility could undermine her ability to engage in what’s expected to be the key debate of the next presidential election: How to improve the economy and help the middle class succeed.

And on the likely second and third issues — health care and foreign policy — she would arrive on the stage with considerable baggage as well, having led the failed 1994 health care reform effort and presided over a largely unremarkable period as secretary of State.

Indeed, Beynon also knocked her “less than stellar record as Secretary of State, where opportunities to make a major impact in Iran, Syria, Libya and a half dozen other hot spots were spoiled,” and her tenure as a senator from New York was “devoid of any major legislative accomplishment.”

His critiques are old ones, because Republicans already have much of the Clinton playbook written — in part by President Obama’s team. But they’re no less potent than they were in 2008, and Republicans have the next two years to build a narrative around her before Election Day.

While that record offers the GOP a trove of comments and policy issues to mine for attacks, it’s also one that uniquely fires up the GOP base.

The other potential Democratic presidential contenders have flaws, but none have the ties to such hot-button issues among the GOP grassroots as the attacks on the consulate at Benghazi, the 1994 health care reform effort and Bill Clinton’s impeachment as Clinton.

In order to remain competitive on the national stage, Republicans need to turn their base out. Clinton could be the rare Democrat that creates enthusiasm among the bases of both parties.

“There’s no one that quite excites the Democratic base like Bill and Hillary Clinton — but there’s no one that quite excites the Republican base like the Clintons, either,” Gidley said.

Republicans also say she’s a fundraising draw like no other Democrat, both within the grassroots and big-dollar donors. Tim Miller, executive director at GOP opposition research shop America Rising, said while the group doesn’t do a significant amount of small-dollar fundraising, “to the extent that we do, Hillary is by far the biggest draw.”

“I think there is lots of passion on our side in trying to stop Hillary, looking forward to a 2016 campaign, and I think certainly she is going to inspire a high level of intensity from our members,” he said.

That’s true for bigger donors too, Miller noted: “All across the board, nobody likes her.”

The fundraising draw is twofold: Donors contributing because of a concern over what a Clinton presidency would mean for the nation, but also because she is seen as so formidable, and her political machine is expected to be so strong.

Other potential rivals who are seen as less of a threat to the seemingly inevitable Clinton may be less convincing for donors to open up their pocketbooks for 2016.

Democrats laugh off the GOP's apparent quandary, saying they're just running scared of their own highly fluid and somewhat controversial field of possible candidates.

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“One thing is obvious, Republicans don't want to run against Hillary Clinton. That's why they are running a full campaign, now, to stop her from entering the race," said Adrienne Elrod of American Bridge's "Correct the Record," a group already established to defend the former first lady from GOP attacks.

"Republicans know she will win. You don't expend that kind of money, capital and time unless you are scared. Republicans are well aware that her forward thinking vision for the middle class and the record of accomplishment she has built can't be stopped," she continued.

Sen. John McCain’s (R-Ariz.) top 2008 campaign advisor Charlie Black, however, cautioned Republicans to “be careful what you wish for” with a Clinton nomination.

‘She will be extremely organized and well-funded — a lot of the Obama team that defeated her and defeated us twice will be working for her. She’s not a charismatic politician, but I think she’s basically solid. The appeal of having a woman president is significant,” he said.

But Black admitted that narrative has played out before, prior to Clinton’s implosion last time.

“If you asked us a year out, we said we’d rather run against Obama than Clinton,” he said of Team McCain, “but we didn’t realize how his charisma and his story would catch on, and we didn’t realize she would turn out to be somewhat of a plodder as a candidate.”

Could it happen again?

“I’m not saying it couldn’t,” said Black. “But I don’t think we ought to pull for her to be the candidate.”

New York Daily News: “James Carville mocks anti-Clinton book”

By Joel Siegel

July 20, 2013, 10:43 a.m. EDT

Former Clinton strategist James Carville mocked the new Bill and Hillary-bashing book "Blood Feud," saying "a Bugs Bunny comic book has more reality to it."

"It's not only me that feels that way," Carville said in an interview broadcast Sunday on 970 AM The Answer.

Blood Feud's author, Edward Klein, "is a man who is not taken seriously by literally anyone. Not even the right wing," Carville said.

Carville, the Democratic strategist who made his name helping Bill Clinton win the White House in 1992, suggested listeners "just spend about 90 seconds on their computers and just Google Ed Klein."

"This guy claims Bill Clinton raped Hillary Clinton .. and that is how Chelsea is born," Carville said, dredging up a claim in Klein's 2005 book, The Truth About Hillary. "It's just insane stuff!"

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"If any of your listeners want to waste their time and money (buying the book), go ahead," Carville added.

Carville was interviewed by John Catsimatides, the billionaire who unsuccessfully ran for New York City mayor in 2013 and now hosts an hour-long radio interview show every Sunday morning.

Asked by Catsimatides whether he thought Hillary Clinton would make another try for the White House, Carville said, "I think she's gonna run. No one has told me, let me be clear. (But) usually when somene runs for President once, they do it again."

He dismissed suggestions that Clinton could face a serious challenge from the liberal wing of the Democratic Party.

"You look at Democrats across the board, they are very happy with Hillary," said Carville, now a paid analyst for Fox News. "Certainly the Democratic voter is very happy and content for her to be our party's nominee."

New York Times column: Maureen Dowd: "A Popular President"

By Maureen Dowd

July 19, 2014

The thing about him is, he just keeps going.

At 67, he continues to be, as Anna Quindlen once wrote, like one of those inflatable toys with sand weighting the bottom — you knock him over and he pops back up.

As Hillary stumbles and President Obama slumps, Bill Clinton keeps getting more popular.

The women, the cheesy behavior, the fund-raising excesses, the self-pity, the adolescent narcissism, the impeachment, the charges of racially tinged insults against Obama in 2008, the foundation dishabille — all that percussive drama has faded to a mellow saxophone riff for many Americans.

A recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News/Annenberg center poll showed that Clinton was, by a long shot, the most admired president of the last quarter-century. A new YouGov poll finds that among the last eight elected presidents, Clinton is regarded as the most intelligent and W. the least.

(Clinton and W. both should have been more aggressive in catching Osama. But certainly, if Clinton had been president post-9/11, there would have been no phony invasion of Iraq, and Katrina would have elicited more empathy.)

A Washington Post/ABC News poll in May found Bill's approval ratings rebounding to the highest they had been since early in his presidency.

Even some who used to mock his lip-biting have decided that warmth, even if it's fake at times, beats real chilliness.

Speaking at the 92nd Street Y last month, Bill O'Reilly was asked by Geraldo Rivera whether the country would have been better off electing Hillary instead of Barack Obama.

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“With Hillary you get Bill,” O’Reilly replied. “And Bill knows what’s going on. You may not like him but he knows what’s going on. Hillary doesn’t understand how the world works.”

Except for L.B.J. and Nixon, ex-presidents tend to grow more popular. Yet Bill Clinton, wandering the global stage as a former president who may return to the White House as the husband of a president, plays a unique role in American history. (Newly released Clinton library documents revealed that Bill, believing it punchier, preferred to use “America” and “Americans” in speeches rather than “the United States” and “people of the United States.”)

But why is he burning brighter now, when the spotlight should be on his successor and his wife?

Do we miss the days when the National Debt Clock was retired? Are we more accepting that politicians have feet of clay? Are we tired of leaders who act as burdened as Sisyphus? Do we miss having a showman and a show?

“Maybe they admire his vegan body,” said David Axelrod impishly, before replying seriously: “He’s the most seductive character that we’ve seen in American politics in our lifetime. He just has this unbelievably resilient and seductive personality.”

James Carville noted dryly: “People are confused. They don’t know which one they like more, the peace or the prosperity.” He calls Clinton the “anti-Putin,” someone who did not exercise power to harm people but to help them.

42 had greater strengths and greater weaknesses than the average pol.

Rand Paul accused Clinton of “predatory” behavior. Liz Cheney told Politico’s Mike Allen that she trusts Hillary more than she trusts Bill, implying that was because of Monica Lewinsky. And Todd “legitimate rape” Akin defended himself on Fox News this past week by hitting Clinton’s “long history of sexual abuse and indecency.”

But G.O.P. pollster Kellyanne Conway said the words “Monica” and “liberal” rarely come up when she polls about Bill Clinton. The words “global” and “philanthropic” come up. She said that after Clinton, people “shrugged their shoulders at what had once made them raise their eyebrows.”

“He was a good ambassador for the baby boomer generation,” she said. “Who hasn’t screwed up? Who hasn’t had a third and fourth chance?”

Perhaps, given the tribal wars in Washington and dark tides loose in the world, there’s a longing for Bill’s better angels: the Happy Warrior desire to get up every day and go at it, no matter how difficult; the unfailing belief that in the future things will be better; the zest in the hand-to-hand combat of politics and policy, the reaching out to Newt Gingrich and other Republicans — even through government shutdowns and impeachment — and later teaming up with Bush Senior. “There’s a suspicion among a lot of people that Obama doesn’t much care for politics,” Carville said. “It’s amazing that a man can be so successful at something he really doesn’t like. It’s like if you found out that Peyton Manning didn’t like to play football.”

Mike Murphy, the Republican strategist, said that Obama’s fade has been “the best Clinton rehab.”

Murphy noted the irony that first, Bill had to use his extroverted personality, his talent as Explainer in Chief and his “empathy ray gun” to help Obama get re-elected, and now he will need to use those skills to push another clinical, cerebral candidate — his wife — up the hill.

“The one guy he can’t help elect is himself because of that pesky Constitution,” Murphy said. “But of course, that’s what he’d love to do.”

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Politico: "What we learned from liberals at Netroots Nation"

By Katie Glueck

July 20, 2014, 6:58 a.m. EDT

DETROIT — At a high-profile gathering of progressives this week, Hillary Clinton was tolerated, Barack Obama was pitied, and Elizabeth Warren was treated like a hero.

The annual liberal confab known as Netroots Nation brought together around 3,000 activists converged for several days of campaign training, a protest or two, and speeches from Warren, Vice President Joe Biden and other Democrats.

And while the 2014 election is just months away, many in this crowd were far more focused on the 2016 race for president, a contest they hope will allow for a showdown between the pro-business and populist strains of the Democratic Party.

Here are six takeaways from the gathering in the Motor City:

Warren will be a factor, even if she's not on the ticket.

Elizabeth Warren stole the show this week with her tough messages to Wall Street and Republicans. The Massachusetts senator insists she's not running in 2016, but the conference made clear that progressives will hold midterm and presidential candidates to the populist standard she has set.

A case in point: the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, an activist group that touts itself as being from the "Warren wing of the Democratic Party," is seeking to organize in New Hampshire and Iowa,"to make sure every presidential candidate is asked whether they agree with Warren on key economic populist issues like expanding Social Security benefits, taking on Wall Street, and eliminating student loan debt," spokeswoman Laura Friedenbach said.

Activists here nearly all called Warren a "fighter" — a label she embraced in her speech Friday — and signaled they want other Democrats to get aggressive with banks, corporations and lobbyists to tackle income inequality. Warren has charged that the economic system is "rigged" in favor of the rich and powerful.

Candidates hoping to harness this crowd's enthusiasm will need to embrace that pugnacious stance toward big business, not just talk about creating more opportunities for the middle class. Attendees here see Wall Street as a deeply damaging force in American politics and they want the kind of retribution Warren promises.

There is hope for Hillary Clinton …

Netroots attendees hail from the most liberal corners of the Democratic Party. To them Clinton is simply too conservative on fiscal and foreign policy matters. They see the former New York senator as tight with Wall Street, and she doesn't strike them as willing to fight for working people the way Warren does.

Yet interviews with several attendees suggest it's not a lost cause for Clinton. If she distances herself from big business, highlights her support for labor — a point that came up several times here, given the big union representation at the conference — and demonstrates she cares about the struggles of ordinary Americans, she could go a long way with this group. What it really comes down to, activists say, is a shift in what Clinton emphasizes.

"She would have to have Elizabeth Warren's message," said Cindy Pettibone, an activist from the Washington, D.C., area. "Against big banks and corporations, for the little guy, restoring the middle class and unions."

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Clinton, who is touring the country to promote her new memoir about her time as secretary of state, appears to have already started adjusting for this. She told PBS's Charlie Rose this week that, if she runs, it would be on a "very specific campaign that talks about the changes you want to make in order to tackle growth, which is the handmaiden of inequality."

Of course, if Clinton goes too far in embracing Warren's tough-on-Wall Street message, it could hurt her fundraising and dampen her appeal among conservative Democrats.

Another hopeful sign for the likely 2016 Democratic candidate: At a party Friday night hosted by Ready for Hillary — the grassroots-focused organization urging her to run — some people showed up wearing "Elizabeth Warren for President" stickers, to sip drinks, snack on pizza and listen to some Motown music.

… but there is plenty of space for a 2016 candidate from the left.

Even though grassroots activists acknowledge that Clinton is the most electable Democrat on the radar right now, they don't want a Clinton coronation.

And if Warren doesn't run, they are hoping another left-leaning candidate will challenge Clinton so that the party will have to engage in a full-throated debate about where it stands on economic issues. They also believe that regardless of whether other candidates are viable, a contested primary would push Clinton to the left.

Potential alternatives some cited include Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a self-described socialist. There's also Vice President Joe Biden, whose keynote speech Thursday was well-received. Though some activists said they don't view Biden much to the left of Clinton, they love that he pushed (if only inadvertently) President Barack Obama to endorse gay marriage in 2012. And they perceive him as slightly less hawkish than the president.

As one national Democrat with close ties to the grassroots put it, activists are "venting" while they can, even if they ultimately rally behind Clinton.

"No one, especially Democrats, no one likes a frontrunner" — at least not at this stage, this person said.

National Democrats' midterms messaging is on point with the base.

Party leaders have been pushing messages about economic fairness as they look ahead to what will drive midterm turnout — and with this crowd, at least, it's resonating.

Issues such as raising the minimum wage, ensuring "equal pay" for women and, more broadly, reducing income inequality all played well here.

In an interview, Mary Burke, who is running for governor against Scott Walker in Wisconsin, also pointed to reproductive and voting rights as issues that could drive Democrats to the polls in an off-year. Perhaps the biggest applause line in Warren's speech came when she melded anti-Wall Street talk with blasting the Supreme Court's recent decision on the Hobby Lobby case, which will allow some private companies to opt out of covering birth control.

Foreign policy isn't much of a factor.

Netroots Nation started in 2006 and has deep roots in the anti-war movement: the conference rose to prominence as progressives grew increasingly angry about the war in Iraq. The gathering this year comes amid renewed chaos in Iraq, the downed airliner over the Ukraine that killed nearly 300 people and an Israeli ground invasion of the Gaza Strip.

But you'd hardly know that foreign policy issues were dominating national and international news. Many attendees are certainly deeply anti-war;

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they want to see reduced military spending and are concerned about Clinton's record of backing a more assertive foreign policy (some also questioned in interviews whether she would be, in their view, too pro-Israel should she run for president). And a handful of panels addressed national security issues.

But in interviews and in speeches, the topic of international affairs rarely came up. Polls indicate that Americans are increasingly looking inward on foreign policy. The low-key reaction to major global events suggests that attitude also applies to the progressive base.

They're not mad at Obama, just disappointed.

The president has had a tumultuous relationship with the Netroots crowd.

They loved him during his nomination fight ahead of the 2008 election, but many of these activists have grown disillusioned at seeing the White House fail to produce much of the change they felt they'd been promised.

Nonetheless, many said Obama has done what he could given the gridlock in Washington. "He's doing all right, he could be doing better," summed up Antonio Leonard, 26. "But with this Congress, you can't get anything done."

Pettibone, the activist from Washington, added, "If we don't get Democrats out and get a better Democratic Congress in Obama's last two years, he won't be able to accomplish anything."

Politico: "Dean recounts time on the trail"

By Katie Glueck

July 19, 2014, 2:33 p.m. EDT

DETROIT — About ten years after badly losing the 2004 Democratic presidential primary, Howard Dean on Saturday offered a rollicking reflection on his time in politics.

Speaking at Netroots Nation, the annual progressive gathering, Dean — also a former governor of Vermont and chair of the Democratic National Committe — regaled a friendly audience with stories from his time on the trail. Here's a sampling of his most eyebrow-raising lines:

• "The biggest problem was me, of course, because I was saying what I thought."

• Ahead of the Iraq war, former Vice President Dick "Cheney was trying to make out they had an atomic weapons program, which turned out to be complete horse****."

• On getting back into the presidential ring: "Once you've done this, to get back in you definitely need a long period of psychotherapy… When I first got in, I had no idea how mean everybody was going to be."

• "I think Jesus was a left-wing Democrat, if not a progressive."

But he also dealt with weightier topics, including the 2016 Democratic field. He predicted that there will be a primary "no matter what," including if

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Hillary Clinton — the presumptive Democratic frontrunner — decides to run. Many in the crowd here are hoping that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who is famous for her populist, anti-Wall Street positions, will also compete, though she has said she's ruled that out.

"I don't think she's going to get in unless Hillary doesn't run," he said. "In which case I know you're going to do everything you can to make sure she goes in, whether she likes it or not."

The room applauded.

Washington Post: "Clinton, despite stratospheric poll numbers, is very likely to face primary opposition"

By Chris Cillizza

July 20, 2014, 10:23 a.m. EDT

With every passing week, one thing becomes ever clearer: Hillary Rodham Clinton is going to be the Democratic presidential nominee in 2016.

This past week's evidence came in the form of two polls — conducted by NBC and Marist College — of Democratic voters in Iowa and New Hampshire. In Iowa, Clinton led Vice President Biden 70 percent to 20 percent. In New Hampshire, Clinton led Biden by 74 percent to 18 percent. (That's not to pick on Biden; he was the strongest of Clinton's possible challengers.)

Despite those stratospheric numbers, it's a near-certainty that Clinton will face some sort — or sorts — of primary opposition. Which begs the question: Why?

To answer that, it's important to remember that not everyone runs for president to win. Some run to promote a cause or a set of beliefs. Others run because timing dictates that they have to. Still others run in hopes of improving their chances of winding up on the ticket alongside Clinton or with a prominent spot in her administration.

When it comes to 2016, the largest group of potential challengers to Clinton come from the "cause" category. Socialist Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.) seems intent on running, largely to push his belief in the need for serious campaign finance reform. Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is term-limited, with his second term ending in January, and undoubtedly thinks a credible run for president might bolster his chances of a spot in a Clinton administration. Former Montana governor Brian Schweitzer just seems to want to be back in the political game.

Below are my rankings of the 2016 field. Remember that if Clinton runs, she wins.

Tier 1 (The Clinton wing.)

Clinton: Still think she hasn't made up her mind about running? Check out what Clinton told Charlie Rose in an interview this week: "We have to make a campaign about what we would do. You have to run a very specific campaign that talks about the changes you want to make in order to tackle growth, which is the handmaiden of inequality."

Tier 2 (If she doesn't run, these are the front-runners.)

Biden: The vice president badly wants to run. Just look at his travel schedule, which this week included a keynote address at Netroots Nation, an annual gathering of liberal online activists. And his allies insist that his decision on the race has nothing to do with what Clinton decides. But Biden

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didn't get this far in politics by being dumb; a race against Clinton is damn close to unwinnable for him — and he knows it.

O'Malley: The Maryland governor is getting some nice press in early primary states. And he is working those states like no one else in the Democratic field. Because O'Malley can't really afford to wait four (or eight) years to run, I expect him to be in the race no matter what Clinton does.

Elizabeth Warren: The senator from Massachusetts is the only person who could credibly mount a challenge to Clinton. But she's not going to do it. Although Warren is on the record saying she will serve out her six-year Senate term, which expires in 2018, I am hard-pressed to see how she would forgo a run if Clinton took a pass.

Tier 3 (Maybe running. But not winning.)

Howard Dean: Dean has the presidential bug. In 2004, he looked as if he was going to be the Democratic presidential nominee — until people started voting. In 2013, Dean predicted that Clinton would have a primary opponent, and he may see himself as that person.

Sanders: Of everyone not named Clinton (or O'Malley) on this list, the senator from Vermont is doing the most to get ready for a presidential bid. No one — including Sanders — thinks he will win, but his liberal positions could make things uncomfortable for Clinton.

Schweitzer: The former Montana governor proved in a recent interview with National Journal's Marin Cogan that he isn't yet ready for prime time, making impolitic comments about Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Rep. Eric Cantor (R-Va.). Schweitzer apologized, but the damage was done. He effectively doused any momentum he had built for a presidential bid.

Tier 4 (The four-or-eight-more-years crowd.)

Andrew Cuomo: The New York governor has a presidential bid in him, but it's not going to be in 2016. If anything, he has moved farther away from a bid rather than closer to one. In 2020, Cuomo will be 62 — right in the sweet spot when it comes to presidential bids. In 2024, he will be 68, the age Clinton will be in 2016.

Kirsten Gillibrand: Like Cuomo, Gillibrand is an ambitious New Yorker who almost certainly will run for president at some point. At 47, she has plenty of time to wait and, as she has done over the past few years, use her perch in the Senate to build her liberal résumé for an eventual national bid.

Deval Patrick: Patrick raised some eyebrows a few months back when he had this to say about Clinton's coronation as the Democratic nominee: "She's an enormously capable candidate and leader. But I do worry about the inevitability thing, because I think it's off-putting to the average . . . voter." It seems very unlikely that the Massachusetts governor will take the plunge against Clinton, but his résumé in the Bay State could make for an intriguing profile in four or even eight years.

Washington Free Beacon: "Riley: Paul, Obama Have Similar 'Disengagement' Foreign Policies"

By Washington Free Beacon

July 20, 2014, 12:14 p.m. EDT

Wall Street Journal editorial board member Jason Riley said Sen. Rand Paul (R., Ky.) and President Obama had similar foreign policies of disengagement Sunday on Meet the Press.

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Riley was part of a panel discussing MSNBC host Chuck Todd's report on NBC/Marist poll numbers from Iowa and New Hampshire showing, among other revelations, Paul polling closely with 2016 Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton.

"It is striking, particularly his views on foreign policy [which] I think don't sit well with a lot of Republicans, so I'm a little surprised," Riley said. "Rand Paul's views on foreign policy are not all that different from President Obama's in terms of disengagement. He doesn't like it put that way, but that's the reality there."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· July 20 – St. Paul, MN: Sec. Clinton makes "Hard Choices" book tour stop at Common Good Books (AP)

· July 20 – St. Paul, MN: Sec. Clinton visits Minn. Gov. Mark Dayton at the Governor's Mansion (Twitter)

· July 21 – Menlo Park, CA: Sec. Clinton visits Facebook headquarters and holds live Q&A online (Twitter)

· ~ July 23-27 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Ameriprise Financial Conference (Politico)

· July 29 – Saratoga Springs, NY: Sec. Clinton makes "Hard Choices" book tour stop at Northshire Bookstore (Glens Falls Post-Star)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 2/2/2015 8:04:58 AM
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Overall good story though

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

I think this piece turned out well.

But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.

> One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas
Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.
One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.
She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.
As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.
Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.
In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.
Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making

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risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.

"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that "average" come out. So here's what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won't run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. "

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >

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Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com>, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com>, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
When we tested deck is stacked against "average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top" vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it's how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.
Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the

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challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.
>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>
>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly

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>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 3/3/2015 1:53:18 AM
Subject: Re: AIPAC/Iran

Thanks Stu. What would those sanctions look like? If Iran actually tried to break out at the end of the period, ostensibly we'd be talking about military action?

On Mar 3, 2015, at 8:09 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

Attached is my speech at AIPAC yesterday to the Rabbinical Assembly, the organization of Conservative American Rabbis, on rising anti-Semitism in Europe; the Iran nuclear negotiations; and U.S.-Israel relations.

I would like to suggest for Secretary Clinton that on the most sensitive issue, Iran, she be generally supportive of an agreement along the lines I outlined, but, crucially, she indicate (a) grave concerns that Iran's missile program is unconstrained and has no civilian purpose, and that we should make its restraint a priority; (b) that Congress should pass additional sanctions after an agreement that could be imposed by a future President following the 10-15 year expiration period of the agreement, if Iran seeks a "breakout" at that point. In other words, one major flaw in the emerging agreement is that Iran would be free of constraints after the period. She should take the position that unless Iran radically changes its posture over this period of time, the U.S. should never allow Iran to become a nuclear weapons state, as North Korea is now.

This position would be supportive of the Obama Administration's efforts, but would signal a tougher position on what a post-agreement world should look like.

Best wishes,

Stu

Stuart Eizenstat

Covington & Burling LLP
One CityCenter, 850 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 662 5519 (tel) | (202) 778-5519 (fax)
seizenstat@cov.com
www.cov.com

<image002.png>

<AIPAC CONSERVATIVE RABBIS STU SPEECH FINAL FINAL 030215 DOCX.doc>

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From: "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
To: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 2/7/2015 6:34:26 PM
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Interesting that Sumners uses the term "politics of envy" like the Republicans do

John Anzalone
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
334-387-3121

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: john@ALGpolling.com
www.ALGpolling.com

twitter: @AnzaloneLiszt

On Feb 7, 2015, at 7:23 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

> http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/02/08/us/politics/economic-plan-is-a-quandary-for-hillary-clintons-campaign.html?_r=0&referrer=
>
> Economic Plan Is a Quandary for Hillary Clinton's Campaign
>
> With advice from more than 200 policy experts, Hillary Rodham Clinton is trying to answer what has emerged as a central question of her early presidential campaign strategy: how to address the anger about income inequality without overly vilifying the wealthy.
>
> Mrs. Clinton has not had to wade into domestic policy since before she became secretary of state in 2009, and she has spent the past few months engaged in policy discussions with economists on the left and closer to the Democratic Party's center who are grappling with the discontent set off by the gap between rich and poor. Sorting through the often divergent advice to develop an economic plan could affect the timing and planning of the official announcement of her campaign.
>
> Although people close to Mrs. Clinton say she has not yet settled on a specific platform, she is expected to embrace several principles. They include standard Democratic initiatives like raising the minimum wage, investing in infrastructure, closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting taxes for the middle class. Other ideas are newer, such as providing incentives to corporations to increase profit-sharing with employees and changing labor laws to give workers more collective bargaining power.
>
> Behind many of these proposals is a philosophy, endorsed by Mrs. Clinton's closest economic advisers and often referred to as inclusive capitalism, that contends that a majority of Americans do not want to punish the rich; they just want to feel that they, too, have a chance to succeed. It also calls for corporations to put less emphasis on short-term profits that increase shareholder value and to invest more in employees, the environment and communities.
>
> Whether Mrs. Clinton's approach will be enough to satisfy the unease over growing economic disparity is unclear. In a Gallup poll conducted last month, 67 percent of Americans said they were dissatisfied with the way income and wealth are distributed in the United States. In the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, Mrs. Clinton's economic message — summed up by a frequent refrain, "If you work hard, you play by the rules, you ought to be able to get ahead" — resonated with white, working-class voters, who

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overwhelmingly supported her over Barack Obama.

But in the years since, Mrs. Clinton has come under criticism for delivering speeches to Wall Street banks at more than $200,000 each, roughly four times the median annual household income in the United States, and for comments she made about her family's financial situation, including a lament about being "dead broke" after leaving the White House. And she must convince a middle class that feels frustrated and left behind that she understands its struggles, even as she relies heavily on the financial industry and corporate interests to fund her candidacy.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, said she had "a record of bringing people together to solve big problems, while also putting a real premium on accountability."

Asked whether creating an economic message could affect the timeline for her presidential campaign, Mr. Merrill said, "There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake: If she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges."

Mrs. Clinton's economic plan would be more populist and reliant on the government than the centrist approach of trade agreements, welfare reform and deficit reduction associated with her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

"It's not enough to address upward mobility without addressing inequality," said Lawrence H. Summers, a Treasury secretary in the Clinton administration who is among those talking with Mrs. Clinton. "The challenge, though, is to address inequality without embracing a politics of envy."

The debate is extending beyond the Democratic Party as Republicans wade into the issues. "If Americans are working harder than ever, earning less than they once did, our government and our leaders should step up, offer a plan, fix what's wrong," former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida said in a speech in Detroit last week as he laid the groundwork for his potential 2016 candidacy.

Mrs. Clinton was secretary of state when some major economic debates took hold on Capitol Hill, and as a result, her economic views are still not broadly known. Her approach to poverty was forged in the 1970s, when she went door to door while working for the Children's Defense Fund, leaving her a committed advocate for early childhood education, equal pay for women and paid leave.

But later experiences complicated her worldview. Many of the advocates who knew Mrs. Clinton as a champion for the poor and working-class women felt betrayed in 1996 when, as first lady, she supported Mr. Clinton's overhaul of the welfare system, which gave states more power to remove people from welfare rolls and pledged to cut federal spending on assistance for the poor by nearly $55 billion over six years. She was more skeptical about the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Mr. Clinton signed into law in 1993 and which has also been accused of hurting American workers.

After being elected in New York to the United States Senate in 2000, Mrs. Clinton had another constituency to represent: Wall Street. In 2001, she supported bankruptcy legislation that some Democrats — most notably Elizabeth Warren, now senator from Massachusetts — argued hurt working families and single mothers, and they accused her of doing the bidding of the financial industry. Mrs. Clinton has said she worked to improve the bill.

As a presidential candidate in 2008, Mrs. Clinton angered some of her Wall Street donors when she came out early in support of the regulation of derivatives and other complicated financial products and called for eliminating the "carried interest" loophole that allowed some financiers to avoid paying millions in income taxes. She also said that as president, she would create a cabinet-level position to fight poverty.

When the housing market collapsed, Mrs. Clinton, who had returned to the Senate full time after Mr. Obama defeated her, proposed legislation similar to a New Deal-era program that would allow the government to help homeowners refinance their mortgages. She voted in favor of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which led to the Troubled Asset Relief Program and the multibillion-dollar bailout for automakers .

Last month, Mrs. Clinton reiterated her support for the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law. "Attacking financial reform is risky and wrong," she wrote on Twitter.

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As she dives back into domestic policy, Mrs. Clinton faces an economy in which, even amid steady job growth, weekly earnings for low- and middle-income workers have remained virtually unchanged for 15 years.

“Where has the money gone?” asked Robert B. Reich, a secretary of labor during the Clinton administration. “That is the topic that is embarrassing for people to talk about, particularly in Washington, because even mentioning it creates the potential charge of class warfare.”

Mr. Reich, who recently sent Mrs. Clinton a five-page memo laying out his ideas, said candidates in both parties needed to abandon the politically safe discussion of upward mobility for the poor and middle class that dominated the 1990s, and instead take on the stickier issue of income distribution.

“Upward mobility, equal opportunity — those are safe phrases and safe aspirations,” he said in an interview. “I don’t want to minimize their importance, but they obscure the real issue.”

Mr. Reich is one of some 200 economists and academics who have offered Mrs. Clinton ideas and guidance as she settles on an economic doctrine. Several of Mr. Clinton’s former advisers, including Alan S. Blinder, Robert E. Rubin and Mr. Summers, maintain influence. But Mrs. Clinton has cast a wide net that also includes Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics who has written extensively about inequality; Alan B. Krueger, a professor at Princeton and co-author of “Inequality in America ”; and Peter R. Orszag, a former director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Obama. Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist who focuses on retirement issues, is also playing a prominent role.

Last month in Washington, a 17-person commission convened by the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank with close ties to Mrs. Clinton, presented a 166-page report on “inclusive prosperity,” which is among the numerous economic blueprints Mrs. Clinton has reviewed. For some, the solutions proposed by the committee, of which Mr. Summers was co-chairman, did not go far enough.

Dean Baker, an economist and co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, has pushed the idea of a government fee on the sale or purchase of certain financial assets, which he believes could hold Wall Street accountable while funding social services. “Clinton people didn’t want to go near it,” Mr. Baker said.

Mrs. Clinton has not commented on the financial transaction tax or on profit-sharing.

She has expressed support for many of the proposals Mr. Obama laid out in his State of the Union address last month, signaling that they could help shape her agenda. In a post on Twitter, she said the speech had “pointed way to an economy that works for all. Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class.”

Mrs. Clinton frequently talks about the economic success of the Clinton administration , under which median family income, adjusted for inflation, increased to $56,080 in 1999 from $48,884 in 1993, compared with a decline to $51,017 in 2012 from $55,987 in 2000, according to census data. But she has acknowledged that a globalized economy calls for new ideas, and many are urging her to go beyond her comfort zone and address the deeper frustrations of those who have not shared in that economy’s benefits.

“Long-term answers about education and skills that help change mobility don’t get at the current frustrations and aggravations,” said Austan D. Goolsbee, an economic adviser to Mr. Obama and a professor at the University of Chicago.

“People want to answer the question, ‘Are we going to be O.K.?’ ” Mr. Goolsbee said. “And then the natural question is, ‘Whose fault was that, and let’s go find those people.’ ”

On Feb 6, 2015, at 12:30 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

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Well – We need someone to get our "friends" on the phone and tell them this doesn't help;

From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Joel Benenson; Robby Mook
Cc: Mandy Grunwald; cheryl.mills@gmail.com ; john.podesta@gmail.com ; jake.sullivan@gmail.com ; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; cmills@cdmillsgroup.com ; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

I'm passing along a document that came from one of our friends, written for and sent directly to Amy Chozick for this NYT piece she's working on. Gives you a sense of what we're all up against!

From: "jbenenson@bsgco.com " <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 10:27 AM
To: Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, "john@algpolling.com " <john@algpolling.com >, "cmills@cdmillsgroup.com " <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Mandy is right. We keep emphasizing that the most significant pain point for people is that the belief the decked is stacked against them in favor of this at the top. And they're not wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2015, at 10:07 AM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

> Agree
>
> On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
>
> > I think this piece turned out well.
> >
> > But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.
> >
> > > One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.
> >
> > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > **Grunwald Communications**
> > **202 973-9400**
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
> > To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
> > Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
> > Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
> > Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
> >
> > http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

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Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas

Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.

One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts. She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder, a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch, a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign

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team, people familiar with the matter said.
“She’s casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics” said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. “Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote.”

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that “average” come out. So here’s what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won’t run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She’s casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. ”

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com >, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

When we tested deck is stacked against “average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top” vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it’s how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.

Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

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Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I've been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she's thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here's the quote again incorporating peoples' thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we're missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.
>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>
>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400

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>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 5/21/2015 10:34:43 AM
Subject: Israel and Iran: Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem (JPPI)

Dear Jake,

I thought it might be useful for the campaign to give you a quick summary of some of the points that were made at the JPPI conference we had on Monday and Tuesday of this week at Glen Cove, New York. Dennis Ross and I co-chair JPPI, which is based in Jerusalem, and was created by the Jewish Agency of Israel ten years ago to be a think tank for strategic issues facing Israel, the Diaspora, and USG-Israel relations. We have a group of fellows, like retired General Michael Herzog (brother of the opposition leader), Avi Gil and others. At the conference, we had Natan Sharansky, who heads the Jewish Agency; leading Jewish organizational leaders (e.g. heads of major UJA Federations around the country); leading rabbis (e.g. Norman Kurtz in Chicago, and Eric Yoffie); academics from Harvard to UCLA; a Member of the Canadian Parliament and former Cabinet Minister (Irwin Cotler)l Middle East experts like David Makovsky, Martin Indyk, and, of course, Dennis Ross, as well as Henry Kissinger and Eric Schmidt of Google, who talked about high tech in Israel. Moreover, Malcolm Honlein, the president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations (who I put together with Hillary through you and Huma), was there for the whole two day conference. and spoke on several occasions. We had a signficant number of Israelis there, as well.

1. ISRAEL

(1) The new Netanyahu government has very little flexibility on the peace process, given its right-wing tilt.

(2) While solid majorities of the Israeli public (over 60%) continue to support the two state solution, only a minority believe it is feasible, given Palestinian intransigence.

(3) A number of people, including, interestingly, Malcolm Honlein, felt the Prime Minister should now accept the last Kerry offer as a basis for resuming negotiations. Evidently, the last version given to Bibi did not contain language on Jerusalem (which he cannot accept), while the last version given to Abbas contained the language (but they still rejected it).

(4) There was a clear consensus that the BDS/anti-delegitimization movement against Israel was growing in Europe, and was an increasing threat.

(5) There was a grave concern that the Obama Administration, once the Iran nuclear negotiations are out of the way, will support some form of the French proposal for a new UN Resolution to supplant UN Resolution 242, endorsing the two-state solution, with 1967 borders, and with Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and a Palestinian state. Several people felt that given the impasse in the peace process, Israel's argument that this should be left to negotiations, had a hollow ring to it. If this is going to happen, then it should be framed in ways that force the Palestinians to make tough choices, like ending claims to the "right of return". But the safest political position is to oppose what will be seen as an effort to "impose" a solution both sides will reject.

(6) There was a feeling on the part of some that Gaza was likely to blow-up again, a combination of Hamas rearming and rebuilding their tunnels, and the impact of the embargo, which has not been loosened.

(7) Israel needed to be more creative to take advantage of the open window for cooperating with the Sunni states (Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Egypt, Jordan) against their common enemy, Iran.

(8) Most troubling was the pervasive feeling that the US has withdrawn from a leadership position in the Middle East, leaving our allies in the Arab world, and Israel, to fend for themselves. The level of vitriol against the President was striking, to such a degree that one participant urged that he was being unfairly demonized.

2. ANTI-SEMITISM/ANTI-ZIONISM

(1) There was genuine belief that there is a substantial rise in anti-Semitism in Europe (a topic I addressed at some length). This is most evident in France (where 7000 French Jews left in 2014 for Israel, with almost double that amount expected this year); Belgium; parts of Sweden (Malmo); the Netherlands; Greece; Hungary; Ukraine; but even in the UK. Roger Cukierman, the long-time head of the CRIF, French Jewry's central organization, cited several examples of the growth of anti-Semitism during my negotiations with the French government for payments for people deported on the French railway during World War II, as Secretary Kerry's Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues. Thus, in 2001, when his first term began, 90% of school-age French Jews attended public schools; now only 30% do so, because of the intimidation in schools. It is dangerous to wear a kipot (head-covering) on the Metro. Argentine Jews are also increasingly fearful, in part because of their government's close relations with Iran, which is widely seen as having planned and funded the Hezbollah attacks in the 1990s against the Jewish community center (AMIA), and the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

(2) Modern-day anti-Semitism is a product of a combination of factors:

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(a) Neo-Nazi/right wing parties, which have long had an anti-Semitic strain, like Le Pen's National Front in France.
(b) Left-wing parties/academics, who oppose Israel's settlement policy and occupation and import their opposition on Jews, who are seen (wrongly) as surrogates for Israel.
(c) Angry, disaffected, unintegrated Muslim young people, who identify with the Palestinians as the underdogs and address their anger for their plight and that of the Palestinians at Jews in their countries.

(3) French Prime Minister Valls estimates there are some 3000 European-born Muslims fighting in Syria and Iraq, 1000 from France, who come back to Europe, armed and trained jihadists. This was precisely the profile of the suspect in the Brussels Jewish Museum attack last year.

(4) The growth in anti-Semitism, and anti-Zionism is not limited to Europe. There is a greater security fear among Jews in both the U.S., Europe, and key Latin American countries. It was reported that 14 AEPi fraternity houses on American campuses were subject to some form of desecration. Several people said that "American campuses were our Europe".

(5) Malcolm Honlein placed special emphasis on the rise of anti-Semitism in his remarks. He said that the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations was catalyzing efforts to create a Global Forum to deal with this phenomenon, to track it, exchange information about it, and develop new ways to combat it. He said that Israel had a role to play, as well.

3. DIVISIONS WITH THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY OVER ISRAEL POLICY.

(1) There are increasingly sharp left-right divisions (J Street vs. AIPAC) within the American Jewish community over Israel. Remarkably, rabbis are reluctant to discuss Israel in their sermons for fear of alienating one faction or another.

(2) There was now a big debate over which groups can march in the annual New York City Israeli Independence Day parade, which take more liberal positions (e.g., New Israel Fund, J Street). It was generally felt best to have a "big tent" so the Democratic Party left-leaning people were not excluded.

(3) The kind of robust debate that occurs in Israel over Israeli policy, is blunted here by attacks against those who oppose the current government's policies in the West Bank.

(4) There was a clearly established (Pew and Gallup polls) drop in support for Israel among self-identified Democrats (now under 50%, with over 80% for Republicans). This could feed into making Israel a partisan issue (one of the problems with Bibi's speech to Congress) for the first time in its history, a dangerous situation.

4. IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS AND BEYOND

(1) This was the most emotional issue. Most of the participants who spoke on the topic (Sharansky, Kissinger, Honlein, Makovsky, Ross) were deeply skeptical of the Iranian nuclear negotiations. Clearly, Honlein and AIPAC will mount a major effort to block the agreement. There was a real foreboding (one participant called it a "panic") that the American Jewish community was going to be involved in a confrontation with the Administration, that the Republicans would use to try to drive a further wedge with Jewish voters over Israel-related issues.

(2) At the same time, there was a recognition (e.g. Kissinger) that the President would be able to overcome a veto override fight, although just barely.

(3) It was important to reassure Israel and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States that any nuclear deal with Iran did not presage broader cooperation with Iran on regional issues. (Kissinger agreed, but felt it was inevitable over time, because Iran is a real country, with a long history)

(3) Several speakers (e.g. Ross) suggested that Israel should now begin to talk with the White House about ways to repair the damage to the relationship over the nuclear talks (if there is an agreement). Indeed, the President proposed to Bibi, in his call after the formation of the government, just that, but was rebuffed, seeing any cooperation as signaling he was giving up the fight against the deal.

(4) The options for a post-agreement reassurance included:

(a) Reassurance that the agreement would not lead to a new U.S.-Iranian alliance in the region, at the expense of our traditional alliances.
(b) Sophisticated military weapons to defend themselves against a resurgent Iran.
(c) Defense treaties, that an attack by Iran would be considered an attack against the U.S. (But this was fraught with difficulty; would it be all forms of attack or only a nuclear attack)
(d) Development of a common agenda with Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf States. This has not been initiated.

(5) The "snap-back" of sanctions was felt to be impractical. What would constitute a violation? Who would make the determination? Which sanctions would be re-imposed (US, EU, UN)?

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(6) There needed to be a clear declaration after the 10/15 year period of the agreement, that a nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable, and the U.S. would every means to stop it. Likewise, the U.S. could not afford to disengage from the region, and had to lead the coalition against Iran.

(7) There was almost no one who subscribed to the Administration's hope that over the 10/15 year period of the agreement, the Iranian regime would moderate. Far from it, the end of sanctions and the massive amount of money that would flow to Iran would strengthen the regime, provide more funds to support terrorist groups, and embolden them in the region.

I hope this is helpful in shaping Hillary's positions on these difficult issues. But more broadly, she needs to understand the great angst in the Jewish community over the cascade of challenges I have described. The empathy and appreciation she can demonstrate, would itself be important and reassuring.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/8/2008 3:42:50 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/08/08

Main Topics: Maliki's Withdrawal Statement, Immigration Policy, Tax Policy

Summary of Shift: Congressional approval hits a record low. Iranian officials continue to voice confidence that Israel will not follow through with its saber rattling. The salmonella mystery continues to puzzle officials and frustrate some pundits. The EPA accuses Cheney of deleting congressional testimony on climate change. Pakistan denies involvement in Kabul car bombing. In Iraq 20% of US armored vehicles are out of service. Exports to Iran are a booming source of US business. Hurricane Bertha receives a downgrade to storm level 1. Russia seems to have issued a vague sort of threat to the US in the face of a Czech-US missile defense plan. Repeated mentions of the fabulous G-8 summit menu played on cable and broadcast programs.

Highlights
1) MSNBC: Chris Matthews holds Hegset's feet to the fire on Iraq
2) MSNBC: Librarian with "McCain=Bush" sign kicked out and arrested at McCain event as campaign adopts Bush-like tactics
3) CNN: John McCain's off the cuff joke on Iran
4) MSNBC: Pfotenhauer discusses McCain's immigration policy
5) MSNBC: Holtz-Eakin touts McCain's tax plan over Obama's
6) CNN: Lou Dobbs lashes out against Obama and McCain for pandering to 'ethnocentric' Latino groups [no clip]

Clips
Highlight #1
Matthews Holds Hegset's Feet to the Fire on Iraq (MSNBC 07/08/08 5:01pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: First, Iraqi officials are calling for a timetable for US troops to withdrawal from their country. Pete Hegset, who is with the group, Vets for Freedom, and John Soltz, is with the group, Votevets.com. . . I want you to look at what these fellows are saying. Here's Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki's statement. Here's what he has to say about us leaving: quote, "The current trend is to reach the agreement on the memorandum of understanding, either for the departure of US forces or a memorandum of understanding to put a timetable on their withdrawal. In all cases the basis for any agreement will be respect for the full sovereignty of Iraq." And then a further statement. Here's Iraqi national security adviser Rubaie's quote . . . : "There should not be any permanent bases in Iraq unless those bases are under Iraqi control. We would not accept any memorandum of understanding with the US side that has no obvious and specific dates for the foreign troops—" That's what they're calling us now, "withdrawal from Iraq." . . . they're telling us a timetable or to leave now. They're saying no permanent bases. They're making these statements publicly. How can our people, in this country, like John McCain and George Bush accuse the Democrats of being for being for cutting and running and surrender if the people over, who host us, there are telling us they want us to set a timetable . . . ?

PETE HEGSET: All in all, I think this is a very good thing. We wouldn't be in this political situation where Maliki is making political statements during complex negotiations if we hadn't surged and created the conditions so he can do that. This is political progress when the government feels empowered enough to say you guys can now move on out because we can control our own situation. We can take care of al-Qaeda. This is a good political negotiation that's occurring—

MATTHEWS: Then why do the administration officials come out and say they don't agree with this? They don't think we should be setting timetables . . .

HEGSET: They said we will withdrawal. We want to withdrawal. I think this is back and forth in negotiations—

MATTHEWS: No. You're waffling. They're saying we want a timetable. President bush and

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McCain have said no timetables.

HEGSET: Certainly, the State Department and others have said, it's based on conditions on the ground. And Maliki said that as well, that, okay, yes, this is tied to conditions on the ground as well.

MATTHEWS: That's not what he's saying.

HEGSET: He has said that in other interviews.

MATTHEWS: Ok, let's try it. Let's try it with John. Did you hear what he said?

JOHN SOLTZ: I heard what he said.

MATTHEWS: What did he say?

SOLTZ: It looks to me like Maliki endorsed Sen. Barack Obama for president today . . . it's absolutely ridiculous at this point that the Republican -- the leader of the Republican party, that George Bush and John McCain think our soldiers should fight and die wanting security and prosperity in Iraq more than Iraqis want it themselves. . .

MATTHEWS: . . . the Iraqi government says they want a timetable for us to withdraw. I want to ask you, Pete, one more time, or several more times, doesn't that clash with this administration's position, we will not set a timetable?

HEGSET: This administration, I believe, all those that have served over there want to come home as soon as possible . . . the Iraqi government is saying we're much closer to taking over politically.

MATTHEWS: Let me ask you, Pete . . . do you personally support a timetable?

HEGSET: I believe it needs to be based on conditions on the ground—

MATTHEWS: No, that's not a timetable. Conditions on the ground is saying we play as we see it when the time comes. That says we don't set a timetable . . . do you support us leaving at any agreed time . . . do you agree with the Iraqi government?

HEGSET: We need to work alongside the Iraqi government to ensure that we leave behind a stable state—

MATTHEWS: I don't know what that means.

HEGSET: That Maliki can control.

MATTHEWS: Maliki says he wants us out now or to set a timetable. Do you agree with that?

HEGSET: Maliki wants us out as soon as possible, we want out as soon as possible.

MATTHEWS: That's not what he's saying.

HEGSET: That is what he's saying.

MATTHEWS: He's saying he wants timetable. Do you want a timetable, yes or no?

HEGSET: Do I want a timetable? We want out as soon as possible.

MATTHEWS: Do we want out March of next year? March two years from now, April of next year, that's called a timetable. Are we going to have a timetable for leaving Iraq or are we going to stay there indefinitely?

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HEGSET: It's always been based on conditions on the ground. Violence is going down. We're bringing troops home. We are bringing troops home, Chris. And violence is going down.

MATTHEWS: You're not here to deal with the facts.

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: It seems to me, if we disagree with them, then we're the occupier against their will.

SOLTZ: Aboslutely, they have a freely-elected government we established. . .

MATTHEWS: Here's what John McCain said back in 2004 to a meeting of the Counsel on Foreign Relation. The group's chair was Reter Peterson, said, quote, "What would or should we do if the post June 30th period and during that period a so-called sovereign Iraqi government asks us to leave, even if we are unhappy about the security situation at that time?" . . . here's what McCain said when asked what we would do if the Iraqi government told us to leave with a timetable: "Well, if that scenario evolves, I think it's obvious we would have to leave because if it was an elected government of Iraq . . . if it was an extremist government I think we would have to have other challenges. I don't think how we could stay when our emphasis on policy has been based on turning the Iraqi government to the Iraqi people." John McCain says if they give us a timetable or tell us to leave at a specific time we'll do it. Do you agree with that?

HEGSET: Well, yeah, this is not an extremist government, so we would pack our bags and go home. That's exactly what's happening now, we're brining troops home . . . because the surge has created the conditions where Maliki is now strong enough to make these kind of political statements. These are complex political negotiations—

MATTHEWS: Why do you keep calling them political statements?

HEGSET: That's exactly what they are.

MATTHEWS: What do you mean by a political statement?

HEGSET: Because right now the government of Iraq and the government of the United States are negotiating . . . this is all within that context.

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: How do we -- how can we tell them, after the end of this year we're going to stay in their country if they don't want us there?

HEGEST: If they formally asked us to leave, I believe we would.

SOLTZ: They have . . . it seemed pretty formal today.

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Gentlemen, what I find interesting is in news. For months now the debate in America is between those like John McCain who talked about a long term . . . commitment of US troops in that country, perhaps 100 years . . . now we find out that the Iraqi government does not want us there with permanent bases . . . over there unless they're working under the leadership . . . and they want us to set a timetable for leaving or else leave immediately. That runs completely against the rhetoric we've been hearing from the administration, from John McCain who have been saying they don't want to cut and run. They don't want to surrender. They want to stay there 100 years. And now the Iraqi government itself comes out and says we want you guys out of here . . . that completely undercuts the Republican administration's position and McCain's position.

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[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Doesn't it undercut their argument?

HEGSET: Actually it reinforces the argument that if you surge you can create the political space for Iraqis to stand up—

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: . . . let's listen to what the president said and Senator McCain said. let's look at the history here.

GEOGE W. BUSH: The party of FDR and the party of Harry Truman has become the party of cut and run
[. . .]

AUDIENCE MEMBER TO MCCAIN: President bush has talked about us staying in Iraq for 50 years.

JOHN MCCAIN: Maybe 100. [cut to new clip] If we did what senator Obama wanted to do, that's immediate withdraw, that would mean surrender in Iraq.

MATTHEWS: . . . now we're hearing from the Iraqi government, I think, Pete you and I disagree on this. Here's the ad your group has been putting out . . .:

[plays Vets for Freedom, "Finish the Job ad"]

MATTHEWS: Over the next four years . . . what does finishing the job, mean, Pete, if the Iraqi government called for a timetable for us to leave?

HEGSET: It's exactly what's happening right now.

MATTHEWS: No. What does it, for the next four -- answer the question, Pete. Over the next four to eight years, what does finishing the job mean if the Iraqi government told us they want a timetable for withdrawal?

HEGSET: Finishing the job means an Iraqi government that doesn't allow haven to our enemies, which is exactly what's happening . . .

MATTHEWS: It's good news that the Iraqi government is telling us to leave?

HEGSET: That's political progress. They haven't formally done so, Chris. . . .

MATTHEWS: Pete is saying what basically they're saying is not for home consumption, that's not really what they want us to do.

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Let me tell you. Having lived and watched through the Vietnam War, I never heard the Vietnamese government tell us to leave. this is a staggering development . . . they're telling us it's time for us to go. That runs, to me, directly counter to John McCain talking about a Korean-style situation where we're there 100 years.

[. . .]

Highlight #2
Librarian with "McCain=Bush" Sign Kicked Out and Arrested at McCain Event as Campaign Adopts Bush-Like Tactics (MSNBC 07/08/08 8:41pm)
RACHAEL MADDOW: Freedom of speech and the right to assemble perhaps in the eye of the overzealous beholder when it comes to John McCain's campaign staff . . . while Mr. McCain was delivering, quote, "straight-talk" at one of his open forum town hall meetings in Denver yesterday, things were getting closed down just

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outside.

STAFFER: Ma'am, I need you to remove the sign, I asked you once already.

CAROL KRECK: But I'm outside. This is outside.

[. . .]

POLICE OFFICER: You have two choices. You can keep your sign here and receive a ticket for trespass or you can remove the sign and stay in line and attend this town hall meeting.

KRECK: . . . you're saying that I'm trespassing on city property--

POLICE OFFICER: No, he's saying you're trespassing on city property. [points at staffer]

KRECK: Am I being arrested?

[. . .]

MADDOW: The unassuming protester is part time librarian and former *Denver Post* reporter, Carol Kreck. Ultimately escorted off the property by four police officers. The sixty year old woman was given a citation and a court date. But because librarians are trained democracy superheroes, Ms. Kreck did not stay silent for long.

KRECK: I believe he said the ticket was for trespassing. He said if I went back into the plaza I would be arrested. [holds up sign] It says "McCain=Bush" Now, any Republican, why is that offensive? Why would a Republican . . . who voted for Bush find offensive that a sign says, Bush=McCain or McCain=Bush?

MADDOW: Progress Now Action tells *Countdown* that they have created a defense fund for Ms. Kreck . . . why don't we start with Ms. Kreck's question there? If her sign had said, "I heart John McCain," would she have been so swiftly booted? I think she kind of makes a good point. Why would a loyal Republican be insulted at the comparison of McCain to Bush?

JAMES MOORE: Yeah, Republican campaigns would be so much easier to run if we could just get this pesky freedom of speech thing out of the way. The truth is they really don't want to be equated with George W. Bush. It's a bad brand to be carrying forward . . . clearly there were people inside of this facility, this publicly taxed facility that was rented by the McCain campaign, there were people inside there who were expressing their opinions, probably wearing buttons. Why weren't they escorted out? I think this is an ugly kind of thing for the McCain campaign thing to have happen and to focus on instead of what was going on inside of that building.

MADDOW: . . . isn't the PR fiasco that has ensued here and that won't go away anytime soon. As you kind of alluded to earlier, isn't this fiasco probably worse and more disruptive than anything Ms. Kreck could've done . . . ?

MOORE: Well if the real issue is trying to separate themselves from George W. Bush, this isn't the way to do it. There are a number of things that the Bush campaign has done throughout which is to try to control the message, to keep dissent at a minimum and this is almost rebranding themselves as the Bush campaign but the McCain version of it . . .

Highlight #3
John McCain's off the Cuff Joke on Iran (CNN 07/08/08 8:40pm)
[When Campbell Brown introduces this clip she reminds viewers of McCain's similar joke, the infamous 'Bomb Iran' song.]

REPORTER: We've learned that the exports to Iran [from America] increased by tenfold during the Bush

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administration. The biggest export was cigarettes.

JOHN MCCAIN: That's a way of killing them. [laughs] I meant that as a joke.

[…]

STEVE KORNACKI: Yeah, he meant it as a joke, but I think it reveals something very significant about this man's thinking when it comes to Iran and when it comes to the Middle East because this is the second time he's made a joke about killing Iranians. The first time, as you mentioned was when he sang along saying, 'Bomb [...] Iran.' This is a guy who, when he thinks of Iran, sees nothing but an enemy, sees nothing but a country we need to confront, we need to confront them militarily and we need to confront them aggressively. That is the only thing John McCain sees when he sees Iran. That's the view of the Middle East that he subscribes too and it's funny because you had a package at the start of the show, we talked all about how strained the US military is right now, between Iraq and between Afghanistan and this is a guy who seems to want to open up a third front on this war from day one in office.

TARA WALL: That's a stretch. I mean, come on. Iran is serious.

[…]

JESSICA YELLIN: This is the kind of thing that reinforces existing views of John McCain. People who already don't like him see this as an awful statement. People who love and think he's a real guy who makes a joke off the cuff just like real people do and the rest of the American public just isn't paying attention and doesn't care about this sort of thing.

The only red flag is, if this indicates John McCain going ranch more and more, there could be trouble down the line. We're all waiting to see if something explodes. That's the kind of thing that could get him into trouble eventually. This kind of comment doesn't.

Highlight #4

Pfotenhauer Discusses McCain's Immigration Plan and Attacks Obama on Unrelated Issues
(MSNBC 07/08/08 11:49am)

CONTESSA BREWER: . . . [McCain] is expected to expect immigration just at the end of his speech. Is there a strategy in that?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: I think Senator McCain's gonna lay out his vision for this country and moving us forward into the future and dealing with all of the challenges that we face. He's a very solutions-oriented guy as you know and so I expect him to talk about the economy, about health care and, of course, about immigration reform. It's an issue that matters very much to this community. Also about national security because that's on the mind of the average American.

BREWER: . . . his critics will say . . . he's flip flopping, that all of a sudden he's only concerned about border security and not about actual reform for the way we take in immigrants. Is that the case?

PFOTENHAUER: Not at all . . . let's go ahead and address the issue. Sen. McCain has obviously made it a hallmark of his career, particularly for the last six to eight years to work towards immigration reform, comprehensive immigration reform. It's been a model of a bipartisanship. You don' have to take our word for it, you can take Ted Kennedy's word for it. It failed in the last time through. And there were a couple of reasons for that. One is that there were real concerns that border security was not being given the emphasis that it should and Sen. McCain is addressing that. But the other is there was a concerted effort by the Democratic leadership who were working at the behest of labor unions to kill the bill and Barack Obama carried their water. . .

BREWER: Why is Barack Obama beating John McCain? This recent Gallup poll has him losing to Barack Obama by thirty points among Latino voters.

PFOTENHAUER: I think that's probably largely representative of the generic ballot difference between

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Democrats and Republicans. But also because the Republican party has been associated with concerns about immigration reform. Now John McCain breaks the mold for the Republicans on this. He's someone who never blinked at immigration reform, the way he doesn't blink at any problem facing our country . . . but whether it's immigration reform or NAFTA, I mean Sen. Obama's going to have to explain his position on wanting to renegotiate that . . . he's far to the left of even the pro-choice movement on abortion, I think he's eventually going to have a very hard sell for this voting block . . .

Highlight #5

Holtz-Eakin Touts McCain's Tax Plan Over Obama's (MSNBC 07/08/08 2:36pm)

JOHN HARWOOD: Doug, let me ask but that poll we've been talking about showing Obama ahead two to one among Hispanic voters given where John McCain was on immigration reform standing with Ted Kennedy, supporting that bipartisan bill, why is he struggling at this point in the campaign?

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN: He's going to compete for votes across this nation and do so successfully using the recipe that we saw on immigration reform. He has recognized the great challenges all across America from immigration, whether at the border, at the work site, undocumented aliens, or folks who want to pursue the American dream. He's committed to solving these problems. This is more than plans.

This is about matching words and actions. If you look at what Senator Obama is doing today, he's running around America promising everyone—95% of them—a tax cut. When he goes back to the senate, he votes twice to raise taxes on people making as little as $32,000. When John McCain left the campaign trail he went to pursue immigration reform, reaching across the aisle with Ted Kennedy and putting at risk his own political future. Words and actions have to match and that's what gets votes.

HARWOOD: By voting against those Bush tax cuts in 2001, wasn't John McCain voting for higher taxes for the same people?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: John McCain has always believed you should control spending and compare that with low taxes and that's a recipe for growth and that's what Americans need right now. Especially right now, what Americans need is a job that is foundation of the dreams and prosperity. Creating jobs and having great in the economy is the number one priority and that, in the end, is what John McCain is about. Every policy is through that lens.

TAMRON HALL: I want to play something that Senator Obama had to say about taxes in the '90s and get your response on the other side.

BARACK OBAMA: This applies to me as well. The fact of the matter is that, if we went back to the Bush tax rates that existed under Bill Clinton in the 1990s, rich people were still rich back then. I mean, you remember the 1990s weren't that long ago. If you were rich then, you were doing fine. You didn't need that extra tax cut from George Bush.

HALL: All right, you heard him there. Will that cost him many votes or will you have folks at home struggling to fill up their family car and say, 'That's the truth. I'm going vote for this guy because of it.'

HOLTZ-EAKIN: They're going to vote for John McCain because he's got the recipe for their job. Senator Obama's ideological drive to raise taxes will catch in the cross fires small businesses that are the heart of job creation in the United States. John McCain has not given a tax cut for wealthy.

Top rate is 35% right now and it will be in the future. He'll make sure the small businesses have access to capital. Dividends and capital gains rates will stay at 15%. They won't go down. The only tax cut John McCain is proposing is one that corporate America will get to keep jobs in America. Right now, those good jobs, the ones with health benefits, retirement benefits are walking overseas to places like Ireland with lower taxes.

John McCain wants those workers to have their jobs here in America and that's what his policies are all about—not about tax cuts for wealthy, all the demagoguery not withstanding.

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HARWOOD: As you know, the Obama campaign says that John McCain's ideological commitment to cutting taxes will create big problems. You may have heard a few minutes ago a reference to the McCain economic plan as voodoo two, saying that it would not add up, in terms of the deficit. The democrats put out a release yesterday saying that John McCain would have to cut Medicare 81% to balance the budget, given the numbers you guys have put out. What about that? Do they add up?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: The plan that doesn't add up is Barack Obama's. He's promising a tax cut to 95% of Americans, spend a trillion and a half dollars over the next five years and somehow have it add up. What John McCain is going to do is return to the discipline that we saw in the late 1990s under that democrat voodoo, Bill Clinton.

When republicans and democrats got together and put together tight spending controls every year, kept the economy growing, produced the revenues necessary for the federal government and brought the budget to balance and then ultimately surplus.

HARWOOD: You agree he can't get there with cutting earmarks, right?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: And he doesn't plan to. It's a return to a proven tactic, which is using the taxpayer's money wisely and the earmarks are part of that, but also a a bipartisan approach to commitment to reduce spending.

HARWOOD: What about the lines that Tamron was reading from Barack Obama, that is republicans say the rich weren't rich enough in the 1990s. Are you concerned that the populist rhetoric will take a toll out of you in the campaign?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: No. John McCain looks at every crowd and sees American workers and everything in this campaign is around making sure they have a good job. Health insurance costs aren't too high. They don't have mandate to pay for something they can't afford. Education's work [sic]. We don't throw money into systems that don't graduate kids. Energy is cheap, clean and available in the United States. A broad commitment to controlling our energy future and taking the American economy out of the hands of those in the Middle East who control it at the moment. This is a recipe for an economy that grows rapidly, price jobs to American workers and it's a comprehensive plan that will achieve those ends.

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From: "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/31/2008 9:06:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Newspaper endorsements and National Security

To: Interested Parties
From: Moira Whelan and Ilan Goldenberg, National Security Network
Re: Newspaper Presidential Endorsements and National Security

Conventional wisdom views national security and foreign policy issues as conservative turf. But over the past few years, and especially in this presidential election, progressives have become more assertive in outlining their own vision of national security. Today progressives are speaking about national security with greater confidence than at any time in recent memory and have consistently demonstrated the inadequacy of the conservative world view.

The payoff in this campaign, even with economic issues seizing the headlines, is clear in a National Security Network review of newspaper endorsements nationwide. Overall:

As of October 29, 2008, Barack Obama received 231 endorsements from newspapers with readership of over 21 million people while 102 papers with readership of 7 million endorsed John McCain;
46 newspapers that endorsed President Bush in 2004 went for Senator Obama during this cycle;
158 of Obama's endorsements specifically cited foreign policy as an important reason for giving him their support.

In the editorial boards' own words, the choice of Obama has much to do with several common national security themes: the inappropriateness of McCain's temperament for a dangerous world, the similarity of his ideas to those of President Bush, the need to repair our image around the world, the priority of the challenge in Afghanistan, and the desire to have a foreign policy that includes smart diplomacy. The prevalence of these common themes provides an important example of progressive national security ideas having a pivotal impact on the mainstream political dialogue. What follows is a summary of these themes:

McCain's "temperament" with regard to world affairs was a major reason for Obama endorsements. 42 percent of editorial boards that endorsed Obama contrasted the temperament of the two candidates when discussing the commander-in-chief test. McCain's "maverick" style is not a quality Americans seek in a commander-in-chief – and newspapers saw it this to be a clear national security problem. The *San Francisco Chronicle* writes, "The Illinois senator was…deliberative - in contrast with McCain's quick-draw provocation - when Russia invaded Georgia in August." The *Stockton Record* says " [McCain] tends to shoot from the hip and go on gut instinct. The nation cannot go through four more years of literally and figuratively shooting now and asking questions later." The *Detroit Free Press* writes that McCain's campaign "has been marked by stunts and gimmicks, gaffes and shifts that call into question McCain's temperament and, most of all, his judgment." McCain's temperament is often unfavorably compared to that of Senator Barack Obama, which is praised as "calm and deliberate." In general, a common theme throughout the endorsements is the observation that McCain is "a hair-trigger hawk" like Bush, a fact that undermines his experience with foreign policy. The *Bangor Daily News* slams his "reckless choice of Sarah Palin," his "boiling moralism," and his "dismaying temperament." [San Francisco Chronicle (CA), 10/17/2008 . The Stockton Record (CA), 9/26/2008 , Detroit Free Press (MI), 10/18/2008 . Bangor Daily News (ME), 10/18/2008]

The similarity of McCain's foreign policy to that of President Bush is a consistent theme. 32 percent of editorials endorsing Obama argued that McCain's foreign policy was too similar to that of George W. Bush. The *Durango Herald* writes that McCain is "intellectually and emotionally trapped in a bygone era" and that like Bush he offers "more of the wars" that have "mired future generations in debt." The *Palm Beach Post* contradicts McCain's statement during the debate that "I am not President Bush," calling it "one last failed attempt to convince enough voters that a McCain administration would be much different from the Bush administration" on issues such as Iraq. The *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* continues the criticism of McCain's Iraq policy: McCain "has persisted in flogging failed policies. With McCain…more American blood will be spilled." The Burlington *Hawk Eye* says "Nearly all of Bush's initiatives won favor from Republican John McCain," which "led us into unnecessary war in Iraq" and "eroded our credibility around the world." The *Kansas City Star* cautions that "Although claiming to be a change agent, he is following in Bush's footsteps on…war in Iraq" [The Durango Herald

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(CO), 10/12/2008 . Palm Beach Post (FL), 10/19/08 . Fort Wayne Journal Gazette (IN), 10/19/08 . The Hawk Eye (IA), 10/19/08 . Kansas City Star (MO), 10/21/08]

The need to repair US image around the world is central. 54 percent of editorials endorsing Obama cited the need to repair America's image and embrace diplomacy. The *St. Louis Post Dispatch* made its endorsement because of "the damage that has been done to America's moral standing in the world in the last eight years — by a preemptory war, a unilateralist foreign policy and by policies that have treated both the Geneva Conventions and our own Bill of Rights as optional." The *Quad-City Times* writes, "We support a presidential candidate predisposed toward reaching out to world leaders, not one entrenched in Cold War-style standoffs." The *Sacramento Bee* confirms that Obama "will begin to restore America's relations with its allies and its standing in the community of nations." The *Seattle Post Intelligencer* writes that diplomacy should be "fundamental, not an afterthought on the way to war." The presence of this theme indicates that Americans are aware that our image around the world has been tarnished by the last 8 years, and we must restore our standing not through force, but through engagement. [St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MO), 10/12/08 . Quad-City Times (IA/IL), 10/26/08 . Sacramento Bee (CA), 10/12/2008 Seattle Post-Intelligencer (WA), 10/6/08]

The progressive narrative -- that Afghanistan is the central foreign policy challenge and Iraq is a distraction -- is widely accepted. 31 percent of editorials endorsing Obama argued that the Bush administration's failed Iraq policy has distracted us from the real danger in Afghanistan. In fact, 15 of the 46 newspapers that supported Bush in '04 agreed this year that "Our military is bogged down in Iraq while terrorists are regrouping in Afghanistan" and cited the situation in Afghanistan as being a reason for their endorsement. The *Naples Daily News* acknowledges that, "Obama has more clarity and urgency on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He would set a course for bringing troops home from their victory in the former and move resources, allies and local and regional support to prosecute the latter more strategically." The *San Francisco Chronicle*, a newspaper with over 370,000 readers, says, "the threat of terrorism has not gone away. As Obama has noted, the invasion of Iraq diverted resources and attention from what should be the main front on terrorism: the rugged terrain along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, where al Qaeda and, presumably, its leader, Osama bin Laden, retreated after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States." The *South Florida Sun Sentinel* faults McCain for supporting the Iraq war and for supporting Bush in "prioritizing Iraq over Afghanistan, and in prioritizing Saddam Hussein over Osama bin Laden." The *Yakima Herald Republic* says "Obama plans to put together a reasonable exit strategy for Iraq -- something lacking from the get-go with the Bush administration. At the same time, he repeatedly said during debates that Afghanistan is where the focus should be and that he will go after Osama bin Laden and 'take him out' if given the opportunity." [Las Cruces Sun News (NM), 10/18/08 . San Francisco Chronicle (CA), 10/17/2008 . Naples Daily News (FL), 10/19/08 . South Florida Sun-Sentinel (FL), 10/26/08 . Yakima Herald-Republic (WA), 10/18/08]

The American public recognizes that we need to talk to our enemies. In a campaign season where the issue of talking to our enemies has become so important, it is significant that 54 percent of Obama's endorsements called for more diplomacy while 16 percent specifically support engaging in tough diplomacy with America's adversaries. The *Contra Costa Times* asks, "When did it hurt to sit down and talk to our enemies?" The *Gainesville Sun* faults McCain for his "Cold War-era attitudes towards global conflict resolution." The *Register-Guard* of Oregon praises "Obama's readiness, much derided by McCain, to conduct diplomacy with hostile nations. It's easy to characterize such willingness as appeasement — easy and wrong." These endorsements represent a realization, as the *Orlando Sentinel says,* that engaging "in tough negotiations with enemies is not naive or irresponsible; it's an approach followed before by presidents from both parties." [Contra Costa Times (CA), 10/12/2008 . The Gainesville Sun (FL) 10/26/08 , Register-Guard (OR), 10/18/08 , Orlando Sentinel (FL), 10/19/08]

**Special thanks to Eric Auner for his assistance with this project.*

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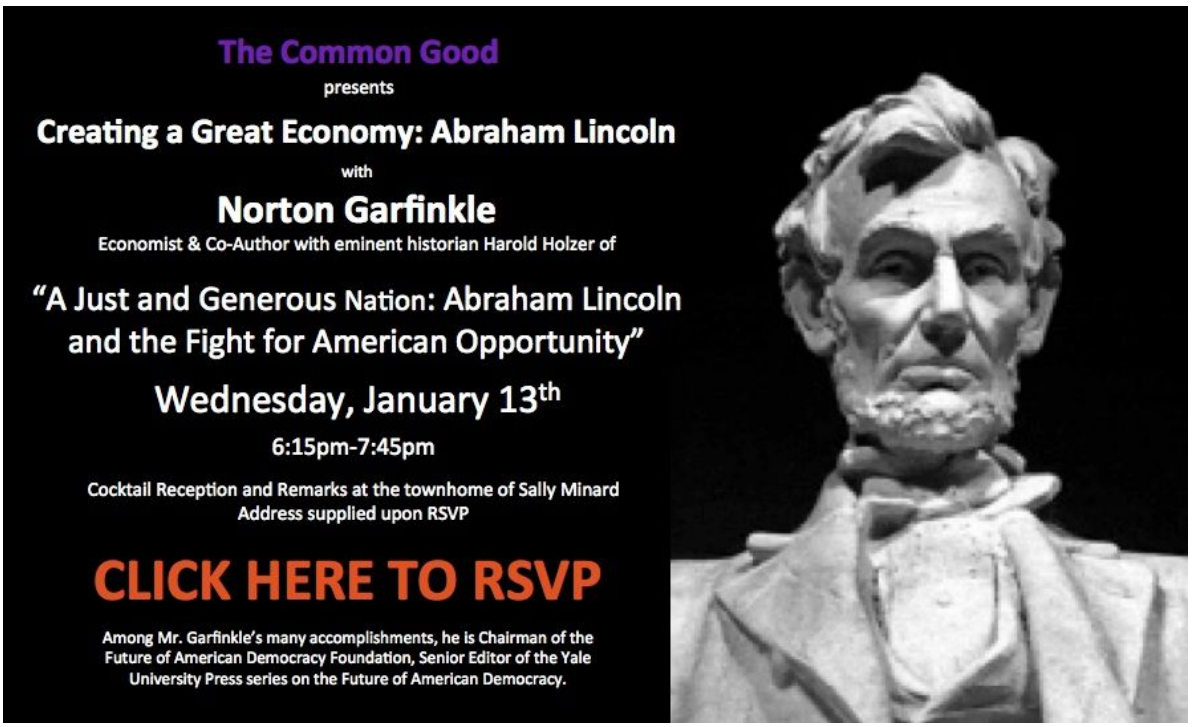
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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/8/2016 5:14:18 PM
Subject: New News! (1/8/16)



The Common Good

de·moc·ra·cy
di-'mä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

News as of January 8th, 2016

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

- Volatile Chinese and global markets lead to worst first five days of the year in modern history for U.S. stock market
- Obama issued executive orders on gun control
- North Korea claims to have tested an H-Bomb; House set to approve new economic sanctions
- Op-Ed on Saudi-Iran Feud - the Sunni-Shia religious conflict
- GOP pushes for refugee crackdown after arrest of Syrian refugee in Texas
- U.S. added 292,000 jobs in December
- Outrage in Germany over dozens of sexual assaults by refugees on New Year's Day

The Economy

China stocks recover from plunge as nerves settle: "Chinese stocks rose and the yuan strengthened Friday, a respite from the early-year meltdown that wiped as much as $1.1 trillion from mainland markets, after authorities overnight removed a mechanism blamed for triggering more volatility." **Chao Deng** and **Robb M. Stewart**, *MarketWatch* **[More]**

Volatility in US market leads to fall on Friday afternoon: "The Dow dropped 167.65, or 1%, to 16346.45 on Friday, leaving it down 6.2% for the week in its worst-ever five-day start to a year. **Corrie Driebusch**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

US added 292,000 jobs in December; jobless rate held at 5%: "The new data provides the first complete measuring stick for the labor market in 2015, a year in which the nation contended with volatile oil prices, a major slowdown in China and modest growth at home." **Chico Harlan**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

The Fed still set to raise interest rates 4 times this year: John Williams, president of the San Francisco Fed, expects the economy to grow around 2 to 2.25% this year as stock market gyrations in China have not affected his view of the US economy. However, he is watching developments in foreign economies and in the US dollar. **Ann Saphir,** *Reuters* **[More]**

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2016 Campaign

Cruz's strategy - "psychographic targeting": "**Cruz** is dispatching a data analytics firm to reach millions of potential supporters, through data gathered mostly from Facebook without their knowledge. Through "psychographic targeting," his team is trying to locate possible Cruz voters based on five personality traits: openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness and neuroticism." **A.B. Stoddard**, *The Hill* **[More]**

As Cruz surges in Iowa, he is targeted by other GOP candidates: "Mike Huckabee and **Rick Santorum** are trying to define **Cruz** as a divisive phony and some of the attacks have resonated with many socially conservative voters... **[Marco] Rubio** is [also] targeting **Cruz** in an effort to prevail among the establishment candidates." **James Hohmann,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Bill Clinton campaigns in Iowa, brushes off Trump criticism: Clinton brushes off **Trump** attacks on Hillary as "enabler" in infidelities. **Julie Pace,** *Boston Globe* **[More]**

Trump reaching more than just undereducated, angry white men: A *Politico* review shows **Trump** now has a coalition that begins with conservative, blue-collar men and "now extends to pro-choice Republicans, independents and even registered Democrats unnerved, primarily, by illegal immigration. **Scott Bland,** Op-Ed, *Politico* **[More]**

Charles Koch knocks down positions of Trump and Cruz: "**Koch** bemoaned the state of the field of Republican candidates seeking the nomination and suggested that big money was losing its influence in politics." **Alan Rappeport,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

In the wake of North Korea's nuclear test, House set to approve new economic sanctions: New unilateral sanctions may not significantly change the North Korean strategic position, but "there is some thought that the most recent test...could prompt China, North Korea's most important trading partner and ally, to join in a crackdown." **Mike DeBonis,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Obama administration plans shake-up in propaganda war against the ISIS: "Officials will create a new counter-terrorism task force...Other moves include revamping a State Department program that was created to serve as an information war room to challenge the Islamic State online and erode its appeal." **Greg Miller** and **Karen DeYoung**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

"El Chapo" recaptured in western Mexico: Joshua Partlow and **Elahe Izadi,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

"**Outrage is growing in Germany over the reported sexual harassment of and assaults on women** in the city of Cologne on New Year's Eve [by]...as many as 1,000 men of "Arab or North African" background." **Krishnadev Calamur**, *The Atlantic* **[More]**

Is the Saudi-Iran feud all about Sunni-Shia divide? "News of Saudi Arabia's execution of the Shia leader **Nimr al-Nimr**, and the diplomatic clashes with Iran that followed, has often been accompanied by an explanation that...the schism between Sunni and Shia Islam is expressed today in part through the rivalry between Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shia Iran...Now does that mean it's all about these two rival sects of Islam? I think a lot of this is about governance, it's about access to economic resources, it's about the center and the periphery, it's about class." **Uri Friedman**, Op-Ed, *The Atlantic* **[More]**

Iranian mob sacks Saudi Embassy in Tehran following executing in Saudi Arabia of Shia cleric. Iran accuses Saudi Arabia of attack on embassy in Yemen: Iran accused Saudi Arabia of targeting an aerial attack on its embassy in Yemen, escalating a conflict between the rivals that has put the region on edge, although witnesses said the building was not damaged. The attack, on Wednesday night, was said to have occurred as the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen carried out its heaviest airstrikes in months over Sana. **Thomas Erdbrink**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Obama vetoes measure to repeal most of Obamacare: "The veto ends, for now, any chance that the 2010 Affordable Care Act will be undone during Obama's presidency." **Toluse Olorunnipa**, *Bloomberg* **[More]**

Oregon governor and sheriff asks armed group occupying Oregon wildlife refuge to leave: Rancher **Ammon Bundy,** leader of the occupying group, was asked to leave." **Mark Berman** and **Carissa Wolf**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

The arrest of a Syrian refugee in Texas with alleged ties to ISIS has renewed concerns over the US refugee program: Syria and other countries with territory controlled by terrorists are of particular concern. *Yahoo News* **[More]**

Americans supportive but skeptical of Obama's executive actions on gun control: New CNN/ORC poll shows that 67% in favor; 32% oppose executive actions to expand background checks on gun purchases made online or at gun shows and to make it easier for the FBI to complete background checks efficiently. But almost 6 in 10 say these measures will not be effective in reducing gun-related deaths. **Jennifer Agiesta,** *CNN* **[More]**

Obama won't support candidates against new gun safety measures: "I will not campaign for, vote for or support any candidate, even in my own party, who does not support common-sense gun reform." **President Barack Obama,** *New York Times* **[More]**

We can no longer wait for a Congress in the gun lobby's grip to act: Mark Kelly (TCG Speaker), astronaut and husband of **Rep. Gabrielle Giffords,** who was shot 5 years ago today, weighs in on why he supports Obama's executive orders. *CNN* **[More]**

Obama's domestic policy legacy and the changes he made while nobody was paying attention: "What he's done is changing the way we produce and consume energy, the way doctors and hospitals treat us, the academic standards in our schools and the long-term fiscal trajectory of the nation." From *Politico*'s "The Obama Issue." **Michael Grunwald,** *Politico* **[More]**

US posts its 2nd hottest year on record: "The annual average temperature in the contiguous United States last year was 54.4 degrees Fahrenheit, a temperature that is 2.4 degrees above the average in the last century." **Andrew Restuccia,** *Politico* **[More]**

More from the TCG Community

Congratulations to **Rep. John Lewis (TCG Awardee)**, who had a U.S. Navy ship named after him this week. The USNS John Lewis is the first of the next generation of ships of its kind - fleet replenishment oilers. **Sec. of the Navy Ray Mabus** remarked at the ceremony, "Naming this ship after **John Lewis** is a fitting tribute to a man who has, from his youth, been at the forefront of progressive social and human rights movements in the U.S., directly shaping both the past and future of our nation." **Mashaun D. Simon**, *NBC* **[More]**

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Notable Books

A Just and Generous Nation: Abraham Lincoln and the Fight for American Opportunity by **Harold Holzer** and **Norton Garfinkle (TCG Speaker).** Part historical argument, part political and economic survey, Holzer and Garfinkle aim to show that Lincoln fought the Civil War "in pursuit of economic opportunity for the widest possible circle of hardworking Americans." **Andrew Delbanco**, *New York Times* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Norton Garfinkle - Growing a Great Economy: Abraham Lincoln's Relevance

Wednesday, January 13, 2016; Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband - The Great Refugee Crisis

Wednesday, January 27, 2016; Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable Lord Christopher Patten, Chancellor of Oxford University

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Common Good Forum on "Security and Opportunity in Turbulent Times"

Friday, May 20, 2016, 8am-4pm, Sessions all day on national and economic security

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff, Isabelle Lehner and Isaac Getlan, our intern Emily Abrams, and our volunteer Emily Samuels.

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Greg Rosalsky" <GRosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/24/2008 1:24:04 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/24

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 24th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

9:45am BUSH: Meets with president of Philippines at White House

12:00pm McCain: Environmental Panel Discussion in Santa Barbara, CA

1:10pm BUSH: Meets with Prime Minister of Vietnam at White House

2:30pm McCain: Finance Event in Riverside, CA

4:05pm BUSH: Makes remarks to NCAA Sports Champions at White House

6:30pm McCain: Tele Town Hall in Orange County, CA

6:35pm BUSH: Attends a RNC reception in McLean, VA

9:00pm McCain: Fund Raiser in Newport Beach, CA

News Clips:

CHARLIE BLACK TERROR ATTACK COMMENT NEWS

Terror Strike Would Help McCain, Top Adviser Says (Washington Post 6/24/08)
By Michael Shear
A top adviser to Sen. John McCain said that a terrorist attack in the United States would be a political benefit to the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, a comment that was immediately disputed by the candidate and denounced by his Democratic rival. Charles R. Black Jr... said...that a fresh terrorist attack "certainly would be a big advantage to him." He also said that the December assassination of former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, while "unfortunate," helped McCain win the Republican primary by focusing attention on national security....The comments also returned the political spotlight to McCain's advisers and, in particular, to Black, who has drawn criticism for his long lobbying career and his representation of controversial foreign governments....
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/23/AR2008062301979.html?nav=rss_politics

McCain aide apologizes for terrorist-attack comment (LA Times 6/24/08)
By Don Frederick
Charlie Black has had his moment of straight talk -- and chances are he's not going to let it happen again... First, Black described the assassination of Pakistani political leader Benazir Bhutto in late December as an "unfortunate event" -- but one that boosted McCain's stock just before the must-win New Hampshire primary... Then he longtime Washington lobbyist went further. Asked what the political ramifications of another terrorist attack on U.S. soil might be for McCain, Black told Fortune, "Certainly it would be a big advantage to him."
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailblack24-2008jun24,0,7210256.story

McCain disavows aide's comment about terrorism (AP 6/23/08)
By Glen Johnson
A top adviser to John McCain said another terrorist attack on U.S. soil would be a "big advantage" for the

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Republican presidential candidate, drawing a sharp rebuke Monday from both the presumed GOP nominee and Democrat Barack Obama. Charlie Black, already in the spotlight for his past lobbying work, is quoted in the upcoming July 7 edition of Fortune magazine as saying such an attack "certainly would be a big advantage to him."
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080623/D91G30V00.html

McCain adviser apologizes for September 11 comment (Reuters 6/23/08)
A top adviser to Republican presidential candidate John McCain apologized on Monday after he was quoted as saying a September 11-type attack before the November election would benefit McCain....Black's comment to Fortune was a distraction for McCain as he seeks to catch up to Obama in the polls, where Obama leads by about 6 percentage points...Massachusetts Democratic Sen. John Kerry, who lost to President George W. Bush in the 2004 election based largely on who would make the country safer, said Black's comment smacked of "the worst of the Rove-Bush fear playbook," a reference to Bush's former political adviser, Karl Rove.
http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSN2327749220080623

McCain criticizes adviser's terrorism comments (CNN 6/23/08)
By Peter Hamby
Sen. John McCain distanced himself Monday from comments made by a senior campaign adviser suggesting that McCain would stand to benefit politically from a terrorist attack on U.S. soil..."I cannot imagine why he would say it," he said at a press conference. "It's not true. I've worked tirelessly since 9/11 to prevent another attack on the United States of America. My record is very clear."
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/06/23/mccain-criticizes-adviser%e2%80%99s-terrorism-comments/

Burton: Black comment a disgrace (Politico 6/23/08)
By Ben Smith
Charlie Black has already apologized for, and John McCain distanced himself from, the advisor's comment that a terror strike would help McCain, but Obama spokesman Bill Burton still weighs in...The fact that John McCain's top advisor says that a terrorist attack on American soil would be a "big advantage" for their political campaign is a complete disgrace, and is exactly the kind of politics that needs to change.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0608/Burton_Black_comment_a_disgrace.html

Richard Clarke: Charlie Black Should Be Fired (VIDEO) (Huffington Post 6/23/08)
John McCain's chief advisor, Charlie Black, ignited a firestorm with his comments that another terrorist attack on the U.S. would create a "big advantage" for McCain. Richard Clarke, the former counterterrorism chief for the U.S., appeared on Countdown with Keith Olbermann and slammed Black's comments as the "politics of fear." Clarke called for McCain to fire Black...
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/23/richard-clarke-mccain-sho_n_108812.html

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain gambling on offshore drilling (LA Times 6/24/08)
By Cathleen Decker and Michael Finnegan
He thinks the nation's high gas prices will trump concerns about protecting the environment, especially in key Midwest states.
http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-offshore24-2008jun24,0,1035753.story?track=rss

McCain Proposes a $300 Million Prize for a Next-Generation Car Battery (NYT 06/24/08)
By Michael Cooper
In the 18th century the British offered a £20,000 prize to anyone who figured out how to calculate longitude. More recently, Netflix offered a million dollars for improving movie recommendations on its Web site. Now Senator John McCain is suggesting a new national prize: He said here Monday that if elected president he would offer $300 million to anyone who could build a better car battery.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/24/us/politics/24campaign.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

Senator's Broad Range Of Energy Policies Defies Categories (WSJ 06/23/08)
By Laura Meckler
Sen. John McCain is putting energy policy at the center of his presidential campaign, embracing a diverse array

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of positions that defies easy categorization.He is for more oil drilling and also for alternatives to oil. He wants to drill off the coasts but not in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He supports subsidies for nuclear power and clean-coal technology, but has opposed them for ethanol, solar and wind power.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121426587652898519.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain's $300M lure for new, 'green' car battery sparks buzz (USA Today 6/23/08)
By David Jackson
Republican candidate John McCain said Monday the government should pay a $300 million reward to the inventor of a battery strong enough to power an automobile...Historians said the offer of a multimillion-dollar prize appears to be a presidential campaign first. Author Rick Shenkman, whose books include Legends, Lies and Cherished Myths of American History, said the idea brings a game-show ethos to American politics.
http://www.usatoday.com/money/autos/environment/2008-06-23-mcain-car-battery_N.htm

McCain Talks Energy in California (Washington Post 6/23/08)
By Karl Vick
Sen. John McCain brought his energy campaign to the charmless acres of California's Central Valley today--the flat, hot expanses of industrial farms where motorists inured to the stink of fertilizer and manure have found cause for violent complaint with unleaded at $4.69 a gallon...Electric cars are the way of the future, McCain declared, and to underscore the point met reporters after the meeting beside a battery-powered Tesla Roadster.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/23/mccain_talks_energy_in_califor.html

Gas at $4 brings promises, pandering (AP 6/23/08)
Like two rival filling-station owners across the highway in long-bygone price wars, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain keep putting up flashy signs and offering new incentives in hopes of attracting customers battered by $4 gas prices.In a USA Today-Gallup Poll released Monday, nine in 10 people said energy, including gas prices, would be very or extremely important... People said Obama would do a better job than McCain on energy issues by 19 percentage points.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25335622/

Impossible: Finding An Expert Who Says McCain's Energy Plan Provides Short-Term Relief (Huffington Post 6/23/08)
By Sam Stein
Last week, Sen. John McCain reversed his longstanding opposition to offshore drilling. The Arizona Senator and his campaign surrogates framed the move as a much-needed effort to combat energy costs in the wake of record high gas prices - political action to Sen. Barack Obama's inaction...But is there one credible economist or energy analyst who actually believes that offshore drilling could have a short-term impact on the market dynamics?
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/23/impossible-finding-expert_n_108692.html

McCain advisors step away from Bush, but not too far (AFP 06/23/08)
The Republican party's presumptive presidential nominee John McCain is engaged in a delicate dance, distancing himself from US President George W. Bush while courting the conservative ideals of the outgoing president's party.Few of McCain's top advisors are well known to the general public, and even fewer are directly linked to the highly unpopular Bush administration. However neoconservatives, whose thinking has directed Bush's foreign policy following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, are ever-present and powerful in McCain's inner circle.
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gZINalremaNa2OcVAQiPKjyUNS0Q

The evolution of John McCain (Fortune 6/23/08)
By David Whitford
As a maverick Senator, he took pride in just saying no to everyone's wish list. But as a presidential contender, he's become a tax cutter and defender of home mortgages. The inside story of how the candidate is shaping his plan to fix the economy.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/06/20/magazines/fortune/Evolution_McCain_Whitford.fortune/index.htm

'When John McCain was my captive' (BBC 6/23/08)
By Andrew Harding

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Tran Trong Duyet - a sprightly retiree and amateur ballroom dancer - must rank as one of John McCain's more unlikely supporters. Four decades ago, during the Vietnam war, Mr Duyet was in charge of the notorious Hoa Lo prison - the place where Mr McCain says he was brutally beaten and tortured during five-and-a-half years as an American prisoner of war.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7459946.stm

McCain's Crucial 73 Days (Washington Post Blog 6/23/08)
By Chris Cillizza
The coverage of Barack Obama's decision last week to forego public financing for the general election centered on the fact that the Illinois senator is almost certain to have a considerable spending edge in the fall campaign over John McCain. What was largely overlooked, however, is how Obama's decision impacts McCain's fundraising between now and when he formally accepts the party's nomination on Sept. 4. Since McCain opted out of public financing for the primary race, he can raise and spend as much as he likes over the next 73 days.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/06/money_reexamined.html?nav=rss_blog

McCain's Campaign Funding Hypocrisy: Why Are the Media Looking the Other Way? (Huffington Post 6/23/08)
By Arianna Huffington
...What's actually disturbing is the Swift Boat Media's complete indifference to McCain's bald-faced hypocrisy on the same issue. Amidst all the attacks on Obama's "flip-flop," how much have you read in the MSM about the fact that McCain has "completely reversed himself" on public financing -- and is currently breaking the law on a daily basis, making a mockery out of a campaign finance system he helped create?
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/arianna-huffington/mccains-campaign-funding_b_108772.html

McCain Hypocrisy on Obama's Opt-Out Decision (Mother Jones Blog 6/23/08)
By Jonathan Stein
The McCain campaign has sharply criticized Barack Obama's decision to become the first general election presidential candidate since the 1970s to opt out of the public financing system, a decision Obama can afford because of his stunning success with hundreds of thousands of low-dollar donors...But McCain, a longtime foe of Big Money in politics, once had a friendlier view of presidential fundraisers like Obama.
http://www.motherjones.com/mojoblog/archives/2008/06/8763_mccain_hypocris.html

Cindy McCain to headline fundraiser in London (AP 6/23/08)
Cindy McCain, wife of Republican presidential hopeful John McCain, was hosting a campaign fundraiser in London on Thursday after she completes a humanitarian visit to southeast Asia. The evening event was expected to raise more than $500,000 for the Arizona senator's presidential bid, a person familiar with the planning said Monday. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was scheduled to join Cindy McCain as a headliner of the event.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25335961/

McCain camp playing up gender as both sides embrace victimhood (Politico 6/23/08)
By Jonathan Martin
Who says identity politics is just for Dems? A few days after McCain spokeswoman Jill Hazelbaker called an Obama campaign stunt "boys club bullying," Rep. Heather Wilson takes to a McCain conference call to say recent comments by the Democratic nominee were "patronizing" and "dismissive."
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0608/
McCain_camp_playing_up_gender_as_both_sides_embrace_victimhood.html

Obama Says McCain Is Insensitive to Women's Issues (WSJ 06/23/08)
By Christopher Cooper
Barack Obama opened up another line of attack against Republican rival John McCain, accusing the Arizona senator of being insensitive to women's issues. At a roundtable-style event at a wholesale bakery in Albuquerque, the Illinois Democrat told about 40 women that he's committed to making sure they get "a square deal on the job."McCain is not, he said. As proof, he pointed to the Republican candidate's refusal to support legislation designed to unwind a U.S. Supreme Court decision last year that made it harder for women to sue for job discrimination.

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http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/06/23/obama-says-mccain-is-insensitive-to-womens-issues/

Gitmo trial looms in election homestretch (Politico 6/23/08)
By Avi Zenilman
On May 9, five men currently incarcerated at the Guantanamo Bay detention center were charged in connection with the 9/11 terror attacks. Under the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which authorizes that detainee trials begin within 120 days, they could end up in a courtroom in September – almost to the day of the seventh anniversary of the attacks and right as voters start to tune in for the presidential election homestretch.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11286.html

Too Good to Check (Time Blog 6/23/08)
By Joe Klein
I have no way of knowing if this is true, though the source is excellent...but the word in Republican circles is that John McCain is quite frustrated by the vice presidential selection process because he can't go with any of his top three choices.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/06/too_good_to_check.html

Aide: Nevada will flip to GOP in '08 (AP 6/23/08)
John McCain's new Nevada campaign chairman, Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki, said Monday that he expects the state will swing Republican in November.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-23-nevada-gop_N.htm

McCain hires directors for PA, MI, OH (Politico 6/23/08)
By Jonathan Martin
John McCain has put in place his campaign team in the three Rust Belt states that could prove pivotal this fall.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0608/McCain_hires_directors_for_PA_MI_OH.html

McCain gets scrape after run-in with auto rooftop (AP 6/23/08)
Sen. John McCain sported a bandage atop his head after a run-in with an automobile rooftop. The Republican presidential candidate said he banged his head while getting out of his vehicle during a visit to Canada last Friday.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080623/ap_on_el_pr/mccain_bandage

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain's Core Advantage (Washington Post 6/24/08)
By Richard Cohen
And the same principle holds for John McCain. Like Obama, he was going to give us change, and in a sense, he has. He has abandoned his maverick persona of old and moved to assure the GOP that on most matters, he is devoutly orthodox. This is change, all right, but for most voters, who hanker for something other than what they've had for most of the last eight years, this is not much change at all.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/23/AR2008062301829.html

McCain's Straight Talk Needs Sizzle (SF Chronicle 6/24/08)
By Debra Saunders
John McCain is a media consultant's nightmare.He is so not tech savvy that he actually favors town hall meetings, which brought him to Fresno State University on Monday. He still cannot read a teleprompter. He hangs onto that microphone as if it is 1979...Is there such a thing as geezer chic?
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/06/mccains_straight_talk_needs_si.html

Our view on clean campaigns: All Washington lobbyists, insiders aren't created equal (USA Today 6/24/08)
John McCain and Barack Obama are battling over many issues, from energy to trade to terrorism. But nowhere has their sparring been more intense than over which candidate is more reform-minded. Both have accepted the resignations of key aides whom the other camp attacked for being too close to special interests. And both have highly restrictive rules about the roles lobbyists can play in their campaigns. McCain has barred them from paid positions with his. Obama has banned them from contributing to his campaign and the Democratic National

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Committee (DNC).
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/06/our-view-on-cle.html#more

Opposing view: First, purge all the lobbyists (USA Today 6/24/08)
By Joan Claybrook
Information. Access. Money. In the nation's capital, it's the currency of movers and shakers. If you have one, you can barter for the other two. And if you have all three, well, chances are, you're a top lobbyist. John McCain and Barack Obama have been purging their campaigns of lobbyists...If Obama and McCain are truly interested in changing Washington, they must both, in unequivocal terms, commit to public campaign financing...
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/06/opposing-view-5.html#more

No Job for Mr. Nice Guy (Washington Post 6/24/08)
By Anne Applebaum
Perhaps it's just a coincidence, but in the past few days, I've felt overwhelmed by a tsunami of commentary, all of which purports to prove the fundamental nastiness of Barack Obama or, alternatively, the deep unlikability of John McCain...The Daily Mail of London has called McCain a " self-centred womaniser who effectively abandoned his crippled [first] wife." In recent months I've also read, or been told, that John McCain snubbed the Vietnamese peasant who saved his life and is rude to his (second) wife in public...
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/23/AR2008062301827.html

Wounds You Can't See (NYT 6/24/08)
By Bob Herbert
The U.S. has been at war for years now, but ordinary Americans have never been asked to step up and make the kind of sacrifices that wars have historically required.There is no draft. There are no shortages of food, consumer items or gasoline. We're not even paying for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. That multitrillion-dollar obligation has been shoved off to future generations.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/24/opinion/24herbert.html?ref=opinion

Obsessing about Iran (Boston Globe 6/24/08)
By H.D.S. Greenway
THE WAR drums are beating hard in this the last summer of the Bush presidency. Israel practices bombing runs far out in the Mediterranean, refueling more than 100 fighter bombers in midair, in what is advertised as practice against Iranian nuclear facilities. President Bush goes to Europe to garner support and issue threats in the cause of confrontation...Is the Bush White House talking itself into attacking Iran as its moral duty to save the world from Iran?
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/06/24/obsessing_about_iran/

Big oil and the war in Iraq (Boston Globe 6/24/08)
By Derrick Z. Jackson
IT TOOK five years, the deaths of 4,100 US soldiers, and the wounding of 30,000 more to make Iraq safe for Exxon. It is the inescapable open question since the reasons given by President Bush for the invasion and occupation did not exist, neither the weapons of mass destruction nor Saddam Hussein's ties to Al Qaeda and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/06/24/big_oil_and_the_war_in_iraq/

The Bush Paradox (NYT 6/24/08)
By David Brooks
Let's go back and consider how the world looked in the winter of 2006-2007. Iraq was in free fall, with horrific massacres and ethnic cleansing that sent a steady stream of bad news across the world media. The American public delivered a stunning electoral judgment against the Iraq war, the Republican Party and President Bush... The additional fact is that Bush, who made such bad calls early in the war, made a courageous and astute decision in 2006. More than a year on, the surge has produced large, if tenuous, gains.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/24/opinion/24brooks.html?hp

John McCain's straight talk express sidetracked (Seattle Post Intelligencer 6/23/08)
By Ann McFeatters
My friends, what is up with John McCain? Almost every day he reverses a long-held, if no longer deeply held,

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position on a major issue facing voters this November. Most recently (not counting the last few minutes), he decided he wants to permit oil and gas drilling in federal waters off our coastlines.
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/368091_ann24.html

Are You Experienced? Why a U.S. senator might not trump a state legislator (Newsweek 6/23/08)
By Alan Ehrenhalt
We are in the opening days of a presidential campaign that pits youth against age, the virtues of experience against the freshness and riskiness of the new arrival. I'm not here to refute all of that: John McCain is 25 years older than Barack Obama, and he always will be. But here's something I bet you didn't know: If Obama becomes president, he will have spent more time serving as a state legislator (eight years) than anyone who has occupied the White House since Abraham Lincoln.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/142892

BUSH NEWS

GAO Report Faults Post-'Surge' Planning (Washington Post 6/24/08)
By Karen DeYoung
The administration lacks an updated and comprehensive Iraq strategy to move beyond the "surge" of combat troops President Bush launched in January 2007 as an 18-month effort to curtail violence and build Iraqi democracy, government investigators said yesterday.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/23/AR2008062302050.html?nav=rss_world

Army General's Nomination Called Historic (Washington Post 6/24/08)
By Josh White
President Bush has nominated Lt. Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody to take over the Army's Materiel Command as a four-star general, and if confirmed by the Senate she would be the first woman in U.S. history to receive such a high military rank.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/23/AR2008062301980.html?hpid=moreheadlines

Report Says Partisanship Reigned in Justice Department Hiring Program (Washington Post 6/24/08)
By Carrie Johnson
High-ranking political appointees at the Justice Department labored to stock a prestigious hiring program with young conservatives in a five-year-long attempt to reshape the department's ranks, according to an inspector general's report to be released today.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/23/AR2008062301796.html?nav=rss_politics

Laura Bush: busier than the president? (LA Times 6/23/08)
By Johanna Neuman
Today she's in Vermont, the only state George W. Bush hasn't visited as president (see our earlier post) to deliver remarks about national parks at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park in Vermont. "As we celebrate the very start of the summer season, it's a perfect time for us to recommit ourselves to preserving and protecting our fabulous national parks," she said.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/presidentbush/2008/06/laura-bush-secr.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Bomb Kills 4 Americans At Baghdad Council Meeting (Reuters 6/24/08)
A bomb killed 10 people including two U.S. government employees and two U.S. soldiers at a council meeting in the Baghdad stronghold of Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on Tuesday, officials said.
http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/world/international-iraq.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

One U.S. soldier killed, five wounded in Iraq attack (Reuters 6/23/08)
By Tim Cocks
BAGHDAD (Reuters) - One U.S. soldier was killed and five others were wounded by small arms fire southeast of Baghdad on Monday, the U.S. military said, quoting initial reports.

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http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSL2337523220080623?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews

Evangelical leader Dobson accuses Obama of 'distorting' Bible (AP 6/24/08)
As Barack Obama broadens his outreach to evangelical voters, one of the movement's biggest names, James Dobson, accuses the likely Democratic presidential nominee of distorting the Bible and pushing a "fruitcake interpretation" of the Constitution.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-23-dobson-obama_N.htm

Democrats to unite in Unity (Boston Globe Blog 6/23/08)
By Foon Rhee
Barack Obama announced this afternoon that his Democratic unity event with Hillary Clinton will be in the appropriately named Unity, N.H., on Friday.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/06/democrats_to_un.html

GOP Searches, Once Again, for Staten Island Candidate (WSJ 06/23/08)
By Brad Haynes
The death of Staten Island Republican Frank Powers, a retired Wall Street executive drafted by the party to run for the seat Rep. Vito Fossella is vacating, leaves the GOP once again scrambling for a candidate to defend the last red congressional seat in New York City.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/06/23/gop-searches-once-again-for-staten-island-candidate/

Border fence challenge rebuffed by Supreme Court (LA Times 6/23/08)
By David G. Savage
The justices decline to hear a petition, thereby leaving Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff with the power to proceed with the barrier's construction.
http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-border24-2008jun24,0,6264826.story?track=rss

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: John <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/8/2015 10:02:58 AM
Subject: Latest News from the American Security Project

Check out all that's happening at ASP! View this email in your browser



October 07, 2015

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ASP in the News

Can Trinidad's Energy Sector Expect Changes?
Andrew Holland, Inter-American Dialogue

Top Stories

The Emergence of the Trans-Pacific Partnership



The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is the largest regional trade accord in history. It finally emerged after years of negotiations between the US and eleven Pacific Rim nations. It now faces months of scrutiny in a politically divided Congress, although the threat of amendments or a filibuster will not be an issue due to the success of the fast-track trade authority.

Click here for more.

Winning the Social Media War Against ISIS

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Let's stop here. There is no war online against ISIS in which the United States can seize victory, because there is no online victory to be seized. "Winning" a war implies specific objectives that can actually be met. On the internet, there is no clear ground to be gained, and no reliable way to measure success when it comes to countering violent extremism—as many have mentioned, you can't measure if someone decides to not join ISIS.

Click here for more.

Upcoming Events

Climate Change, Diplomacy, and National Security - A Conversation with Foreign Minister Tony de Brum, Marshall Islands



In December, negotiators from around the world will convene in Paris to negotiate and agree to a deal to address the challenge of climate change. While most attention has been on the position of major economies like China, Europe, and the United States, one group that has played a role in the negotiations far beyond the size of their populations are the Alliance of Small Island States. Their clear moral authority, as "front-line" states of climate change, shows how soft power can accelerate diplomacy.

Wednesday, October 28, 12:00 pm - 01:30 pm

1100 New York Avenue, NW - 7th floor - West Tower
Washington, D.C

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On Our Blog

Climate, Energy, and National Security

I nvestments in Clean Energy Make Us Safer
Ricky Gandhi
This December, countries from around the world will meet in Paris to develop an international climate agreement that will attempt to cap warming at 2˚C – the threshold scientists have warned us not to cross.
Click here for more.. .

El Nino and the Case for Microgrids
American Security Project
Winter is coming to the United States' national electric grid. El Nino - an ocean temperature event that affects global weather - is on its way and its expected to be one the strongest events in recent history. Already, we have seen El Nino's warmer ocean currents create severe weather conditions, causing blackouts throughout the Asian and Pacific regional energy grids.
Click here for more...

Reducing our Dependent on Fossil Fuels is a National Security Imperative
Spencer Shweky
In 2013, the EIA projected that world energy consumption would grow by 56% between 2010 and 2040, with fossil fuels continuing to supply almost 80% of the 2040 total. This trajectory threatens not only to alter the nature of the earth's climate, but to fundamentally destabilize the global security environment.
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Wilson Center Global Energy Forum Overview
Ricky Gandhi
The Wilson Center Global Energy Forum provided updated analyses regarding geopolitical situations and their effects on energy production. The keynote speaker, Adam Sieminski of the U.S. EIA, discussed the short-term implication in the growth of demand: a rebalancing between demand and the excess supply caused by OPEC.
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ASP in Colorado: Climate Change and Security in the Heartland
American Security Project
On Wednesday and Thursday, September 9th and 10th, representatives of the American Security Project visited Denver, Colorado and Colorado Springs, Colorado, for a series of meetings, public events, and briefings on how climate change is affecting security, how institutions in the region are planning for it, and how.
Click here for more...

Nuclear Security

The Iran Nuclear Agreement & Congress's Role
Sam Hickey
The dangers of nuclear weapons programs span a spectrum of

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catastrophe: from a meltdown at a nuclear reactor, to a state detonating a nuclear weapon, to terrorists setting off a dirty bomb. The paradox of the security and insecurity that nuclear weapons concurrently provide has yet to be reconciled, but for now, the U.S. must provide direct aid to the international institution responsible for maintaining the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology; the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
Click here for more...

American Competitiveness:

Dante Disparte on Puerto Rico Default
Clark Derrington
On Tuesday, August 4th Business Council for American Security Chairperson Dante Disparte spoke to the BBC World Business Report about the latest development in the Puerto Rican debt crisis. Puerto Rico missed a $58 million bond payment on Monday, sending the island territory into default for the first time. In his interview, Disparte mentioned several of the issues contributing to Puerto Rico's debt troubles.
Click here for more...

National Security Strategy

Panel 3: Beyond the Technical - Defense, Diplomacy, and Deterrence | Cyber Security: Risk, Recovery, and Resilience
Anil Powers
In panel 3 of its conference on cyber security, ASP hosted Michele Markoff, Deputy Coordinator for Cyber Issues at the U.S. Department of State (DOS), Colonel Jon Brickey, National Capital Region Liaison and Assistant Professor at Army Cyber Institute at West Point, and Hon. Bijan R. Kian, Chairman of the Board of Directors for iCelero.
Click here for more...

Event Review - Panel 2: Cyber Security and Consequences for the Military
Spencer Shweky
The afternoon's second panel, "Consequences for the Military" was moderated by Brigadier General Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret.), CEO of the American Security Project and included MG Garrett Yee, US Army Reserve, Cyber Security Directorate Military Deputy, LTC Scott Applegate, G3 Current Operations Chief, Defensive Cyberspace Operations, United States Army Cyber Command, and Ian Wallace, Senior Fellow, Co-Director Cyber Security Initiative, New America.
Click here for more...

Event Recap: Panel 1 | Lessons from OPM Hack
Ngoc H. Le
The first panel of the afternoon discussed the 'lessons learned' from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) data breach. In June 2015 the OPM announced that they had been the target of a large data breach, stealing the classified and personal records of several millions of people. James Comey, director of the FBI, put the number at a dazzling 18 million.
Click here for more...

Event Recap: Keynote Speech | Cyber Security: Risk, Recovery, and Resilience
Sam Hickey
On Wednesday, September 16th American Security Project hosted a conference on 'Cyber Security: Risk, Recovery, and Resilience'. After opening remarks by ASP CEO BGen. Stephen Cheney USMC, (Ret.) – in which he mainly focused on the diversity of the concept of cyber and the challenges this may create to national security, RDML Danelle Barrett – Deputy Director of Current

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Operations at USCYBERCOM – to delivered the keynote address.
Click here for more...

Asymmetric Operations

Containing the Threat of al-Qaeda & Its Affiliates
Anil Powers
For nearly 20 years, al-Qaeda and its ideological cousins have been the most important threats to national and global security. They will remain so over the next 20-30 years.
Click here for more...

Rethink NATO Article 5: Challenges to Collective Security in the Cyber Era
Steffen Westerburger
Ever since its formation in early 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been an important cornerstone of the national security strategy of the United States. This military alliance, once founded to counter the Soviet threat during the Cold War, constitutes a system of collective self-defense. All twenty-eight member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party.
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About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From: "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 2:41:02 PM
Subject: RE: Earned Media Update

To Joel's original point about someone to raise this point about Gowdy releasing his email, David Brock did it already - http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/david-brock-top-hillary-clinton-ally-trey-gowdy-release-your-emails. I know we want Members, etc. to do it and will pursue but just flagging Brock did it. Also, Roy Blunt got challenged on it by Stephanopoulos on Sunday.

The other question is whether there is a member who would introduce a bill to end the FOIA exemption for Members of Congress? They should be just as transparent as they're demanding HRC be. It would put the focus on the Members keeping their emails private and would never actually pass.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 9:35 PM
To: Robby Mook
Cc: Joel Benenson; Jesse Ferguson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy Grunwald; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

Better off with an H R C warrior. Who is her most fearsome House ally?

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On Mar 15, 2015, at 8:50 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

Do we think Cummings would do that? Certainly worth an ask.

On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 8:48 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

Who is the right person to raise a simple question of the audacity of members of congress asking others to release their emails when they don't ?
Do we have some D who can squarely at Gowdy and demand he release all his emails for that last two years so people can see for themselves how politically motivated his investigations are?

From: Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:13 PM
To: Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com ; Mandy Grunwald
Cc: Robby Mook; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Earned Media Update

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.

2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

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While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post : "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: "When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio's spokeswoman said they had been deleted." (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press , "Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival." [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , "But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever." [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

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Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/11/2008 6:27:59 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Philadelphia, PA 06/11/08

Hi BigCampaign,
Just off the phone with our tracker Greg who was on the ground today in Philadelphia, PA. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights:

- Fiorina was there in the town hall audience, clapping away
- McCain says there are corporate executives that give corporations a bad name by taking too big of a package; if there's speculation, those people should be scrutinized and possibly penalized.
- McCain repeats mention Ireland's appeal to businesses given their lower corporate tax rate. (Fiorina said this week that HP off-shored to Ireland while she was at the company).
- Oldey McOlderson asked audience members to hold microphone closer twice, including one boy who was literally standing right next to him
- Mostly stuck to his recent stump on Reform, Prosperity, Peace. Also, continued attacks on Obama as wrong on raising taxes, wrong for willingness to sit down without preconditions (and he changes his positions), and wrong as a 2nd term of Carter--tying everything to working-class issues / economy.

Philadelphia, PA: McCain Town Hall 06/11/08

Background Details:

- In audience: Carly Fiorina, Cindy McCain, John Chambers (CEO, Cisco)
- African-American woman gave first set of introductory remarks, throwing out urban slang like "John McCain's in the house!" while hitting
- Cindy McCain introduced her husband.
- 500 people. Diverse crowd. Small but packed venue.
- No protesters outside pre-event, but a small group of young people chanting "Obama" outside the event after it was over. They had a few health care signs.
- Secret Service gave our tracker some trouble. McCain staffers, on the other hand, were more accommodating.

Opening Remarks:

- Brings up Obama's bitter comments: says he doesn't believe that sentiment. And that's why we're going to win PA.
- Repeats mention of his invitation to Obama for joint town hall meetings. Instead of taking comments out of context and flashing them around on the cable shows. let's hear complete answers and complete thoughts. I've not heard from Obama, but I urge him again to accept my invitation.
- Three major challenges facing America: Reform, Prosperity, Peace.
- Reform the way we do business in DC. Congressional ratings are so low you get down to paid staffers and relatives. It's because we aren't working for Americans, we are working for us. They want us to sit down and work together- I have a record of it. By the way, I welcome those quarters of Obama's supporters here today. We need to raise taxes, eliminate wasteful pork-barrel spending (this is a GOP and Dem disease), bipartisan efforts to fix Medicare and Social Security.
- Prosperity: Americans are hurting. At the top of the list is price of gas. I will lead effort to be independent of foreign oil.
- Straight talk: I told people things they didn't want to hear *as well as what they want to hear*. We need to have nuclear power - environmental and national security benefits.
- Improve education in USA. Displaced worker has been a casualty of these changes. We need to talk about the lost manufacturing jobs in PA, OH, etc. Update training programs. MI and SC - I told them that the old jobs aren't coming back, but now there are new endeavors there.
- 1930s passed the Smoot-Hauley Tariff Act - Tax increases and protectionist measures sent us from a

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recession into a depression.
- I'm a free-trader. Attacks Obama for saying he would unilaterally re-negotiate free trade agreements.
- Peace: We're in 2 wars, we face evil radical Islamic extremism. Afghanistan is tough and we're going to have that struggle for a while, and what happens in Pakistan is going to affect it. Strongest disagreement between myself and Obama is that I believe Petraeus's assertion that the central battleground is in Iraq, I believed we needed to change strategies to the surge. Unfortunately there was enormous sacrifice, and there is nothing more precious than American blood. I go out to see our wounded at Walter Reed as often as I can. Vets hate war. I won't recall to you my experiences with loss of comrades except to the time USS Forrestal saved us. "Nothing is more precious than Americans." "If we succeed," we will see reduction in influence by Iran and by AQ. The benefits of success are that we'd have a stable government in Iraq. America is divided on this war, but Americans aren't divided on supporting the troops. There have been other wars in US history and sometimes we've had to see it through. I can inspire young Americans to serve their country--Noblest way to serve America is in uniform.

Question & Answer:

- Q1) There's a bill in Senate right now which would continue GWB's efforts to fight malaria, TB, etc. It needs to pass before the G8 to have meaning.
    - MCCAIN: I support legislation to fight AIDS in Africa. We should thank GWB and Laura Bush for that. I haven't examined that specific piece of legislation, but as Pres, I will seek to continue that effort. It's not just about money, because sometimes there are corrupt governments - especially in Africa - so sometimes American dollars don't go to their intended recipient. ONE.org does a lot of work to help.
- FOLLOW-up: Will you help us get the bill un-stuck? It's a bipartisan effort.
    - MCCAIN: I will assist in every way I can. I'm not familiar with this specific legislation, but I know how things work in Washington, and sometimes things
- Q2) As a Jewish American, I'm very worried about Israeli security and Iran. What can be done?
    - MCCAIN: Sanctions that would squeeze Iran, which has a weak economy. I am convinced that the majority of Iranian people are friendly to USA.
- Mccain: "A little closer with the microphone, please"
- Q3) How would you answer Pete Peterson (whose book "Running on Empty" quotes you on the front) in terms of your support for tax cuts in 2001 and 2003?
    - MCCAIN: Pete Peterson is exactly right. But the revenues aren't a problem. The problem is/was excessive spending. I voted against the Medicare Part D drug prescription program. You know why? Because you're paying for my prescription drugs! Let's pay for lower-income people. I voted against Farm Bill, which gives wealthy people money when there are Americans trying to keep their homes.
    - "I agree with every word that was written in that book," *Running on Empty*.
- Q4) Keith Todd- volunteered for McCain in SC. When Obama finally joins you in a town hall, can you remind him what Reagan said, which is that corporations collect taxes; they don't pay taxes? And it's going to be my grandma, etc. paying for it.
    - MCCAIN: There are corporate execs that are giving corporations a bad name, ones who took too big of a package. If there's speculation, those people should be scrutinized and penalized for any laws they've broken. Corporate taxes in USA is 2nd highest in the world. Businesses and other corporations set up in other countries because of their lower tax rates. I don't view my plan as a "break" for corporations; it's an incentive to keep jobs here. If they're loopholes, I want them closed; but if it's lower corporate taxes, I want them.
- Q5) What do you have to offer first-time voters versus Obama?

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- McCain raises the microphone to the boy's mouth even though the boy was standing right next to him and speaking loudly and clearly into the microphone.
- MCCAIN: Mentions "very very... old" bit from SNL. We have to fix education so they can go to the schools that Cindy and I were lucky enough to send our kids to. We need to fix our broken programs. Finally, I will give you a peaceful world - because it is the youth who serve in the military.

- Q6) How are you going to make equal education opportunity possible?
  - MCCAIN: Special education is very important (Cindy taught it). Rise of autism is affecting Americans. In NOLA, they have 30 charter schools, which provide competition to the public school system. I want every parent in USA to have the same choice that my family has. Congress is about to do away with voucher program, but parents want it. Choice; competition; special education; reward teachers' merit, eliminate those without it. NCLB needs to be fixed. More opportunities to teach, e.g. Troops to Teach.

- Q7) What are you going to do about teen gangs / crime?
  - MCCAIN: I'm going to have to work very hard to let them know that there's a better life than the one they see aroudn them. From a macro sense, there was good news the other day that overall crime is going down - though that's of small consolation to cities facing the crime. I think they need mentors. I was somewhere, a group of boys go every day and mentor "a young African American." Some of these gangs have become international, coming from Nicaragua and Guatemala. And incarceration a lot of times makes these people worse off. A lot of these problems are drug-related. For the first time, the Mexican government is doing a good job clamping down on these drug cartels. Straight talk: as long as there's demand, there's going to be supply, so we need to stop the demand. Methamphetamines are a problem. People who have been through the life can serve the best role models for the youth.

- Q8) Seniors are concerned about health care and Social Security and institutionalized longterm care. What will you do to help?
  - MCCAIN: I want Americans to make the choices for their healthcare. Obama's proposal will mean an eventual government takeover of health care; we've seen that in other countries and we don't want that. Social Security we know what we have to do. Health care is harder to fix. (1) Encourage home health care. In AZ, we have a program where people stay at home for care and it's great. Cash-in care. Reagan said "no one ever washed a rental car;" that's the problem with health care. I hate to keep referring to Carly and John, but they'll tell you technology is key. It will reduce medical errors. We need competition.

- Q9) You compared Obama to President Carter. And a lot of HRC supporters aren't happy with Obama. How will you reach out to them and explain that spend-and-tax liberals are not the right answer for America's future?
  - MCCAIN: A lot of attacks on me are that I'd be Pres Bush's third term. But Obama would be a 2nd term of Carter, from national security, taxation, etc--the policies of the 60s and 70s that failed. I respect Obama and his hard-fought primary battle. We differ on policies: taxes, national security needs. The point is the American people didn't get to know me yesterday and they know that I've always put my country first and my party second.

- Q10) What's your plan to help students with high student loan costs?
  - MCCAIN: Make loans more affordable and accessible. We have to reward people for public service, we have to provide our vets with education benefits but we also have to provide incentives for them to stay in military.

- Q11) Would you consider opening ANWR to drilling? And what could be done to encourage oil companies to refine more?

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- MCCAIN: I believe this area should be kept in pristine preservation. But I respect the rights of states to control what goes on off their shores. We should tell CA et al that we will increase their revenue if they allow oil exploration off their coasts.

- Q12) Works for DE GOP. What advice for people who want to go to public office or to serve?
  - Recognize it's a tough business. Sometimes there are disappointments. There's no perfect servant. I've had the honor of serving literally my whole life. My time in Vietnam prison was tough, but a great experience to serve in the company of heroes. When I whine about things being taken out of context, etc., I remember that I've been through much tougher times than a political campaign.

--
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From:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To:	Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date:	6/28/2015 10:53:52 AM
Subject:	Israel and Iran

Dear Jake,

Dennis Ross and I had an hour-plus meeting Sunday morning with the PM and full Israeli Cabinet, in our capacity as co-chairs of the Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem.
While we made presentations on a number of topics, Iran and BDS were the most important and engendered the most comment.

Before the meeting, I met at length with Dennis about Iran. I wanted to share his views, beyond those in his Washington Institute letter I have referenced before, because they may be useful in shaping Hillary's statement.

1. He felt that an agreement would be reached, would be disapproved by Congress, and the President's veto would be sustained, most likely in the House. Dennis later
conveyed that view to the PM and Cabinet, provoking a strong reaction from Bibi.

2. The US should state clearly upfront that we will use all means at our disposal to prevent Iran from crossing the very fine line between being a nuclear capable state and being a nuclear weapons state. Iran must get a clear signal now.

3.The US should provide Israel with a
new Mission Ordinance Penetration (MOP) bomb, that is more powerful than the Bunker Busting Bomb, and could blow-up the Fordo facility, if necessary. This would be a signal to Iran, that cheating will not pay.

4.The US should state it will support any action Israel must take for its own defense.

5. The US will not cooperate with Iran on regional issues.

6. If Hillary has to support what he believes will be a deeply flawed agrement, that will not measure-up to the April US Fact Sheet, these points above would be useful to state. In addition, she could balance support for opposing a new UN Resolution.

When I land. I will summarize the points I made about BDS.

I was struck in my week in Israel, not only among Israeli officials, but among my friends across the political spectrum (most are former officials) and apolitical relatives, at the depth of antipathy and distrust of President Obama, as "weak", "pro-Muslim", and "anti-Israel".

Best wishes,

Stu

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/5/2014 2:25:07 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday September 5, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Friday September 5, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Washington Post opinion: Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton: "Hillary Clinton reviews Henry Kissinger's 'World Order'"

"America, at its best, is a problem-solving nation."

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton calls out climate change deniers"

"Hillary Clinton called out climate change 'deniers' at a clean energy conference in Las Vegas Thursday evening, but revealed little new about what her own energy policy platform might look like if she decides to run for president."

Politico: "John Podesta eyed for Hillary Clinton campaign chair"

"It's also unclear what will happen to Correct the Record, which has defended Clinton when Republicans attack her on the Benghazi attacks and other issues. It is helmed by Burns Strider, another 2008 veteran and a Hillary Clinton favorite."

Politico: "Clinton reviews Kissinger book"

"Clinton's review of the book, which she calls 'vintage Kissinger,' discusses larger issues of U.S. foreign policy,

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including that of the Obama administration and her own experience at the State Department."

The Hill: "Clinton: 'US can still do big things'"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday said action on climate change and renewable energy will send a signal that the 'U.S. can still do big things'."

CNN: "Clinton: Republicans are denying the United States clean energy jobs"

"Hillary Clinton used a softball climate change question on Thursday to step up her political rhetoric and hit Republicans for 'denying people jobs and middle-class incomes.'"

National Journal: "Clinton: America Can Be Clean-Energy 'Superpower'"

"The U.S. can become the 'clean energy superpower of the 21st Century,' Hillary Clinton said Thursday, urging businesses and the government to build up the renewable sector."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton's vacation is definitely over"

"Post-Labor Day, Clinton is back at work with a jam-packed schedule -- an itinerary heavy on potentially campaign-aiding stops, including policy talks, foreign trips, outreach to key Democratic constituencies, and visits to key early-voting states."

Politico: "Bill Clinton and Charlie Crist: The odd couple"

"While everyone's focused on Hillary Clinton's next potential campaign, it's Bill Clinton who's been racking up frequent-flier miles, trying to get Democrats elected in the midterms."

The New Republic: "President Clinton to Keynote The New Republic's Centennial Gala"

"The New Republic announced today that President Bill Clinton will deliver the keynote address at the magazine's centennial gala on Wednesday, November 19 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC."

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News and Observer blog: Under the Dome: "Bill Clinton coming to Chapel Hill for Hagan"

"Clinton is the special guest at a Sept. 30 luncheon for Hagan in Chapel Hill."

Washington Post Magazine: "The Gillibrand mystique: Is memoir a step along presidential pathway? "

"'If Hillary Clinton doesn't run in 2016, I wouldn't be surprised to see Kirsten Gillibrand jump in,' says Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. 'Gillibrand seems to have the ambition to do it.'"

Wall Street Journal: "Jeb Bush Sends Signals About 2016 Presidential Run"

"Republican strategists and fundraisers say Jeb Bush's closest advisers have been quietly spreading the word that they should avoid committing to other possible presidential candidates until he decides on his own course after the November election."

New York Times: "New Book Says C.I.A. Official in Benghazi Held Up Rescue"

"Five commandos guarding the C.I.A. base in Benghazi, Libya, in September 2012 say that the C.I.A. station chief stopped them from interceding in time to save the lives of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and an American technician during the attack on the diplomatic mission there."

Articles:

Washington Post opinion: Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton: "Hillary Clinton reviews Henry Kissinger's 'World Order'"

By Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton

September 4, 2014, 3:00 p.m. EDT

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When Americans look around the world today, we see one crisis after another. Russian aggression in Ukraine, extremism and chaos in Iraq and Syria, a deadly epidemic in West Africa, escalating territorial tensions in the East and South China seas, a global economy that still isn't producing enough growth or shared prosperity — the liberal international order that the United States has worked for generations to build and defend seems to be under pressure from every quarter. It's no wonder so many Americans express uncertainty and even fear about our role and our future in the world.

In his new book, "World Order," Henry Kissinger explains the historic scope of this challenge. His analysis, despite some differences over specific policies, largely fits with the broad strategy behind the Obama administration's effort over the past six years to build a global architecture of security and cooperation for the 21st century.

During the Cold War, America's bipartisan commitment to protecting and expanding a community of nations devoted to freedom, market economies and cooperation eventually proved successful for us and the world. Kissinger's summary of that vision sounds pertinent today: "an inexorably expanding cooperative order of states observing common rules and norms, embracing liberal economic systems, forswearing territorial conquest, respecting national sovereignty, and adopting participatory and democratic systems of governance."

This system, advanced by U.S. military and diplomatic power and our alliances with like-minded nations, helped us defeat fascism and communism and brought enormous benefits to Americans and billions of others. Nonetheless, many people around the world today — especially millions of young people — don't know these success stories, so it becomes our responsibility to show as well as tell what American leadership looks like.

This is especially important at a time when many are wondering, as Kissinger puts it, "Are we facing a period in which forces beyond the restraints of any order determine the future?"

For me, this is a familiar question. When I walked into the State Department in January 2009, everyone knew that it was a time of dizzying changes, but no one could agree on what they all meant. Would the economic crisis bring new forms of cooperation or a return to protectionism and discord? Would new technologies do more to help citizens hold leaders accountable or to help dictators keep tabs on dissidents? Would rising powers such as China, India and Brazil become global problem-solvers or global spoilers? Would the emerging influence of non-state actors be defined more by the threats from terrorist networks and criminal cartels, or by the contributions of courageous NGOs? Would growing global interdependence bring a new sense of solidarity or new sources of strife?

President Obama explained the overarching challenge we faced in his Nobel lecture in December 2009. After World War II, he said, "America led the world in constructing an architecture to keep the peace. . . . And yet, a decade into a new century, this old architecture is buckling under the weight of new threats."

I was proud to help the president begin reimagining and reinforcing the global order to meet the demands of an increasingly interdependent age. In the president's first term, we laid the foundation, from repaired alliances to updated international institutions to decisive action on challenges such as Iran's nuclear program and the threat from Osama bin Laden.

The crises of the second term underscore that this is a generational project that will demand a commitment from the United States and its partners for years to come. Kissinger writes that foreign policy is not "a story with a beginning and an end," but "a process of managing and tempering ever-recurring challenges." This calls to mind John F. Kennedy's observation that peace and progress are "based not on a sudden revolution in human nature but on a gradual evolution in human institutions . . . a process — a way of solving problems."

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America, at its best, is a problem-solving nation. And our continued commitment to renovating and defending the global order will determine whether we build a future of peace, progress and prosperity in which people everywhere have the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential.

Much of “World Order” is devoted to exploring this challenge. It is vintage Kissinger, with his singular combination of breadth and acuity along with his knack for connecting headlines to trend lines — very long trend lines in this case. He ranges from the Peace of Westphalia to the pace of microprocessing, from Sun Tzu to Talleyrand to Twitter. He traces the Indian view of order back to the Hindu epics; the Muslim view to the campaigns of Muhammad; the European view to the carnage of the Thirty Years’ War (which elicits a comparison to the Middle East today); the Russian view to “the hard school of the steppe, where an array of nomadic hordes contended for resources on an open terrain with few fixed borders.” This long view can help us understand issues from Vladimir Putin’s aggression to Iran’s negotiating strategy, even as it raises the difficult question of “how divergent historic experiences and values can be shaped into a common order.”

Given today’s challenges, Kissinger’s analyses of the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East are particularly valuable.

When it comes to Asia, he notes that all of the region’s rising powers, China included, have their own visions of regional and global order, shaped by their own histories and present situations. How we contend with these divergent visions — building a cooperative relationship with China while preserving our other relationships, interests and values in a stable and prosperous region — will go a long way toward determining whether we can meet the broader global challenge.

In my book “Hard Choices,” I describe the strategy President Obama and I developed for the Asia-Pacific, centered on strengthening our traditional alliances; elevating and harmonizing the alphabet soup of regional organizations, such as ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and APEC (the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation organization); and engaging China more broadly — both bilaterally, through new venues such as the Strategic and Economic Dialogue, and multilaterally, in settings where regional pressure would encourage more constructive behavior and shared decision-making on matters from freedom of navigation to climate change to trade to human rights. Our “pivot to Asia,” as it came to be known, is all about establishing a rules-based order in the region that can manage the peaceful rise of new powers and promote universal norms and values.

This kind of methodical, multilateral diplomacy is often slow and frustrating, rarely making headlines at home, but it can pay real dividends that affect the lives of millions of people. And without an effective regional order, the challenges multiply. Just look at the Middle East. “Nowhere,” Kissinger observes, “is the challenge of international order more complex — in terms of both organizing regional order and ensuring the compatibility of that order with peace and stability in the rest of the world.”

Kissinger is a friend, and I relied on his counsel when I served as secretary of state. He checked in with me regularly, sharing astute observations about foreign leaders and sending me written reports on his travels. Though we have often seen the world and some of our challenges quite differently, and advocated different responses now and in the past, what comes through clearly in this new book is a conviction that we, and President Obama, share: a belief in the indispensability of continued American leadership in service of a just and liberal order.

There really is no viable alternative. No other nation can bring together the necessary coalitions and provide the necessary capabilities to meet today’s complex global threats. But this leadership is not a birthright; it is a responsibility that must be assumed with determination and humility by each generation.

Fortunately, the United States is uniquely positioned to lead in the 21st century. It is not just because of the enduring strength of our military or the resilience of our economy, although both are absolutely essential. It goes

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deeper than that. The things that make us who we are as a nation — our diverse and open society, our devotion to human rights and democratic values — give us a singular advantage in building a future in which the forces of freedom and cooperation prevail over those of division, dictatorship and destruction.

This isn't just idealism. For an international order to take hold and last, Kissinger argues, it must relate "power to legitimacy." To that end, Kissinger, the famous realist, sounds surprisingly idealistic. Even when there are tensions between our values and other objectives, America, he reminds us, succeeds by standing up for our values, not shirking them, and leads by engaging peoples and societies, the sources of legitimacy, not governments alone. If our might helps secure the balance of power that underpins the international order, our values and principles help make it acceptable and attractive to others.

So our levers of leadership are not just about keeping our military strong and our diplomacy agile; they are about standing up for human rights, about advancing the rights and role of women and girls, about creating the space for a flourishing civil society and the conditions for broad-based development.

This strategic rationale guided my emphasis as secretary of state on using all the tools of foreign policy, even those sometimes dismissed as "soft." I called it "smart power," and I still believe it offers a blueprint for sustained American leadership in the decades ahead. We have to play to our strengths. And in an age when legitimacy is defined from the bottom up rather than the top down, America is better positioned than our more autocratic competitors.

Kissinger recognizes this as well. He understands how much the world has changed since his time in office, especially the diffusion of power and the growing influence of forces beyond national governments. International problems and solutions are increasingly centered, in ways both good and bad, on nongovernmental organizations, businesses and individual citizens. As a result, foreign policy is now as much about people as it is about states. Kissinger rightly notes that these shifts require a broader and deeper order than sufficed in the past. "Any system of world order, to be sustainable, must be accepted as just — not only by leaders, but also by citizens," he writes.

That is true abroad, and it is also true at home. Our country is at its best, and our leadership in the world is strongest, when we are united behind a common purpose and shared mission, and advancing shared prosperity and social justice at home. Sustaining America's leadership in the world depends on renewing the American dream for all our people.

In the past, we've flirted with isolationism and retreat, but always heeded the call to leadership when it was needed most. It's time for another of our great debates about what America means to the world and what the world means to America. We need to have an honest conversation together — all of us — about the costs and imperatives of global leadership, and what it really takes to keep our country safe and strong.

We have a lot to talk about. Sometimes we'll disagree. But that's what democracy is all about. A real national dialogue is the only way we're going to rebuild a political consensus to take on the perils and the promise of the 21st century. Henry Kissinger's book makes a compelling case for why we have to do it and how we can succeed.

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton calls out climate change deniers"

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By Alex Seitz-Wald

September 4, 2014, 9:01 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton called out climate change “deniers” at a clean energy conference in Las Vegas Thursday evening, but revealed little new about what her own energy policy platform might look like if she decides to run for president.

Clinton began her remarks at the National Clean Energy Summit by laying out the problems climate change is already causing today, including extreme weather and droughts. “[These are] the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face,” she said. “No matter what deniers say.”

She went on to make an optimistic pitch for clean energy investment as a means to simultaneously create jobs, grow the environment, compete with China, and reduce greenhouse emissions.

“The threat is real, but so is the opportunity,” Clinton said. “America can be the clean energy superpower for the 21st century.”

During a question and answer session with Obama White House counselor John Podesta — who is a likely pick to lead Clinton’s potential presidential campaign, should she pursue that avenue — the former secretary of state took another swing at those who don’t see the benefits of green tech.

“Aside from the deniers and the special interests and all the other folks who want to pretend we don’t have a crisis is the fact that we are leaving money and jobs behind,” she said. “For those on the other side, they have to answer to the reality they are denying peoples’ jobs and middle class incomes and upward mobility by their refusal to look to the future.”

Clinton has several hard choices to make on what her energy policy will look like if she decides to run for president, but — not surprisingly — she left those decisions up in the air on Thursday.

With regards to natural gas, which has boomed in recent years, the former secretary of state said new fracking technologies can be part of the solution, even though they present their own problems. “We have to face head-on the legitimate, pressing environmental concerns,” she said.

Whoever runs for the Democratic nomination can expect to face pressure from environmentalists to crack down on fracking. But Clinton simply repeated almost verbatim the position she lays out in her book, “Hard Choices,” calling for “smart regulations” which may include “deciding not to drill when the risks are too high.”

Also, as expected, she did not mention the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

In her remarks, Clinton noted that the clean energy future she envisions is not “some kind of a dream,” pointing to Nevada as an exemplar. Just today, the electric car manufacturer Telsa announced it had selected the state for a massive new battery factory that will be powered by wind and solar energy, she noted.

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Clinton touted other states' work as well, including Iowa, perhaps raising a few eyebrows since that state hosts the first major primary events for the presidential elections. "This is a reality that can be brought to scale," she said.

On climate regulations, Clinton praised Obamas' use of executive authority through the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce greenhouse gasses, but said more needs to be done. "Now we have to step up and build on that success," she said.

Clinton was introduced by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who hosts the conference and praised Clinton as someone who "understands climate change — she was first to identify the fact that there is something called climate change." Reid noted that in addition to her public work, he appreciated Clinton's loyalty to his son, who volunteered on the then-senator's 2008 presidential campaign.

"I have great affection for this woman," he added. "I watch her in action — she's the best."

Politico: "John Podesta eyed for Hillary Clinton campaign chair"

By Maggie Haberman

September 4, 2014, 6:16 p.m. EDT

In late July, members of an informal group of people who've been meeting to plan outside assistance to a potential Hillary Clinton campaign gathered at the M Street offices of the Messina Group in Washington, D.C. At the table was one new and very notable attendee — John Podesta, counselor to President Barack Obama and a longtime Clinton confidant.

In more than 20 interviews, Podesta was mentioned repeatedly as the person most likely to take on the role of campaign chairman — or chief executive officer or another top role, depending on how a potential campaign would be structured — if Clinton runs in 2016. The interest in Podesta is a reflection of both Clintons' comfort and familiarity with him, but also of his standing among progressive voters with whom Clinton has had a sometimes-strained relationship.

White House aides would not comment. One administration official said that what staffers do in their private time is their own concern. And Podesta declined through White House aides to address discussions about him and a future campaign.

In late 2013, Podesta was in discussions to become a co-chair of Priorities USA, someone who could help blend the worlds of Obama, represented by Jim Messina as the super PAC's co-chair, and Clinton. The super PAC backed Obama in 2012 and has morphed into a pro-Clinton entity. Instead, he went to the White House. Podesta said he would stay for a year, and he has privately told people he plans to stick to that time frame.

Podesta's presence at the July 28 meeting, confirmed by several sources, underscores the likelihood that the veteran of the Clinton White House and founder of the liberal think tank Center for American Progress appears

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interested in playing a major role in a 2016 campaign if Clinton runs. And it came as Priorities and the other outside groups are increasingly turning attention to their plans for 2015. At a different working-group meeting several weeks ago, for instance, attendees intimated that Priorities is prepared to spend money to defend Clinton in a primary. At the moment, Priorities is searching for a finance director, several sources said.

Podesta founded CAP years ago and has deep credibility with a group of voters with which Clinton has at times had strained relations. He is not a Washington outsider, but he is a highly respected figure in the party who could draw clear lanes of authority in a campaign, something that was lacking in Clinton's last bid.

Several sources familiar with the 2008 campaign said Clinton had wanted Podesta to play a role in that race, but he had little interest in getting involved in the dysfunctional set-up.

Sources familiar with her advisers' current discussions say there have been conversations about Podesta in a top role.

The two names most discussed for campaign manager or some type of senior role are Robby Mook, a respected operative who is currently advising Clinton's team for the 2014 midterms, according to people familiar with his involvement; and Guy Cecil, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee executive director who is well-liked by Bill Clinton and has ties to some of Hillary Clinton's advisers. Both are veterans of her 2008 campaign have strong cheering sections among Clinton insiders.

Installing Podesta, who is not known as a warm and fuzzy figure, in a chairman role would mark a departure from the way the position was cast in 2008. The chairman of that campaign was Terry McAuliffe, the current Virginia governor who was a cheerleader and a prolific fundraiser.

With Podesta in the role, the campaign chair would involve a more operational role, with someone who has run organizations and for whom many people currently in Washington have worked at one point or another. He also has the ability, as several sources put it, to be blunt with the candidate.

The other person frequently mentioned by political watchers outside of Clinton's orbit as a campaign chairman is Tom Nides, a top Clinton deputy from her State Department days and current executive at Morgan Stanley. He's among the few people seen as having the right stature for a top job. Yet while Nides is well respected within Clinton's orbit and by big donors — and would likely play a major role in a campaign — he was described by several people as less of a fit for chairman. That's partly because the job would be deeply disruptive to his life in a way it wouldn't be for Podesta.

The chatter about who will fill a second Clinton campaign has been one of Washington's and New York's favorite political parlor games since shortly after she left the State Department. Still, there has been little discussion internally about how key jobs will be filled, and few new names have emerged since Clinton departed Foggy Bottom. Her current, slender staff would need to grow substantially, but those currently there are all likely to play significant roles.

Process stories around 2016 staffing have irked Clinton loyalists for months, in part because of the fantasy-baseball league nature of speculation from corners of the political world that often don't have insight into her thinking for a campaign that doesn't exist. Lots of input has been offered about a future campaign, but not all of it is solicited. Clinton allies also insist she has not yet made up her mind, and shouldn't be held captive to the impression that an organizational train is leaving the station and she needs to get on board because it's too far along to stop it.

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There are no clear candidates who are being discussed for polling, ads or communications director, a critical job for a potential candidate whose relationship with the media has long been a sore point.

Philippe Reines, her longtime adviser and spokesman, will have as much of a role as he wants in a campaign, according to several sources. But he's told friends that he's preferred moving into a larger strategic role in recent years, in part because he no longer has interest in the daily media grind.

Minyon Moore, a longtime Clinton adviser, will likely continue to advise Clinton in some way, as she has since Clinton left State, several people said. Cheryl Mills and Huma Abedin will be highly involved. Clinton's former State Department adviser Jake Sullivan is expected to play a key part on policy. Dan Schwerin, another adviser, is also expected to have a role.

Most of Clinton's top advisers from 2008 have said they don't have an interest in returning. Neera Tanden, the current president of CAP and a longtime Clinton adviser dating to her White House days and who worked on the 2008 campaign, is seen as one of her party's best policy minds, and an asset who could play a key role as an informal outside adviser from where she sits.

Kiki McLean, who has been close to the Clintons for decades and who directed surrogate operations around the release of her latest book, "Hard Choices," would also likely be involved as a consultant.

Ace Smith, a veteran California operative who has been mentioned in reports as a potential adviser, is also in good standing among Clinton advisers.

Finance chairs and directors have also been a focus of speculation. Jonathan Mantz, who worked on her 2008 campaign and is a finance consultant to Priorities, has been mentioned as a potential hire for her campaign. The person seen as the likeliest to have a major finance role is Dennis Cheng, who is currently the main fundraiser at her family's foundation.

There have been two other names mentioned for finance jobs: Michael Pratt, who was Elizabeth Warren's finance director and is currently working with Iowa Senate hopeful Bruce Braley, and Jordan Kaplan, the main fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee who has won praise for his work there.

As for pollsters, Clinton will have her pick. Several people have suggested Geoff Garin, who worked on her last campaign and is widely respected, as a top prospect. So is Joel Benenson, Obama's pollster and a veteran of two successful national races. Another name that's been mentioned has been Anna Greenberg, who helped engineer Bill de Blasio's successful mayoral run in New York City last year.

It is unclear what will happen, meanwhile, with the outside groups that have been working in support of her. Ready for Hillary, the low-dollar super PAC that a handful of former Clinton insiders formed soon after the 2012 election, has had success generating positive media and has built a millions-strong email list and voter-contact base. Some of its boosters hope elements will be incorporated into a campaign, but that's not a forgone conclusion.

It's also unclear what will happen to Correct the Record, which has defended Clinton when Republicans attack her on the Benghazi attacks and other issues. It is helmed by Burns Strider, another 2008 veteran and a Hillary Clinton favorite.

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The flurry of outside-group activity has long given the false impression of a turn-key operation. Insiders insist there is no grand political plan or need right now for a political master strategist. That's not because her team lacks competent members but because she's not running for anything yet, and her focus has primarily been on selling her book.

Many people have passed along suggestions about politics to Clinton's team or had conversations about the general lay of the land. Michael Whouley, who has a relationship dating to 1992 with the Clintons and who, along with Moore and two other Dewey Square officials, gave Hillary Clinton a presentation at her Washington home last year about running for president, has had informal discussions about politics related to 2016.

"He has not been asked for recommendations and he has not made any recommendations for 2016 staffing," said Dewey Square spokeswoman Ginny Terzano. "Michael has over three decades worth of political experience and regularly gets calls from campaigns asking for good staff recommendations for this cycle (2014) that has nothing to do with 2016."

While most observers and allies believe Clinton will ultimately run, people close to her insist she has not yet made up her mind. Nothing has happened externally that would make running more difficult for her — no one other than Warren has caught fire among progressives, and she has repeatedly insisted she is not running.

That gives Clinton wide running room to make decisions. But she's made clear she wants an expanded team and new blood if she runs, and she'll face the challenge of accommodating all the people who have long relationships with her but who may not have an obvious role.

Politico: "Clinton reviews Kissinger book"

By Lucy McCalmont

September 4, 2014, 6:12 p.m. EDT

First Lady. Senator. Secretary of State. Possible 2016 contender. Book critic?

Hillary Clinton weighed in on Henry Kissinger's latest book "World Order," for the Washington Post, in a review published by the paper Thursday.

"Though we have often seen the world and some of our challenges quite differently, and advocated different responses now and in the past, what comes through clearly in this new book is a conviction that we, and President Obama, share: a belief in the indispensability of continued American leadership in service of a just and liberal order," Clinton writes.

However, Clinton's review of the book, which she calls "vintage Kissinger," discusses larger issues of U.S. foreign policy, including that of the Obama administration and her own experience at the State Department.

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Clinton adds that Kissinger's "long view" and analyses are "particularly valuable" to determining America's role on the international stage and its diplomatic goals.

"For an international order to take hold and last, Kissinger argues, it must relate 'power to legitimacy.' To that end, Kissinger, the famous realist, sounds surprisingly idealistic," Clinton writes. "Even when there are tensions between our values and other objectives, America, he reminds us, succeeds by standing up for our values, not shirking them, and leads by engaging peoples and societies, the sources of legitimacy, not governments alone."

Clinton, whose memoir "Hard Choices" was released earlier this year, has also written the foreword for New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's forthcoming book "Off the Sidelines."

The Hill: "Clinton: 'US can still do big things'"

By Laura Barron-Lopez

September 4, 2014, 7:52 p.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday said action on climate change and renewable energy will send a signal that the "U.S. can still do big things".

The likely 2016 Democratic front-runner, drove a hard line on the need to pursue clean energy sources to help mitigate climate change and spur economic growth, asserting that the U.S. can become the "clean energy superpower our world needs."

"[Climate change] is the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and world," Clinton said at the National Clean Energy Summit 7.0 in Nevada on Thursday. "The data is unforgiving no matter what the deniers try to assert."

"Sea levels are rising, ice caps are melting, storms and wildfires are wreaking havoc…but if we come together to make the hard choices America can be the clean energy superpower of the 21st century," she added to applause.

Clinton fired back at arguments by climate skeptics, and Republicans who say the U.S. should not put its neck out on climate change when other nations do little.

If the U.S. doesn't lead, no one will, she said, adding that she of all people knows what it takes to mobilize leaders internationally.

"This is about our strategic position in the world, this is about our competitiveness our job creation, our economic growth as well as dealing with a challenge that we ignore at our detriment and our peril," Clinton said.

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Focusing on wind, solar, and other renewables, Clinton called for investments as a means to help raise U.S. families into the middle class faster than traditional energy sources.

Clean energy jobs "tend to pay higher than average wages," Clinton explained.

Flipping the GOP script that acting on climate is unsustainable, and will kill jobs, Clinton said: "For those on the other side they have to answer to the reality they are denying peoples' jobs, and middle class incomes, and upward mobility by there refusal to look to the future."

The former first lady did touch on the natural gas boom, repeating excerpts from her book, Hard Choices, when saying gas will be key as a "bridge" to cleaner sources, but "smart regulations" and "not drilling when the risks are too high" will be necessary.

Clinton made no mention of the Keystone XL pipeline, which green groups have pressured her on in recent months.

CNN: "Clinton: Republicans are denying the United States clean energy jobs"

By Dan Merica

September 4, 2014, 8:57 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton used a softball climate change question on Thursday to step up her political rhetoric and hit Republicans for "denying people jobs and middle-class incomes."

The answer was telling because Clinton turned a benign, nonpartisan question into a political talking point, something that months ago she would likely not have done.

"The hardest part for me of this whole false choice debate that has gone on too long is that aside from the deniers and the folks who want to pretend that we don't have a crisis is the fact that we are leaving money and jobs behind," Clinton said at the Clean Energy Summit 7.0, describing the choice between investing in clean energy and growing the American economy.

Clinton added: "For those on the other side, they have to answer to the reality they are denying people jobs and middle-class incomes and upward mobility by their refusal to look to the future."

For months, Clinton has crisscrossed the country as part of her time on the speaking circuit and on her book tour. The former secretary of state is widely seen as the front-runner to be the Democrat's presidential nominee in 2016 and, although she has not announced she is running, she has admitted she is thinking about it and will likely make a decision at the start of 2015.

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As that decision date moves closer, Clinton appears to be getting more comfortable with giving political answers. She has also stepped up her political schedule, with events with a cadre of Democratic groups in September.

Clinton also weighed in on hydraulic fracturing, a controversial method of extracting oil.

The former first lady called concerns over fracturing legitimate and pressing. She added that in light of the practice, "it is crucial that we put in place smart regulations and enforce them, including deciding not to drill when the risks are too high."

The answer was similar to what Clinton writes in her memoir "Hard Choices."

Clinton was being interviewed by John Podesta on Thursday. Podesta, a former chief of staff for Bill Clinton who now works for President Barack Obama, attended a meeting of Democratic operatives in late July and, according to Politico, is being eyed as Clinton's likely campaign chairman in 2016.

His response to her political answer: "That is great. And I think we need to keep repeating that argument."

National Journal: “Clinton: America Can Be Clean-Energy 'Superpower'”

By Jason Plautz

September 4, 2014

The U.S. can become the "clean energy superpower of the 21st Century," Hillary Clinton said Thursday, urging businesses and the government to build up the renewable sector.

"Climate change is the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face," the former secretary of state and likely 2016 Democratic frontrunner said Thursday at Harry Reid's annual energy conference in Las Vegas. "The threat is real and so is the opportunity … if we make the hard choices."

As expected, Clinton's keynote address at the National Clean Energy Summit didn't wade into much controversial territory. She offered support for President Obama's climate action plan and EPA rules that will regulate power plant emissions and didn't delve into too many specifics of what a Clinton energy agenda might look like.

Instead, she talked up the opportunities for international climate agreements and the growth of the clean energy economy at home. She chastised the "false choice debate" between the environment and the economy, saying that with the right tax incentives and policies to foster growth, there was great potential for renewables. She specifically mentioned energy efficiency retrofits for buildings -- a hallmark of the Clinton Climate Initiative -- as "the most overlooked opportunity in our country."

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It wasn't all tried-and-true fodder for greens. Clinton did put her weight behind the natural gas boom that has divided environmentalists, saying that the fuel offered environmental and economic payoffs with the right safeguards in place, a position she's taken in the past.

Specifically, she said, drillers needed to regulate leaks of methane, the potent greenhouse gas that is more powerful than carbon dioxide. She called for "smart regulations" to keep drilling safe, including "not to drill when the risks are too high."

She also didn't mention the Keystone XL pipeline, nor did it come up in a question-and-answer session with White House counselor John Podesta (who Politico reported is rumored to be the top choice for Clinton's campaign chairman), although greens have been clamoring to hear her position on the controversial tar sands project.

A large part of Clinton's speech focused on foreign policy, including the need to secure a strong international agreement to combat climate change. Clinton dedicated a chapter of her State Department memoir Hard Choices to her work at the U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen and again reiterated her call for a "strong agreement, applicable to all."

The odds of such an agreement, she said, were boosted by Obama's climate action plan, which she said would "show the world we are serious about meeting our obligations and show ... the U.S. can still do big things," putting the government in a position of leadership.

Clinton also came down hard on Russian president Vladimir Putin, saying again that she'd like to see European countries diversify their energy supply to become less reliant on Russian oil. Clinton made a trip to Ukraine as Secretary of State to discuss energy independence, but said there seems to be less movement in that direction than she'd like.

"If there's a sea change, it's at low tide," she said. "It hasn't quite got the momentum that I would like to see, but at least the conversation is much more serious."

Overall, Clinton said, the work being done in the U.S. to combat climate change needed to continue accelerating to ensure that the country would continue to lead on the world's stage.

"We cannot afford to cede leadership in this area," she said. "Our economic recovery, our efforts against climate change, our strategic position in the world all will improve if we can build a safe bridge to a clean energy economy."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: “Hillary Clinton’s vacation is definitely over”

By Sebastian Payne

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September 5, 2014, 6:30 a.m. EDT

Summer vacation is over for Hillary Rodham Clinton. The former secretary of state spent most of the past few weeks plugging her latest book and going light on politically-inclined appearances. But post-Labor Day, Clinton is back at work with a jam-packed schedule -- an itinerary heavy on potentially campaign-aiding stops, including policy talks, foreign trips, outreach to key Democratic constituencies, and visits to key early-voting states.

Here's what she's up to:

Thinking globally. On Wednesday, Clinton made her first visit to the State Department since leaving in 2013, gathering with five former and present secretaries of state to break ground at the new United States Diplomacy Center. "We all know that we will never do anything more challenging in our lives than to serve these objectives," said Henry Kissinger. "I would say all of us, except one."

On Thursday, Clinton herself weighed in on Kissinger, reviewing his new book "World Order" for The Washington Post's Book World. She got in a nod to her own book "Hard Choices" in her laudatory assessment of his take on the situation in the Middle East and Asia.

That wasn't her last internationally-minded trip of the week. On Friday, Clinton was headed to Mexico to speak at an event for Carlos Slim's Helu Foundation. Notably, fellow 2016 candidate Chris Christie also went to Mexico this week to build up his international cred.

Paying her respects locally. On Sept. 16, Clinton is slated to headline a fundraiser for an organization that works to aid 9/11 victims, families, and first responders -- no doubt a reminder to some of her record, as a New York senator, of backing programs to aid those groups.

Spotlighting policy. On Thursday, Clinton sat down with progressive favorite John Podesta at a clean-energy conference in Las Vegas. Later this month, she'll be a heavy presence at the Clinton Global Initiative's 10th anniversary summit, where world leaders and policy heavyweights are expected to take the stage.

Building base cred. On Tuesday 9th, Clinton is hosting a fundraiser for the Democratic Women's Senate Network at her home in Washington, with tickets starting at $10,000. A little more than a week later, she'll again make a plug for the political fortunes of Democratic women, speaking at the DNC's Women's Leadership Forum in Washington, DC.

Putting in face time in major primary states. On Sept. 14, both Bill and Hillary Clinton are slated to attend Sen. Tom Harkin's (D-Iowa) final annual steak fry in Iowa — marking her first visit to that vital early-voting state since her loss there in the 2008 caucuses.

Politico: "Bill Clinton and Charlie Crist: The odd couple"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Maggie Haberman

September 5, 2014, 5:04 a.m. EDT

While everyone's focused on Hillary Clinton's next potential campaign, it's Bill Clinton who's been racking up frequent-flier miles, trying to get Democrats elected in the midterms.

He's crisscrossed the country in the past eight months, doing more than 20 events for Democratic hopefuls from Florida to Kentucky to Rhode Island as the party's most sought-after surrogate and rainmaker. In some cases, he's gone to bat for candidates who supported his wife six years ago; in others, he's gotten behind contenders who have long relationships with the former first couple. And the former Arkansas chief has an obvious soft spot for governors, a group that has received little attention from the current president.

At a campaign rally in Miami Friday, Clinton will test the strength of a relatively new relationship, with Charlie Crist, the Republican-turned-Democrat who's running for his old job as Florida's governor. Crist was once a harsh Clinton critic, denouncing him during the impeachment scandal in the late 1990s — a fact state Republicans have been quick to resurrect.

But now, as his wife is eyeing another national campaign, the perennial battleground of Florida looms potentially large for the Clintons. And Bill Clinton and Crist have developed a rapport, speaking a number of times since Crist launched his candidacy, multiple sources familiar with the conversations told POLITICO. Clinton, a famous dispenser of campaign advice with an eye for the granular in a race, has occasionally chewed over Crist's own bid against GOP Gov. Rick Scott.

"Whoever wins Florida is the next president of the United States," said John Morgan, a major Democratic donor whose law firm employs Crist. "That's just math."

The governor is "extremely important," Morgan added. "They control the secretary of state, voting days, voting hours."

It wasn't until Crist won his primary last week against Nan Rich that Clinton was able to formally back him. Rich was a supporter of Hillary Clinton, Morgan noted, and now that Crist is the nominee "I think [Clinton's] hands are untied."

Clinton and Crist had their first real dealings in 2010, when Crist was running for the U.S. Senate as an independent. His advisers sought help from Bill Clinton to get the Democrat, Rep. Kendrick Meek, a longtime Clinton ally, to drop out of the race and thwart then-state Sen. Marco Rubio from winning. Clinton tried, but Meek stayed in and Rubio won. Still, it established some level of political discussion between the Clinton and Crist camps.

The appearance with Crist will cap a week of campaigning for Democratic gubernatorial candidates by Clinton. Earlier, he attended events for Connecticut Gov. Daniel Malloy and Maine candidate Mike Michaud. While in Maine, he stopped by Kennebunkport to pay a visit to former President George H.W. Bush, with whom he has forged a bond since working with him on post-Hurricane Katrina relief.

Clinton will attend a fundraiser on Saturday for embattled Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu and another one the following weekend for Georgia Democratic Senate hopeful Michelle Nunn.

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The former president did an ad for Rhode Island treasurer candidate Seth Magaziner, the son of Clinton's longtime adviser Ira Magaziner. He is doing a direct mail piece for Nina Turner's secretary of state race in Ohio, another key presidential proving ground.

Clinton's team prefers to let campaigns he helps announce the visits as they see fit. That typically means as much local exposure as possible to move voters but little attention in the national media, meaning some events slip under the Beltway radar.

This month, Clinton will also host a fundraiser for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, before joining his wife in Iowa for the final Sen. Tom Harkin Steak Fry in Indianola. Clinton's appeal is global in a way that few other surrogates' is, a far cry from 2010, when the White House asked him for surgical help in a brutal midterms cycle.

This time around, it's President Barack Obama whom many campaigns are steering clear of, and Bill Clinton who is in high demand.

"I'd like to think these are just previews to a robust schedule over the next eight weeks," said DCCC Chairman Steve Israel, saying there are 70 House districts in which either Clinton could be a huge help.

At the same time, Bill and Hillary Clinton are expecting a grandchild, which will most likely affect their political schedule.

"I would imagine … that if the baby is born before the election, he or she will also be in great demand in these districts," Israel joked. "I do not imagine that grandma and grandpa will allow that to happen, however."

Bill Clinton's focus has been both future-looking but also personal. He is deeply invested in races in Arkansas, talking frequently with people there about how Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor and gubernatorial hopeful Mike Ross are faring.

Clinton is known for being difficult to control as a principal, with a deep love for campaigning and a willingness to stop in front of a waiting microphone even as aides try to shove him along. But despite that free-wheeling aspect to his political approach, his allies believe the perception that he is quick to go off-message is unfair.

"There are two politicians who are best at staying on-message and sticking to the script, and that's Bill Clinton and Jeanne Shaheen," said Terry Shumaker, a co-chair of Clinton's 1992 and 1996 campaigns in New Hampshire.

"When he campaigns for other candidates, it comes across as very sincere and also genuine — he's also knowledgeable about issues in an election which a lot of surrogates frankly aren't," he added. "He just connects with people in a way that I've never seen any other politician do."

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The New Republic: “President Clinton to Keynote The New Republic’s Centennial Gala”

[No Writer Mentioned]

September 4, 2014

The New Republic announced today that President Bill Clinton will deliver the keynote address at the magazine’s centennial gala on Wednesday, November 19 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. The black-tie event will also include a performance by world-renowned jazz musician, Wynton Marsalis. "The New Republic was created to shape the course of American life—and in the course of one hundred years, we've become an American institution,” said Franklin Foer, editor of The New Republic. “Our history has made a meaningful difference in public life and is worthy of tribute—and a big party!"

Madeleine Albright, Christiane Amanpour, Drew Faust, Richard Plepler, Peter Sarsgaard, Joe Scarborough, Aaron Sorkin, George Stephanopoulos, and Fareed Zakaria will join the celebration as co-hosts.

In addition to the gala, to commemorate its one hundredth year, The New Republic will release an anthology on September 16 and an anniversary issue on November 10. Insurrections of the Mind: 100-Years of Politics and Culture in America, edited by Foer and published by HarperCollins, is a collection of more than 50 of the magazine’s most seminal essays from the past century. Foer, Chris Hughes, and other editors will give book talks across the country throughout the fall.

The anniversary issue aims to be the best issue of The New Republic yet. Double in size, it will feature pieces by Jonathan Chait, Hendrik Hertzberg, Michael Lewis, Alec MacGillis, Martha Nussbaum, Hanna Rosin, Noam Scheiber, Judith Shulevitz, Jason Zengerle, and others. The anniversary issue will pay tribute to the magazine’s history, but the focus will be on the next American century and topics that will drive the conversation for the next 100 years.

Over the next three months, readers will notice digital features highlighting the anniversary, including 100 Year 100 Stories, a selection of 100 notable stories from the archives featured daily on newrepublic.com . The New Republic kicks off the celebration today by unveiling its 100-year logo.

“From the gala to the special issue, celebrating our centennial this fall is just as much about envisioning the future of the institution as it is about honoring its storied history,” said Chris Hughes, owner of The New Republic. “The New Republic has had the privilege of contributing to the national discourse for the past 100 years and we are eager to contribute to the next 100 as well.”

The New Republic celebrates its one hundredth with the help of Credit Suisse, a centennial sponsor, and Diageo, a gala sponsor.

News and Observer blog: Under the Dome: “Bill Clinton coming to Chapel Hill for Hagan”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Mary Cornatzer

September 4, 2014

Back in March, Dome asked whether former President Bill Clinton would help Sen. Kay Hagan's campaign. We're about to find out.

Clinton is the special guest at a Sept. 30 luncheon for Hagan in Chapel Hill.

Clinton has been much in demand on the campaign circuit, particularly in red states. This month he's also scheduled for Louisiana (Sen. Mary Landrieu) and Georgia (Michelle Nunn).

Dome must point out that while Clinton is widely popular in the South – throngs came out to see him in North Carolina when he campaigned for his wife in 2008 – he did not carry the state during either of his two presidential victories.

Washington Post Magazine: "The Gillibrand mystique: Is memoir a step along presidential pathway?"

By Luisita Lopez Torregrosa

September 4, 2014, 6:17 p.m. EDT

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is sitting at a corner table in the Senate dining room, eating a salad and ducking questions about her political ambitions, when she spots fellow Democrat Elizabeth Warren walking in. Minutes later, Gillibrand has ushered her interviewer to meet the Massachusetts senator. The two women, who are frequently mentioned as possible backups to Hillary Clinton for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, cheerfully trade pleasantries and compliments.

"She's great," Gillibrand says.

"She's really amazing," Warren says.

Though brief, the exchange captures Gillibrand's political skill, as she seizes on an opportunity to make a reporter feel like an insider and, at the same time, showcases cordial relations with a colleague others are casting as a potential rival.

Telegenic and brainy, the 47-year-old junior senator from New York and mother of two has become a visible face in the Senate, a regular at women's forums and policy talk shows, and something of a political pinup (The Hill named her one of its 50 most beautiful in 2010). An obscure second-term House member when appointed to fill Clinton's seat in 2009, she has won election and reelection, both by landslides.

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“If Hillary Clinton doesn’t run in 2016, I wouldn’t be surprised to see Kirsten Gillibrand jump in,” says Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. “Gillibrand seems to have the ambition to do it.”

In her sixth year in the Senate, working out of Clinton’s former quarters in the Russell Senate Office Building, Gillibrand has carved out territory including military and middle-class issues, and fashioned an image as a tenacious fighter for women. Now, she has taken another step along the modern-day passage to the presidency: writing a political memoir. With an introduction by Clinton, “Off the Sidelines: Raise Your Voice, Change the World” is due out Sept. 9. Like Gillibrand’s political action committee of the same name, it exhorts women to take the lead in politics, in business and at home. “I wrote the book to encourage women to use their voices,’’ she says.

Gillibrand says she’s “worried that the women’s movement is dead.” Acknowledging that some feminist leaders might find that characterization inflammatory, she says, “I think those of us who are in the trenches recognize we’re in a tough place.” While citing achievements such as keeping abortion-rights efforts alive and helping women advance in the workforce, she contends that “there’s no functional movement where we’re working together and making sure all women are heard on all these issues.”

With “Off the Sidelines,” she says, “I’m creating a call to … create the women’s movement we need for this generation.”

The title is “perfect for her, since she is not on the sidelines one minute of her life,” says Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), Gillibrand’s close friend and softball team co-captain.

So, to continue the analogy, the question becomes this: If Gillibrand is off the sidelines, where is she going? Is she headed for the quarterback position? Is she running for president?

“I would say that I’m supporting Hillary in 2016,” the senator says, “and I am going to fight very hard to see that she wins.”

And if Clinton doesn’t run?

Gillibrand shrugs.

Political books serve different purposes: campaign tools, ego boosters, policy tracts, coming-of-age reminiscences. Gillibrand’s has a bit of each. It tells the story of Kirsten Elizabeth Rutnik, a middle-class Roman Catholic Albany schoolgirl who was driven to excel and influenced by a line of strong-willed, iconoclastic women who cared little about public opinion.

Her maternal great-grandmother, Mimi, an Irish immigrant, worked at an ammunition arsenal during World War II, kicked her husband out of the house for drinking too much and chose to raise her children alone. Mimi’s daughter, Kirsten’s grandmother, Dorothea “Polly” McLean Noonan became a prominent figure in Albany and an intimate of longtime mayor Erastus Corning. Salty-tongued and brazen, she was a leader of the Albany Democratic Party machine, doling out patronage and favors, organizing government secretaries known as “Polly’s Girls,” and heading the Albany Democratic Women’s Club.

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Kirsten (everyone called her Tina) learned campaign basics from her grandmother, stuffing envelopes, sticking bumper stickers on cars, handing out fliers and knocking on doors. “I really wanted to follow my grandmother into politics,” she says, “and I liked how assured she was, and I liked that she was passionate about what she did.”

Kirsten’s mother, also named Polly, founded a law firm in Albany with her husband, Douglas P. Rutnik. Polly Rutnik ran the home as well as practicing law. She cooked, did most of the housework, looked after her three children, Douglas, Kirsten and Erin, and found time to earn a black belt in karate and hunt turkeys for Thanksgiving. “She prioritized both work and family; I never imagined I would do otherwise,” Gillibrand writes in the book. (Kirsten’s parents divorced when she was 22.)

Kirsten learned to cope with stress and competition on the tennis court, and learned to argue at home, with her father. “I fought about everything,” she says. “Can I go to a party? Can I go to a concert?” He called her Foghorn and Loudmouth.

Despite standing up to her father, “I was a massive kiss-[a--] and lived for positive reinforcement,” she writes in her book. “As a child, I wrote in perfect cursive penmanship, thanks to the nuns. I did all my homework as soon as I got home, and I kept my room clean.” She was a goody-two-shoes, except for her temper and her elbows-out determination to excel. “Whatever I did — debating, playing the piano or tennis, selling Girl Scout cookies — I had to earn a gold star. ”

She went to Catholic schools from kindergarten to middle school and attended Emma Willard, an elite all-girls high school. At Dartmouth, she ignored campus politics, joined a sorority, majored in Asian studies (spending a semester in Beijing, where her roommate was Connie Britton of TV’s “Nashville,” who remains a friend) and graduated magna cum laude.Only after earning a degree at the UCLA School of Law and landing a job at the international law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City did Gillibrand get involved in politics.

“The voice that inspired me to take my life in a new direction came in a pink suit,” she writes. On Sept. 5, 1995, first lady Hillary Clinton spoke in Beijing at the Fourth World Conference on Women, forging the phrase that became a mantra for women worldwide: Human rights are women’s rights and women’s rights are human rights. Hearing about the speech made Gillibrand wish she had been there and had been part of the conversation. And it brought back her childhood dream of being in politics, like her grandmother.

Shortly afterward, Gillibrand heard Clinton speak at the Women’s Leadership Forum in New York, which she joined. “That’s what got me into the nuts and bolts of New York City politics,” Gillibrand says. In 1996, she was an unpaid fundraiser in President Bill Clinton’s reelection campaign and, four years later, volunteered to raise money for Vice President Al Gore. After Gore’s defeat, she went to work at Boies, Schiller & Flexner — whose star attorney, David Boies, had represented Gore in Bush v. Gore — and was made partner, earning about $450,000 a year.

She kept her hand in politics, fundraising for Hillary Clinton’s senatorial campaign and training to run for office herself, moving to her firm’s Albany office so she could vie for a congressional seat close to her Upstate roots. In 2006, she ran for the conservative 20th Congressional District against a popular Republican.

She proved to be a tireless campaigner and prolific fundraiser, amassing $4.6 million, a stunning sum for a congressional campaign. Her opponent, Rep. John E. Sweeney, who portrayed her as an out-of-touch, rich Manhattanite, was leading in the polls. But shortly before Election Day, a police report was leaked to newspapers saying that Sweeney’s wife had called 911 to say he was beating her. His camp said Gillibrand leaked the report; she declined to say. She won by 6 points.

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Despite that upset, Gillibrand was unknown in much of New York when Gov. David A. Paterson appointed her to fill Clinton's Senate term in a controversial move seen as a nod to her gender and Upstate support. It didn't help that she had been the second choice, after Caroline Kennedy, yet ahead of more experienced representatives. Gillibrand was sworn in on Jan. 27, 2009, at 42 then the youngest member of the U.S. Senate.

From the start she ran into a wall. Some colleagues and newspaper columnists called her Tracy Flick, referring to the blond, ambitious Reese Witherspoon character in the film "Election." Some older congressmen poked at her weight. "Don't lose too much weight now. I like my girls chubby," said one.

In New York City's liberal circles, her 15 years as a highly paid corporate lawyer and two years representing a conservative district didn't sit well. She was seen as a political lightweight and labeled pro-gun, pro-Wall Street, anti-immigration and pro-tobacco. (During the tobacco wars of the 1990s, she had helped represent Altria, parent company of Philip Morris.) Enlisting supporters like the Clintons, she countered with a campaign to win over blacks, Hispanics and other liberals. She won election to a Senate term in 2010, 63 to 35 percent, then reelection two years ago, 72to 26 percent.

Along with broadening her electoral base, Gillibrand has come to be associated with several high-profile issues. She was a leader in the successful struggle to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." She was on the front lines of the campaign to gain approval of marriage equality in the New York legislature, and was among the first Democrats to call for bringing combat troops home from Afghanistan. To address the plight of low- and middle-income families, she has fashioned an ambitious agenda that includes raising the minimum wage, affordable day care and universal pre-K education. She established Off the Sidelines as a PAC in 2011 and raised $1 million for female candidates in the 2012 cycle. Her goal is to double that for the midterms this year, and she says she is close to doing it.

Another issue she has focused on: sexual abuses in the armed forces. She waged a yearlong battle for her bill to strip commanders of their authority to prosecute those cases and give that responsibility to military lawyers outside the chain of command. Military leaders opposed the measure, and in March, her proposal came up five votes short of the 60 needed to advance to the Senate floor. Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, a Democrat, led the fight to block it, offering bipartisan reforms that kept prosecution within the chain of command.

"I was devastated," Gillibrand says.

"She is formidable," says McCaskill, who is now working with Gillibrand on legislation to curb sexual assaults on university campuses. "She doesn't stop. She lobbies every senator over and over. I tell people, 'If you are going to oppose Kirsten Gillibrand, you need to pack your lunch, because you won't have time to go out.' "

Hill watchers often cite Gillibrand's political appeal. "She has impressively emerged from the paralyzed muck of the U.S. Senate because she offers a progressive vision," says Steve Clemons, a senior fellow at the New America Foundation and an editor at large at the Atlantic. Gillibrand "brings to her game a love of detail and dealmaking reminiscent of LBJ."

And while Sabrina Schaeffer, executive director of the conservative Independent Women's Forum, opposes Gillibrand's legislative agenda, she also says Gillibrand has a "girl-next-door personality women and men can identify with" and "has checked off all the right boxes on women's issues."

But Michael Barone, a political analyst and resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and contributor to Fox News, dismisses Gillibrand, saying: "I don't think many conservatives have given much thought to her. They see her as a conventional liberal in a safe seat with no national career in the short term."

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Gillibrand's memoir, which she will promote on a coast-to-coast tour this month, will generate talk of a presidential run no matter how much she fends off the question.

"It's always a bit amusing when a relatively junior senator decides to offer up an autobiography," says U-Va.'s Sabato. "That means one thing: She's interested in higher office."

In style, however, Gillibrand's book differs significantly from previous political memoirs. Hers is a quick read, chatty, candid, with self-help and even diet advice. "It's not a policy book," she says.

Beltway commentators may find it frothy, but she says she wants to reach a wider set of readers, especially women, people who may not want an insider's account of life in Washington. "Empowerment of all women is important," she says, not just those who are seeking to crack the ceiling, or lean in or lean out.

She bristles at the debate about whether women can have it all. "It's an absurd argument." The very phrase "have it all," she says, implies that women are greedy and demeans stay-at-home mothers. For many mothers, she says, working is a financial necessity, not a choice, and she says she is particularly concerned about low-and-middle-income women, especially single moms. "I don't have their tough choices, but I share the same experience that they have," she says. "We all want to be good moms. We all want to be good at our jobs. We all want to provide for our children."

Still, if the question isn't about having it all, many who spend time around Kirsten Gillibrand seem to wonder how she does it all. She and her husband, Jonathan Gillibrand, a British-born financial manager, moved to Washington in 2007, but for the past two years, he has spent workweeks in New York City while their two boys stay with her.

"She is taking care of two small children and working her head off in the Senate," says Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, among the Republicans who backed Gillibrand on the military bill. "It's not like she has live-in help the way a lot of people in the Senate do, and I just don't know how she does it."

Gillibrand's mornings begin between 6 and 6:30, when Henry, her 6-year-old, a live wire who is starting first grade, wakes her. "Almost always, I feel exhausted when I get up," she says. She fixes breakfast for the boys, packs their lunches, does laundry or dishes, checks their homework and drives them to school. If she has time she stops at the gym for a workout and arrives in her office by 9. She's usually on Capitol Hill until late afternoon when she gets away to pick up the boys at school.

A trim 5-foot-2, she gains weight easily — 50 pounds when she was pregnant with Henry. When she got to the Senate, she went on a crash regimen, dropped her size to a 4 or 6 from 16, and was featured in Vogue. "If I eat more than 1,400 calories a day, I gain weight," she says. She cooks almost every weeknight, typically chicken, fish or lean beef, with salad and vegetables. A master juggler, she can cook, sweep, pick up schoolbooks and children's shoes lying about, and carry on a conversation at the same time.

After dinner, she might take Theo, who is 10 and in fifth grade, to sports practice or whatever is on his schedule. Like their mother, the boys lead busy lives: baseball, soccer, squash, T-ball, piano, singing and taekwondo. She tries to get to bed about 10. "If I don't get enough sleep, I get irritable and emotional."

The Gillibrands live in a three-story brick rowhouse on Capitol Hill. They have a sparsely furnished living room with an upright piano. The kitchen, a comfortable open space with a dining table, has framed photographs of the

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senator with the boys, Henry's crayon drawings, and notes on the refrigerator door. Parked out back is an old Porsche belonging to Gillibrand's husband, currently working with Formula One racing. "We use my van to get around," she says.

The couple met in 1999 when Jonathan, two years her junior, was getting an MBA at Columbia and she was working at Davis Polk. They were married in 2001. "We're opposites in many ways," she says. "That's probably why it works." Jonathan, who is private, methodical and thoughtful, has been encouraging her political career, offering cautious advice and absorbing criticism. But her first year in the House was difficult, as she recounts in her book. They lived with Theo in a Virginia suburb. Jonathan hated Washington and had no job. They argued. At one point he told her, "Your job is the reason we don't have more kids!" She realized he had a point. Soon she was pregnant with Henry.

When the family is together on weekends "we do things the boys like to do,'' usually sports, she says. "Jonathan is really good about chores. I do not nag him. I do not ask him to do things. I typically do the cooking because it relaxes me. But Jonathan helps clean up. He's is more supportive than the average husband."

For someone who is all about women forging ahead, it may seem ironic that she takes on the majority of parenting duties. But, she says: "I think most working moms do it all. They do a lot of caregiving. They do a lot of housework. And they work full time."

The next morning in her busy office, Henry is with her, slouching on the sofa, playing with pieces on a chessboard and trying hard to obey his mother and keep quiet.

Settling into a favorite wingback chair, Gillibrand says she wants to recruit 6 million women to active service in politics, businesses and communities. Six million is the number of women who entered the workforce to replace the men who had gone to battle during World War II.

Looking up at a poster of Rosie the Riveter, the advertising character who represented those women, Gillibrand echoes, "We can do it!"

Wall Street Journal: "Jeb Bush Sends Signals About 2016 Presidential Run"

By Brody Mullins and Beth Reinhard

September 4, 2014, 8:17 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] GOP Fundraisers Say Former Florida Governor's Aides Spread Word: Wait Until He Makes Up Mind

WASHINGTON—Republican strategists and fundraisers say Jeb Bush's closest advisers have been quietly spreading the word that they should avoid committing to other possible presidential candidates until he decides on his own course after the November election.

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The message from Mr. Bush's inner circle during the past few months is in part an effort to bat down speculation that the former Florida governor has ruled out a 2016 run, say GOP donors and strategists who have spoken with the Bush camp. The message, as one put it, is: "Before you do anything, let us know."

Jim Nicholson, a Bush supporter who served in President George W. Bush's cabinet, said: "I think the chances are better than 50-50 that he runs, and that is based on some conversations I've had with members of the Bush family."

Mr. Bush's aides aren't actively making calls but responding to supporters who are fielding inquiries from other potential candidates, according to those involved in the conversations.

Mr. Bush is a top choice of the establishment wing of the Republican Party. His entry would help define the policy fights of the primary process, as his support for overhauling immigration law and for the Common Core national educational standards has drawn strong opposition from many conservatives.

Mr. Bush, who is 61 years old, has said the impact of a presidential run on his family would be a paramount concern. One of his three children, Jeb Bush Jr., said the matter hasn't come up in family gatherings, though the issue is "the 800-pound gorilla in the room."

"A lot of people are waiting to see what Dad does," the junior Mr. Bush, who works at his father's Miami-area business consulting firm, said in an interview Thursday. "There's a lot of pressure to run."

Mr. Bush wasn't available for comment, a spokeswoman said. A top adviser, Sally Bradshaw, said: "There is no organized effort to actively recruit support for a presidential campaign. He is seriously considering the race and will make a decision sometime after November."

Mike Feldman, an aide on Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign, said both Mr. Bush and likely Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton would campaign with tremendous advantages—and baggage—due to their families' long political history.

"Both of them would have to wrestle with the trade-offs involved in emphasizing their considerable experience and presenting a vision for the future while having to defend their records and litigating the past," he said.

Mr. Bush has built a life outside politics since leaving public office in 2007, serving on corporate boards, heading a business consulting firm and leading two educational think tanks.

His mother, former first lady Barbara Bush, has said she hopes he doesn't run, given that the nation has already been led by his father and brother.

The outreach from Mr. Bush's aides came amid speculation this summer that he was leaning against a run, due in part to reports that he was raising money for private-equity ventures when other potential candidates were visiting early-primary states.

Attention among some in the GOP returned to Mitt Romney, the party's nominee in 2012, who has said he is "not running," but has allowed that "circumstances can change." Messrs. Bush and Romney would compete for a

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similar set of fundraisers and political hands.

Many donors are both looking for a signal of intent from Mr. Bush but also are happy to stay on the sidelines until after the midterm elections, when the field will start to crystallize. For them, Mr. Bush's indecision is helpful.

"It's frozen the field a bit, in that it's a convenient excuse for finance people to stay neutral and wait to commit," said Republican strategist Dave Carney, a top adviser to Rick Perry's 2012 campaign who worked in the White House for George W. Bush.

"It's not like Jeb would walk into the race and clear the field, but his gravitas and fundraising network makes him a first-class competitor," Mr. Carney said.

In addition to keeping potential donors and supporters on deck, Mr. Bush is taking other steps that typically precede a presidential campaign: traveling the country, engaging in public policy debates and raising money for his party.

A newly established fundraising committee allows him to funnel donations from his financial backers to GOP candidates key to winning a majority in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Bush is slated to headline a Sept. 23 event in Tampa that organizers hope will raise as much as $1 million for GOP Senate candidates Cory Gardner in Colorado, Joni Ernst in Iowa, Monica Wehby in Oregon, Tom Cotton in Arkansas and Dan Sullivan in Alaska. A Bush aide said the goal was $500,000.

The host committee of more than three dozen people is expected to form the backbone of a finance committee should Mr. Bush run for president. Chairmen include John Rood, a real-estate developer and the former ambassador to the Bahamas; Al Hoffman, a real-estate developer and former Republican National Committee finance chairman; and John Kirtley, a school-choice proponent and the co-founder of the KLH Capital investment firm.

"I think of it as a fan club and a team that would be ready to work on behalf of his presidential campaign if he decides to run," said Jorge Arrizurieta, a longtime supporter of Mr. Bush and his family. "If the event is successful, that will be helpful to him as a potential presidential candidate, but the objective is to make sure Republicans are successful in the current election cycle."

Mr. Bush also is planning to attend fundraisers for Illinois gubernatorial candidate Bruce Rauner on Sept. 18 in Chicago and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell in Coral Gables on Sept. 19.

He already has helped raise money for a number of GOP candidates, many of them in states crucial to winning the 2016 nomination. They have included Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval and Florida Gov. Rick Scott.

"He's definitely got a lot of favors out there if he decides to pull the trigger," said Florida-based consultant Mike Hanna, who worked on Mr. Bush's gubernatorial campaigns.

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New York Times: “New Book Says C.I.A. Official in Benghazi Held Up Rescue”

By David D. Kirkpatrick

September 4, 2014

CAIRO — Five commandos guarding the C.I.A. base in Benghazi, Libya, in September 2012 say that the C.I.A. station chief stopped them from interceding in time to save the lives of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and an American technician during the attack on the diplomatic mission there.

In a new book scheduled for release next week and obtained by The New York Times, the commandos say they protested repeatedly as the station chief ordered them to wait in their vehicles, fully armed, for 20 minutes while the attack on the diplomatic mission was unfolding less than a mile away.

“If you guys do not get here, we are going to die!” a diplomatic security agent then shouted to them over the radio, the commandos say in the book, and they left the base in defiance of the chief’s continuing order to “stand down.”

The book, titled “13 Hours,” is the first public account of the night’s events by any of the American security personnel involved in the attack. The accusation that the station chief, referred to in the book only as “Bob,” held back the rescue opens a new front in a fierce political battle over who is at fault for the American deaths.

Republicans have blamed President Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton, then the secretary of state, for the security failure.

American officials have previously acknowledged that the Central Intelligence Agency security team paused to try to enlist support from Libyan militia allies. But the book is the first detailed account of the extent of the delay, its consequences for the rescue attempt, and who made the decisions.

The commandos’ account — which fits with the publicly known facts and chronology — suggests that the station chief issued the “stand down” orders on his own authority. He hoped to enlist local Libyan militiamen, and the commandos speculate that he hoped the Libyans could carry out the rescue alone to avoid exposing the C.I.A. base.

No meaningful Libyan help ever materialized.

In an emailed statement on Thursday, a senior intelligence official said “a prudent, fast attempt was made to rally local support for the rescue effort and secure heavier weapons.” The official said “there was no second-guessing those decisions being made on the ground” and “there were no orders to anybody to stand down in providing support.”

The commandos were former members of American Special Forces teams hired by the intelligence agency as private contractors. Two of the team, both former Navy Seals, died fighting the attackers at the C.I.A. base later

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that night. Five others are credited as co-authors of “13 Hours,” which was written with their cooperation by Mitchell Zuckoff, a professor of journalism at Boston University. Mark Geist, Kris Paronto and John Tiegen are credited by name, and two of the authors use pseudonyms.

They say that they learned that the mission’s building had been set on fire during the short drive there, from another plea for help over the radio. The ambassador and the technician, Sean Smith, suffocated in the smoke.

No American fired a weapon of any kind in defense of the mission until the C.I.A. commandos reached the compound, more than 40 minutes after the attack began, the commandos say. The Libyan guards hired to protect the mission quickly retreated. The handful of diplomatic security agents, caught by surprise and outnumbered, withdrew to separate buildings without firing a shot.

One of the commandos fired grenades to help disperse the attackers and clear an entrance to the mission. They later exchanged fire when the attackers returned for a second assault. And the commandos say that after pulling back to the C.I.A. base they fought off-and-on gun battles with fighters lurking in the shadows outside for much of the night.

Although the commandos write of several Libyans who risked their lives to help the Americans, the difficulty of discerning friend from foe is a recurring theme. They write that a supportive militia leader who appeared to be helping them approach the mission also said he was talking on the phone with the attackers, trying to negotiate.

“What’s the difference between how Libyans look when they’re coming to help you versus when they’re coming to kill you?” the commandos joked with the diplomatic security agents. “Not much.”

The contractors say they raced so quickly to arm themselves when they heard the alarm that one failed to put on underwear. Another went into the battle in cargo shorts.

Then, fully armed, they found themselves waiting inside their armored vehicles, making small talk.

“Hey, we gotta go now! We’re losing the initiative!” Mr. Tiegen says he complained to the station chief, who he says replied, “No, stand down, you need to wait.”

“We are going to have the local militia handle it,” the chief added later, according to the commandos.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

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· September 5 – Mexico: Sec. Clinton speaks at Carlos Slim's charity event (Bloomberg)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 12 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines a DGA fundraiser (Twitter)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 15 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Conference (CRF)

· September 15 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at Legal Services Corp. 40th Anniversary (Twitter)

· September 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines a 9/11 Health Watch fundraiser (NY Daily News)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From:	NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	8/4/2015 11:55:40 PM
Subject:	First Draft on Politics: Commotion Over Ad-Libbed Remarks Fills Divide Between Two Jebs

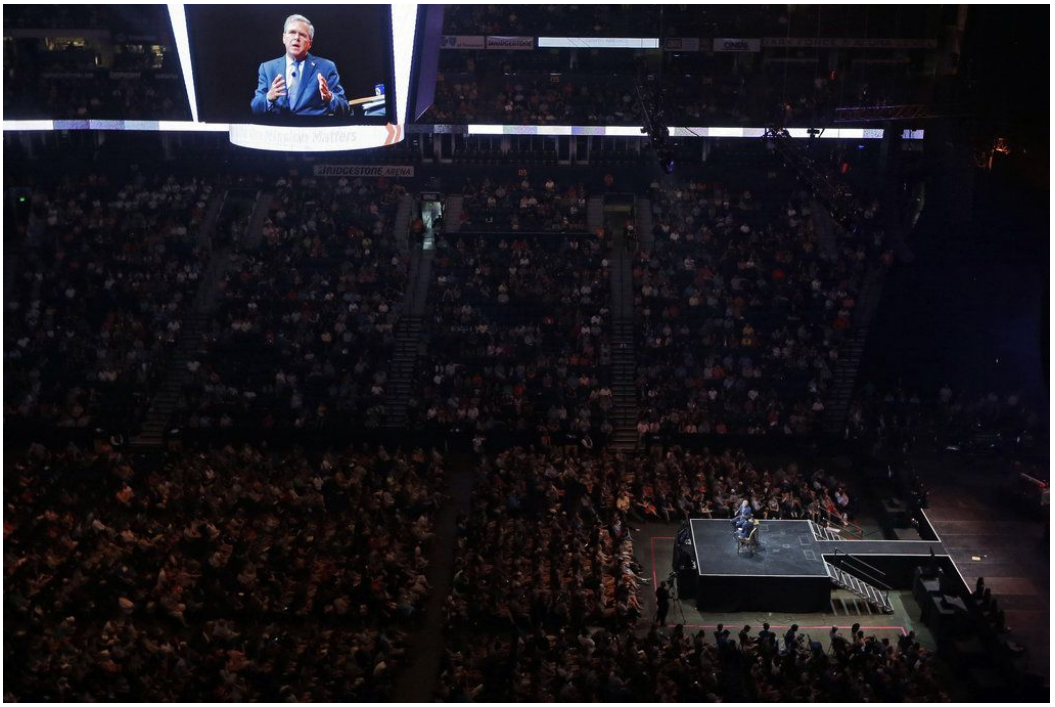
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The New York Times
FirstDraft
What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Commotion Over Ad-Libbed Remarks Fills Divide Between Two Jebs

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Jeb Bush speaking at a Southern Baptist Conference ev ent in Nashville on Tuesday. Mark Humphrey/Associated Press

By Michael Barbaro

*Good Wednesday morning from Washington, where all eyes are on Thursday's Republican debate now that the lineup has been finalized . **Jeb Bush** is among those who made the cut, but on Tuesday, he rekindled some concerns about his propensity for off-the-cuff remarks that often require subsequent clarification.*

Mr. Bush promised to be candid and unscripted in his joyful run for president. Now he's paying the price.

Over and over, his ad-libbed answers have created distracting kerfuffles (witness his claim that Americans "need to work longer hours") and, worse, drawn-out controversies (see his handling of a question about the invasion of Iraq).

Now, on the cusp of Thursday's prime-time Republican debate, his team is grappling with an uncomfortable but inevitable question: Is Jeb his own worst enemy in the Republican contest?

Tuesday's errant remark about women's health funding is a case study in the dangers of letting Jeb be Jeb. It was as if Mr. Bush was doing rough math in his head – what to do with $500 million in federal funding he wants to strip from Planned Parenthood? – but instead he was on a stage, thinking aloud. And so all the world heard him utter words that no candidate for president wants to say on camera: "I'm not sure we need half a billion dollars for women's health issues." (He has since said he "misspoke." But the video lives on, tweeted and retweeted into eternity.)

Political mayhem ensued, just as it did when Mr. Bush talked about the productivity of the American worker.

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Jeb the policy maven has not quite reconciled with Jeb the presidential candidate, as his own aides more or less concede.

In their minds, this is a source of pride – it's what makes Mr. Bush authentic. But it is just as much a liability that will create the kind of video footage that can be lethal in a negative campaign advertisement.

At Thursday's debate in Cleveland, the two Jebs will share a very prominent stage, and it will be fascinating to see which one wins the tug-of-war.

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What We're Watching Today

- **President Obama**, who is rolling out a multipronged campaign of private entreaties and public advocacy over the next several weeks to build support in Congress for the nuclear deal with Iran, will speak at American University in Washington. He will seek to explain and defend the international agreement reached last month, which would lift some sanctions in exchange for restrictions on Iran's ability to develop a nuclear weapon.

- The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee will also discuss the Iran deal, holding a hearing on "The Implications of Sanctions Relief Under the Iran Agreement."

- And with the Republican candidates off the trail in preparation for the debate, the Democratic candidates have the field to themselves, with **former Gov. Martin O'Malley** of Maryland in Iowa on Wednesday, and **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont, **former Gov. Lincoln Chafee** of Rhode Island and **former Senator Jim Webb** of Virginia joining him there on Thursday to speak at an organized labor

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event. **Hillary Rodham Clinton** will spend those days fund-raising in the northwest and in Los Angeles.

Senate Cybersecurity Bill Faces Another Uphill Battle

The Senate faces another showdown vote on cybersecurity legislation on Wednesday, illustrating anew the struggle the Senate faces in passing even a modest computer system protection bill despite escalating security threats.

With just a few days remaining before the Senate is scheduled to join the House on summer vacation, officials were uncertain lawmakers would agree to even open debate on the measure, which had already been the subject of a few false starts.

As is the wont of the Senate, procedure and politics keep getting in the way and sniping over possible amendments is threatening the measure that had seemed headed for easy passage when it cleared the Intelligence Committee in the spring with little opposition.

Senator Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican and majority leader, had been expected to get the ball rolling on the legislation last week, but instead turned his attention to a bill to defund Planned Parenthood, which went down in a fireball of emotional debate on Monday.

Now with time running short, **Senator Rand Paul**, Republican of Kentucky and one of several senators with privacy concerns about the bill, wants to propose changes, including one concerning auditing the Federal Reserve.

Even if the Senate takes up the legislation, it is unclear lawmakers itching to get out of town will want to stick around to complete the measure. And Mr. Paul and the three other Republican senators running for president intend to be at the debates.

The Senate now finds itself lagging the House, which in April passed an expansive measure that would push companies to share access to their computer networks and records with federal investigators in response to a series of computer security breaches in government and in the private sector.

– Jennifer Steinhauer

Senator Cornyn Prepares a Potentially Bipartisan Gun Law

Senator John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Republican, plans on Wednesday to introduce a measure intended to keep firearms out of the hands of mentally ill offenders and to step up community training and prevention programs to reduce the threat of violence involving people with mental illnesses.

Months in the making, the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act would clarify

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the types and scope of mental health records that are to be shared through the National Instant Criminal Background Check, with the aim of preventing episodes like the recent shooting in a Louisiana movie theater.

Despite deep differences over gun safety legislation, members of both parties have agreed that better mental health screening and treatment is a potential area of consensus, providing a possible opening for the legislation Mr. Cornyn developed.

It is not without a degree of political risk for Mr. Cornyn, who was criticized by some gun-rights advocates when he introduced an earlier version of the measure. But the National Rifle Association is behind the bill, aides say.

– *Carl Hulse*

Our Favorites From Today's Times

- Fox News revealed who made the cut for its 10-person debate, based on polling numbers, and **Gov. John R. Kasich** is in, **Rick Perry** is out, and **Donald J. Trump**, **Mr. Bush** and **Gov. Scott Walker** of Wisconsin are in the top three spots.

- In an online speech to the Jewish Federations of North America, **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** of Israel called the nuclear deal with Iran "very dangerous."

- And some friends of **Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.** are concerned that a run for president could damage his legacy, but few seem eager to tell him of their reservations.

What We're Reading Elsewhere

- Ahead of **Mr. O'Malley**'s appearance before the labor group on Thursday, a union leader has accused him, BloombergPolitics writes, "of 'pandering to extremist and elitist elements within the environmental movement' with his opposition to Keystone XL pipeline."

- The Jewish Telegraphic Agency writes that "Three top Jewish Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives," have expressed opposition to the Iran deal, listing **Representatives Nita M. Lowey** and **Steve Israel** of New York, and **Ted Deutch** of Florida.

- In an interview with The Washington Post, the conservative billionaire **Charles G. Koch**, who along with his brother has pledged to spend vast amounts of money

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in the presidential campaign, dismissed concerns over his influence in United States politics, and "weighed in" on the state of the race, climate change and other issues.

- The Wall Street Journal looks at **Mr. Bush**'s lucrative time as an investment banker with Wall Street firms, where he used his policy acumen and myriad connections to help clients.

- The Washington Post's fact checker calls out **Harry Reid**, the Senate minority leader, for his inaccurate claim that 30 percent of women rely on Planned Parenthood for health care.

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Children's Issues Group to Run Ad Campaign in Iowa

Presidential candidates are not the only ones courting Iowans because of their influence in anointing future presidents.

Groups with policy agendas are also landing in the Hawkeye State, hoping that Iowans will pass on their messages to the White House hopefuls who are parading through their towns.

The Save the Children Action Network is starting a $750,000 advertising campaign and field operation in Iowa on Wednesday to raise the profile of its High 5 for Kids early childhood education campaign.

The nonpartisan ads will feature a Democrat, a Republican and an independent and will run in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City in August. Print and digital ads will coincide with a door-to-door canvassing operation in five counties.

Brendan Daly, a spokesman for Save the Children, said the initiative was meant to "influence Iowa caucusgoers to make early childhood education a priority for the presidential candidates."

The group already has radio advertisements running in New Hampshire,

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demonstrating the reach of the early voting states, and has plans for a similar campaign in South Carolina.

– Alan Rappeport

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From: "Catherine Hand" <catherinehand5@aol.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/16/2015 9:54:47 AM
Subject: Re: Today's Post story on HRC

John-
Thank you for your response. I am simply one of the many millions of Americans who want to see her win. Please let me know if I can ever be of help. I continue raise any funds I can, but am not in the position to give like I wish. You have such a tough job ahead of you and I'm very touched that you took the time from what must be a crazy schedule to read my note.
Catherine

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2015, at 3:38 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Thanks Catherine. Easy to fall into old habits. We'll reflect on this.
>
> On Sunday, August 16, 2015, <catherinehand5@aol.com > wrote:
> > Dear Jake and John:
> >
> > I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.
> >
> > Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.
> >
> > Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.
> >
> > I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.
> >
> > Lorraine-
> >
> > Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.
> >
> > Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow

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politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, “politics as usual’ is immediately heard as “politics as usual in Clinton-world.”

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words ‘politics as usual’ it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. “

Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women’s movement in the United States as women’s organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

“ *I Want to Hold Your Hand*” and “ *I Saw Her Standing There”* were released in the U.S., marking the beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson’s War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

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In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon's 'silent majority,' -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women's rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

"The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which "brings us together in a peaceful loving state."

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking's insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From:	"Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	11/17/2008 9:11:15 AM
Subject:	FW: Three recommendations for Obama Administration posts
Attachments:	OToole CV alternate oct08.doc joe_brilliant_resume_11.11.08.doc

FYI

From: Larry Brilliant [mailto:larrybrilliant@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2008 3:14 PM
To: edley@law.berkeley.edu
Cc: Sonal Shah
Subject: Three recommendations for Obama Administration posts

Chris,

I hope the transition work is going well. It is, as you know, just about the most important work on the planet now. I am even more happy knowing how talented the transition team itself is!

You asked me to send you some good recommendations. Here are three:

1. For the National Security Council---expert on bioterrorism. Dr. Tara O'Toole. Dr. O'Toole is CEO and Director of the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC),served as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health in the Clinton Administration. In this position she developed the first strategic management and safety plan for dealing with the highly enriched uranium, plutonium, spent fuel, and radioactive waste left in place when nuclear weapons production ceased in the early 1990s. She ran the multi-agency, multimillion dollar task force that oversaw the government's investigations into human radiation experiments conducted during the Cold War, and led the US delegation to Russia to establish the U.S./Russia cooperative effort to study radiation exposure and environmental hazards of the Russian nuclear weapons complex. Tara is one of the top talents on the committee which I chair, established by HSPD 21, the National Biosurveillance Advisory Subcommittee. Tara is well known to everyone in the field but in addition to her academic chops, brings a passion and practical knowledge impossible to beat.

2. To run DARPA---which among other things gave rise to the Internet, TCP/IP and so many other innovations. Vint Cerf, known affectionately as the "Father of the Internet" winner of all sorts of awards, former SVP of MCI and now VP and Chief Evangelist for Google. I was pleasantly surprised from a recent conversation to know that he would be interested in going back into government into the same agency he worked for when the Internet was born. Vint knows everyone and every major advance in tech. I do not know how good a manager he is, but I do know that his name is gold, his understanding unequaled, and his values solid.

3. At a lower level, and with the realization that I am no longer an objective observer: for a position in the the White House, Office of Communications, my son Joseph Brilliant. Joe was the youngest ever Intern in the Clinton White House (under Tom Kalil, Laura Tyson), Berkeley communications major, worked at Ogilvy and Deutsch in advertising and most recently worked with Al Gore's CurrentTV. Joe helped build the online social networking part of Current.com, worked as an Obama volunteer in New Mexico, and wants to put his social networking skills to service in the communications office keeping Obama youthful supporters engaged, informed, energized, and involved in building a new participatory administration. Al Gore has told us he would give him a very high recommendation. So would I!

Hope everything else is going very well indeed. Much love to Maria.

Larry

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 5:25:47 PM
Subject: Re: Clinton Cash and Week Ahead issues to discuss tomorrow am

That's good

Sent from my iPhone

On May 3, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

I would add at end of last sentence: "...is absurd and never happened."

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On May 3, 2015, at 5:17 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

Here's a first stab:

The Foundation does life-saving work around the world, including getting HIV drugs to 8 MM people, getting nearly 28,000 African farmers to grow better crops to feed hungry people and it has helped get healthier food for American kids into 6000 schools. As for time as Sec of State --- I have represented the United States all over the globe, challenged world leaders over women's rights and human rights and defended our national interest every day. The notion that that anyone donating to the foundation was going to influence me in my job is absurd. (or "ludicrous")

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2015 2:31 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri
Cc: Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Huma Abedin; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Kristina Schake; Dan Schwerin; Teddy Goff
Subject: Re: Clinton Cash and Week Ahead issues to discuss tomorrow am

I agree with Jen we should try to avoid Tuesday if that is possible. I like having her do it Wednesday, if we can make it til then -- saying a couple declarative sentences rejecting the basic premise [and expressing pride in Foundation's work], pointing to website, and then pivoting to positive message.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 1:33 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Friends - I wanted to lay out some issues to consider related to Clinton Cash and making news next week for discussion on Monday morning's call. Hope you are enjoying great weather in the meantime. JP

HRC ENGAGEMENT ON CLINTON CASH

The biggest question for this group is if and how HRC engages on Clinton Cash this week and what are the "two lines" she would deliver.

Reminder on this week's events for her. WJC on Today show on Monday; HRC in Vegas on Tuesday in front of the pool for an immigration event; fundraiser and lunch with the Mayor in SFO on Wednesday; LA fundraisers on Thursday; Bay Area fundraiser on Friday. All of the fundraisers are closed. To restate what we all discussed on Thursday and Friday - I would rather she not engage with press while we are in Vegas. Like to keep her on immigration and we handle response.

Below is a written statement Dan had drafted when we thought she might engage on this last week - so gives folks something to react to:

Statement from Hillary Clinton:
The suggestion that I or President Obama or any other senior official in this administration would ever allow decisions about national security to influenced by personal considerations – let alone some charitable donations – is absurd. Anyone who's had to sit in the Situation Room and make life and death choices would understand that. And if anyone ever donated to the Clinton Foundation in the hopes of influencing official government policy, they'd be a fool. Even the author himself has now admitted that he found zero evidence of any wrong-doing or quid pro quo. Unfortunately, the incredible life-saving work of the Clinton Foundation has gotten lost in these attacks. More than 9 million people with HIV/AIDS around the world have benefited from more affordable medicine because of the Clinton Foundation. Millions of American children have access to healthier food. Farmers in Africa are growing better crops. Women

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entrepreneurs are starting businesses. I'm so proud of the work that Bill, Chelsea, and all the professionals at the Foundation have done and continue to do. And I hope that people will judge the Foundation on that record of accomplishment, not on baseless conspiracy theories

CLINTON CASH RESPONSE/LAUNCH OF "THE BRIEFING"

On Tuesday morning we will launch The Briefing page on our website. This page will be where supporters and others can get information and points on what she is for, but also where we would post pushback on the book. Below is what we currently plan to post on Tuesday related to the book.

We are also considering a Podesta post that we would put on Medium and our site that unveils the concept of The Briefing, debunks the book a bit, and notes that while we will respond aggressively to attacks - we know that they are just designed to stop her bc R's know that she has right vision/policies to win and will not be distracted from our main highway of selling the positive. John and I discussed yesterday and think it is important that supporters and press know that we will deal aggressively with unfair attacks, but our real focus and her's is her proactive vision. Important that we do not appear beleaguered.

Clinton Cash Content for The Briefing:

1) a comprehensive post that debunks the book with all of our attacks in one place;

2) a short video narrated by Brian Fallon highlighting most egregious errors (we will need more time to do comprehensive version we discussed with HRC on Friday, but think it is worth doing short one for the book release on Tuesday);

3) a number of social media products that our supporters can share and are designed to get buzz with press and supporters and further discredit the author and the book;

4) the products we have already put out over the course of the last week.

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/22/2008 4:40:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/22/08

Main Topics: Withdrawal From Iraq, VP rumors, Obama in Middle East

Summary: Today, Senator Obama's Middle East trip led the news cycle again, but garnered less attention than in the past days. The McCain campaign was successful in its efforts to divert some coverage by leaking the possibility of a surprise VP-pick this week. Although most media outlets took the bait and devoted a considerable amount of airtime to McCain VP-speculation 'news,' still most anchors were more interested in reporting about al-Maliki's virtual endorsement of the Obama 16 month withdrawal plan. Though McCain surrogate Rudy Giuliani made the interview rounds claiming the success of the surge, he found had no effective message for combating the view that the White House proposed 'time horizon' is essentially the same as a phased withdrawal. Domestic news covered stocks trading low on Wall St., hyping the Olympics, and Osama bin Laden's driver going to trial. On the international front, the Serbian General accused of genocide is going to court while a Russian report indicates Russia may place bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapon loads in Cuba as a response to NATO bases/missile defense stations in Eastern Europe. And finally, if you are seeking the perfect pedicure, the national networks all focused on a special salon in Alexandria, VA that offers a service where fish are used to nibble off dead skin.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: Giuliani touts surge, similarity in views to McCain while claiming big difference between a time horizon and a withdrawal
2. NBC: Giuliani repeats support of surge, attacks Reid and Obama for seeking to 'lose'
3. CNN: Giuliani says never give timetable for withdrawal, NYT guilty of censorship
4. FNC: Bash reports on McCain's domestic activities while Obama is away overseas
5. FNC: Christian conservatives, Dobson, unenthusiastic of choice between Obama and McCain
6. MSNBC: McCain surrogate Blackburn confronted for saying Obama not listening to Iraqis

LOCAL COVERAGE
7. WGME-CBS-ME: Protesters greet McCain in Maine [no clip]
8. WCSH-NBC-ME: Lack of McCain support in low-income oil assistance [no clip]
9. COMEDY: Jon Stewart mentions McCain foreign policy gaffe [no clip]

Clips:
Highlight #1
Giuliani Claims Big Difference Between Time Horizon and Withdrawal (MSNBC 07/22/08)
WILLIE GEIST: Is Iraq at all coming around to Barack Obama's position?

RUDY GIULIANI: I think its dramatically the opposite. I mean a year ago- I was in the campaign a year ago. Barack Obama was calling for no surge, pullout, which would have been big loss for the United States. The only reason Barack Obama is able to make this trip to Iraq is the surge that he didn't support worked which I think says something about his lack of experience in foreign policy. If Barack Obama had been President, we would have had a major loss in Iraq, we would not be talking about a surge working, we would not tentative pullout dates, and I have the same position I've always had about this and I think it's the sound one – pull out happens on success. If that's 2010, wonderful. And the only reason that would be the case is the soldiers did such a wonderful job with the surge. To give the enemy a timetable of your retreat, has never happened at a time of war. That would be a terrible mistake. That was a big mistake when Barack Obama did it a year ago, the facts have proven that. And I think its going to hurt him a lot in the Presidential campaign. First of all he was dead wrong about the surge.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Have the White House putting out a time horizon, which I'm sorry I don't see a lot of difference between a time horizon-

GIULIANI: Big difference.

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BRZEZINSKI: Really?

GIULIANI: Sure you talk about maybe if the facts dictate it you could get out in 2010, 2011, 2012, you don't give a time table.

BRZEZINSKI: That's a shift though for the administration. They used to talk about no timelines, not talking about time at all because its dangerous, and now they're seeing a shift, because the surge appears to be working.

GIULIANI: Well, the President said a year and a half ago, withdraw on success. We are now having success. It seems to me the only reason we can realistically and seriously talk about withdrawal is because we're having success. He wouldn't talk about it when we had failure. That makes sense. If you're getting to a point where you're having success, you can start talking about withdrawing troops. They have drawn back some of the surge. Not all of the surge I think at this point, although there are more troops there than in 2007.

BRZEZINSKI: So where does that leave John McCain?

GIULIANI: It leaves John McCain in the very enviable position of having been the strongest proponent of the surge against tremendous criticism in the Senate, particularly from Barack Obama. John McCain turns out to be right, I know the media has a hard time of this, but Obama turns out to be completely wrong.

BRZEZINSKI: You could argue though if you continue the path that McCain is putting forward that our troops are going to be worn thin and not used in areas they are needed. When you think of whats happening in Pakistan, and when you think of what is happening in Afghanistan, and you think of some of the problems percolating in Iran, are we going to be ready if we continue this engagement at this level, and do we need to be continuing at this level. Do we need to quote win?

GIULIANI: Mika, you can say that, but it would turn out to be wrong. John McCain has turned out to be right. That by having the surge, We are now able to draw down troops. And we're able to draw down troops in a way in which America should draw down troops. And you ask me should America win, the only person I can think of that didn't want America to win was Harry Reid when he announced prematurely that America had lost in Iraq. Of course we have to win. It's not about winning like a baseball game. It's about avoiding chaos in the Middle East, it's about avoiding civil war there, it's about having an American ally next to a country that is dangerous to the United States-Iran. Rather than having a country that is an ally of Iran. These are all fundamental issues of foreign policy, which I think Barack Obama misses because in the coverage of Barack Obama, we've missed how inexperienced he is.

Highlight #2
Giuliani Touts Surge, Attacks Obama and Reid For Not Supporting It (NBC 07/22/08)
RUDY GIULIANI: Good morning, David.

DAVID GREGORY: Thinking about Veepstakes, you know Senator McCain well. You're an astute observer of the political landscape. I won't ask you who, but what kind of Vice President, what is Senator McCain need in a Vice President?

GIULIANI: He needs the same thing any Presidential candidate needs; he needs someone who can be President of the United States, particularly in the times we live in. Threat of terrorism, the significant problems we face in foreign policy, domestic policy. You need someone who can step right in, where the American people can accept that person as being just as qualified as the Presidential candidates.

GREGORY: That'll be the top consideration?

GIULIANI: I think so […]

GREGORY: Let me turn to Iraq this morning. Lot of news, Senator Obama on this trip and he said late last night that if he had it to do over again, he would not support the troop surge in Iraq. McCain has already been critical about that. What do you think that should say to voters about his view of the war.

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GIULIANI: I don't understand what Obama is saying. He goes to Iraq to go on a fact-finding mission. And the facts that he finds are that violence is down 70, 80%, that everyone believes, particularly the military commanders he's taking to that it's a great success, the only reason that al-Maliki is talking about possible withdrawal in 2010 is because the surge has worked, that's the only way he could be talking about something like that. And we don't know if it will happen or not depending on the facts on the ground. So I think it either indicates Senator Obama is not on a fact finding mission because the facts don't seem to affect him or Senator Obama has a stubbornness of wanting to stick to his political position, which now turns out to be incorrect. The position he took a year ago, to oppose the surge, would have left us with a great loss and a Middle East in chaos right. The position that was the correct one that turned out historically to be correct is the position that we should have done the surge.

GREGORY: Alright, but let's take on this argument a little that because Mr. Mayor as you know, Senator McCain has effectively chalked up Obama's position on Iraq to naivety, that he's effectively called for surrender, and yet to sticking to an idea of a 6 month phased withdrawal from Iraq, that has ultimately been validated by the Iraqi prime minister, hasn't that effectively refuted that argument?

GIULIANI: Of course not, you wouldn't be there if the surge didn't work. Unless you wanted to pull out the troops. In the midst of chaos, unless you wanted to create civil war in Iraq. These are the facts that Senator Obama ignored a year ago. It now turns out had you not had the surge, either we would be in a much worse situation in Iraq, or as the Democrats and Harry Reid wanted to do, would have declared that we would have losed and pulled out.

GREGORY: Do you think Obama lacks sound foreign policy judgment on Iraq?

GIULIANI: I think he lacks experience. I think its clear. Actually I think there is nothing clearer in this campaign that Senator Obama doesn't have the usual that a Presidential candidate has and particularly at a time as sensitive as this.

GREGORY: But he wants to focus on Pakistan, Iran, all those areas in Afghanistan, something you called for during your Presidential campaign.

GIULIANI: We all called for that, including Senator McCain. We had the exact same position on it. We were talking about it long before Senator Obama was talking about it. We should put more emphasis on Pakistan, and Afghanistan, that region. I've been calling for that for 2 years. And even longer. After all, we don't want the Taliban to reemerge after the good work we did in 2002. And they are reemerging.

Highlight #3
Giuliani: Never Give a Timeline for Withdrawal, Times *Guilty of Censorship* (CNN 07/22/08 7:59am)
KIRAN CHETRY: Rudy Giuliani . . . said Obama's trip highlights his inexperience and he joins me now.

RUDY GIULIANI: It's extraordinary. It's going to be his first trip on Germany. His first trip to Germany, he's running for president of the United States.

CHETRY: . . . he didn't have any missteps in any of the countries.

GIULIANI: I think he did. The interview I saw last night saying he would vote the exactly the same way on the surge now after having gone there so what kind of fact-finding trip is this? It's just to find the facts that he wants. The reality is that Iraq is now 80% safer than it was a year ago before surge . . . everyone is talking about the fact it's been successful, and the reason we can talk about withdrawal on success rather than withdrawal with loss and ignominy, which is what we were talking about earlier is because the surge was successful . . .

CHETRY: Let me ask you this, because . . . it appears that Barack Obama and Iraq's president are on the same page talking about 16 months when we'd see a majority of U.S. troops out of Iraq.

GIULIANI: Somehow I knew it would be a favorable headline for Barack Obama. How did I guess that? How did I know this was going to result –

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CHETRY: Is John McCain also moving his timeline up? Because he previously said the majority of the troops out 2013 if all goes well.

GIULIANI: He did.

CHETRY: Yesterday he seemed to indicate that 2010 may not be out of the realm.

GIULIANI: The extraordinary thing about this is that Barack Obama goes to an Iraq that he wanted to pull out a year ago. Declare an American loss, and we have a victory against all of the odds, particularly most of the media predicting it. And John McCain -- if we're looking at a president who has the judgment and experience to handle foreign policy and military policy on this major call, John McCain was right, and Barack Obama was completely, absolutely wrong. Had we followed his prescription

CHIETRY: Is Barack Obama right about the 16-month timeline for when we can probably see the majority of the US. troops out?

GIULIANI: My view? My view is you never give a timeline for a withdrawal, that it is dangerous for troops to do that.

CHETRY: We got the news early this morning, in fact, that it appears one of our top allies, the UK, is giving a timeline as well, saying the majority of their troops could probably be out, especially the Basra area by 2009.

GIULIANI: First of all, I don't like the idea of timelines for withdrawal in times before, I've never heard of it before where in the middle of the war you say we're going to pull out this date, that date, this other date. You create a tremendous advantage for your enemy. You create a whole focus for knowing how to create disturbance and chaos and the exact right time . . . There is a subtlety to it. If what you're talking about is as we have success we will withdrawal and we will make the determination of when that is, and hopefully that success will continue. It will come in a year, two years or three years, that's fine.

CHETRY: Is it the United States or is it the Iraqi government to seems to be much more eager?

GIULIANI: We'll work it out together . . . first we have to establish our view and then we have to negotiate it with them . . . the president put this best a long time ago when he announced the surge. I liked the way he put it . . . he said, yes, we're going to withdraw. We're going to withdraw on success. And now because of the success of the surge -- which Barack Obama opposed, strongly, and John McCain was the strongest advocate of, because of that surge we can talk about the possibility of withdrawal in a realistic way.

CHETRY: Now, in a draft copy of the op-ed that John McCain submitted to *The New York Times* he talked about that. He talked about the surge situation. I want to ask you—

GIULIANI: Which they wouldn't publish!

CHETRY: I want to ask you about the situation. They wouldn't publish it in the current form. They said it was more a rebuttal, it was more a bashing of Barack Obama as opposed to specifics about troop withdrawals and timelines. You yourself have had op-eds. Is it a back-and-forth process?

GIULIANI: I've never read a reply that the editor is basically telling you that you have to respond to your opponent. I'm not happy with what you said. I want you to have timelines. I want you do have dates.

CHETRY: So that is something unusual. *The Times* is saying it's the back and forth that is usually?

GIULIANI: That's not the back and forth I've had. I've written many op-eds including *The New York Times*. Sometimes argue over, it's too long, it's too short. There's a paragraph or two that doesn't make sense. It's more of an analysis of your composition and your English and does that make sense. But what that report back from the *Times* is saying is that they want to change the content

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CHETRY: So they wanted more specifics? . . . it's the kind of censorship that *The New York Times* rails about, they are trying to impose on John McCain . . .

Highlight #4
Bash Reports on McCain's Activities while Obama is Away (FNC 07/22/08 6:32am)
JOHN ROBERTS: McCain says he, not Obama, has had the correct message all along and as Dana Bash tells us, the message is resonating with voters . . .

DANA BASH: . . . when John McCain was asked by reporters whether or not he's finding it hard to get attention while Barack Obama is overseas, he shrugged and said, "It is what it is." But that belies an intense effort inside the McCain camp to keep Obama from using this trip abroad to burnish his foreign policy credentials.

JOHN MCCAIN: It was the surge that was, that is, that is winning this war. He opposed it.

BASH: John McCain's message: Barack Obama may have the spotlight but I'm the one that should get the credit.

MCCAIN: When you win wars, troops come home, and we are winning. And the fact is, if we'd've done what Senator Obama wanted to do, we would've lost and would've had a wider war.

BASH: What McCain aides are trying to protect is one of the few areas where he beats Obama. Big time. Ability to be Commander in Chief. The latest *Washington Post* poll gives McCain a twenty-four point lead on the issue and some Republicans are quite alarmed at the Iraqi Prime Minister's weekend comments that appeared to support Obama's 16-month withdrawal deadline which McCain opposes. [to McCain] Does it trouble you that that seems to undercut the message that you have against Barack Obama?

MCCAIN: Doesn't in the slightest undercut the fact that it's based on conditions on the ground.

BASH: McCain pointed to the US Military commander for political back-up. Joint Chiefs Mike Mullen who said this Sunday about Obama's withdrawal plan.

MIKE MULLEN: I think the consequences could be very dangerous in that regard.

MCCAIN: I hope we'll pay attention to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, particularly someone who has no military experience whatsoever.

BASH: That line hitting Obama about lacking military experience was no accident. With everyone from the White House to the Iraqi government talking more and more about troop withdrawal, what McCain is trying to do is make this a debate about who's best to be sitting in the oval office to make tough calls on how and when to bring troops home . . .

Highlight #5
For Conservative Christians Obama/McCain Choice is Between a "Third-Rate Fireman and a First-Class Arsonist" (FNC 07/22/08 6:51am)
STEVE DOOCY: John McCain could get a crucial boost from one influential Christian conservative leader. Dr. James Dobson says he might reverse his position and endorse McCain. Could this prompt other evangelical leaders to follow suit and why is Dobson now reconsidering?

[. . .]

GRETCHEN CARLSON: I want to ask you about Dr. Dobson because he came out originally and said . . . I just really can't support John McCain and now on his radio show yesterday, he's saying, well, hmm, maybe . . . what will the influence be to the layperson?

RICHARD LANG: Well, I think it'll have more impact with lay people than it will with anybody else because Dr. Dobson has a huge following . . . it will have a big impact if he chooses to endorse Sen. McCain.

DOOCY: One of the things that Dobson said . . . . was John McCain, the lesser of two evils. He simply

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does not like Barack Obama's stance on abortion. He's pro-abortion. Is that your feeling as well?

LANG: Well, I think Sen. Obama is one of the most radically pro-abortion candidate to ever be nominated by a major party . . .

[. . .]

LANG: . . . what I hear all the time from people all across the country who are evangelicals is look, John McCain wasn't my first choice, John McCain wasn't my second choice but I'll take a third-rate fireman over a first-class arsonist and they see Barack Obama as a first-class arsonist for the things they believe in . . .

Highlight #6
Blackburn Confronted For Saying Obama Not Listening To Iraqis, Presses Support For Surge
(MSNBC 07/22/08)
RON ALLEN: Representative, Senator McCain was really pushing for Barack Obama to go to Iraq, but now it appears that Obama's plan for withdrawal really closely matches what the Iraqis are saying. So, does John McCain still believe that foreign policy, national security, is a weakness for Obama?

MARSHA BLACKBURN: Well Ron I'm going to have to tell you: Senator Obama thinks his plan matches the Iraqis and General Petraeus, then he must not have taken his earplugs out when he got out of that C130 from going into Iraq. Because what we continue to hear is that it can't be date driven, that its got to be facts on the ground that decide when troops leave.

ALLEN: But correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe the Prime Minister said he envisions U.S. troops being gone by 2010 which again matches somewhat the 16 month timeline that-

BLACKBURN: What he envisions is conditions improving and of course we know that Maliki would like to see things improve quickly-as would we-we all, we want our troops to leave in victory. And we want things to be stable in Iraq. And we know what we have to see is the right conditions on the ground. Facts have to be there. We need to be listening to the troops. We need to be listening to the generals because they're the ones that have the best measure and I've got troops that are in their 3rd deployment. Our troops from Fort Campbell are in that third deployment. I get the best information from them. I found Ron that they are the realists.

ALLEN: Let me ask you this. What does John McCain envision for the right circumstance in the ground? I believe he expects most troops to be out by the end of his first term, but at the same time he says that the surge is working and accomplishing his mission. So if the surge is working, why can't the troops leave sooner?

BLACKBURN: Well the surge is working. And I have found it so interesting that Senator Obama would say that he didn't think the surge worked then he was the beneficiary of being there, being protected by those troops who have carried that surge out and have made the surge work. It has provided improvement in Iraq. Even I was reading the transcript of an interview he had with a ABC correspondent who was recounting the amount of improvement there in Iraq and still he was denying that the surge was there. So [cross talk] create those facts how you want them to be. The point is the surge has worked. And things are better. Now there are no garauntees, everybody knows that. We all hope to see a stable secure Iraq who is a partner with us.

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From: "Haim Saban" <kussa@saban.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 1:42:31 PM
Subject: RE: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

Lol,,,,,Hebrew lessons bro,,,,Hebrew lessons,,,,so they can report what I say,,,,
I agree no issue issue

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2015 1:41 PM
To: Haim Saban
Cc: Hspeumpottsa Abedin (Huma@clintonemail.com); Laura Hartigan; Alex De Ocampo
Subject: RE: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

No big deal and not even a small deal. I'm sure it was great in Hebrew.

On Apr 19, 2015 3:01 PM, "Haim Saban" <kussa@saban.com > wrote:

> Sorry John meant to cc you,,,,
>
> **From:** Haim Saban
> **Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2015 11:53 AM
> **To:** Laura Hartigan; Alex De Ocampo
> **Cc:** Hspeumpottsa Abedin (Huma@clintonemail.com)
> **Subject:** RE: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal
>
> Huma ,,,,Laura forwarded your enquiry to me.
> It was an interview on Israeli TV in Hebrew,,,,,on the day she announced,,,,,,someone took my statement and translated it freely to English,and stated what THEY wanted to state NOT what I said.
> Never said that she opposes the deal,,,said" I don't know and if I knew I couldn't say".....they took out the part that said "I don't know",,,kept the rest and then concluded that it's a hint that she opposes,,,,,baloney stuff.,,,,,
> All questions that I am asked about policy I simply answer "I don't know",,,,,and I just praise her experience courage persistence tenacity etc,,,,no policy discussions.
> The Hill needs to go the Hebrew lessons if they want to quote Hebrew interviews.
>
> **From:** Laura Hartigan
> **Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2015 11:43 AM
> **To:** Haim Saban; Alex De Ocampo
> **Subject:** Fwd: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal
>
> Just an FYI.
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Date:** April 17, 2015 at 11:53:41 AM PDT
> > **To:** <LHartigan@saban.com >
> > **Subject: FW: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal**
> >
> > Did you guys talk to anyone in comms about this?
> > ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> > From: **Ian Sams** <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Date: Fri, Apr 17, 2015 at 1:57 PM
> > Subject: The Hill: Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal
> > To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >
> >
> > http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/239091-saban-hints-clinton-opposes-the-iran-deal

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April 17, 2015, 06:00 am

Saban hints: Clinton opposes the Iran deal

By Naomi Friedman
1454

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Just minutes before Hillary Clinton announced her candidacy for the 2016 presidential election, Israeli Channel One News interviewed Haim Saban, an American-Israeli media magnate and long-time Clinton supporter. Noticeably excited, he explained that she had waited to make the announcement until she had carefully prepared the ground for her campaign.

Then came the big question: *What is her position on the Iran deal?*

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Saban responded carefully, “She will have to, at some stage, express her opinion. But we know that in essence and in every important matter, she is committed to the security of Israel. She is a friend of the State of Israel. And we've seen this over the past 25 to 30 years. So, there won't be any problems with relations between the United States and Israel when Hillary Clinton is president. No problem. On the contrary.”

But Ya’akov Ayalon, the host of the nightly Channel One news pressed on: *And where does Hillary Clinton stand on this issue?*

"I know where she stands but I can't talk about it," Saban admitted.

"Give me a hint," Ayalon had to ask.

"I hinted to you – that I know," Saban couldn’t repress a laugh. "But I can't reveal to you things that were said behind closed doors. She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don't need to worry about this.”

The implication: Clinton is against the Iran deal.

Why? Because Israelis – across the political spectrum – are against the deal, and Saban knows this. From the extreme left of Zionist parties and partisans to the extreme right, Israelis oppose the deal. For Haaretz reporter **Ari Shavit** , it’s President Obama’s big mistake. Former Prime Minister and head of the Labor Party Ehud Barak came right out and urged the United States to tell Iran to “**dismantle or else** .” Barak said, "The Pentagon and the forces of America under the backing and probable directive of the [US] president [could] create an extremely effective means to destroy the Iranian nuclear military program over a fraction of one night.” And as the former IDF Chief of General Staff and Israeli Minister of Defense, Barak might know a thing or two about this topic.

Barak is not alone. **Israelis, across the political spectrum, want the military option on the table – on the negotiating table, where it belongs**. The debate in Israel is not whether the deal is good. It’s whether Prime Minister Netanyahu is responsible for the bad deal – by spoiling Israel’s relations with the United States, or whether Obama is responsible for the bad deal by virtue of his unrealistic idealism and tendency to over-compromise.

So when Yaakov Ayalon says, “Give me a hint” and Haim Saban says “I hinted to you – that I know,” and just after he’s said “there won’t be any problems with relations between the United States and Israel when Hillary Clinton is president,” that means he is convinced that Hillary Clinton is against the Iran deal.

And this is big news. Israelis have been anxiously waiting for Hillary Clinton to openly state her position on the Iran deal. Congress is the last bastion of hope for Israel. Well before the P5+1 negotiations in Lausanne, Israeli news analysts focused intently on the Corker-Menendez bill. If Hillary Clinton comes out against the deal, more Democrats will join Republicans in demanding that Iran abandon its nuclear ambitions. And this is what Israelis, across the political spectrum, are praying for.

Friedman is an American-Israeli writer and editor in the fields of political science, history, and information technology.

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/24/2008 2:40:50 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/24/08

Main Topics: McCain on Iraq, McCain's health

Summary of Shift: In McCain news commentators and anchors mainly noted the difficulty McCain has had with getting news comparable to Obama's while the democratic candidate is abroad. In Bakubah province of Iraq a female suicide bomber killed several, including Iraqi government officials. President Bush declares 15 Texas counties to be major disaster areas. Three ballistic missile crewmembers charged with guarding a nuclear silo caught asleep with launch codes on their person.

Highlights
1) NBC: McCain hints at a timetable for withdrawal
2) MSNBC: Olbermann suggests Iraq is McCain's second chance at Vietnam
3) CNN: Gupta reminds the viewing audience of McCain's melanoma

No clips
1) FNC: Jim Vandehei of *Politico* says, 'I can't imagine a worse month for John McCain.
2) FNC: Former McCain comm. director suggests ways McCain could get some positive media attention
3) CNN: Jeffrey Toobin says McCain 'looks angry' when talking about Barack Obama
4) FNC: Terry Keenan reminds viewers that, 'McCain may not be known for his business acumen,' but still suggests his economic plan is 'the right plan'
5) CNN: Lance Armstrong says he expects more from McCain because he is a cancer survivor

Clips
Highlight #1
McCain Suggests a Large Withdrawal from Iraq, under His Presidency, by 2013 (NBC 07/24/08 7:05pm)
BRIAN WILLIAMS: He's campaigning hard at home in the US today. Where he strongly pointed out his view that Barack Obama should be too. […]

KELLY O'DONNELL: Today in Columbus, Ohio, John McCain chose to visit a neighborhood known as German Village, a spot intended to contrast Obama's Berlin event. Do you believe it's appropriate to hold a political rally of that scale in a foreign country?

JOHN MCCAIN: I would rather speak at a rally or a gathering, any place outside of the United States after I am President of the United States. But that's a judgment that Senator Obama and the American people will make.

O'DONELL: McCain made his own stinging judgment this week on Obama and the Iraq war.

MCCAIN: Senator Obama would rater lose a war in order to win a political campaign.

O'DONNELL: Do you believe Obama would really be willing to lose the war in Iraq?

MCCAIN: I don't think he understands the serious consequences of failure in Iraq. Therefore he treats it as just another political issue.

O'DONNELL: Rather than a timetable for withdrawal, McCain says more American soldiers will leave Iraq based on improved conditions.

MCCAIN: I am sure that by the end of my first term we'll be largely out of there.

[…]

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O'DONNELL: Asked about recent gaffes made on the trail, McCain chalks that up to his unscripted style and constant exposure to the Press. You hear the whispers of the people say could it be age. How do you respond?

MCCAIN: I guess my response is, very seriously, these are tough times in America and in the world. The economy is in worst shape then it's been in for a long time. They need a steady hand at the tiller. That's what I'm going to try to convince them of and I think I can do it.

Highlight #2
Olbermann on McCain's Many Iraq Surge Gaffe's (MSNBC 07/24/08 08:36pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: If John McCain starts spitting out these gaffes any more quickly they'll have to make him the host of TV's Greatest Bloopers. Until this week there was not any dispute practically or semantically as to what the surge in Iraq was nor when it began, or who started it. Nor was there any dispute over what was the first major conflict after 9/11, our attack on the Taliban in Afghanistan. Now Senator McCain has insisted everyone else's understanding of the facts of both of these events is wrong and he alone is right. Tuesday night he told CBS that Colonel McFarland was contacted by one of the major Sunni Sheiks, because of the surge we were able to go out and protect that sheik and others and it began the Anbar Awakening. I mean that's just a matter of history. Of course that Sheik was murdered a year later. [...] Then yesterday afternoon in front of the cheese aisle […] he started claiming that the surge is actually the same thing as the entire counterinsurgency operation in Anbar province. […] And now today, […] the Senator further honed his re-definition of what the surge actually is and reassigned the credit for it.

[Clip of CBS McCain Interview] MCCAIN: […] The surge is a strategy. It's political, it's military, it's the troops, it's hold, it's really clear and hold […]

OLBERMANN: […] Also from that CBS interview […]

MCCAIN: […] The consequences of failure and defeat of the United States of America in the first major conflict since 9/11 […]

OLBERMANN: The first major conflict since 9/11 was Iraq? What was Afghanistan? What is Afghanistan, chopped liver?

[...]

EUGENE ROBINSON: I think he does believe what he's saying. [...] I think he really sees Iraq through this kind of prism or context of Vietnam. [...]

OLBERMANN: Yea Iraq as some old guy's second chance at Vietnam in their lifetime has long been philosophical and psychological subject […]

Highlight #3
McCain Teams with Another Famous Cancer Survivor (CNN 07/24/08 6:15pm)
WOLF BLITZER: The fight against cancer; Senator John McCain is talking about it tonight at the second annual Livestrong Summit as it's called. […] Tell us what's going on Sanjay, because we know that cancer is a subject close to the heart of Lance Armstrong who suffered from cancer as well as Senator McCain who had melanoma.

SANJAY GUPTA: […] arguably they're two of the most well-known cancer survivors in the country and […] they're gonna share the stage tonight to talk about cancer. […] We expect to hear some of the most personal accounts of Senator McCain's history of melanoma. As you know, he's had melanoma four times, the most serious of which was in 2000. He still has that swelling on the left side of his face, those scars on the left side of his neck as reminders. [...] Senator McCain's probably going to talk about what he would do as president, if he were president, to address cancer—specifically, clinical trials and smoking cessation or some of the things we know he's pretty passionate about […].

--

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Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

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From:	NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	8/17/2015 11:56:16 PM
Subject:	First Draft on Politics: Trump's Immigration Plan Casts Rivals as the Rope in a Tug of War

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What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Trump's Immigration Plan Casts Rivals as the Rope in a Tug of War

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Protesters outside the Republican Party Lincoln Day event in Birch Run, Mich., last week, where Donald J. Trump was the keynote speaker. Rebecca Cook/Reuters

By Alan Rappeport

Good Tuesday morning. Cameras and microphones flocked to ***Donald J. Trump*** *on Monday as he fulfilled his civic responsibilities and reported for jury duty in Manhattan. But it is his strict immigration proposals that continue to gain widespread attention and expose tension in the party over which crucial voting bloc is best to alienate and upset: Mr. Trump's already angry supporters or Hispanics.*

Republicans were hoping to leave their immigration woes behind, but six months before the Iowa caucuses, **Mr. Trump** has made that impossible.

By articulating his policy of rounding up immigrants and building a big wall, Mr. Trump has forced the party to talk about immigration in the terms of its most ardent activists. So much for Republicans wooing Hispanic voters with a more moderate tone.

"Chasing extremists on immigration to win the primary will end the Republican Party's ability to win the general election in 2016, and it will destroy the party," said **Kica Matos**, a spokeswoman for the Fair Immigration Reform Movement. "If you alienate the fastest-growing voting block in the country you cannot win today, and you cannot survive tomorrow."

Conservatives walk a tightrope in both directions, running the risk of upsetting their base by breaking too far from Mr. Trump, who leads in the polls. But a Gallup survey this month found that just 31 percent of Republicans favor deporting all illegal immigrants — as Mr. Trump wants to do.

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The tension in the party was evident on Monday when **Gov. Chris Christie** of New Jersey said that Mr. Trump's plan to build a wall "didn't make any sense" and when **Gov. Scott Walker** of Wisconsin echoed Mr. Trump's support for ending birthright citizenship, suggesting to Iowans that he had inspired much of Mr. Trump's overall plan.

On Monday evening, **Lorella Praeli**, the America Latino outreach director for **Hillary Rodham Clinton**'s campaign, released a statement linking Mr. Walker to Mr. Trump, and both of them to the rest of the party.

"It is disturbing that Republican presidential candidates continue to embrace extreme anti-immigrant positions as core pieces of their immigration platform," Ms. Praeli said.

As Mrs. Clinton heads to Nevada on Tuesday to meet with members of the A.F.L.-C.I.O., she will most likely be eager to resume the debate.

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What We're Watching Today

- **Jeb Bush** will attend a national security forum in South Carolina hosted by Americans for Peace, Prosperity and Security. Mr. Bush, who has been lagging in the polls despite his presumed front-runner status when he entered the race, regained some national attention with recent speeches linking the rise of the Islamic State to the policies of **President Obama** and **Mrs. Clinton**'s tenure as secretary of state.

- The Des Moines Register's Soapbox continues as **Senator Marco Rubio** of Florida and **Gov. John R. Kasich** of Ohio take their turn with the bipartisan, and sometimes vocal , crowd at the Iowa State Fair.

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- And **Mrs. Clinton**'s appearance before labor leaders in Nevada is the latest round in the Democratic fight for the A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s endorsement, which the group has hinted it will take its time announcing — a seeming effort for leverage to influence the eventual Democratic nominee's policy positions.

Walker to Release Plan on Repealing and Replacing Health Care Law

Mr. Walker, who is seeking to re-enter the national conversation after slipping poll numbers and a lackluster outing in the first Republican debate, will tackle a subject on Tuesday that many of his rivals have so far ducked: a detailed replacement for **Mr. Obama's** health care plan.

In a speech in Minnesota, Mr. Walker plans to take aim at the Republican-controlled Congress for failing to "put a bill on President Obama's desk to repeal Obamacare," according to a preview of his remarks.

Still, many who follow Republican proposals for replacing the Affordable Care Act will find the details of Mr. Walker's Patient Freedom Plan familiar. It eliminates the individual mandate to buy health insurance and gives individuals tax credits to buy coverage, up to $3,000 for someone over 50. It allows plans to be sold across state lines. It promises tort reform.

Mr. Walker would revamp two of the Affordable Care Act's most popular features: Instead of requiring insurance companies to allow people up to 26 years old to stay on their parents' plans, states would decide the matter; and instead of a prohibition on insurers discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions, Mr. Walker would give federal aid to states for high-risk pools.

He would pay for his own plan by lowering the cost of Medicaid, largely by turning it into a block grant to states, and by ending the tax deduction for costly employer-provided plans.

An issue Mr. Walker does not address: How many of the estimated 16.5 million people who gained coverage under the law would lose it under repeal, and how many would be covered under the Walker proposals?

– Trip Gabriel

Bulletins: Context for Trump; Backing for Kasich; Megadonor for Cruz

- Though **Mr. Trump**'s immigration plan stretched the boundaries of previous conservative platforms, some of his proposals are based on assertions that have been broadly debunked.

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- **Mr. Kasich** is seen as a moderate in the Republicans' rambunctious field of candidates, but the governor of one of the country's most conservative states, **Robert Bentley** of Alabama, gave him his endorsement on Monday , providing a potential boon to Mr. Kasich's perceived bona fides.

- And **Senator Ted Cruz** of Texas's team has confirmed the identity of a previously mysterious megadonor: **Ben Nash**, the chief executive of PCS Wireless, who donated $250,000 to the Stand for Principle PAC tied to Mr. Cruz.

Senate Republicans Reach Outside Senate to Twist Arms on Iran

With August past its midpoint, Senate Republicans are stepping up the pressure on Democrats in advance of the September debate over the Iran nuclear agreement . And not just on the Democrats currently serving in the Senate.

"Will These Democrats Side With **President Obama** or the American People?" asked the headline of a news statement issued on Monday by the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

In addition to three House members seeking Senate seats in Florida and Illinois, the release singles out other potential Democratic Senate challengers, including **Ted Strickland** in Ohio and **Catherine Cortez Masto** in Nevada, and accuses them of being evasive on the Iran deal. The Republicans also pointedly note that **Senator Chuck Schumer** of New York, the presumed leader of the next crop of Senate Democrats, has come out against the deal.

The Democratic Senate contenders say they are still studying the deal, and they seem in no hurry to go public with their views despite Republican attempts to smoke out even the Democrats who won't have to vote on the deal. But the push by Republicans is evidence that they see their virtually united opposition to the Iran agreement as a political winner and that they intend to make the issue central to the 2016 Senate campaign season.

– Carl Hulse

Our Other Favorites From The Times

- Following the declared hopes of congressional Republicans, officials in some Republican states are moving to cut public funding for Planned Parenthood or to investigate it in response to videos claiming that it profits from fetal tissue sales.

- **Mrs. Clinton**, who is having some difficulty overcoming the perception that she is unapproachable on the campaign trail, is also widening her embrace of

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donations from “super PACs”: Her focus on campaign finance overhaul has snagged on the financial gap between her campaign and those of Republicans raising vast sums through the outside groups.

- In an interview with The New York Times magazine, **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont discussed the Black Lives Matter movement, **Mr. Trump**’s ascent, and his “elevator pitch for Socialism.”

- And on Room for Debate, a Times Editorial Department blog, college students discuss the issues that matter most to them this elections season, including climate change, jobs and, of course, student debt.

- The text message has suddenly become a go-to tactic for candidates when they need to cut through the noise online and reach supporters quickly and directly.

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What We’re Reading Elsewhere

- **Senator Rand Paul** of Kentucky, The Associated Press writes, has pledged to contribute $450,000 to finance a proposed switch in the state from a primary to a caucus system, a move that would “allow Paul to run for president and re-election to his U.S. Senate seat simultaneously without violating a state law banning candidates from appearing on the ballot twice.”

- Writing for CNN, **Martin O’Malley**, the former Maryland governor, offered a plan to address the cholera epidemic in Haiti, arguing that the United Nations should acknowledge its role in the outbreak — it has been tied to peacekeeping troops — and that “the United States must assume a greater leadership role in our own hemisphere.”

- And **Mr. Cruz** has “dispatched” a campaign operative to Guam, The Guardian reports, to try and secure the territory’s nine delegates.

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- Reports of possible presidential candidacies by **Al Gore** and **Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.** are just reflective of the desire among reporters for a candidate who can "hypnotize the press," Politico says.

- **Mr. Trump**'s immigration plan is getting some praise on the left for seeking to expand the H-1B visa program to help skilled foreign workers stay in the United States, Breitbart.com reports.

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/18/2015 6:29:24 AM
Subject: Re: Mark Nichols Following Up

De'Ara from Huma's team has spoken with him and is available to join this meeting now if you'd like her to. She is working on an engagement strategy for Arkansas/former Clinton folks. Also flagging that there is a vetting flag on Wesley Clark, who made some unfortunate comments about sending people to internment camps. The campaign is not working with Mr. CLark

Mark has raised about 30k in DC.

BIO- MARK NICOLS

Mark Nichols is a Principal at Wesley K. Clark & Associates, a strategic advisory firm, where he advises clients on international energy, defense and homeland security strategy. Previously, he was Senior Vice President at Rodman and Renshaw, a full-service investment bank; Vice President of Clark for President; and Special Assistant to General Clark. He has also taught U.S. foreign policy at the University of Arkansas' Clinton School of Public Service. In the Clinton Administration, Mr. Nichols served as Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of State, where he worked with the EU and other European allies to rebuild the Balkans, and, prior to that, at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where he developed and implemented U.S. foreign assistance programs for Russia and the former Soviet republics. Mr. Nichols is a graduate of Columbia University and Bard College and serves on the boards of several non profit institutions.

On Tue, Aug 18, 2015 at 1:21 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Found it.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2015
> Subject: Mark Nichols Following Up
> To: Mark Nichols <mnichols5@gmail.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> Milia can set something up.
>
> On Wednesday, August 12, 2015, Mark Nichols <mnichols5@gmail.com > wrote:
>> Hi John. I still want to get together with you before the end of the summer. How about sometime next week? Thanks, Mark
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>> On Jul 12, 2015, at 6:06 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>>> I'm going to be in DC with Hillary who has meetings on the Hill. Next time?
>>>
>>> On Sunday, July 12, 2015, Mark Nichols <mnichols5@gmail.com > wrote:
>>>> Hi John. It's Mark Nichols. We met recently at McGuire Woods. You invited me to contact you about getting together either in New York or in DC. I met with Huma in March and was hoping to meet with you then, but you weren't around. In any event, I will be in New York on Tuesday and would like to come by the campaign to see you. Please let me know if you have any time to meet. Thanks, Mark

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--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Rebeen Pasha" <rebeen.pasha@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/10/2015 5:32:08 AM
Subject: Re: Iraqi-Kurdish refugee intro at Marguerite Thompson's house

Dear John,

I hope that this message finds you well.

I also been meaning to follow-up with you about the campaign from a MENA policy perspective, specifically anti-ISIS and preventing extremism, but I believe it's even more timely now, given situation in Iraq, Turkey's events, and Russia's involvement.

I just got back from Iraqi Kurdistan (aka KRG area) two weeks ago. The situation was already dire with economic burden of ISIS and refugees on one hand (mostly Arab Sunni) and the inability of the government to engage young people either in the economy or in the state/democracy. Now mass protests and strikes are on, turning violent. The concern is that it could easily go out of hand and destabilize the region, counter to US interests and the fight against ISIS, if the KRG does not listen to some of the basic demands (e.g. salaries haven't been paid in 3 months) and embark on a comprehensive youth engagement PR, strategy, and services. However, the issue is broader than that as a complementary development and youth engagement approach is needed by the US in the whole region, or else we'll always have to be on the defense.

Because of my unique background as Iraqi Kurdish asylum to US in 1996, ex USAID Middle East Bureau senior advisor, and networks in US and there, I believe I can help, short-term and long-term. My work is building stability and preventing extremism through youth engagement and entrepreneurship. I'm aiming to start assessments, partnerships, strategy, and solutions for youth engagement in economy and society. And I believe when I'm able to gain support to work there, part of the work should include assessing and addressing drivers of youth migration, disenfranchisement, and support to terrorism (sympathy, financing, or joining). KRG's stability and success is critical to regional security and fighting ISIS. And that cannot be done without addressing youth (2/3rd of population below 30) and the economy of KRG or the region.

I'd love your thoughts, to talk more about the campaign, and any introductions to colleagues you think appropriate in USG or outside . I can share more info as well.

Looking forward t hear from you,

And all the best,

Rebeen

On Mon, Jun 15, 2015 at 8:57 AM, Rebeen Pasha <rebeen.pasha@gmail.com > wrote:

> Dear John,
>
> Absolutely, I'd love that.
>
> Just getting to New York for a Middle East healthcare summit.
>
> Please get my best regards to Mary as well, and I look forward to helping the campaign.
>
> Sincerely,
> Rebeen
>
> On Jun 15, 2015 6:24 AM, "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > Let's stay in touch.
> >
> > On Friday, June 12, 2015, Rebeen Pasha <rebeen.pasha@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Dear John,
> > >
> > > It was beyond a pleasure to meet you and speak with you last week at Marguerite's house. It is so inspiring to be part of this movement to get Hillary elected, something I've been dreaming of since my family and I were evacuated to the US by President Clinton after my father was assassinated by Saddam's regime in front of our eyes. She's the inspiration that made me realize public health is the way to take responsibility for my part of the world, and not take this American Dream for granted. And I literally used to watch her speeches on my computer as prep, when I was with PEPFAR and later USAID, after coming

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back from WHO & UNDP in Iraq.

I meant to write immediately last weekend, but unfortunately had a shoulder injury just the next day, and I'm just recovering from it (and the anti-inflammatory medicines). But I did make it to the event with Robby last night, and I was glad to be part of that support platform, and also meet Amanda in person, with whom I'm following up to work on Virginia diaspora relations for the campaign. I'm currently working on a few startups and new NGOs, one of them on countering extremism through youth engagement, entrepreneurship, and economic growth in Iraq, and the other two across global LGBT civil society capacity building, and HIV vaccine.

I know you're quite busy and I'm just happy to have met you after so many years of professionally stalking your work in service of our country and also CAP--a place I would love to be a part of some day--but I do hope to keep in touch and see you and talk more about how I can help now with fundraising, comms, and operations and later with Middle East, global health, and inclusive economic growth.

Sincerely,

Rebeen

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From: "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/16/2015 11:49:40 AM
Subject: Fwd: CLIP | Yahoo: Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Tyson Brody <tbrody@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 4:13 PM
Subject: CLIP | Yahoo: Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection
Michael Isikoff

Hillary Clinton and Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud prior to a State Department meeting in 2012. (Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images)

The Saudi government, under increasing criticism over civilian casualties from its airstrikes in Yemen and a harsh crackdown on political dissidents at home, has just hired a powerhouse Washington, D.C., lobbying firm headed by a top Hillary Clinton fundraiser — an arrangement that critics charge raises fresh questions about the influence that foreign government lobbyists could have on her campaign.

The Saudi contract with the Podesta Group, owned by veteran Washington lobbyist and Clinton campaign bundler Tony Podesta, calls for the firm to provide “public relations” and other services on behalf of the royal court of King Salman.

It included an initial “project fee” payment of $200,000 last month and unspecified further sums over the course of the next year, according to documents recently filed with the Justice Department Foreign Agents Registration Act office.

The retention comes at a time the Saudis are being condemned by United Nations officials over reports that its bombings against Houthi strongholds in Yemen’s civil war has resulted in the deaths and injuries of hundreds of innocent civilians, including children.

Adding to the international pressure, the Saudis are also facing criticism from human rights groups over its continued refusal to allow basic rights to women (e.g. the freedom to drive cars). They are also being criticized for their hardline domestic suppression of political dissidents, with draconian punishments such as the sentence — by beheading — recently given to a 20-year-old Shiite political protester.

“They are very nervous about an American policy change, and so they are betting on the horse they think will win — Hillary Clinton,” said Ali Al-Ahmad, a Saudi analyst with the Institute for Gulf Affairs, and a frequent critic of the regime, about the hiring of the Podesta Group.

The Podesta Group is now on a roster of a half-dozen D.C. lobbying firms representing the Saudis, including the giant international law firm of DLA Piper and the firm of Hogan Lovells, whose principal on the Saudi account is former Minnesota Republican Sen. Norm Coleman, who chairs the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super-Pac that is a major source of House GOP campaign funds. (Former Texas congressman Tom Loeffler, a top bundler for Jeb Bush’s presidential campaign, for years representedthe Saudis, but his current firm, Akin Gump, now lobbies for the United Arab Emirates, among other foreign clients.)

But the retention of the Podesta Group has gotten attention in Washington lobbying circles because of its unusually close ties to Hillary Clinton’s campaign: Tony Podesta is the brother and former business partner of Clinton’s campaign chairman, John Podesta. He is also a prolific Democratic Party fundraiser who is among 43

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Washington lobbyists (many of whom also represent foreign governments) listed as Clinton campaign bundlers in reports filed by the campaign with the Federal Election Commission.

The reports disclose that Podesta had raised $140,175 for the Clinton campaign through Sept. 30. Two weeks ago, just days after filing its Saudi contract with the Justice Department, Podesta held a Clinton campaign fundraiser at his home that offered fine Italian food cooked by five gourmet chefs, including himself and his brother, the campaign chairman.

The Podesta Group point man on the Saudi account is David Adams, who previously served as assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs in 2011 and 2012, making him Clinton's chief Capitol Hill lobbyist for her last two years as secretary of state, according to Justice Department filings reviewed by Yahoo News.

But Tony Podesta, while calling himself "a proud Clinton bundler," vigorously denied that the Saudi contract had anything to do with his efforts to elect her president. "I've never had a conversation with Hillary Clinton or anybody in the campaign about the work of the firm," Podesta said, when reached by Yahoo News on his cell phone while he was dining at a restaurant in Sicily. "We represent a dozen foreign governments around the world — we do good work for them. And it has nothing to do with the Hillary Clinton campaign."

Asked for comment, Clinton campaign spokesman Josh Schwerin emailed: "Hillary Clinton has a strong record of standing up for human rights, and has spent her career fighting for women and girls around the world. She's proven that she cannot be intimidated — let alone influenced — to sacrifice these core principles. And so as president she will continue to stand up to countries like Saudi Arabia that don't allow women to have equality. … Make no mistake, when it comes to U.S. national security, she is guided only by the best interests of our country."

The Saudis have longstanding ties to the Clintons: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is among the largest donors to the Clinton Foundation, contributing between $10 million and $25 million, according to the foundation's website (which only discloses figures in broad categories, not precise sums.) Bill Clinton has also received hefty fees for speeches in Saudi Arabia, including $600,000 for two talks while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. Last September 4, Bill Clinton met with King Salman for what was described by one source as a "brief courtesy visit" at the Four Seasons Hotel. Two weeks later, on Sept. 18, the Podesta Group filed papers with the Justice Department reporting that it had been retained by an entity called "the Center for Studies and Media Affairs at the Saudi Royal Court."

Tony Podesta speaking to Associated Press reporters in Philadelphia, September 2004. (Photo: Jacqueline Larma/AP)

Podesta said he was "unaware" of the Four Seasons hotel meeting between the King and the former president and that his negotiations to represent the Saudis had been going on for several months before that. He declined, however, to talk about precisely what his firm had been retained to do for the Saudis. "We don't speak on or off the record about what we do for our clients," he said.

Podesta is far from the only Clinton campaign bundler to be lobbying for foreign governments or their interests. A review of the Clinton campaign's bundler list by Yahoo News found lobbyists representing the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, South Korea, Morocco, Japan, and Hong Kong. (Bush, who among GOP candidates has the most entrenched ties to K Street, received bundled contributions from lobbyists with firms that represent the People's Republic of China, Turkey, and South Korea.)

Two of the Clinton lobbyist-bundlers, Richard Sullivan and David Jones, are principals in a firm that, until late last year, represented the Russia Direct Investment Fund, a sovereign wealth fund co-founded by Vladimir Putin when he was prime minister. Another Clinton campaign bundler, former New Jersey Sen. Robert Torricelli, is the lobbyist for the Paris-based National Council for Resistance in Iran, a controversial Iranian dissident group that for years had been on the State Department's terrorism list, but was "de-listed" three years ago.

In her campaign, Hillary Clinton has pledged to push for sweeping campaign finance reform that will "end the stranglehold that wealthy interests have over our political system" and "curb the outsized influence of big money in American politics." But the role of so many well-heeled foreign lobbyists in Clinton's campaign fundraising

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apparatus is “very troubling” and represents a substantial retreat from eight years ago, when then candidate Barack Obama refused to take campaign money at all from any registered lobbyists, said Craig Holman of Public Citizen, a public interest group that has long pushed for wholesale changes in the campaign-finance system.

“This is classic influence-peddling,” said Holman

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 4:40:09 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I was kidding!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> Not ninnies.
>
> We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > That's because you love your own joke.
> >
> > But I think it is okay.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I don't think so.
> > >
> > > On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
> > > LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.
> > >
> > > Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.
> > >
> > > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > > **Grunwald Communications**
> > > **202 973-9400**
> > >
> > > -----Original Message-----

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From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace

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so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

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Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/24/2015 12:17:11 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Civil war makes Ben Carson's campaign chaotic

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PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

Civil war makes Ben Carson's campaign chaotic

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Ben Carson spoke to The Washington Post in the basement of his Maryland home yesterday. (Photo by Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA: A long-simmering battle between Ben Carson's business manager and his campaign manager is coming to a head.

— Many who supported Ben Carson in the fall are backing Ted Cruz in the winter. The retired neurosurgeon has plummeted in the polls since coming under the white hot spotlight of media scrutiny. The aftermath of the Paris attacks highlighted his lack of foreign policy experience. The soft-spoken, mild-mannered temperament that the conservative base once found so appealing no longer fits the angry mood of the moment.

— Looking to revive his flagging campaign, Carson told The Post in an interview yesterday that he is going to make changes. "I'm looking at every aspect of the campaign right now," he told Robert Costa and Jose A. DelReal. "Everything is on the table, every job is on the table. And we're going to analyze it very carefully." He added that he wanted to more efficiently spend money and that he would ask staff to take pay cuts.

— What happened next did not exactly leave the impression that Carson is getting his operation under control:

- Carson declined during the sit-down in his basement – he was alone and unstaffed – to say whether campaign manager Barry Bennett would remain in charge.
- A few hours later, the campaign distributed a statement that quoted Carson saying all of his senior advisers would remain in place "with my full confidence."
- Then Carson went on CNN in the 10 p.m. hour to criticize The Post's story, calling it overhyped "sensationalism," even though it was based on a recorded interview. "They were convinced that I was gonna fire everybody and we were going to just go in a completely different direction, and that's absolutely not true," he told host Don Lemon. Carson walked back his comments about an impending shake-up: "The key word there is *'may.'* We're always going to be looking at it. … No one is ever 100 percent guaranteed that they're always going to be there."

— Sources tell Bob and Jose that Carson has been interviewing consultants for prominent roles in the campaign without Bennett's knowledge. Armstrong Williams, who has been Carson's longtime business manager and is not formally part of the campaign, has battled Bennett over strategy and messaging. Both Williams and Bennett often communicate directly to Carson with competing messages.

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— Late last night, the two rivals offered contradictory messages about the status of the campaign:

- “We had our standard 3:30 p.m. call and I asked him about the story. He said he has 100 percent faith in the team,” Bennett said.
- “Take what the candidate said to you, in his home and on his invitation, seriously,” Williams said. “That is what he said and what he believes.”

— When you run for the House or seek statewide office, you learn a lot about how campaigns work. When you try to start in politics with a presidential campaign, standard rookie mistakes – like not dealing well with conflicting advice and not having clearly delineated lines of authority – get magnified. Dwight Eisenhower was our last president who had never held elected office before seeking the presidency, but he had commanded the Allied invasion on D-Day.

— First-time candidates are also more likely to think the problem is staff, not themselves: During the interview with my colleagues, the doctor said that some unnamed aides keep pleading with him to be more bombastic and to go after Trump and Cruz more forcefully. He said he won’t do it. “That’s just not who I am,” he said.

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost ’s morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

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A one-year-old from El Salvador clings to his mother after she turned them in to Border Patrol agents earlier this month near Rio Grande City in Texas. The mother said she brought her son on the 24-day journey from El Salvador to escape violence. (Photo by John Moore/Getty Images)

— The Department of Homeland Security has begun preparing for a series of raids that will target for deportation hundreds of families who have flocked to the United States since the start of last year, Jerry Markon and David Nakamura scoop .

- “The nationwide campaign, to be carried out by ICE agents as soon as early January, would be the first large-scale effort to deport families who have fled violence in Central America … More than 100,000 families with both adults and children have made the journey across the southwest border since last year.”
- “The proposed deportations have been controversial inside the Obama administration, which has been discussing them for several months. DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson has been pushing for the moves … in part because of a new spike in the number of illegal immigrants in recent months.”
- “Experts say that the violence that was a key factor in driving people to flee Central America last year has surged again, with the homicide rate in El Salvador reaching its highest level in a generation. A drought in the region has also prompted departures.”

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Rapper Killer Mike, left, and Illinois state Rep. La Shawn Ford, right, listen as Bernie Sanders speaks during a Chicago meeting. (Photo by Joshua Lott/Getty Images)

— Shadow-boxing Hillary, Bernie trashes Rahm in Chicago: Sanders said during a visit to Chicago that, if he becomes the party's nominee, he could make do without the support of Rahm Emanuel, the city's embattled mayor and a confidant to the Clintons. "If the question is do I want or need Rahm Emanuel's support for president, with all due respect for the mayor, no I don't," Sanders said. John Wagner reports from the Windy City that "Chuy" Garcia, who lost to Emanuel in a mayoral runoff in April, appeared with Sanders on stage. When a reporter asked about Rahm, Sanders pointed to Garcia. "This was my guy," he said.

- Emanuel continues to brush off calls for his resignation over his botched handling of a police shooting of an unarmed 17-year-old. He says dashcam video of the 2014 incident was not publicly released until after he was reelected because of a pending legal case.
- One young man who stood behind Sanders on stage last night wore a T-shirt that said, "Rahm failed us."

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Hillary Clinton waves to the crowd as she is applauded by Rahm Emanuel after an event in Chicago last year. (Reuters/Jim Young)

— CNN/ORC's poll of the Democratic contest finds Hillary expanding her lead in the wake of last weekend's debate. Clinton leads 50-34 nationally, down from 58-30 in the same poll last month. "But those overall results mask a shift back toward Clinton following the debate," says CNN pollster Jennifer Agiesta. "In interviews conducted before the debate, Sanders ran closer to Clinton, with 37% support to Clinton's 45%. Among those interviewed after the debate, Clinton's lead grew to 60% vs. Sanders' 27%." The former secretary of state tops Sanders 72-15 on who is best to handle foreign policy and 63-18 on who is best to face ISIS. (Check the crosstabs here.)

— At least six people were killed in a series of overnight storms. Three died from tornadoes in Indiana and Mississippi. Two were killed in a Tennessee storm.

— The U.S., French and British embassies in China warned their citizens of possible threats against Westerners in a popular entertainment district of Beijing called the Sanlitun. (Emily Rauhala)

— Syria announced it is open to U.N.-organized peace talks to find a solution to the country's crisis, starting next month in Geneva. (AP)

— Coming attraction: Ted Cruz's controversial dad , Rafael, is coming out on

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Jan. 1 with a new book that he describes as a call to action for Christians in the United States ahead of the 2016 primaries. Katie Zezima got an advance copy : "Cruz writes that the United States is going down the wrong path — he compares it to the Costa Concordia, an Italian cruise ship that ran aground in 2012, killing 32 people. 'America, too, is headed straight toward a perilous reef,' Cruz writes. … The 76-year-old pastor warns that the United States could soon give in to secular humanism … Cruz writes that there is no such thing as separation of church and state … On Roe vs. Wade, he writes: 'The blood of more than 58 million babies cries out to God like the blood of Abel.'"

GET SMART FAST:

1. Russia is now exchanging intelligence information with the Taliban in its fight against ISIS. (Andrew Roth)
2. The British government wants an explanation for why the U.S. stopped a Muslim family from London on its way to Disneyland. The family says it is because of its religion. (Griff Witte, Lindsey Bever and Justin Wm. Moyer)
3. The Justice Department shut down a program that allows local police departments to keep most of the assets they seize. (Christopher Ingraham)
4. Hundreds of Black Lives Matter protesters marched at the Mall of America and the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport last night, causing massive traffic delays and 13 arrests. (Star Tribune)
5. The Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood killer, Robert Dear, wants to represent himself in court. (Denver Post)
6. The IRS mistakenly handed out $46 million in tax refunds in 2013 flagged as potentially fraudulent. (Lisa Rein)
7. Indiana will allow alcohol sales on Christmas for the first time in decades. (New York Times)
8. Irritating China and asserting American leadership, President Obama will host a summit of Southeast Asian leaders at the Sunnylands retreat in Southern California early next year. (David Nakamura)
9. The Beatles' full catalog of music is now available for streaming through major sites like Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Prime and Tidal. (Wall Street Journal)
10. A New Zealand judge ruled that Internet mogul Kim Dotcom can be extradited to the U.S. to face charges of racketeering, money laundering and copyright infringement. (Andrea Peterson)
11. At least 200 civilians have been killed in Syria by Russian airstrikes since September, according to Amnesty International. (Thomas Gibbons-Neff)
12. South Africa kicked a North Korean diplomat out of its country after he was

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arrested for illegal rhino horn training. (AP)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

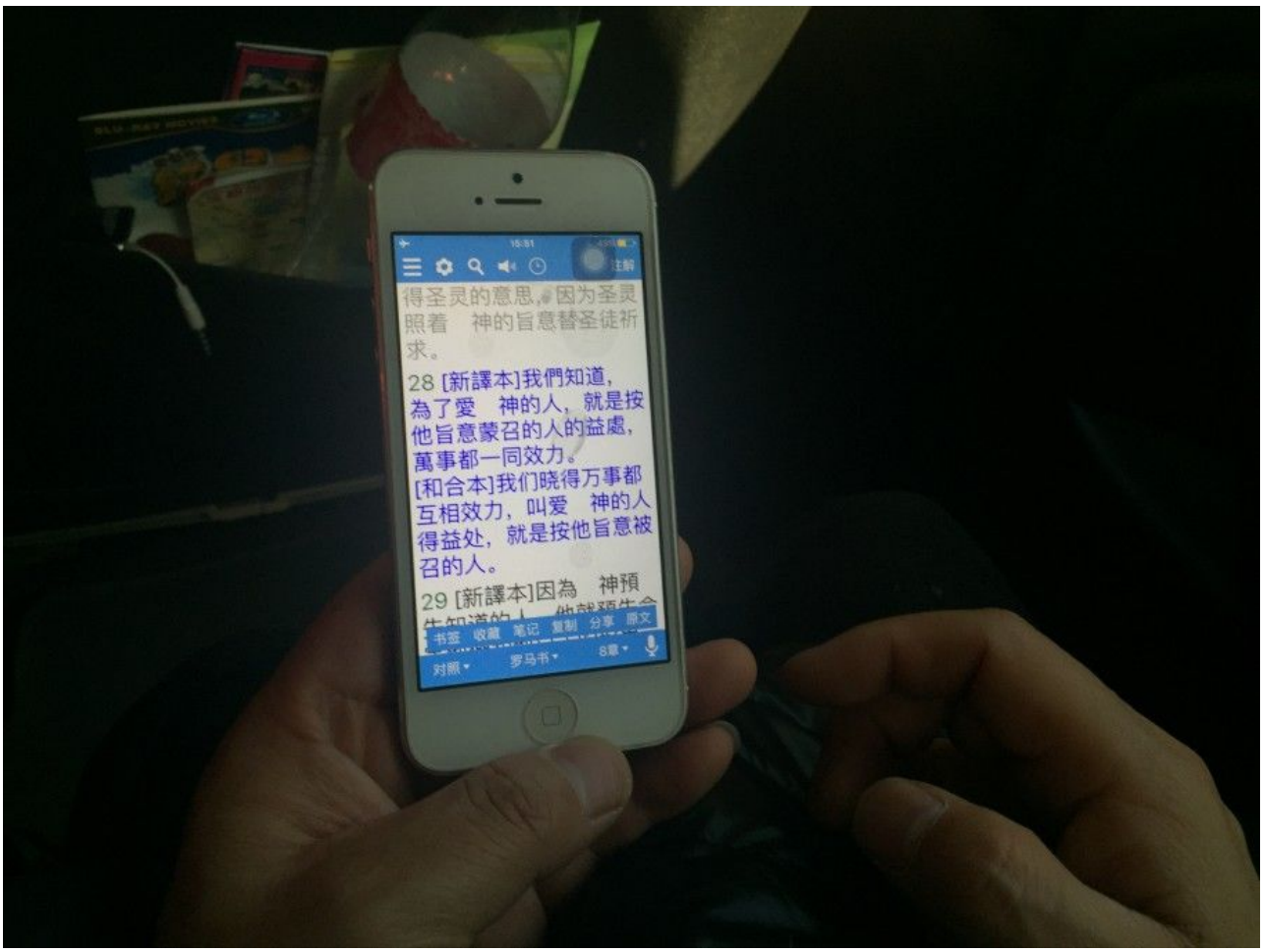
1. Rand Paul told Fox that he will refuse to participate in the next undercard debate if he does not make the main stage. (BuzzFeed)
2. Kentucky's new Republican governor, Matt Bevin, reversed his Democratic predecessor's 11th-hour executive order to restore voting rights to more than 100,000 nonviolent felons. (Lexington Herald-Leader)
3. Sanders promises to make the Federal Reserve "a more democratic institution" in an op-ed for the New York Times : "The sad reality is that the Federal Reserve doesn't regulate Wall Street; Wall Street regulates the Fed."
4. Curt Anderson, who was the chief strategist for Bobby Jindal's presidential campaign, rips into Cruz in an op-ed for Politico , saying the Texan is a bigger narcissist than Trump. "We do not need a leader who loves to play the martyr," Curt writes, "because the thing about martyrs is that they always die."
5. Marco Rubio is strong in Utah. With Rep. Bob Bishop announcing his support, three of the state's four House members have now endorsed the Floridian. The fourth, Jason Chaffetz, told the Salt Lake Tribune Rubio has the best chance to defeat Clinton but he's waiting for the race to shake out before backing anyone.
6. NBA players, including reigning MVP Stephen Curry, will appear in Christmas Day commercials to decry gun violence. (New York Times)
7. The Florida postal worker who landed a gyrocopter on the Capitol lawn, now a convicted felon, announced he will challenge DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz in a House primary next year to raise awareness about money in politics. (Matt Zapotosky)

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Douglas Hughes speaks to reporters outside federal court on Nov. 20 after he entered a guilty plea. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

THE WORLD IS A *VERY* SCARY PLACE THIS CHRISTMAS EVE:



Pastor Su, a protestant preacher from Guiyang, China, reads the Bible on his iPhone.

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Pastor Su's Church, Living Stone, was recently shuttered in a sweeping crackdown on Dec. 21. Seeking comfort, Su turns to scripture: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." That's Romans 2:28. (Photo by Emily Rauhala/TWP)

A *real* war on Christmas! –> "Christians in CHINA feel full force of authorities' repression," by Emily Rauhala: "The slight and soft-spoken Protestant preacher is no stranger to surveillance. Su Tianfu has worked for years in China's unregistered 'house churches,' and he said he has been interrogated more times than he can count. But even Su is surprised by what has happened in Guiyang this month: a crackdown that has led to the shuttering of the thriving Living Stone Church, the detention of a pastor on charges of 'possessing state secrets' and the shadowing of dozens of churchgoers by police. A local government directive leaked to China Aid, a Texas-based Christian group, and reviewed by The Washington Post advises local Communist Party cadres that shutting down the church is necessary to 'maintain social stability'— a catchall phrase often used to justify sweeping clampdowns. The Dec. 9 raid on the church in a relatively sleepy provincial capital is conspicuous because of the timing — about two weeks before Christmas — and because the government's tactics were revealed."

— Wearing a Santa hat in BRUNEI can get you fined or sentenced to prison, Adam Taylor reports .



A woman takes a picture yesterday in front of a Christmas tree at the Manger Square near the Church of the Nativity, the site of Jesus' birth. (AFP/Musa Al-Shaer)

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— Violence in the West Bank makes for a quiet Christmas in BETHLEHEM this year. "The city celebrated as the birthplace of Jesus is usually filled with parades and parties this time of year. This year? It's not exactly like Christmas was canceled, but it is a somber, dutiful affair," William Booth, our man in Israel, reports.

- "It's a sad Christmas to be honest," said Nabil Giacaman, a Palestinian Christian and owner of a souvenir shop, who a few days before the holiday hadn't bothered to decorate his store. "I'm just not in the mood."
- "The Palestinian leadership decided to tone down the celebrations this year out of respect for the dead."
- Plenty of room at the inns: "The number of tourists to Bethlehem in October and November were half the number of previous years."



Al-Shabab fighters perform south of Mogadishu. The defections of two American Islamic extremist fighters in Somalia highlight tensions within the insurgent group over whether it should remain affiliated with al-Qaeda or switch allegiance to the Islamic State. (AP Photo/ Farah Abdi Warsameh, File)

— ISIS is aggressively trying to build a branch in SOMALIA, more than 2,000 miles from Syria. "Winning ground there won't be easy," our Kevin Sieff reports from Nairobi. "Al-Shabab, a Somali group linked to al-Qaeda, has a long-standing presence in the country at Africa's eastern edge. It has threatened those who join the Islamic State with

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death. But that hasn't stopped a trickle of fighters — likely a few dozen — from switching sides, raising concerns among U.S. officials … Somalia holds potentially huge rewards for the extremist group: It is a marginally governed nation with the continent's longest coastline, bordering three U.S. allies — Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya."

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:



An oil pump in Venezuela, a U.S. adversary that has been weakened by the falling oil prices/ (Reuters/Isaac Urrutia)

Another upside of cheap gas! –> "Obama's foreign policy goals get a boost from plunging oil prices," by Steven Mufson: "Plunging crude oil prices are diverting hundreds of billions of dollars away from the treasure chests of oil-exporting nations, putting some of the United States' adversaries under greater stress. After two years of falling prices, the effects have reverberated across the globe, fueling economic discontent in Venezuela, changing Russia's economic and political calculations, and dampening Iranian leaders' hopes of a financial windfall when sanctions linked to its nuclear program will be lifted next year. At a time of tension for U.S. international relations, cheap oil has dovetailed with some of the Obama administration's foreign policy goals — pressuring Russian President Vladimir Putin, undermining the popularity of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and tempering the prospects for Iranian oil revenue."

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Weldon Angelos is serving a 55-year prison sentence for selling marijuana while having a gun. (Photo by Nikki Kahn/The Washington Post)

— POTUS signed 95 commutations last Friday, but many who have been treated unjustly by the justice system — victims of the war on drugs' excesses — remain behind bars. Sari Horwitz tells one such story this morning:

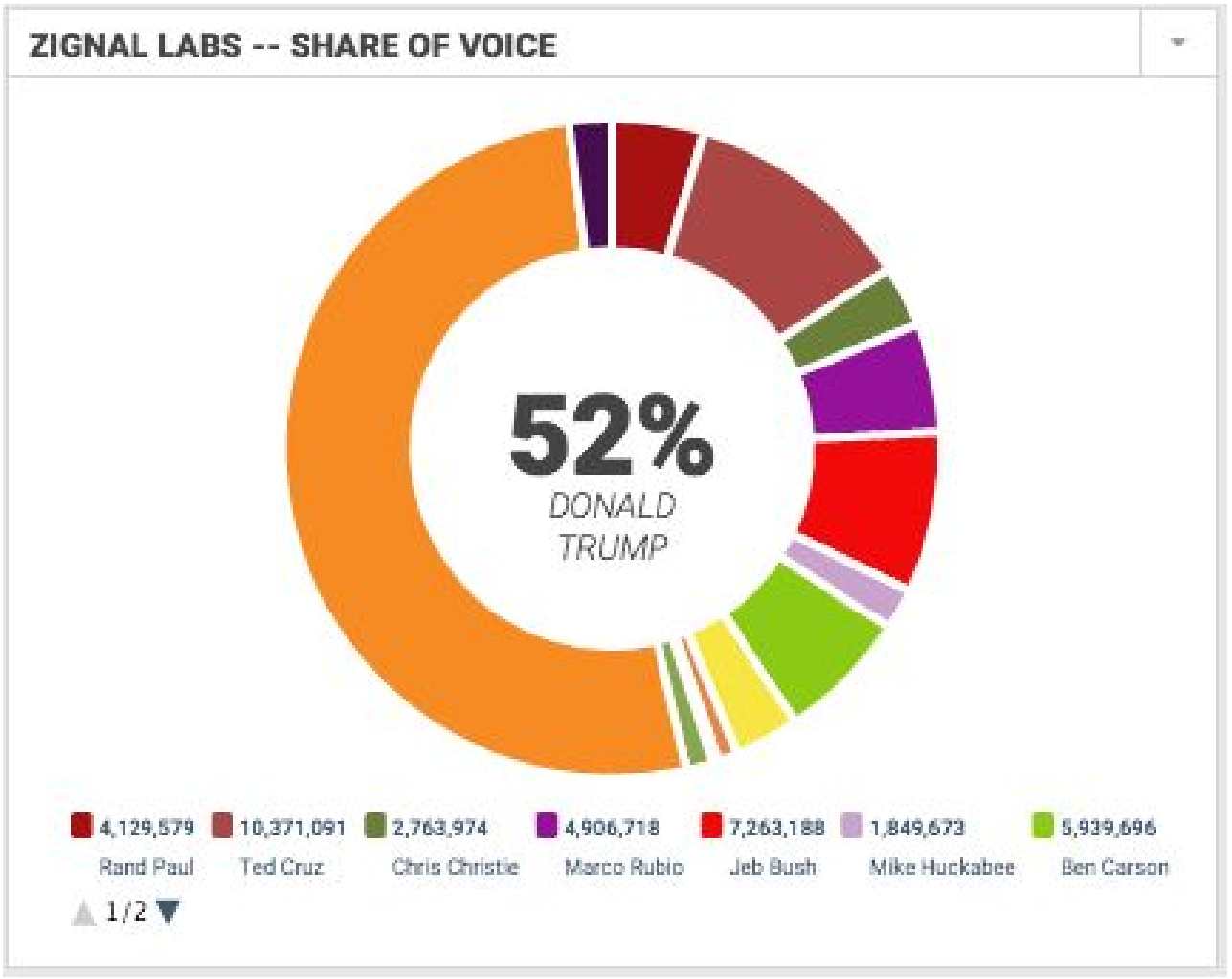
"Obama's clemency list brings joy to the lucky and anguish to the disappointed": "The booming voice of a prison official called an inmate to the main office. About 25 minutes later, the official came on the intercom again, summoning another prisoner. Weldon Angelos knew exactly what was happening. The prisoners had heard a rumor the night before that President Obama might grant early release to certain drug offenders before he left Washington for the holidays. Angelos was excited, anxious. This was it. The lucky inmates on Obama's list were being called inside to take phone calls from their attorneys, who would tell them the good news. After the two inmates were called, the minutes ticked past 30, then 45, and the intercom remained silent. 'I felt sick,' said Angelos, 36, who is serving a 55-year sentence for selling about $1,000 worth of marijuana. 'It was devastating.' And for Angelos and his supporters, that is the cruelty of the clemency process set up by the Obama administration to give relief to drug offenders who received harsh sentences over the past couple of decades in the nation's war on drugs."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: The five biggest Trump moments of the year. The Donald is

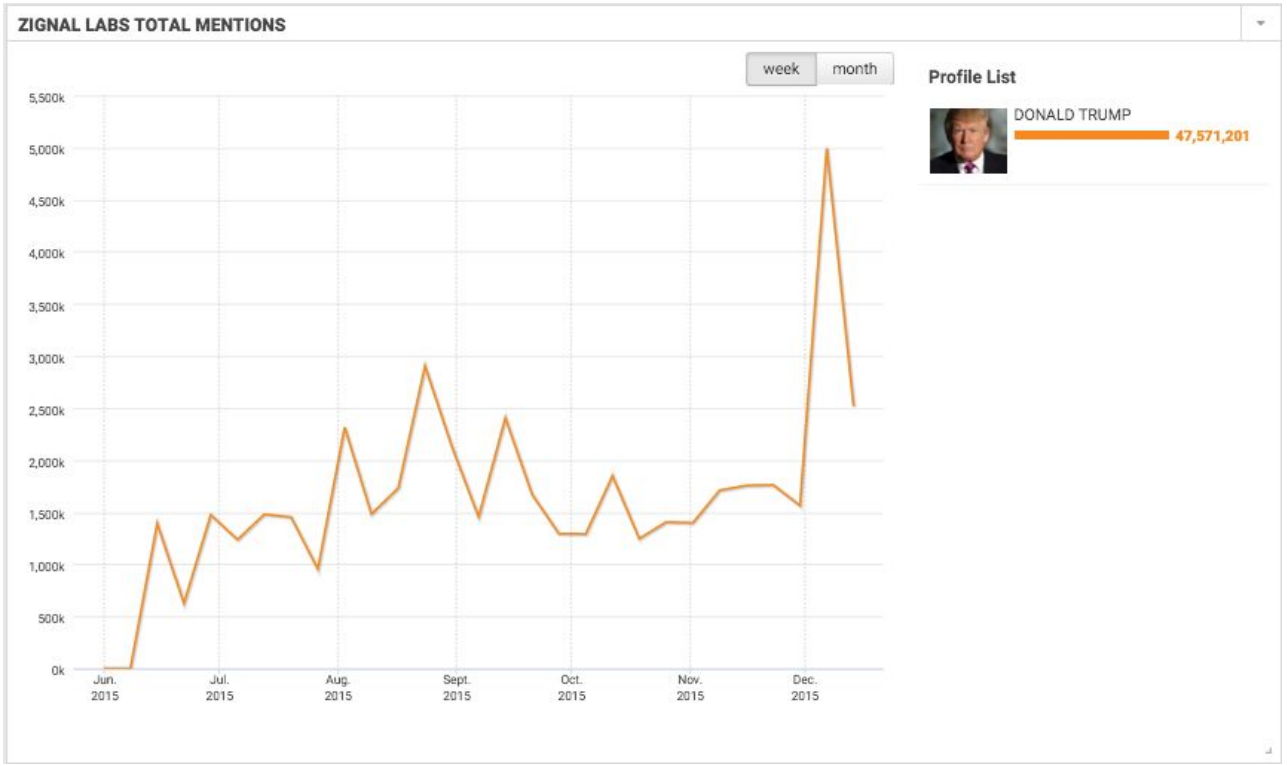
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more than just a presidential candidate. He's a media sensation. Since declaring his candidacy this summer, Trump has sucked up most of the oxygen in the Republican race as seen by this graph of who won social and tradition media.



This is particularly true on Twitter. Trump, and his polarizing positions on everything from immigration to John McCain's heroism, has set social media afire like no other candidate. Our analytics partners at Zignal Labs show that the interest in Trump in all media — positive and negative — just keeps growing:

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We've given you the five most buzzed about Democratic and Republican moments of this campaign year. Finally, these are the five top Trump moments of 2015, ranked by the amount of buzz generated:

5. Trump trolls the Las Vegas Dem Debate

4. Trump attacks McCain, and Time Magazine launches "Donald Trump Insult Generator"

3. First GOP Debate in Cleveland

2. Australian Boy Band crooner Ashton Irwin expresses doubts about Trump candidacy; Trump loses to an avocado in an online poll

1. Trump calls for ban on Muslim immigrants to the U.S.

— Your daily dose of Trump:

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Donald Trump in Michigan this week (Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images)

George F. Will writes in his column today that he's becoming even more alarmed about Trump: "In 2016, a Trump nomination would not just mean another Democratic presidency. It would also mean the loss of what Taft and then Goldwater made possible — a conservative party as a constant presence in U.S. politics. … It is possible Trump will not win any primary, and that by the middle of March our long national embarrassment will be over. But this avatar of unfettered government and executive authoritarianism has mesmerized a large portion of Republicans for six months. The larger portion should understand this: One hundred and four years of history is in the balance. If Trump is the Republican nominee in 2016, there might not be a conservative party in 2020 either."

David Weigel argues that Trump is basically mimicking the SHOCK JOCK model that thrived after the FCC stopped enforcing the Fairness Doctrine in 1987: "Whether he moves to the White House or returns to Mar-a-Largo, Trump's campaign has challenged and changed the way politics is covered. Political media have adapted slowly, treating nearly every Trump eruption as a gaffe — the kind a normal politician might make on his way to defeat. The world of talk radio never saw Trump this way, because the phenomenon ran through it more than a generation ago."

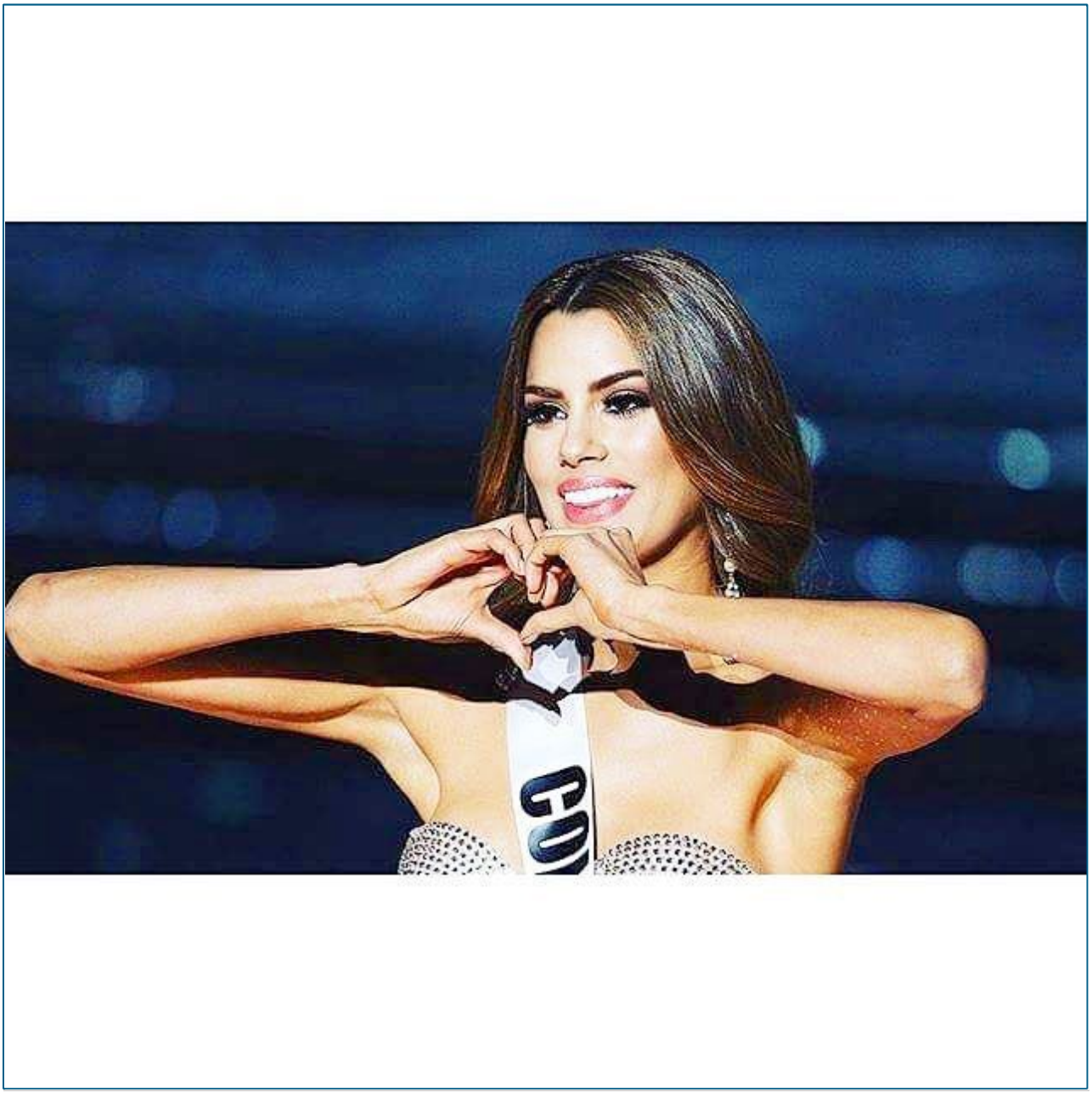
Humorist Dave Barry calls 2015 "the worst year ever" in his annual Year in Review column: "Are we saying it was worse than, for example, 1347, the year when the bubonic plague killed a large part of humanity? Yes, we are saying that. Because at least the remainder of humanity was not exposed to a solid week in which the news media

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focused intensively on the question of whether a leading candidate for president of the United States had, or had not, made an explicit reference to a prominent female TV journalist's biological lady cycle. That actually happened in 2015, and it was not the only bad thing."

–Pictures of the day:

Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez was very gracious after a mix-up briefly awarded her the Miss Universe crown. "Your destiny is written for you. And my destiny was this," she posted on Instagram. "I was able to bring happiness to my country after becoming Miss Universe for only a couple of minutes…"



@gutierrezary

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott (R) released an unusual Christmas poem, urging Obama not to transfer Guantanamo prisoners to the Naval Consolidated Brig in Hanahan, S.C.:

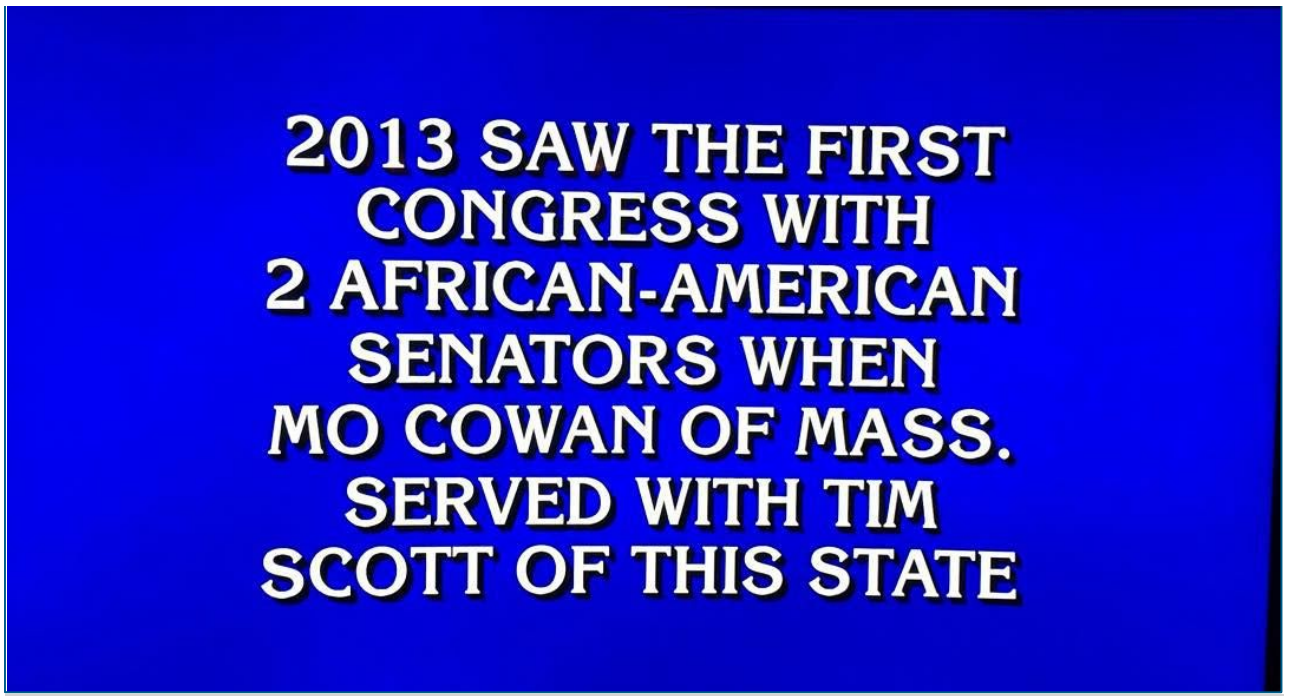
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Courtesy Sen. Scott

Scott posted a more light-hearted answer from the game show "Jeopardy":

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(@senatortimscott)

Ted Cruz is raising money off of a quickly-retracted Post editorial cartoon that featured his daughters. “Seems like a better idea for a cartoon: Hillary and her lapdogs,” he tweeted.

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(@tedcruz)

Michelle Obama posted this snap of Bo, the First Dog:

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(@michelleobama)

— Tweets of the day:



Rand Paul speaks in Derry, N.H. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)

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Rand Paul celebrated Festivus , a fake holiday made famous in a Seinfeld episode, by listing his grievances against rivals in a hilarious tweet stream:

> Where to start but @realDonaldTrump . If u bring the Yiddish, know what it means. Guess that's more of a kvetch than a grievance #Festivus
>
> — Dr. Rand Paul (@RandPaul) December 23, 2015

> I have no grievances against my fellow doc @RealBenCarson because I have not heard a word he has said in any debate. #Festivus — Dr. Rand Paul (@RandPaul) December 23, 2015

> .@CarlyFiorina has ZERO trouble making it back from commercial breaks @HillaryClinton . Just saying. #Festivus #waronwomensrooms — Dr. Rand Paul (@RandPaul) December 23, 2015

> to my absentee friend @marcorubio , I didn't put your $170k+ salary in my waste report today. But I could have #Festivus — Dr. Rand Paul (@RandPaul) December 23, 2015

> My friend @tedcruz has still not pledged to issue exec order declaring Canadian "bacon" is not real bacon. Makes me suspicious. #Festivus
>
> — Dr. Rand Paul (@RandPaul) December 23, 2015

> .@JebBush is always trying to change the debate rules to allow extra time for awkward pauses in answers. Not gonna happen. #Festivus — Dr. Rand Paul (@RandPaul) December 23, 2015

> to my comrade @SenSanders : Unless you're Santa Claus, Socialism runs out of other people's money #Festivus — Dr. Rand Paul (@RandPaul) December 23, 2015

> Can't forget @barackobama today. He gets 2 play WAY more golf than me & he doesn't

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have 2 go through TSA lines #Festivus #AiringofGrievances — Dr. Rand Paul (@RandPaul) December 23, 2015

— Instagrams of the day:

The GOP presidential frontrunner posted his Christmas card:



(@realdonaldtrump)

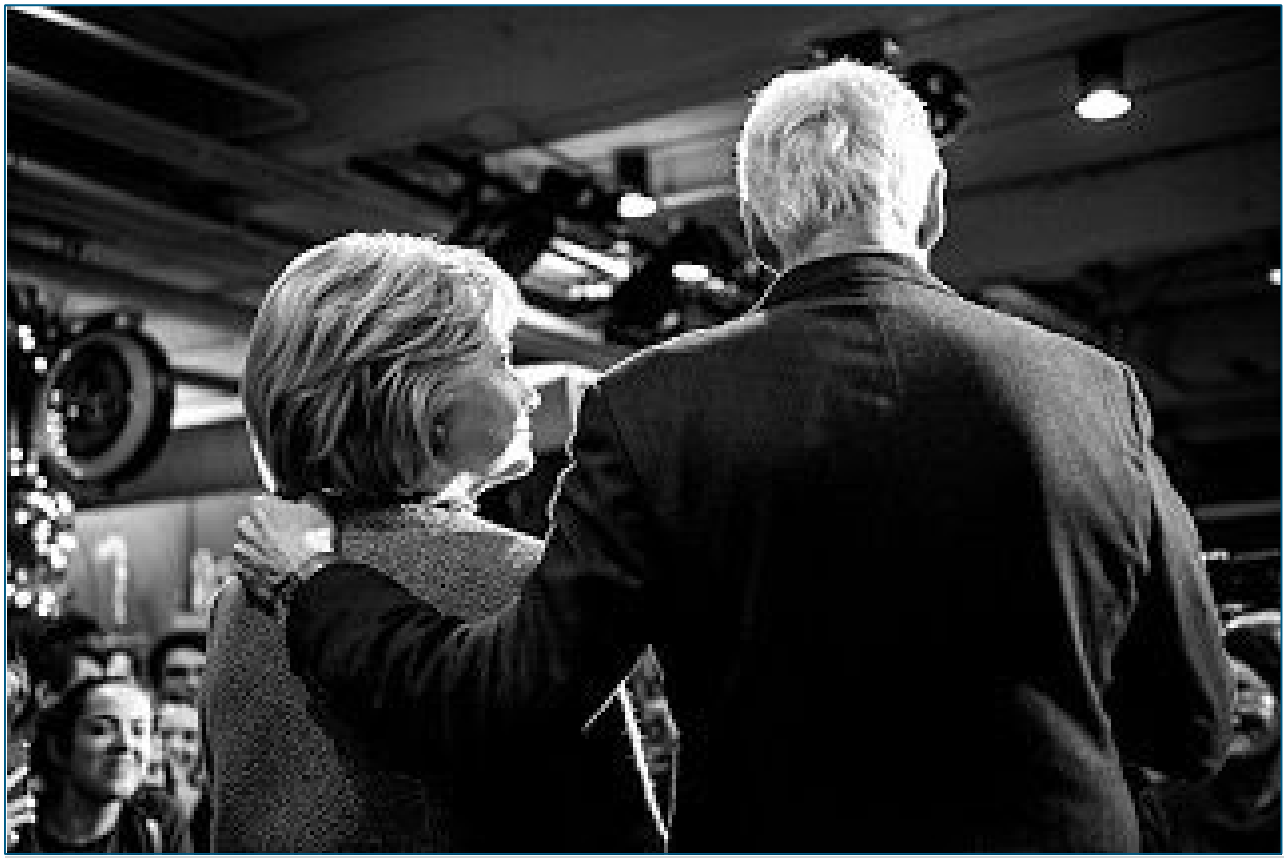
Marco Rubio treats his family to a stop at Chutters Candy Shop in Littleton, N.H., which claims to have the world's longest candy counter:

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(@marcorubio)

“In the Granite State with the Comeback Kid,” @HillaryClinton captioned a photo with her husband:



North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D) celebrated with her family, Star Wars-style:

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(@senatorheitkamp)

Georgia Rep. Rick Allen (R) says “Polo the Blue Heeler brought some Christmas cheer to 513 Cannon” yesterday:

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(reprickallen)

And it looks like Utah Rep. Jason Chaffetz will get a white Christmas:

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(@jasoninthehouse)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

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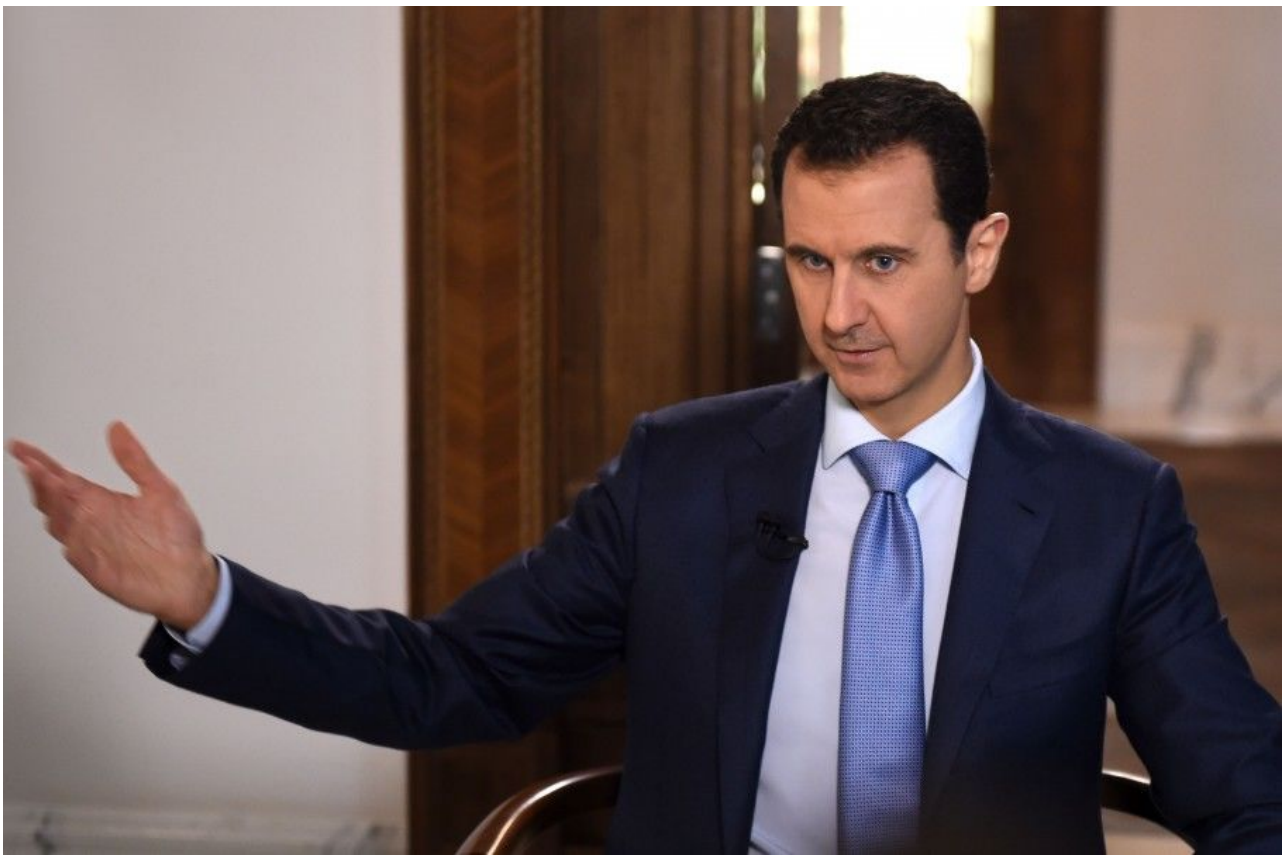


Hillary at a town hall in Mason City, Iowa (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

— New York Times, "Hillary Clinton seizes on Trump's remarks to galvanize women," by Amy Chozick and Maggie Haberman: "Behind the scenes, the Clinton campaign mobilized a wide network of female supporters to denounce Mr. Trump as 'sexist,' as a practitioner of 'pathetic, frat-boy politics,' and as more suited to running for 'president of the fourth-grade football team.'

- A strategy shift: "For months, Mrs. Clinton's strategy was to hang Mr. Trump's more outrageous pronouncements around the necks of other Republican contenders, seeking to portray the party's entire field as extreme. But by going after Mr. Trump more assertively now than most of his Republican rivals have dared, Mrs. Clinton is projecting strength, and she is calculating that women, especially young voters, will reward her."
- In an interview with The Des Moines Register late Tuesday, she said of Trump, "It's not the first time he's demonstrated a penchant for sexism."
- Combativeness plays into the Clinton campaign theme: "The blue 'Hillary' signs that blanket her rallies carry the slogan 'Fighting for us' in big block letters. But poking Mr. Trump is not risk-free. He is unlike any rival Mrs. Clinton has confronted before, and has proved willing to say almost anything."

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Syrian President Bashar al-Assad gave an interview to a Dutch TV station in Damascus on Dec. 16. (AFP/Handout)

— Wall Street Journal, "U.S. pursued secret contacts with Assad regime for years," by Nour Malas and Carol E. Lee: "The Obama administration pursued secret communications with elements of Syria's regime over several years in a failed attempt to limit violence and get President Bashar al-Assad to relinquish power, according to U.S. and Arab officials. Early on, the U.S. looked for cracks in the regime it could exploit to encourage a military coup, but found few … Unlike the secret White House back channel to Iran, however, the Syria effort never gained momentum and communication was limited … At times, senior officials spoke directly to each other and at others, they sent messages through intermediaries such as Mr. Assad's main allies Russia and Iran."

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Carly Fiorina leaves a Spaghetti Dinner in the north country town of Littleton, N.H., back in August. (Photo by Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

— New Hampshire Public Radio, "In N.H. Primary, North Country campaign stops are few and far between," by Dan Barrick: "Northern New Hampshire has seen little of the presidential candidates this year. Of the nearly 850 campaign stops by candidates of both parties across the state since May, just 39 have taken place north of the White Mountains. That scarcity is largely due to demographics. Most of New Hampshire's residents live in the densely populated Southern Tier, the wedge stretching south from Manchester and east towards the Seacoast. By contrast, just 2 percent of New Hampshire residents call the North Country home … But Northern New Hampshire is more than just a more forested, less-populated version of the state as a whole. The issues and challenges facing residents there differ significantly from the rest of the state. The region's residents are, generally speaking, older, poorer and less educated than folks in the southern part of New Hampshire."

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Donald Trump autographs a supporter's chest following a speech on Dec. 2 in Manassas. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

— Politico, "Donald Trump's gender gap, " by Steven Shepard: "On the surface, it doesn't appear that Trump's gendered attacks have damaged his candidacy throughout his 6-month-old presidential campaign. Trump remains not just the national front-runner — he's also ahead in many of the key early-nominating states. But Trump's current coalition in the primaries relies heavily on male voters — especially less-educated men. The female vote is less important in Republican primaries — where, because women are more likely than men to be Democrats, they make up a minority of the electorate — and a candidate who appeals mostly to working-class males can emerge in a fractured field. … Fully 74 percent of non-college men who identify as Republicans or Republican-leaning independents have a favorable impression of Trump, compared with 57 percent of male college graduates. Those numbers drop off among women. The poll found that 50 percent of female college graduates have a favorable view of the real estate mogul. And there's less of a difference across the education level — just 51 percent of female non-college graduates say they look upon Trump favorably."

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Guards at Guantanamo Bay (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley, File)

— Miami Herald, "9/11 judge shields Guantánamo captive's 'misogynistic rant' about female guards from public record," by Carol Rosenberg: "In the latest episode of a now-you-see-it, now-you-don't Guantánamo war court record, the judge in the Sept. 11 trial retroactively sealed what one prosecutor called 'the misogynistic rantings' of an accused 9/11 plot deputy. Also now under seal: A Nov. 17, 2014, note, seized by the military, from the alleged plot mastermind to another captive with advice on how to handle the female guard flap at the Pentagon's most clandestine prison. The decision to deny the public access to the documents — which for a time appeared illegibly in the court record — follows the Pentagon's likewise blacking out wide swaths of a transcript of an open hearing on the same topic … A prosecutor referred to a March 2014 letter from alleged plot deputy Ramzi bin al Shibh to the then commander of the lockup, a female officer. A military lawyer for another accused deputy protested. Air Force Maj. Michael Schwartz called it 'inflammatory, prejudicial' to his client, Walid bin Attash. He asked that it be stricken from the court record."

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HOT ON THE LEFT

Ted Cruz defends Alabama's decision to shut down 31 DMV offices in predominantly African American areas. David Weigel : These places provide driver's licenses, and an ID is now needed to vote. "It's not surprising to see a Democrat like Hillary Clinton coming in and attacking states, particularly Southern states," Cruz said when asked about the issue. "Frankly, it's a bigotry from the Democrats. They look down on the Southern states like we're a bunch of hicks. Look, I'm from Texas and Hillary Clinton is not a big fan of my state either. We don't need more politicians from Washington looking down on us like a fly-over company. … Hillary Clinton thinks we're just a bunch of ignorant rubes, and we need to be governed by what she deems as moral and philosophical betters."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

House Republicans don't want John Kerry to make it easier for Iranians to get visas. From the Washington Examiner : "In a letter signed by Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and five GOP committee chairmen, the lawmakers told Kerry they are 'deeply concerned' he is negotiating a deal with the Iranian government that would lift some of the requirements. They also suggested Kerry is reneging on the terms of the visa waiver law that were closely negotiated between Congress and the Obama administration."

DAYBOOK:

— Programming note: There will be no 202 on Christmas, but we'll be back Monday.

— What's happening today on the campaign trail: It's a quiet day in the early states.

— On the Hill: Recess

— At the White House: President Obama is on vacation in Hawaii. The communications staff released what it said is the First Family's 14-song Christmas playlist :

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- O Tannenbaum, Vince Guaraldi Trio (A Charlie Brown Christmas)
- Let It Snow, Boyz II Men
- All I Want for Christmas Is You, Mariah Carey
- Santa Claus Is Coming To Town, The Jackson 5
- 8 Days of Christmas, Destiny's Child
- Someday at Christmas, Stevie Wonder
- The Christmas Song, Nat King Cole
- Silent Night, Ledisi
- Do You Hear What I Hear, Yolanda Adams
- Away In A Manger, Kenny Burrell
- Santa Baby, Eartha Kitt
- The First Noel, Frank Sinatra
- Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, Luther Vandross
- Little Drummer Boy, Whitney Houston

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

The Conway Daily Sun writes up an interview with Marco Rubio: "We had roughly 20 minutes with him on Monday, and in that time, he talked about ISIS, the economy, his political record and his background. But it was like watching a computer algorithm designed to cover talking points. He said a lot but at the same time said nothing. It was like someone wound him up, pointed him toward the doors and pushed 'play.' If there was a human side to the senator, a soul, it didn't come across."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "Today's showers should be more scattered and amount to less than those behind Wednesday's drenching, which deposited 1.67 inches in D.C., a new record for the date," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts . "Temperatures surging into the low-to-mid 70s shatter records throughout the area. Thunderstorms with strong wind gusts cannot be ruled out and the National Weather Service has placed the region in a marginal risk zone for severe weather. Winds from the southwest could gust to 25 mph, and even higher in any thundershowers."

— The Wizards beat the Memphis Grizzlies 100-91, their third straight win. (Jorge Castillo)

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— The Post's Going Out Guide highlights fun activities to enjoy this weekend if you're staying in town:

- Today a water-skiing Santa Claus performs on the Potomac.
- This is the last day to see "The Christmas Story in Art" for free at the National Gallery of Art.
- "Motown: The Musical" plays at the National Theatre each day this weekend.
- The Caps play the Montreal Canadiens Saturday night at the Verizon Center.

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

The "Daily Show" considers Trump as the "white ISIS":



(@ComedyCentral)

Jeb Bush shares his favorite Christmas carol and the worst Christmas gift he ever got:

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(@jebbush)

A 7-year-old girl called 9-1-1 because her “Elf on the Shelf” fell to the floor while her mom was napping and she was afraid she wouldn’t get any Christmas gifts. Watch a cute, two-minute package from a New Jersey affiliate here .

Hillary went on TV with a new ad promoting her proposal for increasing federal spending on Alzheimer’s research:

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(@hillaryclinton)

Rand Paul jabbed at the TSA during his Festivus tweet stream, saying it is more like “Touching Squeezing America” than the “Transportation Security Administration.” For good measure, he threw in a link to the song: “Keep Your Hands to Yourself.”

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(@randpaul)

The White House's West Wing Week has an "Intern Edition":



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(@thewhitehouse)

Finally, watch robotic reindeer pull a sleigh :



(thewallstreetjournal)

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From:	"Tom Matzzie" <tmatzzie@gmail.com>
To:	joshua_mcneil@lcv.org bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	6/23/2009 9:09:10 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Re: League of Conservation Voters to Deny Endorsement to Any Member of Congress Who Votes No On American Clean Energy and Security Act

http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-coal22-2009jun22,0,6722721.story

From the Los Angeles Times

Under House energy bill, coal won't be going away

A proposal to limit greenhouse gas emissions makes concessions to the industry in effort to attract support from congressional Democrats who represent coal-dependent areas.
By Jim Tankersley

June 22, 2009

Reporting from Washington — Coal-fired power plants are the largest source of heat-trapping gases that cause global warming, but President Obama's plan to fight climate change would result in the nation burning more coal a decade from now than it does today.

The administration's plan, the centerpiece of a 700-page legislative package , proposes strict limits on emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide.

But to attract vital support from congressional Democrats representing heavily coal-dependent areas, authors of the legislation, including Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Beverly Hills), have made a series of concessions that substantially soften its effect on coal -- at least over the next decade or so.

As a result, the Environmental Protection Agency projects that even if the emissions limits go into effect, the U.S. would use more carbon-dioxide-heavy coal in 2020 than it did in 2005.

That's because the bill gives utilities a financial incentive to keep burning coal by joining the cap-and-trade system -- a kind of marketplace where polluters could reduce their emissions on paper by buying pollution reductions created by others. These so-called offsets, for example, could be created and sold by farmers who planted trees, which filter carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Environmental groups also say the bill could set off a boom in the construction of new coal plants because of provisions that would restrict legal efforts to block such projects.

Leading Democrats -- and some major conservation groups, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council -- say the moves have helped attract coal-district Democrats to support the bill without undermining the plan's environmental goals.

"We've ensured a role for coal" in the nation's energy future, said Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.), one of the leading coal champions in the House.

But some environmentalists remain skeptical that offsets can reduce greenhouse gases to avoid catastrophic warming of the atmosphere.

"This is greens making a deal with the devil," said Ted Nordhaus, chairman of the Breakthrough Institute, an environmentalist think tank that recently completed a detailed critique of the bill's coal provisions .

Obama and House leaders "gave the coal guys everything they wanted," said Michael Shellenberger, the

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institute's president. "The result is legislation that, when all is said and done, will increase coal generation and make it harder to move away from it."

The EPA projects Obama's plan would slow the growth in coal over what would have occurred in the absence of emission limits. Emissions from coal would grow at roughly the same rate as overall coal use, until "clean coal" technology becomes commercially viable.

Under the plan, the EPA projects that after 2020, conventional coal use would begin to fall quickly. That prediction rests on a still-uncertain assumption that new nuclear power plants would begin to come on line.

The analysis also assumes scientists will master advanced technologies that could make coal more attractive from an emissions standpoint. As of now, no one has on a commercial scale.

Obama's Energy Department announced this month that it would spend more than $1 billion to restart a carbon-capture demonstration plant in Mattoon, Ill.

The focus on coal in climate legislation is directly linked to its abundance. Coal has been burned for heat since the time of cavemen. It stoked the smokestacks of the Industrial Revolution and powered the first steam engines. It remains the source of half of the electric power in the United States and is the nation's most abundant fossil fuel.

"Whatever the ideal vision of the future," said David G. Hawkins, director of climate programs for the NRDC, "coal will be there for decades at least."

The coal industry spent $38 million in the 2008 presidential campaign to push its message, and it has succeeded in changing the nature of the debate.

"In the past, there was a drive to use climate policy as a wedge to take coal out of the energy mix," said Joe Lucas, senior vice president of communications for the industry-funded American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity. "There's just been a fundamental shift."

Several of the most coal-dependent utilities have endorsed the House bill, but the coal coalition has not -- it wants caps on the price of emission permits, among other amendments. But Lucas said the bill was "closer" than it had ever been to industry acceptance.

Still, most Republicans, particularly those from coal-heavy regions, say the bill is still not a good deal for coal consumers, who include many of the poorest Americans.

"Why is it that the wealthy parts of our country continue to attack the lifestyles of the rural poor?" Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.), a longtime coal champion, asked at a hearing on the energy bill last month. "If you're going to put a price on carbon emissions now, later or in the future, those that rely on [coal] are going to be harmed."

On Tue, Jun 23, 2009 at 4:04 PM, Joshua McNeil <joshua_mcneil@lcv.org > wrote:

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS
LCV.ORG

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2009
Contact: joshua_mcneil@lcv.org ; 202.454.4573

League of Conservation Voters to Deny Endorsement to Any Member of Congress Who Votes No On American Clean Energy and Security Act

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The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) believes that H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, is the most important piece of environmental legislation to ever come before the House of Representatives. The historic bill has the potential to transform America by creating clean energy jobs, improving our national security, and protecting our planet from global warming pollution.

In light of the tremendous importance of this legislation, LCV has made the unprecedented decision that the organization will not endorse any member of the House of Representatives in the 2010 election cycle who votes against final passage of this bill. Every Member of Congress received a letter informing them of this policy and LCV's strong support for H.R.2454 on Tuesday, June 23.

"The stakes could not be higher; a safer, healthier planet and a new energy economy hang in the balance, and it's imperative that members of Congress be on the right side of history," LCV President Gene Karpinski said in the letter to the House.

In 2006 and 2008, LCV endorsed 155 federal candidates, of whom 124 won election or reelection (number includes Al Franken). LCV's endorsement is a nationally recognized shorthand that gives candidates for federal office legitimacy with environmental voters and donors. As always, LCV will consider many other factors, including viability, vulnerability, recent and lifetime LCV scores, and demonstrated environmental leadership, in our final endorsement decisions.

###

Follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/LCVoters

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Andres Moreno" <amoreno@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/15/2008 5:30:10 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech in Columbus, OH

Just off the phone with our tracker Jacob Roberts who was on the ground this morning in Ohio. Below are the notes from our call.

Columbus, OH - McCain Speech on Bi-Partisanship and His 2013 "vision"

Big Highlights: Speech attempts to distance himself from Bush and highlights his "goals" for his first term as President. McCain claims that Iraq War will have been won by Jan 2013, amongst many other promises on the economy, environment, education health care, voluntary national service, bi-partisanship.

Background Details
- McCain was introduced by local doctor
- Audience Size: 300-400
- The crowd seemed underwhelmed during many portions of the speech.
- McCain had trouble reading off of his huge teleprompter
- The speech was set up with a State of the Union feel. Press members mentioned how "boring it was"
- Audience seated
- Secret Service Everywhere, Metal Detectors Used, McCain heavily staffed

Press:
- Traveling Press as usual
- Japan Broadcasting Corporation

Local TV Press:
- 10 TV news
- WOUV News
- Local ABC, Fox

Local Radio:
- WTVN Radio
- Ohio Public Radio - State House News
- Local Bloggers

Speech Highlights
Link to transcript and webvideo:
http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/Speeches/e8114732-e294-4a0d-b0b6-e5fa16857f61.htm
Prepared Transcript:

Thank you. The hectic but repetitive routine of presidential campaigns often seems to consist entirely of back and forth charges between candidates, punctuated by photo ops, debates and the occasional policy speech, followed by another barrage of accusations and counter accusations, formulated into the soundbites preferred by cable news producers. It is a little hypocritical for candidates or reporters to criticize these deficiencies. They are our creation. Campaigns and the media collaborated as architects of the modern presidential campaign, and we deserve equal blame for the regret we feel from time to time over its less than inspirational features.

Voters, however, even in this revolutionary communications age, with its 24 hour news cycle, can be forgiven their uncertainty about what the candidates actually hope to achieve if they have the extraordinary privilege of being elected President of the United States. We spend too little time and offer too few specifics on that most important of questions. We make promises, of course, about what kind of policies we would pursue in office. But they often are obscured, mischaracterized and forgotten in the heat and fog of political battle.

Next January, the political leadership of the United States will change significantly. It is important that the candidates who seek to lead the country after the Bush Administration define their objectives and what they plan to achieve not with vague language but with clarity.

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So, what I want to do today is take a little time to describe what I would hope to have achieved at the end of my first term as President. I cannot guarantee I will have achieved these things. I am presumptuous enough to think I would be a good President, but not so much that I believe I can govern by command. Should I forget that, Congress will, of course, hasten to remind me. The following are conditions I intend to achieve. And toward that end, I will focus all the powers of the office; every skill and strength I possess; and seize every opportunity to work with members of Congress who put the national interest ahead of partisanship, and any country in the world that shares our hopes for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

By January 2013, America has welcomed home most of the servicemen and women who have sacrificed terribly so that America might be secure in her freedom. The Iraq War has been won. Iraq is a functioning democracy, although still suffering from the lingering effects of decades of tyranny and centuries of sectarian tension. Violence still occurs, but it is spasmodic and much reduced. Civil war has been prevented; militias disbanded; the Iraqi Security Force is professional and competent; al Qaeda in Iraq has been defeated; and the Government of Iraq is capable of imposing its authority in every province of Iraq and defending the integrity of its borders. The United States maintains a military presence there, but a much smaller one, and it does not play a direct combat role.

The threat from a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan has been greatly reduced but not eliminated. U.S. and NATO forces remain there to help finish the job, and continue operations against the remnants of al Qaeda. The Government of Pakistan has cooperated with the U.S. in successfully adapting the counterinsurgency tactics that worked so well in Iraq and Afghanistan to its lawless tribal areas where al Qaeda fighters are based. The increase in actionable intelligence that the counterinsurgency produced led to the capture or death of Osama bin Laden, and his chief lieutenants. There is no longer any place in the world al Qaeda can consider a safe haven. Increased cooperation between the United States and its allies in the concerted use of military, diplomatic, and economic power and reforms in the intelligence capabilities of the United States has disrupted terrorist networks and exposed plots around the world. There still has not been a major terrorist attack in the United States since September 11, 2001.

The United States and its allies have made great progress in advancing nuclear security. Concerted action by the great democracies of the world has persuaded a reluctant Russia and China to cooperate in pressuring Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions, and North Korea to discontinue its own. The single greatest threat facing the West -- the prospect of nuclear materials in the hands of terrorists -- has been vastly diminished.

The size of the Army and Marine Corps has been significantly increased, and are now better equipped and trained to defend us. Long overdue reforms to the way we acquire weapons programs, including fixed price contracts, have created sufficient savings to pay for a larger military. A substantial increase in veterans educational benefits and improvements in their health care has aided recruitment and retention. The strain on the National Guard and reserve forces has been relieved.

After efforts to pressure the Government in Sudan over Darfur failed again in the U.N. Security Council, the United States, acting in concert with a newly formed League of Democracies, applied stiff diplomatic and economic pressure that caused the government of Sudan to agree to a multinational peacekeeping force, with NATO countries providing logistical and air support, to stop the genocide that had made a mockery of the world's repeated declaration that we would "never again" tolerant such inhumanity. Encouraged by the success, the League is now occupied with using the economic power and prestige of its member states to end other gross abuses of human rights such as the despicable crime of human trafficking.

The United States has experienced several years of robust economic growth, and Americans again have confidence in their economic future. A reduction in the corporate tax rate from the second highest in the world to one on par with our trading partners; the low rate on capital gains; allowing business to deduct in a single year investments in equipment and technology, while eliminating tax loopholes and ending corporate welfare, have spurred innovation and productivity, and encouraged companies to keep their operations and jobs in the United States. The Alternate Minimum Tax is being phased out, with relief provided first to middle income families. Doubling the size of the child exemption has put more disposable income in the hands of taxpayers, further stimulating growth.

Congress has just passed by a single up or down vote a tax reform proposal that offers Americans a choice of continuing to file under the rules of the current complicated and burdensome tax code or use a new, simpler, fairer and flatter tax, with two rates and a generous deduction. Millions of taxpayers are expected to file under

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the flat tax, and save billions in the cost of preparing their returns.

After exercising my veto several times in my first year in office, Congress has not sent me an appropriations bill containing earmarks for the last three years. A top to bottom review of every federal bureaucracy has yielded great reductions in government spending by identifying programs that serve no important purpose; and instigating far reaching reforms of procurement and operating policies that have for too long extravagantly wasted money for no better purpose than to increase federal payrolls.

New free trade agreements have been ratified and led to substantial increases in both exports and imports. The resulting growth in prosperity in countries from South America to Asia to Africa has greatly strengthened America's security and the global progress of our political ideals. U.S. tariffs on agricultural imports have been eliminated and unneeded farm subsidies are being phased out. The world food crisis has ended, inflation is low, and the quality of life not only in our country, but in some of the most impoverished countries around the world is much improved.

Americans, who through no fault of their own, lost jobs in the global economy they once believed were theirs for life, are assisted by reformed unemployment insurance and worker retraining programs. Older workers who accept lower paying jobs while they acquire new skills are provided assistance to make up a good part of the income they have lost. Community colleges and technical schools all over the country have developed worker retraining programs suited to the specific economic opportunities available in their communities and are helping millions of workers who have lost a job that won't come back find a new one that won't go away.

Public education in the United States is much improved thanks to the competition provided by charter and private schools; the increase of quality teachers through incentives like merit pay and terrific programs that attract to the classroom enthusiastic and innovative teachers from many disciplines, like Teach for America and Troops to Teachers. Educational software and online teaching programs endorsed by qualified non profits are much more widely in use, bringing to the smallest classrooms in America some of the greatest math, English, and science teachers in the country. This revolution in teaching methods has especially benefited rural America. Test scores and graduation rates are rising everywhere in the country.

Health care has become more accessible to more Americans than at any other time in history. Reforms of the insurance market; putting the choice of health care into the hands of American families rather than exclusively with the government or employers; walk in clinics as alternatives to emergency room care; paying for outcome in the treatment of disease rather than individual procedures; and competition in the prescription drug market have begun to wring out the runaway inflation once endemic in our health care system. More small businesses offer their employees health plans. Schools have greatly improved their emphasis on physical education and nutritional content of meals offered in school cafeterias. Obesity rates among the young and the disease they engender are stabilized and beginning to decline. The federal government and states have cooperated in establishing backstop insurance pools that provide coverage to people hard pressed to find insurance elsewhere because of pre-existing illness.

The reduction in the growth of health care costs has begun to relieve some of the pressure on Medicare; encouraging Congress to act in a bipartisan way to extend its solvency for twenty-five years without increasing taxes and raising premiums only for upper income seniors. Their success encouraged a group of congressional leaders from both parties to work with my administration to fix Social Security as well, without reducing benefits to those near retirement. The reforms include some form of personal retirement accounts in safe and reliable index funds, such as have been available to government employees since their retirement plans were made solvent a quarter century ago.

The United States is well on the way to independence from foreign sources of oil; progress that has not only begun to alleviate the environmental threat posed from climate change, but has greatly improved our security as well. A cap and trade system has been implemented, spurring great innovation in the development of green technologies and alternative energy sources. Clean coal technology has advanced considerably with federal assistance. Construction has begun on twenty new nuclear reactors thanks to improved incentives and a streamlined regulatory process.

Scores of judges have been confirmed to the federal district and appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, who understand that they were not sent there to write our laws but to enforce them and make sure they are consistent with the Constitution. They are judges of exceptional character and quality, who enforce and do not make laws, and who respect the values of the people whose rights, laws and property they are sworn to

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defend.

Border state governors have certified and the American people recognize that after tremendous improvements to border security infrastructure and increases in the border patrol, and vigorous prosecution of companies that employ illegal aliens, our southern border is now secure. Illegal immigrants who broke our laws after they came here have been arrested and deported. Illegal immigration has been finally brought under control, and the American people accepted the practical necessity to institute a temporary worker program and deal humanely with the millions of immigrants who have been in this country illegally.

Voluntary national service has grown in popularity in part because of the educational benefits used as incentives, as well as frequent appeals from the bully pulpit of the White House, but mostly because the young Americans, no less than earlier generations, understand that true happiness is much greater than the pursuit of pleasure, and can only be found by serving causes greater than self-interest. Scores of accomplished private sector leaders have joined the ranks of my administration for a dollar a year and have instituted some of the most innovative reforms of government programs ever known, often in partnership with willing private sector partners. A sense of community, a kinship of ideals, has invigorated public service again.

This is the progress I want us to achieve during my presidency. These are the changes I am running for President to make. I want to leave office knowing that America is safer, freer, and wealthier than when I was elected; that more Americans have more opportunities to pursue their dreams than at any other time in our history; that the world has become less threatening to our interests and more hospitable to our values; and that America has again, as she always has, chosen not to hide from history but to make history.

I am well aware I cannot make any of these changes alone. The powers of the presidency are rightly checked by the other branches of government, and I will not attempt to acquire powers our founders saw fit to grant Congress. I will exercise my veto if I believe legislation passed by Congress is not in the nation's best interests, but I will not subvert the purpose of legislation I have signed by making statements that indicate I will enforce only the parts of it I like. I will respect the responsibilities the Constitution and the American people have granted Congress, and will, as I often have in the past, work with anyone of either party to get things done for our country.

For too long, now, Washington has been consumed by a hyper-partisanship that treats every serious challenge facing us as an opportunity to trade insults; disparage each other's motives; and fight about the next election. For all the problems we face, if you ask Americans what frustrates them most about Washington, they will tell you they don't think we're capable of serving the public interest before our personal and partisan ambitions; that we fight for ourselves and not for them. Americans are sick of it, and they have every right to be. They are sick of the politics of selfishness, stalemate and delay. They despair when every election -- no matter who wins -- always seems to produce four more years of unkept promises and a government that is just a battleground for the next election. Their patience is at an end for politicians who value ambition over principle, and for partisanship that is less a contest of ide as than an uncivil brawl over the spoils of power. They want to change not only the policies and institutions that have failed the American people, but the political culture that produced them. They want to move this country forward and stake our claim on this century as we did in the last. And they want their government to care more about them than preserving the privileges of the powerful.

There are serious issues at stake in this election, and serious differences between the candidates. And we will argue about them, as we should. But it should remain an argument among friends; each of us struggling to hear our conscience, and heed its demands; each of us, despite our differences, united in our great cause, and respectful of the goodness in each other. That is how most Americans treat each other. And it is how they want the people they elect to office to treat each other.

If I am elected President, I will work with anyone who sincerely wants to get this country moving again. I will listen to any idea that is offered in good faith and intended to help solve our problems, not make them worse. I will seek the counsel of members of Congress from both parties in forming government policy before I ask them to support it. I will ask Democrats to serve in my administration. My administration will set a new standard for transparency and accountability. I will hold weekly press conferences. I will regularly brief the American people on the progress our policies have made and the setbacks we have encountered. When we make errors, I will confess them readily, and explain what we intend to do to correct them. I will ask Congress to grant me the privilege of coming before both houses to take questions, and address criticism, much the same as the Prime Minister of Great Britain appears regularly before the House of Commons.

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We cannot again leave our problems for another unluckier generation of Americans to fix after they have become even harder to solve. I'm not interested in partisanship that serves no other purpose than to gain a temporary advantage over our opponents. This mindless, paralyzing rancor must come to an end. We belong to different parties, not different countries. We are rivals for the same power. But we are also compatriots. We are fellow Americans, and that shared distinction means more to me than any other association. I intend to prove myself worthy of the office; of our country; and of your respect. I won't judge myself by how many elections I've won. I won't spend one hour of my presidency worrying more about my re-election than keeping my promises to the American people. There is a time to campaign, and a time to govern. If I'm elected President, the era of the permanent campaign will end. The era of problem solving will begin. I promise you, from the day I am sworn into office until the last hour of my presidency, I will work with anyone, of either party, to make this country safe, prosperous and proud. And I won't care who gets the credit. Thank you.

Thank you,
--
Andres Moreno
Deputy Director - Tracking/Media Monitoring
Progressive Media USA
202-609-7688 (office)
703-501-6661 (cell)
amoreno@progressivemediausa.org
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From:	"Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	8/11/2008 8:20:43 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Tracking Clip of the Day: McCain flips, now says gas prices will not decrease, due to demand from India and China

Today McCain said that to think price of oil will come down "ignores the reality of two major economies ... competing for a finite resource". Last Thurs, he said he '[did] not recognize that" increased demand from China, etc. will offset gains to be made from offshore drilling. See links and full transcripts below. Enjoy!

McCain: To think price of oil will come down "ignores the reality of two major economies ... competing for a finite resource"
QUESTIONER: Well, I just had a question about the mass transit in this country like high-speed rail, electric, this kind of stuff that families could use to commute east and west, north and south and do it cheaply.

JOHN MCCAIN: "[...] I think what you're doing here [at GE] is a natural extension of what you're going to see as an explosion of mass transit in America. Yeah. I can't tell you that I think the price of a barrel of oil is gonna come down dramatically. I'm happy to see, as you are, that it's come down some recently, but, to somehow think that the price of a barrel of oil is gonna be very inexpensive again, ignores the reality of two major economies--China and India--that are also competing for a finite resource. I mean, it's just a fundamental of economics and so I think that mass transit is gonna be a very, very big factor. A lot of the cities are doing it.
(Employee Town Hall; Erie, PA 08/11/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqfhTTgKTTE

AUDIENCE MEMBER: You understandably see this great optimism about reducing oil costs and energy more generally. But do you recognize the small likelihood that significantly decreasing the price of fuel at the pump and energy for our houses in the midst of enormous increase in demand from emerging economies, like Brazil, China, and India?

JOHN MCCAIN: I do not recognize that. Thank you, though, for your question. In France it takes five years to build a nuclear power plant, five years. And France generates 80% of their electricity using nuclear power, 80%. I know I wasn't planning on taking French but the fact is they can do it, we can too. [...]We can do it through all of the above: wind, tide, nuclear, solar. [...] We have been sailing ships around the world, the United States Navy has, for sixty years, a nuclear power plants on them. Why not in the world can't we do that too? [...]
(Town Hall; Lima, OH 08/07/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcI_SxD9zG8

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Terry Sheridan" <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/22/2011 6:36:58 AM
Subject: RE: CGSGI CEO Executive Search

John:

I had a chance to review your participation by phone in the interviews with the search firm, and they feel that it's difficult to be meaningfully engaged on the phone. Apparently they have done tele-presence before, but they find it creates constraints in engaging with the candidates. What they recommend is arranging an in-person meeting for the second round, and these could be done in DC on Dec. 19-20 if that makes it easier for you. They were also thinking that in between the first and second round, we could entertain flying a group of candidates out to San Francisco to meet Eric. We could also consider flying the candidates to Little Rock to meet with Bruce for that matter.

Let me know if you think I should send a note to Bruce on this, or if you think you would want to discuss it with him. Also, please let me know your thoughts about your seeing the second-round candidates in DC. Thanks.

Terry

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2011 3:40 PM
To: Terry Sheridan
Subject: Re: CGSGI CEO Executive Search

Terry,
I need to be in DC on those days, but could probably participate in a number of the interviews by phone from DC. Let's discuss tomorrow.
John

On Thu, Nov 17, 2011 at 12:04 PM, Terry Sheridan <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org> wrote:
> John:
>
>
>
> I hope your trip is going well.
>
>
>
> I wanted to follow up with you on a major project we are working on -
> the executive search for the CEO of CGSGI. We have retained Russell
> Reynolds for the search, and we are working with Annie Simonds from
> their Washington DC office. They have identified a number of viable
> candidates and we are scheduled to conduct in-person interviews in NY
> on December 7th and 8th, with follow up interviews on December 19th and 20th.
>
>
>
> Bruce is on the search committee but obviously hasn't been able to
> participate these past few weeks. In addition to myself and Annie
> Simonds, the other members are Christy Louth, Executive Director of
> CGSGI Canada, and Eric Nonacs, a member of the CGSGI Steering
> Committee and of the CGSGI Canada Board of Directors, whom you may
> know. Christy will particpate in the December 7th & 8th interviews,

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> but is not available for the follow up interviews, and Eric is
> unfortunately not available for either. We were counting on Bruce to
> add an important management perspective, but I am not sure if he will
> be able to participate. If he is not able, would you be able to help,
> particularly for the first round on December 7th and 8th? It will be
> important to have good representation on our end not only to evaluate
> the candidates but also to attract them to the position. I know you
> have a very full plate, but if your schedule would be able to
> accommodate this, the search firm would of course brief you on the
> candidate slate, and will be preparing a summary of specific questions
> and areas we will want to explore in our interviews with candidates.
> There will be a total of 8 candidates to speak to on 12/7 & 12/8, with the objective of narrowing the field to 4 candidates for the 2nd round later that month.
>
>
>
> Another alternative could be to reschedule the interviews for January,
> but the objective has been to move this along at an aggressive pace as
> Frank Giustra is very eager to fill this position (it has been vacant
> since mid-year). Once we agree on the second-round candidates, we
> could also fly the candidates out to San Francisco where Eric is based.
>
>
>
> I would appreciate your bringing this up with Bruce when you next
> speak, and your thoughts on the possible alternatives if he is not
> available. Thanks and safe travels.
>
>
>
> Terry

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From: Tikkun <magazine@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 11/1/2015 4:57:54 PM
Subject: Jill Stein's Policy on Israel & Palestine

Tikkun { tē-kün } to heal, repair, and transform the world

Tikkun does not endorse candidates or political parties. But we do seek to inform you of perspectives that have been publlicly articulated. Here is Jill Stein, the Green Party's presidential candidate, articulating her stand on what she would do were she to be president. We have repeatedly tried to get an interview with Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton and several Republic Party candidates on these and related issues without any success. So the best we can say is that our readers should compare Jill Stein's statement with others running in all of the political parties, particularly anyone whom you have chosen to support for the nomination to be your party's candidate for president of the U.S.

Dr. Jill Stein on Israel, Palestine and The Middle East

Green Party Presidential Candidate Dr. Jill Stein says U.S. Policy Towards Israel, Palestine and the Middle East Must Change. The American People need no longer fund terror.



Dr. Jill Stein, the Green Party presidential candidate, released a clear and comprehensive policy statement on Israel, Palestine and the Middle East on her website . Jill Stein is the only American Presidential candidate to insist on a Middle-East policy platform grounded in international law, human rights, equality, peace, freedom and justice for everyone. She asks the right questions and provides brilliant answers.

tmf

> “United States policy regarding Israel and Palestine must be revised to make international law, peace and human rights for all people, no matter their religion or nationality, the central priorities. While the U.S. government sometimes voices support for this principle in name, in practice U.S policy towards Palestine and Israel has violated this principle more often than not.

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In particular, the United States has encouraged the worst tendencies of the Israeli government as it pursues policies of occupation, apartheid, assassination, illegal settlements, blockades, building of nuclear bombs, indefinite detention, collective punishment, and defiance of international law. Instead of allying with the courageous proponents of peace within Israel and Palestine, our government has rewarded consistent abusers of human rights. There is no peace or justice or democracy at the end of such a path. We must reset U.S. policy regarding Israel and Palestine, as part of a broader revision of U.S. policy towards the Middle East.

On taking office, I will put all parties on notice – including the Israeli government, the Palestinian Authority, and the Hamas administration in Gaza – that future U.S. support will depend on respect for human rights and compliance with international law. All three administrations will also be held responsible for preventing attacks by non-state actors on civilians or military personnel of any nationality. The parties will be given 60 days to each demonstrate unilateral material progress towards these ends.

Material progress will be understood to include but not be limited to an end to the discriminatory apartheid policies within the state of Israel, the removal of the Separation Wall, a ban on assassination, movement toward denuclearization, the release of all political prisoners and journalists from Israeli and Palestinian prisons, disarmament of non-state militias, and recognition of the right of self-determination for both Israelis and Palestinians.





Failure by any party to demonstrate sufficient material progress will result in the end of U.S. military and economic aid to that party. Should the end of U.S. aid fail to cause a party to redirect its policies and to take steps resulting in sufficient material progress within an additional 60 days, I will direct my State Department to initiate diplomacy intended to isolate and pressure the offending party, including the use of economic sanctions and targeted boycott. In this way, U.S. policy will begin to become consistent with its practices regarding other violators of human rights and international law in the region.

Consistency in U.S. policy regarding human rights and international law will begin, but not end, with Palestine and Israel. I will apply this same approach to other nations, such as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen, among others. I will also ensure that the United States begins to honor its obligations to protect human rights, and will expect that the world community will hold us to the same

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account we hold others.

Finally, as President I will put the full weight of the United States behind the establishment of a Palestine and Israel Truth and Reconciliation Commission as the vehicle for shifting from an era of human rights violations to one based on trust and bringing all parties together to seek solutions. Any stakeholder who enters into this process must pledge to work for a solution that respects the rights of all involved. This will bring America's Middle East policy into alignment with American values. I understand that in the end, a dedicated commitment to justice will further American interests in the region much better than the current policies of supporting abuses and violence by one side against the other. And I believe that this is in the best interests of all people living in Israel and Palestine."



Dr. Jill Stein

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "John Halpin" <jlrhalpin@gmail.com>
fshakir@americanprogress.org
Date: 7/19/2008 9:00:58 AM
Subject: Fwd: [big campaign] Re: HUGE STORY

Faiz,
See this?
Any traction on Mcain politico oped. maybe adam can post to list serve.
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Andres Moreno <andres@progressiveaccountability.org >
Date: Jul 19, 2008 9:40 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: HUGE STORY
To: Ilan Goldenberg <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org >
Cc: "bigcampaign@googlegroups.com " <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com >

You can find this interview at:

SPIEGEL Online International:

http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,566852,00.html

On Sat, Jul 19, 2008 at 10:03 AM, Andres Moreno <andres@progressiveaccountability.org > wrote:

> Here is an excerpt and full text of interview
> EXCERPT:
>
> SPIEGEL: Would you hazard a prediction as to when most of the US troops will finally leave Iraq?
>
> Maliki: As soon as possible, as far as we're concerned. US presidential candidate Barack Obama is right when he talks about 16 months. Assuming that positive developments continue, this is about the same time period that corresponds to our wishes.
>
> SPIEGEL: Is this an endorsement for the US presidential election in November? Does Obama, who has no military background, ultimately have a better understanding of Iraq than war hero John McCain?
>
> Maliki: Those who operate on the premise of short time periods in Iraq today are being more realistic. Artificially prolonging the tenure of US troops in Iraq would cause problems. Of course, this is by no means an election endorsement. Who they choose as their president is the Americans' business. But it's the business of Iraqis to say what they want. And that's where the people and the government are in general agreement: The tenure of the coalition troops in Iraq should be limited.
>
> FULLL TEXT OF INTERVIEW:
>
> SPIEGEL: Germany was opposed to the war. The German economics minister was in Baghdad last week, Daimler AG plans to build trucks in Iraq, and you will travel to Berlin this week. Has everything been smoothed out between Germany and Iraq?
>
> Maliki: We want closer relations, and it is my impression that the Germans -- the government, the people and German companies -- want the same thing. Our task is to rebuild a country, and the Germans are famous for effective and efficient work. We have great confidence in them and want to involve them in the development of our country.
>
> SPIEGEL: And there is truly no resentment against a country that opposed the war in 2003?
>
> Maliki: We do not judge our partners on the basis of whether or not they were militarily involved in toppling

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Saddam. The decisions back then corresponded to the national will of the countries, and we respect that.

SPIEGEL: What exactly do you expect from the Germans and from German companies?

Maliki: We want to get to know them, and we want to know what they want -- and the things they fear when thinking about Iraq. We have to start over again in many areas, including oil production, the development of the power grid and all industries. There is much to be done.

SPIEGEL: What do you expect from the Germans, politically and militarily? The Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) occasionally trains Iraqi security forces -- but only in neighboring countries.

Maliki: What matters most to us is that we develop resilient political relationships and work together economically. Our security forces are steadily improving, partly as a result of German efforts. We will be pleased to turn to the Germans to equip our police and military; and should there be new training programs with the German Bundeswehr, we will be happy to accept their help. However, we would clearly prefer that the training take place in Iraq in the future. Overall, I believe that we are gradually becoming self-sufficient.

SPIEGEL: Three weeks ago, your government filed a civil lawsuit in New York against companies that allegedly paid bribes to officials in the Saddam regime. The defendants include three German companies: Daimler, Siemens and B. Braun Melsungen. How is this compatible with your overtures to German industry?

Maliki: We are in negotiations with Siemens for the construction of power plants, which shows just how serious we are. Whether the suit you mention succeeds will be for the courts to decide. Under no circumstances will the consequence be that we no longer wish to work with the companies in question.

SPIEGEL: Large parts of Iraq's assets abroad remain frozen -- and inaccessible to creditors. What will happen to this money when the UN Security Council mandate for Iraq expires at the end of this year?

Maliki: We have hired several international law firms to deal with these assets. At the moment, they are protected by UN resolutions, American law and the personal commitment of President George W. Bush -- and we want this protection to remain in place after the end of UN mandate on Iraq. We consider the claims being lodged against this money to be unjustified. Iraq cannot be punished for crimes that were committed by the dictator. This is very important to us, and a key aspect of our negotiations over the future status of US troops in Iraq.

SPIEGEL: Germany, after World War II, was also liberated from a tyrant by a US-led coalition. That was 63 years ago, and today there are still American military bases and soldiers in Germany. How do you feel about this model?

Maliki: Iraq can learn from Germany's experiences, but the situation is not truly comparable. Back then Germany waged a war that changed the world. Today, we in Iraq want to establish a timeframe for the withdrawal of international troops -- and it should be short. At the same time, we would like to see the establishment of a long-term strategic treaty with the United States, which would govern the basic aspects of our economic and cultural relations. However, I wish to re-emphasize that our security agreement should remain in effect in the short term.

SPIEGEL: How short-term? Are you hoping for a new agreement before the end of the Bush administration?

Maliki: So far the Americans have had trouble agreeing to a concrete timetable for withdrawal, because they feel it would appear tantamount to an admission of defeat. But that isn't the case at all. If we come to an agreement, it is not evidence of a defeat, but of a victory, of a severe blow we have inflicted on al-Qaida and the militias. The American lead negotiators realize this now, and that's why I expect to see an agreement taking shape even before the end of President Bush's term in office. With these negotiations, we will start the whole thing over again, on a clearer, better basis, because the first proposals were unacceptable to us.

SPIEGEL: Immunity for the US troops is apparently the central issue.

Maliki: It is a fundamental problem for us that it should not be possible, in my country, to prosecute offences or crimes committed by US soldiers against our population. But other issues are no less important: How much longer will these soldiers remain in our country? How much authority do they have? Who controls how many, soldiers enter and leave the country and where they do so?

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SPIEGEL: Would you hazard a prediction as to when most of the US troops will finally leave Iraq?

Maliki: As soon as possible, as far as we're concerned. US presidential candidate Barack Obama is right when he talks about 16 months. Assuming that positive developments continue, this is about the same time period that corresponds to our wishes.

SPIEGEL: Is this an endorsement for the US presidential election in November? Does Obama, who has no military background, ultimately have a better understanding of Iraq than war hero John McCain?

Maliki: Those who operate on the premise of short time periods in Iraq today are being more realistic. Artificially prolonging the tenure of US troops in Iraq would cause problems. Of course, this is by no means an election endorsement. Who they choose as their president is the Americans' business. But it's the business of Iraqis to say what they want. And that's where the people and the government are in general agreement: The tenure of the coalition troops in Iraq should be limited.

SPIEGEL: In your opinion, which factor has contributed most to bringing calm to the situation in the country?

Maliki: There are many factors, but I see them in the following order. First, there is the political rapprochement we have managed to achieve in central Iraq. This has enabled us, above all, to pull the plug on al-Qaida. Second, there is the progress being made by our security forces. Third, there is the deep sense of abhorrence with which the population has reacted to the atrocities of al-Qaida and the militias. Finally, of course, there is the economic recovery.

SPIEGEL: Critics have accused you of striking harshly against the Mahdi army of Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr, while going easy on his rival Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim's Badr militia.

Maliki: That's not true. We proceed just as firmly against anyone who breaks the law. Just a few days ago, we had an incident with a group associated with the Badr people. The army moved in immediately and arrested them all. No one was spared. The punishment is based purely on the nature of the crime, not on the identity of the criminal.

SPIEGEL: In southern Iraq, where you come from, you have been compared with Saddam Hussein when it comes to harshness.

Maliki: That's the sort of thing that people say who don't understand how urgently Iraq needs stability -- or these people prefer instability. We don't want to spread fear and terror in Iraq. We have, for example, given the militias several deadlines to hand over their weapons. Their resistance was tremendous, so we had to oppose them with tremendous force of our own.

SPIEGEL: What role do you envision for your chief rival, Muqtada al-Sadr? Can there ever be national reconciliation in Iraq without his participation?

Maliki: You can only reconcile with someone who wants to reconcile. His Excellency Muqtada al-Sadr can be a political partner, especially if, to that end, he draws on the great spiritual legacy he has inherited from his ancestors. He has understood that his following was eventually infiltrated by criminal elements, by men from the former regime, al-Qaida people and others. The fact that he is now in the process of systematically separating himself from these elements makes him even stronger as a political partner. As a politician, I might add, not as a militia leader.

SPIEGEL: You spent part of your exile in Iran, and you have visited the country several times since you took office. Can you explain to us what the leaders in Tehran are up to? Are they building a nuclear bomb? Do you see this as a serious threat?

Maliki: I have not been made privy to the details of the Iranian nuclear program. Iranian representatives assure us, however, that this program serves peaceful purposes. Even if Tehran wanted to develop a nuclear weapon, it would take a very long time, simply from a technical standpoint. It is obvious that our region is far too fragile for even a single country to possess nuclear weapons, because it will always be an incentive for other countries to also build their own.

SPIEGEL: Exactly 50 years ago, the monarchy in Iraq was overthrown and a republic established. But we didn't see any celebration of this event at all. What does that day mean for the history of Iraq?

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Maliki: There may have been people who celebrated. But certainly not all Iraqis. On July 14, 1958, and era came to an end, but what came afterwards didn't live up to our expectations and hopes. What came were decades of military putsches and the dictatorship. We are still dealing with the aftermath today.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Prime Minister, your job is probably one of the most dangerous a politician can have. How do you cope with this, and what do you do to make it bearable?

Maliki: I lead a very simple life -- one that is shaped by external forces, which is apparently what fate has determined for us Iraqis. In that regard, the past few decades of dictatorship have not changed all that much. What keeps me going? The constant exertion of my job -- and the successes we are now having. It means a lot to me to see how much closer we are today to a democratic Iraq, one that respects human rights, than we were only a few months ago.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for taking the time to speak with us.

Interview conducted by Mathias Müller von Blumencron and Bernard Zand in Baghdad

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Ilan Goldenberg <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org >
Date: Sat, Jul 19, 2008 at 9:07 AM
Subject: [big campaign] HUGE STORY
To: "bigcampaign@googlegroups.com " <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com >

This is absolutely huge. Maliki just essentially endorsed by name the Obama Iraq plan

http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2008/07/its-over.html

It's Over
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

Not much to say here. Other than the fact that this is a huge huge huge deal. Article speaks for itself.

In an interview with Der Spiegel released on Saturday, Maliki said he wanted U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible.

"U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes"

And

Asked if he supported Obama's ideas more than those of John McCain, Republican presidential hopeful, Maliki said he did not want to recommend who people should vote for.

"Whoever is thinking about the shorter term is closer to reality. Artificially extending the stay of U.S. troops would cause problems."

And

"The Americans have found it difficult to agree on a concrete timetable for the exit because it seems like an admission of defeat to them. But it isn't," Maliki told Der Spiegel.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Is there anything left to say?

July 19, 2008 at 05:59 AM | Permalink

http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed2/idUSL198009020080719

Print | Close this window
Iraqi PM backs Obama troop exit plan: report
Sat Jul 19, 2008 7:38am EDT

BERLIN (Reuters) - Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki told a German magazine he supported prospective U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's proposal that U.S. troops should leave Iraq within 16 months.

In an interview with Der Spiegel released on Saturday, Maliki said he wanted U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible.

"U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes."

It is the first time he has backed the withdrawal timetable put forward by Obama, who is visiting Afghanistan and us set to go to Iraq as part of a tour of Europe and the Middle East.

Obama has called for a shift away from a "single-minded" focus on Iraq and wants to pull out troops within 16 months, instead adding U.S. soldiers to Afghanistan.

Asked if he supported Obama's ideas more than those of John McCain, Republican presidential hopeful, Maliki said he did not want to recommend who people should vote for.

"Whoever is thinking about the shorter term is closer to reality. Artificially extending the stay of U.S. troops would cause problems."

Maliki, who is due to visit Germany this week, has suggested a timetable should be set for a U.S. withdrawal but U.S. officials have been more cautious, despite an improving security situation.

The White House said on Friday President George W. Bush and Maliki had agreed that a security deal under negotiation should set a "time horizon" for meeting "aspirational goals" for reducing U.S. forces in Iraq.

"The Americans have found it difficult to agree on a concrete timetable for the exit because it seems like an admission of defeat to them. But it isn't," Maliki told Der Spiegel.

Some five years after the U.S.-led invasion, there are still some 146,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

(Reporting by Madeline Chambers; Editing by Jon Boyle)

--
Andres Moreno

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Deputy Director - Tracking/Media Monitoring
ProgressiveAccountability.org (PAO)
202-609-7688 (office)
703-501-6661 (cell)
andres@progressiveaccountability.org

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Ilan Goldenberg <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org >
Date: Sat, Jul 19, 2008 at 9:07 AM
Subject: [big campaign] HUGE STORY
To: "bigcampaign@googlegroups.com " <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com >

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Is there anything left to say?

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Sat Jul 19, 2008 7:38am EDT

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(Reporting by Madeline Chambers; Editing by Jon Boyle)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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--
Andres Moreno
Deputy Director - Tracking/Media Monitoring
ProgressiveAccountability.org (PAO)
202-609-7688 (office)
703-501-6661 (cell)
andres@progressiveaccountability.org

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
	"Lily Adams" <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/18/2015 5:46:43 AM
Subject:	RE: HRC did great

We're pushing out the doc via social from The Briefing, as well as the following video:
https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/videos/2015/07/17/there-she-goes-again/

-----Original Message-----
From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2015 12:30 AM
To: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; 'Mandy Grunwald' <gruncom@aol.com>; Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; 'Robby Mook' <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; 'John Podesta' <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; 'Joel Benenson' <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; 'Jim Margolis' <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: RE: HRC did great

For awareness (or tweeting), here's a quick little snapshot Iowa put together that's up on the Briefing:
https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/updates/2015/07/17/idp-hof/

We will also be putting up a part of the riff on women, but had some technical issues, so will get it up tomorrow when more people are watching.

-----Original Message-----
From: Tony Carrk [mailto:tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 11:20 PM
To: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: RE: HRC did great

Good job on not getting CSPAN hot mic'ed yet.

-----Original Message-----
From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 11:04 PM
To: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

<john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: RE: HRC did great

Webb said he wouldn't have voted for war in Iraq, wouldn't have authorized the intervention in Libya and will not support Iran having any possibility of getting a nuclear weapon.

He didn't name us, and the first two things are not inaccurate, so I don't think it's worth putting anything out, but just flagging.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:49 PM
To: Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: HRC did great

Interesting that Bernie is making a big play on AA and Latino issues -- and getting good reaction,

Huge applause on Citizens United.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

> On Jul 17, 2015, at 10:40 PM, Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
> wrote:
>
> Oh my mistake. He seems hoarse.
>
>
> ---------
> Lily Adams
> cell: (202) 368-4013
>
>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:39 PM, Christina Reynolds
>> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>
>> I think he meant Bernie shouting at the crowd. It feels awkward on TV.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Lily Adams [mailto:ladams@hillaryclinton.com]
>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:38 PM
>> To: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

>> Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Christina
>> Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook
>> <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin
>> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
>> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>
>> It's from one corner of the room where his tables are
>>
>>
>> ---------
>> Lily Adams
>> cell: (202) 368-4013
>>
>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:36 PM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> wrote:
>>>
>>> How is the shouting in the room?
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:32 PM
>>> To: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin
>>> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
>>> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony
>>> Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>>
>>> Bernie is up.
>>>
>>> It's really like listening to Robby.
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:20 PM, Christina Reynolds
>>>> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Worth noting:
>>>> @Lis_Smith
>>>> BIG THEME of @MartinOMalley's speech tonight: Actions, not Words.
>>>> As progressives, we need someone who can get. things. done.
>>>>
>>>> -----Original Message-----
>>>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>>>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:16 PM

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

>>>> To: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>> Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>>>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>>>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; creynolds@hillaryclinton.com;
>>>> Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>>>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>>>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>>>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>>>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>>>
>>>> Not yet. O'Malley is speaking now.
>>>>
>>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>>
>>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:14 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>>> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Fantastic. Any incoming from the others?
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 10:13 PM, Jennifer Palmieri
>>>>>> <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Passionate, great response in the room.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Sent from my iPhone

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "John Podesta" <John.Podesta@ptt.gov>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/29/2008 8:38:19 AM
Subject: Fw: FROM CUTTER: revised key messages for nominees

----- Original Message -----
From: Cutter Financial Group, LLC <jcutter30@comcast.net>
To: John Podesta; Dan Pfeiffer; Brooke Anderson
Cc: Stephanie Cutter
Sent: Sat Nov 29 12:55:43 2008
Subject: FROM CUTTER: revised key messages for nominees

This is what i'm sending to holder, napolitano, jones and rice. John, you'll take care of Clinton and Gates, right? Please ask for a copy of their 1 minute remarks by tonight. If you need me to follow up with them, just let me know.

Thanks.

1. NEW BEGINNING

The time has come for a new beginning – a new dawn of American leadership to overcome the challenges of the 21st century, and to seize the opportunities embedded in those challenges. We will strengthen our capacity to defeat our enemies and support our friends. We will renew old alliances and forge new and enduring partnerships. We will show the world once more that America is relentless in defense of our people, steady in advancing our interests, and committed to the ideals that shine as a beacon to the world: democracy and justice; opportunity and unyielding hope.

President-elect Obama believes we need new strategies that balance and integrate all elements of American power diplomacy, military, intelligence, and law enforcement and the power of our moral example. He's picked just the right team to carry that out.

2. CONFIDENT COMMANDER IN CHIEF/READY ON DAY ONE

This is a high-powered national security cabinet who will work together as a TEAM to keep America safe and restore its standing in the world.

These are the choices of a CONFIDENT Commander in Chief who wants strong leadership to advance his agenda and is signaling his intention to work across the aisle in a bipartisan way on the security challenges we face.

President-elect Obama is moving quickly and decisively so will be ready on DAY ONE to meet the challenges that will be there on day one: two wars; terrorism; Iran/North Korea -- spread of nuclear weapons;over-stretched military; energy dependence; conflicts in Sudan, Congo,Guantanamo/detainee issues, etc.

3. BIPARTISANSHIP:

We move forward with respect for America's tradition of a bipartisan national security policy, and a commitment to national unity.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

4. AMERICAN POWER RESTORED (specific messages for State, AG, Defense, DHS, UN and NSC -- the order in which they are speaking).

STATE: America is stronger and safer when we pursue vigorous diplomacy. As the President-elect has said, we must engage friends and foes alike.

DOJ: Strong law enforcement and respect for civil liberties can live side by side. We can protect our people, uphold the public trust and adhere to our Constitution.

DOD: We must responsibly end the war in Iraq through a successful transition to Iraqi control, and we must ensure that we have the strategy – and resources – to succeed against al Qaeda and the Taliban. Afghanistan is the central front on the war on terror, and we must refocus our efforts to defeat terror where it started.

DHS:
Protecting our homeland means preventing terrorist attacks and responding to catastrophe – be it manmade or natural. To do that, the federal government must ensure accountability and a high level of cross-government coordination. It must also work hand in hand with state and local governments to share information, secure our borders, and keep our country safe.

UN: The global challenges we face demand global institutions that work. We must work together with the world -- our commitment to multilateral action will be borne out by a commitment to reform. We need the UN to be more effective as a venue for collective action – against terror and proliferation; genocide and conflict; global climate change, poverty and disease.

NSC: To succeed, we must use all elements of American power: our military and diplomacy; our intelligence and law enforcement; our economy and the power of our moral example.

Vice President Elect: Confident Commander in Chief, ready on Day One, high powered cabinet that will form a national security TEAM to keep us safe.

From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 2:53:49 PM
Subject: Re: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA

Thanks

On Apr 23, 2015 8:58 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Sure! Here's the phrase exactly, adding his twitter handle. Going out in 10.

.@Frank_Giustra replies, adding actual facts to NYT conjecture: http://ceo.ca/2015/04/23/statement-of-frank-giustra/

On Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 8:53 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Can you tweet statement with something very simple like Guistra replies, adding actual facts to NYT conjecture.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com >
Date: Apr 23, 2015 8:06 PM
Subject: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA
To: "hrcrapid@googlegroups.com " <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com >
Cc:

http://ceo.ca/2015/04/23/statement-of-frank-giustra/

Statement of Frank Giustra

POSTED ON APRIL 23, 2015 BY FRANK GIUSTRA
CATEGORY FRANK GIUSTRA ,

A book that has not yet been published has caused the New York Times to publish a wildly speculative, innuendo-laced article about the Clinton Foundation and my role in contributing money to it. There is not one shred of evidence to back up the Times' conclusions. This is not about me, but rather an attempt to tear down Secretary Clinton and her presidential campaign. If this is what passes for investigative journalism in the United States, it is very sad.

The facts do not comport with the story in the New York Times. The reporter, Jo Becker, wrote a similar piece in 2008, which was eventually debunked by Forbes. http://www.forbes.com/2009/01/12/giustra-clinton-kazakhstan-pf-ii-in_rl_0912croesus_inl.html

1. I began working on financing the purchase of mining stakes from a private Kazakh company in early 2005. The purchase was concluded in late 2005.

- In late 2005, I went to Kazakhstan to finish the negotiations of the sale. Bill Clinton flew to Almaty a few days after I arrived in the country on another person's plane, not on my plane, as the Times reported. Bill Clinton had nothing to do with the purchase of private mining stakes by a Canadian company.
- I sold all of my stakes in the uranium company – Uranium One – in the fall of 2007, after it merged with another company. I would note that those were sold at least 18 months before Hillary Clinton became the Secretary of State. No one was speculating at that time that she would become the Secretary of State.
- Other media outlets have insinuated that I influenced the decision by the U.S. to sign a free trade agreement with Colombia. At one point, I was an investor in Pacific Rubiales, a Colombian energy company. I sold my shares in Pacific Rubiales several years before the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which, I will note, was approved by several U.S. agencies and the White House. To theorize that I had anything to do with that is sheer conjecture.

I hope that the U.S. media can start to focus on the real challenges of the world and U.S. society. Focus on

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poverty, homelessness, infrastructure, health care, education, or fractious world politics. You are a great country. Don't ruin it by letting those with political agendas take over your newspapers and your airwaves.
I am extremely proud of the work that we have done at the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership. Thousands of people, all over the world, have been helped by this initiative. I plan to continue that work long after the harsh glare of this week's media stories has faded.


4 Votes

Sent from my iPad

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/30/2015 4:42:14 PM
Subject: Re: CLIP | MSNBC: Interview with DWS

Lord

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 30, 2015, at 11:30 PM, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> This may require us to articulate the difference bt us and Bernie sooner than we thought.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: Thu, Jul 30, 2015 at 11:25 PM
> Subject: Fwd: CLIP | MSNBC: Interview with DWS
> To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> This exchange is making the rounds.
>
> CHRIS MATTHEWS: whatever is the difference between a democrat and a socialist? i used to think there is a big difference. what do you think it is?
>
> DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the difference between –
>
> CHRIS MATTHEWS: a democrat like hillary and a socialist between bernie sanders. what's the big difference between a democrat and a socialist? you're chairman of the democratic party. tell me the difference.
>
> DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the relevant debate we'll be having what's the difference between a democrat and a republican.
>
> CHRIS MATTHEWS: i think there's a huge difference.
>
> ---------
> Lily Adams
> cell: (202) 368-4013
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > From: Batul Contractor <bcontractor@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Date: July 30, 2015 at 9:21:40 PM CDT
> > To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Subject: CLIP | MSNBC: Interview with DWS

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, 7.30.15.

Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=a9a0ef9d-da00-4992-9b3a-2dbec93c46ac

Rough Transcript:

CHRIS MATTHEWS: of course, that was florida congresswoman debby wasserman schultz in 2008. not long ago. now hillary clinton is running again and debby is the chair of the democratic committee. a long primary campaign will only erode the benefit democrats are poised to reap from the republicans' free for all. i'm convince that had a prolonged debate will do us more harm than good. is he right? are we better off with bernie noise against hillary or better off without him?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i think eventually the nominee of both parties benefits from having the muscle that they need exercised throughout a primary. i think it atrophies if you don't get to discuss it. i think it is healthy to have a debate throughout the contest. i don't think we'll have a terribly long one.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: hillary clinton will probably win in iowa. new hampshire will be very close. there could be an upset. won't that hurt to the left? further left than she would want to go? won't that weaken her in the general?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: what will happen throughout the primary and the republican party. the contrast will be extremely clear. that any of our candidates, hillary clinton, hillary clinton, bernie sanders, lincoln chafee, any of them, will focus on moving our country forward. continuing job growth that we've had under president obama for more than five straight years. we were at 750 jobs a year.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: so he can beat jeb bush? linoln chafee? come on.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the american people are with democrats.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: do you want to see bernie sanders speak at the democratic convention? do you want him up there?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: bernie sanders –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: do you want him on the floor of the convention?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: bernie sanders has been a good democrat. caucuses with the democrats.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: she speak in prime time? with everybody watching?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: bernie sanders represents, we are a big time –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: so the answer is yes.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: said yes. i can say yes again.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: in prime time.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i don't know what time he should speak.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: maybe when nobody is watching, you mean.

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DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: no. of course he should speak. he should speak in a slot where the appeal that he has across the board, the progressive, pop list message that he has that resonates deeply and widely with the american people, not just democrats, absolutely that should be featured. the difference between us and the republicans, we are really a big party.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: whatever is the difference between a democrat and a socialist? i used to think there is a big difference. what do you think it is?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the difference between –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: a democrat like hillary and a socialist between bernie sanders. what's the big difference between a democrat and a socialist? you're chairman of the democratic party. tell me the difference.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the relevant debate we'll be having what's the difference between a democrat and a republican.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: i think there's a huge difference.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: different between a democrat and republican is that democrats fight to make sure everybody has an opportunity to succeed. and the republicans are strangled by their right wing extremists. so where, we're watching them debate. phasing out medicare. and a candidate who actually said that president obama would march israelis to the ovens. that's the kind of debate going on on their side on. our side, we're talking about the best way that we can make sure every american has a chance to reach the middle class.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: are you in or out of the deal? the nuclear deal?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i'm taking my time to really know that deal well. i'm going to go home and talk to my constituents.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: i'm with you on that. let me ask you a tough question. if you vote it down, it is a -- if the congress votes it down. then you basically voted a vote of no confidence against president's foreign policy. the weird things is those on the right would say now we'll cut a better deal. how can they trust obama cut a better deal if they knock down the only plan?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the problem i see with people opposed to the deal, the republicans, i think, have been very irresponsible. where they're unilaterally immediately –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: they're not looking at it.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i have the. the number one decision, what is the most likely scenario that prevents iran from getting a nuclear women -- nuclear weapon. to make sure we can draw contrast and reemphasize support to make sure everyone has access to health care throughout the entirety of their lives. before medicare, seniors faced medical bankruptcy, families were medically bankrupt. republicans like jeb bush would phase out medicare. every republican on the other side why.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: that's a solid argument. thank you. debby wasserman schultz.

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
"Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
Date: 4/20/2015 7:26:00 AM
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Fwd: Media Inquiry

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <brentbbi@webtv.net >
Date: Apr 20, 2015 2:10 PM
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Media Inquiry
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc:

John, FYI, Brent
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: "Rhoades Ha, Danielle" <danielle.rhoades-ha@nytimes.com >
Date: Mon, 20 Apr 2015 13:51:43 -0400
To: <brentbbi@webtv.net >
Cc: Eileen Murphy<Eileen.Murphy@nytimes.com >
Subject: Fwd: Media Inquiry

Hi, Brent -

Eileen forwarded your query.

I can confirm that there was no payment of any sort. Please attribute the response below to Carolyn Ryan, Washington, DC bureau chief and Political editor, The New York Times. It represents our response on the matter.

"We had access to some material in the book, but we wanted to do our own reporting."

Danielle
Danielle Rhoades Ha
Executive Director, Communications
The New York Times Company
O: 212-556-8719 M: 917-379-6928
Danielle.Rhoades-Ha@nytimes.com
@daniellerha

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Brent Budowsky <brentbbi@webtv.net >
Date: Mon, Apr 20, 2015 at 9:27 AM
Subject: Media Inquiry
To: "eileen.murphy@nytimes.com " <eileen.murphy@nytimes.com >

Ms. Murphy, my name is Brent Budowsky, columnist for The Hill newspaper in Washington. For an upcoming column I have a question:

Mr. Peter Schweizer will soon be publishing a book "Clinton Cash" etc. which makes serious allegations against Bill and Hillary Clinton. In her story about this book dated April 19, your reporter Amy Chozick includes the following: "But 'Clinton Cash' is potentially more unsettling, both because of its focused reporting and because major news organizations including The Times, The Washington Post and

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Fox News have exclusive agreements with the author to pursue the story lines found in the book."

My question to the New York Times is: exactly what is this exclusive agreement between Mr. Schweizer and the New York Times? Is their any compensation to be offered by the New York Times to Mr. Schweizer or his publisher, or any compensation offered to the New York Times, by Mr. Schweizer or his publisher, in any form? In other words what exactly is the quid pro quo of this arrangement?

The working title of my column will be "Holy War against Hillary Clinton", and one of my topics will be the relationship between the conservative and Republican media infrastructure that organizes these attacks, which is certainly their right, and how the major media reports on these attacks.

This inquiry is purely fact-checking an effort to be accurate and fair in my column. I seek to ascertain the nature and details of the "exclusive relationship" between the NYT and the author and publisher of this book, and I will be candid and tell you I find this relationship strange and troubling. Normally an author publishes a book, and news organizations assign reporters to report on the content of the book without collusion or compensation beyond the normal book promotion and reporter/author relationships.

I may well request a formal interview with Mr. Baquet to discuss this "relationship", but for now I would appreciate in the spirit of fact-checking and fairness the details of this "relationship."

I can be reached via this email and at (202) 296-6177 .

In advance I appreciate your consideration,

Brent Budowsky

Sent from my iPad

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From: "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date: 4/24/2015 2:42:57 AM
Subject: Fwd: FIRST READ -- April 24, 2015

Indeed, upon reflection, that Times article doesn't hold up that well 24 hours after its publication.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Murray, Mark A (NBCUniversal) <Mark.Murray@nbcuni.com >
Date: Friday, April 24, 2015
Subject: FIRST READ -- April 24, 2015
To:

The sound of silence (almost) from the '16 candidates on drone deaths… But it's a conversation and debate worth having for the next commander-in-chief… The Clinton campaign strikes back against the NYT… Why Ted Cruz skipped the Loretta Lynch vote: He had to catch a flight to a Texas fundraiser… Conservative writer: "John Kasich should be punished for expanding Obamacare"… Saturday's two GOP cattle calls… And previewing this Sunday's "Meet the Press."

From Chuck Todd, Mark Murray, and Andrew Rafferty.

FIRST THOUGHTS.
*** **The Sound of Silence (Almost) From the '16 Candidates on Drone Deaths**: If you've been following American politics over the last six years, President Obama could sneeze, and it would produce a flurry of negative statements and reactions from his political opponents. That's what makes yesterday's silence -- or backtracking -- from Republican 2016 presidential candidates regarding the accidental drone killing of two hostages so striking. As the Wall Street Journal writes , some Republican 2016ers chose not to comment on yesterday's news (Jeb Bush, Scott Walker), while two others who staged a 2013 filibuster against U.S. drone policy had no stomach to protest it (Rand Paul and Ted Cruz). "It is a tragedy that these hostages lost their lives," Paul said in a brief statement, per the Journal . "My prayers and thoughts are with their families." Cruz called for investigation into the deaths, but added: "Make no mistake: responsibility for their deaths lies firmly and unequivocally with the terrorists who kidnapped them and forcibly held them in their command center."

***But it's a conversation and debate worth having**: Meanwhile, Lindsey Graham -- a hawkish supporter of U.S. intervention overseas -- said, "Collateral damage is part of war. I've got no problem at all with anything that happened, other than my deepest sympathies for those who were held by al Qaeda that became collateral damage." And Marco Rubio added, "We are all safer because of the actions taken every day around the world by our government to go after those who wish Americans harm and to prevent future attacks against us here at home." But what's amazing is that an issue that sparks so much political debate -- Should drones be used in these kinds of operations? What about against American citizens, even those with al Qaeda ties? Should there be more checks and balances? -- the 2016ers essentially punted. These are ALL questions American voters should get answers from the people vying to become the next commander-in-chief. But no one was comfortable having that conversation yesterday. It's a reminder of just how unprepared many of these campaigns are to debate some of the true heavy issues out there.

*** **The Clinton campaign strikes back**: Hours after the New York Times reported on a Canadian mining company -- whose principals donated heavily to the Clinton Foundation over the years -- sold its uranium business to Russia (which had to be approved by Hillary Clinton's State Department), the Clinton campaign struck back at the newspaper. It issued these rebuttals to attempt to knock down any quid-pro-quo:

- 1. Hillary wasn't involved in the State Department's review; it is the assistant secretary of state for economic, energy, and business affairs who makes the call;
- 2. The main Clinton Foundation donor, Frank Giustra, sold his stake in the Canadian mine business in 2007, so before Hillary became secretary of state;
- 3. The State Department was one of nine U.S. agencies to review the sale.

Indeed, upon reflection, that Times article doesn't hold up that well 24 hours after its publication. But if there's a legitimate criticism of the Clintons here -- especially when it comes to the other articles about the Clinton Foundation and Bill's speaking fees (here and here) -- it's that they were sloppy, bordering on being greedy. As Jonathan Chait writes . "All sorts of unproven worst-case-scenario questions float around the web of connections between Bill's private work, Hillary Clinton's public role as secretary of State, the Clintons' quasi-public charity… But the best-case scenario is bad enough: The Clintons have been disorganized and greedy." Just a reminder: Going after the Clintons on personal money and appearances of conflict of interest was a successful message for candidate Barack Obama in 2007-2008.

*** **Why Ted Cruz skipped the Loretta Lynch vote: He had to catch a flight to a Texas fundraiser**: Ted Cruz, who was one of the most vocal critics against Loretta Lynch's nomination for Attorney General, was the only senator to miss her final confirmation vote today because he needed to catch a flight for a previously scheduled commitment in Texas, his campaign told NBC's Kelly O'Donnell and Frank Thorp. "He had to catch a flight for a commitment in Texas," Cruz campaign spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said. According to a fundraising invite obtained by Real Clear Politics , Cruz has a fundraiser in Dallas, TX scheduled for 6:00 pm. Cruz spoke on the Senate floor Thursday morning against Lynch's nomination, and then voted against the procedural vote to move forward with consideration of her nomination, something called "cloture." But Cruz missed the actual vote on Lynch's nomination.

*** **Conservative writer: "John Kasich should be punished for expanding Obamacare"**: Here's a reason you might not want to buy stock in John Kasich's POSSIBLE presidential candidacy: He expanded Medicaid in Ohio. And here's the headline from the Washington Examiner's Philip Klein, one of top conservative wonks: "John Kasich should be punished for expanding Obamacare."

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*** **Saturday's two GOP cattle calls**: Saturday brings two GOP cattle calls. One is the Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition spring kick-off, featuring nine 2016ers -- Cruz, Fiorina, Huckabee, Jindal, Paul, Perry, Rubio, Santorum, and Walker. And the other one is the Republican Jewish Coalition confab in Las Vegas, which will also hear from Cruz and Perry, as well as George W. Bush, John Boehner, and Mitt Romney.

*** **On "Meet" this Sunday**: Finally, on "Meet the Press" this Sunday, here's an early look at some of guests: David Boies and Ted Olson (to talk about the Supreme Court's upcoming gay-marriage decision), Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, and cartoonist Garry Trudeau.

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OBAMA AGENDA: Drone Wars
The president said Thursday that the strike against al Qaeda operatives that killed two hostages was "fully consistent" with current guidelines on drone strikes. Those rules will now be under review, the Wall Street Journal reports.

From the New York Times : "By most accounts, hundreds of dangerous militants have, indeed, been killed by drones, including some high-ranking Qaeda figures. But for six years, when the heavy cloak of secrecy has occasionally been breached, the results of some strikes have often turned out to be deeply troubling."

The Washington Post reports , "Current and former U.S. counterterrorism officials said that Thursday's disclosures undercut years of U.S. claims about the accuracy of the drone program."

The Post profiles Warren Weinstein, the U.S. aid worker killed in the drone attack.

Here's Export-Import Bank head Fred Hochberg on why the Export-Import Bank matters.

CONGRESS: Lynch gets confirmed (finally)
"Loretta Lynch was confirmed Thursday as attorney general, the first black woman in American history to hold the country's top law enforcement post," NBC's Halimah Abdullah reports.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell whipped votes to push the nomination through, the Hill reports.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz led the charge against Lynch, but missed the final vote on her confirmation to get back home for a fundraiser, NBC's Kelly O'Donnell and Frank Thorp report.

The contentious Pacific trade deal cleared a major hurdle in the House, the Wall Street Journal reports.

Illinois Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin told CQ Roll Call that he has support to remain whip.

OFF TO THE RACES: Back to Iowa
Nine GOP presidential hopefuls will be in Iowa this weekend for the Faith & Freedom Coalition spring kickoff. The Des Moines Register lays out 10 things to watch ahead of the event.

BUSH: Per CNN : Jeb Bush on Thursday sought to distance himself from former Secretary of State James Baker, one of his foreign policy advisers, saying in a closed-door meeting that he doesn't believe Baker should have recently addressed the liberal-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street.

Iowa Republicans agree Jeb Bush has a Common Core problem, but they differ on how he should deal with it, Politico reports.

And he won't be in Iowa this weekend. Instead, he'll be huddling with donors in Miami, Politico writes.

Despite his indulgence in pie, he is determined to stay slim in 2016, the New York Times reports.

CLINTON: "Hillary Clinton is being called to testify on Benghazi as early as mid-May, according to Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-South Carolina, chair of a committee tasked with investigating the attacks," NBC's Leigh Ann Caldwell and Alex Moe report.

Rep. John Boehner told Bloomberg the House may try to subpoena Clinton's personal email server if she doesn't voluntarily turn it over.

New York Times op/ed : "Hillary Rodham Clinton's determination to reconnect with voters in localized, informative settings is commendable, but is in danger of being overshadowed by questions about the interplay of politics and wealthy foreign donors who support the Clinton Foundation."

Republican National Committee Chair Reince Preibus writes in the Des Moines Register: "Yes, everyday Americans "need a champion." But Clinton is not cut out to be that champion. In her eyes, there's one cause that comes before all else: herself."

KASICH: The National Review asks : Is John Kasich's presidential run for real?

O'MALLEY: In a Washington Post op-ed , the former Maryland governor calls for debt-free college.

RUBIO: The Florida senator jumped to the head of the pack in a new Fox News poll.

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The Associated Press notes that it was not long ago Rubio was questioning his own readiness to be president.

WALKER: He told a crowd this week that he will not discuss Social Security and Medicare reform until he formally declares a presidential run, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel reports.

PROGRAMMING NOTES.
*** **Friday's "News Nation with Tamron Hall" line-up**: Frances Rivera is in for Tamron Hall, she will speak with Former Army Ranger & Former CIA counterterrorism analyst Kevin Strouse about the latest on the death of American hostage Warren Weinstein and Italian hostage Giovanni Lo Porto after a drone strike in January, MSNBC's Adam Reiss on the latest protests in Baltimore after the death of Freddie Gray, Native American Actress Allie Young in Adam Sandler's film "Ridiculous 6" after she and other native American actors walked off the set because they said the script insulted native women and elders, and Breaking Bad/Better Call Saul actor Raymond Cruz about his role as Ariel Castro in Life Time's new film: Cleveland Abduction.

*** **Friday's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" line-up:** NBC's Andrea Mitchell will interview NBC's Jim Miklaszewski, Kelly Cobiella and Pete Williams, the New York Times' Jeremy Peters, Author Gayle Lemmon and "Nerd Prom" Documentary Producer Patrick Gavin.

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 8/13/2015 8:15:14 AM
Subject: Re: Iran riff

Would just add and sponsorship of terrorism after aggression.

Otherwise solid.

On Aug 13, 2015, at 2:59 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> But before we get into the politics, I want to say a few words about one of the most important decisions we face today.
>
> Across our country, Americans are considering and debating the nuclear agreement with Iran. Soon, it will come up for a vote in Congress. There are people of good faith on both sides of this issue, people who are committed to protecting our security and the security of our allies, especially Israel.
>
> President Obama and Secretary Kerry have worked hard to achieve this agreement and they are making passionate arguments for why it will keep us safe and close off avenues for Iran to get a bomb. Others, like my friend Senator Schumer, are deeply skeptical. I respect their concerns. I have no illusions about Iran's true intentions or its continuing threat to Israel, the region, and the United States. That threat is real and it must be confronted.
>
> But leadership is about hard choices. And to me, this one is clear. This agreement is the most effective path to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. There is no viable alternative. None. I support President Obama and I encourage everyone in Congress to do the same.
>
> As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That unprecedented pressure delivered a blow to Iran's economy and gave us leverage at the negotiating table, starting in Oman in 2012. We need to bring the same determination and unity to the job of enforcing this agreement and deterring Iranian aggression across the board. When this debate is over, we need to come together to ensure the President has the tools, resources, and support to send a clear message to Iran: Cheat, and you will pay. When you threaten Israel, you threaten America. And make no mistake, we will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement -- never.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/21/2008 8:03:30 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Event in South Portland Maine 07/21/08

Hello All,

Unfortunately, flight delays prevented our tracker from getting to today's event. But here's the good news: we captured the video streaming online. Below are the notes from our effort.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- McCain brought a small child onto the stage and said 'we got our newest vet right here'
- McCain said repeatedly that we have 'succeeded in Iraq'
- McCain talked about MoveOn.org and their Petraeus ad from last year, said Obama didn't vote to condemn the ad
- McCain highlighted that he supported the 'surge' when it wasn't popular
- McCain repeats 'We've got to have the same strategy in Afghanistan as we've had in Iraq.'
- McCain told a previously untold story about being a POW; the story is a significant part of the overall speech

South Portland, Maine: McCain Event 07/21/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details:

- a small "COUNTRY FIRST" McCain campaign sign at a podium
- Audience appeared to be mostly vets (Event took place at the Maine Military Museum)
- About 15-20 protesters outside the event, incl. Planned Parenthood ("Birth control not bans" and "Reproductive justice for all" signs), AFL-CIO antiwar protesters ("It's time to turn around America"), "McCain free trade hurts me", "Don't vote for McSame" etc
- Susan Collins and Olympia Snow on stage with McCain

Speech Highlights:

- thanks Susan Collins
- thanks vets, invites little child on stage, "Matthew." McCain says "we've got our newest vet right here"

- i'd like to ask for your sympathy for the state of AZ - it may be the only state in USA where mothers don't tell their kids they'll grow up to be Prez
- 2 issues: energy and security
- Our dependence on foreign oil isn't just an economic issue--hits lowest income Americans the hardest--it's also a . I will end this dependence on foreign oil "I will depend it. [corrects] I will end it."
- It's safe. We've never had an accident on Navy ships. Obama doesn't want to re-process nuclear and he doesn't want to [stumbles] store nuclear waste.
- Nuclear power plants will employ 700K people.
- We can end this dependence and we must: batteries that can take cars 200mi, clean coal technology. USA has always responded when we have a challenge.
- Let me talk to you about the wars we are in. No one hates wars more than the vets b/c he feels most keenly the loss of a comrade. We are in a "titanic" struggle against radical Islamic extremism and we're going to be in this struggle for a long time.
- Iraq is central battleground in war on terror. And we are succeeding in Iraq--we have succeeded in Iraq.
- Petraeus is a great general. ICYMI, MoveOn last year took out "Gen Petraeus or Betray-us " ad

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and we had a resolution to condemn it and Obama wouldn't vote.

- We have succeeded in Iraq but I will bring our troops home with honor.
- I said I'd rather lose a campaign than lose a war. And I'm proud of what we've done.
- Obama opposed the surge and he was wrong and he refuses to acknowledge even now that the surge is succeeding. That's what judgment is about. That's why I'm qualified to lead and I don't need on-the-job training.
- "We've got to have the same strategy in Afghanistan as we've had in Iraq." Yes we need more troops. We need to get our NATO allies.
- I know some Americans are divided in this-- I can hear some citizens now [referring to protesters]. But I'm proud we haven't disrespected our military
- Long ago and far away I served time in a Vietnamese prison camp and I saw many acts of courage and honor. I have a story I want to tell. They kept is in solitary confinement to break us. But we kept in communication. Later they changed it and put us in a cell of 25 people.
- Mike Christian shared a cell with me. He came from a poor family. Uniform was like pajamas, I recommend the sandals--one pair lasted me 5 1/2 years. As part of the change in treatment, the North Vietnamese let us receive packages from home. Mike Christian fashioned an American flag and sowed it to the inside of his uniform. Every night we would say the pledge of allegiance to that. The Pledge is not always the most important, but there it was great. The North Vietnamese found out about it and they took him out and beat him very badly. McCain woke up and found Mike Christian sewing another flag. He wasn't doing that because it made him feel better; he knew how important it was to the rest of us. So whenever I'm in the company of heroes like I am today, it inspires me to lead. Because I know I can inspire a generation of Americans to serve a cause greater than themself. I will always put my country first.
- Shakes hands and walks out.

--
Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <events@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	9/10/2015 3:00:09 PM
Subject:	Rep. Pompeo to speak at Hudson on IAEA Side Agreements and the Iran Nuclear Deal - Friday, September 11, 11:45am-1:30pm

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/25/2015 3:46:15 PM
Subject: New News! (9/25/2015)

THE COMMON GOOD

de·moc·ra·cy

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Week ending September 25th, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

Polls

Scott Walker out - Rubio gains: Scott Walker's decision to abandon the presidential race appears to boost **Senator Marco Rubio**. A recent CNN/ORC poll shows Rubio shooting to 4th place at 11%, by inheriting support from some of Walker's backers in key states. **Ledyard King,** *USA TODAY* [More]

GOP GAME CHANGE - Fiorina has rocketed to No. 2 behind Trump: **Trump: 24%, down 8** from early Sept. **Fiorina**: 15%, up 12 **Carson**: 14%, down 5 **Rubio:** 11%, up 8 **Jeb** 9% **Cruz/Huckabee** 6% **Rand** 4% **Christie** 3% **Kasich** 2% *CNN/ORC Poll, page 55* **[More]**

2016 Presidential Campaign

Donald Trump's slide in the polls is beginning to look real: A careful look at the average of the latest polls shows both Trump, Carson and Cruz in a downward trend. Fiorina, Bush and rubio are trending up. Great graphic. **Philip Bump,** *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Ben Carson said a Muslim shouldn't be president: About four in 10 Americans agree with the GOP candidate, a poll showed. **Aaron Blake,** *The Washington Post* **[More]**

RNC fundraising mostly donations under $200 each: Total raised by the end of August: $71.3 million. Percentage of donations $200 and under 99%. Average donation- $60. **Mike Allen's *POLITICO Playbook* [More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Obama and China's Xi agree on cyber spying and climate change: "The two leaders agreed neither government would conduct economic espionage in cyberspace and outlined new steps to deliver on pledges to slash their nations' greenhouse gas emissions." **Matt Spetalnick** and **Michael Martina**, *Reuters* **[More]**

Defiant Putin is heading to the U.N.: "Russian President Vladimir Putin will storm into New York on Monday seeking to prove that he will not be isolated at his first appearance at the United Nations General Assembly in a decade. The sudden deployment to Syria of Russian warplanes and battle tanks has upended the West's calculus of freezing out Russia and helped prompt a head-to-head meeting between Putin and Obama on Monday in New York that was unthinkable just weeks ago...In Moscow, Russian officials have declared that Russia's call for a coalition against the Islamic State is gaining traction in the West." **Andrew Roth**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

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Russia leveraged its growing military presence in Syria, to start military-to-military talks with the U.S.: "But (Russia's) deployment of air defense systems and fighter aircraft — weapons that can be used against a conventionally armed foe but that have little utility against extremist fighters — has spurred concerns that Moscow's goal is also to establish a military outpost in the Middle East. **…**At the same time, the U.S. military admitted embarrassing failures in the effort to train Syrian rebels and was embroiled in an investigation into possible manipulation of intelligence reports to paint a false picture of progress against the Islamic State." **Michael Gordon** and **Eric Schmitt**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Cap on refugees to be raised to 100,000 in 2017: Under the plan, the limit on visas for refugees would be increased to 85,000 in fiscal year 2016 from 70,000 now, Secretary of State **John Kerry (TCG Speaker)** said. Syrians would be among the beneficiaries. **Michael R. Gordon,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Graph depiction of tragedy in Syria: More than 200,000 people have been killed in the four-and-a-half-year Syrian civil war. An arresting illustration shows where and how they died. **Karen Yourish, K.K. Rebecca Lai** and **Derek Watkins**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Rampant sexual abuse of children has long been a problem in Afghanistan, particularly among armed commanders who dominate much of the rural landscape and can bully the population. The practice is called bacha bazi , literally "boy play," and American soldiers and Marines have been instructed not to intervene — in some cases, not even when their Afghan allies have abused boys on military bases, according to interviews and court records. **Joseph Goldstein**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Boehner calling it quits: "House Speaker **John Boehner** (R-Ohio), faced with a constant conservative rebellion, told Republicans Friday morning that he will resign at the end of October...The likely successor is House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), the No. 2 GOP leader who has been in office less than 10 years, who has wide support in the Republican Conference but who many believe lacks the political and tactical gravitas to be a force in the House." **Mike De Bois** and **Paul Kane**, *The Washington Post* **[More]**

DC/NY in thrall over papal visit: Pope addresses Congress in historic speech and appears at the UN: Pope Francis challenged America to embrace "the common good". He asked the U.S. to accept millions of undocumented immigrants, join the fight against global climate change and poverty and push back against extremism. At the UN Pope Francis emphasized the need for a fairer world economy, the abolition of the death penalty, the protection of ethnic and religious minorities, the outlawing of the global "blood" trade in arms, and the protection of the family in a speech sure to please liberals." **Stephen Collinson** and **Daniel Burke**, *CNN* **[More]**

Ahmed Mohamed, an inventive Muslim high school student from Texas, shot into international fame after he was handcuffed when his homemade clock set off bomb fears. Mr. Obama, Mark Zuckerberg, M.I.T., Twitter and even Stephen Colbert reached out to him. "Dude, I'm still trending," the amazed 14-year-old told a reporter. **Mandy Fernandez** and **Christine Hauser,** *New York Times* **[More]**

The black family in the age of mass incarceration: "American politicians are now eager to disown a failed criminal-justice system that's left the U.S. with the largest incarcerated population in the world. But they've failed to reckon with history. Fifty years after Daniel Patrick Moynihan's report 'The Negro Family' tragically helped create this system, it's time to reclaim his original intent." **Ta-Nehisi Coates,** *the Atlantic* **[More]**

The Economy

Global growth to slow in 2016?: Citigroup Chief Global Economist **Willem Buiter (TCG Speaker)** says global growth likely to decelerate by the middle of next year and the Fed may wait until Spring of 2016 to raise interest rates. *Bloomberg* **[More]**

Big Tech has become too powerful: We're not creating the new businesses we should be. These giants have to be broken up. **Robert B. Reich,** *New York Times* [More]

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CEO of Volkswagen resigns amidst scandal: The emissions scandal has wiped nearly $29 billion off its market value this week. With 11 million cars potentially affected, jobs may be in jeopardy and the company could be permanently damaged. **Kayleena Makortoff, Catherine Boyle** and **Philip Tutt,** *CNBC* **[More]**

China's banking system downgraded by S&P: Growing bad debt and problems in the real-estate sector contributed to the ratings firm downgrading China's banks. **Mark Magnier,** *Wall Street Journal* [More]

More from the TCG Community

Jeffrey Sachs: Making drug more affordable and accessible: "Corporate lobbyists and their friends in the media spout free-market platitudes about why the sky-high prices are necessary to promote innovation. It's time for a serious understanding of the policy issues." **Jeffrey Sachs**, *The Huffington Post* **[More]**

Books

Review: *"Unfinished Business"* by Anne-Marie Slaughter: "Aware that many people found the "having it all" mantra offensive because of its unrealistic, selfish connotations, Slaughter now regrets that it was the title of her piece, even though she recognizes that it "undoubtedly sold more magazines." She was also attacked for being a plutocrat feminist, concerned only with the high-class problems of affluent women. She has taken pains in her book to be more inclusive of service-economy and lower-skilled workers, though "Unfinished Business" still mainly speaks to the highly educated and affluent." **Jill Abramson (TCG Speaker),** *The Washington Post* [More]

Review: *"Kissinger: 1923-1968: The Idealist"* by Niall Ferguson: Ferguson's book deal with the years of **Henry Kissinge**r's rise to power. "Ferguson is particularly convincing in arguing against the popular view that **Kissinger (TCG Speaker)** is the ultimate pragmatic realist, a polar opposite to those whose ideals shape and infuse their actions." **Chris Patten**, *Financial Times* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ari Berman on Voting RIghts and the efforts to limit them.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015, Reception & remarks 6:15-7:45pm

RSVP

Mark Mellman **SOLD OUT Leading political strategist and pollster on 2016 Campaign**

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Lunch and Remarks, 12pm hosted by Paul Beirne, Peter Maroney & AllianceBernstein

RSVP

Ambassador Melanne Verveer
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner, Isaac Getlan, Hugh Ferguson and our interns Samar Nadi, Robin Silver, Tracey Pennito and Justin Vacura.

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@TheCommonGood. JOIN IN by sending us your ideas, news, and reactions to admin@thecommongood.net.

###

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 7/2/2015 2:29:26 AM
Subject: RE: here is the latest

Dear Jake,

Please see my edits below. Of course, we must see the final agreement. But I am very concerned that a complete embrace of this deal, without any expression of reservations, will leave her open to serious attack not just from Republicans, but from many Democrats, and from many of the key signatories of the Washington Institute letter, including Howard Berman, Dennis Ross, and people whose opinions on nuclear issues one needs to respect, like Robert Einhorn, and other non-proliferation experts like David Albright. She can certainly make clear her opposition to Congress overturning the deal, which would weaken the President greatly.

Best wishes,

Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2015 8:09 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Subject: here is the latest

I took some of your concepts but left out the specifics.

The deal between six world powers and Iran offers the best path forward to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, despite its deficiencies. With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this deal will make the United States, Israel, and the region safer and more secure. I applaud President Obama and Secretary Kerry for this important accomplishment.

[I would have preferred an agreement that provided access to all of Iran's nuclear sites, including its military facilities; that allowed the IAEA inspectors the opportunity to interview all people they believe necessary to establish Iran's past and ongoing Possible Military Dimensions; and that sequenced sanctions relief to documented performance of Iran's obligations. However, this agreement is better than no deal at all, which would leave Iran the unfettered opportunity to a full-scale march to a nuclear weapon, without any of the constraints of this agreement in place.]

As President, I would use every tool in our arsenal to compel rigorous Iranian compliance. Neither Iran nor any other country would have a veto over our enforcement. And I would never permit Iran to interpret this deal to allow it to evade its obligations to the IAEA or to place any suspicious site off limits to inspectors. The response to any violation must be immediate and overwhelming -- starting with the return of sanctions but taking no options off the table,

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including, if necessary, the use of force.

The message to Iran should be loud and clear: We will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement – never.

Today's agreement is the culmination of an effective strategy of pressure and engagement executed over many years. By the end of the Bush administration, Iran was rapidly expanding its nuclear centrifuge capacity despite unilateral American sanctions. The Obama administration took a different approach, working with Congress and our allies and partners around the world. As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That unprecedented pressure shattered Iran's economy and forced its representatives to the table – starting in Oman in 2012 -- to negotiate a deal that can put a nuclear weapon out of reach.

Going forward, we have to be clear-eyed when it comes to the broader threat Iran represents. Even with an agreement that cuts off its nuclear ambitions, Iran still poses a direct challenge to the United States and our allies, especially Israel. It continues to destabilize countries from Yemen to Lebanon, while exacerbating conflict in Syria. It is developing missiles that can strike every country in the Middle East. And it fuels terrorism throughout the region and beyond, including through direct support to Hamas and Hizballah. We have to oppose and raise the costs for Iran's destabilizing activities, insist on the return of U.S. citizens being held in Iranian prisons, and strengthen security cooperation with our allies and partners. Sanctions for terrorism, and other non-nuclear sanctions, should remain in place.

Israel has to be confident that the United States will always defend its security and ensure its Qualitative Military Edge in the region. I would invite the senior Israeli leadership to Washington for early talks on further strengthening our alliance. We should also deepen our security relationship with Arab partners who are threatened by Iran's ambitions.

I support this deal because it blocks Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon and gives us tools to catch Iran if it tries to cheat. Ultimately, the alternatives were worse for America. Imposing new, unilateral sanctions, or engaging in military force at this juncture, would risk fracturing the world consensus we have

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painstakingly built, undermining our maximum leverage at a time when Iran is at its most vulnerable.

So we should proceed with wisdom and strength in implementing a deal born out of strong American leadership.

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/8/2015 9:49:34 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Cheers

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm

Skimm for October 9th

Skimm'd on new sheets

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't sleep at night" — VW's US president and CEO chatting about his insomnia. Yesterday, Congress grilled him about that time VW cheated on emissions tests.

SKIMM THIS

BURNIN' DOWN THE HOUSE

THE STORY

Yesterday, the GOP had an existential crisis.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Last month, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) announced he was calling it quits , and everyone thought Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) would take his place. Until yesterday, when McCarthy said 'not running anymore.' Cue the GOP freaking out.

WHY'D HE DROP OUT?

McCarthy said he couldn't win over the far-right members of the party, and he thinks the position needs a fresh face. Boehner said 'you can't tell, but all the color has drained from my face,' and postponed the vote to elect a new speaker. And then reportedly started trying to recruit other options (cough, Paul Ryan , cough). Everyone else said 'maybe this has something to do with McCarthy's facepalm moment last week,' when he hinted that the Benghazi committee (to investigate the 2012 attack there) was created in part just to damage Hillary Clinton's campaign. To which many in the GOP said 'well, this is awkward.'

theSKIMM

This is about who will fill the third-highest position in DC. Being nominee-less is not an ideal situation for the GOP, especially ahead of an election year.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

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WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR CO-WORKER SAYS IT FINALLY "FEELS LIKE FALL"...

t also feels like Nobel Prize season. Today, the National Dialogue Quartet in Tunisia won the Nobel Peace Prize . The quartet's a coalition that helped Tunisia build democracy after the country's revolution in 2011. And now, it's also a coalition hat beat out people like Pope Francis and German Chancellor Merkel to win the top prize. This comes after Belarusian writer Svetlana Alexievich took home the Nobel Prize in Literature yesterday. She's known for putting a critical eye owards Mother Russia on things like the Soviet war in Afghanistan in the 80s and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. t's pretty rare for a nonfiction writer to take home the hardware. Snaps.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT...

Spencer Stone . He's the US Air Force guy who was stabbed while thwarting a terrorist attack with two friends on a train in France over the summer. Yesterday, Stone was stabbed again. This time, it happened near a bar in Sacramento, CA. It's unclear exactly who stabbed Stone, but police are looking for two men. Officials said the stabbing isn't terror-related, and has nothing to do with his hero moment in France. Stone's in serious but stable condition.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU REALIZE YOU ENTERED THE WRONG DESTINATION INTO THE GPS...

Oops. Yesterday, the US military leaked word that four Russian cruise missiles aimed at Syria mistakenly landed in Iran . Hate when that happens. It's unclear where in Iran the missiles ended up, or what kind of damage they caused. The US says Russia has never used these kinds of missiles in combat, which might explain why things didn't go quite as planned. Reminder: Russia and Iran have teamed up to help Syrian President Assad in the country's civil war. Yesterday, Russia deny, deny, denied the alleged misfire, and Iran brushed off the report as part of the US's "psychological warfare" tactics. In case you missed it, Syria is also where the US is leading a meh coalition to defeat ISIS. Meaning, the international clusterf*ck that is the Syrian Civil War is even more of an international clusterf*ck.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU HEAR NETFLIX'S SUBSCRIPTION FEE JUST WENT UP...

At least I'm not looking at a $200 million tab. Yesterday, Bill Gross sued Pimco for $200 million. Bill Gross: legendary nvestor known as the "Bond King." Pimco: the giant bond fund company that he co-founded, and had a bad divorce with ast year. Turns out, he's still pretty mad about it. In the lawsuit, Gross says the company's younger execs plotted to kick him out so that they could get a bigger piece of the bonus pool pie. Gross says he wants a trial by jury. Pimco says "this awsuit has no merit." So no love lost there.

SKIMM THIS

THING TO KNOW

You keep hearing 'TPP.' It's that trade deal that comes with a lot of controversy attached. We Skimm'd it for you.

SKIMM READS

"Why Not Me?" by Mindy Kaling

Mindy's had a good couple of years. You'll hear about how she went from being a TV writer to the headliner of her own show. Plus, she lets you in on why she hates weddings, loves filming sex scenes, and the sage advice she's gotten from Kim Kardashian. Yes, really.

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SKIMM WINE

Reading is better with a glass of something. Skimm'ologist says this white wine will make you feel refreshed, just like Mindy's book.

PROGRAMMING NOTE

Congrats, it's a long weekend. There will be no Skimm on Monday. We'll see you back here Tuesday bright and early.

SKIMM SHARE

Sharing is no sweat, but working out is. Congrats to Charlotte Marsalese (Northville, MI) for sharing like it's hot. She gets a FitBit , Tory Burch FitBit bracelet , and a Skimm tank. Wanna get in on the share? Click the button below.





SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

* indicates Skimm'bassadors. Make it count.

*Carol Rooney (Berkeley, CA); *Susan Breck (Greenwich, CT); *Brittany Berger (New York, NY); *Chelsea Zeller (Houston, TX); *Liz White (Rowlett, Texas); *Tory Round (New York, New York); *Bonnie Brendle (Spring Lake Hts, NJ); *Ashley Cunningham (Lund, Sweden); *Katie Berger (Sherman Oaks, CA); *Brittany Berger (New York, NY); *Emily Ryan (Jakarta, Indonesia); *Heather Wolfson (San Diego, CA); *Nora Mihalick (Minot, ND); *Cassidy Voecks (Oshkosh, WI); *Jessica Hayes (Elizabethton, TN ; *Tarah Gilbreth (Claremont, CA); *Brynne Kelly (Chicago, IL); *Megan Gularte (Monterey, CA); *Adrienne Erbesti (Baton Rouge, LA); *Amy Notestein (Chicago, IL); *Emaleigh Dudley (Costa Mesa, CA); *Kyri Kipriadis (New York, NY); *Phi Sayre (Seattle, WA); *Christine Puls (Kansas City, MO); Brett Kasner (New York, NY); Andrew Blumberg (Los Angeles, CA); Rich Reuter (New York, NY); David Zender (London, England); Pam Gelfond Baumann (Washington, DC);Ben Golkin (New York, NY); Dabney Vigor (Charlotte, NC); Emilie Hilliard (Oxford, MS); Jessica Carroccio (New York, NY); Libba McCraw (Lynchburg, VA); Emily Paley; Felipe Macia (New York, NY); Catherine McGinty (Philadelphia, PA); Limor Gildenblatt (Chicago, IL); Taylor Holmes (Irvine,CA); Tara Black (Haddonfield, NJ); Val Riccardi (Haymarket, VA); Jane He (New York, NY); Zach Taylor (Raleigh, NC); Caroline Hoffman (New York, NY); Ned Trim (Pasadena, CA); Michael Sanders (Indianapolis, IN); Meghan Still (Austin, TX); Caroline McCraw (Lynchburg, VA); Sarah Austin (Whiteville, NC); Taylor O'Quinn (Atlanta, GA); Allie Gray (Chicago, IL); Elizabeth Backman (Draper, UT); Jennifer Adams (Washington, DC); Julie Randolph (Los Gatos, CA); Kali Book (Woodstock, IL); Beatrice Phillips (Zionsville, IN); Melody Yan (San Francisco, CA); Amanda Rahe (Jackson, MI); Julia Miller (Alpharetta, GA); John Piscopio (Niwot, CO); Amy

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Chang Radosevich (Sunnyvale, CA); Marilynn Joyner (Washington, DC); Reagan Francis (Dallas, TX); Ellen Harris (West Orange, NJ); Barbara Elfman (Cambridge, MA); Jackie Costa (Milwaukee, WI); Kathy Doermer (Clearwater, FL); She-Ann Siegel (Bethesda, MD); Stella Ireland (Byram, NJ); Pennie Cohen (New York, NY); Jay Cashman (Chapel Hill, NC)

Skimm'd something we missed?

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/15/2014 11:25:45 AM
Subject: August Vacation and the Freedom to Travel

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August 15, 2014

Dear Friends:

Just so you know, we are clearing out of the office for a week, which means we won't be sending a fresh edition of the Cuba Central News Blast until August 29th. We're going on vacation!

Of course, if we were working in Europe we'd have longer leave (and a better Cuba policy). But, we still consider ourselves lucky, and still count ourselves as baffled that U.S. law frustrates the ability of most Americans to visit Cuba.

These restrictions on what Americans can do are imposed on us by the U.S. government in the name of advancing freedom in Cuba. Which itself is altogether odd, when you consider that it is more restrictive, more bureaucratic, and more costly for nearly all Americans to receive permission from our government to visit Cuba than it is for Cubans to visit the United States or any other country.

Even worse, some policymakers in Congress would like to increase the restrictions on Americans who want to visit Cuba at a moment when more Cubans are coming to the U.S. and traveling the world than at any time since 1959.

Even worse than that, these same policy makers -- the ones who restrict our rights to travel as a method for bringing democracy to Cuba -- are also the biggest fans of our totally messed up "regime change" programs run out of USAID. Read Fulton Armstrong's recent piece about them here . They want to shut the front door to Cuba while sending in a cast of amateurs and subversives through the backdoor. To do what? To break Cuba's information blockade? Isn't that what *travel's* for?

George Orwell could've designed the policy. Some Americans -- Cuban Americans, academics, and journalists -- are more equal than others. If you cannot be stuffed into one of these categories, you can journey to the island on a people-to-people program. But it can be costly and the U.S. stipulates what you can do or can't do once you arrive.

For most of Cuba's post-revolutionary history, the government put tight restrictions on the right of their people to travel anywhere. The U.S. State Department is still handing out copies of a speech that President George W. Bush delivered in 2007, in which he said: "In Cuba it is illegal to change jobs, to change houses, to travel abroad..."

But, in January 2013, Cuba eliminated the requirement that its travelers obtain exit visas. As Human Rights Watch reported this year, "Nearly 183,000 people traveled abroad from January to September 2013, according to the government. These included human rights defenders, journalists, and bloggers who previously had been denied permission to leave the island despite repeated requests, such as blogger Yoani Sanchez."

The end of travel restrictions has begun a blossoming of economic and social openings for

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Cubans. Cuentapropistas (self-employed Cubans, since it is now *legal to change jobs*) have reaped incredible material and professional gains from being able to purchase much needed inputs -- at better prices and higher quality -- and to meet their counterparts in the U.S., who share knowledge, experience and insight with them.

Our friend, Niuris Higuera, owner of Atelier Paladar in Havana, said she went home with "her head spinning from all the projects she wanted to develop in Cuba," based on ideas she picked up in the States.

The experience was even more profound for young participants in a summer exchange program arranged by the Center for Democracy in the Americas and Cuba Educational Travel (CET) to bring four young Cubans to the U.S. to do homestays and internships.

As Collin Laverty of CET wrote us, Yoan Duarte, who graduated from the University of Havana in June and hopes to become a fashion designer, spent the summer in New York City shadowing some of the industry's best. "The first few weeks I was constantly slapping myself in the face, thinking I was going to wake up in Havana at any moment. Now I'm eager to get back and put to work all the new skills I've acquired," he said recently. Yoan plans to start his own clothing line upon return to Cuba.

Earlier today, the White House posted this paean to the travel industry, praising the growing number of jobs it is creating, the upward spiral of spending on travel and tourism-related goods and services, and how the U.S. hopes to welcome 100 million visitors per year by 2021.

We can only imagine what a stir would be created if Cubans and Americans of non-Cuban descent enjoyed the unrestricted right to exchange ideas and experience without any restrictions. It would be good. It would be human. But, today, that is not reality.

But the President can change that. He has executive authority to broaden revenue-producing, information-exchanging, re-humanizing, and demystifying travel between the island and our country, which has outsized benefits compared to secreting USAID contractors into Cuba masquerading as advocates working on AIDS prevention, when they're really trying to incite rebellion.

The choice ought to be clear to the President who, after all, got to go on vacation a week before us (which is, like, totally fair, ok?).

Happy vacation.

This week in Cuba news...

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Contents

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS
- Cuban women entrepreneurs visit Miami
- Increase in number of Cuban immigrants crossing the Mexican border into U.S.
- Cuba policy re-emerges as issue in Florida gubernatorial race

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS
- 27th round of peace talks between Colombia and the FARC begins in Havana
- EU and Cuba to resume talks August 27 in Brussels
- WTO director visits Cuba, applauds foreign investment efforts

IN CUBA
- Cuba celebrates Fidel Castro's 88th birthday
- Cuban court sentences three baseball players in human trafficking operation allegedly run by MLB star Yasiel Puig
- Catholic Cubans plan to build first new church since the Revolution
- Cuba to shift focus to renewable energy and onshore oil wells
- Retired professors to be re-hired, paid extra
- Internet users and computer access increase in Cuba
- Globe Theatre Group performs "Hamlet" in Havana

Recommended Reading
- When Washington 'holds the pen' , Sandra Abd'Allah-Alvarez Ramírez, Progreso Weekly
- Supporting private enterprise to thrive in Cuba , Charles Shapiro, U-T San Diego
- On the series by the Associated Press about USAID programs in Cuba :
  - What is USAID up to with its 'Democracy Promotion' programs in Cuba? , Fulton Armstrong, Tico Times
  - Dear AP, Sometimes a Democracy Program Is Just a Democracy Program--Even in Cuba, Chris Sabatini, Americas Quarterly
- Cuban Health Care: Rutgers Students Witness a Different Way to Serve Patients , Andrea Alexander, Rutgers Today
- Hello from Cullen , Cullen Moran, Center for Democracy in the Americas

Recommended Viewing
- Wife of Alan Gross, American Jailed in Cuba, Says He Is 'Slowly Wasting Away' , Fox News Insider
- Está Cayendo -- Housing in Havana by Alison McCauley , Alison McCauley, FOTO8
- Cubans Celebrate Havana Carnival , Orlando Matos, NBC News
- Fidel Castro turns 88 (PHOTOS) , Alex Leff, Global Post

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

Cuban women entrepreneurs visit Miami

Five Cuban women, who work on the island as *cuentapropistas*, or self-employed workers, visited Miami last week to share their experiences starting and running businesses in Cuba, the Miami Herald reports. Their ten-day trip to the U.S. was organized by the Cuba Study Group.

The delegation included Yamina Vicente, a former economics professor at the University of Havana who started a decorating and party planning business with her sister, and Niuris Higueras, who runs Atelier, one of the most popular restaurants in Havana's Vedado neighborhood. Vicente and Higueras came to the U.S. last November with the Center for Democracy in the Americas, where they met with officials in Congress and the White House, and were featured at CDA's conference, "Cubans in the New Economy: Their Reflections and the U.S. Response," at The George Washington University. See brief video of their appearance here .

In Miami, the cuentapropistas said they have been successful so far, making good profits and experiencing little difficulty in obtaining business licenses, a process that some Cubans report as an obstacle. The panelists said that the principal challenges they face include the

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sparse availability of capital and difficulty securing leasing contracts.

Increase in number of Cuban immigrants crossing the Mexican border into U.S.

Of the nearly 21,000 Cubans that have entered the U.S. through immigration control points this fiscal year, almost 14,000 arrived by crossing the Mexico-U.S. border, an increase of 150% since 2009, reports Café Fuerte . The majority of these Cubans request asylum upon reaching U.S. Border Control, invoking the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act, which grants permanent residency to Cubans that reach the U.S. and stay for a year.

Emigration from Cuba has risen since President Raúl Castro's 2013 migratory reforms , which dropped the requirement that Cubans obtain an exit visa in order to leave the island. The increase in Cuban immigration through the Mexican border coincides with a rise in the number of Cubans intercepted in the Strait of Florida. Over 1,500 have been stopped so far this year -- the most since 2008.

Cubans with Spanish nationality have also been arriving in record numbers, reports Café Fuerte. A 2008 law passed in Spain allows people who have a Spanish grandparent to become naturalized Spanish citizens. Cubans that obtain a Spanish passport using the 2008 law can travel to the U.S. without visa requirements, as is the case with all European Union countries.

Cuba policy re-emerges as issue in Florida gubernatorial race

The campaign to re-elect Florida Republican Governor Rick Scott released a video on Wednesday that shows Charlie Crist, Democratic gubernatorial candidate, and Annette Taddeo, Crist's running mate, taking contrasting positions on the U.S. embargo against Cuba. Following the video's release, Cuba policy has resurfaced as a hot-button issue in an already heated race, reports the Nuevo Herald .

Crist supports lifting the embargo to benefit Florida businesses, but on Monday Taddeo told reporters she "[doesn't] think we should be doing business with Cuba." Earlier this year, Crist announced his intention to visit Cuba only to cancel his travel plans weeks later. Crist says he still wants to see the island, but will wait until after the November election.

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

27th round of peace talks between Colombia and the FARC begins in Havana

Peace talks between Colombia's government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the group that has waged a guerrilla war in Colombia since its formation in the 1960s, resumed on Tuesday in Havana, EFE reports. This session of talks, the 27th in a series that started in November 2012, focuses on "recognition and reparation" for the conflict's victims -- the fourth objective in a five-part peace plan . The negotiations have already addressed land and rural development, political participation, and illegal drugs. The fifth stage of the plan aims to end the conflict altogether.

EFE reports that FARC leader Rodrigo Londoño said that the current round will be particularly complex:

> ***"It will have to be explained to [the victims] what happened, why they were treated in this way, and then those responsible for that will have to be brought to light. The victims will have to have the satisfaction of having explained to them what happened, whatever the causes, and that needs to be clear not only for them but for all Colombians."***

Because of the delicate nature of this round of negotiations, Londoño said that a peace deal will not be finalized this year. EFE reports that five delegations of victims will participate directly in this round of talks; the first delegation will arrive August 16. During the 50

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years of conflict, 220,000 victims died, 25 thousand were disappeared, 5.7 million were displaced, and 27 thousand were kidnapped, according to Colombia's Center for Historical Memory.

EU and Cuba to resume talks August 27 in Brussels

The second round of negotiations to establish the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between Cuba and the European Union (EU) will take place in Brussels on August 27 and 28, according to an "EU source," reports EFE. In the first round of talks, which took place in Havana in April, the parties agreed to a format for negotiations and an outline of the future agreement.

Since December 1996, the EU's relations with Cuba have been governed by the Common Position, which, like the U.S. Helms-Burton Act of the same year, stipulates that economic and diplomatic cooperation with Cuba will depend upon "improvements in human rights and political freedom" and an "irreversible opening of the Cuban economy." EFE reports that the EU will continue to maintain its Common Position during its negotiations with Cuba. All 28 EU member states must reach a unanimous agreement to repeal the measure. Even so, the EU has sought to deepen its ties with Havana while encouraging the reforms the island has already undertaken.

Americas Quarterly recently published an article by Sarah Stephens, CDA's executive director, arguing that the EU's willingness to engage with Cuba should serve as a model for U.S. policy. Read it here.

WTO director visits Cuba, applauds foreign investment efforts

Roberto Azevedo, director of the World Trade Organization (WTO), visited Cuba this week during a tour of Latin America that also included Mexico and El Salvador, reports EFE. In Cuba, Azevedo met with Vice President Ricardo Cabrisas, Rodrigo Malmiercas, Minister of Foreign Commerce and Foreign Investment, and Abelardo Moreno, Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations. He also met with officials in charge of the Special Economic Development Zone at Mariel Port.

OnCuba reports that Azevedo was encouraged by Cuba's Foreign Investment Law, which went into effect in June, as well as the Special Zone at Mariel. He said to Cuban media, "There is a need to attract foreign investors, and it looks like Cuba is now in that process of finding its recipe."

Azevedo also advocated for "overcoming political and geopolitical tensions that lead to restrictive measures," referring to the U.S. embargo. Azevedo continued, "To the extent that it is possible to move forward with dialogue, to move in the direction of normalization of relations, is always the preferable path."

IN CUBA

Cuba celebrates Fidel Castro's 88th birthday

Cuba celebrated the 88th birthday of former President Fidel Castro with a photo exhibit and the restoration of his birth home in Birán, reports the Associated Press. The photo exhibit "Fidel is Fidel" opened Tuesday at Havana's Jose Martí Memorial and features images of Castro taken between 2005 and 2012 by photographer Roberto Chile, who photographed Castro over a 25 year period.

In Birán, construction workers and specialists from the Havana Historian's Office restored Castro's birth home, a school he attended, and other homes, hotels and public facilities. Castro's rural estate home in Birán, which serves as a museum, is a replica of the original family home that burned down years ago, reports the Latin American Herald Tribune.

Although he rarely appears in public, the retired Cuban president periodically contributes to

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newspaper columns and meets with foreign dignitaries.

Cuban court sentences three baseball players in human trafficking operation allegedly run by MLB star Yasiel Puig

A provincial court in Cienfuegos imposed five-year prison sentences on three Cuban athletes for planning to smuggle baseball players out of the country as part of a trafficking operation. The scheme was allegedly run by Yasiel Puig of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Miami resident Raúl Pacheco Hernández, reports Café Fuerte .

The convicted were Eduardo Antonio Soriano Díaz, Dumay Pedroso, and Ramón Eusebio Navarro. The case began when Noelvis Etenza, a pitcher for Cienfuegos and member of Cuba's national team, reported to Cuban State Security that Puig had offered to pay for him to leave the country by speedboat in order to play baseball in the U.S. Etenza claimed that the three Cuban players involved in the operation had approached him on multiple occasions to encourage him to accept Puig's offer.

Although the smuggling of baseball players out of the country is treated as a serious crime in Cuba, top talent is enticed by the possibility of multi-million dollar contracts in the U.S. Major Leagues. Puig himself defected to the U.S. in 2012, securing a $42 million contract, and first baseman José Dariel Abreu left Cuba to sign on to a $68 million contract with the Chicago White Sox in 2013. Because of the continued drain of high-level Cuban athletes, government officials in Cuba have placed pressure on players, encouraging them to deliver information on trafficking activities.

For more on Yasiel Puig's alleged involvement with smuggling, see this piece that ESPN Magazine ran in June.

Catholic Cubans plan to build first new church since the Revolution

A group of Cuban Catholics are awaiting official permission to begin construction of the first Catholic Church to be built in Cuba since the 1959 revolution, reports BBC News . The church will be built in Santiago de Cuba, where it will replace another church that was destroyed in 2012 by Hurricane Sandy, which left Santiago's Catholics with few places to worship after destroying seven churches and damaging twenty-eight.

The group still needs to raise $250 thousand to finance the project, but Fox News Latino reports that parishes abroad plan to contribute most of the funds. The St. Lawrence parish in Tampa, Florida, which is primarily composed of Cuban exile families, has already pledged funds to support the project.

Fausto Veloz, the project's engineer, hopes to build the new church using the twenty-five tons of scrap metal that were left over from the stage constructed for Pope Benedict XVI's 2012 visit, which took place just months before Hurricane Sandy. For Veloz, "reusing the metal means keeping alive the memory of something good for us Catholics. It gives it new life, so it can serve future generations."

Although Cuba has been a secular state since 1992, laws from an era in which Cuba was officially atheist remain on the books, posing a challenge to those who wish to build new churches.

To watch the accompanying BBC News video, see here .

Cuba to shift focus to renewable energy and onshore oil wells

Cuba's government plans to re-focus its energy exploration efforts on improving the efficiency of existing onshore wells while also developing renewable alternatives, reports Reuters . Cuba's recent push for offshore oil exploration produced grim results -- the three wells drilled in 2012 by several foreign firms came up dry, and the Spanish, Indian, Malaysian, and Russian companies that were previously interested in drilling in

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Cuban waters have abandoned the endeavor.

Cuban officials had hoped that the discovery of deep-water oil fields would reduce their dependence on Venezuelan oil imports, but the combination of readily available oil fields in other parts of the world and tough U.S. sanctions, which require that Cuban oil rigs contain no more than 10% U.S. technology, also discouraged potential foreign investors.

Despite the failures offshore, Russia , China, and Canada have agreed to help Cuba improve its existing oil extraction efforts onshore, and Cuba will seek investors in renewable energy opportunities like biomass and wind. Over the next 15 years, Cuba plans to invest $3.6 billion in alternative energy, with the goal of reducing the percentage of reducing oil's share of energy generation from 96% to 76%.

At the same time, leading environmental organizations like the Environmental Defense Fund continue to press for changes in U.S. policy to protect the ecosystems that Cuba and the U.S. share. Listen here to a recent radio report about their work.

Retired professors to be re-hired, paid extra

Retired professors in Cuba will be able to return to their jobs and receive their pre-retirement salary as well as their retirement pension, according to a new policy printed in the *Gaceta Oficial*, reports Cuban state newspaper Granma . This measure is an attempt to improve the quality of higher education, better prepare graduates, and mitigate the shortage of professors in several subject areas, including "agriculture, accounting, economics, natural sciences, and engineering," said Ana Karell Rodríguez, Director of Human Resources at the Ministry of Higher Education.

She also described the process for re-hiring the retirees:

> ***"It is not an automatic process, as not all those that are retired will be re-hired without a previous analysis. That will depend on the needs of each university, the results accumulated by the professor during his career, and how up-to-date that person is on the materials to be imparted."***

According to Granma, 35 thousand professors and researchers are employed in the 67 institutions of higher education across the country, 9 thousand of which are "teachers and teachers' assistants" and 4 thousand of which have doctorates in science. Sixty percent of professors are sixty years old or older, and the average age is fifty.

Internet users and computer access increase in Cuba

Users of Cuba's national internet network have increased by more than 50 thousand over the past year, and computer access has increased 61% since 2008, reports Café Fuerte . Cuba's National Statistics Office also reported that the number of personal computers on the island increased from 74 thousand to 90 thousand between 2012 and 2013. While only 515,400 computers on the island are networked, the number of Internet users rose to 2,923,000. Only 15% of Cubans are connected to the Internet because of high prices and access restrictions on applications and services other than email. The state-run Telecommunications Company of Cuba has announced plans to extend Internet access to homes, but has not specified when the plans will be implemented.

Globe Theatre Group performs "Hamlet" in Havana

A group from The Globe Theatre, the Shakespeare theatre based in London, visited Havana last week as part of its "Globe to Globe Hamlet " tour celebrating the 450th anniversary of William Shakespeare's birth, reports the Latin American Herald Tribune . The theater group put on two performances of "Hamlet" with subtitles in Spanish appearing on a screen.

This marks the first time that The Globe has performed in Cuba, which is also the first

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Spanish-speaking destination on the theatre's world tour. The group will travel to Mexico and other countries throughout the Caribbean and Central America in the coming weeks and months. In October, Cuba plans to celebrate Shakespeare at the 24th International Ballet Festival in Havana with a ballet performance of "Romeo and Juliet."

Recommended Reading

When Washington 'holds the pen' , Sandra Abd'Allah-Alvarez Ramírez, Progreso Weekly

Sandra Abd'Allah-Alvarez Ramírez of the blog Negra cubana tenía que ser interviews Sarah Stephens, CDA's executive director, about CDA's work with policymakers in Washington, as well as the organization's research in Cuba on gender equality and how women are impacted by economic changes on the island. Last year, CDA published the book *Women's Work: Gender Equality in Cuba and the Role of Women Building Cuba's Future*, the product of more than two years of research.

Supporting private enterprise to thrive in Cuba , Charles Shapiro, U-T San Diego

Charles Shapiro, the president of the Institute of the Americas, writes that the U.S. should remove obstacles to private business owners, or *cuentapropistas*, in Cuba, starting with allowing them easier access to the Internet. He asks, "What could make more sense than to encourage private Cuban citizens - or the citizens of any country - to open businesses, to compete in the marketplace and to succeed?"

On the series by the Associated Press about USAID programs in Cuba :

We offer opposite takes...

- **What is USAID up to with its 'Democracy Promotion' programs in Cuba? , Fulton Armstrong, Tico Times**

  Armstrong, a former CIA analyst, criticizes the lack of transparency and congressional oversight for USAID's "democracy promotion" programs in Cuba. "Cubans indeed want change," he writes, "but it's clearer than ever that they want it to be evolutionary - as seems to be happening now - rather than revolutionary, destabilizing and destructive."

- **Dear AP, Sometimes a Democracy Program Is Just a Democracy Program-Even in Cuba, Chris Sabatini, Americas Quarterly**

  Sabatini, the editor-in-chief of Americas Quarterly, argues that USAID's programs in Cuba "are standard democracy fare." He contends that, even though the U.S. embargo toward Cuba is an "odious, ridiculous policy," the AP's coverage of USAID's activities on the island is sensationalistic.

Cuban Health Care: Rutgers Students Witness a Different Way to Serve Patients, Andrea Alexander, Rutgers Today

Ten public health students from Rutgers University spent four weeks in Cuba on a service-learning trip to see Cuba's healthcare system up close. "It was a great opportunity to see a free system," said one student. "Money is such a big issue when you deal with your health care. Instead of focusing on the money I think we should focus on health and start from there."

Hello from Cullen , Cullen Moran, Center for Democracy in the Americas

Cullen Moran introduces himself as the new Stephen Rivers Memorial Intern at CDA.

Recommended Viewing

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Wife of Alan Gross, American Jailed in Cuba, Says He Is 'Slowly Wasting Away' , **Fox News Insider**

Fox News Insider interviews Judy Gross, who says that her husband Alan Gross, who has been in prison in Cuba since his arrest in 2009, is "passively giving up."

Está Cayendo - Housing in Havana by Alison McCauley , **Alison McCauley, FOTO8**

McCauley took photographs of the interior of almost one hundred different homes in Havana to capture daily life in a slowly crumbling city.

Cubans Celebrate Havana Carnival , **Orlando Matos, NBC News**

Cubans take a "joyful break" to celebrate *carnaval* in Havana with music, dance, and festive costumes.

Fidel Castro turns 88 (PHOTOS) , **Alex Leff, Global Post**

Photographs from Wednesday's exhibit in Havana celebrating Fidel Castro's 88th birthday.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 8/13/2015 8:05:25 AM
Subject: Re: Iran riff

I like this. I was just working on something as well that's a bit more expansive and takes a more direct hit at those who are outside the bounds of debate (which despite my earlier reluctance I'm now more in to having written it). Substance draws both on her statement from the organizing event earlier this week and from her original statement. Feel free to use any of this if helpful.

I support the President's agreement with Iran because it can help us prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this agreement can make the United States, Israel, and our Arab partners safer.

But let's take a step back and reflect on how we got here. President Obama and I inherited this problem when we took office. When George W. Bush was president, the Iranians mastered the nuclear fuel cycle. They also built covert facilities and stocked them with centrifuges, and they were spinning away, trying to get enough highly enriched uranium to be able – if they so chose – to move toward a weapon. That's what we inherited.

As a Senator, I had voted for every sanction that we could possibly imagine against Iran because I viewed them as a very dangerous adversary. But U.S. sanctions alone were not stopping them, because the rest of the world did not share our concern. So when I became I went to work immediately to persuade China and Russia and other powers to join with us with international sanctions, passed by the UN. I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history. Then I worked to implement them, traveling around the world, making the case to countries -- like India, like South Korea -- that they had to cut off their purchases of oil and gas from Iran. So we were beginning to see these biting sanctions on the Iranian economy, and then they came to the negotiating table. This sequencing is important to remember, because you play the hand you are dealt. And we played that hand to get them to the table to make unprecedented concessions about what they would or would not do.

Now this deal is not perfect. Making this deal work will require vigorous enforcement. And as President, I would do just that – I know how to build the coalition against them because I did it once. I know from experience what it took to build a global effort to get this done; I know what it will take to rally our partners to enforce it. I will do everything necessary to make sure the lid stays on their nuclear weapons program. As President, I would use every tool in our arsenal to compel rigorous Iranian compliance. At the outset, we must see the verified roll back of the Iranian nuclear program required by the agreement. We can never permit Iran to evade its obligations or to place any suspicious site off limits to inspectors. And the response to any cheating must be immediate and decisive – starting with the return of sanctions but taking no options off the table, including, if necessary, our military options. The message to Iran should be loud and clear: We will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement – never.

And I will form a coalition to counter all of Iran's other dangerous activities: destabilizing governments, exporting and funding terrorism, threatening Israel. But as president, I'd rather be dealing with those challenges, knowing that we have slowed down and put a lid on their nuclear weapons program. We have to broadly confront and raise the costs for Iran's destabilizing activities, insist on the return of U.S. citizens being held in Iranian prisons, and strengthen security cooperation with our allies and partners. Sanctions for terrorism, and other non-nuclear sanctions, must remain a key part of our strategy and must be vigorously enforced. And Israel has to be confident that the United States will always ensure its Qualitative Military Edge in the region and its capacity to defend itself by itself. We must also deepen our security relationship with our Arab partners threatened by Iran. This includes our continued presence and providing needed capabilities. Iran should have no doubt about our support for the security of our partners.

Now I know a lot of people are debating the merits of this deal. And there are good reasons to do so – because it is consequential for our security and the security of our allies. And as I said it is not perfect. But while I respect those who

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are carefully considering the merits of the deal, I have a real problem with those who are seeking to politicize something as serious as our national security, and the security of Israel. So while the Republicans insisted on having 60 days to review this deal, the truth is that nearly all of them declared their opposition to the deal within minutes of its conclusion. Saying that our President is funding terrorism; that he does not represent the American people in his dealings with other governments; writing to leaders of other countries to undermine our negotiators – these are out of bounds. Actions like that are not leadership – they make our country weaker. They allow our enemies to think we have cleavages that they can use against us. That they can manipulate our political against us. I'll debate anyone on the merits of this agreement – and debate is something we as Americans do very well. But I've always believed that politics stops at the water's edge. That we are stronger as a nation when we are united.

And if the agreement is not approved, all bets are off. The coalition we worked so hard to build to impose sanctions and negotiate with Iran would collapse; Iran would get the benefits it seeks without restrictions on its nuclear program. And we'd be back to where we started, with Iran only 2-3 months away from a bombs worth of plutonium.

So that's why I strongly believe that the United States and our allies are better off with this deal – along with vigorous enforcement and with a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's other bad behaviors – than without it. And why I believe we need a proven leader who knows how to exercise real strength to do so.

On Thu, Aug 13, 2015 at 2:59 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> But before we get into the politics, I want to say a few words about one of the most important decisions we face today.
>
> Across our country, Americans are considering and debating the nuclear agreement with Iran. Soon, it will come up for a vote in Congress. There are people of good faith on both sides of this issue, people who are committed to protecting our security and the security of our allies, especially Israel.
>
> President Obama and Secretary Kerry have worked hard to achieve this agreement and they are making passionate arguments for why it will keep us safe and close off avenues for Iran to get a bomb. Others, like my friend Senator Schumer, are deeply skeptical. I respect their concerns. I have no illusions about Iran's true intentions or its continuing threat to Israel, the region, and the United States. That threat is real and it must be confronted.
>
> But leadership is about hard choices. And to me, this one is clear. This agreement is the most effective path to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. There is no viable alternative. None. I support President Obama and I encourage everyone in Congress to do the same.
>
> As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That unprecedented pressure delivered a blow to Iran's economy and gave us leverage at the negotiating table, starting in Oman in 2012. We need to bring the same determination and unity to the job of enforcing this agreement and deterring Iranian aggression across the board. When this debate is over, we need to come together to ensure the President has the tools, resources, and support to send a clear message to Iran: Cheat, and you will pay. When you threaten Israel, you threaten America. And make no mistake, we will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement -- never.

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From:	"Michael Huttner" <michael@huttner.org>
To:	"Michael Huttner" <michael@huttner.org>
Date:	7/15/2010 5:20:55 AM
Subject:	how we just changed an entire Governor's race in 48 hours--without any fingerprints

Dear Investors & Key Advisors,

Wanted to send you a quick update...

As you may have heard with the hard work of the folks at ProgressNow Colorado as part of Colorado's "communication hub" they dug up weeks ago and carefully passed on information to the mainstream media on how the leading GOP candidate for Governor, former Congressman Scott McInnis plagiarized a report he provided on water policy for a foundation in Colorado.

In the past 48 hours, McInnis and the entire Republican party of Colorado are in free-fall. There are now calls even within the Republican party for McInnis to withdraw.

The best part is that ProgressNow Colorado nor any of our allies had their fingerprints on any of the excellent behind-the-scenes work to develop and then break this story. This has led to three straight days of front page Denver Post coverage as well as the editorial below and statewide media, a share of which is linked to below.

If you want to discuss how PN can be of further help to you in other states, please let me know a good time and number to reach you.

Best,

Mike
303-931-4547 cell

EDITORIAL
McInnis should throw in the towel

After revelations of plagiarism and other cases of questionable judgment, it's clear the GOP candidate is not fit to be governor.

By The Denver Post
POSTED: 07/14/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

Revelations of extensive plagiarism in work that gubernatorial candidate Scott McInnis claimed as his own call into question his fitness for public office.

The lifted work, examined in The Denver Post, constitutes inexcusable intellectual thievery. It is so damaging that we believe McInnis ought to drop out of the race.

Colorado's next governor should be a person of integrity, a trusted hand to lead the state through difficult times.

The Post revealed in Tuesday's paper that McInnis was paid to write essays on water in 2005 and 2006 yet turned in writings that had been plagiarized. Now we learn he did the same thing in a 1994 op-ed in the Rocky Mountain News.

We were astonished Tuesday to hear McInnis, in an interview with 9News, call the revelations over his water essays a "non-issue." Later, he did tell us he had made a mistake and that he should have checked the material. Yes, he should have.

The Hasan Family Foundation paid McInnis $300,000 over two years to give talks on water issues and write original, monthly articles on the topic. The plagiarism detailed by Post reporter Karen E. Crummy is extensive.

McInnis says he hired a consultant to serve as an expert for the writings. Yet the foundation hired McInnis as the expert, and McInnis' work never mentioned the help of anyone else. It was presented as his own.

The written work he submitted to the foundation included numerous instances of passages that were copied, with few changes, from scholarly work originated by Gregory J. Hobbs, who is now a Colorado Supreme Court justice.

The former congressman was paid handsomely for work that he said was "original and not reprinted from any other source." It was McInnis' obligation to ensure that was true.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time we've had questions about McInnis' judgment.

During his final term in Congress, he paid his wife $37,000 to be his campaign manager — even though he already had decided he wasn't going to run for re-election.

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As we said in 2004, the arrangement "smacks of bad judgment."

More recently, we were taken aback by McInnis' refusal to release tax forms, even though Colorado's gubernatorial candidates since 1998 routinely have done so.

What is he hiding?

McInnis' financial records are pertinent information. Detractors have characterized him as a "lawyer-lobbyist," and we think voters have a right to know how he has made his money.

We've also been puzzled by McInnis' inability — or refusal, it's difficult to know which — to provide detail on his philanthropy even though he claims to have been generous to individuals down on their luck.

The best specific example he could come up with was having given the meat of a dead elk to a family in need. Equally odd was his failure to recall being a member of an advisory board for a pro-choice GOP group.

The plagiarism and other issues have cumulatively so damaged McInnis' credibility that we do not believe he can be an effective governor. Even though McInnis acknowledged he made a mistake, he still spent part of Tuesday blaming a research assistant for the failure to credit the work.

If you put your name on something and take money for it — a lot of money in this case — it is your responsibility to make rock-solid sure it is bona fide, original work that will stand up to scrutiny.

The state's chief executive must be someone Coloradans can believe in as the state suffers a stretch of tight budgets and a struggling economy.

If Scott McInnis cannot be trusted to turn in what amounts to an overpaid term paper — without plagiarizing someone else's work — there is no way he can be relied upon to guide Colorado through these complicated times.

Storm over possible plagiarism in McInnis writings escalates

By Karen E. Crummy

The Denver Post <mailto:kcrummy@denverpost.com?subject=The%20Denver%20Post:%20Storm%20over%20possible%20plagiarism%20in%20McInnis%20writings%20escalates>
POSTED: 07/14/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT
UPDATED: 07/14/2010 06:42:36 AM MDT

<http://www.denverpost.com/portlet/article/html/imageDisplay.jsp?contentItemRelationshipId=3105811 >
"Voters don't really care about this issue. They care about jobs, getting back to work." Scott McInnis told 9News (John Prieto | The Denver Post)

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- Jul 14:
- Foundation wants $300,000 it paid McInnis back <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15508805?source=pkg >
- Littwin: Got a nonissue? Get a nontissue <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15509428?source=pkg >
- Jul 13:
- Researcher blamed for plagiarism says McInnis 'responsible for it' <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15506732?source=pkg >
- McInnis' articles for foundation lift ideas, words from 20-year-old essay <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15502025?source=pkg >
- Jul 11:
- McInnis' record shows slow steps to the right <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15488060?source=pkg >
- Gubernatorial candidate McInnis' voting record inconsistent on abortion <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15487982?source=pkg >
- Jun 16:
- McInnis confirms two-year salary as foundation fellow <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15305575?source=pkg >
- Jun 15:
- McInnis got paid $300,000 for water fellowship <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15301810?source=pkg >
- McInnis reaped $150K for stint at foundation <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15298017?source=pkg >

A new example of possible plagiarism by Scott McInnis surfaced Tuesday as the Republican gubernatorial candidate faced calls to repay $300,000 he received for plagiarized essays on water that he submitted as "original works."

A Denver Post review of McInnis' floor speeches and columns published during his congressional career found striking similarities between a 1995 speech and 1994 column by McInnis and a previously published Op-Ed in The Washington Post.

"There is a growing popular belief in South Korea that the North has outmaneuvered Washington and marginalized the South's role," wrote Richard V. Allen and Daryl M. Plunk in a Washington Post Op-Ed published Nov. 9, 1994.

Six weeks later, McInnis wrote in the

Rocky Mountain News: "There is growing South Korean sentiment that North Korea has outmaneuvered Washington and marginalized the South's input into this issue."

A month after that, he made the same statement on the House floor with only minor alteration.

McInnis has declined interview requests from The Denver Post since the paper first reported that the "Musings on Water" articles he submitted to the Hasan Family Foundation as "original works" included passages that were similar to or copied directly from a 1984 essay by now-Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hobbs.

Sean Duffy, spokesman for the McInnis campaign, declined to comment on the new findings Tuesday afternoon, saying that the two hours he had to look into The Post's comparison was not enough time to discover how the similarities may have occurred.

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"We got faulty research"

McInnis on Tuesday declared the plagiarism of the water essays a "non-issue" that Colorado voters don't care about.

Although his campaign manager put out a statement late Monday saying McInnis believes the "buck stops" with him, McInnis spent Tuesday asserting that he failed only in that he did not monitor his research assistant closely enough.

"We got faulty research," McInnis told 9News. "This is a nonissue if it's not a political year. Voters don't really care about this issue. They care about jobs, getting back to work."

McInnis also told 9News he expected there were numerous other problems with the water essays he submitted as his own work.

Rolly Fischer, a former engineer who McInnis said was responsible for lifting paragraphs and at least four full pages from work written by Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hobbs, denied the charge.

"Scott's responsible for it," he said to the Glenwood Springs Post-Independent, and then declined to comment further.

Contacted by a Denver Post reporter at his home Tuesday, Fischer declined to comment,

saying, "I don't trust the press."

In a statement released late Monday, Hasan Family Foundation board chair Seeme Hasan, a Republican, said: "At no time was it brought to our attention that Mr. McInnis used information not cited or unethically used work that was not his own."

She continued: "All work was represented to be original and final. . . . If the allegations are proven to be true, we will demand Mr. McInnis return all monies paid to him by the Foundation."

Dr. Malik Hasan, a foundation board member, also has said McInnis should return the money.

"All the articles are original"

McInnis has not disclosed whether he paid Fischer, how much he was paid and during what time period. McInnis also did not definitively answer questions about whether he would repay the $300,000.

"We'll make it right," he told 9News.

The Hasan Family Foundation paid McInnis $150,000 a year for a 24-month fellowship from 2005 through 2006. McInnis wrote 23 articles totaling 150 pages on water and public-land issues.

In a memo to Seeme Hasan, he said: "All the articles are original and not reprinted from any other source." He also said that the foundation had "the final form of the series."

McInnis now says he didn't intend the articles to be published until after he edited them one more time. They were not posted online by the foundation until after McInnis began his run for governor.

The new example shows clear similarities in both ideas and language between McInnis' 1994 column and his 1995 floor speech and the Washington Post piece. Allen and Plunk in the Op-Ed refer to an agreement between the U.S. and North Korea as "the beginning of the end of a perilous nuclear crisis."

The identical language is found in McInnis' column and floor speech. A search of the Nexis news database finds that the phrase was not used anywhere else in print beyond the Post and McInnis columns.

The Washington Post Op-Ed calls for the "North to resume substantive, high-level talks with Seoul immediately." That exact phrase is also used in McInnis' column and floor speech.

The 150 pages McInnis wrote during his fellowship also contain exact phrases first published two decades earlier.

Earlier Tuesday, House Speaker Terrance Carroll, D-Denver, called on McInnis to immediately drop out of the race, saying he "lacks the integrity" to be governor.

Duffy, the McInnis campaign spokesman, said the speaker is simply trying to distract voters from more important issues. "If I were Speaker Carroll and I had the legislative record that he had in terms of raising taxes and killing jobs, I'd want to change the subject too," he said.

Bar discipline possible

McInnis' opponent in the Republican primary, Dan Maes, said McInnis should take responsibility for the plagiarism.

"If your name is on it, you have to take ownership of it," he said.

Speaking with the Denver Post Editorial Board in advance of his State of the City address, McInnis' potential Democratic opponent, Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, said that while he didn't know all the facts, the reports of plagiarism "create a cloud."

McInnis, a former congressman and a lawyer on leave from Hogan Lovells (formerly Hogan & Hartson), could face discipline from the Colorado Bar, said legal ethics professor Rebecca Aviel at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct prohibit "dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation."

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"The rule covers attorney conduct even when it does not pertain to a client or particular case," she said, noting that the rules are "under enforced."

Library director Vickie Makings, political editor Curtis Hubbard and staff writer Sarah Horn contributed to this report. Karen Crummy: 303-954-1594 or kcrummy@denverpost.com

Other Articles:

McINNIS PLAGAIRISM SCANDAL

McInnis Talks To CBS4 About Plagiarism Accusation <http://cbs4denver.com/local/McInnis.plagiarism.governor.2.1803154.html >

Scott McInnis Apologizes For Plagiarism <http://cbs4denver.com/local/McInnis.plagiarism.governor.2.1802195.html >

Expert: 'Non-issue' could end McInnis' campaign <http://www.9news.com/rss/article.aspx?storyid=143552 >

Storm over possible plagiarism in McInnis writings escalates <http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_15509569?source=rss >

Voters Weigh In on Candidate Scandals <http://www.kjct8.com/news/24250821/detail.html >

We're going to fix it and move on : McInnis Responds to Plagiarism Allegations <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/98390199.html >

Candidate admits to plagiarism <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/candidate_admits_to_plagiarism >

Foundation wants $300,000 it paid McInnis back_2 <http://www.denverpost.com/politics/ci_15508805 >

Spotted This Morning: DP editorial board says McInnis "not fit to govern" <http://blogs.denverpost.com/thespot/2010/07/14/spotted-this-morning-dp-editorial-board-says-mcinnis-%E2%80%9Cnot-fit-to-govern%E2%80%9D/11781/>

Editorial: McInnis should throw in the towel_13 <http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_15508403 >

Littwin: Got a nonissue? Get a nontissue <http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_15509428 >

------ End of Forwarded Message

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 7:14:50 AM
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

She understands that. Just wants the information in one place.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2015, at 2:13 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

> Got it.
>
> But of course, the press will not consider the questions answered until they are asked by them.
>
> **Mandy Grunwald**
> **Grunwald Communications**
> **202 973-9400**
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >
> To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> Cc: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> Sent: Fri, May 1, 2015 2:09 pm
> Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> just to give people background here:
> 1. She believes she needs to do this video
> is because her integrity is being attacked and she is the only one who can say
> she didnt make a decision as secstate based on a donor.
> 2. Imp point: The
> foundation has had little luck getting their surrogates booked on any serious
> shows. So she feels like it has to be someone at her level or WJC level that
> engages directly in order for there to be any coverage of the defense.
> 3. She
> doesnt want to continue to have to have press yell these questions at her in
> Nevada and CA and if she doesnt do the video, that is the situation she will be
> in
>
> _____
> From: Joel Benenson
> <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
> Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:53 PM
> To: Jennifer
> Palmieri
> Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy
> Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
> Subject: RE:
> Heads up for call with HRC
>
> For some reason I don't have the morning news
> round up -- can someone send that to me.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From:
> Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Friday, May 01,
> 2015 1:51 PM
> To: Joel Benenson
> Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy
> Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook;
> Dan Schwerin
> Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> Given this morning's am
> shows - which were terrible - that is no longer a great argument.
>
> Sent from
> my iPhone
>
> > On May 1, 2015, at 1:49 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
> wrote:
> >
> > Thanks.
> > Do we have some analysis of nightly news/front pages etc
> to make the case that this is not being covered heavily? Or at least enough
> based on day to day observation, i.e. not on front pages, not on nightly news or
> morning news...
> >

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> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Palmieri
[mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:44 PM
>
To: John Podesta; Joel Benenson; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma
> Abedin;
Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan
> Schwerin
>
Subject: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> While on the phone on a different
topic, HRC raised Clinton Cash convo with Jake and me. It was a difficult
conversation. So folks should be ready to explain why we don't think a video
makes sense.
>
> Moreover, my impression is she wants a much stronger
response. Which means engaging more on details that we have to date not found
in our interest to do so.
>
> Just wanted to update folks.
>
> Sent from my
iPhone

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From:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/4/2015 5:40:31 AM
Subject:	RE: Podesta in the News Today

I'm keeping my eye on it. Agree we don't engage.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2015 12:38 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri; Tony Carrk
Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today

You guys tuned into any of this. One stream is that i'm pro-fracking because Tony and I went to Greek Independence Day together where he must have convinced me to be anti-environment
The other is Uranium 1.
I assume we ignore.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com >
Date: May 4, 2015 9:52 AM
Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Missi Tessier <tessier@PodestaGroup.onmicrosoft.com >
> **Date:** May 4, 2015 at 5:51:12 PM GMT+2
> **To:** Tony Podesta <podesta@podesta.com >, David Marin <DMarin@podestagroup.com >
> **Cc:** Stephen Rademaker <srademaker@PodestaGroup.onmicrosoft.com >
> **Subject: RE: Podesta in the News Today**
>
> Yes you are correct. David and Steve may want to give additional justification, but all of us agree that it is not in anyone's interest to engage with or respond to purposefully inaccurate right wing bloggers as it will only result in additional rounds of stories that will do nothing to correct the record. Our internal digital analysis has shown that this story line has flatlined over the last several days and we do not believe that inducing another spike in the online discussion will be beneficial.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Tony Podesta
> **Sent:** Monday, May 04, 2015 10:43 AM
> **To:** Missi Tessier; David Marin
> **Cc:** Stephen Rademaker
> **Subject:** Fwd: Podesta in the News Today
>
> Weren't the Russians already owners when we started
> This implies we worked on cifius
> Don't think we should let anything pass
> Views
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: Gregory McGowan <gmcgowan@podestagroup.com >
Date: May 4, 2015 at 4:26:00 PM GMT+2
To: Everyone <PA-Everyone@podesta.com >
Subject: Podesta in the News Today

PODESTA IN THE NEWS: 05.04.2015

Note: numerous blogs are continuing to repost last week's DeSmog Blog article as well as the following Breitbart piece that was published over the weekend.

Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One
By: Ben Shapiro, Breitbart

Breitbart

May 1, 2015

Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One

By: Ben Shapiro

If you love the team that put together the Clinton Foundation and all of its various corrupt dealings with foreign nations, you'll love the Hillary Clinton 2016 campaign. It now turns out that John Podesta, chair of Hillary's presidential campaign – and the same man who called the allegations of Peter Schweizer's Clinton Cash "conspiracy theories" – has a brother who runs a company, The **Podesta Group**, that lobbied the State Department on behalf of Uranium One while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State and beyond.

Uranium One is, of course, the uranium firm that sent a "flow of cash" to the Clinton Foundation as the Russian government gained increasing ownership of the company; the State Department had to sign off on the Russians' encroachment into the American uranium market. The Clinton Foundation did disclose its relationship with Uranium One in Hillary's State Department disclosures. According to the Daily Caller, Uranium One "paid the **Podesta Group** $40,000 to lobby the State Department, the Senate, the National Park Service and the National Security Council for 'international mining projects,' according to a July 20, 2012 filing."

Hillary's relationship with John Podesta goes back to the first Clinton administration. During Bill Clinton's second term, Podesta acted as chief of staff. After leaving, he created the Center for American Progress, a Clinton-backed leftist think tank designed to forward the political goals of the Clintons. As the Christian Science Monitor reported when Podesta joined Hillary Clinton's campaign back in January:

Podesta is the guy people call on when the going gets tough: He served as Bill Clinton's chief of staff from 1998 to 2001, helping control a series of crises including Clinton's impeachment trial. The Obama administration brought him on to help the President steer a path through Congressional impasses and to avert embarrassments like the Affordable Care Act's botched rollout.

Podesta's relationship with the Clintons didn't waver during Hillary's time in the White House; his own ties with the Obama administration grew stronger when he became a senior advisor to the Obama administration in late 2013, before resigning this year to join Hillary's campaign.

Podesta isn't the only member of the Clinton team embroiled in Clinton Foundation corruption. Hillary's new top fundraiser is Dennis Cheng, the former chief development officer for the Clinton Foundation, which means he did all the fundraising for that organization. Cheng has not been asked

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any questions thus far about his relationship with the Clinton Foundation or the new Clinton 2016 campaign.

Just as President Obama magically transformed his campaign organization, Obama for America, into a political action group, Organizing for Action, to lobby for his preferred governmental policies, Hillary Clinton has transformed the Clinton Foundation and its constellation of allies into her 2016 campaign.

GREGORY MCGOWAN ASSOCIATE
O 202.448.5204 / C / W www.podestagroup.com
1001 G Street NW, Suite 1000 West, Washington, DC 20001

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From: "Lisa Reed" <lisa@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/22/2008 11:23:06 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain / Palin Rally in Green, OH 10/22/08

Hello All,
I just got done tracking an event in Green, OH. Here are my notes:

Big Highlights

- Palin: Connects Obama to voter fraud
- Palin: New political icon today: Tito Munos from Columbia, "Tito the builder"
- Palin: New oil phrase: Mine Baby Mine
- McCain: Repeats experience in Cuban Missile Crisis
- McCain: Again doesn't want four more years of the last eight

Green, OH: Palin Rally 10/22/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- At least 10,000 ppl
- Lee Greenwood sings, Gretchen Wilson
- no overt negativity from the crowd

SARAH PALIN: When it comes to taxes, real choice on Nov 4th. My Opponent is not being candid. It is not mean spirit, not a negative campaign to call someone out on their records. Listen to my opponent's words, hiding agenda of redistributing hard earned money. Tax credit takes money to support government properties. We'll give a real tax cut, . Joe the plumber in Toledo. Good ol' Joe not alone in questioning Barack Obama's call to spread the wealth . Saw a sign, Ed the Dairyman, Karina the nurse, Tito Munos. He owns small construction company. We'll call him Tito the builder. Not happy how media have been roughing up Joe the Plumber. Tito wants to know why you're attacking Joe the plumber. Why is Joe being investigated an attacked for asking questions. He's an immigrant from Columbia. Says "everything is possible in America. Born in Columbia, made in the USA. Phil the bricklayer, rose the teacher If you work hard, want to get ahead, believe America is land of possibilities, don't like away opponents have attacked Joe, then you're Joe the plumber too. Barack the wealth spreader. Plan to redistribute wealth stifles entrepreneurial sprit that mad this country the greatest on earth. John and I have a different plan. Tax relief, lower income taxes, tax deduction for your family. Cut business gain tax, keep businesses in America. More American money in America. Set this nation on course for energy independence. Drill here and now (drill baby drill) you're right, drill baby drill, and mine baby mine. We need American resources brought by America ingenuity and brought to you by American workers. Choice between politician who has faith in the government, or a leader who puts faith in you. Choice between a redistributor, or creator of jobs and resources to get the economy back on track. So people like you can create new wealth. You have a choice between a leader who will not tolerate voter fraud. Ready to send to Washington to shake things up. Nov 4th, what we believe in, what john and I believe in was what Ronald Reagan. believed in. forward movement of freedom, not expansion of government. Not in dc, found her from courage of hard working Americans believe in promise of this country and opportunity. America is not the problem, America is the solution. We're not a perfect nation, but we learn from our mistakes. Beacon of hope, shining city on hill that Ronald Reagan used to speak of. Man who inspires us with heroic deeds, not just inspires us. Shake up Wall Street, win the war, asking for your vote. From now until election day, go on and on will fight for you. There is only one man on this campaign who has ever really fought for you. (john Mccain) and only one man with courage to keep on fighting for you.

JOHN MCCAIN: Grethchen Wilson thank you lee greenwood thank you. Wouldn't cindy make a great first lady Willow and Piper Palin. Those of you who don't know todd palin, 4 time world champion for sledding. He's' a great guy, he'll be great addition to our team.. I'm so grateful because we're going to win ohio on nov 4th. Thanks green high school and bulldogs. After months of trail eloquence, find out what wants to spread the wealth around. Believes in redistributing wealth, more interested in controlling who gets the piece of the pie

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than growing the pie. Cut taxes for 95% of Americans,. How do you reduce the number 0? Since you can't reduce income taxes for 0- tax credit, treasury will tax people including folks like Joe. Can I ask people involved in small business in Ohio. Thank you. Sarah Palin and I will not raise your taxes. The problem with Senator Obama's tax plan – ours far better at creating jobs and growing economy. Worst time for America, especially small businesses. Sudden tax hike for businesses will kill jobs McCain Palin tax cut is the real thing. Help create jobs and keep American businesses in America. As joe reminded us, didn't become greatest country on earth by spreading the wealth around. Next pres won't have time to get used to the office. Bring troops home in honor not defeat, we won't lose the war (usa) this weekend one of the more incredible moments that I observed. Senator Obama- Biden guaranteed if Obama is elected, will test the economy in crisis. American s already fighting for two wars. On board of USS enterprise, ready to go into combat at any moment, don't need o be tested, I am tested. (john mccain) I have been tested, senator obama hasn't. We've seem him wrong response- opposed surge in Iraq. Would sit down unconditionally with world's worst dictator. He's been wrong in all of these. My friends, we can't spend next four years like last eight. We need new direction, and we need to fight for it. Fighting for country , have scars to prove it. (thank you john) if I'm elected president, I'll shake up office . I'm ready for fight, not afraid of it. Won't spend your money to bailout wall street. Take care of people devastated by wall street. Buying up bad mortgages and refinancing them. We have to help Americans keep American dream. Buy up mortgages. Give new mortgage. Let retirees keep money in their savings longer. Create jobs, here at home. Raising taxes makes bad economy worse. Low taxes money in your hands and strengthen economy. If I'm elected, I mean when I'm elected president, when I ',m elected won't spend a trillion more of you r money he'll raise taxes and put us further into debt. I will freeze government spending except defense, vet care, social security. Ill veto every single ear mark pork barrel bill that comes to our office. No more bridges to nowhere, study dna of bears in montana. I won't make it harder to sell goods overseas. Make sure trade is free and fair. Help workers find jobs that won't go away. Senator Obama wants to raise taxes an restrict trade. Those who don't learn form history are doom to repeat them. I know my history. Stop sending money to countries that don't' like us very much. T eh debate the other night, you gotta pay attention to the words. He will "consider" offshore drilling. Whem I'm predent we'll drill here and now (drill baby drill) against drilling, building more nuclear plants in america. Encourage manufacture of flex fuel and automobiles. Lower cost of energy within months. Create millions of new jobs in the us of America. Less than two week sbefore election, we need a fight. Put all cards on table. Lets have some straight talk. I know you're worried, moment of national crisis. Will we lead economies or be overtaken. Will military be safest one in world will children future be better than our? Yes, we must be prepared to act swiftly. I'm American, I choose to fight. I have courage and fight. Fight corruption and end fighting in Washington. Fight to economy out of ditch. Fight for children's future. Stand up and fight. America is worth fighting before. We never give up , we make history..

--
Lisa L. Reed
Progressive Accountability Office
601.434.2986

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/21/2014 9:36:36 AM
Subject: The Internet Debate Pits Local Communities Against Broadband Giants

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Sunday, 21 September 2014

truthout

A Digital Desert: The Internet Debate Pits Local Communities Against Broadband Giants

Mike Ludwig, Truthout: Internet service with modern connection speeds is not available in much of Bradley County, Tennessee. Some parts have no internet service at all. But local advocates and lawmakers are pushing the FCC to intervene on their behalf - against major broadband companies and their lobbyists.

Read the Article

The Vietnam War Presaged the War in Afghanistan: Civilians Endlessly Suffer

Mark Karlin, Truthout: Author Anand Gopal discusses his riveting book, *No Good Men Among the Living*, which offers an intimate portrait of Afghans as they see the US presence in their country - and how history and the most recent invasion of Afghanistan impact their everyday lives.

Read the Interview

Violence Directed at Anbar University Students From All Sides

Sawsan al-Assaf and Matthew Schweitzer, Truthout: Students at Anbar University in Iraq are caught between a Shiite government that treats them like traitors and ISIS fighters who consider their studies proof of their support for Baghdad. Meanwhile, factional fighting has reduced the university to ruins and terrorized academics.

Read the Article

The Charitable Society or "How to Avoid the Poor and Perpetuate the Wealth Gap"

Fred Guerin, Truthout: A society that genuinely cares for its citizens' well-being has little need for manufactured, top-down charity because such a society builds institutions that democratically enable all citizens to participate in a shared commons where no one need suffer the indignity of gross injustice, burdensome debt or soul-destroying poverty.

Read the Article

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

The People's Climate March: The Largest Climate March in History

Read the Article at MSNBC

Scientists Report Global Rise in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Read the Article at The New York Times

Powerful NSA Official Potentially Self-Dealing With Defense Contractor

Read the Article at The Intercept

Hidden Source of Industry Influence Threatens Toxic Chemical

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Cecily McMillan: On Being a Woman Inside and Outside of the Criminal Justice System

Anna Lekas Miller, Waging Nonviolence: Occupy activist Cecily McMillan discusses her activism, her experiences with the criminal justice system and the ways in which gender shaped both her own experiences and those of incarcerated women.

Read the Interview

Truthout Interviews Marjorie Cohn on Racial Discrimination and Perpetual War

Ted Asregadoo, Truthout: Truthout columnist and law professor Marjorie Cohn talks about the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination report which criticizes the United States' failure to honor its legal obligations to eliminate forms of racial discrimination. Cohn also discusses the impending military action against Islamic State militants.

Watch the Video

While We March for the Climate, Governments Meet With Polluters

Janet Redman, Foreign Policy in Focus / The Nation: As climate activists converge on New York for the People's Climate March Sunday, world leaders will meet behind closed doors with corporate honchos who bank on fossil fuels.

Read the Article

Worried About Climate Change? Ban Fracking on Federal Lands

Wenonah Hauter, OtherWords: While the UN has the power to help forge a world with good jobs, clean air and water and healthy communities, there's one step that federal officials here in the United States can take on their own to curb climate change: They can ban fracking on federal lands.

Read the Article

The GOP Social Security Deception Game Is On - Here's How to Fight Back

Isaiah J. Poole, Campaign for America's Future: The Social Security deception game that Republicans have played in recent election cycles is back. But Sen. Elizabeth Warren showed how candidates and activists can be true champions of strengthening Social Security.

Read the Article and Watch the Video

Can "Womenomics" Stem the Feminization of Poverty in Japan?

Suvendrini Kakuchi, Inter Press Service: Japan, the world's third-largest economy and fastest-aging society, is seeing rising poverty among women, who now comprise the majority of the poor and elderly. Can a sweeping package of reforms introduced earlier this year reverse the trend?

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Afghanistan Survival Skills

Rory Fanning, Truthout: Former US Army Ranger and conscientious objector Rory Fanning says Anand Gopal's book answers the questions that haunted him both during and after his tours, such as "Was it Islam that was creating terrorists - or was it US imperialism?"

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Regulations
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Desmond Tutu | We Fought Apartheid - Now Climate Change Is Our Global Enemy
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With Ebola Crippling the Health System, Liberians Die of Routine Medical Problems
Read the Article at The Washington Post

Professors on Food Stamps: The Shocking True Story of Academia in 2014
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This week in Speakout:

Ben Ptashnik propounds solidarity and effectiveness for the People's Climate March; ecology professor **Virginia Arthur** posits the difficulty of discussing the truth of our future with aspiring students; **Andrew Smolski** reports on the benefits of Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP) - specifically at New Belgium Brewing Company; **Dr. James Zogby** analyzes why Ted Cruz failed so spectacularly when talking to Arab Christians about Israel; **the Brennan Center for Justice** exposes the new burdens placed primarily on minority voters due to new rules; **Ann Wright** reports back from the Nordic Women's Conference about the regression of women's status globally; **David Swanson** gives a peek into how most of the world's population views the US and its wars; **Paul Rogat Loeb** says even though we're surrounded by bad news, we can and should continue to push for change - and that means voting; **Daniel Hong** provides a run-down of Occupy's ongoing accomplishments on its three-year anniversary; **the Drug Policy Alliance** discusses its board member, neuroscientist **Carl Hart's** recent talk on surprising factors in drug use; **David Krause** reports on the controversy over the building of a homeless shelter in the San Francisco district of Bayview; **Mathias Quackenbush** criticizes the stance of so-called "humanitarian interventionists" in the Middle East who promote military action in the region; in a three part series, **Virginia Young** exposes misunderstandings of policy proposals for American education; **John LaForge** excoriates cheating by Air Force staff with access to nuclear weapons; **Dean Baker** questions The Washington Post and The New York Times' positive treatment of Rhode Island breaking its contract with public sector workers; and more.

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From: "Rebecca Buckwalter-Poza" <rebecca@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/18/2008 3:59:04 AM
Subject: [big campaign] MCCAIN OFFERS SAME FAILED BUSH FOREIGN POLICY

MCCAIN OFFERS SAME FAILED BUSH FOREIGN POLICY

McCain offers another term of failed Bush foreign policy. With the conflict in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq, and eight years of watching America's image in the world decline, Americans want no part of more dangerous McCain-Bush foreign policies.

McCain, like Bush, obsessed with Iraq, has neglected the war in Afghanistan.

McCain, like Bush, obsessed with Iraq. While talking to troops headed to Afghanistan in 2002, McCain said, "'Next up Baghdad!' [Associated Press, 1/9/02

2003: McCain said, "… in the long term, we may muddle through in Afghanistan." [John McCain, 11/5/03]

- MUST-SEE VIDEO: For anyone who missed it, here's McCain at the Council of Foreign Relations saying "in the long term, we may muddle through in Afghanistan." [John McCain, 11/5/03] *To View*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wazv45RYj60

McCain has attended zero hearings on Afghanistan over the last two years on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

McCain, Like Bush, Said Capturing Bin Laden Isn't ' that important.'

2002: McCain said capturing Osama Bin Laden Isn't "That Important." [CBS, "Face the Nation," 3/2/02]

McCain, Like Bush, has a bomb-first, talk-never approach to foreign policy.

McCain Foreign Policy Would Be a Dangerous Leap Backward. "There is a great deal about which the United States and Iran might talk - including trade, investment, tourism, and nuclear weapon nonproliferation. But none of those benefits will be achieved if the Bush policy of noncommunication is continued, and the United States, under McCain, returns to the pre-Kennedy days when the United States lacked the confidence to communicate with Mao Tse-tung or even shake hands with Ho Chi Minh, policies that garnered our country nothing but their hatred." [Boston Globe , 7/18/08]

McCain Thinks "The Way To Solve Problems Is Through The Military." David Gergen, former adviser to presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Clinton, said, "There's a sense that, with McCain, the way to solve problems is through the military." [Bloomberg, 3/31/08]

McCain "Hasn't Seen A Country He Doesn't Want To Bomb." According to Ivo Daalder, former National Security Council aide, "This is a man who hasn't seen a country he doesn't want to bomb or invade." [Bloomberg, 3/12/08]

McCain is Out of Touch with America on Foreign Policy.

Americans say US image important to security and military success. Nearly nine in 10 Americans (88 percent) believe that it is very important for other countries to have a favorable opinion of Americans.

Two-thirds of Americans (66 percent) believe that foreign governments will be less likely to support the United States' diplomatic and military efforts abroad;

More than six in 10 Americans (63 percent) worry that Americans will be less welcome in other parts of the world;

Six in 10 Americans (61 percent) worry that there is a greater likelihood of terrorist attacks in the US.

Americans agree Bush's failed foreign policy is responsible for US image problems in world. Three-quarters percent of Americans believe U.S. foreign policy is driving dissatisfaction with America abroad.

Bush-McCain Foreign Policy Has Destroyed US Image in World

2002 - America's image slips , although goodwill toward the United States remains

2003 - US image plunges in the wake of the Iraq war.

2004 - Further worsening of US image.

2005 - US image is still negative in most places. Anti-Americanism is increasingly entrenched.

2006 - US image back-slides even further.

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Rebecca Buckwalter-Poza

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To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/25/2015 12:28:13 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.25.15
Attachments:	6.25.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

June 25, 2015

LAST NIGHT'S EVENING NEWS

All three networks briefly reported on Bobby Jindal entering the Republican presidential field. Jindal is now the 13th Republican candidate to enter the field.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Clinton takes a 'just enough' strategy to fundraising // AP // Julie Bykowicz and Ken Thomas – June 24, 2015

The stars are out to raise money for Hillary Rodham Clinton: Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett at the Plaza Hotel, Jon Bon Jovi at home in Jersey. So, too, are the Democratic Party's wealthiest donors, from a Facebook co-founder to the heiress of a brewing fortune.

Yet even as Clinton picks up the pace of fundraising this month, the front-runner for her party's presidential nomination is holding back in some ways — a "just enough" strategy that her supporters say will pay off over time.

The goal when she files her first fundraising report next month is to post a number that reassures Democrats she will have the resources to compete with the eventual Republican nominee, but doesn't chase away the small-dollar donors who would make up her strongest base of support in the general election.

"Her approach has been smart, disciplined and focused on the long-term," said Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist who worked with hedge fund billionaire Tom Steyer on one of Clinton's first fundraisers this year. Lehane said the 100-person reception sold out within 24 hours. "They easily could have put on a far bigger event of 1,000 people or more."

Clinton's supporters have tried to tamp down the expectations for the fundraising totals her campaign will disclose next month, when she and the other declared candidates for president will report how much they have raised through the end of June to the Federal Election Commission.

Unlike in 2008, Clinton is collecting money only for the primary contest, an amount capped at $2,700 per individual. If Clinton wins the Democratic nomination, she can return to her donors to ask for another $2,700 for the general election.

Since announcing her candidacy in mid-April, Clinton has raised at least $17 million, based on the number of people her campaign says have attended 49 fundraising events through Monday night. She held fundraisers Tuesday in Chicago and in St. Louis, where she raised money at Grant's Farm, a historic home owned by the Busch family, at an event hosted by beer heiress Trudy Busch Valentine.

Clinton is focused primarily on raising money for her actual campaign. Others have emphasized super PACs, which can accept donations of unlimited size but are prohibited from coordinating directly with the candidates they support. Republican Jeb Bush spent six months raising money for a super PAC before beginning traditional campaign fundraising. That approach has helped him amass as much as $100 million already.

Most of Clinton's fundraisers have also been smaller events at private homes, with audiences of no more than 250 people each giving the maximum. While backers says she could draw much larger crowds, many of the events have been half that size, putting the former secretary of state into what supporters say is her comfort zone.

"She was phenomenal," said John Morgan, a Florida attorney who hosted a 220-person reception last month at his home near Orlando. "She took a photo with every single guest."

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The one-on-one time with donors, even if limited to a few minutes, is what inspires supporters to go beyond simply writing a check, Lehane said. "It's a re-investor approach. They'll go on to ask their friends to give."

Many of the biggest Democratic donors have already feted Clinton, or plan to in the next few weeks. Among them: billionaire Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes and Chicago media billionaire Fred Eychaner.

And she's relied upon celebrities, too. "Spiderman" star Tobey Maguire held a backyard event last week that raised $500,000. On Wednesday, she'll appear with Bennett and Lady Gaga in New York. Next week, Bon Jovi will perform at his New Jersey home for Clinton and some of her donors.

Her staunchest supporters say attendees at such events are leaving with a sense of purpose.

"People aren't just writing checks. They are raising, too," said Andy Spahn, who connects Democrats to Hollywood money and helped with one of Clinton's most lucrative fundraising trips so far, a May 7 visit to Los Angeles packed with morning, noon and night events.

Among small donors — those who give $200 or less, usually online — Clinton has competition. The campaign of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has suggested it has raised $8 million, with an average contribution amount of $40, through mid-June.

Yet Clinton is also applying some of the best practices of President Barack Obama, who raised almost 65 percent of the $33.2 million he collected in the first three months of his re-election campaign from small-dollar donors.

Her campaign this week has been promoting a raffle to attend dinner with Clinton. She is hawking cutesy souvenirs such as $30 red T-shirts that look like her go-to pantsuits. And the campaign has an array of $20 happy hours planned, including one Friday at Union Cafe in Columbus, Ohio.

Kiki McLean, a former 2008 Clinton campaign adviser, headlined a happy hour Tuesday night in Washington. McLean said she has no official role with the campaign, but said small events such as hers encourage involvement.

"I want to make sure they are up to speed on what they can do as volunteers," McLean said, "just like me."

Clinton's gay supporters: What enthusiasm gap? **// Politico // Annie Karni – June 25, 2015**

LGBT groups see a breakthrough — a Democratic front-runner who preaches full equality.

Hillary Clinton won't be marching in New York City's Pride Parade on Sunday in Manhattan, and she has no plans to march in any pride parades across the country, but her absence hasn't diminished the community's enthusiasm for her.

Indeed, many gay leaders are so on board for her campaign that they prefer she spend time building support elsewhere instead of marching alongside them.

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“She’s a former secretary of state, and they’re coming up on fundraising deadlines,” said Beth Shipp, executive director of LPAC, the “lesbian super pac,” which endorsed Clinton in April, justifying Clinton’s absence. “She is getting pulled in all directions, by all sources. The fact that the campaign is putting up a presence at pride events, even without her there, is great.”

Clinton’s campaign is registered to participate in the New York parade, and top staffers and volunteers are planning to march, flying campaign banners. And on Saturday in New Hampshire, New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who grew up in Hanover and is the first openly gay person to be elected to Congress from New York, will host the kickoff event for the “LGBT Granite Staters for Hillary,” in Portsmouth.

With colleges out for the summer, and sought-after millennial voters harder to herd, pride events have become a golden summer opportunity for Clinton’s campaign to generate much-needed excitement. The LGBT community represents a unique group this election — for the first time, the country has shifted its views on same sex-marriage so a Democratic presidential front-runner can embrace a platform of full equality for all. And gay leaders have never been more eager to get on board in a big way.

“She’s really awesome,” gushed Shipp. “What other candidate have you ever seen put two same-sex couples in their announcement video? That set the bar for the community in a way that other campaigns have not done before.” Shipp said it was also meaningful to her that Robby Mook, Clinton’s campaign manager, is openly gay.

Clinton, who marched in the Pride Parade when she first ran for Senate, has long cultivated the gay vote. But her record of support for gay-rights issues, particularly during her husband’s presidency, was never ahead of her time — in 2000, Clinton said she did not support gay marriages. And in 2003, when asked about the Defense of Marriage Act, Clinton equivocated, saying through a spokesman that “this issue is in a state of evolution.”

This cycle, Clinton has said she supports a constitutional right for same-sex couples to marry — an evolution from a position she touted last year when she said same-sex marriage should be left to the states to decide. Her evolving record on the issue makes the LGBT community’s broad, seemingly universal embrace of her candidacy stand out all the more.

To some gays and lesbians, Clinton’s personal story — as a woman who has persevered despite obstacles and attacks — is inspiring. Others point to her gay friends. And still others acknowledge her less-than-perfect record on gay issues but accept the sincerity of her commitment this time around.

“There’s no question that Hillary has evolved on the issue of marriage and recognition of LGBT families,” said former New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who is gay. “But you can say that about almost every progressive national leader. There were few national Democrats who five or 10 years ago were where I would have wanted them to be on this issue. What’s profound for me as it relates to [Clinton’s] evolution is that it’s a very personal evolution. I’ve always seen her working on this issue, listening, being with people who were LGBT.”

For Quinn, the more meaningful signal was the gay and lesbian couples featured in her announcement video: “It stood out like neon for me. It’s thrilling. It feels like such an enormous change and a huge step forward.”

The campaign has continued to make public signs of inclusion to the LGBT community. “You would be hard-pressed to embrace our community more aggressively than her campaign is,” Quinn said, pointing to the campaign changing its official Twitter avatar to a rainbow-colored “H” on the day the Supreme Court took up the case to decide whether same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry.

On Tuesday, Clinton’s campaign released a new video, titled “Equal,” with footage of same-sex couples tying the knot. A voice-over features clips from Clinton’s kickoff speech and her 2011 speech in Geneva, where she declared that “gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights.” And Brynne Craig, the campaign’s deputy national political director, is in the final stages of hiring an LGBT outreach coordinator for the campaign.

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The campaign has also been successfully shoring up cash from the LGBT community.

Hillary Clinton marches along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan during the annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade in New York 25 June 2000.

Laura Ricketts, the openly gay co-owner of the Chicago Cubs, who in 2008 bundled money for Barack Obama, hosted a house party fundraiser for Clinton in Chicago last month. At a fundraiser in Washington, D.C., last month, Clinton spoke before a majority lesbian crowd, hosted by Claire Lucas and Judy Dlugacz, founders of a cruise line targeting gay women. On Wednesday night, gay icons Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett headlined Clinton's first large low-dollar fundraiser at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan.

The online campaign store sells a $30 "Hillary Pride Tank," a "Pride bumper sticker pack" for $5, and the $30 "LGBTQ Vee."

Critics view Clinton's evolution on gay marriage as politically expedient, moving at the same time the whole country has dramatically shifted its views on the issue. Her supporters said it doesn't matter.

"One of her platforms is equality for all, which is not something we saw in 2008," said Eunic Ortiz, president of the Stonewall Democrats of NYC, which won't endorse any candidate until 2016. "The general feeling is she's a welcome voice for our community." Ortiz was willing to forgive Clinton's previous record on gay marriage. "It's something she has evolved on," said Ortiz. "This is now equality for all, and we are looking forward."

Quinn recalled meeting with Clinton during her 2000 run for New York Senate. A small group of elected officials and leading LGBT advocates gathered at the home of Jeff Soref, a major gay fundraiser, in Gramercy Park.

"[Clinton] spoke personally and powerfully about the gay couple who lived near her parents in Arkansas," Quinn recalled. The couple, Larry Curbo and Dillard Denson, are mentioned in Clinton's memoir "Living History" as dear friends of her father who helped break down his stereotypes about homosexuals. "I think they were literally with her father on his deathbed. Meeting those two men was a pivotal moment opening up her mind. To me that's what you want, for someone moving on this issue: coming at it from a personal perspective."

Clinton to miss convention of liberal activists, bloggers **// AP // Ken Thomas – June 24, 2015**

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton isn't expected to show at an annual convention of liberal activists and bloggers often courted by Democratic presidential candidates.

Netroots Nation organizers said Wednesday that Democratic presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley have confirmed their attendance at the July 16-19 conference in Phoenix.

Clinton's campaign cited a scheduling conflict, with commitments in Iowa on July 17 and Arkansas on July 18. Sanders and O'Malley plan to speak at the Iowa dinner.

About 3,000 activists are planning to attend the Netroots Nation convention, which will also feature Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. Many liberals had hoped she would challenge Clinton for the nomination.

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Clinton remains the dominant Democratic candidate but one of her challenges in the primaries will be generating support among some liberals who have been hesitant to back her campaign, wary of her willingness to rein in Wall Street excess and her past support of trade deals.

Clinton last appeared at Netroots Nation in 2007 — then called Yearly Kos — at a presidential forum that also included then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards and others.

She received a tepid response from activists, some of whom disapproved of her vote in favor of the 2003 invasion of Iraq and her acceptance of campaign contributions from lobbyists.

Raven Brooks, Netroots Nation's executive director, said the conference is hopeful the Clinton campaign "will reconsider addressing this core progressive community who are most eager to hear from her."

Brooks said former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, a former Republican seeking the Democratic nomination, would not be invited to the event and organizers would monitor the presidential field to decide whether to invite others like former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, who is exploring a campaign.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Ken Thomas (6/24/15, 10:43 AM) – Hillary Clinton not appearing at @NetrootsNation in Phoenix; campaign cites scheduling conflicts w/ events in IA & Ark.

Hunter Walker (6/24/15, 11:14 AM) – Mississippi Senator Roger Wicker says the state's flag should be replaced.

Scott Wong (6/24/15, 11:07 AM) – House set to vote on TAA on Thursday if it passes Senate quickly, GOP lawmakers say.

Bernie Sanders (6/24/15, 2:04 PM) – I strongly support the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015.

PublicPolicyPolling (6/24/15, 6:22 PM) – Jim Webb's number of black supporters on our national poll last week: 0.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton's 'All Lives Matter' Remark Stirs Backlash // NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 24, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton is facing backlash for saying that "all lives matter" in an African-American church in Missouri on Tuesday, offending some who feel that she is missing the point of the "black lives matter" mantra.

Mrs. Clinton's remarks at Christ the King United Church of Christ in Florissant, Mo. — only a few miles north of Ferguson, where a black teenager was shot by a white police officer last August — came during a broader discussion of civil rights in America.

She was talking about how a disproportionate number of young people of color are out of school and out of work and, explaining that everyone needs a "chance and a champion," she recalled how her mother was abandoned as a

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teenager and went on to work as a maid.

“What kept you going?” Mrs. Clinton remembered asking her mother. “Her answer was very simple. Kindness along the way from someone who believed she mattered. All lives matter.”

The remark caused a stir on social media, with some African-Americans on Twitter suggesting that Mrs. Clinton had lost their votes.

The Rev. Renita Lamkin, who was in the audience at the event, told NPR that Mrs. Clinton’s comment did not go unnoticed.

“That blew a lot of support that she may have been able to engender here,” she said.

The phrase “black lives matter” has become a rallying cry in the last year amid a spate of episodes around the country, including the 18-year-old Michael Brown’s death in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, where white police officers have been accused of using excessive force against black suspects.

Judith Butler, a professor at University of California, Berkley, summed up the frustration with the use of “all lives matter” in The Times in January.

“When some people rejoin with ‘All Lives Matter’ they misunderstand the problem, but not because their message is untrue,” she wrote. “It is true that all lives matter, but it is equally true that not all lives are understood to matter which is precisely why it is most important to name the lives that have not mattered, and are struggling to matter in the way they deserve.”

Mrs. Clinton has not been opposed to using the phrase in the past, declaring that “yes, black lives matter” at a gala in New York last year.

The controversy comes as Mrs. Clinton has sought to address racial issues in a more direct manner than she was able to in 2007, when she was running against someone who would go on to become the first black president.

Donna Brazile, a Democratic strategist who is black, defended Mrs. Clinton and said that her remarks on Tuesday should be taken in the context that she was discussing her mother.

Bernie Sanders Gains on Hillary Clinton in Bloomberg Early-State Polling // Bloomberg // John McCormick - June 25, 2015

The results of simultaneous polls in Iowa and New Hampshire suggest a Democratic appetite for a Clinton rival and highlight potential vulnerabilities for the front-runner.

Bernie Sanders is gaining on Hillary Clinton in Iowa and New Hampshire, with an appeal as an issue-oriented protest vehicle potentially capable of slowing any coronation of the popular front-runner.

In simultaneous surveys, the U.S. senator from Vermont received nearly a quarter of support from likely Democratic caucus and primary voters in the states that host the first presidential nomination balloting early next

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year, cutting sharply into Clinton's still-huge lead.

The polls suggest substantive and symbolic support for the socialist, as well as a craving among some Democrats for a Clinton rival to rise.

“I want to try to get him along as far as I can,” said Democratic poll participant John Murphy, 74, a retired railroad worker in West Des Moines, Iowa. “He’s going to bring up some issues that she may not want to talk about.”

The surveys were commissioned to test sources of strength for Sanders, who has seen audiences at his campaign events swell in recent weeks. The polls were conducted June 19-22 by West Des Moines-based Selzer & Co. in Iowa and Washington-area Purple Strategies in New Hampshire, the latter done in cooperation with Saint Anselm College. The margin of error on the full samples—401 in Iowa, 400 in New Hampshire—is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

In Iowa, Clinton leads Sanders 50 percent to 24 percent, and in New Hampshire, 56 percent to 24 percent. That's a six- to eight-point increase in his support since those states were polled by Bloomberg Politics and partners in May.

With nearly identical support in Iowa and New Hampshire, the polls suggest Sanders' rise isn’t just because he enjoys New England neighbor-state status. In both states, he gets higher marks than Clinton on authenticity and willingness to take on Wall Street and financial elites.

Along the campaign trail, Sanders appears to be changing some minds: His unfavorable rating in Iowa is just 4 percent, down 8 percentage points since May. At the same time, 57 percent now view him positively, up 10 points from the last poll.

“You can make the case that a certain amount of Bernie Sanders’s support is a protest vote, but there’s more to it than that,” said J. Ann Selzer, president of Selzer & Co. “People like him. They like what he stands for. They like showing up at his events and hearing him say things they believe in.”

Clinton’s support has dropped by 7 points in Iowa and 6 points in New Hampshire. Among likely Democratic voters, she's viewed favorably by 88 percent in Iowa and 86 percent in New Hampshire. That's up two points since May in Iowa and unchanged in New Hampshire, and comparable to the popularity of her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

Yet Sanders' team points to mounting evidence that the white-haired, sometimes seemingly grumpy senator could offer voters an appealing alternative to Clinton, a former U.S. secretary of state, senator, and first lady viewed as the overwhelming Democratic nomination front-runner.

“It's tremendous progress that he is making with voters in the first two states,” Tad Devine, Sanders' chief political strategist, said of the poll findings. “It's something we felt on the ground.”

While Sanders is indeed enjoying something of a mini-surge in the two states, the polls show he's almost certain to hit a ceiling eventually, said Purple Strategies' Doug Usher.

“Clinton remains enormously well-known and well-liked in New Hampshire, a state she won before,” Usher said. “She benefits from a gender gap in a primary that will be disproportionately female, and even Sanders’ voters

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admit Clinton is likely the nominee. As long as Democrats like both candidates simultaneously, Sanders will have an uphill climb."

The New Hampshire survey shows the race not as close there as a poll released last week by Suffolk University, which had Clinton at 41 percent and Sanders at 31 percent. Unlike the Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm poll, the Suffolk survey didn't start with a database of registered voters, instead relying more on the self-reported likelihood of voting in the primary. It also included Vice President Joe Biden, while this one didn't.

Clinton swamps Sanders on who can beat the Republican nominee in the general election, foreign-policy experience, and knowing how to get things done in Washington. The two find roughly equal support among likely Democratic voters on who will fight for average people and who will care for people like themselves. Depending on the state, Sanders has a 7- to 18-point edge on taking on Wall Street and a 12- to 17-point advantage on authenticity.

"His priorities are right and he's not going to just crumble under the status quo," said Anne Welch, 59, a caregiver who lives in Penacook, New Hampshire. "He won't compromise."

Welch, who once lived in Vermont and met Sanders, said she supported Clinton in 2008. "I kind of feel like I'm betraying my gender," she said.

Clinton's team has worked to dampen expectations, noting that it's rare for a Democratic candidate who isn't an incumbent president to win more than 50 percent in Iowa's caucuses. The goal is to try to avoid having her seen as a wounded front-runner should she fail to dominate the first contest. In 2008, she finished third in Iowa and her aura of inevitability was badly damaged by an insurgent Barack Obama.

That sense of inevitability is strong again in Iowa and New Hampshire, with four-fifths of likely Democratic voters in both states saying they think Clinton is destined to be the nominee. Even among supporters of Sanders, 69 percent of those in Iowa say she'll be the party's eventual nominee. Clinton's own Iowa supporters are even more confident, with 93 percent saying she'll be the standard-bearer. Her campaign declined to comment on these polls.

Among independents likely to participate in the Iowa caucuses—about a fifth of the probable electorate—Sanders leads Clinton, 35 percent to 29 percent. In May, she led with that group by 19 points. (The margin of error is higher in subgroups like these.)

Women in Iowa are much more likely to back Clinton than men are, 59 percent to 39 percent. Among women, she leads Sanders 59 percent to 19 percent, while it's much narrower advantage among men, 39 percent to 30 percent.

While some Democrats and independents are welcoming Sanders to the race with their support, it doesn't mean they're rejecting Clinton.

Almost nine in 10 who are supporting Sanders in New Hampshire, and 83 percent in Iowa, say they're backing him because of what he stands for. Just 13 percent in Iowa and 9 percent in New Hampshire say their decision is because they don't want Clinton to get the nomination, or because they want to send her a message.

Matthew Cook, 27, who just completed a physics degree and lives in Waterloo, Iowa, said Sanders has been "a really consistent politician, which is hard to find." He plans to vote for Sanders if for no reason other than to push Clinton on the issues he cares most about, including gay marriage, climate change, and fair trade.

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“She needs to come out and firmly state where her opinions are,” he said. “There can’t be any ambiguity.”

Democrats Try to Force Republicans to Release Clinton Confidant Testimony // Bloomberg // Billy House – June 24, 2015

Democrats on the House panel investigating the September 11, 2012 attacks in Benghazi are invoking a "right" they say permits them to force a public committee vote on releasing Hillary Clinton confidant Sidney Blumenthal's closed-door testimony.

The five Democrats are making the demand in a letter dated Wednesday to the committee chairman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina.

Led by Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the Democrats write that the panel's deposition procedures, as adopted by the House, allow them to require the committee to "promptly schedule a public business meeting to consider, debate and vote on the proposal to release Sidney Blumenthal's deposition transcript."

They say release of a transcript of Blumenthal's closed-door testimony "will resolve public disagreements that have arisen from the selective-and sometimes inaccurate-descriptions of his testimony and his emails that have appeared in the press."

Jamal Ware, a spokesman for the committee's Republican majority, accused the Democrats of spurning Gowdy's offer to discuss the issue. "Chairman Gowdy atempted to schedule a meeting," Ware said in a statement, "but the Democrats chose to send out a press release instead." He noted that Blumenthal is being treated just like every other person who has testified. "The committee has not released the transcript of any other witness and the chairman is not inclined to treat this witness differently," Ware said.

Blumenthal was called to give a closed-door deposition last week about memos and advice on Libya he sent then-Secretary of State Clinton prior to the attacks on the U.S. facilities in which four Americans were killed.

Since then, there have been leaks to the media about his emails to Clinton about Libya and Benghazi when she was secretary of state. The committee released 60 of those missives last week, but not any of Blumenthal's testimony. The committee Democrats, and Blumenthal's lawyer, James Cole, have complained some of those have given an inaccurate account of what occurred in the deposition.

In their letter, the committee Democrats say that the procedure for releasing depositions is specifically spelled out in a committee rule. They say it reads: "The chair and ranking minority member shall consult regarding the release of depositions. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the Select Committee for resolution."

"It appears that all of the prerequisites have been filled," the Democratic lawmakers wrie, which notes Democrats began asking for the public release of the Blumenthal transcript last week.

"Since all of the steps have been fulfilled as required by the Deposition Procedures adopted by the House, we request that you promptly schedule a business meeting of the Select Committee so Members may consider, debate, and vote on this important matter," they write.

Should Political Campaigns Stop Using Free Labor? // Bloomberg // Emily Greenhouse – June 24, 2015

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Carolyn Osorio, who graduated in 2013 from Pratt Institute, seems to be a one-woman weapon against the axiom of apathetic millennials: She's a young person of political passion. In an op-ed column published Wednesday in USA Today, she describes high-school nights spent sleeping in a Hillary for America t-shirt and tears shed upon Clinton's concession to Barack Obama.

When Clinton announced her intention to seek the presidency in 2016, Osorio practically vaulted on board. "I quickly applied for and was offered a position as a Hillary for America fellow to work on the campaign," she writes. "I couldn't have been more excited — until I was told I'd have to move to Nevada and work full time on my own dime."

Hillary Clinton's young campaign prides itself on a kind of thriftiness. Her campaign manager Robby Mook has reportedly boasted to donors and staff alike that he is "really, really cheap." Staff members, according to the Washington Post, are using personal cellphones for work. And the other day, campaign chairman John Podesta got from Manhattan to D.C. by Vamoose bus: a $30 ride. He called it "solidarity."

This may be what the candidate herself was going for, in her decision to road trip from New York to Iowa in a clunky van called "Scooby," as soon as her campaign officially launched. Nowadays, she's mostly flying commercial.

Since Osorio graduated from college, with a degree in art theory, criticism, and history, she hasn't found a job. "Two straight years of unemployment," she writes. She hoped that Clinton would at least pay the people who work for her (and not short hours) the minimum wage. "I had hoped a trailblazer would be more willing to break the mold of indentured servitude that haunts my generation," Osorio writes. "Finding out that Hillary perpetuates the exploitation known as unpaid internships was like discovering that Santa wasn't real."

Osorio points to a broader issue: What kind of a job is it, to pitch in on a political campaign? And shouldn't remuneration be explicit?

"We're thrilled to welcome volunteers for the summer, just like other campaigns in both parties have done in the past," Jesse Ferguson, a spokesperson for Clinton, wrote to me by e-mail. "Many successful fellows from a similar program during the Obama campaign now work with us on this campaign and we're sure the same will be true with many from this group. The latest evidence of the intense grassroots interest in Hillary Clinton's campaign comes from the tremendous interest in our fellows program."

Clinton's camp has lately received a spate of negative attention for the reliance on "free labor." But its practices are far from unusual. Volunteers and interns are the backbones of the modern political campaign. Obama's team had this kind of program in both 2008 and 2012, and it helped them dominate. The Republican National Committee has launched a similar program to train volunteers and staffers, perhaps as a kind of catchup.

Osorio says she'll vote for Clinton anyway, but she believed she would be paid.

Rachel Bien, a lawyer who specializes in low-wage labor at Outten & Golden, said these kinds of presumptions or implications matter when courts evaluate the totality of the circumstances in determining whether a position is volunteer, or a job. "To the extent that the relationship looks more like an employment relationship because you have to complete an application, you're screened, you're meeting prerequisites, it looks more like a job or employment situation than a volunteer position that's open to anyone who wants to volunteer regardless of background, education, situation, etcetera," she said by phone Wednesday.

Michael Harper, a scholar of labor relations at the Boston University School of Law, sees political volunteering as elementally different from regular employment. "It would be inappropriate to apply the standards of the Fair Labor Standards Act to voluntary activity on political campaigns – which is First Amendment activity that we

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don't want to monetize," he said.

Neither Harper nor Bien knew of exact precedent in the legal system, when it came to volunteers. But Bien mentioned the Supreme Court ruling in 1985, in Tony and Susan Alamo Foundation v. Secretary of Labor, in which the Department of Labor found that the religious organization had violated the minimum wage, overtime, and record-keeping provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act even though the volunteers considered themselves volunteers; the conditions of their compensation—food, clothing, shelter, and other benefits—made it an employment relationship.

"The government has created a whole lot of exceptions for itself," Bien said. Osorio herself, in her column, acknowledges how common unpaid work is in the political industry. "At the same time the administration was cracking down on unpaid internships in the private sector, it continued not paying the 300 annual interns in the White House," she wrote.

Bien said she considers the matter Osorio raises "really problematic—especially coming from someone like Hillary Clinton who has been really supportive of min wage laws and has publicly called on businesses to pay interns. When you have young people—many of whom can't find employment, as Hillary recognizes—working long hours, day in and day out, to help, at the end of the day someone needs to be supporting them. The burden otherwise falls on family or the government."

"I hope that Hillary will reconsider what she's doing her and will pay her interns," she said. "It would set a great precedent."

Clinton's Fundraising Rounds Include Law Firms: Business of Law // Bloomberg // Ellen Rosen – June 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton's fundraising schedule for the next two weeks is nothing but hectic. And, as Bloomberg Politics reports, among the 26 events she's set to attend between June 22 and July 3, at least two involve law firms.

She is scheduled to be at a Wednesday afternoon fundraiser hosted by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and at another on June 30 hosted by Julissa Reynoso, a former U.S. ambassador to Uruguay who's now a partner at Chadbourne & Parke LLP, according to invitations obtained by Bloomberg. George Pataki, one of the Republicans seeking his party's nomination, is counsel at Chadbourne.

Campaign spokesman Josh Schwerin declined to comment on the number of fundraisers Clinton has scheduled. Many events come with a recommended contribution of the $2,700 legal maximum for her primary campaign or require attendees to raise at least $27,000.

After the quarter ends, the Clinton campaign, like all the others, must file disclosures with the Federal Election Commission.

Forty-Four Firms Meet 'Gold Standard' of Women's Prominence

The Women in Law Empowerment Forum has released its list of big firms that meet their "gold standard." This year, 44 have met four of the group's six requirements, the minimum needed for the accolade.

Those criteria are that women are: 20 percent of U.S. equity partners or, alternatively, one-third of non-lateral attorneys that became U.S. equity partners within the previous 12 months; 10 percent of firm chairs and managing partners; 20 percent of the primary governance committee; 20 percent of the compensation committee or its

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equivalent; 25 percent of the U.S. practice group leaders and department heads; and 10 percent of the top half of U.S. equity partners in terms of compensation.

Eight firms met all six benchmarks: Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP; Hogan Lovells LLP; Holland & Hart LLP; Littler Mendelson PC; Reed Smith LLP; Schiff Hardin LLP; Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP; and Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP.

The other 36 firms are: Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC; Ballard Spahr LLP; Bryan Cave LLP; Cooley LLP; Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP; Davis Wright Tremaine LLP; Dentons US; DLA Piper LLP (US); Dorsey & Whitney LLP; Faegre Baker Daniels LLP; Haynes & Boone LLP; Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP; Jackson Lewis PC; K&L Gates LLP; Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP; Latham & Watkins LLP; Lathrop & Gage LLP; Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP; McCarter & English LLP; McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP; Paul Hastings LLP; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP; Perkins Coie LLP; Polsinelli PC; Quarles & Brady LLP; Shearman & Sterling LLP; Sidley Austin LLP; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; Steptoe & Johnson LLP; Stinson Leonard Street LLP; Stoel Rives LLP; and Thompson Coburn LLP.

The Above the Law blog noted that six of the firms -- Cooley; Fulbright & Jaworski, now Norton Rose Fulbright; Paul Hastings; Reed Smith; Shook Hardy; and Sutherland Asbill -- had the highest percentage of women on their management committees, based on 2013 data from the American Lawyer.

Lawsuit News

LG Settles With Conservation Groups Over New Jersey Headquarters

LG Electronics Inc. reached a settlement with several conservation groups, allowing the company's U.S. unit to build a $300 million headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, after amending the design.

Opponents had said the building would ruin views of the Palisades, a 200-million-year-old stretch of rocky wilderness above the western shore of the Hudson River.

The new design will retain the project's scale while protecting the views, LG said in a statement Tuesday. Under the settlement, the conservation groups agreed to withdraw litigation challenging zoning approvals.

The groups include the Natural Resources Defense Council, the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and Scenic Hudson, a Poughkeepsie, New York-based preservation group.

Laurance Rockefeller, an environmental lawyer whose family donated the land 80 years ago that became the basis for Palisades Interstate Park, took part in the settlement talks.

The new design for the building calls for a five-story north wing almost 70 feet (21 meters) high and a three-story south wing. LG will also use landscape, lighting and other design features to reduce visual impact on the park, a National Natural and Historic Landmark.

The project has been in the works since 2009, but was delayed by two lawsuits challenging zoning approvals. Both suits were dismissed by a New Jersey Superior Court judge in August 2013; that decision was on appeal.

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On the Move

Loeb & Loeb LLP has hired Jason Lilien, previously a partner at Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, as a partner. Lilien, a former bureau chief of the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, has joined the firm's charitable giving and tax-exempt organizations practice in New York.

Holland & Knight LLP has hired Kelly Franklin Bagnall as a partner in Dallas. Bagnall, previously a member of Dykema Gossett PLLC, specializes in the hospitality industry with a focus on operations, as well as commercial litigation and general business counseling.

Lowenstein Sandler LLP announced that David Elkind has joined the firm as a partner in its Washington office. Elkind, an insurance coverage litigator, was previously a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP.

David Posner has joined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP as a partner in the litigation department. Posner, previously a partner at Otterbourg PC, will lead the bankruptcy and financial restructuring team in New York.

McDermott Will & Emery has hired labor and employment litigator Kristin Michaels as a partner in its trial practice group in Chicago. Michaels was previously a partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP and has represented clients in a range of industries.

GOP 2016's battle for second fundraising war // CNN // Sara Murray, Theodore Schleifer, and Tom LoBianco – June 24, 2015

The money race for second place is on.

With a June 30 fundraising deadline drawing near, speculation over how much money Republican presidential candidates will collect is reaching a fever pitch. It's already clear that Jeb Bush will come out on top regardless of whether he hits or even surpasses the $100 million target many in the donor world set for the former Florida governor. The more interesting question, many donors and campaign operatives say, is who will come in second.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has an unusually broad donor list thanks to his highly publicized recall election and big dollar backers like Chicago Cubs co-owner Todd Ricketts. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has worked meticulously to make inroads with prominent GOP fundraisers who aren't sold on Bush. And Texas Sen. Ted Cruz has drawn in small dollar donors, as well as the support of a handful of super PACs. A leader of the super PACs backing Cruz expects those groups and the official campaign committee to raise a combined $50 million by the end of the week.

"When it comes to fundraising in a presidential race, it's the expectation game," said Craig Robinson, a GOP activist in Iowa and editor of The Iowa Republican website. "Every candidate has a different bar they're going to have to clear."

The price tag to wage a competitive primary campaign is likely to come in well below $100 million. Republican fundraisers said if a candidate and allied groups can raise $10 million to $20 million by the end of the month, they will be viewed as credible rivals.

Anthony Scaramucci, the founder of SkyBridge Capital who is supporting Walker, said he expects Walker to raise $15 million to $22 million.

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"There's a number that's enough and there's a number that's not enough," Scaramucci said. "The $20 million number is enough."

The best-positioned candidates should plan to barrel into Iowa with $20 million to $40 million in the bank between their campaign accounts and their super PACs, GOP strategists said.

A candidate could win the Iowa caucuses with as little as $2 million, Robinson said. And in New Hampshire, "there's sort of a practical limit on how much TV time you can buy," said Tom Rath, a GOP operative there.

But a bitter faceoff in Florida -- the home state of Bush and Rubio -- is a much more expensive proposition.

It could cost $20 million to $30 million, said Miami-Dade Republican Party Chairman Nelson Diaz, for candidates to cover the four major media markets and adapt to a new primary system due to the timing of the Florida contest. All of the state's delegates will be awarded to the winner of the March 15 primary, the earliest possible date when states can do so rather than divvying them up proportionally.

"Only one of them survives the encounter in Florida," said Steve Schmidt, who was the senior strategist for Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign in 2008.

All of this requires not only strong fundraising, but also disciplined spending. That's particularly true for Bush and Rubio. While other candidates may chart their course to victory by investing heavily in a single state, both contenders from Florida are expected to compete in several states simultaneously.

"Obviously we want to raise as much as we can and then be very careful about how we spend it," said Rubio spokesman Alex Conant. "We're not going to raise as much as the others."

Rubio will spend the rest of the month crisscrossing the country to average roughly one fundraiser a day. He'll do most of that on commercial flights while a lean staff keeps his campaign headquarters humming.

At a recent Bush fundraiser in Washington, donors forked over $2,700 per person to stand around tables munching on potato chips and croissant finger sandwiches as organizers sought to keep event overhead costs low.

"We understand that we're going to have to compete everywhere and that we're going to need the resources to compete everywhere," said Tim Miller, a spokesman for the Bush campaign. That requires building a campaign operation that's flush with cash and ready to spring into action when a number of states hold their contests on March 1.

The leader of Cruz's super PACs said the structure -- four separate organizations largely controlled by three donors -- allows them to minimize costs by tapping donors' own professional networks.

"Everybody thinks this structure, as it relates to us, is somehow limiting our capacity and there's a chokehold -- actually it's the opposite," said the group's leader. "I'm not going to have to buy a whole bunch of computers that I throw away at the end of this deal."

Candidates' overall fundraising totals will receive plenty of attention, but Republicans cautioned that every dollar

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isn't created equally. Many candidates will be able to stretch their dollars further than Bush, who has the biggest target on his back and will have to combat fatigue from his family name.

Frank VanderSloot, a GOP fundraiser in Idaho and chief executive of wellness company Melaleuca, said he views Bush, Walker and Rubio as the top tier of GOP candidates. At the moment, Rubio is his favorite.

Bush faces a tougher path because of his family legacies, VanderSloot said. At a recent board meeting for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Mr. VanderSloot said some business executives confessed they were uncomfortable with the idea of "crowning" another Bush president.

"There's a general feeling of we don't have a monarchy here," Mr. VanderSloot said.

Bush's unique hurdles help explain why he and his allies are pressing donors for big contributions right up to the fundraising deadline.

After wrapping up his official announcement in Florida, Bush hopped on a call with his finance director and donors and prodded them to give to his official campaign account, according to someone familiar with the call. Dave Kochel, the campaign's senior strategist, assured fundraisers that Bush would be a formidable competitor in the early states.

The super PAC supporting Bush has been making similar moves. On a call last week, Mike Murphy, who is running the group, encouraged donors to keep up their fundraising so he could "weaponize" their total.

Hillary Clinton to skip major progressive event **// MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – June 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton will not attend the Netroots Nation liberal organizing conference next month due to a scheduling conflict, organizers confirmed to msnbc, skipping the marquee annual progressive gathering for a second year in a row.

Fellow Democratic presidential candidates Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders will both hold town hall style meetings at the conference scheduled for July 16-19 in Phoenix, Arizona. Clinton will be holding events that weekend in Iowa and Arkansas.

"Our campaign looks forward to earning the support of the Democrats participating in this conference but Hillary Clinton has scheduling conflicts which will prevent her from attending. She wishes them the best on their conference," said Clinton campaign spokesperson Jesse Ferguson.

Former Sen. Jim Webb was not invited because he has not declared whether he will run for the Democratic nomination. Former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, who was a Republican until 2013 and joined the 2016 presidential race as a Democrat, was also not invited.

"We don't have plans to invite Chafee," said Netroots Nation executive director Raven Brooks. "We're going to continue to look at the field as it evolves but since it is a town hall format we don't want to steal time from the candidates we have on board just to be inclusive."

Netroots, originally started by DailyKos founder Markos Moulitsas to organize online opposition to the Iraq War, is perhaps the largest annual gathering of progressive movement activists in the country, and often attracts

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Democratic candidates and officeholders.

Clinton was invited to attend last year as well, but did not. Sen. Elizabeth Warren gave the keynote address and the super PAC Ready for Warren used the speech to kick off their effort to draft the senator.

With Warren still refusing to consider a White House bid, Ready for Warren recently decided to switch their allegiance to Sanders, who has quickly become a favorite of progressive activists.

Clinton attended the conference in 2007, along with most of the other Democratic presidential candidates that year, including Barack Obama. Her campaign offered a top level surrogate to speak on her behalf this year, but organizers wanted attendees to hear from the candidates themselves.

The AP first reported the news that Clinton would not be attending.

Hillary Clinton's 3-Word Misstep: 'All Lives Matter' **// NPR // Tamara Keither – June 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's speech Tuesday at a historic black church in Missouri was mostly well-received by the audience, but three words angered some of the activists she was hoping to appeal to.

Clinton spoke to frequent applause about religion, racism, access to education, repairing communities and the shooting last week in Charleston, S.C.

The church where Clinton spoke, Christ the King United Church of Christ, is in Florissant, Mo., fewer than 5 miles from where the rioting and protesting happened in Ferguson.

But she's now facing criticism on social media after using the phrase "all lives matter" — which has been used by some as pushback to the phrase "black lives matter." The latter phrase, which hung on a banner outside the church, was widely used by protesters in Ferguson and other cities.

Before using the phrase, Clinton was retelling an anecdote about the lessons she learned from her mother.

"I asked her, 'What kept you going?' Her answer was very simple. Kindness along the way from someone who believed she mattered. All lives matter."

To some in the pews, what Clinton said fell flat. Or worse:

"With her statement that all lives matter, that blew a lot of support that she may have been able to engender here," said Renita Lamkin, a pastor at the St. John AME Church in St. Charles. She is white and while protesting in Ferguson was hit in the gut with a rubber bullet. Her passion comes in part because her children are African-American.

"My children matter," she said. "And I need to hear my president say that the lives of my children matter. That my little black children matter. Because right now our society does not say that they matter. Black lives matter. That's what she needs to say."

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Clinton's campaign points out she did say "black lives matter," late last year. But that didn't stop a flood of complaints on Facebook and Twitter after Clinton's speech:

Gabrielle Kennedy, also in audience at the church, had a more charitable reaction.

"I knew when she said it that there would be people who would not be happy with that. But I am of the belief that it's a process," she said.

'It Takes Time'

In nearby Ferguson, burned-out businesses are still boarded up on West Florissant Avenue. Charles Davis, owner of the Ferguson Burger Bar, counts his blessings.

"We were saved by God. Nothing happened to us," Davis said.

But business still isn't back to where it was. And neither is the community. Ferguson is trying to heal from the wound ripped open when a black 18-year-old was shot by a white police officer.

"It takes time. A year is not long enough. But what people should understand is a lot of changes that needed be made has been made," he said.

Many of the activists who rose up after the shooting of Michael Brown were on hand when Clinton spoke.

She spoke about the recent shooting in Charleston, and asked, "How do we make sense of such an evil act? An act of racist terrorism perpetrated in a house of God?" Clinton also praised the ability of the families of the victims to look at the accused gunman and offer forgiveness.

After her speech, still in front of an audience, Clinton sat down for an hourlong discussion with community leaders. Kennedy, who was there, gives Clinton credit for coming to Missouri and listening.

"What you saw on that stage there, in the pulpit area there, how we take care of ourselves. This is us doing us, and it's fabulous stuff," Kennedy said.

A pastor delivered a final prayer before Clinton left. And in it, she called for this to be the beginning of a conversation. Not the end.

The Race That Defined Hillary's Strategy **// The Daily Beast // David Freelander – June 25, 2015**

How Terry McAuliffe's campaign for governor of Virginia was a dummy run for 2016.

Commonwealth since 2013 when she headlined a rally for Terry McAuliffe, a longtime friend vying to become governor.

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But Virginia has a hold on Hillary.

That's because the playbook for Clinton to win the presidency in 2016 was written in that race, which saw McAuliffe eke out a closer than expected victory against Ken Cuccinelli, the sitting attorney general and a hero to Virginia tea partiers.

Many of the same people that carried McAuliffe to victory are trying to do the same for Clinton. There is Robby Mook, Clinton's well-regarded campaign manager. Josh Schwerin, who works on rapid response out of Brooklyn, served as McAuliffe's press secretary. The campaign's political director, field director and research director have all found jobs with Team Clinton.

And many of the operatives who battled against them have gone on to the various Republican campaigns vying for the chance to take on Clinton. Danny Diaz, a senior strategist for Cuccinelli, was recently named Jeb Bush's campaign manager. Chris LaCivita, another top aide, is now helping lead Rand Paul's campaign. Wesley Donehue, who ran Cuccinelli's digital operation, is close to Marco Rubio.

Now, Team Clinton is set to take the strategy that won them a medium-sized state in a low-turnout, off-year election, and take it national, while Republicans are pouring over that same playbook and looking for holes.

Every campaign is unique, but McAuliffe in 2013 and Clinton in 2015 face a similar set of challenges. Back then, McAuliffe was trying to come back from an embarrassing defeat in a Democratic primary four years earlier, much as Clinton is now.

McAuliffe was a longtime front-person for the Clinton operation, and so he was relatively well known among voters. In order to reintroduce him to Virginians, the campaign embarked on a low-key listening tour of the forgotten corners of the state, where McAuliffe heard voter concerns while scribbling notes—much as Clinton did with her campaign rollout this spring.

"I think you see a lot of similarities," said one Republican who worked on the race. "McAulifffe was a Democrat who was trying to run a, 'Oh, just ignore my political past, ignore my scandal, ignore all of the background noise,' a lot like Clinton is trying to do now. And whoever the Republican is is going to have the same kind of ideological edge that Ken had."

And, like McAuliffe, Clinton faces historical headwinds. For four decades, Virginia had followed a pattern of electing governors someone from the party that had lost White House the year before; McAuliffe was the first to break that pattern.

Clinton's team, meanwhile, acknowledges that one of her biggest hurdles will be overcoming the pattern of voters looking to a new party for leadership after two terms in the White House by the opposing party.

Both trends are not merely historical oddities, strategists say, but evidence that voters are often looking for change and tire quickly of the ruling party. If ties to Obama could prove problematic for Clinton, the botched rollout of the Obamacare website—a law, it should be noted, that McAuliffe loudly championed—nearly finished McAuliffe.

In order to counteract the gathering clouds of bad news, the McAuliffe operation put a premium on data and organizing. It's much the same with Clinton now, who has pledged to put organizers in every state and who is

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counting on a data operation that surpasses event the sophistication of what the Obama team put together in 2012.

"I don't think Republicans realize yet how we are able to get turnout in places in places that are favorable to us," said one veteran of the race.

McAuliffe avoided a primary (not unlike Clinton, who is so far avoiding a competitive one) but still took strikingly liberal positions on social issues regardless. This is proof, Democratic veterans of his campaign say, that the center of the electorate is shifting rapidly away from the Republicans.

Clinton is trying the same strategy, staking out liberal positions on gay rights, immigration, the economy and the environment with the belief that the center of the electorate is far closer to the Democratic base on these matters.

But the governor's race was not one in which the Democrats touted McAuliffe much; rather, they made the race all about Cuccinelli, an unabashed conservative who bragged of his record of suing the federal government and who opposed gay marriage and abortion. This did not make for a particularly joyful campaign, with Time Magazine branding it "The Dirtiest, Nastiest, Low-Down Campaign in America."

"What is significant is that McAuliffe was able to win it even with pretty low turnout, and he did it because the Republicans gave him a far right candidate and he was relentless on the social issues," said Larry Sabato, the director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "This is a transferable issue in 2016, and one that Republicans are vulnerable on, no question about it."

McAullife, he added, was merely, "the non-Cuccinelli on the ballot. And if Hillary Clinton wins, it is for the same reason that McAuliffe wins—not because they are exciting or because people love them but because they are the other guy on the ballot."

Although Cuccinelli lost by a little over two points, Republicans say that he outperformed expectations. Polls in the final weeks of the race had Cuccinelli down by close to ten. He was outspent by $15 million dollars, and swamped on the airwaves in the race's final weeks.

But Republicans from around the country have highlighted an exit poll that showed him beating McAuliffe among voters age 18-24. Republicans say this is proof that the youngest cohort of the millennial generation is less focused on social issues and less likely to vote Democratic when Obama is not on the ballot.

But it wasn't enough. And the main lesson Republicans took from the near-upset hold has to do with the primary. Cuccinelli became the GOP nominee after conservatives grabbed hold of the nominating process and elbowed aside a far more mainstream alternative. A very winnable race became a loss after Cuccinelli never attempted to try to bridge the party's divide.

What Republicans should learn from the race is to make sure they "get a better candidate," said Tom Davis, a Republican former Congressman from the northern part of the state.

"We had a lot of advantages in that contest, but Republicans keep doing too good of a job of bringing out the Democratic base."

The Clinton-Confederate Flag Conspiracy Theory Is a New Low // Daily Beast // Patricia Murphy – June 24, 2015

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Out of the swirl of chaos, grief, grace, and courage that has followed the Charleston shooting, partisan politics has mostly kept its rightful place nowhere near the state of South Carolina.

But the national debate over the future of the Confederate flag that flies in front of the state's capitol has unwittingly given rise to one of the more bizarre Clinton conspiracy theories to date: that Bill and Hillary Clinton, despite decades as civil rights advocates and their right-wing caricature as Northeast liberal elites, are closet Confederate sympathizers.

The meme took off on Sunday, when The Daily Caller ran a story under the headline "Flashback: Bill Clinton Honored the Confederacy on Arkansas State Flag."

The next morning, the hosts of Fox & Friends debated whether Hillary Clinton had refused to denounce the Confederate flag flying in front of the South Carolina (though she actually did denounce it in 2007) out of loyalty to her husband, who, Elisabeth Hasselbeck said, "signed a law honoring the Confederacy in Arkansas and about the flag's design in 1987…that stated, 'the blue star is to commemorate the Confederate states of America."

The legislation that The Daily Caller, Fox & Friends, and now dozens of conservative blogs are referencing was a bill to make the flag that Arkansas had flown since 1924 the state's official flag. That flag includes four stars, three to symbolize the countries that held the Arkansas territory—Spain, France and the United States—and the fourth, as Hasselbeck said, "to commemorate the Confederate states of America."

Nowhere in the state's legislative history does it explain why the 63-year-old flag needed to be made official, but Arkansas historians have two explanations. First, the legislature was moving to give the state a number of "official" designations—think "official state butterfly," "official state grain"—as it celebrated its sesquicentennial.

Second, Bill Clinton and the state legislature were in the process of pushing through a series of measures to ban flag desecration as the U.S. Supreme Court debated and eventually struck down the 48 state laws against flag burning, including Arkansas's ban. Historians told me they believed the 1987 flag bill was passed to specify the official design of the state flag in conjunction with that effort. As governor, Clinton later signed a bill making it a crime to burn or deface a flag, a move that drew vocal complaints from the American Civil Liberties Union.

It is true that Clinton did nothing in his time as governor to remove the state flag's reference to Arkansas's role in the Confederacy. But by all accounts, the bill he signed making the state's flag official was not created as a Confederate memorial. The sponsor of the bill, longtime Arkansas legislator W.D. "Bill" Moore, has since died, but former Rep. Steve Smith said, "I served with Bill Moore in the early 1970s, and he was hardly a neo-Confederate. Nor was Bill Clinton."

In 2007, Hillary Clinton said she thought South Carolina should remove the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds entirely, not just from the front of the capitol.

The more recent Clintonian history related to the Confederate flag is easier to find and may be one of the more straightforward positions either Clinton has ever taken. Both have been consistently, unambiguously against its use.

During Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, he endorsed then-Georgia Gov. Zell Miller's fruitless attempt to remove the St. Andrews Cross from the Georgia state flag, a change that eventually came nine years later, and made Miller the keynote speaker at his 1992 Democratic National Committee nominating convention.

In 2000, as South Carolina wrestled with the future of the Confederate flag that still flew above its capitol, then-President Clinton gave the state his unsolicited advice during a visit to Allen University, a historically black college in Columbia, S.C., just miles from the state capitol: Take the flag down. "As long as the waving symbol of

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one American's pride is the shameful symbol of another American's pain, we have bridges to cross in this country and we better get across them,"' he told the students.

When Hillary Clinton became a candidate for president herself in 2007, she said much the same thing during her own visit to the state, telling the AP she thought South Carolina should remove the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds entirely, not just from the front of the capitol.

And Tuesday, after South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's call to finally remove the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds in the wake of the Charleston tragedy, Hillary Clinton called it the right thing to do.

"I appreciate the actions begun yesterday by the governor and other leaders of South Carolina to remove the Confederate battle flag from the State House, recognizing it as a symbol of our nation's racist past that has no place in our present or our future," Clinton said. "It shouldn't fly there, it shouldn't fly anywhere."

There are more than enough reasons for members of the conservative media to be dubious about the Clintons: the deleted emails, the paid speeches, the Friends of Bill you thought went away with the Y2K bug but were actually just sitting on the Clinton Foundation payroll waiting for the next Clinton administration to begin.

But accusing either Clinton of being a Confederate sympathizer, past or present, is a conspiracy beneath even its creators.

Bill Clinton To The United Daughters of the Confederacy // Buzzfeed // Andrew Kaczynski and Christopher Massie – June 24, 2015

As president, Bill Clinton sent a number of letters to the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the society of female descendants of veterans of the Confederate army.

The organization, founded in 1894, has sponsored a number a Confederate memorials throughout the south, including memorials to General Robert E. Lee and General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson in the National Cathedral. In the past, articles in the group's magazine argued that the "glorious blood-red Confederate Battle flag" is "an emblem of Freedom."

"I am delighted to honor the United Daughters of the Confederacy as you celebrate your 100th anniversary," read a letter printed in their magazine in 1994 from the then-president.

"One of the most rewarding of human experiences is the coming together of people to share common experiences and interests," wrote Clinton.

"For 100 years, the United Daughters of the Confederacy has maintained and built upon the wonderful legacy of your founders. The strength of your organization today is a testament of the vision of your founders and to your commitment to your shared goals."

"I congratulate you on your achievement, and I extend best wishes for many years of continuing success," he concluded.

A 1996 version of the magazine also cited a letter from then-President Bill Clinton. In 2008, the website Black Commenter found several other letters attributed to the then-president that ran in the magazine.

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Hillary Clinton Hires The Strategist Who Broke Her 2008 Campaign **// Buzzfeed // Ben Smith – June 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton has hired the key tactician behind her stunning 2008 primary defeat, a sign both of her campaign's intense focus on a Democratic Primary that is shaping up as a joke, and of her team's obsession with avoiding the mistakes of her last campaign.

A campaign official confirmed to BuzzFeed News that Jeff Berman has joined the campaign as a consultant, and has quietly been working for Clinton since her launch earlier this month.

Berman's name may not ring bells even for fairly obsessive political junkies — he's not an MSNBC regular, doesn't much talk to reporters, and has spent most of his professional life in private legal practice.

But reporters who covered the hallucinatory December and January of Clinton's collapse will remember him, first, as a tense and reedy voice on a conference call the night of January 19, 2008. Clinton had just won Nevada, we thought, because she won about 500 more delegates through a caucus process that was more like a melee than a vote. I had filed my story and was walking to my gate at McCarran International Airport when Obama's campaign manager, David Plouffe, convened a conference call on what seemed at first a technical, even absurd, premise: That by virtue of some obscure rule, Obama had actually won.

"Obama had a majority in the district that had an odd number of delegates, so he won an extra seat," Berman explained to flummoxed reporters that night. "Where Clinton won, the delegates were split evenly."

(The substance of this point is a nice illustration of how insane the mechanics of American elections are, and is roughly explained here. The politics of it are that Berman realized early that the only part of Nevada that actually mattered was the rural north, and so Obama organized like hell in Elko.)

It's hard to overstate how crucial Berman's minute calculations, his frighteningly accurate predictive spreadsheet, and the traps he laid through the early states, were to Obama's victory. When I profiled him that May, a prominent Clinton backer called him the campaign's "unsung hero." He subsequently told his story in a detailed book, The Magic Number, which is a kind of mechanical counterpoint to an election that looks, in retrospect, like the natural course of history. He's a bit of a living legend in the small world that can speak fluently about this stuff. One of his peers, Jerry Goldfeder, wrote last December that this was the most important hire Clinton could make.

By hiring Berman, Hillary Clinton isn't just planning to refight the last war: She is planning to nuke its battlefields, to gird her loins for a contest that is vanishingly unlikely to repeat itself. (The 2008 election was the only contest in modern memory in which a delegate fight mattered.) Indeed, if there's a knock on her highly functional early campaign organization, that's it: She's seems to be reacting to her 2008 defeat in part by running the race she should have had that year, when in fact this is the cycle, if there ever was one, to take the primary for granted and run to the middle from the start.

It's not, of course, quite that simple. Clinton has the resources to win easily in the Democratic Primary, but Iowa caucusgoers are people of the left, and Bernie Sanders will get his piece, and Clinton needs to be seen to take their votes seriously. It's hard to knock her for hiring the best people, and doing it right.

Berman, who declined to give me an interview when I wrote that glowing profile of him in 2008 ("I've got ten things on my plate and I'm still trying to win this fucking thing" was all I got), declined to comment on his new role with Clinton, as did a campaign spokesman.

But he seems to be bearing down with characteristic intensity, leaving a job at the law and lobbying firm Bryan

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Cave this spring to start his own public affairs firm. (His clients, according to the federal lobbying registry, included the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and TransCanada, the company building the controversial Keystone oil pipeline.) He remains a key figure on the Democratic National Committee's rules committee, a venue in which he pretty much rolled his counterpart on the Clinton campaign, Harold Ickes, on a then-crucial point involving the machinations of the Florida Democratic Party in 2007.

All this is to say that: Whatever happens to Hillary Clinton this time around, she's not going to let Bernie Sanders steal an odd-numbered delegate from her.

Why Hillary Clinton Still Needs Terry McAuliffe // National Journal // Ben Pershing – June 24, 2015

Terry McAuliffe chaired Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign during the 2008 race, and he spent his time doing Terry McAuliffe things: raising untold millions of dollars, jousting loudly on TV with Republicans and, by all appearances, never sleeping.

With Clinton coming to Northern Virginia Friday to headline an event for the state party, McAuliffe is helping her again for 2016, but in a strikingly different role: as the governor of a vital swing state—and a relatively popular one at that—who is more than happy to dispense advice to Clinton and any other Democrats who care to ask.

"In 2007 and '8, I spent 500 days on the road. ... I can't do anything like that," McAuliffe said. What he can do, though, is lay the groundwork for next year—he hopes—by winning the Virginia state Senate back this year. Then he can take that political organization, which already overlaps significantly with Clinton's, and put it at her disposal.

"The work we do on the ground for the Senate will immediately flip, become presidential," he told National Journal in an interview earlier this year. "So we're going to do a lot of work this year."

The other way he can help Clinton, McAuliffe argued, is "for me to continue to create jobs. Here is a very pro-business governor who is popular—[that] is a great message. I think if I continue doing what I'm doing and keep people happy and they're happy, that helps her a lot. That really does help her win the state."

Virginia and its 13 Electoral College votes have become a crucial part of Democrats' formula for keeping the White House. The commonwealth is considered a case study for how the party can claw back some of the modernizing New South from Republicans, alongside North Carolina and eventually—Democrats hope—Georgia. A reversal of that narrative in 2016 would be demoralizing for Democrats.

McAuliffe's journey to the governor's mansion has been an odd one. The man who wore a Hawaiian shirt on television, who was linked to some of President Bill Clinton's more unsavory fundraising practices, who had been dismissed as a glorified salesman, now holds the title that once belonged to Thomas Jefferson.

Particularly in the final days of McAuliffe's gubernatorial campaign, when Bill Clinton barnstormed the state with him, McAuliffe held up Clinton's presidency as a governance model he hoped to emulate in Richmond.

McAuliffe didn't just manage—albeit on his second try—to become governor. He's managed to make voters like him. Multiple polls taken this year have pegged his approval rating around 50 percent; Virginians who think he's doing a good job roughly outnumber those who don't by a 2-1 margin.

In McAuliffe's telling, those numbers are the direct result of other metrics—jobs created, deals closed, Virginia

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exports boosted. The governor's message is incessantly focused on jobs and economic development, and that, he says, is an easy sell that he's happy to share with his peers: "Gina from Rhode Island"—that would be Gov. Gina Raimondo—"called me the other day, asked me how I did it."

Republicans see things very differently. They say the state's economy isn't nearly as vibrant under McAuliffe as he makes it out to be. And if McAuliffe is popular, it's only because he's playing small ball. He's stopped pushing hard for his more controversial proposals, and has little hope of achieving one of his most important campaign planks: expanding Medicaid. In addition to adding low-income Virginians to the insurance rolls, the plan was also meant to free up money from the state budget that McAuliffe wanted to spend on an ambitious education program.

But McAuliffe's hopes ran into an anti-Obamacare GOP wall in Richmond, and his best chance of squeezing the Medicaid plan through dissolved last year when a Democratic state senator, Phil Puckett, resigned under controversial circumstances and flipped the chamber to the Republicans.

He's also mostly avoided fights over divisive social issues, though McAuliffe notes that his election was itself a kind of milestone for a Southern candidate. "It was a very unique campaign for Virginia—gay rights, women's rights. ... I called for gun-control legislation. No one's ever run statewide in Virginia and talked about those issues," McAuliffe said.

(McAuliffe did wade into another controversial Southern topic this week, announcing Tuesday that he wants to phase out state-sponsored license plates that include an image of the Confederate flag.)

But he didn't discuss those topics in a vacuum—he is not given to lectures about morality. What he did on the campaign trail, Clinton and other swing-state Democrats might note, was relentlessly link those social issues to economic ones. McAuliffe's biggest selling point, both before and after he was elected, has been his ability to reel big companies into Virginia, just as he's long reeled big donors into the Clinton orbit. Making Virginia inhospitable to women or gay workers, he said, was bad for business.

So does that mean the state is inching inevitably from the purple column to blue? No. President Obama took Virginia in 2008 and 2012, and Democrats have won three of the last four governor's races and four consecutive U.S. Senate contests. But Sen. Mark Warner barely won reelection in 2014, and Republicans—aided by better off-year turnout and gerrymandering—control the General Assembly.

Two April polls—one from Quinnipiac University and another from Christopher Newport University—showed Clinton narrowly leading multiple Republican candidates in hypothetical 2016 Virginia matchups, but the situation inevitably looks different now, with a big, messy GOP field, than it will when there is but one Republican, and both candidates have spent more time in the daily campaign grinder.

"In a presidential year, we're always purple trending blue, because of turnout," McAuliffe said, though that assessment depends on Clinton roughly approximating Obama's astronomical turnout among African Americans and other low-propensity voting groups. That's where he can provide more help: McAuliffe's 2013 campaign borrowed several data wizards from the 2012 Obama effort, and Virginia Democrats have a wide technological and voter-file advantage over their GOP counterparts.

Robby Mook, who ran McAuliffe's campaign, is now doing the same for Clinton. Brynne Craig, who served as McAuliffe's political director, has been on Clinton's staff for more than a year. Michael Halle, who guided turnout operations as head of the Virginia coordinated campaign in 2013, is now working for Clinton in Iowa along with three other McAuliffe alums: Michelle Kleppe, Lenora Hanks, and Kate Cummings. McAuliffe 2013 and Clinton 2016 also share a spokesman, Josh Schwerin, plus several more researchers and digital staffers.

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Those advisers, particularly Mook, helped McAuliffe run a far more effective campaign than he did in 2009, and perhaps they can do the same for Clinton in her own second effort. McAuliffe has changed in ways that might be instructive to his friend. He appears to be more organized, more disciplined, and (slightly) less caffeinated.

"You've got to go through this process," he said, adding that this time around, "she is going to be a totally different candidate."

Hillary Is Now Trapped By Her Support for Global Trade at State // The Fiscal Times // Edward Morrissey // June 25, 2015

Now that the fight over Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) has finally concluded, we can marvel at some of the stunning contradictions that emerged during the debate. Republicans ended up giving Barack Obama his first significant second-term achievement, Chris Cillizza wrote at The Washington Post. Democrats nearly humiliated their own President. Somehow, in the midst of all these contradictions and surprises, Hillary Clinton may have done the most damage to herself.

First, Obama ended up proving his lame-duck status in a most embarrassing manner. The liberal wing of Capitol Hill Democratic caucuses signaled loudly and clearly that they had no confidence in their own President on the key progressive theme of anti-globalization.

Until now, Obama had achieved little in trade negotiations during his six-plus years as president. The exception--he concluded leftover negotiations with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea from George W. Bush's administration, all in 2011 under Hillary Clinton. More than a dozen more potential agreements have languished during the Obama term.

Clearly, Obama doesn't have an itch for free trade. Obama might be forgiven for thinking that his own party would give him the benefit of the doubt on TPP. Instead, Democrats gave Obama a massive vote of no confidence on trade.

Noah Brier, co-founder of one of the best-regarded content marketing start-ups, provides his perspective to help you achieve more.

The Republican impulse to rescue Obama didn't make much sense to the conservative base, either. For years, GOP leaders have warned that Obama had arrogated unprecedented and unconstitutional powers, most recently on his executive actions on immigration. But they also charge him with abuse of power regarding Obamacare, too. House Republicans took Obama to court to fight Obama's unilateral rewriting of statutory deadlines on mandates in the latter case, and have won an initial round of litigation to block the former.

Republican leadership argued that the party's philosophical commitment to free trade and the long precedent for fast-track authority made this the right call. However, they ended up making the argument that Obama can be trusted with extraordinary authority, at least when it comes to Republican priorities. The conundrum tripped up GOP presidential candidates too, especially Ted Cruz, who changed direction at the last minute to oppose TPA only to see it pass anyway.

None of the politicos caught up in this did worse than Hillary Clinton did, however. As Secretary of State, she spent three years negotiating the parameters of the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal. Jake Tapper at CNN went through the archives of the State Department and the media, finding forty-five separate occasions in which Secretary Clinton extolled the TPP trade bill. The final endorsement came just before she left office, in January 2013, a few months before starting to write her second memoir, ironically titled Hard Choices. Soon after, she started planning her next run at the presidency.

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The White House clearly expected Hillary to provide Obama with support for TPP. After all, in Hard Choices (pages 69-70), she had written that TPP "would link markets throughout Asia and the Americas, lowering trade barriers while raising standards on labor, the environment, and intellectual property."

In the 2014 memoir of her time as America's top diplomat, she concluded that "TPP won't be perfect – no deal negotiated among a dozen countries ever will be – but its higher standards, if implemented and enforced, should benefit American businesses and workers." On top of that, Hard Choices argues that TPP is "a strategic initiative that would strengthen the position of the United States in Asia."

Instead of making that case and demonstrating her foreign-policy experience, Hillary stonewalled the media on the question of both TPA and TPP. In her big campaign relaunch speech, she never mentioned trade and only spoke passingly about foreign policy. NBC's Chuck Todd pressed Team Hillary strategist John Podesta the next day about why Clinton remained silent on trade. Todd got no answer on her TPP or TPA position. Progressives, moderates, and the media began to discuss the silence from Hillary on what had been one of her big initiatives at State.

Almost a week later, Hillary finally staked out a position, but only on TPA, and even then not without hedging it. Cornered by experienced Nevada political analyst Jon Ralston, Hillary finally said she'd "probably not" vote for fast-track authority if she still had her Senate seat. However, she explained that TPA was "a process vote," not the same at all as TPP, on which she still refused to take a position.

That "process," though, was needed to serve the cause of finalizing "the signature economic pillar of our strategy in Asia." If TPP was both as good and as important as Hillary described it in her memoir, then why object to TPA at all? Democrats opposed TPA entirely to prevent TPP.

The only way out of this conundrum for Hillary would have been the failure of the TPA bill – and she almost got her way with this last-minute nudge. Instead, GOP leadership and Obama twisted enough arms to finally get TPA passed, which means that the US can finalize TPP and present it to the Senate. That will need to happen before the 2016 election, as the Senate will no doubt want to debate it thoroughly, and a post-election session of Congress may pass on taking broad action on trade after the US elects a new president to take over from Obama, no matter who it is.

When TPP comes to the Senate, everyone will finally get a close look at it. If it's as bad as progressives believe, then Hillary will come under fire for having worked on a bad trade agreement, just as progressives still blame Bill Clinton for NAFTA. If it turns out to be benign, that will raise questions about Hillary's lack of political fortitude in failing to support her own initiative. She will be accused of being willing to torpedo what she herself called "a strategic initiative" to strengthen the US in a very critical theater, all to pander to the Democratic grassroots for her own selfish career aspirations.

In other words, she loses either way, thanks to her refusal to share her positions with voters. Hillary Clinton wants a coronation, but the trade fight could very well dethrone her.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

<u>DECLARED</u>

O'MALLEY

Presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley among those paying respects to slain S.C. pastor // WaPo // John Wagner – June 24, 2015

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Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley is heading to South Carolina on Wednesday to pay his respects to the late state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, among those killed in last week's church massacre, according to two associates familiar with O'Malley's plans.

The former Maryland governor is planning to join other mourners at the capitol in Columbia, where Pinckney will lie in state this afternoon, according to the O'Malley associates, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk on behalf of his campaign.

Pinckney was also the pastor at the historic Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, where a gunman killed him and eight others at a Bible study.

On a previous trip to South Carolina, an early presidential nominating state, O'Malley paid a visit to the Charleston church. Pinckney pulled together a group of clergy and community leaders to meet with O'Malley in the basement of the church and gave him a tour, according to one of O'Malley's associates.

In the aftermath of the shootings, O'Malley has been outspoken about the need for additional national gun-control measures, noting that Maryland lawmakers passed state legislation at his urging in 2013. O'Malley has also been among those calling for the removal of the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds in South Carolina and other states where it still flies.

O'Malley's planned trip on Wednesday was first reported by CNN.

O'Malley heads to South Carolina to mourn massacre victim // CNN // Elizabeth Landers – June 24, 2015

Presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley on Wednesday will head to the Palmetto State to pay his respects to the late state Senator Clementa Pinckney, according to a legislative aide familiar with the governor¹s plans.

The trip will be short as the former Democratic Maryland governor is scheduled to arrive in Columbia midday and will head directly to the State House. O'Malley plans to pay his respects to the senator, who was shot and killed along with eight others in the Charleston church massacre last week, and fly out after an hour.

A group of state senators and representatives will accompany a horse-drawn caisson carrying the body of Pinckney through Columbia as they walk down Main Street to the capitol. Senator Pinckney will lie in state from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

As the controversy surrounding the Confederate flag continues to boil here in the humid heat of South Carolina, the chamber in which Pinckney once served voted Tuesday to head into a special session to consider removing the flag from state grounds.

In the meantime, the Confederate flag will continue to fly over the State House as Pinckney lies in state.

Martin O'Malley pays respects to slain S.C. state senator // Washington Examiner // Ariel Cohen – June 24, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley has headed down to South Carolina to pay his respects for the

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late state Sen. Clementa Pickney in the wake of the Charleston massacre.

Coming from New Hampshire Wednesday morning, O'Malley's visited the rotunda lobby of the South Carolina State House in Columbia, where Pickney's body is lying in state.

Pickney was shot and killed along with eight other congregants during a Wednesday evening Bible study last week.

During a previous trip to South Carolina, O'Malley visited the Charleston Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church. Pickney pulled together a small group of clergy and members of the community to meet with O'Malley in the basement of the church and discuss issues relevant to the early voting primary state.

In the wake of the mass shooting, O'Malley has been extremely vocal about gun control, racism and the Confederate flag. Just two days after the June 17 shooting the former Maryland governor sent an email to his supporters stating that he was "pissed" about the violence propagated by guns, and that he was now "doubling down" his efforts on gun control.

O'Malley also supported removing the Confederate flag from the state capitol building in South Carolina, launching a campaign on his website to "restore the flag to a museum."

"Many states in our country fly this rallying banner for hate. It's a symbol of 150 years of bigotry and racism — a reminder of a time the United States failed to live up to its founding principles, and we should take it down," O'Malley said

As O'Malley visited the Statehouse, the flag continued to fly over Pickney's body.

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders Lags Hillary Clinton in Introducing Himself to Black Voters // NYT // Patrick Healy and Jonathan Martin – June 24, 2015

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont is climbing in the polls in Iowa and New Hampshire, and he has drawn thousands of people to rallies for his presidential campaign recently in Denver and Minneapolis. But the shooting last week in Charleston, S.C., has highlighted a daunting obstacle he faces in the Democratic primary contest: Black voters have shown little interest in him.

Even his own campaign advisers acknowledge that Mr. Sanders is virtually unknown to many African-Americans, an enormously important Democratic constituency.

Though he led sit-ins as a civil rights activist in the 1960s, helped the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. pull off a surprising campaign victory in Vermont in 1988, and espouses liberal policy ideas broadly popular with many Democrats, Mr. Sanders has had little direct experience with black voters as a politician in a state that is 95 percent white. And they have been largely absent from his campaign events so far.

Mr. Sanders, 73, had planned to start introducing himself to larger numbers of African-Americans last Sunday at a large gathering in Charleston, but he quickly postponed the event after the church killings. The massacre also revived debate over a highly charged issue on which Mr. Sanders has a mixed record: gun control.

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Hillary Rodham Clinton is working assiduously to cement her support among black voters. In an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll this week, 95 percent of nonwhite Democratic voters said they could see themselves supporting Mrs. Clinton for the nomination in the primary. Only about one-quarter of respondents said they could see themselves voting for Mr. Sanders.

And Mrs. Clinton is hardly sitting still: She has spoken out assertively on race relations and gun control over the past week, and she visited a black church on Tuesday near Ferguson, Mo., where the killing of an unarmed black man by a white police officer in August ignited protests.

Mr. Sanders has lamented “the ugly stain of racism that still taints our nation,” but he has yet to take the subject on in a forceful way.

Given the makeup of the Democratic primary electorate, Mr. Sanders’s capacity to win support among blacks represents a test of his relevance: It will help determine whether he can drain many votes from Mrs. Clinton or is bound to be merely a nuisance candidate with a following among the most ideologically driven liberal whites.

Mr. Sanders’s advisers concede that Mrs. Clinton is more familiar and popular among black Democrats, but they say his background and views will allow him to speak credibly to African-Americans in places like Charleston, Ferguson and elsewhere. His struggle, they say, is to introduce himself swiftly and on a broad scale so that his remarks resonate and have an impact.

“We’re reaching out, but it’s no secret that Bernie represents a state that is heavily Caucasian, and his decades of work on issues of importance to African-Americans aren’t known amid the national conversation on race that is underway,” said Jeff Weaver, Mr. Sanders’s campaign manager. “I don’t think it’s presumptuous of him to speak out on these issues. And his message — the need for more good-paying jobs, and opening up higher education regardless of wealth and family background — will have strong appeal with African-Americans and many other voters.”

The challenge facing Mr. Sanders as a Ben & Jerry’s candidate seeking the nomination of President Obama’s party was on vivid display last month in Burlington, Vt., at his first campaign rally.

Nearly all the speakers who preceded him — including the two ice cream entrepreneurs — were white, as were nearly all the supporters, many of them in tie-dyed clothes, who thronged a park on the shores of Lake Champlain. His jeremiads about campaign-finance overhaul and climate change inspired cheers and ovations. But he made no mention of problems of deep concern to many African-Americans, like policing, gun control, racial inequities or the high numbers of black men in prison.

“The Bernie Sanders voter is still a Volvo-driving, financially comfortable liberal who is pretty much white,” said Paul Maslin, a pollster who worked for the 2004 presidential campaign of Vermont’s last Democratic contender, Howard Dean. “I don’t see how Bernie takes large numbers of black voters away from Hillary Clinton, and he needs to if he wants any shot at the nomination.”

David Axelrod, formerly Mr. Obama’s chief strategist, noted that insurgent Democrats like Gary Hart and Mr. Dean who were able to win over many white voters fell short because they could not attract blacks.

“There’s no doubt she understands coalition politics and she is burnishing her coalition,” Mr. Axelrod said of Mrs. Clinton. “You have to have a track record and some roots in these communities, and she does.”

Mr. Sanders, in a recent interview, said he believed his call for a “political revolution” to change an array of policies, such as ending tuition at public colleges, could win over black voters in the months ahead.

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Indeed, when he visited New England College in Concord, N.H., last month, a few black and white undergraduates described how their student loans, ranging from $10,000 to $16,000, made them anxious about the future. Mr. Sanders responded with empathy but also with a fiery intensity that evoked his own days as a student activist, when he protested segregated campus housing at the University of Chicago and participated in the 1963 March on Washington.

Since then, though, his politics have been characterized by a focus on class-based solidarity and uplift, reflecting his style of democratic socialism. While Mr. Sanders endorsed the 1988 campaign of Mr. Jackson, who won the Vermont caucus that year, he also said at the time that he disagreed with Mr. Jackson about "whether the Democratic Party can be the real vehicle for social change," and said a third party was necessary. (Mr. Jackson did not return messages seeking comment.)

Tad Devine, a senior adviser to the Sanders campaign, predicted that Mr. Sanders's battles for equal rights and against income inequality would "resonate powerfully with African-American voters."

He continued, "And we also believe that the way to win support from African-American voters in the primaries is to demonstrate that he is a viable candidate with a real chance to succeed by doing well in the early contests."

One of those is the South Carolina primary, where Mr. Sanders's challenge has been crystallized. The church massacre last week and the murder of a black man, Walter Scott, by a white police officer in April have thrust racial discrimination and gun access to the center of the campaign, in a state where blacks can represent a majority of primary voters.

Complicating matters for Mr. Sanders, the one issue on which he is not unambiguously to the left of Mrs. Clinton — gun control — is emerging as a critical litmus test. Representing a rural state with a rich hunting tradition, Mr. Sanders has a mixed record on guns. He first won a House seat in part because the incumbent Republican he defeated had supported an assault-weapons ban. (Mr. Sanders also supported the ban but opposed the Brady bill, which President Bill Clinton signed into law.)

By contrast, Mrs. Clinton has moved aggressively to emphasize her support for gun restrictions since the Charleston shootings, saying in an interview last week, "Let's just cut to the chase: It's guns."

Mrs. Clinton, mindful of the biracial coalition Mr. Obama built in South Carolina in 2008 when he handed her a stinging loss, has already visited its African-American population centers twice. Mr. Sanders has yet to reschedule his first trip.

"She's talking about the issues we care about," said Bakari Sellers, a former South Carolina state representative who is black and is supporting Mrs. Clinton. "Whether it's voting rights or police reform, Hillary is attacking them head-on."

As for Mr. Sanders, he said, "I'm not hearing Bernie Sanders's name at the barbershops."

Bernie Sanders Walks A Fine Line On Gun Control // NPR // Jessica Taylor – June 24, 2015

In the wake of last week's Charleston church shootings, 2016 Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders explained his competing concerns between gun rights and gun safety.

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"I think guns and gun control is an issue that needs to be discussed," Sanders told NPR's David Greene in an interview that will air on Thursday's Morning Edition. "Let me add to that, I think that urban America has got to respect what rural America is about, where 99 percent of the people in my state who hunt are law abiding people."

In the wake of the tragedy that took the lives of nine African-American parishioners at the Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, many Democratic politicians have renewed calls to tighten gun-control measures. Sanders said he's open to a conversation about what to do next on gun-control measures and would go along with stricter background checks, for example. But he noted in the interview that those measures alone wouldn't solve the problem of gun violence in America.

"So obviously, we need strong sensible gun control, and I will support it," Sanders told Greene. "But some people think it's going to solve all of our problems, and it's not. You know what, we have a crisis in the capability of addressing mental health illness in this country. When people are hurting and are prepared to do something terrible, we need to do something immediately. We don't have that and we should have that."

For left-leaning senators from largely rural, pro-gun states — like Vermont — it can be tough to strike a balance talking about guns. Sanders has had a mixed voting record on guns. He voted to end the "gun-show loophole" and in favor of the 2013 universal background check bill and assault-weapons ban following Sandy Hook Elementary school massacre that left 20 children dead. But, previously, Sanders voted to allow guns on Amtrak and against the Brady bill.

It's a stance that could prove problematic for the insurgent White House hopeful. While Sanders has staked out forthright positions mostly to the left of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, guns is one issue where he is more toward the middle of the current field. It's one he doesn't bring up as often as his other rivals, either.

Sanders explained that as a representative of his state, he has to have their interests at heart, but argued that could put him at a good place to bridge a compromise.

"I think the people of Vermont and I have understood for many years that what guns are about in Vermont are not what guns are about in Chicago, Los Angeles or New York, where they're used not for hunting or target practice but to kill people," Sanders said. "I think, interestingly enough, I'm in a very good position representing a rural state to bring forth common-sense legislation regarding guns."

He added, "I can understand if some Democrats or Republicans represent an urban area where people don't hunt, don't do target practice, they're not into guns. But in my state, people go hunting and do target practice. Talking about cultural divides in this country, you know, it is important for people in urban America to understand that families go out together and kids go out together and they hunt and enjoy the outdoors and that is a lifestyle that should not be condemned."

For more from Sanders on foreign policy, his 2016 chances and more, tune into Morning Edition on Thursday.

This Quirky New Hampshire Law Might Keep Bernie Sanders Off The Ballot // NPR // Jessica Taylor – June 24, 2015

Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders is on the rise in New Hampshire. But that might not matter if the Independent senator from Vermont can't get on the Democratic ballot in the first-in-the-nation primary state.

Due to a quirky New Hampshire filing process — and Sanders's status as an independent rather than a registered Democrat — there are lingering questions about how easy it will be for him file for the primary next year.

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State law says that presidential candidates must be a registered member of the party whose primary ballot they are trying to get on. In fact, the Declaration of Candidacy they must fill out is fairly straightforward (emphasis added):

I, _____, swear under penalties of perjury that I am qualified to be a candidate for president of the United States pursuant to article II, section 1, clause 4 of the United States Constitution, which states, "No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States." I further declare that I am domiciled in _____, in the city (or town or unincorporated place) of _____, county of _____, state of _____, that I am a registered member of the _____ party; that I am a candidate for the nomination for the office of president to be made at the primary election to be held on the _____ day of _____; and I hereby request that my name be printed on the official primary ballot of said _____ party as a candidate for such nomination.

It's one of those blanks that is problematic — asking candidates to say "that I am a registered member of the _____ party. Sanders is not a registered member of the Democratic Party, having been elected every time as an independent. Early in his career, he made failed runs as part of the Liberty Union Party.

He did appear on the Democratic primary ballot in Vermont for the Senate in both 2006 and 2012, winning their primary, but he declined the nomination both times so he could run as an independent. Still, the avowed socialist has always caucused with Democrats and is even ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee.

Former Rep. Charlie Bass, R-N.H., says that isn't enough evidence for the Vermont senator to make the cut, especially with his explicit rejection of the Democratic nomination in his state twice.

"In short, Sanders is not a Democrat, has not been elected as a Democrat, has never served as a Democrat and cannot plausibly claim, at least in New Hampshire, to be a Democrat," Bass wrote in a Washington Post op-ed.

Even if he wanted to register as a Democrat, he couldn't — Vermont, like 19 other states in the country, doesn't have party registration. Other previous candidates for president who came from states that didn't register by party — such as both George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush from Texas and Al Gore from Tennessee — were able to prove a party history because they had been on ballots and won primaries many times.

But Sanders's candidacy presents the state with a quandary it hasn't faced before — and one that its top elections official isn't even sure how it will shake out.

"Whenever the question has come up, there was some way to usually show the person has been on the ballot of that party," New Hampshire's long-serving Secretary of State Bill Gardner told NPR. "I really don't know."

Gardner noted that if Sanders does put down Democrat and there are any challenges to the validity of that, or if he is rejected outright, disputes would be heard by the New Hampshire Ballot Law Commission. The five-member committee is made up of three Republicans and two Democrats.

For their part, Sanders's campaign doesn't seem to be worried yet. "We don't think it's going to be an issue," his spokesman, Michael Briggs, told Politico. Briggs did not respond to a request for comment from NPR.

One thing Sanders does have on his side is that both the national and state party have recognized him as a legitimate Democratic candidate for president.

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"At the end of the day, Sen. Sanders will appear on the New Hampshire Democratic Party ballot," New Hampshire Democratic Party Chairman Ray Buckley confidently predicted.

He told NPR he believes "the law is very clear" that its parties determine who is on their party's ballot, and that "we would be the ones, if it were necessary, to take the secretary of state to court" to ensure Sanders is on the ballot.

The quirky law and wording is actually one that is unique to just the Granite State, according to Richard Winger, who publishes the Ballot Access News newsletter.

"New Hampshire just doesn't ever seem to worry that its election laws might be unconstitutional, because they should," said Winger.

He pointed to a 1986 Supreme Court case, Tashjian v. Republican Party, which struck down a Connecticut law that primary voters had to be members of that party after the Connecticut GOP adopted a law allowing independent voters to vote in their primaries. Winger says that case could be used to justify getting Sanders on the ballot, too, since the state party supports his inclusion.

"New Hampshire is the only state dumb enough to say a candidate has to be a registered member of that party," said Winger.

Sanders struggling to get his message out to Latino and black voters, experts say // Fox News Latino // June 24, 2015

Vermont senator and presidential candidate Bernie Sanders may be seeing a surge in popularity in the early primary state of New Hampshire, but that doesn't appear to be translating with either Latino or African-American voters.

A notoriously small crowd gathered last week during his speech at the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), appearing to indicate that even when overwhelmingly popular in the white Granite State and throughout the generally progressive state of New England, Sanders still has a good deal of work to when it comes winning over Latino voters.

"His name recognition in the Latino community is somewhere in between zero and extremely low," Matt Barreto, a pollster who focuses on Latino voters, told the Los Angeles Times. "And you're not going to win an election without Latino support."

The outspoken lawmaker, who is 73, has spent his lengthy political career campaigning for votes in Vermont – a state that is 94 percent white – and has little experience in focusing a campaign on minority issues. The oldest presidential candidate to so far jump into the fray so far, many observers say that he will likely have trouble appealing to an overwhelming younger Latino electorate in key swing states like Nevada and Colorado.

"If your only significant constituency is older white voters, that'll be good in Iowa and New Hampshire, but when you hit Nevada and South Carolina you're in another world," Democratic strategist Bill Carrick said. "If you're going to be the nominee, you're going to have to do pretty well among Latino, African American voters, women, single women and millennials. That's the challenge for Bernie Sanders — to become more than a niche candidate and become a candidate with a broad coalition of support."

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Despite the low attendance last week during his speech at NALEO, Sanders was well received by the crowd and he addressed the immigration head-on after being previously criticized for focusing too much on other issues. The self-described socialist painted his views on the issue through an economic spectrum, while also giving a personal anecdote about his own upbringing in an immigrant household – a departure for a candidate who usually forgoes stories about his past.

"We cannot continue to run an economy where millions are made so vulnerable because of their undocumented status," Sanders said. "Who benefits from this exploitation?"

Along with Latinos, Sanders also has his work cut for him with the African-American community, as - despite his work in the civil rights movement and his friendship with Jesse Jackson - even Sanders admits he is little known among the demographic compared to his rival Hillary Clinton.

In the last week, Clinton has not rested on her laurels as she has spoken forcefully about race relations and gun control in the wake of the deadly church shooting in Charleston, S.C. and she visited a black church on Tuesday near Ferguson, Mo., where the killing of an unarmed black man by a white police officer in August ignited protests nationwide.

Sanders, on the other hand, has derided "the ugly stain of racism that still taints our nation," but he has yet to take the subject on in a forceful way.

"We're reaching out, but it's no secret that Bernie represents a state that is heavily Caucasian, and his decades of work on issues of importance to African-Americans aren't known amid the national conversation on race that is underway," Jeff Weaver, Sanders's campaign manager, told the New York Times. "I don't think it's presumptuous of him to speak out on these issues. And his message — the need for more good-paying jobs and opening up higher education regardless of wealth and family background — will have strong appeal with African-Americans and many other voters."

Sanders ability to appeal to Latino and African-American is seen by many as a test of his relevance as a candidate and whether or not he can be a real challenge to Clinton come nomination time or will be just someone helping shape the dialogue during the Democratic debates.

A recent CNN poll found that just 5 percent of nonwhite Democratic voters said they were likely to support Sanders compared with 65 percent who favored Clinton (in 2008 Clinton beat up 2-to-1 in garnering the Latino vote.)

Clinton has already made concerted efforts in going after Latino voters - laying out her immigration plan last month at a Las Vegas high school, hiring well-known "Dreamer" Lorella Praeli to work on her campaign and sending her campaign's political director, Amanda Renteria, to NALEO to shake hands and make contacts ahead of Clinton's speech.

While Clinton has broadened her support base and her campaigning to minority groups, Sanders is perceived as being the candidate for the tie-dyed, white Vermont liberals.

"The Bernie Sanders voter is still a Volvo-driving, financially comfortable liberal who is pretty much white," said pollster Paul Maslin.

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Here is the reality of the American economy. Despite an explosion in technology and a huge increase in worker productivity, the middle class of this country continues its 40-year decline. Today, millions of Americans are working longer hours for lower wages and median family income is almost $5,000 less than it was in 1999.

Meanwhile, the wealthiest people and the largest corporations are doing phenomenally well. Today, 99 percent of all new income is going to the top 1 percent, while the top one-tenth of 1 percent own almost as much wealth as the bottom 40 percent. In the last two years, the wealthiest 14 people in this country increased their wealth by $157 billion. That increase is more than is owned by the bottom 130 million Americans -- combined.

Over the last 40 years, the largest corporations in this country have closed thousands of factories in the United States and outsourced millions of American jobs to low-wage countries overseas. That is why we need a new trade policy and why I am opposed to the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership now before Congress.

Large corporations and their lobbyists have created loopholes enabling corporations to avoid an estimated $100 billion a year in taxes by shifting profits to the Cayman Islands and other offshore tax havens. That is why we need real tax reform which demands that the very wealthy and large corporations start paying their fair share of taxes.

Corporate America has mounted vigorous anti-union campaigns, making it harder for workers to collectively bargain for decent wages and benefits. That is why we must make certain that workers are given a fair chance to join a union.

As a result of the Supreme Court's disastrous Citizens United decision, corporations and the very wealthy are now spending billions to elect candidates who will represent their interests. That is why we need a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and move toward public funding of elections.

Instead of putting resources into innovative ways to build their businesses or hire new employees, corporations are pumping 98 percent of their record-breaking profits into buying back their own stock and increasing dividends to benefit their executives and wealthy shareholders at the expense of their workers. It is a major reason why CEOs are now making nearly 300 times what the typical worker makes.

We have got to demand that corporations stop manipulating their shares to reward their executives and billionaire shareholders through the use of stock buybacks.

We also must do a lot more to rebuild the middle class, check corporate greed and make our economy work again for working families.

We need to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour over the next several years. With 70 percent of the economy dependent on consumers buying goods and services, the best way to expand the economy is to raise wages and create good jobs to increase the purchasing power of the American people.

We need to create millions of decent-paying jobs rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure; our roads, bridges, dams, rail, airports, levees and dams.

We need to pass pay equity for women workers. It is not acceptable that women receive 78 cents on the dollar compared to male workers doing the same job.

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We need to end the scandal of companies taking advantage of outdated rules to avoid paying overtime to "supervisors" -- often earning less than $30,000 a year -- when they clock 50 or 60 hours a week on the job.

We need to make certain that every worker in this country receives guaranteed paid sick leave and vacation time.

We need to encourage business models that provide employees the tools to purchase their own businesses through Employee Stock Ownership Plans and worker-owned cooperatives. Workers at employer-owned companies are more motivated, productive and satisfied with their jobs.

It is time to say loudly and clearly that corporate greed and the war against the American middle class must end. Enough is enough!

Bernie Sanders & Cornel West: The radical alliance that could change everything // Salon // Matthew Pulver – June 24, 2015

Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign is already enjoying success that few could have predicted. Bernie is a big deal. Well, OK, if you're a white progressive he's a big deal. Otherwise, you may have no idea who he is, according to reporting this morning in the New York Times. The Times' Patrick Healy and Jonathan Martin write that "black voters have shown little interest in [Sanders]" and that "[e]ven his own campaign advisers acknowledge that Mr. Sanders is virtually unknown to many African-Americans, an enormously important Democratic constituency."

But as his presidential campaign gains altitude and attention, Sanders may be on the way to securing the most difficult black progressive endorsement there is: the blessing of Professor Cornel West, one of America's leading public intellectuals. Celebrity is rare in American academe, but the eccentric West (along with MIT's Noam Chomsky) is something of a superstar scholar. He's our Slavoj Žižek, but with far better hair and a sense of fashion.

Speaking with Grit TV's Laura Flanders in early June, the black academic icon was asked by the host if he will be supporting the increasingly popular candidate for president.

"I love brother Bernie," West replied. "He tells the truth about Wall Street. He really does."

But West, who feels burned and spurned by President Obama, his team, and the Democratic Party generally, then turned immediately to the specter of Hillary Clinton. Sanders, though an independent socialist in the Senate, is running for the Democratic Party ticket, and West worried aloud about submission to the party hegemon, Secretary Clinton.

"I'm not a Hillary Clinton fan at all," he said resolutely. "So if he uses his power to hand it over to her I'll be deeply upset."

West, ever-critical and stubbornly conscientious, was an early skeptic of then-Senator Obama's campaign in 2007-08, only to sign on to the Obama team and do 65 events for the candidate after a conversation between the two convinced West of Obama's progressive bona fides. Similarly, West has withheld a ringing and thorough endorsement of Sanders, citing Sanders' positions on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"But I also think, in terms of foreign policy, on the one hand we have escalating anti-Jewish hatred around the world, and we've got to fight anti-Jewish hatred under all conditions," West began. "On the other hand, we have a vicious Israeli occupation that needs to be highlighted, because occupations are wrong."

West continued: "I don't hear my dear brother Bernie hitting that, and I'm not gonna sell my precious Palestinian

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brothers and sisters down the river only because of U.S. politics. The truth cuts over and against whatever the political arrangement is. So we've got to be able to somehow keep track of anti-Jewish hatred, which is evil, and occupations of whatever sort—in this case, the vicious Israeli occupation that's evil as well. And I think Bernie might pull back on some of those issues."

Senator Sanders has caught some flak for what's seen by some as a less-than-progressive position on the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and its insanely disproportionate responses to extremists' attacks from Gaza. Much of the recent criticism seems to be founded on a contentious town hall meeting with constituents in August 2014, when the senator and progressive pro-Palestine attendees descended into a shouting match, during which verbal fray he angrily told an interrupting interlocutor to "shut up!"

It must be said that Sanders' positions and rhetoric on the Israeli occupation are reliably to the left of virtually all of Congress, if only marginally. But it must also be said, however, that being slightly leftward of the pack on Israel-Palestine in Washington is a far cry from active dissent in support of Palestinians' rights to territory and safety. West voices the frustrations of many who see Sanders' marginal progressivism on the conflict as much too little to affect the monolithic support which otherwise characterizes both parties. Some might even see Sanders as a curious, misshapen crag on that monolith.

Sanders appears a little (but only a little) freer to buck D.C.'s lock-step approval of Israeli occupation and aggression. The summer 2014 Israeli war on Gaza, which so angered the Vermont town hall attendees, was endorsed by 79 senators (40 Democrats and 39 Republicans) via Resolution 498, which Sanders refused to cosponsor. The resolution was adopted unanimously without a vote, so a refusal to cosponsor is something like a vote against the proclamation. However, Senators are permitted the right to object (which Sanders did not) when unanimous support for a resolution is requested, making Sanders' refusal to cosponsor the measure something like a whisper of disapproval.

And whispers don't stop wars.

The war on Gaza officially sanctioned by the U.S. Senate left more than 2,100 Gazans dead, 500 of them children, with the Israeli citizen death toll at 6, one of whom was a child. The (very much bipartisan) narrative that Hamas and other extremists' rocket attacks share any sort of commensurability with the Israel Defense Forces' assault is vehemently rejected by American leftists and many progressives—that is, much of the base on whose support Sanders' campaign relies.

Sanders was also the first senator to boycott Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to congress in March of this year, just half a year after the Gaza war. But Sanders explained his rationale in terms of partisan etiquette, not moral objection to the Netanyahu government's actions. Sanders cited the crass campaigning he saw in the prime minister's visit, what he viewed as the "Congress of the United States being used as a prop or a photo opportunity for [Netanyahu's] reelection campaign." The internationally recognized criminality of the Israeli state's occupation was left unmentioned as a reason to boycott the address.

That doesn't cut it for West on Israel and Palestine. But even a passing grade from Professor West is tantamount to an endorsement these days, as West's critical blade has been ground to a razor-sharp edge in the years since President Obama's inauguration. West has weaponized his singular word-smithing and placed the president in his verbal crosshairs, calling Obama a "war criminal," a "Rockefeller Republican in blackface," a "global George Zimmerman," a "black mascot of these Wall Street oligarchs," a "drone presidency" and a "counterfeit."

Senator Sanders is constitutionally incapable of committing most of the sins West attributes to Obama. While Obama might have been labeled a "socialist" by Republicans, he is in many ways a defender of the neoliberal status quo. Sanders is a proud democratic socialist. A Sanders foreign policy would very likely look less hawkish than Obama's, and his would certainly be less trigger-happy than a potential Clinton Pentagon.

Though he's become something of a pariah in black academic circles, West is still a captivating and rousing

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speaker and Sanders could perhaps use West on the campaign trail. He might not be someone Sanders brings along in Iowa or New Hampshire, but once the campaign trail swings south and to the cosmopolitan coasts, West might be a valuable voice in places Sanders' unpolished, heavily Brooklynite earnestness doesn't work as well. And Sanders could be the candidate West thought he was getting in Obama.

The Bernie Sanders Phenomenon // The Hill // David Russell – June 24, 2015

As this very early stage of the presidential campaign continues, the speculation is rampant as to the outcome of the nominating process and then the election itself. Despite media bias, which includes burying stories, misrepresentation, dismissal and ridicule, Sen. Bernie Sanders's (I-Vt.) candidacy is becoming a reality. He is actually gaining traction.

Sanders appears at a rally in Colorado that draws a crowd that is at least as large as Hillary Clinton's "kickoff" event in New York and larger than any crowd attracted by the Republican candidates. Ann Coulter, conservative political commentator, and certainly no fan of Democrats, suggests Sanders would be a stronger candidate against Republicans than Clinton. Why? Because he appeals to the American workers, rather than Clinton, "who's now on the side of the Chamber of Commerce." According to the most recent Suffolk University poll, Sanders and Clinton are essentially tied among men in New Hampshire, even though Clinton holds a 19 percentage point lead among women.

The most intriguing comment of late was quoted by a middle-aged conservative leaving a Sanders rally in Iowa. Paraphrasing: "He may actually have a chance. What he says should appeal to everyone I know."

Most everything that is written or said at this point in the campaign needs to be taken as hyperbole, since it is really early and the time when inaugural events of the season receive the enthusiasm of base support that overstates broad acceptance. It is still the fact that only 25 percent of the electorate identify themselves as liberal, versus 35 percent as conservative. It is still the fact that the overwhelming polling results show Clinton's lead over Sanders starting at 38 percent and moving up from there to 55 percent (Real Clear Politics has Clinton's lead over Sanders averaging 47 percent). It is also clear that Clinton has shifted her rhetoric to a more progressive tone, and that will impact voters as more moderates enter the fray. It is also the case that Sanders is relatively unknown and has very little of name recognition enjoyed by Clinton.

We have argued that Sanders actually does have a chance, not just because the message is candid and direct, but because his appeal crosses party lines. The "disappearing middle class" he refers to includes 80 percent of the Republican Party. Coulter is right: Sanders actually does pose a greater threat to a Republican candidate more so than Clinton.

So, the question becomes how that threat can, or should, materialize? Starting with the facts on the ground, it is the case that Sanders has raised money from over 200,000 contributors whose contributions averaged $40. What if Sanders had access to the Obama for America contact list that included 13.5 million donors? To quote from an article that appeared in Reader Supported News, "According to Marshall Ganz, one of the architects of Obama's 2008 organizing strategy, Obama's campaign had 3,000 organizers who recruited thousands more local leaders, who then helped mobilize 1.5 million volunteers and 13.5 million contributors." What would happen if that support moved to the Sanders's column? Not likely right now, but you never know.

Sanders's independent status in the Senate may be remembered when he filibustered in 2010 against extending "tax breaks for the wealthy." At the time, he was considered quite the maverick, but he is now joined by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), whose agenda and presence has literally changed the dynamic of the Senate Democratic caucus. It is no longer easy for senators to "get along by going along," and her powerful stance against the influence of Wall Street banks, income inequality and the Trans-Pacific Partnership has created an underlying current that forced or permitted Clinton's move to the left as she began her campaign. While Warren has publicly endorsed Clinton, the legitimacy of progressive stances also indirectly benefit Sanders. And Warren's astuteness as a politician virtually guarantees that she will end up endorsing either outcome, also a plus for Sanders.

The compelling need for Sanders at the moment is not just "more of the same." His message does resonate with

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virtually every worker, at every level, irrespective of party affiliation. It is clear that his current strategy of being as ever present and available in the primary efforts in New Hampshire and Iowa and engaging in other venues to introduce himself will, and should, continue. This strategy is garnering success.

What he has also to address is the media's need to continuously slander him with innuendo. "Sanders the socialist from Vermont." "Sanders rumored to have dual Israeli citizenship." "Sanders the grumpy old man." Or the repeated exclusion of his name from discussion or consideration when campaign topics are addressed.

In the past, Sanders has made himself continuously available to MSNBC, which draws essentially no one other than its less than 1 million viewers. Moving up to a slot on "Real Time with Bill Maher," which he did this past week, broadens the audience to 4 million viewers. So, if he can keep snagging coverage from National Public Radio, that number would rise to 34 million (the average listening audience for its news broadcasts). But he needs to extend that reach to the guys who speak to conservatives like Don Imus (3.25 million average), Rush Limbaugh (14.25 million), Bill O'Reilly (3.2 million), Sean Hannity (11.75 million), Dr. Laura Schlesinger (8.5 million), Michael Savage (7 million), etc.

It is not just because Sanders needs to introduce himself cross party lines; it is because he is indifferent to bluster. While conservatives like Limbaugh, O'Reilly or Hannity have made it their preferred mode of operation to interrupt, outshout or bully their interviewees, Sanders is impervious, and he stays on message no matter what is being said. And that is all that is actually needed. He needs to do as he has done for the past 40 years: just keep saying the same simplified message over and over again. It is hard to listen to if you're expecting variety, but his is the right message. Bernie Sanders is a true phenomenon.

Sanders' 'Shocking' Senior Statistic **// FactCheck.Org // Brooks Jackson – June 24, 2015**

Sen. Bernie Sanders has repeatedly claimed that 1 in 5 seniors "live on an average income of $7,600 a year." The reality is not quite so shocking

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After we inquired, the expert who generated that income estimate revised it upward to $8,263, using more up-to-date figures and adjusting for a minor mistake.

Furthermore, that income figure does not count such non-cash government benefits as food stamps, housing assistance, Medicare or Medicaid, or proceeds from reverse mortgages. Nor does it include personal funds such as savings or insurance proceeds.

Sanders has made his remarks on senior income more than once, most recently in a Senate floor speech on senior hunger. The Vermont senator, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination, is seeking more funding for senior programs through the Older Americans Act.

Sanders, June 16: The truth is — and this is really a shocking truth — that 20 percent of seniors in America live on an average income of $7,600 a year. Between us, I don't know how anybody can live on $7,600 a year, let alone older people who need more medicine and more health care.

He used the same figure on Jan. 16 and April 10.

However, that figure is too low. And it's not correct to say that these low-income seniors "live on" that cash income alone.

$7,600, Updated and Corrected

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When we asked where Sanders got his $7,600 figure, his campaign referred us to Eric Kingson, a professor of social work at Syracuse University and an outspoken advocate of raising Social Security benefits. Kingson, in a telephone interview and an exchange of emails, told us he had calculated the figure using statistics published by the Social Security Administration for the year 2008. Since then, the SSA has issued updated figures covering 2012, which are now the most recent available.

Using the more recent figures, and also correcting for what he termed a “minor” mistake (he says he failed to include a slice of households with income between $13,000 and $13,999 who are just at the top of the lowest 20 percent), Kingson said the correct income figure should be “about $8,263.”

Strictly speaking, this is not a perfectly accurate average. To calculate that, we would need access to the SSA’s survey data on each household, allowing us to add up all the incomes of all households and then dividing by the number of households. But we’ve looked over Kingson’s calculations and agree that given what’s available, his assumptions are reasonable and the $8,263 figure is a close approximation.

But — it’s not all that the bottom 20 percent is “living on.” That cash income figure – which includes things such as interest and dividends, as well as withdrawals from tax-deferred plans such as an IRA or 401(k) — covers total cash income for households made up of a single person age 65 or older, or a married couple where at least one spouse is age 65 or older, but it does not include many resources commonly available to seniors, especially low-income seniors.

What’s Not Included

For example, food stamps and housing aid are not counted, according to the Social Security Administration. Especially for the lowest-income seniors, those can be significant sources of support. In fiscal year 2014, for example, the average monthly food-stamp benefit per person was more than $125, for a total of more than $1,500 for a full year. And in 2011, the Obama administration announced $749 million in so-called Section 202 grants to help nonprofit groups provide housing aid for very low-income elderly people. Those and other federal assistance programs result in lowered rents for many years to come.

Also not counted in the “cash income” figure is financial assistance from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which laid out nearly $3 billion in block grants to states last fiscal year.

And since Sanders made a point of mentioning medicine and health care, it should be noted that Medicare reimbursements also are not counted as cash income. Also absent from the official definition of income is the value of Medicaid, the federal-state program that provides additional benefits, including long-term care in nursing homes, for low-income elderly people.

Loans — including proceeds from so-called “reverse mortgages” — are also not counted as income. A total of more than 900,000 reverse mortgages have been issued since 1990. Nearly all go to those over age 65, as a borrower must be at least 62 to qualify and the average age of those taking out such a loan for the first time was nearly 72 as of 2012, the last year for which the government produced such information.

Other receipts not counted as “income” are withdrawals from savings, insurance proceeds, gifts from relatives or friends, capital gains (such as profit from sale of a personal residence), and any lump-sum insurance payments or inheritances, such as those from a deceased spouse.

We have no way of calculating how much all these kinds of receipts would add to the average if they were counted as “income” — but there’s no question that many seniors rely on them to “live on.”

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Average Versus ‘Less Than’

Sanders arrives at a low figure by focusing on the average cash income of all those in the bottom 20 percent — many of whom by definition bring in more than the average. The Social Security Administration says those in the bottom 20 percent earn up to $13,292, which is the upper limit of the bottom “quintile,” or bottom fifth. (See the footnote on Table 10.5)

We don’t mean to dismiss the hardships faced by the least affluent seniors among us, which can be substantial. Sanders would have been correct to say that 20 percent of seniors in America lived on cash income of less than $13,292 in 2012 — not counting non-cash government assistance. That’s a meager figure, to be sure. It’s just not quite the “shocking truth” that Sanders would have voters believe.

CHAFEE

UNDECLARED

WEBB

Jim Webb Criticized for Comments on Confederate Flag // NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 24, 2015

Former Senator Jim Webb, the Democrat from Virginia, has struggled to generate much excitement over his potential presidential campaign, but on Wednesday he managed to attract some attention with some curious comments about the Confederate battle flag.

In a statement on Facebook, Mr. Webb said that any discussion of the flag needed to be tempered with respect for the “complicated history of the Civil War.”

He went on to explain that while the flag had been used as a symbol of racism in recent decades, that was not always the case.

“We should also remember that honorable Americans fought on both sides in the Civil War, including slave holders in the Union Army from states such as Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, and that many nonslave holders fought for the South,” Mr. Webb wrote.

The Confederate flag has been denounced by Democrats and Republicans alike in the last week since the killing of nine churchgoers in Charleston, S.C. Mr. Webb’s sentiment was rebutted by even his most loyal backers on Wednesday.

“As one of your most enthusiastic supporters, I have to disagree with you on this issue,” David Dickerson wrote in a comment on Mr. Webb’s post. “As a fellow Southerner, I prefer to take Robert E. Lee’s path and disassociate from that flag and what it stands for.”

Others, such as Jordan Genso, expressed disappointment.

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“I don’t need to agree with you on every issue in order to support you, but this should be low-hanging fruit for you to be on the right side of,” Mr. Genso wrote. “And there’s no reason not to state that the Confederate battle flag represents a quasi-nation whose short existence was spent trying to fight for an immoral cause.”

Mr. Webb has a history of defending the confederacy. In a 1990 speech at the Confederate Memorial in Arlington, Va., he said, “I am not here to apologize for why they fought, although modern historians might contemplate that there truly were different perceptions in the North and South about those reasons, and that most Southern soldiers viewed the driving issue to be sovereignty rather than slavery.”

In 2008, Politico reported that Mr. Webb’s book “Born Fighting” seemed to sympathize with the Confederate cause, potentially giving pause to then Senator Barack Obama as he was vetting potential running mates. In Mr. Webb’s book, Born Fighting, he wrote about acquiring a Confederate headstone through the Veterans Administration for a great-great-grandfather.

A Vietnam War veteran who has been considered a potential presidential candidate over the years, Mr. Webb announced last year that he was forming a presidential exploratory committee. This year, he said the Democratic Party could do a better job appealing to white working-class voters.

On Wednesday, Mr. Webb recalled that the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery was meant to recognize the character of soldiers who fought on both sides of the Civil War.

“This is a time for us to come together,” he said, “and to recognize once more that our complex multicultural society is founded on the principle of mutual respect.”

Jim Webb: Confederate soldiers fought honorably // Politico // Nick Gass – June 24, 2015

Former Virginia senator and potential Democratic presidential candidate Jim Webb weighed in on the Confederate flag debate on Wednesday, urging careful consideration of both sides of the historical argument.

“This is an emotional time and we all need to think through these issues with a care that recognizes the need for change but also respects the complicated history of the Civil War. The Confederate Battle Flag has wrongly been used for racist and other purposes in recent decades. It should not be used in any way as a political symbol that divides us,” Webb wrote in a Facebook post.

Americans should remember that people on both sides fought honorably, Webb said, “including slave holders in the Union Army from states such as Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, and that many non-slave holders fought for the South.”

“It was in recognition of the character of soldiers on both sides that the federal government authorized the construction of the Confederate Memorial 100 years ago, on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery,” he wrote.

This is not the first time that Webb has addressed the Civil War’s legacy in the commonwealth.

Almost 17 years before he became a senator, he spoke at the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery on June 3, 1990, the birthday of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

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“These men, like all soldiers, made painful choices and often paid for their loyalty with their lives. It is up to us to ensure that this ever-changing nation remembers the complexity of the issues they faced, and the incredible conditions under which they performed their duty, as they understood it,” Webb said more than 25 years ago.

On Wednesday, Webb struck a similar tone.

“This is a time for us to come together, and to recognize once more that our complex multicultural society is founded on the principle of mutual respect,” he wrote.

Webb’s caution stands in sharp contrast to the stance of Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton, who on Tuesday called the flag “a symbol of our nation’s racist past that has no place in our nation’s present or future.

“It shouldn’t fly there, it shouldn’t fly anywhere,” Clinton said.

Jim Webb Pushes Back on Behalf of Confederate Flag Supporters **// Bloomberg // Arit John – June 24, 2015**

Former Virginia Senator and Vietnam war veteran Jim Webb has finally weighed in on the national debate over the Confederate flag—kind of.

Days after every major official and declared presidential candidate announced their stance on the flag, Webb released a statement on Facebook stating that while the flag has been used for "racist and other purposes" that not all Confederates were bad, and not all members of the Union were good.

"The Confederate Battle Flag has wrongly been used for racist and other purposes in recent decades. It should not be used in any way as a political symbol that divides us," Webb wrote. "But we should also remember that honorable Americans fought on both sides in the Civil War, including slave holders in the Union Army from states such as Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, and that many non-slave holders fought for the South."

While other leaders have either called for the flag to come down or supported South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley's decision to call for the flag's removal, Webb asks for Americans to "come together, and to recognize once more that our complex multicultural society is founded on the principle of mutual respect."

Every other major leader who has officially joined the race or are getting close has made their stance on the flag clear, either calling for the flag to come down, supporting Haley's decision, or saying that it's a matter best left to South Carolina. Webb is expected to announce his decision on running for president by the end of the month.

Meanwhile, Webb declined to comment on the flag to the Washington Examiner on Monday, and has a history of defending the Confederate flag in the past. In his statement, he notes that it was "in recognition of the character of soldiers on both sides that the federal government authorized the construction of the Confederate Memorial 100 years ago." During a 1990 speech at the memorial, Webb said historians should consider "that most Southern soldiers viewed the driving issue [of the Civil War] to be sovereignty rather than slavery."

It's not clear that declining to call for the flag's removal will help him with Democrats, though Bill Kristol, the conservative editor of the Weekly Standard, was immediately impressed.

Presidential Hopeful Jim Webb Defends Confederate Soldiers **// TIME // Sam Frizell – June 24, 2015**

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Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb said on Wednesday that the Confederate flag has been wrongly used as a racist symbol, but stopped short of condemning the flag outright. He also added that Americans should remember "honorable" Civil War veterans, "including slave holders in the Union Army."

"The Confederate Battle Flag has wrongly been used for racist and other purposes in recent decades. It should not be used in any way as a political symbol that divides us," said Webb in a statement emailed to TIME in response to questions about whether the Confederate flag should be removed from Virginia license plates in the wake of the Charleston shooting.

"But we should also remember that honorable Americans fought on both sides in the Civil War, including slave holders in the Union Army from states such as Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, and that many non-slave holders fought for the South," said Webb.

Webb is also the only 2016 candidate not to condemn the Confederate flag outright or support a push to remove it from the South Carolina capitol grounds. Republicans Scott Walker, Rand Paul and Jeb Bush as well as all the other Democratic candidates have spoken out against the flag.

A likely candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination who counts two relatives among Confederate Army veterans, Webb has a long history of defending Dixie soldiers and the flag. He is the last 2016 presidential hopeful to speak publicly about the flag.

In striking an ambivalent tone, Webb is seeking to criticize the racist appropriation of the flag, but hold on to his Scots-Irish southern roots, which he often references. (His 2005 book "Born Fighting" is subtitled "How the Scots-Irish shaped America.")

At the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in 1990, Webb said that Confederate soldiers are "misunderstood by most Americans" and recognized them for "enormous suffering and collective gallantry."

"It was in recognition of the character of soldiers on both sides that the federal government authorized the construction of the Confederate Memorial 100 years ago, on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery," Webb said in his statement to TIME.

Jim Webb: "Honorable Americans Fought On Both Sides Of The Civil War" // Buzzfeed // CJ Ciaramella – June 24, 2015

Former Democratic Virginia senator and possible 2016 presidential candidate Jim Webb weighed in on the controversy over the Confederate Battle Flag Wednesday, saying it was used for racist purposes but that "honorable Americans fought on both sides of the Civil War."

In a Facebook post Wednesday, Webb wrote: "This is an emotional time and we all need to think through these issues with a care that recognizes the need for change but also respects the complicated history of the Civil War. The Confederate Battle Flag has wrongly been used for racist and other purposes in recent decades. It should not be used in any way as a political symbol that divides us."

"But we should also remember that honorable Americans fought on both sides in the Civil War, including slave holders in the Union Army from states such as Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, and that many non-slave holders fought for the South," Webb continued. "It was in recognition of the character of soldiers on both sides that the federal government authorized the construction of the Confederate Memorial 100 years ago, on the

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grounds of Arlington National Cemetery."

"This is a time for us to come together, and to recognize once more that our complex multicultural society is founded on the principle of mutual respect," he concluded.

Webb previously declined to comment on the Confederate flag, and is the last of the likely 2016 candidates from both parties to stake out a position.

Webb previously said he would announce his presidential intentions by the end of June.

OTHER

The Shameless Dolores Huerta // The Daily Beast // Ruben Navarrette Jr. – June 25, 2015

A reminder that former UFW chief Dolores Huerta, the left's favorite Latina activist, wasn't always so pro-immigration.

Our Spanish phrase of the day is "sin verguenza." It means someone without shame. As in: Dolores Huerta—the East Coast liberal establishment's favorite Hispanic and someone who is held up as an iconic labor leader and civil rights figure—is a sin verguenza.

The former vice president of the United Farm Workers union has long exploited her celebrity status. Now, in the 2016 election, Huerta is opportunistically working with People for the American Way, a Washington DC-based liberal organization that has never shown the slightest interest in Latinos or their concerns, in a campaign designed to use the immigration issue to influence Latino voters.

"I believe the Latino community can be the 'deciders' and we saw that happen in the 2008 election and the 2012 election," Huerta recently told the Latino-themed news site Latin Post.

Huerta's message to Latino voters—as sponsored by People for the American Way—is a variation on something that she said during a speech at a Tucson, AZ high school in 2006: "Republicans hate Latinos." So be sure to vote Democratic.

The goal is to discredit any 2016 Republican hopeful who might have a shot at winning Latino votes. Huerta's targets so far include Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

About Rubio, she said to Latin Post: "I think that he (Rubio) is a person we cannot trust because I think he's an opportunist and he's going to say what he needs to say just to get himself elected. He speaks out of both sides of his mouth."

About Cruz, she said the senator was, through his opposition to Obamacare, at least partially responsible for the "hundreds and thousands" of Texans without health insurance.

And about Bush, she said the GOP establishment favorite can't be trusted: "He's another one that first he's against immigration and then says he's for immigration."

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The left's strategy of using Huerta to launch these attacks is based on three assumptions: that Latinos care about immigration above other issues; that Latinos will vote for candidates who are vouched for by other Latinos; and that—when Latino Republicans like Cruz and Rubio need to be attacked—the optics are better when other Latinos fire the salvos.

"It's not a question of your surname or the language that you can speak," Huerta told Latin Post. "It's a question about what values you hold."

Even as someone who has given lip service to empowering Latinos politically, Huerta went on to explain why she wants a woman (Clinton) in the White House and not a Hispanic Republican (Rubio or Cruz). In other words, ethnicity and language take a back seat to gender and party affiliation.

What makes this ploy of using immigration as a battering ram against Republicans not just cynical but offensive is that—despite Huerta's recent efforts to re-invent herself as some kind of immigrant advocate—she is nothing of the kind.

That is not who is she now, or who she has ever been. Huerta is a labor leader pure and simple, and, as such, she spent most of her activist career standing next to union members who, convinced that immigrants take jobs and lower wage for U.S. workers, want less immigration, not more of it.

That story is as old as the hills. It's why the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act—the last significant comprehensive immigration reform measure passed by Congress—was strongly opposed by the AFL-CIO and other labor groups.

We're supposed to be believe that it's all different now. The narrative cooked up by liberals and the media is, sometime during the last quarter century, organized labor learned to stop worrying about foreign competition and embraced immigration.

But that's fiction. It never happened. The labor movement is more committed than ever to defeating immigration reform efforts that include a path to citizenship for the undocumented. The only difference is now organized labor has learned to be craftier in camouflaging its true agenda.

Just like Huerta, who is obviously hoping that—on the topic of immigration—Latinos will be long on outrage toward Republicans and short on memory when it comes to the UFW.

We're not supposed to remember that, 40 years ago, the union—which Huerta claims she co-founded—was routinely criticized by Latino leaders like Bert Corona, a community organizer and co-founder of the Mexican-American Political Association, for demanding that the Immigration and Naturalization Service send agents into the fields to arrest and deport illegal immigrants who had crossed the picket line.

We're not supposed to remember that, in 1973, UFW officials set up a "wet line" on the Arizona-Mexico border to prevent Mexican immigrants from crossing into the United States. Under the supervision of Cesar Chavez's cousin, Manuel, who was something of a loose cannon, union members physically attacked the immigrants until they were bloody. At the time, The Village Voice scolded the UFW for conducting a "campaign of random terror against anyone hapless enough to fall into its net."

I've recalled this history directly to Huerta, in face-to-face confrontations at various events in California that quickly turned ugly.

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And we're not supposed to remember that, in 1979, Chavez testified before Congress—not to demand more protection for illegal immigrants but to demand that the INS do a better job of removing them from the fields.

I've recalled this history directly to Huerta, in face-to-face confrontations at various events in California that quickly turned ugly. On the defensive, she insisted none of it ever happened, and claimed that she can say this definitely because, not only does she speak for the union, she in fact "is" the union. The woman is either in denial, dishonest, or delusional.

Huerta will have a tougher time explaining away her more recent betrayal of the Latino community. As an outspoken supporter of Hillary Clinton in 2008, Huerta blasted Barack Obama as not responsive to Latino concerns, calling him a "Johnny come lately" to the cause. She even took umbrage to the Obama campaign's slogan—"Yes we can!,"—which she insisted sounded a lot like the UFW's rallying cry of "Si se puede."

"Now they're copying our slogan," she told a reporter at the time. "But you cannot build a relationship no más con una palabra—just with one word."

Eventually, the relationship between Obama and Huerta improved. In 2010, the president invited Huerta to a state dinner at the White House honoring Mexican President Felipe Calderon. In 2012, Obama presented Huerta with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Now—despite the fact that Obama broke his promise to make comprehensive immigration reform a top priority of his presidency, deported more than 2 million people, divided hundreds of thousands of families, and falsely claimed that those who were removed were predominantly criminals—Huerta sings the praises of the Johnny Come Lately she once criticized.

Let's see, Huerta accuses Republicans running for president of being blinded by ideology, flip-flopping on immigration, and selling out. She should know. She is an expert on these things.

This is our leader, our moral compass? Says who?

White liberals may have decided among themselves that Dolores Huerta represents Latinos, but she only represents herself. She is an opportunist. She bartered away her credibility. And she needs to spend the 2016 election where she belongs: on the sidelines.

Obama Victory on Trade Wins Him New Fight With Fellow Democrats // Bloomberg // Carter Dougherty and Angela Greiling Keane - June 25, 2015

After battling his own party over trade policy for months, President Barack Obama has won a prize no politician would envy: another fight with his friends.

Congressional approval of fast-track negotiating authority Wednesday after six months of cajoling by Obama is just one step on the way to what he says will be a landmark, 12-nation free-trade agreement with Pacific Rim countries.

Democrats and liberal groups are already promising a new fight if and when the actual trade pact, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, comes to a vote. That could be early next year just as the campaign to succeed him gets into full swing, putting Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner, on the spot with labor and other core constituencies.

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“We all recognize that the next debate will be over Trans-Pacific Partnership itself,” House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California, who opposed the fast-track measure, wrote Wednesday in a letter to fellow lawmakers. She predicted a “lively and thoughtful debate” among Democrats.

Both trade policy and relations with China -- a country pointedly not part of the trade negotiations -- will be topics for the 2016 races for president and Congress. The White House wants to complete a deal this year, and Japanese Economy Minister Akira Amari said Wednesday it might wrap up at a meeting of trade ministers in July.

Divided Democrats

“The debate has only begun,” said Simon Rosenberg, president of the New Democratic Network, a Democratic-leaning research group that supports Obama’s trade agenda. “The debate will shift from the abstract discussion of trade to a very specific discussion of TPP.”

Trade is an issue that has divided Democrats since 1994, when the North American Free Trade Agreement, the deal labor unions blame for millions of manufacturing job losses, took effect. Clinton’s husband, then-President Bill Clinton, signed NAFTA and wrangled it through Congress.

With the liberal wing of Democrats gaining influence in the party and standing mostly opposed to the next, and even bigger, trade deal, Clinton has tacked left. Having once backed the accord as secretary of state, she’s now wavering.

“What she made very clear from the beginning is she’s going to respect the president and let him bring the deal back and she’ll look at it and make up her mind,” Rosenberg said. “It’s likely she’ll be supportive, but she’ll use this to remind people that trade policy doesn’t operate in an economic vacuum.”

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, a self-described socialist who currently is Clinton’s main challenger for the Democratic presidential nomination, is an unequivocal opponent of the trade deal.

Business Support

Eric Schinfeld, president of the Washington Council on International Trade in Seattle, said advocates are in a race with presidential politics.

“November 2016 will really shape the dynamics of the next trade vote,” Schinfeld said.

Still, Julian Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton University, said Obama has no reason not to use the fast-track powers he just obtained, which lets him submit trade deals to Congress for a quick, up-or-down majority vote without amendments.

“If you are going to go this far in angering the base of the party then you use the procedure to get the deal or it’s not worth it,” Zelizer said.

Final Vote

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The bill Congress just passed lays out a procedure, including written notifications, a study of the economic impact and limited debate, that could take about six months before a final vote is cast on the agreement.

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman told a group of CEOs in Washington on June 10 that business will need to gin up something similar to its lobbying effort on fast-track trade authority to get the deal approved by Congress. “It may not be at the same intensity for six months, but that will be a big debate,” Froman said.

The business lobby, in turn, wants Obama to keep making the public and private case for the accord, especially to lawmakers, said John Engler, president of the Business Roundtable, which coordinated the business push. Obama’s willingness to mobilize top officials, including Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, convinced them he was serious about persuading lawmakers to back fast track.

“A goal of the administration should be to make sure no one can go to the floor and say, ‘I didn’t know what’s in this agreement,’” Engler said in an interview. “There’s no time to sit back.”

Mobilizing

Engler also called on the administration to mobilize the different industries that would benefit from the Pacific trade deal. Under the pact taking shape, agricultural exporters could ship more to Japan, more American financial services would be for sale in Asia, while Silicon Valley would see restrictions on how governments can curb data flows. The pharmaceutical industry may get stronger patent protection and automakers could see exports rise.

Liberal groups who opposed fast track are vowing to redouble their efforts to defeat the Pacific trade deal, well aware that congressional approval of fast track means Obama can probably finalize an agreement with the other nations: Japan, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

“What it doesn’t mean is that Congress must pass such a TPP,” said Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen, an advocacy group. “When the inexcusable and anti-democratic veil of secrecy surrounding the TPP is finally lifted, and the American people see what is actually in the agreement, they are going to force their representatives in Washington to vote that deal down.”

Mass. Democratic Party invites presidential hopefuls to speak // Boston Globe // Jim O’Sullivan – June 24, 2015

Massachusetts is known less for its electoral significance in presidential primaries than its functional role as an ATM for campaigns. But that hasn’t stopped the state Democratic Party from issuing invitations to four presidential candidates offering speaking roles at its Sept. 19 convention in Springfield.

State party chairman Thomas McGee, a state senator from Lynn, penned a compelling missive laden with innuendo about the ancillary benefits for presidential candidates who might take the time to address party activists in the Bay State.

“I know you have a close eye on New England considering the role our region plays with the nation’s first primary just over the border in New Hampshire,” McGee wrote in a form letter sent to former Rhode Island governor and US senator Lincoln Chafee, former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley, and Vermont senator Bernie Sanders. (Former US senator from Virginia Jim Webb has not formalized a candidacy.)

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In case none of them took that hint, McGee sweetened the pot: “Addressing our convention allows you the opportunity to recruit and solidify an active volunteer that will travel to New Hampshire and beyond.”

Party officials said Wednesday they had yet to receive RSVPs.

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

Jeb Bush Picks Woody Johnson as Finance Chairman // WSJ // Beth Reinhard and Patrick O’Connor – June 24, 2015

Woody Johnson, a top fundraiser for the last three Republican presidential nominees and the owner of the New York Jets football team, will serve as national finance chairman for Jeb Bush’s presidential campaign.

The announcement isn’t unexpected, considering Mr. Johnson’s visibility, standing by Mr. Bush throughout his recent trip to Europe and flying him there on his private jet. Mr. Johnson has been a supporter of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, and his decision earlier this year to back Mr. Bush was viewed as a setback to Mr. Christie, who is likely to launch a 2016 bid this summer.

Mr. Bush is trying to raise money at a furious pace during the two weeks between his June 15 campaign launch and June 30, when he is required to disclose his fundraising total to the Federal Election Commission. The campaign is trying to incentivize donors by inviting those who raise $27,000 by the end of the month to a July 9-10 retreat at his family’s compound in Kennebunkport, Maine.

The pursuit of campaign money, one $2,700 maximum donation at a time, comes after six months in which Mr. Bush crisscrossed the country soliciting unlimited checks for his super PAC. The PAC is expected to report more than $100 million at the end of July, outgunning the crowded GOP field.

Mr. Johnson is seen as one of the GOP’s top fundraisers for his ability to convene top Wall Street financiers and heirs to some of the country’s fortunes. He was a top rainmaker for the past two Republican nominees, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Arizona Sen. John McCain, with a reputation for making as many as 50 calls a day on behalf of the candidates he supports. He is credited with raising $7 million for Mr. McCain in a single night during the 2008 campaign.

The billionaire Jets owner tends to stick close to the candidates and their top advisers, and he developed a close personal bond with Mr. Romney. When the 2012 nominee considered a third White House run earlier this year, he broke the news to a small group of well-heeled donors assembled at Mr. Johnson’s Midtown Manhattan office.

“Jeb is a bold and thoughtful leader with the vision and experience to ensure our nation’s greatest days remain ahead,” Mr. Johnson said in a statement to The Wall Street Journal.

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Jack Oliver, senior adviser to Barclays and a top fundraiser for the 2000 and 2004 presidential campaigns by Mr. Bush's brother, George W. Bush, will serve as his national finance co-chairman. Other co-chairs are expected to be named later.

Bush campaign taps New York Jets owners as national finance chairman // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe – June 24, 2015

Jeb Bush has tapped a top fundraiser for the last three Republican presidential nominees to serve as his finance chairman.

Woody Johnson, the owner of the NFL's New York Jets and heir to the Johnson & Johnson empire, will take on the role, Bush's campaign announced Wednesday morning. Veteran Republican fundraiser Jack Oliver will serve as a finance co-chairman.

Johnson, Oliver and Bush finance director Heather Larrison will be responsible for meeting Bush's goal of raising $5 million this month for his recently-launched campaign. Bush this week is on a nationwide fundraising tour with stops in Orlando, New York, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Tulsa and Atlanta. An event last Friday at Washington's Union Station drew approximately 300 supporters, according to attendees.

Sally Bradshaw, a top adviser to Bush, said in a statement that the campaign is "honored" to have Johnson and Oliver's support.

"Woody's longstanding commitment to public service and strong track record of working with people of different backgrounds to accomplish big goals represent the values and priorities of Jeb's campaign," she said.

Johnson said in a statement that Bush "is a bold and thoughtful leader with the vision and experience to ensure our nation's greatest days remain ahead."

News of the new roles was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Johnson's decision earlier this year to support Bush over New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was viewed as a sign of growing support for the former Florida governor. In the months since, he's become a frequent and active adviser and supporter of Bush's campaign and traveled with him on his recent tour of Germany, Poland and Estonia.

He's been a big financial backer of the presidential campaigns of George W. Bush, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Mitt Romney.

Oliver is a senior adviser to Barclays and Bryan Cave LLP, an international law firm based in St. Louis. He was national finance chairman for the Bush-Cheney 2004 reelection campaign.

Jeb Bush's Super PAC is Blurring 'Jeb!' Signs in Its Own Ad. Here's Why . // National Journal // Shane Goldmacher – June 24, 2015

Jeb Bush's super PAC makes no secret of its plans to spend tens of millions of dollars to help Bush win the Republican presidential nomination next year.

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But in the group's new 30-second video promoting Bush—a compilation of highlights from his announcement speech earlier this month—the group is blurring the multitude of "Jeb!" stickers and signage in the Miami crowd.

It's not for style. It's to comply with the law.

Federal election law says that broadcasting written or graphic materials prepared by a campaign amounts to a contribution and, thus, is subject to campaign-contribution limits.

The whole point of a super PAC is to raise and spend money outside those limits.

So the group blurred the "Jeb!" signs at the event.

"They are avoiding this allegation" of reproducing campaign materials, said Paul S. Ryan, senior counsel for the Campaign Legal Center.

It's not clear if there are plans to advertise the Web video, which clocks in at exactly 30 seconds, on TV or online. A spokesman for the Right to Rise USA, the pro-Bush super PAC, declined to comment for this story.

The relevant section of the federal code says that "the dissemination, distribution, or republication, in whole or in part, of any broadcast or any written, graphic, or other form of campaign materials prepared by the candidate" constitutes a contribution to the candidate.

The idea behind the rule, Ryan explained, is to prevent an outside group from simply taking a candidate's yard signs and reproducing them, or recording a candidate's TV ad and re-airing it.

Ryan's group and other campaign-finance reformers have been highly critical of the arrangement between Bush and his super PAC, in which the two worked together for months ahead of Bush's formal entry into the race this month. Earlier this year, the Campaign Legal Center asked the Department of Justice to investigate what it called "willful violations" of federal law.

In this particular instance, the Bush super PAC appears to be cautiously adhering to the law.

Super PACs have been steadily pushing the boundaries of coordination and the reproduction of campaign materials in recent years. Numerous candidates, perhaps most memorably Mitch McConnell last year, have posted video B-roll of their candidates online, hoping super PACs use the favorable footage in ads.

The specific right of outside groups to use such B-roll actually came before the Federal Election Commission in 2012. The six-member panel, divided equally between Democrats and Republicans, deadlocked on the matter. Super PACs have used such candidate-produced footage ever since.

Jeb Bush Is Slow to Catch Fire in Iowa **// Sentinel Republic // Eugene Robinson – June 24, 2015**

“I will take nothing and no one for granted”, the 62-year-old Bush, a son and brother of two ex-presidents, told a crowd of supporters at a university in Miami.

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Bush, as he's done before, assigned responsibility to Clinton for what he regards as President Barack Obama's misbegotten foreign policy. Americans would just have to deal with the fact that these two families are never, ever going away.

The Republican presidential candidate and ex- Florida governor said that easing immigration laws, loosening regulation, and simplifying the tax code would be part of his formula to almost double the nation's current economic growth. Especially for a candidate who's been eyeing a bid for the White House for quite a while now, you'd think that all the digital bases would be covered and all the possible web properties related to that candidate or his/her name would be secured and under control.

Yet when it comes down to Hillary against the field, the poll suggests it's going to be either Rubio or Bush that'll give Clinton the greater challenge. But the same poll in May found him at just 10 percent, tied with his onetime protege, Sen.

It wasn't until past year that the predominantly Republican Florida Legislature tackled fixing this inequity so that it wouldn't become a campaign issue for the unpopular Republican Gov. Rick Scott, who was facing re-election.

The dynastic consequences of such a pairing in November 2016 have not gone unnoticed among many voters and rivals, of course.

But is there anybody who believes Jeb Bush is the man to take on the pampered elites?

One of those, Correct the Record, is blazing an entirely new trail – and one that some election watchdogs say is questionable – by planning to coordinate directly with the Clinton campaign. The following day, he said it somehow dishonored US troops to even ask the question. "And the answer is not all that positive for her".

Yet a defiant Bush has showed small willingness to placate his party's right wing.

Bush, whose wife is Mexican-born, addressed the packed college arena in English and Spanish, an unusual twist for a political speech aimed at a national audience.

But family political dynasties are rare in our history because they are so hard to replicate.

Several speakers broke into Spanish, including Bush himself, who is fluent in the language.

Thanks to the super PAC that served as his campaign-in-waiting for six months, the Republican contender said he's raised more money in 100 days than any Republican operation in modern times. Then, after winning the nomination, he would have to shift back toward the center – but not so abruptly that he disillusioned true believers. Still, Bush commands 94 percent name identification among likely Michigan voters, followed by Paul with 82 percent, Rubio at 70 percent and Walker trailing far behind at 55 percent. That, in turn, could mean that a finish in the top tier – rather than an outright win – has more meaning than in the past. Bush has had everything in his life handed to him on a silver platter. "The people who know, know that".

Early opinion surveys place Bush in the middle of the Iowa pack among republican candidates.

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In that poll, Bush did better than Rubio, though he still was down to Hillary in a head-to-head contest Bush with a 51-40. He is smart, experienced and deeply informed about domestic policy issues such as education. His brother, the 43rd president, and his father, the 41st president, were not in attendance for his presidential announcement speech in Miami on Monday.

RUBIO

Marco Rubio fights conservative backlash over his support of Obama trade authority // Miami Herald // Alex Leary – June 24, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio has a new headache from the right: His support for President Obama's Pacific trade deal.

"Marco Rubio Casts Deciding Vote For Obamatrade Without Even Reading It," screamed a headline in Breitbart News, which last rode the Florida Republican on immigration.

Deciding vote is hyperbolic but Rubio's was essential as the measure was advanced Tuesday by 60 votes, the exact number needed to overcome the Senate's procedural hurdles.

A number of conservative groups have lashed out at giving Obama fast track authority on trade deals, claiming the accords have been created in secret and warning it wouuld bring in more foreign workers. Plus they don't want to give Obama any more power.

Rubio felt it enough to push back on Twitter today, linking to a National Review story that says Rubio did read the deal.

As noted earlier, the trade issue has divided Republican candidates. In the Senate, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz voted no yesterday.

Rubio after the vote breezed by reporters without taking questions. He hasn't said much publicly about the deal lately but was a visible champion, writing in the Wall Street Journal and calling on action during his first foreign policy speech as a presidential candidate.

"It is more important than ever that Congress give the president trade promotion authority so that he can finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership," Rubio said in a May 13 speech before the Council on Foreign Relations.

Jeb Bush also supports the deal.

Rubio's Cuba views at odds with young Hispanic-Americans // The Hill // Eddie Bejarano – June 24, 2015

As a young Hispanic-American, I am deeply concerned and saddened about the position Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) has taken in response to President Obama's decision to thaw relations between our country and Cuba — mainly that he, if given the opportunity, would continue to implement policies that reflect the political realities of the Cold War.

Similar to Rubio, my parents left their home nation of Peru because of political reasons. Unlike Rubio, I do not let the views of a generation of scarred Peruvians define my contemporary worldview. There is no doubt my parents' political experiences have left their mark on me, but the world today is vastly different from when they immigrated to the U.S.

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It is no longer safe to assume that the entire Cuban-American community supports punitive policies against Cuba. According to a poll conducted in 2014 by Florida International University in Miami, 62 percent of Cuban-Americans ages 18-29 oppose continuing the embargo policy in place. Among registered voters, 51 percent favored continuing the embargo and 49 percent opposed it.

The statistic that I found most significant discussed what percentage of respondents supported reestablishing diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Cuba. Sixty-eight percent of respondents favored diplomatic relations with Cuba, with 90 percent of young respondents favoring a shift in our current diplomatic policy. However, support for reconstructing diplomatic relations with Cuba dropped precipitously for age groups older than 70.

From these figures, I can only deduce that Cuban-American politicians such as Rubio are approaching a momentous fork in the road. As he campaigns for the Oval Office, I ask that he consider a few important questions. Is a policy that continues to isolate Cuba beneficial to the U.S. or the people of Cuba? And is his Cuba policy reflective of the broader Hispanic-American community or solely that of an older Cuban diaspora? If he is to be the face of the Hispanic-American community, then it is my hope that his worldview, and specifically his Cuba policy, is not held hostage by the political experiences of our parents' generations.

"What do we want? New clean energy! When do we want it? Now!" seems to be the rallying cry of investors that have put forth $4 billion to invest in clean energy technology. What The Hill's June 16 article "Private investors pony up $4 billion for clean energy" doesn't mention, however, is the initiative set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency called the Clean Power Plan. This plan, which would mandate meaningful reductions in carbon dioxide, would reduce carbon pollution by 30 percent by the year 2030. States are able to meet their goals by either making existing power plants more efficient or moving toward sustainable, clean energy.

What does the Clean Power Plan have to do with clean energy investments? Everything! The White House hosted a Clean Energy Investment Summit on June 16, which laid out promises from businesses and organizations to "go greener" by turning toward clean energy. The Clean Power Plan, which provides tremendous opportunity for states to go green, promotes solutions to reducing pollution and addressing global warming concerns. Clean energy is achievable through investor support and the Clean Power Plan, and we should keep states accountable for this promise to moving toward better solutions.

Let your elected officials know that you want to invest in what's best.

PAUL

Rand Paul In 2007: Trans-Texas Corridor Could Lead To "North American Union," US-Mexico Currency // **Buzzfeed // Christopher Massie – June 24, 2015**

Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul said in December 2007 that a highway between Mexico and the United States could lead to a "North American Union," comparing the relationship between the US and Mexico to the early stages of the European Union's formation.

Paul, who at the time was campaigning for his father Ron Paul, then a Republican presidential candidate, said on the Future Quake radio show that his father had been unfairly "ridiculed" for discussing the possibility of a "North American Union."

"After my father mentioned the North American Union he was completely ridiculed, not only just in the debate, but Newsweek came out and wrote an article just completely making fun of him, saying it was all crazy people," Paul said. "But you know the funny thing about it is, they're saying it's all just crazy people, but it's already being built. I mean, the road is being built. The Trans-Texas Corridor."

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Proposed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry in 2002, the Trans-Texas Corridor was initially intended to be a 4,000 mile network of highways and railways. According to the Houston Chronicle, Perry claimed it was necessary partly because of increased Mexican truck traffic "following passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement." The idea was largely scrapped in 2009.

Echoing his father, who argued that the "superhighway" would link the US, Mexico, and Canada, and that "the ultimate goal" included an "integrated North American Union—complete with a currency," Rand Paul dismissed the notion that the corridor was a secret "conspiracy."

"There's already money funded for it," he said. "It's been a huge debate in the Texas legislature, it's not like it's a secret. I mean, the Texas legislature voted against it because they were going to take so much land from so many farmers to build this road. So it's not like some secrecy or conspiracy that no one knows about. It needs to be publicized obviously so people will talk about it, but it's happening. So it's a real thing."

Paul then said that the President of Mexico had "talked about having, you know, a currency," saying that this was "the same thing" as what happened with the European Union.

"The President of Mexico apparently has talked about having, you know, a currency and I know people have called it the Amero," he said. "I'm not sure where that started. But think about it: the European Union was talked about for twenty years before it finally occurred and this is the same thing."

He concluded by saying that organizations like the Council for Foreign Relations and the Trilaterals Commission didn't think it was "a big deal" to have "countries sort of together in one currency."

"Most people—until people got on our side started thinking about the loss of sovereign entity and the dangers of this—they thought about it as a very bland sort of subject, they would have it at their meetings, all these, you know, the Council for Foreign Relations, the Trilaterals Commission, these type of folks. These are real organizations that exist. They talk and they talk about these things and they think it's not a big deal. They think we should have all countries sort of together in one currency and they think it's of some benefit somehow."

Sen. Rand Paul to sue IRS, U.S. Treasury **// Washington Times // Ralph Z. Hallow – June 24, 2015**

Rand Paul is poised to become the first major presidential candidate in memory to sue the government he seeks to lead as president.

The Kentucky senator will take legal action against the U.S. Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service for what he says is the denial of his constitutional right to vote on more than 100 tax-information treaties that the Obama administration unilaterally negotiated with foreign governments, The Washington Times has learned.

In what the suit says is a violation of Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution, President Obama has not consulted the U.S. Senate about the treaties nor given the Senate an opportunity to approve or disapprove of the treaties. The administration calls them "intergovernmental agreements." They require foreign banks to gather and share private financial information about millions of Americans living and working outside the U.S. — information they would not have to disclose to the U.S. government if they lived and worked in the U.S.

The treaties or agreements are the enforcement mechanisms of the Obama administration's Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), enacted by a Democratic-controlled Congress in 2010.

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The act is despised by many of the estimated 8.7 million Americans living overseas, a record number of whom have — with great anger and reluctance, according to those who have spoken to the foreign and U.S. press — renounced their U.S. citizenship rather than attempt to comply with FATCA.

What percentage of them simply want to evade paying taxes to the U.S. government and to the foreign governments in whose countries they work and/or reside is unknown. The U.S. is one of the few countries that taxes its citizens on income earned and property held both at home and abroad.

President Obama pushed for the passage of FATCA as a means of capturing hundreds of millions of dollars in income and property taxes owed to the Treasury by those Americans living and working outside the U.S. But many Americans living abroad say the Treasury and the IRS are treating them as guilty of tax evasion until proven innocent.

“Obama owns this,” said Indiana-based GOP superlawyer Jim Bopp, the lead attorney for Mr. Paul and other plaintiffs in the case. “FATCA passed Congress right after Obama was elected, when the Democrats had majorities in both houses” of Congress.

“The issue is inescapably partisan for that reason and for the fact that no Republican [in the U.S. House] supported the passage of FATCA,” Mr. Bopp said. “The U.S. government didn’t start enforcing it until Obama started to target U.S. citizens overseas in the belief that they had a lot of money but not a lot of political clout sufficient to fight back.”

Nations that have approved these bilateral agreements or treaties with the U.S. include such major economic powers as China, Britain, India, Israel, Ireland, Canada, Australia, Japan, Germany, France, Spain and Switzerland, as well smaller states once considered as tax havens such as Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Lichtenstein and Luxembourg. So far, 112 nations have agreed to collect or receive private financial information about Americans in those countries and to turn the information over to the U.S. government.

Constitutional clash

Mr. Paul, a Republican who announced his presidential bid in early April, will join six other plaintiffs in the suit that a new organization called “Republicans Overseas Action” expects to file in a southern Ohio federal district court the week of June 29. The court’s Republican makeup is considered at least open to the constitutional arguments that the plaintiffs lay out.

The other plaintiffs base their claim of legal standing to sue the Treasury and the IRS on FATCA’s requirement that they surrender personal information in violation of the Fourth Amendment’s ban on unreasonable search and seizure and on the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishments — in this case, unusually large financial penalties for late filings, however innocent, or for noncooperation.

FATCA requires foreign banks to violate the privacy of their American customers by disclosing bank balances and all financial transactions. The U.S. law levies a hefty 30 percent fine on foreign financial institutions that don’t cooperate with the Treasury’s requests. The fine is actually levied against the American customer of the foreign bank, but critics say no bank can keep its customer base with fines of that magnitude.

The law also directly fines the American holder of a foreign account as much as 50 percent of the highest balance that was in that account at any time during a 12-month period as penalty for not reporting.

Mr. Paul’s suit argues that the administration purposely avoided calling the arrangements “treaties” and instead labeled them as “intergovernmental agreements” to escape having to get Senate approval. Earlier this year, Mr.

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Paul introduced a Senate bill to repeal FATCA. But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has not scheduled debate on the bill.

Michael DeSombre, an American residing in Hong Kong, is the worldwide president for Republicans Overseas Action. He sees Democratic presumptive nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton as vulnerable on the FATCA controversy.

“When FATCA was enacted in 2010, Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. Many overseas Americans complained how unjust and destructive this law is to U.S. embassies and consulate general offices around the world. What I want to know is what did Hillary do with those reports in this election,” said Mr. DeSombre.

The other plaintiffs in the suit Mr. Paul has joined say they have been denied banking and financial services in the foreign countries where they live and work. The foreign banks don’t want to be burdened with the expense and paperwork to comply with FATCA and therefore simply refuse to accept Americans as clients.

The Republican National Committee and the recently formed Republican Overseas Action aim to get as many of those Americans living or working outside their country to register in one or another of the swing states that decide the presidency in close elections. Republicans Overseas Action is paying for the lawsuit Mr. Paul has joined as plaintiff.

The driving force behind the suit is a longtime conservative activist on the Republican National Committee, Solomon Yue of Oregon.

“The best way to defend 8.7 million overseas Americans’ right to privacy and constitutional protections is to cripple the IRS, FATCA and enforcement tools through legal action on constitutional grounds all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Mr. Yue, founder and vice chairman of Republicans Overseas Action Inc.

CRUZ

Cruz pulls another boneheaded move **// WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – June 24, 2015**

Well, if Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) can go from hiring the “Southern Avenger,” a neo-Confederate, to decrying the Confederate flag as “inescapably a symbol of human bondage and slavery, and particularly when people use it obviously for murder and to justify hatred so vicious that you would kill somebody,” we should rank Sen. Ted Cruz’s flip-flop on trade less harshly. Still, in the space of a week he voted for fast-track authority, heard cries from the far right and then reversed himself — and still had the nerve to denounce GOP leaders with whom he voted the first time around. Politico explains:

The Texas firebrand and Republican 2016 presidential hopeful had been a vocal supporter of trade legislation, even co-authoring a Wall Street Journal op-ed in April saying that the fast-track bill, known as Trade Promotion Authority, is a “fair deal” for the American worker. In May, he voted to advance the TPA bill, which also included a worker aid package favored by Democrats.

But just hours before a decisive Tuesday vote, Cruz [changed] his tune. . . . Cruz, who has long aligned himself with the tea party wing of the party, has taken some flak from the right for backing the trade bill initially — so voting “no” now could insulate himself from some of that criticism. Yet it could further alienate himself from big business and deep-pocketed donors who are staunch proponents of expanded markets.

Now, even before this latest jaw-dropper, Cruz was in no danger of getting mainstream support. There are not too many non-tea partyers who appreciate him after orchestrating the shutdown, going whole-hog on anti-

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immigration reform, whipping up support for an anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment and advancing a frankly incoherent worldview (yes on destroying the Islamic state, no on the NSA and on anymore troops). He's in single digits in most state and national polls, overshadowed at this stage by the likes of Ben Carson and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee — whose supporters he appears to be chasing after.

Cruz likes to fancy himself as the only principled man inside the Beltway, but with stunts like the trade flip-flop he makes crystal clear that his only deeply held belief is self-promotion. Coverage in Texas media of his about-face was stinging, painting him as a political coward. ("For months, Sen. Ted Cruz backed a critical part of President Barack Obama's trade agenda. But after weeks of taking heat from conservatives, Cruz abandoned his support for Trade Promotion Authority on Tuesday.") And the Wall Street Journal editorial board observed, "Much of the opposition [on the far right] has been pure opportunism, an attempt to parlay distrust of all-things-Obama into talk-show rating points or Internet clicks. The hucksters make up false accusations and spread them like Elizabeth Warren. Top prize for such opportunism goes to Ted Cruz, who turned against the trade bill at the last minute."

In his spinelessness (and oddly on both trade and the Islamic State, not to mention Syria, where both celebrated the refusal to enforce the red line) he most closely resembles Hillary Clinton. She too never met a position she was not willing to modify or discard (opposition to gay marriage, support for the Iraq war, free trade) to keep pace with the base of her party.

The winner of the GOP primary will be the candidate who can dominate one or more segments of the primary electorate, and then bring the others over. That means being responsible enough not to scare moderates, businesspeople and big donors who think a primary responsibility of governing is to keep the government open and who recoil when candidates plunge into trade protectionism, anti-immigration reform rhetoric, anti-government extremism and vociferous opposition to gay marriage. That also means embracing a tough, consistent foreign policy and advancing a credible pro-growth agenda. As for the far right, Cruz simply has too much competition, some from fresher faces than his.

Maybe Cruz has figured out that he isn't viable as a presidential candidate and is now seeking Sarah Palin-like status. He could want to be a celebrity of the far right who does not really govern or move issues but is completely simpatico with a dogged but small sliver of the electorate, and with talk radio. In that regard his biggest competition may be Carson — or Donald Trump.

Ted Cruz Takes Aim at 'Washington Cartel' **// Bloomberg // Heidi Przybyla – June 24, 2015**

Senator Ted Cruz showed today how he intends to capitalize on the anti-Washington, obstructionist persona he's worked hard to perfect.

In a speech to the Heritage Foundation in Washington, Cruz outlined the populist theme he'll take across the country in his bid for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, taking aim at big U.S. banks, lobbyists, corporate "welfare" and the "Washington cartel."

The Texas first-termer portrayed himself as a victim of the "corrupt, backroom deals" that, in his view, dominate Washington. Cruz said he's been "vilified" by Democrats, Republicans and the media for bucking congressional leaders on issues running the gamut from raising the debt ceiling to a vote yesterday granting President Barack Obama negotiating authority for international trade agreements. Cruz unsuccessfully opposed both.

"The Washington cartel has amassed more and more power at the expense of the American taxpayer with the same recipe repeated over and over again," he said.

"Washington is looking for solutions for Washington," he added, declaring that those "invariably help the rich and well connected."

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Opposes Ex-Im Bank

Cruz singled out for criticism the U.S. Export-Import Bank, whose practices he called tantamount to corporate "welfare," the Dodd-Frank banking legislation that he said has suffocated community banks and government subsidies for ethanol and sugar.

All of the 2016 presidential contenders are trying to weave populist rhetoric into their stump speeches in an effort to address rising income inequality in the U.S. But Cruz's approach of blaming Washington for the economic anxieties many Americans are experiencing speaks to the limited government, anti-establishment wing of his party's conservative base voters.

Rivals' plans

The senator, who was the first major presidential candidate to launch a campaign for the the White House in March, has yet to release an economic plan. Some of his rival candidates already have done so. Kentucky Senator Rand Paul has proposed tax breaks to help companies investing in poor communities and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida has called for revamping programs for the poor and middle class.

Cruz's speech signals that he plans to make a selling point of his role obstructing bipartisan legislation on budget and spending agreements, raising the debt ceiling, pro-immigration policy and surveillance laws.

When he was asked "how can we be sure that you are not part of this mess?" during a post-speech question-and-answer session, Cruz boasted that he's become a pariah in his party, even sharing an anecdote about one closed-door luncheon where fellow Republicans "screamed and yelled" at him for not going along with legislation to raise the debt ceiling.

"You can say a lot of things about me, but beloved by my colleagues in Washington is not one of them," said Cruz.

‘Speaker Cruz’ strikes again **// MSNBC // Steve Benen – June 24, 2015**

As the Senate prepared to vote yesterday on a key procedural measure on trade, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) made an announcement. Though he’d recently voted for Trade Promotion Authority – better known as “fast track” – the Texas Republican had changed his mind, and explained himself in a piece for a right-wing website.

Cruz argued, in a piece circulated to reporters by Heritage Action, that congressional Republican leaders in both chambers struck a secret deal with Democrats to renew the Export-Import Bank and tied the policy to trade bill. There’s no proof of any of this – Cruz’s piece didn’t include any – and GOP leaders denied the claims.

But as Roll Call noted, the senator was just getting started.

[Cruz] went after Boehner for punishing conservatives, “wrongly stripping Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., of his subcommittee chairmanship, and reportedly threatening to strip other conservatives of their chairmanships as well.”

If that wasn’t direct enough, Cruz had a couple of questions: “Why does Republican Leadership always give in to the Democrats? Why does Leadership always disregard the promises made to the conservative grassroots?”

He added later in the day, “I think it was wrong for the Speaker to punish a conservative for voting his conscience.”

Cruz has repeatedly partnered with House Republicans – the senator has teamed up with the lower chamber so

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often that he's earned the "Speaker Cruz" nickname – but this was an unusually brash shot across the House GOP's leadership's bow.

It was also a curious move. Cruz's enthusiastic "fast track" support was supposed to be an opportunity for him to prove his interest in actual policymaking. But just as TPA was poised to pass, the Texan ran to Breitbart to thumb his nose at his ostensible Capitol Hill allies.

Roll Call added that after his announcement, "senior GOP aides were practically lining up Tuesday to offer anonymous quotes bashing Cruz."

One said, "If Cruz is so concerned about his poll numbers, maybe he should spend more time campaigning and less time meddling in the House to avoid these desperate 'I was for it, before I was against it' ploys."

So what's the end-game here? Cruz's poll support enjoyed a brief boost shortly after his presidential campaign kickoff, but his backing has faded and he remains nowhere near the top tier. Presumably, the far-right senator is looking for new ways to connect with the GOP base.

The strategy that he's settled on appears to focus on criticizing his party's congressional leadership and championing rank-and-file Republican members – whose endorsements Cruz would no doubt welcome.

The plan, in other words, is for Cruz to run for president as the candidate most disliked by his own party's top officials.

The House GOP is punishing rebellious members. Ted Cruz is steamed about it. **// Vox // Jonathan Allen – June 24, 2015**

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz ripped GOP leaders in Congress Wednesday for punishing conservatives who voted to kill President Barack Obama's trade agenda, escalating a fight the Texas senator wants to have with his party's establishment.

Following a series of votes on trade two Fridays ago, House Republican Whip Steve Scalise kicked three Republicans out of their spots on the party's vote-counting team, Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) was stripped of a subcommittee chairmanship, and Red State's Erick Erickson reported Wednesday morning that Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO) is in danger of losing his post as president of the freshman class.

The Meadows decision is a "shameful example" of a leader seeking retribution "because of his principled objections" to giving the president fast-track trade authority, Cruz said in a speech at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Cruz, who is currently mired in the second tier of Republican presidential hopefuls, would need a big boost from conservative activists to make a real play for the nomination in 2016. That was his target audience in weaving the retribution anecdotes into a larger narrative pitting conservatives against what he calls the "Washington cartel" of politicians in both parties, lobbyists, and the mainstream media.

He has little to lose in going after Republican leaders, particularly in the House, because they already detest his brand of take-no-prisoners politics. They were incensed in late 2013 when his refusal to give up on repealing the Affordable Care Act paved the way for a government shutdown. And GOP leaders hate that Cruz often complicates their agenda by riling up House conservatives.

The relations have grown so frosty that John Boehner has taken to communicating with Cruz by gesture: The New York Times reported last month that the House speaker's response to a question about Cruz's campaign was to raise his middle finger.

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Republican retribution

Meadows, Buck, and the three Republicans kicked off the whip team all voted against the GOP leadership on the rule for debating a package of trade bills — a serious no-no in a chamber that operates on majority-party rule. Voting against a rule is considered more disloyal than voting against a bill because it threatens the ability of party leaders to control which legislation comes to the floor.

The House and Senate eventually passed fast-track trade authority for Obama.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and a Boehner ally, said he alone made the call to knock Meadows from the top spot on of one his panel's subcommittees.

Meadows said in a tweet that he won't vote with GOP leaders if he thinks it will harm his home district.

Boehner defended the Meadows move Wednesday after a GOP caucus meeting, according to the Hill.

"I think the chairman made the right decision. I made it clear to the members I supported that decision."

Ted Cruz mum as his South Carolina campaign co-chairmen lead fight to let Confederate flag fly // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – June 24, 2015

Ted Cruz's South Carolina campaign co-chairmen are leading the fight to keep the Confederate flag flying on state Capitol grounds, and Cruz's campaign won't say if he agrees with them.

State Sen. Lee Bright, a Republican, was one of just two state senators to vote against taking down the flag on Tuesday, a day after calling bipartisan efforts led by Republican Gov. Nikki Haley following the murders of nine black churchgoers in Charleston a "Stalinist purge" of his southern heritage.

And South Carolina state Rep. Bill Chumley, another of Cruz's three presidential campaign co-chairmen in the state, agrees with him, told CNN Tuesday night that "We're focusing on the wrong thing here" when asked about the flag, saying the problem was that none of the churchgoers were armed.

"These people sit in there and waited their turn to be shot. That's sad," he said. "Somebody in there with the means of self-defense could have stopped this. And we'd have less funerals than we're having."

Cruz has said he sees "both sides" of the flag debate and wants to leave it to South Carolinians to decide, and his campaign won't say whether he agrees with Bright and Chumley.

Cruz's campaign says it's leaving it up to the state to decide whether the flag should come down.

"Sen. Cruz has said consistently that this is an issue that South Carolina should solve and that's exactly what's happening. South Carolinians, some of whom agree and some of whom disagree with the removal of the flag from the state grounds, are arguing it out, and that's proper, and that's where I'm going to leave it," Cruz strategist Rick Tyler told the Daily News. "When outsiders come into a state and try to dictate what it should be doing that's not

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proper."

Bright told the Daily News he hadn't talked to Cruz's campaign about the issue, and wanted to wait until the victims were buried to begin the debate in earnest.

But he defended his position, saying it was "beyond the pale" for people to compare the white supremacist who murdered the African Americans to Confederate generals like Robert E. Lee.

"Obviously you want to show love and respect to people who've lost loved ones but to blame it on the Confederate flag, it's hard to see how that's going to bring racial healing. What you've seen in Charleston is racial healing, I don't know how it's going to make it better by taking our flag, that'll offend a big part of our population," he said.

The Confederate flag has been a source of controversy in South Carolina after a white supremacist gunned down nine black churchgoers last week in a Charleston church.

Bright said removing the flag would give too much attention and power to Dylann Roof, the white supremacist accused of shooting the nine black churchgoers.

"He'll be remembered as the guy who brought down the Confederate flag and I just don't think we're going to give him that kind of attention," he said. “He'll be the reason the flag came down."

Bright is a Tea Party activist in the state who badly lost a primary to Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) last year. Graham is now running for president, and has joined Gov. Haley in pushing for the flag's removal.

Tyler pointed out that while Cruz was solicitor general he'd filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court opposing the Ku Klux Klan's attempt to adopt a highway in Missouri.

"He's not some Johnny-come-lately when it comes to purging racism," he said.

Ted Cruz just upped the populist ante for 2016 Republicans **// Fortune // Tory Newmyer – June 24, 2015**

Ted Cruz just raised the bar for Republican presidential hopefuls angling for the fiery populist mantle.

In a 40-minute stemwinder delivered to a friendly crowd at the Heritage Foundation on Wednesday, the junior senator from Texas inveighed against a corrupt alignment of corporate and political power that he shorthanded as the “Washington Cartel.” That’s apparently new coinage, and you can expect to hear a lot more of it as Cruz tries to elbow his way out of the GOP presidential primary’s second tier and into serious contention for the nomination.

His speech was short on policy prescriptions, and he’s already struck on the anti-establishment theme that organized it. But the acidity of his vitriol tipped the rhetorical pH scale. “Lobbyists and career politicians today make up what I call the Washington Cartel,” he said. “And it operates very much like other cartels. It operates like OPEC. I don’t know, like sheikhs, if they actually wear robes. But they nonetheless on a daily basis are conspiring against the American people.” In Cruz’s formulation, every moneyed interest and every leading pol, Republicans included, are in on it: Big banks, “GM and Chrysler and its suppliers,” “union bosses,” “rich yuppies” buying Teslas, “fat cat insurers,” Enron, Solyndra, Air India and the other beneficiaries of the Ex-Im bank, corn growers, wind energy purveyors, sugar producers, Big Box retailers, and their giant online brethren.

As he spoke, the Senate was preparing to take the last step in handing President Obama fast track authority to wrap work on the 12-nation Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement. Cruz had been an early and important ally

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for the White House in its bid to secure that negotiating wiggle room. Back in April, he joined House Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) in penning a Wall Street Journal op-ed calling the authority essential to "send a signal to the world. America's trading partners will know that the U.S. is trustworthy and then put their best offers on the table."

The Obama administration viewed Cruz's endorsement as a major coup. Heading into the thick of the debate, the White House worried over keeping other Tea Party-affiliated Republicans on board with its trade agenda, since the whole project needed near-uniform GOP support. Cruz's position made it safe for wary House Republicans to climb aboard.

But on Tuesday, as the White House's push for fast track faced its final significant challenge in the Senate, Cruz defected. The problem, he suggested without evidence, was that Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) had thrown a deal with Democrats to save the Export Import bank into the bargain. And that federal agency, which exists to help finance American exports, has become a bête noire for the anti-corporatist right that Cruz seeks to champion. "There's too much corporate welfare, too much cronyism and corrupt dealmaking, by the Washington cartel," he wrote in the op-ed explaining why he soured on fast track that slyly previewed his Wednesday line. So an uncharitable view of Cruz's flip on fast track might note its timing a day before the Heritage talk and the fact that it brought his position on the issue of the day neatly into line with his theme.

Obama's trade push — a defining priority he shares with the big business lobby — cleared the Tuesday hurdle, with no votes to spare, mostly on the backs of Senate Republicans. As Cruz lit out in a different direction, his Wednesday address laid a new marker for those of his presidential rivals who likewise hope an attack on the system they seek to lead will prove a winning formula.

Ted Cruz depicts lonely fight against "Washington cartel" **// Dallas Morning News // Todd J. Gillman – June 24, 2015**

Casting himself as a rare truth-teller in the Senate, Texan Ted Cruz depicted his brief career in Washington as a lonely fight against entrenched interests – one that has made him an outcast within the Senate, and uniquely positioned for the presidency.

"There's some Republicans who say gosh, if someone's been vilified, we can't nominate them for anything because they're all beaten up and bloodied," Cruz said. "That's the lie of the Washington cartel. That means the only people we ever nominate are people who never take on the Washington cartel. And you know what, if you've never taken on the Washington cartel you're not going to magically start once you take office."

Cruz spent an hour at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative group headquartered near the Capitol led by former Sen. Jim DeMint, a tea partier who was a key Cruz patron in the 2012 Texas Senate fight.

Now the Texan is one of more than a dozen GOP candidates vying for traction in a crowded 2016 field. At Heritage, he railed as he often does against career politicians in both parties, and the lobbyist-industrial complex that props them up. He called it twisted logic for anyone to depict him as selfish and attention-grabbing for the way he's tackled the Senate—often defying GOP leaders.

"If I'm selfish, then I must be a blithering idiot. Because who selfishly would welcome the derision, the abuse, your fund-raising shut off from this town, nasty press stories written one after the other after the other, all planted by Republicans," Cruz said.

"That's a very odd — you know what the selfish thing to do is? Come here and smile. Give an empty speech, bloviate occasionally at a think tank. Vote with the crowd. Don't rock the boat.... You go to the parties, lobbyists write you checks," he said. "It is not hard to coast and stay in office forever."

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The “Washington cartel” took the brunt of Cruz’s remarks. He cited a number of manifestations of the powerful interests that align to protect the status quo, to the detriment of small businesses and struggling families.

He called the Export-Import Bank a killer of American jobs. Businesses in Texas and around the country have been urging Congress to reauthorize the bank, whose charter expires at the end of the month and which provides loan guarantees to U.S. exporters and their customers overseas. Cruz cited data showing that 10 of the biggest U.S. firms enjoy the majority of the benefits.

“It’s hard to imagine an institution that is more emblematic of corporate welfare than the Export-Import Bank,” Cruz said. “It’s good to be the king, and it’s good to be a major donor to the king.”

He defended his about-face on fast-track Trade Promotion Authority this week – a tool long used by presidents of both parties to close international trade pacts – in part by noting rumors that GOP leaders in the House and Senate had privately struck a deal to allow a vote on Ex-Im reauthorization to seal support from holdouts on trade. The leaders have denied such a deal.

“Excellent,” Cruz said. “Prove it. If there is no deal we should let Ex-Im expire and stay expired. For once, all Congress has to do is do nothing, and if Congress is good at anything, it’s doing nothing…. Let it expire and end the gravy train for Washington lobbyists on the Export-Import Bank.”

He boasted that he alone among GOP contenders for president went to an Iowa agriculture summit earlier this spring and declared his opposition to subsidies for ethanol, a corn-based gasoline substitute.

“It’s very easy for conservative politicians to talk about ending cronyism… but when you’re standing in front of the beneficiaries, that’s when you separate talk from action,” Cruz said.

He blasted both sugar subsidies and proposals to require all online retailers to collect sales tax as other examples of crony capitalism at work.

On sugar, he said, federal policies hold down production to artificially boost prices and profits, and those policies stem directly from heavy lobbying; sugar accounts for 0.2 percent of American farming, he said, yet it accounts for 40 percent of the lobbying outlays from crop farming.

As for online taxation, he called that a perfect convergence of powerful interests. Big box, brick-and-mortar retailers have long demanded a level playing field, complaining that online merchants can undercut them by not collecting sales tax. But the biggest online sellers have begun collecting such taxes, so they’re also trying to close the loophole.

That makes small entrepreneurs “a common enemy,” Cruz said, and “in Washington, there’s nothing more beautiful than when the lobbyists align.”

PERRY

Talking with Rick Perry about Iran, China, the Confederate flag // WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – June 24, 2015

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I spoke by phone with former Texas governor Rick Perry, who, after announcing his candidacy for president, has moved up a bit in the polls. He looks very likely to make the cut for the first debate on Fox News and is benefiting from his retail political skills and his seriousness on policy, something absent in his 2012 run.

I asked him about the latest developments in Iran, a fiery and defiant speech from the supreme leader and disclosure of a secret annex that would assist Iran with its nuclear program. “I’m glad that I don’t have President Obama as the negotiator for my next car,” he says ruefully. “But this is deadly serious. You don’t give away your strongest positions up front. In this case sanctions were working, and [Iran] came to the table.” Perry criticizes easing up on sanctions in the Joint Plan of Action. “Billions of dollars [for Iran] were freed up,” he says. “I’m really concerned he doesn’t care what’s in the deal as long as he gets a deal.” He ticks off his own demands: “Suspend enrichment. Full access to all facilities, including military facilities. If not, there is no deal. They need to end their ICBM program. That’s not even on the table. If not to deliver a nuclear missile, why do you have [an ICBM] program?” And, Perry says, Iran will need to end support for terrorism. None of that seems possible under the current president.

Perry is also critical of Obama’s response, or lack thereof, with regard to China’s cyberattack. “It appears that all they’ve been doing is discussing talking to China. We’ve got to quit talking and start acting.” He says what’s needed are sanctions on companies or entities that benefit from cyberterrorism, travel bans on those who perpetrate it and development of a blacklist of bad actors that can be shared with private companies and allies. He also says, “They’ve been stealing our intellectual property for years. They have universities that teach this, that teach hacking. We need to end any transnational cooperation with universities that are cultivating hacking.” His complaints about the Obama-Clinton-Kerry foreign policy don’t stop there. “The way China operates is that if you do not have a strong position, they consider it a sign of weakness,” he says. He then launches into a discussion of enhancing our relationship with India. “With [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi, they are very interested in building a relationship, especially economically.” He criticizes the administration early on in denying a sale of fighter jets. “They bought it from the French, the Mirage.” The failure to help friends and punish enemies, leaving allies in the lurch, he says, is “an across-the-board” feature in the administration’s foreign policy.

We turn to the Confederate battle flag controversy. Perry dealt with a similar issue concerning the flag on license plates, but he shares another incident not discussed much. “Texas was part of the old Confederacy and there were a number of places the Confederate flag cropped up. One was a plaque in the state capitol that was offensive to a pretty substantial group of people.” He acknowledges that at first he did not see the need to move a marker citing Confederate pension monies were used to build part of the capitol. “I mean, it had been there for 150 years. I was hesitant to move it. But I had really good friends — [former lawmakers] Ron Wilson and Al Edwards, Texas’s deputy secretary of state Coby Shorter and my counsel Bill Jones — all African American — who said, ‘This is really offensive.’ The license plate was the same issue. It needed to be handled with dignity and respect.” On moving the plaque (to a museum-like setting in the state courthouse) and removing the flag from state license plates, he says, “I think we handled it properly and now it is not a contentious issue.” Perry also boasts that under his governorship Texas had the highest graduation rate for African Americans. The same for Hispanics. (Fact checkers say this occurred in 2012-2013.) “There is not a more powerful message than that . . . that we care about you,” he says.

Perry hails from a red state, so his legislative successes tend to be minimized on the theory he had compliant Republicans. Perry disputes that: “Not one thing big thing did we do — tort reform, education — that we did with just Republicans. We needed some Democrats as well.” He recalls working with a Democratic African American lawmaker from Houston on a sex trafficking bill. “You couldn’t find someone more different than me, but I found out if we’re respectful we could work together.”

Perry is known nationally as a pugnacious fighter against federal overreach, but that characterization is incomplete, at least from his vantage. “My observation is a leader’s job is to bring people together. It is easy to pit people against each other — on race, on gender,” he says. In 2012, his sympathetic view toward illegal immigrants (granting them in-state tuition) was seen as a liability. Now that record may be a plus, at least in the general election. After the Obama years — filled with racial tension and massive government incompetence — presenting himself as a successful governor from a diverse state might be an effective message. In that regard, he might be the most effective non-Jeb Bush candidate in the field.

GRAHAM

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Lindsey Graham's zombie claim about no fugitive being arrested after a failed gun background check // WaPo // Glenn Kessler – June 24, 2015

"Well, 80,000 people failed a background check last year or two years ago. Nine thousand were felons on the run from the law and not one of them was arrested or prosecuted. Absolutely, if I get to be president of the United States, you fail a criminal background check, you try to buy a guy when you're not supposed to, you're going to meet the law head on."

–Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), interview on CNN, June 19, 2015

Two years ago, we examined a similar claim by Graham and found it seriously deficient, giving him Three Pinocchios. And yet we find that he is still going on television and spreading this misinformation. In this case, he repeatedly brought up this factoid during an interview about the tragic mass shooting at a church in Charleston, S.C.

Graham, who is running for the 2016 GOP nomination for president, decried the "lack of dedication" to capturing fugitives and asserted, "If I get to be president of the United States, you fail a criminal background check, you try to buy a gun when you're not supposed to, you're going to meet the law head on."

A Graham spokesman did not respond to a query about why the senator has failed to drop this false claim. Time for a refresher course!

The Facts

Graham is referring to 2010 statistics concerning the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which is done through either the FBI or state agencies. The data has not been updated since then.

(We should note that FBI figures actually show nearly 14,000 fugitives were denied gun permits in 2010, not 9,000 as Graham said.)

The key purpose of the background checks in the Brady law is to prevent certain individuals — particularly those with criminal records — from easily buying guns. But from its inception, few people have been prosecuted for lying on the application form. A 2000 General Accounting Office report and a 2004 Justice Department Inspector General report disclosed a lack of clear guidelines for prosecution but also indicated that these are very hard cases to make.

In 2010, the FBI referred about 76,000 denials of firearms to an arm of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), but after a review 90 percent were not deemed worthy of further investigation while another 4 percent turned out to be incorrect denials. But then even of the relatively small percentage of cases referred to ATF field offices, another quarter turned out to be a case of mistaken denial and most of the rest had no prosecutorial merit.

In the end, 62 cases were referred for prosecution, but most were declined by federal prosecutors or dismissed by the court. Out of the original 76,000 denials, there emerge just 13 guilty pleas.

As the IG's report stated:

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We believe that the number of referrals and prosecutions is low because of the difficulty in obtaining convictions in NICS cases. These cases lack "jury appeal" for various reasons. The factors prohibiting someone from possessing a firearm may have been nonviolent or committed many years ago. The basis for the prohibition may have been noncriminal (e.g., a dishonorable discharge from the U.S. military). It is also difficult to prove that the prohibited person was aware of the prohibition and intentionally lied to the FFL [federally licensed dealer]. We were also told that in parts of the United States where hunting historically has been part of the regional culture, juries are reluctant to convict a person who attempted to purchase a hunting rifle.

On the surface, these numbers might suggest Graham is on the right track. But, as we explained before, it would be wrong and misleading to assume that the federal numbers tell the whole story about prosecutions stemming from background checks. Here's what a Justice Department official explained about the people listed as fugitives in the NICS data:

Speaking generally since we're talking nearly 14,000 — most of these people are state fugitives, not federal fugitives. When NICS denies based on an outstanding warrant, they routinely call the issuing jurisdiction (that would be state/local law enforcement) and let them know that the fugitive is, at that moment, at "Bob's gun shop" trying to buy a gun. In most cases, that means the issuing jurisdiction (state/local) will send a radio car to Bob's (the gun shop), scoop up the fugitive, then prosecute him/her in state court for whatever charges are pending. That means they get prosecuted on those charges — not NICS/gun offenses.

In other words, Graham is citing incomplete data. The state fugitives would turn up in state statistics, not federal data. Unfortunately, as far as we can tell, there does not appear to have been any nationwide study of how many fugitives are captured via background checks.

However, the 2000 GAO report said "if the background check indicates that the prospective purchaser is a fugitive (i.e., an outstanding arrest warrant exists), applicable law enforcement agencies can attempt to arrest the individual….Although no comprehensive statistics are available, some of these individuals subsequently have been arrested as a result of having been identified by the background check process."

We also did spot checks of some of the annual reports filed by state police agencies. None list the data in the same way but both Pennsylvania and Virginia, which have state-run systems, indicated that they identified and arrested fugitives in 2010 using background checks. In the most recent year available, 2013, both states indicated that they also arrested fugitives as a result of gun background checks.

From Virginia's 2013 report:

The VFTP processed 479,253 transactions in 2013. Of these, 2,412 were denied based on the results of a criminal history record check or the identification of another disqualifying record. During 2013, 168 wanted persons were identified for extraditable offenses, which resulted in the arrest of 124 individuals wanted in Virginia and 5 individuals who were named in an outstanding warrant from another state. In 2013, the State Police requested 961 criminal investigations related to the illegal sale or attempt to purchase firearms, which resulted in 654 (68%) closed arrests.

From Pennsylvania's 2013 report:

A total of 132 individuals with active warrants were apprehended in 2013. Since its inception on July 1, 1998, the PICS is responsible for the apprehension of 1,723 individuals.

The Pinocchio Test

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This is emerging as a “zombie claim” — something that keeps popping up even after it has been debunked. As we explained before, just looking at the federal-level data does not tell the whole story. While there is no comprehensive nationwide survey of fugitive prosecutions, the state-level data from Virginia and Pennsylvania clearly shows that fugitives have been arrested as a result of the Brady law. Pennsylvania alone indicated that it has arrested about a 100 fugitives a year in the past 17 years.

Yet Graham persists in falsely claiming that “not one of them was arrested or prosecuted.” We have little choice but to increase the Pinocchio rating on this claim to Four.

Lindsey Graham Says Charleston Shooting Reminded Him Of ‘Mideast Hate’ // HuffPo // Igor Bobic – June 24, 2015

Last week's horrific shooting in a black church in Charleston, South Carolina reminded Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) of violence in the Middle East.

"I don't know how you can sit with somebody for an hour in a church and pray with them and get up and shoot them. That's Mideast hate," Graham said Wednesday on the Senate floor. "That's something I didn't think we had here, but apparently we do."

Asked by a reporter after his speech to clarify his comments, Graham told NBC's Frank Thorpe, "What ISIL is doing, that kind of hate. It's kind of that hard-heart, that, you know, heart that has been hardened after generations of hate."

Graham made a similar comment last week in an interview the morning after the shooting.

"To go into God's space and do this, I don't know," he told ABC News. "You can't explain it. ... I go to the Middle East a lot. I've seen hate up close. I've seen communities where everybody has been killed because they're a different religion, and you think that's just over there. Sometimes it's not just over there."

The presidential hopeful, who serves on the Armed Services Committee, is one of the most hawkish voices in the U.S. Senate. Last month, he called for sending an additional 10,000 U.S. troops to Iraq. He also maintains that the war there was not a mistake.

In his speech on the Senate floor on Wednesday, Graham praised the community of Charleston for welcoming the alleged shooter, Dylann Storm Roof, into their Bible study.

"He went to Charleston with a plan. The people in the church had no idea who he was or what he had in mind, and he came into the church and he was sitting in the pews by himself, and they invited him up for the Bible study," he said. "And spent an hour with him. And he said they were so nice, I could almost have backed out. That says a lot about them. Says a lot about him."

Earlier this week, Graham reversed course and joined South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) and a slew of other Palmetto State lawmakers in calling for the removal of a Confederate battle flag located on the grounds of the state capitol. He previously defended the flag as "part of who we are."

Lindsey Graham’s racist Charleston jab: White supremacist suspect showed “Mideast hate” //Salon // Sophia Tesfaye – June 24, 2015

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This is why we can't have nice things.

South Carolina Senator and Republican candidate for president Lindsey Graham took to the Senate floor today to honor the victims of last week's shooting at a historical African-American church in Charleston but instead of simply acknowledging the solemn moment, Graham reached back into his derisive ways to blast suspected shooter Dylann Roof's actions as inexplicable like "Mideast hate."

"I don't know how you could sit in a church and pray with them for an hour and shoot them. That's Mideast hate. That's something I didn't think we had here but apparently we do" said Graham.

South Carolina's political class had come together in near unanimity to call for the removal of the Confederate Flag from federal grounds just days before, leading to the flag being yanked from major retailers and other southern state capitols, but Graham's statement signals an unwillingness to refrain from divisive language until the victims had all received a burial.

On Tuesday, the son of infamous segregationist Strum Thurmond made an impassioned commitment to racial reconciliation in a speech calling for the Confederate flag's removal:

We must take down the Confederate flag, and we must take it down now. But if we stop there, we have cheated ourselves out of an opportunity to start a different conversation about healing in our state. I am ready. Let us start the conversation.

Graham had previously tweeted his hopes for healing in South Carolina:

Lindsey Graham's Charleston-Response Dumpster Fire Just Got Hotter // Vanity Fair // Kia Makarechi – June 24, 2015

Lindsey Graham took to the floor of the Senate on Wednesday to comment on the mass murder that took place on June 17 at a historically black church in Charleston. The suspect in the case is Dylann Roof, a 21-year-old white American who appeared in photos with the Confederate flag and appears to have written a white-supremacist manifesto.

One particularly shocking detail that has emerged about the massacre is that Roof allegedly joined the Bible-study group that was at the Emanuel A.M.E. church for an hour before opening fire and killing nine people. Here's how Graham relayed that detail on the floor of the Senate: "I don't know how you can sit with someone in an hour in a church and pray with them, and [then] get up and shoot them. That's Mideast hate. I didn't think we had that here, but apparently we do."

Graham doubled down when NBC's Frank Thorp asked him about the comment after the senator left the floor. "The kind of hate that [the shooter] exhibited I've only seen in the Mideast," he said. "It's kind of that hard heart, that, you know, heart that has been hardened after generations of hate."

Mid-East hate? Is there no antecedent for the type of white-on-black act of terror that occurred in Charleston last Tuesday? Did the senator forget about the nearly 4,000 lynchings that researchers have identified took place between 1877 and 1950? Did the Oklahoma City bombing, which took place well into Graham's adult years, slip his mind?

Did Graham forget that the first anti-terror law in the United States, the Ku Klux Klan Act—also known as the

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Enforcement Act of 1871—was passed to combat white acts of terror against freed black southerners?

Also confusing is why the senator, when looking for a word to describe a mass shooting, looked toward a different region in the world. Mass shootings, as President Barack Obama noted in the immediate aftermath of the Charleston massacre, are all too common in the United States—much more so than in any developed country. The majority of those mass shootings—from Aurora to Sandy Hook to Tucson—sure seem to be committed by white males.

Graham's offensive comment is the latest in what can charitably be described as an inconsistent response to the murders. "I just think he was one of these whacked-out kids," Graham first said, noting that he did not believe racism was a primary motivating factor in the shooting. "I don't think it's anything broader than that. . . . It's about a young man who is obviously twisted."

He then attempted to clarify in an appearance on The View, but appeared to focus more heavily on the religion of the victims than their race: "This guy's got tons of problems and to kill people in a church after sitting with them for an hour shows you, tells you how whacked out this kid is. . . . There are real people who are organized out there to kill people in religion and based on race, this guy's just whacked out. But it's 2015. There are people out there looking for Christians to kill them."

As for the use of the Confederate battle flag on the grounds of the South Carolina statehouse? Graham was again caught off-guard when the political climate shifted around him. "It works here, that's what the statehouse agreed to do," Graham said last week. On Monday, he joined South Carolina governor Nikki Haley as she demanded the state legislature take up the issue of removing the flag from the grounds.

Lindsey Graham is a man who is running for president of the United States. If he wants to be a credible candidate, he should be able to form a reasonably coherent and consistent response to a mass killing that happened because an apparent racist walked into a church in the state Graham represents and picked off nine people on the sole basis of their skin color. He shouldn't need to look to the Middle East for an explanation.

Lindsey Graham Criticizes Hillary Clinton on Equal Pay **// Free Beacon // Joe Schoffstall - June 25, 2015**

'About creating lawsuit opportunities, it's not about equality'

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) criticized Hillary Clinton's support for equal pay laws as little more than a handout to the trial lawyer lobby.

Despite having a history of paying the female staffers in her Senate office far less than their male counterparts, Clinton has claimed to be in favor of laws that would mandate equal pay between the sexes.

Graham said in an interview Wednesday that her stated proposal would never work and is purely politics. He also questioned how many people would want the federal government to set salaries throughout the nation.

"Equal pay is about creating lawsuit opportunities, it's not about equality. It's about creating more opportunities for a company to be sued—it is a talking point. It is a concept and it is a shallow concept. It is designed to make people aggrieved with no solution at hand other than more lawsuits," Graham said.

The senator questioned whether such efforts are the proper role of the federal government.

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“Is it the government’s job to set salaries for people in this country? I would say the construct she’s proposing would never work; it’s all politics,” Graham said. “How many Americans want the federal government to inventory salaries throughout the country. There are already laws on the books where you could sue somebody if you are being paid less because of your gender.”

Clinton is “toying” with people by giving them hope when there is none, Graham said.

“The worst thing about this is you’re creating—you’re giving people hope—when there is none, you’re toying with people. Those who feel like, ‘I should be paid more,’ well the federal government is not going to come in there and give you more money but there is a process for you to sue if you feel you’re being aggrieved as an individual. Her solution is just to increase more lawsuits. When she talks about equal play and you flush it out, she’s toying with people.”

The Washington Free Beacon previously reported that Clinton’s current equal pay rhetoric doesn’t quite match up to the history of what she paid employees while in the Senate.

While Clinton was a senator, she paid females in her office just 72 cents for each dollar paid to men.

“During those years, the median annual salary for a woman working in Clinton’s office was $15,708.38 less than the median salary for a man,” the Free Beacon found in its analysis of data compiled from official Senate expenditure reports.

Clinton continues to champion equal pay on the campaign trail despite the discrepancy.

CARSON

Carson: Maryland neighbor flew, then took down Confederate flag // CNN // Tom LoBianco and Jeremy Diamond – June 24, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson recounted Wednesday how one of his Maryland neighbors was coaxed into taking down a Confederate flag.

Carson said Tuesday on CNN's "New Day" that when he moved to a new home in rural Maryland one of his neighbors put up a Confederate flag – "I guess as a message to us," he said.

The other neighbors responded by flying American flags, which Carson said "shamed" the neighbor into taking down the Confederate one, Carson said.

"We are social beings. Let's send the right messages to each other and I think that will take care of a lot of our problems," Carson said.

Carson is the only black candidate running in the wide open field of Republican candidates this election. He often stands out for telling personal stories -- his biography of rising out of poverty to become a world-famous neurosurgeon was documented in the movie "Gifted Hands". But he also often stumbles when taking on specific issues, like same-sex marriage.

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South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a Republican, called Monday on state lawmakers to take down the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, also a presidential candidate, joined Haley in making the call and the other Republican contenders who had been hedging on the issue later joined in the call.

Carson stressed the importance of calling things out at face value – whether that is radical Islam or what the Confederate flag represents.

"I think that what we as Americans once again have to keep in mind is that this is a pluralistic society and we have to live together, and that means we have to identify things that are wrong," Carson said. "We have to call them what they are. Because you'll never be able to deal with them unless you call them what they are."

The South Carolina General Assembly is now debating the issue of the Confederate flag on its Statehouse grounds.

Ben Carson: "Political Correctness" Could Destroy U.S. Like It Did Ancient Rome // Buzzfeed // Christopher Massie – June 24, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson once said that America could "go the same route as Ancient Rome" because of "political correctness."

In an interview with host Soul Watson uploaded to SoundCloud three years ago, Carson talked about advice he offered young people on the importance "of having values and principles that govern your life."

He said that "no society" "can long survive without values and principles," and argued that "political correctness" was eroding the values of America.

"You know, there is no society that can long survive without values and principles," he said. "And if we get so caught up in political correctness, that nothing is right and nothing is wrong, then we go the same route as Ancient Rome. They did exactly the same thing. And they forgot who they were. They stood for nothing and they fell for everything and they went right down the tubes."

TRUMP

Is Donald Trump the honey badger of American politics? // WaPo // June 24, 2015

If Donald Trump was a YouTube sensation, he'd be the honey badger. He talks like he just don't care, people laugh, and none of it seems to hurt him.

The notoriously brash real-estate mogul and reality-television star did little to soften his image for a recently announced presidential run as he headlined the Maryland GOP's annual Red, White and Blue fundraiser Tuesday night.

Not surprisingly, Trump attacked President Obama and Republican opponent Jeb Bush with harsh rhetoric during a speech lasting more than 50 minutes. But he also delivered a bit of a slight to the audience, telling the crowd of about 600 paying guests at the BWI Marriott in Linthicum that he hadn't initially wanted to come, but had done so anyway as a favor.

Perhaps it was fitting, then, that he meticulously scrubbed his hands with a sanitary wipe after finishing grip-and-

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grin photos in a VIP line, as though he were cleansing himself of lowly, fawning supporters.

Trump also did himself no favors among Hispanic voters as he tried to explain the controversial comments he made about Mexican immigrants during his campaign announcement last week, when he suggested that most border crossers are rapists and narco-criminals. "Some, I assume, are good people," he said at the time.

On Tuesday, Trump backed up his assertions with an anecdote about two U.S. border agents who told him that people who cross the border illegally are not good for the country. "They said, 'They're killers, they're rapists, they're drug dealers,'" he recalled.

Trump also suggested that reporters have misconstrued his true feelings about the immigration issue. "I love Mexico," he said. "I love the Mexican people. But I said we need a strong border."

The audience, predominantly white, didn't seem to mind the candidate's tone. Nor did they seem particularly inclined to vote for him.

"He's a little bit of a lightning rod and entertaining, but very intelligent," said Barbara Nye, an accountant from Elkridge, Md. "He's probably not somebody who needs to be president, but he does have some good ideas that are worth listening to and worth talking about."

Similarly, FedEx driver Ken Collins, of Glen Burnie, Md., said he appreciates Trump's approach.

"I like somebody who's not afraid to say what he thinks," Collins said before the speech. "But I don't know much more about him, as far as his politics."

Trump's appearance in Maryland, where registered Democrats outnumber Republicans more than 2 to 1, came one day after he finished second among Republicans in an independent New Hampshire poll. Bush finished first.

"I can't believe Bush is in first place," Trump said. "This guy can't negotiate his way out of a paper bag. So I'm in second place to Bush. I hate it."

Trump focused much of his speech on Obama's job performance, saying the president and his administration appear "stupid" and "incompetent" in general, not to mention "desperate" in nuclear negotiations with Iran.

When asked about the recent civil unrest in Baltimore, Trump said Obama has done little to uplift inner-city Americans, adding that African Americans in particular have "never done more poorly."

Trump insisted that he would help the city by bringing back manufacturing if elected president.

"You have to create spirit," he said. "You have to create jobs. You have to get people working, and they have to want to work."

Trump showed hints of a softer side with considerate words for Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R), who announced

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this week that he is battling advanced non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

"I've met your governor, I respect your governor, and he is going to beat this," Trump said. "Give him my regards."

Donald Trump, the Edsel Ford Fung of Candidates, Tells Baltimore It's 'Got No Spirit, None' // **Bloomberg** // **Melinda Henneberger – June 24, 2015**

There used to be this restaurant in San Francisco called Sam Wo's, a Chinese place constantly packed with both locals and tourists, not because the food was so great, though it was OK, but because it supposedly had the world's rudest waiter, one Edsel Ford Fung, who'd insult your looks, manner, and menu choices as he took your order, if he deigned to do so at all. People couldn't get enough of it, and the worse he behaved, the harder everyone laughed.

Mr. Fung, may he rest in peace, came to mind Tuesday night amid the political stylings of Donald J. Trump at the Maryland Republican Party's annual Red, White & Blue fundraising dinner, because like the waiter who wouldn't wait, he's a presidential hopeful who doesn't, it seems, really hope to govern.

As he arrived at the dinner, held at the B.W.I. Marriott near the airport, three young men in shorts moved in to have their photos taken with him. "Make it fast," he told each of them, posing for just a second and then moving on to the next. Only, he either didn't notice that it was the same guys, over and over, or he did notice and didn't care. When he strode past the lobby bar and threw a hand in the air in greeting, everybody grinned as big as if he'd called, "Drinks on me!" Then, during a V.I.P. reception photo line, one Marylander after another got to smile, shake hands, and tell him, "You're fired!"

"That's a good one," he told one man. "That's the first time I've heard that tonight."

In a brief question-and-answer session with reporters, he was asked about the rioting in nearby Baltimore that followed the April death of 25-year-old Freddie Gray, whose spine snapped while in police custody. (At the time, Trump tweeted a series of degrading messages: "Our great African American President hasn't exactly had a positive impact on the thugs who are so happily and openly destroying Baltimore!" He also slammed the Baltimore cops, though not on Gray's behalf: "Now that the ineffective Baltimore Police have allowed the city to be destroyed, are the U.S. taxpayers expected to rebuild it (again)?" And, he misquoted the city's mayor: "The Mayor of Baltimore said she wanted to give the rioters 'space to destroy'—another real genius!")

So what would he do as president to address the city's problems? He'd bring back manufacturing, he said, and blamed President Barack Obama for failing to do that and more:

"Baltimore is a very, very special case, and it's a very sad thing that's happening there. And I know Baltimore...and I love Baltimore, and I love what it represents, and where it's gone, and now you look at what happened in one night, just in one night. I mean, other nights were a disaster but one night was catastrophic for Baltimore. You have to create spirit, you have to create jobs, you have to get people working, they have to want to work. And the other thing is, when President Obama got elected, I said look, one thing he's going to be a cheerleader for the country...and in actuality, he's just the opposite. And if you look at black and African—you just take a look—and if you look at black and African-American youth, I mean to a point where they've just about never done more poorly; there's no spirit, there's killings on an hourly basis, virtually, in places like Baltimore and Chicago, certain sections of Chicago, and many other places...Baltimore needs jobs, and it needs spirit. It's got no spirit, none."

Then, he had dinner—chicken, rice, and green beans—and told the audience that "all due respect," he hadn't really wanted to come, but had done so as a favor. That didn't keep him from speaking for 52 minutes—a State of the Union-length talk, but not so much a political speech as a score-settling march through a list of those against whom he has grievances, including Neil Young, Karl Rove, Cher, Chuck Todd, someone with the Club for Growth

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whose name he can't remember—"David something; I'm falling asleep and he's talking about growth." He accused former George W. Bush spokeswoman Dana Perino of sucking up to him to get him to tweet something favorable about her book, then turning on him on Fox News: "And her book did OK. I wouldn't say it's exactly Gone with the Wind." But then, what is?

His recent comments about Mexico were actually far more favorable than reported, he said: "I love Mexico. I love the Mexican people, but I said we need a strong border. We need a wall." Here's why: "So I'm at a wedding at one of my clubs, and I always try to go by and say what a beautiful bride, and they're happy as they pay me $600 or $700 a head, and after about two minutes I'm bored stiff, and I met two border guards, and I said, 'What border? We have a border?'" And what they told him, he said, is that the people crossing the border, not just from Mexico, aren't people we want here. "They said, 'They're killers, they're rapists, they're drug dealers.'" Yet somehow, he said, the part about how much he loves Mexico never gets quoted: "I said I love Mexico, and they said I don't love Mexico."

He also, he said, had a love-hate reaction to a new Suffolk University poll that has him running second, behind former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, in New Hampshire: "And I can't believe Bush is in first place. This guy can't negotiate his way out of a paper bag. So, I'm in second place to Bush. I hate it!"

After his remarks, some Republicans left not just laughing but thinking of voting for him. "He's had his ups and downs and bankruptcies," said Oxon Hill realtor Gloria Farrar, "but he knows how to make things work." Her friend Francine Speaker mostly "found him amusing," she said. But "a non-politician politician might be fun for once."

Trump jokes about being behind Bush in New Hampshire poll **// CNN // Theodore Schleifer – June 24, 2015**

Donald Trump is outpolling all other Republican candidates in New Hampshire except for Jeb Bush, according to a new survey released Tuesday, though if you ask the real estate mogul himself, he thinks he should be in first.

In a poll fielded immediately after their presidential announcements last week, Bush earned 14% of the vote in the crowded GOP field, followed by Trump with 11%. Nearly a third of respondents said they were undecided.

The results from Suffolk University are the clearest indication yet that Trump, the billionaire with a penchant for bombastic rhetoric and unorthodox claims, is catching on with Republican voters early on in the cycle.

Trump referenced the poll Tuesday night while speaking to the Maryland GOP, saying he can't believe he's behind Bush.

"I'm not thrilled, cause how could Bush be in first place?" Trump said. "This guy can't negotiate his way out of a paper bag!"

Pollsters tend to caution that surveys more than six months before any votes are cast may simply be registering each contender's name recognition -- of which Trump has plenty. Trump also joins a crowded GOP field in which none of the candidates — including Bush — have been able to break out of the pack.

In the 2012 cycle, several candidates with a penchant for making headlines with their controversial claims -- such as businessman Herman Cain and former Rep. Michele Bachmann and even Trump himself (though not an official candidate) -- also garnered top spots in early polls only to crash to Earth as the campaign dragged on.

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Trump, as well, is a deeply polarizing figure in the Granite State -- 49% of respondents said they had an unfavorable opinion of him, while only 37% viewed him positively.

Despite New Hampshire Republicans' negative impressions of Trump, few want to see him left off the debate stage in August. The poll found 60% thought Trump should make the cut for the debates, more than wanted to see George Pataki, John Kasich, Bobby Jindal or Lindsey Graham on the stage. Overall, 35% said Trump should be left out of the debates.

"Trump's controversial candidacy is being constructed in a way that gives him visibility and exposure in the short term but may also limit his growth in the long run, like a glass ceiling," David Paleologos, who directed the poll, said in a statement.

New Hampshire, with its first-in-the-nation primary, is a key battleground for 2016 hopefuls. Trump has made five visits to the Granite State this year, according to p2016, a website that tracks candidate visits to the early states.

Trailing Bush and Trump were Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker at 8%, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio at 7%, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 6% and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at 5%. No other candidates earned more than 5% in the Suffolk survey.

When asked for their second choice candidate, 14% of likely GOP voters named Bush, 13% selected Rubio, 10% picked Walker, 7% said Trump and 6% said businesswoman Carly Fiorina.

Suffolk surveyed 500 likely New Hampshire Republican voters between June 18 and June 22, yielding a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

Donald Trump responds to Neil Young's diss **// CNN // Sophie Tatum – June 24, 2015**

If presidential candidate and businessman Donald Trump has proven anything during his first week of campaigning, it's that he's not afraid to take on the haters.

And so the saga between Trump and rock singer Neil Young continues.

When "The Donald" originally announced his run for president, he used Young's song "Rockin' in the Free World" twice during his campaign rally, which backfired when the singer came out criticizing Trump's use of his song while endorsing a different candidate.

"Donald Trump was not authorized to use 'Rockin' In The Free World' in his presidential candidacy announcement," a statement from Young management company said. "Neil Young, a Canadian citizen, is a supporter of Bernie Sanders for President of the United States of America."

Clearly Trump was not pleased with this statement as the real-estate-tycoon-turned-reality-TV-star took to Twitter Wednesday night. Trump published a series of tweets calling the artist a "total hypocrite" because according to Trump, Young visited Trump's office requesting money for an audio deal and invited Trump to his show just last week.

And don't worry, if you are a "nonbeliever," Trump even included pictures of the two shaking hands and the

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money request with the singer's signature just for you.

Trump then goes on to say that "Rockin In The Free World" was just background music at the rally among 10 other songs and that he, "Didn't love it anyway."

So, we can now add Neil Young to the list of individuals Trump has publicly dissed, which include fellow 2016 hopefuls like Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton, as well as stars like Cher and Russell Brand and even CNN's very own Chris Moody.

Keep on rockin', Mr. Trump.

Does Donald Trump Put His Money Where His Mouth Is? Campaign Contributions Say, 'He's Fired.' // The Blaze // Jennifer Kerns – June 24, 2015

Billionaire businessman Donald Trump has a long history of raising capital and doing deals.

Even before throwing his fancy top hat into the ring for the 2016 presidential race, he became a media darling on conservative news outlets attacking far-left President Barack Obama and Congress.

But has Donald Trump put his money where his mouth is, politically?

A review of more than a decade of campaign contribution data illustrates that Trump is a bipartisan giver at best and in fact, leans toward the left.

Data compiled by CrowdPAC - a new leading resource for objective data on U.S. political campaigns – reveals that Trump's donation lean just as much to the left, as to the right.

A 30-year analysis of Trump's campaign donation history shows that beginning in the 1980s, Trump gave big to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee ($22,000), to the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee of New York ($25,00) and to the DCCC's "Building Fund" in 1993, 1994 and 1997 (at least $10,000). He also contributed to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee in 2002 ($25,000), the New York State Democratic Party ($5,000) and the New York State Democratic Committee also in 2002 ($5,000). Public records show he contributed again to the DCCC in 2006 ($35,000) and with a whopping donation to the Democratic Campaign Committee of New York State in 2008 ($50,000).

In addition to his institutional donations, Trump has also supported longtime Democrat politicians Ted Kennedy, Chuck Shumer, Joseph Kennedy, Eliot Spitzer, Charlie Rangel, the Cuomo family and Daniel Patrick Moynihan with numerous donations. He even gave his now-opponent Hillary Clinton several donations, although in smaller amounts of $1,000 each.

Campaign finance data from CrowdPAC reveals that Donald Trump gave big to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, along with Andrew Cuomo, Hillary Clinton, Sen. Dick Durbin, and California Governor Jerry Brown. (Jennifer Kerns)

Campaign finance data from CrowdPAC reveals that Donald Trump gave big to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, along with Andrew Cuomo, Hillary Clinton, Sen. Dick Durbin, and California Governor Jerry Brown. (Jennifer Kerns)

That is not to say Donald Trump hasn't contributed to Republicans.

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He has.

Trump has contributed to the Republican National Committee ($75,000), Senate Republican Campaign Committee of New York ($30,000), New York State Senate Republican Campaign Committee ($55,000), the California Republican Party during Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration in 2005 ($25,000). He's also contributed to the Republican Governor's Association ($25,000), the National Republican Senatorial Committee ($90,000), and Republican Parties in key states.

Closer to home, he's also been a team player to Republican causes such as the New York State Senate Republican Campaign Committee ($10,000), Friends of Pataki ($10,000), and to GOP darlings such as Rudy Giuliani.

Campaign finance data from CrowdPAC shows that Donald Trump increased his GOP donations after a critical 2011 Washington Post article. (Jennifer Kerns)

Campaign finance data from CrowdPAC shows that Donald Trump increased his GOP donations after a critical 2011 Washington Post article. (Jennifer Kerns)

However, it seems that Trump accelerated his GOP giving after a critical Washington Post article in 2011 slammed him for being a larger contributor to Democrat Party causes and candidates. It was only after the Post article was published that Trump made larger contributions to the RNC, the NRSC and the RGA.

As Trump grew increasingly frustrated with President Obama's foreign and domestic policies – suggesting that Obama "kisses everyone's ass" and that domestically, Obama's policies are a "disaster" – it is possible that Trump genuinely turned the tide on donations.

Conventional wisdom suggests it's more likely that Trump knew he would run in 2016 and knew that conservative voters don't take kindly to big Democrat contributors.

What voters will think of Trump's history has yet to be seen.

On the one hand, conservatives may be so hungry for a White House win they may turn a blind eye to the Donald's Democrat dollars in exchange for his tough talk against Obama.

On the other hand, if conservatives value a candidate who puts his money where his mouth is and dig deep enough into the campaign finance data, voters just might say to the left-leaning, big-spending Trump this primary season: "You're fired."

UNDECLARED

WALKER

Scott Walker to sign legislation expanding gun rights in Wisconsin **// WaPo // Jenna Johnson – June 24, 2015**

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) plans to sign two new laws on Wednesday that expand the rights of gun owners by removing a 48-hour waiting period for those looking to purchase a firearm and allowing off-duty or retired police officers to carry concealed weapons at public schools. This action will come one week after a suspected gunman shot and killed nine people in an African American church in South Carolina, yet again prompting a national discussion about gun laws in the U.S.

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Walker plans to sign the two pieces of legislation — Senate bills 35 and 70 — at a ceremony at the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday afternoon, according to a Tuesday evening press release from the governor's office. Laurel Patrick, a spokeswoman for the governor, said this bill-signing was scheduled and announced about two weeks ago, several days before the shooting occurred in South Carolina.

Walker, who is expected to announce in mid-July that he will run for president, has overseen the expansion of gun-owner rights in Wisconsin. He often brags in early-primary states like Iowa that his state now allows most of its residents to carry concealed firearms. Wisconsin has also enacted a so-called "castle doctrine" that provides some protections to homeowners who shoot intruders to their property.

Walker has an A-plus rating from the National Rifle Association. In endorsing Walker during his reelection campaign last year, NRA Political Victory Fund Chairman Chris W. Cox said in a statement: "Scott Walker is a battle-tested leader in the fight to preserve Second Amendment rights in Wisconsin. He's never wavered, never backed down and never stood still in the fight to protect our freedoms."

Months ago, Walker said he supported getting rid of Wisconsin's 48-hour waiting period for those looking to purchase a handgun. Walker has said that a waiting period is not needed, especially now that firearm dealers can perform instant background checks on their buyers.

“That’s one of those where with new technology, we want to make sure the bad guys don’t get firearms, and the good guys do,” Walker told the NRA’s news network during an interview in late February, according to the Wisconsin State Journal.

Some Democrats in Wisconsin have argued that this waiting period is also a cooling-off period for those contemplating suicide or who might shoot another person in a fit of passion, especially in cases of domestic abuse. The legislation was passed by the Republican-dominated legislature earlier this month.

At the same time, lawmakers passed legislation that allows off-duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons on public school grounds. Current law only allows on-duty officers to do so.

Scott Walker signs two pro-gun bills **// Politico // Daniel Strauss – June 24, 2015**

Scott Walker expanded gun rights in Wisconsin on Wednesday by signing into law two bills that, respectively, get rid of the state’s 48-hour waiting period and let retired or off-duty law enforcement officials carry concealed firearms into public schools.

Walker’s move was long in the making — Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke announced on June 11 that the Wisconsin governor would sign the 48-hour waiting period bill into law.

But it also comes a week after a gunman killed nine people at an historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina, setting off a national debate over race and gun control.

“This bill signing has been long planned with law enforcement,” Walker Press Secretary Laurel Patrick wrote in an email.

Walker, who is expected to jump into the 2016 presidential race in the next few weeks, often touts his efforts to

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roll back gun laws in the state. He also has an A-plus rating from the National Rifle Association.

During an April 10 speech at the NRA's annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, the Wisconsin governor bashed President Barack Obama on gun control.

"Sometimes I think that the current occupant in the White House forgets that when the president is sworn in he takes an oath to 'preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States,'" Walker said. "Well Mr. President, the Second Amendment is part of the constitution. You don't get to pick and choose which part of the constitution you support. Preserving, protecting and defending it is not optional. It's mandatory."

Walker says Obama, federal government must fix subsidies **// AP // Scott Bauer – June 24, 2015**

If the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down health care subsidies available under federal law, it's up to President Barack Obama and Congress to fix it — not the states, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said Wednesday.

Walker, who is expected to launch his run for president in mid-July, wrote an opinion piece and answered questions about the issue following a bill signing ceremony in Milwaukee. The Supreme Court is expected to rule this month on whether subsidies under the 2010 law can continue to go to Wisconsin and 33 other states that use the federal HealthCare.gov website and don't run their own insurance exchanges.

Walker, who has called for a repeal of the health care law, was asked what his contingency plan was if the subsidies are struck down.

"President Obama created the problem, the previous Congress created the problem, they should fix it. As usual, they're going to want to kick the problem to the states and we're not going to take it," Walker said.

About 183,000 people in Wisconsin purchase their insurance through the exchange and nine out of 10 of them are receiving a federal subsidy, according to an analysis of state data by Wisconsin Children and Families. The average tax credit they receive is $315 a month.

Health care advocates who have been critical of Walker for not taking federal money to pay for expanding Medicaid coverage have also called on the Republican second-term governor to prepare for the subsidies to be taken away.

"It's Scott Walker's moral responsibility as governor to protect the people from a foreseeable disaster, like tens of thousands being cut off from health coverage," said Robert Kraig, executive director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin. "By passing the buck to Congress, Walker is putting at risk the lives and fundamental freedoms of people in every corner of Wisconsin."

Research director Jon Peacock and policy analyst Sashi Gregory said in a report released last week that Wisconsin should quickly accept the federal money to expand Medicaid coverage and more to create a state-run marketplace that qualifies for subsidies, they said.

Walker said anyone concerned about losing coverage should contact Obama and their federal representatives.

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"They should contact their member of Congress and say, 'Stop blaming people that didn't create the problem,'" Walker said. "'You're at the federal government, step up, start leading, fix the problem you created.'"

Republicans in Congress have been divided over what their response to the lawsuit should be. Some conservatives say the statute's subsidies should be completely ended and the law dismantled. Many Republicans say a complete overhaul would have to await the 2016 elections, when the GOP hopes to capture the White House and retain congressional control.

Gov. Scott Walker Signs Bills to Loosen Wisconsin Gun Laws // AP // June 24, 2015

After signing two bills that loosen Wisconsin's gun laws, Gov. Scott Walker defended the timing of his public event Wednesday, saying it had been scheduled before nine people were shot and killed last week in a South Carolina church.

With his signature, the all-but-certain Republican presidential candidate eliminated the state's 48-hour waiting period for handgun purchases and allowed off-duty, retired and out-of-state police officers to carry firearms on school grounds. Both measures passed earlier this month in the GOP-majority Legislature with bipartisan support.

The timing of the bill signing comes amid a renewed debate over gun control and race relations after the fatal shootings at a Charleston, S.C., black church on June 17. A white man faces multiple murder charges.

Mr. Walker said the bill-signing event was scheduled on June 11. After June 30, the measures would have become law without his signature.

"If we had pulled back on this, I think it would have given people the erroneous opinion that what we signed into law today had anything to do with what happened in Charleston," Mr. Walker said at the ceremony, held at the Milwaukee County Sheriff's office.

The governor said the country's focus should be on the families affected by the shooting and on condemning the shooter.

"We need to denounce not just the acts, but to denounce the beliefs that he had. This was a racist, evil man who needs to be called out...this should be unacceptable in America," Mr. Walker said.

The governor, who was joined Wednesday by Republican lawmakers and families who supported the measures, has been an outspoken supporter of gun rights. Mr. Walker previously made Wisconsin the 49th state to legalize concealed carry—even in state buildings—and signed a "castle doctrine" bill giving homeowners more legal protections if they shoot an intruder.

He also has a 100% rating from the National Rifle Association and spoke at the NRA's annual meeting in April. The NRA in a statement Wednesday called the bills' signing a "victory for gun rights in Wisconsin."

Ten states and the District of Columbia impose some form of waiting period for buying handguns, according to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Wisconsin's 48-hour period has been in effect since 1976.

Supporters of eliminating the waiting period said it would better allow people to protect themselves, while opponents said it would lead to people caught up in fits of rage or depression to obtain weapons quickly.

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Supporters also say it inconveniences law-abiding citizens, that background checks can be completed in hours and women would be able to get guns faster to protect themselves and their families from abusers.

Backers of allowing off-duty and retired police officers to carry concealed weapons at schools said it would create another line of defense for students and teachers if a shooter attacks. Opponents said allowing nonuniformed officers to carry guns at schools could scare students.

The new laws will take effect Friday.

Scott Walker Ensnared by Wisconsin Budget as White House Run Beckons // Bloomberg // John McCormick – June 24, 2015

Division among Wisconsin Republicans over how to pay for roads and a sports arena threatens to muddy Governor Scott Walker's message that he's a get-it-done manager and complicate his presidential campaign announcement.

The governor has repeatedly pledged not to reveal his plans until after he signs a two-year budget. He'd anticipated that happening in late June, but fellow party members who control his legislature aren't cooperating.

"The chances of a budget by July 1 are getting pretty slim," said Todd Berry, president of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, a nonpartisan group that since 1932 has studied government finance.

The timing matters most to Walker. Without a budget, the state would function, but the governor could be mired in Madison as competitors travel the country raising money and name recognition. He would have to decide whether to break the promise he's made to take care of state business before addressing the nation's.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel has reported that Walker is considering July 13 for a formal announcement. On that date, he would be among the last to enter the race.

"Governor Walker continues to meet and talk regularly with legislative leaders," Laurel Patrick, his spokeswoman, said Tuesday in a statement. "We have been and will continue working with them on a budget that best serves the citizens of Wisconsin."

Internecine Conflict

When Walker delivered his spending plan in February, he used the $70 billion proposal to highlight policies popular with his party's base, including reduced funding for a university known for Democratic leanings, drug screening of welfare recipients and enlarging a private-school voucher program. The budget was roughly the same size as the one he signed June 30, 2013.

But in a move that upset some supporters, Walker proposed using taxpayer money to pay for half of a new $500 million arena for the Milwaukee Bucks, a professional basketball team that's threatened to leave the state otherwise. He says the subsidy is more economical than losing tax revenue.

His support for public money has drawn criticism from conservative groups including Americans for Prosperity, which played a key role in his election.

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“Government shouldn’t be in the business of financing a private sports stadium,” David Fladeboe, AFP’s Wisconsin director, said in a June 4 statement. “The current deal is based on fuzzy math, complicated accounting and millions of taxpayer dollars.”

Walker has sought to keep the arena in the budget bill. Patrick declined to say whether he’d allow a separate vote, as some Republicans have suggested .

“Governor Walker will continue working with legislators to protect taxpayers from the financial impact of losing the Bucks,” she said.

Funding for roads is equally fraught, with divisions between suburban and rural interests within the Republican caucus. Walker has opposed any increase in gas taxes or vehicle registration fees. Instead, he’s proposed issuing $1.3 billion in debt.

The Assembly’s speaker, Republican Robin Vos, is among those who have been critical of Walker’s proposed borrowing.

“At some point, your credit card is maxed out and you can’t do anymore,” he told WISN-TV in Milwaukee. “So, when Governor Walker proposed $1.3 billion in borrowing, I just think that is irresponsible.”

The debt in Walker’s proposed budget is less than half that of his predecessor’s last spending plan and at the lowest level in a decade, according to Wisconsin’s nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Wisconsin has about $10 billion in tax-supported debt, 15th among states and the 13th-highest per capita, according to Moody’s Investors Service.

Governor’s Dilemma

There are no immediate dire effects if the state misses the June 30 end of the fiscal year, something that has happened in other budget cycles. Spending would continue at current levels.

Democrats are in no hurry to help.

“There are some significant issues that still remain and it could very easily spill over to mid-July or later,” said Representative Peter Barca, the minority leader of the Assembly.

Senator Duey Stroebel, a Republican, said Walker would be free of the debate’s complexities soon.

“We’re getting closer every day,” he said. “I would be shocked if this wasn’t done by July 13.”

JINDAL

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Bobby Jindal Announces Bid for President // NYT // Manny Pernandez – June 24, 2015

Gov. Bobby Jindal, who became Louisiana's first nonwhite governor since Reconstruction but whose popularity has plummeted as the state struggled with a $1.6 billion shortfall, announced on Wednesday that he is running for president in 2016.

Mr. Jindal, 44, who became the nation's first Indian-American governor when he took office in 2008, joins the crowded field of Republican contenders in what even his supporters call a long-shot candidacy in which he faces several disadvantages.

The announcement was made online, and Mr. Jindal plans a late-afternoon announcement speech outside New Orleans.

Mr. Jindal has kept a low profile on the national stage compared with Jeb Bush, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and other Republican candidates and likely candidates being closely watched by analysts and the news media. And his poll numbers have fallen sharply in his home state as he nears the end of his eight-year tenure, amid criticism that he has been more focused on laying the groundwork for a presidential run than on Louisiana's fiscal troubles.

Mr. Jindal's announcement address, here in the New Orleans suburb of Kenner, comes two days after the latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll found him sharing the bottom of a list of 16 candidates. In the telephone survey, zero percent of Republican primary voters said Mr. Jindal was their top pick to be the nominee, compared with Mr. Bush, who earned 22 percent.

Low support in national polls may have especially dire consequences for lesser-known Republicans: Fox News and CNN are limiting the first two major debates to candidates who rank in the top 10 in national polls, meaning Mr. Jindal could be excluded from crucial nationally televised face-offs with his rivals.

"I don't think anybody in Louisiana thinks he can win," said Roy Fletcher, a Republican political consultant in Baton Rouge who was deputy campaign manager for Senator John McCain's presidential campaign in 2000. "It's a real, real long shot."

If there is an opening for Mr. Jindal to rise to the top tier of candidates, it probably likely have to do with whether he can rally and inspire social conservatives and evangelical Christians on a national scale.

Last month, Mr. Jindal issued an executive order to protect those who do not support same-sex marriage after the Louisiana Legislature effectively killed a similarly worded bill.

Mr. Jindal, who was raised by Hindu parents but converted to Roman Catholicism, supports abortion restrictions, has raised doubts about evolution and signed the Louisiana Science Education Act, which critics say opened a back door to teaching creationism in public schools. Last week, at an annual gathering of Christian conservatives in Washington called the Faith and Freedom Coalition's Road to Majority Conference, Mr. Jindal's speech earned enthusiastic praise.

"Jindal's poll numbers in Louisiana right now are atrocious, and most Louisianians don't think he has much chance of winning the presidency, but anybody who writes off Bobby Jindal could end up with egg on his face," said Quin Hillyer, a longtime conservative columnist who served as press secretary for former Representative Bob Livingston of Louisiana. "I am not predicting a Jindal win. I'm just saying it's crazy to rule it out."

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His campaign strategists acknowledge his poor showing in national polls and lack of name recognition, but they expressed confidence that he had both a message and a path to victory, casting him as the youngest candidate with the longest resume in a wide open Republican race. They said that in such a crowded field, all it takes to win Iowa — and alter the dynamics of the race — is 26,000 votes.

"Anybody would like to be ahead by 30 points, but there's never been a nomination this wide open in our lifetimes," said Curt Anderson, Mr. Jindal's chief strategist. "You don't have a leader sitting at the top. We start from nowhere, and we're completely fine with that."

Mr. Jindal's drop in popularity in Louisiana is a reversal of fortune of sorts. He was elected in October 2007 largely in reaction to the failures of his Democratic predecessor in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco.

And he had the reputation of a kind of wonky boy genius. At age 24 in 1996, he was appointed secretary of the state Department of Health and Hospitals, the biggest department in state government, and he quickly went to work cutting jobs and slashing its budget.

In 2004, at 33, he was elected to Congress from the New Orleans suburbs after losing to Ms. Blanco one year earlier in his first bid for governor. At age 36 in 2007, he ran for governor again and won, becoming the nation's youngest governor.

Yet over two terms, Mr. Jindal's approval ratings have dipped after his handling of the state's budget woes. Policy experts and lawmakers blamed the budget shortfall, the state's worst in decades, in part on the downturn in oil prices that hurt Louisiana and other energy-producing states and in part on the Jindal administration's fiscal policies.

The shortfall caused the state's public colleges and universities, which already sustained deep cuts, to consider mass layoffs and shutting departments. But this month, at the end of the legislative session, lawmakers reached an agreement to close the $1.6 billion shortfall that, because of a complex arrangement of tax credits, allows Mr. Jindal to technically claim that the state passed a balanced budget without raising new tax revenue.

Mr. Jindal and his aides defended his record and his tax credit plan, saying the budget that was passed protected higher education and health care but was in line with his philosophy of reducing the scale of government.

"Nobody has a record like he does of actually shrinking the size of the government," Mr. Anderson said. "The budget is 26 percent smaller than when he first took office."

Others are more blunt, and less flattering.

"He's a lame-duck governor and the state's broke," said Bernie Pinsonat, a Louisiana pollster who works for both Democrats and Republicans. "He's worn out his welcome with the voters."

Bobby Jindal Expected to Enter Fray Near the Bottom of the Pile **// NYT // Manny Fernandez – June 24, 2015**

Days after landing near the bottom of a nationwide poll of Republican primary voters, Mr. Jindal is expected on Wednesday to announce that he is running for president, joining the crowded field of Republican contenders in what even his supporters call a long-shot candidacy.

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Mr. Jindal, 44, was elected as the nation's first Indian-American governor in 2007 and quickly earned a reputation as a technocrat and a darling of Christian conservatives. Mr. Jindal, who was raised by Hindu parents and converted to Roman Catholicism, has since watched his approval ratings plummet. Criticized for focusing on laying the groundwork for his presidential run instead of running the state, Mr. Jindal lately has been almost as unpopular with some Republicans as he has been with Democrats.

"I don't think anybody in Louisiana thinks he can win," said Roy Fletcher, a Republican political consultant in Baton Rouge who was deputy campaign manager for John McCain's presidential campaign in 2000.

His low approval ratings are based in part on his handling of the state's budget and its $1.6 billion shortfall. Lawmakers on both sides publicly denounced, but ultimately approved, the governor's complex tax credit plan that helped close the budget gap. Republicans called the plan "nonsense."

At his announcement on Wednesday, Mr. Jindal is likely to embrace and appeal to his strongest base: social conservatives and evangelical Christians. Mr. Jindal is an outspoken proponent of "religious liberty," issuing an executive order recently to protect those who, on religious grounds, do not support same-sex marriage. He issued the order after a similar bill died in the Legislature.

"It is crazy to underestimate his doggedness or his political skills," said Quin Hillyer, a conservative columnist and Louisiana native.

Bobby Jindal Enters Crowded GOP Presidential Race **// WSJ // Reid J. Epstein – June 24, 2015**

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal launched a long-shot bid for the Republican nomination for president Wednesday, an effort that will rely on wooing the socially conservative voters who dominate states with early contests.

Mr. Jindal—a 44-year-old former Rhodes Scholar who is barred by term limits from seeking a third term in Baton Rouge—told a crowd in suburban New Orleans that he's the only Republican candidate who won't compromise conservative principles.

Unusual for a Republican presidential announcement speech, Mr. Jindal directly attacked a rival by name—Jeb Bush, one of the front-runners for the nomination.

"You've heard Jeb Bush say that we need to be willing to lose the primary in order to win the general election," Mr. Jindal said. "Let me translate that for you…He is saying that we need to hide our conservative ideals."

Mr. Jindal is the first of four sitting GOP governors poised to enter the crowded race. In the on-deck circle are New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, and possibly Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Mr. Jindal was appointed secretary of Louisiana's state Department of Health and Hospitals at age 24. By 28, he was president of the University of Louisiana system. By 30, he was confirmed a deputy secretary in the George W. Bush administration.

He lost a race for governor and was elected to Congress twice before winning election to become governor on his second try, at age 36.

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Now a distinct underdog, Mr. Jindal speaks about a viable path to the GOP nomination: performing well among Iowa's evangelical Christians and impressing New Hampshire town-hall audiences.

"When the front-runners are still clumped together around 10%, what that tells me there is a path wide open for folks," Mr. Jindal said in an interview last week. "I get the sense that voters are saying this isn't about just one good impression."

The latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll found just one Republican primary voter out of 236 polled who said Mr. Jindal was his or her choice for president. A Suffolk University poll of New Hampshire Republicans released Tuesday found two of 500 people who like the Louisiana governor best. He hasn't been above 1% in an Iowa poll since February, when he received 2% support.

Mr. Jindal's approval rating in Louisiana is hovering around 30%, which he attributes to the difficult choices he has made as governor, including cutting the state payroll by 30,000 employees and the state's budget by 26%. He said per-capita income had grown significantly over the past seven years and that the state's economic growth had outpaced the national rate.

Any plausible path to the nomination for Mr. Jindal begins in Iowa, where the state's last two caucus winners—former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee in 2008 and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum in 2012—catapulted themselves into the national conversation by winning over the state's socially conservative voters.

This year's crowded primary means Mr. Jindal, who is opposed to gay marriage and abortion rights has to compete with more than Iowa's last two winners. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson are also targeting the same slice of voters.

"He has made an excellent impression with traditional Christian conservative evangelical caucus goers," said Matt Strawn, a former chairman of the Republican Party of Iowa. "The bad news is there are about six other candidates, two of whom are former Iowa caucus winners who are competing for those exact same voters."

Mr. Jindal argues that early-state voters haven't gotten to know him yet. He has made 12 Iowa visits since 2013—more than Messrs. Bush and Walker and Sen. Marco Rubio. Already this year, Mr. Jindal has released policy white papers laying out his proposals for health care and education.

Judd Saul, a filmmaker from Cedar Falls, Iowa, who is the founder of the Cedar Valley Patriots for Christ, said he left a meeting with Mr. Jindal last week enthused about his positions on social issues and foreign policy. Mr. Jindal said he wouldn't rule out sending U.S. troops to Iraq to combat Islamic State.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal Set to Enter Republican Race for President // WSJ // Reid J. Epstein – June 24, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is set to announce Wednesday that he is running for the Republican nomination for president, in a long shot bid that will rely on wooing the socially conservative voters who dominate early primary states.

Mr. Jindal, a 44-year-old former Rhodes Scholar who is barred by term limits from seeking a third term in Baton Rouge, is the first of four sitting Republican governors poised to enter the already crowded race.

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Mr. Jindal's path to the nomination looks steep. The latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll found just one likely Republican primary voter out of 236 polled—not 1%—who said Mr. Jindal is his or her choice for president. A Suffolk University poll of New Hampshire Republicans released Tuesday found two of 500 people who like the Louisiana governor best. He hasn't been above 1% in an Iowa poll since February, when he received 2% support.

Mr. Jindal doesn't talk like an underdog. He talks about a viable path to the GOP nomination, performing well among Iowa's evangelical Christians and impressing New Hampshire town-hall audiences.

"When the front-runners are still clumped together around 10%, what that tells me there is a path wide open for folks," Mr. Jindal said in an interview last week in Washington. "I get the sense that voters are saying this isn't about just one good impression."

Mr. Jindal has also struggled with voters in his home state. His approval rating in Louisiana is hovering around 30%. His unpopularity, Mr. Jindal said, stems from the difficult choices he has made as governor. His record, he says, includes clipping 30,000 employees from the state payroll, reducing the state's budget by 26% and stemming an outflow of Louisiana's residents to other states.

Mr. Jindal is the first in a series of Republican governors who are expected to officially enter the race. Also in the on-deck circle are New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, and possibly Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Any plausible path to the nomination for Mr. Jindal begins in Iowa, where the state's last two caucus winners—former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee in 2008 and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum in 2012—catapulted themselves into the national conversation by winning over the state's social conservative voters.

This year's historically crowded primary means Mr. Jindal, who is opposed to gay marriage and abortion and sought to implement "religious freedom" legislation like the controversial measure Indiana passed, and then watered down, earlier this year, has to compete not just with Iowa's last two winners. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, are all targeting the same slice of voters.

"He has made an excellent impression with traditional Christian conservative evangelical caucus goers," said Matt Strawn, a former chairman of the Republican Party of Iowa. "The bad news is there are about six other candidates, two of whom are former Iowa caucus winners who are competing for those exact same voters."

Mr. Jindal argues that early-state voters haven't got to know him yet. He has made 12 Iowa visits since 2013—more than front-runners such as Jeb Bush, Mr. Walker and Marco Rubio, but fewer than Messrs. Cruz, Huckabee, Santorum and Perry. Already this year Mr. Jindal has released policy white papers laying out his proposals for health care and education, though neither received much notice.

Judd Saul, a filmmaker from Cedar Falls, Iowa, who is the founder of the Cedar Valley Patriots for Christ, said he left a meeting with Mr. Jindal last week enthused about his positions on social issues and foreign policy. Mr. Jindal said he wouldn't rule out sending U.S. troops to Iraq to combat Islamic State.

"He's definitely a good contender," Mr. Saul said. "What I'd be concerned with is, is he really a serious contender? The other guys seem to be showing a little more interest in actually running."

Mr. Jindal, who waited until he could sign a state budget before formalizing his presidential aspiration, would be the 13th major Republican presidential candidate. His focus on state issues, he said, have kept him from all but the perfunctory appearances at events at which a parade of presidential contenders speak to activists.

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“You can go to Iowa and give a speech—that’s different from spending a lot of time on the ground in front of town halls, answering people’s questions, taking hours to do that, we haven’t been able to do that,” Mr. Jindal said. “I’m confident that as we spend the time talking directly to voters it will pay off.”

Bobby Jindal might be Republicans’ Obama. But not in the good ways. **// WaPo // Chris Cillizza – June 24, 2015**

I first met Bobby Jindal in early 2003. He was running to be governor of Louisiana. He was 32. And he was, literally, the single most accomplished and impressive young person I had ever met.

Ivy League grad with degrees in biology and public policy. Rhodes Scholar. Head of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals at 24. By 27, the executive director of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare. President of the Louisiana state university system. It was an absolutely remarkable resume -- the ambitious, in-a-hurry high achiever personified. (I was 27 at the time of that interview and, um, slightly less accomplished.)

Jindal lost that first race, which in retrospect was telling. He then quickly ran and won the open 1st District congressional seat in 2004 and bided his time in Washington until he could run again for governor, which he did in 2007 -- easily winning an open-seat race.

He immediately became a nationally known figure as the country's first Indian American governor -- and a Republican to boot. By the end of 2008, Jindal fever was everywhere. Steve Schmidt, who oversaw John McCain's presidential bid that year, told The Post this about Jindal: "The question is not whether he'll be president, but when he'll be president, because he will be elected someday." (That Schmidt quote appeared in a story headlined: "GOP Looks to Young Louisiana Gov. Jindal as Its Own Version of Obama." And others made the same comparison.)

It made perfect sense then that Jindal would be asked to deliver the 2009 Republican response to President Obama's address to a joint session of Congress. Then this happened:

Jindal looked and sounded totally out of his depth. His delivery was widely mocked -- Jon Stewart delivered a particularly brutal takedown -- and Jindal drew unfavorable comparisons to "Kenneth the Page," the hopelessly naive country bumpkin played by Jack McBrayer on NBC's "30 Rock."

The Jindal team -- and Republicans more generally -- dismissed the performance as meaningless. No, he wasn't great, they acknowledged. But who cares? And I generally agreed. After all, lots and lots of up-and-coming politicians delivered poorly reviewed big speeches (and even responses to the State of the Union like Jindal), and it wound up not mattering at all to their future.

Yet, looking back with six years of hindsight, that speech was telling and important to all that would come after it for Jindal. Why? It was the first tangible sign that his fast-moving and quick-climbing approach to politics had a downside. He just wasn't ready for a stage that big. It engulfed him.

Time and again over the intervening years, that narrative played itself out. He is widely disliked in Louisiana -- by Democrats and Republicans. Even as Jindal's personal approval rating has sunk to levels at times lower than Obama's in his own, heavily conservative state, he spent almost half of 2014 outside the state in pursuit of his presidential ambitions.

A May poll showed that just 31 percent of Louisianans approved of the job Jindal was doing. "There’s a solid

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argument to make that no state is in worse shape than Louisiana," said Bob Mann, a former top aide to Louisiana Democratic Sen. John Breaux and now a professor at Louisiana State University. "And I can't see any reasonable argument for the proposition that Republicans would anoint the least-popular governor of the least-successful state to carry their banner into the 2016 election against Hillary Clinton who, according to one recent poll, might beat him in Louisiana."

There's little evidence that Republican voters are longing for the candidacy Jindal will formally announce later Wednesday in his home state. Jindal is currently in 15th place (out of 15) in the 2016 Republican sweepstakes, according to the polling averages compiled by Real Clear Politics. Jindal is averaging 0.8 percent of the vote in the national surveys conducted on the race and at this point is in serious jeopardy of not qualifying for the first debate, which is just six weeks away.

None of that matters, according to Jindal allies. He's a small-state governor, they say. Very few people knew him nationally in 2008. Very few people know him nationally today. "He's lost nothing ... except in the minds of a few of the irrelevant chatterers in D.C.," said one Jindal insider.

Point taken. After all, if Rick Santorum can go from punchline to the winner of 11 states in the space of one election cycle, who's to say Jindal can't make a more serious run for the nomination than people think he will today?

The problem, of course, is that presidential primary races are often won long before any voter starts paying attention -- in the raising of money and construction of organizations that are the spine of any winning campaign. And that process is heavily driven by buzz and perception, which usually -- though not always -- originates from Washington. Jindal once benefited from that buzz machine. Today, he's hurt by it -- badly.

If Jindal never becomes the serious contender that his team believes he will be, there will rightly be second-guessing of whether Jindal's tendency to always be pushing to the next big achievement, which served him well for his first 30-plus years on earth, wound up as his ultimate weakness, politically speaking. Never able to simply occupy an office or a job without looking to see where the next rung on the ladder might be. Never realizing that sometimes the best way to gain experience is to simply, well, gain it.

In the end, the long-ago comparison of Jindal to Obama might be oddly apt to Republicans looking at Jindal through the 2016 lens: Both men rose fast, racing through the paths to power that politicians take, and both, when they got what they wanted, weren't ready for it.

In launching long-shot bid, Bobby Jindal vows to be a 'doer' as president // WaPo // David A. Fahrenthold – June 24, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal — a onetime Republican rising star seeking to become one again — announced Wednesday evening that he will run for president in 2016.

"We have a bunch of great talkers running for president," Jindal said at the Pontchartrain Center here in this New Orleans suburb as supporters waved "Geaux Bobby" signs. "We've had enough of talkers. It is time for a doer."

The 44-year-old son of immigrants was the first Indian American to become a U.S. governor and, now, to become a serious presidential candidate. He sought to play up his long-shot status as a strength, casting himself as a man with nothing to lose, who owes nothing to the Republican establishment.

"I will do the things you cannot do in Washington," he told a crowd of about 500. "I will say the things you cannot say."

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Following a new trend in U.S. campaigns, Jindal announced his intention at least three times on Wednesday. First he tweeted it, and then he said it into a microphone at this conference center in Kenner.

And in a novel move, he released a hidden-camera video earlier in the day showing how he and his wife had announced the news to their three children.

“We have decided we are going to be running for president this year,” Jindal said in the tone of a father saying they were expecting another baby. “That’s good? So was that a surprise?” the governor asked.

“Maybe you’ll get a chance, if you behave, to go back to Iowa,” Jindal told his children in the video. He also promised them a puppy if he became president.

It’s looking very unlikely that Jindal’s children will get that puppy.

That’s because Jindal is the 13th Republican to enter the 2016 presidential race, and several more are expected. And at the moment, he is at the back of that large pack. In a Fox News poll released Wednesday, Jindal received just 2 percent of the vote — putting him in a tie for 11th place. “None of the Above” got 3 percent.

On Wednesday, Jindal’s event included a playing of “Louisiana Saturday Night,” a fiddle-heavy country standard, which may have been the first time the words “Belly full of beer and a possum in a sack” had been played at a presidential bid announcement.

In campaign videos, and in an introductory speech by his wife, Jindal was cast as unafraid to take on long-shot fights. Beginning with this campaign.

“The key to Bobby Jindal is that he is absolutely fearless,” Supriya Jindal said, adding that she had turned Jindal down in high school the first time he asked her out.

When Jindal took the stage (to Garth Brooks’s “Callin’ Baton Rouge”), he said he would try to slash the size of the federal government, show strength to American enemies overseas, secure the U.S. border, and try to reform Medicare and Social Security.

Jindal also said — in a portion familiar from his pre-announcement stump speeches — that he would make sure new immigrants assimilated to U.S. culture to try to prevent enclaves of immigrants who reject American ways.

“I’m sick and tired of people dividing Americans,” he said. “And I am done with all this talk about hyphenated Americans. We are not Indian Americans, Irish Americans, African Americans, rich Americans or poor Americans. We are all Americans.”

Jindal also singled out former Florida governor Jeb Bush by name as insufficiently conservative. He concluded his speech by saying that for Republicans to have a chance at winning the presidency, they need to take a chance on a purist long shot.

“Republicans must stop being afraid to lose. If we try to hide who we are again, we will lose again,” he said.

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Just eight years ago, Jindal's political future looked far brighter than it does now.

A native of Baton Rouge, he was born Piyush Jindal in 1971 but renamed himself "Bobby" after the youngest son on the "Brady Bunch" sitcom. He became a Rhodes Scholar, a McKinsey consultant and — still in his early 20s — the head of the massive Louisiana health department.

Jindal ran for governor and lost, then ran for Congress and won. He was elected governor on his second try, in 2007, at age 36.

Back then, he seemed to offer an attractive new vision of what a conservative could be: an Ivy League-educated son of immigrants, who had a relentless focus on making the government run faster, smarter and cleaner. It wasn't whether he'd be president, one prominent strategist said at the time, it was when.

"We've laughed at our politicians and the ones that have gone to jail and made the funny jokes," Jindal said in 2007. "But it's not funny anymore."

During his first years, he impressed people in Louisiana as a data-driven, hard-charging governor. He was great in hurricanes. He thrived amid the hyper-complex problems of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

It was politics that he had trouble with. Indeed, as Jindal pondered a run for national office, he seemed to fall into a vicious negative-feedback loop.

To address doubts among national conservatives, he repeatedly embraced harder-line conservative positions — both in terms of Louisiana's budget and in terms of social issues. But each time, he moved further away from the wonky, pragmatic persona that had made him famous in the first place.

So the doubts grew. And Jindal tried to be more hard-line. And so on.

His problems on the national stage began in 2009, when he was selected to give the GOP response to President Obama's first address to Congress. The response wound up being more memorable than the speech — but not in a good way. Jindal seemed overly slow and overly earnest, like a man explaining the government to toddlers. People compared him to Kenneth the Page, the childlike character on the NBC comedy "30 Rock."

Since then, Jindal has tried to rebuild his reputation among those with rigid socialconservative positions in Louisiana. He issued an executive order to protect "religious freedom" for Christians, wading into an angry debate over same-sex marriage and religion just as other states were trying to wade out. Earlier this month, IBM canceled a ribbon-cutting at a new facility in Baton Rouge, citing Jindal's order, according to media reports.

As other state governors sought to remove Confederate symbols from state property and license plates this week, Jindal said he would not push to get rid of Louisiana's Confederate plates.

The governor has frequently feuded with fellow Republicans over budget problems caused at least in part by his aggressive tax cuts. Those fights, along with his frequent trips out of Louisiana, caused his home-state popularity to plummet from 77 percent in his first year as governor to 32 percent this spring.

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After Wednesday's event, electrician Jimmy Nowlin, 54, said he admired Jindal's efforts to bring businesses back to the state, including the poultry operation where Nowlin works. Also, Nowlin said, "he's got the right ideas, as far as I'm concerned, about God, guns and gays."

So can he win?

"You never know," said Nowlin's wife, Denise.

"You never know," Nowlin repeated. "It's up to God."

No other major Republicans appeared to speak onstage with Jindal on Wednesday. When supporters returned to their cars, they got a hint why: Sen. David Vitter (R-La.), who is running to succeed Jindal, sent someone to stick fliers on vehicles saying that he would be different from Jindal.

"Governor will be David's last political job . . . period," the flier said. "He wants to take on Louisiana's most important challenges, not play politics with them."

How Bobby Jindal lost his way **// WaPo // Editorial Board – June 24, 2015**

LOUISIANA GOV. Bobby Jindal entered the GOP presidential race on Wednesday, attacking Republicans who fail to "endorse our own principles" and promising to "boldly speak the truth without fear." Conventional Beltway wisdom states that governors are better presidential candidates than legislators are; they not only make policy, they also execute it, and they often have a record of concrete successes that they can feature to voters. Mr. Jindal's record, however, is less of an achievement to advertise than a cautionary tale of how political ambition can triumph over pragmatism.

Mr. Jindal entered the Louisiana governor's mansion a political star on the rise. The Rhodes Scholar had previously headed the state's health department at the age of 24, before leading its university system and serving in Congress. To a party seen as too white and too reactionary, Mr. Jindal seemed to promise policy expertise and serious intellectual power. The result, however, has been a shambolic state budget.

Louisiana's leaders have had to scramble to fill a $1.6 billion shortfall. Lower oil prices haven't helped the energy-producing state keep its accounts in order. But a major underlying driver has been Mr. Jindal's deep tax cuts and unwillingness to raise enough revenue to pay for state spending needs. He has raided various parts of the budget — hospitals, universities, rainy-day funds — to shore things up, but that's neither sustainable nor prudent. Unsurprisingly, his home-state approval ratings are lousy.

Mr. Jindal seems to have done this to market himself to tax-averse GOP presidential primary voters. Indeed, Mr. Jindal has done a lot to play the part of conservative firebrand. He flipped against the Common Core education standards and refused to take Medicaid money to cover low-income Louisianans. He pressed for a "religious freedom" bill in reaction to the advance of same-sex marriage, over the objections of Louisiana's business community. When the legislature rejected it, he issued an executive order attempting to achieve many of the same ends.

None of this, however, seems to be working for him. Despite Mr. Jindal spending lots of time in early primary and caucus states, polls find that almost no one prefers him to other GOP primary candidates. Perhaps he has yet to recover from his disastrous performance responding to President Obama's 2009 State of the Union address. But it will be hard for him to advance from here. Mr. Jindal will have a tough time beating Ted Cruz for the tea party

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vote, and he has stiff competition in Mike Huckabee for conservative Christians.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal talked the importance of conservatism and faith as he joined the crowded Republican field for the U.S. presidency in 2016. (Reuters)

Republican primary voters looking for a candidate who can win in the general election, meanwhile, will be more interested in a governor with a stronger record. Mr. Jindal would be in much better shape if he had made good on his original promise — to serve as the savvy Republican policy wonk he was known to be years ago.

Bobby Jindal to announce presidential plans Wednesday // WaPo // David A. Fahrenthold and James Hohmann – June 24, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a one-time rising star in the Republican Party now struggling to become one again, will announce Wednesday afternoon whether he intends to run for president in 2016.

Jindal's appearance -- to be held in the New Orleans suburb of Kenner at 5 p.m. Eastern time -- does not seem much of a mystery. The 44-year-old two-term governor has given every indication that he will run.

He has already traveled multiple times to early-primary states -- spending 45 percent of his days outside of Louisiana last year. And this year, some of Jindal's top state-government aides have already left to join his presidential "exploratory committee."

If Jindal does get into the race as expected, he will be the first Indian-American to ever be a serious candidate for president. But at this point, his chances of winning the GOP nomination seem extraordinarily low.

There are already 12 other major Republican candidates in the race, with several more expected to enter soon. And Jindal is running behind nearly all of them: Several recent polls have shown him at just 1 percent support among GOP voters, either last or tied for last.

In the most recent Fox News poll, the news was even worse. Jindal wasn't just behind all the other candidates, he was also behind "None of the Above," which got 2 percent.

Jindal aides and advisers say that a central part of the governor's pitch will be that he is "fearless." His recently declared opposition to gay marriage and an executive order on religious freedoms will be data points to show that he's willing to take on the corporate wing of the party in ways that no one else is.

"He's not afraid to talk about things that normal politicians are nervous to talk about," one aide said, previewing the announcement anonymously because Jindal has not formally announced his candidacy.

In the months leading up to an announcement, Jindal has tried to stand out from his GOP rivals by playing up his Catholic faith, being unusually hawkish on defense issues, and being unusually tough on fellow Republicans in Washington.

Jindal has said that Congressional Republicans frequently surrender to President Obama on issues like immigration and health-care reform, and "need a spine."

Jindal, the Louisiana-born son of Indian immigrants, has also been strident about the need for immigrants to

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assimilate quickly into American culture. Jindal has derided the idea of "hyphenated Americans," saying that people who call themselves Indian Americans and African Americans should think of themselves as simply Americans first.

Jindal has also called for barring people who believe in "radical Islam" from coming to the United States at all.

“So in other words we shouldn’t tolerate those who want to come and try to impose some variant of, some version of Sharia law,” Jindal told a conservative think tank in March, according to The Guardian newspaper. “I fear if we don’t insist on assimilation,” he said, “we then go the way of Europe.”

Just eight years ago, Jindal's future looked far brighter than it does now.

The former Rhodes Scholar and McKinsey consultant was elected governor at age 36, the first Indian American ever to govern a state. “The question is not whether he’ll be president,” Republican strategist Steve Schmidt said in 2008, “but when he’ll be president.”

Jindal seemed to offer a new vision of what a Republican could be: an Ivy League-educated son of immigrants, who had a relentless focus on making government run faster, smarter and cleaner.

“We’ve laughed at our politicians and the ones that have gone to jail and made the funny jokes,” Jindal said in 2007, after he was elected governor on the second try. “But it’s not funny anymore.”

But, as Jindal pondered higher office, he seemed to fall into a strange and vicious negative-feedback loop.

To address doubts among national conservatives, Jindal repeatedly embraced harder-line conservative positions -- both in terms of Louisiana's budget and in terms of social issues. But each time, he moved further away from the wonky, pragmatic persona that had made him famous in the first place.

So the doubts grew. And Jindal tried to be more hard-line. And so on.

Jindal's problems on the national stage began in 2009, when he was selected to give the GOP response to President Obama's first address to Congress. The response wound up being more memorable than the speech -- but not in a good way. Jindal seemed overly slow and over-earnest, like a man explaining the government to toddlers. People compared him to Kenneth the Page, the child-like character on NBC's comedy "30 Rock."

Since then, Jindal has tried to re-build his reputation among conservatives with a rigid anti-tax stance in Louisiana. In fact, legislators say, Jindal has often allowed the Washington-based group Americans for Tax Reform to dictate the details of his own budget policies.

The results was repeated blowups with the GOP-led state legislature, and threats of devastating cuts in the state budget. By the end of this year's session, legislators were so unhappy with Jindal that they tried to stop paying for his security detail at presidential campaign events.

That fighting over the budget -- and Jindal's frequent trips out of state -- also caused his in-state popularity to plummet. In his first year as governor, 77 percent of Louisianans thought he was doing a good job. By last month, the figure had fallen to 32 percent, an all-time low.

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Jindal's advisors are hoping that the only place to go now is up.

"Nobody knows who he is," as one aide put it. They believe most voters still only remember the governor from his botched response speech, and that -- if the bar is set that low -- voters will be pleasantly surprised to hear a more polished, experienced Jindal speak now.

He will spend this Thursday and Friday in New Hampshire and Iowa, with more travel scheduled after that. Aides think he's an excellent retail politician, and that his up-from-the-bootstraps story will resonate in a contest with former Florida governor Jeb Bush, the heir to a presidential dynasty.

In preparation for this run, Jindal's supporters launched a super PAC called "Believe Again." That motto echoed one from Jindal's first inaugural address as governor: "I'm asking you to once again believe in Louisiana."

But, in this crowded field, Jindal doesn't even have a full claim on his own slogan. BuzzFeed reported this week that Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), was also using "Believe Again" as a slogan for his own, better-polling presidential campaign.

Bobby Jindal hits Jeb Bush, hard, as he announces White House Run // Politico // Eli Stokols – June 24, 2015

Bobby Jindal went there. As the 13th Republican candidate to enter the presidential race, the Louisiana governor tried to grab attention by going negative with his announcement speech, smacking down his rivals as "selfish" politicians who are nothing more than "talkers," and calling out Jeb Bush as a mushy conservative.

"You've heard Jeb Bush saying we need to be able to lose the primary to win the general election. We're going to help him do that," Jindal said, kicking off his long-shot bid for the GOP presidential nomination.

Presenting himself as an unapologetically religious, small-government conservative, Jindal told several hundred supporters inside a musty event hall here that his rivals may talk a good game but that he plans to punch his way back into the race by telling the truth.

"Here's the truth about most politicians – They are selfish, and they are followers not leaders," said Jindal, who promised to cut spending and wear his religious beliefs on his sleeves, even if he runs afoul of Washington's "in crowd" by doing so.

Polling at just under 1 percent nationally, Jindal has little choice but to run as an insurgent, anti-establishment firebrand.

While he delivered some pretty nasty attacks on Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton — "Hillary Clinton is already trying to divide us by ethnicity, by gender, and by economic status" — he reserved his most vicious firepower for Bush, the current GOP

frontrunner.

Jindal warned that Bush is putting the whole Republican party in danger by appeasing the left and masking conservative views.

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“He is saying that we need to hide our conservative ideals,” he said. “But the truth is, if we go down that road again, we will lose again.”

The two-term governor, who is also a former congressman, is not just running on heated rhetoric, though. He’s hoping that his executive experience, coupled with his policy credentials, will help him break through the crowded field as campaign season picks up.

He has spent the last year rolling out proposals on issues ranging from national security to health care, and his advisers say his policy chops will help him stand out on debate stages — if he qualifies to participate — and in town hall meetings.

But during his speech Wednesday, Jindal focused less on policy points, playing up the politics of grievance that he hopes will fire up social conservatives.

“I know that some believe that I talk too much about my faith,” said Jindal, who was born Hindu but converted to Catholicism. “But I will not be silenced in order to meet their expectations of political correctness. They don’t accept the idea that you can be both intellectual and Christian. They can’t fathom the notion that you can be both smart and conservative. But, they need to get out more.”

Jindal’s speech came several hours after he broke the suspense of his announcement, declaring his candidacy on his website earlier Wednesday afternoon.

The online announcement was accompanied by several videos of Jindal and his wife discussing a presidential bid with his three young children. He prompted them to discuss what they remembered about Iowa (“the popcorn”) and warned them that “things are going to change a little bit.”

Before he took the stage Wednesday evening, supporters watched videos from former Saints quarterback Archie Manning and former Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster. Another video featured Louisiana residents praising Jindal for helping the state recover after Hurricane Katrina a decade ago, obscuring that the governor’s approval numbers in the state have plummeted over a prolonged budget battle.

Following the speech, Jindal basked in the cheers from the 800 or so supporters waving “Geaux Bobby” signs before darting onto the press riser in the back of the room to do an interview with Fox News Channel’s Sean Hannity.

But the ubiquitous conservative cable host, who has traveled to other cities to interview Marco Rubio, Rick Perry, Bush and other contenders in person, wasn’t there to greet Jindal, who put in an earpiece and did the interview remotely.

From Louisiana, he flies on to New Hampshire, where he’ll campaign Thursday. Currently, he’s polling at 1 percent in the Granite State, behind 13 other candidates.

Louisana long-shot // Politico // Katie Glueck and Eli Stokols – June 24, 2015

Bobby Jindal is used to being the smartest guy in the room. A less familiar feeling: Being written off as an afterthought before his next campaign even begins.

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But that's the reality now for Jindal, who was once considered one of his party's most promising and upwardly mobile officeholders.

As he kicks off his presidential run, Jindal is widely viewed as the longest of long-shots, a candidate with a glittering resume but almost no chance of winning the GOP nomination in 2016.

It's a long way from where he was at the beginning of the Obama era in early 2009, when the president was just settling into office. At the time, the young governor of Louisiana was thought to be the Republican Party's next rising star, a blazing talent on a trajectory to be a presidential contender.

The child of immigrants from India, Jindal had become the head of Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals at the age of 24. By his 40th birthday, he had already served in Congress and won election to a second term as governor. Then he stepped in front of a camera to give the party's official response to Obama's first State of the Union; people who thought they were watching a coming out party instead bore witness to a political train-wreck — a tin-eared speech immediately derided as "childish" and "a disaster for the party."

Jindal now enters a far more competitive and crowded presidential field, not as a wunderkind but as an asterisk who barely registers in national polls. He is running as a reform-minded, social conservative armed with detailed policy proposals — and betting that his wonky approach will enable him to break through — but many question whether it's too late to gain a foothold in the 2016 race.

"Bobby Jindal is a young man with an enormous record of accomplishment. He was a member of Congress, a senior person at HHS and he's a two-term governor. If he really wants it, his political future is still ahead of him," said Steve Schmidt, a former senior advisor to John McCain's 2008 campaign. "But timing is an under appreciated virtue in American politics. It's difficult to see a scenario in which Bobby Jindal becomes the nominee in the 2016 cycle. He's running from the back of the pack; he's getting in comparatively late. But he is one of the most intelligent people in the race and he could very well wind up on someone's VP shortlist, in a cabinet post or in a position to run again in the future."

Jindal is polling at about 1 percent nationally now — when he shows up in the polls at all. But the two-term governor, who has rolled out policy proposals on everything from energy to health care through his nonprofit, America Next, argues that his "solutions-oriented" approach as governor will capture the attention of voters who don't want Republicans to be the "party of no."

"The great temptation for Republicans, for our candidates, is to simply be anti-Obama, and I think that's a mistake," said Jindal in a recent interview with POLITICO. "It gets great applause lines in many Republican gatherings, simply standing up and criticizing the president. The harder work, what we've got to do, is provide a positive, specific vision on the path going forward. [Voters] don't want to hear we don't agree [with Obama] on Iran or Obamacare —and we don't —they want to hear, 'But OK, what do we do differently? How do you get our country going again?...What's the alternative?"

While Jindal — who once admonished the GOP to stop being "the stupid party" — is as well-positioned as any Republican in the field to run as a policy-oriented candidate, he has drawn more national attention for his tendency to generate controversy, whether it's by skewering Rand Paul from his official government website or blasting out an unsolicited defense of Rudy Giuliani after the former New York City mayor made a controversial comment about President Barack Obama.

His attraction to the national spotlight has hurt him back home where, amid budget woes and political infighting, Jindal's approval ratings have plummeted.

"Many in Louisiana feel that Bobby Jindal abandoned them," said Brad Whitesides, a longtime North Louisiana

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strategist. “At some point, [anti-tax activist] Grover Norquist became more important to him than they were and they knew it.”

Early voting state political operatives have expressed surprise that they haven’t seen a more aggressive approach from Jindal. The governor has only made only a handful of visits to Iowa this year and has sat out some big Republican events there — in a state where his views are likely to gain traction with the socially conservative GOP base — while Mike Huckabee, Rick Perry and others are approaching 20.

“I’m a little baffled at the approach Jindal’s taken to the state this year,” said Craig Robinson, a longtime GOP operative who now runs the Iowa Republican blog. “He’s been well received when he’s here but, for one reason or another, he’s chosen not to participate in some of the big cattle call events so far; and I don’t get it, because if anyone needed that kind of large audience to break through and introduce himself, it’s Bobby Jindal.”

Jindal and his advisers say he will be able to campaign much harder now that the contentious legislative session is over and a balanced budget has passed. They express confidence that Jindal’s retail politicking skills and ability to field questions in town hall settings will allow him to impress in Iowa and in New Hampshire, a more moderate state that is a less likely fit.

“Retail politics is very important, just like in the South, and these early state voters are only going to vote for somebody if they like them,” Jindal said, when asked how he would catch up to other candidates who, free of gubernatorial duties, have been making the rounds in Iowa on a regular basis for months. “And that involves spending a lot of time, talking and listening to people directly and taking whatever questions…they may not agree with you 100 percent, but I think they can detect whether you’re being authentic with them or not.”

Jindal has seized on one particular issue that animates Christian conservatives — religious liberty, which he’s been championing since a February 2014 speech at the Ronald Reagan Library. He has been perhaps the most vocal supporter of laws designed to protect religious freedoms, and was an ardent defender of Indiana’s controversial legislation despite widespread criticism that the measure was anti-gay. At socially conservative gatherings, like last weekend’s Faith and Freedom Coalition conference in Washington, it’s been an effective message for him at a time when many Christian conservatives have felt under attack. The governor, who was raised Hindu but converted to Catholicism, is comfortable with religious language and sees social conservatives as his natural base.

His efforts are aided by a team of experienced advisers, including Gail Gitcho, Mitt Romney’s 2012 communications director; a team from the prominent GOP firm OnMessage Inc. that includes veteran GOP operatives Curt Anderson, and, on the super PAC side, Brad Todd; and a host of longtime Jindal loyalists who have helped with previous successful campaigns.

“He’d be the only guy in the field who has actually written detailed policy proposals for how to repeal Obamacare, on national security, on energy,” Todd said, dismissing the value of early polls. “No one else has done that…It’s a little puzzling to him why no one else has done that. He can’t imagine running for president without having a pretty strong idea of what to do. Lots of politicians are very articulate with the soundbite, but no one can matching being as strong on policy as he is.”

Now Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is in the Republican race **// AP // Melinda Deslatte – June 24, 2015**

Pitching himself as a "doer" in a field of talkers, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal declared his candidacy for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination Wednesday and set about trying to distinguish himself from better known rivals.

It's a long-shot effort for an accomplished but overshadowed governor, and his prospects will depend in large measure on his continued courtship of evangelical voters. But several other contenders also are determined to win over that group.

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"We have a bunch of great talkers running for president," Jindal said at his opening rally. "We've had enough of talkers. It's time for a doer. I'm not running for president to be somebody. I'm running for president to do something."

An Oxford-educated son of Indian immigrants, Jindal can point to a political career filled with many achievements in a short time: a position as state health secretary when he was merely age 24, election to Congress at 32 and election as governor four years later.

But the GOP lineup does not lack seasoned politicians, some with much more star power. Jindal quickly struck at one of them, accusing former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush of wanting Republicans to "hide our conservative ideals."

"But the truth is if we go down that road again, we will lose again," Jindal said.

Jindal announced his campaign online earlier Wednesday. Video clips on his website showed Jindal and his wife, Supriya, talking to their three children about the campaign to come.

Aides discussed Jindal's plans to focus on social conservatives, as he has done for months in extensive travels, and highlight his reputation as a leader steeped in policy.

Jindal intends to present himself as "the youngest candidate with the longest resume," citing an extensive background in public policy and government, strategist Curt Anderson said.

In his speech, the Louisiana governor sought to position himself as an outsider: "I am running for president without permission from headquarters in Washington, D.C."

Unpopular at home, Jindal waited until the state legislative session had ended and lawmakers found a way to close a $1.6 billion budget gap before he scheduled his presidential announcement. But he has been building his campaign for months with trips to key presidential voting states, particularly Iowa, where he has focused on Christian conservatives.

Raised a Hindu but a convert to Catholicism as a teenager, Jindal is competing for the evangelical vote with several contenders, including Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

While Jindal will continue to focus on "religious liberty," Anderson said, he aims to prove a candidate can be "both smart and Christian." And in recent weeks, Jindal has worked to showcase more of the policy wonk reputation that got him elected governor, rather than just focusing on cultural issues.

He has drawn distinctions from other GOP contenders by noting he has published "detailed plans" on health care, defense, education and energy policy.

He has suggested governors are better equipped to become president because they have run state governments, balanced budgets and implemented policy. That's an argument, however, that other White House hopefuls are making or can: Govs. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Chris Christie of New Jersey and John Kasich of Ohio.

And Jindal doesn't get glowing reviews of his governance at home, as both Republicans and Democrats blame the

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governor's financial policies for causing repeated budget crises and suggest those policies are driven by political ambitions.

As the governor spoke inside, anti-Jindal protesters amassed outside.

Christopher Williams, a University of New Orleans student who called for the protest on a Facebook page, said participants had a variety of beefs with Jindal, such as his tax policy, education cuts and opposition to gay marriage.

"One thing that the governor has been able to do is unite people against him," Williams said.

A path to a GOP primary victory remains difficult for Jindal. Republican candidate debates begin in August and it's unclear if he will make the cut if based on standing in national polls.

Campaign manager Timmy Teepell, a former chief of staff who ran Jindal's two races for governor, said Jindal will focus on the states that vote early in the presidential race, not a "national campaign." Jindal has trips planned to New Hampshire and Iowa later this week.

Louisiana Gov. Jindal looks ready to jump into 2016 race // AP // Melinda Deslatte – June 24, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal appears ready to launch a long-shot campaign for the Republican presidential nomination that rests on courtship of evangelical voters and his reputation as a man of ideas.

The 44-year-old, two-term governor begins without the national prominence of rivals such as Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who are among a dozen contenders for the nomination in a highly competitive pack.

But Jindal, an Oxford-educated son of Indian immigrants, points to a long political career filled with many unexpected achievements. He talked a governor into appointing him health secretary at age 24 with little background in either health management or government, won election to Congress at 32 and became governor four years later.

"If I were to become a candidate, I would certainly run to win and I would do it based on presenting detailed ideas about how to move our country forward," Jindal told reporters recently.

His expected campaign launch was scheduled Wednesday afternoon in the New Orleans suburb of Kenner, where Jindal lived as a congressman.

Unpopular at home, the Louisiana governor waited until the state legislative session had ended and lawmakers found a way to close a $1.6 billion budget gap before scheduling the announcement. But he has been building his campaign for months with frequent trips to key presidential voting states, particularly Iowa, where he's focused heavily on Christian conservatives.

Raised a Hindu but a convert to Catholicism as a teenager, Jindal has talked of his religious faith in small churches across Louisiana. As he readied his presidential campaign, the governor held a prayer rally in Baton Rouge, met pastors across several states and put out an executive order to grant special "religious freedom" protections to people in Louisiana who oppose same-sex marriage.

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He's competing, however, with several contenders trying to appeal to the same pool of evangelical voters, including Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

As he approached his announcement, Jindal also showcased more of the policy wonk reputation that got him elected governor, rather than focusing solely on the culture wars.

He's drawn distinctions from other GOP contenders by noting he's published "detailed plans" on health care, defense, education and energy policy. He's suggested governors are better equipped to become president because they've run state bureaucracies, balanced budgets and implemented policy. That's an argument, however, that other White House hopefuls are making or can: Govs. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Chris Christie of New Jersey and John Kasich of Ohio, as well as Bush.

"We need somebody who will go to D.C. and rescue the American Dream from becoming the European nightmare," Jindal says.

All told, a path to victory remains difficult for Jindal. GOP debates begin in August and it's unclear if he will make the cut if based on standing in national polls.

What is certain is that the term-limited governor has worn out his welcome back home as his tenure approaches its end in January.

Jindal's approval ratings in Louisiana have dropped into the low 30s due to repeated budget cuts to public colleges, near-constant state financial problems and a sense that he's crafted state policy based on his national political ambitions.

The governor dismisses the low state poll numbers as a sign he's tackled difficult problems, with large shifts in education policy, dramatic reductions to the public sector workforce and the right-sizing of government.

"Making changes is tough," he said in a recent interview. "It's easy to be a popular politician. If you want to be a popular politician, you kiss babies, you cut ribbons, you don't make tough choices. That's not what I got elected to do."

Bobby Jindal Teases Cute Kid Videos Ahead of Announcement **// Bloomberg // Ali Elkin – June 24, 2015**

In the lead-up to his presidential campaign announcement Wednesday, Republican Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal is releasing hidden-camera style videos of himself talking about the decision with his wife and children.

"You know, there are going to be people watching you, so you have to behave," he says. "No bunny ears behind your brother or anything."

Jindal's announcement is scheduled for Wenesday evening, and will be held outside New Orleans. The first video went up on Facebook on Tuesday night with a message saying that there would be several more.

Jindal's children are Selia Jindal, 13; Shaan Jindal, 11; and Slade Jindal, 8. In the quick snippet, the Jindal kids ask

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if they are going to have to dress up. The kids do not have microphones in the video, but Jindal answers a question about what will happen if he were to decide at the last minute not to run, after all.

"It'd be a short speech," he said. "You'd get up there and say, 'Thank you all for coming, I just want to tell you that I've decided not to run. Have a good night.'"

Louisiana's Bobby Jindal Vows to be a Doer in Race Full of Talkers // Bloomberg // Margaret Newkirk – June 24, 2015

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal promised a crowd of supporters he would shake up the Republican presidential race by telling the truth about his record of cutting government spending and his Christian faith.

Announcing his campaign at a rally in Kenner, Louisiana, outside New Orleans, Jindal said he was running as a leader who gets things done in a field full of people who would rather talk than act. He will address issues that his fellow Republicans won't, he said.

"The guy in the White House today is a great talker, and we have a bunch of great talkers running for President," Jindal said. "We've had enough of talkers, it's time for a doer. I'm not running for president to be somebody, I'm running for President to do something."

"I'm not running for president to be somebody, I'm running for President to do something."

Governor Bobby Jindal

Jindal, the first Indian-American governor in the U.S., is a 44-year-old evangelical Catholic conservative and Rhodes scholar policy wonk who his advisers say appeals to a broad swath of the electorate.

"Unlike a lot of candidates who excel with social conservatives, he has multiple gears," said Brad Todd, a consultant for Jindal. "He is the youngest candidate with the longest résumé."

Jindal is the 13th Republican to enter the race. He is polling near the back of the pack: A May Bloomberg Politics/ Des Moines Register Iowa Poll found him tied in second-to-last place behind former New York Governor George Pataki with 1 percent of the vote.

Jindal said he would fight to destroy ISIS, cut government, defend religious liberty, get rid of Obamacare and require immigrants to assimilate into the wider society.

"It is not unreasonable to demand that if you immigrate to America, you must do so legally, and you must be ready and willing to embrace our values, learn English, and roll up your sleeves and get to work," he said.

The son of Indian immigrants, Piyush Jindal nicknamed himself Bobby as a child, after a character on The Brady Bunch. He converted to Catholicism as a teenager; in 1994, he described an exorcism he had witnessed for the Catholic journal New Oxford Review.

Jindal earned his bachelor's degree from Brown University and a master's degree from New College, Oxford, specializing in health policy. He turned down offers to attend medical schools at both Harvard and Yale to pursue public service.

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He became Louisiana's secretary of Health and Hospitals at age 24. He served as director of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare in Washington, as president of the Louisiana State University system, and as President George W. Bush's assistant health and human services secretary before making his first run for governor in 2003.

Jindal seemed an unlikely candidate, said Curt Anderson, now his chief presidential strategist, who vetted Jindal for Republican power broker Haley Barbour after Jindal approached Barbour about running for governor of Louisiana. Anderson said he initially thought the skinny young man was an intern: "I thought it was a Haley prank. This guy looks like he's 12 and he doesn't look anything like he's from Louisiana."

Anderson has been a Jindal adviser ever since.

Jindal lost in 2003. He won a Congressional seat the next year and the governor's office in 2007, at age 36.

As a non-white Southerner, a son of immigrants, an evangelical, and a data-driven technocrat, Jindal was seen as a rising party star.

His image suffered after he stumbled in his first high-profile role: the Republican response to President Barack Obama's first State of the Union speech. Critics said Jindal's sing-song delivery sounded like children's story time.

Since then, Jindal put himself forward as a national thinker with opinion pieces in major newspapers and speeches, and founded a policy think tank called American Next.

He released a plan for replacing Obamacare, advocated a strong response to Islamic State militants, and claimed there are European "no-go zones" ruled by Muslims, a contention dismissed by London Mayor Boris Johnson as "complete nonsense."

He also reinforced his religious credentials.

Jindal issued an anti-gay "religious freedom" order over the wishes of Republican legislators. He also supported national groups of home-schooling parents, which could help him against other social conservatives in Iowa and South Carolina, said Tim Echols, the Georgia founder of one of the groups.

"No one has been more supportive than Jindal, no one," he said.

Jindal was initially popular as governor. He tackled ethics reform in a state known for corruption, won kudos for handling the BP Plc oil spill, and delivered on a promise to shrink government. He privatized charity hospitals, cut 30,000 jobs, and reduced the budget by $10 billion. He won his 2011 re-election with about 66 percent of the vote.

He presided over a series of budget crises, caused by the loss of federal help for Hurricane Katrina recovery, the recession, statutory protections for spending, the cumulative effect of one-time budget fixes, and Jindal's hard line against raising taxes.

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By early this year, even Republican legislators were accusing him of spending too much time in Iowa testing the presidential waters and of using gimmicks to protect his tax-averse reputation.

Erick Erickson, a former Louisianan who runs the Red State blog, said Jindal was the governor Louisiana needed, but that his path to nomination is narrow. He predicted Jindal will shine in Iowa and then struggle for money and recognition.

Jindal will surprise people, said Anderson.

“He’s engaging,” Anderson said. “He seems real. People don’t realize, every time he goes to Iowa, people love him.”

Jindal left the rally to head to New Hampshire.

Louisiana Governor Jindal announces run for president in 2016 // Reuters // Emily Stephenson and Alistair Bell – June 24, 2015

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal announced on Wednesday he was running for the U.S. presidency in 2016, giving himself a mountain to climb from the bottom of a full pack of Republican candidates.

"My name is Bobby Jindal and I am running for President of the United States of America," Jindal, who became the first person of Indian-American heritage to run for U.S. president, said on his website.

Jindal, 44, is scheduled to appear later on Wednesday in the New Orleans suburb of Kenner to formally announce his decision. His website featured videos of Jindal and his wife, Supriya, telling their three children that he was going to be a candidate and promising his daughter they would get a puppy if they moved to the White House.

Once seen as a rising Republican star, Jindal has struggled with a fiscal crisis and a slump in popularity in his home state and usually ranks near the bottom in polls of Republicans seeking the nomination for the November 2016 presidential election.

Jindal, a two-term governor who also represented Louisiana in the U.S. House of Representatives, joins 12 other Republicans in the race, including former Florida Governor Jeb Bush. Others, including Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, are expected to join soon.

Jindal is popular with social conservatives and evangelical Christians, but his home state appeal faded as he tried to close a $1.6 billion shortfall in the state's budget, caused in part by falling oil prices, without breaking a promise not to raise taxes.

The MarblePort/Hayride poll in Louisiana released last week was especially embarrassing for Jindal, showing more Louisianans back Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton for president than Jindal by 44.5 percent to 42 percent.

Republicans in the state complain Jindal spent too much time trying to court national attention while his state floundered.

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Jindal is in last place in a Reuters/Ipsos online poll of 15 Republicans, drawing less than 1 percent. It could be difficult for him to be among the top 10 Republican candidates in national polling who will join the party's first debate in Ohio in August.

Jindal, a Christian who converted from Hinduism as a teenager, jumped into a fight in May over religion and gay rights.

He signed an executive order to allow businesses to refuse service for same-sex weddings, even though Louisiana's House of Representatives had rejected a similar measure.

Jindal also annoyed business leaders by proposing the elimination of more than $500 million worth of corporate tax rebates this year as part of his effort to balance the budget.

In 2009, Jindal delivered the Republican response to the President Barack Obama's first State of the Union address, and many in the party hoped he could be a young counterweight to the new president. But his speech was mocked as amateurish and awkward.

Bobby Jindal faces an uphill fight in the crowded 2016 field // CNN // Rebekah Metzler and Ashley Killough – June 24, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, once a Republican rising star who passed on an opportunity to seek the White House in 2012, announced his candidacy on Wednesday under much more trying circumstances.

Jindal announced his bid over social media, just hours before hosting a kickoff rally.

"I'm running for President of the United States of America. Join me," Jindal tweeted, with a link to his website's announcement page.

At his rally in Kenner, Louisiana, Jindal sought to promote himself as a bold leader who not only talked the talk but walked the walk as governor of Louisiana.

"The big government crowd -- they hate what I have done," Jindal said to the crowd of about 500. "I am guilty as charged, and our state is better off for it today. We have had enough of talkers, it's time for doers. I'm not running for president to be somebody, I'm running for president to do something."

But if he wants to compete in the expansive Republican field, he'll have to resurrect a reputation that has fallen significantly in recent years. Jindal is now polling toward the bottom of the field, registering at just 1% in the latest CNN/ORC poll.

Jindal's popularity in his own state has suffered -- a recent poll has his approval at 32% -- thanks to budget troubles and perhaps a preoccupation with playing to a national audience. His refusal to raise taxes to help balance the state's books has resulted in deep cuts to popular programs and areas of government spending such as health care and education.

His wife introduced him on stage, the only speaker before he took to the podium. The roll out also featured a

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couple of biographical videos.

Jindal, the country's first Indian-American governor, is likely best-known nationally for his flip-flop on Common Core educational standards -- from support to opposition, a move many saw as opportunistic as he marches toward a presidential bid.

In 2010, his state implemented the standards. By 2014, he was blasting them. In the interim, many conservatives fearful of government takeover of schools had begun to protest the standards across the country, pushing Republican politicians to rethink their support.

Jindal's reversal marked a watershed moment for the politician, who following Romney's 2012 loss, pushed for the GOP to represent something other than being the "party of no."

The Brown University graduate and Rhodes scholar went even further, chastising his peers for verbal gaffes and unforced errors when politicking leading up to the presidential election.

"It's not going to be the last time anyone says something stupid within our party, but it can't be tolerated within our party," he said. "We've also had enough of this dumbed-down conservatism. We need to stop being simplistic, we need to trust the intelligence of the American people and we need to stop insulting the intelligence of the voters."

But his flip on Common Core marked Jindal as a man willing to play to his base -- similar to those pols he had condemned in 2012.

America may also recall the 44-year-old for his Republican response to Obama's first joint address to Congress in 2009 -- a performance most remembered for Jindal's awkward delivery than anything else.

Though initial polling shows Jindal is a longshot, he has carved out a niche of vibrant support among evangelical Christians and the anti-Common Core activists.

He's also positioned himself as a top opponent of "political correctness" and has at times led his party's charge in railing against radical Islam, while also straying into the controversial territory.

In an hour-long briefing with reporters Wednesday in New Orleans, Jindal's soon-to-be presidential campaign advisers stressed that the Louisiana governor will highlight his record as an executive as he focuses on an early state strategy.

"We're going to hunt where the ducks are," said chief strategist Curt Anderson, a Jindal adviser since 2003 and former Republican National Committee political director.

Jindal's four main objectives as president would be securing the border, replacing Obamacare, growing the private sector and increasing defense, his aides said. He will also be "aggressive" on calling for the destruction of radical Islam and that containment is a strategy for losers.

The Louisiana governor will likely fight for space on the right of the so-far 13 person GOP field, alongside Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former Pennsylvania Sen.

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Rick Santorum.

Aides argue that Jindal hasn't been on the trail like other candidates, so naturally his name recognition will be low.

"Half these people don't know who their own damn governor is, let alone the governor of Louisiana," Anderson said, referring to voters nationwide who aren't plugged into presidential politics as much as reporters and operatives.

Jindal was a political wunderkind when he first burst onto the scene helping shape health care policy. In 1996, at the age of just 24, Jindal was appointed as head of Louisiana's department of health policies.

Later, he served under President George W. Bush in the Department of Health and Human Services as a top adviser to then-HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson.

Raised in a Hindu household, Jindal converted to Catholicism in high school.

He first cut his own political teeth in 2003, surprising many to force a run-off election in the Louisiana gubernatorial race. Though he lost, he set himself up for a successful congressional run in 2004, serving until finally winning the governor's mansion in 2008.

Jindal's first stop after his speech Wednesday night will be New Hampshire on Thursday, followed by Iowa on Friday. He holds a fundraising event in Baton Rouge on Saturday — the only fundraising event that will appear on their financial reports for the period that ends on June 30, they say.

Bobby Jindal's kids were unaware of announcement video taping // CNN // Theodore Schleifer – June 24, 2015

Bobby Jindal aimed for creative -- and likely hoped for buzz -- when he announced his presidential campaign via video on Wednesday.

He may have gotten more than what he wished for.

The Louisiana governor became the 13th Republican presidential candidate, unveiling footage recorded by a hidden camera seemingly lodged in a tree that showed how his three young children reacted after hearing he planned on running for the White House.

"Mommy and Daddy have been thinking and talking a lot about this, and we have decided we are going to be running for president this year," Jindal said, to decidedly muted reaction from his kids, as shown by the video, which Jindal subsequently placed on Facebook.

The homemade film, with shaky audio quality and Jindal himself obscured by a tree branch, was largely mocked on social media as a smart idea that didn't quite land.

A Jindal spokeswoman, Shannon Dirmann, later confirmed what appeared to be the case: Jindal's children weren't aware they were being taped at the time.

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The footage was shot over the weekend at the governor's mansion and the kids were eventually shown the video before it was made public. The intent was to get their "natural" reaction. Dirmann said the children were fine with the tape and added that criticism of the video came largely from "liberals."

Those tactics may be necessary for Jindal, who sits at the rearguard of the Republican field and has low name identification nationwide.

Many Republican candidates have announced their plans to run first on social media, followed shortly thereafter by rally-type events ranging from Ted Cruz's preacher-like sermon at Liberty University to Jeb Bush's lengthy roster of surrogates in Florida who testified to his record.

Jindal gave his own speech hours after releasing the film online.

"The big government crowd -- they hate what I have done," Jindal said to the crowd of about 500 gathered in Kenner, Louisiana.

"I am guilty as charged, and our state is better off for it today. We have had enough of talkers, it's time for doers. I'm not running for president to be somebody, I'm running for president to do something," he said.

Gail Montelaro, a woman from New Roads, Louisiana, who has known the new presidential candidate for 21 years, watched the two-minute video at his announcement rally just outside of New Orleans. She said that the unusual video concept of the video was characteristic of Jindal's way of thinking.

"That's Bobby," Montelaro said. "He thinks outside of the box. And he cares about his children and likes doing things with them and their future in mind. That is not unusual about him."

5 Things You Should Know About Bobby Jindal // NPR // Jessica Taylor – June 24, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is expected Wednesday evening to become the 13th major Republican candidate to enter the race for president.

Once seen as a rising star in the GOP, the 44-year-old Indian-American now faces long odds in a crowded primary. He's mired at the bottom of most polls, a situation that threatens to keep him off the main debate stage in first GOp presidential primary debates in August.

That wasn't always the outlook for the former congressman. Seen as a policy wunderkind, who quickly moved up the ranks from state and federal administrations to lead his state, he was mentioned as a 2012 presidential candidate, but eventually passed on the race. Though his approval ratings in the Bayou State have dropped dramatically amid budget fights, he has still tried to keep a high national profile by hitting the cattle-call circuit to build up his White House chances.

Jindal's best shot at catching fire in 2016 is to appeal to religious conservatives, especially in the early states of Iowa and South Carolina. But that's a crowded space this time around. Though he's a Roman Catholic, he has said he considers himself an "evangelical Catholic." At last week's Faith and Freedom Coalition gathering in Washington, he got a good reception from the crowd as he shared his personal journey to Christianity, and Iowa GOP observers have also said he's gotten positive marks on the trail there, too.

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Here are five things to know about Bobby Jindal:

1. His real name isn't Bobby — it's a nickname inspired by "The Brady Bunch"

Jindal was born Piyush Jindal in Baton Rouge in 1971 to parents who had immigrated just months earlier from India. When he was 4, he asked to be called "Bobby" after one of the brothers on the popular family sitcom.

Raised Hindu, Jindal converted to Christianity in high school after a friend shared his faith with him. He would read his Bible with a flashlight in his closet, hiding his conversion from his parents.

"I read the words of Jesus Christ, and I realized that they were true," Jindal said in a 2014 commencement address at Liberty University. "I used to think that I had found God, but I believe it is more accurate to say that He found me."

2. He's a Rhodes Scholar — and had a young start in government and public policy

Jindal graduated at just 20 from Brown University with degrees in both biology and public policy. He was admitted to both Harvard Medical School and Yale Law School, but would turn both down to attend Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

There, he studied health policy and eventually returned to his native state to serve as Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals — all at the young age of 24. Four years later, at just 28, he was appointed the youngest-ever president of the University of Louisiana system.

In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed him to be Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, acting as the chief policy adviser to the director of HHS.

3. Jindal lost his first run for elective office, but has won every one since

Jindal left his role with HHS in 2003 to run for governor. Louisiana has an open primary system where all candidates are on the ballot regardless of party. In that first vote, Jindal topped the field, easily besting the second-place finisher, Democratic Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco. But in that November's runoff, Blanco narrowly prevailed despite Jindal getting some Democratic support, including an endorsement from then-New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin. Some believed racism was to blame for his close loss.

Jindal went on to be elected to Congress the following year, though, and was reelected in 2006. Under fire for her handling of 2005's devastating Hurricane Katrina, Blanco decided not to run for reelection. Jindal ran again and, this time, he easily beat state Sen. Walter Boasso, who had switched from the GOP just that April to run for governor. In 2011, Jindal won outright in the primary, winning with more than 65 percent of the vote.

4. One of Jindal's biggest moments instead drew comparison to "Kenneth, the Page"

In 2009, the young Louisiana governor was tapped to deliver the GOP response to newly elected President Obama's first address to a joint session of Congress. The plum post was supposed to launch him onto the national stage — and showcase a Republican Party badly in need of diversity.

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But following Obama, Jindal, normally fast-talking, looked halting and timid, as he awkwardly delivered an attempt at a folksy speech. Both Republicans and Democrats panned the address, and many unflatteringly compared him to 30 Rock's bumpkin "Kenneth the Page."

5. He has the "Duck Dynasty" seal of approval

One TV comparison Jindal is happy to feed is his relationship with the Robertson family, stars of the popular A&E series "Duck Dynasty." The show chronicles the camo-clad, bearded family that runs a booming duck-call business. It is popular among conservatives and those in the Bible Belt, where family members are seen praying each episode and talking openly about their faith.

But that hasn't been without controversy. The family patriarch, Phil Robertson, came under fire for comments he made about people who are gay. Jindal, though, stood behind him and criticized Robertson's suspension from the network. And when Jindal began to explore a White House run, the Robertson family had his back as well.

"I'm the kind of guy who really likes smart people...and that guy's one of the smartest people I've ever met in my life," son Willie Robertson said on Fox News earlier this year, throwing his support behind Jindal. "He's young, but he's got the values; he's got the intelligence to do it."

Bobby Jindal's Plan To Stop Being A Punchline And Actually Win // Buzzfeed // McKay Coppins – June 24, 2015

The most viral headline this year with the Louisiana governor's name in it was published in The Onion: "Bobby Jindal Not Sure He Willing To Put Family Through 2-Month Presidential Campaign."

The article on the satirical news site — which included fictional quotes from Jindal fretting about how his young kids would cope with having a dad "spend dozens of days running for president" — was perfectly tuned to the sniggers and skepticism that pervade the political world when it comes to Jindal's 2016 prospects. When the article was published in January, several reporters (including this one) forwarded the link to the governor's advisers in hopes of goading them into responding. The strategists laughed it off at the time, joking that at least expectations were low.

Now, Jindal's small team of campaign aides and operatives is embarking on a plan to confound those expectations and transform their candidate from a punchline into a president. When he officially announces his bid for the Republican nomination here Wednesday evening, Jindal will be launching a campaign with little money, virtually no grassroots organization, and a principal who sits at around 1% in national polls. The most generous pundits call him an "underdog." The less generous ones call him a "dumbed-down" self-parody who "will never catch fire."

In multiple conversations with BuzzFeed News — as well as a candid, on-the-record briefing with reporters ahead of the announcement Wednesday, complete with a PowerPoint presentation and an expansive Q&A — Jindal's top strategists laid out their theory of the race and what they view as their candidate's most plausible path to victory.

Camp out in Iowa

Jindal's team conceded that their campaign is not starting out with the sort of war chest that will enable rivals like Jeb Bush and Scott Walker to crisscross the country and launch national ad campaigns.

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“It wouldn’t be bad to have $100 million dollars,” said Curt Anderson, Jindal’s chief campaign strategist. “I’ll be honest about that.”

But for now, he said, all they really need is enough cash to buy roundtrip plane tickets from Des Moines to Manchester. Jindal’s advisers repeatedly stressed that they’re running an “early-state campaign,” and that the first “signs of life” for the Jindal candidacy will likely register with improved polling in Iowa.

Anderson pointed to the last two Republican victors in Iowa — grassroots favorites Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum — as proof that the first-in-the-nation caucuses “can’t be bought” by well-funded establishment frontrunners. And he said in this election’s crowded field of 14 candidates and counting, the winner of the Hawkeye State will probably only need about 20% of caucus-goers, or 26,000 votes. Jindal will spend the bulk of the next six months trying to win those voters over one handshake at a time in diners and county fairs across the state.

Of course, it’s been 15 years since the winner of the Iowa caucuses in a contested race went on to be the Republican presidential nominee. But as Anderson put it, “If you win Iowa, you’re a serious contender for the nomination.”

Harness the power of Duck Dynasty

Jindal will hardly be the only Republican candidate pinning his hopes on a strong showing in Iowa. Ted Cruz, Rick Perry, Carly Fiorina, Ben Carson, and Huckabee will all likely be pursuing similar strategies, and they will have to compete for attention with Donald Trump’s high-profile political torch-juggling act. But one Jindal adviser noted that their candidate has something none of his rivals have: the Duck Dynasty endorsement.

Indeed, Jindal was perhaps the most outspoken defender of the Robertsons — the bearded, duck-hunting stars of A&E’s hit reality TV show — when the family patriarch came under fire in 2013 for crude anti-gay remarks he made in a magazine interview. Jindal has known the family of Louisiana natives for years, and he used the flare-up in the culture wars to warn of a triumphalist secularism in American society that aims to bully conservative Christians like the Robertsons out of the public square.

The family rewarded Jindal’s loyalty by featuring him in the most recent season premiere of their show, and Willie Robertson has said he would support the governor if he ran for president. The background photo on Jindal’s Twitter feed shows him and his family posing with the Robertsons.

To many in the political class, Jindal’s close alliance with a cast of goofy reality TV stars scans as pandering. But a senior adviser to the candidate pointed out that the show has been tremendously popular with the sort of religious conservatives who dominate the Iowa caucuses, and that Willie’s endorsement could be a real selling point.

“The governor and Willie have been good buddies for a long time,” he said. “And having somebody who folks know and trust, who can say, ‘Hey look, I know this guy and he’s a good man, and a great governor’ — that’s a big deal.”

More substantively, Jindal’s campaign says he has been out front on the debate over religious freedom dating back to a speech he gave in early 2014 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, when he prophesied of a “silent war” between people of faith and their antagonists in government and media. With the Supreme Court now poised to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide, they predict the issues he’s been discussing could be central to the 2016 race. Helping him shape that message and take it to grassroots Christian voters is Family Research Council president Tony Perkins, a key power-broker on the religious right who has been informally advising the Louisiana governor.

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Jindal, who was raised Hindu before converting to Catholicism, refers to himself in his 2009 book as an "evangelical Catholic." According to Anderson, "He's going to talk a lot about his faith on the campaign trail, and he's not going to apologize for it."

Straddle the line between culture warrior and policy wonk

At the same time, Jindal's aides said they wouldn't pigeonhole him as the social conservative candidate. Anderson argued one reason Huckabee and Santorum ultimately flamed out after winning in Iowa was because they "had only one gear and were stuck in the evangelical lane."

Jindal, by contrast, is a Rhodes scholar who is well-versed in public policy. One slide in their presentation called Jindal "the sharpest knife in the Republican drawer."

"You hear this stuff about, 'Oh, so-and-so has assembled a team of experts — he's got Henry Kissinger who he had lunch with,'" Anderson said. "But Jindal actually is a policy expert. It might not be a bad idea to have the head guy be a policy guy."

Anderson also rejected the premise that a governor is automatically less qualified to handle foreign policy than a member of Congress. "This is one of the things that makes me laugh the most, when reporters or somebody says we have some freshman senators who have great foreign policy experience," he said. "Yeah, the government paid them to take a few trips. It's just a joke. I don't know that we have anybody [in the GOP field] who's a foreign policy [expert.].. I don't see a former secretary of state."

Win the trolling primary

Jindal's penchant for hurling barbed, intentionally provocative one-liners at Democrats is often derided by pundits, who note that this is the same politician who not long ago called for the GOP to "stop being the stupid party" and talk to voters like "adults."

But Jindal's campaign suggested the charged rhetoric won't let up anytime soon, arguing that early-state voters are eager to support candidates who are "truth-tellers."

"He's not gonna sugar-coat anything," Anderson said, as a PowerPoint slide appeared on a projector screen that read, in part, "Clinton and Obama are leading America toward socialism."

While Jindal's trolling does little to earn the respect of political elites, it does earn him media headlines — and with TV networks using national polls to select the candidates who will participate in their debates, Jindal needs all the national attention he can get.

Own his polarizing Louisiana record

The campaign pointed to polls that show the vast majority of the Republican electorate would prefer to nominate a governor instead of a member of Congress. Jindal's own record in Louisiana, though, has been the subject of much debate recently.

According to the campaign's talking points, Jindal has cut the state budget by 26% while in office; reduced the number of government workers by 30,000; pushed through bold ethics reforms; reversed the decades-long trend of out-migration in the state; and done it all without raising taxes.

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But Jindal's critics argue he is leaving out some key facts. The reduction in the government payroll, for example, was largely made possible by privatizing nine hospitals in the state — and it's unclear how much money Louisiana is actually saving with the overhaul. Timmy Teepell, a longtime Jindal adviser who will serve as his campaign manager, countered these claims by saying credit agencies have shown their approval of his administration's handling of the budget with several rating upgrades for Louisiana.

Anderson griped about the "rash of national reporters who knew nothing about what's going on in Louisiana" but nonetheless wrote stories saying Jindal's polarizing record and low approval ratings would ultimately sink his presidential aspirations. He said Jindal would eagerly tout his record on the campaign trail as a way of contrasting his competence with his rivals' lack of executive experience.

"We have a stunning crop of great talkers in the race right now," Anderson said. "But very few doers."

Take advantage of Jindal's low name recognition

At one point in their presentation Wednesday, the Jindal campaign presented a chart with two axes: one that mapped the Republican presidential contenders ideologically from "moderate" to "conservative," and the other from "insider" to "insurgent."

"This will really offend the other candidates, so we're not handing it out," Anderson said.

Nonetheless, he argued that the best positioned candidates in this race were those in the conservative/insurgent quadrant. According to the Jindal campaign's chart — which didn't appear to be based on any scientific data, but rather their own perception of the field — those candidates included Perry, Walker, Marco Rubio, and Jindal. (Huckabee, who seems like a logical rival for Jindal was placed on the "moderate" end of the ideological axis, presumably because of his stances on fiscal issues like entitlement reform.)

The Jindal campaign also eagerly pointed to a poll that showed 62% of the primary electorate said they had "no opinion" of Jindal. At this point in the cycle, Anderson argued, most poll respondents are basing their answers on name recognition, which explains why "a reality TV star" is currently polling in second place in New Hampshire.

They attributed Jindal's low standing in the polls to the fact that he has been busy with his "day job." Because he isn't part of a political dynasty and hasn't spent as much time as other candidates appearing on cable news, many voters simply don't know what to make of him, they said. "Half these people don't even know who their own damn governor is," Anderson said. He said at this point the popular perception of Jindal is largely colored by stereotypes, joking that because Jindal is Indian-American, people probably think he's "good at math."

Teepell said they plan to take advantage of voters' lack of familiarity with Jindal by defining him as "the youngest candidate with the longest resume" — a line several of the candidate's strategists have been using in recent days.

Anderson said at this point in the cycle, he would rather have a blank canvas to draw on than a widely unpopular caricature to erase — as in Bush's case. As he put it, "You don't want to have 100% name ID and 11% in the polls."

Bobby Jindal Is Running For President // Buzzfeed // Kyle Blaine – June 24, 2015

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal announced Wednesday that he will seek the Republican nomination for president in 2016.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

A video posted on Facebook shows Jindal telling his his wife and children “we have decided we are going to be running for president this year.”

Once a rising star in the Republican party, Jindal is now struggling to stand out in a crowded primary field. Jindal is the 13th Republican to enter the race so far, and other candidates are expected to announce in the coming weeks.

The first Indian-American governor, Jindal has a strong appeal with social conservatives. He issued an executive order earlier this year protecting those who opposes same-sex marriage for religious reasons.

KASICH

John Kasich Appeals to Iowa as He Ponders Whit e House Bid // NYT // Trip Gabriel – June 24, 2015

“Does anybody remember me?” John Kasich asked Iowans on his first visit to the state since an inglorious presidential bid in 1999, when he barely made an impression before dropping out.

Throughout Wednesday, as he hop-scotched between events, Mr. Kasich, the two-term Ohio governor, sought to disarm skeptics of his late-to-the-party exploration of a second White House run.

“I was giant television star. Do you remember that?” he asked a roomful of under-40 professionals from the Bull Moose Club. There were many blank looks. “I was only at Fox News for 10 years,” he said, breaking into a grin.

In an interview with The Des Moines Register that ran Wednesday morning, Mr. Kasich even tutored Iowans on how to say his name. “It rhymes with basic,” he said.

But with blunt talk about his policy departures from conservative orthodoxy, Mr. Kasich appeared to make new friends in Iowa.

“I was taken aback by how straight a shooter he was,” said Tyler De Hahn, chairman of the Dallas County Republican Party, who heard him at the Bull Moose luncheon. “He’s kind of like a Christie lite.”

A moment earlier, Mr. Kasich had been pushed about why Ohio was not a right-to-work state. “Because we don’t have a reason to be one,” he said.

Like all candidates who come to Iowa, Mr. Kasich, 63, recounted well-rehearsed chapters of his biography and trumpeted his successes:

* Working with President Clinton while a member of the House to craft “the first balanced budget since man walked on the moon.”

* His decade in the private sector. “I just loved it,” he said, skipping over the role his employer, Lehman Brothers, played in contributing to the financial crisis.

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* His election as Ohio governor “at exactly the right time,” in 2010, when “things couldn’t have been much worse.”

“I took a lot of the lessons I had learned in Washington to Ohio,” Mr. Kasic said, a line no other Republican candidate is likely to utter this cycle.

Mr. Kasich, who said he was still weighing whether to enter the race, is barely registering in Iowa polls. His formidable hurdles in the state include a lack of time visiting it, and a list of center-right policies he has supported that conservative caucusgoers are likely to reject, from expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to voting for an assault weapons ban while in Congress.

“The hurdle he’d have to get over is the strong religious right,” said James Gilson, a retired stockbroker who heard Mr. Kasich address the Greater Des Moines Partnership, a business and civic group.

But balancing out those negatives is the potential appeal of the straight-shooting, even gnarly, Kasich persona. Despite the state’s reputation for Iowa Nice, its voters welcome a candidate who can cut through the political catchphrases.

“He tells it like it is, and I think that’s going to be huge,” said Mike McInerney, the Bull Moose president. “Iowans really respect that.”

GOP’s Kasich opposes deporting millions in US illegally **// AP // Thomas Beaumont – June 24, 2015**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich says it's not practical or humane to deport the millions of immigrants who are in the United States illegally.

"I'm not for putting them on a school bus, driving them to the border, opening the door and just telling them to get out," Kasich told reporters.

The governor was on his first trip to early-voting Iowa as a potential Republican presidential candidate, and tried to draw distinctions with his would-be rivals on immigration and more. He favors fines for those here illegally but said Republicans need to show more compassion toward immigrants and minorities, as well as more sensitivity on the environment.

Plain-spoken, but with deadpan wit, Kasich drew applause and timely laughs from an audience of about 200 during a question-and-answer session in Des Moines.

"People are looking for someone to really speak plainly and openly to them," said Iowa state Rep. Mary Ann Hanusa, who said she is considering supporting Kasich, among others, in the Iowa caucuses in February.

Kasich also said he is open to sending U.S. fighting forces into direct combat in Iraq against the Islamic State group, which has overtaken cities that U.S. troops fought to seize from insurgents after the 2003 U.S.-led Iraq invasion.

"We should have a coalition and, if we have to, put boots on the ground and start destroying these people," Kasich later told a group of about 50 Republican professionals in Des Moines. "I think we have to be careful about where

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we go. But when we go, we have to mean business."

Among other GOP presidential prospects, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum have called for sending combat troops to Iraq.

Kasich says he'll decide soon whether to enter the 2016 race. Three other governors and four ex-governors either have joined the contest or are expected to soon.

Among them, Kasich also has extensive experience in Congress, with 18 years in the House, including time on the Armed Services Committee. He argues that background gives him an expertise few in the field share.

The challenge of being a Wall Street candidate // MSNBC // Steve Benen – June 24, 2015

There was a point late last year in which Mitt Romney clearly wanted to run once again for president. Romney and his aides kept telling reporters about his interest, and just as importantly, they told Republican donors to wait before rallying behind a 2016 favorite.

Team Romney realized that Jeb Bush was well positioned to be the GOP establishment's candidate of choice, but Romney and his staff also saw Bush as vulnerable. "You saw what they did to me with Bain [Capital]," Romney reportedly told allies behind closed doors. "What do you think they'll do to [Bush] over Barclays?"

The argument may have lacked self-awareness, but it raised a legitimate point. Jeb Bush's his work with the investment banks Lehman Brothers and Barclays would likely be a problem if he wins the Republican nomination.

But perhaps no candidate would be as closely associated with Wall Street as Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R). The Democratic National Committee circulated this clip today of the Ohio Republican talking about his private-sector background.

"My military reform activities were basically completed, so I decided to leave Washington [in 2001]. So, I went out and spent 10 years in the private sector and I just loved it. I never thought that I would be back in politics."

Kasich made similar comments to Time magazine just last week. Asked whether he has any regrets from his time in the private sector, the Ohio Republican was incredulous.

"It was fantastic," Kasich told Time. "Are you kidding? Regrets? I thought it was a fantastic time. I traveled all over the country. I got an incredible education. I worked my tail off. It was great."

As much as I appreciate the governor's enthusiasm, there's a small problem with his "fantastic" experiences in the private sector.

After leaving Congress, Kasich went to work at Lehman Brothers. In fact, he was there in 2007 and 2008 – which you may recall was a particularly unpleasant time for Lehman and the global economy that was falling off a cliff.

I'm not prepared to say working at Lehman is necessarily a disqualifier, but Kasich makes it sound as if he was at summer camp – he "just loved" his time at the firm. It was "fantastic." It was "great."

Asked about possible regrets – remember, he was there when Lehman made the biggest bankruptcy filing in the history of the United States – Kasich responded as if the question itself was ridiculous.

We'll learn soon enough whether Kasich runs for president, whether he'll be competitive, and what kind of message he'll present to voters. But my suggestion for any former managing director at Lehman seeking national office is simple: try a little contrition. Don't make it sound like working at imploding Wall Street firm was a barrel of laughs.

John Kasich: George W. Bush was a 'steamroller' in 2000 // Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 24,

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2015

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who is scheduled to be in the early caucus state of Iowa Wednesday, says former President George W. Bush was a “steamroller” during the 2000 presidential election cycle, when Mr. Kasich ran briefly but dropped out.

Asked by the Des Moines Register what made him drop out early in 2000, Mr. Kasich said: “Because I couldn’t win. I didn’t have any money, and I was just a young congressman at that point. George Bush was a steamroller, and he steamrolled all the way through. And I didn’t want to be pursuing something that I didn’t think I could win.”

Mr. Kasich said a few weeks ago in New Hampshire that he didn’t think he was going to be back up there again because of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, “the brother of the 43rd president,” who officially entered the presidential race last week and is expected to be a formidable fundraiser.

“I didn’t think I was going to be back up here again because frankly, I thought Jeb was just going to suck all the air out of the room, and it just hasn’t happened,” Mr. Kasichtold a group of business leaders before quickly adding “no hit on you, Jeb!”

Mr. Kasich, who is laying the groundwork for another possible White House run, told the Register it’s yet to be decided how much he’ll put into Iowa.

“But I’m coming to Iowa because I want to show respect to the people of Iowa,” he said.

OTHER

Univision, Washingto Post to host Republican candidates forum // Politico // Hadas Gold – June 24, 2015

Univision News and The Washington Post are teaming up to sponsor a Republican candidates' forum as well as a series of polls, the two companies announced on Wednesday.

The move is significant since Univision wasn't given the opportunity to host an official Republican debate. Telemundo, Univision's main competitor in the Spanish-speaking American market, is hosting one in February.

“This important alliance with The Washington Post brings together two media giants with tremendous audience reach, leveraging Univision News’ undisputed leadership among the Spanish-speaking population and The Post’s unmatched political reporting and expertise,” Isaac Lee, president of News and Digital, UCI, and CEO of Fusion said in a statement. “The collaboration will allow us to enhance and expand our coverage of the 2016 presidential elections and provide both our audiences with the most comprehensive and reliable profile of the U.S. Hispanic electorate available to date.”

The candidates' forum will take place some time in March, after the four early states have completed their contests. The exact date and location will be determined based on the state of the race.

In addition to the forum, the two organizations will collaborate on a series of polls and reporting efforts focusing on Hispanic and minority populations. Spanish-speaking Washington Post reporters will also begin to appear more frequently on Univision networks.

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“Hispanics are the fastest-growing electorate in America today and will be crucial in deciding the next U.S. president,” Washington Post Managing Editor Kevin Merida said in a statement. “We are thrilled to partner with Univision. Our goal is to produce together the most authoritative, innovative coverage of Hispanic voters ever seen during a presidential campaign cycle. We will delve into their lives, how they relate to the candidates and how the candidates relate to them.”

The Post/Univision forum is the second such event announced in the last few weeks. Earlier this month, the New Hampshire Union Leader announced that it would host its own Republican primary forum on C-SPAN on Aug. 6, in order to combat what its publisher described as Fox's "threat to the first-in-the-nation primary." Fox News, which is hosting the first primary debate is also hosting a candidates forum for those candidates who don't make the cut for their debate stage. Candidates can participate in forums without being disqualified from sanctioned RNC debates as long as the forum follows a certain format, candidates taking turns speaking to an audience, rather than engaging with one another.

Mitt Romney seeks role as Republican kingmaker // The Hill // Jonathan Easley – June 25, 2015

Mitt Romney is asserting himself as a leader of the Republican Party at a time when the GOP lacks a true standard-bearer.

As the huge field of Republican contenders begins the long slog to the party’s 2016 nomination, Romney is working to connect select candidates with his vast political network, urging the party to learn from his past mistakes, attacking Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton and taking forceful stances on controversial issues.

Last week, the former Massachusetts governor was the first major Republican to call for the removal of the Confederate flag from the grounds of the South Carolina Capitol after the shooting deaths of nine African-Americans at a black church in Charleston.

GOP presidential contenders were far more cautious about entering the debate. Now, many of the candidates face criticism for their hesitancy.

“You’re going to see more of this unvarnished Mitt than the Mitt that seemed so calculated when he was running for president,” said Tom Rath, a GOP strategist in New Hampshire and senior adviser to Romney’s 2012 campaign.

“He’ll pick his fights carefully, but he won’t be reluctant to speak up when he believes an issue needs to be framed a certain way, or to provide cover to the candidates,” Rath said. “He might step on some toes, but you’ll see him be more aggressive.”

While past presidential losers have tended to fade into the background, Romney went about the business of repairing his political image after his humbling defeat at the hands of President Obama in 2012.

It’s a renaissance that first came to fruition in 2014, when Romney crisscrossed the country in support of Republican candidates. He endorsed early in the primaries and quickly earned a reputation for backing rising stars, such as now-Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), who fought through a crowded primary field with Romney’s help.

The former Massachusetts governor ended the cycle, which saw big Republican gains in the House and Senate, as the most sought-after GOP surrogate — a position that had seemed nearly unthinkable just two years before.

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“I think a lot of people questioned what his role was going to be going forward, but he proved to be critical to Republican efforts in 2014, raising millions of dollars and helping electable conservatives win in the primaries,” said Ryan Williams, a former Romney spokesman who now works for a firm that does consulting work for Jeb Bush.

“Our party has not had a national leader for some time. We haven’t been in the White House since 2008,” Williams said. “Gov. Romney has stepped up.”

There had been some speculation Romney would make a third bid for the presidency in 2016, but that faded with his announcement in January that he had “decided it is best to give other leaders in the party the opportunity to become our next nominee.”

Those who know him best say he’s not likely to endorse a GOP candidate during the primaries. But they expect him to steer resources and attention to those candidates he believes best represent the party’s interests.

In an appearance on “Meet the Press” this month, Romney said there are about a half-dozen GOP candidates he believes could be effective presidents. He mentioned former Florida Gov. Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) and Ohio Gov. John Kasich by name.

In June, Romney hosted all of those candidates except for Bush, who was traveling in Europe at the time, at a retreat in Park City, Utah. Various GOP donors and power players were also in attendance.

“He sees an opportunity to shape the debate and be somebody the donors look to for wisdom and guidance on who they should support,” said Katie Packer Gage, Romney’s deputy campaign manager in 2012.

“I don’t think he’s looking to give any specific candidate a leg up, but he’ll point it out when he thinks candidates are showing strength and leadership,” she said. “He also may call people out when he thinks they’re being petty, in an effort to elevate the debate.”

Romney hasn’t shied away from addressing his own campaign missteps in an effort to make sure the next nominee doesn’t repeat them.

On the same “Meet the Press” appearance, Romney said the biggest mistake he made in 2012 was not focusing enough on the plight of minorities. Romney urged Republicans to reach out to impoverished minority groups to make the argument that conservative principles will help elevate their condition.

“He definitely has an eye on making sure the eventual nominee is well-positioned in the general election to beat Hillary,” said Williams.

Republicans expect Romney will emerge in the general election as a top surrogate for whoever ultimately wins the nomination. In particular, they see an opening for him to go on the attack against Clinton on the issue of foreign policy.

Many Republicans believe Romney has been proven right on a host of international issues that were a drag on him in 2012. During one debate, Romney called Russia the U.S.’s primary geopolitical foe, a declaration that was met with derision by Democrats.

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But with Russian President Vladimir Putin challenging U.S. leadership at every turn, some Republicans believe Romney is the perfect messenger to highlight what they see as Clinton's failures as secretary of State.

"Our job is to defeat Secretary Clinton, and part of doing that is making sure we discredit her time as secretary of State," said Colin Reed, the head of the GOP opposition research group America Rising. "Given what Romney has said on Russia, he could be the best person speaking out on those issues."

Influential conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt is pushing Romney for vice president, and other Republicans say Romney would be a natural fit for a prominent Cabinet position, such as secretary of Treasury.

But Romney's supporters don't see it. They say he's content at this point in his life to play loyal foot soldier for the GOP, while remaining free to pursue other challenges that might catch his interest.

"I talked to him a few weeks ago, and it's very clear that my prayers won't be answered, and he won't be running for president," said Rath. "But this is a great role for him to play. He's contributing and bringing reason and perspective to the party. He'll always find something to do."

Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush: How the Presidential Campaign Is Testing a Friendship // ABC // Veronica Stracqualursi – June 24, 2015

Now that they've both announced they are running for president, Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio have officially turned a 15-year friendship into a rivalry.

Bush, the former Florida governor, and Rubio, the junior U.S. senator from the Sunshine State, share a number of similarities besides both being interested in moving into the White House. They both got their start in Florida politics. They own homes in Florida less than three miles away from one another. And they both have ties to Latin America: Rubio is Cuban American, and Bush lived in Venezuela, speaks Spanish fluently and married a Mexican woman.

But they have their differences, too.

Bush, 62, is 18 years older than Rubio, 44. One is a self-made man who comes from humble beginnings, the other is from a well-known political dynasty that boasts two previous presidents. One is still in office, the other hasn't been in office since 2007 and hasn't run for political office in more than a decade.

Their friendship will surely be tested by the rigors of the presidential election, and here's a look back at the two Florida politicians' history together:

Jeb Bush Announces 2016 Presidential Campaign: 'I Will Run To Win'

Why Jeb Bush Isn't Keeping Marco Rubio Out Of 2016 Presidential Race

Marco Rubio Running For President in 2016: 'I Can Lead This Country' (EXCLUSIVE)

1998 - First Encounters

While Jeb Bush was running for governor, he wrote a $50 campaign check for Rubio's first campaign for West Miami city commissioner. It was a winning year for both men; Bush won the governor's seat and he called Rubio to say congratulations when Rubio had clinched the election.

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2004 - The Golden Years

Bush won a second term as Florida's governor in 2002 and Rubio won election into Florida's House of Representatives in 2002. Gov. Bush had a GOP-led legislature to work with, including Rep. Rubio, and to help push his policies.

Rubio had worked his way from majority whip up to Florida's house speaker. On Sept. 13, Bush decided to commemorate this special moment in a rather unusual way.

"I rely on Chang with great regularity in my public life. He has been by my side and sometimes I let him down. But Chang, this mystical warrior, has never let me down," Bush said, referring to a sword with a name derived from a Bush family saying. "I'm going to bestow to you the sword of a great conservative warrior," Bush said to Rubio.

Rubio began flirting with the idea of running for U.S. Senate in 2009, but said he wouldn't run if Bush decided to. Things turned out to Rubio's liking -- Bush didn't want to be senator, encouraged Rubio to run and ended up playing a behind-the-scenes booster to Rubio throughout his campaign. Bush was at Rubio's election watch party as they were waiting for the election to be called.

Jeb was turning 59 years old and so Rubio wrote his friend a birthday tribute, revealing a tactic of his: "Often in the Senate when faced with a tough choice, I ask myself: WWJD. What would Jeb do?"

Rubio also wrote that when he first sought the Senate seat, "'The Gov' was one of the only ones who actually thought I could win. He has been a huge influence on me."

2012 - Bush Believes in a Romney-Rubio Ticket

GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney was in need of a running mate, and before he chose Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, Romney was being coaxed by Bush into picking Rubio. "Marco Rubio is my favorite [choice], because we have a close relationship," Bush said in an interview with PBS. "I admire him greatly."

In an interview with NPR, Rubio said the old friends chatted about everything from the Masters, to the Paleo diet (Jeb Bush is on it), the Miami Dolphins and about the presidential campaign, though "not in great detail."

April 2015 - Rubio Announces

Just before announcing his candidacy in April, Rubio told ABC News' George Stephanopoulos that this would not have any effect on their relationship.

"Jeb is my friend. He's still my friend. ... We'll still continue to be friends. I have tremendous admiration for him," Sen. Rubio said. Rubio went on to explain: "I think it's important to understand I'm not running against Jeb Bush. And I hope he's not running against me. We are competing for the same job."

June 2015 - Bush Announces

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Shortly after throwing his hat into the presidential ring in early June, Bush called Marco Rubio a "good friend" and "real talent." But he added that he's definitely more prepared than Rubio to become President of the United States.

"There's no question of that at all," Bush told ABC News' David Muir when asked if he's more experienced than Rubio. "And that's not disparaging my good friend, who I think is a real talent."

Fox News Poll: Bush, Trum p score post-announcement bumps // Fox // Dana Blanton – June 24, 2015

There's been a lineup change in the race for the GOP nomination, as businessman Donald Trump moves up after declaring his candidacy. He's now second in the order after former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who also got an uptick in support after his formal announcement.

For Democrats, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is still -- by far -- the team leader, according to a new Fox News national poll on the 2016 presidential election.

Bush tops the list of GOP contenders with 15 percent support among Republican primary voters. That's up from 12 percent last month and his best showing yet. Support for Trump more than doubled since his announcement and that catapults him into the top tier at 11 percent. He's followed by retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 10 percent. No one else receives double-digit backing.

Bush officially kicked off his campaign June 15 and Trump launched June 16. It's common for candidates to see a bump in their numbers in the days following their formal announcement and the media coverage that comes with that.

The bad news for Trump is that only 29 percent of GOP primary voters consider him a serious candidate. More than twice that many -- 64 percent -- think he's a side show. Among all registered voters, nearly 8 in 10 say Trump is a side show (77 percent).

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who has not announced whether he will run, comes in at nine percent. That's down from 12 percent a month ago and the first time Walker has been in single digits since January.

The poll finds support for Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul (9 percent), Florida Sen. Marco Rubio (8 percent) and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (6 percent) holding steady among GOP primary voters.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz receives 4 percent, and businesswoman Carly Fiorina and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum get 3 percent apiece.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who announced his candidacy June 24, gets 2 percent.

Clinton remains in command on the Democratic side, with 61 percent of Democratic primary voters backing her compared to 15 percent supporting Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Another 11 percent go for Vice President Joe Biden and three percent for New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo -- both of whom are undeclared.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley garners one percent and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee gets less than one percent support. Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, who has announced an exploratory committee but

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is still undeclared, gets two percent.

(Note to political junkies: Previous Fox News polls included Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren as an option, so compare these results to the previous results at your peril.)

Part of Clinton's appeal among Democratic primary voters is that 81 percent believe she really would be a fighter for the middle class. Overall, 44 percent of voters think she would fight for the middle class, while a 51-percent majority sees that as just a campaign slogan.

Honest and Trustworthy

What do Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have in common? (No, not hair spray.) Majorities don't trust them.

More than twice as many say Trump is not honest and trustworthy as think he is (64 percent vs. 30 percent). That gives him an honesty score of negative 34.

Clinton's honesty score is negative seven. Less than half of voters -- 45 percent -- rate her as honest. That's unchanged from earlier this year, but down from a record 54 percent who said she was honest in 2014. A 52-percent majority says Clinton is not honest.

Bush's honesty score is negative two (45 percent honest vs. 47 percent not). In April it was 46 percent honest vs. 42 percent not.

Fully 79 percent of Democrats think Clinton is honest, while just 63 percent of Republicans say the same of Bush.

Rubio's honesty score is a positive four, although nearly a third of voters are unable to rate him. Over half of Republicans, 57 percent, think Rubio is honest.

Hypothetical Head-to-Heads

Clinton tops each of the GOP candidates tested in 2016 presidential match-ups -- except Bush.

The two dynasty candidates tie with 43 percent apiece. Bush had a one-point edge in May and also tied Clinton in March.

Clinton bests Rubio by just one point, Paul by four, Carson by five and Cruz, Fiorina and Walker by six points each. In each of these match-ups the results are within the margin of sampling error.

Despite Trump's recent jump into the top tier in the GOP nomination preference, Clinton fares best against him -- winning by 17 points.

Clinton's edge over Fiorina (45-39) is just half the 12-point edge she had in May (49-37). Among women, Clinton

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led by 23-points in May. That's down to a 14-point advantage today.

Despite Clinton's current advantage in almost all of the potential match-ups, most Republicans like their odds of winning in 2016 if she's the Democratic nominee: 22 percent think they have an "excellent" chance and another 58 percent say a "good" chance.

Many Democrats see Clinton as vulnerable as well. Just under half, 46 percent, think the GOP has a chance of defeating her (49 percent disagree).

By a 67-28 percent margin, independents think Republicans have at least a good chance of winning in 2016 if Clinton is their opponent.

Three GOP candidates have never held public office (Carson, Fiorina and Trump). So what experience do you need before going to the White House? Overall, voters give roughly equal weight to a president having a business background (48 percent "very" important) as they do to having previously held elected office (49 percent "very" important).

Partisans prioritize in the opposite direction. A 55-percent majority of Democrats says having experience in public office is "very" important, while a 58-percent majority of Republicans feels that way about having a proven track record of working in business.

Pollpourri

Most voters think Hillary Clinton is her own person. By a wide 72-21 percent margin, voters say if Clinton wins the White House they would see it as her first term rather than another term for her husband, former President Bill Clinton. In addition, a 54-percent majority would see her win as a fresh start and not a continuation of Obama's policies (38 percent).

Majorities of Democrats and Republicans agree that a Clinton win would be her first term instead of a third term for Bill. But most Republicans think it would be a continuation of Obama's administration, while most Democrats say it would be a fresh start.

The Fox News poll is based on landline and cell phone interviews with 1,005 randomly chosen registered voters nationwide and was conducted under the joint direction of Anderson Robbins Research (D) and Shaw & Company Research (R) from June 21-23, 2015. The full poll has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points. The margin of error is higher among the subgroups of Democratic and Republican primary voters (+/-5%).

Univision Is Going To Hold A Republican Presidential Candidates' Forum After All // Buzzfeed // Adrian Carrasquillo – June 24, 2015

Univision News is poised to announce a Republican presidential candidates' forum ahead of "crucial" March 2016 primaries in partnership with The Washington Post, after missing out on the initial batch of debates sanctioned by the Republican National Committee.

According to a draft of a press release obtained by BuzzFeed News, the Spanish-language giant will co-host the forum after the four early states have completed their contests and during the run-up to March primaries in Texas, Florida, Ohio, Virginia and Michigan.

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The Republican Party has had a complex, at times painful, relationship with Univision — knowing it needs to be represented on one of the largest networks in the country and a critical connection to Hispanic homes in the U.S., but also a place it often feels slighted by.

In January, RNC chairman Reince Priebus told BuzzFeed News, “It’s highly questionable whether we’re treated fairly on Univision.”

And the RNC was criticized in January when its initial slate of debates didn’t include Univision. New York City council speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, said the RNC was likely “scared to debate” on the most-watched Spanish-language network, calling the decision “shameful.”

But a Republican source with knowledge of the issue told BuzzFeed News that Univision never submitted a request to hold a debate, something that was not reported at the time.

The RNC says it sought to limit the number of debates so that candidates could focus on engaging voters instead of preparing and traveling for debates. But now Univision is moving forward with its own forum, which doesn’t violate RNC rules but is not sanctioned by them, either.

“We encourage our candidates to engage with all voters and to share their vision for the future. We hope this forum complies with RNC rules,” said Ruth Guerra, RNC director of Hispanic media.

The state of the race will determine the date and location of the candidates’ forum, according to the release, and invitations to the leading candidates will be extended then. It is unclear what the structure would be and the exact date still has not been decided.

The release says the forum would happen once the field of candidates has been “winnowed down by the early contests and as party rules begin to allow state-by-state distribution of delegates on a winner-take-all basis.”

The announcement also serves as the beginning of a partnership between the two news organizations, which will include a series of polls and joint reporting efforts.

“The collaboration will allow us to enhance and expand our coverage of the 2016 presidential elections and provide both our audiences with the most comprehensive and reliable profile of the U.S. Hispanic electorate available to date,” said Isaac Lee, the president of Univision News, according to the release.

The first Republican debate is slated for August 6 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Spanish-language networks Telemundo and CNN en Español were both included in the announced debates. Telemundo’s debate will be done with sister organization NBC News, along with National Review, in Houston, Texas on Feb. 26.

In March, Priebus spoke about the debates on Spanish-language networks at an event held by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, making it sound like he was OK with Univision not being part of the initial slate of debates.

“I’m proud to say that one of our partners is Telemundo,” he said. “With NBC, they will host a debate, which is important, because together, NBC and Telemundo reach 91 percent of Hispanic households. In addition to that, every debate that airs on CNN will also air on CNN Español.”

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OTHER 2016 NEWS

Campaign swag and "Made in America" in the 2016 election // CBS News // Jenna Sakwa - June 25, 2015

The selling of presidential campaign swag is a fundamental part of nearly every major political campaign. It helps bring in money, build donor databases, and swag also makes a statement about the candidate.

One question some campaigns wrestle with is whether every piece of merchandise sold with their names writ large needs to be stamped "Made in America." For many, the answer is, in essence, not necessarily.

"All of our products are either made in America, or printed in America," a spokesman for the Paul campaign said. "The [campaign] store was built and is run in the heartland of America. Unfortunately, not all products sold in the US are American made, but we are continually looking for products to offer that are."

Bella + Canvas, the company who manufactures the t-shirt says it does, in fact, have a "Made in the USA" collection as part of its full line. However, the shirt sold on Paul's website is not part of it.

Candidates on both sides of the aisle are pledging American-made products this cycle. Democrat Hillary Clinton's store advertises that her campaign's items are both American-made and union-made.

And spokespeople for the campaigns of Republicans Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio tell CBS News all of their merchandise is made in the USA.

In 2012 both Mitt Romney and President Obama's presidential campaigns sold exclusively made-in-America swag.

Romney's former digital director Zac Moffatt, who oversaw the campaign's e-commerce store, explained that sourcing all of a campaign's products in the U.S. can present some challenges.

"You would be surprised how hard that can be," Moffatt said. "We were often running out of inventory."

Meaghan Burdick, who was in charge of marketing and merchandising for Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, said American-made goods can also be more expensive, but the campaign products set the tone.

"You're running for President of the United States, so I think it should be made in the U.S.," Burdick said of the products she ordered. "We felt extremely strongly about it. We tried to have everything union-made, so it was made in the U.S. and union printed."

Many of the Republicans running are more flexible than Democrats on the origins of their candidate bobble-heads or bumper stickers. They largely support trade initiatives, as their congressional votes on trade suggest (Democrats are divided), and they say that the wares on their websites reflect this attitude.

"We live in a global society," explains Sean Spicer, communications director for Republican National Committee. "We are a party that welcomes and believes in free trade."

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So, it depends on the message candidates want to send. The lengths to which campaigns will go to ensure every product is made in America, Spicer says, are the decisions of each individual candidate.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Federal Hate Crime Charges Likely in South Carolina Church Shooting // NYT // Matt Apuzzo, Michael S. Schmidt and Richard Pérez-Peña – June 24, 2015

The Justice Department will likely file federal hate crime charges against the man suspected of carrying out a massacre at a storied black church in South Carolina, federal law enforcement officials said Wednesday.

Dylann Roof, 21, already faces nine counts of murder and could receive the death penalty in state court. But there is widespread agreement among officials at the Justice Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation that the shooting at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston was so horrific and racially motivated that the federal government was obligated to address it, law enforcement officials said.

F.B.I. analysts have also concluded "with a high degree of certainty" that Mr. Roof posted a racist manifesto online, which could be a key to any federal charges, a law enforcement official said. The website was registered in February under Mr. Roof's name, but the name was made anonymous the following day.

In cases involving violations of both state and federal law, the Justice Department often refrains from bringing federal charges, particularly when suspects face long state prison sentences. But South Carolina does not have a hate crimes law, and federal investigators believe that a murder case alone would leave the racial component of the shooting unaddressed.

"This directly fits the hate crime statute. This is exactly what it was created for," one law enforcement official said.

The law enforcement officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the investigation. They said no decision had been made on the timing of the charges because many details remained unresolved, such as how federal charges would supplement the state case.

Emily Pierce, a Justice Department spokeswoman, said the federal investigation was continuing. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch said last week that, "We will do everything in our power to help heal this community and make it whole again."

Two federal public defenders in South Carolina have also been assigned to defend Mr. Roof, a sign that federal charges are expected. That development was first reported by The Post and Courier.

"I have no choice," read a portion of the 2,500-word manifesto posted online. "I am not in the position to, alone, go into the ghetto and fight. I chose Charleston because it is most historic city in my state, and at one time had the highest ratio of blacks to Whites in the country. We have no skinheads, no real KKK, no one doing anything but talking on the internet. Well someone has to have the bravery to take it to the real world, and I guess that has to be me."

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State workers removed a Confederate battle flag Wednesday from the grounds of the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery. Credit Martin Swant/Associated Press

The site also showed 60 photographs, including one of Mr. Roof holding a Confederate flag in one hand and a handgun in the other. Other photos of Mr. Roof appeared to have been taken at Confederate heritage sites and slavery museums.

Analysts at the F.B.I. laboratory in Quantico, Va., are also analyzing a computer and phone that Mr. Roof had used, officials said. The agents and analysts are piecing together Mr. Roof's communications and uncovering any information that may have been deleted.

When federal and state prosecutors each bring charges, they typically coordinate their cases so one does not undermine the other. The death penalty could be a factor. South Carolina's murder law carries a possible death sentence, while a violation of the federal hate crime law carries up to life in prison. Nikki Haley, the governor of South Carolina, has called for Mr. Roof to face the death penalty.

Historically black churches have long been targets for racial violence. One of the most notorious examples was the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. The Ku Klux Klan set off a bomb under the steps of the church, which was a center of the African-American community at the time. Four young girls were killed and more than 20 other people were injured.

With memorial services beginning Wednesday for victims of last week's massacre, the campaign to remove long-venerated Confederate symbols from public grounds in the South picked up momentum on Wednesday.

Gov. Robert Bentley of Alabama ordered four Confederate flags taken down from a monument to Confederate soldiers outside the state Capitol in Montgomery.

"He does not want the flags to be a distraction from other state issues so he ordered them removed," said Yasamie R. August, the governor's press secretary.

Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi joined other officials in urging a redesign of his state's flag, the last to still include the Confederate battle flag,an image many see as a symbol of slavery and oppression.

"As the descendant of several brave Americans who fought for the Confederacy, I have not viewed Mississippi's current state flag as offensive," he said. "However, it is clearer and clearer to me that many of my fellow citizens feel differently and that our state flag increasingly portrays a false impression of our state to others."

Crowds began gathering at the South Carolina State House in Columbia to pay respects to one victim of the Charleston shootings, the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, a state senator, who will lie in state there beginning Wednesday. The first of the funeral services, for Sharonda Coleman-Singleton and Ethel Lance, will be Thursday.

The memorial to Senator Pinckney came two days after Governor Haley called on lawmakers to remove the battle flag from the Capitol grounds, and a day after both houses of the state's General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to take up the matter. Alabama's governor concluded that he could remove the flags there on his own authority, but in South Carolina, the battle flag's position near a Confederate monument was enshrined in law in 2000, so a new law would be needed to remove it.

In past generations, while blacks and liberal whites have objected to government displays of Confederate pride, particularly a battle flag that has been embraced by white supremacists, southern conservatives have often defended them as symbols of heritage, not bigotry.

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But in recent days, many Republicans like Mr. Bentley, Mr. Wicker and Ms. Haley have joined the sudden groundswell of officials calling for removal of Confederate flags and statues, and the rechristening of places named for Confederate heroes. Some conservatives have said that the Charleston shooting had changed their views.

Trade battle ends as Dems wills supports workers aid bill // Politico // Lauren French and John Bresnahan – June 24, 2015

The trade battle is over.

Democrats have labored for weeks to stop President Barack Obama's request for expedited authority to negotiate trade deals but now that a fast track is all-but-ready to become law, even the most ardent trade critics are reversing course and backing a bill designed to help workers who lose their jobs because of globalization.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) announced Wednesday that she planned to vote in favor of the bill. Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus Joe Crowley (D-N.Y.) also announced their support — signaling that the aid bill will pass, despite weeks of drama within the Democratic caucus over trade.

The legislation, called Trade Adjustment Assistance, got jammed up in the legislative process as Democrats tried to stop fast track earlier this month — even though progressives have long supported the aid bill.

But that opposition appears to be clearing. At a closed-door Democratic meeting on Wednesday, lawmakers that led the opposition movement against fast track pledged to support TAA, which has been attached to a bill focused on trade in Africa.

Rep. Sandy Levin (D-Mich.), the top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, told reporters after the caucus meeting that it makes no sense to oppose TAA now that pro-trade Democrats and Republicans are on the verge of sending fast track to Obama's desk.

"The vast majority of Democrats are going to vote for TAA and I think so because TAA was being used as a bargaining chip for TPA and that's why we very much resisted but now TPA is going to become law," Levin said. He added that Democratic opposition to trade will now turn to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a massive 12-country trade deal between the U.S. and Pacific Rim countries.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), who led the charge against fast track in the House, also announced that she planned to support the aid bill, which is expected to come to the House for a vote Thursday after the Senate passes the measure this week.

In reversal, Wicker calls for removal of Mississippi Confederate flag // Politico // Burgess Everett – June 24, 2015

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) reversed himself on Wednesday and called for the removal of the Mississippi's state flag, which contains a depiction of the Confederate flag.

As of Monday, Wicker, who leads the GOP's Senate campaign arm, was deferring to his state's legislature and citizens on the matter. But on Wednesday he issued now says that the "stage flag should be put in a museum and replaced by one that is more unifying to all Mississippians."

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“As the descendant of several brave Americans who fought for the Confederacy, I have not viewed Mississippi’s current state flag as offensive. However, it is clearer and clearer to me that many of my fellow citizens feel differently and that our state flag increasingly portrays a false impression of our state to others,” Wicker said. “The flag should be removed since it causes offense to so many of my brothers and sisters, creating dissention rather than unity.”

Conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh speaks during a secretive ceremony inducting him into the Hall of Famous Missourians on Monday, May 14, 2012, in the

Wicker joins a swelling bipartisan chorus of officials now calling from removal of the Confederate flag from statehouses and license plates after nine black people were shot and killed in South Carolina. However, the GOP senator also said Wednesday that the ultimate decision is up to the state legislature, not officials in Washington. Mississippi’s state House Speaker Phillip Gunn said flag needs to be removed and urged the state to debate the matter.

Mississippi’s senior senator, Republican Thad Cochran, hasn’t joined the burgeoning effort to remove the flag. Cochran said in an interview this week that the flag shouldn’t be changed “just because it’s creating controversy in other states.”

“It’s up to the state legislature to decide which flags adorn the state capitols. So I’m not trying tell them what to do or how to do it,” Cochran, who was recently reelected in a divisive primary against a conservative state senator who removing the flag, said on Monday. His office did not immediately say whether he agreed with Wicker’s change of position.

Conservative Groups Bracing Republicans for Obamacare Ruling // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – June 24, 2015

Republican tensions over Obamacare rose Tuesday after Heritage Foundation President Jim DeMint ramped up pressure on the party not to extend health insurance subsidies—even temporarily—that the Supreme Court could erase within days.

In an op-ed titled "Let the subsidies die," the former senator and conservative kingmaker took aim at Republicans who are eyeing a backup plan that temporarily preserves the subsidies to avoid massive disruptions and loss of coverage for millions of Americans.

"It would be uncaring and unfair for Congress to force taxpayers to continue funding Obamacare's subsidies," DeMint wrote in the Washington Examiner. "Extending the subsidies would be political malpractice, not just a mere Band-Aid upon an infected wound." He argued that it would be "far better" to simply repeal the entire law.

The essay throws an intriguing wrinkle into the congressional politics surrounding the imminent Supreme Court decision, which recently has seen Republican opponents of the health care law scrambling to come up with answers for an estimated 6 million Americans likely to lose health insurance tax credits if the justices rule against the Obama administration. A decision in the much-watched case, King v. Burwell, is expected in the next few days.

DeMint's missive could give some of them pause. The outspoken South Carolinian occupies a bully pulpit as the head of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative brain trust with an active political arm, Heritage Action For America.

Dan Holler, a spokesman for Heritage Action, dropped a broad hint that there could be political consequences for Republican lawmakers who try to create a subsidy patch. "It will be difficult for a Republican to go home and explain how saving a key plank of Obamacare helps ensure Obamacare is repealed in 2017," Holler said.

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In addition, a DeMint-founded super-PAC has specialized in taking aim at Republicans it deems insufficiently conservative. In the 2014 election cycle, the Senate Conservatives Fund spent more than $7 million helping favored candidates—and torpedoing those out of favor, according to figures compiled by the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics.

Ken Cuccinelli, the president of Senate Conservatives Fund, was blunt about threatening to support primary challenges against Republican lawmakers who back an extension of Obamacare subsidies.

A Not-So-Veiled Threat

"If the Supreme Court strikes down the Obamacare subsidies and mandates, Republicans in Congress should not extend them," Cuccinelli told Bloomberg in a statement. "Republicans should fight for full repeal, as they promised time and time again. SCF supports conservative candidates and a lawmaker's position on Obamacare is one of the most important issues we will examine when deciding whether to support a primary challenger."

But the potential political consequences of not backing subsidies also are worrying to Republicans, who don't want to be blamed for millions of Americans losing their coverage. At issue in King v. Burwell is whether the text of the Affordable Care Act restricts premium tax credits to Americans enrolled through state-run insurance exchanges, rather than those in three-quarters of states who use the federal exchange. Many Republicans have called on the Supreme Court to void the subsidies; the White House and Democrats say the law clearly makes those subsidies available in all 50 states.

Republican Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, who faces a tough reelection fight next year, is the author of a bill with 31 cosponsors that would extend the subsidies if the Supreme Court overturns them.

"Obviously I disagree with Senator DeMint's position on that," Johnson said in an interview Tuesday. "My main goal is to make sure no Americans are further harmed by this sloppily written—and what would be then unlawfully implemented—law. And I think we have a responsibility to do that."

A Tricky Rhetorical Balance

Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming, the leader of the Republican effort to craft a contingency plan, responded to the criticisms Tuesday. "We are not going to protect the law," he said. "We are going to protect people."

Republican senators in blue and purple states—Susan Collins of Maine, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, and Rob Portman of Ohio—told Bloomberg they support a temporary subsidy extension. Like Johnson, Ayotte and Portman face potentially difficult reelection races in 2016.

"I do support taking care of those people, including almost 200,000 people in Ohio who are getting subsidies under our federal exchange," Portman said, adding that "there's different views on the length of time" to keep the subsidies.

Presidential Candidates

Standing against a subsidy extension are two senators running for president. Both, like DeMint, are ideological purists. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas told Politico this month that the "best legislative option is to allow states to opt

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out" of Obamacare. Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky told the paper he wants a new law that would "legalize inexpensive insurance policies."

Of the two other presidential candidates, Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina has signaled support for a subsidy extension by signing on to Johnson's bill. Senator Marco Rubio of Florida has been mum on the subsidies, calling for a "transition to a replacement" for Obamacare; his office referred Bloomberg to a recent op-ed in which he sketched out broader health care changes he wants to see.

Other Republican senators—including Cory Gardner of Colorado and Thad Cochran of Mississippi—declined to say if they would support a subsidy extension.

"I'm not that closely involved in the minutiae that you are," Cochran, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, told Bloomberg. He added, "I'll consider my vote very carefully before I cast it." Last year, Cochran narrowly beat back a Republican primary challenge from Chris McDaniel, a candidate endorsed and underwritten by the Senate Conservatives Fund.

There are competing proposals—one by Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska and another Bill Cassidy of Louisiana—to offer fallback options for those who lose their subsidies.

Republican leaders in the House and Senate last week presented a contingency plan to members, based on Johnson's bill, to ease disruptions if the Supreme Court grants them their wish and guts the Affordable Care Act.

Unravelling Obamacare

According to a senior House Republican aide, it would allow the law's subsidies to continue through 2015, while repealing the individual mandate to buy insurance and the requirement that large employers provide it. In 2016, the proposal would let states opt out of Obamacare's regulations and instead receive a "block grant" equal to the amount of subsidies coming in their direction. It would also push the next president to take on the task of replacing Obamacare in 2017. The aide said the plan wasn't final.

It's far from clear Republicans will be able to pass such a plan, and DeMint's new push further complicates that task. Outside conservative activists are working to portray any extension of subsidies as a vote in favor of Obamacare, which further dims the prospects in the House, where many Republicans are already cold to the idea.

To that end, Representative Paul Gosar of Arizona last week introduced a bill ahead of the Obamacare ruling that would eliminate insurance regulations—including mandates on benefit coverage mandates and premium levels—in states that might lose their subsidies. The bill, which currently has six co-sponsors, was hailed by DeMint on Tuesday as preferable to extending the subsidies.

"With the verdict of King v. Burwell looming, the healthcare reform conversation has focused on the fate of federal subsidies for insurance premiums initiated by the Affordable Care Act," Gosar said in a statement. "However, this puts the focus on the symptoms of our ailing healthcare system and ignores the root cause."

Unlikely to Become Law

Even if the Republican-led Congress were able to pass its emerging proposal, President Barack Obama has made clear he will veto any bill that undermines core components of Obamacare, such as a repeal of the individual mandate. In other words, it's extremely unlikely to become law, and serves mostly as a political vehicle to spread

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blame for the chaos that could result from a Supreme Court decision.

Privately, some Republican aides who work on health policy confess that they'd prefer to see the subsidies upheld, seeing few, if any, options to get a health care bill past Obama's desk and fearful their party will be blamed for the fallout.

The Supreme Court is set to deliver the final decisions of its term on Thursday, Friday and Monday—it's unclear which day the Obamacare decision will come, or how the justices will rule. The House has canceled votes on Friday and Congress is scheduled to be out of session next week for July 4 recess.

INTERNATIONAL

The Many Miseries of Yemeni Families **// NYT // Hanna Ingber - June 24, 2015**

As the civil war in Yemen continues, many families say they are living in constant fear. Parents say that their older children have been wetting their beds at night, and that younger ones are so traumatized that they are sent running for cover by the sound of a door slamming.

The fighting between Houthi rebels and Saudi-backed government forces has displaced a million people, destroyed cultural heritage sites and terrorized the population. The situation has worsened since a Saudi-led bombing campaign began in March, and a de facto blockade has caused shortages of food and fuel for many of the nation’s 26 million people.

The New York Times asked Yemenis and their relatives abroad how their families have been affected by the worsening conflict. Close to 350 people submitted responses in English and Arabic. Most said they needed food, fuel, electricity — and an end to the fighting. Many wrote that it has been civilians who have suffered.

“The airstrikes target civilian places, and so there is nowhere safe now,” wrote Hani Yahya who lives in Sana, the capital, with his extended family. “We basically might die any day, and if we don’t, we will just suffer.”

They described destruction to cities they love and their own homes, airstrikes shattering their windows and blowing out doors. Some have tried to make repairs. Others said the damage to their houses and the continuous fear of bombings had forced them to leave.

Uprooted, Yemenis wrote that they had moved in with extended family members or friends. One man described how all the young cousins hide in the basement of their house. And even the safer areas, they wrote, still face shortages.

Families have also been divided, with some members fleeing the country. Others have tried to flee, but have been stopped. A young woman said she and her husband had taken their baby boy and made two trips to the border. Once they were turned away by the Saudis, and once by the Houthis.

Yemenis said they felt ignored, and they pleaded for those outside of the country to pay attention.

The following is a selection of the responses, expanded in additional interviews, and edited and condensed for clarity.

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Helmi al-Hamadi, 39, originally from Taiz in southern Yemen, has been living in Sana since 1997. He has three children, and his wife is seven months pregnant.

My 6-year-old daughter is the most affected person in the family. She can't sleep, always alert to any sounds; even the sound of a door closing terrifies her. If a door slams, she thinks it's an attack on us or an airstrike. She is losing weight. If anyone wants to go outside, if I have to go get groceries, she says: "I don't want to lose you, father. I don't want you to die."

They have been out of school since March 26. When the airstrikes started, everything kind of stopped here. None of the residents of Sana can go to school.

My pregnant wife is in a bad condition, especially, because she is diabetic and at risk that we could run out of insulin at anytime. She can't receive proper medical care.

My children wish that they could go back to school; my pregnant wife dreams of a peaceful night to sleep without one of our children screaming in their sleep every time there is an airstrike. I pray every day that when I go to the markets I can still find food for my family; this is decreasing on a daily basis.

Arwa Naaman Saiid, 23, is a teacher and information technology student. Her family fled a rented house in Sana and moved to Taiz and then to the village of Moaser.

The children in our family are terrified even by the sound of thunder, thinking it is from airplanes coming to bomb them. Their fear and continued crying forced us to leave our house. We paid $50 per person to leave Sana. I sold my jewelry just to escape.

We have been affected materially, morally and psychologically because of airstrikes and earthshaking explosions that prevent us from sleeping.

We are six members in the same house, including my sick mother who broke her back more than two months ago. We couldn't afford paying her treatment expenses. Now she's home and can't move. We have no food, no potable water, no electricity. We are denied the most basic rights.

We need to put an end to this flagrant aggression. We need the blockade to be lifted. Leave us alone! We are not associated with any political party. We are just Yemeni citizens. We need to be able to sleep, to eat and to drink what God bestowed upon us, without blockade and without killings.

Maali Jamil, 25, moved to Michigan as a young child before returning to Yemen as a teenager. She and her husband, who were both working as English teachers in Sana before the airstrikes began in March, have a 2-month-old son, Yusuf.

My husband and I let our apartment go because all the windows shattered in the Faj Attan bombing. And since we are now both unemployed, rent was too high, so we're living with family. My 9-year-old cousin vomits when the explosions are too loud.

With the problems and everything, nobody is working. Everybody is at home. Who is going to pay for classes? It's not important right now. People need to eat.

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My father has heart disease and is very ill. Every few days, he needs to run some blood work so the doctor can adjust his dose. When there is no fuel, he cannot go. If there is fuel, but no power, the labs don't operate. When he doesn't get the blood work done, the doctor can't adjust the dose, so my mom is usually at a loss and ends up guessing what he needs.

We tried to leave and were stranded at the Yemeni-Saudi border near Haradh twice, once for five days and once for two days.

The Yemeni people are barely breathing. My family and I are doing really well compared with most Yemenis.

My mom is from Aden, and the horror stories we hear are heartbreaking. One of my mother's cousins says all they have to eat is cookies. Her children keep asking her when are they are going to have real food, and she just broke down and cried.

Hussam Alshami, 37, lives in Sana with his wife, their daughter and his extended family.

My 2-year-old daughter is oversensitive to any sound now, running to hug anyone in front of her when hearing even a door knock. Some other children in my family now urinate while sleeping.

Despite almost every glass in our house having broken, we stay and will stay. We have no other choice. We've been raised in Sana. We don't know another place to live. And moving would cost money that's not available at this time. But more than money, we love Sana very, very much!

We have only one hour of electricity every three to five days. On the other hand, airstrikes are horrible, indiscriminate. More painful is that the world keeps silent.

Feel our pain, because Saudi Arabia cannot do this to us unless you, the United States, allow it. The blockade must be lifted. Airstrikes must be stopped.

Tarad Abdul Aziz Ahmad al-Samawy lives in Sana in a house with 29 other people, including 15 children ages 2 to 10.

Our children are overwhelmed with fear when they hear airplanes. They cry continuously when they hear the sounds of antiaircraft guns. Sometimes we convince them that there is a wedding outside.

The war is choking us financially at the individual level and for all Yemenis. Our neighbors can't find food. We offer them some from time to time. All of Yemen is living under siege.

Lift the Saudi sea blockade of Yemen because trade is the source of income for many Yemenis.

Rawan S. al-Aghbari, 22, was born in Yemen and raised in London. An explosion in Sana in mid-April badly injured her brother and destroyed their home. She returned to Yemen last month to help him get out of the country for treatment.

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During the explosion he was inside the house trying to repair a window. The explosion ripped off the top half of the house, and parts of the window cut through his neck. There were shards everywhere; he was bleeding extensively. He basically flew from one side of the room to the other, and he had a concussion. He couldn't form proper sentences. He wasn't in good health, so we wanted to get him out.

At the time there was no electricity and barely any generators running for the hospitals. Generators need fuel, and there was practically none at that time. There were fuel lines that would extend for kilometers.

Yemen is suffering from a myriad of problems. At the front line are ordinary civilians, who are paying the price for this unforgiving war.

Hani Yahya lives in Sana with his extended family. He was working for an international democracy-building organization, but the fighting forced it to shut down. He is now unemployed.

We live in fear all the time. There is no electricity. No fuel. Food is becoming scarce, and prices are increasing.

I managed to get my wife and two children out to Egypt after the Faj Attan attack. But my nephews and nieces are still here, and all of them are affected.

They keep asking: "When will this end? Why do they want to kill us?" They are wetting their beds at night; they are depressed all the time and want to leave the country.

I speak to my daughter every day in Egypt. She wants to go back home. When she is in Egypt, she keeps asking, "When will this end?" They just don't understanding why this is happening. We just tell them: "We pray it will end soon. We pray to God that it will be over."

Mahdy Abdul Hakeem Mahdy Saleh al-Mutairy is from the western coastal city of Al Hudaydah.

We are terrified and suffered the tragic loss of life of members of our family. My cousin was 23 years old when he died; he was a student. He was walking in the street when jets bombed the area. Dozens of bodies were found on that day.

We don't have electricity because of the siege, but the hospital is still functioning and receiving patients, especially those suffering from dialysis, from other provinces. But I'm concerned that the only hospital here might close soon if this siege and blackout continue.

What we need is for the bombing to stop and the blockade to be lifted so that shipments of food, medicine and petrol products could be brought into the country.

Fuad Shaif Ali al-Kadas runs a tour company in Sana. He lost thousands of dollars in plane tickets after a tourist group canceled an April trip. After the area near his home was bombed, he moved in with his extended family in another area of Sana.

Even if the war ends soon, and if tourists come back, I don't know if we can refund this large sum. So my business is defunct. One brother works in the airport — he's lost his job. Another brother works in an area constantly bombed by the Saudis — Faj Attan — and he now has lost his job. So while my family is alive and well, thank God,

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we, like most people, are struggling and out of work.

Imagine if this continues and we'll have an entirely uneducated generation. Plus when the planes fly overhead, or children hear the airstrikes, they cry, and they can't sleep at night. Now, if a father wants his kids to do something, he says, "Go or I'll call the planes," and they move right away.

Assaad Lutf Albarty and his family, who live in Sana, have been affected by the shortages of food, fuel and medicine. His father has not been able to secure his blood pressure medication or get the treatment he needs. He is hoping to travel to Jordan for heart surgery.

Many times we live without electricity for days or weeks. There is a lack of gasoline, which is used for transportation, and diesel, which is used to transport goods and operate factories. We have returned to the Stone Ages by using firewood and charcoal to cook at home. I'm not exaggerating — we're doing this on a daily basis.

We can't get water without electricity or diesel, and we can't get the basic things such as flour and wheat, because of the inability to distribute them to consumers and our inability to go to distribution centers. Also because of the blockade, no merchants can import any new food, fuel or medicines.

Bakil Muttee Ghundol had been taking a course in teaching English in Aden, but he moved to Ibb, where his family lives, shortly before the airstrikes began.

Hundreds of displaced families from different cities come to Ibb because it's considered a safe place as there are no airstrikes as there are in Aden, Sana or Taiz. But all the people here in Ibb are suffering as there is a huge lack of fuel, water and food. In addition, the electricity has been cut off for months. Only rich people have generators. Sometimes we go to their homes to charge our phones, our laptops.

My family is all safe, but some neighbors were killed in an airstrike. One was a close friend of my brother.

Hanan Ahmed al-Mansor, 23, attends Jinan University in China. Her immediate family is still in Sana, but her extended family managed to escape to Egypt.

Far from everything, I am still affected as badly as my family. I've had sleepless nights, nightmares, continuous anxiety and multiple visits to the doctor. My academic level has dropped, and every day, I am either crying or senseless.

My mother is my superhero. She has worked her way through a couple of failed businesses, but she finally was able to stand on her own two feet in her mid-50s and created a successful restaurant in Yemen. This restaurant was recently completely damaged after an airstrike hit a building in front of it. Our dream and our only way to eat and live with dignity was shattered. All I can think of now is, how am I going to finish university?

The children in my family sleep covering their ears. They only speak of how much they fear death, and one of them told his mom: "I want to die before you. I don't want to see you die." And, "In heaven, can I ask for a TV to watch you because I'm going to miss you?"

My cousin told me this about her kids. She was writing and crying at the same time. It's very hard for me to keep in touch with my family since they usually only open the generator for emergencies, like to pump the water to the pipes. However, I buy calling cards to call them in emergencies, and if they have battery left, they respond.

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I need to sleep knowing that I'll wake up and my family is safe. I need Saudi Arabia to leave Yemen alone.

No bailout deal yet for Greece as meeting cut short // AP // Derek Gatopoulos and Raf Casert - June 24, 2015

BRUSSELS — Crucial talks between Greece and its creditors to keep the country solvent and within the euro currency group became bogged down again Wednesday amid differences over what kind of reforms the country should make in exchange for loans.

The impasse forced euro-zone finance ministers to cut short a meeting, which they plan to resume Thursday. Concern over the lack of progress weighed on financial markets, with stock indexes falling in the United States, where trading was still going on.

Earlier in the day, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras held long talks with key creditors, but the sides argued again over the nature of the reforms Greece should undertake if it is to secure loans.

Greece has promised mainly tax increases to achieve budget savings, whereas the International Monetary Fund would like more spending cuts. Tsipras rejected the creditors' new suggestions, saying they put both sides further away from a deal.

"The Greek side is unable to agree on such a course," a Greek government official said after Tsipras assessed the proposals, which included fresh cuts in public-sector payrolls and a timetable to scrap a pension safety-net fund.

What you need to know about the Greek debt crisis

Greece may default on its debts if a deal for more funding in exchange for fiscal reforms is not made. Here's why that matters. (Jorge Ribas/The Washington Post)

"These are very tough negotiations," the official said. "But there is a common will to get somewhere." The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the talks were ongoing.

Wednesday's meeting of finance ministers was meant to iron out the details on the reforms in time for leaders from the European Union to approve them at a summit they will hold Thursday. The finance ministers will meet again only hours before the summit.

After the ministers broke up their meeting, Tsipras again went into meetings with European and IMF top officials.

Greece has a $1.8 billion debt to pay Tuesday that it cannot afford unless the creditors unfreeze $8.1 billion in bailout money.

A Greek exit from the euro would be painful for the country. Some experts say it could be manageable for Europe and the world economy, but that remains unclear.

Elected on an anti-bailout platform in January, Tsipras's left-wing Syriza party had promised to scrap all austerity measures and demand forgiveness on a chunk of the country's bailout debt. Tsipras has had to partially backtrack on those pledges and now could have trouble persuading party lawmakers to back a new deal, which would have to be approved by Monday night.

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Athens was forced into concessions by a punishing debt-repayment schedule and an economy gripped by troubles including a return to mild recession, ratings downgrades and a dramatic outflow of bank deposits that threatened to crash the country's financial system.

Greek Economy Minister Giorgos Stathakis said that so far, all sides had made concessions.

He said Greece had persuaded creditors to lower their demands for a primary surplus — the surplus when not counting interest payments on debt. As a result, that should help the Greek economy grow between 1 percent and 1.5 percent this year.

Meanwhile, Greece's banks remained under pressure as customers continued to withdraw money amid concerns over the country's financial future.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Morning Plum: Hillary can't run from the trade debate forever // WaPo // Greg Sargent – June 24, 2015

Today the Senate is expected to cast the final vote granting President Obama "Fast Track" authority to negotiate the massive Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. With trade badly splitting Democrats, Hillary Clinton had avoided taking a meaningful position on Fast Track, only suggesting she might not support it if it didn't also include worker assistance (which may also move forward within days).

But if Clinton had hoped to leave the trade debate behind if Fast Track failed, its success now means she may have to take a position on the trade deal itself sooner or later.

Clinton's campaign has said that any trade deal must "put us in a position to protect American workers, raise wages and create more good jobs at home," and that the U.S. should "walk away from any outcome that falls short" of that. Obviously, this leaves room for Clinton to either support or oppose the deal later.

But if we do get a TPP, the debate will shift out of the process netherworld in which the Fast Track fight unfolded, and present us with specifics that can actually be evaluated in light of the test Clinton herself has articulated. Obama has vowed that the TPP will boost labor standards in participating countries like Vietnam, leveling the global playing field for American workers. But we still don't know what those standards will look like, and we still don't know how compliant with them such countries will be required to be before participating in the TPP.

Meanwhile, we still don't know what sort of "monopoly pricing power" the deal will contain for biologics, which some critics worry will amount to a giveaway to Big Pharma at the expense of global health. And we still have yet to see the details of the deal's mechanism for resolving disputes between international investors and other participating countries — which critics worry will give a special break to corporations that is denied to workers.

Clinton's camp is said to believe the trade debate will not create the lasting divisions among Dems that attended the Iraq debate. And some polling does indicate that there may not be rampant anger over it among Dem base voters.

But the calender here is worth considering. If a TPP deal is reached this summer, there will be months of debate over it until a Congressional vote next winter, when the primaries will be getting underway. Even if the Fast Track

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debate was a bitter defeat for the left, there may be another protracted opportunity to rally opposition. Bernie Sanders has already heaped scalding criticism on the deal in general, and he and other high profile Dems — such as Elizabeth Warren — will refocus their opposition on the deal's specifics, which will finally allow us to evaluate the deal's actual priorities. Clinton may have to address these specifics and priorities sooner or later.

Of course, if the deal is as good as Obama claims it will be, and the worst fears of the left look overblown in light of its details, Clinton may decide those specifics allow her to make a strong case for supporting it on the grounds that it comports with the test she articulated. And then things might get really interesting: we'd have a genuine Dem primary debate on our hands.

Hillary Clinton's dodginess is overpowering her message // WaPo // George F. Will – June 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton's reticence is drowning out her message, which is that she is the cure for the many ailments that afflict the United States during a second Democratic presidential term. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) has called her "the most opaque person you'll ever meet in your life," but when opacity yields to the necessity of answering questions, here are a few:

Your first leadership adventure was when your husband entrusted you with health-care reform. Using a process as complex as it was secretive, you produced a proposal so implausible that a Democratic-controlled Congress would not even vote on it. Your legislation was one reason that in 1994 Democrats lost control of the House for the first time in 40 years. What did you learn from this futility and repudiation?

Three times in your memoir "Hard Choices" you say that as secretary of state you visited 112 countries. Do you think "peripatetic" is a synonym for "effective"? You tell readers that at a 2009 meeting with Chinese officials you said, "We need to build a resilient relationship that allows both of us to thrive and meet our global responsibilities without unhealthy competition, rivalry or conflict." Does it trouble your environmental conscience that trees died to produce the paper on which you recycled that thought?

President George W. Bush said that when he looked into Vladimir Putin's eyes he saw a "very straightforward and trustworthy" man. You looked into Putin's regime and saw an opportunity for a cooperative policy "reset." Were you or was Bush more mistaken?

In March 2003, Bush launched a war of choice to accomplish regime change in Iraq, mistakenly believing that it was developing weapons of mass destruction. In March 2011, Barack Obama and you launched a war of choice against Libya for the humanitarian purposes of preventing, it was said, as many as 10,000 deaths at the hands of Moammar Gaddafi. Since March 2011, in Syria, where the regime continues to use chemical weapons that it supposedly agreed to surrender, the civil war has killed more than 320,000. Why humanitarian intervention in Libya instead of Syria?

Bush sought, and you as a senator gave, approval for his war of choice. Obama and you, arguing that the thousands of airstrikes that killed thousands of Libyans did not constitute "hostilities," never sought approval for the Libyan war. Who was more lawful, Bush or Obama and you? What criteria suggest that the world is safer than before you became secretary?

In this month's Wisconsin Democratic convention straw poll, you defeated Bernie Sanders 49 percent to 41 percent. Sanders says he is a "socialist." Do you have fundamental differences with him? If not, are you a socialist? He does not think a 90 percent top income tax rate is too high. Do you? He says that "almost all of" the United States' wealth "rests in the hands of a handful of billionaires." Forbes magazine says the combined net worth of the United States' 536 billionaires is $2.566 trillion. Is it a grave problem that the 536 have 3 percent of the nation's $84.9 trillion wealth? Is it deplorable that the Waltons became a family of billionaires by creating Wal-Mart, the nation's largest private-sector employer? Do you regret that Apple products made Steve Jobs a billionaire? Are any of your however many phones iPhones?

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Sanders vows “to make tuition in public colleges and universities free.” Do you agree that the 68 percent of Americans without college degrees should pay the tuition for those whose degrees will bring them lifetime earnings significantly higher than the earnings of the noncollege graduates who will have paid much of the cost of the “free” tuition?

Another progressive goal is “debt-free college.” The average amount owed by the 69 percent of graduates with college debt is $28,400, which is $11,000 more than the difference between what a college graduate and a high school graduate earn in one year of employment. So, what exactly is the student debt “crisis”?

Sanders favors a $15 minimum wage. Do you? Why not $16? Democrats are — we know because they say so — respectful of science, including, presumably, economics. So, do you agree with Obama that ATMs and airport ticket kiosks cause unemployment?

Finally: Having said, “It is tempting to dismiss [the Charleston shooting] as an isolated incident,” you resisted that temptation and detected in the incident large social symptoms. Do you believe, as Obama now says, that racism is in America’s “DNA,” meaning it is encoded in our nation’s nature?

The Insiders: Hillary Clinton’s failure of diplomacy // WaPo // Ed Rogers – June 24, 2015

The Pentagon’s announcement that the United States will be sending troops to Europe – as well as additional stores of weapons and tanks – as part of a “reorientation of a NATO alliance” is the culmination of a series of foreign policy blunders. This is what failure of diplomacy looks like – and many of those failures can be laid at former secretary of state Hillary Clinton’s feet. She was the original architect of the Obama administration’s failed diplomacy with Russia. What started as a goofy botched photo-op declaring that U.S.-Russia relations would be “reset” has ended with the United States prepositioning weapons as a response to the growing possibility of war.

This isn’t a reorientation — this is a desperate move to try to impress Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has so far been unimpressed. After observing President Obama’s retreat from the “red line” he drew in Syria, the loss of Iraq, the losing of Afghanistan, the non-assistance to Ukraine and the quest to accommodate Iran’s nuclear program no matter what, Putin must be chuckling at this latest move by the Obama administration. There is no chance Putin believes any of the weapons being shipped overseas through this directive will ever be used to stop his intimidation, harassment and encroachment in Europe.

All the while, Americans have lost faith in our president’s ability to conduct foreign policy in a way that will keep our nation safe. An Economist/YouGov poll from last week shows that 50 percent of Americans disapprove of the president’s handling of foreign policy and only 35 percent approve. That’s not an outlier poll. Those numbers are about the same as the RealClearPolitics average on this issue.

So does any of this matter for Clinton’s election prospects? Will she pay a price for her failures as secretary of state or for the overall erosion of America’s national security posture during her party’s tenure?

Whatever foreign policy problems Obama and Clinton inherited when they came into office have obviously been made worse by their stewardship. I could be corrected, but our relationships appear worse everywhere. (Well, unless throwing in the towel and giving Cuba what every other president for the past 50-plus years refused to give the Castro regime counts as a success for America.)

Anyway, what will Clinton offer voters on the foreign policy front? Another reset? Will her defense of Obama and herself come with all manner of qualifiers and obfuscation? I guess the plan is to hope that some combination of Americans’ indifference and ignorance of foreign policy, along with some measure of denial and blame of George W. Bush, will allow her to skate.

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But I hope she doesn't get a free pass. It will be unfortunate if the 2016 campaign doesn't include a real debate about America's role in the world and an honest assessment of the problems that has grown in the last 6 1/2 years.

Can Hillary Clinton step forward on race without leaving white voters behind? // WaPo // Jannell Ross – June 24, 2015

When Hillary Clinton addressed an invitation-only group in Missouri on Tuesday, she repeated her call for work on American race relations to go far beyond a discussion about the future of the Confederate flag.

When she did, she affirmed what some of the nation's leading political prognosticators are beginning to say about Clinton's second bid for the White House. Clinton 2008 may have been leery of speaking overtly about gender, race or even the historic nature of her own campaign. But Clinton 2016 plans to put race and other issues of inequality front and center.

And with one group of strongly Democratic leaning voters -- African Americans -- that could help to rebuild the Obama coalition for Clinton. But Clinton, like every other candidate, also needs and wants white voters. They might be a shrinking part of the electorate, but they are still a strong majority of all voters and comprise many swing voters. So for candidate Clinton circa 2016, the question becomes just how far can she go on matters of race without running into the realpolitik of appealing to white voters.

A series of recent polls offer us some valuable clues.

Collectively, they point to an America deeply divided on matters related to race, such as faith that the police treat all Americans fairly and whether discrimination exists at all in other arenas. Both the share of black and white Americans concerned about the state of racial affairs in the United States is climbing, but even here a sharp divide remains. And these same polls indicate that Americans who lean left and have more education are far more likely to see some level of ongoing discrimination against people of color in American life than their more conservative, or less educated white peers.

Let's get down to the specifics.

Back in May -- four weeks but one apparently racially motivated mass shooting ago -- a CBS News/New York Times poll found 62 percent of whites feel that race relations are generally bad in this country and 65 percent of black Americans agreed. That's up considerably from the 35 percent of white Americans who said the same in in February.

So Americans agreed across racial lines that, when it comes to race, things are bad. Of course, that poll took place in the weeks after some of the details of Freddie Gray's fatal spinal cord injury while in police custody came to national attention, setting off protests and later riots in Baltimore.

And lest you think Americans emerged from May uniformly concerned about Gray and hundreds of others like him this year, consider this: In June, the share of Americans who told Gallup pollsters that race relations were the most important problem facing the country climbed from the sub-basement to the first floor of political concerns -- if American politics were a 30-story building.

One of the critical reasons for the difference between the share of black and white voters deeply concerned about race matters in the United States: Different perceptions of risk and unfair treatment.

In a December Washington Post/ABC News poll, a survey that took place before the events in Baltimore but after

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grand juries had refused to indict police officers in Ferguson, Mo., and New York City who killed unarmed black men, 63 percent of white Americans said they were somewhat or very confident that blacks and whites are treated equally by police. Only 10 percent of African-American respondents agreed.

In that same poll, 42 percent of white Democrats and independents who lean left had confidence that police treat everyone fairly. But a whopping 78 percent of white Republicans said the same. And a full 55 percent of white Democrats who do not have college degrees told pollsters they were confident about police treatment, while just 25 percent of white Democrats with college degrees shared the same views.

The starkly different perceptions of discrimination do not stop there. In a 2013 Pew Research poll that asked respondents about discrimination in seven major areas of life, such as the criminal justice system, on the job, in schools, health care, voting and the experience of walking into a store or restaurant, half of white Americans told pollsters they do not believe that blacks face discrimination.

Half of white Americans do not see discrimination in health care despite a 2011 federal report that found significant differences in the quality of care provided to white and non-white patients. Half of white Americans do not believe that discrimination is a problem in voting despite studies showing that in the nation's two most recent federal elections black and Latino voters waited significantly longer than white voters in polling place lines because of the resources assigned to voting sites. Half of white Americans do not see discrimination in the job market despite a Princeton University study that suggests black applicants are less likely to be called for an interview.

What the Clinton camp should really find instructive here is the sharp difference in the way that Democrats and Republicans see race operating in the United States. About one-third of all Democrats reported seeing no discrimination in any area of American life, while a full 49 percent of independents and 61 percent -- way more than a majority -- of Republicans agreed.

So, what is Clinton 2016 to do?

If Clinton's public talk about race focuses largely on the South, she might not sacrifice much at all. That's because the South has been heavily Republican for some time. And despite the Republican Party's dominance in the region, Obama won election in 2008 and 2012 with comfortable margins after losing every Southern state except Florida.

And as we noted above, left-leaning white voters are more in-line with minority voters on issues of race than the broader white population -- though not completely.

But we also haven't seen a candidate press issues of race in an environment like the current one -- up to and including the first black president, Barack Obama.

It's surely a question that will keep the Clinton campaign busy.

Book Review – "The Hillary Doctrine: Sex & American Foreign Policy" // CFR // Micah Zenko – June 24, 2015

During her confirmation hearing to become secretary of state, Hillary Clinton told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in no uncertain terms, "I want to pledge to you that as secretary of state I view [women's] issues as central to our foreign policy, not as adjunct or auxiliary or in any way lesser than all of the other issues that we have to confront." A thoughtful and nuanced new book by Valerie M. Hudson and Patricia Leidl, The Hillary Doctrine: Sex & American Foreign Policy, evaluates to what extent Secretary Clinton has fulfilled this pledge.

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Unsurprisingly, they find many examples where Clinton's rhetoric does not meet U.S. foreign policy reality. Rather than simply denounce the former secretary of state for this, they try to understand what explains this reoccurring disconnect. For example, the authors contend that a component of Clinton's hawkish support for intervening in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya was the belief that women's lives would be markedly improved. Hudson and Leidl disagree, noting, "Military action in and of itself against regimes violating human rights will not protect women. If anything, it unleashes new and usually even more vicious male-bonded groups intent on stripping them of even the most basic human rights." It is this sort of refreshing analysis that makes this book so important, and one that I highly recommend to anybody interested in elevating women's voices in world affairs, as well as the practicalities of day-to-day U.S. foreign policymaking.

The "doctrine" comes from a proposition that Clinton made at the TEDWomen Conference in December 2010: "The subjugation of women is, therefore, a threat to the common security of our world and to the national security of our country." In countries where women are chronically mistreated, or systematically excluded from leadership roles, there tends to be far greater state fragility, outbreaks and reoccurrences of conflict, and environments where extremists can flourish, including even terrorist organizations.

The quantitative and anecdotal evidence supporting Clinton's proposition has grown stronger over the past five years. For example, we now know that the participation of women's groups in peace negotiations increases the likelihood of reaching an agreement and implementing it, and the probability that it will last longer. When women were included in peace processes between 1989 and 2011, agreements were 20 percent more likely to last as long as two years, and 35 percent more likely to last fifteen years. Additionally, women's leadership and political participation enhances a community's ability to resist violent extremism, and women play the most critical family role in influencing young people who are susceptible to radicalization.

The first part of the book—based on interviews with government officials like Swanee Hunt, Andrew Natsios, Paula Dobriansky, and Melanne Verveer—consists of a helpful history of how women's issues became prominent in U.S. foreign policymaking during the 1990s. This included milestones like UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the first resolution to address the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women, as well as the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution; the publication of the first U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security; and the difficulties and haphazard manner that the military and USAID have experienced in incorporating women's issues into foreign operations. This is crystallized in an anecdote from Charlotte Ponticelli, the State Department's senior coordinator for international women's issues in the era after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was toppled. Ponticelli received an email from an aide to Paul Bremer, director of the Coalition Provisional Authority: "If I gave you 15 minutes to tell me how you would spend $10 million on behalf of Iraqi women, could you send me an email in that 15 minutes?" Ponticelli quickly drafted something, sent it to Bremer's aide, and later received the $10 million.

The authors later struggle to square Clinton's "conspicuous silence" in the face of the brutal treatment of women by Saudi Arabia, or China's perpetration of sex-selective abortions among Tibetans. The authors write, "one possible interpretation is that the Hillary Doctrine is in fact merely a rhetorical stance on the part of U.S. foreign policy makers, including, apparently, Hillary Clinton herself—a position that may be jettisoned if its tenants would undermine 'real' American national interests in any particular case." The authors offer several potential explanations, including that Clinton expressing more public disapproval for the mistreatment of women might be counterproductive, draw unwanted attention to local NGOs, or result in current autocrats being replaced by worse and more backward-thinking leaders. However, the more plausible explanation comes from a quote provided by Verveer, who was Clinton's chief of staff and later led the development of the U.S. National Action Plan: "You know, they are sovereign nations under their own."

The authors later note that the most important and elusive ingredient for implementing the Hillary Doctrine "can only come from the White House itself." If a President Hillary Clinton is sworn into office on January 20, 2017, then there will be no more bureaucratic hurdles preventing the fuller implementation of the Hillary Doctrine. We would only learn if it is indeed a rhetoric, or the basis upon which U.S. foreign policy is developed and implemented.

Presidential wannabees ought to embrace, not fear, Hispanic conference in Kansas City // Kansas City Star // Mary Sanchez – June 23, 2015

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One would think that the Republican presidential candidates would clamor to appear in Kansas City at the national convention of the largest civil rights and advocacy organization for Latinos.

After all, the much ballyhooed Hispanic vote is the one to court, right?

That's what the GOP said. Mitt Romney captured only 27 percent of Hispanic voters in 2012. The statistical implosion caused Republicans to issue introspective papers on how the party needs to regain the 40 percent of the Latino vote totals that George W. Bush commanded in 2004.

But two weeks out from the July 11-14 National Council of La Raza's convention, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, is the only presidential candidate who has confirmed he will attend.

Most of the declared candidates cited scheduling conflicts as the rationale for saying no, although Hillary Clinton and Marco Rubio haven't completely shunned the possibility of showing up.

Here is the reason the Republicans will probably skip: The GOP candidates have to get past ultra-right primary voters. There is a fear of tea partiers, of being caught sounding reasonable on immigration.

What a pathetic, rudderless way to seek elected office. There is also the demographic reality of not enough Latino voters in key states.

Candidates could burnish their credentials by attending, not lessen them. Especially if they bear this in mind: As much as immigration dominates political discussions, polling repeatedly shows that it is not the top concern for Latinos. Education, jobs, health care and the economy are more regularly cited.

Jeb Bush would have the most to gain. He has held moderate views on immigration reform, he has a long history in Hispanic-heavy Texas and Florida, he is fluent in Spanish and his wife is from Mexico. Likewise, Rubio has had wide-ranging experiences outside his Cuban-American background in Miami, including a brief college stint in northwest Missouri and early school years in Las Vegas, a period that exposed him to Mexican-Americans.

Contrary to popularly exploited images, the vast majority of Latinos in the U.S. are native-born Americans. Nearly three in four are U.S. citizens.

"It's a surprise to me that they are reluctant to come and engage directly with the community," said Janet Murguía, president and CEO of NCLR.

The NCLR conference usually draws 10,000 to 20,000 people, depending on the city.

The presidential contenders' invitations, Murguía said, are still open.

Hillary Clinton, in a talk about race, hits a sour note // Kansas City Star // Steve Paul – June 24, 2015

Do black lives matter or do all lives matter?

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That's a question left hanging disturbingly in the air after Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential contender, spoke at a Florissant, Mo., church on Tuesday. She made news by joining the call for removing the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the South Carolina capitol, and for her sensitive and resonant reflection on the slaughter of nine innocent black souls in a historic Charleston, S.C., church: "Let us be resolved to make sure they did not die in vain — not to be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good."

But Clinton pushed some other buttons in a way that bears further examination.

The site of Clinton's speech, of course, is just down the road from Ferguson, where the fatal shooting of a black teenager by a white police officer erupted into street protests and launched a movement, linked by a Twitter hashtag, #blacklivesmatter.

That movement led to a backlash, especially among those who challenged what appeared to be a populist rush to judgment and who feared that white police officers don't get enough respect for putting themselves in harm's way. Thus: #alllivesmatter.

Here's the problem. Many people might assume that "all lives" includes "black lives." But if you're African American or have a real understanding of the course of America's shameful racial history, you know that for far too long and far too often "black lives" do not fully fit within the Venn diagram of "all lives." The hashtag #blacklivesmatter is meant to emphasize this point. It's not meant to suggest that other people's lives don't matter. It's a cry of civil rights. It's a chorus of "We Shall Overcome." It's a voice to stand up against the ache that blows in the wind among those Confederate flags.

So when Hillary Clinton faced a congregation of Florissant churchgoers, her intention was to talk frankly and smartly about race in the age of Ferguson, the era of Charleston and the nagging American struggle of identity.

"I know this is a difficult topic to talk about," she said. "I know that so many of us hoped by electing our first black president, we had turned the page on this chapter in our history. I know there are truths we do not like to say out loud or discuss with our children. But we have to."

So far so good. Then she made it personal.

"We should start by giving all of our children the tools and opportunities to overcome legacies of discrimination to live up to their own God-given potentials," Clinton said. "I just saw some of the young people attending camp here at church down in the basement. And I was thrilled to see that because that is the kind of commitment we need more of, in every church, in every place, until every child is reached. And I hope we can take that as a cause for action.

"I learned this not from politics but from my mother who taught me that everybody, everybody needs a chance and a champion. She knew what it was like to have neither one. Her own parents abandoned her. By 14, she was out on her own working as a house maid. Years later when I was old enough to understand, I asked her. What kept you going? Her answer was very simple. Kindness along the way from someone who believed she mattered. All lives matter."

There was faint applause. Then a Twitter storm. Clinton had stepped in it big time. ("All lives matter? Hillary...sit down now. You're embarrassing us" — this was one of the milder tweets by offended African Americans who weighed in.)

You would think that Clinton and her speech writers would have known how to parse the language of the moment.

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You would think they would have it down by now, this far into her second campaign for the presidency. But a nagging truth about Clinton lingers. She can come off as tone deaf. It's a sign of inauthenticity. And she needs to get a handle on it. A fleet-footed politician would have recovered instantly and voiced what the mostly African American audience before her would have expected to hear: Of course, black lives matter.

Words do matter. All words matter, even when it seems like, in the age of Twitter, words hardly matter any more at all.

When President Barack Obama voiced the N-word the other day, he knew exactly what he was doing and it was highly effective.

The conversation on race must continue. And it needs to take place in an atmosphere of respect and at decibel levels conducive to conversation. And people need to listen to one another and understand the meaning of their words and the meaning behind their words.

In a time of instant response, politicians are swiftly pilloried for slips of the tongue and rhetorical missteps. I know I can be guilty of hastily penning (old technology) the wrong word at the wrong time. But we expect more of those who would be our president. And in the minefield of racial politics, we can all agree that there is much work left to do, and many more lessons to learn.

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From:	"Julius Genachowski" <julius@genachowski.com>
To:	vjarrett@habitat.com
Date:	11/6/2008 10:28:12 AM
Subject:	FW: my desire to help

Valerie – Larry Tribe sent me a copy of the email he sent you, with his idea for a White House position focusing on restoring constitutional governance – essentially undoing the Bush/Cheney damage. Sending to you in case you missed his original email in the flood I'm sure you're getting. Larry's a long-time enthusiastic supporter, as I'm sure you know…

Julius

From: Larry Tribe [mailto:larry@tribelaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 10:50 AM
To: Julius Genachowski
Subject: my desire to help
Importance: High

Hi Julius:

Wow! Wow!! How's that for articulateness?

As you'll see from my message below to Valerie, I've run out of language to describe my thrill at Barack's historic victory. I want to send the same message to you, hoping that you can help me help Barack.

I know you have your hands full during the transition, but I think the need I've identified is a real one, that I'm well suited to fill it, that my doing so would probably appeal to Barack, and that this shouldn't get put on a back-burner lest it get lost altogether.

I hope you agree and can do something to help make this happen.

With boundless congratulations and warm wishes,

Larry

From: Larry Tribe
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 10:18 AM
To: 'Valerie Jarrett'
Cc: NOCHUCK@aol.com
Subject: how I can help
Importance: High

Good morning, Valerie:

The word "congratulations" is much too banal. The thrill hasn't remotely begun to wear off. I've never felt more hopeful about our political future. I want to dedicate all my talents and energies to helping Barack seize the arc of history. Nothing matters to me more. After this message, I've pasted in a short piece I published in Forbes.com (which appeared yesterday as the first item on www.realclearpolitics.com) that puts in personal terms how I felt yesterday.

When I saw Barack and Michelle briefly in the "surrogates" tent after Barack delivered his remarkable speech, he told me he had read my email (of several days earlier) offering to assist with legal/constitutional issues in whatever role he wanted me to play, and he indicated he'd want to take me up on that offer in some way.

I don't know, of course, whether Barack was just being sweet or whether he had something serious in mind. Given all the things on his plate at the moment, I can't expect him to focus personally on how I in particular could be most useful, so I'm reaching out to you (and am copying Tree) so that my interest and availability can be put on the relevant radar screens while the transition proceeds.

To cope with the challenge of restoring constitutional governance in light of all the damage the Bush/Chaney administration has done to the separation of powers and the rule of law, and to do so while his administration necessarily focuses its energies on such urgent matters as the economic crisis, Iraq, and Afghanistan/Pakistan, I think President Obama will need more than simply a White House Counsel's Office, which of necessity focuses on the President and his conduct of the chief executive's position, and more than simply an OLC in the Justice Department, which of necessity focuses on the Attorney General's direction of DOJ. To cope with the cross-cutting matters this challenge entails, I think the administration could benefit from a tightly-knit White House advisory apparatus touching on both domestic and international issues and overlapping the jurisdictions of DOJ and DOD, among other executive departments and agencies.

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The group charged with this legal mission would address such related matters as the Bush/Chaney administration's abusive employment of "signing statements" predicated on bloated views of executive authority and improperly narrow views of congressional power; the difficult issues posed by the need to close the legal black hole at Guantanamo and figuring out what to do with the detainees there; deciding how to allocate responsibility between the civilian justice system and the military justice system in coping with terror-related offenses; considering various officials' possible accountability for torture and other violations committed in the recent past; replacing current uses of "enhanced interrogation" techniques with approaches more respectful of human rights; coping with the tradeoffs between security and liberty involved in electronic surveillance and other preventive techniques; rooting out the improper use of partisan considerations in the appointments process throughout the government; and otherwise rebuilding the constitutional framework. It seems evident that many of these matters overlap the responsibilities of, for example, DOJ and DOD.

One of the ways I think I might be most useful would be as an Assistant to the President heading up such a White House group, whose work might well be concluded within a year or two but might need to extend throughout the first term. Of course I'd also be prepared to take on any other and longer mission that Barack might want to assign to me and would certainly be willing to take as long a leave from Harvard as such a mission would demand.

Among other things, I'd be honored to serve as Barack's White House Counsel or even to take on a role requiring Senate confirmation, such as Solicitor General or Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Office of Legal Counsel, but I've been assuming that Barack already has others in mind for those more conventional posts, and I don't feel any need for the glitter that accompanies them or any eagerness to go through the confirmation process that they entail.

The main point I want to underscore is my eagerness to serve. Should it be helpful to talk in person, I'm still in Chicago following the events in Grant Park and will be here through Saturday evening. I have a couple of speaking engagements here relating to my latest book, one on Friday night and one on Saturday night.

I can be reached by email or on my cell, 617-512-7018. I'll be returning to Boston on Sunday morning.

Good luck in all that the transition involves.
Larry Tribe

Laurence H. Tribe
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617-495-4621

Here's what appeared in Forbes.com yesterday:

I am watching the sun rise over Lake Michigan in the land of Lincoln on this new day in America. This is the morning after a great divide in the biography of the United States. As a nation, we have come of age. I flew to Chicago Tuesday afternoon to witness history as the United States of America went to the polls on Election Day, 2008. Hours later, as President-elect Barack Obama spoke in Grant Park to claim his victory before a great throng of supporters and an eagerly listening world last night, almost exactly forty years after the chaos of 1968, I felt myself in the flow of time, a minor participant in a great saga punctuated by events that shaped my life as it shaped the lives of so many others.

The year 1968 was, for me and most of my friends, a time of tragedy and disillusion. Through the years that followed, years punctuated by Watergate and Vietnam and by decades of political polarization and paralysis, politics was the game that disappointed. Yesterday it was the game that delivered. The work of governing lies ahead, but the sun is rising and the challenges we face - in reconstructing a broken economy, restoring a threatened Constitution, ending a misguided war and waging a necessary one, starting to heal a wounded planet - look from here like opportunities to be seized, not obstacles to be feared.

How different this feels from the crazy election of 2000, brought to an abrupt and puzzling end by the Supreme Court's ill-starred decision to stop counting the ballots, when another new President was installed to preside over a nearly dysfunctional country. Having served as counsel before the Court to the losing candidate during that sad chapter in our democratic trajectory, I returned to ordinary life but wondered when, if ever, I could fully believe in the process again.

As the decade progressed, the most impressive student I had ever taught was quietly pursuing his own political trajectory. In 1989 I had met Barack Obama and hired him as my research assistant while he

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was still just a first-year Harvard law student. His stunning combination of analytical brilliance and personal charisma, openness and maturity, vision and pragmatism, was unmistakable from my very first encounter with the future President.

I thought about that encounter as he and his wife Michelle each gave me a hug in one of the off-stage tents in Grant Park last night. I recalled it as I found myself unable to express in words my sense of gratitude and of possibility. The President-elect and the First Lady-designate both thanked me for the part I had played in Barack Obama's education and his rise to power, but it was I, of course, who owed thanks to them, thanks for the journey on which they had embarked to reclaim America for all who dare to hope.

There will be countless efforts to dissect their improbable path from that cold winter morning in Springfield nearly two years ago - when a still-new Senator from Illinois announced his candidacy for the highest office in the land - to the unseasonably warm evening in Chicago when that quest reached its climax and when those who had led it confronted the daunting challenges of actually governing. This is not another attempt at such dissection. Nor is this another post-mortem on the failed efforts of President-elect Obama's more than formidable foes. It is simply a personal note to commemorate a milestone in a great nation's history.

As an immigrant to the United States, born in Shanghai to Russian Jewish parents who brought me with them when they settled in California in 1947, I have always felt great pride both in that ancestry and in the gift of citizenship conferred on me by the nation that went on to provide me with such extraordinary opportunities to thrive and to give something back for all that I have been given. My pride in that citizenship has never been greater than it is today. Truth to tell, I find myself unable to stop smiling, just as last night I found it difficult to stop crying.

Barack Obama's unique ability to explain and to motivate, coupled with his signature ability to listen and to learn and linked with the calm that marked his nearly flawless campaign, will serve him
- and all of us
- well as we grapple with as daunting a set of problems as the nation has faced in three-quarters of a century.

It is of course true that only time will tell just how successful this brave, brilliant, and caring man will be in charting a new course for the country, something that will depend only partly on decisions that Obama will make as President. But one thing is already certain: The very fact of Barack Obama's election at this defining moment - quite apart from the programs he pursues and the ways in which he pursues them
- already speaks volumes to everyone on the planet. His election in and of itself displays how dramatically America has moved to transcend the divisions of its past and bids fair to give us a new lease on life in a world that had come, and not without reason, to see us in an awful light
- a world that will now give this nation a fresh look and a second chance.

The sun is now high over Lake Michigan. It is a new day in America. We can do this. Yes, we can.

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 2:40:38 PM
Subject: Re: NYT: Book Questions Clinton Donations

Yes - but if we want to have her express skepticism we can do so through a spox answer to question, using our QA.

On Apr 19, 2015, at 9:19 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

The enviros may latch onto this going forward. Have we discussed when she will come out against Keystone? After POTUS vetoes?

and more than $1 million in payments to Mr. Clinton by a Canadian bank and major shareholder in the Keystone XL oil pipeline around the time the project was being debated in the State Department.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Sun, Apr 19, 2015 at 9:08 PM
Subject: NYT: Book Questions Clinton Donations
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com >

Book Questions Clinton Donations

By AMY CHOZICK APRIL 19, 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/20/us/politics/book-questions-clinton-donations.html?_r=0

The book does not hit shelves until May 5, but already the Republican Rand Paul has called its findings "big news" that will "shock people" and make voters "question" the candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton .

"Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich," by Peter Schweizer — a 186-page investigation of donations made to the Clinton Foundation by foreign entities — is proving the most anticipated and feared book of a presidential cycle still in its infancy.

The book, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, asserts that foreign entities who made payments to the Clinton Foundation and to Mr. Clinton through high speaking fees received favors from Mrs. Clinton's State Department in return.

"We will see a pattern of financial transactions involving the Clintons that occurred contemporaneous with favorable U.S. policy decisions benefiting those providing the funds," Mr. Schweizer writes.

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His examples include a free-trade agreement in Colombia that benefited a major foundation donor's natural resource investments in the South American nation, development projects in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake in 2010, and more than $1 million in payments to Mr. Clinton by a Canadian bank and major shareholder in the Keystone XL oil pipeline around the time the project was being debated in the State Department.

In the long lead up to Mrs. Clinton's campaign announcement, aides proved adept in swatting down critical books as conservative propaganda, including Edward Klein's "Blood Feud," about tensions between the Clinton and the Obamas, and Daniel Halper's "Clinton Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine."

But "Clinton Cash" is potentially more unsettling, both because of its focused reporting and because major news organizations are expected to pursue the story lines found in the book.

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have been briefed about the book's findings, which have already made their way into several of the Republican presidential candidates' campaigns.

Conservative "super PACs" plan to seize on "Clinton Cash," and a pro-Democrat super PAC has already assembled a dossier on Mr. Schweizer, a speechwriting consultant to former President George W. Bush and a fellow at the conservative Hoover Institute, to make the case that he has a bias against Mrs. Clinton.

And the newly assembled Clinton campaign team is planning a full-court press to diminish the book as yet another conservative hit job.

Mr. Schweizer and a spokeswoman for HarperCollins, which is owned by News Corporation and is publishing the book, declined to comment.

The timing is problematic for Mrs. Clinton as she begins a campaign to position herself as a "champion for everyday Americans."

From 2001 to 2012, the Clintons' income was at least $136.5 million, Mr. Schweizer writes, using a figure previously reported in The Washington Post. "During Hillary's years of public service, the Clintons have conducted or facilitated hundreds of large transactions" with foreign governments, he writes. "Some of these transactions have put millions in their own pockets."

Continue reading the main story

The Clinton Foundation has come under scrutiny for accepting foreign donations while Mrs. Clinton served as secretary of state. Last week, the foundation revised its policy to allow donations from countries like Germany, Canada, the Netherlands and Britain but prohibit giving by other nations in the Middle East.

Mr. Schweizer's book will be released the same day former President Bill Clinton and the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, will host the Clinton Global Initiative gathering with donors in Morocco, the culmination of a foundation trip to several African nations. (A chapter in the book is titled "Warlord Economics: The Clintons do Africa.")

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There is a robust market for books critical of the Clintons. The thinly sourced “Blood Feud,” by Mr. Klein, at one point overtook Mrs. Clinton’s memoir “Hard Choices” on the best-seller list.

But whether Mr. Schweizer’s book can deliver the same sales is not clear.

Mr. Schweizer writes mainly in the voice of a neutral journalist and meticulously documents his sources, including tax records and government documents, while leaving little doubt about his view of the Clintons.

His reporting largely focuses on payments made to Mr. Clinton for speeches, which increased while his wife served as secretary of state, writing that “of the 13 Clinton speeches that fetched $500,000 or more, only two occurred during the years his wife was not secretary of state.”

In 2011, Mr. Clinton made $13.3 million in speaking fees for 54 speeches, the majority of which were made overseas, the author writes. Among the connections he tries to draw is a $750,000 speaking fee to Mr. Clinton by the Swedish telecom company Ericsson and a State Department list of new sanctions on Iran that did not include telecom.

Mr. Schweizer, president of the Government Accountability Institute, is the author of the 2013 book “Extortion: How Politicians Extract Your Money, Buy Votes, and Line Their Own Pockets,” and “Throw Them All Out” about elected officials receiving insider stock tips.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	12/9/2014 8:24:26 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday December 9, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday December 9, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "[@HillaryClinton] is in high esteem with liberal Democrats," @GovHowardDean said today on @Morning_Joe . [12/9/14, 12:56 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@GovHowardDean said on @Morning_Joe he will endorse @HillaryClinton . [12/9/14, 12:54 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Pelosi on shutdown: 'Do your job'”

“Pelosi also lauded former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as almost a lock in her bid to become the first female president. ‘When she runs, she’ll win, and when she wins, she’ll be one of the best-prepared,’ she said.”

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: “Tumbling Down The Benghazi Rabbit Hole”

“There continues to be zero evidence that Benghazi stands as a major 2016 political hurdle for Hillary Clinton, who served as Secretary of State at the time of the attack.”

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New York Times: “MoveOn.org Looks to Nudge Elizabeth Warren Into 2016 Presidential Race”

“‘As Senator Warren has said many times, she is not running for president,’ said Lacey Rose, Ms. Warren’s press secretary, regarding the draft effort.”

CNN: “Liberal group MoveOn.Org ready to kick-off $1 million campaign to draft Warren in 2016”

“Sen. Elizabeth Warren may repeatedly say she isn't running for president in 2016, but don't tell that to the nation's largest liberal grassroots organization.”

Politicus USA: “Elizabeth Warren Rejects MoveOn’s Million Dollar Effort To Draft Her For 2016”

“MoveOn.org is trying to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run for president in 2016, but Sen. Warren has already rejected their efforts and made it clear that she won’t be running against Hillary Clinton.”

Glamour: “Is America Ready for a Female President?”

“It's impossible to imagine 2016 and not see that the prospect of a woman president is a matter of ‘sooner, not later.’ No wise pundit would want to stand under that political glass ceiling.”

New York Times: Times Insider: “Inside the Clinton White House: An Oral History of the Administration”

NYT’s AMY CHOZICK: “Some people in the party and liberal media outlets have said she [Sec. Clinton] is too centrist. What surprised me was to see what a liberal firebrand she used to be.”

Washington Post blog: The Fix: Nia-Malika Henderson: “Hillary Clinton has made millions on speeches. But she’s still not a great speaker.”

“She has yet to master ‘the big speech,’ which is part of the toolbox of any major politician.”

MikeHuckabee.com: Mike Huckabee: “Hillary Clinton's Latest...”

“Over the weekend, Hillary Clinton made some comments about how ‘smart power’ requires that we understand our enemies, that we empathize

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with them, respect them and see things from their point of view. It might be one of the most asinine comments I've ever heard."

Articles:

[The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Pelosi on shutdown: 'Do your job'"]

By Ben Kamisar

December 9, 2014, 12:41 p.m. EST

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said Tuesday that shutting down the government would be a "dereliction of duty," and she accused Republicans of ignoring the consequences.

"There's a difference of opinion of how serious it is to shut down government," she said during Politico's "Women Rule" Summit. "Do your job, get it done, figure it out."

Lawmakers are scrambling to bring a bill to the floor to extend government funding before it expires this week. GOP members are expected to release a bill that would provide funding for most agencies until September but only fund the Department of Homeland Security for a few months as retribution for President Obama's recent immigration executive orders.

But the House hasn't yet brought the package forward, which is creating some skepticism that the shutdown will be avoided. With some Republicans and conservative groups threatening not to support the bill unless it defunds Obama's executive order, GOP leaders may need Democratic votes to pass their plan.

"If Democratic votes are required to pass the bill, the bill has to have a certain level of bipartisanship," Pelosi said.

The majority of Pelosi's comments centered on how to increase women's participation in politics. She noted that there were only 23 women in the House when she was elected in 1987. There are now 83, including 64 Democrats, according to numbers from Rutgers University.

"Our House Democratic caucus is a majority of women, minorities and LGBT members," she said. "That's a pretty remarkable thing for any political parliament in the world."

Despite the progress, Pelosi said that there should be a concerted, bipartisan effort to increase that number. She said that women could reach gender parity by 2050 with a motivated effort.

Pelosi also lauded former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as almost a lock in her bid to become the first female president.

"When she runs, she'll win, and when she wins, she'll be one of the best-prepared," she said.

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“I would like to be relieved of the title of the highest ranking women in politics in America, I want to have a women president of the United States.”

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: “Tumbling Down The Benghazi Rabbit Hole”

By Eric Boehlert

December 9, 2014

[Subtitle:] New Spin: Republicans Are In On The Cover-Up, Too

Like a pair of investigative bookends, two bipartisan congressional reports arrived this year -- one from the Senate Intelligence Committee released in January, the other by the House Intelligence Committee in late November. Both came to similar conclusions about the 2012 terror attack on the United States diplomatic compound in Benghazi. And both represented bad news for conservative cheerleaders of the Benghazi cover-up saga, as the tandem reports released enormous amount of air from the scandal balloons.

The Senate report in January did little to quench the political thirst of hardcore Benghazi believers. Its findings, which categorically demolished the most closely-held beliefs of Benghazi true-believers, didn't stop House Republicans from establishing a select committee in May to launch yet another investigation. (Six congressional committees and an independent State Department panel had already investigated the attack, for those keeping score.) That select committee holds its second hearing this week.

The more recent House report however, does seem to have produced a sense of creeping panic among dedicated partisans who remain committed to keeping the story alive through the 2016 presidential campaign. The House findings run so counter to what Benghazi promoters have claimed that they threaten the viability of that strategy.

And that's why, in a truly odd turn of events, the Republican-authored House report is now under withering attack from a cadre of Republicans and their allies in the right-wing media ("a classic Washington whitewash"!), who've logged thousands of hours over the last two years propping up the shaky cover-up tale and trying to turn it into a Barack Obama scandal brand.

"The House Select Committee on Benghazi has stated that it will reconvene on Dec. 10. Its work will be as important as ever," the Heritage Foundation's Daily Signal announced this week. (i.e. questions remain!) The Weekly Standard agreed, with its writers reporting that the latest Congressional report that debunked every major Benghazi conspiracy to date, simply confirms that Congress needs all the Benghazi investigations it can get.

Why? "This new Benghazi "intelligence" report is little more than a C.Y.A. attempt designed to protect incompetent politicians and government agents at the expense of justice for the victims of September 11, 2012," according to Sen. Rand Paul.

This, of course, is the language of dead-enders. It's the language of partisans with stunted capacity for reason and who won't concede the facts on the ground. Instead, they tumble further and further down into a rabbit hole of what-ifs, spending extraordinary time (and taxpayer money) trying to undermine the facts while proclaiming the next inquiry will get it just right.

In other words, a Republican-chaired committee report that debunks Benghazi conspiracies is now being used as a rallying cry for conservatives who are convinced the report raises more pressing questions.

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Do you see where this closed, hermetically sealed loop is designed to lead us?

In criticizing the report, note that since the release of the report from the House Intelligence Committee, conservative critics need to find an explanation for why its Republican chairman, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI), allegedly opted to tank his own committee's year-in-the-making report; why he would authorize a "messy," "bizarre and troubling" report. Did he do it protect the White House and Hillary Clinton?

Is Rogers now part of the cover-up, too?

But the ruse isn't going to work in the long run because the facts remain immovable. "A report released late Friday about the fatal 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, left Republicans in the same position they have been in for two years: with little evidence to support their most damning critiques of how the Obama administration, and then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, responded to the attacks," the New York Times reported late last month.

More (emphasis added):

Similar to five other government reports, the one released by the House Intelligence Committee on Friday said that the administration had not intentionally misled the public about what occurred during the attacks in talking points it created for officials to use in television appearances that turned out to be inaccurate. It also said that no order was given by the military to "stand down" in responding to try to save the four Americans killed in the attacks, a claim that Republicans have made based on the account of a member of the security team in Benghazi that day.

...

The report said the C.I.A. did not have an "intelligence failure" in the months before the attacks.

For a refresher from Media Matters research, what did the Senate report conclude in January?

-No Effort By Obama Administration To Cover-Up Or Alter Facts

-No Evidence Of A "Stand Down" Order

-No "Tactical Warning" Predicting An Attack

Talk about a Congressional one-two punch.

But when up becomes down, when evidence creates more "questions," when reports that debunk conspiracy theories are used by advocates as proof more inquiries are needed, it becomes impossible to reason about the established facts. Or in this case, it has become impossible to make sense of what conservatives pretend the facts to be.

Even back in the 1990s, when the entire Republican agenda seemed to revolve around ending President Bill Clinton's presidency via "scandal" investigation, I don't think we ever hit a phase during the Whitewater waste of money where Clinton's partisan foes were reduced to arguing that Republican members of Congress were in on the White House cover-up, and that's why the "truth" remained so well hid for years.

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And by the way, there continues to be zero evidence that Benghazi stands as a major 2016 political hurdle for Hillary Clinton, who served as Secretary of State at the time of the attack. In fact, a new poll this week found "Americans overwhelmingly see her tenure as Secretary of State as an advantage," as the Washington Post's Greg Sargent noted.

No matter. Professional Benghazi promoters are so far underground at this point, dashing between scandal warrens, that they've lost sight of the reality. Everybody, it now seems, is on the cover-up.

New York Times: "MoveOn.org Looks to Nudge Elizabeth Warren Into 2016 Presidential Race"

By Jonathan Martin

December 8, 2014

WASHINGTON — Some Democrats are "Ready for Hillary." MoveOn.org is ready for Elizabeth Warren.

The liberal group is poised to spend $1 million on a campaign to draft Senator Warren, the Massachusetts Democrat, into the 2016 presidential race, an indication of an appetite among some activists for a more progressive alternative to Hillary Rodham Clinton.

MoveOn.org's executive director, Ilya Sheyman, said the group planned to open offices and hire staff in Iowa and New Hampshire, the states that kick off the presidential nominating process, and ultimately to air television ads in those states. The group will begin its push with a website, "Run Warren Run," allowing supporters to sign a petition urging Ms. Warren to pursue a White House bid and featuring a video about her.

"We want to demonstrate to Senator Warren that there's a groundswell of grass-roots energy nationally and in key states and to demonstrate there's a path for her," Mr. Sheyman said. He added that the effort was not being made in coordination with Ms. Warren and that the group advised her staff about it only last weekend.

Ms. Warren, who is entering her third year in the Senate, has fast become a favorite among liberal activists for her unapologetic brand of economic populism, but she has also repeatedly denied any interest in pursuing the presidency.

"As Senator Warren has said many times, she is not running for president," said Lacey Rose, Ms. Warren's press secretary, regarding the draft effort.

Such comments have not, however, dissuaded her admirers. MoveOn.org is set to survey its eight million members for one day starting Tuesday, with the expectation that they will affirm its support of the effort to nudge Ms. Warren into the race. She is well regarded by the group, having gotten its support in her 2012 race and joining members on conference calls during her time in the Senate on such issues as student loan debt.

Mrs. Clinton is a popular figure among Democrats and enjoys a wide lead in early polls, but some progressives are wary of her style of politics and believe that widening income disparities in the country call for a more confrontational figure.

Ms. Warren, a former Harvard law professor, is the most sought-after candidate among this liberal bloc, but others could fill the void if she remains on the sidelines. Former Senator Jim Webb of Virginia has already opened an exploratory committee, and Senator Bernie Sanders, a liberal

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independent from Vermont, and Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland have also discussed presidential bids.

Asked about Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Sheyman said the group's effort was unrelated "to any other candidate," but added that MoveOn.org members want a Democratic nominee who fits the moment.

"Voters are looking for bold solutions about how you fix a rigged system in which middle- and working-class families are falling behind," he said.

Whether there is significant energy behind the "Run Warren Run" effort may be known soon: MoveOn.org is planning a kickoff on next Tuesday in Des Moines.

CNN: "Liberal group MoveOn.Org ready to kick-off $1 million campaign to draft Warren in 2016"

By Dan Merica

December 9, 2014, 2:16 p.m. EST

Sen. Elizabeth Warren may repeatedly say she isn't running for president in 2016, but don't tell that to the nation's largest liberal grassroots organization.

MoveOn.org, an 8-million member liberal grassroots organization, is poised to kick off a $1 million campaign to draft Warren for president in 2016. The plan will be put to MoveOn members Tuesday morning, but because of the Massachusetts senator's popularity with the liberals, the plan is expected to easily pass.

The campaign includes MoveOn.org opening offices and hiring staff in Iowa and New Hampshire, two states that are critically important in the presidential nomination process, and "the assembly of a national volunteer army ready to go to work if Sen. Warren enters the race."

If passed, MoveOn will also begin producing "ads and media products that call attention to how Sen. Warren has stood up and fought for the middle class and her powerful vision for our country's future."

"There is too much at stake to have anything other than our best candidates in the debate," Ilya Sheyman, executive director of MoveOn.org Political Action, said in a statement. "We are prepared to show Senator Warren she has the support she needs to enter—and win—the presidential race."

Warren has said a number of times that she is not running for president, despite all the liberal excitement around her possible candidacy. Through her lawyer, Warren even disavowed Ready for Warren, a super PAC hoping to draft the liberal senator.

"As Senator Warren has said many times, she is not running for president," Lacey J. Rose, Warren's press secretary, said on Tuesday.

That said, should she decide to run, Warren would be far from the first presidential hopeful to backtrack on a pledge not to do so.

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"This is a huge opportunity for MoveOn members, if they choose, to inspire Senator Warren as she has inspired so many of us," said Anna Galland, executive director of MoveOn.org Civic Action.

MoveOn's campaign is as much a boost to Warren as it is a slight to Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner for the 2016 nomination and someone who has failed to connect with some liberal activists.

MoveOn organizers won't fault Clinton directly, but they regularly talk about finding a nominee that fits the moment for Democrats, not someone associated with what they see as a longtime rigged political system.

Polling, however, has shown that self-identified liberals overwhelmingly back the former secretary of state.

In a July CNN/ORC International Poll, 66% of liberals said they would back Clinton over people like Warren, Vice President Joe Biden and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. In the same poll, only 13% of liberal backed Warren.

But in polls of strictly members of liberal groups, Warren fares much better. In a November poll of Democracy for America's one million members, Warren garnered 42% support, compared to 24% for Vermont Independent Senator Bernie Sanders and 23% for Clinton.

MoveOn is not the only liberal political group pushing for a Warren run. Democracy for America said Tuesday it would poll its members about joining the "Draft Warren" effort.

"Washington consultants can spout off a dozen reasons why Elizabeth Warren shouldn't run, but none of that beltway blather means a thing next to this one, simple truth: The Democratic Party and our country desperately need Warren's voice in the 2016 presidential debate," DFA Executive Director Charles Chamberlain said in a statement out Tuesday.

Politicus USA: “Elizabeth Warren Rejects MoveOn’s Million Dollar Effort To Draft Her For 2016”

By Jason Easley

December 9, 2014, 10:59 a.m. EST

MoveOn.org is trying to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run for president in 2016, but Sen. Warren has already rejected their efforts and made it clear that she won’t be running against Hillary Clinton.

Via a press release, MoveOn announced their member vote to draft Warren,

For the first time in its 16-year history, the 8-million-member group is holding a nationwide membership vote on a presidential draft campaign. If the vote succeeds, the group will focus on persuading the Massachusetts senator, who has become known as a tireless, passionate advocate for middle-class and working families, to seek the presidency.

Voting is open to MoveOn’s full membership across the country until 10 a.m. Eastern time Wednesday morning. The result will be announced at 11

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a.m. Eastern.

The campaign, if ratified by MoveOn's members, will include:

– offices and staff in early primary and caucus states like Iowa and New Hampshire,

– the assembly of a national volunteer army ready to go to work if Sen. Warren enters the race,

– recruiting small-dollar donors who pledge their support,

– and ads and media products that call attention to how Sen. Warren has stood up and fought for the middle class and her powerful vision for our country's future.

The organization will invest at least $1 million in the first phase of the launch.

Warren's press secretary put an end to dream of drafting the senator in 2016 by saying for the billionth time, "As Senator Warren has said many times, she is not running for president."

Sen. Warren is not running because she supports Hillary Clinton in 2016. Warren has shown herself to be a tireless campaigner for Democratic candidates and a loyal party member. She seems like anything, but the go it alone type who would break with her party to launch and outsider bid for president.

There is a candidate that would be perfect for the left that groups like MoveOn continue to ignore. Sen. Bernie Sanders is serious about challenging Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary, and he would welcome a million dollar investment in a primary campaign organization.

Whether progressives want to believe it or not, Elizabeth Warren is not running. She has made zero moves towards a bid for the presidency. If groups like MoveOn were smart, they would be lining up behind Sanders and stop wasting their time chasing the fantasy of Elizabeth Warren in 2016.

Glamour: "Is America Ready for a Female President?"

By Jeff Greenfield

December 9, 2014

Political analyst Jeff Greenfield asked that question in this magazine nearly 40 years ago. Now, as election watchers wait to see if Hillary Rodham Clinton will run again, he wonders: What's changed and what hasn't?

If those words sound hopelessly out- dated...well, they are. They were written by me for this magazine 39 years ago, when the impact of the

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women's movement was only beginning to be felt in politics. Today, nearly four decades later, polls suggest that a woman president is not just probable but imminent.

Polls, no doubt, can be written in sand; Hillary Rodham Clinton, after all, was the "probable" and "imminent" next president nine years ago. But over the last 40 years, changes in our politics, our society, and our attitudes have eradicated nearly every obstacle that once blocked a woman's path to the White House. Whether Clinton (or another woman) is or isn't elected in 2016, the glass ceiling that kept a woman from becoming president—or even a presidential nominee—has been effectively shattered.

So as Clinton's much-anticipated announcement looms over the 2016 campaign, let me show you just how far we've come. Back in 1976, as I reported, 49 percent of men and a disturbingly high 40 percent of women said they would be less likely to vote for a woman presidential candidate than for an equally qualified male. Now? According to a Pew poll in May, a full 71 percent of voters said gender would make no difference, and 19 percent said they'd be more likely to vote for a woman.

Why this quantum leap? In that original Glamour piece, I argued the most powerful force on the side of female candidates would be "time—time for women to enter the ranks of government, in decision- making, pressure-filled, executive jobs."

And the years have delivered. Women have entered the "decision-making" ranks in government and across the board, in job after job once seen as the exclusive province of those with XY chromosomes. In 1976 not a single woman sat in the United States Senate. Of those who had served, all but one had "inherited" the job from her husband. No woman had ever sat on the U.S. Supreme Court or in one of the "big four" Cabinet positions (state, defense, treasury, attorney general). And beyond politics, you would have been shocked to find a woman in the corner office of a Fortune 500 corporation or sitting solo at a network news anchor desk.

In 2015, for the first time ever, more than 100 women will serve in Congress. While the number of female senators still stubbornly hovers at around 20 women, in three states—California, New Hampshire, and Washington—both senators are women. Over the past four decades, 22 states have elected female governors; Arizona has done it three times! Many of the so-called daddy arenas—diplomacy, war and peace, law enforcement, money—are also no longer "men only" turf. Three secretaries of state have been women; so have two national security advisers and three U.N. ambassadors. Until Clinton stepped down, in 2013, women held all these key posts in this administration. We are a long way from genuine equality—Rwanda and Afghanistan have a higher percentage of women in their national legislatures than the U.S.— but it's a sea change from 40 years ago.

What was once eye-opening is now totally familiar outside the political realm too: Women anchor the network news, run Yahoo and General Motors, direct war movies. Critics of National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell like to raise the idea of replacing him with Condoleezza Rice. What's remarkable now is how unremarkable the idea sounds.

There is, of course, one other factor that has changed the idea of a woman president from long-range possibility to short-range probability: It almost happened.

Hillary Clinton's 2008 White House run is viewed by some as a failure: a combination of bad strategy, bad management, and bad tactics. Her loss is also seen by many of her sternest supporters as proof of the still powerful sexism that would burden any female candidate.

While looking back over the blizzard of comments about her 2008 campaign, I kept running across the same handful of examples of that sexism: dumb statements by cable news talking heads ("When she comes on television," said Tucker Carlson, "I involuntarily cross my legs"); two louts at a Salem, New Hampshire, rally yelling, "Iron my shirt!" at her; the Hillary Nutcracker on sale at novelty stores. But for all the sexism, for all her campaign's missteps, she came within a whisker (if that's not too male a reference) of winning the nomination. By the time the primaries ended in early June, she and Barack Obama each had more than 18 million votes. And it should not be overlooked that Obama was treated with exceptional deference by the political press, and Clinton suffered by comparison. (Maybe journalists in real life didn't act quite like those in the classic Saturday Night Live skit by providing the answers to the questions they were asking, but the disparity was obvious.)

Was the loss because Hillary Clinton is a woman? Or because she is this particular woman, whose ties to the forty-second president may have turned out to be a liability at the time? In the fall of 2007, when Clinton was dominating the polls, Republican strategist Mike Murphy cautioned me, "This is a 'change' election, and she can't run as a 'change' candidate."

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Besides, Clinton's 2008 defeat will hardly hold her back: From Andrew Jackson to Ronald Reagan, candidates have come back to win nominations and elections after primary failures. Now, with her years as secretary of state added to her Senate service, her credentials are as strong as those of any potential president, past or present, especially in an election in which national-security issues such as ISIS, Ebola, and Russia's militancy promise to loom large. What seems clear is that the questions she will have to answer will have far less to do with her sex than with who she is, what she's done, and what she stands for (though the recent, ludicrous questions about her "grandmotherhood"—an issue never raised regarding presidential grandfathers—suggest she won't be immune to gender idiocy). There will, of course, be other questions, as there should be: Is she too old to run? Politicos asked that of Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole, and John McCain; it's a concern she, like them, will have to put to rest. Was her tenure as secretary of state a success, or was she naive about Russia's aggressiveness and Islamist extremism? Does she have real answers to the economic health of the middle class? These same questions would be asked if we were talking about Henry instead of Hillary Clinton.

Finally, and most significantly, the probability of our ultimately having a woman president does not depend on whether Clinton wins, or even runs, in 2016. There is now a wide range of potential presidents in both parties. On the left, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan have great credentials. On the right, the bench includes Senator Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, who may be most intriguing if you're a Republican worried about the women's vote and the Hispanic vote.

As I've learned, making a political prediction can be dangerous. A woman might not make it to the White House in the next four or eight years—this is a steeply narrow pyramid; we elect only one person at a time to the very top. That's why, even when discrimination ends, there will be a lot of groups that will go a very long time before having a president who "looks like" them.

But it's impossible to imagine 2016 and not see that the prospect of a woman president is a matter of "sooner, not later." No wise pundit would want to stand under that political glass ceiling.

New York Times: Times Insider: “Inside the Clinton White House: An Oral History of the Administration”

By Erika Allen

December 9, 2014, 10:35 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] In a front-page article last weekend, Amy Chozick and Peter Baker delved into an oral history of the Clinton White House, conducted by the Miller Center. As Hillary Clinton prepares for her own possible presidential run, the series of interviews with Clinton administration players ‘bears on the future as much as the past,’ the reporters wrote. Here, Ms. Chozick talks about what she found most fascinating in the trove of recently released transcripts.

Q.

When and why were the interviews conducted, and who was involved?

A.

The Miller Center at the University of Virginia has conducted oral histories of every presidency going back to Jimmy Carter. Historians interview key players in each administration and then seal those interviews away for years to come. In the case of the Clinton oral history, a lot of the White House aides who were interviewed did not realize when they sat for interviews, mostly more than a decade ago, that by the time their remarks were made public the first lady would possibly be running for president. That makes for some of the most candid remarks we’ve seen.

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Q.

How did you go about analyzing the collection of interviews?

A.

Peter and I divided up the transcripts. I jumped on the chance to read through the transcripts that were most revealing about Hillary Clinton, and Peter knows a lot more about President Clinton and the West Wing than I do. But we found that she was such an active first lady, involved in so much policy in the West Wing, that even interviews with domestic or economic policy advisers provided rich detail into Mrs. Clinton as well as the president.

Q.

Why were the interviews released now?

A.

They're typically released a decade later and made available in batches. This first batch coincided nicely with the 10th anniversary of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Ark., which includes a library and museum. The Clinton center arranged panel discussions with former White House aides and Miller Center academics to coincide with the project's release.

Q.

What surprised you most?

A.

As we look towards the 2016 presidential campaign, a lot has been made about whether Mrs. Clinton can appeal to the left wing of the Democratic Party. Some people in the party and liberal media outlets have said she is too centrist. What surprised me was to see what a liberal firebrand she used to be. The West Wing nicknamed her health care team "the Bolsheviks," and she was the one whispering in her husband's ear against policies like Nafta that are so unpopular with the liberal wing of the party.

Q.

Were there any great anecdotes that you'd never heard before?

A.

Most people know that Mrs. Clinton was the first first lady to have an office in the West Wing, but hearing Roy M. Neel, who was Al Gore's 1992 campaign manager and who went on to serve as the vice president's chief of staff, describe how that went down stood out for me. Shortly after Mr. Clinton won the 1992 election, Mr. Neel said Mrs. Clinton's friend Susan Thomases was in the West Wing checking out where everyone would sit. "The rumor," Mr. Neel said, "was that Susan had decided that Gore wouldn't have the traditional vice president's office in the West Wing, that that would go to Hillary."

Q.

Whose interview were you most looking forward to reading and why?

A.

I was looking forward to reading Ms. Thomases' transcripts. She was one of Mrs. Clinton's closest friends and most devoted defenders and is a political legend. She's the inspiration for the character Lucille Kaufmann in the 1996 political novel "Primary Colors." She has multiple sclerosis now and, sadly, had to retire. It was a special gift to get to read her thoughts about the White House years.

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Q.

Any other gems?

A.

Man, was Ms. Thomases tough. At one point, she makes fun of George Stephanopoulos, whom she calls “the squeamish guy of the century.” She made fun of him on the 1992 campaign: “‘Ooh, ooh, I can’t stand this campaign.’ I said: ‘Then quit. Your theatrics are just adorable, but quit. If you can’t handle it, quit.’”

Q.

What, if anything, do you feel is missing from the collection?

A.

What’s missing? Bill and Hillary Clinton’s interviews, of course.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: Nia-Malika Henderson: “Hillary Clinton has made millions on speeches. But she’s still not a great speaker.”

By Nia-Malika Henderson

December 9, 2014, 12:29 p.m. EST

MoveOn.org is lining up for Elizabeth Warren — the latest sign of her strength among progressives — by kicking off a $1 million effort to draft her for president in 2016, according to an article in the New York Times:

“MoveOn.org’s executive director, Ilya Sheyman, said the group planned to open offices and hire staff in Iowa and New Hampshire, the states that kick off the presidential nominating process, and ultimately to air television ads in those states. The group will begin its push with a website, ‘Run Warren Run,’ allowing supporters to sign a petition urging Ms. Warren to pursue a White House bid and featuring a video about her.

“‘We want to demonstrate to Senator Warren that there’s a groundswell of grass-roots energy nationally and in key states and to demonstrate there’s a path for her,’ Mr. Sheyman said. He added that the effort was not being made in coordination with Ms. Warren and that the group advised her staff about it only last weekend.”

And with every Warren story, the question becomes just how worried Hillary Clinton should actually be. And it's this question that reminded me of a sentence in my colleague Anne Gearan's article about all the potential "not-Hillarys" who might run in 2016:

“Bill Clinton admires Warren’s stemwinder speaking style, and Hillary Clinton echoed parts of Warren’s sticking-up-for-the-little guy economic message during midterm speeches this year.”

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It's this speaking style that has powered Warren to her position, leading my colleague, David Farenthold, to call her the master of the stump speech. She can bring a huge crowd to its feet in a way that almost no politician can at this point. And she is also a pitbull at congressional hearings, the very kind of appearances which will likely go into whatever video that MoveOn.org will make about her.

As for Clinton, what would be on her highlight reel of speeches? Her attempted echo of Warren's brand of populism in Massachusetts fell flat. Take a look at Clinton addressing the recent incidents involving white police officers and black men which have particularly inflamed progressives (at the 2:00 mark):

[VIDEO]

"I know that a lot of hearts are breaking and we are asking ourselves, aren't these our sons? Aren't these our brothers?" she said, adding that "each of us has to grapple with some hard truths about race and justice in America" when it comes to disproportionate treatment in sentencing.

Here is a review from the Boston Globe of that portion of the speech, in which Clinton talked about the country needing to "find balance" again:

“The remarks, delivered with a slow, deliberate cadence at the Massachusetts Conference for Women as Clinton stood on a wide stage, came not long before she is expected to telegraph her political intentions.”

Uninspiring, cautious, careful. "Trite" might be another way to describe Clinton's riff, which was far from the kind of rousing style that her husband so admires in Warren.

Granted, race and policing is a tough issue, not given to rah-rah speeches — especially as federal investigations are still ongoing. But this knock on Clinton's delivery style goes for many of her speeches. Given that she has been in public life since 1992, it's a bit incongruous to consider that her speaking style is often so lacking. She has yet to master "the big speech," which is part of the toolbox of any major politician.

Yes, there are some hits — the Beijing speech from 1995 on women is still quoted today, as is the "18 million cracks" riff from 2008. But those speeches succeeded because the content was so compelling, and it's hard to point to a big Hillary speech moment. Her announcement in 2007 came via a soft-lit video rather than a big speech ala Obama).

The "big speech" doesn't have to be a candidate's warhorse, but it certainly helps. Clinton makes as much as $300,000 per speech, and will likely give them up until the time she announces. Those kinds of speech settings (corporate types) won't likely help her move beyond her slow, deliberate cadence, and in the meantime, Warren seems like she's just warming up.

A number of Clinton's potential opponents on the GOP side seem like they've had a crash course in public speaking (Sen. Marco Rubio especially) and have a sort of natural charisma and command of the stage (Sen. Ted Cruz).

Clinton has previously echoed the Mario Cuomo line that candidates "campaign in poetry and govern in prose" —dismissing Obama's rhetorical gifts way back when it was a liability for her. And similar to 2008, Warren will function as a sort of stalking horse come 2016 — unlikely to run, but very much a presence in the campaign, a constant reminder of a basic political skill that Clinton is still trying to master.

MikeHuckabee.com: “Hillary Clinton's Latest...”

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By Mike Huckabee

December 8, 2014

Friday in Yemen, US commandos attempted a raid to free American journalist Luke Somers and South African Pierre Korkie, who were being held hostage and threatened with death by al-Qaeda. But one of the terrorists spotted the commandos and raised an alarm. There was a firefight that killed six al-Qaeda fighters. No American soldiers were harmed, but the terrorists executed both hostages in cold blood. Over the weekend, Hillary Clinton made some comments about how “smart power” requires that we understand our enemies, that we empathize with them, respect them and see things from their point of view. It might be one of the most asinine comments I’ve ever heard. How can we empathize with terrorists who think nothing of beheading innocent men, women and children? America is a free nation today because previous leaders had the sense to understand that knowing your enemy meant understanding their weaknesses and exploiting them to win. It didn’t mean reaching out your hand to monsters who cut hands off.

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Daniel Kurtz-Phelan" <dkurtzphelan@gmail.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 11:09:07 AM
Subject: RE: HRC Iran statement

Dear Dan and Jake,

I am sorry for the delay, but I only landed this morning from Israel via JFK. Please see my comments below. Of course, we do not know the details at this time.
Stu

From: Daniel Kurtz-Phelan [mailto:dkurtzphelan@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2015 8:52 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: Jake Sullivan
Subject: HRC Iran statement

Dear Stu,

Jake asked that I share with you the current draft of HRC's statement on the Iran deal. It's pasted below. Some of this could of course change depending on the details of a final agreement, but it would be great to have your feedback at this stage,

Many thanks,
Dan

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I applaud President Obama and Secretary Kerry for securing a nuclear agreement that offers the strongest chance to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this deal will make the United States, Israel, our Arab partners, and the region safer and more secure than if there were no agreement.

At the same time, there are aspects of the agreement that are a cause for concern, and a basis for special diligence. has not been required to answer questions about the Possible Military Dimensions (PMD), including allowing the IAEA to inspect sites, interview key scientists and officials, and review documents that would shed light on their past and current PMD activities. In addition, clarity is required on what limits are imposed during the term of the agreement and thereafter to preclude Iran's work on advanced centrifuges. It is also critical that sanctions relief must come only when Iran has demonstration to the satisfaction of the IAEA that they have complied with their obligations. Sanctions for terrorism and other non-nuclear sanctions must remain in place. I want to make sure as President that any violation of the agreement by Iran would trigger a reimposition of sanctions, without an Iranian veto over the findings, and in ways that assure the US can act if we feel there is a violation. Most important is monitoring and verification. The IAEA inspectors must have timely and effective access to all sites in Iran, including military sites. It is unclear if this is the case.

Despite these concerns, it is critical in assessing this agreement to ask what alternatives exist. We already have in place the most effective, broad-based sanctions ever imposed on a country in peacetime. While they have brought Iran to the negotiating table, they have not stopped the continued expansion of their nuclear program. It is difficult to see what other sanctions would lead to greater Iranian concessions. Without an agreement, there would be no two-thirds reduction in their number of centrifuges; no dismantlement of their plutonium plant at Arak; no 24/IAEA inspections; no dilution of their 20% enriched uranium. Their capacity to "break-out: would be far more likely without this agreement, than with it. We also have to consider it we could maintain the partnership with the European Union, which has made the sanctions most effective.

Today's agreement is the culmination of an effective strategy executed over many years. By the end of the Bush administration, Iran was rapidly expanding its nuclear centrifuge capacity despite unilateral American sanctions and ineffective saber rattling. The Obama administration took a different approach, working with Congress and our allies and partners around the world. As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms – especially in Moscow and Beijing – to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history against Tehran. That unprecedented pressure shattered Iran's economy, halted the progress of its nuclear program (NB. BE CAREFUL THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGES AND AMOUNT OF ENRICHED URANIUM SINCE OBAMA TOOK OFFICE), and forced its leaders to the table to negotiate a deal that puts a nuclear weapon out of reach.

As President, I will use every tool in our arsenal to compel rigorous Iranian compliance. The response to any violation will be clear, immediate, and devastating -- starting with the return of sanctions but taking no options off the table, including, if necessary, the use of force. The message to Iran must be loud and clear: We will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; we will never allow you permit you to produce sufficient fissile material or otherwise acquire it, sufficient for a nuclear weapons; not just during the term of this agreement – never.

Going forward, we have to be clear-eyed when it comes to the broader threat Iran represents. Even with an agreement that limits its nuclear ambitions, Iran still poses a direct challenge to the United States and our allies, especially Israel. The funds it will receive with sanctions relief will provide billions of dollars more for Iran to use to support terrorism. It continues to destabilize countries from Yemen to Lebanon, while exacerbating conflict in Syria. And it fuels terrorism throughout the region and beyond, including through direct support to Hamas and Hizballah. We have to aggressively oppose and raise the costs for Iran's destabilizing activities, insist on the return of U.S. citizens being held by the Iranian government, and strengthen cooperation with our allies and partners. This agreement under my Administration will not see this agreement as the beginning of an American-Iranian partnership. Our allies in the Middle East deserve to have this assurance, and they will have it if I am elected President.

Israel should be confident that now and in a Hillary Clinton Administration, the United States will always defend its security and ensure its

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military edge in the region. Our two countries have to be on the same page when it comes to the threat posed by Iran, so I would invite the senior Israeli leadership to Washington for early talks on further strengthening our crucial alliance. I will provide Israel with all the military means it requires to defend itself against an Iranian threat, and support its actions to defend itself. We should also deepen our security relationship with Arab partners who are threatened by Iran's ambitions.

Ultimately, this agreement is the best way to protect our country and our allies. To walk away from a deal that will stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, or to bomb Iran as long an agreement offers an alternative, [as some Republican candidates for President suggest,] would be both dangerous and shortsighted – fracturing our global coalition, raising the risk of regional war, and ultimately bringing Iran closer to a nuclear weapon.

So we should proceed with wisdom and strength in implementing a deal born out of effective diplomacy and strong American leadership.

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From:	"Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	5/12/2008 9:52:29 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech On Climate Change in Portland, OR

Just off the phone with our tracker Jessica who made it into today's event. Here are the notes from our call:

Background Details:
- Press Outlets included: Local News - Channels 2, 6, 8, 9 and 12, Oregonian; Major national networks - CNN, FOX, MSNBC; Usual traveling/embedded press; Glen Johnson from the AP; Johnathan Martin from the Politico
- Event held at Vestas Wind Energy Training Facility in Portland, OR
- Approximately 100 in audience; though a bunch of those were campaign staffers and press; most of audience men, middle-aged, mix of blue and white collar workers of the company
- Current Governor of Oregon spoke, the president of the company spoke and then introduced McCain
- Event was closed to the general public
- Secret Service at event
- McCain used a gigantic teleprompter (we got footage of it)
- Staffers were wearing badges to identify themselves
- McCain did not answer questions after the event -- and did not hold a media availability

Speech - Transcript
Link: http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/Speeches/0b381abd-e573-459d-8716-fbd83ab62d8d.htm

Remarks By John McCain on Climate Change Policy

May 12, 2008

ARLINGTON, VA -- U.S. Senator John McCain delivered the following remarks as prepared for delivery at the Vestas Training Facility, in Portland, OR:

Thank you all very much. I appreciate the hospitality of Vestas Wind Technology. Today is a kind of test run for the company. They've got wind technicians here, wind studies, and all these wind turbines, but there's no wind. So now I know why they asked me to come give a speech.

Every day, when there are no reporters and cameras around to draw attention to it, this company and others like it are doing important work. And what we see here is just a glimpse of much bigger things to come. Wind power is one of many alternative energy sources that are changing our economy for the better. And one day they will change our economy forever.

Wind is a clean and predictable source of energy, and about as renewable as anything on earth. Along with solar power, fuel-cell technology, cleaner burning fuels and other new energy sources, wind power will bring America closer to energy independence. Our economy depends upon clean and affordable alternatives to fossil fuels, and so, in many ways, does our security. A large share of the world's oil reserves is controlled by foreign powers that do not have our interests at heart. And as our reliance on oil passes away, their power will vanish with it.

In the coming weeks, I intend to address many of the great challenges that America's energy policies must meet. When we debate energy bills in Washington, it should be more than a competition among industries for special favors, subsidies, and tax breaks. In the Congress, we need to send the special interests on their way -- without their favors and subsidies. We need to draw on the best ideas of both parties, and on all the resources a free market can provide. We need to keep our eyes on big goals in energy policy, the serious dangers, and the common interests of the American people.

Today I'd like to focus on just one of those challenges, and among environmental dangers it is surely the most serious of all. Whether we call it "climate change" or "global warming," in the end we're all left with the same set of facts. The facts of global warming demand our urgent attention, especially in Washington. Good stewardship, prudence, and simple commonsense demand that we to act meet the challenge, and act quickly.

Some of the most compelling evidence of global warming comes to us from NASA. No longer do we need to rely

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on guesswork and computer modeling, because satellite images reveal a dramatic disappearance of glaciers, Antarctic ice shelves and polar ice sheets. And I've seen some of this evidence up close. A few years ago I traveled to the area of Svalbard, Norway, a group of islands in the Arctic Ocean. I was shown the southernmost point where a glacier had reached twenty years earlier. From there, we had to venture northward up the fjord to see where that same glacier ends today -- because all the rest has melted. On a trip to Alaska, I heard about a national park visitor's center that was built to offer a picture-perfect view of a large glacier. Problem is, the glacier is gone. A work of nature that took ages to form had melted away in a matter of decades.

Our scientists have also seen and measured reduced snowpack, with earlier runoffs in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere. We have seen sustained drought in the Southwest, and across the world average temperatures that seem to reach new records every few years. We have seen a higher incidence of extreme weather events. In the frozen wilds of Alaska, the Arctic, Antarctic, and elsewhere, wildlife biologists have noted sudden changes in animal migration patterns, a loss of their habitat, a rise in sea levels. And you would think that if the polar bears, walruses, and sea birds have the good sense to respond to new conditions and new dangers, then humanity can respond as well.

We have many advantages in the fight against global warming, but time is not one of them. Instead of idly debating the precise extent of global warming, or the precise timeline of global warming, we need to deal with the central facts of rising temperatures, rising waters, and all the endless troubles that global warming will bring. We stand warned by serious and credible scientists across the world that time is short and the dangers are great. The most relevant question now is whether our own government is equal to the challenge.

There are vital measures we can take in the short term, even as we focus on long-term policies to mitigate the effects of global warming. In the years ahead, we are likely to see reduced water supplies, more forest fires than in previous decades, changes in crop production, more heat waves afflicting our cities and a greater intensity in storms. Each one of these consequences of climate change will require policies to protect our citizens, especially those most vulnerable to violent weather. Each one will require new precautions in the repair and construction of our roads, bridges, railways, seawalls and other infrastructure. Some state and local governments have already begun their planning and preparation for extreme events and other impacts of climate change. The federal government can help them in many ways, above all by coordinating their efforts, and I am committed to providing that support.

To lead in this effort, however, our government must strike at the source of the problem -- with reforms that only Congress can enact and the president can sign. We know that greenhouse gasses are heavily implicated as a cause of climate change. And we know that among all greenhouse gasses, the worst by far is the carbon-dioxide that results from fossil-fuel combustion. Yet for all the good work of entrepreneurs and inventors in finding cleaner and better technologies, the fundamental incentives of the market are still on the side of carbon-based energy. This has to change before we can make the decisive shift away from fossil fuels.

For the market to do more, government must do more by opening new paths of invention and ingenuity. And we must do this in a way that gives American businesses new incentives and new rewards to seek, instead of just giving them new taxes to pay and new orders to follow. The most direct way to achieve this is through a system that sets clear limits on all greenhouse gases, while also allowing the sale of rights to excess emissions. And this is the proposal I will submit to the Congress if I am elected president -- a cap-and-trade system to change the dynamic of our energy economy.

As a program under the Clean Air Act, the cap-and-trade system achieved enormous success in ridding the air of acid rain. And the same approach that brought a decline in sulfur dioxide emissions can have an equally dramatic and permanent effect on carbon emissions. Instantly, automakers, coal companies, power plants, and every other enterprise in America would have an incentive to reduce carbon emissions, because when they go under those limits they can sell the balance of permitted emissions for cash. As never before, the market would reward any person or company that seeks to invent, improve, or acquire alternatives to carbon-based energy. It is very hard to picture venture capitalists, corporate planners, small businesses and environmentalists all working to the same good purpose. But such cooperation is actually possible in the case of climate change, and this reform will set it in motion.

The people of this country have a genius for adapting, solving problems, and inventing new and better ways to accomplish our goals. But the federal government can't just summon those talents by command -- only the free market can draw them out. A cap-and-trade policy will send a signal that will be heard and welcomed all across

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the American economy. Those who want clean coal technology, more wind and solar, nuclear power, biomass and bio-fuels will have their opportunity through a new market that rewards those and other innovations in clean energy. The market will evolve, too, by requiring sensible reductions in greenhouse gases, but also by allowing full flexibility in how industry meets that requirement. Entrepreneurs and firms will know which energy investments they should make. And the highest rewards will go to those who make the smartest, safest, most responsible choices. A cap-and-trade reform wi ll also create a profitable opportunity for rural America to receive market-based payments -- instead of government subsidies -- for the conservation practices that store carbon in the soils of our nation's farms.

We will cap emissions according to specific goals, measuring progress by reference to past carbon emissions. By the year 2012, we will seek a return to 2005 levels of emission, by 2020, a return to 1990 levels, and so on until we have achieved at least a reduction of sixty percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050. In the course of time, it may be that new ideas and technologies will come along that we can hardly imagine today, allowing all industries to change with a speed that will surprise us. More likely, however, there will be some companies that need extra emissions rights, and they will be able to buy them. The system to meet these targets and timetables will give these companies extra time to adapt -- and that is good economic policy. It is also a matter of simple fairness, because the cap-and-trade system will create jobs, improve livelihoods, and strengthen futures across our country.

The goal in all of this is to assure an energy supply that is safe, secure, diverse, and domestic. And in pursuit of these objectives, we cannot afford to take economic growth and job creation for granted. A strong and growing economy is essential to all of our goals, and especially the goal of finding alternatives to carbon-based technology. We want to turn the American economy toward cleaner and safer energy sources. And you can't achieve that by imposing costs that the American economy cannot sustain.

As part of my cap-and-trade incentives, I will also propose to include the purchase of offsets from those outside the scope of the trading system. This will broaden the array of rewards for reduced emissions, while also lowering the costs of compliance with our new emissions standards. Through the sale of offsets -- and with strict standards to assure that reductions are real -- our agricultural sector alone can provide as much as forty percent of the overall reductions we will require in greenhouse gas emissions. And in the short term, farmers and ranchers can do it in some of the most cost-effective ways.

Over time, an increasing fraction of permits for emissions could be supplied by auction, yielding federal revenues that can be put to good use. Under my plan, we will apply these and other federal funds to help build the infrastructure of a post-carbon economy. We will support projects to advance technologies that capture and store carbon emissions. We will assist in transmitting wind- and solar-generated power from states that have them to states that need them. We will add to current federal efforts to develop promising technologies, such as plug-ins, hybrids, flex-fuel vehicles, and hydrogen-powered cars and trucks. We will also establish clear standards in government-funded research, to make sure that funding is effective and focused on the right goals.

And to create greater demand for the best technologies and practices in energy conservation, we will use the purchasing power of the United States government. Our government can hardly expect citizens and private businesses to adopt or invest in low-carbon technologies when it doesn't always hold itself to the same standard. We need to set a better example in Washington, by consistently applying the best environmental standards to every purchase our government makes.

As we move toward all of these goals, and over time put the age of fossil fuels behind us, we must consider every alternative source of power, and that includes nuclear power. When our cap-and-trade policy is in place, there will be a sudden and sustained pursuit in the market for new investment opportunities in low-emission fuel sources. And here we have a known, proven energy source that requires exactly zero emissions. We have 104 nuclear reactors in our country, generating about twenty percent of our electricity. These reactors alone spare the atmosphere from about 700 million metric tons of carbon dioxide that would otherwise be released every year. That's the annual equivalent of nearly all emissions from all the cars we drive in America. Europe, for its part, has 197 reactors in operation, and nations including France and Belgium derive more than half their electricity from nuclear power. Those good practices contribute to the more than two billion metric tons of carbon dioxide avoided every year, worldwide, because of nuclear energy. It doesn't take a leap in logic to conclude that if we want to arrest global warming, then nuclear energy is a powerful ally in that cause.

In a cap-and-trade energy economy, the cost of building new reactors will be less prohibitive. The incentives to

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invest in a mature, zero-emissions technology will be stronger. New research and innovation will help the industry to overcome the well known drawbacks to nuclear power, such as the transport and storage of waste. And our government can help in these efforts. We can support research to extend the use of existing plants. Above all, we must make certain that every plant in America is safe from the designs of terrorists. And when all of this is assured, it will be time again to expand our use of one of the cleanest, safest, and most reliable sources of energy on earth.

For all of the last century, the profit motive basically led in one direction -- toward machines, methods, and industries that used oil and gas. Enormous good came from that industrial growth, and we are all the beneficiaries of the national prosperity it built. But there were costs we weren't counting, and often hardly noticed. And these terrible costs have added up now, in the atmosphere, in the oceans, and all across the natural world. They are no longer tenable, sustainable, or defensible. And what better way to correct past errors than to turn the creative energies of the free market in the other direction? Under the cap-and-trade system, this can happen. In all its power, the profit motive will suddenly begin to shift and point the other way toward cleaner fuels, wiser ways, and a healthier planet.

As a nation, we make our own environmental plans and our own resolutions. But working with other nations to arrest climate change can be an even tougher proposition. One of the greatest difficulties is to gain the cooperation of China. That nation today is dealing with a catastrophic earthquake and the loss of thousands of citizens, including many children and students. The United States government has offered to help in any way possible, and all of us hope that rescuers will be able to save more lives at a terrible time for the people of the Sichuan Province.

In addressing the problem of climate change, cooperation from the government of China will be essential. China, India, and other developing economic powers in particular are among the greatest contributors to global warming today – increasing carbon emissions at a furious pace – and they are not receptive to international standards. Nor do they think that we in the industrialized world are in any position to preach the good news of carbon-emission control. We made most of our contributions to global warming before anyone knew about global warming.

This set of facts and perceived self-interests proved the undoing of the Kyoto Protocols. As president, I will have to deal with the same set of facts. I will not shirk the mantle of leadership that the United States bears. I will not permit eight long years to pass without serious action on serious challenges. I will not accept the same dead-end of failed diplomacy that claimed Kyoto. The United States will lead and will lead with a different approach -- an approach that speaks to the interests and obligations of every nation.

Shared dangers mean shared duties, and global problems require global cooperation. The United States and our friends in Europe cannot alone deal with the threat of global warming. No nation should be exempted from its obligations. And least of all should we make exceptions for the very countries that are accelerating carbon emissions while the rest of us seek to reduce emissions. If we are going to establish meaningful environmental protocols, then they must include the two nations that have the potential to pollute the air faster, and in greater annual volume, than any nation ever in history.

At the same time, we will continue in good faith to negotiate with China and other nations to enact the standards and controls that are in the interest of every nation -- whatever their stage of economic development. And America can take the lead in offering these developing nations the low-carbon technologies that we will make and they will need. One good idea or invention to reduce carbon emissions is worth a thousand finely crafted proposals at a conference table. And the governments of these developing economic powers will soon recognize, as America is beginning to do, their urgent need for cleaner-burning fuels and safer sources of energy.

If the efforts to negotiate an international solution that includes China and India do not succeed, we still have an obligation to act.

In my approach to global climate-control efforts, we will apply the principle of equal treatment. We will apply the same environmental standards to industries in China, India, and elsewhere that we apply to our own industries. And if industrializing countries seek an economic advantage by evading those standards, I would work with the European Union and other like-minded governments that plan to address the global warming problem to develop effective diplomacy, effect a transfer of technology, or other means to engage those countries that decline to enact a similar cap.

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For all of its historical disregard of environmental standards, it cannot have escaped the attention of the Chinese regime that China's skies are dangerously polluted, its beautiful rivers are dying, its grasslands vanishing, its coastlines receding, and its own glaciers melting. We know many of these signs from our own experience -- from environmental lessons learned the hard way. And today, all the world knows that they are the signs of even greater trouble to come. Pressing on blindly with uncontrolled carbon emissions is in no one's interest, especially China's. And the rest of the world stands ready to help.

Like other environmental challenges -- only more so -- global warming presents a test of foresight, of political courage, and of the unselfish concern that one generation owes to the next. We need to think straight about the dangers ahead, and to meet the problem with all the resources of human ingenuity at our disposal. We Americans like to say that there is no problem we can't solve, however complicated, and no obstacle we cannot overcome if we meet it together. I believe this about our country. I know this about our country. And now it is time for us to show those qualities once again.

Thank you.

--
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Progressive Media USA
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202-609-7679 (office)
206-999-3064 (cell)
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From: "Cassandra Butts" <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/24/2008 8:19:46 AM
Subject: Re: Energy and EPA names

Very helpful. Will add and subtract.

On Wed, Sep 24, 2008 at 3:18 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

One more for epa dianna farrell of mckinsey global.

On 9/24/08, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> Gee, pershing are asst sec types not higher. Holstein maybe as deputy
> not top job. Jackson has a good rep, AA woman, should be considered.
> Immelt seems impossible to me. Maybe commerce but very unlikely at
> energy.
> I'd add Tom Steyer, Farallon Capital, Tim Wirth, maybe mayor
> hickenlooper of denver.
> At epa 3 more katie mcginty, just left pa enviro office, ian bowles,
> mass epa, dan esty at yale.
>
>
> On 9/24/08, Cassandra Butts <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com > wrote:
>> John, to follow are some of the names that have come us as we have
>> consulted
>> on top candidates for Energy and EPA. We'd appreciate your thoughts and
>> additions. Needless to say, your name has come up repeatedly in our
>> consultations. Best, Cassandra
>>
>> Energy
>>
>> -Frampton, George
>> -Gee, Robert W.: From 1997 to 2000 he served as Assistant Secretary for
>> Policy and International Affairs and as Assistant Secretary for Fossil
>> Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy; oversaw the operation of the
>> Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and the national research program to develop
>> and demonstrate advanced clean coal, natural gas, and petroleum
>> technologies.
>> -Jackson, Shirley Ann: Former chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
>> current president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
>> -Holstein, Elgie
>> -Immelt, Jeff
>> -Pershing, Jonathan
>> -Schwarzenegger, Arnold
>> -Schweitzer, Brian
>>
>> EPA
>>
>> -Bloomberg, Michael
>> -Gregoire, Christine
>> -Grumet, Jason
>> -Hayes, David
>> -Learner, Howard: executive director of the Environmental Law and Policy
>> Center, a Chicago-based environmental legal advocacy group that has been a
>> key player in setting up the region's cap-and-trade program for global

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>> warming.
>> -Sebelius, Kathleen
>> -Stern, Todd
>>
>
> --
> Sent from Gmail for mobile | mobile.google.com
>

--
Sent from Gmail for mobile | mobile.google.com

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/10/2015 2:13:58 AM
Subject:	News Clips 5.9-10.15
Attachments:	H4A Clips 5.10.15.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 9-10, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

This weekend Hillary Clinton attended a fundraising event in San Francisco where she was "She was on fire," said one Democratic donor who joined the crowd of about 200 at a $2,700 per person fundraiser at the home of eBay CEO John Donahoe and his wife, Eileen, a former ambassador. "She was erudite, compassionate, funny...I came away saying, "Bring on the f#4%ing debates."

Canada based CHAI disclosed the names of 21 of its largest donors after facing scrutiny for keeping the names of its donors secret. Friday, Giustra released a new analysis from a Canadian law firm supporting his position that he cannot disclose his group's donors without their written permission, the second such advisory notice he has publicized

There is some speculation on what the outcome of the House vote on the 20-week abortion limit will be and suggest it will draw another line in the sand for the 2016 election and will be the "defining abortion issue of the 2016 elections.". Polls indicate that American voters support a ban on late-term abortion by a wide margin. A Quinnipiac poll from November 2014 found 60 percent supported the bill passed in 2013 that "would ban virtually all abortions nationwide after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except in cases of rape and incest that are reported to authorities "

Hillary Clinton's appearance before the House select committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi will likely be delayed if the panel does not gain access to U.S. Department of State emails.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Canadian Clinton Foundation affiliate discloses some donors // WaPo // Brendan McDermid - May 8, 2015

A Canadian charity affiliated with the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation on Friday disclosed the names of 21 of its largest donors after facing scrutiny for keeping the names of its donors secret.

Officials with the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, which is based in Vancouver, B.C., said they were keeping with Canadian law in refusing to release names of donors without written permission. But the lack of disclosure appeared to conflict with the Clinton Foundation's 2008 pledge to make annual disclosures of all of its donors.

The disclosure issue with the previously obscure Canadian group has proven to be just one foundation-related headache that has faced the Clintons as Hillary Rodham Clinton has launched her presidential candidacy.

The Canadian group was founded in 2007 by Frank Giustra, a Canadian mining magnate who pledged $100 million to help the Clinton Foundation spark economic development in impoverished regions of the world. The group transfers much of its annual revenue to the Clinton Foundation in New York. A spokeswoman for Giustra said earlier this month that 1,100 people had donated to the group, though most were one-time small-dollar donors who contributed as part of a major 2008 gala for the charity. Giustra had said earlier this month that he was seeking permission from his largest donors to reveal their names.

Donors whose names were posted to the Web site of the group Friday included Ian Telfer, a Giustra friend who formerly chaired the company Uranium One. A recent New York Times story recounted how the State Department under Hillary Rodham Clinton signed off on the sale of Uranium One to a Russian state-owned company. Her aides have said she was not personally involved in the decision, which involved multiple government agencies.

Other Giustra colleagues from the mining industry are also on the list, including Sergey Kurzin, who worked with Giustra on a deal to buy uranium in Kazakhstan in 2005. The deal closed days after Giustra had dinner with Bill Clinton and the country's president. Giustra has said Clinton was not involved.

Also Friday, Giustra released a new analysis from a Canadian law firm supporting his position that he cannot disclose his group's donors without their written permission, the second such advisory notice he has publicized.

But here's the full list of donors made public so far:

Frank Giustra

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B2Gold Corp.

Stephen Dattels

Endeavour Mining Corp.

Fernwood Foundation

Fiore Management & Advisory Corp.

GMP Securities

Gran Colombia Gold Corp.

Griffiths McBurney Canada Corp.

Gord & Katherine Keep

Sergey Kurzin

Alison Lawton

Sam Magid

Pacific Coal Resources Ltd.

Pacific Rubiales Energy Corp.

Ian Telfer

The Dragon Group of Companies

The Radcliffe Foundation

Anna Wallner

Trevor Wilson

Neil Woodyer

Hillary “on fire” at Portola Valley fundraiser, Dems say // SF Chronicle // Carla Marinucci - May 9, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton talked about foreign policy, joked about dying her hair, and spoke about the passing of David Goldberg, the husband of Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, during her stop in Portola Valley today, according to an insider on the scene.

“She was on fire,” said one Democratic donor who joined the crowd of about 200 at a $2,700 per person fundraiser at the home of eBay CEO John Donahoe and his wife, Eileen, a former ambassador. “She was erudite, compassionate, funny…I came away saying, “Bring on the f#4%ing debates.”

The donor at the fundraiser didn’t want to be named for publication, and is a longtime Democrat — one who backed Barack Obama over Clinton in the 2008 election.

The backer said that Clinton’s appearance in Portola Valley included a wide-ranging discussion of issues, and questions from the audience, and even a joke about what would happen if she made it to the White House. To laughs from the crowd, she quipped: “Let me just tell you, I have been dying my hair for decades..you will never see me go gray.”

Both she and Donahoe referenced the passing of Goldberg, 47, an event that stunned Silicon Valley last week.

But the most memorable moment came when Clinton got an emotional question from a high school girl, who asked

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her to address the pressures that teens are under — and the epidemic of teenage suicides, said the donor.

Clinton's "very impressive" detailed response showed both compassion and knowledge of the issue, and included "referencing programs around the world that have been successful" in dealing with the devastating issue, including one in Israel, the guest said.

Clinton stayed until the very end in Portola Valley, and "even in the hot sun, she stopped and greeted every single person there and took a picture with all of them — including the wait staff," the backer said.

Asked if there were any doubts in the monied donor crowd about Clinton in the wake of recent headlines about emails and the Clinton Foundation donations, the supporter said, "If she had been unpolished, unprepared," or too scripted at the Portola Valley event, some of the Silicon Valley insiders might have been feeling shaky.

But "she was amazing…she did it in a way that just brought us in," on issues ranging from foreign policy to income inequality, the donor said. "It was as if it was a month before the election and she had had six months of debate prep…she was at the top of her game."

House to Vote on 20-Week Abortion Limit Next Week // The Weekly Standard // Michael Warren - May 8, 2015

The House of Representatives will vote on a bill next week that would ban nearly all late-term abortions, House majority leader Kevin McCarthy tells THE WEEKLY STANDARD. The legislation would establish a national limit on abortion at 20 weeks after conception—five months into pregnancy—which is the gestational age at which infants can of feel pain and survive long-term if born prematurely.

"Life is precious and we must do everything we can to fight for it and protect it," said McCarthy, a California Republican. "Our commitment for the House to consider this important legislation has been steadfast and I am proud of the work of our members to prepare this bill for House consideration next week."

In 2013, the House passed the bill, called the "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act," which included exceptions in the cases of rape, incest, and when a physical health issue endangers the life of the mother. But an effort to pass identical legislation in the new Congress was scrapped in January on the eve of the annual March for Life because some GOP members, led publicly by Rep. Renee Ellmers of North Carolina, objected to the bill's reporting requirement for late-term abortions in the case of rape. The bill required the crime to be reported to law enforcement officials at any point prior to performing a late-term abortion.

According to House Republicans, that requirement has been removed from the bill. Instead, the legislation requires abortion doctors to ensure that victims have received either medical treatment or licensed counseling at least 48 hours prior to the late-term procedure. With that change, the bill has assuaged the concerns of those Republican members while still garnering strong support of national pro-life groups, including the National Right to Life Committee and the Susan B. Anthony List.

"I'm proud we've gotten to a point where we found a consensus between our members and the pro-life groups out there," said Rep. Diane Black of Tennessee.

"We will have even stronger support than we did in the last Congress," said Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey, a leading pro-life advocate in the House. "It will be good to have a truly unified pro-life conference."

National Right to Life Committee president Carol Tobias worked closely with Republican leadership staff

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members and met Thursday with McCarthy. “I felt very comfortable working with leadership staff,” said Tobias. “We were working as allies.”

"We are thankful to our pro-life allies on the Hill, including House GOP leadership and the Congressional Pro-Life Women’s Caucus, who have tirelessly worked to bring this bill to a vote," said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List. "This process has yielded a strong bill which we expect to pass next week with enthusiastic bipartisan support."

Smith suggested up to three pro-life House Democrats could support this bill:Dan Lipinski of Illinois, Collin Peterson of Minnesota, and Henry Cuellar of Texas, all three of whom voted for the 2013 legislation. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina is sponsoring related legislation in the Senate. President Obama vowed earlier this year to veto a pain-capable abortion ban, saying the legislation "disregards women’s health and rights, the role doctors play in their patients’ health care decisions, and the Constitution."

The new House bill also has some added provisions that Republican sources say aim to protect the lives of infants and the well-being of mothers. These include protections for infants born alive in the process of an abortion, an informed consent form for those women seeking an abortion that describes the law and the gestational age of the child in the womb, and empowerment of women with a civil right of action against abortion providers who fail to comply with the law.

Many of these provisions address issues raised during and after the investigation and trial of Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell, who was convicted of murder for killing born-alive infants.

The Gosnell story, with its gruesome details of unsanitary conditions and the routine killing of infants with scissors, has greatly influenced the legislation. The House will vote on the bill on or around the two-year anniversary of Gosnell’s May 13, 2013, conviction.

“The bill does fit in well with the conviction of Kermit Gosnell,” said NRLC's Tobias. “If he had done the abortions before he killed [the babies], he wouldn’t be in jail right now.”

"What we need to learn from the Gosnell case is that late-term abortion is infanticide," wrote liberal columnist Kirsten Powers in 2013. "Legal infanticide."

Prominent Democratic opponents of legal limits on abortion, including Nancy Pelosi and Wendy Davis, have been unable to explain the difference between the Gosnell killings and late-term abortion.

Representatives Black and Smith both pointed to a Thursday New York Times article citing a new scientific study published in the New England Journal of Medicine showing some premature infants are "surviving earlier outside the womb than doctors once thought possible."

“Forty years ago, we had a lot of arguments about where life begins,” says Black, who was once a registered nurse. “Now we have knowledge about what babies look like in the womb. It has changed the hearts and minds of people.”

"I'm here because it's easy for me to imagine these babies at 20 to 24 weeks post-fertilization age because they are my patients in the [neo-natal intensive care unit]," Dr. Colleen Malloy of Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine testified before Congress in 2012.

Polls indicate that American voters support a ban on late-term abortion by a wide margin. A Quinnipiac poll from

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November 2014 found 60 percent supported the bill passed in 2013 that “would ban virtually all abortions nationwide after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except in cases of rape and incest that are reported to authorities ” Only 33 percent opposed the legislation, according to Quinnipiac. Polls conducted in 2013 by Washington Post/ABC and Huffington Post/YouGov both similarly found 2-1 support for the legislation. "One of the clearest messages from Gallup trends is that Americans oppose late-term abortion,” according to a report by the Gallup polling firm in May 2013.

Every declared or likely Republican presidential candidate has already voiced support for a 20-week limit on abortion. Dannenfelser, whose organization promotes and supports pro-life candidates, said the debate over terminating late-term pregnancies will be the "defining abortion issue of the 2016 elections."

"Already, the entire Republican presidential field has rallied behind this popular legislation while Hillary Clinton remains elusive on her late-term abortion position," said Dannenfelser. "The national conversation on this bill will force Clinton to choose between the American people or her uncompromising, deep-pocketed friends in the big abortion industry who accept no limits to abortion on-demand."

Hillary Clinton’s Benghazi testimony likely to be delayed // POLITICO // Lauren French - May 8, 2015

A highly-anticipated appearance this month by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton before the House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi may be postponed if the panel does not gain access to State Department emails, the panel chairman indicated on Friday.

Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy, the chairman of the House Committee on Benghazi, signaled in an interim report that the panel is not yet ready to question Clinton because it has not been given access to documents from her tenure as secretary. The South Carolina Republican previously asked Clinton to testify the week of May 18.

But a hearing that week appears unlikely based on the language in the report. “The Committee will call Secretary Clinton to testify once it is satisfied that all the relevant information has been provided by both the State Department and her,” it stated.

In the report, Gowdy criticized the Obama administration for the slow pace of turning over documents to the panel. He noted that dozens of subpoena requests have not been answered — making it hard, Gowdy argued, to effectively question Clinton.

Gowdy said last month he wanted Clinton to answer questions at two public hearings starting the week of May 18 — an offer Clinton’s lawyer David Kendall rejected. Kendall told lawmakers earlier this week that Clinton only intended to appear before the panel one time.

Gowdy has not officially countered that request.

“The State Department has told the Committee that it cannot certify that it has turned over all documents responsive to the Committee’s request regarding the former Secretary’s emails. Absent access to the server that housed the former Secretary’s private emails, the Committee has no way to verify the assertions: (1) the former Secretary has produced the full universe of emails related to Benghazi and Libya; and (2) the server has been wiped clean and is currently void of any data that may reflect any email sent or received during her tenure as Secretary of State, including during the relevant time frame….,” the report said.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, accused Gowdy of moving the goalposts for the investigation.

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“At every turn, the Select Committee comes up with a new excuse to further delay its work and then blames its glacial pace on someone else,” Cummings said. “Republicans are desperately trying to validate the $3 million in taxpayer funds they have spent over the past year, but they have nothing to show for it other than a partisan attack against Secretary Clinton and her campaign for president.”

Gowdy also outlined the next phase of the panel’s investigation, which includes obtaining emails from and interviewing top aides to Clinton and officials from the Obama administration, including Cheryl Mills, Jake Sullivan, Huma Abedin, Susan Rice and Patrick Kennedy. The panel is also planning to interview former National Security advisors Tom Donilon and Dennis McDonough — now Obama’s chief of staff — and former chief aides Ben Rhodes and Tommy Vietor.

Gowdy said the committee has identified 60 Obama administration officials to interview.

The panel has held more than two dozen private briefings with the Obama administration, according to the report, which provided an update on the committee’s work a year after it was created by Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio).

The surprising strategy behind Hillary Clinton's liberal moves // Vox // Jonathan Allen - May 8, 2015

There's a counterintuitive reason for Hillary Clinton's recent shift to the left: it could help her win the general election.

First there was her embrace of same-sex marriage in a video for the Human Rights Campaign shortly after she left the State Department in 2013. Then she started talking tough on corporate tax dodgers. And in just the past couple of weeks she's said she would protect more undocumented immigrants from deportation, reverse elements of her husband's 1994 anti-crime law, and equip police departments across the country with body cameras.

Separately, each item is a small but significant step toward a core Democratic constituency: gays and lesbians, African Americans, Latinos, and unions. Taken together, they're a giant leap to the left.

The quickly gathering conventional wisdom about Clinton's hop, skip, and jump to the left is that she's thinking about the Democratic primary — specifically, how to avoid getting blindsided like she did in 2008, when Barack Obama took her out in the trial heat. But there aren't any Barack Obamas on the Democratic horizon, and Clinton's commanding lead in the Democratic primary field — fueled by numbers that are highest among self-described liberals — makes it hard to believe she's really looking over her shoulder.

The truth is that her move to the left is a general-election strategy that has the benefit of working well in the primary, too.

Clinton allies say one of the lessons she learned from 2008 was to follow her gut — to be herself — rather than mold her platform to the politics of the moment. That's what she's doing now, they say. While that may be true, it's also the self-serving part of the picture.

The fuller view shows a tactical decision to update her positions in areas where the country has become more progressive since her last run for the White House, and to play up the parts of her agenda that appeal to core Democratic voters. If the moment were right to talk about her muscular approach to US foreign policy — and surely that time will come — there's little doubt her team would be doing just that.

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Here's the gamble Clinton's taking: targeted policy shifts will activate key Democratic voting constituencies early in the campaign without alienating swing voters. If it works, African Americans, Latinos, gays and lesbians, and straight white men (the group that seems to like her the least among Democrats) will see her as a true champion and remain energized through the general election. Her campaign views the risk of pushing away independents as minimal compared with the advantage of rallying Democrats.

"Over time, the landscape has shifted on so many of these issues that now Democrats don't have to hide from them," one campaign official said. "The data is pretty clear: the independent voters are on our side on issues like gay marriage. So leaning into them comes with a benefit, not a cost."

Meaning that, at least on these issues, the same positions could rally the Democratic base now and appeal to independents in November 2016.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Dan Merica (5:32pm) May 9, 2015 @danmericaCNN : David Axelrod says Clinton campaign will start to feel pressure on access when it becomes a "meme in the press." "I think you do feel that."

Maggie Haberman (11:59) May 9, 2015 @maggieNYT : Jeffrey Sachs criticizes "ad hoc" nature of Clinton Foundation work nytimes.com/politics/first …

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Why Hillary Clinton's Democratic Opponents Only Throw Softballs // TIME // Sam Frizell - May 8, 2015

Republican presidential candidates are already running hard against Hillary Clinton. Hours before she announced her campaign for president, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul released an online video accusing Clinton of "corruption and cover-up, conflicts of interest," calling her "the worst of the Washington machine." Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush challenged her on her use of a personal email account while she was Secretary of State. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz asked a crowd, "How can the American people trust her with another position of power?"

In the Democratic primary, things are very different.

Clinton's three top likely challengers — former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb — have notably refused to criticize Clinton's ethics. All three have avoided mentioning her private email account, her handling of the Benghazi attacks in 2012 or the controversy surrounding the Clinton Foundation fundraising, among other popular GOP lines of attack. Aides from several of the emerging campaigns told TIME they don't plan to do so, either.

"We're not going down that road," said Tad Devine, a top advisor for Sanders' campaign. "We're not going to run a negative campaign."

"Jim's the kind of candidate who's going to focus on what he wants to talk about and let the media make all the contrast and comparison that are to be made," said Craig Crawford, spokesman for Webb. "He won't get in this

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because he wants to run against somebody."

Instead, Clinton's Democratic challengers are taking on her positions on trade, income inequality and foreign policy, arguing either that she's wrong on the policy or that she's come to the right position late. When they have been asked about the email or conflicts of interest, they have consistently deflected the question.

Asked in March about Clinton's use of personal email, O'Malley basically ducked the issue. "I'm not an expert on federal requirements or state requirements, and I'm, frankly, a little sick of the email drama," O'Malley said. When questioned about Clinton, Webb told a scrum of reporters that the email story is "between her and you all." Sanders has said repeatedly he wants to run a campaign a debate "over serious issues" and not "political gossip."

Clinton, for her part, has hardly mentioned her likely challengers for the nomination or she's been charitable when speaking about them. When Sanders announced his candidacy last week, Clinton amicably tweeted her welcome to the race.

Much of the reticence around staging personal attacks on Clinton comes from her relative strength. She is widely admired in the Democratic Party, while her contenders are relatively unknown at the national level. O'Malley has been in Maryland politics for more than two decades as the state's governor and a city council member and mayor in Baltimore, while Webb was a one-term Virginia senator. A full 69% of Iowa Democratic voters said they weren't sure whether they rated Webb favorably or not, a good indication that many first-in-the-nation residents don't yet know who he is, and 65% said the same of O'Malley, according to a Public Policy Polling survey taken last month.

For O'Malley, Sanders and Webb, a presidential bid would be their introduction to many voters across the country. A first impression as a harsh critic against a widely admired candidate would likely be a poor first impression.

"If you're a lesser-known candidate and your first introduction to Democrats is a vicious attack on Hillary Clinton, it would backfire completely," said Joe Trippi, a Democratic strategist. "But if you're trying to become the lefty in the party or new fresh ideas person it helps you to get there to pick a policy argument with her."

On that front, her challengers are happy to fight.

Though not yet officially a candidate, O'Malley has been the most vocal critic of Clinton's policies, responding to each position she's taken. He has drawn contrasts with Clinton on issues like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an Obama initiative loathed by the Democrats' progressive wing that Clinton called a "gold standard" when she was Secretary of State.

When Clinton tiptoed carefully around the deal last month, O'Malley sent an email to his supporters with the subject line "Hard choice?" and answered the question in the body: "Nope. To me, opposing bad trade deals like TPP is just common sense," he wrote.

O'Malley also has painted himself as a more forward thinker on same-sex marriage and immigration, pointing out recently that he came to progressive views on both issues before her. "I'm glad Secretary Clinton's come around to the right positions on these issues," O'Malley said last month, referring to Maryland's 2012 legislative approval of gay marriage. "Leadership is about making the right decision, and the best decision before sometimes it becomes entirely popular."

His campaign is likely to continue to make Clinton's credibility on hot-button policy issues a central part of his campaign against her. Hours after Clinton spoke at a roundtable about her support for immigration reform, O'Malley's campaign reminded reporters that he was in favor of allowing children fleeing violence in Latin

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America last year to stay in the United States.

Clinton said at the time that the children needed to be sent back in order to “set an example.”

“When most leaders in the Democratic and Republican parties were saying that we should close our border to children fleeing violence in Central America, he defied them and said that we could not send children ‘back to certain death,’” a spokesperson for O’Malley said. “He was criticized for that position, but leadership is about forging public opinion, not following it.”

The other candidates have chimed in on policy occasionally, too. Before he announced his candidacy, Sanders suggested that Clinton isn’t ready to confront the “billionaire class.” Webb said earlier this month after Clinton gave a speech about criminal justice reform that that he had been talking about those issues “for nine years.”

All the same, Clinton’s likely rivals are keeping personal criticism to a minimum, and most policy distinctions have been indirect references. Left unspoken among them is that if the candidates lose to Clinton, any personal vitriol against her will be remembered in the Democratic Party — and possibly replayed in Republican attack ads — and could hurt their chances for public office in the future.

That means, for now, that the sharpest attacks on Clinton will continue to come from the Republican side.

“By the time it gets to Iowa and New Hampshire, the Republicans are going to be jumping over themselves to attack her. For us to get in any way associated is a liability,” said Devine, Sanders’ advisor. “Bernie is going to try to move toward his own strengths at all times.”

Clinton campaign moves in on the metro while Republicans prepare for multiple candidates // Indianola Record-Herald // Paige Godden - May 8, 2015

While Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign is already focusing on voters in and around Warren County, the county Republicans are trying to rally around the multiple 2016 candidates expected to visit within the coming months.

Clinton, who already has stopped in Norwalk, is organizing a grassroots campaign by building six regions – which will soon turn into seven – with three organizers in each region.

Kane Miller, a regional organizer for Polk County and those surrounding it, said the first couple of weeks have been exciting. The campaign has been out talking to people, listening to what’s important to them, he said.

“We’re going to be doing as much stuff one-on-one as possible,” Miller said. “Sitting down with activists in coffee shops and make-shift workspaces all over the region.”

Meanwhile, organizers will share Hillary’s vision by taking cues from Clinton’s “long and clear record of public service,” Kane said.

Eventually, he said Clinton will use the information gathered from the one-on-one conversations to launch her platform.

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The Clinton campaign also has launched a frenzy on social media. Miller said the organizers are asked to give out cards to the people they meet.

Those who pledge to caucus for Hillary fill out a form with their name and address, and the campaign sends the form back to the person who pledged a few days before caucus day.

Then, citizens are asked to take a picture with another card and post it on their social media accounts saying they've pledged to Hillary.

"Right now we're just trying to engage as many people as possible," Miller said. "We need to do our part to re-energize the democratic process."

No individual Republican candidates have organized quite like Clinton has in Iowa yet, but Rick Halverson, chair of the Warren County Republicans, said there is still a lot to do this summer.

Local Republicans are working on an event for either May 15, May 17 or both to complement the Lincoln Dinner, May 16 in Des Moines. That event usually attracts several presidential candidates.

Overall, Halverson said he works to bring in as many candidates to Warren County as possible.

"We're lucky here in Iowa that we have all of these presidential candidates stumping around our towns and county," Halverson said. "It gives us a chance that most people across the United States don't get. We need to appreciate that."

He said he was disappointed by the small crowd at a recent event for Rick Santorum at the Corner Sundry in Indianola.

"If one candidate comes here and has a low turnout, that news spreads," Halverson said. "If we want to get high on the candidates' list of places to go, we need to get people to turn out."

He said he believes this election is one of the most important in the 230-plus years of this country.

"The world is on fire and in my opinion it's because of the lack of leadership from this administration," Halverson said. "This lead from behind mentality isn't working and I don't think it's going to get any better under a Hillary Clinton administration than Obama."

Hopefully, he said, the Republicans who stayed home in 2012 and sat on their hands because Romney "wasn't their candidate or wasn't a good enough Christian" will get out to vote this time around, and support the Republican candidate who is chosen in the primary through to 2016.

Democrats Relish Hillary Clinton's Embrace of Cultural Issues // NYT // Maggie Haberman - May 8, 2015

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Hillary Rodham Clinton's call this week for more expansive action on immigration was the latest in a series of policy statements likely to appeal to her party's liberal base. But her comments also reflect a growing feeling among Democrats that the political balance on cultural issues has shifted in their favor since her last campaign.

Mrs. Clinton is undoubtedly a more sure-footed candidate, even in the short time she has been on the trail, as The Times's Patrick Healy noted in an article this week. Her campaign has so far stayed on message and avoided chasing media flare-ups, and Mrs. Clinton herself is more at ease taking positions on issues that she had hedged on during her last presidential bid.

But another explanation for her newfound comfort on the issues is the feeling among Democrats that public opinion on cultural issues like same-sex marriage and immigration is more aligned with their party than Republicans.

During the 2008 Democratic primary, Mrs. Clinton's top strategist was focused on preserving her electability in a general election and not turning off the swath of self-described independents who they expected to swing the race.

But the issues on which she is now perceived to be tacking to the left — primarily on immigration and same-sex marriage — are not likely to be dangerous for her in 2016, Democratic strategists argue, because a majority of voters in the center favor her views on those topics over the positions Republicans take.

"Every policy position that Hillary Clinton has staked out so far will help her in a general election, as well as advance her campaign for the nomination," said Geoff Garin, a Democratic pollster who worked on Mrs. Clinton's 2008 campaign. "On a personal level, the fact that she is showing her passion on these issues matters, because voters of all stripes respect candidates who speak out for their beliefs."

On immigration and same-sex marriage, in particular, the national picture has changed. About six in 10 Americans said they support President Obama's executive action on immigration, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press. Almost an equal number in a New York Times/CBS News survey this week supported same-sex marriage.

Some of Mrs. Clinton's critics have suggested that her embrace of a more liberal agenda is directed at keeping Elizabeth Warren, the populist senator from Massachusetts, from running and diffusing any primary challenge from her left. And Republicans are taking note of the fact that Mrs. Clinton has changed positions on some of these issues over the years — most notably trade, immigration and same-sex marriage — hoping to raise questions with voters about her character.

But her stance on immigration, for instance, has nothing to do with Ms. Warren, and is all about a contrast with Republicans.

The strategy is reminiscent of the one employed by Terry McAuliffe, her friend and 2008 campaign chairman, during his successful 2013 run for Virginia governor. The assumption heading into that race was that Mr. McAuliffe would run a centrist candidacy in an effort to appeal to more moderate voters. Instead, Mr. McAuliffe — whose campaign manager, Robby Mook, now runs Mrs. Clinton's campaign — focused on bread-and-butter Democratic issues — like women's health and immigration — and cast them through an economic lens.

It's the frame Mrs. Clinton is almost certain to use, and one that has many Democrats feeling confident about her prospects.

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This was an updated version of the famed war room that fought the first round of Clinton scandals in 1992, propelling Bill Clinton to the presidency; now, two months later, aides point to the handling of the “Clinton Cash” threat – a still-unfolding stream of allegations involving the Clinton Foundation and its donors, but one that seems not to have seriously altered perceptions of Hillary – as proof of the campaign’s ability to manage messaging and counter the inevitable blowback of an 18-month campaign.

The campaign systematically raised questions about the objectivity of author Peter Schweizer and, according to sources with knowledge of the deals, strategically leaked details of the book to news outlets to undercut the exclusivity of excerpts given to reporters at The New York Times and Washington Post, who had obtained special deals with Schweizer.

Sources close to Clinton described meetings at her personal office in Midtown Manhattan that were so focused that when Fallon’s twins were born April 8 — four days before Clinton officially launched her campaign — he continued to join the conferences by phone from the hospital in Washington, D.C., despite being on leave.

The game plan at first was two-pronged: debunk author Peter Schweizer by stressing his ties to Republicans and his close friendship with the Koch brothers, while a second group of research and communications operatives pushed positive messages the campaign would roll out while the book was making headlines.

Instead of hunkering down, Clinton would make news herself with a speech on criminal justice — where she called for an end to mass incarcerations — and a newsy speech on immigration, where she vowed to expand on President Obama’s executive actions to include another 5 million undocumented immigrants from deportation.

Behind the scenes, the strategy turned from defense to offense in late April, when the campaign caught a break and obtained an early copy of the 256-page book.

At that point, the campaign began pitching its own stories about “Clinton Cash,” and then finally turned to new media to tell its own version of the story.

Campaign operatives leaked single chapters of the book to national media outlets, sources with knowledge of the deals said — a strategy that allowed them to undercut the reporters who, through exclusive agreements with Schweizer, had obtained early copies of the entire tome, and also to attack the content at the same time.

Schweizer, in an interview, said he was aware of the strategy.

“I knew fairly early on they had access to the book,” he said. “Sure, it helped them. They’re famous for that. I was aware they were leaking selectively chapters, particularly as journalists who had access to the full book had contacted them with questions. They didn’t want to share the complete book, just chapters. For me, the power of the book is in the pattern of the behavior.”

Schweizer said he caught on to the strategy when the New York Times investigative team was working on a 4,000-word story about the connection between Clinton donor Frank Giustra and the approval of a sale of a mining company to Russia, which drew from chapters 2 and 3 of his book.

Indeed, the Clinton team was particularly concerned that the Times and Post would use his book as a jumping off point for investigations — coverage that would make it harder for them to simply dismiss Schweizer as a tool of the right.

Just as the New York Times was preparing to publish its investigation of the Giustra matter, “the Clinton team is sending chapter 3 of the book to Time magazine and other reporters,” Schweizer said. “Who gets just one chapter of the book? They gave them chapter 3 but not chapter 2, which is also on the uranium deal. You’ve got reporters

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running with stories that didn't have the full picture. That was the Clinton strategy: to muddy the waters and not have an honest conversation."

The campaign says that Giustra, the Canadian billionaire whose role in the uranium deal is outlined in chapter 3, sold his stock two years before Clinton was appointed as Secretary of State. Schweizer says that's only part of the story. "The book talks about nine people who are shareholders, not just Giustra," he said. "They never mentioned the other eight. They're mentioned in chapter 2, not 3."

The goal of aggressively parceling out parts of the book was to generate headlines that could be discredited before the book hit the shelves and before Schweizer went on the television circuit promoting his work.

When Schweizer started making the media rounds on the Sunday shows ahead of the May 5 book release, the Clinton team had managed to get ahead of him to put him on the defensive. "We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action," "This Week" host George Stephanopoulos said of the claims about the uranium deal with Russia.

Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and Fallon published their own posts directly to Medium, to point out what they said were errors and omissions.

During the weeks that various chapters of the book were making headlines, the campaign began releasing nightly memos to surrogates and supporters with stories and commentators on air who had discredited the book, or raised questions about the reporting. In total, the campaign put out five detailed memos to its network.

"In the last two days alone, three new claims by the partisan author of the Clinton Cash book have been discredited by independent news outlets," read a line in one of the memos.

The final push came on the day of the book's release. The campaign spent over 96 hours building out "The Briefing," a website that launched on the day of the book's release, which included an upbeat video featuring Fallon responding to the book and a supercut of Clinton surrogates and talking heads with the general message: "there's no there there."

In the donor world, the painstaking strategy to deal with the book was noticed.

"The campaign didn't get paralyzed," said Tom Nides, a vice chairman at Morgan Stanley and a close Clinton confidant who is her main liaison to Wall Street. "They didn't get in a bunker, they kept supporters up to date daily— it felt very proactive."

And perhaps most important to the donor class who may have harbored fears about Clinton's weaknesses on display so early in the campaign, the candidate herself appeared relaxed and confident as she attended fundraisers in Washington and New York City.

"This could have gotten nutty," Nides admitted. "She herself was a more relaxed Hillary. I've gotten universal feedback from these meetings that she's excited to be there, she hung around. She was supposed to be at the event for an hour-and-a-half, she stayed for almost two hours. She didn't act like she had to get back to the bunker. She was upbeat, positive, and not defensive. People tee off of that."

So far, Clinton herself has answered only one question about the book, without referring to it by name. At a campaign stop in New Hampshire last month, she dismissed it and said she expected to be "subject to all kinds of distractions and attacks." She has not addressed it publicly since then.

But that doesn't mean it hasn't been on the minds of the staffers and volunteers who manned the war room. As Clinton was speaking about immigration reform at a high school in Las Vegas on Tuesday, her campaign

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operatives back in Brooklyn waited eagerly on the results of a new poll.

When The New York Times poll popped, showing Clinton's favorability had risen over the past year, the team from the war room finally exhaled.

"Clinton Cash," the poll showed, had not had the devastating impact the campaign had feared. After weeks of stories pegged to chapters in the book, only 10 percent of voters said they believed foreign donations affected Clinton's decisions as secretary of state, according to the poll, and more voters said they saw Clinton as a strong leader than they did earlier in the year.

But Schweizer notes that the themes of the book have now become a part of the Clinton narrative, and could easily pop up later in the campaign — especially as news organizations continue to plumb the Clinton Foundation and its donors.

"I think they have done a very detailed and aggressive campaign to try to undermine the credibility of the book," Schweizer said. But he pointed to polls showing a relatively high percentage of voters questioning her trustworthiness.

"The narrative is now framed around the foundation and Bill's speeches, and what role did that have on her decisions at the State Department," Schweizer said. "My sense is those questions are going to be asked whenever she decides to actually talk to the press."

Top Economist Sees Clinton Money Machine as Problematic // NYT // Alan Rappeport - May 8, 2015

Questions surrounding foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation are beginning to fester beyond the usual conservative critics who hope to derail the presidential hopes of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, a leading economist and philanthropist, said on Friday in an interview on MSNBC that the fuzzy lines between the foundation's donations and the political influence wielded by the Clintons is problematic.

"There is a lot here that is real," said Professor Sachs, a special adviser to the United Nations secretary general and director of Columbia University's Earth Institute. "Whether it's quid pro quos or not, who knows? But the amount of schmoozing involved and crossing lines and one person putting money in a foundation, and then Clinton getting unbelievable amounts for his speeches, and then contracts going one way or another, it's not good."

Professor Sachs suggested that the Clinton money machine was a distraction that interfered with serious policy and the relief work it was trying to accomplish in places like Haiti. He said that members of the international philanthropy community have been concerned about the Clinton Foundation's practices for years.

"There were too many friends around, too many ad hoc plane flights in to do this deal or that deal, and there was not the systemic approach that one needs after a devastation," he said. "That's the sad part of it."

Former President Bill Clinton defended his foundation this week during a trip to Africa. He said it has never done anything "knowingly inappropriate" and pointed to all the good work it does around the world.

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Hillary Clinton Caps L.A. Fundraising at Home of Haim Saban // Variety // Ted Johnson - May 8, 2015

Hillary Clinton capped a day of fundraising for her 2016 presidential bid at the Beverly Park home of longtime supporters Haim and Cheryl Saban, as she appeared before a crowd that included such industry figures as Casey Wasserman, Stevie Wonder, Peter Chernin and Clarence Avant.

Donors paid $2,700 per person at the event, the last of three fetes that were expected to bring in close to $3 million, according to fundraisers. Also attending, according to a guest who was there, were Lions Gate's Rob Friedman, WME Entertainment's Patrick Whitesell, talkshow host Larry King, Mike and Irena Medavoy, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Mary Steenburgen.

Co-chairing the event at the Saban home was Wasserman, another longtime Clinton family friend, and his wife Laura.

In tented area of his sprawling estate, Saban gave just brief remarks, and Wasserman introduced Clinton.

In her 35-minute remarks, Clinton tied her speech to her granddaughter and her role as a grandmother, and some attendees said came across as more folksy and accessible than during her 2008 campaign.

"A lot of people think she is speaking more from the heart, someone you can relate to," said David Wolf, a finance consultant who raised for the group Ready for Hillary, a SuperPAC set up to lay the groundwork for Clinton's campaign. "People like what they hear."

Clinton echoed some of the remarks she said earlier in the day, talking about domestic concerns like mass incarceration and expanded economic opportunity, and at one point quipped that she has long dyed her hair so it won't go gray if elected president — as has happened with so many males. She also quipped that "it was nice of the royal family to name their baby" after her granddaughter, Charlotte. She was referring to the name that William and Kate gave to their newly born daughter.

Clinton devoted most of her time to domestic issues, but when it came to foreign policy said that any deal needed to "make sense," according to one attendee. Saban and Wasserman, in a letter sent to potential donors several weeks ago, wrote that she was a "true friend when it comes to the U.S. and Israeli relationship." In her remarks before the crowd, Clinton did not specifically mention the recent framework of an agreement for a deal over Iran's nuclear program.

In another area of the estate, she also did a photo line with donors who raised at least $27,000.

John Gile, public affairs and fundraising consultant, said that Clinton's speech was "beautiful and crisp and purposeful."

Compared to her 2008 campaign, he said, "she seemed much more relaxed, more focused, more personable."

In Beverly Hills, some union and environmental groups staged rallies calling for Clinton to oppose the Trans Pacific Partnership, a trade pact among a dozen countries including the United States.

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Three Areas Where Hillary Clinton Is Running Against Her Husband's Legacy // BuzzFeed News // Andrew Kaczynski and Christopher Massie -May 8, 2015

Hillary Clinton called for changes to the criminal justice system last week in a speech at Columbia University that rejected the "tough on crime" agenda pushed by her husband and centrist Democrats and Republicans in the 1990s.

But that's not the only area where Clinton has moved to the left of her husband's legacy. Some of the shifts, like her position on same-sex marriage, reflect an overall shift in the Democratic Party — and in the country — but many of the issues were ones her husband used to win political battles during his 1996 re-election campaign and presidency.

Here's a look at three issues that Hillary Clinton's campaign is focused on that rejects policies her husband pushed and campaigned on.

Immigration

About a week after he signed the Defense of Marriage Act, in September 1996, Bill Clinton signed an appropriations bill that included measures meant to reduce illegal immigration.

Among these were enhancements to border security, a 12-month deadline to submit asylum applications, and a rule banning undocumented immigrants who had spent over a year in the country from returning to the United States for 10 years after leaving or being deported. Bill Clinton said then that the bill "strengthens the rule of law by cracking down on illegal immigration at the border, in the workplace, and in the criminal justice system — without punishing those living in the United States legally."

The month before, the president had signed a welfare package that blocked some legal immigrants from receiving food stamps.

At the time, public opinion in much of the country was in line with these positions.

During an appearance on C-SPAN near the end of the campaign in 1996, Hillary Clinton discussed her husband's immigration policy noting what he had done "to stem the flow of illegal immigrants," including his efforts to beef up the border.

Hillary: "The United States is a nation of immigrants and I think all of us should recognize that and be grateful for it. You know, my grandparents on both sides of my family immigrated to the United States. And I think that the President has been absolutely right in saying that we should honor and respect our immigrant tradition and we should do all we can to make sure people come here legally. Because that is the important difference between those who wish to come and choose to come legally and those who do not. But that legal immigrants should not be denied the services and the opportunities that are available to people living in our country. And illegal immigrants—we should stop the influx of illegal immigrants. But there are certain services and needs that people have whether or not they are illegal or legal immigrants and I think the President is right that we have to be very careful about cutting off healthcare and educational opportunities for the children of illegal immigrants, while we try to do a better job, which the President has actually been able to do in the last four years, to stem the flow of illegal immigrants."

Interviewer: "A better job than any previous administration."

Hillary: "That's right. I mean, he has taken very seriously the efforts to try to beef up our border patrols, put more people on the borders. We were in San Diego just a few days ago for the debates and talked with the people there

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who are working and their very pleased at the kind of effort that's been undertaken to prevent people from coming illegally into the United States and that has to continue."

Clinton also notably repeated a claim about all her grandparents immigrating to the United States. Her campaign recently admitted that claim was incorrect and said that "her grandparents always spoke about the immigrant experience…"

"The United States is a nation of immigrants and I think all of us should recognize that and be grateful for it. You know, my grandparents on both sides of my family immigrated to the United States.

During one speech, she noted that Bill signed an executive order "to revoke the federal contracts of businesses that hire illegal workers."

"He also said that he would issue an executive order to revoke the federal contracts of businesses that hire illegal workers. Everyone who does business with the United States government should obey the laws."

Bill Clinton's 1996 website noted the same theme of increasing deportations and hiring more border agents that his ad talked about.

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It also noted he would streamline the deportation process and increase deportations the following year:

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Today:

Speaking in Las Vegas this week Hillary Clinton moved to the left on immigration in an anticipated event where she outlined an agenda which included a a path to citizenship and protections for parents of DREAMers. Clinton left open the option of going further than the White House's expanded policy of deferred deportation for undocumented immigrants.

During her 2008 campaign, Clinton also supported "a path to legalization" if undocumented immigrants attempted to learn English and paid back taxes.

Maybe the first glimpse of a Clinton softening on immigration came in 2000, when the president signed a law that reopened the cases of thousands of immigrants seeking amnesty. The law, which was drafted by the GOP, also granted visas to spouses and children of some legal immigrants, regardless of whether their family members had been previously living in the country legally.

Same-sex marriage and the Defense of Marriage Act

When Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act in September 1996, he was careful to argue that the law did not condone "discrimination of any kind." Yet, the law, which was overturned in June 2013, barred federal

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recognition of same-sex marriage and permitted each state to ignore them if the couple was married in another state.

That July, the White House denounced the law as “gay-baiting, pure and simple,” and “a classic use of wedge politics designed to provoke anxieties and fears.” But press secretary Michael McCurry pledged that the president would sign it anyway, because of his “very strong personal views” that marriage was between a man and a woman.

DOMA passed with overwhelming majorities in both the House and Senate. In 1996, fewer than 30 percent of Americans supported same-sex marriage. By 2014, that number had risen to 55 percent, according to Gallup.

In the 1996 election, after signing DOMA, Clinton ran this ad touting that he signed DOMA and was “protecting religious freedom.” The ad ran on religious radio stations.

Protecting religious freedom, it’s the foundation of our nation. When the Justice Department went after a church to gather the parishioners’ tithing money, the government was stopped cold because President Clinton overturned the government’s policy and protected us. It’s not the only time he’s defended our values. Don’t be misled by Bob Dole’s attack ads. President Clinton wants a complete ban on late-term abortions except when the mother’s life is in danger or faces severe health risks, such as the inability to have another child. The president signed the Defense of Marriage Act, supports curfews and school uniforms to teach our children discipline. The president enacted the v-chip to block out violent TV programs. His crime bill expanded the death penalty for drug kingpins. Bob Dole opposed him and is resorting to untrue negative attacks. President Clinton has fought for our values and America is better for it.

During her 2000 campaign for Senate, Clinton said she supported her husband signing DOMA and would have voted for had she been in the Senate.

Clinton added same-sex couples should have the same rights extended to heterosexual couples.

“Marriage has got historic, religious and moral content that goes back to the beginning of time, and I think a marriage is as a marriage has always been, between a man and a woman,” the First Lady said in White Plains. “But I also believe that people in committed gay marriages, as they believe them to be, should be given rights under the law that recognize and respect their relationship.”

Today:

“Hillary Clinton supports marriage equality and hopes the Supreme Court will come down on the side of same-sex couples being guaranteed that constitutional right,” Adrienne Elrod, spokesperson, Hillary for America, recently told BuzzFeed News about the landmark same-sex marriage case before the Court.

Clinton included two same-sex couples in her two-minute-long campaign announcement video last month. She supported leaving the issue of same-sex marriage to the states in her 2008 campaign and supported civil unions. She announced her support for same-sex marriage in 2013.

In 2013 her husband also penned the op-ed, “It’s time to overturn DOMA” for the Washington Post

The crime bill President Clinton signed in September 1994 sought to add 100,000 officers to the police force and offered federal money to states to build new prisons, on the condition that they agreed to force inmates to serve out their whole sentences.

The bill passed with bipartisan support. Only one Democratic senator voted against it. (Since the law’s passage,

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there has been a significant, bipartisan shift on the issues of incarceration and drug policy, particularly among progressive and libertarian-influenced politicians.)

As president, Clinton also signed the Brady bill in 1993 and a ban on assault weapons in 1994. The Brady bill mandated that buyers of handguns undergo background checks, while the weapons ban expired in 2004.

During the 1996 campaign, Hillary Clinton boasted about all three laws in touting her husband as a candidate who was "tough on crime." A position she would advocate repeatedly throughout years, including in her 1996 book It Takes A Village

In 1994, speaking to a conference for female police officers, Hillary Clinton spoke favorably of the crime bill's efforts to build more prisons as well as the "three strikes and you're out" policy.

"We will be able to say, loudly and clearly, that for repeat, violent, criminal offenders — three strikes and you're out. We are tired of putting you back in through the revolving door," noted Clinton at one point.

Clinton added noted that the crime bill would help build more prisons.

"We will also finally understand that fighting crime is not just a question of punishment, although there are many dollars in the crime bill to build more prisons," she said. "It is also a question of prevention. We want to give police officers the tools to help young people stay out of trouble. We want to begin to give young people something to say yes to, not just to have to face the bleak, alienated streets that too often push them in the wrong direction."

"I think as more Americans focus on the fact that this bill would have put more police on the street, would have locked up violent offenders so they could never get out a again," she said. "Would have given more prison construction money available to the states as well as the federal government. But also would have dealt with prevention, giving young people something to say yes to. It's a very well thought out crime bill that is both smart and tough. "

Clinton in 1996 argued her husband's policy was working so "why would we go back?"

"I think we've made progress. The President against extraordinary opposition that was marshaled against his efforts was able to pass an anti-crime bill that is putting more police on the street and has begun taking guns off the streets and out of the hands of felons and fugitives and stalkers. The ban on assault weapons has made a difference. The Brady bill has made a difference. And not many people know this but the President's proposal to expand the Brady bill was actually passed so that people convicted of domestic violence will also be prevented from buying handguns. So we are seeing the results of the President's anti-crime strategy. I just don't want that set back. I don't want to elect a President or Congress who don't believe in the Brady bill, don't believe in the assault weapons ban, don't believe in putting police on the streets. You know, it's working, why would we go back?"

In one speech that year, she called kids in gangs "super-predators" with "no conscience, no empathy."

"But we also have to have an organized effort against gangs, just as in a previous generation we had an organized effort against the mob. We need to take these people on. They are often connected to big drug cartels. They are not just gangs of kids anymore. They are often the kinds of kids that are called 'super-predators.' No conscience, no empathy. We can talk about why they ended up that way but first we have to bring them to heel and the President has asked the FBI to launch a very concerted effort against gangs everywhere."

In the same speech, Clinton argued the crime bill was helping local law enforcement make "progress" in the "challenge" to "take back our streets from crime, gangs, and drugs."

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“The fourth challenge is to take back our streets from crime, gangs, and drugs. And we have actually been making progress on this count as a nation because of what local law enforcement officials are doing, because of what citizens and neighborhood patrols are doing, we’re making some progress. Much of it is related to the initiative called ‘community policing.’ Because we have actually gotten more police officers on the streets, that was one of the goals that the President had when he pushed the crime bill that was passed in 1994. He promised 100,000 police. We’re moving in that direction, but we can see it already makes a difference. Because if we see more police interacting with people, having them on the streets, we can prevent crimes, we can prevent petty crimes from turning into something worse.”

In her columns (in which she repeatedly spoke positively of the law), Clinton further argued in the column that “the same approach can work” for juveniles as for adults and condoned policies wherein “young people who break the law are held accountable.”

“This same approach can work for juvenile crime. Communities all across the country are abandoning rhetoric for prosecution and prevention strategies that show real results.

San Diego County is attacking this problem with a comprehensive plan in which law enforcement, schools, public agencies and communities work together. There is zero tolerance for guns and drugs in school. Young people who break the law are held accountable. Families in trouble are directed to a wide array of support services. And at-risk youth are steered into a variety of after-school activities.”

Today:

Hillary Clinton last week called for changes to the criminal justice system including mandatory body cameras for police and an end to the “era of mass incarceration.”

“We have to come to terms with some hard truths about race and justice in America,” she said.

Debunking Hillary Clinton’s liberal ‘problem’ // WaPo // Chris Cillizza - May 7, 2015

One of the most persistent tropes of the 2016 election is that some large number of liberals are deeply dissatisfied with the centrist approach to politics long championed by Hillary Rodham Clinton and, as a result, are actively engaged in a search for a more progressive alternative.

Persistent -- and wrong. The truth is that scant evidence exists in any poll to suggest that Clinton is anything short of beloved (or, at the very least, be-liked) by the party's liberal base.

Take a new Iowa poll conducted by Quinnipiac University. In it, Clinton stands at 60 percent in a hypothetical caucus vote, with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) running second at 15 percent. Clinton's standing among the base of the party? She gets 61 percent among those who consider themselves "very" liberal and 66 percent among the "somewhat" liberal. Her poorest performing ideological group is "moderate/conservative" Democrats, where she wins only 58 percent.

Take it a step further. It's not just that liberals in Iowa are going to vote for Clinton. They also have an extremely positive view of her. Overall, 83 percent of likely Iowa Democratic caucus-goers told Quinnipiac that they view Clinton favorably. That number jumps to 88 percent among "very" liberal Democrats. So, 9 in 10 of the most liberal voters in Iowa like Clinton. Not exactly a liberal problem, right?

And it's not just Iowa. The last national poll conducted by the Washington Post-ABC News, in late March, showed similar popularity numbers for Clinton. Eighty four percent of Democrats rated her favorably. Seventy seven percent of self-identified "liberals" had a favorable opinion of Clinton, including 50 percent who felt "strongly"

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favorable toward her.

Bush nods to early states and general election battlegrounds, Clinton sticks to primary path // AP // Thomas Beaumont and Julie Pace - May 7, 2015

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — To judge them solely by their travels over the past month, you might think Jeb Bush has already plunged into the general election and Hillary Rodham Clinton has a serious fight on her hands for the Democratic nomination.

Whereas the conventional thinking, at least, is quite the opposite: He's got a real primary race to settle first and she doesn't.

Bush, who has yet to declare his candidacy for the Republican nomination, has been stopping in states far from the early testing grounds of Iowa and New Hampshire. Over the past month, he's made appearances in Ohio, North Carolina and Colorado, all crucial general election states.

On Saturday, he'll be in Virginia, which will also be hotly contested in November 2016, even as most of his Republican nomination rivals are appearing in South Carolina — an important state in the primary race.

"It's a conscious effort, as he goes through the consideration process, to talk to and hear from people across the board," Bush spokesman Tim Miller said. "That means in the early primary states and other states that would play a role in the process."

Bush's strategy carries potential risks. Voters in early primary and caucus states are used to personal attention from candidates and could see Bush's apparent flirtation with the general election as premature. Clinton, in contrast, is narrowly focusing her travel schedule on the first four states in the primaries, suggesting she wants voters to know she's taking nothing for granted despite her dominant position in the party.

To be sure, Bush isn't avoiding the early states. He's made visits to Iowa and New Hampshire, as well as South Carolina and Nevada, which round out the first four primary contests, and is headed back to Nevada and Iowa next week.

Also, he does not have paid staff on the ground in the battleground states.

But a candidate's time remains one of any campaign's most valuable assets and how and where the candidate spends it provides the clearest glimpse into their strategy.

Bush's relentless travel schedule has been largely driven by his aggressive fundraising campaign. But he took time out in Ohio last month to speak to the influential Ohio Chamber of Commerce conference, a coveted speaking engagement in a perennial swing state.

This weekend, Bush will give the commencement address at Liberty University in Virginia, a state that Democrat Barack Obama carried twice. In just the past month, Bush has also spoken in Colorado and North Carolina.

Ohio, Virginia, Colorado and North Carolina were each decided by less than five percentage points in the 2012 election, and are expected to be pivotal in 2016.

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Since announcing her campaign in early April, Clinton has limited her campaign appearances to Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada. She also plans to travel to South Carolina in the coming weeks.

It's not a liability for Bush to dip a toe into a key fall election state, because such travel is still a priority, said veteran GOP presidential adviser Charlie Black.

"Your first driving force is fundraising," he said, referring to travel plans. "Second is early-primary states and third is swing states. Sometimes it's a major speech, or a national speech that's driving them."

Black presumed that Clinton would alter her schedule under the right conditions.

"If there were a NARAL conference in St. Louis, you can bet she'd be there," he said, referring to the pro-abortion-rights group.

Clinton's campaign is initially raising money for the primaries, not the general election.

But it's clear she is keeping an eye on Bush, who is viewed by many of her advisers as the toughest potential GOP candidate in a general election.

Hillary's State Dept. aides consulted on Bill's speeches // POLITICO // Josh Gerstein - May 8, 2015

Hillary Clinton's State Department aides were sometimes consulted "as a practical matter" during the independent review process of President Bill Clinton's lucrative global appearances and business deals to get "additional perspective," a State Department official acknowledged to POLITICO.

In one instance, the department's top ethics lawyer Jim Thessin decided to consult with the secretary's close aides about a 2010 request from the former president to accept an invitation to speak in China, according to documents obtained by POLITICO.

The planned speech was to the Beijing Forum, an annual education-related event paid for by the state-run Peking University, the Beijing Municipal Education Commission and a Korean foundation. The fact that two of the three sponsors were effectively part of the Chinese government raised a red flag.

When Bill Clinton's team pressed for an answer on whether he could speak to the event devoted to "The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All," they were told Thessin needed to consult with Hillary Clinton's staff about it.

"In response to the request involving the Beijing Forum, Jim Thessin is attempting to contact the staff at the Secretary's Office to discuss the issue," State ethics lawyer Violanda Botet wrote to Bill Clinton's Director of Scheduling and Advance Terry Krinvic.

"Will a foreign government or a foreign government entity provide compensation?" Botet asked in another email.

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It's unclear with whom Thessin discussed the proposed Bill Clinton appearance, one of several with Chinese-government sponsors, but thousands of pages of State Department ethics-review records obtained by POLITICO under the Freedom of Information Act show that Hillary Clinton's Chief of Staff and longtime aide Cheryl Mills was copied on virtually all requests.

In some instances, the records show Thessin and Mills exchanged emails about Bill Clinton's proposed speeches or travels. The substance of those emails was deleted from the records released by the State Department, which cited a need to preserve internal deliberations.

The documents, released sporadically by State in response to a request made more than five years ago, are often a confusing muddle. Redactions obscure most of the State lawyers' specific concerns. In addition, the State emails have been released separately from the original memos from Bill Clinton's office, which were sent to his lawyers to be reviewed for potential confidential information.

However, it's clear that the vast majority of Bill Clinton's proposed speaking engagements sailed through with no resistance from State, while a handful of proposals drew scrutiny over possible funding from foreign governments.

Asked about the ethics consultations with Hillary Clinton's immediate staff, a current State Department official defended the practice.

"As a practical matter, the office of Secretary Clinton was included for additional perspective on the Secretary's schedule and work she personally involved herself in. Their role was to identify concerns that could present even the appearance of a conflict and which may not have been apparent to the ethics officials reviewing each case," said the official, who commented on condition of anonymity.

It does not appear the former president ever spoke to the Beijing Forum, although the records made public by the State Department don't show a definitive decision one way or another. Bill Clinton did give at least two high-dollar, paid speeches in China while his wife served as secretary: a $750,000 address in Hong Kong paid for by telecom firm Ericsson and a $550,000 speech in Shanghai paid for by the Huatuo CEO Forum. They took place days apart in 2011.

The State ethics review process — established under a series of agreements struck prior to Hillary Clinton becoming secretary in 2009 — has come under close scrutiny in recent months as reports emerged that the Clinton Foundation did not always submit foreign-government donors for conflict of interest reviews or disclose them publicly.

POLITICO sought records of that process under the Freedom of Information Act more than five years ago, in November 2009. In late 2013, State began releasing some of its files on the ethics reviews after the conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch filed a lawsuit.

The internal State Department records released this week reveal new details about the process, including:

—The level of concern at State about foreign-government funding appears to have varied dramatically by country. Government financial backing seems to have scuttled several proposed speeches by the former president in China and at least one in Turkey. However, events in Canada, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates were green-lighted despite money from government sources.

— One such government-funded speech delivered by Bill Clinton appears not to have been reported on his wife's annual financial disclosure, as required by law.

Bill Clinton's aides sought and received approval for a November 12, 2010 speech in Bangkok paid for by the Thai

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energy ministry and a state-owned oil-and-gas company there, PTT. Photos of the event show Clinton stood under logos for the Thai ministry and PTT as he delivered a speech titled, “Embracing Our Common Humanity.” PTT’s role in the event is also noted in the company’s annual report.

However, the address does not appear on the yearly list Hillary Clinton submitted of paid speeches given by her husband, nor was the fee the former president received ever made public.

The speech itself was mentioned in passing in news accounts about something else the former president reportedly did in Bangkok on that trip: film a cameo for Hangover II. (The scene was apparently cut and one actor in the film said Clinton just visited the set and never planned a cameo.)

—Until now, agency officials and Clinton aides have been vague about whether any foundation donations ever wound up being cleared under a vetting arrangement set up before Hillary Clinton became secretary, but the records show at least one such foreign-government gift was submitted and approved at State.

Part of the current controversy surrounding the foundation was generated in February when the fund acknowledged, in response to a query from the Washington Post, that Clinton aides had not submitted for review a $500,000 gift the Algerian government contributed for earthquake relief in Haiti.

But a request for approval did come in for a planned $175,000 donation from a Colombian government agency to a development program run by the Clinton Foundation in coordination with Canadian mining magnate Frank Giustra. Part of the money was intended for a spice-growing cooperative; another chunk was destined for a foundation run by singer Shakira.

The initial submission to State prompted Mills to ask Bill Clinton’s office by email: “Can you provide any context for the purpose of the contribution?”

A memo shows a State ethics lawyer later signed off on the donation.

While the records released by State this week appear to reveal disparate treatment for government-backed requests to pay Bill Clinton for speeches, the files don’t clearly state the reason for the divergence.

State began raising questions about government-supported speeches in China early on in Hillary Clinton’s tenure, but requests from Bill Clinton’s office continued to roll in. In 2009, State officials appear to have forced cancellation of a planned video address by the former president to a sports gala in Shanghai sponsored by a hedge-fund titan routing money through a Chinese-government-run foundation.

In addition to the Beijing Forum, there were red flags from State for proposals for paid speeches to the Chinese E-Commerce Association, the China Association for International Friendly Contact and a business aviation event to take place in Shanghai in 2012.

Kathryn Youel Page said that aviation event raised questions because the request “states that the Shanghai Airport Authority (SAA), a state-owned enterprise, would be a ‘title sponsor only.’”

“Does this mean that SAA is not contributing any funds to pay for President Clinton’s speaker fees?” she asked Krinvic via email. “I don’t believe we’ve previously cleared acceptance of fees from PRC [People’s Republic of China]-linked entities but could consider this variation.”

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“We are actually pulling that offer from our list,” Krinvic replied. “It’s not feasible schedule wise now.” (Former Republican presidential candidate and publisher Steve Forbes appears to have taken the speaking slot first offered to Bill Clinton.)

A proposed Bill Clinton speech in Turkey in 2009 met similar resistance, with State lawyers asking about possible government funding. The “keynote address” planned for the International University Festival in Istanbul was to be underwritten by Turkey’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Office of then-Prime Minister Recep Erdogan.

The proposal generated email traffic between State headquarters and U.S. diplomats in Ankara, as well as with climate change experts, since that was one proposed subject of Clinton’s talk. The substance of the exchanges was redacted from the released documents, but the speech appears to have never taken place.

A friendlier reception was accorded to the Canadian government when aides to Bill Clinton asked ethics officials to approve a speech to the Canadian National Exposition in Toronto. Clinton’s participation in a “photoline, speech and moderated Q&A” was to be paid for by a tourism-promotion agency of the Canadian government, Clinton’s office said in a July 21, 2009 request.

State Department lawyer Violanda Botet wrote back 10 days later asking Clinton’s people to clarify the foreign government funding.

“All funding for this event comes from a Government program that supports tourism in Canada,” Krinvic replied. “Funds have been provided in the grant from Industry Canada to market President Clinton’s appearance in key US border states (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan).”

By August 5, Krinvic had grown frantic.

“Anyword [sic] on this? I have about 30 more min before we lose the offer,” he wrote via email.

One hour and one minute later, Thessin — State’s top ethics official — finally weighed in.

“I do not have a problem with this as long as President Clinton is not serving as a U.S. government employee at the time of the appearance and when he is paid an honorarium,” Thessin wrote. “If not an employee, he may accept reimbursements of expenses and an honorarium for his speech/talk, but he may not receive any gifts from the Canadian government.”

That speech, delivered on August 29, 2009, brought Clinton a fee of $175,000, according to his wife’s financial disclosure.

Bill Clinton got similar approval for the 2010 speech sponsored by the Thai government, for an unknown amount, and for an environmental event in Abu Dhabi in 2011, which carried a $500,000 paycheck.

The records suggest that ethics reviewers generally did not know how much money Clinton was receiving for the speaking engagements until his wife’s disclosure form was filed months or even a year or more after the events.

Spokespeople for the Clintons and for the Clinton Foundation did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

However, traveling in Africa for the Clinton Foundation this week, the former president said he needed to give the paid speeches to keep his family finances afloat. “I’ve got to pay our bills,” Bill Clinton told NBC in Nairobi.

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Clinton said the speech circuit was the least problematic way for him to bring in income without establishing permanent business ties to individuals or companies.

“It’s the most independence I can get,” he argued in the NBC interview. “If I had a business relationship with somebody, they would have a target on their back from the day they did business with me until the end….People like hearing me speak. And I have turned down a lot of them. If I think there`s something wrong with it, I don`t take it. And I did disclose who gave them to me so people can make up their own mind.”

A State Department spokesman declined to comment when asked why the ethics reviewers seem to have concluded that government funding from some countries was problematic, but money from other nations was not.

At a regular briefing for reporters Thursday, a State Department spokesman said the agency does not plan to take any action to address or investigate the failure by the Clinton Foundation and related organizations to submit some foreign government donations for review or to make public the names of donors.

”The State Department has not and does not intend to initiate a formal review or to make a retroactive judgment about items that were not submitted during Secretary Clinton’s tenure,” spokesman Jeff Rathke said.

Rathke noted that the various ethics-related agreements struck just prior to Clinton becoming secretary of state did not require any approval of donations made to the Clinton Foundation by private individuals or businesses, just foreign governments. The agreements do raise the possibility of State ethics officials advising Clinton personally on potential conflicts of interest arising from her husband’s speeches and business contacts.

Rathke said that while any omissions in the donation vetting process are unfortunate, there is no indication that any gifts to the foundation or payments for husband’s speeches or advice impacted her work at State

“We regret that we did not have the opportunity to review all new and increased foreign government donations,” Rathke said.” The department’s actions under Secretary Clinton were taken to advance administration policy as set by the President and in the interest of American foreign policy…. We aren’t aware of any actions taken by Secretary Clinton that were influenced by donations to the Clinton Foundation or its offshoots, or by speech honoraria and consultancies of former President Clinton.”

Rancor marks Benghazi panel’s first year of work // Greenville Online // Mary Troyan - May 8, 2015

WASHINGTON – After a year of operations, the mostly secret work of the special House committee investigating the 2012 Benghazi attacks is fueling partisan rancor that threatens to bleed into the 2016 presidential election.

Public hearings have been scarce, a final report is many months away, and the committee, which marked its one-year birthday on Friday, has spent most of its time reviewing documents and talking to witnesses behind closed doors.

The only work product available for public viewing consists of snippy letters between Republicans and Democrats on the committee, and between those Republicans and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s lawyer over who will be interviewed when, and by whom.

But Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., the panel’s self-assured chairman, said the lack of transparency is intentional and doesn’t mean there hasn’t been progress.

In a Thursday interview, Gowdy said he expects to review 25,000 documents Congress has never seen and to interview 50 witnesses never before interviewed. He said the committee, formally known as the House Select Committee on Benghazi, could finish its report by the end of the year.

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“We were asked to write the final, definitive accounting… not have a hearing with great ratings or provide a lot of theater and drama,” Gowdy said. “I am willing to put up with the criticism until we produce a final report.”

Committee Republicans will issue a one-year progress report on Friday.

Four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens, were killed when terrorists attacked U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 11, 2012. One suspect, Ahmed Abu Khatallah, is in U.S. custody, and the criminal investigation is ongoing.

The Benghazi committee, created by a House vote, has grown into a multimillion-dollar operation complete with staff, security clearances, offices and subpoena power.

It spent about $1.8 million in 2014, most of it in salaries. Pay is typical for congressional staff, including $172,500 annually for the Republican staff director/chief counsel, and $70,000 for the Democrats’ press secretary.

In the first quarter of 2015, the committee spent another $916,000. It has almost $3.7 million remaining, but Gowdy has said he doesn’t expect to spend that much.

The panel was created because House Republicans were unsatisfied with the seven previous congressional inquiries into the attacks. House Speaker John Boehner picked Gowdy, a former state and federal prosecutor, to chair the committee and appointed six other Republicans to the panel. Democrats, initially reluctant to participate, received five seats.

The committee has three lines of inquiry: inadequate security before the attacks, the military’s inability to respond in time, and whether the Obama administration, for political reasons, intentionally mischaracterized the attacks as the spontaneous outgrowth of a protest.

Democratic critics of the Benghazi committee say all three issues have already been explored, leading to changes in security protocols, repositioning of military assets and the conclusion that the protest-gone-awry description was a mistake, not a cynical attempt to disguise the attacks’ links to terrorism.

Gowdy and the panel’s other GOP members say nothing is settled as long as new evidence is still being uncovered.

The biggest revelation to date is that Clinton used a private email account to conduct official business during her term as secretary of state. She decided which emails to turn over to the committee and deleted the rest, igniting a confrontation over whether the public record of her tenure is complete.

The focus on Clinton has led Democrats to speculate that the committee is nothing more a Republican plot to sully her presidential candidacy ahead of the 2016 election.

The panel’s top Democrat, Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., said Republicans have strayed from the priority pushed by the families of the four men killed in the attacks — better security for American personnel overseas.

“They said, ‘Please do not turn this into a political football,’” Cummings said in a Thursday interview.

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Gowdy, who has asked Clinton to turn over her personal email server to an independent third party for review, said he's focused solely on her Libya-related communications. Broader questions over her email policy will be handled by a separate committee of Boehner's choosing, Gowdy said.

"There is no question someone else is going to do that. I don't want to do it," he said.

Gowdy said Democrats are more focused on how Benghazi affects Clinton than he is, and tensions over 2016 helped short-circuit the committee's bipartisan cooperation. Democrats complained in January that Republicans had shut them out of witness interviews. Gowdy and Cummings gave contradictory explanations at the time.

"I think there are forces outside the committee that probably don't benefit from it being perceived as professional and real and want it to be viewed as other committees — hyper-partisan and fighting — and that's when the tactics changed," Gowdy said.

Cummings said it is "absolutely wrong" to think anyone pressured Democrats to be uncooperative.

"Nobody ever made any kind of that statement to me," he said.

Cummings said tensions flared after Republican leaders said the committee would adopt operating rules, but never did.

On Thursday, Gowdy said Democratic members or their staffs have been present at all witness interviews, including interviews of five witnesses who survived the attacks. Four of the five have never before been interviewed by Congress, he said.

The committee's pace of witness interviews has doubled, from two to four per week. Next up: individual interviews of members of the CIA's global response staff in Libya who were interviewed as a group by a previous congressional committee, Gowdy said.

Document production is not moving as swiftly, he said. The committee's last public hearing, in January, focused on the committee's pending requests to the State Department.

Gowdy said the committee also is awaiting records from the Justice Department, the White House and the CIA. He recruited lawmakers on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to pressure the State Department to speed compliance, especially regarding emails from senior agency officials other than Clinton.

Gowdy also said he wants the committee to interview Susan Rice, who was U.N. ambassador at the time of the Benghazi attacks. Rice said on Sunday talk shows after the attacks that they appeared to be linked to widespread protests reacting to an anti-Muslim video.

The House intelligence committee, in its report released last year, said her comments were based on incomplete and contradictory intelligence at the time.

Democrats say the Benghazi investigation already has lasted longer than congressional inquiries into Iran-Contra, the John F. Kennedy assassination, the attack on Pearl Harbor, and Hurricane Katrina.

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Cummings confirmed Gowdy's statement that Democrats have been included in witness interviews, but he said they have yet to discover information that contradicts previous reports.

"Witnesses are just verifying what is already known," Cummings said.

One Republican committee member, Rep. Martha Roby of Alabama, said the yearlong investigation has been worthwhile.

"We're closer now than we ever have been before... to establishing a clear record of what happened, how it happened and why the attacks happened," Roby said Thursday.

In South Carolina, conservatives critical of how the Obama administration handled Benghazi say they believe the committee will unearth new information.

"Trey is bringing order to chaos," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

Nic Lane, former chairman of the Spartanburg County Republican Party, said the conservatives in Gowdy's hometown will accept the findings, even if they don't confirm some of the especially sinister conspiracy theories of wrongdoing by Clinton or other Obama administration officials.

"True conservatives who know Gowdy... know what kind of a prosecutor he was and will stand behind him no matter the outcome," Lane said. "No political maneuvering or inside baseball is going to stop him from producing what he believes is a presentation of all the facts."

Hillary Clinton's Hill Whisperer // National Journal // Sarah Mimms - May 8, 2015

May 7, 2015 Eager to line up support from top members of the national Democratic Party, Hillary Clinton sent three of her senior aides to Capitol Hill last month. For the Clinton campaign, it was an opportunity to brief members of Congress on her plans, avoid any surprises, and shore up support among the party's electeds.

For Clinton's political director Amanda Renteria, it was a homecoming.

After running a failed congressional campaign in California last year, the 40-year-old former staffer for Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Debbie Stabenow returned to Capitol Hill in April as a top liaison between Team Hillary and some of the members she knows well from nearly a decade on the Hill.

Given her knowledge of working in (and running for) Congress and her sterling reputation among Democratic senators, Renteria could be a secret weapon for Clinton in keeping the campaign and the minority party in Congress on the same page.

"Oh, I was so proud of her," Stabenow said beamingly, reflecting on Renteria's performance in a closed-session luncheon with the Democratic senators. "I feel like it's one of the family, for me. ... I think she's very well-

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respected in the caucus. People were very excited to see that she is in this position. I think people have a lot of confidence in her."

In the three weeks since, Stabenow said several members have approached her to praise Renteria and her team of regional political directors for their quick responses to their queries about the campaign's views on policy, surrogacy needs, fundraising, and more. "She understands both the importance and the benefits of having members totally engaged and also the importance of being able to respond quickly with information," Stabenow said.

"I've worked on a lot of campaigns for a really long time and I'm shocked by how good this campaign is at keeping people in the loop. Usually this is the one thing that campaigns do badly. And in the past weeks, I've just been astounded," said Bill Sweeney, Stabenow's current chief of staff who served as Renteria's deputy. "I think that a lot of it really does stem from Amanda's leadership ... understanding that folks out here are trying our best to be helpful."

It's been a long and unusual road for Renteria, the daughter of a Mexican-immigrant father and Mexican-American mother, who was raised in California's Central Valley. After graduating from Stanford University, where she played both softball and basketball for the school, Renteria briefly worked at Goldman Sachs. Then she took a job teaching high school, left to get her MBA at Harvard, and then took a job as a budget analyst and consultant to the City of San Jose, before finally landing on Capitol Hill in 2005.

At age 30, Renteria took a job as a legislative aide to Feinstein, her home-state senator. Just two years later, she became the first Latina chief of staff in Senate history, working for Stabenow.

That quick rise was fueled not only Renteria's ambition and work ethic but her warmth and ability to quickly earn the trust of those she's working with, current and former Democratic staffers said.

Nowhere was that more evident than in the fight to pass a farm bill through both chambers of Congress last year. Renteria was instrumental in bridging the gap between not only the two parties, but the regional factions of members that grew up around the bill. That kind of coalition-building could be instrumental to the Clinton campaign, as the presumptive nominee faces criticism from the party's liberal wing.

And her relentless optimism helped to keep a team of warring staffers together. "That farm bill almost died about 20 different times I think," one former Senate Democratic staffer said. "But she ... was never sort of, dour. Even at sort of the darkest times she remained positive and determined. That's part of the reason why she's such an effective leader—because then everybody else said, if Amanda still thinks it's possible [then maybe it is]."

Renteria declined to be interviewed for this story, but Sweeney said he sees clearly how she'll translate her skills honed in the Senate to a presidential campaign. "Really, the job of the chief of staff is really just to keep everything running. She was really good at that, good at keeping the trains running on time, keeping everybody in the loop. And that's the key thing she's going to be doing at the Hillary campaign," he said.

After wrapping up the farm bill and seeing Stabenow reelected in a tough 2012 contest, Renteria left the Hill on a high note, preparing to return two years with a very different title: Congresswoman.

It didn't work out that way. Although California's 21st District was redrawn in 2012 to be much more favorable to Democrats and now is 72 percent Hispanic, Renteria lost to incumbent Republican David Valadao by almost 16 points.

The loss was difficult for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which helped to recruit Renteria

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for the seat. She was one of their most promising candidates for a seat that the party finally had a shot at after years of Republican control, executive director Kelly Ward said in an interview. But it was one of many in the 2014 cycle to swing toward Republicans, and the DCCC had to switch its focus to protecting its own incumbents rather than trying to make inroads in new territory.

In preparing for the 2016 election cycle, Renteria was the first candidate that the DCCC reached out to, Ward said. Ward had been impressed during the previous cycle by Renteria, a mother of two who she described as "warm, but tough." She was rumored to be considering a second run for Congress, but had told local reporters she was leaning towards running for an open California State Assembly seat.

"Her number one focus was going home and doing right by her community," Ward said.

As a candidate in 2014, Renteria did everything "110 percent," Ward said, and although it's often difficult for "doers" like Renteria, she handled the transition from staffer to candidate, who had to pass a lot of the work she typically did to a staff of her own, better than almost any other candidate Ward had seen.

The 2014 loss "was no fault of hers," Ward said.

And the California Democratic Party is hoping that the energy she brought to Democrats in the Central Valley will pay dividends in 2016, even without Renteria as a candidate. "She brought new people into the party because she ... just drew them in because she is so dynamic," Shawnda Westly, the party's executive director said in an interview. Renteria built an incredibly loyal volunteer base in the district that impressed Westly and other members, a skill she could use in building a team for Clinton as well.

The personal experience of campaigning for Congress clearly informs Renteria's work as political director for the Clinton campaign. But it also gives her another connection to members on Capitol Hill. The DCCC, too, has kept in touch with Renteria—not as a candidate, but as a liaison to help keep the campaign committee in the loop with Team Hillary.

"I'd love to have her as a candidate in a presidential election cycle," Ward said, but she understands why Renteria is moving on to the Hillary campaign rather than running another of her own. "I think she is going to do a great job."

Sweeney echoed that sentiment. "Frankly the best thing is if she was in Congress right now, the second best thing is her working to get Hillary elected," he said.

Hillary Clinton to attend Chicago fundraisers in late May // CNN // Dan Merica - May 9, 2015

Hillary Clinton will headline two fundraisers in her hometown of Chicago on May 20, according to two invitations obtained by CNN.

Clinton will start her afternoon in the Windy City with a fundraiser at the home of Fred Eychaner, a philanthropist, chairman of Newsweb Corporation and prolific Democratic donor.

Eychaner has been a longtime Clinton supporter and has donated more than $25 million to The Clinton

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Foundation. He is also a supporter of Priorities USA, a Democratic super PAC run by former Clinton aides that recently received the presidential candidate's blessing.

Clinton will then head to the home of J.B. Pritzker, the co-founder of the Pritzker Group and Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign co-chair, and his wife, M.K. According to his own reported estimates, he raised upwards of $1 million for her failed bid.

Pritzker is the brother of Penny Pritzker, the current secretary of commerce.

"Please join us for a conversation with Hillary Rodham Clinton in support of Hillary for America," both invites read.

The Chicago Sun-Times first reported that Clinton was holding the events.

The two fundraisers will be Hillary Clinton's first visit to her hometown of Chicago since she declared her second presidential campaign last month. Clinton was raised in Park Ridge, a small Chicago suburb, and regularly mentions her Midwestern roots.

The fundraisers will be part of Clinton's "Hillstarter" program that asks donors to raise a total of $27,000 by encouraging 10 people to donate the maximum $2,700. The invites also give donors a chance to "host" the event by raising $50,000. Clinton has already held Hillstarter events in New York, Washington, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

She is spending Friday in Silicon Valley, where she will headline a fundraiser at the home of Eileen Chamberlain and John Donahoe, CEO of eBay.

Why Character Attacks on Hillary Won't Work // Daily Beast // Jeff Greenfield - May 9, 2015

Why the former first couple has always survived attacks on their character, and probably always will.

If you're Martin O'Malley, or one of the other potential Democrats pondering a race against Hillary Clinton, you've been presented with an unexpected opportunity—and a very, very tricky challenge.

The spate of stories about the interconnections between the Clinton Foundation, the Clintons' wealth, and Hillary Clinton's tenure as Secretary of State have opened up a line of attack against the prohibitive Democratic favorite that was once the province of her ideological foes. For close to a quarter-century now, the willingness—make that eagerness—of voices on the Right to embrace every accusation against the Clintons has proven to be a pearl of great price for Bill and Hillary, serving to insulate them politically from allegations that were, in fact, credible. (No, the Clintons did not murder Vince Foster, nor profit from the Whitewater deal. Yes, there was something distinctly non-kosher about how Hillary Clinton made so much money trading cattle futures. No, the Clintons did not hang pornographic toys on a White House Christmas tree; yes, the Marc Rich pardon was indefensible).

The immediate instinct of Clinton defenders to attack the credentials or motives of accusers is going to be undergoing a heavy stress test with these latest stories, requiring the addition of the New York Times and the Washington Post to the members of the vast right-wing conspiracy. More seriously for the presumptive

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Democratic nominee, the stories help take the ideological patina off the argument that the Clintons chronically exempt themselves from the rules that are supposed to apply to the rest of the political universe. Throughout their political lives, the Clintons have successfully—and often accurately—argued that the criticism have come from those opposed to their agenda. Now, two news outlets that embody the "Mainstream Media" so much scorned on the Right have weighed in with stories that undergird precisely the same argument.

And herein lies the opportunity—and the dilemma—for O'Malley or any of the other possible Democratic challengers: what do you do with the argument that the case against Hillary Clinton is a matter not of ideology, but of character?

As far as I can tell, no intra-party campaign against a prohibitive favorite has ever been waged on such grounds. The more formidable challengers to sitting Presidents have all been made on policy grounds. The Eugene McCarthy-Robert Kennedy campaigns against Lyndon Johnson were based on disagreements over the Vietnam War (RFK clearly believed LBJ was unfit by character to be President, but it was not part of the campaign). Ronald Reagan fought Gerald Ford in 1976 over what he saw as a weak foreign policy, created by (Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Ford"—a rhetorically brilliant evocation of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"). Ted Kennedy opposed President Jimmy Carter for presiding over a shaky economy with insufficiently liberal remedies.

Throughout their public lives, Bill and Hillary Clinton have benefitted enormously from the fury of their ideological enemies.

The same is true when the odds-on favorite was not a White House occupant. Bill Bradley tried to run to Al Gore's left in 2000, but never raised an issue of character. (When I asked him during a New York City debate whether he thought Gore was honest enough to be President, he said, in effect, that's a judgment for the voters to make). In 2008, Barack Obama's case against Hillary Clinton was both generational—I'm free of the arguments of earlier times—and positional—I opposed the Iraq War; she voted for it.

(The closest use of "character" came in 1992, when Jerry Brown raised the question of Hillary Clinton's legal work in a TV debate with Bill Clinton—permitting Clinton to indignantly declare that Brown should be ashamed of himself for attacking his wife).

Up to now, Clinton's potential rivals have been taking the traditional route of arguing that she does not truly reflect the Democratic base on issues like income inequality and corporate regulation. Now, they have been handed a much more potent argument: that the financial behavior of the Clintons demonstrates that they identify with the one per cent—or one-tenth of one per cent—and that their conduct will be as big a liability to Hillary Clinton as Mitt Romney's business career and tax returns were to him in 2012.

But, as with nitroglycerin, a potent substance can also be highly dangerous. Bill Clinton is the most admired man in America; and among Democrats, his approval rating is stratospheric. Up to now, there has been no significant unhappiness within her party at the prospect of a Hillary Clinton nomination—not to mention the significant cohort of voters eager to see a woman elected President. (Indeed, a recent New York Times poll suggests that Clinton has retained, even increased, her popularity among Democrats) There's also the pragmatic argument that a frontal assault on the likely democratic nominee will do neither the party nor the advocates of such an assault any good.

Moreover, nothing is more likely to rally Democrats around Clinton than the assaults from across the political divide. Throughout their public lives, Bill and Hillary Clinton have benefitted enormously from the fury of their ideological enemies. Making a case that will persuade Democrats to move away from Clinton on character grounds will be the political equivalent of defusing a ticking bomb.

Hillary Clinton under fire in South Carolina for being 'old, white and rich' as Republican presidential hopefuls pile on the Democratic front-runner // Daily Mail // David Martosko - May 9, 2015

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Democrats 'don't like "old, white and rich",' a red-meat conservative audience heard Saturday in the early hours of the South Carolina Freedom Summit.

'And their answer to that is Hillary.'

Mrs. Clinton, the American liberal most likely to contend for the presidency in 2016, rivaled the ISIS terror army in taking punches from Republicans at the event, held in Greenville.

The demographic quip came from Kellyanne Conway, a pollster. But she wasn't alone.

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, four years ago the Iowa Caucus victor, complained that Clinton stood in the way of nuclear-related sanctions he once drafted when they were both senators.

Asked after his speech if he could think of a nice work or two for the former secretary of state, he stood puzzled and then shrugged: 'Happy Mother's Day?'

Donald Trump, the brand-happy real estate billionaire, told Daily Mail Online that Hillary Clinton would 'destroy the country.'

He pursed his lips, though, when asked if he could say anything nice about her. And then 15 seconds ticked off silently.

'Honestly,' Trump said after the pregnant pause, 'I think it would be inappropriate right now.'

'Hillary's got some very big problems, I think,' Trump said in an interview backstage. 'Much more significant than people understand, with respect to the emails and other things.'

'If you look back eight years ago, she had it made. And then Obama came along. Now? I'm not even 100 per cent sure she's going to go all the way.'

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal also made a positive note of Clinton's motherhood, saying she and former presdient Bill Clinton had 'raised their daughter under the glare of the media spotlight.'

'By all accounts she's turned out to be a very accomplished adult in her own right,' Jindal said. 'And happoly married.'

But he said he doesn't want to see Chelsea visiting her mom in the Whtie House in 2017.

'The only thing she's ever run is President Obama's foreign polic,' he said of Hillary, ticking off disappointments in Russia, Ukraine, Israel and Iran. 'It's been a complete failure.'

He also criticized her recent comments that 'deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed' to give more of the world's women access to abortion and other reproductive interventions.

'I can't imagine a more preposterous and offensive comment,' Jindal said Saturday.

'My religious beliefs aren't between me and Hillary Clinton. They're between me and God. And I'm not going to

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change them simply because she doesn't like them.'

Jindal snarked that Clinton hadn't proposed a method for shifting the religious views of pro-life Republicans.

'I don't know – does that mean re-education camps?' he asked.

'I think the Democrats are making a mistake simply by crowning Hillary Clinton. But that's their choice to make.'

The president of Citizens United, the constitutionally famous group behind Saturday's event, called for a criminal investigation into her time as America's top diplomat.

'The Clintons are synonymous with the word "scandal",' David Bossie told Daily Mail Online, referring to allegations that she traded her influence for foreign donations to her family foundation.

'I actually hope there is a grand jury looking into this right now, because there needs to be.'

Asked during a press conference what Clinton's strongest political quality is, Iowa congressman Steve King didn't mince words.

'It's not her likeability,' he said.

King also blasted Clinton as a holdover from an Obama administration whose foreign policy stumbles carried her personal brand for four years.

'I don't know how that works for her,' King said with a shrug.

'We need to make a change from Barack Obama. The country knows that. She's partly an extension of Barack Obama. She has to defend her policies and still separate herself [from him]. That's a tough campaign for her to run.'

Conway, whose Polling Company Inc. runs a 'WomanTrend' division targeting female consumer opinion, hammered Hillary for trying to corner the market on the feminine-candidate mystique.

WIth Clinton as the Democrats' standard-bearer in 2016, she predicted, 'the gender card will be played.'

'The idea of a female president? I think it's terrific. I have three daughters.'

But ultimately, she said, 'the question isn't whether you want "a" woman to be president. It's whether you want "that" woman to be president.'

'Hillary is not a hypothetical. She's Hillary.'

Chelsea Clinton is no longer off limits // The Telegraph // Peter Foster - May 10, 2015

American presidential campaigns are always more about personality than policy, requiring voters to pass

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judgment on the characters of the candidates - which is why losing is such a bruising business. Just ask Mitt Romney.

It's also why both parties have long agreed that when it comes to personal attacks, spouses and children are off-limits. Candidates get what is coming to them, but basic decency and a bit of tactical commonsense - attacking someone's family is guaranteed to make you look cheap - means that loved-ones are spared the hurt.

But the 2016 campaign could be rather different, thanks to the unique situation thrown up by the candidacy of Hillary Clinton.

Her spouse, as a former US president and a political figure in his own right, is clearly fair game as, potentially - and this is where it could get really interesting - is the Clinton's daughter, Chelsea.

Chelsea Clinton with her parents BIll and Hillary in Chicago in 1996 (AP)

Now 35, she is no longer the gawky teenager of her father's tumultuous White House years or indeed the slightly awkward, just-out-of-college twenty-something who campaigned so hard (400 events) for her mother in 2008.

Eight years on, she has grown into a very different figure, as could be seen last week as Chelsea and Bill made their semi-Royal progress around Africa reviewing the good works of the Clinton Foundation, where Chelsea has played a leading role since 2011.

The trip was a good example of how Chelsea is no longer just a public figure - a matter in which she had no choice - but also now a political one too.

The Clinton Foundation undeniably does good works but has it always laboured somewhat under the impression that its philanthropy is at least as much about showing love to the Clinton family brand as it is about dispensing medicines and hearing aids in Africa.

Chelsea Clinton during a visit to a Kenyan hospital to see work of the Clinton Health Access Initiative (EPA)

The recent raft of allegations about the Clintons using the foundation as a part of a hazy web of influence-pedalling has hit the nascent Hillary campaign hard, and it is noteworthy that Chelsea has been directly involved in the push-back.

“It's always about the work,” she said in an interview with Washington Post in Africa this week. “I've never had anyone talk to me about my parents in a political capacity for a foundation programme.”

Only the voters can decide if Chelsea really believes in that simplistic account of how influence works, but equally they can be clear that she is part of the family firm now.

Chelsea told The Telegraph last year that she never wanted to join the family business, but ultimately felt “called” to do so.

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That decision comes with a price. Republican strategists will have to decide whether to attack Miss Clinton, or not, but there is sense in which Chelsea, once pitied for enduring her teenage years at the White House, is now part of the wider Clinton conundrum.

It is an oblique point, but it was interesting to note that Chelsea was photographed alongside her father at the memorial to those who died in the 1998 US Embassy bombings in Nairobi, taking a moment to remember.

Nothing wrong in that, but as the former US president on whose watch those 213 people died, Mr Clinton is always present in a semi-official capacity.

Chelsea's position is less clear, more dynastic in nature: she is a former first-daughter, heir-apparent, and, ultimately, lone princess to the Court of Clinton.

The birth of the first Clinton grandchild last year - also called Charlotte, as it happens - was greeted with fawning fanfare in the US media worthy of a real royal birth.

The feted infant often appears in New York gossip columns being wheeled round Lower Manhattan, and is also fast becoming an unwitting fixture of the Hillary Clinton campaign - under the Hillary hashtag #grandmothersknowbest.

Like all good princesses, Chelsea is dutiful and demure - and only her harshest critics would suggest she is not earnestly engaged in the realm of international development, often to the point of tedium - but that hasn't stopped her developing a Clintonian sense of entitlement.

Mrs Clinton campaigns in populist fashion against America's upper echelons, but as Bill Clinton said this week when quizzed about his $500,000-a-pop speaker fees, “we gotta pay our bills” and Chelsea, married to a Goldman Sachs alum turned hedge fund manager, apparently does too.

Until she quit last year, NBC News paid Miss Clinton $600,000-a-year for a handful of utterly lousy television reports that caused the Washington Post's television critic to describe her (accurately) as “one of the most boring people of her era”.

Chelsea feigns naivety about why corporations and governments throw vast sums at her parents, and yet she must know that third-rate trainee television reporters don't receive that kind of money, unless they happen to be called Clinton.

She has played the game herself too long to fail to understand the rules, and the electorate knows it It might still feel mean and gratuitous to beat up on Chelsea - and Republican strategists might decide against it for that reason - but the fact is Chelsea is no longer the young woman who moved the needle positively for her mother in 2008.

Chelsea has moved on these past eight years and - like the rest of Clinton machine - she comes with baggage now, too.

GOP slow-plays Benghazi investigation // The Hill // Scott Wong and Martin Matishak - May 9, 2015

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Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton has agreed to testify before the Benghazi committee this month but don't expect Republicans to be satisfied with her appearance.

House Republicans have now spent a full year investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Libya — including whether any of the former secretary of State's actions may have contributed to the incident — and there are few indications there will be a speedy conclusion to their inquiries.

Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), chairman of the Select Committee on Benghazi, signaled he's prepared to drag out his investigation well into 2016 if Clinton and the Obama administration continue to stonewall his requests for documents and answers.

That would mean the probe would not conclude until the homestretch of Clinton's long campaign for the White House.

"Chairman Gowdy said early on in this investigation that there is no statute of limitations on the truth. Our job is to get to the truth," Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), a leading House conservative who serves on the Benghazi panel, told The Hill. "I wish we could already be there but based on the way this administration has conducted themselves has just made it difficult.

"They're the ones who've been driving the pace and the timing of all this."

So far, there's no agreement on when exactly Clinton would appear on Capitol Hill. In an interim report on of the Benghazi committee's first year of work, Gowdy wrote Friday that the panel would call Clinton to testify once she and the State Department had provided all relevant information.

Since Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) created the Benghazi committee a year ago this week, the panel has adopted a go-slow approach. Gowdy, a former federal prosecutor, has been thorough and methodical, while being careful not to make his investigation appear too overtly political or partisan.

When the committee discovered that Clinton had used a personal email account while leading the State Department, Gowdy called for her to turn over her email server to the agency's inspector general or another neutral third party, GOP aides noted. That way an independent arbiter could separate the private emails from the public ones.

"The goal here is not pomp and circumstance or show hearings," said a GOP leadership aide familiar with the investigation. "The goal is to get facts and a full and complete record of what happened before, during and after the attack. And that is the mandate Gowdy has steadfastly pursued."

But Republicans are also fully aware the investigative panel — and the Benghazi issue in general — is proving to be a major political headache for the 2016 presumptive Democratic presidential nominee. Boehner, whom Gowdy briefed last week on the Benghazi probe, has used recent news conferences to bring attention to the Clinton email scandal.

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“Of course this is all detrimental to her political ambitions,” said one House GOP lawmaker.

It’s been more than two and a half years since Islamic militants attacked U.S. diplomatic facilities in Libya, killing Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans — an assault that Clinton took responsibility for.

Republicans have long contended that Clinton and other senior State officials denied repeated requests for more security at the mission before the attack.

Democrats, meanwhile, have pointed out that Gowdy’s Benghazi investigation has lasted longer than congressional probes into the Pearl Harbor attack, John F. Kennedy assassination, and Iran-Contra scandal.

But Republicans have made no apologies about their slow-and-steady approach. The Benghazi panel, they argue, unearthed the existence of Clinton’s private server that numerous other House and Senate committees missed in their own investigations.

And the panel contacted eyewitnesses who never had been interviewed before, and secured tens of thousands of new documents related to the attack. Just last week, the State Department handed over more than 4,000 documents from the agency’s own investigation into the deadly attack. Congress had never reviewed them before.

The disclosure was soon followed by a May 4 letter from Clinton’s attorney to Gowdy that she would appear once before the committee, not twice as he had insisted for months.

The missive was the latest in a months long chess match between Clinton’s team and the panel about when she would make her third congressional appearance on the attacks.

In January, Rep. Elijah Cummings (Md.), the panel’s top Democrat, said Clinton had agreed to testify again on Benghazi.

But the March revelation that Clinton used a personal email server while helming the State Department complicated the calendar, prompting Gowdy to say Clinton would have to appear twice: first to address the email controversy behind closed doors, and again during an open hearing on the 2012 assault.

Clinton’s attorney, David Kendall, eventually pushed back, writing in an April 22 letter that there was “no reason to delay her appearance or to have her testify in a private interview.”

Gowdy then said in an April 23 response that both hearings could be held in public.

The South Carolina lawmaker has yet to respond to Clinton’s latest demand for a single hearing and likely won’t until after meeting with fellow panel Republicans this week.

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Jordan and others are still pushing for two hearings, saying they'd have an enormous amount of material to cover. For instance, Gowdy has asked Clinton 136 questions about her private email server alone, none of which have been answered.

"My focus is on: What did Mrs. Clinton know? What was she involved with? What decisions did she make when she was secretary of State, and specifically secretary of State relative to Benghazi?" Jordan said in a phone interview from Ohio. "I am not concerned about Hillary Clinton who wants to be president."

Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill declined to comment for this story. But Clinton's attorneys have rebuffed Gowdy's request for more documents, saying her server has been wiped clean and that she's already turned over 900 pages worth of emails.

Meanwhile, Clinton's allies on Capitol Hill insist the Gowdy investigation is nothing more than a smear campaign, a GOP effort to undermine her credibility and reputation before voters elect a new president in November 2016.

"The Republicans want to have her here every 10 minutes. It's a political exercise for them," said Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), a member of the Armed Services Committee who in 2013 became the first senator to endorse Clinton this cycle.

"I think she is saying, 'I'll come. I'll answer any questions you want me to answer. But I'm not going to come repeatedly to satisfy your need for political theater,'" McCaskill added. "I think they'll use every trick they possible can to try to damage her politically."

But GOP senators who've been monitoring the Benghazi panel say its members have been measured and thoughtful in their pursuit of the facts.

"Let's face it. This administration is not transparent. They are not turning over records willingly," said Senate Homeland Security Chairman Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), who famously tangled with Clinton over Benghazi at a 2013 hearing.

"It's like pulling teeth, and it takes a while to pull teeth."

British Election Good News For Hillary Clinton, Cameron Aide Says // BuzzFeed News // Ben Smith - May 8, 2015

The former Obama aide who helped Britain's Conservatives stay in power Thursday told BuzzFeed News that Hillary Clinton, rather than U.S. Republicans, should be taking hope from the victory of Britain's right.

Prime Minister David Cameron is "a progressive leader" who "pushed for gay marriage and a world climate change deal and proposed to increase child care subsidies and cut taxes on the minimum wage," Jim Messina said in a telephone interview from London, where he said he'd just departed a celebratory tea at 10 Downing Street.

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Messina served as a top adviser to the conservative campaign, and spent the run-up to the election in London, and said he'd slept about an hour in the last two days. He helped steer a re-election campaign that combined intense attacks on Labour leader Ed Miliband with policies — from support for nationalized health care to intervention in the housing market — that would fit easily inside the U.S. Democratic Party. (Labour, which is well to the left of the Democrats, was advised by Messina's old boss, David Axelrod, who declined via email to comment on the lessons for Clinton from the U.K. election.)

But Cameron clashed with Miliband over the incumbent's relatively hawkish foreign policy and support for, and from, London's booming financial industry.

Messina said he'd learned from Bill Clinton that elections should always look forward, and said Miliband "was talking about going back to the '70s and '80s."

He declined to draw any direct lines between this election and next year's American presidential campaign.

"I don't think this election has anything to do with Hillary Clinton," he said.

But Messina said Clinton could take heart from the results.

"Cameron showed, again, that all presidential elections are about the future and Hillary is by far the right candidate in the U.S. to do that," Messina said.

He said Cameron would likely follow Obama's example in staying neutral in the U.S. election, as Obama did in Britain's.

He said he'd been struck by the difference between the electoral system — in particular, Britain's cap on spending, at just over £31 million per party, that means that election campaigns aren't dominated by television advertising.

"The very hard cap on spending was a very good thing," said Messina, who said it created an environment in which the press had more power than it does in the U.S.

Britain has a "way more partisan press corps than what we have in the U.S.," Messina noted, though he disputed the notion that the press had tilted toward the Tories.

Messina said he will return to continue to work for the super PAC Priorities U.S.A., which he co-chairs and whose relationship to Clinton's campaign has at times been complicated.

"I plan to do whatever else I can to help," he said.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Deval Patrick: The Man Who Isn't Running For President // BuzzFeed News // Darren Sands - May 8, 2015

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The man who probably isn't going to be the second black president was speaking at Selma's Tabernacle Baptist Church one Sunday in March, recalling his days working for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Deval Patrick has an unusually direct connection to the civil rights era for a man of the Joshua Generation: Back in 1985, he was the junior lawyer on the Alabama vote fraud case against Albert Turner, an old ally of Martin Luther King Jr., who had helped organize the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday; his wife, Evelyn; and another man named Spencer Hogue Jr. They became known as the Perry County Three, accused by the Justice Department of altering absentee ballots. If found guilty, each could have gone to jail for life.

He remembered his clients, he told the congregation, "as being old black people. In fact, they would now only be the age I thought they were then." The crowd laughed at Patrick, who likes being referred to as still a relatively young man. "The scary thing is, I am now the age they actually were."

Theirs, and others, was a legacy of resilience, Patrick said, and it served black folks well to remember that even in the face of all manner of injustice, including injustice related to police violence — "A grand jury can't see in the videotaped strangling of Eric Garner what the rest of the world sees!" he said, also making reference to Michael Brown — that legacy was dishonored by declaring defeat. "The key it seems to me is to be as mindful and as determined as our forebearers to keep on marching whether we are desperate or comfortable — maybe especially if we are comfortable."

The point about being comfortable recalled another line for Patrick: "Being first doesn't mean a thing unless there's a second."

The crowd approved and applauded — and Patrick let that applause linger in the air, sharp and abiding as it had been at any point during his address.

Deval Patrick, the first black governor of Massachusetts and only the second black governor in U.S. history, did no public Hamlet act over whether he'd run for president. He did, however, consider it in private, he told BuzzFeed News in an interview. Top advisers to Hillary Clinton also eyed Patrick warily through much of last year. He was, in their view, one of the few Democrats with a path to beating her.

But Deval Patrick is not challenging Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination — he's not running for president and he's not going to follow Barack Obama. Instead, the former two-term governor of Massachusetts, a powerful speaker with a liberal record, works at Bain Capital, and complains from time to time that Hillary Clinton doesn't have a strong enough challenger.

"If our forebearers had been defeated by the challenges around them, which were in many respects more profound, then we wouldn't get to sit in a room like this," Patrick recently said of that Selma speech, gesturing from the 41st floor of the Boston high-rise where he now works toward the state house, whose golden dome was beaming under the sunlight. "I wouldn't have got to sit in a building like that."

It's a unique bit of symmetry that Patrick's new office at Bain Capital, the private equity firm intertwined with the 2012 election where he will lead a new "social impact" investment fund, overlooks his old one. His new office is "not quite fitted out yet." For now, it's just two purple orchids and pictures of his family lined up in a row.

The nondescript space is a little like Patrick's newly formed post-governorship life so far. He left office in January — and looks little changed from years past, a bit more trim, perhaps. He rocks a bit of closely cropped salt-and-pepper haircut, and is perpetually clean-shaven. And while the 58-year-old walks gingerly — the effect of hip replacement surgery in 2009 — Patrick's appearance is not the evidence we all needed that black don't crack, but he looks good. And now, he's out of public life and back to near anonymity.

"One thing I have noticed about being a black man," he wrote in his 2011 memoir, "if you're dressed in jeans and a casual shirt with a cap on, people will often look right past you." Earlier this year, a local high school hosted a

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panel on the legacy of civil rights with, among others, former Sen. William “Mo” Cowan and J. Keith Motley, the chancellor of the University of Massachusetts–Boston. Patrick showed up in a cap and sweater. “I look up and see him,” Motley said, “look around and realize, ‘My god, no one even realizes he’s here.’” His next-door neighbor, State Sen. Brian A. Joyce, spotted him — ball-cap clad and being assisted at the Apple Store’s Genius Bar recently. “There was not a person who recognized him. I think he relished that.”

Even if Patrick relishes this anonymity, however, he occupies an unusual perch in the Democratic Party, at the intersection of three current centers of power: He is close friends with the president; he has a long, albeit less close, history with the Clintons; and he shares a home state with the woman — Elizabeth Warren — who leaves progressives enamored and creates problems for both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

And, at the end of the day, he could have run for president.

A true progressive who oversaw a major transportation consolidation project, helped implement the state’s health care insurance system, and signed into law criminal justice changes popular in the Democratic Party, Patrick was widely considered capable of winning a third term. The question of a presidential run indeed weighed on Patrick, too, last year. If some Democrats were looking for a real challenger to Hillary Clinton, why not him? Democrats could do worse than a two-term governor with name recognition in New Hampshire.

Last December, Obama called into Patrick’s monthly “ask the governor” radio show as a final good-bye. When Obama hung up, Patrick was asked about what it’s like for that kid — the kid from the South Side of Chicago — to field a personal call from the president of the United States. Patrick took a deep breath to collect himself. “I’ve had reporters asking me about another political job — even that political job,” Patrick said. “I know I’m supposed to keep a straight face and try to give the best answer I can, and an honest answer, which is, ‘I don’t have any plans.’ But it really blows my mind that people would ask a kid from the South Side of Chicago a serious question like that.”

He wrestled with the decision, one prominent Democrat said, and woke up daily for a time unable to say that he was not going to run. When told this, Patrick’s closest advisers downplayed how close Patrick got, given that there was a clear path — Obama’s path — to the nomination.

Sitting in the Bain office last month, Patrick acknowledged that he gave running for president some thought. But, he said, his personal obligations eliminated the slightest possibility. “I didn’t have to think about it very long,” he said. “I never ran for governor to be something else.”

“My sense is that he didn’t come as close as people think,” Joyce told BuzzFeed News. “I don’t know a governor or a U.S. senator who doesn’t take a close look at it — who doesn’t at least close their eyes and say, ‘Hey, I could do that.’

“He certainly has not issued any Sherman-like statements,” he added. “Would I rule him out in the future? Absolutely not.”

A close former aide who went to dinner with Patrick recently said politics didn’t come up once. He is most upbeat when he begins to talk about his work at Bain Capital. “Oh, man!” he let out when asked what indication he had the work was going to be fulfilling. “The enthusiasm inside the building has been over the top.” The mission of social impact investing is one Bain Capital is trying to figure out how to be in, he said “and the field is exploding and that is a very hopeful thing.” He emphasized field and that like a politician who is trying to inspire.

Still, even Obama himself recommended Patrick for higher office. “Deval would make a great president or vice president. But I think based on me talking to him, it sounds like he’d like to take a little bit of a break,” Obama told a Boston cable news station. “He’s still a relatively young man.”

Asked if Obama asked him to consider a run, Patrick laughed. “That’s a nice try,” he said. “What’s your next

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question?”

The curious thing about Patrick — a man who is not running for president — is his seemingly incurable habit of talking about Hillary Clinton’s “inevitability” problem.

It started in early 2014, when Patrick was asked outright by a reporter if there was going to be a “Hillary–Deval ticket in 2016.” He looked bewildered before saying no, and began laughing.

In July, Patrick expressed doubt about what he perceived to be her inevitability. “I worry about the campaign,” he said then. “I don’t think it’s so much her.” He noted they’d spoken at a conference in San Diego — but he added, “It’s not like we’re pals.”

In September, he emphasized she was “fantastic and incredibly strong,” before saying that “the problem with inevitability is it’s sometimes interpreted as entitlement, and I think that voters want competition and they want their candidates to have to work for it.”

And again in November: “Secretary Clinton has been an extraordinary public servant and would be a terrific candidate for president,” he said. “But I think the narrative that it’s inevitable is off-putting to regular voters.”

Patrick said, in the interview with BuzzFeed News, that he doesn’t mean that point he’s made — that Clinton’s inevitability reads to the general public like entitlement — as a criticism of Clinton so much as it was of the people she had around her, noting this time around that her campaign manager, Robby Mook, is “off the charts good.” Patrick said what he hungers for is authenticity. He also wants competition. “I think if she has a competitive primary, she will be a better nominee.” Asked if she was better now, Patrick said he saw her at a rally for Martha Coakley, the former attorney general who lost to Gov. Charlie Baker. “She was brilliant. She was fantastic,” Patrick said. “She really got to, sort of, the nub of people’s aspirations and anxieties. It was beautiful.”

That was last October. Clinton arrived in Boston to campaign for Coakley, speaking to a packed ballroom at the Park Plaza Hotel for a little less than a half hour. People say Clinton and Patrick began with political chitchat. Patrick congratulated her on the new addition and before long, babies Gianluca and Charlotte were the main topic of conversation. Clinton and Patrick got a glimpse of the other’s grandchild on their phones. It lasted about 15 minutes.

The former governor and the former first couple have a long history, dating back more than a quarter century. When the NAACP LDF sued to stop voting rights violations in Arkansas he befriended Bill Clinton, who saw Patrick work the room in a meeting that settled the lawsuit and observed, “He has a future as a politician.” In 1994, Clinton tapped Patrick to lead the Justice Department’s civil rights division.

When Barack Obama entered the presidential equation, however, the relationship shifted a little. Then-Sen. Hillary Clinton had called in 2007 asking for his endorsement, he said in the interview last month. “I told her I was going to keep my powder dry,” he said. “I like the competition.” Then, in the summer of 2007, he told Obama he would endorse him on Martha’s Vineyard at a home Valerie Jarrett rented. Run like you’re willing to lose, run at the grassroots, and keep your rhetoric high-minded and positive he told Obama, according to his memoir, repeating the occasion in the interview. (When he recalled offering Obama to use his “just words” riff, Patrick briefly got emotional when he recalled giving the original speech on Boston Common. It was an especially rough time for “what they were trying to do to my family.”) Patrick’s recollection now of telling Obama he’d endorse him is less than crisp. “We’ve had lots of Vineyard conversations,” he said.

If there is leftover angst from endorsing Obama years ago, a Democrat close to Patrick said he’s not interested in rehashing it. “He’s been a civil rights lawyer, a corporate executive, governor … he’s worked in the Clinton administration and he’s close to Obama,” the Democrat said. “By virtue of his tremendous experience, you can’t put him in a box. It’s just not that simple.” When Obama appointed Clinton secretary of state, he signaled to the rest of the party that “Democrats have been tasked with showing a way forward. So when talking about the past, some of these issues are, like, who cares? Except with how it relates to moving forward.”

In 2015, the only criticism is that of “inevitability.” The source familiar with Patrick’s thinking reiterated that it’s not personal. “For him, talk of inevitability is off-putting because it’s self-defeating. It assumes that the voters don’t matter, that what they care about doesn’t matter, that there’s no value in engaging with them. He views that

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that's a failure of politics and policy."

The danger Clinton's inevitability candidacy poses, Patrick noted, is that someone like, well, Deval Patrick could come along. "That was the view of the Democratic establishment in 2005 and 2006," he said, referring to his Massachusetts primary victory over two members of the state party establishment in 2006. "If you'd asked a lot of people then — and maybe even me — about whether it was going to be a really competitive primary with this newcomer, meaning me, coming into the race, I think a whole lot of people would have been equivocal. Things happen in politics. People find their voice and their footing."

"If there's a political doctrine that consistently governs Deval Patrick's actions as a political player, it's that if you want to know what he thinks, you can literally just listen to what he says," said longtime ally and former campaign manager John Walsh. "He's not the kind of guy who says things he doesn't believe. His biggest asset in an election is his willingness to lose. I've never heard him say, 'What do I need to say here to win?'" Walsh said, in a way explaining his willingness to shake things up.

Behind the scenes, Patrick's been a little less resistant to the Clinton operation: On April 27, after attending the swearing-in of Attorney General Loretta Lynch that morning, he attended the so-called "road show" the Clinton campaign has embarked on in some cities as a way to brief her most ardent supporters. It was held at the law firm Foley & Lardner LLP, according to sources familiar with the meeting. Mook and Obama campaign vet Marlon Marshall held forth in a large conference room, with Mook telling the audience even if Clinton is the likely nominee, her staff wasn't taking it for granted — and neither could they.

Other attendees included Clinton loyalists Beth Boland, a partner at Foley; Steve Grossman, former state treasurer and former Democratic National Committee chair; Cheryl Cronin, a lawyer and fundraiser; and Shanti Fry, a wealthy Cambridge activist who was a former finance co-chair for Massachusetts Sens. Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren.

It wasn't known by every attendee that Patrick would attend or who had invited him; Patrick's comments in the press about Clinton's inevitability and her need for a competitive primary, irked some who were present at the meeting and were said to be surprised by his appearance a third of the way into the presentation. He arrived in a suit and tie. When asked to speak, he did. He said that Democrats need to speak with conviction in this election about what they believe in, about the tough road that lay ahead and the importance that the Democratic nominee follows President Obama to the White House. "Democrats need to have conviction to make sure we actively explain to voters what we stand for," he said, adding that voters are going to be have a clear choice in the election. Two people present at the meeting couldn't remember if he said anything about Clinton.

Even so, when asked in the interview about Clinton, Patrick remained almost noncommittal. Will he campaign for her?

"Within bounds," Patrick said. "I mean, I've got demands on my time."

Patrick said, even though she's the likely nominee, "I'm going to be listening to all the candidates."

Would he be helping her raise money? Patrick repeated himself.

"I'm going to be listening to all of the candidates, and we'll see."

His relationship with Obama is far less complex. The pair met in 1995 at the behest of Abner Mikva, the former congressman and former White House counsel who once told Obama to study preachers to cultivate his speaking style. Patrick, in the middle of his stint at the Justice Department, met Obama for coffee, remarking in his memoir he was immediately taken with his intellect.

Now, he says, he serves a slightly different role in Obama's life.

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“I may be one of the few people who called him every once in a while, or comes to see him without saying, ‘Do this differently,’ or ‘do that differently,’” he said. “It’s just, “How you doing?” It’s hard to have these jobs and know people who are just interested in you.”

Patrick says he’s pushed Obama to push the limits of his own bubble, well aware of how they can be debilitating. But increasingly, Patrick reiterated that while his relationship with Obama is of a personal nature, he does not see his role of defending the president as a defense of his friend but as a defense of visionary leadership. “The president can stick up for himself — he’s the president,” Patrick said. “My defense of the president is not just a defense of my friend, it’s a defense of visionary leadership, and that’s what I think we have in this president.”

When you speak with Democrats who worked for Obama or are friends with Obama, they emphasize his legacy; they talk about the importance of how he will be seen going forward, the cornerstones of his record, and what best will preserve that legacy — a Democratic successor.

Political surrogates with name recognition like Patrick’s are not easy to come by. His standing and political capital make him a serious and possibly indispensable surrogate for the Democratic nominee. And people around him say he does like campaigning, that he was eager to stump for Coakley last year and escape the grind of governing.

He will make speeches, he said, “when I have something to say.” And he does have plenty to say about the issues of criminal justice, police violence against the community, and mass incarceration — something the Clinton campaign has already signaled will be a part of her platform, and something the Obama White House has faced over the last year. If Patrick is interested in the defense of Obama, whose exit from the White House is actually inevitable, it may be on this subject that Patrick is seen out on the campaign trail.

After all, his message in Selma was connected to a legacy of black people who “faced their fears” and fought for civil rights.

The absentee ballots organized by the Perry County Three were about political power. “The charges were a response to growing black political power,” Patrick said.

And then, Patrick said if the heroes of Selma hadn’t been resilient, hadn’t fought to vote and exercised their political power — and gotten back up — that there would be no Barack Obama.

“Imagine if they hadn’t?”

Lincoln Chafee Is Trying to Re-Run Obama’s 2008 Playbook // TIME // Tessa Berenson - May 8, 2015

In 2008, Hillary Clinton lost the Democratic nomination to Barack Obama when he hammered her on her vote in favor of going to war in Iraq. Now, former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee wants Clinton to keep paying for that vote in 2016.

Chafee, a Republican turned Independent turned Democrat, is running against Clinton for the Democratic nomination. He hasn’t officially announced yet, he’s still in the exploratory phase, but making it official is something he “plan[s] to do soon.” And when he does, he’s going to make Clinton’s vote for war his central argument against her.

“I always go back to what I call one of the biggest mistakes in American history, the decision to go to war in Iraq,” he told TIME, “and the judgment call made by Senator Clinton.”

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Chafee was a Senator at the time too; he served as a Senator from Rhode Island from 1999 to 2007 before he became governor. He voted against the war, and he says that split between him and Clinton highlights a fundamental difference in their common sense.

"That was a critical time in American history, October of 2002, and I made a different judgment call," he said, again referring to Clinton's vote in favor of the war. "I think we should have a debate, not only as the Democratic Party first of all, but also in America about where we're going on in the world and who can make the correct judgment calls as we go forward."

Even Clinton has publicly regretted her vote. In her 2014 book Hard Choices, Clinton wrote, "I thought I had acted in good faith and made the best decision I could with the information I had. And I wasn't alone in getting it wrong. But I still got it wrong. Plain and simple."

Although this lynchpin of Chafee's burgeoning campaign happened over a decade ago and was already used at the center of the 2008 election, Chafee says the so-called "biggest mistake" will resonate just as much with voters today.

"We're still paying for it," he said, saying the war will end up costing the country $6 trillion. "We're paying for it financially in taking care of our brave veterans ... but we're also paying for it overseas ... The repair work goes on. It's relevant to today."

But polling data shows that voters may not agree. In 2008, a Gallup poll found that Americans cited Iraq as the second most important issue facing the country, behind the economy. In 2015, Gallup separated economic concerns from non-economic issues, but even in the non-economic poll the situation in Iraq came in 15th, after issues like race relations, immigration and education. (No. 1 was dissatisfaction with government.)

Chafee outlined some other policy positions: he supports the Affordable Care Act, he would vote for the Trade Promotion Authority, he supports a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. But he kept coming back to Iraq.

Chafee faces a steep uphill battle towards the nomination; so far he's barely even been included in Democratic primary polling.

He said his biggest challenge will be "getting out to every possible potluck supper and gathering in Iowa and New Hampshire and other states." But, "I look forward to it, meeting the people. I started my career at the local level ... by going door to door ... It's going to be no different in this campaign."

The exception to Bernie Sanders' liberalism // MSNBC // Steve Benen - May 8, 2015

On Capitol Hill, there's literally only one member of Congress who describes himself as a European socialist. I'm referring, of course, to Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who launched his Democratic presidential campaign last week, to the delight of many progressive activists.

And why not? Sanders isn't favored to actually win the Democratic nomination, but the Vermont senator has a bold, progressive vision, and is prepared to take advantage of the national platform a White House campaign offers. For liberal voters who yearn for a standard bearer whom no one has ever considered a "moderate," Sanders is a welcome breath of unapologetic fresh air.

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There is, however, an exception to Sanders' liberalism. Mark Joseph Stern highlighted it at Slate this week.

[B]efore liberal Democrats flock to Sanders, they should remember that the Vermont senator stands firmly to Clinton's right on one issue of overwhelming importance to the Democratic base: gun control. During his time in Congress, Sanders opposed several moderate gun control bills. He also supported the most odious NRA–backed law in recent memory – one that may block Sandy Hook families from winning a lawsuit against the manufacturer of the gun used to massacre their children.

Sanders, an economic populist and middle-class pugilist, doesn't talk much about guns on the campaign trail. But his voting record paints the picture of a legislator who is both skeptical of gun control and invested in the interests of gun owners – and manufacturers. In 1993, voted against the Brady Act, which mandated federal background checks for gun purchasers and restricted felons' access to firearms. As a senator, Sanders supported bills to allow firearms in checked bags on Amtrak trains and block funding to any foreign aid organization that registered or taxed Americans guns.

In fairness to Sanders, the senator does not always see eye to eye with the far-right gun group, but over the course of his congressional career, the Vermont independent has generally sided with the NRA on most of the major legislative fights regarding gun policy.

Indeed, it's probably safe to say that Sanders will be to Clinton's left on most issues in their primary fight, except when it comes to guns.

To understand why, it's important to realize that Vermont has some of the most lax gun laws in the nation, in large part because gun violence in the Green Mountain State is so low.

Indeed, a wide variety of prominent Vermont Democrats and liberal independents routinely enjoy support from the NRA. Former Gov. Howard Dean, his reputation as a liberal firebrand notwithstanding, was endorsed by the NRA in Vermont more than once – a fact he used to brag about during his 2004 presidential campaign.

It's easy to forget, but back in November 2003, when it looked like Dean was surging in the race for the Democratic nomination, John Kerry actually used this against the Vermont governor: "We don't need to be a party that says we need to be the candidacy of the NRA. We stand up against that."

With this in mind, Sanders is simply in line with his home state's political norms. His position may not be expected given his reputation in D.C., but in Vermont, it'd be odd if Sanders didn't oppose many gun reforms.

It's tough to say whether progressive activists who've rallied to the senator are going to care much about this, and it's a safe bet that Sanders won't make opposition to gun-safety measures an important part of his 2016 pitch. But as the campaign progresses, it's an angle worth watching anyway.

Update: My colleague Sunita Sohoni makes a nice catch, flagging this Washington Post report from a few years ago, in which Sanders got a D- rating from the NRA.

Josh Earnest is wrong; Obama's job on immigration not over // The Hill // Cesar Vargas - May 8, 2015

The 2016 presidential season has kicked off, and all attention has focused on the candidates from all sides who are talking about immigration. Meanwhile, the Obama administration seems to be preparing for retirement.

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Election Day is still more than a year away, however, and the White House still has much to do: toasting at a Cinco de Mayo celebration is not the end of the line for President Obama's job on immigration.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest is legally wrong that the president did all that he could. For example, by utilizing Section 504(b)(2) of the enlistment statute, the president has statutory power to direct the secretary of Defense to allow talented Dreamers to enlist because their enlistment is "vital to the national interest."

Republicans have shown, time and time again, that they are completely incapable of addressing immigration reform, allowing only bills attacking Dreamers to pass through the House of Representatives and never touching even the rightward-leaning Gang of 8 bill that passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support.

Even though Hillary Clinton took a great step by committing to further action on immigration, Obama should not defer to future presidents on leadership that is needed now.

Legal experts from around the country have agreed that a president has expansive legal authority to act to temporarily protect additional groups from deportation — and that this authority is rooted in statute, court opinion, regulations and precedent.

Obama has not exhausted the legal limits of this power yet, despite finding some political relief within a Department of Justice memo that outlined certain limits regarding executive power.

His authority on deportation relief, however, is fairly clear. Needless to say, the latest lawsuit against the president's immigration actions is nothing more than political theatrics by the far right of the Republican party and not based on law.

While almost everyone running for president puts an emphasis on immigration legislation, ferrying legislation through Congress will not be easy or quick, however, and will require executive solutions to bridge the gap between now and the enactment of new laws.

The president can still expand deportation relief — as he did with Dreamers — to help keep more families intact and talent in the U.S.

Significantly, the "bed mandate" is an arbitrary policy offensive to contemporary notions of due process written into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act of 2010. DHS has interpreted this as a mandate to contract for and fill 33,400 beds in detention centers, which was increased in 2013 to 34,000.

As an agency, DHS is of course subject to executive authority: If the president were to direct DHS to interpret the funding differently, such as interpreting the 34,000 beds as an upper limit rather than a minimum, this could drastically change immigration detention, thereby allowing nonviolent immigrants to rejoin their families while their cases are processed.

Rather than settling for a legacy of executive timidity, President Obama can still leave a legacy of hope. While Congress is still relearning how to tie its shoes, the country needs an executive who will protect our families where our broken immigration system, and equally broken Congress, have failed.

De Blasio's National "Contract With America" Strategy Leaks // Daily Beast // May 8, 2015

Everyone from Susan Sarandon to Van Jones is helping draft and push de Blasio's new "Contract with America,"

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which will push for paid sick leave and free, universal pre-K.

First New York City. Then America.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is heading to Washington D.C. next week to present a progressive “Contract with America,” a 13-point agenda intended to push the Democratic Party leftward.

According to a draft of the document provided to The Daily Beast by someone asked to join the effort, de Blasio will call for a number of measures for which he has already pushed in New York City, including national paid sick leave and free, universal pre-kindergarten and afterschool programs.

During the 2013 mayoral campaign, de Blasio used his support of paid sick leave to pummel the Democratic front-runner, Council Speaker Christine Quinn, sparking his come-from-behind victory. De Blasio then signed an expansive law on the topic soon after becoming mayor. Universal pre-K became de Blasio’s signature accomplishment of his first year in office, even if his mechanism to pay for it—a tax on the city’s upper income earners—was rejected by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The contract will also put de Blasio in the center of some of the debates currently roiling Washington. According to a draft of the document circulated this week, de Blasio will call for the passage of comprehensive immigration and for Democrats to “oppose trade deals that hand more power to corporations at the expense of American jobs, workers’ rights, and the environment.”

President Barack Obama has called for a new Pacific trade deal that he says would open up new markets for American goods. He has received little support for that view among Democrats, however, and Hillary Clinton has declined to back the agreement.

According to a draft of the document circulated this week, de Blasio will call for the passage of comprehensive immigration and for Democrats to “oppose trade deals that hand more power to corporations at the expense of American jobs, workers’ rights, and the environment.”

Some of the items on de Blasio’s wish list have not yet been made a priority in his time as mayor, like universal free childcare and a $15 per hour minimum wage. The mayor has pushed for a $13 minimum wage indexed to inflation, which would not rise to $15 until 2019. The mayor’s push locally for the $13 minimum wage has likewise been rejected by Albany.

De Blasio is expected to be joined in Washington by a more than 60 members of Congress, progressive activists and labor leaders, among them Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, Congressmen Keith Ellison and Raul Grijalva and the actor Susan Sarandon. Last month de Blasio convened a number of progressive thinkers at Gracie Mansion, including Nation editor Katrina Vanden Heuvel and civil rights activist Van Jones in order to hash out ideas about how to build a progressive agenda in 2016. De Blasio has pointedly declined to endorse Hillary Clinton’s presidential bid, even though he was the campaign manager of her 2000 Senate run in New York and even though both Bill and Hillary Clinton were on stage with de Blasio at his inauguration.

Aides to de Blasio dismiss the suggestion that this effort is designed to lift de Blasio’s profile, and say instead that it is intended to get a more progressive government into Washington D.C.—one that will be more attentive to New York City’s needs. The contract is modeled on Newt Gingrich’s Contract With America, which helped Republicans retake the House in 1994.

Many of the items that de Blasio calls for are unlikely to pass, even with a Democratic president and a Democratic congress, such as the “Buffet Rule,” which would force millionaires to pay a higher tax rate.

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Among some of the other items expected to be on de Blasio's agenda are a reform of the National Labor Relations Act "to enhance workers' rights to organize and rebuild the middle class," the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, allowing students to refinance student loan debt, closing the carried interest loop, ending tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, and the closing of a "CEO tax loophole that allows corporations to take advantage of 'performance pay' write-offs."

GOP

Chris Christie got into an epic shouting match with a radio host who compared him to Bernie Madoff // Business Insider // Colin Campbell - May 8, 2015

Boston conservative talk radio host Howie Carr is not a fan of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's (R) plan to rein in entitlements spending.

Indeed, Carr repeatedly tore into the likely 2016 presidential candidate in an interview on his Thursday radio show. At times, Carr and Christie attempted to shout over each other as they debated whether Social Security benefits should be cut.

"You're proposing what amounts to a bait-and-switch, aren't you? I mean, what's the difference between this and Bernie Madoff?" Carr asked at one point, comparing Christie's plan to Madoff's infamous Ponzi scheme.

Last month, Christie proposed a number of specific reforms to entitlements like Social Security and Medicare. Among other things, he called for raising the retirement age, cutting back benefits for seniors who earn more than $80,000, and completely ending benefits for those who make more than $200,000.

But Carr, who's nearing retirement age, said the proposal amounted to "raising taxes on the American people."

"I'm older than you are. I'm 63. I started paying into this program when Lyndon Johnson was president, right? Nobody said anything about means-testing," he said. "I'm going to get a union pension. A union pension, governor. And you say I'm going to be making too much in retirement? I have to give up my Social Security?"

Christie didn't back down, however, and challenged Carr to propose his own plan to prevent the US entitlements system from going bankrupt.

"What's your solution, Howie? What's your solution? It's going to go broke, what's your solution?" Christie asked. "I'm dealing responsibly with the problem. You're complaining and putting forward no solution. That's your right, you're radio talk show host, you don't have to come forward with solutions. But your questions have to have some — some — degree of realism to them."

Christie further said he was simply giving Carr some "hard truths."

"These are hard truths, Howie. I'm sorry to have to bring hard truths onto your air. But the fact is that the Social Security system will broke if we don't make changes, or have massive tax increases. You keep talking about the

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cuts, we should talk about the massive tax increases that we'll pay to make sure everybody gets every nickel that they were ever promised," he said.

The Big Issue Haunting Top Republican Presidential Hopefuls This Weekend // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur - May 8, 2015

Immigration.

Jeb Bush and Senator Marco Rubio, two top contenders for the Republican presidential nomination, will deliver major speeches on Saturday: Bush at Liberty University in Virginia and Rubio at the Republican Freedom Summit in South Carolina.

Both are expected to make compelling cases for themselves. But don't expect them to emphasize the issue atop the minds of the Hispanic voters who could help elect the country's 45th president: immigration.

One reason: Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton put them in a box this week by making an offer to Hispanics that Republicans cannot feasibly match. She will expand President Barack Obama's executive actions to include protections from deportation for parents of undocumented young people who have been given "deferred action."

"This is where I differ from everyone on the Republican side," she told young undocumented immigrants at a roundtable in Las Vegas on Cinco De Mayo.

The two Floridians are the most pro-immigration candidates in the Republican presidential field. Each offers a unique appeal to Latinos. In Puerto Rico recently, Bush hailed "the power of the immigrant experience," adding: "I live it each and every day." The reference was to his Mexican-born wife, Columba, and their bicultural children. Rubio too has a compelling personal story as the son of Cuban immigrants. Both have championed legislative reforms to help undocumented immigrants gain legal status.

But neither can match Clinton's offer. Bush, Rubio and just about all Republicans have said Obama's executive actions to protect more than 4 million people from deportation exceed his presidential powers and must be reversed. The president's moves (which have been halted by a federal judge as a court battle plays out) ignited the fury of conservative voters, whom no candidate for the Republican presidential nomination can afford to alienate.

Another top-tier Republican contender, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, was quick to channel the anxieties of that conservative base. "Hillary Clinton's full embrace of amnesty is unfair to hardworking Americans and all immigrants who followed the law," said the prospective candidate, who is against legalizing unauthorized immigrants.

Clinton's proposal goes even further than the Obama administration did in November. The White House would protect two categories of undocumented persons from deportation: 1) the undocumented parents of children who were born in the United States and who are, therefore, Americans and 2) young people who were brought here illegally as children by their parents. Under Obama's order, the parents who brought their children here illegally could still be subject to deportation. Clinton, however, would grant them leniency.

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The political implications of Clinton's move are obvious. Hispanics, the country's fastest-growing demographic, provide critical votes in swing states like Florida, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. And they support Obama's executive actions by large margins—64 percent in aGallup survey in December; 89 percent in a Presente poll in November—because the initiatives delivered results where Congress has repeatedly failed to.

That might explain why Bush and Rubio haven't said a word about the issue. There's no easy way to discuss it without alienating either the Republican voters they need in the primary or the Hispanic voters they'll likely need in the general election.

Ohio Governor John Kasich's positive politics, even with Hillary Clinton // Boston Globe // Scot Lehigh - May 8, 2015

HALFWAY THROUGH John Kasich's testing-the-presidential-primary-waters pitch at a local restaurant on Wednesday, something odd struck me: Ohio's Republican governor hadn't engaged in Obama-trashing or Clinton-bashing.

Indeed, he declined even when an audience member asked for "two or three of the best reasons you can give us as to why Hillary should not be president of the United States."

"I'm not getting into Hillary today," Kasich replied. He answered another question, then circled back. "If I'm talking about what I don't like about Hillary, then I'm not telling you what I think. And I think you need to know more about who I am, and what I think, than what I think negative about somebody else."

That response won Kasich a round of applause, prompting him to note that at the New Hampshire GOP's presidential-candidate cattle call last month, he had stuck to a positive message while most other candidates had ripped into Obama and Clinton.

"If I've gotta spend my time trashing people to be successful in this, you can count me out," said the man who hasn't yet counted himself in, but sounds increasingly like a candidate. He then launched into a story about raising turnpike tolls in Ohio to back bonds for infrastructure improvements.

A while later, I ran into the please-pillory-Hillary questioner on Main Street, and asked what he had thought of Kasich's answer. He was (sometime) ski mogul Les Otten, a former Republican candidate for governor in Maine, who says he may well be a New Hampshire resident by primary time. Otten claimed Kasich's reply was just what he wanted.

"I think people in the north country of New England are pretty tired of politics as usual, and will be looking for a candidate that speaks plainly and just talks about the issues," he said.

Otten may be onto something there. I also expect New Hampshire Republican primary voters will end up favoring a results-oriented conservative pragmatist over the right-wing to-the-barricade ideologues. Further, as Granite State GOP graybeard Tom Rath observes, if the Democratic primary looks like a Clinton cakewalk, independents

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may decide to take GOP ballots — and that group in particular could find Kasich politically attractive.

A pragmatic rather than a doctrinaire conservative, Kasich, 62, hasn't retooled his stands to pass right-wing litmus tests, at least not so far. He supports Common Core, for example, citing the need for better educational standards. He expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, though he wants to repeal the rest of Obamacare and let the states craft health-coverage solutions. Kasich has said he thinks climate change is a problem, but hasn't displayed any urgency about addressing it. Fiscally, Kasich, whose resume includes nine terms in the House, has been a tax cutter and budget balancer, but also someone who thinks government should help the poor, a belief rooted in his strong religious values.

In Concord, I asked him if he was trying to reclaim the party from its hard-right ideologues.

Kasich said no, but then added: "I would hope that people will see what worked in Ohio for a conservative Republican who was able to win the state with a big margin, and I hope leading by example will help them to kind of rethink maybe where they are."

As a smart, accomplished swing-state governor, Kasich belongs in the lightly populated category of Republican hopefuls one could actually imagine as president.

And in New Hampshire, that's a very good place to be.

Scott Walker heads to Israel // Washington Examiner // Ryan Lovelace - May 8, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker heads to Israel for the first time this weekend, where he hopes to augment his foreign policy credentials in advance of formally launching his presidential campaign. The governor has become a conservative darling for his stances on domestic issues, but doesn't have a lot of international experience.

Touring Israel is very nearly a requirement for Republicans looking to compete in the presidential race, as many GOP primary voters believe the United States' relationship with Israel is critical. An unflattering GQ profile painted Ben Carson, a newly minted presidential candidate and retired neurosurgeon, as unable to grasp Israel's system of government. While waiting for his flight to Israel, Carson peppered his guide with questions about the Jewish state, before reportedly remarking, "It sounds complex; why don't they just adopt the system we have?"

Walker appears to have adopted a different approach designed at minimizing attention to his trip. The Walker campaign describes the trip as a "listening tour," and he does not seem to have scheduled any public appearances overseas. Walker told reporters in Milwaukee that he only plans to bring staff and advisers with him to the Middle East, and would not travel with donors.

Ford O'Connell, a GOP strategist and veteran of the McCain-Palin 2008 campaign, said Walker made the right choice to watch and listen. "Frankly, he doesn't know much about foreign policy and the best place to start, if you're going to understand the fine points of foreign policy, is starting with Israel and the Middle East," he said. "He's really starting at a lower rung than a lot of the others [on foreign policy]."

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The Walker team has kept quiet about the governor's itinerary, but Walker has acknowledged he plans to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Matthew Brooks, the executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition, is traveling with Walker to Israel and has helped organize the trip. Brooks said the governor will tour Israel on the ground and via helicopter.

"The governor's going to receive briefings from leading Israeli officials on a variety of policy matters," Brooks said. "We'll have an opportunity to do some sight seeing and go to some of the historic and religious spots, such as the Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, meaningful places for him as a devout Christian."

Walker is the son of a Baptist minister.

Ari Morgenstern, communications director for Christians United for Israel, said voters look at a candidate's attitude toward Israel because it is often a good indicator of a politician's larger foreign policy and shows whether the candidate espouses the Judeo-Christian values both societies share.

Omri Ceren, The Israel Project's managing director for press, said the Israel issue is not a litmus test, but a gut check for conservative candidates' chances of electoral success. "If you're on the wrong side of the Israel issue, Americans — and especially American conservatives — think that you're not like them," Ceren said in a statement. "Then you have to go the extra, extra, extra, extra mile to try to convince Republicans that you're one of them, that you think like they do. It's a cultural issue as much as it is a security issue."

As Walker seeks to get a better grasp on foreign affairs, he has increased his overseas travel, having already made multiple trade missions throughout Europe this year. Unlike the trade trips, however, taxpayers will not pay for Walker's trip to Israel. The Republican Jewish Coalition and Our American Revival, Walker's political group, will be paying for his visit. Walker leaves Saturday from South Carolina, where he will speak at the South Carolina Freedom Summit hosted by Citizens United, and he will return stateside on Thursday, May 14.

Mike Huckabee's Message Is As Formidable As Jeb Bush's Money // National Journal // Josh Kraushaar - May 8, 2015

If you listen to the rhetoric from the GOP elite in Washington, Republicans view immigration as an unquestioned asset, support free trade agreements, and believe entitlement reform is necessary to get the country's fiscal house in order. But those reformist positions embraced by party leaders threaten to alienate a significant constituency within the Republican party, one that has been growing in recent years. That populist faction of the party—call it the Huckabee wing—is one that Republicans are overlooking at their own peril.

Indeed, what's most notable about Mike Huckabee's presidential launch is that he hasn't bought into any of the conventional GOP positions on those issues—and instead is using his populist bona fides as a weapon to separate himself from the opposition. He slammed free trade agreements for reducing the cost of wages, saying he'd "like to think the U.S. government would stand up for the U.S. workers rather than let them take it in the backside." In his kickoff speech, he pledged to prevent politicians from rolling back popular Social Security and Medicare benefits. After Clinton's embrace of liberalized immigration policies, Huckabee called her "absolutely wrong" and emphasized his tough stance on border security. And the overall anti-Washington tenor of his message—even calling on candidates who hold public office to resign their seats to run for president—suggest that he'll be a force to be reckoned with in the GOP nomination fight.

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It's this heterodoxy that drives fiscal conservatives, such as the Club for Growth, batty. The Club has taken the unusual step to spend $100,000 in Iowa and South Carolina to blast Huckabee over his record raising taxes in Arkansas. And many Republicans dismiss his chances of contending in a crowded Republican field, citing his financial disadvantages and smaller campaign organization.

But when it comes to winning over disaffected voters that make up a growing share of the Republican party, Huckabee's message is poised to resonate. Huckabee's positions may be dismissed by liberals and conservatives alike, but they're representative of a significant chunk of the electorate. He starts out with 11 percent of the Iowa caucus vote, according to this month's Quinnipiac poll, holding more than double the support of Jeb Bush. As FiveThirtyEight noted this week, his average net favorability in all the national, live-caller polls this year is stronger than any other candidate.

Public polling shows that the populist sentiment within the Republican party is rising, and is ripe for the picking from a candidate willing to exploit it. As Democrats have shed many of its working-class supporters during the Obama administration, many of them have found a home with the Republicans—and given the party a more blue-collar flavor.

For Sen. Marco Rubio, a question of friendship vs. politics // WaPo // Ben Terris - May 8, 2015

As an underdog candidate for the U.S. Senate going nowhere in the polls, Marco Rubio thought about dropping out. Then his close friend David Rivera showed up at his house, armed with giant sticky notes to paste reasons not to quit all over Rubio's living room.

But now, as Rubio pursues another audacious, uphill campaign, this time for the Republican presidential nomination, the man he has called his "most loyal friend and supporter" could be a big political problem.

That's because Rivera — a fellow South Florida pol who won a U.S. House seat in 2010, the year of Rubio's come-from-behind Senate victory — has left politics under an ethical cloud.

Rivera, who lost his 2012 reelection bid, has been a target of state and federal investigations looking into his alleged failure to disclose income as well as his alleged role in supporting a shadow campaign in 2012 designed to undercut his Democratic rival for Congress.

Rivera has never been charged with a crime, and he has said he did nothing wrong. But the revelations have been embarrassing. A former girlfriend, for instance, told prosecutors that Rivera recruited her to help with the shadow campaign and then helped her flee to Nicaragua — allegations denied by Rivera.

Last month, a Florida ethics commission slapped Rivera with a $58,000 fine for routinely billing the state for travel and other expenses while paying himself back out of campaign accounts when he earlier served as a state legislator.

Rubio, meanwhile, has begun to gain traction as a White House contender. Since announcing his candidacy last

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month, he has been a consistent presence in polls near the top of the GOP pack.

So far, Rubio has largely stood by Rivera. But, as the campaign grows heated and rivals begin to take aim at his potential weaknesses, he may face a quandary: whether to minimize his ties with a potential liability or remain true to his best friend in politics.

At the moment, Rubio and Rivera are linked on paper, through their joint ownership of a home in the state capital, Tallahassee. The house has been a cause for embarrassment, with Rubio and Rivera served with a foreclosure notice in 2010 after failing to make mortgage payments.

They put the house on the market for $125,000 a few weeks before Rubio's formal campaign announcement, a move first reported by Politico. It has not yet sold.

Rubio declined through a spokesman to be interviewed. The spokesman, Alex Burgos, said that Rubio's team knows opponents will bring up the relationship but that they are comfortable there is nothing for Rubio to be concerned about.

"David Rivera is an old friend of Senator Rubio's," Burgos said. "His hope is that Mr. Rivera can put his recent troubles behind him and go on with his life."

In 2012, when GOP nominee Mitt Romney was considering Rubio as a possible running mate, Rubio did not cast aside Rivera — even though Rivera, according to news reports, had already been under federal investigation for alleged tax improprieties. Rubio hosted a fundraiser for Rivera that year.

"I guess it's because I'm new to Washington, but I've never felt it — I mean, maybe it's acceptable here — it isn't to me — to turn your back on friends when they're going through a difficult time, no matter, you know, what they may have done or not done," Rubio told Fox News. "He's a friend, and I'm going to give him the benefit of the doubt."

Rivera, in a recent e-mail exchange with The Washington Post, said the two remain in touch.

"We're friends," Rivera said. As for how often they speak, he added: "Depends on the month."

Asked why Rubio has stood by him, Rivera was incredulous.

"Why wouldn't he?" Rivera wrote. "After all, no federal government agency has ever said I was under investigation for anything."

Some who are close to Rubio say they see no reason why the friendship would be relevant in a political campaign.

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“My feeling on it is, whatever it is the authorities are looking at has nothing to do with Senator Rubio,” said Al Cardenas, a former Florida GOP chairman who has known the two men since the 1990s. “That was just not his sphere of knowledge or control when it came to Rivera. I’m sure Rubio is as saddened as I am by what’s happened.”

Dan Gelber, a former Democratic leader of the state House of Representatives who worked with Rubio and Rivera as fellow members of the Miami delegation, said Rivera’s troubles are “wholly unrelated to Marco.”

But already, American Bridge, a Democratic group raising money for researching ads in the presidential race, has signaled that it intends to highlight the Rubio-Rivera relationship as part of a broader strategy to raise doubts about Rubio’s ethics. The group has also pointed to past criticism of Rubio for using a state GOP credit card to pay for personal expenses.

“It’s hard to imagine a world where Marco Rubio does not know the inner workings of David Rivera,” said Christian Ulvert, a Democratic strategist who once worked with Rivera on a campaign to bring slot machines to Miami-Dade County. “Because David Rivera sure knows the inner workings of Marco Rubio.”

The connection dates to the genesis of Rubio’s political career.

The two met as volunteers on Lincoln Diaz-Balart’s successful 1992 congressional campaign, and, four years later, Rivera recruited Rubio to work on Bob Dole’s presidential campaign.

Rivera, who was born in New York to Cuban immigrant parents, moved to Miami with his family when he was 9. By the time he was 14, he had volunteered for Youth for Reagan. After college, he worked for U.S. Sen. Connie Mack III (R-Fla.) and, at 24, landed a gig in 1990 as executive director of the Miami-Dade County Republican Party.

After they worked together on the Dole campaign, Rubio’s and Rivera’s own political aspirations quickly became known. Rubio ran for the West Miami City Commission and then the state House with financial and strategic support from Rivera. In 2002, Rubio, who had been elected to the Florida House two years earlier, helped Rivera with his own successful state House bid.

In Tallahassee, they were inseparable.

“There were always two phrases to define them,” Ulvert said. “Batman and Robin, and good cop and bad cop. Marco was always out front trying to be friendly, and David Rivera was always behind the scenes doing the heavy lifting.”

It worked well for them. Rubio, with his boyish good looks, lofty ideas and good-natured humor, made friends easily. And while some colleagues have described Rivera as charming in his own way, as well, he has always seemed a better fit for a sidekick role.

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Former colleagues say the dynamic helped propel Rubio's rise through the House.

When Rubio ran for the speakership, Rivera traveled the state making the hard sell to fellow lawmakers. According to "The Rise of Marco Rubio" by Washington Post reporter Manuel Roig-Franzia, Rivera once surprised a group of legislators by pulling out pledge cards and demanding that they sign them. The lawmakers knew that the wrath of Rivera, with his behind-the-scenes power, could affect their own future elections.

One former House colleague, Republican J.C. Planas, said he personally felt Rivera's heat when he stepped out of line.

When Planas, now a Miami lawyer, would not sign on to support Rubio's chosen successor for the job — speakers are typically anointed years in advance — Planas said that Rivera personally recruited a candidate to challenge him in the next GOP primary.

He wasn't the only legislator to recall being on the other side of Rivera's efforts. Alex Villalobos, a Miami Republican who once had designs on the top slot in the state Senate, said that when he didn't vote the way Rubio and Rivera wanted on an amendment involving school class sizes, they tried to engineer his defeat at the polls.

"They raised $8 million to take me out," Villalobos said. "I got fired as majority leader, I got stripped of my office and ended up in a little office down the hall."

The most insulting part, Villalobos said, was showing up at his polling precinct with his 15-year-old daughter only to find Rivera was there to whip votes against him.

"He's a real a------," Villalobos said.

Rivera did not respond to questions about the recollections from Planas and Villalobos.

In 2010, Rubio and Rivera both set their sights on Washington. Rivera ran for the U.S. House, but he also played a pivotal role in Rubio's Senate campaign — stepping in to talk Rubio out of shifting gears and running instead for state attorney general.

That was when Rivera came with a group of friends and a sticky pad to Rubio's house. Together, they brainstormed reasons why Rubio should run for Senate — and Rivera plastered those reasons all over the living room.

Rubio wrote in his 2012 memoir, "An American Son," that part of the reason he stayed in was because he didn't want to lose the respect of these friends. Back when Rubio had run for speaker, he said Rivera had "done more for my candidacy than anyone else." Rivera clearly was playing a pivotal role again.

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Rivera's hard-fought congressional race in 2010 brought heightened scrutiny to his own political machinations. That year, local news organizations reported details of a 2002 highway collision in which Rivera ran his car into a truck carrying campaign fliers printed by his political opponent. Rivera said he was simply trying to pull the truck over to retrieve some of his own campaign literature. The crash delayed the truck from getting to the post office before it closed for the day.

In 2012, the Miami Herald reported that state law enforcement investigators had examined Rivera's campaign spending practices and that, as a result, his arrest once seemed "all but certain." Miami-Dade prosecutors had written a "draft" complaint that contained 52 counts of theft, money laundering and racketeering, the Herald report said. But after Rivera and his attorneys fought back, officials never charged him, citing among other things "statute-of-limitations issues."

Later, a federal prosecutor named Rivera as a co-conspirator in a scheme to prop up a shadow candidate to undermine his chief Democratic opponent. Rivera ultimately lost that election. In testimony this year, Rivera's former girlfriend Ana Alliegro told a federal grand jury that Rivera used her to supply more than $81,000 to fund the operation, helped plot a coverup and then helped her flee to Nicaragua to avoid arrest.

Rivera said via e-mail that Alliegro's allegations were "false." He blamed "media hype" for the attention over the years paid to his alleged ethical problems.

Rubio's relationship with Rivera was a point of concern for some members of Romney's team as they vetted the senator for a possible vice presidential nomination in 2012. According to "Collision 2012," by The Post's Dan Balz, some Romney aides worried that an indictment of Rivera in the throes of the campaign could become a major distraction. In the end, the Romney team determined that Rivera's issues were unrelated to Rubio and included him on the short list — although the deliberations took place before the 2012 shadow campaign allegations against Rivera.

Matt Rhodes, Romney's campaign manager, said that Rubio was "thoroughly vetted for vice president" and that the campaign was "confident that, if chosen, his legislative record and high personal character would have been a great asset to Mitt on the campaign trail and in office."

Those close to Rubio say that not only should the senator not be punished for his loyalty but that he also deserves credit for standing by his friend.

"Would you stab a friend in the back?" said Nelson Diaz, a GOP strategist who knows both men. "I've stood by David, too. If he wants to go to the gates of hell, I'll go with him. If Marco wants to go for the presidency, I'll go with him. It's a test of friendship more than anything else."

NBC/Telemundo Republican Debate Set For Feb. 26 // NBC News // Mark Murray - May 8, 2015

Mark your calendars.

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NBC News and Telemundo, along with National Review, will host a 2016 Republican presidential debate in Houston, Texas on Feb. 26 .

It's billed to be the last GOP debate before the March 1 "Super Tuesday" contests of Colorado, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia.

The NBC/Telemundo debate, sanctioned by the Republican National Committee, was originally set to take place in Florida, but has been moved to Texas.

In addition to setting the date and location, NBC and Telemundo have announced that they're partnering in the debate with the conservative publication National Review.

Obama Calls Elizabeth Warren 'Absolutely Wrong' on Trade Deal // NYT // Peter Baker - May 9, 2015

WASHINGTON — Escalating the fight with his own liberal base, President Obama, in an interview posted online on Saturday, took on Senator Elizabeth Warren, a champion of the left, by suggesting that she was motivated by politics in her battle against his proposed Pacific trade accord.

Mr. Obama said that some of Ms. Warren's warnings about the potential damage of the trade deal were nothing more than the "hypotheticals" of a law-school professor and, repeating an assertion he used recently, "absolutely wrong."

"The truth of the matter is that Elizabeth is, you know, a politician like everybody else," Mr. Obama told Matt Bai of Yahoo News in an interview conducted on Friday at Nike's headquarters near Beaverton, Ore. "And, you know, she's got a voice that she wants to get out there, and I understand that. And on most issues, she and I deeply agree. On this one, though, her arguments don't stand the test of fact and scrutiny."

The president's rebuttal of Ms. Warren, the Massachusetts Democrat who came to national prominence in part through her work with the Obama administration, underscored the schism within the Democratic Party over the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-nation trade deal.

Ms. Warren, a former Harvard law professor, has become an outspoken leader of those Democrats who argue that the agreement would cost American jobs.

Mr. Obama's comments came after he delivered a speech at the Nike headquarters in which he lashed out at liberal critics of the agreement, arguing that they were fighting an old fight even though he was negotiating what he called the most progressive trade deal in history.

He seemed most irritated at Ms. Warren's suggestion that the trade pact could be used as a vehicle to undercut the financial overhaul that Mr. Obama signed in 2010 in response to the Wall Street excesses that led to the recession.

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“She’s absolutely wrong,” Mr. Obama said in the interview. “Think about the logic of that, right? The notion that I had this massive fight with Wall Street to make sure that we don’t repeat what happened in 2007, 2008, and then I sign a provision that would unravel it?” He added, “I’d have to be pretty stupid.”

Mr. Obama said liberal opponents of his trade deal were living in the past. “Their arguments are based on fear,” he said, “or they’re fighting Nafta, the trade deal that was passed 25 years ago or 20 years ago.”

He added: “I understand the emotions behind it. But when you break down the logic of their arguments, I’ve got to say there’s not much there there.” The president’s criticism of Ms. Warren in particular has irritated some of her allies. Ralph Nader, the longtime consumer advocate and former presidential candidate, said on Saturday that the president ought to debate Ms. Warren in person, much as Al Gore, then vice president, did with Ross Perot over Nafta in 1993. “A president can get away with his soliloquies when he stays on his throne,” Mr. Nader said by telephone. But if he is going to go after critics, he said, “then I think he is obligated to engage in a public debate that will inform the American people.”

Bernie Sanders perfectly sums up why elites love apathetic voters // Salon // Zaid Jilani - May 9, 2015

American voter turnout has long lagged behind that of most countries. A new Pew survey released this month found that among developed countries the United States had higher voter turnout in the last national election than only Japan, Chile, and Switzerland:

This lower voter turnout has consequences – it is a well-established fact that the groups of people that do not vote tend to have more progressive views. Thus lower voter turnout tends to benefit conservative political parties.

In the 2006 film American Blackout, which chronciled voter suppression, then-Rep. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) explained how high turnout was a “nightmare” for the elites who rule America:

SANDERS: The truth of the matter is that the media, large corporations, the people who control politically our country today do not want you to participate. They want a low turnout of primarily upper middle class people, they want big money to dominate the political process. Their nightmare is that young people, lower income people, working people jump into the process. They do not want that.

Jeb Bush Casts Wide Net on Religious Liberty in Address // TIME // Zeke J Miller - May 9, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush courted social conservative voters with a sharp defense of religious liberty Saturday, but sought to distinguish himself from his party’s more vocal bomb-throwers on the subject.

In a commencement address at the evangelical Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., the all-but-declared Republican presidential candidate charged President Obama with “supporting the use of coercive federal power” against those practicing their faith.

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Bush pledged to govern influenced by his faith, rejecting the “politically correct” idea that it should be kept out of the public sphere.

“The mistake is to confuse points of theology with moral principles that are knowable to reason as well as by faith,” Bush said. “And this confusion is all part of a false narrative that casts religious Americans as intolerant scolds, running around trying to impose their views on everyone. … Our friends on the left like to view themselves as the agents of change and reform, and you and I are supposed to just get with the program.”

Bush cited the case of Little Sisters of the Poor, a Catholic charity that objects to providing contraceptive coverage to their employees — as mandated by the Affordable Care Act — which has become a cause célèbre for conservatives wary of government influence in the religious sphere.

“I’m betting that when it comes to doing the right and good thing, the Little Sisters of the Poor know better than the regulators at the Department of Health and Human Services,” Bush said. “From the standpoint of religious freedom, you might even say it’s a choice between the Little Sisters and Big Brother – and I’m going with the Little Sisters.”

But even as he struck the conservative chords on religious freedom, Bush sought to position himself as a social conservative capable of reaching out to those of all beliefs. Bush declared that “some moral standards are universal” and can’t be shifted by public opinion, referencing his opposition to abortion and his efforts to keep Terri Schiavo alive, as well as the need to fight sex trafficking and stand up for oppressed minorities. But he conspicuously skirted the issue of same-sex marriage, which has divided the GOP field but is growing in support among young Republican voters.

He also made a religious case for environmentalism, saying the political debates “can be too coldly economical.” “Men and women of your generation are striving to be protectors of creation, instead of just users, good shepherds instead of just hirelings – and that moral vision can make all the difference,” he told graduates.

A convert to Catholicism, Bush didn’t directly reference his own faith, but briefly referenced Pope Francis. Bush quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to make the case that he sees his faith as one that can help overcome injustice and raise up the poor.

“‘No law in the world,’ said Martin Luther King, “could have produced such unalloyed compassion, such genuine love, such thorough altruism,” Bush said. “The Christian faith, as Dr. King proclaimed, ‘adjourns the assemblies of the hopeless, and brings new light into the dark chambers of pessimism.’”

The even-keeled address contrasted greatly with the more red meat rhetoric adopted by many of Bush’s fellow Republicans on social conservative issues, such as Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who launched his campaign at Liberty University.

Some Republicans have promised to fight to nullify an expected Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationally, and have used more forceful language to criticize the Obama administration. Bush’s approach was designed to signal to social conservatives that he believes with them, but that he won’t adopt

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rhetoric that could turn away the voters the party will need to retake the White House next fall.

Jeb Bush's $100M May // POLITCO // Alex Isenstadt - May 8, 2015

Jeb Bush is putting in motion an ambitious plan to develop a super PAC that would be unprecedented in its size and scope — a blueprint growing in scale and intensity as he nears the formal launch of his presidential campaign.

The group, called Right to Rise, is said to be on track for raising an historic $100 million by the end of May, and its budget is expected to dwarf that of Bush's official campaign many times over. In interviews, more than half a dozen sources familiar with the Right to Rise plans described a juggernaut that was rapidly taking shape — from its likely headquarters in Los Angeles, 2,700 miles from the Miami office where Bush was basing his campaign, to a new fundraising push aimed at expanding its ballooning coffers.

Bush is even setting the timing of his official campaign announcement — which is increasingly likely to come in mid-June, following a trip to Europe — around a cross-country fundraising tour. In the final weeks leading up to the launch, his strategists have been devising a plan to allow both arms of the campaign — the official one and the super PAC — to work seamlessly, even as they will be legally barred from coordinating once he officially becomes a candidate.

There is little question that Right to Rise, with its deep cash reserve, will give Bush a leg up in the Republican nomination contest, especially if it becomes a protracted and costly affair.

"It's an advantage. No question," said Fred Malek, a prominent GOP donor who chairs the Republican Governors Association's finance committee. "I think Bush will be able to raise three or four times as much as anyone else."

While many of Bush's rivals are also setting up super PACs, they are not expected to be nearly so well-heeled. Bush, thanks to his family's deep network of supporters and his long career in politics, has an unmatched reach into the Republican donor world. His likely nearest rival in the money race, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, is expected to raise just a fraction of Bush's haul during the opening months of the primary race.

Some opponents are growing increasingly concerned about how the group might be used to damage them.

"People are looking at that $100 million figure and wondering, 'Is it going to be aimed at us?'" said a top adviser to a rival Republican campaign who spoke on the condition of anonymity to candidly describe internal discussions. "Any time you're within a stone's throw of the Bush campaign, you're in the radius of the baseball bat."

Last month, at a posh Miami hotel, Bush held a private event for 350 of his top donors and other major supporters. The weekend confab was described by organizers as an opportunity to thank his biggest backers — and give them a chance to meet with Bush and the people who will be running his super PAC.

In recent weeks, with his launch date fast approaching, Bush has been rushing to fill the Right to Rise bank account. On Wednesday, he was in New York City for a get-together headlined by New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, a much sought-after Republican donor. A week from Monday, he'll be in Miami for an event with

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Florida Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Mario Díaz-Balart.

Over the coming days, according to one person briefed on the Right to Rise plans, Bush will try to accelerate the cash flow. Hoping to avoid the public perception that he'd been indebted to a few extremely wealthy benefactors, the former governor initially imposed a $1 million cap on donations to the super PAC.

But now, the source said, that restriction is being lifted. The move is partly out of concern that, with other Republican candidates raising large sums, more cash could be needed. (A Bush spokesman declined to comment.)

Some see Right to Rise as the latest development in the post-Citizens United world of political spending, where cash-flush super PACs, which can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money, are increasingly supplanting candidates and their campaigns.

In 2012, the super PAC supporting Republican Mitt Romney's candidacy, Restore our Future, spent only about one-third as much money as his official campaign. Bush's advisers declined to provide an estimate of just how much the super PAC will outraise and outspend the official campaign — but said it would be significant.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is shown.

"I think the way they've designed the campaign is the wave of the future," said Charlie Black, a longtime lobbyist in Washington, who has advised a number of Republican presidential campaigns. "It's a new model."

Bush's decision to put off a formal announcement is rooted in the complex nature of campaign-finance laws. As a non-federal officeholder who hasn't yet become a candidate, he's allowed to travel the country and solicit large contributions of unlimited amounts for Right to Rise. Once he becomes a declared candidate, though, Bush won't be able to ask for donations of more than a few thousand dollars for the super PAC. At that time, he'll also be prohibited from discussing strategy with the consultants and operatives who will be running the group.

One person who'd been briefed on Bush's timeline said he was eying a June announcement, tied to his return from a trip to Poland, Germany and Estonia. Under that scenario, the former governor would have about another month to, without restriction, raise funds for Right to Rise and to communicate with the strategists who are likely to guide it. One of them, veteran Republican media consultant Mike Murphy, has played an integral role in guiding Bush's exploratory committee and is one of his closest political confidants.

HOPE, AR - MAY 05: Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee speaks as he officially announces his candidacy for the 2016 Presidential race on May 5, 2015 in Hope, Arkansas. Huckabee, a Republican, previously ran for the presidency in 2008.

Some Republicans contend that Bush's super PAC-centric setup poses a potentially serious hazard: That he will, in a sense, be walled off from the vehicle that has most of his financial resources. It's a dynamic that could lead to confusion or disagreements between two wings of the campaign, neither of which will be allowed to talk to the other.

"The risk is you're going to end up going in two different directions," said Ed Rollins, a Republican strategist who's helped lead nine presidential campaigns. "What's going to happen is, you're going to end up with two campaigns."

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Bush's strategists say they're well aware of the pitfall, but are taking steps to avoid it. One adviser to the super PAC said a division of labor had been established. While the official campaign arm would take the lead on dictating messaging, the super PAC would take on the role of a follower and be an echo chamber. "There's an understanding that Miami is in charge," the adviser said.

Another dividing line: While Right to Rise will house the TV and digital advertising efforts, the official campaign will be in charge of voter outreach. "We're not going to have a staff with clipboards going around Iowa," the super PAC adviser said.

Right to Rise has been assembling a core staff that is eventually expected to number a little less than a dozen. It's also expected to hire advisers in key primary and battleground states who, one aide said, will serve as "eyes and ears" on the ground and funnel information back to headquarters.

Those headquarters, according to two sources, are likely to be based in Los Angeles, where Murphy works. Matt Leonardo, a Murphy business partner who's served as a top strategist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is likely to take on a leading role in Right to Rise, as are two other veteran Republican operatives, Larry McCarthy and Liesl Hickey. Murphy is expected to oversee the group.

Those close to Bush point out that he's long had a penchant for bold strokes and innovative thinking in his campaigns — and a hands-on approach. In his 2002 reelection race, one ally recalled, Bush came up with his own form of early micro-targeting: sending mailers to readers of Golf Digest that highlighted his endorsement from Jack Nicklaus.

"He and the people with him have always been forward-looking," said Mac Stipanovich, a former Bush adviser and a prominent lobbyist in Florida. "It's interesting to hear people say that he's the old guy in the race because he's always been on the cutting edge, and I expect him to be now."

Fiorina Promises to Restore Possibilities // Iowa Public Radio // Kathleen Perkins and Dean Borg - May 8, 2015

Republican presidential candidate, Carly Fiorina, spent an hour-and-a-half speaking to about 75 people in a downtown Cedar Rapids coffee house Thursday morning. She promises to restore what she calls "possibilities," in Americans' lives.

"And we knew, we knew that our lives were defined by possibilities, and our children and our grandchildren's lives would be filled with even greater possibilities. And yet, people don't know that anymore. And when we lose the sense of limitless possibilities that has always defined this nation, we are losing the core of who we are."

In a brief conversation with reporters as she was leaving, she was asked about her strategy for competing in the Iowa Republican caucuses.

"We're three days into a presidential campaign…and the Iowa caucuses are obviously very important and they are one of many important things that need to happen. And so, we're not going to put all of our eggs in any one basket. But, we are going to work hard and compete hard and hopefully continue to perform well in every opportunity, including the Iowa caucuses."

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Fiorina went on to say that she's running against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"What I want to know is what have you done? And the truth is Hillary Clinton hasn't done a lot except for obfuscate, muddy up, fuzz up a whole bunch of questions

Without mentioning opponents she must defeat to win the Republican nomination, Fiorina portrayed herself as a leader rather than a manager.

"Everything about me is different. My experience is different. My life is different. My experience is different. My perspective is different. My voice is different. My approach to problem solving is different."

Fiorina also says to win the presidency, Republicans must first win with women voters.

Fiorina is a former business executive who ran an unsuccessful 2010 campaign for U.S. Senate in California. Later in the evening she spoke at a Dallas County Republicans event in West Des Moines.

Bobby Jindal Offers Rare Praise for Hillary Clinton // NYT // Nick Coransanti - May 9, 2015

GREENVILLE, S.C. – With Mother's Day following the Freedom Summit here in South Carolina, Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana was able to compliment Hillary Rodham Clinton during a news conference.

After running through a list of criticisms, such as declaring that the only thing Mrs. Clinton had run was "President Obama's foreign policy" and that she "doesn't seem to understand the First Amendment," Mr. Jindal was pressed to say something nice about her. He paused, until being reminded tomorrow is Mother's Day.

"I will say this: She and her husband, former President Clinton, raised their daughter, Chelsea, under the glare of the media spotlight," he said. "As we get closer to Mother's Day, I respect the fact they worked very hard to shield their daughter from the politics, from the media scrutiny, and by all accounts, she's turned out to be a very accomplished adult in her own right."

He added: "You gotta give her and Bill credit, they did everything they could, from the outside, it seems, to protect Chelsea and raise her and give her as normal a childhood as they possibly could."

Ben Carson on God, Country, and His Ailing Mom // NYT // Nick Coransanti - May 9, 2015

GREENSVILLE, S.C. – Ben Carson, appearing at the South Carolina Freedom Summit here on Saturday, used his first major appearance alongside his rivals since he formally entered the Republican presidential field to focus on economic and fiscal issues, while imbuing his remarks with repeated references to God and faith — and demonstrating the sort of thoughtful, studied way of speaking that he acquired as a neurosurgeon.

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On Religion: Mr. Carson formally entered the race with a kickoff event in Detroit on Monday, but quickly left the trail to be with his ailing mother in Dallas. He told the crowd here that her condition had improved. “I met one lady who said she had a group of 2,200 people praying for my mother,” Mr. Carson said. “And the last few days, she’s been eating and drinking again. So I just want to thank you for all those prayers.” He spoke of the ways in which religion’s importance was recognized by the founding fathers and their heirs, from the Declaration of Independence’s acknowledgement of “the creator, or God,” to how “every coin in our pocket, every bill in our wallet, says ‘In God We Trust.’” He repeatedly said he believed that marriage was between one man and one woman.

On the Economy: Mr. Carson called the nation’s $18 trillion dollar debt “beyond ridiculous” and unfair to future generations. He argued for a flat tax, and traced the recent unrest in Baltimore to the problems caused by a battered economy, for which he blamed President Obama. “One of the reasons that a lot of people are frustrated and manipulated into rioting is because they hear all this stuff, but then when they open their eyes and look around, they don’t see it,” he said. “There’s been plenty of change, but very little hope. And that’s what’s killing people.”

On the Stage: Mr. Carson paced back and forth, speaking slowly and pensively. He offered asides as he spoke, joking that his own mother was “kind of like that Baltimore mom you saw on television” who roughed up her son when she caught him among the looters. He lamented the nation’s racial tensions, saying that, as a neurosurgeon, “When I open someone’s head, I’m operating what makes them who they are. The skin, the nose, the hair doesn’t make them who they are. It’s the brain that makes them who they are.”

Billionaire Lifts Marco Rubio, Politically and Personally // NYT // Michael Barbaro and Steve Eder - May 9, 2015

MIAMI — One day in the State Capitol in Tallahassee, Marco Rubio, the young speaker of the House, strayed from the legislative proceedings to single out a lanky, silver-haired man seated in the balcony: a billionaire auto dealer named Norman Braman.

This man, Mr. Rubio said in effusive remarks in 2008, was no ordinary billionaire, hoarding his cash or using it to pursue selfish passions.

“He’s used it,” Mr. Rubio said, “to enrich the lives of so many people whose names you will never know.” As it turned out, one of the people enriched was Mr. Rubio himself.

As Mr. Rubio has ascended in the ranks of Republican politics, Mr. Braman has emerged as a remarkable and unique patron. He has bankrolled Mr. Rubio’s campaigns. He has financed Mr. Rubio’s legislative agenda. And, at the same time, he has subsidized Mr. Rubio’s personal finances, as the rising politician and his wife grappled with heavy debt and big swings in their income.

Now, with Mr. Rubio vaulting ahead of much of the Republican presidential field, Mr. Braman is poised to play an even larger part and become Mr. Rubio’s single biggest campaign donor, with an expected outlay of approximately $10 million for the senator’s pursuit of the White House.

Norman Braman, a Miami businessman, signaled support as Senator Marco Rubio announced his presidential

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candidacy. Credit Joe Raedle/Getty Images

A detailed review of their relationship shows that Mr. Braman, 82, has left few corners of Mr. Rubio's world untouched. He hired Mr. Rubio, then a Senate candidate, as a lawyer; employed his wife to advise the Braman family's philanthropic foundation; helped cover the cost of Mr. Rubio's salary as an instructor at a Miami college; and gave Mr. Rubio access to his private plane.

The money has flowed both ways. Mr. Rubio has steered taxpayer funds to Mr. Braman's favored causes, successfully pushing for an $80 million state grant to finance a genomics center at a private university and securing $5 million for cancer research at a Miami institute for which Mr. Braman is a major donor.

Even in an era dominated by super-wealthy donors, Mr. Braman stands out, given how integral he has been not only to Mr. Rubio's political aspirations but also to his personal finances.

Mr. Rubio, 43, is unabashed in acknowledging the influence of Mr. Braman, a commanding and litigious figure with so much clout in Miami that he almost single-handedly recalled a sitting mayor.

In an interview, Mr. Rubio described Mr. Braman as a father figure who had given him advice on everything from what books to read to how to manage a staff. After Mr. Rubio's father died in 2010, Mr. Braman called every other day to check in.

Pressed on his financial ties to Mr. Braman, Mr. Rubio said in an interview that he saw no ethical issue. "What is the conflict?" he asked. "I don't ever recall Norman Braman ever asking for anything for himself."

He acknowledged that Mr. Braman had approached him about state aid for projects, such as funding for cancer research, but said that he had supported the proposals on their merits.

The reliance on Mr. Braman is likely to put a spotlight on the finances of Mr. Rubio, who ranks among the least-wealthy candidates in the emerging Republican field. Mr. Rubio left the Florida House of Representatives in 2008 with a net worth of $8,351, multiple mortgages and $115,000 in student debt. In his latest financial disclosure form, for 2013, he reported at least $450,000 in liabilities, including two mortgages and a line of credit.

Mr. Braman and aides to Mr. Rubio have declined to say how much personal financial assistance he has provided to Mr. Rubio and his wife, directly or indirectly, but it appears to total in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In a series of interviews at his office in downtown Miami, above showrooms of shiny BMWs and Rolls-Royces (he also sells Cadillacs, Audis and Bugattis), Mr. Braman praised the Rubios. He recounted what he described as "excellent service from them" over the years, and said he wanted nothing in return for his financial help.

What Marco Rubio Would Need to Do to Win

"I'm not going to be an ambassador or anything like that," he said.

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Mr. Braman — a former owner of the Philadelphia Eagles; the chairman of Art Basel, which stages art shows; and a collector who owns works by Andy Warhol, Alexander Calder and Picasso — emphasized that there were limits to the friendship.

“I also have a yacht,” Mr. Braman said, “that Senator Rubio has never seen.”

Mr. Braman has the manner of a man accustomed to getting what he wants. He was vacationing in France one summer when the mayor of Miami — not the one he had recalled from office — informed him that he would seek to raise taxes. Mr. Braman hung up the phone, turned to his wife and declared: “Goodbye, I’m heading back to Miami to fight this.” He returned home and led a successful campaign to block the increase.

“If you’re going to do something, you do it all the way,” he said.

As early as 2008, Mr. Braman made a bold prediction, captured in a video tribute to his friend: Mr. Rubio would be the first Hispanic president of the United States. Seeing that through in 2016, Mr. Braman said in one of the interviews, is “part of my legacy.”

The partnership began in the early 2000s when a Miami lawmaker introduced them. Mr. Braman, himself the son of immigrants, was instantly drawn to the story of Mr. Rubio, a child of struggling Cuban refugees. By 2004, Mr. Braman and his wife had donated $1,000 to Mr. Rubio’s State House campaign, the first of many contributions.

Mr. Rubio quickly emerged as a dogged champion of Mr. Braman’s most cherished cause: state funding for a Miami cancer institute that bears the Braman family name.

Florida’s governor, Jeb Bush, had vetoed the funding in 2004, incurring Mr. Braman’s public fury. “Frankly, as a very active Republican, I’m ashamed of him,” Mr. Braman said then of Mr. Bush.

Mr. Rubio did not let it happen again. The next year, he secured the cancer funding over Mr. Bush’s objections. “Marco,” Mr. Bush wrote in a somewhat grudging email to a lobbyist at the time, “strongly wanted the Braman Cancer money.”

Soon, Mr. Rubio became a regular visitor to Mr. Braman’s office on Biscayne Boulevard. By the time Mr. Rubio was elected speaker of the House, the youngest in Florida’s history, Mr. Braman felt close enough to show up at the 2005 celebration in Tallahassee and deliver a memorable — and valuable — token of affection: a framed Revolutionary War-era American flag. It hung, on loan, in Mr. Rubio’s office for the entirely of his tenure as speaker.

Continue reading the main story

In Mr. Braman, a Republican with a strong distaste for wasteful government spending, an ardent commitment to Israel and a seemingly limitless bank account, Mr. Rubio found a devoted sponsor.

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When Mr. Rubio geared up for re-election to the House, more than a dozen individuals and companies linked to Mr. Braman, including his Honda and Cadillac dealerships, gave Mr. Rubio $500 each, the maximum donation allowed under Florida law.

When Mr. Rubio decided to write a book laying out a conservative vision for Florida's future, Mr. Braman said, he chipped in money to pay for its publication.

When Mr. Rubio announced his signature legislative goal, an initiative to slash property taxes and raise the sales tax, Mr. Braman contributed $255,000 to the advocacy group lobbying for the changes, becoming by far its largest donor.

Mr. Rubio said the flow of donations from Mr. Braman had no effect on his decision-making as House speaker, adding that he would never give preferential treatment to a donor. But in 2008, when Mr. Braman sought the $80 million for the genomics institute at the University of Miami, a large taxpayer grant to a private college, Mr. Rubio delivered the opposite message: Mr. Braman's request, he said, had tilted the scales.

Usually, Mr. Rubio said at a news conference at the time, he would have laughed off such an eye-popping pitch. "But when Norman Braman brings it to you," Mr. Rubio said, "you take it seriously."

Later that year, when Mr. Rubio left state government, determined to shore up his finances before running for the United States Senate, he landed a teaching job at Florida International University, agreeing to raise much of his salary through private donations.

Mr. Braman gave $100,000, according to records he shared with The New York Times. Dario Moreno, who oversaw the university center where Mr. Rubio worked and who taught classes with him, confirmed that Mr. Rubio had raised the money from Mr. Braman.

In the spring of 2010, as Mr. Braman was donating heavily to Mr. Rubio's Senate campaign, his company, Braman Management, hired Mr. Rubio as a lawyer for seven months. According to records provided by Mr. Braman, the company paid Mr. Rubio until a week before he was sworn in as a senator.

Who Is Running for President (and Who's Not)?

Four months after Mr. Rubio left the payroll, Mr. Braman hired Mr. Rubio's wife, Jeanette, who had little professional experience in philanthropy, and her company, JDR Events, to advise the Braman foundation. Mr. Braman declined to discuss her compensation.

Mr. Rubio said the offers of work from Mr. Braman had a simple motivation: "We are close personal friends. They trust us."

Mrs. Rubio's job, fielding and vetting requests for donations to one of Miami's biggest charitable foundations, has given her a major profile in the world of Florida philanthropy.

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An internal Braman foundation document makes clear that Mrs. Rubio has become a crucial gatekeeper. “On hold,” read a notation next to a pending donation. “Wait to hear from Jeanette.”

At times, the foundation’s work has coincided with Mr. Rubio’s own globe-trotting political needs. In 2013, when Mr. Rubio traveled to the Middle East, Mrs. Rubio joined him, with the Braman foundation paying for her travel. According to Mr. Rubio’s aides, she was conducting work for the foundation abroad.

On four occasions, Mr. Rubio has traveled on Mr. Braman’s private plane, reimbursing him each time.

Mr. Braman acknowledged seeking the occasional “small favor” from Mr. Rubio’s Senate office. There was the daughter of the woman who does his nails, Mr. Braman recalled, who had an immigration problem, and the student from Tampa who wanted a shot at military school. In both cases, he said, Mr. Rubio’s staff was quick to respond. (Mr. Rubio’s staff said it had decided not to recommend the Tampa student.)

Mr. Braman seemed conflicted about his reputation as civic power broker, at once boasting of his ability to draw a high-ranking Miami official to his office with a single phone call and seeming anxious that he not be viewed as entitled.

“I don’t consider myself a fat cat,” he said. “Don’t make me out to be a fat cat.”

As he spoke in his office, an aide interrupted, presenting Mr. Braman with a yellow sticky note. The Florida Senate was about to vote on a bill he had sought, granting auto dealers like himself greater leverage over car manufacturers.

“That was fast,” Mr. Braman said.

Moments later, another adviser popped his head in, declaring victory. “Thirty to four,” he said of the vote, with a fist pump.

Scott Walker Woos South Carolina G.O.P. With Tough Talk on Terror // NYT // Nick Corasanti - May 9, 2015

GREENVILLE, S.C. – Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin told Republicans gathered here how the last time he was in town he swung by the local Harley-Davidson shop and picked up a T-Shirt — and before taking the stage, he even tweeted a picture of himself in the shirt.

With that, Mr. Walker was trying to say one thing: Although I’ve only been here once this year, I know South Carolina. Now get to know me.

In his address to the Freedom Summit here sponsored by Citizens United, Mr. Walker ran through an extended

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list of his accomplishments as governor of Wisconsin. “We did some pretty big things,” he said.

He recalled how he survived a recall election, lowered his state’s unemployment rate, and passed gun-friendly legislation and voter identification laws. And he spoke often of his wife and children.

“The reason I tell you that all here is not to brag — well not much,” he joked, before making the case that his actions in Wisconsin could translate to national stage.

As he does in most of his stump speeches, Mr. Walker sprinkled personal stories around references to his platform, trotting out his story of learning to shop at Kohl’s department store for discounts with his wife, recalling his “humbling” history trip to Philadelphia and discussing his time flipping burgers at a McDonald’s during high school.

But he seemed to really capture the crowd when he spoke about national security, or, as Mr. Walker described it, “safety.”

“National security is something you hear about,” Mr. Walker said. “Safety is something you feel.”

He framed the debate in personal terms, describing a fear that “it is not a matter of if” but when another “attempt is made on American soil.” And then he launched into the line that got him his biggest standing ovation of the day: “I want a leader who is willing to take the fight to them before they take the fight to us.”

Indeed, in a state with deep ties to the military, Mr. Walker knew his audience.

Walker: I’d end sequester, not cut military // McClatchy // David Lightman - May 9, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said Saturday he would end the budget sequester requiring automatic defense and domestic spending cuts if he became president, a critical issue in South Carolina, a state with a large military economy and site of the first primary in the South.

Walker, who is weighing a bid for the Republican presidential nomination, quickly said yes when asked if he would reverse the automatic cuts due to take effect in October. “There’s no way we can adequately fund the defense budget under the sequester,” Walker said in an interview with McClatchy.

He also would end the automatic cuts for domestic programs. “The reason the sequester is there is they needed to do something to get things under control between a Republican House, a Democratic Senate and a Democratic president,” Walker said. “That was the best that could be done under the circumstances.”

South Carolina officials are deeply concerned about the impact of the automatic cuts.

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Eight military bases, as well as thousands of defense contractors, are responsible for about $16 billion to the state economy annually. More than 11,000 civilians work for the military in the state, including 3,500 at Fort Jackson. It also has another 3,500 active duty military employees.

Fort Jackson is the nation's biggest training base, sending out 70,000 soldiers last year. It also serves 421,000 veterans in the state, half over 65. Its annual impact on the Midlands part of the state is about $2 billion.

While officials believe Fort Jackson's stature could insulate it somewhat from cuts, there's still a widespread feeling reductions are coming.

The Army has asked 30 of its largest bases to gauge the impact of cuts to the local economy. Not only is funding affected by the end of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but by the sequester that would go into effect later this year unless Congress acts.

The automatic cuts were enacted in 2011 after Congress and the White House were unable to agree on spending reductions to dramatically curb the nation's escalating debt. The plan was aimed at cutting $1.2 trillion over 10 years from anticipated spending on discretionary programs, or those under legislative control. That means annual cuts of about $109 billion and about half is to come from defense.

Pentagon officials warned the cuts would create a "readiness crisis." The sequester's impact was eased under a December, 2013, bipartisan agreement, but that only stretches through the end of this fiscal year Sept. 30.

Instead of a sequester, Walker's plan for reducing spending involves sending federal functions back to the states. His key example was Medicaid, the joint federal-state health care program for the poor.

"I'd send Medicaid back as a block grant without strings attached," he said. "We could make it work more effectively and efficiently.":

The 2010 Affordable Care Act expanded eligibility for Medicaid, and Washington offered states federal money to help. In future years, though, that federal aid diminishes, meaning states have to come up with ways to make the program more efficient.

Congress is now considering a fiscal 2016 budget, and there's some hope lawmakers can reach a deal that once again eases the sequester.

Walker said he'd model his budget along the lines of those urged by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who served in that post under President George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Gates has said the military needs a more modern strategy, urging a blend of conventional and unconventional tactics for what he has called "complex, hybrid warfare."

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If he became president, Walker would face the challenge of working with a bitterly polarized Congress. No problem, he said.

In his campaign, Walker said he would “really lay out a blueprint for how to govern in America,” a plan that would include big changes to how government operates.

He’d urge lawmakers to “do it early,” so that people can see how changes are working, and ultimately support them.

Republican Hopefuls Push a Muscular Foreign Policy // NYT // Nick Corasanti - May 9, 2015

GREENVILLE, S.C. — A group of Republican presidential hopefuls gathered here Saturday to advocate a more muscular foreign policy and to criticize the man they hope to succeed for what they described as a weak and misguided approach to international affairs.

Declared candidates and those preparing to enter the race for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination sought to appeal to the crowd at the South Carolina Freedom Summit, which included many current and former members of the military and their spouses, by offering tough talk on terrorism and calling for a stronger American presence in the Middle East and a better relationship with Israel.

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida was cheered for his call for the United States to be “the strongest military power in the world” and for his blunt message to terrorists, which he cribbed from the movie “Taken.”

“We will look for you, we will find you and we will kill you,” Mr. Rubio said.

Others framed their speeches as critiques of President Obama’s foreign policy. Former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, who often speaks of his commitment to religious liberty and social issues, spent more time than usual attacking Mr. Obama’s leadership on foreign affairs.

“Heck, I would just be happy if the president would be able to tell the difference between our friends and enemies,” Mr. Santorum said. “Let me give the current president a little primer: Iran, enemy. Israel, friend.”

South Carolina, which hosts the first primary in the South, could play an outsize role in the 2016 Republican nomination process, even as many Southern states have moved their contests earlier. The current and prospective candidates all promised that they would be back plenty.

“The great state of South Carolina plays a pivotal role in our nation,” Senator Ted Cruz of Texas said. “Y’all have the blessing and the curse of being an early primary state, so you’re going to see presidential candidates descend upon you like those federal regulators and locusts,” he added, referring to a joke he had made earlier about the differences between the two.

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“My one request is: Please hold back on the pesticide,” he joked.

Several of the speakers were quick to acknowledge current and former military members, who are influential in the state’s primary. Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin began his speech as he has done before, by asking members of the military and their spouses to stand up to be recognized. About a third of the crowd rose.

“Thank you to each and every one of you,” he said, nodding and applauding as the crowd’s response grew to a roar.

Mr. Cruz also drew attention to the military when speaking about his support for an overhaul of the tax system. Calling, as he often does, for the abolition of the Internal Revenue Service, Mr. Cruz said: “We spend about $500 billion a year on tax compliance. That’s all wasted. That’s about the budget of our entire military.”

Mr. Walker personalized the debate over national security.

“National security is something you hear about,” he said. “Safety is something you feel.”

He described a fear that “it is not a matter of if” but when another “attempt is made on American soil.” He then delivered a line that brought his biggest standing ovation of the day: “I want a leader who is willing to take the fight to them before they take the fight to us.”

Mr. Walker, who does not have as much experience as some of his potential rivals on foreign policy, sought to demonstrate that he is working to address what could be viewed as his greatest weakness. Hours after he left the stage, he boarded a plane to Israel for what is being billed as a “listening tour,” which he has said includes a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But aside from a quick mention during his remarks, Mr. Walker was unwilling to discuss the trip.

“Really, for us, though, we wanted to make it an educational focus, not just a media trip,” he said in an interview with reporters after his speech.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

The Beauty of a Big GOP Field // Real Clear Politics // Senator Joe Lieberman & Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. - May 9, 2015

It’s May, and Americans are planting — not just fruit and vegetable gardens, but a large and historically diverse presidential field. Thanks to an increasing variety of candidates, the 2016 presidential crop promises to be competitive and healthy for the country.

Regardless of your party preference, it’s good to see people with different ideas and perspectives — and a lot of them — running for our nation’s highest office. The interest in the position reflects a shared sense our country

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can be even better. We have big problems to solve, plenty of ideas on how that should be done, and a lot of people who want to drive solutions.

This is all good, and the behavior deserves to be rewarded with our careful attention to each candidate — particularly when those candidates share and debate their ideas about how problems might be solved.

Our hope, in fact, is the issues debate that grows out of, and around, the presidential field will serve to reinvigorate citizens for whom political acrimony has encouraged apathy. A large presidential field has the potential to make personal attacks more difficult by diffusing the “enemy,” meaning the potential for substantive debate is greater for 2016 than it has been in past presidential cycles.

Of course, for this to happen, presidential candidates and their advisers must break old habits. The positive side of leadership is, sadly, a toolbox that has grown rusty for many. Candidates will have to get used to talking about shared goals instead of relying on the usual negative partisan talking points.

The national movement we're part of — No Labels — has made it easier for candidates to pick out and discuss goals that resonate by identifying four that already have broad and deep public support from Democrats, Republicans and Independents. These four goals make up No Labels' National Strategic Agenda:

· Create 25 million new jobs over the next 10 years

· Secure Social Security and Medicare for another 75 years

· Balance the federal budget by 2030

· Make America energy secure by 2024

This list produces an intuitive nod from most Americans as well as most politicians. You might say the goals are simply common sense, but they are actually more powerful due to their inherent optimism.

Candidates who choose to tout these — or similar — goals will lead the pack and engage the public’s interest by sparking substantive debate. Each goal has dozens of possible paths to fruition; this makes for interesting discourse.

The varying talent and experiences of the presidential candidates — governors, senators, formers and nevers — all but ensure a certain level of diverse and interesting conversation. And conversation makes our collective minds and hearts better. It makes us grow, as a people. It can us bring closer to working together, even if we don’t agree on everything.

The question that remains is whether a critical mass of candidates will be hopeful enough — and confident enough — to focus that conversation on setting goals and solving problems.

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Because if the conversation drifts back toward personal attacks, this currently fascinating presidential field will become boring and a turnoff.

For now, we choose to remain optimistic that more is more and that the large number of interesting candidates planting the seeds for campaigns will ensure that the presidential harvest will produce vibrant debate, shared goals, and solutions to some of our country's biggest problems.

The Battle for DuPont // NYT // Joe Nocera - May 8 2015

Though the DuPont Company has been trying to persuade me otherwise, I feel safe in saying that Trian Fund Management is one of the better shareholder activists around. Led by Nelson Peltz, 72, it takes stakes in good companies that, in its view, are struggling operationally. It then seeks board representation, from which vantage point it examines the company from top to bottom and presses the rest of the board to make changes that will raise the stock price.

Trian tends to stick with companies for years, rather than cutting and running. Its track record for creating “shareholder value” is impressive. Even Martin Lipton, the corporate lawyer who made a career out of denouncing shareholder activists, has described Trian and Peltz as having “established credibility.”

Edward Garden, who is Trian’s chief investment officer, says, “We work constructively with companies to get their businesses back on track.”

And although Trian has been trying to persuade me otherwise, I feel equally safe in saying that DuPont is a pretty well-run company. Under the leadership of Ellen Kullman, a company veteran who became its chief executive in 2009, this once unwieldy conglomerate has undergone a great deal of change, with more still to come. It has cut some $2 billion in costs, eliminating a third of its management; announced the spinoff of its performance chemicals business; and “refreshed” its board with such corporate stalwarts as Edward Breen, who is best known for turning around Tyco International in the early 2000s. Since Kullman took over, the company has delivered 266 percent in total shareholder returns, easily outpacing the Standard & Poor’s 500-stock index. It is in the middle of a major restructuring designed to boost earnings growth.

“I am passionate about building a company that will be relevant and will deliver great value in the decades to come,” says Kullman.

Yet, since January, this activist hedge fund and this centuries-old company have been engaged in a bruising proxy fight, which culminates on Wednesday at DuPont’s annual meeting. Trian, which owns a $1.8 billion stake in DuPont, has been pushing the company to add Peltz and others to its board for the last year and a half. It’s come up with a series of white papers outlining what it views as serious deficiencies in DuPont’s operational track record, and it has suggested cutting out even more costs and perhaps breaking the company into two. DuPont’s board, meanwhile, has spent a good deal of money and time analyzing Trian’s ideas. But when it concluded they weren’t an improvement over Kullman’s own plan, Trian refused to go away. Hence the proxy fight.

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There is a decent chance that Trian will win. The two biggest proxy advisory firms are backing Trian to one degree or another. Given Trian's track record, the theory goes, what would be the harm of adding Peltz to DuPont's board? "When there's doubt, companies rather than activists probably deserve the benefit of it," wrote Kevin Allison at Reuters Breakingviews. But, he added, Peltz was often a constructive force, and besides, under DuPont's bylaws, he can be on the board only for a year without a special exemption because of his age. In other words, why not give him a whirl and see how it goes?

For anyone who has followed the rise of shareholder value, this is a striking turn of events. Have we really gotten to the point where the activist now gets the benefit of the doubt, no matter how well run the company? And the corporation is expected to make whatever radical change the activist seeks, all in the name of shareholder value? In the DuPont/Trian fight, the hedge fund is on record as saying that the company is not getting a return on its research-and-development spending. Yet R.& D. — science — is at the very heart of DuPont's business model and always has been. And it can take years to turn a scientific advance into a successful product. A DuPont stripped of much of its R.& D. doesn't just hurt the company; it hurts the country.

Which brings me back to Martin Lipton, the corporate lawyer who views shareholder activism with disdain. It was the Trian side that pointed me to a note he had written to his clients — that's where he had described Peltz as credible. But when I talked to Lipton, he made it clear that he was not offering an endorsement but rather some practical advice: Activist funds are now such a powerful force in the market that many companies — even good ones — have no choice but to offer them board seats.

That doesn't mean Lipton thinks the trend is a good one. "Activism has caused companies to cut R.& D., capital investment and, most significantly, employment," he said. "It forces companies to lay off employees to meet quarterly earnings."

"It is," he concluded, "a disaster for the country."

TOP NEWS

Domestic

At least 1 death reported after tornadoes hit northern Texas // AP // May 9, 2015

DALLAS — At least two tornadoes touched down Saturday in northern Texas, and officials said homes were destroyed and at least one person was killed when one of the twisters tore through a farming and ranching area.

Cisco, Tex., Fire Chief Walter Fairbanks said one person was killed when a tornado swept through the area, but he had no other details early Saturday evening.

Eastland County Judge Rex Fields said authorities were going house to house to assess the damage in the sparsely populated area, about 100 miles west of Fort Worth, but that proved difficult amid the heavy rainfall.

"There is a considerable amount of damage," Fields, who also serves as the county's emergency services coordinator, told the Associated Press. "Homes have been lost."

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The extent of injuries or fatalities was not immediately clear there or in the town of Burkburnett, about 15 miles north of Wichita Falls, where the second tornado touched down. A police dispatcher said tornado sirens could be heard in Burkburnett just before 6 p.m.

On Saturday afternoon, the weather service elevated to “moderate” the risk of tornadoes in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area and elsewhere across North Texas. Eastland County, which was part of the zone of enhanced risk, was pelted with three-inch hail as the storm rumbled through.

Storms also brought heavy rain and quarter-size hail to parts of southwest Oklahoma on Saturday afternoon, but meteorologists said there was so much rain — and so little sun — that the tornado threat there lessened throughout the day. Parts of western Kansas also were bracing for severe storms.

The threatening skies stretched beyond the Plains states, as twin weather systems stretching from the Carolinas to California produced an unseasonably early tropical storm in the Atlantic and a late-season snowstorm in the Rocky Mountains.

Beachgoers were warned away, emergency officials kept a watchful eye, and at least one graduation ceremony was forced indoors as Tropical Storm Ana plodded toward the Carolinas on Saturday in an early heaping of rough weather weeks ahead of the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season.

Ana was centered about 65 miles southeast of Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Saturday evening, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. The storm had top sustained winds of 60 mph but had slowed from its earlier speed, moving northwest at 3 mph, and was forecast to be “very near” the coasts of South and North Carolina sometime Sunday morning.

Universities along the Carolina coastline were monitoring the storm as a possible disruption to weekend commencements. Ceremonies scheduled for Brooks Stadium on Saturday at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C., were moved indoors out of caution. In Wilmington, N.C., UNC Wilmington held graduation indoors as planned, but the university urged students and their family members to watch weather conditions and make their own determination on the safety of traveling.

Meanwhile, up to five inches of snow was possible in the Nebraska panhandle this weekend, and parts of South Dakota could receive between 12 and 24 inches of snow, according to the weather service.

Suspects in Freddie Gray Case: A Portrait of Baltimore Police in Miniature // NYT // Cheryl Gay Stolberg and Richard A. Oppel, Jr. - May 9, 2015

BALTIMORE — The first police officer Freddie Gray encountered on the morning he sustained a fatal spinal cord injury was Lt. Brian Rice, a seasoned 41-year-old white law enforcement officer who, several years earlier, had his guns confiscated by deputies who took him to a hospital after a worried ex-girlfriend expressed alarm about his well-being.

About 40 minutes later, when Mr. Gray, who was black, lay shackled in a police van and was no longer breathing, Sgt. Alicia White — a 30-year-old churchgoing black woman with a reputation as a rising star — tried

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to remove him. “She’s not even the type of person that would jaywalk,” one neighbor said.

In between, Mr. Gray was subdued and handcuffed by two rookie bicycle officers, each in his 20s, both white. A 25-year-old black patrolman arrived to check on him. The van driver, Officer Caesar Goodson, also black, is an old-timer at 45. Described by colleagues as “passive,” he never moved up the ranks.

In this mix of officers — who now face criminal charges in Mr. Gray’s death, including, for some, murder and manslaughter — one can see a portrait in miniature of the Baltimore Police Department, an agency mistrusted by many black residents, and one suffering from its own racial divide despite a decades-long effort to integrate. As the Justice Department begins a full-fledged civil rights investigation, the Gray case throws into sharp relief the department’s shortcomings and struggles for change.

“You can’t just label this something racial,” said Representative Elijah E. Cummings, a Democrat who lives just four blocks from West North and Pennsylvania Avenues, where a burned and looted CVS store stands as a symbol of the riots set off by Mr. Gray’s death on April 19. “When you have three African-American officers involved, you’ve got to say: ‘Wait a minute, is there a system in place in which they don’t want to tell on each other? Has it become a routine?’ ”

Over the past three decades, Baltimore’s roughly 3,000-member police force has undergone a slow, painful process of integration. In 1984, the year the city settled a lawsuit that forced the department to hire and promote more minorities and women, 19 percent of officers were black. By 2007, blacks were 44 percent of the force; the city’s population is nearly two-thirds black. The commissioner, Anthony W. Batts, is black, and African-Americans hold other high-ranking posts.

Despite that, tensions between black residents and the police run deep. Last week’s decision by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to request a “pattern or practice” Justice Department inquiry — something she had long resisted, even as she pushed for changes — emphasizes that mistrust. Civil rights advocates say it is long overdue.

So do some black police officers. In 2004, Sgt. Louis Hopson, now the board chairman of the Vanguard Justice Society, the association that represents the city’s black officers, was the lead plaintiff in a federal lawsuit alleging that the department systematically disciplined black officers more harshly than whites. In 2009, the city settled the case, agreeing to pay $2.5 million to more than a dozen plaintiffs and to hire an outside consultant to monitor the internal discipline process for three years.

But the problems have persisted, some black officers say. In March, court records show, Baltimore settled another bias suit, brought by a former officer, Richelle Johnson, a black woman who complained that she was forced to retire and that the department was more accommodating to white officers who were injured and requested light duty than to blacks. The terms of the settlement have not been made public, and a lawyer for Ms. Johnson would not discuss it.

An Internal Divide

“There are two Baltimores, and there are two Baltimore City Police Departments,” said Sergeant Hopson, 63, a 35-year veteran. “This department is a very racist police department. The issues that you see manifesting

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themselves on the outside are the same problems we have been dealing with on the inside for years."

The relentless drumbeat of criticism is depressing officer morale. Many police officers are furious with Ms. Rawlings-Blake, whom their union supported when she ran for mayor in 2011, for asking for the Justice Department review. They feel undermined as they work to maintain the peace in a city with a high homicide rate.

"Our police officers have a number of conflicting emotions, from anger and shock to sadness and depression," said Sgt. Robert F. Cherry, a 21-year veteran and former president of the Baltimore chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3, in an interview. "It is a tough time to be a police officer."

The union has stood firmly behind the six arrested in Mr. Gray's death; Sergeant Cherry accused Marilyn J. Mosby, the prosecutor who filed the charges, of "political opportunism" and wondered aloud if she had "an exit strategy for grossly overcharging our six officers." Sergeant Hopson said the Vanguard Justice Society was also planning a news conference for this week to show support for the three black officers.

Sergeant White, the lone woman among them, is an example of how the six officers reflect the two Baltimores, and the two Baltimore Police Departments. After joining the force in 2010, she caught the eye of Sergeant Hopson, who said he recruited her into a program he runs to prepare black officers to take tests required for promotions.

She became a sergeant this year, said Dana Neal, a nondenominational minister who said Sergeant White regarded her as an adopted aunt. "She is a Christian and wants to be a good role model for young black women," Ms. Neal said, adding that Sergeant White hoped to "bridge the gap between the police and the neighborhoods."

Sergeant White grew up in Baltimore and lives here; Sergeant Cherry said 35 percent of the force now lives in the city. But black residents have complained that too many officers live outside Baltimore and feel no attachment to it. Sergeant White has worked for the Police Athletic League, helping young people with homework, and her church, New Bethlehem Baptist Church, is in Sandtown-Winchester, the blighted neighborhood where Mr. Gray grew up and was arrested before his fatal injury.

Now, she faces charges of involuntary manslaughter, second-degree assault and misconduct in office; Ms. Mosby alleges Sergeant White "did nothing" to help Mr. Gray even though he was lying on the floor of the van and unresponsive.

The encounter that led to Mr. Gray's death began around 8:40 a.m. on April 12, when the three white officers — Lieutenant Rice, Officer Edward Nero and Officer Garrett Miller — were patrolling the streets around the Gilmor Homes, a public housing development in West Baltimore. Lieutenant Rice spotted Mr. Gray, making eye contact with him, police have said, and Mr. Gray ran off.

Three years earlier, amid a dispute with his ex-girlfriend over custody of their child, Lieutenant Rice had been taken to a hospital by sheriff's deputies in Carroll County, Md., who — apparently fearing he was unstable — confiscated his weapons and contacted his Baltimore police commanders, according to sheriff's records and court filings. The documents were previously reported by The Guardian newspaper and The Associated Press.

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In court papers, the ex-girlfriend's husband, Andrew McAleer, a Baltimore firefighter, accused the lieutenant of a pattern of stalking and intimidation; at one point, he wrote that he feared he was "about to be killed by Brian Rice." In January 2013, a judge granted Mr. McAleer a temporary "peace order" — a type of protective order — finding "reasonable grounds" that Lieutenant Rice had committed harassment and had trespassed. The order was rescinded a week later because of a lack of proof needed to make the protective order final, records show.

Baltimore police officials declined to comment on the court filings, or to say what, if any, medical treatment or disciplinary action Lieutenant Rice received. He now faces one count of involuntary manslaughter, two counts of second-degree assault, two counts of misconduct in office and one count of false imprisonment.

Officers' Stories

The two bicycle officers who arrested Mr. Gray, Officers Miller, 26, and Nero, 29, have been on the force for just three years. Both face two counts of second-degree assault, two counts of misconduct in office and two counts of false imprisonment. The prosecutor asserts that Lieutenant Rice and the two officers failed to establish probable cause for Mr. Gray's arrest and then, after placing him in handcuffs and leg shackles, did not secure him with a seatbelt in the police van, as required by police policy. The medical examiner has concluded that Mr. Gray's fatal neck injury occurred in the van, according to a person with knowledge of the investigation.

All six officers have filed motions asserting that Ms. Mosby has multiple conflicts of interests in the case and asking that she be required to step aside or that all charges be dismissed.

In a brief interview outside his modest two-story beige brick home in the distant Baltimore suburb of Bel Air, Officer Nero declined to address the charges against him. Standing in his doorway, he said he and his family were going through a difficult time, and were getting by with "a lot" of support from relatives and friends and by concentrating on their young daughter.

Officer Nero's neighbor Seth Ranneberger, a high school science teacher, said that on one of the rare occasions when the officer spoke of his work, he described being a Baltimore police officer as "one of those jobs — the doormat job — you do it and get no thanks for it."

Officer William G. Porter, who arrived on the scene as backup when the van carrying Mr. Gray made the second of several stops — seemed to be coming to grips recently with just how tough his job was. Officer Porter grew up in North Baltimore, in a transition neighborhood of simple brick rowhouses, just one block away from Guilford, a neighborhood of stately single-family homes. One neighbor, Keysha Waters, 40, described how, as a teenager, the future officer smelled a fire that had started in her home and rushed inside to grab her children and hustle them out the door. When he dropped out of college and joined the police academy, he told Ms. Waters that he wanted to "make a difference."

She and others described Officer Porter as quiet and respectful, but said he lately had seemed a bit worn down by his job. When Olivia Whitlock, a childhood friend, sent him a Facebook message in August saying another neighbor had seen him on the television news, he replied, "I'm surprised you don't see me more often," because there is so much crime in the tough Western District, where he worked.

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Now Officer Porter faces charges including involuntary manslaughter and second degree assault. Ms. Mosby says that although Mr. Gray complained he “could not breathe” and twice asked for a medic, Officer Porter and Officer Goodson, the van driver, ignored the request.

Officer Goodson, whose neighbors in the Baltimore suburb of Catonsville describe him as friendly and kind, faces the most serious charge, second-degree depraved-heart murder — in effect, murder with callous indifference, or an intent to cause an injury that could lead to death. This has led to speculation in Baltimore that Officer Goodson, who faces other charges as well, was intentionally giving Mr. Gray a “rough ride,” meaning he intended to jostle him and cause serious injury — though Ms. Mosby has not used that term.

As Baltimore tries to make sense of what happened to Mr. Gray, and the Justice Department inquiry gets underway, some say city leaders are awakening to problems that black residents knew existed all along. Even Representative Cummings, who said he had asked for a “pattern or practice” review before Mayor Rawlings-Blake, said he had learned something about Baltimore’s police. Never before, he said, had he heard the term “nickel ride,” another term for “rough ride.”

On the wall of his home, Mr. Cummings said, he keeps pictures that ran in The Baltimore Sun of people who have been beaten by the police. “That,” he said, “seems to cry out for a deep dive.”

US created 223,000 jobs in Apr vs. 224,000 expected; unemployment rate at 5.4% // CNBC // John Melloy - May 8, 2015

The U.S. economy created 223,000 jobs in April, bouncing back from a sluggish period the first three months of the year, as companies shook off the effects of a surging U.S. dollar and falling profits. The unemployment rate fell to a seven-year low of 5.4 percent, the Labor Department said Friday.

Economists expected nonfarm payrolls to rise 224,000 in April, with the unemployment rate dropping to 5.4 percent from 5.5 percent in March. It was the lowest number since lowest since May 2008.

Investors cheered the renewed strength in the economy, pushing S&P 500 futures higher by about 1 percent. The report was seen as a so-called Goldilocks scenario, showing a rebound, but not strong enough to rush the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates. Government bond yields, which had been rising, fell after the number was released.

The jobs figure vs. expectations was "close enough," said Jeffrey Saut, investment strategist for Raymond James. It's "still consistent with the Fed beginning to raise short-term interest rates later this year."

This jobs report follows a much weaker-than-expected increase for March when the number of jobs created was the lowest since December 2013.

There were conflicting readings of U.S. employment this week leading up the report. On Thursday, weekly jobless claims rose by less than Wall Street expected. However, Wednesday's data from ADP showed 169,000 private sector jobs were added in April, the fewest since January 2014.

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The latest GDP reading from the government on the first quarter showed the economy expanded at just a 0.2 percent annual rate on falling exports due to the strong dollar, bad weather crimping consumer spending and dropping oil prices cutting energy sector capital spending.

This report validated the theory that economic dip was just temporary. But there were enough weak factors to keep the Fed at bay.

March nonfarm payroll growth was revised lower to 85,000 jobs, from a 126,000 gain previously reported. Another weak factor in the report was the average workweek, which came in unchanged at 34.5 hours.

"While some will say the downward revisions mitigate the positive aspect of an inline reading, we disagree," said Dan Greenhaus, chief strategist for BTIG. "What matters most about this employment report is that the winter slowdown did not bleed through into April."

Wage growth hinted at a rebound in the economy. Average hourly earnings rose 2.2 percent from a year ago, although only by 3 cents to $24.87 from March.

Hiring was up across a broad swath of industries, except for manufacturing and retail. Services added 62,000 jobs, while health care and construction sectors each added 45,000 payrolls.

Private payrolls were largely responsible for the gains, rising by 213,000. The government added 10,000 jobs.

Justice Department Launches Civil Rights Probe Of Baltimore Police // Reuters // Julia Edwards - May 8, 2015

WASHINGTON, May 8 (Reuters) - The U.S. Justice Department on Friday launched an investigation into the Baltimore police department's use of force and whether there are patterns of discriminatory policing.

The probe, announced by U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, was requested by Baltimore's mayor in the aftermath of the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old black man who sustained fatal injuries while in police custody, and the outrage it sparked in Maryland's largest city.

The Justice Department has conducted similar reviews of U.S. police departments. An investigation of police in Ferguson, Missouri, where a white officer shot dead an unarmed black teenager last year, concluded in March that the department routinely engaged in racially biased practices.

Though the Justice Department is already investigating Gray's death and working with the Baltimore police on reform, Lynch said last week's protests pointed to the need for an investigation.

"It was clear to a number of people looking at this situation that the community's rather frayed trust - to use an understatement - was even worse and has in effect been severed in terms of the relationship with the police department," Lynch said on Friday.

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The latest investigation will focus on allegations that Baltimore Police Department officers use excessive force, including deadly force, conduct unlawful searches, seizures and arrests, and engage in discriminatory policing, Lynch said.

"If unconstitutional policies or practices are found, we will seek a court-enforceable agreement to address those issues," she said.

Maryland Congressman Elijah Cummings said he asked Lynch for the investigation to "get to the bottom of the breakdown in trust between the police and the community."

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said in a statement her goal was for the city's police to reform through an enforceable court order.

Baltimore's chief prosecutor has brought criminal charges, including one murder charge, against six officers, three white and three black, involved in Gray's arrest.

Lynch, who took office last week, traveled to the largely black city on Tuesday to meet with Gray's family as well as thank officers for their work during the protests.

Any findings of the investigation would result in civil rather than criminal charges. Departments that have been found in violation of civil rights in the past have had to enter into court-ordered improvement plans, which can include an independent monitor, required reporting of arrest data and training for officers.

State Legislatures Put Up Flurry of Roadblocks to Abortion // NYT // Frances Robles - May 8, 2015

Oklahoma’s governor this week approved a law extending to 72 hours the mandatory waiting period before a woman can have an abortion. Here in Florida, lawmakers enacted a 24-hour waiting period that requires two separate appointments — one for an ultrasound and information about fetal development and another for the actual procedure.

These are just two laws in a surge of bills passed by Republican-controlled state legislatures this year that make it harder for women to have abortions.

Arkansas led the nation with six new abortion-related laws, including one requiring minors to present a notarized consent from a parent and another saying that a woman more than 20 weeks along must be told that her fetus can feel pain.

Arkansas, along with Arizona, also passed the most novel requirement, requiring doctors to tell patients that drug-induced abortions can be reversed, an assertion that many doctors say is wrong.

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The 37 new rules in 11 states are part of a strategy accelerated by abortion opponents in 2011, when provisions restricting abortion access began sweeping state legislatures. More than 200 such laws have passed in the last four years, with Louisiana, Mississippi, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas leading the charge, according to Americans United for Life, an anti-abortion legal group. This year, more than 300 regulations were proposed in 45 states.

And they keep coming: On Thursday, a bill that would ban abortions after 20 weeks was introduced in Wisconsin, where lawmakers proposed a $10,000 fine or 42-month prison sentence for physicians who break the law.

These laws have had a profound effect in states like Texas, where the number of abortion clinics dropped by half because of strict regulations governing their operation.

Advocates of legislation proposed this year say the restrictions are aimed at safeguarding the health of women. Clinics and mainstream medical groups, however, say most of these rules do not improve patient safety and are thinly disguised efforts to discourage women from having abortions and to make them more expensive, which has a disproportionate effect on the poor.

“State legislatures are restricting how doctors provide medical care related to abortion, where doctors can provide that care, what doctors can say to patients when they provide that care and more,” said Suzanne B. Goldberg, the director of Columbia Law School’s Center for Gender and Sexuality Law.

But Anna Paprocki, staff counsel for Americans United for Life, which opposes abortion, said, “The Supreme Court has been clear on this: Not every burden is unconstitutional.” She added, “A lot of the arguments made by the abortion industry against any regulation are red herrings.”

Ms. Paprocki’s group drafted 50 pieces of “model legislation” this year, which made their way to statehouses across the nation. The most frequently proposed bills from these suggestions included limitations on later-term abortions, clinic regulations, hospital admitting privilege requirements for clinic doctors and regulations on abortion-inducing drugs, Americans United for Life said in a report on the 2015 legislative session.

Several states targeted the clinics themselves by instituting costly ways to dispose of fetal remains and requiring doctors to have admitting privileges, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a private research group that supports abortion rights and tracks legislation.

Elizabeth Nash, a senior state policy associate at the Guttmacher Institute, said some states had approved so many kinds of new rules that together they served to make it difficult for women to obtain an abortion.

“In recent years, we have seen a lot become law because of shifts in state legislatures,” Ms. Nash said.

Kansas and Oklahoma recently banned a standard method in second-trimester abortions, in which the fetus is removed in pieces.

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Several states have banned the use of telemedicine — treatment by phone or video — in administering abortion-inducing drugs. Arkansas limited the number of weeks that drugs to induce abortion can be used. Like Oklahoma, Arkansas extended the length of the waiting periods before a woman can have an abortion. Like Florida, Tennessee enacted a new waiting period law.

Florida enacted its law, which it calls a “reflection period,” in late April. Abortion providers say it places an undue burden on women who will be required to make two trips to a clinic to end a pregnancy.

“It adds a substantial burden to women’s lives, doubles the amount of time they have to take off work, doubles the child care required, doubles the distance traveled,” said Christopher Estes, the chief medical officer for Planned Parenthood of South Florida and the Treasure Coast. “It really adds time and expense with no medical justification whatsoever.”

Jennifer Sullivan, a freshman legislator who at 23 is the youngest woman in the Florida House, sponsored the bill.

“I have personally seen those women who are being practically dragged to a clinic against their will,” she said.

Dian Alarcón, Florida field organizer at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, told lawmakers that the added obstacles would encourage illegal abortions. She said she herself once had an illegal abortion with no medical care.

Beth Harrison, 33, a personal trainer in Tavares, Fla., testified at a legislative hearing last month that she deeply regretted having an abortion 10 years ago and urged lawmakers to enact the waiting period.

“When they did the ultrasound, the screen was behind me and I happened to turn around and look at it,” Ms. Harrison, who thinks abortion should be illegal, said in an interview. “I saw this baby and I was freaking out.”

There are more than two dozen states that have a mandated waiting period before a woman can have abortion, usually 24 hours, said Michelle Richardson, the director of public policy of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida.

Florida’s version is more stringent, though, because the first counseling session must be done in person; most allow it to be conducted by phone or electronically. She said advocates plan to fight the law, arguing that it violates the right to privacy ensured in Florida’s Constitution.

“We’ll make the policy arguments about protecting a woman’s right to choose and that hurdles are not in her best interest,” Ms. Richardson said. “The law is just out of hope that it will make it so difficult to have abortion that she won’t do it.”

Frustrated Jury in Etan Patz Trial, but No Rancor for the Holdout // NYT // Russ Buettner - May 8, 2015

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Three weeks ago, seven men and five women entered a windowless room in a courthouse in Lower Manhattan to decide the fate of Pedro Hernandez, who had confessed to killing 6-year-old Etan Patz decades earlier. After a long trial, they easily dispatched what could have been a vexing issue standing between them and a guilty verdict: the absence of a body.

“The very first thing we did was talk about whether we thought Etan Patz was actually, had actually been kidnapped and murdered, which we all agreed to without a body,” said one juror, Jennifer O’Connor.

From there, consensus became increasingly difficult. Several described their discussions as intellectual and respectful, but tense and ultimately unsatisfying, both to themselves and the millions of others who have followed the case since Etan disappeared from a SoHo street corner in 1979.

Etan Patz’s father, Stanley, said on Friday that he believed that Pedro Hernandez had killed his son and should be retried.Jurors in Etan Patz Case Fall One Vote Shy of a ConvictionMAY 8, 2015

Stanley and Julie Patz standing next to a poster of their missing son, Etan, outside their loft in SoHo in 1980.Etan Patz’s Disappearance Has a Lasting Impact on ParentingMAY 8, 2015

“Me personally, I’m very sad that we could not bring resolution for the case, for a lot of reasons, for the Patz family, for the Hernandez family, for the City of New York,” Ms. O’Connor said. “But we really tried our hardest, and I don’t think we could have done any more.”

Justice Maxwell Wiley declared a mistrial in the case on Friday, the 18th day of deliberations, after the jurors sent him a note for the third time saying they were unable to reach a verdict. In a rare post-trial news conference in the courthouse, several explained the course of their deliberations. None hinted at any negative feelings toward the one juror who, after several others changed positions, could not be persuaded to convict Mr. Hernandez.

But as they left, one juror, Alia Dahhan, had a final word for the defendant, who had already been escorted back toward his jail cell.

“Pedro Hernandez,” she yelled. “You know what you did!”

On the first day of deliberations, they took a vote. Eight were ready to convict Mr. Hernandez. But a couple of them later became unsure. Defense lawyers had raised substantial questions about Mr. Hernandez’s mental health and intellectual abilities, saying he was incapable of giving a reliable confession. The defense also offered a competing theory that the killer was Jose A. Ramos, a convicted child molester who was the prime suspect for years.

Their discussions were rigorous. Some jurors had kept several pads full of notes. They made seven spreadsheets with details from the case, including Mr. Hernandez’s medical history and timelines from the case. There were times when the discussions grew heated, though never mean spirited.

One juror, Edwin R. Thompson, said there was “camaraderie,” along with “argumentation,” some raised voices,

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and “tears on occasion,” most often stemming from personal disagreements over who in the jury room had said what.

The room itself did not help.

“The air is not good in there,” Mr. Thompson said. “The ceiling is 10 feet or so. It’s not claustrophobic but it’s a conference room that you’re locked in day after day.”

Mr. Thompson said he began deliberations “with a sense that the defendant was guilty, and an open mind.”

Ms. O’Connor said that frustration arose at times “because two people read the same sentence and looked at it through a different lens.”

“But there was no screaming or hitting or anything of that nature,” she said.

She was among the jurors who were initially unsure. But she said Mr. Hernandez’s descriptions of where he put the body were compelling, and the arc of his mental health problems suggested something other than his innocence.

“It seemed to be a profile of someone who did something heinous and was trying to repress it, suppress it, bury it deep down,” Ms. O’Connor said. “And that was another big piece for me.”

She also cited a chilling moment from the videotape of Mr. Hernandez’s confession, in which he describes the sound Etan made when he was choking him to death. Ms. O’Connor saw that as among several details that seemed too specific to be concocted.

The jurors did not offer a precise timeline of their votes, but as deliberations continued more of them were ready to convict Mr. Hernandez. After a split vote, another came out 9 to 3 for conviction; later, there were two 10 to 2 votes.

One juror, Douglas Hitchner, said he was the next to last holdout. He said he entered the deliberations believing Mr. Hernandez was guilty but went through what sounded like an intellectual exercise of arguing he was not guilty.

“I did that for a couple of days, and to me it just didn’t hold enough water,” he said. “Ramos factored in, but you couldn’t connect the two.”

Mr. Hitchner held onto the not-guilty position until Friday morning. He said there was “no question” that Mr. Hernandez was there that day, and Mr. Hitchner decided that the “quality” of his confessions — to friends and relatives years before he confessed to prosecutors — “is what sort of swayed me to finally go guilty.”

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He moved to the guilty side on Friday morning. That left only one juror unwilling to convict: Adam Sirois, 42, a consultant for an international health care strategy firm.

Mr. Sirois saw something vastly different in Mr. Hernandez's confessions.

"For me, his confession was very bizarre," Mr. Sirois said. "No matter how many times it happened, it got more and more bizarre."

He gave weight to the defense argument that Mr. Hernandez was coerced into admitting he killed Etan. He said that he had concerns about what happened in the six hours Mr. Hernandez spoke with detectives and prosecutors, but before they turned on a video camera to record his confession, and whether Mr. Hernadez understood his rights. The defendant's mental health was a "huge" issue for him, he said, as well as the possibility that Mr. Ramos committed the crime.

"Ultimately I couldn't find enough evidence that wasn't circumstantial to convict," he said.

Jurors who spoke at the news conference said they hoped prosecutors would retry Mr. Hernandez, giving a new set of people a chance to decide his fate.

Mr. Sirois was asked what it was like to be the only holdout.

"It wasn't easy, but it wasn't torture, either," he said. "I feel all of my fellow jurors were very respectful of my position. I'm proud to be on a jury with all of them, even if I don't agree with all of them about the decision."

International

In Liberia, Ebola outbreak is declared officially over // WaPo // Peter Halley - May 9, 2015

The worst Ebola outbreak in history is officially over in one of Africa's hardest hit countries, the World Health Organization announced Saturday.

Liberia, the West African nation where Ebola claimed the highest number of deaths in the largest outbreak since the virus emerged in 1976, has gone 42 days without any new Ebola cases, according to a statement released by the WHO.

The 42-day period represents double the maximum incubation period for the virus since the last victim of Ebola was buried.

The announcement marks a return from the brink for Liberia. During the outbreak's peak in August and September, the statement said, the country was reporting from 300 to 400 new cases every week.

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At the time, the WHO noted, the virus paralyzed the country of 4.2 million people, leading to canceled flights, fuel shortages and the closing of schools, businesses at health facilities. In the capital city of Monrovia, reports emerged of locals dumping the bodies of suspected victims in the streets while hospitals shuttered because health workers were too frightened to work.

With the nightmare fresh in their memories, officials urged residents not to let their guard down in Ebola's absence.

"We are out of the woods," Liberia's Information Ministry said on its Twitter account Saturday. "We are Ebola free. Thanks to our partners for standing with is in the fight against Ebola. We are Liberians."

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Saturday referred to the devastation endured by her country as "a scar on the conscience of the world," according to the AP.

For some survivors, she added, "The pain and grief will take a generation to heal."

Following Liberia's announcement, the White House press secretary Josh Earnest released a statement praising the milestone and highlighting the Obama administration's continued support.

"We congratulate the people of Liberia on reaching this important marker, and once again pledge our commitment to ending the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and helping to rebuild Liberia and other affected nations," the statement said. "As President Obama said when Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf visited the White House last month, '"We're proud to partner with you and we intend to see this through until the job is done."'"

Since Liberia's latest outbreak began in March 2014, the country has seen more than 3,000 laboratory-confirmed cases of Ebola and another 7,400 probable cases, leading to more than 4,700 deaths, according to the WHO. A total of 375 health workers were infected and 189 lost their lives.

"Though the capital city was hardest hit, every one of Liberia's 15 counties eventually reported cases," the WHO statement said. "At one point, virtually no treatment beds for Ebola patients were available anywhere in the country."

The country's last victim, according to the WHO, was a Monrovia-area woman who died on March 27 and whose case remains under investigation. After close monitoring, the WHO noted, none of the 332 people who may have been exposed the the woman have developed symptoms.

Civil war and chronic poverty left a shortage of doctors and nurses in West Africa when Ebola swept through region last year. Early on, health workers didn't realize they were dealing with an Ebola outbreak and when seemed to diminish, officials became overconfident. By the time the virus made the leap from rural villages to crowded cities, health workers spent grueling months struggling to catch up.

"The communities were the heroes in this fight," Hassan Newland, who worked with UNICEF in Monrovia last fall told NPR. "They took on Ebola and decided enough is enough."

Newland told NPR he credited neighborhood groups that rooted out the virus by going house by house, slowly turning the tide on the outbreak.

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“They were locating the sicknesses themselves,” Newland said. “They were reporting the cases themselves. So when they decided to get involved we started to defeat Ebola.”

New Ebola cases continue to be reported in the two other countries hardest hit by the virus. Both Sierra Leone and Guinea, each of which share a border with Liberia, confirmed nine new cases last week, the lowest weekly total in 2015, according to the WHO.

There have been more than 3,000 cases in Guinea and more than 8,500 cases in Sierra Leone, which has had the highest number of cases of any country since December, according to WHO figures.

With Ebola still plaguing the region, the WHO has recommended that Liberia maintain a state of “heightened surveillance” for the next 90 days due to the possibility of the virus being transmitted through sexual contact with a survivor or through an animal host.

Mamudu Salifu, Oxfam’s Country Director in Liberia, said in a statement that the Liberian government recognized early on that working with “ordinary people” was a better strategy for combating Ebola than “forcing health measures on them” because it lessened the fear and mistrust surrounding the virus.

“Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea should now work together to ensure the region as a whole achieves zero cases,” the statement said. “Building people’s trust is crucial and working with communities should be a priority if the region hopes to reach zero and stay there.”

With the virus continuing to spread on Liberia’s border, officials said they are cautiously celebrating the end of the Ebola considering months of hard work could be undone with a single infected individual slipping across the border, according to the AP. Officials plan to continue monitoring border areas for sick travelers, “testing all dead bodies for the virus and conducting burials with specially trained teams wearing full protective gear,” according to the New York Times.

“We’re proud of what we collectively managed to do, but we need to remain vigilant,” Peter Jan Graaff, the U.N. secretary general’s acting special representative and head of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) told the AP. “The virus is not yet out of the region, and as long as the virus is in the region, we’re still all of us potentially at risk.”

The Ebola epidemic, which began in southeastern Guinea in December 2013, is believed to have killed more than 10,600 people and infected 25,791 in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, according to the WHO.

Gunfire, explosions in Macedonia as police battle 'armed group' // Reuters // Ogenen Teofilovski - May 9, 2015

Five police officers died and dozens were wounded in a daylong gun battle in an ethnic Albanian suburb of northern Macedonia on Saturday, adding the threat of armed conflict to a deep political crisis rocking the ex-Yugoslav republic.

The Balkan country's interior ministry said an unspecified number of gunmen were also killed, but that it had no information on civilian casualties during clashes that began before dawn and stretched into the evening.

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Police said that acting on information about an "armed group" they had launched an operation in an ethnic Albanian district of the northern town of Kumanovo 40 km (25 miles) north of the capital Skopje. The region saw heavy fighting during an ethnic Albanian insurgency in 2001.

Units of special police in armored vehicles locked down the neighborhood and helicopters circled overhead. A Reuters photographer reported hearing heavy automatic gunfire and loud explosions. Black smoke rose over the town and residents were seen leaving the area carrying belongings.

The events will deepen concern in the West over stability in Macedonia, where the government is on the ropes over allegations by the main opposition, the Social Democrats, of illegal wire-tapping and widespread abuse of office.

Protesters demanding the resignation of conservative Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski clashed with police this week and the opposition is threatening to rally thousands on May 17.

Observers fear political leaders on either side may try to stoke ethnic tensions as leverage.

"DARK SCENARIO"

"The situation on the ground remains highly critical," Interior Minister Gordana Jankulovska told a news conference. She said some gunmen had surrendered, without saying how many.

"The action will continue until every last terrorist is caught," Jankulovska said.

A ministry spokesman, Ivo Kotevski, said the group was planning "terrorist acts" and had "infiltrated" the country from a neighboring state, without saying which.

Macedonia's neighbors are Albania, Greece, Kosovo, Serbia and Bulgaria, and Macedonia has previously identified armed men in the country as coming from Kosovo.

Opposition leader Zoran Zaev, who has been releasing damaging wire-taps he says were recorded by the government and leaked to him by a whistleblower, appeared to suggest Saturday's operation was carried out to create a diversion.

"I call on Nikola Gruevski to immediately ... explain who wants to destabilize Macedonia, why and with what purpose," he said in a statement.

"This dark scenario will not work. The citizens see who has an interest in such a scenario."

An estimated 30 percent of Macedonia's 2 million people are ethnic Albanians. Guerrillas took up arms in 2001, clashing with security forces before the West brokered a peace deal offering the Albanian minority greater rights and representation and the insurgents entered government.

But implementation has been slow and tensions sometimes flare. Many citizens, regardless of ethnicity, are frustrated at the glacial pace of development and integration with the West. Macedonia's bid to join the European

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Union and NATO is blocked by a long-running dispute with Greece over the country's name.

"I thought it would never come to this again," an unidentified ethnic Albanian man told Macedonian television on the outskirts of Kumanovo. "It's so scary, we can't stay here."

Liberia, Ravaged by Ebola, Faces a Future Without It // NYT // Norimitsu Onishi - May 8, 2015

MONROVIA, Liberia — When a taxi dropped off a man dying of Ebola one evening in June 2014, the Logan Town clinic was defenseless.

Workers had no protective suits — only a few pairs of faded gloves and a shaky grasp of infection control. They examined the patient by candlelight and washed their hands in buckets.

That single case set off a chain of contagion that killed six of the clinic's 29 employees and at least nine of their relatives, including one of the country's top basketball players, as Liberia became the center of the deadliest Ebola epidemic in history.

Ten months after that fateful evening, the Logan Town clinic is now equipped with a triage room and hand-washing station near the entrance, an isolation room, a large generator and a water pump that feeds the taps.

"From the improvements, and how we examine the patients now, Ebola will not come back," said Bessie Johnson, 32, a nurse. "It won't happen again."

On Saturday, Liberia is expected to be declared free of Ebola by the World Health Organization, having gone 42 days since its last victim was buried, or twice the maximum incubation period of the virus.

It will be a seminal moment for a country that was once so overwhelmed by the epidemic that bodies littered the streets and hospitals shut down, leaving the sick helpless, often seeking treatment in vain.

"I am thrilled by the significant progress made by the people of Liberia," said Tolbert Nyenswah, a deputy health minister. But, he warned, "we still need to keep up vigilance."

The weak health systems in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, the three nations hit hardest by the disease, did more than just crumple in the face of Ebola's onslaught last year. They played a central role in spreading the disease.

Clinics routinely misdiagnosed the disease and discharged Ebola patients with pills for common illnesses. Infected health care workers passed the virus to their colleagues, families and communities.

Local and international health officials are now focusing on extinguishing the waning Ebola epidemic in Guinea and Sierra Leone. But they have a bigger goal as well: shoring up beleaguered health systems that were inadequate long before Ebola struck.

"I don't want to call Ebola an opportunity, but we're using the experience of Ebola to try to rebuild our health systems," said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia.

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In the decade leading up to the epidemic, the three nations made significant health gains, especially in reducing child mortality. In Liberia, immunization rates for childhood vaccines and life expectancy had risen significantly. Health programs were one of the biggest recipients of aid from the United States, the European Union and other donors.

A worker sprayed chlorine on the front mat at the Logan Town clinic in February. The clinic is now equipped with a triage room and hand-washing station near the entrance, an isolation room, a large generator and a water pump. Credit Daniel Berehulak for The New York Times

But long-running conflicts, poverty, mismanagement and corruption left the three nations with some of Africa's weakest networks of health care centers and workers.

Only 51 doctors were working in Liberia, a nation of 4.5 million people, at the time of the outbreak, the W.H.O. says. Even the biggest hospitals here in Monrovia, the capital, lacked running water, electricity and basic supplies like gloves.

Ebola has killed more than 500 health care workers in the three countries, worsening an acute shortage of medically trained personnel.

During the height of the epidemic last year, more than half of Liberia's health facilities ceased operating. Those that stayed open offered only limited services, often refusing to treat patients without proof that they were free of Ebola.

Many pregnant women were refused admission to maternity wards when workers fearful of being infected avoided delivering babies. Immunization rates for measles and other childhood diseases fell.

Many of the sick, afraid of being infected or classified as Ebola patients, stayed clear of hospitals. Unable to find treatment for malaria, diarrhea, typhoid and other common illnesses, many people are believed to have died for other reasons during the epidemic because the health system collapsed.

Dr. Bernice Dahn, who was recently picked by Ms. Johnson Sirleaf to be Liberia's new health minister, said that most of Liberia's health facilities had reopened and were providing basic services.

The Times produced more than 400 articles, including about 50 front-page stories from inside the Ebola-afflicted countries themselves. Here is a sample of work.

The government, Dr. Dahn said, will focus on raising the quality of its health work force, on emphasizing disease prevention and control and on adding triage and isolation facilities.

Physical improvements have already been made to many hospitals and clinics, where infection control training has taken place.

But there is a lot more to do, and finding the money will not be easy.

Last month, Liberia put forward an Ebola recovery plan that included its ambitions of building a "more resilient" health system — along with better schools, sanitation, and access to clean water — at a cost of hundreds of millions

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of dollars.

Given that Ebola delivered a huge economic blow to an already poor country, much of the money it needs to rebound from the epidemic will have to come from outside Liberia, the plan makes clear.

And some improvements can be fragile. During an Ebola outbreak in a neighborhood called St. Paul's Bridge in February, the sick scattered to community clinics, and hundreds of health care workers had to be placed under quarantine. A half-dozen clinics were shut down temporarily.

Dr. Dahn said that triage was not carried out properly at the affected clinics, adding, "It's difficult to change behavior. It requires a lot of coaching and mentoring, which need to go on."

A nurse at Logan Town checked the temperature of a patient in February with a digital infrared thermometer. Liberia's last Ebola victim was buried over a month ago. Credit Daniel Berehulak for The New York Times

Even if the country is declared Ebola-free on Saturday, the threat persists. Infections continue across the porous borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone, though in much smaller numbers, and experts warn that another outbreak at some point in the region is a near certainty.

Here in Monrovia, a major goal is rebuilding the government-run Redemption Hospital, the first health center in the capital to be crippled by Ebola. Its closing in June had a domino effect on the city's other health facilities.

Though it is the second-largest hospital in the capital, Redemption had only sporadic running water and electricity before the outbreak. Its roof leaked. Its plumbing and sewage systems did not function. Medical and regular wastes were burned together in the open. Septic tanks underground often overflowed and gave off a fetid stench.

"When you see the environment, you can be scared," said Wallah Seth, who took his ailing wife to Redemption a couple of years ago but never went back.

"You feel you want to give up; I never wanted to come to this place, Redemption, again," he said, adding that his wife managed to recover nonetheless.

Because of overcrowding, patients were often placed in any ward with an available bed; in pediatrics, two to three children often shared one bed, said Dr. Phil Afolabi, who has worked at Redemption since 2009 and is now employed by the International Rescue Committee, the aid organization based in New York that is rebuilding the hospital.

"Infection control was not a main concern at the hospital," Dr. Afolabi said, as construction crews loudly tore out walls and floors. "So many things have actually not been in place at the hospital, and that's been the case for a long while."

Nurses discussed the health of a girl brought in for treatment in February. During the height of the Ebola epidemic last year, more than half of Liberia's health facilities ceased operating. Credit Daniel Berehulak for The New York Times

In June, after a young woman with Ebola was admitted, eight health care workers at Redemption died in quick succession. The hospital, located in New Kru Town, one of the largest slums in the capital, was shut down.

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The sick flooded the area's private clinics, including Logan Town. The clinic serves an area of 20,000 people, according to the aid group Oxfam, which has made $7,200 in improvements to the clinic.

By the standards of Monrovia's community clinics, Logan Town was average. Two physician assistants led the medical staff, helped by a doctor who visited twice a month.

An old generator seldom worked. Drugs and equipment were always in short supply; the staff used gloves only for deliveries and minor surgeries, and reused them until the color faded. Janitors fetched water in buckets from a neighborhood well.

"It was difficult, especially when the patients were sick and needed to use the bathroom," said Nancy Kanneh, a nurse. "Often, we didn't have water to wash our own hands."

On the evening of June 25, about a week after workers at Redemption started dying, Logan Town took in a young Ebola patient named James Fallah, the caretaker of a nearby Pentecostal church, United God Is Our Light.

The security guard who had wheeled Mr. Fallah into the building held him down a few hours later when he became violent before dying. A week later, the guard came down with Ebola and passed on the virus to two of his children and one grandchild, all of whom died.

After the guard was treated at the clinic, the contagion widened to five other clinic employees. All of them died, including the chief administrator, Edwin Dour, who fatally infected his son, Kaizer, one of Liberia's most promising basketball players. Kaizer, in turn, passed the virus on to five family members, who all died.

The clinic, which closed for three months, is now operating only during the day and seeing about half of the patients it treated before the epidemic.

"Because of the stigma, people that used to come here before are afraid to come," said Edwin Sengar, the physician assistant who is now in charge of the clinic.

Some of the staff members had not returned, either.

"I'm afraid," said Moses Safa, the physician assistant who was on duty the night the Ebola patient was brought in. "I'm not doing anything now. I'm just staying at home. Maybe I'll go back after Liberia is declared Ebola-free."

A Dark Election Day for U.K.'s Pollsters // WSJ // Charles Forelle - May 8, 2015

LONDON—Britain's vanquished Labour Party is hanging its head after a brutal defeat in Thursday's election.

So, too, are the country's pollsters.

Heading into the vote, practically every major survey firm predicted a knife's-edge contest. Yet it has been a blowout: The Conservative Party won 331 seats to Labour's 232, yielding a slender Conservative majority in the 650-seat House of Commons, an outcome predicted by practically no analysts.

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Conservative Election Victory Sets Off Wave of Opposition Resignations

David Cameron's Conservatives Sweep to U.K. Election Victory

Cameron, Heading for Win, Faces Tough Challenges Ahead

"Election results raise serious issues for all pollsters," the survey company Populustweeted in the wee hours of Friday, after its forecast of a slim Labour win was upended. "We will look at our methods." The British Polling Council, an industry group, announced Friday an outside inquiry into the election polls, saying they were "clearly not as accurate as we would like."

What happened?

First, the pollsters missed the countrywide result. Many surveys put the gap in vote share between Conservatives and Labour at a point to two; the actual gap was six and a half.

But far more significantly, pollsters and statisticians failed badly when turning survey results into answers to the all-important question of who'd win how many seats.

While not easy in practice, surveying is straightforward. Even in a country the size of Britain, polling a few thousand people should give a close estimate of the whole population's views. The chief challenge is making the sample representative—every voter should have the same probability of being selected for the poll.

Several of the final election polls interviewed around 1,000 or 2,000 people. In theory, those surveys should have margins of error of around three or two percentage points.

Ipsos MORI, for instance, interviewed 1,162 adults by telephone. It eliminated uncertain voters, made minor adjustments for those who refused to answer and came up with 36% for the Conservatives and 35% for Labour. The actual outcome was 36.9% Conservative and 30.4% Labour. The Conservative result is within the margin of error and the Labour result isn't far off.

Others were further afield. Populus (2,417 people intending to vote) had Labour ahead 34% to 33%. YouGov, which polled 10,307 people (a margin of error around one percentage point), had the parties at 34% each. Survation's online poll of around 4,000 people came up with a 33% tie.

Survation's chief executive, Damian Lyons Lowe, wrote in a blog post Friday that his company had actually polled 1,045 people by telephone late on the eve of the election and had the Conservatives ahead by 37% to 31%—almost exactly the final outcome. (The total count includes voters in Northern Ireland, whom many pollsters don't survey.) "The result seemed so 'out of line,'" he wrote, "that I 'chickened out' of publishing the figures—something I'm sure I'll always regret."

The projections of how many seats those votes would translate into were much wider of the mark.

YouGov's "NowCast" prediction gave the two main parties 276 seats each. YouGov President Peter Kellner separately projected 284 seats for the Conservatives and 263 for Labour. The website FiveThirtyEight, run by statistics guru Nate Silver, who made his name with accurate predictions of U.S. presidential elections, used a model developed by British academics. It came up with 278 seats for the Conservatives and 267 for Labour, and put the probability at 90% that the Conservatives would win between 252 and 305 seats. They won 331.

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On Twitter, Mr. Silver said the forecasts should have had wider confidence intervals—that is, they should have been presented as less precise.

Seat projections are vastly harder than national polls. Britain has 650 parliamentary seats. Each is a winner-takes-all contest, a system known here as "first past the post." An accurate overall projection must nail both how many people vote for which party, as well as where they're voting. For pollsters, "first past the post is pretty much the most complicated electoral system you could devise," said John Curtice, a professor at the University of Strathclyde and Britain's dean of political polls.

Ben Page, chief executive of Ipsos MORI, points out that small changes in vote share can yield big changes in seat count. Labour won 35% of the national vote in 2005 and 355 seats. The Conservatives won 36% in 2010 and took 306. Thus divining seat projections from surveys of the national vote is tough. "The opinion polls are a blunt instrument," Mr. Page said.

Polling each constituency regularly is impractical. Even a national poll of 10,000 people at best only touches a dozen or so people in each constituency. As in the U.S., there are "safe" seats, but hundreds are up for grabs.

'The result seemed so 'out of line,'" he wrote, "that I 'chickened out' of publishing the figures—something I'm sure I'll always regret.'

—Damian Lyons Lowe, chief executive of Survation

And while election forecasters in the U.S. project outcomes in the Electoral College, those projections at their core are based on robust polls of the dozen or so states that are typically battlegrounds in American elections.

In the U.K., there isn't comprehensive, frequent polling data for parliamentary seats. That means seat projections use reams of assumptions to fill in gaps in the basic survey data. The model used by FiveThirtyEight, for instance, tries to intuit from historical voting patterns and demographics how people will vote, and then assigns probabilities to outcomes in each constituency.

It predicted that Labour had a 72% chance of winning a seat, held by a Conservative, in the battleground of Nuneaton in the West Midlands. It pegged Nuneaton as the "298th most likely seat to go Conservative."

The Conservative candidate won, 46% to 35%.

Simon Atkinson, of Ipsos MORI, said seat projections are difficult in any year. This year, he said, was especially fiendish because there is scant history for some of the resurgent smaller parties. The U.K. Independence Party, or UKIP, won 3.9 million votes, or a 12.6% share, to become Britain's third-biggest vote getter. In the 2010 election, it had just 3%.

There have been some individual polls of constituencies: Michael Ashcroft, a wealthy Tory peer, has commissioned scores of them, though only a small fraction are current. His poll in Nuneaton, done in mid-March, had the Labour candidate ahead 39% to 34%.

VE Day anniversary: Party leaders join in Cenotaph ceremony // BBC// Sarah Campbell - May 8, 2015

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Prime Minister David Cameron, Ed Miliband, Nick Clegg and Nicola Sturgeon laid wreaths at the Cenotaph in London's Whitehall.

The Queen later lit the first of hundreds of ceremonial beacons.

Events this weekend will commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day - the end of World War Two on the continent.

The Queen and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh greeted crowds gathered to watch the lighting ceremony at Windsor Great Park.

A series of beacons were also due to be lit at events throughout the country, including one at the Tower of London.

On 8 May 1945 people across the country lit hundreds of bonfires and beacons to celebrate the end of the war.

Earlier, more than 100 veterans joined Prince Andrew - a former Royal Navy helicopter pilot - along with senior politicians and military figures for the ceremony.

Among them was Mr Cameron, who was joined by Mr Miliband and Mr Clegg, in their last major roles as leaders of the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats following their post-election resignations, to lay wreaths.

What was VE Day?

VE Day held on 8 May, 1945, celebrated the end of war in Europe

The British government had been planning the celebration from late 1944. The code word 'MOUSETRAP' alerted ministers when VE Day was imminent

Bunting was taken off rations, pubs stayed open late and searchlights were used to light public monuments

Churchill broadcast to the nation at 3pm from Whitehall. Listeners later heard their first weather forecast since war had begun

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965) waving to crowds gathered in Whitehall on VE Day, 8th May 1945.

Then prime minister Winston Churchill addressed thousands of people from the Treasury balcony 70 years ago

The Queen - who as Princess Elizabeth waved to the crowds on VE Day from the balcony of Buckingham Palace, alongside her parents King George VI and Queen Elizabeth - will attend a service of thanksgiving on Sunday at Westminster Abbey.

After the service, veterans and serving members of the armed forces will parade along Whitehall, past the Treasury balcony from which Churchill delivered his historic address.

In addition to the remembrance ceremonies taking place, there will also be street parties and concerts across the UK to recreate the spirit of celebration on the day 70 years ago.

The biggest will be at Horse Guards Parade on Saturday, where musical acts including Pixie Lott and Status Quo will perform wartime songs and actors John Simm, Julia Sawalha and Laurence Fox will give readings.

The Royal British Legion, which has worked with the government to prepare the commemorations, will host a reception for 2,000 veterans at the park.

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In a 24 hours which has been all about politics, the Service of Remembrance has been a time for a truly momentous day in British history to be remembered.

Seated around the Cenotaph were more than 100 veterans, sheltering under umbrellas from a light rain. Watching from behind metal barriers, the public.

Standing shoulder to shoulder were the Prime Minister David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband as well as Nicola Sturgeon. This was clearly no time for party politics.

After the laying of wreaths, Randolph Churchill, the great grandson of Winston Churchill, read an extract from the speech he gave exactly 70 years ago. "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing but let us not forget the toil and efforts ahead."

Hundreds of smaller community events have been planned across the country after schools and local authorities were encouraged to take part.

There will also be commemorations in other European and Commonwealth countries.

Russia, which lost more citizens to the war than any other nation, is holding a Victory parade on Saturday in Moscow's Red Square. The UK, US and Germany have declined to send a representative in protest at Russia's actions in Ukraine.

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Alexandria Phillips
Communications | Press Assistant
Hillary for America
https://www.hillaryclinton.com

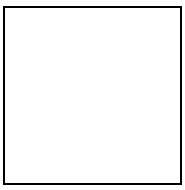
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From: "Amitabh Desai" <adesai@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
Date: 4/4/2012 4:41:06 AM
Subject: for WJC: "Wind Tops 10 Percent Share of Electricity in Five U.S. States"

Dear Hannah, this may be of interest for the President. Sincerely, Ami

From: Earth Policy News [mailto:earthpolicynews@earth-policy.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:56 AM
To: Amitabh Desai
Subject: Earth Policy News -- Wind Tops 10 Percent Share of Electricity in Five U.S. States



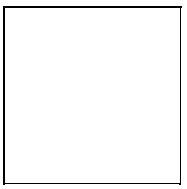
Earth Policy Release
Data Highlight
April 14, 2012

Wind Tops 10 Percent Share of Electricity in Five U.S. States

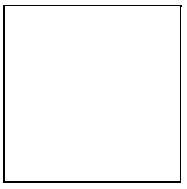
J. Matthew Roney

www.earth-policy.org/data_highlights/2012/highlights27

A new picture is emerging in the U.S. power sector. In 2007, electricity generation from coal peaked, dropping by close to 4 percent annually between 2007 and 2011. Over the same time period, nuclear generation fell slightly, while natural gas-fired electricity grew by some 3 percent annually and hydropower by 7 percent. Meanwhile, wind-generated electricity grew by a whopping 36 percent each year. Multiple factors underlie this nascent shift in U.S. electricity production, including the global recession, increasing energy efficiency, and more economically recoverable domestic natural gas. But ultimately it is the increasing attractiveness of wind as an energy source that will drive it into prominence.

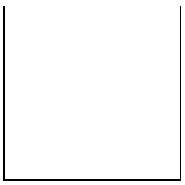


Wind power accounted for just 2.9 percent of total electricity generation in the United States in 2011. In five U.S. states, however, 10 percent or more of electricity generation came from wind. South Dakota leads the states, with wind power making up 22 percent of its electricity generation in 2011, up from 14 percent in 2010. In 2011, Iowa generated 19 percent of its electricity with wind energy. And in North Dakota, wind's share was 15 percent.

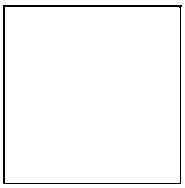


The two most populous U.S. states are also harnessing more of their wind resources. While adding more than 900 megawatts of new wind farms in 2011 to its existing 3,000-megawatt wind capacity, California was able to increase its wind electricity share from 3 to 4 percent. Texas has the most wind installations of all the states, with 10,400 megawatts. In fact, if Texas were a country, it would rank sixth in the world for total wind capacity. Figures from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), the independent service operator that delivers 85 percent of the state's electricity, show that wind's share of electricity in the ERCOT region jumped from 2.9 percent in 2007 to 8.5 percent in 2011.

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Even though the cost of generating electricity from the wind has fallen substantially, certain policies have been needed to help it compete with the longtime support and lack of full-cost accounting for fossil fuels. Through so-called renewable portfolio standards (RPS), 29 states now require a percentage of utilities' electricity to come from renewables by a certain date. This includes 8 of the top 10 states in total installed wind power capacity. For example, California's RPS requires one third of the state's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020. But the biggest policy driver of U.S. wind power growth thus far has been the federal production tax credit (PTC) for each kilowatt-hour of electricity a wind turbine generates. When Congress has allowed the PTC to expire, as it is scheduled to do again at the end of 2012, wind installations in the following year have plummeted.



In the short term, extending the PTC will be critical for the U.S. wind industry, which boasts more than 400 turbine component manufacturers and employs some 75,000 people. Ultimately, moving away from the recurring boom-bust threat by establishing a national RPS or a carbon tax would encourage even greater manufacturing growth and wind installations.

In a country where wind resources could power the entire economy, there is still great potential to be realized. Four states in northern Germany have set the mark, with each getting more than 40 percent of their electricity from the wind. Which U.S. state will get there first?

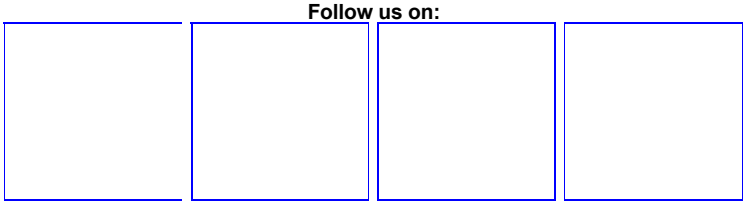
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For more information and data on wind energy in the United States and around the world, see Earth Policy Institute's Wind Indicator, "World Wind Power Climbs to New Record in 2011," at www.earth-policy.org.

Feel free to pass this information along to friends, family members, and colleagues!

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From: "Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/2/2008 9:04:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] The Disastrous Foreign Policy Legacy of George W. Bush



The Disastrous Foreign Policy Legacy of George W. Bush

"If we're an arrogant nation, they'll resent us; if we're a humble nation, but strong, they'll welcome us." -- *George W. Bush, October 12, 2000*

As the Republican National Convention embraces the Bush Administration, it is important to reflect on the President's foreign policy legacy – one of the most disastrous in the history of the United States.

President Bush inherited a peerless military and global respect for the U.S. and its values created over six decades of US engagement in the world. After 9/11, the President had an opportunity to unite the world behind us, eliminate the threat from Al Qaeda, and create a new security framework for the 21st century. Rather than finish the job against those who attacked us, President Bush squandered that chance by launching an ill-advised war in Iraq. Today Al Qaeda has regrouped in Pakistan, the situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating and Osama Bin Laden is still on the loose.

Meanwhile, 4,000 American troops have been killed in Iraq and the average American family of four has absorbed a cost of $16,500 to pay for a war that has destabilized the Middle East, empowered Iran and not made us safer.

The Bush policies have overstretched our military and crippled our ability to respond to unforeseen threats. They have put an incredible strain on our fighting men and women, undermining overall operational readiness and making it difficult to deal with new threats that might arise. The medical care, particularly mental healthcare, for returning troops has ranged from inadequate to disgraceful and repeated deployments have created enormous burdens for military families. It will take years to repair this damage and get the military back to where it needs to be.

The President has claimed that nuclear proliferation in the hands of our enemies is the greatest danger facing our country. And yet under his watch Iran has gone from zero to 4,000 centrifuges; North Korea has tested a nuclear device and dramatically expanded its arsenal; and our deteriorating relationship with Russia has undermined proliferation agreements.

The President's policies have undermined our most important alliances and damaged our credibility around the world. That lack of credibility has real consequences, making it more difficult to get our allies to stand with us on key issues such as sending more NATO troops to Afghanistan or standing up to Russian expansionism in Georgia.

Finally, contrary to President Bush's lofty rhetoric on democracy promotion, his tenure has seen the rollback of democracy around the world as autocratic states such as China and Russia have gotten stronger, while President Bush has abandoned his initial support for democracy promotion in the Middle East.

There is no doubt that the last eight years have been a disaster for American foreign policy, squandering sixty years of American prestige and principle.

The Bush Administration has Failed to Focus on the Greatest Danger in the Afghanistan-Pakistan Border

"I don't know where bin Laden is. I have no idea and really don't care. It's not that important. It's not our priority." – President George W. Bush, March 13, 2002

America's 16 intelligence agencies say that al Qaeda is growing stronger and that the threat emanating from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border is the single greatest danger to American security. The 2006 and 2007 National

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Intelligence Estimates both concluded that al Qaeda "will continue to pose the greatest threat to the Homeland and US interests abroad." The 2006 National Intelligence Estimate on terrorism also "cites the Iraq war as a reason for the diffusion of jihad ideology." The GAO, in concert with the unclassified 2007 NIE and State and embassy documents, Defense, State and other officials found that "al Qaeda's central leadership, based in the border area of Pakistan, is and will remain the most serious terrorist threat to the United States…" and "…is now using the Pakistani safe haven to put the last element necessary to launch another attack against America into place…" [NIE, 4/06 . NIE, 7/07 . NY Times, 9/24/06 . GAO, 4/08]

Rather than focus on the greatest threat, the Bush administration has consistently diverted resources away from Afghanistan to Iraq. The New York Times reports that "the White House shifted its sights, beginning in 2002, from counterterrorism efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan to preparations for the war in Iraq." According to current and former military and intelligence officials the war in Iraq has consistently diverted resources and high-level attention from the fight against al Qaeda. Intelligence officials report that by 2006, the Iraq war had drained away most of the C.I.A. officers with field experience in the Islamic world. "You had a very finite number" of experienced officers, said one former senior intelligence official. "Those people all went to Iraq. We were all hurting because of Iraq." In fact, "when American military and intelligence officials requested additional Predator drones to survey the tribal areas, they were told no drones were available because they had been sent to Iraq." [NY Times, 6/30/08]

Military officials have also warned about how Iraq is hurting the fight in Afghanistan. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen has asserted that more U.S. troops are needed in Afghanistan to help control an increasingly active insurgency but, due to the war in Iraq, insufficient forces are available for such action. "I don't have troops I can reach for, brigades I can reach to send into Afghanistan until I have a reduced requirement in Iraq," Mullen said. "Afghanistan remains an economy of force campaign, which by definition means we need more forces there. We have the ability in almost every single case to win from the combat standpoint, but we don't have enough troops there to hold. That is key to the future of being able to succeed in Afghanistan." In the most blunt assessment of all, General Dan McNeill, former NATO commander for Afghanistan, called the regional mission an "under-resourced war." [Washington Post, 7/2/08 . New York Times, 7/2/08]

Bush Administration neglect has thrown the Afghanistan-Pakistan region into misery. The state of affairs in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region is grim. Retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey, in a harrowing assessment, said that Afghanistan "is in misery," a result of poor coordination, inept management, and a dearth of resources and troops. Indeed, violence is up 40% along the volatile Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and the Taliban have grown so brazen that they now mount attacks on US-ISAF military bases. In northwest Pakistan, Al Qaeda has reconstituted and is now capable of "blending into Western society" to plot attacks against the US and its allies, and Taliban forces are resurgent, having carried out bombings that killed 200 people in the last two weeks of August alone. [General Barry McCaffrey, 7/30/08 . LA Times, 6/25/08 . NY Times, 8/19/08 . NY Times, 8/13/08 . AP, 8/29/08]

The War in Iraq Has Made Us Less Secure

"Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed." - President Bush, 5/1/03

The costs of the Iraq War both in terms of blood and treasure have been tremendous. More than 4,000 American troops have been killed in Iraq and another 30,000 have been wounded. Already more than $600 billion has been allocated in direct costs and the costs to the U.S. economy already exceed $1 trillion. Five and a half years after the start of the war, 140,000 American troops remain in Iraq. All of this after the Bush administration promised us that we would be greeted as liberators and that the war would cost less than $50 billion. [Brookings Institution, 8/21/08 . Congressional Joint Economic Committee, 2/28/2008 . CBS News, 11/15/02]

Iran has been the biggest strategic beneficiary of the war in Iraq. By eliminating Saddam Hussein and the Taliban and replacing those governments with security vacuums, the United States allowed Iran to dramatically expand its regional influence. As Ray Takeyh explained, "Iran now lies at the center of the Middle East's major problems -- from the civil wars unfolding in Iraq and Lebanon to the security challenge of the Persian Gulf -- and it is hard to imagine any of them being resolved without Tehran's cooperation." Moreover, many of the Shi'a political groups, whom the U.S. empowered in Iraq, have deep ties to Iran, including the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI), which represents one of the two largest Shi'a political movements in Iraq, was originally formed in Iran. [Ray Takeyh, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2007 . Rand Beers, Testimony Before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, 2/28/08]

The Iraq War has further destabilized the Middle East. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have been killed in sectarian fighting. More than 4 million Iraq have been displaced, including 2 million refugees, most of whom have fled to Syria and Jordan threatening the stability of those countries. The war has roped in regional players with Turkey briefly entering

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Northern Iraq in late 2007 to fight the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), Iran playing an active role in arming and supporting various militias, and Saudi Arabia working to counter Iranian influence by funding Sunni groups. [New England Journal of Medicine, 1/31/08 . Financial Times, 1/10/2008 . Brookings Institution, 8/21/08 . UNHCR]

Our Military is Overstretched and Misused

"As you know, you go to war with the Army you have. Not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time." – Donald Rumsfeld, 12/04/04

Army Chief of Staff: Iraq is hurting the Army's ability to sustain itself and plan for future contingencies. Gen. George Casey, Army Chief of Staff, stated that "The cumulative effects of the last six-plus years at war have left our Army out of balance, consumed by the current fight and unable to do the things we know we need to do to properly sustain our all-volunteer force and restore our flexibility for an uncertain future." [AP, 2/26/08]

Former Army Vice Chief of Staff says the Iraq War poses "significant risk" to all-volunteer army, as the army can't absorb anymore. Gen. Richard A. Cody, who recently retired as the Army's Vice Chief of Staff told Congress that the "heavy deployments are inflicting 'incredible stress' on soldiers and families and that they pose 'a significant risk' to the nation's all-volunteer military. 'When the five-brigade surge went in, that took all the stroke out of the shock absorbers for the United States Army,' Cody testified. 'Our readiness is being consumed as fast as we build it. Lengthy and repeated deployments with insufficient recovery time have placed incredible stress on our soldiers and our families, testing the resolve of our all-volunteer force like never before.'" [Washington Post, 4/2/08 . NYT, 4/6/08]

Multiple deployments are taking a heavy psychological and physical toll on our troops. "More than a quarter of U.S. soldiers on their third or fourth tours in Iraq suffer mental health problems partly because troops are not getting enough time at home between deployments, the Army said. 'Soldiers are not resetting entirely before they get back into theater,' said Lt. Col. Paul Bliese, who led the Army's Mental Health Advisory Team survey for 2007." [Reuters, 3/06/08]

It will take years for our military to rebuild. "It will take years for the Army and Marine Corps to recover from what some officials privately have called a 'death spiral,' in which the ever more rapid pace of war-zone rotations has consumed 40 percent of their total gear, wearied troops and left no time to train to fight anything other than the insurgencies now at hand." "The combat readiness of the total Army (active units, the National Guard, and the Army Reserve) is in tatters. The simple fact is that the United States currently does not have enough troops who are ready and available for potential contingency missions in places like Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, or anywhere else" [Lawrence Korb, Testimony Before House Armed Services Committee, 7/27/07 . Washington Post, 3/19/07]

Nuclear Proliferation Has Continued Unabated

"The gravest danger our Nation faces lies at the crossroads of radicalism and technology. Our enemies have openly declared that they are seeking weapons of mass destruction, and evidence indicates that they are doing so with determination." – President Bush, 9/17/02

The Bush administration has stubbornly refused to engage in tough diplomacy as under its watch Iran's uranium enrichment program has gone from zero to 4,000 centrifuges. Despite bipartisan calls from the Iraq Study Group, former Bush administration officials, and progressives, the administration has refused to engage Iran. Instead it has stubbornly continued a failed policy that has not worked for the past five years. As a result, Iran's uranium enrichment program has continued to progress and it has gone from zero to 4,000 of the centrifuges processing enriched uranium. [Washington Post, 8/29/08 . American Prospect, 6/25/08]

Under the Bush administration's watch North Korea tested a nuclear device and has significantly expanded its nuclear arsenal. Rather than pursue the Clinton administration policy of engaging directly with North Korea – a policy that was working – the Bush administration took a much harder line. Since then North Korea has developed enough material for approximately 10 nuclear bombs and even tested a device in late 2006. After six years of failure the Bush administration returned to the Clinton policy and is now offering economic incentives in exchange for North Korea dismantling its program. [Washington Post, 10/9/06 . LA Times, 8/27/08]

Our deteriorating relationship with Russia is threatening to undermine cooperation on nuclear proliferation issues. "But one potential casualty that causes special worry for some analysts is the suspension of cooperation on nuclear nonproliferation and other arms control efforts. *The Wall Street Journal* reported on August 23, the Bush administration's 'landmark nuclear-cooperation agreement' with Moscow could be derailed following Russia's moves in Georgia. The deal, which the White House had hoped to finalize in September, aimed to increase U.S.-Russia cooperation on peaceful nuclear technology. But as one U.S. official told the paper, nuclear deals are 'no longer business as usual.' *The Financial Times*

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reported on August 25 that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is expected to call on President Bush to recall the civil nuclear deal with Russia from Congress. 'At this point, it's dead,' a congressional staffer told the paper." [Council on Foreign Relations, 8/26/08 . Wall Street Journal, 8/23/08 . Financial Times, 8/25/08]

Our Credibility With Our Allies is Weakened

"Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." – President George W. Bush, September 20, 2001

Global respect for the United States is evaporating, even among our closest allies. Only 30 percent of Germans now have a positive view of the United States, down from 78 percent before Bush took office in January 2001. In Turkey, a Muslim democracy and NATO ally, only 9 percent now have a favorable view, down from 52 percent in late 2001. Most alarming is that just 51 percent of Britons – our partner in Iraq and our most reliable ally - now hold favorable views of the United States, down from 75 percent before the Iraq invasion. [IHT, 6/27/07 . Pew Global Attitudes Project, 6/27/07 . NY Times, 2/07/08]

Our diminished prestige is hurting our ability to deal with major crises such as Georgia and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, we need a greater military commitment from our NATO allies to help stabilize the country and prevent the reemergence of a terrorist haven. Yet, public opinion in Europe has conflated the necessary war in Afghanistan with the unnecessary war in Iraq. The whole venture is now so unpopular, and the domestic political cost of providing more troops for Afghanistan has become so high, that it has created a major impediment in getting the support we need for the mission. Meanwhile, the fraying of the NATO alliance also weakened the response to the Russian invasion of Georgia. As Jamie Rubin explained, "Let's remember it was Chancellor Merkel of Germany who became the power broker when leaders at the NATO summit debated the subject of Georgia this spring. The United States, which has traditionally led NATO on such subjects, failed to push through a so-called Membership Action Plan for Georgia. That failure, as much as anything, gave Moscow a crucial signal that the West could not muster a serious response should it crack down on its troublesome neighbor." [NY Times, 2/07/08 . Huffington Post, 8/13/08]

Our image in the Muslim world is hurting our ability to fight Al Qaeda. In countries across the Muslim world from Pakistan to Morocco our image is so tainted that local politicians who work closely with the United States are viewed with suspicion or simply discredited, making it far more difficult for us to win the ideological struggle with Al Qaeda. [Rand Beers, Testimony Before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, 2/28/08]

Democracy Around the World Has Suffered

So it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world. – President Bush Second Inaugural Address , 1/20/05

2007 was a year "marked by a global setback" for the advance of freedom and democracy. Across the world, in countries like China, Russia, Egypt, Venezuela and Zimbabwe, freedom and democracy are in distress. According to Freedom House's 2008 report on the state of global freedom, the "world's most important autocracies have engaged in what has been called a pushback against democracy promotion," using the policies of the Bush administration as a rationale to crackdown on their own troublesome advocates for democratic reform. [Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2008]

Where President Bush sought to bring democracy through his own persona and personal relationships, freedoms have disintegrated and instability reigns. "More than many of his predecessors, President Bush has invested heavily in trying to forge a strong bond with key foreign leaders. But as his term winds down, new crises in Georgia and Pakistan are underscoring the limits of Bush's personal diplomacy, as the president is receiving criticism for overpersonalizing relations with Putin, the Russian prime minister, and with Pervez Musharraf, who resigned as Pakistan's president last week" Today, a revanchist Russia has curtailed freedoms and threatens its democratic neighbors, while in Pakistan, the collapse of military rule, supported by the Bush Administration, has introduced political strife, and a new wave of terrorist attacks. [Washington Post, 8/27/08 . Freedom House, June 2007 . The Guardian, 8/22/08]

In the Middle East, the advance of democracy has faltered. Despite President Bush's pronouncement of a "forward strategy of freedom" for the Middle East, today, in places like Iraq, Egypt, and Lebanon the forces of democracy and moderation are in retreat, and intemperate, authoritarian, even extremist rule is at an apex. In Iraq, the US and the Iraqi government have failed to translate security improvements into political reconciliation, and ethno-sectarian cleavages continue to fester. Egypt's government continues to crackdown on reformers and dissidents, and in Lebanon, where 2005's Cedar revolution is but a memory, Hezbollah "stands unquestioned as the single most powerful force" in the country. And finally, Iranian President Ahmadinejad and his conservative, anti-western allies, have been newly strengthened by the Supreme

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Leader's endorsement of Ahmadinejad's leadership. [President George W. Bush, 2/04/04 . NSN, 8/21/08 . AP, 8/03/08. Washington Post, 5/18/08 . AP, 8/24/08]

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From: "Ian Sams" <isams@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/14/2015 5:02:51 PM
Subject: Christie taking some shots at HRC

Boilerplate.

He also took a swipe at the Democratic front-runner on foreign policy, criticizing Clinton's "reset" with Russia while secretary of state as akin to "allow[ing] Vladimir Putin to believe that he can move in on Crimea." "There would be no misunderstandings between Mr. Putin and I if I were president," he added.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2015/04/chris-christie-targets-hillary-clinton-116986.html#ixzz3XLaDjCnr

Chris Christie targets Hillary Clinton, talks up swing-state appeal

By ADAM B. LERNER

4/14/15 9:55 PM EDT
Updated 4/14/15 10:31 PM EDT

Gov. Chris Christie spent Tuesday reassuring his supporters that he's still bold, still brash and should still very much be in the 2016 conversation.
On the Hugh Hewitt show, the New Jersey Republican told the host outright, "If I run, I will beat [Hillary Clinton]." He mentioned Pennsylvania, New Mexico, New Hampshire and Colorado as four states won by President Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012 that he believes he could put in play.
Story Continued Below

He also took a swipe at the Democratic front-runner on foreign policy, criticizing Clinton's "reset" with Russia while secretary of state as akin to "allow[ing] Vladimir Putin to believe that he can move in on Crimea." "There would be no misunderstandings between Mr. Putin and I if I were president," he added.
In an interview with Yahoo News' Matt Bai, Christie dismissed comparisons between 2016 and 2012, when the Garden State governor decided to forgo a presidential bid despite numerous Republican heavy-hitters urging him to run.
"The only way you're going to perform well is if you believe in your heart that you're ready to be president. And I didn't. And so there was no way I would have won in 2012. I wouldn't have, because I wasn't ready."



ALSO ON POLITICO
Christie jump-starts campaign in New Hampshire
ELI STOKOLS and ALEX ISENSTADT

When asked whether he now considers himself ready, he responded "Yes."
The comments came after an awkward interaction with a reporter at an event in New Hampshire, when Christie said people believe that he's a moderate only because he's a Northeasterner and "a little ethnic."
With other Republicans announcing their candidacies in recent weeks — and reaping substantial funds from donors in their rollouts — Christie has struggled to stay a part of the conversation.
In a USA Today poll released Tuesday, Christie sits at 1 percent of the early GOP vote, right next to Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Donald Trump.
Still, Christie is betting that he can gain momentum with a successful rollout and pitch himself as a blue-state governor able to win in a general election.
"You don't have to theorize [winning a general election] with me," Christie told Hewitt of his potential. "You've seen I've [won reelection] in what is one of the bluest states in America after governing as a conservative for four years."

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2015/04/chris-christie-targets-hillary-clinton-116986.html#ixzz3XLaYHxqd

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Ian Sams | Rapid Response Associate
Hillary for America
(423) 915-6592 | @IanSams
Gchat: icsams

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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Karen Finney" <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Ian Sams" <isams@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/12/2015 2:31:36 PM
Subject: Re: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks

Can we start with a positive line like - despite the overwhelmingly positive response to Hillary's message, the GOP went into attack mode.

On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:15 PM, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Hey folks. Here are some points we pulled together for surrogates going on TV -- not a wide blast -- on how to respond to day one attacks on HRC. Thoughts? Adrienne/Karen/etc. can get to surrogates once we're all good.
>
> Thanks.
> Ian
>
> **OPENING DAY -- SURROGATE TALKING POINTS ON GOP ATTACKS**
>
> Today we've seen a wide range of attacks from the entire GOP field and their allies. Below are some points to respond -- keeping the focus on Hillary's desire to focus on voters while the Republicans are trotting out tired attacks on her.
>
> - **Republicans can focus on attacking her, but Hillary is focused on meeting voters and having real conversations about issues facing everyday Americans.** This is the start of the different kind of campaign that Hillary wants to run -- one that is squarely focused on having a conversation with voters -- answering their questions, asking them questions and sharing ideas.
>
> - **Meanwhile, Republicans want to be the champions for those at the top.** While Hillary is talking to voters and focused on everyday Americans, every single Republican candidate has offered the same tired attacks and the same economic agenda that Americans know rob them of the stability they've worked so hard for -- with a top-down agenda that would stack the deck even more in favor of those at the top.
>
> - **Americans have responded clearly that they appreciate Hillary's focus on their issues and their lives**, so if Republicans want to keep their focus on tired political attacks, that's their choice.
>
> ***If pressed on specific GOP attacks on foreign policy/HRC's record at the State Department, stemming from Jeb Bush's video or other attacks:***
>
> **Job number one for Hillary as Secretary of State was to restore America's leadership after it was badly eroded by eight years of the Bush administration's foreign policy** -- two wars, damaged alliances, diminished moral standing, no stopping Iran's nuclear program, and no action on climate. She's proud of her accomplishments.
>
> - Hillary led the effort to build a worldwide coalition to impose the toughest sanctions in history against the Iranians, which forced them to the negotiating table and gave us our best shot at preventing them from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
> - Hillary brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, which prevented a wider war and protected Israel's security.
> - Hillary stood up to Putin by strengthening NATO, encouraging Europe to find alternative sources of energy, and called him out for trying to rebuild the Soviet Empire.
> - Hillary worked with President Obama to get every major developing country, including China and India, to agree for the first time to reduce their carbon emissions and be held accountable for it.
> - Hillary put internet freedom, LGBT rights, and women's rights on the global agenda, and defending human rights advocates on the frontlines around the world.
> - And, of course, she was part of the President's team making the decision to launch the raid against bin Laden.
>
> **Jeb Bush may attack Hillary's time as Secretary of State now, but it's just negative politics meant to gin up**

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his Republican base.

- Jeb Bush in 2013: “Former Secretary Clinton has dedicated her life to serving and engaging people across the world in democracy. These efforts as a citizen, an activist, and a leader have earned Secretary Clinton this year’s Liberty Medal.” [National Constitution Center, 6/27/2013]

Jeb Bush is advocating for the same failed foreign policy that led us to misguided wars and degraded our nation’s standing in the world.

- Jeb Bush on George W. Bush: “I will tell you that I’m the only Republican that was in office when he was office as President that never disagreed with him. And I’m not going to start now. Why would I do that now after two years? …I’m not going to start now. It’s just – ‘til death do us part.” [CNN interview]

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Gchat: icsams

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To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/CANOiRV9voo87eQ%2B49MXGxRrOM5gUxNkP0nCAL5ybLthiBFQVhA%40mail.gmail.com.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 4/30/2008 1:39:59 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 4/30

08 Election Daily News Clips
April 30th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

11:20am BUSH: Remarks to the 2008 National and State Teachers of the Year in the White House Rose Garde n

12pm McCain: Luncheon in Bethlehem, PA

2pm McCain: Speech in Allentown, PA
- Tracking scheduled for this event
3:45pm McCain: Media Availability in Allentown, PA
- Tracking scheduled for this event
6:55 pm BUSH: Attends NRCC Reception at a private residence in Fairfax, Virginia

News Clips:

MCCAIN HEALTH CARE NEWS

McCain Offers Market-Based Health Plan (Washington Post 4/30/08)
By Michael D. Shear; A01
Sen. John McCain on Tuesday rejected calls by his Democratic opponents for universal health coverage, instead offering a market-based solution with an approach similar to a proposal put forth by President Bush last year.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/29/AR2008042902706.html
Link to transcript of speech: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/04/mccain_at_miamis_children_hosp.html

Federal Money in Health Care Plan From McCain (NY Times 4/30/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER and KEVIN SACK
Senator John McCain, detailing his plan to solve the nation's health care crisis, called Tuesday for federal intervention with the states to assure coverage for people who have been denied insurance.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/30/us/politics/30mccain.html

McCain Pushes a Health-Care Plan With Less Regulation (WSJ 4/30/08)
By LAURA MECKLER; Page A6
Sen. John McCain laid out his vision for the U.S. health-care system Tuesday, rejecting universal health insurance and embracing a system with fewer regulations in which consumers shop for coverage on their own rather than get it from an employer.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120949803079953667.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

McCain health plan eyes 'uninsurables' (USA TODAY 4/29/08)
By David Jackson
John McCain said Tuesday he will work with states to create insurance pools for people who have trouble getting coverage because of pre-existing illnesses.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-04-29-mccain-uninsurables_N.htm

The Folly of McCain-Care (New Republic 4/29/08)

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by Jonathan Cohn
His great new plan isn't new or great. And it still wouldn't help Elizabeth Edwards get decent insurance.
http://tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=a88ab4f7-d570-47ad-ab80-a7e817ddab6b

Edwards Targets 'GAP' in McCain Plan (ABC 4/29/08)
By TEDDY DAVIS and TALAL AL-KHATIB
GOPer's Plan Ripped for 'Gross Underfunding'
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/TheNote/story?id=3105455&page=1

Return Of The Mack (Hotline blog 4/29/08)
By JENNIFER SKALKA
A trail note of interest to those counting the lobbyists and former lobbyists in John McCain's orbit: Former U.S. Sen. Connie Mack (R-FL) introduced McCain today at his health care policy event in Florida. Mack is chairman of the board of directors of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, where McCain's event was held. Mack is also, we should note, a registered state lobbyist, working for Liberty Partners of Florida and, drumroll, advocating for health insurance companies.
http://hotlineblog.nationaljournal.com/archives/2008/04/return_of_the_m_1.html

McCain on health care (MSNBC 4/29/08)
By Adam Aigner-Treworgy
TAMPA, Fla. -- Despite receiving top billing during McCain's weeklong health-care tour, this morning's speech at the University of Southern Florida featured only an expansion of the healthcare proposal McCain has been advocating on the stump for months.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/04/29/956979.aspx

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Strengthening His Political Marriage (NY Times 4/30/08)
By CARL HULSE
Senator John McCain's recent harsh critique of the Republican-led response to Hurricane Katrina no doubt reminded some of his newfound allies in Congress that his independent image was often honed at his party's expense.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/30/us/politics/30repubs.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

McCain Missing in Action (Washington Post blog 4/29/08)
By Ben Pershing
His name was never mentioned, but as Republican and Democratic lawmakers took turns praising each other this afternoon for backing legislation that would greatly expand veterans' education benefits, presumptive Republican nominee John McCain was the Republican elephant not in the room.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/capitol-briefing/2008/04/mccain_missing_in_action.html?hpid=news-col-blog

Union Ad Criticizes McCain on Health Care (NY Times blog 4/29/08)
By Kate Phillips
As Senator John McCain spends the week talking about health care and health insurance coverage, the Service Employees International Union has begun broadcasting an ad against his plans in Ohio and Washington, D.C.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/04/29/union-ad-criticizes-mccain-on-health-care/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bGfKu5CfXQ

McCain eyes voting 'no' on the farm bill (The Hill 4/29/08)
By Manu Raju
Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) is leaning against backing a massive farm bill that would rewrite agriculture policy over the next five years, a choice that puts him in between his fiscal conservative base and rural states important in the general election.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/mccain-eyes-voting-no-on-the-farm-bill-2008-04-29.html

Maverick McCainomics Could Alter Our Fiscal Future (US News & World Report blog 4/30/08)
James Pethokoukis

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Uncle Sam has plenty of dough. That's the core belief at the center of McCainomics. Or maybe we should call it "maverick economics," since John McCain's approach toward taxes and government spending has the potential to change the rules of the Washington budget game. Actually, it has the potential to change the game itself and perhaps create a long-term solution to America's fiscal problem—with trillions left over. See, that's what the Wall Street Journal didn't seem to understand when one of its reporters wrote the following last week:
http://www.usnews.com/blogs/capital-commerce/2008/4/29/maverick-mccainomics-could-alter-our-fiscal-future.html

McCain the Anti-War Warrior? (OutsideTheBeltway 4/29/08)
James Joyner
In the cover story of the new American Prospect, Matt Yglesias describes John McCain ... But this is wrong in almost every sense imaginable. Can anyone seriously doubt that a man who spent 5-1/2 years being tortured by the Viet Cong hates war? But one can simultaneously hate war and think it preferable to allowing despots to gain nuclear weapons.
http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/archives/2008/04/mccain_the_anti-war_warrior/

Wash. Post's Murray: 'Just wait' until after the primaries for media to scrutinize McCain (ThinkProgress 4/29/08)
In a Washington Post discussion yesterday, Post reporter Shailagh Murray inadvertently admitted that the media is currently scrutinizing Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) less than they potentially could
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/04/29/wash-posts-murray-just-wait-for-media-to-scrutinize-mccain/

Is "Falsely" Comment in Story on Anti-McCain Ad Accurate? (Editors & Publishers 4/29/08)
In a news account, The Associated Press today reports on charges of a "false" political ad -- but did it go too far in accepting the Republicans' complaint?
http://www.editorandpublisher.com/eandp/news/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003795869

Late Night Laughs on McCain Veep Prospects (NY Times blog 4/29/08)
By Kate Phillips
The headline may be a little bit misleading, but despite our early a.m. blogging duties, we were up last night watching Jay Leno banter with Bobby Jindal, the new, exceptionally young governor of Louisiana.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/04/29/late-night-laughs-on-mccain-veep-prospects/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Getting to Know John McCain (WSJ 4/30/08)
By KARL ROVE; Page A17
It came to me while I was having dinner with Doris Day. No, not that Doris Day. The Doris Day who is married to Col. Bud Day, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, fighter pilot, Vietnam POW and roommate of John McCain at the Hanoi Hilton.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120951606847454685.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

Dumb as We Wanna Be (NY Times 4/30/08)
By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
The McCain-Clinton energy proposal is a reminder that the biggest energy crisis we have in our country today is the energy to be serious.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/30/opinion/30friedman.html

McCain's Progress (WSJ 4/30/08)
The Grand Guignol between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama has to end eventually, and then the public discomfort over health care will resurface as a genuine policy dispute between the Democratic and Republican nominees. For a man whose heterodoxies have no doubt triggered GOP heartburn, John McCain delivered another speech yesterday on health care that offered a sophisticated set of policies that could lead to some of the most constructive changes to the system in decades.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120951260482454447.html?mod=opinion_main_review_and_outlooks

Candidates' plans to cut gas prices (LA Times 4/30/08)

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Clinton's and McCain's plans for a summer gas-tax suspension won't solve anything.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-gastax30apr30,0,399014.story

Obstacle course (Washington Times 4/30/08)
By Terence P. Jeffrey
One of the most surprising things about the presidential election four years ago is that the already unpopular war in Iraq was not the top issue in voter's minds. Nor was it the top national security issue. To get elected, Sen. John McCain needs something similar to happen this year. To construct such a scenario, it is helpful to reconstruct what happened four years ago.
http://washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080430/COMMENTARY/197375934/1028/ELECTION

What war? (LA Times 4/30/08)
At home, the economy soars and Americans let the good times roll. Meanwhile, Iraq burns.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-ferguson30apr30,0,7557486.column

The Many Faces of John McCain (Huffington Post 4/30/08)
Jayne Lyn Stahl
While Barack Obama is said to be outraged about the latest sound bites coming from his former minister, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, where is our outrage at all the nonstop coverage of this nonsense, and the egregious efforts to abort the First Amendment guarantee of separation between church and state?
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jayne-lyn-stahl/the-many-faces-of-john-mc_b_99310.html

McCain's disturbing lack of Mideast realism (Dallas Morning News 4/30/08)
By Trudy Rubin
As the Democratic candidates battle each other, Sen. John McCain's ideas about America and the world have gotten too little coverage. In an obvious effort to distinguish himself from President Bush, Mr. McCain describes himself as "realistic idealist." Yet his speeches and comments reveal a disturbing lack of realism about the world, especially the Middle East. Mr. McCain's global outlook is that of a man still living in the 1990s, when America's power and the dollar reigned supreme.
http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/viewpoints/stories/DN-rubin_30edi.ART.State.Edition1.4687ed4.html

BUSH NEWS

Bush Blames Democrats for Sliding Economy (Washington Post 4/29/08)
By William Branigin
President Bush today blamed Congress for many of the nation's economic woes, charging that lawmakers have blocked his proposals for dealing with problems ranging from soaring gasoline prices to the increasing cost of food.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/29/AR2008042900698.html?hpid=topnews
Link to video: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2008/04/29/VI2008042901048.html

Bush Prods Lawmakers on Economy, Energy Prices (WSJ 4/30/08)
By MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS, GREG HITT and SARAH LUECK; Page A3
President Bush blamed the Democratic-controlled Congress for failing to reduce gasoline prices, stave off foreclosures and sufficiently fund student loans, kicking off what is likely to be weeks of cutthroat politicking between the White House and Capitol Hill.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120947778128652773.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_rightbox

Bush Says Pain From Economy Defies Easy Fix (NY Times 4/30/08)
By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG and DAVID M. HERSZENHORN
WASHINGTON — With consumer confidence slipping and gasoline and food prices soaring, President Bush delivered an unusually dark assessment of the economy on Tuesday, saying the nation was in "very difficult times, very difficult."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/30/washington/30bush.html?ref=todayspaper

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Bush Ignores His Own Administration's Guidelines, Refers To Terrorists As 'Jihadists' (ThinkProgress 4/29/08)
In his Rose Garden press conference today, an exasperated President Bush lashed out at critics who question whether he is presenting too rosy of an assessment when he says that the U.S. is making progress in Afghanistan. "The notion that somehow we can let these people just kind of have their way," said Bush. "Let's don't stir them up, is naive or disingenuous."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/04/29/bush-jihadist-language/

Bush to N. Korea: We know what you're doing (CNN 4/29/08)
Bush seeks to increase pressure on Iran, North Korea, Syria
Bush says people looking to Congress for action and only getting delay
Bush asks Congress to focus on energy, food prices, mortgages, student loans
Bush calls on Congress to send him sensible and effective bills
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/04/29/bush.economy/index.html

Bush hits all-time low on handling of the economy (ThinkProgress 4/29/08)
In a NBC/WSJ poll to be released tomorrow, "only 21% approve of President Bush's job in handling the economy — his lowest number ever as president on that question." Additionally, the poll found that 81% of Americans "believe the US is currently in a recession."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/04/29/bush-hits-all-time-low-on-handling-of-the-economy/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Senior Iraqi government official assassinated in Baghdad (AP 4/29/08)
An Iraqi official says a roadside bomb has killed a senior government official in northern Baghdad.
http://talkingpointsmemo.com/news/2008/04/senior_iraqi_government_offici.php

Iraq budget cut by $171M after oil-profit windfall (CNN 4/29/08)
Congress demands Iraq spend its recent oil windfall on reconstruction projects
U.S. to seek "full funding from the government of Iraq," says Defense secretary
"I think it's time to take the training wheels off," says Sen. Mel Martinez
Remaining $439 million reconstruction project funds should continue, says Gates
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/04/29/iraq.reconstruction/index.html

Obama strongly denounces former pastor (AP 4/29/08)
Candidate calls Wright's recent comments 'wrong and destructive'
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24371827/

IE WATCH

Outside groups compete for political ad time (AP 4/29/08)
By Jim Kuhnhenn,
For months, Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton have dominated political advertising. Increasingly, they are not alone.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/2008-04-29-2187728261_x.htm

Brock's Third-Party Group Launches "McCain Fact-Check" Site (TPM 4/29/08)
By Greg Sargent
Progressive Media U.S.A., the third-party pro-Dem group that has vowed to raise $40 million to target McCain in advance of the general election, is already feeling the influence of its new leader, Media Matters' David Brock.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/04/brocks_thirdparty_group_launch.php

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Sara L. DuBois
Progressive Media USA
Sdubois@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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From: "Joshua Dorner" <jdorner@americanprogress.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/30/2012 8:18:54 AM
Subject: [big campaign] The Ultimate Viewer's Guide to Romney's Post-Truth Campaign

Good morning everyone,

If Paul Ryan's fact-free speech is any indication, Mitt Romney will be cranking the lies up to 11 tonight. In anticipation, we've put together a comprehensive list of Romney's most well-worn whoppers -- and why exactly they are not true.

Enjoy!

-Josh

http://thinkprogress.org/romney-facts-matter/

FACTS MATTER: The Ultimate Guide To Mitt Romney's Convention Speech

By **ThinkProgress** on Aug 30, 2012 at 10:36 am

Politicians from both parties twist facts or spin policy, but Mitt Romney's presidential campaign has had a particularly strained relationship with the truth, repeating false claims with impunity — even after fact checkers, mainstream media organizations, and blogs have all debunked their assertions.

From claiming that "Obama gutted the welfare work requirement" to insisting that his own policies won't deregulate Wall Street, Romney has led a post-truth campaign. A top adviser even admitted earlier this week, "We're not going to let our campaign be dictated by fact-checkers."

ThinkProgress has compiled a Viewer's Guide comparing what Romney says with the facts:

Romney On His Tax Plan || **Romney On Wall Street** || **Romney On The Budget**
Romney On Bain Capital || **Romney On Obamacare** || **Romney On Medicare**
Romney On Women's Health || **Romney On Energy** || **Romney On Global Warming**
Romney On The Auto Bailout || **Romney On Welfare Reform** || **Romney On Food Stamps**
Romney On Security || **Romney On LGBT rights**

Romney on His Tax Plan



"The highest income people will continue to pay the largest share of the tax burden and middle-income taxpayers, under my plan… So, *we're not going to reduce taxes for high-income people*." [CBS, 8/12/2012]

> REALITY: Under Romney's plan, **someone in the richest 1 percent of Americans would receive a $60,000 tax cut, while someone in the richest 0.1 percent would receive a $264,000 tax cut**. Even under the most generous assumptions about the elimination of tax deductions — so assuming Romney eliminates loopholes and deductions in the most progressive way possible — millionaires still receive an $87,000 tax cut, while the middle-class sees their taxes go up. [Tax Policy Center, 2/23/2012 ; Tax Policy Center, 8/1/2012]

"The people in the middle, the hard-working Americans, are the people who need a break, and that is why *I focused my tax cut right there*." [GOP debate, 10/11/2011]

> REALITY: A Tax Policy Center analysis of Romney plan showed that — even under the most generous assumptions — **Romney's plan raises taxes on everyone making less than $200,000**. Middle-class families would see their

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taxes go up by $2,000 per year. [Tax Policy Center, 8/1/2012]

"*The U.S. economy's 35 percent corporate tax rate is among the highest in the industrial world*, reducing the ability of our nation's businesses to compete in the global economy and to invest and create jobs at home," Romney's website reads. [MittRomney.com, 8/16/2012]

REALITY: While America has the second-highest corporate tax rate on paper, once all of the loopholes, credits, and deductions are accounted for, its corporate tax rate is the second-lowest in the developed world. **The U.S. raises far less in corporate taxes as a percentage of its economy than other nations**, including the UK and Canada. Many of America's most profitable corporations pay literally no taxes. [Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/30/2011, 4/9/2012 ; Center for American Progress, 6/10/2011

Romney on Wall Street



"Look, *no one is talking about deregulating Wall Street*." [ThinkProgress , 8/15/2012]

REALITY: **Romney has called for the full repeal of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act, the first major overhaul of the nation's financial regulatory system since the Great Depression**, and while he has supported a "streamlined regulatory framework," the only specific regulations he mentions in his plan are already in Dodd-Frank. His own running mate is certainly talking about deregulating Wall Street: the House GOP budget authored by Ryan dismantles key parts of the law. [ThinkProgress, 8/25/2011 , 8/13/2012 , 8/15/2012]

"*The rate of regulatory burden has increased four-fold since Obama has become president*. Four times the amount of regulation coming out per year as in the past. And so businesses say, 'gosh, I'm not sure I want to invest in America.'" [ThinkProgress, 12/12/2011]

REALITY: **Obama approved 613 new rules during his first 33 months, 4.7 percent fewer than Bush did in the same timespan**. The campaign initially claimed that "the governor misspoke" in levying the charge, but Romney keeps using it. [NPR, 9/9/2011 , Bloomberg, 10/25/2011]

Romney on the Budget



Romney claims that, as governor of Massachusetts, "*we didn't just slow the rate of growth of our government, we actually cut it*." [CBN, 5/14/2012]

REALITY: **Government spending increased by an average of 5 percent** per year during Romney's tenure in office. [Politifact, 5/21/2012]

President Obama has "*racked up as much debt as almost all of the other presidents combined*." [NYT, 12/16/2011]

REALITY: When Obama took office, the national debt stood at $10.626 trillion. When Romney made this claim in December 2011, the national debt was a bit over $15 trillion. **That $4.5 trillion increase is nowhere near as much debt as all the other presidents combined. Even if you just consider the portion of the debt that is owed to private investors, as Romney's campaign has pointed to, the numbers still don't add up**. When Obama took office this figure was at $6.307 trillion and had increased by approximately $4 trillion when Romney made this claim. [NYT, 12/16/2011]

"*The President's vision is one of a larger and larger government, taking more and more,* and trying to provide more and more to you…It takes us on a road to Europe." [Toledo Blade,8/25/2012]

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REALITY: Romney is calling for the sort of austerity that's been adopted in Europe, which has unnecessarily blunted economic growth. In fact, **the European governments that have embraced austerity the most have seen the largest contractions in their economies**. The U.S. is doing better in terms of economic growth than both the Eurozone and the United Kingdom, both of which have adopted the kind of heavy spending cuts Romney favors. [ThinkProgress, 7/26/2012 , 5/7/2012]

"*What the president is proposing is therefore a massive tax increase on job creators and on small business*. Small businesses are overwhelmingly being taxed not at a corporate rate but at the individual tax rate. So successful small businesses will see their taxes go up dramatically, and that will kill jobs." [Los Angeles Times, 7/9/2012]

REALITY: President Obama's plan to allow the Bush tax cuts to expire on income in excess of $250,000 would affect exceedingly few small businesses. **The Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that the expiration would affect only three percent of individuals with any business income, from a business large or small**. [Joint Committee on Taxation, 7/12/2010]

"I will remove the crippling uncertainty that is *preventing businesses from hiring*." [Real Clear Politics, 8/14/12]

REALITY: Several surveys and economic analyses have shown that there is no truth to the claim that uncertainty is preventing businesses from hiring; **they're not hiring because they simply don't have enough customers with the economy still recovering**. Conservative economist Bruce Bartlett said, "regulatory uncertainty is a canard invented by Republicans that allows them to use current economic problems to pursue an agenda supported by the business community year in and year out." [Daily Kos, 2/15/2012 ; Wall Street Journal,7/17/2011 ; Economic Policy Institute, 9/27/2011 ; ThinkProgress, 10/4/2011]

Romney on Bain Capital

"I'm very happy in my former life; *we helped create over 100,000 new jobs*," Romney says, suggesting that he helped create more jobs than President Obama. [ThinkProgress, 1/4/2012]

REALITY: **The 100,000 statistic is a cherry-picked jobs number from a few companies that did well after they were bought by Bain and "does not include job losses** from other companies with which Bain Capital was involved — and are based on current employment figures, not the period when Romney worked at Bain." In January, the Romney campaign finally conceded that Romney could not have created a total of 100,000 jobs at Bain, admitting, "This tally obviously does not include job losses from other companies with which Bain Capital was involved — and are based on current employment figures, not the period when Romney worked at Bain." The campaign has since downgraded the number of jobs to "thousands." [Washington Post, 1/4/2012]

Romney on Obamacare

Romney claims repealing Obamacare *"saves" $90 billion over the next four years*. [ThinkProgress, 11/4/2011]

REALITY: **Repealing Obamacare would increase the federal budget deficit by about $109 billion from 2013 to 2022**, the Congressional Budget Office concludes. "Deficits would be increased under H.R. 6079 because the net savings from eliminating the insurance coverage provisions would be more than offset by the combination of other spending increases and revenue reductions," the budget office says. [Congressional Budget Office, 7/24/2012]

"Obamacare *adds trillions to our deficits* and to our national debt." [The Hill, 6/28/2012]

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REALITY: According to the Congressional Budget Office, **Obamacare reduces the deficit by $124 billion over 10 years** and even more after that. [Politifact,6/28/2012]

After the Supreme Court upheld the individual mandate, Romney declared, "And while I agreed with the dissent, that's taken over by the fact that *the majority of the Court said it is a tax, and therefore it is a tax*." [CBS, 7/4/2012]

REALITY: Romney instituted a similar requirement in Massachusetts and insisted as governor that the penalty is a way to discourage free-riders. Incidentally, **Obamacare will provide millions of families with large tax credits to help purchase coverage** and only about 1 percent of Americans who could afford health care but don't buy insurnace would pay the fine, which would average about $600. [CAP, 7/5/2012]

Romney on Medicare



"And my campaign has made it very clear: *the President's cuts of $716 billion to Medicare, those cuts are going to be restored* if I become President and Paul Ryan becomes Vice President." [CBS, 8/15/2012]

REALITY: Obama is not robbing Medicare. In fact, **the billions in Obamacare savings will slow the growth of Medicare over the next decade** by eliminating overpayments to private insurers, reforming provider payments to encourage greater efficiency, tying reimbursements to improvements in economic productivity, and reducing fraud and abuse. As a result, the program's trust fund will remain solvent until 2024. If Romney restores these savings — which Ryan included in his own budget — he would hasten Medicare's insolvency to 2016. [Politifact, 8/15/2012 ; NYT 8/22/2012]

Romney says that he and Ryan "*want to make sure that we preserve and protect Medicare*." [CBS, 8/13/2012]

REALITY: The claim that "premium support" will save Medicare for future generations is highly misleading. **The federal government will spend less on the program because future will have to pay more**. [CAP, 8/24/2012]

"*Nothing changes for current seniors or those nearing retirement*," Romney's website claims. [MittRomney.com, 8/30/2012]

REALITY: Here is how Ryan's Medicare plan will affect current seniors: 1) by repealing Obamacare, the 16 million seniors receiving preventive benefits without deductibles or co-pays and are saving $3.9 billion on prescription drugs will see a cost increase, 2) **"premium support" will increase premiums for existing beneficiaries** as private insurers lure healthier seniors out of the traditional Medicare program. [CAP, 8/24/2012]

Romney on Women's Health



Romney claimed that under Obamacare, "*the Catholic Church had to provide for insurance that provided contraceptives*, sterilization, morning after pills to the employees of the Church." [ThinkProgress, 2/21/2012]

REALITY: **All houses of worship, including the Catholic Church, are specifically exempt** from the rule requiring employers to provide preventive services like contraception to their employees. And for religiously affiliated organizations, the insurance company will be required to offer the coverage free of charge and the employer will not pay for it. [ThinkProgress, ">3/23/2012]

Romney argued that the contraception mandate would *force employers to offer "abortive pills" free of charge*. [ThinkProgress, 5/8/2012]

REALITY: **Forms of contraception like hormonal birth control pills and the morning after pill do not work as "abortive" medication**. These benefits will only prevent a pregnancy before fertilization. [ThinkProgress, 3/2/

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2012]

Romney on Energy

Obama has *"already taken over" the energy industry*, and is "waging a war" on coal and oil. [LA Times, 8/14/2012]

> REALITY: In the last four years, **oil production has exploded, hitting an eight-year high as oil exports shrunk to less than 50 percent for the first time since 1949**. According to the Mine Safety and Health Administration, coal industry employment has grown to reach its highest level since 1996, up 6.7 percent in West Virginia, and 2.3 percent in Pennsylvania. Coal layoffs and shuttered plants Romney points to can be blamed on economic forces, not regulations, as utilities move toward attractive investment in cheap natural gas. [Charleston Gazzette, 11/18/2011; West Virginia Center on Budget & Policy, 5/12/2012 ; EIA,11/30/2011 ; Climate Progress, 6/23/2012]

"An independent inspector general looked at [the Solyndra] investment and concluded that *the administration had steered money to friends and family and campaign contributors*." [Fortune,6/4/2012]

> REALITY: No investigation of Solyndra has ever found any "smoking guns."**Another independent review of all Department Of Energy loan programs by Herb Allison found no wrongdoing**. CNN Money reported that Romney thoroughly mischaracterized the Solyndra facts, and "to make the other guy look bad." A majority of the loan-application process for Solyndra occurred under the Bush administration. [Fortune, 3/27/2012 ; Politico, 5/29/2012]

Romney says he would would end tax credits for wind energy to create "*a level playing field on which all sources of energy can compete on their merits*." [Des Moines Register, 8/5/2012]

> REALITY: **Romney has no interest in closing $4 billion tax loopholes that benefit oil and gas companies**. His tax plan even doubles the $2.4 billion the five largest oil companies already receive in taxpayer dollars. While the Congressional Research Service notes that closing oil's loopholes would have little to no impact on production or gas prices, wind tax credits has been essential to spurring billions in private investment in the relatively young industry. [American Progress, 7/26/2012 ; CRS, 5/11/2012 ; Energy.gov,8/14/2012]

"*[Obama] rejected the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have dramatically increased the supply of Canadian oil to the U.S. market*, and now Canada plans to send that oil to China instead," Romney's energy plan says, promising to approve the project. [MittRomney.com, 8/23/2012]

> REALITY: **The Keystone XL pipeline would ship tar sands crude across the country to be processed at Gulf Coast refineries and sold on the international market. Therefore, the pipeline would do virtually nothing to make America more energy independent.** In some cases, it would actually raise the price of gasoline in the Midwest because the pipeline would surpass refineries in the region. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office recently concluded that the only way to protect Americans from oil and gas price shocks is to become more efficient and use less oil, not increase consumption. Finally, construction and operation of Keystone XL would only create 6,000 jobs, according to figures from TransCanada, the company building the project – not 20,000 as Romney and other proponents have claimed. [Washington Post, 3/2/2012 ; Congressional Budget Office, 5/9/2012 ; Inside Climate News, 1/18/2012]

Romney on Global Warming

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"My view is that *we don't know what's causing climate change on this planet*. And the idea of spending trillions and trillions of dollars to try to reduce CO2 emissions is not the right course for us." [ThinkProgress, 10/28/2011]

REALITY: **97 percent of published, leading scientists agree that carbon pollution is causing climate change.** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has documented in exhaustive detail that global warming is 90 percent likely to be due to man-made greenhouse pollution. And a Koch-funded scientist has reversed himself, convinced by his own data that "humans are almost entirely the cause" of global warming, and even finding the IPCC didn't go far enough. [NYT, 7/30/2012]

Romney on the Auto Bailout

"I pushed the idea of a managed bankruptcy, and finally when that was done and help was given, the companies got back on their feet. *So I'll take a lot of credit for the fact that this industry's come back*." [The Hill, 5/8/2012]

REALITY: **Romney claimed credit for the outcome of a process that played out in direct opposition to his preferred game plan.** In a 2008 op-ed, Romney called for managed bankruptcy, but later opposed the government's bailout, claiming that unions were not forced to make sufficient sacrifices. Auto industry insiders have called Romney's preferred approach "fantasy." [CNBC, 6/12/2012]

Romney on Welfare Reform

"Under Obama's plan, *you wouldn't have to work and wouldn't have to train for a job*. They just send you your welfare check," a Romney campaign ad says. [CBS, 8/7/2012]

REALITY: The **administration's welfare waiver initiative would strengthen work requirements by empowering states to innovate on strategies that could move 20 percent more of the caseload into sustainable employment**. As the government's directive announcing the initiative notes, "The Secretary is only interested in approving waivers if the state can explain in a compelling fashion why the proposed approach may be a more efficient or effective means to promote employment entry, retention, advancement, or access to jobs that offer opportunities for earnings and advancement that will allow participants to avoid dependence on government benefits." Republican and Democratic governors — and even Romney and Paul Ryan — have all promoted flexibility before Obama embraced it. [HHS, 7/12/2012]

Romney on Food Stamps

"What unfortunately happens is with all the multiplicity of federal programs, you have massive overhead, with *government bureaucrats in Washington administering all these programs, very little of the money that's actually needed by those that really need help*, those that can't care for themselves, actually reaches them," Romney said of the food stamp program. [MSNBC, 1/8/12]

REALITY: **The food stamp program has relatively little overhead administrative costs — about 15.8 cents on the dollar.** That's about an average for the cost of a government-administered program. Plus, as the Washington Post points out, "That means almost 85 cents gets to the people who need the help." [Brookings, 3/2008 ; Washington Post, 1/8/2012]

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Romney on Security



"*He went around the world and apologized for America*," said Mitt Romney, reiterating a common Romney campaign and right-wing talking point. [9/22/11]

> REALITY: The Washington Post's fact checker gave this statement "four Pinocchios," saying, "**Take it from us: The apology tour never happened**." PolitiFact.com also took aim at Romney's false claim, giving it a "Pants on Fire" rating. "We found not a single, full-throated apology" in Obama's speeches while abroad, PolitiFact says, adding, "**we think it's a ridiculous charge**." [The Washington Post 12/10/11 ; PolitiFact.com 9/22/11]

President Obama alone is *responsible for the $500 billion in military spending sequester*. [Chicago Tribune, 5/19/2012]

> REALITY: In fact, under the Budget Control Act, **many Republicans voted in favor of the spending sequester**. 28 Republican senators and 174 Republican members of the House backed the measure. [ThinkProgress, 5/20/2012; Roll Call, 8/2/2011 ; Roll Call, 8/1/2011]

In an op-ed attacking Obama's Iran policy and ratcheting up the war rhetoric, Romney claimed that *the Islamic Republic has a "nuclear bomb program."* [Washington Post, 3/5/2012]

> REALITY: Top American officials, the International Atomic Energy Agency and U.S. and Israeli intelligence all recently said that while Iran may be moving toward a nuclear weapons capability, **the regime has not made a decision to build a bomb**. [ThinkProgress, 3/5/2012]

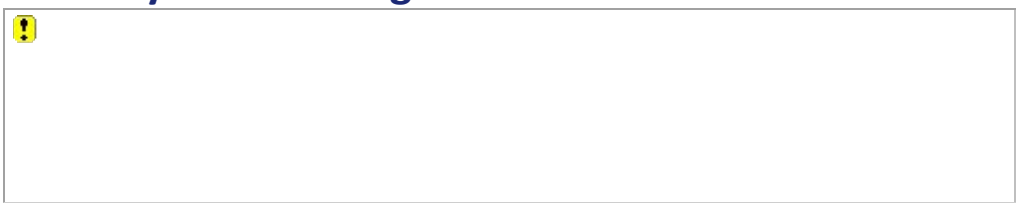
Obama has *thrown Israel "under the bus."* [Bloomberg, 7/3/2012]

> REALITY: Obama has ramped up security cooperation with Israel, providing specialized bombs that the Bush administration had once refused to hand off, funding Israel's "Iron Dome" missile defense system to the tune of $275 million, and approving the billions of dollars in defense aid packages passed by Congress every year. Israel's top leaders are immensely appreciative — Defense Minister Ehud Barak has said, "**this administration under President Obama is doing in regard to our security more than anything that I can remember in the past**," President Shimon Peres claimed that "When I look at the record of President Obama concerning the major issue security I think it's a highly satisfactory record from Israeli point of view," and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Obama merited "a badge of honor" for diplomatic support during the Palestinian statehood bid at the United Nations. [Newsweek, 9/23/2011 ; Arutz Sheva 7, 5/17/2012 ; CNN, 7/30/2012 ; CNN,7/31/2012 ; Politico, 9/21/2011]

Romney claimed Obama "went before the United Nations" and "*said nothing about thousands of rockets being rained in on Israel from the Gaza Strip*." [CNN, 1/26/2012]

> REALITY: In his 2011 U.N. address, Obama said, "Israel is surrounded by neighbors that have waged repeated wars against it. **Israel's citizens have been killed by rockets fired at their houses and suicide bombs on their buses**." The 2009 speech also decried rocket fire falling on the Israeli town of Sderot, saying "We must remember that the greatest price of this conflict is not paid by us. It is paid by the Israeli girl in Sderot who closes her eyes in fear that a rocket will take her life in the night. It is paid by the Palestinian boy in Gaza who has no clean water and no country to call his own." [White House Transcript,9/21/2011 ; New York Times, 9/23/2009]

Romney on LGBT Rights



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Romney claims that he "*fully supports the rights of gay individuals and homosexuals*." [NBC,12/16/2007

REALITY: Romney often makes this claim in the same sentence as he expresses his opposition to marriage equality. He also **opposes federal nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people**. [Salt Lake Tribune, 10/7/2010]

Romney says same-sex couples have a "legitimate interest" in adoption and "*obviously, that's their right*." [Boston Globe, 3/14/2006]

REALITY: Though Romney "acknowledges" that some states recognize same-sex adoptions, he has said multiples times that same-sex parents are harmful to children, telling Religious Right groups in 2006 that "**the price of same-sex marriage is paid by the children**." [CNS News, 10/12/2011 ; RightWingWatch.org,5/15/2012]

"We're not going to force people of faith to violate their faith in order to carry out their profession," Romney said, explaining that Catholic Charities in Massachusetts "had to *get out of adoptions because they would not, under their faith, place children in the homes of same-sex couples*." [ThinkProgress, 9/5/2011]

REALITY: Catholic Charities received public funds but refused to place children with same-sex couples in spite of Massachusetts' inclusive law. **It could have continued making this distinction by continuing to operate on private funding only, but it voluntarily chose to shut down instead**. Romney believes the government should subsidize religious groups even if they discriminate against gays. [Palmetto Freedom Forum, 9/5/2011]

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/15/2008 5:32:33 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: Palin Rally in Dover, NH 10/15/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately our tracker was not allowed to enter this "closed" event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- Again brings up Americans' "anger" and "frustration" about Wall St, Washington elite, lobbyists and "unconscionable voter fraud" and says mccain will "turn that anger into action"
- Has incorporated her experiences with Trig into stump speech, says "there are the world's standards of protection and you can read about them in the magazines and on TV and there are god's standards, and they are the final measure"
- Insists McCain-Palin pro growth, "pro-private sector" agenda will get economy back on track

Dover, NH: Palin Rally 10/15/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- 25 demonstrators (anti-Palin), incl. guy dressed up in a polar bear suit with a sign that asked "Do you know the real Sarah Palin?"; other signs read "Bush with Lipstick," etc
    - According to one demonstrator, they were (nicely) told to move, as were all lingering people on sidewalk, by Secret Service - reason given that buses were coming
- Venue (high school gym) 800-person capacity -- 300 people were not allowed into venue, were placed on adjacent baseball field where they could listen to rally through speakers (a lot of ppl who were told this left)
- Rep. Jeb Bradley intros John Sununu
    - lets first pay tribute to Cpl. scott diamond who paid ultimate price of sacrifice for nation - may he RIP and god bless -- let's pay tribute to ppl like Sen. Jack Barnes and all who have proudly defended the liberties and made our country so great - and while we're saying TY, let's take note of PeaceGreeters who faithfully are at every flight
    - let's welcome "the leader of the 'J Team'" working w/ Jennifer Horn and ? and who helped me become member of Congress in 2002 when I was proud to take his place and who, like everyone in this room, is working on the most important election of our time to make sure JM is in the Oval Office with his partner Sarah Palin -- praises Sununu
- John Sununu
    - im the youngest member of Senate, i'm not the most experienced, but I do have more experience than Barack Obama
    - Obama/Biden are classic Big Govt liberals vs. McCain/Palin put their trust in you
    - Big Govt liberals like Obama and Biden [someone yells "socialist"] defended Freddie and Fannie -- I wrote the legislation w/ Chuck Hagel 5 YEARS AGO to rein them in and McCain supported it - every GOP voted for it, every Dem on Banking Cttee, Big Govt liberals like Obama, opposed it
    - Big Govt liberals like Obama and Biden fought to keep you off the Internet - we GOP fought taxes on it
- Palin 40 min late to start rally - 25 min wait between last introducer and her arrival

Speech Highlights

- TY so much for warm welcome to Dover - while we were late on the tarmac and i apologize, the guy on the tarmac handed me a lil piece of granite and ill keep it for the rest of campaign - i feel right at home in HS basketball court - and when we were driving in, God has blessed you so richly w/ beautiful state and beautiful ppl too - before we get going i want to take a moment to recognize those who have secured our frdm - those who have served, will you raise your hand and let us honor you? sincerely we TY for your service and sacrifice
- i also want to take moment to honor Cpl. Scott Diamond, from NH, he died yesterday - i know you join w me in sending our thoughts and prayers to that fam - god bless them
- we are just 3 wks away from election day - w/ your help we'll win war on terror and the econ war we're in - we'll get econ turned back aroudn b/c we'll take maverick, patriot of Senate and put him in WH
- i know we can count on NH b/c youre a lot like AK - we all love moose-hunting, we enjoy great lands and abundant wildlife and good fishing and we both take seriously your state's motto, i think it should be ours too: live free or die
- and here we ahve that love and support for mccain b/c he always puts his country first
- last jan the critics had counted mccain out and said he wouldnt win primary here - you turned the underdog into the victor, mccain has history of overcoming the odds in this state and thats what you can help us do on nov 4. are you ready to help carry this state to victory? [cheers] are you ready to make mccain next POTUS? are you ready for us to get there and shake things up
- so much at stake: econ in crisis, retirements at risk, jobs vanishing - now more than ever we need someone ready to lead on day 1, a man w/

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courage and judgment and truthfulness and a bold plan to take country in new direction - mccain will lead us there

- all across america. right now there's a lot of anger. there's frustration and anger about the insider dealing of lobbyists and anger at the greed and the corruption on wall street and anger about the arrogance of the washington elite and anger about the "unconscionable voter fraud" that's going on. and with serious reforms to change washington and wall street, john mccain is going to turn that anger into action.
- now, yesterday john mccain set forth a plan to help those who have been hardest hit by our cris. now, the pension and the security plan that he talked about yesterday, that will get our country through a time of testing and get this economy on the right track. on this plan we will help american families keep their homes and save failing neighborhoods and bring stability to the housing market.
- predatory lenders had so taken advantage of hard working american families and now too many of those americans are struggling under the weight of the wrong mortgage. we're going to work with them to get them a fixed rate mortgage that will help them keep their homes. it is not a handout but a hand up that will help stabilize the housing market.
- right now there are a lot of retirees and good folks close to retirement age that are worried about their loss of savings in this crisis. they're worried about those investments that they had worked so hard for and trusted other people to invest wisely and manage that money. and only john mccain has a plan to change the tax code immediately to help protect them so americans can keep money in their retirement accounts and rebuild their savings. he's the only one with a plan to do this.
- so instead of just giving more billions of tax dollars to the wall street bankers and the brokers who got us into this mess, john has a plan to help america's workers and small business owners because they're the ones who make our economy run, they're the ones who are deserving that help from the federal government, not the guys that got us in this mess. so john and i will also bring tax relief to every american so every business can have the opportunity to grow, to thrive to, prosper, business owners so you can hire more people. that's how jobs are created. that's how jobs are created, is to allow you to hire more people. allowing you to keep more of what you produce and earn and reinvest that then into growing your business.
- we're going to eliminate the unfair tax on unemployment benefits also because those folks who are sincerely and aggressively really looking for work, they shouldn't have to worry about paying yet another tax to the federal government.
- john has the backbone too to confront the $10 trillion debt that the federal government has run up. we will balance the federal budget by the end of our term. we must do this because the federal government is in a hole. what do you do if you're in a hole and you don't want to be there? the first thing you do is stop digging. we have dug ourselves in a hole.
- the first thing we have to do as president, john mccain will impose a spending freeze to cover all but the most vital functions of government like worker retraining and taking care of our veterans.
- in this great community here in new hampshire and others just like it across the u.s., all that working people are asking for is for government to be on their side, be on our side so that we can have a good job in our own hometown. and with lower taxes and a pro growth agenda, pro private sector agenda and spending under control finally in washington we're going to get this economy moving again. yes.
- americans cannot afford another tax increase, not at this time. barack obama voted 94 times for higher taxes. 94 times he had the opportunity to be on the right side of the issue, on your side. instead, 94 times he voted to support higher taxes even on hard-working middleclass americans, individuals making $42,000 a year, increasing taxes. no.
- taxes are already too high, and he wants to raise them. and government already spends too much, and he now wants to spend almost a trillion dollars more in new government spending. but he won't bother to tell you where that money is going to come from from all these new proposals. america is deep in debt, and he is going to get us deeper in debt. we cannot afford this at this time. we cannot afford this. folks, in times like these, the last thing we need is a tax increase.
- you know, i hear that here in dover there's home to two kinds of people, the fine people of new hampshire and then the fine people of massachusetts who got sick of paying all those taxes. i think the rest of the country is looking at this area and saying, okay, what is it that new hampshire wants? kind of a microcosm in this state of the rest of the U.S.
- the people in new hampshire, and i know people back home in alaska, they know that you don't have to tax people that much if you would cut down down the federal government's expenditures. we know that to get our economy moving again we must cut that wasteful spending and balance the budget and keep taxes low so that americans can keep more of what they produce, what they earn, so they can reinvest in their priorities. you know best. you know better than government knows, making decisions for you on where your money should go? you know best. and john mccain and i trust you.
- new hampshire, it's very nice to be here because as you showed in the primary, you just get it. and it's nice to be here with a group of people who understand what the federal government's proper role should be and how the private sector should be allowed to grow and to thrive, to prosper, our families, too. and i know you agree american can't afford another big spender in the white house. and that's why we need to elect john mccain the next president of the united states.
- as a senator, remember, he's been the maverick, patriot there in the senate. john mccain has confronted the corrupt ways of washington. he hasn't been part of the problem. he's confronted the wasteful spending and abuses of power. and as president he's going to end those abuses, whatever it takes.
- john mccain, too, he and i were the only ones in this race with track records that actually prove we can reform. it hasn't been just talking the talk. we've walked the walk. walking the walk. and we've obviously ruffled a few feathers along the way. you've got to do what you've got to do to serve the people who hire you. as mayor of a city up there in alaska, here's what i did to improve my track record.
- i eliminated personal property taxes and i eliminated small business inventory taxes. those things that i could do to literally be able to hang that, we're open for business sign outside of our city door. letting businesses know we wanted you in there so that our community would be a better community. our families, even more importantly, would have tools, would have resources to grow and thrive and prosper. it is small business that is the backbone of this country.
- as gov, we cut state fuel taxes and cut wasteful spending
- we got back to basics and put govt back on side of ppl. in mccain-palin admin, we'll never forget, we'll be there working for you, the ppl of america.
- john and i have a couple of missions. first, set country firmly on path toward energy indep. w'ell develop new energy sources and find better ways to tap into what we've got. drilling and coal and nuclear. we'll create thousands of jobs for americans by being energy indep. when price was as high as it was in summer, we were circulating $700b to other countries, incl. those that dont like us
- biden last month told a voter "we're not supporting clean coal" he's called offshore drilling "raping" OCS - of course theyve flipflopped recently in debates, we just want some straight talk, give us some Straight talk -- when they keep saying 'no' to energy solutions, americans will have choice in nov.
- whehter biden approves it or not, mccain and i will develop clean coal technology in america. there is more clean coal potential in america than there is oil in saudi arabia. clean coal will create 30k new jobs. we'll drill for billions of gallons of oil we have here. we'll drill here and drill now. drill baby drill. you bet. drill baby drill and mine baby mine. its dangerous for us to be reliant on foreign sources of energy, incl. form countries who want to use energy as weapon and can cut off supplies at any time. dangerous. and when we have these domestic supplies we can tap into.
- another mission that he'd like me to focus on, and im so honored: help fams who have kids w/ special needs. an issue that has touched my heart for yrs and now todd and i have special added perspective w/ birth of Trig [cheers] we join many fams that know that some of lifes

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greatest joys come w/ unique challenges. we'll make sure govt on their side. Gov. Casey was once asked how you treat the most vulnerable, and he said you put them first in line. he understood that we need to show them . what ive learned from Trig is everyone belongs in circle of protection and every child has something to contribute , there are the world's standards of protection and you can read about them in the magazines and on TV and there are god's standards, and they are the final measure. as gov, i secured more funding for kids w/ special needs in public schools. ill make sure they have an advocate in the WH.

- in this campaign, for a campaign that says this is all about the future, they're talking a lot about the past b/c that's where you find the balme. mccain and i are joining you looking to future. theyre looking to past b/c theyre trying to make you think they're running against Bush, more of the same. that strategy, thank the lord, is wearing really thin. america knows mccain is his own man.
- from enemy prison camp to halls of congress, mccain has always put self aside adn country first and fought for you
- our opponents give speech after speech, itd sure be nice if just once he said he wanted america to win
- mccain served country in uniform for 22 yrs, 5.5 yrs as POW, he knows how to face adversity, overcome challenges, he knows how to win the war. as mom of troop, exactly the kind of man i want as Commander-in-Chief
- on nov 4th, gosh its gonna come down to what we believe in. we believe in what reagan believed in: fwd mvmt of frdm and not constant expansion of govt, govt too often the problem, we must trust the ppl, we'll fight whoever we must fight to put govt back on your sdie, we believe best in america is not concentrated all in DC, it's found here in the goodness and kindness of every day ppl who grow our food and fight our wars and protect our frdms. we believe in the promise of america. we believe america is not the problem - we dont have to apologize for being americans. [sarah! sarah!]
- truly america is not the problem, its the solution. its the shining city on a hill. he's a real leader, he inspires w/ heroic and trustworthy deeds adn not just words.
- our opponents will go on and on about how they'll "fight for you" - since my RM isnt here to say it for himself and he wouldnt say it anyway, there's only 1 man in this race who has ever really fought for you and the only man w/ courage to go on fighting for you. pls go on w/ what you did in primary and help us win this. god bless you and god bless america.

--

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/7/2015 7:52:03 AM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: United States calls for Flexibility on Greece

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STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Transatlantic Take

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United States calls for Flexibility on Greece

Michael Leigh July 7, 2015

BRUSSELS—For the United States, Greece is a valued NATO ally and a land of relative stability, between the faltering Balkans, North Africa, and the Middle East. Its strategic importance throughout the Mediterranean has increased following the failure of the Arab uprisings and the falling-out of two U.S. allies, Turkey and Israel. Greece's cooperation is crucial in counter-terrorism and in efforts to cope with the flow of refugees from Syria and the Horn of Africa. It has become a security partner for Israel, a relationship reflected in growing links between the Greek and Jewish communities in the United States.

The United States has an interest in Europe's drive for greater energy security and diversification of supply away from Russia. Greece aspires to an important role in Europe's energy security through its own offshore exploration for oil and gas and potential future production and through new interconnectors to the Balkans and up into central Europe.

Overall, the "Europeanization" of Greece has saved it from the tribulations of its Balkan neighbors. Much would be lost for the Greek people, the region, the EU, and the United States if Greece became a failed state in an increasingly troubled neighborhood. Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts to seduce wayward European states might then have greater success...

FULL ARTICLE

Sir Michael Leigh is senior fellow at The German Marshall Fund of the United States.

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/23/2015 12:45:22 PM
Subject:	RE: Daily Media Report 6.23.15

That is the right question.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 7:42 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Fwd: Daily Media Report 6.23.15

Why is Jake Tapper such a dick?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Jun 23, 2015 3:45 PM
Subject: Daily Media Report 6.23.15
To: "HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com >, "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, "Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com >, "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, "Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc:

National:

-- Report on how presidential candidates were talking about the Charleston church shooting; reported that HRC was having a discussion about race near Ferguson, Missouri; showed footage of HRC talking about race in Missouri today; reported that HRC addressed segregation in schools in America; panel with Michael Eric Dyson and Charles Ogletree; Dyson said what HRC was doing is "exceptionally good" because she was talking about structural realities; Ogletree said he appreciated that HRC would move beyond the issues and have a deep discussion about race; played footage of HRC talking about the Confederate flag. MSNBC's The Ed Show, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Michael Eric Dyson Charles Ogletree HRC race talk.mp4

-- Discussion about the SC Confederate flag controversy; Eric Bolling said he had a problem with who was weighing in on the controversy; Bolling mentioned HRC said she was against the flag in 2007 when she ran for POTUS; Bolling said HRC was in the White House (sic) as First Lady when WJC signed a bill in Arkansas to create the top star on the Arkansas flag that was a hat tip to the Confederacy; Bolling asked where HRC was then. Fox News' The Five , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Eric Bolling on WJC and the Confederate flag.mp4

-- Discussion about how GOP contenders responded to the SC Confederate flag controversy; panel with SE Cupp and Bill Burton; Cupp mentioned that HRC has the added burden of explaining to voters why Democratic policies over the last seven years helped blacks while by almost every metric life for blacks has gotten worse. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, SE Cupp on HRC and black voters.mp4

-- Roundtable discussion about South Carolina getting closer to moving the Confederate flag off the State Capitol grounds; panel included Nick Confessore; Alex Wagner read an excerpt from HRC's Missouri speech, "We can't hide from hard truths on race. We have to name them, own them, and change them;" Wagner reported that HRC has been speaking to young people, people of color; Wagner said it would seem that the Confederate flag would be a good issue for HRC to take up; Confessore said he didn't think the flag would last long as an issue for HRC's campaign, said HRC's platform on social problems would be what attracted young people and people of color to HRC's campaign; Wagner said the flag gives HRC a central locus to unite other issues she's been talking about behind. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 23, Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Nick Confessore on HRC and the Confederate flag.mp4

-- Roundtable discussion about South Carolina getting closer to moving the Confederate flag off the State Capitol grounds; panel included Jess McIntosh; McIntosh said she was concerned we would turn our focus to symbols and less on the effects of the evil institution of slavery; McIntosh briefly noted that HRC talked in her speech about everything from income inequality faced by African Americans to the higher rates of asthma among African American kids. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 23Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jess

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McIntosh on HRC and racial inequality effects.mp4

--Report on HRC and Race Relations: HRC talking about race relations at a church near Ferguson, MO. Jake Tapper questions whether she is genuine in her interest in race or whether she is just trying to gain support for her bid at the presidential nomination. CNN's The Lead with Jake Tapper . 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Jake Tapper on HRC.mp4

--Report on HRC in Missouri: Brooke Baldwin speaks about HRC giving a speech in Florissant, Missouri. Clips of HRC giving her opinion about the Confederate flag as a symbol of racism that existed in our country in Florissant, MO. South Carolina is agreeing to debate on removal of the Confederate flag and no longer issuing the Confederate flag emblem on license plates and other items. CNN's CNN Newsroom with Brooke Baldwin.2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Brooke Baldwin on HRC speech.mp4

--Report on HRC's Poll Numbers: David Asman claims that HRC's poll numbers have not gone down despite her negative coverage. Asman claims that HRC may be in trouble with socialist, Bernie Sanders, pushing her more to the left. Fox's Fox After the Bell. 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, HRC poll numbers.mp4

--Report on HRC and Her Presidential Run So Far Compared to Nixon: Abby Huntsman claims that HRC has focused on speaking to the public in her campaign, but she has not focused on speaking to the media. For this reason, a new WSJ OP-ED has compared HRC to President Richard Nixon. In the OP-ED, Nixon and HRC both see enemies everywhere and is not a good campaigner. According to Evan Thomas, Nixon was shy and awkward, but fear of his enemies drew him into the White House. Thomas claims that HRC tries to manipulate the press, and it will not work because it did not work for Nixon. Nixon and HRC share personality flaws. Evan Thomas claims that she will have small scandals that will constantly come back to her. Thomas claims that she is not the person she positions herself as, and that she has a husband who has committed a number of scandals himself. Ari Melbur claims that it is not proactive to compare anyone to Nixon, and that HRC has not done anything that is relatable to Nixon's impeachment or wrongdoings while in office. Melbur claims that HRC has not done anything that could compare her to Nixon in a negative light. Evan Thomas claims that Nixon plays on fears, and that it is important to look at what Nixon did versus what he said and then compare to HRC. Thomas claims that he integrated Southern public schools. Thomas claims that Nixon would have taken the Confederate flag down. Nixon was pro affirmative action. Evan Thomas claims that when he governed, he was similar to HRC. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC compared to Nixon.mp4

--Report on HRC's Faults in Her Last Run for Presidency: Howard Fineman claim that HRC followed in the footsteps of WJC. Now, she is running as the heir of BHO's coalition. Fineman claims that now she is especially going after race as an issue to keep BHO's supporters. Fineman claims that HRC must appeal to racial justice, cultural justice, and social justice. Abby Huntsman asks whether Bernie Sanders pushing HRC to the left will cause people to vote for Jeb Bush, who is more moderate. Fineman claims that HRC will be more hesitant on economic and trade issues during the general election. Fineman claims that HRC's strategy is to be appealing through social issues and hesitant on economic issues. MSNBC's The Cycle .2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Fineman on HRC.mp4

--Report on HRC and the Dynasty Issue: Howard Fineman speaks about the dynasty issue. Fineman claims that the number one concern about politics is not dynasty politics but the money in politics. Fineman claims that the public is more worried about the huge floods of money coming into politics and corporations. Fineman claims that name recognition and name familiarity is generally a good starting point. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Dynasty.mp4

-- Report that HRC would speak in Missouri near the scene of the Michael Brown shooting; said HRC would participate in a community meeting; reported that an HFA statement said HRC's conversation would address the massacre in Charleston and broader issues around strengthening communities; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said HRC was leaning very far in on race; Seitz-Wald said this would be the third time HRC addressed race in a week, said this would be the keystone speech; Seitz-Wald said HRC was trying to repair some damage from 2008; Tamron Hall said HRC may be trying to repair some damage from her delay in commenting on Ferguson. MSNBC's News Nation . 2015.06.23, HRC in Missouri and race.mp4

-- Report on NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Anne Gearan and Alex Seitz-Wald; Gearan said the numbers were very good news for HRC; Gearan said as much as HFA's strategy had been criticized that something is working; Andrea Mitchell also noted that the numbers would tell HFA that their strategy was working for HRC. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports. 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC poll.mp4

-- Report on HRC's speech on Tuesday at a church near Ferguson; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said HRC was "leaning way in on race"; noted HRC was going to meet with local elected officials in a private meeting about an hour before her main event; noted two pastors would participate in HRC's main event, said that HFA

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officials told him that it was HRC's idea to do this; shifted into a report about the NBC/WSJ poll; ASW said HRC is talking about voting rights and criminal justice reform to get black voters to go to the polls. MSNBC's Live with Thomas Roberts, 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in MO.mp4

-- Report on the WSJ/NBC poll; angle is that HFA is trying to tamp down expectations as Bernie Sanders pulls in big crowds; Andrea Tantaros noted that Maria Cardona said she wouldn't be surprised if Sanders won Iowa or New Hampshire, said that was a sign HFA is trying to keep expectations low; Tantaros said HRC needed the base to think HRC didn't have the primary in the bag so they would show up for her; guest Taya Kyle said HRC was good at twisting the facts, said that HRC lacked morality; guest Charles Payne said HRC would be devastated if HRC lost Iowa or New Hampshire. Fox News' Outnumbered , 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC and reporters lash out.mp4

-- Report on BHO's decision to allow families to pay ransoms in international hostage situations; guest Taya Kyle; Kyle said HRC saying that people die in America every day was in the face of what it was like for the family member of a hostage; Kyle said if Chelsea was in a hostage situation that she didn't think HRC would have the same take on it. Fox News' Outnumbered . 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC and Benghazi.mp4

-- Report on HRC and Confederate flag; discussion about HRC's tweet that the Confederate flag should come down. Fox News' Outnumbered .2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC confederate flag tweet.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Eliana Johnson and Betsy Woodruff; Johnson said HRC was doing well in polls due to name recognition because Marco Rubio and Scott Walker are still unknowns to most Americans; Woodruff said the percentage of Democratic primary voters who could see themselves voting for HRC has gone up since March; Johnson said Democrats weren't excited about HRC. Fox News' Happening Now , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Eliana Johnson w Betsy Woodruff on HRCs good polls.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Kasie Hunt; Hunt said Bernie Sanders is getting a lot of crowds in many places, said she was not convinced that anyone was convinced that Sanders would be nominated over HRC; Hunt said she thought the early states represented the biggest risks for HRC given their small size and unpredictable natures, said HRC was still the really strong frontrunner at this point. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Kasie Hunt on HRCs front-runner status.mp4

-- Report that candidates embraced the removal of the Confederate flag after hedging; panel with SE Cupp; Cupp mentioned that she hoped HRC got the same amount of questions as the Confederate flag as the GOP candidates given that WJC celebrated Confederate flag day as Governor of Arkansas and signed a bill that allowed one of the stars on the Arkansas flag to stand for the Confederate States. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, SE Cupp on HRC and Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report that HRC planned to speak at a Missouri church near Ferguson; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said he expected HRC to address race and policing; Seitz-Wald said this would be the third time in a week that HRC talked about race; Seitz-Wald said the black voting block was important for HRC in the primary and the general election "if she makes it there." MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Alex Seitz-Wald on HRCs race and policing stances.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with ; reported that the majority of Democrats wanted there to be a competitive primary; showed footage of Lincoln Chafee on "Your World" on Monday; Mark Hannah and Rich Lowry; Lowry said Sanders is nipping at HRC's heels in some of the early states; Hannah said people were curious about Sanders because no one knew who he was six months ago; Hannah noted that 92 percent of Democrats said they could support HRC; Lowry said HRC tacking left was a general election strategy to motivate her base; shifted into report about HRC's answer about The Clinton Foundation to WMUR on Sunday; Hannah said HRC has faced media scrutiny and the GOP candidates have taken HRC to task but HRC's favorability is still hire than her unfavorability. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Mark Hannah and Rich Lowry on HRCs good polls.mp4

-- Report on how politicians responded to SC governor's call for the Confederate flag's removal from the State Capitol; mentioned that HRC tweeted that Nikki Haley was right to call for the removal of the Confederate flag. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Report on HRCs tweet about SC Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report on GOP grappling with Confederate flag issue; panel with Paul Begala and Tara Setmayer; Chris Cuomo mentioned that HFA pointed to HRC's comment on South Carolina's display of the Confederate flag in 2007; Cuomo asked Begala whether HRC had to answer for her time as FLOAR when WJC stood by the Arkansas flag; Begala said yes, said times change; Begala mentioned that Zell Miller with WJC's help tried to get the Confederate flag off the Georgia flag; Setmayer noted that WJC and HRC celebrated Confederate Flag Day in Arkansas; Setmayer said HRC have to explain her evolution like Republicans do; shifted into report on the NBC/WSJ poll; Setmayer said the polls were what she'd expect at this time because the election is so far away;

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Cuomo asked Begala whether Biden or Kerry would be a bigger threat to HRC; Begala dodged, said there would be a tough primary battle but HRC would win. CNN's New Day , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Paul Begala on HRC and Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report on HRC's comments about the Russian uranium deal; interviewed Laura Ingraham; Ingraham said HRC passed off good questions as partisan drumbeating; reported on Peter Schweizer's NY Post op-ed; reported that HRC said there were nine agencies involved in the decision; Ingraham asked rhetorically who in the BHO administration would not do what HRC asked them to do if she wanted something done; shifted to report on the NBC/WJC poll that showed 67 percent of voters were satisfied with a Bush-Clinton election; Ingraham said Democrats were happier with that pairing than Republicans. Fox News' Fox and Friends ,2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Laura Ingraham on Peter Schweizer and HRCs polls.mp4

-- Report on BHO using the "N" word during a podcast interview; panel with Nia-Malika Henderson and Sara Murray; Henderson said the question was how other Democrats pick up the conversation of race; Henderson noted that HRC gave a major speech on Saturday about race, said HRC would have more conversations about race in Missouri; shifted into report about the NBC/WSJ poll; Murray said HRC was able to gain a lot of ground since the relaunch; Murray said the relaunch was optically very good for HRC; Murray said the poll shows the panic surrounding HRC may have been overblown; Chris Cuomo said Joe Biden was not in the race, said Biden's potential entry could give people on the Left pause for concern. CNN's New Day , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, NiaMalika Henderson Sara Murray on polls and race.mp4

-- Report that Bernie Sanders drew 5,500 people to his event in Denver; panel with Daniel Halper and Jessica Tarlov; Tarlov said people are interested in Sanders but will absolutely not vote for him; Halper said Sanders is the heart and soul of the Democratic Party; Halper said Sanders could win Iowa and New Hampshire; Tarlov questioned how Sanders could win Iowa when he was 40 points behind; Halper said Democrats rejected HRC last time around and could do it again this time; Halper brought up John Kerry, Al Gore, Elizabeth Warren, and Deval Patrick as people who may jump in if they weren't satisfied with HRC; Tarlov said the only person who could shake up the primaries would be Warren. Fox News' Fox & Friends , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Daniel Halper and Jessica Tarlov on HRCs polls.mp4

-- Report that HRC was expected to talk about race on Tuesday when she campaigned in Missouri; noted that HRC dominated the NBC/WSJ poll; Joe Scarborough said this poll was out-of-line from most of the polls over the last month or two; Scarborough said it would likely be an all-nighter if HRC and Bush face one another in the general election; Brzezinski said she thought there was a real disconnect between the conversation inside Washington and America on HRC; Brzezinski said Americans ("they") will just vote for HRC, "they go crazy"; Mike Barnicle noted that HRC is on her own clock. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Brzezinski said Americans go crazy for HRC.mp4

-- Report on HRC's answer from WMUR on Sunday about the 20% of uranium that was transferred to Vladimir Putin; Ed Henry (guest host) said Peter Schweizer thought HRC's comments about people wielding the partisan axe were about him; reported on Schweizer's op-ed in the NY Post; reported that nine of the investors who profited from the uranium deal donated to The Clinton Foundation; Henry said now that HRC's coming out with specifics that Schweizer's come back in this op-ed and refuted HRC's statements line-by-line. Fox News' Fox and Friends, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Peter Schweizer oped about HRC Russia uranium deal.mp4

States:

Nevada:

--Report on HRC on Confederate Flag: HRC tweets about Confederate flag. Several other 2016 presidential candidates also tweeted about this controversy. KTNV(CBS)'s *Channel 2 Morning News* , Reno (NV). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag controversy.mp4

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC and flag: HRC's campaign claims that HRC wanted the Confederate flag to be removed since 2007. WTAT-CHS(FOX)'s *Morning News at 7* , Charleston (SC). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag.mp4

--Report on HRC and racism: HRC will join with church members near Ferguson Missouri. She will address race and strengthening communities. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s *WOTC News at Daybreak 7A* , Savannah (GA). 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC race church.mp4

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--Report on HRC support: Reporters claim that HRC is ahead of the Democratic candidates by a land slide. Reporters also claim that HRC has a lead in terms of her Republican counterparts as well. WMBF (NBC)'s WMBF News at 11, Myrtle Beach (SC).2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC leading Democrat and Republican.mp4

Iowa:

--Report on HRC and flag controversy: HRC tweets about Confederate flag and Charleston, South Carolina, shooting. Reporters claim that HRC wants the flag removed, according to her campaign. KMEG(CBS)'s *Siouxland News at Sunrise* , Sioux (IA). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag campaign.mp4

--Report on HRC in Missouri: Reporters claim that HRC will be making a campaign stop in Missouri, her first stop there since she became a Presidential Candidate. HRC will make statements about Michael Brown and race, according to reporters. KTVO(ABC)'s *KTVO News at 5* , Ottumwa (IA) . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in Missouri.mp4

New Hampshire:

--Report on HRC polls: According to the NBC News/Wall Street Journal polls, HRC is in the lead on the Democratic side with 75%, 15% for Bernie Sanders, 4% for Jim Webb, and 2% for MOM. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New Englan* d, Boston (MA) .2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC leading in polls.mp4

--Report on HRC in NH: HRC and her campaign have claimed that it is difficult for any candidate to get more than 50 percent of the vote in a New Hampshire state primary. WBIN's *NH1 News Tonight* , Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in NH.mp4

Bernie Sanders:

--Repot on Bernie Sanders and Flag Controversy: Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders tweeted about the flag controversy in support of removing the flag. KTVN(CBS)'s *Channel 2 Morning News* , Reno (NV). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders flag.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New England*, Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new poll.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WHO-DM(NBC)'s *Early Day*, Des Moines (IA). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new WSJ poll.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WMBF(NBC)'s WMBF *News at 11*, Myrtle Beach (SC). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new WSJ poll.mp4

--Report on Sanders as opposition: Bernie Sanders came in second in a recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll. HRC won with a massive percentage over Sanders. Reporters claim that Sanders will only be useful for some competition, but he will not win the Democratic nomination. MSNBC's *The Rundown with Jose Diaz Balart*. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders; HRC, Clips, National, Sanders and HRC in new poll.mp4

--Report on Sanders and HRC stances: Reporters claim that Sanders might pull HRC to the left, and this leftist stance may hurt her in the general election. Fox Business Network's *Varney & Company* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, HRC and Sanders leftist.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and HRC: Reporters claim that Sanders is inching up on HRC in some of the early states such as Iowa and New Hampshire. CNN's *New Day* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders and HRC early states.mp4

--Report on new NBC/WSJ Poll: Bernie Sanders comes in second with 15% of primary voters claiming they would vote for him in the primaries. MSNBC's *Morning Joe* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders

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WSJ.mp4

--Report on Sanders likelihood of success: Reporters claim that sanders does not have that presidential persona to do well; however, despite these facts, he is doing well and drawing numbers of crowds. Reporters claim that because Sanders is doing well in Iowa and New Hampshire, he will do a decent job in the primaries. Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor* . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders' success.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Obama: Sanders claims that what President Obama has done is not enough, and that as president, more must be done in terms of economy and taxes. Fox Business Network's *Cavuto: Coast to Coast*. 2015.06.23, Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on Obama.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Trade Deal: Sanders claimed that he is differentiating himself from other candidates. Reporters showcase Sanders speaking out on the trade deal in the Senate. Al Jazeera America. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on Trade.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and African American vote: Reporters claim that Sanders comes from a dominantly Caucasian state. Therefore, he may have difficulty getting this vote. HRC stands as the strongest for this group of voters. MSNBC's *Live with Thomas Roberts* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders on the African American vote.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders as a Threat: David Asman claims that it is possible that Sanders could win New Hampshire. Ed Henry claims that there is anger on the left because HRC is seen as a centrist. Henry claims that HRC must declare herself on trade and taxes because Sanders is appealing largely to the left. Henry claims that this leftist approach might hurt her in the general elections. Fox Business Network's *After the Bell*. 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Sanders on HRC.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders interview on The Ed Show: In an interview with Bernie Sanders, Sanders claims that he is grateful for the support that he has gotten from Elizabeth Warren's supporters. Sanders claims that today in Congress was a major defeat and a setback. Sanders claims that the trade agreement is the cause of major setbacks in our economy and for jobs for American people. MSNBC's *The Ed Show* . 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Sanders intereview.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM and WSJ/NBC poll: MOM comes in at last place with 2% on NBC/WSJ poll. *CNN's New Day*. 2015.06.23., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM poll.mp4

--Report on MOM and African American Vote: Reporters claim that MOM will not do well with the African American vote because he has "baggage" with African Americans after the Baltimore unrest. MSNBC's *Live with Thomas Roberts*. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders on the African American vote.mp4

--Report on MOM and Flag Controversy: MOM tweeted saying that the Confederate flag should be removed from South Carolina.WTAT-CHS(FOX)'s *Morning News at 7,* Charleston (SC) . 2015.06.23., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM Flag Controversy.mp4

--Report on MOM and New Poll: 2 percent say that they would support MOM in the primaries. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New England* , Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, Polls.mp4

--Report on MOM in New Hampshire: MOM will be in New Hampshire and speak to the Greater Dairy London Dairy Chamber of Commerce on July 8. WMUR-MAN(ABC)'s *News 9 Tonight* , Manchester (NH) . 2015.06.23., MOM in NH.mp4

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From:	"Joshua McNeil" <joshua_mcneil@lcv.org>
To:	"David Sandretti" <david_sandretti@lcv.org>
Date:	11/19/2008 3:43:26 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Clean, Baby, Clean - Election Day poll shows overwhelming support for clean energy
Attachments:	LCV poll results - November 2008.pdf

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
November 19, 2008
Contact: Josh McNeil; joshua_mcneil@lcv.org; 202.454.4573

Clean, Baby, Clean

Election Day poll shows overwhelming support for clean, renewable energy agenda

Today, the League of Conservation Voters released results from an Election Day poll showing that the policies of investing in wind and solar, requiring energy efficient appliances and raising fuel economy standards are widely supported by all sectors of the public and should be a top priority for the next congress and the Obama administration. The electorate preferred candidates who supported investment in clean, renewable energy and Republican attempts to harness offshore drilling as a campaign issue failed. The poll, conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, sampled 851 voters in 11 battleground states.

"'Drill, baby, drill' may have echoed in the halls of the Republican convention, but the party faithful were the only ones chanting," LCV President Gene Karpinski said. "The choice for most voters was clear: a clean energy future that will create jobs and protect our planet or the failed energy policies of the Bush Administration. Outside of Sarah Palin's rallies, the vast majority of Americans were voting for 'clean, baby, clean'."

While many candidates sought to use drilling to sway voters, that message failed to influence a significant number of voters. Opposition to more oil drilling ranked last of six possible reasons to oppose Democratic candidates, with only 14% of voters citing it as a reason to vote against Senator Obama and only 18% of voters citing it as a reason to oppose a Democratic House or Senate candidate.

30% cited support for clean energy as a reason to support Democratic candidate, ranking it the #2 reason after the economy.

Meanwhile, candidates' support for tax breaks for oil companies and the expansion of nuclear power ranked 4th and 3rd, respectively, as reasons to vote against these candidates. 25% believed that Senator McCain's ties to the oil industry were cause to vote against him (only 3% fewer than cited his choice of Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate and 8% more than cited a continuation of the war in Iraq). 27% cited such ties as reason to vote against Republican House and Senate candidates.

"This election was in many ways a referendum on America's clean energy future, and the results have given President Obama and the 111th Congress a clear mandate to take immediate action," Karpinski continued. "Those members of Congress who will continue to stand in the way of meaningful global warming and clean energy legislation should take note of these numbers and be prepared to defend their actions in 2010."

See the attached memo for more details from the poll on the role of clean energy in the 2008 election.

###

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	jbenenson@bsgco.com "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date:	2/6/2015 6:33:46 PM
Subject:	Re: NYT | Econ Story

Here's what I sent them, with one line added at their request of something we'd previously sent off the record. New line is in brackets.

Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. [She has a record of bringing people together to solve big problems, while also putting a real premium on accountability]. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She’s casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 6, 2015, at 7:00 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com> wrote:

Looks like the NYT is getting close to closing their story. After our conversation yesterday, I think it makes the most sense to just repurpose what we have the Journal a week ago. I think it makes sense for us to be in this story, but no need to mix it up or complicate things. Same message, different paper.

I'd like to send this this evening, let us know if disagree on approach.

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She’s casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 6, 2015, at 12:18 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com> wrote:

I’m passing along a document that came from one of our friends, written for and sent directly to Amy Chozick for this NYT piece she’s working on. Gives you a sense of what we’re all up against!

From: "jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>"
<jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>>
Date: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 10:27 AM
To: Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>>
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>>, NSM
<nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>>, Cheryl Mills
<cheryl.mills@gmail.com<mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com>>, John Podesta
<john.podesta@gmail.com<mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com>>, Jacob Sullivan
<Jake.sullivan@gmail.com<mailto:Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>>, Philippe Reines
<pir@hrcoffice.com<mailto:pir@hrcoffice.com>>, Huma Abedin
<huma@hrcoffice.com<mailto:huma@hrcoffice.com>>, Dan Schwerin

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<dschwerin@hrcoffice.com<mailto:dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>>, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com<mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>>, "john@algpolling.com<mailto:john@algpolling.com>" <john@algpolling.com<mailto:john@algpolling.com>>, "cmills@cdmillsgroup.com<mailto:cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>" <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com<mailto:cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>>, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com<mailto:jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>>, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com<mailto:kristinakschake@gmail.com>>
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Mandy is right. We keep emphasizing that the most significant pain point for people is that the belief the decked is stacked against them in favor of this at the top. And they're not wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2015, at 10:07 AM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>> wrote:

Agree

On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>> wrote:

I think this piece turned out well.

But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.
One of Mrs. Clinton’s broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>>
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>>; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com<mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com>>
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>>; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com<mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com>>; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com<mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com>>; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com<mailto:pir@hrcoffice.com>>; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com<mailto:huma@hrcoffice.com>>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com<mailto:dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com<mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>>; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com<mailto:john@algpolling.com>>; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com<mailto:cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>>; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com<mailto:jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>>; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com<mailto:kristinakschake@gmail.com>>
Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

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http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas

Hillary Clinton <http://topics.wsj.com/person/C/Hillary-Clinton/6344> has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.

One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts. She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder <http://topics.wsj.com/person/B/Alan-Blinder/4> , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch <http://topics.wsj.com/person/R/Richard-Ravitch/5985> , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren <http://topics.wsj.com/person/W/Elizabeth-Warren/8131> (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

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Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama <http://topics.wsj.com/person/O/Obama/4328> administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.

"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>> wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that "average" come out. So here's what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won't run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. "

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>>
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com<mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com>>
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>>, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>>, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>>, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com<mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com>>, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com<mailto:Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>>, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com<mailto:pir@hrcoffice.com>>, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com<mailto:huma@hrcoffice.com>>, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com<mailto:dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>>, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com<mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>>, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com<mailto:john@algpolling.com>>, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com<mailto:cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>>, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com<mailto:jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>>, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com<mailto:kristinakschake@gmail.com>>
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>> wrote:
When we tested deck is stacked against “average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top” vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it’s how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.
Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com<mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>> wrote:
Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for

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every vote."

> On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>> wrote:
>
> Yes.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>]
> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
> To: Robby Mook
> Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
> Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
> Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
> Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
> I like it too.
>
> There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
> will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
> Thx
>
> Mandy Grunwald
> Grunwald Communications
> 202 973-9400<tel:202%20973-9400>
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook
<robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>> wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>> expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>> background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>> her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>> trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>> all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>>
wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>> they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>> waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>> she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>> laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>> gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>> a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,

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>>> but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>> challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>> for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>> Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>> Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>> working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>> as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>> I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>> seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>> core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>> needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>> you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>> "idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>> been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>> heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>> the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>> range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>> calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>> nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>> every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

<Rothschild Econ Doc for Chozick.pdf>

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/31/2014 8:09:49 AM
Subject:	10.31.14 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	10.31.14 Weekend Package.docx



Hello all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both below and attached. Happy Halloween!

10.31.14

1. **Hillary Clinton: A Lifetime Champion of Income Opportunity**
2. **Hillary Clinton on Immigration**
3. **Eleven Things You Should Know About Hillary**

HILLARY CLINTON: A LIFETIME CHAMPION OF INCOME OPPORTUNITY

"With all due respect, it is not rich people who made America great. It is the vast American middle class. It is the upward mobility of people who thought they could do better than their parents."

–Hillary Clinton

BACKGROUND: Hillary Clinton has dedicated her life to ensuring that all hardworking Americans have the chance to succeed, no matter their circumstances. Leading the charge for equal pay for equal work, expanding access to early childhood education and healthcare, working to raise the minimum wage, and advocating for out-of-work Americans, Hillary's record reflects the belief that every American should have the right to achieve economic security and income opportunity.

Hillary Clinton's record proves she believes that every American should be able to earn an equal day's pay for an equal day's work. As a Senator, Hillary Clinton introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act and was an original cosponsor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton supported increasing the minimum wage and voted repeatedly to protect and increase it. She was an original cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, and authored the 2006 and 2007 Standing with Minimum Wage Act to tie Congressional salary increases to an increase in the minimum wage.

As a Senator, Hillary Clinton supported progressive tax policies that required millionaires to pay their fair

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share. She opposed the Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, and she supported a variety of middle-class tax cuts, including tax credits for student loan recipients, and keeping in place the tax cuts for those who make under $250,000 a year.

o Clinton has said "that inherited wealth and concentrated wealth is not good for America," and she has consistently voted against repealing the estate tax on millionaires, doing so in 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Hillary Clinton supported working families going through difficult times through no fault of their own. In the Senate, she was a bipartisan leader on fighting to extend emergency unemployment benefits.

Hillary Clinton knows that tomorrow's shared success starts with today's child, and her dedication to children began long before she ever entered public office. In fact, her first job out of law school was for the newly-formed Children's Defense Fund, an organization she would later chair.

Hillary Clinton has worked to increase health coverage for millions of children in low-income and working families through the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program she helped created as First Lady. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton looked for ways to strengthen the program, introducing bills to allow states to expand it.

Hillary Clinton has worked to expand access to early childhood education for children of lower-income families. As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton introduced her husband to the HIPPY program, which expanded early childhood education to economically disadvantaged children. In the Senate, Clinton partnered with Kit Bond in an effort to expand voluntary full-day pre-K for children from low-income families.

o Today, as part of the Too Small to Fail Initiative to improve the health and well-being of children five and under, Hillary Clinton is working to close the "word gap" for kids in low-income families who often have smaller vocabularies than their classmates.

BOTTOM LINE: The lack of income opportunity is hurting working families across the country and poses a threat to the American ideal that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should have the opportunity to succeed. Hillary Clinton's record reflects the belief that your ability to get ahead should be determined by your hard work, ambition, and goals – not by your circumstances.

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON ON IMMIGRATION

KEY POINTS:

Hillary Clinton has been a vocal supporter of comprehensive immigration reform and a path to citizenship.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton consistently voted in favor of comprehensive immigration reform.

Clinton is a supporter of the DREAM Act and advocated for it on the Senate floor.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton introduced an amendment to reunite families separated by the immigration system. The amendment would have reclassified the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives.

Clinton introduced a bill to restore access to Medicaid and SCHIP benefits for legal immigrant pregnant women and children.

Clinton introduced a bill to provide more funding for job training for people with limited English language skills.

BACKGROUND: HILLARY ON Immigration

Hillary Clinton: "I'm a huge supporter of immigration reform and a path to citizenship and will continue to

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advocate for that." As former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently told a tearful young undocumented immigrant, "I'm a huge supporter of immigration reform and a path to citizenship and will continue to advocate for that." Clinton's remarks came at the Clinton Foundation's "No Ceilings" forum in New York. Clinton went on to say, "I believe strongly we are missing a great opportunity by not welcoming people like you and 11 million others who have made contributions to our country into a legal status so you don't have to worry, you can go to school, you can work, you can pursue your dreams." Clinton also said she is "strongly in favor" of the bipartisan Senate bill and that the House's opposition is "a big missed opportunity for our country." [Washington Post, 4/17/14]

Hillary Clinton has been a strong supporter of the DREAM Act. As Senator Clinton stated during a debate over the DREAM Act on the Senate floor, "There is a solution to this crisis, but sadly, the Senate today failed to act. The DREAM Act – which I have proudly cosponsored for several years – would help expand opportunities for our nation's immigrant children. For those students who have grown up in the United States, have demonstrated good moral character, and are pursuing a college education or have enlisted in the military, the DREAM Act will provide an opportunity to earn legal status in this country." [Clinton floor remarks, 10/24/07]

Sen. Clinton consistently voted in support of comprehensive immigration reform. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton voted for the bipartisan Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 and voted to invoke cloture on S.1639, the 2007 comprehensive immigration reform bill. [Vote #157, S.2611, 5/25/06 , Vote #235, S.1639, 6/28/07]

Sen. Clinton introduced legislation to restore access to Medicaid and SCHIP benefits for legal immigrant pregnant women and children. In 2007, Hillary introduced the Legal Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act "which amends titles XIX (Medicaid) and XXI (Children's Health Insurance) (SCHIP) of the Social Security Act to grant states the option of covering certain categories of eligible pregnant women and child resident aliens, including targeted low-income children, under the Medicaid and SCHIP programs." [S.764, 3/5/07]

Sen. Clinton introduced legislation to provide more job training funds for individuals with limited English language skills. In 2003, Hillary Clinton introduced the Access to Employment and English Language Acquisition Act which "Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for: (1) job training that integrates occupational skills training with language acquisition; and (2) specified services for individuals who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). Authorizes the Secretary to award incentive grants to States for exemplary performance in carrying out integrated training programs." [S.1543, introduced, 7/31/03]

Sen. Clinton introduced an amendment to reunite families who had been separated by the immigration system. In 2007, during a debate over the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act, Sen. Clinton introduced an amendment "to reclassify the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives." As she said before the vote, "It is time to take all the rhetoric about family values and put it into action and show that we mean what we say when we talk about putting families first. That is what my amendment does. This amendment is a bipartisan amendment offered with Senator Hagel and Senator Menendez. It is our view we must make reuniting families a priority in our immigration system, that we should show compassion for those living apart from their spouses and minor children, that we should reform immigration in a way that honors families and brings them together." The bipartisan amendment, introduced with Sens. Hagel and Menendez failed, 44-53. [Vote # 195, 6/6/07]

ELEVEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HILLARY

Secretary Clinton helped restore America's leadership and standing in the world during a time of global challenges

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and changes. Secretary Clinton worked tirelessly to revitalize American diplomacy and strengthen alliances by traveling nearly a million miles for hundreds of meetings with foreign leaders in 112 countries. As America's lead diplomat, Secretary Clinton understood the importance of engaging the public and took diplomacy directly to people around the world. Just as she was as a senator, Secretary Clinton was a workhorse, often taking on difficult challenges and addressing them directly around the world.

Secretary Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history. Secretary Clinton helped impose the toughest sanctions in Iran's history by getting Russia and China on board. Even the Wall Street Journal editorial board noted that, "Clinton surely pulled out every stop to get Russia and particularly China…on board." And as Howard Dean recently told CNN , "Hillary Clinton cranked up the sanctions for the first time under President Obama that actually made the Iranians come to the table."

Secretary Clinton played an integral role in the New START Treaty with Russia. Secretary Clinton played an active role in reaching a missile reduction agreement with Russia, working to push it through the Senate and securing more than the necessary two-thirds majority. She entered the treaty into force in Munich with her Russian counterpart. As a result of the treaty's passage, there will be fewer nuclear missile launchers . Simply put, the world is safer.

Secretary Clinton supported the raid that brought Osama bin Laden to justice. As NBC's Brian Williams reported on his website, "Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recommended an air strike with no forces on the ground. CIA Director Panetta supported a raid by Special Forces and so did Secretary of State Clinton."

Secretary Clinton helped avert all-out war in Gaza by negotiating a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians. In November 2012, after eight days of violence, Secretary Clinton negotiated a Gaza cease-fire with Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. In an article titled "Hillary Clinton scores Gaza cease fire success," Politico noted that, "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got a Gaza cease-fire right at the moment hope seemed dead for a rapid end to the violence…"

Secretary Clinton played a role in bringing one war to an end and planning for the end of another. Working closely with Department of Defense colleagues and as part of the President's national security team, Secretary Clinton played a role in the end of war in Iraq and in beginning a transition in Afghanistan, with all NATO allies having agreed to stand-up a post withdrawal support plan. As President Obama told 60 Minutes , it was "all a consequence of the great work that Hillary did and her team did and the State Department did in conjunction with our national security team."

Secretary Clinton was critical in America's "pivot to Asia" strategy. As Martin Indyk of the Brookings Institute wrote in Foreign Policy , "The 'pivot' to East Asia will probably be Obama's most lasting strategic achievement… [but] it is Clinton's too. She laid the groundwork, built the relationships, and developed the complex architecture of the new strategy — and she turned up at that pivotal moment in Vietnam in July 2010 to declare the U.S. commitment to the region." Secretary Clinton earned praise for her work in opening up Burma, a place that had not been visited by a Secretary of State in 50 years.

Secretary Clinton worked to build the coalition to oust Qadhafi and stop massacres in Libya. As the Washington Post reported upon the end of NATO operations in Libya, "U.S. officials and key allies are offering a detailed new defense of the approach and Clinton's pivotal role – both within a divided Cabinet and a fragile, assembled-on-the-fly international alliance. What emerges from these accounts is a picture of Clinton using her mixture of political pragmatism and tenacity to referee spats among NATO partners, secure crucial backing from Arab countries and tutor rebels on the fine points of message management."

Secretary Clinton engaged in economic statecraft. Secretary Clinton's focus on economic engagement resulted in increased investment through three new free trade agreements (Colombia ,Panama and South Korea) and 15 Open Skies agreements including with Japan, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

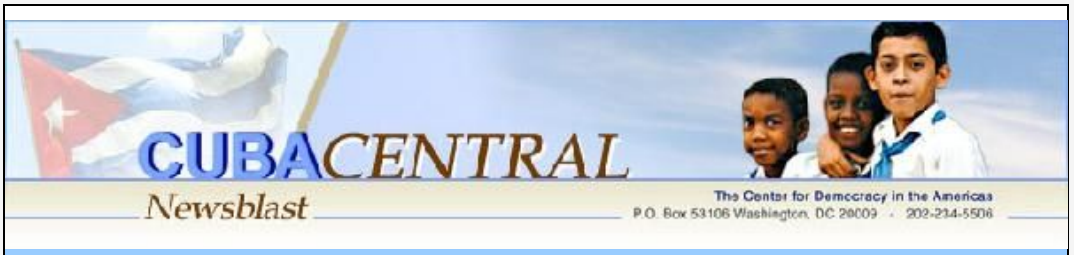
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Secretary Clinton brought the State Department into the 21st Century. Secretary Clinton helped the State Department adapt to emerging issues such as cyber security by creating the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online. She recognized the important role of energy in U.S. foreign policy and helped create the Bureau of Energy Resources to protect our energy infrastructure and influence how nations move to cleaner fuel.

Secretary Clinton elevated the cause of women's rights to new heights. Secretary Clinton recognized women's rights as a major foreign policy issue. It is, according to Newsweek, the area of "hardships faced by women and girls across the world–that her impact has been most profound." Hillary convinced the White House to allow her to create a new position at the State Department: Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. Newsweek continued, "Across the world, in diverse and deeply reactionary cultures, Clinton and [Ambassador-at-Large] Verveer have spoken and fought to liberalize attitudes on women's role in the economy, girls' schooling, women's health, domestic violence, issues arising from war and conflict, and myriad other concerns."

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From: "The Cuba Central Team" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/19/2016 11:05:42 AM
Subject: Obama to Follow Coolidge to Cuba, U.S. Media Reports



February 19, 2016

Dear Friends:

President Obama continues to keep the promises he made during the heat of the 2008 presidential campaign. Since coming to the White House, he reopened the door that was cruelly shut by his predecessor and encouraged Cuban Americans to make unlimited visits to their families on the island. He also opened a dialogue with Cuba's government "without preconditions," and promised to meet with Cuba's President Raúl Castro "at a time and place of my choosing."

"Trust," we learned in Cuba last week, "is a series of promises kept." The President will fulfill this promise when he travels to Cuba accompanied by Mrs. Obama on March 21-22. On those dates, as the U.S. media has repeated *ad nauseam* in the last 36 hours, he will become the first president to do so since President Calvin Coolidge made the trip in 1928 to address a meeting of the Pan American Conference.

Is there something of value to be learned from Coolidge's visit some 88 years ago?

For more than half of the 20th Century, Cuba danced at the end of a string held tight in Washington's grasp. Prior to the Coolidge presidency, an amendment to the Cuban Constitution was adopted which gave the United States *carte blanche* to intervene, and U.S. soldiers were deployed on multiple occasions to do exactly that. As Bill LeoGrande and Peter Kornbluh write in their essential Back Channel To Cuba , "Treaties and laws promulgated by the U.S. military governors gave U.S. businesses unmatched advantages in the Cuban market."

Coolidge was welcomed to Cuba by the nation's President Gerardo Machado who, as Lars Schoultz recalls, was nicknamed "the Butcher of Las Villas." The U.S. government was forgiving of Machado's brutality, corruption, and fraudulent reelection to his second term in office, and he was admired by U.S. investors for the stability he brought to the island.

Following a florid introduction by Machado, President Coolidge spoke for over a half-hour, reading a text that exceeded 4,000 words, clearly crafted with the U.S. audience in mind.

> "Thirty years ago Cuba ranked as a foreign possession, torn by revolution and devastated by hostile forces. Such government as existed rested on military force. Today Cuba is her own sovereign. Her people are independent, free, prosperous, peaceful, and enjoying the advantages of self-government...
>
> "They have reached a position in the stability of their government, in the genuine expression of their public opinion at the ballot box, and in the recognized soundness of their public credit that has commanded universal respect and admiration."

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Machado must have basked in the glory of Coolidge's remarks. Cubans, if they even heard what the man nicknamed "Silent Cal" said, must have been troubled by the contrast between his fact-free description of their country and the reality of Cuba's politics and economy they knew all too well.

A few years later, Cubans drove the despot Machado into a comfortable Miami exile, and they have waited nine decades for an American President to speak to them again, and to use words that reflect their realities.

We don't have a single doubt about how the President will be received in Cuba. In Havana, we saw their eyes glow with pride on the day Mr. Obama shook hands with President Raúl Castro at Nelson Mandela's memorial service; a year later, their joyful tears wet our faces as we celebrated the announcement that Cuba and the United States would resume diplomatic relations. After cheering the President for quoting Jose Martí in an address carried on state television, Cubans described the sensation of a burden being lifted from their country as they saw our half-century long isolation finally coming to an end.

Because they have seen the first American president in their lifetimes treat Cuba with respect, President Obama will surely receive a hero's welcome from the Cuban people when he arrives there in March.

That moment - covered in real time on global television - will surely be a teachable moment for the U.S. audience, which is already giving the President high marks for his Cuba diplomacy, as the Gallup polling organization said today. A strongly positive welcome for the President holds the promise of galvanizing momentum for further reforms in U.S. policy. It will also give lie to assertions by the President's bilious opponents that his rapprochement with Cuba's government is a self-out of Cuba's people.

If bilious seems strong, how better to describe the written statement from a Senator of his own party who called the upcoming visit "unacceptable" and against "enduring American values," or the assertion by another who said that visiting Cuba will be "damaging to our national security interests" and will "send the message to the oppressed Cuban people that you stand with their oppressors"? The latter comment is drawn from Senator Marco Rubio's letter to the President demanding that he not make the trip at all.

Rather than sitting out history now, as his opponents want him to do, or spinning fantasy for reality as Calvin Coolidge did nine decades ago, Mr. Obama is striving to do better - to make a nuanced case that reflects the aspirations of Cubans, expresses his devotion to American values (as he did Thursday on Twitter), highlights the benefits to U.S. interests, and respectfully encourages Cuba's leadership to use the remainder of his term and Raúl Castro's time in office to address issues that must be resolved to normalize relations fully.

If the President can slice through the noise coming from his opponents, his visit can advance the cause of normalization in the United States by gaining support for more executive actions to loosen restrictions on Cuba and for Congress ultimately repealing the travel ban and the embargo entirely.

Even more, as Sarah Stephens of CDA said in her statement Thursday, "this visit can affect how the leaders and people of both countries decide what they want the definition of normal to be. Are we neighbors at peace with a wall between us, or are we neighbors and friends with a door that is open and welcoming in both directions?"

The early signs are promising; that rather than *pulling a Coolidge* President Obama will thread the needle and prepare both countries for a lot more progress in the little time he has left to serve.

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Our Recommendations

US - Cuba Relations

President Obama is going to Cuba. Here's why , Ben Rhodes, *Medium*
The White House announced that President Barack Obama will visit Cuba in March, the first visit by a sitting U.S. president since 1928. The official visit is the latest step in the Obama administration's effort to normalize relations between the United States and Cuba. In this article, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes explains the President's decision to travel to Cuba and the administration's goals for the future of U.S. - Cuba relations.

For The First Time, Majority Of Americans See Cuba Favorably In Poll , Bill Chappel, *NPR*
For the first time since the 1959 revolution, a majority (54%) of Americans now view Cuba in a positive light, according to a recent Gallup poll. The results show a 33 point net favorability gain in the past ten years. The biggest gain was among Democrats, 73% of whom now view Cuba in a positive light. A strong majority of Republicans, however, despite favoring an end to the embargo, still view Cuba negatively, with only 34% having favorable views of the island nation. Favorability among independents stands at 53%. For a comprehensive review of polling data on U.S. - Cuba relations, see our November 2015 News Briefing here .

U.S. missile inadvertently shipped to Cuba has been returned , Elise Labott and Eugene Scott, *CNN*
A Hellfire missile wrongly sent to Cuba was returned to the U.S. on Saturday. The missile, a so-called "dummy missile" (not fitted with a warhead, fusing system rocket monitor or operational seeker) used in exercises, had been in Cuba since 2014, when it was misrouted en route from Spain to Florida following a military exercise.

Kathy Castor Leads 7-Member Congressional Delegation to Cuba , *Florida Politics*
Seven members of the U.S. House - led by Representatives Kathy Castor (FL-14) and Tom Emmer (MN-6), and including John Garamendi (CA-3), Paul Gosar (AZ-4) Brendan Boyle (PA-13), Alan Lowenthal (CA-47) and Mike Bishop (MI-8) - traveled to Cuba last weekend with the Center for Democracy in the Americas. Rep. Castor remarked prior to the trip that "We intend to meet with small business owners and entrepreneurs to gain a better understanding of how the changes in the Cuban economy are working," At the trip's conclusion, Mr. Emmer noted that his encounters with government and business leaders in Cuba have further convinced him that change is accelerating in Cuba, and warrants a proportional U.S. change in policy towards the island.

Sponsors Of Bill To Lift Cuba Embargo Say It Could See A Vote This Year , Tim Padgett, *WLRN News*
Rep. Tom Emmer of Minnesota and Rep. Kathy Castor of Florida expressed "guarded optimism" at a forum in Miami that their legislation to repeal the trade embargo "might generate enough support this year for a vote. "Emmer," Padgett writes, "thinks enough momentum is building outside Washington, especially among agriculture interests in states like his, to give his bill a chance of passing even during this election year."

Fresh from Cuba trip, Castor lauds Obama's plans to travel there , Kate Bradshaw, *CL Tampa*
Days after returning from leading a congressional delegation to Cuba, Representative Kathy Castor (FL-14) offered her thoughts on President Obama's announced upcoming trip to Cuba next month. In a statement released Thursday Castor said, "I know [the President] will be as inspired as I am by the Cuban people and the cuentapropistas who are building a more hopeful future for themselves and their families." Castor also expressed confidence that the President's trip would have a positive impact on the

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island and on U.S.-Cuba relations, and encourage greater political openness, economic growth, and respect for human rights.

Feds invite airlines to bid for Cuba flights , Keith Laing, *The Hill*
The Obama administration has signed an agreement with the Cuban government that would allow up to 110 commercial flights per day between the U.S. and Cuba. A number of U.S.-operated airlines have applauded the administration and are currently bidding to operate these newly approved flights. The announcement came during Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx's visit to Cuba. American Airlines, one of the airlines bidding for flights to Cuba released a statement "applauding" the Obama Administration for its efforts and expressing great interest in "submitting a Cuba service proposal to the Department of Transportation in the coming weeks."

Pact on U.S.-Cuba Flights Reopens Battle for Seized Property , Frances Robles, *New York Times*
On Tuesday, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and other top administration officials met with Cuban officials in Havana to sign an agreement that would allow commercial air travel between the two countries for the first time in over 50 years. As Ms. Robles reports, this move prompted complaints in the U.S. because of the unsettled issue of property claims. José Ramón López, 62, heir to the Havana airport and to Cuba's national airline, maintains his claim over the airport's future and cautions others against investing in Cuba. The State Department maintains that, "[Settling] Claims issues have been one of our highest priorities since we re-established diplomatic relations with Cuba."

U.S. approves its first factory in Cuba - a two-person tractor company from Alabama, *Fox News Latino*
The Obama administration has approved the first U.S. factory in Cuba in over fifty years. This tractor factory - valued between $5 and $10 million - owned and operated by Alabama natives Horace Clemmons and Saul Berenthal, has been approved by the Cuban government. For at least the next three years, the factory will assemble tractors using parts manufactured and shipped from the United States. Long term, the partners hope to be able to manufacture parts in Cuba and export tractors to other Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Cuban minister in Washington , Sergio Alejandro Gómez, *Granma*
Rodrigo Malmierca, Cuba's Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment arrived in Washington on February 14, to undertake a four-day working visit. The visit by Cuba's delegation - which included officials from the Ministry, the Central Bank of Cuba, the country's Chamber of Commerce, as well as executives of Cuban state enterprises - continued a regulatory dialogue that started with U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker's trip to Cuba late last year. The Cuban minister urged Congress to lift the decades-old economic embargo and promised that U.S. companies seeking to invest in Cuba would be treated equally with competitors from nations without trade restrictions on the island.

John Kerry Receives Cuban Minister Malmierca in Washington , *Prensa Latina*
On Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, met with the Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment, Rodrigo Malmierca in Washington. The meeting came at the end of Malmierca's four-day official visit to the United States which included meetings at the Department of Commerce, the U.S.-Cuba Council of Business, the Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Institute of Peace. It also came mere hours after the White House announced that President Obama would visit Cuba in March.

MEDICC Urges Executive Actions to Improve U.S. Health Through Greater Cooperation with Cuba, *Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba*
MEDICC has released a new white paper titled "A Safer, Healthier Future Through U.S.-Cuba Cooperation" that highlights specific ways in which President Obama can use his executive authority to improve Americans' health through cooperation with Cuba. Proposals include allowing Cuban-developed pharmaceuticals and medicines to

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be more readily available to American patients, allowing U.S. pharmaceutical and medical companies to test their products in Cuba, expanding Americans' access to healthcare by allowing them to travel to Cuba for treatment, and encouraging greater bilateral cooperation between U.S. and Cuban officials on addressing regional and global health emergencies such as Ebola, Dengue, and Zika.

In Cuba

Patriarch Kirill visits Fidel , Juventud Rebelde, *Granma*
On February 13, Patriarch Kirill I of the Russian Orthodox Church visited Fidel Castro while on an official visit to Cuba. The two discussed fighting poverty and discrimination, promoting peace and humanitarianism, and applauded positive relations between Russia and Cuba.

Scientific research crucial to development , Orfilio Peláez, *Granma*
First Vice President Miguel Díaz-Canel has emphasized a need for Cuba to further develop its science and technology programs. Focusing on hard sciences, he believes, is critical to the "construction of a prosperous, sustainable socialist system" and to the preservation of the Cuban revolution's founding principles. Diaz-Canel is believed to be a likely successor to President Raúl Castro when he steps down from power in 2018.

Cuba's Foreign Relations

President of Peru to visit Cuba , *Granma*
Peru's President Ollanta Humala arrived in Cuba on Thursday for an official state visit to the island. During his visit, he will participate in a wreath-laying memorial service at Cuba's José Martí monument, receive an honorary medal at the Presidential palace, and meet with Cuba's President Raúl Castro to discuss ways in which the two nations can strengthen political, economic, and diplomatic cooperation.

Raúl Castro receives Vice President of Uruguay , *Granma*
On Tuesday, Cuba's President Raúl Castro met with Raúl Sendic Rodríguez, Vice President of Uruguay, on an official visit to Cuba. The meeting was a productive and "positive" opportunity for the two officials to discuss both bilateral and broader international issues. There was a particular focus on increasing regional integration, strengthening parliamentary ties, and augmenting Cuba's technical and medical assistance to Uruguay.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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The Cuba Central Newsblast is produced by the Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA). CDA is devoted to changing U.S. policy toward Cuba and the other countries of the Americas by basing our relations on mutual respect, fostering dialogue with those governments and movements with which U.S. policy is at odds, and recognizing positive trends in democracy and governance. For more information, check out the CDA website . You can also like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter .

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From: "Emily Klein" <emily@flextimeglobal.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/7/2015 1:59:04 PM
Subject: Re: Met at Kafe Leopold in Georgetown

Thanks John, appreciate your note back. Looking forward to seeing how the next few weeks/months unfold and absolutely will stay in touch.

-Emily

On Mon, Apr 6, 2015 at 10:14 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Thank you for your extremely thoughtful note. You have set a high bar, but I think it is very fair to judge her on whether she answers the questions you have posed. I am confident that she will address those questions and I hope to your satisfaction. As the next few weeks and months roll along, I hope you will stay in touch and let me know whether we have cleared the bar.
> John
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> On Apr 6, 2015, at 10:47 AM, Emily Klein <emily@flextimeglobal.com > wrote:
>
> John,
>
> We met the week before last at Kafe Leopold in Georgetown as I was en route back to Boston. I was sitting with two colleagues next to your table when I noticed you were there having lunch with Donna Shalala. Thank you for your willingness to connect and share your email address with me.
>
> I've long held an interest in politics, spent a decade living and working in DC after graduate study at GW, as I had mentioned, in public policy and public administration. I am a registered Independent voter, voted for Obama in the last two elections, and also have voted for Republicans in Gubernatorial races here in Massachusetts.
>
> I am excited about the prospect of Hillary running for the presidency again, yet as a middle-aged (47) professional, I'm not yet convinced she is my candidate. For the first time in my voting history, I know that my vote cast will not be based on gender or social issues alone. Yet at the same time, when my 8 year old daughter turned to me last year to say it would be great to see Hillary the first woman president, I had to agree if for no other reason than seeing in her young eyes the hope and possibility that a statement like that could reveal.
>
> In preparation for a campaign announcement and the months ahead, what I wanted to share with you are a few perspectives on things I believe the Hillary campaign strategy should address:
>
> Congruence:
>
> Hillary is a historical figure, a woman with phenomenal accomplishments, but presents in public with a lot of incongruity. For example, in terms of income inequality, how can Hillary project empathy and humility when the majority of her life, at least the last 25+ years of it, was spent in the 1%? Given campaign finance her relationships with Wall St is understood. Yet what does it mean to have these relationships and campaign for closing the income inequality gap? In what ways will Hillary's goals about addressing income inequality be innovative, realistic and actionable? In what ways can they include Wall St. banks?

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How can Hillary's campaign platform focus on advancing women and children's issues when the Clinton Foundation receives donations from countries with blatant disregard for women's rights? In what ways can she explain this publicly and authentically without political spin?

Purple:

The ability to reach across party lines and strive for bipartisanship is a worthy ideal despite the polarizing environment that occupies Washington. Emphasizing how Hillary will work with the Republican congress going forward is as essential as showcasing ways she has done this in the past. What are her views on defense, immigration and healthcare that are not entirely in lock step with President Obama's, for example? How can that appeal to the Independent voter that does not vote party line?

Foreign Policy

Foreign policy is a top campaign issue for 2016. Many Americans have been disturbed about Obama's foreign policy missteps, and have not felt safer in an increasingly dangerous world rife with radical Islamic extremists. The general sentiment about President Obama's earlier statements on ISIS (J.V team, not having a strategy to combat it, not using the verbiage radical Islamists) left the American voting public uneasy about the ability of the Democratic party to execute a muscular approach to military and diplomatic affairs. While I thought the NYT article yesterday on the Obama Doctrine was excellent, many Americans remain skeptical about a successful Iranian deal that cuts off pathways to nuclear weapons with a country unlikely to loosen its grip on extreme religious ideology, the form that teaches hate and destruction to its youngest citizens and sponsors terrorism.

Hillary's depth of knowledge related to world affairs and foreign policy should include a strategy for communicating a forward thinking geopolitical vision in ways that present her unique strengths. This foreign policy strategy needs to convince the voting public why Hillary, why now, (in part, by compare to Obama) and to her Republican challengers who will do everything to associate her with past missteps and perceived party weaknesses.

Engagement

Thriving companies in the private sector are focused on increasing transparency, flattening hierarchies and encouraging employee engagement.

How can Hillary create a digital campaign to engage US citizens in a large-scale dialogue that's unique: social media, video, crowd-sourcing ideas, online events? Engaging the hearts and minds of the American voters in 2015-2016 should be an exercise in transparency, collaboration and one that goes beyond party platform, beyond label and beyond gender alone.

John, thank you for taking the time to read this (long!) note. If there's a chance for us to meet, either here in the Boston/New England region or in Washington DC, I'd be excited by the opportunity to discuss campaign strategy with you further, especially around ways that will appeal to voters beyond the base.

Sincerely,

Emily

--
Emily Klein

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/24/2014 7:43:24 AM
Subject: CTR Sunday August 24, 2014 Roundup

HAPPY, BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY TO ALL... WHEREVER YOU MAY BE...

Correct The Record Sunday August 24, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

Associated Press: "Democrats adopt 2016 presidential primary calendar"

"Leaders of the Democratic Party adopted their 2016 presidential nominating calendar on Saturday, setting the stage for a successor to President Barack Obama."

The Daily Beast: "Political Mythbusting: Third Term's The Charm"

[Subtitle:] "Despite assertions otherwise, Americans are probably pretty OK with giving a party a third term in the White House."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Paul: Clinton too much of a 'war hawk'"

"Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said in an interview broadcast Sunday that Hillary Clinton is too much of a 'war hawk' to be elected president in 2016."

Politico blog: Politico Live: "Paul: Dems afraid I will run in 2016"

"Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul said Democrats are afraid his stance on war and foreign policy would attract independents and 'even some Democrats' if he were to run against Hillary Clinton in 2016."

Des Moines Register column: Kathie Obradovich: "Importance of Clinton's visit is not baloney"

"This appearance can, however, serve as the strictly unspoken launch of Hillary Clinton's campaign for the Iowa caucuses. By that, I mean Clinton could go a long way toward laying to rest questions about her relationship with Iowa after coming in third in the 2008 caucuses."

Articles:

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Associated Press: “Democrats adopt 2016 presidential primary calendar”

By Ken Thomas

August 23, 2014

ATLANTA (AP) - Leaders of the Democratic Party adopted their 2016 presidential nominating calendar on Saturday, setting the stage for a successor to President Barack Obama.

The Democratic National Committee, or DNC, approved rules for its 2016 convention along with a primary schedule that will begin with the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 1, 2016, followed by voting later that month in New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. The 2016 framework is in line with plans pushed by Republicans and gives states incentives to hold their primary contests between March and June, aiming to avoid a front-loaded calendar that encroaches on the Christmas holidays.

Pointing to the 2016 national meeting, DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz predicted it will be the convention where "we will nominate the 45th president of the United States of America." The plans were approved unanimously without any discussion.

A year-and-a-half before the start of presidential primary voting, Hillary Rodham Clinton remains the favorite among Democrats if she decides to run for president again while Vice President Joe Biden, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and others could potentially mount a campaign to succeed Obama.

The Democrats' plan recommends that the New Hampshire primary be held on Feb. 9, followed by the Nevada caucuses on Feb. 20 and the South Carolina primary on Feb. 27. Other states could hold their contests from March 1 through the second Tuesday in June.

The DNC decision does not set in stone the 2016 primary schedule but discourages states from trying to jump ahead in the calendar. In the past two presidential election cycles, Democrats and Republicans have scheduled the early contests for February but then allowed them to take place in January after states such as Florida and Michigan violated the party's rules and moved up their voting.

Among Democrats, there has been little discussion thus far of states trying to move ahead in the calendar. Like the party did in 2012, the plan awards bonus delegates to states that agree to hold their primary contests later in the spring.

It includes a reduction in the number of base delegates who will attend the 2016 convention. The plans for 3,200 delegates, down from 3,700 in 2012, will give the party more flexibility in choosing a convention site.

Party leaders and elected officials also serve as delegates, so with the allotment of bonus delegates to states, the total number of delegates could be about 5,000, down slightly from the more than 5,500 delegates who attended the Charlotte, North Carolina, convention in 2012.

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Democrats are considering five cities for their 2016 convention: Birmingham, Alabama; Columbus, Ohio; New York; Philadelphia and Phoenix. DNC officials will make its final site visit to Phoenix next month and a decision on the winning bid is expected later this year or in early 2015.

Republicans are holding their 2016 convention in Cleveland beginning either June 27 or July 18. The DNC plan calls for states to complete the selection of convention delegates by June 25, 2016, meaning the convention could be staged in July, shortly after the GOP event.

Party officials also approved a resolution on the need to strengthen bonds between the public and police, end racial profiling and demilitarize police in the aftermath of the deadly police shooting subsequent protests in Ferguson, Mo.

The meeting came as Democrats try to break a Republican stronghold in Georgia, where recent population shifts have given the party hopes of winning statewide races and turning Georgia into a competitive state in presidential elections. Democrats are bullish about Senate candidate Michelle Nunn, who faces Republican David Perdue in a race to succeed retiring Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss.

Jason Carter, the grandson of former President Jimmy Carter, is challenging GOP Gov. Nathan Deal in a closely watched gubernatorial race. Carter met with party leaders during the three-day meeting and addressed the College Democrats of America on Saturday, pointing to young voters as a key factor in his campaign.

"As this electorate gets younger, we will win," said Carter.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Paul: Clinton too much of a ‘war hawk’”

By Keith Laing

August 24, 2014, 11:34 a.m. EDT

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said in an interview broadcast Sunday that Hillary Clinton is too much of a “war hawk” to be elected president in 2016.

“I think that’s what scares the Democrats the most is that in a general election, were I to run, there’s going to be a lot of independents and even some Democrats who say we are tired of war, we’re worried that Hillary Clinton is going to get us into another Middle Eastern war because she’s so gung ho,” Paul said during an interview on NBC’s “Meet The Press.”

“If you want to see a transformational election in our country, let the Democrats put forward a war hawk like Hillary Clinton and you’ll see a transformation like you’ve never see,” Paul continued.

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Critics in the Republican and Democratic parties have criticized Paul's previous stances as isolationist and argued that his views would not play well in a potential 2016 election.

However, Paul said Sunday that he was confident he could appeal to voters if he decided to run for president.

"I think the American public is coming closer to where I am," he said.

Paul discussed the 2016 presidential election during a recent trip to Guatemala to perform eye surgery.

He denied the decision to travel overseas was intended to boost his profile for the upcoming campaign.

"I've been doing this kind of stuff for 20 years," Paul said. "Physician is who I am. To represent who I am, that's who I am. I'm a physician. Depicting who I am I think is an important part of presenting a face to the public."

Politico blog: Politico Live: "Paul: Dems afraid I will run in 2016"

By Lucy McCalmont

August 24, 2014, 12:17 p.m. EDT

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul said Democrats are afraid his stance on war and foreign policy would attract independents and "even some Democrats" if he were to run against Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"I think the American public is coming more and more to where I am and that those people, like Hillary Clinton, who—she fought her own war, 'Hillary's war,' you know?" Paul said in an interview that aired Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

He continued, "And I think that's what scares the Democrats the most: is that in a general election, were I to run, there's going to be a lot of independents and even some Democrats who say, 'You know what? We are tired of war. We're worried that Hillary Clinton will get us involved in another Middle Eastern war because she's so gung-ho.'"

The Kentucky Republican, a widely-speculated contender for the GOP ticket in 2016, said the election would be "transformative" if Clinton runs.

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“If you want to see a transformational election in our country, let the Democrats put forward a war hawk like Hillary Clinton, and you’ll see a transformation like you’ve never seen," Paul said.

Des Moines Register column: Kathie Obradovich: “Importance of Clinton’s visit is not baloney”

By Kathie Obradovich, Des Moines Register political columnist

August 23, 2014, 11:02 CDT

Here’s my first prediction about Hillary Clinton’s eagerly anticipated return to Iowa: Her speech at the Harkin Steak Fry will be shorter than Bill’s.

OK, that’s an easy one. The former president has never been known for brevity. Besides, it probably won’t matter much what Hillary actually says in Iowa. The mere fact of her presence in the state that kicks off the presidential nomination process will whip up a Sharknado of 2016 speculation.

Speculation may be the wrong word for what seems like solidifying certainty. Former Iowa Democratic Chairwoman Sue Dvorsky noted that by coming to Iowa now, Hillary is “laying down a marker.”

“I do think six months ago, there was an actual question about whether or not she was going to run,” Dvorsky said. “And now, what does she say to everybody is, no, there is no question. And I think that has been put on the table.”

Jerry Crawford, a longtime Democratic activist and an organizer of the Ready for Hillary super-PAC, says he does not see the Clintons’ Iowa trip as any sort of declaration of candidacy. “I don’t think there’s any indication the Clintons view this as any kind of a campaign kickoff, but her supporters surely do,” Crawford said. “And there are thousands and thousands that have been generated through the organizing that Ready for Hillary has done.”

Ready for Hillary is a draft movement that is not affiliated with any campaign organization that Clinton may form.

Crawford said Clinton’s supporters will come out to see her and likely be motivated to campaign for Democrats in 2014. “It’s not as if we’ve put any of these races away, so to speak, and every bit of enthusiasm is crucial.”

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Clinton has been clear she won't announce her plans until 2015. Even if that weren't the case, she would not deliberately steal the thunder, lightning and every raindrop from the tribute to retiring Sen. Tom Harkin. The Sept. 14 event is the final steak-fry fundraiser for Iowa's long-serving senator. Any statements of 2016 will be strictly under the umbrella of coy jokes.

"She served in the Senate with Tom Harkin, the Harkins and Clintons are friends, and I think it's honoring Tom Harkin's legacy more than anything," said Scott Brennan, Iowa Democratic Party chairman.

This appearance can, however, serve as the strictly unspoken launch of Hillary Clinton's campaign for the Iowa caucuses. By that, I mean Clinton could go a long way toward laying to rest questions about her relationship with Iowa after coming in third in the 2008 caucuses.

She and the former president can do that in part by fondly recalling the people and places they encountered in Iowa. "She made a lot of friends during that cycle and if she ultimately decides to run for president, she'll have a lot of friends who have remained in Iowa," Brennan said. That's a point both Clintons can easily drive home at the steak fry.

Some will say that Clinton's nomination is as inevitable as straw bales on stage in Indianola. She doesn't have to worry about Iowa, they say. The Iowa caucuses, however, ensure that anyone who wants to challenge the establishment candidate has a voice. Any candidate who arrives in Iowa with a sense of entitlement will get burned faster than the beef on Harkin's grill.

Luckily for Clinton, the steak fry is a perfect opportunity to show she's willing to put in the effort it takes in Iowa. She can do that by spending plenty of time meeting and talking to Iowans, shaking their hands and signing their T-shirts and posing for photos. One experienced Democrat told me last week the biggest mistake Clinton made in Iowa in 2008 was allowing her natural talent as a grass-roots campaigner to be walled off in consultant-driven bubble.

Stories such as campaign aides planting questions in town hall meetings, as we saw in 2007, are examples of how Clinton was overly scripted and shielded. Yet, when she visited The Des Moines Register for an editorial board meeting, she took the time to shake hands with every person in the newsroom.

That's the Hillary Clinton who needs to show up in Iowa in 2015.

The good news is, Hillary can do that even if Bill never gives up the microphone.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Clinton vs. Warren: Where they disagree"

By Megan R. Wilson

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

August 24, 2014, 9:00 a.m. EDT

There are five major policy areas that shed daylight between Hillary Clinton and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

Clinton is expected to run for president in 2016, but some on the left are pining for Warren to launch a bid. The Massachusetts senator has repeatedly denied she is interested in running for the White House. However, her recent campaign stumping for Democratic candidates — as well as a planned trip to Israel — have stoked the 2016 speculation.

Clinton and Warren do agree on some issues, but on a variety of issues, their policies clash.

Expanding social security

During her 2008 presidential bid, Clinton was relatively non-committal about reforms to the Social Security program while Warren has not minced words.

“Seniors have worked their entire lives and have paid into the system, but right now, more people than ever are on the edge of financial disaster once they retire — and the numbers continue to get worse,” she said last November.

“That is why we should be talking about expanding Social Security benefits — not cutting them. Social Security is incredibly effective, it is incredibly popular, and the calls for strengthening it are growing louder every day.”

Clinton has been more coy on the issue of entitlements. She said in 2007 that certain reforms such as cutting benefits, privatizing the program or raising the retirement age were “off the table.” There were some articles at the time that gave mixed signals on whether she would be willing to increase payroll taxes.

One account from the Associated Press featured a conversation between a campaigning Clinton and an Iowa voter in which the candidate said she might consider committing more of workers' income to Social Security.

“She told him she didn't want to put an additional tax burden on the middle class but would consider a ‘gap,’ with no Social Security taxes on income from $97,500 to around $200,000. Anything above that could be taxed,” according to the article. The idea was similar to then-Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards, who was seen as to the left of Clinton.

Back then, workers paid taxes toward Social Security on their first $97,500 in earnings — any earnings above that remain untaxed. (Now that amount stands at $117,000.)

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Ultimately, Clinton officially shied away from the increase in taxes, and stuck with official comments that revolved around improving the economy overall.

“We need to get back to the fiscal responsibility that we had in the 1990s, when we weren't draining the Social Security fund any more,” she said.

Surveillance programs

During the promotional tour for her book “Hard Choices,” Clinton stood behind the U.S. surveillance programs and criticized former government contractor Edward Snowden for leaking sensitive information.

Most of what Snowden disclosed, she said, “concerned the surveillance that the United States undertakes, totally legally, against other nations.”

While she has backed reforms to “make sure that it doesn’t go too far,” Clinton told NPR that “collecting information about what's going around the world is essential to our security.”

“There were other ways that Mr. Snowden could have expressed his concerns,” such as reaching out to Congress, Clinton continued.

“I think everyone would have applauded that because it would have added to the debate that was already started. Instead, he left the country — first to China, then to Russia — taking with him a huge amount of [sensitive] information,” she said, adding that during her trips to Russia, she would leave all electronics on the State Department plane with the batteries out to prevent hacking.

Warren would like to end the bulk-collection of phone records, which is authorized by Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act and set to expire June 1, 2015.

Even though Warren praised the Obama’s administration’s reforms of its surveillance apparatus earlier this year, she said they might not go far enough.

“Congress must go further to protect the right to privacy, to end the NSA's dragnet surveillance of ordinary Americans, to make the intelligence community more transparent and accountable,” Warren said.

Bankruptcy reform

In the Senate, Clinton voted for an overhaul to the bankruptcy system that would have made debt forgiveness more difficult for borrowers to obtain. She said in 2008 that she regretted the vote, but it still could become a sticking point, as it did when she faced off with then-Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.).

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The credit card lobby pushed hard for the legislation, which did not prevail when Clinton voted for it in 2001, but did become law after another attempt by Congress in 2005. (Clinton did not vote in that round, telling reporters she missed the vote to be with Bill Clinton after his heart surgery.)

"The right kind of reform is necessary," Clinton said in a press release about the legislation in 2001. "We're on our way toward that goal, and I hope we can achieve final passage of a good bankruptcy reform bill this year"

During her initial presidential campaign, she said she would have voted against the 2005 bill that eventually passed.

Warren specialized in bankruptcy law and personal-finance issues while teaching at Harvard Law School. She had been published and widely quoted in national media before becoming a big player on the Washington scene in 2008 as chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel, a watchdog panel that oversaw the economic stimulus.

In 2006, Warren blasted the new law as ineffective at curbing fraud, which was the impetus for its passage.

"The new laws will drive up the costs for debtors and shrink the protection available, but that doesn't necessarily mean that fewer people in trouble will turn to bankruptcy," she told the Atlanta-Journal Constitution.

Free-trade agreements

Within the populist Democratic movement, there is a rising tide against once-popular trade deals connecting the U.S. with foreign lands. Clinton has been involved with many of the pacts from her time as first lady, in the Senate and finally, as part of the Obama administration.

Clinton saw herself in the middle of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) during her husband's presidency. She supported deals with Oman, Chile and Singapore during her tenure in the Senate. As secretary of State, she was a chief advocate as talks commenced surrounding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), one of the largest worldwide deals in recent history.

Many proponents of the agreements argue that negotiations need to take place in secret in order to protect the fragile interests of participating countries. This has not sat well with public interest groups and more liberal members of the Democratic Party, including Warren.

Last year, she went to far as to vote against Obama's then-nominee for the head of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Michael Froman, because of that lack of transparency as the 10 countries involved in the TPP discuss terms.

"I have heard the argument that transparency would undermine the Trade Representative's policy to

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complete the trade agreement because public opposition would be significant," she said in a floor speech. "In other words, if people knew what was going on, they would stop it. This argument is exactly backwards. If transparency would lead to widespread public opposition to a trade agreement, then that trade agreement should not be the policy of the United States."

At the State Department, Clinton didn't address specifics in the negotiating process, but told attendees at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum conference that she hoped it would "create a new high standard for multilateral free trade."

Critics have said that the agreement would ease regulations protecting both laborers and the environment, despite claims from Clinton to the contrary.

"Our goal for TPP is to create not just more growth, but better growth. We believe the TPP needs to include strong protections for workers, the environment, intellectual property, and innovation," Clinton said at the event in 2011. "It should also promote the free flow of information technology and the spread of green technology, as well as the coherence of our regulatory system and the efficiency of supply chains."

Glass-Steagall

Warren has long positioned herself as an adversary to large financial institutions, questioning why they hadn't brought bankers who had been partially responsible for the financial downturn to trial. Last year, she introduced legislation that would reinstate Glass-Steagall, the Depression-era law that created a firewall between commercial and investment banking and was repealed during the Clinton administration.

"We should not accept a financial system that allows the biggest banks to emerge from a crisis in record-setting shape while working Americans continue to struggle," Warren said at an event in 2013.

The financial services industry fought against Warren's idea of creating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). It also made clear it would oppose any move to have her run the bureau.

Clinton, meanwhile, has been painted by critics as beholden to Wall Street, giving paid speeches at events sponsored by banking executives and maintaining ties with former officials who had been more laissez-faire with financial regulatory policy. As a senator from New York, bankers had been Clinton's constituents and largest donors.

Politico: "Sarah Palin does ice-bucket challenge"

By Lucy McCalmont

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

August 23, 2014, 6:45 p.m. EDT

Sarah Palin became the latest politician to accept the ALS ice bucket challenge, posting a video to her Facebook page Saturday and challenging both Hillary Clinton and Sen. John McCain.

“Of course I accept. You know what though? I’m too old for this. Really. And don’t you guys think — c’mon — at this stage of my life, in my career, aren’t I a little too prim and proper for all that ice bucket water dump thing?” the former vice presidential candidate said, adding that her daughter Piper participated and “took care” of the cold water part.

Instead Palin said she was going to write a check, doubling the original amount.

“Then I’m going to show you what my ice bucket is tonight,” Palin said before adding ice to a glass and drinking Diet Dr. Pepper.

“Now, I get to challenge someone, right? I challenge Hillary Clinton, and he whom she has recently said is her favorite Republican. He is my friend, I also challenge Sen. John McCain. Cheers,” Palin said, lifting her glass and ultimately getting drenched with a bucket of ice water.

Palin was challenged by the owners of Wasilla Arctic Cat, a snow mobile dealer, to pour a bucket of iced water over her head as part of a charity campaign that has swept social media, raising awareness of Lou Gehrig’s disease.

The Daily Beast: “Political Mythbusting: Third Term's The Charm”

By Jeff Greenfield

August 24, 2014

[Subtitle:] Despite assertions otherwise, Americans are probably pretty OK with giving a party a third term in the White House.

We were reminded once again this week — by The New York Times’ estimable John Harwood — of one of those “rules” that will govern the next Presidential race. In writing of the midterm elections’ impact on the 2016 campaign,—suggesting that a GOP Senate takeover might benefit a Hillary Clinton run — Harwood writes: “American voters have demonstrated their reluctance to award the same political party a third consecutive term in the White House.”

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Measured by a glance at recent history, that's true. But (as NFL officials put it) on further review, there's a whole lot less than meets the eye. What the record really shows is just how much the fate of the Presidency is governed by the vagaries of chance.

For much of our political history, the "third term" curse was non-existent. During the Republican ascendancy that began with Lincoln's election in 1860, the party won six straight elections (although it did take some highly sketchy maneuvering in 1876). Later, the White House passed from McKinley to Theodore Roosevelt to Taft, and then from Harding to Coolidge to Hoover. FDR and Harry Truman combined to keep the Presidency in Democratic hands for twenty consecutive years. (Coincidentally or not, in all of these streaks, the death of a President brought a new occupant to the White House.)

The "reluctance" Harwood points to didn't really begin until 1960. As he puts it: "The combination of fatigue with the incumbent party and rejuvenation by its opposition helped stymie Richard M. Nixon when he sought to succeed Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1960 and Hubert H. Humphrey when he tried to follow Lyndon B. Johnson eight years later. Al Gore lost in 2000 despite President Clinton's high approval rating and economic record." In this last half-century plus, only George H.W. Bush was able to win a third term for his party. (Note: in every case, the nominee was the sitting vice-president — a stark reminder of how much more important that office has become in recent decades.)

This account looks convincing — until it's subjected to a closer look.

* In 1960, Nixon lost to John Kennedy by less than two-tenths of 1 percent of the popular vote. In fact, given the highly creative vote counting methods in Illinois and (even more so) in Texas, and the fact that some of Alabama's votes went to a slate of un-pledged electors, it's not at all clear that JFK won the popular vote at all. In several states — Illinois, New Jersey, Minnesota, Hawaii, the spread was barely 1 percent or less.

* In 1968, Nixon beat Hubert Humphrey by seven-tenths of 1 percent of the popular vote; some pollsters argued that, had the election happened a day or two later, Humphrey might well have won. Further, history strongly suggests, may well have been shaped by the Nixon campaign's role in sabotaging a Vietnam peace accord. (See, for example, "Chasing Shadows: The Nixon Tapes, the Chennault Affair, and the Origins of Watergate" by Ken Hughes, which argues that Nixon operative Anna Chennault convinced the South Vietnamese government that it would do better to wait for a Nixon Presidency before agreeing to terms.)

* In 2000 — well, perhaps we need not revisit the campaign in which Al Gore won half a million more votes than George W. Bush, and in which a one-vote Supreme Court majority sanctioned a Bush victory in Florida by 537 votes out of some six million cast. (If you look more broadly, the center-left candidates — Gore and Ralph Nader — out-polled the center-right candidates — Bush and Pat Buchanan — by some three million votes.)

Viewed through this prism, the idea of an American electorate "reluctant" to give a third straight White House term to a political party looks far less convincing, and far more the product of highly "contingent" events. Indeed, the only recent example where voters clearly rejected a third term for the incumbent party was 2008—when a collapsing economy and the Iraq misadventure doomed John McCain's hopes of succeeding George W. Bush. And it's certainly possible that a continued fall in Obama's approval ratings will prove a burden to Hillary Clinton or any other Democrat in 2016.

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As for the other recent examples: better pre-debate makeup in 1960, a few days more campaigning in 1968, different ballot designs in a few Florida counties in 2000, and we might be pointing to the voters' willingness, even eagerness, to grant a third term to the party in power. As it is, whatever worries will keep the next Democratic nominee up at night, that "third term curse" should not be one of them.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 24 – Westhampton, NY: Sec. Clinton signs "Hard Choices" at Books & Books (hillaryclintonmemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· October ? – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (The Hill)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/30/2008 3:08:04 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/30/08

Main Topics: McCain runs new attack ad, McCain's shifty tax stance, Fancy Pants

Summary of Shift: Top McCain news this evening continued to revolve around his contradictory statements on what tax options are on the table and his new celebrity ad against Obama. Disgraced Alaska senator, Ted Stevens' scandal is still a prominent issue, reaching into a second night of close coverage. Harry Reid offers an opportunity votes on oil drilling, then rescinds offer. Israel's prime minister vows to step down in two months once his party chooses a successor.

Highlights
1) McCain's 'celeb' ad
   a. ABC: Former McCain aide calls new ad 'childish'
   b. NBC: 'Celeb' ad aimed to exploit class divisions
   c. CBS: One journalist predicts the new ad will backfire
   2) MSNBC: Bush pushes for offshore drilling
3) MSNBC: McCain supporter ducks frank question on McCain tax platform
4) CNN: McCain wears unnecessarily fancy shoes

No clips
1) MSNBC – DAVID GREGORY: "There was the claim you remember, in an ad earlier this week by McCain that Obama snubbed wounded soldiers in Germany, because he decided he couldn't bring cameras with him. Well that has been de-bunked by reporters who were traveling with Obama as well as denied by the Obama team itself."

Clips
Highlight #1
ABC's World News Tonight *Opens with Candidate Mud-Slinging* (ABC 07/30/08 6:30pm)
CHARLES GIBSON: It is a pledge made by every candidate in every campaign, to run on the issues and avoid negative attacks. Just last month, John McCain pledged that, throughout the campaign, he would show his admiration and respect for senator Obama. As for Obama, he pledged to run a different campaign; run a positive campaign. Well, that was then. Today, the fact attacks were flying so fast and furious, it was sometimes hard to keep up. […]

DAVID WRIGHT: […] The mud has, indeed, been flying. With Obama constantly comparing McCain to president Bush and today, McCain comparing Obama to empty celebrities, all sizzle, no substance. John McCain has been trying to raise doubts about his opponent. Today in Colorado, he was at it again.

JOHN MCCAIN: The bottom line is that Senator Obama's words, for all their eloquence and passion, don't mean all that much.

WRIGHT: McCain has recently said Obama would rather lose a war to win an election. He's called him Dr. No on energy reforms and run ads blaming Obama for high gas prices.

MCCAIN COMMERCIAL: He's the biggest celebrity in the world, but is he ready to lead?

WRIGHT: Today, McCain unveiled a new ad in 11 states, flashing images of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton, suggesting Obama is just another vapid celebrity.

MCCAIN COMMERCIAL: Higher taxes, more foreign oil. That's the real Obama.

STUART ROTHENBERG: Nobody's going to confuse Paris Hilton with Senator Barack Obama, but over time, the attempt to raise questions about his substance, that could very well work.

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WRIGHT: The Obama campaign dismissed the ad as more of his steady stream of false negative attacks, or some might say, "Oops, he did it again."

BARACK OBAMA: We don't need the same, old, tired answers. What we need is something new.

WRIGHT: Obama told an audience in Missouri, the republicans are just trying to scare voters.

BARACK OBAMA: Their argument is, 'I know you don't like what we're doing, but he's risky.'

WRIGHT: A McCain spokesman shot back, 'This is a typically superfluous response from Barack Obama. Like most celebrities, he reacts to fair criticism with a mix of fussiness and hysteria.' Today, the McCain side released a memo noting, among other things, Obama's fondness for chocolate protein bars, black forest berry Honest Tea, and arugula.

In other words, high-maintenance like any big star, but Obama supporters are having none of it. Today, they called attention to the shoes McCain has worn on stops throughout the rust belt. Italian calfskin loafers that retail for $520 a pair. Late today, the Obama campaign responded to McCain's celebrity ad with a new ad of their own.

OBAMA COMMERCIAL: "False." "Baloney." "Baseless." John McCain, same old politics. Same failed policies.

WRIGHT: It's getting ugly early and some republicans are expressing concern about McCain's tone. In particular, one former McCain aide calling the new celebrity ad childish. The McCain campaign insists that Obama went negative first. Charlie.

GIBSON: […] There are still 97 days to go until election day. I suppose it could get worse. […]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: You think it's going to get worst, Charlie?

GIBSON: We're arguing about what teas people thing and shoes candidates wear. First of all, […] John McCain. What's the McCain strategy with these kinds of accusations, I guess, about Obama?

STEPHANOPOULOS: I think the strategy behind it is recognizing one fundamental fact about the campaign. Right now this, campaign is about Barack Obama. He is getting all the attention. He is the candidate voters are focused on and the McCain strategy is to define him before he can define himself and there is a tradition of this, Charlie.

Go back to 1988. Republicans put Michael Dukakis, the democratic candidate, in a tank. In 2004, remember that ad of John Kerry, when he was windsurfing, showing him as a flip-flopper. In each of those cases, the idea was to show that the democratic candidate is not one of us, is not a regular guy. They're trying to do the same thing now to Barack Obama, by comparing him to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton.

GIBSON: And what to the Obama people, and Obama himself, I guess, think of all this? and how do they intend to respond?

STEPHANOPOULOS: They scoff. They say first of all this, is a more serious time, than 1988 or 2004. We're a country at war. The economy's in the doldrums. People don't want to hear this kind of stuff.

They're also going to say that this is just John McCain being negative. He's got nothing positive to say. I think the big question here, is when voters see that ad, do they see it captures something essential about Barack Obama's character? Or do they think it's just a ridiculous caricature?

NBC Nightly News *Leads with McCain Celeb Attack Ad* (NBC 07/30/08 7:01pm)
BRIAN WILLIAMS: We have 98 days to go until the presidential election in this country. That means 98 days worth of promises from both candidates to keep the debate lofty and civil and, while they may say that, it's just as likely that both campaigns will keep putting TV ads on the air, tearing each other apart.

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The latest ad to do that comes from the McCain campaign. It features two, young Hollywood starlets more famous for their public embarrassments than their public policy views. What do they have to do with Barack Obama and what about a counter-attack by the Obama campaign? […]

KELLY O'DONNEL: […] What's known as 'defining the opponent' is a critical phase in any presidential campaign and that was unmistakable today as John McCain tried to define, for voters, Barack Obama by mocking a perceived strength, Obama's popularity. In Aurora, CO today, John McCain first tried to avoid being seen as too angry, as his critics claim. So, before going negative on Obama, McCain tried going nice.

JOHN MCCAIN: I applaud his talent and his success and Americans—all Americans should be proud of his accomplishment.

O'DONNELL: With that said, McCain's campaign rolled out a TV ad about Obama they call, 'celeb.'

MCCAIN COMMERCIAL: He's the biggest celebrity in the world, but is he ready to lead?

O'DONNELL: Yes, you did see pop culture stars, Paris Hilton and Britney Spears alongside the democratic candidate.

COMMERCIAL: Higher taxes, more foreign oil. That's the real Obama.

O'DONNELL: Next, the campaign issued a memo, making this claim: [image of Rick Davis appears in corner of screen] 'Like most worldwide celebrities, this status has fueled a certain arrogance.' Today in Missouri, Barack Obama said he pays little attention to McCain ads.

BARACK OBAMA: He seems to only be talking about me. You need to ask John McCain what he's for, not just what he's against.

O'DONNELL: Arguing McCain has made a series of negative attacks, the Obama campaign could not resist playing off a Britney Spears hit song. As some might say, "Oops! He did it again." Team McCain maintains that Obama was first to run a negative spot, hitting McCain on TV three weeks ago.

OBAMA COMMERCIAL: On gas prices, John McCain's part of the problem.

O'DONNELL: Today McCain also tried to define himself, invoking the label, 'maverick,' and making an appeal to independents, expected to decide this race.

JOHN MCCAIN: I don't work for a party. I don't work for a president. I don't work for a special interest and I don't work for myself. I work for you and the country that we love.

O'DONNELL: And, quick to respond, the Obama campaign fired up the edit room and put together a spot they say will perhaps be on the air as early as tonight. It responds to the ad that you just saw and it will use some clips out of newspaper articles that will say that McCain has been negative and even, at times, false in his attacks on Obama.

WILLIAMS: […] What's at work here?

CHUCK TODD: Pretty simple, Brian. They simply want to paint Barack Obama as an elitist, sort of a bi-coastal elitist. He's got celebrity status. He may be like Bono or Paris Hilton, but he can't connect and he's not going to appeal to folks in Ohio, in Michigan, in Pennsylvania.

I mean, the McCain campaign feels very positive about this ad, that this is the way to sort of peal away the onion of Obama a little bit and get at this, say, 'Okay we'll run against his popularity and that working class voters in those key, industrial rust belt states will end up saying, you know what? I'm not for some international superstar. I'm for John McCain.'

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WILLIAMS: And that figure we used at the top of the broadcast, for all the campaigning we've all lived through, 98 days now seems awfully close and it strikes me sooner or later these candidates are going to need running mates, what are you hearing on that front?

TODD: […] With John McCain it looks like he's going to wait until after the democratic convention and, I'll tell ya, you really only hear two names: Mitt Romney and Tim Pawlenty out of Minnesota.

McCain's Attack is Likely to Backfire (CBS 07/30/08 6:36pm)
KATIE COURIC: Turning now to the presidential campaign, which today seemed to be ripped from the pages of a celebrity magazine with supporting roles played by Britney Spears and Paris Hilton. John McCain sharpened his attack against Barack Obama, trying to turn his popularity against him and late today, Obama fired back. […]

CHIP REID: Just about everywhere Barack Obama goes the adoring crowds follow. 200,000 turned out to hear him speak last week in Germany. Here at home, his town hall meetings are standing-room only. Political commentators compare him to a rock star. Now the McCain campaign has decided to try to use Obama's celebrity status against him.

MCCAIN COMMERCIAL: He's the biggest celebrity in the world, but is he ready to lead?

REID: Today releasing an ad that compares Obama to those symbols of shallowness, Britney Spears and Paris Hilton. In a conference call today, McCain's topped a visor said the ad is intended to pose a stark choice.

STEVE SCHMIDT: Do the American people want to elect the world's biggest celebrity or do they want to elect an American hero?

REID: Political analyst, David Mark says the ad is sure to get a lot of attention, but do you think the Britney Spears/Paris Hilton ad is going to work for John McCain?

DAVID MARK: No, I think it's going to backfire. John McCain's campaign is predicated on the idea of loyalty, somebody of honor. This seems a little juvenile.

REID: Today the Obama campaign responded with an ad of their own.

OBAMA COMMERCIAL: John McCain, his attacks on Barack Obama: "Not true." "False." "Baloney." "The low road."

REID: Campaigning in Missouri, Obama took the high road.

BARACK OBAMA: You know, I don't pay attention to John McCain's ads. Although I do notice that he doesn't seem to have anything very positive to say about himself, does he? He seems to only be talking about me.

REID: Today an Obama campaign spokesman responded to the McCain attack ad by quoting Britney Spears saying, about McCain, "Oops, he did it again."

Highlight #2
George W. Bush Advocates Lift on Congressional Offshore Drilling Ban (MSNBC 07/30/08 10:59am)
THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I just finished a good Cabinet meeting, and I want to thank the members of my Cabinet for serving our country. We discussed the challenges facing our economy, amongst other things, and we spent time on the high gasoline prices. Every one of our citizens who drives to work or runs a small business is feeling the squeeze of rising prices at the pump, and they expect their elected leaders in Washington to take some common-sense action.

To reduce pressure on prices, we need to increase the supply of oil -- especially here at home. So in June, I called on Congress to lift the legislative ban that prevents offshore exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf. Unfortunately, Democratic leaders in Congress have refused to allow a vote. And now Congress is about to leave for its August recess without taking any action on this vital priority for the American people.

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There is now a growing agreement across our country that the government should permit the exploration and development of these offshore oil resources.

Exploration of the OCS would increase our supply of oil here at home. Experts believe that currently restricted areas of the OCS could eventually produce up to about 18 billion barrels of oil. That's almost 10 years' worth of America's current oil production.

Exploration of the OCS would also create jobs for our citizens. Yesterday, I visited the Lincoln Electric Company in Cleveland, Ohio -- it's a business that produces welding products used for offshore exploration. If Congress were to permit exploration of the OCS, it would mean jobs at businesses such as these. American drivers on -- are counting on Congress to lift the ban on offshore exploration -- and so are American workers.

Bringing OCS resources online is going to take time -- and that means that the need for congressional action is urgent. So I've lifted the executive restrictions on offshore exploration. I've done my part. And that means the only thing now standing now between the American people and these vast oil resources is the United States Congress. The sooner Congress lifts the ban, the sooner we can get this oil from the ocean floor to your gas tank.

Some members of Congress say they object to exploration of the OCS, but they are in favor of other actions -- such as taking oil out of the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Well, if you agree that we need more oil, it makes no sense to say you're for draining our nation's limited Strategic Reserve, but against tapping into the vast resources of the Outer Continental Shelf.

America needs to take every reasonable and responsible step we can do to reduce pressure on gasoline and energy prices. That's precisely what my administration is doing. We're working to expand domestic oil production. And at the same time, we're working to speed the development of new clean and alternative energy resources. We're raising fuel efficiency standards, expanding the use of alternative fuels, and investing in next-generation fuels such as cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel. We're investing in new advanced batteries, and plug-in hybrids, and hydrogen fuel cells. We're working to expand the use of clean, safe nuclear power, solar and wind power, and clean coal technology. With these steps, we're enhancing America's energy security -- and increasing the supply of clean, safe energy made right here in the United States of America.

The time for action is now. This is a difficult period for millions of American families. Every extra dollar they have to spend because of high gas prices is one less dollar they can use to put food on the table, or to pay the rent, or meet their mortgages. The American people are rightly frustrated by the failure of Democratic leaders in Congress to enact common-sense solutions -- like the development of the oil resources on the Outer Continental Shelf.

There are now just a couple of days left before Congress leaves for its August recess. Legislation to open up this offshore exploration is pending in both the House and the Senate -- all Democratic leaders have to do is allow a vote. They should not leave Washington without doing so.

Thank you very much.

Highlight #3
McCain Supporter, Heather Wilson Avoids Shuster's Challenge to Reconcile Candidates' Contradictory Statements on Taxes (MSNBC 07/30/08 4:18pm)
DAVID SHUSTER: Square [McCain's vow that he won't support a tax increase] with the statement on Sunday when he said, 'Everything would be on the table,' including raising the payroll tax to save social security.

HEATHER WILSON: I think he's made a very clear commitment that he doesn't want to raise taxes.

Highlight #4
Fancy Pants (or Shoes) McCain (CNN 07/30/08 6:55pm)
JEANNIE MOOST: We don't expect John McCain to be on a show string budget when it comes to shoes but 520 dollars Ferragamo calf skin leather loafers? That is right up there in John Edwards 400 dollar hair cut territory...

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MOOST: It wasn't pretty when the liberal Huffington Post style section revealed Loafer Gate...

MOOST: We are guessing maybe the Senator has some help in the shoe shopping department from his fashion plate wife. But wasn't Senator Obama the guy being called in elitist? ...

MOOST: Presidential candidate McCain was spotted wearing his 520 dollar Italian shoes when he met with the Dalai Lama. Though it was hard to notice their feet, what with all the hand holding. The Dalai Lama was wearing sandals. So should they meet again perhaps this simple 275 dollar Prada sandal might work for Senator McCain.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	12/23/2014 3:13:34 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday December 23, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Tuesday December 23, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

BuzzFeed: Elizabeth Warren Consistently Not Running For President

"She has said it in newspapers and magazines. She has said it on the radio and on national television. She has said it at public events and book signings; in prepared statements to reporters and in quick exchanges with the press. She has said it four times in a single interview — twice. Since last fall, Elizabeth Warren has said it a total of 49 times. 'I am not running for president.'"

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton's best and worst moments of 2014"

"Here's a look back at Clinton's ups and downs in 2014."

Washington Post: Dan Balz: "Democrats see rising populist sentiment. But can it shake Hillary Clinton?"

"What rankles many progressives is the possible absence of a genuinely contested battle for the Democratic nomination."

New York Times opinion: Jacob Heilbrunn, National Interest editor: "The Real Threat to Hillary Clinton: Jim Webb"

"If Mrs. Clinton runs, she may face a serious and very different threat: her own foreign policy record."

National Journal: "Nine Questions for Hillary Clinton In 2015"

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[Subtitle:] “She'll need to formulate her campaign's message, tap a trusted team of advisers, and take sides on polarizing issues.”

BuzzFeed: “Obama’s Anti-Baby Boomer Foreign Policy”

“Indeed, the most surprising thing about the current field of candidates may not be that the country would choose the heir to the Clinton or Bush dynasty, but that voters would hand power back over to the baby boomers whom Obama convinced them to throw out.”

NBC New York: “Former President Clinton and Family Visit Sting’s ‘The Last Ship’”

“The standing ovations at the new Sting musical ‘The Last Ship’ started minutes before the curtain even rose on Saturday night. That’s because walking down the aisle of the Neil Simon Theatre was former President Bill Clinton, who was out for a night at the theater with wife Hillary Rodham Clinton, daughter Chelsea, and son-in-law Marc Mezvinsky.”

Articles:

BuzzFeed: Elizabeth Warren Consistently Not Running For President

By Ruby Cramer

December 22, 2014, 11:51 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Elizabeth Warren isn’t running for president. But the senator’s electromagnetic pull has produced a sprawling, complicated draft effort that could define the progressive movement — and prove rewarding or risky for Warren.

She has said it in newspapers and magazines. She has said it on the radio and on national television. She has said it at public events and book signings; in prepared statements to reporters and in quick exchanges with the press. She has said it four times in a single interview — twice. Since last fall, Elizabeth Warren has said it a total of 49 times.

“I am not running for president.”

She has also committed, on two occasions now, to complete her first term in the U.S. Senate. The “pledge” would keep her on Capitol Hill until 2019. Still, the question almost always gets asked. And it doesn’t matter how, where, or by whom: Warren sticks to her answer with studied discipline, only sometimes adding a special flourish.

“I am not running for president. Period.”

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“No means no.”

“No, no, no, no.”

“No, no, no, no, no.”

But three weeks ago, when organizers from MoveOn.org, the largest progressive group in the country, contacted Warren’s office to let her staff know about their plan, the reply they received was neutral and dispassionate, taking some activists by surprise.

“When we gave them a heads up, they said ‘thanks’ and ‘we’ve appreciated the work we’ve done together in the Senate,’” said Ben Wikler, MoveOn’s Washington director.

The organization was about to launch a campaign to convince Warren to run for president. MoveOn officials expected support from the majority of their members — there are 8 million spread across every state, county, and zip code. And they intended to spend at least $1 million on the effort, opening offices and hiring staff in New Hampshire and Iowa, the states that begin the presidential nominating process every four years.

After MoveOn announced the project, Warren reverted to her go-to line. A spokesperson reiterated Warren’s pledge to serve a full Senate term. And her staff circulated audio from an event in Boston, where Warren told reporters again that, no, she isn’t running.

Still, organizers working on the campaign to draft Warren — who has become an avatar of the party’s progressive flank — found it significant that she didn’t go further.

“The response was just ‘OK,’ not a statement up or down,” said one progressive operative involved in the campaign. “If Warren or her team had been dead set against a draft from a big movement player like MoveOn, there was an easy way to make that clear.”

“It would have stopped it dead,” this person said. “MoveOn would not have done it.”

Progressives have spent months parsing these fine distinctions: weighing what Warren has said against what she has stopped just short of saying to close the door on 2016. Many activists see a difference big enough to justify a draft campaign. They believe she hasn’t ruled out a presidential run. They believe she can still be convinced.

It’s a void that, fair or not, Warren has helped create. And now the big players are heading toward it with their own methods, motives, and expectations.

Two other groups, Democracy for America and Ready for Warren, have glommed on to MoveOn’s draft. The campaign, barreling into the New Year with no certain end-date, has become a growing, shifting thing that inspires some progressives but troubles others.

In interviews this month, more than a dozen liberal strategists and activists said the movement will carry consequences good and bad for each party in this dance: Warren, the paragon, and a wider progressive community that, angling to push the party to the left and recoup influence, has consigned its brand and future to a single figure.

Most of the people at RootsCamp, an annual gathering of progressive campaign aides and organizers, had their own theory or hunch about why Warren might run.

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For some, it's the fact that Warren won't use the future tense, only the present, when ruling out a 2016 bid. For others, it's the one time she didn't stick to her script, vaguely telling People magazine about the "amazing doors that could open." And for one activist, Sean McKeown, the first volunteer to sign up for the Ready for Warren group, it's page 212, chapter six, of her book, A Fighting Chance — the part where the Harvard professor and bankruptcy expert decides to become a candidate for the U.S. Senate.

The 34-year-old activist manned a table of "Run Liz Run" postcards last weekend at RootsCamp, the so-called "unconference" in D.C.'s immense convention center where MoveOn and the two other pro-Warren groups held their first event together.

McKeown has committed to memory the memoir's key page number and chapter.

"It's like she gave us a manual," he said. "It's how to convince her to run."

But put aside the book and the People magazine interview. Put aside the fact that, for all 49 times she has said she's not running, she hasn't issued a "Shermanesque statement" vowing she won't run in the future… Warren's actions are far less ambiguous.

Democrats close to Warren's operation, including ones familiar with her network of donors, said they see clear signals indicating one thing: It's not happening.

Since the midterm elections, the senator's financial gatekeeper, Paul Egerman, has told inquiring Democrats that she is still not considering a run, according to several people who have spoken with him late this year. (He has also reasoned that the sweeping Republican wins last month made 2016 even less appealing for Warren, one person said.)

Egerman served as Warren's campaign finance chair, helping her raise $42 million. He is a board member of the Democracy Alliance, a network of top liberal funders, and is seen by many of those donors as the go-to contact for matters pertaining to the senator. Late last fall, after a New Republic cover story floated the idea that Warren would challenge Hillary Clinton in a primary, Egerman assured donors that she wasn't running.

Warren's lawyer, Marc Elias, also warned in a letter earlier this summer that any draft efforts should "not confuse donors about a non-existent run for president."

Progressive financiers still aren't picking up a different message. "Nothing has changed that I can see," said Steve Phillips, a California-based donor and member of the Democracy Alliance. "No side meetings, no whispers, no movement."

Warren hasn't made moves on the staff side, either.

Her political operation, for all the interest, remains lean. She has one main strategist, Doug Rubin, based in Boston. There is no communications director in her Senate office, just a press secretary and deputy. And Mandy Grunwald, the ad-maker with decades-long ties to the Clintons, is still her media consultant. (Grunwald worked on Bill Clinton's 1992 race and Hillary Clinton's campaigns in 2000, 2006, and 2008.)

"Warren has not made gestures toward running for president that a seasoned political professional could see and embrace," said one senior Democratic strategist.

"It's become too cute by half."

Warren is building a widening platform in the Senate, instead. One week after the midterms, she secured a minor but custom-made leadership post

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following a series of private talks with Harry Reid, the top Senate Democrat. Warren's role has been described as unofficial "liaison" with the liberal base of the party.

Few Democrats interpreted the move as a step toward a national campaign.

"Everyone knows she is beloved by the left and has a big voice," said Mike Lux, a veteran liberal strategist who has worked with Warren. "She hasn't changed what she has said about the race one iota. So nothing has changed."

"Elizabeth Warren likes being a senator," said Ari Rabin-Havt, a longtime progressive operative who hosts a show on Sirius XM. "She just joined leadership in the Senate."

"You just don't do that if you're going to run for president."

The draft movement started more than a year ago, on a listserv.

In those early email exchanges, the project was just an ill-defined idea. In turn, that morphed into Ready for Warren, a super PAC some progressives have eyed as ineffective. MoveOn would come later, followed by Democracy for America, forming a three-legged collaboration that still hasn't figured its own mechanics. But even last year, at the beginning, progressives worried about how a draft would work — and the impact of an evolving 2016-focused movement over which Warren would have no control.

At the time, the "Warren for President" talk was shifting into a higher gear. One group, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, branded the senator their "North Star" and unveiled the slogan, "I'm from the Elizabeth Warren Wing." The appeal was and remains clear, even if Warren still lacks a major legislative victory. No other figure speaks as effectively, or frequently, about the slate of economic causes she has made her signature: easing student loan debt, expanding Social Security, reinstating stricter regulations on banks. Warren assumed the progressive mantle easily and early.

She had been in office just nine months when Billy Wimsatt, a liberal organizer, started a Facebook page called Ready for Warren.

Wimsatt sent the link to "Game Changers Salon," a private mailing list where he moderated messages between the estimated 1,200 progressive subscribers with access: activists, pundits, operatives, fundraisers, donors, and a handful of journalists.

The group was "for fun," Wimsatt wrote. "Holler if you want to play with it."

About two weeks later, Wimsatt sent another email to the thread: A journalist had contacted him about Ready for Warren. Wimsatt hadn't even publicized the Facebook page. (It only had 12 likes.) "I'm debating what to do," Wimsatt wrote. He proposed he promote the group and find a team to helm it. "Unless I hear any majorly compelling objections, I think we're going to go forward with this and give it a try."

Immediately, replies filed in. Some liked the idea. But many worried about the effect on Warren. It might look like she is playing along, even if she isn't, one strategist said. It might politicize her efforts in the Senate, said another. It might be a burden for her staff, might overexpose her national brand, might hurt in some unexpected way.

Wimsett eventually handed the page over to three volunteers. They maintained Ready for Warren's quiet, prenatal internet existence until the summer, when the group went public with a website and campaign manager, Erica Sagrans, a digital strategist who worked on President Obama's reelection.

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What launched, several movement progressives said, was a high-visibility, fledgling group that didn't initially loop in Warren's camp or other liberal stakeholders. "It was a surprise to everyone when stories started leaking about this," said one progressive strategist. (In an interview, Sagrans said she hadn't reached out to Warren's office, either.)

The week of the roll-out, Sagrans hadn't registered Ready for Warren with the Federal Election Commission, or decided how to structure the entity. But the group debuted later that week at Netroots Nation, the biggest progressive gathering of the year.

At the conference, volunteers passed out signs and plastic boater hats, each one decorated with an "Elizabeth Warren for President" sticker. (In the months that followed, more than one progressive operative joked with a shrug, "Well, they had hats!")

Ready for Warren has since faded into the mix, letting MoveOn take a central role, along with Democracy for America, which joined the draft movement last week. But at the RootsCamp conference, the trio of groups still appeared disjointed and scattered.

It's not clear how the three will work together.

"Talking to each other all the time is a good first step," said Wikler, the MoveOn official.

Inside the convention hall, MoveOn and Ready for Warren set up separate tables and peddled stickers bearing opposing slogans: "Run Warren Run" vs. "Run Liz Run." At the panel the two groups co-hosted, along with Democracy for America, officials from each organization pitched attendees to visit their own respective websites, where the groups are collecting their own respective lists of donors, volunteers, and email addresses.

There is no central hub online for the larger Warren draft movement.

Instead, organizers have encouraged supporters to start their own projects, create new social media pages, and host events independent of the existing campaign structure.

At the RootsCamp panel, Sagrans described the Warren effort as a "duocracy" made up of many entities. Join Ready for Warren, she said, but also "start your own Facebook page, record a video, do an event, do a meet-up… whatever you want to do."

Wikler chimed in. "We're all the protagonists in these stories," he said. "You're gonna see an explosion of Facebook groups, of different organizations, of endorsement votes, of announcements and press releases, of visibility actions, of photo petitions, of tumblrs."

The political director of Democracy for America, Eden James, said the three organizations should embrace the disorder. "[We're] building a foundation for the grassroots to empower themselves as much as we empower them," James said.

"So as soon as we lose control of this movement, we will have won."

Near the crêpe stand at RootsCamp, a fight broke out.

It didn't get physical — but two operatives exchanged harsh words about a short video, produced by MoveOn, to promote the launch of the draft effort this month.

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The film, about four minutes in length, closes with a clip from David Muir's interview with Warren from the spring. When the video reaches its final frames, a title screen asks in all caps, "Are You Ready?" Then a voice-over. "This may be Elizabeth Warren's moment." Then Muir's face. "Are you gonna run for president?" he asks. Then there's Warren, staring blankly, silent, seeming to hesitate. Finally, she blinks. Then a "Run Warren Run" logo flashes across the screen. And that's it — the video is over.

The actual interview went like this —

DAVID MUIR: Are you gonna run for president?

ELIZABETH WARREN: I'm not running for president.

DAVID MUIR: There's nothing that could change your mind?

ELIZABETH WARREN: I'm not running for president.

— and that's why the one activist was so upset. The ad, he argued, his voice loud in the convention hallway, willfully misleads people about Warren's intentions.

There have been other disputes over the methods and messaging driving the movement. Some progressives bristle, for instance, when officials aligned with the campaign make public reference to Warren's verb tense, or talk about her unwillingness to issue a "Shermanesque" denial. "The parsing," said one, "is blurring on offensive."

The arguments evince a wider and deeper rift in the progressive wing about the consequences of a presidential draft movement, particularly for MoveOn.

Now, Warren is seen as an ideal presidential candidate and a potent megaphone in the race. But people inside the progressive community have expressed concern that a movement focused on a figure who is so singularly fixed on one issue — income inequality — could narrow the policy lens of MoveOn and its partners.

"It's surprising how organizations with such a breadth of concerns have focused this campaign so narrowly," said the senior Democratic strategist, citing other significant progressive priorities like abortion rights, immigration, and civil rights.

More than a decade ago, MoveOn's singular, clear, cutting voice made it the most influential liberal outfit in the country. The group, founded in 1998, rode a rising progressive sentiment against President George W. Bush. By the spring of 2003, MoveOn was enough of a force in Democratic circles that the group's officials decided they would hold their own presidential primary, online, and endorse the candidate who cleared 50%. (John Kerry actually purchased ads on Yahoo! urging people to participate.)

Since then, MoveOn's membership has grown by millions, but its power has dwindled.

In 2014, the group has something to gain from Warren's voice and platform. She is a viral commodity. When she confronts a banking executive in a Senate hearing, the YouTube clip of the exchange will draw hundreds of thousands, sometimes millions, of views.

This fall, on Facebook, there were three times as many people talking about Clinton than Warren. But this month, during the three-day period around her heated speech against a provision pushed by Citigroup lobbyists, Warren's total interactions exceeded Clinton's twofold, according to data provided by a Facebook partnership with BuzzFeed News.

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Given Warren's following, a movement to draft her into the race, regardless of the outcome, happens to carry obvious advantages: list-building and fundraising.

Wikler, the MoveOn official, dismissed the idea that those realities motivated the campaign. "Ridiculous," he said. Progressives who have worked with MoveOn agreed.

"They're not that cynical," said Rabin-Havt, the longtime progressive operative. "That's a benefit. But there's a legitimate belief on their part that they are doing this because they believe it's a good idea. They can build lists and raise money without this."

Elizabeth Warren knows how to use the media, so long as she can control it.

Even before her run for Senate, when she was still teaching bankruptcy law in Cambridge, Warren made a study of the press — the way a perfectly crafted line or a national television interview could affect lives across the country if executed just right.

She wondered in her memoir whether her 2003 taping on Dr. Phil McGraw's syndicated talk show, viewed by millions, "might have done more good" than an entire year as a professor. "Maybe that was a better way to make a difference," Warren writes.

But as she moved into the political arena, she grew cautious. In 2012, Warren gave an embarrassing interview about the Occupy Wall Street movement, and vowed thereafter to speak to reporters with discipline. "The old way of talking with the press — long conversations and lively discussions — was gone," she writes in her book.

"Now I needed to change: I needed to measure every sentence."

In the Senate, that's what Warren does. She avoids unforced errors, evading reporters in hallways on the Hill. But when it works to her benefit, Warren seizes the spotlight.

Citing Warren's media savvy, several progressives reasoned that she is unlikely to rule out a campaign completely — until it stops helping and starts hurting. (Warren has played along before: During her book tour this spring, inquiries about 2016 were included among pre-screened audience questions at several events.)

But Warren is now dealing with something she can't control: a swirling, swelling coalition of progressives who could either raise her profile and buoy her legislative fights — or co-opt her platform and sidetrack her efforts in Washington.

Wikler, the MoveOn official, said the group would continue to support her Senate work as before. Warren's spokesperson did not return a request for comment about whether the draft campaign would deter the senator from working with MoveOn.

Last weekend, after Warren delivered her Citigroup speech, MoveOn members made "thousands of calls to Congress" ahead of the House vote, according to Wikler.

Meanwhile, that same day in Washington, RootsCamp began, marking the unofficial start of the "Run Warren Run" campaign. It was proof, Wikler said, that a draft movement would only "amplify," not divert from, the main attraction.

"The existence of a draft campaign strengthens her hand. Her candidacy would give her an even stronger hand. The presidency would give her

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the strongest-possible hand."

But while Warren waged one of her biggest, most public fights in the Senate, headlines kept rolling about the 2016 movement developing downtown — where, inside the convention center, next to a table full of bumper stickers, one MoveOn member turned to another and whispered, "She's acting so presidential this week!"

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton's best and worst moments of 2014"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

December 23, 2014, 5:33 p.m. EST

When you're Hillary Clinton, even a quiet year is busy. The former secretary of state spent her first full year in decades as a private citizen crisscrossing the country giving speeches, writing a book, helping to grow the charitable foundation started by her husband, campaigning for Democrats, and laying the groundwork for a likely presidential run.

She hardly went more than a few days without some kind of public appearance, and rarely stayed in one city for very long. Even her vacations were interrupted by book promotions or speaking gigs. That's Hillary Clinton's idea of relaxing.

But not all of it was good for her. In fact, some moments were downright bad. Here's a look back at Clinton's ups and downs in 2014:

THE LOW TIMES:

Wealth gaffes

Clinton made a series of comments about her wealth that became quick fodder for Republican critics while promoting her book. First, she told ABC she was "dead broke" when she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, left the White House in 2001. Then she told The Guardian she was not "truly well off." She later said she regretted the comments, but they've continued to haunt her.

A clumsy break from Obama

In an interview with The Atlantic, Clinton broke the typical party omerta to criticize President Obama's foreign policy. That led to a week of press coverage about tensions between the camps, and snarky counter-shots from Obama allies. Clinton appeared to have gone farther than she intended, and her spokesperson later said she and the president would "hug it out" and smooth things over when they next saw each other.

Book sales

Clinton has a more ambitious job in mind than being an author, but she has to be disappointed by sales of her memoir "Hard Choices," which covered her tenure as secretary of state. The book did well at first, but sales fell off quickly following some negative reviews and recognition that the volume offered few new salacious details. A book attacking Clinton by a conservative author eventually overtook Clinton's book, as did the memoir of likely GOP presidential candidate Ben Carson.

Speaking fees

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Clinton was dogged by her astronomical speaking fees, especially for public universities, throughout the year. For instance, she charged the University of California at Los Angeles $300,000 to appear at the school – and that was a discount, according to The Washington Post. Even though the money went to the Clinton foundation, it still raised question accusations that she was fleecing the schools. Others called her out of touch for thinking $300,000 is as discount.

THE HIGH TIMES:

Charlotte

With little doubt, the highlight of Clinton's 2014 was the birth of her granddaughter, Charlotte, in September. Clinton has been bugging daughter Chelsea to have a kid for years, and raved about the infant and her new "grandmother glow" in numerous public appearances afterwards. Clinton has even worked Charlotte into political messaging, saying every child should have the opportunities to the grandchildren of presidents.

Iowa Steak Fry

Clinton returned to Iowa, the state that derailed her 2008 presidential campaign, for the first time in September. The pro-Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary worked hard to stock the crowd with Clinton supporters, and plastered the event with their signage, and she was welcomed warmly. But Clinton also gave a strong speech, which coyly hinted at a presidential run. "It's great to be back – let's not let another seven years go by," she said.

An emerging stump speech

Since stepping down as secretary of state, most of Clinton's public speeches had been fairly dry and policy focused. But as she campaigned for Democrats ahead of the midterm elections, she found a loftier message about restoring fairness for working families and making government work for them. The biggest shift came in Philadelphia, when Clinton campaigned for now Gov.-elect Tom Wolf. She weaved together policies that form the "building block of the Democratic Party" into her personal life and those of average Americans, themes she would later repeat.

Criminal justice

Clinton has made a surprising focus of criminal justice reform of late. After Ferguson, she called for removing "weapons of war" from police officers, and for reducing mass incarceration, especially of blacks.

Kennedy embrace

In December, Clinton was embraced by the entire Kennedy clan, another political dynasty which bestowed a human rights award at star-studded dinner named in honor of Robert F. Kennedy. "I go to a lot of events, supporting a lot worthy causes, and there is nothing like this," she said, looking out at the star-studded crowd. While many progressives distrust Clinton, they would find a lot to like in her remarks, which tied together the struggle of African-Americans protesting police brutality – "yes, black lives matter" she said – with her support for a law to ban torture. She added that the family was an "inspiration."

Washington Post: Dan Balz: "Democrats see rising populist sentiment. But can it shake Hillary Clinton?"

By Dan Balz

December 23, 2014, 7:00 a.m. EST

Last Wednesday, in a coffeehouse in downtown Des Moines, a group of progressive activists launched an effort they hope will change the 2016 presidential campaign and in the process upend the Democratic Party.

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The gathering in Iowa, organized by MoveOn.org and backed by Democracy for America, was the opening of a grass-roots push to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to run for president. Its broader effect was to escalate the ongoing debate among Democrats about the party's values, its message, its real constituencies and, most of all, how to win elections in the post-Obama era.

That there is such a debate over the direction of the Democratic Party is without question, and the differences have become louder in the wake of the drubbing the Democrats suffered in the midterm elections.

What is in question is the degree to which the rising populist movement on the left can materially shape the party's future. More specifically, absent some sign from Warren that she is going to run, can these Democrats successfully pressure Hillary Rodham Clinton, the party's dominant, prospective presidential candidate, to adopt much of their agenda?

To those who argue that the ideological splits within the party are overstated or mostly stylistic, the effort to draft Warren is a misguided enterprise. "There really isn't a huge division in the party," said former Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell (D). "… I don't think it's anything like the tea party and the Republicans."

Rendell, who two years ago criticized President Obama's campaign for attacking Mitt Romney over his business record at Bain Capital, said he believed most Democrats shared Warren's opposition to a provision favorable to Wall Street in the recently passed spending bill that she attacked on the Senate floor.

Those trying to encourage Warren to run in 2016 argue a different case. Anna Galland, executive director of MoveOn.Org Civic Action, said there are important policy differences that need to be aired before Democrats pick their 2016 nominee.

She cited issues such as how the party should address income inequality, who populates positions of power in the executive branch — a cause taken up by Warren when she opposed Obama's nomination of investment banker Antonio Weiss as treasury undersecretary — and whether it is even possible for Democrats to have a discussion about expanding, rather than constraining, Social Security benefits. "We are not debating style here," she said. "We are debating substance."

The power of populism

Populist energy pulsates within the party to the point that Democrats cannot agree on whether it has become its dominant ideological strain. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), who has championed a populist message as much as Warren, said: "It's a good strong message, and it's a message that she's carried very well, and it's a message that a number of us have put out there for a number of years, and it's catching on. … I don't think it's there yet."

But Gov. Jack Markell of Delaware, who comes out of the centrist Democratic tradition, said he believes the party has now tipped in favor of Warren's anti-Wall Street populist message. "I don't think there's any question," he said of a shift that he finds worrisome for the party's future hopes of winning over independents and swing voters.

Jim Dean, who heads up Democracy for America, said that until recently, the party had "regressed" on the relationship between business and government. "With the ascendance of Elizabeth Warren and the way she has built power for herself, we are seeing a lot of movement for the party to get back to its core values," he said.

Warren has given no indication that she will become a candidate in 2016. Her advocates on the left take hope from the present-tense language she has used to disavow her interest — "I am not running for president," she repeatedly told NPR's Steve Inskeep last week — as a sign that her posture is not irreversible.

Officials at MoveOn.Org, which counts 8 million members, have said they will commit $1 million to the effort to draft Warren and will set up

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operations in states with early caucuses or primaries to stoke interest. Democracy for America will chip in $250,000 to the effort. The groups will focus on organizing in other early states and plan a national day of action in early February, one year before the 2016 Iowa caucuses.

“The only way it will really happen is if there’s a massive grass-roots campaign that shows tremendous support for Elizabeth Warren across the country,” said Neil Sroka, the spokesman for DFA.

A Democratic leader from a battleground state, speaking on the condition of anonymity in order to offer a candid assessment, said he had strong doubts that the movement can reshape the 2016 campaign message. He sees no one with the political heft or following, short of a Warren candidacy, to pose enough of a threat to Clinton to change what she otherwise would do and say.

Rendell was more dismissive of the movement’s potential strength, largely because of what he sees as the lack of differences within the party. “First of all, there has to be a leader of a movement and there isn’t a good leader,” he said, adding, “If Hillary Clinton ran against Jim Webb or Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren, they’d get 5 to 6 percent of the vote” in Pennsylvania.

However, Tad Devine, a Democratic strategist who played key roles in several past Democratic presidential campaigns, sees far greater potential for a populist uprising to galvanize the political dialogue. Arguing that the sense of economic discontent is widespread and that the hunger for a sharper populist agenda is genuine, he said, “If somebody gets up and delivers it with credibility, it’s going to resonate very powerfully in a way that’s not indicative of the party divisions today.”

Other Democrats agree that both Democratic and Republican candidates will be looking to seize the issue of middle-class economic insecurity and that a presidential nominee dare not lose that debate. “The party that figures out the economic message around making prosperity more inclusive for all Americans is going to win this election,” said Bill Burton, a former Obama White House official and current Democratic strategist. “I really do think Republicans will be as attentive to that as Democrats are.”

Clinton competition?

What rankles many progressives is the possible absence of a genuinely contested battle for the Democratic nomination. If Warren stays out, it is not clear who would have the combination of message and political strength to do that.

At this point, the field is far from fixed. Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont, has a worldview that excites some progressives, and he has visited states with early contests as he deliberates whether to run. Webb, the former senator from Virginia, has formed an exploratory committee and has put economic fairness on the table as an issue, but he acknowledges the long-shot nature of his possible candidacy. Maryland’s outgoing governor, Martin O’Malley, has ties to both the centrist and progressive wings of the party and traveled the country this past year in preparation for a possible campaign.

Devine, who is an adviser to Sanders, said bluntly that anyone hoping to advance the populist agenda in a possible campaign against Clinton has to be prepared to run a serious campaign with all that entails. Half-hearted bus trips through Iowa and New Hampshire are not enough, he said.

“If you want this message to take hold with people, you have to challenge the front-runner in the nominating process in a real way, not a symbolic way, the way Gary Hart did with Walter Mondale” in

the 1984 Democratic race, he said.

At this point, no potential candidate appears ready to challenge Clinton in quite that way. Even many of those urging Warren to run tip-toe around sharp criticism of Clinton or what she stands for.

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"Our members have deep respect for Hillary Clinton," Galland said. "The point here is to elevate the exciting message, the powerful track record, the inspiring vision of Elizabeth Warren. That's our focus, not on anti-Hillary or anti-Bernie."

DFA's Dean said the same thing about his organization's involvement in the draft-Warren movement. Notably, Howard Dean — whose 2004 campaign became the rallying point for the progressive grass roots and lives on today as DFA — recently announced his support for Clinton.

Bill Carrick, a California-based Democratic strategist, explained one of the reasons. Pent-up desire for a populist economic message is strong, he said, but many older progressives are conflicted because of their affections for Clinton and her husband, former president Bill Clinton.

"Generationally there's a bunch of people who are very progressive, who essentially are in the baby-boomer world, who are very, very comfortable with Hillary," he said. "Some of it is they consider the Clinton years successful, politically and economically. Some of it is she's going to make history and be the first woman president."

Asked about concerns among some progressives that Clinton will not have the kind of strong message they want, Ohio's Brown said: "I don't particularly share those concerns. I think Hillary's got a good sensibility for working-class voters." Later in the interview, however, he said of Clinton, "She's going to have to show more independence from Wall Street."

Populist sentiment causes Delaware's Markell to worry that the party will appeal too narrowly in 2016. He argues that what the party needs is a growth-oriented message and policies to go with it. "Economic fairness and inequity are important," he said. "And increasing the minimum wage is important. We've done it in Delaware." But he warned against getting "caught up in the rhetoric of fairness for the sake of fairness."

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper survived a serious challenge in his reelection bid last month in a crucial swing state. The business-friendly Democrat sees Warren's populism as "only part of the message" the party needs to adopt. Job creation, curtailing excessive regulation of small business and other strategies need to be part of it as well, he said.

"It's not populist in the sense that we've got a slogan and we go out there and shout it to the beat of a drum," he said. "But I think it's part of the equation of this frustration of working people that the system is skewed against them."

Clinton became a more populist candidate in 2008 after losing a string of contests to Obama and demonstrated her appeal to white, working-class voters. In preparation for a possible 2016 campaign, she has already invoked the problem of income inequality as one that must be addressed. But her rhetoric, except for what she later said was a mangled comment attacking businesses, does not have the edginess of Warren.

How strong that message will be if she faces only limited competition for the nomination is what worries liberal activists — which is why they are hoping to entice Warren to run or help elevate Warren's standing even higher. How much strength there is in the progressive movement, and how Clinton weighs its significance, will not be known until she makes an expected announcement of candidacy.

New York Times opinion: Jacob Heilbrunn, National Interest editor: "The Real Threat to Hillary Clinton: Jim Webb"

By Jacob Heilbrunn

December 22, 2014

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WASHINGTON — THE conventional wisdom is that Hillary Rodham Clinton will be almost impossible to dislodge from the Democratic presidential nomination and that even if she does encounter some hiccups, they will come from her left flank on economic policy. But if Mrs. Clinton runs, she may face a serious and very different threat: her own foreign policy record. While she can pretty much split the difference with any primary opponents on economic policy, the divisions over foreign affairs could be a lot harder to paper over for Mrs. Clinton, who has been tacking to the right on Iran, Syria and Russia in anticipation of Republican assaults during the general election.

This is why it isn't really the Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren who should worry the Clinton camp. It's the former Virginia senator Jim Webb, a Vietnam War hero, former secretary of the Navy in the Reagan administration, novelist and opponent of endless wars in the Middle East. Late last month, Mr. Webb formed an exploratory committee. "He's a very long shot," Leslie H. Gelb, president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, told me. "He has to become a serious candidate. At that point she would find him much more complex than dealing with liberals. He's not a liberal, but a lot of what he says might appeal to liberals. He does not get carried away by humanitarian intervention."

Mr. Webb's attacks on free trade and economic elites, coupled with a call for America to come home again, might well prove a potent combination in the early primaries, attracting antiwar progressives as well as conservative-minded Southern white men whom he believes the party can win back. His credo is as simple as it is persuasive: Rather than squander its power and resources abroad, America should rebuild.

Mr. Webb, whose national poll ratings are negligible, may look like an unlikely candidate, but that is also what most observers thought when he wore his son's Iraq combat boots on the campaign trail and ousted George Allen from his Senate seat in 2006. Today he represents for the Democrats what the Republicans tried to stamp out in their ranks during the midterm elections: a Tea-Party-like insurgency against its establishment candidate.

Mr. Webb, who prides himself on his Scotch-Irish ancestry, has long been something of a renegade, a persona that vividly manifested itself after Sept. 11, 2001, when he began denouncing what he saw as the transformation of the American presidency into a European-style monarchy that could capriciously pursue wars whenever and wherever it chose. Unlike Mrs. Clinton, who continues to struggle to explain her vote for the Iraq war, Mr. Webb publicly attacked the George W. Bush administration in 2002, presciently asking, "Do we really want to occupy Iraq for the next 30 years?" As a member of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees he also castigated the Obama administration for its intervention in Libya in 2011. He was right. It's a move that has boomeranged, creating further instability and emboldening jihadists across the region.

During and after the Libya intervention, Mr. Webb made it clear that he believed American democracy was imperiled by the failure of Congress to question the judgment of military leaders and the president. He has put his finger on a problem that academics like Tufts University's Michael J. Glennon, the author of "National Security and Double Government," see as a product of an entrenched national security bureaucracy that essentially performs an end-run around Congress and even reform-minded presidents.

In contrast to Mrs. Clinton, who has gotten into hot water for trying to retroactively amend her views and record, Mr. Webb did not arrive at these beliefs casually or opportunistically. As his recent memoir, "I Heard My Country Calling," makes clear, his opposition to ventures abroad is as much viscerally emotional as intellectual. Growing up as a self-described military brat, he spent his formative years in Britain, where he saw firsthand the effects of loss of empire and the devastation wrought by World War II. "Britain was bled out and spent out," he writes. "They understood the great price of the recent wars in a much more sobering way than did most Americans."

After he returned from war-torn Beirut just before a truck suicide bomber destroyed the Marine Corps headquarters in October 1983, he felt a nagging irritation as he rode home in a taxi early in the morning along George Washington Memorial Parkway. Then he realized that the calm silence was bothering him; it was both the emblem of America and the "protective vacuum that surrounds our understanding when it comes to the viciousness that war brings to so many innocent noncombatants in other lands." Mr. Webb's exposure to foreign societies gave him the ability, much like President Obama, to view America as both an insider and an outsider.

Whether Mr. Webb will attempt to begin a successful maverick campaign is an open question. But he is an eloquent and forthright speaker whose foreign policy experience would make it difficult for Mrs. Clinton to paint him as an isolationist or a novice who will leave America open to attack, as she attempted to do to Mr. Obama during the 2008 primaries. On the contrary, it's Mrs. Clinton whose interventionist foreign policy record leaves her politically vulnerable.

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National Journal: “Nine Questions for Hillary Clinton In 2015”

By Emily Schultheis

December 23, 2014

[Subtitle:] She'll need to formulate her campaign's message, tap a trusted team of advisers, and take sides on polarizing issues.

There's been buzz for months over Hillary Clinton's expected presidential campaign, but she's not expected to make a formal announcement until the first few months of 2015. That leaves a vacuum for political reporters, opposition researchers, and Clinton-watchers alike to discuss her strategy, message, and timing for announcing.

How and when Clinton launches her campaign—and who's involved when she does—will set the tone for not only the Democratic primary in 2016, but also the general election. Will she run a campaign centered around the historic idea of being the first female president? Will she cater to the party's centrists or the progressive base? Will she bring in longtime loyalists, or tap unfamiliar advisers into her orbit? These are all pivotal questions as we head into 2015.

While it's by no means certain that Clinton will definitely announce she's running for president, most Democrats expect her to launch a campaign within the first few months of the year.

With that in mind, here's National Journal's list of nine top questions for Clinton in 2015.

1. When will she announce?

While several leading Democratic strategists advised that Clinton waste no time before launching her campaign, she's content to take her time to formally announce. Former Obama campaign manager David Plouffe suggested that she announce early to get ahead of her critics on the Republican side, many of whom are already sniping at her. But the holidays have come and gone with no announcement from Clinton, and her speaking schedule—which includes an event as late as March 19—suggests she's looking at a later spring announcement.

That said, speeches can be canceled, and if the timeline for other candidates begins to shift—on the Republican side, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's December announcement that he's "actively" moving toward a campaign surprised observers, and could affect Clinton's timing as well.

2. Will there be an exploratory committee first, or will Clinton just announce a campaign?

Lately, presidential candidates have preceded their official launch by announcing an exploratory committee—a vehicle that allows candidates to begin raising money ahead of a formal campaign announcement. But will Clinton launch one or just go straight to the official campaign? As one strategist put it to The Washington Post earlier this month, "At this point, what would she be exploring?" Several of her allies told The Post that she might opt to skip the exploratory committee this time around for fear it would look too coy for someone who's run before and clearly has been weighing this decision for a long time.

In 2007, Clinton announced her exploratory committee in January; this time, however, with a later announcement date likely—and the super PAC Ready for Hillary doing early organizing work on her behalf—she could feasibly go straight into full-on campaign mode.

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3. Who will be her campaign manager?

If she runs, deciding on a campaign manager will be one of the first major strategic decisions Clinton will make. That person will set the tone for the campaign, from the overall message and themes to staffing and hiring decisions. One of the leading contenders, former Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee executive director Guy Cecil, announced that he wasn't going to be managing Clinton's campaign in a statement released Sunday.

As of now, the name that comes up most frequently in Democratic circles is Robby Mook, a former Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee staffer who ran Terry McAuliffe's 2013 gubernatorial campaign in Virginia. He has been helping Clinton out with "special projects," according to Bloomberg, and advised her during the midterms. Stephanie Schriock, the president of EMILY's List who managed and won tough campaigns for Democratic Sens. Jon Tester and Al Franken, is also mentioned as a contender for the top position.

4. When does she stop giving paid speeches?

Clinton has filled much of her time since leaving the State Department by giving a steady stream of paid speeches, many of which bring her six-figure speaker's fees. While it's certainly good for the Clintons' bank accounts, her time on the speaking circuit has already become the subject of numerous GOP attacks.

Presumably, Clinton will cease to give paid speeches as soon as she becomes a candidate—but how long will the gap be between her last paid speech and her first speech as a candidate? As of now, Clinton has two speeches scheduled in Canada on Jan. 21, one in the San Francisco Bay Area on Feb. 24, and another in Atlantic City, N.J., on March 19.

5. How is Ready for Hillary integrated into the eventual campaign apparatus?

The super PAC that launched with just a handful of staffers in 2013 has become a formidable organization in its own right; it boasts Obama alums Mitch Stewart and Jeremy Bird as top advisers, and has collected more than 3 million names that will be the linchpin of Clinton's grassroots organization.

The expectation for Ready for Hillary is that it will wind down as soon as Clinton announces her decision, with a Clinton campaign buying, leasing, or doing a data swap with Ready for Hillary for its list of supporters and voters. There's also the possibility that some of the group's advisers will be absorbed into a Clinton campaign. That's sure to be an issue Republicans jump on quickly, with a possible Federal Election Commission complaint whenever the sale or lease goes through.

6. What's the campaign message?

In the wake of Democrats' massive midterm losses in November, there's been much discussion about what the party's overall message should be heading into 2016. Will Clinton focus, as she didn't in 2008, on the historic nature of becoming the first female president? Will she incorporate the progressive focus on income inequality and criticism of Wall Street into her overall message? And what part of her own biography does she focus on—her time at the State Department, her tenure in the Senate, or her experience in her husband's administration during the 1990s? All of these are open questions, and will provide a great deal of insight into the type of campaign Clinton intends to run.

7. Does she do anything to reach out to progressives?

As the past few weeks have shown, progressive activists are pining for Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts to run for president. Warren is able to channel the excitement and issues of the Democratic Left far better than any other political figure—and her focus on economic populism, fighting back against Wall Street, and tackling income equality have resonated strongly with voters. Even if Warren doesn't run, progressive groups expect her to have significant sway over the Democratic Party's message for 2016.

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So how does Clinton handle the progressive wing of her party? Whether she does acknowledges the role Warren's policies could play in her overall campaign message, or reaches out to progressive leaders, will say a lot about the overall direction of Clinton's campaign and the kind of coalition she's hoping to build.

8. How will she address politically sensitive policy questions?

Since she left the State Department, Clinton has spoken out on several key issues, most notably her support for same-sex marriage in early 2013 and her backing of normalizing relations with Cuba. But on other politically sensitive subjects, she's been more comfortable hedging. What does Clinton think about the Keystone XL pipeline, for example? Does she support re-implementing tougher sanctions on Iran if a nuclear deal isn't reached? Where does she stand on net neutrality?

As a candidate, Clinton will be relentlessly bombarded for her precise views on a whole host of issues. Whether she ties her fortunes to President Obama, or opts for a more independent path will be a telling sign of her 2016 campaign message.

9. How does she deal with other Democrats in the race?

While it's still unclear who could make up the rest of the Democratic field—former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia has announced an exploratory committee, while Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley have expressed serious interest in running—it's pretty likely that Clinton will have at least one primary opponent. How will she relate to them? As the clear front-runner, she could ignore the other candidates in the race, to project power and inevitability.

Because she would start the race in stronger position than in 2008, will she decide to spend significant time campaigning in small-state caucuses, to ensure she's not surprised by one of the long-shot insurgents? Should she be worried (again) about Iowa, a state where she finished a disappointing third in 2008, and one her husband hardly competed for as a presidential candidate?

BuzzFeed: “Obama’s Anti-Baby Boomer Foreign Policy”

By Ben Smith

December 22, 2014, 2:04 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Love it or hate it, last week’s Cuba opening is the purest expression of his foreign policy yet. What Axelrod got wrong.

On the evening of July 23, 2007, Sen. Barack Obama’s top adviser was doing his best to spin his way out of a way of the thinking that led, last week, to perhaps the purest of President Barack Obama’s foreign policy victories: the opening of Cuba.

Candidate Obama, blindsided during a South Carolina presidential debate by a YouTube question from a bearded California photographer, had rashly said he would meet anti-American leaders including Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez, and Kim Jong-il. And so David Axelrod made his way into the dank “spin room,” projecting the sort of mellow confidence that good spinners do when they’re really worried. He insisted to the skeptical press pack that we’d missed a really important distinction. Obama hadn’t promised to meet them, Axelrod kept insisting; he simply said he was willing to.

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We didn't really buy the spin, and Hillary Clinton's aides were gleeful, and even thought they saw a campaign turning point, clear evidence that Obama was "naive" and unready for the White House.

Seven years later, Axelrod doesn't exactly recall that as his finest moment — but not because the spin was so weak.

"I reacted too conventionally," he recalled in a telephone interview from Chicago a few days ago. "I really wasn't grasping his larger point. I reacted conventionally and he was thinking unconventionally."

Obama, in fact, rather liked his answer, and the campaign's research quickly showed it played well with Democrats. So Axelrod and his colleagues quickly reversed course and Barack Obama's view of the world — previously defined solely by his opposition to the Iraq war — really started to take shape. This was a foreign policy fully in sync with the campaign's deep generational promise: to "turn the page" on baby boomers like the Clintons and what the Obama campaign saw as their inane and toxic politics.

The notion that we really needed to abandon lines drawn around the time of Vietnam was an appealing point. But it was also American domestic politics, a piece of the American conversation. And when it came to actual foreign policy — as opposed to "foreign policy" as an element of American domestic politics — that was sometimes a fatal flaw.

Obama's framework didn't make particular sense to people in other countries, or to their leaders, or to their American friends. This was particularly clear during the rawer, earlier campaign moments. At the 2007 gathering of the pro-Israel group AIPAC, for instance, Obama drew eye rolls by suggesting Israel's enemy was "cynicism" — not just, say, its actual enemies. And by the end of his first year in office, he was admitting to Joe Klein his mistake, fundamentally, of assuming that the American zeitgeist was a global phenomenon.

"The Israelis and the Palestinians — have found that the political environment, the nature of their coalitions or the divisions within their societies, were such that it was very hard for them to start engaging in a meaningful conversation," Obama told Klein. "And I think that we overestimated our ability to persuade them to do so when their politics ran contrary to that."

Obama's approach to Russia, too, imagined that country in American terms — alienated by George W. Bush, ready for a "reset." In fact, Vladimir Putin has his own politics and Russian history has its own arc. Putin's domestic politics required an enemy in Washington. He was intent on turning the page too — only on turning it in the opposite direction, back toward Soviet-era power and confrontation. Obama's most ambitious opening of all, toward Iran, remains unresolved, and will be determined in part by the tension between an improved bilateral relationship and that country's domestic politics.

But in Cuba, Obama has found a pure expression of the vision he promised. This is a relationship frozen in time, governed by a logic imposed when Cuba mattered to American strategy, when the stakes were high, and when the Soviets were trying to turn the island into a nuclear missile base.

The strongest argument against the opening is that it violated the laws of power. The United States gave a lot and got very little:

"Obama says yes, yes to everything: an embassy, an ambassador, diplomatic relations, travel and exchange, status among nations, removal from the list of state sponsors of terror, and a serious opportunity to lessen the embargo that has kept the dictators caged for decades," complained the Free Beacon's Matt Continetti. "In return, the Castro brothers give up … well, what?"

"This isn't giving away the store. This is giving away the shopping mall, town center, enterprise zone. And it is entirely in character with President Obama's foreign policy," he wrote.

But the logic on which Obama was elected is: Who cares? The stakes in a tiny, poor, and autocratic island in a region of dysfunctional states are extremely low for the United States, if high for Cubans and for the people whose property Castro confiscated. The logic of the conflict is rooted entirely in the past. And so Obama didn't play hardball; he simply turned the page, and delivered on the generational promise that got him elected in the first place.

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Obama is “very, very satisfied” with his recent policy moves, Axelrod said, pointing in particular to the regularization of millions of undocumented immigrants, the climate deal with China, and the Cuba opening. Obama, he said, “can sense the clock ticking.”

The president, Axelrod said, is focused on spending his last two years resolving “the big generational issues” that have been, like Cuba and like immigration, simply stuck for decades.

And then Obama will, likely as not, turn power back over to the generation before his. Indeed, the most surprising thing about the current field of candidates may not be that the country would choose the heir to the Clinton or Bush dynasty, but that voters would hand power back over to the baby boomers whom Obama convinced them to throw out.

NBC New York: “Former President Clinton and Family Visit Sting’s ‘The Last Ship’”

By Dave Quinn

December 22, 2014, 2:33 p.m. EST

The standing ovations at the new Sting musical “The Last Ship” started minutes before the curtain even rose on Saturday night.

That’s because walking down the aisle of the Neil Simon Theatre was former President Bill Clinton, who was out for a night at the theater with wife Hillary Rodham Clinton, daughter Chelsea, and son-in-law Marc Mezvinsky.

As the former first family took their seats in the orchestra, they were met with thunderous applause from the rest of the audience — many of whom approached to shake their hands and pose for photos.

“You’re a grandmother now,” one audience member enthusiastically pointed out, before the show began. “I know can you believe it?” Hillary responded, accepting her congratulations.

The Clintons were undoubtedly there to see Sting, who boarded the cast of the musical he wrote on Dec. 9, for a limited run that will remain through Jan. 24.

Sting’s wife of 22 years, Trudie Styler, was also sitting the same row.

So was Australian film director Baz Luhrmann (“The Great Gatsby,” “Moulin Rouge!”), with wife Catherine Martin. The two are in town celebrating the unveiling of the “Baz Dazzled” holiday windows they designed for Barneys.

Also in attendence? “Phantom of the Opera” and “Cats” composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, who was sitting alongside “Downton Abbey” scribe Julian Fellowes. The two are collaborating on “School of Rock — The Musical,” a stage version of the hit 2003 comedy set to hit Broadway next season.

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Webber may have also swung by to support actress Rachel Tucker, who plays the lead Meg in “The Last Ship.” Tucker was a contestant on the Webber-judged BBC reality singing competition “I’d Do Anything” back in 2008.

At the extra-long intermission, the Clintons headed backstage to greet Sting and the cast — photos of which can be seen exclusively at Broadway.com.

“Hillary 2016” shouted one audience member when they returned to their sets. The former Secretary of State then turned in her seat and laughed, waving at fans.

Former President Clinton seemed to enjoy himself throughout, clapping along to Sting’s rousing score. He and his family even gave the actors their own standing ovation at the end of the evening.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce’s “Global Perspectives” series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

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From: "Burns Strider \(CTRAB\)" <bstrider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/23/2014 5:45:50 AM
Subject: CTR Saturday August 23, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday August 23, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

Mother Jones: "Correcting His Record"

"Correct the Record is part of a larger shadow campaign that's gearing up for 2016."

Associated Press: "Clinton Shadow in Iowa No Threat to Some Democrats"

"Democrats with presidential dreams are coming to Iowa with little fanfare, entourage or recognition. They are undeterred by talk of a Hillary Rodham Clinton candidacy in 2016 or her plans to visit the leadoff caucus state next month to honor retiring Sen. Tom Harkin."

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"Asked why Democrats like Clinton and Biden haven't discussed it [Ferguson] yet, [Rep. John] Lewis said, 'maybe they felt that the nation should speak with maybe one voice, and that should be the president.'"

CNN: "Warren, through lawyer, disavows Ready for Warren"

"In a letter to the Federal Election Commission Friday, Warren fully disavowed herself of Ready for Warren, a super PAC with the explicit goal of encouraging the liberal Massachusetts senator to run for president in 2016."

CNN: "Democrat Jim Webb: One show not enough to fully criticize Clinton's record"

"Democrat Jim Webb needs more than one show if you want him to critique Hillary Clinton's record as secretary of state."

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New York Times: “Legal Woes of Owners Help Put the Plaza Back in Play”

“A prominent fund-raiser for Hillary Rodham Clinton’s presidential run in 2008, Mr. Chatwal pleaded guilty in Federal District Court in Brooklyn in April to witness tampering and funneling more than $180,000 in illegal contributions to three candidates, Ms. Clinton among them, between 2007 and 2011.”

National Memo column: Cynthia Tucker: “Hillary Clinton’s Hawkishness May Be Her Undoing”

“Clinton’s presumed bid for the presidency — a historic run she’s unlikely to turn down — is threatened by the same unfortunate tendency that cost her in 2008: presumption.”

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: “Romney and Ryan talk Hillary Clinton, and 2016: ‘She’s beatable’”

“‘Looking at her [Sec. Clinton’s] record, seeing how ineffective she was in securing more security, is going to be a great handicap for her in the general election,’ said Romney. ‘I don’t think it’ll hurt her in the primary, but it will in the general.”

Articles:

Mother Jones: “Correcting His Record”

By Patrick Caldwell

September/ October 2014

[Subtitle:] Reformed Clinton antagonist David Brock’s team of “nerd virgins” seeks to destroy the anti-Hillary memes he once unleashed

A week after Hillary Clinton released her new memoir, *Hard Choices*, I met Burns Strider for lunch at the Hotel Monaco in Washington, DC. Just as the book hit the shelves, Strider’s organization, Correct the Record, had released 11 pages of bullet points swatting down anticipated criticisms from Clinton’s detractors (“*Hard Choices* is just another way for Hillary to make money hand over fist”; “*Hard Choices* is a glossed-over snooze-fest”). It was the kind of preemptive spin that Correct the Record was created to churn out. As Clinton prepares for a possible presidential run, Correct the Record keeps constant watch for any conceivable attacks against her, and then aggressively beats them back before they take hold.

As he picked at his beet and greens salad, Strider told me how he’d ditched eating animal products in 2010 at the behest of the then-secretary of state. “You’ve got to think about your two boys,” she told Strider, who had worked as her senior adviser on faith outreach during the 2008 campaign. That night he got a call from Bill Clinton, who extolled the virtues of herbivore-themed books and handwritten recipes jotted down by the former president.

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The contemplative 48-year-old vegan, who manages Correct the Record's day-to-day operations, says he has no qualms about his new role in the blood sport of presidential politics. Yet his boss is an even more unlikely figure: David Brock, the former Clinton nemesis and ringleader of the "vast right-wing conspiracy" that Hillary Clinton decried in 1998.

In the mid-1990s, as a reporter at the *American Spectator*, Brock investigated the first couple's involvement in the Whitewater real estate scheme and dove into the allegations that Bill had used Arkansas state troopers to facilitate his liaisons, including one with Paula Jones. (He also infamously described Anita Hill as "a little bit nutty and a little bit slutty.") Brock later underwent a political conversion and founded Media Matters, a research shop dedicated to countering Fox News and right-wing talking points. Now he's come full circle, launching Correct the Record to combat the resurgence of the venal, opportunistic pols who will do anything to attain power-that he once worked so hard to popularize.

Brock's ideological shift came in the late '90s as he penned *The Seduction of Hillary Rodham*, a book that everyone expected to be a withering takedown – but ended up being a tepid biography. By 1997 Brock began to recant, publishing a me culpa in*Esquire* titled "Confessions of a Right-Wing Hit man." In 2002, he released *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*, a tell-all about the faults of the conservative movement and his disillusionment with it.

Strider recalls picking up a copy in an airport bookstore and devouring it. He passed it along to his then-boss, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and arranged for Brock to address House Democrats. Meanwhile, Bill Clinton had started passing copies along to friends, opening new doors for Brock among liberal insiders. Having turned his back on his old right-wing patrons, Brock proved skilled at convincing rich liberals to open their wallets by revealing inside details of the conservative propaganda machine.

Brock says he first conceived of Correct the Record last summer, "Having left the State Department," Brock told me, "Clinton didn't have the kind of robust operation that one would have if one was holding public office. That's where I saw the need." He wrote the memo predicating "an uptick in political attacks" against Clinton and proposed a rapid-response group to defend her. As it happened, the very next day American Rising, an opposition research outfit founded by former Mitt Romney and Republican National Committee staff, announced a "Stop Hillary 2016" initiative.

Correct the Record's staff (18 and counting) is crammed into a newsroom-style bullpen in the back corner of the offices of American Bridge 21st Century, Brock's Super-PAC. "They're always there; they're always working around the clock," former Clinton White House adviser Paul Begala says of the crew. "I always tease David that he finds all of these nerd virgins and locks them away in a vault where they never see sunlight or have a drink or get laid. But God Bless them!"

The team has been building an exhaustive database of factoids documenting Clinton's career, as well as compiling opposition research on her putative opponents. With Clinton's own press team largely silent, Correct the Record has become the go-to source for reporters seeking pro-Clinton quotes in response to Republican attacks.

Correct the Record is part of a larger shadow campaign that's gearing up for 2016. It includes Ready for Hillary, which is collecting voter data, and Priorities USA, which is raising big money." For the first time in my adult life, the left has their shit together," says Begala, who relies on Correct the Record for talking points when he prepares for cable spots as a Hillary surrogate.

Hillary Clinton has always had a rocky relationship with the press, thanks in part to dealing with conservative smear artists like the young Brock. Correct the Record reflects her prickly approach to media relations. The group spent much of the early summer sending our press releases touting the sales of Clinton's book and tweeting about stories that questioned the numbers. When New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd wrote a column about the lavish speaking fees commanded by Hillary and daughter Chelsea, Correct fired back with a dossier on Dowd, highlighting her own speaking fees.

But this strategy could backfire. Hillary has always struggled with the perception that she is inauthentic and quick to become defensive; being shielded by a group that pounces every slight could reinforce that image.

But Strider isn't too concerned. The Democrats failed in 2004 he explained, by not building a media operation that could respond to the Swift Boating of John Kerry. He doesn't want Clinton to suffer from the same mistake in 2016. "One thing Nancy Pelosi has said to me is, 'Burns, in politics if you take a swing at somebody you can rest assured of one thing: They're going to swing back. So why not prepare in advance? '"

Associated Press: "Clinton Shadow in Iowa No Threat to Some Democrats"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Thomas Beaumont

August 23, 2014, 3:39 a.m. EDT

ALTOONA, Iowa (AP) — Democrats with presidential dreams are coming to Iowa with little fanfare, entourage or recognition.

They are undeterred by talk of a Hillary Rodham Clinton candidacy in 2016 or her plans to visit the leadoff caucus state next month to honor retiring Sen. Tom Harkin.

But former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and a few other Democrats have nothing to lose if Clinton runs, and lots to gain if she doesn't.

"I'm here to listen to people and think about things," Webb told The Associated Press with a grin.

Webb's answer, matched with his schedule, has the ring of someone on a political fact-finding mission.

The former Navy secretary spoke Thursday to the Iowa Federation of Labor's annual conference, an important gathering of Democratic opinion leaders. He also campaigned for Rep. Dave Loebsack and Senate candidate Bruce Braley and dined in Des Moines with prominent Democrats, all the while guided by Iowa-based political operative Jessica Vandenberg.

It was Webb's first such foray. He used it to set himself apart from President Barack Obama, whose job approval nationally has been below 50 percent since last year.

The president's use of executive authority "has gone way too far away from the legislative branch," Webb told the 100 labor leaders at a conference center outside Des Moines. "It certainly is outside all precedent, and the Congress should have stepped in," he added later in the interview.

But Webb, a decorated former Marine whose serious tone hardly makes the pulse race, mixed in a little humor, a time-honored political icebreaker. "I'm the only person elected to the United States Senate with a union card, two Purple Hearts and three tattoos," he told the labor conference to chuckles and applause.

On the GOP side, some potential candidates are further along in Iowa, with paid staff on the ground.

Klobuchar's scheduled trip to Iowa on Saturday was to be her third since the 2012 election. She says she would support a Clinton candidacy. But if Clinton weren't in the race, Klobuchar would have proximity to Iowa on her side.

"Right now, I'm focused on this job and I think a lot of the work I'm doing in the Senate has national implications," she told The Des Moines Register while in Iowa last year.

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Other Democrats who have visited Iowa include Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who is supported largely by Democrats, will be in Iowa when Clinton attends Harkin's annual fundraiser.

Making early visits before better-known prospects has its advantage, said former Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh. He spent 2006 cultivating Democratic support in Iowa, as did Mark Warner, then a former Virginia governor and now a U.S. senator. Both abandoned the idea of a presidential bid after seeing Obama emerging as likely the most promising alternative to Clinton in the 2008 race.

"I reached the conclusion that I could run, but I couldn't win," Bayh told the AP.

Others stay in, despite heavyweight rivals, to audition for top administration posts, as Vice President Joe Biden did, while others lay the groundwork for future campaigns, Bayh said.

Biden, the party's biggest potential 2016 contender not named Clinton, has not been to Iowa since headlining Harkin's event last year, but he has stayed in touch with Iowans he's befriended as a two-time candidate for president and groups who have come to Washington.

Some, however, strike it rich.

A little-known governor of Arkansas ahead of the 1992 presidential campaign, Bill Clinton made early inroads in Iowa and New Hampshire even though more prominent Democrats — New York's Mario Cuomo and Missouri's Richard Gephardt — were in the mix. Clinton had nothing to lose staying in the race, then steadily gained as the field narrowed.

"You might get some who run anyway," Bayh said. "They might catch lightning in a bottle."

AP: “Potential 2016 Candidates Cautious on Ferguson”

By Ken Thomas

August 22, 2014, 3:00 p.m. EDT

ATLANTA (AP) — The police shooting and death of Michael Brown has gripped the nation amid clashes between protesters and the police in suburban St. Louis. But for most of those who want to lead the nation, there's little to gain in an election year by taking a stand or proposing new policy.

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Instead, a group of potential 2016 presidential candidates are preserving their electoral prospects and retreating into safe rhetorical territory by saying very little, if anything at all.

Amid tensions over Brown's the death, Democrats and Republicans alike have been reluctant to take sides, draw any conclusions ahead of an investigation or connect the case to specific policy changes.

"As policymakers, I think we should wait and just be respectful of the community and the family before trying to tack our issue onto this tragedy," said Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who has been promoting a new book as the protests have unfolded.

For Republicans, who have struggled to win support among black voters for more than a half-century, quickly siding with law enforcement carries risk amid anger over the death of the unarmed, black 18-year-old by the hand of a white police officer.

Democrats, meanwhile, have watched as President Barack Obama, the nation's first black president, has sought to strike an appropriate tone, on one hand urging the public to remain calm in Ferguson and voicing the need for law and order while pointing to the case as another example of injustice felt by many African-Americans.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has been vacationing in New York's Hamptons, hasn't publicly addressed the Ferguson case, nor has Vice President Joe Biden, who was vacationing when the shooting occurred.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was asked about the Ferguson case during a recent town hall meeting and cautioned against politicizing it. "None of us quite know yet exactly what happened in Ferguson," said Christie, a former federal prosecutor, on Tuesday. "I've been urging people not to prejudge anything here."

Charlton McIlwain, a New York University professor who has studied race in U.S. politics, said many political leaders see little upside to discussing the racially charged incident at length. He said the portrayal of Brown and the police officer as either a hero or villain — at this stage — makes it difficult to take sides.

Clinton "like Christie and some of the others, simply don't see anything to gain from it," he said.

Civil rights leaders have urged future presidential candidates to address the unrest — most notably the Rev. Al Sharpton, who told participants at a rally last weekend that potential candidates like Clinton and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush shouldn't "get laryngitis on this issue."

"Nobody can go to the White House unless they stop by our house and talk about policing," Sharpton said.

The exception has been Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who has urged fellow Republicans to actively seek out African-American support. He wrote in Time that the incident resembled a war and showed the need to demilitarize police departments. He wrote the combination of a military mode with the erosion of civil liberties has led many black Americans to feel that they are being unfairly targeted.

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"Anyone who thinks that race does not still, even if inadvertently, skew the application of criminal justice in this country is just not paying close enough attention," Paul wrote.

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, considered by some Democrats as a future presidential candidate, also offered candor, telling reporters in Boston on Wednesday that he was "sick of unarmed black men being shot by police. I'm sick of the lawlessness on the streets. I think everybody's tired of it."

In Atlanta, the Democratic National Committee plans to consider a resolution promoting community policing following the Ferguson case in its summer meeting this weekend. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a civil rights leader, said in an interview that "people have been almost shocked over what happened. A lot of people don't know how to respond."

Asked why Democrats like Clinton and Biden haven't discussed it yet, Lewis said, "maybe they felt that the nation should speak with maybe one voice, and that should be the president."

CNN: “Warren, through lawyer, disavows Ready for Warren”

By Dan Merica

August 22, 2014, 5:18 p.m. EDT

Elizabeth Warren is not Ready for Warren.

In a letter to the Federal Election Commission Friday, Warren fully disavowed herself of Ready for Warren, a super PAC with the explicit goal of encouraging the liberal Massachusetts senator to run for president in 2016.

"The senator has not, and does not, explicitly or implicitly, authorize, endorse, or otherwise approve of the organization's formation or activities," attorney Marc Elias said in the letter.

"To the contrary, Senator Warren has publicly announced that she is not running for president in 2016," he said.

The letter also states that Warren hopes "this organization will focus its attention and energy on maintaining Democratic control of the U.S. Senate and not confuse donors about a non-existent run for President."

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Erica Sagrans, the Ready for Warren's campaign manger, told CNN the group of devotees was undeterred.

"I don't think there's anything new in this letter, and we're continuing with our campaign to draft Elizabeth Warren to run for president in 2016 because we believe she's the best person for the job," Sagrans wrote in a statement.

She continued: "We've all been clear since we launched our campaign that Senator Warren isn't associated with our group, and we aren't associated with the senator."

Responding to the Warren letter's call for focus on the midterms, Sagrans said the group will be focused on that effort and "completely agree with Senator Warren that maintaining Democratic control of the Senate in 2014 is what we need to focus on this fall."

Ready for Warren was started earlier this year in response to liberal excitement around the senator's possible candidacy in 2016 and he registered as a super PAC earlier this month.

The group is a direct response to what many liberal organizers say is an assumption of inevitability among the cadre of groups and political operatives organizing for a possible Hillary Clinton campaign.

The name itself is a play on Ready for Hillary, a group organizing for Clinton.

Warren has repeatedly said she is not running for president, telling multiple outlets the same present tense phrase: "I am not running for president."

Her disavowal of the super PAC urging her to run sets her apart from Clinton. Ready for Hillary has received tacit support from people close to Clinton and the former secretary of state has not told the group to stop.

CNN: “Democrat Jim Webb: One show not enough to fully criticize Clinton's record”

By Dan Merica

August 22, 2014, 4:35 p.m. EDT

Democrat Jim Webb needs more than one show if you want him to critique Hillary Clinton's record as

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secretary of state.

During an appearance on Iowa Public Television's "Iowa Press" show, Webb – a former senator from Virginia who is considered a dark horse to run for president in 2016 – was asked to critique Clinton's record at the State Department.

Webb said, "I think there's time to have that discussion later."

"Why not now?" a reporter asked.

"It would probably take up the whole show," Webb retorted. "I think there were good points when Secretary Clinton was secretary of state, particularly what they call the pivot to Asia."

But, he added, "I think the actions in the Arab Spring were probably detrimental." Webb expressed concerned about the "unilateral decision of (the Obama) administration to use force in Libya."

Webb, who said he hoped to be back in Iowa again soon, was interviewed on Iowa Press for a total of 25 minutes.

"I think we ought to have more Democrats coming out here," Webb said, seemingly encouraging more Democrats to run for president. "We need to stimulate the debate about where the country is."

Clinton, who spent four years as President Barack Obama's top diplomat, is widely considered the front runner for the Democratic nomination and is admittedly thinking about running for president.

Webb is on a two-day trip through Iowa, where he is campaigning for Bruce Braley, the Democrats' U.S. Senate candidate.

The former secretary of the Navy under President Ronald Reagan has not ruled out running for president. Webb told Diane Rehm on her nationally syndicated NPR show that he and his wife are "just thinking about what to do next."

"I care a lot about where the country is and we'll be sorting that out," Webb said. "It takes me a while to decide things, and I'm not going to say one way or the other, really."

On Thursday, WHO TV in Iowa asked Webb whether he could beat Clinton if they both decide to run in 2016.

His response: "No comment."

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New York Times: “Legal Woes of Owners Help Put the Plaza Back in Play”

By Charles V. Bagli

Aug. 22, 2014

The rumor sent a shudder through the bell captain on Monday as he hustled across the lobby of the Plaza Hotel, the Manhattan landmark at Fifth Avenue and Central Park South.

A couple photographing their young children mimicking a scene from “Home Alone 2” in a marble hallway nearby said they, too, had heard the reports: Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei had put down $2 billion for the Plaza, an elegant fixture in the city’s cultural and commercial life for more than a century, and two other high-end hotels.

After four days of reports about the sale ricocheting from London to New York to Hollywood to Mumbai to the Middle East, a spokesman for the sultan issued a statement vehemently denying that he was “involved in any way with the purchase” of the hotels.

The denial notwithstanding, this much is clear: The Plaza is in play, again, as part of a drama with an international cast of characters, two of whom are facing significant legal problems.

From his prison cell in India, one of the two, Subrata Roy, a flamboyant Asian billionaire, is trying to sell his company’s majority stakes in the Plaza, the Grosvenor House in London and the Dream New York hotel in Lower Manhattan.

The price tag: $2 billion.

“It’d be a shame for anything to happen to the Plaza,” said Sumner A. Baye, a veteran hotel consultant who happened to be sitting at a table in the hotel’s mahogany-paneled Rose Room overlooking the lobby on Monday. “It’s one of the great five-star hotels. It’s New York all the way.”

The sultan had indeed expressed interest in the hotel package, analysts said, but was dealing with other issues: His Beverly Hills and Bel-Air hotels in Los Angeles had become the subject of boycotts after he instituted laws in Brunei that permitted the stoning of gay people and adulterers. This week, the Human Rights Campaign threatened to extend the boycotts to the Plaza if the sultan were to acquire the property.

There had been whispers of other potential international buyers taking a look at the Plaza and the other

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hotels in Mr. Roy's portfolio. Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia — a billionaire investor who already owns a slice of the Plaza as well as stakes in the Ritz Carlton and Fairmont chains — was supposedly among those who were interested.

But, Mr. Baye said, "He told me a month ago, 'There's no way I would pay the money they're looking for.' "

While they inhabit a rarefied world, five-star hotels are as popular among the superwealthy today as an 8,000-square-foot, $95 million apartment in one of the slim skyscrapers rising on West 57th Street along what has come to be known as Billionaire's Row.

And the Plaza is one of the best-known five-star hotels in the world.

It opened in 1907 as the city's most luxurious hotel, with the neo-Classical Palm Court for tea and the dark-paneled Oak Room bar for drinks. Today, the rooms feature Beaux-Arts décor, 24-karat gold-plated fixtures, solid white-marble vanities and, the hotel's website says, the "finest Italian bath towels and linens."

The guests who have swirled below the hotel's hundreds of chandeliers include Alfred and Gwynne Vanderbilt, F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Marilyn Monroe and the Beatles. (And, of course, there was Eloise.)

Despite — or, perhaps, because of — its lofty rates, the Plaza has been further embedded in the popular culture through its appearances in a string of films, from "The Great Gatsby" and "The Way We Were" to "Barefoot in the Park" and "Home Alone 2."

"It's one of a handful of five-star hotels in New York, in terms of amenities, location and room rates," said Thomas P. McConnell, who heads the global hotel group at Cushman & Wakefield, a real estate broker. "It's competitive with the Pierre, the St. Regis, Four Seasons, Ritz Carlton, the Mandarin Oriental and two new entrants, the Park Hyatt and the Baccarat."

Now the Plaza is on the market again. But ownership of the 19-story, chateaulike building is complicated in ways that require a scorecard to decipher. Anyone buying Mr. Roy's stake would be getting only a fraction of the landmark.

First, a bit of the property's more recent history. Donald J. Trump, who fell in love with the Plaza in the 1980s, bought it for $390 million in 1988. Under pressure from his lenders, Mr. Trump sold the hotel in 1995 for $325 million to Prince Al-Waleed, who brought in Fairmont to manage the property.

Nine years later, in 2004, the prince sold the hotel for $675 million to an Israeli company, the Elad Group, which planned dramatic changes and a three-year, $450 million renovation for the 805-room hotel.

Miki Naftali, who oversaw the project but no longer works for Elad, carved the Plaza into four pieces. Half of the building was converted to 181 apartments, which eventually sold for a combined $1.4 billion. The

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Oak Room bar, some shops and a basement food court were turned into a retail portion. A 131-room hotel for overnight guests was the third piece. The fourth comprised 150 condominium-hotel units, which were managed through the hotel. Eventually, 50 of those units were sold to private owners, essentially as time-share units.

Elad sold a 50 percent interest in the 131-room hotel and a 25 percent interest in the condominium-hotel units to Prince Al-Waleed, while keeping the retail block.

In 2012, Mr. Roy, the chairman of the Sahara Group, paid Elad $570 million for 50 percent of the hotel, 100 of the hotel-condominium units and the retail portion. That is what he is now trying to sell. (Prince Al-Waleed retains his piece of the property.)

After taking over the Plaza, Mr. Roy brought in Sant Singh Chatwal, an Indian-American hotelier, giving him what analysts said was a 5 percent stake and putting him in charge of the Oak Room, which has been closed since 2011, and the Palm Court, which is being renovated and scheduled to reopen in September.

But Mr. Roy was charged with contempt earlier this year by the Indian Supreme Court, which accused Sahara of making illegal investments. He was jailed in New Delhi, with bail set at $3 billion. He has reportedly been trying to sell assets, including the Plaza and his other hotels, to raise that sum.

Mr. Roy's partner, Mr. Chatwal, has his own legal troubles. A prominent fund-raiser for Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential run in 2008, Mr. Chatwal pleaded guilty in Federal District Court in Brooklyn in April to witness tampering and funneling more than $180,000 in illegal contributions to three candidates, Ms. Clinton among them, between 2007 and 2011.

Mr. Chatwal, whose office declined to comment, is set to be sentenced in October.

Interested observers hope that, for the Plaza, the end result will be positive.

"I think it's time to see some stability at the Plaza," Mr. Naftali said. "Hopefully, the new buyers will have it for a long time."

National Memo column: Cynthia Tucker: "Hillary Clinton's Hawkishness May Be Her Undoing"

By Cynthia Tucker

August 23, 2014, 12:00 a.m. EDT

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Even without a formal declaration of her intent to run, Hillary Clinton is the presumed Democratic nominee for president in 2016. She has earned that status through two decades of hard work on the national stage — as First Lady, as a senator from New York, and, especially, as a loyal and energetic secretary of state in the administration of her former rival, Barack Obama.

But Clinton's presumed bid for the presidency — a historic run she's unlikely to turn down — is threatened by the same unfortunate tendency that cost her in 2008: presumption. She seems oblivious to national trends that make some of her stances unpopular.

Nothing better illustrates that presumption than her continued hawkishness, a trait on full display in her interview earlier this month with Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic Monthly. While Washington pundits focused on her curt dismissal of a few words the president allegedly spoke to reporters — "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she said — the substance of her argument is much more troubling than that.

She insisted that if Obama had intervened in Syria, if he had just agreed to arm Syrian moderates, jihadists such as the bloodthirsty cohort of the Islamic State might have been halted in their tracks.

"The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad — there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle — the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," Clinton said.

That sentiment drew huge cheers from the left-of-center interventionists, as well as the neo-cons, who still occupy positions of influence on the national stage. But it contrasts sharply with average voters, the regular Joes who recognize the limits of American power. Polls show that they want nothing to do with more foreign entanglements that don't directly reflect U.S. interests.

They remember that even deploying military advisors often leads to more boots on the ground, more American dead. And those dead are unlikely to come from the ranks of powerful politicians or diplomats or journalists, but rather from the working classes. More to the point, mainstream voters want their politicians to concentrate on fixing a broken economy here at home, not on fixing broken nations halfway around the world.

Last fall, 52 percent of the public said the U.S. should "mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along the best they can on their own," according to the Pew Research Center. It was the first time since 1964 that more than half the country held that view, Pew said.

Given the half-hearted economic recovery, it's no wonder that voters want their politicians to focus on rebuilding the broad American middle class. While Washington politicians and the scribes who cover them are doing just fine, much of the country has yet to mount a full comeback from the Great Recession.

Moreover, it turns out that voters' skepticism toward foreign interventions is supported by research, which shows that arming "moderates" was likely to backfire.

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Recently, political scientist Marc Lynch, writing in The Washington Post, summarized the data this way:

"In general, external support for rebels almost always makes wars longer, bloodier and harder to resolve. … Worse … Syria had most of the characteristics of the type of civil war in which external support for rebels is least effective."

To be fair, Clinton didn't suggest sending U.S. troops into Syria. Still, her criticism of Obama's approach shows a tone-deafness, a calculated disregard for the attitude most Americans now hold toward foreign interventions. Sometimes, that sort of brush-off of popular sentiment is a hallmark of genuine leadership. In this case, it's just arrogance.

Clinton should know better. She was defeated for the Democratic nomination by a lesser-known senator largely because his opposition to the war in Iraq, by then a clear disaster, contrasted with her support for it. While she won't face Obama in 2016, she might find herself up against Republican Sen. Rand Paul in the general election. And his skepticism toward military interventions could prove more popular than her stubborn, ill-advised hawkishness.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Romney and Ryan talk Hillary Clinton, and 2016: 'She's beatable'"

By Robert Costa

August 22, 2014, 1:31 p.m. EDT

A little after 9 p.m. Thursday night, in a small room at the Union League Club of Chicago, Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan were trying to find towels. Romney's shoulders were soaking, his normally well-brushed hair matted and wet. A few minutes earlier, the GOP's 2012 vice presidential nominee had doused his ticket-mate with a heaping pail of ice water to raise awareness for Lou Gehrig's Disease.

"What's going through my head? A bucket of cold water," Romney said to Ryan as they sat down for their first joint print interview since their defeat in the 2012 presidential election.

"It was pretty good — and it'll be on YouTube," Ryan laughed.

Relaxing with Ryan before they both headed off to different cities, the second-place finisher in the last presidential race railed against the frontrunner in the next, mocking Hillary Clinton's attempt to "reset" relations with Russia during President Obama's first term.

"Looking at her record, seeing how ineffective she was in securing more security, is going to be a great

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handicap for her in the general election," said Romney. "I don't think it'll hurt her in the primary, but it will in the general.

"That picture of her with the foreign minister of Russia, smiling ear to ear with that red reset button, I presume that's going to be an ad. Of all the miscalculations in foreign-policy history, that stands out as an unfortunate one."

His former running mate also downplayed Clinton's fall odds. "She's beatable," said Ryan. "Her assets are her name identification, her ability to fundraise, and her campaign experience. Her liabilities are policies and track record. She was one of the architects of the Obama foreign policy.

"I also think there may be a little fatigue," he added. "People will be looking for someone new. She may be riding high now, but people may decide against having another four years of this kind of governing."

Alluding to some of the unrest in the GOP over foreign policy – the friction between the camp of Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and those who seek a more muscular foreign policy -- Romney said now is "not the time for academic debates."

"Our party has to come together, or we will continue with a third term of Barack Obama, with an agenda led by President Obama and Harry Reid," said the former Massachusetts governor. "That agenda has led us to a foreign policy vacuum that is threatening the things we hold dear, including our own safety."

Trail-ready language like that – along with a string of state-level appearances and robust candidate support -- has stoked GOP chatter about a possible third Romney run for the Oval Office.

It's a revival few expected. But Romney has seen his political capital ascend in Republican circles over the past year, with the well-reviewed Netflix documentary "MITT" and his many appearances for GOP candidates reviving his reputation in a party that never fully embraced him as its standard-bearer. Carefully picking where he campaigns, he's been able to play elder statesman in financial rainmaker in several Senate and gubernatorial races.

This month alone, Romney has campaigned in Arkansas, West Virginia, and North Carolina. In September, he's planning visits to the presidential swing states of Colorado and Virginia.

Ryan has stoked 2016 chatter at times himself, such as when he visited Iowa in April to speak to state Republicans. But his pitch there seemed to be more about seeking to soothe the roiling divisions in the GOP than positioning himself for a presidential bid. He has not been to New Hampshire since January 2013. And his colleagues in the House GOP said his excitement about taking over the powerful House Ways and Means Committee next year is the clearest sign yet that his attention for the short term is on Capitol Hill, rather than on making till-the-soil trips to early primary states.

Still, for a party that has no frontrunner for the 2016 presidential nomination, Romney and Ryan represent two potential candidates who many see as natural possibilities, given their experience -- and their lack of legal headaches, which have plagued other White house contenders like Gov. Chris Christie (R-N.J.) as he

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has dealt with a bridge-closing scandal, and Gov. Rick Perry (R-Tex.), who was recently indicted for alleged abuse of power.

Speaking Thursday in Chicago, Romney and Ryan teased the audience by encouraging each other to seek the White House.

“Third time’s the charm,” Ryan said of Romney. Romney’s reply: Ryan “wouldn’t be a bad president” himself. The conservative business crowd there ate it up, laughing and applauding.

“As you see how things have gone, I think we’re at an ‘I told you so’ moment,” Ryan said later. “Mitt is being vindicated on foreign policy and on domestic policy. I think people are seeing that his projections were correct and the kind person he is.”

He turned to Romney. “You know, I haven’t even told you this, but that documentary on Netflix gives people the view of the person we know,” he said. “It shows that we missed an opportunity to elect someone who would’ve been a great president. People seem to be reassessing.”

Still, Romney himself continues to dismiss the odds of a hat trick campaign.

“My posture, and I’ve explained this many times, is that I’m not running, but I hope Paul will give it thought and there are other good people in the party giving thought, getting things organized,” he said. “I think you’ll see a very crowded debate in the first debate or two, and then hopefully narrow it down to someone who can express our vision to help the middle class in America and win in the general election.”

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 24 – Westhampton, NY: Sec. Clinton signs “Hard Choices” at Books & Books (hillaryclintonmemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta’s OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin’s Steak Fry (LA Times)

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· October ? – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (The Hill)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Rudy deLeon" <rdeleon@americanprogress.org>
To: "Rudy deLeon" <rdeleon@americanprogress.org>
Date: 4/7/2015 11:05:34 AM
Subject: New Yorker Article on President Xi Jinping

This is from the current issue of the New Yorker. If you read our private trip report from 2013, you would find that we previewed many of these issues.

Profiles **April 6, 2015 Issue**

Born Red

How Xi Jinping, an unremarkable provincial administrator, became China's most authoritarian leader since Mao.

BY EVAN OSNOS



When Xi was fourteen, Red Guards warned, "We can execute you a hundred times." He joined the Communist Party at twenty. CREDIT ILLUSTRATION BY TAVIS COBURN

In anticipation of New Year's Eve, 2014, Xi Jinping, the President of China and the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, permitted a camera crew to come into his office and record a message to the people. As a teen-ager, Xi had been sent to work on a farm; he was so delicate that other laborers rated him a six on a ten-point scale, "not even as high as the women," he said later, with some embarrassment. Now, at sixty-one, Xi was five feet eleven, taller than any Chinese leader in nearly four decades, with a rich baritone and a confident heft. When he received a guest, he stood still, long arms slack, hair pomaded, a portrait of take-it-or-leave-it composure that induced his visitor to cross the room in pursuit of a handshake.

Xi's predecessor, Hu Jintao, read his annual New Year's greeting from a lectern in an antiseptic reception hall. Xi, who took office in November, 2012, has associated himself with an earthier generation of Communists, a military caste that emphasized "hard work and plain living." He delivered

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his New Year's message at his desk. Behind him, bookshelves held photographs that depicted him as Commander-in-Chief and family man. In one picture, he was wearing Army fatigues and a fur hat, visiting soldiers in a snowfield; in another, he was strolling with his wife and daughter, and escorting his father, Xi Zhongxun, a hallowed revolutionary, in a wheelchair. The shelves also held matching sets of books. Xi's classroom education was interrupted for nearly a decade by the Cultural Revolution, and he has the autodidact's habit of announcing his literary credentials. He often quotes from Chinese classics, and in an interview with the Russian press last year he volunteered that he had read Krylov, Pushkin, Gogol, Lermontov, Turgenev, Dostoyevsky, Nekrasov, Chernyshevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Sholokhov. When he visited France, he mentioned that he had read Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, Saint-Simon, Fourier, Sartre, and twelve others. In his New Year's remarks, Xi oscillated between socialist slogans ("Wave high the sword against corruption") and catchphrases from Chinese social media ("I would like to click the thumbs-up button for our great people"). He vowed to fight poverty, improve the rule of law, and hold fast to history. When he listed the achievements of the past year, he praised the creation of a holiday dedicated to the Second World War: "Victory Day of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression."

Xi is the sixth man to rule the People's Republic of China, and the first who was born after the revolution, in 1949. He sits atop a pyramid of eighty-seven million members of the Communist Party, an organization larger than the population of Germany. The Party no longer reaches into every corner of Chinese life, as it did in the nineteen-seventies, but Xi nevertheless presides over an economy that, by one measure, recently surpassed the American economy in size; he holds ultimate authority over every general, judge, editor, and state-company C.E.O. As Lenin ordained, in 1902, "For the center . . . to actually direct the orchestra, it needs to know who plays violin and where, who plays a false note and why."

Xi's New Year's message was broadcast on state television and radio channels at 6:30 P.M., just before the evening news. A few hours later, the news veered sharply out of his control. In Shanghai, a large holiday crowd had gathered to celebrate on the Bund, the promenade beside the Huangpu River, with splendid views of the skyline. The crowd was growing faster than the space could handle. Around 11:30 P.M., the police sent hundreds of extra officers to keep order, but it was too late; a stairway was jammed, and people shouted and pushed. A stampede ensued. In all, thirty-six people suffocated or were trampled to death.

The disaster occurred in one of China's most modern and prosperous places, and the public was appalled. In the days that followed, the Shanghai government held a memorial for the victims, and encouraged people to move on; Internet censors struck down discussion of who was responsible; police interrogated Web users who posted criticisms of the state. When relatives of the victims visited the site of the stampede, police watched them closely, and then erected metal barriers to render it unreachable. Caixin, an investigative media organization, revealed that, during the stampede, local officials in charge of the neighborhood were enjoying a banquet of sushi and sake, at the government's expense, in a private room at the Empty Cicada, a luxury restaurant nearby. This was awkward news, because one of the President's first diktats had been "Eight Rules" for public servants, to eliminate extravagance and corruption. Among other things, the campaign called on officials to confine themselves to "four dishes

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and one soup." (Eventually, eleven officials were punished for misusing funds and for failing to prevent a risk to the public.)

A few weeks after the incident in Shanghai, I paid a call on a longtime editor in Beijing, whose job gives him a view into the workings of the Party. When I arrived at his apartment, his kids were in raucous control of the living room, so we retreated to his bedroom to talk. When I asked him how President Xi was doing, he mentioned the banquet at the Empty Cicada. He thought it pointed to a problem that is much deeper than a few high-living bureaucrats. "The central government issued an order absolutely forbidding them to dine out on public funds. And they did it anyway!" he said. "What this tells you is that local officials are finding their ways of responding to change. There is a saying: 'When a rule is imposed up high, there is a way to get around it below.' " The struggle between an emperor and his bureaucracy follows a classic pattern in Chinese politics, and it rarely ends well for the emperor. But the editor was betting on Xi. "He's not afraid of Heaven or Earth. And he is, as we say, round on the outside and square on the inside; he looks flexible, but inside he is very hard."

Before Xi took power, he was described, in China and abroad, as an unremarkable provincial administrator, a fan of American pop culture ("The Godfather," "Saving Private Ryan") who cared more about business than about politics, and was selected mainly because he had alienated fewer peers than his competitors. It was an incomplete portrait. He had spent more than three decades in public life, but Chinese politics had exposed him to limited scrutiny. At a press conference, a local reporter once asked Xi to rate his performance: "Would you give yourself a score of a hundred—or a score of ninety?" (Neither, Xi said; a high number would look "boastful," and a low number would reflect "low self-esteem.")

But, a quarter of the way through his ten-year term, he has emerged as the most authoritarian leader since Chairman Mao. In the name of protection and purity, he has investigated tens of thousands of his countrymen, on charges ranging from corruption to leaking state secrets and inciting the overthrow of the state. He has acquired or created ten titles for himself, including not only head of state and head of the military but also leader of the Party's most powerful committees—on foreign policy, Taiwan, and the economy. He has installed himself as the head of new bodies overseeing the Internet, government restructuring, national security, and military reform, and he has effectively taken over the courts, the police, and the secret police. "He's at the center of everything," Gary Locke, the former American Ambassador to Beijing, told me.

In the Chinese Communist Party, you campaign after you get the job, not before, and in building public support and honing a message Xi has revealed a powerful desire for transformation. He calls on China to pursue the Chinese Dream: the "great rejuvenation of the nation," a mixture of prosperity, unity, and strength. He has proposed at least sixty social and economic changes, ranging from relaxing the one-child policy to eliminating camps for "reëducation through labor" and curtailing state monopolies. He has sought prestige abroad; on his first foreign trip (to Moscow), he was accompanied by his wife, a celebrity soprano named Peng Liyuan, who inspired lavish coverage of China's first modern Presidential couple. Peng soon appeared on *Vanity Fair's* Best-Dressed List.

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After Mao, China encouraged the image of a "collective Presidency" over the importance of individual leaders. Xi has revised that approach, and his government, using old and new tools, has enlarged his image. In the spirit of Mao's Little Red Book, publishers have produced eight volumes of Xi's speeches and writings; the most recent, titled "The Remarks of Xi Jinping," dissects his utterances, ranks his favorite phrases, and explains his cultural references. A study of the *People's Daily* found that, by his second anniversary in office, Xi was appearing in the paper more than twice as often as his predecessor at the same point. He stars in a series of cartoons aimed at young people, beginning with "How to Make a Leader," which describes him, despite his family pedigree, as a symbol of meritocracy—"one of the secrets of the China miracle." The state news agency has taken the unprecedented step of adopting a nickname for the General Secretary: Xi Dada—roughly, Big Uncle Xi. In January, the Ministry of Defense released oil paintings depicting him in heroic poses; thousands of art students applying to the Beijing University of Technology had been judged on their ability to sketch his likeness. The Beijing *Evening News* reported that one applicant admired the President so much that "she had to work hard to stop her hands from trembling."

To outsiders, Xi has been a fitful subject. Bookstores in Hong Kong, which are insulated from mainland control, offer portraits of varying quality—the most reliable include "The New Biography of Xi Jinping," by Liang Jian, and "China's Future," by Wu Ming—but most are written at a remove, under pseudonyms. The clearest account of Xi's life and influences comes from his own words and decisions, scattered throughout a long climb to power.

Kevin Rudd, the former Prime Minister of Australia, a Mandarin speaker who has talked with Xi at length over the years, told me, "What he says is what he thinks. My experience of him is that there's not a lot of artifice."

In a leadership known for grooming colorless apparatchiks, Xi projects an image of manly vigor. He mocks "eggheads" and praises the "team spirit of a group of dogs eating a lion." In a meeting in March, 2013, he told the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, "We are similar in character," though Xi is less inclined toward bare-chested machismo. Xi admires Song Jiang, a fictional outlaw from "Water Margin," a fourteenth-century Chinese classic, for his ability to "unite capable people." Neither brilliant nor handsome, Song Jiang led a band of heroic rebels. In a famous passage, he speaks of the Xunyang River: "I shall have my revenge some day / And dye red with blood the Xunyang's flow."

Xi describes his essential project as a rescue: he must save the People's Republic and the Communist Party before they are swamped by corruption; environmental pollution; unrest in Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and other regions; and the pressures imposed by an economy that is growing more slowly than at any time since 1990 (though still at about seven per cent, the fastest pace of any major country). "The tasks our Party faces in reform, development, and stability are more onerous than ever, and the conflicts, dangers, and challenges are more numerous than ever," Xi told the Politburo, in October. In 2014, the government arrested nearly a thousand members of civil society, more than in any year since the mid-nineteen-nineties, following the Tiananmen Square massacre, according to Chinese Human Rights Defenders, a Hong Kong-based advocacy group.

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Xi unambiguously opposes American democratic notions. In 2011 and 2012, he spent several days with Vice-President Joe Biden, his official counterpart at the time, in China and the United States. Biden told me that Xi asked him why the U.S. put "so much emphasis on human rights." Biden replied to Xi, "No President of the United States could represent the United States were he not committed to human rights," and went on, "If you don't understand this, you can't deal with us. President Barack Obama would not be able to stay in power if he did not speak of it. So look at it as a political imperative. It doesn't make us better or worse. It's who we are. You make your decisions. We'll make ours."

In Xi's early months, supporters in the West speculated that he wanted to silence hard-line critics, and would open up later, perhaps in his second term, which begins in 2017. That view has largely disappeared. Henry Paulson, the former Treasury Secretary, whose upcoming book, "Dealing with China," describes a decade of contact with Xi, told me, "He has been very forthright and candid—privately and publicly—about the fact that the Chinese are rejecting Western values and multiparty democracy." He added, "To Westerners, it seems very incongruous to be, on the one hand, so committed to fostering more competition and market-driven flexibility in the economy and, on the other hand, to be seeking more control in the political sphere, the media, and the Internet. But that's the key: he sees a strong Party as essential to stability, and the only institution that's strong enough to help him accomplish his other goals."

In his determination to gain control and protect the Party, Xi may have generated a different kind of threat: he has pried apart internal fault lines and shaken the equilibrium that for a generation marked the nation's rise. Before Xi took power, top officials presumed that they were protected. Yu Hua, the novelist, told me, "As China grew, what really came to matter were the 'unwritten rules.' When the real rules weren't specific enough or clear enough, when policies and laws lagged behind reality, you always relied on the unwritten rules." They dictated everything from how much to tip a surgeon to how far an N.G.O. could go before it was suppressed. "The unwritten rules have been broken," Yu said. "This is how it should be, of course, but laws haven't arrived yet."

The Communist Party dedicated itself to a classless society but organized itself in a rigid hierarchy, and Xi started life near the top. He was born in Beijing in 1953, the third of four children. His father, Xi Zhongxun, China's propaganda minister at the time, had been fomenting revolution since the age of fourteen, when he and his classmates tried to poison a teacher whom they considered a counterrevolutionary. He was sent to jail, where he joined the Communist Party, and eventually he became a high-ranking commander, which plunged him into the Party's internal feuds. In 1935, a rival faction accused Xi of disloyalty and ordered him to be buried alive, but Mao defused the crisis. At a Party meeting in February, 1952, Mao stated that the "suppression of counterrevolutionaries" required, on average, the execution of one person for every one thousand to two thousand citizens. Xi Zhongxun endorsed "severe suppression and punishment," but in his area "killing was relatively lower," according to his official biography.

Xi Jinping grew up with his father's stories. "He talked about how he joined the revolution, and he'd say, 'You will certainly make revolution in the future,' " Xi recalled in a 2004 interview with the Xi'an *Evening News*, a state-run paper. "He'd explain what revolution is. We heard so much of this that our

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ears got calluses." In six decades of politics, his father had seen or deployed every tactic. At dinner with the elder Xi in 1980, David Lampton, a China specialist at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins, marvelled that he could toast dozens of guests, over glasses of Maotai, with no visible effects. "It became apparent that he was drinking water," Lampton said.

When Xi Jinping was five, his father was promoted to Vice-Premier, and the son often visited him at Zhongnanhai, the secluded compound for top leaders. Xi was admitted to the exclusive August 1st School, named for the date of a famous Communist victory. The school, which occupied the former palace of a Qing Dynasty prince, was nicknamed the *lingxiu yaolan*—the "cradle of leaders." The students formed a small, close-knit élite; they lived in the same compounds, summered at the same retreats, and shared a sense of noblesse oblige. For centuries before the People's Republic, an evolving list of élite clans combined wealth and politics. Some sons handled business; others pursued high office. Winners changed over time, and, when Communist leaders prevailed, in 1949, they acquired the mantle. "The common language used to describe this was that they had 'won over *tianxia*'—'all under Heaven,' " Yang Guobin, a sociologist at the University of Pennsylvania, told me. "They believed they had a natural claim to leadership. They owned it. And their children thought, naturally, they themselves would be, and should be, the future owners." As the historian Mi Hedu observes in his 1993 book, "The Red Guard Generation," students at the August 1st School "compared one another on the basis of whose father had a higher rank, whose father rode in a better car. Some would say, 'Obey whoever's father has the highest position.' " When the Cultural Revolution began, in 1966, Beijing students who were *zilaihong* ("born red") promoted a slogan: "If the father is a hero, the son is also a hero; if the father is a reactionary, the son is a bastard." Red Guards sought to cleanse the capital of opposition, to make it "as pure and clean as crystal," they said. From late August to late September, 1966, nearly two thousand people were killed in Beijing, and at least forty-nine hundred historical sites were damaged or destroyed, according to Yiching Wu, the author of "The Cultural Revolution at the Margins."

But Xi Jinping did not fit cleanly into the role of either aggressor or victim. In 1962, his father was accused of supporting a novel that Mao opposed, and was sent to work in a factory; his mother, Qi Xin, was assigned to hard labor on a farm. In January, 1967, after Mao encouraged students to target "class enemies," a group of young people dragged Xi Zhongxun before a crowd. Among other charges, he was accused of having gazed at West Berlin through binoculars during a visit to East Germany years earlier. He was detained in a military garrison, where he passed the years by walking in circles, he said later—ten thousand laps, and then ten thousand walking backward. The son was too young to be an official Red Guard, and his father's status made him undesirable. Moreover, being born red was becoming a liability. Élite academies were accused of being *xiao baota*—"little treasure pagodas"—and shut down. Xi and the sons of other targeted officials stayed together, getting into street fights and swiping books from shuttered libraries. Later, Xi described that period as a dystopian collapse of control. He was detained "three or four times" by groups of Red Guards, and forced to denounce his father. In 2000, he told the journalist Yang Xiaohuai about being captured by a group loyal to the wife of the head of China's secret police:

> I was only fourteen. The Red Guards asked, "How serious do you yourself think your crimes are?"
> "You can estimate it yourselves. Is it enough to execute me?"

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"We can execute you a hundred times."

To my mind there was no difference between being executed a hundred times or once, so why be afraid of a hundred times? The Red Guards wanted to scare me, saying that now I was to feel the democratic dictatorship of the people, and that I only had five minutes left. But in the end, they told me, instead, to read quotations from Chairman Mao every day until late at night.

In December, 1968, in a bid to regain control, Mao ordered the Red Guards and other students to the countryside, to be "reëducated by the poor and lower-middle-class peasants." Élite families sent their children to regions that had allies or family, and Xi went to his father's old stronghold in Shaanxi. He was assigned to Liangjiahe, a village flanked by yellow cliffs. "The intensity of the labor shocked me," Xi recalled in a 2004 television interview. To avoid work, he took up smoking—nobody bothered a man smoking—and lingered in the bathroom. After three months, he fled to Beijing, but he was arrested and returned to the village. In what later became the centerpiece of his official narrative, Xi was reborn. A recent state-news-service article offers the mythology: "Xi lived in a cave dwelling with villagers, slept on a *kang*, a traditional Chinese bed made of bricks and clay, endured flea bites, carried manure, built dams and repaired roads." It leaves out some brutal details. At one point, he received a letter informing him that his older half-sister Xi Heping had died. The Australian journalist John Garnaut, the author of an upcoming book on the rise of Xi and his cohort, said, "It was suicide. Close associates have said to me, on the record, that after a decade of persecution she hanged herself from a shower rail."

Xi chose to join the Communist Party's Youth League. Because of his father's status, his application was rejected seven times, by his count. After Xi befriended a local official, he was accepted. In January, 1974, he gained full Party membership and became secretary of the village. His drive to join the Party baffled some of his peers. A longtime friend who became a professor later told an American diplomat that he felt "betrayed" by Xi's ambition to "join the system." According to a U.S. diplomatic cable recounting his views, many in Xi's élite cohort were desperate to escape politics; they dated, drank, and read Western literature. They were "trying to catch up for lost years by having fun," the professor said. He eventually concluded that Xi was "exceptionally ambitious," and knew that he would "not be special" outside China, so he "chose to survive by becoming redder than the red." After all, Yang Guobin told me, referring to the sons of the former leaders, "the sense of ownership did not die. A sense of pride and superiority persisted, and there was some confidence that their fathers' adversity would be temporary and sooner or later they would make a comeback. That's exactly what happened."

The following year, Xi enrolled at Tsinghua University as a "worker-peasant-soldier" student (applicants who were admitted on the basis of political merit rather than test scores). That spring, Xi Zhongxun was rehabilitated, after sixteen years of persecution. When the family reunited, he could not recognize his grown sons. His faith never wavered. In November, 1976, he wrote to Hua Guofeng, the head of the Party, asking for reassignment, in order to "devote the rest of my life to the Party and strive to do more for the people." He signed it, "Xi Zhongxun, a Follower of Chairman Mao and a Party Member Who Has Not Regained Admission to Regular Party Activities."

Xi Jinping's pedigree had exposed him to a brutal politics—purges, retribution, rehabilitation—and he drew blunt lessons from it. In a 2000 interview with the journalist Chen Peng, of the Beijing-based *Chinese Times*, Xi said, "People who have little experience with power, those who have been far away

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from it, tend to regard these things as mysterious and novel. But I look past the superficial things: the power and the flowers and the glory and the applause. I see the detention houses, the fickleness of human relationships. I understand politics on a deeper level." The Cultural Revolution and his years in Yan'an, the region where he was sent as a teen-ager, had created him. "Yan'an is the starting point of my life," he said in 2007. "Many of the fundamental ideas and qualities I have today were formed in Yan'an." Rudd, the former Australian Prime Minister, told me, "The bottom line in any understanding of who Xi Jinping is must begin with his dedication to the Party as an institution—despite the fact that through his personal life, and his political life, he has experienced the best of the Party and the worst of the Party."

Xi's siblings scattered: his brother and a sister went into business in Hong Kong, the other sister reportedly settled in Canada. But Xi stayed and, year by year, invested more deeply in the Party. After graduating, in 1979, he took a coveted job as an aide to Geng Biao, a senior defense official whom Xi's father called "my closest comrade-in-arms" from the revolution. Xi wore a military uniform and made valuable connections at Party headquarters. Not long after college, he married Ke Xiaoming, the cosmopolitan daughter of China's Ambassador to Britain. But they fought "almost every day," according to the professor, who lived across the hall. He told the diplomat that the couple divorced when Ke decided to move to England and Xi stayed behind.

China's revolutionaries were aging, and the Party needed to groom new leaders. Xi told the professor that going to the provinces was the "only path to central power." Staying at Party headquarters in Beijing would narrow his network and invite resentment from lesser-born peers. In 1982, shortly before Xi turned thirty, he asked to be sent back to the countryside, and was assigned to a horse-cart county in Hebei Province. He wanted to be the county secretary—the boss—but the provincial chief resented privileged offspring from Party headquarters and made Xi the No. 2. It was the Chinese equivalent of trading an executive suite at the Pentagon for a mid-level post in rural Virginia.

Within a year, though, Xi was promoted, and he honed his political skills. He gave perks to retired cadres who could shape his reputation; he arranged for them to receive priority at doctors' offices; when he bought the county's first imported car, he donated it to the "veteran-cadre office," and used an old jeep for himself. He retained his green Army-issue trousers to convey humility, and he learned the value of political theatrics: at times, "if you don't bang on the table, it's not frightening enough, and people won't take it seriously," he told a Chinese interviewer in 2003. He experimented with market economics, by allowing farmers to use more land for raising animals instead of growing grain for the state, and he pushed splashy local projects, including the construction of a television studio based on the classic novel "A Dream of Red Mansions."

In 1985, he spent two weeks in Iowa as part of an agricultural delegation. In the town of Muscatine, he stayed with Eleanor and Thomas Dvorchak. "The boys had gone off to college, so there were some spare bedrooms," Eleanor told me. Xi slept in a room with football-themed wallpaper and "Star Trek" action figures. "He was looking out the window, and it seemed like he was saying, 'Oh, my God,' and I thought, What's so unusual? It's just a split-level," she said. Xi did not introduce himself as a Communist Party secretary; his business card identified him as the head of the Shijiazhuang Feed Association. In 2012, on a trip to the U.S. before becoming top leader, he returned to Muscatine, to see Dvorchak and others,

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trailed by the world press. She said, “No one in their right mind would ever think that that guy who stayed in my house would become the President. I don’t care what country you’re talking about.”

By 1985, Xi was ready for another promotion, but the provincial Party head blocked him again, so he moved to the southern province of Fujian, where one of his father’s friends was the Party secretary, and could help him. Not long after he arrived, he met Liao Wanlong, a Taiwanese businessman, who recalled, “He was tall and stocky, and he looked a little dopey.” Liao, who has visited Xi repeatedly in the decades since, told me, “He appeared to be guileless, honest. He came from the north and he didn’t understand the south well.” Liao went on, “He would speak only if he really had something to say, and he didn’t make casual promises. He would think everything through before opening his mouth. He rarely talked about his family, because he had a difficult past and a disappointing marriage.” Xi didn’t have a questing mind, but he excelled at managing his image and his relationships; he was now meeting foreign investors, so he stopped wearing Army fatigues and adopted a wardrobe of Western suits. Liao said, “Not everyone could get an audience with him; he would screen those who wanted to meet him. He was a good judge of people.”

The following year, when Xi was thirty-three, a friend introduced him to Peng Liyuan, who, at twenty-four, was already one of China’s most famous opera and folk singers. Xi told her that he didn’t watch television, she recalled in a 2007 interview. “What kind of songs do you sing?” he asked. Peng thought that he looked “uncultured and much older than his age,” but he asked her questions about singing technique, which she took as a sign of intelligence. Xi later said that he decided within forty minutes to ask her to marry him. They married the following year, and in 1989, after the crackdown on student demonstrators, Peng was among the military singers who were sent to Tiananmen Square to serenade the troops. (Images of that scene, along with information about Peng’s private life and her commercial dealings, have been largely expunged from the Web.) In 1992, they had a daughter. As it became clear that Xi would be a top leader, Peng gave up the diva gowns and elaborate hairdos in favor of pants suits and the occasional military uniform. Fans still mobbed her, while he stood patiently to the side, but for the most part she stopped performing and turned her attention to activism around H.I.V., tobacco control, and women’s education. For years, Xi and Peng spent most of their time apart. But, in the flurry of attention around Big Uncle Xi, the state-run media has promoted a pop song entitled “Xi Dada Loves Peng Mama,” which includes the line “Men should learn from Xi and women should learn from Peng.”

The posting to the south put Xi closer to his father. Since 1978, his father had served in neighboring Guangdong, home to China’s experiments with the free market, and the elder Xi had become a zealous believer in economic reform as the answer to poverty. It was a risky position: at a Politburo meeting in 1987, the Old Guard attacked the liberal standard-bearer, Hu Yaobang. Xi’s father was the only senior official who spoke in his defense. “What are you guys doing here? Don’t repeat what Mao did to us,” he said, according to Richard Baum’s 1994 chronicle of élite politics, “Burying Mao.” But Xi lost and was stripped of power for the last time. He was allowed to live in comfortable obscurity until his death, in 2002, and is remembered fondly as “a man of principle, not of strategy,” as the editor in Beijing put it to me.

His son avoided overly controversial reforms as he rose through the ranks. “My approach is to heat a pot

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with a small, continuous fire, pouring in cold water to keep it from boiling over," he said. In 1989, a local propaganda official, Kang Yanping, submitted a proposal for a TV miniseries promoting political reform, but Xi replied with skepticism. According to "China's Future," he asked, "Is there a source for the opinion? Is it a reasonable point?" The show, which Xi predicted would leave people "discouraged," was not produced. He also paid special attention to cultivating local military units; he upgraded equipment, raised subsidies for soldiers' living expenses, and found jobs for retiring officers. He liked to say, "To meet the Army's needs, nothing is excessive."

Xi prosecuted corruption at some moments and ignored it at others. A Chinese executive told the U.S. Embassy in Beijing that Xi was considered "Mr. Clean" for turning down a bribe, and yet, for the many years that Xi worked in Fujian, the Yuanhua Group, one of China's largest corrupt enterprises, continued smuggling billions of dollars' worth of oil, cars, cigarettes, and appliances into China, with the help of the Fujian military and police. Xi also found a way to live with Chen Kai, a local tycoon who ran casinos and brothels in the center of town, protected by the police chief. Later, Chen was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death, and fifty government officials were prosecuted for accepting bribes from him. Xi was never linked to the cases, but they left a stain on his tenure. "Sometimes I have posted colleagues wrongly," he said in 2000. "Some were posted wrongly because I thought they were better than they actually were, others because I thought they were worse than they actually were."

Xi proved adept at navigating internal feuds and alliances. After he took over the economically vibrant province of Zhejiang, in 2002, he created policies intended to promote private businesses. He encouraged taxi services to buy from Geely, the car company that later bought Volvo. He soothed conservatives, in part by reciting socialist incantations. "The private economy has become an exotic flower in the garden of socialism with Chinese characteristics," he declared. In 2007, he encountered a prime opportunity to show his political skills: a corruption scandal in Shanghai was implicating associates of Jiang Zemin, the powerful former President, who served from 1989 to 2002. Xi was sent to Shanghai to take over. He projected toughness to the public without alienating Jiang. He rejected the villa that had been arranged for him, announcing that it would be better used as a retirement home for veteran comrades.

His timing was fortunate: a few months later, senior Party officials were choosing the next generation of top leaders. Xi was expected to lose to Li Keqiang, a comrade who had no revolutionary family pedigree, and had postgraduate degrees in law and economics from Peking University. Since 2002, the highest ranks of Chinese politics had been dominated by men who elbowed their way in on the basis of academic or technocratic merit. President Hu's father ran a tea shop, and the Premier, Wen Jiabao, was the son of a teacher, but Chen Yun, the late economic czar, had advised his peers that born reds, now known as "second-generation reds," or princelings, would make more reliable stewards of the Party's future. One princeling told a Western diplomat, "The feeling among us is: 'Hu Jintao, Wen Jiabao, your fathers were selling shoelaces while our fathers were dying for this revolution.' " In private, some princelings referred to the President and the Premier as *huoji*—"hired hands." In October, 2007, Xi was unveiled as the likely heir apparent. It was not entirely a compliment. "Party leaders prefer weak successors, so they can rule behind the scenes," Ho Pin, the founder of Mingjing News, an overseas Chinese site, said. Xi's rise had been so abrupt, in the eyes of the general public, that people joked,

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“Who is Xi Jinping? He’s Peng Liyuan’s husband.”

Xi was tested by a pageant of dysfunction that erupted in the run-up to his début as General Secretary, in 2012. In February, Wang Lijun, a former police chief, tried to defect to the U.S. and accused the family of his former patron, Bo Xilai, the Party secretary of Chongqing, of murder and embezzlement. Party leaders feared that Bo might protect himself with the security services at his command, disrupt the transition of power, and tear the Party apart. In September, Ling Jihua, the chief of staff of the outgoing President, was abruptly demoted, and he was later accused of trying to cover up the death of his son, who had crashed a black Ferrari while accompanied by two women.

Beset by crises, Xi suddenly disappeared. On September 4, 2012, he cancelled a meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and visits with other dignitaries. As the days passed, lurid rumors emerged, ranging from a grave illness to an assassination attempt. When he reappeared, on September 19th, he told American officials that he had injured his back. Analysts of Chinese politics still raise the subject of Xi’s disappearance in the belief that a fuller explanation of why he vanished might illuminate the depth, or fragility, of his support. In dozens of conversations this winter, scholars, officials, journalists, and executives told me that they suspect he did have a health problem, and also reasons to exploit it. They speculate that Xi, in effect, went on strike; he wanted to install key allies, and remove opponents, before taking power, but Party elders ordered him to wait. A former intelligence official told me, “Xi basically says, ‘O.K., fuck you, let’s see you find someone else for this job. I’m going to disappear for two weeks and miss the Secretary of State.’ And that’s what he did. It caused a stir, and they went running and said, ‘Whoa, whoa, whoa.’ ” The handoff went ahead as planned. On November 15, 2012, Xi became General Secretary.

Xi headed a Politburo Standing Committee of seven men: four were considered princelings by birth or marriage, a larger ratio than in any Politburo in the history of the People’s Republic. Western politicians often note that Xi has the habits of a retail pol: comfort on the rope line, gentle questions for every visitor, homey anecdotes. On a trip to Los Angeles, he told students that he likes to swim, read, and watch sports on television, but rarely has time. “To borrow a title from an American film, it’s like ‘Mission: Impossible,’ ” he said. But Chinese observers tend to mention something else: his *guizuqi*, or “air of nobility.” It can come off as a reassuring link to the past or, at times, as a distance from his peers. In a meeting at the Great Hall of the People last year, Party officials were chatting and glad-handing during a lengthy break, but Xi never budged. “It went on for hours, and he sat there, staring straight ahead,” a foreign attendee told me. “He never wandered down from the podium to say, ‘How’s it going in Ningxia?’ ”

Xi believed that there was a grave threat to China from within. According to U.S. diplomats, Xi’s friend the professor described Xi as “repulsed by the all-encompassing commercialization of Chinese society, with its attendant nouveaux riches, official corruption, loss of values, dignity, and self-respect, and such ‘moral evils’ as drugs and prostitution.” If he ever became China’s top leader, the professor had predicted, “he would likely aggressively attempt to address these evils, perhaps at the expense of the new moneyed class.” Though princelings and their siblings had profited comfortably from China’s rise (Xi’s sister Qi Qiaoqiao is reported to have large corporate and real-estate assets), the revolutionary families

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considered their gains appropriate, and they blamed the hired hands for allowing corruption and extravagance, which stirred up public rage and threatened the Party's future.

The first step to a solution was to reëstablish control. The "collective Presidency," which spread power across the Standing Committee, had constrained Hu Jintao so thoroughly that he was nicknamed the Woman with Bound Feet. Xi surrounded himself with a shadow cabinet that was defined less by a single ideology than by school ties and political reliability. Members included Liu He, a childhood playmate who had become a reform-minded economist, and Liu Yuan, a hawkish general and the son of former President Liu Shaoqi. The most important was Wang Qishan, a friend for decades, who was placed in charge of the Central Commission on Discipline and Inspection, the agency that launched the vast anticorruption campaign.

The Party had long cultivated an image of virtuous unanimity. But, during the next two years, Wang's investigators, who were granted broad powers to detain and interrogate, attacked agencies that might counter Xi's authority, accusing them of conspiracies and abuses. They brought corruption charges against officials at the state-planning and state-assets commissions, which protect the privileges of large government-run monopolies. They arrested China's security chief, Zhou Yongkang, a former oil baron with the jowls of an Easter Island statue, who had built the police and military into a personal kingdom that received more funding each year for domestic spying and policing than it did for foreign defense. They reached into the ranks of the military, where flamboyant corruption was not only upsetting the public—pedestrians had learned to watch out for luxury sedans with military license plates, which careered around Beijing with impunity—but also undermining China's national defense. When police searched homes belonging to the family of Lieutenant General Gu Junshan, a senior logistics chief, they removed four truckloads of wine, art, cash, and other luxuries. According to a diplomat in Beijing, Gu's furnishings included a gold replica of China's first aircraft carrier. "When questioned about it, he said it was a sign of patriotism," the diplomat said.

By the end of 2014, the Party had announced the punishment of more than a hundred thousand officials on corruption charges. Many foreign observers asked if Xi's crusade was truly intended to stamp out corruption or if it was a tool to attack his enemies. It was not simply one or the other: corruption had become so threatening to the Party's legitimacy that only the most isolated leader could have avoided forcing it back to a more manageable level, but railing against corruption was also a proven instrument for political consolidation, and at the highest levels Xi has deployed it largely against his opponents. Geremie Barme, the historian who heads the Australian Centre on China in the World, analyzed the forty-eight most high-profile arrests, and discovered that none of them were second-generation reds. "I don't call it an anticorruption campaign," a Western diplomat told me. "This is grinding trench warfare."

Shortly after taking over, Xi asked, "Why did the Soviet Communist Party collapse?" and declared, "It's a profound lesson for us." Chinese scholars had studied that puzzle from dozens of angles, but Xi wanted more. "In 2009, he commissioned a long study of the Soviet Union from somebody who works in the policy-research office," the diplomat in Beijing told me. "It concluded that the rot started under Brezhnev. In the paper, the guy cited a joke: Brezhnev brings his mother to Moscow. He proudly shows her the state apartments at the Kremlin, his Zil limousine, and the life of luxury he now lives. 'Well,

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what do you think, Mama,' says Brezhnev. 'You'll never have to worry about a thing, ever again.' 'I'm so proud of you, Leonid Ilyich,' says Mama, 'but what happens if the Communists find out?' Xi loved the story." Xi reserved special scorn for Gorbachev, for failing to defend the Party against its opponents, and told his colleagues, "Nobody was man enough to stand up and resist."

The year after Xi took office, cadres were required to watch a six-part documentary on the Soviet Union's collapse, which showed violent scenes of unrest and described an American conspiracy to topple Communism through "peaceful evolution": the steady infiltration of subversive Western political ideas. Ever since the early aughts, when "color revolutions" erupted in the former Soviet bloc, Chinese Communists have cited the risk of contagion as a reason to constrict political life. That fear was heightened by a surge of unrest in Tibet in 2008, in Xinjiang in 2009, and across the Arab world in 2011. Last September, when pro-democracy protests erupted in Hong Kong, an opinion piece in the *Global Times*, a state-run daily, accused the National Endowment for Democracy and the C.I.A. of being "black hands" behind the unrest, intent on "stimulating Taiwanese independence, Xinjiang independence, and Tibetan independence." (The U.S. denied involvement.)

Xi's government has no place for loyal opposition. When he launched the anticorruption campaign, activists—such as the lawyer Xu Zhiyong, who had served as a local legislator in Beijing—joined in, calling on officials to disclose their incomes. But Xu and many others were arrested. (He was later sentenced to four years in prison for "gathering crowds to disrupt public order.") One of Xu's former colleagues, Teng Biao, told me, "For the government, 'peaceful evolution' was not just a slogan. It was real. The influence of Western states was becoming more obvious and more powerful." Teng was at a conference in Germany soon after Xu and another colleague were arrested. "People advised me not to return to China, or I'd be arrested, too," Teng said. He is now a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School.

A prominent editor in Beijing told me that Chinese philanthropists have been warned, "You can't give money to this N.G.O. or that N.G.O.—basically all N.G.O.s." In December, the Committee to Protect Journalists counted forty-four reporters in Chinese jails, more than in any other country. Well-known human-rights lawyers—Pu Zhiqiang, Ding Jiaxi, Xia Lin—have been jailed. Earlier this month, Human Rights Watch called this the harshest suppression of dissent in a decade.

Although Vladimir Putin has suffocated Russian civil society and neutered the press, Moscow stores still carry books that are critical of him, and a few long-suffering blogs still find ways to attack him. Xi is less tolerant. In February, 2014, Yiu Mantin, a seventy-nine-year-old editor at Hong Kong's Morning Bell Press, who had planned to release a biography critical of Xi, by the exiled writer Yu Jie, was arrested during a visit to the mainland. He had received a phone call warning him not to proceed with publication. He was sentenced to ten years in prison, on charges of smuggling seven cans of paint.

For years, Chinese intellectuals distinguished between words and actions: Western political ideas could be discussed in China as long as nobody tried to enact them. In 2011, China's education minister, Yuan Guiren, extolled the benefits of exchanges with foreign countries. "Whether they're rich or poor, socialist or capitalist, as long as they're beneficial to our development we can learn from all of them," he told the Jinghua *Times*, a state newspaper. But in January Yuan told a conference, "Young teachers and

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students are key targets of infiltration by enemy forces." He said, "We must, by no means, allow into our classrooms material that propagates Western values." An article on the Web site of *Seeking Truth*, an official Party journal, warned against professors who "blacken China's name," and it singled out the law professor He Weifang by name. When I spoke to He, a few days later, he said, "I've always been unpopular with conservatives, but recently the situation has become more serious. The political standpoint of this new slate of leaders isn't like that of the Hu or Jiang era. They're more restraining. They're not as willing to permit an active discussion."

Sealing China off from Western ideas poses some practical problems. The Party has announced "rule of law" reforms intended to strengthen top-down control over the legal system and shield courts from local interference. The professor said, "Many colleagues working on civil law and that sort of thing have a large portion of their lectures about German law or French law. So, if you want to stop Western values from spreading in Chinese universities, one thing you'd have to do is close down the law schools and make sure they never exist again." Xi, for his part, sees no contradiction, because preservation of the Party comes before preservation of the law. In January, he said that China must "nurture a legal corps loyal to the Party, loyal to the country, loyal to the people, and loyal to the law." Echoing Mao, he added, "Insure that the handle of the knife is firmly in the hand of the Party and the people."

Xi's wariness of Western influence is reflected in his foreign policy. On a personal level, he expresses warm memories of Iowa, and he sent his daughter, Xi Mingze, to Harvard. (She graduated last year, under a pseudonym, and has returned to China.) But Xi has also expressed an essentialist view of national characteristics such that, in his telling, China's history and social makeup render it unfit for multiparty democracy or a monarchy or any other non-Communist system. "We considered them, tried them, but none worked," he told an audience at the College of Europe, in Bruges, last spring. Adopting an alternative, he said, "might even lead to catastrophic consequences." On his watch, state-run media have accentuated the threat of "peaceful evolution," and have accused American companies, including Microsoft, Cisco, and Intel, of being "warriors" for the U.S. government.

As for a broad diplomatic vision, Chinese leaders since Deng Xiaoping have adhered to a principle known as "Hide your strength, bide your time." Xi has effectively replaced that concept with declarations of China's arrival. In Paris last year, he invoked Napoleon's remark that China was "a sleeping lion," and said that the lion "has already awakened, but this is a peaceful, pleasant, and civilized lion." He told the Politburo in December that he intends to "make China's voice heard, and inject more Chinese elements into international rules." As alternatives to the Washington-based World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Xi's government has established the New Development Bank, the Silk Road infrastructure fund, and the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, which, together, intend to amass two hundred and forty billion dollars in capital. Xi has been far bolder than his predecessors in asserting Chinese control over airspace and land, sending an oil rig into contested waters, and erecting buildings, helipads, and other facilities on reefs that are claimed by multiple nations. He has also taken advantage of Putin's growing economic isolation; Xi has met with Putin more than with any other foreign leader, and, last May, as Russia faced new sanctions over the annexation of Crimea, Xi and Putin agreed on a four-hundred-billion-dollar deal to supply gas to China at rates that favor Beijing. According to the prominent editor, Xi has told people that he was impressed by Putin's seizure of Crimea—"He got a

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large piece of land and resources" and boosted his poll numbers at home. But, as war in Ukraine has dragged on, Xi has become less complimentary of Putin.

No diplomatic relationship matters more to China's future than its dealings with the United States, and Xi has urged the U.S. to adopt a "new type of great-power relationship"—to regard China as an equal and to acknowledge its claims to contested islands and other interests. (The Obama Administration has declined to adopt the phrase.) Xi and Obama have met, at length, five times. American officials describe the relationship as occasionally candid but not close. They have "brutally frank exchanges on difficult issues, and it doesn't upset the apple cart," a senior Administration official told me. "So it's different from the era of Hu Jintao, where there was very little exchange." Hu almost never departed from his notes, and American counterparts wondered how much he believed his talking points. "Xi is reading what I'm confident Xi believes," the official said, though their engagements remain stilted: "There's still a cadence that is very difficult to extract yourself from in these exchanges. . . . We want to have a conversation."

For years, American military leaders worried that there was a growing risk of an accidental clash between China and the U.S., in part because Beijing protested U.S. policies by declining meetings between senior commanders. In 2011, Mike Mullen, then the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, visited Xi in Beijing, and appealed to his military experience, telling him, as he recalled to me, "I just need you to stop cutting off military relationships as step one, every time you get ticked off." That has improved. In Beijing last November, Xi and Obama spent five hours at dinner and meetings and announced coöperation on climate change, a high-tech free-trade deal that China had previously resisted, and two military agreements to encourage communication between forces operating near each other in the South China and East China Seas. Mullen, who has met Xi again since their initial encounter, is encouraged: "They still get ticked off, they take steps, but they don't cut it off."

As China ejects Western ideas, Xi is trying to fill that void with an affirmative set of ideas to offer at home and abroad. Recently, I rode the No. 1 subway line eastbound, beneath the Avenue of Eternal Peace—under Party headquarters, the Central Propaganda Department, and the Ministries of Commerce and Public Security—and got off the train at the Second Ring Road, where the old City Wall once stood. Near the station, at a Starbucks, I met Zhang Lifan, a well-known historian. At sixty-four, he defies the usual rumpled stereotype of the liberal intelligentsia; he is tall, with elegant hints of gray hair, and he wore a black mandarin-collar jacket and a winter cap covered in smooth black fur. Zhang grew up around politics; his father, a banker before the revolution, served as a minister in the early years of Mao's government. I asked him what message Xi hoped to promote from China around the world. He said, "Ever since Mao's day, and the beginning of reform and opening up, we all talk about a 'crisis of faith,' " the sense that rapid growth and political turmoil have cut China off from its moral history. "He is trying to solve that problem, so that there can be another new ideology."

Zhang writes about politics, and he is occasionally visited by police who remind him to avoid sensitive subjects. "Sometimes, they will pass by and say it through the closed front door," Zhang said. He commented, "They tried to stop me from coming today. They followed me here." He indicated a slim young man in a windbreaker, watching us from a nearby table. In remote areas, where police are

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unaccustomed to the presence of foreigners, authorities often try to prevent people from meeting reporters. But, in a decade of writing about China, this was the first time I'd encountered that situation in the capital. I suggested we postpone our discussion. He shook his head. In a stage whisper, he said, "What I say and what I write are the same. There's no difference."

The most surprising thing about the era of Xi Jinping is the decision to close off the margins—those minor mutinies and indulgences that used to be tolerated as a way to avoid driving China's most prosperous and well-educated citizens abroad. For years, the government tacitly allowed people to gain access to virtual private networks, or V.P.N.s, which allow users to reach Web sites that are blocked in China. The risks seemed manageable; most Chinese users had less interest in politics than in reaching a celebrity's Instagram feed (Instagram, like Facebook, Twitter, Bloomberg, Reuters, and the *Times*, is blocked). Keeping them open, the theory went, allowed sophisticated users to get what they wanted or needed—for instance, researchers accessing Google Scholar, or businesses doing transactions—while preventing the masses from employing technology that worries the Party. But on January 23rd, while I was in Beijing, the government abruptly blocked the V.P.N.s, and state media reiterated that they were illegal. Overnight, it became radically more difficult to reach anything on the Internet outside China. Before the comments were shut down on the Web site Computer News, twelve thousand people left their views. "What are you afraid of?" one asked. "Big step toward becoming a new North Korea," another wrote. Another wrote: "One more advertisement for emigration."

A decade ago, the Chinese Internet was alive with debate, confession, humor, and discovery. Month by month, it is becoming more sterilized and self-contained. To the degree that China's connection to the outside world matters, the digital links are deteriorating. Voice-over-Internet calls, viral videos, podcasts—the minor accessories of contemporary digital life—are less reachable abroad than they were a year ago. It's an astonishing thing to observe in a rising superpower. How many countries in 2015 have an Internet connection to the world that is worse than it was a year ago?

The General Secretary, in his capacity as Big Uncle Xi, has taken to offering advice on nonpolitical matters: last fall, he lamented an overly "sensual" trend in society. (In response, Chinese auto executives stopped having lightly clad models lounge around vehicles at car shows.) In January, he urged people to get more sleep, "however enthusiastic you may be about the job," saying that he goes to bed before midnight. Online, people joked that it seemed implausible: since taking office, Xi has acquired heavy bags under his eyes and a look of near-constant irritation.

For a generation, the Communist Party forged a political consensus built on economic growth and legal ambiguity. Liberal activists and corrupt bureaucrats learned to skirt (or flout) legal boundaries, because the Party objected only intermittently. Today, Xi has indicated that consensus, beyond the Party élite, is superfluous—or, at least, less reliable than a hard boundary between enemies and friends.

It is difficult to know precisely how much support Xi enjoys. Private pollsters are not allowed to explicitly measure his public support, but Victor Yuan, the president of Horizon Research Consultancy Group, a Beijing polling firm, told me, "We've done some indirect research, and his support seems to be around eighty per cent. It comes from two areas: one is the anticorruption policy and the other is foreign

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policy. The area where it's unclear is the economy. People say they'll have to wait and see."

China's economy is likely to be Xi's greatest obstacle. After economic growth of, on average, nearly ten per cent a year, for more than three decades, the Party expected growth to slow to a sustainable pace of around seven per cent, but it could fall more sharply. China remains the world's largest manufacturer, with four trillion dollars in foreign-exchange reserves (a sum equivalent to the world's fourth-largest economy). In November, 2013, the Party announced plans to reinvigorate competition by expanding the role of private banks, allowing the market (instead of bureaucrats) to decide where water, oil, and other precious resources are directed, and forcing state firms to give up larger dividends and compete with private businesses. Last spring, China abolished registered-capital and other requirements for new companies, and in November it allowed foreign investors to trade shares directly on the Shanghai stock market for the first time. "A fair judgment is that Xi's government has achieved more progress, in more areas, in the past eighteen months than the Hu government did in its entire second term," Arthur Kroeber, a longtime Beijing-based economist at Gavekal Dragonomics, a research firm, told me. And yet, Kroeber added, "my confidence level is only slightly above fifty per cent" that the reforms will be enough to head off a recession.

The risks to China's economy have rarely been more visible. The workforce is aging more quickly than in other countries (because of the one-child policy), and businesses are borrowing money more rapidly than they are earning it. David Kelly, a co-founder of China Policy, a Beijing-based research and advisory firm, said, "The turning point in the economy really was about four, five years ago, and now you see the classical problem of the declining productivity of capital. For every dollar you invest, you're getting far less bang for your buck." The growth of demand for energy and raw materials has slowed, more houses and malls are empty, and nervous Chinese savers are sending money overseas, to protect it in the event of a crisis. Some factories have not paid wages, and in the last quarter of 2014 workers held strikes, or other forms of protest, at three times the rate of the same period a year earlier.

Xi's ability to avoid an economic crisis depends partly on whether he has the political strength to prevail over state firms, local governments, and other powerful interests. In his meetings with Rudd, the former Australian Prime Minister, Xi mentioned his father's frustrated attempts to achieve market-oriented reforms. "Xi Jinping is legitimately proud of his father," Rudd said, adding, "His father had a record of real achievement and was, frankly, a person who paid a huge political and personal price for being a dedicated Party man and a dedicated economic reformer."

Historically, the Party has never perceived a contradiction between political crackdown and economic reform. In 2005, Premier Wen Jiabao met with a delegation from the U.S. Congress, and one member, citing a professor who had recently been fired for political reasons, asked the Premier why. Wen was baffled by the inquiry; the professor was a "small problem," he said. "I don't know the person you spoke of, but as Premier I have 1.3 billion people on my mind."

To maintain economic growth, China is straining to promote innovation, but by enforcing a political chill on Chinese campuses Xi risks suppressing precisely the disruptive thinking that the country needs for the future. At times, politics prevails over rational calculations. In 2014, after China had spent years

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investing in science and technology, the share of its economy devoted to research and development surpassed Europe's. But, when the government announced the recipients of grants for social-science research, seven of the top ten projects were dedicated to analyzing Xi's speeches (officially known as "General Secretary Xi's Series of Important Speeches") or his signature slogan: the Chinese Dream.

The era of Xi Jinping has defied the assumption that China's fitful opening to the world is too critical and productive to stall. The Party today perceives an array of threats that, in the view of He Weifang, the law professor, will only increase in the years ahead. Before the Web, the professor said, "there really weren't very many people who were able to access information from outside, so in Deng Xiaoping's era the Party could afford to be a lot more open." But now, if the Internet were unrestricted, "I believe it would bring in things that the leaders would consider very dangerous."

Like many others I met this winter, He Weifang worries that the Party is narrowing the range of acceptable adaptation to the point that it risks uncontrollable change. I asked him what he thinks the Party will be like in ten or fifteen years. "I think, as intellectuals, we must do everything we can to promote a peaceful transformation of the Party—to encourage it to become a 'leftist party' in the European sense, a kind of social-democratic party." That, he said, would help its members better respect a true system of law and political competition, including freedom of the press and freedom of thought. "If they refuse even these basic changes, then I believe China will undergo another revolution."

It is a dramatic prediction—and an oddly commonplace one these days. Zhang Lifan, the historian I saw at Starbucks, said, in full view of his minder, "In front of a lot of princeling friends, I've said that, if the Communist Party can't take sufficient political reform in five or ten years, it could miss the chance entirely. As scholars, we always say it's better to have reform than revolution, but in Chinese history this cycle repeats itself. Mao said we have to get rid of the cycle, but right now we're still in it. This is very worrying."

Two months after the events of New Year's Eve, the Party again confronted a collision between its instinct for control and the complexity of Chinese society. For years, the government had downplayed the severity of environmental pollution, describing it as an unavoidable cost of growth. But, year by year, the middle class was becoming less accommodating; in polls, urban citizens described pollution as their leading concern, and, using smartphones, they compared daily pollution levels to the standards set by the World Health Organization. After a surge of smog in 2013, the government intensified efforts to consolidate power plants, close small polluters, and tighten state control. Last year, it declared a "war against pollution," but conceded that Beijing will not likely achieve healthy air before 2030. In a moment of candor, the mayor pronounced the city "unlivable."

In February, Chinese video sites posted a privately funded documentary, titled "Under the Dome," in which Chai Jing, a former state-television reporter, described her growing alarm at the risks that air pollution poses to her infant daughter. It was a sophisticated production: Chai, in fashionable faded jeans and a white blouse, delivered a fast-paced, TED-style talk to a rapt studio audience, unspooling grim statistics and scenes in which bureaucrats admitted that powerful companies and agencies had rendered them incapable of protecting public health. In spirit, the film was consistent with the official "war on

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corruption," and state-run media responded with a coördinated array of flattering coverage.

The film raced across social media, and by the end of the first week it had been viewed two hundred million times—a level usually reserved for pop-music videos rather than dense, two-hour documentaries. The following weekend, the authorities ordered video sites to withdraw the film, and news organizations took down their coverage. As quickly as it had appeared, the film vanished from the Chinese Web—a phenomenon undone.



*"Well, that's the only song we know, so we can play it another two or three times, or we can cut our losses. Waddya say, Cleveland?"*December 24, 2012BUY THE PRINT »

In the era of Xi Jinping, the public had proved, again, to be an unpredictable partner. It was a lesson that Xi absorbed long ago. "The people elevated me to this position so that I'd listen to them and benefit them," he said in 2000. "But, in the face of all these opinions and comments, I had to learn to enjoy having my errors pointed out to me, but not to be swayed too much by that. Just because so-and-so says something, I'm not going to start weighing every cost and benefit. I'm not going to lose my appetite over it." ♦

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From: "Leslie Garvey, Project On Government Oversight" <leslie@pogo.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 8/29/2015 1:00:06 AM
Subject: Weekly Reader: Nuclear lab fires, F-35 testing, and a wrist-slap for Lockheed

POGO
PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT



Military Reform Begins With Personnel Reform

Many of the military's best leaders are leaving for a host of reasons: frustrations with assignments that don't match their talents, dealing with toxic leaders more concerned with their own careers than mission accomplishment, and a promotion system based more on checking blocks on a checklist rather than merit. **Read more**



POGO Supports "Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces" Rule

POGO submitted a public comment supporting a proposed rule implementing an Executive Order for expanded contractor disclosure. We also suggested ways to make the final rule more effective.

Read more

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To Safeguard the Military, Congress Must Protect Whistleblowers

Far too often, whistleblowers are unfairly punished for their efforts to bring accountability to the armed services, and the systems in place to protect them are completely inadequate.

Read more



Lockheed Gets Off Far Too Easy for Illegal Lobbying

Lockheed Martin has been fined over $750 million for contract mismanagement in the last decade, but continues to show little regard for the rules.

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NNSA: Not Our Fault if Nuclear Weapons Labs Catch Fire

A new report from the Department of Energy says old fire suppressions systems could be putting nuclear weapons facilities at risk of fire or explosion.

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U.S. Spending in Afghanistan: A Credit to Oversight

With billions in U.S. tax dollars still left to be spent on reconstruction in Afghanistan, it's critical that the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction continue his oversight role.

Read more



Pentagon Will Test F-35 Against A-10

The Department of Defense, heeding the advice of POGO's Center for Defense Information and others, plans to test the F-35 against the A-10 for close air support missions. **Read more**

See also:

-**F-35 vs A-10 Test: POGO Cautiously Optimistic**

-**Air Force Chief of Staff's Conflicting Statements on the F-35**

From the World of POGO



POGO Supports Government Access to Contractor Labor Violations to Improve Compliance, Avoid Bad Actors, and Level the Playing Field

It's well-known that companies that contract with the federal government routinely violate laws covering workplace safety and workers' rights to fair compensation and equal treatment.

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From: "Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
"Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 10/12/2012 11:32:49 AM
Subject: Biweekly Report

Hannah,
I have attached the latest Biweekly Report for President Clinton. Please let me know if there are any questions or comments.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
October 12, 2012

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

CDI has arranged short-term leases on three additional commercial farms for this season, and is finalizing growing contracts for the season and securing inputs and equipment.

With regards to the Trees of Hope project, CDI has finalized an agreement with COTAP, a not-for-profit that markets carbon credits from several developing world tree planting projects to individuals in the US, to offer credits from Tree of Hope.

Rwanda (CHDI)

For the AGRA project. CHDI has begun seed distribution among the districts for the upcoming season. Presentation materials for the workshop on integrated soil fertility management, to be held in Nairobi from October 22 to October 26, have been completed.

Construction of the coffee roasting factory is moving along well. A board meeting took place Tuesday, October 9. The board reviewed the progress achieved as well as the contractor's work, and concluded that the project is on track.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

CGSGI is advancing in discussions to form a joint venture with ECOM, a 160 year old, $5 B, privately held global commodity trading and processing company focusing on coffee, cotton, and cocoa in major producing and consuming countries. ECOM is one of the top three merchants in coffee, one of the largest coffee millers in the world, and amongst the top five merchants in both cocoa and cotton. ECOM considers itself an "origin-integrated company," meaning it is focused on buying from producers at origin, providing primary processing, logistics and risk management services and selling to the branded product manufacturers.

To improve farmer productivity, ECOM has established a ***Sustainable Management Services*** business (SMS). SMS has been set up as a profit making division whereby inputs (seeds, fertilizer, etc.), technical assistance, finance, and certification services are provided to farmers at reasonable prices taking advantage of ECOM's economies of scale and mass volume procurements. The SMS program has resulted in farmer productivity increases greater than 200% and currently serves a network of 1 million farmers. CGSGI has been discussing with ECOM management the possibility of combining our agro value chain optimization strategy and their SMS strategy. This joint effort would likely be compelling to large private sector buyers and would **provide an operational platform to significantly scale farmer income and jobs in sustainable agricultural value chains.**

ECOM's coffee and cocoa operations include presence in Mexico, Peru, Colombia and West Africa. Their

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multinational customers include Starbucks, Nestle, Kraft, Ferrero, Mars and Hershey's. CGSGI's discussions are focused on a ***joint venture*** where both they and we would invest in the SMS operation as a stand-alone entity and use this business model to develop agro business opportunities that would significantly impact farmer income and jobs related to ECOM's current commodities as well as other agricultural products.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/13/2015 4:36:19 PM
Subject: New News! (11/13/2015)

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Week ending November 13, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

- Multiple terrorist attacks in Paris tonight. At least 60 reported dead.
- Republican debate was substantive; Immigration a flashpoint for candidate sparring
- Oil prices could set new low
- Terrorist attacks in Paris leave at least 60 dead, 100 hostages
- Netanyahu and Obama try for cooperation in White House meeting
- Myanmar holds first free elections in 25 years, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party wins
- **CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE END OF THIS EMAIL**

Polls

National poll results: Domestic issues should be the' priority for the 2016 presidential campaign, including the economy, health care, and roads and bridges: 69% favor domestic issues as the focus of the election vs 21% want focus on foreign policy issues such as ISIS and terrorism.

Gun Safety: 63% are more worried they will be a victim of gun violence than a victim of a terror attack.

On the economy: the top three issues of importance to voters:

27% - Economic growth; 22% - Jobs; 21% - Income inequality

Immigration: 48% immigration policy should be an immediate priority; 36% say it should be a priority over the next couple of years. An additional 16% do not think the issue should be a priority at all.

"Crazy" election: 40%. say the one word to best describe the 2016 presidential campaign, so far? "Crazy" tops the list.

"Polarization rules": "If you're searching for common ground between Democrats and Republicans on the issues for 2016, you will need to look far and wide," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "Polarization rules, and there is little consensus except when it comes to characterizing the campaign as 'crazy.'"" *Marist* **[Poll]**

Hillary lead is strong in new national poll: Hillary Clinton's lead is strong, with 52% support over **Bernie Sanders**, who has 33%. **Martin O'Malley** trails with 5%. *New York Times/CBS News* **[More]**

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2016 Campaign

GOP Debate: Substantive this time, but the exchange did not thin the field: "For now, the choices remain numerous, although hardly similar in what the candidates offer. The campaign has moved beyond the period of introduction. The next phase will bring more heated engagement and with it, perhaps, greater clarity. To date, the campaign has produced anything but." **Dan Balz (TCG Speaker),** Op-Ed, *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Republican presidential candidates spar over economic issues - from the challenge from China to the Fed's low interest rate policy: The plans vary, but each of the Republicans on stage said they want to streamline the tax code and lower rates..Sens. **Cruz** and **Rand Paul** of Kentucky both highlighted their plans to scrap the current tax code and replace it with a uniform tax on consumption. **Mr. Cruz** also wants to abolish the Internal Revenue Service. **Mr. Carson**, asked if God would endorse his flat-tax plan over the **Trump** policy—in which wealthy Americans would pay a larger share—defended his platform and called for eliminating deductions and loopholes." **Patrick O'Connor, Beth Reinhard, Rebecca Ballhaus,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

GOP hopefuls oppose wage increase: "Drawing a sharp contrast with Democrats, republican presidential candidates voiced opposition to raising the federal minimum wage in Tuesday's primary debate, casting it as an impediment to national job growth." **Julie Pace** and **Julie Bykowicz,** *Chicago Tribune* **[More]**

Immigration and military intervention major sparring point: "The two-hour debate spotlighted the rift between the outsider candidates and establishment governors over how strictly to enforce immigration laws and whether to provide a pathway to legal status for the country's more than 11 million undocumented immigrants or deport them. It also revived a long-simmering dispute over the size and role of the U.S. military, with Sen. **Rand Paul** (Ky.) warning of the potential adverse fiscal effects of increased defense spending and Sens. **Marco Rubio** (Fla.) and **Ted Cruz** (Tex.) advocating a more muscular American military presence in the world." **Philip Rucker** and **Ed O'Keefe,** *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Getting voter enthusiasm: Hillary Clinton's challenge: "The new poll shows that members of the Rising American Electorate — minorities, millennials, and single women — are significantly less tuned in to next year's election than GOP-aligned voter groups are….It isn't enough to simply outline bold economic policies... What's also required to engage these groups is a *reform* agenda geared to reducing the influence of the wealthy, the lobbyists, and the special interests over our politics." **Greg Sargent,** Op-Ed, *The Washington Post* **[More]**

The Economy

Oil price collapsing, could set new low: "The realization of a mega-glut is finally registering within the market," said John Kilduff, analyst and partner with Again Capital. "I think we're probably in the midst of another leg lower here. It might not go straight down but we're on target to make new lows for the year." Oil futures are down more than 10 percent in the past month... The U.S. government reported Thursday that oil stockpiles rose by 4.2 million barrels last week due to higher imports. That was about four times what analysts had expected." **Patti Domm,** *CNBC* **[More]**

Is traditional banking unbreakable?: "Banking and financial-services companies are not safe from the immense transformations wrought by technological innovation. For the last decade, digital startups have been penetrating areas traditionally dominated by the financial industry…[and] much of the financial terrain in which technology companies are making the deepest inroads will come into much sharper regulatory focus...In finance, at least, technology firms should not be viewed simply as a threat, but as a source of productivity-boosting innovation." **Dambisa Moyo (TCG Speaker)**, Op-Ed, *Project Syndicate* **[More]**

The Tax Code can never be three pages long, but it could be simpler: "…**[Carly] Fiorina** and most of her opponents have identified a source of both length and complexity: so-called tax preferences... The candidates' plans would simplify the taxable income calculation, but... That would require taking away tax deductions, and people tend to like the deductions they take." **Raymond Biesinger**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Possible explanation of the deterioration of the working class: "Beginning in the 1980s, the U.S. economy started trending toward greater inequality...A couple of decades later, the lack of family support started to take a big bite out of the emotional health of working-class whites, causing them to turn to alcohol, drugs and suicide once they reached middle age. I don't know if this explanation is true. But if so, it means that our laissez-faire, neoliberal economic policy,

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combined with the pressure of competition from China and other low-wage countries, has had steeper social costs than we anticipated." **Noah Smith,** Op-Ed, *Bloomberg* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Multiple terrorist attacks in Paris leave at least 60 dead, 100 hostages: "At least six shootings took place in Paris and three explosions took place at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis late Friday... Two or three gunmen entered the Bataclan concert hall while opening fire on law enforcement... A source earlier told CNN there were six to eight hostage takers, citing a person they were talking to inside the venue." **Ralph Ellis** and **Steve Almasy**, *CNN* **[More]**

Combined diplomatic and military approach to Syria brings doubts: "As 50 Special Operations troops arrive in Syria to bolster the most effective opposition groups, the administration is gambling that **Secretary of State John Kerry** will have more leverage to push Russia, Iran and other players toward two objectives: a cease-fire to limit the cycle of killing and the establishment of a timeline for a transition of power. While **Mr. Kerry** has been optimistic that diplomacy can end the carnage, he has conceded doubts to aides that his strategy of fast-paced diplomacy can harness so many fiercely opposed forces toward a political solution." **David E. Sanger and Helene Cooper,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Will Putin get tougher in face of confirmation of terrorism as responsible for Sinai plane crash?: "**Mr. Putin** has repeated the theme that it is better to attack terrorists on their home territory. His response in the face of any terrorist attack will probably be to double down, analysts said... Soon... he will need to explain the catastrophe at home — especially given the Kremlin's initial insistence on dismissing the idea that the plane's downing could be linked to Syria." **Neil MacFarquhar,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Obama and Netanyahu try to move past their differences: "The tortured relationship between **Barack** and **Bibi**, as they call each other, has been a story of crossed signals, misunderstandings, slights perceived and real. Burdened by mistrust, divided by ideology, the leaders of the United States and Israel talked past each other for years until the rupture over **Mr. Obama** 's push for a nuclear agreement with Iran led to the spectacle of **Mr. Netanyahu** denouncing the president's efforts before a joint meeting of Congress." **Peter Baker** and **Jodi Rudoren**, *New York Times* **[More]**

In Myanmar's first free elections in 25 years, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party captures a majority: "The landmark election is seen as a test of the powerful military's willingness to let the country continue along a path toward full democracy, after decades of military-dominated rule in Myanmar, also known as Burma...After the outcome of the parliamentary vote is decided, lawmakers will begin the complex process of choosing a President." **Faith Karimi**, *CNN* **[More]**

Victory in Iraq as Sinjar retaken from ISIS by Kurdish forces: The takeover "revers[es] the terror group's takeover of a community where thousands were massacred and tens of thousands were forced to flee 15 months ago…The capture of Sinjar -- which is on a highway connecting ISIS' territory in Syria to its largest conquered city, Mosul in Iraq -- is a step toward dividing the 'caliphate'" **Jason Hanna** and **Ed Payne**, *CNN* **[More]**

Is TPP too flawed for a simple up and down vote?: "The partners could also agree to a more measured, step-by-step approach, since that would be in the common interest, though not necessarily to the benefit of certain powerful interest groups." **Jeffrey Sachs (TCG Speaker),** Op-Ed, *Boston Globe* **[More]**

Middle East allies not helping in strikes against ISIS in Syria: "The US prepares to intensify airstrikes against the Islamic State in Syria, the Arab allies who with great fanfare sent warplanes on the initial missions there a year ago have largely vanished from the campaign… They are primarily engaged in Yemen." **Eric Schmitt** and **Michael R. Gordon,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Recurring violence in northern Burundi and Rwanda: "The violence in northern Burundi comes as UN human rights chief **Zeid Raad al-Hussein** warned that security was deteriorating rapidly in the country and that an explosion of violence is close at hand. He told the UN Security Council that 'the risk to human life, and to regional stability and development, is high.'" **Catherine Soi,** *Al Jazeera* **[More]**

European Commission mandates guidelines for labeling products made in Israeli settlements: "The EU says settlements constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict impossible. **Mr. Netanyahu**, who was in Washington

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on an official visit, called the decision 'hypocritical and a double standard'" *BBC* **[More]**

37 killed and 181 wounded in Beirut: "The bombers blew themselves up in a busy street in the southern suburb of Burj al-Barajneh, a stronghold of the Shia Islamist Hezbollah movement. The Sunni jihadist group Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility, but there has been no independent confirmation. It is the deadliest bombing in Beirut since the civil war ended 25 years ago." **Lina Sinjab,** *BBC* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Jonathan Chait on the University of Missouri protests after the Chancellor and President step down: "It's not just a bunch of weird, unfortunate events that somehow keep happening over and over. It's the expression of a political culture with consistent norms, and philosophical premises that happen to be incompatible with liberalism. ...It's that the ideology itself prioritizes class justice over individual rights and makes no allowance for legitimate disagreement. " **Jonathan Chait**, Op-Ed, *New York Magazine* **[More]**

Senate prevents the relocation of Guantanamo Bay prisoners: the Republican-controlled Congress reacted by rushing through the bill in response to persistent Washington chatter that a new Obama closure plan was set to be announced." **Dan Roberts,** *The Guardian* **[More]**

Federal court rejects Obama executive action on immigration giving quasi-legal status and work permits to illegal immigrants: "The 2-1 ruling Monday from the New Orleans-based 5th Circuit is a defeat for the **Obama** administration." However, it could be well-timed to let the Supreme Court rule on the issue before Obama leaves office. **Josh Gerstein** and **Seung Min Kim,** *Politico* **[More]**

Greenhouse gas levels reached a record high in 2014: "The relentless fueling of climate change is endangering the planet for future generations, the World Meteorological Organization said on Monday. 'Every year we say that time is running out. We have to act now to slash greenhouse gas emissions if we are to have a chance to keep the increase in temperatures to manageable levels,' **WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud** said in a statement. **Tom Miles**, *Scientific American* **[More]**

Books & Film

Norton Garfinkle and Harold Holzer: *A Just and Generous Nation: Abraham Lincoln and the Fight for American Opportunity*: The authors write how Lincoln's aim was to create "economic opportunity for the widest possible circle of hardworking Americans." *Publisher's Weekly* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ambassador Melanne Verveer
Empowering Half the World
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm
RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband
Fallout: Ramifications of the Great Refugee Crisis
Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm
RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner and Isaac Getlan, and our interns and volunteers: Samar Nadi, Tracey Pennito, and Lawrence Robinson.

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From:	"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@gpg.com>
To:	hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date:	4/13/2015 3:21:45 PM
Subject:	Rubio notes

A few notes from the Rubio announcement. He gives a good speech, and sounded much more reasonable, populist and accessible than much of the rest of the GOP field. Felt more like an inspiring Democratic speech than a GOP candidate, outside of foreign policy, repealing Obamacare and choice. Lots of references to “our generation” (I.e. Him and younger voters) vs. “their generation” (them being us, Jeb, his opponents, Washington).

I assume we’re sticking to leaving Rubio response to the DNC, but wanted to flag for anyone who didn’t get the watch.

A few soundbites/notes:
We believe in the American Dream: They look for solutions in yesterday—
Have forgotten that when America fails to lead, global chaos follows—they appease our enemies

Our generation, they look to the past, they’re still stuck in the 20th century.

Repeal and replace Obamacare
Better paying modern jobs

Family, not the government, is the most important institution in our society.
All human life deserves protection of our laws
All parents deserve to choose the education that’s right for their children—strong people and strong nation.

If America once again accepts the mantle of global leadership—by abandoning concessions to Iran and hostilities to Israel
Hollowing out of the military, Vets
No longer being passive in the face of Russia and China

Generational choice about what kind of choice families will have.
Just yesterday, a leader from yesterday began a campaign for president by promising to take us back to yesterday.
Yesterday is over. We’re never going back. Proud of our history, but our country has always been about the future.
Can’t go back to the leaders and ideas of the past.

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/D151B6B1.52700%25creynolds%40gpg.com.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/22/2008 1:28:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/22

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 22nd, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time
10am McCain: Attends a meeting with Union Leader publisher Joe McQuaid

12pm McCain: Town Hall in Rochester, NH - 31 Wakefield St, Rochester, NH
- Tracking scheduled for this event
1:30pm BUSH : Remarks in honor of Colombian Independence Day from the White House

5:05pm BUSH: Attends Goddard-Georgia Victory Committee Reception at a private residence in Atlanta, Georgia

5:30pm McCain: Fund raiser in Baltimore, MD

6:30pm Brownback: Reception in Washington DC [McCain surrogate event]

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS
McCain's Maverick Side: Grandpa Would Be Proud (Washington Post 7/22/08)
By Jonathan Weisman; A04
...While much has been made of McCain's paternal lineage -- the upstanding admirals of the Navy -- less appears to be known about Arch Wright, who made a fortune on liquor, gambling and oil in Indian territory before relocating to Los Angeles with a sprawling clan in tow, including McCain's mother, Roberta Wright McCain. He died there in 1971, when McCain was being held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/21/AR2008072102653.html

Iraqi schedule for withdrawal close to Obama's (LA Times 7/22/08)
By Alexandra Zavis and Doug Smith
The announcement bolsters the Democratic candidate in the early days of his Middle East trip. Meanwhile, John McCain visits with President George H.W. Bush in Maine.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-fg-obamairaq22-2008jul22,0,3471222.story

Bush a Double-Edged Sword for McCain (ABC News 7/22/08)
By JENNIFER PARKER
Once Political Enemies, McCain Negotiates Political Alliance With President
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/story?id=5420632&page=1

McCain indicates US troops could withdraw in 2 years (Reuters 7/21/08)
By Jeff Mason
Republican presidential candidate John McCain appeared to leave a door open on Monday to a large-scale drawdown of U.S. troops from Iraq in the next two years.
http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN21464471

NYT REJECTS MCCAIN'S EDITORIAL; SHOULD 'MIRROR' OBAMA (Drudge Report 7/21/08)
An editorial written by Republican presidential hopeful McCain has been rejected by the NEW YORK TIMES --

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less than a week after the paper published an essay written by Obama, the DRUDGE REPORT has learned.
http://drudgereport.com/flashnym.htm
Link to NYT Statement on McCain Op-Ed: http://thepage.time.com/ny-times-statement-on-mccain-op-ed/

McCain gaffes pile up; critics pile on (Politico 7/22/08)
By: Mike Allen and Jim VandeHei
Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) said "Iraq" when he apparently meant "Afghanistan" on Monday, adding to a string of mixed-up word choices that is giving ammunition to the opposition.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11939.html

John McCain cites nonexistent border (Chicago Tribune blog 7/21/08)
by Katie Fretland
Can you name the country directly northwest of Pakistan? Got it? The correct answer is Afghanistan. Not Iraq. But in an interview on ABC's Good Morning America, Sen. John McCain referred to the nonexistent border of Iraq and Pakistan. It was the first publicized foreign policy mistake by a presidential candidate during the time Sen. Barack Obama has been in the Middle East.
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/07/john_mccain_geography.html
See Yglesias's "The Iraq-Pakistan Border": http://matthewyglesias.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/07/the_iraqpakistan_border.php

Never Underestimate McCain, But... (TIME 7/22/08)
By Michael Grunwald
John McCain might seem like a long shot. He's the Republican nominee at a time when the two-term Republican President is wildly unpopular and Republicans are losing elections in perennially Republican districts and the party base isn't exactly drooling over him. He supported the president's unpopular efforts to transform Iraq and revamp Social Security; he was against the Bush tax cuts before he was for them. He's a 71-year-old Washington hand in a change election. And his 46-year-old opponent is a lot better at raising money, delivering speeches, drawing crowds and registering new voters.
http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1825337,00.html

McCain, at Bush Home, Faults Obama on War Plan (NYT 7/22/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
KENNEBUNKPORT, Me. — Senator John McCain was like the wallflower at an international political dance on Monday as he campaigned at the quiet summer home of a popular President Bush, George H. W., while the worldwide news media spotlight beamed down on Senator Barack Obama in Baghdad.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/22/us/politics/22mccain.html?ref=politics
See Reuters blog's "Bush Sr. praises McCain, muses about history and his son" http://blogs.reuters.com/trail08/2008/07/22/bush-sr-praises-mccain-muses-about-history-and-his-son/

McCain Says Obama Still Wrong on Iraq, Afghanistan (AP 7/21/08)
By TOM RAUM
(KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine) — Republican Sen. John McCain insisted on Monday that he has been consistently right on both Iraq and Afghanistan while Democratic rival Sen. Barack Obama "has been completely wrong."
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1825075,00.html

McCain returns to NH with visit to Rochester (NH Union Leader 7/22/08)
By SCOTT BROOKS
"Mac" is back. Sen. John McCain returned to New Hampshire last night, flashing an "OK" sign at an aide as he stepped out onto an airport tarmac in Manchester. ...The senator's low-key arrival in Manchester stood in stark contrast to his Democratic rival's ongoing visit to the Middle East. Sen. Barack Obama, of Illinois, was swarmed by media as he arrived in Baghdad yesterday for a meeting with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and other Iraqi leaders.
http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=McCain+returns+to+NH+with+visit+to+Rochester&articleId=248d6f19-aaa4-40a4-b95b-b365fcaff562

McCain Coming To Maryland -- For Cash (Washington Post blog 7/22/08)

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John Wagne
Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) is scheduled to make a fundraising stop in Maryland tomorrow night. The presumptive Republican presidential nominee is booked at the Centre Club in downtown Baltimore. Tickets start at $1,000 a person. Entrance to a VIP reception, which includes a photo with the senator, is $2,300.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/annapolis/2008/07/mccain_coming_to_maryland_for.html?sid=ST2008072200054&pos=list

McCain courts Mainers (Portland Press Herald 7/22/08)
By DIETER BRADBURY
U.S. Sen. John McCain declared the troop surge in Iraq a success during campaign and fundraising stops in Maine on Monday, and also chided Illinois Democratic Sen. Barack Obama for a lack of experience in national security and foreign policy.
http://pressherald.mainetoday.com/story.php?id=200715&ac=PHnws
See WGME's "McCain in Maine": http://www.wgme.com/News/story_detail/story_detail_1.shtml

McCain adviser lobbied for Stephen Payne (AP 7/21/08)
By PETE YOST
A top foreign policy adviser to John McCain has lobbied the National Security Council, Congress and the State Department on behalf of Stephen Payne, the Texas businessman and longtime Republican fundraiser caught up in a controversy over whether he sought to sell access to the Bush White House. According to records on file with Congress, McCain foreign policy adviser Randy Scheunemann lobbied the Senate and House on behalf of Payne's firm, Worldwide Strategic Partners Inc., in 2002.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gapzbJD6CsnU1TsZ3KuBV2sZSjRwD922GM3O0
See TPM's "Homeland Security Adviser Offering Cash-For-Access Deal Worked With McCain's Foreign Policy Adviser": http://tpmmuckraker.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/homeland_security_advisor_who.php

McCain Knows Best: Rejects Maliki's Timetable But Says 'I Know What Iraqis Want' (ThinkProgress 7/21/08)
This weekend, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said he wanted U.S. troops out of Iraq as soon as possible, supporting the plan set forth by Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL). "Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes," he said.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/21/mccain-maliki-withdrawal/

Pastor Hagee returns (Washington Times blog 7/21/08)
BY Stephen Dinan
Joe Lieberman speaks at a banquet dinner tomorrow with pastor John Hagee — yes, that Hagee, the man who caused John McCain such a headache earlier this year and forced McCain to reject his endorsement.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/weblogs/dinan/2008/Jul/21/pastor-hagee-returns/
See WaPo's "Irreverent Reverends": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/21/AR2008072102736.html?sid=ST2008072200054&pos=list

McCain Urges More Drilling, Blames Obama for Gas Prices (Washington Post 7/22/08)
By Howard Kurtz; A04
...Analysis: John McCain may try in this ad to blame rising gas prices on Barack Obama, but after 7 1/2 years of the Bush administration, that's a stretch. McCain himself said last week that America's "dangerous dependence on foreign oil has been 30 years in the making"; Obama has been in Washington for less than four.
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiTpS4MK3D8
Link to script: http://thepage.time.com/script-for-mccain-ad-pump/
Link to Obama Response to McCain "Pump" Ad: http://thepage.time.com/obama-response-to-mccain-pump-ad/

Obama, Maliki, and McCain (National Review Online 7/21/08)
By Byron York
With Obama visiting, the Iraqi PM delivers a body-blow to the GOP candidate.
http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=OWMxNTQ5ZGIyOTEzMzFmNDVlNmJiYmFlY2Y0NDRjYzg=

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Obama and McCain diverge on Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Christian Science Monitor 7/21/08)
By Howard LaFranchi
Obama likely to return US to role of 'honest broker.' McCain sees fighting Islamic extremists as paramount.
http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0722/p01s01-uspo.html

John McCain -- Pious Pilate (Huffington Post 7/21/08)
By Thomas B. Edsall
...The adversarial relationship between McCain and the religious wing of the GOP raises doubts as to how effective Monday's decision by Focus on the Family honcho James Dobson will be to abandon his opposition to McCain. At the same time, such hard-right religious leaders as Dobson, 72, and televangelist Pat Robertson, 78, (Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell died in 2007) are being supplanted by younger and more tolerant Christian leaders who are less likely to become adamant opponents of Democratic candidates.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/21/john-mccain----pious-pila_n_114177.html

McCain Ally Counsels Alarmist Attack On Health Care (Huffington Post 7/21/08)
Lester Feder
Political consultant Dick Morris today recommended John McCain use alarmist distortions to get off the defensive on health care. Morris offered this counsel days after Al Hubbard, architect of President Bush's health care plan now touted by McCain, compared Americans' use of the health care system to shoppers who indiscriminately buy caviar while someone else foots the bill.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lester-feder/mccain-ally-counsels-alar_b_114131.html

Column Sends Rumors Flying on McCain VP Choice (WSJ blog 7/21/08)
By Elizabeth Holmes
Rumors that John McCain will announce his running mate sometime this week flew fast and furiously Monday evening, with the campaign's coy response fueling the speculation.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/07/21/column-sends-rumors-flying-on-mccain-vp-choice/

Fineman: Bush is pushing for a McCain administration to 'cover over' the misdeeds of his presidency (ThinkProgress 7/21/08)
Yesterday on The Chris Matthews Show on NBC, Newsweek columnist Howard Fineman revealed one of the reasons President Bush is pushing so hard for Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to win the election in November:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/21/fineman-bush-is-pushing-for-a-mccain-administration-to-cover-over-the-misdeeds-of-his-presidency/

Does Kemp scramble his 'dear friend' McCain's nerves? (LA Times blog 7/22/08)
By Stuart Silverstein
While campaigning in Buffalo, N.Y., John McCain made a puzzling comment about a local hero, Jack Kemp. First he called Kemp -- a onetime Buffalo Bills quarterback who later represented western New York for nine terms as a Republican congressman -- a "dear friend." But McCain, speaking at an art museum Monday, went on to say that "I haven't met anybody who isn't afraid of Jack Kemp."
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/07/does-kemp-scram.html

Cindy McCain touring Rwanda (USA TODAY 7/22/08)
By Rick Hampson
Her trip may not be as high-profile as another world tour underway right now, but Cindy McCain insists she's not in Africa for publicity.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-21-cindy-mccain_N.htm

The Perfect Part (Washington Post 7/22/08)
By Libby Copeland; C01
Cindy McCain might yearn to be invisible sometimes, or at the very least, not surrounded by the Secret Service and photographers and gawking people. The scrutiny seems too much to bear. Something about that half-apologetic manner.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/21/AR2008072102905.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

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For McCain, the surge is a losing strategy (LA Times 7/22/08)
By Jonah Goldberg
Its success in quieting Iraq may make it easier for voters to choose Obama.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-goldberg22-2008jul22,0,6582409.column

Candidates' positions on Iraq differ less than you'd think (USA Today 7/22/08)
...Obama and Republican John McCain are maximizing their differences when they talk to voters, but in practical terms there's less and less daylight between them. Rhetorically, Obama backs a fixed timetable for withdrawing American troops while McCain wants to stay as long as "victory" takes and beyond. But if the Iraqis want the U.S. out and they prove capable of taking over, both ideas lead to the same end on about the same schedule.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/07/candidates-posi.html#more

Timelines in the Sand (Washington Post 7/22/08)
By Eugene Robinson; A21
It's not a "timetable" for extricating U.S troops from Iraq that George W. Bush is suddenly talking about, and heaven help anyone who accuses him of proposing a "timeline." No, the Decider says he is now amenable to a "time horizon," which apparently is a whole different kind of time thing -- not at all like the sensible course of action that Democrats and other critics of the Iraq occupation have been demanding.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/21/AR2008072102361.html

McCain flops on emissions standards (Detroit News 7/21/08)
By Daniel Howes
Would someone please tell Sen. John McCain, the GOP's presidential wannabe, that straight talk and flip-flopping don't mix. Not in the space of a month. Not when the issue -- whether the next president supports allowing individual states to set emissions rules for new cars and trucks -- means Detroit's automakers could face billions more in R&D spending should the so-called EPA waiver sought by California and a dozen or so other states become law.
http://detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080721/OPINION03/807210326

BUSH NEWS

In key Gitmo case, Mukasey stays on White House path (LA Times blog 7/21/08)
Can caretaker Atty. Gen. Michael B. Mukasey set the Justice Department straight? That is the question that hangs over the short-termer, who inherited a department set back on its heels by complaints of political interference and a readiness to overlook legal standards in the fight against terrorism.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/presidentbush/2008/07/guantanamo-muka.html

Bush law chief seeks conflict declaration on Qaeda (Reuters 7/21/08)
By Randall Mikkelsen
Congress should explicitly declare a state of armed conflict with al Qaeda to make clear the United States can detain suspected members as long as the war on terrorism lasts, U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey said on Monday.
http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN2140857120080721

Bush: 'I do know about YouTube.' (ThinkProgress 7/21/08)
On Saturday, the Arizona Star reported that President Bush asked the audience to turn off recording devices at a Friday fundraiser, afraid that his remarks could be posted to YouTube:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/21/bush-i-do-know-about-youtube/

Maliki's Iraq pullout line keeps White House scrambling (LA Times blog 7/21/08)
A clever White House press secretary can pretty much tell what questions are going to be welling up from the seats in the press briefing room and comes out prepared. So it was no surprise today that Dana Perino wrote a statement—"all on my own," she said self-deprecatingly—to tackle the controversy du jour: Whether U.S. officials had put the muscle on Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki to back off his seeming endorsement of Barack Obama's 16-month timetable for pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/presidentbush/2008/07/maliki-obama-tr.html

Editorial: Library donors need to be named (Dallas Morning News 7/22/08)

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Stephen Payne was operating as a free agent. Let's be clear about that. But the Houston lobbyist's actions should get President Bush's attention. Mr. Bush needs to be sure no one will undercut his presidential library, which will open at Southern Methodist University after he leaves office.
http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/editorials/stories/DN-bushlibrary_21edi.ART.State.Edition1.4d5f58e.html

T. Boone Pickens Rides the Wind (NYT 7/22/08)
T. Boone Pickens, the legendary wildcatter and corporate raider, has decided that drilling for more oil is not the answer to the nation's energy problems. President Bush should listen to his fellow Texan and longtime political ally.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/22/opinion/22tue3.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=slogin

OTHER TOP NEWS

Serbia captures fugitive wartime leader Karadzic (AFP 7/22/08)
Indicted war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic, one of the world's most wanted men, was practising medicine and living in Belgrade when he was arrested on genocide charges, officials said Tuesday.
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5juCwZRe6uB-Due2DoO7trgsV_xfg
Link to McCain's statement: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hDN-CfGY3szC6ylS1zL87_tRXoSwD922HLQ00

Russia increases weapon sales to Chavez (Washington Times 7/22/08)
Russia is showing its irritation with U.S. intervention in its back yard by selling more weapons to Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. ...Move seen as slap at Bush over missile defense
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jul/22/russia-increases-weapon-sales-to-chavez/

For Obama, a First Step Is Not a Misstep (NYT 7/22/08)
By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. and JEFF ZELENY
The Iraqi government on Monday left little doubt that it favors a withdrawal plan for American combat troops similar to what Senator Barack Obama has proposed, providing Mr. Obama with a potentially powerful political boost on a day he spent in Iraq working to fortify his credibility as a wartime leader.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/22/us/politics/22assess.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

Citizens United to Release Anti-Obama Documentary (NYT blog 7/21/08)
By Michael Falcone
An independent conservative group went on the air with a new ad on Monday to be followed by a full-length documentary film that attempts to portray Senator Barack Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee, as an over-hyped media darling.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/07/21/citizens-united-to-release-anti-obama-documentary/

House Democratic Campaign Arm Broadens TV Buy (Washington Post blog 7/21/08)
By Chris Cillizza
Moving quickly to capitalize on their massive financial advantage, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has reserved television time in nearly two dozen more House districts, bringing their total investment in competitive contests to $53 million.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/07/house_democratic_campaign_arms.html

POLLS

Poll: Half of U.S. says press pro-Obama (Politico 7/21/08)
By: Alexander Burns
Half of Americans think the press is trying to help Sen. Barack Obama win the presidential election, according to a new poll by Rasmussen Reports.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11912.html

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/23/2008 3:29:55 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain gets Iraq timeline wrong

http://www.nsnetwork.org/node/909

NSN Daily Update:
McCain Gets History of Surge Wrong
7/23/08

Yesterday in an interview with CBS News, McCain attacked Obama for not understanding the history of the surge. Yet McCain's own explanation of the surge's history was completely wrong – suggesting that he misunderstands or is indifferent to the fundamental dynamics driving events in Iraq and shaping our policy there. McCain believes that the "Anbar Awakening" that led Sunnis to abandon insurgency against the US – so critical to the reduction in violence – occurred as a result of the surge in spring 2007. In fact, the Anbar Awakening began in the summer of 2006 as a result of the Sunnis' own calculations and the leadership of General Casey. In January 2007, McCain himself acknowledged the Awakening and called it a reason to support the surge.

For five years, US policy toward Iraq has been shaped by events we misinterpreted or disregarded. McCain's lack of understanding matters.

Events in Anbar Province, 2006-2008

- **June 2006:** Ready First Combat Team (1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division) led by Colonel Sean MacFarland arrives in Anbar's capital Ramadi. [Military Review, 3-4/2008]

- **September 9, 2006:** In cooperation with MacFarland's team, Sheikh Abu Risha organizes the first meeting of what became the Anbar Awakening. [Military Review, 3-4/2008]

- **January 5, 2007:** McCain discusses the importance of the Anbar Awakening at AEI. [CSPAN, 1/5/07]

- **January 10, 2007:** President announces the surge in a speech to the nation. [White House, 1/10/07]

- **Late January / Early February 2007:** First surge brigades begin arriving. Only 2,700 new troops have arrived by end of February. [Brookings Iraq Index, 3/29/07]

- **February 2007:** Ready First Combat Team begins leaving Anbar. Hostile contacts with insurgents had dropped 70% from June 2006 to February 2007. [Military Review, 3-4/2008]

John McCain attacks Sen. Obama on the surge's history. Katie Couric asked McCain, "Sen. Obama says, while the increased number of U.S. troops contributed to increased security in Iraq, he also credits the Sunni awakening and the Shiite government going after militias. And says that there might have been improved security even without the surge. What's your response to that?" McCain responded, " I don't know how you respond to something that is such a false depiction of what actually happened. *Colonel McFarland was contacted by one of the major Sunni sheiks. Because of the surge we were able to go out and protect that sheik and others. And it began the Anbar awakening. I mean, that's just a matter of history."* [CBS News, 7/22/08]

McCain's history is wrong, according to Colonel McFarland. The Commanding Officer in the Anbar province at the time, wrote an article detailing his first-hand experiences there in starting the Awakening. The timeframe he discusses is June 2006-February 2007. McFarland notes that the first surge troops were just arriving as his men were leaving Anbar. McFarland was therefore not even in Iraq when McCain places him there. [Military Review, March/April 2008]

The Anbar Awakening came before the surge. As Colin Kahl noted in *Foreign Affairs*, "The Awakening began in Anbar Province more than a year before the surge and took off in the summer and fall of 2006 in Ramadi and elsewhere, long before extra U.S. forces started flowing into Iraq in February and March of 2007." [Foreign Affairs, July/August 2008]

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In January 2007, McCain was aware of the start of the Awakening and used it as a justification for the surge. In a speech before the American Enterprise Institute on January 5, 2007, McCain said, "Too often the light at the tunnel has turned out to be a train, but I really believe -- I really believe that there's a strong possibility that you may see a very substantial change in Anbar province due to this new changes in our relationships with the sheiks in the region. ... But it's important, as I said in my opening remarks, that this troop surge be significant and sustained. Otherwise, don't do it." [Washington Post, 7/23/08]

Quick Hits

The Wall Street Journal reports that "the outlines of a possible consensus" on a 2010 withdrawal date are developing for an Iraq pullout between the Bush administration, the U.S. military, the Maliki government, Senator Obama, and possibly Senator McCain.

Salon buzzes about a possible investigation of the Bush administration's surveillance regime with new documents revealing interest in a possible inquiry modeled on the Watergate-era Church Committee.

Iranian President Ahmadinejad called the recent round of talks over Iran's nuclear program "good," also **stating that US Envoy William Burns, who was at the meeting merely to "observe," "spoke politely and in a dignified way."**

Senator Barack Obama continues his overseas trip with, today travelling to Israel and the West Bank. Meeting with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Obama reaffirmed his "abiding commitment to Israel's security."

The U.S. military has significantly refined its tactical approach to air strikes in Afghanistan, trying to lessen the amount of collateral damage and civilian casualties.

A boycott by Kurdish lawmakers has scuttled the provincial election legislation passed by the Iraqi Parliament.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with her North Korean counterpart today, **the first such high-level nuclear talks in four years.**

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/18/2016 6:55:58 AM
Subject: News Update - March 18

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, March 18

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Former Israeli Spy Chief Meir Dagan Passes Away**
- **Year After Election, 46% of Israelis See Alternative to Netanyahu**
- **EU Denounces Israel's West Bank Land Appropriation**
- **Shin Bet: Personal Issues Motivated Recent Lone-Wolf Attacks**
- **Netanyahu: Breaking the Silence Crossed Another Red Line**
- **US Rejects Kurds' Self-Governed Autonomous Zones in Syria**
- **Putin: Russia Can Ramp Up Syria Presence Within 'Hours'**
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Wall Street Journal

Former Israeli Spy Chief Meir Dagan Passes Away

Meir Dagan, who as chief of Israel's intelligence agency was widely credited with disrupting Iran's nuclear program, died Thursday. He was 71. Mr. Dagan served as director of the agency, the Mossad, from 2002 until his retirement in 2011. During that time, Israel is believed to have carried out deadly assaults on Iran's nuclear scientists and cyberattacks against its nuclear enrichment facilities. As a matter of policy, Israel neither confirms nor denies such operations.
See also, "Meir Dagan, Israeli Spy Chief Who Took Aim at Iran, Dies at 71" (The New York Times)

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Jerusalem Post

Year After Election, 46% of Israelis See Alternative to Netanyahu

Forty-six percent of Israelis believe there will be a replacement for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the near future, according to a Panels Research poll taken Tuesday and Wednesday for The Jerusalem Post and its Hebrew sister paper, Ma'ariv Sof Hashavua. The poll was taken in honor of Thursday's anniversary of the March 17, 2015 general election in which Netanyahu's Likud Party emerged victorious by a wide margin. Asked if there is a replacement for Netanyahu as prime minister in sight, 46% of respondents said yes, 41% said no, and 13% said they did not know. The candidates who fared the best were Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid, Bayit Yehudi head Naftali Bennett, and former IDF chief of staff Gabi Ashkenazi.

Times of Israel

EU Denounces Israel's West Bank Land Appropriation

The European Union on Thursday blasted Israel's land appropriation this week of 580 acres near the West Bank city of Jericho, saying it raises questions about Jerusalem's commitment to the two-state solution. The United States, United Kingdom and Germany have already condemned the decision, while the United Nation has urged Israel to reverse the move. "Israel's decision to declare 234 hectares near Jericho in Area C of the West Bank as state land is a further step that risks undermining the viability of a future Palestinian state and therefore calls into question Israel's commitment to a two-state solution," the EU said in a statement.

See also, "EU: Israel's 'Land Seizure' Threatens Peace Process" (Ynet News)

Jerusalem Post

Shin Bet: Personal Issues Motivated Recent Lone-Wolf Attacks

Psychological problems are a recurring motive for Palestinian "lone wolf" attackers as of late, the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) said on Wednesday. The security agency's website cited the example of Fouad Tamimi, who wounded two Border Police officers in a shooting attack on Salah a-Din Street in east Jerusalem earlier this month. According to the Shin Bet, Tamimi was known as a thief and a drug addict. Like other attackers, he was not identified with any terrorist group nor did he have any prior security arrests, according to the Shin Bet.

See also, "Stabbing Attack at Jerusalem Mall" (Arutz Sheva)

Ynet News

Netanyahu: Breaking the Silence Crossed Another Red Line

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Breaking the Silence of "crossing another red line" on Thursday evening following an investigative report aired on Channel 2 documenting the NGO's activists trying to obtain sensitive and classified operational intelligence about the IDF. The prime minister said that the "security investigative authorities are examining the issue." The Channel 2 report claimed that Breaking the Silence worked to place its people in classified units in the IDF in order to gather information that the organization could then use in its activities against "the occupation." In addition, the report claimed that the NGO's activists interviewed IDF veterans on issues that do not concern human rights, but rather military secrets.

See also, "Breaking the Silence Under Investigation After Report Claims It Collects Military Intelligence" (Ha'aretz)

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Ynet News

US Rejects Kurds' Self-Governed Autonomous Zones in Syria

The US State Department, responding to a Kurdish bid for autonomy in northern Syria, said it did not recognized self-governed zones inside the war-torn country and was working for a unified, nonsectarian state under different leadership. "We don't support self-ruled, semi-autonomous zones inside Syria. We just don't," said State Department spokesman John Kirby. "What we want to see is a unified, whole Syria that has in place a government that is not led by (President) Bashar Assad that is responsive to the Syrian people. Whole, unified, nonsectarian Syria, that's the goal," Kirby said, adding that other countries supported that aim as well.

Times of Israel

Putin: Russia Can Ramp Up Syria Presence Within 'Hours'

President Vladimir Putin on Thursday warned Russia could ramp up its military presence in Syria within "several hours" if needed, as he urged all sides of the conflict to respect a ceasefire. Putin spoke during a ceremony in the Kremlin's sumptuous St. George's Hall to bestow awards on servicemen who fought in Syria, with the military's top brass among some 700 personnel from the armed forces in attendance. "If there's a need, Russia literally within several hours can ramp up its presence in the region to the size required for the unfolding situation and use the whole arsenal of possibilities we have at our disposal."
See also, "Putin: Russia Can Rebuild Its Syria Forces in 'a Few Hours'" (Ynet News)

Ha'aretz

Top General: If Erdogan Is in Power, Israel Faces Problems

Amid ongoing negotiations toward reconciliation between Israel and Turkey, the IDF deputy chief of staff made rare remarks on Tuesday regarding the negative effects the regime of Recep Erdogan has on the two countries' relationship. "As long as Turkey is ruled by a party with a strong Islamist orientation, by a ruler as adversarial as Erdogan, as long as this is the situation – we can expect problems and challenges," Maj. Gen. Yair Golan said at a conference on "The IDF's current challenges" at Bar-Ilan University.
See also, "IDF Deputy Chief Cautions Over Turkey Relations Under Erdogan Rule" (BICOM)
See also, "White House Calls on Turkey to Respect Democratic Values" (Times of Israel)

Ma'ariv – March 18, 2016

The Last Campaign

By Ben Caspit

Meir Dagan died a worried man. His body had been devoured by cancer; his soul had been devoured by concern. The State of Israel was the love of his life. For decades, he defended it with his body. Over the past few years, he looked at the direction in which the country was going, and was alarmed. He had never doubted the state's future, and suddenly, he feared for its fate. He enlisted into another, final battle for the state. He lost that battle.

He fought in all of Israel's wars from the Six-Day War on. He sustained serious injuries, he was decorated, and he did not break. [...] He gave the angel of death a fight, against all the odds. He was a sober man and did not pray for a miracle. He simply fought every day anew. "I'm playing for time," he would say to anyone who asked how he was feeling. He knew that he was dying and did all he could to

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postpone it. […]

At that demonstration, on the eve of the elections, in Rabin Square, when he spoke about leadership and about Zionism, he could not hold back his tears. He knew that soon he would not be here. His enormous will power extended his life by a few precious and important years. He was keeping himself alive by virtue of the last droplets of his determination. […]

Dagan was the spearhead of the clash between the political and the military echelon over an attack on Iran in the years 2010-2011. He feared an act of lunacy by Netanyahu and Barak, and did not hesitate to clash with them. Together with him were Yuval Diskin, his close friend and GSS director, chief of staff Gabi Ashkenazi and IDF Intelligence Branch director Amos Yadlin. This was not a rebellion and not a putsch, but rather an attempt to adhere to the law and to sanity.

When Barak and Netanyahu ordered the directors of the security branches at the forum of seven to put the security establishment on alert ahead of a strike, they refused to do this. Dagan was the person who gave the firmest speech, which reached the point of loud shouting. The order was not legal. The kind of alert that Netanyahu and Barak wanted requires a decision of the security cabinet and the cabinet. Dagan discerned Barak and Netanyahu's attempt to bypass them and to ignore the law. He knew that this kind of alert could leak and deteriorate the entire region to war and this was why he was opposed. He stressed that he would obey any order given, as long as it was legal and approved in a security cabinet decision.

Later, when he asked if he truly believed that Netanyahu was capable of having the courage to attack Iran, he said: "It's not a matter of courage. He did not have the courage, but the orders that he gave, which were illegal, could still have caused the situation to deteriorate to the point where it would have been impossible to prevent a war."

His relationship with Netanyahu was not good and became worse after the assassination of Mabhouh in Dubai, which was attributed to the Mossad, and perceived as a stinging failure of the Mossad under his leadership.

On his last on the job, Dagan met with the senior analysts at Mossad headquarters and gave an astounding performance, in which he described, in clear words, his opposition to attacking Iran's nuclear facilities and the disaster this was liable to cause Israel. This was unprecedented. Dagan did not regret this to his dying day.

"It was my duty," he later told me, "like me, all the other heads of the security branches, and those who replaced them, felt the same way. This combination of Bibi and Barak could have visited disaster on the state, even without their having planned this."

Dagan's problem with Netanyahu was over his decision-making ability. If there is one thing Dagan detests, it's cowardice. In long conversations with him over the years, he told me about the process of getting Netanyahu to approve a Mossad operation: "I would come and present the operation to him. If it was a simple operation, he would approve it verbally. If it was an operation that could encounter complications, he would be silent, or nod.

Back and forth, up and down. I would ask him, Mr. Prime Minister, you are nodding, what does that mean, do you approve? I need to know. He knew that the conversation was being recorded and did not want to leave a recording of him approving an operation that might encounter trouble. I asked him to prepare a key for his head movements, so that I could understand. I asked him to speak aloud. He would evade me. He would try to say, 'talk to the cabinet secretary,' but I would not agree. Sometimes he would even hint that I shouldn't inform him. that I should

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tell him afterwards. I didn't agree. I developed a system: when I wanted an operation approved, I would bring a large forum with me, including the actual combatants. Facing a lot of people, he would approve, for the façade. This shocked me. Think about Mossad fighters embarking on an operation and knowing that the prime minister left no recording and did not approve it verbally. If it was successful, he would take the credit. If it failed, it wouldn't be his fault."

This caused Dagan to detest Netanyahu. This was no longer something he could control. […]

After ending his term in the Mossad, Dagan thought about entering political life. […] His illness sabotaged his intentions, but not his mission. In the final days of the last Netanyahu government, Dagan went to all the party leaders in an effort to form an alternative coalition and to topple Bibi. […] Dagan, with the last of his strength, enlisted in the effort against Netanyahu, and failed. […]

I had long conversations with him in the last few years. I asked him about his huge effort in an attempt to replace Netanyahu. This is what he said: "I'm sick. I know that I'm going to die. Soon I will not be here. I have no vested interests and I ask nothing for myself. Personally, I have nothing against Bibi. He is a smart man, very educated, with good energy. The only thing I care about is the future of the state and its welfare. I took part in Israel's hardest wars. I went through terrible times. I never doubted our future and our strength. In these years, under Netanyahu's governments, I am starting to doubt the country's future. This is killing me."

That conversation took place a short time after the end of Operation Protective Edge. Dagan further said: "Look at how an organization like Hamas, from the bottom league, teaches us a lesson. He [Netanyahu] is not willing to take responsibility. Just as he was scared to approve operations for me, he is scared to do the right thing. The only thing that truly interests him is to continue to be prime minister."

"He will do anything to survive. Believe me, I don't hate him. I love Israel. He spent 11 billion shekels on a war that won't happen, and he didn't know how to win a war that was. Look how many bunker-buster bombs were fired at Hamas's tunnels. This is disgraceful. After all, this had no effect. Look how many meetings he calls. They never end. Hours and hours. Why all this talk? Every meeting is over two hours long and is a waste of time. It is an excuse not to make decisions."

"To undertake a mission," Dagan said, "you need to do four things: define the mission, appoint a commander, allocate the means and set a timetable. With Bibi, none of these things are done. They don't exist. And that's why missions are not undertaken. He would postpone Mossad missions because of primaries because he didn't want to run into complications. He doesn't know how to distinguish between his personal benefit and the country's. He is certain that they are the same thing."

It drove him crazy that Israel was not capitalizing on the opportunities in its path. "This is a rare period of time that will not recur," he told me once, "there is the potential of forging an amazing relationship with many Arab states, Israel has no real enemies in the region at the moment; this window of opportunity must be taken advantage of. But he doesn't want and he isn't ready; he is fossilized in his views. We could change reality and history by correctly capitalizing on events around us," said Dagan. "This missed opportunity drives me crazy."

It isn't easy to write this on the open grave of Meir Dagan, but this was his legacy. He was never scared to state his opinion, even though stating an opinion had become scary. The courageous are few; the cowards are in control. That is the reason that Meir Dagan, the man who knew no fear, leaves behind him a

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particularly big void. Go in peace Meir. You did enough. Thank you for everything.

Ben Caspit is a senior columnist for Ma'ariv and other Israeli newspapers.

Washington Institute – March 16, 2016

How Would the Palestinians React to a UNSC Resolution?

If Washington and other parties hope to enshrine the contours of future peacemaking through a Security Council resolution, they will need to overcome numerous obstacles relating to Palestinian politics, regional priorities, and America's diminished standing in the region.

By Ghaith Al-Omari

Since the collapse of negotiations in April 2014, U.S. officials have been careful not to rule out the possibility of publicly spelling out outlines of a peace deal through a presidential speech or UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution. And the idea of providing such an outline, commonly referred to in peace process parlance as "parameters," is not exclusively American. EU diplomats, most vociferously the French, have spoken of it often, as have the Palestinians.

The main logic behind the idea is that, at a time when the parties themselves are unable to reach a deal -- indeed, when the very notion of a two-state solution to the conflict is rapidly losing ground -- such parameters would preserve the two-state concept and create a diplomatic reference point for the resumption of negotiations when times are more opportune. Specifically, they would lay out formulas to guide future resolution of the thorniest issues, calling for measures such as the division of Jerusalem, a nonmilitarized Palestinian state along the 1967 lines, equitable land swaps to compensate for Israeli annexation of certain settlements, the right of Palestinian refugees to move to the Palestinian state but not Israel, and some form of recognition for Israel's Jewish character.

If a new UNSC resolution were the vehicle used to enshrine these parameters, it could become the definitive peace document in much the same way that Resolution 242 served as the basis for future peace initiatives. Despite this praiseworthy objective, however, any UNSC-based approach faces practical obstacles that could not only thwart the effort, but even produce results contrary to the stated intentions. Israel has consistently opposed both the concept of an imposed UNSC solution and many of the specifics, particularly those relating to Jerusalem and borders, so bringing the Israelis along would present its own set of challenges. But dealing with the Palestinian reaction would not be simple either.

PALESTINIAN OBSTACLES

Although Palestinian officials have repeatedly demanded a UNSC parameters resolution, they want this resolution to wholly reflect their positions. December 2014 offers a telling example of how they would likely react to such a proposal. After the collapse of bilateral negotiations led by Secretary of State John Kerry, the Palestine Liberation Organization sought to put forward a parameters resolution, but to do so they had to go through Jordan, the lone Arab UNSC member at that time. In order to garner the minimum nine votes necessary to pass such a resolution -- assuming none of the permanent council members exercised their veto power -- the Jordanians embarked on drafting a balanced resolution that reflected sensitivity to Palestinian positions but also incorporated legitimate Israeli positions. Yet the Palestinians were uncomfortable with the latter elements and insisted on a maximalist draft, which the Jordanians, to their chagrin, felt

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compelled to submit. Unsurprisingly, the resolution failed to gain nine votes.

To understand this behavior, one must realize that the Palestinians had taken the UNSC route primarily for domestic political reasons, not diplomatic reasons. After the bilateral negotiations collapsed, Palestinian leaders were left with nothing to offer their public on the diplomatic front, having already exhausted their prior campaign to gain admittance into UN agencies. They needed to be seen as doing something, but the erosion of their domestic standing deprived them of the political cachet needed to make significant compromises. Thus, submitting a resolution was the primary objective, not passing it. Accepting anything short of a resolution that faithfully mirrored Palestinian positions would have left the leadership vulnerable to domestic opponents.

The Palestinian political scene has only grown more brittle since then. The public's faith in diplomacy has plummeted, and the Palestinian Authority's domestic standing and ability to compromise have further eroded. In addition, recent polls show that around two-thirds of Palestinians believe President Mahmoud Abbas should resign, bringing the question of succession to the fore. That once-taboo topic is now commonly discussed in public and private, and many senior Palestinian politicians are already positioning themselves for the day after Abbas.

If a compromise-based parameters resolution were submitted under such circumstances, it is difficult to imagine any Palestinian politician confronting the inevitably negative public reaction, or any presidential aspirant wanting to be seen as endorsing it. More likely, they would compete in rhetorical one-upmanship to show their opposition to every component of these parameters, particularly regarding refugees and recognition of Israel's Jewish character. Instead of reigniting discussion of a two-state solution and arming the peace camp with new arguments, issuing parameters now would probably cement the negative, uncompromising trends in the internal Palestinian debate.

INTERNATIONAL OBSTACLES

Some observers contend that the two parties need not endorse a UNSC resolution. On the contrary, the argument goes, Israeli and Palestinian protests would indicate that they had been confronted with the necessary set of painful compromises. For this approach to be meaningful, however, the parties would need to be confronted not only with balanced parameters, but also with solid and wide international consensus on a two-state solution, mainly to ensure that Israeli and Palestinian objections do not spill over and color the reaction of others, particularly but not only the Arab states.

Indeed, it can safely be assumed that the Palestinians would lobby Arab states, as well as European and other states, to join them in rejecting any parameters that do not meet their current maximalist standards. And if they successfully mobilized such support, they could trigger a very negative chain of events. For example, instead of reaffirming consensus around the contours of Palestinian-Israeli peace, the parameters might instead expose rifts within the international community and endanger the already battered two-state paradigm. This would be particularly damaging if the Palestinians convinced their supporters to modify the resolution's text in such a way as to force a U.S. veto.

In addition, the Palestinians would likely bring the matter to the Arab League, at a time when relations between that body's members are so problematic that this year's Arab Summit had to be canceled. Under such circumstances, some member states could decide to question and reopen the Arab Peace Initiative, effectively destroying Arab consensus on the two-state solution and dealing a significant blow to the prospects of that solution coming to pass.

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Building a solid Arab and international front in support of peace parameters would therefore require two elements. First, the substance of the parameters should clearly reflect the difficult compromises that both sides need to make, including on contentious issues such as abandoning the right of return, accepting the division of Jerusalem, delineating borders along the 1967 lines with equal land swaps, and recognizing Israel's Jewish character. Past discussions in the UN and the Quartet have demonstrated that there is no international consensus yet on these issues.

Second, the United States would need to have the political credit to convince others, particularly Arab countries, to expend their own political capital on supporting controversial parameters and bringing the Palestinians along -- or at least convincing them to moderate the tone of their response. For both the 1991 Madrid peace conference and the 2007 Annapolis conference, three factors greatly facilitated the creation of such coalitions: (1) the peace process was a top Arab priority, (2) Arab states regarded U.S. engagement in peacemaking as partial compensation for the invasion of Iraq (and in the case of Madrid, this was coupled with a sense of gratitude for the liberation of Kuwait), and (3) Arab leaders were in no doubt that the United States was the sole international and regional leader, and that it was willing to exercise this leadership. In today's world, Washington would be hard-pressed to find Arab leaders who consider the Palestinian issue a priority worth expending political capital on, or who view the United States with gratitude, fear, or faith in its regional leadership.

In short, numerous elements relating to Palestinian politics, regional priorities, and America's standing in the region -- not to mention a bevy of Israeli political and diplomatic factors not discussed here -- raise serious challenges to the idea of proposing U.S. or UNSC parameters for Palestinian-Israeli peace. If these challenges are not addressed properly, a parameters resolution could backfire, feeding the Palestinian public's already dangerous skepticism about the feasibility of diplomacy, encouraging more hardline rhetoric among their leaders, and eroding regional and international support for a two-state solution. Instead of giving future leaders a solid international agreement on two-state contours and generating vibrant, healthy debate among Palestinians, an unbalanced resolution -- or one issued without intensive prior consultation with major global stakeholders -- could shatter international consensus and drive the parties even further away from ending the conflict.

Ghaith al-Omari, a senior fellow at The Washington Institute, previously served in various advisory positions with the Palestinian Authority.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/26/2016 6:05:29 PM
Subject: New News! (2/26/2016)



News as of February 26, 2016

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

Polls

Hillary's campaign gets new push from victory in Nevada Democratic caucus: Clinton 52.6% to **Sanders** 47.3% *AP*

Trump wins South Carolina: Trump 32%, **Rubio** 22.5% **Cruz** 22.3%, **Bush** 8%, **Kasich** 8%, **Carson** 7% *CBS News*

Trump wins Nevada: Trump (45.9%) **Rubio** (23.9%) **Cruz** (21.4%) **Carson** (4.8%) **Kasich** (3.6%) *Wash Post*

Domestic Affairs

Fight to have Apple open San Bernardino terrorist phone is heating up: [Apple and DOJ] are now urging Congress to "pursue new ground rules for when tech companies must provide law enforcement with greater access to customers' secure, private data." **Tony Romm,** *Politico*

Guantanamo proposal fuels more partisan politics: When announcing his plan to shut down the prison, Obama pointed out that former Republican presidential nominees have also supported closing the facility. With the bill dead on arrival, questions arise over whether Obama will take executive action. **Jordan Fabian** and **Kristina Wong,** *The Hill*

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval removes himself from consideration a day after reports he was being vetted by the Obama administration. **Brent Kendall,** *WSJ*

Shooting rampage in Kansas, 3 killed: Authorities say the man, Cedrick Larry Ford, 38, was issued an abuse protection order from the courts 90 minutes prior to the shooting. **John Eligon and Katie Rogers,** *NYT*

2016 Campaign

The most raucous of all GOP debates: Rubio and **Cruz** realize they have a finite amount of time to make this a one-on-one race with **Trump. Jerry Seib**, *WSJ*

Despite a good debate performance, 'Marco-mentum' is still an illusion: Joe Scarborough argues that despite Rubio's performance at Thursday's debate, this may not be enough to further propel his campaign because of his losses to date. **Joe Scarborough,** *Wash Post*

NJ Gov. Chris Christie endorses Donald J. Trump: Maggie Haberman, *NYT*

Trump shatters the GOP: "The Republican party has now fragmented into three main divisions. **Ted Cruz** heading the traditional conservative purists, **Marco Rubio** heading the mainstream lane of the GOP, and **Donald Trump** heading what seem just like angry populists." **Shane Goldmacher**, *Politico*

Jeb Bush ends campaign after a disappointing finish in South Carolina's primary on Saturday. **Jesse Byrnes,** *The Hill*

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Congressional Hispanic Caucus PAC to endorse Clinton: Kelsey Snell, *WashPost*

The Economy

Finance, not tech, is driving growth in US billionaires: "40% of growth in U.S. billionaires comes down to the finance sector...27% of all U.S. billionaires in 2014 worked in finance." **Silvia Ascarelli,** *Marketwatch*

Has globalization peaked?: "As export values are falling in the US, China, Africa, and the Middle East, questions are rising over whether globalization has reached its limit." **Shawn Donnan** and **Joe Leahy,** *FT*

US growth 'remains robust': "Worries about US recession may be a moot point as the dollar strengthens against the common currency and the yen and as American companies accumulate stockpiles faster than was expected." **Richard Blackden, Shawn Donnan,** and **Sam Fleming,** *FT*

Helicoptering money - some calling for doling out dollars with the economy slowing: "The next step is likely to include fiscal expansion...With fiscal expansion might go direct monetary support, including the most radical policy of all: the "helicopter drops" of money recommended by the late Milton Friedman." **Martin Wolf,** *FT*

World's top finance officials meet at G-20 to discuss global economy: Some of the major concerns cited are Japan being on the brink of recession, Europe's low growth, and China's struggling economy. **Keith Bradsher,** *NYT*

US manufacturing jumped 4.9% as orders for long-lasting manufactured goods posted largest monthly gain since last spring: This could be "a sign the battered manufacturing industry could be stabilizing after one of its worst years since the recession ended." **Anna Louie Sussman,** *WSJ*

Will democracy follow capitalism into Cuba? "Capitalism could be Cuba's salvation. Cuba began in 2011 to liberalize very gradually, allowing private enterprise to flourish in certain sectors, particularly those related to tourism, like restaurants. The steady infiltration of capitalism just might reform the country." **Steven Rattner**, **(TCG Speaker),** Op-ed, *NY Times*

Plans to break up big banks not all they are cracked up to be: "Risks such as lower lending activity and the fact that small banks still present a risk if they fail, along with other arguments hint that breaking up big banks may not be the solution." **Christian Stracke,** Op-Ed, *Pimco*

The relationship between stocks and oil prices: "One plausible explanation of the tendency for stocks and oil prices to move together is that both are reacting to a common factor, namely, a softening of global aggregate demand, which hurts both corporate profits and demand for oil." **Ben Bernanke**, *Brookings Institution*

Foreign Affairs/National Security

North Korea faces tougher sanctions from the US and China: Pyongyang's nuclear weapon test led the two countries to make this negotiation, which will be voted on by the UN Security Council in upcoming days. This appears to be a diplomatic shift on Beijing's end, but it is unclear if China would be willing to pursue tougher sanctions. **Somini Sengupta,** *NYT*

Growing concern over ISIS in Libya: More than a dozen American officials have spoken about their rising concern regarding ISIS, as "the Islamic State's branch in Libya is deepening its reach across a wide area of Africa, attracting new recruits from countries like Senegal." **Eric Schmitt**, *NY Times*

How ISIS secret banking network prospers: "Every day, hundreds of money-exchange offices in Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Jordan funnel millions of dollars in and out of militant-held territory. Shiite militias and Iraqi Kurdish fighters are bribed to guard and grant passage of these cash shipments along at least three routes. On the final leg, Islamic State imposes taxes on cash entering and exiting its territory, which buys the smuggler protection." **Margaret Coker**, WSJ

In the West, the political center holds — but barely: "**David Miliband (TCG Speaker)** argues that the left- and right-wing revolts stem from the same force: globalization. "The right has no good answer to the problem that globalization erodes people's identities. The left has no good answer to the problem that it exacerbates inequality,"...That leaves traditional politicians struggling to hold on to their supporters while outsiders promise easy answers." **Fareed Zakaria,** Op-Ed, *Wash Post*

US-Syrian tension date back to the late 1950s: The US lacks understanding of the historical context and the Syrian perspective about the crises. **Robert. F. Kennedy Jr., (TCG Speaker)** *Politico*

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US & Russia have reached a deal for a cease-fire to begin in Syria on Saturday: Eliza Collins, *Politico*

Iran election: counting starts after high turnout: "Iranians have been electing a new parliament and Assembly of Experts, a clerical body that appoints the Supreme Leader...The outcome could affect reformist **President Hassan Rouhani**'s chances of re-election in 2017." *BBC*

Upcoming Events

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Candidate for US Senate

Monday, February 29, 2016
Breakfast & remarks: 10:30-11:30am

RSVP

Deborah Ross, former US Representative for NC, Candidate for US Senate

Tuesday, March 1st, 2016
Breakfast & remarks: 11-12pm

RSVP

The Common Good Forum on "Security and Opportunity in Turbulent Times"

Friday, May 20, 2016, 8am-4pm, Sessions all day on national and economic security

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff, Isabelle Lehner, Emily Samuels, and Isaac Getlan, and our interns Emily Abrams, Juliet Kirk, Uzma Azhar, Daniela Gutierrez, and Grace Ewing.
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Fariba Yassaee" <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com>
Date: 8/18/2015 12:26:05 PM
Subject: Re: Albright: Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq

Fariba,
I tried calling but maybe you changed your main line. Will you tell Madeleine I loved her op-ed and so did my current boss!
John

On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Fariba Yassaee <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com > wrote:

All, pasted below and at link is a piece Madeleine wrote in response to Jeb Bush's position on Iraq.

http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#.VdJv8oKCOnM

IN THE ARENA
Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq
By MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

August 17, 2015
Since leaving office, I have come to a détente with many of my Republican friends, agreeing not to keep rehashing mistakes of the past and to instead focus on the future of America's foreign policy. However, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush's brazen attempts to rewrite history in a series of campaign appearances last week cannot go unchallenged. By blaming President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton for the rise of ISIL, Governor Bush is clearly seeking to absolve his brother's administration of responsibility for today's problems in Iraq. This argument may serve Governor Bush's political interests, but it does a disservice to the truth

No honest discussion of the situation today in Iraq can brush aside the mistakes that were made by the Bush administration during the invasion and its aftermath, much of it based on faulty intelligence and flawed assumptions. They sent too few troops to secure the country. They replaced a government that was a sworn enemy of Iran with one that had close ties to the mullahs. They disbanded the Iraqi Army and dismissed thousands of Sunni officers, who soon launched a violent insurgency.
None of these facts were acknowledged by Governor Bush in his speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library or in his recent campaign appearances in Iowa, because they undermine his attempts at blame shifting.

According to Bush's emerging narrative, the fatal U.S. error in Iraq was the withdrawal of our troops on December 31, 2011. If that is the case, then the error was made by President George W. Bush, who negotiated that withdrawal date in a binding agreement reached with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in 2008. The Obama administration sought to extend the mission for U.S. troops, and by all accounts Secretary Clinton strongly supported such a residual presence. But Prime Minister Maliki refused to give U.S. troops immunity from prosecution—and the administration wisely decided not to put U.S. troops at risk to support a government that did not want them there any longer.
It is these circumstances that Governor Bush believes led to the rise of ISIL, but once again, he is only telling part of the story. ISIL, which emerged from al Qaeda in Iraq, was established in 2003 in the chaos that followed the invasion. AQI became a magnet for disaffected Sunnis and remnants of Saddam Hussein's army, who still help lead ISIL.

No one, Democrat or Republican, would claim that all is going well in the Middle East today. The Obama

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administration has certainly made mistakes, and the Bush administration did not do everything wrong. We should also not fall into the trap of assuming everything is America's fault. Sectarian Iraqi leaders, the Assad regime in Syria and malign Iranian influence also bear responsibility for the tremendous problems facing the region.

Still, the United States has been and will be an important force in the Middle East. Our country does not need a backward-looking partisan fight over our policy in the region. Instead, we should be having a substantive, forward-looking discussion about the kind of role we can play in bringing stability to a critical part of the world.

To his credit, Governor Bush did present some ideas for how his administration would deal with Iraq. While his rhetoric has been lofty, and his criticism of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton has been sharp, the policies he proposes look remarkably similar to what the administration is already doing—supporting the Iraqi military in their fight against ISIL. The areas where he appears to differ are his willingness to put more U.S. lives at risk by sending troops into combat, and his unwillingness to rule out waterboarding in interrogations. Governor Bush also spoke of the importance of alliances, but his rhetoric and proposed actions would jeopardize these important sources of strength. Nothing would infuriate our European allies more than Governor Bush's plan to break away from the nuclear agreement with Iran that they spent years negotiating alongside us. Similarly, Governor Bush made a point of using the term "Islamic terrorists," a phrase that our allies in the Arab world have pressed us not to use because it feeds the false narrative that we are at war with a religion.

Words matter in the world of diplomacy, and so does leadership. The reputation of the United States was severely damaged during President' Bush's administration. Today, America's place in the world is far stronger than it was in 2009 thanks to the leadership of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton. They renewed alliances, relentlessly pursued our terrorist enemies, and forged international coalitions on Iran sanctions and on the fight against climate change. That's a laudable record of achievement—one that needs no re-writes.

In the months ahead, I would encourage Mr. Bush to be a true student of foreign policy rather than a hurler of political potshots. The United States cannot afford another President Bush who blinds himself to global reality and who forges ahead into chaos. Americans deserve a president who will acknowledge the past and will forge a better future.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#ixzz3j7jyKZKa

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 7/14/2015 11:24:06 AM
Subject: FW: Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis

Dear Jake,

It appears that Hillary has already spoken. I do hope in a formal statement she will say that as President, NOT just that all options are on the table, which is a hackneyed phrase, but that "As President I will do whatever it takes to assure that Iran never develops a nuclear weapon." There should also be the kind of statement I have suggested of working closely with our allies in the region, especially Israel, to counter Iranian terrorist activity, and to be certain they have the means to fully defend themselves against Iran.

Former Congressman and HFRC Chairman Howard Berman, my partner at Covington, told me that as a result of the 4:00 pm White House telephonic briefing of the Washington Institute group that singed the letter of concern, he believes all five concerns have been taken care of, in one way or another. He said Dennis Ross (my JPPI co-chair) has put out a statement suggesting there is no better option. Howard says he will not join a group of Democrats (e.g. Evan Bayh, Mary Landrieu) opposing the deal.

I am forwarding some comments he has accumulated. He told me in Israel there is wall-to-wall opposition, including Herzog and Livni.

Best wishes,
Stu

From: Berman, Howard
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 5:52 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Subject: FW: Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis

Howard L. Berman
Senior Advisor
Covington & Burling LLP
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T +1 202 662 5658 | HBerman@cov.com
www.cov.com

COVINGTON

From: David Halperin [mailto:dhalperin@ipforum.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 12:30 PM
Subject: Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis

Dear Friends:

Israel Policy Forum will soon provide conference calls, Insider Briefs, and in-person briefings with American and Israeli perspectives regarding the Iran nuclear deal **announced this morning** .

I know your inboxes are already inundated with reactions. In this email, I am providing a Roundup of excerpts of analysis / reactions that you can skim / review as you wish.

While continuing to provide resources, IPF will remain focused on our core mission and the implications for regional security and diplomacy going forward. And, we will **continue to call for close US-Israel cooperation** , befitting strategic allies.

Clearly, such dialogue is essential to create the kind of assurances that undoubtedly will be needed to advance regional security in the wake of today's announcement.

Best -

David

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Nicholas Burns, to the NY Times :

> "The reality is that it is a painful agreement to make, but also necessary and wise," said R. Nicholas Burns, who drafted the first sanctions against Iran, passed in the United Nations Security Council in 2006 and 2007, when he was undersecretary of state for policy. "And we might think of it as just the end of the beginning of a long struggle to contain Iran. There will be other dramas ahead."

Jeffrey Goldberg, Atlantic Columnist :

> "The Iran drama is only beginning. Assuming that Obama can sell this deal to Congress—Chuck Schumer, a nation turns its lonely eyes to you—this will be a multi-year story of implementation. I wish I could believe what Obama seems to suspect, that this deal will set in motion a virtuous cycle in which moderates (relative moderates, of course) gain power in a liberalizing Iran. But I don't think that this is happening soon. For now, I hope that Obama will study the reality of Iranian activity in the region, and begin to push back against Iran's ambitions with more alacrity than he has done so far.

White House Talking Points / Graphics and Resources Page (includes video of President Obama's address):

> After many months of principled diplomacy, the P5+1 -- the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, Russia and Germany -- along with the European Union, have achieved a long-term comprehensive nuclear deal with Iran that will verifiably prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and ensure that Iran's nuclear program will be exclusively peaceful going forward.
>
> This deal stands on the foundation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA), achieved in November of 2013, and the framework for this Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), announced in Lausanne on April 2, 2015 that set the requirements for the deal with the P5+ 1 and Iran, alongside the European Union announced today.
>
> Now, with this deal in place, the U.S., our allies, and the international community can know that tough, new requirements will keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Here's how:

AIPAC Statement :

> "During these negotiations, we outlined five critical requirements for a good deal. We are deeply concerned based on initial reports that this proposed agreement may not meet these requirements, and thereby would fail to block Iran's path to a nuclear weapon and would further entrench and empower the leading state sponsor of terror."

Ilan Goldenberg, via Times of Israel :

> As the fight over the Iran deal gets political, Democrats will be less inclined to oppose the president, explained Goldenberg, a former senior staffer on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee covering Middle East issues. "The more the question becomes — 'Do you trust Obama or do you support Netanyahu and the Republicans?' — the less likely the Democrats are to vote against the deal."
>
> Rather than confrontation, the Israeli prime minister should seek to make amends with the administration and start a serious dialogue about what Washington and Jerusalem can do together to counter Iran's aggressive actions in the region and to ensure Tehran does not violate the nuclear agreement, Goldenberg suggested.
>
> "The biggest strategic mistake Netanyahu can make is to walk away for the next 18 months and wait for next president," he said. "I don't think Israel can afford that. If he does that, he's only going to further widen the partisanship and turn Israel into a political wedge issue."
>
> Instead of hoping for Congress to shoot down the deal, Netanyahu should encourage it to pass legislation that would support the agreement's vigorous implementation, Goldenberg continued. The Hill has several tools at its disposal:

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mechanisms to ensure sanctions snap back automatically if Iran violates the deal, more money for international inspectors, the creation of a permanent board with a congressional mandate to oversee the arms control agreement, and so on.

Rep. Steve Israel via website :

"I was skeptical at the beginning of this process, and I remain skeptical of the Iranians. In the fall, there will be a vote on this deal, and my obligation is to review every word, sentence, and paragraph of the deal to ensure it satisfies my continued concerns. Until then, you can continue to count me in the 'skeptical' column.

Ian Bremmer, President, Eurasia Group, via facebook :

The Iran deal is done. It's a historic moment. But as important as it is to defang Iran's nuclear threat, the bigger story is what the deal means for Iran's new standing in a crumbling geopolitical order. Three changes will matter most.

First, the competition between Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia will heat up, and the balance of power will tip toward Tehran. Saudi Arabia is now pumping the most oil since 1980, but an unsanctioned Iran will cut into Saudi market share. Iran is the holder of the world's fourth-largest proven crude oil reserves and second-largest natural gas reserves, and will soon bring 1 million barrels a day back to the market. Meanwhile, proxy fights in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and elsewhere will intensify. As the U.S. and Europe look to reduce their presence in the region, the escalation of proxy wars between Saudi Arabia and Iran will heighten the risk of direct conflict.

Next, Iran will open for business. The world will trade again with Iran's $420 billion economy. Trade with the EU could expand as much as 400 percent, from $8.3 billion last year. Economic benefits will spill across the Gulf. Dubai will become a launch pad for foreign investment in Iran. And the investors are coming. Iran is not just another Middle Eastern petro-state; it offers investors a diversified economy with an established capital market. Its population of 80 million, the second largest in the Middle East, promises consumer demand across sectors as varied as travel and logistics to pharmaceuticals and consumer products. By some estimates, the nuclear deal could accelerate growth in Iran to 8 percent over the next three years and motivate the potential return of hundreds of thousands of highly talented Iranians.

Finally, Iran will lead the fight against ISIS. Obama is in no position to put U.S. boots on the ground, but the more battles ISIS wins in the Middle East, the more of a problem it will become internationally. Washington needs someone with the will and resources to deal ISIS a strong blow. And that's Iran. Though economic sanctions and a global arms embargo have limited the sophistication of Iran's military powers (Iran spends a fifth as much as Saudi Arabia on boosting its military assets), the expansion of Iranian influence and economic capabilities will pave the way for greater defense leadership in the Middle East. Iraqi Shia militias, backed by Iran, will offer a desperately-needed counter to ISIS.

Will Iran cheat on the deal? Yes. The U.S. and Iran aren't about to start trusting one other, much less become fast friends. But in the world created by the deal, Iran starts to matter much more than Saudi Arabia and other old-guard U.S. allies.

Today's deal isn't the end of the story. It's only the end of the first chapter.

Ehud Ya'ari, top Arab Affairs Analysts, on Channel 2 news:

"It's not as bad as we thought."

Jane Eisner, editor in chief, Forward :

"The vexing problem for American Jews is that consideration of this deal has become so intertwined with support for Israel that it may be impossible to arrive at an unbiased judgment."

Hillary Clinton, in private meeting with House Democrats

The deal is an "important step in putting a lid on Iran's nuclear program."

MK Isaac Herzog, as reported by the Jerusalem Post:

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Herzog will be travelling to the US to "demand a dramatic package of security measures for Israel." ... "In regards to security I am more extreme than Netanyahu."

Tzipi Livni on Iran deal:

"dangerous and destructive"

Benjamin Netanyahu on Iran deal :

"Stunning, historic mistake."

Naftali Bennett, via twitter :

On July 14th, 2015 a terror nuclear superpower is born. Israel will defend itself.

Sen. Joe Lieberman via House Foreign Affairs Committee :

"There is much more risk for America and reward for Iran than there should be in the agreement... This is a bad deal for America, a bad deal for Iran's neighbors in the Middle East and a bad deal for the world."

Dennis Ross via Washington Post :

"Opponents need to explain what happens if the rest of the world accepts this deal, Iran says it is ready to implement it — and Congress blocks it. Will the European Union, which explicitly commits in the agreement to lift sanctions once Iran has fulfilled its main nuclear responsibilities, not do so because Congress says no? Can sanctions really be sustained in these circumstances, particularly if the Iranians don't increase their enrichment and say they will observe the deal? Could we be faced with a world in which the sanctions regime collapses, Iran gets its windfall and is only two months from breakout, and there is little on-ground visibility into its program? Maybe the answer is no, but the skeptics need to explain what we can do to ensure that this is not the outcome."

Aaron David Miller oped- in Wall Street Journal :

"Whether you're about to break open the champagne or don sack cloth over **the U.S.-Iran nuclear deal** , you may have questions about the agreement. Here are five things to look out for in the coming days, as we all assess the text of the agreement and reactions to it.:"

Abe Foxman, via ADL Statement :

"We are deeply disappointed by the terms of the final deal with Iran announced today which seem to fall far short of the President's objective of preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear weapon state. The thrust of the deal relies substantially on Iran's good faith and the ability of the IAEA to effectively carry out its inspection obligations."

Sen. Chuck Schumer statement :

"Supporting or opposing this agreement is not a decision to be made lightly, and I plan to carefully study the agreement before making an informed decision."

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From: "Andres Moreno" <amoreno@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/16/2008 12:14:03 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech in Louisville, KY

Just off the phone with our tracker Jacob Roberts who was on the ground today in Louisville, KY. Below are the notes from our call.

Louisville, KY - McCain Speech at National Rifle Association Annual Meeting

Big Highlights: McCain asserts he is not Barack Obama. Highlights his long standing support of the second amendment. Attacks assault weapons ban, and proclaims that a President Obama or President Clinton would put gun rights at risk. Continues to remark on Bush's 'appeasement' comments in Israel, and speaks on Iraq war and strict constructionist judges.

Background Details
- McCain was preceded by the playing of a McCain ad highlighting the 2nd amendment and victory in Iraq. – included clip of last year's address where he yelled at anti-war protesters
- Audience Size: approximately 1,000
- The crowd warmed up to him as he spoke about gun rights, and judges
- The audience left by the dozens as he began to speak about the war in Iraq
- McCain came off as nervous and unsettled – stumbled reading off yet another huge teleprompter
- Secret Service Everywhere, Metal Detectors Used
- McCain appeared from off stage, after speech he walked the ropes with Cindy shaking audience hands

Major Speakers Tracked:
John McCain
John Bolton
Mitt Romney
Mitch McConnell

Press:
- Local Press – (Definitely Fox and CBS – others most assuredly there)
- CNN – Dana Bash
- Carl Cameron may have been there

Link to transcript:
http://www.standardnewswire.com/news/239202741.html

Transcript:
It is a pleasure to be here this afternoon. I know you have heard from a number of my friends and colleagues today -- Governors Huckabee and Romney, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ambassador John Bolton, and Kentucky's own, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell. And you have heard from an American hero, Greg Stubbe, who sacrificed greatly so that Americans might be secure in our freedom. We wish him well in his recovery.

At the outset, let me recognize the life of a great American, Charlton Heston. All Americans remember him as a great actor, and for the memorable roles he played. Many of us also remember him as a man who stood up for the oppressed. He marched for civil rights in the 1960s. And his firm commitment to defending the constitutional rights of Americans -- all Americans and all constitutional rights -- led him to serve as President of the NRA. It was not a popular stand at the time with many of his friends in Hollywood, but his principles mattered more to him than popularity. We will miss Charlton Heston, and we can best honor him by honoring the good he did and the causes he served.

When I first ran for Congress in 1982, I was proud to have the support of gun owners. For more than two decades, I've opposed efforts to ban guns, ban ammunition, ban magazines, and dismiss gun owners as some kind of fringe group unwelcome in "modern" America. The Second Amendment isn't some archaic custom that matters only to rural Americans, who find solace in firearms out of frustration with their economic circumstances. The Second Amendment is unique in the world. It guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms. To argue anything else is to reject the clear meaning of our Founding Fathers.

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Self-reliance is the ethic that made America great, and our Founders understood that. They knew there would be circumstances where Americans might need to use firearms to protect themselves and their families. Some Second Amendment detractors think this is a mere abstraction, or a relic of America's distant past. But Americans exercise their Second Amendment rights every day to protect themselves from criminals, as happened in Scottsdale, Arizona where earlier this year, a 74-year-old woman defended her home from a man who repeatedly attempted to break in, extort money and threatened to set fire to her garage. The Second Amendment -- and its guarantee of an individual right to keep and bear arms -- is certainly not an abstraction.

But the clear meaning of the Second Amendment has not stopped those who want to punish firearms owners -- and those who make and sell firearms -- for the actions of criminals. It seems like every time there is a particularly violent crime, the anti-gun activists demand yet another restriction on the Second Amendment. I opposed the ban on so-called "assault weapons," which was first proposed after a California schoolyard shooting. It makes no sense to ban a class of firearms based on cosmetic features. I have opposed waiting periods for gun purchases.

I have opposed efforts to cripple our firearms manufacturers by making them liable for the acts of violent criminals. This was a not-so-cleverly disguised effort by some to use lawsuits to bankrupt gun manufacturers. They sued gun manufacturers to hold them legally responsible for the actions of lawbreakers. Had they prevailed, they would have bankrupted manufacturers, driven the costs of guns and ammunition sky high, and forced government and military customers to buy from foreign sources.

Like your members, I am a committed conservationist. I have long supported multiple uses for public lands that ensure they are available for this and future generations to hunt, fish and explore. Over 12 million hunters in the United States contribute $25 billion to the economy, much of it in rural areas. Hunters pay billions of dollars in federal revenue through license and other fees. Here in Kentucky, hunters spend over $400 million and support thousands of jobs. Senators Obama and Clinton claim they support our hunting heritage, but they voted to allow lawsuits that would force American gunmakers out of business and to ban ammunition commonly used for hunting. Their votes reveal their real views -- far more than their occasional statements of theoretical support for the Second Amendment heard on the campaign trail.

Over the years, I haven't agreed with the NRA on every issue. I have supported efforts to have NICS background checks apply to gun sales at gun shows. I recognize that gun shows are enjoyed by millions of law-abiding Americans. I do not support efforts by those who seek to regulate them out of existence. But I believe an accurate, fair and instant background check at guns shows is a reasonable requirement. I also oppose efforts to require federal regulation of all private sales such as the transfer between a father and son or husband and wife. I supported campaign finance reform because I strongly believed our system of financing campaigns was influencing elected officials to put the interests of "soft money" donors ahead of the public interest. It is neither my purpose nor the purpose of the legislation to prevent gun owners or any other group of citizens from making their voices heard in the legislative process.

Those disagreements do not detract from my long record of support for the Second Amendment and the work we have done together to protect the rights of gun owners from the political attitudes of the moment in Washington that view the Second Amendment as a once quaint custom that must now yield to the judgment of modern enlightened opinion. We have real differences with the Democratic candidates for President. They have learned something since 2000. They don't talk about their plans for gun control. They claim to support hunters and gun owners. But just because they don't talk about gun control doesn't mean they won't support gun control. Let's be clear. If either Senator Clinton or Senator Obama is elected President, the rights of law-abiding gun owners will be at risk. They have both voted as Senators to ban guns or ban ammunition or to allow gun makers to be sued out of existence.

It seems every election, politicians who support restrictions on the Second Amendment dress up in camouflage and pose with guns to demonstrate they care about hunters, even though few gun owners fall for such obvious political theater. After Senator Obama made his unfortunate comment that Pennsylvanians "cling to guns and religion" out of bitterness, Senator Clinton quickly affirmed her support for the Second Amendment. That drew Senator Obama's derision. "She's running around talking about how this is an insult to sportsmen, how she values the Second Amendment," he said. "Like she's on the duck blind every Sunday, packin' a six shooter!" Someone should tell Senator Obama that ducks are usually hunted with shotguns.

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Senator Obama hopes he can get away with having it both ways. He says he believes that the Second Amendment confers an individual right to bear arms. But when he had a chance to weigh in on the most important Second Amendment case before the U.S. Supreme Court in decades, District of Columbia v. Heller, Senator Obama dodged the question by claiming, "I don't like taking a stand on pending cases." He refused to sign the amicus brief signed by a bipartisan group of 55 Senators arguing that the Supreme Court should overturn the DC gun ban in the Heller case. When he was running for the State Senate in Illinois, his campaign filled out a questionnaire asking whether he supported legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns with simple, "Yes."

The Heller case should be decided soon. But however that case is decided, the federal judiciary will continue to be an important forum for protecting Second Amendment rights. The next President will appoint literally hundreds of federal judges, and is likely to have the opportunity to nominate one or more Supreme Court justices.

In America, the constitutional restraint on power is as fundamental as the exercise of power, and often more so. Yet the Framers knew these restraints would not always be observed. They were idealists, but they were worldly men as well, and they knew that abuses of power and efforts to encroach on individual rights would arise and need to be firmly checked. Their design for democracy was drawn from their experience with tyranny. A suspicion of power is ingrained in both the letter and spirit of the American Constitution.

In the end, of course, their grand solution was to allocate federal power three ways, reserving all other powers and rights to the states and to the people themselves. The executive, legislative, and judicial branches are often wary of one another's excesses, seeking to keep each other within bounds. The framers knew exactly what they were doing, and the system of checks and balances rarely disappoints.

Quite rightly, the proper role of the judiciary has become one of the defining issues of this presidential election. It will fall to the next president to nominate qualified men and women to the federal courts, and the choices we make will reach far into the future. My two prospective opponents and I have very different ideas about the nature and proper exercise of judicial power. We would nominate judges of a different kind, a different caliber, a different understanding of judicial authority and its limits. And the people of America -- voters in both parties whose wishes and convictions are so often disregarded by unelected judges -- are entitled to know what those differences are.

Federal courts are charged with applying the Constitution and laws of our country to each case at hand. But a court is hardly competent to check the abuses of other branches of government if it cannot control its own judicial activism.

Real activists seek to make their case democratically -- to win hearts, minds, and majorities to their cause. Such people throughout our history have often shown great idealism and done great good. By contrast, activist lawyers and activist judges follow a different method. They want to be spared the inconvenience of campaigns, elections, legislative votes, and all of that. Some federal judges operate by fiat, shrugging off generations of legal wisdom and precedent while expecting their own opinions to go unquestioned.

The decisions of our Supreme Court in particular can be as close to permanent as anything government does. And in the presidential selection of those who will write those decisions, a hunch, a hope, and a good first impression are not enough. I will not seek the confidence of the American people in my nominees until my own confidence is complete -- until I am certain of my nominee's ability, wisdom, and demonstrated fidelity to the Constitution.

There are many other differences between my views and Senator Obama's. I favor lower taxes, less government spending, and less federal bureaucracy. Senator Obama has clearly stated his preference for raising the tax burden on Americans, increasing government spending and giving the government more authority over the lives of American families and businesses. We have differences on health care. I prefer to give American families more control over their health care decisions. Senator Obama would prefer the government exercise greater control. Senator Obama would meet unconditionally with some of the world's worst dictators and state sponsors of terrorists. I would not add to the prestige of those who support violent extremists or seek to destroy our allies.

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But I would like to close my remarks with an issue that I know is much on the mind of Americans -- the war in Iraq. Senator Obama has said, if elected, he will withdraw Americans from Iraq quickly no matter what the situation on the ground is and no matter what U.S. military commanders advise. But if we withdraw prematurely from Iraq, al Qaeda in Iraq will survive, proclaim victory and continue to provoke sectarian tensions that, while they have been subdued by the success of the surge, still exist, and are ripe for provocation by al Qaeda. Civil war in Iraq could easily descend into genocide, and destabilize the entire region as neighboring powers come to the aid of their favored factions. A reckless and premature withdrawal would be a terrible defeat for our security interests and our values. Iran will view it as a victory, and the biggest state supporter of terrorists, a country with nuclear ambitions and a stated desire to destroy the Sta te of Israel, will see its influence in the Middle East grow significantly.

The consequences of our defeat would threaten us for years, and those who argue for premature withdrawal, as both Senators Obama and Clinton do, are arguing for a course that would eventually draw us into a wider and more difficult war that would entail far greater dangers and sacrifices than we have suffered to date. Thanks to the counterinsurgency instigated by General Petreaus, after four years of terribly costly mistakes, we have a realistic chance to succeed in helping the forces of political reconciliation prevail in Iraq, and the democratically elected Iraqi Government, with a professional and competent Iraqi army, impose its authority throughout the country and defend its borders. We have a realistic chance of denying al Qaeda any sanctuary in Iraq. We have a realistic chance of leaving behind in Iraq a force for stability and peace in the region, and not a cause for a wider and far more dangerous war. I do not argue against withdrawal bec ause I am indifferent to war and the suffering it inflicts on too many American families. I hold my position because I hate war, and I know very well and very personally how grievous its wages are. But I know, too, that we must sometimes pay those wages to avoid paying even higher ones later. I want our soldiers home, too, just as quickly as we can bring them back without risking everything they suffered for, and burdening them with greater sacrifices in the years ahead. That I will not do. I have spent my life in service to my country, and I will never, never, never risk her security for the sake of my own ambitions. I will defend her, and all her freedoms, so help me God. And I ask you to help me in that good cause. Thank you, and God bless you.

--
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From:	Normapercy@aol.com
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	7/31/2015 7:44:22 AM
Subject:	Thank you from 'America in the Obama years': a 4-hour tv history for the BBC,etc

Dear Mr Podesta,

I'm writing - with real apologies for taking so long - to thank you for the great interview you gave us a few weeks ago. You conveyed a marvelous sense of what it was like inside the Oval, the constraints that the President had to deal with, and particularly the careful work that went into 'getting the numbers as ambitious possible'.

Thanks also for taking the trouble to answer in a way that works best in our program. I hope that if you get the chance to watch some of the DVDs of our past series, you will see it has worked in the past - and hopefully it will repay your effort again.

We will keep you posted on our broadcast date in the spring.

Until then, all best wishes to you and to Hillary's campaign.

Best regards,

NormaPercy,
Mick Gold,
Delphine Jaudeau

norma percy
series producer
AMERICA IN THE OBAMA YEARS
www.brooklapping.com
View a sample of THE IRAQ WAR http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-22694542

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07802 420 083 mobile
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In a message dated 24/04/2015 17:56:16 GMT Daylight Time, john.podesta@gmail.com writes:

Let's see if we can work something out. Eryn handles my schedule.

On Apr 24, 2015 12:43 PM, "Lotte Murphy-Johnson" <lotte@brooklapping.com > wrote:

Brook Lapping

America in the Obama years

a 4-hour television history for the BBC

John Podesta

Founder, Center for American Progress

24 April 2015

Dear Mr Podesta,

I am writing to ask for a filmed interview for our four-hour TV history of US politics in the Obama years. The series will be broadcast early in 2016 on the BBC – and on partner broadcasters in America, Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan and the Middle East.

You probably have forgotten but we met long ago (in the first week of the Center for American Progress). You gave us an off-the-record briefing for our series **ELUSIVEPEACE**. We still remember a very funny story about President Clinton's bout of food poisoning after a delayed visit to Pakistan – or was it India?

What is unusual about our histories is that the story is told only by the decision-makers and their close advisors. No journalists or pundits tell the audience what to think. (To view some short excerpts, click on this link: Brook Lapping Documentaries .)

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The London Times said of our most recent series, **THE IRAQ WAR**, for the BBC and the National Geographic Channel: *"Television is rarely as gripping, informed and important as this."*

Other series – such as **IRAN AND THE WEST** (2009) and **PUTIN RUSSIA & THE WEST** (2012) – have won top awards on both sides of the Atlantic, including five Peabody Awards, four duPonts, two British Academy Awards and a prime time Emmy. They are used to brief policy-makers and are part of university syllabuses. A note on our method and some reviews are attached.

Those we have interviewed for previous series include Bill Clinton (three times), Jimmy Carter, George H. W. Bush, Walter Mondale, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, Bill Burns, Mike McFaul, Jim Jones, as well as Tony Blair, Vladimir Putin, Jacques Chirac and Mikhail Gorbachev. That such people are willing to take part – and do so again, after they have seen the result – we hope speaks for itself.

For **AMERICA IN THE OBAMA YEARS** we have interviewed or are arranging interviews with (among others): Robert Gates, Valerie Jarrett, Kathleen Sebelius, Cecilia Munoz, Jason Furman, Phil Schiliro, Jack Lew, Samantha Power, William Daley, David Axelrod, Jim Messina, Larry Summers, Ben Rhodes, Peter Orszag, Mona Sutphen, Dick Durbin, Joe Lieberman, Chris Dodd, Bill Burns, Wendy Sherman and Jake Sullivan.

We would like to talk to you about your time with President Obama – especially how you successfully pushed forward the President's climate change agenda through executive action and the historic deal you reached with China, dealing with the ISIS crisis, the immigration executive order and the decision to start normalising US relations with Cuba.

This is a serious history that will reach millions worldwide. Without your participation we can't get it right. We hope you can spare us an hour.

Best wishes,

Norma Percy, Series Producer

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/26/2015 8:29:35 PM
Subject: News Update - July 27, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, July 27

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Israel Rejects Kerry's Warning: We Won't Stop Voicing Concerns**
- **Huckabee says Obama Marching Israelis to 'Door of the Oven'**
- **Khamenei Tweets Image Showing Obama Committing Suicide**
- **Assad: Iran Deal is Proof that we Must not Compromise**
- **Israeli, Palestinian Negotiators hold Low-Key Talks in Amman**
- **Two-States Caucus Head Hilik Bar to Present Diplomatic Plan**
- **U.S. Attorney General: We will not Prevent Pollard's Release**
- **Religious Leaders Gather at President's Home for Unity Summit**

Commentary:

- **Ha'aretz: "The Elusive Objectives and Risky Results of Netanyahu's War on Obama"**
  - By Chemi Shalev
- **Wall Street Journal: "The Iran Deal and the 'Problem of Conjecture'"**
  - By Niall Ferguson

Ha'aretz

IL Rejects Kerry's Warning: We will Voice Concerns

Senior Israeli officials have rejected U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's admonition that if Congress fails to approve the nuclear deal reached between world powers and Iran, the international community would place the onus of the failure on Israel. "The U.S. Congress will make its decision according to American interests which will take into consideration its allies," the official said on Sunday, in response to Kerry's criticism. "Attempts to prevent Israel from expressing its position will not stop us from saying what we think about this bad deal with Iran which threatens Israel's security."

See also, "Secretary Kerry addresses Iranian nuclear accord at Council on Foreign Relations" (MSNBC)

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Jerusalem Post

Huckabee: Obama Marching Israelis to 'the Oven'

The Obama administration's nuclear accord with Iran is comparable to the Holocaust, Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee intimated during an interview over the weekend. Speaking with Breitbart News Saturday, the former Arkansas governor called Barack Obama "feckless" and "naive," adding that by signing the deal the President "will take the Israelis and march them to the door of the oven." "This is the most idiotic thing, this Iran deal. It should be rejected by both Democrats and Republicans in Congress and by the American people. I read the whole deal. We gave away the whole store. It's got to be stopped," he said.

Times of Israel

Khamenei Tweets Obama Committing Suicide

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei tweeted an image of what appears to be President Barack Obama shooting himself in the head, even as his country's most senior diplomat condemned the US for aggressive language. The image, which was posted on Khamenei's Twitter account on Saturday, shows a silhouette of a man wearing a pin of an American flag on his suit lapel, holding a gun to his head. The accompanying text is a quote by Khamenei from July 18: "We welcome no war, nor do we initiate any war, but if any war happens, the one who will emerge loser will be the aggressive and criminal US." Iran's President Rouhani on Sunday mocked Kerry for a veiled warning that the US had not ruled out a military strike should Iran be found to violate the agreement.

Ynet News

Assad: Deal is Proof that we Must not Compromise

Syrian President Bashar Assad on Sunday praised Iran for its agreement with world powers and attacked the West for its "hypocritical" approach to the civil war that has ravaged his country for four years. "The nations that are devoted to their rights must win," said the embattled Syrian leader in his first public address in months. "Iran is the best proof for this in terms of its achievements in the nuclear department." Assad described the nuclear agreement as a great victory for Iran. "This is a country that was under siege for three decades and was at war for eight years, and despite this, it is the first in the Islamic world in terms of nuclear production and industry."

Times of Israel

Israeli, Palestinian Negotiators hold Talks in Amman

Interior Minister Silvan Shalom held talks with senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat in Amman in recent days, Israeli sources told The Times of Israel on Sunday. The two met in a bid to calm tensions between the two sides, which have spiraled in the past week. Shalom, a senior Likud lawmaker, also serves as the chief Israeli negotiator in peace talks with the Palestinians. He said in a recent speech that Israel and the Palestinians "need to renew negotiations and try to reach understandings and agreements." He also said at the time that he was in favor of "frank talks that are conducted discreetly," apparently such as those in Amman. The official topic and outcome of the recent discussions were unclear, although the meeting was described as a "trust-building" move.

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Jerusalem Post

Two-States Caucus Head Hilik Bar to Present Diplomatic Plan

The head of the Knesset's caucus for two states for two peoples, Zionist Union MK Hilik Bar, will reveal his new diplomatic framework at the Knesset Monday together with the head of his party, Isaac Herzog. The plan calls for an end of all claims between Israel and Palestinians, as well as a significant part of the moderate Arab world. It would keep Jerusalem united without walls but enable both sides to call it their capital. It would keep the refugee problem outside Israel's borders, and leave most settlers in their homes. "It solves the conflict with a two-state solution while keeping a firm Jewish majority, and it takes the one-state solution off the table," Bar said. "It explains how to learn lessons from past failures, and presents steps that can already be taken now, before and during negotiations to promote a two-state solution."

Ha'aretz

U.S. AG: We will not Prevent Pollard's Release

U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch said on Saturday that Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard has served enough time to be released, in accordance with the law under which he was sentenced to life in prison in 1987. Speaking at a security conference in Aspen, Lynch said that the Justice Department "will not interfere in the case" – in other words, will not try to prevent Pollard's release. Lynch denied any link between Pollard's possible release in the near future and the nuclear agreement signed with Iran. "It would have been extremely far-thinking of people 30 years ago to sentence Mr. Pollard and set this mandatory release date to coincide with the Iran deal," she said cynically.

See also, "Obama administration preparing to release Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard" (Ha'aretz)

Ynet News

Religious Leaders Gather with President for Unity

Rabbis and leaders of various Jewish movements – Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform – on Thursday attended an event hosted by President Rivlin at his residence ahead of the Tisha B'Av fast. The participants discussed the destruction of Jerusalem and the unity of Israel, and in the spirit of the times expressed a commitment to a tolerant, fair, and respectful conversation – even regarding controversial issues. "Like family, a society also needs solidarity and brotherhood," President Rivlin told the attendees. "A society without this – as the Talmud teaches us – is destined for destruction. The notion of family is intrinsic to a healthy society."

Ha'aretz - July 26, 2015

The Elusive Objectives and Risky Results of Netanyahu's War on Obama

Did Israeli ministers and American Jewish leaders carry out due diligence before deploying their armies against the Iran agreement?

By Chemi Shalev

Section 40 of Israel's Basic Law: The Government, which deals with Declaration of War, says "the State shall not launch a war other than by authority of a cabinet decision." The official dictionary of the Israel Defense Forces defines "war" as "a situation in which rival sides employ their forces and resources in order to impose their will on each other or in order to prevent such imposition." The definition states that it encompasses unarmed confrontations, such as economic or psychological warfare, as well. Which raises the question: Did the Israeli cabinet authorize the war that Israel has launched in order to impose its will on the Obama administration over the Iran nuclear agreement? Shouldn't it have

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done so, give that such a war could have implications and ramifications that are no less consequential than those of a "conventional" war?

After all, this could very well be the decisive battle of what may be described as the Six Year War between Benjamin Netanyahu and Barack Obama. Israel is employing its "forces and resources," deploying its emergency reserves of influence and goodwill, recruiting its nuclear experts and PR mavens, calling up its crack divisions of the pro-Israel lobby. And its order of battle includes the Republican Party, a politically powerful and zealously steadfast ally.

But it is facing the full force of a disciplined administration, led by a president committed to repel any attack on an Iran policy that is supported by most of his party and a solid if skeptical majority of the American public. And given the importance of the Iran nuclear deal to his current foreign policy and future legacy, for Barack Obama this is a fight to the finish, a politically existential battle in which failure is not an option.

The question of whether the nuclear agreement concluded in Vienna two weeks ago is as horrid as Israel claims or as terrific as the administration maintains is irrelevant: This is the agreement, and contrary to what anyone may tell you, there is no other. The fight is over whether the deal will live or die, and its possible outcomes are like a choice between the plague and cholera: between the disaster portrayed by Israel if the deal goes through to the catastrophe predicted by the administration if it doesn't.

It should go without saying that Israel cannot afford to embark on a campaign to kill the deal only to flex its muscles or to prove a point or for ulterior motives or out of the inertia of a gambler who bets his house after losing his money. The only possible justification for such a potentially costly confrontation with its most powerful ally can come after careful consideration that yields an honest assessment that victory is possible, that its gains will be worth the casualties and damage that will certainly be incurred, and that such a victory won't be worse than either inaction or defeat.

If the Israeli leadership hasn't carried out such due diligence, it has been derelict in its duty and could one day be rightfully investigated for the omission. The same is true of AIPAC and other Jewish organizations, including local Federations, who have defiantly come out against the deal with Tehran. It is their full and democratic right to do so, of course, but only after careful and considered debate about the pros and cons of such a campaign, not as a result of peer pressure or donor influences or other extraneous factors.

The stakes couldn't be higher. Administration spokespersons, from Obama through Kerry to the last of the anonymous briefers have painted a grim picture of the fallout from a Congressional veto: America will be isolated, its allies enraged, the sanctions regime collapsed and Iran triumphant; a military attack will loom larger than ever before. Israel and its supporters have refrained from portraying a plausible alternative scenario, other than full reversal, stronger sanctions and a miraculous "better deal." No one has actually dared to claim that after the president is dealt such a devastating political blow, America might be stronger, Russia and China more compliant, the Middle East safer and Tehran humbled and eager to renegotiate from square one. Even the deal's most ardent critics realize that this is pure fantasy.

From statements made in recent days by Obama, Kerry and others it is also clear that Israel and its "lobbyists" will be held jointly responsible with the GOP for the mayhem that may follow a Congressional veto. Even if Israeli spokesmen describe Kerry's warnings that Israel will be isolated like never before as "threats," their inconvenient truth cannot be ignored. Only in La La Land can anyone seriously assume that after torpedoing an agreement supported by the overwhelming

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majority of the world, Israel and the Republicans will be hailed as conquering heroes.

A decade ago, the American Jewish community had to mount a concerted campaign to counter the claims made by widely respected political scientists Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer about the Israel Lobby and its supposedly pivotal role in pushing America to war in Iraq. And that was with a gung-ho administration that needed no encouragement to take on Saddam Hussein, and with an experienced Israeli prime minister like Ariel Sharon who maintained an extremely low profile during the months leading up to the 2003 war.

In 2015, however, the administration is promoting a diplomatic agreement, not seeking an excuse to go to war. And far from lobbying discreetly on the sidelines, the Israeli prime minister is flaunting his opposition to the proposed deal, brazenly infiltrating the administration's hinterland in Congress, openly exhorting his troops, Henry V style, to go "once more unto the breach" to topple Obama's dangerous peacemaking.

When things turn ugly, and Israel and the Jews stand accused for both plausible and anti-Semitic reasons, there will be no easy deniability this time around. And the Jewish community will be otherwise engaged anyway, torn between most of its leadership, which follows Netanyahu, and most of its masses, who remain loyal to Obama.

There have been harsh confrontations between Israel and U.S. administrations in the past: None have seemed quite so harsh, bitter and potentially damaging, directly and collaterally. Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying that the price of war is not paid while it is being waged – the invoice is presented only when it is over. In a campaign with unclear motives, undefined objectives and dubious gains even in victory, the price is bound to be high and the bill both painful and inevitably shocking.

Wall Street Journal – July 26, 2015

The Iran Deal and the 'Problem of Conjecture'

Obama is hoping that the nuclear pact will lead to equilibrium in the Middle East. All the evidence points the other way.

By Niall Ferguson

In making the case for his nuclear-arms-control deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Obama has confronted Congress with a stark choice. "There really are only two alternatives here," he declared at last week's press conference. "Either the issue of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon is resolved diplomatically through a negotiation or it's resolved through force, through war."

This binary argument is so central to his administration's case that the president provided a second formulation: Without the deal, he said, "we risk even more war in the Middle East, and other countries in the region would feel compelled to pursue their own nuclear programs, threatening a nuclear arms race in the most volatile region in the world."

The president insists that the Iran deal is tightly focused on "making sure" that the Iranians "don't have a bomb." It is not, he says, "contingent on Iran changing its behavior" in any other respect—notably the funding of proxy armies and terrorist organizations throughout the Middle East. "The incremental additional money that they've got to try to destabilize the region," according to Mr. Obama, is

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not “more important than preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.”

Listening to all this, I am reminded of what Henry Kissinger once called the “problem of conjecture.” Writing in 1963, before anyone had devised a way to slow down a Soviet nuclear-arms program vastly bigger than any Iran will ever have, Mr. Kissinger summed up the dilemma that faces any strategic decision maker: “the choice between making the assessment which requires the least effort or making an assessment which requires more effort.” The problem of conjecture is that if a statesman “acts on the basis of a guess, he will never be able to prove that his effort was necessary, but he may save himself a great deal of grief later on. . . . If he waits, he may be lucky or he may be unlucky.”

The key point of the problem of conjecture is that the payoffs are asymmetrical. A successful pre-emptive action is never rewarded in proportion to its benefits because “posterity forgets how easily things might have been otherwise.” Indeed, the statesman who acts pre-emptively is more likely to be condemned for the upfront costs of pre-emption than to be praised for its benefits in the form of averted calamities. By contrast, playing for time is not absolutely certain to lead to disaster. Something may turn up.

To illustrate his point, Mr. Kissinger cited the classic example of the policy of appeasement, which was designed to slow down, not to halt or reverse, the rearmament and expansion of Nazi Germany. If the democracies had moved earlier to contain Germany, Mr. Kissinger argued, “we wouldn’t know today whether Hitler was a misunderstood nationalist, whether he had only limited objectives, or whether he was in fact a maniac. The democracies learned that he was in fact a maniac. They had certainty but they had to pay for that with a few million lives.”

The analogy with 1930s Europe is as overused as it is rarely applicable. But in one respect it is relevant here. Like President Obama today, Britain’s Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was playing for time in 1938, reasoning that a conflict at that point would be worse than a conflict in the future. The conjecture, then as now, was that buying time would improve the relative strategic position.

Whatever Mr. Obama may say, the point of this nuclear deal isn’t just to postpone the Iranian acquisition of nuclear weapons by 10 years. For it to be more than a mere deferral, it also must improve the relative strategic position of the U.S. and its allies so that by 2025 they will be in a stronger position to stop Iran from entering the club of nuclear-armed powers. How might the U.S. achieve this?

As the president put it, his “hope is that building on this deal, we can continue to have conversations with Iran that incentivize them to behave differently in the region, to be less aggressive, less hostile, more cooperative . . . in resolving issues like Syria or what’s happening in Iraq, to stop encouraging Houthis in Yemen.” His goal by the time he “turn[s] over the keys to . . . the next president, is that we are on track to defeat ISIL . . . that we have jumpstarted a process to resolve the civil war in Syria, [and] that in Iraq . . . we’ve also created an environment in which Sunni, Shia and Kurd are starting to operate and function more effectively together.”

This echoes Mr. Obama’s illuminating account of his strategy for the Middle East to the New Yorker magazine in January 2014. “It would be profoundly in the interest of citizens throughout the [Middle East] if Sunnis and Shias weren’t intent on killing each other,” he mused. And “if we were able to get Iran to operate in a responsible fashion—not funding terrorist organizations, not trying to stir up sectarian discontent in other countries, and not developing a nuclear weapon—you could see an equilibrium developing between Sunni, or predominantly Sunni, Gulf states and Iran.”

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In short, for all the high-flown rhetoric of the president's speeches, his goal is the classic realist objective of a balance of power in the region. The technicalities of the Iran deal—the number of centrifuges, the size of the enriched-uranium stockpile, the rigor of the inspections regime—need not detain us here. The key question is whether or not slowing down Iran's nuclear program will increase regional stability. Critics of the deal should acknowledge that it might, for in the realm of conjecture there are no certainties. But the president and his advisers should admit that the probability is very, very low.

"The really important question," Mr. Obama told the Atlantic magazine in May, is "how do we find effective partners—not just in Iraq, but in Syria, and in Yemen, and in Libya—that we can work with, and how do we create the international coalition and atmosphere in which people across sectarian lines are willing to compromise and are willing to work together in order to provide the next generation a fighting chance for a better future?" The answer: Not this way.

Why should Iran suddenly mend its ways? In return for merely slowing down its pursuit of nuclear weapons, it is being handed up to $150 billion in previously frozen assets, a commercial bonanza as sanctions are lifted, and the prospect of an end to conventional arms and ballistic-missile embargoes after, respectively, five and eight years. All Iran has to do is keep the International Atomic Energy Agency happy that it is sticking to its nuclear commitments. There will be no "snap back" of sanctions if Tehran opts to use its new resources to double or quadruple its support for Hezbollah and Hamas, the Assad regime in Syria, and the Houthi rebellion in Yemen.

Now ask yourself: How are Iran's rivals likely to respond to this timeline of Iranian rearmament: increased support for proxies this year, upgraded conventional weapons in 2020, ballistic missiles in 2023, and nukes in 2025? The president's conjecture is that by buying time he also gets closer to a regional balance. The alternative and much more likely scenario is that he gets an arms race and escalating conflict.

Historical analogies must be used with care. Last week the president boldly likened his deal with Iran to Richard Nixon's opening to China and Ronald Reagan's strategic-arms-reduction treaty with the Soviet Union. These analogies are misleading. Mao Zedong and Mikhail Gorbachev did their deals with the U.S. from positions of weakness. In the early 1970s, the Chinese Communists were threatened externally by the Soviets and internally by their own crazy Cultural Revolution. In the 1980s the Soviets were losing the Cold War not only economically but ideologically. By contrast, though under intense economic pressure because of the U.S.-led sanctions campaign, the Iran regime has been gaining strategically since the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 and domestically since the crushing of the Green Revolution in 2009.

In the Cold War, communism posed a twofold challenge: the Leninist and the Maoist. The U.S. had some success containing the Soviet version in Europe and the Middle East, but struggled to contain the Maoist version in Korea, risked Armageddon to keep Soviet missiles out of Cuba, and failed miserably to save South Vietnam. The Kissingerian solution was to be closer to the two Communist powers than they were to each other.

The U.S. used a mix of détente and containment on the Soviets, and engagement with the Chinese. But Washington also built very strong alliances in Europe and Asia. And the U.S. overtly resisted the ideological challenge posed by both brands of Marxism.

What, by contrast, is the strategy today? Faced with two forms of Islamic extremism, Shiite and Sunni, we are tilting toward Iran, the principal sponsor of the former. We are alienating our allies, moderate Sunnis as well as Israelis. In

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doing so, I fear, we are stoking the flames of sectarian conflict at all levels, from the local to the national to the regional. And all the while President Obama repeats the hollow mantra that "Islam is a religion of peace."

To repeat: No one can say for sure what will come of the president's strategy. It may magically produce equilibrium in the Middle East, as he hopes. But all the evidence points the other way: toward a continuing escalation of violence in the region, and indeed throughout the Islamic world.According to the International Institute of Strategic Studies' Armed Conflict Database, total fatalities due to armed conflict increased world-wide by a factor of roughly four between 2010 and 2014. The Middle East and North Africa accounted for more than 70% of the increase.

According to the statistics on terrorism gathered by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, the number of terrorist incidents world-wide quadrupled between 2006 and 2013, while the number of fatalities rose by 130%. In that period, the percentage of fatalities attributable to Muslim groups rose to 92% from 75%.

President Obama's conjecture is that his nuclear-arms deal with Iran will somehow break these trends. My conjecture is that the effect will be exactly the opposite. Even before he hands over the White House keys to his successor, we shall see that there was no simple, binary choice between peace and war. We bought time. We postponed Iran's nuclear breakout. But we also stoked the flames of a conflict that doesn't need nukes to get a lot more lethal than it already is.

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From: "Milia Fisher" <milia.fisher@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/8/2015 11:52:56 AM
Subject: NOT time sensitive: Revised US - China Draft from Rudy

John-

Revised draft on the recent White House summit between President Obama and President Xi below from Rudy deLeon.

Rudy wanted you to be aware that they have an updated draft ready for review but it's totally *up to you how quickly you want to process this*-- it can easily wait until next week when you're back in to the office.

Rudy will continue to let the China side know that we are working on this, but he has not committed to a specific timeline for completion.

_____

Milia,

Would you share with John this revised draft on the recent White House summit between President Obama and President Xi. The original draft from the China side was almost 8 pages long, and reflected positions that do not reflect current opportunities and challenges in US-China relations. Our current draft is less than 3 pages.

After John and you offer comments, we will forward to our counterparts.

Rudy.

Revised

September 2015 White House Summit: Opportunities

And Challenges as US-China leaders meet

By John Podesta, Tung Chee Hwa,

Wang Jisi, and Rudy deLeon

October 2015

This past month -- September 2015 -- has seen another important exchange in US – China relations as

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President Barack Obama and President Xi Jinping completed their summit meeting at the White House in Washington. Building on earlier high level exchanges, the two leaders announced further progress on climate change, established a new high level dialogue on cybercrime, a set of principles for information technologies including protections of intellectual property in the electronic domain, and conducted discussions on national security issues offering the different perspectives of each country with an effort to improve communication.

Earlier in the month, there were ceremonies commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II. Both America and Chinese were reminded of the common sacrifice and service in those times by renewing stories of the American Flying Tigers in the CBI, recognizing the Chinese people who gave shelter to the Jewish refugees of Europe and protected them in the Shanghai Ghetto, and remembering the common commitment of the allies, their veterans and the citizens who sacrificed so much.

Seventy years later, many of those same allies were recently joined by a peaceful Germany in negotiations to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to Iran, a display of diplomatic agreement that now must be enforced with resolution and vigor. For China, its constructive participation in the P5 + 1 talks was further evidence of its growing experience and recognition of its important role in global diplomacy.

President Obama and President Xi, even as they deal with domestic and economic concerns, make the effort to demonstrate that these two leaders can work together to join the other nations of the Asia-Pacific region in charting policies that will build upon the current dynamic during the next seventy years in the Asia-Pacific region that blossomed in the post war period.

The American President, in his remarks at the White House noted, “the United States welcomes the rise of a China that is stable, prosperous and peaceful -- because that benefits us all. Our work together -- to increase our trade, boost the global economy, fight climate change and prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon -- shows that when the United States and China work together, it makes our nations and the world more prosperous and more secure. Even as our nations cooperate, I believe -- and I know you agree -- that we must address our differences candidly. The United States will always speak out on behalf of fundamental truths. We believe that nations are more successful and the world makes more progress when our companies compete on a level playing field, when disputes are resolved peacefully, and when the universal human rights of all people are upheld.”

In the joint press conference in the Rose Garden, President Xi noted that “with 36 years of development, the interests of China and the United States are deeply interconnected, and we have greater responsibilities for world peace and human progress. There are broad areas that the two sides should and can work together. The Chinese side stands ready to work with the United States to uphold a spirit of perseverance, and advance bilateral relations to seek further progress to the better benefits of the Chinese and American people and the people in the world.”

In September 2013, the Center for American Progress and the China-U.S. Exchange Foundation convened a distinguished group of American and Chinese experts for a high-level track II dialogue in Beijing to discuss and explain the momentum of China-U.S. relations. In a Washington program that followed the two sides presented their recommendation on how the US and China can construct in the 21st Century a security and economic model that will be unique and constructive.

Despite the constructive developments and expectations mentioned, pessimistic observations of U.S.-China relations seem to be on the rise among policy analysts, opinion leaders, and the media in both countries. In several instances there are valid reasons why tensions exist. With regular dialogue now in place on economic and national security questions, the top leaders on both sides will need to steady the political questions that exist between the two countries.

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As veteran participants in U.S.-China relations we remain hopeful that the common interests between our two peoples are strong enough to move us forward rather than backward, and that the leaderships of our two nations have enough wisdom to avoid the human errors that precipitated earlier powers into mistakes and miscalculations.

To be sure, there are opportunities and challenges in the US-China relationship. But the bilateral ties have weathered many ups and downs since Mao Zedong and Richard Nixon shook hands in 1972 and broke the barrier between our two great nations. There is reason to believe that with such a degree of mutual understanding, shared stakes, and extensive communication, and with the personal connections and friendship accumulated over the past 43 years, the cooperative relationship will continue to move forward.

In his recent book “On China,” Dr. Henry Kissinger notes that the relationship between China and the U.S. should not be a zero-sum game but be defined as “co-evolution. . . It means that both countries pursue their domestic imperatives, cooperating where possible, and adjust their relations to minimize conflict.”

We believe that the two countries have unique domestic needs, even as both are faced with daunting tasks at home, including foundations that will maintain economic strength, opportunity for the middle class, strengthening the social safety net, generate environmental improvement, developing clean energy, balancing budget priorities, and providing security. In most of these issue areas, there are increasing opportunities for the two countries to further their cooperation that reflects the “benefits” and “responsibilities” that the two Presidents discussed at the September Summit in Washington.

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Milia Fisher
(858) 395-1741

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From:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	2/5/2016 3:34:06 PM
Subject:	Clinton Foundation News & Guidance

Hi all – We wanted to give you some updates on recent events, Foundation work, and announcements in the news.

Clinton Foundation launches digital 2015 Annual Report
Today we released our Annual Report for 2015 . This report shows the impact that our programs have had in the last year through stories of those around the world who are benefitting from our work. It also shows the progress that these programs have made over the past year, reaching more people. For example:

> The Clinton Development Initiative has reached more farmers, in total helping improve the incomes and livelihoods of 105,000 farmers as of 2015, up from 85,000 the year before;
>
> The Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership has expanded its reach to impact the lives of 450,000 through market opportunities created by social enterprises in Latin America, the Caribbean, and South Asia;
>
> The Alliance for a Healthier Generation has broadened its work to more than 31,000 schools in 50 states providing students with healthier foods and more physical activity in an effort to decrease childhood obesity.

Read the Annual Report at 2015.clintonfoundation.org

Share the Report and watch the "Year in Review" on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/videos/vb.389051904549590/922265787894863/?type=2&theater
Share the Report and watch the "Year in Review" on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/695733980461555713

CGI Winter Meetings Kicks off 2016 Year of Commitment-Making
This week CGI kicked off the 2016 year of commitment-making at the Winter Meeting, where President Clinton announced the "Partnering for Global Prosperity" theme, and members and participants came together to discuss key issues such as refugees, urban transformation, youth development, and the environment. The program kicked off with a one-on-one conversation between President Clinton and Hamdi Ulukaya, Founder and CEO of Chobani and Founder of Tent Foundation.

Watch the webcast of the conversation: http://livestream.com/CGI/events/4777387

Share the webcast on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/Livestream/status/695298216061976576
Share the webcast on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/921581857963256

Clinton Foundation's Health Work and President Clinton's Post-Presidency
Forbes highlighted President Clinton's work tackling some of the biggest health issues facing the United States today. The story discusses the 2016 Health Matters Summit and CHMI's work to combat prescription drug abuse, mental health problems and health disparities.

> *"However, like when Bill Gates began dedicating efforts to his Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, former U.S. President Clinton has embarked on an Part II of his life that in many ways is as important as Part I in impacting the health of millions."*
>
> *"The Health Matters Summit was just one of wide range of efforts that have been spearheaded by the Clinton Foundation, whose president is former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala."*

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/694158472515096582
Share the article on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/919709944817114

PA High Schools to Supply Free Narcan through CHMI and Adept Partnership
In continuing coverage of Adapt Pharma and CHMI's collaboration to offer a free carton of Narcan, a nasal spray that quickly reverses heroin overdose, to all high schools in the U.S., the Philadelphia Inquirer , Lancaster Online , NBC 10 , and NJ.com wrote about how Pennsylvania will be the first state to supply the live-saving antidote.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

NBC 10 wrote, *"The state is the first to supply Narcan, which reverses a heroin overdose, free to all public high schools. Each school will get one carton of Narcan nasal spray.*

'I am thrilled to announce my administration's next step in the fight against the opioid epidemic,' said Gov. Tom Wolf. 'By equipping trained professionals in schools with this drug, we are providing another way to save Pennsylvanian lives. It is our responsibility to give these struggling individuals another chance at life.'

Besides the antidote, schools will also have access to new educational materials and training. Adapt Pharma and the Clinton Foundation offered the drug-overdose antidote."

How the Development Sector Can Use Virtual Reality

Devex posted a piece about the development sector's growing use of virtual reality media. The piece highlights CGI's virtual reality film, "Inside Impact," including a video interview with the producer of the film.

"I pulled the headphones over my ears, fastened the headset to my face, and waited for the start of a virtual reality film titled "Inside Impact: East Africa." I was transported from the Social Innovation Summit in Silicon Valley, California, to Tanzania, where I sat in a room with Bill Clinton and a Solar Sister entrepreneur. While I did not want to leave this world, where I was just steps from the former president in a quiet living room with kids watching from the corner and birds chirping outside, another part of me wanted to reach out and say something to Robert Holzer, the executive producer of the film who stood right beside me."

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/694595817206865920
Share the article on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/920456964742412

CGI Commitment Mobilizes African-American Faith Leaders to Fight HIV Epidemic

To commemorate National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Feb. 7), theGrio published this op-ed from Pastor John Faison Sr. about the CGI commitment made by the NAACP and Gilead Sciences to significantly scale up their initiative, *The Black Church and HIV: The Social Justice Imperative*. Through their commitment, they are enlisting faith leaders as change agents to address the disproportionately severe impact of HIV on African-Americans.

"I know all too well that "faith without works is dead." Which is why I was encouraged when in 2013 the NAACP and Gilead walked the walk by making a "Commitment to Action" through the Clinton Global Initiative to significantly scale up The Black Church & HIV initiative.

By 2018, we aim to conduct 45 faith leader trainings in the 30 cities most impacted by HIV, secure proactive resolutions from seven of nine historically black mainline denominations, and integrate HIV as a social justice issue into required curricula in five predominantly African-American theological seminaries.

We've made progress on our CGI commitment—500 more faith leaders are rallying their congregations to fight this epidemic because of our effort. But we need hundreds more to help lead us to a new Promised Land where, instead of milk and honey, good health and true justice await us."

Newest Class of Presidential Leadership Scholars Announced

On Tuesday, we announced the newest class of Presidential Leadership Scholars. The Presidential Leadership Scholars program is a leadership development initiative that draws upon the resources of the presidential centers of Lyndon B. Johnson, George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton, and George W. Bush. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette wrote about the program and the scholars selected for the 2016 class, including two Arkansans.

"Two Arkansans were among 61 people chosen to be Presidential Leadership Scholars this year, according to the Clinton Foundation.
Over the next six months, they'll learn about leadership challenges faced by four former presidents -- Lyndon Johnson, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush -- and will visit those presidents' libraries."

"'This is a really intense leadership program that's been thoughtfully designed,' said [Presidential Leadership Scholar John Forrest] Ales. 'It's just an incredible thing to be a part of.'"

Share the announcement on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/694572337883172864

In Case You Missed It:

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Blue Star Families announced a new partnership with CHMI to support spousal employment for military families by offering workforce development training and career building opportunities to military spouses. Read a piece in the Military Times about the partnership.

Before the Health Matters Summit officially kicked off, the Clinton Foundation hosted a Day of Action at La Quinta High School, where more than 75 students, teachers, and parents came together to cultivate a community garden and prepare and donate 150 healthy meals. Read a piece authored by a local student volunteer on the importance of health and giving back, and read another piece here about the day and its impact.

In a special one-on-one conversation with Clinton Foundation President Donna Shalala, World Cup and Olympic champion Abby Wambach discussed the participation of women and sports. Read a Desert Sun story and listen to Abby share thoughts about the topic.

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/20/2015 3:22:34 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.20.15
Attachments:	6.20.15 H4A News Clips.docx

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Hillary Clinton Says No to Granting 'Fast Track' Authority on Trade Deal // NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 19, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton said she would "probably not" vote for fast-track authority for the trade deal that President Obama is seeking, but she acknowledged that she once said positive things about "the potential" for the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.

Mrs. Clinton made the comments in an interview with Jon Ralston, a Nevada journalist, after spending Thursday in the state, which holds early caucuses.

Mrs. Clinton, who has not taken a yes-or-no position on the trade deal, which is strongly opposed by labor groups, is in a bind over an agreement she once praised as a potential "gold standard" for trade deals when she was secretary of state.

"I said positive things about the process and the potential," said Mrs. Clinton, who occasionally called Mr. Ralston

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"Joe" during the interview.

"Some people don't like any trade agreement, and some people are willing to take any trade agreement," she said. Asked whether she would vote in favor of fast-track authority if she were still in the Senate, Mrs. Clinton replied, "Probably not, because that's a process vote, and I don't want to say that's the same as T.P.P."

Mrs. Clinton has been criticized for not taking a clear position on the issue since becoming a candidate. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, indicated this week that trade deals, on balance, tend to work, a position consistent with his views when he was president.

Mrs. Clinton also spoke again about the shooting death of nine people at a black church in South Carolina; a 21-year-old white man, allegedly fueled by racial hatred, is accused of opening fire after sitting through a prayer study.

"We have to have a candid national conversation about race and about discrimination, prejudice, hatred," Mrs. Clinton said. "Unfortunately the public discourse is sometimes hotter and more negative than it should be."

She then turned her comments to Donald J. Trump, the real estate mogul who, in kicking off his presidential campaign this week, accused Mexico of allowing rapists and other criminals to sneak into the United States.

Without naming Mr. Trump, she said that a recent candidate had "said some very inflammatory things about Mexicans — you don't talk like that" in political campaigns.

"I think he is emblematic," Mrs. Clinton said.

But there's another culprit, she said.

"Let's just cut to the chase – it's guns. We have to have a better balance," she said.

Mrs. Clinton noted that there was widespread support for background checks for gun buyers, but that Congress had failed to act "in the face of tremendous pressure from the gun lobby."

She said she witnessed it first-hand when her husband fought for the assault weapons ban as president in the 1990s. She did not say whether she would now support such a measure herself. An assault weapons ban is far more politically contentious than background checks.

Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders dominate on Facebook **// Politico // Hadas Gold – June 19, 2015**

Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are dominating the Facebook conversations among all the presidential candidates in some of the most important early primary states, data provided by Facebook for the past month shows.

From May 13 to June 13, Clinton dominated the conversation in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. Sanders came in second in Iowa and New Hampshire, while Rand Paul came in second in South Carolina.

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In Iowa, Clinton had 66,000 Iowans make 289,000 interactions (which Facebook defines as likes, comments, posts, and shares) about her. Sanders had 30,000 Iowans make 153,000 interactions about him for the same time period. Paul had 24,000 people make 98,000 interactions about him in Iowa during that time period.

In New Hampshire during the same time period, Clinton had 32,000 people make 145,000 interactions about her, while Sanders had 23,000 people make 123,000 interactions about him and Paul had 12,000 people make 59,000 interactions about him.

Clinton makes the largest mark in South Carolina, far outpacing any other candidates. From May 13 to June 13 she had 104,000 people make 460,000 interactions about her. In second place was Paul, with 34,000 people making 132,000 interactions about him. Ben Carson comes in third, with 24,000 people making 120,000 interactions about him. South Carolina's own Lindsey Graham comes in fourth, with 43,000 people making 100,000 interactions about him.

Martin O'Malley barely registers on Facebook in these early states, making the bottom three in each state, never going above 3,000 people or 5,000 interactions.

The data for the early primary states is more or less in line with Facebook data nationwide on the candidates. For example, From June 3 through June 9, Clinton topped Facebook interactions nationwide with 2.1 million people making 5.7 million interaction about her. Sanders followed with 999,000 people making 3 million interactions about him with Rick Perry close behind at 1.1 million people making 2.2 million interactions about him (Perry announced his candidacy on June 4).

It's important to note that this data includes any mentions, both positive and negative, and is current only up until June 13, before one candidate who makes a lot of noise on Facebook hadn't announced: Donald Trump. Trump, who announced his candidacy on Tuesday, had 3.4 million people on Facebook in the U.S. generate 6.4 million interactions about him in the 24 hours after his announcement, according to data provided by Facebook earlier this week.

See the full data sets, courtesy of Facebook, below.

Inside Hillary Clinton's Grassroots Campaign **// TIME // Sam Frizell – June 19, 2015**

At first, there was nothing on the screen, just the hum of a distant, crowded room. Then Hillary Clinton appeared, peering out of a television into Liz and Tom Nash's bedroom on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

The former Secretary of State looked into the camera and gazed directly, it seemed, at the sixteen everyday Americans gathered in the Nashes' apartment. "I wish I could be everywhere," Clinton said, "but I'm very happy to be right here."

This was the latest technological trick from the Democratic candidate's campaign: a live videostream that beamed Clinton out of corn country in Iowa and into an elegant bedroom with ninth-floor views of Manhattan rooftops.

As part of Clinton's broader push to build a far-reaching 50-state grassroots campaign, she rallied supporters on Saturday evening via videostream in more than 650 house parties in all 435 congressional districts stretching across the country.

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The Upper East Side party had gathered in the Nashes' in a prewar apartment one block from Central Park. Still-life paintings of pears and flowers and photos of the family skiing dotted the rooms. Biographies of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson and two copies of Robert Caro's The Power Broker sat on the bookcases, and a framed print of the American painting by Ammi Phillips of a girl in a red dress holding a cat hung on the dining room wall.

During the call, Clinton rallied her supporters in Manhattan and elsewhere to get organized. "I want to ask each and every one of you at all the house parties that are taking place all over our country: please get involved in this campaign," she said from a living room in Sioux City. "Please go to hillaryclinton.com , sign up to be a volunteer, to knock on doors and to talk to your friends. We have a lot for people to do."

The guests applauded when the broadcast ended after about 10 minutes, and then they headed for the dining room, where guacamole and tortilla chips, San Pellegrino and white wine lay on the table beside three white "Clinton 2016" paper napkins. The group munched and praised the campaign launch on Roosevelt Island that day, where framed by the Manhattan skyline, Clinton had rolled out a lengthy wish list of Democratic proposals before promptly flying to Iowa.

"It wasn't just a good speech. It was from the heart and articulate and hard-hitting," said Gale Brewer, Manhattan's borough president, former New York City councilwoman and friend of the hosts. "I think it was a real turning point."

"She's had a busy day," Peter Slusser, an older man in a blazer and sneakers said, stretching his legs.

"We feel so launched," launch-day host and Clinton volunteer Liz Nash said, summing up the mood. "The beginning of the rest of my life is looking really good based on this morning's performance. And yes, I have had one glass of wine, but I love the woman, I really do."

Nash's party was one of many incubators for Clinton's new campaign, which plans to build on events like this one to mobilize supporters. The 435-congressional-district simulcast was partly a marketing stunt showing the Clinton juggernaut is ubiquitous and raring to go. But Clinton's staff also believes that parties like the Nashes' will eventually convert all those flakey spinach pockets and glasses of white wine into votes and campaign dollars.

"It's events like this, and the more-than-650 others we held around the country that night, that are really the building blocks and the lifeblood of this campaign," Marlon Marshall, the Clinton campaign's director of state campaigns and political engagement told TIME. "You don't build something that big in one fell swoop—you build it state by state, community by community, house party by house party."

Clinton already has staff in all 50 states, as well in Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and the territories. In the early primary states, Clinton has nearly 12,000 committed volunteers and 15 offices as part of what will amount to a $100-million primary effort, according to a campaign tally from last week.

There's little immediate value to paying a Clinton staff member for territories like Guam, which has no votes in the Electoral College and a population little bigger than Fargo, North Dakota. But then-Sen. Obama defeated Clinton in the 2008 Guam primary against Hillary Clinton by a margin of just seven votes, and Guam may actually someday be up for grabs. "We take nothing for granted," campaign manager Robby Mook likes to say.

Many people at the Nashes' apartment on Saturday had helped out on political campaigns before.

Gerrie Nussdorf, a retired psychologist from the West Village who wore a baseball cap and T-shirt from the 2008

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campaign bearing Clinton's name, recalled how she had volunteered for in seven states for the candidate eight years ago. She began listing them: "New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Montana—that's the only one where we lost the primary—"

"You had a good record," Brewer, the Manhattan borough president interjected.

Brewer has endorsed Clinton already, as have other New York politicians like congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and city public advocate Letitia James. But Bill de Blasio, the city's progressive mayor who ran her first Senate campaign, has notably not yet backed Clinton.

"I don't think that matters," said Brewer of the mayor, sitting in the Nashes' warmly lit living room. "I don't know what he's waiting for. Some comment on inequality, maybe."

Few left the party with firm commitments to organize for Clinton. But they had some rough ideas. Caroline Converse, an Upper East Side resident, canvassed for President Obama in 2012 and plans to pitch in this year, too. Haleigh Collins, a 20-year-old junior at Bowdoin College who saw Clinton speak in Portland, Maine, says she'll sit in the student union and sign up voters. Liz Nash said she'll continue volunteering regularly at the Brooklyn campaign headquarters, where she recently met Clinton.

The sheer size of Clinton's campaign infrastructure leaves little room for other candidates to take on talent and even enthusiastic volunteers. Even with Bernie Sanders hiring staff in Iowa and New Hampshire as he gains in the polls, it's all aboard the Clinton campaign train for most.

And Clinton seems happy to include the willing, no matter where they live. "Obviously, Iowa is particularly important because it is the first state, but I think the entire country is important too," Clinton had said earlier, live from the Hawkeye State. "I don't want anybody to feel left out."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Martin O'Malley (6/19/15, 3:22 PM) – It's time we recognize this is a national crisis. It's time we say what we're all thinking: that this is not the America we want to be living in.

Olivia Nuzzi (6/19/15, 12:34 PM) – Candidates to acknowledge racism behind #CharlestonShooting: Ben Carson, Bernie Sanders, Lindsey Graham, Martin O'Malley

ABC News (6/19/15, 4:54 PM) – White House: Pres. Obama "has said before that he believes the Confederate flag belongs in museums" -@ABCPolitics

Mike Allen (6/19/15, 8:21 AM) – Charleston, S.C. (AP) – South Caroline governor tell NBC Charleston church shooter should get the death penalty.

Sam Stein (6/19/15, 10:31 AM) – Per source, Side Blumenthal faced 3x as many qs on Clinton foundation and Brock empire than Benghazi w/ @srlevine2

Sarah Kliff (6/19/15, 12:04 PM) – No matter how you score it, CBO says Obamacare repeal increases the deficit. http://1.usa.gov/1LnEATF

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Nick Minock (6/19/15, 2:13 PM) – Mayor Riley, who usually doesn't side with the death penalty, said he's open to it in this case #cbsnews #Charleston

Matt Katz (6/19/15, 7:42 PM) – At Christie Family meeting 2 weeks ago, his wife & kids gave him the green light to run for prez, @GovChristie tells Fox News.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Changing Views on a Female President // NYT // Lynn Vavreck – June 19, 2015

On Saturday, Hillary Rodham Clinton told thousands of people at a rally on Roosevelt Island in New York City that she wanted the United States to be a place "where a father can tell his daughter yes, you can be anything you want to be, even president of the United States." It was a line she used in her concession speech in 2008 and one that highlights what could happen if she or, less likely, Carly Fiorina win her party's nomination and ultimately the presidency. Nearly 100 years after women were given the right to vote, Americans may send their first woman to the Oval Office.

The role that female candidates will play in 2016 — and probably in most future presidential campaigns — helps highlight how attitudes have changed over the last 80 years. The changes over the decades can be described in one word: gradual. But the state of opinion today, about the possibility of a female president, demands a different word: accepting.

It wasn't always so.

Only two years after the "you've come a long way, baby" Virginia Slims ad campaign was this stark reminder from a poll the company commissioned in 1970: Two-thirds of Americans agreed that there wouldn't be a female president for a "long time" and that it was "just as well." The marketers at Virginia Slims turned this skepticism about a female president into a print ad showing a campaign button for "Rosemary for President" above the tagline "Someday."

For 40 years the American National Election Study has asked a random sample of adults a question about whether women and men should be equals in the workplace. The question asks: "Some people feel that women should have an equal role with men in running business, industry and government. Others feel that women's place is in the home. Where would you place yourself ... or haven't you thought much about this?"

In 1972, the first year the question was on the survey, 29 percent of the population thought a woman's place was in the home. Only 47 percent of the population thought women should have an equal role to men at work; another 24 percent placed themselves squarely in the middle or didn't know what to think about the question. By 1980, 20 percent of Americans thought women should stay at home, and a decade later nearly 15 percent felt this way.

The last time the question was asked in 2008, 7 percent of Americans still thought a woman's place was in the home, 10 percent couldn't take a side, and 83 percent backed equality and work.

Still today, a small portion of the electorate is unsure about whether women and men should have equal roles in government or business — and this has implications for whether a woman can win the Oval Office.

Another series of questions from the Gallup Organization sheds light on beliefs about a female president more specifically — and the trends look familiar: very low levels of support for a female president at the start of the 20th century and steady movement toward support into the 21st century.

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In 1937, Gallup asked approximately 1,500 adults if they would vote for a woman for president if she were qualified "in every other respect." The wording of the question reveals a lot about the nature of opinions about women in the White House at that time. And there were clear reservations in the responses: 64 percent of Americans said no, they would not vote for a woman for president if she were qualified in "every other" way.

Being a woman was a deal-breaker.

By 1945, Gallup had changed the question's wording: "If the party whose candidate you most often support nominated a woman for president of the United States, would you vote for her if she seemed best qualified for the job?" More than half (55 percent) of Americans said they would not vote for that woman. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, support grew slowly, edging just past 50 percent near the end of the 1960s.

During the 1970s, people became increasingly comfortable saying they would vote for a qualified woman for president, and by 1978, nearly three-quarters of the population said they would do so if their party gave them that choice. There are obvious differences between saying you would vote for a woman and actually doing so, but the change in responses to this question over time is compelling.

In this decade, nearly all Americans (95 percent via the Roper Center) say they would vote for a woman if she were qualified and were a party nominee, and although there are differences by age, education and income, the pace of change on this topic has been roughly the same across all these groups over the decades. There are very few differences based on gender.

And nearly everyone in America also believes that men and women should play equal professional roles.

When Mrs. Clinton said to supporters on Saturday that she may not be the youngest candidate in the race, but she would be the "youngest woman president in the history of the United States," she was reminding generations of Americans of a time, not so long ago, when girls only dreamed of striking out on their own, without a man, and independently contributing to the world around them. Most Americans over 40 remember those days.

Hillary Clinton's Hampton's Quandry **// NYT // Amy Chozick – June 19, 2015**

For the past several summers, Bill and Hillary Clinton have done what New York City's moneyed residents have done for decades: They spent their vacation amid the prime beachside real estate of Long Island.

In 2011 and 2012, there was the eight-bedroom, 12,000-square-foot East Hampton rental with a heated pool that the couple took for part of August, the kind of house that typically goes for $200,000 per month, according to local real estate listings.

Then, in 2013, they opted for an equally pricey six-bedroom mansion in Sagaponack with a private pathway to the beach. (Mrs. Clinton worked on her memoir, "Hard Choices," from a sunny office with an ocean view.)

Last year, when speculation about Mrs. Clinton's presidential run reached a fever pitch, the former first couple chose the comparatively lower-key town of Amagansett, just up Montauk Highway from the lobster shacks and fishermen at the end of Long Island. The seven-bedroom bluffside estate with sweeping views of Gardiners Bay, the kind of house in that area that rents for $100,000 for the month of August, was next door to the home of the Clinton friend and donor Harvey Weinstein.

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In the more than 20 years that the Clintons have been in the public eye, much of that time on one campaign trail or another, the couple's choice of vacations spots has been well chronicled and exhaustively debated, going back to the first presidential summer, at the moneyed enclave of Martha's Vineyard.

1993 On his first extended vacation as president, Bill Clinton chose Vail, Colo., where he golfed twice with former President Gerald R. Ford, jogged, entertained friends with a sax rendition of "My Funny Valentine" and attended an outdoor performance of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy. That same summer, the Clinton family also spent time on Martha's Vineyard, coaxed there by his friend Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

1995 Nicknamed the "vacationer in chief," Mr. Clinton and family chose horseback riding and hiking in Jackson, Wyo. By then the Clintons were a mainstay on Martha's Vineyard, where they went that fall to attend the wedding of their friends Mary Steenburgen and Ted Danson.

1998 At the height of the Monica Lewinsky scandal, the Clinton family retreated to a 12-day vacation on Martha's Vineyard. "This is a family that has some healing to do," Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, said as they boarded Air Force One to the island.

1999 With Hillary Clinton expected to run for the United States Senate in New York, the Clintons spent a weekend in the Hamptons and five days in the low-key Finger Lakes region, in the previously little-known village of in Skaneateles, N.Y. They also returned to Martha's Vineyard.

2000s The Clintons keep the Vineyard in the mix but also become fixtures in the Hamptons, with Mr. Clinton raising money for his philanthropic foundation there and Mrs. Clinton finding a welcome vacation from her Senate work. During the heated 2008 Democratic presidential primary, Mrs. Clinton found some of her most devoted backers behind the hedges of their Hamptons estates.

2011-12 The Clintons spend two summer vacations in the East Hampton, N.Y., home of the developer Elie Hirschfeld, which they rented for prime late-August days. The oceanfront house has a large heated pool, eight bedrooms and 12,000 square feet of space where the Clintons' extended family could stay. They did not continue to rent the home after the expenses associated with it ate up the bulk of their security deposit, according to several people with knowledge of the transaction.

2013 With the grueling travel of the State Department behind her and a book to write, Mrs. Clinton and husband relaxed in a rented $11 million house on 3.5 acres of prime real estate in Sagaponack, N.Y., with six bedrooms, four fireplaces, ocean views and a private path to the beach.

2014 Mrs. Clinton stopped at a bookstore in East Hampton to sign copies of her latest memoir, "Hard Choices," but she chose to vacation slightly farther east in the comparatively laid-back town of Amagansett.

But the Clintons' go-to vacation spot for the last several summers now seems problematic, as Mrs. Clinton, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for president, delivers a populist economic message that the deck is stacked in favor of the wealthiest Americans and that she plans to "reshuffle the cards."

Thus, it may not be ideal for Mr. and Mrs. Clinton to be photographed mingling at summer cocktail parties with the likes of Jerry Seinfeld, Alec Baldwin, Steven Spielberg and other wealthy Hamptons regulars.

The Clintons looked into renting another home in the Hamptons, but they have hesitated to sign a lease, said several real estate agents in the Hamptons, who could discuss the Clintons only on condition of anonymity for fear of jeopardizing their client list.

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Campaign aides have said Mrs. Clinton will take a vacation in August, but they declined to comment on the specifics of when or where.

Whether they rent there or not, the couple are expected to spend much of their vacation on the shores of Long Island, where their circle of New York friends and donors own luxe houses.

The Clintons will also spend at least one weekend in their old vacation haunt of Martha's Vineyard, likely alongside President and Michelle Obama, to celebrate the 80th birthday of their friend Vernon E. Jordan Jr. (Mr. Jordan and other friends lured Mr. Clinton to the island in the early years of his presidency, and it quickly trumped his previous leisure spot in Arkansas. A White House spokesman said it was too early to confirm Mr. Obama's August plans.)

Another presidential candidate, former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, who on Monday declared that he was seeking the Republican nomination, has already drawn criticism for his summer vacations in Maine. The Boston Globe reported that Mr. Bush is getting his own four-bedroom, 3,000-square-foot cottage on the Bush family oceanside compound in Kennebunkport.

Donors who did not want to talk on the record offering Mrs. Clinton unsolicited advice said they hoped she could avoid the inevitable claims of elitism by not renting a Hamptons home again, given the optics of a presidential campaign and the still-sluggish economy. (One donor advised she should at least opt for the less-flashy Sag Harbor.)

At the same time, Mrs. Clinton and her allies, under intense pressure to raise money for both her campaign and Priorities USA Action, a super PAC supporting her bid, will need to woo the country's wealthiest Democrats this summer, wherever the 0.001 percent happen to be. "There is only going to be one fund-raiser for Hillary in the Hamptons this summer: it starts on Memorial Day and ends on Labor Day," said Robert Zimmerman, a fund-raiser for Mrs. Clinton with a home in Southampton.

With her kickoff rally in New York last Saturday and a week of campaigning in early nominating states behind her, Mrs. Clinton will dive into a breakneck schedule of fund-raisers across the country.

"The fund-raising for Hillary has been easier than other fund-raising, but it's never easy," said Jay Jacobs, a Nassau County Democrat and longtime Clinton friend.

Many of Mrs. Clinton's most devoted backers, including the Washington lobbyist Liz Robbins and Alan Patricof, a New York-based investor, have homes in the Hamptons and have hosted fund-raisers for the Clintons' various charitable and political causes in the past.

The hyperkinetic Clintons tend to work on their vacations, squeezing in fund-raisers for the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation. In 2013, Mr. Patricof hosted a high-dollar gala at the Topping Rose House in Bridgehampton. Guests included Mortimer B. Zuckerman, the publisher of The Daily News, and the real estate executive Peter S. Kalikow, who each donated $25,000.

"Some of us will go into catastrophic withdrawal if we're not tapped to raise money for one of the Clintons," said Ken Sunshine, a veteran Democratic activist and public relations executive with a home in Remsenburg.

But this year, it's not so simple.

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As she mounts a campaign built on lifting the middle class and alleviating the growing gap between rich and poor, Mrs. Clinton has come under criticism for her family's wealth.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton have earned more than $125 million in paid speech income since leaving the White House in 2001, according to financial disclosures. That level of income "shows how out of touch they've truly become," said Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

The attack appears to have made inroads.

A CNN poll released June 2 showed that 47 percent of voters believed Mrs. Clinton "cares about people like you," down from 53 percent last July.

Mrs. Clinton's allies said the issue was less about perception and more about practicality. The excruciating pace of a presidential campaign, even in its infancy, doesn't allow for two consecutive weeks of downtime, much less the long walks on the beach and clambakes the Clintons have come to enjoy in previous years. "They probably won't have the time to spend out there, so why spend the money?" Mr. Patricof said.

But it could pay for Mrs. Clinton to have a presence in the Hamptons. Already, some of the women who move to vacation homes for the season and are active in charitable causes have inquired about hosting fund-raisers and luncheons to raise money for Mrs. Clinton, said Alison Brod, a public relations executive and Hamptons hostess.

"It's a time for people to show their allegiance and show off their houses at the same time," Ms. Brod added.

The parties won't exactly feature the poolside glamour the area is known for. Campaign finance rules dictate that a married couple may spend $2,000 on expenses like cocktails and appetizers. That doesn't go far in an enclave where a party tent can cost tens of thousands of dollars, not including the band, passed hors d'oeuvres and Veuve Clicquot that go in it.

"Let's face it, none of the people coming to my event on Monday are coming for the coconut shrimp," Mr. Jacobs said ahead of the June 1 fund-raiser at his family home in Laurel Hollow, N.Y., a Long Island enclave with a very distinct vibe from the Hamptons. "They're coming to see Hillary."

Republican presidential hopefuls will also find ripe fund-raising ground in the Long Island hamlets, where conservative, deep-pocketed donors will open their wallets, and their beach houses, in droves.

In 2012, the Republican nominee, Mitt Romney, picked up $3 million in a single weekend in the Hamptons, with back-to-back events at the sprawling East End estates of Ronald O. Perelman, the Revlon chairman; David H. Koch, the billionaire conservative; and Clifford M. Sobel, a donor and ambassador for George W. Bush. (The Obama campaign used the weekend blitz to reinforce its charge that Mr. Romney was out of touch, despite Mr. Obama's own Hamptons fund-raising.)

"There's such a great amount of wealth here," said Samantha Yanks, editor in chief of Hamptons Magazine. But, she added, "It's tricky for politicians to be associated with that for too long."

"It's a place you come, you visit and fund-raise, but, as a politician, you don't necessarily want to be living in," she said.

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The Clintons' summer vacation plans have always jelled at the last minute and been wrought with political symbolism. In 1999, when Mrs. Clinton was close to running to be a senator from New York, the Clintons tacked on five days in the Finger Lakes region upstate, in addition to time on Martha's Vineyard and fund-raising in East Hampton.

Indeed, for the last several summers, the Clintons have been a part of the fabric of the Hamptons. Mr. Clinton takes his young niece and nephew for miniature golf and his 9-year-old arthritic chocolate Labrador, Seamus, for walks on the beach.

The family dines at Babette's, a casual French bistro with an outdoor patio, and Almond, the Bridgehampton restaurant partly owned by Jason Weiner, the brother-in-law of Mrs. Clinton's close aide Huma Abedin. Mr. Clinton celebrated his 67th birthday in the Hamptons at a dinner party that included Paul McCartney and Jimmy Buffett as guests.

Some Hamptons-based donors said it was too early to tell whether Mrs. Clinton's Secret Service detail would become a mainstay on the narrow farm roads near Long Island Sound.

"Summer starts after July Fourth," Mr. Patricof said.

Log On and Hit 'Like'...Facebook Measures the Candidates **// NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 19, 2015**

If elections were won based on Facebook chatter, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Rand Paul would be the front-runners in early primary season states.

The social media company has released figures on how the candidates — and presumed candidates — fared in terms of Facebook interactions in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina from mid-May to mid-June. Interactions represent likes, posts, comments and shares about a candidate.

Mrs. Clinton is leading all candidates in the three states, and is generating the most interest in South Carolina, where she has 460,000 interactions from 104,000 people.

Mr. Sanders, the independent from Vermont running for the Democratic nomination, trails Mrs. Clinton in Iowa and New Hampshire, but leads all the other Republicans in those states. Mr. Sanders, a socialist who rails against the influence of corporate money in politics, has an enthusiastic cadre of followers on Facebook and Twitter.

Mr. Paul, who has also invested in a sophisticated social media strategy and likes to "troll" his opponents online, comes in third place in Iowa and New Hampshire, after Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Sanders. He is doing even better in South Carolina, where he is in second place.

Former Gov. Jeb Bush, of Florida has some ground to make up on the Facebook front. He ranks fourth in Iowa, fifth in New Hampshire (following Senator Ted Cruz of Texas) and seventh in South Carolina.

The social media dynamics in South Carolina are somewhat different than Iowa and New Hampshire, as Senator Lindsey Graham, who hails from the state, is generating more discussion there and Ben Carson ranks third.

Some White House hopefuls such as Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who

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has yet to declare, have landed in the middle of the pack despite national polls that label them as "top tier" candidates.

But social media chatter is no substitute for formal surveys, as interest in a candidate, such as Donald Trump, can overshadow how seriously voters take them as a potential president.

Hillary Clinton confidante is confident that release of full Benghazi deposition would absolve him // WaPo / / Colby Itkowitz – June 19, 2015

Details from Tuesday's Benghazi committee deposition of Hillary Clinton friend Sid Blumenthal have leaked out in bits and pieces, but the full eight-hour exchange remains unavailable to the press and public.

Now Blumenthal's attorney is demanding a transcript of the interrogation be released.

"Leaks like these are distorting the truth by mischaracterizing facts and circumstances," Attorney James Cole wrote Friday in a letter to Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), the Republican charged with leading Benghazi investigation. "They are creating an incomplete and unfair narrative about the deposition, Mr. Blumenthal's knowledge about Libya, and the tragedy that occurred in Benghazi."

The letter, obtained by the Loop from a Democratic committee aide, followed one sent by Democrats on Wednesday also calling for the full transcript be made public to "provide important background and context to his emails."

Blumenthal sent memos to Clinton when she was secretary of state about the security situation in Libya before and after the attacks on the diplomatic compound in September 2012 that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens. Gowdy has said he plans to make those e-mails public.

A Gowdy spokeswoman declined to comment.

Democrats on the committee, who have long argued that the Republicans have slow walked the investigation to coincide with Clinton's run for the White House, say the deposition transcript will show that most of the GOP questions were politically motivated.

By their count, Blumenthal's interactions with Clinton were brought up 160 times. The Clinton Foundation was mentioned more than 50 times. And Blumenthal's own business interests in Libya were cited more than 270 times.

But the Benghazi attacks themselves were only specifically referenced 20 times, the Democrats say. The four people who died, including Stevens, were not mentioned once.

We'd love to confirm those stats ourselves. But we don't have the transcript…

Hillary Clinton's trade fiasco // Politico // Ben White – June 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton is an absolute mess on trade right now. She was a strong advocate of TPP as Secretary of State and in her pre-campaign book "Hard Choices." But now says there is stuff in it she doesn't like. She's backed Nancy's Pelosi's approach, which was to torpedo TAA in order to stop TPA. But without TPA there is no TPP, which

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Clinton once supported. Many of her comments on the topic lately have made no logical sense whatsoever.

This is probably the most bizarre: “The TPA is a process issue. The issue for me is what’s in the deal,” she said this week in New Hampshire. “I think this is a chance to use this leverage so that the deal does become one that more Americans and members of Congress can vote for.” Where to start? TPA is not a process issue. Without it there is no TPP. And what kind of leverage was she talking about? TPA is designed to give the administration leverage to get the best trade terms possible. Blocking it would take that leverage away.

Clinton might as well have said: “I can’t anger the left or feed Bernie Sanders’ momentum by backing my former boss on TPA so an advisor told me to dismiss it as a ‘process issue’ so that’s what I’m doing even though it makes no sense and everyone knows it.”

The heat is only going to rise if the current legislative gambit to get TPA done works, which it probably will. Which means Obama could finish TPP and send it to Congress. Perhaps Clinton’s need to tack so nakedly and embarrassingly to the left will be over by the time that happens and she can return to her previous support for TPP. But she will not have covered herself in glory (or consistency or trust-worthiness) by the time that happens.

Hillary Clinton fundraising off Treasury putting woman on $10 bill // Politico // Nick Cass – June 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton’s campaign is fundraising off news this week that the Treasury Department will put a woman on the newly redesigned $10 bill in 2020.

“Women are too often erased from our nation’s history — putting a woman on a major piece of currency is a first step toward fixing that,” reads the email that went out to supporters on Friday. “Let’s celebrate this historic event by chipping in $10 to Hillary for America — because we’ve still got barriers left to break.”

A spokeswoman for Clinton’s campaign did not elaborate on which woman Clinton would like to see on the new $10 bill, telling Bloomberg Politics that “there’s no doubt they have a long list to choose from.”

Treasury Secretary Jack Lew announced the change on Wednesday, while also noting that he is considering keeping Alexander Hamilton on some of the bills.

Judge reopens FOIA case on Hillary Clinton aide Abedin // Politico // Josh Gerstein – June 19, 2015

Reacting to the disclosure that Hillary Clinton exclusively used a private email account during her tenure as secretary of state, a federal judge agreed Friday to reopen a conservative group's Freedom of Information Act lawsuit seeking details about the employment arrangements of top Clinton aide Huma Abedin.

However, U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan declined — for now — to address claims from Judicial Watch that Clinton's use of the private account and server led State Department officials to commit a fraud on the court by certifying they had turned over all responsive records.

"In view of revelations that then-Secretary of State Clinton and members of her staff used personal email accounts to conduct State Department business, and that emails from those accounts may not have been covered by State Department searches for documents responsive to the FOIA request at issue in this case, the plaintiff seeks to reopen this case for further proceedings," Sullivan noted in an order Friday. "The newly discovered information is a changed circumstance regarding the prior judgment in this case--i.e. the stipulated dismissal in 2014."

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The State Department agreed to reopen the case, but rejected Judicial Watch's claims of fraud. Sullivan said he was re-opening the case under the "changed circumstances" in federal court rules "rather than spilling ink to resolve [the parties'] dispute as to whether Judicial Watch has submitted clear and convincing evidence of fraud by the State Department."

The FOIA lawsuit seeks information about Abedin's continued employment at State as a "special government employee" after she stepped down from her role as deputy chief of staff to Clinton in 2012. Critics have said the arrangement, first reported by POLITICO in 2013, courted conflicts of interest because Abedin was also working for the consulting firm, Teneo, at the same time.

The State Department inspector general is conducting a review of State's "special government employee" program, according to a letter the IG sent to Senate Judiciary Committee in April.

A spokesman for Clinton's presidential campaign had no immediate comment on the development.

Clinton publicly acknowledged in March that she solely used a private email account as secretary. In response to a request from the State Department last year, she turned over to her former agency in December about 30,000 emails totaling roughly 55,000 printed pages. She also acknowledged having about 32,000 emails erased after her lawyers determined they were private or personal in nature.

Judicial Watch has said it wants relevant information from Clinton's emails, as well as any Abedin or other Clinton aides kept on private accounts. Abedin is known to have maintained an account on the same clintonemail.com domain her boss used.

Sullivan is an appointee of President Bill Clinton.

Hillary Clinton: Donald Trump's racial rhetoric 'not acceptable' **// Politico // Adam B. Lerner – June 19, 2015**

Hillary Clinton took a swipe at Donald Trump on Thursday, saying — without mentioning the New York real estate tycoon by name — that his presidential launch speech was offensive to Mexicans and "emblematic" of the kind of rhetoric that cannot be tolerated in the wake of the tragic South Carolina shootings.

"We have to have a candid national conversation about race and about discrimination, prejudice, hatred," Clinton said in an interview with KNPB's Jon Ralston. "But unfortunately the public discourse is sometimes hotter and more negative than it should be, which can, in my opinion, trigger people who are less than stable."

"For example," the former secretary of state added, "a recent entry into the Republican presidential campaign said some very inflammatory things about Mexicans. Everybody should stand up and say that's not acceptable. You don't talk like that on talk radio. You don't talk like that on the kind of political campaigns."

"You can name him," Ralston responded, but Clinton refused to use Trump's name.

"I think he is emblematic," she said. "I want people to understand it's not about him, it's about everybody."

"We should not accept it," Clinton said of hateful speech in national political conversation. "Decent people need to stand up against it."

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Trump fired back at Clinton's remarks on Friday in a post to Instagram.

"Wow, it's pretty pathetic that Hillary Clinton just blamed me for the horrendous attack that took place in South Carolina. This is why politicians are just no good. Our country's in trouble," he said.

Hillary's comments referred to a line from Donald Trump's discursive Tuesday announcement speech, in which he claimed that Mexico is sending criminals to the United States.

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best," Trump told the audience. "They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists, and some, I assume, are good people."

Other Republican presidential candidates have not yet spoken out against Trump. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina told a conservative radio host that Trump is "endlessly entertaining" and his campaign pitch is "tapping into the frustration of the American people with the professional political class."

Hillary Clinton did not just condemn Trump's speech — she also reiterated President Obama's assertion that gun policy should be included in a national discussion of how to combat mass murders.

The Democratic 2016 frontrunner called the president's speech Thursday "very moving" and agreed with his sentiment on the relevance of guns in creating tragedies.

"Let's just cut to the chase: It's guns," she said, adding that state and local politicians need to join in a national effort to combat "tremendous lobbying pressure from the gun lobby."

The interview also touched on Clinton's earlier assertion that whether to grant President Obama fast-track authority on trade "is a process issue," not a substantive question that requires her to take a position. She has declined to take a firm stand on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a massive 12-country trade deal that many Democrats oppose.

Clinton told Ralston that, given what she knows now, she would not vote for fast-track authority if she were still in the U.S. Senate without greater aid to workers.

"At this point, probably not because it's a process vote and I don't want to say it's the same as TPP," Clinton said. "Right now I'm focused on making sure we get trade adjustment assistance and I certainly would not vote for it unless I were absolutely confident we would get trade adjustment assistance."

The former secretary of state also sought to explain why she promoted the TPP while serving in the Obama administration, but refuses to take a position on it now.

"When [TPP] began to be negotiated I said it holds out the promise to be the gold standard" of trade deals, Clinton said. "I said positive things about the process and the potential."

"If we could get the right kind of agreement that was good for workers, good for wages, good for the environment,

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labor, safety, health and good for our national security, that would be great for America," she said.

Clinton criticizes predatory lenders during veterans forum // AP // Michelle Rindels – June 18, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday vowed to protect veterans from aggressive for-profit colleges and predatory lenders while preserving the dominance of the U.S. military.

The former secretary of state spoke at a historic VFW post in Reno before about 200 people and five panelists from the military community. She said her top priorities as president would include taking care of veterans when they return home.

Clinton argued for continuing the post-9/11 G.I. Bill and promised to veto any efforts to pare down its benefits. She said her plan to get veterans into school and the workforce included cracking down on for-profit colleges that can saddle former servicemembers with heavy debts.

Her plan called for closing the "90-10 loophole," which prevents colleges from deriving more than 90 percent of their revenue from federal financial aid. The 90 percent cap doesn't count Defense Department grants or VA benefits, which entices for-profit colleges to market to veterans.

Clinton also said she supported strengthening the Military Lending Act to prevent payday lenders from victimizing servicemembers.

Nevada's caucuses are a key early event in the path to the Democratic nomination, and the state is also expected to be one of a narrow range of swing states in the November 2016 election. Several presidential candidates scheduled campaign appearances in the state this week, including Republican Ben Carson and Democratic Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Hillary Clinton Is Trouncing Everyone in the Facebook Primary // Bloomberg // Andrew Feather – June 19, 2015

It's not even close—Hillary Clinton has been far and away the presidential candidate with the most Facebook buzz.

According to data from Facebook collected May 13, 2015 to June 13, 2015, Clinton leads in all of the first three primary states when it comes to likes, posts and views. In fact, she has about twice as many interactions as the second place candidate in both Iowa and New Hampshire and more than four times the online interaction of the closest candidate in South Carolina.

The charts below illustrate two metrics: unique people and total interactions. Interactions include likes, posts comments and shares. Unique people measures the number of unique individuals that contributed to the interactions of a given candidate.

Senator Bernie Sanders is holding second place with a firm grip, however, with his online outreach excelling in both Iowa and New Hampshire. Sanders' populist message has resonated with younger audiences who tend to spend more time using social media, and on sites like Reddit, where Sanders has an active "subreddit" page. Sanders' strength showed up in Facebook interaction data from both Iowa and New Hampshire, but he sits in fourth place in South Carolina behind two Republicans.

Rand Paul holds second place in South Carolina but has only generated about a quarter of the interactions created by the Clinton campaign. Libertarian-leaning candidates have traditionally done well online. One of the most

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striking examples comes from Paul's father's bid for the White House in 2008. According to the New York Times, independent supporters of Ron Paul's 2008 Presidential campaign raised $4 million online in a single day.

Democrats have historically performed better than Republicans online, which helps explain Clinton's dominance and Sanders' strength. The disparity between the parties online was demonstrated by a study published by the Harvard University Institute for Politics. In 2014, researchers at Harvard found that Democrats between the ages of 18 to 29 are more likely to use almost every social media platform than Republicans of the same age group. Moreover, even if the same percentage of Republicans and Democrats in that age group use a given service, there are almost twice as many Democrats as Republicans in that age group, according to a 2014 Gallup Poll.

Trump, the missing variable

Donald Trump announced his candidacy outside of Facebook's dataset, but the level of online interaction he is generating may reach that of the frontrunners depending on how long his candidacy lasts.

According to Facebook, Trump's announcement generated 6.4 million interactions from 3.4 million people. In comparison, Hillary Clinton generated 10.1 million interactions from 4.7 million unique people, and Rand Paul generated 1.9 million interactions from 865,000 unique people. Data on Trump from the early primary and caucus states was not available.

Hillary Clinton Wants Woman on $10 Bill But Won't Say Which One // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – June 19, 2015

There's a long list of women who could join Alexander Hamilton on the $10 bill, Hillary Clinton's campaign said Friday, endorsing the Treasury Department's plans to redesign the currency.

“Putting a woman on the $10 bill is a long overdue step toward recognizing the tremendous impact women have had on the history of our country," senior policy advisor Maya Harris said in a statement to Bloomberg.

While suggestions for the bill have ranged widely, including many ineligible options like Beyonce and Clinton herself (though some of those came as jokes from the right , since the winning woman cannot be a living person), the campaign declined to weigh in on who the candidate might want to see on the bill.

"We're looking forward to seeing which woman is selected by U.S. Department of Treasury – but there's no doubt that they have a long list to choose from," Harris said.

The Treasury Department this week announced plans to modernize the $10 bill. As part of that process, some of the new bills will carry the image of a woman of historic importance, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew announced. Hamilton's image will remain on other $10 bills. It will mark the first time that a feminine face has appeared on paper U.S. currency since the 19th century.

Lawyer for Clinton Confidant Wants Congress to Release Testimony // Bloomberg // Billy House – June 19, 2015

A lawyer for Hillary Clinton confidant Sidney Blumenthal says House Republicans are leaking pieces of his closed-door testimony before the House committee investigating the September 11, 2012 attacks in Benghazi.

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James Cole, in a letter dated Friday to the Benghazi panel's chairman, Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, requests the immediate release of Blumenthal's full testimony transcript and related emails because, he writes, these selective leaks are "distorting the truth."

Blumenthal was called to give a closed-door deposition Tuesday about memos and advice on Libya he sent then-Secretary of State Clinton prior to the attacks on the U.S. facilities in which four Americans were killed.

"There have been numerous leaks and about his emails and testimony many of which have given an inaccurate account of what occurred in the deposition," says Cole's letter. The emails refer to nearly 60 messages produced for the committee by Blumenthal regarding Libya and Benghazi.

Cole adds that "it is unfair to my client" to let this inaccurate record persist of his testimony, which was given behind closed doors on Tuesday.

Cole cites several specific press accounts carrying such "selective details" he says were released by members or staffers of the committee. The list includes one story published by Bloomberg News the day after Blumenthal's testimony.

Stories by the National Review, Politico, and Fox News were also cited by Cole.

Gowdy and committee Republicans had no comment about the letter, which was released by a spokesman for committee Democrats, Paul Bell.

Cole's letter comes as Democrats on the House Select Committee on Benghazi have themselves been calling for release of the complete transcript of closed-door testimony, along with related e-mails.

The panel's top Democrat—Elijah Cummings of Maryland—said in a statement earlier Friday the committee has, since Blumenthal's testimony on Tuesday, "become a sieve, with anonymous 'sources' repeatedly leaking selected excerpts of Mr. Blumenthal's emails out of context."

Cummings said the transcript reveals exactly how Republicans are spending taxpayer dollars -- investigating Clinton "and her personal relationships rather than the attacks in Benghazi," he said in the statement.

"It's time to end this circus," Cummings said. "The Committee should immediately release all of Mr. Blumenthal's emails and his full deposition transcript together."

Earlier this week, all five Democrats on the panel said they want Republicans to release publicly the full transcript of the committee's hours-long deposition Tuesday with Blumenthal.

In a letter to committee Chairman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina released Wednesday, the Democrats said, “Rather than selectively leaking only certain information about Mr. Blumenthal, the American people deserve the benefit of Mr. Blumenthal's responses to the hundreds of questions that you and other Select Committee Members asked him, including questions about these same emails.”

Clinton: Stop For-Profit Colleges From Targeting Veterans **// TIME // Sam Frizell – June 18, 2015**

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Hillary Clinton announced on Thursday a new plan intended to stop for-profit colleges from fleecing veterans who use federal G.I. Bill funds to attend school.

Speaking before a roundtable with veterans in Reno, Nevada, Clinton focused her remarks on the so-called 90-10 rule. The rule requires for-profit colleges to accept at least 10% of their money from private dollars rather than federal financial aid and loans, with the idea of holding the schools more accountable to the open market.

But an unintended loophole in the 90-10 rule means that federal military benefits like the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill can count toward schools' 10%. That leads for-profit schools to aggressively target veterans in search of federal dollars, often deceptively. Proponents of a new bill say that veterans at many for-profit schools have high dropout rates and leave badly in debt.

Clinton would plan to close the loophole.

It's hardly a sweeping vision for the country of the tenor that Clinton laid out in her campaign launch speech on Saturday. But in the coming months, advisers say Clinton will continue to roll out policy proposals at the rate of about one per week.

Two bills similar to Clinton's proposal introduced in the House and Senate have foundered without gaining much momentum.

Clinton also said on Thursday she would plan as President to address predatory lending to veterans, healthcare and expanding job options after service.

She sang the praises of bipartisan compromise, too. "In a democracy, nobody has all the answers," Clinton said. "You have to get up everyday and say, 'I'm willing to work for anyone whose willing to work for the good of America and in particular the good of our veterans.'"

Hillary Clinton sees a different California than her husband once did // LA Times // Kurtis Lee – June 19, 2015

When Bill Clinton arrived in California for the state's 1992 Democratic primary he was a considerable underdog.

He had a commanding delegate tally and was well on his way to securing the party's presidential nomination, but faced a political titan in the state: the former and future governor, Jerry Brown.

The result? He beat Brown by 7 percentage points.

Now, more than two decades after that June 1992 primary victory, his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, has embarked on her second White House run.

On Friday, she arrives in Los Angeles for three Westside fundraisers, including one at the home of actor Tobey Maguire and his wife, Jennifer Meyer.

Unlike the opponents her husband faced, Hillary Clinton's rivals are longshots at best and have no substantial ties to California. Rather than worry about a contested primary, this Clinton can focus on California's other role in Democratic politics, the cash machine.

For both parties, California has proven a fertile place for raising money. But for Democrats, that's particularly true. During the last presidential cycle, President Obama raised almost $63 million from people who listed a California residence, as opposed to just over $41 million for Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee, according to a compilation by the Center for Responsive politics, which tracks campaign fundraising.

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But California's position as a Democratic stronghold wasn't always so steadfast.
Before Bill Clinton's 1992 victory, in which he beat incumbent President George H.W. Bush 46% to 32% in the state, California had a healthy track record of electing Republican candidates. Four years earlier, Bush defeated Democrat Michael Dukakis by 3 percentage points. Two of the last five Republican presidents, Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon, were Californians.

While Bill Clinton raised cash in the Democratic money belt of the Westside, he also spent time in Southern California actively campaigning. In the 1992 election, it was not uncommon to see the Arkansas governor travel to South Los Angeles to meet with African American voters. He even addressed Orange County Republicans on a visit in December 1991.

"There really has been this bond between California and the Clintons that is interesting," said Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist, who worked in the Clinton administration. "Californians have given their support and the Clintons have embraced this state."

Lehane notes several Clinton administration officials, including Leon Panetta, who served as chief of staff and John Emerson, who worked as deputy director of Intergovermental Affairs, had histories in California politics. Panetta, a former member of Congress, went on to serve as Secretary of Defense and head of the CIA in the Obama administration. Emerson is ambassador to Germany.

Such connections have stuck with the Clintons. "Just look at 2008," said Lehane. "Hillary won California by a wide margin over President Obama."

At least on this trip, however, Hillary Clinton does not have plans for retail politicking of the sort her husband displayed in 1992. After a day of fundraising, she plans to travel north to San Francisco on Saturday to address the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Hillary Clinton hitting three $2,700-per-person Westside fundraisers today // LA Daily News // June 19, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is scheduled to conduct three $2,700-per-person fundraisers on Los Angeles' Westside today to benefit her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The series of fundraisers will begin with a 12:30 p.m. luncheon at the Beverly Hills home of Westfield Corp. co-CEO Peter Lowy and his wife Janine.

Organizers said "a couple dozen people" plan to conduct a protest outside the home over Clinton's refusal to definitively oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Opponents of the trade agreement say it will serve to export millions of high-paying jobs to low-wage countries, reduce wages for 90 percent of American workers, lower food safety and environmental standards, and increase human rights abuses.

The Obama administration says the partnership will boost economic growth by increasing American exports, support the creation and retention of American jobs, and promote innovation.

In an interview Thursday with Nevada radio host Jon Ralston, Clinton said, "I was willing to wait until I could see what's in it before I took a decision, like when I was a senator."

The luncheon will be followed by a 5 p.m. event at the home of HBO executive Michael Lombardo and husband Sonny Ward; and a 7 p.m. event at the home of actor Tobey Maguire and his wife Jennifer Meyer. The ticket price is the maximum individual contribution for a candidate seeking his or her party's presidential nomination.

The 67-year-old Clinton, who is seeking to be the nation's first female president, also conducted a fundraiser Thursday at the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach, with tickets priced from $1,000 to $2,700.

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Clinton's stump speech, which she is expected to deliver at the fundraisers, discusses her commitment "to being a champion for everyday Americans" and outlines "the four fights that are the focus of her campaign -- building the economy of tomorrow, not yesterday; strengthening families and communities; fixing our dysfunctional political system; protecting our country from threats," an aide said.

The visit to the Southland is Clinton's second since declaring her candidacy on April 12. She also conducted three fundraisers on the Westside on May 7.

Ex-charity exec who helped expose $500G Clinton Foundation donation faces legal threats // Fox News // Adam Shaw – June 19, 2015

A former charity executive who helped expose a questionable $500,000 donation to the Clinton Foundation is now being threatened by her old bosses with a lawsuit seeking tens of thousands of dollars, FoxNews.com has learned.

Sue Veres Royal, former executive director at the Happy Hearts Fund, was initially quoted in a May 29 New York Times article that said the charity lured Bill Clinton to a 2014 gala only after offering a $500,000 donation to The Clinton Foundation. His office previously had turned down the charity's invitations, but this time he accepted; the accompanying donation amounted to almost a quarter of the gala's net proceeds.

Veres Royal, who spoke to FoxNews.com about the fallout from that report, is now embroiled in a legal battle with the charity. She filed a formal complaint June 4 with the New York attorney general's Charities Bureau, as the charity itself threatened her with legal action for allegedly breaking her confidentiality agreement.

The Times report gave several behind-the-scenes details, including that founder Petra Nemcova explicitly told Veres Royal to offer the $500,000 "honorarium."

The Happy Hearts Fund's legal team fired off a cease-and-desist order to Veres Royal the same day the Times report was published. The charity claimed she had breached a confidentiality agreement and gave "numerous falsehoods, inaccuracies and disparaging statements" about the organization to the Times. The letter demanded she no longer speak to the media or else they would seek damages.

A Happy Hearts Fund spokesman said they are unable to discuss the situation concerning Veres Royal as they, too, are bound by a confidentiality agreement, but defended the 2014 award to Clinton.

"Because we know the strong impact of working together and because the Happy Hearts Fund and the Clinton Foundation have a shared goal of providing meaningful help to Haiti, we proposed a joint educational project with the Clinton Foundation. Any suggestion that this joint project is some kind of 'honorarium' or 'fee' is unequivocally false," the spokesman told FoxNews.com in a statement. According to the group, such partnerships have allowed the charity to build 113 schools since 2006 in nine different countries, with more opening this month.

However, Veres Royal said she was appalled not only by the 2014 Clinton donation but by details she had not known before the Times report was published -- most notably that the $500,000, which was supposed to go to causes in the ravaged country of Haiti, still had not been earmarked for any particular project by The Clinton Foundation.

"It's disgusting to me that this organization is being used in this way," Veres Royal said. "I have been to Haiti three times. I've seen how desperate the need is, and it's disgusting to me that people are trying to do good while they're

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sitting on half-a-million dollars. I think that's a disservice to those people who have donated the money, and to the people of Haiti."

The threat of legal action comes as the Happy Hearts Fund tries to limit the damage already caused to the organization's reputation after the revelations. Veres Royal said two conservative-leaning board members already have resigned after finding out about the exorbitant donation which, to Veres Royal's knowledge, was never voted on by the board.

Veres Royal responded to the Happy Hearts Fund legal demand by claiming she was not in breach of her confidentiality agreement. She says she was not the source of the report, but was merely quoted on what she called a matter of public interest. It was at that point she then filed the formal complaint about HHF's actions with the New York attorney general.

In the complaint, Veres Royal alleges the gala was used to shore up the rocky political fortunes of Haitian President Michel Martelly, a close ally and friend of Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe, who was then dating Nemcova, a Czech model.

Martelly was at that time dealing with a number of corruption allegations, specifically over the location of education funds, Veres Royal said.

The complaint claims that Nemcova, who was an ambassador at-large for Haiti, "specifically instructed Veres Royal to 'find a reason'" to honor Martelly and then pushed to get Clinton's staff to agree for Martelly to be honored as well. Consequently, she claims, a "totally concocted" award -- for "Leadership in Education" -- was also presented to Martelly at the Clinton gala.

Bill and Hillary Clinton -- now a Democratic presidential candidate -- have been heavily involved in the reconstruction of Haiti after the 2010 earthquake, though their role in the country's recovery has come under scrutiny amid accusations of running a pay-to-play operation with Haitian reconstruction.

The Clinton Foundation did not respond to FoxNews.com's request for comment.

Veres Royal's complaint also alleges improper financial oversight and gross misrepresentation to the public about fundraising.

After she filed the complaint, HHF sent an email, seen by FoxNews.com, arguing again that Veres Royal was breaching a confidentiality agreement, and that HHF was entitled to over $30,000 in payments Veres Royal received as part of the agreement, as well as unspecified "injunctive relief and monetary damages."

Despite being under fire, and not having an attorney of her own, Veres Royal says she is going to keep pursuing her complaint, and will not back down under the threat of legal action:

"Although it's been nerve-wracking to me, I feel it's my ethical responsibility to do so."

Hillary Clinton Doesn't Need the Media...Yet // National Journal // S.V. Date – June 19, 2015

Two months since she officially became a presidential candidate again, a favorite topic of reporters covering Hillary Clinton has been: how reporters are covering Hillary Clinton.

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Clinton doesn't engage with the journalists covering her, the complaint goes. She doesn't take enough of their questions. She hasn't been accommodating about her day-to-day schedule. She isn't forthcoming about the private email server she used as secretary of State or about the fundraising at the Clinton Foundation.

All of which is true—and none of which is likely to change any time soon.

Because while these political reporters' goal is to provide their audiences as much information about Clinton as possible, Clinton has a different goal: to win. And while those two goals may at some point coincide, now is not one of those times.

Today, more than 200 days before the first ballots are cast for the Democratic nomination, one Clinton objective is to first build teams of organizers and volunteers in the early voting states and then in the likely battleground states in the general election. Another is to ramp up the fundraising grind in $2,700-chunks. Neither makes for compelling news coverage, which is why the national media instead focus on the emails and the foundation and the attacks they've drawn from Republicans—or, alternatively, on the campaign's general disinclination to engage with the media at all.

While some polling suggests Clinton's image has suffered because of the foundation fundraising questions, it's not at all clear what effect her campaign's treatment of the media is having or will ever have.

Gallup Poll's Frank Newport said only 24 percent of the public has confidence in newspapers, while 21 percent trust TV news. "That's pretty not good," he said. "She's not harming an institution that Americans have a lot of confidence in right now."

"My instincts are that voters don't particularly care," said Peter Brown, assistant director of Quinnipiac University Poll. "Journalists are not exactly held in great admiration by the public."

What's more, he said, Clinton's long history in national politics means that those most likely to vote in Democratic primaries are the least likely to be put off by her strategy. "If they're going to be for Hillary, they're going to be for Hillary," Brown said.

Clinton holds large leads over her Democratic rivals in most polls and is likely to show substantially better fundraising when the first reports are filed next month. And the eight years she spent as first lady, another eight years in the Senate, including two on the 2008 presidential campaign trail, and then four as secretary of State relieve her of the necessity of treating every press query as an opportunity for free publicity.

In any case, Clinton's treatment of the political press is hardly unprecedented, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a communications professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center.

"Front-runners routinely minimize their contact with reporters early in the campaign season without serious penalty," she said. "Experienced reporters grouse about the behavior but know enough about history to expect it."

The Clinton campaign says it understands the various complaints and is considering changes to some of its policies. At a panel sponsored by Politico on the eve of Clinton's kickoff speech in New York City last weekend, campaign manager Robby Mook said he does expect Clinton to engage more with the media but said there were still eight months until Iowa and 18 months to November 2016. "We've got to pace this thing," he said.

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Days later, Clinton held an impromptu press conference in Concord, New Hampshire, where she took questions from reporters covering her visit. Of course, that availability also served the purpose of generating competing news in the same hour that former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush announced his entry into the Republican presidential race.

Bush and his aides are quick to note that he takes numerous media questions on any given day, even dozens—just as he did during his two terms as Florida governor.

Ari Fleischer, longtime spokesman for Jeb Bush's brother, former President George W. Bush, said Clinton takes a heavy-handed approach with the media at her own peril.

"One day, something significant will go wrong, and if you mistreat the press and ignore the press, the press will make whatever goes wrong into a bigger explosion than it otherwise would have been," he said. "Payback is inevitable."

George W. Bush and his campaign staff treated journalists better than Democrat Al Gore and his staff did, Fleischer said. And when it came out that Gore had claimed to have visited parts of wildfire-ravaged Texas when he had not, reporters were ready to portray it as a reflection of Gore's honesty and tendency to exaggerate, rather than merely misremembering a detail, Fleischer said.

Eight years later, in contrast, reporters gave presidential candidate Barack Obama a pass on misstatements, like saying there were 57 states, rather than questioning his intelligence, because they liked him and his campaign, Fleischer said.

"It may not matter at this early stage," he said about the current Clinton campaign, "but it will matter eventually."

Of course, not all media is getting equally shut out. Like many past and current campaigns of both parties, the Clinton campaign is providing local outlets in the early voting states upgraded access. On the same day she gave dozens of national reporters about 20 minutes to ask questions, Clinton afforded 10 minutes to a single newspaper: the Concord Monitor, with a circulation of less than 20,000.

It squeezed in six questions in its allotted time—not a single one concerned email servers or the Clinton Foundation.

The Great 2016 Foreign Policy Gamble **// National Journal // Josh Kraushaar – June 18, 2015**

When it comes to the politics of national security, Republicans and Democrats are worlds apart. Not only do they differ on the threat posed by Islamic terrorism and the appropriate tactics to defeat it, but they don't even agree—at least publicly—on how significant an issue it will be in the presidential election.

Hillary Clinton barely touched on foreign affairs in her lengthy campaign relaunch last week, while her advisers are confidently proclaiming that 2016 won't be a national security election. Meanwhile, nearly every Republican presidential candidate emphasizes the emerging threats abroad in their stump speeches. The approach mirrors where the party's supporters are: Republicans ranked fighting terrorism as more important than the economy in January's Pew Research Center polling. Slightly more Democrats rated income inequality and wage equity as more significant issues than "the situation with Islamic militants," which ranked only sixth among top priorities in a fall 2014 Gallup survey.

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This disconnect between the two parties' strategies on the subject is remarkable. Even when partisans deeply disagree on policy prescriptions, there's often a general consensus when it comes to political tactics. But on national security, Republicans are convinced that Hillary Clinton will have trouble answering for the Obama administration's persistent weaknesses on the issue, while Democratic strategists believe that voters are much more focused on bread-and-butter economic issues, and those most alarmed about the rise of ISIS would be voting Republican anyways.

In her sparse comments referencing terrorism in New York last weekend, Clinton focused on backing legislation that guarantees health care coverage for 9/11 victims, and optimistically outlined the ways the Obama administration used "smart power" to challenge foreign enemies. The GOP presidential candidates' speeches regularly warn audiences about growing threats from abroad. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, for one, gave an entire speech in New Hampshire about national security last week, to an audience normally focused on fiscal issues.

"It's a much more important issue for the Republican base than the Democratic base. That may give the Republicans a distorted picture of the general election," Democratic pollster Mark Mellman said. "But there's also no question that there's momentum behind national security and terrorism issues. If present trends continue, the issue for 2016 is going to be whether people think this next president can keep the world in order."

There's a lot of risk for both sides in their reading of the environment. Clinton is downplaying her record as secretary of State because it's not the political asset she expected it to be. Like Mitt Romney's tortured relationship with his Massachusetts health care reforms during the 2012 campaign, she doesn't want to have to answer for the controversies that have emerged since she left office. She'll be criticized for several high-profile blunders that occurred under her tenure—including post-Qadaffi Libya becoming an outpost of global mayhem, the administration's ill-timed "reset" in relations with an emboldened Russia, and the failed security of the American diplomatic facilities in Benghazi.

Clinton advisers maintain that she starts the campaign with a significant advantage because voters already view her as tough and experienced. As Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta told The Washington Post: "She doesn't need to go to England to prove she knows the difference between the queen and the prime minister." But to believe her experience will automatically translate into voters approving of her judgment is an awfully cocky assumption to make, especially given the opposition material Republicans already have to use against her.

Republicans, meanwhile, recognize that it's a lot easier to sound a muscular tone on foreign policy than to advance specific policies requiring American military engagement in the Middle East. Even some of the more hawkish Republican candidates, such as Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush, have avoided calling for more American troops to fight the Islamic State. Many haven't gone much further than President Obama in calling for training other countries' fighters to join the fight against ISIS. They know that while there's intense dissatisfaction over the passive manner Obama has handled foreign policy, there's still widespread resistance for another American military incursion in the Middle East.

"Here's the dilemma: People agree with the policies Obama supports, but they dislike the results. There's a general sense that the world is not under control," Mellman said.

The burden for Clinton is that she'll need to offer a more plausible defense for the decisions she made as secretary of State. She can't simply say she "stood up to Putin," when evidence shows that the Obama administration was pursuing better relations with the Russians. It won't pass the plausibility test. For Republicans, they'll need to nominate someone who's credible in speaking about foreign policy. There's a reason why several Republican governors, without much national security experience, have been going to school—literally—to bulk up on their knowledge. Clinton's experience argument on foreign policy would play better against an untested governor like Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker than a Rubio or Bush.

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Democrats generally believe that, absent a large-scale war involving American military casualties, the public won't change their votes over foreign policy. Republicans think Obama's approval ratings are so weak on the subject are enough for nearly any of Clinton's challengers to exploit the party's weaknesses. Both are wrongheaded.

The reality is there's not much optimism that the national security outlook will get noticeably better by the next presidential election; Obama's advisers, in calling the fight against ISIS a long war, have acknowledged as much. There's little doubt that the next president will be inheriting a chaotic environment abroad. If voters care a lot about those worrisome trends, Republicans will start out with an advantage. But if it's politics as usual, Clinton's strategy of playing to her base will look prescient.

EMILY's List Already Raising Big Bucks for Hillary Clinton **// HuffPo // Paul Blumenthal – June 19, 2015**

Hillary Clinton is already seeing a windfall in contributions from EMILY's List, a group dedicated to electing pro-choice Democratic women that endorsed her campaign in April.

EMILY's List donors donated more than $200,000 to Clinton during the first month and a half of her campaign, according to Federal Election Commission filings. That is nearly half of the $550,689 the group raised during the entirety of Clinton's first presidential bid in 2008, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

The donations to Clinton's 2016 campaign were split close to evenly between contributions of $1,000 or more, which totaled $111,400, and those of $500 or less, which added up to $84,356. The larger contributions included donations from EMILY's List President Stephanie Schriock, EMILY's List founder Ellen Malcolm, longtime Democratic donors Nancy and Reinier Beeuwkes, philanthropist Anne Hess and Democratic Party strategist Mary Beth Cahill.

Following a string of tough losses in the 2014 election and amid the continued rollback of abortion rights at the state level, EMILY's List is putting increased weight behind its efforts to put the first woman in the White House.

"Our network of over 3 million members are fired up about 2016. We are ready to elect the first woman president -- and more Democratic women up-and-down the ballot, from coast-to-coast," EMILY's List Executive Director Jessica O'Connell said in a statement.

Since the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United opened the door to unlimited independent spending by corporations, unions and, ultimately, individuals, EMILY's List has ramped up its independent spending. In the 2014 cycle, the group reported more than $8 million in federal election spending to the FEC.

The organization plans to spend even more than that to boost women candidates in the 2016 cycle. EMILY's List says it anticipates that it will benefit Clinton indirectly by supporting candidates further down the ballot in battleground states like Nevada, where Catherine Cortez Masto is seeking to fill the open seat being vacated by Sen. Harry Reid (D), and New Hampshire, where Gov. Maggie Hassan (D) may run for Senate.

Schriock has longstanding ties to the former secretary of state. Before Clinton named Robby Mook as her campaign manager, Schriock was under consideration for the post.

Schriock was also briefly served on the board of Priorities USA Action, the pro-Clinton super PAC, but stepped down in order to be able to work more closely with the campaign through EMILY's List. EMILY's List Political Director Denise Feriozzi, who is in charge of the group's presidential campaign spending, replaced Schriock on the super PAC's board.

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The Ready for Hillary super PAC -- now simply called Ready PAC -- has ceased most operations since Clinton announced her candidacy. The PAC is expected to transfer its social media followers over to EMILY's List ahead of the election. This would include Ready PAC's 2.2 million Facebook and 145,000 Twitter followers.

Hillary Clinton's Wall Street Address // HuffPo // Bill Moyers and Michael Winship – June 19, 2015

"Perfect! Perfect!" exclaimed a woman looking around at the Four Freedoms Park on New York City's Roosevelt Island as a large crowd waited for Hillary Clinton to announce her presidential candidacy last weekend.

And so it was. Secretary Clinton had chosen an ideal setting to link her destiny to the founding father of the modern Democratic Party, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the political giant whose famous proclamation in 1941 of the Four Freedoms -- freedom of speech and worship, freedom from fear and want -- defined the essence of American ideals after a devastating economic disaster and as we prepared to enter a great world war.

"Perfect! Perfect!" Except for one thing -- something the exultant spectator packed in the crowd at ground level might not have been able to see. As the camera pushed in toward the horizon behind Clinton, there it was, beyond the island and across the water: the skyline of Wall Street, the embodiment of financial might and its moguls and barons -- "the malefactors of great wealth," as his cousin Teddy called them -- that FDR took on in his fight to save democracy from unbridled greed, and capitalism from itself.

As Clinton spoke -- "Prosperity can't be just for CEOs and hedge fund managers" and "Democracy can't be just for billionaires and corporations," -- you could imagine the juxtaposition to have been deliberate, staged by her managers to superimpose her rhetorical defiance of plutocracy against its glass and steel castles off in the distance. No doubt she had thrown around herself this cloak of populism because it is the current fashion -- a superb and timely one -- among many Democrats, especially progressives battling the oxymoronic Wall Street Democrats who in the past thirty years hijacked FDR's party and severed it from its working class roots.

So it was refreshing to see her sally forth to do battle with the hyenas of Wall Street (as one noted hedge fund manager candidly described his ilk) proclaiming that:

The financial industry and many multinational corporations have created huge wealth for a few by focusing too much on short-term profit and too little on long-term value, too much on complex trading schemes and stock buybacks, too little on investments in new businesses, jobs, and fair compensation.

Her loyalists were presenting her to us as the reincarnation of the young woman she was in the '70s and '80s, the student who wrote her senior thesis on the organizer Saul Alinsky, interned at a fearless and controversial civil rights law firm, worked as an attorney for the Children's Defense Fund, investigated the treatment of migrant workers and chaired the board of the Legal Services Corporation.

Yet, you could also wonder if they had been unaware of another possible reading of the metaphor presented by the sight of Roosevelt Island against the skyline of Wall Street -- something her handlers didn't intend: A mockery of the words she was speaking at that very minute.

She is, after all, a favorite of the giant banks, the CEOs and hedge funds she now was castigating. Between 2009 and 2014, Clinton's list of top twenty donors starts out with Citigroup and includes JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, whose chief Lloyd Blankfein has invested in Clinton's son-in-law's boutique hedge fund. These donors are, as the website Truthout's William Rivers Pitt notes, "The ones who gamed the system by buying politicians like her and then proceeded to burn the economy down to dust and ash while making a financial killing in the process."

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They're also among the deep-pocket outfits that paid for speeches and appearances by Hillary or Bill Clinton to the tune of more of more than $125 million since they left the White House in 2001. It could hardly escape some in that crowd on Roosevelt Island, catching a glimpse of the towers of power and might across the river: Can we really expect someone so deeply tethered to the financial and business class -- who moves so often and so easily among its swells -- to fight hard to check their predatory appetites, dismantle their control of Congress, and stand up for the working people who are their prey?

Consider the two Canadian banks with financial ties to the Keystone XL pipeline that fully or partially paid for eight speeches by Hillary Clinton. Or her $3.2 million in lecture fees from the tech sector. Or the more then $2.5 million in paid speeches for companies and groups lobbying for fast-track trade. According to TIME magazine and the Center for Responsive Politics, in 2014:

Almost half of the money from Hillary Clinton's speaking engagements came from corporations and advocacy groups that were lobbying Congress at the same time... In all, the corporations and trade groups that Clinton spoke to in 2014 spent $72.5 million lobbying Congress that same year.

Then look at David Sirota's recent reporting for the International Business Times, especially the revelation that while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State, her department:

Approved $165 billion worth of commercial arms sales to 20 nations whose governments have given money to the Clinton Foundation, according to an IBTimes analysis of State Department and foundation data... nearly double the value of American arms sales made to the those countries and approved by the State Department during the same period of President George W. Bush's second term.

Those nations include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar, each of which "gained State Department clearance to buy caches of American-made weapons even as the department singled them out for a range of alleged ills, from corruption to restrictions on civil liberties to violent crackdowns against political opponents."

Further, American defense contractors like Boeing and Lockheed who sold those arms and their delivery systems also shelled out heavily to the $2 billion Clinton Foundation and the Clinton family. According to Sirota:

In all, governments and corporations involved in the arms deals approved by Clinton's State Department have delivered between $54 million and $141 million to the Clinton Foundation as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments to the Clinton family, according to foundation and State Department records.

The Clinton Foundation publishes only a rough range of individual contributors' donations, making a more precise accounting impossible.

The Washington Post reports that among the approximately 200,000 contributors there have also been donations from many other countries and corporations, overseas and domestic business leaders, the odious Blackwater Training Center, and even Rupert Murdoch of celebrity phone hacking fame.

Meredith McGehee, policy director of the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center, told David Sirota: "The word was out to these groups that one of the best ways to gain access and influence with the Clintons was to give to this foundation."

We pause here to note: All of these donations were apparently legal, and as others have written, at least we know who was doling out the cash, in contrast to those anonymous sources secretly channeling millions in "dark money" to the chosen candidates of the super rich. In The Atlantic, Lawrence Lessig, campaign finance reform activist and

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director of Harvard's Safra Center for Ethics put it well:

The question is not whether Hillary Clinton is a criminal. Of course she is not. The question is whether she can carry the mantle of a reformer. Can she really stand above the cesspool that is Washington -- filled not with criminals but with decent people inside a corrupted system trying to do what they think is good -- and say, this system must change.

And does she really see the change that's needed, when for the last 15 years, she has apparently lived a life that seems all but oblivious to exactly Washington's problem.

We see "exactly Washington's problem" in how, during the 1990s, Bill Clinton became the willing agent of Wall Street's push to deregulate, a collaboration that enriched the bankers but eventually cost millions of Americans their homes, jobs, and pensions.

Thanks to documents that came to light last year (one even has a hand-written note attached that reads: "Please eat this paper after you have read this."), we understand more clearly how a small coterie of insiders maneuvered to get President Clinton to support repeal of the New Deal-era Glass-Steagall Act that had long protected depositors from being victimized by bank speculators gambling with their savings. Repeal led to a wave of Wall Street mergers.

As you can read in stories by Dan Roberts in The Guardian and Pam and Russ Martens online, the ringleader of the effort was Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin, who breathlessly persuaded the president to sign the repeal and soon left office to join Citigroup, the bank that turned out to be the primary beneficiary of the deal. When it overreached and collapsed, Citigroup received the largest taxpayer bailout in the history of U.S. finance. Rubin, meanwhile, earned $126 million from the bank over ten years.

According to The New York Times, Rubin "remains a crucial kingmaker in Democratic policy circles" and, as an adviser to the Clintons, "will play an essential role in Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign for president..."

Hillary Clinton, as a young Methodist growing up in Park Ridge, Illinois, was weaned on the social ethics of John Wesley, a founder of Methodism and a courageous champion of the poor and needy; we have her word for it and the witness of others. "Do all the good you can," the Methodist saying goes, "in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

But over time, Hillary Clinton achieved superstar status among Washington's acculturated class -- that swollen colony of permanent denizens of our capital who may have come from the hinterlands but can hardly resist the seductive ways of a new and different culture in which the prevailing mindset is: It's important to do good but more important to do well.

Lawrence Lessig believes she is an unlikely reformer - "which is precisely why she might be a particularly effective one." But her way of life has marinated for a long time now in the culture of wealth, influence, and power -- and a way of thinking engrained deeply in our political ethos, one in which one's own power in democracy is more important than democracy itself.

It will take a conversion worthy of John Wesley to wrest free of that mindset, but God forbid we should have to live with another White House eclipsed by the skyline of Wall Street.

Sidney Blumenthal's Benghazi Testimony Focuses More on Domestic Politics Than The Attack // HuffPo // Sam Levine and Sam Stein – June 18, 2015

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The 2012 attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, have been investigated by congressional Republicans for years. Increasingly, however, they've resembled a vehicle for probing the actions of one player in that tragedy: then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, now a Democratic presidential candidate.

The most recent evidence of a narrowed, singular focus came this week, when Republicans on the House Select Committee on Benghazi called a longtime Clinton confidant, Sidney Blumenthal, to testify in private.

Blumenthal has Benghazi ties himself. He provided informal consultation to Clinton while she was at the State Department and apparently had business interests in Libya at the time.

But according to sources familiar with his testimony, including one who was in the room, committee members placed far more attention on Blumenthal's domestic political role for Clinton and how he will help her presidential ambitions than in understanding the nature of the attack that killed four U.S. officials, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens.

Those sources told The Huffington Post that it was several hours into Blumenthal's deposition before Republicans actually asked about the attacks. Blumenthal's congressional inquisitors posed roughly three times as many questions on his associations with the Clinton Foundation -- the charitable organization tied to the former first family for which he was a paid consultant -- as well as his work for Democratic-campaign institutions such as Media Matters and Correct the Record, than on the Benghazi attacks.

Requests for comment to the committee's chair, Rep Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) were not returned. But the recollections of those sources mirror a Politico report on Wednesday, which asserted that Republicans spent much of Tuesday's nearly nine-hour deposition asking Blumenthal about his political and philanthropic work. Blumenthal has publicly said that the deposition was political and that he knows nothing about the attacks.

“My testimony has shed no light on the events of Benghazi, nor could it, because I have no firsthand knowledge of what happened,” Blumenthal told reporters after his deposition. “It seems obvious that my appearance before this committee was for one reason and one reason only, and that reason is politics.”

Republicans have defended these lines of inquiry on grounds that they need to further understand the role Blumenthal was playing in the Clinton universe in order to assess the advice he gave her about Libyan intelligence while she was secretary of state. According to the sources familiar with Blumenthal's testimony, many of the questions posed about his work at Media Matters focused on whether he authored, edited, or provided materials for that organization to use in defending Clinton's role during the Benghazi attack.

Despite it all, the source in the room called the deposition civil, and said "nobody yelled or screamed."

Blumenthal sent Clinton at least 25 memos in 2011 and 2012 that contained intelligence about Libya. Clinton forwarded several of the memos to top State Department aides for review, but she and her colleagues expressed skepticism that the memos contained accurate information -- and they sometimes didn't. Blumenthal did not write the memos himself, both he and Gowdy have said.

The extensive questioning of Blumenthal's political association will undoubtedly further fuel Democratic criticism of Gowdy and his committee. Those critics say that the committee, charged with understanding all of the "policies, activities and decisions" that led to the attack on the U.S. compound, has become a not-so-subtle vehicle for badgering Clinton as she begins her campaign. And they point to the lethargic pace of the investigation as evidence that the election, not Benghazi, is at the forefront of its concern.

Despite pledges from Gowdy otherwise, the committee appears unlikely to release its final report until 2016.

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Voters Generally Support Clinton Voting Push // Public Policy Polling // - June 20, 2015

Americans strongly support the premise that it would be a good thing for the country if everyone voted- 67% share that view, compared to 19% who think that it would be a bad thing. There is bipartisan agreement on that point with majorities of Democrats (86/6), independents (60/21), and Republicans (52/34) all saying they believe it would be good.

There's more division on a specific proposal Hillary Clinton has made toward that end- automatic voter registration. 48% of voters support that to 38% who are opposed. Democrats (72/17) are strongly in favor of it while Republicans (28/59) are mostly opposed.

-As the Supreme Court decision looms the once unpopular Affordable Care Act now has Americans at least pretty evenly divided. 42% say they support it to 43% who opposed. When we last asked the question nationally last winter, there was only 39% support and 48% of voters who were opposed. Obamacare may still not exactly be popular, but it's not the big albatross it might have been for Democrats in the past either.

-2 of the big recent policy debates in Washington have Americans largely saying 'meh.' 53% of voters have no opinion on the Trans Pacific Partnership. Among those who do have one 18% are supportive and 29% are opposed. The 18% support is the same we found a month ago, the 29% opposition has ticked up a little bit from 25% in May. Democrats (23/24) are pretty closely divided on it while both Republicans (15/35) and independents (15/29) are mostly opposed to the extent they even have a take. It's a similar story when it comes to attitudes toward the USA Freedom Act. 61% have no opinion about that but it's more popular with voters who do have one- 26% support it to 14% who are opposed. That one meets with support across party lines from Decembers (32/11), Republicans (23/14), and independents (21/17) alike.

-Last week's gun news was the legality of bringing your gun into the airport- only 23% of voters nationally think you should be allowed to do that, compared to 64% who are opposed. Democrats (12/81), independents (25/57), and Republicans (34/50) are all firmly against guns in airports. This is one issue where the elected officials who decided to allow it are way out of line with how their constituents feel about the issue.

-Much is made of Barack Obama being unpopular- 45% of voters approve of the job he's doing to 50% who disapprove. But his numbers are positively stratospheric compared to where the leaders of Congress and the body itself stand with the public. John Boehner has only a 22% approval rating with 62% of voters disapproving of him, and Mitch McConnell is even less popular with just a 16% approval rating and 61% of voters disapproving of him. It's a given that Boehner and McConnell are disliked by Democrats but what's really striking is the extent to which even voters in their party don't like them. Boehner has a 31/50 approval rating with Republican voters, and McConnell's is 24/50.

Congress itself has a 12/77 approval rating. That does at least make it more popular than some of the things we polled on though. Chris Brown has a 10/52 favorability rating and Justin Bieber is even more unpopular at 10/67. And Congress does outpoll ISIS, which comes in at a 5/81 favorability rating.

-We tested a bunch of prominent performing artists that we had also polled on in 2013 to see how their numbers had changed since then. The most popular folks we looked at were Taylor Swift and Justin Timberlake, each of whom came in at 54/15. In 2013 Swift was at 53/27 and Timberlake was at 52/24 so their negatives have dropped while their favorability numbers have basically stayed in place.

Only two of the people we polled have seen their numbers shift significantly in the last couple years. Lady Gaga has become a good deal more popular, going from a 29/50 favorability rating to 42/32. Justin Bieber, already unpopular, has headed even further in the wrong direction going from 20/54 to 10/67.

Hillary Clinton: Donald Trump's speech drives Charleston-like violence // Breitbart // Ben Shapiro – June

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19, 2015

Speaking with host John Ralston, she explained, “Public discourse is sometimes hotter and more negative than it should be, which can, in my opinion, trigger someone who is less than stable.” She continued, “I think we have to speak out against it. Like, for example, a recent entry into the Republican presidential campaign said some very inflammatory things about Mexicans. Everybody should stand up and say that’s not acceptable.”

Presumably, Hillary was referencing Trump’s comments during his announcement speech in which he said Mexico was sending people across the border: “They’re not sending their best. They’re not sending you. They’re not sending you. They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

Dylann Roof murdered nine people at a historically black church. There are no reports he was a fan of Donald Trump, or that Roof shot six black women and three black men after being inspired by Trump’s rhetoric about Hispanic illegal immigrants.

But facts have no bearing on such nonsensical arguments. This hatred for the First Amendment – the European notion that freedom of speech must be curtailed in order to avoid triggering the unstable or evil – has become a hallmark of the left. Whether the left blames Pamela Geller for the violence of radical Muslims who try to murder people for drawing cartoons of Mohammed, blames Sarah Palin for Jared Loughner’s shooting of Gabrielle Giffords, or mistakenly blames the Tea Party for James Holmes, right wing speech has become their bugaboo.

Of course, the same does not hold true for the left, according to the left. When Mayor Bill De Blasio shut down New York police use of stop and frisk, sending crime skyrocketing, then followed up that botchery by blaming racist cops for the death of Eric Garner while invoking his biracial son (he said he and his wife “have had to talk to Dante for years about the dangers that he may face” from police) – and when two NYPD officers were then murdered in cold blood — the NYPD turned their backs on him. The left promptly blamed the NYPD for the rift.

When Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said on national television, “We also gave those who wished to destroy space to do that” with regard to rioters, the left said she had been taken out of context. When the president of the United States spoke in the aftermath of the Ferguson verdict and railed that “there are still problems and communities of color aren’t just making these problems up… there are issues in which the law too often feels as if it is being applied in discriminatory fashion,” and when violent riots broke out, the left insisted that the president had forwarded race relations.

As for Hillary Clinton herself, the former Secretary of State is no stranger to inflammatory rhetoric. In her campaign relaunch announcement, she accused Republicans of wanting to “take away health insurance from more than 16 million Americans… sham[ing] and blam[ing] women… put[ing] immigrants who work hard and pay taxes at risk of deportation… turn[ing] their backs on gay people who love each other.” She has accused Republicans of attempting to stop black people from voting. She has insisted that religious people must be forced to abandon their religious beliefs on social issues. When she was in the Senate, Clinton screamed from the floor regarding the Bush Administration’s intelligence before 9/11, “What did Bush know and when did he know it?”

But naturally, that’s just politics. It always is, when leftists are participating in it. When right-wingers engage in First Amendment-protected speech, however, they’d best watch themselves: you never know when the next evil maniac is around the corner. Perhaps the only safe course would be to curtail the First Amendment to prevent such rhetoric. After all, if only we can save one life, is that so high a price to pay?

Hillary Clinton alludes to Donald Trump’s racist rhetoric as fuel for hateful acts like the Charleston shooting // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – June 19, 2015

The type of “inflammatory” rhetoric Donald Trump uses can "trigger people who are less than stable to do

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something" like the Charleston shootings, Hillary Clinton said Friday.

"The people who do this kind of dastardly horrible act are very small percentage, but unfortunately the public discourse is sometimes hotter and more negative than it should be, which can, in my opinion, trigger people who are less than stable to do something like what we've seen," Clinton said during an interview with journalist Jon Ralston in Las Vegas, referring to the murders of nine black churchgoers earlier this week.

Donald Trump, who canceled a campaign event in South Carolina in the wake of the massacre, fired back.

Clinton then took aim at Trump, who during his presidential announcement speech earlier this week said many of the immigrants who come here illegally from Mexico are “rapists” who are “bringing drugs” and “bringing crime.”

“For example, a recent entry into the Republican presidential campaign said some very inflammatory things about Mexicans,” Clinton said, refusing to name the bellicose businessman. “Everybody should stand up and say that's not acceptable. You know, you don't talk like that on talk radio.”

Trump, who canceled a campaign event in South Carolina in the wake of the massacre, fired back.

“It’s pretty pathetic that Hillary just blamed me for the horrendous attack that took place in South Carolina,” he said in an instagram video. “This is why politicians are just no good.”

How Hillary Clinton will raise gobs of cash from Wall Street while trashing the industry in public //
Business Insider // Linette Lopez – June 19, 2015

Here's how a politician would normally get money from Wall Street to finance their campaign.

Stop by the office and visit the CEO, like Marco Rubio did with Blackstone founder Steve Schwarzman.

Throw some public events for younger donors and then have a private dinner with the heavy hitters at night to collect the big checks, like Jeb Bush did with Goldman Sachs.

Do something that billionaire hedge fund manager Carl Icahn has pointed out President Obama hasn't been able to do: Make nice with the Hamptons crowd.

Hillary Clinton is not likely to do these things.

If Clinton wants to keep her base happy and be a champion against income inequality and for the middle class, she can't be seen hobnobbing with Wall Street's elite.

So how does a candidate in Clinton's position still get Wall Street's elite money?

Very, very quietly, and through back channels.

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That's what we learned from speaking to a number of bundlers, donors, and political insiders.

Dinners with Wall Street will be private and small. And, likely, you will not see Clinton visiting any banks, hedge funds or private equity firms.

There will be a number of industry leaders collecting checks for her quietly too, like Marc Lasry, the billionaire founder of Avenue Capital. He sent out emails to friends in an attempt to raise $270,000 within the first week of Clinton's campaign.

That kind of stuff works. The reality of political bundling is that donations are given not because of some PR stunt or because of some swanky party.

Donors give money to campaigns when the right people ask them for that money.

Lasry, for one, is on that list of "right people." He runs a huge hedge fund and people want to be able to do business with him. Lots of those people will donate to whichever candidate Lasry wants them to, just to stay on his good side.

Meanwhile, Clinton will go out to the world with her populist, anti-Wall Street rhetoric.

Every once in a while, this will upset some of her donors. That sensitivity has already become apparent in the campaign. In an interview with CNN, billionaire Leon Cooperman complained that Clinton "hangs out with these people in Martha's Vineyard and in the Hamptons and the very first thing she does is criticize hedge funds."

This was in response to Clinton pointing out that "the top-25 hedge fund managers making more than all of America's kindergarten teachers combined. And often paying a lower tax rate."

She added, "So you have to wonder: 'When does my hard work pay off? When does my family get ahead? When?'"

See? Sensitive.

Another way insiders expect Clinton to raise cash from Wall Street is through Wall Street's lawyers. Lawyers tend to lean more liberal than their Wall Street clients do, and Clinton can rally their support so that they can approach clients who might be able to sign a check or two.

The approach will work if only because, as everyone knows, Wall Street owes its lawyers a debt of gratitude or two.

The question is, then, will the Clintons still summer in the Hamptons?

How Hillary Clinton thanked a pizza place that's been feeding her campaign // Business Insider // Hunter Walker – June 19, 2015

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Monty Q's, a pizzeria located near Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, has become a favored source of food for her staff. Clinton checked out Monty Q's for herself on May 14. Afterwards, she sent the restaurant a note thanking them for a "warm welcome to the neighborhood."

"My campaign staff has been raving about Monty Q's for weeks now so I just had to stop by for lunch — and they were right. The salad was delicious," Clinton wrote. "Thank you for your friendly and courteous service and for keeping our staff and volunteers well-fed."

Clinton's letter, which was dated May 20, is now framed and hanging in the pizzeria along with a picture she took with the staff.

A Clinton staffer told Business Insider the restaurant's offerings, which include more than standard pizzeria fare, have definitely become quite popular with the campaign team.

"The made-to-order salad and pasta stations are only topped by the chocolate chip cookies - a definite fan favorite," the staffer said.

Check out Clinton's letter to Monty Q's and her picture with the staff below.

Hillary Clinton Talks First Term To H'wood Donors At Tobey Maguire's House // Deadline // Dominic Patten – June 20, 2015

The former Secretary of State told a sold-out fundraiser of more than 200 Tinseltown supporters tonight that she isn't running for Bill Clinton or Barack Obama's third terms but her own first term. Hillary Clinton's remarks were made in the backyard of Tobey Maguire and his wife Jennifer Meyer's Brentwood home on Friday. Long time supporters Leonardo DiCaprio, Pitch Perfect 2 director and Hunger Games star Elizabeth Banks and Homeland EP Howard Gordon were among the well-heeled crowd nibbling on a low-key spread of hors d'oevres and sipping wine and soft drinks.

The once and potentially future White House resident also talked about growing the economy for the middle class and expanding opportunities for the LGBT community if she becomes America's first female Commander-in-Chief. The threat of ISIS, clean energy and reaching across the aisle to pass legislation with the likes of now GOP candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham were among the other topics Clinton touched on in what one attendee described as "a stump speech." In contrast to President Obama's remarks at his own set of DNC L.A. fundraisers on Thursday, Clinton did not mention the fatal shootings in Charleston, S.C. that occurred earlier this week.

Meyer, hostess and daughter of NBCUniversal Vice Chairman Ron Meyer, introduced Clinton on Friday night. Jennifer Meyer told the gathering about how the 42nd President of the United States told her in 2004 that no one in America was more qualified to be President than his wife. Expected to raise more than $500,000 for her 2016 Presidential bid, the 7 PM $2,700 a ticket event was Clinton's third fundraiser of the day. With a $1 million total haul, today's visit to the Hollywood ATM was the ex-New York Senator's second set of L.A. donorfests in less than 2 months.

Earlier Friday, Clinton was feted at another $2,700 per ticket fundraiser at the home of HBO's president of programming Michael Lombardo and his partner Sonny Ward. Before that 5 PM event, the candidate attended a donor lunch at the BevHills home of Westfield co-CEO Peter Lowy and his wife Janine. That event was also $2,700 a ticket, which is the maximum an individual can contribute during the primary season.

No word yet on when Hillary will be back in L.A. but, as with Obama this week, expect frequent fundraisers over the next year and a half and beyond if she wins. Also, other Democratic contenders like former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley are coming to town soon with cup in hand. Can Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders be far behind?

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Hillary Clinton Woos Young Hollywood Democrats at Fundraisers in L.A. **// Hollywood Reporter // Tina Daunt – June 19, 2015**

By the time Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton leaves Los Angeles Saturday, she hopes to have added well over $1 million to her campaign war chest and to have cemented her family's famous Hollywood ties to a new generation of entertainment industry donors.

The lynchpin of her two-day swing through Southern California is Friday evening's gathering at the home of Spider-Man star Tobey Maguire and his wife, Jennifer Meyer Maguire. All 250 places at that event are sold out at $2,700 apiece. Attendees are expected to include Leonardo DiCaprio, Elizabeth Banks, singer Sia Furler, ID PR founder Kelly Bush and an array of other "young" Hollywood types, one insider told The Hollywood Reporter. The event, which was organized by Greg Propper and Mark Daley of social advocacy firm Propper Daley, is slated to raise more than $500,000.

California, and Hollywood in particular, always have been Clinton country. When Bill Clinton first sought the Democratic presidential nomination, he raised funds and campaigned relentlessly in the state and ultimately defeated California's favorite son, the once and future governor Jerry Brown, in the primary. In 2008, Hillary Clinton bested Barack Obama in California's Democratic primary.

Friday's schedule demonstrated just how wide the Clinton's entertainment industry reach remains. Earlier in the day, she was the star attraction at a $2,700-per-person event hosted by Westfield Corp. co-CEO Peter Lowy and his wife, Janine. That was followed by a $2,700-per-person conversation with the former First Lady and Secretary of State at the home of HBO president of programming Michael Lombardo and his husband, Sonny Ward.

On Thursday, Clinton was in Newport Beach to scoop up presidential campaign cash. Supporters at Balboa Bay Club paid between $1,000 and $50,000 to mingle with the Democratic front runner.

Clinton will continue her California tour with a Saturday visit to San Francisco, where she'll address the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Harassment Complaints Tripled at State Department Under Clinton, Kerry **// Free Beacon // Joe Schoffstall – June 19, 2015**

Harassment complaints nearly tripled at the State Department under the watch of Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, according to a State Department watchdog report released Thursday.

The Washington Times reports that harassment complaints hit 88 formal claims during Clinton's third year at State in 2011. This number jumped to 248 formal claims just three years later in 2014 with Kerry serving as secretary. Hundreds more informal harassment complaints were also filed during this time.

Last year, more than one-third, or 38 percent of complaints filed by employees, dealt with sex discrimination or reprisals. An additional 43 percent of complaints were made up of alleged harassment dealing with unfair hiring or promotions.

Despite the spike in harassment claims at the State Department, there is no mandatory training program in place dealing with the issue.

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"A significant increase in reported harassment inquiries in the Department of State over the past few fiscal years supports the need for mandatory harassment training," the department's inspector general said.

Due to the department's non-existent mandatory harassment training programs, one of the biggest recommendations includes periodic training for every employee at the State Department.

"The Office of Civil Rights, in coordination with the Bureau of Human Resources and the Foreign Service Institute, should mandate periodic harassment training for all Department employees," the report stated.

Clinton to Fundraise at L.A. House of Tax Evading Clinton Foundation Donor // Free Beacon // Brent Scher – June 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton will attend a $2,700-a-plate luncheon on Friday at the Beverly Hills home of a man who was investigated by the Senate for hiding $68 million in assets in an offshore tax haven.

Peter Lowy, who was born in Australia but is a U.S. citizen, is chief executive officer of the Westfield Group, one of the world's largest owners of shopping malls. The company was founded by his father, Frank Lowy, and is controlled by the Lowy family.

The family came under fire in 2008 when a report from then-Sens. Carl Levin (D., Mich.) and Norm Coleman (R., Minn.) alleged that the Lowys were hiding $68 million in a Lichtenstein tax haven called the LGT Group.

The relationship between the Lowys and the LGT Group began in 1997 when the family started a Lichtenstein foundation worth $54 million. It grew to $68 million by 2001 when the foundation was dissolved.

The information came during an investigation by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations into LGT Group and others that were being used as tax shelters.

"LGT was aware that Mr. Lowy and his sons were hiding assets in the new foundation," according to the report.

Lawyers for Lowy maintained that he did nothing against the law and that "businesses all over the world use a variety of tax structures to legitimately protect their assets." He said all the money was given to charity.

Lowy, however, refused to cooperate with the Senate investigation. He invoked his 5th Amendment right against self-incrimination during a hearing held by the committee.

"Senator, I'm sorry, I mean no disrespect. But on the advice of my counsel I assert my rights under the 5th Amendment of the United States Constitution not to answer any questions," said Lowy.

His lack of cooperation did not end there. Levin said the Lowy family refused to hand over documentation of the charitable donations to his subcommittee.

Lowy was also accused during the hearing by Coleman of taking "a red-eye flight to Australia" to avoid a subpoena.

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An investigation into the Lowy finances carried out by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) led to further efforts in Bermuda to hide assets that should have been taxed by the United States.

The Friday fundraiser for Hillary Clinton is not the beginning of the Lowy relationship with the Clinton family. The earliest recorded instance came in 1995, when Bill Clinton's presidential campaign received donations from multiple Lowy family members.

Both Lowy and his wife Janine Lowy also made the maximum allowed contribution to Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. They also both donated to Clinton's 2006 Senate campaign. The couple's political giving to federal candidates totals over $1 million and remains active.

Lowy has also given between $50,001 and $100,000 to the Clinton Foundation, and made donations as recently as last year. His company, the Westfield Corporation, has also made Clinton Foundation donations in the same range.

The Clinton campaign did not respond to a request for comment on the Friday event.

Hillary Clinton's 24-hour fundraising jaunt in Hollywood expected to net $1 million // Washington Times // Jennifer Harper – June 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton made her grand public debut before American voters only a week ago in New York City, then rushed off for some quick grassroots stops in Iowa and New Hampshire. And at week's end came the big stop in California, land of Hollywood fundraising. Mrs. Clinton is expected to do exceptionally well.

"By the time Democratic front-runner leaves Los Angeles Saturday, she hopes to have added well over $1 million to her campaign war chest and to have cemented her family's famous Hollywood ties to a new generation of entertainment industry donors," says The Hollywood Reporter, an industry source which tracks the stars and the business.

On Friday night, Mrs. Cinton appeared at the home of Tobey Maguire, he of "Spiderman" fame, for an elite gathering of 250 which included Leonardo DiCaprio, Elizabeth Banks, and singer Sia Furler. The event will raise $500,000.

Mrs. Clinton appeared in two more fundraisers in the Beverly Hills area and Newport Beach, bringing the total haul up to a cool $1 million, the Hollywood Reporter said, basing the figure on an unnamed source.

But wait, there's more. On Saturday, it's on to San Francisco for a fourth event - a swank brunch in the Mission District, with admission prices rising as high as $50,000. It is of note that President Obama was also on the West Coast at the same time - also raising money in Los Angeles and San Francisco, this primarily for the Democratic National Committee. Mr. Obama is scheduled to play golf in Palm Springs for the rest of the weekend - his fifth visit to the area's links in two years. This one came with a little local warning.

"President Barack Obama's weekend visit will close roads near the Palm Springs airport from Friday afternoon until Monday morning. According to a notice from Palm Springs police, both Kirk Douglas Way and Airport Center Drive will be closed from 1 p.m. Friday until 7 a.m. Monday," noted a terse dispatch form The Desert Sun, a local paper.

In the meantime, talk that Mrs. Clinton could raise $1 billion for her White House campaign may not be pure

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conjecture. When the weekend is over, she will have completed her 26th fundraiser for the year.

Hillary Clinton stressing support for immigration reform // AZ Central // Dan Nowicki – June 19, 2015

As the 2016 Republican presidential field toughens its tone on border security and enforcement, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton has drawn a sharp distinction on immigration by embracing comprehensive reforms such as a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers already in the United States.

Speaking Thursday before the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Clinton, a former secretary of State, reiterated promises she made during a May 5 roundtable in North Las Vegas.

That she would fight for comprehensive immigration reform that includes "a real path to citizenship" for the more than 11 million undocumented immigrants who have settled in the United States.

That she would oppose any move to deport the young immigrants known as "dreamers" or to undo President Barack Obama's executive actions that are shielding millions of immigrants from enforcement action.

And that if Congress continues to balk at acting on immigration reform, "as president I will do everything possible under the law to go even further than what President Obama has attempted to achieve," she said.

"There are so many people with deep ties and contributions to our communities, like many parents of dreamers, who deserve a chance to stay, and I will fight for them, too," Clinton said to applause from a standing-room-only crowd inside the Aria Resort & Casino. "But I don't have to wait to become president to take a stand, right here and right now, against divisive rhetoric that demonizes immigrants and their families. It's wrong and no one should stand for it."

The contrast between Clinton and the Republican White House prospects grew sharper this week with the entry into the race of celebrity real-estate developer Donald Trump, who announced his candidacy with a speech bashing Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and vowing to build a border wall at Mexico's expense.

"They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people," Trump said of immigrants from Mexico.

While Trump is viewed by many political handicappers as a novelty candidate, others said his anti-immigrant rant could tarnish the Republican brand with Latino voters, a fast-growing demographic that is increasingly influential in key swing states such as Nevada, Colorado, Florida, New Mexico and Virginia.

Despite warnings from national GOP leaders after the loss of 2012 nominee Mitt Romney to Obama, in which Romney was shellacked among Latino voters, most of the Republican presidential contenders continue to stake out hard-line positions on immigration and border security.

Trump's comments were a noisy distraction from the official entry into the race of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a more moderate GOP presidential candidate who supports immigration reform. But even Bush didn't appear inclined to take up the issue during his Monday announcement until he was interrupted by pro-citizenship hecklers.

"By the way, just so that our friends know, the next president of the United States will pass meaningful immigration reform so that that will be solved, not by executive order," Bush said.

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Later in the week, Bush called for immigration reform while campaigning in Iowa, which hosts the first presidential caucuses.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., another GOP 2016 candidate, also sparred this week with immigration activists who interrupted a speech he was giving in Washington, D.C.

Ben Carson, a conservative retired neurosurgeon seeking the Republican nomination, was the only GOP hopeful to make an appearance at the NALEO conference. His remarks on Wednesday largely avoided immigration and instead highlighted the economy and the need for global U.S. leadership. He did say national-security concerns dictate the need to seal the borders.

"What we should do, I believe, is provide them a way that they don't have to hide in the shadows," Carson said of the millions of undocumented immigrants already in the country. "Give them an opportunity to become guest workers. They have to register. They have to enroll in a back-tax program. And if they want to become citizens, they have to get in the line with everybody else and do what's necessary."

Clinton spent less than five minutes of her 30-minute speech to the NALEO conference focusing explicitly on immigration policy. She also discussed other issues that resonate with Latino voters, including early-childhood development, preschool, jobs, education and voting rights. She also addressed the mass shooting Wednesday in Charleston, S.C., which killed nine people at a historic Black church.

Clinton's efforts to secure the Latino vote are fueled, in part, by anxiety among some Democrats that Obama's winning coalition might not be as motivated to turn out to the polls if Obama is no longer on the ticket.

"Because this is what this community wants and needs to hear, it's what it's going to take to energize that community to actually show up in this election," said state Sen. Martin Quezada, D-Phoenix, who attended the NALEO conference. "If we don't, I think she's going to be in trouble. It's going to be a tough race anyway, so she needs this community to turn out next year and this is one way to really motivate them to do that."

One political scientist said that while the Republicans must finesse immigration-related issues so as not to alienate anti-"amnesty" conservatives who are influential in the GOP primary, Clinton's pro-reform stance appeals not only to Democratic primary voters but also to less partisan general-election voters.

Clinton so far has a few opponents in the Democratic race, including U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who is expected to address the NALEO conference on Friday.

"A Democrat on an issue like this can run for the broad center from the beginning and doesn't have to worry that she'll pay a big price for that in the primaries, whereas on the Republican side, even nominal immigration moderates like Jeb Bush have to say they're against the executive action," said Louis DeSipio, a professor of political science and Chicano/Latino studies at the University of California-Irvine.

Meanwhile, the Republican National Committee suggested Clinton's efforts to appeal to Latinos is merely cynical politics.

"Latinos deserve to know that Hillary Clinton is looking out for her own political ambition instead of their interests," Reince Priebus, the RNC chairman, said Thursday in a written statement. "As she has proven time and again, Hillary Clinton will say anything to get elected — making big promises she won't and can't keep, just like President Obama."

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Still, Clinton's all-out endorsement of immigration reform so early in the presidential campaign has immigrant-rights activists applauding.

"I don't doubt whether she is deeply committed to it, but what I respect is that she understands the power of our movement, the importance of the Latino vote, and therefore she feels like it's in her interest to say what she's saying," said Frank Sharry, the executive director of America's Voice, a liberal national group that advocates for comprehensive immigration reform. "To me, it's a movement victory that she's saying what she's saying. And for me, it's slow-motion political suicide for the Republicans to be saying what they're saying, with a few notable exceptions."

Even so, Clinton's expansive pro-immigration agenda is a recent development for her and a sharp break from the policies of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, who served two terms in the White House from 1993 to 2001.

As a U.S. senator from New York, Clinton voted for the border-fence-authorizing Secure Fence Act of 2006, although she distanced herself from it as early as her 2008 presidential race. Also during the 2008 campaign, when she lost the Democratic nomination to Obama, Clinton came out against issuing driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants, a position she reversed this year.

"Hillary seemed tone-deaf and rusty when she was on her book tour (for her 2014 memoir 'Hard Choices') and she was asked a couple of questions about immigration, and both times she fumbled it," Sharry said. "But now, as a candidate, she has really leaned into it, taken ownership of the issue and made it clear that she's going to draw sharp distinctions with whoever the Republican nominee is, including if it's Jeb Bush."

Her husband's legacy could follow her as the campaign rolls on.

Bill Hing, a University of San Francisco law professor and immigration-policy expert, said that from the standpoint of immigrant-rights advocates, Bill Clinton "has one of the worst immigration records" of any president in modern history.

Under his administration, the United States started the "big militarization of the border" through Operation Gatekeeper, which was aimed at stopping illegal immigration along the U.S.-Mexico border south of San Diego by deploying more Border Patrol agents, and installing fencing, ground sensors, lights and other technology, Hing said.

Clinton also signed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, a sweeping bill passed by the Republican-controlled Congress that was aimed at cracking down on undocumented immigrants through a wide range of punishments. Those included barring undocumented immigrants from returning to the United States for up to 10 years, and expanding the list of crimes for which legal immigrants could be stripped of their status and deported.

However, Hing doubts Bill Clinton's old positions on border security and immigration enforcement will hurt Hillary Clinton with Latinos.

"Latino voters are giving her a pass because the Republicans have been so intransigent on immigration reform," Hing said, pointing out that in recent years conservative Republicans have consistently foiled attempts by moderate Republicans and Democrats to pass immigration reform.

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Doris Meissner, former commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization System during the Clinton administration, said it's unfair to tie Bill Clinton's record to Hillary Clinton.

The border-security and immigration-enforcement measures launched under Bill Clinton's administration were badly needed, Meissner said. But what distinguishes Hillary Clinton from her Republican rivals is that she believes it is time to move beyond border security and immigration enforcement, she said.

"She's talking about now what needs to be done in addition and that is very different from what all the Republicans are saying," Meissner said. "They are just saying more of the same and they are in a time warp. ... We just don't have the same issues at the border."

Where Does Clinton Foundation Money Go? **// FactCheck.Org // Robert Farley – June 19, 2015**

Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina says that “so little” of the charitable donations to the Clinton Foundation “actually go to charitable works” — a figure CARLY for America later put at about 6 percent of its annual revenues — but Fiorina is simply wrong.

Fiorina and others are referring only to the amount donated by the Clinton Foundation to outside charities, ignoring the fact that most of the Clinton Foundation’s charitable work is performed in-house. One independent philanthropy watchdog did an analysis of Clinton Foundation funding and concluded that about 89 percent of its funding went to charity.

Simply put, despite its name, the Clinton Foundation is not a private foundation — which typically acts as a pass-through for private donations to other charitable organizations. Rather, it is a public charity. It conducts most of its charitable activities directly.

Fiorina Attacks

Fiorina has been shadowing Hillary Clinton on the campaign trail in order to contrast herself with her Democratic rival. In a Fox News interview, Fiorina was asked about a New York Times story about Sen. Marco Rubio’s finances, and Fiorina responded that she wished the New York Times would do more to investigate the Clintons’ finances, and particularly “what they’ve been doing with their donors’ money to the Clinton Global Initiative.”

Fiorina, June 10: I mean, honestly, the question, I think, now for the Clintons is, ‘What else don’t we know? What don’t we know about your donors? What don’t we know about the conflicts of interest that those donors represent when Mrs. Clinton is serving as Secretary of State?’ We are now finding out that so little of those charitable donations actually go to charitable works.

Asked for backup, the CARLY for America super PAC noted that the Clinton Foundation’s latest IRS Form 990 shows total revenue of nearly $149 million in 2013, and total charitable grant disbursements of nearly $9 million (see page 10). That comes to roughly 6 percent of the budget going to grants. And besides those grants, the super PAC said, “there really isn’t anything that can be categorized as charitable.”

That just isn’t so. The Clinton Foundation does most of its charitable work itself.

Katherina Rosqueta, the founding executive director of the Center for High Impact Philanthropy at the University of Pennsylvania, described the Clinton Foundation as an “operating foundation.”

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“There is an important distinction between an operating foundation vs. a non-operating foundation,” Rosqueta told us via email. “An operating foundation implements programs so money it raises is not designed to be used exclusively for grant-making purposes. When most people hear ‘foundation’, they think exclusively of a grant-making entity. In either case, the key is to understand how well the foundation uses money — whether to implement programs or to grant out to nonprofits — [to achieve] the intended social impact (e.g., improving education, creating livelihoods, improving health, etc.).”

Craig Minassian, chief communications officer for the Clinton Foundation, said the Clinton Foundation is “an implementer.”

“We operate programs on the ground, around the world, that are making a difference on issues ranging from poverty and global health to climate change and women’s and girls’ participation,” Minassian told us via email. “Many large foundations actually provide grants to the Clinton Foundation so that our staff can implement the work.”

Asked for some examples of the work it performs itself, the Clinton Foundation listed these:

Clinton Development Initiative staff in Africa train rural farmers and help them get access to seeds, equipment and markets for their crops.

Clinton Climate Initiative staff help governments in Africa and the Caribbean region with reforestation efforts, and in island nations to help develop renewable energy projects.

Staff at the Clinton Health Access Initiative, an independent, affiliated entity, work in dozens of nations to lower the cost of HIV/AIDS medicine, scale up pediatric AIDS treatment and promote treatment of diarrhea through life-saving Zinc/ORS treatment.

Clinton Health Matters staff work with local governments and businesses in the United States to develop wellness and physical activity plans.

To bolster its case, CARLY for America noted that the Clinton Foundation spent 12 percent of its revenue on travel and conferences and 20 percent of its revenue on salaries. That’s true. But the Form 990 specifically breaks out those travel, conference and salary expenses that are used for “program service expenses” versus those that are used for management or fundraising purposes.

For example, nearly 77 percent of the $8.4 million spent on travel in 2013 went toward program services; 3.4 percent went to “management and general expenses”; and about 20 percent went to fundraising.

As for conferences, nearly 98 percent of money spent was tabbed as a programming expense. And when it comes to salaries — which includes pension plan contributions, benefits and payroll taxes — about 73 percent went to program service expenses.

“I am not the expert on what portion of the Clinton Foundation activities are truly charitable,” Vince Stehle, executive director of Media Impact Funders and a board member of the Center for Effective Philanthropy told us via email. “But I can say that it is not appropriate to simply calculate that based on what portion goes out in grants. Certainly all types of foundations are able to engage in direct charitable activities in any event. But as I understand it, the Clinton Foundation is a public charity, despite the name. Many charities call themselves foundations, which can be confusing, as they might seem like private foundations.

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“The organization carries out programs,” Stehle said. “I am not intimately familiar with those programs, but assuming they are genuine, those would be considered charitable activities.”

Charity Evaluators

Fiorina isn’t the only one making this charge about the Clinton Foundation. Fox Business Network’s Gerri Willis, for example, also claimed only 6 percent of the Clinton Foundation’s 2013 revenue “went to help people.” Willis claimed that charity experts have looked into whether the Clinton Foundation “wisely spen(t) charitable dollars” and weighed in with a “resounding no.”

“Charity Navigator … [has] placed the Clinton Foundation on a watch list,” Willis said. “They think there are problems with this nonprofit. They don’t like the way it runs itself. They say the money is not spent wisely.”

She said Charity Navigator concluded the Clinton Foundation “does not meet their criteria as an organization that does charitable work.”

But that’s not what Charity Navigator said.

Here’s what the Charity Navigator site actually states:

Charity Navigator: We had previously evaluated this organization, but have since determined that this charity’s atypical business model can not be accurately captured in our current rating methodology. Our removal of The Clinton Foundation from our site is neither a condemnation nor an endorsement of this charity. We reserve the right to reinstate a rating for The Clinton Foundation as soon as we identify a rating methodology that appropriately captures its business model.

What does it mean that this organization isn’t rated?

It simply means that the organization doesn’t meet our criteria. A lack of a rating does not indicate a positive or negative assessment by Charity Navigator.

We spoke by phone with Sandra Minuitti at Charity Navigator, and she told us Charity Navigator decided not to rate the Clinton Foundation because the foundation spun off some entities (chiefly the Health Access Initiative) and then later brought some, like the Clinton Global Initiative, back into the fold. Charity Navigator looks at a charity’s performance over time, she said, and those spin-offs could result in a skewed picture using its analysis model. If the foundation maintains its current structure for several years, she said, Charity Navigator will be able to rate it again.

The decision to withhold a rating had nothing to do with concerns about the Clinton Foundation’s charitable work. Further, Minuitti said citing only the 6 percent of the budget spent on grants as the sum total spent on charity by the foundation — as Willis and Fiorina did — is inaccurate.

She referred us to page 10 of the 2013 990 form for the Clinton Foundation. When considering the amount spent on “charitable work,” she said, one would look not just at the amount in grants given to other charities, but all of the expenses in Column B for program services. That comes to 80.6 percent of spending. (The higher 89 percent figure we cited earlier comes from a CharityWatch analysis of the Clinton Foundation and its affiliates.)

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“That’s the standard way” to measure a charity’s performance, Minuitti said. “You have to look at the entirety of that column.”

Minuitti said it is also inaccurate to assume all money spent on travel and salaries does not go toward charity. Depending on the nature of the charity, she said, travel and salary could certainly be considered expenses related to charity.

It’s true, as Willis said, that Charity Navigator put the Clinton Foundation on its “watch list,” but not because of concerns about insufficient funds going toward charity. Mainly, it was put on the watch list due to questions raised in the media about foreign donations to the foundation and the potential for quid pro quo when Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. The site also linked to a story about the abrupt resignation earlier this year of the foundation’s CEO. (Go here to see a full list of articles that led to the decision by Charity Navigator to place the foundation on its watch list.)

According to the Charity Navigator site, it “takes no position” on the allegations raised in the media reports, nor does it “seek to confirm or verify the accuracy of allegations made or the merits of issues raised.” Minuitti said the watch list was more like “news to know” for potential donors.

None of the articles cited by Charity Navigator has anything to do with a low percentage of funding going to charitable work.

Another philanthropy watchdog, CharityWatch, a project of the American Institute of Philanthropy, gave the Clinton Foundation an “A” rating.

Daniel Borochoff, president and founder of CharityWatch, told us by phone that its analysis of the finances of the Clinton Foundation and its affiliates found that about 89 percent of the foundation budget is spent on programming (or “charity”), higher than the 75 percent considered the industry standard.

By only looking at the amount the Clinton Foundation doled out in grants, Fiorina “is showing her lack of understanding of charitable organizations,” Borochoff said. “She’s thinking of the Clinton Foundation as a private foundation.” Those kinds of foundations are typically supported by money from a few people, and the money is then distributed to various charities. The Clinton Foundation, however, is a public charity, he said. It mostly does its own charitable work. It has over 2,000 employees worldwide.

“What she’s doing is looking at how many grants they write to other groups,” Borochoff said. “If you are going to look at it that way, you may as well criticize every other operating charity on the planet.”

In order to get a fuller picture of the Clinton Foundation’s operations, he said, people need to look at the foundation’s consolidated audit, which includes the financial data on separate affiliates like the Clinton Health Access Initiative.

“Otherwise,” he said, “you are looking at just a piece of the pie.”

Considering all of the organizations affiliated with the Clinton Foundation, he said, CharityWatch concluded about 89 percent of its budget is spent on programs. That’s the amount it spent on charity in 2013, he said.

We looked at the consolidated financial statements (see page 4) and calculated that in 2013, 88.3 percent of

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spending was designated as going toward program services — $196.6 million out of $222.6 million in reported expenses.

We can't vouch for the effectiveness of the programming expenses listed in the report, but it is clear that the claim that the Clinton Foundation only steers 6 percent of its donations to charity is wrong, and amounts to a misunderstanding of how public charities work.

A note from Jorge Ramos // Fusion // Jorge Ramos – June 19, 2015

As journalists the most important thing we have is our credibility and integrity. We maintain that, in part, through transparency with our audience, our colleagues and our critics. That is why I am disclosing that my daughter, Paola, has accepted a position working with Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

As a father, I am very proud that she has decided to actively participate in our democratic process. I hope that more young people get involved, regardless of political parties or ideological preferences. Our democracy and our future depend on that.

I completely support and respect Paola's decision. In our family we have always cherished tolerance, dialogue and active participation in what you believe.

Like many reporters who have parents, siblings or other family members that are active in politics, this will not change how I approach my duty as a journalist. I will continue to report with complete independence and ask the tough questions, the same way I have done for the last 30 years.

Judicial Watch Statement in Reponse to Federal Court Reopening Lawsuit Seeking Information on Top Clinton Aide Huma Abedin // Digital Journal // June 19, 2015

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton made the following statement regarding today's decision by U.S. District Court Judge Emmet G. Sullivan to reopen a Judicial Watch Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit that sought records about Huma Abedin, the former deputy chief of staff to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of State (No. 1:13-cv-01363)).

Hillary Clinton's massive email cover-up is unraveling. We welcome Judge Sullivan's decision to reopen this lawsuit. Hillary Clinton and the Obama administration concealed records and lied to obstruct federal courts and Judicial Watch from finding out about the secret emails.

The court battle to get to the truth about Huma Abedin's "special government employee" (SGE) privileges at State is underway. The reopening of this case brings Judicial Watch one step closer to forcing the State Department to ensure that the government records in Hillary Clinton's "secret" email system are properly preserved, protected and recovered as federal law requires. Ms. Abedin is part of the Clinton cash raising operation and was even involved in the Benghazi scandal, so this lawsuit could not be more timely.

This is the second Judicial Watch FOIA lawsuit that has been reopened because of Hillary Clinton's hidden email records. Judicial Watch is aware of no prior instances of Freedom of Information lawsuits being reopened by federal courts.

Judge Sullivan ruled that the "changed circumstances" of the discovery that Hillary Clinton and members of her State Department staff used secret email accounts to conduct government business warranted "reopening" the lawsuit.

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In asking Judge Sullivan to reopen the lawsuit, Judicial Watch cited a federal court rule (Rule 60(b)(3)) that allows a party to reopen a case due to "fraud (whether previously called intrinsic or extrinsic), misrepresentation, or misconduct by an opposing party:"

The State Department had an obligation under the Federal Records Act to properly preserve, maintain, and make available for retrieval records of its official functions. In fact, it is the obligation of the head of every federal agency to do so. Secretary Clinton plainly violated her own legal obligations. Doing so was misconduct.

The State Department originally agreed with Judicial Watch's request but later changed its mind and asked the court to reopen the lawsuit because of "newly discovered evidence." In today's ruling, Judge Sullivan simply reopened the case, rather than "spilling ink" on whether Hillary Clinton and the State Department committed fraud, misrepresentation or misconduct.

Huma Abedin left the State Department in February 2013, and in May 2013, Politico reported that, since June 2012, she had been double-dipping, working as a consultant to outside clients while continuing as a top adviser at State. Abedin's outside clients included Teneo, a strategic consulting firm co-founded by former Bill Clinton counselor Doug Band. According to Fox News, Abedin earned $355,000 as a consultant to Teneo, in addition to her $135,000 SGE compensation.

Teneo describes its activities as providing "the leaders of the world's most respected companies, nonprofit institutions and governments with a full suite of advisory solutions." [Emphasis added] Outside of the U.S., it maintains offices in Dubai, London, Dublin, Hong Kong, Brussels, Washington, and Beijing. Teneo was also the subject of various investigative reports, including by the New York Times, which raise questions about its relationship with the Clinton Foundation.

In February 2014, the State Department assured Judicial Watch that it had searched the Office of the Executive Secretary, which would have included the offices of the Secretary of State and top staff. Relying upon the State Department's misrepresentation that the agency conducted a reasonable search, Judicial Watch agreed to dismiss its lawsuit on March 14, 2014.

I'm A Republican Woman & I'm Voting For Hillary **// Refinery 29 // Asma Hasan – June 19, 2015**

Since I was 18 years old, Hillary Clinton has punctuated my life. As I grew up, she's been a compass for me — a woman I looked to as a model of female leadership and strength. I often listen to my inner Hillary Clinton as she urges me, in a gracious but all-knowing tone, to be a strong woman who picks her fights wisely.

That's why I hope to vote for her for president — even though I'm a lifelong Republican.

I started at Wellesley College in the fall of 1993 — the same year Clinton, our most famous graduate, became First Lady. My fellow first-years and I (at Wellesley, we do not call them "freshmen") watched her be vilified in the press — for working, for playing too large a role, just for being. Dozens of major magazine articles that first year compared her to Lady MacBeth (who, as you'll remember, nagged her husband until he killed himself).

But, in a way, that vilification was a great gift to us. Everyone goes off to college thinking they will change the world, but my classmates and I may have felt it more than most — a real sense we'd make a contribution on our own terms. If people criticized us in the process, like they did Hillary, that criticism became a badge of honor. Criticism, it seemed, was a sign of success, not its antithesis.

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Watching Hillary, I also learned how important it is to support your fellow women, even if you disagree with them. Too many men, then and now, would rather stick together than promote a woman.

It was in college that I learned from my advisor (incidentally, he was also Hillary's advisor) never to apologize for being "bossy." I learned not to turn down more work or a new experience because, if I did, there would be a man who would take it for himself, even if he was less qualified than I. To be a woman growing into herself, in the time of Hillary, has been a powerful experience — one that probably would have been very different if Hillary had never existed.

I was still an undergrad when Hillary gave her amazing speech at the U.N. Conference on Women, where she stated the (obvious, but until then unrecognized) aphorism that women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights. It was such a simple sentiment, it may have changed the world.

Now, 20 years later, I've graduated, set up a law practice, and settled into a more conservative set of political views. And yes, through that lens, the past decades of Hillary Clinton's public life give me doubt.

I questioned how, as Hillary's husband was leaving the Oval Office, she carefully selected a state in which to run for Senate. I felt like she was a reverse carpetbagger — a woman born in Illinois, first lady of Arkansas, then of Washington, cherry-picking New York simply because it was a northern state she had the best chance of winning. This reeked of the elitist privilege that I, as a feminist, seek to untangle.

During the 2008 election primaries, I was irritated at some of Hillary's backhanded insults against Obama, her sly allusions to racism and Islamophobia. And yes, more recently, I was shocked to learn that she had both maintained her own email server as Secretary of State and also deleted what are essentially government records. We're both attorneys, and if there's one thing a lawyer knows, it's the importance of document retention. Why then, would she do something so bizarre if she didn't have something to hide? It seems sloppy at best and incriminating at worst.

While I try not to wonder why she stayed with Bill despite his obvious chicanery (since it's impossible to know what goes on in someone else's marriage), I do wish she'd address the issue in an honest way. If only to clearly establish there is a real love there that stretches beyond his misdeeds — not just the mere opportunism from being part of a political power couple.

Are these foibles, gaffes, and, perhaps illegalities enough for me to say I can't vote for her? While I would love to be an idealist, no, they're not.

It's too important to have a woman president.

Haven't men done these sorts of things for centuries? Made decisions for women and the populace at large from smoky back rooms? Promoted their fellow undeserving men over hard-working women? Stolen or destroyed records? Fixed elections (all over the world)? How can I be a feminist who stands for the improvement and promotion of women and not support Hillary's machinations? Isn't this what it will take to accomplish some measure of female success in what is still a male-dominated society?

I'd put my chips on Hillary as the woman who could shut down the roadblocks, whether via a more gracious approach or by simply dismissing them as she did in her GIF-worthy Benghazi testimony. Watching her sit in front of a panel of mostly men as they tried, time after time, to latch onto her, was inspiring. She was masterful in her bottled disdain, and many of us — Republican me included — could identify.

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Strange as it may seem, I'm still a Republican. The GOP is in accord with my feminist spirit — believing in individualism, judging one on one's own merits, and not feeding my hard-won gains back into a system that benefits mainly men. I know this line of argument, culminating in a vote for HRC, won't win me any arguments among Republicans, but I don't need to. Other groups can speak up for themselves, and we can see where we all end up.

These Women Probably *Don't* Fit the Bill: Fans Suggest Hillary, Beyoncé and Taylor for #TheNew10 // People // Tierney Mcafee – June 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton might become the first woman president in U.S. history, but she probably won't become the first woman to appear on a U.S. bank note in more than a century.

Ever since the U.S. Treasury Department announced Wednesday that a woman will grace the face of the new $10 note in 2020, fans have been taking to Twitter to suggest candidates who fit the bill.

The last woman to be featured on U.S. paper currency was Martha Washington, who was on the $1 Silver Certificate between 1891 and 1896.

Now historical figures including Harriet Tubman, Eleanor Roosevelt and Rosa Parks have become frontrunners for #TheNew10 on social media and in a poll conducted by the group Women on 20s. But it seems that for every Harriet vote, there's a Hillary vote; for every Parks, a Beyoncé; for every Roosevelt, a Taylor Swift.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

An Angry O'Malley Calls for an Assault Weapons Ban // NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 19, 2015

Using an off-color word to describe his anger, Martin O'Malley, a Democratic candidate for president, called for a new national assault weapons ban and other gun control measures in an email sent to supporters after the shooting deaths at a South Carolina church this week.

Mr. O'Malley is the only candidate so far to call for reinstating the assault weapons ban, a politically charged topic.

Mr. O'Malley repeatedly used a word that is sometimes invoked to accentuate anger, and appeared to take an oblique swipe at his leading party rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton. Instead of "jumping to act," he said, people are choosing to "sit back and wait for the appropriate moment to say what we're all thinking: that this is not the America we want to be living in."

He chastised Congress for failing to pass stronger gun control laws in early 2013 after the deaths of nearly two dozen children at a school Newtown, Conn., and highlighted his record as the governor of Maryland passing laws "that banned high-magazine weapons, increased licensing standards and required fingerprinting for handgun purchasers."

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“It’s time we called this what it is: a national crisis,” he wrote in his email. “I proudly hold an ‘F’ rating from the N.R.A., and when I worked to pass gun control in Maryland, the N.R.A. threatened me with legal action, but I never backed down.”

The gun control bill that died in Congress more than two years ago was a blow to President Obama, and began a longer-term drop in his popularity.

Martin O’Malley: ‘I’m pissed’ at lack of action on gun control // WaPo // John Wagner – June 19, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley sent a tartly worded e-mail to supporters Friday saying he is "pissed" by congressional inaction on gun control and asking them to stand with him in an effort to toughen laws after this week's massacre at a Charleston, S.C., church.

"It's time we called this what it is: a national crisis," O'Malley said in the e-mail, which carried the subject header "I'm pissed" and included links to a Web page to provide contact information to his campaign. He used the word "pissed" four more times in the e-mail.

O'Malley's choice of words -- more common among teenagers than presidential candidates -- seemed a gambit to attract attention to a campaign mired in the low single digits in early-state polls. But a spokeswoman said the tone was a true reflection of how the former Maryland governor, who has used salty language on other recent occasions, feels about the issue.

In the e-mail, O'Malley pointed to his record as governor, which included passage in 2013 of a wide-ranging gun-safety bill. On the national level, he is calling for an assault weapons ban, stricter background checks and efforts to prevent "straw purchases" of guns, such as fingerprinting requirements, which Maryland implemented.

O'Malley's proposals are more specific than anything his Democratic rivals, including former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), have suggested in recent days. In the past, Clinton has supported banning assault weapons and other measures favored by gun-control advocates. Sanders has a mixed record that includes voting against the landmark Brady bill that required background checks and a waiting period before buying a firearm.

"I'm pissed that after working hard in the state of Maryland to pass real gun control — laws that banned high-magazine weapons, increased licensing standards, and required fingerprinting for handgun purchasers — Congress continues to drop the ball," O'Malley wrote.

He also knocked Republicans running for president, saying none of them have been "even close to being right on this issue."

O'Malley's e-mail followed an appearance earlier Friday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," in which he said -- in less colorful terms -- that the shootings this week should be a call to action on gun control and mental health issues.

In late April, O'Malley raised eyebrows when during an interview on National Public Radio, he referred to a Republican economic argument as "patently bulls---." Afterward, he sent an email to supporters with the subject header, "Yeah, I said it." O'Malley used the same epithet in a conversation with reporters during a recent trip to the early nominating state of New Hampshire.

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Martin O'Malley not worried about retribution for Hillary Clinton attacks // Politico // Nick Gass – June 19, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley says he is not worried about retribution from fellow Democrats in going after Hillary Clinton.

"No, I do not," the former Maryland governor said Friday in response to a question on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" pertaining to Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan's latest column.

"The Democrats have an enforcement mechanism to keep all their candidates in line. Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley know without being told that the party will kill them if they tear apart the assumed nominee," she wrote in the op-ed published Thursday. "Their careers will be over if they go at her personally."

O'Malley's reply: "Well my career ended when I was elevated to the rank of citizen about three months ago, so I don't have a career to kill. He added, "I'm the only candidate in this race with 15 years of executive experience as the mayor of a very great but a very challenged city and as a governor."

O'Malley's Two-Word Response to Charleston Shooting: 'I'm Pissed' // Bloomberg // Sydney McNeal – June 19, 2015

In the aftermath of Thursday's shooting in Charleston, everyone from President Obama to those campaigning to succeed him expressed shock, sorrow, and frustration about the tragedy, and also the government's inability to end gun violence.

On Friday, Martin O'Malley, who is trailing Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders in the race for the Democratic nomination, went even further in an impassioned e-mail to supporters with the subject line, "I'm pissed."

I'm pissed that we're actually asking ourselves the horrific question of, what will it take? How many senseless acts of violence in our streets or tragedies in our communities will it take to get our nation to stop caving to special interests like the NRA when people are dying?

I'm pissed that after working hard in the state of Maryland to pass real gun control—laws that banned high-magazine weapons, increased licensing standards, and required fingerprinting for handgun purchasers—Congress continues to drop the ball.

He did not mention the nine victims, their families, or the African Methodist Episcopal church community in the message, though he did express condolences on Twitter on Thursday.

As governor of Maryland, he passed legislation that banned assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, toughening some of the most restrictive gun laws in the nation.

O'Malley: 'I'm pissed' about gun climate // CNN // Theodore Schleifer – June 19, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley is "pissed" about the nation's unwillingness to pass gun control, he told supporters in an email Friday.

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O'Malley, who is looking to galvanize the left in order to mount a credible primary challenge to frontrunner Hillary Clinton, looked to build his email list with an "I'm pissed" subject line and boasted about his poor grades from the gun-rights lobby.

"I proudly hold an F rating from the (National Rifle Association), and when I worked to pass gun control in Maryland, the NRA threatened me with legal action, but I never backed down," O'Malley said in the email. "What we did in Maryland should be the first step of what we do as a nation."

The former Maryland governor called for a national assault weapons ban, stricter background checks and fingerprint requirements that could reduce straw-buying.

After the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut in late 2012, President Barack Obama spent the first months of his second term pushing for a package of gun-control legislation, but Republicans, backed by the NRA, successfully thwarted those bills on Capitol Hill. Few Democrats or gun-control advocates are hopeful that much will change after a white gunman killed nine black churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina this week.

"I'm pissed that we're actually asking ourselves the horrific question of, what will it take? How many senseless acts of violence in our streets or tragedies in our communities will it take to get our nation to stop caving to special interests like the NRA when people are dying?" O'Malley asked supporters.

Martin O'Malley is 'Pissed About Gun Control // TIME // Sam Frizell – June 19, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley told supporters in the wake of this week's South Carolina shooting that he's "pissed" Congress is not passing more stringent gun control measures.

"I'm pissed that after an unthinkable tragedy like the one in South Carolina yesterday, instead of jumping to act, we sit back and wait for the appropriate moment to say what we're all thinking: that this is not the America we want to be living in," the Democratic presidential candidate said in an email.

Nine people were shot dead in a historically black church in Charleston on Wednesday. A 21-year-old white man, Dylann Roof, has been charged for the crime.

O'Malley passed broad gun control measures as governor that included banning weapons, limiting handgun magazines to 10 rounds, and requiring gun owners to provide their fingerprints as part of their weapons licenses.

The presidential candidate is now advocating nationally for a national assault weapons ban, stricter background checks, and fingerprint requirements. "I proudly hold an F rating from the NRA," O'Malley said.

Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton on Thursday also called for new actions to curb gun violence. "How many people do we need to see cut down before we act?" she said, but didn't lay out specific proposals.

On Friday morning, O'Malley spoke on MSNBC's Morning Joe program and advocated coupling mental health programs with stricter gun control.

O'Malley says he won't be deterred from criticizing Clinton // Baltimore Sun // Michael Dresser – June 19, 2015

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Former Gov. Martin O"Malley said Friday that he won't be deterred from vigorously criticizing front-runner Hillary Clinton in his race for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

O'Malley, appearing on MSNBC's Morning Joe program, told co-host Mika Brzezinski that he isn't concerned about damage to his career or retaliation by party leaders if he criticizes Clinton too harshly.

"My career ended when I was elevated to the rank of citizen about three months ago," he said." I don't have a career to kill."

O'Malley, who actually left office five months ago, was responding to a question about former White House speech writer Peggy Noonan's contention in the Wall Street Journal that Clinton's Democratic challengers were pulling their punches in their campaigns because of a concern they could become pariahs in their party if they go after the presumptive nominee on a personal level or criticize her ethical practices.

Noonan, who worked for President Ronald Reagan, predicted Clinton would "glide" to the nomination "dinged but not damaged."

O'Malley said he was encouraged by a poll showing that 59 percent of New Hampshire Democrats want to have an alternative to Clinton in the nation's first primary.

While the former Maryland governor said he would have no compunction about attacking Clinton, he did not level personal criticism of her Friday. His most pointed remark came as he sought to contrast his position with Clinton's on President Obama's proposed Asian trade deal, which the former secretary of state recently criticized.

"I was opposed to it not after it failed but before it," O'Malley said.

In the wake of the slaying of nine people at a Charleston, S.C., church Wednesday, MSNBC's Joe Scarborough asked O'Malley about how to prevent such incidents. Scarborough said the law O'Malley pushed through the Maryland General Assembly after the Newtown, Conn., school massacre would not have prevented the accused Charleston shooter from obtaining his gun, reportedly a gift from his father.

O'Malley said the nation's laws must deal with both gun control and mental health, adding that the Maryland law he signed addressed both issues.

"It's a matter of doing both, and not either/or," he said.

O'Mallley said the "vast majority" of Americans would favor background checks for handgun purchasers. But the former governor acknowledged the difficulty of preventing such shootings.

"How do you make sense of giving a gun to a troubled young man?" he said.

The former governor followed up his TV appearance with an email from his campaign with the subject line "I'm pissed." In it, he wrote about the the things that anger him about the Charleston shooting and pointed to his record of support for gun control.

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"I'm pissed that after working hard in the state of Maryland to pass real gun control -- laws that banned high-magazine weapons, increased licensing standards, and required fingerprinting for handgun purchasers — Congress continues to drop the ball," he said.

O'Malley spelled out steps he would support as president: a national assault rifle ban, stricter background checks and a fingerprinting requirement for gun purchases -- all provisions of the Maryland law.

He said it was time for the United State to stop "caving" to the National Rifle Association.

Asked on MSNBC about the racial aspect of the Charleston shootings, in which the victims were black and the accused killer is white, O'Malley said the nation has to face up to its history.

"We do it by acknowledging the racial legacy we share as Americans," he said.

O'Malley, who has been working to differentiate himself from Clinton as she has moved to the left, cast himself as a critic of the financial industry, with which Bill and Hillary Clinton have had close ties.

"Wealth and power has become very, very concentrated in our country,' he said, adding that Americans are looking for "new leadership."

Martin O'Malley Launches Major Post-Charleston Gun Control Push With "I'm Pissed" // Buzzfeed // Evan McMorris-Santoro – June 19, 2015

Martin O'Malley launched a major push for gun control tied to the Charleston shooting Friday, his campaign's latest attempt to use his record as Maryland governor to drive up support for his presidential campaign.

In what has become a trademark for O'Malley, he announced his new gun control focus in a brusque manner. "I'm pissed," reads the subject line from a gun-control focused email O'Malley's campaign sent to supporters Friday. (O'Malley sent a similar list-building email after he called Republican economic plans "bullshit" on NPR in April.)

"I'm pissed" comes with a series of policy prescriptions O'Malley promises to make a centerpiece of his campaign moving forward. The plan is modeled on policies O'Malley signed into law as Maryland governor that drew the ire of the NRA and its allies and praise from gun control supporters. O'Malley is proposing a national assault-weapons ban, tightening background checks, and efforts to end so-called "straw purchasing," where firearms will be purchased legally on behalf of someone unable to legally purchase them.

O'Malley's gun policy agenda is similar to ones Democrats and President Obama hoped to pass after the 2012 elementary school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. In the presidential field, it puts him in a more unique position: Bernie Sanders, the senator from Vermont and according to polling second place candidate in the Democratic nomination race, voted for an assault-weapons ban and expanded background checks in 2013, but has not expressly called for a ban since announcing his presidential candidacy.

Gun-rights advocates ultimately defeated the 2013 effort, leaving Obama, he said Thursday in his remarks after Charleston, with little recourse policy-wise.

The former Maryland governor appeared to take issue with Obama's read on the situation in D.C. — namely, that nothing can be done about new gun laws while Congress is divided the way it is — on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" Friday.

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“I think you have to advocate for it in Congress,” O’Malley said. “I think when incidents like this happen, we shouldn’t say, ‘well, it’s just America. That’s just the way it is.’”

Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state and Democratic frontrunner, spoke about Charleston Thursday but did not issue support for an assault-weapons ban or other specific policy proposals.

O’Malley’s running towards his gun-control record in his new presidential campaign push. His email to supporters boasts about his “F rating from the NRA.” A senior O’Malley aide told BuzzFeed News the supporter email was “the beginning of what will be a major push” and said voters “will be hearing a lot more from him on this.”

The former mayor of Baltimore will find a friendly audience for a gun-control message when O’Malley addresses the U.S. Conference of Mayors Sunday, his next scheduled public appearance. Mayors have often been among the most vocal proponents of gun-control legislation, and have stepped up their calls for it after mass shootings in the past.

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders hits the Las Vegas strip, takes aim at billionaire Sheldon Adelson // WaPo // Philip Rucker – June 19, 2015

Directly across the Las Vegas Strip from the Venetian, the lavish hotel and casino built by wealthy political donor Sheldon Adelson, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders rallied more than 700 supporters here Friday to join his revolution against the billionaire class whose greed he says is crushing the United States.

“Today we live in the wealthiest nation in the history of the world, but the vast majority of the American people do not know that, do not feel that, because almost all of that wealth today rests in the hands of a tiny few," Sanders said. "What we are saying to the billionaire class is, 'Your greed, which is destroying this country, has got to end.'"

Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont who describes himself as a socialist but caucuses with Democrats, took direct aim at Adelson, who together with his wife, Miriam, spent roughly $100 million to help elect Mitt Romney and other Republicans in 2012.

"People like Sheldon Adelson -- you know who he is! -- and the Koch brothers are now spending unbelievable sums of money," Sanders said. When he argued that such political spending had created an "oligarchy" and wrecked "the foundations of American democracy," the crowd stood on its feet and chanted, "Bernie! Bernie! Bernie!"

Sanders received a raucous reception here Friday, with repeated standing ovations and loud cheers. The hour was early, especially by Las Vegas standards -- 9 a.m. -- but hundreds of people, young and old, streamed in, sipping coffee and munching on muffins and breakfast cake.

The Sanders campaign received so many responses from locals wanting to see him that they relocated his town hall meeting from the University of Nevada Las Vegas to a venue that could accommodate hundreds more -- the ballroom at Treasure Island, a hotel and casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

On Saturday, Sanders is scheduled to hold an event in Denver, where campaign officials said they already have received about 7,000 RSVPs. If they all show up, it would be perhaps the largest rally any candidate in either party has staged thus far in the 2016 campaign cycle.

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Sanders argued that the reception he saw here in Las Vegas and in other recent stops, from Iowa to Minnesota to New Hampshire, shows that his message is resonating with progressive activists.

“This campaign is about you, your kids, our parents, our grandparents," he said. "It is about having the courage to do something which is pretty hard, and that is to say very loudly and clearly that enough is enough, that this government, our country belongs to all of us and not just a handful of billionaires."

Climate change is a core theme of Sanders's pitch to voters, but he added a new line to his stump speech, referring to Pope Francis's call to action, issued Thursday from the Vatican, that the burning of fossil fuels and human activity contribute to climate change.

"As Pope Francis reminded us yesterday, climate change is real; climate change is caused by human activity; climate change is already having devastating impact in America and around the world," Sanders said. He argued that it is an "international embarrassment" that some U.S. senators from the Republican Party continue to deny climate change science.

Bernie Sanders and immigration? It’s complicated **// Politico // Seung Min Kim – June 19, 2015**

Running as a presidential hopeful in 2016, Bernie Sanders has touted his support for immigration reform and the need to find a solution to a problem that has long vexed Washington.

But in 2007, Sanders was part of the charge from the left to kill an immigration overhaul bill.

Back then, the Vermont independent warned that the immigration bill — a product from then-Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) — would drive down wages for lower-income workers, an argument that’s been used by hard-liner reform opponents. He paired with conservative Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) on a restrictive immigration amendment. And Sanders backed provisions characterized as poison pills to unravel the bill, while voting to block the final measure in June 2007.

Sanders’ history on immigration that year is complicated. But his overall record has come under renewed attention after criticism that the senator was being too quiet on the issue during his long-shot campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

He plans to address immigration when he appears before a conference of Latino officials on Friday in Las Vegas.

Sanders, more comfortable speaking in the language of income inequality and economic populism, has largely skipped over immigration while campaigning — a silence that prompted Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) to muse in a television interview last week: “I don’t know if he likes immigrants because he doesn’t seem to talk about immigrants.”

“He’s running for the nomination of my party, and my party has made pretty clear that immigration is a top-tier issue,” Gutierrez said, explaining why he pushed Sanders on the topic. Still, Gutierrez added: “I have no reason to doubt his authenticity and sincerity.”

For all his rhetoric in 2007, Sanders didn’t oppose a pathway to citizenship or efforts to boost border security. That chapter in Sanders’ immigration record reflects less on his support for the issue and more on his alliance to labor — and key unions also opposed the 2007 legislation.

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“Sanders was basically one of our only allies … especially for low-skilled workers” in 2007, said Ana Avendano, a former top immigration official at the AFL-CIO. “He adamantly put his foot down and said these kinds of programs [allow] employers to bring in more and more vulnerable workers.”

For some overhaul supporters, Sanders’ stance was a blow in 2007.

“I wasn’t happy when he voted against the bill and I wasn’t happy we lost. It hurt,” said Frank Sharry, a longtime veteran of Washington’s immigration battles. “In retrospect, we realized that the only way we can proceed is that progressive forces are united behind the bill, and then you negotiate from strength with the business community and conservatives on employment and business immigration.”

Fast forwarding to today, Sanders’ immigration stance is still notable, though more for how muted it has been compared to his competitors’ views. Democratic rivals Hillary Clinton and Martin O’Malley have aggressively tackled the issue. Clinton has pledged to go further than President Barack Obama has on shielding immigrants here illegally from deportations, while O’Malley vowed to take on reform within the first 100 days as chief executive.

After Gutierrez’s comments last week, Sanders inserted new remarks in his stump speech in Des Moines, calling for a “rational immigration process” that differed from the “Republican alternatives of self-deportation or some other draconian non-solution.”

In a brief interview, Sanders said Gutierrez’s criticism didn’t influence his decision to include immigration in his stump speech. The senator also said he would speak on the issue during his Friday Las Vegas event.

“We’ll have a very strong statement on the need for comprehensive immigration reform,” Sanders said, previewing his remarks at the gathering of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. “It’s an issue that I’ve been involved in.”

The son of Polish immigrants, Sanders has a record on immigration that’s broadly praised by advocates.

In December 2010, Sanders voted for the Dream Act — legislation that would have legalized immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children. It passed the Democratic-led House, but blocked in the Senate. Sanders voted with all Senate Democrats to support the so-called Gang of Eight bill in 2013.

And last year, when Sanders began flirting with a presidential run, he pressed Obama on taking executive action for millions of undocumented immigrants at a time when moderate Senate Democrats up for reelection fretted over the White House acting on its own on deportations.

But in 2007, Sanders was far from a reliable vote for immigration reform in the Senate.

The problem for Sanders was a guest-worker program that some immigration advocates and Democratic lawmakers begrudgingly accepted as part of a comprehensive deal — but was abhorred by labor unions and their allies on Capitol Hill.

“What concerns me are provisions in the bill that would bring low-wage workers into this country in order to depress the already declining wages of American workers,” Sanders said in May 2007. “With poverty increasing and the middle-class shrinking, we must not force American workers into even more economic distress.”

The guest-worker program proposed in the 2007 bill would bring in foreign workers for two years at a time, but

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force them to leave the United States for a year in between each renewal. It also offered few protections for those workers, labor advocates said.

In early June of that year, Sanders proposed an amendment with Grassley that would ban companies that have laid off workers en masse from being approved for new worker visas.

Then-Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) pitched an amendment to end that guest-worker program after five years, which passed by one vote and has since been called a poison pill that helped scuttle the bill. Sanders voted in favor of Dorgan's amendment, as did Clinton.

"Sanders was very active in trying to reduce the guest-worker parts of the '07 bill," said Roy Beck, the executive director of Numbers USA, a group that calls for stricter immigration laws. "It was remarkable that Sanders went along with that in 2013."

The 2007 measure splintered both parties in the Senate — as a coalition of conservative Republicans, union-friendly liberals and centrist Democrats banded together to block the legislation and effectively killed immigration reform under President George W. Bush.

Other labor-backed Senate Democrats, such as Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Debbie Stabenow of Michigan and Tom Harkin of Iowa, sided with Sanders. But Clinton voted to advance it, as did then-Sens. Barack Obama of Illinois and Joe Biden of Delaware.

In contrast to the failed 2007 push, labor and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 2013 struck an agreement for lower-skilled immigrant workers — a landmark deal that was key to the Senate proposing and passing its comprehensive bill in June that year.

But even though he ultimately voted for it, Sanders wasn't too keen on guest-worker plan in 2013, either.

The new program, Sanders argued, would "allow large corporations to import hundreds of thousands of blue-collar and white-collar workers from overseas." And for good measure, Sanders also ripped a section in the sweeping bill that would have bolstered the number of high-skilled immigrant workers into the country — a less contentious provision.

Sanders ultimately secured a sweetener in the final days of the 2013 immigration battle: a $1.5 billion youth jobs program that, on its face, appeared to have little to do with immigration.

It would dole out that money to states to help 16- to 24-year-olds in the United States become employed, which Sanders proclaimed would help more than 400,000 young people. He argued that his youth jobs program was necessary to offset the immigrants coming here to do jobs that Sanders said the young Americans would otherwise do.

"Like any piece of complicated legislation, there are aspects of this bill which I strongly support and others I disagree with," Sanders after he voted to pass the 2013 bill. "One of the areas I have serious concerns about and want to see improved as the bill progresses is the huge increase in guest-worker programs. At a time when unemployment remains extremely high, these programs bring hundreds of thousands of skilled and unskilled workers into our economy making it harder for U.S. citizens to find jobs."

That wasn't too far off from Sanders in 2007 — except that back then, he voted against the bill.

"At a time when the middle class is shrinking, poverty is increasing and millions of Americans are working longer hours for lower wages it makes no sense to me to have an immigration bill which, over a period of years, would bring millions of 'guest workers' into this country who are prepared to work for lower wages than American

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workers," Sanders said after that year's bill died. "We need to increase wages in this country, not lower them."

Sanders gains with blunt talk of rich vs. poor **// AP // June 19, 2015**

Bernie Sanders likes to call it "practicing democracy." He doesn't take the stage to a blaring soundtrack. He doesn't have a teleprompter or a phalanx of Secret Service agents surrounding him. But when his Brooklyn accent booms out at a campaign stop in rural Iowa, heads nod along in approval.

"What I'm doing in this campaign is trying to tell the people the truth — but a truth which is not heard a whole lot in Washington or discussed a lot in the media," Sanders said recently at a picnic in Iowa's Warren County, south of Des Moines.

"So let me lay it out on the table for you," he said. "You're living in a country today which has more wealth and income inequality than any major industrialized nation on earth."

In a race for the Democratic presidential nomination with Hillary Rodham Clinton, the blunt talk about the economy and the gap between the rich and poor is working for Sanders. The independent senator from Vermont is an unconventional messenger at a time when many politicians test-drive what they want to say in polls and with focus groups.

Sanders is drawing sizable crowds in the early voting states. He's also gaining against Clinton in very early polls, particularly in New Hampshire, a factor that impresses the political class even though opinion surveys at this point are limited in predicting who will win.

Clinton remains the race's overwhelming favorite, but there's no question that the 73-year-old self-described democratic socialist, whose disheveled white hair might remind some of Doc Brown from "Back to the Future," isn't just a novelty.

"This is a unique individual," said Iowa Democratic state Rep. Scott Ourth, who introduced Sanders last weekend at the picnic in Indianola. "This guy has only one standard. If it's right for people, he's going to fight for it. If it's bad for people, he's going to take a stand against it."

Drawing unexpectedly large crowds, the campaign has moved a town meeting planned in Las Vegas on Friday into a more spacious venue.

About 5,000 people are expected at a rally Saturday at the University of Denver.

"The challenge for us, really, is that at this point the crowds are way ahead of us," said Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver.

Sanders is running with a relentless focus on policy. He rarely talks about his family, other than mentioning his four children and 7 grandchildren when explaining the importance of confronting climate change. In Minneapolis he was joined on stage by his wife, Jane, and noted they had just celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary.

He's promoting a massive government-led jobs program to fix roads and bridges. He wants a $15-an-hour minimum wage, and higher taxes on the wealthy and Wall Street. He advocates for a single-payer health care system, an expansion of Social Security benefits and debt-free college.

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He's combative, too.

Sanders often points to some European and Scandinavian countries that provide subsidized or free education, universal health care and generous family leave policies as models for the U.S.

While speaking to graduate students recently, Sanders asked a student from Finland whether his country is "crazy" to pay for his education. Then he grilled the students about U.S. policy on paid sick leave for new parents.

"C'mon guys, you're in graduate school!" he barked. "What are you teaching these guys? Do you know anything?"

One woman yelled, "None," meaning no national policy on such leave. Nodding, Sanders instructed the students that people in Finland get paid leave after they have children.

"Ahhh. Now I want to get everybody very nervous," Sanders said sarcastically. "This is called European socialism! Terrible, horrible, right? Because none of you want to be able to go to college and graduate school tuition-free.

"None of you, when you have kids, want the opportunity to bond with your kids. Terrible! European socialism!"

His speeches often reflect such a black-and-white view of the world. He rarely mentions that tax rates in such countries are far higher than in the U.S.

It's a style that couldn't be more different than Clinton's.

Hours before the first major rally of her campaign, Clinton released a Spotify playlist of songs, featuring music by Katy Perry, Kelly Clarkson and Sara Bareilles. One of her campaign Twitter feeds showed a green silhouette of her head wearing trendy headphones.

Clinton has been traveling with Secret Service agents since her husband's presidency in the 1990s.

Sanders shows up at rallies and events with a small contingent of aides. In Indianola, he carried a folded piece of paper scrawled with notes while he spoke.

Other presidential candidates in Iowa and New Hampshire will linger long after their speeches, trying to shake every hand and make a personal connection with a potential voter. Sanders doesn't make a lot of small talk. After receiving a standing ovation in Indianola, he was stopped repeatedly for photos and handshakes — which he obliged — but he kept moving.

"Very quickly, very quickly," he said to one man requesting a photograph.

For all of that, the woman he's challenging is perhaps the most dominant front-runner within the party in a generation.

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"Clinton is going to be a safer bet," said John MacBride, a 24-year-old Sanders supporter who drove from Kansas City to see him speak. "A lot of my peers think she's a safer bet. But they like what he says better."

Bernie Sanders Faces Awkward Issues for His Liberal Allies: Immigration and Guns // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – June 19, 2015

Senator Bernie Sanders is positioning himself as the furthest-left mainstream presidential candidate, but on Friday he ended up confronting two of the issues where he's most at odds with liberals: immigration and guns.

Speaking to a gathering of Latino government officials, Sanders touted his support for a comprehensive overhaul of immigration laws, saying he backs a path to full citizenship for the undocumented as well as efforts to improve working conditions for immigrants.

"It is not acceptable to me and I think a growing majority of the American people that millions of folks in this country are working extremely hard but they are living in the shadows and that has got to end," Sanders told the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials convention, drawing a substantially smaller crowd than another hopeful for the Democratic presidential nomination, Hillary Clinton, did a day earlier.

Sanders talked up his support of the 2013 Senate immigration bill, which included a measure linking new immigration laws to heightened border security. On Friday, though, he said he opposes "tying immigration reform to the building of a border fence."

Addressing the Immigration Issue

Sanders' speech marked his first extended discussion of immigration, an issue that his campaign has downplayed. It was missing from his announcement speech in May, drawing the criticism of liberal commentators and at least one outspoken immigrant rights advocate. It was also missing during last week's visit to Marshalltown, an Iowa town with a sizable Latino population, when he faced sharp questions from an immigration advocate.

"I don't know if he likes immigrants, because he doesn't seem to talk about immigrants. But sooner or later he'll tell us. I hope he likes immigrants. I haven't heard him say anything. He's been kind of quiet and silent," Illinois Rep. Luis Gutiérrez said last week in an interview with Larry King.

Gutiérrez is a Clinton supporter but told King that he's also satisfied with former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley's position on the immigration.

During last summer's border crisis, Clinton supported the Obama administration's general approach, saying that children who had arrived in the United States "should be sent back as soon as it can be determined who responsible adults in their families are." The country, she said, needs to "send a clear message: just because your child gets across the border doesn't mean your child gets to stay."

O'Malley, though, bucked his party's leader and said that the United States is not a "country that should turn children away and send them back to certain death." Sensing Clinton's vulnerability a year later, Sanders offered a critique. "It was wrong for some to suggest turning away the unaccompanied Central American children along the border," he said.

Avoiding Gun Talk

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Earlier Friday, speaking to a crowd of more than 700 that had gathered for a town hall discussion in a ballroom at the Treasure Island casino after RSVPs outpaced plans for a smaller space at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Sanders avoided talk of guns during his stump speech, even when discussing Wednesday's mass shooting at a church in Charleston, S.C.

When started taking questions, though, one audience member went for it, saying that she sees a need for tougher gun laws.

Sanders framed his response with his backstory, telling the woman: "I come from a state that has zero gun control and it also has a very low crime rate." Even so, Vermonters "are more than aware that we have guns in the hands of people who should not have those guns. There are weapons out there that have nothing to do with hunting but are designed to kill people and kill them quickly. So those are issues that must be dealt with."

Sanders first got to Congress in 1990 after beating Republican Rep. Peter Smith, who had voiced support for an assault weapons ban, drawing the ire of the NRA, which ended up campaigning against him, though not directly for Sanders. Once Sanders got to the House, he opposed the Brady Bill, in what one article at the time called an "especially incongruous" position.

But Sanders' explanation then and in the quarter-century since has been that he takes his stance on behalf of all Vermonters, many of whom see guns as essential to rural life.

Asked after his town hall by a reporter on how those issues could be dealt with, Sanders avoided getting specific.

"I think rural America needs to understand what urban America fears. Urban America needs to understand the culture of rural America," he said.

Pressed on what he would do as president, he said only: "I will talk about guns at some length but not right now."

Clinton, Sanders, Paul top Facebook chatter in key early presidential states // McClatchy // David Lightman – June 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton's winning big in the "Facebook poll" in New Hamsphire and South Carolina, but Bernie Sanders is right behind. And among Republicans, Rand Paul is on top.

Those are the results of Facebook "interactions," which include likes, posts, comments and shares, over the past month. The data cover May 13 to June 13.

No one knows, of course, how much influence Facebook and social media will have, but at the moment, Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, is clearly the most talked-about candidate. Her 289,000 Iowa interactions are far ahead of runnerup Sanders, the senator from Vermont, who had 153,000. Paul, a senator from Kentucky, had 98,000.

Sanders came closer in New Hampshire, which shares a long border with Vermont. He had 123,000 interactions to Clinton's 145,000. But he fell way back in South Carolina, where Clinton topped him, 460,000 to 116,000. Clinton held her first major rally Saturday, the last day the data was collected. Sanders held his first big presidential event May 26.

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Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who has been trying to appeal to the Republicans' evangelical base, did well in that state, finishing a close second to Paul.

Here are South Carolina data. The first number is unique people. The second is interactions:

Hillary Clinton 104,000 460,000

Rand Paul 34,000 132,000

Ben Carson 24,000 120,000

Bernie Sanders 24,000 116,000

Lindsey Graham 43,000 100,000

Ted Cruz 25,000 94,000

Jeb Bush 32,000 80,000

Mike Huckabee 29,000 80,000

Rick Perry 33,000 71,000

Marco Rubio 18,000 48,000

Scott Walker 14,000 39,000

Rick Santorum14,000 28,000

Carly Fiorina 10,000 25,000

Chris Christie 13,000 24,000

Donald Trump 12,000 20,000

Bobby Jindal 8,000 15,000

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Martin O Malley 2,000 5,000

George Pataki 2,000 2,000

John Kasich 1,000 2,000

Bernie Sanders Calls for Broader End to Deportations **// TIME // Philip Elliot – June 19, 2015**

Prosecutors in the Colorado theater shooting trial rested Friday, concluding their argument that James Holmes methodically planned and executed the 2012 massacre in a case that relied heavily — over defense objections — on victims' recollections of the carnage he inflicted inside the darkened cinema.

Over the past eight weeks, prosecutors weaved experts' testimony with survivors' personal stories to try to convince jurors that Holmes was sane when he opened fire on a midnight showing of the Batman film The Dark Knight Rises. The former neuroscience student killed 12 people and wounded 70.

For its last witness, the prosecution called a survivor whose story was among the most heart-wrenching. Ashley Moser was paralyzed and suffered a miscarriage in the shooting, and her 6-year-old daughter, Veronica, was killed.

Moser came to the witness stand in a motorized wheelchair. She described hearing what she thought were kids setting off fireworks in the theater, and wanting to leave. She reached for her daughter's hand, but it slipped away.

The soft-spoken Moser used a tissue to wipe away tears as she described the attack. She said it started with an explosion and something spewing gas behind her, then bright flashes at the front of the room. Moser said she assumed someone was setting off fireworks as a prank, and she stood up to take her daughter's hand and leave.

"Did her hand reach back?" prosecutor George Brauchler asked.

"It just slipped through my hand," she replied.

Moser said she felt a pain in her chest and fell on top of her daughter, but couldn't move.

"I heard the movie still playing and people crying and screaming," Moser said, vaguely recalling being carried out of the theater. She learned later that her daughter was dead.

As Moser testified from her wheelchair, Holmes stared straight ahead, slightly swiveling in his chair.

The prosecution rested after displaying Veronica's kindergarten graduation picture. The gallery was packed, and several victims and their relatives hugged and thanked prosecutors once the jury was dismissed for the day.

Holmes' lawyers will now begin calling their own psychiatrists and presenting other evidence to argue Holmes was in the grips of a psychotic episode at the time of the shootings and should be found not guilty by reason of insanity. They plan to begin their case Thursday.

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The defense says Holmes' mental illness distorted his sense of right and wrong, a key factor the jury must consider in determining if he was sane. Holmes' attorneys say he should be committed to the state mental hospital.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Holmes abandoned a prestigious graduate program at the University of Colorado-Denver before he opened fire at the suburban Denver movie theater where more than 400 people were watching the midnight premier.

Prosecutors showed jurors nearly 21 hours of Holmes' videotaped interviews with a state-appointed psychiatrist who concluded Holmes was seriously mentally ill but legally sane at the time of the shooting.

On the video, Holmes said he felt nothing as he took aim at fleeing moviegoers. Halting and awkward, he blurted out that he feared being stopped from committing what he acknowledged was a crime.

Prosecutors also took jurors on a video tour of the theater, the camera moving past bodies wedged between rows of seats or sprawled throughout aisles amid spent ammunition, spilled popcorn and blood. The footage, taken by an investigator, zoomed in on bullet fragments, bloody stairs and shoes left behind in the panic to escape.

Prosecutors introduced a brown spiral notebook Holmes kept titled "Of Life," in which he scrawled a self-diagnosis of his "broken mind" and described an "obsession to kill" since childhood.

Holmes made lists of weapons he planned to buy and included detailed drawings of the theater complex, complete with pros and cons of attacking different auditoriums and police response times.

Dr. Lynne Fenton, the university psychiatrist who treated Holmes before the attack, testified she did not have enough evidence to have him detained but was so concerned after he confessed his homicidal thoughts that she violated his health care privacy to call his mother.

Trial began April 27 after three months of jury selection that produced 12 jurors and 12 alternates. Five of those jurors have been dismissed — three amid concern they were exposed to news of the proceedings, one after her brother-in-law was wounded in a Denver ATM robbery, and one because she recognized a witness. That left 19 jurors, including seven alternates.

Where Bernie Sanders disappoints liberals **// CNN // Dan Merica – June 19, 2015**

Bernie Sanders has a growing immigration problem.

The Vermont independent senator is an outspoken liberal champion on social issues, jobs and foreign policy. He is known for his boisterous speeches on the Senate floor, his blunt style and his penchant for getting under the skin of his opponents.

But when the newly minted presidential candidate takes the stage at the National Association of Latino Elected Officials meeting in Las Vegas on Friday, he will stand before many Latino lawmakers that feel he hasn't been nearly liberal enough on the issue of immigration.

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"It is not his priority," Arturo Vargas, the executive director of NALEO, said on Thursday. "I think that is one of the challenges his campaign is going to have to confront."

Sanders does have a record on immigration. He backed the 2013 immigration reform law, he has worked extensively on migrant worker rights and has spoken out, at times, about how lower wages impact immigrant families more than most.

But he helped kill a 2007 immigration push and until recently, the issue was not something Sanders addressed in his presidential stump speech. When he kicked off his campaign earlier this year on the shores of Lake Champlain in Burlington, Vermont, his 3,509 word speech did not mention immigration.

"He absolutely needs to get up to speed," Debra Guerrero, a member of the San Antonio Independent School District and NALEO attendee. "If he wants to serve as our leader ... he needs to be aware of what the future holds and immigration is a part of that."

Omar Narvaez, a NALEO member and a Dallas County Schools Board of Trustee, said "it could be a bit of a problem, especially for those of us who come from southern states or states that border Mexico."

"If you are going to run for president, you have to have some plan or thought process that you can delver for us," he said.

The Latinos gathered Las Vegas feel that Sanders has not brought the same forcefulness he usually does to liberal causes when talking about immigration. Many attribute this to the fact he is from Vermont, a state that has fewer than 10,000 undocumented immigrants, according to Pew Research.

Sanders' lack of outspokenness on immigration has caught the attention of some of his colleagues on Capitol Hill, too.

"I don't know if he likes immigrants because he doesn't seem to talk about immigrants," Rep. Luis Gutiérrez, D-Illinois told Larry King earlier this month. "But sooner or later, he'll tell us. I hope he likes immigrants. I haven't heard him say anything. He's been kind of quiet and silent."

Sanders will address the audience at NALEO on Friday and his campaign aides said this week that he will outline, in detail, his views.

In a statement to CNN, Sanders noted that, as the "son of an immigrant," he believes it is "time to bring our neighbors out of the shadows."

Sanders pushed back against the idea that he isn't outspoken enough on immigration by noting his record of voting for immigration reform and workers' rights.

"The Republican majority in both the House and the Senate needs to let us debate and pass real immigration reform," Sanders told CNN.

Polls show Sanders struggling with minority voters.

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A CNN/ORC poll released earlier this month found that 5% of non-white voters supported Sanders for president, compared to 10% of overall voters who support the independent senator.

By comparison, Hillary Clinton -- the Democratic frontrunner who won a majority of Latino voters in her 2008 primary vote against then Sen. Barack Obama -- enjoyed 62% support from non-white voters.

Vargas, the executive director of NALEO, said it wasn't too late for Sanders, however.

"Immigration is an extremely important issue, it is not the only issues," he said. "You have people here who are running school districts. What is his policy on public education? You have people here running cities. What is policy on infrastructure? And what is his policy on public safety?

"I wouldn't say he has a clean slate. But he certainly is an unknown factor and I think tomorrow is an opportunity for him to define himself," Vargas said.

Bernie Sanders wants to talk about guns. But not right now. **// CNN // Dan Merica – June 19, 2015**

Bernie Sanders says he wants to talk -- at length -- about guns.

Just not now.

Two days after a white man walked into a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina, and killed nine people, the Vermont senator and presidential candidate took a cautious approach on gun control Friday when speaking with reporters after an event in Las Vegas.

"I think the people of Vermont understand that guns in Vermont are different than guns in Chicago or guns in Los Angeles," Sanders said, telling the assembled journalists that he thinks "it is wrong" when people are "in some cases suicidal and in some cases homicidal" are "still being able to purchase guns."

Sanders, saying his home state of Vermont has "zero gun control," acknowledged that different parts of the country have different outlooks on guns.

"I think we need to have as serious conversation about that," Sanders said. "I think rural America needs to understand what urban America feels. Urban America needs to understand the culture of rural America. But I think together we have got to go forward to make certain that people who should not be having these weapons do not have them."

When CNN tried to follow up with Sanders about how he would handle guns differently than President Barack Obama, the independent senator rejected the question.

"I will talk about guns at some length," he said, "but not right now."

Sanders' caution smacks in the face of his usual persona: Blunt, brash and proudly liberal. Before his chat with

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reporters, Sanders delivered his proudly liberal stump speech to an energized audience at The Treasure Island Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. He framed his campaign as one where the lower and middle class were fighting against the wealthy.

"Brothers and sisters, this is a tough fight," he said, just before a woman shouted, "but we are going to win!"

"We are going to win," Sanders responded with a slight smile.

The senator started his rally with a moment of silence for the people killed in Charleston, a tragedy he said was a remind that "racism, sadly, remains alive and well in this country and that we have much too much violence."

As his campaign aides watched closely, Sanders also addressed guns during his remarks, again contrasting his background in Vermont with urban America.

"There are weapons out there that have nothing to do with hunting and are designed to kill people and kill them quickly," Sanders said. "And this is an issue that must be dealt with."

In the eyes of gun control activists, Sanders has a mixed and moderate background on the issue, something that contrasts with his more liberal persona.

Sanders voted against the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in 1993, a law that imposed a five-day waiting period for gun purchases and mandated background checks, and voted for allowing guns on Amtrak. For much of his career, Sanders has followed the lead of his constituents -- who mostly back gun rights for hunters -- by keeping a generally states' rights view of gun laws.

But Sanders has also backed stricter gun laws. He voted for the 1994 assault weapons ban, and after the shootings in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012, Sanders backed Obama's failed push for more background checks and another assault weapons ban.

Even after the 2013 push, though, Sanders questioned whether the legislation he supported would even work.

"If you passed the strongest gun control legislation tomorrow, I don't think it will have a profound effect on the tragedies we have seen," he told Seven Days, an independent paper in Vermont.

Sanders' reluctance to address specifics on gun control contrasts with his foremost progressive challenger, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who outlined specific policy proposals Friday in an email to supporters entitled, "I'm pissed."

O'Malley backed a national assault weapons ban, stricter background checks and "efforts to reduce straw-buying, like fingerprint requirements."

"How many senseless acts of violence in our streets or tragedies in our communities will it take to get our nation to stop caving to special interests like the NRA when people are dying?" he asked.

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Elizabeth Warren's rallying cry is simple: If we fight for our values, we will win. And the question she's asked supporters is this: Are you ready to fight?

It was that fearless, fighting spirit that inspired us to start Ready for Warren more than a year ago to draft Elizabeth Warren to run for president. We believe the movement to draft Warren fundamentally changed the terms of the 2016 debate, and these days, just about every Democrat running for president seems to sound a lot like Warren. Few people have ever played as large a role in a Democratic presidential primary without even entering the race.

But having demonstrated how much support Elizabeth Warren has, we've spent the past few weeks listening to our grassroots supporters and the progressive community about what they want to do next. And one thing we heard time and again is that they're ready to play a big role in 2016, fighting alongside Warren on issues like trade, student debt, and reining in Wall Street.

They are also ready to back "Warren Wing" candidates who embody Warren's fearless brand of progressive populism. And although it isn't just about the presidency, 56% of supporters have urged us to back Bernie Sanders as the candidate currently running for president who best embodies the values that Warren champions.

That's why on Friday, Ready for Warren is launching a new grassroots initiative called Ready to Fight -- and Ready to Fight is endorsing Bernie Sanders as its candidate for president.

Why?

Because while Warren is the champion who inspired this movement, the draft effort was never just about her -- it's about her message and the values she represents. Bernie Sanders has caught fire in a way that's reminiscent of the draft Warren movement itself -- from the Internet to town halls in Iowa, Sanders has captured the imagination and support of people looking for a real progressive challenger in the 2016 Democratic primary.

One reason we're witnessing such a surge of support for politicians like Sanders and Warren is that they have given voice to Americans' deeply-felt frustration that the game is rigged against working people and stacked in favor of corporations and the very wealthy. For example, Robert Reich, citing a Pew report, notes that "the percentage of Americans who believe most people who want to get ahead can do so through hard work has plummeted 14 points since 2000."

While it's harder and harder for working people to get ahead or even get by, their voices are being drowned out by corporate influence and a flood of money in politics -- some $3.7 billion in last year's election cycle alone.

Indeed, a 2014 Princeton study of more than 1,800 policy initiatives concluded that, over the past two decades, the United States has transformed from a representative democracy to a country where the elites hold power and shape policy, regardless of the will of the majority of voters. We've seen this imbalance play out with the outsize influence of corporations in the fight over the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership. About 500 corporate trade "advisers" have access and input into the details of the trade deal, while the text has been kept secret from representatives from labor and environmental groups, as well as the media and voters.

As the gap in priorities between policy makers in D.C. and people across America widens, the voices of progressive populists like Warren and Sanders are growing louder and louder. But to be successful, they need the power of the people behind them -- people who are willing to stand up and fight.

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The launch of Ready to Fight doesn't mean the movement to draft Warren is over. Organizations don't create movements, and they can't end them. There is still a real and widespread desire to see Elizabeth Warren run for president, and Ready for Warren is continuing to organize in order to make the case to Warren, and the country, that she should be a candidate in the 2016 race. We're a long way from Iowa, and no one knows what the future holds.

But this effort has always been a bottom-up movement. It's an expression of a deep and broadly felt desire for leaders who are willing to stand up to powerful interests and fight for working families. The Warren Wing is on the rise -- you can see it in everything from the fight against TPP to the growing momentum around Bernie Sanders, and in the way Hillary Clinton and even Republican candidates are echoing Warren's themes on income inequality.

We're ready to fight -- standing with Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders to make sure the values we share are represented in next year's presidential election.

Sanders has favored a lighter touch on gun control than Clinton, O'Malley // Boston Globe // Anne Linksey and Tracy Jan – June 19, 2015

Senator Bernie Sanders has built his insurgent presidential campaign by trying to outshine Hillary Clinton on populist economic issues. But political reaction to the racially motivated mass murder in a Charleston, S.C., church this week highlighted an area where he's out of sync with most liberals: gun control.

Sanders, from Vermont, a rural state where support of guns and hunting is part of the political culture, has amassed a mixed record on proposed gun restrictions in his years as a congressman and senator.

The self-avowed Democratic socialist once earned a C- rating from the National Rifle Association — not a high mark for a Republican contender, but one that sets him apart as practically gun friendly among the 2016 Democrats vying for the nomination.

The issue isn't one that Sanders typically discusses on the stump, unless a question comes up. But after Wednesday's church shooting, gun control back has bounced back to the national agenda. Interest in Sanders and his positions also has spiked as he has attracted large numbers of people to his events who are eager to listen to the most prominent liberal alternative in the field to Clinton.

Clinton's response to the Charleston shootings was in line with her past views. She said the country must "face hard truths about race, violence, guns, and division." Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor and another Democrat in the presidential race, said the slayings should "call all of us to action" on gun control. President Obama, too, speaking from the White House on Thursday, decried the multiple mass shootings that have occurred since he assumed office, while lamenting the opposition to stricter rules on Capitol Hill.

Sanders made no mention at all of firearms or gun regulations in the wake of the attacks at Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Instead, he focused on the alleged motive for the attack, calling it a "tragic reminder of the ugly stain of racism that still taints our nation." A 21-year-old man was charged Friday in the murders of the worshippers, who were all African-American. Sanders also canceled a planned trip to South Carolina over the weekend.

On Friday afternoon, in response to questions from the media and an attendee at a town hall meeting in Las Vegas, Sanders said additional gun control should be considered but noted there are deep differences between rural and urban areas on the issue, according to Michael Briggs, a Sanders spokesman.

Sanders, 73, doesn't own a gun, added Briggs, and he shot a weapon once — as a Boy Scout.

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Sanders' views more closely reflect a general pro-gun attitude in Vermont, said Ed Cutler, the president of Gun Owners of Vermont.

"Even the liberals have guns up here," Cutler said.

He added that he has met with Sanders several times, and the senator has shown little interest in gun related legislation. In one instance, Sanders even refused to touch an empty magazine that Cutler hand-crafted to demonstrate how easy they are to make.

"Firearms is not his issue," Cutler said. "He doesn't know a whole lot about them."

Sanders has voted against the landmark Brady bill that required background checks and a waiting period before purchasing a firearm. He supported legislation allowing guns to be transported on Amtrak trains. He voted for a a measure to protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits in cases of shootings.

At other times, Sanders has supported gun control measures, including voting for an assault weapons ban and supporting President Obama's gun control package in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting that left 20 children and six adults dead.

The National Rifle Association awarded Sanders an F rating in 2002 when he ran for reelection in the House of Representatives. The grade changed to a D+ in 2004; a C- in 2006 when he ran for the Senate, and most recently earned a D- when he ran in 2012.

In contrast, Clinton and O'Malley have both earned consistently failing grades from the organization. The NRA hasn't issued any ratings yet for 2016.

In the past, Clinton has supported banning assault weapons, expanding background checks, and banning high-capacity magazines. During a "town hall" style meeting last year that was broadcast on CNN, she delighted gun control advocates by saying: "We cannot let a minority of people, and that's what it is, it is a minority of people, hold a view point that terrorizes the majority of people."

O'Malley oversaw sweeping new gun control legislation in Maryland after the Sandy Hook massacre, a package that prompted one gun manufacturer to leave the state. On Friday O'Malley e-mailed supporters under the subject line "I'm pissed," and called for an assault weapons ban, stricter background checks, and measures to prevent so-called straw purchases of weapons where a person without a criminal record purchases a weapon on behalf someone with one.

The Republican presidential field, predictably, generally opposes gun control measures. In response to the Charleston killings, Republicans shunned the subject of gun control while denouncing the attacks in a church and highlighting the deep religious faith of the victims.

Gun rights lobbyists have identified former Florida governor Jeb Bush as one of the most conservative in the GOP side, pointing to his A+ rating from the NRA and now-famous "stand your ground" law in 2005 that expanded the rights of people to use deadly force when threatened in their homes or in a public place. Bush also signed bills that expanded protections for gun owners carrying concealed firearms, including out-of-state visitors.

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While running for governor in 1998, however, he backed a Florida law mandating background checks for firearms purchased at gun shows.

The NRA lobbied against a bill to close a loophole that allows gun buyers to avoid background checks following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings. Senators Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, and Ted Cruz -- who are all running for president -- opposed the measure, which failed.

Rubio, a Florida Republican who says he has a concealed weapons permit but does not carry a gun, also voted against banning high-capacity magazines. He's proposed rolling back laws in the District of Columbia that prohibit guns.

Following the Sandy Hook shootings, Rubio said he was open to bills that would limit access to guns for criminals and the mentally ill. While running for US Senate, he said he supported background checks and waiting periods.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, who also has an A+ endorsement from the National Rifle Association, has in recent months voiced support for a version of Florida's "stand your ground" law.

In a March appearance in Charleston, Walker highlighted his gun record at a Republican luncheon. As governor, he signed a law, which he called the "castle doctrine," that provides protections for gun owners who shoot home intruders. He's also signed legislation allowing permit holders to carry concealed firearms, including into public buildings including the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Ready for Warren Sets Up Outlet for Members to Back Bernie Sanders // National Journal // Eric Garcia – June 19, 2015

Ready for Warren is no longer exclusively ready for Warren. The organization is keeping its efforts to draft Elizabeth Warren in place, but for those supporters who are giving up and want to shift gears and back another candidate, they have launched a project backing Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential bid.

In an email to supporters, the group's organizers said they were launching an initiative called Ready to Fight, and that when members were asked about 2016, 56 percent supported Sanders, leading the organization to give the Vermont Democrat its support.

An op-ed for CNN by Ready for Warren campaign manager Erica Sagrans and cofounder Charles Lenchner explained the decision to back Sanders.

"Sanders has captured the imagination and support of people looking for a real progressive challenger in the 2016 Democratic primary," they wrote.

But in an email to supporters, Ready for Warren insisted that the movement to draft Warren effort was not over yet.

"Ready for Warren will continue to be a place for everyone who wants to organize to make the case to Warren, and the country, that she should run," the email said.

By hosting these two organizations, Ready for Warren likely is trying to settle the predicament of how to keep momentum for their draft effort while maintaining the energy of people in the tent who are ready to channel their

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efforts toward an actual candidate's campaign.

Warren has repeatedly rebuffed pushes to jump in the race from Ready for Warren and Run Warren Run, which suspended its efforts last week and instead said it would focus on helping Warren in her fight for progressive causes.

The boosters who held onto a potential Warren candidacy for so long, though, aren't all just going to bounce to Bernie Sanders. Saba Hafeez, who helped drop off signatures to Warren's office to ask her to run for president, and was a campus organizer at the University of Iowa for the effort, said last week that she had seen former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley speak in Iowa City and was planning on seeing Hillary Clinton speak in Sioux City.

"I haven't decided what I'm doing next, but I would love to work in another campaign," Hafeez said.

Warren supporters are trying to show the campaigns that they are a valuable constituency in the Democratic Party, but it is unclear how much of an influence or help that Warren's backers would be to Sanders, or if their movement to him would have any effect on Clinton's front-runner campaign.

Sanders denounces 'billionaire class' outside GOP donor's Vegas casino // The Hill // Jonathan Easley – June 19, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) rallied hundreds of supporters against "the billionaire class" at a campaign stop Friday in Las Vegas across the strip from a luxury hotel and casino built by GOP megadonor Sheldon Adelson.

"Today we live in the wealthiest nation in the history of the world," said Sanders, a candidate for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, according to The Washington Post. "But the vast majority of the American people do not know that, do not feel that, because almost all of that wealth today rests in the hands of a tiny few."

"What we are saying to the billionaire class is, 'Your greed, which is destroying this country, has got to end,' " Sanders said.

Sanders called out Adelson by name.

"People like Sheldon Adelson ... and the Koch brothers are now spending unbelievable sums of money [to influence the political process]," Sanders said, according to the Post. Charles and David Koch are billionaires who also support conservative causes and candidates.

While Sanders took advantage of the proximity to Adelson's casino, the location of the rally didn't appear to be intentional.

He had reserved a room at the University of Nevada Las Vegas but had to move to a bigger location at the Treasure Island hotel and casino near the Venetian to accommodate a bigger-than-expected crowd.

Adelson's net worth is estimated to be near $30 billion. He donated some of the largest sums to conservative causes in the 2012 election cycle, spending about $100 million.

That year, he almost single-handedly kept former Speaker Newt Gingrich's (R-Ga.) campaign afloat by showering an affiliated super-PAC with tens of millions of dollars.

GOP candidates in the 2016 race have been lining up to seek his support.

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Ready for Warren endorses Sanders // **The Hill** // **Ben Kamisar – June 19, 2015**

Two top officials with Ready for Warren, the group that attempted to nudge Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) into a presidential bid, are throwing their support behind Sen. Bernie Sanders, who appears to be Hillary Clinton's progressive foil.

"While Warren is the champion who inspired this movement, the draft effort was never just about her — it's about her message and the values she represents," Erica Sagrans and Charles Lenchner write in an opinion piece on CNN released Friday morning.

"Bernie Sanders has caught fire in a way that's reminiscent of the draft Warren movement itself — from the Internet to town halls in Iowa, Sanders has captured the imagination and support of people looking for a real progressive challenger in the 2016 Democratic primary."

Sagrans is the campaign manager for the group, which has now rebranded itself as Ready to Fight. Lenchner is the group's co-founder.

Sanders has emerged as Clinton's leading opponent from the left. While he still trails Clinton by significant margins in most national and statewide polls, he's racking up strong poll numbers in New Hampshire and is drawing large crowds in Iowa.

The two write that 56 percent of the group's supporters have asked it to back Sanders, whom the article frames as the new torchbearer of the "Warren Wing."

"You can see it in everything from the fight against TPP to the growing momentum around Bernie Sanders, and in the way Hillary Clinton and even Republican candidates are echoing Warren's themes on income inequality," the op-ed says.

The Ready for Warren rebrand comes weeks after another group, Run Warren Run, suspended operations after it delivered a petition of 365,000 signatures urging Warren to run.

Bush, Sanders and the long, slow death of the GOP // **The Hill** // **Bernie Quigley – June 19, 2015**

I wrote here in late February, making the case that former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) has had turnings in life which he responded to positively as a family man: His wife didn't like to cook so he simply took the job of cooking for family and kids. He was raised an Episcopalian and she a Roman Catholic and he converted to Catholicism so as to unite the family. In both cases, he made the selfless decision to do what needed to be done to keep the family whole. These acts and judgments in the family microcosm reflect the most essential nature of an individual, and they show Bush to be a man of substance.

On the other hand, he is not exactly an Alpha Dog. In the whole crew rising to 2016, possibly former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina is most effectively an Alpha Dog. And in the recent conservative oeuvre which weirdly affirms the marginal — bikers, hillbillies, mountain free church preachers, yellers, Phil Robertson and Church Norris — she is also the most urbane. Do conservatives really want to win?

It might also be not unfair to note that Bush appeared to reject out of hand the family path of Sen. Prescott Bush (R-Conn.) and President George H.W. Bush and their tradition of capable public service, perhaps running away from the New England family tradition scorned as "W.A.S.P." (white Anglo-Saxon Protestant) in his college years, even though it was that tradition that provided the backbone of establishment America from President John Adams to the Kennedy period.

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Instead, he headed below the border to find the better life and it might be said that he escaped from the "Bush name" and the W.A.S.P. baggage. But isn't this the distinct American character which brings some to want another Bush? Do they not want what H.W. brought to the Oval Office: steady and dependable patrician reliability?

He is, as he says, an "introvert," and as such, he would likely be in time, possibly a very short time, uncomfortable as president. And so would we. (He would be an excellent priest or pope.) My wife and I are introverts. Introverts are librarians and solitary writers with cats who look forward to eating supper in front of the TV, watching "24."

Already, he is getting testy with Neil Cavuto on Fox, one of the most gentle and companionable commentators on TV. I'm not sure that he actually wants to be president, but is getting encouraged to do so by Henry Kissinger and Fred Barnes and that crowd. New York money has been pouring in, thinking him to be the best bet.

It may be a problem this time around that conservatives have convinced themselves that they will be running against Hillary Clinton and it will be a cakewalk, so they can send in young, inexperienced "new" people from the far red margins. Bush would likely win against Hillary and that, as far as I can see, is his only value.

But I am not so sure that Clinton will get the nomination. They failed to anticipate Bernie.

The millennial generation will soon rise to action, and it is beginning to swarm around Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). His old socialist approach is a radical departure from what we have seen in the last 25 years. One of my millennials emailed home this week to say of Clinton/Bush: "Thanks, but we're tired of your families."

Today, Sanders's approach may be winning the millennials, the group said to be essential to the turn and rise of the century. Sanders is everywhere on their indigenous means of communication, Facebook and Twitter. He may be their Gray Champion. President Obama might have been that figure, but his inexplicable insistence on the imperious Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) ruins everything. And TPP could well be the trigger for the new generation rising.

Generational theorists predict, accurately in my opinion, that the generation that rises to action cohesively today will be the action generation to advance the century, just as the so-called "Greatest Generation" rose to master its world-shaking events in the 1930s and '40s. If they continue to follow Sanders's cue, and that of Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), the La Passionara of this new movement, it could bring a slow and painful death to conservatism as we know it.

Millennials are not slackers or sleepyheads, as they are said to be; they are bright, disciplined and acutely focused. They are — it is — a generation in waiting. And it may well be waiting for Bernie Sanders.

Democrats May Keep Bernie Sanders Off New York Primary Ballot // Gothamist // Emma Whitford – June 18, 2015

Vermont Senator/Indie Rocker Bernie Sanders is an Independent on paper, which means that he's going to have a hard time getting his name on the Democratic presidential primary ballot in New York to compete with Taylor Swift fan Hillary Clinton next year.

Why? Meet Wilson-Pakula, a very obscure state law. The Wilson-Pakula act, which passed in New York State back in 1947, bars any candidate from running for the nomination of a political party that he or she is not officially affiliated with. Unless, that is, he or she manages to get permission from that party's committee leaders.

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Sadly, Wilson-Pakula helped marginalize some of the political movements that Bernie supports. According to the Washington Post, pre-1947, "communist and socialist candidates had been able to become candidates... after winning support from voters." In other words, back then, average New Yorkers got to make candidacy appointments.

Under current law, permission to cross party lines is, apparently, very rarely granted. It doesn't help that the relevant committee in New York State has a lot of Hillary supporters: From Assembly Chair David Paterson, to Governor Cuomo himself who, as Capital put it, "controls most of the party apparatus."

Undeterred, as of this writing, 4,269 people have signed an online petition to "GET BERNIE SANDERS ON BALLOT IN NEW YORK." From the letter, addressed to Governor Cuomo and David Paterson:

We believe that selecting candidates to represent us is one of the core functions of the people. Thus, we stand in solidarity with Governor Cuomo's call to repeal the Wilson Pakula law. The Wilson Pakula law, which requires a candidate from one party obtain permission from party bosses to run as a candidate from another party, is antiquated and not Democratic.

Indeed, as recently as the spring of 2013, Cuomo proposed an end to Wilson-Pakula, following the arrest of then-Senate majority leader Malcolm Smith, a Democrat, after he tried to bribe Republican leaders to grant him permission to run for mayor on their ticket.

Another wrinkle for all of the New York Sanders groupies out there: While there are no party affiliation requirements in presidential elections, primaries in several states, New York included, require voting along party lines. As one Redditer put it yesterday, "I wonder if all the Bernie fans realize they have to register as democrats to vote for him?"

Inside the mind of Bernie Sanders: unbowed, unchanged, and unafraid of a good fight // Guardian // Paul Lewis – June 19, 2015

The diplomatic overture was dispatched to Hu Yaobang, chairman of the Chinese Communist party, on 29 October 1981. A near-identical letter was sent to the Kremlin, for the attention of Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the Communist party of the Soviet Union.

“Like an unconscious and uncontrollable force, our planet appears to be drifting toward self-destruction,” the newly installed socialist leader of somewhere called Burlington wrote. He urged them “in the strongest possible way” to disarm militarily and begin immediate negotiations with other world leaders.

Bernie Sanders, the ardently leftwing mayor of Vermont’s largest city, dispatched similar missives to Downing Street, the Élysée palace and the White House, before releasing a statement declaring: “Burlingtonians cannot calmly sit back and watch our planet be destroyed – with hundreds of millions of people incinerated.”

The correspondence, unearthed by the Guardian, confirms what has long been said of America’s longest-serving independent member of Congress who, at the age of 73, recently launched a bid for the Democratic nomination for president. Bernie Sanders is unafraid of punching above his weight.

Never has that been more the case than now. Six weeks into his campaign, Sanders has gained the kind of momentum few expected from the Vermont senator, establishing himself as the primary obstacle between Hillary Clinton and the Democratic ticket for the White House.

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His national poll rating has more than doubled, to over 10%, in little over a month. His rallies in Iowa and New Hampshire have been attracting crowds larger than any other candidate, Democrat or Republican. Hard copies of his memoir – mostly a dry recitation of a 1996 congressional race – are suddenly selling for more than $250 on Amazon.

The race for the 2016 presidential nomination is in its infancy, and Clinton remains the clear frontrunner by a margin most political analysts believe is all but unassailable. But Sanders is changing the contours of the race: the rise of a hard-left politician, long battling to to be heard from the sidelines, is now the first unexpected twist in the Democratic primary contest.

The Guardian has spoken to close to a dozen of Sanders' closest friends, family, confidants and operatives. They paint a picture of a politician who has spent a lifetime obsessed with the same issues that still drive him today, and is now wrestling with the demands of a 2016 presidential race.

For his part, Sanders suggested in an interview with the Guardian that some of his policies remain a work in progress, but rejected the notion that his surge in popularity should come as a surprise. "I am a United States senator, I did win my last election with 71% of the vote," he said last week. "So it's not just like someone just walked in off the street and suddenly they're Hillary Clinton's main challenger. We've been doing this for a few years."

The unquenchable optimism of an electric young politician

Sanders was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1941, into a family struggling to get by on the low wage of his father, a Polish immigrant and paint salesman. "That created tensions for our parents, and that was an important part of our life," said the senator's 80-year-old brother, Larry, who now lives in Oxford, England, where he recently stood as a parliamentary candidate for the Green party.

Larry Sanders recalled his brother's first foray into politics, some time in the late 1950s, when he ran for election to be class president at James Madison high school. Sanders lost, but found consolation in defeat. "The student who won ended up adopting Bernie's policy about raising money for Korean orphans," Larry said.

The consensus in Washington is that the best Sanders can hope for is a similar outcome in 2016, using a campaign that will almost certainly end in defeat in order to pull Clinton to the left. The MIT academic Noam Chomsky, who was personally invited by Sanders to give a speech at Burlington city hall in 1985, gave a similar assessment.

"I am glad that he's doing it," Chomsky said, arguing that Sanders' presidential campaign would promote ideas that are rarely part of mainstream political discourse. "But the chances of him winning at the primary, or even at the national level, are virtually nil in our system, which is not a democracy but a plutocracy."

Sanders told the Guardian he was "not as pessimistic as Noam is". "He's right, we live in an increasingly oligarchic form of society, where billionaires are able to buy elections and candidates, and it is very difficult, not just for Bernie Sanders but for any candidate who represents working families," the senator said. "But I think the situation is not totally hopeless, and I think we do have a shot to win this thing."

That unquenchable optimism has always been a part of Sanders' career, and was perhaps forged in the 1970s, the first major chapter of his political life. Working as a youth counsellor and carpenter, Sanders ran in four consecutive US senate and gubernatorial elections, representing Liberty Union, a socialist party born from the anti-Vietnam war protests.

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He lost every election he stood in, never winning more than the 6% of votes he secured in a 1976 gubernatorial race. But these early campaigns gave Sanders an opportunity to advance his stridently progressive agenda.

One press release – from a Senate race he contested in 1974 – proposes a radical solution to rising energy prices. “Bernard Sanders, the Liberty Union candidate for the United States Senate, today called for the public takeover of all privately owned electric companies in Vermont,” it stated.

The press release discovered by the Guardian is annotated and could be a draft, and it goes on to describe the policy as a “dollar and cents” proposal rather than a forced appropriation of the means of producing energy. (Electricity in other municipalities in America was, at the time, administered by public bodies.)

But that was never the kind of policy likely to win a statewide election in Vermont in the 1970s, which was still in a process of transitioning from a Republican-leaning state to the liberal haven it has become today.

Around 1976, Sanders left Liberty Union and spent a couple of years as an amateur historian and film-maker, selling educational film strips to schools across New England. His main project was a short documentary about his hero, Eugene Debs, an early 20th-century union leader who was a six-time presidential candidate for the Socialist party. (Sanders remains fascinated with historical figures and, sources close to the senator confirm, on the rare occasions he is not working, the senator spends hours on YouTube watching political documentaries and biopics.)

But that interest in the history of politics has rarely crossed over into theory. Then as now, according to friends, Sanders had a secret disdain for what he believed were doctrinaire academics who failed to ground their ideas in the real world.

Huck Gutman, the senator’s longtime friend – and, until 2012, his chief of staff – recently tried to persuade Sanders to engage with the work of Thomas Piketty, the French economist whose research into wealth inequality has received widespread acclaim. Sanders rolled his eyes and replied: “I got 30 seconds.”

Given his aversion to intellectuals, it is ironic that two of the senator’s best friends are leftwing academics at the University of Vermont.

One is Gutman, 71, an English professor. The other is Richard Sugarman, 70, who teaches Jewish philosophy and existentialism. Two Sundays ago, the trio was on a picnic bench in Burlington’s Ethan Allen park, reflecting on the hectic turn of events.

The previous day Sanders had been in Keene, New Hampshire. Like every other event the senator has attended since announcing his campaign, the town hall was packed.

Sanders spoke for an hour, railing against growing economic inequality, the corporate media, millionaires and billionaires, global warming, Barack Obama’s Pacific trade deal and the Iraq war. The Vermont senator promised equal pay for women, tuition-free colleges and universities, an equitable tax system, the right to healthcare for all, an expansion of social security for the elderly, and tough action against Wall Street banks.

Those lucky enough to have a seat spent much of the hour on their feet, in wave after wave of standing ovation, as Sanders laid out his platform in his trademark Brooklyn twang; sober, exasperated, always impassioned.

“The best president in the history of the world – somebody courageous, smart, bold – that person will not be able to address the major crises that we face unless there is a mass political movement, unless there’s a political

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revolution in this country," Sanders told his approving audience of more than 700 people.

The next day, on the picnic bench, Sanders was upbeat as he regaled his friends with a rundown of the event.

"It was busy in Keene," Sanders told the professors, according to Sugarman's account of the conversation. "You wouldn't believe how many people showed up."

"OK, good. Did they seem sympathetic?" Sugarman asked.

"Yeah, they seemed to get it," Sanders said. "They really seemed to get what was going on."

Not far from the park, Sanders' presidential campaign team was in the process of working out how best to tap into that surge of energy.

Money is pouring into the campaign coffers – in the first 24 hours after his campaign launch, Sanders raised $1.5m. The funds mostly came from small-money donors, but he still raised more than any other presidential candidate who has disclosed their first-day tally.

The donations have allowed the campaign to scale up in New Hampshire and Iowa, where Sanders opened an office this past weekend. The campaign has hired Revolution Messaging, the digital and social media firm that provided groundbreaking support to Barack Obama presidential campaign in 2008.

But the operation remains a fraction of the team hired by Clinton; one senior aide described the process of building a large campaign apparatus as "a very big challenge and one we're still working out". The top operatives on the Sanders team are – with one exception – Vermont old-timers who have been at the senator's side for most of his career.

The senator is anxious about expanding too quickly, and is reluctant to hire the many Washington-based political consultancies that have been knocking on his door. "He has concerns that as you run for president, everybody who is president wants business from you and dollars from you," Gutman said. "Both Richard and I said he should depend on his own good sense."

But winning election in the tiny state of Vermont is not the same as a nationwide presidential race. One of Sanders' campaign operatives, talking on the condition of anonymity, spoke of the moral incentive for a "50-state strategy", spreading resources more equitably across the country. Another acknowledges the difficulty of managing the boon in grassroots support, suggesting that Sanders supporters may need to be left to their own devices and "self-organise, organically".

Even Sanders, a disciplined politician who rarely deviates from his script, can give the impression he is still working out the finer points of the campaign.

Asked how he would transition the country from the Affordable Care Act, toward the universal, single-payer system he prefers for healthcare, Sanders seemed unsure. "That's a good question," he told the Guardian. "I can't give you a definitive answer." He added that he envisaged a system "kind of modelled on what the Canadians are doing".

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Pressed on his taxation policy, Sanders said he would “absolutely” make the income tax system more progressive, but declined to say precisely how much top-rate earners should pay on their income. “I don’t want to develop policy off the top of my head,” he said, pointing to the extensive work he had already done on legislation to close tax loopholes for corporations and tax Wall Street stock transfers. “We will come up with a progressive individual tax rate as well.”

It is hardly uncommon for presidential candidates to avoid taking detailed policy stances early on in their campaigns, although their hand can often be forced by rivals. On the picnic bench with Gutman and Sugarman, the senator discussed one of the more peculiar issues on which he may be asked take a stand: Rhode Island’s governor, Lincoln Chafee, was ridiculed earlier this month when he launched his campaign for the Democratic nomination with a pledge to transition America toward the metric system of measurement.

Both Gutman said Sugarman said they talked to the senator about whether he too should adopt the policy.

“No, absolutely not,” Sugarman said he told the senator. “Fight it. That will be our conservative, traditional, issue. You have got to have a few dialectical issues or you really are going to be a liberal moron.”

Michael Briggs, Sanders’ campaign spokesman, insisted the senator had “no recollection” of any discussion about the metric system.

It was Sugarman who, in 1981, persuaded Sanders to run for mayor of Burlington, the rural city 40 miles from the Canadian border where the pair were roommates.

Running as an independent, Sanders ended up winning the election by just 10 votes, dislodging the incumbent Democratic mayor in a victory that made national news.

Sanders was the only mayor in the entire country who was neither a Democrat nor a Republican, and one of the few self-described socialists to gain public office. Burlington’s political establishment was aghast. “It was like Trotsky had been elected mayor,” Sugarman recalled. “But it wasn’t Trotsky. It was Bernie.”

Sanders was re-elected mayor three times, laying the foundations for the statewide election that made him Vermont’s only congressman in 1990.

It has often been said that Sanders’ eight years in city hall, redeveloping Burlington’s waterfront and spurring a civic initiative to clear snow from the streets, turned him into a pragmatist attuned the needs of everyday people. But that is only half the story.

The University of Vermont’s library has a collection of archived papers from Sanders’ mayoral years. The documents, which include notes scribbled on the yellow legal pads that he still uses today, are contained in 50 boxes that, remarkably, have not been inspected since the senator announced his candidacy for president.

The files confirm how Sanders spent much of his time as would be expected of a small-city mayor, solving a garbage disposal problem, building a bike path and securing a minor league baseball team for Burlington. But they also reveal a concerted effort by Sanders to leverage his modest power base to affect change in places far away from Vermont.

The letters he sent to the Soviet Union, China, the UK and France, urging military disarmament in conjunction with the UN’s international disarmament week, was just one example of dozens of diplomatic initiatives from

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Sanders, who used his perch at city hall to influence issues as diverse as apartheid in South Africa and the US invasion of Grenada.

In July 1981, the UK's prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, was informed that Burlington was "deeply disturbed" by what Sanders said was her government's abuse, humiliation and mistreatment of prisoners in northern Ireland. And when François Mitterrand announced a visit to the US later that year, Sanders wrote to the French president's wife, Danielle, inviting her to his "struggling socialist municipal government" in Vermont to speak on any topic of her choosing.

President Ronald Reagan was the recipient of several Sanders letters relating to international affairs, most of which concerned Nicaragua, where the US was covertly funding a guerrilla war against the leftwing Sandinista government. In 1985, Sanders actually travelled to Nicaragua, for the sixth anniversary of the Sandinista revolution, and met the country's president, Daniel Ortega.

In a letter addressed to the people of Nicaragua, penned in conjunction with that trip, Sanders denounced the activities of the Reagan administration, which he said was under the influence of large corporations. Burlington's mayor assured the Nicaraguan people that Americans "are fair minded people" who had more to offer "than the bombs and economic sabotage".

"In the long run, I am certain that you will win," Sanders wrote, "and that your heroic revolution against the Somoza dictatorship will be maintained and strengthened." Sanders was the highest-ranking American official to visit Nicaragua at that time, and returned to the US intent, it seems, on acting as emissary between the two countries.

In a letter to the White House, Sanders relayed that Ortega was willing to meet with Reagan "at any time or any place" to resolve the conflict. He also sought to enlist the help of the Democratic former president Jimmy Carter, telling him in a letter that he was highly thought of in Nicaragua. Sanders even invited Ortega to Burlington; the Nicaraguan leader politely declined.

The mayor's international expedition was hailed by leftwingers across the country, and cemented Burlington's reputation as a magnet for anti-establishment types. Chomsky was one of a long line of liberal thinkers, musicians and artists who flocked to the mountain city.

Another was Allen Ginsberg, who visited Burlington in February 1986; a handwritten and signed poem composed by the beatnik writer is also contained in Sanders' mayoral archives. (Entitled Burlington Snow, it begins with lines about "Socialist snow on the streets" and "Socialist kids sucking socialist lollipops", and ends: "Isn't this poem socialist? It doesn't belong to me anymore.")

Not everyone in Burlington appreciated the town's transition, under the supervision of a travelling, socialist mayor, into a people's republic. The WMNY-TV station put out an editorial that decried the mayor's "vacation" in Nicaragua as "absolutely shameful".

Sanders told the Guardian that he still stands by the international approach he took in Burlington, which was summed up in the mantra "think globally, act locally". "What you want to do is use your capabilities, whether you're a mayor, governor, senator or president – whatever it is – to make this world a better place," he said. "During my time as mayor, the United States was involved in the support of the contras in Nicaragua, something that I thought was part of the long-term Latin America policy in support of rightwing oligarchies and against the needs of the poor people of the continent."

Burlington's solidarity with the Sandinistas was cemented the year before the mayor's trip, when it formed a sister city relationship with the Nicaraguan coastal town of Puerto Cabezas.

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When Sanders was mayor, Burlington formed an alliance with another city – in the Soviet Union. When Sanders traveled to Yaroslavl, 160 miles north-east of Moscow, in 1988, the trip doubled as a honeymoon with his new wife, Jane. Not much survived in terms of paperwork from that trip, although the mayoral archives do contain a tape recording of Sanders interviewing Yaroslavl's mayor on a boat somewhere on the Volga river.

After receiving a rundown of central planning, Soviet-style, from Yaroslavl's mayor, Alexander Riabkov, Sanders notes how the quality of both housing and healthcare in America appeared to be "significantly better" than in the communist state. "However," he added, "the cost of both services is much, much, higher in the United States."

The 'one percent' – 20 years ago

Burlington was by no means the only American city to develop cultural and education exchanges in the Soviet Union as the cold war drew to a close. But Sanders' broader embrace of international politics during his mayoral years was by his own admission unique, standing him apart from local elected officials elsewhere in the country.

He even visited Cuba – a highly unusual journey for any American in the 80s – hoping to meet with Fidel Castro. The encounter did not take place, although he did meet Havana's mayor at the time.

"A number of cities have nice waterfronts, good streets, honest police departments, and even minor league baseball," Sanders wrote in his memoir. "But how many cities of 10,000 have foreign policy? Well, we did."

Today it is rare to find Sanders talk about the plight of people overseas. That, friends say, is perhaps the most significant change he has witnessed in the senator's political career, as he has become less interested in international affairs.

Sanders has gradually taken a less keen interest in foreign policy; his politics have become more parochial, focused on the needs of everyday Americans. Gutman described the senator's evolution as becoming more aligned with the bread-and-butter interests of voters. "The way to succeed in politics is not to be excessively concerned about the people far away," he said.

Foreign policy barely got a mention in his presidential announcement speech in Burlington at the end of April, except for a reference to the senator's opposition to "an endless war in the Middle East". Sugarman said he recently discussed with Sanders the idea of making his campaign's foreign policy "an extension of his economic policy".

On the domestic front, in contrast, Sanders has remained resolute through four decades of political campaigning, sticking to the issues that underpinned his mayoral years. The central thrust of Sanders' message – about economic inequality and the corruption of political power – has never really changed.

Take almost any excerpt from his announcement address, and the thread can be traced back in time, often to a speech or article that is decades old but adopts the very same language.

He was comparing soaring corporate profits and the accumulation of wealth at the top with a decline in real terms wages of average workers in 1974, as a Liberty Union candidate for the US senate. He attacked "giant banks and multimillion-dollar corporations" in his inauguration speech in Burlington in 1981.

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Sanders first started speaking about the richest “one percent” – language now synonymous with the Occupy movement, since co-opted by mainstream politicians – as far back as 1996.

Asked on C-Span in 1988 what the socialist mayor of Burlington would like to see from the next president, Sanders replied that the ideal candidate would “recognise that we have an extreme disparity between rich and poor, that elections are bought and sold”. Those issues are the pillars of his bid for the White House in 2016.

Anguish, a choice, and a breakthrough at long last

So committed is Sanders to his beliefs about economic injustice that it almost convinced him not to stand for president.

In the months during which he was contemplating his run for the White House, Sanders reflected on the careers of other progressive politicians, past and present.

Despite a highly successful career defined outside the Democratic party, Sanders never contemplated following Ralph Nader’s example and running for president as an independent. Sanders was adamant he did not want to be a “spoiler”, sapping votes from whoever the Democratic presidential candidate is, in much the same way Nader did to Al Gore in 2000.

Another politician on his mind was Elizabeth Warren, the populist Massachusetts senator who was under intense pressure from the progressive wing of the Democratic party to mount a challenge against Clinton. Sanders’ friends remain divided over whether he would have run if Warren had decided to be a candidate. Sugarman suggested his friend would not have entered the race, saying that had Warren run, she would have saved the Vermont senator “a lot of anguish”.

“People needed to feel as though they had a choice,” Sugarman said, explaining his friend’s thinking. “He felt these issues had to come to the fore.”

Yet even then, there was a third politician Sanders had in mind when he was considering whether to run. “He didn’t want to be Chris Dodd,” Gutman said, referring to the Connecticut senator who came last in the 2008 Democratic primary contest.

Sanders was not worried about what an embarrassing defeat would mean for him personally – his concern, friends say, was the damage such a defeat could inflict on the cause of economic justice in America.

“What he was saying over and over again was that he had a responsibility to the ideas that he represents,” his brother Larry said. “If he went in and he was badly beaten and humiliated, he could take it. But it would be a setback to those ideas, and the people who need those ideas.”

That fear, so far at least, appears to have been unfounded. In just the latest example of his rising standing among Democrats, a Suffolk University poll released on Tuesday showed the Vermont senator receiving 31% of support among New Hampshire primary voters – just 10 points behind Clinton.

It is a stunning endorsement of Sanders, who has been beating the same drum, mostly in vain, for close to half a century. Now, in the twilight of his career – and very possibly at its pinnacle – the reverberations are starting to be heard.

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"Sadly enough, I suppose, the world has caught up with what I have been saying for many years," the senator told the Guardian, adding that he was, perhaps, "a bit ahead of his time".

"People are now saying, wait a minute, this is absurd, this is unsustainable, this is a rigged economy," Sanders said. "And people are now demanding change."

CHAFEE

Only Lincoln Chafee Knows Which Woman Should Be on the $10 Bill // Bloomberg // Emily Greenhouse – June 19, 2015

It's not exactly up there with immigration, trade, and abortion for controversy: Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew's announcement earlier this week that a redesigned $10 bill will feature a portrait of a woman is one of the few feel-good stories of the summer. The decision was roundly welcomed. And yet the 2016 presidential candidates are having a hard time taking a stand.

Plenty of names have been floated by advocates agitating for the government to put the face of a woman on paper currency. The organization Women on 20s, through a voting process narrowed the final four to abolitionist leader Harriet Tubman, civil-rights icon Rosa Parks, Cherokee Nation chief Wilma Mankiller, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. (Their primary round included Alice Paul, Betty Friedan, Shirley Chisholm, Sojourner Truth, Rachel Carson, Rosa Parks, Barbara Jordan, Margaret Sanger, Patsy Mink, Clara Barton, Harriet Tubman, Frances Perkins, Susan B. Anthony, Eleanor Roosevelt and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The group's website offered fifteen, and then another seventy, more.)

New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen, who introduced an official Women on the Twenty Act into Congress, last month said she'd love to see a woman who had actually served in government on the bill, and suggested Frances Perkins, the first woman appointed to the U.S. Cabinet and the longest-serving secretary of labor. But the nation's would-be leaders refused to pick—perhaps because each has his or her own constituency.

Of a considerable slate of assumed and declared presidential hopefuls, only one reached by Bloomberg Politics would name a preference: former Rhode Island Senator Lincoln Chafee, who through a representative selected Rachel Carson, the marine biologist whose landmark book Silent Spring did much to advance the environmental movement.

A spokesperson for former Virginia Senator Jim Webb declined to answer, because the candidate was at his daughter's graduation, but offered the following: "As a very proud Dad of his daughter graduating high school today I'd guess he would put her on the bill."

And that was, more or less, it. A representative for New Jersey Governor Chris Christie replied, "Thanks for reaching out. I won't have a response in time for your deadline, but thank you again for the opportunity." (Bloomberg had not specified a particular deadline.) A spokesperson for Donald Trump expressed thanks for "offering to include us," but said "we will pass on this one." Same from Kentucky Senator Rand Paul's campaign: "We'll pass. Thanks."

Bloomberg did not hear back from representatives for former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, Senator Ted Cruz, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker—or even Carly Fiorina, whose campaign has made so much of gender and the importance of boosting women.

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What about the woman who seems closest to becoming the first American woman president, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton?

A Clinton spokesperson, after a day-long waiting period, sent the following statement to Bloomberg:

Putting a woman on the $10 bill is a long overdue step toward recognizing the tremendous impact women have had on the history of our country. We're looking forward to seeing which woman is selected by U.S. Department of Treasury – but there's no doubt that they have a long list to choose from.

That's it? The woman hoping to run the country, who has articulated her admiration for Eleanor Roosevelt and Rosa Parks, to name just two, replies: Let's leave it to a man.

Good luck with that, Mr. Lew.

UNDECLARED

WEBB

Jim Webb to speak to Clinton County Democrats // Des Moines Register // Jason Noble – June 19, 2015

Former U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, a potential Democratic presidential candidate, will speak at the Clinton County Democrats' annual Hall of Fame Dinner next Friday in eastern Iowa.

Webb has not formally declared his candidacy, but is exploring a run in 2016 and has visited Iowa several times over the last few months.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders are officially seeking the Democratic nomination. Clinton is seen as the frontrunner both in Iowa — home of the first-in-the-nation presidential caucuses — and nationally.

The Clinton County Democrats Hall of Fame Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on June 26 at Gil's Ballroom in Clinton. Tickets are $30.

OTHER

'Ridin' With Biden' in 2016, but So Far the Vice President's Not Aboard // NYT // Peter Baker – June 19, 2015

On the whiteboard at campaign headquarters in a spartan downtown office are listed the day's tasks. No. 1: "Send out bumper stickers."

Those would be the "I'm Ridin' With Biden" bumper stickers featuring the vice president of the United States in his signature aviator sunglasses behind the wheel of a favorite muscle car with a slightly mischievous grin on his face.

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Never mind that Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. is not for the moment actually running for president. The founders of the Draft Biden 2016 committee refuse to take probably not for an answer. And in this spare office with a shuffleboard table but no televisions, a handful of Democratic activists is trying to build the unlikely nucleus of an unlikely presidency.

Theirs is not exactly a political juggernaut. During a recruiting trip to a Democratic event in South Carolina, some who encountered the Draft Biden movement asked if it was a beer. Mr. Biden has not endorsed the effort, nor called or visited or publicly acknowledged its existence. The closest the team of activists has come to the vice president during this campaign season is the life-size cardboard cutout figure of Mr. Biden in the corner of their office.

But Will Pierce and his band of Bidenistas argue that the vice president is the best Democrat to carry on the legacy of President Obama and they are working overtime to convince him of that. They have collected more than 81,000 petition signatures, sponsored house parties, secured endorsements, made fund-raising calls, issued news releases and, on Saturday, will sponsor a rally in Davenport, Iowa, all in the hope of luring the vice president into the race.

“We’re bringing on more people. We just want to show the vice president the support he has,” said Mr. Pierce, 27, an Army Reserve captain who served in Iraq and started the draft committee this spring. “When and if he gets into the race, he’ll have a foundation. He’ll have some endorsers. He’ll have a grass-roots organization ready to go.”

The draft committee reflects an undercurrent of discontent in the Democratic Party with the idea of former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton gliding to the nomination. The momentum shown by the long-shot candidacy of Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont has encouraged those in the party who want a choice.

“We’re trying to engage Democrats who up until this point have felt disengaged by a coronation,” said Joseph Schweitzer, 26, who serves as the Draft Biden committee’s finance director.

Mr. Biden has not ruled out a campaign, but he has given no indication that he is serious about running either. In recent months, he has been consumed by family crisis as his elder son, Joseph R. Biden III, known as Beau, battled brain cancer and died last month.

Since his son’s death, the vice president has spent most of his time with his family at home in Wilmington, Del., but he has made several forays to Washington in recent days wearing a simple black rosary with a religious medal on his wrist. Some who saw him at the White House said he seemed eager to get back into a work routine.

Some Democrats wonder whether Mr. Biden, 72, who served 36 years in the Senate and ran for president in 1988 and 2008, might emerge from the tragedy recommitted to public service and give another look at a third presidential bid. But several people close to Mr. Biden said they saw no real chance that he would run absent an unforeseen development taking Mrs. Clinton out of the race.

Still, unlike Senator Elizabeth Warren, the Massachusetts Democrat who consistently said she was not running despite a draft effort, Mr. Biden has not definitively said no, instead promising a decision by the end of summer. As long as he is not telling them to stop, the Democratic activists here in Chicago figure the door remains open.

Mr. Pierce said the committee got its start in his living room a few months ago when he sent out an email to 2,000 people arguing for a Biden presidential bid. He then went to the gym to work out.

“I came back and when I saw my email” there were “all these people who said, ‘We want to get involved,’” he said.

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“Since then, it’s just taken off.”

Like the others on the committee, Mr. Pierce has no strong ties to Mr. Biden. He did some motorcade advance work for the vice president and his wife. Most of the 10 or so others who work full-time for the committee — about half a dozen are paid — have worked on Democratic campaigns, usually in field work or fund-raising. Ahmed Khan, 31, the communications director, ran unsuccessfully for Chicago alderman and worked for three successive challengers to Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

But none of them served in senior positions with the Obama-Biden team, and only a few have met Mr. Biden in passing once or twice at events. Mr. Biden’s advisers said they learned about the draft committee only when it announced its formation.

The activists hope to collect 500,000 petition signatures by the end of summer and have been raising money, although they will not say how much until the next required reporting period. (“We haven’t found our billionaire yet,” Mr. Schweitzer allowed.) Their focus has been on enlisting supporters from Mr. Biden’s past campaigns.

They showed up one day a couple months ago in the office of Roxanna Moritz, the elected auditor of Scott County, Iowa’s third most populous county, and won her support. “I love the fact that Biden tells it like it is,” she said by telephone from Davenport, the county seat. “I don’t believe you have to be charismatic and do the fluff. I really want to know how that person feels. And while he’s sometimes too blunt, I know it’s coming from his heart and his mind. I like that about him.”

Mr. Biden is way behind Mrs. Clinton in any theoretical matchups and few independent analysts see him as a serious threat. But he does have a reservoir of good will among Democrats. A New York Times/CBS News survey in early May found that 53 percent of registered Democratic voters would consider voting for Mr. Biden versus 85 percent who would consider voting for Mrs. Clinton.

“As soon as he were to hint or even drop a line to anybody that had a say, I think that poll number would go far up and we wouldn’t have a problem about viability or electability,” Mr. Khan said.

Chasing Clinton, Sanders and O’Malley Court Teachers Unions // US News and World Report // Allie Bidwell – June 19, 2015

The nation's two largest teachers unions are in the thick of their 2016 presidential endorsement processes, having met with the three major Democratic candidates who have announced their candidacies.

On Thursday, Sen. Bernie Sanders – an independent from Vermont running for the Democratic nomination – and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley met with Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association. Both the NEA and the American Federation of Teachers – the nation's largest teachers union after the NEA – now have heard from O'Malley, Sanders and front-runner Hillary Clinton at a time when the party each hopes to represent in the White House is divided over how to improve K-12 education in America.

Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Divide on Education

"We are asking the tough questions that get to the heart of the issues that educators, their students and families are facing every day. They see what is happening in their schools and communities. They know that all students deserve the support, tools and time to learn," Eskelsen Garcia said in a statement. "But are politicians willing to commit to the success of every student regardless of his or her ZIP code? That is the key question that educators will ask over and over again."

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So far, all three candidates have focused on framing education as an economic imperative that creates the clearest path to the middle class. They've also put a focus on the needs to reduce standardized testing in schools and empower teachers – desires the unions share – while staying away from more controversial topics such as teacher tenure and evaluation systems, school choice and Common Core.

Sanders is the only candidate so far to focus on problems with No Child Left Behind in his remarks to the unions, according to excerpts provided by the NEA and AFT.

Sanders, who serves on the Senate education committee, said there are few others as opposed as he is to the sweeping education law – which Congress is attempting to update – and to "this absurd effort to force teachers to spend half of their lives teaching kids how to take tests."

"If I have anything to say in the coming months, we would end [No Child Left Behind]," Sanders told Eskelsen Garcia.

NEA President Lily Eskelsen García met with former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley on Thursday as part of the association's recommendation process for the 2016 presidential campaign.

National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen García speaks with former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley on Thursday at the association's headquarters in Washington.

Both candidates also made the overuse of standardized testing a focus of their NEA remarks.

Sanders said it's important to "look at the whole child," and to give teachers more flexibility to work with their students.

"Teaching kids just to take [a] test in my view does not go far enough," Sanders said.

O'Malley, too, said there needs to be a more holistic approach to teaching.

"Increasing the frequency of tests doesn't necessarily increase the quality of education," O'Malley said. "We have to be mindful of the whole child – their development, their nutrition, their health. Learning is about more than that feedback loop of tests and quizzes."

O'Malley used his remarks to focus on his time as governor, saying that during his tenure from 2007 to 2015, Maryland "made public education a priority by partnering with teachers, and by not doing less but by doing more." He also defended the federal government's role in K-12 education, which lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have said needs to be scaled back to some extent.

"No child is a spare American. In Maryland, we came together to forge the consensus to make the investments at the state level to give our children the quality education they deserve," O'Malley said. "There's so much the federal government can do better in education, but we won't do better if we insist on doing less, not more."

Sanders and O'Malley are far behind Clinton in early polling, though Sanders has showed some momentum of late, trailing Clinton by 10 points in a recent Suffolk University poll of New Hampshire.

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What Did O'Malley and Sanders Tell the NEA? **// Ed Week // Alyson Klein – June 18, 2015**

The National Education Association is getting started early on its 2016 presidential endorsement process. The union's president, Lily Eskelsen Garcia, has already met with Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Senator, and a contender for the Democratic nod.

And Thursday, the union met with two more candidates for the Democratic nomination: Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who is technically an Independent, identifies as a socialist, but is running as a Democrat anyway.

Dying to know what did the two leading, Non-Hillary Democratic candidates in the race have to say for themselves on education? Luckily NEA sent around some excerpts.

Under O'Malley, Maryland won a Race to the Top grant, changed its teacher evaluation laws to better incorporate student test data, and it is a leader in one of the two consortia offering tests aligned to Common Core State Standards. But he didn't emphasize those things to the NEA, at least not in the remarks the union sent around.

Instead, he talked about the limitations of testing. And he stuck up for the federal role in K-12, which isn't so popular these days:

"We need to do a better job of listening to the people who are doing the job. I've never believed one could make teachers the enemy and expect to improve student and classroom outcomes.

"The issue of more time in the classroom is related to this holistic approach about how we educate children. Increasing the frequency of tests doesn't necessarily increase the quality of education. We have to be mindful of the whole child—their development, their nutrition, their health. Learning is about more than that feedback loop of tests and quizzes.

"As president I would make education funding an economic issue and continue to spread that understanding that the more a child learns, the more that child will earn and the better for our entire economy. As governor, we made public education a priority by partnering with teachers, and by not doing less but by doing more."

"No child is a spare American. In Maryland, we came together to forge the consensus to make the investments at the state level to give our children the quality education they deserve. There's so much the federal government can do better in education, but we won't do better if we insist on doing less, not more."

Sanders, meanwhile, has been one of the most outspoken Democratic critics of the Obama administration's competitive grants. But, in his remarks, he hit mostly on his distaste for the No Child Left Behind Act, which is on its last legs anyway:

"I am running for president of the United States to start a political revolution. We have the most unequal distribution of wealth and income in the country since 1929. The great middle class has been disappearing. The American dream is disappearing. We have priorities that are absolutely backwards. There are 45 million Americans living in poverty. A teacher at a recent town hall meeting told me that 90 percent of her students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. This is not what America is about.

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"Our country belongs to all of us, not just billionaires. No president can take care of all the problems facing Americans today alone. We need a movement of working people, of middle-class people, to stand up right now. If we don't, I worry about the future of our children and grandchildren.

"As I sit on the Senate education committee, it's fair to say that there are few people on the committee who are as opposed to No Child Left Behind and as opposed to this absurd effort to force teachers to spend half of their lives teaching kids how to take tests. If I have anything to say in the coming months we would end NCLB.

"If elected president, we are going to look at the whole child. We are going to give teachers the opportunity and freedom to work with kids in any and all ways to improve their lives and to give them the best possible education. Teaching kids just to take tests in my view does not go far enough."

For those keeping score at home, NEA and the American Federation of Teachers have each met with Clinton, Sanders, and O'Malley. The NEA doesn't have any other meetings scheduled just yet, but it's still early in the union's endorsement process.

It's worth noting that when he ran for president back in 2007, Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas and a GOP candidate again this time, took the NEA's endorsement process seriously, and wound up getting the stamp of approval of the union's New Hampshire affiliate, which turned out to be a mixed blessing for him.

Also, back in the 2008 season, the union didn't elect to endorse in either the GOP or Democratic primaries.

Still, it will be the biggest edu-political surprise of the year if either union endorses anyone but frontrunner Clinton, who is continuing to hit education on the campaign trail.

She told the National Conference of Latino Elected Officials in Las Vegas Thursday about her plan to move toward universal preschool, expand college access, and staff "our primary and secondary schools with K-12 teachers who are second to none in the world, and get the respect they deserve for sparking the love of learning in every child."

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

Voodoo, Jeb! Style **// NYT // Paul Krugman – June 19, 2015**

On Monday Jeb Bush — or I guess that's Jeb!, since he seems to have decided to replace his family name with a punctuation mark — finally made his campaign for the White House official, and gave us a first view of his policy goals. First, he says that if elected he would double America's rate of economic growth to 4 percent. Second, he would make it possible for every American to lose as much weight as he or she wants, without any need for dieting or exercise.

O.K., he didn't actually make that second promise. But he might as well have. It would have been just as realistic as promising 4 percent growth, and considerably less irresponsible.

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I'll get to Jeb!onomics in a minute, but first let me tell you about a dirty little secret of economics — namely, that we don't know very much about how to raise the long-run rate of economic growth. Economists do know how to promote recovery from temporary slumps, even if politicians usually refuse to take their advice. But once the economy is near full employment, further growth depends on raising output per worker. And while there are things that might help make that happen, the truth is that nobody knows how to conjure up rapid productivity gains.

Why, then, would Mr. Bush imagine that he is privy to secrets that have evaded everyone else?

One answer, which is actually kind of funny, is that he believes that the growth in Florida's economy during his time as governor offers a role model for the nation as a whole. Why is that funny? Because everyone except Mr. Bush knows that, during those years, Florida was booming thanks to the mother of all housing bubbles. When the bubble burst, the state plunged into a deep slump, much worse than that in the nation as a whole. Taking the boom and the slump together, Florida's longer-term economic performance has, if anything, been slightly worse than the national average.

The key to Mr. Bush's record of success, then, was good political timing: He managed to leave office before the unsustainable nature of the boom he now invokes became obvious.

But Mr. Bush's economic promises reflect more than self-aggrandizement. They also reflect his party's habit of boasting about its ability to deliver rapid economic growth, even though there's no evidence at all to justify such boasts. It's as if a bunch of relatively short men made a regular practice of swaggering around, telling everyone they see that they're 6 feet 2 inches tall.

To be more specific, the next time you encounter some conservative going on about growth, you might want to bring up the following list of names and numbers: Bill Clinton, 3.7; Ronald Reagan, 3.4; Barack Obama, 2.1; George H.W. Bush, 2.0; George W. Bush, 1.6. Yes, that's the last five presidents — and the average rate of growth of the U.S. economy during their time in office (so far, in Mr. Obama's case). Obviously, the raw numbers don't tell the whole story, but surely there's nothing in that list to suggest that conservatives possess some kind of miracle cure for economic sluggishness. And, as many have pointed out, if Jeb! knows the secret to 4 percent growth, why didn't he tell his father and brother?

Or consider the experience of Kansas, where Gov. Sam Brownback pushed through radical tax cuts that were supposed to drive rapid economic growth. "We'll see how it works. We'll have a real live experiment," he declared. And the results of the experiment are now in: The promised boom never arrived, big deficits did, and, despite savage cuts to schools and other public services, Kansas eventually had to raise taxes again (with the pain concentrated on lower-income residents).

Why, then, all the boasting about growth? The short answer, surely, is that it's mainly about finding ways to sell tax cuts for the wealthy. Such cuts are unpopular in and of themselves, and even more so if, like the Kansas tax cuts for businesses and the affluent, they must be paid for with higher taxes on working families and/or cuts in popular government programs. Yet low taxes on the rich are an overriding policy priority on the right — and promises of growth miracles let conservatives claim that everyone will benefit from trickle-down, and maybe even that tax cuts will pay for themselves.

There is, of course, a term for basing a national program on this kind of self-serving (and plutocrat-serving) wishful thinking. Way back in 1980, George H.W. Bush, running against Reagan for the presidential nomination, famously called it "voodoo economic policy." And while Reaganolatry is now obligatory in the G.O.P., the truth is that he was right.

So what does it say about the state of the party that Mr. Bush's son — often portrayed as the moderate, reasonable

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member of the family — has chosen to make himself a high priest of voodoo economics? Nothing good.

Jeb Bush Pledges Debate on Gay Marriage After Court Ruling **// NYT // Jeremy Peters – June 19, 2015**

Jeb Bush told a gathering of religious conservatives on Friday that the debate over same-sex marriage should continue on "irrespective of what the courts say," signaling that he would not consider a Supreme Court decision favorable to gay rights as the last word on the issue.

With the court expected to rule before the end of the month on the question of whether gay and lesbian couples have a constitutional right to marry, one of the looming questions for Mr. Bush and the other Republicans running for president is how aggressively they will respond.

There are many in the Republican Party who have hinted that they would rather the issue simply go away. And while they may prefer the court not invalidate state laws that limit marriage to heterosexual couples, they would welcome a decision that settles the issue once and for all.

In his comments to the Faith and Freedom Coalition's Road to Majority Conference in Washington, Mr. Bush, the former governor of Florida, said he was not content letting the issue fade away.

"It's got to be important over the long haul, irrespective of what the courts say," he said.

He added: "We need to make sure that we protect the right not just of having religious views, but the right of acting on those religious views."

"Conscience should also be respected for people of faith who want to take a stand for traditional marriage," he said.

Mr. Bush, who also stressed in the speech the role that his Catholicism plays in his life as both a private citizen and a public servant, extolled the importance of raising children in families with heterosexual parents.

"In a country like ours we should recognize the power of a man and a woman loving their children with all their heart and soul as a good thing, as something that is positive and helpful for those children to live a successful life," he said.

Mr. Bush has not yet addressed a question that seems likely to divide Republicans if the Supreme Court rules in favor of same-sex couples: Should there be renewed push for a constitutional amendment that limits marriage to one man and one woman?

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin recently said that he would support such an amendment, as have several of the other Republican presidential candidates who are running as social conservatives, like former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Senator Ted Cruz of Texas.

At least two, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, do not support such an amendment.

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Jeb Bush's slam against Washington, D.C. **// WaPo // Glenn Kessler – June 19, 2015**

"This morning I was in Washington, Iowa. Washington, Iowa, is a little different than Washington, D.C. It's pretty, the people there are hard-working, they don't think that they're the masters of people. It's not the most prosperous place in the world, in the United States. Sadly, Washington, D.C., is. I don't know if you know this — Washington, D.C., has the highest per capita income in the United States. Washington, D.C., has average home values of $800,000. Washington, D.C., doesn't have unemployment. Washington, D.C., has federal workers making significantly more than the private sector workers for lifetime jobs. Washington truly believes that it is the master of us, rather than its servant. And the next president of the United States needs to reverse that trend and put it back where it should be which is our servant focused on doing fewer things, but doing them much, much better."

— Former Florida governor Jeb Bush (R), speaking in Pella, Iowa, June 17, 2015

It is a time-honored tradition for politicians to attack Washington, D.C. But they need to get their facts straight when they do so. So how does Bush fare with four of the factoid he tossed out in a speech to voters in Iowa, as he tried to make the case that the District is the 'most prosperous place' in the United States?

The Facts

'Washington, D.C. has the highest per capita income in the United States'

This claim struck us as a little odd, given that a number of metro areas generally are often ranked higher than the Washington, D.C., area. The Bureau of Economic Analysis, a unit of the Commerce Department, says the Washington D.C., metro area ranks 10th, with a per capita personal income of $73,461 in 2013.

By contrast, Midland, Tex. ranks the highest, with income of $129,193, followed by cities such as San Jose, ($100,115), Bridgeport ($93,404), San Francisco (78,844), Seattle ($74,701) and Boston ($74,701). So the D.C. area is certainly near the top — the per capita figure for all 381 metro areas is $52,093 — but not the "highest," as Bush claimed.

The Bush campaign, however, pointed to other BEA data at the state level, which at first glance appears to show the "District of Columbia" with a 2014 per capital income of $76,532, higher than the state of Connecticut, with $62,467. But the District is not a state, and BEA officials note that this table includes the District but does not rank it. Connecticut is ranked as number 1. So it's incorrect for the Bush campaign to claim that this table shows that Washington, D.C., has the highest per capital income in the United States.

The District's per capita income simply should not be measured against other states; it's a city.

'Washington, D.C., has average home values of $800,000'

The key word here is "average." The Bush campaign pointed to a 2014 article quoting the D.C. chief financial officer as saying the average price will hit $813,600 in 2015. But a more recent 2015 forecast shows that the average price was $736,400 in 2014 and is projected to be $771,200 in 2015.

The median price, according to the article, is around $600,000. Zillow pegs the median price at nearly $500,000. (The median is the middle value, with an equal number of data values larger and smaller.)

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So D.C. house prices are high, but not quite as high as Bush claimed.

'Washington, D.C., doesn't have unemployment'

This is a strange quote when talking about a city with a 7.5 percent unemployment rate (compared to Iowa's 3.8 percent.) A Bush spokesman explained that "the point the Governor is trying to make is that D.C. is a boomtown where many more people are moving to find jobs off of Government largess." He noted from December 2007 (when the Great Recession started) to today, the District has had a 9 percent increase in the number of nonfarm employees, compared to 2 percent for the entire United States, according to the Bureau of labor Statistics.

Okay, so Bush misspoke. We don't try to play gotcha here at The Fact Checker. But if Bush is talking about people with jobs in the federal government, then he's looking at the wrong set of data. The growth of federal jobs in this period was just about 8,000, or 4 percent, the BLS says. The real growth in jobs – about 63,000, or nearly 14 percent – came in private industry.

'Washington, D.C., has federal workers making significantly more than the private sector workers for lifetime jobs'

This is where Bush is on the strongest ground. His campaign cites a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report that estimated that "on average for workers at all levels of education, the cost of hourly benefits was 48 percent higher for federal civilian employees than for private-sector employees with certain similar observable characteristics."

If benefits are included, "overall, the federal government paid 16 percent more in total compensation than it would have if average compensation had been comparable with that in the private sector, after accounting for certain observable characteristics of workers."

Workers with professional degrees tend to earn about 23 percent less than their private-sector counterparts, but they make up only 7 percent of federal workers, CBO said. Workers with bachelor's degrees tended to earn about the same as private sector workers, but workers with no more than a high school degree tended to earn about 21 percent more, on average.

The Pinocchio Test

Bush would have done better if he had not gotten off-track with some of his specifics. The Washington area does have one of the highest per capita income levels, but not the highest. Meanwhile, the District has a relatively high unemployment rate, while the growth in jobs has been in the private sector, not in the federal government. He's right that home prices are high, if not quite $800,000. And the CBO confirms that federal salaries are much higher, on average, compared to private-sector workers.

Overall, Bush earns Two Pinocchios.

Like grandfather, like father, like son: Jeb Bush Jr. joins the campaign fray // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe – June 19, 2015

As his father was on stage here fielding questions from the crowd, Jeb Bush Jr., the third and youngest son of Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush, was playing the role of seat filler.

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He sat listening from the bleachers and later hung back quietly as the candidate posed for pictures with admirers. Earlier in the day in another town, he watched from a distance, arms crossed, as his father pitched Iowa Republicans for the first time as an official candidate.

John Ellis Bush Jr. is nicknamed Jebby — though he prefers Jeb — or "2.0," as some campaign aides call him. The 31-year-old serves as a frequent travel companion and active campaign surrogate for his father, with a focus on building support among Hispanic and millennial voters.

It is a role once played by Jeb Bush himself for his father, George H.W. Bush, and for his brother, George W. Bush.

Jeb Bush's oldest son, George P. Bush, the 39-year-old Texas land commissioner, will play a limited role because of his day job. His daughter, Noelle, 37, and his wife, Columba, aren't expected to make many appearances. When asked this week, Jeb Bush suggested that his older brother might not campaign with him, either.

Jeb Bush waits to speak to a crowd of supporters in Pella, Iowa. His son, Jeb Jr., second

But Jeb Jr. has been close to his father for several years. They shared a Miami office suite, where they ran Jeb Bush & Associates, a consulting firm that focused on the health-care, technology, energy and real estate sectors.

After deciding last year to run for president, his father divested his business interests and left his son to run a few projects on his own.

"I basically told him I was all in and happy to do whatever he wanted me to," Jeb Jr. said this week in his first extended interview. He said his father's initial response was: "You should focus on making money and having more grandkids."

Speaking with reporters this week, the candidate pulled Jeb Jr. in close and said: "My advice is to have fun, do it with joy in your heart, don't get too wonky. Use the kind of humor that he's got to take me down a notch or two."

Jeb Jr. has already served as his father's liaison to major GOP fundraising events and has headlined fundraisers for younger donors at Miami nightclubs, Washington restaurants and New York apartments.

"As Dad has said, we're organizing the win and taking every state seriously," he said. "It's a huge effort. That's one thing I've learned so far: how much of a massive effort this takes. Not only to potentially win a primary, but win a general. And also actually to get something done when you get there. It's a huge, long process that takes a massive organization."

Kent Lucken, a Bush supporter and Boston-based banker who is helping the campaign, said he was impressed by the younger Bush's demeanor at a Utah conference hosted last weekend by 2012 GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

Active in Florida politics, Jeb Bush Jr. endorsed Marco Rubio, left, for Florida's open Senate seat in April 2010. (AP/J. Pat Carter) (J Pat Carter/ASSOCIATED PRESS)

"I couldn't get over how he's picked up his father's tone, his respectful manner," he said. "He can speak like his dad. He's been with him side-by-side for seven years doing business deals. Most fathers don't spend seven years with their sons next to them like this."

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The Bushes are part of a long tradition of large political families helping a sibling or parent become president. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy and her children met with small groups of female voters as her son, John F. Kennedy, campaigned for president in 1960. Romney's five sons used an RV to tour Iowa's 99 counties in 2008 and fanned out across the country for their father in 2012. Chelsea Clinton didn't play an active role in Bill Clinton's 1992 or 1996 campaigns, but she is expected to help Hillary Rodham Clinton in the coming year.

Jeb Bush's first taste of presidential politics came in 1980, when his father sent him to Puerto Rico to help win the island's first GOP primary. The three other Bush sons, George W., Marvin and Neil, also campaigned for their father that year in Iowa and New Hampshire. The family did it again in 1988 and 1992, and for George W. Bush in 2000 and 2004.

George P. Bush and Jeb Bush Jr. first dabbled in politics through MAVPAC, a committee launched by veterans of George W. Bush's administration to help fund GOP campaigns. Jeb Jr. has been especially active in South Florida: He campaigned for Marco Rubio during his 2010 U.S. Senate campaign and has been mentioned as a possible candidate for several positions. For now, Jeb Jr. said, he's more interested in charitable work with St. Jude's Children's Hospital and helping his father.

Little has bothered him about the media coverage of his father, he said, but he is plagued by "the anxiety of people not knowing his record and who he is as Jeb."

So Jeb Jr. is trying to build out his father's personal history. At fundraisers hosted by Right to Rise USA, the super PAC supporting his father's candidacy, he told younger crowds that his dad is a fan of "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," the 2006 movie starring Will Ferrell, who is also known for his lampooning of George W. Bush. The former governor also likes country music, Al Green and Stevie Wonder, his son said. And with a mother who was born in Mexico, Spanish music often filled the Bush home.

"There was a lot of salsa, a lot of Luis Miguel," Jeb Jr. said, referring to the popular Mexican singer. "A little Cuban influence. But Mom was always big on the Luis Miguel."

"My mom still speaks to me in Spanish," he added. "I made the mistake of responding in English, so my Spanish is kind of intermediate. It should be fluent."

After growing up in Miami, he attended the University of Texas and earned a Latin American Studies degree — just like his father. Jeb Jr. had a brief run-in with the law in 2005, when he was arrested in Austin for public intoxication and resisting arrest.

Now he lives near his parents with his wife, Sandra. She was born in Canada and is of Iraqi descent; they met in London when he was traveling on business. Together they speak to their two young daughters in English, Arabic and Spanish.

In a bilingual interview with ABC News this week, Jeb Bush marveled at how his young granddaughters are learning three languages. "It's a very American mix," he said in Spanish.

Five myths about Jeb Bush **// WaPo // Brian E. Crowley – June 19, 2015**

The nation has the chance to vote for another Bush now that Jeb has declared his candidacy for president. Though his last name is one of the most famous in the country, much of the conventional wisdom about Bush is wrong, starting with his first name. (It's not actually Jeb.) Here are five other myths about the third child of George and Barbara.

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1. Jeb Bush is a moderate.

“Republican vanilla” was how Henry Olsen put it in National Review. Others have described Bush’s “ ‘very conservative’ problem” (National Journal), the right’s “wary” response to his candidacy (the Boston Globe), and similarities between him and Hillary Clinton (Laura Ingraham, who said they could “run on the same ticket”). At the heart of Bush’s supposedly moderate ideology: his support for Common Core and immigration reform.

While some conservatives disagree over those two issues, almost nothing in Bush’s record as governor suggests he’s a moderate. The notion puzzles Floridians who watched him govern for eight years, during which he pushed to disrupt public schools by establishing vouchers, grading schools and student performance, and creating charter schools. He reduced the size of state government, promoted tax cuts for the wealthy, passed tough-on-crime bills and bragged about helping Florida have more concealed-weapon permits than other states.

When Bush left office, “he was widely, unanimously, unambiguously regarded as the most conservative governor in the United States,” according to Steve Schmidt, who was Sen. John McCain’s senior campaign adviser in the 2008 presidential race. Darryl Paulson, a professor emeritus of government at the University of South Florida, said, “He governed as a conservative, and everyone in the Florida Republican Party considered him a conservative.” Orlando Sentinel columnist Scott Maxwell stated it more bluntly: “a union-busting, school-voucher-promoting, tax-cutting, gun-loving, Terri Schiavo-interfering, hard-core conservative.”

2. George is the dumb one, Jeb is the smart one.

“When we first started doing [George W.] Bush on ‘Saturday Night Live,’ ” former head writer Adam McKay told the New York Times, “the ‘Bush is dumb’ joke was too good.”

While George’s unique way with words launched a thousand late-night jokes, Jeb emerged as the “smart one.” Last year, the Times described the younger Bush’s reputation thusly: “an intellectual in search of new ideas, a serial consulter of outsiders who relishes animated debate and a probing manager who eagerly burrows into the bureaucratic details.”

George the bumbler, Jeb the thinker. Got it. But some who worked in the Bush White House say the perception that Jeb is smarter may have more to do with style than with substance.

George’s persona is often one of swagger and verbal stumbles. However, Keith Hennessey, former director of Bush’s National Economic Council, argues that “President Bush is extremely smart by any traditional standard. He’s highly analytical and was incredibly quick to be able to discern the core question he needed to answer.”

Meanwhile, Jeb the policy wonk has had his share of gaffes. During the 1994 gubernatorial race, an African American woman asked candidate Bush what he would do for blacks in Florida. Bush answered, “Probably nothing.” The remark followed him through the rest of the campaign.

And last month, Jeb flubbed questions about whether he would have authorized the Iraq war, demonstrating that, like his big brother, he, too, can slip when he speaks.

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Bottom line: George and Jeb are two intelligent men who happen to express themselves differently.

3. Bush is Marco Rubio's mentor.

Last year, National Review asked: "Would a presidential run by his mentor lock Rubio out of the race?" The Times called Rubio the protege of Bush and described the senator's decision to run as a "Shakespearean turn in a 15-year relationship so close, personal and enduring that friends describe the two men as almost family."

Both Rubio and Bush live in Miami-Dade County and are heavily immersed in the Hispanic community. As fellow Republicans, they worked together and were politically close as Rubio climbed the ranks of the state House of Representatives, eventually becoming speaker in November 2006. Bush once gave Rubio a samurai sword. But was Rubio really Bush's protege?

"I wouldn't diminish the relationship or exaggerate it," Rubio told The Washington Post in February.

Bush was not a "mentor in the traditional sense," S.V. Dáte noted in a Politico story that examined the relationship. Dáte also found that Bush's archived e-mails don't suggest a bond with Rubio any more special than with other lawmakers, and the men took very different paths, marked by very different styles, to office. One Florida GOP operative told The Post that Rubio respected Bush but was "not necessarily a protege," and strategist Ana Navarro suggested that a Bush-Rubio matchup "would be less awkward for Jeb and Marco than for a lot of us around them."

Why the false narrative? A battle between mentor and mentee certainly increases the personal drama of the campaign; "Marco Rubio vs. His Mentor" is a much catchier headline than "Marco Rubio vs. other guy who happens to be from Florida."

4. Bush will campaign "joyfully."

Last year, while discussing whether he would run for president, Bush said, "The decision will be based on 'Can I do it joyfully?,' because I think we need to have candidates lift our spirits." He's apparently decided that yes, he can.

His opponents in his three races for governor would have been delighted to see Bush campaign joyfully. At home, he ran tough races. In 1994, he aired a TV ad accusing Democratic Gov. Lawton Chiles of not moving fast enough to execute Larry Mann, the killer of a 10-year-old girl. The spot featured the child's grieving mother, Wendy Nelson. Chiles "says it can't be done; we know that it can," said Cory Tilley, Bush's spokesman at the time.

The ad led the Sun Sentinel to declare in an editorial that Bush was "showing his utter contempt for the truth, for fair play, for his own party's Code of Conduct . . . and for the voters he wants to hire him as governor." (Bush left office in 2007. Mann was executed in 2013.)

In 1998, according to the Los Angeles Times, Bush ads portrayed fiscally conservative Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay "as having spent his 30-year political career trying to push through tax hikes on everything from senior citizens' income to burglar alarms." In 2002, Bush called Tampa lawyer Bill McBride, who had never held public office, "a tax-and-spend Democrat, political death in tax-allergic Florida, which still resists a state income tax," as Time magazine said.

Nothing about Bush's attack ads was out of the ordinary. And he got hit back just as hard. But it would be a very unusual presidential campaign that did not use negative ads, and the idea that Bush's team will somehow refrain

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and embrace “joy” instead is unlikely.

5. He has broad support in Florida.

“Return of the GOP King” was the headline of a January Miami Herald story about the growing Bush campaign machine. Just before Bush formally became a candidate, Florida’s three elected Cabinet officers and 11 of 17 Republicans in the state’s congressional delegation endorsed him. So Bush has Florida sewn up, right?

Not exactly. Despite this establishment support, polls suggest that Bush, who has not been on the ballot in the Sunshine State in 13 years, cannot take Florida for granted. A Mason-Dixon poll from April showed Bush (30 percent) and Rubio (31 percent) essentially tied among Florida Republican voters.

A look at past races suggests that Bush could have a hard time. In 1994, he narrowly lost to Chiles, a reluctant candidate who showed little energy until the end of the campaign. In 1998, MacKay ran a terrible race and, as many Democrats predicted, lost. In 2002, running for a second term, Bush outspent political novice McBride by as much as 4 to 1.

While the latter races offered little resistance, Bush’s toughest test after 1994 was the 2000 presidential campaign. The Bush family had every reason to believe that Jeb would help his brother carry Florida. He did, but only by a very controversial 537 votes.

And much has changed since Bush left the governor’s mansion. One study, as Bloomberg News reported, “found that nearly three-quarters of Florida’s 12.9 million currently registered voters have never even seen Bush’s name on a ballot.”

Jeb Bush Emphasizes Anti-Abortion Record as Florida Governor // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – June 19, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush drew applause from an evangelical crowd Friday when touting anti-abortion measures he enacted as governor of Florida, including parental notice for minors and a ban on "partial-birth abortion."

"We also put the most vulnerable in society at the front of the line, guided by my faith," Bush said at the Faith & Freedom Coalition meeting in Washington. "And we also put the rights of the unborn in the front of the line."

Bush, whose positions on immigration (he favors a path to legal status for some immigrants in the United States illegally) and education (he favors the national education standards known as the Common Core) have put him out of sync with some of his party's more conservative voters, is placing a heavier emphasis on abortion than some of his rivals for the Republican presidential nomination. He is placing his gubernatorial record front-and-center as he makes his case for the White House.

In 2000, Bush signed measure to ban a late-term abortion procedure. In 2005 he enacted the Parental Notification Act, which mandates that doctors notify parents of a minor at least 48 hours prior to terminating a pregnancy.

"When I became governor I was shocked at the total lack of regulation of abortion clinics, and that parents had no legal role in their minor daughter's abortion decision," he said. "So what we did was we put regulations on abortion clinics. And we narrowed the number of them... I signed into law a partial birth abortion ban." He said he also supported funding for crisis pregnancy centers.

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Later Friday, Bush named David James, who served as senior adviser to Mitt Romney's 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns, as political director, according to The Wall Street Journal. He will oversee voter contact, campaign volunteers, efforts to maximize voter turnout, Bush spokesman Tim Miller told the paper.

Jeb Bush Makes Surprise Pick for Political Director // WSJ // David James – June 19, 2015

For the second time in less than two weeks, Jeb Bush is shuffling the top tier of his 2016 campaign staff.

The job of political director – expected to go to Kentucky-based consultant Scott Jennings – will instead be filled by David James, who served as a senior adviser to Mitt Romney's 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns. He has also worked at the Republican National Committee and helped lead the Pennsylvania Republican Party.

The political director oversees voter contact, campaign volunteers, and other grassroots efforts to maximize Election Day turnout.

Mr. Jennings, who advised Mr. Romney's 2012 campaign and George W. Bush's 2000 and 2004 campaigns, will work with Mr. James and serve as a senior political adviser, according to Tim Miller, a spokesman for Mr. Bush.

The shift in staffing comes just four days after Mr. Bush officially launched his campaign in Miami and 11 days after he decided to name Danny Diaz as his campaign manager. That job was expected to go to Iowa-based consultant David Kochel, who will instead serve as chief strategist.

Some GOP donors are concerned that the staff shakeup reflects Mr. Bush's failure to establish himself as the clear frontrunner in a crowded GOP field despite his fundraising prowess and national profile.

Mr. Miller said, "After a successful announcement where Jeb really laid out how he is uniquely prepared to fix the problems in Washington, we are happy to be building out a political operation with David, Scott and the rest of the team that will spread that message in the primary and caucus states."

Jeb Bush might have a big problem on his hands if he wins the White House // AP // Annie Greene – June 19, 2015

Jeb Bush's deep dive into corporate America, where he served on the boards or as an adviser to more than a dozen companies, could trigger complications for him if he wins the White House.

Companies that paid Bush as a board member or adviser regularly hire lobbyists to press issues in Washington before federal agencies, Congress and the White House. Others have been fined by U.S. agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, or faced inquiries from the Securities and Exchange Commission. Some are expected to conduct business beyond November 2016 that will be directly affected by U.S. government decisions.

That nexus raises thorny questions for Bush if he wins the Republican nomination and the presidency: How would he respond when one of the companies that paid him seeks favorable treatment or undergoes scrutiny from the federal government?

That potential entanglement could hamper any presidential candidate with a history in corporate America, such as

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Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former secretary of state whose family foundation received big-money support from corporate interests.

"Anytime you have these kinds of entanglements, there's certainly the potential for conflict," said Dale Eisman, a spokesman for Common Cause.

Unlike lower-ranking employees, a president can't effectively recuse himself and pass on a decision to a more neutral supervisor.

Bush began shedding his corporate ties late last year to prepare his run for president. Potential conflicts of interest involve federal interactions with companies that paid him millions.

Beyond his own companies and educational foundations, Bush was a board member or adviser to at least 15 companies and nonprofits after leaving the Florida governor's office early in 2007, an AP review found. At least seven of those companies lobbied the federal government in recent years — an effort likely to continue over a range of issues, such as health care and corporate taxes.

Bush spokesman Tim Miller said Bush won't play favorites.

"If Jeb is successful in his campaign, special interests are going to find his administration to be unwelcome territory because he's going to clean out the broken tax and regulatory system," Miller said.

The companies Bush formerly advised frequently appear before regulatory agencies.

Take, for instance, Dallas-based Tenet Healthcare, where Bush served on the board of directors for eight years through 2014, earning nearly $2.4 million in compensation. In the past two years, Tenet has hired lobbyists to represent its interests on dozens of issues in Washington, including the congressional budget, Medicare's reauthorization and the Hospital Payment Fairness Act.

Tenet has benefited from President Barack Obama's health care law, with the company's CEO saying last year that an increase of newly insured people led to an uptick in admissions to its hospitals. Republicans, including Bush, have chided "Obamacare," raising the specter that a GOP White House victory could lead to a legislative imbroglio — and trigger a massive lobbying effort from industry.

Tenet's lobbying goes well beyond one issue. Since 2014, the company put its lobbyists to work before 10 different federal agencies and offices.

Another example is Rayonier Inc., a publicly traded Florida timber company where Bush served on the board of directors from 2008 to 2014 and earned nearly $1 million in total compensation.

This year, Rayonier has hired lobbyists on federal issues involving taxation of timberland, an international trade dispute involving U.S. pulp production and the tax treatment of timber real estate investment trusts.

In November, with Bush on the board, the SEC subpoenaed Rayonier over its public filings; the company said it is cooperating with the agency, which is led by a presidential appointee.

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Rayonier spokesman Mike Bell said any candidate seeking to rise to national prominence would naturally bring "a body of knowledge, background associations and affiliations with business and nonprofits."

Rayonier won't stop lobbying in Washington and Bell said he does not believe the connection would be troublesome. "I am confident that Governor Bush knows when to recuse himself," he said.

Another potential connection involves the Barrick Gold Corp., where Bush served on the international advisory board from 2011 to 2013.

In the last two years, Barrick lobbyists pressed issues with the Senate, House, Army Corps of Engineers, Treasury and EPA. Barrick has been fined by the EPA, an agency also led by a presidential appointee.

Andy Lloyd, a Barrick spokesman, said the company complies with lobbying regulations in every country it serves, "and we will continue to do so."

Jeb Sells Catholicism to Evangelicals **// Daily Beast // Betsy Woodruff – June 19, 2015**

Evangelicals aren't typically the target audience for Roman Catholic theology talk. Low-church Protestants from the Bible Belt have historically been hostile to Catholicism, even sometimes fearing that Catholics' devotion to the pope will lead to one-world government, and that their political clout in the United States presages the end times.

So it was perhaps a little surprising when Jeb Bush, who converted to his wife's Catholicism, launched into an emotional testimony before a predominantly Evangelical audience on Friday about the joy he felt when he left Protestantism.

Catholics and Evangelicals haven't always played well together. In 2008, Rev. John Hagee—a Texas pastor and one of the country's most powerful Evangelical leaders—apologized to Bill Donohue of the Catholic League for intimating that the Catholic church was the "great whore" of Revelation, and for telegraphing the kind of anti-Catholic rhetoric typically associated with 19th-century nativists. (Among Southern Baptists, in particular, there's long been a flamboyantly anti-Catholic strain of thought and rhetoric.) And while conservative Catholics and Evangelical Protestants are simpatico when it comes to certain public policy goals, they usually avoid public discussions about areas of theological disagreement.

But here in a ballroom in a hotel in D.C.'s Woodley Park neighborhood, Bush decided that courting the country's leading social conservative activists could entail discussing one of the elements of Catholic theology that's least amenable to Evangelicals—namely the blessed sacraments, which include confession and communion.

"I converted to the Catholic Church—Christ came into my life a little earlier, but I converted to being Catholic in honor of my wife and because I believe in the blessed sacraments and they give me great comfort," he said at the beginning of his speech before the Faith and Freedom Coalition. "On Easter Sabbath of 1995, I had lost an election in 1994 and found a total serenity and solace in the RCIA class, and converted to being a Catholic and it's been an organizing part of my architecture, if you will, as a person and certainly as an elected official."

RCIA stands for Right of Christian Initiation of Adults, and refers to the catechesis process that would-be Catholic converts go through before entering the Church.

Evangelicals, needless to say, do not see the act of leaving Protestantism as something that should necessarily be a source of "total serenity and solace."

Evangelicals, needless to say, do not see the act of leaving Protestantism as something that should necessarily be a

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source of “total serenity and solace.” And sometimes, as in Hagee’s case, their leaders show outright hostility to those who jump ship. So Bush’s willingness to talk explicitly about his decision to leave behind the Protestantism that galvanizes so many members of the Faith and Freedom Coalition audience reflects an important shift in the way social conservatives talk to each other.

Yes, the two groups have long been political allies—the evangelical George W. Bush handily won Catholics in 2004, and the stalwart Catholic Rick Santorum was kept afloat in the 2012 GOP primary by southern Evangelicals. But increasingly, Evangelical Christians and conservative Roman Catholics are finding common ground not just in their shared political concerns but also in a shared language about personal devotion to faith.

And that shared devotion played heavily in Bush’s speech, as he reiterated his support for the Little Sisters of the Poor, a group of Catholic nuns embroiled in a fight with the federal government over contraceptive coverage, and his repulsion with Hillary Clinton’s comment that “religious beliefs…have to be changed.” Clinton’s camp hasn’t clarified which specific religious beliefs she thinks must change, but conservatives like Bush have taken the comment as a direct attack on their pro-life convictions. Bush’s criticism of Clinton’s comment drew warm applause from the crowd.

Penny Nance, an Evangelical Christian who heads the conservative Concerned Women for America, said those comments reflect growing unity and cooperation between conservative Catholics and Evangelicals.

“We are more united than we have been in my lifetime, certainly,” she said. “Catholics and Evangelicals have certainly linked arms and will continue to link arms over the issue of life and marriage.”

“Jeb embracing his Catholicism is not a problem for Evangelicals,” she added.

Nance would know—she wrote a Fox News op-ed in February of 2012 titled “We are all Catholics now”. And Patricia Miller of Salon argued in March of this year that white Catholics’ increasing affinity for the GOP could become a problem for the Democratic party.

“[F]or the first time, white Catholics are more Republican than the voting group usually considered the ultimate Republicans: white Protestants,” she wrote.

It’s just one more indicator that despite a fraught history, Protestant Evangelicals and conservative Catholics have become a cohesive political unit. As the two groups become more and more closely allied on public policy issues, and as they both increasingly adopt a defensive posture in the culture wars, conservative Catholic candidates like Bush will feel more comfortable talking about their faith in more explicit ways before Evangelical audiences.

Jeb Bush demonstates the opposit e of economic wonkery // MSNBC // Steve Benen – June 19, 2015

At his formal presidential campaign kickoff this week in Miami, Jeb Bush pointed to a rather specific economic target. “There is not a reason in the world why we cannot grow at a rate of four percent a year,” the Florida Republican said. “And that will be my goal as president – four percent growth, and the 19 million new jobs that come with it.”

In reality, there are all kinds of reasons why GDP growth of 4% per year is unrealistic – reasons Bush is supposed to understand. Indeed, in the modern era, how many presidents have averaged 4 percent growth over the course of their terms? Zero. Not Clinton, not Reagan, not Obama, no one.

But the real fun kicks in when we consider how, exactly, Jeb Bush arrived at his 4% target. When Reuters asked for an explanation, the Republican responded, “It’s a nice round number. It’s double the growth that we are

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growing at. It's not just an aspiration. It's doable."

Except, it's not doable at all. Matt Yglesias flagged this piece, noting that Bush apparently chose his goal randomly, "backed by zero substantive analysis of any kind."

That ambitious goal was first raised as Bush and other advisers to the George W. Bush Institute discussed a distinctive economic program the organization could promote, recalled James Glassman, then the institute's executive director.

"Even if we don't make 4 percent it would be nice to grow at 3 or 3.5," said Glassman, now a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. In that conference call, "we were looking for a niche and Jeb in that very laconic way said, 'four percent growth.' It was obvious to everybody that this was a very good idea."

That's a great use of the word "laconic," by the way. There was no detailed economic discussion, no number crunching, no projections based on hours of pouring over spreadsheets. Bush just blurted it out, convinced that four is a round number.

This is problematic on its face, but let's not forget that for much of the political world, Jeb Bush is one of his party's leading policy wonks. This is the guy who describes himself as a "nerd" who loves public policy and the substantive ideas of governing.

Except this reputation is a sham. He got on the phone with some folks from the George W. Bush Institute – as if his brother's economic team was brimming with competence – and picked that number off the top of his head, confident that his vague ideas about tax cuts will make him the single most successful economic president of the last 75 years.

Anyone who still considers the former governor a policy wonk simply isn't paying close enough attention.

Paul Krugman: Jeb Bush's economic policies could t urn the entire country into a failed Kansas-style "experiment" // Salon // Scott Eric Kaufman – June 19, 2015

Paul Krugman lit into Jeb Bush in Friday's column for the New York Times, calling the Republican presidential contender "a high priest of voodoo economics" whose plan to revitalize the American economy resembles Governor Sam Brownback's disastrous "experiment" in Kansas.

Bush has promised that, if elected, "he would double America's rate of economic growth to 4 percent," which would be an impressive feat given that not even economists "know very much about how to raise the long-run rate of economic growth."

But unlike economists, Bush believes he has the answer — and he's basing it on the misguided belief that "the growth in Florida's economy during his time as governor offers a role model for the nation as a whole." Krugman finds that "kind of funny…because everyone except Bush knows that during those years, Florida was booming thanks to the mother of all housing bubbles."

When the bubble burst, the state plunged into a deep slump, much worse than that in the nation as a whole. Taking the boom and the slump together, Florida's longer-term economic performance has, if anything, been slightly worse than the national average.

The key to Mr. Bush's record of success, then, was good political timing: He managed to leave office before the unsustainable nature of the boom he now invokes became obvious.

But Mr. Bush's economic promises reflect more than self-aggrandizement. They also reflect his party's habit of boasting about its ability to deliver rapid economic growth, even though there's no evidence at all to justify such boasts. It's as if a bunch of relatively short men made a regular practice of swaggering around, telling everyone

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they see that they're 6 feet 2 inches tall.

To be more specific, the next time you encounter some conservative going on about growth, you might want to bring up the following list of names and numbers: Bill Clinton, 3.7; Ronald Reagan, 3.4; Barack Obama, 2.1; George H.W. Bush, 2.0; George W. Bush, 1.6. Yes, that's the last five presidents — and the average rate of growth of the U.S. economy during their time in office (so far, in Mr. Obama's case). Obviously, the raw numbers don't tell the whole story, but surely there's nothing in that list to suggest that conservatives possess some kind of miracle cure for economic sluggishness. And, as many have pointed out, if Jeb! knows the secret to 4 percent growth, why didn't he tell his father and brother?

Jeb Bush's pathetic Charleston dodge: "I don't know" if white supremacist suspect was motivated by racism // Salon // Scott Eric Kaufman – June 19, 2015

As news of Dylann Roof's longstanding and deeply rooted racist beliefs began to filter through the media yesterday, many of the Republican candidates for president nevertheless denied that race was the motivating factor. Taking their cues from Fox News, Rick Santorum and Lindsey Graham speculated that Roof was a "whacked out" opponent of "religious liberty," just one of many "people out there looking for Christians to kill them."

Early Friday morning, CNN reported that a source close to the investigation said that Roof had confessed to police that he chose the historically black Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church because he wanted to start a race war. That statement is consonant with what a survivor told Sylvia Jones yesterday — that Roof had said that African-Americans have "raped our [white] women, and you are taking over the country. I have to do what I have to do."

And yet, despite the abundance of evidence that Roof's attack was racially motivated, GOP presidential front-runner Jeb Bush told attendees at a Faith and Freedom Coalition summit in Washington today that he doesn't "know what was on the mind or the heart of the man who committed these atrocious crimes."

According to Talking Points Memo's Tierney Sneed, Bush followed Santorum and Graham's lead and focused on the fact that Roof decided to stage the opening salvo of his race war at a church. (The fact that it's a historically black one is, we must assume, beside the point.) Bush later claimed that while Roof is completely opaque to him, he does know "what was in the heart of [Roof's] victims."

"They were praying. They were learning and studying the word of the Lord," he said. "In times like these, in times of great of national mourning, people of faith, all of us must come together and at least reflect on this and fortify our strength and love of Christ, love of God to be able to continue to go forth."

The Huffington Post's politics reporter Laura Bassett asked him point blank about the racial component of the Charleston massacre:

For their part, both Democratic candidates have addressed the racial animus that motivated Roof, Clinton in a speech yesterday and Senator Bernie Sanders on Twitter today.

Jeb Bush already a winner – when it comes to campaign logos // Dallas News // Christy Hoppe – June 19, 2015

Political campaigns take apple pie, pour in red, white and blue, sprinkle sunshine, add a hint of Lincoln, a kiss of hope, wrap it in a flag and call it a logo.

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Fifteen announced presidential campaigns have unfurled their banners. And the symbols they'll put on signs, stickers and shirts are mostly predictable, though some have refreshing flourishes, two experts in campaign messaging say.

"You can spot a political logo a mile away," said San Antonio political consultant and marketing executive Lionel Sosa. They have flags, American colors and usually, a tagline like "leadership, honesty, integrity or the even more boring, experienced," he said.

But this year, a few at least "have a touch of freshness," Sosa said.

Ben Bentzin, a marketing lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin, said eventually the logo of a well-known and well-funded candidate will become emblematic of who they are and what they want to do.

And the most effective logos incorporate the candidate's name as a brand.

Bentzin, who has been a legislative candidate, said he skews "toward simple logos that convey personality."

The two experts largely agreed on which candidates have succeeded with their first important decision — the symbol of their campaign — and which should have stayed a little longer at the drawing board.

Follow Christy Hoppe on Twitter at @christyhoppe.

Winner: Jeb Bush

Sosa: "Jeb's logo is the freshest and therefore the best — a strong, sophisticated serif typeface with an exclamation point. Short, sweet, to the point."

Bentzin: "I ranked Jeb the highest for personality and simplicity."

The experts agreed on the next four as their next top choices. Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Rick Santorum all conveyed strong symbols — eternal flames and an eagle. Bernie Sanders' simple star dotting the "i" was a notable touch.

Sosa: "The eternal flame as the American flag for Ted Cruz. Nice and simple. No taglines needed for these, and that's part of their strength."

Bentzin: "These logos are brands."

Hillary Clinton, perhaps trying to avoid the dynasty tag, left out her name altogether. And the experts see that as a mistake.

Sosa: "Is she taking a page from Nike and Apple, big brands that substitute a graphic for the name? Or does she think she is so well known that there is no need to even mention her name?

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“While I like the simplicity of Hillary’s logo, it works against her — the graphic reflects a hard, corporate and untouchable feel, which only reinforces her least desirable qualities.”

Bentzin: “Hillary is simple, but I didn’t rate it higher because it feels contrived, like it is trying too hard.”

The complicated logo for Rick Perry prompted a novel suggestion from Sosa.

“Perry’s logo would be much stronger if he had left out the silly P with the nerdy star and replaced it with a strong graphic of his face,” Sosa said. “After all, he’s not a bad-looking fellow.”

Sosa: “All lowercase letters and the use of a U.S. map for a period? Really? ‘A new American century’ might have worked in 2000 but comes off as unimaginative today.”

The weakest effort, both experts agreed, was Mike Huckabee’s.

Bentzin: “These messages help to define the candidate, but at the expense of making the logos more complex and that’s harder to understand and remember.”

As for the rest, Sosa summed it up: “Just more of the same old, same old.”

Jeb Bush changes tune, calls Charleston shooter ‘racist’ // Tampa Bay Times // Kirby Wilson – June 19, 2015

In a speech at a Hillsborough County Republican Party dinner Friday night, Jeb Bush called the Charleston shooter who killed 9 African Americans as they prayed Wednesday a "racist."

"It breaks my heart that somebody, a racist, would do the things he did," Bush said.

The former governor's characterization of shooter Dylann Roof stood in contrast to remarks from earlier Friday, when he said, "I don't know what was on the mind or heart of the man who committed these atrocious crimes."

The earlier remarks came in a speech to Christian conservatives Friday morning at the Washington, D.C. Faith & Freedom Coalition conference.

Bush cancelled his planned events in Charleston Thursday in the aftermath of the tragedy.

Bush makes his case vs. Walker, Rubio, minus criticism // Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs – June 19, 2015

Ask Jeb Bush why he'd be a better president than Scott Walker or Marco Rubio, and his argument comes down to this: After eight years as Florida's chief executive and decades managing ventures in the business world, he has learned that his "sweet spot" is his ability to forge fixes for big problems.

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"Practical business experience is actually a virtue in public service because you can apply private-sector practices. For people who have only been involved in government, they literally have no clue," Bush told The Des Moines Register on Wednesday in his first sit-down news interview in Iowa of his presidential campaign.

And as a governor, Bush said, he has a concrete record of reforms.

"We have a lot of really talented senators, but they have the ability to hide behind the collective body," he told the Register during an hourlong van trip between two campaign stops. "Over time, they kind of start speaking in a different language. They speak the language of Washington. They honestly do brag about filing an amendment and calling that success. Governors have to balance budgets. They have to make decisions that make people mad sometimes. They have to lead."

Bush added: "I don't say any of this in criticism of anyone else. I hope we can get to the point where you can actually toot your own horn without implying that someone else is bad."

As it happens, Walker, the Wisconsin governor and frontrunner in Iowa polling in the race for the GOP caucuses, has had a career mainly in government. He'd been doing marketing and fundraising for the American Red Cross at age 22 when he made his first bid for public office. He lost that legislative race, but was victorious at age 25.

He was a state representative for nearly nine years, then county executive in Milwaukee County for almost nine years. He was elected governor at age 43 and has held that office for 4 ½ years.

Rubio, a 44-year-old first-term U.S. senator in Florida, is popular among Iowa's likely GOP caucusgoers as their second choice for president and has a high favorability rating, according to a late May Iowa Poll. Those are signs he could potentially do very well in Iowa if he can persuade voters to make him their top choice.

In the horse race for first choice for president, Walker is strongly in the lead, followed by Rand Paul and Ben Carson tied in second place, and Bush and Mike Huckabee tied in fourth place, the May 25-29 Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics Iowa Poll found.

Asked Wednesday how his approach to dealing with public-sector unions compares to Walker, who has a strong reputation for taking on organized labor, Bush said: "In Florida, we created probably the most dramatic changes in career civil service rules in the country."

Bush said he shrunk the state government workforce by 13,000 employees.

That statement is true, Matthew Corrigan, chairman of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Florida, told the Register later. Bush also reclassified another 16,000 from civil service to at-will employees, Corrigan said. That means the workers are nonunionized and can be fired without evidence to support disciplinary or performance problems.

Bush also said he reformed the pension system.

"I earned the wrath of AFSCME," he said, referring to the public employee union.

"Someone who's a friend of mine who's active in Democratic politics told me that at my re-election, they had

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4,000 folks that came in from out of state to take me out," Bush said. "Because they were worried that if Florida could do it, then other states could do it as well, so they had to punish me. My opponent outraised me in terms of money, plus his union support was pretty spectacular. And I beat him like a drum."

Bush added: "You have tenure for all government workers in most places in the country. In Florida, you don't."

In 2008, the country made a big bet on a gifted senator, Bush said.

"I think it's pretty clear now despite the skills, the eloquence, the charisma of Barack Obama, he's not a leader. And there was nothing in his background that suggested he would be one," he said. "So we need a leader now, because we can't keep talking about our problems. Leaders skip over that, and they start talking about solutions. That's my sweet spot."

Bush joined a Florida real estate firm with a friend in 1981 and built it from three employees to 280, he said. He and his son, Jeb, started a consulting business and an investing business, he said.

As governor from 1999 to 2007, Florida saw 4.4 percent growth annually over eight years, Bush said, and he left the state with a triple A bond rating and close to $10 billion in reserves. He cut taxes every year, for a total of $19 billion, he said.

Corrigan said Florida added a million jobs during Bush's tenure, although some were low-wage agriculture and tourism jobs, and some were housing-boom construction jobs that went away when the recession hit in 2007. Corrigan said Bush did cut taxes, but the exact amount is in dispute. PolitiFact rated Bush's "$19 billion" statement "half true."

Education is at the center of Bush's legacy.

"I'm not bragging here. It's just a simple fact that when you look at rising student achievement in Florida, we to this day continue to lead the nation," Bush said. "We started at the bottom. The state of Florida, with 57 percent of the students qualified for free and reduced (price) lunch, kids near or at the poverty level, are now in the upper quartile in terms of reading and math scores."

But the testing element of Bush's reforms has become unpopular, Corrigan said. The charter school Bush co-founded in Miami had financial problems later and closed.

Bush also said he managed the affairs of state during eight hurricanes and four tropical storms that caused more than $100 billion in losses.

"Nothing's ever happened like this in the country," he said.

Corrigan agreed that the 2004 hurricane season was particularly tough, and Bush handled it well, partly because of his ability to speak Spanish.

Bush said: "I'm a proven leader. No disrespect to anybody else."

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[As Florida Governor, Jeb Bush Bought Land from Timber Company That Later Paid Him $1 Million] // IB Times // Andrew Perez – June 19, 2015

Florida was buying wetlands. Seeking to conserve its fragile coastline, the state sought to set aside acreage in perpetuity, ensuring it would never be developed. But as then-Gov. Jeb Bush assessed a proposal to buy a choice parcel -- a 26,000-acre piece of swampland near Jacksonville -- he worried that the price was far higher than the land's true worth.

"I'm concerned about the value of the property," Bush told top state officials during a meeting in Tallahassee in March 2000.

This was a subject Bush knew something about, having previously earned his living in real estate. After expressing his reservations, however, Bush quickly assented to the purchase, calling the parcel "a jewel." Then he cracked a prescient joke.

"Man," the governor said, according to the minutes of the meeting, "I can't wait to get back into the real-estate business and sell property to the state."

That wish would ultimately come true.

A year after the state bought the land, Bush approved a plan through which the state purchased logging rights on part of the property, paying $4.6 million to a publicly traded timber and real-estate company called Rayonier Inc. A state audit would later conclude that this price was likely inflated: Florida officials had relied on "questionable assumptions" that "may have led to misleading and overstated value conclusions."

During Bush's eight years in office, Rayonier would secure almost $100 million from the state of Florida in exchange for surrendering logging rights and property. In 2008, two years after Bush left office, Rayonier gave him a seat on its board of directors as it continued to sell property to Florida.

When Rayonier appointed Bush to its board, the company specifically touted his "expertise in real-estate and public-policy issues." This know-how was an asset, given that Rayonier was at the same time publicly expressing concerns about what it called "anti-development groups" in Florida that were "seeking constitutional amendments, legislation and other anti-growth limitations" that threatened to impede the growth of its business.

With Bush on hand to lend his knowledge of state government and his political connections, Rayonier overcome these obstacles, securing state government backing for two major developments near Jacksonville. Florida has agreed to spend taxpayer money widening a highway in the vicinity of those developments. Rayonier secured a deal with the state to sell renewable energy to Florida utilities. Rayonier also waged a legal battle that ultimately prompted the state Legislature to preserve a tax benefit boosting major landowners.

During his six years on Rayonier's board, Bush would draw nearly $1 million in pay for this part-time job, according to the company's financial statements.

As Bush now seeks the Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. presidency, he is presenting himself as an outsider who abhors the culture of lobbying and inside dealing that often shapes politics. But some advocates for greater government transparency point to the land deals Bush brokered with Rayonier followed by the hefty payday he secured for himself as evidence that he is a savvy exploiter of the very culture he now decries.

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"It's a classic example of cronyism," said Peter Butzin, who leads Common Cause Florida, an advocacy group, who described Bush's dealings with Rayonier as emblematic of how many politicians operate. "When they are cozy with interests in office, it's not surprising they would end up working on behalf of those interests when they leave office."

Bush's presidential campaign did not respond to questions from International Business Times. A Rayonier representative, Roseann Wentworth, told IBTimes it was "entirely appropriate" for the company to have brought on Bush.

"We had in Governor Bush somebody with extensive real-estate experience and experience in the state of Florida where we had so many real-estate interests," said Wentworth, whose company manages 416,000 acres in Florida and runs a factory in one of 29 areas recently flagged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for failing to meet air-pollution standards.

Although Bush stepped down from Rayonier's board in December, his relationship with the timber company is not the only one that has provoked questions about his proclivities for mixing public and private interests.

While Bush was governor, his administration directed state pension investments to firms that employed top donors to the campaign that elevated his brother, George W. Bush, to the White House. Some of those donors are now contributing to his own campaign. Jeb Bush also pressed state officials to consider investing taxpayer money into a donor's financial firm. Since leaving office, he has gone on to serve as a board member or adviser to 15 companies and nonprofit organizations, including firms with significant business with the Florida government, such as Barclays PLC, Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and Tenet Healthcare Corp. Some of those firms also lobby federal government agencies Bush would supervise were he to win the presidency.

Few relationships better illustrate Bush's overlapping public and private dealings than the one he forged with Rayonier. The firm is one of the largest landowners in Florida. It lobbies both the Florida and federal governments.

The connection dates back to 1999, when Bush's administration helped coax the timber conglomerate into moving its headquarters to Jacksonville from Stamford, Connecticut, with the aid of $2.6 million worth of state and local tax incentives. Bush and other state officials soon approved a $60 million purchase of 57,000 acres of the company's land in the northern part of Florida as part of an environmental-preservation deal negotiated by the Nature Conservancy.

In 2001, Bush and other Florida officials backed the proposal to buy the timber rights from Rayonier on a portion of the swampland the state had purchased the year before.

An audit that emerged in 2003 suggested the terms of the two deals had been overly generous to Rayonier. The report from Florida's auditor general, obtained by IBTimes, said the administration's appraisals on one of the Rayonier land deals contained "inconsistencies" and "unsupported assumptions" about the potential for development. The report further found the valuations on the timber-rights purchase "contained questionable assumptions related to future timber rights that may not have supported" the price the state paid to Rayonier.

Wentworth, the Rayonier representative, said the company was not concerned by the questions the audit raised about the appraisal process. "It's part of a normal state auditing process, and due diligence is part of that kind of transaction," she said.

While he was governor, Bush acknowledged the state often paid a premium in purchasing property. He presented this as a sign that Florida was successfully pursuing public aims while still rewarding property owners.

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“When I got elected governor, I thought that private property owners typically got the shaft from the state, that there was an erosion of private property rights,” he said during a meeting to approve the deal for land on which Rayonier held timber rights. “They come up here every other week, and they do real well.”

While the state was directing taxpayer money to Rayonier, Bush was developing political ties with the company. As Bush sought re-election in 2002, his administration was publicly lauding Rayonier’s environmental record. Both the company’s then-CEO, Lee Nutter, and his wife gave the Bush campaign maximum contributions of $500 each. According to emails compiled by the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting, Bush also agreed to solicit a donation from Nutter to Enterprise Florida, the state’s public-private partnership that recommends economic-development strategies. An Enterprise Florida representative said the group has no record of support from Nutter or Rayonier.

Those ties were a precursor to 2008, when Bush was appointed to Rayonier’s board of directors.

Some longtime observers of Florida politics say Bush’s current rhetorical mode, in which he rails against political influence peddling, collides with the apparent reason that Rayonier saw fit to include him within its inner circle.

“You know why people get on boards and why they are sought after, and why he in specific was sought after,” said Ron Book, a prominent lobbyist in Florida’s capital Tallahassee. “People end up on boards because they are people of stature and people of influence, and they are looking for intelligent people that fit that sphere from a profile perspective.”

In Bush’s first year on Rayonier’s board, the company lobbied the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to oppose an accounting regulation that would have required timberland to be appraised at “fair market value” on a quarterly basis. The rule was designed to compel companies to more accurately report the value of their property to governments and to ensure that firms are paying required taxes.

While Bush was on the board, the company also raised objections to a Florida clean-water regulation proposed by the federal government. At the same time, Bush served on Rayonier’s audit committee, which helps oversee the company’s financial statements -- now the subject of a class-action lawsuit and an SEC subpoena amid claims that the firm misstated its earnings.

Government watchdogs say the former governor must explain how he came to land on the Rayonier board.

“The question that comes to mind is, ‘Is this some sort of payback for the land purchase and the tax breaks?’” said Greg LeRoy, executive director of Good Jobs First, an advocacy group that tracks government development deals nationwide. “The governor should be forthcoming about how this happened and whether there’s a quid pro quo.”

Jeb! Bush isn’t sure what motivated the killer who ‘wanted to start a race war’ **// Daily Kos // Barbara Morrill**

Jeb! Bush becomes the latest Republican who just can't bring himself to admit that racism motivated the mass murder of nine African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina, on Wednesday night:

"I don't know what was on the mind or the heart of the man who committed these atrocious crimes," Bush said in remarks at a Faith and Freedom Coalition summit in Washington.

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Huh. Let's see if we can help old Jeb! out here. Has Dylann Roof himself said anything about why he did it?

One of the officials said that Roof, who is white, told investigators that he wanted to start a race war.

Did this killer say anything as he gunned these people down?

Sylvia Johnson, a cousin of church shooting victim Pastor Clementa Pinckney says she spoke with one of the survivors "and she said that he had reloaded five different times... and he just said 'I have to do it. You rape our women and you're taking over our country. And you have to go.'"

And did family or friends of Roof offer any insight?

There were many signs Roof had been planning an attack, telling his roommate he "wanted to start a civil war" and "was going to do something like that and then kill himself." He was infuriated by Trayvon Martin and Freddie Gray protests and told a friend something needed to be done for the sake of "the white race."

Yep, what was on Dylann Roof's mind when he murdered those nine African Americans remains a mystery. Could have been anything ... heck, maybe it was even an attack on Christianity.

Guess we'll never know ...

RUBIO

Marco Rubio's supply-side problem: Why anti-tax fanatics have it in for him // Salon // Simon Maloy – June 19, 2015

Marco Rubio's tax plan has always been fantasy. His proposal, crafted in conjunction with Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, sought to bridge the gap between two factions of conservative economic thinkers: the supply-side devotees who view rate cuts for top earners as the alpha and omega of tax policy, and the so-called "reformicons" who want to gently ease the Republicans away from tax-cut mania and focus more on using the tax code to bolster middle-class incomes. The solution Rubio and Lee came up with was to try to give both sides what they wanted: a reformicon-friendly expansion of the Child Tax Credit paired with across-the-board rate cuts, a slashed corporate tax rate, and the elimination of taxes on capital gains and estates.

This was quite sensibly derided by the New York Times' Josh Barro as the puppies-and-rainbows tax plan: "It's full of things everybody likes, at least on the Republican side: family tax cuts that will make it easier to buy the children a puppy, and capital tax cuts that chase a pot of capital investment gold at the end of the rainbow." Deeply cutting taxes on the wealthy lowers revenue, and expanding tax credits costs money, and in doing both Rubio created a plan that would rip a gargantuan hole in the budget – the price tag is so high that he doesn't even pretend that it can be dynamically scored into revenue neutrality.

It also suffers another potentially fatal flaw: It doesn't account for just how single-minded and ferociously zealous the supply-siders are when it comes to rate cuts and "pro-growth" tax policy. And now the supply-siders are lashing out at Rubio for his heresies.

The Wall Street Journal published a long editorial yesterday attacking Rubio's tax plan as a "major detour from pro-growth tax reform." Their biggest beef is with the expanded Child Tax Credit, arguing that it "does nothing for economic growth. The only growth case for it is the Keynesian claim that it would boost consumer spending and

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aggregate demand, but by now we've seen how that doesn't work." Instead of wasting money on families and children, they argue, they should cut taxes for rich people some more. This is very similar to the Heritage Foundation's critique of Rubio's plan, which judged it to be "pro-growth" overall but viewed the expanded tax credit as a "missed opportunity" to make further cuts to the top rate.

Strangely, though, the Wall Street Journal sees the political dynamic in Congress as favoring the reformicon-oriented portions of Rubio's plan winning out over the tax cuts they so desperately crave. "The larger political danger would arrive if Mr. Rubio became President," they write. "In the inevitable negotiations with Congress, his tax cuts on capital would surely be watered down while his giant tax credit would pass. What happens if the economy failed to respond?"

Really? If nothing else, Rubio has shown that his tendency is to mollify the supply-siders, who still dominate the conservative establishment. The Journal may complain bitterly about Rubio's tax plan, but the fact is that he's already massively overhauled to make it more acceptable to the trickle-down set. As the New Republic's Brian Beutler wrote back in April:

As originally conceived, [Rubio's] tax plan would've paired modest middle class benefits with very large tax cuts for high earners, much like George W. Bush's first big tax cut in 2001. But when conservatives voiced dissatisfaction with that particular distribution, Rubio responded not by telling them to buzz off, or by eliminating the middle-income benefits and plying the savings into further high-end tax cuts. He kept the benefits, and layered hugely regressive additional tax cuts for the wealthy on top of an already unaffordable plan. What once would have increased deficits by $2.4 trillion over a decade, according to the Tax Policy Center, would now increase them by trillions more.

In Congress, Republicans tend to take their tax policy cues from people like Paul Ryan, who is squarely in the supply-side camp, views tax cuts as the "secret sauce" of economic growth, and considers them vastly more important than expanding tax credits for middle-income families. Seems like they'd be unwilling to let a newly elected President Rubio back off his promise of zeroed-out capital gains taxes and more than happy to let the Child Tax Credit wither, if forced to choose between the two.

On a broader level, though, this entire debate is surreal. Rubio's tax plan is already an insanely generous giveaway to top earners, and he's already bent over backward to try to make peace with the trickle-down folks. But they're still not happy, they're still demanding more. There's just no compromising to be had with extremists, I suppose.

PAUL

Rand Paul Names Hedge Fund Chief Mark Zpitznagel as Economic Advisor // NYT // Alexandra Stevenson – June 19, 2015

Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky has appointed Mark Spitznagel, the hedge fund manager, as a senior economic adviser as he seeks the Republican presidential nomination.

At first blush, the two might seem like an odd pair. Mr. Spitznagel is the founder of Universa Investments, a $6 billion hedge fund that is set up to make money in an economic crisis.

But the two share a similar outlook on the government's role in the financial markets: that it should not have one.

Mr. Paul, whose policies are inspired by libertarianism, has promoted his belief in limited government spending and a hands-off approach to the economy by the Federal Reserve. Mr. Spitznagel has argued that the Fed's recent

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policy of quantitative easing, which involved pumping trillions of dollars into the financial system, set the stage for the next market reckoning.

"As I travel across the country, the top concern of the American people is our failing economy," Mr. Paul said in a written statement. "I look forward to working alongside Mark to solve our nation's economic problem and to restore the American dream," he added.

In his own statement, Mr. Spitznagel credited Mr. Paul as the only presidential candidate who understood "the destructive ramifications" of the Fed's current policy. "I look forward to working with him on his ideas and message to change that policy," Mr. Spitznagel said.

Mr. Spitznagel, who is 44, gained credibility for predicting two market routs over the last decade, first in 2000 and then in 2008. In the 2008 financial crisis, his Universa funds rose by 115 percent as the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index plummeted. Mr. Spitznagel believes the next market rout is coming soon.

"There needs to be a purge," he said in an interview with The New York Times in 2013. "If there isn't a purge, you don't get healthy growth."

His thinking is shaped by the Austrian school of economics, which has its roots in 19th-century Vienna and makes the argument that the government should not meddle in any part of the economy because when it does, it causes all kinds of distortions.

In addition to limiting the role of the government in the markets, Mr. Spitznagel has had other ideas on how to bolster the economy. Last year, he brought 18 goats to a blighted neighborhood in Detroit to help clean it up. Part of his plan was to employ local residents to take care of the goats, which he hoped to increase to 60 in total.

But the plan was thwarted by city officials who argued local laws prohibited animals from grazing on city property. Within 48 hours the goats were back on a truck, destined for the butcher.

Mr. Spitznagel is also a friend of Mr. Paul's father, Ron Paul, a former Texas congressman and presidential candidate. The elder Mr. Paul wrote a foreword in Mr. Spitznagel's book, "The Dao of Capital" (Wiley, 2013), in which Mr. Spitznagel outlines his philosophy of the markets.

Rand Paul taps hedge-fund manager as senior economic advisor // Politico // Daniel Strauss – June 19, 2015

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has brought on a hedge-fund manager known for his strong support for the so-called Austrian school of economics as a senior economic adviser for his 2016 presidential campaign.

Paul's campaign announced Friday that Mark Spitznagel, the founder and chief investment officer of the $6 billion investment management firm Universa Investments L.P., would be joining the campaign. Spitznagel has been a vocal critic of the Federal Reserve and an advocate of the Austrian school of economics, which argues vigorously against government intervention in the economy.

"Rand Paul is the only candidate that really understands the destructive ramifications of current economic policy driven in large part by a reckless Federal Reserve. I look forward to working with him on his ideas and message to change that policy," Spitznagel said in a statement released on Friday.

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Spitznagel seems like a comfortable ideological fit with Paul, who has repeatedly criticized the Federal Reserve's use of monetary policy during the 2007-2008 financial crisis and has pushed legislation to "audit the Fed."

"I am very grateful to have Mark Spitznagel serve as Economic Advisor to my campaign," Paul said in a statement. "As I travel across the country, the top concern of the American people is our failing economy. I believe we can revitalize our economy by encouraging opportunity and entrepreneurship with lower taxes, a balanced budget, less Federal Reserve interventionism, and limited government spending. I look forward to working alongside Mark to solve our nation's economic problem [sic] and to restore the American Dream."

character: In 2014, he sent 20 goats to a blighted neighborhood in Detroit to graze there in what he called an "urban farming experiment." At the end of that summer, he promised to give the goats to butchers and send the profits to help the community.

"Goats are an effective way to do landscaping," he told The New York Times.

A New 'Rand Paul' Super PAC is Making Paul's Official Super PAC Nervous // Bloomberg // David Weigel – June 19, 2015

The phone calls were confounding, until they multiplied. People at the top of Kentucky Senator Rand Paul's network were being asked about a new group that wanted to turn donations into campaign wins. What, they asked, was the Concerned American Voters super PAC?

The short answer: A headache. The new iteration of the CAV super PAC is the child of a movement that mostly helps but sometimes bedevils Rand Paul. It was relaunched this week, with much fanfare, when long-time FreedomWorks CEO Matt Kibbe announced that he'd left the Tea Party group to become a senior PAC advisor. The new PAC would try to organize Iowa for Paul, starting with 40-full time organizers. Kibbe's goal, he told reporter Byron Tau, was to prevent 2016 from being another "train wreck for the GOP" by out-organizing the Republican establishment.

At FreedomWorks, Kibbe had endorsed Paul's work whenever he could. In 2013, he and FreedomWorks endorsed Paul's filibuster over the legality of drone warfare. In 2014, he stood behind Paul to endorse the senator's civil suit over the NSA's bulk data collection program, "on behalf of our six million-plus members."

Yet people close to Paul discouraged Kibbe from building up his own PAC. It was nothing personal; it was just that the candidate had already sanctioned America's Liberty PAC. One source euphemistically described Kibbe's move as entrepreneurial, to emphasize that the senator had not been pining for a second super PAC.

"We have no animosity and Mr. Kibbe is free to support Rand in any way he likes," America's Liberty PAC Jesse Benton told Bloomberg in an e-mail. "America's Liberty PAC, however, will remain the only Super PAC endorsed by Senator Paul, and the only PAC that will host Senator Paul at events."

Benton, that PAC's lead strategist, has spent eight years in Paul's orbit. He became the spokesman for the quixotic presidential campaign of his father, former Texas Congressman Ron Paul, in 2007. He went on to work with Paul's congressional re-election committee, for his Liberty PAC, for the Campaign for Liberty (a non-profit grassroots group created in the wake of the presidential bid) and for his 2012 presidential campaign—and during all that, he married Paul's granddaughter and started a family. Benton and Campaign for Liberty president John Tate were making America's Liberty PAC what Right to Rise PAC was for Jeb Bush, or what Priorities USA Action was for Hillary Clinton.

But Concerned American Voters pulled from another group of pro-Paul activists. Its president is Jeff Frazee, who

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ran Ron Paul's youth outreach campaign in 2008 and turned that into the still-growing Young Americans for Liberty. Its senior tech advisor is Steve Oskoui, president of the 2012 pro-Ron Paul Endorse Liberty PAC that convinced Silicon Valley entrepreneur Peter Thiel to fork over $2 million. Thiel, famously, has resisted making a similar commitment to Rand Paul. While America's Liberty PAC is most famous (so far) for a WWE-styled commercial for Paul's PATRIOT Act filibusters, CAV is packaging itself as an on-the-ground disrupter.

"We already have 40 full-time field staffers in Iowa knocking on doors and making phone calls," Frazee told Bloomberg. "Our team has knocked on over 75,000 doors and made over 70,000 phone calls as of today. We're building a grassroots operation that the other candidates won't be able to compete with in Iowa. Based on polling and the responses we're getting back, it's certainly a state we think Rand can win."

If anything, Frazee was even more ambitious in a Thursday statement about the new PAC. "By focusing on grassroots organization, e-marketing and proven Get Out The Vote tactics, Concerned American Voters will give Rand the edge he needs to win the Republican nomination and the general election," he said. "The Internet cuts out middlemen, party bosses, lobbyists, and bundlers looking for a quid pro quo. This is the dynamic that allowed then-Senate candidate Rand Paul to beat Mitch McConnell's hand-picked successor in Kentucky in 2010."

Benton might not put those exact words together. In 2013 and 2014, he embodied the rapprochement between Paul and McConnell by serving as McConnell's campaign manager. He only left, late in the campaign, after nagging questions about the Ron Paul campaign's 2012 endorsement from an Iowa state senator who took a kickback. In the sprawling, grassroots side of Paul movement, the branding of America's Liberty PAC leaves something to be desired.

Yet Concerned American Voters is no blank slate. As Ken Vogel has reported, Kibbe left FreedomWorks after a years-long struggle that spilled into the media. After the disappointing losses of the 2012 election, FreedomWorks president Dick Armey resigned, and Kibbe took over. In 2013, Armey himself went on a PR tear, describing a fight over the writing and rights of Kibbe's 2012 book, decrying the "secrecy" with which money came in for campaigns.

Later in 2013, when Buzzfeed reported that FreedomWorks was in "dire financial straights," the group dismissed the "baseless attacks" and went ahead funding a series of 2014 Republican primary challenges—with limited success. According to FreedomWorks's 990 tax filing, its revenue dropped dramatically in 2013, and it ended the filing period with less than $1 million in net assets, down from around $5 million the year before. In the same period, Kibbe's compensation was cut from $321,343 to $258,619.

But Kibbe no longer works for FreedomWorks. "The Concerned American Voters team is going going to focus on grassroots organization, GOTV, door knocking, and social media persuasion and canvassing," Kibbe told Bloomberg in an e-mail. "This is our comparative advantage, and it nicely complements what the other Rand PAC is doing. I think we both add value in our efforts to ensure a Rand Paul victory."

Asked if he had been discouraged to join and build a new pro-Paul PAC, Kibbe said he hadn't. "I think everyone is good and we will run a very inclusive operation that does not step on other folks' toes."

Rand Paul Pitches Plan to 'Blow Up' Tax Code // AP // June 19, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul called Thursday for a "fair and flat tax" that would "blow up" the nation's tax code, offering a proposal his campaign said would cut taxes by $2 trillion over the next decade.

The first-term senator from Kentucky released the outline of a plan to institute a 14.5 percent income tax rate on all individuals and on businesses. It was among the first major policy proposals released by Paul's presidential campaign, although he did not make the full plan available for review.

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"Basically my conclusion is the tax code can't be fixed and should be scrapped," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We should start over."

Many of the dozen major Republican candidates for president list tax reform among their priorities. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, for example, is among the GOP contenders calling for the wholesale abolition of the Internal Revenue Service -- a position many experts say is unrealistic.

But few have offered detailed proposals, and while Paul said his plan would benefit American both rich and poor, he cited an independent analysis that his campaign did not make available to reporters.

In a column describing highlights of his plan published Thursday in The Wall Street Journal, Paul called for the outright elimination of payroll taxes on workers and of several other federal taxes, including those on gifts and estates, telephone service and all duties and tariffs. He also proposed eliminating all corporate tax subsidies and personal tax deductions, except those for mortgage interest and charitable donations.

Paul says the first $50,000 of income for a family of four would not be taxed and the earned-income tax credit would be preserved.

"In Washington, most Republicans are very tepid and very uninspiring on tax policy," he said in the interview.

It was not clear how Paul would ensure cutting taxes so deeply would not at the same time explode the nation's debt. He wrote in the column that his plan would "reduce the national debt by trillions of dollars over time when combined with my package of spending cuts," but he did not detail those cuts.

In the interview, Paul referred to his previous budget proposals, which include sweeping cuts in foreign and domestic spending. In particular, he has previously called to eliminate all aid to foreign governments, including Israel. He has also proposed eliminating the federal departments of education, energy and housing and urban affairs.

He noted, however, he's also called for increased national security spending in his most recent spending plans. "I think that the priority for spending is national defense and national security so we don't have significant cuts in our preparedness," he said.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio stands out among his Republican colleagues for offering the most detailed economic agenda of the GOP candidates for president, anchored by a massive tax cut that the conservative Tax Foundation said could add as much as $4 trillion to the nation's debt in its first decade.

That approach keeps with conservative economic thinking that the best way to spark growth and increase wages is to reduce the tax burden on businesses, the wealthy and investors. Rubio would also eliminate all taxes on investment income, a change that largely favors the most wealthy Americans.

Like Paul's emphasis on tax cuts, however, it is an approach that exposed Republicans to Democratic criticism that they favor the rich.

While Paul offers just one tax rate, Rubio's plan would set two: 15 percent for those making less than $75,000 (or families earning under $150,000), and 35 percent for all making more.

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"Our outdated policies from yesterday are not going to fix this," Rubio said Thursday while calling for new tax policies in a speech to religious conservatives.

"The more your employer pays you, the less they will owe in taxes to the IRS," he said of his plan. "We will help working families by helping them to keep more of what they earn."

Cruz, meanwhile, has repeatedly promised to scrap the tax-collecting agency as he runs for the GOP presidential nomination.

He did not address taxes while speaking to evangelical Christians on Thursday, but Cruz advisers said the senator would soon release more details on his proposal, which he has said would allow most Americans to file their taxes on the back of a postcard-size form.

Rand Paul's First Two Books Are Full Of Fake Founding Fathers Quotes // Buzzfeed // Andrew Kaczynski and Megan Apper – June 18, 2015

Many of the quotes attributed to the Founding Fathers in two of Rand Paul's books are either fake, misquoted, or taken entirely out of context, BuzzFeed News has found.

Paul's first two books — *Government Bullies*, which was an e-book best-seller, and*The Tea Party Goes to Washington* — lay out the conservative manifesto he hoped to bring to Washington following the tea party wave in 2010.

A heavy theme in Paul's books is that the tea party movement is the intellectual heir to the Founding Fathers, with Paul often arguing he knows what position our country's earliest leaders would have had on certain issues.

The final line in Paul's book *The Tea Party Goes to Washington* is a fake sentiment attributed to Jefferson:

> The Constitution is very clear about it. The Tea Party's job is to keep making things clearer, and this is only the beginning. It is not a job that will be finished overnight or even in an election cycle. Thomas Jefferson believed that the price of liberty was eternal vigilance — and now the Tea Party must prove it.

"We currently have no evidence to confirm that Thomas Jefferson ever said or wrote" this phrase, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation has said of "the price of liberty was eternal vigilance," which Paul uses twice in his book.

Earlier, Paul used another fake Jefferson quote:

> In their wisdom, the Founding Fathers— whose Constitution was supposed to restrain our rulers— would have likely made the same prediction. Jefferson wrote, "My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government." This has certainly been true of too much government intervention, as well as attempts to administer too many government benefits.

"This exact quotation has not been found in any of the writings of Thomas Jefferson," writes the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

Writing on the Patriot Act, Paul again cites a fake Jefferson quote.

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“This sort of invasiveness is also precisely the reason we have a Second Amendment protecting our right to keep and bear arms, or as Jefferson wrote ‘The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.’”

As noted by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, “this quotation has not been found in any of the writings of Thomas Jefferson.”

Later, writing on Obamacare, Paul cites a different fake Jefferson quote.

When Thomas Jefferson wrote that a “government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away everything you have,” he could have easily been referencing Obamacare.

“Neither this quotation nor any of its variant forms has been found in the writings of Thomas Jefferson,” writes the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. The foundation notes that it has been attributed to Gerald Ford, though an assistant to Ford said he heard it from someone else.

Another quote cited by Paul from Jefferson appears to be a misquote.

“To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical,” reads the Jefferson quote at the beginning on one chapter.

As noted by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, this quote comes from Jefferson’s Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and the original actually reads, “to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors, is sinful and tyrannical.”

Paul also uses a fake George Washington quote.

Such is the nature of government, which is precisely why the Founders viewed military use, even when warranted, as something that should be definite and limited. George Washington told us: “Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force.... Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action.” Science tells us that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Yet today it seems we are much less hesitant to use government action, whether abroad or domestically, than the Founders could have ever imagined. The Founding Fathers also would not be surprised to see that trying to solve problems with continuous government action creates its own set of problems. Not surprisingly, the majority of what our federal government does today, abroad or domestically, also continues to take place well outside the parameters of the Constitution.

The quote, as noted by professor Eugene Volokh and Fred Shapiro, editor of the*Yale Book of Quotations*, is also fake.

“This is undoubtedly apocryphal, like many other quotations attributed to Lincoln or Washington,” said Shapiro. “No one has ever found any evidence that Washington said it.”

Later in the book, a quote from Benjamin Franklin is used out of context. In the context of the quote as used in the 1750s, Franklin was actually speaking in support of not only taxation but also defense spending.

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Writes Paul:

> Who's to say the Tea Party won't become the government's next target under the PATRIOT Act? Benjamin Franklin once wrote, "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety," and Americans who continue to support unconstitutional intrusions into the private lives of their fellow citizens will inevitably learn the same lesson.

As noted by Benjamin Wittes, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and the editor of *Lawfare* blog, the letter from Franklin concerned a dispute between the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Penn family.

"He was writing about a tax dispute between the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the family of the Penns, the proprietary family of the Pennsylvania colony who ruled it from afar," Wittes said recently on NPR.

"And the legislature was trying to tax the Penn family lands to pay for frontier defense during the French and Indian War. And the Penn family kept instructing the governor to veto. Franklin felt that this was a great affront to the ability of the legislature to govern. And so he actually meant purchase a little temporary safety very literally. The Penn family was trying to give a lump sum of money in exchange for the General Assembly's acknowledging that it did not have the authority to tax it."

Paul also mischaracterized this quote in his second book, *Government Bullies*, on two separate occasions with slightly different variations.

Writes Paul in his book, "as Benjamin Franklin famously said and our Founders knew well, those who trade liberty for security get neither."

Then, Paul cites a fake Thomas Jefferson quote again to lead off the chapter "Living Everyday in Fear of Your Government."

"When governments fear the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny," Paul cites Jefferson as saying.

But again, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation notes they "have not found any evidence that Thomas Jefferson said or wrote" these remarks.

Paul's chapter "Paved With Good Intentions" also starts off with a mischaracterized Jefferson quote.

"If people let the government decide what foods they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies will soon be in as sorry a state as the souls who live under tyranny," Paul attributes to Jefferson.

As noted again by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, "This quotation has never been found in Jefferson's papers in its above form, but it is most likely a paraphrase of Jefferson's statement in *Notes on the State of Virginia*, "Was the government to prescribe to us our medicine and diet, our bodies would be in such keeping as our souls are now."

Paul's chapter "How Can We Solve the Problem" starts off with a quote from former President James Madison that is likewise disputed.

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“If tyranny and oppression come to this land it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy,” Paul quotes Madison saying.

As noted by etymologist Barry Popik there’s no evidence Madison said it, and no citations link it to Madison before the 21st century.

In the past three weeks, Paul has misattributed a quote to former President Abraham Lincoln (a quote he again repeated in a speech today) and used a fake quote from Founding Father Patrick Henry. Previously, Paul used a fake Thomas Jefferson quote in his Senate victory speech.

At CPAC in 2011, Paul cited a Jefferson quote that the Thomas Jefferson Foundation says they have “no evidence” he ever said.

Paul’s campaign declined to comment, and the book publisher did not respond to request for comment.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz: Democrats using Charleston as ‘excuse’ to take away gun rights // WaPo // Katie Zezima – June 19, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) said Friday that Democrats are using the shooting deaths of nine people in a Charleston, S.C., African American church as an "excuse" to try to roll back gun rights.

"It’s sad to see the Democrats take a horrific crime and try to use it as an excuse not to go after people with serious mental illness or people who are repeat felons or criminals but rather try to use it as an excuse to take away the Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens," Cruz told reporters after a town hall event here.

"Those are altogether different issues and we need to focus on protecting our Bill of Rights and also on keeping everyone safe."

Cruz said it is evocative of a line used by Chicago Mayor and former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel.

"I’ll tell you it’s reminiscent of Rahm Emanuel who said you never let a good crisis go to waste," Cruz said.

Cruz said, as he did Thursday, that he is "horrified" by the killings and offered his prayers to the families of the victims.

"A sick and deranged man went and prayed for an hour with the congregants in an historically black church and then, for reasons that we don’t fully understand murdered nine innocent souls," Cruz said of Dylann Roof, who was charged with nine counts of murder. The nine victims were shot Wednesday night inside Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, the South’s oldest African American church.

"Sadly there is evil in the world and there is evil in the world that has to be dealt with. We’ll find out more about

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this crazed gunman and what led this to happen."

Roof confessed to police, a law enforcement official said, and wanted his actions known. In an extraordinary display at Roof's bond hearing Friday, relatives of the dead offered him forgiveness.

A reporter for The Huffington Post asked Cruz why it has been "difficult" for Republicans to "acknowledge that the attack was racially driven."

Cruz said he disagreed with the premise of the question.

"It appears to be racially driven from what was reported that this deranged man said and a racial hate crime is horrific. And any murder is horrific," Cruz said. "I don't think we should be using this question to try to divide people and to try to seek partisan advantage. I think we should be praying for those who lost loved ones."

Cruz said earlier that Democrats like to "go after our rights to keep and bear arms" and there has been a "consistent pattern" from the Obama administration and Democrats of violating the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

During the town hall event Cruz defended Second Amendment rights and used a quip he tailors for the states he is visiting on campaign trail: "The great thing about the state of Iowa is pretty sure y'all define gun control the same way we do in Texas: hitting what you aim at."

Cruz is scheduled to attend a "celebrate the Second Amendment" event in Iowa Saturday. He recalled going to a gun range in New Hampshire recently that had a fully automatic machine gun on a tripod. His wife Heidi, whom he described as a "petite California blond," fired the machine gun while wearing a "pink baseball cap that said 'armed and fabulous,'" he said.

Cruz comm its to 'full Grassley' in caucus run // Des Moines Register // Matthew Patane – June 19, 2015

Speaking from the home city of one of his fellow U.S. senators, Ted Cruz committed Friday to completing a full 99-county tour of Iowa as he competes for his party's presidential nomination.

"I'm going to be spending a lot of time in your great state. Indeed, between now and the Iowa caucuses, it is my intention to do what I guess is called the 'full Grassley' ..." Cruz told a crowd in Red Oak, the home of U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst.

The Red Oak stop was part of a series of visits Cruz is making this weekend. He gave a similar speech at a stop in Denison.

Friday's speeches focused on many of the same issues he has laid out at prior events, such as religious liberty, maintaining the Constitution, fighting terrorism and distancing himself from Washington, D.C.

"If you think things in Washington are going great, we're on the right trajectory, we just need someone to fiddle around the edges — I ain't your guy," the Texas Republican said.

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Rod Goodemote , 49, of Villisca brought his 11-year-old daughter, Bethany, to the town hall to witness "history in the making."

"This is history 101, right here," Goodemote said.

After hearing him speak, Goodemote said Cruz could "very well be my guy."

"I think that we need a man that fears and respects God," he said. "We need a man that has wisdom, and wisdom comes from God. We need a man that supports life, that understands that God is the author of life."

Earlier in the day, the leaders of Cruz's Iowa campaign took over for him at a stop in Council Bluffs. A canceled flight kept Cruz from making it in time for the town hall.

In Council Bluffs, registered nurse Barb Wunderlich came from her night shift to see Cruz speak.

Although disappointed he wasn't there, Wunderlich said she is "pretty much all in" for Cruz because he's a constitutionalist and because of his faith. "Ted's the whole package to me. Any of the guys — except for (Donald) Trump and Jeb Bush — that are running would probably be good. Ted would be best," said Wunderlich, who lives in Glenwood.

David Overholtzer, a self-employed certified public accountant in Council Bluffs, said he hasn't decided who to back in the 2016 race.

"I haven't seen one I wouldn't be comfortable with in the White House. ... I'm looking for fresh ideas," Overholtzer said.

Cruz was the first contender to enter the Republican presidential race, but he sits in the middle of the pack in a number of polls.

Five percent of likely caucusgoers said Cruz is their current first choice in the most recent Des Moines Register/ Bloomberg Politics poll. That ranks him eighth in the field of 16 declared and possible contenders.

The event

SETTING: In Council Bluffs, a meeting room in the city's public library. In Red Oak, a conference room at the Red Coach Inn & Restaurant. In Denison, a dining room in Cronk's Cafe.

CROWD: About 60 people started at Council Bluffs, but only about 30 were left by the end of the event, which Cruz did not attend. About 73 showed up in Red Oak and about 80 in Denison.

REACTION: Sighs of disappointment, followed by relatively calm discussion in Council Bluffs. In Red Oak and Denison, Cruz was greeted with multiple rounds of applause around some of his more popular lines, such as jokes about the Obama administration. One supporter rang a cowbell multiple times during Cruz's speech in Denison.

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WHAT'S NEXT: On Saturday, Cruz is scheduled to attend a "Celebrate the 2nd Amendment" event in Johnston.

PERRY

Rick Perry calls Charleston church shooting an 'accident' // WaPo // Patrick Svitek – June 19, 2015

The one presidential candidate who cannot make a mistake did just that Friday.

Addressing Wednesday's massacre at a South Carolina church, former Texas governor Rick Perry referred to it as an "accident." His campaign quickly clarified that he meant "incident," but not before the apparent slip of the tongue sparked a social media backlash, inviting inevitable comparisons to the so-called "oops" moment that defined Perry's last bid for the White House.

The comment came during a TV interview in which Perry was asked about President Obama's response to the shooting, which left nine people dead at the historically black Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. In a speech Thursday, Obama suggested more gun control might be necessary to prevent tragedies like it.

"This is the M.O. of this administration anytime there is a accident like this," Perry told Newsmax's Steve Malzberg in an interview published Friday. "You know, the president's clear. He doesn't like for Americans to have guns, and so he uses every opportunity, this being another one, to basically go parrot that message."

Shortly after Perry's remark began making headlines and ricocheting around social media, spokesman Travis Considine indicated the former governor misspoke. "From the context of his comments, it is clear Gov. Perry meant incident," Considine said in a statement.

But the sound bite had already become a hot topic online, evoking memories of the 2012 debate where Perry was unable to remember the third federal agency he would eliminate if elected president.

In the Newsmax interview, Perry spoke extensively about the shooting, saying he did not know whether it was an act of terror but did know it was a "crime of hate." He also suggested the alleged shooter, 21-year-old Dylann Roof, may have been "medicated," apparently tying the issue to his campaign's outreach to current and former members of the military.

"I know for a fact, being a substantial supporter of our military and our veterans, that the Veterans Administration, for instance, is handing out these opioids in massive amounts," Perry told Malzberg. "And then people question, 'Well then why can't these young individuals get work?' or 'Why is the suicide rate so high?' "

Perry was also asked whether the Confederate flag should fly over the South Carolina Capitol in the aftermath of the shooting, which many consider racially motivated. In his response, Perry reminded Malzberg that the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that Texas has the right to refuse to issue Confederate license plates, a decision with which he agrees. And Perry indicated he would be open to taking down the flag in South Carolina, saying "maybe there's a good conversation that needs to be had."

Rick Perry Says Obama Administration Always Overreacts to 'Accidents' Like Charleston Shooting // Think Progress // Kay Steiger – June 19, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

In an interview with Steve Malzberg's Newsmax TV program on Friday, Republican presidential candidate and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry called the shooting deaths of nine black church members in Charleston, S.C. an "accident."

"This is the M.O. of this administration, any time there is an accident like this — the president is clear, he doesn't like for Americans to have guns and so he uses every opportunity, this being another one, to basically go parrot that message," Perry said in response to President Barack Obama's Thursday remarks, according to a video posted by RWW blog.

Perry then went on to say that Dylann Storm Roof, the alleged shooter who confessed to the killing, may have been unduly influenced by drugs. "Also, I think there is a real issue to be talked about. It seems to me, again without having all the details about this, that these individuals have been medicated and there may be a real issue in this country from the standpoint of these drugs and how they're used."

He may have been referring to a theory the conspiracy website Infowars posted about on Thursday that postulated Roof may have been taking a drug called suboxone, which supposedly causes personalities to change and prompt violent outbursts in its users.

Perry also called the incident "a crime of hate."

GRAHAM

Returning Home to Console, Lindsey Graham Joins t he Mourning // NYT // Ashley Parker – June 19, 2015

Senator Lindsey Graham was in the passenger seat on Friday, preparing to make what would be the first of many difficult phone calls in the coming days.

Mr. Graham, a South Carolina Republican and 2016 presidential hopeful, was running down a list, calling the families of the nine people who were killed Wednesday night at a historic black church.

First on his list: John Pinckney, the father of the church's slain pastor, the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, a state senator whom Mr. Graham knew.

"I just wanted to say, well, I feel terrible, but nobody can feel it like you do," Mr. Graham said, clearing his throat. "Your son — every time he walked into the room, I'd smile because I knew I was going to get something nice said, and a request to help someone other than himself."

"You raised a fine man," the senator continued.

People attended a vigil on Friday for the nine shooting victims at the College of Charleston TD Arena in Charleston, S.C. Credit Travis Dove for The New York Times

"It's hard for people, particularly in the South, to imagine somebody could go into a church, stay for Bible study, talk to people for an hour, look them in the eye, and then stand up and start shooting," Mr. Graham said.

"Even the crazy people, they don't go into church," he said.

Mr. Graham visited the church Thursday evening, quietly making his way there with a bouquet of lilies, bowing his head, and offering a short prayer. "For comfort and healing and understanding to those who have suffered in a way that most of us can never imagine," he said.

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He spent Friday morning shuttling around town for television interviews, making himself a presence on screens throughout the city. Later, his aides sent him a list of the victims' families for him to call. And Friday evening, he arrived at a prayer vigil here, greeting residents who had come to mourn with handshakes and hugs.

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Who Is Running for President (and Who's Not)?

In the process, he also grappled with the racial history of his state, which in many ways he himself embodies. He did not have an African-American classmate until middle school, and said he did not experience full integration until high school.

The importance of the end of segregation, he said, could not be overstated: "It's not just for a black family to go to a better school," he said. "It's for white kids at an early age to understand that merit and leadership are not unique to one group."

And in an e-book he recently released, he recalled growing up underfoot at his parents' bar, which sold beer to anyone of legal age but for many years expected black patrons to drink it off premises. "That eventually changed, but not until the early seventies, much later than it should have," he wrote.

He said he thinks he has earned some credibility among South Carolina's black communities by being open to working with Democrats, and supporting some of Mr. Obama's nominees, like Loretta E. Lynch, a black woman, who is now attorney general. Yet during his Senate re-election campaign last year, he won just 6 percent of the state's black vote.

But on Friday morning, he clarified when asked, saying he believed it was a racially motivated hate crime. "The only reason these people are dead is because they're black," he said.

Later, Mr. Graham described Mr. Roof as "a racial jihadist."

He also fielded questions about the Confederate flag, demurring when asked if he believed it should continue to fly on the grounds of the State Capitol. He was fine revisiting the issue, he said, but it was a decision for the State Legislature.

On the question of gun control, he said he welcomed a debate on background checks for guns, but that the current background check system was broken.

"We'll talk about guns, we'll talk about the flag, we'll talk about anything you want to talk about, but we're going to bury these people with dignity, we're going to honor their memory," Mr. Graham told one television reporter.

But throughout it all, Mr. Graham could not seem to shake the question: How could someone enter a church, attend a Bible study, an then open fire, killing nine people?

He kept coming back to it — when former Senator Saxby Chambliss called him to offer condolences and when he set out Friday morning, the temperature sliding past 80 degrees before the sun was even ripe in the sky.

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The night before, over dinner — his usual fried green tomatoes and fried chicken livers at Magnolias— Mr. Graham wondered again and again, what it must have been like to learn that your loved one had gone off to Bible study and was not coming home.

“I don’t know why I’m fixated on it, but I just keep thinking about what it must be like, to pick up the phone and hear your loved one was killed at church,” he said.

Lindsey Graham: Confederate Flag Is a “Part of Who We Are” // Mother Jones // Inae Oh – June 19, 2015

Following the mass shooting inside a black church in Charleston, South Carolina on Wednesday, one flag was conspicuously not lowered to half-mast in tribute to the nine lives lost in the deadly attack—the Confederate flag, which regularly flies on the grounds of the state capitol, despite countless calls for its removal because of its racist roots.

The rebel flag's presence in Columbia was especially disturbing this week after images surfaced showing the suspected gunman's embrace of the flag, which was on his license plates. (Dylann Roof also wore patches baring the flags of Apartheid-era South Africa and Rhodesia, the racist symbolism of which was evident.)

While other GOP politicians, including Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, are criticizing the flag's enduring presence, Sen. Lindsey Graham, who hails from South Carolina and is now running for president, has come to the rebel flag's defense. According to Graham, the Confederate flag is an integral "part of who we are."

This isn't exactly surprising, considering Graham appeared on "The View" yesterday to promote his new e-book and brushed aside the obvious racial overtones of the attacks, suggesting that suspected shooter Dylann Roof was seeking to massacre Christians. "This guy's just whacked out," he said. "It's 2015—there are people who are looking for Christians to kill them."

Although Graham acknowledged to CNN the flag has been used to push racist agendas in the past, he said "the problems we have in South Carolina and throughout the world" do not stem from symbols, but because of "what's in people's heart."

"How do you go back and reconstruct America?" he asked hopelessly.

Actually, here's one solution: remove the damn Confederate flag.

CARSON

‘Crazy’ Ben Carson Is The GOP’s Voice of Sanity on Charleston // Daily Beast // Olivia Nuzzi – June 19, 2015

Before today, Ben Carson was far from the voice of reason in the Republican party. The brain surgeon and presidential candidate has purveyed theories like “Obamacare is worse than slavery” and Obama’s America is reminiscent of Nazi Germany.

Now, however, Carson has the distinction of being the lone Republican candidate to be honest and plainspoken about the fact that racism was the motive for the Charleston church shooting.

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How we got here is a sad indictment of American politics, where candidates would rather shove their fist in their mouths or speak in riddles than risk upsetting anyone with the reality of racism.

It started yesterday afternoon. Just before Rand Paul took to the stage of the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, where a crowd of evangelical conservatives waited for him to speak, police arrested Dylann Storm Roof. A 21 year old white supremacist, Roof had, the night before, walked into a historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina, sat among its congregation for a time, and then opened fire, murdering nine of them.

It seemed obvious that Paul would address the tragedy before the self-anointed "Faith and Freedom Coalition."

If the Republican Party is truly shifting to appeal to new (i.e., less white) constituencies, it is Paul who is helping to lead the way by openly discussing things Republicans of primaries past wouldn't touch, like the failed war on drugs, criminal justice reform, and the fact that "race…skew[s] the application" of justice in America.

But, when Paul opened his mouth to discuss the terrorist attack in Charleston, what came out was a confusing string of words designed to assure the Christian crowd that none of it would've happened if more Americans were like them.

How we got here is a sad indictment of American politics, where candidates would rather shove their fist in their mouths or speak in riddles than risk upsetting anyone with the reality of racism.

"What kind of person goes into church and shoots nine people?" he asked. "There's a sickness in our country, there's something terribly wrong, but it isn't going to be fixed by your government. It's people straying away, it's people not understanding where salvation comes from. And I think that if we understand that, we'll understand and have better expectations of what we get from our government."

Paul didn't say anything about Roof's confederate flag license plate, his pro-apartheid emblazoned jacket, or his blatant act of domestic terror.

Ted Cruz, as Talking Point's Memo's Brendan James put it, "kinda dipped his toe in," to the topic of race when he held a moment of silence for the victims and said, "Today the body of Christ is in mourning that a sick and deranged person came and prayed with a historically black congregation for an hour, and then murdered nine innocent souls."

The following day, the Faith and Freedom Coalition's event was still going. Chris Christie took to the stage and acknowledged that the "conduct" of the shooter was "depraved [and] unthinkable," but "only the goodwill and the love of the American people can let those folks know that that act was unacceptable, disgraceful that we need to do more to show that we love each other." He said nothing about race.

Jeb Bush, at the same event, said, "I don't know what was on the mind or the heart of the man who committed these atrocious crimes." After his speech, Bush told The Huffington post, "it was a horrific act and I don't know what the background of it is, but it was an act of hatred." Asked again if race was behind the attack, Bush said, "I don't know. Looks like to me it was, but we'll find out all the information. It's clear it was an act of raw hatred, for sure. Nine people lost their lives, they were African-American. You can judge what it is."

Rick Santorum and Bobby Jindal similarly evaded the issue, while Marco Rubio ignored the shooting altogether, save for a polite Tweet, but spoke of his love for the Second Amendment during his Thursday speech to the Faith and Freedom crowd.

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Lindsey Graham, who is the Senator from South Carolina, initially suggested the persecution of Christians was as likely a reason for the shootings as racism. “There are real people out there that are organized to kill people based on race. This guy is just whacked out. But it’s 2015, there are people out there looking for Christians to kill them.” On Friday, however, while visiting Charleston, Graham had made a shift. He told The New York Times’ Ashley Parker, “the only reason these people are dead is because they’re black.”

Rick Perry on Friday told Newsmax “this was a crime of hate. We know that.” But the former Texas governor criticized president Obama’s call for gun control. “So I mean there are a lot of issues here underlying this that we as a country need to have a conversation about rather than just the knee-jerk reaction of saying, ‘if we can just take all the guns away, this won’t happen.’”

During an appearance on MSNBC, Martin O’Malley acknowledged race as the motivating factor but did so timidly. “From the reports I read, and let’s be honest with one another, the facts are still evolving here. I mean, it would appear that the racial motivation was certainly a big part of what happened here.”

In contrast, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders sounded like civil rights activists.

Clinton said that in order to make sense of the shooting, “we have to be honest—we have to face hard truths about race, violence, guns and division,” and offered words of comfort from Dr. Martin Luther King.

Sanders was even more direct.

“The Charleston church killings are a tragic reminder of the ugly stain of racism that still taints our nation,” he said in a statement. “While we have made significant progress in advancing civil rights in this country, we are far from eradication racism.”

But it was Carson who stuck out amid the cowardly tongue-twisting of the majority of his party’s candidates with his straightforwardness.

"Racial based hate is still very much alive as last night so violently reminds us,” he wrote on Facebook. “I fear our intolerance of one another is the new battle ground of evil. Today many feel it is ok to hate someone who thinks different than you do…As a brain surgeon I can assure you that all of our brains look the same, no matter what our skin color or party affiliation.”

And so here we are, with Ben Carson—the right-wing sideshow who, despite competitive polling, could never truly be taken seriously as a candidate because of his proclivity for voicing off-the-rails theories and his complete lack of political experience—is teaching the rest of the Republican field how to sound like a human being when discussing a tragedy caused by racism in America. The real absurdity of American politics is that the people running for office are more often than not the ones stupid enough to believe that they can only win if they are so agreeable that they ignore reality altogether, fearing that acknowledging its ugliness might reflect it onto them.

Perhaps that’s why Carson felt free to say the truth before poll-testing it, and without insulating it in caveats.

Ben Carson Not for Traditional Marriage // Real Clear Politics // Rebecca Berg – June 19, 2015

Should the Supreme Court decide this month that state same-sex marriage bans are not constitutional, some Republican presidential candidates plan to push for a constitutional amendment to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

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But Ben Carson would not be one of them.

In an interview Friday with RealClearPolitics, the neurosurgeon and conservative favorite said although he "would not be in agreement" with a ruling to legalize gay marriage nationwide, "I think you always have the obligation to uphold the laws of the land."

"My strong belief is that everybody i protected by the Constitution, regardless of their sexual orientation, their race, whatever," Carson said. "That needs to be our primary focus."

The Supreme Court is expected to decide within the next two weeks whether state bans on gay marriage are constitutional.

Carson has been vocal about his support for "traditional marriage," and has indicated that he views homosexuality as a choice.

But he said Friday that his primary concern regarding a Supreme Court ruling would be with any groups granted "extra rights."

"We need not be thinking of providing extra rights to anybody. That's where you get into problems -- where you pick this group or that group and say, 'Well, let's change everything for everybody because you want it that way,'" Carson said. "That's when you start having problems with America as it was envisioned."

He added: "I would be comfortable with phrasing that said, 'Everybody in our society has equal rights, and equal rights of association.'"

Carson was in Washington, D.C., to appear at a conference hosted by the conservative Faith and Freedom Coalition, where the prospect of the Supreme Court legalizing same-sex marriage was vigorously opposed by many speakers.

Sen. Ted Cruz, another Republican candidate for president, warned in a speech Thursday of a deliberate attempt by Democrats to impose "mandatory gay marriage in all 50 states."

"I would encourage everyone here to be lifting up in prayer that [the Supreme Court] not engage in an act of naked and lawless judicial activism tearing down the marriage laws adopted pursuant to the Constitution," Cruz said.

In addition to Cruz, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Sen. Rick Santorum have said they will push for a Constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage if the Supreme Court rules to legalize it.

TRUMP

Carl Icahn politely declines Trump Cabinet offer // Politico // Adam B. Lerner – June 19, 2015

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Donald Trump may be less than a week into his presidential campaign, but he's already been rebuked by one of his top Cabinet picks.

On Thursday, Trump floated three names that he would possibly nominate as Treasury secretary in the unlikely event that he wins the presidency next year.

"I'd like guys like Jack Welch. I like guys like Henry Kravis. I'd love to bring my friend Carl Icahn," the real estate mogul and current 2016 Republican presidential contender said in an interview Thursday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

Icahn, a legendary billionaire 'corporate raider' who founded Icahn enterprises, responded to Trump's comments in a blog post on Shareholders' Square Table, saying, "I am flattered but do not get up early enough in the morning to accept this opportunity."

Though he declined to "opine on [Trump's] chances" to win the presidency, he wrote, "I am knowledgeable concerning markets and believe Donald is completely correct to be concerned that we have 'a big fat bubble' coming up. We have artificially induced low interest rates."

Trump warned in his MSNBC appearance Thursday that interest rates are too low, noting that he had borrowed cheaply to finance the building of a luxury hotel in Washington, D.C. "Without proper leadership, I predict you're going to see some very, very bad things happening economically," he said. "They give you free money."

Icahn agreed with Trump's point wholeheartedly.

"I personally believe we are sailing in dangerous unchartered waters," Icahn wrote. "I can only hope we get to shore safely. Never in the history of the Federal Reserve have interest rates been artificially held down for so long at the extremely low rates existing today."

"I applaud Donald for speaking out on this issue — more people should," he concluded.

Carl Icahn Says He'll Never Be Trump's Treasury Secretary // Bloomberg // Ben Brody – June 19, 2015

Billionaire Carl Icahn doesn't want to be Treasury Secretary in the Trump Administration, but he thinks the Donald is "completely correct" in his concern about interest rates.

"I was extremely surprised to learn that Donald was running for President and even more surprised that he stated he would make me Secretary of Treasury," the activist investor wrote in a statement he linked to on his verified Twitter account. "I am flattered but do not get up early enough in the morning to accept this opportunity."

He added, though, that he thinks the real estate mogul, who is seeking the Republican nomination for president, is right to worry that the U.S. has "a big fat bubble coming up" because of low interest rates.

"I personally believe we are sailing in dangerous unchartered waters," wrote the former corporate raider, who is worth approximately $22 billion and is the 33rd richest person in the world, according to Bloomberg. "I can only hope we get to shore safely. Never in the history of the Federal Reserve have interest rates been artificially held down for so long at the extremely low rates existing today. I applaud Donald for speaking out on this issue — more people should."

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Trump said Thursday he might name his "friend Carl Icahn" treasury secretary of he should find himself in the White House. He also suggested former GE CEO Jack Welch and KKR co-founder Henry Kravis could also fill the spot.

Trump slams Hillary Clinton, calls her 'pathetic' **// CNN // Theodore Schleifer – June 19, 2015**

Donald Trump said Hillary Clinton is blaming him for the killings in Charleston, South Carolina, an attack he returned as "pathetic" and as evidence that "politicians are just no good."

In an 11-second video posted to his Instagram account on Friday, Trump, the bombastic new entrant into the Republican presidential race, said Clinton "blamed me for the horrendous attack that took place in South Carolina."

In an interview on Thursday, Clinton said Trump's comments about Mexicans during his announcement speech typified the inflammatory rhetoric that could "trigger people who are less than stable to do something" like the shootings.

Trump said during his speech that some Mexicans who come to the United States are "rapists."

"Everybody should stand up and say that's not acceptable. You know, you don't talk like that on talk radio," Clinton said in the interview.

Donald Trump 'felt bad' for bashing Jeb Bush **// CNN // Tom LoBianco – June 19, 2015**

Republican candidate Donald Trump says he "felt bad" after being "too rough" on Jeb Bush in his campaign announcement this week.

"I think he's a nice person. I actually felt bad because I hit him very hard one day like two days ago, three days ago, and I said, why am I hitting him so hard?" Trump told CNN's Jake Tapper in an interview set to air Sunday during "State of the Union."

Trump grilled many of his Republican competitors this week in his announcement speech, dropping the politeness and subtler digs most other politicians stick to and he delivered his sharpest hits on Bush.

"I don't see how he can get the nomination," Trump said in his kickoff. "He's weak on immigration and he supports Common Core. How the hell can you vote for this guy?"

Trump told CNN that the Bush campaign is taking him seriously and that he knows it because "they do call, and they write, and just believe me they take me very seriously."

On reflection, the grandiose billionaire told Tapper he might have gone too far knocking Bush.

"I actually saw myself a couple of days ago and I said that's, that's too rough. Because I really think he's a nice man, I think he's a wonderful man. I don't know if I want him negotiating with ISIS. I think Trump will do a lot better. You think so too, but you're not going to say it."

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Trump opened his campaign for president this past Tuesday with an hourlong speech packed with some spectacular claims, by political standards. He held out a financial statement he said showed his worth at $8.7 billion and said he "will be the greatest jobs president God ever created."

If elected president, he also said he would seek to build a wall along the border and have Mexico pay for it. (The U.S. struggled initially with the construction of the border fence, taking five years to construct from the time President George W. Bush signed the legislation creating it in 2006.)

Some top tier candidates, like Bush friend Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, have been keeping their powder dry when it comes to knocking their Republican rivals, instead focusing their fire squarely on Hillary Clinton. But Trump and a few others, including Ohio Gov. John Kasich, have had no trouble firing away at Bush.

Trump campaign responds to Hillary linking him to South Carolina shooting: 'She must be nervous' // **Breitbart // Alex Swoyer – June 19, 2015**

The 2016 Democratic presidential frontrunner hinted that the shooting at a church in Charleston, South Carolina is in some way connected to Donald Trump's recent presidential announcement. Clinton told an interviewer:

Public discourse is sometimes hotter and more negative than it should be, which can, in my opinion, trigger someone who is less than stable. I think we have to speak out against it. Like, for example, a recent entry into the Republican presidential campaign said some very inflammatory things about Mexicans. Everybody should stand up and say that's not acceptable.

Clinton was referring to Trump's announcement speech, when he commented about the illegal aliens coming across the southern border from Mexico.

"They're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people," Trump said in his announcement speech.

A spokesperson said Trump sends his prayers and condolences to South Carolina residents.

Following the violent incident, Trump canceled a sold out campaign event in South Carolina out of respect for the grieving.

"At this time of national sorrow, a responsible leader should be focused on uniting and healing the country," the spokesman said, adding:

Mr. Trump believes that Hillary Clinton does not have any credibility when she blames words for violence. This is the same politician who lied to the world after she failed to take proper steps to secure the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi and falsely blamed the radical Islamic attack on a YouTube video. This is the same person who illegally deleted her emails after getting a subpoena from the U.S. Congress.

Also, it is "totally inappropriate" for Clinton to use this tragedy as a way to attack a political opponent, the spokesman says.

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"She must be nervous about something," he added, hinting Clinton must feel threatened by Trump's recent media popularity following his formal White House bid.

Charleston: Hillary Clinton says Trump-like comments can spark race attacks // Telegraph // Rob Crilly – June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton has accused Donald Trump, the property mogul and Republican presidential candidate, of deploying the sort of race rhetoric that can trigger attacks like the Charleston shootings.

Mrs Clinton, who is the frontrunner in the Democratic race, used a radio interview to take issue with language used by Mr Trump in his campaign launch on Tuesday.

Her comments came two days after Dylann Roof is accused of walking into a historic church in Charleston, South Carolina, and shooting dead nine black people.

Dylann Roof after his arrest

"The people who do this kind of dastardly horrible act are very small percentage, but unfortunately the public discourse is sometimes hotter and more negative than it should be, which can, in my opinion, trigger people who are less than stable to do something like what we've seen," said Mrs Clinton during an interview in Las Vegas with KNPB.

Although Mrs Clinton did not name Mr Trump, her target could not have been more clear.

"For example, a recent entry into the Republican presidential campaign said some very inflammatory things about Mexicans," she said. "Everybody should stand up and say that's not acceptable. You know, you don't talk like that on talk radio."

On Tuesday Mr Trump had been characteristically blunt in describing the problems facing the US and its jobs market.

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best," he told his audience at Trump Tower in New York. "They're not sending you. They're not sending you.

"They're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists, and some, I assume, are good people."

On Friday he fired back at Mrs Clinton with an Instagram post.

"Wow, it's pretty pathetic that Hillary Clinton just blamed me for the horrendous attack that took place in South Carolina. This is why politicians are just no good. Our country's in trouble," he said.

UNDECLARED

WALKER

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Scott Walker unveils new Web site as he stockpiles money for unlikely presidential bid // WaPo // Matea Gold – June 19, 2015

Scott Walker is making an early push to stockpile money for his likely presidential bid, asking donors to raise $27,000 by mid-July, when he is expected to launch a White House campaign.

An e-mail that went out to supporters Thursday asked them to be the first donors to a new “testing the waters” committee, which he can use to raise and spend money as he considers a run. All contributions made to the committee now would go to his eventual campaign.

Donors were urged to visit a new Web site and participate in “The Race to 270” by raising $27,000 by Sunday, July 12. That is the day before when supporters expect Walker to formally launch his campaign in the Milwaukee area.

“Once you cross the finish line, you will be invited to a special thank you event and be provided RACE TO 270 benefits,” according to an e-mail from fundraiser Jenny Drucker that was obtained by The Washington Post.

Those benefits include an exclusive Race to 270 event and special gear, along with an “Exclusive Race to 270 Conference Call with Governor Scott Walker,” according to the details provided to supporters.

The donation page of the new Web site asks supporters to show Walker that "he has the support to run for President of the United States."

"It is clear what we have accomplished in Wisconsin can be replicated across the country," the Web site states. "Big Government liberalism broke Washington. Limited government conservatism will fix it."

A spokeswoman for Walker's political organization said he will not make a final decision about running until after the Wisconsin budget is complete.

However, the governor appeared to confirm his mid-July timing in an off-air comment to Fox’s John Roberts, who tweeted last week that Walker told him that “his presidential announcement would likely be around the 2nd week of July.”

Once Walker decides to run and collects $5,000 for his "testing the waters committee," he has 15 days to file his statement of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission.

Scott Walker learns a lesson // WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – June 19, 2015

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported this week:

Scott Walker said Wednesday that he will stop talking about private meetings with world leaders after British Prime Minister David Cameron disputed that he had disparaged President Barack Obama’s leadership in private comments to the Wisconsin governor.

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“I’m just not going to comment on individual meetings I had with leaders like that, be it there or anywhere else,” the White House hopeful told reporters when asked about Cameron’s response.

Walker on Friday told Republican donors at a Utah gathering that Cameron and other leaders were concerned about Obama’s “lead-from-behind mentality.”

Cameron’s office responded that the prime minister never expressed concerns about Obama in his February meeting with the governor.

The report quotes Walker as saying, “What I learned best from that is I should leave discussions like that that aren’t done in front of the media to be treated privately, whether it was there or anywhere else.”

On the one hand, a mini-kerfuffle this early in the race is unlikely to have any lasting effect. On the other hand, coming on the heels of Jeb Bush’s near-flawless overseas trip and Sen. Marco Rubio’s (R-Fla.) adept handling of all sorts of foreign policy questions, it should remind Walker and his supporters that he still has much to learn.

In particular, Rubio — the other “new generation” Republican reformer with appeal to working and middle class voters — poses a real challenge to Walker. Dorothy Rabinowitz writes:

Candidate Rubio has, and it is no small advantage, a gift for language found frequently in people who have been voracious readers from childhood on. Like many children with his history, he also imbibed the sense of American exceptionalism at an early age and it has not gone away nor is it likely to do so.

There is no love of country quite as deep or conscious as that of the first-generation American. Mr. Rubio is the child of immigrants, Cubans in this case, who tutored him, as other immigrant parents have done with their children, in the unparalleled blessings of America. . . .

In the course of his campaign rollout two months earlier than Mrs. Clinton’s, Mr. Rubio too addressed the dangers of leadership and ideas based on the values of yesterday. Only in his view those dangers were the obstruction of economic progress, the stifling of America’s ability to compete—and not least the failure to remember the importance of U.S. leadership in the world.

“And so they appease our enemies, they betray our allies, they weaken our military,” he says of the current administration. A dramatically different set of charges against yesterday’s thinking—and one with which virtually all Republican candidates would agree—than the compendium of victims suffering under the heels of Republicans and millionaires and billionaires that Mrs. Clinton cited on Roosevelt Island.

In other words, it may be that the policy outcome Rubio and Walker reach is quite similar, but Walker will find it hard to match Rubio’s verbal dexterity and comfort level on national security — at least for a while. Walker navigated some bumpy moments early in the year before he began his foreign policy studies and started traveling. For a time he seemed to have found his footing and was effective in interviews. But the bar rises as the campaign goes on, especially in side-by-side comparison with other candidates in debates and the like. As other candidates show their ability to navigate foreign policy issues Walker will have a smaller margin for error. And soon when he travels abroad, the expectation will be that he speaks and/or takes questions from the press.

The lesson for Walker is therefore two-fold: Don’t characterize publicly what foreign leaders say to you privately, and, more importantly, the goal posts will keep moving throughout the race, forcing each candidate to improve. For someone who has not spent his career delving into foreign policy and has no military experience, that means the learning process must continue throughout the primary and into the general election. It’s not enough as it was

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a couple of months ago to avoid big missteps or to just list Hillary Clinton's errors. Candidates will need to instill confidence and demonstrate mastery of the ins and outs of international affairs. It is a tall order, but then no one ever said it was easy to become a credible commander in chief.

ScottWalker.com goes live // Politico // Nick Gass – June 19, 2015

In the latest step toward his all-but-announced presidential campaign, Scott Walker's "testing the waters" committee on Friday launched a new website, ScottWalker.com.

The website features a prominent link to donate to Walker's personal Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram profiles, along with options to donate $10, $50, $100, $250, $500, $1,000, $2,700 or some other amount. The website is listed as paid for by "Scott Walker Inc., Testing the Waters."

According to The Washington Post, Walker is asking donors to raise $27,000 ahead of his expected campaign announcement next month. Walker has said that he will not make a decision on when he is specifically going to announce until the completion of the state's budget.

In a post to RedState on Friday, Walker outlined why he is considering a run for the White House.

"I have heard these voices loud and clear. That's why I am launching a testing the waters committee to gauge support for a presidential run. This will be the final step before I decide whether I become a candidate for our nation's highest office, and I urge you to sign up at ScottWalker.com so you can be among the first to know when I have made this important decision," he wrote.

"There are many accomplished people eyeing the GOP nomination for president. Some want you to think they fight. But speeches aren't fighting or winning. Others have won elections but haven't fought any big fights. In Wisconsin, we have a record of doing both," the governor said.

How Scott Walker dismantled Wisconsin's environmental legacy // Salon // Siri Carpenter – June 19, 2015

When Wisconsin's new state treasurer Matt Adamczyk took office in January, his first act was to order a highly symbolic change in stationery. Adamczyk, a Republican and one of three members of the board that oversees a small public lands agency, "felt passionately" that Tia Nelson, the agency's executive secretary, should be struck from the letterhead. As soon became clear, his principal objection to Nelson, daughter of former Wisconsin governor and environmentalist-hero Gaylord Nelson, was that in 2007–08 she had co-chaired a state task force on climate change at the then-governor's request. Adamczyk insisted that climate change is not germane to the agency's task of managing timber assets, and that Nelson's activities thus constituted "time theft." When he couldn't convince the two other members of the agency's board to remove Nelson from the letterhead, he tried to get her fired. When that motion failed, he moved to silence her. In April the board voted 2–1 to ban agency staff from working on or discussing climate change while on the clock. The climate censorship at the public lands agency made national headlines.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has kept his distance from Adamczyk. It is easy to see why: Walker is widely expected to announce a bid for the Republican presidential nomination. And his environmental legacy—which so far has gone largely unexamined in the national press—has reached much farther than anything the board of a tiny public lands agency could accomplish.

Since taking office in 2011 Walker has moved to reduce the role of science in environmental policymaking and to silence discussion of controversial subjects, including climate change, by state employees. And he has presided over a series of controversial rollbacks in environmental protection, including relaxing laws governing iron mining and building on wetlands, in both cases to help specific companies avoid regulatory roadblocks. Among other policy changes, he has also loosened restrictions on phosphorus pollution in state waterways, tried to

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restrict wind energy development and proposed ending funding for a major renewable energy research program housed at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Most recently Walker has targeted the science and educational corps at the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which has responsibility for protecting and managing forests and wildlife, along with air and water quality. In his 2015–17 budget, released in February, he proposed eliminating a third of the DNR's 58 scientist positions and 60 percent of its 18 environmental educator positions. (The cuts were approved by the state legislature's budget committee in May, and the budget is currently making its way through the legislature.) Walker also attempted to convert the citizen board that sets policy for the DNR to a purely advisory body and proposed a 13-year freeze on the state's popular land conservation fund—both changes that lawmakers rejected in the face of intense public objections.

Walker's office did not respond to repeated requests for comments for this article. But he and his allies in the Republican-controlled legislature have said that such policy shifts will streamline regulations that they say interfere with business development. Many scientists and environmental advocates as well as some conservative political and business leaders say Walker's actions diminish the role of science in policy decisions and undermine key environmental protections that have long distinguished Wisconsin as a conservation leader.

"I just see a guy who's afraid of the mob"

One of the biggest environmental controversies to mark Walker's tenure came in 2013,when he signed a law paving the way for Gogebic Taconite, a mining company later revealed to be a major political donor, to build a 6.5-kilometer-long open-pit mine in the Penokee Hills region in the Lake Superior watershed. Citing a 2011 study funded by Gogebic, Walker argued the mine would bring thousands of jobs to the struggling region. Gogebic helped write the new law, which allows companies to dump mine waste into nearby wetlands, streams and lakes; doubles the area around a mine that a company can pollute; allows the DNR to exempt any company from any part of the law; and strips citizens of the right to sue mining companies for illegal environmental damage.

The new law also included a philosophical shift: Where the old law specified that mining should impact wetlands as little as possible, the new one says that significant adverse impacts on wetlands are presumed to be necessary.

Gogebic dropped the Wisconsin mining project after finding more wetlands than expected in the area, raising questions about the cost of meeting federal mitigation standards. The rewritten Wisconsin law, however, would govern any future projects.

Phosphorus pollution has been another flashpoint. In 2010 Wisconsin was the first state in the U.S. to adopt rules imposing numeric limits on phosphorus pollution, which impairs hundreds of Wisconsin waterways and can harm aquatic life and human health. When Walker took office in 2011, he argued that the rules would be too expensive for manufacturers and communities to follow and proposed to delay implementing them for two years. In 2014 he signed a law allowing polluters to postpone meeting the phosphorus restrictions if they could demonstrate that complying with the rules would pose a financial hardship. Environmental groups say that by diminishing polluters' responsibility for reducing phosphorus discharges, the law is a step backward for water quality.

Walker has also resisted measures to reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change. Like many Republican governors and lawmakers, he has avoided making public remarks on climate change. But his actions paint a picture.

In 2008 before he was governor, he signed the Koch-backed "No Climate Tax Pledge,"vowing to oppose any climate legislation that increased government revenue. In 2014 he appointed a utility commissioner who said in a confirmation hearing that "the elimination of essentially every automobile would be offset by one volcano exploding," a remark he later recanted. In February a child asked Walker what he would do about climate change if he were president. Walker's reply: as a Boy Scout he believed in leaving his campsite cleaner than when he found it. Nevertheless, this spring Wisconsin joined 13 other states in a lawsuit challenging U.S. Environmental

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Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan, which would cut carbon emissions from Wisconsin power plants by 34 percent by 2030. (A federal court dismissed the suit on June 9.)

Walker has argued, based on a study funded by the coal company Peabody Energy that the new rules are "unworkable" because they would be too expensive for manufacturers and residents and has implied that Wisconsin might not comply with them.

Although some conservatives in Wisconsin praise Walker's actions, he's attracted the ire of others, including former Republican state senator Dale Schultz, who retired from the senate last winter after 32 years in the legislature. "I think what's going on is appalling," Schultz says. "As somebody who thinks that should be the first thing conservatives ought to be doing is protecting our environment, it's embarrassing. I'm a pretty pro-business Republican. But a clean environment is essential to business. This is just wholly unacceptable."

Schultz attributes Walker and other far-right Republicans' policy positions to the demands of wealthy benefactors, especially those connected to the energy industry. "Some days I look at Governor Walker and I just see a guy who's afraid of the mob," Schultz says. "He helped create it, he fosters it, but then he's also fearful of it."

"The term 'climate change' has become a red flag"

The Walker administration's policy changes have been accompanied by efforts to weaken scientists' role in policymaking. Even before taking office, Walker signaled his environmental agenda by appointing former Republican state senator and construction-company owner Cathy Stepp as DNR secretary, explaining that he wanted "someone with a chamber-of-commerce mentality" at the agency's helm. Stepp, who does not have a background in science or natural resource management, had publicly derided DNR staff as "unelected bureaucrats who have only their cubicle walls to bounce ideas off of" and who thus "tend to come up with some pretty outrageous stuff that those of us in the real world have to contend with."

Recently retired scientists spoke to a sharp shift under Stepp's leadership. Adrian Wydeven, a wolf biologist who ran the DNR's wolf management program from 1990 until 2013 and retired last year, points to the 2013 restructuring of all the DNR's wildlife advisory committees. In that restructuring the agency removed university scientists and greatly reduced the number of DNR professional staff; it also gave special interest groups, such as politically influential pro-hunting groups, more slots. Wydeven says the DNR has also restricted scientists' opportunities to speak directly with lawmakers about proposed regulations and has become deferential toward the legislature. "In the past, if the legislators were proposing anything that wasn't scientifically sound, the DNR was much more forceful in disagreeing with the legislature and making recommendations to improve the legislation," he says. "Now there's much less of that."

Although DNR researchers haven't been explicitly forbidden from mentioning climate change (as Tia Nelson was at the public lands agency until the board yesterday amended its policy to ban staff only from engaging in advocacy on climate policy), they nonetheless describe a "chilling effect" on discussion about politically controversial subjects. In November 2010 the DNR's main climate change Web page was a rich portal containing detailed information about climate trends, forecasted impacts of climate change and DNR programs aimed at addressing the problem. The page also acknowledged that "the most renowned group of scientists working on climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), stated that it is very likely [more than 90 percent probability] that human activity is responsible for rising temperatures." Today, the page contains a single paragraph describing, in general terms, a partnership with the University of Wisconsin to study the impacts of climate change and a link to the university's project Web site.

The chilling effect is also evident in internal discussions, DNR scientists say. Sally Kefer, a land use expert who retired from the DNR in 2014, says that she encountered increasing institutional resistance to discussing climate change in the course of helping communities prepare for a warmer and wetter future. "I was being told to quit contacting the communities to determine their level of interest in having a discussion about climate adaptation," Kefer says. "I was told to wait until they called me. And can't I figure out a way to call it something other than 'climate adaptation'? Can't we just call it 'sustainability'?" A current DNR scientist, who requested anonymity, says that the term "climate change" has become a red flag in internal grant proposals. "It's impossible to work on natural resources without incorporating climate change in some way," the researcher says. But "we're less likely to

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cause problems if we just call it something else. 'Environmental variability's sort of our code word."

Kimberlee Wright, executive director of Midwest Environmental Advocates, an environmental law center, works closely with DNR engineers and scientists to review and comment on pollution permits for activities such as wastewater disposal and groundwater pumping under the Clean Water Act. In the past, Wright says, the process was typically straightforward, and she and colleagues were routinely able to hammer out permits that followed the technical requirements of the law. But since Gov. Walker took office, she says, "We have not been able to settle one permit—we've had to litigate every single challenge. We're often told by [DNR] staff, 'We know you're right, but you're going to have to sue us because the people above me won't let me issue a technically sufficient permit.' That's a really big difference—the interference in science-based decision-making is pretty complete."

The DNR Office of Communications did not permit agency scientists to be interviewed for this article and did not make Sec. Stepp or Bureau of Science Services Director Jack Sullivan available for comment on whether the agency restricts scientists' freedom to communicate about areas of their expertise. The department's spokesperson, William Cosh, said in an e-mail that "When it comes to making decisions the agency remains committed to doing so by using sound science, following the law and using common sense."

But Walker's 2015–17 budget proposal, which called for eliminating a third of all research scientist positions and more than half of environmental educator positions from the DNR, would dramatically decrease the influence of science on natural resources policy and public outreach.

According to the state's bipartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, which provides fiscal information to the lawmakers, about half of the scientist positions Walker slated for elimination are federally funded. In March Stepp said the agency was considering subsuming remaining positions into other parts of the agency, dissolving the Bureau of Science Services altogether. Walker has indicated that he wants science to inform policy decisions on "an as-needed basis." The agency spokesperson said the cuts do not eliminate the agency's research capacity. "What these cuts require us to do," he said in an e-mail, "is to better prioritize the research that our scientists are engaged in to help inform management decisions."

DNR scientists reject that assertion. "I don't understand how they can say with a straight face that cutting a third of the research program will not diminish their capacity to do research," says one researcher, who requested anonymity. "We already have a pretty formalized process of prioritizing research; every two years we go through a process where they identify their research needs."

Walker's proposal to shrink the DNR's scientific capacity appears to have been the brainchild of Tom Tiffany, a GOP state senator who is a longtime critic of the DNR's science bureau. In May he confirmed on a regional radio program that he requested Gov. Walker cut the DNR scientist, educator and communications positions. Tiffany said he thinks the agency's scientists have a wildlife management "agenda" that has driven the agency to mismanage the deer herd, curtailing sportsmen's hunting opportunities. He has also said he believes the agency's scientists spend too much time on controversial subjects like climate change, which he views as "theoretical." (According to DNR records, just under 3 percent of DNR scientists' work hours during the last fiscal year involved activities related to climate change.)

The DNR changes are "an assault on the science side of policy making," says Curt Meine, a conservation biologist and biographer of conservation pioneer Aldo Leopold. "Wisconsin's conservation has always been built on a broad public commitment to building and sustaining the health of the landscape and the inherent connection between a healthy economy and healthy land and waters," he says. "We have a long record of bipartisan support for that. There's always been tensions, there always will be tensions, maybe—but science has always been a way of talking across those divisions because everybody wants good information to make decisions. Now that legacy, fostered by the likes of Aldo Leopold and Gaylord Nelson, is eroding away."

Scott Walker's Wisconsin job agency gave out $124 million without review // Chicago Tribune // June 19, 2015

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More than two dozen awards worth more than $124 million were made to companies without a formal staff review by the underwriting department of Gov. Scott Walker's economic development agency, it reported Friday.

Documents detailing the awards were made public late Friday afternoon in advance of a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation board meeting on July 20 to discuss one troubled unsecured loan that went to a failing company owned by a Walker donor.

The Republican Walker, who is expected to formally launch a presidential campaign in mid-July, has been hounded by troubles with the quasi-private jobs agency he created shortly after taking office in 2011.

An internal review released Friday showed that WEDC gave out 27 award contracts to 24 companies between July 2011 and June 2013 without staff review, which WEDC said was not required at the time. Those were discovered during a review of 371 awards WEDC made in its first two years of operation.

Walker's spokeswoman Jocelyn Webster said the governor would review the documents to prepare for the discussion at the July 20 board meeting.

Rep. Peter Barca, the Assembly's Democratic leader, called the situation "outrageous." He said there are many unanswered questions about how many loans were approved over underwriters' objections.

"I am not at all confident we have even a fraction of the troubling details board members need in order to carry out our fiduciary responsibility," he said. "This is yet another example of how senior WEDC officials have kept the board and Wisconsin taxpayers in the dark about serious problems surrounding the governor's jobs agency."

Some of the companies on the list are owned or affiliated with donors to Walker's political campaigns.

Kenneth C. Stock, the chief executive of KCS International, a luxury boat builder in Oconto, donated $8,500 to Walker. Members of the Sonnentag family, which owns County Materials, have donated at least $36,000 to Walker. Laona-based WD Parket LLC, is a fifth-generation company run by the Connor family, longtime Republican donors.

The three highest un-reviewed awards all came through the enterprise zone program. The largest, $62.5 million, went to Kohl's Department Stores for an expansion of its corporate headquarters on June 28, 2012, for a project that was expected to create 3,000 jobs but that has created just 473 so far.

The next highest was $18 million to Kestrel Aircraft Company for an expected 665 jobs, but just 24 have been created. The third highest was $15 million to Plexus Corp. to create 350 jobs, but none have been created, according to a tally provided by WEDC.

Of the 27 awards, just over 6,100 jobs were expected to be created, but to date only about 2,100 have been. Nearly 8,900 jobs have been retained, according to WEDC. The projects made about $490 million in investment, the report said.

One of the 27 unsecured awards was a $500,000 loan to the now-defunct Milwaukee construction company Building Committee Inc. that was collapsing at the time and created no jobs. That was among several loans questioned by state auditors that led Walker in May to call for scrapping the loan program.

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The loan to BCI came after its owner William Minahan had given Walker's 2010 gubernatorial campaign a last-minute $10,000 donation on Election Day — the maximum individual contribution.

A memo from Jake Kuester, the vice president of credit and risk at WEDC, outlined what he called an "extensive review" of all awards the agency made worth more than $200,000 during its first two years in operation.

Kuester said employees of the former Department of Commerce, which WEDC replaced, said it was an "acceptable practice" for the secretary of the agency to approve an award with no formal written staff review "when the need to be flexible and reactive to a business's needs warranted it. That practice was carried forward into WEDC during its early days."

In July 2013, the WEDC board approved a new policy that included requiring a written review on all program awards. Since then, WEDC says it has approved more than 760 awards, all of which were reviewed by staff.

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie rips Rand Paul on the Patriot Act // Politico // Daniel Strauss – June 19, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie lit into Sen. Rand Paul on Friday over his efforts to force the expiration of the PATRIOT Act.

The governor and likely 2016 Republican presidential candidate devoted a chunk of his speech at the Faith & Freedom Coalition's Road to Majority conference to hitting Paul for successfully causing parts of the PATRIOT Act to expire.

Christie didn't mention Paul by name, but it was clear he was referring to the Kentucky Republican senator's efforts to alter the anti-terrorism law.

"These types of actions, I'm telling you from experience, are shortsighted. And these same people who give these long speeches up on Capitol Hill if, God forbid, there is some kind of other attack in this country, will be the first ones to [drag] the CIA director and the FBI director up to Capitol Hill, put them under oath and excoriate them for not connecting the dots and not preventing the attacks," Christie said.

In late May, Paul was able to cause parts of the PATRIOT Act to expire through procedural tactics that delayed the law's renewal. Christie suggested in his speech Friday that the move was really about Paul raising money and his profile for his presidential bid.

"This is about life and death for our country, and I stand for keeping America safe and making America strong and not giving political speeches on the floor of the Senate to raise money for a political campaign," Christie said.

KASICH

Operation replace Jeb Bush // Politico // Alex Isenstadt – June 19, 2015

Sensing the window of opportunity is closing, John Kasich is on a last-minute dash across the country to convince

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party donors and power-brokers that there's room for one more candidate in the most crowded Republican presidential field in decades.

The Ohio governor, who's expected to formally announce his White House bid next month, is jetting to America's political money capitals — from Dallas to New York City to Palm Beach — with the goal of securing the financial support he'll need to wage a 2016 campaign.

He's huddled with Ann Romney at a lavish Utah ski resort and pushed to win the backing of a powerful longtime friend, media mogul Rupert Murdoch. He's also tried to convince Ohio's deepest-pocketed donors to keep their powder dry and not commit until he gets into the race.

The case for his candidacy is grounded in his record as a popular swing state governor. But part of his sell to donors is that Jeb Bush has run an ineffective campaign, creating an opening for a candidate who happens to fit Kasich's own profile.

At times, Kasich, who waged a disappointing campaign for the GOP nomination in 2000 and lacks the national profile of many of his would-be 2016 rivals, has faced tough questions about whether he's getting in too late.

During one meeting, which took place about two weeks ago, the governor grew angry when a major Republican Party contributor pointed out that others had already formally launched their campaigns and built expansive teams of political advisers. "You don't know what you're talking about," Kasich snapped at the donor, who wished to remain anonymous because the meeting was private. It was still early, Kasich insisted, and Bush, who had endured a rocky rollout, was "losing steam."

Kasich's temper has made it harder to endear himself to the GOP's wealthy benefactors. Last year, he traveled to Southern California to appear on a panel at a conference sponsored by the Republican mega-donors Charles and David Koch. At one point, according to accounts provided by two sources present, Randy Kendrick, a major contributor and the wife of Ken Kendrick, the owner of the Arizona Diamondbacks, rose to say she disagreed with Kasich's decision to expand Medicaid coverage, and questioned why he'd expressed the view it was what God wanted.

The governor's response was fiery. "I don't know about you, lady," he said as he pointed at Kendrick, his voice rising. "But when I get to the pearly gates, I'm going to have an answer for what I've done for the poor."

The exchange left many stunned. About 20 audience members walked out of the room, and two governors also on the panel, Nikki Haley of South Carolina and Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, told Kasich they disagreed with him. The Ohio governor has not been invited back to a Koch seminar — opportunities for presidential aspirants to mingle with the party's rich and powerful — in the months since.

A Kasich spokesman, Chris Schrimpf, declined to comment on the episode.

As he travels the country, Kasich, a two-term governor who spent nearly two decades in the House of Representatives, has made a forceful case for why there's room for him in the race and has said that the fluid nature of the contest guarantees that the dynamics will shift before the primary season intensifies.

In his talks with the party's top donors — a group that includes retail king Les Wexner and publishing magnate John Wolfe — Kasich, 63, has argued that other candidates had failed to coalesce the party behind them. And he has suggested they consider holding off on giving to other contenders, or at least consider contributing to him as well.

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In his conversations with some of the party's top statewide leaders, he's pointed out that Bush had been unsuccessful in steamrolling the competition — as, he's fond of pointing out, he was expected to do.

"It's a year-and-a half before the election," said Matt Borges, the Ohio Republican Party chairman and a staunch Kasich ally. "It's not that the landscape might change. It's that the landscape will change."

Those briefed on Kasich's plans say he's begun a concerted push to lock down the support of Murdoch, the Australian-born media tycoon who is an influential voice in conservative circles, and was hopeful he could be brought aboard. The two have long been close: Murdoch was Kasich's boss during his six-year tenure as Fox News host, and during Kasich's 2010 gubernatorial bid he persuaded Murdoch to make a $1 million contribution to the Republican Governors Association. When they are both in New York City, Kasich and Murdoch make plans to see one another.

But Murdoch, those familiar with the effort say, hasn't yet committed to Kasich, and has said he has many friends in the contest. He has pointed to Bush, Scott Walker, and Chris Christie as candidates he particularly admires.

There's little question that Bush is a serious obstacle to Kasich. Both see themselves as serious, cerebral men with unrivaled policy chops. And both are seeking to win over the party's pro-business establishment. Leaving nothing to chance, in recent months, the former Florida governor has launched a mission to secure support in Ohio, robbing Kasich of prospective fundraising dollars in his home state before he gets his campaign off the ground.

Two of Ohio's biggest Republican givers, Wexner and businessman Mercer Reynolds, recently cut checks to Bush, who's brought on Heather Larrison, a top fundraiser for Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, to help introduce him to the state's Republican benefactors. And while House Speaker John Boehner, who remains a force in Ohio politics, has stopped short of endorsing Bush, there's little question about where his allegiances lie. Last year, Boehner praised the former Florida governor by saying that he "has a record of serious, big reforms" and that he would have "a real shot" at winning the White House.

For Kasich, it's an ironic twist. Running for president in 2000, Kasich, then a congressman, found himself gasping for air when George W. Bush dominated in the race for money and endorsements. Kasich would drop out before the primary season got under way, and in the years after, he would tell friends that he was stung by the loss.

Today, another Bush is standing in his way. But as he prepares to enter the 2016 maw, Kasich's advisers insist he's a different candidate — and one with more financial support. He's gathered a formidable group of donors that is expected to include manufacturing company executive Karen Wright and venture capitalist Mark Kvamme.

"What that experience taught him was that he wasn't really ready," said Doug Preisse, the Franklin County Republican Party chairman and a longtime top Kasich political adviser, noting that historically, it's been difficult for a member of the House to seek the presidency. "The difference is that he's 15 years older, and he's the executive of the seventh-largest state in the union."

Kasich isn't simply focused on raising dollars. He's also racing to increase his profile, hoping that it will boost his standing in national polls so he can qualify for the first Republican debate, slated for August in Cleveland. If he doesn't get in, it would prove embarrassing — and potentially damaging to his prospects. In recent weeks, Kasich — who at times during his gubernatorial tenure has been media-shy — has made himself a regular figure on the Sunday show circuit.

Unlike most candidates who attended a Republican donor retreat in Park City, Utah, Kasich went out of his way to make himself accessible to the reporters covering the event. He hung out in a media room, joked around with

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journalists, and made time for a 15-minute press conference.

The only thing he didn't want to talk about, it seemed, was the thing he got asked about the most: Bush. Just days earlier, while stumping in New Hampshire, Kasich had said, "I thought Jeb would just suck all the air out of the room, and it just hasn't happened."

"You know, I said some things in New Hampshire about the fact that I wouldn't have gotten in if I thought there was a clear winner," Kasich said in Utah, adding: "I'm done talking about Jeb Bush, OK? I like Jeb."

OTHER

GOP Presidential Candidates: The More the Scarier // RealClearPolitics // Jonathan Riehl & David B. Frisk - June 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton apparently doesn't scare the Republican Party, since a candidate roster of unprecedented size is amassing in search of the party's presidential nomination. But the very size of that overcrowded field is diminishing GOP chances of retaking the White House in 2016.

For centrist voters, the chaotic array of candidates will reinforce an impression that except for criticizing the incumbent president, the GOP lacks focus. Meanwhile the Democrats will, perhaps fitfully, draw toward their center of gravity. The challenge Clinton faces in maximizing unity and enthusiasm before her coronation as nominee is not trivial, as Bernie Sanders' unexpected strength in the recent Wisconsin Democratic convention straw poll reveals. But Clinton's intra-party difficulties look trivial compared with those a ridiculously crowded field presents to the GOP.

This is all the truer because base Republican voters are juggling a complicated set of criteria that makes it hard for them to settle on what "best nominee" actually means. With no clear leader, the conservative ship of state is truly adrift – notwithstanding any half-hearted protestations about the embarrassment of riches.

An important factor in lengthening the candidate roster and also making a quick winnowing unlikely is a long decline in political discipline among conservatives, who for many decades have dominated the Republican electorate. One notable result of this indiscipline is trouble judging who is most worth backing in a presidential race – the proliferation of fuzzy thinking about who is most likely to win a general election, remain true to conservative principles, and deliver for conservatives as president. This situation results from at least two causes. One is conservatives' and libertarians' ambivalent attitude toward power and therefore toward practical, as distinct from merely expressive, politics. The other is their long record of frustration with presidential power and federal authority.

Despite their substantial success within the GOP, some of these voters have felt increasingly alienated from a political system that has produced such limited policy victories for them in the half century since conservatives flouted the party's moderate establishment to nominate the unabashedly ideological Barry Goldwater. In addition, the famous "Buckley Rule" from that era, accurately attributed to the founding editor of National Review — that the party should nominate the rightmost viable candidate — has been widely preached but little fulfilled.

What William F. Buckley Jr. meant was that the party should focus on someone who would clearly advance the conservative cause even if he didn't win. Even by that modest standard, it would be hard to choose from among the current crop of contenders on the Republican right. How has Ted Cruz, for example, demonstrated any ability to nudge large swaths of voters in his direction, even in a losing cause? As for winning a national election while advancing conservatism's broader agenda, Ronald Reagan may be the only nominee who ever pulled off that trick. In that sense Reagan succeeded where Goldwater did not. But in the 2016 field, the Republicans don't appear to have a Reagan or a Goldwater. They do have a Bush, but that's part of the problem, not the solution.

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To cite one result of the dysfunctional criteria many conservatives now apply to nomination contests: Organizers of the early debates will probably feel compelled to include Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson even if their poll numbers are statistically nonexistent — lest conservatives accuse them of favoring insiders. Symbolic politics are too much at work. Conservatism and its postwar legacy of intellectual seriousness are in real peril.

The crowded debate stages will prevent any one or two candidates from making a strong enough impression to actually begin shaping the Republican field. Worse, the teeming cast will allow far too little time for viewers to learn much about candidates or issues — a problem not just for democratic citizenship, but for the GOP's morale and sense of identity as well. The overcrowding will also tend to dangerously delay the emergence of strong motivation for any particular candidate among volunteers and donors, even if they have early inclinations toward one or another. (Each candidate of any prominence will have some deeply, durably committed backers. But not, we think, a very significant number.) The existence and likely continuance of a plethora of campaigns will also multiply occasions for resentment among the supporters of various candidates, or types of candidates, as the looming battle is joined. And finally, all of this proceduralism will waste even more Republican money in the primary phase than would be the case anyway.

Furthermore, even if conservatives did promptly zero in on the questions that actually matter most to their cause, this candidate field would be hard to judge. A thumbnail sketch of the higher-profile Republican hopefuls' key assets and liabilities suggests the trouble that primary voters will have in deciding who is most electable and politically trustworthy — and therefore ending, reasonably soon, what promises to be a dangerously long primary season for the GOP.

Jeb Bush would insure the GOP against the risks of relative inexperience, can be expected to show strong command of many issues, and wouldn't offend centrist independents. But his name and the dynastic factor are backward-looking minuses — and he isn't likely to win the hearts of social conservatives or immigration restrictionists, two constituencies that exert significant pressure on the nominating process, or the many Republicans who distrust the politics of compromise and incrementalism.

Ben Carson breaks the party's supposedly damaging "white male" image — and does so as an outspoken conservative. His combination of geniality, superior achievement in a profession far more popular than the corporate world, and fearless denunciation of the left could be formidable, but he's never held or run for office, and is given to the kind of impolitic gaffes that invariably bedevil political amateurs.

Ted Cruz has a strong aura of self-promotion, and something rings hollow in his rhetoric, (and his thin Senate record) especially if he is standing next to someone like fellow freshman Sen. Rand Paul. But he can motivate conservatives, and with his public speaking skills might be able to get others to listen.

Carly Fiorina is the Hillary Clinton antidote, at least as far as gender demographics are concerned, but her resume stands in stark contrast to the Democrats' frontrunner. Clinton is a former first lady, U.S. senator, and secretary of state—though not without critics of her role as the nation's top diplomat. Fiorina is a corporate CEO with a mixed record of success and a failed Senate candidate.

Mike Huckabee has, like Jeb Bush, "run" a state. Uniquely among the candidates, he also has experience dealing with the Clinton machine back home in Arkansas. More than most in the field, he understands the economic plight of working and middle-class Americans. And his commitment to social conservatism is genuine and appreciated by the GOP base, but may have limited appeal. Those traits might make him a more formidable primary season candidate than his current poll numbers suggest, but his social conservatism could render him unelectable in November 2016.

Rand Paul capitalizes credibly on the anti-Washington mood —giving the impression of an honest, committed, independent thinker who would rather be right than president. But his tendency toward isolationism — even if he pref ers it to be called non-interventionism — is simply not in sync with most Republicans' foreign policy views.

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Marco Rubio, the third of the GOP's troika of freshmen senators, is a fresh face, projects inclusiveness and optimism, and is especially quick and articulate. Like Cruz, he is Hispanic and speaks evocatively of the immigrant experience. But many conservatives also want a candidate who can speak convincingly of the great danger they believe the country is in — and who is comfortable "going negative." He may not be able to.

Scott Walker has an impressive gubernatorial and electoral record, beating back the twin bogeymen of public-employee unions and MSNBC (in the person of Ed Schultz) for good measure. But does he have the charisma the role demands? His network of think tank leaders, opinion leaders, and donors is impressive to insiders, but does he come across as presidential? Will his lack of gravitas give voters pause?

Republican candidates struggle to talk about race, guns // Politico // Eli Stokols and Daniel Strauss – June 19, 2015

Republican presidential candidates are struggling to characterize the motivation behind the tragic mass shooting in Charleston, S.C., with only Ben Carson speaking quickly and forcefully about the role of race in the killing of nine people in a historically black church this week.

"If we don't pay close attention to the hatred and division in our nation, it is just a harbinger of what we can expect," said Carson, who stands apart from the rest of the GOP field as a rare African-American conservative.

The Faith and Freedom Coalition, at which many of the Republican contenders are appearing this week, showed the party's overall discomfort with talking about race and guns.

While the Justice Department quickly opened up a hate crime investigation into the killings, carried out by a 21-year-old white man, and Hillary Clinton argued the tragedy should force America to focus on "hard truths" about race, guns, violence, and divisions, Republicans were initially reluctant to attribute the murders to racism.

Some of the earliest reactions argued that the shooting at the A.M.E. Church in Charleston was really an attack on religious liberty and a matter of good versus evil. But by Friday afternoon much of the field suggested that the shooting was (at the very least) related to race.

"The idea that anyone would walk into a church and pray with the people he intended to murder is depraved," said New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who spoke Friday morning. "It's unthinkable."

Early on in the conference, several Republican candidates who touched on the Charleston shooting here — only Marco Rubio, who spoke Thursday, completely ignored it — chose to focus on the fact that it happened inside "a House of God."

Though he spoke about race when urging Republicans to become a "party of minority rights," Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, ascribed the killings to "people straying away" from faith.

"There's a sickness in our country," he said. "There's something terribly wrong but it isn't going to be fixed by your government … It's people not understanding where salvation comes from."

That same day, former senator Rick Santorum described the shooting as a "crime of hate" and pegged it as a "assault on religious liberty."

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Jeb Bush, who emphasized his conservative bona fides at the conference, was cautious when asked whether he thought the shooting was racially motivated.

"Looks like it to me it was, but we'll find out all the information," Bush said Friday at the conference during a hallway interview, according to spokesman Tim Miller . "It's clear it was an act of raw hatred, for sure. Nine people lost their lives, and they were African American. You can judge what it is."

During his remarks just before from the stage, however, the former Florida governor told the crowd that he didn't know "what was on the mind or heart of the man who committed these atrocious crimes.

"I do know —I do know what was in the heart of the victims. They were meeting in brotherhood and sisterhood in that church."

The candidates' hedges and wobbles are at odds with the facts that have emerged about the alleged killer, Dylann Storm Roof. His own Facebook page, his statements to law enforcement officers and media reports quoting those who know him show strong connections to white supremacy beliefs.

Bush's initial avoidance of that reality mirrored that of Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who acknowledged the obvious racial aspect of the shooting only after being asked by reporters after his speech.

"What I noticed is that the entire country is now standing shoulder to shoulder with the minority community, the African American community in South Carolina, and God bless them," he said. Asked whether the shooting was a hate crime, Kasich replied, "There's nine people dead…you read what they say about the guy, it sure appears that way."

Speaking to the crowd of several hundred religious conservatives, Bush, Christie and others called for prayer and little else.

"Laws can't change this," he said. "Only the good will and love of the American people can let folks know that an act like this is unacceptable."

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal opened his remarks by himself leading a long prayer, expressing grief for the victims, their families and the Charleston community; he prayed that God brings comfort to children asking their parents "about the realities of evil."

Bush, while acknowledging that the shooting "has had a big effect on me", encouraged the audience to turn inward for solace in the shooting's aftermath.

"We must continue to bear witness to the truth that God acts through us; and that, even in crisis, even in desperate times, we can always walk upright as brothers and sisters and look to the havens and know that we're children of God," Bush said.

"Let's hope it never happens again."

GOPers road-test their religious messages // Politico // Kyle Cheney, Katie Glueck, and Eli Stokols – June 19, 2015

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Jeb Bush invoked Terri Schiavo. Rand Paul called for cutting foreign aid to countries that "persecute Christians." And Ted Cruz warned that a Supreme Court decision legalizing gay marriage would amount to "naked and lawless judicial activism."

Washington's annual social conservative cattle call, a three-day event hosted by the Faith & Freedom Coalition, has so far amounted to a message test for a dozen Republicans running for president, each tailoring rhetoric they hope resonates among the religious right.

Some quoted scripture and others hewed closely to their stump speeches. But the ones who found particular favor with their audience — a potent force in GOP primary politics — described a conservative Christian community under siege by government, Democrats and an increasingly godless society.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal warned of an "assault on religious liberty" in America. Paul called it "a sickness." Bush said freedom of religion was "under attack." But few were more hot-blooded than Cruz, who argued that a recent battle in Indiana over a religious freedom law — ripped by opponents as an attack on gay rights — exposed many of his Republican competitors as weak-kneed.

"More than few Republicans, sadly, even more than a few Republican running for president in 2016, chose that moment to go rearrange their sock drawer," he said. Cruz referenced William Barret Travis, who, according to legend, drew a line in the sand with his saber to determine which of his men were willing to die defending the Alamo. "You choose which side of the line you're on," Cruz said.

The candidates are betting that the moment is right to mobilize evangelicals and other Christians worried about the erosion of religious values in America. The latest blow, they fear, will come later this month, when the Supreme Court is set to decide whether same-sex marriage is legal nationwide. That anxiety was on display throughout the conference, which included a panel discussion dubbed "The War on Christianity" and it was threaded through many speeches by non-candidates too — Rep. Steve King called for "civil disobedience" if the Supreme Court supports gay marriage.

Bush, who has run afoul of the GOP base by supporting immigration reform and Common Core education standards, emphasized his Catholicism and social conservatism.

"We shouldn't push aside those who believe in traditional marriage," he said, touching on a subject he rarely brings up during his forays into Iowa and New Hampshire.

As he did in his announcement speech in Miami Monday, Bush focused on his belief in religious freedom and blasted Hillary Clinton and the Obama administration for suing Hobby Lobby and Little Sisters of the Poor over their religious objections to Obamacare.

"Religious freedom now is under attack more than ever before," Bush said, as he defended religion generally as "the greatest force for good in the world."

"If we act on our faith everyday, we're going to create a more just, more loving world," Bush said.

The former Florida governor reminded the audience of his intervention on behalf of Schiavo's family in the 2005 right-to-die case in an effort to keep her alive.

"When I was asked to intervene on behalf of a woman who could not speak up for herself…I stood on her side,"

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Bush said.

He also emphasized his work during two terms as Florida governor regulating abortion clinics, signing a bill into law requiring parental notification and another banning partial-birth abortions.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie also mentioned abortion, albeit obliquely, telling the audience it's important to support people before and after they're born.

"I believe if you are pro-life, as I am, you need to be pro-life for the whole life," Christie said, pivoting to his own record and his administration's prioritizing of drug treatment over incarceration for nonviolent offenders and its support for expanding educational opportunity through charter schools. "You can't just afford to be pro-life when the human being is in the womb."

In fact, the issue of abortion rarely came up in the candidates' comments. Cruz, Paul and Sen. Marco Rubio barely discussed it at all. It was left largely to other speakers — Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson and Iowa's King — to broach the subject with any force.

The forum, which continues Saturday with speeches from Carly Fiorina and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, also offered a chance for underperforming candidates to find new energy.

Jindal trails badly in early polling, but on Friday, he found a receptive audience, earning one of the most enthusiastic receptions of the morning. Jindal, who is expected to announce for president next week, tapped into the siege mentality that has gripped many religious conservatives, charging that under the Obama administration, the ability to freely practice faith is under attack. He blasted the Obamacare contraception coverage mandate that became an issue for Hobby Lobby, described his path to Catholicism — he converted from Hinduism — and jabbed at Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, who once opposed same-sex marriage, saying, "My views on marriage are not evolving with the polls."

The Louisiana governor was one of the earliest and consistently loudest voices supporting the Indiana religious freedom measure and, like Cruz, tore into businesses that opposed the law.

"I've got a message for big business: You're now in bed with the folks who want to tax you and regulate you," he charged.

To big applause, Jindal argued, "The United States of America did not create religious liberty. Religious liberty created the United States of America."

Even former New York Gov. George Pataki, whose barely perceptible presidential campaign launched last month, found that standing up for religious liberty could energize his audience. He quoted St. Francis of Assisi and hailed a recent Supreme Court ruling preventing limits on pastors who wish to advertise when they hold services.

Others tested mellower messages and mixed in stories about the role of faith in their lives, like Ben Carson, who quoted proverbs and emphasized a belief that God (not evolution) created humanity. He said that God helped him find his wife more than 40 years ago, after years of ignoring romantic relationships to focus on his studies.

"He's available if we just ask him for stuff in terms of our faith," he said.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich — who's taken flak from Republicans for invoking God to justify controversial decisions — spent the bulk of his speech … invoking god to justify controversial decisions.

"I have a mission and I have a role on this Earth, but I'm trying to prepare myself for the world to come," he said, describing his policy decisions to aid the working poor through Medicaid expansion and through de-emphasizing

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incarceration for convicts with mental health issues. It just so happens, he said, that those decisions made good politics, too, leading to a resounding reelection last year in which he won a quarter of the African American vote and a majority of women.

“Why did that happen? Hope returned,” he said, adding, “That’s what has to happen in America.”

Top Republican Candidates Tread Lightly on Gay marriage at Evangelical Summit // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur and Josh Eidelson – June 19, 2015

There was an elephant stalking the room this week at the Faith & Freedom Coalition's annual Washington meeting, and it wasn't of the crowd-pleasing Republican variety. The Supreme Court's imminent ruling on same-sex marriage has Republican presidential candidates caught between a general election electorate that’s rapidly embracing gay rights, and a large faction of the party's evangelical base that's still steadfast in its opposition.

Same-sex marriage, which the Republican Party successfully wielded as a wedge issue just a decade ago, now commands the support of three-fifths of Americans. Many legal scholars expect the Supreme Court to legalize same-sex marriage in all 50 states before the justices conclude their term by the end of the month.

The result: Delicate footwork by the Republicans most likely to win the nomination — and therefore wanting to preserve their opportunity with swing voters — and red meat rhetoric from long-shot competitors anxious to gain ground with the evangelical constituency that can often determine primary and caucus winners. The differences in how they addressed the crowd were stark.

The Red Meat Contingent

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas accused Democrats of pushing "mandatory gay marriage in all 50 states," and warned that a judicial victory for gay marriage advocates could lead to government persecution of Christian churches and schools. He asked the crowd to pray that the justices “not engage in an act of naked and lawless judicial activism, tearing down the marriage laws adopted pursuant to the Constitution."

Cruz also cited this year’s controversies over two states’ religious freedom bills, where Republican governors and state lawmakers backtracked following protests over the prospect that the laws would shield anti-gay discrimination. “Every one of us, our hearts broke a couple months ago in Indiana and Arkansas,” the Texan said, before adding "more than a few Republicans running for president in 2016 chose that moment somehow to go and rearrange their sock drawer." The crowd ate it up.

Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum, the party's runner-up in 2012 who's running again in 2016, stressed his history of fighting gay marriage and urged the crowd while evaluating candidates to "look at their track record" and willingness to lead, "particularly on the cultural issues."

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal cast the issue of same-sex marriage as an overarching battle about whether Americans truly have freedom of religion and speech.

"Unlike President [Barack] Obama and Hillary Clinton, my views on marriage are not evolving with the polls. I believe in traditional marriage between a man and a woman," said the potential Republican candidate. "This fight is bigger than marriage... This fight is about religious liberty. This fight is about whether you really do have First Amendment rights.

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"I'll summarize this in a way that even the liberals and Hollywood can understand: The United States of America did not create religious liberty, religious liberty created the United States of America," he said.

Other candidates seemed aware of the changing poll numbers, delivering remarks that suggested sympathy with the crowd without leaving a trail of tell-tale soundbites that Democrats might use against them

The Front Runners

"While there are people that disagree with this, we should not push aside those that do believe in traditional marriage," said former Florida Governor Jeb Bush. "I for one believe it's important, and I think it's gotta be important over the long haul irrespective of what the courts say."

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida didn't mention same-sex marriage, but made a veiled reference to it when he argued that "the government is not meant to replace moms and dads, it is meant to empower them."

"We see an erosion in our culture and in our values," he added. "You cannot have strong families with a government that strong-arms parents and our faith."

Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky emphasized the importance of virtue and the rights of minority religious views, but didn't directly address same-sex marriage. "We believe that our rights come naturally from God," he told the crowd, "and that a majority shouldn't take them away from us."

The pledge

The National Organization for Marriage on Thursday released a pledge which would commit candidates to back a constitutional amendment restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples, in an attempt to overturn an unfavorable Supreme Court ruling, and to have the Justice Department investigate harassment of same-sex marriage opponents. Iowa Congressman Steve King used his Faith & Freedom speech Thursday to reiterate his call for "civil disobedience" if the Supreme Court sides with same-sex couples, a prospect he compared to its rulings in Roe v. Wade and Dred Scott, the 1857 pro-slavery decision.

If they're defeated at the Supreme Court, some same-sex marriage opponents want presidential candidates to show similar commitment. "I would hope that they would strike that [ruling] down, and just do what our Founding Fathers said to do and what the Bible says to do," said Faith and Freedom attendee Gary Cuprisin, a 69 year-old retired chef. If a ruling in favor of gay marriage stands, he said, "what I've heard on the talk radio is that every law, and everything that says 'man and woman' and 'family' is going to have to be struck from the records."

But even at the conference of the Faith & Freedom Coalition — the group Ralph Reed founded as 'a 21st-century version of the Christian Coalition on steroids' — others were ready to move on if same-sex marriage becomes the law of the land. "I don't think they should amend the constitution," said South Carolina insurance agent Donna Snyder. 'If the Supreme Court says it, then I will go along with it, because they are the rulers of the land ultimately."

Post-Charleston, Republicans Urge Prayers But No Action // Real Clear Politics // Rebecca Berg – June 19, 2015

In the aftermath of the mass shooting Wednesday at an African-American church in Charleston, S.C., Republican candidates for president have offered heartfelt prayers and solemn condolences.

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They have also derided a culture of hate that might have caused suspect Dylann Roof, 21, to shoot and kill nine people.

But few have suggested that the government should act in response. On the contrary, many GOP candidates are insisting that lawmakers cannot solve the problems at the root of this and other such tragedies.

“There's a sickness in our country. There's something terribly wrong,” Sen. Rand Paul said Thursday at a conference in Washington, D.C., hosted by the conservative Faith and Freedom Coalition. “But it isn't going to be fixed by your government.”

That thinking reflects not only his party’s steadfast support for the Second Amendment and its opposition to restrictive gun laws, but also the small-government theme that anchors many of the Republican presidential campaigns and the party at large.

In an interview Friday with RealClearPolitics, Ben Carson said he believes the shooting represents not a regulatory problem but a cultural one, which would require cultural solutions.

“There’s something that we can all do, and that is to begin to teach real values and principles to our young people. That’s the only way you’re going to solve this problem,” Carson said. “This young man obviously was not brought up in the right environment, because he would not have harbored such hatred if he had been. That’s what we need to be working on.

“In terms of government regulations, that’s not going to do anything,” Carson added. “If you have an evil heart, government regulation isn’t going to help you.”

Likewise, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie on Friday characterized the shooting as a “depraved” and “unthinkable” act. But, he said, “laws can’t change this.”

“Only the goodwill and love of the American people can let folks know that act was unacceptable,” Christie said in his speech to the Faith and Freedom gathering.

Democrats have presented a starkly different picture of the root causes of mass violence in American society and of the regulatory path forward, urging government action to prevent such events in the future, including more stringent gun control laws.

“How many people do we need to see cut down before we act?” Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, said Thursday.

That call for action was echoed Thursday by President Obama, delivering his 14th statement in response to an act of gun violence while president.

“At some point, we as a country will have to reckon with the fact that this type of mass violence does not happen in other advanced countries. It doesn't happen in other places with this kind of frequency,” Obama said. “It is in our power to do something about it. ... I say that [while] recognizing the politics in this town foreclose a lot of those avenues right now."

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The divide between Democrats and Republicans mirrors the chasm so apparent in the aftermath of the 2012 school shooting in Newtown, Conn., where 20 children and six adults were killed. Although the president took a series of executive actions in response, Congress did not approve any new legislation.

On Friday, one Republican candidate for president, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, broke with his party, saying he is "open-minded" about improving the system of background checks for gun owners and taking into account mental illnesses.

"I own a bunch of guns, and I haven't hurt anybody. But there is something wrong with the background system," Graham told CNN. "... There's probably a million people who have been adjudicated by a court to be mentally unstable whose records are not in the national background system."

But that remark put Graham in the minority, with most of his peers recommending a considerably more passive approach.

At the Faith and Freedom event Friday, Jeb Bush urged only this: “Let’s hope it never ever ever happens again.”

Wilmore: Santorum, Fox News on Charleston ‘Makes My Fking Head Explode’ // TPM // Brendan James – June 19, 2015**

While his colleague Jon Stewart decided not to tell any jokes on Thursday after the killing of nine people in Charleston, S.C., Larry Wilmore had more to say.

"Even on a day like today, Fox News just makes my fucking head explode," the host of "The Nightly Show" said.

He ran a montage of clips showing Fox frame the attack of a historically black church as an "attack on faith," in the words of "Fox & Friends" co-anchor Elizabeth Hasselbeck, and actively downplay the idea it was a racially-motivated attack.

Wilmore was stunned, referencing the evidence and replaying the clips reporting shooter Dylann Roof's racism and statements to the victims like, "you are raping our women and taking over the country.”

"Nice try anyway, Fox," Wilmore said.

Next he turned to presidential candidate and former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA), who echoed the Fox line, saying the attack was an assault on "religious liberty."

Wilmore pointed out that when four black girls were killed in a church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963, there wasn't a question about motive.

"Back then, no one pretended to wonder what the motivation was," he said. "If you tried to say it was about religion, even the perpetrators would have corrected you."

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Watch the clip, courtesy of Comedy Central.

RNC raised $9.3M in May // The Hill // Ben Kamisar – June 19, 2015

The Republican National Committee raised $9.3 million in May, a figure first shared with The Hill, growing its campaign fund to almost $15 million for the competitive 2016 election cycle.

The figures, to be released on Friday, show 98 percent of those donations were $200 and under, with an average donation of $92.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus told The Hill in a statement that the committee is "incredibly grateful for the strong support."

"There is clearly enthusiasm on the Republican side to take the fight directly to Hillary Clinton and the Democrats and to put a Republican back in the White House," he said. "Our supporters understand the importance of investing early in ground game infrastructure, staff and volunteer training, voter engagement, and data and digital operations.

"We're laying the groundwork for our nominee earlier than ever before. While Hillary Clinton has already lost the trust of the majority of Americans, Republicans are working every day in communities across the country to earn the trust of new voters and first-time voters, sharing our values and listening to their concerns," Priebus added.

The May haul is slightly less than the $10.1 million the committee raised in April. The RNC has now raised more than $45 million in the 2016 cycle and holds $1.8 million in debt, according to the new figures.

The Democratic National Committee has not yet released its May figures, with one more day to file before the Federal Election Commission's deadline. In April, the party raised $4.9 million, bringing its cash on hand to more than $8.2 million with a total of $21 million raised in the 2016 election cycle.

With its fundraising figures set to go public within days, the DNC also held about $5.4 million in debt as of April.

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Today in Politics: Charleston Shooting Leads to a Campaign Pause // NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 19, 2015

The killing of nine people at a predominantly African-American church in South Carolina, where the gunman was said to have sat and prayed with his victims before unleashing violence, will leave a lasting impression on the state and has already affected the dynamics of the 2016 presidential race.

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The magnitude and maliciousness of the crime will linger in national discussions. It is unclear whether Democrats, who tried in vain to pass a federal gun-control bill in early 2013 along with some center-right Republicans in Congress, will broach that politically difficult issue in their campaigns.

Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a Republican presidential hopeful, denounced the violence. Jeb Bush canceled his planned appearances in the state.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, a Democratic candidate for president, had left Charleston, where the shootings took place, just before the violence occurred. In an appearance in Nevada on Thursday, Mrs. Clinton called for facing "hard truths" about race, policing and gun violence. She did not make an explicit call for gun-control measures, which bedeviled President Obama after the school massacre in Newtown, Conn., in December 2012. But the question of race in America is going to be critical as the nation looks toward the post-Obama era.

Other Democrats also weighed in. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who has voted against gun-control bills in the past, emailed his list of supporters seeking donations to the church where the shootings took place, and canceled what had been a large rally planned in the state this weekend. Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, posted a note of prayer for the victims on Twitter.

NRA board members blames pastor for Charleston deaths **// Politico // Nick Gass – June 19, 2015**

A board member for the National Rifle Association blamed the gun-control position of South Carolina state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, a pastor who was killed in Wednesday night's shooting at a historic black church in Charleston, for the deaths of his congregation.

If had voted to allow gun owners to carry their own weapons, Charles Cotton wrote, "eight of his church members ... might be alive."

A spokesman for the NRA told POLITICO, "Individual board members do not speak for the NRA and and do not have the authority to speak for the NRA."

Cotton, who according to his bio page has been a board member for 13 years, also moderates TexasCHLforum.com, described as "the focal point for Texas firearms information and discussions."

In one thread discussing the shooting at Emanuel AME Church on Thursday morning, a user with the name ShootDonTalk wrote: "Something else to consider: The pastor of this church, who was killed, is a State Legislator in S.C."

"And he voted against concealed-carry. Eight of his church members who might be alive if he had expressly allowed members to carry handguns in church are dead," Cotton responded to the post on Thursday afternoon. "Innocent people died because of his position on a political issue."

The bill that Pinckney voted against in 2011 would have permitted gun owners to bring guns into public places like churches and daycare centers. It ultimately failed.

Gov. Nikki Haley addresses a full church during a prayer vigil held at Morris Brown AME Church for the victims of Wednesday's shooting at Emanuel AME Church on Thursday, June 18, 2015 in Charleston, S.C. Dylann Storm Roof, 21, was arrested Thursday in the slayings of several people, including the pastor, at a prayer meeting inside the historic black church.

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According to an NRA site, Cotton has also been elected to the Board of Trustees of the NRA Civil Rights Defense Fund. Following the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, Cotton wrote that President Barack Obama, Michael Bloomberg, George Soros and others were trying to use the event to launch their “anti-gun response.”

“The shameful truth is that the Obama-Bloomberg Coalition used the Sandy Hook shootings as a Hollywood-like soundstage to launch their long planned attack on the Second Amendment,” he wrote at the time.

McConnell promises Senate vote on late-term abortion bill // AP // Alan Fram – June 19, 2015

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell promised Friday that his chamber will vote on legislation banning most late-term abortions, setting the stage for a showdown over a top conservative priority that his party will likely lose.

"It's about time we begin the process of putting America into the ranks of most other civilized countries by protecting unborn children after 20 weeks in the womb," the Kentucky Republican told a conference of the conservative Faith and Freedom Coalition.

McConnell was interrupted by applause as he reminded the crowd that the measure "couldn't even get a hearing" when Democrats controlled the Senate.

"I promise you will be getting a vote," he said, though he did not specify when.

Underscoring how the issue galvanizes both sides, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee almost immediately solicited contributions from supporters, writing in an email, "When anti-women attacks are what passes for leadership, it's time for a change."

Though the GOP-run House approved similar legislation last month, it faces an uphill climb in the Senate. Republicans control that chamber with 54 seats but will need 60 votes to defeat a Democratic filibuster.

Most Democrats are sure to oppose the bill by presidential hopeful Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and some moderate Republicans could too. Among the handful of GOP senators not listed as co-sponsors Friday were Sens. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Mark Kirk of Illinois, who face potentially competitive re-election races next year.

Should it reach his desk, a veto by President Barack Obama would be all but certain.

"I hope Republicans will reverse course and focus on real challenges rather than using women's health to score political points, but if they don't, they should know that this dangerous legislation is nothing but a dead end," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., top Democrat on the Senate Health committee.

The bill makes exceptions to save the mother's life or if she was a rape victim who receives counseling or medical treatment at least 48 hours before the procedure. Also exempted would be minors who were victims of rape or incest and reported the incident to law enforcement or social service officials.

owa court allows remote dispensing of abortion pill // AP // June 19, 2015

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The Iowa Supreme Court has struck down a restriction that would have prevented doctors from administering abortion-inducing pills remotely via video teleconferencing, saying it would have placed an undue burden on a woman's right to get an abortion.

Iowa is one of only two states that offers so-called telemedicine abortions — Minnesota offers them on a smaller scale — and doctors at Iowa's urban clinics that perform abortions had been allowed to continue offering the remotely-administered abortions while the ruling was pending.

Planned Parenthood's local affiliate, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, had sued the Iowa Board of Medicine over its 2013 decision that would have required a doctor to be in the room with a patient when dispensing abortion-inducing medication.

The board cited safety concerns when it passed the rule requiring a physical examination, but Planned Parenthood and other critics said it was just another attempt by abortion rights opponents to make it harder for women to get abortions. They said the Iowa board's restriction particularly would have made it harder for women in more rural areas who don't live near the few urban clinics where doctors who perform abortions are based.

The court agreed with Planned Parenthood's argument that the rule would have placed an unconstitutional burden on women by requiring a doctor's physical presence in the room.

"Because the Board agrees the Iowa Constitution protects a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy to the same extent as the United States Constitution, we find the rule violates the Iowa Constitution," the justices wrote.

Telemedicine is becoming a more popular method of treating patients nationwide, but its use to dispense abortion-inducing medication is fairly new. Iowa was the first state in the country to offer it in 2008, and it has provided services to more than 7,000 women to date.

More than a dozen states in recent years have preemptively banned the abortion method without ever having allowed it, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a national nonprofit that follows reproductive health issues.

The Left and Right Try to Lobby Pope Francis Months Ahead of U.S. Visit // Bloomberg // Melinda Henneberger – June 19, 2015

In Rome last week, a Vatican official who had already seen Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment had this advice for a visiting American who was concerned that the pontiff was about to blame man for changing the Earth's climate: You might not want to read it, then.

That's one way Catholics have been able to avoid the disagreeable experience of ever disagreeing with their pope: Just play dumb and keep walkin'. Another strategy, though—and one that's become far more blatant under Francis—is to try and influence him by passing messages through those around him. Lobbying, in other words.

In the months leading up to the release of the encyclical, conservative American Catholics and even the oil and gas industry sent emissaries to the Vatican hoping to dissuade the Holy Father from weighing in on climate change, arguing that the science isn't settled and that cutting back on fossil fuel use would hurt rather than help the world's poor. Exxon Mobil sent several delegations to meet with Vatican officials, and a conservative Chicago-based think tank, the Heartland Institute, held a whole counter-conference on alternative climate science in Rome at the end of April. But the Pope was apparently unmoved, and the encyclical states "there is a very consistent scientific consensus that indicates that we are witnessing a worrying warming of the climatic system…Humanity is called to

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take conscience of the need to change life styles, ways of production and consumption to fight this warming, or at least the human causes that produce it or accentuate it."

Conservatives aren't the only ones who have been lobbying. Ahead of Francis's September trip to the U.S., both left- and right-leaning believers, as well as secular groups, are offering him their unsolicited counsel. Earlier this month, a delegation of about 20 American community organizers and union leaders stressed to the Vatican officials they met with how important they feel it is that Pope Francis use his U.S. pulpit to preach on criminal justice and immigration reform and institutional racism. They also want him to talk as specifically and forcefully as possible about pay so low it doesn't add up to a "living wage"—a phrase coined by the American priest John A. Ryan in his doctoral thesis at Catholic University way back in 1906.

The trip, organized by the Service Employees International Union and PICO, a national network of faith-based community organizations, felt like a big success, said Allen Stevens, a deacon at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in New Orleans and long-time PICO organizer.

"We were able to meet with a number of cardinals who advise Pope Francis," he said, and talk to them about the push to raise the minimum wage, the Black Lives Matter campaign, and the Live Free response to mass incarceration. "We wanted to make sure he clearly understands the landscape, and there's no doubt the message came through." Some cardinals prayed with them, and Stevens said that some of the cardinals even said they hoped the pope would adopt specific language proposed by the group.

Wish List

Conservative American Catholics have a very different wish list, of course, and want the Pope's men to pass on their impression that he doesn't seem to like the U.S. that much—he's never been here, after all, although his friends insist that this is simply because he hates traveling. Conservatives also see anti-Americanism in his writing about the excesses of capitalism—though his predecessors also touched on that subject. They want to hear more from him on abortion, religious liberty and the traditional family, aren't sure he should even be going to Cuba in the fall, and wonder why, with Christians being rounded up and killed in Libya, he would choose to focus on the environment, of all things.

Not all efforts to shape the message are going on inside the Vatican. Maureen Ferguson, of the conservative lay group Catholic Alliance, said, "We're not part of any direct lobbying, but we're in conversations with people putting together the visit, and we're very focused on the Philadelphia stop," where Francis will speak on the family. The central purpose of his whole visit, said Ferguson, a former official with National Right to Life, "is to talk about the beauty of church teaching on the family." Yet there is also some risk involved, she said: "Because of his off-the-cuff manner of speaking, which is marvelous and refreshing, when he says 'Who am I to judge?' that also lends itself to misunderstanding and confusion among faithful Catholics…We see our role as helping to communicate the full message."

That the pope's first trip to the U.S. comes against the backdrop of a presidential election–and one in which several of the candidates are Catholic, including Jeb Bush, Rick Santorum and Chris Christie–heightens one of the pontiff's own concerns about the visit, according to several people who know him well: He doesn't want to be used by any aspirant or either party, and is determined not to be.

There has been more intense and more obvious lobbying under Francis, several church officials said, especially from Americans. (Though the Vatican practically invented politics, Italians don't even have one word for 'lobbying,' and tend to use the English one instead of the Italianized 'lobbismo,' or work-arounds like 'tentare di influenzare'–to try to influence–or plain old 'pressione,' or pressure.)

Though it's Francis's open, easy manner that seems to have invited the perception that he can be moved, those who know him say that once he makes a decision, he isn't likely to change his mind. And in fact, he's less accessible through old-fashioned "I know somebody who knows somebody" channels than Benedict or John Paul: You're

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unlikely to meet this pope, a friend in Rome quipped recently, unless you're in a wheelchair or a wedding dress, at one of the Wednesday morning audiences where he embraces the sick and blesses the newly married. ("The high point" of his group's recent lobbying trip to Rome, said Deacon Stevens, "was that even though we didn't get to meet him, we did get to see him," at the audience, "and our founding director was able to shake his hand and look him in the eye and share that PICO spirit.")

The Gospel's Interests

Austen Ivereigh, author of The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope, predicts that attempts to shape what Francis says in the U.S. won't go any better than trying to get him to rethink what he wanted to say in the encyclical did: "Francis is allergic to lobbies and pressure groups," Ivereigh said, "and sees it as his duty as pope not to let the church or the papal office be used for interests other than those of the Gospel."

He even avoided going to his native Argentina this year because he doesn't want to be used in the presidential election there, Ivereigh said, and "he'll be studiously careful to avoid being used in the U.S. campaign. On the other hand, he'll want to build relationships with all the key players—but most of the bonding will be off-camera."

If anything, attempts to harness him to either party's agenda could backfire, he and others feel. And while Francis's message will certainly contain elements that will please and offend both Republicans and Democrats, one is likely to have a harder time than the other, though not because the pope is a closet Democrat: "One of Francis's objectives in his U.S. trip," Ivereigh said, "is to challenge what he regards as an unhealthy nexus that has grown up between U.S. conservatives and the Catholic Church" during fights over abortion and religious liberty. "The deal has too long been that evangelicals and Catholics present a united front on life and family issues and religious freedom while staying silent on economic injustice, immigration, the death penalty and ecology. Francis believes that a key part of the Gospel message has been suffocated by the church's proximity to conservatives, and he is determined to restore it." The new environmental encyclical, Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home, "is a major instrument of that rebalancing."

Previous popes spoke about the environment, too–to the point that Benedict was even called the "green pope"–but American conservatives remained unfazed because the overall emphasis on social issues was still to their liking. With Francis, that's no longer the case.

He is trying to integrate the two halves of Catholic teaching in the U.S., and here's a taste of what that looks like: "I think the environment has become a pro-life issue–respecting the life that we find of God in others and his handiwork in the environment," New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond recently told GroundTruth's Jason Berry.

Meanwhile, lobbying the Vatican may not only have the effect of hardening the lobbied, but also of softening the supplicant: One American conservative who went to Rome recently filled with concern about whether Francis is anti-American, and eager to communicate that he ought to let Americans know how much he appreciates the generosity that only the prosperous can provide, came home with a changed focus. Now, she said, she's no longer as worried about what the pope is going to say to America as about what America is going to show the pope during his visit.

Danger for Democrats

The danger of trying to co-opt his message is clearly greater for Democrats, who may feel that he's on their side—but being seen as trying to translate his loftier purpose into votes could easily come off as shabby: "I'm going to slap the first person who says the pope is a Democrat," says Michael Sean Winters, a National Catholic Reporter columnist and fellow at Catholic University's Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies. In part, that is, because "it's so strategically stupid."

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Taking on such a popular and persuasive figure as Francis carries as much risk as hugging him too tightly. But thus far, both Jeb Bush and Rick Santorum have said he should stick to matters of faith and avoid science. One jarring thing about their criticism is that conservatives have long chafed at references to Galileo, both because the case against the Renaissance astronomer was more complicated than the oft-told cartoon version, and also because the church has been pro-science–it was a Belgian priest, Georges Lemaître , after all, who came up with the Big Bang theory. Yet now it's Santorum and others on the right who are invoking Galileo as a cautionary tale about why the church should stay out of scientific debates.

But it isn't so much that the shoe is on the other foot now, with conservatives rather than liberals on the outs where the Vatican is concerned, as that the pope wants to put Catholic shoes on both feet: His social and economic messages don't fit together in American politics; but in church teaching, they do. Beyond the environmental message in his encyclical, he drives that home again and again, connecting abuse of the environment with human trafficking, the ecology of the human person with the ecology of the planet, and GMOs with research on human embryos. He's arguing that we're so interconnected that every form of violence, from disease-causing pollution to animal abuse to abortion, sends out ripples that affect the entire world.

When he addresses Congress in September, fellow Catholics John Boehner and Nancy Pelosi will be seated behind him, as speaker and minority leader of the House and his joint hosts. Presumably both will be applauding their pope, too. "I think John Boehner is the most excited person in Washington about this visit," said his friend Maureen Ferguson, of Catholic Alliance. Pelosi, who often attends daily Mass, issued a statement on Thursday lavishly praising Francis's encyclical and concluding, "We really must listen to His Holiness as we go forward." But the fact that Pelosi and Boehner are likely to be standing and cheering at very different moments during the pope's address is the perfect illustration of the very split he's coming here to address.

Cashing In **// US News and World Report // Kenneth T. Walsh – June 19, 2015**

How times have changed for America's former presidents.

Harry Truman, who served as commander in chief 70 years ago, wrote, "I have a very strong feeling about any man who has the honor of being an occupant of the White House in the greatest job in the history of the world, who would exploit that situation in any way, shape or form."

But ex-presidents today routinely make millions of dollars by parlaying their White House experiences into speeches, personal appearances and books. All this, taken together, diminishes their stature and lessens their influence.

Bill Clinton has been widely criticized for milking his presidency for tens of millions of dollars, and former first lady Hillary Clinton, who is running for president in 2016, has been attacked for using her time in the White House to boost her income, partly through book sales and speeches.

It turns out that former President George W. Bush has been doing much the same thing. Politico reports that since he left office in 2009, "Bush has given at least 200 paid speeches and probably many more, typically pocketing $100,000 to $175,000 per appearance. The part-time work, which rarely requires more than an hour on stage, has earned him tens of millions of dollars. Relative to the Clintons, though, he has attracted considerably less attention, almost always doing his paid public speaking in private, in convention centers and hotel ballrooms, resorts and casinos, from Canada to Asia, from New York to Miami, from all over Texas to Las Vegas a bunch, playing his part in what has become a lucrative staple of the modern post-presidency."

Clearly, the nature of the post-presidency has morphed in a fundamental way since Truman's time. As the longevity of ex-presidents increases, more of them will be on the public stage longer than their predecessors, and they will be tempted to seek media and public attention as they defend and promote their legacies, size up contemporary issues and make money. There are currently four ex-presidents who are still living – George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter. Barack Obama will join this elite club in a year-and-a-

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half, when his second term expires.

A recent academic study offers some surprising assessments about who have been the best ex-presidents – John Quincy Adams, Jimmy Carter, William Howard Taft and Herbert Hoover, even though none of them was in the top tier of presidents when they were in office, according to historians.

Justin S. Vaughn, a political scientist at Boise State University who helped lead the study, said the standards he and his researchers used were two-fold: Having the longevity and good health to provide "meaningful service" for an extended period of time, and accomplishing "something significant beyond campaigning for their fellow partisans, burnishing their legacy and cutting the ribbon at the groundbreaking for their library." Vaughn concluded in a recent New York Times essay, "The greatest ex-presidents have engaged in important work, sometimes at a level that rivaled their accomplishments in the White House."

Vaughn added: "Our worst ex-presidents, on the other hand, have been noteworthy for taking strong positions against the national interest and consistently undermining their successors for personal and political reasons." The worst ex-presidents, he said, were John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce and Theodore Roosevelt. Of these, only Roosevelt was in the top tier of incumbent presidents.

Vaughn noted that, "Mr. Obama's slow pivot to his retirement coincides with renewed controversy over how Bill Clinton has conducted his, especially around donors to the Clinton Global Initiative and possible conflicts of interest during Hillary Rodham Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. Some assessments of Mr. Clinton's post-presidential career have become extremely critical. ... President Obama would do well to chart an active course that makes a difference but avoids partisan entanglements and financial controversy."

It is likely that Obama has more than a passing interest in this analysis as the outlines of his post-presidency become clear. He has approved building his presidential library in Chicago, his political base for many years. He is widely expected to write a book about his tenure, which will probably be a bestseller. (Book writing is probably the least offensive way in which a president can remain in the public eye and make money because presidential books tend to be at least in some way educational and add to the public's understanding of history.) It's unclear how much speaking he will do for profit.

His friends say Obama plans to devote himself, at least in part, to altruistic pursuits such as working with young people and inspiring African-Americans to strive and emulate him and his wife Michelle as examples of the American dream in achieving success. Obama has already signaled his intention through his devotion to a White House initiative called "My Brother's Keeper." It's designed to inspire African-American men to overcome whatever obstacles exist to live successful and productive lives and take good care of their families.

The challenge for the ex-presidents, as Truman suggested, is to avoid profiting crassly from their years of public service, and at the same time making a positive difference in people's lives. No one has come up with a perfect formula, but soon it will be Obama's turn to try.

Iowa Supreme Court: Ban on telemed abortion unconstitutional // Des Moines Register // Tony Leys – June 19, 2015

Iowa's Supreme Court ruled Friday that Planned Parenthood of the Heartland may keep using its controversial telemedicine-abortion system.

More than 7,200 Iowa women have used the system to obtain abortion-inducing pills since 2008. The system, the first of its kind in the nation, allows Planned Parenthood doctors in Des Moines or Iowa City to interact via video with patients in outlying clinics, then dispense the pills to the women.

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State regulators, appointed by Iowa's anti-abortion governor, ruled in 2013 that the system should effectively be banned because of purported safety concerns. The ban was put on hold while Planned Parenthood appealed in court. A district judge sided with the regulators in 2014, but the Supreme Court disagreed Friday.

The justices decided 6-0 that the Iowa Board of Medicine's rule violated women's constitutional rights. The court noted that telemedicine is being used to provide many other types of health care. But the medical board only focused on telemedicine's use for abortion when it imposed a requirement that doctors personally perform physical exams on patients, the justices wrote. "It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the board's medical concerns about telemedicine are selectively limited to abortion."

The Supreme Court determined the medical board's rule imposed an unconstitutional "undue burden" on women's right to abortion. It noted that national standards do not require a physician to perform a physical examination on a woman before providing a medication abortion. The court also noted that other staff members in the outlying Planned Parenthood clinics draw blood, take medical histories and perform sonograms on the patients, which are transmitted to the physicians. The justices wrote that they didn't see proof that an in-person exam by a doctor would "provide any measurable gain in patient safety."

Supporters say the telemedicine system provides a safe way to offer abortion services in rural areas where they otherwise are unavailable. The Iowa case is being watched nationally, because abortion providers in other states have considered setting up similar systems. This is believed to be the first time in more than 40 years that the state Supreme Court considered an abortion case.

Suzanna de Baca, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland's president, hailed the ruling. "This is a major victory for the women of Iowa and for reproductive rights in general," she said. De Baca added it was significant that the justices were unanimous. "It really validates our belief that this was politically motivated," she said, referring to the medical board's attempt to ban the telemedicine system.

De Baca was asked if the ruling also could be seen as a rebuke to Gov. Terry Branstad, who appointed the medical board members. She paused, then replied: "I think we are thrilled that we have an independent judiciary, who make decisions based on evidence and not on politics."

Branstad spokesman Jimmy Centers released a statement expressing the governor's frustration with the justices' ruling. He noted that the medical board's ruling came after it received a petition from health care professionals who were concerned about the system's safety. "The governor is extremely disappointed that the Iowa Board of Medicine's action, which ensured women received the high standard of care that they deserve, was reversed by the Iowa Supreme Court." Centers said it was too soon to speculate on whether any more appeals are possible.

Jenifer Bowen, executive director of Iowa Right to Life, said she'd heard conflicting theories on whether the Iowa justices' ruling could be appealed to federal court. Bowen said the ruling was a setback. "We're devastated," she said, "but obviously we're not going to wave the white flag of surrender."

Bowen said she was disappointed by the "lackluster" presentation of the medical-board's legal case before the Supreme Court in March. That presentation was made by a lawyer from the office of Attorney General Tom Miller, a Democrat. But she said she had hoped the justices would be swayed by the medical board's written explanation of why it believed Planned Parenthood's telemedicine arrangement was unsafe.

Bowen said her group would continue to spread its message that the telemedicine abortion system exposes vulnerable women to a potentially dangerous drug without sufficient medical backup in case of complications.

The medical board, responding to petitions filed by abortion opponents, ruled in 2013 that the system's use was

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inappropriate and unsafe. The board, which licenses physicians, ruled that doctors must perform in-person physical exams before dispensing abortion pills. That would effectively have banned use of Planned Parenthood's telemedicine system.

Planned Parenthood noted that under a previous governor, the medical board looked at the telemedicine abortion system and found no problems. The 2013 ruling against the system came after Branstad, who opposes abortion, replaced all 10 members of the board. His replacement members included a Catholic priest and a former legislator known for introducing abortion-limiting bills.

The medical board's ruling was on hold while Planned Parenthood fought the matter in court. A Polk County district judge sided with the medical board last August. Planned Parenthood then appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court, which heard arguments this March.

A lawyer for the attorney general's office, who represented the board before the Supreme Court, contended that the board followed proper procedures, including having a public hearing and taking written comments, before making the decision. Critics noted that the board rules wording was taken nearly verbatim from a petition filed by abortion opponents.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court sidestepped Planned Parenthood's request that it declare a more extensive right to abortion under the Iowa Constitution. The justices said they didn't need to answer that question, because the medical board's rule violated the "undue burden" test established by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The opinion was written by Justice David Wiggins, a political independent. Justice Bruce Zager, a Republican, did not participate in the case. Iowa Supreme Court justices don't generally explain reasons for such abstentions.

INTERNATIONAL

Iran Still Aids Terrorism and Bolsters Syria's President, State Department Finds // Michael Gordon and Eric Schmitt – June 19, 2015

WASHINGTON — Iran continued its "terrorist-related" activity last year and also continued to provide broad military support to President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, the State Department said Friday in its annual report on terrorism.

The assessment suggests that neither the election of President Hassan Rouhani nor the prospect of a nuclear accord with the United States and its negotiating partners has had a moderating effect on Iran's foreign policy in the Middle East.

"In 2014, Iran continued to provide arms, financing, training and the facilitation of primarily Iraq Shia and Afghan fighters to support the Assad regime's brutal crackdown," the report said.

"Iran remained unwilling to bring to justice senior Al Qaeda members it continued to detain and refused to publicly identify those senior members in its custody," it added.

The report does not contend that Iranian officials are conspiring to kill Americans. Nor does it accuse Iraqi militias backed by Iran of plotting to attack American advisers in Iraq. The report also does not provide specific figures on Iranian operations that might indicate whether they are increasing or decreasing.

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But it paints a picture of an aggressive Iranian foreign policy that has often been contrary to the interests of the United States. Even when the United States and Iran have a common foe, as they do in the Islamic State, the Iranian role in Iraq risks inflaming sectarian tensions. Some of the Shiite militias Iran has backed in Iraq, including Kataib Hezbollah, have committed human rights abuses against Sunni civilians, the report said.

Although the report covers 2014, American officials said the Iranian policies described in it had continued this year.

“We continue to be very, very concerned about I.R.G.C. activity as well as proxies that act on behalf of Iran,” said Tina S. Kaidanow, the State Department’s senior counterterrorism official, referring to Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. “We watch that extremely carefully.”

Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has suggested that Iran sees its regional and nuclear policies as proceeding on separate tracks, an approach that may be intended to placate hard-liners at home but may also reflect his foreign policy strategy.

The White House has held out hope that a deal to limit Iran’s nuclear program might be the first step toward an eventual easing of tensions and perhaps even cooperation on regional matters. But even if the two sides remain at odds over the Middle East, Obama administration officials insist a nuclear accord is worth pursuing in its own right. The report comes a week before Secretary of State John Kerry is expected to travel to Vienna to try to seal a nuclear accord.

In a broad survey of terrorist trends, including a country-by-country assessment, the report notes that the threat from Qaeda leaders who have sought sanctuary in Pakistan has diminished even as the group continues to be a source of inspiration for militants elsewhere. But the threat from the Islamic State, the militant group that has established what it calls a caliphate in much of Iraq and Syria, has grown.

The report said that as of December, the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, could muster 20,000 to 31,500 fighters. The group derives most of its funding not from external donations, as Al Qaeda does, but from smuggling oil, kidnapping for ransom, robbing banks and selling stolen antiquities.

The pace at which foreign fighters have traveled to Syria — more than 16,000 as of late December and thousands more since — is greater than that at which foreign militants have gone to Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen or Somalia at any point in the last 20 years, the report said.

“The ongoing civil war in Syria was a significant factor in driving worldwide terrorism events in 2014,” it stated.

The report also noted that the Islamic State had deftly used the news media and social media to influence a wide spectrum of potential audiences: local Sunni Arab populations, potential recruits, and governments of coalition members and other populations around the world, including English-speaking audiences.

“ISIL has been adroit at using the most popular social and new media platforms (YouTube, Facebook and Twitter) to disseminate its messages broadly,” it said.

American counterterrorism officials have voiced increasing concern that the Islamic State, as well as Al Qaeda and its affiliates, is inspiring, but not necessarily directing, a greater number of so-called lone-wolf attacks — like the terrorist attacks last year in Ottawa and Sydney, Australia.

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"These attacks may presage a new era in which centralized leadership of a terrorist organization matters less, group identity is more fluid, and violent extremist narratives focus on a wider range of alleged grievances and enemies," Ms. Kaidanow said.

An annex to the report indicates that the problem of terrorism has grown, though many of the figures reflect militant attacks in the wars in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. The number of terrorist attacks in 2014 was up 35 percent from 2013, while the number of fatalities from those assaults increased 81 percent.

The number of exceptionally lethal attacks has also grown. In 2014, there were 20 attacks that killed over 100 people. In 2013, there were only two such attacks.

The statistics, appended to the State Department report, were prepared by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, at the University of Maryland.

Despite the increasing attacks, State Department officials said the United States was making headway in the struggle against terrorism, including by working with partners in the region. John Kirby, a State Department spokesman, said defeating the Islamic State would take time.

"It's going to take about three to five years," he said.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

The opacity of Hillary's Clinton's e-mail // WaPo // Rick Morris – June 19, 2015

In his June 12 op-ed, "Get the Benghazi panel back on track," Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) left out pertinent facts. First, requests from Congress and the Select Committee on Benghazi for documentation and information have gone either unanswered or the responses provided have been slow-rolled since late 2012. This is still occurring even with the release of former secretary of state Hillary Clinton's e-mails. The requests are being expedited now only because a court ordered it.

When Ms. Clinton, using a private computer server, determines which e-mails to turn over to State, there can be no accountability. Ms. Clinton deleted some 30,000 other e-mails. Regardless of your political position, it is difficult to assume transparency under those circumstances. Even if other secretaries of state used private e-mail accounts, none had a private e-mail server.

In addition, the FBI has determined that some information in at least one e-mail was considered classified and redacted it before it went to the committee. This contradicts statements Ms. Clinton made that no classified information was in her e-mails.

Hillary Clinton is playing the "woman card" too early // WaPo // Ed Rogers – June 19, 2015

Americans won't be doing themselves any favors if they make the same mistake three times in a row and elect a candidate who is more interested in acting as some sort of symbol than in being an engaged, working president. President Obama probably peaked on Election Day 2008. He thought he had done his job simply by getting elected and becoming an icon of America's progress on race. By being elected, he proved the melting pot is real. And as significant as that is, it hasn't made him an effective president. Obama is living proof that a president won't necessarily be feared or respected or succeed just because their election was some sort of symbolic breakthrough.

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In 2016, it is urgent that we elect a president who actually has the skill set and personality required to be an effective leader at home and abroad. The presidency is not one-size-fits-all. It is a unique job that requires skills that are both innate and learned.

So is it smart for Hillary Clinton to play the "women card" this early in the race? She is already talking about the symbolism of her candidacy as a reason why we should support her. As she said in an interview with the Des Moines Register in Iowa on Sunday, "I expect to be judged on my merits, and the historic nature of my candidacy is one of the merits that I hope people take into account." Well, her campaign can't be pitched as a third Obama term and her own post-government private sector money hunt erodes her credibility in championing solutions to income inequality. Her record as Secretary of State doesn't exactly shine. She doesn't appear to feel particularly strongly about any particular issue. "Fighting for the middle class" isn't exactly a fresh, bold appeal. Anyway, the operative class is beginning to murmur, and a lot of the pundits cannot seem to discern what her real, ultimate campaign strategy is. Is her strategy just to hunker down, stick to a narrow script and play the "woman card"?

In the absence of anything else to say, Hillary Clinton has felt compelled to remind everybody that she is a woman and offer that fact as a key reason why one should vote for her. And perhaps relying on gender and the historic nature of the first female president would be a viable — if risky — plan for a frontrunner during the last ten days of a campaign, but sustaining this for a full eighteen months before election day will become untenable. She needs to build and maintain appeal for a long stretch ahead, and an overt reliance on her gender will not do the trick. Hillary Clinton will need to start answering questions and taking positions on the issues that matter most to the Democratic base, or she risks "Clinton Campaign" becoming a new synonym for "opaque and dodgy". Her campaign is on the brink of supplying more punchlines than real messages.

I have often thought the Democrats didn't want to have freewheeling relationships with the fair-minded media because they didn't want people to know what they really think. Hillary, on the other hand, doesn't want to deal with the media because she doesn't know what she believes. Sure, she's a classic liberal and all that, but she only knows for certain that she wants to be president. Everything else seems negotiable and her policy positions are — at best — situational.

Hillary Clinton wants to take us back to yesterday, not the future **// Fox // Cal Thomas – June 18, 2015**

In her reintroduction speech on Roosevelt Island in New York last Saturday, Hillary Clinton hit all the boilerplate liberal Democrat notes: The New Deal, big government, soak the rich, evil Wall Street ... you know the song because the music is from a familiar score.

Speaking of songs, Hillary Clinton made reference to The Beatles' "Yesterday" and tied it to the seemingly outdated ideas of the Republican Party. In light of what the country is facing, yesterday is looking increasingly better, particularly if one considers the foreign and domestic policies of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush (minus some of the tax increases).

While Hillary Clinton wants to channel The Beatles, there is another song called "Yesterday" that may not be as familiar, but better describes her failed policies, as well as those of President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, who appear committed to an unverifiable nuclear deal with Iran.

Country singer Roy Clark sang this "Yesterday" song. Here are a few excerpts that might well be used to rebut Hillary Clinton:

"Seems the love I've known has always been

The most destructive kind

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Yes, that's why now I feel so old

Before my time."

That could describe Clinton's relationship with her husband, but let's not go there again.

And then there's this: "The thousand dreams I dreamed, the splendid things I planned

I always built to last on weak and shifting sand."

Examples: Hillarycare, which was rejected by a Democratic Congress during her husband's first term, the absence of any significant legislation while she was a senator from New York, the failed "re-set" with Russia, Benghazi, Middle East policy, including the rise of ISIS, the hidden emails, the refusal, so far, to release her medical records, which might shed light on her fall and hospitalization while she was secretary of state. Need I go on?

Hillary Clinton succeeded as secretary of state in logging lots of airline miles at taxpayer expense, but no one seems to know what she actually accomplished. TV interviews of some of her supporters have produced no substantive answers to the question: "What has she done?"

Back to "Yesterday."

"I never stopped to think what life was all about

And every conversation I can now recall

Concerns itself with me and nothing else at all."

That seems fairly descriptive. It has always been about Hillary and Bill, hasn't it?

And then the quite sad last line of the song:

"There are so many songs in me that won't be sung,

I feel the bitter taste of tears upon my tongue.

The time has come for me to pay for

Yesterday when I was young."

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That “pay” will come in next year’s election if Republicans don’t blow their opportunity by cowering in the face of the bogus “war on women” attack and retreat on social issues as the secular wing of the party continues to urge them to do.

We only learn from the past. We can’t learn from the future because it hasn’t arrived. But we can help shape the future by not repeating the mistakes of yesterday, focusing instead on those things that have a track record of working.

Democrats want to cling to yesterday’s ideology, the one promoted by Franklin Roosevelt during different times. So who is really living in the past? All Hillary Clinton has to offer is bigger government, higher taxes, more spending on failed programs and a lax morality that has eaten away at the moral underpinnings of the nation.

To paraphrase FDR, the only thing we have to fear is Hillary Clinton, herself.

ASU suckered by Clinton Foundation // AZ Central // Laurie Roberts – June 19, 2015

As the world – and more importantly, the Arizona Legislature -- now knows, Arizona State University shelled out $500,000 for the privilege of hosting last year's Clinton Global Initiative University.

It was, Michael Crow has told us, "money well spent."

So says the sucker who paid half of million dollars to get the Clintons for this three-day "marketing opportunity."

Turns out at least three universities haven't paid a dime to host the Clinton Global Initiative University, according to The College Fix.

After learning of ASU's largesse, student reporters reached out to the six other schools that have hosted the weekend conference since its inception in 2008.

Tulane University said it didn't pay a dime to host the inaugural event.

Neither did the University of Texas at Austin, which hosted the 2009 conference. In fact, the Clinton Foundation reimbursed the UT's student government group $28,851 to cover its expenses.

George Washington University, the 2012 hosts, also paid nothing.

"As part of our partnership, we provided space on our campus and many of our students participated and volunteered during the meeting," a campus official told The College Fix. "We did not pay an honorarium to host."

Several private universities -- including the University of Miami, which has hosted the event twice – either didn't respond or declined to disclose whether they kicked in to bring the Clintons to town.

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The only other public university to host the event, University of California at San Diego, has not yet responded to questions about whether it paid to land CGIU in 2011. The website reports that it expects an answer to its public records request in July. Unlike ASU, the school doesn't show up on a list of donors to the Clinton Foundation.

That leaves ASU thus far the only public university willing to pay to coax the Clintons to come to town. That is, ASU, the school so financially strapped that it is attaching a $320 surcharge to tuition this fall in order to get by.

Student reporters asked one of ASU's army of PR warriors if the school was aware that others got for free what ASU paid $500,000 to land. The school gave its usual non-answer, saying that "the university co-invested in this educational and promotional opportunity, which was co-produced for our students, and for students from around the world."

Last month, after being criticized for the expense, Crow wrote an op-ed explaining the $500,000 was a worthwhile marketing expense.

Hacks like me, he sniffed, "fail to recognize that the university is about outcomes, about creating master learners immersed in a diversity of thought and prepared for any career path. They fail to acknowledge what the university is and how it acquires what it needs to be successful."

Well, I'm all for master learners immersed in a diversity of thought. I'm just wondering why that diversity of thought costs so much bring here when UT can get it for free?

MISCELLANEOUS ADDED BY STAFF

Marriage Equality Is Only Step One // Medium // Gavin Newsom – June 18, 2015

In the next ten days, the United States Supreme Court will hand down its decision in Obergefell v. Hodges—a case that has the potential to take a place in history alongside landmark rulings such as Brown v. Board of Education, Loving v. Virginia, and Roe v. Wade. Depending on the outcome, same-sex couples across the nation could soon have the constitutional right to marry, a right that those of us outside the LGBT community have always taken for granted.

In 2004, the year we started to marry same-sex couples in San Francisco, it was impossible to imagine that this day might come so quickly. Even in that liberal community, my decision as Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco to order the County Clerk to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples set off a firestorm of such magnitude that the controversy ended up in the California Supreme Court.

Although the Court halted the unions, more than 4,000 same-sex couples already had married in San Francisco, availing themselves of the right to have their relationships legally recognized for the first time, and giving their children the joy of seeing their parents' unions receive the same protections and validation as the marriages of the their friends' and classmates' parents.

On May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples had the right to marry under the California Constitution. The joy that the court's decision brought was soon muted six months later when Proposition 8 enshrined discrimination into California's constitution with a simple phrase, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

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After a lengthy battle, Prop 8 was overturned by the Federal District Court in August of 2010 on the basis that it violated the equal protection clause of the US Constitution.

Now, in 2015, after a series of victories in federal courts, 37 states allow same-sex marriage. If the Supreme Court affirms that the freedom to marry is a fundamental right, that ruling will overturn constitutional amendments across the country banning same-sex marriage.

While this certainly will be cause for celebration, bringing to a close a dark chapter in our history, I fear that the celebration of this milestone might lead some to believe that the fight for equality is over.

Far from it.

Over our history, even when the courts and Congress have acted to afford important and significant legal protections for fundamental rights—such as 19th Amendment,(women's suffrage) , the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act, and Roe v. Wade—we have all too frequently seen those rights undermined in subsequent judicial decisions and laws enacted at the state and federal levels.

In 2013, for example, the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, freeing states to change their voting laws and redistricting maps in ways that would effectively deprive many minority citizens their right to vote and to have equal representation. Chief Justice Roberts reasoned in his opinion for the Court's majority that, "Our country has changed" and such protections are no longer required. That would surprise the millions of citizens who still are prevented from early voting or required to meet onerous identification requirements at the polls. Restrictions on using race or gender as a criteria for school admissions, scholarships and hiring have eroded equal rights for minorities and women. And for decades, state legislatures have been passing laws that limit who may perform abortions, in what types of facilities, and at what stage of pregnancy, all of which have severely limited women's access to abortions in many states.

If the Supreme Court recognizes a constitutional right of same sex couples to marry, then we can almost certainly expect similar efforts to undermine that right. But even if the right to marry remains protected across the country, there is a long list of other rights that must be guaranteed before the LGBT community achieves full equality.

There still are no federal workplace protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity expression; no federal anti-bullying laws to protect LGBT students; and we are nowhere near having in place adequate protections of the rights of transgender Americans. While same-sex marriage rights may soon be guaranteed, the patchwork of same-sex adoption laws across the states continues to be a source of great confusion and frustration for many prospective parents.

Beyond the changes that must take place through continued judicial and legislative action, more fundamental change is needed in public opinion.

The impetus for my decision to order the clerks in San Francisco to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples was hearing then President George W. Bush call for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage during his 2004 State of the Union address. "Our nation must defend the sanctity of marriage," he said, as though the nation—or marriage—were under attack.

But even more important to my decision was a conversation I overheard shortly afterwards at the coat check in the capitol. Two men were talking about how glad they were that President Bush was taking on same-sex marriage when one of them said, "I'm glad he's finally doing something about those homosexuals."

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"Those homosexuals"—in other words, those people who are in some fundamental way different from us. Unfortunately, even the Supreme Court cannot outlaw the underlying fear and ignorance that leads people to view "those homosexuals" as a problem we need to "do something about."

In the eleven years since the so-called "winter of love" in San Francisco, I have become the proud father of three young children. Regardless of what the Supreme Court decides later this month, by the time my children are old enough to consider marrying, I feel confident that the notion that a same-sex couple may not marry will seem as arcane and absurd as the separate lunch counters and drinking fountains of more than five decades ago.

But I'm less sure that the underlying prejudices will have disappeared. Until they have, we must all continue to fight for full equality. And we must fight to eliminate ignorance and hate.

Bigotry may never go completely away, but as the national referendum in favor of same-sex marriage in Ireland demonstrated just last month, majority attitudes can change—and with them, our public policy.

And when they do, it will truly be time to celebrate.

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Lorenzo Del Savio and Matteo Mameli, Truthout: There are two opposite forms of anti-politics, one striving toward a technocracy controlled by oligarchies and corporations, and one striving toward a radical democratization of society.

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Andrew Ross and Jo-Ann Mort, New Labor

BuzzFlash

Amendment to Overturn Citizens United Now Supported by Half of Senate Members

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Yes, it may be a long, arduous haul to reclaim a populist democracy for the voters, but absent such activity, the US is stuck in the rut of plutocracy.

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Jim Lobe, Inter Press Service: A key committee of the World Bank's governing board spurned appeals to revise a draft policy statement that risks rolling back several decades of reforms designed to protect indigenous populations, the poor and sensitive ecosystems.
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Job Growth Slows in July

Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research: Wage growth slowed slightly in the last quarter to 1.8 percent, from 2.0 percent in the last year. The economy added 209,000 jobs in July, but it was a sharp slowing from its 277,000 average over the prior three months.
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Subject: Correct The Record Monday January 5, 2015 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday January 5, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

CNN: “Hillary Clinton's gender politics”

“Gender -- the issue that Hillary Clinton struggled to find her balance on during her 2008 campaign -- is front and center as she prepares for a possible 2016 presidential run.”

Washington Post: “Clinton, Clinton; Cuomo, Warren”

“History never repeats, but sometimes things circle back in intriguing ways. How else to explain parallels between 1992 and 2016, with a pair of candidates named Clinton, at the start of their presidential campaigns, shadowed by liberal icons of the Democratic Party?”

New York Times column: Frank Bruni: “Are Two Dynasties Our Destiny?”

“One of them? Sure. Both? Too much could go wrong.”

Boulder Daily Camera: “A conversation with Gary Hart: New policies for a new world”

FMR. SEN. GARY HART: “Are there a lot of people who want a woman president for the first time? Yes. Is she

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[Sec. Clinton] well-known? Yes. Is she experienced? Yes. Do those three things qualify her to be president at a time when new ideas, new people and new thinking are required? I'd just leave it at that."

Washington Post: "Local experts predict the sports, music and food D.C. will be buzzing about in 2015" [PARTIAL]

"Who will be the presidential nominees for 2016? Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, edits the Crystal Ball website, which analyzes upcoming elections across the country. Sabato predicts Hillary Rodham Clinton will face off against Jeb Bush in 2016."

Electablog: Hillary's rise is inspiring — Jeb's is everything that's wrong with America

"The rise to become the first female frontrunner for the presidency is unprecedented in American history... Hillary Clinton deserves credit for career and the historic opportunity she may seize. Take on her policies, please. But don't do Republicans the favor of lumping her in with John Ellis Bush AKA Jeb."

New York Post: Page Six: "Hillary Clinton is already seeing big-name support"

"CEO of DreamWorks Animation Jeffrey Katzenberg and co-founder and CEO of Avenue Capital Group Marc Lasry are already planning on ways to support Hillary Rodham Clinton."

Wall Street Journal: "Top Iowa Democrats Slow to Rally Around Hillary Clinton"

"Iowa Democratic leaders say they are troubled by the prospect that Hillary Clinton could win the state's 2016 presidential caucuses without a serious challenge, a view primarily rooted in a desire for a more liberal candidate or at least a robust debate about the party's policies and direction."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "What Iowa's Democratic Leaders Want: 4 Takeaways"

"Here are four takeaways drawn from interviews with more than half the Democratic chairpeople in Iowa's 99 counties."

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Real Clear Politics: Video: “Van Susteren: I'm Not Convinced Hillary Is Going To Run; O'Malley ‘The Big Sleeper Candidate’”

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN: “I actually think the big surprise is going to be the Democratic side of the ledger, whether or not former secretary of state Hillary Clinton runs. I'm actually not convinced -- I'm not convinced she's going to run…”

Politico Magazine: Matt Latimer, speechwriter for Pres. George W. Bush: “Why Republicans Are Ready for Hillary”

“Conservatives do have one thing to be thankful for: The fact is that Hillary Clinton learned so many lessons from her surprising 2008 defeat that she’s repeating each of them all over again.”

Politico Magazine: Bill Scher, senior writer at the Campaign for America’s Future: “The Democrats’ Donkey in the Room”

“As the presidential race shifts into gear in 2015, much rides on how the expected Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton navigates these various poles in the Democratic big tent. Assuming she runs and maintains her wide lead among Democrats, she will have more say than anyone as to how Democrats define their post-Obama future.”

Articles:

CNN: “Hillary Clinton's gender politics”

By Maeve Reston

January 5, 2015

Gender -- the issue that Hillary Clinton struggled to find her balance on during her 2008 campaign -- is front and center as she prepares for a possible 2016 presidential run.

It is, in many ways, a remarkable evolution for a female politician once bedeviled by gender politics to the self-

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defined "pantsuit aficionado and glass ceiling cracker" of today.

For much of this year, Clinton has spoken with ease -- and little controversy -- about female empowerment. At Tina Brown's 'Women in the World' conference in April, Clinton declared that the "double standard" for women was "alive and well." In countless public appearances, she has opened up about how that standard played out in her own career: from being underestimated by male colleagues as a young lawyer to the advice given to career women her age that they should keep family pictures off their desks.

The former Secretary of State has turned scrutiny about her scrunchies, headbands and hairstyles into laugh lines. She has poked fun at the sexist slights of foreign leaders—like that of Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, who told her he was briefed that she only wore her hair back when she was in a "bad mood."

She often advises young women to handle criticism by developing skin "as tough as a rhinoceros." And she rarely gave a speech this fall without reminding audiences she was soon to be a grandmother. The tableau was complete when she tweeted a softly lit image of her cradling newborn Charlotte while Bill Clinton beamed over her shoulder.

The careful choreography illustrates the attention her team is giving to reconnecting Clinton with Democratic women, a core constituency that Barack Obama was able to slice into during her first presidential run in 2008.

The renewed courtship essentially began with her concession speech in 2008 when she told supporters that although they hadn't "shattered that highest, hardest glass ceiling," it had "about 18 million cracks in it."

"Should she run, she has an opportunity to continue to build on what (Barack Obama) has done, and another fantastic step on that ladder is the possibility of the first woman president of the United States," said Tracy Sefl, who advised the Clinton campaign on communications strategy in 2008. "The possibility of a woman president is a welcome one, more so than is a foreign one."

Now, Clinton allies encouraging her to run see an opportunity for her not only to hold the Obama coalition, but to improve on his 2012 showing among women, which would spell trouble for her Republican opponent in 2016.

The President led among women by about 11 points in both 2008 and 2012. But some 56% of white women—which were a strong demographic for Clinton—favored 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney, compared to 42% for Obama in 2012. Obama also lost married women to Romney by 7 points.

This year's effort to put gender front and center is a nod to those numbers. It also reflects a politician who, after more than two decades in the public eye, is more comfortable sharing her personal experiences with voters.

Another asset is that Obama's historic election -- along with Clinton's competitive bid in 2008 -- changed societal expectations of what an American President must look like. In interviews during this year's midterm elections, many Democratic voters, particularly women, said they feel it is her turn for a historic victory.

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Though Clinton has not defined her 2016 message, her speeches this year have hinted a partial framework for her candidacy: her argument that the 'women's issues' she has championed -- pay equity, family leave, raising the minimum wage, access to childcare -- are really "family issues" that are part of her life's work -- and that of her husband -- to boost the middle class.

"With women" in the next election cycle, Center for American Progress President Neera Tanden said, "the opportunity is to connect up these economic issues that they see as time challenges for them—like paid leave, or sick days or childcare—to a broader economic message."

"I can't think of anyone who would be better at doing that than Hillary Clinton," said Tanden, who advised Clinton on policy as first lady, senator from New York and during her presidential campaign.

Clinton is still a cautious speaker. But when it comes to connecting with other women through her own story, she seems more comfortable in her own skin than she did even a few years ago. It is an open question, however, whether independent voters and moderate Republican women will embrace the issues she seems most inclined to talk about in 2016.

"Her natural focus is that she wants to be seen as this person who is a champion for women. It remains to be seen whether that's a particularly successful general election strategy," said Katie Packer Gage, whose firm Burning Glass coaches Republican candidates on connecting with female voters. "Women just don't have history of voting for women; they have a pretty decent history of following their party behavior. So being a woman doesn't necessarily provide some kind of big advantage."

As Democratic Sen. Mark Udall's failed re-election campaign in Colorado this year showed, strategies that are too rooted in gender can backfire.

But Democratic pollster Celinda Lake said that during the 2008 recession male voters became more attuned and receptive to the economic issues that disproportionately affect women, like raising the minimum wage and pay equity.

"What happened in this recession was that men lost their jobs before women did," said Lake, who oversaw focus group research for the Clinton campaign in 1992 and served as a consultant to the campaign. "In lots and lots of families, you had the woman at some point as the primary, and maybe the only, breadwinner in the family. So this last recession really changed things."

Over her long career, Clinton's remarks about women's personal and career choices have often shaped the peaks and valleys of her popularity.

She was shadowed during her husband's 1992 campaign by his suggestion that American voters could "buy one, get one free." That notion quickly became a liability as Hillary Clinton's work as opponents scrutinized her work as a lawyer in the Rose Law Firm while he was governor of Arkansas, as well as her outspoken demeanor.

Fed up with what she considered "spurious" charges about her business dealings in March of 1992, Clinton delivered the disastrous retort that she "could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas." When

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strung together with her earlier defense of her husband from charges of infidelity—"I'm not sitting here, some little woman standing by my man like Tammy Wynette"—she became a sharply polarizing figure among women.

"Critics were venomous," she recalled in her first memoir, Living History. "I was called a Rorschach test for the American public, and it was an apt way of conveying the varied and extreme reactions that I provoked."

Even by the summer of that 1992 campaign, she noted, most Americans did not realize that she had a child. She relented to a joint People magazine interview where the couple described 12-year-old Chelsea, who appeared with them on the cover, as the center of their lives.

"Friends of the Clintons say that the public labeling of Hillary as an ambitious careerist misses her warmth and playfulness," one notable line from the 'People' profile said. Both Clintons defended her tea and cookies comment as misunderstanding. "It gave a totally false impression of who she is," her husband told the magazine, insisting that she had not been "muzzled" after the controversy.

Improving the First Lady's image among women and presenting her in a more "likeable light" became a preoccupation for the White House staff, as 1990s documents released by the National Archives this year reveal.

She regained some of her footing at a 1995 women's conference in Beijing where she said that "human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights." In another sign of how the female-centered message will coincide with her campaign, the Clinton Foundation plans to release a report tracking women's progress since her 1995 speech this spring.

But as late as 1999 before her Senate run, she was still being advised by strategist Mandy Grunwald to try to show "more sides" of herself and look for "opportunities for humor" to avoiding coming off as so stern.

"The only two (female) candidates I can think of over time who were really perceived as being too tough are Dianne Feinstein and Hillary Clinton," said Dianne Bystrom, who has studied female politicians since the 1990s at Iowa State's Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics.

That liability surfaced for Clinton most notably in 2008. She spoke early on about trying to break the glass ceiling of the presidency. But her campaign ultimately centered on the message that she was the only candidate with the strength and experience to lead. When she was asked what it meant to be a woman running as president, her answer was always that she was proud to be a woman making that attempt, but she was running because she thought she'd be the "best president."

Not long before her third place finish in the Iowa caucuses, Bystrom recalled, Hawkeye state polls indicated that voters perceived her as tougher than Obama, but less caring. Soon the campaign had launched a website full of soft testimonials from friends and admirers about the "Hillary I know," and cut ads featuring Clinton and her mother laughing in the kitchen.

She won the New Hampshire primary a day after startling voters by becoming emotional when asked how she was handling the pressure of the campaign. "It's not easy," she said as her eyes filled with tears before a group

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of undecided women at a Portsmouth, New Hampshire, diner.

Her campaign arranged other female-focused events in the long duel with Obama that followed, but that New Hampshire meeting would mark a rare moment of vulnerability for a candidate who was profiled in 'The New Yorker' in March 2008 as "The Irony Lady."

Clinton had soon swerved back to framing herself as "someone tested and ready to lead in a dangerous world," as one of her ads said—the person voters would want answering the phone at the White House at 3 a.m..

Looking ahead to 2016, Clinton seems unlikely to face the hurdle of a competitive primary, much less a battle over historic firsts. And after four years as Secretary of State—which tabled the experience question for many voters, according to polls—Clinton may feel that she simply has more latitude to talk about her life experiences in a more personal way than in previous campaigns.

"She has more freedom, because she has more political accomplishments than she did when she ran in 2008," said Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute at American University. At the same time, "all of the Monday morning quarterbacking suggests that it was probably a mistake that (the 2008 Clinton campaign) took the women's vote at all different generation levels for granted."

Primary or not, Clinton and her team seem determined not to make that mistake again.

Washington Post: “Clinton, Clinton; Cuomo, Warren”

By Dan Balz

January 3, 2015

[Subtitle:] Could 2015 be like 1991 all over again? Democratic hopes for 2016 may be at stake.

History never repeats, but sometimes things circle back in intriguing ways. How else to explain parallels between 1992 and 2016, with a pair of candidates named Clinton, at the start of their presidential campaigns, shadowed by liberal icons of the Democratic Party?

For Bill Clinton, it was Mario Cuomo, the three-term governor of New York, who died on New Year’s Day this year. For Hillary Rodham Clinton, it is Elizabeth Warren, the first-term senator from Massachusetts. The two pairings speak to ever-present tensions within the Democratic Party. But they also highlight some important differences between then and now.

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As Bill Clinton began his run for the White House in the fall of 1991, Cuomo loomed large. Most of the Democrats' heavyweights had already passed on the 1992 race. Then-president George H.W. Bush had started 1991 with a victory in the Persian Gulf War that took his approval rating to about 89 percent in the Gallup poll. At that point he looked unbeatable to risk-averse Democrats.

Clinton was among those who sensed an opportunity. He had come close to running in 1988 but chose to stay out. In the intervening four years, he had used his standing as the chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council to accelerate the process of trying to redefine his party, seeking to move it off its traditional liberal moorings toward a new centrist identification.

He was anything but a dominant front-runner in the fall of 1991, just one of a number of Democrats with hopes and dreams. Although he had served as governor of Arkansas almost continuously since 1978 (he lost his first bid for reelection in 1980) and had a network of friends that extended far beyond the borders of his home state, he knew he would have to prove himself to become the party's presidential nominee.

Cuomo, meanwhile, was a major figure, if a rather reluctant presidential candidate. He was the leading liberal in the Democratic Party, a politician of intellectual depth and rhetorical virtuosity. Through the 1980s, he was a counterweight to the philosophy of President Ronald Reagan and the rising conservative sentiment in the country. To the delight of his party's liberal base, Cuomo offered a vigorous defense of an expansive role for government, with an emphasis on aiding the poor, the homeless and the downtrodden.

By the late fall of 1991, as Clinton began his rise, Cuomo suddenly appeared as a potentially serious obstacle when he announced that he would consider entering the race. Clinton was both wary of, and ready for, a Cuomo challenge — wary due to the New York governor's national prominence and political heft; ready because he had been honing his arguments for years about the need for the Democrats to change if they hoped to recapture the White House.

Their differences were substantial. Cuomo's governmental philosophy, though he once called it "progressive pragmatism," was the embodiment of New Deal and Great Society ideas and values. After seeing Democrats defeated in three consecutive presidential elections, Clinton recognized that public faith in Great Society programs had waned, that constituency politics had its limits and that the cultural liberalism of the Democrats had created roadblocks with many voters whose support the party needed to win again nationally.

Clinton also knew at the time that there were doubts about him among party liberals. At a forum in Chicago in November 1991, he was asked a planted question about fears that he was a Republican posing as a Democrat. His answer showed his political agility to be a New Democrat rooted in old Democrat symbols. "My granddaddy thought when he died, he was going to Roosevelt," he said.

Throughout December of that year, Cuomo dithered until it was too late. On the day of the deadline for filing papers to enter the New Hampshire primary, there were chartered planes waiting on a tarmac in Albany to fly him to New Hampshire, a lectern set up outside the state capitol in Concord and throngs of reporters in each place awaiting what most thought would be a positive announcement.

In the end, Cuomo chose not to run, earning him the nickname "Hamlet on the Hudson." Mike Pride, the former editor of the Concord Monitor, tweeted the other day that, at the moment Cuomo said no, "Clinton exhaled."

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Democrats and the country were denied what might have been an epic confrontation between old and new Democratic philosophies, offered by two of the party's brightest minds and political talents. We can only speculate how history might have been changed had that clash occurred.

Clinton was ready for a fight that never came. Instead he faced weaker opposition — and his own scarred past — in the nomination campaign. He was able to move his party to the right with relative ease.

The Warren effect

Now, more than two decades later, the dynamics of the Democratic nomination contest are different. Now it is the liberal wing calling for the party to change. Hillary Rodham Clinton is cast as the status quo candidate, a politician rooted in Democratic centrism, defending an older order ushered in by her husband.

Many in the progressive wing of the party — just how many isn't yet clear — are suspicious of the former secretary of state. They see the party as far too tied to corporate and moneyed interests. Fairly or unfairly, they blame the Clintons for much of this. Although Democrats under President Obama have moved left in some areas, progressives pointing to 2016 are restless and looking for someone to shake things up. In Warren they see the ideal candidate.

Whenever a story appears about divisions within the Democratic Party, there are objections raised by those who contend that Democrats across the spectrum are mostly in agreement on policy matters — economic and social. They argue that what Clinton wrought with his presidency has taken root within the party, that the differences are manufactured.

Progressives believe otherwise. They say there are substantial differences. Trade issues divided Democrats when Clinton ran in 1992 and still do today. Warren advocates increasing Social Security benefits at a time when some other Democrats believe they will need to be squeezed. But the gaps between those who see Warren as a champion and those rallying around Clinton appear far narrower than the differences that existed between Bill Clinton and Mario Cuomo.

The differences today are both issue-based and stylistic. Progressives are pushing for a sharper, more populist edge to the Democratic message, with more attention aimed at working- and middle-class families who haven't enjoyed the fruits of the economic recovery. Warren has that populist edge. Clinton so far does not.

Progressive reprise?

Two decades ago, Bill Clinton was ready to take on Cuomo and his philosophy — although his approach never involved a repudiation of the Democratic past. He always found a way to blend old and new. But today, the question is how much Hillary Clinton will feel the need to accommodate those who yearn for a Warren candidacy. How much will she move left, while remaining largely rooted where she is?

In the end, Hillary Clinton could end up as her husband did, without the party's contemporary liberal icon in the

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presidential field. Warren appears as or more reluctant than Cuomo did in 1991. Although she couches her denials in present tense — “I am not running for president — there is nothing that she is yet doing to suggest preparations for a serious campaign. Perhaps that will change.

In 1992, Cuomo ended up delivering the nominating speech for Bill Clinton at the Democratic convention in New York. He offered a robust, fulsome embrace of the young New Democrat. If Warren stays out of the 2016 race, and if Hillary Clinton runs and wins the nomination, could we see the Massachusetts senator in the role of Mario Cuomo at the next Democratic convention?

New York Times column: Frank Bruni: “Are Two Dynasties Our Destiny?”

By Frank Bruni

January 3, 2015

[Subtitle:] Clinton, Bush and the 2016 Presidential Election

JEB and Hillary. Hillary and Jeb. It’s getting to the point where a mention of one yields a reference to the other, where they’re semantically inseparable, presidentially conjoined. Should we just go the extra step, save ourselves some syllables and keystrokes? The 2016 matchup as envisioned by many: Jebary. Or, more economically still, Heb.

The fascination with this pair as possible rivals for the White House makes perfect sense, because it defies belief. We’re talking about tomorrow while trafficking in yesterday. We’re saying we need to turn the page by going back to a previous chapter.

We’re a country of self-invention (that’s the myth, at least) in thrall to legacies and in the grip of dynasties, riveted by the mightiest surname in modern Democratic politics and its Republican analogue, imagining not just a clash of the titans but a scrum of the successors.

It would be a replay of the 1992 race, but with the wife of the victor against a son of the loser. It would also call to mind the 2000 race, when that victor’s heir apparent, Al Gore, squared off against another of that loser’s sons, George W. Bush. That too was a Clinton-Bush contest, because Bush campaigned against the incumbent president, repeatedly suggesting that his conduct with a White House intern had brought dishonor to the office.

And then, years later, they all somehow got chummy. In an interview with C-Span that aired last January, Barbara Bush revealed that Bill Clinton had developed the habit of dropping by her family’s Kennebunkport, Me., compound every summer for a visit.

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“I love Bill Clinton,” she said, explaining that he and her husband, the 42nd and 41st presidents, had formed a special bond. “Bill’s father wasn’t around, and I think that he thinks of George a little bit like the father he didn’t have.” If he’s an adopted son of sorts, then Jebary would be incestuous in addition to operatic.

How irresistible.

But how unlikely, despite all the current speculation following Jeb Bush’s maneuvers to prime a candidacy: the release of emails from his years as governor of Florida; the announcement last week that he’d resigned his positions on the boards of corporations and nonprofit organizations.

There’s no doubt that he and Hillary Clinton enjoy enormous structural advantages — in terms of name recognition, fund-raising and ready-made support networks — over other potential aspirants for their parties’ nominations.

But they also have significant external problems and internal flaws, and there are serious open questions about each. Factor those in and it’s a reach, as a sheer matter of probability, that they wind up as the final two.

One of them? Sure. Both? Too much could go wrong.

A successful campaign isn’t just coffers and endorsements, though those matter. It’s narrative and emotion. It’s a speech-by-speech, handshake-by-handshake seduction, and on this score it’s unclear that Clinton and Bush are especially well positioned or masters of the game. They’re formidable candidates, yes. But are they good ones?

What I’ve previously noted about her is true as well of him: They’re not fresh and unfamiliar enough for all that many voters to discover them, the way they did Barack Obama in 2008 and to some extent George W. Bush in 2000, and develop that kind of political crush.

They’re not naturals on the stump. Clinton came into the 2008 campaign with extensive experience in the spotlight; still she struggled to warm up to audiences (and vice versa) and find the looseness and air of intimacy that many voters crave. Her “Hard Choices” book tour last year was rocky, with awkward moments that she created or should have been able to avoid.

And it’s impossible to predict how Bush would fare on the trail, because he hasn’t waged a campaign since his re-election as governor of Florida in 2002. That’s significant, and it’s getting less attention than it should.

His bid for the Republican nomination, if he formalizes it, would be his first. And while his brother succeeded on his maiden voyage, the subsequent two nominees, John McCain and Mitt Romney, were making second tries. Practice helps.

EVEN Bush’s most ardent admirers don’t sell him as a rousing orator. Last April I happened to hear him give an education reform speech, at an event where Chris Christie had been the headliner the previous year, and the contrast was stark. Christie had come across as impassioned, unscripted. He filled and held the room. Bush was

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a phlegmatic blur. Afterward his supporters talked about and fretted over it.

Both he and Hillary Clinton may be too awash in money. More so than other Democrats and Republicans who've signaled interest in the presidency, they've existed for many years now at a financial altitude far, far above that of ordinary Americans.

And reporters digging into their affairs would provide voters with constant reminders of that, revisiting the Clintons' speaking fees and examining Jeb Bush's adventures in private equity, which a Bloomberg Politics story from December described under this headline: "Jeb Bush Has a Mitt Romney Problem."

It's hard to fathom that at this of all junctures, when there's growing concern about income inequality and the attainability of the American dream, voters in both parties would choose nominees of such economically regal bearing.

Clinton would at least hold the promise of history in the making — a first female president — and her candidacy would wring excitement from that. But to seal the deal, she'd probably have to tamp down excessive talk of inevitability, forge a less combative relationship with the news media and find a nimbleness that has often eluded her.

As Peter Beinart observed in a National Journal appraisal last year, "She's terrific at developing and executing a well-defined plan. She's less adept at realizing that a well-defined plan is not working and improvising something new." He was previewing a Clinton presidency, but his assessment is equally germane to a Clinton candidacy.

And Clinton and Bush together have more baggage than the cargo hold of a 747. That's the flip side of all of those family tentacles, all that political history, all those privileged inside glimpses of the process. They make you putty in the hands of the right opposition researcher.

We're nearly two years away from November 2016. So are Clinton and Bush. They remain abstractions.

But they won't get to campaign that way, and we won't know some of the most important stuff about them until they're actually in the arena, showing us their fettle and whether it fits the mood of the moment.

Maybe Jebary really is who we are and where we're headed. I suspect a different destination.

Boulder Daily Camera: "A conversation with Gary Hart: New policies for a new world"

[No Writer Mentioned]

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January 3, 2015, 6:00 p.m. MST

Correction, update: Former U.S. Sen. Gary Hart sent the following statement to the Camera on Sunday.

"In a long interview printed today with Mr. Dave Krieger, I am quoted as suggesting that the Orange Order might be included in the category of a paramilitary organization in Northern Ireland. That is an incorrect statement. There is an Orange Volunteer organization which has been so characterized. But the Orange Order is not, nor has it been, considered a paramilitary organization. I would appreciate this correction being printed."

The article has been edited to reflect this correction.

Former U.S. Sen. Gary Hart had just returned from Northern Ireland, where he was serving as Secretary of State John Kerry's personal representative, when he sat down for a conversation with Daily Camera editorial page editor Dave Krieger in his Denver law office on Dec. 11.

The one-hour, 40-minute conversation moved from his current assignment to a variety of other topics, including Vladimir Putin, U.S. defense spending, a new book about the stakeout that destroyed Hart's second presidential campaign, the corruption of electoral politics by special interest money and the prospective field of Democratic presidential contenders in 2016. This is the first half of the conversation. Part 2 will be published next week.

Q: Let's start with your current assignment. What is the task in Northern Ireland?

A: Well, you can't understand it without some history, so I'm afraid I'll have to ramble a bit. The Protestant majority/Catholic minority in Northern Ireland began to clash over perceived injustices that the minority were receiving at the hands of the British government. As you know, Ulster, or northeast Ireland, is a province of the United Kingdom, together with England, Scotland and Wales. This had been developing for quite a long time, since the creation of the Irish Republic in 1922 in the so-called Anglo-Irish Agreement. Ulster was carved out. This led to a brief civil war in Ireland. Long history.

In any case, in the '60s, paramilitaries formed on both sides ... . Bombs and bullets flew and 3,000 people died. At the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the Clinton administration, I, among others, I think I was one of the first, urged Bill Clinton to send a personal representative or special envoy or whatever you want to call it, to Northern Ireland, if the parties would agree to it, to try to negotiate a peace agreement. That was '94. In '95, he appointed George Mitchell, a friend and former colleague. In '98, the Good Friday Agreement was signed by the British and Irish governments, but most of all by the parties in Northern Ireland. There are, by the way, two major parties but six political parties overall.

Three of them are so-called unionist parties. They believe in continuing the affiliation with the United Kingdom. And that is the Protestant majority. But that majority, by the way, is declining in population.

The cease-fire occurred under considerably complicated terms. Further negotiations went forward and led to something called the St. Andrews Agreement, named for where the negotiation took place, that created a so-called devolved government. By that was meant that London would transfer authority for self-government to a government that was composed of the two major parties. It was structured with a first minister from the Democratic Unionist Party, the leading unionist party, and a deputy first minister from the Sinn Féin, or the Irish

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Nationalist or Republican side. That turned out to be a man called Peter Robinson, currently, and, on the other side, a well-known former member of the IRA, Martin McGuinness. So that's all the backdrop.

Time went by, we're now talking between '06 and '14, when progress was made and then there would be periods of stagnation. There were several sets of issues.

The principal issues today, and there have been kind of fits and starts, have to do with the budget. The budget comes from London, the U.K. government, and it's basically one billion pounds sterling per year. It's big. Northern Ireland is the size of Connecticut. It has a million and a quarter to a million and a half people. So it's human scale and yet it costs a lot. And the reason it costs a lot is the economy is not good and it's heavily, heavily subsidized by the British government. So the British government is cutting spending under a Conservative government, (prime minister) David Cameron, and that means across the board, including Northern Ireland. That meant cutting welfare payments. Sinn Féin said no. 'We have too many poor people here, too many people who were victims of the Troubles.' So that's been the principal area of contention.

A second set of issues is very hard to explain. They're called the legacy issues. They combine victims and survivors, and that's never been resolved. Should people be compensated on both sides for what happened to them and their loved ones, death and dismemberment, houses destroyed and so forth. But also, flags and parades. Now, you say flags and parades to Americans and they roll their eyes. Why are they going on at such length about flags and parades?

To which I say, wait a minute. Have you heard of Ferguson, Missouri? Those are parades. Protests. The same thing is going on in Northern Ireland. Flags, I say, do you remember, it was only recently where capitals in South Carolina and other places wanted to fly the confederate flag? These are symbols. So, OK, Americans begin to understand it a little bit better.

The third set of issues has to do with unfulfilled ideas in the Good Friday Agreement. Sinn Féin wanted schools to include the study of the Irish language. That hasn't been resolved. Sinn Féin wants a bill of rights. That hasn't been resolved. So those are also legacy issues.

Then finally, the devolved government in '06 needs to be reformed. Ministries need to be consolidated, members of the legislative assembly have to be reduced.

So here you have four baskets of issues. Nothing was happening in the summer of this year and Secretary of State John Kerry, a friend and former colleague, asked if I would go over in August to see whether there was anything the United States could do to get the sides talking to each other. The theory being, it's still volatile. There are still streets, for example, the famous street called the Ardoyne (in Belfast), where every building would have a unionist flag on one side and every building on the other side would have an Irish flag.

Protestant schools, Catholic schools. And barriers, still barriers from the time of the Troubles, physical barriers between neighborhoods. So stagnation leads to friction. Friction leads to confrontation. Confrontation leads to possible violence.

So I made a trip in August. I went to London to meet with the British government, Dublin to meet with the Irish government, and then Belfast. I reported back to Secretary Kerry, urging him to bring pressure to bear on the

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British government to start negotiations, discussions. Strangely enough, two weeks later, I think the second or third week in September, we have a consulate in Belfast and the consul general sent a message back saying the British secretary of state for Northern Ireland, a woman called Theresa Villiers, has called on the parties to start talking. Now, who knows how that happened, but it was a 180-degree turnaround from when I was there the last week of August.

So they began to talk, starting with Robinson and McGuinness, but involving the other four parties as well, and tried to work out a formula for dealing with these four baskets of issues. That was September. It went into October. I went back for a week in October and went from party to party and met with community groups and so forth. And then finally, last week I was there for a whole week in more intense negotiations that finally began end of November, early December, two or three days a week, but intense.

Now, today, the prime minister of Great Britain, David Cameron, and the prime minister of Ireland, who bears the Irish title of Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, are both showing up in Belfast and participating in these talks. The hope is they will reach a comprehensive agreement.

As the Secretary of State's representative, I am not called special envoy and I'll give you a little of the history of that. For purposes of title, I am personal representative of the secretary of state. I observe and encourage and support and push. Mr. Robinson particularly was very resistant to an American presence. I don't think it was personal. His argument is, "We were given this government, this devolved government from the St. Andrews Agreement, meant that we should govern ourselves. So why do we need an outside party?" He even pushed back against the Irish foreign minister participating, Charlie Flanagan. So it was more of a sovereignty question than an anti-American question. But they let me hang around. They gave me an office in Stormont House, where the negotiations were taking place, and people came and went, and I went to their office and they would come to my office. It was quite an interesting experience.

The real justification for an American (being there): Northern Ireland has gotten more American interest over the past 40 years or more, than any other place on Earth of comparable size except one, which is Israel. And people might say, why are we so interested in Northern Ireland? Forty million Americans claim Irish heritage. Last week, I heard it was 70 million.

It's demographically impossible. Even the wave of migrants in the mid-19th century from the potato famine did not lead to 40 or 70 million Americans. So there's something romantic, I don't know what, going on. But there is considerable organized interest, particularly from Irish-Americans on the Catholic side, over what happens in Ireland generally but also what happens to Sinn Féin and the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland. That's the political justification for all this American interest. Plus, all the parties over there, some more than others, do credit us, from the Mitchell period onward, with preventing more bloodshed and violence. So we have some moral authority and political authority in that regard.

But George was a politician, as I was. In between were three or four special envoys. Largely during Bush II, I think there were three or four, they were diplomats. They had a State Department hat on and went in a diplomatic capacity. By training and background, George and I are more from a political background. So the hope is that a comprehensive agreement that will enable the Northern Ireland government to function productively and begin to help solve some of these problems, will be reached even under constrained budgets. That's the big problem. The key now, frankly, I think Sinn Féin and D.U.P. (Democratic Unionist Party) have reached a general agreement over welfare payments and the budget. It's up to the British government to meet their demand, is what it amounts to. And that's why Cameron is showing up there.

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Q: If that agreement were to be reached in the next couple of weeks, do you think that would end your role there?

A: That's never been determined. One of the reasons John Kerry's office came up with 'personal representative' is he and I are very good friends and have worked together. I supported him when he ran for president. He wanted to leave open other assignments. So it's not personal representative for Northern Ireland. The assignment right now is Northern Ireland. Now, what I have said to the parties over there, I wrote an op-ed for the Belfast Telegraph and I issued a press statement when I was over there last week. And I did a kind of truncated press conference of sorts in which I was very candid about, "My role is vague, I'm not George Mitchell, this is not that kind of situation. I'm here to encourage and promote."

But John Kerry and I have not discussed what happens after that. What I am proposing and hope to carry out is a congressional delegation to go to Northern Ireland, either February or April, and an investment business group to go to Northern Ireland, American companies that will explore the markets. What we can help with and they desperately need is employment. That sounds familiar. They're in the same boat we're in, only they've got 12-17 percent unemployment, again, in six counties.

(Editor's note: The parties announced an agreement on Dec. 23. John Kerry issued a statement saying in part: "I applaud the parties and the two governments for securing this agreement and pledge America's full political support for the new arrangements. I'm also particularly grateful to my personal representative, Sen. Gary Hart, and his deputy, Greg Burton, whose deep engagement helped ensure the success of the talks. I know Sen. Hart looks forward to continuing his efforts next year in support of a peaceful and prosperous Northern Ireland, and I am very lucky to have Gary devoting his time to this effort.")

Q: Do you like the role? If this were to be resolved and John Kerry were to call you and say, 'You know what, I'd like you to go to the Middle East for me,' would you have any interest?

A: I couldn't do that. The Middle East would be more intensive. George took a crack at that a couple years ago. You almost have to live there. My wife of 56 years is just not going to tolerate that. I can come and go, but I think the short answer is, intensive negotiations, probably not. I've spent an awful lot of time in Russia and I've discussed with Secretary Kerry a possible role there as someone who might carry messages back and forth and so forth.

"This is an atmosphere that only a Henry Kissinger would appreciate, a student of European diplomacy in the 17th and 18th centuries."-- Gary Hart, on the intrigue in the Middle East

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Q: That's one of the fascinating spots in the world right now.

A: Well, it's not only fascinating. I've advocated for years, going all the way back, that the U.S.-Russian relationship in the 21st century is going to be one of the most important that we have. Not the closest, but the most important. And I think that's proving to be true. We're not managing it well. They're managing it extremely poorly and making it very difficult. It's not all Putin's fault but there's a long history there as well. I would welcome a chance to play a role there, but it wouldn't be ambassador or anything like that.

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Q: This is an extremely approximate analogy, but the impressions in the U.S. of Stalin right after World War II were sort of similar to the impressions of Putin in the West today. There's a certain romanticism about these guys, and it took the West a long time to figure out who Stalin really was. And I wonder if you think there's any parallel there. Is Putin a danger, a threat?

A: I'd push back against a comparison to Stalin. I mean, Stalin killed 25 or 30 million people. I don't think Putin's going to do that. The world wouldn't stand for it today. We weren't in a similar position in the '30s to prevent him from doing that. There certainly was no United Nations and European Union and things like that.

A danger only in a relatively minor way, which is this Greater Russia theory that he's promoting is a danger not only in the Ukraine, eastern Ukraine, but in the Baltic states as well. So I'd say anywhere on the western and southwestern perimeter, anytime Georgia, for example, or the -stans, the former Soviet Muslim republics, anytime he has a Russian minority population, he's going to try to figure out a way to bring them into the Russian orbit. What he's trying to do is create a smaller version of the former Russian empire.

What happened in August of '91 was the collapse of two empires — the Soviet, but also the traditional Russian empire. And I see him notionally trying to recreate some version of the old Russian empire. I think that's what he's up to. That already is leading to friction. Happily so far, it's being played out on the economic battlefield not the military one.

Q: And it's having a significant effect on the ruble, on the Russian stock market. He doesn't seem to care.

A: "Care" is an internalized word. It has to bother him politically and economically, obviously. Even worse is the drop in oil prices on top of that because that's his overwhelming source of income.

Q: Is that on purpose? Do you think Saudi Arabia is doing that to Russia specifically?

A: Oh, no, no. It's fracking in Colorado.

Q: Well, there is that, but Saudi Arabia could cut production to increase prices and it's not doing that.

A: Sure. But they've done that to us, too. I mean, anytime we try to get an alternative energy industry going, anything like that, oil shale in Colorado, all they've got to do is drop their price. Now, circumstances have changed because of fracking and the huge increase in American production. We're even in the export business now. So they just don't have the same lever they had 20 or 30 years ago, by any means. They could determine American energy policy, I mean, six guys in a room, just by manipulating the price post-OPEC.

I don't see that happening as a lever on Russia. They don't have that big a stake. However, when you begin to look at this complicated Middle East and the competition, for example, between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and the Sunni-Shiite, on top of all that, the rise of the Islamic State, what I see the Saudis doing, and I've been over there several times recently, in the last year or two, is struggling to maintain some of their dominance in the region against a rising Iran. And now, as you know, if you look at the last 12 or 18 months of how sides are sorting themselves out vis-à-vis ISIS, Syria and all the rest of it, it's bewildering. I mean, you've got to have a political map every day to figure out who's on whose side because interests are changing so fast between the Sunnis

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and the Shiites, who wants to align with the Saudis and what's their future as an oligarchy. They're thinking, "What happens if there's a U.S.-Iranian agreement?" The Israelis are worried about that. It's a nightmare. That one's a nightmare.

Q: The theory, I think, is Russia's support of Iran. If the Saudis can damage Russia, maybe they reduce its support of Iran.

A: There may be some of that calculation, but this is an atmosphere that only a Henry Kissinger would appreciate, a student of European diplomacy in the 17th and 18th centuries. That's the way Kissinger sees the world. He understands, or thinks he does, and loves, intricate, behind-the-scenes maneuvering, because he thinks that's the way the world runs anyway. I don't, but he does. And it may be for the time being in the Middle East; that is to say, that the Saudis would play a game against the Russians to satisfy some interest way away from Russia.

Q: Let me bring it back to the United States and our role in the world and our defense budget. With all the talk about the debt, obviously people focus on that $625 billion. It's part of the discretionary side, so you can actually affect it. In your view, is the level of defense spending today too little, too much, about right?

A: You know, I've struggled with that question throughout most of my life, certainly since I went to the Senate and joined the Armed Services Committee in 1975. So how long ago was that? Forty years? Every time I do that calculation my jaw drops. Anyway, I'd love to go back, and should, to what the DOD budget was in 1975, and this was still during the Cold War. Defense spending increased in the Carter years, contrary to what conservatives have said. It began to go down under Bush I because of the end of the Cold War and a belief, not that peace had come to the world but that it was a different arena and we hadn't sorted out what was needed. Now it's going back up again.

I'd answer your question this way. I know the traditional nation-state wars that began after the treaty of Versailles are declining sharply because of globalization. I co-chaired a committee called the U.S. Commission on National Security for the 21st Century from 1998 to 2001. We forecast the terrorist attacks, among other things. We went around the table the first couple of months and said, 'What's the threat?' We had a member early on in that commission, a Republican woman, who said "China, China, China." She couldn't get even Newt Gingrich and James Schlesinger to agree with her, so she quit and left. Her name was Lynne Cheney, Dick Cheney's wife. She told her husband, "These fools don't understand it's us vs. China."

Well, it's ridiculous. The biggest holder of American bonds is China. We're their biggest market. I have a line in speeches where I say the only reason the Chinese would invade us, presuming they could, is to get their money back.

So we're still arming ourselves for nation-state wars — big bomber wings, B-1s and B-2s; nuclear aircraft carrier task groups at sea; and big Army divisions, 10,000-man Army divisions. That's not a force structure and weapons acquisition system designed for the conflict of the 21st century. What's going down is nation-state wars that require all those things. What's going up is irregular, unconventional, tribal, radical fundamentalist conflicts, all over the place. What do you need? Special forces.

Actually, I proposed 10 or more years ago that we have a fifth service called Special Ops or Special Forces. Now, the services don't want to give up their individual special forces so it's probably not going to happen, but it

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is de facto a fifth service, Special Forces. That's the cutting edge. Instead of aircraft carriers, we're going to need small coastal ships that can operate in waterways and inlets in close. Different kind of aircraft. The F-35 is probably not going to be necessary. You're going to need more something like an A-10, a second- or third-generation A-10 Warhawk.

Q: The F-35 is something like an $11 billion budget line item.

A: That's the other problem is cost growth per unit. Every individual weapons system costs more now. What we need are M-1 rifles that work in the sand. It's not so much how much we're spending. It's how it's being spent.

Q: So you would change the focus and then figure out how much that costs to do.

A: Well, yeah, exactly. And I said that when I was in office. We shouldn't debate, as we did in the Armed Services Committee, on the floor of the Senate, in conference committees, what the total number's going to be. What do we need to defend ourselves? And then get out the calculator. That's the way you should do it.

Q: So from a strategic standpoint, there's a new book by Bret Stephens that says America's in retreat. Obama has withdrawn from the world and other actors are filling the vacuum. There is of course a countervailing view that we were way too active on the ground under Bush and that this is an appropriate restraint. We spend more, I think, than the next eight defense budgets in the world put together.

A: More than all the rest of the world combined.

Q: So Obama comes in as the alternative to Bush and ends up doing a lot of the same things. The drone attacks are increasing. Do we have to be the world's policeman because nobody else will take the job or is there another way?

A: Well, we certainly don't have to be the world's policeman. I've written books and articles to the effect that what we need are new security alliances. We're operating in two ways. One, unilaterally. We're going to go kill somebody, or stop people from killing somebody. Or we're going to round up NATO. NATO was created as a bulwark against the Soviet Union. There is no Soviet Union. NATO has survived 25 years without a real rewriting of its mission. Now, we employed it to a degree in Afghanistan because of Article 5 and a threat to one is a threat to all, and because of 9/11 and the dramatic nature of that, they came in — some in a token capacity, others in a real capacity.

But what I've envisioned is a 21st-century NATO or 21st-century international security alliance or a set of regional NATOs. For example, I can see — it's more difficult now because of China's behavior — but I could have seen a Southeast Asian NATO, where we, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Australians and some minor players formed a security alliance and used that as the forum for resolving internal conflicts, anticipating the Spratly Islands and all the friction going on over those little rocks. Frankly, the same is true of northeast Asia. China, Japan and Russia have an interest in what happens in North Korea as much as we do. And we could have had a Northeast Asian security alliance patterned after NATO. And the list goes on.

So, in an ideal world, starting in the Clinton years, really Bush I, but Clinton primarily, we would have

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restructured the security environment regionally and engaged with people that parties like Lynne Cheney saw as adversaries. My theory of security is if you can get a country inside the tent, you're better off. At least, you're talking. Your generals and admirals are talking. Your security advisors are talking. And you're devising common security interests. You're looking at what you have in common rather than what you have in opposition. So I would have redesigned the world that way in the late 20th century. Didn't happen, unfortunately.

So what's our principal security alliance? One that was created in 1947 in a much, much, different world. We're making it up as we go along. That includes Democratic presidents too, by the way. George W. Bush, when he took office, didn't pay any attention to our report and other warnings and eight months later, 3,000 Americans died and that became the building block for particularly Richard Cheney, (Donald) Rumsfeld and others — the neo-cons — to fashion a whole global outlook, war on terrorism. When's the last time you heard that phrase?

Then, in typical American cyclical fashion, we fight two wars, one and a half of which were voluntary, wars of choice, not necessity. The man that follows him then has to wind those down and extract us from those wars that had dragged on for more than a decade and is still doing so, by the way. And that preoccupied him to the extent that he couldn't think more strategically, holistically and begin the process of remaking the world.

But here you're talking to a guy that is fed up with Washington in more ways than one. Particularly the politics and the lobbying, but you now have these elites. This has been true, I suppose, since the age of Jefferson. But really in the post-World War II era, a relatively small number of people, the foreign policy elite, centered around the Council on Foreign Relations and those kind of organizations, have dominated American foreign policy. Are there smart people there? Yes, of course. Do they have interests to promote? Of course.

But it's a closed shop. And the same people are recycled over and over and over again. Obama's foreign policy team is basically Clinton III. What we have now is the fourth Clinton administration in terms of personnel. The problem is they all know each other, the same Rolodexes, but they're promoting the same policies and the world changes. So Obama comes in from Springfield, Illinois, basically, and wins the election and he has to put together an administration. Who does he turn to? Two people: Rahm Emanuel and John Podesta, both Clintonites. Who did they bring back into government? Clinton. Are they capable people? Were they assistant secretaries? Yes. But that was in the 1990s.

Q: So how do you feel about Hillary 2016?

A: Well, I have to give you an anecdote. As a young Denver lawyer, I started working in 1971 for Sen. George McGovern, after the Robert Kennedy assassination. In the spring or summer of 1972, when it looked like McGovern might improbably win the Democratic nomination, we then had to begin to think about a national general election campaign. Much different. And one of the key people in the campaign at that point had been a Rhodes Scholar and he said, "There's a guy at the Yale Law School, he's from Arkansas, we ought to bring him in and send him to a key southern state like Texas."

So he brought him in. It was Bill Clinton. Clinton brought his girlfriend with him and I sent Bill Clinton down to help organize Texas because he had a southern accent and he was a smart guy and very ambitious. And the girlfriend with very thick glasses followed him. That's how long I've known the Clintons.

Are there a lot of people who want a woman president for the first time? Yes. Is she well-known? Yes. Is she experienced? Yes. Do those three things qualify her to be president at a time when new ideas, new people and

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new thinking are required? I'd just leave it at that.

What I would say is that I hope there are others that get into the competition and not just, as the Washington press corps wants, give her the nomination, a coronation. There ought to be a competition and it ought to be to some degree generational. And I say this as someone who ran in '84 against a former vice president who wasn't that much older than I was, but it represented a generation of different thinking about the future of the Democratic party. And that played out all the way to the '84 convention. So I'd like to see competition. And if the rank and file of the Democratic Party, including young people, want Hillary Clinton and believe she'd be a great president, then she should get the nomination.

I'm Oriental in the sense I think your strength is also always your weakness. Her strength is all that experience, but I think it's also her weakness. Same people, same ideas, same agenda. Her Achilles' heel, which showed itself in '08, is still there — caution on contentious issues, wanting to wait and see how the dust settles first in the Democratic Party and then in the greater society. She's made some bland statement about, 'We shouldn't torture.' Well, what was she going to say? We should torture?

Q: Cheney did.

A: Cheney is Cheney. We don't need two Cheneys.

Q: Do you have anybody in mind in terms of the generational challenge?

A: Well, a young guy who celebrated his 21st birthday on my campaign became governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley. He's pushing himself forward. Fifty years old. Successful governor. There's former Sen. Jim Webb. Very strong on national security and has an ability to appeal to blue-collar working people. Others should jump in as well. I'm trying to think who else has kind of edged forward.

Q: Elizabeth Warren?

A: She would stir things up, and I like her economics, at least on the issue of concentrated wealth, but being president's more than that. It ain't a one-issue office.

Q: Let me ask you about what's happened since you ran for president in terms of the economics of America. Not only the income inequality and the distribution of wealth and the top 1 percent, but, it seems to me, the sort of institutionalization of that. Thanks to Citizens United, big money owns the political process now. How does that get fixed or does it get fixed?

A: I submitted a manuscript for my 21st book in August. It's at the publisher's now and the publication date is 30 June for the Fourth of July weekend. It addresses that issue.

Q: Does it have a title yet?

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A: The title is, "The Republic of Conscience." It's taken from a poem by the Northern Ireland poet Seamus Heaney who won the Nobel prize for literature, now dead. It seeks to address the issue why, given our wealth and prosperity, Americans are so unhappy with their own government. And my thesis is that instinctively people out on the streets of Denver and everywhere, sense that our country has become something that they were not taught it was. What it was, what its founders created it to be, was a republic.

Now, if you stop 10 Coloradans and say, define a republic, nine of them couldn't do it, but it meant a lot to everybody — Washington, Adams, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, all of them — because they were students of ancient Greece and Rome and they knew a republic predated democracy. Jefferson called himself a democratic republican. Why the republic was so important was it was the first citizen self-government, from ancient Greece, Athens, fourth, fifth century B.C.. Democracy came along to say it shouldn't be just the leaders of the community who meet in the square. It should be everybody. So democracy is about access to the republican form of government.

A central thesis of republican government, from Athens forward, was resistance to corruption. And every founder and all of the ancients that they read said that the thing that is most dangerous to a republic is corruption. Now, they didn't mean the quid pro quo, buying votes. They defined it, even in those days, 2,500 years ago, as putting special interests ahead of the common good or common wealth, and the term commonwealth comes from that far back. And it meant, in a republic there are things that everybody owns together. And it is the integrity of the government, it is the public assets, and on and on. And those must be protected against any special interest or narrow interest, however powerful it is.

That was who we were created to be and who we were taught, and I was taught, in eighth-grade civics in Ottawa, Kansas, we were. That is not who we are today. By that definition, given our system of lobbying, campaign contributions, access to power, and the intertwining, with the help of the current Supreme Court, of powerful interests and money and politics, we're massively corrupt. We're a massively corrupt republic. That's what the book is about.

Q: How do you fix that, or does it get fixed? How do you take back control of it?

A: Oh, boy. My study of American history, and I went back to school when I was in my 60s to finish a degree; unprecedented, I think, in American history ...

Q: The one at Oxford?

A: Yeah. The Senate historian told me he had no record of any other senator ever doing that.

Q: Philosophy?

A: No, it was political theory. And I wrote on Jefferson. And the Oxford University Press published the thesis, which they don't always do. But late in life, Jefferson wrote Adams, when they resumed their correspondence, and he said, 'When we put this together, I think we missed' — and of course, he was off in Paris during the Constitutional Convention — 'I think we missed a point, and that is there's no venue for citizen participation. It's all representative democracy.' You vote for people to go to the state capital or Washington to represent you, but republican government requires citizen involvement and participation. And he said in the letters to Adams and

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others, that's the best corrective to corruption. If citizens are involved, they're not going to let the banker or the real estate developer or the airline or even the nurses or teachers, to dominate the government and get what they want unless it fits into the broader common interest.

All the Jefferson books would almost fill this whole building, but there was very little written on that because it occurred in the last five or 10 years of Jefferson's life, after he'd been president. So people just thought he was off on some tangent. He didn't want to amend the constitution, but he wanted to institute what he called ward or elementary republics. He wanted small communities to govern themselves under the federal blanket. So the second half of the thesis is, if we were to do that in the 21st century in America, how would it work?

Oddly enough, I was chairing the U.S. Commission on National Security at the same time, commuting back and forth, and we forecast terrorist attacks. So I said, OK, national security is going to become a local interest and we've got the army to deal with that. That's called the National Guard. Militia is mentioned three times in the constitution because they were supposed to repel foreign dangers until the regular army could appear. That, of course, is the reason for the Second Amendment.

Q: And when Jefferson was governor of Virginia, he completely failed in that.

A: Yeah, of course, yeah.

Q: While we're on the subject of elections, I know you wrote something in strong support of Mark Udall before the election. What's your take on the outcome?

Washington Post: “Local experts predict the sports, music and food D.C. will be buzzing about in 2015” [PARTIAL]

By Sadie Dingfelder

January 5, 2015, 6:18 a.m. EST

Enough with the 2014 memories — we’re now squarely in 2015 and ready to look ahead. What’s awaiting us? We asked those in the know about foodie trends, the 2016 presidential race, D.C.’s interminable transit woes, the big Redskins QB question, and more. Think you know better than the experts? Take our 2015 predictions survey and prove it.

THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Who will be the presidential nominees for 2016? Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, edits the Crystal Ball website, which analyzes upcoming elections across the country. Sabato predicts

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Hillary Rodham Clinton will face off against Jeb Bush in 2016. “Some people say the public is concerned that U.S. politics is turning even more dynastic. But I’ll bet many Americans welcome the trend. Dynasty reduces their workload as citizens; they only have to keep up with two families, the Bushes and the Clintons.” … and in 2024? Following the same school of thought: “The logical match-up will be George P. Bush vs. Chelsea Clinton — both of whom will be in their 40s, well above the age-35 threshold,” Sabato says. S.D.

…

Electablog: Hillary’s rise is inspiring — Jeb’s is everything that’s wrong with America

By LOLGOP
January 4, 2015

Fresh out of college, I watched Al Gore and George W. Bush’s face merge together in the Rage Against the Machine video “Testify,” directed by Michael Moore, and thought, “Exactly, man. What’s the difference?”

George W. spent the next 8 years showing me exactly what the difference was.

He destroyed the fiscal balance of the Clinton era, did everything he could to make climate change worse and launched a massively wasteful war of choice that could not be “won.” And we’ll see it for decades in the two men to the Supreme Court who have ruled more on behalf of corporations than any Justices in our lifetime.

Now, after six years of Barack Obama, I sense hints of the ache I felt in 2000.

A Democratic president inevitably disappoints. This president’s capacious exercise of war powers and unwillingness to use the Justice system to reign in crimes of the last administration or systematic abuses that led to the financial crisis stand out as disappointments.

But the progress Obama led is not be limited to the two fine women he appointed to the Supreme Court.

In his first two years — much like Bill Clinton with his tax increases on the rich, the Brady Bill and the Motor Voter Law — Obama signed laws that will continue to transform this country and possibly even reduce the withering of the middle class. His Stimulus created our clean energy industry from scratch. His appointments reshaped the federal courts and his leadership has led us into the first effort to combat climate change as a nation.

But as we learned over the last decade, this legacy could easily be wrecked by his predecessor. Which leads us to 2016.

With Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton both likely to run, there’s already a tendency to lump the two together as an example of American legacies run amok.

“Clinton and Bush together have more baggage than the cargo hold of a 747,” The New York Times’ Frank Bruni wrote on Sunday.

There are fair criticisms of Hillary Clinton — but they are rarely made by Republicans or “centrist” members of the press. Her baggage is that of a historic figure blazing paths in front of our face, often with a target on her back.

When her husband asked her to lead his attempt at health care reform in 1993, Governor Mario Cuomo asked

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Hillary, “What did you do to make your husband so mad at you?”

The right-wing onslaught against Hillarycare — and personal attacks on Hillary — would seem distant and strange now, if we hadn’t just been through six years of the same senseless assault on the even more moderate Obamacare. After the failure of that reform, Mrs. Clinton retreated into a less visible role as she championed policies like State Children’s Health Insurance Program, which greatly reduced our population of uninsured children.

The idea that it’s natural and easy for First Lady to transition directly to electoral politics is completely negated by the fact that it’s never happened before. Clinton’s name was a definite advantage in New York State but it was a name she help built in a political partnership with her husband that has not been seen since Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

As a Senator, she helped lead the fight to support 9/11 first responders. After she made the mistake of voting for the Iraq War, she took on the administration’s failure to adequately support the troops.

When Clinton lost the Democratic primary to Barack Obama, she devoted herself and her husband to Obama’s election then completely subjugated her ego to become his Secretary of State.

Jeb Bush is a fortunate son of man whose father was a banker and a U.S. Senator.

While George H.W. Bush distinguished himself as a war hero then worked his way up the rungs government, Jeb passed go and went straight to his first campaign for governor of Florida, which he lost. He then won twice, along the way helping his brother “win” an election in which the Bush received fewer votes than Al Gore.

Jeb — we’re supposed to believe — is more competent than his brother. His conservative dogma is just as blind and his foreign policy is as shapeless as W.’s was in 2000. But he’ll more than likely share numerous advisers.

If Jeb is a more competent administrator than his brother, that should be even more frightening for the middle class. Conservative policies, when applied effectively, create inequality by driving power and profits into the hands of an increasingly small group of Americans.

We have every reason to be afraid that inherited wealth enabled by conservative governance could completely destroy any semblance of fairness in our economy.

“The big idea of Capital in the Twenty-First Century is that we haven’t just gone back to nineteenth-century levels of income inequality, we’re also on a path back to ‘patrimonial capitalism,’ in which the commanding heights of the economy are controlled not by talented individuals but by family dynasties,” Paul Krugman wrote in his review of economist Thomas Piketty’s latest book, which warns of a “new Gilded Age.”

The Clintons inherited nothing.

You can argue that they are now too close to entrenched power and that the Clinton’s administration’s embrace of the drug war and deregulation helped exacerbate two of the great crises of our time. Democrats would benefit from a contentious primary season that forces all candidates to define and defend their beliefs. That’s how we got three frontrunners all embracing health care reform in 2008.

In a certain way, Republicans almost seem eager to pick a candidate who negates their arguments against Clinton. The right attacks her for being to old or too rich then flirts again with Mitt Romney, who is older and richer. The right wants to say she hasn’t earned her brand then it flirts with a candidate whose name is synonymous with nepotism gone wrong.

And every other candidate Republicans have to offer from Rand Paul — who is literally inheriting his father’s presidential campaign — to Scott Walker to Marco Rubio will be likely offering a platform that gives Clintons a tax break and cuts the safety net to pay for it. None of them have accomplished any more than Clinton — and what they have accomplished has been to the detriment of working people.

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The rise to become the first female frontrunner for the presidency is unprecedented in American history.

Women have been able to vote in this country for less than a century. And just as a black candidate brought out some of worst of America's instincts on race, at least 50 shades of misogyny will be on full display if Mrs. Clinton decides to run.

Hillary Clinton deserves credit for career and the historic opportunity she may seize. Take on her policies, please. But don't do Republicans the favor of lumping her in with John Ellis Bush AKA Jeb.

New York Post: Page Six: "Hillary Clinton is already seeing big-name support"

By Mara Siegler

January 3, 2015, 9:30 p.m. EST

CEO of DreamWorks Animation Jeffrey Katzenberg and co-founder and CEO of Avenue Capital Group Marc Lasry are already planning on ways to support Hillary Rodham Clinton.

We're told the pair was overheard talking about fundraising for the Democratic presidential hopeful — who has not yet announced her candidacy — at Coba restaurant at the Viceroy in Anguilla on Wednesday.

Katzenberg and Lasry are both longtime supporters of the Clintons.

In October, Katzenberg co-hosted a fund-raiser that Hillary headlined, helping to raise $2.1 million for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

A rep for Katzenberg declined to comment.

Wall Street Journal: "Top Iowa Democrats Slow to Rally Around Hillary Clinton"

By Reid J. Epstein and Peter Nicholas

January 4, 2015, 7:35 p.m. EST

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[Subtitle:] Many Say They Would Prefer a More Liberal Candidate or At Least a Robust Debate

Iowa Democratic leaders say they are troubled by the prospect that Hillary Clinton could win the state's 2016 presidential caucuses without a serious challenge, a view primarily rooted in a desire for a more liberal candidate or at least a robust debate about the party's policies and direction.

Interviews with more than half of Democratic chiefs in Iowa's 99 counties show a state party leadership so far reluctant to coalesce behind Mrs. Clinton. County Democratic officials also voiced qualms about Mrs. Clinton's ability to win a general election and her fundraising ties to Wall Street firms and corporations, which remain a target of liberal ire.

Many county officials said they would like to see senators including Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Bernie Sanders of Vermont enter the race, though they were split over whether any could gain traction and overtake Mrs. Clinton.

"My heart wouldn't be in it for Hillary to the extent that it might be if it was a different candidate," said Jennifer Herrington, chair of the Page County Democrats in southwest Iowa. "I admire Hillary, she'd be a great president, but you know, she isn't my first choice I guess."

Of course, candidates can secure a party nomination without winning Iowa, an idiosyncratic contest that tends to reward candidates with strong local organization and passionate supporters. But as the first-in-the-nation contest, set to take place about a year from now, Iowa draws outsize attention from candidates and the media, and it can set a narrative for a party's entire primary season.

Mrs. Clinton was also the front-runner at the start of the 2008 presidential campaign, but her big polling lead eroded as the Iowa campaign wore on and caucus participants migrated to the insurgent campaign of then-Sen. Barack Obama , who won in Iowa, and former Sen. John Edwards , who finished in second place. Mrs. Clinton bounced back with a win in New Hampshire and won several other states before bowing out of the race in early June after Mr. Obama built an insurmountable delegate lead.

This time, polling in Iowa again shows Mrs. Clinton with a big lead, nearly 50 points, over other possible Democratic candidates. But Iowa Democratic officials, most of whom backed Mr. Obama or Mr. Edwards in 2008, said they fear what several called a Clinton "coronation" that would deprive the party of a discussion about its direction on economic issues. Those qualms reflect the unease of a national party increasingly split between its centrist and liberal wings.

While all the Iowa party chiefs interviewed said they would support Mrs. Clinton in a general election, many described her as their second choice in the Democratic contest.

"The Hillary Clinton inevitability talk is the same thing we heard in 2008, and the caucusgoers in Iowa chose a different route," said Joe Judge, chairman of the Democratic Party in Monroe County. "The field is wide open for that again."

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A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton declined to comment.

Ms. Warren, a freshman senator, has said she isn't running and has pledged to finish out her term. But liberal activists are trying to lure her into the race. MoveOn.org, a liberal advocacy group, has been interviewing activists and is looking for office space in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids as part of its Draft Warren effort, spokeswoman Victoria Kaplan said.

State Democratic officials also want a contested race because that boosts the party apparatus and fundraising. Mr. Obama's 2008 campaign attracted scores of volunteers who remain active in the party. Various presidential hopefuls, moreover, serve as star attractions for fundraising dinners and barbecue cookouts across the state.

John Stone, party chairman in Cerro Gordo County, throws the annual Wing Ding supper in Clear Lake in August. When Mr. Obama spoke there in 2007, he drew nearly 700 people, with attendees paying $25 a ticket to benefit local candidates in 17 northern Iowa counties. Without a big name, the dinner draws closer to 400 people, Mr. Stone said.

"When we have these candidates out here running for office, we invite them to county dinners and the numbers swell at these events," said Tom Henderson, chairman of Democratic Party in Polk County, which includes Des Moines. "So it is a great, great service for the Democratic Party to have these candidates running for office."

Veterans of the state's Democratic caucuses recall a lean period from 1988 to 2004 and are wary of a repeat, especially with a rollicking Republican contest in the offing. Some Iowa Democrats believed the state party suffered even in 2012, when Mr. Obama was running for re-election.

"I think even though the president won in 2012, the Republicans were on national TV with all the debates and their ideas were promoted over and over and over, and Democratic values were not," said Julie Stewart, the chairwoman of the Dallas County Democrats, who is a Clinton supporter. "Our values were lost, and I think it showed up in 2014 that we had no message."

None of this is to suggest state party leaders wouldn't support Mrs. Clinton should she win the nomination. Many described her in admiring terms, even while pining for a Warren candidacy.

"I think [Mrs. Clinton] has the experience, I think she is intelligent and quite frankly, with her husband and the experience he had, he would be able to give her some advice," said Carol Gordon, the Democratic leader in Grundy County, between Des Moines and Cedar Rapids.

Yet Ms. Gordon said she is so enthralled with Ms. Warren that she purchased a copy of the senator's latest book and donated it to the local public library.

Added Lorraine Williams, chairwoman of the Washington County Democrats: "Elizabeth Warren, I would enjoy going out to lunch with her. Hillary, less."

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Beyond the personal, some worry Mrs. Clinton might not be best-positioned to defeat the eventual Republican nominee, concerned her candidacy wouldn't be exciting enough to draw in the younger voters who backed Mr. Obama.

Tom Swartz, who heads the Marshall County Democrats, said he wanted to learn more about Ms. Warren, Mr. Sanders and former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia, who has set up a committee exploring a presidential run. He suggested Mrs. Clinton's best chance may have come and gone.

"There's always the nagging feeling that her ship may have sailed," he said.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "What Iowa's Democratic Leaders Want: 4 Takeaways"

By Peter Nicholas

January 5, 2015, 7:07 a.m. EST

What are Iowa's Democratic leaders thinking one year before the state hosts the first contest of the 2016 presidential campaign season? Wall Street Journal reporters Peter Nicholas and Reid J. Epstein spent last week calling dozens of Iowa Democratic county officials to gauge the mood. Here are four takeaways drawn from interviews with more than half the Democratic chairpeople in Iowa's 99 counties:

1. Iowa's Democratic political leadership leans left.

State Democratic chiefs are worried about income inequality, sluggish wage growth and corporate clout. They want to hear the candidates offer concrete proposals that would roll back what they see as a troubling concentration of wealth by the nation's richest families. There seemed little appetite for centrist positions aiming to boost job growth through business-friendly tax, trade and regulatory policies.

Jason Frerichs, chairman of the Montgomery County Democrats, said he has had to postpone buying a house until he pays off his student-loan debt. "I want to see a true progressive in the White House," he said.

Which brings us to ….

2. Many state Democratic leaders want liberal Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders to run.

Polls suggest neither Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.) nor Sen. Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.) would stand a chance

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against potential Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. That doesn't seem to faze the party leaders. Many said they believed Ms. Warren, in particular, has a devoted following that would make her a serious threat to Mrs. Clinton. They like Ms. Warren's impassioned attacks on the banks involved in the 2008 financial crisis. Fresh in their minds is the Democratic contest of that year, when Mrs. Clinton lost her lead and wound up finishing third.

Don Paulson, co-chair of the Muscatine County Democrats, said: "A lot of people are upset about the big banks. Sure, they've paid some fines. But a lot of people would like to see the CEOs put in jail."

That viewpoint reinforces another takeaway ….

3. The leaders aren't sold on Mrs. Clinton as the Democratic nominee.

It isn't that they dislike Mrs. Clinton on a personal level; it's that they have qualms about her candidacy. Some voiced doubts that she could win a general election; others said she seemed out of step with the prevailing liberal winds. They said they were troubled by corporate donations made to her family's charitable foundation, questioning whether such financial ties would give her the independence to act on behalf of a struggling middle class.

Ken Mertes, chairman of Monona County Democrats, said: "I'd like to see Hillary change her position. I think she's too friendly with corporate interests."

Still, even those who want to see someone other than Mrs. Clinton win the nomination are of the view that …

4. Mrs. Clinton would be tough to beat in Iowa.

The list of Mrs. Clinton's advantages is long. She has the backing of the national political establishment. She has a vast network of fundraisers eager to sink millions into her campaign. She knows the state, having competed hard in Iowa in 2008. Then there's the convenient fact that, as far as anyone knows, Ms. Warren has no plans to run. Very few of the Iowa Democratic chairs even mentioned some of the other prospective candidates: Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Virginia Democratic Sen. Jim Webb. The Democratic bench just isn't that deep.

Kathy Winter, chairwoman of the Osceola County Democrats, said that Mrs. Clinton's front-runner status presents an opportunity. Rather than have a competitive primary in which Democrats beat up on one another, she said, why not rally behind Mrs. Clinton and send her into the general election contest unbruised?

"Let's march toward the end result and not tear one another down," she said. "A lot of what is said about you comes back to haunt you."

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Real Clear Politics: Video: “Van Susteren: I'm Not Convinced Hillary Is Going To Run; O'Malley ‘The Big Sleeper Candidate’”

[No Writer Mentioned]

January 4, 2014

MARTHA RADDATZ, ABC'S THIS WEEK: Greta, any surprises out there, anybody who will get in or who won't get in?

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN, FOX NEWS: I actually think the big surprise is going to be the Democratic side of the ledger, whether or not former secretary of state Hillary Clinton runs.

I'm actually not convinced -- I'm not convinced she's going to run and I think the big sleeper candidate is actually going to be Governor Martin O'Malley of Maryland. I realize that the governorship was lost and that the Republicans in Maryland this last run that -- last run.

But whoever takes Iowa -- and if you look at 2008, Huckabee took it for the Republicans; 2012, Santorum. It really takes someone who's going to go there and knock on the doors. I think that's what we have to keep our eye on.

And Governor Martin O'Malley, he's been there a number of times. He's a knock-on-the-door type candidate. He's not the -- so I think that he may be a sleeper.

Politico Magazine: Matt Latimer, speechwriter for Pres. George W. Bush: “Why Republicans Are Ready for Hillary”

By Matt Latimer

January 4, 2015

For conservatives, the dawn of a presidential cycle is always the best time of the political season. It’s that glorious springtime when every Republican candidate promises to be the next Ronald Reagan. Of course, over time they slowly dissolve into Gerald Ford.

It’s also the time of year when the dons of the Washington establishment tell the rest of us who the conservative grassroots will select next year to lose politely to the Democrats. It’s always fascinating how many people in DC

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believe they can project how conservatives across America will vote without ever really talking to them. The only Republicans DC elites know are the ones they bump into at Talbott's or who drive their BMW X-3s to parents' night at St. Albans—not people who go to church instead of watching "Meet the Press" or who'd trudge through snow to vote in a caucus in Iowa. Nonetheless Washingtonians are so certain about next year's outcome that they're already angling to become pals with the people most likely to be in charge of invitations to events at the Clinton White House.

Conservatives do have one thing to be thankful for: The fact is that Hillary Clinton learned so many lessons from her surprising 2008 defeat that she's repeating each of them all over again. Once more she is running as the overconfident, inevitable nominee with safe speeches filled with mush and a bloated campaign staff that already is leaking against each other in the press.

Which is probably why so many Republicans, fresh off of their 2014 election triumphs, are excited. They have a chance. It is also why so many prospective GOP candidates—18 or 20 by some estimates—are considering a run. Indeed, the GOP field looks to be so crowded that its first debate may have to be held on an aircraft carrier. The USS Ronald Reagan is available.

Almost all of the oft-mentioned candidates are people of quality and worth, with impressive resumes and realistic shots at the nomination, if circumstance fall a certain way. (This is the point at which your conflict-of-interest plagued columnist should concede that I've worked with some of the potential candidates, even worked for some of their enemies, and in one instance worked for one of their brothers in the White House.)

Of course, as with any presidential election these days, there are bound to be a few "Doing it to Build my Brand" campaigns—with candidates running a skeleton crew of neophytes in order to score a few book deals and up their speaking fees. Think of them as Republican Al Sharptons or, if we want to be even more obscure, Mike Gravels: candidates who would be so shocked if they won even one primary contest that they'd probably ask for a recount.

And what would a presidential season be without the semi-annual Running of the Bull, the never-gonna-happen Donald Trump campaign, his declarations always conveniently timed for new seasons of "The Celebrity Apprentice." Everyone please watch—supposedly Ian Ziering and one of the kids from the Cosby Show have decided to demean themselves before Mr. Trump this year—so "Apprentice" has good ratings and we are spared this spectacle again.

With the GOP field taking shape rather nicely, and so little to make fun of, we are left to train our guffaws on those always vulnerable for good-natured mockery: the D.C. pundit class and their confident delusions and myths about the Republican race.

Myth #1: Mitt Romney will run

There is nothing this town likes more than to get everyone to root for someone only to then slowly take them apart bit by bit: sort of what George RR Martin did to the Starks on "Game of Thrones." This year the DC class is prepping the former Massachusetts governor for that role.

Assuredly, no one has performed a better comeback in terms of public esteem than Mr. Romney. And it's no

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accident that his image picked up after most of the DC consultants who stocked his failed campaign moved on to bring bad ideas and general doom to other presidential hopefuls across the land. Basking in praise and leading in polls, Romney, or at least a part of him, clearly wants to run for president one more time. But Romney, for all of his talk of being a Reagan in waiting, is basically a cautious and practical man. He didn't make his millions by purchasing lottery tickets and waiting for lightning to strike. In the end, the risks from running will prove far greater than the potential reward. Unfortunately for him, he's had one too many chances. Lose the presidency twice—and you're unfortunate. Lose a third time and you're a national joke. Forever.

Myth # 2: This race has a frontrunner

There is no frontrunner in the GOP race. Most D.C. reporters don't believe this, of course. Neither do the top GOP consultants and pundits.

All of whom love to dine together at places like The Palm and tell each other how smart they are. In 1980 these same DC insiders thought anybody but Ronald Reagan would be the GOP nominee—he was too old! too conservative! too dumb! Didn't come to enough Georgetown parties! And guess who won anyway?

This year's line is that Jeb Bush has the GOP nomination for the taking. That's very good news for journalists in town—they already know the Bush people. Great folks, good sources, the kind who quietly laugh about the tea party during rounds of highball at the Club. The DC crowd can't wait to go back to Kennebunkport and ride in speedboats.

Yet to many others outside the DC bubble, there's something vaguely depressing that America might replay Election 1992—Bush v. Clinton. Are these two families really so singularly special that we honestly can't find anybody else? Or are the voters just that lazy? A Bush-Clinton rematch would be like a prolonged version of NPR's "Serial": a long, convoluted journey with twists and turns that only took us back to right where we started, a little more confused and frustrated for the trip.

In any event, history is not on the Bushes' side this time. At least not yet. When I worked in the White House of George W. Bush, the oft-expressed, though usually whispered, sentiment was that Jeb was the smarter brother. On arcane bits of policy, this was probably true, although W. was often surprisingly astute on the minutia when it came to issues in which he had interest. But when it came to politics, the view is even more questionable. Consider that in 1994, Jeb was the odds-on favorite to win the race for governor in Florida—and lost. That same year W. was written off by the D.C. pundit class as a goner in Texas against Ann Richards—whom everyone in Washington loved. He, of course, won.

And even with recent media salivation—I mean, saturation—on Jeb's possible presidential bid, he still hasn't garnered about 25 percent of the vote in GOP polls. (Phantom candidate Mitt Romney beats him.) Which means, that at least three-quarters of the electorate that supposedly can't wait for the Bushes Round 3 currently prefer someone else. That number is likely to get worse. Which brings us to ...

Myth #3: It is the time of the moderates (or the Tea Party is dead)

George W. Bush also was smart enough to know something about the GOP presidential contest that so far seems to elude his younger brother. The Jon Huntsman strategy doesn't work. You don't run to the embrace of

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the D.C. political class and—horrors—the mainstream media if you want to win the GOP nomination. The minute I saw Huntsman treated to a gushing profile in Vogue back in 2011—"his left eyebrow is pitched slightly lower than the other, and the eye below it has a slight squint. This gives him a perpetual expression of thoughtful engagement, the look of someone listening intently to what others are saying"—I knew he was doomed in Iowa. Even today D.C. politicos don't get this about the Republican base: When you are the toast of the liberal media, you are toast in Des Moines. The sure sign Jeb is about to drop out of the race is when he gets a photo taken by Annie Leibovitz.

And yet our political chattering class truly seems to believe that across the plains of Iowa and deep in the hills of New Hampshire are millions of Republican caucus goers and primary voters shaking their heads and whispering, "Please bring us more candidates from the middle of the road." That is simply not how the most committed GOPers think. If anything, they're more fed-up with the moderates in Washington—which is how they think of almost every Republican in the nation's capital—than ever.

Even those making the slightest observation of the GOP should see that the base is far more excited by people they think of as true believers—Ted Cruz and Rand Paul, for example—than they are for, say, Chuck Grassley. This explains why in 2014 almost every GOPer—from Mitch McConnell on down—ran as conservatives, not moderates. Indeed, they posed so far to the right that they made Margaret Thatcher look like a hippie who wanted to set American flags on fire.

But every so often a candidate decides he's going to show us something different. John McCain nearly derailed his 2008 nomination by challenging his party's base on immigration. And that was just one hot-button issue to fight with his own voters over; Jeb Bush has picked not one, but three (immigration, education reform and taxes.) We will soon see what havoc that wreaks for him. Rest assured: The "tea party" label may be badly damaged, but the frustration and disillusionment with Washington that started the movement is as strong as ever.

Myth #4: Chris Christie was permanently damaged by Bridgegate

One candidate who seems unlikely to misunderstand the reality of the GOP nomination process is the ever-savvy Chris Christie. He didn't make himself a presidential contender through his sensible compromises with Democrats in the New Jersey legislature, but his passionate harangues against conservatives' favorite enemies: the media, big unions, government bureaucracy. It was for that reason that so many Republicans pined for him to run in 2012—the great hope of conservatives and the world.

That of course was then. Today D.C. bigwigs speak quite confidently about how Christie's aspirations have been ruined by "Bridgegate." The scandal remains—solely—a Washington fixation. Want to bet how many people in South Carolina or Iowa or the Super Tuesday states can recite the details of that episode? Mention "Bridgegate" to most of them and they'll think you're referring to tires.

If there's one thing candidates can count on, it's the short attention span of the voters. Christie may have other problems should he enter the race, but this won't be one of them. If he decides to run, he'll start on the right and surprise a lot of people who've counted him out. Then of course they'll all be saying they predicted the Christie comeback all along.

Myth #5: This race will go all the way to the convention

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We haven't heard this one yet, but with so many candidates in the race, it's only a matter of time before the D.C. consensus turns to thoughts of a brokered GOP convention. Such a spectacle hasn't happened to the GOP since 1948—and for good reason. Republicans are an orderly crew. They'll kick the candidates' tires for a couple of primaries or two, but pretty soon settle on the man, or woman, they want as their standard-bearer. At this point, that could be anybody. Which is what is going to make 2016 so fun.

Politico Magazine: Bill Scher, senior writer at the Campaign for America's Future: "The Democrats' Donkey in the Room"

By Bill Scher

January 4, 2015

Democrats are beginning 2015 in an uneasy state, but it's not as bad as it could be. Rather than the bloody circular firing squad that the party resembles all too often, the Democratic agenda looks more like a nerdy scatter plot graph. Public naming and blaming for the midterms has been kept to a minimum, while wonkish blue dots appear to be fleeing from what was a unified straight line of explanation. It feels like every Democrat has his or her theory why they lost and where the party should go from here

Driving the Democratic dispersion is not just the November defeats. Democrats are grappling with the reality that the Obama presidency is nearing its end, and they don't know what to say about it. That question, more than any other, will likely define the Democratic Party debate in 2015 as the next presidential race gets underway.

If President Barack Obama had approval ratings safely above 50 percent, and the middle-class was flush, Democrats would have no hesitation wrapping themselves in the Obama banner. Conversely, if Obama were presiding over an economic collapse, failed war or White House scandal, there would be as many proud Obama Democrats as Hoover Republicans.

Instead, Democrats will face an Obama record that can be interpreted as either a historic advance of liberalism or a colossal disappointment, and on which the public mood appears to be shifting back and forth across the line. Most recently, building on an improving economy and a decisive series of post-election moves like the new opening to Cuba, he has climbed back to dead-even in approval ratings, Gallup reported, after 450 days in negative territory. The choice depends on which data points you emphasize and, more importantly, where you think the trend lines are headed.

Obama enacted an anti-recessionary package unprecedented in size and swiftness that made possible years of steady job creation. But the burst of GDP growth since 2013 has not lifted middle-class wages, as least not yet, leaving many to feel the recovery has passed them by. He's created the most progressive tax code in 35 years, but that has not been enough to reverse the trend of widening income inequality. His legislative legacies of health care reform and Wall Street re-regulation have been implemented slowly, allowing debate to churn over how successful they ultimately will be. His administrative efforts in immigration and climate change are even less

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far along, leaving open whether they will be transformational or insufficient and ephemeral.

It's a classic half-glass problem. Should Democrats marshal all the positive data available to make the case that Obama's record proved activist government worked, bolstering the case for an extra helping of liberalism to solve outstanding problems? Or should Democrats keep Obama at a distance, and treat the past six years as just another chapter in the decadeslong assault on the middle-class, proving that Obama's watered-down compromises were incapable of eradicating the rules rigged for the top 1 percent?

Obama himself is the captain of the Half-Full Squad. In October, he delivered an address that listed his economic successes, declaring, "it is indisputable that our economy is stronger today than when I took office" while also proposing policies to help the "millions [who] don't yet feel enough of the benefits of a growing economy." Last month, following a particularly strong monthly employment report, Obama reduced his hedging to a minimum in a triumphant weekly address: "More jobs. More insured. A growing economy. Shrinking deficits. Bustling industry. Booming energy. Pick any metric you want — America's resurgence is real."

Elizabeth Warren is presently leading Team Half-Empty. In her major speeches, such as her 2012 convention address, her July 2014 Netroots Nation keynote and her most recent Senate floor slam of Citigroup, Warren doesn't cite much of the Obama record outside of the creation of her signature Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. She goes as far as suggesting the problem of Wall Street dominance has gotten worse on Obama's watch, saying things like: "Now the biggest banks are even bigger than they were when they were too big to fail in 2008." Warren's populist ally Sen. Bernie Sanders looks past Obama to rip "the status quo, which includes a 40-year decline of our middle class." Neither excoriates Obama personally, but their rhetoric treats him at best as an impotent bystander to corrosive corporatism and his record as useless to the progressive cause.

Another voice inside the pessimist camp is Sen. Chuck Schumer, who recently made headlines at the National Press Club second-guessing Obama's decision to prioritize health care reform before the economy healed. Schumer also sees the past six years as having done little to impress middle-class voters, but he parts ways with Warren's focus on blaming banks and other moneyed institutions for rigging the rules.

Schumer offered a nod in Warren's direction, saying Democrats "must first prove that the era of big corporate influence over government is over." But he treats that step as more political necessity than policy solution. Schumer assured "those of us who don't consider ourselves populists" that he's only recommending Democrats incorporate "an element of populism" — just enough "to open the door" with skeptical voters so they can be persuaded to accept a "strong government program." Unlike Warren, who regularly fingers Wall Street as the main culprit, Schumer more gently focuses on the faceless forces of "technology and globalization" that "push [the middle-class] around" yet "are not inherently malign." For the most part, Schumer doesn't want to unrig the rules; he wants policies that help the middle-class "adapt" to the inevitable.

As the presidential race shifts into gear in 2015, much rides on how the expected Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton navigates these various poles in the Democratic big tent. Assuming she runs and maintains her wide lead among Democrats, she will have more say than anyone as to how Democrats define their post-Obama future.

The bitter 2008 primary fight has conditioned observers to look for daylight between Clinton and Obama, and surely she will pick her spots. But in an October appearance at The Economic Club of Chicago, she sounded like an Obama surrogate. The American economy "currently is the envy of the world," she insisted, saying "the very hard choices the president and his economic team made early on in the administration laid the groundwork, both to prevent worse economic consequences and to begin the climb out of the deep hole we were in." (Yes, she

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even turned her “Hard Choices” book title into praise for her former rival.) If she sticks to that message, she will be moving the Democratic Party away from both Warren and Schumer, tying it to a robust defense of the Obama record.

Deciding whether or not Obama’s economic performance should be cherished also dictates congressional Democratic strategy in 2015, in one key regard: how much Democrats should be willing to give up in exchange for keeping the government open.

White House economic aide Jeff Zients, at a POLITICO Morning Money Breakfast, defended last month’s “CRomnibus” — despite its provision that chipped away at a part of Wall Street reform — because avoiding government breakdowns over the past year boosted the economy with higher GDP, more jobs and, in the last monthly employment survey, “early signs of some wage growth.” He went on to predict the economy was “teed up … in 2015,” so long as Congress did not create “unnecessary distractions.”

From Obama’s perspective, the economy on his watch is poised to end strong, strong enough for the middle class to feel it. GDP growth can still raise middle-class wages; it’s just taken a long time because economies recover slowly from financial crises and because a Republican House, in addition to its past brinkmanship, didn’t allow for additional stimulus. Therefore, it’s worth trading away minor concessions to prevent any whiff of government shutdowns or debt defaults in his final two years. Future Democrats will then be able to hold up his economic record and argue that patiently sticking with his public investments, regulations and reforms paid off with a middle-class firmly on the road to prosperity.

Those Democrats who believe that there is something fundamentally broken with the economy, preventing GDP growth from sparking middle-class wage growth, don’t see the point in protecting the economy from short-term hiccups at any cost. They’d rather dig in their heels to fight concessions that smack of more rule-rigging. In their worldview, the economy won’t get better until that problem is solved.

Obama got what he wanted in December, but mostly thanks to Republican votes. Whether or not he can convince his Democratic critics to come around to his way of thinking will depend heavily on the forthcoming monthly jobs and wage data.

The Democratic scatter plot still largely points in the same direction. “Democrats must embrace government, not run away from it,” exhorted Schumer. None of the squabbling Democratic factions disagree. The intraparty debate is over how to diagnose our remaining economic problems, and how exactly government should be deployed to fix them.

But the factions that are hesitant to exploit Obama's record in making the case for more government have their own challenges in proposing an alternative strategy. Schumer counsels, “we must illustrate that government can provide solutions by delineating specific concrete programs that if enacted would actually improve lives and incomes” and that people believe are actually “attainable.” But he doesn’t delineate programs that meet his criteria, because that’s the hard part.

As the New York Times’ David Leonhardt wrote in November, the Democrats have lacked a clear “short-term” economic plan, because their inclination is toward reforms that lack immediate bang for the buck. “Some of the policies that Democrats favor, such as broader access to good education, take years to pay off. Others, like reducing medical costs or building new roads, have an indirect, unnoticed effect on middle-class incomes.” The

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same can be said of any unrigging of rules such as installing new bank regulations or eliminating corporate tax breaks. Leonhardt's recommendation for a lightning strike is a middle-class tax cut. The Washington Post's populist columnist Harold Meyerson proposes it be a payroll tax cut.

However a tax cut comes with its own downsides, notes Josh Bivens of the Economic Policy Institute: "Middle-class taxes would have to be cut a lot to move the dial on income growth" requiring politically difficult offsets, be they spending cuts or tax hikes on the rich. Bivens counters that "boosting the bargaining power of workers" is what would really address the root cause of the wage problem. Maybe so. But with the private-sector unionization rate at a dismal 6.7 percent, boosting bargaining power is another yearslong project.

If Democrats continue to struggle to identify an elusive quick fix, that too could lead them back to leaning on Obama's record. What better way to "illustrate that government can provide solutions" than showing how the current Democratic government provided solutions? Instead of selling fast-acting elixirs, or tying themselves in knots explaining why Obama's policies shouldn't be considered a case study in economic liberalism, Democrats could be contending that Obama's presidency proves that progressive policies work, when given enough time to work.

Without unequivocal evidence of middle-class improvement, Obama may have to suffer naysayers within his party for his final two years. Ronald Reagan, the president Obama hoped to emulate in "chang[ing] the trajectory of America," was similarly dogged by dissatisfied conservatives throughout his presidency. But once he was out of the Oval Office, old charges that Reagan had gone soft on communism, sold out on taxes and failed to balance the budget were swept under the rug, along with the left's carping over Reagan's legacy of a widening wealth gap. Forevermore, conservatives will pound into the discourse that Reaganomics grew the economy, slashed inflation, lowered interest rates, created jobs and lowered unemployment. Their mission to this day is to show what Reagan's policies did, not what they didn't do, in hopes of building on that record and shifting the nation's ideological center of gravity.

Democrats may not be prepared to give Obama the Reagan treatment just yet. But Obama's past record and continued activity are too consequential for Democrats to ignore. Democrats will have no choice in 2015 but to begin reconciling where Obama fits in their party's history, a task that will be much easier and foster more party unity if 2015's economic numbers continue to improve.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

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· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
ccciorciari@hillaryclinton.com
Date: 7/26/2015 1:17:32 PM
Subject: Re: Iran

Thanks.
Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 05:00 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart; Corey Ciorciari <cciorciari@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Subject: Re: Iran

Stu -- I'm copying Corey to find a time for us to talk tomorrow. I have a hunch I know what troubled you.

On Sun, Jul 26, 2015 at 4:52 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

> Dear Jake,
>
> At our offices tomorrow, I am hosting the. Geo-Political Group for the Jewish People's Policy Institute (JPPI) of Jerusalem, which Dennis and I co-chair. We will have the heads of ADL, AIPAC, The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, and the leadership of major UJA Federations (e.g. NY and Chicago), along with several of our security experts from Jerusalem (e.g. former general Michael Herzog, Avi Gill, and Einat Wilf).
>
> Secretary Kerry's remark Friday that the international community might blame Israel if Congress blocked the Iran deal and Israel might "wind up being more isolated", is truly outrageous. While Hillary obviously cannot take him on directly, she could stress the following, building on her Iran statement:
>
> 1. While she supports the Iran agreement, she understands and the American people need to understand the depth of feeling across party lines in Israel, and that 70 years after the Holocaust, they believe an Iranian nuclear weapon is a genuine existential threat to Israel.
>
> 2. As she said in her statement, she will give all our allies in the region all the means, including military means, to defend themselves.
>
> 3. The US will be willing to discuss a public pledge with Israel and our Arab allies, in which Iran would be told any attack against them would be seen as an attack against the US, and as with Article 5 of NATO and our commitment to Japan, we would act accordingly with the full force of our resources.
>
> Jake, at his initiative, Secretary of Energy Moniz gave me a 35 minute telephonic briefing on the agreement, and invited me to meet with him personally this week. There is one element of the briefing about which I was deeply troubled. I do not want to put it in writing. Please call (202-549-4454 or 202-549-5776) when you have a minute.
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Stu

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From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/16/2015 1:28:58 PM
Subject: Re: Today's Post story on HRC

Yes
Lloyd hand daughter

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2015, at 3:38 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Know her?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <catherinehand5@aol.com >
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015
Subject: Today's Post story on HRC
To: jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com , john.podesta@gmail.com
Cc: lorraine@xeolux.com

Dear Jake and John:

I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.

Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.

Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.

I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.

Lorraine-

Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.

Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume

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lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, “politics as usual’ is immediately heard as “politics as usual in Clinton-world.”

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words ‘politics as usual’ it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. “

Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women’s movement in the United States as women’s organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

“ *I Want to Hold Your Hand*” and “ *I Saw Her Standing There”* were released in the U.S., marking the beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson’s War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but

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professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon's 'silent majority,' -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women's rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

"The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which "brings us together in a peaceful loving state."

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking's insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From: "John M Deutch" <jmd@mit.edu>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/12/2015 2:31:31 PM
Subject: PV subsides

John,

During our conversation at Aspen I promised to send you something on PV subsidies. I have quite forgotten the subject and scope.

In any case, here are some brief thoughts.

1. The ITC is set to go from 30% to 10% in 2016. Most observers expect this to happen. This will be a big set back for PV and will slow the pace of increase in annual additions.

2. The ITC is an inefficient subsidy. (1) the outlay is related to cost rather than realized output; (2) because it is a tax benefit, much of the value accrues to tax farmers rather than consumers or project owners, thus attenuating the incentive. (3) For complicated reasons the Treasury allows the 30% benefit not just on plant and equipment outlays but on the project value which may include a significant amount of taxable benefit of long term contracts with users. This helps “yieldcos” but again reduces the potential benefit to consumers and project entrpernure.

3. An attractive alternative would be to give solar a cash payment per kWe-hr produced and used. My very rough estimate is that 2.5 cents of this feed-in tariff (for a period of 7...? years) would cost the treasury about the same as the 30% ITC. And it would be more “efficient” because the tax payer is only paying for electricity produced and used.

4. This feed-in-tariff, in principle, should apply to all zero carbon alternatives, i.e. nuclear, and replace not only the ITC, but other federal (and even state) incentives for zero carbon generation.

5. In my judgment this feed-in-tariff approach would be much more efficient than arbitrary RPS numbers that are unrelated to relative cost and value of solar in different locales and applications.

6. I believe new wafer and module manufacturing in the US could compete with Chinese and other East Asian imports and the Chinese overcapacity clears and prices firm.

John

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/8/2008 1:44:32 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/8

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 8th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

8am McCain: Appears on CNN's "American Morning," "Fox and Friends" and MSNBC's "Morning Joe"

12pm McCain: Speech to LULAC Convention in Washington, D.C.

5:20pm McCain: Tour Stop in Moon Township, Pennsylvania

News Clips:

MCCAIN ECONOMIC SPEECH NEWS

For McCain, a shift in emphasis from tax cuts to deficits (International Herald-Tribune 7/8/08)
[Same as NYT's "McCain Plan for Budget: Fiscal Hawks vs. Tax Foes"]
By Michael Cooper
As Senator John McCain kicked off a week of economic-themed campaigning here on Monday, it was apparent that some of the underlying tensions between the two schools that guide his economic thinking — the supply-siders who want to cut taxes and the deficit hawks who want to balance the budget — remain unresolved.
http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/07/08/america/07cndecon.php

Skepticism on McCain Plan To Balance Budget by 2013 (NYT 7/8/08)
By ROBERT PEAR
The package of spending and tax cuts proposed by Senator John McCain is unlikely to achieve his goal of balancing the federal budget by 2013, economists and fiscal experts said Monday.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/08/us/politics/08budget.html?ref=politics

McCain, Obama duel on economic fix-it plans (AP 7/7/08)
By CHARLES BABINGTON and LIZ SIDOTI
Barack Obama and John McCain agree on this much: The economy is staggering under the Bush administration, and Americans are hurting. But who's to blame and how best to fix it?
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/07/AR2008070701627.html
Link to transcript of McCain's Prepared Speech for Denver Town Hall Meeting with Question and Answer Session: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/07/AR2008070701672.html?sid=ST2008070702343&pos=list
Link to video: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2008/07/07/VI2008070701653.html

McCain, Obama focus on economic recovery plans (LA Times 7/8/08)
By Maeve Reston and Louise Roug
McCain renews a pledge to balance the federal budget. Obama ridicules the Republican's new tax cuts.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign8-2008jul08,0,2360555.story
See WSJ's "Economy Takes Spotlight": http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121543453269332371.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox
See ABC's "McCain and Obama Campaign on Economic Agenda": http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/story?id=5326069&page=1

McCain talks money (Denver Post 7/8/08)

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By Karen E. Crummy
As president, Republican John McCain says he would be ready to do "the hard things" to ensure that the U.S. government is held to the same budgetary standard as American families.
http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_9812214

McCain promises tax cut for families at Denver campaign stop (Rocky Mountain News 7/7/08)
By Lynn Bartels
Presidential contender John McCain focused on the economy at a rowdy town hall meeting Monday in Denver where he pledged to make government "a catalyst for growth and good jobs."
http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/jul/07/mccain-pledges-tax-relief-job-growth-during-denver/

McCain Talks Jobs, Stresses Balancing Federal Budget (The Page 7/7/08)
Arizonan unveils retooled jobs plan focused on small businesses in Denver town hall.... "A government that spends wisely and balances its budget is a catalyst for economic growth and the creation of good and secure jobs."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/07/mccain-talks-jobs-proposes-plan-to-balance-budget-by-2013/
Link to video: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-speaks-on-the-economy-in-denver/
Link to outline of economic plan: http://thepage.time.com/official-mccain-camp-economic-policy/
Link to McCain memo on economy: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-camp-memo-on-obamas-economic-plan/
Link to Obama response memo: http://thepage.time.com/obama-camp-response-to-mccain-economic-memo/

Protester outside McCain event ticketed (Denver Post 7/7/08)
By Joey Bunch
A 60-year-old librarian received a trespassing ticket today after a liberal group's protest outside a John McCain town hall meeting Monday.
http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_9811687
Link to ProgressNowAction press release: http://www.progressnowaction.org/page/community/post/al/Cqyh
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lyaMrS0hzk

McCain Renews Balanced Budget Pledge (Washington Post blog 7/7/08)
By Michael D. Shear
Sen. John McCain pledged today to balance the federal budget by 2013, the end of his first term in office, returning to a promise he had strayed from as he sought to emphasize his concern about the plight of the American economy.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/07/mccain_renews_balanced_budget.html

McCain, Republican leaders differ on solutions to fix ailing economy (The Hill 7/7/08)
By Jackie Kucinich
The release of Sen. John McCain's (Ariz.) economic plan on Monday highlighted two issues — drug re-importation and earmark reform — that divide the GOP presidential standard-bearer and Republican leaders on Capitol Hill.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/mccain-republican-leaders-differ-on-solutions-to-fix-ailing-economy-2008-07-07.html

McCain's Plan To Help Balance Budget: Win War In Iraq (TPM 7/7/08)
By Greg Sargent
The McCain campaign has responded to our request for clarification of its plan to take all the money saved by victory in Iraq and Afghanistan and devote all that booty to balancing the budget.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/mccains_plan_to_balance_budget.php

What the economists didn't sign (Politico blog 7/7/08)
By Avi Zenilman
This morning, the McCain campaign sent out a press release: OVER 300 ECONOMISTS SIGN STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF JOHN MCCAIN'S ECONOMIC PLAN. The statement leaves out two big chunks of McCain's

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economic argument: the gas tax holiday and his promise to balance the budget by the end of his first term -- there's literally nothing in the release that mentions the deficit or national debt.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0708/What_the_economists_didnt_sign.html

MCCAIN'S PLAN TO CUT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE, OR DRASTICALLY RAISE TAXES (American Prospect blog 7/7/08)
By Ezra Klein
You know the old saying, "misses the forest for the trees?" In political headlines, there should be an analogue: "Misses the policies for the press releases." Take Mike Allen's article entitled "McCain Promises to Balance Budget." Everyone promises to balance the budget. It's like telling your dentist that you floss every night. If that's actually what's in the story, then the article shouldn't have been written.
http://www.prospect.org/csnc/blogs/ezraklein_archive?month=07&year=2008&base_name=mccains_plan_to_cut_social_sec

MCCAIN NEWS

Candidates Diverge on How to Save Social Security (Washington Post 7/8/08)
By Perry Bacon Jr.; A01
Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain are both proposing dramatic changes to Social Security, taking on the financially fragile "third rail of American politics" that Congress and recent presidents have been unable to repair.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/07/AR2008070702773.html

Internal Politics Heat Up at McCain Campaign (NYT 7/8/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
Senator John McCain's campaigns have long been defined by internal squabbling and power plays, zigzagging lines of command and a penchant by the candidate for consulting with former advisers without alerting current ones, always a recipe for disquiet.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/08/us/politics/08mccain.html?ref=politics

Clinton diehards throw support behind McCain (UK's The Independent 7/8/08)
By Leonard Doyle
Many of Hillary Clinton's most prominent supporters, including a number of her famous "Hillraisers," are either defecting to the Republican John McCain or withholding their support from the Democratic nominee Barack Obama.
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/clinton-diehards-throw-support-behind-mccain-862066.html

McCain Balances Dueling Stances on Immigration (WSJ 7/8/08)
By Elizabeth Holmes
Early in the Republican nominating contest, Sen. John McCain bucked his party's base with a moderate stance on immigration, offering illegal immigrants a path to citizenship.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121548110158934579.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

McCain campaign, Act II (LA Times 7/8/08)
By Maeve Reston
The candidate has a new stage manager. How'd he perform?
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailmccain8-2008jul08,0,2131841.story

How McCain Is Skirting His Own Spending Caps (Newsweek blog 7/7/08)
By Andrew Romano
Republicans, it seems, are finally showing McCain the money. ... And even though McCain has agreed to an $84.1 spending limit by accepting public funds--a decision he likes to portray as a principled stand against the corrupting influence of money on politics--at least double that sum will be dropped on his behalf before Election Day thanks to loopholes in the law that allow outside groups to effectively skirt such limits with largely unregulated "soft money" contributions.
http://www.blog.newsweek.com/blogs/stumper/archive/2008/07/07/for-mccain-money-talks.aspx
Link to RNC ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m177GGrwMV0

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McCain, Obama to Court Latinos Tuesday (The Page 7/8/08)
Both speak to the League of United Latin American Citizens at its 79th annual convention in Washington, D.C. McCain intends to keep focus on jobs, reiterating most of Monday's proposal, including the importance of small businesses and taking indirect swipes at Obama on taxes. "There are two million Latino owned businesses in America, a number that is growing very rapidly. The first consideration we should have when debating tax policy is how we can help those companies grow…"
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/08/mccain-obama-to-court-latinos-tuesday/
Link to excerpts of McCain's LULAC remarks: http://thepage.time.com/excerpts-from-mccains-remarks-to-lulac/

McCain newly assertive on judicial philosophy (Politico 7/8/08)
By: Avi Zenilman and Ben Adler
Despite his background as a lawyer and law lecturer at the University of Chicago, Barack Obama has said little from the stump about legal issues, particularly what sort of justices he'd want on the Supreme Court, whose makeup is likely to be shaped for decades to come by the next president's nominees.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11554.html

Voter advocacy group's board boots McCain (Arizona Republic 7/8/08)
By Dan Nowicki
In April, Project Vote Smart officially dismissed John McCain from its board for failing to complete a candidate questionnaire called the "National Political Courage Test."
http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/07/08/20080708kimball0708.html

Fight of the Flip-Floppers (TIME 7/7/08)
By Ramesh Ponnuru
John McCain is trying to take the halo off Barack Obama and portray him as a typical flip-flopping politician. "He's a calculating politician," Senator Lindsey Graham, a top McCain ally, says of Obama in a typical remark. Obama is making the Republicans' work easy. He is changing position after position, at the cost of sullying his reputation as a man who wants to change politics as usual. The candidates' strategies dovetail perfectly — which means one of them is making a big mistake.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1820727,00.html

McCain adviser steers clear of entitlements (Politico blog 7/7/08)
By Jonathan Martin
Asked on a conference call with reporters just how John McCain would balance the budget by 2013, his top economic adviser offered the usual recipe. "Broad-based efforts at controlling discretionary spending, rapid [economic] growth and reviewing programs for their effectiveness." Of course, with McCain's proposed tax cuts, that still may not get the country to a balanced budget.... McCain, noted his adviser, "has a long history of being able to reach across the aisle" to address policy issues. ... It's the issue that dare not speak its name during a campaign -- what to do about those entitlements that take up a much larger slice of the federal budget than any earmarks McCain wants to cut.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0708/McCain_adviser_steers_clear_of_entitlements.html

Fiorina's Fuzzy Math (TIME blog 7/7/08)
by Jay Newton-Small
This morning at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast Carly Fiorina made the case that Obama's proposed tax hike on those who make more than $250,000 a year would be damaging to small businesses. ...Fiorina was building on a Bush arguement from 2004.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/07/fiorinas_fuzzy_math.html

Risky Business (Washington Post 7/8/08)
By Dana Milbank; A03
The waiters were still clearing the breakfast dishes yesterday when John McCain's most prominent adviser raised the subject of erection enhancement. Carly Fiorina... was discussing consumer-driven health insurance at a breakfast with reporters when she proposed "a real, live example which I've been hearing a lot about from women: There are many health insurance plans that will cover Viagra but won't cover birth-control medication.

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Those women would like a choice." For effect, the woman frequently mentioned as a possible McCain running mate repeated: "Those women would like a choice."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/07/AR2008070702265.html

Cindy McCain to travel to Rwanda (CNN 7/7/08)
By Emily Sherman
Cindy McCain said Monday she will make a humanitarian trip to Rwanda next week. [She] plans to spend four days on the ground in the war-torn African nation on a trip organized by the non-partisan ONE campaign, as part of a group visiting USAID health clinics, schools, and an orphanage.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/07/07/cindy-mccain-to-travel-to-rwanda/

Chocolate Lovers (The Page 7/7/08)
The McCains buy fudge, a peanut butter cup, and cherry truffles during a 10-minute stop at the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in downtown Denver on Monday. John McCain also shakes hands, signs autographs outside the store. Jokes some in the press need "help" that can't come from the chocolate store.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/07/chocolate-lovers/
Link to Pool Report of the McCains' Denver Chocolate Store Stop: http://thepage.time.com/pool-report-of-the-mccains-denver-chocolate-store-stop/

McCain operative rocketed to power working for Crist (Palm Beach Post 7/5/08)
By JANE MUSGRAVE
Four years ago, Beth Kigel was living in Broward County and her political activity was pretty much limited to casting a vote on Election Day. Today the 39-year-old single working mother of two is heading up Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign in Palm Beach County, has Gov. Charlie Crist's ear, is second in the county GOP's command and is headed to the Republican National Convention as an alternate delegate. ... Privately, however, some question Kigel's motives and wonder whether her job as a lobbyist conflicts with her role as vice chairman of the county Republican Executive Committee and with McCain's recent announcement that no lobbyists would be allowed to work on his campaign.
http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local_news/epaper/2008/07/05/m1a_kigel_0706.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Putting your foot into the current of history (Boston Globe 7/8/08)
By Derrick Z. Jackson
IT MAY have been the only time that John McCain and Barack Obama have criticized President Bush in the same language. McCain has said, "I think after 9/11 that we made a mistake. I think after 9/11, instead of telling Americans to take a trip or go shopping, I think we had an opportunity to serve." Obama has said, "Instead of a call to service, we were asked to go shopping."
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/08/putting_your_foot_into_the_current_of_history/

A flimsy vow on the budget (USA Today blog 7/8/08)
Sen. John McCain earned a reputation for fiscal responsibility by challenging colleagues' pork-barrel spending and opposing the Bush tax cuts in 2001. Then he reversed himself, endorsing the Bush tax cuts and vowing to veto any tax increases. Now, in a plan unveiled Monday, he has returned to the cause of balancing the federal budget, promising to do so by 2013.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/07/a-flimsy-vow-on.html#more

Finding Common Ground With Russia (Washington Post 7/8/08)
By Henry A. Kissinger; A15
President Bush's meeting with Dmitry Medvedev in Hokkaido yesterday provides an opportunity to review American relations with the new Russian leadership. Conventional wisdom treated Medvedev's inauguration as president of the Russian Federation as a continuation of President Vladimir Putin's two terms of Kremlin dominance and assertive foreign policy. But after recently visiting Moscow, where I met with leading political personalities as well as those in business and intellectual circles, I am convinced that this judgment is premature.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/07/AR2008070702218.html

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BUSH NEWS

Medvedev: No progress with US after Bush meeting (AP 7/8/08)

By STEVE GUTTERMAN

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Tuesday that his meeting with President Bush at a summit of the Group of Eight industrial powers resulted in no progress toward bridging deep disagreements between the former Cold War foes.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hCOYweIJt-kh8b4ExcLZyWq4UhWwD91PK6SO0

Bush Pushes Hard Line on Zimbabwe at G-8 (NYT 7/8/08)

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

As world leaders convened in this resort town in northern Japan on Monday for three days of talks on issues including climate change and rising food and energy prices, the agenda quickly shifted to the political crisis in Zimbabwe, exposing a split between Western and African leaders.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/08/world/asia/08prexy.html?ref=africa

No consensus on climate after Bush, Merkel talk (AP 7/8/08)

By TOM RAUM

President Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged today to keep working together on common problems, but progress appeared slow on reaching a consensus on climate change as the Group of Eight major economies tackled that and other knotty global issues.

http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/nationworld/2008038562_g808.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

G-8 Leaders Pledge to Cut Emissions in Half by 2050 (NYT 7/9/08)

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG and ALAN COWELL

Pledging to "move toward a low-carbon society," leaders of the world's richest nations on Tuesday endorsed the idea of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2050, but failed to set a short-term goal for reducing the toxic heat-trapping gases that scientists say are warming the planet.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/09/science/earth/09climate.html?_r=1&ref=world&oref=slogin

Fed to Clamp Down on Exotic and Subprime Loans (NYT 7/9/08)

By STEPHEN LABATON

With no end in sight to the turbulence in the housing and financial markets, the chairman of the Federal Reserve said on Tuesday morning that it would issue new lending rules next week to restrict exotic mortgages and high-cost loans for people with weak credit.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/09/business/09housing.html?hp

Maliki Suggests U.S. Troop Timetable (Washington Post 7/8/08)

By Sudarsan Raghavan and Karen DeYoung; A01

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has for the first time suggested establishing a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, a step that the Bush administration has long opposed.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/07/AR2008070700364.html?hpid=topnews

Afghanistan blames 'foreign intelligence' for embassy blast (AFP 7/8/08)

Afghanistan accused "foreign intelligence" of a role in an attack that killed 41 people at the Indian embassy as the Taliban insisted Tuesday they did not carry out the capital's deadliest suicide blast.

http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hj-Ds2uhzJSXUpjrA599TI0HewpA

Vehicle bombings in Iraq at lowest level in nearly 4 years (USA Today 7/8/08)

By Tom Vanden Brook

Car and truck bomb attacks have fallen to their lowest level in Iraq in almost four years, according to the military command in Baghdad and a private firm that tracks violence there.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2008-07-07-carbomb_N.htm

GOP seeks Dem supporters on drilling (Politico 7/8/08)

By: Martin Kady II and Patrick O'Connor

Will some moderate Dems consider law balancing energy exploration with conservation?

http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11580.html

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POLLS

'Old guy' vs 'change:' McCain, Obama images take shape (AP 7/7/08)
By Alan Fram and Trevor Tompson
Now more than ever, it's the old guy against the agent of change. Ask people to blurt out their first words about the two presidential candidates and one in five say "change" or "outsider" for Barack Obama and "old" for John McCain, according to an Associated Press-Yahoo News poll released Monday. Those are not only the top responses for each man but the answers that have grown the most since January, when fewer than one in 10 volunteered those descriptions.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-07-candidates-images_N.htm

Poll: Pet owners favor McCain (AP 7/8/08)
By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
If the presidential election goes to the dogs, John McCain is looking like best in show.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i23gT19o6C2I8dWDUfq6V5lES61QD91PKIUG0

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
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To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
To: "Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
Date: 12/15/2014 1:36:06 PM
Subject: Open letter to President Barack Obama in support of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act

December 15, 2014

Open letter to President Barack Obama in support of the *Ukraine Freedom Support Act*,

On December 11, 2014, the *Ukraine Freedom Support Act* was passed by both houses of Congress in a swift and decisive manner. The expedited passage of this bill in a bipartisan way gives clear evidence that the elected representatives of the people of the United States fully recognize that Russia's unlawful invasion of Ukraine is a direct threat to peace and security in the world and also to the United States itself.

Since the cataclysmic events of World War II, the world's nations have attempted to establish basic principles of international law and behavior to be adhered to by the governments of all nations so as to prevent future conflagrations on a global scale. The UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act [the charter document of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and the various organic documents of the European Union, have had as their linchpin the principle of territorial integrity and security and the inviolability of borders of independent states. This month 20 years ago, Ukraine - at the behest of the United States of America, Great Britain, and Russia -- voluntarily surrendered the world's 3rd largest nuclear arsenal. All it asked for in return was that the signatory parties obligate themselves to respect Ukraine's territorial, political, and economic integrity.

It is self-evident that Vladimir Putin has dug in his heels and has made the economic calculation that he can withstand the financial price of a scolding by the West -- and all international agreements, promises, and pledges Russia had signed in the past don't matter. He has maliciously put the entire world order and international rule of law into extreme jeopardy. If he is not restrained by decisive actions by the West, then our children and grandchildren will be condemned to a probable conflagration on the European continent that will be as great or even greater than the horrors of World War II [recall Putin's recent verbal flexing of his nuclear muscle] .....and from which America will have no escape.

Mr. President, the *Ukraine Freedom Support Act* is on your desk awaiting your signature. The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) strongly urges that you sign this legislation as soon as possible. As the leader of the free world, you must take strong and decisive action and reaffirm America's world leadership position now! You should not wait for Europe to act. Once signed into law, the *Ukraine Freedom Support Act* will be a clear message to Vladimir Putin and to the entire world that America is committed to the international rule of law and that it stands by its international obligations. But most importantly, it will show that America's commitment to world peace is bipartisan; supported by both the executive and legislative branches of our government, and represents the moral ideals of the people of our great country.

For further information, please contact
Myroslaw Smorodsky, Esq.
Communications Director of the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA)
Tel: 201-507-4500; Email; myroslaw@smorodsky.com ; Website; www.smorodsky.com

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun" <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu>
Date: 5/7/2015 10:14:40 AM
Subject: Re: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request

Did my best to get to the President's team. Good luck

On May 7, 2015 3:29 PM, "Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun" <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu > wrote:

Dear Mr. Podesta,

I am contacting you with a somewhat unusual request and the hope that you might be able to convey this wish by my children to an appropriate staff person for President Obama in spite of the short notice.

Thank you. And thank you so much for the work you have been doing. I hope you are able to encourage Hillary Clinton to come out strongly to address dangers from Climate Change.

Sincerely,
Pam Vergun, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Dear Mr. President,

I hear that you are coming to our hometown of Beaverton tomorrow down the street from where my children were in a two-way Spanish immersion public school. I know this is a long shot, but I would like to tell you about the work my children and I are doing to help you stop Climate Change in case you would like to meet them.

Also, months ago, my son, who is also one of your fans, asked me to invite you to his Bar Mitzvah. Although we just learned that you will only be in Beaverton during the morning, I'm sure you would like Isaac's D'Var teaching will be on taking even more serious action on Climate Change.

My son is African-American, my daughter was born in the Marshall Islands, and my husband and I are European-American, and together we are doing all we can to impact policies especially the ones most needed to protect our planet. My son has been talking with the City of Beaverton about his petition to Mayor Doyle regarding fossil fuels and nuclear power. The links below are to the little websites I made for their Mitzvah projects, so Miko and Isaac can speak for themselves. Please glance at them to see if you could use them to inspire or highlight your own work as you have inspired us.
Miko's: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

Thank you so much.
With Love and Blessings to you and Michelle and your daughters,
Pam Vergun

Sent from my iPhone

Dr. Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, M.P.A.

Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun
vergun@alumni.stanford.edu
3545 NW Ashland Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Hm: 503-645-6642
Mo: 503-332-7633

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Wherever you live, sign Isaac's petition to the City of Beaverton's Mayor Doyle and the City Council:
https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-the-city-of-beaverton-from-fossil-fuels-and-nuclear-power
Thanks!
And, for more on Miko and Isaac's work to help protect our planet, please visit their websites:
Miko: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/19/2008 2:57:20 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech in Green Bay, WI 09/19/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online streaming video. Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights
[McCain highlights]

- Flubs: calls for resignation of "FEC" chair: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9s9IERbxFFA
    - goes off-script: says Cox a "good man" but he should resign because we need accountability in Washington
- Says his proposal gives "a lot more than what any hardworking middle class family gets under the Obama plan"
- Proposes 5-pronged approach
    - (1) MFI as early intervention program to keep ppl in their homes and safeguard their savings
    - (2) more financial transparency
    - (3) one regulatory standard
    - (4) reform of corp. governance rules to protect consumers and investors (e.g. against predatory lenders)
    - (5) Fed should get out of business of bailouts and focus on strengthening the dollar
- Continues do-nothing accusations that Obama "did nothing and actually profited from this system of abuse and scandal," was taking their money
    - Says another Freddie CEO, Fred Raines, has been advising Obama on housing policy
- accuses Obama of imposing "mandated health insurance on businesses that would cost up to $12k per employee."

[Palin highlights]

- Emphasized McCain's foresight in broaching the subject 2 years ago

Green Bay, WI: McCain/Palin Econ. Speech 09/19/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Speech Highlights (not in remarks)
[Palin highlights]
Nothing could beat last night's event
Talk about important and serious news
Plan to stop corruption on Wall Street
Mayor's gotta implement solutions
Same job on state level as Gov.
Gotta implement solutions to challenges facing us on economy
Talking with citizens
Heard stories of woes at Town hall in MI
- College student can't get healthcare
- Med student can't repay debt
- Citizens worried about earmarks and wasteful spending
- McCain's the one to reform that

It's paramount our leader in next four years gets economy back on track w/o talking about it
That's based on track record

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Can you believe they will be a maverick that'll buck their party?
That's JM
Americans are facing elements of a perfect storm

- High taxes can result in a perfect storm
- High gas prices
- Dependence on gas prices from foreign sources
- No courage
- Too much greed on Wall Street

John McCain started warning everybody two years ago about Fannie and Freddie or this would happen
He warned he had foresight
He had that foresight about Iraq
Here's McCain
He's got a sound plan
It can be implement
W/o further ado-

[McCain highlights]
Thanks for getting up early
[extended applause for McCain]
Great event last night

As you may know, yesterday I called for SEC resig
He good man
there needs to be accountability
One books that Salter and I wrote, which is avalable on amazon, we tell a story: Eisenhower impressive and in charge of Normandy -- Went to his quarters and wrote out two letters (1) a Congratulations letter for staging invasion that won WW2 (2) a Resignation letter -- We need that kind of accountability
Thus, the FEC chairman should resign and be replaced

FULL PREPARED REMARKS
Thank you all very much. It's a great pleasure to be introduced by Governor Sarah Palin -- and I can't wait to introduce her to Washington.

If Governor Palin and I are elected in 46 days, we are not going to waste a moment in changing the way Washington does business. And we're going to start where the need for reform is greatest. In short order, we are going to put an end to the reckless conduct, corruption, and unbridled greed that have caused a crisis on Wall Street.

Here and all across our country, people are wondering what exactly is happening on Wall Street. And with good reason, they want to know how their government will meet the crisis. Clear answers are hard to come by in Washington.

As Senator Obama's leader in Congress memorably put it the other day -- and I quote -- "no one knows what to do." Perhaps given that reaction, it shouldn't surprise us that the Congressional leaders of this do-nothing Congress also said that they weren't going to take action until after the election, claiming that it wasn't their fault. I am hopeful that last night's discussions are a sign they have changed their mind and will take action soon. But any action should be designed to keep people in their homes and safe guard the life savings of all Americans by protecting our financial system.

There are certainly plenty of places to point fingers, and it may be hard to pinpoint the original event that set it all in motion. But let me give you an educated guess. The financial crisis we're living through today started with the corruption and manipulation of our home mortgage system. At the center of the problem were the lobbyists, politicians, and bureaucrats who succeeded in persuading Congress and the administration to ignore the festering problems at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

These quasi-public corporations lead our housing system down a path where quick profit was placed before

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sound finance. They institutionalized a system that rewarded forcing mortgages on people who couldn't afford them, while turning around and selling those bad mortgages to the banks that are now going bankrupt. Using money and influence, they prevented reforms that would have curbed their power and limited their ability to damage our economy. And now, as ever, the American taxpayers are left to pay the price for Washington's failure.

Two years ago, I called for reform of this corruption at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Congress did nothing. The Administration did nothing. Senator Obama did nothing, and actually profited from this system of abuse and scandal. While Fannie and Freddie were working to keep Congress away from their house of cards, Senator Obama was taking their money. He got more, in fact, than any other member of Congress, except for the Democratic chairmen of the committee that oversees them. And while Fannie Mae was betraying the public trust, somehow its former CEO had managed to gain my opponent's trust to the point that Senator Obama actually put him in charge of his vice presidential search.

This CEO, Mr. Johnson, walked off with tens of millions of dollars in salary and bonuses for services rendered to Fannie Mae, even after authorities discovered accounting improprieties that padded his compensation. Another CEO for Fannie Mae, Mr. Raines, has been advising Senator Obama on housing policy. This even after Fannie Mae was found to have committed quote "extensive financial fraud" under his leadership. Like Mr. Johnson, Mr. Raines walked away with tens of millions of dollars.

Senator Obama may be taking their advice and he may be taking their money, but in a McCain-Palin administration, there will be no seat for these people at the policy-making table. They won't even get past the front gate at the White House.

My friends, this is the problem with Washington. People like Senator Obama have been too busy gaming the system and haven't ever done a thing to actually challenge the system.

We've heard a lot of words from Senator Obama over the course of this campaign. But maybe just this once he could spare us the lectures, and admit to his own poor judgment in contributing to these problems. The crisis on Wall Street started in the Washington culture of lobbying and influence peddling, and he was square in the middle of it.

The financial services industry -- and there are many honest and honorable people who work in it -- plays a vital role in our economy. Mutual fund companies help Americans save for retirement. Banks and lending companies provide the mortgages that help us buy our homes. Investment firms supply the seed money that helps entrepreneurs create tomorrow's jobs. Insurance companies protect us against unknown risks.

Yet as the financial crisis continues and bailouts and bankruptcies mount, it's clear financial firms have lost the trust of the American people. That trust cannot be regained unless we adopt some fundamental reforms. Government has a clear responsibility to act and to defend the public interest. That is exactly what I intend to do.

First, to deal with the immediate crisis, I will lead in the creation of the Mortgage and Financial Institutions trust -- the MFI. The underlying principle of the MFI or any approach considered by Congress should be to keep people in their homes and safe guard the life savings of all Americans by protecting our financial system and capital markets. This trust will work with the private sector and regulators to identify institutions that are weak and fix them before they become insolvent. The MFI is an early intervention program to help financial institutions avoid bankruptcy, expensive bailouts and damage to their customers. This will get the Treasury and other financial regulatory authorities in a proactive position instead of reacting in a crisis mode to one situation after another.

The MFI will restore investor and market confidence, build sound financial institutions, assist troubled institutions and protect our financial system while minimizing taxpayer exposure. This is an important step, but it is not enough. I will also take the additional actions needed to make sure a crisis like this is never allowed to build and break over the American people again.

Second, I will propose and sign into law reforms to prevent financial firms from concealing their bad practices. An inexcusable lack of financial transparency allowed Wall Street firms to engage in reckless behavior that padded their profits and fattened executive bonuses when times were good, but now imperil the financial security of

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millions of Americans when their bets turned sour.

So much of the damage to our economy could have been avoided if these practices had been exposed to the light of day. Americans have a right to know when their jobs, pensions, IRAs, investments, and our whole economy are being put at risk by the recklessness of Wall Street. And under my reforms for the financial sector, that fundamental right will be protected.

Third, we need regulatory clarity. The lack of transparency in our financial markets went unnoticed by the regulatory agencies scattered throughout Washington charged with protecting the common good. We've got the SEC, the FDIC, the CFTC, the SIPC, the OCC, the Fed. At best, this confusing assortment of regulators and institutions was egregiously lax in carrying out their responsibilities. At worst, they engaged in the old Washington game of guarding their bureaucratic turf, instead of safeguarding the public interest and protecting investors.

Many in the financial services industry also either forgot or neglected their duty to act ethically and honorably. This shortcoming was aided and abetted by the creation of financial instruments that allowed lenders to escape any responsibility for the risk of their loans. In the past, lenders had to pay a price if they made a bad loan. Today, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac worked with Wall Street to bundle together all these dicey subprime loans and then pushed them off on investors who didn't have the tools of transparency needed to assess or even understand the risk.

The current system promotes confusion, encourages bureaucratic infighting and creates incentives for financial firms to cut corners. We need to enhance regulatory clarity by holding the same financial activity to one regulatory standard. We don't need a dozen federal agencies doing the job badly -- we need the best federal agencies to do the job right.

Fourth, we must ensure that consumers and investors are protected. Our regulatory system must protect consumers and investors by punishing individuals who engage in fraud, break contracts, or lie to customers -- like the predatory lenders who know you can't afford an adjustable rate mortgage, but mislead you into signing one. These actions are criminal and the people who commit them should be behind bars. And corporate governance rules will be reformed so that shareholders have a clear say in determining the pay of CEOs and other senior executives. On my watch, the consequences for corporate abuse will not be more enrichment, but more likely an indictment.

Fifth, in cases where failing companies seek taxpayer bailouts, the Treasury Department will follow consistent policies in deciding whether to guarantee loans. It must have well developed remedies for a financial crisis. With billions of dollars in public money at stake, it will not do to keep making it up as we go along.

Finally, the Federal Reserve should get back to its core business of responsibly managing our money supply and inflation. It needs to get out of the business of bailouts. The Fed needs to return to protecting the purchasing power of the dollar. A strong dollar will reduce energy and food prices. It will stimulate sustainable economic growth and get this economy moving again.

All of these measures will calm and help us to avoid future panics and disasters in the financial markets. But to get through this tough time for America, and to come out stronger, we need a strategy of economic growth. And the massive new tax burden that my opponent plans for the American economy is exactly the wrong answer. His tax increase -- along with the enormous new federal programs he proposes -- are the surest way to turn a recession into a depression. In every respect, the Obama tax hikes would make things even worse for the working people of this country.

I have proposed, and will sign into law, an economic recovery plan for working Americans that is directed to the middle class. It will grow this economy, create millions of jobs and bring opportunity back to Americans. You will get a tax policy that creates family prosperity and allows you to save for the future. I will not raise your taxes on income or investments. And we will simplify the tax code so people can understand it and do their tax returns themselves.

I will give every family a $5,000 credit to buy their own health insurance policy and let them chose their own

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doctor. This will make insurance affordable to every American.

I will double the child exemption from $3,500 to $7,000 to help families pay for the rising cost of living.

Under my plan, a married couple with two children making $35,000 will get $5,000 to pay for health insurance and additional medical expenses. This family would get another $1,050 from my child exemption. That adds up to over $6,000. That is a lot more than what any hardworking middle class family, gets under the Obama plan.

Business taxes will be cut from the second highest in the world at 35 percent to 25 percent. Tax incentives will spur investment in new plants and equipment. Research and development incentives will keep companies on the cutting edge of their industries. Healthcare costs will diminish. Companies will stop sending jobs overseas to low-cost, low-tax countries and start creating jobs here in America.

I will expand markets for our goods and services. A one in five of all jobs in this country are linked to world trade. In five states alone Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Colorado over 5 million jobs depend on trade. My economic recovery plan will create millions of jobs in America instead of driving them overseas.

I will adopt an "all of the above" energy policy which expands our use of oil, natural gas, clean coal and nuclear facilities. We will embark on a national mission to build an alternative energy base, creating millions of new jobs. We will create the most diversified energy economy in the world. And, I will return to the American economy the $700 billion dollars we send overseas every year to buy oil.

My opponent offers a very different economic future. He has continuously shifted his position on taxes. At the beginning of this campaign he promised to raise taxes on your savings and investments. He said he won't raise taxes for most people but he has voted 94 times in his short Senate career for tax increases and against tax cuts. He said he would only tax the rich, but he voted this year to raise taxes on those making just $42,000. Senator Obama has simply not given Americans good reason to trust him with your tax dollars.

My opponent is against lowering taxes on businesses which are the second highest in the world. He will impose mandated health insurance on businesses that would cost up to $12,000 per employee. He opposes free trade. He also wants to take away the fundamental right of workers to have a secret ballot when voting to be part of a union.

Now is not the time for these destructive policies that will cripple business growth, destroy jobs and hurt the middle class. Now is the time to take action to address this crisis and take action to put our economy back on a path of growth.

Even though Democratic leaders say they don't know what to do, I believe the deep problems afflicting our financial system won't be solved by one political party. There is only one candidate in this race who has a record of reaching across the aisle to work out the bipartisan solutions needed to move our country forward in times of crisis -- and I will bring that same spirit of bipartisan cooperation to the White House. It took members of both parties to get America into this mess, and it will take all of us, working together, to lead the way out.

Thank you.

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/16/2015 8:23:44 AM
Subject: News Update - November 16

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, November 16

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Israelis Say French Should Now Realize There's a War On**
- **Op-Ed in Official PA Daily: Israel Carried Out Paris Attacks**
- **Netanyahu: 'Nothing to Justify Terror'**
- **Ya'alon: Israel Has Deterrence in Golan, Eyes on Islamic State**
- **Another Israeli Attacked After Being Mistaken for a Terrorist**
- **Clashes in the West Bank as IDF Demolish Terrorist's Home**
- **Poll: 75% of British Jews Think Settlements Block Peace**
- **Russia Says Hezbollah, Hamas Not Terror Groups**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "War of Cultures"**
  - By Ben Caspit, Columnist, Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse
- **The New York Times: "What Will Come After Paris"**
  - By Editorial Staff

Washington Post

Israelis Say French Should Now Realize There's a War On

Israeli leaders expressed condolences to the French over the Paris terrorist attacks but quickly stressed Sunday that Israel and the West face the same foe in radical Islam and that Israel is on the front line. Israeli officials and commentators also suggested that French intelligence agencies had failed the republic and that France needs to pursue a tougher, far more intrusive — more Israeli — response against militants. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel's spy agencies are actively assisting French authorities.

See also, "Thousands Rally in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square in Solidarity with France" (Algemeiner)

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Times of Israel

Op-Ed in Official PA Daily: Israel Carried Out Paris Attacks

A Sunday opinion piece in the official Palestinian Authority daily *al-Hayat al-Jadida* blamed Israel's Mossad intelligence agency for Friday's terror attacks in Paris, suggesting they were orchestrated in order to undermine new European moves promoting a two-state solution and providing for the clear labeling of produce from Israeli West Bank settlements. "It is not a coincidence that human blood was exploded in Paris at the same time that certain European sanctions are beginning to be implemented against settlement products, and while France leads Europe in advising the [UN] Security Council that will implement the two-state solution..." the piece states.

Ynet News

Netanyahu: 'Nothing to Justify Terror'

Israel's security forces have been ordered to aid France in any way possible after a series of simultaneous attacks in Paris killed 129, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday evening. Even as the prime minister spoke to journalists on the unprecedented attack in France, Tel Aviv's municipality was lit up in red, white and blue as hundreds gathered in solidarity and the French Ambassador gave a short speech.

See also, "After Paris, Netanyahu Demands World Also Condemn Attacks Against Israel" (Times of Israel)

Jerusalem Post

Ya'alon: Israel Has Deterrence in Golan, Eyes on Islamic State

Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon told Israel Radio Monday that Israel is succeeding in deterring Islamic State (IS) from attacking the country from Syria. The former IDF Chief of Staff claimed Israel follows IS activity and support in Gaza and the West Bank, on top of Syria. Ya'alon also stated that Iran had similar aspirations. "The Iranians have tried to open up a front against Israel from Syria, but the initiative failed," he said.

See also, "Israel Not Too Worried By Islamic State, Defense Chief Says" (Times of Israel)

Ynet News

Another Israeli Attacked After Being Mistaken for a Terrorist

A security guard at a police facility in Kiryat Ata was attacked by taxi passengers on Saturday who he claims suspected he was a terrorist. The guard, a Christian originally from Kafr Yasif in northern Israel who served in the IDF's Kfir Brigade, was set upon in the center of Kiryat Ata as he was on his way to work after visiting his girlfriend. "A car was sitting in the middle of the road so I honked my horn and then got out of my car to see what was happening...A taxi driver passing by saw the crucifix in my car and started shouting: 'He's an Arab terrorist.' They then started beating me with everything they had: sticks, chains, and knives," he continued.

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Ma'ariv

Clashes in the West Bank as IDF Demolish Terrorist's Home

Three Palestinians were killed last night during an IDF operation to demolish the home of a terrorist in the Kalandiya refugee camp. IDF forces came to demolish the home of terrorist Mohammed Abu Shahin who murdered Danny Gonen about four months ago. Palestinians at the site rioted and shot at IDF soldiers. The troops returned fire killing the three Palestinians. No injuries to IDF forces were reported. Palestinian sources also reported clashes with IDF troops in the Deheisha refugee camp in Bethlehem during an operation to arrest suspects. Several were wounded by gunfire.

See also, "Israeli Forces Destroy Homes of 4 Palestinians Accused in Shootings" (The New York Times)

See also, "Two Armed Palestinians Killed in West Bank as Israeli Army Demolishes Terrorist's Home" (Ha'aretz)

Jerusalem Post

Poll: 75% of British Jews Think Settlements Block Peace

A poll released by City University London and funded by the British pro-Israel, pro-peace group Yachad has revealed that 73% of British Jews view Israel's approach to the peace process with Palestinian officials as being damaging "to its standing in the world." The poll was based on a sample of 1,131 British Jews, presents what Yachad director Hannah Weisfeld described as a community that is "shifting" with regard to its attitudes toward Israel. While its show that for the majority of British Jews (93%), Israel plays a "central" or "important" part in their Jewish identity, it makes clear that the peace process is seen as the foremost issue. Fully 62% of respondents put "pursuing peace negotiations with the Palestinians" as what they feel should be Israel's top priority.

See also, "Poll of British Jews Finds Widespread Unease with Israel's Policies" (Guardian)

Times of Israel

Russia Says Hezbollah, Hamas Not Terror Groups

Moscow does not view Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov told the Interfax news agency. The comment came as the Kremlin sought to secure international consensus on which forces in Syrian ought to be branded terror groups as part of political negotiations aimed at ending the conflict. "Some say Hezbollah is a terrorist organization...We maintain contacts and relations with them, because we do not consider them a terrorist organization." The Russian official noted that members of the Shiite group's political wing were legally elected to Lebanese Parliament, and that the organization had never carried out attacks on Russian soil. He added that the group was a "legitimate sociopolitical" force.

Yedioth Ahronoth – November 15, 2015

War of Cultures

By Ben Caspit

Paris turned from the city of lights into the city of corpses in one fleeting moment. The French complacency, the good life, the colorful coffee shops, all those are history. Friday, November 13, is the date that will go down in the history of European atrocities. The Parisians will remember where they were that day until the day they die. Nothing will be the way it was until the rage abates. But the rage is not going to abate easily. There had been all sorts of previews in Europe until now—promos for the real thing. And the real thing happened on Friday.

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This war had been going on in other, distant regions. As long as the bodies piled up in the ruined cities of Syria and in what had been Iraq, Europe clicked its tongue, condemned, sent a squadron and a half to the ridiculous coalition that is bombing "ISIS objectives" and hoped for the best. There was the attack at *Charlie Hebdo*, and there was the massacre at the kosher Jewish supermarket, and there was the murderous spree of terror in Toulouse, and another in Brussels, but the complacency continued. Then came the refugees, like a swallow that heralds the coming of winter as the first significant shockwave that burst through the European wall of indifference. And now, this. It is still unclear how it is possible to describe the horror that Paris experienced on Friday. The French realize, as does the rest of the West, that the war is not over the future of Syria nor is it over Iraq's stability nor is it over the territorial wholeness of Afghanistan. This is a war for the home front.

What do we do now? The shock was clearly recognizable yesterday on the defeated face of French President Francois Hollande. What did he mean when he said that France will fight terrorism without mercy? To what was he hinting when he said that they will fight "with all the means at their disposal"? As of now, Europe has no means at its disposal to fight terror of this kind. Europe is a divided, fractious continent with open borders, ridiculous security arrangements, and zero determination. European society has been collapsing upon itself for years by now. This can be observed through a negative birth rate, through reduced populations, and through weak policies. It will have to shake itself, reinvent itself, and fight for its life. Yes, nothing less than that.

Europe will have to establish a joint intelligence arm to fight Islamic terror. It will have to allocate it unlimited means. It will have to forget a large part of the values of individual freedom, human rights, and the right to privacy, and it will have to allow the intelligence agency unrestricted invasive surveillance abilities on everyone. We will all have to understand in the current era of terror that it will be necessary to sacrifice some privacy in order to preserve life. The war on terror begins and ends with intelligence. Europe has no intelligence right now, it has no idea where to begin looking for it, and it has a nonexistent capability of sealing its borders and preventing the murderers from entering because the murderers are already inside. They are its citizens who have received asylum in the name of those same fundamental human values. Many things will change in Europe now with immigration and refugee policy at the fore.

The great victor of the weekend is Basher Assad. The one who was supposed to have already vaporized into the trash can of history has become the great white hope of the old world order. Iran's standing will become more entrenched along with him as it is the only available solution to ISIS. But whoever believes, such as the Americans, that Iran and the air strikes will crush ISIS, is gravely mistaken. It seems to me that it is now quite clear. ISIS suffered several tough defeats over the last few weeks in Syria and in Iraq, where it lost important strongholds to the Kurds. But at the very same time, it had a series of extraordinary successes in terrorism: the Russian airplane, the attack in Dahiya in Beirut, and the peak in Paris.

At the end of the day, with all due respect to Iran and even to the forces that Putin sent to Syria, the keys are in the hands of Barack Obama who still occupies the position of leader of the free world. His policy of "leading from behind" is a decisive failure. He leaves behind him a world bloodier, more dangerous, and more split than the one he received. The Pentagon announced a few days ago that it had succeeded in assassinating "John the Jihadist" with a drone that hit his car and he "was blown to pieces." Secretary of State John Kerry said a few minutes afterwards that "ISIS's days are numbered." And so, Kerry has again taken a punch to the face by reality. It has happened time and time again.

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And Obama will have to make an important decision in the next few days, perhaps the most important of his presidency: should he use his last year in power to try to fix the damage of the seven years that preceded it? ISIS will not be eradicated without boots on the ground, many boots and many soldiers with America at the lead in an international operation. It seems to me that the French would be happy to participate in such a coalition. They have no choice, in any case. It is an apocalyptic war between a culture that sanctifies death and a culture that sanctifies the good life.

What has happened now is that the people of life understand that they must fight in order to defend themselves. It is not enough to talk, give speeches, support, or assist. They need to roll up their sleeves, take off the white gloves, and stick their hands deep in the mud. It will be long, hard, and ugly. John the jihadist, who was blown up two days before the massacre in Paris after his vehicle was attacked by an American drone, will not live to see how it ends.

Ben Caspit is a columnist for Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse as well as a senior columnist and political analyst for Israeli newspapers.

The New York Times – November 15, 2015

What Will Come After Paris

By Editorial Staff

The terrorist attacks in Paris on Friday, along with twin bombings in Beirut on the day before and the downing of a Russian jetliner over the Sinai Peninsula on Oct. 31, show a new phase in the Islamic State's war against the West, a readiness to strike far beyond areas it controls in Iraq, Syria, and increasingly, Libya.

The challenge for threatened countries is huge. The sort of attacks the Islamic State, or ISIS, has launched are hard to anticipate or prevent, yet in Europe each one intensifies the raucous xenophobia of far-right nationalists ever ready to demonize Muslim citizens, immigrants and refugees, and shut down Europe's open internal borders. The Islamic State must be crushed, but that requires patience, determination and the coordination of strategies and goals that has been sorely lacking among countries involved in the war on ISIS, especially the United States and Russia.

President François Hollande of France defiantly declared the attacks in Paris "an act of war" and vowed a "pitiless" response. On Sunday, French warplanes bombarded Raqqa, the Syrian city that is an ISIS stronghold. Mr. Hollande is expected to offer other proposals when he addresses the French Parliament at a special session in Versailles on Monday. France already has some of Europe's most intensive antiterrorist policing; adopting draconian measures of the sort demanded by far-right nationalists like Marine Le Pen of the National Front can only further alienate France's Muslim population of five million, without offering any assurance against more attacks.

The discovery of a Syrian passport near one of the attackers, which matched one used by an asylum-seeker who had entered Europe through Greece, was bound to intensify anti-refugee sentiments and calls to close Europe's open internal borders. There is no proof that the owner of the passport was one of the gunmen. And even if one of the attackers had entered Europe in the guise of a refugee, the first gunman to be conclusively identified, Omar Ismail Mostefai, was not a refugee, but a French citizen born and raised in a town just south of Paris.

Pouring fuel on the passions swirling around refugees and Muslims in Europe was no doubt a major goal behind the ISIS attack. The choice of the

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neighborhoods where most attacks occurred, an ethnically diverse area in eastern Paris increasingly populated by young professionals, seemed designed to send the message that tolerance would be no protection against what ISIS described in a communiqué as the coming "storm."

France must take measures to protect its citizens, as must the United States, Russia and all the other countries — Western and Middle Eastern — threatened by the Islamic State's murderous dream of a new caliphate. At the same time, it's clear that the prevention of further ISIS attacks will require threatened states to find a way to end the Syrian civil war, which has made it possible for this terrorist group to gain wealth, territory and power. That means closely coordinating action among countries already engaged in the fight — most notably the United States and Russia — and it means persuading more European and Middle Eastern nations to join in the mission.

Until the latest spate of ISIS attacks, America's focus on that terrorist organization as the primary enemy had not been fully shared by Russia, which has used its military actions more to defend its ally, President Bashar al-Assad of Syria. But there have been several promising moves of late toward greater cooperation.

At a meeting in Vienna on Saturday, representatives of more than a dozen countries with an urgent interest in ending the Syrian war, including Secretary of State John Kerry and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov of Russia, agreed on a tentative plan for a phased transition to an interim government and elections in Syria. And at the Group of 20 summit meeting underway in Turkey, Syria and ISIS have been a topic of urgent discussion, as they presumably were when President Obama met separately with President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

The attacks in Paris sent a major shockwave around the world, and the Beirut bombings and the downing of the Russian civilian jetliner were every bit as horrific. ISIS has demonstrated that there is no limit to its reach, and no nation is really safe until they all come together to defeat this scourge.

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For comments, please contact us at info@centerpeace.org .
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From: "Joseph Slovinec" <jslovinec16@hotmail.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/4/2016 2:47:55 PM
Subject: Re: For: John Podesta: Sample cover letter, resume: "Digital Coordinator" for Rising Tide Interactive

This if for John Podesta as an example of my cover letter with the longer resume.. It is premature for me to use a cover letter with your name on it unless you say you want to favor my application for a particular job. Please feel free to advise me on applying to organizations that I may not have included earlier.

Joe Slovinec

From: Joseph Slovinec <jslovinec16@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 5:54 PM
To: jobs@risingtideinteractive.com
Subject: Re: Cover letter, resume: "Digital Coordinator" for Rising Tide Interactive

REFERENCES: Please note a reference is available on request for my 2011-2012 phone calls for the Obama campaign and Kaine for U.S. Senate campaign in Virginia. Professor Peg Griffin of George Mason at E-mail pgriffin@gmu.edu said during 2012 she is still pleased to serve as a reference for my phone calls for Organizing for America in 2009 and 2010 which are still on my resume.

February 25, 2016

Human Resources
Rising Tide Interactive
1250 H St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Director and Staff:

I send greetings. Please consider me for Entry-Level Digital Coordinator for the Rising Tide Interactive office. In your ad, I meet the educational qualifications with my M.A. in History and both undergraduate and graduate work on public policy topics. I am able to fulfill your needs for content concepts with my social media work and monthly calendars. I learned to use Excel and Power Point during a 2006 class at the University of the District of Columbia. My Georgetown Certificate in Project Management prepared me well to work on your reports and special projects. My resume describes my ability to work on written materials for Congress and a newsletter for your duties. My Facebook page for Joseph Slovinec includes federal Presidential and Congressional issues including climate change for President Obama, anticrime issues for the Hillary Clinton campaign, and education with a higher minimum wage.. I learned how to write a curriculum unit at DePaul School of Education with a pro-labor unit on the Pullman Strike. I taught community college. Please count my experience on pro-Obama and Obama campaign phone calls at the Democratic National Committee from 2009 to 2012. It helped me to understand the election and political organizing process well. My education helped me learn how to conduct extensive research and set a policy agenda. Please also consider me for any Entry-Level Project Management jobs or other appropriate jobs with a B.A. if you receive notices of openings sometime in the future. I can do Project Management work on organizing

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conferences. Your ad indicates a particularly good fit between your entry-level duties and my desire for entry-level work with my Georgetown Certificate in Project Management. . In November 2015 I gave testimony to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Clean Power Plan and a copy is available on request. In strategies to use my Master's Degree in International Affairs for peace, I recently shifted into new interests in the environment after my involvement in Tommy Wells' campaign and climate change after earlier security interests in NATO and the Middle East. I specialized on data collection during the U.S. Census and I have often used political polls. I know this is a long cover letter yet I believe you need to review it for my many activities in progressive politics.. Please note my Facebook page where I often get postings from President Obama on climate change, a higher minimum wage, and many issues. Please also access my writings under my name as Member of the Peace and Collaborative Development Network about Middle East peace, Obama's Iran nuclear arms deal, and Carter Center mediations: I also did research on the African Union talks on Libya and east Asian security. I have two Master's Degrees on my resume and I can still excel on research, writing, and communications for you including recent social media entries. You can note I had a long job search since many Project Management jobs are in conservative or high-tech companies with 5 or more years of managerial experience. I have worked on campaign research since my opposition research for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee on President Reagan's foreign policy record in 1984 including lack of progress on Middle East and Central America peace talks.

Please understand I need to include in the rest of this letter a text I usually use for all of my cover letters. It is easier for your reading that I send you a list of candidates for whom I made calls at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in Washington, D.C. in 2014: Alex Sink of Florida. Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty of Connecticut, and ex- Congressmen Bill Enyart and Brad Schneider of Illinois. I will try to contact their current DCCC staff on ideas on listing them for you. Thanks.

Please see my entries on the Peace and Collaborative Development Network where I persuaded a chapter meeting of President Obama's group, Organizing for Action, in March 2013 to include Israeli-Palestinian peace as a main goal and Cuba, a suggestion from another group member. President Obama did not respond directly and his recognition of Cuba accomplished our purposes: on that network, I wrote entries on the Israel-Hamas ceasefire scene in Gaza in 2013-2014. I saw Jimmy Carter at a book signing here July 9 and he seems fine. I lack time to rewrite this entire letter today so please read on for a text I use in most letters after I tell you I have fine teaching at Columbia University from Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's National Security Advisor, and Nissan Oren, advisor to former President and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel shortly after Camp David.

Please again note the requests from President Obama or pro-Obama White House groups to post items on my Joseph Slovinec Facebook page including climate change and Review of the Year 2014. I can multi-task with use of my Georgetown Certificate in Project Management. I am receptive to your leadership coaching and you will find I have excellent research and writing skills on facts in History and Political Science with benefit to your business. Today I note my Obama-Biden transition comments included a note on my Dec. 8, 2008 comment on the Center for Strategic and International Studies site: "Congratulations to Hillary Clinton on her selection as Secretary of State and I hope she and President-elect Obama read materials from and honor my past Columbia professors including Dr. Brzezinski, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad, Professor Nissan Oren, Professor Marshall Shulman on the Soviet Union since we need reduction of tensions with Putin, and Enid Schoettle where I wrote a paper on Spain in NATO." and "the Armitage-Nye combination gave the CSIS Commission on Smart Power fine leadership on alliances.. and public diplomacy including NATO and G-8 goals.".."I hope former President Clinton uses his library and foundation to keep in touch with ..Mikhail Gorbachev on his voluntary role in ending the Cold War as we try to reduce tensions with Putin today." My research on Spain correctly expressed optimism in 1981 on the later admission of Spain to NATO with a new democratic system of King Juan Carlos I in Spain and resulted expected Spanish entry into the EEC or Common Market. When Dr. Brzezinski taught me, I wrote an options paper on deployment of INF nuclear weapons and speeches for human rights including a related Presidential speech to favor freedom in Europe and oppose the 1981 Polish Communist and army repression of the Solidarity labor union and its leader, Lech Walesa, during that crisis. Professor Shulman gave me an A in a class that was mostly on Russian diplomatic history. Professor Oren taught a seminar on Consolidation of Peace with some admiration for the Congress of Vienna in 1815 and stable peace after World War II; Professor Oren was a friend of Israeli President and Prime Minister Shimon Peres and I wrote a paper for him on the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation of the 1960's when Malaysia was more pro-British and anti-Communist of the two. I explain well my thesis on my resume and also briefly wrote the fair diplomacy of President Theodore Roosevelt to discuss peace with Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia could serve as a model for the Clinton-Yeltsin era. I visited Warsaw, Poland and Prague, Czech Republic in 1993 during democratic rule after my personal extensive reading on that topic. I also attended Georgetown events on Europe including Madeleine Albright's talk on Prague Winter about her childhood and a talk by Denis Deletant on democratic Romania.

I note you may have an interest in the Obama Presidential campaign of 2012 and I worked on it for 1 1/2 years with supervision from Tiernan Reilly for calls for D.C. volunteers for Virginia. I have the ability to write press releases after working together with journalists as an Assistant Editor of Chapters on Arms Control and Disarmament and Dispute Settlement and Decolonization at the United Nations Association of the U.S.A.. Please see recent writing under my name on the Peace and Collaborative Development Network including a milestone of important events in Ukraine peace talks with Russia since 2014 I sometimes make entries on LinkedIn like I did on the 2012 Obama campaign issues. I got an A- on my History thesis with "Above Average" on the oral exam. Your hiring of me would achieve goals of the federal Workforce Investment Act that gave

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a grant to Georgetown to pay for tuition for my Georgetown Certificate in Project Management with a goal of ending my unemployment Please read on for my cover letter for all purposes and I lack time to make revisions in the cover letter today. I got $20 per hour for work on the 2010 Census. Please note my conflict mediation expertise for this job with my Certificates from the U.S. Institute of Peace. I did research on transportation regulations on hazardous wastes for Congressman Martin Russo (D-Il.). I believe I meet the qualifications for research and writing with my Master's Degree in International Affairs at Columbia University. Please note I worked for 6 years in Cook County public administration and one year for the Illinois government on Medicaid, a public policy activity. I wrote research on food aid for Africa for Alison Doyle, an assistant to Madeleine Albright, foreign policy advisor for the campaign of Geraldine Ferraro for Vice President in 1984. My resume indicates my earlier work for Mayor Daley in Chicago's 43rd Ward including a list of international organizations. My DePaul thesis included an A- grade with excellent written and verbal communications skills. I am seeking re-entry into research on Congress after original interests in the 1980's including an internship for Congressman Russo, work on federal student aid for Columbia's Vice President for Government Relations, and several substantive research assignments in the 1980's including a critique of President Reagan's foreign policy with strength on NATO and desire for peace in the Middle East and Central America, issues research on education and foreign policy for Shawn Collins for Congress in 1986, and research on South African and antidrug efforts for Senator Dixon's 1986 re-election campaign. In Project Management, we learned about communications project management including meetings with stakeholders for requirements, conferences and events planning, office organizational abilities, time management and schedules, public relations strategies for press releases, and distribution of information about the project. References include U.S. Census Bureau supervisor Evan Goitein at Phone 301-323-8272, Georgetown Professor Larry Joseph who is an expert on project teams at 240-888-1009, and Georgetown Professor of Project Management Charles McClelland at 703-644-1603. Please ask me if you want a reference from Stuart-Hobson Middle School's Assistant Principal. I was a Notre Dame newspaper staff reporter. Please note my earlier Public Relations Writing class at George Washington University included my writing of a publicity package with news releases about the AFL-CIO. I am an Honorary Fellow of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and wrote about President Kennedy's cooperation with U.S. Senator Paul Douglas (D-Il.) on economic development programs at DePaul. In summary, you will find project management experience on my resume in work on Senator Douglas' files at the Chicago Historical Society, foreign affairs projects at nonprofits the United Nations Association of the U.S.A. and World Without War Council, Medicaid caseworker duties for the Illinois Department of Human Services, and work for the Vice President for Government Relations and Community Affairs at Columbia University when Barack Obama was an undergrad there. I often did reading on my own on Sierra Club issues during and since the 1990's and Presidential campaign and Congressional issues of the 1980's including toxic wastes. I am more carefully selecting job openings since most Washington, D.C. area Project Management jobs are in high-tech and do not connect well to my previous Project Management-related work at the Illinois Dept. of Human Services, Columbia University, and writing related to the United Nations.

Please permit me to send later writing samples if you ask for them.. I hope you're pleased with my writing on Facebook and I welcome your comments. Please contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Slovinec

JOSEPH SLOVINEC
425 2nd St. , N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
E-mail:jslovinec16@hotmail.com
Phone messages 202-393-7117 with Jobs Have Priority fax at 202-393-7270

FOR DCCC: Made phone calls for Alex Sink for U.S. House 2014, 2012; Obama campaign reference available on request

RECENT JOBS

United States Census Bureau, Washington, D.C.. 2010. Enumerator for U.S. Census with visits to households to ask them to fill out questionnaires. Also Enumerator in Chicago, Illinois 1990, 2000 and Calumet City, Illinois 1980

Share Group, Washington, D.C.. March 2008-January 2009. In a telephone fundraiser job to raise financial donation pledges for public interest and nonprofit groups with high totals for Bread for the World, Obama for America Presidential campaign, People for the American Way, American Civil Liberties Union, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum: and many calls for WTTW-TV Channel 11 in Chicago, WBEZ Chicago Public Radio, WFMT Chicago's Fine Arts Station, WNYC Public Radio in New York, Humane Society, and Democratic National Committee. Volunteer calls: earlier for events attendance for Hillary Clinton for President 2007-2008.

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National Research, LLC, Washington, D.C. 2006-2007. Phone calls for opinion surveys like November 2006 elections, issues for New Congress like health care, economy, Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Clinton and Bush popularity, retirement planning, and employee benefits.

Contemporary Services Corporation, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, March-May 2006. Events staff includes checking of credentials for areas at concerts, sports events, and special events like the circus. National company uses ticket takers: part-time job.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters, Forestville, Maryland office, March-December 2006. Work on marches for higher wages and better working conditions at sites only in Washington, D.C.. Activist: Adrian Fenty for Mayor of Washington, D.C., Paid work for precinct canvassing on Election Day, September 2006

VOLUNTEER WORK

Stuart-Hobson Middle School, Washington, D.C.. July 2015 - . Official D.C. Public Schools volunteer work on organizing books and library space.

EDUCATION, MASTER'S DEGREES, AND TRAINING .

Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies, Arlington, Virginia. Certificate in Project Management 2011. Classes include organization of work, office communications, public relations, data collection and questionnaires, risk management, and scheduling.

United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C. Feb. 2010. Passed online exams for Certificate in Conflict Analysis and Certificate in Interfaith Conflict Resolution.

University of the District of Columbia-Van Ness Campus, Washington, D.C., School of Business and Public Administration. PATHS Program, Office Assistant 2006. Includes data entry and typing on Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point.Projects for Professor Susan Nan who is now at George Mason U.: in Washington, D.C. 2005. Talk in class on Arab League peaceful mediation of 1961 Kuwait-Iraq crisis and voting for women in Kuwait, small group research on Colombia including 2002 peace talks with FARC rebels, also see entries under J. Slovinec's name on Peace and Collaborative Development Network website. George Washington University, Washington, D.C.. Public Relations Writing class, 2003. Backgrounders, script writing for television and radio, project on AFL-CIO and lobbying for economic stimulus. Roosevelt University, Chicago, Il. Hospitality Management and Business classes including Meeting Planning, 2000-2001. Education class, 2003.

DePaul University, Chicago, Il.. M.A. in History 1996 with 3.5 of 4, exams in American History and European History, and thesis on President Theodore Roosevelt's peace mediations in Europe with diplomats in Algeciras, Spain and in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Chicago Historical Society (now Chicago History Museum) internship 1994: research on role of U.S. Senator Paul Douglas as author of legislation to create today's Economic Development Administration, project management of creation of files on above topic and the related Kennedy Administration Area Redevelopment Administration, Captive Nations Week, and Europe in Paul Douglas Papers collection. Teaching and Learning classes at DePaul U. School of Education, 1996-1997 including social studies curriculum planning.

Columbia University, New York, N.Y.. Master's Degree in International Affairs, 1982. Specialization: International security policy. Diplomacy, peace mediation, arms control

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana. B.A. in Government and International Studies with honors, 1980. One year of study in Rome, Italy, French, Italian languages..

RELATED EMPLOYMENT WITH RESEARCH SKILLS Congress - Intern for Congressman Russo - research on hazardous wastes, Captive Nations Week, and Cyprus. Washington, D.C. 1980. Research Assistant for Vice President for Government Relations at Columbia University, 1981-1982, including international educational exchanges and student aid. Research for Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for 1984 race on Reagan record with support for more peace talks on arms control, Middle East, and Central America. Issues research: Glenn for President, Geraldine Ferraro for Vice President, Senator Dixon 1986. Research on Job Training Partnership Act program for Thornton Township Trustee Thomas Shepherd in South Holland, Illinois 1985. Paid writing on United Nations: Outer space and non-nuclear arms control, with work as Assistant Editor on arms control and dispute settlement chapters, Issues Before the General Assembly,United Nations Association of the U.S.A., New York, N.Y. 1983, and on United Nations military budget accounting system, World Without War Council, Chicago, Il. 1984.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Illinois Dept. of Human Services, Chicago, Il. 1999-2000. Medicaid nursing home casework.

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Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, Il. Substitute teacher 1998-1999 after estate gift, school

South Suburban College, South Holland, Il. 1988. Adjunct Professor of American National Government for two semesters.

Clerk of Circuit Court, Cook County, Chicago, Il. 1986-1992. Accounting of fees and clerk.

Cook County State's Attorney Richard M. Daley, Chicago, Il. 1985-1986. Clerk in Child Support Enforcement unit.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND RESEARCH IN 1990'S Presidential Studies Quarterly: of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, Washington, D.C. and New York, N.Y.. "Second Term Presidents in U.S. History".Introduction to Winter 1997 includes a note about my research on this paper: My research describes several categories of second-term Presidents: coasting-along with less vigor than first term (Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Jackson, Eisenhower); worsening scandals like Grant, Nixon, and Iran-contra under Reagan; wars; and recessions and I wrote on Clinton and Republican Congress like Cleveland: "In a second term, Clinton could probably coast along like Eisenhower with a stable peace and popularity..with no recessions." POLITICAL - Young Democrats of Cook County including platform work, 1986-1992 and its Recording Secretary, 1990-1991 (also see my Linkedin profile for 43rd Ward involvement in Chicago.)List of international organizations in Chicago, precinct work for Richard M. Daley for Mayor of Chicago, 1989; 1996 memo on campaign budget deficit reduction, 2008 phone calls for Senator Durbin. Phone calls for Kerry for President and answering letters 2004, calls for Cardin for Senate 2006. Research for Lisa Madigan for Attorney General of Illinois on economic development and environmental issues, attendance at events, 2002. Wrote letter of congratulations on website with hopes for peace with security in Kuwait and Iraq, Congressman-elect Patrick Murphy (D-Pennsylvania), 2006. Phone calls for Obama for President in Arlington County, Virginia, to Ohio from 44th Ward office in Chicago, for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson for Congress, Joliet, Illinois November 2008. Barack Obama was at Columbia U. when I was 1981-1982 student. Phone calls for Congressman Scott Murphy (D-N.Y.) with Organizing for America, 2009, Democratic Congressional candidate Mark Critz of Pennsylvania, Congressman Tom Perriello (D-Virginia) Pennsylvania, Congressional candidate Julie Lassa of Wisconsin, Congressman Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Governor Pat Quinn of Illinois, Alexi Giannoulias for United States Senate in Illinois, and Dan Seals for Congress for Illinois with Organizing for America 2010, work on brochure distribution drive for Lisa Madigan for Attorney General in Illinois in 2010, precinct work for D.C. City Councilman Tommy Wells 2010 and for Tommy Wells for Mayor in 2014 with office phone calls; and calls for Democrat Terry McAuliffe for Governor of Virginia 2009. Paid precinct work for Adrian Fenty for Mayor of Washington, D.C., Election Day 2006.Phone calls for Obama for America to recruit volunteers from Democratic National Committee office, Washington, D.C., 2011-2012 with 2012 visits to Virginia to campaign for President Obama and Tim Kaine for U.S. Senate after phone calls. Phone calls for Democrats, Alex Sink, Congressman Bill Enyart of Illinois, and Congressman Brad Schneider of Illinois for U.S. House at Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 2014 and distribution of brochures for Anita Bonds and Elissa Silverman for D.C. City Council 2014. COMMENTS ON OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT WEBSITE: EXCERPTS AND SUMMARY: Your Seat at Table icon: Joseph Slovinec comments in reverse chronological order: Institute for Policy Studies, Jan. 5, 2009: "The Anderson-Perez-Rocha paper is wise in saying liberals also favor U.S. policies to create Mexican jobs, budget for food, and stable Mexican oil prices. This led William Daley to favor NAFTA in 1993 amid controversy and the Obama-Biden campaign website wisely led to moderation in call for amendments to NAFTA.. to please labor and environmentalist.. Raymond Cohen's book, Negotiating Across Cultures includes Mexican desire for respect in negotiations with U.S..". National Association of Attorneys General, Dec. 19, 2008: "In June 2008 I did research on who had most interest in budget ideas after the 2007 budget crisis in Illinois and I praised websites of Brookings, Urban Institute, and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities." U.S. Conference of Mayors: Immigration Reform, Dec. 15, 2008: "I would like to hear more from mayors ..on ending delays in legislation for climate change, increases in Community Development Block Grants, and increases in community policing funds." A New Map for American-German Relations, Dec. 9, 2008: "ideas..are good..we need more specific advising on history and goals for a summit with President Chavez of Venezuela" Center for Strategic and International Studies, Dec. 8, 2008: "I praise CSIS with great ideas..on NATO and public diplomacy..Congratulations to Hillary Clinton. I hope she and President-elect Obama read materials from and honor my past Columbia professors Dr. Brzezinski, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad, Professor Nissan Oren.. Senator Biden did fine work on obtaining testimony from Dr. Brzezinski who wanted a gradual end to Iraq war., Jan. 30, 2007": asked Clinton Foundation to contact Mr. Gorbachev.ATTENDED PLATFORM MEETINGS: With Shana Wimosher on Democratic platform July 2008 with memo praising Obama trip to Europe and pro-labor views. D.C. for Obama meetings: Advocacy for Health Care and Foreign Policy issues, Jan. 17, 2009, and lobbied U.S. Senators for economic stimulus package, Feb. 2009..> >> >> >> >> >> >> > _____END OF RESUME - LACKED TIME TO DELETE SUBSEQUENT ENTRIES_____ _

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From:	"Bulletin News Network" <Clinton-Editors@BulletinNews.com>
To:	bulletin@hillaryclinton.com clips@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	2/26/2008 11:32:53 PM
Subject:	Hillary For President News Briefing for Wednesday, February 27, 2008
Attachments:	ClintonNewsBriefing080227.doc

HILLARY FOR PRESIDENT NEWS BRIEFING (Executive Version)
Full version is attached and available online at http://www.bulletinnews.com/clinton

TO: CLINTON CAMPAIGN

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008 6:30 AM EST

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+ Clinton, Obama Both Said To Have Given Mixed Signals On NAFTA.
+ Clinton Superdelegates Rejecting Calls To Defect.
+ Bill Clinton Takes Lower Profile Role In Wife's Campaign.
+ Obama Downplays Dust-Up Over Photo.
+ McCain Leads Both Obama And Clinton In LATimes/Bloomberg Poll.
+ Dodd Endorses Obama.
+ Obama Speech At Church's National Meeting Draws IRS Scrutiny.

Sen. Clinton's Campaign:

CLINTON, OBAMA DEBATE TRADE, HEALTHCARE IN CLEVELAND. In the twentieth debate of the Democratic primary campaign, Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama faced off over healthcare and trade at Cleveland State University. Media reports characterized Clinton as the aggressor, attempting to portray Obama as a negative campaigner and questioning his healthcare plan. However, the media consensus is that Clinton's jabs failed to rattle Obama, who is said to have remained calm and collected. According to most analyses, neither candidate gained a significant edge during the forum, and the tie was seen as benefiting Obama.

The New York Times (2/27, Nagourney, 1.18M) reports Clinton "entered the final debate before Tuesday's critical primaries with two imperative goals: Challenge Senator Barack Obama's qualifications to lead the country and raise doubts about his ability to defeat a Republican opponent as experienced as Senator John McCain." For "most of 90 minutes, Mrs. Clinton grabbed at every opportunity to accomplish those goals." But by "the end of the night, there was little evidence that Mrs. Clinton had produced the kind of ground-moving moment she needed that might shift the course of a campaign that polls suggest has been moving inexorably in Mr. Obama's direction for weeks."

In a similar analysis piece, the Los Angeles Times (2/27, Braun, 881K) calls the debate a "nudge match," noting that it was "billed as" Clinton's "last chance to revive her flagging campaign, and she gave it her best shot." With "a week left to go before the critical primary votes in Ohio and Texas, Clinton had to do more than chip away at Obama. To shake up her faltering campaign, she needed to shake him up." Clinton "nudged him about his healthcare coverage. She questioned his judgment on backing unilateral raids on Al Qaeda in Pakistan. She even tried a subtle new tack to spin her controversial vote approving the invasion of Iraq by suggesting that Obama's opposition had come without consequences because he was not in federal public office." Yet "judging from Obama's unruffled composure and measured responses through much of the debate, that moment of truth never came." Obama was "playing out the clock, and while he did not walk away unscathed from the debate, the damage Clinton inflicted was minor."

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The Washington Times (2/27, Miller, Bellantoni, 87K) reports Obama "weathered some 'glancing blows' as his rival and moderators challenged his experience in last night's debate, but he emerged relatively unscathed." Clinton had "been expected to unload a barrage of attacks on Mr. Obama, and even top Obama advisers conceded that the New York senator landed several blows last night, keeping the new Democratic front-runner on the defensive." However, Clinton "mispronounced the name of Vladimir Putin's presumptive successor as Russian president, smiling and saying 'whatever' after she had trouble with First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's last name, reminiscent of George W. Bush's bungling foreign leaders' names as a candidate in 2000."

The Hill (2/27, Youngman) reports neither Clinton nor Obama "appeared to score huge political blows, which works to the frontrunner Obama's political advantage." Both candidates "jumped out of the gate criticizing one another for their campaign tactics, with Clinton taking exception to Obama's mailers and phone calls attacking the former first lady's stance on" NAFTA. Obama "responded in kind, saying that Clinton's campaign had long engaged in circulating campaign literature that incorrectly described his healthcare plan."

The Los Angeles Times (2/27, Barabak, Decker, 881K) reports "an aggrieved" Clinton "accused Barack Obama of distorting her record and called into question the fairness of tonight's forum by challenging the order of questioning in their nationally televised debate. Obama responded by defending the accuracy of his criticisms, and some in the audience jeered when Clinton cried foul." The "opening half-hour was dominated by two subjects that have consumed the most attention in the last few days: the candidates' approach to healthcare and their views, past and present, on the North American Free Trade Agreement."

The Washington Post (2/27, A1, Kornblut, 723K) reports in a front page story that Clinton and Obama "traded accusations over campaign tactics and engaged in a detailed dissection of their rival health-care plans in the opening moments of a critical debate." Clinton used "the opening moments of the debate" to "delve into health care, repeating her assertion that Obama's plan would leave 15 million people uncovered. She interrupted Obama and the debate moderators repeatedly to press her points and complained briefly that she had been repeatedly subjected to the toughest questioning in this and previous debates." Though "attention was expected to focus on Clinton as she waged a battle to keep her campaign alive, Obama did not shy away from pushing back -- saying that she had been misrepresenting his health-care plan throughout the race in mailings and ads that he said were 'simply not accurate.'"

The AP (2/27, Espo) reports Clinton and Obama "blamed each other for spreading false information about their respective health care plans Tuesday night in a high stakes debate one week before a quartet of primaries." The tone was "pointed yet polite in the early moments of the 90-minute encounter."

Hurt Says "Presidential" Obama Was Debate Winner. In his New York Post (2/27, 648K) column, Charles Hurt writes, "Devoid of any real fireworks, last night's debate was a victory for Barack Obama," who "was confident, gracious and even presidential. Perhaps more than in any of the other 19 Democratic primary debates that have come before, it was possible to imagine Obama sitting behind the desk in the Oval Office."

Halperin Assigns Obama "B+" For Debate Performance; Clinton Earns "B-." On the website of TIME (2/27, 4.03M), Mark Halperin grades the candidates' performances in last night's debate. Halperin assigns Obama an overall mark of B+, saying, "Avoided lofty rhetoric and focused on presenting himself as cool, deliberative and substantive. Well prepared and focused, he was also clearly bolstered by well-stoked confidence and what he sees as his looming, shiny victory. More than survived - even thrived at times - in what could be his final debate with Hillary Clinton."

Halperin gives Clinton an overall grade of B-, saying, "A performance that would have been adequate were she not struggling to stay in the game. Her conviction that the media is biased against her seemed to throw her off throughout, and she was too distracted by her frustration with Obama and the press to truly shine. Occasionally got caught up in jargon and Washington-speak but still delivered some detailed and decisive moments. Overall, veered between strong and effective, shrill and affronted."

Debate Seen As Ending In Draw. In an analysis published by Newsweek, the AP (2/27, Pickler) reports that the debate "seemed unlikely to alter the political calculus of the race," noting that many of their policy positions were similar, and that despite a series of "sometimes testy exchanges,...Neither one seemed to knock the other

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off stride." The piece continues to suggest that Clinton's reference to the "Saturday Night Live" skit about the media favoring Obama "might have undercut Clinton's own efforts to portray herself as a strong leader able to take on a range of challenges."

In an analysis on the website of Newsweek (2/26, 3.12M), Howard Fineman writes that Obama "fought Sen. Hillary Clinton to a draw. ... Bottom line, on my scorecard: a tie at best, and certainly not enough of a win for Clinton to change the dynamics of the nomination contest, which Obama is poised to lock up."

In a posting on "The Fix" blog on the website of the Washington Post (2/26, 723K), Chris Cillizza related, "Neither candidate scored a knockout or even a knockdown. That's probably good news for Obama, who came into the debate on a roll and simply wanted to make it through the night without breaking that momentum. Clinton dominated much of the debate -- for good or bad."

In a "First Read" report on the website of MSNBC (2/26), political analyst Chuck Todd related, "Overall, it's hard to see this debate as changing the trajectory of this race; Obama was a bit more defensive tonight than last week and had more stumbles tonight than in more recent encounters."

In an analysis headlined "Clinton fails to slow down Obama," columnist Lynn Sweet writes in the Chicago Sun-Times (2/27) that "Clinton, try as she did Tuesday night, could not throw" Obama "off the course he is on to win the Democratic nomination."

In his Philadelphia Daily News (2/27, 107K) column, John Baer says that in last night's debate, Clinton "gave Democratic voters no solid, concrete reason why not to vote for Obama." Calling "Clinton's overall effort was scattered, ill-focused," Baer adds, "And the thing is? I don't think it's her. I don't think she's done much wrong."

BOTH DEMOCRATS COURT YOUNGSTOWN'S BLUE COLLAR VOTERS. The New York Times (2/27, Jacobs, 1.18M) reports the Clinton and Obama campaigns "are aware that winning the affection of Youngstown's lunch-bucket voters and the party faithful can make all the difference in taking Ohio, a swing state whose delegates almost always wind up in the pocket of the candidate who takes the White House." Although they "listen to such speeches with a jaundiced eye - and a good number dismiss such talk as little more than pandering - many Youngstown residents say are excited by pledges that speak to their anxieties. If there is any unanimity among voters here, it is that the Bush administration has fueled Youngstown's downward spiral by somehow encouraging corporate investment overseas." But for "every optimist here there are two or three hard-bitten cynics who dismiss the pledges and resent the politicians for using Youngstown as a showcase for economic distress. They remember the day Bill Clinton rode into town promising a Pentagon payroll processing center with room for 7,000 workers (it went elsewhere) and the time John Kerry set up his dais in front of a boarded-up building so the cameras would show Youngstown's ugly rump even though there was a new state office complex on the other side of the street."

The CBS Evening News (2/26, story 3, 2:45, Greenfield, 7.66M) reported, "For all the heated charges of dirty tricks in the pre-debate runup, when it comes to the number-one issue in Ohio, the contenders sound very much the same." Sen. Sherrod Brown, "who won his seat in 2006 with a strong attack on trade deals like NAFTA." Brown: "I mean, it really is the same old story. Laying off American workers, investment companies coming in from Wall Street, buying the plant, not living up to all their obligations to the workers, moving the plant overseas, shutting the plant down." Greenfield: "Like communities all over Ohio, Tiffin has seen a once- thriving working class devastated by the loss of jobs that have seemingly vanished from the face of the earth, only to reappear on the other side of the earth. And it is that issue more than any other that Ohio Democrats want their candidates for president to address."

Clinton, Obama Increase Criticism Of China. The Wall Street Journal (2/27, A10, Timiraos, 2.06M) reports, "As the debate between the Democratic candidates shifts focus to the economy and trade, China is emerging as their chief foreign bogeyman." Both Clinton and Obama "have heightened their antitrade, populist rhetoric as they fight for blue-collar votes in Ohio ahead of the state's March 4 primary." Both candidates also "have railed against safety lapses that resulted in product recalls of lead paint covered toys and tainted pet food." Obama "has gone one step further, criticizing President Clinton's administration for acceding to lax safety standards when the U.S. conferred permanent normal trade relations on China in 2000."

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Bill Clinton Says Wife Will Win Ohio. On NBC Nightly News (2/26, story 3, 1:35,, 9.87M) Tim Russert said, "Two weeks ago" Bill Clinton said if Hillary Clinton "doesn't win Ohio and Texas she probably can't be the nominee. Today he raised the bar as high as you can get it. He said she is going to win Ohio. That is a very big mountain and challenge for Hillary Clinton one week out to have the former president say, slam dunk."

COMPLICATED TEXAS PROCESS SAID TO HURT CLINTON'S CHANCES. The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Kronholz, 2.06M) reports on the "irony" that Sen. Hillary Clinton, "the ultimate Democratic Party insider, is struggling in Texas, in large part because the political system is stacked against her." Opinion polls "show her rival, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, inching up to Sen. Clinton or already passing her in Texas. But it is the complicated delegate nominating system -- the Texas two-step -- more than popular turnout that could stymie a Clinton victory Tuesday and perhaps cost the New York senator the nomination." Of the "2,025 delegates either candidate needs to win the nomination, Texas has 228. The primary, where the candidates are thought to be in a dead heat, will award 126 of those seats. Minutes after the polls close, Texas Democrats then will convene caucuses that will seat an additional 67 delegates, and here Sen. Obama's superior field operation is likely to work to his advantage." The "allegiances of the 35 superdelegates, who aren't bound by the results of the primary or the caucuses, are increasingly uncertain."

Texas Hispanic Voters Seen As Still In Play. The Politico (2/27, Martinez) reports that despite perceptions that Hispanic voters in Texas are strongly supporting Clinton, "telling signs" suggest that they are largely "up for grabs. Some of these signs are more obvious than others, but Barack Obama is gaining traction among Hispanics and focusing resources in San Antonio and westward to the border with Mexico, areas that have been considered Clinton strongholds. The question is whether that will be enough to overcome 35 years of goodwill between Clinton and the Texas Hispanic community - and a deep sense of loyalty that dates back to her work on George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign." The Politico suggests that Clinton's lead among Hispanics in a CNN/Opinion Research poll released Monday is offset by Obama's strong showing among African Americans.

Black Voters Could Give Obama Edge In Texas. The Houston Chronicle (2/27, Casimir, 524K) reports, "Hispanic voters may be a swing factor in next week's Democratic presidential primary, but an energized black electorate could decide this cliffhanger race. In state after state, exit polls show the Obama wave has wiped out Clinton from getting even close to the black electorate: 87 percent of the black vote in Georgia, for example."

CLINTON, OBAMA BOTH SAID TO HAVE GIVEN MIXED SIGNALS ON NAFTA. The AP (2/27, Woodward) runs a "Fact Check" feature on Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama's expressed positions on NAFTA, suggesting that both "are paying a price" for equivocating on the issue, leaving them vulnerable to criticism. "The root of their ambivalence is their shared belief in 'free and fair trade,' which, on the surface, almost anyone can subscribe to," but the AP continues to argue that "free" trade and "fair" trade are somewhat incompatible. The piece continues to note that Obama "has been consistently ambivalent" on NAFTA, despite having said, "I don't think NAFTA has been good for Americans, and I never have." Moreover, "Obama is correct that Clinton has praised NAFTA in various ways, but he leaves out the qualifications she's expressed along the way." Meanwhile, Clinton's "implication that NAFTA was simply a spillover from the first President Bush and passively made law under President Clinton ignores the fierce lobbying Bill Clinton engaged in to get the deal ratified by Congress. Hillary Clinton helped him in that effort." This article was published by some 50 papers and websites, including the New York Times, the Washington Examiner, the El Paso Times, and the Houston Chronicle.

CLINTON SUPERDELEGATES REJECTING CALLS TO DEFECT. The Hill (2/27, Bolton) reports House Democrats "supporting Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.) are rejecting Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (Calif.) plea that lawmakers not overrule voters should they be in a position to decide who will be the Democratic presidential nominee." Many Clinton backers "representing districts that voted for Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) say they are not likely to change their mind should the contest come down to the superdelegates - the 796 Democratic lawmakers, governors and officials who may determine the nominee." Those lawmakers "say they should be able to vote however they want, even if it means giving the nod to the candidate who wins fewer delegates from more than 50 election contests conducted prior to the nominating convention. One member said the only way he wouldn't vote for Clinton is if he died." Such "devotion worries some party officials who say record turnout and excitement over Democratic candidates could fizzle if voters feel their voices do not count."

BILL CLINTON TAKES LOWER PROFILE ROLE IN WIFE'S CAMPAIGN. The New York Times (2/27,

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Broder, 1.18M) reports Bill Clinton "is dutifully traveling from state to state and small town to small town on behalf of his wife's presidential candidacy. But the growling and snapping Bill Clinton the nation saw before the New Hampshire and South Carolina primaries has been muzzled and leashed. He is being kept as far from the news media as possible to prevent any more of the red-faced, finger-wagging tirades and freelance political commentary that polls say cost Hillary Rodham Clinton a lot of support, particularly among black voters." Audiences in "places like Lancaster, a working-class town of 33,000 about 30 miles southeast of Columbus, are seeing" a "subdued and substantive former president going on at length about Iraq, health care, education, job creation and what he portrays as the multiple sins of the Bush administration. What he lacks in passion he makes up for in sheer volume of words."

OBAMA DOWNPLAYS DUST-UP OVER PHOTO. The New York Daily News (2/26, Saul, 729K) reported on its website that Sen. Barack Obama "dismissed the brouhaha over a photo of him in African garb as a minor dust-up, a day after his campaign manager accused Hillary Clinton's team of leaking the photo in 'the most shameful, offensive fear-mongering' tactic of the 2008 presidential race. ... Asked" at a press conference in Ohio "if he agreed with campaign manager David Plouffe's stinging rebuke of Team Clinton, Obama replied, 'I think that at this stage in the campaign there are going to be dust-ups particularly at the staff level.' 'Certainly, I don't think that that photograph was circulated to enhance my candidacy. I think that's fair to say,' Obama said. 'Do I think that it is reflective of Sen. Clinton's approach to the campaign? Probably not.' 'And, so, you know, at this point, you know, my interest is just moving forward and talking about the issues that are going to be helpful to the people of Ohio,' he concluded."

MCCAIN LEADS BOTH OBAMA AND CLINTON IN LATIMES/BLOOMBERG POLL. The Los Angeles Times (2/27, Wallsten, 881K) reports Sen. John McCain "presents a stiff challenge to either of his potential Democratic opponents in the general election," according to a new Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll. McCain leads Sen. Hillary Clinton 46% to 40%; and Sen. Barack Obama 44% to 42%. McCain "also scored higher marks than Clinton or Obama for experience and strength. On the issue of 'honesty and integrity,' he beat Clinton and was tied by Obama. McCain is viewed favorably by 61% of all registered voters, including a plurality of Democrats." The Times also goes on to report that the poll "showed McCain's advantages extend even to some domestic issues. On the economy, a subject that McCain has joked about his own lack of expertise, voters picked him over...Obama as best able to lead by an 8-point margin -- 42% to 34%."

DODD ENDORSES OBAMA. The AP (2/27, Espo) reports Sen. Christopher Dodd "endorsed one-time presidential rival Barack Obama on Tuesday and said it is time for Democrats to join forces to defeat the Republicans in the fall campaign." Dodd "denied he was nudging Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton to end her candidacy," but he said, "I don't want a campaign that is divisive here, and there's a danger in that." The AP adds the "two men appeared together at a news conference. Dodd is the first of the Democratic campaign dropouts to endorse another candidate."

ABC World News (2/26, story 3, 2:25, Gibson, 8.78M) reported, "Dodd said it's time to bring the party together, though he did not call for Hillary Clinton to drop out of the race." The Hill (2/27, Youngman) reports Dodd's endorsement, "along with his announcement that he plans to campaign for Obama in the key battleground state, delivered another blow to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), who needs to win Ohio to salvage her struggling campaign." The CBS Evening News (2/26, story 2, 2:10, Axelrod, 7.66M) reported, "A five-term senator and former party chairman, Dodd warned that the campaign's nasty turn in the last few days must stop."

NBC Nightly News (2/26, lead story, 3:20, Mitchell, 9.87M) reported, "Obama started the day with an added advantage, an endorsement from a former rival." Sen. Christopher Dodd: "A moment of unity in our country a time when we need to come together as a Democratic Party." Mitchell: "In an interview with NBC News, Senator Dodd implicitly warned Clinton against attack politics." Dodd: "They need to make sure they don't engage in this kind of activity if you do you hurt yourselves, you hurt this party and your hurt our chances. The American people are sick of it. They're absolutely sick of it."

OBAMA SPEECH AT CHURCH'S NATIONAL MEETING DRAWS IRS SCRUTINY. The AP (2/27, Zoll) reports the IRS is "investigating the United Church of Christ over a speech Sen. Barack Obama gave at its national meeting last year after he became a candidate for president, the denomination said Tuesday." Obama "belongs to the 1.2 million-member Protestant group through his Chicago congregation. In a letter the denomination received Monday, the IRS said 'reasonable belief exists' that the circumstances surrounding the

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speech violated restrictions on political activity for tax-exempt organizations. The denomination has denied any wrongdoing."

The Wall Street Journal (2/27, Sataline, 2.06M) reports a lawyer for the church "denied that the denomination, or Sen. Obama, who is a UCC member, engaged in any political activity when he and others spoke before an audience of 10,000 at the church's 50th anniversary celebration in Hartford, Conn."

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From:	"Peter Ogden" <pogden@americanprogress.org>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	7/21/2008 9:48:18 AM
Subject:	FW: Clips: July 21, 2008

Hi John – Clips are below. There are no phone messages. Nice picture of you and Cindy McCain on the blog – next time Huckabee? --Pete

From: John Neurohr
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 12:20 PM
To: Clips
Subject: Clips: July 21, 2008

Center for American Progress

Date	Headline	Text	Outlet	Contact
Campus Progress				
07/20/2008	Campus Progress awards local student	Text	Napa Valley Register	
CP award to student Chrissy Elles				
07/20/2008	Report College Students Graduating With Less Credit Card Debt	Text	Diverse: Issues In Higher Education	
Erica Williams on student credit card debt				
Center for American Progress				
07/18/2008	Biden criticized Obama on Afghanistan	Text	Baltimore Sun - Online	
photo of Biden at CAP event May 20. 2008				
07/21/2008	Common good gets boost from Catholic gathering	Text	National Catholic Reporter Online	
John Podesta mentioned as speaker at Convention for the Common Good				
07/19/2008	Some Court Watchers Envision 'True Liberal'	Text	Washington Post - Online	Robert Barnes and Kevin Merida
John Podesta on balancing of the court				
Center for American Progress Action Fund				
07/18/2008	Progressives fire back at insurers	Text	Politico, The	
CAPAF as supporter of Health Care for America Now				
Domestic				
07/18/2008	McCain's Health Proposals Under the Microscope, Part II	Text	CJR Daily - Columbia Journalism Review	
CAPAF cited as source on healthcare				
07/21/2008	The Associated Press	Text	Associated Press (AP)	
"From Status Quo to Breaking the Mold" event mention				
07/21/2008	The Expanding Costs of Health Care	Text	kaisernetwork.org	
"Expanding Costs of Healthcare" event coverage				
07/21/2008	Toledo Public Schools academy principal to speak at conference Panel to discuss extended learning t	Text	Calibre MacroWorld	

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Cynthia Brown on event, "From Status Quo to Breaking the Mold"

07/21/2008	Toledo Public Schools academy principal to speak at conference Panel to discuss extended learning t	Text	Toledo Blade	Gilbert, Meghan

Cynthia Brown on event, "From Status Quo to Breaking the Mold"

Economics

07/20/2008	401(k) loan policies can't be too stringent	Text	Daily Herald, The	Michelle Singletary

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/20/2008	a Retirement fund you can't dip into? good on paper, not in practice in port today	Text	Virginian-Pilot	

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/20/2008	Borrowing in a 401(k) should not be so easy	Text	Columbus Dispatch - Online	By Michelle Singletary

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/19/2008	Breaking retirement piggy bank in tight times	Text	Daily Herald	

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/20/2008	Color of Money Raiding the Retirement Stash	Text	Washington Post - Online	Singletary, Michelle

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/20/2008	Dipping into your retirement savings too early can be a costly mistake	Text	Boston Globe - Online	

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/19/2008	Don't leverage future for today	Text	Modesto Bee, The	

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/18/2008	Don't raid your retirement fund for debt relief	Text	Olympian, The	

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/19/2008	Don't tap 401(k) funds early	Text	Sun News, The	Posted on Sat, Jul. 19, 2008

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/20/2008	Employees raid 401(k)s more often	Text	Fresno Bee - Online	

CAP report: 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.'

07/18/2008	GM's Volt Becomes Centerpiece in Presidential Debate on Energy	Text	Bloomberg News	

Bracken Hendricks on Obama's plan for reinvestment in a manufacturing economy

07/21/2008	Many borrow against 401(k)s, often at a steep cost	Text	Houston Chronicle - Online	CANDICE CHOI

Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"

07/19/2008	Michelle Singletary Limits on 401(k) raiding needed	Text	Omaha World-Herald - Online	MICHELLE SINGLETARY

Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"

07/20/2008	Michelle Singletary | The Color of Money 401(k)s Look, But Don't Touch	Text	kitsapsun.com	

Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"

07/19/2008	More people raiding 401(k)s for extra cash	Text	Honolulu Advertiser - Online	Michelle Singletary

Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"

07/19/2008	Of Mutual Interest Tapping retirement accounts too early can prove costly later	Text	Seattle Post-Intelligencer - Online	

"Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today" report coverage

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07/20/2008	RUN ON THE BANK	Text	New York Post - Online	GREGORY BRESIGER
Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"				
07/21/2008	Save 10 Miles Per Gallon!!	Text	KFDA-TV	
CAP on how much Americans spend on gasoline				
07/20/2008	Stealing From Retirement	Text	Michigan Public Radio	
"Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today" report coverage				
07/20/2008	Study paints bleak retirement picture	Text	Post-Star, The	Diane Stafford
Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"				
07/19/2008	Taking from tomorrow to pay for today	Text	Buffalo News	
Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"				
07/19/2008	Tapping into retirement account can be costly	Text	Providence Journal - Online	TIM PARADIS
"Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today" report coverage				
07/21/2008	Tapping retirement accounts dangerous	Text	Worcester Telegram & Gazette	
"Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today" report coverage				
07/20/2008	Tapping retirement funds early can cost you more later	Text	Mail Tribune	TIM PARADIS
"Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today" report coverage				
07/20/2008	Tapping retirement money too early can be costly	Text	Journal News - Online	Tim Paradis
"Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today" report coverage				
07/20/2008	Tapping retirement money too early can be costly	Text	nwitimes.com	TIM PARADISAP Business Writer
"Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today" report coverage				
07/19/2008	The Color of Money Raiding the Retirement Stash	Text	Washington Post - Online	Singletary, Michelle
Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"				
07/20/2008	Workers break retirement piggy bank in tight times	Text	FindLaw: for Corporate Counsel	
Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"				
07/21/2008	Workers dipping into 401(k)	Text	Florida Today	
Christian Weller on report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today"				

Energy

07/18/2008	Environmental Groups React To Various Energy Proposals	Text	NASDAQ	
Dan Weiss on energy/economic growth				
07/18/2008	Environmental Groups React To Various Energy Proposals	Text	Quote.com	
Dan Weiss on energy/economic growth				
07/18/2008	Environmental Groups React To Various Energy Proposals	Text	RTTNews.com	
Dan Weiss on energy/economic growth				
07/18/2008	Environmental Groups React To Various Energy Proposals	Text	TradingMarkets.com	
Dan Weiss on energy/economic growth				
07/19/2008	Pickens, Democrats agree in calling for alternative fuels	Text	Calibre MacroWorld	

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Dan Weiss on the profitability of green energy, and CAPAF mentioned as sponsor of energy summit

07/19/2008	Pickens, Democrats agree in calling for alternative fuels	Text	Dallas Morning News	Michaels, Dave

Dan Weiss on the profitability of green energy, and CAPAF mentioned as sponsor of energy summit

07/19/2008	Pickens, Democrats agree in calling for alternative fuels	Text	Denton Record-Chronicle	DAVE MICHAELS

Dan Weiss on the profitability of green energy, and CAPAF mentioned as sponsor of energy summit

07/19/2008	Pickens, Democrats agree in calling for alternative fuels	Text	Quick	DAVE MICHAELS

Dan Weiss on the profitability of green energy, and CAPAF mentioned as sponsor of energy summit

07/19/2008	Pickens, Democrats agree in calling for alternative fuels	Text	WFAA-TV	DAVE MICHAELS

Dan Weiss on the profitability of green energy, and CAPAF mentioned as sponsor of energy summit

ENOUGH

07/19/2008	Darfur justice at last?	Text	Sunday Herald	

John Prendergast on holding Sudan accountable

07/19/2008	ICC justice is useless If it destroys peace	Text	Sudan Tribune	James Okuk

John Prendergast on ICC indictments

07/20/2008	Indictment of Sudan leader ignites violence	Text	Houston Chronicle - Online	COLUM LYNCH

John Prendergast on indictment of al-Bashir

07/20/2008	Indictment of Sudanese Leader Seen as Threat to Peacekeepers	Text	Washington Post - Online	Lynch, Colum

John Prendergast on indictment of al-Bashir

07/20/2008	Milosevic, Taylor cases prove Bashir arrest will help Sudan	Text	Daily Nation	ZACHARY OCHIENG

John Prendergast on "The Merits of Justice" report

07/20/2008	Worsening situation in Somalia pushes aid costs to $641 mln	Text	Sudan Tribune	Daniel Van Oudenaren

ENOUGH on US support of transitional Somalia government

Fellows

07/21/2008	'09 budget stalemate puts local projects in jeopardy	Text	Journal News - Online	Brian Tumulty â?¢ Washington Bureau â?¢ July 21

Scott Lilly on federal budgeting

07/20/2008	Federal funding for local projects in jeopardy	Text	Democrat and Chronicle	

Scott Lilly on federal budgeting

07/20/2008	Should You Look Into Your Genes?	Text	Washington Post - Online	Rick Weiss

Rick Weiss Op-Ed on genetic testing

07/20/2008	Stalemate puts EC project in jeopardy	Text	Star-Gazette	Brian Tumulty

Scott Lilly on lack of action taken on spending bills

National Security

07/20/2008	Contrasting goals in Iraq	Text	Boston Globe - South Bureau, The	

Larry Korb's "Contrasting goals in Iraq" as op-ed

07/21/2008	Prospect of closing Guantanamo prison camp complicated by what to do with detainees	Text	Calibre MacroWorld	

Ken Gude on closing Guantanamo

07/18/2008	Report: Security comes from increased aid	Text	Middle East Times	

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Reuben Brigety in report, "Humanity as a Weapon of War"

07/19/2008	The Political Risks of Obama's Iraq Strategy	Text	CQ Politics

Report, "Strategic Redeployment 2.0," cited as a mirror to Obama's plan

07/19/2008	US missile defence shield to drag Poland into conflicts - leftist leader	Text	BBC International Reports (Europe)

Joseph Cirincione on the possibility of an attack against Iran

Think Progress

07/19/2008	Al Gore Surprise Guest At Netroots Nation	Text	AlterNet

'ThinkProgress scooped Pelosi on Gore's surprise appearance' at the Netroots Nation conference

07/18/2008	Bloggers bring blue to a red state	Text	News 8 Austin

Ben Armbruster on Think Progress

07/18/2008	Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report Feature Highlights Recent Blog ...	Text	kaisernetwork.org

Igor Volsky on Bush cuts to Medicare Advantage

07/21/2008	O'Reilly: "Birth control is not a medical condition, it is a choice"	Text	Media Matters for America

Think Progress on O'Reilly's position on insurance coverage of birth control

07/19/2008	Pelosi The end could be in sight	Text	Politico, The	Ryan Grim

Amanda Terkel as live-blogger at Gore event in Austin

07/19/2008	Pelosi Calls For High-level Meeting With Iraqis	Text	CBS News

Amanda Terkel as live-blogger at Gore event in Austin

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Campus Progress awards local student

University of California, Santa Barbara student Chrissy Elles of Napa has been named the recipient of the Campus Progress award for Best Student Organizing ...

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Report College Students Graduating With Less Credit Card Debt

College students who graduate owing thousands on their credit cards are becoming a thing of the past, according to a new report by Student Monitor, and members of the banking community are looking to cash in on this increasingly debt-less demographic.

Despite a sluggish economy precipitated by lenders who gave home loans to people who couldn't afford them, college students remain a prime target for credit card companies. Experts say college campuses are saturated with credit card offers to lure potential young cardholders.

A 2008 survey by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group found that 80 percent of students said they received direct mail from card companies.

Fourteen states have passed laws that prohibit or restrict on-campus marketing by card issuers. Still many colleges allow credit card solicitors to bombard campuses.

Recently, a subcommittee of the U.S. House Financial Services Committee held a hearing on the marketing tactics companies use to pitch credit cards to college students. In February, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., chairwoman of the subcommittee, proposed legislation to regulate credit card practices that aid college students in amassing uncontrollable amounts of debt.

Subcommittee Chairwoman Maloney said in a written statement, "Students rely on credit cards to pay for everything from books to tuition. Unfair and deceptive credit card practices hit them especially hard and cause them to rack up late fees, high balances, and delinquencies. We can and should take steps to ensure that card companies aren't unfairly targeting this vulnerable population. Responsible students deserve a fair shake - they shouldn't have to graduate under a mountain of credit

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card debt." According to a 2004 study by Nellie Mae, 76 percent of undergraduates have credit cards and average undergraduate students have at least $2,200 in credit card debt. That figure jumps to $5,800 for graduate students. Moreover, student credit cards typically have high annual percentage rates, often at higher rates than the rest of the population given their lack of borrowing experience. "Through a series of public forums around the country, we brought together students and experts to discuss the growing problem of credit card debt on college campuses. At each event we heard the same: Banks and lenders are profiting off of young people's financial inexperience, partnerships and relationships with universities and strategic and deliberate targeting," said Erica L. Williams, Policy and Advocacy Manager for Campus Action Progress, part of Center For American Progress. "Companies use a variety of aggressive techniques, from buying lists from schools and entering into exclusive marketing arrangements with schools to marketing directly to students through the mail, over the phone, on bulletin boards and through aggressive on-campus and near-campus tabling, Williams added.

One-fourth of the students surveyed in US PIRG's 2008 Campus Credit Card Trap report said that they have paid a late fee, and 15 percent have paid an "over the limit" fee. Credit card companies will often impose a "penalty rate" of 30 percent or more after just one or two late payments.

Opposing preventative legislation, the urged Congress to think carefully about basing policy decisions on anecdotes of debt-stricken students when it comes to how credit cards are used by and marketed to college students.

Testifying before the House Financial Services Committee, ABA Senior Vice President Kenneth J. Clayton noted that despite conventional wisdom, the vast majority of students manage their credit obligations well."Students handle credit as well as, and in some cases better than, the general adult population," said Clayton. "Banks have a vested interest in ensuring that the student's experience is a positive one, as the bank wants to build a productive, lifelong customer relationship that benefits both parties," he said. The report, authored by Student Monitor, a market research firm, reveals that credit card ownership and debt among college students is declining. Their average credit card balance for 35 percent of students is only $452 down $19 percent from $559 last year.

Beyond that, Student Monitor found that the percentage of students with credit cards declined from 56 percent in 1997 to 35 percent in 2008. At the same time, the percent of students with debit cards after rising from 30 percent to about 70 percent in 2006 dropped to about 60 percent this year.

Citing Student Monitor's report, Clayton stated that 65 percent of college students with credit cards pay their bills in full each month, a percentage that is higher than the general adult population, he said. "Today's student population is very diverse," he said. "Restricting access to this form of credit would result in great financial hardship for most college students and their families."Clayton also reminded the committee that credit cards are a valuable tool for students, serving as an entry point into the world of credit, as a means for making everyday purchases and as a vital resource in emergency situations.

With regard to marketing of credit cards to college students, Clayton maintained that most students get credit cards by visiting a bank branch to begin a broader account relationship. Referring to the Student Monitor survey, he said that only 2 percent of students obtained their cards by filling out an application at a display on campus.

As of yet, no legislation has been passed.

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Biden criticized Obama on Afghanistan

6:45 AM Biden waits for an introduction before giving a speech at the Center for American Progress on May 20 in Washington. (Photo by Mark Wilson/) by Katie Fretland

As Sen. Barack Obama prepares for a trip to the Middle East, Republicans have drawn attention this week to contradictions in what one of his potential running mates said about the presumptive Democratic nominee's stance on Afghanistan.

Before Sen. Joe Biden became an oft-mentioned candidate for a spot on the Obama ticket, he campaigned against him for the Democratic nomination for president. During that time, the Delaware Democrat said Obama had a 'Johnny come lately' position on Afghanistan by asking for more brigades last summer.

But this week, Biden wrote in a letter to Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) that Obama has 'displayed great leadership on this issue,' referring to Afghanistan. Biden wrote in response a request by DeMint for Obama to have a Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on European Affairs meeting following his trip to Afghanistan.

Republicans have criticized Obama for failing to hold any hearings on NATO's mission in Afghanistan during the time Obama has chaired the committee.

Biden's contradiction caused the Republican National Committee to issue this statement Thursday: 'Thank you, Sen. Biden, for proving the point that Barack Obama has no credibility on Afghanistan.' Associated Press writer Nedra Pickler provides a

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fact check of Obama on Afghanistan with this report:

THE FACTS:

In a February debate, Obama acknowledged he hadn't had any oversight hearings because he only became chairman as he launched his presidential bid. He's not been around Capitol Hill much since then -- nor has McCain.

The subcommittee's jurisdiction includes 'all matters, policies and problems concerning the continent of Europe, including the European member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.' Obama may have missed a chance to build his foreign policy credentials by making use of his leadership position. Biden could tell him about that -- he was the leading Democrat on the Europe subcommittee for nearly 20 years and used the position to become one of the Senate's leading foreign policy experts.

But some observers of the committee have said major issues like a war in Afghanistan are typically examined by the full committee -- as Biden argued was more appropriate in his letter to DeMint.

But the RNC pointed out to reporters Thursday that Obama only attended one of the three full committee hearings on Afghanistan that Biden mentioned in his letter. And in Biden's 'Johnny-come-late' statement, he criticized Obama for asking only one question unrelated to Afghanistan at that March 8, 2007 hearing.

But the Democrats aren't the only ones with a mixed-message messenger on the issue. DeMint skipped the one hearing that Obama chaired on the NATO ambassador's nomination, and McCain also has missed multiple Armed Services Committee hearings on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars while campaigning for president.

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Common good gets boost from Catholic gathering

Theologian M. Shawn Copeland opened the Convention for the Common Good, a project of Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good.Philadelphia

The concept of the common good, an idea that winds through time from Plato to Aquinas, to the U.S. Founding Fathers and, on the way, through a number of popes, got a boost in Philadelphia July 11-13 when a crowd of more than 800, mostly Catholics, showed up to affirm a political platform based on the idea.

The Convention for the Common Good was a project of Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, a group that describes itself as a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization formed to promote awareness of Catholic social teaching, and Network, a national Catholic social justice organization, and co-hosted by some 16 other Catholic groups, religious orders and institutions.

"What we're trying to do is expand the debate about what faith can be in the political arena," said John Gehring, senior writer for Catholics in Alliance. "The religious right has had a monopoly on the debate for too long. We're seeing a change now not just in the Catholic world but among evangelicals."

The alliance has worked to expand the notion of pro-life, said Gehring, so that in addition to "protecting innocent life in the womb," it is also about "caring for the poor, about the silent genocide of poverty" and about opposing the death penalty and war.

Through the course of the weekend, participants discussed five areas of a platform that was affirmed on the final day of the gathering and that will be advanced to the two major parties for consideration.

(A more expansive story on the convention and the development of Catholic political groups during the past four years will appear in the Aug 8 edition of NCR.)

Sr. Simone Campbell, national coordinator of the Catholic social justice lobby NETWORK, and Alexia Kelley, principal founder of Catholics in AllianceIn an opening speech to the convention, theologian M. Shawn Copeland of Boston College appeared to pull the conversation from the theoretical to the here and now. The common good, she said, "is human achievement: It is us right here, right now making ourselves who we are and who we might become, first and foremost, as authentic human persons, as people of faith, as citizens of the United States."

Those attending the convention signed cards the final day pledging to take action in a variety of ways to spread the word. A Web site, votethecommongood.com, urges interested parties to send the platform and a link to the Catholic Alliance's main Web site to friends in an "8 in 08" program. The site also contains online training in dealing with the media, writing letters to the editor and a page of news updates.

The convention, at the Sheraton City Center in Philadelphia, opened with the launch of the book, A Nation for All: How the Catholic Vision of the Common Good Can Save America from the Politics of Division.

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Written by Alexia Kelley, principal founder of Catholics in Alliance, and Chris Korzen, co-founder and executive director of Catholics United, the book is a compendium of Catholic social thought, its history and development, and how it applies to a range of social and political issues that were often overshadowed in the recent past by the culture wars.

Kelley previously worked at the Catholic Campaign for Human Development; Korzen, who holds a master's in theology from Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., directed the Catholic Voting Project in 2004 and 2005.
Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne moderated panel discussion at the convention.
If the intent of the Philadelphia gathering was nonpartisan, the crowd wasn't. A largely progressive Catholic audience spent the day listening to speakers addressing the various categories of the platform and raising questions from each area for speakers at the end of the day.

The speakers, John Podesta and former U.S. Rep. Charles Dougherty, evidenced the greatest contrast during a panel discussion moderated by Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne. Podesta, president and chief executive officer of American Progress, was chief of staff to former President Bill Clinton for more than three years. Dougherty, a Republican, served two terms in Congress in the late 1970s and early '80s.

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Some Court Watchers Envision 'True Liberal'

Robert Barnes and Kevin Merida
Washington Post - Online

It could be seen as the sincerest form of flattery: Ask some activists on the left the kind of Supreme Court justice they would like to see a President Obama appoint, and the name you hear most is the same justice they most often denounce.

They want their own Antonin Scalia. Or rather, an anti-Scalia, an individual who can easily articulate a liberal interpretation of the Constitution, offer a quick sound bite and be prepared to mix it up with conservative activists beyond the marble and red velvet of the Supreme Court.

Some have even mentioned Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for the role, although there is no evidence it would interest her or that Obama would consider his former rival for the Democratic presidential nomination for the court. But as the Supreme Court takes its traditional spot in the background of the presidential campaign, there is a longing on the left for a justice who would energize not only the court's liberal wing, but also the debate over interpreting the Constitution. 'Someone with vision,' said Doug Kendall, who recently helped found a new liberal think tank called the Constitutional Accountability Center. 'Someone who looks hard at the text and history of the Constitution, as Justice Scalia does, and articulates a very clear idea of how that text points to liberal and progressive outcomes.' Liberal legal activists have consistently lagged behind conservatives in convincing their partisans that the court should be a voting issue. The court remains ideologically split, but any openings presented to the next president are almost sure to come from within the court's liberal wing. The two oldest members of the court are Justices John Paul Stevens, 88, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 75.

If John McCain were elected, the appointment of a conservative justice could immediately reshape the court. The senator from Arizona might be forced to temper his choice to accommodate confirmation by a solidly Democratic Senate, but his nominee would undoubtedly be far to the right of either Stevens or Ginsburg, potentially solidifying a five-member conservative majority. President Bush's appointments to court, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., are both relatively young and are expected to be fixtures for decades.

If Obama had the opportunity to make an appointment, it would be only the fourth nomination from a Democratic president in more than 40 years. And for activists on the left, it could signal the opportunity to create a new dynamic for the court. 'It is a court with no true liberal on it, the most conservative court in 75 years,' said Geoffrey Stone, a law professor at the University of Chicago, where Obama once taught constitutional law. 'What we call liberals on this court are moderates, or moderate liberals, if you want to get refined about it.' Stone notes, as he said Stevens has, that every justice on the current court with the exception of Ginsburg is more conservative than the justice he replaced -- a natural evolution given that seven of the nine were appointed by Republican presidents.

Harvard law professor Lani Guinier hopes to get scholars, as well as judges, to rethink the role of a Supreme Court justice, a role she describes as 'the justice as a teacher in a national seminar, an educator.' 'They're not just making laws and delivering those tablets from Mount Olympus,' Guinier said. 'The project of being a Supreme Court justice is also a project of being an important citizen in a democracy.' While Guinier said she would not necessarily argue that the next president should nominate a politician, she said it was important to 'make the court more democratically accountable.' 'I think Hillary Clinton would bring to the court a range of experiences that the court doesn't presently have access to,' Guinier said, noting that Clinton has run for two political offices and traveled all over the country engaging ordinary people in conversations 'about real challenges that affect their lives.' James Andrew Miller, an assistant to former Senate majority leader Howard H. Baker Jr., wrote an op-ed in The Washington Post in May suggesting Clinton for the court, and said he was 'just blown away' by the response. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick (D), a former Justice Department official and prominent Obama friend, has also been mentioned as a potential court appointee, and such a move would not be unprecedented. There is a substantial list of justices

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who once held political office. Most famously, President Dwight D. Eisenhower made good on his promise of an appointment to his onetime rival, California governor Earl Warren.

But the jobs could hardly be more different -- the somewhat solitary pursuits of a justice versus the glad-handing and collaborative responsibilities of a politician. But someone who has been tested by campaigns for public office might be more comfortable in the public arena, argued Dawn Johnsen, a former Clinton administration official who now teaches law at Indiana University, who said there 'is a desire to have justices talking to the American people beyond their opinions.' Cass R. Sunstein, an informal Obama adviser now at Harvard Law School, last year instigated the debate by lamenting the 'absence of anything like a heroic vision on the court's left' to counteract Scalia and Justice Clarence Thomas.

John Podesta, once President Bill Clinton's chief of staff and now president of the Center for American Progress, recently told the liberal American Constitution Society that the idea of 'balancing' the courts with judges on the extreme left was not a good idea. 'We don't need to play that same game,' he said -- a notion not particularly well-received by those in the audience.

Christopher L. Eisgruber, provost at Princeton University and author of a book about Supreme Court nominations titled 'The Next Justice,' said liberal activists seemed split between 'breaking the mold a little between liberals and conservatives' and putting 'somebody in the opposite corner in the boxing ring with Antonin Scalia.' Obama himself has been opaque and even contradictory about his criteria for a justice. He voted against both Roberts and Alito, and has said he sees Ginsburg and Justices Stephen G. Breyer and David H. Souter as the kinds of 'sensible' justices he would favor.

Yet, as the court's term ended last month, he praised the court's decision in support of an individual right to gun ownership that struck down the District of Columbia's handgun ban, a decision in which Roberts and Alito were in the majority and liberals dissented.

Likewise, he disagreed with the court's decision that the death penalty may not be applied to child rapists, where Ginsburg, Breyer and Souter were in the majority and the conservative justices were in dissent.

Obama has said that justices will be in agreement 95 percent of the time, and in the other cases he looks for a judge 'to bring in his or her own perspectives, his ethics, his or her moral bearings.' Republican critics have mocked that description for not including the word 'Constitution' and contrasted it with McCain's vow to appoint judges 'who have a proven record of strict interpretation of the Constitution of the United States.' Kendall winced at Obama's words. He said they make it sound as if one must look outside the law and the Constitution to get the results political progressives are looking for while they are provided for in guarantees of equal protection and due process. McCain's description will always be more palatable to the public, Kendall said.

Research editor Alice Crites and staff researcher Madonna Lebling contributed to this report.

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Progressives fire back at insurers

A day after Politico reported the health insurance industry is launching a health care reform campaign next week, the progressive reformers are firing back.

Health Care for America Now announced Friday that it plans a news conference and a rally next week to counter the insurance industrys Campaign for an American Solution, which launches in Columbus, Ohio, on Tuesday with a roundtable discussion among uninsured locals.

Theyre pretending that the health industry represents the American public, and we need to make it really clear to them and the public that all they represent are their own profits, said Richard Kirsch, national campaign manager for Health Care Now.

The organization, which favors tighter insurance regulations, plans a conference call with reporters on Monday to highlight the state of Ohios health insurance industry. For example, Kirsch said, from 2000 to 2006, family health insurance premiums rose more than eight times faster than Ohioans pay.

Americans are paying more [and] getting less while the insurance companies and the CEOs are making out like bandits, he said.

On Tuesday, the group plans to rally about 300 supporters outside the Columbus YWCA, where Americas Health Insurance Plans will hold its roundtable.

Responding, AHIP spokesman Michael Tuffin shot back: Were not going to engage in attack dog politics, the failed politics of the past that got us into this mess. Were looking forward to having a constructive dialogue with the people of Columbus.

The insurance industrys Tuesday event kicks off a campaign of undisclosed cost that includes a nationwide listening tour, advertising and an intense recruitment effort aimed at signing up Americans who are satisfied with their private insurance coverage. And wherever AHIP goes, Health Care for America Now is sure to follow. They wont be able to go anyplace without

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us being there, Kirsch said.

Health Care Nows tactics are similar to efforts progressive groups successfully used against President Bushs proposal to privatize Social Security, which included counter rallies at Bushs town hall meetings.

In the high-stakes world of national health care reform, Health Care Nows rapid-response to the insurance industrys campaign launch is a striking harbinger of the intensity of the coming debate.

Health Care Now launched earlier this month with big plans and a budget to match. The $40 million it plans to spend by years end will put 100 organizers in 45 states to hold town hall meetings, go door to door, staff phone banks and take action outside insurance offices. Already, the group has aired television spots in an extensive adverting campaign.

The groups July 8 launch, with 53 news conferences in 38 states and Washington, demonstrates its deep support among Americans, Kirsch said, while AHIPs single-city kickoff event illustrates an industry desperately trying to buy its advocates.

Health Care Now is largely funded by 14 organizational members including unions, MoveOn.org, Planned Parenthood and the Center for American Progress Action Fund.

Health Care Now is pushing for standardized, affordable universal coverage, with costs adjusted according to family income. To get there, the group is advocating regulating insurance companies to ban practices such as denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions and raising rates based on age, health or gender. The organization is also pushing to create a public health insurance plan.

Almost 15 years ago, Kirsch said, insurance companies argued that health care didnt need government intervention because the industry would fix its problems. Now, Americans cant trust insurance companies to fix the same mess they created, Kirsch said.

Right now, their business model is trying to avoid paying for care when people need it, he said.

The insurance industry disagrees.

Our companies provide benefits to more than 200 million people and have a very strong track record of being there when people need them, said Tuffin. We know from talking to Americans already that they want good quality, affordable, portable, private coverage and a strong public safety net, and thats the same thing we want. We dont want anyone falling thorough the cracks.'

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McCain's Health Proposals Under the Microscope, Part II

McCains Health Proposals Under the Microscope, Part II

Whos making the medical decisions, anyway?

This is the second entry in a series examining John McCains health proposals and how they have been covered in the press.

The sound bite you hear most often from John McCain about his health care proposals is that he wants to put families in charge of medical decision making. In Straight Talk on Health System ReformA Call to Action, a document published on his Web site, McCain says the key to health care reform is to restore control to the patients themselves. At first glance, its hard to argue with that premise, and so the sound bite sounds good. It plays well in Peoria, as Richard Nixons operatives used to say. But whats under the hood here? If putting patients in charge is the cornerstone of McCains health initiatives, shouldnt the media have been evaluating his premise?

The truth is theyve been MIA on this one. Theres been virtually no examination of what McCain means by his lofty sound bite, and how that sound bite squares with reality. He has used it to imply that government bureaucrats should not be in charge of health care, forgetting that managed care organizations now make many decisions about what treatments people get and who gives them. Last April, when he announced his health care plan, stories like the one in USA Todays On Politics blog quoted him saying: My approach to transforming health care is to put families in charge. Since then, the topic has scarcely surfaced, giving more credence to McCains Great Escape from press scrutiny.

One story that did appear comes from the Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com), an online news service whose parent organization is the Media Research Center, which specializes in media criticism with a right wing point of view. The Centers chairman, L. Brent Bozell, has long been active in conservative Republican politics. The news services Web site says that CNSNews.com is an effort to provide an alternative news source that would cover stories that are subject to the bias of omission and report on other news subject to bias by commission. Its mission is also to fairly present all legitimate sides of a story and debunk popular, albeit incorrect myths about cultural and policy issues.

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Of course, whats legitimate to the Center may not seem that way to another observer. But a recent news service story, headlined McCain: Health Care Choice for People, gave a pretty fair nuts-and-bolts description of the highlights of McCains proposal, and even included comments from a spokesperson from the liberal Center for American Progress Action Fund. The end of the story featured a familiar McRefrain: families should be in charge of their health care dollars and have more control of care. The kicker amplified the point, noting that McCain would use competition to improve the quality of health insurance and impart greater variety to better match peoples needs.

The storys last few paragraphs provided a perfect opportunity for CNSNews.com to make the connection between family decision-making practices and the consumer health information businessa mushrooming industry searching for keys to the kingdom of health care consumerism. The CNSNews.com story, like all the others that mentioned McCains emphasis on family decision-making, didnt make the link. Too bada very good story lies therein.

If health care competition is to work, shoppers need informationgood information that will help them pick an insurance policy, doctor, hospital, or whatever. Then, there must be an incentive for shoppers to act on this information, instead of just sticking with their default options. Finally, the theory must work in practiceprices go down and quality goes up because people choose the best options for them. But real-world data indicates that buying health care may not be the same as buying an iPod, and that the empty talk about putting families in charge of their health care decisions may be just thatempty talk.

A few weeks ago, amednews.com reported on a poll done late last year by the California Health Care Foundation, a health care philanthropic organization based in Oakland. The poll showed that, although 80 percent of adult Californians use the Internet to find health information, only 22 percent looked at sites that rated physiciansand only 2 percent changed doctors based on the information displayed on those sites. The numbers were similar for online ratings of hospitals and health plans: about 25 percent of those surveyed looked at ratings, with only 1 percent making a change.

The survey didnt try to explain why the numbers are so low. It may be that people are more comfortable making these decisions based on word-of-mouth recommendations; perhaps they are just plain confused by the number of sites and dont know whom to trust. The federal Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) found twelve rating schemes for physicians, twenty-six for medical groups, eighty-one for hospitals, and eighty-six for health plansnumbers daunting for even the savviest consumer. They raise the question whether such data can ever influence family decision making in health care.

A study I did a few years ago, also with the California Health Care Foundation, offers another cautionary tale about McCains focus on competition in health insurance. We rated Medicare HMOs in California and found that one health plan offered a terrific drug benefit. Later reports we did showed that the plan no longer provided its great drug coverage. What it now offered was the same mediocre benefit its competition was selling. Being wise consumers, seniors chose the plan with the best drug coverage, but too many people with high drug needs and costs blew the plans bottom line, so it simply reduced coverage. In insurance jargon, the health plan was selected against, and it adjusted its policies accordingly. Some enterprising journalists need to tell us how McCains call for competition in health insurance will deal with that.

CJR

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The Associated Press

AP WASHINGTON DAYBOOK, Monday, July 21

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GENERAL

ALL DAY

July 21 - 22. AIRPORTS COUNCIL CONVENTION _ Attendees to consider aviation issues such as completing FAA Reauthorization and addressing environmental issues, funding for the Airport Improvement Program, 100 percent employee screening, DHS Authorization, TSA and CBP staffing, funding for in-line installation of explosive detection equipment, and transition efforts underway at agencies such as DHS, TSA, and FAA.

Highlights:

12 p.m. Keynote Address by Kirk Shaffer, Associate Administrator for Airports Federal Aviation Administration

Location: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 1330 Maryland Ave. SW.

Contacts: Scott Weaver (sweaver@aci-na.org)

July 21 - 24. WASHINGTON-ISRAEL SUMMIT _ Christians United for Israel's third annual Washington-Israel Summit.

Highlights:

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Opening remarks: Supporting the Jewish State, Now or Never? With Gary Bauer, president, Family Values; and Pastor John Hagee, founder of Christians United for Israel.

1:30 p.m. Panel: Radical Islam, In Their Own Words. With Sen. Rick Santorum; Daniel Pipes, direcotr, Middle East Forum; and Dr. Walid Phares, Director, Foundation for the Defense of Democracies Future of Terrorism Project.

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Chairman's Club Donor Banquet. Guest speaker Dennis Prager, radio host; entertainment by Randy Travis.

Location: Washington Convention Center, Mt. Vernon Square.

Contacts: ., 210-477-4714

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MORNING

UPDATED

HAMDAN _ Tentatively scheduled start of trial for Salim Hamdan, a former driver for Osama bin Laden.

Location: Guantanamo Bay. NOTE: -REVISED LOCATION-

7 a.m. - 1 p.m. ARLINGTON-DAY OF SERVICE _ 12th annual "Renewal & Remembrance project at Arlington National Cemetery and Historic Congressional Cemetery. Hundreds of landscape, lawn care, and tree care specialists from across the nation will bring their crews for mulching, tree cabling, pruning, liming, planting, and aerating.

Location: Arlington National Cemetery

Contacts: Vicki Bendure (cell 202/374-9529), 540-687-3360

NEW

10:30 a.m. ENERGY SPECULATION _ Democratic Senators Byron Dorgan and Amy Klobuchar join energy experts at a press conference on Monday to discuss the stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act to stop "greedy energy traders who artificially inflate oil prices and ensure Americans pay a fair price at the pump." Sen. Byron Dorgan; Sen. Amy Klobuchar; Sherri Cabrera, Petroleum Marketers Association of America; Mark Cooper, consumer Federation of America.

Location: S-120 US Capitol

Contacts: Jim Manley, 202-224-2939

11 a.m. AIDS/HIV TESTING _ Washington-based National Minority AIDS Education and Training Center (NMAETC) ask clinicians across the U.S. to take a few minutes to test themselves for awareness day.

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Contacts: Steve Clawson, 202-744-3139

NEW

11:15 a.m. OBAMA ISREAL TRIP TELECONFERENCE REAX _ Teleconference by Ira Forman, Exec. Director of the National Jewish Democratic Council (NJDC) on Obama trip to Israel and the latest polls, importance and historical trends concerning the American Jewish Vote.

Contacts: Aaron Keyak, 202-216-9594

Notes: RSP by 10:30 to aaron@njdc.org.

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AFTERNOON

12:30 p.m. EXPANDING LEARNING TIME _ Center for American Progress forum on "From Status Quo to Breaking the Mold: Schools Expanding Learning Time." With panelists Gretchen Bueter, Grove Patterson Elementary School, Toledo, Ohio; Carmel Martin, Senate Education Committee; Elena Rocha, consultant; Marguerite Roza, Center on Reinventing Public Education.

Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor

Contacts: Marlene Cooper Vasilic, 202-682-1611

NEW

1 p.m. LATINO SMOKING CESSATION CAMPAIGN _ DC Tobacco Free Families press conference unveiling the new Latino campaign "Deja Las Excusas, Deja de Fumar" (Stop the excuses, Stop Smoking) urging the Washington, DC latino community to quit smoking.

Location: Mary's Center for Maternal Childcare, 2355 Ontario Road, NW.

Contacts: Pablo Izquierdo, 202-380-3230

2 p.m. GLOBAL ECONOMY-IMF-STUDY _ IMF Economist Stijn Claessens presents a new study on recessions. Report examines 20 recession episodes in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries from 1960 to the present.

Location: Wohlstetter Conference Center, 12th floor, AEI, 1150 17th St. NW.

Contacts: n/a, 202-862-4879

Notes: Also participating: Desmond Lachman, AEI; Angel Ubide, Tudor Investment Corporation; and Vincent R. Reinhart, AEI.

2 p.m. PRIVATE BALLOT RIGHTS _ The Senate Republican Conference holds forum on importance of preserving federally surpervise private ballot elections to protect workers from coercion and intimidation. Senators: Jon Kyl; Jim DeMint; Arlen Specer; Arlen Specter; Tom Coburn. WITNESSES: "American Worker" Rhomas Musser, Tri-M Group; James Sherk, Heritage Foundation; John Raudabaugh, Baker & McKenzie.

Location: SD-562

4:30 p.m. ZIMBABWE PROTEST _ TransAfrica Forum & Coalition of Black Trade Unionist hold protest in front of Zimbabwe Embassy. Groups will deliver 'Peoples Indictment to Mugabe government and demonstrate against the failed and corrupted elections in Zimbabwe.

Location: Zimbabwe Embassy, 18th and New Hampshire Ave.

Contacts: Joia Nuri, 240-603-7905

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The Expanding Costs of Health Care

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This Center for American Progress Action Fund event addresses growing health care costs and strategies for controlling health care spending.

Full version:

Video

Speakers for this session:

Jeanne Lambrew, Ph.D.

Senior Fellow

Karen Tumulty

National Political Correspondent

Toledo Public Schools academy principal to speak at conference Panel to discuss extended learning t

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Jul. 21--Schools across the country could learn a thing or two from Toledo's Grove Patterson Academy, according to a Washington-based think tank.

For nearly 10 years, the districtwide elementary school has educated students the equivalent of about 40 days longer than the traditional school year, with two extra hours each day and several additional days. 'It's not just having extended learning time, but what do you do with it and what's the result,' said principal Gretchen Bueter, who has been invited to Washington to speak at 12:30 p.m. today to education and political officials about what her students do with that extra two hours.

For each day's first 90 minutes, Grove Patterson is on 'reading lockdown' for uninterrupted instruction. Later on, 30 minutes of class time is reserved daily for foreign-language study, Ms. Bueter said.

About 400 students are enrolled in the kindergarten through eighth-grade school.

Ms. Bueter is one of several panelists for the 2 1/2-hour discussion called 'From Status Quo to Breaking the Mold: Schools Expanding Learning time' at the Center for American Progress offices.

Reports also will be released today about research of schools and districts with high poverty and minority students who have extended learning time and the financial costs of incorporating it.

Cynthia Brown, director of education policy for the Center for American Progress, said they are 'very impressed' with what Grove Patterson has done and Ms. Bueter will add the perspective of a real practitioner to the conversation.

An education consultant, university research professor, and an adviser to Sen. Ted Kennedy also are on the panel.

About 150 people are expected to attend, Ms. Brown said.

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Gilbert, Meghan
Toledo Blade

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Ms. Bueter said that since the school opened, she has had researchers and various think tanks contacting her about extended learning time, and that the Center for American Progress' work has been in depth and should give a good overview about how schools across the country have incorporated it.

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401(k) loan policies can't be too stringent

Michelle Singletary
Daily Herald, The

Would you still put money in a tax advantaged retirement fund if you couldn't touch it until you retired?

And when I say you couldn't touch it, I mean you couldn't take out loans or withdraw funds under any circumstances.

If Congress were rewriting the rules for 401(k)s and similar retirement plans, that's what the Washington-based Pension Rights Center would recommend. Why this hard stance from a consumer-oriented group that works hard to protect and promote retirement savings?

A new study has found an increasing number of employees are raiding their retirement funds by taking out loans against their 401(k) accounts.

Strangled by debt and rising consumer prices, workers are turning to these plans as the only stash of cash they have.

'The result is that families leverage their future retirement security to ease their present financial insecurity,' wrote Christian Weller and Jeffrey Wenger, who authored 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.' The report was issued by the Center for American Progress.

Last week, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing to examine this trend and hear solutions on how to reverse it. The CAP report was released at the hearing.

In it, researchers found that over a 15-year period, loans against retirement savings accounts increased almost fivefold in inflation-adjusted terms, to $31 billion in 2004, up from $6 billion in 1989 -- 'an increase of almost 400 percent.' Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced. For instance, a 401(k) plan participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings between 13 percent and 22 percent, the report noted.

The study also found that increasingly, middle-income families are raiding their retirement funds.

'With other venues to borrow money, particularly home equity lines, closed off due to lower house prices, tighter credit standards, and slower income growth, families are turning increasingly to the easily accessible loans from their 401(k) plans,' Weller and Wenger wrote.

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The increase in 401(k) loans is so high because this money is so easy to borrow. If your plan allows such a loan, you can borrow $50,000 or one-half of the vested balance from your retirement account, whichever is lower. The loan has to be repaid in five years or less, except for loans that have been taken out for the first-time purchase of a home. That loan can be repaid over a period of up to 15 years.

Additionally, the interest rates on 401(k) loans are generally very reasonable. For instance, in 1996, about 70 percent of the 401(k) plans that allowed borrowing charged an interest rate equal or less than the prime rate plus one percentage point, while less than 10 percent charged an interest rate equal to the local bank's lending rate, the report said.

Here's what's wrong with borrowing from your retirement fund, as laid out in the report:

When you take the money out of your retirement account, you lose the possibility of investment earnings.

You may be paying yourself back with interest, but that interest is at a below-market rate of return.

If you fail to pay the loan back, you will have to pay taxes on what you took out in addition to a 10 percent penalty for the early withdrawal.

You pay back the money in after-tax dollars.

In a statement, the Senate committee's chairman, Herb Kohl, D-Wis., said, 'When a participant can use his or her 401(k) to make everyday purchases like buying a cup of coffee, clearly that is a gross distortion of the plan's intended use.'

I've worked with a lot of people in debt and not a single person recklessly robbed their retirement account to pay for a latte. It's not conspicuous consumption that is pushing up the numbers of 401(k) loans.

It's more likely the result of health problems or job losses.

But Kohl and others are right to be concerned.

I agree that there needs to be a stopgap for allowing people to borrow from their retirement funds. We should have a policy that discourages withdrawals for home purchases or to pay for college expenses. This pot should be reserved for retirement.

Loans from a 401(k) plan should only be allowed in dire situations, such as a job loss, disability or major medical illness.

Changes to the loan policies are needed. But it would be hard to persuade people to fund an account they had no access to under any circumstances. That's not realistic, nor is it compassionate.

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a Retirement fund you can't dip into? good on paper, not in practice in port today

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Listed are each vessel's name, flag, local destination and agency.

MSC Zurich, Hong Kong, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Mediterranean Shipping

Hansa Augustenburg, Liberia, Norfolk International Terminals, Capes Shipping Agencies

MSC China, Antigua and Barbuda, PMT, Mediterranean Shipping

Pacific Breeze, Isle of Man, Dominion Terminal Associates, T. Parker Host

Hato, Bahamas, CEC Terminal, Host

Michelle Singletary writes on finance issues for The Washington Post. E-mail her at singletarym@washpost.com.

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Borrowing in a 401(k) should not be so easy

By Michelle Singletary
Columbus Dispatch - Online

Would you still put money in a tax-advantaged retirement fund if you couldn't touch it until you retired?

And when I say you couldn't touch it, I mean you couldn't take out loans or withdraw funds under any circumstances.

If Congress were rewriting the rules for 401(k)s and similar retirement plans, that's what the Pension Rights Center in Washington would recommend. Why this hard stance from a consumer-oriented group that works hard to protect and promote retirement savings?

A study has found that an increasing number of employees are raiding their retirement funds by taking out loans against their 401(k) accounts. Strangled by debt and rising consumer prices, workers are turning to these plans as the only stash of cash they have. 'The result is that families leverage their future retirement security to ease their present financial insecurity,' wrote Christian E. Weller and Jeffrey B. Wenger in Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.

The report, issued by the Center for American Progress, says that over a 15-year period, loans against retirement savings accounts increased almost fivefold in inflation-adjusted terms, to $31 billion in 2004, up from $6 billion in 1989. Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced. A 401(k) participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings between 13

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percent and 22 percent, the report noted. 'With other venues to borrow money, particularly home equity lines, closed off due to lower house prices, tighter credit standards and slower income growth, families are turning increasingly to the easily accessible loans from their 401(k) plans,' Weller and Wenger wrote.

Here's what's wrong with borrowing from your retirement fund, as laid out in the report: " When you take the money out of your retirement account, you lose the possibility of investment earnings. " You may be paying yourself back with interest, but that interest is at a below-market rate of return. " If you fail to pay the loan back, you will have to pay taxes on what you took out in addition to a 10 percent penalty for the early withdrawal. " You pay back the money in after-tax dollars

I agree that there needs to be a stopgap for allowing people to borrow from their retirement funds. We should have a policy that discourages withdrawals for home purchases or to pay for college expenses. This pot should be reserved for retirement. Loans from a 401(k) plan should only be allowed in dire situations, such as a job loss, disability or major medical illness.

Changes to the loan policies are needed. But it would be hard to persuade people to fund an account they had no access to under any circumstances. That's not realistic, nor is it compassionate.

Michelle Singletary writes for the Washington Post Writers Group.

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Breaking retirement piggy bank in tight times

NEW YORK - Americans are raiding their already-fragile retirement piggy banks to weather financial hardships such as unemployment, medical emergencies and buying a home.

And they're doing it even though borrowing a modest $5,000 can dramatically erode savings over time, according to a study released Wednesday by the Center for American Progress.

The study found workers in 2004 had $31 billion in outstanding 401(k) loans, a fivefold increase from $6 billion in 1989. Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

'They don't necessarily pay penalties. But the penalty is that they have fewer retirement savings,' said Christian Weller, an author of the study.

As economic conditions grow bleaker, the number of people dipping into retirement money will only rise, he added.

A $5,000 loan, for example, could cut retirement savings by 22 percent even if the loan is repaid without penalty, according to the study. That's assuming the person has a $40,000 salary and is five years into a 35-year career.

One reason people are increasingly using 401(k) plans as a crutch is because they're so easy to access compared to pensions and individual retirement accounts, or IRAs.

'The borrower acts like a bank to himself,' Weller said.

Typically, borrowers can repay loans within five years without penalty. Loans for first-time homes must be repaid within 15 years to avoid penalties.

That doesn't mean people are raiding savings to go on shopping sprees. Middle-class families in particular are turning to retirement money to get through financial crises such as unemployment and medical emergencies, the study found.

When Rachel Hernandez took out a $7,000 loan from her retirement plan, for example, it was after her daughter was killed and she took time off to care for her grandchildren.

'I understood it was going to hurt my retirement, but it was something I had to do,' said Hernandez, 46, of San Antonio, Texas. She was working as a reservation agent for Southwest Airlines at the time and it was the second time she borrowed from her 401(k); the first time was to buy a house.

'Obviously it's going to impact my retirement, but I'm glad I had the option,' she said.

People can typically borrow $50,000 or half the vested balance of their 401(k) accounts with extremely favorable interest rates. Failing to repay loans on time typically incurs a 10- percent excise tax and borrowers must also pay income tax.

Dipping into retirement money wouldn't be a problem if other sources of retirement income - such as Social Security and pensions - weren't drying up, Weller said. More people today are counting on 401(k) accounts to be their primary income source in retirement.

Yet a study by Hewitt Associates this month found four out five workers aren't socking away enough money into their 401(k)

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accounts to keep up their standard of living after retirement.

On average, employees are projected to replace just 85 percent of their income in retirement, compared with the 126 percent they would need when factoring in inflation, longer life spans and medical costs, the study by Hewitt found.

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Color of Money Raiding the Retirement Stash

Singletary, Michelle
Washington Post - Online

Would you still put money in a tax-advantaged retirement fund if you couldn't touch it until you retired?

And when I say you couldn't touch it, I mean you couldn't take out loans or withdraw funds under any circumstances.

If Congress were rewriting the rules for 401(k) s and similar retirement plans, that's what the Washington-based Pension Rights Center would recommend. Why this hard stance from a consumer-oriented group that works hard to protect and promote retirement savings?

A new study found that an increasing number of employees are raiding their retirement funds by taking out loans against their 401(k) accounts. Strangled by debt and rising consumer prices, workers are turning to these plans as the only stash of cash they have. 'The result is that families leverage their future retirement security to ease their present financial insecurity,' wrote Christian E. Weller and Jeffrey B. Wenger, authors of 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.' The report was issued by the Center for American Progress.

Last week, the Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing to examine this trend and hear solutions on how to reverse it. The CAP report was released at the hearing.

The report says that over a 15-year period, loans against retirement savings accounts increased fivefold in inflation-adjusted terms, to $31 billion in 2004, up from $6 billion in 1989 -- an increase of more than 400 percent. Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced. For instance, a 401(k) plan participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings from 13 to 22 percent, the report says.

The study also found that increasingly, middle-income families are raiding their retirement funds. 'With other venues to borrow money, particularly home equity lines, closed off due to lower house prices, tighter credit standards, and slower income growth, families are turning increasingly to the easily accessible loans from their 401(k) plans,' Weller and Wenger wrote.

The increase in 401(k) loans is so high because this money is so easy to borrow. If your plan allows such a loan, you can borrow $50,000 or one-half of the vested balance from your retirement account, whichever is lower. The loan has to be repaid in five years or less, except for loans that have been taken out for the first-time purchase of a home. That loan can be repaid over a period of up to 15 years.

Additionally, the interest rates on 401(k) loans are generally very reasonable. For instance, in 1996, about 70 percent of the 401(k) plans that allowed borrowing charged an interest rate equal to or less than the prime rate plus one percentage point, while less than 10 percent charged an interest rate equal to the local bank's lending rate, the report said.

Here's what's wrong with borrowing from your retirement fund, as laid out in the report:

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Dipping into your retirement savings too early can be a costly mistake

Saving for retirement can fall far down on a to-do list for Americans squeezed by rising costs. But even those who do set aside money can in a single move risk much of what they've saved.

Financial experts worried about workers' wallets are warning lawmakers that an increasing number of investors have begun to treat their retirement plans like piggy banks. While making loans or withdrawals from a retirement account is often linked to an emergency like illness, there is fresh evidence that the impact of even briefly sidelining money can be huge by the time retirement arrives.

Senator Herb Kohl, a Wisconsin Democrat, chairman of the Senate's Special Committee on Aging, contends investors are robbing themselves of future earnings.

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Kohl and Senator Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat, have unveiled a bill that would ban the use of 401(k) debit cards, which they contend make it too easy for investors to remove money from their retirement savings. The bill also seeks to limit the number of loans investors can take from retirement accounts.

Kohl said investors need to be clear on the damage that missteps could cause to their retirement accounts. And he has other concerns. The senator contends that strapped investors are more likely to make mistakes when they respond to marketing pitches from companies trying to land new business from rolled-over retirement accounts. He fears such pitches can gloss over the true costs of shifting money from one account to another.

Financial ads do contain language, however, encouraging investors to review fees. Some ads spell out that while there might not be account fees on an IRA itself, for example, the underlying funds that an investor wades into could carry fees.

And, of course, moves such as rolling over an account can be beneficial as a way to consolidate investments or to move out of plans with inadequate choices.

But it appears more investors are taking risks with their savings. In a new report, the Center for American Progress finds the number of people taking loans from their retirement accounts is increasing, as is the amount of the loans.

The report notes that investors who borrow even small amounts from their 401(k) plans and only repay the loan - without contributing more to make up for lost returns - reduce their overall retirement savings by 13 to 22 percent.

Loans from defined contribution retirement plans like the 401(k) jumped nearly fivefold from 1989 to 2004 when accounting for inflation.

And advertising isn't the only thing that could be influencing investors. John Gannon, a senior vice president with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, told the Committee on Aging that FINRA is concerned that some financial advisers are encouraging investors to tap into their retirement accounts too early.

Whatever might help investors make decisions about their savings, spiraling costs and a slumping housing market are only likely to make removing money from retirement accounts more tempting.

Tim Paradis writes for The Associated Press.

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Don't leverage future for today

The report was issued by the Center for American Progress. Last week, the US Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing to examine this trend and hear ...

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Don't raid your retirement fund for debt relief

Would you still put money in a tax advantaged retirement fund if you couldn't touch it until you retired?

And when I say you couldn't touch it, I mean you couldn't take out loans or withdraw funds under any circumstances.

If Congress were rewriting the rules for 401(k) s and similar retirement plans, that's what the Washington, D.C.,-based Pension Rights Center would recommend. Why this hard stance from a consumer-oriented group that works hard to protect and promote retirement savings?

A new study has found an increasing number of employees are raiding their retirement funds by taking out loans against their 401(k) accounts.

Strangled by debt and

increasing consumer prices, workers are turning to these plans as the only stash of cash they have.

"The result is that families leverage their future retirement security to ease their present financial insecurity," wrote Christian Weller and Jeffrey Wenger, who authored "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet." The report was issued by the Center for American Progress.

Last week, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging had a hearing to examine this trend and hear solutions on how to reverse it. The CAP report was released at the hearing.

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In it, researchers found that over a 15-year period, loans against retirement savings accounts increased almost fivefold in inflation-adjusted terms, to $31 billion in 2004, up from $6 billion in 1989 - "an increase of almost 400 percent." Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced. For instance, a 401(k) plan participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings between 13 percent and 22 percent, the report noted.

"With other venues to borrow money, particularly home equity lines, closed off due to lower house prices, tighter credit standards, and slower income growth, families are turning increasingly to the easily accessible loans from their 401(k) plans," Weller and Wenger wrote.

The increase in 401(k) loans is so high because this money is so easy to borrow. If your plan allows such a loan, you can borrow $50,000 or one-half of the vested balance from your retirement account, whichever is lower. The loan has to be repaid in five years or less, except for loans that have been taken out for the first-time purchase of a home. That loan can be repaid during a period of up to 15 years.

Here's what's wrong with borrowing from your retirement fund, as laid out in the report:

* When you take the money out of your retirement account, you lose the possibility of investment earnings.

* You may be paying yourself back with interest, but that interest is at a below-market rate of return.

* If you fail to pay the loan back, you will have to pay taxes on what you took out in addition to a 10 percent penalty for the early withdrawal.

* You pay back the money in after-tax dollars.

I've worked with a lot of people in debt and not a single person recklessly robbed their retirement account to pay for a latte. It's not conspicuous consumption that is pushing up the numbers of 401(k) loans.

I agree that there needs to be a stopgap for allowing people to borrow from their retirement funds. We should have a policy that discourages withdrawals for home purchases or to pay for college expenses. This pot should be reserved for retirement. Loans from a 401(k) plan only should be allowed in dire situations, such as a job loss, disability, or major medical illness.

Changes to the loan policies are needed. But it would be hard to persuade people to fund an account they had no access to under any circumstances. That's not realistic, nor is it compassionate.

Michelle Singletary discusses personal finance every Tuesday on NPR's "Day to Day." Readers can write to her c/o The Washington Post, 1150 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20081. Her e-mail address is singletarym@washpost.com.

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Don't tap 401(k) funds early

Posted on Sat, Jul. 19, 2008
Sun News, The

NEW YORK --Saving enough for retirement can fall far down on a to-do list for Americans squeezed by rising costs for necessities like food and energy. But even those who do set aside money can in a single move risk much of what they've saved.

Financial experts worried about the thin wallets of some workers are warning lawmakers in Washington that an increasing number of investors have begun to treat their retirement plans like piggy banks. While making loans or withdrawals from a retirement account is often linked to an emergency like illness, there is fresh evidence that the impact of even briefly sidelining money can be huge by the time retirement arrives.

Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., chairman of the Senate's Special Committee on Aging, contends investors are robbing themselves of future earnings if they touch accounts that are supposed to be sacrosanct until retirement. 'We think it's a mistake generally to use the 401(k) for casual, everyday needs, and that's what we're tying to focus on, highlight and hopefully try and do something about,' Kohl said. 'This is not saying that we're insensitive to the tough times people are going through.' Kohl and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., have unveiled a bill that would ban the use of 401(k) debit cards, which they contend make it too easy for investors to remove money from their retirement savings. The bill also seeks to place a limit on the number of loans investors can take from their retirement accounts.

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Kohl said investors need to be clear on the damage that missteps could cause to their retirement accounts. Beyond trying to save investors from themselves, he has other concerns.

The senator contends that strapped investors are more likely to make mistakes when they respond to marketing pitches from financial companies that are trying to land new business from rolled-over retirement accounts. He fears such pitches can gloss over the true costs of shifting money from one retirement account to another.

Financial ads do contain language, however, encouraging investors to review fees. Some ads spell out that while there might not be account fees on an IRA itself, for example, the underlying funds that an investor wades into could carry fees.

And, of course, moves such as rolling over an account can be beneficial as a way for investors to consolidate their investments or to move out of plans with inadequate choices.

But regardless of the degree to which ads might influence investors' decision-making, it appears more investors are taking risks with their retirement money.

In a new report, the Democratic-leaning Center for American Progress finds that the number of people taking loans from their retirement accounts is increasing, as is the amount of the loans.

The report notes that investors who borrow even small amounts from their 401(k) plans and only repay the loan without contributing more to make up for lost returns reduce their overall retirement savings by 13 percent to 22 percent.

Loans from defined contribution retirement plans like the 401(k) jumped nearly fivefold from 1989 to 2004 when accounting for inflation, according to the Center for American Progress report.

And advertising isn't the only thing that could be influencing investors.

John Gannon, a senior vice president with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, a nongovernmental overseer, told the Committee on Aging that FINRA is concerned that some financial advisers are encouraging investors to tap into their retirement accounts too early.

Whatever might help investors make decisions about their savings, spiraling food and energy costs as well as a slumping housing market are only likely to make removing money from retirement accounts more tempting.

ONLINE Find more tips to stretch your dollar in the 'Your Money' section at MyrtleBeachOnline.com.

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Employees raid 401(k)s more often

Would you still put money in a tax advantaged retirement fund if you couldn't touch it until you retired?

And when I say you couldn't touch it, I mean you couldn't take out loans or withdraw funds under any circumstances.

If Congress were rewriting the rules for 401(k) s and similar retirement plans, that's what the Washington-based Pension Rights Center would recommend. Why this hard stance from a consumer-oriented group that works hard to protect and promote retirement savings?

A new study has found an increasing number of employees are raiding their retirement funds by taking out loans against their 401(k) accounts. Strangled by debt and rising consumer prices, workers are turning to these plans as the only stash of cash they have. 'The result is that families leverage their future retirement security to ease their present financial insecurity,' wrote Christian E. Weller and Jeffrey B. Wenger, who authored 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.' The report was issued by the Center for American Progress.

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The CAP report was released at the hearing.

In it, researchers found that over a 15-year period, loans against retirement savings accounts increased almost fivefold in inflation-adjusted terms, to $31 billion in 2004, up from $6 billion in 1989 -- 'an increase of almost 400%.' Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12% of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced. For instance, a 401(k) plan participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings

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between 13% and 22%, the report noted.

The study also found that increasingly, middle-income families are raiding their retirement funds. 'With other venues to borrow money, particularly home equity lines, closed off due to lower house prices, tighter credit standards, and slower income growth, families are turning increasingly to the easily accessible loans from their 401(k) plans,' Weller and Wenger wrote.

The increase in 401(k) loans is so high because this money is so easy to borrow. If your plan allows such a loan, you can borrow $50,000 or one-half of the vested balance from your retirement account, whichever is lower. The loan has to be repaid in five years or less, except for loans that have been taken out for the first-time purchase of a home. That loan can be repaid over a period of up to 15 years.

Additionally, the interest rates on 401(k) loans are generally very reasonable. For instance, in 1996, about 70% of the 401(k) plans that allowed borrowing charged an interest rate equal or less than the prime rate plus one percentage point, while less than 10% charged an interest rate equal to the local bank's lending rate, the report said.

Here's what's wrong with borrowing from your retirement fund, as laid out in the report:

When you take the money out of your retirement account, you lose the possibility of investment earnings.

You may be paying yourself back with interest, but that interest is at a below-market rate of return.

If you fail to pay the loan back, you will have to pay taxes on what you took out in addition to a 10% penalty for the early withdrawal.

You pay back the money in after-tax dollars

In a statement, the Senate committee's chairman, Herb Kohl, D-Wis., said, 'When a participant can use his or her 401(k) to make everyday purchases like buying a cup of coffee, clearly that is a gross distortion of the plan's intended use.' I've worked with a lot of people in debt and not a single person recklessly robbed their retirement account to pay for a latte. It's not conspicuous consumption that is pushing up the numbers of 401(k) loans. It's more likely the result of health problems or job losses.

But Kohl and others are right to be concerned.

I agree that there needs to be a stopgap for allowing people to borrow from their retirement funds. We should have a policy that discourages withdrawals for home purchases or to pay for college expenses. This pot should be reserved for retirement.

Loans from a 401(k) plan should only be allowed in dire situations, such as a job loss, disability or major medical illness.

Changes to the loan policies are needed. But it would be hard to persuade people to fund an account they had no access to under any circumstances. That's not realistic, nor is it compassionate.

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GM's Volt Becomes Centerpiece in Presidential Debate on Energy

... said Bracken Hendricks, an Obama adviser and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a Washington-based policy research institution. ...

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Many borrow against 401(k)s, often at a steep cost

CANDICE CHOI
Houston Chronicle - Online

NEW YORK - Americans are raiding their already fragile retirement piggy banks to weather financial hardships such as unemployment, medical emergencies and buying a home.

And they're doing it even though borrowing a modest $5,000 can dramatically erode savings over time, according to a study released last week by the Center for American Progress.

The study found workers in 2004 had $31 billion in outstanding 401(k) loans, a fivefold increase from $6 billion in 1989. Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them. 'They don't necessarily pay penalties. But the penalty is that they have fewer retirement savings,' said Christian Weller, an author of the study.

As economic conditions grow bleaker, the number of people dipping into retirement money will only rise, he added.

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A $5,000 loan, for example, could cut retirement savings by 22 percent even if the loan is repaid without penalty, according to the study. That's assuming the person has a $40,000 salary and is five years into a 35-year career.

One reason people are increasingly using 401(k) plans as a crutch is because they're so easy to access compared to pensions and individual retirement accounts, or IRAs. 'The borrower acts like a bank to himself,' Weller said. Typically, borrowers can repay loans within five years without penalty. Loans for first-time homes must be repaid within 15 years to avoid penalties.

That doesn't mean people are raiding savings to go on shopping sprees. Middle-class families in particular are turning to retirement money to get through financial crises such as unemployment and medical emergencies, the study found.

When Rachel Hernandez took out a $7,000 loan from her retirement plan, for example, it was after her daughter was killed and she took time off to care for her grandchildren. 'I understood it was going to hurt my retirement, but it was something I had to do,' said Hernandez, a 46-year-old resident of San Antonio. She was working as a reservation agent for Southwest Airlines at the time and it was the second time she borrowed from her 401(k); the first time was to buy a house. 'Obviously it's going to impact my retirement, but I'm glad I had the option,' she said. People can typically borrow $50,000 or half the vested balance of their 401(k) accounts with favorable interest rates.

Dipping into retirement money wouldn't be a problem if other sources of retirement income - such as Social Security and pensions - weren't drying up, Weller said.

More people are counting on 401(k) accounts to be their primary retirement income source.

Yet a study by Hewitt Associates this month found four out five workers aren't socking away enough money into their 401(k) accounts to keep up their standard of living after retirement.

On average, employees are projected to replace just 85 percent of their income in retirement, compared with the 126 percent they would need when factoring in inflation, longer life spans and medical costs, the study by Hewitt found.

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Michelle Singletary Limits on 401(k) raiding needed

MICHELLE SINGLETARY
Omaha World-Herald - Online

WASHINGTON - Would you still put money in a tax-advantaged retirement fund if you couldn't touch it until you retired? And when I say you couldn't touch it, I mean you couldn't take out loans or withdraw funds under any circumstances. If Congress were rewriting the rules for 401(k)s and similar retirement plans, that's what the Washington-based Pension Rights Center would recommend. Why this hard stance from a consumer-oriented group that works hard to protect and promote retirement savings? A new study has found an increasing number of employees are raiding their retirement funds by taking out loans against their 401(k) accounts. Strangled by debt and rising consumer prices, workers are turning to these plans as the only stash of cash they have. 'The result is that families leverage their future retirement security to ease their present financial insecurity,' wrote Christian E. Weller and Jeffrey B. Wenger, authors of 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.' The report was issued by the Center for American Progress. Earlier this month, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing to examine this trend and hear solutions on how to reverse it. The CAP report was released at the hearing. In it, researchers found that over a 15-year period, loans against retirement savings accounts increased almost fivefold in inflation-adjusted terms, to $31 billion in 2004, up from $6 billion in 1989 - 'an increase of almost 400 percent.' Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them. Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced. For instance, a 401(k) plan participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings between 13 percent and 22 percent, the report noted. The study also found that increasingly, middle-income families are raiding their retirement funds. 'With other venues to borrow money, particularly home equity lines, closed off due to lower house prices, tighter credit standards, and slower income growth, families are turning increasingly to the easily accessible loans from their 401(k) plans,' Weller and Wenger wrote. The increase in 401(k) loans is so high because this money is so easy to borrow. If your plan allows such a loan, you can borrow $50,000 or one-half of the vested balance from your retirement account, whichever is lower. The loan has to be repaid in five years or less, except for loans that have been taken out for the first-time purchase of a home. That loan can be repaid over a period of up to 15 years. Additionally, the interest rates on 401(k) loans are generally very reasonable. For instance, in 1996, about 70 percent of the 401(k) plans that allowed borrowing charged an interest rate equal or less than the prime rate plus one percentage point, while less than 10 percent charged an interest rate equal to the local bank's lending rate, the report said. Here's what's wrong with borrowing from your retirement fund, as laid out in the report: " When you take the money out of your retirement account, you lose the possibility of investment earnings. " You may be paying yourself back with interest, but that interest is at a below-market rate of return. " If you fail to pay the loan back, you will have to pay taxes on what you took out in addition to a 10 percent penalty for the early withdrawal. " You pay back the money in after-tax dollars. In a statement, the

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Michelle Singletary | The Color of Money 401(k)s Look, But Don't Touch

More Your Money

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Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced. For instance, a 401(k) plan participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings between 13 percent and 22 percent, the report noted.

The study also found that increasingly, middle-income families are raiding their retirement funds.

'With other venues to borrow money, particularly home equity lines, closed off due to lower house prices, tighter credit standards, and slower income growth, families are turning increasingly to the easily accessible loans from their 401(k) plans,' Weller and Wenger wrote.

The increase in 401(k) loans is so high because this money is so easy to borrow. If your plan allows such a loan, you can borrow $50,000 or one-half of the vested balance from your retirement account, whichever is lower. The loan has to be repaid in five years or less, except for loans that have been taken out for the first-time purchase of a home. That loan can be repaid over a period of up to 15 years.

Additionally, the interest rates on 401(k) loans are generally very reasonable. For instance, in 1996, about 70 percent of the 401(k) plans that allowed borrowing charged an interest rate equal or less than the prime rate plus one percentage point, while less than 10 percent charged an interest rate equal to the local bank's lending rate, the report said.

Here's what's wrong with borrowing from your retirement fund, as laid out in the report:

When you take the money out of your retirement account, you lose the possibility of investment earnings.

You may be paying yourself back with interest, but that interest is at a below-market rate of return.

If you fail to pay the loan back, you will have to pay taxes on what you took out in addition to a 10 percent penalty for the early withdrawal.

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You pay back the money in after-tax dollars.

In a statement, the Senate committee's chairman, Herb Kohl, D-Wis., said, 'When a participant can use his or her 401(k) to make everyday purchases like buying a cup of coffee, clearly that is a gross distortion of the plan's intended use.'

I've worked with a lot of people in debt and not a single person recklessly robbed their retirement account to pay for a latte. It's not conspicuous consumption that is pushing up the numbers of 401(k) loans. It's more likely the result of health problems or job losses.

But Kohl and others are right to be concerned.

I agree that there needs to be a stopgap for allowing people to borrow from their retirement funds. We should have a policy that discourages withdrawals for home purchases or to pay for college expenses. This pot should be reserved for retirement.

Loans from a 401(k) plan should only be allowed in dire situations, such as a job loss, disability, or major medical illness.

Changes to the loan policies are needed. But it would be hard to persuade people to fund an account they had no access to under any circumstances. That's not realistic, nor is it compassionate.

Michelle Singletary can be e-mailed at singletarym@washpost.com. Comments and questions are welcome, but because of the volume of mail, personal responses are not always possible. Please note that comments or questions may be used in a future column, with the writer's name, unless a specific request to do otherwise is indicated.

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More people raiding 401(k)s for extra cash

Michelle Singletary
Honolulu Advertiser - Online

Would you still put money in a tax-advantaged retirement fund if you couldn't touch it until you retired?

And when I say you couldn't touch it, I mean you couldn't take out loans or withdraw funds under any circumstances.

If Congress were rewriting the rules for 401(k)s and similar retirement plans, that's what the Washington-based Pension Rights Center would recommend. Why this harsh stance from a consumer-oriented group that works hard to protect and promote retirement savings?

A new study has found an increasing number of employees are raiding their retirement funds by taking out loans against their

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401(k) accounts. Strangled by debt and rising consumer prices, workers are turning to these plans as the only stash of cash they have. 'The result is that families leverage their future retirement security to ease their present financial insecurity,' wrote Christian E. Weller and Jeffrey B. Wenger, who authored 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.' The report was issued by the Center for American Progress.

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In it, researchers found that over a 15-year period, loans against retirement savings accounts increased almost fivefold in inflation-adjusted terms, to $31 billion in 2004, up from $6 billion in 1989 - 'an increase of almost 400 percent.' Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced.

For instance, a 401(k) plan participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings between 13 percent and 22 percent, the report noted.

The study also found that increasingly, middle-income families are raiding their retirement funds. 'With other venues to borrow money, particularly home equity lines, closed off due to lower house prices, tighter credit standards and slower income growth, families are turning increasingly to the easily accessible loans from their 401(k) plans,' Weller and Wenger wrote.

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Reach Michelle Singletary at singletarym@washpost.com.

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Of Mutual Interest Tapping retirement accounts too early can prove costly later

NEW YORK -- Saving enough for retirement can fall far down on a to-do list for Americans squeezed by rising costs for necessities such as food and energy. But even those who do set aside money can, in a single move, risk much of what they've saved.

Financial experts worried about the thin wallets of some workers are warning lawmakers in Washington that an increasing number of investors have begun to treat their retirement plans like piggy banks.

While making loans or withdrawals from a retirement account is often linked to an emergency such as illness, there is fresh evidence that the impact of even briefly sidelining money can be huge by the time retirement arrives.

Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., chairman of the Senate's Special Committee on Aging, says investors are robbing themselves of future earnings if they touch accounts that are supposed to be sacrosanct until retirement. 'We think it's a mistake generally to

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use the 401(k) for casual, everyday needs and that's what we're tying to focus on, highlight and hopefully try and do something about,' Kohl said. 'This is not saying that we're insensitive to the tough times people are going through.' Kohl and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., have unveiled a bill that would ban the use of 401(k) debit cards, which, they contend, make it too easy for investors to remove money from their retirement savings. The bill also seeks to place a limit on the number of loans investors can take from their retirement accounts.

Kohl said investors need to be clear on the damage that missteps could cause to their retirement accounts. Beyond trying to save investors from themselves, he has other concerns.

The senator contends that strapped investors are more likely to make mistakes when they respond to marketing pitches from financial companies that are trying to land new business from rolled-over retirement accounts. He fears such pitches can gloss over the true costs of shifting money from one retirement account to another.

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And, of course, moves such as rolling over an account can be beneficial as a way for investors to consolidate their investments or to move out of plans with inadequate choices.

But regardless of the degree to which ads might influence investors' decision-making, it appears more investors are taking risks with their retirement money.

In a new report, the Democratic-leaning Center for American Progress finds that the number of people taking loans from their retirement accounts is increasing, as is the amount of the loans.

The report notes that investors who borrow even small amounts from their 401(k) plans and only repay the loan -- without contributing more to make up for lost returns -- reduce their overall retirement savings by 13 percent to 22 percent.

And advertising isn't the only thing that could be influencing investors.

John Gannon, a senior vice president with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, a nongovernmental overseer, told the Committee on Aging that the authority is concerned that some financial advisers are encouraging investors to tap into their retirement accounts too early.

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RUN ON THE BANK

GREGORY BRESIGER
New York Post - Online

The number of Americans filing for bankruptcy is rising sharply, proving that recent legal reforms are not working, according to a recent report. 'The bankruptcy rates are back on the wrong track despite a conscious legislative effort,' according to the report, from the Washington, DC-based Center for American Progress. 'The reform has been a failure,' said Christian E. Weller, one of the authors of the report that examines the effects of the Bankruptcy Abuse and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. 'The law has made the bankruptcy process more punitive and hurt people. And it has not stopped people from filing for bankruptcy.' The study compared the number of filings in the fourth quarter of 2007 with the first quarter of 2006, which was just after the reform went into effect. The bankruptcy rate is now 2.7 filings per 100,000, compared with 1.5 per 100,000 people in the first three months of 2006. 'The severe financial squeeze faced by America's families is evident in stagnant income growth amid mounting job losses and the spiraling costs of gas, energy, food and healthcare amid record family debt levels,' the report states.

Passed with the support of the banking industry, bankruptcy reform was designed to reduce credit-card abuse by making it more difficult to wipe out a debtor's bills. The act requires someone seeking bankruptcy protection to pay back a higher percentage of their debt than under the previous law.

A spokesman for the American Bankers Association, which was one of the groups backing the law, disputes the study. 'We never said the filings would necessarily go down,' said the ABA's Peter Garuccio. 'We merely wanted to stop abuses of the system.' Garuccio argues that it is too soon to say if the reform is a success, but he believes abuses have been curbed.

Weller said he found no evidence of abuse - medical emergencies and unemployment are why people generally seek bankruptcy protection, he said.

Although critics and proponents of the reform debate the issue, most observers agree the bankruptcy rate will head north. 'The numbers are clearly going up,' said Sam Giordano, of the American Bankruptcy Institute, whose organization is neutral in the bankruptcy reform debate. He says 'general economic conditions' are the most important factor in predicting bankruptcy filings.

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Four percent of the average American family's income is spent on gasoline, according to the Center for American Progress. That is the highest price american ...

Stealing From Retirement

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A new study finds people are using their 401(k) retirement plans to cover financial hardships such as a job loss or medical emergencies.

The Center for American Progress says that between 1998 and 2004, 12 percent of families dipped into the funds. The center has also found that the annual borrowing went from 6 billion dollars in 1989 to 31 billion dollars in 2004.

The study's author says even though most of the loans are repaid without penalty, pulling those funds out of the retirement accounts lessens the amount a person will have when he or she does retire.

Another study by Hewitt Associates finds that four out five workers are not putting enough into their 401(k) accounts. It says employees are saving enough to replace 85 percent of their income in retirement, but when inflation, longer life spans and medical costs are factored in, they'll need to replace 126 percent.

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Study paints bleak retirement picture

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Diane Stafford
Post-Star, The

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Thinking about retirement?Think hard.A new study warns that about 75 percent of 'near retirees' -- those ages 58-65 -- will outlive their savings unless they reduce their pre-retirement standard of living by more than one-third.For many -- though certainly not all -- Americans, that may mean downsizing their home, selling one of their cars, not eating out as often and giving up planned vacations.The latest alert about prospects for retirement comes from a new study by the Ernst & Young accounting firm undertaken for Americans for Secure Retirement, a coalition of interest groups concerned about retirement affordability.Recent retirees are in only slightly better financial shape. About 60 percent of middle-class 'new retirees' are likely to outlive their assets, the study said.To reduce their likelihood of retirement 'failure' to only 5 percent, recent retirees need to reduce their standards of living by about one-fourth.'It's very, very scary,' said Sara Rix, AARP's strategic policy adviser. 'Middle-aged and older Americans tell us they're already having trouble making ends meet.'The study comes amid a wave of sobering economic indicators that forecast a leaner lifestyle for many Americans.Wage earners overall are feeling the pinch. Real average weekly earnings have fallen by 2.4 percent over the last 12 months when inflation, as measured by growth in the consumer price index, is factored in.Overall inflation in June -- fueled largely by soaring energy prices -- posted its second-biggest monthly jump since 1982, the Department of Labor reported Wednesday. Year-over-year consumer inflation of 5 percent is at its highest level since 1991.The tightening financial pinch was noted Wednesday by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke in testimony on Capitol Hill.Bernanke is simultaneously grappling with slower economic growth, hotter inflation and wobbly financial markets fretting about the stability of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. But he noted that those big issues are also felt at the household level.'Whether it's a technical recession or not is not all that relevant,' Bernanke said. 'It's clearly the case that for a variety of reasons, families are facing hardship.'In his semiannual monetary policy testimony before Congress, Bernanke cited 'numerous difficulties' facing the economy: 'ongoing strains in financial markets; declining house prices; a softening labor market; and rising prices of oil, food, and some other commodities.'Also in Washington on Wednesday, the Senate Special Committee on Aging heard predictions that the dangers of retirement insecurity were increasing.Christian Weller, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, testified that Americans who had retirement savings increasingly were dipping into their 401(k) accounts to pay bills.Both the amounts taken out and the percentage of participants taking out loans from their 401(k)s are going up, Weller's research indicated.The Ernst & Young report reinforced a commonly accepted fact -- that Social Security provides, on average, only 40 percent of retirement income.An example from the report that shows why savings beyond Social Security are necessary:'While married couples with guaranteed retirement income beyond Social Security making $75,000 at retirement have a 31 percent chance of outliving their assets if they retain their pre-retirement standard of living, those with Social Security as their only guaranteed income have a 90 percent chance of outliving their assets during retirement.'The Employee Benefit Research Institute recently reported that 72 percent of American workers said they were saving for retirement. But 49 percent said their personal retirement savings, excluding the value of their homes and any defined benefit plans, amounted to less than $50,000. Worse, about a quarter of workers and retirees said they had no savings of any kind.'Unless workers aged 55 to 59 increase their saving substantially or work beyond age 65, they will be unable to maintain their current standard

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of living and will have to reduce their standard of living significantly more than today's retirees to minimize the risk of exhausting their financial assets,' the Ernst & Young study concluded.More workers 45 and older are reporting in AARP surveys that they intend to work beyond traditional retirement age. But, AARP's Rix noted, illness, disability and other factors beyond individuals' control often prevent that from happening.Still, she said, the percentage of workers 65-69 has mushroomed in recent years, primarily because of economic concerns.The labor force participation rate for that age group in 1985 was 18.4 percent. In 2007 it was 29.7 percent -- a more than 50 percent increase.'The Ernst & Young findings are troubling,' Rix said. 'We know that about half of the work force has private pensions. But those are giving way to defined contribution savings plans. And we know what the market recently has done to those.'I know I'm nervous when I open my quarterly statements.'

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Taking from tomorrow to pay for today

Yvette Thornton is caught in an unusual debt crunch.

The former Delphi worker, now retired, needs to make a $1,154 loan payment by September.

What's unusual is the identity of the lender -- herself. Thornton's own 401(k) retirement fund is the source of $30,000 she borrowed to help her ailing mother in 2004.

Even though she owes the money to herself, she'll be in trouble if she doesn't pay. Because she's younger than retirement age, the Lockport woman faces thousands of dollars in back taxes and penalties if she fails to scrape the payment together.

"I'll do my best to pay it back," the 52-year-old said. "I don't want the IRS to come to my door and audit me."

Borrowing from your retirement fund has been an easy way to underwrite big bills like home repairs, weddings and college tuition. But now the perils of borrowing from yourself are becoming apparent as the economy weakens, financial advisers say.

"This is a silent crisis that's out there," said John Lunghino, president of Spectrum Wealth Management, a financial consulting firm in Amherst. Thornton was one of hundreds of area residents he has counseled who face problems paying back loans from their retirement funds, he said.

People who borrowed from their 401(k) funds and then lost their jobs or took early retirement, like Thornton, face a double whammy: a depleted retirement nest egg, plus the specter of a 10 percent federal penalty on the unpaid portion of the loan.

"Younger families have taken the money out to pay for houses or cars," Lunghino said.

A 401(k) plan, named for a section of the tax code, is an employer-sponsored fund that allows savings to build up tax-free until retirement. About 40 percent of working-age families have access to a 401(k), and nearly three-quarters of the plans allow participants to borrow some of their savings before they retire.

The IRS said it doesn't have statistics on loan defaults, but the practice of borrowing 401(k) funds is booming. Borrowing rose to $30.8 billion by 2004, five times more than the amount taken out in 1989, according to a recent report from the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C. The average loan was nearly $8,000.

The report, "Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today," concludes that retirement accounts are being raided to pay for rising medical bills, fuel and other costs. Eighteen percent of 401(k) participants have borrowed from their savings.

"For some people this means less leisurely living [in retirement], travel and so forth," said study author Christian E. Weller, a senior fellow at the center. "But for others it will mean not being able to pay for their prescription drugs."

The cost of borrowing is steep because of lost savings while the loan is repaid. Weller estimated that a $5,000 loan would reduce typical 401(k) savings by 13 to 22 percent.

So why are the loans popular? A big reason is that 401(k) savings are an easy source of cash -- especially as alternatives like home equity loans dry up. If their employer's plan permits borrowing, savers can take out half of their vested nest egg, to a maximum of $50,000. Rates are low, and, unlike bank loans, there's no credit approval process.

Some loans even come with a debit card so that you can tap retirement savings at the ATM -- a practice that came under fire this week. A measure to ban the debit cards was introduced after a hearing by the Senate Special Committee on Aging on Wednesday.

"After retreating over the last few years, companies looking to raid Americans' 401(k) accounts are making a comeback," said a statement from Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., a co-sponsor of the measure.

Amounts withdrawn before age 591/2 generally face a 10 percent federal penalty, in addition to deferred income taxes,

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although exceptions exist for people over age 55. The bite for someone like Thornton, if she can't avoid default, amounts to about 43 percent of the unpaid loan, Lunghino estimated. That would be more than $7,500, based on the remaining loan balance of $18,000.

The penalty is designed to encourage people to preserve their savings until their later years. But Thornton said necessity caused her to take the money out early. When her mother became ill, Thornton took time off from work to care for her and helped pay her expenses, including a car loan. Then Thornton retired early from Delphi in 2006 because the company had filed bankruptcy, raising fears that its plant might close. When an early retirement offer came around, the time seemed right.

"Every single day while we were at work, people were freaking out," she said.

In Western New York, financial planners say they counsel against 401(k) borrowing, putting the brakes on the practice. Still, it affects many.

More than half of Joseph Curatolo's clients let their 401(k) loans default if they still owe payments when they hit retirement, he said. They usually take advantage of an exemption that waives the 10 percent penalty for people over 55 who are out of a job.

"Rather than have to keep making payments in retirement, they'll default," said Curatolo, president of Georgetown Capital Group in Williamsville. However, they still have to pay the deferred taxes on the amount withdrawn earlier, leaving less cash for their retirement.

Others trying to avoid default may work out installment payments that provide more time to make good on the loan, financial advisers said. Borrowers from some plans can make a payment once every 90 days to avert default, rather than once a month.

At L&M Financial Services in Amherst, President Gregg Lipsitz is seeing a similar push from people to tap savings from their Individual Retirement Accounts. Like 401(k) plans, IRAs allow savings to accumulate tax-free until retirement. Lipsitz said he's helping more and more clients set up early withdrawals from their IRAs as they retire early. If you're no longer working, the complex "72T" distribution process avoids the 10 percent penalty for amounts withdrawn before age 59 1/2.

"It's a very last resort," Lipsitz said. "But times are tough -- people are looking to pay their bills."

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Tapping into retirement account can be costly

TIM PARADIS
Providence Journal - Online

NEW YORK Saving enough for retirement can fall far down on a to-do list for people squeezed by rising costs for necessities such as food and energy. But even those who do set aside money can in a single move risk much of what theyve saved. Financial experts worried about the thin wallets of some workers are warning lawmakers in Washington that an increasing number of investors have begun to treat their retirement plans like piggy banks. While making loans or withdrawals from a retirement account is often linked to an emergency such as illness, there is fresh evidence that the impact of even briefly sidelining money can be huge by the time retirement arrives.

Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., chairman of the Senates Special Committee on Aging, contends that investors are robbing themselves of future earnings if they touch accounts that are supposed to be sacrosanct until retirement. We think its a mistake generally to use the 401(k) for casual, everyday needs and thats what were tying to focus on, highlight and hopefully try and do something about, Kohl said. This is not saying that were insensitive to the tough times people are going through. Kohl and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., have unveiled a bill that would ban the use of 401(k) debit cards, which they contend make it too easy for investors to remove money from their retirement savings. The bill also seeks to place a limit on the number of loans investors can take from their retirement accounts.

Kohl said investors need to be clear on the damage that missteps could cause to their retirement accounts. Beyond trying to save investors from themselves, he has other concerns.

The senator contends that strapped investors are more likely to make mistakes when they respond to marketing pitches from financial companies that are trying to land new business from rolled-over retirement accounts. He says such pitches can gloss over the true costs of shifting money from one retirement account to another.

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And, of course, moves such as rolling over an account can be beneficial as a way for investors to consolidate their investments or to move out of plans with inadequate choices.

But regardless of the degree to which ads might influence investors decision-making, more investors are taking risks with their retirement money.

In a new report, the Democratic-leaning Center for American Progress finds that the number of people taking loans from their retirement accounts is increasing, as is the amount of the loans.

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Tapping retirement accounts dangerous

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Loans from defined contribution retirement plans like the 401(k) jumped nearly fivefold from 1989 to 2004 when accounting for inflation, according to the Center for American Progress report.

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Tapping retirement funds early can cost you more later

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TIM PARADIS
Mail Tribune

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And advertising isn't the only thing that could be influencing investors.

John Gannon, a senior vice president with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, a non-governmental overseer, told the Committee on Aging that FINRA is concerned that some financial advisers are encouraging investors to tap into their retirement accounts too early.

Whatever might help investors make decisions about their savings, spiraling food and energy costs as well as a slumping housing market are only likely to make removing money from retirement accounts more tempting.

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Tapping retirement money too early can be costly

Tim Paradis
Journal News - Online

NEW YORK - Saving enough for retirement can fall far down on a to-do list for Americans squeezed by rising costs for necessities like food and energy. But even those who do set aside money, can, in a single move, risk much of what they've saved.

Financial experts worried about the thin wallets of some workers are warning lawmakers in Washington that an increasing number of investors have begun to treat their retirement plans like piggy banks. While making loans or withdrawals from a

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retirement account is often linked to an emergency like illness, there is fresh evidence that the impact of even briefly sidelining money can be huge by the time retirement arrives.

Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., chairman of the Senate's Special Committee on Aging, contends investors are robbing themselves of future earnings if they touch accounts that are supposed to be sacrosanct until retirement. 'We think it's a mistake generally to use the 401(k) for casual, everyday needs, and that's what we're tying to focus on, highlight and hopefully try and do something about,' Kohl said. 'This is not saying that we're insensitive to the tough times people are going through.' Kohl and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., have unveiled a bill that would ban the use of 401(k) debit cards, which they contend make it too easy for investors to remove money from their retirement savings. The bill also seeks to place a limit on the number of loans investors can take from their retirement accounts.

Kohl said investors need to be clear on the damage that missteps could cause to their retirement accounts. Beyond trying to save investors from themselves, he has other concerns.

The senator contends that strapped investors are more likely to make mistakes when they respond to marketing pitches from financial companies that are trying to land new business from rolled-over retirement accounts. He fears such pitches can gloss over the true costs of shifting money from one retirement account to another.

Financial ads do contain language, however, encouraging investors to review fees. Some ads spell out that while there might not be account fees on an IRA itself, for example, the underlying funds that an investor wades into could carry fees.

And, of course, moves such as rolling over an account can be beneficial as a way for investors to consolidate their investments or to move out of plans with inadequate choices.

But regardless of the degree to which ads might influence investors' decision-making, it appears more investors are taking risks with their retirement money.

In a new report, the Democratic-leaning Center for American Progress finds that the number of people taking loans from their retirement accounts is increasing, as is the amount of the loans.

The report notes that investors who borrow even small amounts from their 401(k) plans and only repay the loan - without contributing more to make up for lost returns - reduce their overall retirement savings by 13 percent to 22 percent.

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nwitimes.com

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The Color of Money Raiding the Retirement Stash

Singletary, Michelle
Washington Post - Online

Would you still put money in a tax-advantaged retirement fund if you couldn't touch it until you retired?

And when I say you couldn't touch it, I mean you couldn't take out loans or withdraw funds under any circumstances.

If Congress were rewriting the rules for 401(k) s and similar retirement plans, that's what the Washington-based Pension Rights Center would recommend. Why this hard stance from a consumer-oriented group that works hard to protect and promote retirement savings?

A new study found that an increasing number of employees are raiding their retirement funds by taking out loans against their 401(k) accounts. Strangled by debt and rising consumer prices, workers are turning to these plans as the only stash of cash they have. 'The result is that families leverage their future retirement security to ease their present financial insecurity,' wrote Christian E. Weller and Jeffrey B. Wenger, authors of 'Robbing Tomorrow to Pay for Today: Economically Squeezed Families are Turning to Their 401(k)s to Make Ends Meet.' The report was issued by the Center for American Progress.

Last week, the Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing to examine this trend and hear solutions on how to reverse it. The CAP report was released at the hearing.

The report says that over a 15-year period, loans against retirement savings accounts increased fivefold in inflation-adjusted terms, to $31 billion in 2004, up from $6 billion in 1989 -- an increase of more than 400 percent. Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

Although much of this money was paid back, the drain from accounts is significant. Even with a fairly modest loan amount of $5,000 in 2008 dollars, a worker's retirement savings could be substantially reduced. For instance, a 401(k) plan participant who takes out a loan to smooth over a rough patch, then makes only the loan payments, reduces the total retirement savings from 13 to 22 percent, the report says.

The study also found that increasingly, middle-income families are raiding their retirement funds. 'With other venues to borrow money, particularly home equity lines, closed off due to lower house prices, tighter credit standards, and slower income growth, families are turning increasingly to the easily accessible loans from their 401(k) plans,' Weller and Wenger wrote.

The increase in 401(k) loans is so high because this money is so easy to borrow. If your plan allows such a loan, you can borrow $50,000 or one-half of the vested balance from your retirement account, whichever is lower. The loan has to be repaid in five years or less, except for loans that have been taken out for the first-time purchase of a home. That loan can be repaid over a period of up to 15 years.

Additionally, the interest rates on 401(k) loans are generally very reasonable. For instance, in 1996, about 70 percent of the 401(k) plans that allowed borrowing charged an interest rate equal to or less than the prime rate plus one percentage point, while less than 10 percent charged an interest rate equal to the local bank's lending rate, the report said.

Here's what's wrong with borrowing from your retirement fund, as laid out in the report:

When you take the money out of your retirement account, you lose the possibility of investment earnings.

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You may be paying yourself back with interest, but that interest is at a below-market rate of return.

If you fail to pay back the loan, you will have to pay taxes on what you took out in addition to a 10 percent penalty for the early withdrawal.

You pay back the money in after-tax dollars. 'When a participant can use his or her 401(k) to make everyday purchases like buying a cup of coffee, clearly that is a gross distortion of the plan's intended use,' Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), chairman of the Senate committee, said in a statement.

I've worked with a lot of people in debt, and not a single person recklessly robbed his or her retirement account to pay for a latte. It's not conspicuous consumption that is pushing up the numbers of 401(k) loans. It's more likely the result of health problems or job losses.

But Kohl and others are right to be concerned.

I agree that there needs to be a stopgap for allowing people to borrow from their retirement funds. We should have a policy that discourages withdrawals for home purchases or to pay for college expenses. This pot should be reserved for retirement.

Loans from a 401(k) plan should be allowed only in dire situations, such as a job loss, disability or major illness.

Changes to the loan policies are needed. But it would be hard to persuade people to fund an account they had no access to under any circumstances. That's not realistic, nor is it compassionate.

On the air: Michelle Singletary discusses personal finance Tuesdays on NPR's 'Day to Day' program and athttp://www.npr.org.

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Comments and questions are welcome, but because of the volume of mail, personal responses are not always possible. Please note that comments or questions may be used in a future column, with the writer's name, unless a specific request to do otherwise is indicated.

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Workers break retirement piggy bank in tight times

Workers break retirement piggy bank in tight times

By CANDICE CHOI AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Americans are raiding their already fragile retirement piggy banks to weather financial hardships such as unemployment, medical emergencies and buying a home.

And they're doing it even though borrowing a modest $5,000 can dramatically erode savings over time, according to a study released Wednesday by the Center for American Progress. The study found workers in 2004 had $31 billion in outstanding 401(k) loans, a fivefold increase from $6 billion in 1989. Between 1998 and 2004, an average of 12 percent of families with 401(k) plans borrowed from them.

"They don't necessarily pay penalties. But the penalty is that they have fewer retirement savings," said Christian Weller, an author of the study.

As economic conditions grow bleaker, the number of people dipping into retirement money will only rise, he added.

A $5,000 loan, for example, could cut retirement savings by 22 percent even if the loan is repaid without penalty, according to the study. That's assuming the person has a $40,000 salary and is five years into a 35-year career.

One reason people are increasingly using 401(k) plans as a crutch is because they're so easy to access compared to pensions and individual retirement accounts, or IRAs.

"The borrower acts like a bank to himself," Weller said.

Typically, borrowers can repay loans within five years without penalty. Loans for first-time homes must be repaid within 15 years to avoid penalties.

That doesn't mean people are raiding savings to go on shopping sprees. Middle-class families in particular are turning to

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retirement money to get through financial crises such as unemployment and medical emergencies, the study found.

When Rachel Hernandez took out a $7,000 loan from her retirement plan, for example, it was after her daughter was killed and she took time off to care for her grandchildren.

"I understood it was going to hurt my retirement, but it was something I had to do," said Hernandez, a 46-year-old resident of San Antonio, Texas. She was working as a reservation agent for Southwest Airlines at the time and it was the second time she borrowed from her the first time was to buy a house.

"Obviously it's going to impact my retirement, but I'm glad I had the option," she said.

People can typically borrow $50,000 or half the vested balance of their 401(k) accounts with extremely favorable interest rates. Failing to repay loans on time typically incurs a 10 percent excise tax and borrowers must also pay income tax.

Dipping into retirement money wouldn't be a problem if other sources of retirement income - such as Social Security and pensions - weren't drying up, Weller said. More people today are counting on 401(k) accounts to be their primary income source in retirement.

Yet a study by Hewitt Associates this month found four out five workers aren't socking away enough money into their 401(k) accounts to keep up their standard of living after retirement.

On average, employees are projected to replace just 85 percent of their income in retirement, compared with the 126 percent they would need when factoring in inflation, longer life spans and medical costs, the study by Hewitt found.

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Workers dipping into 401(k)

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Environmental Groups React To Various Energy Proposals

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Wildly varying visions of America's energy future drew mixed reactions from environmental groups this week. As the Bush Administration and congressional Republicans called for expanding all of America's domestic energy supplies, former Vice President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore challenged the country to shift all of our electrical generation to renewable sources.

Gernot Wagner, an economist with the environmental defense fund told RTT News that the focus for the future needs to be increasing efficiency so that America's gross domestic product has a lower environmental cost. 'The challenge is removing carbon from the fuel cycle while GDP is expected to grow at 3 percent or so per year,' Wagner said, arguing that environmentalists shouldn't rule out energy sources such as coal and nuclear power. 'We can't exclude or we shouldn't exclude any of them,' he said. 'What we should do is basically set the price for carbon and get out of the way and let the market work on its own.' Wagner added that existing and largely already proven technology already exists to increase the carbon dioxide productivity of the economy tenfold by 2050, but he argued that governments and analysts shouldn't place bets on any particular power source or technology. 'What we should do is put a price on emissions, put a price on carbon and then let the utilities, energy suppliers and entrepreneurs figure it out by themselves,' he said. But that approach lacks the urgency other environmental groups believe is necessary.

Daniel Weiss, director of climate strategy for the Center for American Progress, said the Republican mantra of using every form of energy available isn't necessary to sustain economic growth. 'With efficiency measures alone, which more than pay for themselves, we could meet 75 percent of the expected growth in electricity demand between now and 2030,' he said, calling the use everything approach 'a recipe for energy and climate disaster.' Just looking to California, which if taken separately from the rest of the United States would rank as one of the world's largest economies, Weiss said it's clear that conservation is an economical and effective tool. 'They use the same amount of electricity per capita as they did 30 years ago,' he said. And nuclear energy is a particularly bad choice, said Jim Riccio, a nuclear policy analyst for Greenpeace. 'Why in God's name would you spend $24 billion on new nuclear plants that will not come online for a decade,' he said, adding that the urgency of action on global warming makes that prospect 'a day late and more than a dollar short.' Riccio also pointed out that some of the country's smartest investors who have looked at energy policy have rejected nuclear power as an option. T. Boone Pickens recently proposed an energy plan focused heavily on solar, wind and natural gas - without mentioning nuclear, Riccio noted. And a subsidiary of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. recently backed away from a proposal to build a new nuclear plant, he added. 'When they did their due diligence they said it did not make sense,' Riccio said. 'If the world's greatest investor thinks nuclear is an economic dog, why is the government wasting my money on it' with subsidies. Citing several studies that call for urgent action and dramatic action to avoid the worst effects of global warming, Riccio said it makes far more sense to invest in the 'low hanging fruit.' 'Given the time frame, we have to do things that are fast and efficient,' he said, looking to solar and wind power along with increased efficiency, and avoid expensive or unproven options like nuclear and clean coal. 'We don't feel that [those] are viable options if you're going to address climate change in a meaningful time frame,' he said.

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Pickens, Democrats agree in calling for alternative fuels

Jul. 19--WASHINGTON -- T. Boone Pickens says he's ready to give up partisan politics if it means weaning the country off foreign oil.

Mr. Pickens once gave millions to a group that undermined U.S. Sen. John Kerry's Vietnam War service and offered $1 million to anyone who could prove that the Swift Boat group's charges against the presidential candidate were false.

Now he's stopped donating to such groups as he preaches a clean-energy gospel that's won over Democrats such as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Mr. Pickens, 80, will meet Tuesday with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other top Democrats about his plan to replace oil with wind power and natural gas.

As Democrats struggle to address high gasoline prices without opening more wilderness and coastlines to oil companies, Mr. Pickens offers a valuable partnership: a certified oil industry icon who says the country can't drill its way out of the energy crisis. 'I can be most effective as a nonpartisan, and I think the Democrats know me to be an honorable person,' Mr. Pickens said Friday, adding that he's talked to Al Gore and the two agreed on '95 percent of what we talked about.' Mr. Pickens is financing a $50 million advertising campaign aimed at reducing oil imports by building massive wind farms and using natural gas to fuel cars.

The ideas align perfectly with his business ventures, which appears to make Democrats enthusiastic -- not cynical -- about his pitch. 'If Pickens can show it's very profitable, that's a very important point,' said Daniel J. Weiss, director of climate strategy for the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank. 'That will help steer investors toward those kinds of investments.' In addition to cooperating with Democrats, Mr. Pickens is offering other surprises.

He suggests that the country 'probably needs' a national electricity grid to take advantage of all the wind power that would come from the middle of the country, including West Texas. The idea is radical for Texas, whose independent grid gives it freedom from federal regulation. 'What Pickens wants to do is go beyond that, and make sure the grid not only goes from the Panhandle to Dallas or Houston but to Albuquerque or Los Angeles,' Mr. Weiss said. 'It's a way to expand the market for clean electricity.' Mr. Pickens is already the country's most famous advocate of wind power.

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His company, Mesa Power LLP, announced in May that it would spend $2 billion on enormous turbines to harness the wind of West Texas.

The state boosted his plan this week by authorizing an almost $5 billion plan to build transmission lines to carry the electricity to Texas cities.

Count Mr. Reid, the Senate majority leader, as one of his newest fans.

The Nevada Democrat said Thursday that although Mr. Pickens was once 'my mortal enemy,' he is 'putting his money where his mouth is' when it comes to clean energy.

Mr. Pickens will appear next month in Las Vegas with several famous Democrats, including former President Clinton and former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, at an energy summit hosted by Mr. Reid and the Center for American Progress Action Fund.

But how Mr. Pickens' big ideas translate in Washington is uncertain.

Energy politics have become thorny as Democrats resist President Bush's call to allow exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf, or OCS.

If there's no immediate compromise on new drilling, Mr. Pickens' emphasis on natural gas could have appeal.

Rep. Rahm Emanuel, a leading House Democrat, announced legislation this week to force automakers to make 10 percent of their cars run on natural gas by 2018.

The bill would provide $2.6 billion in bonding authority for low-interest loans for natural-gas fueling stations.

Mr. Emanuel has been working on the proposal for a year and spoke to Mr. Pickens about it, an aide said.

Mr. Pickens said he didn't think he influenced the bill but said the two had 'a good conversation' about it. But Mr. Pickens doesn't agree with all the Democrats' energy priorities.

Bills to limit speculation on energy prices are 'wasting time' and ignore the cause of high prices -- not enough oil, he said. 'Go ahead and drill on the OCS,' said Mr. Pickens, who also plans to meet with House Republican leaders next week. 'I'm not against anything except for foreign oil.' The United States imports about 65 percent of its oil, costing the country about $700 billion a year, Mr. Pickens says.

By comparison, most of its natural gas comes from North American sources.

Rep. Gene Green, a Houston Democrat who supports new domestic drilling, said Mr. Pickens' plan is 'a great idea' but could be ensnared in partisan politics.

Hundreds of House Republicans and energy-state Democrats would probably insist that legislation such as Mr. Emanuel's include authorization for new domestic drilling. 'Natural gas is at historically high [price] levels, and if we're going to create another big user of it, we're going to have to have more production,' Mr. Green said. Mr. Pickens supports new exploration but says Mr. Green has it wrong.

Wind power could replace natural gas for power plants.

The country has been woefully slow to adopt natural gas as a fuel for vehicles, even though the idea is gaining ground overseas, he noted.

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Michaels, Dave
Dallas Morning News

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DAVE MICHAELS
Denton Record-Chronicle

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WFAA-TV

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Darfur justice at last?

'I can no longer tolerate denial,' said Moreno-Ocampo, a former Argentinian human rights lawyer, speaking to reporters last week at the headquarters of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. 'His al-Bashir's motives were largely political. His alibi was a counterinsurgency'. His intent was genocide.' If al-Bashir now sets foot in any one of the 106 states that have ratified the 1998 Treaty of Rome which established the ICC - the world's first permanent war crimes court, established by a United Nations Security Council resolution - it will be legally obliged to arrest and transport him to cells in the Dutch capital to be formally charged and tried.

The chief prosecutor's bold move, however, offers no quick relief to the well-documented pain and torment of the black African tribes of Darfur at the hands of the Sudan army and al-Bashir's Arab janjaweed Arabic for 'evil spirits on horseback' militias. The ICC's wheels move at snail's pace.

Most immediately, the indictment has triggered an international diplomatic firestorm which, like the Zimbabwe crisis, is escalating into an almighty row in the UN Security Council.

China, al-Bashir's weapons supplier and most important economic partner, and Russia have already begun manoeuvring in the Security Council to prevent the prosecution.

In an emergency closed session in New York on Wednesday, the council began discussing the charges of genocide, crimes

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against humanity, and war crimes laid against al-Bashir.

Russian and Chinese delegates said they feared the prosecutor's request could jeopardise efforts to bring peace to Darfur, where an estimated 400,000 people in a population of 6.5 million have died in a five-year conflict and three million have become refugees, fleeing to camps within Darfur itself or across Sudan's western border into Chad.

Russian ambassador Vitaly Churkin and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Guangya, have apparently not been listening to General Martin Luther Agwai, the Nigerian Force Commander of the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission (Unamid) in Darfur. 'I ask myself: where is the peace for us to keep?' he asked on Friday after seven of his men, from Rwanda, Ghana and Uganda, had been killed and 22 seriously wounded in a highly organised assault by 200 janjaweed gunmen on horseback and in 40 vehicles equipped with rifles, machine guns and an arsenal of heavy-calibre weaponry.

An angry Agwai added: 'The unpalatable truth is that there is no peace in Darfur. This is a conflict that has now lasted as long as the second world war, with the prospects of a lasting settlement looking less likely than ever before.' The fragile Darfur Peace Agreement was in a coma almost from the moment it was signed on May 5, 2006. Tragically, violence against civilians intensified once all sides had put their signatures to the deal. For a few of the following months many voices across the world were raised in campaigns to 'Save Darfur', which became a fashionable First World catchphrase before ennui set in while the Darfur killings and rapes continued.

Agwai's predicament mirrors the situation that confronted General Romo Dallaire, the Canadian Force Commander of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (Unamir), in 1994. Anticipating Rwanda's Hutu government was about to embark upon mass killings of Tutsis and moderate Hutus, he appealed for international troop enforcements.

Both United States president Bill Clinton and Kofi Annan, then head of UN Peacekeeping Operations and later UN secretary-general, vetoed Dallaire's request.

In the following 100 days 800,000 unprotected Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered, along with some of Dallaire's handful of soldier peacekeepers from Ghana, Senegal, Uruguay and Belgium.

Agwai protested that so far he had been given only 7000 of the 26,000 soldiers and policemen he was promised. The force commander also said he has 'none of the promised tactical helicopters that might have prevented the slaughter of our men. We remain desperately under-manned and poorly equipped'. He added: 'Our long shopping list of missing equipment makes shameful reading. It should not take the loss of innocent lives to understand what is at stake here. We need to be reinforced urgently and given the proper equipment to enable us to complete our mission.' Moreno-Ocampo's move has been precipitated by the failure of the Darfur peace process, as spelled out by Agwai; by the world's impotent cries that 'something must be done'; and by al-Bashir's refusal to hand over two men indicted by ICC 16 months ago in connection with atrocities in Darfur - janjaweed supreme commander Ali Kushyb and Sudan's deputy interior minister Ahmed Harun.

Al-Bashir responded by swearing 'before Allah three times' that he would never extradite a Sudanese citizen to any foreign court, and then by promoting Harun to humanitarian affairs minister with special responsibility for humanitarian assistance to the people of Darfur.

A Security Council resolution in January this year, calling on al-Bashir to comply with the ICC by handing over Harun and Kushyb, had to be scrapped because of opposition from China and Russia, who both wield vetoes.

At the time, Moreno-Ocampo gave one example to Security Council ambassadors of a combined Sudan Army-janjaweed attack on October 8, 2007, on the small Darfur town of Muhajiriya in which 48 black African civilians praying in a mosque were rounded up and slaughtered.

Britain's UN ambassador, John Sawyers, blamed China for the blocking of that resolution, while Bushara Suleiman, justice spokesman of one of Darfur's rebel groups, the Justice and Equality Movement, said the only thing that would stop the genocide would be the imposition of oil sanctions on Sudan. 'But China will never allow this,' said Suleiman. 'The Chinese have their veto and also have oil interests in Sudan.' In fact, China buys most of the 500,000 barrels of oil that Sudan produces each day and is al-Bashir's largest supplier of arms. Thousands of Chinese labourers have built three weapons factories near the Sudan capital, Khartoum, an oil refinery and a 950-mile pipeline that carries oil from the fields of central Sudan to a Red Sea terminal, where Chinese tankers queue to load the black gold.

The oil deal with China is worth nearly 5 billion a year to al-Bashir's government. China has also richly rewarded al-Bashir's armed forces with tanks, helicopters, fighter and bomber aircraft, howitzers, anti-personnel mines, machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Holding people accountable for war crimes is not only the right thing to do morally, but it directly promotes peace and makes such future possible abuses less likely, argued John Prendergast, former senior adviser to the International Crisis Group but who now works for the Enough Project, which describes its mission as to 'prevent genocide and mass atrocities by promoting peace, providing protection, and punishing the perpetrators'. Prendergast noted that Moreno-Ocampo's move against al-Bashir had set off 'a chorus of hand-wringing among certain diplomats, academics and pundits who are now arguing that holding perpetrators of crimes against humanity accountable for their actions is unhelpful'. 'It is baffling why anyone would

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think that acceding to the demands of war criminals is a sensible path to securing peace,' said Prendergast. 'But part of the reason Darfur has remained locked in crisis for years is that the international community has been slow to acknowledge what has always been painfully obvious: the janjaweed militias that have terrorised and decimated Darfur have been directed by the Sudanese government.' Elsewhere, especially in Khartoum, people argue that the indictment of al-Bashir will worsen the situation in Darfur, pull the rug from under the feet of Agwai's Unamid mission and endanger the lives of international humanitarian aid workers in Darfur.

Khartoum is making no secret of the fact it will put up the fight of its life. The counter-offensive will begin on the African Union and Arab League fronts - both of which scheduled emergency high-level meetings on the crisis at Sudan's request. Both are likely to back al-Bashir.

The 22-nation Arab League meeting began this weekend in Cairo. The league as a whole is loathe to see what it regards as the humiliation by the ICC of an Arab leader, although Saudi Arabia and Egypt, who are both fed up with al-Bashir for a host of reasons, have yet to make any firm commitment to support him following Moreno-Ocampo's announcement.

Many also question the ability of the fractious league to help al-Bashir in his confrontation with the ICC, especially since only three member countries are signatories to the court's founding treaty - Jordan, Djibouti and Comoros. 'All they can do is issue a statement of condemnation to console the Sudanese president,' wrote Abdel-Rahman al-Rashid, a leading columnist for the Saudi newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat. 'We must remember the Arab League did not care about the extermination of 300,000 Darfuris. It even refused to stand for a moment's silence concerning the killings, displacements and burning.'

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ICC justice is useless If it destroys peace

James Okuk
Sudan Tribune

International Law must be delivered with the right procedures and indubitable evidences if it has to be credited as objective justice. This Law of Nations must not be biased with politics of selfish competition in the international and global interests. This Law must always be the servant of security, stability, order and peace and not vice versa. This Law must not be put as a Blockage Cart before the Horse of Peace and Political Progress in the Sudan. It must not be used as a tool of Political Pressure on Sudan Government by the non-signatory to it like USA Government or by the signatory to it like the Governments of France and UK, among others. It must not also be abused by the Civil Society Lobby Groups like Save Darfur Coalition and Human Rights Watch who are good at nothing except exaggerating the statistics of the dead and displaced Darfurians and wishing them ever lasting suffering for the benefit of expatriates.

Yes, it is true that Justice delayed is Justice denied but it is even truer that Peace disturbed is Peace destroyed. Peace is a greater good than Justice and that is why the United Nations got founded on it rather than on Justice. Justice can wait because Peace is a priority to it. The current President of African Union, Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania, understands the value of peace in Africa very well when he warned the ICC Western agents to avoid creating chaos in the continent by trying to indict the sitting President of the Sudan and lock him behind the Criminal Bars in The Hague. The Arab League Secretary-General, Amr Musa, said 'the situation is very serious and very dangerousthe search for justice should not jeopardize the other priorities in Sudan.' African Union Peace and Security Commissioner, Ramtane Lamamra, said ICC targeting of African High Officials is unacceptable Why have the ICCs first four cases targeted African conflicts only? Is this an attempt to prove that Africa knows nothing best about government except to murder its citizens in a genocider manner?

Liberias Charles Taylor in 2006 and Yugoslavias Slobodan Milosevic in 1993 were the only Heads of States tried in the International Courts but that was done when they were out of power. Can Ocampo wait until Sudan ratify the Rome Statute and until Al Bashir becomes a former Head of State, and perhaps until Sudan become a Failed State without effective judiciary for him to make his case relevance?

Arrogant and rigid enforcement of International Law is an abrogation of justice especially when it is done hastily with political motives rather than legal intentions. For example, upon hearing the news of Ocampo ill-motives on the President of the Sudan, George Bush run to the media and said were trying to work with Al Bashir to make sure he understands that there will be continued sanctions if he doesnt move forward by facilitating the deployment of peacekeepers and flow of aid in DarfurWere not a member of the ICC, but well see how that plays out with Al Bashir. You can understand here how USA is against the ICC but happy to use it as a Tool of Pressure on Sudan. You can also detect sarcastic Neo-colonial mentality from Bush when he thinks the President of the Sudan is a man who lacks understanding. I remember Hugo Chaves, the President of Venezuela telling Bush in the face that he is the worst devilish President the world ever had.

Also the French Foreign Ministry spokesman Eric Chevallier run to the media and said Ocampo move 'would constitute an element of positive appreciation by the International Community. Again the French envoy at the United Nations, Jean-Maurice Ripert hinted that his Government may freeze contacts with the Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir if the judges of the ICC decided to issue an Arrest Warrant for himthe EU rules are very clear. We have no dialogue and no cooperation with anyone indicted by the ICC. My country will oppose any attempts to invoke article 16 of the ICC rules that empowers the UN Security Council to suspend prosecutions by the world tribunal. It is not too late for the Sudanese authorities to cooperate with

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the ICC by arresting and handing them Ahmed Haroun, the State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, and the Janjaweed leader, Ali Mohamed Ali Abdel-Rahman known as Ali Kushayb for quick international trial. But is France neutral on the internal problems of the Sudan? Where is the rebel Abdel Wahid, the Leader of Sudan Liberation Army/Movement enjoying his life and making free international telephone calls? Does the Neo-colonialist like France care about the fate of the Sudan and the whole African continent?

How many black people were burnt dead in Paris without bringing the perpetrators to the Book? Arent the French Companies hungry for the Oil of the Sudan? Dont they know that the former Cuba President, Fidel Castro, stayed in his country and did many good things to his people and to Africans without bothering about American sanctions and external trips? If the World denied H.E. Al Bashir traveling abroad, it will be even good for him to focus on the internal Affairs of the Sudan and travel to all its corners to see to it that good things are being done to the locals. Those who need him from other countries will have no option but to come to Sudan and beg him for oil.

Richard Dicker, the Director of Human Rights Watchs International Justice Program also run to the media and said charging President Al Bashir for the hideous crimes in Darfur shows that no one is above the law. It is the prosecutors job to follow the evidence wherever it leads, regardless of official position. Also Dr. James Smith, the Chief Executive of the Aegis Trust said the ICC move is an historic moment for International Justice; the first time a serving Head of State has been accused of genocide. Further, John Prendergast Co-Chair of the ENOUGH PROJECT and former Official of Clintons Administration said that the ICC indictments can be a step forward in the path to secure peace in Darfuruntil there is a consequence for the commission of genocide, it will continue. This action introduces a cost, finally, into the equation Some Human Rights Groups said the indictment may help move Darfur closer to peace. Excuse me please! What peace are you talking about when you are sending wrong signals to the rivaling parties? You better say your Lobby Groups will move closer to getting good money from Darfurianss sufferings.

But why should the Sudan be an experimenting ground for the ICC effectiveness? Is the Sudanese President a laboratory for testing the effectiveness of International Justice System? Has Ocampo proved that Sudan Judicial System is not genuine to try the criminal cased about Darfur region before the alleged accusation could be handled by the ICC? This should have been the first step of the treacherous ICC Prosecutor before he listed his accusations against Sudan Sovereignty.

Amnesty International urged Khartoum to refrain from using the Prosecutors announcement as an excuse to block the U.N. peacekeeping mission from protecting civilians in Darfur or delivering humanitarian assistance. Of course Khartoum can express its disappointment by any means that can make the ICC defer its proceedings against the President of the Sudan. Khartoum knows that If UN and Humanitarian Organizations are blocked in Darfur, this will make them unhappy because it will means blocking their big salaries and other privileges they enjoy in the name of the suffering people of Darfur. Sudans Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Abdel Mmahmood Abdel Haleem, said the President Al Bashir likely will visit the U.N. General Assembly in September 2008 and that Sudan would consider any attempt to arrest him on foreign soil the gravest of matters punishable by open options including military response. He said Sudan would consider any attempt of arrest as an invitation for the act of war. Unless USA is able to take all the Islamists to ICC and lock them behind bars, taking Al-Bashir there alone will not be a solution to their defeat by the most intelligent terrorist of the World, Osama Bin Laden.

The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) said silence in the face of atrocities does not prevent further crimes. But why are they silent about the crimes being committed by the American, the British and the French Governments in the Middle East, the Gulf and Asia? Is the ICC becoming a Pressure Tool to Sudan alone when it is supposed to look at international problems of injustice with independence, impartiality, fairness and effectiveness, and without ulterior motives? It is known that the ICC is based on a treaty, joined by 106 countries only. It will not act if a case can be investigated or prosecuted by a national judicial system unless the national proceedings are proven to be incompetent. The ICC is supposed to be a court of last resort when international peace is at threat. Is Al Bashir a threat to International Peace? It is also known that Sudan has not ratified the Rome Statute for it to qualify for ICC legal investigations and trials. Isnt Ocampo trying to popularize his international legal proceedings on a wrong Country?

China Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao expressed serious concern and worry about the request by Occampo to the ICC judges to issue an Arrest Warrant against Al Bashir. He called on parties concerned to take a prudent attitude, and properly settle divergences through consultation. He said the ICCs move should help the stability of Sudan and the proper settlement of the Darfur issue, instead of the other way round. He said further that China will consult with other members of the U.N. Security Council to block the ICC from issuing the requested Arrest Warrant. Yes, China must move quickly and give Ocampo more money than he gets from the USA. Ban Ki-Moon said ICC would have very serious consequences for peacekeeping operations including the political process Im very worried but nobody can evade justice. In principal I believe that peace and justice should go hand in hand. Justice can be part of a peace process but peace without justice cannot be sustainable. This suggests that Ki-Moon only care about the comfort of his employees in Sudan but not about the Sudanese plight.

On 14th July 2008, Ocampo filed 10 charges against the sitting President of the Sudan without respect to the sovereignty vested upon him by the Interim Constitution of the Sudan (ICS), which was born as a result of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the National Congress (NC) who is the majority ruling party in the Sudan. The lazy Arm-chair Prosecutor of the ICC said three of these charges count for genocide, five counts for crimes against humanity, and two counts for murder. He accused Mr. Al Bashir of running a campaign of genocide that has killed 35,000 people outright, at least another 100,000 through a slow death and forced 2.5 million to flee

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their homes in Sudans Western Region using the military, political and diplomatic apparatus of the State. Ocampo categorized his evidence Sources for justifying his investigation as the follows:

1) Some Eye Witnesses and Victims of the alleged crimes in Darfur;

2) Recorded interviews from some Sudan Government Officials;

3) Statements from some Experts on the activities of High Officials of the Sudan Government and leaders of Darfur Militia known as the Janjaweed;

4) Documents and other information provided by the Government of the Sudan upon request of the Prosecution;

5) The Report and other materials on Darfur from the UN Commission of Inquiry;

6) The Report and other materials provided by the Sudanese National Commission of Inquiry;

7) Documents and other materials obtained from open sources.

According to Ocampos idle Investigation Report, the wiped and the driven away people in Darfur were the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups who challenged Al Bashirs Regime about the economic and political marginalization of their region. According the biased negative news he got from the CCN, BBC and Monte Carlo, these non-Arab groups rebelled against the Arab government and used arms to pursue their cause. These African tribes did not commit crimes in the process of their struggle and their hands are not soaked in any blood of the innocent Sudanese. They did not destroy government assets and should be encouraged to overthrow Al Bashirs Government with the help of the ICCs pressure.

With this background, the speedy and impatient Ocampo recommend to the ICC judges of Pre-Trial Chamber I to issue an International Warrant of Arrest to the accused President of the Sovereign Republic of the Sudan who is against the practice of neo-colonialism by the former colonialists. Mr. Ocampo has earned a lot of money from this work and is looking forward to earn more out of his dirty investigations as he did it some years back in his own country Argentine. Go and ask the Argentineans and they will tell you how they hate Ocampo because he is an agent of Americans and Europeans interests. These Neo-colonialists took him from Argentine to the ICC Headquarters in Netherlands. They did this because they found him to be a judge who is insensitive to the value of independence and national dignity of the Less Developed Countries because he enjoys being the servant of the so-called Super Masters of the so-called First World. Ocampo is even happy about the history of the massive genocide of Indigenous Red Indians of Americas. His country, Argentine is known of having eliminated the Black African and the Red Indians because of their Colour. Instead of plotting against the progress of the Sudan in peace-building and sustainable development, Ocampo should go and investigate the gravest historical human crimes that were committed in Argentina when it was invaded by his grandfathers who went from Europe to South America.

The Sudans Vice President, Sudans Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha called the ICC move 'irresponsible, illegal and unprofessional.' The Sudan oppositions parties and the SPLM said that a political solution to crisis in Darfur is the key to preventing the negative impact of the possible Arrest Warrant that may be issued by the ICC against Sudan President. Yassir Arman called on the government to create a roadmap on Darfur within a week in consultation with other political parties and NGOs. Some SPLM leaders said they are ready to utilize their contacts to help diffuse the crisis through consultation with the International Community and Legal Cooperation with the ICC. The Umma Party said the ICC move can bring a constitutional collapse to Sudan after the good distance that has been covered. The Umma Party leader, Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi said there should be a balance between justice and interests of peace targeting any person in this country, especially its leader, is targeting Sudan, its people, stability, peace and security. Dr. Hassan Al-Turabi, the leader of the Popular Congress Party (PCP) and former ally of Al-Bashir said South African model for Truth and Reconciliation is the way forward but he said he cannot make a ruling in the ICC prosecutors charges because it is something the court has to examine. Suleiman Sandal, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said they will put all their forces to the service of the ICC to help bring Al Bashir to justice. The ICC decision puts Al Bashir in a corner and will help us now to overtake his regime.' But using the ICC as a tool for achieving Regime Change defeats the purpose of Justice of the International Law.

The patriotic Sudanese must excuse the rebels and the run-away nationals who live abroad and who support foreign interests against the sovereignty of the Sudan. The President of the Sudan is not a less President than any President of any Country (like USA, France and UK). Real and patriotic Sudanese do not encourage any move that can cause undemocratic Regime Change in their country. They cannot accept to be fooled and used by Western countries who do not wish Sudan any good thing except continuous crisis and humanitarian interventions? What has the previous Regime Changes brought to Sudan apart from more chaos and suffering of the innocent people? Why do we advocate for Regime Change when its consequences are undesirable to the citizens of the Sudan who decided to endure and live inside the Sudan dignifully without running abroad to sell their birth rights in search of food and shelter?

The President Omer Hassan al-Bashir ratified on 14th July the Electoral Law which lays the basis for running free and fair elections in the first quarter of 2009. This law contains mixed electoral system. 60% of the 450 MPs will be chosen through the majority elect in their geographical constituencies. It also guarantees 25% of the parliamentary seats to women who will be elected through the proportional representation with other 15% of the MPs. The new law organizes the holding of general elections in the country at three levels, including presidential election and elections for the federal parliament and regional

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legislative chambers, while voters in Southern Sudan have also to elect the President of the Government there. The bill sets 4 percent minimum vote needed for any party to enter parliament through the proportional representation and requires for candidates at presidential elections to get at least 200 endorsements from 18 of Sudans 25 states. Why dont we appreciate Al Bashir for this achievement?

Thank to H.E. Salva Kiir for accepting to head the Crisis Committee and be a Joshua to Al Bashirs case with the ICC. This is a Patriotic stand because even if Southerners differ with the Arabs in the Sudan, still they are Sudanese citizens and possible good neighbors with the forthcoming State of South Sudan. Kiir job description is to ensure that the Crisis Committee undertakes diplomatic and legal actions to counteract Ocampos charges against the sovereignty of the Sudan where Kiir has a share. According to the presidential decree, the panel has to coordinate its efforts with the African Union, the Arab League and Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. In addition, the Committee has to study the legal aspects of charges leveled by the ICC Prosecutor against the Sudanese president and to find a compromise with the International Community to avoid negative effects on the signed peace accords. The game against the ICC has started and the spectators are taking their seats to clap for the winners or the losers.

I am supporting my team from the Sudan and urge them to warm up with the following ideas from a philosopher who was against the current status quo of the international community and the Foreign Policy of American Government, especially the Hiroshima disaster and Vietnam War. He was a good liberal American philosopher and I love him very much. His name is John Rawls. To challenge the partiality of the International Law and its injustices on the Less Developed and Less Powerful Countries, Rawls came up with an alternative. He called it the Law of the Peoples. He presented its basic principles as follows:

1) Peoples are free and independent, and their freedom and independence are to be respected by other peoples;

2) Peoples are to observe international treatise and undertakings without using double standards;

3) Peoples are equal and are parties to the agreements that bind them according to reasonable consensus;

4) Peoples are to observe a duty of non-intervention into others internal affairs without their request;

5) Peoples have the right of self-defence but no right to instigate war for reasons other than self-defence;

6) Peoples are to honour the fundamental human rights without rigidity;

7) Peoples are to observe certain specified restrictions in the conduct of war as a last resort for urgent needed solution; and

8) Peoples have a duty to assist other peoples living under unfavourable conditions because of lack of just or decent political, social, and economic structures in their communities.

Based on these points, you can see how USA and UK are failing in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have provoked terrorism in the World and are unable to control it. Their Technology of Intelligence and Hard Ware of War has been defeated by the cleverest Osama Bin Laden. The unjust Iraq during the time of Saddam Husseins Regime is far better and peaceful than the invaded Iraq under Bushs control now. They eliminated Hussein into the land of the dead in the name of double standard justice, and spoiled the peace of Iraqis by setting Iraq to fire of chaos. What has the Anglo-American definition of dream of liberty and justice brought to Iraq? God forbids this situation in the Sudan!

* The Author is a PhD Student in the University of Nairobi, Kenya

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Indictment of Sudan leader ignites violence

COLUM LYNCH
Houston Chronicle - Online

UNITED NATIONS Six days before Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir was charged with genocide, a group of 200 fighters on horseback, supported by more than 40 vehicles mounted with machine guns, carried out the bloodiest and most sophisticated ambush yet on a fledgling U.N. and African peacekeeping mission.

The July 8 attack, which killed seven peacekeepers and wounded 22, bore similarities to Sudanese-backed raids by Janjaweed horsemen that have led to the deaths of more than 300,000 civilians and forced nearly 3 million people from their homes in Darfur over the past five years, according to the U.N.

Some U.N. officials suspect the operation was intended to serve as a warning to U.N. peacekeepers and humanitarian workers of Sudan's intent to use deadly force if the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court targeted the country's leader.

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Last week, those fears were heightened after a Nigerian company commander was killed by unidentified assailants in West Darfur. 'We are very worried there could be a gradual increase in violence, which could make the mission quite vulnerable,' Jean-Marie Guehenno, the U.N. undersecretary-general for peacekeeping, said in an interview. But it 'will be very hard to pin down responsibility' for the attacks, he said.

The Sudanese government has strenuously denied involvement in the attack, accusing a rebel faction, the SLA-Unity, of responsibility.

U.N. peacekeeping officials said that Sudanese authorities actually improved cooperation in the days following the announcement of the charges against Bashir. The U.N. case, said Sudan's U.N. envoy, Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad, 'doesn't hold water.' 'Serious shortfalls' The episode has exposed the vulnerability of an international mission that has been held up by the United States and other governments as offering the best chance of protecting Darfur's people.

The force of more than 9,000 peacekeepers is plagued by 'serious shortfalls in communications, logistics, medical evacuation and treatment and air support,' Guehenno told the U.N. Security Council in a confidential briefing on Friday.

U.N. officials vowed to continue to protect civilians in Darfur and ensure they received lifesaving humanitarian assistance. Last week, 172 Chinese engineers arrived to reinforce the mission, which has deployed about 9,000 of the 26,000 peacekeepers required for the operation. More troops are scheduled to arrive in the coming weeks.

Proxy military units It is the second time the U.N. mission in Darfur has come under attack this year. In January Sudanese forces opened fire on a clearly marked supply convoy of 20 trucks and armored personnel vehicles. Sudan's U.N. envoy blamed the attack on rebels, but the Sudanese commander admitted that his troops had fired on the peacekeepers, by accident.

Critics of the government say Sudan has long used proxy military forces to carry out strikes while denying government involvement. 'I think this is the first shot across the bow in response to the ICC action,' said John Prendergast, co-chairman of the Darfur advocacy group the Enough Project. 'There will be more of these kinds of proxy attacks.' But others maintain the evidence is not strong enough to prove government involvement. 'We don't have enough evidence to say it was the government,' a senior U.S. official said. 'We've got lots of strands of evidence, but we really don't know.' Guehenno said that an investigation is under way to establish responsibility for the July 8 attacks. In the meantime, he has ordered the relocation of about 200 civilian U.N. staff from Darfur and concentrated his peacekeepers in safer locations. In the Friday confidential briefing to the council, he suggested Sudanese complicity.

In a written account of the briefing, obtained by the Washington Post, Guehenno said the operation was conducted in a government-controlled area and that the assailants used powerful weapons not used previously by Darfurian rebels.

Concealed in a wooded shelter, and using prepositioned weapons, the assailants opened fire on the smaller contingent of 65 U.N. peacekeepers, crippling the lead vehicle carrying the convoy's communications gear. The peacekeepers 'reported the appearance, armament and equipment of most of the attackers as being similar to that of the 'Janjaweed.' They also indicated that some assailants were dressed in clothing more akin to a uniform,' Guehenno said. 'The employment of an anti-tank recoilless rifle, a weapon not normally used by irregular militias, is also a new element of grave concern.'

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Indictment of Sudanese Leader Seen as Threat to Peacekeepers

Lynch, Colum
Washington Post - Online

UNITED NATIONS -- Six days before Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir was charged with genocide, a group of 200 fighters on horseback, supported by more than 40 vehicles mounted with machine guns, carried out the bloodiest and most sophisticated ambush yet on a fledgling U.N. and African peacekeeping mission.

The July 8 attack -- which killed seven peacekeepers and wounded 22 -- bore similarities to Sudanese-backed raids by Janjaweed horsemen that have led to the deaths of more than 300,000 civilians and forced nearly 3 million people from their homes in Darfur over the past five years, according to internal U.N. accounts.

Some U.N. officials suspect the operation was intended to serve as a warning to U.N. peacekeepers and humanitarian workers of Sudan's intent to use deadly force if the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court targeted the country's leader. On Wednesday, those fears were heightened after a Nigerian company commander was killed by unidentified assailants in the town of Forobaranga in West Darfur. 'We are very worried there could be a gradual increase in violence, which could make the mission quite vulnerable,' Jean-Marie Guhenno, the U.N. undersecretary general for peacekeeping, said in an interview. But it 'will be very hard to pin down responsibility' for the attacks, he predicted.

The Sudanese government has strenuously denied involvement in the attack, accusing a rebel faction, the SLA-Unity, of responsibility. U.N. peacekeeping officials said that Sudanese authorities actually improved cooperation in the days following

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the announcement of the charges against Bashir. The U.N. case, said Sudan's U.N. envoy, Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad, 'doesn't hold water.' The episode has exposed the vulnerability of an international mission that has been held up by the United States and other governments as offering the best chance of protecting Darfur's people. The force of more than 9,000 peacekeepers is plagued by 'serious shortfalls in communications, logistics, medical evacuation and treatment and air support,' Guhenno told the U.N. Security Council in a confidential briefing on Friday. A more than two-year effort to secure attack and transport helicopters has stalled, leaving the peacekeepers unable to defend themselves from superior ground attacks. Guhenno warned the council that the force 'will continue to be extremely vulnerable in the months ahead.' U.N. officials vowed to continue to protect civilians in Darfur and ensure they received lifesaving humanitarian assistance. On Wednesday, a unit of 172 Chinese engineers arrived to reinforce the mission, which has deployed about 9,000 of the 26,000 peacekeepers required for the operation. More troops from Ethiopia and Egypt are scheduled to arrive in the coming weeks.

It is the second time the U.N. mission in Darfur has come under attack this year. In January -- just two weeks after the U.N.-backed mission replaced a beleaguered African Union mission of 7,000 African troops -- Sudanese forces opened fire on a clearly marked supply convoy of 20 trucks and armored personnel vehicles. Sudan's U.N. envoy blamed the attack on rebels, but the Sudanese commander admitted that his troops had fired on the peacekeepers, by accident.

Critics of the government say Sudan has long used proxy military forces to carry out strikes while denying government involvement. 'I think this is the first shot across the bow in response to the ICC action,' said John Prendergast, co-chair of the Darfur advocacy group the Enough Project. 'There will be more of these kinds of proxy attacks.' But others maintain the evidence is not strong enough to prove government involvement. 'We don't have enough evidence to say it was the government,' a senior U.S. official said. 'We've got lots of strands of evidence, but we really don't know.' Guhenno said in the interview that an investigation is underway to establish responsibility for the July 8 attacks. In the meantime, he has ordered the relocation of about 200 civilian U.N. staff from Darfur and concentrated his peacekeepers in safer locations. In the Friday confidential briefing to the council, he suggested Sudanese complicity.

In a written account of the briefing, obtained by The Washington Post, Guhenno said that the operation was conducted in a government-controlled area and that the assailants used powerful weapons not used previously be Darfurian rebels. 'There is some very disquieting circumstantial evidence,' said Britain's U.N. ambassador, John Sawers, who attended the briefing.

Concealed in a wooded shelter, and using pre-positioned weapons, the assailants opened fire on the smaller contingent of 65 U.N. peacekeepers, crippling the lead vehicle carrying the convoy's communications gear. 'The patrol lost communication with the sector headquarters almost immediately following the destruction of its high frequency radio set,' according to the briefing notes. The peacekeepers 'reported the appearance, armament and equipment of most of the attackers as being similar to that of the 'Janjaweed,' they also indicated that some assailants were dressed in clothing more akin to a uniform,' Guhenno told the council. 'The employment of an anti-tank recoilless rifle,' he added, 'a weapon not normally used by irregular militias, is also a new element of grave concern.' Guhenno said that U.N. peacekeepers returned fire but that the attackers quickly regrouped and launched a second and more violent attack. The dead included peacekeepers from Rwanda, Ghana and Uganda. The 'deliberate, large-scale, and sustained attack on a relatively strong [peacekeeper] patrol constitutes a significant escalation in the risks to the mission,' Guhenno said. He added that the joint U.N.-A.U. mission will need 'many more months' to build the force up to its full strength.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon raised concerns about possible Sudanese government involvement in a telephone conversation with Bashir last weekend, according to Mohamad, the Sudanese U.N. envoy. But Mohamad blamed the rebels for the attack. 'The national army doesn't have the equipment' used in the attack, he said. 'It's very sophisticated.' Mohamad sharply criticized Guhenno, who will retire this summer, saying he has always taken a 'negative' and 'confrontational' approach to Sudan. 'We are happy that he's leaving,' he said.

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Milosevic, Taylor cases prove Bashir arrest will help Sudan

ZACHARY OCHIENG
Daily Nation

By ZACHARY OCHIENG Last week's request for a warrant of arrest for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Luis Moreno-Ocampo, continues to draw mixed reactions. However, a report by the think tank ENOUGH Project argues that the call to arrest al-Bashir is not only based on sound evidence, but that it can be a step forward in the path to secure peace in Darfur. The report cites the cases of Slobodan Milosevic and Charles Taylor, as past indictments of war criminals that brought the desired results. "The status quo in Sudan is one of the deadliest in the world. Until there is a consequence for the commission of genocide, it will continue. This action introduces a cost, finally, into the equation," says John Mr Prendergast, the co-chair of Enough. In the report, The Merits of Justice, the authors of the report argue that, "If the hand-wringing all feels a bit familiar, it is because we have been through this more than once before. In 1999, during the Kosovo conflict, Milosevic was indicted in the middle of not only a Nato bombing campaign to reverse the ethnic cleaning in Kosovo, but of high-level peace talks between the United States, Russia, and Finland to end the war." In the case of Taylor, in June 2003, Liberia was on the brink. Rebel forces had advanced within 10 miles of the capital in the first of a series of offensives that Liberians would dub "World Wars" for their ferocity. The ICC warrant was nevertheless executed, and sanity was restored in Liberia. In the latest move, the ICC wants al-Bashir indicted on charges of genocide,

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crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Darfur. The report says however, "Sadly, but somewhat unsurprisingly, the step has set off a chorus of hand-wringing among certain diplomats, academics and pundits who are now arguing that holding perpetrators of crimes against humanity accountable for their actions is unhelpful. A veteran academic expressed his worry that almost all African senior officials could be made vulnerable to similar charges by this precedent," the report states. But the report argues, "Let's be clear. Holding people accountable for war crimes is not only the right thing to do from a moral perspective - it directly promotes peace and makes future such abuses less likely. Part of the reason Darfur has remained locked in crisis for years is that the international community has been slow to acknowledge what has always been painfully obvious: The janjaweed militias that have terrorised and decimated Darfur have been directed by the Sudanese government. The militias were financed by the government, and received direct battlefield support from the Sudanese military. The ICC is doing no more than acknowledging the plain, painful truth of Sudan's tragedy. The prosecutor should be congratulated for recognising that turning a blind eye to war crimes is not helpful." According to the report, very few commentators took exception with the notion that Milosevic had been intimately involved in directing ethnic cleansing, genocide, and sundry other war crimes in Bosnia and Kosovo. But Russian envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin said the indictment "pulled out the rug from under the negotiating process," as both Russia and China decried what they called a "political" indictment that was designed to scuttle peace talks. Others suggested the indictment would push Milosevic to stay in power permanently or lead his forces to adopt an even more brutal approach on the ground in Kosovo. Yet, in retrospect, the work of the Yugoslav tribunal and the indictment of Milosevic led to none of the doomsday scenarios envisioned by the skeptics. While the Russians postponed a single diplomatic trip to Belgrade for one week to express their dissatisfaction with the indictment, the peace talks resumed quickly and Milosevic accepted the demands that were placed upon him: Kosovar refugees were allowed to return home; Serb forces withdrew from the province and a Nato-led force entered to provide security. Milosevic's hold on power did not last long after the 1999 war and his indictment. The reports says that the lesson learnt from Milosevic's case is that indictments don't necessarily derail peace talks and, indeed, they seem to be most helpful in clarifying the minds of dictators that their very existence is at stake. In the Taylor case, he was indicted shortly after he promised to step down by the end of 2003 at a peace meeting in Accra, Ghana, when the special court for Sierra Leone unveiled an indictment against Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated during that country's brutal war. Some diplomats engaged in the negotiations denounced the indictment as an impediment to peace, and the presidents of South Africa, Nigeria, and Ghana complained that they had been "sandbagged" by the timing of the indictments as they tried to persuade Taylor to resign. Pessimists were quick to critique the court's prosecutor for interjecting the concept of justice into the rarefied realpolitik of peace negotiations. Yet, Taylor's indictment, combined with unprecedented levels of international pressure (including a US warship on the horizon) helped to build the leverage necessary to convince him to move into a negotiated exile in Nigeria. The terms of this deal were clear: As long as he stayed out of Liberian politics, Nigeria would keep him out of the hands of the court, despite an Interpol warrant for his arrest. Nevertheless, he was arrested following a dramatic and nearly successful escape attempt to cross from Nigeria into Cameroon. He was turned over to the special court and is currently facing trial on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. "Today, self-professed realists argue that Taylor's handover to justice sent the wrong message to dictators such as al-Bashir and Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, maintaining that it undermines the credibility of amnesty offers to dictators who are all the more likely to hold on to power at any cost. This facile misreading of history misses the real lessons from the Taylor case," the report says.

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Worsening situation in Somalia pushes aid costs to $641 mln

Daniel Van Oudenaren
Sudan Tribune

(WASHINGTON) Aid operations in Somalia will cost $641 million this year, according to a mid-year review issued on Wednesday July 16 by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The UN is appealing for $435 million in new funding pledges to meet the cost.

'Nutritional surveillance has indicated widespread and worsening high levels of malnutrition, exceeding the WHO emergency threshold (15%), and worsening food security in various regions of South Central Somalia,' said the OCHA report.

Market data released on July 8 by monitors at the Food Security Analysis Unit - Somalia (FSAU) shows that the price of maize rose to 15,000-18,500 Somali shillings per kilogram in four markets in the Shabelle Valley, from around 3,000 shillings at the same time last year.

Other market indicators point to danger for Somalias significant pastoral populations. The terms of trade for goats have fallen in all regions of Somalia, with particularly dramatic changes in the Juba Valley, the Shabelle Valley, and the southern Sorghum beltwhere a goats price relative to cereal dropped about 75% since July of last year.

Civil insecurity is a key immediate cause of humanitarian emergency in the Somali regions of Lower Shabelle, Banadir, Middle Shabelle, Hiiran, Bakool, Gedo, Galgadud, and Mudug, according to FSAU, which is funded by USAID and the European Community.

Environmental degradation and poor rains are also contributing to food insecurity. South and central Somalia received below-average rains during the gu (main) rainy season, which ends in June. Last year south and central Somalia faced the lowest gu harvest in 13 years.

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Over the past week aid workers have faced a spate of fatal attacks. A spokesman for an armed Islamist group, identifying himself only as Sheikh Mohamed, told Garowe Online that his organization blamed aid workers for supplying the enemy.

The UN World Food Program says that it is trying to assist 2.6 million Somalis in need - a number that is expected to reach 3.5 million by the end of the year.

The United States is the largest donor of humanitarian assistance in Somalia, granting $85 million so far this year. In the fiscal year 2009, Congress will also provide $11.6 million in security assistance to the UN Peacekeeping Operations.

But the Bush administration faces criticism for its involvement in the Somali conflict.

The Enough Project, a research and advocacy group, questioned U.S. support for Somalias Transitional Federal Government in an April strategy paper. Further in an opinion piece this week for the Washington Post, Frankie Martin, a fellow at American University in Washington, D.C., says that 'the United States must immediately change a failed policy. Instead of effectively fighting those individuals who wish America harm, it has taken on the Somali people.'

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'09 budget stalemate puts local projects in jeopardy

Brian Tumulty â?¢ Washington Bureau â?¢ July 21
Journal News - Online

WASHINGTON - 'Forget about it' could be the phrase that best summarizes the outlook for federal spending on local projects and new programs for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

Budget experts are predicting that most - if not all - of the 2009 federal budget will be left to the next president and a new Congress to act on early next year.

Rep. Nita Lowey, chairwoman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee that funds foreign aid, and the State Department, said Friday that it's possible Congress may enact a stopgap funding measure that keeps the government operating at current levels through February or March.

'It's a possibility there would be no budget,' said Lowey, D-Harrison, adding that she's hopeful a couple of the least controversial spending bills - covering the Department of Defense or military construction - might be passed before the start of the fiscal year.

Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., agreed it's a possibility that projects for which he has fought for funding could be jeopardized. 'Even if there has to be a continuing resolution, we are going to try to get as many New York projects as possible funded,' Schumer said in a press statement.

At the national level, it could mean an issue that's left for either President John McCain or President Barack Obama to address. The next administration would decide whether to accept budget changes enacted by the new Congress. July is ordinarily consumed by long hours of floor debate in the House and Senate over numerous amendments to spending bills covering a dozen pieces of the government ranging from agriculture to the Department of Defense, energy and water projects, health and human services, homeland security and legislative branch operations.

This year, neither the Senate nor the House has voted on any of the bills. And a monthlong August recess - capped off by the Democratic and Republican conventions - looms.

'At this point, the Democrats seem more interested in waiting until Barack Obama becomes president on Jan. 20, as they believe he will, and have him sign the bills,' said Brian Riedl, a federal budget analyst for the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

'The Democrats in Congress don't want President Bush to have the opportunity to block their spending initiatives,' Riedl said. 'President Bush not only proposed a budget that would increase spending at a slower rate than the Democrats in Congress, he also pledged to dramatically decrease pork projects. Democrats are trying to protect pork and their additional spending.'

Democrats, who have majority control of the House and Senate, fault Bush as the stalemate.

'The problem is that virtually every bill is above the amount requested by the president, and they made a blanket threat that he would veto any bill that is above his request level,' said Scott Lilly, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank. 'And so everybody expects that no matter how hard they work or no matter what they get done, it will be vetoed.'

Lilly, a former staff director of the House Appropriations Committee, said Democrats and Republicans ordinarily work out

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comprises on spending bills, but Bush has shown no sign of wanting to work out a deal.

'We have this administration that has broken the mold in a whole lot of areas,' Lilly said.

Contact Brian Tumulty at btumulty@gns.gannett.com

Federal funding for local projects in jeopardy

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Should You Look Into Your Genes?

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Rick Weiss
Washington Post - Online

Jeffrey Gulcher had no reason to think much about prostate cancer. He was just 48, and the disease typically strikes later in life. Even the most cautious medical groups agree that most men need not begin annual prostate screenings until age 50.

But Gulcher happens to be the chief scientific officer of deCODE Genetics -- one of several companies that, amid some controversy, have begun offering direct-to-consumer DNA tests that can help people predict which diseases they are likely to get. So in April, he spat into a test tube and, without giving the matter much thought, sent the sample in for analysis by his own company.

He was in for a shock. The test indicated that he carries a genetic variant that nearly doubles his lifetime risk of getting prostate cancer: While the average man has a 15 percent change of being stricken, Gulcher had a 30 percent shot. That spurred his physician to order a standard blood test for prostate cancer. The result was toward the high end of the range considered normal, which, together with the DNA test, worried the doctor. He referred Gulcher to a urologist, who performed an exploratory biopsy -- and found that Gulcher's prostate gland was riddled with cancer, and a fairly aggressive version of it at that.

Gulcher is going in for surgery tomorrow, and not a moment too soon. Tests suggest that the disease has not yet spread to other parts of his body, a milestone that often portends death and that may well have been passed had he waited until he turned 50 to get a standard prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test.

Did genetic testing save Gulch er's life? I think it may have. His dramatic story seems to illustrate perfectly the claims, made by his company and others, that an open market of DNA tests is the 21st century's ticket to a healthier nation. But a closer look suggests that this fast-growing industry, with its snazzy Web-based come-ons, could benefit from some temperance and independent oversight.

The technology is undeniably impressive. For as little as $1,000, anybody who can drool into a mailing tube can now find out his or her genetic odds of getting any of 20 or more potentially debilitating diseases, including cancer, heart disease and diabetes. Most of these tests will not lead to a frank diagnosis, as happened with Gulcher. But discovering an inherited propensity toward a particular illness can motivate consumers -- or, as they used to be known, patients -- to get more frequent checkups, take preventive medicines or make lifestyle changes to try to ward off the specter of disease. At last, we seem to be on the cusp of the long-promised personalized-medicine revolution in which gene tests allow physicians to craft far more individualized and effective ways of keeping us well.

But tests that look into the fog of people's medical futures are freighted with tricky medical, economic and bioethical implications. For one thing, most genes are not determinative, so these tests can convey only odds, not destinies. Even with the doubled lifetime risk for cancer that's associated with Gulcher's prostate gene variant, two out of three men who receive a 'positive' test for that gene will never get the disease. And many of those who do will get it so late in life and in such a benign form that no treatment would be justified. So that's at least two new members of the 'worried well' who could be losing sleep and spending money on unnecessary follow-up tests for every person who would arguably be appropriately forewarned.

Moreover, the tests are still new and easily misinterpreted, even by professionals. Online results may be subject to security and privacy breaches. And some companies are using people's gene profiles to conduct independent research. That suggests to many ethicists and lawyers that these firms' paying clients ought to be informed that they are subjects in experiments, with full disclosure of potential risks and rights.

Most worrisome of all, at least a few companies seem to be peddling DNA-based versions of snake oil. Some firms claim to be able to identify inherited nutritional deficiencies that -- guess what? -- are treatable with pricey supplements that they just happen to sell. Some even promise to discern from your genes what kind of person you should marry to ensure a blissful sex

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life and healthier babies. Welcome to the Wild West of personalized genomics.

These problems are not insurmountable. But there is precious little oversight of this burgeoning new industry, in part because genetic analysis does not fit cleanly into any existing category of medical practice. And if the first wave of DNA-screening companies to hit the market gets its way, there won't be any more adult supervision in the foreseeable future. In a blatant effort to stave off regulation, top officials from all the major competing gene-test companies met early this month and quietly agreed to spend this summer hammering out a 'best practices' document that they would promise to follow. This is a great idea, but it's not enough.

No state or federal agency can today assure consumers that the DNA tests they order will give accurate results -- or that the results, even if technically accurate, will have any practical value. The Food and Drug Administration says it has the authority to regulate all gene tests but has decided, at least for now, to ignore the vast majority of those developed so far. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which is supposed to protect consumers from fraudulent claims, has never taken an enforcement action against even the most transparently deceptive gene-test companies. And the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the division within the Department of Health and Human Services that oversees clinical laboratories, has so far opted to steer clear of the genetic-testing world, despite pleas from federal advisers to ensure a minimal standard of gene-test proficiency.

The companies say that what they do is different enough that they should not be shoehorned into the conventional medical-testing rules. 'For the first year and a half of our existence, all we did was try to figure out how to fit into the regulatory environment,' said Dietrich Stephan, co-founder of Navigenics, a leading California-based gene-test company, adding that the effort cost an estimated $10 million.

That's real money. Yet even with all that preparation, Navigenics and a dozen other testing companies recently received warnings from individual states accusing them of violating state rules for labs. Situations such as this cry out for the guiding hand of the federal government -- not necessarily through cumbersome regulations, which can be too rigid to keep up with quickly changing science, but through formal guidelines, at least, promulgated by HHS. These could set clear expectations about how accurate gene tests should be -- and what it means to be 'accurate' in the brave new world of predictive health -- and what level of informed consent should be obtained from clients. The promulgation of such standards will take real effort from HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt, who has championed personalized medicine but who has thus far been largely AWOL on the gene-test issue and has little incentive to push hard in the final months of the Bush administration. The FTC also needs to show that it has teeth and can bite.

Genetic-testing companies need to ante up, too. The responsible ones could buy a lot of good will by offering the public easily accessible scientific details (online and elsewhere) about the specific genes or genetic markers they are testing for; citations for the published studies they use to justify their claims that those genes have real medical relevance; the privacy and security systems they have in place; and the protocols for any experiments that clients' specimens may be used in. The firms should also disclose any approvals they have sought, obtained or denied from independent scientific and ethical review boards.

I took heart that such a future is possible when, at an HHS meeting two weeks ago, I saw chiefs from the five major competing gene-test companies sitting next to one another, speaking cooperatively to federal advisers. If these executives move aggressively to do the right thing, and if federal officials help them with some smart but tough guidance, perhaps those corporate heads can avoid a future in which they are called upon to appear side by side again -- this time before Congress, looking more like those famously photographed tobacco CEOs, being asked tough questions about what exactly they have been selling, and at what cost to American health.

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Rick Weiss, a former science reporter for The Post, is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress.

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Stalemate puts EC project in jeopardy

Brian Tumulty
Star-Gazette

WASHINGTON -- 'Forget about it' could be the phrase that best summarizes the outlook for federal spending on local projects and new programs for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

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hopeful a couple of the least controversial spending bills -- covering the Defense Department or military construction -- might be passed before the start of the fiscal year.

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In danger is $450,000 for Elmira College projects, including upgraded technology, sponsored by Congressman John R. Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport.

At the national level, it could mean an issue that's left for the next president to address.

The next administration would decide whether to accept budget changes enacted by the new Congress.

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This year, neither the Senate nor the House has voted on any of the bills.

And a monthlong August recess -- capped off by the Democratic and Republican conventions -- looms on the horizon. 'At this point, the Democrats seem more interested in waiting until Barack Obama becomes president on Jan. 20, as they believe he will, and have him sign the bills,' said Brian Riedl, a federal budget analyst for the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. 'The Democrats in Congress don't want President Bush to have the opportunity to block their spending initiatives. President Bush not only proposed a budget that would increase spending at a slower rate than the Democrats in Congress, he also pledged to dramatically decrease pork projects,' Riedl said. 'Democrats are trying to protect pork and their additional spending.' Democrats, who have majority control of the House and Senate, fault Bush with the stalemate. 'The problem is that virtually every bill is above the amount requested by the president, and they made a blanket threat that he would veto any bill that is above his request level,' said Scott Lilly, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank. 'And so everybody expects that no matter how hard they work or no matter what they get done, it will be vetoed.' Lilly, a former staff director of the House Appropriations Committee, said Democrats and Republicans ordinarily work out compromises on spending bills, but Bush has shown no sign of wanting to work out a deal.

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Contrasting goals in Iraq

Lawrence J. Korb, assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration, is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and a senior adviser ...

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Prospect of closing Guantanamo prison camp complicated by what to do with detainees

WASHINGTON, For years now, the U.S.-run prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba has, for many, served as an indelible image of the overreach, even the abuse, of American power. Human-rights groups have excoriated it. Scores of lawyers have fought to free its inmates. Both John McCain and Barack Obama have vowed to close the prison if elected.

But there may be sound policy reasons for keeping the facility open deep into the term of the next president.

While an apparent consensus has built that Guantanamo must go, that was the easier question to answer. The far tougher one is what to do with the detainees held there, those who should be released and those whom the Pentagon believes must be kept imprisoned, perhaps indefinitely. 'There's not going to be a one-size-fits-all approach to this population,' said Matthew Waxman, a former deputy assistant secretary for detainee affairs at the Defense Department. 'I'd like to see Gitmo closed and closed quickly, but I also want to see it done right.' The Supreme Court last month gave the 265 remaining detainees at the jail the chance to have their detentions reviewed by a federal court. This month, judges on the U.S. District Court in Washington began the formidable task of coordinating those cases and warned the government that they want to make the determinations quickly, by the end of the year, in some cases.

Then there is the looming presidential election. The current regime at the Pentagon won't have the authority to decide the detainees' fate, and there may be some incentive to move many of them off the base in the coming months. The presidential transition will also slow the process.

Both situations will push the Bush administration to do something sooner rather than later, but it may be hamstrung by the lack of options for disposing of the detainees.

There are few places where the detainees can be sent. And even fewer that want them.

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There are three distinct groups at the Guantanamo jail, located on a U.S. Navy base. The first are the 20 who are charged with war crimes and will be tried by the military commissions. They include alleged Sept. 11 plotters such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who was before a commission two weeks ago for pre-trial motions. But because commission procedures drafted by the Pentagon were ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, the process has been agonizingly slow. A full trial has yet to be completed.

The Pentagon says it expects to charge as many as 60 more detainees. Last year, Defense Department officials told a congressional panel that it would need three years to try all the detainees and urged Congress to allow Guantanamo to stay open because of the courtroom built there for the purpose.

The second group is the 54 detainees already cleared for release by the Pentagon. They remain in Guantanamo because their home countries won't accept their return. As one human-rights lawyer said, 'They're tainted.' The government also wants to ensure that these detainees won't be imprisoned or tortured after being returned.

(EDITORS: BEGIN OPTIONAL TRIM)

Diplomatic efforts are under way to convince other nations to accept some detainees, but little progress has been made. Detainee advocates say the United States could lead by example, taking in detainees such as Chinese Muslims known as Uighurs whom China won't allow to return. 'If [the government] really wanted that to happen, they would make it happen,' said Emi MacLean, a lawyer for some of the detainees at Guantanamo.

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The remaining group of detainees may present the largest challenge for the next president. Some will be cleared for release, others may be charged, but there will remain a core amount, no one can say how large, that the Pentagon will want to keep indefinitely as enemy combatants because of its belief that they would take up arms against America upon release.

But the government may not have enough evidence to formally charge them, or even justify their detentions to a federal judge. And some of that evidence might have been obtained illegally, through extreme interrogation tactics or other means.

One solution may be to move as many of them as possible to friendly nations that would detain them on America's behalf. Groups such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are attempting to track the transfers of detainees to see if that's happening. They point to the recent disappearance of two prisoners who were returned to Algeria. They also are nervous about a prison the U.S. is building in northern Afghanistan to replace the one at Bagram Air Force Base.

But moving the prisoners could be viewed as an end-around to the Supreme Court's habeas corpus decision last month. Transporting prisoners from Guantanamo to somewhere other than U.S territory could, arguably, extinguish their legal rights but risk the wrath of federal judges already out of patience with the Pentagon.

The Supreme Court's decision, said Bradford Berenson, a former White House lawyer who helped design the military commission process, makes it more difficult to empty the prison. 'It has made the moving of Gitmo detainees less feasible, less attractive than it once was,' he said. Regardless, there are going to be scores of detainees, those convicted by the military commissions, those facing trial, and those who are being held without charge, who will need to be imprisoned somewhere else.

The options include transporting the detainees to a military prison in the United States, either at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., or the Navy brigs in Norfolk, Va., and Charleston, S.C., or imprisoning them in the 'Supermax' civilian prison in Colorado that currently holds convicted terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui.

(EDITORS: BEGIN OPTIONAL TRIM)

That has prompted some not-in-my-backyard rhetoric. Sens. Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts of Kansas recently declared their opposition to using Leavenworth, saying security there is insufficient and voicing concerns about escaping detainees. 'Who wants an obvious terrorist in their state?' Berenson asked. Colorado Sens. Wayne Allard and Ken Salazar have taken no position on the use of the Supermax prison, although Allard's office says security there isn't a concern.

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Considerable logistical issues will present themselves, including how to keep the detainees segregated from the rest of the prison population and employing military and civilian staff to monitor them, as well as to provide security against attack. At present, 2,000 members of the military work at the Guantanamo prison.

There could be significant legal hurdles in keeping military prisoners in civilian jails or transferring some of them to the federal justice system for trial, as Obama has said he wants to do. (McCain prefers the military commission system.)

That likely would mean the involvement of Congress to devise a comprehensive detention plan to replace Guantanamo, one that might allow for the extended detention of enemy combatants and for the use of military and civilian justice systems. And

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since Congress isn't known for doing anything quickly, that may be yet another reason why those remaining detainees in Cuba won't be going anywhere for a long, long while.

(EDITORS: STORY CAN END HERE)

Still, to those who see Guantanamo as an international eyesore, all of the obstacles standing in the way of its closure shouldn't work to keep that from happening. 'The problem at Gitmo,' says Ken Gude a policy analyst at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank, who has called for an 18-month timetable for closure of the jail, 'is beyond redemption.'

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Report: Security comes from increased aid

WASHINGTON, July 18 (UPI) -- U.S. security requires a less militarized foreign policy and a more robust humanitarian mission, according to a report by the Center for American Progress.

The report by the non-partisan research and educational institute says radicalization of groups around the world suffering from poverty, environmental degradation and poor governance could threaten the national security of the United States.

Authored by Reuben Brigety, Center for American Progress Sustainable Security Program director, the report suggests a new approach to U.S. foreign policy, one that moves away from an increasingly militarized mission to one that emphasizes humanitarian causes. Brigety argues that increases in humanitarian aid can make strides in protecting the United States, the Center for American Progress reported.

The report, titled "Humanity as a Weapon of War: Sustainable Security and the Role of the U.S. Military," says while the U.S. military is vitally important for enhancing American strategic objectives, it should not replace efforts to fight global poverty.

"To keep our country safe, it is no longer enough for America to destroy its enemies," Brigety writes. "We must also care for our friends, whether they be powerful states or impoverished people."

Brigety is calling on leaders in the U.S. Congress and the executive branch to "balance the military's assistance activities with robust civilian efforts."

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The Political Risks of Obama's Iraq Strategy

It may be Barack Obama s consistency on Iraq policy, not the charge of flip-flopping, that puts him in the greatest political peril.

Obama was blasted for appearing to change positions twice on the same day after a pair of July 3 press conferences in which he seemed to leave the door open to extending his 16-month timeline for a withdrawal of most U.S. combat troops from Iraq then clarified that the end date would remain fixed.

Even if he did waver momentarily and he and his aides dispute that he did Obama has not abandoned his basic framework of a 16-month phased withdrawal, the retention of a residual force to fight terrorists, protect vital U.S. interests in Iraq and train Iraqi troops, and a proscription against the establishment of permanent U.S. bases in Iraq. (He reiterated those views in a July 14 New York Times opinion piece in advance of his first trip to Iraq in more than two years.)

It is a strategy that mirrors the Iraq withdrawal provisions passed by the House in March 2007 even more than Obamas own

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plan from January of that year and shares its central element with the 2006 exit strategy put forward by the liberal think tank Center for American Progress. Then-Rep. Martin Meehan unveiled a similar idea in early 2005.

Obamas national security critics, including many Republicans, some editorialists and even a handful of Democrats, say Obamas strategy, one initially forged years ago, ignores changing circumstances in Iraq to the possible detriment of the nations interests and his own ambitions. Their arguments hinge on the notion that the surge has worked and that it has cleared a path to a stable, secure Iraq that allies itself with the United States.

The Washington Post decried Obamas rigidity as foolish consistency in a Wednesday editorial entitled The Iron Timetable.

After hinting earlier this month that he might refine his Iraq strategy after visiting the country and listening to commanders, Mr. Obama appears to have decided that sticking to his arbitrary, 16-month timetable is more important than adjusting to the dramatic changes in Iraq, the Post wrote.

Michael OHanlon, an Iraq war supporter and defense expert at the liberal-leaning Brookings Institution, told the Post that to say youre going to get out on a certain schedule regardless of what the Iraqis do, regardless of what our enemies do, regardless of what is happening on the ground is the height of absurdity.

The response from Republican supporters of presumed nominee John McCain has been even harsher particularly since they know that McCains best chances for victory rest on national security and foreign policy questions.

National security and the Iraq war are issues where Obama shows his greatest vulnerability to McCain in polling. Despite leading overall in all recent national polling and by wide margins on most domestic issues, Obama trailed McCain badly in a recent Post poll on the questions of whether each candidate would be a good commander in chief of the military (72 percent said McCain would, while only 48 percent said Obama would) and whether each candidate knows enough about world affairs to be an effective president (72 percent for McCain and 56 percent for Obama).

When narrowed to Iraq, the issue can be a double-edged sword. The Post poll found Americans about evenly divided on whether there should be a timetable or not for troop withdrawal. However, reflecting other polls, it also said that they believe by a 63 percent to 36 percent margin that Iraq was a war not worth fighting.

A New York Times/CBS News poll this week said voters believe by 78 percent to 17 percent that McCain will continue the Iraq policies of President Bush, a perception that could be troublesome for him. As in the Post poll, voters said by 59 percent to 36 percent that the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq. Those who believe that things are going somewhat or very badly know outnumber those who think things are going well by a more modest 51 percent to 45 percent.

On Thursday, McCains camp released a video documentary of Obama taking seemingly contrary positions on a series of Iraq-related issues, including the success of the surge and funding for the war. (Obama voted consistently for funding in his first two-plus years in the Senate, then voted against a supplemental during the Democratic primary before supporting the most recent burst of money).

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US missile defence shield to drag Poland into conflicts - leftist leader

Text of report by Polish leading privately-owned centre-left newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza website, on 16 July

[Commentary by Marek Borowski, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Poland (SdPL) and former Sejm speaker: "Marek Borowski: Do Not Play With the Shield"]

US missile defence shield to "drag Poland into conflicts" - leftist leader

I am putting forward the thesis that there are only two reasons why Bush (and not the United States) is making such desperate efforts to install a missile defence shield. Despite assurances to the contrary, the shield is the first in a series of shields aimed against Russia (perhaps also China), or it is providing cover for a military attack against Iran. I consider the latter scenario to be more likely.

In both cases, the government's consent to the shield will drag Poland into conflicts and make it a hostage to the ineffective and extremely expensive foreign policy promoted by Bush and other US hawks. Moreover, it will (yet again) complicate our relations with Europe, which are just starting to improve.

Strange Arguments

Other arguments and reasons that are presented in public fail to withstand criticism. One argument holds that the shield will serve the purpose of US security. The question arises of who poses a threat to this country. People talk about the so-called rogue states, like Iran or North Korea. Iraq, which allegedly had missiles and was even suspected of having chemical and biological weapons, used to be included in this group, too. These reports have not been confirmed, and we have all embroiled

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ourselves in an endless conflict.

When it comes to North Korea, one need only take the globe and look where these two countries are located. Such absurd arguments make a mockery of the Poles' intelligence. The very fact that they have appeared in the discussion disqualifies this project, confirming that it is - to put it charitably - unclear.

Iran may have Shahab missiles with a range of 2,000 kilometres at its disposal, but in order to attack US territory, regardless of the point of such an attack, it needs ballistic missiles, something it will not have for a long time. Before it can have such missiles at its disposal, it will have to carry out tests, which will be impossible to hide and there will be time to respond to them.

Even if we assumed that the Iranians will get ballistic missiles in 10 years, they would have to collectively develop suicidal mania and shoot them towards the United States, exposing themselves to horrible retaliation. Iranian President Ahmadinezhad's threats are upsetting and raise objections, but neither he, nor the ayatollahs are suicidal. Iran may in fact pose a threat to Israel and to the US troops in Iraq, but a shield in Poland will not defend those places, so the argument that this is about US security is impossible to defend.

The second argument holds that the shield should also serve the purpose of removing the threats that are posed to Europe by Iran and various terrorist groups, which in view of technological advancement may have long-range missiles at their disposal. It is not entirely clear where such attacks would come from. There are mentions of the area close to the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, but it is difficult to imagine that a terrorist group will use domestic industry to build a missile that will reach Poland or Germany.

So the only thing left is Iran. Even though Ahmadinezhad and those Iranian ayatollahs who have fundamentalist views indeed feel considerable hatred towards the United States, threatening Europe is not justified. Iran is not making such threats against Europe. It has no reason to do so. This means that the second argument is also far-fetched scaremongering.

What Is the Harm?

Well, then - some might say - perhaps the reasons why the United States wants the shield are not very clear, perhaps this is simply done on a whim. Even so, if the installation of this shield in Poland brings major benefits to us, what is the harm?

First, it is claimed that the shield may boost our security. There are two concepts: naively utopian (Law and Justice [PiS]) and commercially pragmatic (Civic Platform [PO]). According to the PiS, if Poland has 100 US soldiers and several missiles in its territory, this will be enough for the United States to defend us like it would defend its own territory.

This idea is naive, but it has serious consequences, because it lets the Poles know that NATO with its famous Article 5 - "one for all, all for one" - is a fiction and the Polish elite deceived the public by assuring it that we would be safe thanks to our NATO membership.

Unfortunately, the PiS politicians have an anti-European obsession. The keep arguing in favour of special relations and a strategic partnership between Poland and the United States. Meanwhile, the Americans can maintain strategic partnerships with the countries in which they have strategic interests, namely Turkey, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. In our case, this is typical wishful thinking.

The thing is that the Kaczynski brothers, like the conservative Bush, who favours violent solutions, dislike libertine Europe, which respects diversity and prefers consensus. This is the philosophy behind the policy that the PiS pursued in Poland when it was in power. However, what is good for the Kaczynski brothers and for the PiS does not have to be - and usually is not - good for Poland.

The second option, represented by the PO, is more sophisticated and cynical. The PO admits that the shield, as such, increases threats, which means that it reduces Poland's security, but if we managed to obtain the relevant material guarantees (Patriot missiles) and also political guarantees, security could even be boosted and the shield installation would be profitable.

The PO represents a purely commercial approach. During a Sejm debate on foreign policy in May, [Foreign] Minister Sikorski addressed the issue of the shield in the following way: "Therefore, accepting the US arguments on the missile defence issue with goodwill, we also expect that the United States will play a more active role in the modernization of the Polish Armed Forces in line with the pledge made by President George Bush after his meeting with Prime Minister Donald Tusk on 10 March."

Let us translate this into a more comprehensible language: "We do not believe in your arguments at all, but if we pretend that we do, you will have to pay us well."

Of course, such commerce may be pursued, but on one condition: that we do not have anything to do with something bad. Unfortunately, we apparently do.

Real Danger

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If the arguments about a missile attack on the United States that may be carried out by Iran or by unspecified terrorists from an unspecified location are implausible, then what are Bush's real motives? Of course, pressure from the US military concerns - which earn a lot of money on such initiatives and whose support Bush utilized during the presidential race - is one important reason.

But this is far from being over. Unfortunately, the real danger is that we are in fact faced with a threat related to Iran, but this threat is different from the one that is being discussed. The US security doctrine that has been developed and put into practice by Bush is based on a militarized foreign policy and military attacks on the countries that, according to the United States, may cause threats.

This is what happened in Afghanistan. But the thing is that this intervention had wide international support resulting from widespread indignation at the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York. The intervention in Iraq, in turn, did not have such support. On the contrary, it divided the democratic world. Poland decided to stand by the Americans' side in order to demonstrate that it is a reliable ally. However, before we make another leap, we have to check if there is water in the pool.

Today, intervention plans are being prepared against Iran. Such information is constantly coming from the United States. Over a year ago, Joseph Cirincione, an expert with the Centre for American Progress, said in an interview for Rzeczpospolita: "Attack plans prepared by the General Staff are already in the White House. They include two scenarios: a 10-day air attack on 1,500 military targets and a five-day bombing raid on 750 targets."

Dates are even mentioned. Then denials are issued. Nonetheless, Bush's military doctrine not only allows such an operation, but is even preparing it.

As was the case with Iraq, we are simply witnessing a propagandist cannonade about growing threats posed by Iran. If such an attack was mounted, it could not be ruled out, or rather it would be very likely, that the Iran might fire missiles in retaliation.

This means that the shield is not so much about protecting Europe and the United States against Iraqi attacks as about covering the United States' potential military intervention in Iran. The shield makes it easier or even possible.

In essence, this is now the only reasonable explanation why the Americans need a missile defence shield in Europe. If Poland agrees to the shield, regardless of what it receives in exchange, it will become part of a harmful and ineffective philosophy of building global security (or rather insecurity). It will become co-responsible for this. The Poles do not want another "war over peace." A cabinet that does not see this threat does harm to Poland's interests.

Stopping Iran for Free

The last issue that comes to the fore is a serious approach to Iran's militaristic ambitions, because these are beyond any doubt. We are afraid of Iran's nuclear experiments, and we are not ignoring threats to Israel. To make a long story short, we have to answer the question of how we should cope with such an unpredictable country as Iran.

Iran is not a power that may function independently and in defiance of the whole world. In today's world, it is impossible to remove all threats with military resources. Above all, it is necessary to seek consensus and build wide counterterror coalitions, forcing the countries that pose threats to change their policies. The coalition between the United States, China, and Russia forced the North Korean regime to pull back from suspicious plans and activities.

Instead of holding hectic missile defence negotiations, Poland should therefore press the Americans to present an honest offer in public to Russia: the United States will give up the shield in exchange for Russia's agreement to pursue joint activities on the Iranian issue.

This is the only reasonable way to convince Russia and the public that the shield is not aimed against this country. Russia's refusal to take part in such a coalition would dismiss its arguments and put the shield issue in a different light. The lack of such an offer, in turn, raises suspicions about the credibility of the assurances that the shield is not anti-Russian, all the more so because there are signals that this is not the last shield.

So, on one hand, Russia's fears are said to be unfounded, because an installation with 10 missiles will be unable to stop a potential massive attack. On the other hand, there are plans to upgrade this system. This is not something I made up. Stanislaw Koziej [former deputy defence minister] wrote in one of his articles: "It is a known thing that the system will be upgraded, that there will be more bases and their capabilities will grow." And this is not a man who has encountered this subject for the first time. So we cannot really blame Russia.

The question arises of whether a coalition between the United States, Europe, and Russia would be equally effective as was the case with Korea. It certainly would be more effective and less expensive than "shielding."

Iran is not a gloomy dictatorship. This country has the opposition. Recent intelligence reports, also from the United States, show that Ahmadinezhad's confrontational policy, which causes various sanctions to be imposed on Iran, is meeting increasing resistance at home. Living conditions in Iran are worsening, which means that a coordinated pressure programme,

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including Russia's participation (but without the shield), will yield effects virtually for free - without spending tens of billions of dollars and without risking a military conflict.

Solutions may vary. The best one would be an agreement between America and Iran. As part of this agreement, the Iranians would renounce nuclear ambitions and support for Hizballah in exchange for other benefits, especially economic ones. This is difficult, but not improbable. If Obama wins in the United States, he will stand a chance of starting such talks. Bush shoots first and talks later. Unfortunately, after such a direct attack, the patient is barely talkative and the costs of treatment are huge.

If this proves impossible, the most reasonable thing will be to impose more severe sanctions on Iran (a large alliance of states must be formed for this purpose), on one hand, and to constantly offer cooperation to this country, on the other. With such a strategy, Ahmadinezhad's troublemaking policy will be increasingly expensive for Iranian society and will give more middle-of-the-road politicians considerable chances to come to power.

Of course, such a policy requires the ability to envision the future, vision, and patience in building new international relations. Bush did not know how or want to pursue such a policy. His era is over. Tusk will make a huge mistake if he signs anything with this administration. These negotiations must be frozen until a new host appears in the White House, and if he wants to resume them, they must be treated in a more comprehensive manner.

I am also appealing to the prime minister to stop competing with the PiS over who will get more for the shield and who cares more about our country's security. We cannot light a fire in the middle of a room and try to convince our roommates that there is no risk because we have received modern fire extinguishers. Only those who are naive will believe such assurances. There is a better way to ensure security at home: do not play with fire.

Source: Gazeta Wyborcza website, Warsaw, in Polish 16 Jul 08

BBC Mon EU1 EuroPol 190708 nn/osc

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Al Gore Surprise Guest At Netroots Nation

Al Gore surprised and delighted the crowd at the Netroots Nation conference in Austin, Texas today, appearing on the heels of a speech by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

According to the various Twitter feeds from the event it's being attended by approximately 2,000 progressive/liberal bloggers and reporters, all armed with laptops, blackberries and cellphones the crowd went wild at Gore's unannounced appearance, with an 'extended ovation' for him as he took the stage. 'Nancy, we ought to take this show on the road,' said Gore, according to the Twitter feed of the Washingtonian's Garrett Graff, who has been extensively Twittering the conference. Responded Pelosi: 'We are on the road.' The road is one that led to Netroots Nation this year from two such conferences in the past, though then they were called 'Yearly Kos,' so named for Daily Kos, founded by Markos Moulitsas. Moulitsas and Kos (as both he and the site are now known) have become standard-bearers for the activist left and the progressive online movement, so much so that this year's conference was renamed to reflect the fact that the progressive left was no longer just a niche movement. That has been made abundantly clear by the presence of people like Gore, Pelosi, Harold Ford, Howard Dean, and other significant figures in politics and media.

Gore demurred on whether he'd join an Obama administration, saying he was 'honored by [the] suggestion,' according to Graff, but that it would not optimize what he could contribute. The Nation's Ari Melber, also reporting from the event, reported that Gore said he felt 'the highest and best use of whatever talents and experiences I've gained in my life' would be best applied to 'trying to enlarge the political space within which elected officials and cabinet members address this climate crisis.' Here are some Tweets (as individual Twitter entries are called) from the event (note that there is a 140-character word limit on such entries): 'Essential we have safeguards, checks and balances. More important we have an informed citizenry. Netroots is key to future.' (Graff) Compares offshore drilling to 'hair of the dog': 'When you're in a hole, stop digging.' Applause. (Graff) 'Gore: When you begin looking at environmental crisis, you see it connected to economic and national security problems too.' (Graff) 'Gore says NN08 is the 'beginning of a movement to take back our democracy.' Making it the 4,578th such beginning.' (Jason Linkins via HuffPo Twitter) 'Gore would rather be an organizer than a bureaucrat on climate change. No thanks (for now) to joining an Obama administration. (Leighton Woodhouse via HuffPo Twitter) 'Gore, unlike Pelosi, throwing red meat into hungry #NN08 crowd. Big Texas-sized chunks of red meat. Feeding frenzy follows.' (Graff) 'Pelosi speaking as if she can't do anything about any problems she's citing. Isn't she Speaker of the House?' (Graff) And, in what seems to be a new media metaphor: 'ThinkProgress scooped Pelosi on Gore's surprise appearance.' (Ari Melber via HuffPo Twitter) Ongoing coverage of Netroots Nation may be found here, and further links are below.

Melber: Al Gore Makes Surprise Visit to Netroots Nation [The Nation]

HuffPolitics Twitter Feed [HuffPo]

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Garrett Graff Twitter Feed [Twitter]

Bloggers bring blue to a red state

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One such outlet bloggers choose is Thinkprogress.org. With nearly 2 million hits on its Web site per month and 80000 e-newsletter subscribers, ...

Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report Feature Highlights Recent Blog ...

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While mainstream news coverage is still a primary source of information for the latest in policy debates and the health care marketplace, online blogs have become a significant part of the media landscape, often presenting new perspectives on policy issues and drawing attention to under-reported topics. To provide complete coverage of health policy issues, the Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report offers readers a window into the world of blogs in a roundup of health policy-related blog posts. "Blog Watch," published on Tuesdays and Fridays, tracks a wide range of blogs, providing a brief description and relevant links for highlighted posts.

Igor Volsky from the Center For American Progress Action Fund's Wonk Room blog disagrees with President Bush's claim that cuts to Medicare Advantage plans would disproportionately affect low-income seniors, noting that a larger share of low-income seniors receive supplemental coverage from Medicaid than MA. Volsky also says that while 49% of MA beneficiaries are low-income, 51% of traditional fee-for-service beneficiaries are, too.

Congressional Budget Office Director Peter Orszag lists key points from his testimony on Thursday to the Senate Finance Committee on the "overuse, underuse and misuse of health care."

The Health Access WebLog's Anthony Wright discusses problems with California's high-risk pool, the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program, in response to a New York Times article about presumptive Republican presidential nominee Sen. John McCain's (Ariz.) plan to expand federal funding for such pools. Wright concludes that "the real solution is to reduce the number of people denied by insurance companies in the first place." A kaisernetwork.org "Ask the Experts" webcast discussing high-risk pools, which includes the executive director of California's pool, is available online.

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt discusses Congress' vote to override Bush's veto of the Medicare bill, saying "what is at stake is whether our country lives under a system focused on one-size-fits-all coverage and price fixing, or whether it embraces free-market incentives, competitive bidding and consumer choice." Managed Care Matters' Joe Paduda discusses health insurers' opposition to the legislation, saying that "by digging in their heels, health plans likely lost their last best chance to play a dominant role in future health care reform negotiations."

Niko Karvounis and Maggie Mahar from the Century Foundation's Health Beat Blog discuss challenges facing health insurers and offer a short history of HMOs in the U.S.

The Health Care Blog's Brian Klepper discusses ways lobbyists and business interests prevent health reform and suggests two solutions: the formation of a "national business coalition" that focuses on public policy and the public's best short- and long-term interests, and a "new" Congress that rejects lobbying efforts.

Health Populi's Jane Sarasohn-Kahn discusses a call by former President Bill Clinton at a National Governor's Association meeting for states to be laboratories for democracy and asks, "How much health-democracy can each governor afford when balancing their budget in the face of declining revenues?" Sarasohn-Kahn also notes that Medicaid accounts for 22% of total state spending.

Don McCanne from Physicians for a National Health Program Blog posts his response to Jonathan Cohn's article in The New Republic, in which Cohn discusses PNHP's recent criticism of Health Care for America Now, a national campaign that calls for access to comprehensive, affordable health care in the U.S. Richard Kirsch, HCAN's national campaign manager, posts a response to questions the campaign has received for not endorsing single-payer health care.

Alicia Mundy from the Wall Street Journal's Health Blog reports on a meeting between Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America lawyers and House Energy and Commerce Committee's investigations panel staffers about direct-to-consumer advertising.

O'Reilly: "Birth control is not a medical condition, it is a choice"

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As the blog Think Progress noted, on the July 17 edition of Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor, while discussing the issue of whether health insurance plans that cover Viagra should also cover birth control, host Bill O'Reilly asserted: "Viagra is used to

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help a medical condition -- that's why it's covered. Birth control is not a medical condition, it is a choice. Why should I or anybody else have to pay for other people's choices?" But O'Reilly's assertion is contradicted by professional medical associations that have stated that pregnancy is a medical condition and that "[c]ontraception is medically necessary" for women.

O'Reilly made his comment after airing a Planned Parenthood Action Fund ad that included a clip of Sen. John McCain being asked: "It's unfair how the insurance companies cover Viagra but not birth control. Do you have an opinion on that?" McCain responded: "I don't know enough about it to give you an informed answer." During the segment, O'Reilly also said: "Do I have to buy you dinner before you use the birth control? Give me and every other taxpayer a break, Planned Parenthood."

Dr. Luella Klein, former president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and then-director of ACOG's women's health issues, was quoted in a May 12, 1998, USA Today article as saying: "Pregnancy is a medical condition, just like impotence. And the cost benefit of preventing pregnancy is much greater than treating impotence." In addition, ACOG's "Contraceptive Equity Toolkit" states that "[m]ost women can become pregnant from the time they are teenagers until they are in their late forties" and that "[c]ontraception is medically necessary to a woman for more than 30 years of her life." The Toolkit added: "To ignore the health benefits of contraception is to say that the alternative of 12 to 15 pregnancies during a woman's lifetime is medically acceptable."

Further, in a May 8, 2007, press release, ACOG stated that "contraception is basic, preventive health care and should be readily available and treated the same as prophylactic therapies for other medical conditions."

Additionally, according to the American Medical Association (AMA) Statement on Family and Medical Leave: "AMA supports policies that provide employees with reasonable job security and continued availability of health plan benefits in the event leave by an employee becomes necessary due to documented medical conditions. Such policies should provide for reasonable periods of paid or unpaid: (1) medical leave for the employee, including pregnancy" [emphases added].

Further, Think Progress quoted from a statement by the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), which states that "[a]ccess to contraception is critical to preventing unintended pregnancies and to enabling women to control the timing and spacing of their pregnancies, which in turn reduces the incidence of maternal death, low birth weight babies, and infant mortality." The NWLC added that the "exclusion of prescription contraceptives from health insurance coverage unfairly disadvantages women by singling out for unfavorable treatment a health insurance need that only they have."

From the July 17 edition of Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor:

O'REILLY: On a similar subject, the Planned Parenthood fanatics want you and me to pay for everybody's birth control, so they use John McCain to make that point.

[begin video clip]

ANNOUNCER: Ever use birth control? Then you'll want to hear this.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's unfair how the insurance companies cover Viagra but not birth control. Do you have an opinion on that?

McCAIN: I don't know enough about it to give you a informed answer.

ANNOUNCER: Planned Parenthood Action Fund is responsible for the content of this advertising, because women deserve quality, affordable health care.

[end video clip]

O'REILLY: OK, listen up. Viagra is used to help a medical condition -- that's why it's covered. Birth control is not a medical condition, it is a choice. Why should I or anybody else have to pay for other people's choices? Do I have to buy you dinner before you use the birth control? Give me and every other taxpayer a break, Planned Parenthood.

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Pelosi The end could be in sight

Ryan Grim
Politico, The

Categories: Iraq

Pelosi calls for high-level meeting with Iraqis

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama in his push for a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. Iraqi

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Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki tells a German outlet that he'd like to see troops leave 'as soon as possible, as far as we are concerned.' He then added: 'U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama is right when he talks about 16 months.' Amanda Terkel with Think Progress is down in Austin to the lefty blogosphere. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) introduced Gore and also took questions, one of which was about Maliki's declaration. 'So with the prime minister saying its time for you to go,' she told the crowd, 'I think its time for our country to sit down with the Iraqis and work that plan out. [We need to be] respectful of what the prime minister says, and respectful of the will of the American people, who have been against this war for a long time...[We should] have a high-level meeting with the Iraqis to work out the terms of our deployment out of Iraq...So, the end could be in sight.' UPDATE: Former interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi will testify before Congress on Wednesday when a subcommittee of the House foreign affairs panel looks into extending the U.N. mandate that authorization the U.S. occupation of Iraq. Subcommittee chairman William Delahunt (D-Mass.) his view of the timetable for withdrawal.

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Pelosi Calls For High-level Meeting With Iraqis

Amanda Terkel with Think Progress is down in Austin live-blogging former Vice President Al Gore's address to the lefty blogosphere. ...



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From: "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
To: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 4:23:06 PM
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

I would let that part go. I think it is more insulting than helpful for our message contrast.

John Anzalone
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
334-387-3121. Office
@AnzaloneLiszt

On Jan 23, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
> Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
> Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
> My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> From: Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
> To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
>
> # DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
>
> If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.
>
> Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.
>
> On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.
>
> The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.
>
> By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.
>
> As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's

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Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

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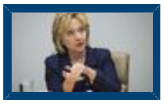


Buy Photo

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

Buy Photo

Fullscreen








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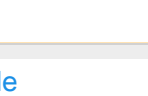
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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

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Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From:	"Tara McGuinness" <tara@iraqcampaign.org>
To:	tom@zzranch.com "Lindsay Shulman" <Lindsay.Shulman@one.org> "Natalie S. Ondiak" <nondiak@americanprogress.org> "Bryan Fisher" <BFisher@gqrr.com> "Wallace, Laurelie" <lwallace@hatcreekent.com> "Susan McCue" <susan@one.org> "Stan Greenberg" <sgreenberg@gqrr.com> JohnPodesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Begala, Paul" <pbegala@hatcreekent.com> "Zach Schwartz" <zschwartz@shangrila.us>
Date:	11/28/2007 4:10:45 PM
Subject:	Tracking Highlights and a Hit on McCain

Hey All,

Following up on our meeting yesterday, I thought I would send along some tracking highlights from the week and recent IA and NH polls (see below). Also, I wanted to share one test of our tracking/system that took place yesterday that models how we can push candidates on different themes:

Testing the Tracking/Rapid Response System

McCain Says Iraq Making Political Progress

On Sunday, McCain told ABC's "This Week" that in Iraq, "There is progress politically. There is a process of reconciliation." Iraq campaign hits McCain with a press release on how he is "out of touch with Iraq reality."

McCain-backer Senator Graham Questions Iraqi Political Progress

Lindsay Graham, a McCain supporter, returned from the same Iraq trip with a more reality-based perspective. "I do expect them to deliver," Graham said in a phone interview upon returning from a Thanksgiving trip he and McCain made to Iraq. "What would happen for me if there's no progress on reconciliation after the first of the year, I would be looking at ways to invest our money into groups that can deliver." [Associated Press , 11/27/07]. Graham also sent out an email in support of McCain's campaign on Monday and went and hit the trail with him in South Carolina.

Campaign Pushes Reporters To Question McCain/Graham

Senator Graham's email and a release were moved to SC reporters by Hildebrand Tewes. A local reporter asked McCain about his Iraq disagreements with Graham and campaign trackers catch question on tape:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6_jbcG45ys

Tracking Video on Iraq Progress Waffling Sent to Press

The tracking video was put up on youtube and circulated to reporters following McCain.

Candidate Highlights

Mitt Romney

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- Romney spent time in Iowa and New Hampshire this past week.

"I know it's very popular to, in some places, to be critical of the president but let's not forget that the president has kept America safe these last six years, that has not been easy." (Washington, IA 11/21)

"The president did a superb job in knocking down Saddam Hussein and replacing his military. Now the question is what do we do now? And the key for me is making sure we do not have Iraq develop into a safe-haven of the nature Afghanistan was under the Taliban. And if we were to do what Barack Obama had suggested, which is just pullout, now that Al Qaeda is there, Al Qaeda would have had a dominant role potentially among the Sunnis in particular. And that would have made, that would have made Afghanistan look like child's play as a place to launch attacks against us.

"I am adamantly pro-life and that every speck of human life is a child of God and therefore as part of being a civilized society we should protect the sanctity of human life and I recognize that I need to get a lot of people to agree with me, so I'll do my best to change the hearts and minds as mine has been." (Cedar Rapids, IA 11/20)

Rudy Giuliani

- Giuliani spent time in New Hampshire this past week.

"What's the worst outcome in Iraq? The worst outcome in Iraq is if it were to become a haven–if it became a state sponsor of terrorism like Iran is. If it became an ally of Iran; that would be worst possible situation for us considering Iran wants to become a nuclear power. So that's the best and that's the worst." (Laconia, NH 11/24)

"The Democrats do not say the word, 'Islamic Terrorism' cause they believe they are offending people by saying it, I imagine that's why, because I can't imagine why you wouldn't identify your enemy if you're running for President of the United States. It would be like running in the 30's and not saying Nazi or running in the 50's, 60's and 70's running and not saying Communist. They are our enemy and that's the way they organize themselves, we're not naming them something that they're not, that's the way they organize. But when I say Islamic Terrorism, I'm not insulting anyone. Anyone who is getting insulted is getting insulted for no reason, except Islamic Terrorists." (Bedford, NH 11/26)

John McCain

- McCain spent time in New Hampshire and South Carolina this past week.

- All of McCain's events in New Hampshire were very well attended, packed house in most cases, despite bad weather. Further, he received standing ovations at a couple of those events.

McCain at press conference 11/26 in Lexington, SC

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"We are winning in Iraq and that's a fact."

"My friends we have succeeded; and we have a long way to go; and we probably have more sacrifice. And I'm sorry. I'm sorry that we do."

"I'm grateful that we Republicans have stood fast. I'm grateful this president has stood fast."

Fred Thompson

- Thompson spent time in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina this past week.

- In Ames, Iowa on 11/21, Thompson said he would build a "one million person army."

Mike Huckabee

- Huckabee spent time in South Carolina this past week. Not much substance in any of his appearances this week. He spoke mostly about football and religion.

POLL QUESTION: Romney is in a near heat with Huckabee in most IA polls, some have Romney clearly ahead. Rudy is running a distance third. In NH, Romney is in the lead with McCain or Guiliani in second place. See some recent polls below:

Republican Polls

Rasmussen Reports
11/27/2007
Iowa
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 3.0% [?]

Mike Huckabee	28%
Mitt Romney	25%
Rudy Giuliani	12%
Fred Thompson	11%
Ron Paul	5%
John McCain	4%
Tom Tancredo	4%
Duncan Hunter	1%
Unsure	10%
Source	

Strategic Vision
11/24/2007
Iowa
w/o Newt Gingrich

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Margin of Error = 3.5% [?]

Mitt Romney	26%
Mike Huckabee	24%
Rudy Giuliani	14%
Fred Thompson	10%
John McCain	7%
Ron Paul	5%
Tom Tancredo	3%
Duncan Hunter	1%
Unsure	10%
Source	

ABC News/Washington Post Poll
11/16/2007
Iowa
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 4.4% [?]

Mitt Romney	28%
Mike Huckabee	24%
Fred Thompson	15%
Rudy Giuliani	13%
John McCain	6%
Ron Paul	6%
Tom Tancredo	2%
Duncan Hunter	1%
Unsure	4%
None of these	1%
Source	

Research 2000 for KCCI TV and KCRG TV
11/13/2007
Iowa
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 4.4% [?]

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Mitt Romney	27%
Mike Huckabee	18%
Rudy Giuliani	16%
Fred Thompson	10%
John McCain	6%
Ron Paul	5%
Tom Tancredo	2%
Duncan Hunter	1%
Unsure	15%
Source	

American Research Group
11/12/2007
Iowa
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 3.5% [?]

Mitt Romney	26%
Mike Huckabee	24%
Rudy Giuliani	11%
Fred Thompson	11%
John McCain	10%
Ron Paul	3%
Tom Tancredo	1%
Duncan Hunter	1%
Unsure	13%
Source	

Rasmussen Reports
11/12/2007
Iowa
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 3.1% [?]

Mitt Romney	29%
Mike Huckabee	16%
Rudy Giuliani	15%
Fred Thompson	14%
John McCain	6%
Ron Paul	4%
Tom Tancredo	4%
Duncan Hunter	2%
Unsure	9%
Source	

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Strategic Vision
11/11/2007
Iowa
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 3.7% [?]

Mitt Romney	30%
Mike Huckabee	19%
Rudy Giuliani	12%
Fred Thompson	11%
John McCain	7%
Ron Paul	5%
Tom Tancredo	2%
Duncan Hunter	1%
Unsure	13%
Source	

Zogby International poll
11/7/2007
Iowa
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 4.5% [?]

Mitt Romney	31%
Mike Huckabee	15%
Rudy Giuliani	11%
Fred Thompson	10%
John McCain	8%
Ron Paul	4%
Tom Tancredo	3%
Duncan Hunter	1%
Unsure	16%
Other	1%
Source	

CBS News/New York Times Poll
11/7/2007
Iowa
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 4.0% [?]

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Mitt Romney	27%
Mike Huckabee	21%
Rudy Giuliani	15%
Fred Thompson	9%
John McCain	4%
Ron Paul	4%
Tom Tancredo	3%
Duncan Hunter	2%
Unsure	14%
Other	1%
Source	

Republican Polls

CNN/WMUR/University of New Hampshire Granite State Poll
11/16/2007
New Hampshire
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 4.6% [?]

Mitt Romney	33%
John McCain	18%
Rudy Giuliani	16%
Ron Paul	8%
Mike Huckabee	5%
Fred Thompson	4%
Tom Tancredo	1%
Unsure	14%
Other	1%
Source	

CBS News/New York Times Poll
11/11/2007
New Hampshire
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 5.3% [?]

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Mitt Romney	34%
Rudy Giuliani	16%
John McCain	16%
Ron Paul	8%
Mike Huckabee	6%
Fred Thompson	5%
Unsure	14%
Other	1%
Source	

Rasmussen Reports
11/8/2007
New Hampshire
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 3.6% [?]

Mitt Romney	32%
Rudy Giuliani	17%
John McCain	16%
Mike Huckabee	10%
red Thompson	7%
Ron Paul	4%
Tom Tancredo	3%
Duncan Hunter	2%
Unsure	10%
Source	

Boston Globe poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire
11/5/2007
New Hampshire
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 4.5% [?]

Mitt Romney	32%
Rudy Giuliani	20%
John McCain	17%
Ron Paul	7%
Mike Huckabee	5%
Fred Thompson	3%
Unsure	16%
Source	

Marist College Poll
11/4/2007

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

New Hampshire
w/o Newt Gingrich
Margin of Error = 4.8% [?]

Mitt Romney	33%
Rudy Giuliani	22%
John McCain	13%
Mike Huckabee	7%
Ron Paul	7%
Fred Thompson	5%
Tom Tancredo	1%
Unsure	12%
Source	

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: H <hdr29@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 1/20/2016 3:03:07 PM
Subject: Speech for tomorrow

Madam Secretary, following up on the outline from yesterday, here is a full draft. (Also sent to Connolly for printing.) The core argument remains that you have the experience to get results while Sanders' ideas are a recipe for gridlock, and Americans can't afford to wait. As much as possible, I've drawn from language that you've used either on the stump or in speeches like the Wing Ding or in debate prep, especially lines that got good applause in the past. This also reflects the conversation I had with your husband yesterday and what he said in NH today. Nick also shared a little of what you said at your event this evening and I will get that transcript shortly.

This draft is still something of a work in progress and the rest of the team is reviewing as well, but I know time is short and I wanted to get to you as soon as possible. So will be standing by for your thoughts and also continuing to edit back here.
Thanks
Dan

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

"WE CAN'T WAIT"

INDIANOLA, IOWA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

- Hello, Indianola! I'm so excited to be with you today. We're energized, we're organized, and we're ready to go win a caucus! I want to thank [*name*], our terrific organizer here. She's doing a great job.
- And I want to thank all the precinct captains, union members, and volunteers who are here. Raise your hand if you've made a phone call or knocked on a door for this campaign… You are our heart and soul -- and you're why we're going to win on February 1st.
- I am so grateful to all of you who've already decided to support me in the caucus. If you haven't yet, I hope you'll fill out one of our blue commitment cards. If you're still deciding who to support, I'm glad you're here and I hope I can earn your vote.
- Democrats have an important choice to make. You have to decide who will make a real difference in your lives and keep our country moving forward.
- Now, I have a lot of respect for Senator Sanders and Governor O'Malley and we certainly share many of the same goals. Our differences pale compared to what we see on the other side. You saw this if you watched the debates last week. One party is becoming defined by paranoia, prejudice, and greed. The other is focused on creating good-paying jobs and holding Wall Street accountable. That's why I'm proud to be a Democrat.
- Republicans want Americans to suffer from collective amnesia. Well, we're going to remind people of the facts – that the economy does a whole lot better when there's a Democrat in the White House.
- But as much as we respect each other and agree on a lot of things, Senator Sanders and I do have some important differences. We have different records and different ideas about how to drive progress.
- For me, it's all about what's going to deliver results that actually make life better for families. That's what I've done my whole life, whether it was working with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to create the Children's Health Insurance Program that now covers 8 million kids, or securing a treaty with Russia that reduces the threat we face from nuclear weapons. I'm not interested in ideas that sound good on paper but will never make it in the real world – what I care about is making a difference in your life.
- As I've traveled across Iowa, people have shared their hopes and their heartaches. I've heard the problems that keep you up at night and the dreams that get you up in the morning.

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- I met a gentleman the other day in Cedar Rapids who told me that his prescription drug costs had tripled. I met a mom at that same event who said that her son has diabetes and even insulin is getting much more expensive – insulin's not some fancy new drug, it's been around forever. The only reason is greed.
- Last month in Waterloo, a worried husband named Larry told me his wife Brenda spends hundreds of dollars each month on medicine for arthritis and osteoporosis. When they see hedge fund tycoons buying drug companies and raising prices by 4000 percent overnight, they just want to scream.
- Something is wrong when your paycheck has barely grown in years, but corporate profits and CEO pay are at near-record highs. Something is wrong when you can do everything right, but still not get ahead. Like Brandi from Des Moines, who was laid off six years ago. She went back to school, worked hard, got her degree. Now she's a supervisor in a restaurant, but still only makes $9.50 an hour. That's not enough, especially with kids.
- Brandi needs a raise. Larry and Brenda need lower drug prices. People across Iowa need more good jobs, help with their student debt, a more secure retirement. These are the problems I'm focused on. I get up every day thinking about how we're going to make a difference for people and families who really need it.
- I have nothing but admiration for Senator Sanders, but he does see the world a little differently.
- Take health care, for example. I want us to defend and build on the progress we've made under President Obama, especially the Affordable Care Act.
- Remember what it was like before Obamacare? The insurance companies were in charge and free to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions. They charged women more for the same coverage. And 44 million Americans didn't have any coverage at all.
- I don't think President Obama gets the credit he deserves for taking on this fight and getting the job done. Today, more than 18 million Americans have been covered and the uninsured rate has dropped below 10 percent. I want to build on that progress. Keep expanding coverage to more people. Lower your out-of-pocket costs with a new tax credit. Cap what you have to pay each month for prescription drugs. Finally let Medicare negotiate better prices.
- We can get this done without another divisive debate on our entire health care system or giving Republicans an opening to come in and tear down everything we've achieved. We can make real progress right now for people and families who need it.
- Senator Sanders has a different idea. He wants to start over with a whole new system. And in theory, there's a lot to like about that. But "in theory" isn't enough. A President has to deliver in reality.
- Senator Sanders has been in Congress for 25 years and he's introduced his health care plan again and again. But he never got even a single vote in the House or a single Senate co-sponsor. Not one.
- I believe we can't wait for a whole new system to be built before we start solving the problems families are facing every day.
- The people I've met in Iowa can't wait. The grandmother who has to choose between paying for medicine and paying the rent can't wait. The single mom who desperately needs a raise can't wait. The student with a mountain of debt can't wait. You can't wait and neither can our country. We need to roll up our sleeves and start making progress right now.
- My opponent's ideas are a recipe for gridlock in Washington, not action. That won't help anyone. Except maybe the Republicans who are looking for any opportunity to take us backwards. We just can't take that risk.
- We have to defend the progress we've made under President Obama and go even further. My economic plan will raise incomes and create good-paying jobs right away.
- I'll fight for more fairness in our economy. Let's make those at the top pay their fair share. Because multi-millionaires and companies that ship jobs overseas shouldn't get tax breaks – you should.
- Let's stop the abuse on Wall Street and make sure that if you break the law, it doesn't matter who you are, you're going to jail. Let's enforce our trade rules and stop letting countries like China take advantage of American workers and businesses.
- Let's raise the minimum wage, expand Social Security for those who need it most, and finally guarantee

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equal pay for women. Because in America, if you work hard, you deserve to see the rewards.

- And we can't stop there. More fairness is essential, but it's not enough. We also need more growth in our economy.
- We have to invest in advanced manufacturing so we're making and building things here, not somewhere else. Make it easier to start and grow small businesses. Create the clean energy jobs of the future—because it's going to be China or Germany or us, and I want it to be us. Iowa already gets a third of its energy from renewables, mostly wind. If you can do it, so can America.
- We can do this. We can make our economy stronger and our country fairer. But we have to do it together.
- The truth is, too many people today feel left out and left behind. That's not the America we want to be.
- Instead of demonizing hard-working immigrant families, we should be giving them a real path to citizenship. Instead of a school-to-prison pipeline that keeps communities of color down, we need a cradle-to-college pipeline that lifts people up.
- We have to end discrimination against LGBT Americans wherever it exists. And I'll always defend Planned Parenthood. Republicans may say I'm playing the gender card. Well, if fighting for women's health and women's rights is playing the gender card – then deal me in.
- We also can't turn our backs on working-class families in struggling rural communities and crumbling Appalachian towns… in Coal Country and Farm Country… families who for generations worked their fingers to the bone keeping our lights on and our factories running and our crops growing.
- So many are hurting right now. In a lot of places, people are dying younger than their parents. The substance abuse I hear about everywhere I go in Iowa and across our country is a big part of it. But you know what my husband said to me the other day? He said folks feel the American Dream slipping away -- and they're dying of a broken heart.
- I think Bill's right. I hear it in the voices of parents who don't know how they're going to give their kids the opportunities they deserve. I see it in the eyes of people who don't expect anything to come easy but wonder why it has to be quite so hard.
- We're going to give the American Dream back to them. We're going to make this economy work for everyone – the struggling, the striving, and the successful. That will be my mission as President, from the first day to the last.
- But you know, we're not just picking a President, we're also choosing a Commander-in-Chief. I'm the only candidate on either side with the experience and judgment to keep us safe at home and strong in the world.
- Now, the Republican candidates keep asking about my accomplishments. So I sent them all a copy of my book, "Hard Choices." I figured there were so many of them, they could start a book club.
- They could read about how I got Russia and China to agree to tough new sanctions on Iran. Or how I brokered a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel that stopped terrorist rockets from falling on Israeli homes. Maybe they'd be interested in how you push for a global agreement on climate change… oh who are we kidding, they don't care about that at all!
- Well, it's all in the book. But I didn't get a single thank you note. And based on what they're saying on the campaign trail, it doesn't seem like they learned very much.
- Shallow slogans don't add up to a strategy. Promising to carpet bomb until the desert glows doesn't make you sound strong – it makes you sound like you're in over your head. Bluster and bigotry are not credentials for becoming Commander-in-Chief. And it would be a huge mistake to send U.S. combat troops into another costly ground war in the Middle East.
- Now, Senator Sanders doesn't talk very much about foreign policy. But when he does, it raises concerns, because sometimes it sounds like he's hasn't really thought it through. For example, he suggested we invite Iranian troops into Syria. That's just a bad idea. It's like asking the arsonist to be the firefighter. As terrible as things are in Syria, more Iranian troops are only going to make things worse.
- The world a President has to grapple with is beyond complicated. That's why this is the hardest job in the world. I've seen it up close and personal. And I know what it takes.
- I know how to find common ground and how to stand my ground. I teamed up with Republicans like Tom

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Delay to improve our foster care system. I worked with Lindsey Graham to extend health benefits for our National Guard and Reserves. We had deep disagreements. But we found a sliver of common ground. And that made life better for a whole lot of people.

- I'll also stand my ground so you can gain ground. That's why I'm taking on the gun lobby in this campaign. We're losing an average of 90 Americans every day to gun violence. It's wrong, it has to stop, and I won't back down no matter what they throw at me.
- But I can't do any of this alone. On February 1st, it's up to you. You have to decide who you trust to make a real difference in your lives.
- I know how to get things done. How to build on the progress we've made. My opponent's ideas are a recipe for gridlock, not action. The American people can't afford that. You shouldn't have to wait for results. You shouldn't have to wait for lower drug prices. You shouldn't have to wait for higher wages or help with college loans. You shouldn't have to wait to start that small business or to enjoy a secure retirement.
- You brought our country back from the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes. Now it's your time to get ahead. And, you know what? America succeeds when you succeed.
- It comes down to this: I need you. I need you knocking on doors and making phone calls. I need you caucusing on February 1st. And I need you standing with me every day as President, working to build that better America.
- So please join me. You can text JOIN to 4-7-2-4-6 right now. And then visit hillaryclinton.com . Talk to your friends and family. Talk to your neighbors. Make sure they're all going to caucus on February 1st.
- The pundits might be surprised that this race is close, but I'm not. I never doubted that I'd have to work for every vote. I never doubted that I'd face tough attacks.
- I don't care how hard Karl Rove or the Koch Brothers hit us. I've spent my life working for children, families, and our country… from the kitchen table to the peace table… working to even the odds for people who have the odds stacked against them. And I'm just getting warmed up.
- So, I want to thank you and all the people of Iowa. You've taught me so much. You've made me a better candidate. And I believe thanks to you I will be a better President.
- Iowa, I'm listening to you, I'm fighting for you, and, with your help, as President I'm going to deliver.

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From:	"Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	9/22/2008 5:07:43 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] NSN Factcheck: 10 Claims John McCain Will Make at the National Security Debate
Attachments:	10 Things John McCain Will Say.docx

FYI. We are releasing this broadly tomorrow but are starting to share with our friends.

National Security Network

WHAT TO WATCH FOR AT THE NATIONAL SECURITY DEBATE

10 CLAIMS JOHN MCCAIN WILL LIKELY MAKE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Claim 1: ***McCain will say his foreign policy is different from that of George W. Bush.***
Reality: On the critical issues, ranging from advocating the invasion of Iraq only days after 9/11 to declaring premature victory in Afghanistan, to saber rattling on Iran and refusing to use tough diplomacy, John McCain's policies are in lock step with those of George W. Bush.

Claim 2: ***John McCain will tout his judgment, saying he hates war.***
Reality: John McCain has taken a dangerously aggressive approach to foreign policy advocating attacking six different countries in the last eight years. Moreover, McCain retains many of the same Neocon advisors who pushed for the war in Iraq in the first place.

Claim 3: ***McCain will say he has long been a critic of the war in Iraq.***
Reality: McCain was an early supporter of the Iraq War, linking Saddam Hussein, al Qaeda and weapons of mass destruction. He supported the Rumsfeld strategy of going with a minimal number of troops and said the war would be "easy." He continued to argue for staying the course until 2006.

Claim 4: ***McCain will take credit for the "surge" and argue that the troop increase is responsible for the entire decline in violence and that as a result we have succeeded.***
Reality: Military leaders have acknowledged that there were numerous reasons for the reduction in violence including the Anbar Awakening and political engagement with Muqtada al-Sadr. In fact, McCain confused the sequence of events in Iraq arguing that the troop increase caused the Anbar Awakening, even though the Anbar Awakening came first. Moreover, General Petraeus has warned that it is too early to declare victory as John McCain and his allies are doing.

Claim 5: ***McCain will say he wants to send more troops to Afghanistan and Pakistan.***
Reality: McCain has continued to make Iraq the number one priority and has not explained how he will keep large troop levels in Iraq while meeting the requirements in Afghanistan and elsewhere laid out by military commander and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. He has shown little interest in Afghanistan saying we can just "muddle through" in 2003 and declaring victory in 2005. In fact, McCain had no policy on Afghanistan until July 15, 2008 and Afghanistan did not come up once in all of the major speeches during the Republican National Convention. Meanwhile, Barack Obama and progressives have been sounding the alarm for years.

Claim 6: ***McCain will say he will get Osama Bin Laden and go after Al Qaeda.***
Reality: John McCain was a strong early supporter of the Iraq war – a war that resulted in assets and focus being pulled away from the hunt for Bin Laden and Afghanistan. While Obama has supported going after high-value targets in al Qaeda's safe haven in Pakistan, McCain has criticized Obama for a position that has now become official U.S. policy.

Claim 7: ***McCain will cite his response to the crisis in Georgia as evidence of good judgment.***
Reality: McCain recklessly issued bellicose statements without waiting for all the facts, while Barack Obama, other world leaders, and even President Bush took a more measured approach. McCain then went on to claim that "we are all Georgians." In fact, McCain has had a dangerous policy towards Russia for some time, proposing to kick them out of the G8 – a policy that would preclude any cooperation on critical issues such as nonproliferation.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Claim 8: ***McCain will say that talking to Iran is weak and naive.***
Reality: There is a bipartisan consensus on the need to talk to Iran. Five secretaries of state including Henry Kissinger and Jim Baker all agreed recently that we have to talk to them directly. Obama's plan calls for tough direct diplomacy in combination with sanctions and other pressures. McCain's plan of refusing to talk is the same policy that George Bush pursued until very recently – a policy that has failed and that if continued will one day force the U.S. to make a no-win decision between attacking Iran or allowing it to attain a nuclear weapons capability.

Claim 9: ***McCain will say he can work effectively with our allies.***
Reality: John McCain has a long history of belligerence and heated rhetoric towards our allies. In the run up to the Iraq War he called France and Germany "vacuous and posturing" and referred to them as our "adversaries." Recently he said he might not meet with Spain's Prime Minister and on top of that he is quite unpopular internationally.

Claim 10: ***McCain will say he will cut wasteful defense spending.***
Reality: McCain has been all over the map on defense spending. His plan to add about 200,000 ground troops to the military would cost $25 billion a year. Meanwhile, in his budget plan released in July he promised to cut $160 billion from the budget by opposing the Future Combat System, yet he now criticizes Obama's promise to cut spending on that same program.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Claim 1: ***McCain will say his foreign policy is different from that of George W. Bush.***
Reality: On the critical issues from advocating the invasion of Iraq only days after 9/11 to declaring premature victory in Afghanistan to saber rattling on Iran and refusing to use tough diplomacy John McCain's policies are in lock step with those of George W. Bush.

After 9/11, John McCain advocated attacking Iraq, Iran, or Syria instead of staying focused on the real threat in Afghanistan. "That's where the tough part of this whole scenario is going to begin. And that is that, after the Taliban are overthrown -- which I believe they will be -- I have very little doubt in my mind -- after bin Laden is either taken prisoner or killed and his network is destroyed, then what's next? Obviously, Iraq is still bent on -- Saddam Hussein is still bent on developing weapons of mass destruction. Obviously, the Iranians are still supporting terrorist organizations, as are the Syrians. That's where the tough choices and decisions are going to be made." [MSNBC, Hardball, 10/3/01]

Like George Bush McCain completely misjudged the difficulties of invading Iraq, saying that the war would be "easy." McCain said, "I believe that the success [in Iraq] will be fairly easy." McCain also said, "I believe that the United States military capabilities are such that we can win a victory in a relatively short time… I believe that we can win an overwhelming victory in a very short period of time." In January 2003, McCain again predicted the same about invading Iraq, saying, "we will win this conflict. We will win it easily." In March 2003, McCain repeatedly said that US troops would be welcomed as liberators. Chris Matthews asked McCain, "Do you believe that the people of Iraq or at least a large number of them will treat us as liberators?" McCain answered: "Absolutely. Absolutely." Two weeks later, McCain said: "There's no doubt in my mind that once these people [loyalists to Saddam] are gone that we will be welcomed as liberators," McCain said. [MSNBC, Hardball, 3/12/03; 3/24/03; CNN, "Larry King Live," 9/24/2002; CNN, 9/29/02; CNN.com, 1/22/2003]

McCain has consistently failed to accurately assess the situation in Afghanistan, calling the war in 2005 a "remarkable success" and said that "nobody in Afghanistan threatens the United States of America." On CNN McCain said, "[C]ould I add, it was in Afghanistan, as well, there were many people who predicted that Afghanistan would not be a success. So far, it's a remarkable success." On Fox, McCain said, "Think we should have had a larger peacekeeping force. But nobody in Afghanistan threatens the United States of America and nobody is running terrorist training camps to orchestrate attacks on the United States of America." [CNN, 3/2/05. Fox News, "Hannity & Colmes," 4/10/03]

Claim 2: ***John McCain will tout his judgment saying he hates war.***
Reality: John McCain has taken a dangerously aggressive approach to foreign policy advocating attacking six different countries in the last eight years. Moreover, McCain retains many of the same Neocon advisors who pushed for the war in Iraq in the first place.

In 2000 McCain called for overthrowing the regimes of Iraq, North Korea and Libya - In 2000 Republican primary campaign McCain argued that the United States should overthrow Iraq, North Korea and Libya. "McCain called Tuesday for the overthrow of Iraq, Libya and North Korea if they continue to develop weapons of mass destruction. "I'd institute a policy that I call 'rogue state rollback.'" [Agence France Presse, 2/16/2000]

Less than a month after the 9/11 attacks McCain advocated going after Syria and Iran. "After bin Laden is either taken prisoner or killed and his network is destroyed, then what's next? Obviously, Iraq is still bent on -- Saddam Hussein is still bent on developing weapons of mass destruction. Obviously, the Iranians are still supporting terrorist organizations, as are the Syrians. That's where the tough choices and decisions are going to be made." [MSNBC, Hardball, 10/3/01]

After 9/11, McCain supported invading a number of countries. During an appearance on CNN's "Newsnight with Aaron Brown," John McCain said, "once we take care of the problem in Afghanistan and eradicate al Qaeda, and either kill or capture bin Laden, then we have to move to the next country." [CNN, "Newsnight with Aaron Brown," 11/23/01]

McCain's extreme foreign policy views have made him the Neocons' candidate the past decade. In the 2000 campaign, McCain argued that the United States should overthrow Iraq, North Korea and Libya in a policy he called "rogue state rollback." Neoconservatives have had a prominent role in the McCain campaign. "Mr. McCain and his aides were consulting regularly with the circle of hawkish foreign policy thinkers sometimes referred to as neoconservatives — including Mr. Kristol, Robert Kagan and Randy Scheunemann, a former aide to Mr. Dole who became a McCain campaign adviser — to develop the senator's foreign policy ideas and instincts into the broad themes of a presidential campaign." Robert Kagan, one of the most prominent neoconservatives, also wrote McCain's speech at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. [Agence France Presse, 2/16/2000. NY Times, 8/16/08 . WSJ, 3/6/08. Wonk Room, 3/17/08 . NY Times, 4/10/08]

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Claim 3: ***McCain will say he has long been a critic of the war in Iraq.***
Reality: McCain was an early supporter of the Iraq War linking Saddam Hussein, al Qaeda and weapons of mass destruction. He supported the Rumsfeld strategy of going with a minimal number of troops and said the war would be "easy." He continued to argue for staying the course until 2006.

McCain fully endorsed the Bush-Rumsfeld plan for invading Iraq with few troops. On Face the Nation in 2002 McCain said, "I think we could go in with much smaller numbers than we had to do in the past... I don't believe it's going to be nearly the size and scope that it was in 1991." McCain, like Rumsfeld, thought air power would make up for fewer troops and like Rumsfeld, he never thought about the aftermath. McCain said on Larry King in 2002, "Our technology, particularly air-to-ground technology is vastly improved. I don't think you're going to have to see the scale of numbers of troops that we saw, nor the length of the buildup, obviously, that we had back in 1991." He said later on Hardball, "I believe that the kind of technology and the kind of military that we have today doesn't require massive numbers of troops**.** You might have noticed the conflict in Afghanistan, we had a few soldiers on the ground and used very incredibly accurate air power." McCain later predicted in late 2002 McCain said that "We're not going get into house-to-house fighting in Baghdad." [CBS, Face the Nation, 9/15/02. CNN, Larry King Live, 12/09/02. MSNBC, Hardball, 10/16/02. CNN, Late Edition, 9/29/02]

McCain was one of the most fervent war supporters and supported the President's approach throughout the course of the war. McCain was a cheerleader for invading Iraq, said "I believe that we can win an overwhelming victory in a very short period of time." He hyped the threat of Iraq saying Saddam Hussein is a "threat to civilization." He also said that failing to remove Saddam from power would "make the violent century just passed seem an era of remarkable tranquility in comparison." In the midst of looting following the invasion McCain praised Rumsfeld, saying "I'm a great admirer of Rumsfeld." He added "I think the president is blessed to have two extremely talented people (Powell and Rumsfeld), experienced people, working for him, and others, but particularly those two." [CNN Late Edition, 9/29/02. Washington Times, 2/14/03. MSNBC Hardball, 4/23/03]

McCain said Bin Laden and Saddam connected because they share "common cause." "But what I think it's ample evidence of is that bin Laden will do anything he could to harm the United States of America, and he has common cause with Saddam Hussein who will do anything he can to harm the United States of America. And the two of them together can make a very potent recipe." [NBC Today Show, 2/13/03]

McCain said mistakes were made but favored continuing the President's failed strategy saying that we need to "stay the course" with the President's Iraq strategy in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. McCain was a forceful advocate of continuing the President's approach in Iraq. Throughout 2004, 2005, and 2006 McCain consistently said we should "stay the course" in Iraq. In 2005 on ABC McCain said "some serious mistakes were made, but…I think we've got to stay the course here." In 2006 McCain said on CBS Bush had "laid out recently a pretty cogent argument why we must, quote - I hate to use the phrase - stay the course'[in Iraq.]" [NPR, 4/28/04. ABC News, 10/24/04. Fox, 8/14/05; ABC News, 9/25/05; CBS News, 6/29/05; The Hill, 12/8/05. MSNBC, 6/8/06. CBS News, 9/24/06]

Claim 4: ***McCain will take credit for the "surge" and argue that the troop increase is responsible for the entire decline in violence and that as a result we have succeeded.***
Reality: Military leaders have acknowledged that there were numerous reasons for the reduction in violence including a willingness to talk to our enemies though the Anbar Awakening and the ceasefire with Muqtada al-Sadr. In fact, McCain confused the sequence of events in Iraq arguing that the troop increase caused the Anbar Awakening, even though the Anbar Awakening came first. Moreover, General Petraeus has warned that it is too early to declare victory as John McCain and his allies are doing and that political progress is still slow in coming.

A number of factors caused the reduced levels of violence in Iraq, including a willingness to talk to our enemies in the Sunni insurgency, and the Shi'a cleric Muqtada Al Sadr. Levels of violence in Iraq have fallen because of four factors: 1) the increased American military presence and new counterinsurgency tactics; 2) an alliance among a number of Sunni tribal groups against Al Qaeda in Iraq; 3) the segregation of the population along sectarian lines, thanks to massive ethnic cleansing; and 4) a cease fire by Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army. [Washington Post, 9/8/08]

McCain confused the history of the surge. McCain misstated the history of the surge in an interview with Katie Couric. McCain said, "Colonel McFarlane [phonetic] was contacted by one of the major Sunni sheiks. Because of the surge we were able to go out and protect that sheik and others. And it began the Anbar awakening. I mean, that's just a matter of history." In reality, the Anbar Awakening preceded the surge. [CBS, 7/22/08]

The Anbar Awakening, which began well before the President's announcement of the "surge" in January 2007, was crucial to the decline in violence. The Obama campaign was quick to note that the Anbar Awakening began in the fall of 2006, several months before President Bush even announced the troop escalation strategy, which became known as the surge. (No less an authority than Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top commander in Iraq, testified before Congress

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this spring that the Awakening "started before the surge, but then was very much enabled by the surge.") Furthermore, progressives noted that the sheik who helped form the Awakening, Abdul Sattar Buzaigh al-Rishawi, was assassinated in September 2007, after the troop escalation began. [NY Times, 7/24/08]

General Petraeus himself has pointed out that the situation is more complicated than how John McCain and his allies portray it. "This is not the sort of struggle where you take a hill, plant the flag and go home to a victory parade... it's not war with a simple slogan." [BBC News, 9/11/08]

AFGHANISTAN / PAKISTAN

***Claim 5:* McCain will say he wants to send more troops to Afghanistan and Pakistan.**
Reality: McCain has continued to make Iraq the number one priority and has not explained how he will keep large troop levels in Iraq while meeting the requirements in Afghanistan and elsewhere laid out by military commander and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. He has shown little interest in Afghanistan saying we can just "muddle through" in 2003 and declaring victory in 2005. In fact, McCain had no policy on Afghanistan until July 15, 2008 and Afghanistan did not come up once in all of the major speeches during the Republican National Convention. Meanwhile, Barack Obama and progressives have been sounding the alarm for years.

McCain has not said where these troops will come from and his focus continues to be on Iraq. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Admiral Mullen, noted that more U.S. troops are needed in Afghanistan to help control an increasingly active insurgency but, due to the war in Iraq, insufficient forces are available for such action. "I don't have troops I can reach for, brigades I can reach to send into Afghanistan until I have a reduced requirement in Iraq," Mullen said. "Afghanistan remains an economy of force campaign, which by definition means we need more forces there. We have the ability in almost every single case to win from the combat standpoint, but we don't have enough troops there to hold. That is key to the future of being able to succeed in Afghanistan." Despite this, McCain has called for a long-term commitment to Iraq that would not allow us to have the necessary troops for Afghanistan. [Washington Post 7/2/08 . NY Times, 7/02/08]

McCain has shown little interest in Afghanistan compared to Iraq, believing we can "muddle" through in Afghanistan. After a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington D.C., McCain was asked about the deteriorating scenario in Afghanistan. He said, "There has been a rise in al Qaeda activity along the border. There has been some increase in U.S. casualties. I am concerned about it, but I'm not as concerned as I am about Iraq today, obviously, or I'd be talking about Afghanistan. But I believe that if Karzai can make the progress that he is making, that -- in the long term, we may muddle through in Afghanistan." [McCain Speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, 11/5/03]

Afghanistan was completely ignored at the Republican National Convention, despite gravely deteriorating situation. Retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey, in a harrowing assessment for West Point, said that Afghanistan "is in misery," yet John McCain and his fellow conservative Republicans offered nothing to address this spiraling crisis. Afghanistan went unmentioned in all the major Republican convention addresses, a glaring absence that echoes the Bush Administration's neglectful policies toward the country, and the broader region. [General Barry McCaffrey, 7/30/08 . President George W. Bush, 9/02/08 . Senator Fred Thompson, 9/02/08 . Senator Joseph Lieberman, 9/02/08 . Mitt Romney, 9/03/08 . Mike Huckabee, 9/03/08 . Rudy Giuliani, 9/03/08 . Governor Sarah Palin, 9/03/08]

Until July 15th 2008, McCain had no strategy for Afghanistan included in his national security policy platform. Until July 15, 2008, John McCain's website contained no articulated strategy for Afghanistan. There is still scant mention of a strategy, in either his national security policy section or his Iraq policy section. [John McCain.com, 7/15/08]

Progressives have called for more troops and a greater focus on Afghanistan for years. After years of neglect, deteriorating conditions in Afghanistan are raising questions for President Bush and John McCain. Democrats have been there all along – and since 2002 have been making the case that Iraq is distracting us from the main fight against Al Qaeda. Senator Kerry made this argument a central part of his campaign in 2004 and Barack Obama has been very clear about the importance of Afghanistan since early in the primary campaign. [NSN, 7/15/08 . Senator Barack Obama, 10/2/02 . Senator Barack Obama, 8/01/07 . Senator Biden, NY Times, 3/2/08], NY Times, 10/1/03 . John Kerry, U.S. Presidential Debates, 9/30/04 . Senator Reid, 7/12/07 . Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Larry King Live, 4/24/2008 . Senator Jack Reed, 3/15/07 . Senator Carl Levin, 3/4/2008]

***Claim 6:* McCain will say he will get Osama Bin Laden and go after Al Qaeda.**
Reality: John McCain was a strong early supporter of the Iraq war – a war that resulted in assets and focus being pulled away from the hunt for Bin Laden and Afghanistan. While Obama has supported going after high-value targets in al Qaeda's safe haven in Pakistan, McCain has criticized Obama for a position that has now become official U.S. policy.

McCain was an early supporter of the war in Iraq calling for toppling Saddam Hussein only a month after 9/11. This

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strategy diverted crucial resources from focusing on Osama Bin Laden. The New York Times reports that, "the White House shifted its sights, beginning in 2002, from counterterrorism efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan to preparations for the war in Iraq." According to current and former military and intelligence officials the war in Iraq has consistently diverted resources and high-level attention from the fight against al Qaeda. Intelligence officials report that by 2006 the Iraq war had drained away most of the C.I.A. officers with field experience in the Islamic world. "You had a very finite number" of experienced officers, said one former senior intelligence official. "Those people all went to Iraq. We were all hurting because of Iraq." In fact, "when American military and intelligence officials requested additional Predator drones to survey the tribal areas, they were told no drones were available because they had been sent to Iraq." [New York Times, 6/30/08]

Senator Obama advocates unilaterally striking terrorist targets in Pakistan. "They are plotting to strike again… If we have actionable intelligence about high-value terrorist targets and President Musharraf won't act, we will." [Washington Post, 8/02/07]

McCain attacked Obama for his willingness to strike at Al Qaeda targets in Pakistan, accused Obama of "confused" leadership and said he wanted to bomb "our ally" Pakistan. "Will we risk the confused leadership of an inexperienced candidate who once suggested bombing our ally, Pakistan?" On Larry King, McCain was asked "If you were president and knew that bin Laden was in Pakistan, you know where, would you have U.S. forces go in after him?" McCain responded "I'm not going to go there. And here's why, because Pakistan is a sovereign nation." [MSNBC, 2/20/08 . Larry King Live, 7/28/08]

Obama's position has become official U.S. policy. President Bush recently approved orders allowing unilateral strikes against terrorist targets inside of Pakistan. "President Bush secretly approved orders in July that for the first time allow American Special Operations forces to carry out ground assaults inside Pakistan without the prior approval of the Pakistani government, according to senior American officials. The classified orders signal a watershed for the Bush administration after nearly seven years of trying to work with Pakistan to combat the Taliban and Al Qaeda, and after months of high-level stalemate about how to challenge the militants' increasingly secure base in Pakistan's tribal areas." [NY Times, 9/10/08]

RUSSIA / GEORGIA

Claim 7: ***McCain will cite his response to the crisis in Georgia as evidence of good judgment.***
Reality: McCain recklessly issued bellicose statements without waiting for all the facts, while Barack Obama, other world leaders, and even President Bush took a more measured approach. McCain then went on to claim that "we are all Georgians." In fact, McCain has had a dangerous policy towards Russia for some time proposing to kick them out of the G8 – a policy that would preclude any cooperation on critical issues such as nonproliferation.

McCain's response to Russia – without waiting for the facts -- was reckless and dangerous, another example of how his foreign policy would be more "aggressive" than Bush. "McCain took a remarkably — and uniquely — more aggressive stance, siding clearly with Georgia's pro-Western leaders and placing the blame for the conflict entirely on Russia." McCain's statement "put him more closely in line with the moral clarity and American exceptionalism projected by President Bush's first term." He went on to state that "I know I speak for every American when I say to him today, we are all Georgians." [Politico, 8/10/08 . CBS, 8/12/08]

McCain has attacked Obama for not being aggressive in his response, yet Obama's initial response was in line with almost all world leaders, including George Bush. "While virtually every other world leader called for calm in Georgia last Thursday morning, John McCain did something he's done many times over his career in public life: He condemned Russia…though neither he nor any other leader has suggested that the West has any real way to blunt Moscow's ultimate intentions. He's also faced the accusation that his encouragement of Georgia's dramatic defiance of Russia helped trigger the crisis." [Politico, 8/13/08]

The conflict was more complicated than how McCain portrayed it. "According to the Republican presidential candidate, 'today we are all Georgians.' Actually, the events of the past week in Georgia have little in common with either Hitler's dismemberment of Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II or Soviet policies in Eastern Europe. They are better understood against the backdrop of the complicated ethnic politics of the Caucasus, a part of the world where historical grudges run deep and oppressed can become oppressors in the bat of an eye… When it comes to apportioning blame for the latest flare-up in the Caucasus, there's plenty to go around. The Russians were clearly itching for a fight, but the behavior of Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili has been erratic and provocative. The United States may have stoked the conflict by encouraging Saakashvili to believe that he enjoyed American protection, when the West's ability to impose its will in this part of the world is actually quite limited." [Washington Post, 8/17/08]

McCain has on numerous occasions called for kicking Russia out of the G-8 – an idea that would almost certainly lead to a new Cold War and preclude any cooperation on key non-proliferation issues. In a Foreign Affairs article published late last year, McCain advocated kicking Russia out of the G-8: "Today, we see in Russia diminishing political

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freedoms, a leadership dominated by a clique of former intelligence officers, efforts to bully democratic neighbors, such as Georgia, and attempts to manipulate Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas. We need a new Western approach to this revanchist Russia. We should start by ensuring that the G-8, the group of eight highly industrialized states, becomes again a club of leading market democracies: it should include Brazil and India but exclude Russia." McCain repeated this suggestion in his Los Angeles World Foreign Affairs Council speech that the G-8 should "include India and Brazil, but exclude Russia." [Foreign Affairs, 11-12/07. McCain, 3/26/08]

IRAN

***Claim 8:* McCain will say that talking to Iran is weak and naive.**
Reality: There is a bipartisan consensus on the need to talk to Iran. Five secretaries of state including Henry Kissinger and Jim Baker all agreed recently that we have to talk to them directly. Obama's plan calls for tough direct diplomacy in combination with sanctions and other pressures. McCain's plan of refusing to talk is the same policy that George Bush pursued until very recently – a policy that has failed and that if continued will one day force the U.S. to make a no-win decision between attacking Iran or allowing it to attain a nuclear weapons capability.

Henry Kissinger, Jim Baker, Colin Powell, Madeleine Albright and Warren Christopher all agree we need direct talks with Iran without pre-conditions. Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State under Presidents Nixon and Ford, not only indicated that he "was in favor of negotiating with Iran," but said that such negotiations should occur "without conditions," and should begin at a high level." Former Clinton Secretary of State Madeleine Albright advised that "You need to engage with countries you have problems with," and said "I believe we need to engage with Iran." Colin Powell, Secretary of State under George W. Bush echoed the need for negotiations stating: "Let's get together and talk about nuclear weapons." [AP, 9/15/08 . ABC News, 9/15/08 . Reuters, 9/16/08 .]

The Bipartisan Iraq Study Group believes the US should have direct talks with Iran. "Given the ability of Iran and Syria to influence events within Iraq and their interest in avoiding chaos in Iraq, the United States should try to engage them constructively. In seeking to influence the behavior of both countries, the United States has disincentives and incentives available." [Iraq Study Group, 12/06]

Even the Bush administration is moving toward Senator Obama's strategy of diplomatic engagement with Iran. The Bush Administration is beginning to embrace a number of foreign policy positions favored by Senator Obama. "On a range of major foreign policy issues over the past year, Bush has pursued strategies and actions very much along the lines of what Sen. Obama has advocated during his presidential race…" "On the diplomatic front, Obama has made a point of advocating dialogue with Iran" and though he has been vilified by conservatives for it, "in July, Bush sent a high-level U.S. emissary to attend nuclear talks with Iran…" In June, the Washington Post reported that "Senior officials at the State Department and beyond are mulling a proposal to open an interest section in Tehran, similar to the one the United States has operated in Havana since 1977." [Washington Post, 9/15/08 . Washington Post, 6/23/08]

McCain's policy of refusing to engage Iran is a continuation of a failed Bush policy that even the current administration has begun to back pedal from. Senator McCain has consistently derided Barack Obama as naïve for his willingness to have tough direct diplomacy with Iran. McCain has instead called for more sanctions and the continuation of a policy that has not worked for the past five years while Iran has developed 4,000 centrifuges. He even put out an advertisement two weeks ago reaffirming this position and deriding Obama's position on Iran. [John McCain conference call, 5/15/08 . JohnMcCain.com]

WORKING WITH ALLIES

***Claim 9:* McCain will say he can work effectively with our allies.**
Reality: John McCain has a long history of belligerence and heated rhetoric towards our allies. In the run up to the Iraq War he called France and Germany "vacuous and posturing" and referred to them as our "adversaries." Recently he said he might not meet with Spain's Prime Minister and on top of that he is quite unpopular internationally.

McCain attacked our allies as "vacuous and posturing" for opposing war in Iraq. "Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said that "Iraq is the test" of both the U.N. and NATO. He charged that the alliance is failing the test because of the "flawed calculations" and "vacuous posturing" of Germany and France. McCain and Rumsfeld both said that recent French and German foot-dragging over even discussing the possible deployment of NATO assets, such as Patriot anti-missile batteries, to Turkey also threatened to damage the alliance." [Washington Post, 2/9/03]

John McCain engaged in the anti-French bashing of the far right because they opposed the invasion of the war. "The Lord said the poor will always be with us, and the French will be with us, too," said McCain, a member of the Armed Services Committee. "This is part of a continuing French practice of throwing sand in the gears of the Atlantic alliance. But now they're playing a dangerous game, and coming close to rendering themselves irrelevant." A few days later he even

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said that, "Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) likened France to an aging '40s starlet "still trying to dine out on her looks but doesn't have the face for it." [NY Times, 2/14/03. NY Daily News, 2/17/03]

McCain attacked Germany for opposing the war – saying they lacked "political courage." McCain said that former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder "looks little like the ally that anchored our presence in Europe throughout the Cold War…A German Rip Van Winkle from the 1960s would not understand the lack of political courage and cooperation with its allies on the question of Iraq exhibited in Berlin today." [Washington Times, 2/14/03]

McCain is very unpopular around the world, and surveys have shown that the majority of the international community is rooting for him to lose. A recent BBC study found that of all the countries polled, none hope for a McCain presidency. In fact, in the case of a McCain administration, 36% of those polled thought that American relations with the world would stay the same, while a full 16% thought relations would further deteriorate.

DEFENSE SPENDING

Claim 10: ***McCain will say he will cut wasteful defense spending.***
Reality: McCain has been all over the map on defense spending. His plan to add about 200,000 ground troops to the military would cost $25 billion a year. Meanwhile, in his budget plan released in July he promised to cut $160 billion from the budget by opposing the Future Combat System, yet he now criticizes Obama's promise to cut spending on that same program.

McCain has made grandiose promises on defense that are not grounded in reality and represent the exact opposite of the fiscal reform that he will supposedly bring to the White House. John McCain has pledged to expand the ground forces by about 200,000 over current levels. He also says he will modernize the armed forces by "procuring advanced weapons systems." Yet at the same time, McCain has pledged to control defense spending. This doesn't add up. The CBO estimates that increasing the ground forces to the current goal of about 750,000 will cost about $110 billion over seven years; this is roughly $15 billion per year. Using the same projections, increasing the size of the ground forces by an additional 150,000 over this same period would cost an additional $175 billion or $25 billion per year. The costs would likely be much higher as McCain is proposing a 25 percent increase in the size of the ground forces and attracting that many volunteers will require significant funding. [Foreign Affairs, 11-12/08 . John McCain.com 9/10/08 . CBO, 4/16/07]

John McCain's own budget plan - the one that he claims will reform Washington – opposes the Future Combat System and claims he would cut $160 billion in spending. McCain's plan submitted in July 2008 to the Washington Post specifically claims that balancing the budget "requires slowing outlay growth to 2.4 percent. The roughly $470 billion dollars (by 2013) in slower spending growth come from reduced deployments abroad ($150 billion; consistent with success in Iraq/Afghanistan that permits deployments to be cut by half -- hopefully more), slower discretionary spending in non-defense and Pentagon procurements ($160 billion; there are lots of procurements -- airborne laser, Globemaster, Future Combat System -- that should be ended and the entire Pentagon budget should be scrubbed)." And Senator McCain has long been an opponent of the Future Combat System. [Washington Post, 7/14/08 . The Hill, 4/05/05]

John McCain blasted Barack Obama for opposing Future Combat System – but McCain also opposed it. Barack Obama stated clearly that he would "cut tens of billions of dollars in wasteful spending," by "slowing the development of Future Combat Systems," while also working separately to "increase the size of our military," so the present strain on the armed forces would diminish. McCain misrepresented these separate positions, calling Obama a flip-flopper before audiences in Missouri "Of course, now he wants to increase it," McCain told an audience in Lee's Summit, Missouri on Monday. "But during the primary he told a liberal advocacy group that he'd cut defense spending by tens of billions of dollars.'" [CNN, 9/08/08]

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HRC Clips
February 4, 2015

HRC

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Hillary Clinton, Obama entangled in vaccines debate as old comments resurface (Washington Times)

By Valerie Richardson
February 4, 2015
The Washington Times

Democrats were gleeful when Republicans Chris Christie and Rand Paul got tangled this week in the debate over the Disneyland measles outbreak, until similar words from the pasts of President Obama and 2016 front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton came out.

Mr. Christie walked back his recent comments calling for "balance" and a role for "parental choice" on childhood vaccines, saying in a Monday statement that "with a disease like measles, there's no question kids should be vaccinated."

But the Democratic posturing as the party of science was short-lived. Several websites promptly dug up a comment from Mr. Obama during the 2008 presidential campaign in which he said the research on whether vaccines cause autism was "inconclusive."

Then it was reported Tuesday that Mrs. Clinton had responded to a questionnaire during the 2008 presidential primary race from a vaccine skeptics group in which she said, "I am committed to make investments to find the causes of autism, including possible environmental causes like vaccines."

The episode reveals that the emotionally charged vaccination issue has political pitfalls for both parties as candidates line up for the 2016 presidential contest, even though a Pew Research Center report released last week shows Democrats and Republicans alike strongly support childhood vaccinations.

A left-right coalition

For Republicans, the trick lies with soothing the party's libertarian wing, which reflexively resists government intervention in the decision-making of parents. For Democrats, the challenge is figuring out how to put Republicans on the ropes without alienating the large pockets of "anti-vaers" in heavily Democratic areas such as Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"This is one of those cases where the far left and the far right converge," said Republican political strategist Dick Wadhams. "I just think it's poor judgment for anyone to suggest that children should not be vaccinated. It defies logic that someone could even suggest that in this day and age."

Democrats jumped on the issue this week following comments by Mr. Christie and Mr. Paul, Kentucky Republican, who said Monday that vaccines "ought to be voluntary" during a radio interview with host Laura Ingraham.

"I'm not arguing vaccines are a bad idea. I think they are a good thing, but I think the parent should have some input," said Mr. Paul, an ophthalmologist who added that he did have his children vaccinated. "The state doesn't own your children. Parents own the children."

Mr. Christie and Mr. Paul are both oft-mentioned potential candidates for the 2016 GOP pnomination, making them juicy targets for the Democratic National Committee, which released a statement Monday blasting the Republicans as anti-science.

"Republican after Republican is bowing to the rhetoric of the anti-vaccination movement instead of standing up for the science supported by almost all doctors and scientists on protecting our kids and keeping our nation safe," the Democratic National Committee said in a Monday statement.

Mrs. Clinton chimed in with a Tuesday post on Twitter saying, "The science is clear: The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork," she tweeted. "Let's protect all our kids. #GrandmothersKnowBest."

Democratic resistance

But Democrats have their own cultural vulnerabilities on the issue. Among the communities hit hardest by the recent measles outbreak are Los Angeles and the Bay Area, where Democrats vastly outnumber Republicans and where the anti-vaccination movement is on the rise.

Such Democratic environmentalist icons as Robert F. Kennedy Jr. have directly blamed vaccines for a rise in autism despite a lack of support by the major scientific and medical organizations.

"Democrats love to masquerade as if they have no extremists in their party, and this is a classic case that exposes their own far left," Mr. Wadhams said.

A Sept. 10 analysis in the Hollywood Reporter found that vaccination rates have plummeted at some of Los Angeles County's most exclusive schools, while incidents of whooping cough and measles among children in Southern California are on the rise.

A study released Sunday in Pediatrics found that underimmunization rates in California have risen from 8.1 percent in 2002-

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2005 to 12.4 percent in 2010-2012.

By contrast, the state with the lowest rates of nonimmunization statewide is Mississippi, a state that, despite its conservatism and religiosity, is one of only two in the nation with a state school vaccination requirement that doesn't even have a religious exemption. (The other is West Virginia, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.)

"It's no secret that anti-vaccine sentiments run high on the West Side," said the Hollywood Reporter article, referring to the wealthy Democratic Los Angeles County enclave, which includes Beverly Hills and Santa Monica.

"But the data reveals a community where ambiguous fears about the perceived threat of immunization have in fact caused a very real threat," the article continues. "This is a hard topic to discuss, especially here in Hollywood."

The 'Whole Foods' standard

In a 2011 interview, author Seth Mnookin released a book called "The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Austism Controversy" debunking anti-vaccine theories, and he noted in an interview with Science Magazine that they tend to follow a kind of green cultural liberalism that views with suspicion unnatural technologies such as pharmaceuticals.

"I talked to a public health official and asked him what's the best way to anticipate where there might be higher-than-normal rates of vaccine noncompliance, and he said take a map and put a pin wherever there's a Whole Foods. I sort of laughed, and he said, 'No, really, I'm not joking.' It's those communities with the Prius-driving, composting, organic food-eating people," he said.

Another potential threat to public health stems from the influx of illegal immigrants, an issue that was broached Tuesday by Rep. Mo Brooks, Alabama Republican. Like many other Republicans, he has fought to tighten border security over the objections of Democrats.

"I don't think there is any health care professional who has examined the facts who can honestly say Americans have not died because the disease is brought into America by illegal aliens who are not properly health care screened as lawful immigrants are," Mr. Brooks told radio host Matt Murphy on WAPI-AM in Birmingham.

His comment was promptly ridiculed in a post on the left-wing website ThinkProgress, which called his theory a "red herring" and said the only evidence of foreigners carrying in diseases was "a few incidents of cases traced to European travelers."

That wasn't how Dr. Marc Siegel described the situation in a July article in the liberal online publication Slate. His op-ed, "A Public Health Crisis at the Border," argued that the flood of unaccompanied minors "in poor health or suffering from a communicable illness who enter this country illegally create[s] public health risks."

"There have been reports of measles and chicken pox at the [processing] centers, both of which are highly contagious and can spread to other children who aren't vaccinated," said Dr. Siegel, medical director of Doctor Radio at New York University's Langone Medical Center.

Politicians get involved

As the number of measles cases climbs over 100, politicians are increasingly under pressure to take a stand on what was not long ago a nonissue. Ben Carson, another potential Republican presidential contender, came out squarely in favor of vaccinations in a statement Monday.

"Although I strongly believe in individual rights and the rights of parents to raise their children as they see fit, I also recognize that public health and public safety are extremely important in our society," said Mr. Carson, a former neurosurgeon in a statement to The Hill.

"Certain communicable diseases have been largely eradicated by immunization policies in this country, and we should not allow those diseases to return by foregoing safe immunization programs for philosophical, religious or other reasons when we have the means to eradicate them," Mr. Carson said.

As the issue and the politics mushroomed, White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters Tuesday that "the president believes it shouldn't require a law to exercise common sense and do the right thing. The science and the expert guidance is crystal-clear."

He also downplayed his boss' — and, by extension, Mrs. Clinton's — 2008 comments about vaccines and autism, saying that the study that raised questions about a link has since been "completely undermined."

The publisher of the major study suggesting a link — the prestigious British journal The Lancet, in a 1998 paper — indeed only repudiated the article in 2010, citing fraud by researcher Andrew Wakefield, who is now banned from practicing medicine.

Nevertheless, as Democrats and environmentalists say is the case with climate change today, there was overwhelming consensus in 2008, if not absolute unanimity, on the lack of a link between vaccines and autism. The Lancet study had come under withering criticism for, among other things, a sample size of 12.

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'Absolutely preposterous'

"It should have been clear to any science reporter that there was no way to draw the conclusion [Mr. Wakefield] did from that study. Even if his data were reliable, even if none of the issues of selection bias and fraud had ever come up, drawing huge, broad conclusions from a 12-person case study is absolutely preposterous," Mr. Mnookin said.

According to a 2008 CNN report on an autism lawsuit, "The CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, Institute of Medicine and other prestigious medical organizations maintain there is no known link between vaccines and autism. Studies published in the New England Journal of Medicine and elsewhere also have found no link."

"The government has made absolutely no statement indicating that vaccines are a cause of autism," Dr. Julie Gerberding, former head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said at the time.

Nevertheless, both House Speaker John A. Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell found themselves making statements supporting vaccinations Tuesday, as did such Republican presidential contenders as Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

As for Mr. Paul, he tweeted a photo of himself getting a booster shot and issued a statement rebutting claims he and/or his party is anti-science.

"It just annoys me that I'm being characterized as someone who's against vaccines," Mr. Paul said.

"There's 400 headlines now that say 'Paul says vaccines cause mental disorders,'" he said. "That's not what I said. I said I've heard of people who've had vaccines, and they see a temporal association, and they believe that."

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Vaccine debate presents a political minefield — as Hillary Clinton can attest (WAPO)

By Karen Tumulty
February 4, 2015
The Washington Post

The latest tweet from Hillary Rodham Clinton sounded straightforward enough: "The science is clear: The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork."

But the issue of vaccinations has long been politically and emotionally fraught — involving not just public health but also the proper role of government, the prerogatives of parents and medical riddles that have yet to be solved.

Probably no one in public life today has felt those crosscurrents more strongly than the presumed front-runner for the 2016 Democratic nomination. On the issue of vaccination over the past two decades, Clinton has repeatedly found herself on the front lines of advocacy and criticism.

Other politicians — including two potential GOP presidential hopefuls, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) — have been learning those political lessons the hard way in recent days. Both made statements questioning whether childhood vaccinations should be mandatory, bringing a torrent of criticism, including from medical professionals who are alarmed over a recent rise in measles cases.

As a new first lady in 1993, Clinton championed what became the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Vaccines for Children program, designed to provide free inoculations against nine diseases to children who otherwise might not get them. It now covers 14 diseases.

Clinton's role in that endeavor landed her in the crossfire. Conservatives blamed her when shortfalls of some vaccines developed in subsequent years, arguing that the private market was better at allocating resources. "One of her pet projects is a bust," the conservative Wall Street Journal editorial board wrote in a 2003 piece headlined "Hillary's Vaccine Shortage."

Meanwhile, Clinton also found herself the target of a burgeoning movement that linked the rising rate of autism to thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative that has since been removed from childhood vaccines. Some advocates of this theory went so far as to dub her "Thimerosal Hillary."

For reasons that scientists cannot explain, the incidence of autism is up markedly. Last year, the CDC estimated that 1 in 68 children age 8 had been identified with the range of conditions known as autism spectrum disorder. That was about 30 percent higher than previous estimates, reported in 2012, of 1 in 88 children.

Clinton, as a presidential candidate in 2008, wrote in response to a candidate questionnaire: "I am committed to make investments to find the causes of autism, including possible environmental causes like vaccines. . . . We don't know what, if any, kind of link there is between vaccines and autism — but we should find out."

Her then-rival, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), also called for more research into whether there was some correlation. And 2008 GOP presidential contender John McCain (R-Ariz.) went so far as to say there was "strong evidence" of a connection between vaccines and autism. But even in 2008, the weight of medical evidence was against such a link and the candidates who indulged such speculation were accused of pandering.

In 2010, the argument against vaccination received a devastating blow from the Lancet, a medical journal that 12 years before had published a study alleging that inoculations for measles, mumps and rubella were a cause of autism. The journal retracted the study, saying the supposed research had been falsified.

Another iteration of the vaccination issue flared in the 2012 Republican primary campaign, when then-Gov. Rick Perry of Texas found himself under fire for a mandate requiring most girls in his state to get inoculated against the human papillomavirus, a sexual infection that can lead to cervical cancer. Some social conservatives argued that it would encourage girls to have sex.

Republican leaders have not welcomed the rekindling of the vaccine debate sparked by Christie's comment Monday that parents should have "some measure of choice" in deciding whether to vaccinate their children. Paul — a physician with a libertarian philosophy — joined the argument with an unfounded claim that there are "many tragic cases of walking, talking, normal children who wound up with profound mental disorders after vaccines."

Paul took to Twitter on Tuesday to defend himself, saying he supports vaccinations and posing for photographs as he received a booster shot.

"I did not say vaccines caused disorders, just that they were temporally related — I did not allege causation," he wrote in one tweet.

House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) sought to tamp the furor down by saying Tuesday, "I don't know that we need another law, but I do believe that all children ought to be vaccinated."

Meanwhile, several other potential 2016 contenders distanced themselves from Christie and Paul.

"Absolutely, all children in America should be vaccinated," Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) said Tuesday. "Unless their immune [system is] suppressed, obviously, for medical exceptions, but I believe that all children, as is the law in most states in this country, before they can even attend school, have to be vaccinated for a certain panel."

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Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) also released a statement criticizing "fear mongering" and added: "Personally, I would not send my kids to a school that did not require vaccinations."

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Hillary Clinton, grandma-in-chief (Politico)

By Gabriel DeBenedetti
February 3, 2015
Politico

Hillary Clinton is embracing her inner grandma.

After Republican 2016 hopefuls spent a day struggling to finesse the vaccination debate, the 67-year-old Clinton weighed in roughly an hour before midnight: "The science is clear," she tweeted late Monday. "The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork. Let's protect all our kids. #GrandmothersKnowBest."

It was just 127 characters, but it struck a chord — especially her new hashtag. By Tuesday evening the tweet had garnered roughly 24,000 retweets — reaching millions of Twitter followers and making it her most-shared tweet since she jabbed Fox during February 2014's Super Bowl.

The Monday night tweet was just her sixth in 2015, but some of her backers felt it might shed new light on her candidacy.

The message offered a look at how Clinton might approach her likely 2016 campaign for the White House — and how she might combat Republican attacks on her age.

While Clinton allies and detractors uniformly cautioned that too much of her strategy should not be inferred from a single late-night tweet, her backers also said the post demonstrated her intention to use her family — specifically, her 4-month-old granddaughter, Charlotte — as an important strand of her campaign message. It also hinted at how she intends to try to garner positive press — and present herself as the adult in the room — as the crowded Republican field dukes it out.

"It does tap into something that is potentially really powerful for her in terms of how she connects, and how she communicates," said Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist and alum of President Bill Clinton's White House. "When she offers a theory of government and connects it to her biography, in particular being a mom and a grandma, and talking about intergenerational equity issues and the possibility to do right by your kids — the combination there is a really, really powerful way to communicate."

Clinton first trotted out her granddaughter as a character in her 2014 stump speech while campaigning for Democrats across the country, using the infant Charlotte as a justification for her continued investment in the country's future. The 4-month-old Charlotte has been featured in more than a dozen of Clinton's public appearances, making her a staple.

"When you have this little baby, you spend a lot of time just staring at her. You really resolve, as her parents and grandparents … [to] do whatever we can to make sure she has the opportunities she deserves to have," Clinton said in New Hampshire in November.

"You should not have to be the grandchild of a president to get a good education, to get good health care," she said a month earlier in Philadelphia.

Democrats see this rhetoric as a way to spin Clinton's age to her advantage, and as a chance to show off Clinton's family life to female voters and her personal warmth to young voters.

Clinton is also expected to rely more on her prospective status as the first female president during her campaign, and allies expect her to focus on her daughter and granddaughter when making her case.

"Who doesn't like grandmothers? What generation doesn't like grandmothers? Young people like grandmothers, historically, more than mothers and fathers," said Jerry Crawford, the Des Moines attorney who served as the Midwest co-chairman of Clinton's 2008 campaign. "It really, really is very authentic. Anybody that's been a grandparent knows that once you are, you have it on your mind at every moment."

Terry Shumaker, a former ambassador and New Hampshire-based co-chairman of Bill Clinton's campaigns, added that Hillary Clinton had been working on children's issues since the 1980s, including during her tenure at the State Department, so it made sense for her to weigh in like this on a topic "near and dear to her heart."

Still, Clinton is older than each of the major likely Republican candidates, and conservative reactions to her Monday night message previewed the difficulties she might run into explicitly campaigning as a grandmother and as a candidate somehow separated from the bickering of the Republican hopefuls.

"Am I the only one who finds Hillary's #GrandmothersKnowBest hashtag not just cloying but creepy? Welcome to the grand-nanny state," tweeted Bill Kristol, editor of the conservative Weekly Standard.

Such objections also reflect Republican resistance to letting Clinton float above the mud of the nominating season in the event that she does not get a viable challenger. Democratic allies said occasional targeted tweets like Monday's could let Clinton seem

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like the adult in a room of fighting Republicans who will most likely get much more national attention with their squabbles. This tactic would let her stay engaged with the daily conversation without dragging herself into unproductively prolonged debates with Republicans, backers argue.

But Republican critics peg messages like Clinton's tweet as overthought and artificial, a vulnerability they see in many of her communications.

Clinton's team has been tight-lipped while preparing for the likely campaign, releasing few public statements while the former secretary of state meets with advisers and largely stays out of the public eye. As a result, her occasional tweets are pored over by her backers and opponents as rare, if safe, insights into her thinking.

"She's demonstrating extreme caution both in how she is engaging on issues and in the way she frames them. An 11 p.m. tweet that reverses her previous position on the issue and reads like it was crafted by committee doesn't exactly scream 'authenticity,'" said Tim Miller of Republican opposition research firm America Rising, referring to Clinton's 2008 statement that she was committed to finding the causes of autism, including looking at vaccines.

Absent a Democratic challenger specifically criticizing Clinton and going after her presumed voters, however, many of her supporters see little downside to her only occasionally wading into the issue of the moment with a strategically placed policy-based barb against Republicans.

"This mom for one would love to see #GrandmothersKnowBest make an appearance in future tweets," said Democratic strategist Lynda Tran, an adviser to Ready For Hillary.

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Pro-Elizabeth Warren Group Opens New Hampshire Office (WSJ)

By Peter Nicholas
February 4, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.) has been sounding more definitive of late in saying she won't run for president.

Undeterred, a group of her most ardent supporters have hired four campaign staffers in New Hampshire and opened an office in Manchester in hopes of luring her into the race as a liberal challenger to Hillary Clinton.

Democracy for America, a liberal political action committee, is stepping up its efforts to draft Ms. Warren, announcing Wednesday that it is creating a pro-Warren campaign apparatus in the state that holds the first primary of the presidential campaign season.

The group has hired Kurt Ehrenberg, a former political director for the New Hampshire AFL-CIO, as state director of what it calls the "Run Warren Run" campaign.

Joining Mr. Ehrenberg are three field organizers: Jake Belanger, Diego Hernandez, and Jennica Simms -- all of whom have worked on Democratic congressional campaigns.

"I'm excited to join activists all across the Granite State to ensure we live up to our proud tradition of defying expectations, upsetting conventional wisdom, and picking presidents by working to bring Sen. Elizabeth Warren and her populist progressive vision for our country into 2016's first-in-the-nation primary," Mr. Ehrenberg said in a prepared statement.

Democracy for America said it also plans to open an office in Portsmouth, N.H., and will hold events later this month.

Whether any of this will make a difference is far from certain For months Ms. Warren used language that didn't entirely seem to rule out a presidential bid.

"I am not running for president," she would say. And say and say again. But in a recent interview she dropped the present tense construction that seemed to leave her room to change her mind.

Speaking to Fortune magazine she employed the future tense.

"Are you going to run for president?" she was asked.

"No," she replied.

Mr. Ehrenberg's task is to get Ms. Warren to reconsider. The idea is to demonstrate she enjoys an impassioned following in a state that has made or broken many a presidential candidate in modern American political history.

It won't be easy.

Mrs. Clinton, who is expected to announce her candidacy some time in the next two-to-five months (sorry, that's as specific an answer as anyone will give right now), would be the overwhelming front-runner in New Hampshire. She won the state in 2008, injecting new life in her campaign after she finished third in the Iowa caucuses that year.

Currently, RealClearPolitics shows Mrs. Clinton leading all candidates in New Hampshire, running more than 40 points ahead of Ms. Warren.

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Here are the senators who have already endorsed Hillary Clinton (CNN)

By Dan Merica

February 3, 2015

CNN

Hillary Clinton has yet to declare her intentions to run for president, but the likelihood of a 2016 campaign is such a foregone conclusion that 27 out of 46 senators in the Democratic caucus have already endorsed her all-but-certain plans.

Sen. Brian Schatz added his name to the growing list on Monday when he tweeted his support for Clinton and sent out a press release to reporters.

Ready for Hillary, the pro-Clinton super PAC that has urged Clinton to run since 2013, has been the force behind seventeen of these endorsements. Senators like Tim Kaine and Mark Warner of Virginia and Dick Durbin of Illinois and have all endorsed the former secretary of state through the super PAC. The group is also currently working to line up more endorsements.

"We've been fortunate to have prominent Democrats lend their credibility, their star power and their grassroots networks to help build a list of millions of Hillary supporters," group spokesman Seth Bringman said about the list of high-profile endorsements they have wrangled for Clinton.

What's more, every female Democratic senator in the last Congress backed Clinton in a secret letter. "All of the Senate Democratic women have written her a letter encouraging her to run," Sen. Kay Hagan, who lost reelection in 2014, told an audience in 2013.

In fact, before Clinton has even declared her candidacy, nearly 60% of Democratic senators have endorsed her run.

Here is the list:

Sen. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut- Told CNN at a 2014 University of Connecticut event that he "would support her when and if she" runs.

Sen. Barbara Boxer of California - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland - Headlined a December 2014 fundraiser organized by Ready for Hillary

Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois - Headlined a June 2014 fundraiser organized by Ready for Hillary

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

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Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota - The senator told MSNBC this in December 2014: "I think that I'm ready for Hillary. I think that we've not had someone this experienced, this tough, and she's very, very impressive." Franken has also expressed support through Ready for Hillary.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico- Headlined a July 2014 fundraiser organized by Ready for Hillary

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida - Nelson reportedly called Clinton in December 2014 to urge her to run. "It's time for a woman," he told The Tampa Bay Times. "I'm all for Hillary."

Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia - Headlined a May 2014 fundraiser organized by Ready for Hillary

Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont - Told Vermont Public Radio this in June 2014: "I told her if she decided to run I would support her and would be willing to do whatever she likes. I've made no secret of that ever since then."

Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia - He told Politico in January 2014 that he wants Clinton to run. "I don't know if there's anyone more qualified. I've seen it all," he said.

Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii - Tweeted Monday morning that he was backing Clinton in 2016.

Sen. Charles Schumer of New York - The outspoken senator has gone as far to say that he would bet on Clinton running in 2016.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

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Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia - Headlined a July 2014 fundraiser organized by Ready for Hillary

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts - Signed a letter with all other female senators backing a Clinton run

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island- Told The Hill in January 2014 that he was backing Clinton.

Not all senators, however, are ready to endorse Clinton this early. Delaware Sens. Tom Carper and Chris Coons have both side-stepped questions about Hillary Clinton 2016, largely because of uncertainty around whether Vice President Joe Biden -- a Delaware native -- will run. Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey told CNN last year that it was too early to endorse and Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent senator who caucuses with Democrats, is actively pursuing a 2016 run himself.

Here is the list of not yet and nos to Clinton 2016:

Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio - In a June interview, Brown said he wasn't "on board with anybody" after being asked about Clinton 2016.

Sen. Thomas Carper of Delaware - The senator told The Hill in 2014 that "It's entirely, entirely too early to be talking about anybody running for president."

Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania - At a 2014 event in Philadelphia, Casey told CNN that it was too early to talk about Clinton 2016. "I'm not going to get into that," he said.

Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware - "I think 2016 is a long way off, we have to get through 2014," Coons told Politico in January 2014. "I have always supported Sen. Biden, Vice President Biden, and I think all of Delaware looks forward to a future in which he has great opportunities to serve."

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont - The independent senator is actively pursuing a presidential run in 2016.

Some senators have been unclear about their support of Clinton in 2016. The best example is Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Reid sent a fundraising email through Ready for Hillary in 2014 and regularly speaks highly of the Clintons. But he has not directly said that he is support her possible run.

Here is the list of senators whose support is unclear:

Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado - The Colorado Democrat sent an email through Ready for Hillary in 2014, but to date, has not made it clear that he would back her run in 2016.

Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey

Sen. Joe Donnelly of Indiana

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Sen. Angus King of Maine - The Maine senator has not said outright that he isn't backing Clinton, but in a post-election interview with MSNBC, the independent senator who caucuses with Democrats said, "I think that is going to be a difficulty for someone like Hillary Clinton, who has tremendous experience and background, but she's going to have a hard time saying, 'Oh, I'm a new person.'"

Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts

Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey

Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon

Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut

Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan - Clinton endorsed Peters in 2014 and although Peters hinted at Clinton's future, he didn't outright endorse her. "Whatever she does, she is going to be really great at it in the future," he said at the event with Clinton.

Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada

Sen. Jon Tester of Montana - After losing the chamber in 2014, the Montana Democrat was named chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee through 2016.

Sen. Tom Udall of New Mexico

Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon

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Young people will hit the polls in 2016, and they want Hillary (Fusion)

By Brett LoGiurato

February 3, 2015

Fusion

Young people are planning to turn out the vote in 2016. And they have a clear choice at this point about who they want to be the nation's next president.

Those are some of the highlights from Fusion's Massive Millennial Poll, which surveyed 1000 people aged 18-34 about everything from politics to dating to race issues. The poll provides a barometer of millennials' priorities and preferred candidates ahead of the 2016 presidential election.

For one thing, they say they're increasingly engaged ahead of the all-important election — but it's also clear they're not very well-informed. And they think government can help them, particularly in an area where they've struggled to get ahead — in their jobs.

Young people are 'ready for Hillary'

Right now, young people want former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to become the nation's first female president in 2017.

Clinton is the top choice among young Democrats and handily beats the GOP challenger who currently gets the highest percentage of the youth vote, 2012 nominee Mitt Romney, according to the survey. Romney last Friday said he would not run for the third time, putting Republicans in a fresh scramble to find a candidate who can compete with Clinton.

Young Democrats across all demographics pick Clinton to be the party's next nominee, according to the survey. More than half — 57 percent — of the Democrats surveyed prefer Clinton, compared with 10 percent who choose Vice President Joe Biden and another 10 percent who want Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren. At 19 percent, a large chunk are still undecided.

But young Republicans preferred a third presidential run from Romney before he made it official to supporters last week that he wouldn't run. More young people identified with the Democratic Party, so the Republican sample is decidedly smaller. (Note: Results showing Romney ahead were also based on a smaller sample size than the results with the rest of the Republican field.)

With Romney out of the mix, former Florida Jeb Bush benefitted the most: He could be the frontrunner with Romney out of the way. In a Romney-less field, Bush leads the pack at 16 percent, jumping 4 percentage points from a field that included Romney.

Bush is trailed by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul (14 percent), former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (12 percent), New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (8 percent) and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz (8 percent).

More young people still lean toward Democrats when they're pressed

According to the survey, 49 percent say they are politically unaffiliated — including a majority (58 percent) of young Latino voters, half of young male voters, and half of the 25-29-aged voters in the sample.

But when the self-identified independents were pressed further, half of those surveyed at least leaned toward identifying with the

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Democratic Party. Thirty-five percent, meanwhile, leaned more toward the GOP.

And if the election were held today, 48 percent would choose a generic Democratic candidate, compared with 35 percent who would pick the Republican nominee.

Jeb Bush does exceptionally well with young Latino voters

Could Republicans solve their Latino vote problem in 2016? The survey suggests they have a candidate who excites young Latino Republicans far more than the others.

That candidate is Bush, whose wife is Latina and who is generally viewed as more pro-immigration reform than any of the other potential Republican candidates at this point. Bush, along with Romney, did not appear at an Iowa summit last weekend hosted by noted immigration hawk Rep. Steve King.

According to the survey, 19 percent of Latino Republicans surveyed said they'd vote for Bush in the GOP primary. That was 8 percentage points higher than the next-closest candidates — Christie and Paul. Christie, however, blew out the rest of the field among young, African-American Republicans. He got 24 percent of the vote there, 17 points ahead of the next closest challengers — Bush and Paul.

Some other areas where Bush is relatively strong: in the 18- to 24-year-old crowd (12 percent), with self-identified "conservative" young Republicans (15 percent), and with young Republicans who have at least some college education (12 percent). He leads the crowded Republican field in each of those categories.

One question revealed how alarmingly uninformed young people are about politics

Are you between the ages of 18-34? Can you name one — just one — of your home state's senators?

Congrats! You did better than more than three-fourths of people your age. That's right — 77 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds in the new survey could not name even one US senator in their home state.

The finding provides fodder for the suggestion that millennials are relatively uninformed political citizens. But Fusion's survey also revealed that more than nine in 10 of the 18- to 34-year-olds plan to vote in the 2016 presidential election, so there's some inclination they want to learn more. [[More on this breakdown below.]]

Some interesting findings in the demographic breakdowns: more men (25 percent) than women (20 percent) were able to correctly name at least one of their senators. However, they were also more likely to guess and take a 50-50 shot at getting it right — women were more likely than men to say they "don't know" rather than give an incorrect response.

Meanwhile, certain demographic groups within the survey earned a particularly low grade. Just 18 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds, 16 percent of Latinos, and 10 percent of African-Americans could correctly identify one of their senators. However, whites were significantly more likely to guess than to say they didn't know.

Here's the one issue millennials most want the next president to tackle

A majority of millennials want their next president to take decisive action to improve their economic situations. A plurality — 19

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percent — of respondents in the survey said they want the next president to address the economy and jobs.

Coming in next on the list of important issues is health care (10 percent), education (7 percent), budgets and deficits (6 percent), and immigration and border control (4 percent).

The economy and jobs were the No. 1 issue across every demographic measured in the poll, from sex, age, race, ideology, and education level. All but one demographic — young men — ended up with health care as the No. 2 issue.

The economy, while picking up steam as a whole in recent months, continues to pose challenges, especially for millennials. The unemployment rate for 16- to 19-year-olds remains around 20 percent, and a Pew Research Center paper published last year found that millennials are driving a record increase in multi-generational home living.

Changing of the guard? Young people think government is helpful

Where millennials differ from the rest of the American population, however, is in their view that, overall, government is generally good. Fifty-seven percent of those surveyed said government is "helpful," compared with just 18 percent who called it "harmful." That suggests millennials want the next president to be more active in tackling their prioritized issues.

A 2014 Washington Post poll found that a plurality of registered voters viewed the government as more harmful than helpful. The difference was especially distinct in those who felt strongly about their position — 27 percent strongly felt the government was harmful, compared with 11 percent who strongly felt it was helpful.

Young people are actually excited to vote in 2016! Will it last?

More than three-quarters millennials say they are at least "very likely" to vote in the 2016 presidential election, a level of enthusiasm that has the potential to dwarf previous turnouts from young people in past elections.

In all, 77 percent 18 to 34-year-olds are "absolutely certain" or "very likely" to vote in 2016, according to the survey. Another 14 percent said they will "possibly" vote, bringing the total up to 91 percent. Just 8 percent say they are not likely to vote, while 1 percent is undecided.

Such an increase could represent a boon for whichever presidential candidate takes advantage. Multiple studies have shown that young voters propelled Obama to his two electoral victories, especially in 2012.

That year, according to the Pew Research Center, voters between the ages of 18-34 made up about 19 percent of the electorate, an increase from 18 percent in 2008.

But only about half of those eligible to vote in the age group went to the polls, according to a 2012 analysis from Center for Research and Information on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University. That same analysis found that Obama won at least 61 percent of the youth vote in four key swing states — Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The analysis concluded that if Romney had split the youth vote in those states, he could have won each of them.

The general enthusiasm spreads across demographics. Overall, 88 percent of men aged 18-34 are likely to vote. Even more women — 95 percent — are planning on heading to the voting booth in 2016.

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Ninety-three percent of young white people and African-Americans say they are likely to vote, while 88 percent of young Latinos plan to turn out. And 89 percent of high-school graduates, 90 percent of attendees of at least some college, and 94 percent of college graduates are likely to vote.

Why are some young people planning on sitting out? What would make them change their minds?

They have a few reasons, but the most popular they gave is that they "don't care about voting" — 16 percent of the young people who said they are unlikely to vote chose that option. Twelve percent of that group said they are "too busy," 9 percent said "nothing ever changes" or "my vote doesn't count," and 8 percent said they "don't trust the system," rounding out the top-five reasons.

What could change that? Millennials say they'd be more likely to vote if they could do so online (49 percent) or via a cell phone (38 percent). Another 26 percent said a more racially diverse palate of candidates would motivate them to vote, while 24 percent said more young candidates on the menu would be an encouraging factor.

African-Americans, in particular, said they'd be much more likely to vote if there were racially diverse candidates (24 percent, vs. 13 percent across the board), and if they could vote online (44 percent, vs. 32 percent across the board).

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Hillary Clinton trounces GOP foes in latest poll. Why that's not a big deal (Christian Science Monitor)

By Husna Haq

February 3, 2015

Christian Science Monitor

A new poll shows Hillary Clinton ahead of potential Republican rivals in three critical swing states: Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Why that doesn't mean much at this point in the 2016 presidential race.

A new Quinnipiac University poll released Tuesday shows Hillary Clinton trouncing nearly every potential Republican challenger in the 2016 presidential election in three critical swing states: Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Since 1960, no candidate has won the presidency without winning at least two of those three states, and for some, this is further proof of Mrs. Clinton's early dominance in the 2016 race.

"Poll: Hillary Clinton wipes out GOP contenders - except Kasich," reads one headline. "Poll: Clinton sweeps GOP foes save Bush tie in Florida," reads another.

A lead in three key swing states is noteworthy. But Clinton shouldn't get too comfortable. More on that soon. For now, here's a closer look at the numbers.

In Florida, Clinton just barely leads former Gov. Jeb Bush 44 percent to 43 percent, falling within the 3.2 percent margin of error.

But she bests other potential GOP contenders in the Sunshine state by at least 10 points. In a hypothetical matchup, Clinton leads New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie by 18 points, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul by 12 points, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee by 17 points and Florida Sen. and "native son" Marco Rubio by 10 points.

In Ohio, also, Clinton appears to lead other candidates despite matching Ohio Gov. John Kasich, 44 to 43 – well within the margin of error. Still, Clinton shows comfortable leads over Bush 47 to 36, Christie 47 to 34, Paul 48 to 36 and Huckabee 49 to 34.

Of the three states surveyed, Clinton finds the greatest support in Pennsylvania, according to the poll. Once again, she leads Bush 50 to 35, Paul 53 to 34, Huckabee 54 to 34 and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum 54 to 34.

"While would-be Republican presidential candidates, even Native Son Rick Santorum, absorb less than stellar favorability numbers, Clinton has the closest thing to rock star ratings a politician can get in America today," Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polls, said in a statement. "Pennsylvania, which just elected a Democratic governor, is shaping up early in the campaign season as the bluest of the Swing States."

She may be a Washington rock star, but right now, Clinton's lead isn't especially noteworthy. Here's why:

For starters, it's what you'd expect at this point in the 2016 race. The GOP vote is divided between as many as a dozen potential candidates, and the Democratic vote is essentially unified on one star candidate. It's no surprise, then, that the presumptive nominee (who has not yet, by the way, actually declared her intentions), sweeps.

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And this early on, it's about name recognition and as far as name recognition goes, Clinton has the advantage.

Of course, her lead isn't definitive everywhere – even this early on. As the poll points out, Clinton does, in fact, statistically tie two contenders in two swing states: Kasich of Ohio, and Bush, likely her most serious competitor. And the margins are narrowing in certain key states, Politico points out.

As the Miami Herald also notes, "if you 'unskew' the Quinnipiac poll (blending the average turnout by party ID from the last two presidential elections) Bush goes from trailing Clinton by 1 point to leading her by about 3, 46-43 percent in Florida."

And if we haven't already said it enough times – it's still early in the race and a lot can happen between now and Nov. 2016. As Hot Air's Ed Morrissey recently wrote, at this time eight years ago, "Obama['s] candidacy...looked like a bid to be Hillary's VP choice or a credibility-establishing effort for a later, more serious campaign."

In other words, now is not the time for Hillary Clinton to read the polling numbers and gloat.

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The GOP Elite Puts Its Foot Down (Politico Magazine)

By Bill Schier

February 3, 2015

Politico Magazine

Shots have been fired. The GOP herd is beginning to be culled. In less than a week, the establishment hounded Mitt Romney out, and the conservative movement wrote Sarah Palin out.

The message from Republican insiders is clear: We cannot let our primary become another clown show.

Meanwhile, the nascent Hillary Clinton campaign has signaled it wants to push back its planned entry from the spring to the summer. "If you have the luxury of time, you take it," one Democratic insider told POLITICO. But these Republican moves indicate that she may not have that luxury. Here's why.

We already knew the Republican National Committee, led by Chairman Reince Priebus, was trying to exert some adult supervision over the primary process.

Priebus and every other leading Republican strategist knows that recent GOP nominees have been weakened by a primary debate stage dominated by fringe characters—along with front-runners doing too little to distinguish themselves from the extremes. The resulting spectacle presents a horrible image of the party to general-election voters, weighing down the eventual winner.

Priebus' recent declaration that candidates will have to perform above a certain threshold in polls to warrant inclusion in debates, a threshold that will get stiffer later in the campaign, suggests he is aware that he needs to get as many fringe characters off the stage as possible. But he can't be confident that the poll respondents will oblige and elevate only mature candidates above the bar.

However, if Republican insiders have the wherewithal to contain the support and attention given to their circus acts, then that could greatly aid Priebus' project. The twin falls of Romney and Palin last week are solid evidence that the party wants to shape up and jettison any distractions. That's a warning for Democrats to stop laughing at the prospect of another GOP clown show a la 2012 and start preparing to grapple with a more serious opposition.

The rejection of Romney 3.0 wasn't just because he'd worn out his welcome. Clear-eyed Republicans knew they were going to have a hard enough time fighting a campaign on the Democratic turf of economic inequality; the last thing they needed was to have the face of Republican callousness toward the "47 percent" inject his reputation for inauthenticity into the cause of reducing the income gap.

But the dispatching of one damaged establishment candidate is a simpler matter than the more corrosive problem of a field top-heavy with frightening Tea Party candidates. That's why the conservative buzz coming out of Iowa's Freedom Summit, a presidential cattle call organized by anti-immigrant zealot Rep. Steve King, was potentially more consequential than Romney's fold.

Not only did conservative opinion leaders widely pan Palin's ramblings, extinguishing whatever fire she may have had for a run, but they also saved the bulk of their praise for Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker—a governor with a record, not a grenade-throwing pundit or a grandstanding senator. Even Rush Limbaugh was effusive: "Scott Walker wowed them in Iowa. … Scott Walker has shown the Republican Party how to beat the left. Scott Walker has the blueprint for winning and winning consistently and winning big in a blue state with conservative principles that are offered with absolutely no excuses."

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Conservative die-hards may not agree with the establishment Republicans who believe the party needs some ideological recalibration on issues like immigration. But they do seem to be getting on board with the notion that Republicans need to elevate serious presidential timber over the silly self-promoters, no matter how good they are at stirring the pot and making liberal heads explode.

Still, it's an open question whether conservative opinion leaders are able to lead conservative voters. Typically in Republican contests, "base" voters remain enamored with ideological perfection and splinter among several implausible candidates, allowing an establishment favorite to win early primaries with mere pluralities. Attempts by conservative activists to "Stop McCain" in 2008 and "Stop Romney" in 2012 were busts, failing to coalesce around a single alternative. But if 2016 is different, if the conservative rank and file is fed up enough with losing, and can be persuaded by their leaders to rally around a qualified, substantive candidate, they could dictate the outcome.

Take the latest Fox News poll. Without Romney, Jeb Bush leads the pack, but with a middling 15 percent. Right behind him are Rand Paul and Mike Huckabee with 13 percent each, followed by Ben Carson with 10 percent. Few believe any of those last three—with enough controversial comments to fill warehouses of opposition research—would have a prayer against Hillary Clinton. Yet combined they hold 36 percent of the Republican vote. Meanwhile, Walker is knocking on the door of the top tier with 9 percent. If the conservative elite put their collective weight behind Walker, he could scoop up much of that Tea Party vote and zoom past Bush.

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The Kissinger primary (Politico)

By Michael Crowley
February 4, 2015
Politico

You're a Republican thinking of running for president. It's a dangerous world, and your foreign policy credentials are a little thin.

Time to see Henry Kissinger.

Scott Walker did it. So did Marco Rubio and Chris Christie. Rick Perry paid a visit in September — he even tweeted a photo to prove it.

"It was an honor to speak with Dr. Kissinger today and hear his thoughts on America's foreign policy challenges," tweeted the then-Texas governor.

Rubio has "met with Kissinger a couple of times in the past, and always appreciates his insights," says a spokesman for the Florida senator, adding that Rubio has been reading Kissinger's latest book, "World Order."

At 91 years old, the former secretary of state, national security adviser and intellectual-cum-celebrity has come to occupy a unique place in the foreign policy firmament. Though some historians blame him for countless deaths in places like Vietnam, Cambodia and Bangladesh, Kissinger is more revered than ever in Washington. He has become a Yoda-like figure, bestowing credibility and a statesman's aura to politicians of both parties, including ones who may not actually share his worldview.

They may want more than a message: A Kissinger endorsement could be a major boost in a crowded GOP field. Though he often sits out primary contests, Kissinger backed John McCain in December 2007 when the Arizona Republican was still fending off other challengers. (He even granted a much-needed private audience to McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin, the next year.)

"People treat him as an oracle," says James Mann, a resident fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and author of several books on foreign policy. "Candidates running for president like to be seen with or described as having talked to Kissinger, because they think it sends a message that they themselves are serious about foreign policy — when in fact they may not even know much about what Henry Kissinger believes or what he has done."

Kissinger's many admirers call him brilliant, with an unmatched grasp of history. They revere him for diplomatic feats like masterminding Richard Nixon's history-altering 1972 opening to China.

But the GOP's Kissinger crush is also surprising in some ways. The man who largely guided American foreign policy for a decade under Nixon and then Gerald Ford is a longtime proponent of the "realist" school of foreign policy. Realists prioritize order and stability above human rights, democracy and other internal affairs in foreign countries. Many of Kissinger's GOP admirers, including McCain, champion democracy promotion and military action to prevent atrocities.

And Kissinger disciples like Walker, Rubio and Perry may not share their tutor's support for diplomacy with Iran and engagement with China, nor his caution against "posturing" against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Even more surprising, however, is Kissinger's embrace by Democrats, including providing private counsel to Barack Obama. A batch of White House visitor records released on Jan. 31 show that Kissinger visited the president in the Oval Office on Oct. 22. Unlike the Republicans who brag about their proximity to Kissinger, the White House did not publicize this meeting and would not characterize its substance. Kissinger's office did not comment for this story.

But other Democrats haven't been shy about their admiration for a man who was long reviled by the left, who regularly counseled George W. Bush and Dick Cheney during the 2000s, who endorsed John McCain in 2008 and Mitt Romney in 2012 — and whom credible historians say has not been held accountable for reprehensible actions during his Nixon administration tenure.

During his confirmation hearing to be secretary of state, John Kerry cited Kissinger's book "Diplomacy" as a "superb" guide to the modern world and met with him privately as the Obama administration built its later-aborted case for bombing Syria in September 2013. Last fall, Hillary Clinton wrote a glowing Washington Post review of Kissinger's late-2014 tome, "World Order," which she called "vintage Kissinger, with his singular combination of breadth and acuity along with his knack for connecting headlines to trend lines."

Most unlikely of all, perhaps, is the kinship between Obama's close adviser and United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power, with the Cold War-era diplomat five decades her elder. Last April ESPN tagged along with Power, a die-hard Red Sox fan, and Kissinger, a Yankees lover, for a trip to the ballpark in which the two likened their sports rivalry to their divergent worldviews. The two hold nearly polar opposite views of the role human rights should play in foreign policy, making Power what some call an idealist to Kissinger's realist. At Yankee Stadium, those differences were papered over with banter: "Wait until Samantha says 'realpolitik,'" Kissinger joked. "It means: He's a German and watch out for him."

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But the partnership between Kissinger and Obama officials can be serious business. Still connected around the globe by dint of his reputation and business activities as the founder of Kissinger Associates, a lucrative Manhattan-based international consulting firm, Kissinger is a constant traveler and source of valuable information from abroad.

For instance, Kissinger has been an important — if informal — conduit of information about Putin. The former U.S. diplomat is among a small handful of Americans granted audiences with the Russian leader. Kissinger has reported back to Washington on his contacts, including at least once directly to Obama's national security adviser, according to Michael McFaul, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Moscow until last year.

Before his occasional meetings with Putin, Kissinger would first visit McFaul in Spaso house, the U.S. ambassador's residence in Moscow, where photos of Kissinger visiting the same building in the early 1970s adorn the walls. He would "find out what the pulse of the [current U.S.] policy was" before seeing the Russian leader. Then, after seeing Putin, Kissinger would report on his contact back to officials in Washington.

"I was totally amazed at Henry's vigor, both intellectually and politically," McFaul added.

He has sometimes undertaken more specific assignments, as when, in August 2011 Hillary Clinton turned to Kissinger amid an international crisis following a bloody Israeli assault on a Gaza-bound Turkish aid flotilla. Clinton enlisted Kissinger to urge Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to apologize to Turkey in the name of preserving an important regional relationship. (The account, described in Clinton's memoir "Hard Choices," does not say how the message was received, but Netanyahu did not apologize until much later.)

The cross-partisan relationship between Clinton and Kissinger is particularly notable. Soon after Clinton's review of his book appeared, Kissinger told USA Today that Clinton "ran the State Department in the most effective way that I've ever seen." He soon followed up by telling NPR that Clinton would be "a good president," adding that he planned to vote Republican.

Foreign policy analysts say the friendliness illustrates the extent to which Obama, for all the idealism he once represented, has pursued a cold-eyed policy of realism in the classic Kissinger style — for instance, through his unwillingness to intervene more aggressively to prevent atrocities in Syria's civil war.

Modern foreign policy debates are less about partisanship and more "between people who focus primarily on states and people who focus on people," says Anne-Marie Slaughter, a former top official in Clinton's State Department who now heads the New America Foundation. "He sees the world as a chessboard."

Some historians are harsher, questioning whether Kissinger should be accepted in polite company at all, citing actions and statements he made in the Nixon and Ford administrations that stretched the concept of realism to cruel callousness. In 1975, for instance, Kissinger said that the U.S. "will be friends with" the Cambodian Khmer Rouge, adding: "They are murderous thugs, but we won't let that stand in our way." A Nixon Oval Office tape from 1973 recorded him expressing little sympathy for Jews trying to flee oppression in the former Soviet Union. "If they put Jews into gas chambers in the Soviet Union, it is not an American concern. Maybe a humanitarian concern," Kissinger said.

"People in Washington have a remarkable ability not to ask questions about what their guest of honor actually did in Cambodia or Bangladesh," says Gary J. Bass, a Princeton professor of politics and international affairs and author of "The Blood Telegram," which is harshly critical of Kissinger for allowing thousands of preventable deaths during the 1971 creation of Bangladesh.

During his Jan. 28 testimony before McCain's committee, Kissinger was partly encircled by a group of protesters with the anti-war group Code Pink, who held a banner and chanted slogans calling for his arrest as a "war criminal." An outraged McCain threatened to have them arrested, calling one protester "low-life scum."

Republicans like McCain are totally unmoved by the charges against Kissinger, and recent GOP candidates have welcomed his support. Romney was grateful for Kissinger's backing in 2012, though — like so many others — couldn't resist an impersonation of his German-born advocate's distinctive accent. "I saw Dr. Kissinger" in New York, Romney said at a surreptitiously recorded 2012 fundraiser. "I said to him, 'How are we perceived around the world?' And he said one word: 'Veak!'"

As the 2016 campaign kicks off, a competition is already underway to gain Kissinger's favor. One early favorite could be Chris Christie. As the former New Jersey governor later told The Washington Post's Dan Balz for his book "Collision 2012," Kissinger summoned him to his midtown Manhattan office in mid-2011 and urged him to run for president, saying he had a rare connection with voters. When Christie replied that he knew little about world affairs, his host told him not to worry. "We can work with you on that. Foreign policy is instinct, it's character," Christie recalled Kissinger saying.

But Kissinger — whom Bob Woodward once described as having "a powerful, largely invisible influence" over George W. Bush's foreign policy — is also friendly with Bush's brother Jeb. Last spring Kissinger told the Post that he would be "delighted" to see Jeb Bush run, calling the former Florida governor "experienced, moderate and thoughtful."

Since Bush began signaling his intention to run for president in 2016 this winter, the two have not yet had a publicized meeting. If recent history is any guide, that tweet should be coming soon.

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Hillary Clinton more favorable to Florida voters than Jeb Bush (NY Daily News)

By Leslie Larson

February 3, 2015

NY Daily News

In Florida, Florida, Florida voters are leaning toward Hillary, Hillary, Hillary.

Hillary Clinton was ranked more favorable (53%) to prospective Florida voters than the state's former Governor, Republican Jeb Bush (46%) and the state's current Republican Senator Marco Rubio (36%), according to a new Quinnipiac poll released Tuesday.

Despite the fact that it's their home turf, Bush faces a name-recognition issue with 13% of Floridians saying they hadn't heard of Bush and 27% saying they don't know Rubio.

Of respondents in Florida, only 6% haven't heard of Clinton.

Clinton faces stiffer competition against Bush when it comes to the ballot box.

When asked "if the election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Hillary Clinton the Democrat and Jeb Bush the Republican, for whom would you vote?" respondents put Clinton (44%) and Bush (43%) on a level playing field.

In a Clinton/Rubio matchup scenario, Clinton would win 49% of the vote and Rubio 39%, according to the poll.

Bush hasn't fully declared his candidacy for President but is in the process of "exploring" a run. He is traveling the country headlining a series of fundraisers for his Leadership and Super PACs.

Clinton says she hasn't made up her mind but will likely announce her decision in the Spring.

Rubio has reportedly told his top aides to prepare for a presidential campaign but has not formally declared his candidacy.

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Bush, Clinton tied right now in Florida (Tallahassee Democrat)

By Jim Saunders
February 3, 2015
Tallahassee Democrat

Bush v. Clinton could be a barnburner in Florida.

A Quinnipiac University poll released Tuesday shows former Gov. Jeb Bush and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a virtual tie in a hypothetical 2016 presidential race in Florida. The poll gave 44 percent to Clinton and 43 percent to Bush.

While presidential primaries and caucuses are still a year away --- and the fields of candidates are loaded with speculation --- the poll indicates Bush would be the toughest opponent for Clinton in the critical swing state of Florida.

That might not be surprising, as Bush was a popular two-term Republican governor. But the poll also shows the Democrat Clinton leading another native son, Republican U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, by a margin of 49 percent to 39 percent in Florida.

Quinnipiac polled voters in Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania, which are all pivotal states in presidential races. Clinton easily topped potential Republican candidates in each of the states, with the exception of Bush in Florida and Ohio Gov. John Kasich in Kasich's home state.

"There is a reason why Hillary Clinton has followed a slower, less aggressive schedule when it comes to ramping up her expected presidential campaign than have virtually all of her potential White House opponents," Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll, said in a prepared statement accompanying the results. "She holds double-digit leads over all her potential GOP opponents in the three biggest swing states, except for two native sons, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Ohio Gov. John Kasich. And she is under little pressure from within her own party to hit the campaign trail."

A Bush-Clinton race in Florida would draw tens of millions of dollars, countless stories about political dynasties and memories of the 2000 Bush v. Gore presidential recount. That recount, of course, pitted George W. Bush, the brother of Jeb Bush, and Al Gore, the vice president under former President Bill Clinton.

But if Jeb Bush is derailed from getting the Republican nomination next year, the poll indicates other GOP candidates could have a difficult time beating Hillary Clinton in Florida. Along with the sizable margin in a hypothetical race against Rubio, Clinton also led by double digits in match-ups against New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

The Connecticut-based Quinnipiac, which frequently conducts polls in Florida and other states, surveyed 936 Florida voters from Jan. 22 to Feb. 1.

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Republican presidential race is wide open, but Kasich is a big factor in Ohio, poll shows (Cleveland Plain Dealer)

By Stephen Koff
February 4, 2015
Cleveland Plain Dealer

WASHINGTON, D.C. -Seventeen months before Republicans convene in Cleveland, the path to the GOP presidential nomination is equally cluttered and wide open, with no single candidate holding a clear advantage, according to a new poll this morning of three crucial swing states including Ohio.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush holds an advantage in only one of the states, namely, Florida.

Ohio second-term Gov. John Kasich, on the other hand, could be considered the front-runner in the Buckeye state right now, although while he has teased about a candidacy, he has not jumped in. And his position in a fanciful primary race, carrying 14 percent of Ohio's Republicans, would only be three percentage points ahead of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, and four points ahead of both Bush and Kentucky U.S. Sen. Rand Paul. Statistically, that would make Ohio a tie.

Beating them all: "Don't know."

Meantime in Pennsylvania, Bush would lead with 12 percent but the neighboring governor from New Jersey, Chris Christie, would be only one point behind - a statistical tie - and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee would come close, with 10 percentage points.

No candidate has won the presidential race without taking at least two of these three states, note the pollsters, from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

This level of competitiveness does not exist on the Democratic side. Asked about potential party nominees, 51 percent of Ohio Democrats picked former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Sixty-one percent of Florida Democrats picked her, as did 54 percent of Pennsylvania Democrats.

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren came in second in Ohio, at 14 percent - double the percentage of votes that Vice President Joe Biden would get on a Democratic ballot in the state.

Yet these second-position opinions may be squishy as Play-Doh at this point. When the Democratic question was asked differently -- "Who is your second choice?" -- Biden shot up to the top in all three swing states.

Quinnipiac political polls are widely followed, but this particular survey comes with a caveat: The man who had led the GOP field in Ohio and Pennsylvania, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, announced near the end of the survey period that he would not run. The poll was conducted from Jan. 22 to Feb. 1, and Romney made his announcement Jan. 30. Quinnipiac pollsters recalculated the matchup, factoring in the second-choice picks of survey respondents who had said Romney was their first choice.

"Mitt Romney's withdrawal from the presidential race, at first blush, has no statistical benefit in Florida, Ohio or Pennsylvania for any candidate for the Republican presidential nomination," Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac Poll, said in a statement. "From the beginning of this survey, we asked Romney supporters who they would vote for if the 2012 standard-bearer bowed out, so we are able to measure the results of that decision. Looking at the final tally, his supporters moved evenly to a variety of the remaining candidates."

Initially, Romney was picked by 15 percent of Ohio respondents identifying themselves as Republicans. Had Romney remained, Kasich would have been Ohio Republicans' second choice for president, at 11 percent. But indicative of the competitive nature of the primary at this point, when most candidates are still feeling out their viability, the "don't know" category still led in Ohio, at 18 percent.

In fact, of the three states, only Republican voters in Florida showed overwhelming support for a potential nominee - namely, Bush, their former governor. Bush got 30 percent of the vote in the initial poll, recalculated to 32 percent with Romney's exit.

Quinnipiac surveyed 943 Ohioans, including 337 Republicans and 315 Democrats. The sample size factored into the margins of error: 5.3 percentage points for Republicans and 5.5 for Democrats.

In a survey of a potential general-election matchup, released Tuesday, Quinnipiac said that Clinton would have a double-digit lead among Ohio voters over most Republican challengers - but not over Kasich. If he were in the race, Ohio would show a dead Kasich-Clinton heat.

After a series of primaries and caucuses starting early next year, Republicans will finalize their pick and formally nominate a candidate during their convention in Cleveland July 18-21. Democrats will quickly follow but have not yet selected a city for their convention.

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Hillary's 140-Character Campaign Strategy (Time)

By Ryan Teague Beckwith

February 3, 2015

Time Magazine

She's pioneered a new way to use Twitter.

Hillary Clinton isn't officially running for president and she isn't exactly campaigning yet either.

Since last year's book tour, her public appearances have been limited to speeches, both paid and unpaid, and even campaign events where she isn't appearing are tightly controlled. That creates a supply-and-demand problem, though, when news breaks and the public wants to know where she stands on an issue.

Enter Twitter. Though Clinton didn't join the social media platform until mid-2013, she's pioneered a new way of using it to flesh out her campaign platform 140 characters at a time.

It's a great political strategy for her, though it leaves a bit to be desired among the public and the press. Clinton's tweets come late in the news cycle, allowing her to score a quick point off Republican in-fighting after much of the debate has played out.

They're also tightly scripted, which means there's no problem of going off-message or losing control of the story, like she did during what should have been a softball interview with NPR that touched on her changing views on gay marriage.

The 140-character limit on Twitter also means that Clinton's pronouncements aren't as substantive as they often seem at first. Without reporters asking follow-up questions, Clinton can make a rather general statement about, say, being in favor of vaccination, without explaining her past doubts.

Or she can criticize an attempt to roll back the Dodd-Frank bank reforms without specifying exactly which changes to the law she would support or oppose.

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New York Suburb Seeks to Host Hillary Clinton 2016 Campaign (Time)

By Sam Frizell
February 3, 2015
Time Magazine

Local luminaries in a suburb of New York City are calling on Hillary Clinton to place her campaign headquarters in White Plains—a small city close to Clinton's home in Westchester County—despite the draw of the nearby metropolis.

At least one Congresswoman and a major real-estate developer are lobbying Clinton to place her headquarters in Westchester if she runs for president, aiming for the prestige and economic benefits of a large operation. "A Clinton campaign would be good for Westchester, and a Clinton Presidency would be great for America," said Congresswoman Nita Lowey, the Democratic representative for much of the county. Lowey has encouraged Clinton directly to place her headquarters in the county if she runs.

Half an hour from Manhattan by train, prosaic White Plains is as functional a campaign headquarters as a pair of Crocs and about as chic. A suburb with plentiful office parks, PepsiCo's headquarters and 50,000 residents, the Democratic-leaning New York satellite is also squarely in Hillary heartland. The Clintons have had a home in Chappaqua, a hamlet 15 minutes away, since 1999, and White Plains is within striking distance of the presumptive candidate's power base in New York City. Clinton aides hinted last year White Plains is a strong option for a possible headquarters.

But recent lobbying efforts by businesses and local politicians may not be enough to keep Clinton close to home, as the presumptive 2016 candidate reportedly weighs a New York City campaign headquarters. New York is home to a large cadre of Clinton allies and devoted young Democrats that could make up her staff.

Where a candidate decides to locate their headquarters can have an outsized influence on the tenor of a campaign. Obama's decision in 2007 to base his campaign headquarters in Chicago made him a more credible Beltway outsider and may have kept his campaign grounded by keeping it far from the New York and D.C. media bubbles. Clinton and John McCain, on the other hand, both had headquarters in the D.C. suburbs during the 2008 campaign.

Robert Weisz, the CEO of the largest privately-held property owner in Westchester, said he has reached out to Clinton's staff, aiming to lease his properties to potential campaign. A Democrat and past Clinton donor, Weisz owns 2.5 million square feet of real estate in the county and plenty of contiguous office space large enough to host a presidential campaign.

During Clinton's 2008 bid for president, Weisz hosted an 800-person Clinton event on his property on 1133 Westchester Avenue, a commercial space in White Plains. Now he's among the local real estate firms that are keen on bringing a Clinton campaign to the New York suburb. "We reached out to her staff for several reasons: one to rent space, and one to be helpful to her possible campaign," Weisz said.

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, the Republican nominee in New York's gubernatorial election last year, said he hasn't reached out to Clinton directly to ask her to move her headquarters to the county, but that he likely will. "I would love for her to set up shop here," Astorino said.

White Plains has the advantage of relatively cheap office space, compared to New York City. The current average annual rent price per square foot of office space in White Plains is around $25, compared with around $60 in Manhattan and $30-$35 in Brooklyn, according to a 2013 report. That can add up. President Obama's 2012 headquarters occupied 50,000 square feet in Chicago's Prudential building, where rents averaged $22-$25 per square foot annually.

A White Plains headquarters could also attract a more dedicated staff that is willing to regularly commute or live at a distance from the city.

It remains unclear whether local excitement and cheap rent is enough to keep Clinton away from New York City, which has all the pomp, panache and power brokers that White Plains lacks.

The Big Apple's mayor, Bill de Blasio, ran her first senatorial campaign, and Clinton has connections in Manhattan's financial industry. According to reports, potential bivouacs for a 2016 campaign include Brooklyn or Queens, where the former Secretary of State would be close to a large base of young Democrats who would form the spine of her campaign staff.

A spokesperson for Clinton didn't respond to a request for comment.

If the Clinton campaign decides to decamp from Westchester and heads to New York's outer boroughs, she would likely be courted by a wide array of friendly real estate developers interested in leasing her space.

Bruce Ratner, a prominent Democrat and real estate developer, has extensive Brooklyn properties including the Barclay's Center, a potential site for the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Stephen L. Green, who is one of New York's largest office landlords, was a member the so-called Hillraisers, an elite coterie of donors that bundled over $100,000 each for Clinton during her 2008 run.

Last August, Clinton signed a two-year lease for a personal office in a Midtown Manhattan skyscraper owned by Green. Green's firm also owns office space in downtown Brooklyn.

White Plains notables also argue that accessibility to Westchester County Airport—mere minutes from the suburb— make the New York satellite a better option than the city.

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"White Plains would be a terrific location for her campaign headquarters," White Plains Mayor Tom Roach said. "Of course, we would love to have her headquarters here if she decides to run."

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Can Brooklyn cool rub off on Hillary Clinton? (Hill)

By Amie Parnes
February 4, 2015
The Hill

Brooklyn is casting a wary eye at the latest hipster who might be moving in: Hillary Clinton.

The news that Clinton is considering running her expected 2016 presidential campaign from New York City's most populous borough is being greeted in Gotham with surprise and snark.

It "just goes to show you that Brooklyn is now whiter than ever," said Livia Scott, a sketch comedian at the popular Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre who lives in New York and has seen the borough's gentrification over the years. "So, welcome, Hillary!"
While Clinton's campaign machine might seem an odd match for the East Coast Portlandians who ride fixed-gear bicycles and pride themselves on their ironic facial hair, the idea has been gaining traction in recent weeks. Allies say Clinton had all but ruled out putting her headquarters in the Westchester County suburbs of White Plains near her Chappaqua, N.Y., home, as The Hill first reported on Monday.

The Daily News on Tuesday reported that Clinton aides have already scoped out office space in Brooklyn Heights, just across the river from Manhattan.

"Well, she already has the hipster black-rimmed glasses," one Clinton ally said. "Now she just needs some plaid and a carefree attitude and maybe an education of Mumford and Sons."

Another Democratic consultant said the idea of putting Clinton headquarters in the borough is "completely understandable," but questioned whether it would send the right message.

"The people who think it's a great idea are the same people who think 'Girls' is good," the consultant said about the HBO series centered on an aspiring writer and her friends in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

The Twitterverse reacted to the headquarters plan by labeling Clinton "Hipster Hillary," with some calling the plan "edgy." The Daily News reported that "Brooklyn may be the new Westchester" for Clinton, while Brooklyn Magazine hailed the borough as "the new Democratic Party mecca" because the party's nominating convention might be held there in the summer of 2016.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat who was born in Brooklyn and represents parts of the borough, encouraged the move, saying there are plenty of reasons to set up shop.

"It's a place of vibrancy and great ethnic diversity," Nadler said in an interview. "It's symbolic of the vibrancy of the country. It's one of the reasons the convention ought to be held there."

The congressman — who said he doesn't think of himself as a hipster — said he hasn't lobbied Clinton to put her campaign headquarters in Brooklyn but would do so if asked.

If Clinton were to land across the Brooklyn Bridge from Manhattan, it would be a vastly different locale from 2008, when her campaign for the White House was based out of the former Immigration and Naturalization Services building in Arlington, Va., a suburb of Washington.

Nadler stopped short of contrasting the two spots but said, "I presume she's learned a lot about running a presidential campaign. ... Maybe part of that is to pick a better location."

Observers say it's clear that Clinton and her allies want to replicate the cool factor generated by Obama's Windy City operation in 2008, which attracted an army of young volunteers who gave the campaign an edge.

Reid Cherlin, a former Obama spokesman turned writer who left the Beltway for the artisanal goods capital of New York, said the would-be campaign "has the right idea being away from D.C., but Brooklyn might not be the best spot.

"Unless they were to be deep into what you might call 'real Brooklyn,' they're just going to be a few subway stops from the center of the media universe," Cherlin said. "It's still better than D.C, but I don't know that it gets you the fresh air, as it were, that you want."

"I live in Brooklyn, and I love Brooklyn," Cherlin added. "So it's no knock on the borough. But putting the headquarters here also would read as a message move, trying to be cool or whatever, in the way that many brands are now doing. But I don't see a real benefit to that for them. And I don't actually think they do, either."

Cherlin suggested that the borough of Queens might be a better match for the campaign, saying it has "more real people" and is "close to the power centers but psychologically less so."

Scott, on the other hand, called a Brooklyn-based campaign a "no-brainer."

"It's a wise move for the people who are advising her," she said. "It's all about what's cool. If she's going to win, she's going to have to get the cool vote. It's not about capturing the young vote but capturing the cool-geist."

Still, she deadpanned: "The people who are most cool have probably moved to Philadelphia by now."

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/23/2014 12:56:46 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Thursday October 23, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Thursday October 23, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

US News: Hillary Clinton on the Campaign Trail

"When Clinton started doing more campaign-like events earlier this year, she seemed rusty and off her game. Now she is showing considerable skill on the stump, and she is putting it to good use in urging support for Democratic candidates across the country."

CNN: Hillary Clinton is returning to Iowa

"Hillary Clinton is headed back to Iowa on October 29, according to a Democratic source with knowledge of the trip."

CNN: Rand Paul to lay out four-pronged platform on foreign policy

"It's also expected that Paul will take aim at former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a frequent target of his in speeches on the campaign and fundraising trail, especially when it comes to the 2012 terrorist attack against the U.S. compound in Benghazi."

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National Journal: Elizabeth Warren, Then: 'I Am Not Running For President.' Now: 'I Don't Think So.'On the delicate parsing of campaign speech.

"In a new interview with People, Sen. Elizabeth Warren openly shifted her tone when asked about her presidential ambitions."

USA Today: The model for 'Madam Secretary?' It's not Hillary

"Téa Leoni had a model in mind when she shaped the role of Secretary of State Elizabeth McCord in the new CBS series Madam Secretary. It wasn't Hillary Rodham Clinton."

Articles:

US News: Hillary Clinton on the Campaign Trail

By Kenneth T. Walsh

October 23, 2014 7:19 a.m. EDT

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

[Subtitle:] Potential 2016 presidential candidate campaigns on behalf of fellow Democrats.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is doing everything possible to pave the way for a presidential run in 2016 short of actually announcing her candidacy, and fellow Democrats mostly like what they see.

When Clinton started doing more campaign-like events earlier this year, she seemed rusty and off her game. Now she is showing considerable skill on the stump, and she is putting it to good use in urging support for Democratic candidates across the country. She made an enthusiastic pitch for women's votes in Colorado this week, arguing that Democrats are pushing for pay equality and making other efforts to help women while Republicans are blocking such moves. And she said Democrats have Middle America's interests at heart. "We need votes for people who believe in you, who worry about you and do everything in their power to give you and your families opportunities," she told a Democratic crowd in Aurora, Colorado.

A senior Democratic strategist who has advised his party's congressional candidates for decades says Clinton is easing concerns that she is too much a part of the past. "She is defining herself as a contemporary figure," he said. "At this point, I'm sure more people feel they would be going forward with Hillary than backward with Hillary." And she is proving that she is not solely an adjunct of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, the strategist said, adding: "She is showing that she is her own person."

Republicans, however, see her as too liberal and burdened with heavy baggage, partly from her husband's presidency when she stood by him during the Monica Lewinsky sex-and-lies scandal. She also has baggage from Barack Obama's presidency, during which she was secretary of state. GOP strategists say she has been tarnished by what they consider Obama's weak foreign policy.

Clinton will travel back to Iowa on Oct. 29, according to CNN, for her second visit in about a month. She is expected to campaign again for Iowa Democrats including Bruce Braley, the party's nominee for the Senate who is in a close race with Republican nominee Joni Ernst.

But there are other implications to her visit. Iowa will be the first state to hold presidential nominating caucuses in 2016, so Clinton's every step in the state is closely scrutinized to assess her appeal and whether she actually intends to run for the White House. She leads in the polls for the Democratic nomination but says she hasn't decided whether to run.

Democrats of all stripes seem eager for her to enter the race. Liberals remain suspicious of her views on national security and they consider her too hawkish about using American power abroad. But many liberals have been reluctant to criticize Clinton because they believe she has a good chance to maintain the Democratic party's control of the White House and they don't want to undermine her. Also, many liberals don't see realistic alternatives to Hillary Clinton at this time. Centrist Democrats like her because they think she would not be a left-wing zealot and would push a Democratic agenda in Congress more effectively and pragmatically than President Obama.

Clinton has traveled extensively on behalf of Democratic candidates this year, unlike Obama who has not been invited to appear with some major Democratic candidates in conservative states (even though he has been featured at many private fundraisers for his party across the country). In the past several weeks, Clinton has traveled to California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada and Pennsylvania. Democratic operatives who are close to Clinton say she will be actively campaigning right through the midterm election on Nov. 4.

Clinton, the former first lady and senator from New York ran for president in 2008 and lost the nomination to Obama. Early in that campaign cycle, she was the prohibitive favorite among Democrats, as she is now, but her

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campaign fizzled. So there is always the chance for an upset. But for now, Hillary Clinton is soaring, and she appears to be enjoying the ride.

CNN: Hillary Clinton is returning to Iowa

By Dan Merica

October 22, 2014

Washington (CNN) -- Hillary Clinton is headed back to Iowa on October 29, according to a Democratic source with knowledge of the trip.

The former first lady's visit comes just a little more than a month since she returned to Iowa after a six year hiatus. Clinton stumped for Bruce Braley, Iowa's Democratic Senate nominee, and other Iowa Democrats at the 37th annual - and final - Harkin Steak Fry in September. She had last visited the state in 2008.

Braley is currently locked in a tight race to succeed Harkin in the Senate with Republican Joni Ernst.

A number of big name Democrats have come to Iowa to help Braley. Vice President Joe Biden will stump for the Senate hopeful at an event in Davenport on Monday and first lady Michelle Obama stumped for him earlier this week.

Any visit Clinton makes to Iowa - the crucially important first-in-the-nation caucus state - is immediately seen through the lens of 2016 politics given that the former first lady is widely seen as the Democratic frontrunner for president and has admitted that she is considering a run.

Clinton's October visit to stump for Democrats in Iowa comes near the end of her prolonged push for Democrats across the country. Clinton has headlined political events in California, Colorado, Michigan, Kentucky, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Florida in the last month. And is expected to return to New Hampshire and Georgia by election day.

While all of these events have been for Democrats seeking to win in November, the campaigning is also a way for Clinton to satisfy Democrats who expect their potential future presidential nominee to help the party in the years before the run.

By election day, Clinton is expected to visit over 15 states in her midterm push.

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CNN: Rand Paul to lay out four-pronged platform on foreign policy

By Ashley Killough

October 23, 2014

(CNN) -- For the first time since facing an onslaught of criticism this year over his foreign policy views, Sen. Rand Paul will spell out his comprehensive national security platform Thursday in remarks that his office bills as a major foreign policy speech.

The Kentucky Republican, who's aggressively laying groundwork for a potential presidential campaign, is set to deliver his address in New York at the Center for the National Interest, a think-tank founded by former President Richard Nixon.

In a four-pronged framework Paul will attempt to cement himself as a "conservative realist," according to his spokesman, and address critics that characterize his views as isolationist.

Paul has tried to defend his traditionally non-interventionist positions in interviews and high-profile Senate floor speeches this year, as well as a speech early last year at the Heritage Foundation.

But he aims to approach his speech Thursday from the perspective of a major, would-be U.S. leader, rather than a lawmaker, according to his spokesman.

In four points, he'll outline how and when he would advocate for the use of force if the U.S. or U.S. interests are threatened, and he'll underscore his widely-known position that a U.S. president should seek authorization from Congress before taking military action.

He's also set to talk at length about maintaining diplomatic relationships abroad, as well as discuss his views on sanctions—a topic he has not thoroughly elaborated on in the past.

And finally, he'll reiterate a stance he has consistently taken--that the country's debt is one of its biggest national security threats.

The first-term senator will disparage President Obama's handling of international affairs in his speech—not unfamiliar territory for Paul, who has repeatedly slammed the president for not coming to Congress before using force abroad.

It's also expected that Paul will take aim at former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a frequent target of his in speeches on the campaign and fundraising trail, especially when it comes to the 2012 terrorist attack against the U.S. compound in Benghazi.

His speech comes as he attempts to further distance himself from the more libertarian views trumpeted by his father, three-time presidential candidate and former congressman Ron Paul.

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Elected with a wave of tea party support in 2010, Rand Paul has more sought to broaden his appeal to establishment Republicans and even Democrats as he eyes the presidency.

The attention has attracted finely tuned scrutiny to his views and past statements on foreign policy, as Paul has been known to break with his own party and lean towards staying out of foreign entanglements. (Last month he slammed hawkish lawmakers for being "barnacled enablers" that have "never met a war they didn't like.")

He was widely panned this year when he evolved in his opinion about the crisis in Ukraine, as well as the threat of ISIS in the Middle East, as both situations continued to worsen.

On ISIS, for example, he penned an opinion piece earlier this summer openly questioning the value of launching air strikes against militants in Iraq.

But not long after the beheading of American James Foley, Paul became supportive of a U.S.-lead air campaign against the terrorist organization—a change that critics made sure to highlight as a massive flip-flop but what Paul reluctantly admitted as a change in views based on the situation at hand, the "realist" side of his worldview.

Huffington Post: Paul Krugman: How About A Clinton-Warren Ticket Instead Of A Matchup?

By Amber Ferguson

October 22, 2014 7:08 p.m. EDT

Nobel Prize-winning New York Times columnist Paul Krugman has an interesting vision of the 2016 Democratic presidential ticket: Hillary Clinton for president and Sen. Elizabeth Warren “looking over her shoulder so she doesn't stray too far."

Speaking on HuffPost Live Wednesday about Clinton’s domestic policy, Krugman said, “When she talks now, she sounds substantially to the left of the old Hillary Clinton.”

“If she becomes president and then turns ... [and] runs back to the right, that’s going to be a problem. ... I guess part of one's hope, if she becomes president, [is that] she will in fact feel some need to avoid alienating the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party, which is for all practical purposes led by Elizabeth Warren right now,” Krugman said.

As for a presidential bid from the Democratic senator from Massachusetts, he said it “would be an interesting thing” but predicted it would be unsuccessful.

Warren has pushed back on rumors that she might go for the White House, telling ABC’s David Muir in April that she's "not running for president" but thinks "Hillary Clinton is terrific."

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Watch the full interview here .

Associated Press, via The Fresno Bee: Clinton renews ties in state she lost in '08

[No author mentioned]

October 23, 2014

ST. PAUL, MINN. — Hillary Rodham Clinton is on her way to Minnesota to give a late boost to Democrats on this fall's ballot and renew ties that could help her in a possible presidential bid.

The former U.S. secretary of state, senator and first lady was headlining a rally Thursday at Macalester College and later holding a fundraiser for Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton.

Her appearance was geared toward energizing voters about to decide the re-election fates of Dayton and first-term Democratic Sen. Al Franken.

Dayton was a vocal Clinton backer when she sought the party's presidential nomination in 2008 and says he'd be in her corner if she runs in 2016. In the prior campaign, Clinton lost Minnesota's caucuses to now-President Barack Obama.

MLive: Bill Clinton targets Koch brothers, lauds Democrats' 'great experiment' in Flint speech

By Gary Ridley

October 22, 2014 5:00 p.m. EDT

FLINT, MI -- The Koch brothers and out-of-state interest groups were in the crosshairs of former President Bill Clinton as he stopped in downtown Flint to stump for Democratic candidates.

"When someone who is trying to sell you something has a strategy designed to stop you from thinking, they don't have your best interest at heart," Clinton said Wednesday, Oct. 22, during a roughly 30-minute speech at the Riverfront Banquet Center.

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Clinton accused the Kochs and other interest groups of pumping millions of dollars in negative ads into Michigan to drive a wedge into the electorate and stop voters from thinking for themselves.

"Wherever people treat each other right, wherever they recognize their special individuality but embrace our common humanity, wherever people have open and honest disagreements for the purpose of reaching the best decision and they work together, good things are happening," Clinton said.

Clinton was in Flint to campaign for Democratic candidates in the upcoming November election, particularly gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer and U.S. Senate candidate Gary Peters. Peters and Schauer shared the stage with Clinton during his speech.

U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint Township, who hosted the event, and Vanessa Guerra, Democratic candidate for the state's 95th District House seat, also shared the stage with Clinton.

Democratic Party leaders have been vocal about rallying voters to the polls for the Nov. 4 election and Wednesday'sspeech was the most recent in a series of events aimed to increase voter turnout.

Clinton, who has made multiple other campaign stops around the country this election season, called his party's drive to recruit more voters to the polls a "great experiment."

Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Lon Johnson has implemented methods used by the successful President Barack Obama campaigns of 2008 and 2012 to try and draw out Democratic voters, but Republicans -- whose candidates tend to perform better in mid-term elections -- have countered by using technology to try to connect with more voters.

A recent poll shows Schauer trailing Republican Gov. Rick Snyder by eight points, but Schauer supporters told MLive the numbers were "dead wrong." Recent polls show Peters has opened a double-digit lead over Republican challenger Terri Lynn Land.

"I'm not happy about what's going on in this campaign and I see what's going on in Washington and all this gridlock and all this crazy stuff and I think, 'I know why that happened,'" Clinton said. "It happened because a different America shows up in the mid-term elections than shows up in the presidential elections."

Clinton said his message could also be beneficial to his Republican counterparts.

"If I'm right it would be good for our Republican friends, too, because we don't need a one-party country," Clinton said. "We need an ongoing debate and they would not be able to be taken over by their extremists and say all these kind of crazy things that are going on."

A long line of other prominent Democratic lawmakers and candidates, including current U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin, echoed Clinton's claims as they took the stage.

Stabenow also took the opportunity to make what appeared to be a plug for a 2016 presidential run by Clinton's wife, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

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"I kind of like the sound of another Clinton presidency," Stabenow said to a chorus of cheers.

Roughly 1,000 people were expected to attend the speech and Clinton spoke to a conference room full of mostly partisan supporters.

"I thought that it was great," Ron Panter said of Clinton's speech.

Panter, of Flushing, said he is a typical Democratic voter but respected Clinton's message of politicians working together in Washington.

However, Genesee County's Republican leadership said Clinton's message isn't what the hard-hit Flint and Genesee County community needs.

"I noticed everyone in the MLive pictures online are standing line to get into this event look like they're really dressed nice and haven't been hurt by this failing economy; unlike if you go a couple blocks over to the rest of Flint where our residents are suffering greatly," said Tammy Allen, chairwoman of the Genesee County GOP.

"Bill Clinton used his star power to steady Obama's re-election in 2012 when he was losing to Mitt Romney," Allen added. "Clinton said then, that Obama had four years and needed another four to turn things around. Clinton was wrong then -- and he's wrong now."

National Journal: Elizabeth Warren, Then: 'I Am Not Running For President.' Now: 'I Don't Think So.'On the delicate parsing of campaign speech.

By Emma Roller

October 23, 2014

[Subtitle:]On the delicate parsing of campaign speech.

Trying to read into politicians' language is often an exercise in futility—like trying to divine postmodern critical theory from Amelia Bedelia.

But in a new interview with People, Sen. Elizabeth Warren openly shifted her tone when asked about her presidential ambitions.

For the past year (at least), Warren has repeated the same line to every reporter who asked about any larger ambitions she might have: "I am not running for president."

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"No, I am not running for president," Warren told Katie Couric in September. "It is absolutely critical right now that we focus on the 2014 elections."

Now, however, she's injecting more room for change into her response.

"I don't think so," she told People when asked if she's interested in running. "If there's any lesson I've learned in the last five years, it's don't be so sure about what lies ahead. There are amazing doors that could open."

Some political groups, like Ready For Warren, are already set to throw those doors open and embrace her, no matter how hesitant Warren may be to walk through them.

2016 forecasters are already projecting Warren could be a more progressive alternative to Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primaries. The People interview, which doesn't go online in full until Friday, also gives a brief window into the relationship between the two women. "We have talked," Warren told the magazine. "It's not much more than that. Not much more."

It's not the first time Warren has suggested some distance with Clinton. In her interview with Couric in September, Warren was asked if she thinks Clinton is "too cozy" with Wall Street. "I worry a lot about the relationship between all of them—regulators, government, and Wall Street," Warren said. Asked about Clinton, again, specifically, Warren said, "Well, I worry across the board."

And both Warren and Clinton have upped their national profiles in recent months. Warren, like Clinton, has become a regular campaign surrogate in 2014—though Clinton didn't start campaigning in earnest until after Labor Day.

For now, both women are content to campaign for other Democrats.

USA Today: The model for 'Madam Secretary?' It's not Hillary

By Susan Page

October 22, 2014 3:22 p.m. EDT

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Téa Leoni had a model in mind when she shaped the role of Secretary of State Elizabeth McCord in the new CBS series Madam Secretary.

It wasn't Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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"Truthfully, I didn't really go for a politician," Leoni says. "Elizabeth McCord is not a lifetime politician and not ambitious. I think more about the women, particularly the women who raised me — my grandmother and my mother. They were much more influential. But no one in my family has blond hair, so I'll give that one to Hillary."

In an interview with USA TODAY, Leoni and co-star Tim Daly say the story of a woman raising children, nurturing her marriage and negotiating the workplace makes the show "relatable" to viewers, even if her workday happens to include winning the release of American hostages and saving nuclear negotiations with Iran. "Her circumstance may be larger, a more powerful job, whatever, but this is still a working mother," she says.

Daly says his character — husband and religion professor Henry McCord — could be "an even more influential role model than the character of Elizabeth, because I think it's time that men kind of embrace and get over the fact that they're going to be married to women who are powerful or make more money or who have more notoriety. ...

"They ought to have enough confidence to be able to say, 'Go, honey, this is awesome,' and not be threatened by the fact that their spouse is doing it."

Like Bill Clinton does in all-but-openly urging his wife to run for president in 2016?

"Yes," he says.

To which Leoni interjects, "You did not model yourself on Bill Clinton."

"Oh, no," he agrees with a drawl.

Leoni and Daly sat down with Capital Download, a weekly video newsmaker series, on the set of the Brooklyn studio where the series is filmed. During a break in the filming of episode 11, they plop in leather-like chairs around a long table in the faux White House Situation Room, a presidential seal on the wall behind them.

She picks up the microphone wires draped on the chair and holds them up to her chest as though they were attached to a defibrillator. "Clear! Clear!" she shouts to no one in particular.

When Daly struggles to get his microphone threaded underneath his navy sweater and attached to the collar, she takes over. "This is not a guy thing," she declares. "I don't mean to be sexist, but it's not."

Leoni says she likes playing "a fish out of water" — that is, not exactly a secretary of State in the mold of Henry Kissinger or Colin Powell. "There's a fantasy aspect to these roles, the idea of coming into one of the most powerful positions on Earth and having a go at it, with thinking outside the box and not going maybe the way it's traditionally meant to be done."

It is, she adds, a job that suits a women's strengths. "I do think as women we could be lauded a little bit more strongly for our inherent diplomatic skills."

Besides their acting careers, both Leoni and Daly have a history of engagement in public affairs. Daly is

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president of the Creative Coalition, an arts advocacy group. Leoni's grandmother, Helenka Pantaleoni, served as president of the UNICEF U.S. Fund for decades; Leoni now sits on the group's board of directors.

And they're not oblivious to the draw of D.C: They've already accepted invitations for next spring's White House Correspondents Association Dinner from CBS News veteran Bob Schieffer ("I have a real crush happening there," she says of the host of Face the Nation) and Madeleine Albright. Who really was secretary of State.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· October 23 – MN: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Gov. Mark Dayton (AP)

· October 23 – MN: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Gov. Mark Dayton (Star-Tribune)

· October 24 – RI: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Rhode Island gubernatorial candidate Gina Raimondo (Politico)

· October 24 – Mass.: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Mass. gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley (CNN)

· October 24 – NE: Sec. Clinton campaigns for ME gubernatorial candidate Mike Michaud (PressHerald)

· October 25 – NC: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Sen. Kay Hagan (AP)

· October 29 – IA: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Iowa Democrats (CNN)

· October 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the launch of The International Council on Women's Business Leadership (CNN)

· November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/20/2016 9:44:03 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Sprung

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theSkimm

Skimm for March 21st

Skimm'd while cleaning out closets

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am beginning a new journey, on Instagram" - Pope Francis , intro'ing his new Insta account and announcing he did not give up social media for Lent. #Blessed.

SKIMM THIS

'LL HAVE THE CUBAN

THE STORY

Yesterday, President Obama landed in Cuba , kicking off a spring break trip that no sitting US president has taken in 88 years.

BACK UP.

The US has been giving Cuba the cold shoulder since the late 50s due to things like a Communist revolution, a missile crisis, and a president named Castro. The US responded in the early 60s by cutting off all diplomatic relations with Cuba, and putting the country under a full embargo (think: no trade, no travel, no importing Cuban cigars for dad).

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

In late 2014, after a little push from Pope Francis, Obama announced that the US and Cuba were having relations again. Diplomatic relations . Cue the US reopening its embassy in Cuba and easing up on travel restrictions — and crossing its fingers that the rest of Latin America noticed. Some are hoping this trip could be the diplomatic push the US needs to end the embargo. Problem is, the GOP-controlled Congress has to sign off on that. And many Republicans don't think Cuba's changed its ways. It doesn't help that older Cuban-Americans (a VIP group of voters) are mostly against lifting the embargo. And in case you missed it, it's an election year.

theSKIMM

This trip is a BFD for Cuba, which is hoping that having relations with the US will help boost the country's tired economy. And this trip is Obama's way of reminding Congress that he thinks the embargo's gone out of style. By about fifty years.

THE *: Can't get enough of Obama Havana good time? We got you covered.

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SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT...

Salah Abdeslam. On Friday, police in Brussels captured the top suspect in the Paris terror attacks. Officials say 26-year-old Abdeslam was the guy in charge of logistics for the November attacks that left 130 people dead. He is thought to be the only surviving suspect. He's also thought to have a lot of good intel on ISIS, which claimed responsibility for the attack. And Abdeslam's been pretty chatty in captivity. He told investigators that he's been planning more attacks from Brussels, and has had access to lots of weapons. Meanwhile, Belgian's foreign minister said the country's captured dozens of others involved in planning the attacks, but believes more are out there. He called on European countries to be especially careful with their border checks, since Abdeslam's capture might give his terrorist friends a reason to run. Next, France is aiming to bring him back into the country to face trial.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE WATCHING...

Russia. Over the weekend, a FlyDubai passenger plane crashed while trying to land in a southern Russian city. All 62 people onboard were killed. The plane was making its second landing attempt in bad weather when it crashed short of the runway and burst into flames. The plane reportedly circled above the airport for about two hours before trying to land. Investigators say it's still too early to tell what exactly caused the crash, but they're looking at pilot error, technical issues, or strong winds. Both black boxes have been recovered and are being analyzed in Moscow.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHILE WAITING FOR TODAY'S APPLE EVENT...

It's like watching paint dry. Yesterday, paint giant Sherwin-Williams agreed to buy rival Valspar for a casual $9.3 billion. Sherwin-Williams has long been one of the top dogs of the paint market in the US and Canada. But now, if this deal goes through, homeowners in places like China and Australia can debate the pros and cons of Porpoise vs. Parakeet for the new porch. Both companies took home a combined $15 billion last year. Paint everybody else impressed.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU DROP YOUR FAVORITE COFFEE MUG...

Busted. Just like your March Madness bracket . Thank Middle Tennessee State, Little Rock, and Wichita State.

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ONE THING TO KNOW

Eaglet: A baby eagle. Over the weekend, bald eagles named Mr. President and the First Lady became parents to two eaglets. More than a million people watched the livestream. If you don't find them adorable, you don't love freedom.

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SKIMM SHARE

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SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

*indicates Skimm'bassador. Pour it up, pour it up.

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Hillary Clinton Picks Up Teachers Union Endorsement // NYT // Maggie Haberman & Amy Chozick – July 11, 2015

A major teachers union on Saturday voted to make an early endorsement of Hillary Rodham Clinton, a lift to her presidential campaign as she tries to fend off a stronger-than-expected challenge from the left.

The endorsement from the American Federation of Teachers was not a surprise. The group is led by Randi Weingarten, a longtime ally of Mrs. Clinton, and it backed her in her losing primary battle against Barack Obama in 2008.

But the union is giving her its support again at an opportune moment for Mrs. Clinton, just before her first major speech on the economy, scheduled for Monday, which is seen as an attempt, in part, to neutralize the criticism leveled at her by her leading challenger, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Mr. Sanders has surged in the polls by appealing to the populist anger of many Democrats over economic issues.

Education policy remains one of the few areas of unsettled debate within the Democratic Party. President Obama's education agenda has often infuriated the teachers unions, and last year, the head of the National Education Association, another union representing teachers, called for the secretary of education, Arne Duncan, to be fired.

Advocates of changes to the system, including some major Democratic donors, consider Mr. Obama an ally and have been pressuring Mrs. Clinton to adopt Mr. Obama's posture. But in meetings with the A.F.T. last month, Mrs. Clinton said that teachers shouldn't be the "scapegoat" for society's ills.

After that meeting — members also heard from Mr. Sanders and Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor — Ms. Weingarten praised Mrs. Clinton's performance and detailed responses to members' concerns.

The timing of the endorsement risks angering other union leaders, particularly Richard Trumka, the president of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. Mr. Trumka has called on Mrs. Clinton to embrace labor's economic agenda, and has been privately urging individual unions to hold off any endorsements.

But in an interview, Ms. Weingarten said the membership overwhelmingly supported Mrs. Clinton, something which became clear in two town halls and in two separate member polls the group took in the last six weeks.

As a senator, Ms. Weingarten said, Mrs. Clinton was given a 100 percent rating from the teachers union on her voting record. She said she had repeatedly heard from the union's members that they believed Mrs. Clinton would "make the country a fairer place for working people."

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And Mrs. Clinton has deep ties to the teachers union, beyond the endorsement it made in her 2008 campaign. She worked frequently with Ms. Weingarten when Ms. Weingarten led the teachers union in New York City. In March, just before Mrs. Clinton made her candidacy official, she and Ms. Weingarten appeared together on a panel in Washington to discuss expanding opportunities in urban areas sponsored by the Center for American Progress, the liberal group that has advised the Clinton campaign as it settles on an economic framework.

In addition, former President Bill Clinton's chief of staff, Tina Flournoy, is a former A.F.T. official.

In addition to discussing women and family issues on Monday, Mrs. Clinton is expected to support Mr. Obama's plans to extend overtime pay to workers and strengthen collective bargaining. She will also emphasize policies that would help the largely female members of the A.F.T., including pushing for paid family leave and affordable childcare, according to aides.

Clinton pushes middle class income boost **// AP // Ken Thomas - July 12, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton will make boosting middle class incomes and wages the focus of her economic agenda, pointing to stagnant paychecks as the central challenge facing the U.S. economy.

The Democratic presidential candidate intends to lay out the themes of her economic plan in a speech on Monday, emphasizing the need for the real income of everyday Americans to rise steadily alongside corporate profits and executive compensation.

While Republican candidate Jeb Bush has called for an annual growth rate of 4 percent, Clinton will assert that the nation's economy should not be judged by a specific growth figure but rather by how much income increases for middle-class households.

"For a typical working American, their income has not been rising anywhere near as fast as it should be rising, and that is the challenge we face," said David Kamin, a New York University law professor who has advised Clinton's campaign. "It's not a new problem, and it's going to take a holistic vision."

Clinton's campaign on Saturday provided a preview of her speech to be given at The New School, a university in New York City. The campaign said the Democratic front-runner will point to economic progress during her husband's two terms in the 1990s and more recently under President Barack Obama. But she will aim to identify ways of improving upon the uneven nature of the nation's recovery since the Great Recession, bolstering wages even as the unemployment rate has fallen to a seven-year low of 5.3 percent.

Clinton on Saturday picked up the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers union, the first major labor union to endorse a presidential candidate. The union is led by Randi Weingarten, a longtime Clinton ally, and comes as Clinton has sought the support of labor leaders.

The former secretary of state is expected to begin outlining a series of specific economic proposals this summer on issues like wage growth, college affordability, corporate accountability and paid leave.

"It's a new moment, and she's bringing new ideas to the table of how to do that," said Neera Tanden, a former Clinton policy adviser who leads the Center for American Progress.

In Clinton's approach to the economy, more Americans would share in the prosperity and avoid the boom-and-bust cycles of Wall Street that have led to economic turbulence of the past decade. She is also expected to argue

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that the nation should not be fatalistic about globalization and that specific policy steps can help U.S. workers achieve better living standards.

Clinton, who is seeking to become the nation's first female president, is also expected to address ways of making it easier for women to join the workforce.

In framing an economic vision, Clinton will attempt to meet the demands of liberals within her own party who are wary of her willingness to regulate Wall Street while inspiring confidence among a larger electorate who will judge her policies if she wins the Democratic nomination.

Progressives encouraged Elizabeth Warren to seek the presidency, but the Massachusetts senator, who has railed against Wall Street and corporate excesses, declined to run. Many of those same liberals are now packing large gatherings held by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is challenging Clinton for the nomination and has made economic inequality the chief plank of his campaign.

Alan Blinder, a Princeton University economist and former economic adviser to President Bill Clinton, said the former first lady has expressed interest in policies to curb excessive risk on Wall Street, such as a financial transactions tax on high-frequency trading, taxes on large Wall Street banks based on their risk profile and eliminating the so-called carried interest loophole that allows managers of hedge funds and private equity firms to pay a lower tax rate than most individuals.

"I'm pretty sure that as the details come out you and others will judge them to be more anti-Wall Street than pro-Wall Street," Blinder said. "This is not going to look like an agenda that came out of a bunch of Wall Streeters."

Clinton has said she will take nothing for granted in the primary contest, but the economic message will allow her to begin contrasting herself with Republicans. In recent speeches, she has portrayed the Republican presidential field, including Bush, the former Florida governor, as supportive of "top-down" economic policies and large tax breaks for the wealthy.

"They're back to the trickle down, cut taxes on the wealthy and everything will be fine," Clinton said last week in Iowa. "This will be the biggest economic debate, because they know the only way they can win the White House back is to somehow convince voters that what we have done didn't work."

Clinton to center campaign on raising middle-class incomes // WaPo // Philip Rucker and Jim Tankersley – July 11, 2015

Centering her presidential campaign on boosting incomes for middle-class Americans, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Monday will begin unveiling an economic policy agenda designed to lift working families that have experienced years of wage stagnation and economic anxiety.

In a major address in New York, the Democratic front-runner will lay out a diagnosis for why wages have been stuck and a framework to ensure that economic growth benefits more ordinary workers, according to campaign officials.

"She believes that making sure the real incomes of everyday Americans are rising steadily and strongly is the defining economic challenge of our time," said one campaign official, who previewed Clinton's remarks only on the condition of anonymity.

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Clinton will endorse a host of popular Democratic policies such as raising the minimum wage and investing more in infrastructure. She will emphasize proposals tailored toward working women, one of her most important bases of support, such as expanding access to child care and providing workers with paid family and sick leave.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, pictured here campaigning in Iowa last week, will introduce a menu of economic policies tailored toward working women. (Jim Young/Reuters)

The ideas, in many ways, sound similar to the second-term agenda of President Obama, who faced an economic crisis in his first term and in his second started to more directly to address the nation's long-running economic problems. But he has struggled to pass major legislation with a Republican-dominated Congress.

Clinton will say she wants to build on his agenda, and, in working to craft an economic vision of her own, she goes further in her emphasis on giving women more flexibility to enter the workforce and on new government efforts to change the investment and pay decisions of corporations.

Clinton's speech, to be delivered at 10 a.m. Monday at the New School, a progressive university in Greenwich Village, will cement a leftward shift in the Democratic Party. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, concerns about the widening gap between rich and poor have risen to the top of the party's agenda.

Clinton is carving out space between the Republican candidates, who pay more attention to growing the economy than to raising wages, and her leading Democratic primary opponent, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who focuses more on redistributing income to solve the inequality problem than on growth.

Clinton's aides said she plans to assert that the Republican candidates use rhetoric designed to appeal to middle-class voters but are proposing dated, trickle-down policies from the Reagan presidency — such as tax cuts for the wealthy, with the hope that they fuel growth that eventually benefits working families.

The U.S. economy grew only 2.4 percent last year, and over the past 15 years, economic growth has slipped well below the averages of the 1980s and 1990s. Former Florida governor Jeb Bush is promising to grow the economy by 4 percent a year.

But Clinton will argue that "the measure of our economic success should be how much incomes rise for middle-class households, not an arbitrary growth figure," according to the Clinton campaign official.

Clinton's speech is sure to draw fire from Republicans, who will chafe at her calls for higher taxes on the wealthy and more regulation of Wall Street and business in general. Many conservative economists warn that such proposals stunt economic growth.

In her speech, aides said Clinton will argue that tectonic forces in the global economy are conspiring against middle-class families — such as automation and technology, which are eliminating middle-skill jobs that once provided solid incomes, as well as the new "sharing economy," epitomized by Uber, which has created efficiency but also jobs lacking benefits and protections. But she will say that the government should enact policies to shape how these forces affect Americans.

"She's really addressing the issues of the moment," said Neera Tanden, president of the Center for American Progress, who has been advising Clinton on policy. "The challenges we face today are different than when she was running eight years ago. . . . She sees that the challenges are large and profound, but she thinks they're issues we can address and that we shouldn't just be subject to these global trends."

Clinton will at least implicitly critique Obama, whom she served as secretary of state, with her discussion about

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stagnant wages under his watch. But aides said she intends to commend him for facing and passing an urgent test to grow the economy quickly.

Advisers said Clinton's economic agenda will be organized in three parts. The first is about breaking down barriers to joining the workforce, including increased private and public investments in an infrastructure bank, tax relief to small businesses and clean energy development.

As part of her workforce focus, Clinton will decry that women's participation in the workforce has stalled after decades of growth and that many working parents, especially single mothers, have passed up job opportunities because of their family obligations. She will preview policies on child care, paid leave and paid sick days.

Clinton's second area of focus is reducing income inequality. She will assert that the current economy unfairly rewards some work, such as financial trading, more than other work, such as building and selling products. She will celebrate Obama's new rules on overtime, but also urge raising the minimum wage, fighting wage theft and overhauling the tax code to make the wealthiest Americans pay what she considers their fair share, as well as supporting collective bargaining and reducing health-care costs.

The third area is corporate reform. She plans to argue that companies should focus more on creating lasting value, including investing in their workers, than on earning quarterly profits to satisfy shareholders. To that end, she will call for more investments in research and development, changes in tax structure and new rules on shareholder activism.

Clinton will introduce these ideas in Monday's speech and then roll out more detailed prescriptions on issues such as college affordability, paid leave, wage growth and corporate accountability throughout the summer.

Liberal groups, which have been skeptical of Clinton's candidacy and especially its closeness to Wall Street, will be watching her speech with a skeptical eye.

Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, a group allied with liberal Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), has not seen Clinton's agenda but said he will be listening to hear whether Clinton takes on "the power of Wall Street and corporate bad actors."

"Do her proposals go big and represent game-changers in the lives of millions of people?" Green asked. "Or do they go small and tweak around the edges?"

Jared Bernstein, a liberal economist who has advised Obama and Vice President Biden and was briefed on Clinton's plans, said he thought she would satisfy progressives because her agenda "reconnects growth and middle-class prosperity."

For the past several months, Clinton and her advisers have met with more than 200 domestic policy experts. Campaign aides Jake Sullivan, Ann O'Leary and Maya Harris, with input from Gary Gensler, a Warren ally and the campaign's chief financial officer, developed the policy.

A number of outside advisers were involved as well, including Nobel Prize-winning liberal economist Joseph Stiglitz; former Obama White House economic advisers Gene Sperling, Alan Krueger, Christina Romer and Ronnie Chatterji; economists Alan Blinder and Heather Boushey; political scientist Jacob Hacker; law professor David Kamin; and Tanden.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Ken Thomas (6/11/15, 4:41 pm) - Hillary Clinton wins the endorsement of @AFTunion. It's the 1st major union to endorse in 2016 campaign.

Jeb Bush (7/11/15, 6:32 pm) - .@HillaryClinton can stand with @AFTunion. I'm standing with the kids. #edreform nypost.com/2015/06/23/sch ...

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

The Best Way to Vilify Hillary Clinton? G.O.P. Spends Heavily to Test It // NYT // Ashley Parker & Amy Chozick – July 11, 2015

Inside an office park here, about a dozen women gathered to watch a 30-second television spot that opened with Hillary Rodham Clinton looking well-coiffed and aristocratic, toasting champagne with her tuxedoed husband, the former president, against a golden-hued backdrop.

The ad then cut to Mrs. Clinton describing being "dead broke" when she and her husband left the White House, before a narrator intoned that Mrs. Clinton makes more money in a single speech, about $300,000, than an average family earns in five years.

The message hit a nerve. "She's out of touch," said one of the women, who works as a laundry attendant.

"Her reality is just so different than mine," murmured another, as operatives from American Crossroads, a Republican "super PAC," watched closely from behind a one-way mirror.

In rooms like this one around the country, an expensive and sophisticated effort is underway to test and refine the most potent lines of attack against Mrs. Clinton, and, ultimately, to persuade Americans that she does not deserve their votes. While the general election is 16 months away, Republican groups are eager to begin building a powerful case against the woman they believe will be the Democratic nominee, and to infuse the public consciousness with those messages.

American Crossroads, a Republican "super PAC," conducted two four-hour focus groups in Florida to test a series of attack ads against Mrs. Clinton. Here are descriptions of some ads, along with some reactions from the participants.

On the campaign trail, Mrs. Clinton focuses on policy issues, like the economic vision she plans to lay out in a speech on Monday.

But in private, her campaign has prepped for the anticipated lines of attack against her.

The effort to vilify Mrs. Clinton could ultimately cost several hundred million dollars, given the variety and volume of political organizations involved.

The typical voter has not necessarily fully tuned in to election coverage or followed the intricacies of Mrs.

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Clinton's use of a private email account or foreign donations to her family's foundation. But Republicans are acutely aware that early attacks labeling Mitt Romney as elitist were impossible for him to shake in 2012, and they view these next several months as critical in laying the groundwork to taint, and ultimately defeat, Mrs. Clinton.

That is why, on a rainy night here, Crossroads, which was founded by the Republican strategist Karl Rove, gathered about 50 voters representing groups that it believes can be persuaded to vote against Mrs. Clinton — an all-white mix of young men, low-income adults, married mothers and politically moderate women.

One problem in developing negative messages about Mrs. Clinton, Republican strategists have found, is that she and her husband have survived so many controversies by dismissing them as partisan attacks. So the Republican organizations are seeking to develop lines of attack that resonate more deeply or raise unsettling questions about Mrs. Clinton's character.

They showed the voters, who received $100, sandwiches and soft drinks for their time, more than a dozen 30-second ads. (Crossroads allowed a reporter to observe the focus groups under the condition that the participants' names be withheld.)

The ads highlighted Mrs. Clinton's deleting of emails from her private account, tried to tie her to President Obama, portrayed her as distant from middle-class Americans and sought to persuade women that they do not need to support her because of her gender.

An ad shown to a focus group contests Mrs. Clinton's comments that she and her husband were "dead broke" when they left the White House.

But many, essentially, struck the same theme, depicting Mrs. Clinton as untrustworthy, an image that even Democrats supporting the Clinton campaign acknowledge is a weakness. About 57 percent of Americans do not believe Mrs. Clinton is honest and trustworthy, according to a CNN poll released June 2.

"She's got an open wound, and part of our job is to pour salt in it," said Glen Bolger, a co-founder of Public Opinion Strategies, the Republican polling firm that conducted the focus groups.

Mrs. Clinton's allies point to relatively low trust numbers for Mr. Clinton in the 1992 and 1996 elections and his ability to win voters despite his personal failings.

An ad titled "Shadow," which ranked among the most effective ads that Crossroads tested in Orlando, argued that scandal trailed Mrs. Clinton like a menacing shadow. "Whitewater, Travelgate and Filegate," a narrator began, referring to scandals from decades ago, including one over a real estate deal. Then the narrator moved on to more recent controversies, including her deleted emails, the foreign donations to her family foundation and the four Americans killed in the 2012 attacks on the United States compound in Benghazi, Libya.

"There's a sense of distrust, a sense of unease about her authenticity and her candor, that isn't hard to stimulate," said Steven Law, the president of Crossroads.

In modern campaigns, given the fragmented way media is consumed, television ads are important but not always enough to create a narrative, especially over a long period.

Crossroads plans to use a kaleidoscopic approach for its anti-Clinton campaign. In order to target particular voters with tailored messages, the campaign will feature tools including television and radio spots, digital ads on

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mobile devices, and pre-roll, the commercials that play before videos online.

Crossroads is eager to establish itself as the leading attack dog against Mrs. Clinton, but it is a crowded field, especially as other super PACs are emerging as bigger players in the Republican money world.

In this ad, a narrator ominously warns that scandal follows Mrs. Clinton like a shadow.

Right to Rise, a super PAC supporting former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, recently held its own briefing for Republican groups to highlight data it gathered from its own focus groups and polling of women, information that can be used in attacks against Mrs. Clinton. It stressed that Mrs. Clinton's "dead broke" comments were particularly devastating, as were her deleted emails, though they required more explanation. Though the Clintons were in fact dealing with debt and legal fees when they left the White House, Mrs. Clinton later called her comments "inartful."

In addition, America Rising PAC, an opposition research group that focuses heavily on attacking Mrs. Clinton, began its effort with Twitter and other online posts more than a year ago before moving to paid digital ads.

Mrs. Clinton's campaign and Democratic groups believe that attacks on her trustworthiness and wealth could be the most damaging if they do not aggressively combat them. Rather than debating policies that would help working Americans, "they're trying to make her Mitt Romney in a pantsuit," said David Brock, the founder of several pro-Clinton outside groups and author of the forthcoming book, "Killing the Messenger: The Right Wing Plot to Derail Hillary and Hijack Your Government."

The Clinton campaign has also tried to turn the trust issue around by arguing that while the opposition tries to make voters distrust how Mrs. Clinton handled her email as secretary of state, they can trust her more than Republicans to look out for middle-class Americans.

Christina Reynolds, a spokeswoman for the campaign, said billionaires funding the attacks "are committed to keeping the policies in place that keep the deck stacked in favor of them at the expense of the voters she talks to around the country."

Democratic political groups, of course, will undertake their own offensive to attack a Republican nominee or front-runner, much as they did with Mr. Romney. But their task has been made more difficult by the large and uncertain Republican field.

Both sides agree that the work undertaken long before the election, often in the year before it, creates the foundation for the most damaging attacks.

Ahead of the 2004 election, Mr. Rove and others involved in President George W. Bush's re-election campaign tried to convince voters that Senator John Kerry was an opportunistic flip-flopper. The critique did not catch on until March of that year, when Mr. Kerry, in response to a question about funding for the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, said he "actually did vote for the $87 billion before I voted against it."

An ad features Mrs. Clinton saying she is "two steps short of a hoarder," and then has a narrator speak of the emails she deleted from her time as secretary of state.

"The groundwork had been laid pointing out all the examples of flip-flopping in the past," said Colin Reed, the executive director of America Rising.

Republicans could hardly hide their giddiness when Mrs. Clinton made her "dead broke" remark last year. To

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many in the political world, the comment evoked Mr. Romney's misstep at a 2012 fund-raiser where he said "47 percent" of Americans were overly dependent on government.

Long before Mr. Romney made that comment, Priorities USA Action, the Democratic super PAC, had devoted months to portraying the Republican candidate as "a plutocrat who doesn't care about people like you," said Bill Burton, a Priorities co-founder.

"The best thing you can do is set the table for a key vulnerability and hope the candidate lives up to the hype, which they likely will do," Mr. Burton said.

In Orlando, the "dead broke" ad emerged as the most effective spot, partly because it captured the gulf between Mrs. Clinton's life and those of the less affluent people gathered.

"She's broke at another level," said one man, who owns an electrical company and makes less than $50,000 annually. "She could be broke, you know, compared to the people in her world. O.K., in her status. 'Oh, my God, I can't buy a jet this year — we're broke, we're not going to Europe, sorry.' "

Another ad that resonated, called "Throw Away," opens with Mrs. Clinton saying she never throws anything away and is "two steps short of a hoarder" before a narrator points out that she deleted about 30,000 emails from her time at the State Department.

But Crossroads still has some fine-tuning to do. A few women watching expressed sympathy for Mrs. Clinton, saying they sometimes felt like hoarders, too, and often deleted spam and other personal emails. Maybe that was what Mrs. Clinton had done?

"They could have been from Bed Bath & Beyond," one woman said of the emails. "Who knows?"

Shaping a Campaign Against Hillary Clinton **// NYT // Ashley Parker – July 11, 2015**

American Crossroads, a "super PAC" founded by Karl Rove, the Republican strategist, recently conducted two four-hour focus groups in Florida to test a series of attack ads against Hillary Rodham Clinton. Crossroads gathered about 50 voters who represented groups it believes can be persuaded to vote against Mrs. Clinton — an all-white mix of young men, low-income adults, married mothers and politically moderate women. Here are descriptions of some ads, along with some reactions from the participants. (A reporter was permitted to observe, under the condition that names of the participants be withheld.)

'Dead Broke'

An ad highlights Mrs. Clinton's comments that she and her husband were "dead broke" when they left the White House and argues that the Clintons' version of "dead broke" is very different from that of the typical American. The ad describes the lucrative fees Mrs. Clinton has received for making speeches and for being an author.

Responses

"She's rich broke. She's not really our kind of broke, like, 'I don't even have money to go get a sandwich.' " — Politically moderate woman who works as a paralegal

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“For her to say she's dead broke, and the way the economy is, it’s kind of a slap in the face when you're struggling.” — Married mother

“She has no clue. I think she’s completely out of touch with how the middle class lives.” — Low-income woman

“It’s essentially faulting her for going out and getting a book deal, when it’s like, O.K., she went out, made the most of an opportunity. Who among us wouldn’t do that? This is like, ‘Here’s $8 million for your life.’ Of course I’m going to take that.” — Young man

‘Throw Away’

An ad features Mrs. Clinton saying she does not throw anything away and is “two steps short of a hoarder, ” and then has a narrator speak of more than 30,000 emails she deleted from her time as secretary of state.

Responses

“Her saying, ‘I don’t throw anything away, I’m a hoarder,’ is taken out of context. What was she talking about? Maybe they were talking about: Does she have every prom dress she ever wore? I was almost offended that that was so out of context.” — Politically moderate woman

“We should care because it could lead to leaking and hacking, and I think, isn’t that a federal offense to do that?” — Politically moderate woman

“I think the ad was believable, but I just don’t think that it’s the biggest issue, and I don’t think anybody — I think, yeah, she deleted all the emails. We all know that.” — Politically moderate woman

“She gives me this feeling of like a greasy used car salesman sometimes, but I think I get that from a lot of politicians, but there’s a point where I just feel like I get worked over.” — Politically moderate woman

‘Shadow’

In this ad, a narrator ominously warns that scandal follows Mrs. Clinton like a shadow, before listing several scandals that have plagued her, including the Whitewater real estate deal in Arkansas and the deaths of four Americans in the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

Responses

“Not really particularly believable because they were so long ago, and a lot of people who will be voting, who are 21, will have no idea what a Whitewater is, or maybe what led up to the first Clinton presidency.” — Low-income man

“I felt like it was a really low blow, even for dirty politics, to put the pictures of the people who were killed" in Benghazi. — Politically moderate woman

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"That commercial said to me: When you have Hillary Clinton somewhere, you're going to have a scandal. So why would you put her here where it's really important, because there's going to be a scandal?" — Politically moderate woman

"Everything in the whole commercial made her seem so shady from the beginning to the end. And I think it was just that what, is what impacted me, is just, you know, why would you want to vote for her? You know, why? I mean, after all that. And it's put right out there, it just, it covered a lot for me, and that's why I liked it." — Married mother

'Woman on the Street'

This ad features women explaining that they would love to see a female president but that they just do not support Mrs. Clinton. The women then list several reasons for thinking that she does not best represents them.

Responses

"They were all just against her. Nobody was there for her." — Female grocery clerk who leans Democratic

"I kind of liked that commercial. I thought it was one of the most effective ones because it's still the fact that it was all women saying that stuff. And the point they were, you know, getting across, how it doesn't necessarily have to be her." — Low-income man

"Getting a woman president probably wouldn't be too much of a role model for me. I do prefer men over women as far as leaders, which is kind of chauvinistic of me, but I do." — Politically moderate woman

"It's an ad that might work on Lifetime." — Young man

Hillary Clinton Economic Plan to Chart Center-Left Course **// WSJ // Laura Meckler - July 12, 2015**

Democratic presidential front-runner's economic speech expected to highlight differences between herself and GOP, other liberal contenders

Hillary Clinton is preparing to lay out an economic plan that seeks to chart a center-left ideological course, rejecting ideas put forth by Republican presidential contenders but also striking a contrast with the liberal wing of her own party.

In a Monday economic speech, the Democratic presidential front-runner will focus on the differences between herself and her Republican foes. She will accuse them of seeking economic growth without regard to whether the middle class thrives, and say that raising incomes for all Americans is "the defining economic challenge of our time," a campaign aide said.

But the speech in New York City will also draw implicit contrasts with Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is mounting a strong challenge from the left for the Democratic nomination. He is focusing heavily on economic inequality,

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arguing that the economic pie should be divided more fairly and calling for taxes on the wealthy to pay for initiatives that will boost the middle class.

Mrs. Clinton will put relatively more emphasis on the need to make the pie larger. Her economic policy advisers say she aims to walk a course between a focus on inequality and one on growth.

It is a balancing act that reflects her broader approach to policy so far in her presidential quest. She is proving to be quite liberal in some areas—particularly social policy such as immigration, gay marriage and gun control—while centrist on other issues, including some economic ones.

To promote growth, Mrs. Clinton will urge tax cuts for small businesses and new government spending on infrastructure, the Clinton aide said. She also will propose ways to make it easier for women to succeed in the workplace, including support for child care and paid leave.

To address income inequality, Mrs. Clinton will call for raising the minimum wage, increasing taxes on the wealthy, boosting the power of unions and reducing health-care costs. She's also likely to propose some new rules governing Wall Street.

She plans to endorse greater use of profit-sharing programs, which aim to more broadly share a company's success with its workers, and a college-affordability program, which is likely to stretch beyond the proposal for free community college advanced by President Barack Obama, advisers say. A middle-class tax cut plan is also in development.

Republicans are likely to charge that the Clinton formula, while advertised as centrist, still will expand both government spending and growth-sapping regulatory burdens.

But there is little sign she intends to embrace many of the most liberal and in some cases, expensive, ideas being pushed by Mr. Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is also challenging Mrs. Clinton from the political left.

She is unlikely to propose breaking up Wall Street banks or installing a single-payer health-care system. A wholesale expansion of Social Security, as many on the left would like, is unexpected as well. She has sent mixed messages on a pending Asian trade deal, which labor unions and other liberals reject outright. She backs an increase in the minimum wage, but it isn't clear whether she will embrace an increase to $15 an hour, as some are pushing.

More centrist postures on such issues may be more helpful to her in a general election, if she wins her party's nomination. For now, though, one of her political imperatives is to show Democrats how she will take the fight to the GOP.

She intends to do that in part by lodging an attack on former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a leading GOP presidential contender, who said in his announcement speech that his economic goal is 4% growth. He didn't offer specifics as to how he will achieve that, beyond mentioning a reduction in regulations and a tax overhaul.

Mr. Bush argued that wages will grow for all, not just the rich, with an expanding economy. He described "growth that lifts up the middle class" and "makes a difference for everyone."

Glenn Hubbard, an economic adviser to former President George W. Bush who is now advising Jeb Bush, said in

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an interview that, like Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Bush doesn't support growth without wage improvements.

"It's about inclusive economic growth," he said. "To my mind, you can't fix the problem of a troubling pattern of wage stagnation unless and until you can have a steady state of economic growth in the country."

Mrs. Clinton will contend that an expanding economy alone isn't enough to achieve widespread gains, and data shows that growth hasn't translated into wage gains in recent years.

In 2013, median household incomes stood at levels last seen in 1995 after adjusting for inflation, while per capita output over that span increased by around 30%.

One of the unanswered questions about Mrs. Clinton's policy agenda is how sharply she will critique Wall Street and whether she'll propose significant new regulations governing financial institutions. Princeton economist Alan Blinder, who was briefed on the plan, said he expects Mrs. Clinton to call for more regulation, more taxation and a greater emphasis on financial stability.

"She may surprise people with her toughness on Wall Street excesses," the former Federal Reserve vice chairman said.

Teachers union endorses Hillary Clinton in Democratic race // WaPo // Lyndsey Layton – July 11, 2015

The American Federation of Teachers endorsed Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination on Saturday, the first national union to back a candidate for the 2016 primary.

The endorsement was not a surprise to close observers - the AFT had supported Clinton in 2008 instead of Barack Obama - but the early timing may be designed to give Clinton a boost against her surging rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

"In vision, in experience and in leadership, Hillary Clinton is the champion of working families need in the White House," AFT president and longtime Clinton ally Randi Weingarten said.

In a statement released by the union, Clinton said she was "honored" by the nod. "I know from my own family that teachers have the power to change lives, " she said. "We need to make sure every child has access for a quality public education and to the teachers with the tools to help them succeed."

Weingarten and Clinton have been friends since their days in New York, when Weingarten led the city's teachers union and Clinton ran successfully for the U.S. Senate. Weingarten sits on the board of the pro-Clinton PAC Priorities USA.

The 1.6 million-member AFT, along with its sister union, the 3 million-member National Education Association, have been under siege from both elements within the Democratic and Republican parties.

The unions have been fighting the expansion of public charter schools, which are largely not unionized, as well as teacher evaluations based on test scores and challenges to tenure and other workplace protections.

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The unions have both been critical of many of the education policies of the Obama administration, saying they have led to a "blame the teacher" culture. They argue that evaluating teachers based on student test scores does not recognize the complexities of teaching students who often come from impoverished homes or struggle with disabilities and language barriers that affect their achievement.

Clinton, Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley all met with both the AFT and NEA leadership last month in an effort to win their backing.

Clinton struck a particularly sympathetic tone in her meeting at the NEA, telling the union that people are "dead wrong to make teachers scapegoats for all of society's problems."

Clinton's relations with teachers unions didn't begin as smoothly, when she first entered public life. As first lady of Arkansas in 1982, Clinton pushed to broaden course offerings in public schools, smaller class sizes and institute competency testing for teachers - an idea that provoked a fierce pushback from the union.

But as a U.S. senator and first lady, Hillary Clinton promoted policies much more friendly to the teachers unions, including expanding preschool and after school programs. As a presidential candidate in 2008, she opposed merit pay for teachers, another stance in line with the unions.

Hillary Clinton Gets Endorsement From Teachers Union for Her Presidential Bid // AP // Dave Urbanski – July 11, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton has won the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers. It's the first major labor union to make an endorsement in the 2016 presidential campaign.

Randi Weingarten, the president of the union, says in a statement Saturday that Clinton is the "champion working families need in the White House."

The endorsement was widely expected. The teachers' union supported Clinton's primary campaign in 2008 and Weingarten is a longtime Clinton ally.

The AFT represents more than 1.6 million members nationwide, including K-12 teachers and school personnel, higher education faculty and staff, early childhood educators and retirees.

Can Hillary Clinton lead the Keystone army? // Politico // Elana Schor – July 11, 2015

An army of liberal green activists has yet to coalesce around a Democratic presidential candidate, and Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley are fighting to win them over.

Hillary Clinton's two challengers from the left are each targeting the grassroots greens who, often upstaging the mainstream environmental groups, rallied throngs of opponents against the Keystone XL pipeline — turning an obscure regulatory fight into a symbol of America's addiction to fossil fuels.

Many of those activists are without a standard-bearer in the Democratic field, and are still suspicious of Clinton because of her refusal to rule out the Keystone project. And they've demonstrated the capacity to put supporters in the streets, including more than 1,100 anti-Keystone protesters who went to jail after White House sit-ins four years ago.

That's offering an opening to the progressive Sanders, who has emerged as Clinton's top rival in the polls, and

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O'Malley, whose once-promising campaign has yet to gain traction. Each has rolled out aggressive plans to fight climate change that are well to the left of anything Clinton has offered: Sanders is pushing a carbon tax, for example, while O'Malley pledges to wean the U.S. electricity system entirely off fossil fuels by 2050.

Sanders even launched his candidacy at an event with fellow Vermonter Bill McKibben, the activist who rose to prominence by leading the anti-Keystone crusade as part of the campaign to fight climate change.

There's little chance that major environmental groups like the Sierra Club or the League of Conservation Voters will endorse a candidate anytime soon — Clinton remains the prohibitive Democratic front-runner, and she too is pledging action on climate change, in contrast to the GOP White House hopefuls who are almost uniformly opposed. Still, Sanders' and O'Malley's efforts to display their green bona fides raise questions that could force Clinton to adopt a more aggressively liberal posture on issues ranging from fracking to Arctic offshore drilling.

"[I]t is a badge of honor with voters, particularly voters most likely to participate in Democratic primaries and caucuses, for a candidate to show that she or he is willing to take on big oil, the Koch brothers, other carbon polluters, and the climate change deniers," said Democratic pollster Geoff Garin, who helped lead Clinton's strategy team during the final months of her 2008 campaign.

The "growing number of people who are willing to become politically engaged and mobilize around climate and clean energy issues," he added, "can provide the kind of grassroots people power that campaigns depend on."

And as with the surge in Sanders' support from union members, despite AFL-CIO chief Richard Trumka's attempts to tamp it down, leaders of mainstream environmental groups will have a hard time reining in the passions of their activists and volunteers who have followed McKibben to get arrested at anti-Keystone rallies.

A source close to the Sanders camp says the candidate's appeal among the rank-and-file union members is sign of what's to come in the green movement.

"You're going to see the same thing happen in the environmental community — Sanders is going to attract tremendous support among grassroots activists because he's putting the issues front and center," the source said.

Not to be outdone, O'Malley's campaign has already begun courting environmental groups on the national, state and local level, efforts that will ramp up even further in the coming weeks, spokeswoman Haley Morris said.

O'Malley spent last weekend in Iowa on a campaign push that focused on his green proposals, such as his call to transition U.S. utilities to clean energy sources and shift tax incentives from fossil fuels to renewable energy. He outlined the plan in a Des Moines Register column published before his swing through the state.

"We need to hear from all of the candidates on where they stand — not just that this should be a priority, but what their specifics are, what their plan is to get it done," the O'Malley camp's Morris said.

Politically engaged environmental activists say Clinton has yet to prove herself. One example came when 350 Action, an affiliate of the environmental group founded by McKibben, joined the liberal magazine The Nation in asking candidates to swear off campaign money from the fossil-fuel industry: Sanders signed on early, and O'Malley followed suit Tuesday. But "Hillary Clinton, like the 14 Republican candidates contacted, did not reply" to the request, the magazine wrote.

"Broadly speaking, our movement is looking for a candidate who can take us off fossil fuels and do what it takes to avoid catastrophic global warming," said 350 spokesman Karthik Ganapathy. "Hillary Clinton needs to do a lot to show us that's her."

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Friends of the Earth Action spokesman Ben Schreiber said green activists can take inspiration from the liberal resistance led by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) that recently prodded Clinton to move left on trade. “It’s imperative that the environmental community force her to flesh out her priorities” on climate change, he said.

Still, the anti-Keystone activists represent only a small slice of the Democratic electorate, and they aren’t likely to form a core base for either Sanders or O’Malley to mount a major challenge for the nomination. And Clinton may have less to prove to mainstream Democrats, whom polls show view climate change as a growing priority but still only one of many issues they care about.

Climate has “become a much more potent issue for Democratic voters than in the past,” Democratic former energy secretary and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said in an interview. And it’s becoming “a base vote for Democrats,” he added. “But is it a single-issue, decisive vote? Not yet.”

Richardson warned Sanders and O’Malley that Clinton’s “vulnerability” on climate change, fracking and clean energy “doesn’t compare with” the potency of the Iraq War during the 2008 presidential race, when he — and then-Sen. Barack Obama — slammed her vote to authorize military force.

Democratic pollster and consultant Mark Mellman said global warming is an important issue for the party’s voters, but that it remains one of many issues where Clinton’s foes seek to exploit “hair’s-breadth differences, from a policy point of view, among these candidates.”

Clinton did try to appeal to the green wing of the party with her June campaign kick-off speech, in which she mocked Republicans who deny climate science and called for a shift to a clean-energy economy.

But beyond her call to impose additional fees and royalties on fossil-fuel extraction, she hasn’t proposed concrete plans, although Clinton campaign spokesman Ian Sams said there would be more to come.

“Tackling climate change will be a top priority for Hillary Clinton in her campaign,” Sams said by email, describing her campaign launch remarks as a first step in outlining “her ideas for how America can lead the global fight against climate change by becoming the clean energy superpower of the 21st Century, through developing renewable power and building cleaner power plants.

At stake are not just the young liberals who turned out in droves for climate marches galvanized by Keystone. Big money is also at play from newly prominent donors like the billionaire Tom Steyer and his green-minded, deep-pocketed network of allies.

Steyer held a fundraiser for Clinton’s campaign in May, but he has yet to formally endorse a White House candidate after rocketing to prominence by spending $74 million in an attempt to help elect climate-focused Democrats during the 2014 midterms. His NextGen Climate super PAC drew environmentalists to O’Malley by publicly praising the candidate’s climate platform, which emerged on the same day as Pope Francis’ June encyclical on the environment.

Steyer, who’s expected to spend big on the 2016 elections, appeared to redouble his demands after Obama announced last week that the administration was setting a goal of getting 20 percent of the nation’s electricity from renewable sources. White House contenders, Steyer said, must “put forward plans that build upon — and extend — President Obama’s bold leadership on clean energy, set even more ambitious targets, and create the more prosperous future our kids deserve.”

Sanders and O’Malley are rolling out detailed proposals to slash carbon emissions and transition the U.S. economy to run on wind and solar power instead of coal and oil, challenging Clinton to keep up.

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At his campaign launch in May featuring 350's McKibben, Sanders described climate change as a "planetary crisis" and explicitly called for a "tax on carbon" to address it.

"The environmental community has, for the first time, a serious presidential candidate who's made climate change fundamental to their candidacy," Mark Longabaugh, a senior Sanders campaign adviser, said in a recent interview.

Climate change and the environment still tend to rank lower than top-tier issues like jobs and the economy among voters, but there is evidence that it is rising in prominence — and that it could be a particularly potent issue for the eventual Democratic nominee.

Nearly six in 10 voters told The Washington Post in March that they want "the next president to be someone who favors government action to address climate change," with 97 percent of those people describing the issue as important to them. Among opponents of climate action, nearly a third said the issue was "not so important" to them. In an April poll for The Wall Street Journal and NBC News, climate change ranked third on a list of issues Democrats said was their top concern, behind jobs and health care, but beating out issues like terrorism and immigration.

By contrast, climate change ranked dead last among issues Republicans said they were concerned about.

American Federation of Teachers endorses Hillary Clinton for president // Politico // Nirvi Shah – July 11, 2015

The American Federation of Teachers is endorsing Hillary Clinton.

The endorsement was expected from the 1.6 million-member union, which represents workers including teachers, nurses and college and university employees.

AFT President Randi Weingarten and Clinton have been longtime friends, dating back to Clinton's time as a New York senator, when Weingarten was head of the state's United Federation of Teachers. Weingarten is also on the board of Priorities USA Action, a super PAC supporting Clinton's White House campaign.

"Clinton is a tested leader who shares our values, is supported by our members and is prepared for a tough fight on behalf of students, families and communities," Weingarten said after Saturday's decision by the union's executive council to endorse Clinton for president.

The union met with Clinton, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley in early June.

"I am absolutely convinced that education must be at the top of our agenda again. So I am putting it at the heart of my campaign," Clinton told a panel of AFT leaders at the time. AFT endorsed Clinton during the 2008 election, too.

On Saturday, Clinton said of the endorsement that "I'm honored to have the support of the AFT's members and leaders, and I'm proud to stand with them to unleash the potential of every American."

Weingarten noted Clinton's push to expand early childhood education and care in Arkansas, her work on health care and defense of public service workers after 9/11.

No Republican candidates agreed to meet with AFT leaders.

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“Hillary Clinton, a product of public schools herself, believes in the promise of public education,” Weingarten said, using the catchphrase from an AFT-backed campaign supporting public schools. Clinton “understands that to reclaim the promise of public education, policymakers need to work with educators and their unions. She’s ready to work with us to confront the issues facing children and their families today, including poverty, wage stagnation, income inequality and lack of opportunity.”

On Twitter, Weingarten addressed the early endorsement. “Members want to shape the debate, not chase it. 79% of primary voters want us to endorse in the primary,” she tweeted.

AFT said it conducted a long, thoughtful process before making its decision. Members had multiple opportunities to weigh in on the decision. Some 79 percent who vote in Democratic primaries said the union should endorse a candidate, and Clinton was the favorite by a three-to-one margin.

The National Education Association, the nation’s larger teachers’ union with nearly 3 million members, hasn’t made a decision about its endorsement, and one isn’t expected until the fall. It did not endorse either Clinton or Barack Obama in 2008.

The NEA also met with Clinton, O’Malley and Sanders last month.

Clinton has said she supports the Common Core, plans to issue a plan to address student loan debt and invest in early childhood education.

Clinton gets key union endorsement as rival enjoys a groundswell of support // Reuters // Amanda Becker – July 11, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Saturday 7scored a key endorsement from a large teachers union at a time when her chief rival is picking up support from organized labor.

By backing Clinton, the American Federation of Teachers, which as the nation's second-largest education union represents 1.6 million members, became the first national union to endorse a 2016 candidate.

The endorsement comes just two days before Clinton delivers a speech about the economy that labor leaders will watch closely. Some of them have already expressed public support for U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who is also seeking the nomination.

"Hillary Clinton is a tested leader who shares our values, is supported by our members, and is prepared for a tough fight," AFT President Randi Weingarten said in a statement, citing Clinton's record as a former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state.

Weingarten and Clinton are longtime friends and allies. The AFT endorsed Clinton in 2007 when organized labor split between supporting her or now-President Barack Obama.

Both Sanders and Clinton are set to meet with labor leaders this week as they court a crucial base of support for Democratic candidates.

Looming over the meetings is a Pacific Rim trade deal that the Obama administration is finalizing and which has

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drawn vociferous criticism from labor. The issue is a difficult one for Clinton, who was Obama's secretary of state and has remained largely silent about the agreement, which Sanders has consistently opposed.

Clinton's campaign released a statement saying she was honored to receive the AFT's endorsement.

"The men and women of AFT work throughout our communities in our preschools, K-12 schools, hospitals, colleges and universities, and public agencies," Clinton said in the statement. "Their voices and the voices of all workers are essential to this country."

Clinton also has a crucial meeting at the end of the month with the executive council of the AFL-CIO, an umbrella group for

56 unions, including the AFT.

The AFL-CIO has not said whether or when it will endorse a primary candidate. In 2008, when its member unions were split between Clinton and Obama, it backed Obama only when it became clear he was going to be the Democratic nominee.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka has urged local and state federations to remain neutral as the process plays out.

Clinton to pledge to close carried interest tax loophole: adviser **// Reuters – July 11, 2015**

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton will pledge on Monday to close the carried interest tax loophole that allows private equity fund managers to pay a lower tax rate on much of their earnings, according to a draft of a speech seen by an outside adviser.

Clinton, who is seeking her party's nomination to run in the November 2016 election, took a similar stance during her last presidential campaign in 2007, and is expected to reaffirm it in a speech on her economic policy in New York City on Monday.

American Federation of Teachers Endorses Hillary Clinton **// HuffPo // Dave Jamieson – July 11, 2015**

Hillary Clinton picked up an early if not surprising endorsement on Saturday from one of the country's largest labor unions: the American Federation of Teachers.

The executive council of the 1.6-million member AFT voted "overwhelmingly" in favor of backing the early frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, according to an announcement from the union. It marks the first endorsement from a major national labor union during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"Hillary Clinton is a tested leader who shares our values, is supported by our members, and is prepared for a tough fight on behalf of students, families and communities," Randi Weingarten, the union's president, said in the statement.

Weingarten and Clinton have been personal friends for years and the union threw its weight behind the Democrat

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during her 2008 campaign as well. In the resolution declaring its endorsement, the AFT said it polled its members twice and held two town halls before deciding which primary candidate to back.

The endorsement comes at a helpful time for Clinton as Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders surges in polls. Still considered a long shot, Sanders has proven to be an attractive candidate to progressives in the labor movement, particularly those turned off by Clinton's unclear positions on President Barack Obama's looming trade deal. A number of local labor federations are flirting with the idea of getting behind Sanders, Politico reported.

Clinton joined one of the AFT's executive council meetings last month, where she said teachers had become unfair targets of political attacks, according to the union.

"It is just dead wrong to make teachers the scapegoats for all of society's problems," Clinton had said. "Where I come from, teachers are the solution. And I strongly believe that unions are part of the solution, too."

Clinton plans to meet with officials from the AFL-CIO labor federation later this month to address their concerns with her unclear stance on the White House's trade pact, Reuters reported Thursday. The AFL-CIO vehemently opposed giving the president so-called fast-track authorization for the deal, though Congress ultimately granted it in June.

Major teachers union endorses Hillary Clinton **// CNN // Cassie Spodak – July 11, 2015**

Hillary Clinton scored a major union endorsement on Saturday when the American Federation of Teachers announced its support for the Democratic frontrunner.

The endorsement is not a surprise, as the AFT also backed Clinton in 2007 in her primary battle against then-Sen. Barack Obama, but it is the first national union to endorse a candidate in the 2016 Democratic primary.

"In vision, in experience and in leadership, Hillary Clinton is the champion working families need in the White House," AFT President Randi Weingarten said in a statement. "Hillary understands that to reclaim the promise of public education, policymakers need to work with educators and their unions."

According to the AFT, Democratic candidates Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley also sought their endorsement, but members of the union chose Clinton by a three-to-one margin.

Clinton, through a statement released by her campaign, said she was honored to have the support of the AFT.

"We need to make sure every child has access to a quality public education and teachers with the tools to help them succeed," Clinton said. "The men and women of AFT work throughout our communities in our preschools, K-12 schools, hospitals, colleges and universities, and public agencies. Their voices and the voices of all workers are essential to this country."

A union's endorsement provides candidates with an extra boost in grassroots work, with members often helping to canvass neighborhoods and work the phones in the run-up to an election.

"Leading up to November 2016, AFT members are expected to make more than 1 million phone calls and knock on more than 500,000 doors," the AFT said in its statement announcing the endorsement.

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American Federation of Teachers endorses Hillary Clinton // MSNBC // David Taintor – July 11, 2015

The American Federation of Teachers endorsed Hillary Clinton for president on Saturday.

AFT, which boasts 1.6 million members, said it was the first major union to endorse a Democratic candidate in the 2016 election cycle. AFT is the second largest teachers' union in the country.

"In vision, in experience and in leadership, Hillary Clinton is the champion working families need in the White House," AFT president Randi Weingarten said in a statement. "Hillary Clinton is a tested leader who shares our values, is supported by our members, and is prepared for a tough fight on behalf of students, families and communities. That fight defines her campaign and her career."

Clinton said she was "honored" to win the group's endorsement.

AFT endorsed Clinton in 2008, and Weingarten is a longtime Clinton ally. Last year, Weingarten joined the board of the main super PAC supporting Clinton.

Clinton, along with Democratic candidates Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Gov. Martin O'Malley, met with the union's leaders last month in Washington, D.C., in an attempt to clinch the group's endorsement.

"What you saw, bottom line, is that the three candidates talked about a reset of education policy in america," Weingarten told msnbc's Richard Lui in early June. "... Over and over and over again, all three of them talked about how, in Hilary's words, teachers cannot be scapegoats for society's problems; in Martin O'Malley's words – and he has a daughter who teaches in Baltimore – you can't vilify teachers; in Bernie Sanders' words, he wants a political revolution because it's time to stop having this kind of cutting, cutting, cutting of public education."

Teachers unions have lately found themselves in the crosshairs of many education reform activists and Republicans, who see the unions as caring less about educating children than protecting themselves. Reformers tend to favor charter schools, which are often not unionized, along with stricter teacher testing standards, and less employment protection for educators.

American Federation of Teachers Endorses Hillary Clinton For President // ABC News // Luz Kreutz – July 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton has scored the first national labor endorsement of the election cycle.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) today chose to back Clinton in the Democratic primary for president.

"In vision, in experience and in leadership, Hillary Clinton is the champion working families need in the White House," AFT President Randi Weingarten said in a statement released this afternoon. "Hillary Clinton is a tested leader who shares our values, is supported by our members, and is prepared for a tough fight on behalf of students, families and communities."

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Ahead of the endorsement, the AFT, the smaller of two national education unions, met with Clinton as well as other Democratic presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley.

Their ultimate decision to back Clinton is not a surprise.

The union endorsed Clinton over then-Senator Barack Obama during the 2008 presidential primary, and Weingarten is a longtime Clinton supporter, who helped Ready for Hillary, the super PAC that raised money for Clinton ahead of her official presidential announcement.

Today, the AFT pointed to Clinton's efforts as first lady and as a senator to expand access to early childhood education and quality healthcare, as well as her efforts at secretary of state to promote LGBT rights, in explaining why they chose to endorse Clinton over O'Malley and Sanders. They also noted that Clinton was a product of public schools herself.

In a statement, Clinton responded to the endorsement, saying she is "honored" to have the group's support and "proud to stand with them to unleash the potential of every American."

The American Federation of Teachers represents 1.6 million education professionals across the country.

The group says they expect to make more than 1 million phone calls and knock on more than 500,000 doors on behalf of Clinton before November 2016.

Hillary Clinton Wins Key Endorsement From American Federation of Teachers // TIME // Sam Frizell – July 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton has secured the first major union endorsement of the 2016 Democratic presidential primary.

The American Federation of Teachers, a powerful, 1.6 million-strong national union, voted on Saturday to endorse the former secretary of state, calling Clinton a “champion” for “working families.”

“Hillary Clinton, a product of public schools herself, believes in the promise of public education,” said Randi Weingarten, the president of the AFT. “From early childhood learning through higher education, she sees how that promise can create real opportunity for kids, building a much-needed bridge to the middle class.”

The endorsement from the AFT does not come as a surprise. Clinton speaks often on the campaign trail about early childhood education, particularly on the importance of speaking and singing to young children, and has called for universal pre-kindergarten. She’s also endorsed President Obama’s plan to make community colleges free, and introduced a proposal to prevent for-profit colleges from fleecing veterans.

Weingarten is also a long time ally and friend of Clinton’s.

Nonetheless, it’s an important first union endorsement for Clinton, who is still struggling to establish herself as the favored candidate of the Democratic base.

The AFT’s endorsement is a major strategic advantage for Clinton, too. The AFT says it will make 1 million phone

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calls and knock on more than 500,000 doors in the run-up to the 2016 election.

In many ways, Clinton's competitor for the Democratic nomination, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, can claim a more natural alliance with the unions considering his staunch union activism and socialist roots. The AFL-CIO, the biggest alliance of unions in the country with 16 million members, has not yet endorsed a candidate for president. Many members and local affiliates say they identify most with Sanders, but that may not sway the union either way.

"I'm honored to have the support of AFT's members and leaders, and proud to stand with them to unleash the potential of every American," Clinton said in a statement after the endorsement. "Their voices and the voices of all workers are essential to this country."

Clinton to deliver major economic speech in New York Monday // The Hill // Alex Bolton – July 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton will deliver a major economic speech Monday at the New School in New York, outlining several proposals her campaign plans to unveil in more detail down the road, according to media reports.

At the center of her policy vision is a call to boost the stagnating incomes of middle-class families, which has been a core Democratic tenet for several years.

The speech is the product of scores of conversations with elite thinkers of the liberal policy establishment, such as former White House advisor Gene Sperling, Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz, liberal think tank president Neera Tanden, economist Alan Blinder and Jared Bernstein, former senior economic adviser to Vice President Joe Biden.

Clinton will push for the creation of an infrastructure bank to spur public and private investment, paid family medical leave, increasing the minimum wage, greater corporate profit sharing, small business tax relief, federal subsidies for college and raising taxes on the nation's wealthiest earners.

She will also focus on income inequality and what she's referred as distorted incentives in corporate America that motivate executives to focus on maximizing short-term profit instead of long-term growth.

Much like Obama has done over the past six years, Clinton will emphasize investment in education and new sectors such as renewable energy as the path to future economic prosperity, instead of quick fixes like cutting taxes and wiping out regulations.

She will also push back against Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush's pledge to return the domestic economy to 4 percent growth without providing a detailed policy roadmap for how to get there.

She will praise the economic records of Obama and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and contrast them to the economic plunge that began during former President George W. Bush's final year in office.

Clinton wins major labor endorsement // The Hill // Alexander Bolton – July 11, 2015

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the nation's third largest labor union, has endorsed Hillary Clinton for president.

"For nearly a century, the American Federation of Teachers has worked to expand opportunity for the people and communities they serve. I'm honored to have the support of AFT's members and leaders, and proud to stand with them to unleash the potential of every American," Clinton said in a statement.

It is the first international labor union endorsement in the 2016 presidential race.

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The AFT includes 1.6 million members and retirees around the nation.

“I know from my own family that teachers have the power to change lives. We need to make sure every child has access to a quality public education and teachers with the tools to help them succeed,” Clinton said.

The AFT ranks third in size behind the National Education Association and the Service Employees International Union.

The AFL-CIO, a federation made up of 56 smaller member unions, is not considered to be in the same category.

Sunday shows preview: Hillary speaks // The Hill // Mark Hensch – July 11, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is staying in the media spotlight following her first national TV interview as a 2016 contender earlier this week.

The former secretary of State sat down with CNN’s Brianna Keilar on July 7, delivering a wide-ranging discussion over topics as diverse as immigration, the GOP’s presidential field and her transparency.

Clinton continues her push for a more public persona Sunday morning with an appearance on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R), meanwhile, makes a notable appearance of her own on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

Haley will share her thoughts on last week’s historic removal of the Confederate battle flag from her state’s Capitol grounds.

The landmark moment is generating national buzz for Haley in the wake of a renewed debate over the controversial symbol.

Here is the list of Sunday morning’s expected guests across all five major news networks:

CNN’s “State of the Union”: Clinton headlines Sunday by giving only her second national TV interview as a White House hopeful to host Jake Tapper.

The frontrunner for the Democratic nomination will continue filling in the blanks on her message and positions following her inaugural appearance on CNN last week.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) is also appearing amid his own 2016 Oval Office bid.

Graham will address his presidential ambitions and weigh in on his state’s debate over the Confederate flag.

CNN completes its coverage with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s two sons, Alex Walker and Scott Walker, Jr.

The two brothers will humanize their father before his expected 2016 campaign launch Monday.

NBC’s “Meet the Press”: Haley chats with host Chuck Todd about the Palmetto State’s groundbreaking change of heart over the Confederate flag.

The rising Republican star will also explain how her state is addressing its minorities’ concerns going forward.

Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) then stops by NBC’s studios and outlines his thoughts on the negotiations over Iran’s

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nuclear arms research.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee chair will analyze the framework deal's details before a Monday deadline for the final version.

CBS's "Face the Nation": House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) sits down with host John Dickerson and explains his party's internal strife over the Confederate flag.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) then offers his take on the Iran talks and their repeated delays for a final accord.

Cotton, a noted critic of the deal, will articulate why he thinks the accord is not in America's best interest.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) rounds out CBS's Sunday morning coverage.

The Democratic presidential candidate will explain his strategy for catching up with Clinton and winning his party's coronation next year.

ABC's "This Week": Host George Stephanopoulos welcomes GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina and Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) on Sunday.

Fiorina, a former Hewlett-Packard CEO, will give the latest update on her longshot bid for the Republican nod next election cycle.

Menendez will weigh in on the Iran talks before Monday's latest deadline.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee member is one of the most notable Democrats opposing the deal.

"Fox News Sunday": Host Bret Baier welcomes Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to Fox News' studios Sunday.

McConnell will explain his take on the Iran negotiations and what role Congress will play in their final outcome.

Baier then welcomes one 2016 contender from each side of the political spectrum.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) will detail how he offers an alternative to other White House hopefuls in 2016.

Former Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) also stops by "Fox News Sunday" just one week after launching his presidential campaign.

The 2016 race's latest Democratic entrant will articulate his strategy for winning his party's nomination against uphill odds.

Memo to Hillary: 'You're Still the Problem' **// The National Review // Ron Fournier – July 11, 2015**

The following is a faux memo, although its contents are based upon my interviews with people close to Hillary Clinton, including some I've known since my years covering the Clintons in Arkansas. These sources spoke on condition of anonymity because attempts to make their case directly to the Democratic front-runner and her campaign team were icily received. Like my December 2013 memo titled "You're the Problem," this represents their point of view.

To: Hillary

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From: A few of us

Subject: We love you, but you're still the problem

The last time we wrote as a group, you were deciding whether to run for president. Conventional wisdom pegged you as a dead-certain candidate; we knew better. We knew you were worn from a lifetime of service, personal tension, and the getting-vaster Right Wing Conspiracy. We knew you truly wanted to devote the rest of your years to charity and Charlotte. We also knew you wanted to be president -- and we're not embarrassed to say we thought you'd be a good one.

We had qualms. To review, we warned that an American public buffeted by socio-economic change has lost faith in Washington, the U.S. political system, and virtually every social institution. We said that would be a particular problem for you in 2016, because you are viewed as a creature of Washington, a calculating politician, and an institution ("not just because of your age," we wrote, "The Clinton family itself is an institution, one freighted with baggage.")

Remember how mad this paragraph made you?

And so your biggest hurdle isn't your age, the president's record, your husband, or even Benghazi/Whitewater, etc. It's you, Hillary. You're the problem—that is, if you once again present yourself as an institution of Washington awaiting a political coronation. To win, you must be the anti-Hillary. You need to blast the public's caricature of you to smithereens and replace it with what we know as the Real Hillary.

We're your friends. We love you enough to tell you the truth. Your political advisers and hangers-on mocked our advice to be hyper accessible, honest, authentic, vulnerable, flexible, small, competent, and populist. Take a minute to re-read the 2013 memo. We were very specific, particularly in the closing few paragraphs.

You didn't listen, Hillary. Now look what you've done.

You launched your historic campaign in the worst possible way: walled off from the media and the public – cautious, rigid, and institutional. You may disagree. Your hired guns may have convinced you, for example, that the scripted conversation with selected voters are authentic. They're not. What would be authentic? The Hillary we've long cherished in private: warm, open, and honest – unafraid of making mistakes and owning up to them. We haven't seen that Hillary. More important, the voting public hasn't seen that Hillary. Does she still exist?

Which brings us to the matter of trust. Hillary, this makes us want to cry. We can't figure out why you would compromise the most important commodity of leadership over such banalities. Why take money from foreign nations while serving as secretary of State? Why take money from foreign leaders who hate women? Why not comply with White House rules – fair and ethical guidelines designed to protect the reputation of your family's (wonderful) charitable foundation? You know this has always bothered us: Why would you and Bill blur so many lines between foundation money, your personal finances, and your government work? That's not how you operated in Arkansas.

“I find them informative and appreciate the daily news updates and enjoy the humor as well."Richard, VP of Government AffairsSign up form for the newsletter

And the emails! Why did you need a private server? Why would you violate clear federal and White House rules on email storage, security, and transparency? Who deletes their email, scrubs their server, and ducks subpoenas?

We love you, Hillary, but even we suspect there are foundation-related emails on that server. They may be embarrassing, but we'd like to think they're not nearly as politically damaging as stonewalling.

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Your CNN interview made us cringe: "Everything I did was permitted." No it wasn't, Hillary. You are either being misled by your team or you're lying. We can't bring ourselves to suspect the latter – and urge you again to hire more honest advisers.

"People should and do trust me." No and no. You've told us yourself: Trust has to be earned, not assumed. And polls show that most Americans think you're dishonest. We've always trusted you, but we can understand why others don't. You've made some poor choices and, rather than fix them, you blamed the GOP and the media. You wouldn't let Chelsea say the dog ate her homework, so why do you think this is a good idea?

We can't make it any plainer: You're the problem, Hillary.

You're also the solution. You can turn this around. You've got some time to restore trust.

Start by handing over the server to the State Department inspector general for review. Let him certify that you had nothing to hide. (Frankly, there are too many holes in your version of events.)

Second, return some of the foreign money donated to the foundation. Not all of it, perhaps, but at least the most egregious stuff – money from bad actors and from people who did business with your State Department.

Of course, that won't stop attacks from Republicans or the carping of cynics in the media like Fournier (what is it with that guy? We made his career!). But it's the right thing to do and the smart thing to do.

Voters today, particularly young Americans, have higher expectations for honesty and authenticity than they did in the 1990s. They also have more information at their disposal. It's not like the good old days when James, Paul, and George could spin a handful of journalists to make a story go away. There are no more gatekeepers, Hillary. There are now 300 million investigative journalists, and you're giving them too much room for doubt.

Trust matters. Don't believe your folks on the morning conference call who tell you it doesn't. They're only worried about winning, because it makes them rich. Winning makes you president, so you need to take the right road to victory.

Staying the course might get you elected (Republicans are fully capable of nominating somebody who makes you the least-worst alternative), but it will leave you a diminished leader: No trust, no mandate, no ability to unite the country or represent more than the most hardened partisans. We're happy to see you adapting populist polices and rhetoric, but even your progressive friends are wondering, "Is she being honest?"

Choose a better course, Hillary. Whenever we hear you gripe about the Clintons being held to a higher standard, do you know what we say to ourselves? "Hell, yes, it's a higher standard, because you should travel a higher road. You're a Clinton!" We expected better. The country needs better. Stop being the problem. Be the Hillary we once knew.

Hillary Clinton's Economic Agenda To Focus On Boosting Middle Class Income: Reports // IB Times // Mark Hanrahan - July 12 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton will outline her economic agenda in a speech in New York Monday, placing a strong emphasis on boosting middle class incomes, according to reports.

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In the speech, at the progressive university The New School in lower Manhattan, Clinton will call for greater wage equality, tax hikes on the rich and raising the minimum wage. In addition, she will argue for policies to encourage workforce participation, especially among women, including paid leave and paid sick days, better child care services and access to education, according to a preview of the speech the campaign gave to the Huffington Post.

In addition, Clinton will urge business to move away from what an aide called “quarterly capitalism” and more towards long-term sustainability.

Another campaign official told the Washington Post that Clinton is to argue that “the measure of our economic success should be how much incomes rise for middle-class households, not an arbitrary growth figure.”

Clinton aims to position herself between Democratic competitor Sen. Bernie Sanders, whose platform is focussed more on redistributing wealth, and Republicans who argue for tax cuts for the wealthy, a policy her aides described to the post as dated, trickle-down economics from Ronald Reagan’s presidency.

Clinton will have to walk a fine line in her speech when it comes to President Barack Obama, who she served under as Secretary of State. While aides told Politico that she will praise the president, for dragging the economy back from the brink of a depression in 2009, the primary focus of her speech will be middle-class incomes that have barely outpaced inflation over the last four decades, a problem she will describe as the defining economic challenge facing the next president.

This could be seen as an implied criticism of Obama's economic record, which Clinton will be keen to avoid, as many of the president's policies are strongly supported by the Democratic base.

Clinton campaign draws in a host of new donors **// The Boston Globe // Annie Linskey – July 11, 2015**

There’s a man who played a bat-wielding judge on TV known for meting out extreme justice. There’s a group of Yale law professors. And a famously spurned political spouse.

These are some of the new faces that helped Hillary Rodham Clinton’s presidential campaign raise $45 million in its first three months, a period in which her team made a concerted effort to expand her list of givers.

Nearly half of the roughly 70 hosts listed for fund-raising parties Clinton has attended are either new fund-raisers for Clinton or new to the world of presidential politics, a Globe review of records released by the campaign shows.

This fresh crop of hosts, and increasingly hostesses, speaks to Clinton’s ability to swell her reach beyond the circle that backed her 2008 presidential bid. And the campaign’s unusual daily disclosure of its fund-raising harvest is a not-so-subtle way to demonstrate that monied Democrats are coalescing behind Clinton, unlike last time she ran, when she and Barack Obama split elite Democratic donors.

Clinton is also using her long list of well-to-do friends to outpace upstart Bernie Sanders and lock down support that could be tempted away by others. Her events are usually clustered, with at times three fund-raisers stacked back-to-back-to-back on the same day.

Clinton spends about 90 minutes at each of about 50 parties she’s so far attended, according to her schedule and a sampling of hosts who agreed to speak for this story. That’s about 75 hours of face-to-face schmoozing — not

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counting other types of events or candidate calls the campaign isn't disclosing.

"You want to showcase the passion and that you have an army of donors," said Sheila Krumholz, the executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics, a Washington-based group that tracks political giving. "And you want to ward off others from entering."

'We're not hedge fund people. We're regular people who think winning this election is so important.'

One of the most colorful additions to the Clinton fund-raising roster is South Carolina's Akim Anastopoulo, a personal injury lawyer who starred as a judge known as "extreme Akim" in a television show called "An Eye for an Eye."

In the show — whose tag line was "real people, real problems, real revenge" — Anastopoulo would order very unconventional sentences. For example, he once directed members of a rock band to trash a bar after the owner didn't pay their fees.

Anastopoulo had never before given to Clinton; he backed John Edwards in 2007. This time he had about 120 people to his Charleston, S.C., home to meet Clinton.

Clinton's team also tapped Marc Winkelman who publishes Kirkus Reviews, the book review publication. "I have more time to devote this time than I did last time around," said Winkelman, explaining why he's pressing his friends to cut checks for Clinton.

When Hillary Clinton launched her presidential campaign, Winkelman was among the first to give money. He also offered to "host something," as he put it.

"I didn't know what that meant exactly at the time," he said. Among other things, it meant tidying up the garage — a last-minute effort that he and his wife undertook when they realized that Clinton would enter their house from there and not the front door.

Across the country, a group of Yale Law School professors — some with deep personal ties to the Clintons — also put on a presidential fund-raiser for the first time.

"We're not hedge fund people," said Judith Resnik, a law professor whose ties to Clinton go back to the 1980s. "We're regular people who think winning this election is so important."

She and her husband Dennis Curtis (a Yale law professor who knew Clinton from her time at the university) offered to host the party when they learned she'd be in New Haven. "We swooped her up," she said.

Perhaps the most surprising Clinton event hostess was one with a name more typically found in bold in the New York tabloids: Silda Wall Spitzer.

Her party for Clinton was her most public political act since 2008, when she stood stoically by her now ex-husband, former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer, amid his very public infidelity. That performance helped inspire the TV series "The Good Wife."

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Clinton is planning a third trip to Hollywood to vacuum up cash in August said Democratic fund-raiser Andy Spahn who helped Obama raise money and expects to do the same for Clinton. “No other candidate has much traction out here,” he said.

Clinton’s show of fund-raising strength isn’t likely to affect insurgent Democratic contender Bernie Sanders, who is raising most of his money online and shuns the cocktails-and-checks circuit.

But the donors flocking to the Clinton camp complicate efforts by more traditional Democrats with less online appeal, such as former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley, former US Senator Jim Webb of Virginia, and former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee — and even, should he chose to run, Vice President Joe Biden. As one Democratic fund-raiser put it: There are only so many people willing to ask their friends to write $2,700 checks to politicians.

Money raised at these near daily Clinton parties provides the financial spine for the campaign — it is highly regulated cash that the campaign can spend directly. That makes it different from funds raised by the so-called super PAC groups which are allowed to raise and spend unlimited amounts but can’t directly coordinate with the campaign.

One area that is proving awkward for Clinton is her campaign’s effort to raise new cash from people who work in industries that she bashes on the trail. On June 13, at Clinton’s first large-scale campaign rally on New York’s Roosevelt Island, she took rhetorical aim at hedge fund operators, saying that “the top 25 hedge fund managers making more than all of America’s kindergarten teachers combined.”

Twelve days later — again in Manhattan — she held a pair of fund-raisers hosted by people who work for some of those same hedge funds.

About 80 people showed up at the first event — hosted by five women, including two who work for hedge funds and two who work for private equity firms. Also, longtime Clinton donor Sally Susman, an executive with Pfizer, was listed as a host.

About 100 people attended the next one, hosted by Blair Effron, a founder of the investment bank Centerview Partners.

The Clinton’s storied ability to stay in touch with donors over decades means a lot of the names on their first quarter list are familiar.

Two days before Jay Jacobs, the CEO of TLC Kids Group hosted a fund-raiser for Clinton in Florida he penned an op-ed for the Huffington Post defending the Clinton Foundation, which failed to provide the donor disclosures or ethics reviews Hillary Clinton promised when she was being confirmed as secretary of state.

He took on her detractors, accusing them of criticizing her via “innuendo, omission of facts, and through wild speculation.”

Hillary Clinton, a Woman of Her Words // RealClearPolitics // Carl M. Cannon - July 12, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton, by her own admission, is running for president of the United States for the fourth time. It apparently doesn’t get any easier.

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It was back in 1992, while ostensibly stumping for her husband, that Mrs. Clinton told an audience of women, “If you vote for him, you get me.” Bill Clinton himself quipped in New Hampshire that he’d coined a new campaign slogan: “Buy one, get one free.”

Four years later, after Mrs. Clinton had helped staff the administration, fired White House Travel Office personnel, overseen a health care task force, and sat in on cabinet meetings, Americans realized that this co-presidency talk was no joke. This gave some voters pause and others confidence: Either way, the Clintons got a second term. Bill had to retire in 2001, but Mrs. Clinton had already secured a Senate seat in New York—where she’d never lived—as a steppingstone to her third presidential bid in 2008.

She narrowly lost the Democratic Party nomination that year to a phenom from Illinois few people saw coming. Now, during her fourth presidential campaign, it’s clear that Mrs. Clinton still isn’t over it, and that she knows whom to blame. Not Bill, for making the couple’s last two years in the White House an open book on his sex life. Not Barack Obama for cutting in line. Not her own campaign staff for mismanaging their delegate counts.

No, Mrs. Clinton’s animus—the scapegoat for every bad headline, alarming poll number, and impertinent reporter’s question—was on display in Tuesday’s interview with CNN’s Brianna Keilar: It’s all the Republicans’ fault, and by extension, the media’s. This worldview was succinctly expressed in a telling exchange between Keilar and Clinton:

“We see in our recent poll, that nearly six in 10 Americans say they don’t believe that you’re honest and trustworthy,” Keilar asked. “Do you understand why they feel that way?”

“Well,” Clinton responded, “I think when you are subjected to the kind of constant barrage of attacks that are largely fomented by and coming from the right…”

“But do you bear any responsibility for that?” Keilar pressed.

“I can only tell you, Brianna,” the candidate replied, “that this has been a theme that has been used against me and my husband for many, many years.”

It’s an incongruous argument, if you think about it. Clinton is essentially claiming that the mere fact of having a longtime reputation for deviousness is itself exculpatory. The whole interview had a similar quality.

But Clinton has been so cloistered and inaccessible since announcing her 2016 campaign that the fact of the interview was news in itself. She hadn’t taken questions about her secret email system since her March 10 news conference at the United Nations in which she said that the entire reason she set up a parallel email system on a secret server was to avoid the inconvenience of having two cell phones.

She reprised this line Tuesday to Keilar. It seems to contradict a video of Clinton speaking to female Silicon Valley executives that emerged within hours of her U.N. news conference. In answer to the question “iPhone or Android? ,” Clinton replied, “iPhone,” before adding, “In full disclosure—and a BlackBerry.” She continued: “I’m like two steps short of a hoarder. So I have an iPad, a mini iPad, an iPhone and a BlackBerry.”

Nor was her answer to Keilar about why she destroyed records that were under subpoena very forthright. “You're starting with so many assumptions,” Clinton said. “I’ve never had a subpoena. Again, let’s take a deep breath here.”

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Although critics pounced, it's possible both answers were essentially truthful. Regarding her account of the number of smartphones, Clinton's first answer concerned her state of mind in 2009. The second was in 2015. If she became more tech-proficient in those six years, she'd hardly be the only one.

As for the subpoena, "never" is not the right modifier, but in the context of the question, it seems that Mrs. Clinton was saying that by the time she received the March 4, 2015 subpoena from the House Select Committee on Benghazi she had already wiped her server clean of the 33,000 emails she deemed personal.

Republicans plausibly argue that those emails were already covered by a 2013 subpoena issued to the State Department by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. In any event, almost every expert on federal document preservation, Republican and Democrat, says Clinton skirted legal obligations to preserve all communications relating to her work at the State Department—and that government archivists, not Clinton, arbitrate which are personal and which are official.

Clinton just denies this flatly. "There was no law," she told Keilar. "There was no regulation. There was nothing that did not give me the full authority to decide how I was going to communicate. … When I mailed anybody in the government, it would go into the government system."

Little of this is true. There is a law, and it's called the Federal Records Act, and she followed neither its letter nor its spirit. Moreover, all her emails did not "go into the government system" because many of the people she emailed about State Department business did not work for the U.S. government. In addition, a 2005 State Department rule requires employees to conduct work on an authorized informational system with "the proper level of security control to provide nonrepudiation, authentication and encryption, to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the resident information."

If all this wasn't clear enough, a 2011 directive issued under her name instructed State Department officials to "avoid conducting official Department business from your personal e-mail accounts." The concern in that instance was foreign hackers, which was prescient, because Clinton's own private email was later hacked.

Once upon a time, Mrs. Clinton had a clearer understanding of why hiding executive branch email looks so bad. "Our Constitution is being shredded," she said in 2007 in reference to Bush administration concealment. "We know about the secret wiretaps, the secret military tribunals, the secret White House email accounts. It's a stunning record of secrecy and corruption, of cronyism run amok."

Clinton to deliver economic speech Monday, with tax policy at issue **// Fox News – July 11, 2015**

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton is set to give a major economic speech Monday, after weeks of deferring about her plans to improve the U.S economy including whether she'll raise taxes.

The focus of her economic agenda will be to increase middle class income and wages. And she will argue that stagnant paychecks is the biggest challenge facing the U.S. economy.

Clinton's campaign on Saturday provided a preview of her speech, which will also include the argument that the real income of everyday Americans must rise steadily alongside corporate profits and executive compensation.

Clinton declined in a CNN interview earlier this week to say whether she would raise taxes on big corporations or the country's highest wage-earners, as primary challenger Sen. Bernie Sanders has proposed.

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“I think we have to grow the economy faster and fairer,” she said. “So we have to do what will actually work in the short term, the medium term and the long term. … then, I’ll look forward to the debate.”

While top-tier Republican candidate and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has called for an annual growth rate of 4 percent, Clinton will assert that the nation's economy should not be judged by a specific growth figure but rather by how much income increases for middle-class households.

"For a typical working American, their income has not been rising anywhere near as fast as it should be rising, and that is the challenge we face," said David Kamin, a New York University law professor who has advised Clinton's campaign. "It's not a new problem, and it's going to take a holistic vision."

The Clinton campaign said the former first lady and New York senator in her speech at The New School, a university in New York City, will point to economic progress during her husband's two terms in the 1990s and more recently under President Obama.

But she will aim to identify ways of improving upon the uneven nature of the nation's recovery since the Great Recession, bolstering wages even as the unemployment rate has fallen to a seven-year low of 5.3 percent.

Clinton is also expected to begin outlining a series of specific economic proposals this summer on issues like wage growth, college affordability, corporate accountability and paid leave.

In Clinton's approach to the economy, more Americans would share in the prosperity and avoid the boom-and-bust cycles of Wall Street that have led to economic turbulence of the past decade.

Clinton, who is seeking to become the nation's first female president, is also expected to address ways of making it easier for women to join the workforce.

Clinton will attempt to meet the demands of liberals within her own party who are wary of her willingness to regulate Wall Street while inspiring confidence among a larger electorate who will judge her policies if she wins the Democratic nomination.

Progressives encouraged Elizabeth Warren to seek the presidency, but the Massachusetts senator, who has railed against Wall Street and corporate excesses, declined to run. Many of those same liberals are now packing large gatherings held by Sanders, who has made economic inequality the chief plank of his campaign.

Alan Blinder, a Princeton University economist and former economic adviser to Clinton’s husband, President Bill Clinton, said she has expressed interest in policies to curb excessive risk on Wall Street, such as a financial transactions tax on high-frequency trading, taxes on large Wall Street banks based on their risk profile and eliminating the so-called carried interest loophole that allows managers of hedge funds and private equity firms to pay a lower tax rate than most individuals.

Clinton has said she will take nothing for granted in the primary contest, but the economic message will allow her to begin contrasting herself with Republicans.

In recent speeches, she has portrayed the Republican presidential field, including Bush as supportive of "top-down" economic policies and large tax breaks for the wealthy.

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"They're back to the trickle down, cut taxes on the wealthy and everything will be fine," Clinton said last week in Iowa. "This will be the biggest economic debate, because they know the only way they can win the White House back is to somehow convince voters that what we have done didn't work."

Union Leaders Will Finally Have Their Day With Hillary

Union Leaders Will Finally Have Their Day With Hillary // The Daily Caller // Connor Wolf – July 11, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton has had a tough time gaining union support, but with an upcoming private meeting, she may soon have the chance to prove herself.

Source for Reuters say the meeting will be part of ongoing efforts by the AFL-CIO to determine who to endorse for the 2016 presidential election. The union, like many throughout the labor movement, has been hesitant to back Hillary. This despite her being the frontrunner for the Democratic party.

The meeting is expected to take place during a union executive council gathering in Maryland between July 29-30.

The tilt away from Hillary boils down to President Barack Obama's recent efforts on trade. Unions, hoping to make the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) an important campaign issue, have put pressure on Hillary to take a firm stance against the trade agenda. After a long delay, all unions got from her was a request for the president to work better with Democratic lawmakers.

Leadership within the AFL-CIO will get its change to press her on trade and other lingering issues during the private meeting. It may also give Hillary the chance to defend her positions or lack thereof. The meeting could prove to be critically important for Hillary.

Unions wield considerable political influence and are some of the most generous contributors during campaigns, especially to Democrats. If enough unions decide not to officially endorse Hillary, it could be devastating for her campaign.

Though the AFL-CIO seems to be giving Hillary the chance to prove herself, many within the labor movement have already given up on her. Outgoing Communications Workers of America President Larry Cohen joined many smaller unions last week and endorsed self-proclaimed socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination. The retiring labor movement icon even said he plans to volunteer for his campaign.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, however, has warned against endorsing him. This despite Trumka also criticizing her over trade. In early June he sent a memo to the leaders of associated unions telling them not to endorse Sanders.

During its executive council gathering in Maryland, the union is also expected to meet separately with Hillary Democratic rivals Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

Despite not yet demonstrating a strong position on trade, Hillary has still tried in other ways to court unions. She prominently showed off union-made gear in May during the official launch of her online campaign shop, and she urged people to stand firmly for unions during a speech in Chicago.

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Hillary Clinton Hammers Local Officials Over Immigration // Breitbart // Javier Manjarres – July 11, 2015

The shooting death of 32-year-old Kathryn Steinle on a San Francisco, California, pier has taken another twist, as the gun used to kill her appears to belong to a federal agent.

Convicted felon Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, the illegal immigrant who has been deported back to Mexico on five separate occasions and has been accused of shooting Steinle, said that the gun he found wrapped in a shirt accidentally went off.

His public defender is also saying that the shooting looks to be accidental.

Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton used her primetime interview on CNN to excoriate San Francisco authorities for ignoring the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) request to turn over Sanchez to them: "The city made a mistake, not to deport someone that the federal government strongly felt should be deported."

One of Clinton's Republican presidential rivals, Donald Trump, has also been critical of law enforcement officials in San Francisco and has taken full advantage of the tragic incident, using it to back up his claims blaming Mexico for sending "rapists" and "killers" into the United States.

Hillary Clinton Will Center Economic Proposals on Increasing Middle-Class Income // Slate // Daniel Politi – July 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton will begin to outline her economic agenda on Monday, when she is scheduled to make clear that her campaign will revolve around how to increase incomes for middle-class Americans. Increasing the wages of working-class Americans has emerged as the "defining economic challenge of our time," a Clinton aide said, according to the New York Times. Campaign staffers gave details of the speech to the press, noting that Clinton would advocate for paid family medical leave, a higher minimum wage, and more profit-sharing in private companies.

The speech will come at a time when the more left-leaning Democrats are making their voices heard by backing Bernie Sanders. But the preview of Monday's speech makes it clear Clinton "will strike less of a rabble-rousing tone than Sanders, challenging "top-down" Republican policies without suggesting that capitalism is inherently rigged against families on the bottom," notes Politico.

Rather than going after any intraparty challenger though, Clinton is expected to say that while Republicans advocate growing the economy, they don't care whether that means middle-class families will be better off. "She firmly believes that yes, we have to grow, but we have to grow together," a campaign official said, according to the Wall Street Journal.

In addition, Clinton is expected to call for more stringent rules on Wall Street and tax reform in an effort to get companies to focus on long-term strategy rather than quarterly profits. But "it's not a jihadist speech against them," a longtime Clinton policy adviser tells Bloomberg. "It's not that people are doing crazy things that are evil. It's more like, they're not doing things that are helpful in the long term. There's a problem when the last thing a CEO wants to do is invest in their business and raise wages."

Clinton's speech is largely expected to be more about vision than strategy, with the specifics on how to turn proposals into reality expected to be rolled out over the next few months.

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Clinton plans Cedar Rapids party Friday // The Des Moines Register // Tony Leys – July 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton plans to host a public kick-off party in Cedar Rapids on Friday afternoon, before she appears with rival Democratic presidential candidates at a state party event that evening.

The Clinton party is scheduled to start at 3:45 p.m. Friday at Cedar Rapids' Veterans Memorial Building, the campaign said Saturday.

The former secretary of state and New York senator also will appear Friday evening at the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame dinner at the Cedar Rapids Convention Center. Also slated to appear are former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

SANDERS

Class or Ideology? My Conversation With Bernie Sanders // NYT // Nate Cohn – July 9, 2015

"Everything I'm telling you may end up being wrong," Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator seeking the Democratic nomination for president, said early in our conversation on Thursday.

I had written an article concluding he had slim chances of winning the nomination, based on the limits of his ideological appeal. Mr. Sanders was building a coalition of liberals, as have past liberal anti-establishment Democrats, and it was likely to fall short.

But Mr. Sanders, who has surged in the polls against Hillary Clinton, called to advance a different theory of the race. "I look at these things more from a class perspective," he said.

"I'm not a liberal. Never have been. I'm a progressive who mostly focuses on the working and middle class."

The difference between a liberal and a progressive focused on workers might seem slim, but it nonetheless shapes how he envisions the potential of the political coalition he hopes to assemble. He believes he can mobilize a working-class coalition spanning ideological divides.

"Ordinary people are profoundly disgusted with the state of the economy and the fact that the middle class is being destroyed and income going to the top 1 percent."

Many of these people "may not be liberal" or may not "agree with me on gay marriage," but "they want a fighter,"

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he said in the cordial conversation.

The issues that could potentially rally disaffected lower- and- middle-class voters “cross traditional liberal-conservative lines,” Mr. Sanders argued. He is in a good position to raise these issues, he said, citing his positions on trade, issues affecting older Americans and the minimum wage.

If Mr. Sanders did build a coalition of working-class voters, it would look a lot different from the coalitions assembled by recent liberal Democratic primary candidates. It would be positioned to do far better among Hispanic, black and less educated white voters than recent anti-establishment Democratic challengers, like Barack Obama, Howard Dean, Bill Bradley and Jerry Brown.

In fairness to Mr. Sanders, few, if any, recent Democratic candidates represented the economic, populist left. The anti-establishment candidate of the last four competitive primaries all featured challenges from intellectual, professional-class liberals. Mr. Brown, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Dean and Mr. Obama — each educated at some point at an Ivy League university — all fared well in Marin County, Calif., and Greenwich, Conn.; none appealed much to voters in the Appalachians or along the Rio Grande.

Even the candidate who came closest to running as a populist, John Edwards, fared best among voters in Iowa and South Carolina who made more than $100,000 per year. He did do well among conservatives in relatively conservative areas, like South Carolina or along the Iowa-Missouri border, but it is hard to say whether that was a reflection of his policy views or his identity as a Southern white man, perhaps especially when running against a black man and a white woman.

But so far, Mr. Sanders’s support looks a lot like the liberal coalitions assembled by those other candidates. His support is as closely tied to ideology as that of any recent Democratic candidate.

In Iowa, a Quinnipiac poll shows Mr. Sanders ahead by four percentage points among “very liberal” voters, but trailing by 43 points among nonliberal Democrats.

In New Hampshire, a CNN/WMUR/UNH survey showed Mr. Sanders leading by seven points among “liberal” voters, but trailing by more than 20 points among nonliberal voters.

These figures follow the pattern of Mr. Obama’s support among nonblack voters in his 2008 primary against Mrs. Clinton. Mr. Obama excelled among liberal groups, but struggled among less liberal voting blocs, like Hispanics or older and Southern white voters. He made up for it with exceptional strength among black voters, one of the least liberal groups in the Democratic Party.

So far, there are few signs that Mr. Sanders is faring especially well among working-class Democrats. Neither the Iowa nor the New Hampshire poll showed any significant differences in support between higher- and lower-income voters, or more or less educated voters.

Mr. Sanders’s campaign has taken him to bastions of liberalism, like Madison, Wis., and Portland, Me., where past liberal challengers have fared well. He has not held rallies in the working-class communities where Mr. Brown or Mr. Bradley faltered, like Fresno, Calif., or Scranton, Pa. Mr. Sanders’s most recent stop outside of the early states was to Arlington, Va., one of the country’s most affluent counties. The median household income there sits near $100,000.

When asked why his campaign was struggling to attract the working-class, less liberal voters he thought he might be reaching, Mr. Sanders acknowledged the challenges facing his campaign. “I’m not well known in the African-American community, despite a lifelong record,” he said, acknowledging one of the most consistent critiques of

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his chances. “That’s a real issue, and I have to deal with it.”

“I’m running against Hillary Clinton, who is one of the best-known people in the world,” he said.

Mr. Sanders is certainly not as well known among the party’s moderate and working-class voters as he is among liberal voters, but the huge gap in support between liberal and less liberal voters far exceeds the difference in name recognition.

Mr. Sanders draws hope from his experiences in Vermont, where he says liberals “have not been the strongest supporters.” It’s where he has found a base among working-class voters.

But it is not clear that his experience with white working-class voters in Vermont will be repeated nationally. Mr. Dean, Mr. Obama and Mr. Brown all carried Vermont in their primary campaigns. Mr. Bradley fell short in Vermont, winning 44 percent of the vote, but it was his second-best state. (He lost all 50 states against Al Gore in 2000.)

Despite their success, all those candidates struggled among white working-class voters outside of a few northern states, like Oregon and Wisconsin.

As Mr. Sanders puts his theory to the test, he is confident. “At the end of the day, you may be right,” he said. “I believe that you will see, maybe, you’re wrong.”

Sanders Courts Martha’s Vineyard Donors **// NYT // Jonathan Martin – July 11, 2015**

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont has risen in the polls thanks in part to his denunciations of the forces of concentrated wealth, drawing thousands of liberals to hear his jeremiads against corporate power in early nominating states and liberal hubs such as Madison, Wis.

But Mr. Sanders quietly stepped off the campaign trail this weekend to visit Martha’s Vineyard, a favorite summer destination of the country’s elite, in order to mix with representatives of some of the same interests he inveighs against in his stump speech.

Mr. Sanders attended the annual Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee fund-raiser on the Massachusetts island, a popular gathering that draws some of the most prominent business lobbyists and fund-raisers in the Democratic Party.

One prominent attendee, a supporter of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s presidential campaign, suggested Mr. Sanders’s appearance suggested he was more pragmatic than his rhetoric would let on.

“Bernie is attracting throngs and has a wave going preaching against the one percent,” said the attendee, requesting anonymity to speak candidly. “So why would he take the weekend to spend in Martha’s Vineyard with wealthy people who are donating at least $37,000 and change to the DSCC?” (That is the minimum contribution to the Senate Democrats campaign arm in order to attend the event).

The criticism illustrates the rising irritation among some establishment-aligned Democrats with Mr. Sanders, an independent who caucuses as a Democrat. Some in the party are personally fond of Mr. Sanders, but believe his challenge of Mrs. Clinton, the overwhelming front-runner, is quixotic and will serve chiefly to push Mrs. Clinton

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to the left and delight Republicans hoping the former secretary of state has to spend money on a primary threat.

Asked about Mr. Sanders's appearance at the fund-raiser, his spokesman, Michael Briggs, said he would not recalibrate his populist language in the wealthy enclave.

"The people who financially support the Democratic Party need to hear the message that Bernie is giving all over the country and that is resonating all over the country," Mr. Briggs said. "It is also important that the Democrats take back the Senate."

Democrats need to win four seats next year, five if they do not win the presidency, to reclaim control of the Senate.

Anthony Weiner Isn't Buying Bernie Sanders' Presidential Bid **// HuffPo // Ashley Alman – July 11, 2015**

Unsuccessful New York City mayoral candidate and former Rep. Anthony Weiner admitted Saturday that he just doesn't get Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-Vt.) bid for the Democratic nomination for president.

Weiner -- acknowledging his wife, Huma Abedin, is a longtime aide to Sanders' challenger Hillary Clinton -- wrote in a column published by Business Insider Saturday that he doesn't understand why the independent senator is vying for the support of a party "he always avoided joining."

"After a career of steadfastly insisting that the Democratic party was not his home, now he wants to not only be a member of the party but its standard bearer? What changed?" Weiner asked in the column.

Weiner described serving in Congress with Sanders in the early 2000s, saying he satiated his homesickness for the five boroughs by challenging Sanders on his party affiliation, often igniting a "bombastic reaction" from the senator.

"He would tell me that I shouldn't confuse the fact that our voting records generally matched with party agreement," Weiner wrote in the column. "He was a proud socialist and thought the institutional Democratic Party was too cautious and lacking imagination. As much as I prodded, I would never get him to think about joining the Democrats for a moment."

Sanders launched his bid for the Democratic nomination for president in April. He's said he characterizes himself as an "independent Democrat." While Sanders has been open about his discomfort with the Democratic Party, he recognizes the "dilemma" of trying to run as a third-party candidate, given the organizing power of the Republicans and Democrats.

The senator stands 40.4 points behind Clinton, according to HuffPost Pollster, which aggregates all publicly available polling data:

Sanders draws early support for White House bid from long-time union allies **// Fox News – July 11, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is getting support from unions members across the county that includes a mix of long-time political backers and potential voters apparently wary of party frontrunner Hillary Clinton's relationship with Wall Street and Big Business.

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Sanders has already gotten support from one of the country's most influential labor leaders, Larry Cohen, the outgoing president of the roughly 700,000-member Communications Workers of American.

Cohen cited Clinton's failure to publicly oppose giving President Obama so-called "fast-track" approval on trade deals under the pending Trans Pacific Partnership legislation, which unions argue, if approved, would send manufacturing jobs overseas.

He also told The Huffington Post that organized labor is not a rubber stamp for the Democratic Party "and certainly not for corporate Democrats."

And the grassroots group Labor for Bernie 2016 has already pulled support from hundreds of union members with similar concerns.

"While we come from different unions and backgrounds, our goal is a government that carries out the will of the people, not prop up the profits of the 1 percent at the expense of the rest of us," reads a letter on the group's website that already has 1,109 signatures.

Some AFL-CIO chapters have also expressed support for Sanders, including ones in South Carolina and Vermont, which has resulted in group President Richard Trumka reminding state and local divisions of the labor federation that only national leadership can announce an endorsement, as reported first by Politico.

Though Trumka was in fact citing existing bylaws, the announcement was seen by some as an attempt to quell the Sanders uprising, considering Clinton and her well established campaign, right now, have a much better shot at beating Republicans in the 2016 White House race.

Democratic-leaning strategist Kelly Grace Gibson told FoxNews.com this week that Clinton and Sanders each have a grassroots following, though perhaps not composed of exactly the same people or groups. And she argued that a unified endorsement like the one the AFL-CIO gave President Obama late in his 2008 primary race against Clinton has a bigger impact.

"The purpose of the whip-cracking is … Trumka is trying to maintain the importance and weight of the endorsement," she said.

Republican leaning strategist and lobbyist Matt Keelen say that "at the grassroots level, most Democrats, at least those being talked about in the news anyway, are not particularly thrilled with (Clinton's) corporatist, crony capitalist, Democratic strategy."

Clinton, Sanders and fellow Democratic candidate Martin O'Malley, a former Maryland governor, reportedly have been invited to meet privately and separately with the members of the AFL-CIO's executive council when they gather in late July in suburban Washington.

Meanwhile, Sanders, a progressive, continues to draw large crowds at campaign events, including 10,000 recently in Madison, Wis., more than 2,500 in Council Bluffs, Iowa and 7,500 this week in Portland, Maine.

Sanders also has significantly cut into Clinton's lead, according to a recent CNN/WMUR New Hampshire primary poll.

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The poll shows Sanders has cut the lead from 38 percent to 8 percent in roughly the past two months, 43-to-55-percent, compared to 51-to-13 percent in May.

That Sanders is now getting union support and financial backing is no surprise, considering he has been a long-time champion for organized labor.

The top-5 campaign committees and leadership PACs for Sanders since 2009 are Sheet Metal Workers ($27,500); Communications Workers of America ($23,000); American Postal Workers ($20,000) Unite Here ($20,000) and Machinists/ Aerospace Workers Union ($20,000), according to OpenSecrets.org.

The group LaborUnionReport.com also conducted an informal survey recently in which respondents favored Sanders over Clinton 76 percent to 11 percent and reportedly cited such factors as Clinton's silence on the trade pact, her having worked for the Rose law firm, which helped employers fight unions and her having been a member of the Walmart board of directors.

Still, Sanders, a self-described socialist, will have a difficult path to victory even if he wins the union endorsement, considered essential for any Democratic presidential candidate.

Beyond Clinton's much larger war chest, she also has a far bigger and more-organized campaign operation and Capitol Hill endorsements.

The Hill reports Clinton has endorsements from at least 26 of the 69 Democrats in the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

"I think it's clear to say that Clinton is the candidate for most members of Congress and the Democratic establishment," Sanders told the newspaper.

Bernie Sanders picking up steam in early primary states, could give Hillary Clinton a scare // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – July 11, 2015

Berniementum is building in the early primary states — and capturing the imaginations of liberal activists across the country.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has emerged as the clear early favorite of progressives resistant to Hillary Clinton's charms in Iowa and New Hampshire, and he's drawing big crowds.

"He has certainly picked up some buzz," said former Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Scott Brennan.

Sanders trailed Clinton by just 8 percentage points with Democrats in a recent New Hampshire poll from CNN, and by 19 points in a recent Quinnipiac University poll of Iowa, though Clinton has had larger leads in other state-level polling.

Sanders recently drew 10,000 people to a rally in liberal Madison, Wis., and thousands have gathered to see him from Maine to Minneapolis. With little organization, he raised $15 million in his first three months as a candidate — one-third of what Clinton brought in but a hefty sum driven by small online donations.

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Still, it remains to be seen whether Sanders, a quirky, 73-year-old self-described democratic socialist, can give Clinton a real scare.

His fans point out he was talking about income inequality long before it became cool and is tapping into a cultural moment of fury with what he calls the “billionaire class.”

And he’s channeling the emotions of Democrats who think Clinton is too careful on the trail and cozy to Wall Street.

We are worried about him, sure. He will be a serious force for the campaign, and I don’t think that will diminish.

“Hillary sounds more presidential because she talks in shades of gray. But Bernie Sanders has the luxury of talking in black and white, and that’s exciting,” said Thomas Henderson, the chairman of the Polk County Democrats, Iowa's largest county organization.

Sanders’ cantankerous, doom-and-gloom style delighted roughly 400 progressive activists gathered Thursday in Arlington, Va., who chanted, “Bernie! Bernie!”

Clinton’s campaign says it’s taking his rise seriously, though public comments may be aimed at raising expectations for Sanders.

“We are worried about him, sure. He will be a serious force for the campaign, and I don’t think that will diminish,” Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri said on MSNBC on Monday.

Polls show that Democrats like Clinton, but they’re having trouble getting excited about her.

“Right now 2016 feels more like a slog,” said Brennan. “She’s been a public figure for a long time. So it’s a little harder to generate that newness and enthusiasm that Barack Obama was able to capture and Senator Sanders is capturing now.” But much of Sanders’ momentum comes from consolidating the insurgent liberal vote that has long failed to pick the Democratic nominee.

Many compare his rise to past left-wing insurgents who flamed out like Howard Dean in 2004 and Bill Bradley in 2000.

A supporter cheers at a campaign rally for Sanders in Madison, Wis., where he drew 10,000 people.

“Sanders for now has become the candidate of progressive New Hampshire Democrats and progressives elsewhere,” said University of New Hampshire Professor Dante Scala.

Sanders’ campaign recognizes the challenge of expanding his base of support past hardcore white liberal activists.

“He’s quickly rising in the early state polls where voters are actually paying attention,” Sanders strategist Tad Devine said. “Now it’s the question of can we expand the scope of his appeal to the broad constituencies of the

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Democratic Party — African-American voters, Latino voters, women, young voters."

Sanders recently addressed the National Association of Elected and Appointed Latino Officials, is heading to the National Council for La Raza's annual convention next week and will soon head to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's annual gathering. Devine points out he has a long civil rights history, dating back to his getting arrested at 1960s protests.

Sanders' campaign thinks he can make Clinton squirm by forcing her to respond to policy proposals like free college education and raising taxes on the wealthy. Clinton refused to say whether she agreed with Sanders' call to raise taxes on the wealthy, instead promising to outline her economic proposals on Monday.

But it's not clear that the Clinton operation is all that alarmed. Her campaign has been girding from the start for a challenge from the left. She has made a point to embrace economic populism and to focus on issues key to minority groups, who will be key players in later primary states. And her campaign is gearing up with a massive ground game — her field operation in Iowa alone has almost as much staff as Sanders' entire campaign.

Democratic observers remain skeptical that Sanders has any chance to catch Clinton.

"For a while, it has been a foregone conclusion in many people's minds that she will be the nominee, and any time you inject some excitement into the race it takes on a life of its own. How deep that goes I don't know," said New Hampshire AFL-CIO President Glenn Brackett.

Weiner: Sanders 'needs to explain' why he's running as a Democrat // The Hill // Mark Hensch – July 11, 2015

Former Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.) is skeptical of Bernie Sanders' hunt for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016.

Weiner wonders why the Independent Vermont senator plans on switching his party affiliation next election cycle, according to a Business Insider op-ed published Saturday.

Weiner charged that Sanders has never expressed a desire to become a Democrat before entering the 2016 race.

"He was a proud socialist and thought the institutional Democratic Party was too cautious and lacking in imagination," he said of his time in Congress with Sanders.

"As much as I prodded, I would never get him to think about joining the Democrats for a moment."

Weiner noted that Sanders' reluctance to go Democrat earlier leaves the party's voters with unanswered questions about his motivations.

"What exactly does he think he's doing in a Democratic presidential primary?" Weiner asked. "Why is he asking for the nomination of a party he always avoided joining?"

"After a career of steadfastly insisting that the Democratic Party was not his home, now he wants to be not only a member of the party but its standard bearer?" he asked. "What changed?"

Weiner also speculated Sanders' newfound interest in the party may be a strategy for improving his chances in next year's presidential election.

"Is Bernie's newfound party affiliation just a practical decision to run in a party that can win rather than risk being

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a Nader-esque spoiler in a third party line next November?" Weiner asked.

"That's a fair calculation, but doesn't it wipe away Bernie's three decades of standing as a principled socialist?"

Weiner did acknowledge that he believes "Bernie is right about a lot of things."

"He is right that a Medicare for All healthcare plan is a simpler, cheaper and more American solution to our healthcare needs than a jury-rigged system that is better under ObamaCare but still has too many gaps," he said.

"And his battle cry on behalf of working Americans is almost as good as Hillary Clinton's," he said of Clinton, the Democratic presidential favorite, also his wife Huma Abedin's employer.

"In spite of all this, if Bernie wants to lead this party, he needs to explain what he's doing here in the first place," Weiner added.

Weiner also said he believes Sanders addresses a desire for progressive ideas within the Democratic electorate.

"There's no question Bernie's leftist agitating is filling a void in this primary process," he said.

"The Democratic Party has a strong primal scream element right now," Weiner said. "It expresses itself in frustration that the high expectations of change that came with President Obama have not been met."

"It howls at the failure of candidates who hew to the middle of the road and it feels the need to counter the batshit crazy it sees dominating the debate on the other side of the aisle," he added.

Bernie Sanders becoming a problem for Hillary; tramples all over her talking points // Biz Pac Review // Tom Tillison – July 11, 2015

Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders continues to gum up the works in the coronation of Hillary Clinton as the party's nominee for the 2016 election.

Sanders' latest trespass was to walk all over Clinton's talking points in response to Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush's comment that Americans "need to work more hours."

Taking Bush's comment out of context, Clinton, the so-called champion of the working class, took a cheap shot at the Republican:

Enter Sanders, an open socialist, who has been refreshingly candid on the campaign trail — and drawing plenty of interest.

Taking Bush's comment at face value, that part-time workers need full-time jobs, he trampled on Clinton's spin in an interview Friday on CNN.

"Of course we need full-time jobs rather than part-time jobs," Sanders said.

"If he [Bush] is talking about the need for more full-time jobs than part-time jobs, that's absolutely correct," he added.

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The muffled popping sound heard around that time was of heads exploding at Team Hillary. A social media user summed it up well by asking how long it would be before Sanders becomes “too big a problem” for Clinton.

UNDECLARED

OTHER

Dem senators call for executive action on gun control **// The Hill // Alex Bolton – July 11, 2015**

Connecticut Sens. Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal, both Democrats, have called on President Obama to take executive action to close a “loophole” in federal gun control legislation.

The so-called “default to proceed” rule under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act allows firearm dealers to sell a weapon to an individual if they have not been notified by the FBI of a buyer’s criminal background within three business days.

If the background check has not been completed within three days, the dealer has discretion to sell the firearm.

The rule allowed Dylann Roof, the alleged killer of nine people at a predominantly black church in Charleston, S.C., to purchase a gun even though he was arrested on a felony drug charge and admitted to possessing drugs.

"We shouldn't give known criminals the benefit of the doubt when it comes to guns. If law enforcement needs more than three days to ensure they're not giving weapons to dangerous people, Washington must allow them the time to do their jobs,” Blumenthal and Murphy said in a joint statement.

“If we refuse to act, we're just biding time until this happens again."

The criminal background check on Roof was not initiated until two days after Roof first attempted to purchase the gun and did not discover his admission of drug possession until five days later.

FBI Director James Comey told reporters Friday that Roof “should not have been allowed to purchase the gun he allegedly used that evening,” referring to the deadly June 17 attack.

Republicans, however, blame the failure to bar Roof from obtaining a gun on “bureaucratic bungling” and say additional regulation is not necessary.

“It’s disastrous that this bureaucratic mistake prevented existing laws from working and blocking an illegal gun sale. The facts undercut attempts to use the tragedy to enact unnecessary gun laws,” Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) said in a statement.

An FBI examiner faxed a request for information on Roof’s arrest to the wrong county’s sheriff’s office.

Comey has announced a 30-day investigation into the matter.

GOP

DECLARED

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BUSH

Jeb and the Nation of Takers **// NYT // Paul Krugman – July 11, 2015**

Maybe we were unfair to Mitt Romney; Jeb "people should work longer hours" Bush is making him look like a model of empathy for the less fortunate. All the obvious points apply: longer hours would mean more GDP (if and when the economy ever gets back to full employment), but not necessarily better lives, especially if the increase in GDP doesn't trickle down.

But I think it's also important to understand where this is coming from. Partly it's Bush trying to defend his foolish 4 percent growth claim; but it's also, I'm almost certain, coming out of the "nation of takers" dogma that completely dominates America's right wing.

At my adventure in Las Vegas, one of the questions posed by the moderator was, if I remember it correctly, "What would you do about America's growing underclass living off welfare?" When I said that the premise was wrong, that this isn't actually happening, there was general incredulity — this is part of what the right knows is happening. When Jeb Bush — who is a known admirer of Charles Murray — talks about more hours, he's probably thinking largely about getting the bums on welfare out there working.

As I asked a few months ago, where are these welfare programs people are supposedly living off? TANF is tiny; what's left are EITC, food stamps, and unemployment benefits. Spending on food stamps and UI soared during the slump, but came down quickly; overall spending on "income security" has shown no trend at all as a share of GDP, with all the supposed growth in means-tested programs coming from Medicaid:

But isn't there an epidemic of people declaring themselves disabled? Actually, no. You have to bear in mind the reality that people don't stay perfectly healthy until they reach 65, or 70, or whatever age plutocrats think they should work until. As all of us pre-seniors can attest, things start to go wrong with increasing frequency all along the life cycle; sometimes they can be managed, but often they can't, especially for manual workers. And if you look at age-adjusted disability rates, they have been flat or even declining:

But none of this will, of course, make any dent in the right-wing narrative: they just know that the rising number of bums on welfare is a problem, even though there basically isn't any welfare and there are no more bums than there ever were.

Jeb bests Hillary in American worker tweet-off **// CNBC // Larry Kudlow – July 11, 2015**

Jeb Bush is right and Hillary Clinton is wrong. You can probably say that about a lot of things. But in this case, it's about the need for more part-time American workers to work full-time in order to improve their own lots as well as the lot of the economy.

The mini spat started when Jeb Bush short-handed the point that "people should work longer hours" in a meeting with New Hampshire's Union Leader. Hillary Clinton then tweeted, "Anyone who believes Americans aren't working hard enough hasn't met enough American workers."

A few hours later, Bush clarified his position with his own tweet: "Anyone who discounts 6.5 million people stuck in part-time work and seeking full-time jobs hasn't listened to working Americans."

Bush is right about Americans needing to work longer hours. He's also right that there are far too many

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involuntary part-time workers — 6.5 million today compared to a pre-recession 4.2 million. These folks are stuck because of economic reasons, traceable in large part to a slow-walking recovery and a variety of government policies that are discouraging full-time work.

Much of this is reflected in the U-6 unemployment rate, which is the total unemployed plus people marginally attached to the labor force as well as those who are part-time for economic reasons (could only find part-time work, slack work or business conditions, etc.). That unemployment rate was 10.5 percent in June, nearly double the 5.3 percent headline unemployment number (the U-3 unemployment rate). The unusually wide spread between these rates, in part, reflects discouraged people who want to work and can't find a job, and, in part, the people who want to work more but can't get longer hours.

And Jeb Bush was probably also thinking about the low labor-force participation rate, which stands at a rock bottom 62.6 percent compared to 66 percent in 2008.

I don't know which candidate is "closer to the people," but Bush is closer to the statistical truth — at least as registered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In other words, facts.

So, Bush is basically saying: There are too many part-timers, they would like to work longer, and if they had that opportunity, they and their families and the economy would benefit.

I still believe these labor-market problems are deeply rooted to this slow-paced recovery. We never had the snapback that other deep recessions produced. And there are a number of ill-conceived tax, regulatory, and monetary policies that have discouraged work, undermined incentives, and created obstacles to the kind of 4- or 5-percent growth that should have occurred over the past six years.

For example, means-tested small entitlements — like overextended unemployment insurance, Social Security disability insurance, and food stamps — have clearly perverted work incentives. Eligibility has been substantially raised and time limits have been removed. So in many cases, on a net after-tax basis, it pays more not to work.

Then there's Obamacare, which throws off a million economic disincentives. But here's one that goes directly to the Jeb Bush part-time employment issue: the so-called 29ers. If an employee works 29 hours a week, the employer does not have to purchase health care. So instead of working 34.5 hours a week, the long-term trend, you now have a lot of people at 29 hours or less because of bad government health-care policy.

By the way, economist Ed Lazear, the former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President George W. Bush, estimates that every one-tenth of an hour less worked costs the economy between 350,000 and 400,000 jobs.

We don't yet know all the details of Jeb Bush's economic plan. But on the campaign trail, he's talking about fixing how we tax and regulate, a broken immigration system, and unleashing a domestic energy revolution.

And we know he favors a 4 percent economic-growth target as a means of recovering from past policy sins and restoring American opportunity and prosperity for all. Governor Chris Christie has adopted the same target. It's way too early to endorse, but both of these gentleman have the story right.

Hillary, so far, has it wrong.

Sununu: Jeb Bush is 'less forgiving of slights' than his father // Yahoo News // Jon Ward – July 11, 2015

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John H. Sununu, the former governor of New Hampshire who was White House chief of staff to President George H.W. Bush for most of Bush's only term in office, has a new book out arguing that Bush should have a more venerated place in American history. In "The Quiet Man: The Indispensable Presidency of George H.W. Bush," Sununu argues that Bush's presidency was far more successful, and consequential, than he is given credit for.

Sununu writes that Bush's quiet, humble style, his belief in the importance of personal diplomacy, and his ability to get along with others and reach compromise were crucial to easing the collapse of the Soviet Union and the transition in Eastern Europe from communist rule. Those qualities were key to assembling the coalition that helped push Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait in 1991. And, he argues, they made it possible for Bush to productively work with the overwhelmingly Democratic-controlled Congress.

Yahoo News spoke with Sununu at his home in Hampton Falls, N.H., where six of his eight children, and 13 of his 16 grandchildren, live within a 10-minute drive. Below is an edited transcript that has been shortened for brevity and clarity.

Yahoo News: In the words of Larry King, it's a terrific book, I'm gonna start reading it tonight. Did you notice that he said that?

John H. Sununu: [Laughs] Yeah, I know Larry well. We're old New York baseball team fans. Larry was a Dodger fan. I was a Yankee fan.

Still are?

Yeah, I'm a die-hard loyalist.

How do you describe yourself when someone asks you where you're from? Because you've got Greek, Palestinian.

Yeah, my dad's family was Palestinian, Greek Orthodox community. They came to Boston in 1904. He was born in Boston, was in the import and export business, ended up doing a project in Cuba. I was born in Cuba. You know, that's the family. It's a little complicated.

On the Cold War, the shorthand that I think most people have in terms of their memory of it is that Reagan called for the wall to come down and down it came.

Between that and the reality, there's a lot that happened.

Well, at the most I think Bush gets credit for managing the transition, but I think the intent of your book seems to argue that he was a catalyst, if not a responsible manager.

You know, anything as significant and as complicated as that doesn't happen by accident. A lot of people think it would have been automatic. But one of the important points that nobody pays attention to — but you can get a lot of it out of Gorbachev's book ["Memoirs"] — is that he was always fighting internally the hard-liners who were just looking for an excuse to get rid of him and to stop it all. And the art form that Bush had was understanding that reality and easing it, handling it, really, with a very careful touch that allowed it to happen. … He produced a change that really did change the world.

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You mention emotions a fair amount in the book. It seems like you think that overemotionalism is often a problem, whether it's in government or media or whatever. You think that's a modern phenomenon?

I've never thought of it in that context, that it was sort of an absolute. There are times —

You mentioned Gingrich, you mentioned Dan Rather.

There are times when people let their judgment be sometimes detrimentally influenced by their emotions, and great leaders have control of that. And it happens both ways. Some people, in an effort to mimic what they think is good practice, don't let emotions be enough of a part, and some people let it be too much of a part. To rally a nation in difficult times, can you imagine, how could Churchill have rallied England if he didn't use a little bit of emotion, you know? So somebody else in that role could have underplayed the emotional part.

How long did you work on this book?

About a year. I kind of put the framework together in three months, and then I spent nine months getting it right, going to the library, working with the library people, going through my own records.

There's a lot of implicit criticism of Reagan.

I really didn't mean it as criticism. I meant it to set the tone of the moment. I think Reagan was a great president. … In order to understand the climate that Bush came into, you really have to at least put into context the last couple of years of the Reagan administration, in which things got difficult. He got hit with Iran-contra, the savings and loan problem started to get to be serious, although nobody really understood how serious it was. His relationship with Congress got soured, partially because of Iran-contra. Some of his European allies began to give him a tough time, Mitterrand in particular. So there was a context of the time that Bush comes into as the successor and people have to understand that … he had to clean up certain things, particularly savings and loan and the relationship with Congress. If he didn't fix the relationship with Congress, nothing really could have happened.

What Bush inherits in his election is a situation that needs to be fixed. It's not a criticism of Reagan. It happens to two-term presidencies all the time. The great work of most presidencies is done in the first years.

It seems like a major theme of the book is that oftentimes people who do things well but aren't flashy about it don't really get the credit.

That is a very important theme of the book. And it's an important theme in American politics, because quite often people follow the shiny object of hot rhetoric instead of effective governance. We've become a hot-rhetoric political society, and hot rhetoric doesn't always achieve results.

Why do you think that is?

That's a good question.

I blame television.

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I'll blame media in general, not just television. I think social media has amplified it. And look, media is very powerful in politics. Roosevelt discovered the radio, Kennedy discovered network TV, Clinton discovered cable TV and Obama discovered social media. Discovered in the sense of learned how to effectively use it.

They're all Democrats.

And they're all Democrats. So when your message is weak, you can overcome it by tugging at the emotions. And so the emotional side of politics has become very important.

You seem to hate the press in some respects.

No, there are certain components of the press that I lost a lot of respect for, where they are more concerned about a story that will sell a paper or get ratings on television than they are about the impact that that story might have...

I was struck by the point in your book where you talk about the conversations you had with Bush's advisers leading up to '92, where you were telling them that Bill Clinton was going to be the nominee —

My message to them was, "Here's a guy who's a real political animal, who has a fire in the belly, and who knows how to communicate with the electorate." And I thought Cuomo wanted to be coronated, and if he didn't get coronated he wouldn't run.

Is there anybody in the field now who you feel has that same hunger and fire in the belly to be president, same qualities as Bill Clinton?

I don't want to talk about specific candidates in this field. Everybody's trying to find me, get me to say something that becomes the equivalent of an endorsement, and I have too many friends running. I am not going to — I am trying extremely hard not to endorse.

That was a good way to try to get you to do it, though, right?

Well, a little amateurish, but that's all right. [Laughs]

A little amateurish? It wouldn't be a Sununu interview without an insult.

[Laughs] I mean, don't launch if you can't take return fire [laughs, slaps table]. It's all done in good humor, you know.

You also said to Larry King that Jeb is like his mother. Why?

I think Jeb is a little bit more [long pause] — less, less forgiving of slights by others. Barbara is the tough — if somebody attacks George Herbert Walker Bush, Barbara remembers that forever. And I think Jeb has a little of that.

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It's going to be an interesting election.

One would hope that the country decides to go for substance rather than style. They made that mistake last time.

And that is Marco Rubio's greatest weakness.

Yeah, but remember he was also speaker of the House [in Florida], so he had to herd cats. I give him credit for that. He had to deal with the legislature from more than just a member's perspective. So Marco is more experienced than people give him credit for. I'm not endorsing him or anything, but I'm just saying don't underestimate that trait.

Jeb Bush's mind-blowing fundraising haul in one chart // Business Insider // Brett Logiurato – July 11, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's (R) nascent campaign said Thursday that it had raised an eye-popping $11.4 million in the first 16 days he was official candidate for president.

On top of that, the super PAC supporting Bush's run for president, Right to Rise PAC, said it had hit its goal of raising $100 million through the first half of the year. Charlie Spies, the PAC's treasurer and general counsel, said it had raised more than $103 million from January 6 to June 30.

The numbers make Bush's campaign by far the best funded of any presidential candidate — even Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. Clinton's campaign raised $45 million in her first 81 days as a candidate, according to her campaign. But outside groups supporting her have raised only about $24.3 million, according to Bloomberg.

Here's a look at how they fare head to head. Combining the totals from the campaigns and outside groups supporting the candidates, the Bush corner has raised about $114 million, compared with just less than $70 million for Clinton.

In his 16 days as an official candidate, meanwhile, Bush raised approximately $760,000 per day. Clinton has raised about $555,555 each day.

RUBIO

With no clear base of support, Marco Rubio gambles on a broad approach // WaPo // Sean Sullivan – July 11, 2015

Lunch was about to be served, and Marco Rubio was working the room — hard. He mocked surprise that one table's cookies were left untouched. He posed for a photo and teased, "I even held my stomach in!"

This is not considered Rubio territory, but he is campaigning with urgency in Iowa anyway. He spent Tuesday through Thursday hopscotching from happy hour to cookout to meet-and-greet, and plans to return for more of the same this week as well.

He doesn't have much of a choice. It's been nearly three months since Rubio launched his presidential campaign

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amid lofty expectations from many Republicans, who view the youthful Cuban American senator from Florida as the party's best hope for a rapidly changing electorate.

But polls show he hasn't made a dent in the leads enjoyed by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Florida governor Jeb Bush in the first four primary states. Bush, meanwhile, just announced a massive $114 million fundraising haul, while Walker is set to officially kick off his campaign Monday.

So Rubio has embarked on a strategy to compete in each of the four early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada. The hope is to strike it big in at least one by cobbling together a diverse coalition of Republican voters. It is perhaps the best option for a contender who, unlike Bush and Walker, has neither an obvious path to the nomination nor a clearly defined base of support.

After focusing heavily on fundraising leading up to the June 30 quarterly deadline, Rubio is forging a bigger presence on the campaign trail. His swing through Iowa was his most extensive visit here since launching his bid in April. He also traveled to Nevada on Friday for a two-day visit, and his campaign has reserved TV advertising time in all four of the early states.

Central to Rubio's pitch is an emphasis on his youthfulness and an optimistic, if imprecise, vision of the future. At 44, Rubio is among the youngest candidates.

"Quite frankly, I'm the only one running up to now that is running on this message that the future is now. It is here. And we cannot be left behind by it," he said at a Wednesday morning stop in Urbandale where a packed dining room of Republicans tucked into pancakes and sipped coffee.

One of them was Sharon Clearman, 72, of Johnston, Iowa. Rubio impressed her, but she also likes Walker. "He did a big thing," Clearman said.

Her reference was to Walker's moves to curtail the power of public unions. It made him a national conservative icon and won him deep loyalty from activists.

Rubio does not have any political accomplishments of similar magnitude. Asked to name his signature achievements in government after lunch at the Cedar Rapids Country Club, he responded with a mixed list: the policy blueprint he wrote as a state lawmaker and legislation he pushed in the U.S. Senate to support girls in developing countries and hold Veterans Affairs accountable.

Those who have seen Rubio speak have noticed his emphasis on the future.

"Senator Rubio is just more overt saying, 'I'm going to take you to the future, and then look at my record if you don't believe I've done that,'" Iowa Republican Party Chairman Jeff Kaufmann said, "whereas [Ted] Cruz and Walker are saying, 'Look at my record, I'll take you to the future.'"

If Rubio is suffering from a resume deficit compared to Walker, he suffers from a major resource deficit against Bush, who is leading in New Hampshire. A pair of outside groups backing Rubio have raised about $32 million, less than a third of the amount raised by a super PAC allied with Bush. Rubio's campaign has not yet released its total.

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Rubio's team says it is playing a long game. The plan is to introduce him to as many voters as possible because of his talent as a communicator. If other candidates stumble, supporters believe Rubio would be poised to move up.

"I think this guy is the guy who can win," said Ed Failor Jr., an Iowa conservative activist supporting Rubio. "I think he's a guy who has an ability to speak to a group and keep their attention."

Rubio's attempt to stay in the mix for the long haul is evident in his cautious rhetoric. Last week, for example, he declined to say whether he backs Congress giving Puerto Rico the ability to file for bankruptcy like municipalities in the states. Bush has said that right should be granted. It's a sensitive topic pitting many Latino voters against conservatives who oppose such a move.

Meanwhile, Rubio's reliance on his youth and freshness sometimes prompts a comparison considered unflattering in Republican circles.

"You are an extremely articulate, energetic, bright, young first-term senator. That reminds me of somebody eight years ago," one man told him at the Urbandale breakfast. The crowd chuckled, instantly recognizing the reference to President Obama.

Rubio argued forcefully that Obama was a "backbencher" in the Illinois legislature while he was the Florida House speaker. Rubio also noted that he has served longer in the U.S. Senate than Obama had when he launched his White House bid.

"There are major differences between me and the person who is there now," he concluded.

The policy differences between Rubio and many of his Republican competitors are harder to spot. Rubio is running as a staunch military hawk like most of his opponents. On immigration — which is again consuming the party as an issue — Rubio has backed away from support for comprehensive reform he once backed in the Senate.

With so many GOP candidates, it's become nearly impossible for Rubio, or anyone else, to monopolize a certain position. And that makes it difficult for him to separate himself from the pack.

"I've got the field narrowed from 15 to maybe six or seven," said Patrick Williams, 48, a ninth-grade teacher from West Des Moines.

Rubio is one of them.

Rubio revisits childhood in Vegas, calls Putin a criminal // AP // Kimberly Pierceall – July 11, 2015

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio called Russian President Vladimir Putin a criminal on Saturday in a presidential campaign speech less focused on foreign and domestic policy than recounting his parents' immigrant experience to voters in his childhood hometown.

"He is a dangerous person," Rubio said of Putin, "and we should never be under any illusions as long as he runs that country."

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When GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump visited Las Vegas on Saturday, he said he could be pals with Putin and that "I think we would get along very, very well."

Rubio's immigrant parents, who came to the U.S. from Cuba, found jobs in the casino industry in Las Vegas. The Florida Republican would visit Henderson, about a half-hour drive from Las Vegas, as a child.

"When I grew up, there was nothing out here but an ice skating rink," he told an audience at a sprawling golf course and retirement community. Watching the nuclear war movie "War Games" as a child, he said he fretted when actor Mathew Broderick's character picked Las Vegas for a target.

Rubio, 44, largely repeated the family story he related Friday to the Libertarian-leaning FreedomFest gathering in Las Vegas, saying that his parents embody the American dream and that he was indebted to the United States. Running for president is his way of repaying his obligation, he said.

Rubio received the most applause from the retirees when he vowed that as president he would make sure that "we will remain the single most powerful military force the world has ever known" by competing with other nations that are investing billions in new military technology.

He also elicited applause when he promised to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

On a local issue, Rubio repeated his stance that Yucca Mountain in Nevada remains the only option for eventually storing the country's nuclear waste. Many people in Nevada oppose the project, and its senior U.S. senator, Harry Reid, has vowed that Yucca Mountain not become the nation's nuclear dump.

Rubio Focuses On Cuban Immigrant Upbringing In Vegas Talks **// AP – July 11, 2015**

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio says he is indebted to America and running for president is his way of repaying his obligation.

The 44-year-old Republican candidate told the Libertarian FreedomFest audience on Friday how his parents made their way from Cuba to Las Vegas, where they found jobs in the casinos. Rubio says his parents embody the American dream.

Rubio told several hundred voters in a suburban retirement community on Saturday that as president he would make the U.S. the single greatest military superpower by competing with other nations that are investing billions in new military technology. He also promised to repeal and replace President Barack Obama’s Affordable Care Act.

Rubio also repeated his stance that Yucca Mountain in Nevada is currently the only option for storing the country’s nuclear waste.

Rubio starts winning over voters — in Spanish **// The Washington Times // Kellan Howell – July 11, 2015**

Marco Rubio increased his popularity among latin voters on the campaign trail in Iowa this week, chatting with a woman from San Salvador in Spanish.

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The woman, Claudia Steele, who is now an American citizen and voter, told Mr. Rubio that she was the only Latina member of her local Republican organization.

The 2016 GOP contender responded, “Hay que cambiar eso,” meaning “We need to change that,” ABC news reported Friday.

The 44 year-old Florida Senator was welcomed openly by the Spanish speakers who came out to meet Mr. Rubio over the course of his three-day trip through the Hawkeye state.

According to 2003 U.S. Census bureau data, just 5.5 percent of the population of Iowa identifies as Hispanic or Latino, but many came out to support Mr. Rubio this week.

Mr. Rubio and fellow GOP candidate and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush’s ability to speak in Spanish is helping the two gain popularity with Latin voters, while Donald Trump continues to receive backlash over comments comparing illegal immigrants to rapists and drug dealers.

“It helps him communicate and connect with the community,” Ms. Steele said of Mr. Rubio in an interview with ABC News.

Marco Rubio would ban abortion if elected, compares it to slavery **// The Examiner – July 11, 2015**

Of all of the social issues in American politics, a woman's right to choose and abortion are close or at the top of the list. With the issue almost completely split down party lines, the difference between a Republican or Democrat in the White House is crucial to the cause.

More Americans continue to support access to abortion in all or some cases. According to the most recent numbers by Gallup, 80 percent of Americans now support abortion in all or certain circumstances. Only 19 percent said that it should be illegal across the board, with 1 percent having no opinion. Despite these numbers, Republican presidential hopeful Sen. Marco Rubio spoke at the National Right to Life Committee’s annual convention in New Orleans on July 10, and pushed his pro-life stance hard, as reported by Right Wing Watch.

Promising to restrict a women's right to choose "at home and around the world," Rubio called Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal, "historically and egregiously flawed" to the cheers of the crowd. The Florida Senator continued, claiming that fighting for an unborn fetus was the same as fighting to eliminate slavery.

"Sometimes in contemporary American life, we come to believe that all the great causes are over, that the past generation fought all the important battles: abolition, the Civil Rights Movement, women’s suffrage...but it's not true. In face, one of the most important battles is the one that you are engaged in now."

Rubio has a long history of being anti-choice, from voting against stem cell research, to supporting a mandatory ultrasound before an abortion. If a Republican like Rubio does find his way into the White House, with control of both houses of Congress, women's rights in the United States might be taking a few steps back.

PAUL

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Paul raises $7 million for White House run // The Hill // Alexander Bolton – July 11, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has raised $7 million since launching his White House bid in April, mostly through small-dollar donations.

Paul, a Tea Party favorite who inherited a national grassroots fundraising network from his father, former Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas), received money from 108,205 donors, according to his campaign.

Eighty-five percent of his total came as contributions of $50 or less, and 96 percent came in increments of $100 or less. His average donation was $65.

Breitbart.com first reported the figures.

Paul's fundraising haul lags behind rivals like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who raised $11.4 million in just over two weeks in June. Right to Rise USA, a super PAC supporting Bush, has collected $103 million this year.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), who is vying with Paul for Tea Party voters, raised $14.2 million since announcing his campaign in March. Super PACs aligned with Cruz have raised $37 million.

But Paul can point to broad grassroots support as a sign that his campaign has wide appeal even though he has had trouble finding GOP mega-donors to back him.

New York hedge fund manager Robert Mercer is expected to pour tens of millions into the race to help Cruz, and Miami businessman Norman Braman will spend up to $25 million to help Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

Super PACs supporting Rubio have raised more than $31 million, according to the Washington Post.

CRUZ

The New York Times says Ted Cruz's book has high sales because of 'strategic bulk purchases' // Reuters – July 11, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz says his book "A Time for Truth" is a legitimate bestseller and on Friday challenged The New York Times to prove its contention that the tome's high sales were due to bulk buying.

In a statement on his campaign website, the Texas senator said The Times should apologize or release evidence of its analysis. He said he was being kept off the bestseller list because the newspaper is politically biased against him.

New York Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said the company stands by its statement on Thursday that Cruz's book did not meet the standards for its bestseller list, "which includes an analysis of book sales that goes beyond simply the number of books sold."

"In the case of this book, the overwhelming preponderance of evidence was that sales were limited to strategic bulk purchases," the statement said.

Cruz's campaign denied there were any strategic bulk purchases and said booksellers at events on his campaign tour had long lines for people buying "A Time for Truth: Reigniting the Promise of America" and getting it autographed by the candidate.

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The campaign also pointed to sales on Amazon, where the Cruz book was the ninth bestseller in the political category. They also said Cruz's book was No. 3 on Nielsen BookScan's list of top-selling books this week.

Nielsen did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

Cruz demands NY Times apologize for 'lying' about 'A Time for Truth' sales // Washington Times // Kellan Howell – July 11, 2015

Ted Cruz's campaign blasted The New York Times on Friday after it was revealed that the Texas Senator's new book, "A Time for Truth" would be kept off the bestseller list, despite reported sales putting the book at No. 3 on the list.

The GOP presidential contender's book reportedly sold 11,854 copies in its first week, more than "all but two of the Times' bestselling titles," Politico reported Thursday.

The Cruz campaign released a statement on Thursday titled "New York Times is Lying" and called on the Times to release their evidence for compiling the bestsellers list or issue a formal apology.

"Their decision to blackball Cruz's book suggests that the Times very much does not want people to read the book," the statement said.

The Times recently claimed in a statement that they excluded Mr. Cruz's book because "the overwhelming preponderance of evidence was that sales were limited to strategic bulk purchases."

Mr. Cruz's campaign responded that this claim was "false, and the Times knows it. There were no 'strategic bulk purchases."

Mr. Cruz spent last week on a nation-wide book tour, signing copies of his book at multiple locations. Booksellers at each event had long lines—sometimes over 400 people per event," the statement said.

Campaign spokesman Rick Tyler called on the Times to release evidence proving their claim or "issue a public apology to Senator Cruz and Harper Collins editor Adam Bellow for making false charges against them."

The Times has not yet responded to the claims.

Ted Cruz fights back: Campaign calls on 'lying' NY Times to release evidence of bulk book sales // BizPac // Michael Dorstewitz – July 11, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz's presidential campaign and publisher HarperCollins are calling out The New York Times as liars.

Sales figures suggest Cruz's book, "A Time for Truth," should be in the No. 3 spot on the newspaper's list of bestselling books.

The Times is now saying it refuses to include the book on its coveted list because "evidence" suggests the sales

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figures were bloated by “strategic bulk purchases.”

Tina Andreadis, HarperCollins’ publicity director, released a statement to BuzzFeed News on Friday indicating that the publisher conducted a thorough investigation and “found no evidence of bulk orders or sales through any retailer or organization,” according to the Washington Free Beacon.

When the issue first arose, the Times indicated the book didn’t meet the newspaper’s bestseller criteria.

“We have uniform standards that we apply to our bestseller list, which includes an analysis of book sales that goes beyond simply the number of books sold,” Times spokeswoman Eileen Murphy wrote. “This book didn’t meet that standard this week.”

When asked for specifics, Murphy replied: “Our goal is that the list reflect authentic best sellers, so we look at and analyze not just numbers but patterns of sales for every book.”

When pushed further, Murphy replied, “In the case of this book, the overwhelming preponderance of evidence was that sales were limited to strategic bulk purchases,” according to Politico.

The Cruz campaign isn’t mincing words. It’s calling the paper a liar.

CHRISTIE

Reuters: Christie Now Third in Poll // Newsmax // Sandy Fitzgerald – July 11, 2015

Donald Trump and Jeb Bush are in a virtual dead heat atop the field of 2016 candidates seeking the GOP nomination, but the quickest rise has been for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has been placing low in most polls but marked a third-place finish in a new Reuters-Ipsos poll released Saturday.

The numbers show Bush, a former Florida governor, hanging on the top by just a hair, with 16.1 percent of respondents in an online poll of Republicans. Billionaire real estate developer Trump squeezed in just behind Bush with 15.8 percent of the respondents.

But Christie rose up to take third place with 9.5 percent of the vote, after announcing his candidacy on June 30.

Christie was followed in the Reuters poll by:

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul at 8.1 percent;

Surgeon and author Ben Carson at 7.2 percent;

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker at 5.8 percent;

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Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, 5.5 percent;

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, 5.3 percent;

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, 5 percent;

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, 3.9 percent;

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, 2.1 percent;

Former NY Gov. George Pataki, 2 percent;

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, 1.6 percent;

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, 1.6 percent;

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, 1.4 percent;

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, 1.3

However, when voters were given a choice of three candidates, Bush, Trump or Rubio, Bush led with 42 percent of the voters, followed by 28.4 percent for Trump and 20 percent for Rubio. Christie was not included in that part of the poll.

When it came to Democrats in the poll, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remained with a comfortable lead of 48.3 percent of the self-identified Democrats polled, but Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is gaining ground, earning 22.9 percent. Vice President Joe Biden, who has not entered the race, still got 10.7 percent of the prospective voters.

Overall, according to Real Clear Politics average of established polls, Bush is hanging on to the lead by 5.8 percentage points over the other challengers. Walker, who has not announced his candidacy, is in second, and Carson is in third place overall. Christie is in 10th place according to overall polling, and Trump is in sixth.

In the Reuters/Ipsos poll of the Republican race, 404 self-identified Republicans age 18 or over were questioned from July 6-10. The poll had a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 5.7 percentage points.

In the Reuters/Ipsos poll of the Democratic race, 504 self-identified Democrats age 18 or over were questioned over the same time period, with a credibility interval of 5.1 percentage points.

PERRY

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July 11, 2015

At two coffee shop meet-and-greets in Knoxville and Oskaloosa on Saturday, Republican presidential candidate and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry urged voters to look at his executive and military experience.

Perry's central message was his record: He referenced his time serving in the military when discussing the current size of the military and foreign policy, and the conservative judges he appointed to the Texas Supreme Court when discussing the recent Supreme Court ruling on gay marriage.

There was regular applause and nods of agreement from the largely conservative crowds at both locations when Perry spoke of the need for a large military, limited government and strict adherence and interpretation of the Constitution.

"He thinks along the same lines that we do. Everything he supports, we support," said Darrell Rogers, a 74-year-old retired resident of Oskaloosa.

Perry also spoke of his experience securing the border and improving the high school graduation rate in Texas without subscribing to federal programs like No Child Left Behind and Common Core.

Many listeners were receptive to his message of experience. "I think being governor has given him experience in the art of presiding, not just shooting from the hip like we have currently," said Terry Bradley, a 60-year-old guitar player from Newton. "He's created jobs and he's got the education system."

"I really liked it when he said no one gave him a blueprint of how to deal with the crisis of like when the space shuttle fell down in east Texas and when Hurricane Katrina people came over. That was kind of impressive. I like how he said he had to deal with tough issues," said Bryan Johnson, a 42-year-old resident of Oskaloosa.

Perry also stated, when referencing the shooting by an undocumented immigrant that occurred last week in San Francisco, that he would cut funding to "sanctuary cities" — cities that have passed laws prohibiting law enforcement officers from detaining suspects on order from immigration authorities.

At the event

Settings: Coffee Connection in Knoxville and Smokey Row in Oskaloosa

Crowds: Both coffee shops were packed, primarily with conservative supporters.

Reaction: Crowds greeted Perry enthusiastically and applauded multiple times as he talked.

What's next: Perry will have six campaign stops all over Iowa in the next week, ahead of his appearance at the 2015 Family Leadership Summit in Ames on Saturday.

Rick Perry is Running for President — Here is What He Has Raised so Far in 2015 // IJ Review // Meagan Vazquez – July 11, 2015

Former Gov. Rick Perry's campaign announced Friday that they've raised just over $1 million in less than a month, adding onto a total of $18 million from outside, independent PAC supporters.

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In a statement, the 2016 presidential candidate's campaign manager, Jeff Miller, said:

"Americans are looking for a tested leader with an optimistic vision for the future, and we are pleased with the broad support Gov. Perry is receiving across the country…Governor Perry is well positioned and between the campaign and independent sources, the necessary funds will be in place to run a competitive, successful campaign."

By comparison, in 2012, the Texas Republican received $19,707,936 overall.

However, the new Perry total looks meager next to this campaign season's biggest fundraisers. Jeb Bush raised $114 million in the first six months of 2015, while Hillary Clinton has raked in $45 million.

GRAHAM

Lindsey Graham Speaks Against Clinton and Trump Over Immigration // Latin Post // Roberto Ontiveros – July 11, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Lindsey Graham is speaking out about his fellow candidates and their stands on immigration.

Responding to Hillary Clinton's recent comments that none of the Republican presidential candidates currently support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, Graham said that he does not "need a lecture from Hillary Clinton about immigration reform." Speaking to CNN about Clinton and President Obama's own record of inaction regarding Immigration, the South Carolina Republican senator wants to remind "everybody who cares about immigration reform" that when Obama and Clinton had a chance to transform the system neither lifted a finger.

Graham spoke about participating in various bipartisan "gangs" that worked on immigration reform, and had no recollection of Clinton being a part of any of the discussion

"I don't remember seeing her at the table. She never came to any of the meetings I was at. She was a public voice in 2009. I never remember her saying, 'wait a minute, President Obama, you promised to do immigration reform, honor your promise.' She didn't say a word," Graham said.

This is only the latest jab at Clinton, as a few days earlier the South Carolina senator spoke on "Fox & Friends" about the former Secretary of State's avoidance of the press.

"I think it's the lack of confidence in her ability to distinguish herself from Barack Obama," he said as reported in Politico.

Graham laments that the GOP is in "is in a hole with Hispanics," and places the blame squarely on the shoulders of celebrity real estate magnate turned politician Donald Trump.

"I don't need a lecture from Donald Trump or anybody else about border security," Graham said.

"Here's the mistake. You're right to point out a broken immigration system, but you're wrong to say the following: That of the 11-plus million illegal immigrants, most of them are rapists and drug dealers. Most of them are good, hardworking people, cleaning our toilets, picking the crops that we all enjoy, changing the beds and working three

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or four jobs in the shadows to try to keep their family afloat."

SANTORUM

Santorum: I'll Use Immigration To Go For Workers' Votes // Breitbart // Ian Hanchett – July 11, 2015

Republican presidential candidate and former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum said immigration is a "good example" of an issue that could be used to get workers' votes and touted his record on the subject on Friday's "Hannity" on the Fox News Channel.

Santorum argued, (relevant remarks begin around 9:45), "if you look at the issues that I've been talking about. I announced from a, you saw it, I announced from a factory floor in western Pennsylvania. We're going to go right after those workers."

He continued that he "absolutely" wants to go after the votes of union workers, and "you go after all workers who feel like neither party cares about them. Immigration's a good example of that. I know Donald Trump is getting a lot of attention on the immigration issue. But if you look at the organizations that are the pro-worker immigration groups like NumbersUSA and FAIR, you know who has the only A rating [from NumbersUSA] of any of the candidates including Donald Trump? ... Rick Santorum. In fact, there's only one other candidate, and that's Scott Walker, who's got a B-, but nobody else has a better than a C grade [note: Trump does have a C+, every other candidate has a C or lower]. So, I think we're — while people may have nice rhetoric, we're the ones that have the right policies that are going to connect with American voters."

CARSON

Clinton Foundation donor-owned Politico publishes hit piece on Dr. Ben Carson // Breitbart // Michael Patrick Leahy – July 11, 2015

On Tuesday, Politico ran an article with this blaring headline: "Ben Carson's Godly Riches: He reaped $2 million in fees from Christian groups in 2014 alone. Now he wants their votes."

The headline, which implies some sort of hypocrisy on Dr. Carson's part, is belied by the actual content of the article.

"Clearly if you were to read in great detail Politico's article, they are clearly only admonishing Dr. Carson in their headline and not the true substance of their story," Armstrong Williams, Dr. Carson's business manager, tells Breitbart News in an exclusive interview.

"The reason being they truly had nothing to report," Williams notes.

Politico, which is owned by Clinton Foundation donor Robert Allbritton, failed to point out in the article that during that same time period Hillary Clinton charged speaking fees ranging from $200,000 to $325,000, and Bill Clinton charged $250,000 for his average speaking fee. In 2010, Bill Clinton was paid a $500,000 speaking fee by a Russian company. Even former first daughter Chelsea Clinton charged speaking fees of $65,000, well in excess of Dr. Carson's fees.

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In 2014, Dr. Carson's speaking fees ranged from $12,320 to $48,500.

During roughly the same period of time that Dr. Ben Carson earned $2 million in speaking fees, Bill and Hillary Clinton together earned $25 million in speaking fees.

The actual facts of Dr. Carson's 2014 speaking engagements reported by Politico do not match the article's somewhat sensationalist headline.

One fundraiser at which Carson spoke "brought in a net profit of $150,000," after Carson's fee was paid, the article reports.

At another fundraiser, the host organization was very pleased with the outcome of Carson's speaking engagement. "He did a really good job for us in bringing in people who may not have known about HopeWorks," the group's executive director Ron Wade told Politico.

"They couldn't find anything negative or controversial about Dr. Carson's speaking engagements," Carson's business manager Williams says.

When asked about Politico's failure to report the vastly higher speaking fees charged by Hillary, Bill, and even Chelsea Clinton, Williams is quick to point out Politico's bias.

"Without a doubt the good Dr. Carson is held to a different standard," Williams says. "It's nitpicking by Politico. There's really nothing negative they can report."

The Politico bias, Williams argues, is as apparent from the people the authors chose not to interview as it is of those they chose to interview.

"Politico could not find anyone who was not satisfied with Dr. Carson's speaking engagement. Imagine the many individuals interviewed for the article that were not included, because they had high praise for the good doctor."

Williams' comments support the perception that Politico is often a "mouthpiece" for establishment Republicans as well as the Democrat elites. "A lot of these sources Politico used are coming from within the establishment," he says.

Carson's strong showing in the polls has had an impact on his rivals for the Republican Presidential nomination, Williams argues. "Republican establishment candidates are very threatened by Dr. Carson," he tells Breitbart News. "The establishment media consistently are searching for phony reasons to negate his immense popularity," he adds.

From a strategic perspective, Carson offers something establishment Republicans can't provide—appeal to disaffected conservative voters.

"Dr. Carson is popular among many conservative Christians and Millennials who did not vote in the last presidential election," Armstrong says.

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Currently, “outsiders” like Dr. Carson, Donald Trump , Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)96%

, and Carly Fiorina appear to be gaining traction, while more establishment- oriented candidates appear to be languishing.

“That article is trying to negate the progress and phenomenal gains Dr. Carson is making as an outsider,” Williams says.

The popularity of “outsider” candidates in the Republican Presidential primary field is likely to continue its upward movement in spite of Politico’s transparent and unsuccessful attempts to discredit them.

Carson: Illegal immigrants should become guest workers if they register, pay taxes and back taxes //
Breitbart – Ian Hanchett – July 11, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson said there was no “rational reason” for sanctuary cities while saying border security doesn’t necessarily mean “you have to build fences and walls” and advocating for allowing illegal immigrants in the US to become guest workers if they register, pay back taxes, and pay taxes going forward on Friday’s “Your World with Neil Cavuto” on the Fox News Channel.

Carson began by saying, “a number of us are extremely concerned about this whole sanctuary city mess, but even more importantly, the illegal immigration problem that we have. I’ve spoken very strongly about that, and we need to go ahead and solve the problem. We have the ability to do it. We don’t have the will to do it.”

He continued, “What I would do is I would secure the borders, north, south, east, and west. That does not necessarily mean you have to build fences and walls. We can take advantage of electronic surveillance, drones, and a variety of technological features. And then, part two is we have to turn off the spigot that dispenses the goodies. If there’s no goodies, there’s no reason for people to try to breach our security wall, that takes care of the people coming in, but then you have the 11 plus million who are here already. What I would do is allow them to become guest workers. If they register, and they get involved in a back tax program and taxes going forward. That does not make them citizens. This does not give them the right to vote. If they want to do that, they can get in the back of the line and go through the process just like everybody else.”

When asked if he would outlaw sanctuary cities, Carson answered, “I certainly don’t think that there’s any rational reason for sanctuary cities. I’m glad there’s focus on them now, because I would like the people who advocate for them to come out and tell us exactly why we need them, and I can tell them 100 reasons why we don’t.”

Carson then addressed the racism charges against advocacy against sanctuary cities and the rhetoric of Donald Trump, saying, “It’s a very easy political football, the racism trick. Basically, anything that involves people of two different races, now is because of racism, and it’s just the way to drive wedges, like we’re driving wedges in between gender, we’re driving wedges from income, we’re driving religious wedges, driving intergenerational wedges. Why are we falling for this? You know, we the American people are not each other’s enemies. It’s the people who are driving all the wedges where are the enemies, divide and conquer is their strategy. We have to be smarter than that.” And “I like people who are willing to say what they believe. It’s perhaps gotten me in some trouble over the last several months, but I’m still going to say what I believe. I’ve learned how to tone it down a little bit so people can actually hear what I’m saying and not just focus on the words, but that’s a skill that people learn with the course of time. But there’s no question that we in the process in this country have given away all of our values and principles for the sake of political correctness, and as a result of that we’re in a tailspin.”

He continued, “I think the Republicans actually need to engage in this conversation. A few weeks ago, went to the National Association for Latino Elected Officials, got a conference in Las Vegas, spoke to them, told them that I wasn’t changing my speech because I’m in front of a different audience, and presented lots of different programs. I said I know you guys aren’t just interested in immigration, and they were very receptive, and I got another lot of very warm comments. I think we have to go into all the different communities and we have to talk, we have to

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present logical reasons for people to not buy into the propaganda that is utilized to simply keep them in a state of dependency and control and and culling their votes. We don't want to that, people are smarter than that.

Ben Carson on Donald Trump as a Running Mate: Anything Is Possible // Mediaite // Ken Meyer – July 11, 2015

Whenever he is not defending his explosive comments on illegal immigrants, Donald Trump's presidential campaign has been determined to express how his wealth and successful business career distinguish him from his competitors, who he has described as professional politicians.

Dr. Ben Carson has also had his share of controversial comments, but has sided with Trump on certain issues in the past, while also making the case about how being a political outsider allows him to speak and approach issues differently. Fox's Neil Cavuto had Carson for an interview on Friday, where he asked Carson that, should he receive the Republican nomination, would he ever consider combining forces for the ultimate GOP combination of Carson/Trump 2016.

"I have had a chance to associate with [Trump] now that I have moved down to Florida," Carson said. "He's a very smart guy, and he is a fun guy. So, I will leave it at that."

Cavuto pressed on, asking Carson, "so you might," to which Carson's final word was: "All things are possible. Absolutely."

Earlier in the interview, Carson said Trump should not back down from his controversial statements, instead reiterating his position that political discussion is stifled by PC culture.

"There's no question that we are in the process in this country of giving away all of our values and principles for the sake of political correctness," Carson said. When asked about whether Trump's media attention was a distraction to the other candidates, he said, "we need to discuss these things openly. I like people who are willing to say what they believe."

JINDAL

Producers Plan Rock Opera Based on Exorcism Bobby Jindal Witnessed in College // Bloomberg News // Ben Brody – July 11, 2015

It's enough to make your head spin.

Two producers plan to make a rock opera based on the exorcism performed on a friend of Bobby Jindal's that the Republican presidential candidate watched in college, according to New Orleans' Times–Picayune.

Producer Chris Chiari, a Colorado marijuana activist who twice ran to become a state representative in Florida, told the Times–Picayune that the piece doesn't aim to portray conservative Louisiana governor in a negative light. Rather, it will focus on the relationship between Jindal and the friend who underwent the ritual, a woman named Susan. Jindal later wrote they were "emotionally interdependent without a deeper commitment."

"It's a love story more than anything."

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"It's a love story more than anything," Chiari said, according to the newspaper. "It's more about a story about a young man's inability to love."

Chiari said in the story that the exorcism doesn't come until the "final act" of the hour-long opera. He also said the production has enough private funding to get "into the game," although a Kickstarter campaign he and the other producer started hasn't been very successful.

Co-producer Brian Welsh was the prospective campaign manager for Stormy Daniels, the porn star who mulled a bid unseat Louisiana Senator David Vitter in 2010, the Times-Picayune reported.

Jindal calls for end to direct ag subsidies, RFS **// The Des Moines Register // Linh Ta – July 11, 2015**

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley agreed on a need for federal agriculture subsidy reforms, including moving away from direct annual subsidies to farmers, during a fundraiser for Grassley in Marion on Saturday afternoon.

During a one-on-one interview with the Register before the private fundraiser, Jindal said he wants to continue the reforms happening now, and move subsidies toward an insurance model that helps farmers in dire situations.

"We need to support a strong, farm-based, agriculture-based economy, but we also need to move away from the old system where it was constant annual subsidies," Jindal said.

Iowa ranked second in the nation in ag subsidies, collecting $24.9 billion between 1995 and 2012, according to a study released in 2013 by the Environmental Working Group. According to the group, 10 percent of farms in Iowa collected 59 percent of all subsidies, or about $12.3 billion, during the period.

Jindal said he wants to move toward a cyclical program that is fair to taxpayers, but also helps farmers. The 2014 farm bill moved away from direct payments to farmers, and instead focused on crop insurance coverage.

"We don't go to the federal government every time there's a tornado or there's a storm, but if you do have an overwhelming disaster like a Katrina, it is appropriate to go to the federal government," Jindal said.

Earlier in the day, at the Cedar Rapids Art Museum, Jindal saw one of his highest turnouts this caucus season, with about 230 people attending a town hall forum put on by the Believe Again super PAC. Jindal discussed the renewable fuel standard, which he supported in 2005 when he was in the U.S. House of Representatives. Now, Jindal said, it's time to phase it out.

"Everybody should be treated the same," Jindal said. "We need clean coal, we need nuclear, we need solar, we need ethanol, we need all of it."

Jindal said it's time to treat all energy industries equally. However, he said it's important to make changes gradually to reduce the impact on people who have been receiving government assistance.

"At the time, I thought it was a good thing to help the industry get on its feet to compete," Jindal said. "But I also

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think it's time now to try and phase it out. The reason I say that is I don't like the government picking winners and losers."

Mike Anderson, 58, of Cedar Rapids attended the town hall after seeing Jindal's commercial about "hyphenated Americans," saying he agreed that U.S. citizens should stop being separated by race and income.

"I thought it was great," Anderson said. "I hope he can keep that clear message."

Laura Kamienski, 35, of Cedar Rapids said that she has followed Jindal's political career in Louisiana, and that she has been a fan of his opinions. Kamienski said she is considering voting for Jindal, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry or Ohio Gov. John Kasich in the Iowa caucuses.

"I want someone that I agree with their policy position, and I believe they're going to get it done," Kamienski said.

TRUMP

Donald Trump Defiantly Rallies a New 'Silent Majority' in a Visit to Arizona // NYT // Nick Fandos – July 11, 2015

Donald Trump, the real estate mogul and reality television star who has taken center stage in the race for the Republican presidential nomination this week, delivered a rambling monologue on Saturday, dismissing a long list of critics — including Jeb Bush, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Macy's — while rallying what he termed a new silent majority of voters.

Mr. Trump had less to say about immigration, the topic on which his comments have garnered so much attention, than about those who have criticized him. For more than an hour, he ticked through a list of businesses and candidates who have tried to censure him since his long-shot campaign began three weeks ago, and made light of their practices and intelligence.

"How can I be tied with this guy?" Trump said of Mr. Bush, whom many consider the Republican front-runner. "He's terrible. He's weak on immigration."

It also demonstrated what his party fears most about him: that he is an orator without regard for decorum who is willing to mock other Republicans.

The speech, hosted by the Republican Party of Maricopa County, drew several thousand people to the Phoenix Convention Center, making it one of the largest events for any candidate so far, though short of the crowd of 10,000 predicted by the Trump campaign. Outside, in the 100-degree desert heat, supporters who could not make it into the room waved American flags and sparred with a smaller but vocal group of protesters.

"The silent majority is back, and we're going to take our country back," Mr. Trump declared as he left the stage.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, whose tactics in tracking down illegal immigrants drew national attention and a federal conviction for racial profiling in 2013, preceded Mr. Trump on stage at the businessman's invitation.

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As he had earlier in the day in Las Vegas, Mr. Trump also brought to the stage Jamiel Shaw Sr., the father of a teenager killed in 2008 by an undocumented immigrant in Los Angeles, to share the story of his son's death and to endorse Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump's trip to the immigrant-heavy border region was the first since he asserted in his campaign announcement on June 16 that those crossing the United States-Mexico border illegally included rapists and criminals. Those remarks have earned Mr. Trump sharp criticism from business and political leaders across the country, including companies such as Macy's, Univision and NBC that have cut ties with him in recent weeks.

He came to Phoenix after addressing a series of private and public audiences Friday and Saturday in Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

"This has become a movement because people don't know what's happening," Mr. Trump said. "We can't be great if we don't have a border."

His welcome here was not entirely warm. Phoenix's vice mayor and several pro-immigrant groups had called for the city to bar him from speaking at the convention center, which it owns. Mayor Greg Stanton, a Democrat, rejected those calls, saying he would respect Mr. Trump's right to free speech.

But just as Mr. Trump's presence in the nominating race has confounded national Republican leaders trying to expand the party's appeal to minority groups, his visit here posed a dilemma for state officials trying to distance themselves from the anti-immigrant policies of the recent past.

Arizona's senators, John McCain and Jeff Flake, both Republicans, decided not to attend the event, as did the Republican governor, Doug Ducey. Mr. Flake also called on the Maricopa County Republican Party to rescind its invitation to Mr. Trump, a request that was ignored.

On Saturday, Mr. Flake said Mr. Trump's remarks, which he called "intolerant" and "inaccurate," would hurt Republicans here and around the country as they attempt to appeal to a broader demographic of voters.

"Particularly in Arizona, we have had such a long stretch of this kind of rhetoric and this kind of talk," Mr. Flake said in a telephone interview before Mr. Trump's speech. "We seem to be moving beyond that here, and this kind of rhetoric just pulls us back."

For many here, the event revived an image of the state, embodied by Sheriff Arpaio, as unwelcoming and harsh in its enforcement of illegal immigration laws — a perception that Mr. Ducey has worked hard to dispel. He barely discussed immigration during his campaign last year, and since taking office in January, he has worked to make his mark as a business-centric leader, focused on taxes and improving Arizona's beleaguered public education system.

Saturday's crowd, though, suggested that the topic remains a galvanizing force among the Republican Party's conservative base here. Many who had lined up outside the convention center said Mr. Trump was the only candidate willing to speak up about what they see as the risks of illegal immigration and the failures of federal law enforcement to solve the problem.

"I'm very interested in Mr. Trump," said Rod Patrick, a 72-year-old retired rancher and small business owner. "It's not necessarily because he's a good guy, but I'm fed up with politicians."

Steve Donaldson, 31, agreed, saying that Mr. Trump's experience in international business, rather than elective

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politics, made him the best-prepared candidate for the presidency. Mr. Donaldson said Mr. Trump could have been more artful in crafting his points about illegal immigration, in particular, but thought that the abrasive approach was actually helping him in the polls.

"I think his delivery on some of his points could use a little finesse," he said, "but that's also what I like most about him."

Trump tells supporters, 'We have to take back the heart of our country' **// WaPo // Philip Rucker & Robert Costa - July 11, 2015**

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, whose caustic comments about Mexicans have inflamed the immigration debate, told thousands of cheering supporters here Saturday that "we have to take back the heart of our country."

In a rambling, defiant speech delivered in this border state that has been the epicenter of the nation's divisive battle over immigration reform, Trump declared: "These are people that shouldn't be in our country. They flow in like water." One man in the crowd of 4,200 shouted back, "Build a wall!"

Basking in polls that show he has risen to the top of the crowded Republican field, Trump took obvious glee in mocking former Florida governor Jeb Bush, the establishment favorite who is setting fundraising records.

"Jeb Bush, let's say he's president — Oy, yoy, yoy," Trump said. He asked the crowd: "How can I be tied with this guy? He's terrible. Terrible. He's weak on immigration."

Trump's 70-minute address here, which sounded more like a stream-of-consciousness rant than a presidential-style stump speech, put an exclamation point on his bombastic push since his presidential announcement last month to return immigration to the forefront of the national conversation.

Trump criticizes U.S. border policy, trade agenda(1:22)

Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump criticized U.S. immigration and trade policies on Saturday in a speech that veered from accusing Mexico of deliberately sending criminals to the U.S. to professing respect for the Mexican government. (AP)

Bush and illegal immigrants were not the only targets of Trump's scorn: He also criticized Macy's, NBC, NASCAR, U.S. ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton and, several times, the media.

Republican leaders say they believe the celebrity billionaire has virtually no chance of being their nominee, much less of making it to the White House. And, for now at least, his following seems limited to the far right as opposed to the party's mainstream.

Yet Trump has reignited a heated debate over an issue, immigration, that the GOP had been determined to settle after it hurt Republicans in the most recent presidential election.

Party leaders increasingly fear that Trump could do damage to more viable candidates, such as Bush, who could lose their own footing on immigration. These candidates confront a familiar challenge: During the primary season, they must deal with the anger and anxiety that many on the right feel about illegal immigration. But they must do it in a way that will not damage their appeal to a broader electorate in November 2016.

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Republicans are handling Trump delicately for another reason as well: They fear that he could leave the GOP entirely and wage a well-funded third-party campaign, a possibility that Trump has not ruled out.

After Trump repeatedly referred to illegal immigrants in the harshest of terms — calling them, among other things, killers and rapists — Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus called Trump and asked him to tone things down. But that, if anything, has reinvigorated Trump and his vocal supporters.

The crowd in Phoenix began lining up outside the convention center before dawn, with many spending hours in temperatures that exceeded 100 degrees. Hundreds of people, who stood in lines snaking down several downtown blocks, did not make it into the ballroom for his speech.

Many of Trump's supporters blame illegal immigrants for crime and economic problems but also express dismay over cultural changes.

"We don't recognize our country anymore," said Jan Drake, 72, who lives in a retirement community outside Phoenix. "If you're coming into our country, you have got to conform to what we stand for. You speak English. You don't try to change our country to what your country was."

After watching Trump on television the past couple of weeks, Drake said that she has become convinced that "he would be a very strong president. He doesn't kowtow to anybody. The Republican Party will try to squeeze him out because they're afraid of him. But he can tell them where to go — to pound sand."

After he walked onto a catwalk stage here like a rock star, Trump basked in his crowd. "The word is getting out that we have to stop illegal immigration," he said.

While Trump was railing against Spanish-language broadcaster Univision, a handful of protesters in the crowd interrupted. Trump's security guards arrived to break up the skirmish that followed. His supporters screamed "USA! USA! USA!" in the protesters' faces as the guards escorted them out of the convention hall.

"I wonder if the Mexican government sent them over here," Trump said from the stage. He assured the crowd, "Don't worry, we'll take our country back."

Trump also had harsh words for Islamic State terrorists. If he becomes president, Trump said, "They will be in such trouble . ISIS, believe me, I would take them out so fast. You have to do it."

But it was his crusade against illegal immigrants that had Trump's crowd most enthused. After expressing shock that his immigration message has resonated so strongly with the GOP base, Trump said, "The silent majority is back, and we're going to take the country back." He walked off the stage to Twisted Sister's "We're Not Gonna Take It."

Earlier, as his plush Boeing 757 headed from an appearance in Las Vegas to Phoenix, Trump sat in a leather chair, surrounded by binders of articles about him and sipping a Coca-Cola — the full-calorie kind, he noted, because, "Have you ever seen a thin person drinking Diet Coke?"

"Something is happening in America. You may not want to see it, but something big is happening. People are sick and tired of politicians, and I'm here for them," he said in an interview. "I'm ready to go right at the Mexican

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government. I'm going to charge them $25,000 per illegal immigrant and, oh, I'll make them pay."

"Would Bush do that? Would Rubio? I don't think so," Trump added, taking aim at two of his more mainstream rivals, Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

Polls consistently show that a majority of Americans, including most Republicans, support an overhaul of the law to give millions of undocumented immigrants a means of staying in this country legally. But a passionate fraction of the Republican electorate believe otherwise.

Lou Brudnock, 71, said he is attracted to Trump's brash "truthfulness" on immigration and his willingness to be politically incorrect.

"This country today is sad, sad, sad," Brudnock said. "You can't say anything or they call you 'a racist.' It's like we're back in Nazi Germany. But look around, man. It's people here reading and listening to his message."

Trump, by virtue of his celebrity, has provoked a backlash far more widespread than ever seen toward lesser-known immigration hard-liners, such as former Colorado congressman Tom Tancredo (R). That means he could leave lasting damage to the GOP and whoever turns out to be its 2016 standard-bearer.

All of those cross-pressures were in play Saturday at Trump's appearances here and in Las Vegas. More mainstream Republicans had anticipated the spectacle and made no secret of their concern.

"I had hoped that we had moved on from some of the coarse rhetoric," said Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.). "When there's so many candidates, you can appeal to a very small segment of the population and get news and get elevated." Flake is a leading proponent of a comprehensive immigration measure that would include a path to citizenship for those who are in the country illegally.

Arizona has been a hotbed of anti-immigration sentiment, having passed a 2010 law that requires law enforcement officials to check the immigration status of people they detain and suspect are in the country illegally.

Maricopa County, Ariz., Sheriff Joe Arpaio — who in some ways is the face of that law, having been the subject of racial-profiling lawsuits — helped warm up the crowd before Trump's arrival.

"I know that Donald Trump is speaking out," Arpaio said. "He's getting a lot of heat. But, you know, there's a silent majority out here."

"We're not silent anymore!" a man in the crowd shouted.

Arpaio brought up the mostly dormant questioning of President Obama's birth certificate. He and Trump are perhaps the most vocal of the "birthers," who falsely contend that Obama was not born in the United States.

Immigration also has gained new attention after the June 30 shooting death of a woman along San Francisco's heavily touristed waterfront, allegedly by an illegal immigrant who had been deported five times from the United States.

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Trump — along with much of the rest of the Republican field — has criticized the policies of "sanctuary cities," where officials cannot detain those they suspect of being in the country illegally unless they have other grounds to do so.

Republican strategists say that it is possible to address anxiety over illegal immigration within the GOP base without alienating the electorate at large. Advisers to Bush and Rubio, for instance, say that their candidates can play a long game on the issue, continuing to make a case for comprehensive changes to the law, while waiting for the Trump boomlet to subside.

"You can give a fuller picture of those types of people who are coming to America who are not documented, who are not legal," said Peter Wehner, who was a top official in George W. Bush's White House. "And you can speak about them in a humane and decent and true way."

Donald Trump won't stop talking about immigration. Next up: Rallying 9,000 in Phoenix. // WaPo // Philip Rucker & Robert Costa – July 11, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, whose caustic comments about Mexican migrants have inflamed the debate over illegal immigration, is taking his tough-talk road show to this border state that has been the epicenter of the divisive national battle over reform.

Ignoring a plea from the Republican Party chairman to tone down his rhetoric, Trump plans to rally more than 9,000 supporters here in Phoenix on Saturday afternoon. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who built a national profile with his aggressive efforts to hunt down and deport undocumented immigrants in the Phoenix area, will join him on stage.

In remarks at the downtown Phoenix Convention Center, Trump plans to renew his vow to build an impenetrable wall across the U.S.-Mexico border and to attack by name several Republican presidential candidates as weak on immigration, according to people with knowledge of Trump's plans.

The Trump event, hosted by the Maricopa County Republican Party, has invited a barrage of criticism -- from the city's Democratic leaders, local business executives and more mainstream Republican office holders, such as Arizona's two senators, John McCain and Jeff Flake, who believe his language about an issue as sensitive as immigration is far too explosive.

But Trump expects to find a large and receptive audience, at least here in Arizona. The event, initially scheduled for the Arizona Biltmore, a historic luxury resort, was moved this week to the convention center to accommodate the thousands of people who were requesting tickets. By Saturday morning, more than 9,000 people had been given tickets to the event, according to Trump's campaign.

In his speech, Trump plans to single out several campaign opponents by name. People familiar with Trump's prepared remarks said he intends to go after former Florida governor Jeb Bush for having said many immigrants come to the United States out of an "act of love"; to cast Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) as a typical politician for once trying to achieve comprehensive immigration reform, a priority of President Obama's; and to accuse former Texas governor Rick Perry of being weak and unable to secure his state's border with Mexico.

Trump, a billionaire real estate mogul and reality television star, wants to make the case that other candidates are beholden to big donors and corporate lobbyists who are advocating changes to immigration law, but that he won't be influenced by anyone because he's funding his own campaign.

Sam Nunberg, a Trump adviser, said Trump's goal is to be a conduit for Republicans who feel like outsiders within

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their own party, especially on immigration.

"His persona is a mix of Ross Perot and Ronald Reagan," Nunberg said in an interview Friday. "A successful businessman disliked by the elites, a natural communicator, and someone who speaks for and is part of the conservative base."

Trump is expected to be greeted in Phoenix by protesters, just as he was at another campaign event Friday in Los Angeles, where he met with the families of crime victims who were killed by people who had come to the United States illegally.

"The illegals come in and the illegals killed their children," Trump said. "And we better get smart in the United States."

Before touching down in Phoenix, Trump will be in Las Vegas, where he will address Freedom Fest, a gathering of libertarian-minded activists. He also plans to hold a news conference in Las Vegas.

Donald Trump Antes Up On Immigration Stance In Las Vegas // AP – July 11, 2015

Business developer and Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump says his comments about immigration have become a movement and has pointed to violence perpetrated by immigrants in the U.S. illegally to defend his stance.

Trump is speaking on Saturday to a couple of thousand people gathered for the annual Libertarian-led FreedomFest inside a Planet Hollywood ballroom on the Las Vegas Strip.

Trump brought on stage Jamiel Shaw Sr., a Southern California man whose 17-year-old son was shot and killed in 2008 by a man in the country illegally. Shaw told the crowd about his son's death, adding he trusts Trump.

One Arizona woman who says she's been a Libertarian for 43 years held a sign protesting that "Donald Trump is not a Libertarian."

Trump: Mexico's 'Killing Us' at Border and on Trade // AP // Bob Christie & Kim Piercell – July 11, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump criticized U.S. immigration and trade policies on Saturday in speeches that veered from accusing Mexico of deliberately sending criminals across the border to professing respect for the Mexican government and love for its people.

Speaking to a gathering of Libertarians in Las Vegas before headlining an event in Phoenix, Trump repeated his charge that Mexico was sending violent offenders to the U.S. to harm Americans and that U.S. officials were being "dumb" in dealing with immigrants in the country illegally.

"These people wreak havoc on our population," he told a few thousand people attending the Libertarian gathering FreedomFest inside a Planet Hollywood ballroom on the Las Vegas Strip.

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In the 4,200-capacity Phoenix convention center packed with flag-waving supporters, Trump took a different view — for a moment — and said: "I love the Mexican people. I love 'em. Many, many people from Mexico are legal. They came in the old-fashioned way. Legally."

He quickly returned to the sharp tone that has brought him scorn as well as praise. "I respect Mexico greatly as a country. But the problem we have is their leaders are much sharper than ours, and they're killing us at the border and they're killing us on trade."

His speeches in both venues were long on insults aimed at critics and short on solutions to the problems he cited. When he called for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, the audience in Las Vegas groaned.

In a break from the immigration rhetoric that has garnered him condemnation and praise, Trump asserted that he would have more positive results in dealing with China and Russia if he were president and said he could be pals with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Asked by an audience member in Las Vegas about U.S.-Russia relations, Trump said the problem is that Putin doesn't respect Obama.

"I think we would get along very, very well," he said.

Trump has turned to victims of crime to bolster his argument that immigrants in the U.S. illegally have killed and raped. In Las Vegas and Phoenix, he brought on stage Jamiel Shaw Sr., a Southern California man whose 17-year-old son was shot and killed in 2008 by a man in the country illegally. Shaw vividly described how his son was shot — in the head, stomach and hands while trying to block his face — and how he heard the gunshots as he talked to his son on the phone.

Shaw said he trusted Trump, and encouraged the crowds in both cities to do the same.

Trump's speeches were filled with tangents and insults leveled at business partners such as Univision and NBC that have dropped him in the wake of his comments that Mexican immigrants bring drugs and crime to the U.S. and are rapists. He also directed familiar barbs at other presidential contenders, including Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton ("the worst secretary of state in the history of the country"), news media figures ("lyin' Brian Williams") and President Barack Obama ("such a divisive person"). He called journalists "terrible people."

As Trump lambasted Univision for cancelling its broadcast of the Miss USA pageant, one of his many business enterprises, a group of young Latinos unfurled a banner pointed toward the stage and began chanting insults. They were quickly drowned out by the crowd, and nearby Trump supporters began to grab at them, tearing at the banner and pulling and pushing at the protesters. Security staff managed to get to the group and escorted them out as Trump resumed speaking.

"I wonder if the Mexican government sent them over here," he said. "I think so."

Arizona's tough-on-immigration Sheriff Joe Arpaio introduced Trump in Phoenix after outlining the things he and the candidate have in common, including skepticism that Obama was born in the United States. He went on to criticize the federal government for what he called a revolving door for immigrants, saying many of them end up in his jails.

"He's been getting a lot of heat, but you know, there's a silent majority out here," Arpaio said, borrowing from a

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phrase Richard Nixon popularized during his presidency in a speech about the Vietnam War.

A single protester standing outside the room where Trump spoke in Las Vegas was more concerned about the businessman being tied to the Libertarian Party.

"I've been a Libertarian for 43 years and Trump ain't no Libertarian," said Linda Rawles, who asserted that including Trump in FreedomFest set back the party's movement.

Donald Trump storms Phoenix // Politico // Ben Schreckinger – July 11, 2015

Most other candidates would have folded. Some might have doubled down. On Saturday, Donald Trump tripled down.

After refusing to back off during weeks of fierce backlash for his comments about the alleged criminality of undocumented Mexican immigrants, Trump met on Friday in Beverly Hills with the families of people killed by such immigrants. A day later, he came to Arizona and said, “We have to stop illegal immigration. We have to. We have to,” to the cheers of 4,000 supporters.

On Monday, RNC Chairman Reince Preibus called Trump to congratulate him on his success and reportedly ask him to “tone it down.”

But Donald Trump only tones it in one direction: up.

“I love the Mexican people … I respect Mexico … but the problem we have is that their leaders are much sharper, smarter and more cunning than our leaders, and they’re killing us at the border,” said Trump, in front of a giant American flag at the Saturday afternoon rally at the Phoenix convention center. He added, “They’re taking our jobs. They’re taking our manufacturing jobs. They’re taking our money. They’re killing us.”

At one point, Trump brought a man named Jamiel Shaw up to the podium to talk about his late son, explaining, “an illegal immigrant shot him violently.”

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks during the Atlantic Councilâ€™s series â€œAmericaâ€™s Role in the Worldâ€? at the Atlantic Council's offices in Washington, Wednesday, July 8, 2015. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

He compared himself favorably to other moguls like Martha Stewart and Richard Branson, mocked the brands that cut ties with him, and called out “lyin’ Brian Williams” and much of the rest of the news media.

He assured his supporters, “I’m, like, a really smart person.”

And he vowed to be politically effective. “I know the system better than anybody. I’m a donor,” he said. “Of course I give to Democrats, I want to get things done … They all loved me. They don’t love me so much anymore.”

Trump concluded by declaring, “The silent majority is back, and we’re going to take the majority back, and we are going to make America great again.”

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Ahead of the event, John McCain called Trump's immigration comments "offensive." Arizona's other Republican senator, Jeff Flake, called his views "coarse, ill-informed and inaccurate." News outlets and fact-checkers pointed out that Trump's assertion — that the undocumented immigrants coming from Mexico are that country's criminal element — appears to be flat wrong.

But while the press and the party condemn Trump's rhetoric, many voters are eating it up. When Trump mentioned McCain, the crowd booed.

People who showed up for the event said that, like them, Trump is a straight-talker. They ascribed their enthusiasm, in some cases devotion, to their conviction that Trump alone has the courage to say what other politicians believe (and at least when Trump looked out at the scene and declared,"This is absolutely unbelievable," they were probably right).

Hazel Powell, 68, said she is happy for the first time in seven years because of Trump's candidacy. After President Obama's election, she went into self-exile in Bulgaria, where she taught English for two years in the Peace Corps. "I was depressed every day," said Powell, wearing a cowboy hat, American flag nail polish, American flag cowboy boots, and a shirt that said, "Arrest Obama."

"He just seems to have things clear in his head," said Powell of Trump. "I just hope he keeps it up because I'm happy now. He's done a number on me and many other people, emotionally."

"He says what he means like I do. He's not wishy-washy," said Joan Rosicki, 67, of Phoenix. "He's for the people. It doesn't matter if you're male or female. He also is for the Spanish people. I am, too. We just don't like the lawlessness."

She said she had been a fan of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie until he took a helicopter ride with, and hugged, President Obama in the wake of Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Of the president, she said, "he wants to be a dictator. I don't know if he's ever going to leave. My friends all told me he has to because of the First Amendment."

A spokeswoman for Trump said 10,000 people had signed up for free tickets (those tickets were spotted being sold on Craigslist for $100). The ballroom's maximum occupancy was 2,158. A convention center event staffer said the fire marshall had agreed to allow twice that number inside and estimated that at least 1,000 more people would be left out in the sun.

When the door opened to let supporters into the ballroom, the first wave ran in, creating a miniature stampede.

Diane Brest, the first person in line an hour before Trump's scheduled 2 p.m. arrival, said she had been waiting there since 4:45 a.m. "You want to make sure you get in the door," said the transplant from New York, clutching a red Solo cup. As she spoke, security broke up a scuffle that had broken out between two men behind her over their places in line.

In a YouGov/Economist online poll released on Thursday, Trump led the Republican field with 15 percent support, four points ahead of both Jeb Bush and Rand Paul. His lead was even greater when the poll tabulated respondents' first- and second-choice candidates.

Trump chose his Saturday venue well. In Arizona, home to some of the most fervent opposition to illegal immigration in the country, even some political leaders had his back. "Trump is kind of telling it like it really, truly is," said the state's former governor, Jan Brewer, who supported some of the country's strictest and most controversial anti-immigration efforts in office, ahead of his visit.

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Joe Arpaio, the sheriff of Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix, spoke before Trump arrived. Arpaio has earned national notoriety for his aggressive approach to targeting undocumented immigrants. In 2013 a federal court found him guilty of racial profiling — the Justice Department concluded in 2011 that he oversaw the worst pattern of racial profiling by a law enforcement agency in the nation's history — and he's been accused of abuse of power and violating election laws.

Arpaio drew loud cheers, saying that both he and Trump had questioned Obama's citizenship and taken on "the illegal immigration problem," and that they shared a birthday — June 14.

Trump drew scores of protesters as well. Dozens of them erupted in shouts of "stop the racism" inside the ballroom during his speech, before being booed and shouted down with chants of "U.S.A! U.S.A!" and escorted out by security.

"He's not fit to be president. To me, he's just a big clown" said Tom Malejo, 67, outside the event, clutching a sign with Trump's face that said "Arizona rejects your racism."

A gray-haired white man in line for Trump cupped his hands over his mouth and shouted at Malejo and a companion, "Vamos por Mexico."

Around the corner, another protester, dressed as the devil, yelled, "I'm the devil! I support Donald Trump!"

Trump draws thousands in Phoenix, continues immigration theme **// CNN // MJ Lee – July 11, 2015**

At what was his largest campaign event yet -- with a huge U.S. flag stretched from one side of the stage to the other -- Donald Trump addressed his faithful followers Saturday at the Phoenix Convention Center.

Two dozen supporters stood behind the Republican presidential candidate holding signs reading, "Trump, Make America Great Again," while an estimated 5,000 supporters looked on.

Expressing his amazement at the size of the crowd, Trump said, "This is unbelievable. This began as 500 people in a ballroom in Phoenix."

The campaign was asked to move to a larger venue to accommodate the thousands of people who wanted tickets, according to Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks.

The Trump campaign said 15,000 tickets were distributed for the event at the Phoenix Convention Center, where the North Ballroom has a capacity of only 4,200, according to the facility's website. The campaign said thousands were turned away because of fire regulations.

The candidate was welcomed by several high-profile supporters, including Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, whose stands against illegal immigration and often controversial punishments have earned him a reputation as a hard-nosed, unyielding lawman.

During his speech, Trump turned the lectern over to Jamiel Shaw Sr., the father of a high school student killed by an undocumented immigrant, who spoke about why he is supporting the candidate.

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Although campaign aides said earlier Saturday that Shaw was going to introduce the candidate, he ended up speaking midway through the speech.

Shaw's son, a high school football star, was shot and killed in Los Angeles in 2008 by a gang member born in Mexico. On Friday, Trump met in Los Angeles with Shaw and other family members of victims of crimes perpetrated by undocumented immigrants. He then gave a lengthy press conference in which he consistently railed against illegal immigration. Saturday's speech was filled with similar words.

Brief disturbance

Playing to the crowd, Trump dug in on the controversial themes that have made him loved by some and despised by others. As he mentioned earlier in the day at a Las Vegas campaign rally, Trump claimed China is laughing at U.S. trade negotiations. "They have geniuses and we have people who don't have a clue. We have stupid leaders," he said.

Trump, who announced his White House campaign bid last month, sparked national outrage by saying that some people crossing the border into the United States from Mexico were "rapists" and "criminals." A slew of corporations, including Macy's, NBC and ESPN, responded to his inflammatory remarks by severing business ties with the real estate magnate.

"I love the Mexican people," he said. "I love their spirit. I respect Mexico as a country. Their leaders are much sharper and smarter than ours."

But, Trump said, "They're killing us at the border and killing us in trade."

Trump also promised to release financial documents next week that will show he is an even more successful businessman than has been reported.

"I'm not saying that to brag," he said.

A short protest broke out during the speech. Some protesters held up a banner and Trump supporters started screaming at them. It was unclear what the banner read.

There was a brief scuffle and for a few minutes it was very tense. Security came and escorted the protesters out.

"I wonder if the Mexican government sent them over here," Trump said.

"Don't worry, we'll take our country back," he said, as the crowd cheered.

'He can inspire a crowd'

Robert Bowater said he came to see Trump in Phoenix because he thinks the issues of illegal immigration and sanctuary cities deserve more attention.

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Bowater, a 68-year-old resident of Pinal County, Arizona, said he doesn't expect any President to deport all undocumented immigrants, but he thinks more can be done to punish the ones who commit crimes in the United States.

"I'd like to see a mass deportation of the criminals," Bowater said.

Just as Bowater was saying he thought it was possible that Trump could win the presidency, Linda Murtha -- standing behind him -- couldn't help but shake her head.

"He can't win," said Murtha, a Chandler resident in her early 40s, but "he definitely can inspire a crowd."

She came to the event with her mother, Provi Murtha, who was interested in seeing "The Donald" in person. Like her daughter, Provi is skeptical of Trump's intentions. She noted that he's donated to Democrats, including Hillary Clinton.

"Is he a Democrat? Is he a Republican? What is he?" Provi wondered aloud. Even though she came to see the event, "I'm not going to make up my mind to vote for Donald Trump, that's for sure."

Both Provi and Linda Murtha said they like Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

Freedom Fest warm-up

In a warm-up to his appearance at the Phoenix campaign rally, Trump stopped by Freedom Fest in Las Vegas, an annual gathering of conservatives, where he addressed a crowd of several hundred people and took questions.

But first he called Shaw to the stage. The room was hushed as Shaw talked about his son who was gunned down seven years ago by an undocumented immigrant. Shaw said the man who killed his son had been released from a county jail on his third gun charge, four months early. His son was walking home, and was close enough for Shaw to hear the gunshots.

Shaw said he almost thinks of Trump "as a father figure" even though the two are similar in age. "He's the kind of man you would want to be your dad," Shaw said. "He's a nice guy. He put himself out there for black people. I know I can trust him," Shaw continued.

He said when Trump spoke out about illegal immigration he saw that "Trump loves America" and is willing to risk his life for it.

Trump doubles down – again

Trump doubled down once more on comments that have ignited a controversy in the United States

Illegal immigration is "a major, major problem in this country" that has to be solved, Trump said.

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Promising to secure U.S. borders with a impenetrable fence, Trump claimed undocumented immigrants are coming to the United States from all over the world. "This isn't just Mexico," he said. "They're coming from the Middle East, and we better be very careful," Trump warned.

And the support that he is receiving from Shaw and others demonstrates that the businessman's message is appealing to some voters who view illegal immigration as a serious problem.

On the subject of trade, Trump was blunt with his opinion of U.S. trade negotiators, "Chinese leaders are much smarter than (President Barack) Obama and his bunch of clowns," he said to laughter and applause from crowd.

"I make good deals. I have great respect for China. Their leaders are too smart for our leaders," he said.

Trump fervor increasing

Trump's fervor appears to increase with each campaign rally as he ramps up his rhetoric against illegal immigration.

Detractors are many, including some in his own party, but Trump is gaining supporters as well -- evidenced by the switch in venues for Saturday's event to the Phoenix Convention Center. Trump tweeted Saturday night that he would not be attending the Miss USA Pageant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Sunday because he had campaign stops scheduled in Phoenix. Trump is a partial owner of the Miss Universe Organization, which oversees the pageant.

A CNN/ORC poll released July 1 found Trump and Republican rival, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, on the rise nationally.

The two are the only GOP presidential contenders to enjoy double-digit support among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

Trump on Jeb Bush: "I don't see him as a factor" **// CBS News // Reena Flores – July 11, 2015**

In the last few weeks Republican presidential candidate and real estate mogul Donald Trump has faced no shortage of GOP criticism over his vitriol against Mexican immigrants. And on Saturday, he proved that his political detractors wouldn't be left wanting for Trump's own brand of criticism.

Several GOP contenders vying for the White House have denounced their fellow candidate for his remarks, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, whose wife Columba is Mexican, has said that there should be "no tolerance" for the views of the reality television star.

Trump, whose most recent poll numbers show him in a close race with Bush, knocked the GOP establishment frontrunner, saying "I don't see [Bush] as a factor."

"How can I be tied with Jeb Bush?" Trump said at a rally at the Phoenix, Arizona convention center. "He's terrible. He's weak on immigration. Sanctuary cities. Did you know that he had five of them in Florida when he was governor?"

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"We have incompetent politicians -- not only the president," Trump told the crowd, which, according to his campaign, numbered in the thousands. "I mean, right here in your own state you have John McCain. I just hate to see when people don't have common sense, don't have an understanding of what's going on. ... Some people don't get it and I don't think they'll be in office much longer."

Trump made headlines recently when he categorized Mexican immigrants as criminals and "rapists" during his presidential announcement speech. It only fueled the Trump fire -- and the poll numbers -- when business after business severed their corporate relationships over his inflammatory remarks.

The political backlash has been fierce. When the 2016 contender announced his event in Phoenix, it drew wide-ranging criticism, including from long-time GOP legislators like McCain and Jeff Flake, Arizona's other senator. Even Republican National Committee Chair Reince Preibus reportedly told Trump to tone down his rhetoric.

Several immigration protesters interrupted Trump's speech just as he finished his criticisms over the television station Univision, which recently cut ties with him. Trump addressed the hecklers, saying "I wonder if the Mexican government sent them over.

"Mexico is taking our jobs, manufacturing, taking everything and killing us on the border," Trump said. "Don't worry, we'll take our country back very soon." The crowd eventually drowned out the protesters with chants of "USA! USA!"

One possible method Trump suggested to "take back our country" involved charging a fee to Mexico for every undocumented immigrant that entered the U.S.

"Every time Mexico sends someone over, we charge Mexico $100,000 for someone they send over," Trump proposed. "They make so much money - it's peanuts. We charge Mexico $100,000. It starts to add up. We have to take care of our country. We have to do something to take back our country."

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Arizona's law enforcement official infamous for his tough-on-immigration policies, took the stage ahead of Trump.

Arpaio signaled that he had one definitive thing in common with Trump: a birth certificate. It was a throwback to a 2012 election issue -- President Obama's birthplace -- that spelled the end of Trump's initial flirtations with a presidential candidacy.

Trump also visited Freedom Fest in Las Vegas, Nevada early Saturday afternoon. Speaking to a more subdued crowd, he gave a similar speech, bashing the press, touting his vast fortune, and reiterating that he loved the Mexican people along with the Chinese, even if he "beat" them often.

Trump wins hearts of some, scorn from others in Ariz. **// USA Today // Yvonne Wingett Sanchez – July 11, 2015**

During a campaign stop Saturday in Phoenix, Donald Trump's larger-than-life personality and harsh rhetoric on immigration made him a hero to some local Republicans, while deepening the disdain of his critics, who said Trump's inflammatory remarks are further alienating Latinos from the GOP.

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Trump, a Republican presidential candidate who has faced mounting criticism for labeling immigrants as rapists and criminals, doubled-down on his illegal immigration message before a cheering crowd inside the Phoenix Convention Center.

In a speech lasting more than an hour, Trump, a real-estate mogul and former reality-TV star, expressed love for Mexico, saying his remarks have been taken out of context by the media. Trump repeatedly said he respects Mexico's leaders, who are "too smart" for American leaders, whom he repeatedly called "stupid." And Trump later told the media that he expects to win the Latino vote.

He offered no detailed plan to address illegal immigration, but pledged before 4,200 people to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

After a disruption by a group of Latinos in the audience, he told the crowd: "Don't worry, we'll take our country back."

The crowd cheered wildly.

Trump's message — and his delivery — moved voters like Scottsdale conservative Jim Ettwein.

"He's an egotistical guy, but I love an egotistical guy in this case," said Ettwein, a management consultant. "He's making the campaign fun, interesting, issue-oriented. And I think he's speaking from his heart; he really believes this stuff."

Trump's remarks on illegal immigration, Mexico and the border resonate with a segment of the Republican base, Ettwein said, "because no matter what you think about certain Mexicans, or other Mexicans coming over, there are many good Mexicans here but there's an awful big problems that we're not addressing."

And Trump will address it, said voter Dolores McCaslin, 62, an independent.

McCaslin, who waited hours for Trump to take the stage, said she was blown away by his "impassioned" speech on illegal immigration and the military. She said it solidified her belief that Trump would make a trustworthy president, one who can make great the nation's standing in the world.

"We need new, we need fresh and we need a man that's got a backbone, and he appears to have that," McCaslin said. "He loves the Mexican people. He doesn't like illegals. I love that."

Others jeered Trump's message and said he's using the immigration issue to get attention. Some of the dozens who gathered outside called him "racist" while others held signs reading "Deport Trump" and "Arizona rejects your racism."

Some protesters shouted at Trump supporters, who shouted back as they waited to be let into the building.

"Deport you, deport you," several Trump supporters shouted at the protesters, who gathered in the street and on the sidewalk. Phoenix police Sgt. Trent Crump characterized protesters as "law-abiding citizens" who want to express their First Amendment rights.

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Gilbert Romero was with the group of about a dozen protesters that disrupted Trump's speech. A member of the crowd shoved him as the group was escorted from the room.

Outside the convention center, Romero told The Republic that Trump is a polarizing figure.

"Trump's racist rhetoric does not represent Arizona and he is not welcome in Phoenix," he said.

Romero said he was disappointed that Trump mocked the protesters by suggesting they were working for the Mexican government.

"I was born less than one mile from the convention center," Romero said.

Alejandro Landeros, of Glendale, said Trump is creating an atmosphere of hatred toward Mexicans.

"I feel sad this is happening," he said. "They think it's OK to put us down. They judge us without knowing. We're just coming here because we want to make a difference but we're getting shut down."

Alfonso Aguilar, executive director of the Latino Partnership at American Principles in Action, called Trump's remarks on immigration "baseless" and "insulting" to both Mexican-Americans and undocumented immigrants.

"They are not criminals. They're not rapists. That's an insult," Aguilar said at a news conference following Trump's speech. "Studies actually show that immigrants coming into the community lower crime rates. Immigration creates economic opportunity. It creates jobs for the working class."

He also said that many people who work for Trump are Mexican-Americans, or could be undocumented, and that Trump has profited from their work.

"He's using this (campaign) as another reality show to get attention," he said. "He's playing with the American voters. He does not have the executive temperament to be president of the United States."

'I'm, like, a really smart person': Donald Trump exults in outsider status // The Guardian // Rory Carroll – July 12, 2015

GOP presidential candidate rails against immigrants, Mexico, the media and Jeb Bush in Phoenix rally despite protests from Latinos calling on him to 'Stop the hate'

Donald Trump was on a roll and he was not going to let anyone, least of all Latino infiltrators, spoil his triumph.

"This has become a movement," he exulted from the podium. "The silent majority is back, and we're going to take our country back ... the word is getting out that we have to stop illegal immigration."

Thousands of supporters packed into the Phoenix convention center on Saturday roared their approval. Finally here was a candidate who would catch and banish "the illegals".

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Right around then a few pro-immigrant activists hidden in the crowd outed themselves and unfurled a banner: “Stop the hate.”

The defiance lasted just a few seconds before Trump supporters swarmed around them pulling, grabbing and shoving. Security guards intervened and frogmarched the intruders away amid jeers and insults.

Trump’s voice boomed over the commotion. “I wonder if the Mexican government sent them over here. I think so.” The jeers intensified. “Don’t worry,” he reassured the crowd, “we’ll take our country back.” Chants of USA erupted.

It was a brief, telling moment in the Republican candidate’s campaign event in Arizona, the highlight of a weekend swing through western states. Instead of cooling it, as Republican leaders have pleaded, the real estate tycoon-turned GOP insurgent dialed up anti-illegal immigrant rhetoric. His supporters adored it.

“He says everything that’s in our hearts. No baloney,” said Mary Przybylo, 75. “He’s got to keep it up. Keep it going.” Others echoed the sentiment. “He’s not afraid to say what we feel,” said Kent Pyper, 47, who runs a printing business. “No one else tells it like it is.”

That perception has made Trump, so often derided as a buffoon, an electric candidate. He has tapped a deep well of anger which is powering a surge in the polls.

The Phoenix rally shone a light on that momentum. It also exposed frailties. Trump’s freewheeling campaign may be sowing the seeds of its own destruction.

The hour-long speech was vintage Trump. An unscripted, rambling mix of jokes, boasts, provocations, policy prescriptions to “make America great again” and tirades against illegal immigrants, Mexico’s government, Democrats, the media, terrorists and especially fellow Republicans.

“Let’s say Jeb Bush is president: ay, ay, ay,” he groaned, eliciting laughs. “How can I be tied with this guy? He’s terrible.”

He mocked Macy’s, ESPN and other business partners who have dumped him, saying he would have the last laugh. “Thousands and thousands of people are cutting up their Macy’s credit cards.”

One moment he bragged about his best-selling books, the next he vowed to zap Islamic State. Then he was talking about trade deals with Japan, Caterpillar trucks, golf balls, phone calls from Paris, Humvees, conversations with his wife, Sino-Russian relations, sanctuary cities, Hillary Clinton and his desire to send Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, the US hostage traded for Taliban prisoners, back to Afghanistan.

“I went to the Wharton School of Business,” he noted several times. “I’m, like, a really smart person.”

The press, he said, jabbing a finger at a phalanx of television cameras, were liars. “They’re terrible people. Terrible. Not all of them, but many of them.”

Trump promised to release personal financial records this week, which will clear the way for him to debate rivals in an August 6 televised debate.

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If there was a connecting thread it was illegal immigration and how it was draining America's greatness. The warm-up speakers were Mary Ann Mendoza, whose police officer son Brandon died in a vehicle accident with an undocumented immigrant, and Maricopa county sheriff Joe Arpaio, who lamented that they escaped justice.

Trump introduced Jamiel Shaw, the father of a Los Angeles high school student shot dead by an undocumented Mexican immigrant in 2008.

Trump said he loved Mexico's people but decried their leaders as cunning manipulators of an "out of control" border. He promised to fine Mexico $100,000 for every person who illegally entered the US. "This has become a movement. This has become a movement because people don't know what's happening. We can't be great if we don't have a border."

Every time he bashed illegal immigrants the 5,000-strong capacity crowd – hundreds had to listen from outside – roared.

Republican leaders concluded after Barack Obama's victory in 2012 that the party must reach out to Latinos to stand a chance of capturing the White House in 2016. Most of Trump's rivals have criticised, to varying degrees, his statements about Mexico sending rapists, criminals and diseases into the US.

That leaves the reality television host a clear field to tap a current of anger and resentment among certain white people, rich and poor, Republicans and non-Republicans.

"He's telling like it is. He's an American hero," said Elizabeth Shoemaker, an elderly woman wearing a cowboy hat and holding a Trump = Truth placard. Marty Hermanson, 54, a former local GOP party chairman in a pinstriped suit, said the candidate was expressing people's inner feelings. "He's hit a nerve."

Supporters ranged from Tammie Malkow-Dunham, 46, a soft-spoken Canadian who resents people skipping the queue for citizenship, to Alice Novoa, a peroxide blonde in a star-and-stripes jacket who ranted about a Mexican plan to use immigrants as fifth columnists to invade and massacre US Christians.

There was also Rick Kral, 73, a retired electrical engineer, fretting about Islamist terrorists flocking through El Paso ("it's on the internet"), and Diana Brest, 64, an unemployed former insurance worker who feared losing out in the job market to younger, bilingual people. "They need to be escorted off our land." Brest had queued since 4.45am, first in line, to nab a prime spot.

Trump's unfiltered, unvarnished rhetoric taps the sense that undocumented immigrants are competitors, or cheats, or worse, and that a lily-livered, politically correct GOP abandoned the fight.

Their zeal has energised Trump's campaign. But Phoenix also exposed the downsides.

The Republican party of Maricopa county hosted the event but almost the entire state party leadership, including the senators John McCain and Jeff Flake, and governor Doug Ducey, stayed away. Maverick is one thing, outcast another.

The event galvanised a small but spirited Latino response. About a hundred protesters braved searing heat outside the center to chant for hours. Francisca Porchas 33, one of the infiltrators who unfurled the banner inside the hall,

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emerged seething. “I was pushed and elbowed. It was actually very scary. He’s stirring extremist sentiment.” Jose Patino, 26, who was also jostled, predicted a Latino backlash at the polls. “He’s probably hurting his party and helping the Democrats.”

After Trump left the stage, and the adrenaline of the event ebbed, some supporters conceded doubts about their hero’s long term viability. “Presidential material? Huh. Do I have to answer that?” asked Joe Przybylo, 67, a retired postal worker. “I like the straight talking. It’s from the heart. But, you know, it can be a bit rough. Maybe he needs more work.”

Donald Trump expects 9,000 people at his immigration rally in Arizona // VOX // Dara Lind – July 11, 2015

Donald Trump is holding a rally on Saturday in Phoenix, Arizona where he expects 9,000 people to show up. He's focusing on immigration and crime — which has gone from an offhand comment during his presidential campaign launch last month to the central theme of his run.

Accordingly, Trump's going to be introduced by Jamiel Shaw Sr., whose son was killed by an unauthorized immigrant in 2008. Shaw's become a visible figure among conservative opponents of unauthorized immigration (he's testified before Congress multiple times about the death of his son).

Arizona isn't an early primary state. But it's been the epicenter of populist, anti-immigration sentiment for Republicans for several years now. Trump's going to appear with Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio — who's become nationally famous for his emphasis on rounding up unauthorized immigrants (as well as the conditions of the "tent cities" he's put them in). And the rally is sponsored by the Maricopa County Republican Party.

But Arizona's GOP is also a microcosm for the deeper split in the Republican Party. Both the state's senators, John McCain and Jeff Flake, were original cosponsors of the comprehensive immigration reform bill the Senate passed in 2013 — and both have criticized Trump for the inflammatory comments about immigrants that have become a hallmark of his presidential campaign (repeatedly calling them rapists and murderers, and saying that Mexico and other countries aren't "sending their best people").

But the criticism from McCain and Flake is exactly what Trump says distinguishes him from the rest of the Republican Party. His speech Saturday, according to press reports, will criticize other Republican candidates for president for not taking the immigrant threat seriously — because they're beholden to business interests that want to encourage immigration.

In other words, Trump is claiming that because he's rich enough to finance his own campaign, he's able to speak the truth about immigration in a way other candidates can't.

The speech was originally scheduled to take place at a smaller venue, but got moved to the convention center this week due to a surge in demand, according to Trump's campaign.

Here's what Donald Trump supporters believe, according to their emails to me // VOX // Andrew Prokop – July 11, 2015

The very arguments that are leading media elites to mock and dismiss Donald Trump could actually be empowering his rise in the polls.

As I've started writing more about Trump in recent weeks, I've begun getting much more email from his fans. The messages reflect a certain symbiotic relationship between Trump and the establishment he professes to loathe: As

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the media piles on and as corporations cut their ties, Trump's utter unwillingness to concede an inch endears him further to his supporters, sending his numbers higher.

RelatedIs Trump following the path of Michele Bachmann and Herman Cain?

The thoughts and feelings expressed in these messages suggest that Trump is tapping into something real — real enough to send his poll numbers up and real enough for people to take time out of their day to send strongly-worded messages to a reporter. Many of these emails I've gotten are derogatory toward unauthorized immigrants, and some are blatantly racist. Others praise Trump as a principled outsider who has the ability to get things done.

So here are a representative sample of the Trump-related emails I've gotten over the past 48 hours, as a reminder that Trumpmentum is real and is, in some ways, being fed by the negative coverage Trump has gotten. For people who hold Trump's opinions, and who have felt powerless against a media establishment that often dismisses their views, watching Trump fight on their behalf has been an inspiring experience — and they are willing to speak up and defend him in turn.

While there's probably not enough here to win him an election, don't dismiss the sentiment in these emails or the arguments coming from Trump as fake. He is tapping into something that really exists, even if many in the media wish it didn't.

Donald Trump Outdoes Himself In Defiant Phoenix Speech **// TIME // Zeke Miller – July 11, 2015**

Donald Trump is not going anywhere.

Casting himself as more than a billionaire real-estate magnate and reality television star on his bid for the White House, Trump claimed Saturday to speak for a “silent majority” of Americans who are frustrated with the direction of the country.

Rather that deterred, he appeared energized by the pushback his candidacy has received from the Republican Party and his primary opponents after suggesting weeks ago that many who have entered into the U.S. illegally are “rapists.” In a rambling speech to a crowd of thousands in the Phoenix Convention Center, he struck a potent combination of populist and protectionist policies, designed to tap into the undercurrent of unease within American society.

“The silent majority is back, and we’re going to take the country back,” he said, referencing former President Richard Nixon’s famous speech reaching out to Americans who were opposed to protests of the Vietnam War. “We’re going to make America great again.”

Trump promised to fine Mexico $100,000 for every person crossing into the U.S. illegally, pledged to tax imports by American-owned businesses that have shipped jobs overseas, and said he could destroy the Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria [ISIS] with overwhelming force. “I would take them out so fast,” he said.

He knocked traditional conservatives for not being committed to taking care of the poor. “I know this doesn’t sound very conservative, but we’ve got to take care of everyone, not just the people up there,” he said, motioning to the ceiling, as the crowd roared and whistled.

For more than an hour, the speech featured Trump meandering into name-calling of celebrities and businesses that have dissociated with him as he has become embroiled in negative headlines. “Thousands and thousands of people are cutting up their Macy’s credit card,” he claimed, of the department store that dropped his branded clothing line.

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Trump, who is all-but-certain to make the GOP debate stage on Aug. 6 in Cleveland, indicated he would release his personal financial disclosure this week, which would clear the way for him to face off with his Republican rivals.

The speech was rife with Trump's signature over-the-top flourishes and free-associations. "I went to the Wharton School of Business," he said at one point."I'm, like, a really smart person."

"The press are liars. They're terrible people. Terrible," he said, pointing at the assembled cameras and scribes. "Not all of them, but many of them."

"ISIS right now is building a hotel in Iraq," he said. "They're competing with me."

"How can I be tied with this guy, he's terrible," he added of Jeb Bush, referencing recent surveys showing them neck-and-neck among Republican voters. "I'm killing everybody on jobs," he said of his poll numbers. "I'm killing everybody on leadership."

At one point he bragged about the number of lobbyists he has employed and donations he has made to political candidates of all stripes, but promised he would be incorruptible. "I don't need money," he said, adding that if people wanted to donate to his campaign, he wouldn't turn them away.

Trump also warned that Bush would be a poor negotiator on the international stage, and criticized him for his flip-flopping answer on whether he would have invaded Iraq.

Trump discussed Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the U.S. solider who was held captive by the Taliban for nearly five years after disappearing from his forward operating base and traded for the release of five prisoners at Guantanamo Bay in 2014, saying he would "send him back."

Trump also maintained his aim on the Mexican government, accusing its leaders of being "totally" in control of Spanish-language broadcaster Univision, which ditched broadcasting his Miss Universe pageant amid the furor over his immigration comments. "They're killing us at the border, and they're killing us in trade," he said of Mexico. "They're killing us"

As a small group of protestors scuffled with Trump supporters and security as they tried to hold up a banner, Trump quipped, "I wonder if the Mexican government sent them over here, I think so. We'll take our country back."

Trump basks in adulation at Arizona immigration rally // The Hill // Mark Hensch – July 11, 2015

GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump addressed thousands of potential voters Saturday at a wild rally in Phoenix, basking in the adulation of supporters after several weeks of controversy.

The New York businessman told listeners that support is building for his tough talk on border security and illegal immigration.

"The word is getting out that we have to stop illegal immigration," he said. "We have a situation that is absolutely out of control."

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“We’re getting ripped,” Trump added. “We’re getting taken apart piece-by-piece slowly.”

The outspoken billionaire blamed America’s traditional political class for letting immigration reach crisis levels.

“We have incompetent politicians and not just the president,” Trump said of President Obama.

“Right here, in your own state, you have John McCain,” he said of Arizona’s Republican senator.

“I just hate to see that people don’t have common sense,” Trump added.

“For some reason, some people just don’t get it,” he said. “I don’t think they will be in office much longer.”

Trump covered familiar ground during Saturday’s event, linking illegal immigration with violent crime and arguing America is no longer competitive in the global economy.

The White House hopeful’s tough talk drew Hispanic protesters, who tried disrupting his remarks that evening.

Security ejected the hecklers, as Trump continued describing illegal immigration as a public menace.

Trump then introduced Jamiel Shaw, whose son was shot and killed by an illegal immigrant.

“Think about your child laying in the street dead,” Shaw said of his son’s murder. “We were not designed for that.”

“I felt real hope,” he said of hearing Trump’s attacks on violence stemming from illegal immigration.

“When Trump came out aggressive like that, it showed he can weather the storm.” Shaw added. “We need someone who can weather the storm. He’s the only person talking about saving our country.”

Trump’s address is the fever pitch of national attention over his outspoken views on border control and immigration policies.

His campaign announced before Saturday’s event it was moving to the Phoenix Convention Center amid overwhelming demand for additional seating.

Arizona’s Republican Party made it clear Friday it was not involved in the crowded scene.

“Immigration is an important issue, which is why all the candidates in the Republican presidential primary are talking about it,” Tom Sifert, a spokesman for the Arizona GOP, told The Hill.

“The state party did not play a direct role in Trump’s visit this weekend, but all the Republican candidates that have visited Arizona in the last few months have had well-attended events, and we expect that tradition to continue,” he said.

Trump’s stop in Phoenix also follows an appearance at FreedomFest in Las Vegas earlier that afternoon.

A Latino heckler challenged Trump’s stance on border security and illegal immigration during a question-and-answer-session there.

“Did the government of Mexico get you to come up here and say this?” Trump asked the man after he said he is “insulted” by Trump’s campaign rhetoric.

“Senor Trump, you’re fired,” the audience member retorted as Trump moved the Q&A session to other participants and reiterating his vow he will build a wall along America’s southern border with Mexico.

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Trump has weathered three weeks of international outrage over his formal campaign launch in New York last month.

The New York business mogul sharply criticized Hispanic immigrants and Mexico during the speech June 16.

“They’re sending people who have a lot of problems,” Trump said during his announcement speech at New York City’s Trump Tower.

“They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists,” he added. “And some, I assume, are good people.”

Multiple businesses have since terminated their corporate relationships with the outspoken billionaire.

Macy’s, NASCAR, NBC and Univision have all severed ties with Trump over remarks that critics say are bigoted and racist.

The backlash is not hurting Trump’s place in the polls, however.

A Reuters/Ipsos sampling released Saturday discovered that he is in a virtual deadlock with former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) for control of potential Republican voters.

An Economist/YouGov survey published Thursday, meanwhile, had Trump is the preferred GOP nominee for president among 15 percent of respondents.

A third ranking by the left-leaning Public Policy Polling (PPP) firm had him leading the Republican presidential field in North Carolina as well.

Trump’s abrasive remarks are worrying Republican leaders that it is harming their chances with the crucial Hispanic voting bloc next election cycle.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus reportedly spoke with Trump on Wednesday, requesting that he halt his outbursts on immigration.

Trump has repeatedly ignored the RNC’s requests for a softer tone on the topic in public.

Saturday’s rally offers proof Trump intends on making border security and illegal immigration key portions of his campaign platform.

Donald Trump meets with families of Americans killed by illegal aliens // Brietbart // Michelle Moons – July 11, 2015

2016 Presidential candidate and real estate mogul Donald Trump met Friday afternoon with family members of Americans killed by illegal aliens in the wake of a multiple deportee felon confessing to shooting and killing young Kate Steinle in San Francisco, California.

Sabine Durden lost her son Dominic Durden to the actions of an illegal alien three years ago come Sunday. After participating in Friday’s meeting with Trump she spoke exclusively with Breitbart News sharing her experience inside the meeting:

Mister Trump met with the families in a separate room. He listened to each one of our stories and was visibly shaken and touched. We got hugged and he promised to continue to fight for us and our kids. We then went to a separate room where the press was staged. He addressed them and then gave each of us time to share our story. The press tried to pin him down on his previous comments. He stood his ground. I had a coke bottle that read

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HERO on it and I told him that he should have it. He is my hero because he was the only one who got attention to this truly important issue.

It was such a pleasure and true honor to meet this man. A legend and someone to bring America back.

Leading up to the meeting Durden was extremely excited. Afterwards she also remarked of Trump's patient listening ear saying it energized her to continue sharing her story and the important message of the need for border and immigration law enforcement.

The families of Jamiel Shaw Jr., Sabine Durden, Don Rosenberg, Lupe Moreno, and Brenda Sparks, all who have lost loved ones, were included in Friday's meeting.

Trump has come under fire in the mainstream media over comments made about illegal immigration since the announcement of his candidacy. He has since risen to number one in polls of the Republican field for president.

Breitbart News reported not only Friday on the families included in the meeting and brief portions of their stories, but also at an event last November, the National Day of Remembrance for Americans killed by illegal aliens. Many of the families have had to fight fiercely to see their loved ones' killers brought to justice or even just deported. Others have watched their loved ones' killers go free.

Trump will address attendees at Freedom Fest in Las Vegas, Nevada and later at a stadium venue in Phoenix, Arizona.

Durden also recently penned separate, open letters to both President Barack Obama and Donald Trump. The letters came in stark contrast to one another as the letter to Obama expressed Durden's grievance over the president inviting a known illegal alien to an LGBT event at the White House who then heckled the President about deportation.

Durden questioned when Obama would acknowledge her and others who have lost loved ones to the actions of foreign nationals illegally present in the United States and "WHEN do legal citizens that have been affected by this immigration issue, get a chance to share their side of the story with you?" (original emphasis). The letter is included in an exclusive Breitbart News report.

Love him or hate him, Donald Trump could 'create chaos' for GOP in 2016, experts predict // NY Daily News / / Celeste Katz – July 11, 2015

Depending on who you ask, Donald Trump is either a brave truth-teller or a flash-in-the-pan loudmouth masquerading as a legitimate candidate for President.

Either way, he's currently a huge headache for the Republican Party.

Despite the outrage he's generated — and the business he's lost — because of his incendiary comments about Mexican immigrants, Trump is making enough waves in the polls to likely score himself a slot at the first televised GOP primary debate next month.

"He's going to be on that stage — and he's going to create chaos," predicts Gary Segura of the Seattle-based polling firm Latino Decisions.

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Segura, who also teaches political science at Stanford University, says if Republicans are to be successful in 2016, they must capture 38% to 40% of the Hispanic vote.

Trump's denunciation of Mexico for exporting "rapists" and killers, Segura says, obviously won't help: "The first step when you're in a hole is to stop digging — and Trump is decidedly not in the 'stop digging' camp."

Richard Himelfarb, a political science professor at Hofstra University and host of presidential debates, says Trump's refusal to tone it down could be his undoing.

"Donald Trump is going to keep doubling down on this and will ultimately say something so absurd that even Republicans who agree with him and his stance will have to abandon him," said Himelfarb.

It's "undeniable" that Trump is damaging the party, Himelfarb said — and among the expansive 2016 field, the real estate mogul may be stealing the most thunder from Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

Trump "speaks to people who are kind of pissed off and angry and frustrated — and that's Rand Paul's constituency," he said.

The biggest beneficiary of Trump's onslaught could be Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton — who is getting something of a reprieve from GOP attacks thanks to the Trump phenomenon of the past month.

Even as liberal critics bash Trump for hard-liner showboating, some in the GOP question his conservative street cred.

Daniel Garza of The LIBRE Initiative — a Koch brothers-backed conservative group that promotes "economic freedom" to Hispanics — scoffs that Trump's a Donny-Come-Lately to right-of-center politics.

"Until recently, Mr. Trump did not present himself as a leader of the conservative movement. In the past he's spoken positively about huge tax increases, government-run health care, higher consumer taxes, and more," Garza wrote in an essay on Facebook.

Some Republican watchers aren't quite ready to hit the panic button.

"In order for Trump to damage the GOP brand with respect to Latinos, he will have to be viewed as a legitimate, viable candidate" — and that hasn't happened yet, says Sirius XM Patriot Radio host Thomas Basile.

Trump may be a celebrity, Basile says, but he hasn't made that critical transition "to being viewed as a leader - or further still, someone who could actually be President of the United States."

Jeb Bush Beware: Trump's Know Nothing Populism Is A Hit With Conservatives In Phoenix // Politicus // Keith Brekhus – July 11, 2015

From a policy standpoint, its hard to take Donald Trump's presidential campaign seriously. Trump's ideas, like for

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example, building a wall and having Mexico pay for it, are clownishly naive and logistically impractical. Yet for all his ego-stroking, self-congratulatory rhetoric and his absurd policy prescriptions, Donald Trump is striking a chord with frustrated and anxious conservative voters.

On Saturday, Trump spoke to an overflow crowd of thousands of supporters at the Phoenix Convention Center. Sure, a few hecklers briefly interrupted the Trump love fest, attempting to unfurl a banner in the midst of the crowd before they were apparently escorted out of the event. However, overall, the large crowd was filled with admirers who boisterously cheered Trump's every pronouncement, no matter how bizarre the words he spoke were.

Not only did Trump attract an enthusiastic crowd to Phoenix, but Saturday morning a Reuters-Ipsos Poll found that Trump was tied with Jeb Bush for first place in the Republican presidential field. Trump of course leveled multiple attacks at Bush during his Phoenix speech. He took the occasion to depict Jeb Bush as stupid, feckless and a weak negotiator who would fold in about two seconds and who "lobbyists push around like a piece of candy."

Trump elicited applause for attacking Jeb Bush, as well as other Republicans, including Arizona Senator John McCain, for being weak. By contrast Trump portrayed himself as a strong leader who would make "the military so strong we'd never have to use it", and he warned that if he is elected "ISIS will be in such trouble." Of course, he didn't offer any specifics, he just implied that his mere presence in the White House would make all of America's enemies cease and desist right before our very eyes.

Trump's speech was the triumph of style over substance, but there can be no denying that his cartoonishly simplistic bombast found an approving audience of conservatives in Phoenix. His Nativist Know Nothing populism conveniently scapegoats illegal immigrants.

However, with the the help of a compelling personal horror story by Jamiel Shaw whose son, Jamiel Shaw the second, was murdered by a person who had entered the country illegally, Trump has the anecdotes to push his narrative. There is no question that Shaw's personal story is both tragic and moving, giving Trump's anti-immigrant message a sympathetic figure to rally behind, that partially softens and obscures the xenophobic nature of Trump's overall message.

While it would be easy for other Republican candidates to dismiss Trump as not a serious candidate, that would be a mistake. The Republican Party has long courted conservative voters by appealing to their base fears, However, now that Donald Trump has amplified the GOP message, Republican leaders, like Dr. Frankenstein in the laboratory, are trying to deal with a monster they helped create.

By calling every Republican politician not named Donald Trump "stupid", Mr. Trump is burning bridges rather than building alliances within the Republican Party. However, Republican leaders may be slow to realize that a lot of conservative voters seem to agree with Trump. Republican politicians have spent years cultivating hatred of government bureaucrats and politicians among their base, encouraging voters to choose a "limited government" Republican over a "big government" Democrat. In their critique, however, they have exposed themselves as politicians to incur the wrath of voters disillusioned with the system the GOP has told them to distrust.

Trump's phony populism has exploited conservative voters' distrust of the GOP mainstream to his political advantage. In the process, he represents a direct threat to Jeb Bush, whose conservative family is too much a part of the political establishment to earn the loyalty of disgruntled conservative voters. Trump's speech took aim at Jeb Bush several times, and at one point he told the crowd:

If you people go with Bush, you're going to lose.

Judging by the crowd's reaction, it was apparent they believed him. Now to be fair, the group of people assembled to hear Trump speak in Phoenix was hardly representative of the general population or even the GOP primary base. Candidate events tend to draw supporters rather than a broad cross-section of the party. Nevertheless, given

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the size and the enthusiasm of the crowd in Phoenix, and Trump's current strong polling numbers, Jeb Bush and the rest of the GOP field had better beware. In the conservative universe, the Trump bump is starting to look all too real.

UNDECLARED

WALKER

Scott Walker Works to Gain Credibility as Official Campaign Begins **// NYT // Patrick Healy - July 12, 2015**

After listening to Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin as he has traveled the country preparing his campaign for president, which officially begins on Monday, admiring voters most often describe him as "authentic," "real" and "approachable," Mr. Walker's advisers say.

Two words these voters do not use about him? "Smart" and "sophisticated."

"Scott is working on that," said Ed Goeas, a veteran Republican pollster and a senior adviser to Mr. Walker. "Look, 'approachable' is worth its weight in gold in politics. 'Smart' is something voters look for in legislators who craft policy. But Scott is preparing hard to talk about every issue."

As Mr. Walker becomes the 15th prominent Republican to enter the 2016 race, the crucial question he must answer is whether he can cross the threshold of credibility so that someone entering a voting booth can imagine him as president, according to several leading Republicans and interviews with regular voters.

While Mr. Walker is ahead in some opinion polls, including for Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses, a series of early gaffes alarmed party leaders and donors and led Mr. Walker to begin several months of policy tutorials. The collective hope is that Mr. Walker can avoid what Mr. Goeas and other advisers describe as Sarah Palin's problem — becoming a candidate who is initially popular among Republicans, like the 2008 vice-presidential nominee, but loses luster because of missteps as the campaign goes on.

Mr. Walker is now emerging from his crash course with the aim of reassuring activists and contributors, who have given relatively modest amounts to his political operation so far, that he will no longer sow doubts about himself with comments like comparing pro-union protesters to Islamic State terrorists, refusing to answer a question about evolution or saying he does not know if President Obama is a Christian or if he loves America.

Whether Mr. Walker can demonstrate that he has a command of the challenges facing America, and is big enough for the presidency, will be tested in the coming weeks on the campaign trail and in televised debates.

Gov. Terry E. Branstad, Republican of Iowa, said Mr. Walker had "a lot going for him given that he's a neighboring state governor who has been tried and tested on tough issues." Yet Republican voters in Iowa want to be confident that Mr. Walker will not make political errors that might raise doubts about his capabilities and make Hillary Rodham Clinton look more prepared if she emerges as the Democratic nominee.

"Iowa is a state that rewards candidates who work hard," Mr. Branstad said, "and I think Governor Walker will benefit if he shows he has done the work to be ready to lead."

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Judd Gregg, a former three-term senator from New Hampshire, noted that Mr. Walker had a good run of events there in the spring, followed by long absences as he focused more on briefings by his advisers. Many Republicans are not sure what to expect from him as he returns on Thursday as part of his campaign kickoff tour.

“If Walker comes across as very credible, he has the political record and the message to do very well in the New Hampshire primary,” Mr. Gregg said. “But again, he has to be credible.”

Concerns about the breadth and depth of Mr. Walker’s knowledge extend to both national security and domestic policy issues.

Two Republicans recalled being at a closed-door event last winter when, they said, Mr. Walker did not articulate a strong answer to a question about Internet neutrality, instead promising to look at the issue. Others questioned his sophistication in boiling down national security challenges to matters of “safety”; he believes people relate to that word, whereas “national security” is an elitist phrase.

And his repeated comments that the most important foreign policy decision of his lifetime was President Ronald Reagan’s firing of air traffic controllers in 1981, because it got the attention of the Soviet Union, was a sign to some Republicans that Mr. Walker, who dropped out of Marquette University and has not traveled widely abroad, has a limited worldview.

“His lack of knowledge in the foreign policy area has been a problem because, well, you want your commander in chief to be confident on those issues,” said Bruce Perlo, chairman of the Grafton County Republican Committee in New Hampshire.

Recognizing the problem, Mr. Walker has joined in hourslong meetings in Washington; Madison, Wis.; and elsewhere for tutorials on the Islamic State, Iran, Russia and military and geopolitical confrontations, as well as human rights abuses, border security and immigration policy, and other issues, advisers said.

He has relied on Republicans such as former Senator Jim Talent of Missouri, who leads Mr. Walker’s national security advisory council, and Andrew Bremberg, his policy director, who previously was a top aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

In recent months, Mr. Walker has also met or spoken with Prime Ministers Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel (as part of a trip to Israel), David Cameron of England and Stephen Harper of Canada; President Xi Jinping of China; President Toomas Hendrik Ilves of Estonia; retired military leaders such as former Gen. David H. Petraeus and former Gen. Jack Keane; and a number of American and foreign ambassadors.

Aides to Mr. Walker provided this list in response to questions about his briefings; they declined an interview request to Mr. Walker.

Mr. Keane, in an email, said he provided an analysis of global security challenges facing the United States, which he has done for several other candidates from both parties. He said he was not an adviser to any campaign, and he declined to offer an assessment of Mr. Walker’s capabilities.

Pete Peters, a Republican voter in New Hampshire and a Navy veteran, said that the rise of the Islamic State was his foremost concern in the 2016 election, and that he felt far from certain that Mr. Walker has the ability to defeat the terrorists.

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“I like Walker, but he doesn’t come across like a guy who has thought hard or creatively about the Middle East,” Mr. Peters said.

Mr. Walker does seem to have made some progress: One of the Republicans who was concerned about net neutrality said that, about a month ago, he heard Mr. Walker give a thoughtful and crisp statement about the issue.

“A lot of us are still worried about Walker’s off-the-cuff answers, and about how Walker will handle himself when the real shooting starts in Iowa, when the television attack ads and direct-mail pieces start hitting him,” said the Republican, who leads a prominent national conservative group and is not aligned with any presidential candidate. He spoke on the condition of anonymity to candidly assess Mr. Walker, with whom he has a good relationship.

The policy briefings have cut into time that Mr. Walker might have otherwise devoted to fund-raising events, which his advisers cite as one reason for the relatively modest amount that he and his allies have raised for his political committees in recent months. The dollar amount is expected to be disclosed soon.

But some potential donors have said in recent weeks that Mr. Walker’s busy schedule was not an issue for them; rather, they were taking a wait-and-see approach on Mr. Walker.

Advisers to Mr. Walker emphasized that policy briefings were not the only important way that Mr. Walker has educated himself on the issues. He has also learned by talking to voters about their concerns and observations.

“You had Sarah Palin, who became the vice-presidential nominee and then went away for weeks and made a big deal of going to school, so when she came back it was like, ‘What have you learned?’” Mr. Goeas said. “But with Scott, as he has looked at these issues and thought through these issues, he has also absorbed a great deal from interacting with people.

“The key issue for a lot of them isn’t, ‘Is he smart enough to govern?’ But, ‘Is he tough enough to govern?’” Mr. Goeas added. “And the answer for many Republicans will be yes.”

Scott Walker’s primary strategy: Motorcycles, barbecue and a Winnebago // WaPo // Jenna Johnson – July 11, 2015

Scott Walker plans to spend next week formally launching his presidential campaign — and then visiting five states in six days, a whirlwind trip that includes stops at four shops that sell Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

The Republican governor of Wisconsin is a bit obsessed with Harley-Davidson, a Milwaukee-based company that he likes to plug while on the road. He started riding more than a decade ago while working as the Milwaukee County executive and now owns a 2003 Road King. For a candidate who can sometimes come across as a bit straight-laced and dorky, riding a Harley has helped Walker exude a more laid-back, rough-and-tumble image. He likes to riff on the freedom that comes with a long ride and he has pledged to ride a Harley in New Hampshire and South Carolina. (He knocked out a nearly 40-mile ride in Iowa last month.)

Walker will start the week in the Milwaukee suburbs, signing his state's budget into law on Sunday afternoon and then jumping into the race for president on Monday evening. On Tuesday morning, he's off to Las Vegas to visit the Red Rock Harley-Davidson. On Wednesday, he will be in South Carolina, stopping at the Low Country Harley-Davidson in North Charleston and barbecue joints in Lexington and Mauldin. That night he is making a quick trip to Atlanta. On Thursday, Walker will be in New Hampshire, visiting a diner in Amherst and the Seacoast Harley-Davidson in North Hampton.

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Then on Friday, Walker is kicking off a three-day tour of Iowa, crossing the entire state twice in a Winnebago. For months, Walker has been heavily focusing on Iowa, home to the first in the nation nominating contest. His aides have said that a key to Walker's success in 2016 is winning Iowa — and already he is leading in early polls.

He starts Friday in Davenport, then heads to the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art and wraps up his first day at his campaign's Iowa headquarters in the Des Moines suburbs. Walker will start Saturday at a grocery store in Council Bluffs, just over the river from Omaha, then visit a GOP office in Sioux City and the Carroll Cycle Center — a motorcycle dealer in western Iowa that sells Harleys. That evening, Walker will give remarks at the Family Leadership Summit at Iowa State University in Ames and finish the day in Haverhill. On Sunday, Walker will stop by an event for a Republican state representative in Cedar Falls and visit Dubuque. He might also sneak in a visit to Plainfield, a tiny town in northeast Iowa where he and his family lived for seven years when he was growing up.

Scott Walker tweet said he's running, but who posted it? **// AP – July 11, 2016**

Twitter says it's investigating a premature presidential announcement that popped up on Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's account Friday evening.

The message, which was quickly deleted, said, "Scott Walker is running for president."

Twitter spokesman Nu Wexler said later, "We're looking into today's issue, and we've determined the Walker team was not at fault."

After the initial tweet, the Walker campaign did not deny responsibility, saying only, "Stay tuned for Governor Walker's announcement on Monday."

Later, Walker press secretary AshLee Strong said, "We're happy Twitter confirmed this wasn't Team Walker's post and are investigating what happened."

It's no secret that Walker will enter the 2016 Republican presidential race in Wisconsin on Monday afternoon. He is set to become the 15th Republican presidential candidate after he confirms his intentions Monday.

Twitter Accidentally Made Scott Walker a Presidential Candidate Ahead of Schedule **// ABC News // Jordyn Phelps – July 11, 2015**

For a brief time on Friday, Scott Walker became a presidential candidate -- by accident and three days ahead of schedule.

It all started with a tweet from Walker's verified Twitter account that read: "Scott is in. Are you? Join our team today" along with a photo of the Wisconsin governor with the following unmistakable message: "SCOTT WALKER IS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT."

The only problem: Walker's team didn't send the tweet. And it was soon deleted from his feed.

Twitter is now coming forward to clear Walker's team of any fault and investigating how the tweet was posted in error.

"We're looking into today's issue, and we've determined the Walker team was not at fault," a spokesman for

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Twitter said in a statement Friday night.

Walker's press secretary AshLee Strong told ABC News in a statement, "We're happy Twitter confirmed this wasn't Team Walker's post and are investigating what happened."

Walker is not expected to officially declare his candidacy -- on purpose -- until Monday evening in Waukesha, Wisconsin, the same place where the Wisconsin governor declared victory following a recall election in 2012.

Soon after the tweet was deleted on Friday, the Walker campaign was steering clear of the errant tweet entirely.

"Stay tuned for Governor Walker's announcement on Monday," Strong told ABC News.

The accidental tweet aside, Walker's team has been making an active push on social media to build interest in Walker's coming announcement, with a social media strategy that included releasing his logo in nine separate pieces over nine days on Instagram.

Walker is not the only presidential hopeful whose candidacy was accidentally stated ahead of his official announcement. Jeb Bush made a slip on his own, saying that he was running for president during a non-campaign event more than a month before he launched his official campaign.

Could union-busting Scott Walker be the next president? **// BBC // Gary O'Donoghue – July 11, 2015**

As the Republican field for president gets increasingly crowded, one late entry has the possibility of being a strong contender for the nomination. Scott Walker is little known across the US - so why is he a frontrunner?

For those feeling less than inspired by the prospect of another Bush-Clinton face-off for the presidency in 2016, there's one man in particular who has the potential to ruin that scenario.

Meet Scott Kevin Walker - the Republican governor of the Midwest state of Wisconsin who is set to announce his presidential bid on Monday.

Over the past few months, the 47-year-old, Harley-Davidson-riding governor has become something of a poster child for conservatives and come from nowhere in the polls to join former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Florida Senator Marco Rubio among the top tier of candidates.

Not only has he pleased business groups by pushing through laws dismantling collective bargaining and automatic deduction of union dues, but he has taken a hard line on social issues too, such as abortion, making him attractive to core conservatives who tend to be further to the right.

"He's sort of the one person in the field that can play in both lanes," said Bill McCoshen, a political consultant in Wisconsin who knows Walker well.

"He can be in the establishment lane and he can also be on the anti-establishment side; and you know most people expected Jeb Bush to take the establishment vote and there would be somebody else in the anti-establishment lane - Walker is sort of creating problems for everybody."

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Republicans also like him because he is a winner. When he took on the unions in Wisconsin, he faced 100,000 angry protestors at the state capitol.

"We hadn't seen anything like that in Madison since the Vietnam War protests," said Jason Stein, a reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and author of a book on Walker.

"It was just a sea or a lake of humanity... you had every floor space, practically, covered with people, I mean there were times when you couldn't see the flagstones at all. It was exceptional, it was unprecedented."

Denise Ehron, an administrator at the University of Wisconsin, was one of the many who opposed Walker. Standing in her backyard in the city of Whitewater the anger is still fresh. She says the reforms saw her household income drop by 14%.

"We had just bought a house a couple of years before that so we had a mortgage that we hadn't had before," Ehron said.

"But also just by being union members it became a bad word on campus, and in the town and in the state, and if you said you were a union member, 'Oh, oh you're a public employee? Ooh that's nasty'. Just morale-wise was really hard to take."

Walker faced the protestors down and subsequently won a recall election - no easy feat in a swing state like Wisconsin.

But if his opponents are numerous so are his supporters.

Sitting in a diner next to Marquette University in Milwaukee, Katie Flannigan spreads out her scrapbooks from her student days there.

They are stuffed full of cuttings, leaflets and notes from her time running Walker's campaign for student president. One badge reads "beam me up Scotty".

"Whoever is president has to be human, and he is such a kind person and fair person... sure he looks the part of a politician, but he is not anybody that would say one thing and do another," Flannigan said.

"I would bet my house on that. He's just a good hearted person."

"I think what's changed about him is less hair and he's added country music to his playlist."

Walker failed to win that student election - one of a very few electoral setbacks in his political career. He dropped out of school shortly after. If he became president, it would make him the first leader without a college degree since Harry Truman.

His entry into the crowded Republican presidential field has not been without problems.

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At a big conservative conference in Washington in February, he sent his communications team into damage-control mode after suggesting he would be able to cope with the threat from the so-called Islamic State, given how he handled 100,000 protestors in Wisconsin.

Governor Walker "was in no way comparing any American citizen to IS," a spokeswoman told reporters in a hurried statement.

Walker then survived a recall election

He has also faltered on foreign affairs more generally - batting questions away on a trip to London when asked his views.

He does appear to be holding up, however, and significantly seems to have the fundraising ability to stay the course.

"The recall in 2012 is the gift that keeps on giving" said Charles Franklin, a professor at Marquette and director of the Marquette Law School poll which has been tracking Walker's appeal.

"The special election allowed him to raise unlimited donations...from over 300,000 donors."

And that, he said, gives Walker "solid potential".

OTHER

GOP primary candidates compete for anti-abortion vote **// AP // Bill Barrow – July 11, 2015**

Trying to distinguish themselves in front of an important group of social conservative activists, Republican White House hopefuls on Friday used the National Right to Life Convention to share personal stories and detail the abortion restrictions they've helped write into law.

The question now is whether the scramble helps or hinders an anti-abortion movement seeking unity as Republicans look to win back the presidency next November.

First Amendment case brings abortion protesters' rights before Supreme Court

National Right to Life Political Director Karen Cross urged the assembly to "make a decision right now that the issue of life trumps all else."

"There is no such thing as the perfect candidate," she warned.

Carol Tobias, the group's president, argued in an interview that President Barack Obama benefited in both of his national victories from social conservatives who didn't back John McCain in 2008 or Mitt Romney in 2012.

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“The quickest way to defeat a pro-lifer,” Tobias said, “is to fall in love with your candidate and then get your feelings hurt when they don’t win the nomination.”

The candidates gave repeated nods to those sentiments, praising each other and hammering Democratic favorite Hillary Rodham Clinton, who supports abortion rights. Still, they spent most of their energy asserting their own conservative supremacy on the issue.

An Associated Press-GfK poll conducted in January and February found that 51 percent of Americans think abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 45 percent think it should be illegal in most or all cases.

Santorum boasted of how he sponsored the federal law that bans certain late-term abortion procedures after initially soft-pedaling his abortion stance because of Pennsylvania’s closely divided electorate.

“You know me; there’s no quit in this dog,” he said. “Go ahead and nominate somebody who’s just going to go along. Then try to convince yourself you’ll make a difference.”

Rick Perry predicted the next president will nominate as many as four Supreme Court justices – who could presumably overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationally. “If I have the opportunity to put justices on the Supreme Court, they will not be squishy,” the former Texas governor said.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio explained his abortion opposition as “inseparable from the effort to reclaim the American dream … for every child,” and recalled abortion restrictions he helped pass as speaker of the Florida House of Representatives.

Jeb Bush, whose tenure as Florida governor overlapped Rubio’s speakership, mentioned some of the same laws in a video presentation. He did not physically attend the convention.

Ben Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, has never held elected office, but he blasted abortion providers as “evil.”

Tobias said her group doesn’t wade into primaries in part because it’s hard to find meaningful distinctions between candidates, though she acknowledged the campaigns will find them.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie supported abortion rights earlier in his career, something he generally avoids talking about now.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker celebrated passage of a new state ban on most abortions beyond the 20th week of pregnancy. Yet late in his 2014 re-election campaign, he aired an ad in which he affirmed his abortion opposition while emphasizing that Wisconsin law “leaves the final decision to a woman and her doctor.”

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham has sponsored a ban on abortions after 20 weeks. But some conservatives blast him for voting to confirm Obama’s two Supreme Court nominees.

Tobias said those details sometimes matter to abortion opponents, but she maintained that nitpicking is counter-productive.

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For many anti-abortion voters, she said, choosing a primary candidate is about “trust” and “personal feel” rather than policy. The candidates’ approaches here suggest they understand that.

Rubio and Perry talked about seeing their children on ultrasounds during pregnancy. Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, talked about how he gravitated to pediatric surgery because of how much he values children.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal talked Thursday night about having to defend his anti-abortion stance in his interviews for medical school.

Santorum tells the story of doctors advising that his daughter, Bella, who suffers from a rare genetic disorder, would not have a good quality of life and could die as an infant. “There is no better way to preach the gospel of life,” Santorum said Friday, than to have school-age Bella “in the White House.”

Public opinion, meanwhile, remains divided.

An Associated Press-GfK poll conducted in January and February found that 51 percent of Americans think abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 45 percent think it should be illegal in most or all cases.

At NARAL Pro-Choice America, a leading abortion rights advocacy group, Sasha Bruce said that means Republicans “are fighting over a slice of the minority,” putting them at a disadvantage in November.

Tobias countered that among voters who rank abortion as a key issue in deciding on a candidate, “we win a majority of them.” Her movement’s job, she said, is to increase the share of voters who cast their vote “based on the life issue. If we do, we win.”

Bruce said her organization is focused on educating general election voters about the success abortion opponents have had limiting abortion access through state-by-state restrictions. “They aren’t overturning Roe v. Wade, but they’re just chipping away,” she said.

White House contenders Trump, Bush in virtual dead heat: Reuters/Ipsos poll // Reuters // Will Dunham – July 11, 2015

Donald Trump, who became the center of attention in the race for the 2016 Republican U.S. presidential nomination with his denunciation of illegal immigrants from Mexico, has vaulted into a virtual dead heat with Jeb Bush atop the field, a Reuters-Ipsos poll released on Saturday showed.

Trump, a billionaire real estate developer, had the support of 15.8 percent of respondents in the online poll of self-identified Republicans compared to 16.1 percent for Bush, a former Florida governor.

They were followed by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie at 9.5 percent, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul at 8.1 percent, surgeon and author Ben Carson at 7.2 percent and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker at 5.8 percent.

However, given a choice of three candidates - Bush, Trump or Florida Senator Marco Rubio - Bush had a comfortable lead at 42 percent among the respondents in the Reuters-Ipsos Republican poll, compared to 28.4 percent for Trump and 20 percent for Rubio.

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In the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remained in front with the support of 48.3 percent of self-identified Democrats polled, with Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders continuing to inch up, at 22.9 percent, and Vice President Joe Biden, who has not entered the race, at 10.7 percent.

Numerous businesses including NBC Universal, Univision, Macy's, Serta and NASCAR have cut ties with Trump since he accused Mexico, in his June 16 speech announcing his candidacy, of sending rapists and other criminals into the United States. Trump on July 6 added that illegal border-crossers from Mexico are carrying "tremendous infectious disease."

The controversy over Trump's immigration comments has dominated news coverage of the Republican campaign in recent weeks, and he has climbed in the Reuters-Ipsos poll to draw essentially even with Bush. On June 30, the poll had Bush at 16.9 percent and Trump at 12.8 percent.

A hard line against illegal immigration may find a receptive audience in Republican primary voters, with U.S. conservatives often accusing President Barack Obama of doing too little to secure America's border with Mexico.

Trump also has accused Bush of being weak on illegal immigration, bringing Bush's Mexican-born wife into the debate. "If my wife were from Mexico, I think I would have a soft spot for people from Mexico. I can understand that," Trump said in a CNN interview.

Trump has increasingly come under fire from some of his rivals for the Republican nomination including Bush.

"Everybody has a belief that we should control our borders," Bush said last week. "But to make these extraordinarily kind of ugly comments is not reflective of the Republican Party. Trump is wrong on this."

In the Reuters/Ipsos poll of the Republican race, 404 self-identified Republicans age 18 or over were questioned from July 6-10. The poll had a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 5.7 percentage points.

In the Reuters/Ipsos poll of the Democratic race, 504 self-identified Democrats age 18 or over were questioned over the same time period, with a credibility interval of 5.1 percentage points.

Senate Republicans push to punish 'sanctuary cities' **// The Hill //Jordan Carney – July 11, 2015**

Republicans want to use a largely non-controversial education bill to crack down on so-called "sanctuary cities" in the wake of a San Francisco shooting that garnered national attention.

The recent killing of 32-year old Kathryn Steinle, allegedly shot by an illegal immigrant who had already been deported five times, has sparked a debate over cities that don't carry out all federal immigration laws.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), a presidential contender, as well as Sens. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) and Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), have filed an amendment to the Every Child Achieves Act, the Senate's overhaul of the Bush-era No Child Left Behind law, that would redirect funding meant for sanctuary cities to state and local governments that comply with federal law.

Sessions accused officials of “deliberately and openly” disregarding federal immigration laws as an “act of

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defiance."

"Congress has an obligation to ensure limited taxpayer dollars are not given to cities and counties who refuse to cooperate with federal law enforcement," he said.

Republican Sen. David Vitter, who is running for governor in Louisiana, has also introduced an amendment cracking down on sanctuary cities to the education bill.

But tying the immigration measure to the education bill, which has so far managed to avoid any political landmines, would likely sink the legislation, which has the strong support of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.).

The conservative push to punish sanctuary cities comes as congressional Democrats have walked a fine line in the wake of the shooting.

Democrats have pressed for more details, but been careful to not directly blame San Francisco's laws for Steinle's death, and have shown even less appetite for limiting federal funding to the more than 200 sanctuary cities in the United States.

Republicans have sought to raise pressure on Democrats over the issue.

"Reasonable people can and do differ on issues of border security, interior enforcement and the status of illegal immigrants present in our nation," said Cotton. "We should not disagree about the importance of the rule of law."

Other Republicans, including Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.), another 2016 contender, are also rolling out legislation in the wake of the shooting.

Paul is expected to introduce a measure requiring state and local agencies to tell U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when they've arrested an illegal agreement. The agencies would also have to hold someone if ICE requests.

Paul's proposal would also tie state and local law enforcement grants to compliance with federal immigration laws, according to his office.

The San Francisco shooting has intensified Republican anger over the administration's policies, with sanctuary cities just the latest issue in a years-long fight over immigration.

Cruz, Vitter, Sessions, along with Republican Sens. Chuck Grassley (Iowa), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, David Perdue (Ga.), John Cornyn (Texas), Mike Lee (Utah), Thom Tillis (N.C.) and Orrin Hatch (Utah), wrote to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson criticizing a government program that outlines when an illegal immigrants should be turned over to the federal government.

They said it "requires immigration law officers and agents to ignore plain law and public safety, solely to the benefit of criminal aliens."

They have also challenged President Obama directly, suggesting that by refusing to crackdown on cities that don't comply with federal law he created an environment that made Steinle's death possible.

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Vitter said that under Obama “dangerous criminals are getting a free pass.”

Cruz, meanwhile, acknowledged that while sanctuary cities are an issue, he added that the “problem is exacerbated” by the Obama administration.

“We deal with the problem that the Obama administration consistently refuses to enforce the laws,” he told Fox Business. “[It] is just not the cities who are defying the law. It’s the federal government.”

The battle over sanctuary cities also comes ahead of a year when Republicans will have to defend 24 Senate seats, including a handful in blue-leaning states.

According to the conservative-leaning Rasmussen Reports, 62 percent of likely voters support the Department of Justice penalizing cities that don’t enforce federal immigration laws.

But the GOP push against sanctuary cities could lead some Republicans into a politically divisive fight on immigration they might hope to avoid.

Adding to the charged debate are GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump's controversial comments about immigration, which garnered pushback from Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Reince Priebus, and divided Republicans.

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who is up for reelection next year, weighed in Friday, saying the “circus” surrounding the immigration debate is hurting his party.

“If the Republican nominee for president does not support comprehensive immigration reform and border security policy, we have no chance of defeating Hillary Clinton and winning the White House in 2016,” he added.

Poll: Jeb, Trump in virtual tie **// The Hill // Mark Hensch – July 11, 2015**

GOP presidential candidates Jeb Bush and Donald Trump are locked in a virtual tie for the 2016 Republican nomination, according to a Reuters-Ipsos poll released Saturday.

It found that 16.1 percent of self-identified Republicans back Bush, the former governor of Florida.

Trump, a New York business mogul, chases Bush’s lead with 15.8 percent support.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie came in third 9.5 percent of possible voters’ backing.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) is next at 8.1 percent, followed by retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 7.2 percent.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker – widely expected to enter the 2016 field Monday – earned 5.8 percent.

Republican voters’ response changed dramatically when they offered only three contenders from the party’s crowded 2016 presidential field.

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Bush takes a commanding lead when matched against only Trump and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.). The former Florida governor nabs 42 percent in that scenario. Trump, meanwhile, gets 28.4 percent and Rubio 20 percent.

Saturday's new sampling discovered that the 2016 Democratic nominating contest is much less competitive.

Former secretary of State Hillary Clinton remains the party's frontrunner with 48.3 percent of self-identified Democrats backing her.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is her closest competitor, trailing her at 22.9 percent nationwide.

Vice President Joe Biden – who has not publicly declared his 2016 intentions – then grabs 10.7 percent support.

Saturday's survey sampled 404 self-identified Republicans age 18 or over between Monday and Friday. It has a credibility interval of 5.7 percent.

It also polled 504 self-identified Democrats from the same age demographic during the same window of time. That portion has a credibility interval of 5.1 percent.

Bush and Trump have sparred in recent weeks over border security and illegal immigration.

Trump argued Wednesday that Bush's stance on the issue is inspired by his wife Columba Bush, who was born in Mexico.

"If my wife were from Mexico, I think I would have a soft spot for people from Mexico," Trump told host Anderson Cooper on CNN's "AC360."

"So, if he loves his wife and she is from Mexico, I think it probably has an influence on him."

Bush has countered that Trump's sharp criticism of Hispanic immigrants and Mexico is inflammatory and ignorant.

"Trump is wrong on this," he said after two Independence Day parades on July 4 in New Hampshire.

"I don't think he represents the Republican Party, and his views are way outside the mainstream of what Republicans think," he added before calling Trump's immigration rhetoric "extraordinarily ugly."

Donald Trump continues to rise in recent GOP poll, now almost even with Jeb Bush; Chris Christie polls third // NY Daily News // Denis Slattery – July 11, 2015

Donald Trump's stock is on the rise.

The billionaire blowhard and presidential candidate has surged into a virtual tie with former Florida governor Jeb Bush atop the crowded field of Republican contenders, according to a Reuters-Ipsos poll released Saturday.

Trump had the support of 15.8% of respondents in the online poll of self-identified Republicans compared to 16.1% for Bush.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie trailed the top two at 9.5%.

The surge comes despite blowback from Trump's recent controversial comments about illegal immigrants from

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Mexico being “rapists” and drug dealers.

Several companies including NBC, Macy’s and NASCAR have severed ties with the real estate developer.

Trump was set to appear at a rally in Phoenix Saturday where he was expected to double down on his rhetoric.

Jeb Bush still narrowly leads the crowded pack of Republican candidates for President, as he maintains a very slim lead over Trump, with Chris Christie in third.

“He’s a fighter,” said Jamiel Shaw Sr., whose 17-year-old son was gunned down by an undocumented immigrant in Los Angeles in 2008.

Shaw was expected to introduce Trump at the Phoenix rally, which was moved to a larger venue days before the event due to high demand, according to Trump representatives.

“When he said what he said (about Mexico), I thought he was being nice,” Shaw said. “I would have said murderers.”

According to Reuters, 404 self-identified Republicans age 18 or over were questioned from July 6-10 for the latest poll.

The poll had a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 5.7 percentage points.

On June 30, the poll had Bush at 16.9% and Trump at 12.8%.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Power of the Pocketbook: Women Gaining Influence As Campaign Donors // NPR // Lauren Leatherby - July 12, 2015

Campaign contributions from women have been on a slow but steady rise.

In 1872, Victoria Claflin Woodhull became the first woman to run for president — before women even had the right to vote.

Campaigning as a member of the Equal Rights Party on a platform of women's suffrage and labor reforms, the election came and went without Woodhull receiving any electoral votes, but Woodhull became the first of a small club of women who have run for the United States' highest office.

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This campaign cycle marks another milestone for women — for the first time, women are vying for the White House in each of the major parties' primaries. Women's voices are also becoming more prominent in campaign finance, particularly for Democrats. That's something that will get new attention over the next several months and with the first campaign finance disclosures set to be released Wednesday.

The Washington Post reported last month that 60 percent of Hillary Clinton's donors are women — a nearly 30 percent increase over Barack Obama's 2012 record, when almost half of Obama's individual donors were women, according to an analysis by the Center for Responsive Politics.

"Women candidates are front and center in a way they never have been before, which is really exciting for women voters and donors and activists," said Jess McIntosh, vice president of communications for EMILY's List, which aims to elect Democratic women to office. "We see in research that if a woman is running in a race, women are more likely to be engaged in that race."

Even before the 2016 presidential cycle, contributions from women to political campaigns had been on a slow but steady rise. The reason is threefold, says Missy Shorey, executive director of Maggie's List, an organization that supports conservative female candidates to run for U.S. Congress: increased efforts to engage women, more women in the workforce and more women are voting.

"When we represent 53 percent of the electorate — the majority — we are clearly going to be more politically active, and one of the forms of being politically active is, of course, donating," Shorey said.

Women's attitudes toward politics are also shifting.

"What we've seen over time is that women have been philanthropic givers, giving to charity in a range of amounts, but they haven't seen politics as a place to invest their dollars," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. "There hasn't been a sense that politics is the place where you can make change."

But that sense is changing, Walsh says. Women are beginning to see politics as a way to cause change on the issues they care about. And traditional women's issues like reproductive health, equal pay, child care and family leave aren't the only topics bringing women to the table.

"We're even seeing political issues that don't usually get talked about as women's issues — like raising the minimum wage — get talked about as women's issues, because they disproportionately affect women," McIntosh argued. "I think seeing great female candidates, talking about women's issues in a way that really clearly defines the contrast between the two candidates running, just means that more women than ever are engaged in the process."

That gain in share, however, has not been seen equally from both parties. While the share of money going to Republican presidential candidates from women has remained largely flat, the share of donations to presidential Democratic candidates from women has grown by more than 20 percent since 1992.

Some conservative groups are working to change that.

"When we reach out to women," Shorey said, "we speak about our core issues and talk about why this candidate is going to make a difference. Women like to invest their money knowing it's going to end up doing something, why this woman we're suggesting and have endorsed can win."

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Maggie's List uses established political data and on-the-ground insights to talk about candidates when reaching out to women, Shorey said.

"We reach out to women that support our ideals, which are fiscal conservatism, less government, more personal responsibility, and stronger national security," she said. "Those are our core issues."

Though women are making gains as a proportion of individual donors for candidates, they still remain underrepresented among political donors as a whole. Women made up only 36 percent of all funds donated during the 2012 presidential election, meaning that men still donate at nearly double the rate of women.

This difference is even more pronounced at the top level. Of the 100 most generous campaign contributors during the 2012 election cycle, only 11 were women, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

But that's likely to change.

"As you see more women more successful in terms of income and business and as they have more independent wealth and disposable income they can invest," Walsh said, "you'll see more women as donors to campaigns."

MISCELLANEOUS ADDED BY STAFF

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Obamacare Flexes Muscles With New Medicare Payment Plans **// NYT // Margot Sanger-Katz – July 11, 2015**

For the first time, the Obama administration has deployed an important new power it has under the Affordable Care Act: proposing to pay doctors and hospitals based on the quality of care they provide, regardless of whether they want to be paid that way.

It introduced two such programs this week. One would require all hospitals in 75 metropolitan areas to accept a flat fee for the costs associated with a hip or knee replacement — including the costs of surgery, medications, the joint implant and rehabilitation. And if the quality of the care is not judged to be good, Medicare will take back some of the money it paid. Another program would increase or decrease payments to home health agencies in nine states, depending on how they perform on certain quality measurements.

The Department of Health and Human Services always had the authority to change the amounts it paid for certain services, but before Obamacare, it needed Congress to pass legislation to change the way it paid for them. The agency is asking for public comment on the proposals.

These changes will allow the administration to reshape the Medicare program. The new payment rules, while guided by existing evidence, are still experimental — and are likely to anger Obamacare critics and members of Congress who would prefer to see major changes to Medicare enacted through legislation.

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The proposal "does raise the question of how much legislative authority can be ceded," Joseph Antos, a scholar at the conservative think tank the American Enterprise Institute, said in an email.

There will most likely be other such programs activated before President Obama leaves office. The administration has pledged that a majority of medical payments will include some measure of "value" by 2018.

The Affordable Care Act set up a new office called the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. Its mandate was to test new ways of paying for medical care that would improve quality and lower costs. Since the health care law passed, the innovation center has begun dozens of voluntary pilot programs, encouraging interested medical providers to test the new payment types.

But the law also said that if it finds programs that the Medicare actuary said passed those tests, it could make the changes a permanent part of how Medicare pays for care.

Medicare has been testing similar programs for the last few years among hospitals and home health agencies that chose to sign up. What's new about these proposed programs is that providers can't choose whether to participate. Every hospital in the selected markets, which include New York and Miami, will be paid the new way for knee and hip replacements if the surgery proposal is finalized. Every home health agency in the nine selected states will be paid the new way for its services if that proposal goes into effect.

Joshua Seidman, a senior vice president at the consulting firm Avalere Health, said he's been waiting for the administration to start using its power to reshape how Medicare pays doctors, hospitals and other medical services.

"How are they going to expand these programs and scale them? That's the question now," he said. "It's obviously got huge potential to shape how future payment is made."

Voting Rights Legacy of the '60s Heads to Court as North Carolina Law Is Tested // NYT // Erik Eckholm – July 11, 2015

Days after South Carolina confronted its past and lowered the Confederate battle flag, North Carolina will grapple with its present-day rules that determine access to the voting booth.

A federal trial opening in Winston-Salem on Monday is meant to determine whether recent, sweeping changes in the state's election laws discriminate against black voters. These changes were adopted by the Republican-dominated state legislature in 2013, immediately after the United States Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 when it ended a requirement that nine states with histories of discrimination, including North Carolina, get federal approval before altering their election laws.

But the case, as well as one involving a Texas law requiring voters to show a photo ID, could have far wider repercussions, legal experts say — helping to define the scope of voting rights protections across the country in the coming presidential election and beyond.

The contested measures in North Carolina include reduced early voting days, an end to same-day registration and an end to a program to preregister high school students. They are a far cry from the violent intimidation and poll taxes of the Jim Crow era. Still, few issues are more highly charged than voting rights in the old Confederate states, where the murder of civil rights workers and the brutal police attack on Alabama marchers galvanized Congress to pass the 1965 act, and the trial is fanning old emotions.

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“This is our Selma,” said William J. Barber II, president of the North Carolina N.A.A.C.P., of the election changes in the state. His group brought the lawsuit, alongside the League of Women Voters, a group of college students and the Department of Justice.

The Justice Department and other plaintiffs argue that the discriminatory effect was so clearly intentional that North Carolina should again be required to submit voting proposals for federal approval.

The state’s attorney general, Roy Cooper, responded in a pretrial brief that the plaintiffs are arguing for “the equivalent of election law affirmative action” or for “practices that are favored by political organizations dedicated to maximizing Democratic turnout.”

North Carolina says that the 2013 changes were made to ensure electoral integrity and reduce administrative burdens, and that any effect on minorities is negligible and certainly not illegal.

Litigation over changes in voting rules, as opposed to the redrawing of districts, was uncommon before the Supreme Court blocked the federal preapproval requirement in the case of Shelby County v. Holder; questionable changes were usually halted before they could take effect. Now, though, courts and civil rights groups have been forced to take a new look at the remaining provisions of the voting rights statute.

Like North Carolina, other states have recently revamped their election laws. Texas, for example, put in place a stringent photo ID law, the legality of which is now under consideration by a federal appeals court.

But North Carolina lawmakers passed the broadest set of changes, trimming or eliminating measures that had been adopted over the previous 15 years expressly to bolster electoral participation by minority and younger voters.

In addition to cutting early voting days, to 10 from 17, lawmakers ended the ability to register and cast a vote on the same day, instead restoring a 25-day wait, and abolished a preregistration program for 16- and 17-year-olds. The 2013 law also included a strict photo ID requirement, but it was recently softened and will not be considered in the trial.

Judge Thomas D. Schroeder of Federal District Court will most likely have to define the point at which such measures amount to unconstitutional discrimination under the Voting Rights Act, setting an important precedent on a topic that many legal experts think must eventually be resolved by the Supreme Court.

The plaintiffs in the case, North Carolina N.A.A.C.P. v. McCrory, claim not only that the changes have an illegal discriminatory result but also that they were devised to suppress black and Hispanic voting. The changes “fall with special force on North Carolina’s black citizens,” the Justice Department said in its brief, and “that unlawful result is no accident.”

If intent to discriminate is proved — a tall order — the state will lose. But how to define an illegal discriminatory effect is less settled.

The plaintiffs claim that the North Carolina law violates Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which, as amended in 1982, bans policies that result “in a denial or abridgment” of the right to vote based on race and calls for a judgment “based on the totality of circumstances.”

“What is a practice that results in an abridgment?” asked Edward B. Foley, an expert in election law at Moritz

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College of Law at Ohio State University.

In the limited number of cases so far, federal appeals courts have sharply diverged, “offering diametrically opposite views of how to understand what is now the most important section of the Voting Rights Act,” Mr. Foley said.

Efforts by civil rights groups to win a preliminary injunction against the North Carolina law before the 2014 election were unsuccessful, so its provisions, except for the voter ID requirement, were in effect then. But the two sides offer contrasting versions of what happened in the election.

The plaintiffs will present numerous witnesses who will testify that the new rules deterred them from voting, as well as expert testimony showing broader discriminatory effects, said Donita Judge, a senior lawyer with the Advancement Project, a civil rights group and co-counsel for the plaintiffs.

That blacks are more likely to use early voting, same-day registration and out-of-precinct voting has been well established in past elections. Many black churches, for example, send busloads of voters to the polls after Sunday services, and often used the extra week that is now eliminated. Poorer and less educated on average, blacks may be more likely to miss the deadline for registration or to be confused by changes in their home precinct and voting spots, according to civil rights groups.

While it is impossible to know how many people did not register or vote in 2014 because of the changes, data does show, as one concrete measure, that 11,000 people who registered in North Carolina less than 25 days before Election Day were unable to vote when they could have under previous rules, said Daniel T. Donovan, a lawyer with Kirkland and Ellis, which is also representing the plaintiffs.

North Carolina officials discount these claims of hardship. The contested measures, their brief says, “simply repeal or scale back conveniences on when and how to vote or register to vote; in no respect do they impose additional qualification or barriers.”

The state also points out that the African-American voter turnout in 2014 was higher than it was in 2010, the previous nonpresidential election year. But the civil rights groups note that many factors affect voter turnout in a particular year — 2014 had a hotly contested Senate race — and that the N.A.A.C.P., alarmed by the new rules, engaged in months of intense campaigns to urge African-Americans to register and vote, an effort that cannot be sustained indefinitely.

Of particular interest will be the effort to prove that North Carolina legislators acted intentionally to curb black voting, and the related request by federal officials and the civil rights groups to restore a preapproval requirement for election law changes in North Carolina, under a rarely invoked provision of the Voting Rights Act.

The Justice Department is seeking similar restorations of federal oversight, known as “bail-ins,” in two Texas cases, involving its redistricting plan and its photo ID law.

Proving intentional racial discrimination is difficult, said Justin Levitt, an expert in election law at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. “That doesn’t mean that they have to prove animus or hatred,” he said in an email, “but they will have to prove that the law was put in place because of (and not merely despite) its impact on minorities.”

If the plaintiffs do establish intentionality, Mr. Levitt said, it will be up to the judge to decide whether reimposing federal preclearance is warranted.

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INTERNATIONAL

Meeting on Greece Debt Breaks Up With No Deal **// NYT // James Kanter – July 11, 2015**

A meeting of European finance ministers broke up late Saturday with no agreement on whether Greece should be granted its third bailout since 2010, reflecting deep divides over whether the Athens government can be trusted to repay huge new loans and leaving the Continent hours from what could be a historic rupture.

The finance ministers planned to reconvene on Sunday, just before European national leaders are scheduled to meet in Brussels for what they have said would be a final decision on whether Greece should qualify for a new aid package, a step aimed at determining whether the country can remain in the euro currency union.

The failure by the finance ministers to reach an agreement, after nearly nine hours of talks, belied the optimism that followed the approval early Saturday by the Greek Parliament of a package of pension cuts, higher taxes and other policy changes long sought by Greece's international creditors. In a remarkable turnabout, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras had pushed the package through the legislature despite having led his country into a referendum six days earlier that overwhelmingly rejected much the same terms.

Despite Greece's capitulation on those terms, many countries came into this weekend's final round of negotiations skeptical of the Tsipras government's commitment to seeing through the changes and putting his country on firmer financial footing — and weary of the constant brinkmanship that has characterized the months of negotiations over Greece's latest crisis.

Instead of working through the night to hammer out a statement on requirements for Greece, as had been expected, the meeting was suddenly called off shortly before midnight, and ministers left without even holding a formal news conference.

"The issue of credibility and trust was discussed, and also of course the financial issues involved," Jeroen Dijsselbloem of the Netherlands, the head of the so-called Eurogroup of ministers, told reporters. "It is still very difficult. but work is still in progress," he said, adding that discussions would continue later Sunday morning.

From the start, it was clear that Mr. Tsipras's gambit had not entirely won over Germany and other countries that have been skeptical about giving a new round of loans to Greece after years in which successive governments in Athens have struggled to carry out changes that creditors have demanded as a condition of the bailouts.

"We will have exceptionally difficult negotiations," Wolfgang Schäuble, the hard-nosed German finance minister, said on Saturday before the meeting. "We won't be able to rely on promises."

His prediction proved accurate, as he and fellow ministers wrangled with little apparent progress, seeking more assurances from Greece that it was committed to changing its ways, and weighing the desires of France and Italy for a deal against the more skeptical stance of Germany and the possibility of outright opposition from Finland.

During their talks, the finance ministers called on their Greek counterpart, Euclid Tsakalotos, to put the package proposed by his government into swift effect to prove its willingness to make deep and lasting changes to the nation's faltering economy. Greece, in turn, continued to seek some assurance that it would win the right to renegotiate the terms of its debt repayment.

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It was not clear that the finance ministers' meeting on Sunday morning would yield a consensus about how to proceed, increasing the possibility that they would leave final decisions to their national leaders, who are to gather in Brussels in the afternoon.

"I am still hopeful," Pierre Moscovici, the European commissioner for economic affairs, told reporters as he left the Eurogroup meeting.

In an apparent effort to raise the pressure on Greece, some officials earlier in the day were informally passing around a one-page position paper, reportedly drawn up by the German finance ministry as a possible option for the negotiations, saying the Greek proposal fell short and suggesting options that included ideas like having the country leave the eurozone for five years and reapply for membership.

The idea of a break from the euro was not openly discussed at the meeting, according to one of the officials with direct knowledge of the talks, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity because the discussions were private.

Mr. Schäuble, however, referred repeatedly to a plan drafted by German officials that would require Athens to transfer state assets into a trust fund to pay down its debt in order to stay in the eurozone, according to two people with direct knowledge of the discussions. Mr. Schäuble did not refer explicitly to the idea of a temporary Greek departure from the eurozone, these people said. But the tough approach by the German minister, they said, appeared designed to make clear that he now favors a Greek exit.

The European leaders have set this weekend as a deadline for settling the issue of whether to keep Greece solvent or cut off further aid, a step that would almost certainly result in forcing Athens to abandon the euro.

An exit by Greece would be a blow to Europe's goal of ever-closer integration.

Greece's banks are teetering on insolvency, the government is running out of cash to meet day-to-day obligations, and without an infusion, additional payments to international creditors will be missed in coming weeks.

Experts who reviewed Greece's request for a third bailout program informed Eurogroup ministers that about €74 billion is needed to cover its financing needs for the next three years, according to a person with direct knowledge of the experts' findings. That is far more than the €53.5 billion, or about $59 billion, that Athens has requested.

If loans for Greece are eventually approved, the majority will probably be covered by a new loan from the European Stability Mechanism, the European bailout fund. Other sources could include loans from the International Monetary Fund, funds raised through Greek government revenue and, eventually, new debt issued by Greece.

That discrepancy between what Greece had requested and the new estimate of its bailout needs may have further reinforced the doubts of those who wonder if the Greek government has a handle on its finances and will be able to carry out promised changes.

"Many governments — mine, too — have serious concerns about the commitment of the Greek government," the Dutch state secretary for finance, Eric Wiebes, told reporters in Brussels before Saturday's meeting. "After all, we are discussing a proposal from the Greek government that was fiercely rejected less than a week ago, and that is a serious concern."

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While no signed bailout deal was expected this weekend, the question is whether Europe will decide to continue negotiating a rescue with Greece, or leave its banks to collapse and its virtually bankrupt government to default. European leaders have said their Sunday evening meeting could be used to reach that decision.

The fear of Greece and its supporters, which include the French government, is that without an agreement to continue negotiations, Greek banks could collapse next week, raising the prospect that the country would quickly have to abandon the euro.

Mr. Moscovici, the European economic affairs commissioner who is a former finance minister of France, said as he entered Saturday's meeting that the "Greek government has made significant gestures." He said the Greek proposals form "a basis for a new program" of loans.

Before the meeting, the finance ministers received assessments of the Tsipras plan by experts representing the creditors.

"The papers of the Greek authorities contain positive elements, issues where clarification is needed, and some issues where the institutions wish to see stronger commitment to reform," said a person with direct knowledge of experts' findings. But this person also warned: "Negotiations will be tough. The chances for a deal are 50-50."

The Eurogroup, with its 19 eurozone finance ministers, has some outspoken critics of Greece, irritated by the Tsipras government's negotiating style and Mr. Tsipras's decision the week before last to break off negotiations and call for the referendum. Mr. Tsipras surprised many in his own country and party on Thursday when he presented a plan containing many of the elements — including austerity measures — that the voters had just rejected by a wide margin.

The creditors now want strong evidence that Greece will honor its latest set of economic promises if it gets the new loans it is seeking, and an agreement to ease the burden of its current debt, which at €317 billion is equivalent to 177 percent of the country's gross domestic product. By that measure, only Japan's debt, at 245 percent, is higher among the world's economies.

Iran Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Calls U.S. 'Embodiment of Arrogance' **// WSJ // Asa Fitch & Jay Solomon – July 11, 2015**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called the U.S. the "ultimate embodiment of arrogance" and warned that his nation's opposition to Washington wouldn't end if a nuclear accord is reached between Tehran and world powers in the coming days.

Mr. Khamenei's comments on Saturday again raised questions about whether the 75-year-old cleric fully backed an emerging agreement that calls for Iran to constrain its nuclear program in exchange for a lifting of international sanctions.

Iran Nuclear Talks Extended Until Monday

Tehran's top political leader has consistently railed against the U.S. in the years since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution. But the timing of his comments, at a critical juncture in the negotiations, pointed to the continued hurdles the Obama administration faces in trying to forge an agreement with Iran.

"The U.S. is the ultimate embodiment of arrogance," Mr. Khamenei told a group of students in Tehran on

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Saturday in response to a question raised about how to combat the U.S. in the years ahead, according to the supreme leader's official website. "Get ready to continue combating the arrogant power."

The U.S., Iran and five other global powers—the U.K., France, Germany, Russia and China—continued a full day of negotiations in Austria's capital on Saturday in an attempt to reach a final deal.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian counterpart, Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, have held 15 straight days of talks in Vienna that have already broken through two diplomatic deadlines, June 30 and July 7. The U.S., Iran and the other negotiating countries have cited Monday as the newest target to complete the talks, and meetings are planned throughout Sunday.

Diplomats said they were making progress on Saturday, but stressed that serious issues still needed to be resolved to reach an elusive final deal.

"Met with @FedericaMog and @JZarif this AM," Mr. Kerry wrote on his official Twitter account on Saturday, referring to Mr. Zarif and Federica Mogherini, the foreign policy chief of the European Union. "Still have difficult issues to resolve."

Senior Iranian officials have accused the U.S. over the past 72 hours of backtracking on commitments it made in previous rounds of the negotiations, on issues ranging from the lifting of United Nations sanctions to the future size of Tehran's nuclear program. American officials have denied the charge.

On Saturday, Iranian President Hasan Rouhani said the U.S. and its negotiating partners were to blame if the diplomacy in Vienna failed.

"In these 22 months, we have spoken to six world powers in a way that if the negotiations don't succeed, the world knows well that Iran has been reasonable and has never left the table," Mr. Rouhani said, according to Tehran's semiofficial state media.

Monday Deadline Looms For Iran Nuclear Talks // AP // Matthew Lee & George Jahn – July 11, 2015

Negotiations over Iran's nuclear program blew past the two-week mark in Vienna on Saturday ahead of a new deadline for a deal, with the United States and Iran both threatening to walk away.

Despite hints of progress since U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif traded accusations of backtracking on Thursday, diplomats said it remained unclear whether negotiators would be able to meet the Monday deadline, the fourth since talks began 15 days ago.

Kerry and Zarif met on Saturday with European Union foreign policy chief Frederica Mogherini and were conferring with other foreign ministers involved. German Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmeier and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius are both in Vienna. British Foreign Secretary Phillip Hammond was expected later Saturday.

The Chinese and Russian foreign ministers have said they will come to Vienna if a deal appears close.

On Friday, Kerry suggested that some progress had been made, telling reporters that the "atmosphere is very constructive," but stressing that "very difficult issues" remained to be resolved.

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Those comments came a day after he had declared for the second time in the current round that the negotiations could not be open-ended, warned that the U.S. was prepared to call an end to the talks and challenged Iran to make tough choices to seal a deal.

Zarif responded by accusing the United States and its European partners of backtracking on previous commitments and calling on the U.S. to end its "obsession" with sanctions.

Any deal is meant to clamp long-term and verifiable restrictions on Iranian nuclear programs that are technically adaptable to make weapons in exchange for sanctions relief for Tehran.

Friday's tougher rhetoric mirrored negotiators' frustrations. The current round that was supposed to conclude on June 30, but was extended until July 7, then July 10 and now July 13.

The scope of access to U.N. inspectors monitoring Iran's nuclear program remains a sticking point. The Americans want no restrictions. Iranian officials say unrestricted monitoring could be a cover for Western spying. Diplomats say Iran's negotiators have signaled awillingness to compromise, but hardliners in Iran remain opposed to broad U.N. inspections.

Another unresolved matter is Iran's demand for a U.N. arms embargo to be lifted as part of sanctions relief, a stance supported by Russia and China but opposed by the U.S. and some Europeans.

The sides had hoped to seal a deal before the end of Thursday in Washington to avoid delays in implementing their promises.

By missing that target, the U.S. and Iran now have to wait for a 60-day congressional review period during which President Barack Obama cannot waive sanctions on Iran. Had they reached a deal by Thursday, the review would have been only 30 days.

Iran is unlikely to begin a substantial rollback of its nuclear program until it gets sanctions relief in return.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/6/2015 12:54:20 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: What to watch in Cleveland

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These are the 10 candidates scheduled to participate in tonight's Fox News Republican presidential debate. (AP Photos)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA: The two-hour debate on Fox News, which starts at 9 p.m. Eastern, is a pivot point in the Republican nominating contest. Here are nine things I'll be watching:

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Is the Trump Tornado more like an F1 or an F5?

"I'd prefer no conflict, no infighting," The Donald told The Washington Post, "BUT if they hit me, I'll hit them harder. It's all going to depend on the moment." For a curtain-raiser story by Robert Costa and Philip Rucker, he said he'll "have to feel it out" and "see where everyone else is coming from."

- Trump's own team seems genuinely unsure of what he'll do. "I have no idea what to expect," a senior advisor told ABC's Jonathan Karl. "I'm just as clueless as you about what he'll do."
- In an op-ed for today's Wall Street Journal, Weekly Standard executive editor Fred Barnes (a frequent Fox talking head) urges the moderators to NOT treat Trump like just any other candidate. "At the moment, he *is* the Republican campaign. And until the disruption in the GOP ranks caused by his entry to the race settles down, he will continue to be," Fred writes. "Up to now, Mr. Trump has escaped explaining his blustery broadsides, dubious claims and flip-flops. He has been treated as a celebrity whose performance is the story. But how, for instance, would he get Mexico to pay for a wall along the U.S. border? What are the provisions of his immigration policy? How would he replace ObamaCare? Is there a serious Trump agenda? His past business dealings also invite questions."
- Chris Wallace, one of the three moderators, was blunt on the air Tuesday night: "We don't want to make it the Donald Trump show, but it is."
- Former RNC Chairman Michael Steele, asked how candidates should respond if Trump attacks them directly, advised no engagement. "Stay in your lane," he told Dan Balz at our pre-debate event in Cleveland last night. "Let Donald Trump go wherever Donald Trump is going to go. Because you can't compete with that. It's all about discipline … Do not get off the ramp and go off into the wilderness somewhere."

How cautious is Jeb Bush?

"The former Florida governor's off-the-cuff style on the campaign trail has earned him favorable reviews from some voters in the early primary states, and he remains easily accessible to reporters who trail him across the country. But those exchanges often lead to long-winded answers that land Bush into verbal cul-de-sacs, making it difficult to steer out," Ed O'Keefe previews . There are already a few examples from this week, including when he told Baptists on Tuesday that he is "not sure we need half a billion dollars for women's health issues."

The Tampa Bay Times got ahold of talking points provided to Jeb's surrogates in Cleveland. The top-line message is, "There are a lot of great talkers in politics, our current president chief among them, and there will certainly be some skilled talkers on the stage

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Thursday. But Jeb is a doer, his focus will be giving voters a sense that his experience has prepared him to actually get things done rather than just talk about it." The document tells surrogates to say they expect he will get attacked, because he has "momentum," and provides advice on how to downplay expectations: "The last debate Jeb participated in was October 22, 2002 against Bill McBride."

Does John Kasich capitalize after making it on the big stage?

The home state governor will literally be waiting in the wings, standing behind a podium at the edge of the camera shot as the tenth seed. Kasich held a mock debate session at his home in Columbus last week and has been reviewing a five-page memo of possible questions his staff prepared. He previewed his message in New Hampshire on Tuesday, saying that someone who is "bombastic" or "a divider" won't win Ohio, and that no Republican has ever won the presidency without carrying his state. "The only way we win Ohio is with someone who's a uniter," he said, according to the Cleveland Plain Dealer . "People want to know you're a builder; not someone who's going to tear things down." It could set him apart, but the base also might not want to hear it.

How much does Rand Paul embrace his inner dove?

Foreign policy is a major dividing line in the field, and it's a way for the Kentucky senator to set himself apart. He's faded somewhat in the polls and from the national conversation. Part of his problem is that he has alienated many supporters of his father's campaigns. He even signed on to Tom Cotton's controversial Iran letter earlier this year. But campaigning in Iowa over the weekend, he telegraphed that he's going to use U.S. interventionism as a wedge to separate himself from the pack. According to David Weigel, Paul said the debate will be between him and people who "want to blow up the world": He vowed that he will ask his Republican presidential rivals, face to face, whether they "want to always intervene in every civil war around the world."

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Rand Paul takes batting practice with the Quad-City River Bandits in Davenport, Iowa, last Saturday. (John Schultz/Quad City Times via AP)

Can Scott Walker be a fighter and a nice guy at the same time?

The Wisconsin governor's strategy tonight is to "be the nice guy who ignores everyone else on stage and shares an optimistic vision for the future," Jenna Johnson reports . "But trying to be both the steadfast warrior and the likable guy has at times left Walker fumbling … When questions come up on the campaign trail, Walker often responds with passages from his stump speech or other scripted answers, rarely deviating by even a few words. During a recent summit in Ames, Iowa, for religious social conservatives, an audience member accused the governor of waiting four days to respond to videos critical of Planned Parenthood. Walker launched into his usual response for abortion-related questions — not mentioning that he had forcefully responded to the videos within hours of their release."

Does Ted Cruz come across as a college debater or like he's giving his stump speech?

The Texas senator spent the first part of the week ensconced inside a Capitol Hill townhouse honing the rhetorical and theatrical skills that made him a standout on the college debate circuit. "Our focus is simply conveying the same core message that we convey in every forum, which is that we've seen far too many campaign conservatives who talk a good game on the campaign trail but don't follow through on their commitments," Cruz told Katie Zezima. As a pro, Cruz gets that the more spontaneous he seems the better.

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Will anyone whiff?

Remember "Obamneycare "? It was the beginning of the end of Tim Pawlenty's presidential campaign. On a Sunday show, the Minnesotan slammed Mitt Romney's Massachusetts health care law. But then in the debate the next day he declined to repeat the charge or really even explain what he meant. But the format, and the number of candidates, does not necessarily mean anyone will bomb.



Christie gets mic'd up for a recent appearance on Fox News' "The Five" (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Who overperforms in the undercard debate, and does it matter?

The ratings for the 9 p.m. hour will be off the charts, but it will be interesting to know how many tune in at 5 p.m. to see the seven candidates who did not make the top 10. Carly Fiorina is calling it the "happy-hour debate." On the plus side for them, they don't have to engage with Trump. It will be interesting to see if Rick Perry and Lindsey Graham still do, since they've been so willing to in recent weeks.

Can the moderators keep control?

In addition to Wallace, Fox News hosts Bret Baier and Megyn Kelly are asking the questions. They have decided to eliminate opening statements to save time. The New York Times' Ashley Parker got access to some of their planning meetings. She reports that, at an editorial meeting yesterday, there was discussion about whether they could use the actual

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shot clock buzzer that goes off during Cleveland Cavaliers basketball games, which are played at the same arena, when a candidate's time expires. Baier came up with that idea over dinner Tuesday night at a local bistro, Ashley reports: "I was inspired," he said with a smile, "by a beer."

Kelly cited advice that Fox News honcho Roger Ailes regularly gives her: Aim to hit singles, not home runs. "We have very tough, pointed questions for these guys, but I am not trying to hit any home runs," she told the Times. "If we can flesh out some of the issues and some of their character and help the audience have a better feeling for who they are — as men and as candidates — then I've done my job." Finally, watch Yahoo's Katie Couric preview the GOP debate with The Post's Costa and others here .



Megyn Kelly on set in New York. (For The Washington Post)

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Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— The man who threatened Tennessee movie-goers with pepper spray and a hatchet (before he was killed by police) had previously been committed four times to a mental institution and was reported missing by his mother.

— Malaysia announced this morning that there are other plane parts — including a window and some aluminum foil — that have washed up on the French island where a wing was confirmed to belong to Flight MH370.

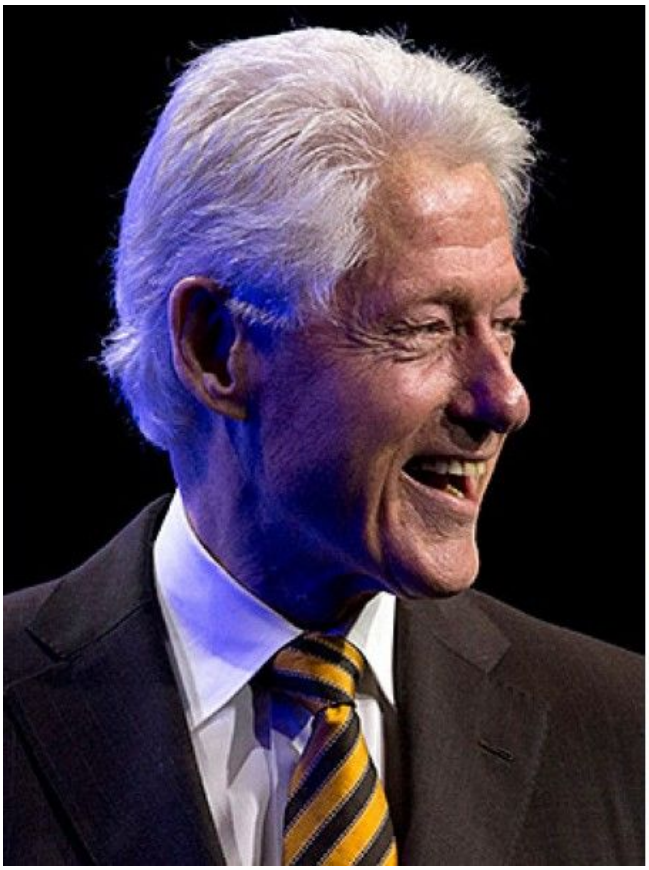
GET SMART FAST:

1. "Gov. Scott Walker was under criminal investigation in 2011 for misconduct in office — even as he insisted he wasn't — over a proposed real estate deal when he was Milwaukee County executive, according to records filed Wednesday in federal court. The Republican governor — who is running for president — was never charged with a crime, and the investigation was closed two years ago." (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)
2. Jesse Benton, who heads a super PAC supporting Rand Paul's presidential campaign and is a member of the Paul family by marriage, was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges that he concealed payments made to an Iowa state senator during Ron Paul's 2012 presidential campaign in order to win support, the Justice Department said Wednesday. (Read the story and the full 20-page indictment .)
3. "Planned Parenthood's five clinics in New Hampshire will lose about one-third of their funding, after the state's Executive Council voted to halt their state dollars," per the Washington Examiner .
4. The new woman at the helm of the federal personnel office told senior leaders across government last week that what a woman made before coming to government should not be the basis for setting her pay as a new federal employee. "This breakthrough policy means that if a woman has a relatively low salary because she was raising children — or has been paid less than she's worth outside government for comparable work to a man — that disparity should not be held against her," Lisa Rein explains. "If she's qualified for the job, she should be paid what it's worth.
5. "Last month, Los Angeles city officials cleared the way for Uber to pick up passengers at LAX. But on Wednesday, the City Council voted overwhelmingly to slow down the process and take a closer look at the issues," the LA Times reports.
6. Pope Francis has "advised church leadership to do more to 'take care' of and have

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'open doors' for Catholics whose marriages have failed, prompting the latest round of speculation — both hopeful and worrying — that he may loosen the church's ancient rules on divorce and remarriage," the Washington Times reports.

7. NASA informed lawmakers yesterday that it is signing a $490 million contract extension with Russia to send Americans into space. "The new contract, running through 2019, means that NASA will continue to depend on Russia to get its astronauts to space even as tensions between Washington and Moscow escalate," The Hill reports.
8. A federal judge ruled this week that Idaho's law banning secret filming of animal abuse at agricultural facilities is unconstitutional, giving animal rights activists across the country hope that the decision will pave the way to overturn similar laws in other states, the AP reports.




POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. During a private telephone conversation in late May, Bill Clinton encouraged Donald Trump's effort to play a larger role in the Republican Party. "Clinton [who apparently initiated the call] sounded curious about Trump's moves toward a presidential bid and told Trump that he was striking a chord with frustrated conservatives and was a rising force on the right," Robert Costa and Anne Gearan report.
2. Bernie Sanders will deliver the convocation at Liberty University on Sept. 14. The democratic socialist, who is Jewish, said he wants to talk about economic inequality at the school founded by the late Jerry Falwell.

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3. Martin O'Malley teed off on the Democratic National Committee's plan to hold six presidential primary debates, accusing party leaders of "circling the wagons" for Hillary and of endorsing "an exclusive approach to politics" during an appearance in Iowa. (John Wagner)
4. Ted Cruz will campaign in Mississippi next week with Chris McDaniel, who only narrowly lost his GOP primary challenge to Sen. Thad Cochran last year after a runoff.
5. Cruz will also address the Nevada chapter of Americans for Prosperity in Las Vegas on August 14, according to an advisory shared first with The Daily 202.
6. Hillary has scheduled fundraisers in the Hamptons for Aug. 22 and Aug. 30.
7. Citing slow response from the State Department over a number of inquiries related to Hillary's private e-mail use, Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) has placed a hold on an unrelated career foreign service officer nomination, per Colby Itkowitz.
8. Lois Lerner, the former IRS official, once considered opening up an audit into Bristol Palin's compensation from a teen pregnancy charity, per USA Today .
9. The new head of the DEA, Chuck Rosenberg, told reporters yesterday that "heroin is clearly more dangerous than marijuana," clarifying a less definitive statement he made last week, when he said marijuana is "probably not" as dangerous as heroin, according to the Huffington Post .
10. Iowa House Speaker Kraig Paulsen, a Republican, announced he will step down from leadership and not seek reelection after an intense legislative session.
11. Marco Rubio has hired GOP operative Jared Small as a field staffer for his presidential campaign, Sean Sullivan scoops for the 202. Small's company had previously done some work for Titan Strategies, the firm headed by Jesse Benton, the campaign said. Benton, who has been heading a pro-Rand Paul super PAC, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on allegations he broke campaign finance laws in the 2012 campaign as an aide to Ron Paul. Small made a splash in 2014 on Mitch McConnell's campaign as one of the operatives who created the "COME AT ME BRO" signs that were popular on the trail. He'll start on the ground next week.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

— "Two years after scandal, the IRS is still struggling ," by Kelsey Snell: "The Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday released a bipartisan report on the 2013 scandal involving the Internal Revenue Service targeting conservative groups…Much was made about what led to the controversy, but more than two years later, the agency appears no better at handling the growing crush of political nonprofits raising millions of dollars this election season…the IRS is now frozen by a hobbled budget and hostile relationship with the committees that oversee it."

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— "To press for Iran nuclear deal, Obama invokes Iraq war ," by Steven Mufson and David Nakamura: "While calling the nuclear accord with Iran 'the strongest nonproliferation agreement ever negotiated,' Obama also seemed to turn the vote on the deal into a referendum on the U.S. invasion of Iraq a dozen years ago, a decision he portrayed as the product of a "mind-set characterized by a preference for military action over diplomacy..It was the president's sharpest attack yet on opponents of the Iran nuclear deal, which he sees as a defining achievement amid an often rocky foreign policy record." *But despite the administration hard sell, Obama heads into the recess with many undecideds in Congress.*

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Before Trump vs. After Trump. Our analytics partners at Zignal Labs take a helpful look at how we got to this point ahead of the first debate. They identify June 16 as a turning point in the presidential race. That's the day that Trump announced.

Here's what the presidential chatter looked like from Jan. 1 – June 15: Hillary dominated the field. Bernie was still just your run-of-the-mill democratic socialist senator, and Rand was considered a top-tier contender. There were signs of a Scott Walker surge early in the year, but nobody could anticipate the extent to which he would establish himself in the top tier.

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Profile List



HILLARY CLINTON

8,774,568



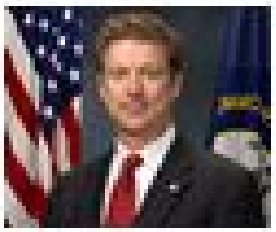
TED CRUZ

4,146,437



JEB BUSH

2,971,384



RAND PAUL

2,626,530



SCOTT WALKER

2,198,159

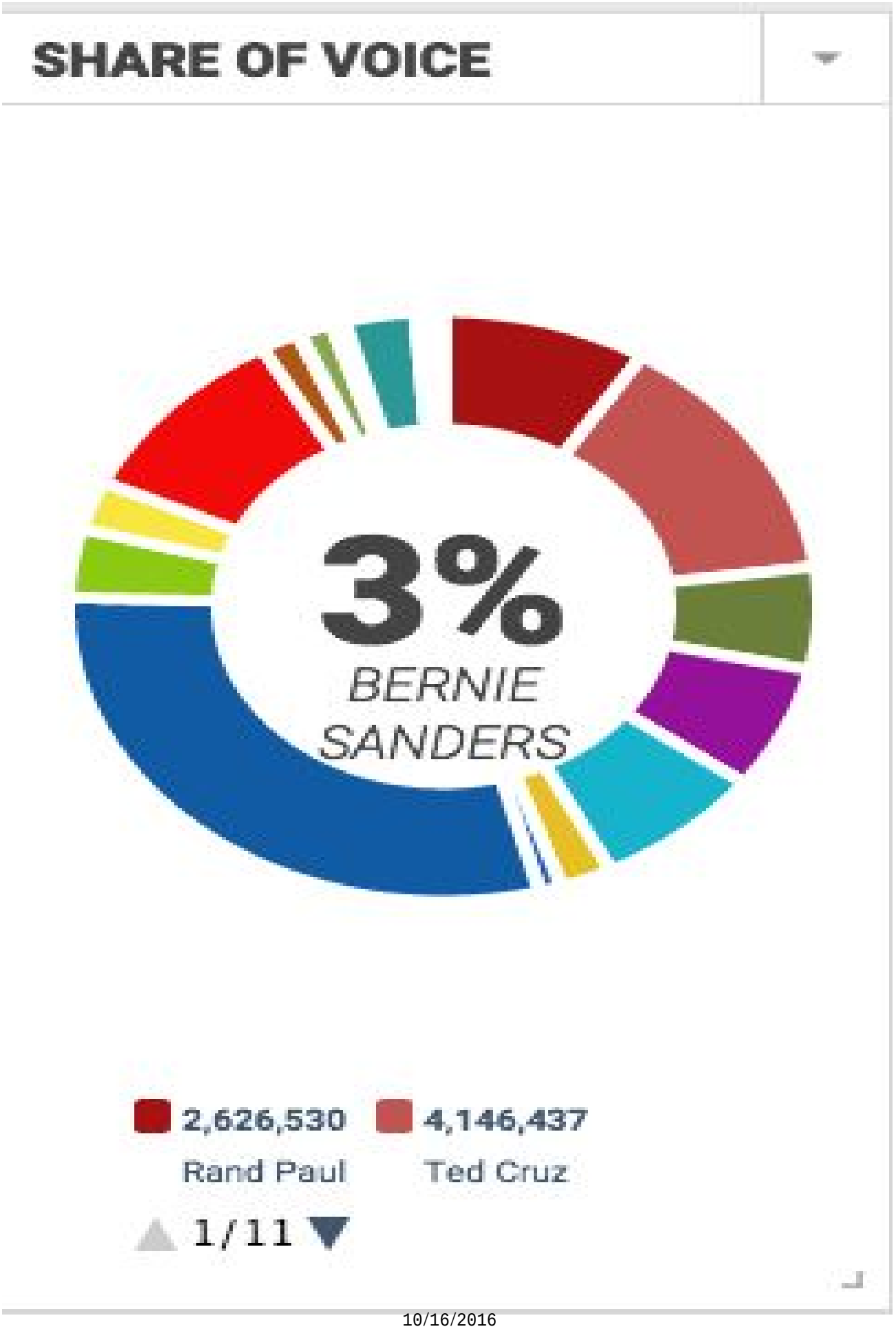


MARCO RUBIO

2,004,005

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The Democratic race? There really wasn't one through June 15. Clinton, who had a 30 percent share of the overall discussion about 2016, had 10 times the mentions of Sanders online:



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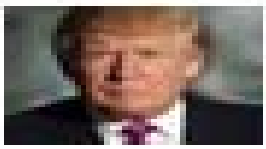


Here's the world since June 16: Obviously, Trump took the race by storm. But the diminishing gap between Sanders and Clinton also tells a story. The armor of inevitability around Clinton clearly has a chink or two, as the coverage and chatter reflects. Cruz continues to ride strong net roots support, while Jeb's establishment chops have kept him in the top tier. We also see strong support for Walker, who formally jumped into the race last month. The early numbers suggest the rest of the field will have a serious enthusiasm and attention gap to overcome if they are going to be considered viable candidates. We're not saying it can't be done (See: John McCain in 2007-'08).



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Profile List



DONALD TRUMP
10,246,545



HILLARY CLINTON
3,261,213



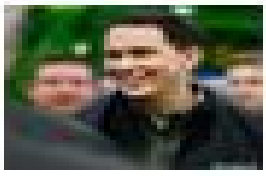
BERNIE SANDERS
2,449,090



TED CRUZ
1,398,008



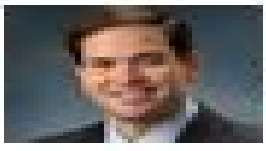
JEB BUSH
1,319,173



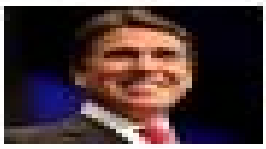
SCOTT WALKER
1,021,882



CHRIS CHRISTIE
549,463

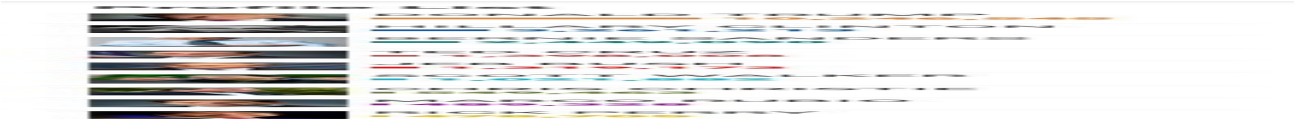


MARCO RUBIO
489,328



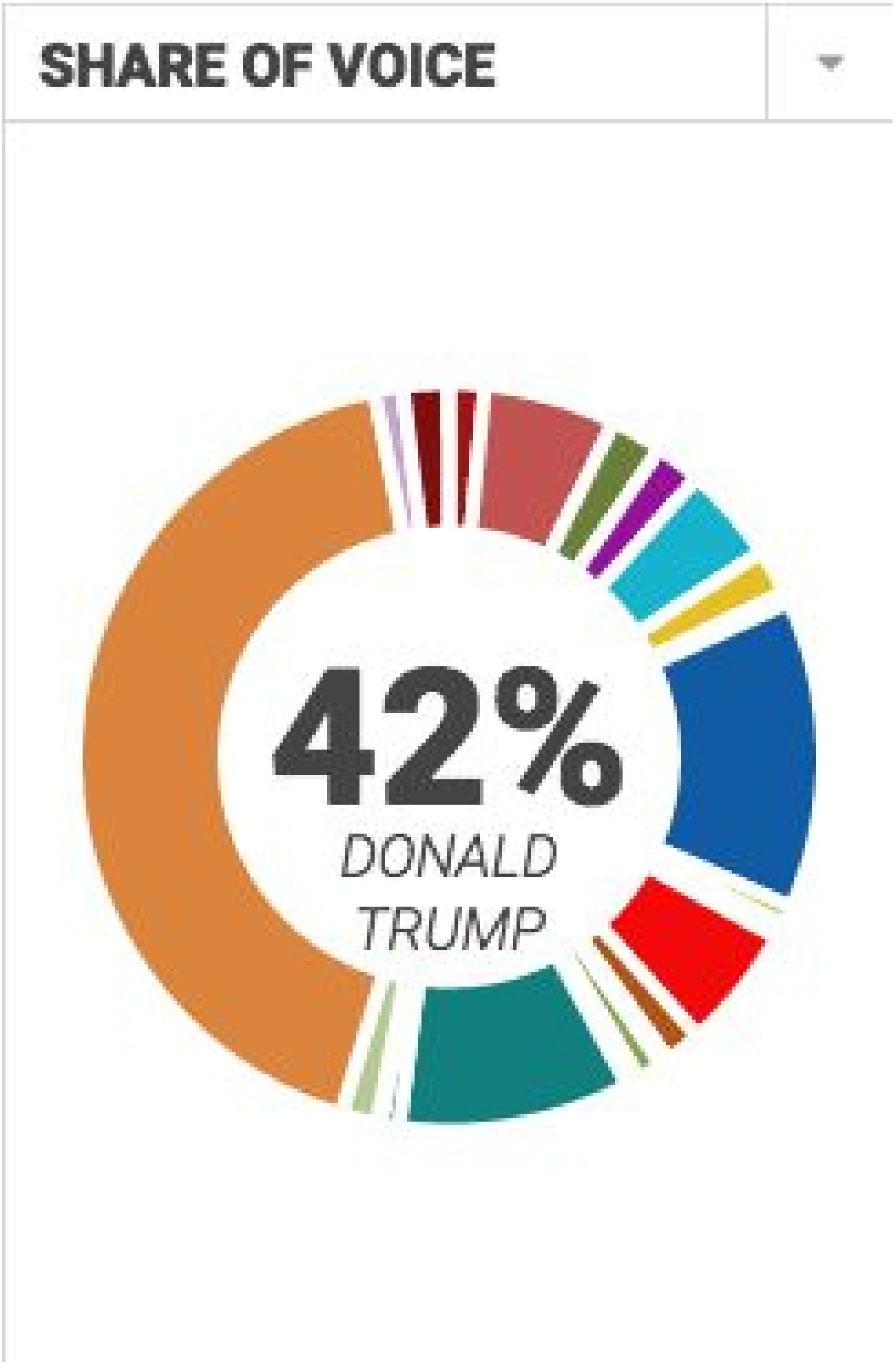
RICK PERRY
478,705

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From the day of his announcement through last night, 42 percent of the conversation about 2016 — across traditional and social media — has been about Trump. That's significantly more than anyone else:

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The most talked about political topics on Facebook over the past two months:

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1. Racial issues
2. Mexico
3. The economy
4. LGBT issues
5. Immigration

Trump is also dominating the 2016 conversation on Facebook. A spokesman for the social network emails over the volume of conversation about each candidate from May 29 through July 28. The chart below shows the number of unique people on Facebook in the U.S. engaging in the conversation about each of the candidates – as well as the number of interactions those people made. Interactions are the total aggregate number of likes, posts, comments and shares made about a particular candidate. The interactions figure includes not only the activity on the candidate's page, but all of the likes, posts, comments and shares about that candidate from throughout the Facebook ecosystem in the U.S.

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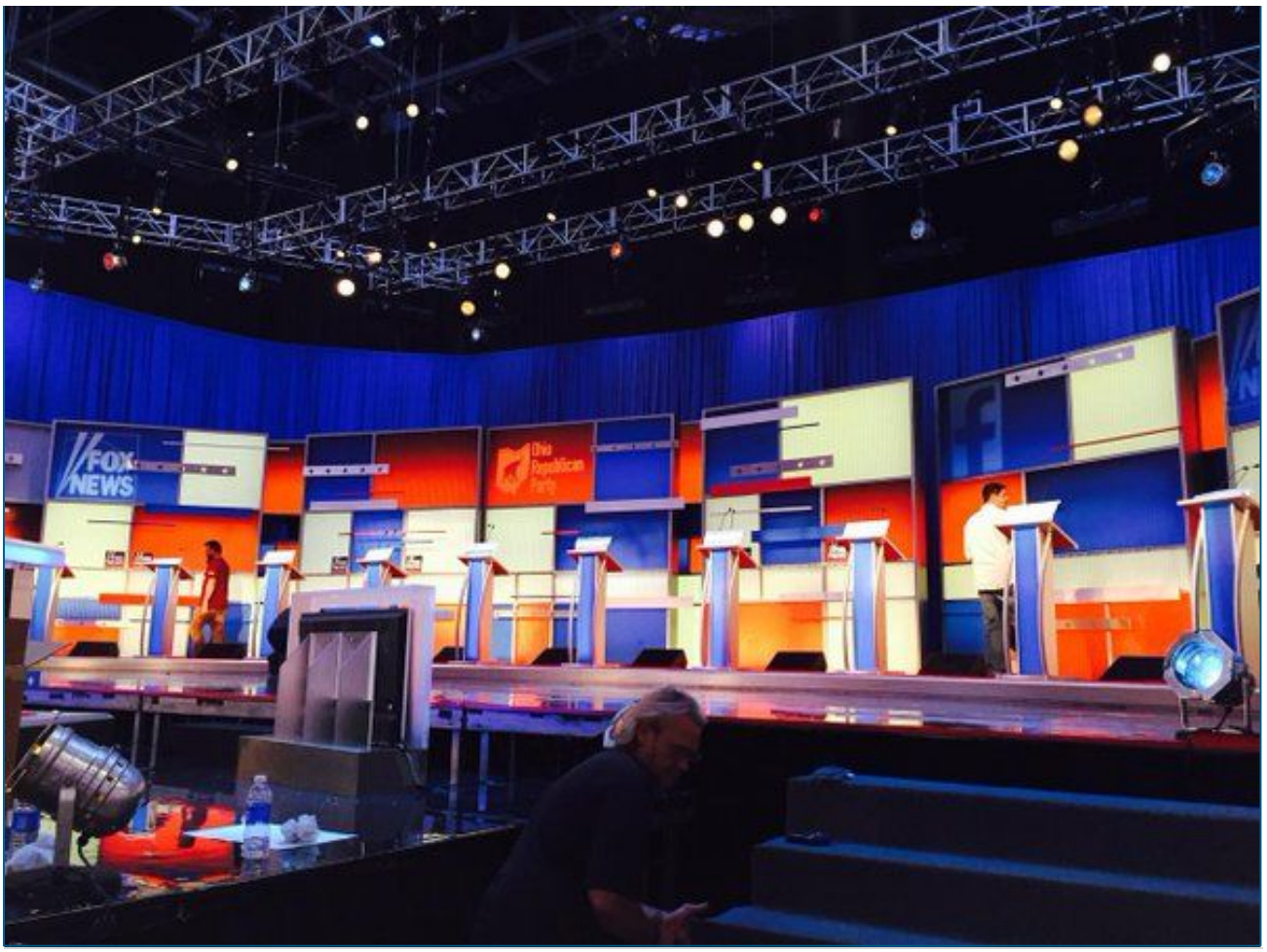
First	Last	Unique People	Interactions
Jeb	Bush	5,339,000	16,197,000
Ben	Carson	2,690,000	11,097,000
Lincoln	Chafee	228,000	330,000
Chris	Christie	2,167,000	4,668,000
Hillary	Clinton	11,799,000	60,640,000
Ted	Cruz	3,431,000	16,628,000
Carly	Fiorina	896,000	2,610,000
Lindsey	Graham	1,500,000	3,473,000
Mike	Huckabee	2,776,000	9,880,000
Bobby	Jindal	2,083,000	4,910,000
John	Kasich	652,000	1,277,000
Martin	O'Malley	541,000	989,000
George	Pataki	273,000	412,000
Rand	Paul	2,539,000	10,867,000
Rick	Perry	2,445,000	7,264,000
Marco	Rubio	1,779,000	5,131,000
Bernie	Sanders	5,476,000	35,130,000
Rick	Santorum	1,511,000	3,105,000
Donald	Trump	26,243,000	135,573,000
Scott	Walker	3,132,000	11,355,000
Jim	Webb	301,000	791,000

–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Pictures of the day:

Rand Paul campaign manager Chip Englander posted this photo from Cleveland. “Who’s ready to debate??” he tweeted:

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(@ChipEnglander)

Gwyneth Paltrow joined Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) to voice opposition to a bill that would ban states from requiring GMO labeling. “Thanks for raising awareness,” Tester tweeted at Paltrow:

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(@SenatorTester)

George W. Bush caused a stir when he showed up for jury duty at a courthouse in Dallas:



(@desiree_bryant)

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“Proud to be the Rep from @portlandia! ” tweeted Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) during a visit to the show’s set on Wednesday. Here he’s pictured with Portlandia co-creator and co-star Fred Armisen (left, in costume) and director Jonathan Krisel:



(@repblumenauer)

Tweets of the day:

President Obama hit back at GOP critics of the Iran deal on Twitter:

> Let’s hope @POTUS avoids obviously untrue talking points about the #IranDeal being a choice between a bad deal and war. It isn’t.
>
> — Leader McConnell (@SenateMajLdr) August 5, 2015

> The choice is ultimately between diplomacy and war. Iran’s nuclear program accelerates if Congress kills this deal. https://t.co/nvBeO1Omko
>
> — President Obama (@POTUS) August 5, 2015

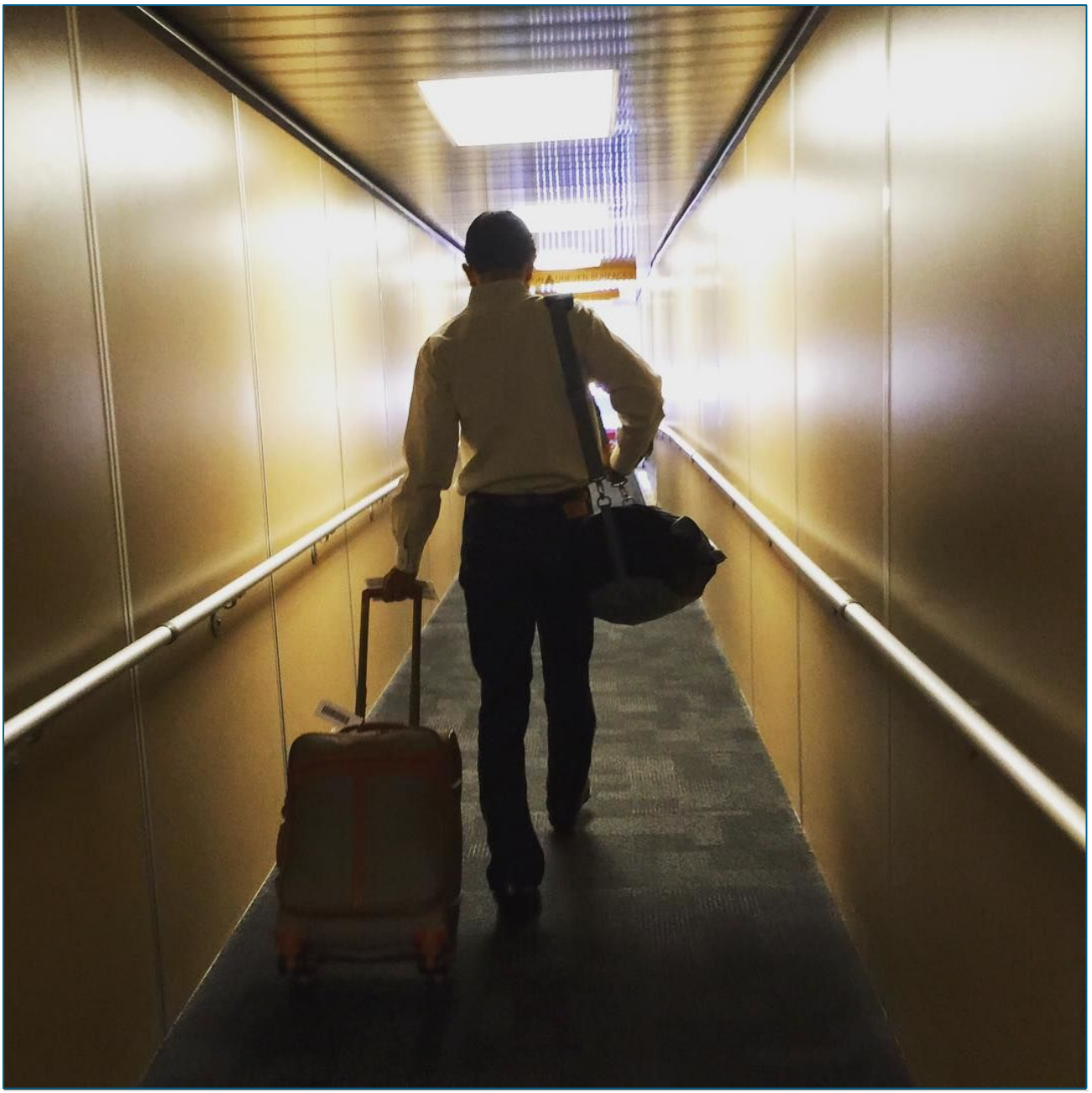
> Mr. President, Americans deserve to know the details about the secret side deals. #IranDeal
> — Rep. Steve Scalise (@SteveScalise) August 5, 2015

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> Important detail – there are no secret deals. My staff can brief you on any question about any part of the deal. https://t.co/UO0B5xCOPh — President Obama (@POTUS) August 5, 2015

Instagrams of the day:

Candidates shared what they were up to prior to the debate. Bobby Jindal boarded a flight:



(bobbyjindal)

Marco Rubio spoke at a rally (after entering through the kitchen):

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(marcorubiofla)

And Rick Perry ate dinner with staff at Cleveland's Mallorca Restaurant:

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(millertimeintx)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— Dallas Morning News, "Texas voter ID law discriminates against minorities, 5th circuit rules": "A federal appeals court ruled Wednesday that Texas' voter ID law has a 'discriminatory' effect on minorities. The ruling was a victory, albeit not a sweeping one, for President Barack Obama and minority rights groups. A three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled that the Texas law, passed in 2011, violates part of the federal Voting Rights Act. The appellate panel, however, did not accept last year's ruling by a federal judge in Texas that the voter ID law is tantamount to an illegal poll tax."

— BuzzFeed, "Trump cuts ties to operative over Facebook racism ," by Andrew Kaczinski, Christopher Massie, Ilan Ben-Meir: "Donald Trump's presidential campaign ended its relationship with an Arizona-based politico Tuesday evening after BuzzFeed News asked about Islamophobic Facebook posts he wrote and racially charged Facebook posts

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about Barack and Michelle Obama…Asked by BuzzFeed News about Aaron Borders, who identified himself on various social media profiles and his LinkedIn as Trump's Arizona state director, the Trump campaign originally *falsely denied* that he had any connection to the campaign."

— Bloomberg Politics, "How Ivanka Trump Courts the Opposite of Controversy," by Emily Greenhouse: "Ivanka positions herself as Donald's biggest fan. She is, it must be said, a terrific asset. The June day that Donald launched his presidential campaign, Ivanka introduced him in the tower that bears the family name: a prim white dress set before a lineup of American flags, her hair swept back, with golden light beaming down. The effect was of something like a halo…Ivanka has found a way to glide over her father's shock-jock tactics, and take only from his celebrity what she wants."

— Wall Street Journal, "How Jeb Bush Spent His Years on Wall Street, " by Justin Baer: "For more than seven years, nearly the length of his two gubernatorial terms, Mr. Bush…spent as much as half of his working hours advising Lehman and later Barclays, which bought the collapsed investment bank's U.S. business. He wasn't an employee of the firms, said people familiar with the matter, but was paid to attend meetings, dinners and conferences where he spoke to clients and bank executives on such subjects as health care, education, immigration and energy—matters he has started taking up this year with voters. Mr. Bush earned about $1.3 million a year at Lehman and some $2 million from Barclays, his campaign said."

BUZZING AT THE CAPITOL

— Politico, "Iranian side deals spark lingering bipartisan concern ," by Burgess Everett: "The top Democrat and Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee left a 90-minute briefing with the International Atomic Energy Agency director unsatisfied by attempts to allay their concerns over Iran's two side agreements with international inspectors. Though Chairman Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) has been deeply skeptical of President Barack Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran and appears to be a 'no' vote, doubts from the ranking member Ben Cardin (D-Md.) are cause for concern for the White House."

— The Hill, "IRS mismanaged Tea Party groups, Senate report finds ," by Bernie Becker: "The IRS severely mismanaged the applications of Tea Party groups seeking tax-exempt status, a long-awaited and bipartisan Senate report said Wednesday. But Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee couldn't find common ground on perhaps the central IRS issues of the last 27 months: whether the agency intentionally targeted conservative groups because of their politics, and whether there was White House or Treasury involvement. The new report did find that Lois Lerner, the central figure in the controversy, 'failed to adequately manage' her staff that were processing the

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tax-exempt applications."

— Roll Call, "Marine had two loaded guns, 114 live rounds outside Capitol, police say," by Hannah Hess: "The Marine Corps congressional fellow arrested Tuesday on Capitol grounds was carrying two loaded guns, 114 rounds of live ammunition, a military ballistic vest and two knives in his car, court documents state. Following an arraignment, he appears headed for a new assignment, off the Hill. Gunnery Sgt. Peter James Boby pleaded not guilty Wednesday to three misdemeanor charges in D.C. Superior Court. His wrists and ankles were shackled during the brief arraignment."

— Politico, "Boeing, GE cut off donations to Ex-Im foes ," by Anna Palmer and Jeremy Herb: "When House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy headlined a fundraiser in early June, the room was packed with defense industry lobbyists, but reps from one megacontractor were missing — Boeing. Not only was Boeing absent at that fundraiser, the contractor has cut off all political contributions to the No. 2 House Republican over his support for killing the Export-Import Bank, which facilitates billions of dollars in low-interest loans to U.S. exporters like Boeing."

— SNEAK PEEK: Today, Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) will speak this morning at an event for the libertarian Cato Institute on the fight against ISIL. This Saturday, August 8, marks one year since the U.S. launched military operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Kaine, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees, has spent the past 12 months pushing for Congress to pass a new Authorization for Use of Military Force against ISIL.

Kaine will decry the fact that a year has gone by without a meaningful debate or vote on the U.S. mission. "We are about to go on a one-month adjournment with the nation at war," he will say, according to excerpts shared with The Daily 202. "Although vested with the sole power to declare war by Article I of the Constitution, Congress has refused a meaningful debate or vote on the war against the Islamic State. A Congress quick to criticize any executive action by the President has nevertheless encouraged him to carry out an unauthorized war."

"A debate in Congress by the people's elected representatives and a vote to authorize the most solemn act of war is how we tell our troops that what they're doing, what they're risking their lives for has purpose, has meaning, and has the support of the American people," he will say. Otherwise, we're asking them to risk their lives without even bothering to discuss whether the mission is something we support. Can there be anything, anything more immoral than that – to order troops to risk their lives in support of the military mission that we're are unwilling even to discuss? One year in, our servicemembers are doing their jobs but they're still waiting on us to do ours." Watch the

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livestream here at 9 a.m.

HOT ON THE LEFT

Trump staffer caught sharing racist memes on Facebook. From the Daily Beast : "Days after Donald Trump's campaign fired a staffer for racist Facebook posts, including one in which the staffer referred to Al Sharpton's daughter as the n-word, The Daily Beast discovered another Trump staffer sharing racist memes on Facebook. Brad Nagel is listed as a senior political adviser for Trump's presidential exploratory committee in Iowa. Nagel has few entries but during the 2012 election, he posted several racist memes making fun of President Obama that are popular on the far-right … Twice in 2012, Nagel associated the Obama administration with Nazism."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

FBI: Middle Eastern men intimidating U.S. military families in Colorado, Wyoming. From Denver's CBS4 : "An alert has been issued by the FBI to all law enforcement agencies in Colorado and Wyoming involving U.S. military families and concerns about who may be watching them. The alert says Middle Eastern men are approaching families of U.S. military members at their homes in Colorado and Wyoming … In one case last May the wife of a military member was approached in front of her home by two Middle Eastern males. The men stated that she was the wife of a U.S. interrogator. When she denied their claims, the men laughed. The two men left the area in a dark-colored, four-door sedan with two other Middle Eastern males in the vehicle."

DAYBOOK:

— Both chambers of Congress are now in recess.

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Besides the Fox News debate, Martin O'Malley, Jim Webb, Bernie Sanders and Lincoln Chafee will speak to the Iowa Federation of Labor in Altoona, Iowa.

–At the White House: President Obama will participate in a video conference marking the

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50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "I just don't consider him a factor," former Colorado congressman Tom Tancredo said of Rick Santorum, whom he endorsed in 2012. "I don't even go to his Web site or anything like that. He's like several others in the race who just don't matter. On the Democratic side, he's like what's his name — Mahoney, from Maryland?"

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— An "incoming storm looks like a major rain producer, starting in earnest tonight and likely to continue well into the day Friday," forecasts the Capital Weather Gang. "It should drench the region with more than an inch in the cards. At least it knocks down the temperatures and has the good sense to get out of town in time for the weekend."

— Metro said normal service is back on the Red Line. But problems still remain — and are expected to last through the morning rush hour — on the Blue, Orange and Silver lines after a train went off the tracks at the Smithsonian stop. The derailment is causing no trains to run on those three lines between the Federal Center and McPherson Square stations.

— The Nationals lost to the Arizona Diamondbacks, 11-4.

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Jimmy Fallon ran through the pros and cons of watching the Republican debate:

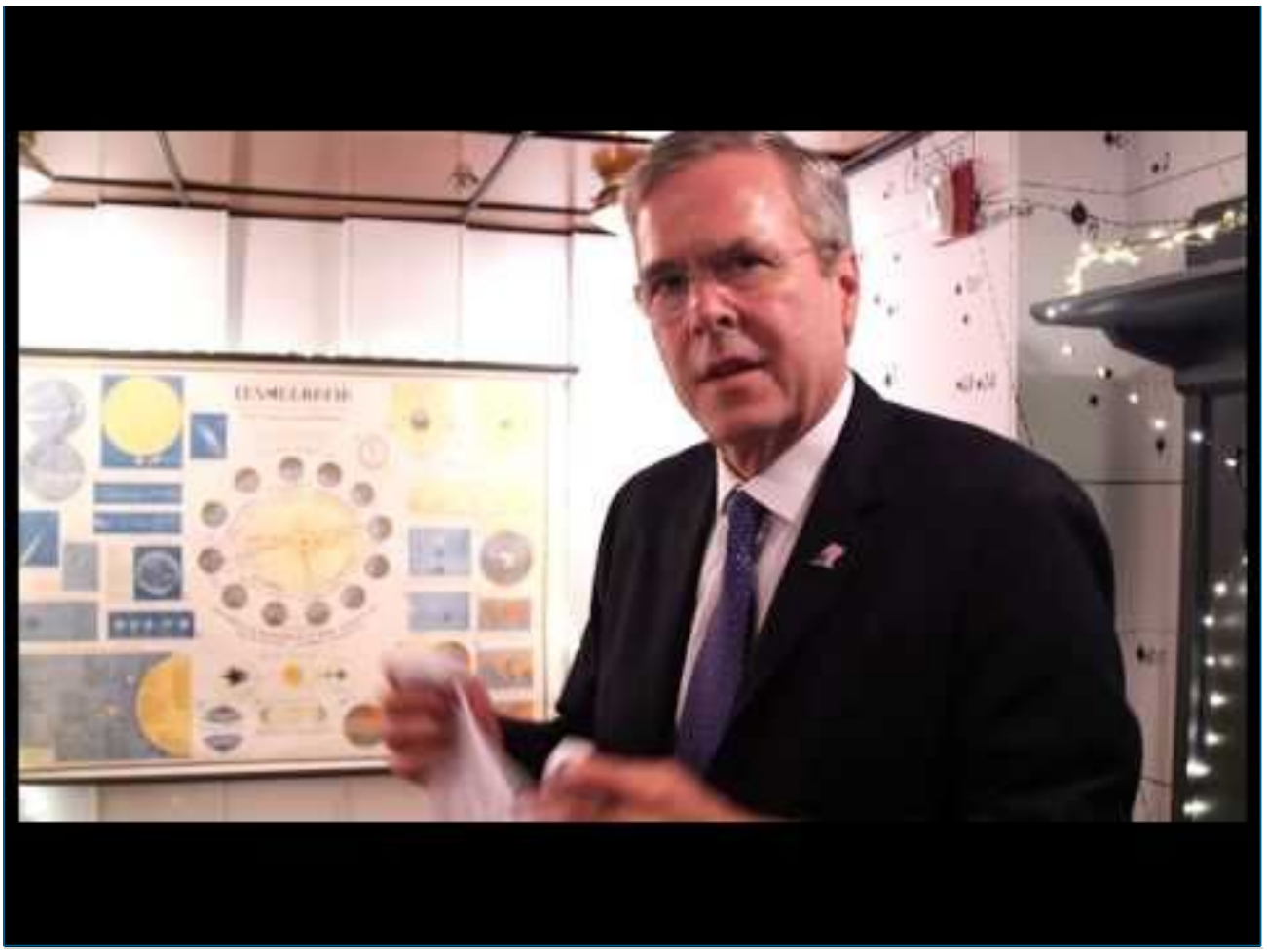
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(The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon)

Jeb Bush checked out a tank top from his new, self-proclaimed “Jeb swag store” :

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(Jeb Bush)

Bonus details: The store sells a $75 guacamole bowl (available elsewhere for $35.99), a t-shirt referring to George H.W. Bush as “the greatest man I’ve ever known,” and the aforementioned tank top depicting Jeb in the 1970s, sold with this description: “He may be a clean-cut grandfather now, but back in the ’70s, Jeb had a sideburn-mustache combo that would make Burt Reynolds blush. Wear this tank on South Beach to make sure he doesn’t forget it.” No surprise, the Democratic National Committee quickly trolled Bush with their own version of the store .

The Weekly Standard pointed out that Hillary Clinton put on a bit of a Southern accent during an interview with
the chairman of the South Carolina Democratic party. Here is the magazine’s edit of the strongest examples, with the intensity of the accent ranked by number of cowboy boots:

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(The Weekly Standard)

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The Washington Post

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/5/2015 8:26:35 AM
Subject: News Update - November 5

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, November 5

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **PM Media Advisor: 'Obama Feeding Nest of Anti-Semitism'**
- **U.S. Officials: Israel Requesting $5 Billion in Annual Defense Aid**
- **U.S. Officials Believe ISIS Planted Bomb on Russian Plane**
- **Court Postpones Demolition of Illegal Synagogue Fearing Revenge Attacks**
- **Israeli Intelligence: Relations w/ PA Damaged, Any Quiet Will Be Short-term**
- **PA Claims Israel Harvesting Organs of Dead Palestinians**
- **PLO Threatens to End Recognition of Israel**
- **Opposition, Government Unite Against EU Settlement Labeling Plans**

Commentary:

- **Forward: "How I'd Reaffirm Unbreakable Bond w/ Israel—and Bibi"**
  - By Hilary Clinton, Running for Democratic Nomination for President
- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "This Is Not Criticism, This Is Incitement"**
  - By Ben-Dror Yemini, Israeli Journalist and Contributor, Yedioth Ahronoth

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Arutz Sheva

PM Media Advisor: 'Obama Feeding Nest of Anti-Semitism'

Appointed Wednesday as Head of Public Diplomacy and Media at the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Ran Baratz quickly came under fire for controversial comments mocking Rivlin for "marginality" and lacking importance. But, Baratz appears to have also focused his "satire" on a number of elected officials across the political spectrum - at home and abroad. "[US] President Obama is not ignorant," Baratz wrote in August. "He must know he's feeding a years-long nest of anti-Semitism, which blames American Jews for dragging the United States into wars." In another post, Baratz derided U.S. Secretary of State for linking the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to Islamic State, asserting that "to Kerry's credit, no other Miss America could have said it better."
See also, "Netanyahu's New Spokesman Accused Obama of Anti-Semitism" (Ha'aretz)

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Times of Israel

U.S. Officials: Israel Requesting $5 Billion in Annual Defense Aid

Israel is asking the United States for $5 billion in annual defense aid for a decade, beginning in 2017, US congressional sources told Reuters on Wednesday. The request — a total of $50 billion — is a significant increase from Israel's current aid package, which stands at close to $3 billion per year. The sources estimated that the White House and Israel would ultimately agree on a sum between $4 billion and $5 billion. The sources stressed that the negotiations were still in the early stages.

See also, "US-Israel Defense Cooperation Goes Both Ways, Pentagon Says" (Jerusalem Post)

CNN

U.S. Officials Believe ISIS Planted Bomb on Russian Plane

The latest U.S. intelligence suggests that the crash of a Russian passenger jet in the Sinai over the weekend was most likely caused by a bomb on the plane planted by ISIS or an ISIS affiliate, according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter. But the official stressed a formal conclusion has not been reached by the U.S. intelligence community. "There is a definite feeling it was an explosive device planted in luggage or somewhere on the plane.

See also, "Egypt Says 'No Evidence' Russian Plane Was Downed by Bomb" (Times of Israel)

See also, "U.S. Intel Suggests ISIS Bomb Most Likely Caused Russian Plane Crash in Egypt" (Jerusalem Post)

Ha'aretz

Court Postpones Demolition of Illegal Synagogue

The High Court of Justice on Wednesday postponed the demolition of an illegally-built synagogue in Givat Ze'ev, northwest of Jerusalem, for two weeks. The demolition had been scheduled for Thursday. The postponement was requested by the Jerusalem police, who feared that demolition of the synagogue would lead to revenge attacks and a further escalation of violence in the area of the capital. Graffiti reading "You don't destroy a synagogue, we want a Jewish state," was spray-painted on a wall of the court building in Jerusalem early Wednesday morning.

See also, "Hundreds Protesting Planned Demolition at Synagogue" (Ynet News)

Ha'aretz

Israeli Intelligence: Ties w/ PA Damaged, Quiet to Be Short-term

Israel's intelligence branches are seeing a gradual decline in the intensity of the Palestinian terror wave, which despite continual stabbings has failed to ignite the wider public in the West Bank. Some of the worrying trends noted at the beginning of the confrontation—spillover to Arab Israelis and escalation along the Gaza border—have meanwhile been halted. Still, intelligence officials have told the political leadership in recent days that even if relative quiet is achieved, it will be very hard to restore relations with the Palestinian Authority (PA) to where they were before the autumn outbreak. Intelligence agencies agree that the internal situation in the PA—weakening of President Mahmoud Abbas' status, the emerging battle for his succession, and the sense of the PA's diplomatic ineffectiveness — will not allow for a long-term calm in the territories, even if the violence subsides.

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Times of Israel

PA Claims Israel Harvesting Organs of Dead Palestinians

The Palestinian Authority's UN representative claimed Israel is harvesting the organs of dead Palestinians, leading Israel's envoy to accuse the PA of spreading a blood libel. In a letter to the UN secretary general, ambassador Riyad Mansour protested Israel's "persistent aggression against the Palestinian people" over the past month of unrest and what he called its "insistence on use of violent force and oppressive measures." He then claimed that bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces "were returned with missing corneas and other organs, further confirming past reports about organ harvesting by the occupying power."
See also, "Israel Blasts Palestinian After Accusations of Organ-Harvesting" (NBC News)

Times of Israel

PLO Threatens to End Recognition of Israel

The Palestine Liberation Organization is threatening to withdraw recognition of Israel, its most senior peace negotiator told an Arab newspaper on Thursday. Saeb Erekat, who recently took over as secretary-general of the PLO, is quoted by *Al-Quds al-Arabi* as saying that a decision on reversing recognition of Israel - which was enshrined in a 1993 exchange of letters between the respective Israeli and Palestinian leaders at the time, Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat - will be made after PA President Mahmoud Abbas completes a round of consultations with Arab leaders this month.
See also, "PLO to Urge Abbas to Redefine Ties with Israel" (Ha'aretz)

Ynet News

Opposition, Gov't Unite Against EU Settlement Labeling Plans

The European Union's new guidelines regarding the marking of products manufactured in Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories, prompting leaders from both sides of the political isle to unite in their condemnation. In a meeting between British Ambassador David Quarrey and Knesset Opposition Leader Isaac Herzog, the latter attempted to explain why the EU's upcoming guidelines will be harmful. Marking the products is a prize Europe will give to terrorism, Herzog said, and is a move that won't contribute at all to solving the conflict. He added that the move would economically hurt thousands of Palestinians who are employed in factories in the West Bank.
See also, "Israel Launches Loud Campaign Against EU Settlement Labeling" (i24 News)

Forward – November 4, 2015

How I'd Reaffirm Unbreakable Bond with Israel—and Netanyahu

By Hilary Clinton

We have recently marked the 20th anniversary of the assassination of then Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, a good friend, a courageous warrior and a great statesman. This somber anniversary, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington on November 9, is an opportunity to reaffirm the unbreakable bonds of friendship and unity between the people and governments of the United States and Israel.

The alliance between our two nations transcends politics. It is and should always be a commitment that unites us, not a wedge that divides us.

Ever since President Truman waited only 11 minutes to recognize the new nation

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of Israel in 1948, Americans have believed that Israel is more than a country — it's a dream nurtured for generations and made real by men and women who refused to bow to the toughest odds.

My first visit to Israel, in December 1981, sparked an enduring emotional connection for me — to the land and its people — and admiration for how Israelis have built a thriving democracy in a region full of adversaries and autocrats. I was so impressed with the Israeli approach to early childhood education and to helping parents become their children's first teachers that I worked to bring the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (commonly known by its acronym, HIPPY) to Arkansas. Over the past 30 years, I've worked with Israelis of all stripes and made dear friends like the Rabins and many others inside and outside of government.

On that first trip, Bill and I fell in love with Jerusalem as we walked the ancient streets of the Old City. Even amid all the history and traditions, it was a city pulsing with life and energy. I am appalled that those same streets are now filled with terrorism and fear. We now hear of daily stabbings and shootings of innocent civilians — teenagers, parents and senior citizens. Israelis have to look over their shoulders during everyday tasks, like carrying groceries and waiting for the bus. Some American citizens are among the victims, including Richard Lakin, a teacher and advocate who spent years working for tolerance and understanding.

This violence must not be allowed to continue. It needs to stop immediately, and Israelis and Palestinians must move back toward the path of peaceful reconciliation. All parties and the international community should condemn any political and religious leader who stokes tensions with irresponsible rhetoric. Many of us have seen the video of a cleric encouraging worshippers to stab Jews as he waves a knife in the air. This incitement needs to end, period.

I have stood with Israel my entire career. As a senator, I fought to get Magen David Adom accepted to the International Red Cross when other nations tried to exclude the organization. I wrote and co-sponsored bills that isolated terror groups, and pushed to crack down on incitement in Palestinian textbooks and schools. As secretary of state, I requested more assistance for Israel every year, and supported the lifesaving Iron Dome rocket defense system. I defended Israel from isolation and attacks at the United Nations and other international settings, including opposing the biased Goldstone report.

On behalf of President Obama, I convened Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas for three sessions of face-to-face peace talks, the last time that's ever happened. And in 2012 I led negotiations for a cease-fire in Gaza to stop Hamas rockets from raining down on Israeli homes and communities.

As president, I will continue this fight.

I am deeply committed to Israel's future as a secure and democratic Jewish state, and just as convinced that the only way to guarantee that outcome is through diplomacy. And while no solution can be imposed from outside, I believe the United States has a responsibility to help bring Israelis and Palestinians to the table and to encourage the difficult but necessary decisions that will lead to peace. As president I will never stop working to advance the goal of two states for two peoples living in peace, security and dignity.

I will do everything I can to enhance our strategic partnership and strengthen America's security commitment to Israel, ensuring that it always has the qualitative military edge to defend itself. That includes immediately dispatching a delegation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to meet with senior Israeli commanders. I would also invite the Israeli prime minister to the White House in my first month in office.

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The dangers facing both our nations in the Middle East require bold and united responses. We must remain committed to preventing Iran from ever acquiring a nuclear weapon, and to vigorously enforcing the new nuclear agreement. I would move to step up our partnership to confront Iran and its proxies across the region, and make sure dangerous Russian and Iranian weapons don't end up in Hezbollah's hands or threaten Israel. I also will combat growing efforts to isolate Israel internationally and to undermine its future as a Jewish state, including the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. I've spoken out against BDS in the United States and at the U.N., and will continue to do so.

For me, fighting for Israel isn't just about policy — it's a personal commitment to the friendship between our peoples and our vision for peace and security.

Hillary Clinton is running for the Democratic nomination for president.

Yedioth Ahronoth – November 5, 2015

This Is Not Criticism, This Is Incitement

By Ben-Dror Yemini

People who want to take a bulldozer to the High Court of Justice, people who think that Judge Uzi Fogelman should join the Joint List—are conducting a campaign that is wholly incitement. Not criticism. Incitement. The Jewish state in general, and the High Court of Justice specifically, are not exempt from criticism. Their rulings are themselves filled with disagreement. One judge criticizes the other. Legal periodicals print critical articles. So it is in the world and so it is in Israel. But the remarks made by MK Motti Yogev crossed all the red lines.

The extreme right wing is not alone. The left wing too and this includes prominent leaders and activists of non-governmental organizations funded by the EU, demonstrated against rulings relating to the demolition of Bedouin homes. They did not read the rulings. They understand nothing about the issue. Their ideological affiliation made them stupid. Yogev learned from them. But the left wing's incitement, not just of the extreme left wing, does not justify incitement by the right wing.

Words can lead to actions. The majority of the rabbis and leaders of the right wing have internalized this. But not all of them. Yogev belongs to a minority that continues as if nothing has happened. The tight security that Fogelman now needs and the graffiti on the wall of the Supreme Court are the outcome of the atmosphere that Yogev heads. Because if an MK, an officer in reserves, leads the incitement, then others will shift to taking action. This does not stay in the social media. Incitement in the first act leads to writing on the wall in the second act and to violence in the third act.

Both Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked condemned Yogev. Their condemnation was important. The problem is that in order to create a threat and in order for someone to resort to violence—there is no need for masses. If one out of the hundreds of Yogev's supporters—just one— takes seriously the call to take a bulldozer to the Supreme Court, Israel is liable to suffer another tragedy that will remind us all of what happened here exactly two decades ago. Let it not be said that a Jew will not lift a hand against a Jewish judge. That's what we thought once. And we know what happened.

The delay in demolishing terrorists' homes and the ruling on demolishing the synagogue are not a matter of left wing or right wing, and are unrelated to the

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matter of judicial activism, which it is fair to criticize. In the first case, this is because of procedure. Every on-duty judge would have made the exact same decision. In the second case, the court has not yet been established that can authorize construction on private land.

Judges are human beings. It is no secret that Ayala Procaccia was on one edge of the political spectrum and that the late Edmond Levy was on the other edge. Miriam Naor and Elyakim Rubinstein don't belong to either edge. Their rulings show that they belong to a moderate school of thought.

Naor, here and there, has issued rulings that were harshly critical of the activism of some of her colleagues. The right wing should be proud of her. And as for Rubinstein, there is nothing to add. He has earned heaps of contempt from some left wing writers. If the appointment of judges were in in the hands of right wing politicians, we can assume that both would have been appointed. And both of them, of all people, spoke this past week against the ganging up on the court. We should pay attention to them.

Ben-Dror Yemini is an Israeli journalist and contributor to Yedioth Ahronoth.

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633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
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From: "Ruth Greenspan Bell" <Ruth.Bell@wilsoncenter.org>
To: "Ruth Greenspan Bell" <ruthgreenspanbell@gmail.com>
Date: 11/20/2015 8:49:07 AM
Subject: Constructive progress in addressing the multifaceted challenge of climate warming

Countries have made constructive progress in addressing the multifaceted challenge of climate warming in the four years since Barry Blechman, Micah Ziegler and I first starting writing about lessons from the weapons negotiations. Here (and copied below) you will find the next chapter published at *Foreign Affairs*, as the world heads toward the Paris COP. https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2015-11-19/turning-down-heat

Ruth Greenspan Bell
Public Policy Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
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Turning Down the Heat

Progress in the Fight Against Climate Change

By Ruth Greenspan Bell and Barry M. Blechman

This week, at a meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, the United States, Japan, and several other nations reached an agreement that will restrict financing for overseas coal projects. The deal will limit investment in the dirtiest, coal-fired power plants but will allow some continued investment in more efficient coal technology. Japan is one of the major sources of finance for the coal industry, so the agreement is an important moment in the effort to reduce global emissions.

This move, along with recent bilateral agreements the United States has reached with China and India, signals a significant strategic development in the process of tackling climate change, a process that has so far made only glacial progress. Until recently, countries mostly focused their efforts on cooperating within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The sheer number of issues before the UNFCCC, however, and the involvement of 196 parties in the negotiations have made it difficult to make progress toward greenhouse gas reductions. Increasingly, however, the United States has shifted toward supplementing its engagement at the UNFCCC with opportunistic deals cut with individual partners that focus on discrete issues where progress is feasible. This has been a much more effective strategy, and one that offers the best hope of averting the worst impacts of a changing climate.

COLD WAR LESSONS

Four years ago, in the pages of *Foreign Affairs*, we argued that the process of reducing global emissions was too dependent on the UNFCCC. UNFCCC negotiations involve more issues than most multinational talks, including weaning whole economies off fossil fuels, protecting disappearing forests, and saving the small island states that are

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likely to be underwater within a few decades. Making decisions in the UNFCCC is difficult because 196 parties are at the table—polluters, victims, and everyone in between—all of which officially wield equal weight. As a result, unsurprisingly, parties have found it difficult to conclude comprehensive agreements, and the world has made little progress in controlling greenhouse gas emissions.

Progress, we argued, could be made by unbundling the many issues contained in the UNFCCC process, following the example of the negotiations that gradually curbed the nuclear arms race. In the 1950s, countries tried to negotiate "general and complete disarmament" in the UN General Assembly, to little avail. But they later changed their approach by tackling discrete issues separately and by diversifying their negotiating arenas, expanding discussions beyond the UN to regional configurations and bilateral meetings. This resulted in a series of often opportunistic treaties, crafted when circumstances allowed, that solved particular parts of the weapons puzzle. The enactment and ultimate success of these treaties helped open the door to more such agreements, especially by developing mutual trust among nations that were then more willing to make further commitments.

The most important bilateral arrangements were, of course, those between the United States and the Soviet Union. They managed to establish communications channels and protocols to avoid accidental disaster. Long negotiations led to substantial joint reductions of their stocks of operational nuclear weapons. And the relations established during those decades of conversations allowed the two countries to act quickly to contain nuclear weapons when the Soviet Union dissolved.



KHAM / REUTERS

Residents collect fish at a drought-affected lake in Bac Ninh province, outside Hanoi, Vietnam, October, 2015.

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Surveying the disheartening responses to climate change back in 2011, we argued that a deeper understanding of this history of the nuclear talks might help negotiators be more creative today in addressing the looming disaster of climate change. Fortunately, the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama is now showing some of this required creativity. As it continues to work toward comprehensive agreements at the UNFCCC, the Obama administration has also struck compromises elsewhere on discrete issues that supplement and in some cases catalyze the ongoing UNFCCC efforts. It has also reached bilateral deals with key partners, finding areas where mutual interests align, just as the superpowers did during the Cold War .

For instance, in November 2014, two of the biggest emitters, the United States and China, reached a climate deal with very specific commitments. The United States will cut its 2005 level of carbon emissions by 26 to 28 percent before 2025; China will peak its carbon emissions by 2030 and will aim to get 20 percent of its energy from zero-emission sources by the same year. By doing so, China implicitly chose to take public responsibility for its emissions.

The United States has also made progress in bilateral discussions with India. It has followed a different approach, but one that is once again based on overlapping mutual interests. India's commitment to reducing its emissions is limited (although it has agreed to cut its emissions intensity 33 to 35 percent below 2005 levels). But it is amenable to working with the United States toward the objective of fueling its development with clean energy. In September 2015, the two countries signed memorandums of understanding that will help them collaborate on mechanisms to finance clean energy projects in India and on methods to commercialize innovative off-grid clean energy solutions. And India has expressed a commitment to reduce hydrofluorocarbons, which have a large impact on global warming.

Successful U.S.-Japanese negotiations over limiting export finance for overseas coal projects are the latest in this sequence. Once again, negotiators made progress through bilateral discussions of discrete issues. And once the United States and Japan reached a compromise, other countries followed, albeit with some further changes. Not only did the deal bring two key countries together on a significant issue, but, as Lisa Friedman of *ClimateWire* reported, it was also "aimed at influencing other members of the OECD," who this week agreed on common rules to phase out coal financing for export credit agencies. In this way, limited bilateral deals can build momentum for further agreements.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

The latest round of UNFCCC negotiations will take place in Paris in a few weeks. Even the UNFCCC has been influenced by a new realism about how agreement can take place among disparate nations with a variety of development objectives and many differences in their systems of governance.

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BENOIT TESSIER / REUTERS

The logo of the upcoming COP21 Climate Change Conference on a Nissan LEAF electric car in Boulogne-Billancourt, near Paris, France, November, 2015.

The framework for this agreement is a series of commitments, or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, by individual countries to reduce their emissions. Critics argue that this makes it much harder to compare national efforts, as each country's plans can be quite different in their approach and their goals. And it is true that the system lacks the neatness of joint general pledges to somehow hold warming to, for example, two degrees Celsius. But countries are at least making considered assessments of their individual capabilities and very specific commitments. Once commitments for curbing greenhouse gas emissions have been recorded, the countries that make them can work together so that each pledge, and the actions required to achieve it, is scrutinized, successfully resolved, and eventually tightened. In this respect, at least, the Paris talks will be a success, although there may be more disagreements on other major issues.

During the nuclear arms race, progress toward reducing nuclear dangers often followed events that sparked popular concern. Alarm over the renewed Cold War of the early 1980s, for example, led to the "Freeze Movement," which called on the United States and the Soviet Union to adopt a mutual freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons. The movement's influence on the 1982 elections in turn contributed to the decision of U.S. President Ronald Reagan to abandon his opposition to arms control policies and to negotiate treaties with the Soviet Union that banned an entire class of nuclear weapons.

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Similarly, the growing evidence today that climate change is happening—and that it has direct impacts on people's lives, from more ferocious storms to the rising incidence of tropical diseases in northern climes—is causing a generational change in attitudes toward the seriousness of the problem and the need to take action now. Increasingly, individuals are changing their own behavior, by, for instance, installing solar panels on their homes and purchasing electric and hybrid automobiles. Local and provincial governments are taking more measures to reduce emissions, from Chicago's green roof projects to British Columbia's carbon tax. In the end, the problems of a changing climate will be solved only by the active involvement of the citizens of the world. The bilateral deals orchestrated over the last year by the United States and some of the world's major emitters are a good way to begin.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/27/2014 8:43:47 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Sunday July 27, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday July 27, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

Boston Globe: "Hillary Clinton speaks of need for political compromise"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton issued an appeal for political compromise Saturday at a financial advisers' conference in Boston, crediting business-minded Republicans with helping end the 2013 government shutdown that she said had tarnished the United States' image abroad."

Boston Herald: "Clinton makes splash at Boston convention, raps partisanship"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton preached bipartisanship, plugged her book, avoided talk of a 2016 White House run, and even joked about her role as the last-minute fill-in speaker for former President George W. Bush during a convention in Boston yesterday."

Boston Globe: "Hillary Clinton meets fans at Seekonk Sam's Club"

"Against a backdrop of stacked paper towels and water bottle packs in an aisle at a Sam's Club, former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton greeted nearly 1,000 people Saturday during a book signing at the retail warehouse for her memoir, 'Hard Choices.'"

RealClearPolitics: "'Ready for Hillary' in Northeast Pennsylvania"

"McNulty is clear about who Scranton will endorse in a primary race between Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden, who also grew up in the city: 'Sorry, sir, with all due respect, this is Hillary Country.'"

Politico: "Hillary Clinton addresses 'vision,' realities"

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"Hillary Clinton said in an interview airing Sunday that voters sometimes look for 'a vision that people can hang onto,' but that must be based in the realities of getting results in Washington."

CNN blog: Fareed Zakaria GPS: "Clinton: Settlement policy my biggest complaint with Israeli government"

"The continuing settlements, which have been denounced by successive American administrations on both sides of the aisle, are clearly a terrible signal to send if, at the same time, you claim you're looking for a two-state solution."

Mediaite: "Fareed Zakaria to Hillary Clinton: What Happened to the Reset with Russia?"

"CNN's Fareed Zakaria asked former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Sunday morning if, as she claimed in her book, the "reset" with Russia worked initially, when exactly did it stop working?"

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Clinton to Europe: Loosen Russia's Energy Grip"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on European nations to become less dependent on Russian energy supplies and impose stronger sanctions on their Eastern neighbor."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Clinton: Any Enrichment by Iran Could Trigger Arms Race"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Sunday that any Iranian uranium enrichment could trigger a nuclear-arms race in the Middle East."

The Daily Independent (Ashland, Kentucky): "Bill Clinton coming to eastern Kentucky to stump for Grimes"

"Former President Bill Clinton will join Grimes on Aug. 6 for a campaign rally in eastern Kentucky, according to a campaign official who would provide no further details."

CNN: "CNN Poll: Romney tops Obama but loses to Clinton"

"If a rematch of the 2012 presidential election were held today, GOP nominee Mitt Romney would top President Barack Obama in the popular vote, according to a new national survey. But a CNN/ORC International poll also indicates that if Romney changes his mind and runs again for the White House, Hillary Clinton would best him by double digits in a hypothetical showdown."

New York Post: "How a 'weird' Chelsea Clinton is getting in on the family business"

"Yet for all this talk from a lifelong public person about her recent decision to become a public person, Chelsea Clinton, now 34, remains an enigma."

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Articles:

Boston Globe: "Hillary Clinton speaks of need for political compromise"

By Jim O'Sullivan

July 26, 2014

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton issued an appeal for political compromise Saturday at a financial advisers' conference in Boston, crediting business-minded Republicans with helping end the 2013 government shutdown that she said had tarnished the United States' image abroad.

Clinton, widely discussed as a presidential front-runner in 2016, repeatedly decried what she portrayed as ideological extremism in Washington, invoking the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and her husband, Bill Clinton, as eras of bipartisan accommodation.

"American voters should make it very clear that we will not vote for someone who says proudly he or she will go to Washington and never compromise," Clinton said.

"We're not even coming together to solve the emergency problems. We're having a big fight about what to do down on our border, with the tens of thousands of youngsters that are there," Clinton said, referring to the crisis of migrant children on the US-Mexico border.

Touring behind her new memoir, "Hard Choices," Clinton addressed the Ameriprise Financial conference at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center as a substitute for former President George W. Bush, who had canceled his appearance due to knee surgery.

"The last time a Clinton replaced a Bush, things turned out pretty well," Clinton quipped.

Much of her prepared remarks were devoted to American competitiveness with China and what she called the growing threat of Russia under Vladimir Putin.

But Clinton also repeatedly jabbed at populist themes that another frequently mentioned potential presidential candidate, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, often voices in her own speeches. Warren has repeatedly said that she is not running for president.

"We have the feeling growing in our country that the deck is stacked against the middle class, and those fighting to get into the middle class," Clinton said, adding that the country is hobbled by "rising inequality, growth that hasn't really picked up yet, and the feeling that many Americans now have that somehow the system seems rigged against them."

During a question-and-answer session with Ameriprise Financial CEO James Cracchiolo, Clinton said right-leaning corporate leaders had helped fortify GOP congressional leadership in October 2013 to end a two-week government shutdown.

"People I knew, on boards, in executive suites, were calling Republicans they supported – they're conservative, that's where their political viewpoint rests -- and saying, 'What are you guys thinking?' And it was the business community, Jim, that pulled us back from the brink."

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"Support those people. Support the people who are still able to make a deal," she said.

Clinton has taken criticism for the paid speeches she has made since stepping down as the nation's top diplomat after President Obama's first term.

Later on Saturday, she visited the Sam's Club in Seekonk for a book-signing.

Boston Herald: "Clinton makes splash at Boston convention, raps partisanship"

By Chris Cassidy and Laurel J. Sweet

July 27, 2014

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton preached bipartisanship, plugged her book, avoided talk of a 2016 White House run, and even joked about her role as the last-minute fill-in speaker for former President George W. Bush during a convention in Boston yesterday.

"The last time a Clinton replaced a Bush, things worked out pretty well," Clinton told the crowd.

Bush had to cancel his appearance at the three-day Ameriprise Financial conference at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center because of an injured knee.

In a 50-minute appearance, Clinton — his hired replacement — warned that America's image at home and abroad is being tarnished by never-ending bipartisan wrangling in Washington, according to several attendees of the event, which was heavily secured and closed to the press.

Clinton contrasted today's grim atmosphere of conflict and gridlock on Capitol Hill with the 1990s, when President Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich fought publicly all day long, but at least privately negotiated at night.

"She said, 'Don't be voting or pouring money into someone that's going to go into Washington and say, 'I'm not going to compromise. I'm going to have staunch ideas,'" said attendee Nancia Dalimonte. "Because nothing's going to change. Nothing's going to get done."

"She talked about compromise," a Republican conventioneer from Washington, D.C., said, declining to give his name, citing the strict confidentiality rules of the event. "She just talked about how both Reagan and Bill were able to work with the other party, and obviously that's not happening today."

He added: "I'm not a fan of hers. I'm on the other side, but I was reasonably impressed."

Clinton's message of political harmony could serve her well with independent voters if she runs in 2016, said one political pundit.

"Independents are fed up with the excessive partisanship," said Marc Landy of Boston College. "She hasn't got a clue about how to improve the level of bipartisanship, but might as well talk about it. Why not?"

The speech by Clinton — who declined to speak to a reporter as she left the building — drew generally warm reviews from the largely conservative crowd.

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"As a registered Republican I was a little concerned when President Bush canceled," said conventioneer David Lowe. "I was pleasantly surprised and impressed."

"People were pretty uptight about her because she's polarizing," said Craig Hanson of Wisconsin of the announcement that Clinton would replace Bush.

"But I thought she was great."

Joe Castillo, a professional sand artist and finalist on the hit NBC show "America's Got Talent," was one of Clinton's opening acts at the event.

Castillo said Clinton "started talking right away about economics. She talked about people paying their fair share."

The applause from the crowd of financial advisers was, he said, "warm, but not overly enthusiastic."

Boston Globe: "Hillary Clinton meets fans at Seekonk Sam's Club"

By Oliver Ortega

July 27, 2014

Against a backdrop of stacked paper towels and water bottle packs in an aisle at a Sam's Club, former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton greeted nearly 1,000 people Saturday during a book signing at the retail warehouse for her memoir, "Hard Choices."

Some even spent the night in the parking lot so they could be first to enter the store when it opened at 7 a.m. and line up for a signed copy and a few seconds with Clinton, widely discussed as a front-runner for the next presidential election.

"I wanted her to see that she met probably the first woman president," said Sherry Tomasso, referring to her 9-year-old granddaughter, Kyllei Shelton, who came with her to the signing. The Rehoboth residents arrived at the store at midnight with folding chairs, blankets, and snacks to brave the chilly night.

Clinton came out to raucous applause and cheering. Outside, some in the rear of the line also voiced their enthusiasm when Clinton aides periodically came out to thank them for coming and to reassure them that they would get to see the former first lady and US senator.

"Run, Hilary, run," one woman chanted.

"I have so much respect for her," said Diane Bergeron of Malden, who came to the store at 5 a.m. and left with a gleeful smile and a signed book clutched to her chest.

"She has my vote, and I'm going to campaign for her, which I never do, but I will for her," said Lynn Vandenburgh of Plymouth.

Vandenburgh said she was exhausted and could barely remember the short chat she had with Clinton, but that having Clinton's hand on top of

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hers for a few seconds made it “all worth it.”

Until just before 4 p.m., when the event was scheduled to end, the line stretched from the back of the store to the parking lot. Store employees handed out water and snacks throughout the day.

A bus belonging to the Ready for Hillary Super PAC was stationed outside the store, and about 600 people signed up to volunteer or receive information, according to the group’s communications director, Seth Bringman.

Some at the store said they were surprised at the choice of venue.

“I thought they had evacuated Sam’s Club when I saw the line in the parking lot,” said Helena Gernold of East Providence, R.I.,who was shopping there. “This is like a warehouse. You would expect like a Barnes & Noble.”

Abigale Sanft, an 18-year-old from Taunton, said the location was strange but that she did not think it affected attendance.

“What really matters is that she came to the area,” Sanft said. “People are here anyway.”

Security was tight, with dozens of State Police, Seekonk police, and Secret Service agents restricting access to Clinton and checking the perimeter.

Several aisles were cordoned off so people could not cut in without being screened. The store’s café was closed and the space was used to give out wristbands, for which people either had to buy a book or bring their own for signing.

Dianna Gee, a spokeswoman for Sam’s Club, said the store has hosted book signings for a variety of authors over the past few years. A few weeks ago, Clinton held one in Arkansas at a Walmart, the company that owns Sam’s Club.

Clinton has been promoting her book across the country since June. Last week she stopped in Cambridge.

In its first week, “Hard Choices” sold 86,000 copies, though book sales had plunged to 10,000 by last week, according to Nielsen BookScan. A new book attacking Clinton, Ed Klein’s “Blood Feud: The Clintons vs. the Obamas,” has outsold it for three weeks in a row.

RealClearPolitics: “'Ready for Hillary' in Northeast Pennsylvania”

By Salena Zito

July 27, 2014

Evie McNulty and her husband, Jim, have been there from the beginning.

She is Lackawanna County's recorder and he is Scranton's former mayor. Despite serving only one term in the 1980s, he is credited with starting the renaissance of the former industrial city; he enjoys popularity and stature as the city's unofficial ambassador, the kind of popularity you can't get in public office.

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Charming, smart, folksy, beloved and, above all, very connected, they are the Democratic Party's powerhouses in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Arguably, their support and network is more valuable to a Democrat in a primary or general election than anything that state party chairman Jim Burn could deliver to a presidential candidate.

Six years ago last month, Evie wept on her couch in Scranton as then-Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., took to the stage at the National Building Museum in Washington — where supporters had lined up around the block for hours — and told the cheering crowd of mostly women and families, “Well, this isn't exactly the party I'd planned, but I sure like the company.”

It marked a spectacular end to arguably the longest presidential primary race in modern American political history.

Clinton started the campaign in 2007 slightly blindsided by a freshman senator from Illinois, who barely had a year under his belt in Washington.

She was even more blindsided by the loss of support in Washington — from the Teddy Kennedys of the political world who were legends, as well as from the “fresh” Washingtonians such as Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. Their endorsements of Sen. Barack Obama instead of Clinton were a sharp slap in the face to the former first lady.

In late 2007 and early 2008, Clinton stumbled out of the gate; she was too rigid, too strident, failed to reach out to the progressive activists who make or break low-turnout caucus contests and, above all, was way over-handled by her advisers and staff.

“They did not let Hillary be Hillary,” said McNulty from her home, and you could hear her husband in the background agreeing.

When Clinton reached the Midwest and South, especially the primary races in Ohio and Texas, she shed her handlers and began to hit her stride, according to McNulty. “By the time she hit her home state of Pennsylvania, she had her groove on, she connected, she relaxed, she was herself, and that is the Hillary Clinton I know and love.”

To the McNultys, Hillary Rodham Clinton is one of them — a daughter of Scranton, where generations of the Rodham family worked at the lace factory, where she was baptized and spent summers, and where her brothers still own a cabin.

McNulty is clear about who Scranton will endorse in a primary race between Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden, who also grew up in the city: “Sorry, sir, with all due respect, this is Hillary Country.”

McNulty defends Clinton's rocky rollout of her book tour, during which she was criticized for remarks that seemed out of touch with working-class voters and with the populist movement percolating outside Washington in both political parties. That movement is building incredible momentum against all things elite and big — big banks, big government, big money.

“They should have called me, I would tell her to just be herself,” she said.

Today, McNulty spends her time collecting names, phone numbers and email addresses for Clinton's next presidential campaign. The county row officer, who has won every election since 1998 by overwhelming majorities, really wants only one thing in return.

“Every year we try to get Hillary to come and speak to our Society of Irish Women dinner but she has been unable to because, when she was senator, they had their parade in New York, and she had her hands full when she was running for president, then she was so busy when she was secretary of State,” said McNulty, one of three Pennsylvania women elected to the Democratic National Committee.

“God, I wish we could, I wish we could,” she said excitedly of getting Clinton to speak at the next St. Patrick's Day dinner in Scranton.

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Clearly, she is “Ready for Hillary,” as the pre-2016 bumper stickers and buttons declare.

Politico: “Hillary Clinton addresses ‘vision,’ realities”

By Katie Glueck

July 26, 2014, 12:19 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton said in an interview airing Sunday that voters sometimes look for “a vision that people can hang onto,” but that must be based in the realities of getting results in Washington.

The former secretary of state and possible Democratic 2016 frontrunner offered those remarks on CNN’s “Fareed Zakaria GPS,” set to air for the full hour on Sunday. She dismissed the notion that a Washington “insider” would have a tougher time securing the presidential nomination.

“I think that we, perhaps, go through periods where what we want and what we need is a vision that people can hang onto,” she said, according to a transcript provided ahead of the show. “But it needs to be rooted in the hard work of getting anything done in Washington. And I think the next election will be based around the economy, around people’s standard of living, around what’s happening to the middle class in America.”

Clinton, who has been traveling the country and internationally to promote her memoir of her time at the State Department, “Hard Choices,” has generated much speculation about what overarching message a presidential campaign of hers would offer.

“And whoever runs is going to have to speak candidly and come up with a set of recommendations that the American people believe would be in their interest, so that you have an election not about a candidate, but you have an election about an agenda,” she said.

When Zakaria noted that the last several Democratic presidents have backgrounds primarily outside of Washington — including her own husband, former President Bill Clinton — Clinton replied that every election is unique.

“It starts with where we are in the country at this time, with what Americans are thinking, feeling and hoping,” she said. “And it proceeds from there. And it’s always about the future. So whether you’ve been in office a day or you’ve been in office 20 years, you have to come to any campaign with as clear an understanding as you can get of where the country is and where you wish it to be.”

Clinton, in other interviews and in her book, has also appeared to create some space from the Obama administration on foreign policy matters including Syria and Russia.

Asked about what she learned from her vote to authorize military action in Iraq while she was in the Senate — an issue that took a major toll on her presidential primary campaign in 2008 — she again seemed to signal distance from the office of the presidency.

“Well, I learned to be far more skeptical of what I’m told by presidents, no matter who the presidents are, and also to be much more cautious, always, in any action or vote that could lead to the use of American military power and most particularly what we call boots on the ground.”

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CNN blog: Fareed Zakaria GPS: "Clinton: Settlement policy my biggest complaint with Israeli government"

[Transcript]

July 27, 2014, 12:53 a.m. EDT

[Fareed speaks with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about unrest in the Middle East. Watch the full interview on "Fareed Zakaria GPS," this Sunday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. ET on CNN.]

Martin Indyk has just resigned as the kind of sherpa of the peace process. And he says that the immediate trigger, in his view – there were many – was the fact that the Palestinians looked at the Israeli continued settlement activity...

Right.

…and said these guys are not serious, we're never going to be able to get a state...

Right.

…look at what they're doing.

This is my biggest complaint with the Israeli government. I'm a strong supporter of Israel, a strong supporter of their right to defend themselves. But the continuing settlements, which have been denounced by successive American administrations on both sides of the aisle, are clearly a terrible signal to send if, at the same time, you claim you're looking for a two-state solution.

Mediaite: "Fareed Zakaria to Hillary Clinton: What Happened to the Reset with Russia?"

By Evan McMurry

July 27, 2014, 10:48 a.m. EDT

CNN's Fareed Zakaria asked former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Sunday morning if, as she claimed in her book, the "reset" with Russia worked initially, when exactly did it stop working?

"I was among the most skeptical of Putin during the time that I was there, in part because I thought he had never given up on his vision of bringing mother Russia back to the forefront," Clinton said. "So when he announced in the fall of 2011 that he would be changing positions with Medvedev, I knew that he would be more difficult to deal with. He had been always the power behind Medvedev, but he had given Medvedev a lot of independence to make the reset a success."

"I saw that firsthand with respect to the parliamentary elections in Russia, because they were filled with irregularities and Russian people poured out into the streets to protest, and I, as secretary of state, said the Russians deserved better," Clinton continued. "Putin attacked me personally because is he very worried about any kind of internal dissent."

Clinton reiterated her call for a stronger response from Europe.

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"If the United States and Europe don't present a united front, I think Putin's the kind of man who will go as far as he can get away with," Clinton said. "I think he is still smart enough and cautious enough to be pushed back, but there has to be a push in order to make that happen."

Watch the clip below, via CNN:

[VIDEO]

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Clinton to Europe: Loosen Russia's Energy Grip"

By Amy Harder

July 27, 2014, 10:53 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on European nations to become less dependent on Russian energy supplies and impose stronger sanctions on their Eastern neighbor.

"They need to understand they must stand up to [Russian President] Vladimir Putin," Mrs. Clinton said on CNN in an interview with Fareed Zakaria. "The reluctance has to do with European dependence on energy from Russia."

Mrs. Clinton said that while she was Secretary of State during the first term of the Obama administration, she told European nations then that they need to diversify their energy supplies. As secretary, she created in 2011 the department's Bureau of Energy Resources, a roughly 100-person office that seeks to further diplomacy through energy security.

"Russia doesn't have that many markets," Mrs. Clinton said. "They're also dependent upon European markets. I think Europeans can go much further on sanctions and should do so as quickly as possible."

Mrs. Clinton, who is considered the top potential Democratic candidate for president in 2016, said the downing of the Malaysian Airlines 3786.KU -2.22% airplane justifies stronger sanctions on Russia.

"If there were any doubt it should be gone by now that Vladimir Putin certainly indirectly threw his support of the insurgents in Eastern Ukraine and… bears responsibility for what happened with the shoot-down of the airplane," Mrs. Clinton said. "So therefore we have to up these sanctions."

About 34% of the European Union's natural-gas imports come from Russia, and several European nations are much more heavily dependent, including six that get all of their gas from Russia, according to a U.S. Congressional Research Service report released in August 2013. Ukraine relies on Russia for 70% of its natural-gas supply, and it's a key transit country for Russian gas headed to more than a dozen other European nations.

This dependence has led to some wariness among European officials and businesses over aggressively backing sanctions, since it could end up hurting European firms and the economy.

Earlier this month, Mr. Obama announced another round of sanctions that targets, among others, three major Russian energy companies: the state-controlled Rosneft, Russia's biggest oil producer; OAO Novatek, the second-biggest gas company; and OAO Gazprombank, the bank connected with the country's gas-export monopoly.

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Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Clinton: Any Enrichment by Iran Could Trigger Arms Race"

By Amy Harder

July 27, 2014, 11:31 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Sunday that any Iranian uranium enrichment could trigger a nuclear-arms race in the Middle East.

"I believe strongly that it's really important for there to be so little enrichment or no enrichment at least for a long period of time because I do think any enrichment will trigger an arms race in the Middle East," Mrs. Clinton said on CNN in an interview with Fareed Zakaria.

As secretary of state, Mrs. Clinton led the Obama administration's efforts to get international sanctions imposed on Iran, including its oil sector, in 2012. Mrs. Clinton stepped down in early 2013 and is now considered a top potential presidential candidate for 2016, though she has declined to yet say whether she is running.

Earlier this month, Iran and six world powers, including the U.S., agreed to extend negotiations over Tehran's nuclear-enrichment program for four more months to reach a comprehensive deal.

Iran agreed to take further measures to curtail the most advanced parts of its nuclear program. It will accelerate the conversion of its 20% enriched uranium into fuel for its research reactor, U.S. officials said. That move will make the material significantly harder to reconvert into a form that can be used for a nuclear weapon, they said.

The Daily Independent (Ashland, Kentucky): "Bill Clinton coming to eastern Kentucky to stump for Grimes"

By Ronnie Ellis

July 26, 2014

GLASGOW — Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes is again calling in the "Big Dog" in her quest to unseat five-term Republican U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Former President Bill Clinton will join Grimes on Aug. 6 for a campaign rally in eastern Kentucky, according to a campaign official who would provide no further details.

But given the efforts by the McConnell campaign to tie Grimes to the environmental policies of President Barack Obama, and the declining fortunes of the eastern Kentucky coal economy, it's probably a safe bet the event will take place somewhere in the coal fields of southeastern Kentucky.

It will be the second visit to Kentucky this year by Clinton on Grimes' behalf, but probably not the last. Clinton is a close friend with Grimes' father, Jerry Lundergan, and he has known Grimes since she was a teenager.

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In February Clinton spoke to about 1,000 Grimes supporters in Louisville, endorsing the jobs plan Grimes touts in her campaign and focusing on the economic issues Grimes wishes to use against McConnell.

That was Clinton's first campaign appearance in the 2014 election cycle, indicating the importance he attaches to the effort to defeat McConnell, the Republican Senate Minority Leader who has been Obama's major nemesis in Congress.

Clinton also appeared in a video endorsing Grimes which was broadcast at Grimes' formal campaign kickoff last summer in Lexington at the Carrick House, owned by Lundergan.

Unlike Obama, Clinton and his wife, Hillary, the former U.S. Secretary of State who is widely regarded as the 2016 Democratic front-runner for president, remain popular in Kentucky. Bill Clinton was the last Democrat to carry Kentucky – twice – in a presidential election and Hillary Clinton defeated Obama in the 2008 Kentucky presidential primary by a wide margin. Lundergan managed Hillary Clinton's 2008 Kentucky primary campaign.

"We are humbled by President Clinton's continued commitment to our campaign and the hardworking people of Kentucky," Jonathan Hurst, Grimes' campaign manager, said Saturday.

"The President shares Alison's vision for a strong middle class and his support in electing Alison, a champion for working families, to the U.S. Senate is invaluable," Hurst said.

Grimes has run successive television ads hitting McConnell on traditional Democratic working-class themes: Medicare and blue collar jobs.

Since McConnell gave a controversial answer to Edmund Shelby, Editor of the Beattyville Enterprise, saying local job development wasn't the job of a U.S. Senator but that of the state commerce cabinet, Grimes has highlighted the issue at every opportunity.

Clinton won his first term on similar issues when the internal theme of his 1992 campaign was, "It's the economy, stupid." He's also known as an effective advocate for Democratic policies. Clinton clearly boosted Obama's re-election fortunes with a speech at the 2012 Democratic National Convention after which Obama dubbed the former president as "explainer in chief."

No doubt Grimes is hoping Clinton can do the same for her in the coal fields, once a Democratic strong hold but increasingly inimical to Obama and national Democrats.

In the primary, Grimes won coal-producing counties easily against an undistinguished Democratic primary field, but she under performed in those counties when measured against her statewide average vote totals. On the other hand, McConnell outperformed his statewide totals in the same counties.

McConnell accuses Obama of waging "a war on coal," though most industry experts blame the high cost of mining eastern Kentucky coal and market forces such as cheap natural gas as primary reasons for eastern Kentucky coal's decline.

He also tells voters he could become the Senate Majority Leader if the GOP wins control of the Senate this year as many think may happen and it would be foolish for Kentucky voters to exchange a Senate leader for a "back bencher" freshman.

Clinton is likely to address all those issues in his visit.

The announcement comes just a week before the annual Fancy Farm Picnic in far western Kentucky where Grimes and McConnell will share the same stage for the first time. Excitement over a Clinton visit can't hurt the enthusiasm of Grimes' supporters at that event, either.

Most publicly released independent polls continue to show the race tight, some with Grimes and others with McConnell leading. But all of them have the race within the margin of error.

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CNN: "CNN Poll: Romney tops Obama but loses to Clinton"

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 27, 2014, 8:29 a.m. EDT

If a rematch of the 2012 presidential election were held today, GOP nominee Mitt Romney would top President Barack Obama in the popular vote, according to a new national survey.

But a CNN/ORC International poll also indicates that if Romney changes his mind and runs again for the White House, Hillary Clinton would best him by double digits in a hypothetical showdown.

The survey, released Sunday morning, also suggests that more Americans see Clinton as a strong and capable leader than those who feel the same way about Obama. But Clinton's numbers on five personal characteristics have slightly edged down the past few months.

And the poll points to a jump the past month in support among Republicans for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

How Romney fares

According to the poll, if the 2012 election were somehow held again, Romney would capture 53% of the popular vote, with the President at 44%. Obama beat Romney 51%-47% in the popular vote in the 2012 contest. And he won the all-important Electoral College by a wider margin, 332 electoral votes to Romney's 206.

Last November, an ABC News/Washington Post survey indicated that if the 2012 election were held again, Romney would have had a 49%-45% edge over Obama in the popular vote.

Romney has said numerous times that he won't run for the White House again. But what if things changed and he ended up as the GOP nominee in 2016? The CNN poll indicates that 55% of Americans would support Clinton, with Romney at 42%.

"Politically speaking, there is an interesting group of people who would not vote for Obama but would pick Clinton over Romney," said CNN Polling Director Keating Holland. "It turns out that nearly seven in ten of them are women, and 56% are Independents."

The CNN poll – just like almost every national and state survey preceding it – indicates that the former secretary of state remains the overwhelming frontrunner for the Democratic nomination. Clinton is seriously considering a second White House run.

Two-thirds of Democrats and independents who lean toward the party say they would most likely support Clinton for the presidential nomination. One in ten say they'd back freshman Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a super star among liberals. And eight percent support Vice President Joe Biden. That's a slight swap from last year, when Biden stood at 12% and Warren at 7% in CNN polling.

Like Clinton, Biden is mulling another presidential bid, while Warren has said numerous times that she's not running in 2016.

Did book tour hurt Clinton?

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The poll was conducted more than a month into Clinton's book tour for her new memoir "Hard Choices."

Did Clinton's well publicized book tour – including her controversial remarks that she and her husband Bill Clinton were "dead broke" when they left the White House in 2001 – hurt her standing with the public?

The number who say that Clinton shares their values dropped from 56% in March to 51% now, and the number who say she cares about people edged down from 56% to 53% in the same time period.

"But it's tough to tell whether Clinton's remarks were the reason for any change that might have happened. The number who believe that Clinton agrees with them on issue and can manage the government effectively also dropped, and those are not qualities that you would expect to be affected by any concerns over Clinton's wealth," said Holland. "The more likely explanation is that the book tour hurt Clinton - if it did so - not because of any specific comments that she made but because more Americans now view her as an active candidate for the White House."

GOP field all knotted up, but big jumps for Christie and Perry

The poll also indicates the race for the 2016 GOP nomination remains a wide open contest with no obvious frontrunner among the potential Republican White House hopefuls.

Thirteen percent of Republicans and independents who lean towards the GOP say they'd likely back Christie, with Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a 2008 Republican presidential candidate, each at 12%. Perry – who ran for the White House last time around – and Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin – the 2012 GOP vice presidential nominee – are both at 11%.

Christie and Perry have each jumped five percentage points from CNN's last Republican nomination poll, which was conducted in June.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas are both at 8%, with Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida at 6%, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin at 5% and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, who battled Romney deep into the 2012 GOP primary calendar, at 3%.

Turnout key in midterms

The poll's release comes with 100 days to go until November's elections. And the biggest question surrounding this year's midterms is how many people will turn out to vote.

The answer is crucial, because a smaller, more typical midterm electorate should favor the Republican Party. That's because single women, and younger and minority voters, who are big supporters of Democrats in presidential election years, tend to cast ballots in smaller numbers in the midterms.

That's the problem facing Democrats this November, as they try to hold onto their 55-45 majority in the Senate (53 Democrats and two independents who caucus with the party). The party is defending 21 of the 36 seats up this year, with half of those Democratic-held seats in red or purple states. In the House, the Democrats need to pick up an extremely challenging 17 Republican held seats to win back the majority from the GOP.

The new CNN poll illustrates the turnout problem for the Democrats.

In the generic ballot question, the Democrats have a four percentage point 48%-44% edge over the Republicans among registered voters. The generic ballot asks respondents to choose between a Democrat or Republican in their congressional district without identifying the candidates.

But when looking only at those who say they voted in the 2010 midterms – when the GOP won back the House thanks to a historic 63-seat pick up

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and narrowed the Democrats' control of the Senate – Republicans hold a two-point 48%-46% margin.

The poll was conducted for CNN by ORC International from July 18-20, with 1,012 adult Americans questioned by telephone. The survey's overall sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points.

New York Post: "How a 'weird' Chelsea Clinton is getting in on the family business"

By Maureen Callahan

July 26, 2014, 11:35 p.m. EDT

In 2012, four years after sort-of-stumping-but-not-really for her mother's presidential campaign, Chelsea Clinton sat down for a lengthy, laudatory profile for Vogue. "Historically, I deliberately tried to lead a private life in the public eye," she said. "And now I am trying to lead a purposefully public life."

Last April, Clinton told Fast Company magazine much the same thing. As she also did with NBC's Brian Williams, who interviewed Clinton after she was hired by the network as a "special correspondent" — albeit one with no journalism experience. Her starting salary: $600,000 a year.

"For most of my life I did deliberately lead a private life and inadvertently led a public life," Clinton said. She was now ready to do us the favor of stepping into the spotlight, prodded by her late grandmother. "[She told me] that being Chelsea Clinton had happened to me, and that I had a responsibility to do something with that asset and opportunity," she told Williams.

Yet for all this talk from a lifelong public person about her recent decision to become a public person, Chelsea Clinton, now 34, remains an enigma. She is the Derek Jeter of the political world, adept at talking coherently while saying nothing. Who she is, what drives her, what she believes in — aside from her family's political primacy — is unknown.

Chelsea has held a series of jobs with sketchy descriptions, her accomplishments vague. She depicts herself as just another New Yorker, going to SoulCycle, taking the train, going to the movies every Sunday — yet she demands a level of obeisance any true New Yorker would find laughable.

"This is my gracious challenge with her," NBC producer Jay Kernis told Vogue. "People in television constantly interrupt each other. But when you are with Chelsea, you really need to allow her to finish. She is not used to being interrupted that way."

She is also, it turns out, not necessarily the future of the Democratic Party. As Daniel Halper reveals in a curiously overlooked chapter from his new book, "Clinton, Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine" (Broadside Books), Chelsea is, for good and for ill, very much like her parents.

"The whole way she's approached her emergence," one Clinton aide told Halper, "has been very self-laudatory and kind of selfish."

Another close observer put it more succinctly: "She's weird."

'Nothing seems very authentic'

Chelsea Clinton was born on Feb. 27, 1980, the only child of then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary. From a very early age, her parents trained her to survive the worst of politics.

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When she was 6 years old, Bill and Hillary sat her down and tried to explain how campaigning worked: Mainly, lots of people would say awful things about her dad.

“Bill said terrible things about himself,” Hillary wrote in “It Takes a Village.” “Like how he was really mean to people and didn’t try to help them.”

Their daughter burst into tears, but the Clintons kept going, saying vile things about themselves — not stopping until Chelsea learned to stop crying.

She was an awkward adolescent when her father was inaugurated in 1993, and her parents insisted that the press leave Chelsea alone. “I really find it hilarious when they make fun of me,” Bill told People magazine weeks after winning the election. “But I think you gotta be pretty insensitive to make fun of an adolescent child . . . We really work hard on making sure that Chelsea doesn’t let other people define her sense of her own self-worth.”

According to Halper’s book, the Clintons overcompensated. She was known among staff as “the royal child,” because she often got whatever she wanted. “If she would ask for something and [her parents] said ‘no,’ she would go behind their backs and go to staff and ask staff to do stuff,” one associate told Halper. “How do you say no to her? She’s the boss’ kid.”

Chelsea, described by Halper as “tip-to-tail her daddy’s little girl,” was devastated by the Lewinsky scandal. When Bill finally confessed to Hillary, she punished him by forcing him to tell all to his teenage daughter. When he learned she read the Starr Report online, he wept.

Aides and associates told Halper that Chelsea’s guilt-ridden parents have since given her everything she asks for — including money for the four-bedroom, 61/2 bath apartment on East 26th Street that she and husband Marc Mezvinsky purchased in 2013 for $10.5 million.

“When you screw a young White House staffer,” a close Clinton source told Halper, “or whatever they did, you’re paying the price for the rest of your life. When your daughter wants to buy a $10 million apartment, the question isn’t, ‘Are you crazy?’ It’s, ‘Where do I wire the money?’”

Such an unusual life, in some ways insulated and in others grotesquely transparent, has contributed to Chelsea’s high-class aimlessness. In 2001, she graduated from Stanford with a degree in history, then got a master’s in international relations from Oxford, and then got a master’s in public health at Columbia. Yet she’s never worked in any of those fields, instead taking vague consulting jobs with six-figure salaries. She’s regarded by many in ClintonWorld as an over-educated dilettante with no practical life experience.

“It bothers the s— out of me that everyone thinks she’s the greatest thing since sliced bread,” one ex-Clinton associate told Halper. “She’s never had a [real] job. She’s been in college for 12 years.”

A friend of Paul Begala’s tells Halper that the longtime Clinton aide and defender actively dislikes Chelsea and thinks her vanilla, good-girl persona is an act.

“Nothing seems very authentic,” another source tells Halper. When Chelsea was campaigning with her mother in 2008, giving speeches and taking audience questions at various stops, she behaved as though she were still that insulated 13-year-old: No questions from the media were taken, not even from a 9-year-old girl reporting for Scholastic.

Her question: Would Bill be a good “First Man”?

“I’m sorry,” Chelsea told the girl. “I don’t talk to the press — and that applies to you, unfortunately — even though I think you’re cute.”

‘Stay here — you’re not a Clinton’

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Cheslea's distaste for the media did not stop her from looking for a job in the media. "She was basically shopping herself to networks, trying to get the best deal," an ex-Clinton staffer told Halper. "It's just kind of gross."

In 2011, she was hired by NBC News, naively positioning herself as someone whose "Making a Difference" pieces would make a difference — as if that's not the very definition of good journalism. Her fuzzy subjects and anodyne approach were savaged in the press.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· July 29 – Saratoga Springs, NY: Sec. Clinton makes "Hard Choices" book tour stop at Northshire Bookstore (Glens Falls Post-Star)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/10/2015 1:12:49 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: David Vitter is in trouble

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Morning intelligence for leaders

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David Vitter is in trouble



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David Vitter leaves the Senate floor (Reuters/Gary Cameron)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— The Louisiana governor's race is becoming a referendum on David Vitter, not Barack Obama, and that's a race that Vitter can't win.

With the runoff just 11 days away, public polls put the Republican senator down anywhere from 11 points to 20 points. Early voting has already started.

Now under heavy fire on TV for his participation in a prostitution ring, something he admitted only elliptically to in 2007, Vitter is up today with a television ad that shows him sitting with his wife and kids around a kitchen table.

"Fifteen years ago, I failed my family but found forgiveness and love," the senior senator says to camera. "I learned that our falls aren't what define us, but rather how we get up, accept responsibility and earn redemption. Now Louisiana has fallen on hard times … And as your governor, I'll get up every day to fight for you." Watch :



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This comes in response to Democrat John Bel Edwards going on the air over the weekend with the most provocative attack ad of the year. A female narrator notes that Edwards served as an Army Ranger in the 82nd Airborne Division before noting that Vitter missed a 2001 House vote honoring 28 slain soldiers at roughly the same time that he took a call on his cell phone from the D.C. Madam. “David Vitter chose prostitutes over patriots,” a female narrator says. “Now the choice is yours.” Watch :



Vitter got just 23 percent in last month’s jungle primary. [In Louisiana, all the candidates square off on the same ballot and then the top two finishers face each other in a runoff a few weeks later.] Republican Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, one of Vitter’s opponents, endorsed the Democrat last week. The other Republican in the race, Scott Angelle, has refused to endorse Vitter and kept a low profile.

Funny: The initial title for the Vitter ad was “Hard Times.” After getting mocked on social media because of the connotations, the campaign changed it on YouTube to “Difficult Times.”

Can Vitter overcome this? Did the hooker attack go too far? Vitter is underwater, viewed more unfavorably than favorably. The redemption play is part of a broader strategy

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to increase his positives. He needs to get more Republicans to like him in order to win. Comparing the ad to Jack Conway's Aqua Buddha spot against Rand Paul, Republicans call it desperate. Democrats say you can't rest on your lead in a red state like Louisiana and argue that there's a lot of questions Vitter has still never answered about the scandal.

To be sure, Vitter has a clear path to victory in the deep-red Pelican State, which hasn't elected a Democrat statewide since 2008. The president remains toxically unpopular in the state (his approval rating is in the low 30s). While Edwards acknowledges voting for Obama, it's a much harder sell to tie him to Obama than it was with Mary Landrieu in last year's Senate race.

One reason Landrieu got crushed so badly last year was that her bottom fell out with whites, especially pro-life Catholics. Exit polls showed that one in five white voters supported her reelection. Edwards, who opposes abortion rights, has been faring well among these voters in the polls. About a third of the electorate could be African-American, which gives Democrats a natural base to build from.

Outgoing Gov. Bobby Jindal is not popular back home, which in theory makes him a drag on Vitter, but it is widely known inside the state just how much the two guys despise each other. That makes it hard for Dems to link them.

We should still be a little bit cautious about handicapping. The polls were wrong ahead of last week's off-year election in Kentucky. Not a single survey showed Republican Matt Bevin in the lead, yet he won by 9 points. Larry Sabato's outfit, the University of Virginia's Center for Politics , moved the contest yesterday from Leans Republican to Toss-Up. Louisiana State University plays Ole Miss, on the road, at 3:30 the Saturday of the runoff, which could dampen turnout.

A debate tonight could be pivotal. Edwards and Vitter will go at each other mano a mano for the first time. "I believe the gloves will be off," Edwards told the New Orleans Advocate. "It will be entertaining for a lot of folks." You can watch a livestream of the 7 p.m. Central/8 p.m. Eastern debate here .

If Vitter loses next week, there is buzz among Republicans in Louisiana and Washington that he would NOT run for reelection to the Senate in 2016. A loss in the gubernatorial contest would open him up to a serious GOP challenger, and it would be much harder to hit up the donors who have spent this year funding his campaign. Vitter only had $26,216 in his federal campaign account at the end of September.

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Democratic candidate for governor John Bel Edwards, left, speaks after Republican Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, right, announced his endorsement of Edwards last Thursday in Baton Rouge. Dardenne, who ran fourth in the primary, chose Edwards over David Vitter. (AP Photo/Melinda Deslatte)

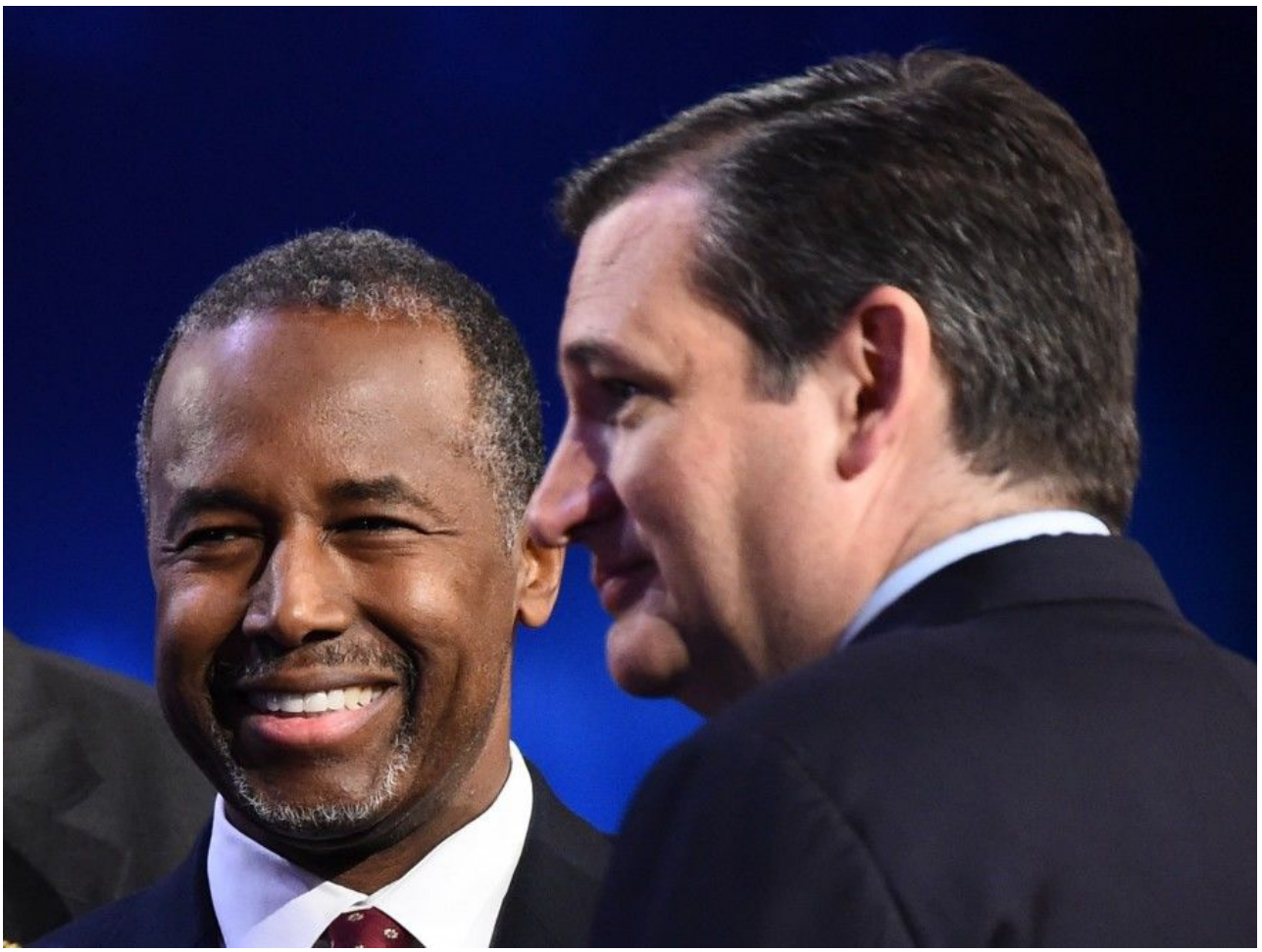
Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— A federal appeals court ruled last night against President Obama's executive order to shield roughly 5 million illegal immigrants from deportation. The U.S. Appeals Court for the 5th Circuit of New Orleans blocked implementation of Obama's action to allow children who entered the U.S. illegally to stay, and to permit immigrant parents of U.S. citizens to apply for work permits. Immigration advocates hope the administration will appeal quickly to the Supreme Court, in time for a June ruling. (David Nakamura)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



Ben Carson at the last debate (Robyn Beck/AFP/Getty Images)

–Ben Carson remains the most popular candidate among Republicans, despite persistent questions about his statements, a new Washington Post/ABC News poll reveals this morning. Seventy-one percent of Republicans view Carson favorably, as do 50 percent of Americans. He's followed by Donald Trump, who posted a 68 percent favorability rating among GOPers. But Carson's edge is in how intensely he is liked by GOP voters — 39 percent have a "strongly favorably" view of him compared to 26 percent for Trump. The poll was conducted last Wednesday through Sunday, meaning it didn't capture the tail end of the furor surrounding Carson's biography. Marco Rubio is the only other GOP candidate not underwater with all Americans in terms of how much they like him — 41 to 37 percent. See the toplines here .

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House Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions is among those endorsing Jeb Bush today. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

— Jeb Bush rolling out a list of more than 100 Texas endorsements: Among those on the leadership team that the campaign is unveiling this morning are energy billionaire T. Boone Pickens and Dallas developer Ross Perot Jr. On the elected side: Rep. Kay Granger of Fort Worth, Rep. Pete Sessions of Dallas and state House Speaker Joe Straus. Recall that Jeb's son, George P., was elected Land Commissioner last year and his brother, George W., was a two-term governor. The Bush name clearly still commands some degree of loyalty. See the full list here . Watch a pre-debate web video here .

— Coincidentally, Donald Trump announced last night that Katrina Pierson, who unsuccessfully challenged Sessions in a GOP primary last year, will be his new national spokeswoman.

GET SMART FAST:

1. The NSA's bulk collection of phone records was halted three weeks before it was set to expire after a federal district court judge ruled that it is most likely unconstitutional. (Spencer S. Hsu)
2. The University of Missouri's president resigned and the school's chancellor will step down at the end of the year in response to allegations that administrators failed to address issues of racism on campus. The football team's threat to boycott the rest of its season forced the move. (Susan Svrluga)
3. The U.S. high school dropout rate has fallen from 1 million students in 2008 to about 750,000 in 2012. (Emma Brown)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

4. Chipotle will reopen dozens of locations in the Pacific Northwest after no E.coli bacteria was found in any of the Mexican restaurants thought to be the source of the outbreak that made 40 people ill. (Oregonian)
5. University of Virginia's Phi Kappa Psi fraternity filed a $25 million lawsuit against Rolling Stone magazine over its discredited and retracted story about a gang rape at its house. (T. Rees Shapiro)
6. Russian athletes allegedly used a government-sponsored doping program to improve their results in competition. Some of the country's performances in the 2012 London Olympics are being called into question. (Dave Sheinin and Will Hobson)
7. Two American government contractors were among five killed by a Jordanian police officer who opened fire at a U.S.-backed training center in Amman. (Taylor Luck and William Booth)
8. A 12-member team of House Democrats, after a 10-month review of potential reforms to help revitalize their caucus, decided not to recommend term limits for committee chairs or other changes to the seniority system, largely because such moves would take power away from the Congressional Black Caucus. (Paul Kane)
9. The Supreme Court ruled that a Texas police officer cannot be held liable for fatally shooting a fleeing suspect in a high-speed chase, even though the officer's supervisor ordered him not to shoot. (Robert Barnes)
10. A California state senator introduced legislation to eliminate statutes of limitation for rape cases. (Los Angeles Times)
11. The Navy launched another test missile from a submarine off the coast of Southern California, two days after the first missile launch resulted in UFO conspiracy theories. (LAT)
12. Comcast told 200,000 of its customers to reset their account passwords after the cable giant discovered the subscribers' information was being sold on the black market. (USA Today)
13. SeaWorld is ending its theatrical killer whale show and will replace it with one focused on the animal's natural behavior. (San Diego Union-Tribune)
14. The amount of carbon dioxide in the world's air is now 43 percent higher than pre-industrial levels. (Joby Warrick)

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Haze shrouds the Musi River as vehicles drive across the Ampera Bridge. Indonesia's forest fires have catapulted the southeast Asian nation to the top of the rankings of the world's worst global warming offenders, with daily emissions exceeding those of China on at least 14 days in the past two months. (Dimas Ardian/Bloomberg)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. President Obama will not make special accommodations to allow convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard to travel back to Israel after he is released next week from prison. (Karen DeYoung)
2. Lindsey Graham's first TV ad , running in New Hampshire, stars John McCain saying that the South Carolina senator is the only candidate "prepared to be a commander-in-chief." (Watch)
3. Scott Walker teamed up with Jeb Bush at an event in Waukesha to tout school choice and met privately with Marco Rubio on the sidelines of a fundraiser. The Wisconsin governor said he has no current plans to endorse. (Ed O'Keefe)
4. Donald Trump floated the idea of boycotting Starbucks because of frustration among some social conservatives that the coffee chain's holiday-themed cups lack snowflakes and overt Christmas-themed images. (AP)
5. Rep. Mo Brooks endorsed Ted Cruz and will chair his campaign in Alabama.
6. George Pataki and Jim Gilmore missed the filing deadlines to appear on the Alabama and Arkansas ballots, a sign that they're not actually running real campaigns.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



Chris Christie in Des Moines on Oct. 31 (Reuters/Brian C. Frank)

Finally, Chris Christie used his veto power to block a string of bills passed by the overwhelmingly Democratic legislature, offending the NAACP, the ACLU and the casino industry all in the same day:

- He vetoed a gun-control bill, which Gabby Giffords lobbied for, designed to prevent convicted domestic abusers from possessing firearms. (Star-Ledger)
- He vetoed a bill allowing early voting and automatically registering people to vote when applying for a driver's license ("motor voter") or other forms of state ID. (Philadelphia Inquirer)
- He rejected an Atlantic City aid package, which would have allowed casinos to suspend $210 million in property taxes. (WSJ)

A Quinnipiac poll out this morning shows Christie snags just 8 percent among New Jersey Republicans in the presidential horserace, placing him 4th among GOP presidential contenders. (Trump leads the pack). And by a 28-point margin, Jersey voters overall want their governor to drop out of the presidential contest.

— THE FOURTH GOP DEBATE IS TONIGHT – The undercard is at 7 p.m. (and lasts one hour) and the main debate starts at 9 p.m. (and lasts two hours). Quick debate preview—

Do facts still matter? Will candidates get away with just making stuff up again? Raising the curtain on tonight's debate in Milwaukee, Jenna Johnson and David A. Fahrenthold note that the outsider candidates are copying Donald Trump in shamelessly and constantly fibbing. "As Trump has become the defining

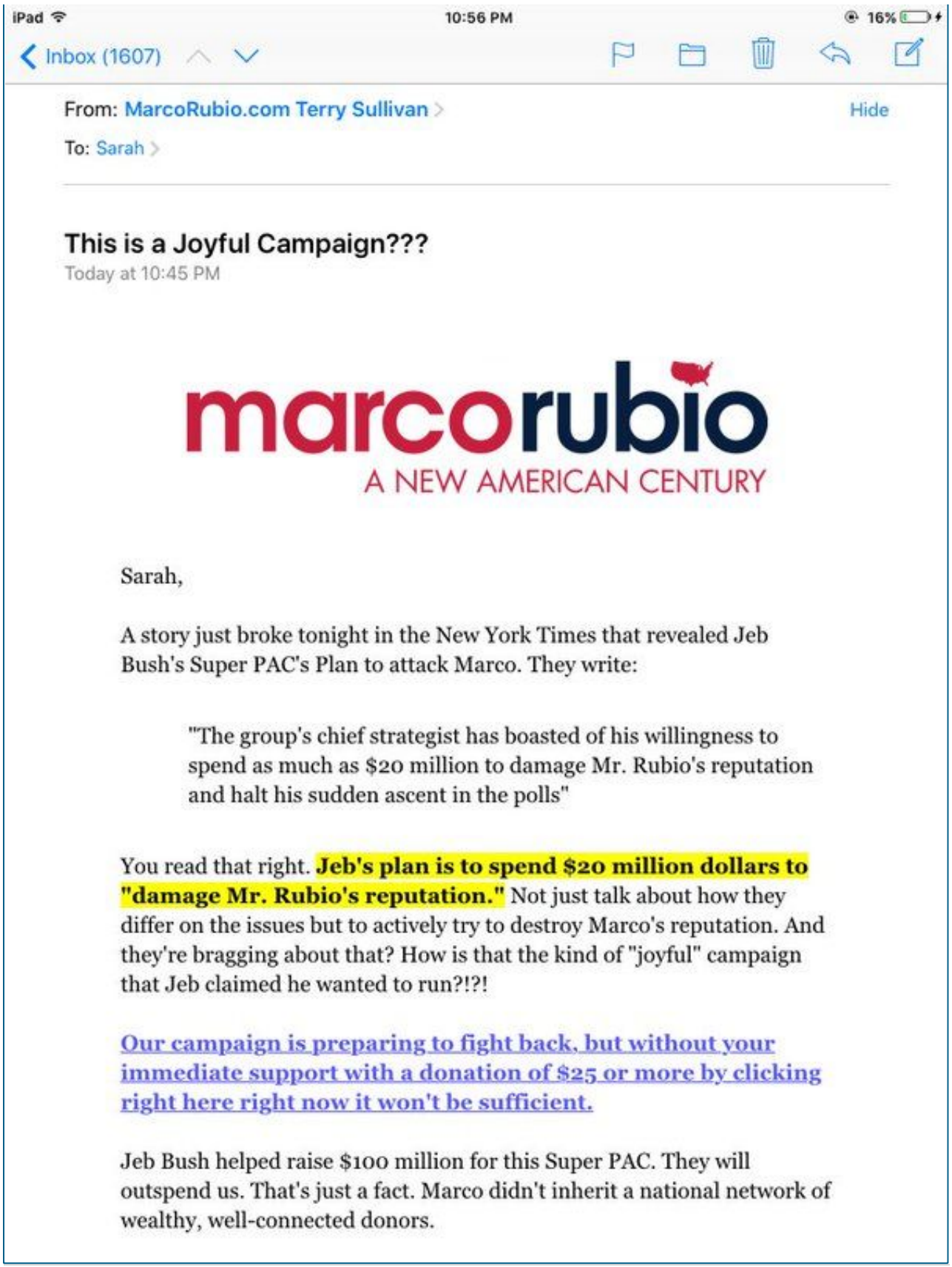
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character of this Republican presidential primary contest, the race itself has seemed to take on elements of his personality — in particular, his aggressive, seemingly shameless rejection of the idea that he has ever been wrong. The influence is especially strong in Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson, the two other political outsiders, who have risen in Trump's slipstream. All three will be onstage Tuesday evening for the fourth televised GOP debate. As with Trump, some of these outsiders' most memorable debate moments have come when they uttered statements that turned out to be exaggerated or untrue. And, like Trump, they have played to a distrustful electorate by criticizing the fact-checkers and refusing to acknowledge that any facts were wrong." The story has some great examples.

Coming attractions – The New York Times reports that Bush allies, including the super PAC, are threatening to go nuclear on Rubio. Shockingly, one of the issues they might attack him on is abortion. "The cash-rich group aiding Jeb Bush's White House run has filmed a provocative video casting his rival Rubio as ultimately unelectable because of his hard-line stand against abortion," Maggie Haberman and Michael Barbaro report. "That group, which has raised more than $100 million, has asked voters in New Hampshire how they feel about Mr. Rubio's skipping important votes in the Senate. And the group's chief strategist has boasted of his willingness to spend as much as $20 million to damage Rubio's reputation and halt his sudden ascent in the polls, according to three people told of the claim. Seething with anger and alarmed over Rubio's rise, aides to Bush and his allies are privately threatening a wave of scathing attacks on his former protégé in the coming weeks, in a sign of just how anxious they have become about the state of Bush's candidacy."

Rubio campaign manager Terry Sullivan quickly capitalized on the story by e-mailing their fundraising list:

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iPad 10:56 PM 16%

Inbox (1607)

From: MarcoRubio.com Terry Sullivan Hide

To: Sarah

This is a Joyful Campaign???

Today at 10:45 PM

marcorubio

A NEW AMERICAN CENTURY

Sarah,

A story just broke tonight in the New York Times that revealed Jeb Bush's Super PAC's Plan to attack Marco. They write:

> "The group's chief strategist has boasted of his willingness to spend as much as $20 million to damage Mr. Rubio's reputation and halt his sudden ascent in the polls"

You read that right. **Jeb's plan is to spend $20 million dollars to "damage Mr. Rubio's reputation."** Not just talk about how they differ on the issues but to actively try to destroy Marco's reputation. And they're bragging about that? How is that the kind of "joyful" campaign that Jeb claimed he wanted to run?!?!

Our campaign is preparing to fight back, but without your immediate support with a donation of $25 or more by clicking right here right now it won't be sufficient.

Jeb Bush helped raise $100 million for this Super PAC. They will outspend us. That's just a fact. Marco didn't inherit a national network of wealthy, well-connected donors.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

Roberts leaves his mark – "Chief Justice favors some when assigning court's major decisions," by Robert Barnes: "John Roberts is a stickler for evenly distributing the workload of the Supreme Court, but he plays favorites among his eight colleagues when assigning the court's most important decisions. Not surprisingly, Roberts calls his own number more than anyone else's and assigns the second-highest number to Anthony

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Kennedy, the pivotal justice on the ideologically divided court, according to a new study by Harvard law professor Richard J. Lazarus. On the other hand, Roberts has never assigned Sonia Sotomayor the court's opinion in a major case in her six terms on the court, Lazarus found, an omission that he wrote 'could be a bit portentous.' In looking broadly at the chief justice's 10 years on the job, Lazarus found that Roberts hesitates in assigning big decisions to the court's most conservative and liberal members — Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas on the right, and Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the left."

— "Obama and Netanyahu stress 'shared interests' at White House meeting ," by Steven Mufson and Ruth Eglash: "President Obama and Benjamin Netanyahu met at the White House on Monday, and each said to the other what he most wanted to hear: Netanyahu declared that he still believes in a two-state road to peace, and Obama declared that he remains devoted to Israel's security and nailing down a new military aid package. In a meeting that lasted just over two hours, the two sought to move beyond their rhetorical combat earlier in the year over the Iran nuclear deal. This was the 16th meeting between the two leaders since Obama became president, and it was their first conversation since July, when Obama called Netanyahu to announce the Iran nuclear deal hours after Netanyahu had called it a 'mistake of historic proportions.'"

— "Kentucky's newly insured worry about their health under next governor ," by Amy Goldstein: "It was in Pikeville, Kentucky that Mindy Fleming handed a wad of tissues to Tiffany Coleman when she arrived, sleepless and frantic, with no health insurance and a daughter suffering a 103-degree fever and mysterious pain. An hour later, Coleman had a WellCare card that paid for hospital tests, which found that 4-year-old Alexsis had an unusual bladder problem. Such one-by-one life changes are the ground-level stakes ushered in by the election last week of businessman Matt Bevin as Kentucky's next governor. The second Republican elected to the office in 48 years, he wrapped his campaign around a pledge to dismantle Kynect, the state's response to the federal health-care law. If he follows through, the Bluegrass State would go from being perhaps the nation's premier ACA success story to the first to undo the law's results, razing a state insurance exchange and reversing its considerable expansion of Medicaid."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ

Curated by Elise Viebeck (@eliseviebeck)

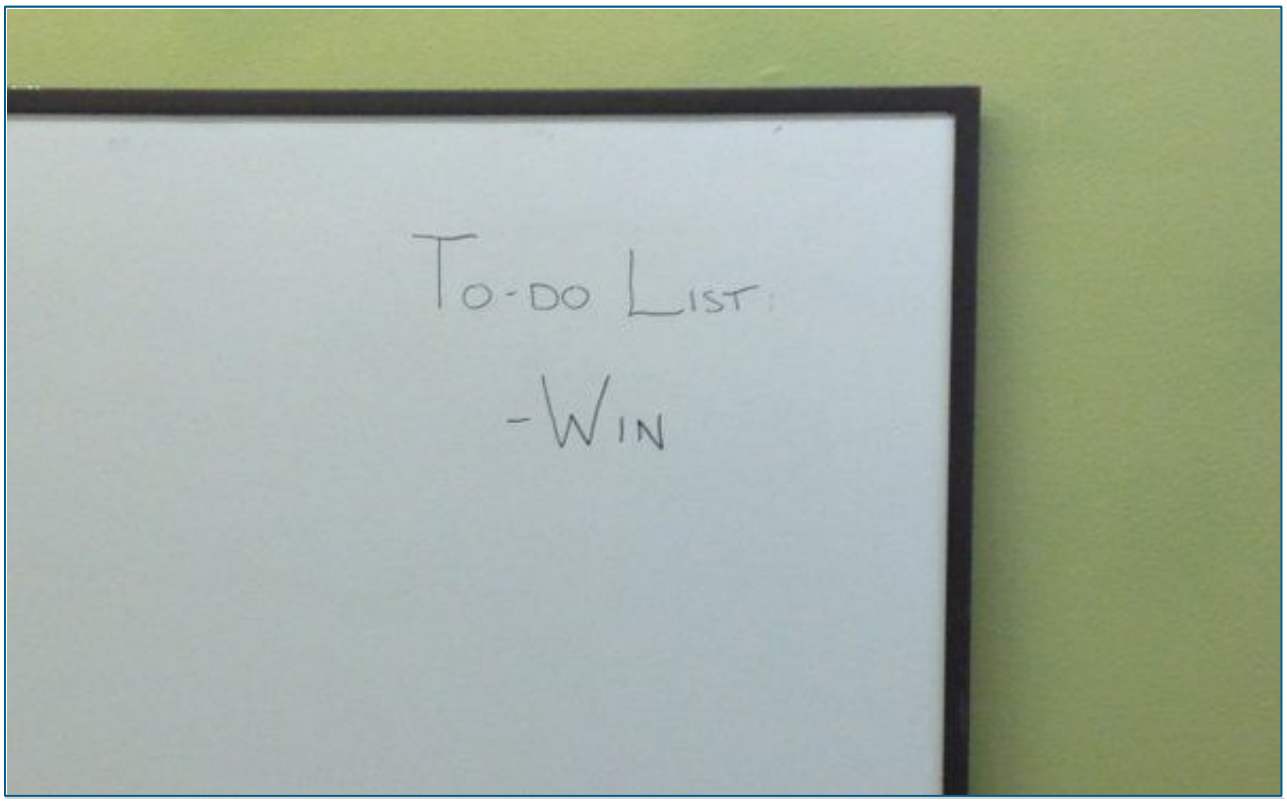
— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Trump and Carson have dominated the chatter in the two weeks since the CNBC debate. Carson has struggled at times under the media klieg lights, while Trump has lost some of the media interest that he had during the summer. And

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then there's Ted Cruz, who continues to be at the back of the pack when it comes to mentions on television by the mainstream media but remains very strong on social media. Among all GOP presidential candidates, Cruz had just 6 percent of total broadcast mentions but 12 percent of social media mentions. The relative social media strength belies Cruz's outside popularity with the grassroots. His challenge will be turning that online enthusiasm into votes.

–Pictures of the day:

Jeb! posted this photo of a to-do list from his Iowa field office:



(@JebBush)

Hillary Clinton supporters packed the halls of the New Hampshire state capitol in Concord as she filed to get on the state's primary ballot :

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(@McClainJulie)

Rick Santorum is apparently sick ahead of tonight's GOP debate. "If Michael Jordan can have his NBA Finals Flu Game, then I can have my Laryngitis Presidential Debate," he tweeted:

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(@RickSantorum)

Donald Trump attracted a huge crowd for a rally in Springfield, Ill.:

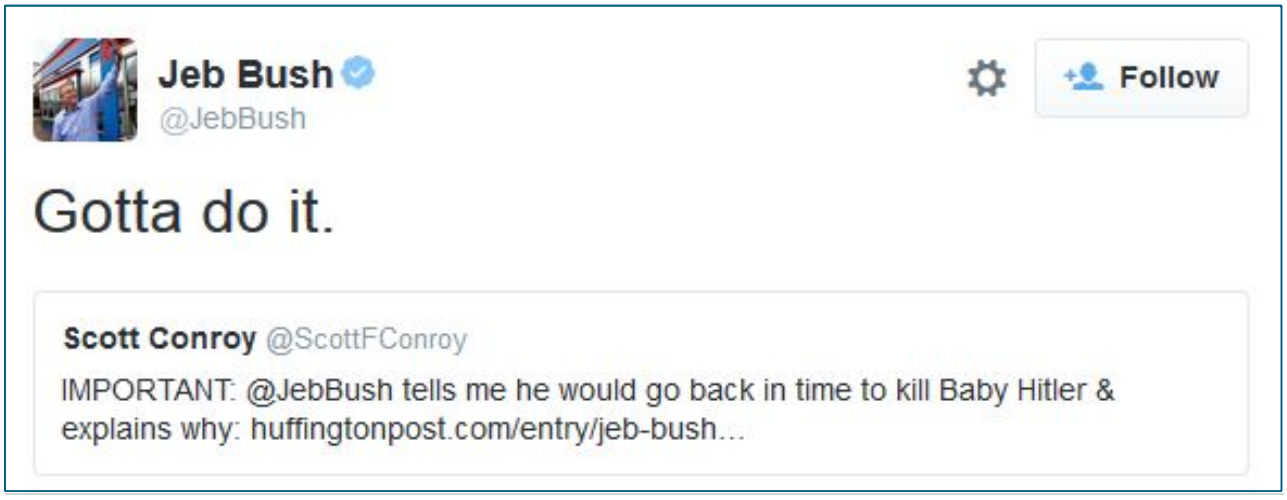
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(@wpjenna)

–Tweets of the day:

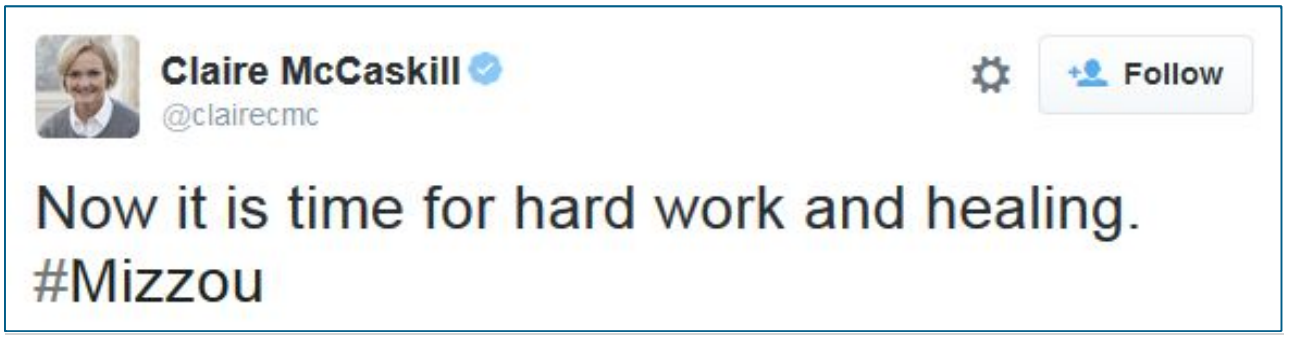
Not a joke. The Huffington Post asked Jeb: Would you kill Hitler if you could go back in time and murder him as a child? Prudently, the ex-governor noted that there might be a lot of unintended consequences by going back in time to alter history. But he said the answer is still yes.



(@JebBush)

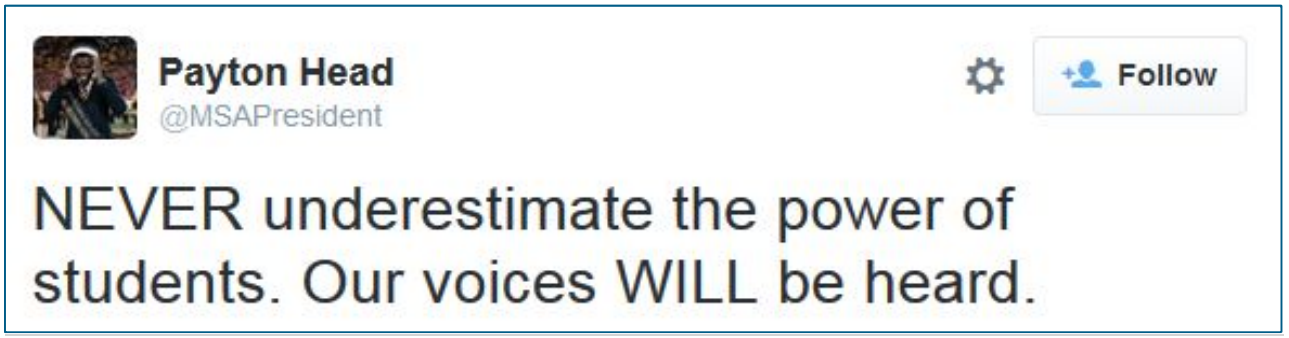
Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) called for “healing” at the University of Missouri after President Tim Wolfe’s resignation:

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(@clairecmc)

Mizzou Student Body President Payton Head praised his fellow students for their activism:



(@MSAPresident)

Rep. Ed Royce (R-Calif.) celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary:

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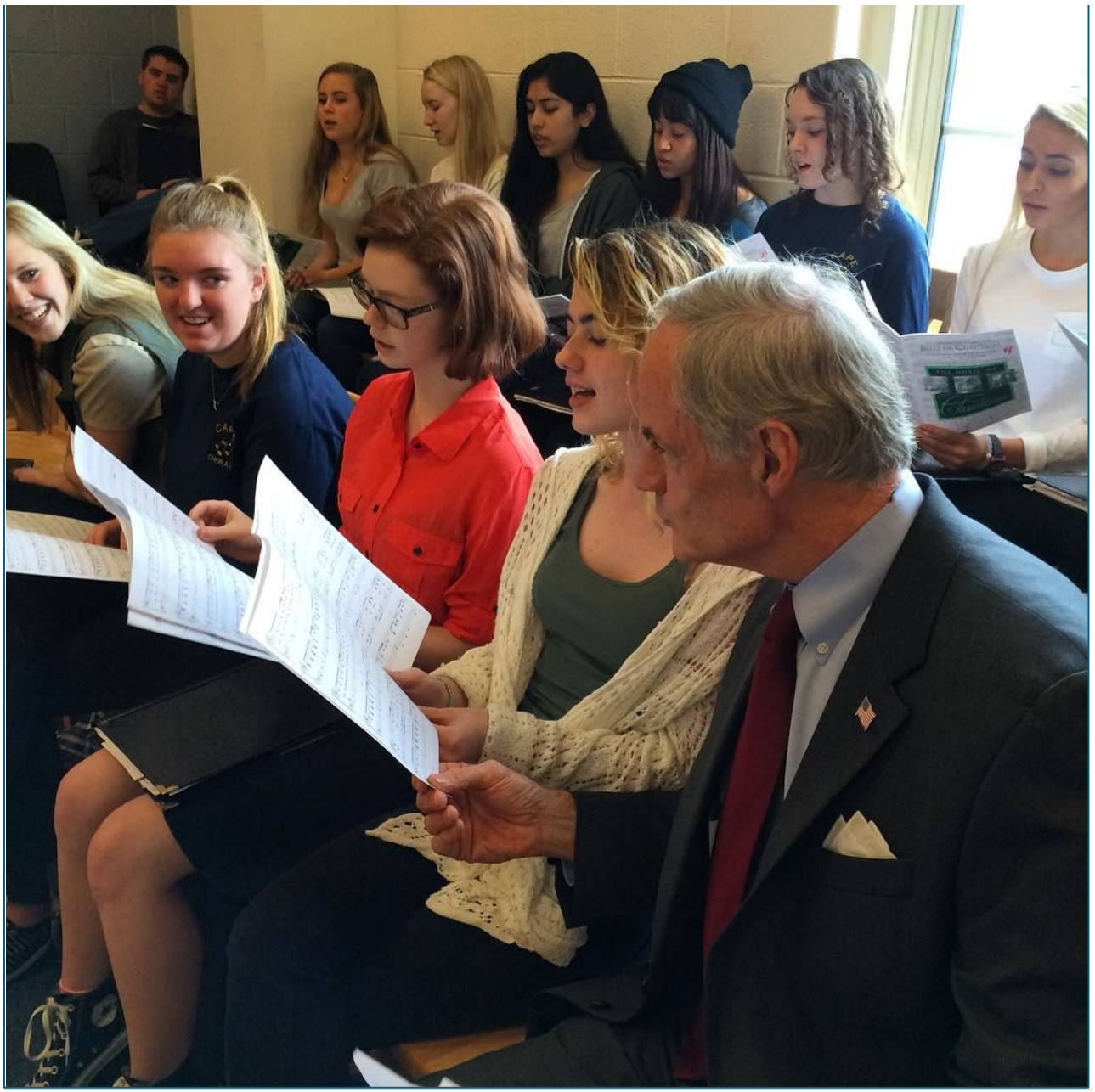


(@RepEdRoyce)

–Instagrams of the day:

Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) joined a music class at Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes, Del.:

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(senatorcarper)

Rep. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.) shared this photo from a duck blind in St. Charles:

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(repannwagner)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "Cuban peers dispute Ted Cruz's father's story of fighting for Castro," by Jason Horowitz: "Ted Cruz has said, all he wanted to do was 'fight for liberty' — a yearning that he says was first kindled when he heard his father's tales of fighting as a rebel leader in Cuba in the 1950s, throwing firebombs, running guns and surviving torture. … The elder Mr. Cruz, 76, recalls a vivid moment at a watershed 1956 battle in Santiago de Cuba, when he was with a hero of the revolution, Frank País, just hours before he was killed in combat. In fact, Mr. País was killed seven months later and in a different place and manner. In interviews, Rafael Cruz's former comrades and friends disputed his description of his role in the Cuban resistance. He was a teenager who wrote on walls and marched in the streets, they said — not a rebel leader running guns or blowing up buildings."

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— New York Times, "Classified report on the CIA's secret prisons is caught in limbo," By Mark Mazzetti and Matt Apuzzo: "A Senate security officer stepped out of the December chill last year and delivered envelopes marked 'Top Secret' to the Pentagon, the C.I.A., the State Department and the Justice Department. Inside each packet was a disc containing a 6,700-page classified report on the C.I.A.'s secret prison program and a letter from Dianne Feinstein, urging officials to read the report. Today, those discs sit untouched in vaults across Washington, still in their original envelopes. The F.B.I. has not retrieved a copy held for it in the Justice Department's safe. … Nearly a year after the Senate released a declassified 500-page summary of the report, the fate of the entire document remains in limbo … the Justice Department has prohibited officials from the government agencies that possess it from even opening the report." *They don't want it to become a FOIA-able record…*

— Wall Street Journal, "China's soft power exposed: More than a dozen U.S. radio stations turn out to be Beijing mouthpieces," by L. Gordon Crovitz: "American radio listeners might have been surprised last year to hear a news account explaining how pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong 'failed without the support of the people of Hong Kong.' In fact, a large percentage of local residents joined the demonstrations until they were forcibly suppressed under orders from Beijing. Listeners would have been less surprised if the stations had disclosed that the communist government in Beijing controls their content. More than a dozen stations across the U.S. are among a total of 33 globally that operate covertly, with Beijing hiding behind front men. Last week it came to light that Beijing's state-run China Radio International secretly owns 60% of a U.S. company, G&E Studio, which leases stations and airtime in Washington, Philadelphia, Boston and San Francisco, among other cities. … The U.S. government apparently didn't suspect a thing, but the FCC and Justice Department have both now opened investigations."

— Politico, "FBI steps up interviews in Clinton email probe ," by Rachael Bade: "The FBI's recent moves suggest that its inquiry could have evolved from the preliminary fact-finding stage that the agency launches when it receives a credible referral, according to former FBI and DOJ officials … the FBI around early October requested documents from a company involved in the server arrangement after Clinton left State. It also interviewed a former high-ranking policy official at State about the contents of top Clinton aides' emails … Confirmation of the interview and document requests is the first public indication that the agency is moving ahead with its inquiry – and possibly expanding it."

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HOT ON THE LEFT

Ted Cruz: An atheist 'isn't fit to be' president. From the Huffington Post : Cruz said that he believes anyone who wants to be president must fear God and pray daily. Speaking at the National Religious Liberties Conference in Iowa, Cruz spoke about the persecution of Christians in the U.S. and around the world: "Any president who doesn't begin every day on his knees isn't fit to be commander-in-chief of this country."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Group: Christians face Middle East purge within a decade. From Fox News : "The dwindling Christian population of the Middle East could vanish completely within a decade unless the global community intervenes, say alarmed aid groups who note that followers of the Bible are being killed, driven from their land or forced to renounce their faith at an unprecedented pace … 'It's an answer that depends on the response of the world,' [said] Edward Clancy, director of outreach for the United Kingdom-based Aid to the Church in Need. 'What response is there going to be toward us if we act?'"

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Fox Business Network and the Wall Street Journal host the Republican primary debate in Milwaukee. The undercard is at 7 p.m. Eastern and the main event is at 9 p.m. Watch the livestream on FoxBusiness.com. Hillary Clinton campaigns in Derry and Hanover, N.H. Bernie Sanders joines a contract workers strike outside the Capitol.

–On the Hill: The Senate meets at 10 a.m. to resume work on H.R. 2029, the military construction and VA appropriations bill. Later, the chamber is expected to deliver a veto-proof majority on the amended National Defense Authorization Act. The House is in recess. The Republican governor of Iowa, Terry Branstad, and the Democratic Governor of Delaware, Jack Markell are appearing at an event at the Mayflower from 10 a.m. to noon

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today to call on all the presidential candidates to make elevating the teaching profession the most important education priority in 2016. The governors are helping to launching a new national campaign called TeachStrong, an effort in early primary states and general election swing states to bring together teachers unions and education reformers.

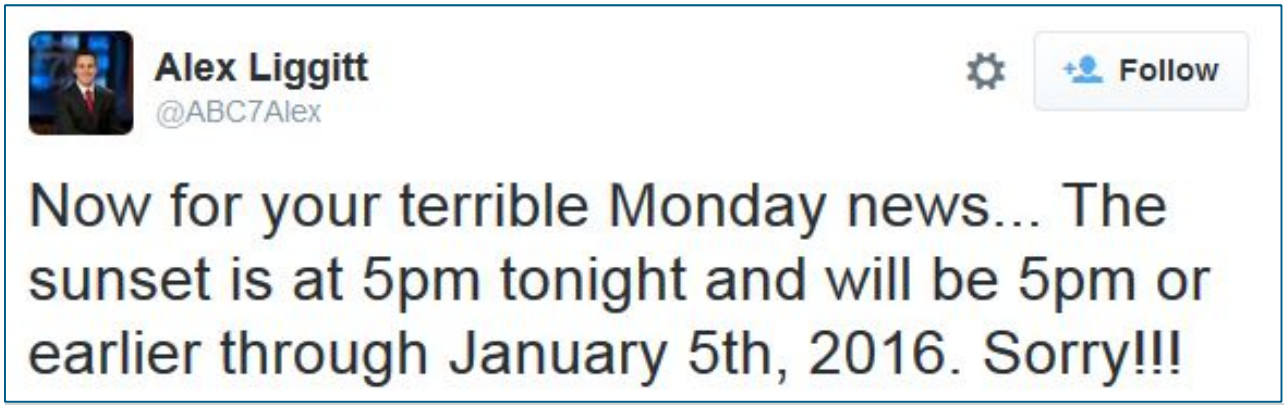
–At the White House: President Obama meets with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter. Vice President Biden delivers remarks at an "It's On Us" anti-domestic violence event at Clemson University in South Carolina. Later, Biden holds an "It's On Us" roundtable with students from Morehouse College and Spelman College in Atlanta.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Pal, you ain't seen nothing yet." — Mike Huckabee mocks Ben Carson for complaining that he's being scrutinized unfairly

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— Heavier rains are likely to be off to our east today, but light showers will hang with us in the District for much of the day. "Veterans Day is a Yankee Doodle dandy with a breeze that keeps the flags aflutter but temps are warm enough to keep it pleasant," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "Light showers on Thursday are much quicker to get out of our hair. The only drenching this weekend is from the sunshine. The trade off is cooler temps, but perfectly fall-like."

ABC 7 meteorologist Alex Liggitt is the bearer of some bad news:



(@ABC7Alex)

— Metro's new series of rail cars has design flaws, including loose seats and inadequate door bolts, causing the $2 billion project to be delayed by more than three months. (Paul Duggan)

— Virginia wasted $21 million in 2014 on Medicaid benefits for people who no longer qualified, and even allowed people with no income to receive money without

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trouble. (Laura Vozzella)

— Parking tickets and traffic fines accounted for between 13 and 16 percent of D.C.'s total general fund between 2005 and 2014. (Perry Stein)

— This might make you cry –> "Expecting van of 16, pastor got horrific call ," by Matt Zapotosky, Lynh Bui and Arelis R. Hernandez: "The pastor opened his Bible, preparing to preach to the two dozen faithful on hand. His cellphone rang. And before he had a chance to speak, he had to listen — to someone from the local children's hospital telling him that some of his missing congregants were arriving for medical attention. The worshipers traveling by church van from Georgia Avenue in the District would not make it. A pickup truck had slammed into the van carrying 16 to the Sunday evening service. The crash exploded into fiery wreckage about four miles from the church on Kenilworth Avenue in Prince George's County. Four died, and 13 were injured, including a woman who was eight months pregnant and lost the fetus. 'It was worse than anything I could've thought,' said Santos Jimenez, pastor of the Iglesia Ministerio de Dios Unidos. 'I'm not a man who cries. I'm strong. But I haven't stopped.'"

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

A Democratic candidate for governor of West Virginia got pulled over by a police officer for going 54 in a 40 zone. During the ensuing back-and-forth, he called the cop a "total lunatic." Then he says, "I want you to explain it to your boss." Read the story from the Charleston Gazette-Mail here . Watch the 90-second dashcam video from 2014:

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The Senate Republican Conference produced a video of GOP senators who served in uniform thanking other veterans for their service ahead of Veterans Day. Included are Arizona's John McCain, Kansas' Pat Roberts, Georgia's Johnny Isakson, Idaho's Mike Enzi, Alaska's Dan Sullivan, Arkansas' Tom Cotton and Iowa's Joni Ernst:

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Video of President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu in front of the cameras in the Oval Office:



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(The White House)

Trump spoke with press right after his SNL performance ("I loved it," he told a TMZ camera man of the dancing):



(TMZ)

Just how close is the 2016 election? Not close, BuzzFeed argues:

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(BuzzFeedVideo)

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The Washington Post

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From:	"Joe Biden" <info@barackobama.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	1/20/2011 2:08:24 PM
Subject:	Promises Kept

John --

It was two years ago today that Barack and I were sworn in, and I remember what he said like it was this morning:

"The challenges we face are real, they are serious, and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America: They will be met."

Even then, we knew it would take time. We knew it would be hard. And we knew we would sometimes make mistakes.

But we did not lose sight of what we came to do.

Together, we took on difficult issues that had been put off for decades. And some say we have accomplished more in two years than any administration since Roosevelt's.

Take it from me, that's something you should take to heart -- because none of it would have been possible without your hard work.

But the job's not done.

I am reminded of that every time I travel to the small towns in Pennsylvania, Iowa, New Mexico -- all over -- and on the weekends I get home to Delaware. I meet folks who are still struggling, who want to know when the recovery will start to turn things around for their family.

These people are why we can't quit.

And moving forward with this new Congress, we will need to defend what we've achieved together as aggressively as we pursue the goals that remain.

I believe in the power of public service because I've seen what it has done throughout our country's history to combat social and economic injustice. And I am proud to say it's a story that continues in the remarkable progress we've made in the past two years. To tell it, Organizing for America has written *Promises Kept*.

Take a look at the *Promises Kept* report of all the work we've done in two years -- you can download a copy or have a few sent to you to share with friends.

There's a whole lot to be proud of.

Of course, the big ones come to mind first: historic health insurance reform, which is reining in the insurance companies and helping control the cost of care for millions of Americans; Wall Street reform, which put in place the toughest consumer protections ever; and the end of combat operations in Iraq, which brought more than 100,000 troops home.

And there is so much more you've helped achieve that is right now improving lives across the country:

-- We passed the Recovery Act, which saved and created more than 3 million jobs, provided the largest middle-class tax cut in a generation, and made landmark investments in clean energy, infrastructure, and education.

-- We made critical investments in General Motors and Chrysler, saving tens of thousands of jobs -- and perhaps the companies -- and spurring a rebirth of the American car industry.

-- We wrote into law student loan reform and credit card reform, which ended the worst abuses of the banking industries and are making lending fair for American families.

-- We put two new Supreme Court justices on the bench -- Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, who bring rich and diverse experience to the Court.

-- We have begun to reset America's relationship with the international community, from the ratification of a new START nuclear arms treaty with Russia to tough new sanctions on Iran to strengthening our long-term partnership with a unified Iraq.

-- And we finally repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which was the right thing to do -- not only because it makes our military stronger at a time when it needs to be the strongest, but because we are seeking that military might with an abiding sense of justice.

Telling the story of the past two years will be critical to the fights ahead. And it's not just the story of this president or this White House -- it's your story.

And it is literally proof that the organizing you do on the ground -- the conversations you have with your friends and neighbors -- is working.

Now, I'm not going to say the last two years were easy -- and I won't tell you the fights ahead are going to get any easier.

But I didn't sign up for a cake walk. And I'm pretty sure you didn't either.

We're here to move our country forward. We're here to lay a new foundation for this country -- for our economy, for our politics, and for our children's and grandchildren's futures.

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And, as Barack says, what we will be able to accomplish together is in your hands.

It's how hard we all work, and how well we all tell this story.

Take a few minutes to read *Promises Kept* -- and let's keep moving:

http://my.barackobama.com/PromisesKept

Thanks for everything,

Joe

Paid for by Organizing for America, a project of the Democratic National Committee -- 430 South Capitol Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. This communication is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

This email was sent to: john.podesta@gmail.com

Change Email Address | Unsubscribe



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From:	"Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	3/31/2014 3:59:19 PM
Subject:	dinner at 6:30pm at my apartment

Dinner at 6:30 at the apartment at 1750 Taylor Street, on Russian Hill, between Broadway and Green

John, it's possible that Steve and Susan will be still at the office, which, as you know is very close to BARDT. I suggest you call Susan on her cell (415)4201338 or Steve, on his cell,(925)3833853, when you leave Berkeley and, if they'll still be there, arrange to meet them in their lobby and Susan will drive you to the apartment. Alternatively, grab a cab at the Hyatt Regency. If a problem, call me and I'll pick you up

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From: "Gene Karpinski, League of Conservation Voters" <josh_hicks@lcv.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/17/2012 9:49:57 AM
Subject: Quick Election Update: 20 days to go!

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Dear John,

You and I have always known that this election was going to be close. And as we enter into the final critical days, the race to the White House and the battle for the Senate remain dangerously tight. As we saw again in last night's debate, the stakes couldn't be higher.

Thanks to your generous support, LCV's campaign team is in full gear in key battlegrounds across the country. We now have 24 full-time organizers deployed in 11 states and we are mobilizing thousands of LCV members to volunteer between now and Election Day. No slowing down until we cross the finish line.

The Washington Post put out a great piece this week highlighting the central role LCV is playing in key races across the country: League of Conservation Voters Spends Heavily on 2012 Campaign. And as you'll see from the update below, environmental champions across the country are counting on us to help close the gap in tight races.

With 20 days until this critical election, LCV Victory Fund is still $350,000 shy of raising the resources we need to run our targeted campaigns at full scale, and any additional support you are able to lend will be very well spent!

With deep appreciation,

Gene

LCV Launches Ad Campaign in Arizona

With a month to go until Election Day, the Arizona Senate race has emerged as a surprisingly competitive race. The Cook Report moved it to a "toss-up" race and the Real Clear Politics average of public polling shows Dr. Richard Carmona only 2.3 points behind Rep. Jeff Flake. The contrast of these two candidates' positions on our issues is as clear as it is in any race, with Rep. Flake earning a dismal 9% lifetime score from LCV.

We just can't let this rare opportunity to elect an environmental champion from Arizona pass us by. This week LCV and Majority PAC launched a new $470,000 television ad campaign against former mining lobbyist and Congressman Jeff Flake for sponsoring legislation that most Arizonans are emphatically against: allowing mining for radioactive uranium near the Grand Canyon and Colorado River, threatening the drinking water of 25 million Americans. The ad, "Dangerous," will air in the Phoenix media market and will run through October 24th. To view the ad, please click here .

LCV turns up the heat on the Flat Earth Five

With your support, LCV launched a new $200,000 television ad campaign against "Flat Earth Five" member Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-24) for her extreme environmental voting record, and for denying the existence of climate change, which she has called a "myth." The ad, "Support," is airing in the Syracuse media market and will run through October 23rd. To view the ad, please click here .

We also launched a clever billboard campaign targeting each of the members of the "Flat Earth Five" campaign to highlight their extreme, anti-science views on climate change. The billboards , which will stay up in all five Congressional districts through Election Day, are part of LCV's campaign against Rep. Dan Benishek (MI-01), Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-24), Rep. Dan Lungren (CA-07), Rep. Francisco Canseco (TX-23), and Rep. Joe Walsh (IL-08).

More information about the Flat Earth Five can be found at http://www.lcv.org/flatearthfive .

Join us in New York to honor Robert Redford

We hope you will join us at the League of Conservation Voters' annual New York Dinner on **Wednesday, October 24th at Hilton Hotel in New York City.** We are thrilled to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Redford for his exemplary leadership to protect the environment and will also hear from New York Senator Chuck Schumer. It is sure to be a great evening! You can purchase tickets at www.lcv.org/NYDinner or contact Jenna Ebert at (202) 454-4583 or jenna_ebert@lcv.org if you have any questions.

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***GiveGreen*: Because not all money is "green"**

With only 20 days to go until Election Day, **now is the time to donate as generously as you can to pro-environment political candidates.** For environmental voters like yourself, the best giving strategy is to "bundle" your contributions with contributions from others who share your environmental values. Bundling through LCV Action Fund's *GiveGreen* magnifies the power of your contribution by calling attention to the environmental values that drive you to support the candidate in the first place. LCV Action Fund has already raised and contributed nearly $2 million in support of environmental candidates this cycle. Visit www.givegreen.com today to support LCV Action Fund's featured environmental champions.

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H4A News Clips

June 12, 2015

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

There was no 2016 coverage on any network news program. Instead, news networks continued their coverage of the escaped prisoners. They also discussed new developments related to ISIS and the Middle East, including the US soldier who was killed, as well as U.S. strategy in the region.

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LAUNCH PREVIEW STORIES

Story of Hillary Clinton's Mother Forms Emotional Core of Campaign // NYT // Amy Chozick - June 12, 2015

Dorothy Howell was 8 years old when her parents sent her away. It was 1927. Her mother and father, who fought

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violently in the Chicago boardinghouse where the family lived, divorced. Neither was willing to take care of Dorothy or her little sister.

So they put the girls on a train to California to live with their grandparents. It did not go well. Her grandmother favored black Victorian dresses and punished the girls for inexplicable infractions, like playing in the yard. (Dorothy was not allowed to leave her room for a year, other than for school, after she went trick-or-treating one Halloween.)

Unable to bear it, Dorothy left her grandparents' home at 14, and became a housekeeper for $3 a week, always hoping to return to Chicago and reconnect with her mother. But when she finally did, a few years later, her mother spurned her again.

It took a long time for Hillary Rodham Clinton to fully understand the story of her mother's devastating childhood. But now, four years after her death, Dorothy's story is forming the emotional foundation of her daughter's campaign for president, and will be a central theme in her big kickoff speech on Saturday.

Sharing that story is a shift for Mrs. Clinton, who in her 2008 campaign was fiercely protective of her mother's privacy and eager to project an image of strength as she sought to become the first female commander in chief. And in this campaign, her mother's story may help address one of Mrs. Clinton's central challenges: convincing voters who feel they already know everything about her that there is, indeed, more to know, and that she is motivated by more than ambition.

"I think for Hillary it's about learning, and her mother's story is just one of the big motivators of who she is," said Ann Lewis, a former senior adviser to Mrs. Clinton. "She couldn't go back and do more for her mother, but she could do more for other children who need protection or who need a better chance."

At the rally on Saturday on New York's Roosevelt Island, the biggest public event so far of her 2016 campaign, Mrs. Clinton will explain how her mother's experience shaped her life and inspired her to be an advocate for children and families at the Children's Defense Fund, and as a first lady, senator and secretary of state.

Given the closeness of their relationship, it is striking that Mrs. Rodham has been such a limited part of Mrs. Clinton's biography.

Dorothy Rodham and her husband, Hugh, moved to Little Rock, Ark., in 1987 to help Mrs. Clinton take care of Chelsea when she was working full time as a lawyer at Rose Law Firm. After Mr. Rodham died in 1993, Mrs. Rodham spent more time at the White House, accompanying the first lady and Chelsea on trips to India, China, Paris and Hawaii. She avoided the spotlight but enjoyed her time in Washington, with movie nights, trips to the zoo and margaritas at the Cactus Cantina.

At the 1996 convention, Mrs. Rodham vouched for her son-in-law, saying in a brief video, "Everybody knows there is only one person in the world who can really tell the truth about a man, and that's his mother-in-law."

But she also berated Mr. Clinton in the midst of the Monica Lewinsky scandal and encouraged Mrs. Clinton to forge her own political career, said several people who worked in the White House at the time.

After Mrs. Clinton was elected to the Senate from New York in 2000, Mrs. Rodham moved to Washington to be closer to her daughter. At one point, mother and daughter shared a two-bedroom apartment while the Clintons' townhouse in Northwest Washington was being renovated to make a larger, private space to accommodate Mrs. Rodham. "Hillary would get home after a long day in the Senate and they'd just sit there and talk about their days," said Patti Solis Doyle, who worked for Mrs. Clinton from 1991 until 2008 and was campaign manager for much of

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her first presidential run.

When she was secretary of state, Mrs. Clinton would return from a trip and plop down on the couch with her mom to hear about the latest twist in “Dancing With the Stars,” her mother’s favorite television show.

Mrs. Clinton plans to spend time talking about her mother in a series of campaign events in early nominating states next week. She wants to highlight not only her mother’s background, but also the people, like teachers, who were kind to Dorothy as a child as a way to pivot to Mrs. Clinton’s philosophy that government and communities need to do their part to lift the middle class.

In her 2014 book, “Hard Choices,” Mrs. Clinton described how one teacher in elementary school, realizing that Dorothy was too poor to buy milk at lunchtime, would buy two cartons herself every day and then say, “Dorothy, I can’t drink this other carton of milk. Would you like it?’ ” The woman who hired her as a teenage housekeeper took an interest in her, urging her to finish high school and giving her clothes. Mrs. Clinton has said these seemingly small gestures showed her mother the presence of goodness in the world, and later made her a caring mother and grandmother.

Talking so extensively about Mrs. Rodham signals an evolution for Mrs. Clinton, from a deeply private, reluctant politician to a 67-year-old candidate who, according to her friends and aides, is running the campaign she wants to run. Mrs. Clinton has spent weeks writing Saturday’s speech, with the help of Dan Schwerin, a longtime aide and director of speechwriting for the campaign.

A sympathetic tale of her mother’s struggles could help Mrs. Clinton convince a struggling middle class that she understands their problems, aides said. A CNN poll released on June 2 showed that 47 percent of voters thought that Mrs. Clinton “cares about people like you,” down from 53 percent last July. Mrs. Clinton’s campaign aides have publicly shrugged off such polls as evidence that voters distrust Washington and politics in general, but privately they are strategizing about how to reframe the conversation.

The idea of incorporating Mrs. Rodham’s story was floated during the 2008 Democratic primaries, when Mrs. Clinton’s advisers tested how Dorothy Rodham resonated with focus groups in Iowa; the response was overwhelmingly positive. But back then Mrs. Clinton was uneasy talking about her mother.

“It would be uncomfortable for any of us to talk about the struggles of any of our family members in such a public way, especially when your family members are living,” Ms. Doyle said. “And Dorothy was a very private person.”

Mrs. Clinton was also fiercely private. When her husband first ran for president in 1992, Mrs. Clinton vehemently shielded Chelsea and her parents from the spotlight. She lost her temper when aides proposed a video of Chelsea, to show that Bill Clinton was a good family man, to be broadcast at the 1992 Democratic National Convention.

Mrs. Rodham died in 2011 at the age of 92. Her daughter has said that one of her mother’s heartbreaks was that she was never able to attend college. After she graduated from high school in California, her mother lured her back to Chicago with a promise that her new husband would pay for tuition. Dorothy dreamed of attending Northwestern University. But it turned out that her mother had lied, and actually wanted her back in Chicago only as a housekeeper. Eventually she found secretarial work.

“I’d hoped so hard that my mother would love me that I had to take the chance and find out,” Mrs. Rodham once said. “When she didn’t, I had nowhere else to go.”

Hillary Clinton Plans to Show Her Roots in Rally Speech // WSJ // Laura Meckler – June 11, 2015

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Hillary Clinton plans to show how her policy prescriptions are rooted in her family's personal history during the first rally of her presidential campaign, on Saturday.

Mrs. Clinton's speech, to supporters gathering on New York City's Roosevelt Island, will portray her as a fighter who learned to navigate life's challenges from her mother, who was abandoned by her own parents but went on to create a stable, middle-class upbringing for her children.

Aides said Mrs. Clinton will cite her mother's example in explaining that all children need someone in their corner. The story of Mrs. Clinton's mother is meant to address what campaign aides say is the central question in the election-which candidate voters can count on to fight for them.

"She's not a quitter, and you can count on her to grind it out and get the job done," said Jennifer Palmieri, the Clinton campaign communications director, said of Mrs. Clinton. "We think it's important people understand where that conviction comes from."

Mrs. Clinton will use Saturday's rally, before an expected crowd of thousands, in a sense to reintroduce herself to voters. After a long period in public life, Mrs. Clinton is known for controversies ranging from the so-called Whitewater scandal, an Arkansas land deal gone bad, during her husband's terms in the White House to recent issues surrounding her use of a personal email account and server for her government work as secretary of state. Mrs. Clinton will focus on other aspects of her biography-such as her work as a young lawyer on behalf of children-to show that she consistently fights for those needing help.

On Thursday, the Republican National Committee released a TV ad ahead of the Saturday speech saying that Mrs. Clinton has lost public trust. "Hillary Clinton's latest campaign reset won't change a thing," RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement. "Most people don't think she's trustworthy, and she's still out-of-touch with everyday Americans."

From New York, she'll travel to Iowa for a house party to be simulcast across the state and an organizing event in Des Moines. Visits to the other early voting states of New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada will follow.The Saturday rally marks a new phase of Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign. A candidate for two months, Mrs. Clinton so far has appeared at small events, such as round table policy discussions. For the first time in the race, Mrs. Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, and their daughter, Chelsea, will appear with her on stage.

Each day of next week will have a biographical theme, Ms. Palmieri said. The campaign is also producing a biographical video highlighting Mrs. Clinton's work, starting with her advocacy for children as a young attorney.

Aides said that Mrs. Clinton's approach in reintroducing herself to voters will address concerns expressed in some polls that voters don't find her honest and trustworthy. "We think the question on voters' minds is who can you trust to fight for you?" Ms. Palmieri said.

No new policy details are expected in Saturday's speech, though Mrs. Clinton will mention many of her priorities if elected. They include addressing college affordability and wage stagnation and expanding early childhood education, all topics she's mentioned on the campaign trail already.

So far, Mrs. Clinton has expansively discussed her views on social policy such as immigration, voting rights and gay rights, but she offered few details of her economic plan, such as how to approach Wall Street regulation, how much to raise the minimum wage and whether she would advance a pending Pacific rim trade deal.

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Aides said Saturday's speech was the not the right venue to flesh out policy details and that more policy details will come in speeches beginning next month.

Despite Mrs. Clinton's long experience in the public eye, her advisers say many people still don't know important parts of her personal history, including the story of her mother, Dorothy Rodham.

Mrs. Rodham's parents divorced, and neither one wanted their two daughters, Mrs. Clinton wrote in her book "Hard Choices," where said her mother's childhood had been marked by "trauma and abandonment."

The Rodham girls were sent to live with grandparents, who Mrs. Clinton described as severe and unloving. After high school, young Dorothy Rodham moved to Chicago in hopes of reconnecting with her mother but was spurned again.

Mrs. Clinton wrote that she learned from her mother to face adversity through perseverance and to "never quit."

With stories of mother's struggle, Clinton seeks reintroduction in first major campaign speech // AP // Lisa Lerer & Ken Thomas

Hillary Rodham Clinton, one of the best-known figures in American politics, will seek to reintroduce herself to voters on Saturday by telling the story of her mother's childhood struggles, pitching her 2016 presidential campaign as a fight on behalf of such everyday Americans.

In the first major speech of her bid for the Democratic nomination, Clinton plans to pay tribute to the hard work of Americans who she'll argue helped the country emerge from the Great Recession, saying they deserve to be rewarded for their sacrifices.

"It is your time," Clinton will say, according to aides who described the speech she'll deliver from New York City's Roosevelt Island.

While Republicans have already spent months seeking to make the 2016 election a referendum on Clinton, her speech aims to present the decision facing voters as more than just an assessment of her career as a former first lady, New York senator and secretary of state.

Instead, her campaign wants to cast the race as a choice about the economic future of the middle class. Among her campaign aides, Clinton refers to the election as a "job interview" and the question before voters as a "hiring decision."

"We think the question is: Can I count on you to be that person who is going to fight for me?" said Jennifer Palmieri, the Clinton campaign's communications director. The speech, Palmieri said, will showcase Clinton's differences with a large, and what she will describe as a monolithic, Republican presidential field.

Her remarks also represent an effort by her campaign to cast off the shadow of scandal that has dogged her over the past several months. Clinton has seen her personal approval ratings drop amid questions about her wealth, use of a private email account and server as secretary of state, and the financial dealings of her family charity.

The emphasis on her late mother, Dorothy Rodham, is a change in course from Clinton's failed White House bid in 2008, when her campaign focused on her experience and toughness, presenting her as an American version of the late British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

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Rodham died in 2011 after a life that has been described as Dickensian. Abandoned at a young age by her parents, she was sent as an 8-year-old with her 3-year-old sister on a four-day journey to live with strict, unloving grandparents in California. At the age of 14, she left their house to work for three dollars per week as a mother's helper.

She eventually arrived in Chicago, where she married Hugh Rodham, a traveling salesman, and raised Clinton and her two brothers. In her nearly four decades of public life, Clinton has often cited her mother as an inspiration, recounting how she pushed her daughter to stand-up for herself. One of her earliest memories, Clinton has said, is her mother telling her to challenge a neighborhood bully.

"I said, just go out there and show them you're not afraid," Rodham said in a rare 2004 interview with Oprah Winfrey. "And if she does hit you again, which she kept doing, hit her back."

While Rodham largely stayed out of the public eye, Clinton has long credited her mother with giving her a love of learning and a sense of compassion. "She has empathy for other people's unfortunate circumstances," Rodham said of her daughter in a 2007 campaign ad. "I've always admired that because that isn't always true of people."

Clinton will be joined by her husband, former president Bill Clinton, and daughter, Chelsea, at Saturday's rally, marking the first time the family has been seen together in public since Clinton announced her intention to again run for the White House in early April.

After the speech, she'll embark on a tour of early voting states, with events focused on her relationship with her mother, work as a young lawyer on behalf of poor children, and her father's background as a veteran and small businessman.

In the coming weeks, her campaign will begin rolling out specific policy initiatives on issues including college affordability, jobs and the economy. Those policies, campaign aides argue, will help build Democratic enthusiasm for her bid, despite the lack of a serious primary challenge.

"They're a great organizing tool," said Marlon Marshall, Clinton's head of early state strategy.

Clinton's launch speech to focus on her mother's life **// Politico // Annie Karni – June 11, 2015**

After nearly two and a half decades in the glare of the public spotlight, Hillary Clinton will reintroduce herself on Saturday by highlighting her personal journey marked heavily by the deprivations faced by her own mother.

Starting with the story of her mother's abusive and traumatic childhood, Clinton will explain the role her family played in making her an advocate for other people, campaign officials told POLITICO, previewing the highly touted speech on New York's Roosevelt Island that will set the tone for the rest of her campaign. (Chelsea and Bill Clinton will attend, but Bill Clinton will have no speaking role.)

That personal focus will be driven home by the release, shortly afterwards, of a biographical video about Clinton's career as a fighter for the middle-class, dating back to her work for the Children's Defense Fund after graduating from law school.

While Clinton has often spoken in recent months about her pride in becoming a grandmother, it is another

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matriarch, Dorothy Rodham, who will be the binding theme in her remarks Saturday.

Dorothy Rodham's dysfunctional and abusive parents shipped her off to live with her grandparents in California when she was 8. But the grandparents proved no more capable of caring for a young child. By age 14, Rodham had fled from her grandparents home to live with a family working as a housekeeper earning $3 a week.

It was there that Rodham for the first time saw what a functional family acted like, Clinton will say. And it is her mother's surrogate family, she will say, who first motivated her to be a champion for everyday Americans who need an outside advocate to help them achieve a better life.

"Her story is wanting to be an advocate for other people. Where does it all come from? That's where it all comes from," said communications director Jennifer Palmieri, referring to Dorothy Rodham's story. "We think that's an important thing for people to understand. Some people know it, we think a lot of people don't."

In her memoir, "Living History," Clinton wrote of her mother's tragic childhood: "I thought often of my own mother's neglect and mistreatment at the hands of her parents and grandparents, and how other caring adults filled the emotional void to help her." That is the theme she will strike Saturday.

It's been decades since Clinton lived a life that could be relatable to any of the voters she seeks to represent. Hillary and Bill Clinton together earned more than $30 million since 2014 alone, according to a recent financial disclosure.

But the focus on her mother's childhood and her own middle-class upbringing in suburban Chicago allows Clinton to draw on personal stories relatable to the "everyday Americans" she seeks to represent.

She is also expected to strike an economic populist message in explaining her vision for the country. She will state that prosperity should not be reserved for CEOs and hedge fund managers, but should be available to everyday Americans, according to campaign officials.

Her message to middle-class families struggling to make it: "It is your time."

Clinton is not expected to roll out and detailed policy proposals in the speech, which campaign officials described as the "foundational document" of her campaign. Those detailed policy proposals will begin to be rolled out in July, with her platform on student loans, and continue into the fall.

But Clinton will outline some of the fights she wants to take on, including: college affordability, early childhood education, national security and wages, Palmieri said.

And she will say frame the race as a clear choice for Americans, between Clinton's ideas and the Republicans' top-down economic policies, like lower taxes for the rich and fewer regulations for corporations. On social policies, she will frame the Republican field as out of touch with where the country has moved.

"The question of the campaign is, who is the candidate in the race who understands what my life is like, what the problems are, has solutions and is going to hang in and fight for me everyday and get things done," Palmieri said. "There's not any candidate that's better qualified than her to be that fighter for people."

Clinton, Palmieri said, is still in the process of editing her own speech, and has spent a lot of time figuring out how best to frame her first big-picture pitch to voters.

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Campaign officials said despite the fact that Clinton has been on the national stage for over two decades, it was important to her and to them to tell her family story again.

“We’re starting from scratch here,” Palmieri said. “We’re going through all the paces and explaining why you’re motivated to have been an advocate in the first place. we think it’s an important part of the process.”

Wonk Warrior

Inside the relaunch of Hillary Clinton // Politico Magazine // Glenn Thrush - June 12, 2015

Hillary Clinton hasn’t always been a profile in political courage, but she’s had her moments. One of them came in late December 2006, a month before Clinton announced her first run for the presidency, as she huddled with her team to discuss policy proposals to differentiate her from two rivals flanking her on the left, Barack Obama and John Edwards.

The conversation, which included former Clinton White House aides like Gene Sperling and Neera Tanden, who still have the candidate’s ear today, bogged down on the biggest, nastiest policy fight of her life, health care. Several of Clinton’s top advisers, the ’90s debacle fresh in everyone’s mind, counseled her to avoid proposing an individual mandate, the politically unpopular requirement that the uninsured buy insurance or face penalties.

When it came to the widely unpopular individual mandate, however, she was adamant about plowing ahead, according to a former aide who related the story.

“If I run for president, I’m going to run on universal health care,” Clinton told the group—and authorized attacks on her Democratic opponent Obama for opposing a mandate (he would eventually embrace it as president, much to Clinton’s amusement).

“What’s the point of running if I’m not going to run on universal health care?” she asked her team.

Eight years later, on the eve of Clinton’s formal campaign kickoff in New York this weekend, the “what’s the point of running?” question looms over the presumptive Democratic front-runner and her campaign. Over the past few months, even some of Clinton’s most fervent and loyal supporters have fretted to me, over and over, that she hasn’t yet articulated a compelling rationale for her second race for the White House beyond the sense that it’s finally her turn and her political view that she’s facing a relatively weak Republican field.

Clinton is no Teddy Kennedy, who suffered the most infamous case of lockjaw in political history when asked why he wanted to be president during the 1980 campaign; Her problem is that she’s far more interested in the how than the why of the presidency, and views her greatest assets as a willingness to engage all participants in a debate and a workmanlike capacity to hammer out policy solutions.

Clinton’s big speech will be a rare opportunity to change that narrative. It will be held at New York’s Roosevelt Island—a none-to-subtle signal that she’s aligning herself with FDR, the boldest of Democratic presidents and the one who established the deepest personal connection with voters—something Clinton has struggled to do throughout her three-decade career. And she’ll do so with a broad progressive agenda, her advisers told me, studded with policy proposals to be unveiled in greater depth in a series of speeches this summer, starting with an ambitious plan to cut student debt and lower tuition and a program to coax corporations into paying their workers more. Clinton’s staff believes this is where the campaign will be won or lost—it will signal to voters, and to ideologically driven Obama donors, that she’s every bit as committed to their cause as Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders—or the Hillary Clinton of 1993 for that matter.

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This isn't some pro forma exercise for Clinton, who started her professional career working on child welfare programs and sits, poolside, with briefing books when she's on vacation. Policy is what Hillary Clinton lives for, and her team is committed to portray her as a wonk warrior, which has the added virtue of being true. In 2008, the candidate emphasized her inevitability and her toughness (she was obsessed with the idea that male voters would view a woman as a weak potential commander-in-chief), but for 2016, she's building her strategy around a series of domestic policy rollouts.

How she's doing this is equally telling: Advisers told me it was an elaborate, even West Wing-style policy process, with concentric circles of advisers and pollsters who are cooking up a comprehensive economic policy, some of which will be for public consumption, some of which will be employed if she's elected. Over the past year, Clinton has quietly met with a rotating—and sharp-elbowed—cast of Democratic economic experts, pollsters, staffers and advocates to craft a just-so economic program to attack wage stagnation and economic inequality. The very explicit goal has been political: to invent a program for Clinton that captures the popular imagination—and, to no small extent, redefines a candidate with a trustworthiness problem.

"We're talking about three- and four-hour meetings, briefing papers, weeks of back-and-forth," says Clinton's communications director Jennifer Palmieri, who says the candidate will unveil pieces of her agenda, one by one, in a series of events starting in July and stretching to the fall. "This is the foundational work of the election. She's a wonk. This is stuff she loves to do."

What's emerging—and her staff maintains she's made no big decisions on the stickiest subjects, such as whether to propose tax increases and Wall Street regulation—are classic Clinton thread-the-needle proposals, albeit with a slightly sharper needle, pointing unmistakably to the left.

Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz had a one-on-one meeting with Clinton last December to discuss his aggressive progressive agenda, pushing for deep tax cuts against the wealthy and pay cuts for CEOs. She already knew the subject inside out, he told me, and probed him for details on how some of his proposals could be implemented. Like most of the economists and advocates she's met with recently, Stiglitz left satisfied he'd gotten a fair hearing, but with no concrete commitment.

"I would be surprised at this point that she would want to make it clear where she is going on the specifics, so I wouldn't expect to hear that from her anytime soon," said Stiglitz, who worked on Bill Clinton's economic team—then went on to become one of the country's most influential champions of economic equality. "My sense was that she was very responsive to the overall agenda. … It's important for her to get elected, but we want to make sure that she understands that we have to deal with the failure of the system overall, and not just make small changes."

The goal, according to a dozen people close to the process who spoke to POLITICO, is to find the "sweet spot"—bold solutions that aren't too bold. She has tasked her small in-house policy team led by former State Department aide Jake Sullivan with a pragmatic mission: Attack the biggest problems—higher education debt, a tax system that encourages short-term gain over long-tern investments, out-of-control CEO pay, crumbling infrastructure, the non-job-security "gig" economy, women's pay equity—in a way that satisfies a restive left wing of the party. But do it without needlessly alienating general election voters, or potential donors.

"She wants to do just enough," is how one New York-based Clinton donor who speaks to both Clintons regularly put it.

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As important—and complex—as the health care debate was seven years ago when Clinton last ran for president, it's dwarfed today by the sheer magnitude of the structural problems in the American economy, a sapping of dynamism and middle-income purchasing power that has given consumers (and voters) a permanent sense of the blahs, even as big banks and corporations book record profits.

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Hillary Clinton: "It is your time" **// VOX // Jonathan Allen – June 11, 2015**

Trying to shed an image of elitism, Hillary Clinton will deliver a concise message for the masses during her first big campaign rally Saturday: "It is your time."

The 2016 Democratic presidential frontrunner is scheduled to speak at Four Freedoms Park on New York's Roosevelt Island, a site that offers the symbolism of linking herself to Franklin Roosevelt, the well-to-do president whose New Deal social programs provided work and financial security for Americans during and after the Great Depression.

The Clinton campaign on Thursday released a basic sketch of the themes of her speech, which is being billed as the formal announcement of a campaign that began two months ago. Since then, she has focused on raising money and meeting with voters in small groups in early primary states.

Now Clinton is ready to articulate her motivation for seeking the presidency, her vision for the country, and the contrast she will draw with her Republican rivals for the job, according to her campaign. The last point, which will be driven by a populist argument that Republican policies benefit those in the top economic strata, connects to Clinton's main theme: She wants to be the champion for what she calls "everyday Americans."

Her mother's example

She will also lean heavily on the story of her late mother to explain her rationale for public service and seeking the presidency, a choice that appears to reflect her desire to talk more about her personal life — and about her gender — in this campaign than she did in her failed 2008 bid.

"She is a well-known figure, but when you're asking the American people to support you as president, even if it is for the second time, there is no skipping of steps. If you want to understand Hillary Clinton, and what has motivated her career of fighting for kids and families, her mother is a big part of the story," Clinton campaign communications director Jennifer Palmieri said in a statement. "The example she learned from her mother's story is critical to knowing what motivated Hillary Clinton to first get involved in public service, and why people can count on her to fight for them and their families now."

Her campaign also revealed that she will use a video to show biographical highlights of her career.

Clinton advisers have said the speech will provide the basic architecture for specific policies she intends to detail over the course of the summer, but her campaign did not offer any insight into what exactly she will say about her platform on Saturday.

Why is Hillary Clinton running for president? She'll answer that at a New York rally **// LA Times // Evan Halper – June 11, 2015**

llary Rodham Clinton will forcefully lay out her motivation for running for president during a major rally in New York on Saturday, campaign officials say, drawing from her personal story to frame the theme of a White House run that some Democrats worry has lacked in inspiration.

In her formal announcement speech at Four Freedoms Park, on a small city island named after Franklin D.

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Roosevelt, Clinton will talk about how the tough childhood experiences of her mother drove her to enter public service. She will seek to dispel the notion that she is running because it is her turn to inherit the Democratic nomination and offer instead a personal, detailed biographical sketch that campaign advisors say will make a compelling case for why the White House is her calling.

The speech will be Clinton's most expansive since she announced her candidacy in April, and it provides an opportunity to reboot a campaign that is way ahead in the polls but has yet to spark the kind of enthusiasm among the grass roots that twice carried Barack Obama to victory. Advisors have been working on the address for weeks. They are seeking to replicate for Clinton the kind of response Obama triggered with his 2007 kickoff address in Springfield, Ill., where he presented himself as an agent of change and hope.

"This is an important foundational moment for the campaign," said Jennifer Palmieri, Clinton's communications director. "If she wins, this is how she will govern. ... She has been working on this for a while."

The absence of any formidable opponent has allowed Clinton to run a cautious campaign, sticking to boilerplate Democratic issues and mostly avoiding answering questions from the media. Campaign officials say her approach will change as she moves into this new phase of her run. The roundtables with handpicked audiences will soon be accompanied on the calendar by larger, unscripted events such as town halls and news conferences.

But like everything else in the Clinton campaign, Saturday's speech will be carefully crafted. The setting is notable for its associations with Clinton's own background. New York was where she launched her political career, serving the state as a U.S. senator. Roosevelt Island is, of course, named for the architect of the New Deal, and Clinton's messaging – if not her actual policy proposals – borrows heavily from the time.

"She will talk about the principles behind FDR's policies that continue to be true to the Democratic Party," Palmieri said. "He is someone that she has admired and been inspired by."

Some parts of the speech that campaign officials previewed Thursday, in fact, could just as easily have come from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist who is also running for the nomination, albeit as a major underdog to Clinton. She will say that hedge fund managers and bankers need to take more responsibility for the welfare of the country, ostensibly by contributing more of their earnings to government. She will herald "everyday Americans" for making sacrifices that mended the national economy and proclaim it is their turn to be rewarded, announcing, "It is your time."

Clinton will be accompanied in New York by her husband, former President Clinton, and their daughter, Chelsea. It will be the first time the family has appeared together at a campaign event since Clinton announced her run.

The candidate was notably absent from another major family event this week, the annual gathering of the Clinton Global Initiative in Denver. It's part of the family's foundation, which has been a source of relentless negative press for Clinton of late, as reporters investigate the millions of dollars in donations it received from foreigners with business interests in America while she was secretary of State.

Hillary Clinton attacks Republicans over voting restrictions

Saturday's rally will be followed by a whirlwind of events in early caucus and primary states. Clinton will be in Iowa by nightfall on Saturday, in New Hampshire on Monday and then off to campaign events in South Carolina and Nevada by the middle of next week. Clinton will tease some of the big policy proposals the campaign will unveil over the summer.

Whether the speech will live up to the billing of campaign officials as an event that will give voters a personal connection to Clinton remains to be seen – many of the proclamations Clinton intends to make in it seem a mere

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amplification of points she has been raising already in more intimate settings.

But the goal is to supplant what voters may think they know about Clinton's personal story with a more textured portrait to which they can relate and find inspiration in.

"People know she is a fighter who does not quit and hangs in there," Palmieri said. "It is important that they understand where this comes from. ... She has been on the national stage for a long time, but we think there is a lot to fill in. When you are asking people to put their faith in you to be their president, it is a big ask."

Clinton will talk in detail about her mother, the late Dorothy Rodham, who was abandoned as a child, sent to California to live with harsh and unloving grandparents, and found redemption in her early teen years through the kindness of an employer who provided cheap room and board and encouraged her to finish high school.

"Clinton will discuss how her mother shaped the person she is today and why she could not duck away from this fight," said a preview from the campaign. Clinton will attribute her "fighter's instinct" to her mother, according to the campaign, as well as her belief that "everyone needs a champion."

The speech will be accompanied by a major social media push, centered on a video the campaign is producing about the "fights Hillary Clinton has taken on during her career."

Clinton plans personal kick-off speech, but Democrats want aggressive agenda // WaPo // Philip Rucker & Anne Gearan – June 11, 2015

Democratic activists have been hungry for their presidential front-runner to articulate a detailed and aggressive path forward on issues ranging from the economy to the environment to gay rights.

Hillary Rodham Clinton will begin her effort to meet those expectations on Saturday when she formally kicks off her 2016 campaign with a major speech in New York City.

At an outdoor rally on Roosevelt Island, Clinton will cloak her candidacy in the symbolism of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal as she offers her rationale for running and her vision for a more activist federal government.

But Clinton is not planning to offer specific policy prescriptions — at least not yet. Instead, her advisers said Thursday, she will speak about her upbringing as the daughter of a woman who was abandoned as a child and why she sees herself as an advocate for those left behind in a fast-changing economy. She also intends to draw contrasts with Republicans, portraying them as champions of corporations and the super-rich.

"It's a big speech, but it's not the venue to do a lot of specifics on individual pieces of policy," said Jennifer Palmieri, the Clinton campaign's communications director. "The speech is the cornerstone of the campaign — that's how she looks at this. It's the foundation from which you run the rest of the campaign, and if she is elected president it's the foundation of how you govern."

"She can't just be a tribune of the Democrats," said Robert Reich, a liberal economist who served as labor secretary in former president Bill Clinton's administration. "It would be useful for her to make a very strong economic statement about why inequality is eating away at our economy, our democracy and the moral fabric of the country."

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Clinton's speech comes amid an intense debate on Capitol Hill over an Obama-backed trade bill that has divided Democrats. Clinton, who as secretary of state was involved in negotiating the trade deal, so far has been careful not to take a position — much to the chagrin of labor unions and liberal leaders, who are pressuring her to oppose it.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) — who was campaign manager on Clinton's 2000 Senate run but has not yet endorsed his former boss — said he wants to see her make "a very clear statement that this trade deal should be opposed and should be stopped."

Otherwise, De Blasio suggested, she could jeopardize the support of working-class voters in places like Ohio and Pennsylvania who were central to her 2008 campaign. "I think it's very important that she speak up and say there will be no more NAFTA's," he said, referring to the controversial North American Free Trade Agreement of the 1990s.

It is unclear whether Clinton intends to mention trade. Her campaign aides previewed a markedly personal address framed around the wrenching story of her late mother, Dorothy Rodham, who was abandoned and mistreated as a child and whom Clinton has credited with giving her lessons of hope and perseverance.

The heavy emphasis on Clinton's personal story is part of a rebranding strategy to humanize a candidate who sometimes comes across as chilly and aloof. Her husband, Bill, and their daughter, Chelsea, plan to appear with her on Roosevelt Island — their first appearance of the campaign.

Shortly after the speech, Clinton's campaign will release a biographical video that casts the candidate as a fighter and advocate, dating to the earliest days of her adult life.

"The speech is about her — what I think is the diagnosis of the problems in the country, this is my vision of where I want to take the country, here are my solutions," Palmieri said.

Clinton's solutions, however, will not come until later this summer and fall when she gives a series of policy speeches.

Across the Democratic coalition, expectations for Saturday's event vary. Behind the scenes, environmentalists have been pressing Clinton aides to ensure she prioritizes global warming in her remarks and signal she would be more aggressive than Obama in tackling greenhouse gas emissions.

"We believe this speech is a great opportunity for her to make crystal clear that she cares deeply about addressing climate change and will make it a top priority throughout her campaign," said Tiernan Sittenfeld, senior vice president for government affairs at League of Conservation Voters.

Gay rights activists hope Clinton champions priorities beyond legalizing same-sex marriage, such as passing comprehensive federal non-discrimination legislation.

"It would benefit her and it would certainly benefit members of our community to see her dedicate herself and be on the record about her commitment to a more inclusive America for all of its people," said Fred Sainz, a vice president at the Human Rights Campaign.

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Meanwhile, economic progressives, many of whom tried unsuccessfully to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) into the race, want to see Clinton address economic inequality with specific solutions. Will she call for busting up the big banks? Raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans? Closing the carried interest tax loophole that benefits hedge fund managers? Tougher anti-trust regulations?

“I would love to see some specifics — expanding Social Security, debt-free college, holding Wall Street accountable,” said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America, an advocacy group that grew out of former Vermont governor Howard Dean’s 2004 presidential campaign. “But I don’t want to make it sound like there’s a menu and she just needs to go down and check the boxes. The key is we want to see a real fighter out there.”

Some activists likened it to the president’s annual “State of the Union” address, in which each interest group hopes the speech touches on its priorities. But many acknowledged, as American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten put it, that the speech will be about “values and aspiration” rather than a policy agenda.

“As always happens with anything involving the Clintons, people spend a lot of time thinking about what are they going to do, what are they going to say, but as important a speech as it is, this is one speech,” said Weingarten, who is a Clinton ally, although AFT has not yet made its endorsement.

Matt Bennett, a veteran of past Democratic presidential campaigns, said Clinton is smart to put off her policy plans. Otherwise, she would give her opponents targets.

“She’s being bombarded with people seeking space in her speech for their wool and mohair subsidies or their piece of the action, but we think it would be unwise for her to go too deep into the details,” said Bennett, a senior vice president at Third Way. “She will be pecked to death by ducks for the next 18 months if she does that.”

In the first two months of her campaign, Clinton has given important speeches on three policy matters — immigration, criminal justice and voting rights. But she has said relatively little about the issue many Democrats see as shaping the 2016 election: the structure of the economy.

“She’s got to take this on,” Reich said. “She said when she launched her campaign that ‘the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top.’ She’s got to tell us what she’s going to do to un-stack the deck.”

Hillary's rally and rationale: More Rodham, less Clinton **// CNN // Jeff Zeleny & Dan Merica – June 11, 2015**

When Hillary Clinton sweeps onto the stage Saturday for the first major rally of her campaign, she will set aside her family's presidential legacy and concentrate on a chapter of her life she rarely speaks about: the Depression-era story of her mother, Dorothy Rodham.

As she seeks to present herself as a candidate who will fight for the middle class, aides say Clinton will turn to lessons learned from her mother, who was abandoned by her parents as a child and was forced to bring herself up. She will argue that her Rodham roots have made her the person she is today, a subtle concession the power of the Clinton legacy alone will not carry her into the White House.

"She is a well-known figure but when you're asking the American people to support you as president, even if it is for the second time, there is no skipping of steps," said Jennifer Palmieri, the campaign's communications director. "If you want to understand Hillary Clinton, and what has motivated her career of fighting for kids and families, her mother is a big part of the story."

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The rally on Saturday at Roosevelt Island in New York, which will be awash in symbolism of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, offers a moment for Clinton to reset her candidacy. She intends to offer a more expansive rationale for why she believes she should be president, an argument that some Democrats believe she and her campaign have failed to clearly articulate.

That was among the conversations at a dinner Clinton attended early last week at the home of Sen. Dianne Feinstein in Washington, where several other Democratic women senators gathered for an intimate discussion about her candidacy.

They urged Clinton to present herself as more of a fighter, participants said, who is passionate about improving the plight of everyday Americans.

Two months after she launched her candidacy, Clinton remains in command of the Democratic nominating fight. Yet she has struggled to rally excitement among some liberals in her party.

It's an open question whether there will be enough substance to satisfy critics who have said Clinton has been short on specifics, particularly on trade and other liberal priorities.

While the calls for Sen. Elizabeth Warren to enter the race have cooled, the long lines of Democrats waiting to see Sen. Bernie Sanders on the campaign trail underscore that she cannot take anything for granted.

The opening chapter of her second presidential bid has been far rockier than she and her advisers expected, more than a dozen Democrats close to the campaign told CNN this week. She enters the summer facing far more questions about her long-term prospects than when she first jumped into the race.

A CNN/ORC poll last week found that 57% of Americans thought Clinton was not honest and trustworthy, which was up from 49% in March. And less than half of people feel she cares about people like them, 47%, which is down from 53% last July.

Campaign aides familiar with the speech on Saturday say Clinton's chief goal will be to outline her rationale for running, providing voters with a reason to elect her and responding to those who have said her run is based on nothing more than inevitability.

The entire day will focus on Clinton, aides said. Although both Bill and Chelsea Clinton will attend -- the first time either will appear at a campaign event -- they will not be the focus and will likely not speak.

The speech will be centered around the story of Rodham, aides said, far more than the legacy of Clinton.

"The example she learned from her mother's story is critical to knowing what motivated Hillary Clinton to first get involved in public service," Palmieri said on Thursday. "And why people can count on her to fight for them and their families now."

Clinton's speech will not be a detailed policy rollout. Instead, the former secretary of state will preview a list of critical policy issues, aides said, but will wait until later in the summer to outline the details of each policy proposal.

Aides said that Clinton's speech will be a mix of her biography and vision, with the former first lady arguing that

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the guiding principle in her campaign will be how America's families are doing, not those at the top. Clinton will repeatedly use the phrase "it is your time," aides said, to hammer home that Americans who help bring the country back from recession now deserve to enjoy the benefits.

Campaign aides are producing a biographical video documenting different points in Clinton's career, including her work as a lawyer for the Children's Defense Fund. The Clinton campaign used Hillary Clinton's Twitter account to tease the video that is expected to be released after Saturday's rally.

And Clinton's speech, of course, will not be without partisan politics. Aides said she will argue Republicans are a repeat of their predecessors and will ensure voters that she will offer a clear choice in 2016.

While the first two months of her candidacy have been intentionally downsized -- small roundtable conversations over big rallies -- Clinton has spent considerable time appearing before small groups of donors.

Clinton has personally headlined 37 fundraisers in 13 states. It is likely, given the attendance of each event, that more than $16 million has been raised from Clinton-headlined fundraisers. Her top aides and operatives have headlined dozens more.

Clinton aides have said they hope to raise $100 million by the end of 2015.

In the weeks after her campaign kickoff, CNN has learned, Clinton will headline four more fundraisers in California, three in Massachusetts and one in Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York and New Hampshire. Before June 30, the final day of the first fundraising deadline, Clinton will have personally headlined over 50 fundraisers.

"She has to raise a lot of money," said former ambassador Edward Romero, who hosted a Clinton fundraiser in New Mexico earlier this month. "Every candidate has that pressure."

Hillary Clinton Will Evoke Roosevelt and Try to Ease Fears on Trust in New York Speech // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 11, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton, at a major outdoor rally planned for Saturday, will directly address concerns that have emerged in the early weeks of her candidacy, telling voters they can trust her to fight for the middle class and stressing that she cares about their problems, several people briefed on her plans say.

The speech, at an event shaping up to be the most ambitious public gathering undertaken by the campaign since Mrs. Clinton began her quest for the White House in April, will be shaped by symbolism as she seeks to make the case for why she should be president.

It will be held in New York City on an island named for Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the shadow of diverse middle-class neighborhoods, as Mrs. Clinton tries to evoke the legacy of the New Deal and lay out her vision for a federal government substantially engaged in lifting American families that feel economically insecure and increasingly left behind.

Mrs. Clinton has yet to put forth a clear rationale for her candidacy since announcing in a brief online video that she would run for the Democratic nomination.

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“She has to articulate an authentic, compelling rationale for her candidacy, a cause and vision that is larger than her own ambitions,” said David Axelrod, a former senior adviser to President Obama.

But the large outdoor event, complete with a marching band and a space for an overflow crowd to watch the speech on giant monitors, must also counteract some signs of decline in Mrs. Clinton’s personal appeal, with polls showing that a growing number of Americans do not trust her or think she understands their lives.

A CNN poll released June 2 showed that 57 percent of Americans thought that Mrs. Clinton was not honest and trustworthy, up from 49 percent in March, and that 47 percent of voters thought that Mrs. Clinton “cares about people like you,” down from 53 percent last July. Publicly, Mrs. Clinton’s campaign aides have shrugged off such polls as evidence that voters distrust Washington and politics in general. Privately, they are strategizing about how to reframe the conversation.

Rather than defend attacks on Mrs. Clinton’s trustworthiness regarding her use of a private email address at the State Department while she was secretary of state or foreign donations to her family’s philanthropy, the campaign will seek to turn the trust issue on its head. “But who do you trust more to fight for you when they get in the Oval Office?” the Democratic strategist, Steve Elmendorf, said, repeating a line often used by Mrs. Clinton’s senior advisers.

The campaign will try to turn another one of Mrs. Clinton’s challenges, her tendency to incite strong and divisive reactions from people, to her advantage, emphasizing her perceived toughness. Her campaign chairman, John D. Podesta, often refers to Mrs. Clinton as a “tenacious fighter,” a theme that will echo throughout the speech and her campaign.

Mrs. Clinton’s husband, former President Bill Clinton, and daughter, Chelsea, will appear with her at the rally, the first time the family will make a joint campaign appearance since Mrs. Clinton became a candidate.

Saturday’s event will signal the end of the first phase of Mrs. Clinton’s campaign, which mainly featured the former first lady holding round-table discussions with small groups of voters. Mrs. Clinton has said that she has learned a lot from those meetings, but they could come across as scripted and lacking in energy, especially as one rival, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has already drawn large crowds. In the coming weeks, Mrs. Clinton will present more specific policies, speak to larger audiences and appear at town hall gatherings.

The staging of Saturday’s event has been meticulous. Huma Abedin, a longtime aide to Mrs. Clinton and vice chairwoman of the campaign, and Greg Hale, an Arkansas-based consultant who has handled events for the Clintons for years, have taken a lead on planning. Jim Margolis, the news media consultant behind both of Mr. Obama’s inaugurations, and Mandy Grunwald, the longtime Clinton adviser who helped choreograph the appearance of Mr. Clinton and his family at the 1992 Democratic National Convention in New York, have also been involved.

For weeks, aides weighed various locations. Rather than choosing Iowa or New Hampshire, they settled on New York, where Mrs. Clinton served as a senator and where a friendly crowd of supporters was simple enough to summon.

Looking at a map of New York, aides in the campaign’s Downtown Brooklyn headquarters settled on Roosevelt Island, the 2-mile-by-800-foot strip of land on the East River between Manhattan and Queens. The event is open to the public, and the campaign has received several thousand requests to attend, though the forecast of scattered thunderstorms could affect turnout.

The campaign angered some island residents after a community day for children had to be rescheduled. Others have grumbled that the national news media has, in terms of accessibility, compared Roosevelt Island to the

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nearby jail complex of Rikers Island. (Roosevelt Island is reachable via public transportation as well as a tram that has in the past stalled, leaving passengers suspended over the murky brown waters of the East River.)

Mrs. Clinton will deliver the speech at Four Freedoms Park, a memorial with a grassy tree-lined mall, named after the four tenets that Roosevelt presented in his 1941 State of the Union address: freedom of speech and worship, and freedom from want and fear.

She has defined her campaign as taking on “four fights,” including strengthening the economy, helping families and communities, getting unaccountable money out of politics and protecting the country from foreign threats.

She is expected to evoke Roosevelt’s policies to reiterate her belief that government is needed to help lift wages, create jobs, make college and health care more affordable, and rebuild antiquated infrastructure.

“It’s important for the campaign to demonstrate the sense of energy and excitement,” the Democratic pollster Geoff Garin said. But what is more important, he added, “is laying out an agenda that makes people feel that Hillary Clinton will be a fighter for them.”

Mrs. Clinton’s message will reflect the Democratic Party’s leftward shift and stand in sharp contrast to the new covenant of personal responsibility that Mr. Clinton preached when he announced his candidacy in 1991 at the Old Statehouse in Little Rock, Ark.

“Government’s responsibility is to create more opportunity,” Mr. Clinton said in that speech. “The people’s responsibility is to make the most of it.”

Dan Schwerin, a policy adviser to Mrs. Clinton, is among the aides who have helped her shape her speech. Mrs. Clinton has already tested many of the main themes, including a populist critique of Wall Street excesses. She has called for equal pay for women, an overhaul of the criminal justice system and voting rights policies that would make the process easier for young people and minorities.

Framing all of this with the pomp and celebration of an official announcement speech can serve not just as an introduction for a candidate (or in Mrs. Clinton’s case, a reintroduction), but also as a crucial chance to counteract negative opinions more than a year before a general election.

In 2000, Vice President Al Gore’s campaign tried to reposition his wooden and cerebral demeanor as an advantage against the more affable George W. Bush.

“At the end of the day, with critical decisions impacting your family, do you want someone you know is smart or not?” was how Chris Lehane, an adviser to Mr. Gore, summed up the strategy. Or, in shorthand: “You date Bush and marry Gore.”

With Chelsea nearby, Mrs. Clinton will remind voters about her years as a working mother, her experience working for the Children’s Defense Fund in the 1970s and her record of as an advocate for women and children as a first lady, senator and secretary of state. The campaign also has a biographical video in the works.

“You can become a caricature of how the press has determined who you are,” said Thomas R. Nides, a friend and adviser who worked for Mrs. Clinton at the State Department. “But the good news about Hillary Clinton is that she has a long history of who she is and what she stands for.”

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Hillary Clinton Plans to Re-Introduce Herself to Voters **// CBS News // Stephanie Condon – June 11, 2015**

After decades in the spotlight, Hillary Clinton this Saturday will use her first major address as a 2016 presidential candidate to re-introduce herself to voters, explaining how her personal story has driven her career aims of helping children and middle class families.

Since launching her 2016 bid for the Democratic nomination in April, Clinton has held small events in key voting states. This Saturday's speech and rally at Four Freedoms Park in New York City marks the next phase of her campaign, according to a campaign official. Four key elements will comprise Clinton's speech: her motivations, who she's fighting for, her vision for the nation and a comparison between her vision and the GOP vision.

The undergirding concept behind the whole speech is her personal story, the Clinton campaign said. Clinton, of course, heads into the 2016 race as one of the most well-known presidential candidates ever, after serving as secretary of state, a U.S. senator, the first lady of the United States and the first lady of Arkansas. Still, the campaign says, her personal story explains Clinton's drive to be a champion for everyday Americans.

"She is a well-known figure, but when you're asking the American people to support you as president, even if it is for the second time, there is no skipping of steps," Jennifer Palmieri, the Hillary for America communications director, told CBS News in a statement.

That story starts with Hillary Clinton's mother, Dorothy Rodham. In her memoir Hard Choices, Clinton wrote, "No one had a bigger influence on my life or did more to shape the person I became" than her mother. Dorothy Rodham's childhood was "marked by trauma and abandonment," Clinton wrote, noting that her mother was on her own and working as a housekeeper and nanny by age 14. In spite of the challenges she faced, Dorothy Rodham told her daughter she thrived in life because of the help of others.

In her speech, according to a campaign official, Clinton will share that story and talk about how she adopted a fighter's instinct from her mother. She'll also explain how her mother's reliance on the help of others shaped her belief that everyone needs a champion. That belief drove her career in public service.

To further share her story, Clinton's campaign is producing a biographical video, expected to be rolled out in the days after Saturday's event. It will highlight Clinton's work as an advocate for children and families, dating back to her work as a young lawyer for the Children's Defense Fund.

Meanwhile, as Clinton readies her message for Saturday, Republicans are ratcheting up their own efforts to frame Clinton's campaign. The Republican National Committee is releasing a new ad, called "Wrong for America," as part of its larger #StopHillary campaign.

The ad is airing on cable in Washington, D.C. and New York City starting Friday. The new effort also includes a targeted digital push in the key states of Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire and South Carolina, in conjunction with Clinton's upcoming campaign stops.

Hillary Clinton gets personal **// MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – June 11, 2015**

Hillary Clinton will lay out a personal rationale for her second attempt at the presidency Saturday in a major campaign rally to be held at a party honoring Frank Delano Roosevelt in New York City.

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The former secretary of state soft-launched her White House bid April 12 in a video posted online. But Saturday's rally will mark the beginning a full-fledged presidential campaign after eight weeks of a low-key ramp-up.

In the presence of a giant bust of FDR on an island named after the former president between Manhattan and Queens, Clinton will offer her most expansive remarks yet on why she's running for president.

Thousands are expected, with tickets to the event no long available on Clinton's campaign website. Bill and Hillary Clinton will be on hand, but are not expected to speak. Those who make onto Roosevelt Island or watch on TV from home will see a very different Clinton than the one who lost the 2008 Democratic primary. Whereas Clinton was seen as impersonal and bloodless then, she now says the chief motivation of her public life is her mother. Whereas Clinton was seen as moderate and cautious then, she will now embrace a president who remade the country in a more progressive image.

It shows that as the Democratic Party has moved left on social issues and both parties have become more populist, Clinton is finally catching up, said Bob Shrum, a former Clinton White House aide. "Maybe it's left compared to the era of triangulation, but the era of triangulation over and is not where the party is or where the country is, as she discovered in 2008," he said.

Times have changed and with even Republicans discussing income inequality, Clinton is demonstrating she gets it. "I think she's sending a very clear signal," said Shrum.

That comes from a personal place, she will say. On Saturday, Clinton will say that her mother's brutal childhood is what motivated her to get into public service and work as an advocate of women and children, the campaign official said. Her mother's story will be the foundation of her rationale for running for president.

As a child, Dorothy Rodham was abandoned by her parents and sent to live with strict relatives. Not able to bare it anymore, she ran away at 14 and worked as a housekeeper for a kind-hearted woman who took her in and showed her what parenting should look like.

That trauma and resilience, Clinton has said, taught her and how to be tough and made her want to help people in difficult circumstances. "No one had a bigger influence on my life or did more to shape the person I became," Clinton wrote in her 2014 autobiography "Hard Choices."

Clinton's mother will likely emerge as a recurring motif of the campaign. Immediately following her kick-off in New York City, Clinton will travel to Iowa and then New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada, and is likely to discuss her mother there, too.

"If you want to understand Hillary Clinton, and what has motivated her career of fighting for kids and families, her mother is a big part of the story," said Jennifer Palmieri, the Clinton campaign's communications director.

In an attempt to reintroduce her to voters – or introduce her for the first time to millennials, a critical voting bloc that missed most of the 1990s – the campaign has produced a biographical video covering Clinton's lengthy career, the official added. It starts with her work at the Children's Defense Fund, just after she left Yale Law School, and continues through her time at the State Department. It will be unveiled in the coming days.

The rest of her speech will strike a decidedly populist economic tone, the official said. And she'll preview policy ideas that will be rolled out in more detail later this summer.

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And Clinton will take on Republicans. Instead of addressing the Democrats running against her for the party's nomination, she'll look clear past them to the hypothetical GOP nominee she would face next year if she wins the primary. She'll frame the election as a choice between her economic ideas and those of the Republicans.

Likely to go unmentioned are Former Gov. Martin O'Malley, Sen. Bernie Sanders, and former Gov. Lincoln Chafee, who have all mentioned Clinton in their presidential announcements.

Like many good presidential kick-offs, Clinton's launch will be about symbolism as well as substance. Barack Obama chose the place where Abraham Lincoln gave his "House Divided" speech. Former Gov. Martin O'Malley and Sen. Bernie Sanders announced at outdoor rallies in the cities where they once were mayor. Rick Perry last week launched his run in front of a cargo plane he flew in the Air Force.

Clinton chose a park honoring FDR in the state where she served as senator for eight years, a choice campaign officials say is meant to invoke Roosevelt's legacy.

"She could have chosen anywhere to make her announcement," said Felicia Wong, the President of the Roosevelt Institute, a progressive think tank dedicated to carrying on the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. "By choosing this venue, she and her team have put themselves squarely in the legacy and the spirit of Franklin Roosevelt, who re-wrote the rules of the 20th century."

Roosevelt is credited with creating the modern welfare state, saving the economy from collapse, taking on entrenched wealthy interests, and defeating an expansionist, totalitarian foreign power. At the same time, he built the modern Democratic Party and the values that would emerge at its core to this day.

Clinton has long seen Eleanor Roosevelt, a fellow first lady, as a role model and last year spoke admiringly about Teddy Roosevelt, saying she devoured Ken Burns' expansive documentary series on the family.

The kick-off comes at time when Clinton is trying to win over restive progressives. Tying herself to Roosevelt is a smart move, says New York-based Democratic strategist Hank Sheinkopf. "It is very much aimed to the left," said Sheinkopf. "She needs to get rid of everybody who's pestering her on her left, and one of the best ways to get rid of them is to invoke Franklin Roosevelt."

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, a leader of the national progressive movement, will notably not attend the rally, his office has said. Clinton and de Blasio are longtime friends and he managed her Senate campaign in 2000. So far, however, de Blasio has declined to endorse Clinton's presidential bid.

Sheinkopf thinks de Blasio is playing hard to get in order to amp up the value of his endorsement down the road. Comparing de Blasio to "artillery" when it comes to defending her left flank, Sheinkopf said it's too soon: "De Blasio is less needed now and more more needed later. Why do you want to use a howitzer now, when frankly when you can use much lighter weapons?"

Her embrace of Roosevelt and progressive ideas is about more than the primary, however. She'll need the so-called Obama coalition to turn out for her in a general election if she makes it there, and these are the issues they care about. "With the increasing polarization of the country, the fact is the key to winning these election is turning out your base," said Shrum, who has held senior roles in Democratic campaigns.

Still, Clinton has not yet weighed in on a few top issue for liberals. The House will vote Friday on a Trade Promotion Authority bill, which labor unions and others are fighting tooth and nail. That will have to wait until sometime after her kick-off.

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Hillary Clinton Will Push Personal Story at Campaign Launch // TIME // Sam Frizell – June 11, 2015

For Hillary Clinton, this campaign is personal.

When the democratic presidential candidate holds her much hyped rally on Saturday in New York City, her team said Thursday, she will emphasize her own history, discussing her family, her mother and her upbringing as a central part of her rationale for running for President.

The speech will build on many of the tropes that Clinton has developed throughout the first two months of the campaign, as she uses her past to talk about income inequality and building stronger families. Much of her remarks will also center on her domestic and economic vision for the country.

Clinton will in particular talk about her mother, Dorothy Rodham, who was abandoned by her parents and worked as a secretary before marrying Clinton's father, Hugh Rodham.

"If you want to understand Hillary Clinton, and what has motivated her career of fighting for kids and families, her mother is a big part of the story," Jennifer Palmieri, the campaign's director of communications, said in an email to reporters. "The example she learned from her mother's story is critical to knowing what motivated Hillary Clinton to first get involved in public service, and why people can count on her to fight for them and their families now."

In 2007 and 2008, Clinton ran as a determined and businesslike candidate whose unofficial campaign slogan was "ready on Day One," turning off some voters who found her difficult to relate to and distant. This time, Clinton has taken an entirely different, speaking frequently about her granddaughter, Charlotte, her father's drapery business and her mother.

Her website prominently displays photos of her as a baby and during her younger days with Bill Clinton. On Thursday, her newly minted Instagram feed featured a photo of her as a toddler riding a tricycle with the caption "Pedal to the metal. #tbt"

Clinton's team is marking Saturday as official the start of her full-blown campaign, though she announced her candidacy in mid-April and has been holding small events in the four early primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada over the past nine weeks. During those months she largely insulated herself from the media while holding carefully controlled roundtable conversations with voters.

She will deliver her speech on Roosevelt Island in New York's East River, a narrow four-mile-long residential haven with views of midtown Manhattan and Queens. Saturday's event will be the first large rally of Clinton's 2016 campaign.

Since joining the race and reentering partisan politics, Clinton's favorability among voters has dropped. According to a CNN poll published last week, 57% of Americans view her as dishonest and trustworthy, up from 49% in March. Clinton's campaign will be resting their hopes on her personal story reinvigorating voters over the course of the campaign.

"There's still a lot of things people don't know about her," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic strategist unaffiliated with Clinton's campaign. "The fact she came from Republican family, that she's a person of faith. Her long history working for women and children... I think these numbers will pick up particularly among independent women as they get to know and see her better."

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On Saturday, the campaign said, Clinton will discuss the lessons she learned from her mother and will return to some of the populist tones she has struck so far: that prosperity has to reach more than just the super rich, and be about everyday Americans and families—the ones that she has been meeting with on the campaign trail.

Clinton will roll out major policy proposals throughout the summer, but she has talked frequently about income inequality and criminal justice reform, and laid out specific ideas about expanding voter participation and immigration.

At Launch Rally, Hillary Clinton to Tell Americans 'It Is Your Time' **// Bloomberg News // Jennifer Epstein – June 11, 2015**

Hillary Clinton has spent the past two months reintroducing herself to voters with carefully controlled campaign stops and minimal interaction with the media.

On Saturday, she'll initiate the next phase of her presidential candidacy with her first campaign rally, where she'll discuss oft-omitted pieces of her personal story and tell the country why she's best suited to be the next occupant of the Oval Office. She'll discuss what motivates her, who she is fighting for, her vision for the country and what the choices are for voters in the 2016 election, Clinton officials said Thursday.

The rally, slated for late morning at Four Freedoms Park on New York's Roosevelt Island—a tribute to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and, to a lesser extent, Eleanor Roosevelt—won't be heavy on policy details, but it will kick off a summer that will be full of economic proposals, including Clinton's views on the minimum wage, Wall Street regulation and student debt.

"She's begun to lay an important foundation on which to build the next phase of her campaign."

Clinton's economic positions will be progressive without leaning as far left those of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, a self-identified socialist who in many polls is running a distant second to her for the Democratic presidential nomination. And they'll draw on the principle of fairness that drove FDR's presidency.

"It is your time," she will tell the people who her campaign has chosen to call everyday Americans, arguing that America's success is measured not by how those at the top are doing but how the rest of the country is doing. Prosperity is for every American, she will say, not just for CEOs and hedge fund managers.

Clinton will also argue that the election will leave voters with a clear choice between what her aides see as Republicans' top-down economic policies and out-of-date social view, and her own views, which they say hinge on fairness and justice for all.

Clinton shied away from her personal story throughout her 2008 campaign but has chosen, this time, to use her own experiences from long before she stepped foot in the White House or the State Department. It's a way to connect with voters whose biographical knowledge of Clinton is limited to her years as first lady and secretary of state, and doesn't trace back to her middle class beginnings in the Chicago suburbs or the roots of her indomitable spirit.

Clinton's life story from her parents' influence onward, her supporters argue, is critical to convincing voters that she is the right person to lead the country.

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“She is a well-known figure but when you're asking the American people to support you as president, even if it is for the second time, there is no skipping of steps,” Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri said.

The first two months of Clinton’s campaign started laying the groundwork for her reintroduction to the American people and the methodical campaign that she and her team have planned for the next 17 months.

“Voters are seeing her not as secretary of state, not as first lady, not as Bill Clinton’s wife, not as a surrogate for President Obama but as Hillary Clinton, the 2016 candidate who is looking for their vote and their confidence to be their next commander-in-chief,” said Democratic strategist Maria Cardona, who advised Clinton’s first presidential campaign.

During the first phase of her campaign, Clinton was "putting one foot in front of the next very methodically," said Bill Galston, a domestic policy adviser in Bill Clinton's White House. "She is not trying to force herself to be someone she’s not. She’s not Barack Obama. She's not her husband."

Clinton's close ties to the last two Democratic presidents can make it difficult to differentiate her from them, but she's widely seen as more disciplined than her husband and more interested in engaging in politics than the current president. Clinton has suggested on the campaign trail that she could do better than Obama at working with Republicans and Democrats in Congress and, Galston said, "she has some skills that [Obama] lacks and those skills in these polarized times are pretty damn important."

Much of Clinton’s focus on Saturday and as she travels next week to Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada, will be on one important figure in the candidate’s life: her mother, Dorothy Rodham, who suffered multiple rounds of “trauma and abandonment” as a child, as Clinton wrote in her 2014 memoir Hard Choices, but experienced enough acts of kindness to persist through the hardships she faced.

“Mom measured her own life by how much she was able to help us and serve others,” Clinton wrote, and Rodham taught her daughter: “Never rest on your laurels. Never quit. Never stop working to make the world a better place. That’s our unfinished business.”

From her mother’s example, Clinton learned that every child needs someone fighting for him or her—a belief that has pulled her through her career, beginning with her work as a young lawyer for the Children’s Defense Fund.

“If you want to understand Hillary Clinton, and what has motivated her career of fighting for kids and families, her mother is a big part of the story,” Palmieri said. “The example she learned from her mother's story is critical to knowing what motivated Hillary Clinton to first get involved in public service, and why people can count on her to fight for them and their families now."

The shift to a focus on Clinton's personal story—which will also include the campaign's release of a biographical video about Clinton in the coming days—comes after an initial active avoidance of focusing too much on the larger-than-life candidate.

"One thing that struck me from the start as exactly right was to have this election not be about her but about everyday Americans," said Geoff Garin, Clinton's 2008 pollster. "She’s begun to lay an important foundation on which to build the next phase of her campaign."

Americans, he added, "want their elected officials to be in touch with them and to have a personal understanding of what they’re going through. She's demonstrated a commitment to doing that and I think she’ll be a better candidate as a result of it."

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Hillary Relaunch to Have 'Airport Style Security' **// The Weekly Standard // Daniel Halper**

Security will be tight at Hillary Clinton's re-launch in New York City. It will mimic "airport style security," according to an email from the campaign to people who have registered for the event.

"We can't wait to see you on Saturday at the Hillary for America official launch event -- we're so excited that you're going to be a part of this day! Here's some information you'll need ahead of time," reads the email describing Saturday's event.

When and Where

- Saturday, June 13th doors open at 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- FDR Four Freedoms Park, Roosevelt Island, NY

What to bring

- Your printed ticket -- the confirmation email you received when you registered for the event, you can also use your phone to show your ticket. Children under the age of 13 do not need a ticket to enter the event.

- Small personal cameras and cell phones will be permitted.

- Guests are encouraged to bring water in standard-sized, clear plastic bottles, as there will be a limited supply at the event.

What not to bring

- There will be airport style security. Items that will NOT BE permitted include food, liquids other than water, large bags, large purses, backpacks, strollers, umbrellas, noise makers, bullhorns, posters, signs, pets other than licensed service animals, sharp objects, or weapons.

What to expect

- Limited cell service on Roosevelt Island.

- The event is standing only -- seating will be provided for ADA guests.

- Food is not permitted in the park, so make sure to have breakfast before you arrive.

- Be prepared for a hot summer day; sunglasses, sunscreen, and comfortable shoes are highly encouraged.

How to get to Four Freedoms Park

The best way to get to the park is by public transportation -- parking on the island will be extremely limited.

- Subway: Take the F Train to the Roosevelt Island stop. Follow signs to Four Freedoms Park.

- Tram: From Manhattan: Get on the tram at 59th Street & Second Avenue Station. Travel time to Roosevelt Island is 4-5 minutes, with trams departing every 10 minutes. Exit at Tramway Station on Roosevelt Island. Follow signs to Four Freedoms Park.

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- Bus: From Queensboro Plaza overpass, take stairway down north side to corner of Crescent and Bridge Plaza North. Take the Q102 Queens Surface bus to Roosevelt Island. Follow signs to Four Freedoms Park.

We want to accommodate as many ADA guests as possible, so if you know that you will need assistance on-site, please contact ADAseating@hillaryclinton.com to make necessary arrangements. ADA guests are welcome to bring one guest with them into the ADA section.

This is going to be a great event and we're thrilled to have you -- one of our best supporters -- there as we launch into the next phase of this campaign.

Thanks,

Hillary for America

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton and Wishful-Thinking Politics // NYT // Brendan Nyhan – June 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign took a beating among some pundits this week for telling the truth: She's going to employ a strategy focused on a narrow set of the most competitive states.

In other words, she's running as a modern presidential candidate.

Mrs. Clinton's statement is what's called a Kinsley gaffe — taking its name from Michael Kinsley, a journalist who said a gaffe is something true that a politician isn't supposed to say. By conceding the obvious, she revealed the disjunction between the politics we say we want and the kind we actually have.

In reality, her approach is far less different from those of recent candidates than it might appear. No presidential candidate — including Mrs. Clinton's husband, whose strategy was compared to hers — competes in every state. The reason is the Electoral College, a winner-take-all system that rewards candidates who focus almost exclusively on closely contested states.

The difference is in which states she will target. The electoral map has changed since 1992, when the legacy of the old one-party South helped her husband win a number of Southern states that are now out of reach for Democrats. As a result, the targeting strategy that worked for her husband would not succeed today despite wishful thinking that she could, for instance, win Kentucky.

Most troubling to some observers, though, was the way that Mrs. Clinton's strategy dispensed with the pretense that she would create unity and consensus by running to the center. The uncomfortable reality is that presidents don't magically unite us, especially in our highly polarized era. With the public closely divided between the two parties, successful politicians have to mobilize their base to win.

Consider recent history. The last three presidents — Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama — were all elected after promising to transcend partisanship. All failed in that aim after learning some hard lessons about how Washington actually works. Mr. Bush and Mr. Obama then ran re-election campaigns focused on turning out their

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core supporters — the same model Mrs. Clinton plans to adopt.

Presidential candidates should still try to speak to all Americans. But we shouldn't pretend that pleasing words from Mrs. Clinton are going to bring back the politics of 1952 or even 1992 — that era is gone and it's not coming back.

Virginia Is Latest Front in Democrats' Voting Rights Battle **// NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 11, 2015**

Democrats allied with Hillary Rodham Clinton have filed a voting rights lawsuit in Virginia, the third time they have done so in a crucial presidential battleground state in the last two months.

The suit, like the others, was filed by Marc Elias, a Democratic election lawyer whose clients include Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign and four of the party's major national committees.

Mrs. Clinton is not a party to any of the lawsuits, but her campaign aides have expressed supported for the two earlier suits, in Ohio and Wisconsin.

The Virginia lawsuit is part of a broader effort by Democrats to try to roll back voting laws that have been passed in nearly two dozen states since 2010. Many of the laws were passed in states where Republican governors and legislatures rose to power after the Tea Party wave.

The Virginia action, described by the California-based election law expert Richard L. Hasen on his website, Election Law Blog, is primarily based on the state's voter identification law. The plaintiffs — which include the Virginia Democratic Party — argue the law will suppress turnout, particularly among blacks and Hispanics, the poor and college students.

Republicans have argued that the spate of new laws were important added protections against election fraud. They dismiss the Democratic lawsuits as publicity stunts to energize minority voters in support of Democratic candidates.

These 9 words prove that Bill Clinton still doesn't get it on the Clinton Foundation **// WaPo // Chris Cillizza – June 11, 2015**

Bill Clinton sat for an interview with Bloomberg News on Wednesday to talk about, among other things, the controversy surrounding the Clinton Foundation and his wife's 2016 presidential bid. And, in the course of that conversation, he let loose with this stunner: "Has anybody proved that we did anything objectionable? No."

Um, what?

This is the latest in a string of statements by the former president that suggest he still doesn't grasp why the Clinton Foundation questions continue to swirl and, because of that lack of understanding, remains unable to effectively parry them. Let's go through the problems with Clinton's answer.

First, there's little doubt that some of the donations accepted by the Clinton Foundation have been viewed as objectionable by lots and lots of people. To cite one example: Allowing the Qatar Supreme 2022 Committee, organized to lure the World Cup to the nation, to serve as the main sponsor for a 2013 Clinton Global Initiative event. Qatar has been tied to not only allegations of wide-scale bribery of FIFA to acquire the games but is also the

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subject of widespread humanitarian concerns regarding the number of deaths related to the construction of the soccer stadiums to host the World Cup in 2022.

So, on its face, the claim that no one has come forward to object to certain donations/donors is just not right.

Then there is the fact that Clinton's answer on the foundation seems to be based on the idea that he and his wife are operating in a legal sphere for the next two years. They're not. They're living in the world of politics -- and the rules of that world are far different than those of a court of law.

Clinton's argument boils down to the idea of a burden of proof. As in, if there's something truly objectionable in what the foundation has done, then someone should prove it. Legally speaking, Clinton's right. If you think he or the foundation broke some sort of law, then you should need to provide conclusive evidence of when, where, why, what and how.

But of course, what we are mostly talking about when it comes to the Clinton Foundation is the gray area between contributions made by donors and decisions made by the foundation that benefited those people. Proving that sort of quid pro quo in a legal setting is virtually impossible barring a smoking gun -- like an e-mail that says: "Mr. X gave $300,000. Let's fund his project now."

In politics, however, gray areas can be exploited to great advantage by your political opponents. Raising questions about the timing between donations to the Clinton Foundation and decisions made that lined the pockets of those donors is totally within the bounds of acceptable -- and effective -- negative messaging. Republicans don't need to prove that the Clinton Foundation did anything untoward. The burden of proof that there was no wrongdoing lies with the Clinton Foundation.

That reality clearly annoys Bill Clinton, and somewhat understandably. After all, the Clinton Foundation is a massive operation and, as Bill likes to point out, does lots and lots of work that has nothing to do with politics. "Do I have the most comprehensive disclosure of any presidential foundation? Yes," Clinton said in that same Bloomberg interview. "Is our -- our disclosures more extensive than most private foundations? Yes, they are, having nothing to do with politics." (Sidebar: It's not clear that Clinton's claim about the foundation's disclosure policies is totally accurate.)

Here's the problem for Bill: No other foundation in the world is run by a former president and a former secretary of state who also happens to be the de facto Democratic presidential nominee in 2016. That fact means that the Clinton Foundation isn't like any other foundation in the world -- and therefore, how all of those other foundations treat disclosure is sort of immaterial.

It's also worth noting here that the successes of the Clinton Foundation in terms of raising money are built on the prominence and political influence of Bill and Hillary Clinton. There are lots and lots of organizations out there that have been far less successful doing what the Clinton Foundation does simply because they lack messengers like Bill and Hillary. And so, when that prominence also subjects the Clinton Foundation to heightened scrutiny, that's the sort of thing that comes with the territory.

Bill Clinton needs to understand that no matter how beneficent he believes the Clinton Foundation is, it's now a major part of the broader political conversation regarding Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. (If you need evidence of that politicization of the foundation, witness the furor over donations to it by ABC newsman George Stephanopoulos.)

He may not like it, but good politicians -- and Bill Clinton is definitely one of those -- deal with the world as it is, not how they want it to be. He has yet to do that.

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[She won't back down. Or go away.](#) // WaPo // Kent Babb – June 11, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton looked into their eyes, her voice dropping. "I have to confess," she said, and the group surrounding her in this little makeshift room leaned in.

Usually the atrium at PS/IS 41 in Brooklyn is a community area, kids' voices echoing off the tile walls. On this Wednesday in April, it was a political proving ground: Clinton alongside Chirlane McCray, the first lady of New York City, to promote a campaign that encourages parents to talk or sing to their children.

Clinton was just days away from launching a second run for the White House, determined to win what she lost in spectacular fashion in 2008.

But her won't-back-down resolve — the quality that could make her America's first female president if it doesn't sabotage her first — was nowhere in sight as she sat at a table with about a half-dozen parents and educators, nodding at their stories.

This was a chance, in a carefully controlled setting, to project the warmer, more intimate persona she would be unveiling in Iowa and New Hampshire. She may have gotten her first campaign for the Democratic nomination wrong, but now she was planning to get it right.

So here she was, in a neighborhood dominated by public housing projects, trying to connect not as President Obama's first secretary of state, or an ex-U.S. senator, or the former first lady of the United States — though her audience was acutely aware that she'd been all those things. Nor did she want to be seen as a $200,000-per-speech megastar who was driven in a private van to a public school where nearly all 525 students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Clinton was presenting herself as a mother, just like those gathered around the table with her. And maybe if she said it often enough — believed it hard enough — voters would see her as she likes to see herself.

And, anyway, about that confession: She can't sing a lick. Years ago, Clinton told the group, amid laughter, that she would rock young Chelsea to sleep by singing her favorite song, "Moon River." Her daughter was less than appreciative, her tiny finger pressing into her mother's lips.

"No sing, Mommy," Clinton recalled Chelsea saying, some of the child's first words. Clinton was a young mother then and is a 67-year-old grandmother now, and my, how fast the time goes. The parents nodded.

Clinton was grooving now, comfortable and in command, offering a tender version of herself in a place where no one would challenge her about her e-mail accounts, or the attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, or the ugly political fights of the past four decades. Where no one would bring up the psychological Kevlar she wears into every room, the unyielding mind-set that has defined her since she was a child and still fuels her now.

"She will not give up when she knows she's right," says Sara Ehrman, a friend and confidante of Clinton's since the 1970s. "She will not give up. And it is admirable — and annoying."

Or as Clinton put it in a 2012 e-mail to a State Department colleague bracing to testify on Benghazi before the

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Senate Foreign Relations Committee: “Well, what doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger (as I have rationalized for years), so just survive and you’ll have triumphed.”

Fifteen miles from Chicago, jets descended over the northern suburbs into O’Hare International Airport. It was the early 1950s, and a 4-year-old girl danced alone in her family’s back yard, reaching for the rumbling sky.

This is one of young Hillary’s earliest memories, recounted decades later in her first memoir, “Living History.” She declined to be interviewed for this article, but in her book she remembers her mother, Dorothy, asking her why she wasn’t playing with other kids in Park Ridge, the suburb where the Rodhams lived.

Hillary started to cry. The problem was a girl named Suzy. Suzy was bigger, meaner, used to roughhousing with her older brothers, Hillary told her mother. She was afraid of her.

“Go back out there,” Dorothy Rodham ordered her oldest child and only daughter, nudging her out the door. Dorothy reminded her that if Suzy bullied her, she had her mother’s permission to punch back. “You have to stand up for yourself. There’s no room in this house for cowards.”

Though Dorothy deferred always to her opinionated, domineering husband, Hugh, she was perhaps the household’s strongest soul. She had spent her own childhood mostly alone, taking care of her sister when their parents left them alone for days. Dorothy was 8 when her parents put her on a train in Illinois bound for California, shuffled off to live with relatives who weren’t any more caring.

Dorothy’s grandmother once confined her to a year in her room for the sin of celebrating Halloween. She left at age 14 to work full time, as a $3-per-week housekeeper and nanny for a family that actually seemed to love one another.

Years later, Dorothy watched from behind a curtain as Hillary marched out to confront Suzy. The bully backed down, and Hillary raced home to announce her victory: “I can play with the boys now!”

Hillary began defying the limits imposed on girls in that era. She dreamed of becoming an astronaut or a baseball player and ran unsuccessfully for student government president at Maine South High. When she later applied to law school at Harvard and Yale, a well-known professor told her at a cocktail party that Harvard didn’t need more women, Hillary’s final nudge toward Yale.

Still, Hillary sometimes harbored self-doubt. She was a freshman at Wellesley College, an all-girls school near Boston, when her first math and French grades came back. They weren’t A’s. She called home, holding back tears. Hugh Rodham told her to come on back to Illinois. Dorothy, who had never felt in control of her own life, said no such thing. She had been offered no opportunities; she wasn’t going to let her only daughter give up on hers.

“I realized,” Clinton would later write, “that I really couldn’t go home again.”

They stopped twice in Virginia and again in Tennessee. The question was always the same: “Are you sure?” And the answer was always yes, so they kept driving.

Hillary had moved to Washington after graduating from Yale Law School, where she had met a bright and charismatic student named Bill Clinton. She worked as a staff attorney for the Children’s Defense Fund, then for the House committee investigating Watergate. Home during those years had been Ehrman’s Capitol Hill townhouse, where the roommates often talked about the future. Hillary’s ambition was among the most popular

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topics.

“She wanted a job. She wanted a life. She wanted to be recognized for what she was qualified to do,” Ehrman recalls.

Now, as they drove south, Ehrman was trying to talk her friend out of a decision that contradicted all that: Hillary wanted to join Bill in Arkansas, where he was a law professor with lofty ambitions of his own. Ehrman agreed to drive her because it gave Ehrman time to talk Hillary out of it. “Are you crazy?” she asked during one of their stops, telling her friend that she was throwing her future away. Hillary's determination, Ehrman learned, also came with a frustrating side.

They arrived in Fayetteville, Hillary taking her first steps toward a new life that would eventually make her one of the most powerful — and most controversial — women in the world. Ehrman, still certain her friend was making a terrible mistake, sat in her car and cried.

Hillary married Bill in 1975 but refused to take on Clinton’s last name, raising eyebrows in conservative Arkansas. When Bill ran for governor in 1978, advisers urged her to rethink such a trivial matter, but the fact was, this wasn’t trivial to her. Hillary, who would go on to be the first female partner at Rose Law Firm, wouldn’t be talked out of flying to New York a month before Chelsea was born to make a presentation alongside board members of the Arkansas Children’s Hospital — and she wouldn’t be talked out of this.

“I was still me,” she wrote in “Living History.”

“She has always done what she thinks is the right thing,” says Sheila Bronfman, a longtime friend from Arkansas. “And she lives with her choices.”

Then Bill, seeking a second term as governor, lost to a Republican challenger named Frank White, and advisers put some of the blame on Hillary’s refusal to be a genteel Southern wife. When Bill announced he would seek the office again in 1982, his wife began calling herself Hillary Rodham Clinton — a notable compromise.

Winning, she realized, was more important. A few months later, Bill retook the Governor’s Mansion in a landslide.

She stood alone sometimes looking out a White House window, watching as the tourists strolled by. Years of fighting had helped Bill Clinton become America’s 42nd president, but it had left Hillary with more enemies than allies.

She spent her first two years in Washington in the center of bare-knuckle exchanges: with media organizations, with Republicans, within her husband’s administration — no battle too small.

“I’m used to winning, and I intend to win on my own terms,” she once said to Diane Blair, one of her closest friends, according to a collection of Blair’s notes archived at the University of Arkansas.

Hillary had demanded her own 20-person staff and West Wing offices, unprecedented for a first lady, and was charged with running point on a task force to reform the country’s health-care system. She conducted many of the initial proceedings in secret, eventually leading to a lawsuit. The initiative died a painful death; she was lampooned and attacked, and she found herself unable to ignore barbs that grew increasingly personal.

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During the dawn of the 24-hour news cycle, no topic was off limits. The Clintons' marriage was dissected as a union not of love but shared ambitions; she was depicted as a ruthless woman who craved power. Her approval rating dipped to 44 percent, and at a 1994 tobacco rally in Kentucky, a Hillary effigy was burned.

When she felt bullied, as she had been so many years earlier in Park Ridge, she wanted to punch back. "As always," Blair once wrote in her journal, "she thinks the only answer to anything is to go on the offensive."

But more often she found herself in a defensive crouch, walling herself off from her attackers, always seeking control.

Blair suggested she could spare herself headaches by being friendlier to the press and dabbling in fewer political decisions.

"I know how to compromise, I have compromised," Blair wrote that Hillary told her during a phone call. "I gave up my name, got contact lenses, but I'm not going to try to pretend to be somebody that I'm not."

During the months before the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, she insisted on traveling to the Beijing event — a move that had the potential to offend the Chinese. When Democrats balked and the White House hesitated, she threatened to board a commercial flight and attend anyway, not as first lady but as a private American.

The administration relented, and she delivered the conference's signature speech. "Human rights are women's rights," she told the gathering, "and women's rights are human rights."

When Hillary returned to Washington, it was as a global champion of feminism and, perhaps, a future politician herself. For kicks, Blair sometimes sent articles to her about the nation's readiness for its first female president.

Then, in 1998, two years into his second term, Bill Clinton admitted to having an affair with a White House intern named Monica Lewinsky. The scandal led to impeachment and to the spectacle of Hillary, who had once dismissed questions about her marriage by declaring that she wasn't "some little woman standing by my man," doing exactly that.

Although preserving her marriage confounded some feminists, Hillary's approval rating soared to 67 percent in December 1998, the highest it has been before or since. Her husband survived impeachment, and Hillary survived public humiliation and endless speculation about whether she remained married out of love, ambition, or a combination of both.

The Clintons had just six months left in the White House in 2000 when Hillary learned that her beloved friend Blair, who had been battling lung cancer, was dying. Hillary visited her in Arkansas, asking Blair how "Senator Hillary Clinton" sounded. Blair squeezed Hillary's hand and whispered, "Don't ever give up on yourself or what you believe in."

Hillary, Bill and Chelsea Clinton leave the White House for a Thanksgiving getaway at Camp David in 1997. (Frank Johnston/The Washington Post) Sen. Hillary Clinton is joined by Bill, Chelsea and her mother, Dorothy Rodham, on June 7, 2008, at the National Building Museum in Washington as she concedes the Democratic presidential nomination to Sen. Barack Obama. (Richard A. Lipski/The Washington Post)

Hillary Clinton looked into their eyes, her voice dropping. "This is very personal for me," the senator from New

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York told a small group of undecided voters in a Portsmouth, N.H., cafe in January 2008.

Her voice cracked with emotion. Clinton's campaign for president was foundering. Another history-seeking Democrat, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, had won the Iowa caucuses, and polls showed him with a double-digit lead over Clinton on the day before the New Hampshire primary.

A woman asked how Clinton did it — how, after all she had been through, she remained so upbeat. Clinton paused, tears welling in her eyes. "I see what's happening," she said. "And we have to reverse it."

She had, until that point, been scripted and cautious, intent on projecting the gravitas of a commander in chief. Voters struggled to connect, and the campaign appeared adrift, beset by bickering and leaks that Clinton seemed unable to control.

Then, whether it was authenticity or a Hail Mary by a desperate campaign, Clinton went off the familiar script. Her voice softened. "I just don't want to see us fall backwards," she said. "You know?"

The next day, she erased Obama's lead and won New Hampshire, though Obama's historic momentum would be too much to overcome. Portsmouth, though, was more meaningful than one primary win. "I found my footing," Clinton wrote in "Hard Choices," her second memoir, "and my voice."

She refused to concede to Obama, even when it was clear she couldn't win. And by the end of her campaign, 18 million people had voted to nominate a woman for president of the United States.

When the time finally came to withdraw, an 89-year-old woman wearing green entered the atrium of Washington's National Building Museum to listen to Clinton's concession speech. "When you're knocked down," Clinton told hundreds of supporters, "get right back up and never listen to anyone who says you can't or shouldn't go on."

The woman in green applauded, and Clinton continued.

"Although we weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it's got about 18 million cracks in it," she said as Dorothy Rodham watched from a few feet away.

Clinton exits after delivering the keynote address April 29 at the David N. Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum at Columbia University in New York City. (Kevin Hagen/Getty Images)

Ablack van traveled out of New York last month and into the heart of America, through Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, stopping at one point in Joliet, Ill., about 40 miles from the Chicago suburb where a mother once nudged her daughter outside to confront her tormentor.

The last of Dorothy's fight had left her in 2011 as Hillary Clinton held her dying mother's hand. For the first time, she would have to take on all those Suzys alone, no one but herself to push her out the door.

Clinton, who visited 112 countries in four years as secretary of state, announced her second run for the White House on a Sunday in mid-April, and Hillary haters cracked their knuckles. Her motives will again be scrutinized, and so, of course, will her marriage. Can she go the distance, avoiding the traps and attacks, including the self-inflicted ones? And what if she wins — making her, at 69, not just the first woman but the second-oldest president

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to assume office?

Clinton in 1985 wearing her inaugural-ball gown after Bill Clinton was reelected as governor of Arkansas. (Associated Press)

“I’m aware I may not be the youngest candidate in this race,” Clinton told Democrats in South Carolina in May. “But I have one big advantage: I’ve been coloring my hair for years. You’re not going to see me turn white in the White House. And you’re also not going to see me shrink from a fight.”

The day after her announcement video posted online, Clinton surrendered catered meals, private jets and prized privacy for stops at Chipotle, a converted van and unpredictable encounters with strangers.

On a Tuesday in Iowa, seven vehicles passed grain silos, taking Exit 63 toward a community college in the rural town of Monticello. A small crowd waited outside to see which Hillary Clinton would emerge from the back seat: the defiant but locked-in former first lady, the controlled and locked-down secretary of state — or some new version of a candidate everyone thinks they know.

The van pulled up inside a loading area, and Clinton stepped out and waved. Then a door opened, the same as it did more than six decades earlier in Park Ridge, and she walked through it.

Clinton’s Donor Dominance Not Absolute **// WSJ // Peter Nicholas & Laura Meckler – June 11, 2015**

Hillary Clinton appears to be winning over the lion’s share of elite fundraisers who powered President Barack Obama’s 2012 campaign, another sign of her dominant position in the Democratic primary. But enough unease about her candidacy has materialized to give fuel to one of Mrs. Clinton’s rivals, Martin O’Malley.

A Wall Street Journal survey of many of the top Obama fundraisers found that some are backing other candidates or weighing their options. Interviews with donors also found that Mr. O’Malley, a former Maryland governor, is making an aggressive push to win their allegiance.

Mr. O’Malley, who himself was an Obama fundraising “bundler,” has deep ties to the Obama campaign finance apparatus and has won sympathetic hearings or outright support from several of the people who helped pay for the $1.1 billion Obama re-election campaign.

Even a modest level of fundraising support could be enough to propel Mr. O’Malley through Iowa and New Hampshire, states that hold the first nominating contests and whose advertising markets are less expensive than those of Florida and many other states that vote later.

Of 72 top Obama fundraisers from 2012 whose preferences could be learned through interviews, campaign statements or invitations to fundraising events, about three in four back Mrs. Clinton. The rest support someone else, remain undecided or are sitting out the race for personal or other reasons.

A handful of Mrs. Clinton’s backers said they are prepared to switch allegiances or to fund more than one Democratic candidate. Kerman Maddox, a partner at a public-affairs firm in Los Angeles, said that at a comparable point in the 2008 race he was raising money and organizing events for then-Sen. Obama. This time, he is considering his options after being approached by both Mrs. Clinton’s campaign and Mr. O’Malley’s.

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"The energy and enthusiasm of 2008 was so infectious, you had to get involved, and that really doesn't exist so far in 2016," said Mr. Maddox. This cycle "so far is underwhelming to me."

But Mrs. Clinton has the bulk of the fundraisers in her camp, including some boldface names and power brokers who raised millions for Mr. Obama, such as Vogue magazine editor Anna Wintour, longtime Hollywood executive Jeffrey Katzenberg and movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

In 2012, 249 people raised at least $500,000 each for Mr. Obama's campaign. Of them, at least 25 now serve as U.S. ambassadors or in other posts that bar political work. The Journal determined the intentions of 72 of the rest.

Of the 72 people, 54, or 75%, said they were committed to raising money for Mrs. Clinton. Six said they had chosen another candidate or were leaning toward one. Four were undecided.

Eight people said they were sitting out the election for personal or other reasons.

Mrs. Clinton and her husband have assembled their own network of fundraisers through decades of campaigning, and a super PAC backing her is raising money as well. Politics is a game of addition, though, and locking in the Obama network would strengthen her hand both in the primary and general election. Moreover, any defections from Mrs. Clinton are noteworthy, because she is perceived as the overwhelming front-runner.

Mrs. Clinton is devoting considerable time to raising money. On Wednesday, she attended three fundraising events, in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Aides said her aim is to raise $100 million this year to spend during the Democratic primaries.

"We are in a competitive primary, and Hillary Clinton is working to earn the support of Americans across the country," said Josh Schwerin, a campaign spokesman.

Andrew Weinstein, one of the top 2012 Obama bundlers, said he backs Mrs. Clinton because "she's the best chance to preserve the progress that this president has made. She's the LeBron James of the Democratic field: She's going to be impossible to beat in a primary in 2016, and very, very formidable in a general election."

Interviews suggest Mr. O'Malley has the potential to pry loose some of Mrs. Clinton's support, aided by his links to the Obama fundraising team. Mr. O'Malley raised more than a half-million dollars for Mr. Obama in 2012, when he was governor. His campaign's national finance director, Michael Kurtz, served as a Midwest finance director for the president's 2012 campaign.

Mr. O'Malley is scheduled to attend a June 22 fundraising reception in Los Angeles co-hosted by Dixon Slingerland, an invitation shows. Mr. Slingerland raised more than $500,000 for Mr. Obama in 2012. Calls to Mr. Slingerland seeking comment weren't returned.

Doug Goldman, another top Obama bundler, said he has met privately with Mr. O'Malley and is leaning toward supporting him. "Thus far, this race is not going in the right direction for Hillary," Mr. Goldman said. "That's opening the door for others, including Martin O'Malley. The situation is causing me to consider the need to provide support elsewhere."

Bill Hyers, Mr. O'Malley's senior strategist, said it is possible for the former governor to do well in Iowa with a small budget, perhaps $5 million or $6 million. "Iowa's a cheap state," he said.

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Interviews with former Obama fundraisers found little sign of outreach from the other declared Democratic candidates, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

George Tsunis, a New York-based hotel executive, is backing Mrs. Clinton but said he would switch to Vice President Joe Biden should he enter the race.

Some fundraisers say they want another option in case Mrs. Clinton stumbles. Ken Solomon, who was Southern California finance chairman for Mr. Obama in 2012, said he was inclined to raise money for Mr. O'Malley as well as for Mrs. Clinton. The party must protect itself in case the leading candidate should falter, Mr. Solomon said.

"We can't be left without a Plan B," he said.

Inside Hillary's house-party strategy // Politico // Annie Karni – June 11, 2015

Since declaring her candidacy in April, Hillary Clinton has spent much of her time attending house parties. Two months and over 30 fundraisers later, Clinton has raised only a relatively modest $13 million or so from the events, according to a POLITICO analysis.

For the hours she has invested meeting donors face to face, Clinton's does not seem like a cost-effective strategy — $13 million, after all, sounds like one very good week for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has been running his campaign out of his super PAC and is expected to raise somewhere in the vicinity of $100 million in the first quarter. And it's a departure from her strategy last time around, when Clinton hauled in $36 million in the first three months of her 2008 presidential bid.

But Clinton's gamble is that while collecting relatively small checks from relatively small groups — the maximum is $2,700 per head and the average party attracts about 120 people — she is also harvesting something else: goodwill, in a business sense, among a cohort of early donors whose feeling of personal connection to Clinton and her campaign are expected to pay dividends down the line.

"This was a very unique opportunity, because she's only raising primary money, and when the campaign gets geared up and she starts raising general election money, events will have to be bigger," said Tom Nides, a longtime Clinton donor. "It's hard and she's got a lot of stamina. But it was an investment in the future."

Clinton's "ramp-up" period, as her campaign calls it, ends Saturday with her big kick-off rally. During the two month ramp-up stretch, the roughly 60 donors who hosted her earliest fundraisers have acted like early stage VCs investing in a new start-up. And they are expected to be valuable to her beyond writing one big check.

A review of the first-wave hosts shows a varied group made up of billionaire hedge fund managers and real estate honchos, personal injury lawyers, professors, film producers, ambassadors — even the original tiger mom.

They represent longtime Friends of Bill with ties to the Clinton Foundation, former bundlers for President Obama, and individuals getting involved in presidential politics for the first time. They live in cities across the country, from New York City to San Francisco to Houston. Many of them are women. Because of high demand to host and a tight schedule, some who have never met before have been paired together by the campaign as co-hosts.

Among the group are those mega-wealthy usual suspects who have backed the Clintons in the past. They include philanthropist Susie Tompkins Buell, the co-founder of Esprit and a close Clinton friend; banker Steve Rattner, who served as Obama's car czar; billionaires Cheryl and Haim Saban, the chairman of Univision; billion venture

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capitalist J.B. Pritzker, media mogul Fred Eychaner; hedge fund manager and Chelsea Clinton's former boss Marc Lasry; and billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer — all longtime supporters who over the years have also donated millions to the Clinton Foundation.

Two ambassadors are on the list: Elizabeth Bagley, who bundled $100,000 for Clinton during her last run and who has given over $1 million to the Clinton Foundation, and Ed Romero, who was appointed Ambassador to Spain by Bill Clinton.

But the early host group also includes faces new to Clinton world. Former Obama bundlers like Frank White and John Morgan, hosted events in Washington, D.C. and Orlando. Another new addition to a Hillaryland: Eileen Donahue, who chaired the National Women for Obama Finance Committee in 2008.

The list includes supporters who have never been deeply involved in political fundraising before, like music producer LA Reid and his wife, Erica, whose Manhattan event attracted pop star Beyonce and singer Meghan Trainor. In Atlanta, A.J. and Judy Johnson hosted an event for Clinton on May 28, part of their first foray into hosting events at the presidential level. Jonathan Davis, the founder of a Boston real estate firm, and his wife, Margot, hosted Clinton at their Chestnut Hill home on Wednesday —one of their first political fundraisers.

"I have never done a fundraiser for her, or for presidential candidates before," said Yale Law professor Judith Resnik, who co-hosted a New Haven event for Clinton last week after some of Clinton's former classmates from Yale Law School reached out and asked her to. Her co-host at the event, she said, was Amy Chua, law professor and best-selling author of "The Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," another newer addition to Clinton's coterie of supporters.

"Having a grown-up woman in charge of the U.S. would not only be great for the country but for the globe," said Resnik. "I'm completely enthusiastic and delighted to help."

Resnik is not the only supporter motivated by electing the country's first female president. While Clinton has not been stressing the historic nature of her run in public events so far, the early stage fundraisers include many women who want to be in on the ground floor as Clinton gives it her last go.

Silda Wall Spitzer, the former first lady of New York, hosted a "conversation with Hillary Clinton" billed as a women's-only fundraiser. At the Women's National Democratic Club in Washington, D.C., Clinton's hosts were Claire Lucas and Judy Dlugacz, founders of a cruise line targeting gay women. Laura Ricketts, a co-owner of the Chicago Cubs, has previously served as a top LGBT bundler for Obama. She co-hosted a house party for Clinton in Chicago last month.

Another faction of the early-investor group are elected officials, like Reps. Grace Meng and Joe Crowley of Queens, who co-hosted an event in Queens on June 1, and are valuable because they can mobilize their constituencies to get involved with the campaign down the line.

"I've been a Hillary supporter since day one," said Crowley, who recalled Clinton staying over at his home in Queens during her listening tour when she ran for Senate. California Sen. Barbara Boxer also co-hosted an event with television producer Steven Bochco and his wife, Dayna.

Some of the hosts proactively reached out to the campaign offering to help, others were connected by mutual acquaintances, and others were asked by the campaign to help.

Hillary Clinton speaks as J.B. Pritzker looks on at the Economic Club of Chicago on Oct. 8, 2014.

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"I know people who couldn't get on the schedule," said Jacobs, a prominent New York Democrat and Clinton fundraiser who hosted the former Secretary of State at his Long Island home on June 1. "I've been advocating to do an early fundraiser for a long time. I let them know a long time ago, I mean way longer ago than since she announced. I was chomping at the bit."

The average house party, so far, has been limited to about 120 attendees. At those events, Clinton typically delivers remarks for about 20 minutes, and then circulates, spending some one-on-one time and taking a photo with every attendee. She's been known to linger longer than scheduled, taking her time.

All in all, hers is a big pitch for some small checks — and the cheapest way Democratic donors have been able to get real face time with a top-tier presidential candidate since Barack Obama's early fundraising events in 2007.

As the campaign heats up over the coming months, the small house parties at low prices will be slowly phased out and replaced with larger, lower-dollar events to attract bigger crowds, according to a campaign official.

But the investments Clinton is expecting from her early stage donors is emotional capital, which will be used to spread much-needed enthusiasm among a broader set of donors who can be hit up for money multiple times over the next 18 months.

"This decision will pay enormous benefits to the campaign long term," said Nides. "There's a multiplier effect."

The Real Felony: Denying Prisoners the Right to Vote // The Daily Beast // Barrett Holmes Pitner – June 12, 2015

Of course ex-felons should have their voting rights restored. But let's go further: There's no good reason to deny prisoners the franchise.

Recently, Hillary Clinton dramatically put voting rights back on the national agenda with an audacious call to register every American citizen when he or she turns 18. Voter ID laws are not new issues in our politics, but Clinton's full-throated appeal felt serious and sincere: Perhaps we will finally tackle the perverse voter disenfranchisement of minorities and the poor that still persists throughout this country.

But I'll go her one better. If Hillary is serious about social justice and equality, I hope she does not overlook one nearly voiceless population that needs to be included in this debate: ex-convicts returning home from prison, and, yes, even incarcerated prisoners.

The United States has the most prisoners of any developed country in the world, and it has the largest total prison population of any nation. Period. America's prison population has increased 800 percent since 1980, and much of the increase is due to harsher punishments for non-violent crimes. As a result, more than 1.57 million inmates are behind bars in federal, state, and county prisons and jails at any one time. And when you consider the estimated 12 million Americans who cycle through county jails for periods of less than a year, the total number of Americans behind bars can jump to an estimated 2.4 million.

When you factor in released inmates who are barred from voting due to felony convictions, the number of voter-disenfranchised Americans grows to an estimated 5.85 million, or 2.5 percent of the nation's voting population, according to a recent report by The Sentencing Project.

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Additionally, since America consists of a patchwork of laws varying from state to state regarding the voting rights of convicted felons, many felons who have the opportunity to vote are simply unaware or are unable to overcome the bureaucratic hurdles that would allow them to vote, and as a result they become de facto disenfranchised.

Some states allow felons to vote if they are on probation, but not if they are on parole. In Tennessee a felon's voting rights can be revoked if he is late on child support payments.

According to Myrna Pérez, deputy director of the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, "There are some states where it does not matter what you did, how long ago it was, how young you were, etc. If you have a felony conviction in the past you have lost your right to vote permanently, unless the governor specifically decides that he or she wants to pardon you."

Yet finding various creative ways to keep certain Americans off the voting rolls has not been adopted by all of America. Vermont and Maine have both bucked the trend of voter disenfranchisement and allow inmates to vote.

In fact, Vermont's 1793 Constitution stipulates that residents can lose their right to vote only if convicted of voter fraud.

Vermont and Maine have both bucked the trend of voter disenfranchisement and allow inmates to vote.

So to the Republicans such as New Jersey Governor Chris Christie who have already scoffed at Clinton's voter expansion proposal for fear that it would create voter fraud, and would inevitably deride the expansion of voting rights to felons and inmates, the State of Vermont successfully handled this issue more than two centuries ago.

At a national level, one of the biggest questions regarding inmates voting is what voting precinct these votes fall in. Many prisons are located in rural areas that are represented by Republicans at the state and national level, and as African-Americans make up a disproportionate size of the prison population, many conservative areas would be less inclined to open voting to a demographic that leans heavily Democratic.

The logical extension would be that we allow prisoners to vote absentee ballot from their known address at the time of conviction, or the address they intend to return to upon release, and not for the one where their detention facility is located.

The debate on extending voting rights to inmates and convicts is more than just an individual rights or social justice issue. It makes sense from a public policy and law enforcement perspective too. Voting has been shown to have a rehabilitative effect that can reduce recidivism and thereby, crime, and save governments millions of dollars. Recidivism has been shown to drop by at least 10 percent when voting has been extended to ex-felons.

"It is important for voting rights to be extended to those that are incarcerated so that they can remain connected to the communities that they will ultimately return to," said Laurin Hodge, the president and executive director of Mission Launch, a non-profit that works to reacclimatize the previously incarcerated into civil society. "Ultimately prison should be about rehabilitation and not ongoing punishment."

Additionally, even for those with life sentences or on death row, the act of voting can have an impact that reverberates throughout their communities back home.

It is becoming more apparent that voting is a responsibility that needs to be fostered, and many people develop the voting habit from observing previous generations. Voting builds stronger communities of people who are

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more likely to participate in the democratic process. Similarly, inmates who are able to vote will feel more connected and invested in their communities, and can set a positive example to the outside world while they are behind bars.

It may be easy to discredit how informed inmates may be, but data are emerging showing that “informed” voters by and large vote along party lines and are not as well versed on the issues as we would like to believe. And we need not forget that prisoners have plenty of spare time, and are one of the few demographics that could leisurely read two newspapers a day and still find time to watch the evening news.

The argument for keeping the incarcerated and the newly released off the voting rolls is based on an archaic punitive disciplinary structure that we need to move beyond. Maintaining an electoral process that actively works to disenfranchise nearly 3 percent of eligible voters is a structure that no democratic nation should support.

Hillary Rally Vs. the Gun Show at Iowa State Fair **// The Weekly Standard // Jeryl Bier – June 11, 2015**

Hillary Clinton will certainly have supporters at Sunday's rally in Des Moines at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, but could face some stiff competition from another event: the final day of a three-day gun show. The show is one of six being held during 2015 at the fairgrounds, and one of more than a dozen put on around Iowa during the year by the show's promoter, Trade Show Productions:

The gun show is located in one of the fairground's 24 venues, the William C. Knapp Building. The Clinton campaign does not specify the venue for Sunday's rally, but a 2007 rally for Mrs. Clinton on her first run for president was held at one of the fairground's outdoor staging areas. According to CBS News, that event featured "an elaborate stage of hay bales, American flags and even a fireworks show at the conclusion."

Last summer, Mrs. Clinton had some harsh words for Second Amendment supporters, saying (via The Hill):

“We cannot let a minority of people, and that’s what it is, it is a minority of people, hold a view point that terrorizes the majority of people,” Clinton said during a CNN town-hall event.

It is unlikely Mrs. Clinton will address gun control Sunday, and not simply because of the proximity of the gun show. The second-time candidate has been hesitant so far in 2015 to articulate many specific policy proposals, and The Hill even speculated that muting her support of gun control measures could benefit Mrs. Clinton in the general election:

The extent to which Clinton embraces gun control in her White House bid remains to be seen.

While an emphasis on guns could help Clinton win over the left, it could prove to be a liability in several battleground states that could decide the presidential election.

For the first time in decades, a majority of Americans say it is more important to protect gun rights than it is to limit gun ownership, according to a December poll from the Pew Research Center.

The same Pew poll found that a slight majority of women now believe owning a handgun can protect them from becoming victims of crime.

The gun show is not the only event competing with the Clinton relaunch rally. The Iowa State Fairgrounds

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schedule shows that a flea market is also running Sunday concurrently with the rally. If Mrs. Clinton intends to continue to make her appeal to be the "champion" of Everyday Americans, plenty of them should be on hand this weekend in Des Moines.

Hillary Clinton's Truth-O-Meter record **// Politifact // Lauren // Carroll – June 11, 2015**

Hillary Clinton formally announced her 2016 presidential campaign with a video in April, and she's been on the trail since -- but she's courting media attention with a major launch event on June 12 at New York City's Roosevelt Island, a site that invokes the legacy of its namesake, President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The former secretary of state is slated to deliver a speech to a large audience, a contrast with her recent series of small, roundtable-style events that she's held in the early caucus and primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

We've fact-checked Clinton more than 100 times since we began operations in 2007 -- a period that stretches back to her first presidential campaign. So far during the 2016 campaign, we've checked nine of her claims.

Clinton, wife of former President Bill Clinton, is also a former Democratic senator from New York. Her Truth-O-Meter record over the past eight years includes 34 Trues, 19 Mostly Trues, 23 Half Trues, 18 Mostly Falses, 11 Falses and Two Pants on Fires.

We'll continue to watch Clinton's campaign closely looking for facts to check, but for now, here are some of the most interesting fact-checks in our Hillary Clinton file.

2016

Most recently, we looked into several claims from a speech in which Clinton called for an expansion of voting rights. Clinton attacked what she described as efforts to restrict voting by Republican governors who also are potential presidential candidates. She singled out former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. PolitiFact looked into specific claims related to these four governors and found that her attack lines were largely accurate but could have used some additional context. We gave her four Mostly Trues.

Meanwhile, at a campaign event in Iowa, Clinton tried to show that she understands the struggles of undocumented immigrants by saying that "all my grandparents" immigrated to America. We found that not all of Hillary Clinton's grandparents were immigrants -- in fact, only one was. (Buzzfeed fact-checked it first.) So we rated that claim False.

Also in Iowa, she lamented that "hedge fund managers themselves make more and pay less in taxes than nurses and truck drivers." Looking at the amount paid, we found that fund managers were paying multi-million-dollar tax bills to the IRS, compared to an above-average example of a nurse paying $15,700. Even her intended point -- that hedge fund managers pay a lower tax rate -- isn't clearly accurate. We gave that claim a False.

Earlier claims

Before her campaign launch, we looked into Clinton's claim that she "fully complied with every rule" while

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exclusively using private email while secretary of state. We couldn't put this claim on the Truth-O-Meter because too much remains unknown. Still, we interviewed several experts on government transparency and records preservation. They said a lawyer might be able to put together a case that Clinton "complied" with the rules governing federal employee email use -- but they added that her actions are still hard to defend. (Read the full report.)

In 2014, while on a publicity tour for her book Hard Choices, Clinton said that she and her husband "came out of the White House not only dead broke, but in debt." It's possible that the Clintons' liabilities exceeded their assets when Bill's term ended in 2001, but they were able to muster a cash down payment of $855,000 and secure a $1.995 million mortgage. Additionally, in the months following their departure from the White House, Bill Clinton regularly took in speaking fees of at least $125,000, and Hillary Clinton received $2.84 million in book royalties. We rated that claim Mostly False.

In an interview, Clinton said the number of jobs created and people lifted out of poverty during Bill Clinton's presidency was "a hundred times" what it was under President Ronald Reagan. Clinton's record on these issues does outpace Reagan's, but the differences were not like night and day, as her phrasing claims. We rated this claim False.

Many Republicans have criticized Clinton's actions before, during and after the deadly 2012 attack on an American diplomatic compound in Benghazi. In Clinton's testimony before Congress, regarding the motivation behind the attack, she asked rhetorically, "At this point, what difference does it make?" The question became an oft-quoted sound bite, so we decided to lay out the full quote in context.

Her 2008 campaign

In a 2008 foreign policy speech, Clinton reminisced about her days as first lady and a trip to Tuzla, Bosnia, that she made in March 1996. She said, "I remember landing under sniper fire." But that's not what happened, as demonstrated by CBS News video that shows Clinton arriving on the tarmac under no visible duress, and greeting a child who offers her a copy of a poem. We rated the claim Pants on Fire.

Perhaps the strangest claim from Clinton's first campaign was that "A ham and cheese sandwich on one slice of bread is the responsibility of the USDA ... But a ham and cheese sandwich on two slices of bread is the responsibility of the Food and Drug Administration." A USDA undersecretary told PolitiFact that Clinton's description of sandwich regulations is accurate -- and that the rule "defies logic." We rated her claim True.

Change she can believe in: Clinton bets voters want more of the same, only better // LA Times // David Lauter – June 11, 2015

the heart of Hillary Rodham Clinton's strategy for winning the presidency lies a basic assumption about the public's desire for political change.

History says that after eight years of a presidency, Americans typically want something different. Elections in which one party seeks a third term in the White House tend to be tough slogs. Indeed, as Clinton prepares for the first major rally of her campaign on Saturday in New York, Americans by about 2 to 1 say the country is headed down the "wrong track."

But what sort of change do Americans want?

Republican candidates, from former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in the party's center to Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas on its right, are betting that voters want a major shift toward conservatism.

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Clinton, the overwhelming favorite to win the Democratic nomination, has made a different calculation. Her advisors believe that a significant share of those who say the country is on the wrong track feel that Republican policies would only make matters worse.

On the big issues, voters favor President Obama's values and priorities, Democratic strategists say. What they want is to see that agenda implemented more effectively.

That's why, while Clinton plans to roll out policy proposals this summer, some of which will differ from or go beyond Obama's, the more crucial pitch will be about her ability to govern.

As she told supporters at a recent speech in South Carolina: “I do know how hard this job I'm seeking is. I've seen it up close and personal. You're not gonna catch me wondering what it's like. Instead, I'm spending my time planning for what I will do for you when I get there.”

“You're also not going to see me shrink from a fight,” she added. “I think you know by now I don't quit.”

That emphasis on Clinton's toughness and tenacity aims to reach voters who say in polls and focus groups that they supported Obama but have grown disappointed about how much he's been able to accomplish. It addresses a major concern for Democrats, but also poses some risks.

The concern could be seen at a focus group a few weeks before last fall's midterm election, as an African American woman, the mother of a 7-year-old girl, sighed slightly as she gave her opinion of the man she had twice backed for president.

“I would say he seems depressed,” she said of Obama. “I really don't feel he's had the opportunity to do the things that he is capable of doing because different parties are holding him back.”

That's a view that strategists in both parties continue to see frequently.

“Most people don't blame the president,” said Democratic pollster Mark Mellman. “But they do wish more had gotten done.”

The first big risk for Clinton in trying to turn that sentiment to her advantage is the possibility that Republicans have better gauged the public mood.

“An overwhelming majority of Americans want to see a new set of policies from their next president, not a continuation of the same failed ones,” said Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short.

A second pitfall is that highlighting Clinton's skill

at political combat could worsen a problem that Obama famously poked when the two opposed each other in 2008: “You're likable enough, Hillary,” he dismissively quipped during a debate.

On the first concern, public polls offer considerable evidence for the Democrats' view, with one major caveat

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about the role of government.

The RNC's Short points to polls showing that Americans want the next president to “change direction” from Obama's policies. When asked about specific issues, however, rather than Obama in general, the needle swings in the other direction.

Asked, for example, whether the government should do more to address the growing income gap between the very rich and everyone else, Americans supported more government action by 57% to 39% in a recent CBS/New York Times poll. Even larger majorities favored a hike in the minimum wage — which all the current GOP candidates oppose — plus higher taxes on millionaires and government-mandated paid family leave.

On social issues, numerous polls have shown the public growing more liberal across the board. Most notably, surveys find that by roughly 60% to 40%, the public favors marriage rights for same-sex couples, which the Republican candidates oppose with varying degrees of fervor.

Half of Americans in a recent poll by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center said they believe that the earth's climate is warming largely as a result of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, the position espoused by nearly all Democratic elected officials. Only about 1 in 4 said that no solid evidence proves the climate is warming, the position taken by most Republican hopefuls.

By 72% to 27% in a Pew survey last week, the public said that immigrants in the country illegally should be allowed to stay. That majority favoring what conservatives denounce as “amnesty” included 42% who supported allowing the immigrants to seek citizenship, as Clinton advocates, and 26% who favored permanent residency without citizenship, Bush's position.

But while the majority of Americans agree with Democrats on those specific issues, Republicans stay competitive largely because of the deep, abiding skepticism and frustration about government voiced by a majority of Americans, most notably non-college-educated whites.

In a sharply divided nation, a majority of Americans agree with Democrats on specific goals, but a crucial swing bloc mistrusts the ability of either party to get much done or to make the nation's economic system work on their behalf.

That's where touting Clinton's experience and reputation for political shrewdness could pay off, Democratic strategists believe.

At the same time, campaign officials seem resigned to the reality that the negative side of how the public sees her probably won't change.

Unlike most presidential hopefuls, Clinton has the luxury of not having to introduce herself to the public or get over the hurdle of having people see her as a plausible candidate. The flip side of that, however, is that she enters the race with many Americans already opposed to her.

As she has moved back into the political arena from her days as secretary of State, the percentage of Americans who see Clinton unfavorably has risen. Amid controversy over her use of a private email server when she headed the State Department and questions about the motivations of donors to the Clinton Foundation, the share who see her as honest and trustworthy has declined.

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Democratic strategists insist that's a manageable problem. “It's an issue,” said one strategist with long-standing ties to both Clinton and former President Clinton. “But it's not the only thing.”

“We did a poll just before the 1992 election, and only about one-third of people said Bill was honest and trustworthy, but they elected him anyway,” he said, speaking anonymously to avoid straining ties with the Clintons.

Ironically, one factor helping Clinton is the partisanship that has stalled large parts of Obama's agenda. As Democrats see Clinton under attack, polls show they have started to circle the wagons, dismissing the criticisms as political sniping from the other side. A recent Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics poll of Democrats likely to vote in Iowa's caucuses, for example, found that 7 in 10 thought the Clintons were getting a “bad rap” on the controversies.

America's partisan lines have hardened dramatically during the George W. Bush and Obama presidencies, notes Alan Abramowitz, a political science professor at Emory University in Atlanta and an expert on U.S. elections. Because of that, the Clinton campaign's main task is to keep Democrats motivated to vote while reaching out to a relatively small slice of voters who are truly up for grabs, including those disappointed by the achievements of the last eight years.

“It's almost certainly a close election,” Abramowitz said. “The partisan divide is so strong. There's less room for movement.”

Hillary Clinton's big bet: Stress toughness, tenacity, Democratic agenda // LA Times // David Lauter – June 11, 2015

At the heart of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s strategy for winning the presidency lies a basic assumption about the public’s desire for political change.

History says that after eight years of a presidency, Americans typically want something different. Elections in which one party seeks a third term in the White House “tend to be toss-ups” at best, said Alan Abramowitz, political science professor at Emory University.

As Clinton prepares for the first major rally of her campaign, Saturday in New York, Americans by about 2-1 say the country is headed down the “wrong track.”

But what sort of change do Americans want?

Republican candidates, from former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in the party’s center to Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas on its right, are betting that voters want a major shift toward conservatism.

On the big issues, voters favor President Obama’s values and priorities, Democratic strategists say. What they want is to see that agenda implemented more effectively. Clinton, the overwhelming favorite to win the Democratic nomination, has made a different calculation. Her advisors believe that a significant share of those who say the country is on the wrong track feel that Republican policies would only make matters worse.

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Centrist Dems wary of Hillary's move to the left // The Hill // Alexander Bolton – June 11, 2015

Moderate Democrats are worried about Hillary Clinton's recent embrace of liberal policies.

After positioning herself as a centrist and steely potential commander in chief in the 2008 Democratic primary, Clinton has shifted.

Clinton is now to the left of President Obama on the federal minimum wage. While Obama has endorsed a $10.10 hourly rate, Clinton has signaled support for more than doubling it, to $15 an hour.

The former first lady says same-sex marriage should be a constitutional right and endorsed Obama's executive action shielding millions of illegal immigrants from deportation. She wants broad reform of a criminal justice system and calls for automatic voter registration.

Red-state Democrats in Congress don't want Clinton to lose sight of a broadly appealing economic message that can win over white working-class voters who have deserted the party in droves recently.

"It's important that she has an economic platform that people can get on board with regardless of what state they live in," said Sen. Jon Tester (Mont.), the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

"Be everywhere — Montana, Missouri, everywhere," Tester added.

Centrist Democrats say Clinton should broaden, not narrow, her approach.

"I don't think you write anything off. You show that you're not afraid and you show the ability to go into an area, and it will help lift spirits," said Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.). "I always do visit all 55 counties in my state. So when I ran statewide, I didn't give up on certain counties and never visited. So you don't give up on anybody."

It is very common for presidential candidates to move closer to their base in the primary and shift back to the center in the general election. But Clinton's strategy suggests she needs to shore up more of the base and is responding to pressure from liberal leaders such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

Still, moderate Democrats are particularly concerned about Clinton's potential effect on state legislative races in Republican dominated states. They worry if she stays away from solid-red states, they will have a hard time winning down-ballot races that could shape the congressional districts of the future.

Some were alarmed when The New York Times reported that she is discarding the nationwide electoral strategy that her husband employed in the 1990s to win Southern states such as Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana and Tennessee.

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The Times reported she is poised to “retrace Barack Obama’s far narrower path to the presidency” by focusing on the liberal base in a handful of battleground states in the Midwest and West instead of persuading undecided voters.

They fear a reprise of the failed electoral strategies of John Kerry in 2004 and Al Gore in 2000, who poured their resources into a handful of swing states instead of attempting to widen the playing field by playing offense in traditionally Republican territory.

“The election to look at was in 2004. John Kerry had conceded 227 electoral votes before Election Day. That means George Bush only had to get 43. That is the danger you run into. It took Al Gore down in 2000. You can’t concede but so much. I don’t think you concede anything. I think you battle them everywhere,” said David “Mudcat” Saunders, a Democratic strategist who specializes in reaching white, working-class voters.

Saunders says Kerry blundered by suspending campaign operations in seven states — Virginia, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado — after winning the Democratic nomination in 2004. It didn’t help, he added, that Democrats decided to nominate him at a convention held in liberal-leaning Boston.

While Clinton might not have much hope of winning in Louisiana, Missouri or South Carolina, strategists argue that making a good-faith effort in those states can help candidates down ballot.

“The problem you got is the state legislatures. Take South Carolina for instance. In 2016 they’re going to have house elections and senate elections in their statehouse. If the Democrats don’t play there, it doesn’t increase turnout. Turnout in all cases always helps the Democrats in those areas,” Saunders said.

Clinton’s current chief rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has aggressively pushed a 50-state strategy for more than a year.

Last year he met with activists, unionized workers and college students in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina. This month he wrote a letter to Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz calling for presidential debates in red states.

“By expanding the scope geographically of debates beyond the early calendar states we can begin to awaken activism at the grassroots level in those states and signal to Democrats and progressives in places like Texas, Mississippi, Utah, and Wyoming that their states are not forgotten by the Democratic Party,” he wrote.

Rep. David Price (N.C.), one of only a handful of white Southern Democrats left in the House, said, “I agree with what people in the so-called red states are saying about the down-ballot effects. A successful president is going to have to have some support from those states and members elected from those states.

“There’s a stake for the presidential candidate in spending a reasonable amount of time in non-blue-state areas,” he added.

The Clinton campaign, which did not comment for this article, has not publicly acknowledged giving up on a 50-state strategy.

It unveiled a nationwide organizing effort in April with a video in which Clinton vowed “there’s gonna be campaigns in all 50 states and we’re gonna need as many people as we can to volunteer, to sign up, to help us organize because I need your voices to be speaking out.”

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Rep. John Yarmuth, a Democrat from Kentucky, said he has heard Clinton already has a field director in his home state.

He believes Clinton has a chance of winning Kentucky, which her husband carried twice; he urged her to visit.

Some Democrats, however, argue that Clinton won't alienate voters in Southern states if she pushes immigration reform and same-sex marriage.

"In my district we have over 100 languages spoken in the public school system. It's become a very diverse population," said Yarmuth. "We have a huge thoroughbred breeding operation and thoroughbred breeding industry that relies heavily on immigrant labor. The people of Kentucky understand how important immigration reform is.

"Voting rights are important everywhere. Gay marriage is an issue right now that doesn't move voters away from somebody," he added.

Hillary Clinton's Economic Inequality Whisperer **// National Journal // Eric Garcia – June 12, 2015**

Heather Boushey's work on income inequality, paid family leave, and more may provide a preview of Hillary Clinton's 2016 messaging.

June 12, 2015 In her first campaign video, Hillary Clinton talked about how "the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top" and how she wanted to be the champion for "everyday Americans." In one of her first campaign stops, she criticized outsized CEO compensation. And in March, before her official announcement, she said Americans should "think hard" about ways to make sure cities deal with inequality. But despite Clinton's talk, the actual specifics of what she would do as president to ameliorate growing wealth and income inequality in the United States have been quite thin.

To get an idea of what Clinton's proposals could be, talk to Heather Boushey, an economist who's regarded as a valuable adviser to the former secretary of state on economic policy.

"In terms of what I have been talking to her about, it has been about the big questions about what we should do for our economy and how we should think about the interventions that policymakers should make," Boushey told National Journal.

Boushey, who is advising Clinton in a private capacity, serves as executive director and chief economist of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, which aims to make wonky research tangible for policymakers. In a way, that's what Boushey is working to do for Clinton. Boushey has researched the role of women in the workforce, income inequality, and paid family leave—all things that Clinton will be talking about in 2016.

Elisabeth Jacobs, senior director for policy and academic programs at the Washington Center, says Boushey is good at it, too. Boushey and Jacobs once explained French economist Thomas Piketty's landmark book on wealth inequality, Capital in the Twenty-First Century, to Sen. Angus King. That, Jacobs said, was like giving the senator "the Cliff Notes" version, and then starting "a conversation about what this might actually mean based on what he was thinking."

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"She's really exceptional in doing that translational work between the serious economic and other social science academic work into the policy space," Jacobs says of Boushey.

Boushey's work on paid family leave has lent some potential clarity to the candidate's policy gaps. Clinton hasn't said much about how she would enact the policy, and Jane Waldfogel, a professor at Columbia University School of Social Work, says it's difficult to get that done at the national level versus at the state level. Three states that have started paid family leave policies have used their already-existing temporary disability insurance programs to do so, and only five states and Puerto Rico have temporary disability insurance (Washington State had its program signed in 2007 but is not yet in effect.).

Boushey thinks a national paid family leave policy is possible. In a 2012 paper for Center for American Progress, where she is a senior fellow, Boushey laid out plan for a paid family leave program that would be administered by the Social Security Administration.

On CEO pay, Boushey again gets more detailed.

"There's a lot of wiggle room to be taxing at the top, but how you do that actually has implications for compensation," Boushey says, citing a study by Piketty, University of California, Berkeley's Emmanuel Saez, and Harvard's Stefanie Stantcheva. Boushey had the economists' study out in front of her during our interview. "There's a lot of evidence that the way we've been structuring tax policy vis–à–vis those at the top is not creating the right incentives for investment, [research and development] and shared prosperity," she said.

Boushey is glad that the wealth gap has come to the forefront of the 2016 political debate.

"I have to say that it is beyond exciting to see things that you have been, for me, working on spreadsheets for and thinking about for a really long time actually entering the political discourse," she said.

Boushey said recoveries from the last three national recessions, including the most recent one, have seen anemic job growth, which has made people more aware of the gap between rich and poor—and what that means for the economy.

"What you're seeing are repeated recoveries that just aren't cutting it," she said. "We've been like ostriches putting our heads in the sand going, 'What has changed in the past two decades?'" Boushey answers her own question: "Well, one of the biggest things is inequality."

Other researchers emphasize Boushey's realism and attempts to convert ideas that are being discussed in research circles into tangible policies.

"Heather really has been the person over the last several years who has taken the lead of just thinking really hard what it would take to enact paid family leave on the national level," said Jane Waldfogel, a professor at Columbia University School of Social Work. "She has her feet on the ground and has a very firm grasp of the economic principles."

For Boushey, an important part of being an income inequality-focused economist interested is trying to make the results of her research tangible for the average citizen.

"Where I think you hit the sweet spot in research is when what you can actually tease out of these datasets actually resonates with people's real-lived experiences," Boushey said. "For me, those moments come when I talk about

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my own research with my allergist, with my mom, and my mother-in-law."

By translating income inequality to people's experiences, Boushey could help Clinton craft a message on inequality that could appeal to ordinary Americans—and present inequality not through a divisive prism of class war, but as a matter of economic security.

THE LEGACY TRAP // National Journal // Ronald Brownstein – June 12, 2015

Can Clinton and Bush transcend debates about their families' pasts to offer answers for the country's future?

As Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush formalize their presidential candidacies over the next few days, both face the complex challenge of adapting their family legacies to their parties' new dynamics.

Compared with Bill Clinton's era, the Democratic Party today is more culturally liberal and economically populist. Compared with George W. Bush's era, the GOP is more dogmatically committed to shrinking government. These changes have presented Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush with the common puzzle of appealing to parties that have grown more ideologically militant without renouncing the policy agendas and political strategies associated with their family names—agendas and strategies that often defied each party's traditional orthodoxy.

So far, this test has stumped Bush more than Clinton—as underscored by the campaign-staff reshuffle the former Florida governor announced this week, just before he is due to officially declare his candidacy next Monday. His lackluster first months exploring the race have been dominated by questions of where he would extend the policies of his brother, George W. Bush. That has exposed Jeb Bush to darts from both ideological conservatives and party pragmatists most concerned about finding a candidate who can win.

The pragmatists were dismayed by Bush's recent struggles to explain what he would have done differently than his brother in Iraq. That ordeal left Republicans fearing that if the party nominates Bush, Democrats would find it too easy to convert the campaign into a referendum on returning to the policies of the last Bush administration.

Bush's problems with the Right are rooted in two other elements of his brother's legacy. Though staunchly conservative on most issues, George W. Bush backed a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and an aggressive role for Washington in education reform. Politically, each idea was intended to court voters beyond the GOP base.

Conservatives chafed against those policies during George W. Bush's presidency and, after he left office, successfully eroded support in the party for both ideas. Jeb Bush, though, threatens that victory. The younger Bush has said he would accept either a pathway to citizenship or permanent legal status for the undocumented, and he has defended the Common Core curriculum reform (while rejecting President Obama's effort to advance it through federal policy).

Can Bush win these arguments in the GOP? Despite loud resistance from prominent conservatives, "Jeb Bush's view on immigration is ... more acceptable to Republican primary voters than most people assume," notes Peter Wehner, senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. While many Republican voters view immigration skeptically, in the latest Pew Research Center survey, nearly three-fifths of the party (including GOP-leaning independents) said the undocumented should be allowed to remain legally inside the country. That number reached nearly two-thirds among the college-educated Republicans who are Bush's natural constituency.

Bush's continued support for Common Core may be a tougher sell with Republican voters. But it's probably less important for Bush to win the specific debates over immigration and education than to subsume both issues beneath bold new domestic and foreign policy ideas that excite GOP voters. So far he hasn't done that. Unless

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Bush can shift his campaign's focus toward the country's future, he's likely to remain stuck in debates over his party's past. And driving in reverse is no way to win a race.

Hillary Clinton, who kicks her campaign into higher gear with a major address on Saturday, hasn't faced nearly as much pressure yet within her party but could eventually confront her own legacy trap. Her announced rivals, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, have denounced free-trade and financial-deregulation policies that Bill Clinton pursued. Other Democrats worry about the Clinton family heritage of ethical controversy. On both fronts, Hillary Clinton's challenge will be less to defend that record than to transcend it.

On social issues such as gay marriage, Hillary Clinton has already embraced the Democrats' more liberal consensus. But for all her fiery economic rhetoric, it's not clear where she will land between her husband's business-friendly, deficit-conscious centrism and her party's rising populist current. It seems inevitable that Clinton, like Obama, will propose more responsibility for Washington than her husband envisioned when he declared, "The era of big government is over." Less certain is whether she will challenge her party to simultaneously reform government, as Bill Clinton did when he restructured welfare and balanced the federal budget. If she embraces reform (for instance, by streamlining entitlements for seniors to fund investments in kids), she risks antagonizing the Left; if she doesn't, she risks helping Republicans tag her as a return to uncontrolled big-government liberalism.

Like Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton has to convince Americans that she is offering not just a dusted-off collection of ideas stored in the family attic but an agenda attuned to the challenges people face today. Their famous families make almost everything else about running for president easier, but no contenders may find that bar harder to clear than the candidates named Clinton and Bush.

POLITICAL INSIDERS POLL **// National Journal // Sarah Mimms – June 12, 2015**

"I think the contributors to the foundation pose the biggest problem."

Q: Does Hillary Clinton's wealth pose a problem for Democratic messaging in 2016?

DEMOCRATS (91 VOTES)

Yes: 30%

No: 70%

Yes

"Clouds the income-inequality message, which is not necessarily a winning message, but complicates it nonetheless."

"Nothing says 'middle class' quite like a $250,000 speaking fee."

"Hillary's camp will continue to protest that she's operated in a lawful way, but traction on speeches-for-hire and suspect activities of [the Clinton Global Initiative] are too inviting to ignore by ad-makers. Problem."

"Best case, we won't be able to attack Repubs as out of touch. Worse case, they turn HRC into Romney."

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"It's not the wealth itself but the means by which she accumulated it that makes it hard for 'ordinary Americans' to relate."

"I think the contributors to the foundation pose the biggest problem."

No

"Voters respect wealth. The issue is what you do with it and how you got it. She will be fine."

"FDR, JFK, HRC. No."

"As long as she doesn't build a car elevator in her house, she will be fine. Americans still admire success, although not ostentatiousness."

"Last time I checked, Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous and Keeping up with the Kardashians were very popular TV shows. She's fine as long as she keeps a common touch."

"If she were new to the electorate, possibly. But that's not the case. If you like her, you like her regardless. Who are the nonwealthy candidates?"

Q: Does Hillary Clinton's wealth pose a problem for Democratic messaging in 2016?

REPUBLICANS (88 VOTES)

Yes: 82%

No: 18%

Yes

"Hypocrisy anyone?"

"Both her declared primary opponents will put her on the defensive on this."

"It's going to be very hard for her to talk about income inequality when she's been getting six figures for an hour-long speech."

"Her definition of 'flat broke' is different from most people's."

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"In the context of income inequality, it takes away a huge issue for the Democrats."

"Wellesley, Yale, corporate boards, governor's mansion, White House, Senate, Foggy Bottom, back to the White House... just like you and me."

"Not because of how much money she has but the way she has made it and the way they have operated the Clinton Foundation."

"Like Romney, it is not the fact [that]she is wealthy that is a problem; it is her inability to talk about it that is a killer."

"Not as bad as Romney's car garage, but makes her Warren channeling seem a bit hollow."

No

"Rich Democrats get a pass in a way that rich Republicans never could."

"People generally expect politicians to be rich."

"She'll argue she can't be bought. The irony will be lost on the stupid."

. . . . . .

What Hillary Clinton Can Learn from Michelle Kwan's Figure Skating Career **// The New Republic //**
Elspeth Reeve – June 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton has hired beloved Olympic figure skater Michelle Kwan. But if you followed the athlete's career, the symbolism couldn't be more disastrous for Clinton's 2016 campaign. Clinton's career has some uncomfortable parallels with Kwan's: No one could beat the Kween. Until someone did.

Some political writers (dudes) like to compare politics to football or baseball, team events with many players and many games. But clear-eyed sport-loving political writers (me) know that politics is actually like the glamour sports—ice skating and gymnastics—which involve years of unseen training and a whole team of coaches and image-makers who sit on the sidelines on the big night as the athlete competes alone in the spotlight.

The tortured but entertainingly ominous HillKwan analogy goes like this: The 1998 Olympics Games in Nagano are the 2008 election. HillKwan is the beloved favorite. Kwan was the U.S. national champion; Clinton had coasted to reelection in the Senate. But a year before the Olympics/election, a fresh-faced youngster named Tara Lipinski [Barack Obama] had been getting attention. At the Olympics, HillKwan won over the judges [super delegates], but in the free skate, Tarack competed dazzling feats of difficulty and strength [doing the math on the primaries and caucuses]. In the end, HillKwan was defeated by the upstart Tarack.

Now, the important and serious question we face today is: Is the 2016 election exactly like the 2002 Olympic

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figure skating competition? Like Clinton in 2016, the graceful Kwan was the favorite in Salt Lake City, too. It was her turn. Despite troubles with her longtime coach [staff?], she was again U.S. national champion. Sure, Kwan faced tough competition from Russians [Republicans?] in the form of Irina Slutskaya [war on women!], but she was the battle-tested veteran, competing on home turf [friendly demographic trends!]. She started strong, winning the short program [the invisible primary?]. But in the free skate, Kwan stumbled. She was surpassed not only by Slutskaya, but by another teammate, the 16-year-old athletic snoozefest Sarah Hughes [Martin O'Malley??], who became 2002 Olympic champion. After the competition, Kwan skated the exibition she'd planned long before—in a gold dress, to the song "Fields of Gold." That, sports fans, is hubris. As she finished, tears ran down her cheek. Take note, Hillary.

"Every four years a new person arose to take out Michelle," former pairs skater Chris Schleicher told Deadspin last year. Sound familiar? Kwan is now fully on board with Clinton's campaign to make sure Olympic past is not political prologue.

With boost from Clinton, efforts to expand voting access advance // MSNBC // Zachary Toth – June 11, 2015

States from Rhode Island to Louisiana took steps this week toward making voting easier. In Washington, a new bill that would automatically register citizens to vote when they turn 18 is gaining traction among Democrats. And Ohio's top voting official blocked a Democratic lawmaker on Twitter amid a spat over efforts to increase access to the ballot in the nation's most pivotal swing state.

It's more evidence that Hillary Clinton's major speech on voting last Thursday helped move along a conversation – already underway, to be sure – about how to to expand access to the ballot, especially by modernizing voter registration systems. It's a conversation that threatens to put Republicans on the defensive after years of playing offense on the issue with a wave of restrictive voting laws.

In her speech in Houston last Thursday, Clinton laid out an expansive and positive agenda to boost voting participation. The centerpiece was automatic voter registration, in which any citizen who has contact with the DMV is automatically registered unless he or she chooses to opt out—putting the responsibility for registering on the government rather than the individual. But Clinton also talked up online voter registration, a nationwide standard of at least 20 days of early voting, a full restoration of the Voting Rights Act, and a loosening of felon disenfranchisement laws, among other ideas.

In March, Oregon became the first state in the nation to pass automatic voter registration. Since then, 14 other states plus the District of Columbia—including deep red ones like Texas and Georgia—have introduced automatic registration bills, according to a tally by the Brennan Center for Justice. And three states plus D.C. have this year passed online voter registration, bringing the total number of jurisdictions that offer it to 27.

In just the week since Clinton spoke, Ohio and Rhode Island have both moved forward with online voter registration bills, and Louisiana passed a bill to study automatic voter registration. If it weren't for the fact that most state legislatures have already adjourned for the session, the number of states moving forward with expansive legislation would likely be larger.

"Many, many states are moving in the direction toward a more modern voter registration system," said Wendy Weiser, the director of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center. "I'm really glad that this issue is now at a national stage, that we sort of set our sights toward the end goal of a real modern system that registers every eligible voter, that's accurate, that's updated, and where the government takes responsibility."

U.S. Rep. David Cicilline on Wednesday introduced a federal automatic voter registration bill modeled on Oregon's. The measure already has around 50 Democratic co-sponsors, including powerful figures like DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, former Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Steve Israel, and civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis.

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Cicilline's bill was in the works before Clinton's speech, but he said it could still get a boost from her high-profile embrace of the idea.

"Hopefully the secretary's comments will bring some more attention to this issue, and help us build momentum," Cicilline said. I think we have a responsibility to do everything we can to remove as many obstacles as possible to voting."

The bill is unlikely to go anywhere in a Republican Congress that won't even restore the Voting Rights Act. But Cicilline suggested his legislation could nonetheless provoke a useful and clarifying debate about whether Republicans actually want to make voting easier.

"I think if there's substantial resistance from the leadership in the House, it will invite a real conversation," he said. "You know: Why is it that one political party is not supporting this effort, and one is?"

But Ohio might be ground zero for how Clinton's ambitious plan may already be boosting those looking to make voting easier.

On Wednesday afternoon, State Rep. Kathleen Clyde, a Democrat, was notified on Twitter that she'd been blocked by an account in the name of Secretary of State Jon Husted. The move came after Husted, a Republican, responded defiantly to Clinton's criticism of Ohio's voting policies, among other states, in her speech. Husted, rebutting Clinton, called the state "the gold standard" for election administration.

That led to a series of tweets by Clyde Wednesday mocking the "gold standard" claim. Clyde accused Husted of improperly purging the vote rolls, and failing to mail absentee ballots to around 1 million eligible voters just because they hadn't voted recently. And she noted, accurately, that Husted has waged a years-long campaign to reduce early voting.

Husted and Clyde also have been sparring over how and whether to advance some of the expansive voting policies Clinton proposed. Though he's gained a national reputation as an advocate of restrictive voting policies, Husted has long been an advocate of online registration, and he testified Wednesday in support of a Republican-sponsored online registration bill, calling it "a common sense reform that is long overdue." The bill is expected to pass the Senate, but its prospects in the House are far less clear.

But in a letter sent the same day, Clyde wrote that Husted doesn't need new legislation to implement online registration. She said it's already in place, but it currently only accepts registration updates, not new registrations. All that's needed to change that is for Husted to "switch on" full online registration.

"He's been talking about this for years. How about some action?" said Clyde in an interview. "This is the type of thing that we should get up and running well before the presidential election in Ohio."

Husted has said he needs further legislative authority, and election law experts in Ohio say the question is debatable.

In the letter, Clyde also urged Husted to support a bill she introduced earlier this year that would establish automatic voter registration. Husted's office has opposed that measure, misleadingly suggesting – despite the opt-out provision – that it would require people to be on the rolls even if they didn't want to be.

A Husted spokesman didn't respond to a request for comment about blocking Clyde on Twitter, or about the secretary of state's positions on online or automatic voter registration.

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[De Blasio says he will not endorse Hillary Clinton until she clearly opposes Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) // NY Daily News // Jennifer Fermino – June 11, 2015

He's really playing hard to get.

Mayor de Blasio, who has said he won't endorse Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton until he's convinced she's got a plan to battle income inequality, is now calling on his old boss to speak out against a controversial trade deal.

Hizzoner said Thursday he's looking for a "very clear statement" from Clinton opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is loathed by the left but being pushed by President Obama.

"I think it's very important she speak up, make clear . . . that this trade deal is unacceptable," de Blasio said on a phone call he held with reporters blasting the deal.

He said it was important both as a matter of policy, and politically.

"People all over the country at the grass roots – certainly Democrats all over the country – are looking to her for leadership and her strong voice at this moment would make a very big difference," he said.

It's his latest attempt to push the traditionally centrist Clinton further to the left as she gears up for the 2016 Democratic primary.

It's his latest attempt to push the traditionally centrist Hillary Clinton (pictured) further to the left as she gears up for the 2016 Democratic primary.

Clinton has so far been mum on the trade deal, which would remove tariffs and other barriers to trade between the U.S. and 11 other nations.

Supporters say it will help the U.S. compete globally, but detractors — including many unions — insist it's a jobs killer.

In another snub to Clinton, he praised two of her rivals for the Democratic nomination — U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley — for their opposition to the trade deal, which Congress is currently debating.

"They both said very important and appropriate things on trade, and I give them both credit for that," said de Blasio, who headed Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign in New York.

"And I think that represents what a lot of people in this party feel on the ground all over the country."

De Blasio declined to say whether Clinton's support for the deal would be a deal breaker in terms of his endorsement.

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“I don’t deal with hypotheticals,” he said.

On Wednesday, de Blasio announced that he would not be attending Clinton’s campaign kick-off on Roosevelt Island on Saturday because he still hadn’t heard her vision for combating income inequality, which he has made the cornerstone of his mayoralty.

Although he’s repeatedly declined to endorse Clinton since she announced her candidacy in April, de Blasio has taken pains to praise the former secretary of state.

On Thursday, he said he is impressed with her so far.

“I’m very optimistic about where she and her campaign are going,” he said.

Dem operative Woodhouse says NYT retracted charges of illegality in Clinton email story // Politifact // Jon Greenberg – June 11, 2015

Questions about Hillary Clinton’s handling of her email records during her time as secretary of state are likely to dog her throughout her presidential campaign. But the candidate will have many defenders, including Correct the Record, a super PAC created to support Clinton.

Correct the Record president Brad Woodhouse, a long-time Democratic operative, dismissed the entire email matter during an interview recently on CNN.

"Every federal employer has to consider what they archive as work-related and what they consider personal, and she did what every other federal official did, what every other previous secretaries of state did," Woodhouse told New Day co-hosts Chris Cuomo and Alisyn Camerota on June 5, 2015. "Look, nobody has found -- you know, the New York Times wrote a story that some type of laws had been broken. Turns out they had to retract that. People had to back off that, and it's totally not true."

In the news business, retractions don’t come lightly and we wondered if in fact, the newspaper of record had taken back part of what it reported on Clinton.

In reality, the New York Times hasn’t retracted a word. The closest it came was in acolumn from public editor Margaret Sullivan, who wrote that the article that broke the story "was not without fault." But the lapse, Sullivan continued, was a failure to list exactly which regulations Clinton might have ignored.

That lack of specificity, Sullivan wrote, allowed Clinton supporters to score political points. "Not because it highlighted a factual error — the story was accurate — but because it kicked up enough dust to obscure the facts."

Sullivan, we should note, doesn’t speak for the newspaper. Her job is to serve as an internal but independent critic of the paper’s work, something akin to an inspector general in government.

Formal retractions or corrections come from the editors themselves, and as we noted, that has not happened.

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Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for Correct the Record, said Woodhouse was not using the word retraction in an official sense. Rather, he was speaking of the gradual fade in New York Times coverage that insinuated that Clinton had broken some law.

"Ultimately the charge was retracted, even if the New York Times never issued a correction," Watson said. "Their own experts changed their minds."

Let’s unpack that.

What the ‘New York Times’ said

The newspaper broke the story under the headline "Hillary Clinton Used Personal Email Account at State Dept., Possibly Breaking Rules." It’s opening lines were "Hillary Rodham Clinton exclusively used a personal email account to conduct government business as secretary of state, State Department officials said, and may have violated federal requirements that officials’ correspondence be retained as part of the agency’s record."

So the top of the story suggested a possible violation, which falls short of charging outright that she broke a law, as Woodhouse said.

But the article does lay the groundwork to add weight to the idea of a potential violation.

"Under federal law, however, letters and emails written and received by federal officials, such as the secretary of state, are considered government records and are supposed to be retained so that congressional committees, historians and members of the news media can find them."

And:

"Regulations from the National Archives and Records Administration at the time required that any emails sent or received from personal accounts be preserved as part of the agency’s records.

But Mrs. Clinton and her aides failed to do so."

About week and half after the initial story, the New York Times wrote that theregulations on preserving emails were vague.

"Although the White House has strict requirements dating back two decades that every email must be saved, there is no such requirement for federal agencies. Instead they are in charge of setting their own policies for determining which emails constitute government records worthy of preservation and which ones may be discarded."

While, as the story noted, President Barack Obama signed a 2014 bill that required government officials who use personal email accounts to hand over those records in 20 days, that law took effect after Clinton left the State Department. According to Thomas Blanton, a government disclosure expert cited in the story, this gave Clinton "wiggle room."

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Blanton was also cited in the original article. However, it is not accurate to say he changed his mind from one week to the next. In the first New York Times story, Blanton said "it was a shame" that the emails from Clinton's personal account had not been turned over automatically.

The New York Times also cited in its first story Jason Baron, a lawyer at Drinker Biddle and Reath, who is a former director of litigation at the National Archives and Records Administration. At the time, Baron said he could not think of another instance when a high-ranking official used a private email account for all government business. Blanton described Clinton's email scenario as a serious breach.

However, Baron did not say the practice was illegal. In the weeks that followed, he consistently said it was a bad practice.

Our ruling

Woodhouse said that the New York Times retracted the charge that Clinton's handling of her email broke a law. That's wrong on two points. The newspaper never accused Clinton of breaking a law. Also, while the newspaper's public editor said the original story should have included more details, the paper never issued a retraction or a correction. A spokeswoman for Woodhouse's organization agreed with that point.

The claim is not accurate, and we rate it False.

Bill Clinton's Labor Secretary Urges Hillary Clinton to Oppose TPP at Kickoff // The Observer // Jullian Jorgensen – June 11, 2015

Former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, who served under President Bill Clinton and oversaw the roll-out of the North American Free Trade Agreement, joined Mayor Bill de Blasio today in urging Hillary Clinton to use her presidential campaign kickoff speech to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact—a deal Mr. Reich deemed "NAFTA on steroids."

"I would hope that she very clearly, specifically opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership," Mr. Reich said of the former secretary of state in a media conference call this afternoon.

Mr. de Blasio, Ms. Clinton's former Senate campaign manager who has yet to offer up an endorsement in the Democratic primary, also urged Ms. Clinton to come out against the trade deal, which unions and progressive politicians have derided as bad for American workers.

"I'd like to see a very clear statement that this trade deal should be opposed and should be stopped," Mr. de Blasio said.

While he knew what he'd like to hear, Mr. de Blasio has said he will not attend Ms. Clinton's campaign kick-off, which is being held Saturday just down the East River from Gracie Mansion on Roosevelt Island. Today, he recalled her speaking on trade issues in 2008 in a way that "resonated" in states like Ohio, which he visited to campaign for her in that year.

"I think it's very important she speak up make clear that there will be no more NAFTAs," Mr. de Blasio said. "People all over the country, at the grassroots, certainly Democrats all over the country, are looking to her for leadership, and certainly her strong voice would make a very big difference."

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Mr. Reich noted it would not be the first time Ms. Clinton, as a candidate, has taken a position that differed from the policies of her husband, former President Bill Clinton. He noted her recent push to end mass incarceration.

“I hope that she does the same with the TPP, relative to NAFTA,” Mr. Reich said.

Mr. Reich was charged with rolling out NAFTA under Mr. Clinton and, like many who oppose the TPP, said the 1990s trade pact had delivered poor results for American workers.

“Once the dust cleared, we did find that a lot of manufacturing jobs left the U.S., they first went to Mexico and then they promptly went to Southeast Asia,” Mr. Reich said.

He was also charged with enforcing the trade deal’s guidelines for better labor conditions in other countries, but said it proved “extraordinarily difficult to do,” something he suspected would hold true for the TPP as well.

Mr. Reich and Mr. de Blasio bashed the idea of Congress holding a “fast-track” up or down vote on the trade pact, very little of which has been made public. The deal has pitted many in the left wing of the Democratic party against President Barack Obama, who backs the deal.

“To have this large a trade agreement or investment agreement negotiated in secret and fast tracked through Congress without any opportunity for amendment, when most of America has no access to this trade agreement at all—what I know about it was leaked through Wikileaks—it seems to me makes a mockery of democracy,” Mr. Reich said.

Bill Clinton brushes aside foundation criticism **// CNN // Dan Merica – June 11, 2015**

The entire Clinton interview will air Sunday at 9 a.m. on CNN's "State of the Union" with Jake Tapper.

Denver (CNN)Bill Clinton aggressively denied allegations that donors to his family's foundation were given special treatment by Hillary Clinton's State Department in a lengthy interview with CNN set to air on Sunday.

The former president told CNN's Jake Tapper that no Clinton Foundation donor has "asked me for anything," adding that his wife was too busy as secretary of state to do favors for foundation supporters.

"She was pretty busy those years," Clinton told Tapper. "I never saw her study a list of my contributors, and I had no idea who was doing business before the State Department."

The Clinton Foundation and their rolls of foreign and corporate donors have become a flashpoint for Hillary Clinton's newly announced presidential campaign. Critics and investigative reporters have sought to prove that supporters of the Clinton Foundation were currying favor with the Clintons when they donated, but no blatant example of influence peddling has been revealed in months of scrutiny.

Clinton said that any crossover between Clinton Foundation donors and companies the State Department was lobbying for abroad was more happenstance than nefarious.

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"America's always had to lobby for American-made airplanes," Clinton said, referring to the fact that Boeing, an American airplane manufacturer, had worked with both the State Department while also donating to the foundation's work in Haiti.

"I don't think they (donated) to make the government like them better. We do like them better. All Americans are grateful that there are American jobs and businesses around the world," Clinton said. "So I don't know of anything, if there was even an appearance of conflict, except all these folks helped us do what we do, which I think is good work."

While Clinton said nothing was ever given to the foundation's donors, he said that he could not outright deny that any of his donors were hoping for anything in return when they cut his foundation a check.

"I know of no example, but I don't ever know what people's motives are," he said.

Clinton echoed many of his wife's supporters and aides when he said attacks on his foundation were strictly about politics.

"Nobody even suggested it or talked about it or thought about it until the political season began," Clinton said..

The foundation, however, has admitted they've made missteps in the past, particularly on the reporting and approval of their foreign donations. Foundation aides admitted earlier this year they "made mistakes" in reporting, but did nothing intentionally wrong.

Clinton's comments came during the annual meeting of Clinton Global Initiative America in Denver, where foundation supporters made nearly 80 pledges to address issues such as providing low-income Americans with alternatives to predatory loans and providing Navajo Nation with solar power.

In his interview with Tapper, Clinton described his foundation as an endeavor to "get people who have money to people who don't, and to give it to them in a way that's empowering so it actually changes their lives."

Clinton reiterated that the foundation's aim was to help the powerless; people "who are working as hard as they can, but who don't have enough money to support their kids and meet basic human needs."

"They can't change the future," he said. "(For them) every tomorrow is just like yesterday. That's how I define powerless. Not poverty. Not adversity alone. But the inability to alter your condition."

The entire Clinton interview will air Sunday at 9 a.m. on CNN's "State of the Union" with Jake Tapper.

'Conversation' with Hillary Clinton? That'll be $2,700 **// Daily Mail // AFP - June 12 2015**

Four, five, even six times per week, Hillary Clinton meets deep-pocketed supporters eager to shake hands with the celebrity Democrat -- all-but-obligatory encounters helping her amass the war chest needed to win the White House.

Qualifying guests are invited to hold what is described as a "conversation with Hillary," at a cost of $2,700 -- the

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legal limit set by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) on donations to candidates in the 2016 presidential primary cycle.

Once the primaries are decided, a supporter can contribute a fresh $2,700 maximum to a candidate in the presidential election.

Clinton, a former secretary of state and the prohibitive favorite for the Democratic nomination, has participated in some 40 fundraising receptions since launching her campaign in April, according to the Sunlight Foundation, a nonpartisan Washington organization that studies campaign financing.

By any measure it is an intense schedule to follow from now until Election Day 17 months away, and more rigorous than the smattering of public events she has held as a candidate.

Clinton, 67, holds her first major campaign rally Saturday in New York, one expected to draw thousands of voters.

But who attends the swankier, less publicized functions?

Friends of Clinton, influential Democrats, executives, a Facebook co-founder, her husband Bill, and clean-energy billionaire Tom Steyer have participated in the events. On June 29, rocker Bon Jovi will sing for one of the gatherings.

Clinton participated in three receptions Wednesday in three cities in the US northeast.

Regulatory loopholes could allow Clinton to extract more money from her donors, but the candidate has publicly committed to reforming campaign finance laws in order to dampen the growing influence of private donations on US elections.

Prominent Republican rival Jeb Bush regularly commands tens of thousands of dollars per attendee at certain events, in extraordinary cases up to $100,000.

He avoids campaign ceilings through a legal formulation known as a "super PAC."

These types of political action committees were born from a 2010 Supreme Court decision allowing unlimited contributions to such groups as a form of free expression, provided the entities remain independent from the candidates and their campaigns.

But the alleged independence of such super PACs has come into question. Jeb Bush's "Right to Rise" group is led by a close associate of the all-but-declared candidate, and the organization is exclusively dedicated to supporting Bush's run.

Bush, a former Florida governor, has yet to announce his candidacy -- that is expected to occur Monday in Miami. But the PAC's staffers are already talking openly about preparing for Bush's campaign.

By delaying formal declaration of his candidacy, Bush can continue to raise unlimited funds for his super PAC, bypassing campaign contribution caps.

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- 'Obscene moment' -

Clinton herself will likely hold her nose and open the fundraising floodgates in order to fill Democratic campaign coffers if she is to match Bush's money juggernaut.

A specific goal is already said to have emerged: exceed the $1 billion raised by President Barack Obama, the Democratic Party and affiliated groups for his successful 2012 re-election effort.

Several Democrats allied with Obama, and close to Clinton, are expected to launch a fundraising effort seeking contributions to Priorities USA Action, a super PAC formerly committed to Obama.

Clinton is expected to tap into such flows.

"She does not have clean hands," said Bill Allison, a senior fellow at Sunlight Foundation.

"She would argue that she's forced to do it because that's the system we have," Allison added. "That to some extent is true, but that doesn't make her noble."

One candidate who says he refuses to embrace the fundraising leviathan is independent Senator Bernie Sanders, a "Democratic socialist" and Clinton rival in the primaries who believes campaign finance will be a central theme of the election.

"We live in an obscene moment," Sanders said Thursday.

"Billionaires are now literally buying American elections and candidates."

Duggan's power now rivals Putin, Bill Clinton jokes **// Detroit News Washington Bureau – June 11, 2015**

Former President Bill Clinton heralded Detroit's turnaround after the Motor City's exit from a record setting Chapter 9 bankruptcy restructuring — and jokingly compared the city's mayor to Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

At a Clinton Global Initiative event Wednesday in Denver, Clinton held a panel discussion with Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Kresge Foundation president and CEO Rip Rapson and a Detroit baker and business owner, April Anderson.

During the nearly 40-minute discussion on neighborhood revitalization, Clinton said that being mayor of Detroit could be America's "most coveted municipal job" — and noted that with the Detroit land bank, much of the city's 139 square miles is controlled by the city.

Detroit's 2013 bankruptcy restructuring allowed Duggan to "basically become the most powerful municipal official in the country. He controls over half the land mass in the city of Detroit now. He's making old Putin look like a piker — and people actually like (Duggan)," Clinton said to laughter, according to video of the event posted online by the Clinton Foundation.

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Rapson said Duggan may not live that image down: "That's a great image. I like to think of Mayor Duggan as our Mayor Putin. That's terrific. I think that's going to stick," Rapson said.

The city owns nearly half the city's property, Duggan said, or about 40,000 vacant parcels. Clinton compared Detroit to the "Homestead Act" in 1862 that convinced Americans to help settle the west by offering them free land. Duggan didn't directly respond to the Putin comparison.

Kresge was one of the nonprofits that helped Detroit exit bankruptcy more quickly by contributing to a fund that saved city-owned art at the Detroit Institute of Arts from being sold and defrayed pension losses for retirees.

Clinton praised the city's revitalization, but noted that the city lost 60 percent of its population since the 1950s — and is down a quarter since 2000.

Duggan, 56, said that he is focused on boosting the population — and has said he wants to be judge when he is up for re-election if the city is growing again. Detroit has lost population for every year that Duggan has been alive.

"You can drop Manhattan, Boston and San Francisco in the city of Detroit boundaries — and still have room left over," Duggan said. The real challenge is revitalizing the neighborhoods after the dramatic turnarounds in downtown and midtown, he said.

Duggan said there are 5,000 new housing units under construction in Detroit. Duggan said he is working to sell the 40,000 vacant houses in the city. The city is auctioning three homes a day. On Tuesday, three homes sold for a total of $100,000, Duggan said.

Duggan noted that the city is offering to allow homeowners to buy next door vacant lots for just $100. The city is now also offering to lease vacant land if the neigbhorhood association signs off on the use — such as a playground or urban farm.

During the event, Duggan said Clinton is the single biggest customer of Detroit watchmaker Shinola. Clinton bought customized watches for the Secret Service agents on his security detail that featured the presidential seal as Christmas presents.

Speech inflation: Why Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and others get massive speaking fees // Fortune // Ben Geier – June 11, 2015

In just under two years, President Obama will be out of office, leaving the White House and giving way for another politician to start taking flak. What, pray tell, will he do with all that free time? If his predecessors offer any clue, he won't do much, but he'll get paid a lot for it.

Last week, Politico reported that former President George W. Bush makes between $100,000 and $175,000 for every speech he gives and that he has given at least 200 speeches since leaving office in 2009. A bit of simple math translates that activity into more than $30 million for the former president in speech fees alone. Compare that to the relatively paltry $400,000 a president makes a year while in office, and you can see why presidents look forward to their retirement.

Paying ex-presidents to give speeches really took off with Gerald Ford, Politico notes—which makes sense, since

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Ford didn't ever really plan to run for president and likely figured he would stay in the House much longer than he did. Ford took umbrage when he was criticized for making money off of his former job, saying that as a private citizen he could leverage his past however he pleased.

Not long after Ford started hitting the lecture circuit, the Washington Speakers Bureau—home to many high-powered speakers, including George W. Bush and his wife Laura—was founded in 1979. These agencies have played a major role in the skyrocketing fees that high-powered speakers now command.

"Whenever you have a middleman, that adds to the cost," said Lance Strate, a communications professor at Fordham University. The desire among agencies to maximize fees, and the added ability to negotiate that comes with having professional representation, means organizations are more likely to see speaking fees grow. Plus, the agency system simply provides more access to influential figures like ex-presidents, meaning more groups are able to get the power elites they want, if they are willing to pay the price.

But why exactly are organizations willing to pay so much for an hour of a former politician's time? It isn't for the content, that's for sure. Generally, speakers and those who hire them are mum on just how much money gets handed over for these engagements—which, by the way, aren't usually the most thought-provoking or newsworthy speeches. (Politico notes that in one speech to a bowling industry group, Bush let loose the earthshaking bon mot that "bowling is fun.")

"The speech is kind of secondary to … just being able to have a big name at your event," Strate said. "It might get reported on some form of TV or cable news, which further adds to the prestige and the publicity of the event."And even if it doesn't end up on the evening news, almost every conference will put their speeches on YouTube, where there is always a chance it will go viral.

Though speakers fees are often kept confidential, we do have a few estimates of what famous ex-politicians make:

Bill Clinton supposedly made around $225,000 for a gig last February.

Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York and one-time Republican presidential hopeful, is said to have pulled up to $270,000 for a speech.

Sarah Palin, former Alaska Governor, former Republican vice-presidential candidate, and all-time cable news and tabloid fixture—is said to have made $115,000 for a speech in 2011.

These are just the big guns. Even the fringiest of also-rans—think Howard Dean and Herman Cain—have big-time speakers agents and can pull in serious coin for giving a fluffy 45-minute talk. Given that most of the declared 2016 candidates on both sides of the aisle have a fairly slim chance of becoming president, perhaps financial incentives, rather than the pull of public service, has some impact on just how many people run for high office.

Clinton rally coincides with gun show at fairgounds // The Des Moines Register // Josh Hafner – June 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton's Iowa campaign kickoff event will share the Iowa State Fairgrounds this Sunday with an established gun show.

The gun show's organizer, a Republican county supervisor, has welcomed Clinton, a Democratic frontrunner for president, to visit to learn about Iowa gun enthusiasts and hunters.

"If Hillary Clinton would come through, I would welcome her," said Daryl Klein, 56, of Dubuque County, who's

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operated gun shows in Iowa for more than 30 years." I would like her to see what we do instead of the rhetoric put out by the media a lot of the times, what and who we are."

Clinton, the former first lady and secretary of state, has called for tighter gun regulations in the U.S. as recently as last year, calling the country's handling of firearms "way out of balance" in an address to the National Council for Behavioral Health in Maryland.

"We have to rein in what has become (an) almost article of faith, that anybody can own a gun anywhere, anytime. And I don't believe that," she said, according to Politico.

When informed of Klein's invitation to the Clinton campaign, Iowa spokeswoman Lily Adams said she would pass it along.

"Hillary has been to the state fairgrounds before and is excited to host the launch party there on Sunday. It's no surprise to us that other organizations found a home at the fairgrounds as well."

Security at the gun show

Klein stressed to The Des Moines Register that ample safety rules enforced by his gun show should prevent any worry about the amount of firearms that the gun show will draw to the same site of Clinton's event.

The show's team of private security ensures each gun that enters the show is empty, marked and rendered inoperative with a cable tie, he said. His security guards also check guns upon exit, Klein said.

Still, accidents happen: During the show's 2012 event at the fairgrounds, one vendor shot his own hand while setting up a gun display. That vendor, now banned from the show, was not seriously injured.

"We are a family event. We have lots of women and children come through also," Klein said. "I think sometimes we get a bad rap."

Other candidate visits

Clinton wouldn't mark the first presidential candidate to visit one of Klein's gun shows, held under his banner of Trade Show Productions, Ltd., which have taken place at the fairgrounds for years.

Republican Rick Santorum, the 2012 Iowa caucuses winner now on his second White House campaign, has visited the gun show in the past, Klein said, as well as Iowa U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, also a Republican.

One-time GOP candidates Tom Tancredo and Sam Brownback also visited in years past, Klein said.

Hillary Clinton Supports Women's Rights, Gay Rights in "Living History" Instagram Video // E! Entertainment – June 11, 2015

Hillary Clinton's Instagram game is on!

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The 2016 presidential hopeful only joined this realm of filtered squares yesterday, but she's already got a lifetime of accomplishments up on display! In a mere six posts--including one "Living History" video--@hillaryclinton has brought the social media world up to date on what she's been doing throughout the years to advance women's rights and gay rights.

This particular clip includes photos from Hillary's childhood, her wedding to Bill Clinton (!), family trips to Disneyland and her own daughter Chelsea Clinton becoming a mother. We also look back and see her as first lady, New York's first elected female Senator and U.S. Secretary of State. In videos pieced together from decades back to the present, she champions the a similar message: "Human rights are women's rights, and gay rights are human rights."

Brava! Ms. Clinton even had time to put up a most impressive #throwback Thursday photo that shows she's had lots of ambition from the get-go!

Hillary, who made her Insta-debut with a cleverly captioned pantsuit pic, is using this feed to rally her supporters, too. She's got a graphically pleasing countdown to her official campaign kickoff on New York City's Roosevelt Island, urging her current followers to "Get in a New York State of Mind" and "tag a friend who should follow before Saturday"!

#SomebodyHiredAGoodSocialMediaManager!

Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett to sing for Hillary **// NY Post // Emily Smith – June 9, 2015**

Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett will serenade Hillary Clinton at a fundraiser for the presidential candidate at Manhattan’s Plaza Hotel.

Tickets for the June 27 event are $2,700 a pop with a limited number of $1,000 tickets.

But the devoted few who raise $50,000 get blessed with host status, a photo with Clinton (and possibly Gaga and Bennett) and an invite to a VIP after-party.

A source said, “They’re not sure if it’ll be a seated affair or if people will be standing — it’s a pricey night to be standing.”

Gaga has long supported Clinton, calling for her to run for president and blasting Tim Gunn for criticizing her pantsuits.

Gaga said in 2011, “I think Hillary Clinton has more important things to worry about than her hemline.”

Quote Of The Day **// The Skimm – June 11, 2015**

“Hard choices” – The caption on Hillary Clinton’s first Instagram post that featured red, white, and blue pantsuits. House of Uncle Sam would approve.

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OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'MALLEY

O'Malley: I haven't seen video of pool party brutality // CNN // Alexandra Jaffe & Betsy Klein – June 11, 2015

As a former mayor of Baltimore, Martin O'Malley has made racial unrest and law enforcement reform an issue in his nascent presidential campaign.

But on Thursday night, he said he had not seen the video of the latest incident that's sparked cries of police brutality against minorities: an officer's apparent disproportionate reaction to reports of a group of teens fighting at a pool party in Texas.

The video of the incident went viral and critics accused the officer Eric Casebolt of racism. Casebolt was caught on tape responding to reports of fighting at a pool party by slamming a bikini-clad, teenage girl to the ground and waving his gun at a group of boys, most of them black.

He resigned on Tuesday, amid a police investigation into his actions.

When CNN asked O'Malley about the incident, he said, "I haven't seen it, I've heard of it."

O'Malley said because of the widespread use of camera phones, "we're going to be seeing more incidents that involve police officers and citizens," but did not comment on substance of the specific incident in Texas.

"And often times, those incidents will involve issues of race and legacy of race that all of us, whether black or white, share as Americans. And that issue of race in America and law enforcement have been intertwined for 300 to 400 years in this country," he said.

O'Malley said that officers who are "well-trained and play by the rules" are the "norm," but acknowledged videos like these make Americans question that. Officers should adopt body cameras and other tools to combat the negative perception of police officers and protect themselves, O'Malley said.

"With the advent of new technology in the hands of every citizen, we need to put better technology in the hands of police departments so they can be open and transparent and accountable," he said.

During his campaign launch, O'Malley touched on the death of Freddie Gray, who died in the back of a police van in Baltimore.

"There is something to be learned from that night, and there is something to be offered to our country from those flames," he said.

O'Malley touts progressive values, experience, results // Quad City Times // James Lynch – June 11, 2015

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Selling himself as a progressive who gets things done, Martin O'Malley engaged in classic Iowa retail politics Thursday afternoon at a Mount Vernon house party.

O'Malley, who later had a campaign rally at Sanctuary Pub in Iowa City, emphasized his experience and record of getting things done as Baltimore mayor and two terms as Maryland governor.

"I am the only candidate in this race with 15 years of elected executive experience." O'Malley said more than once during a 13-minute stump speech and about 20 minutes of question-and-answer.

That's important, he told more than 120 people who crowded into Nate and Maggie Willems' home, because "getting things done matters."

"It matters not only for the accomplishment of the task at hand, it matters for restoring the public trust necessary to build the deeper and larger consensus so we can start acting like Americans again," O'Malley said.

The 52-year-old O'Malley also drew a generational distinction between himself and the "very honorable and good people" — Hillary Clinton, 67, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, 73 — who also are seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

His perspective is one that will "speak to where our country is going rather than where our country has been," O'Malley said.

His audience liked the merchandise, but for many, it is too early to commit to a candidate.

"He's an impressive guy," said Linda Yanney of Iowa City, who asked O'Malley about the disparate incarceration rates for blacks and whites. "He could play well, but there's a lot of time between now" and the first-in-the-nation precinct caucuses scheduled for Feb. 1.

O'Malley offered "the right ideas, progressive ideas," said Terry Lessmeier of Mount Vernon and might be a nice fit compared to Sanders "who is not discreet and Clinton who is too discreet" in expressing progressive values.

That was part of O'Malley's sales pitch, too.

Voters who look at his "15 years of elected executive experience" will see "a fearless advancing of progressive goals and progressive values," O'Malley said. "I don't apologize for them. I plan to speak fearlessly about the progressive values and progressive goals that are going to make our country better."

O'Malley, Lessmeier said, may have an advantage in that "he's the most telegenic, and in today's world, that's important."

O'Malley will be back in Iowa July 17 for the Iowa Democratic Party Hall of Fame Celebration in Cedar Rapids. Clinton, Sanders and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb are scheduled to participate, too.

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SANDERS

Bernie Sanders Demands Hillary Clinton Take Trade Stance 'Right Now' **// NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 11, 2015**

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont delivered a sharp critique of Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday for her reluctance to talk about issues as a presidential candidate and vowed that he is running against her to win.

Mr. Sanders, an independent who is seeking the Democratic nomination, said he is offended by Mrs. Clinton's silence on trade and urged her to share her real views with voters.

"Trade policies have been disastrous," Mr. Sanders said at a breakfast hosted by The Christian Science Monitor in Washington. "If she's against this, we need her to speak out, right now."

Mr. Sanders then listed a number of issues where he said Mrs. Clinton has failed to share her views, including climate change, the Keystone Pipeline and the renewal of the Patriot Act.

"What is the secretary's point of view on that?" he asked of the act that he voted against.

Promising to run a campaign without personal attacks, Mr. Sanders questioned Mrs. Clinton on how she plans to address the influence of the "billionaire class" and said that her vote to authorize the 2003 Iraq War raised questions about her judgment.

"I'm not here to criticize a vote that she cast years ago," Mr. Sanders said. "But what does that mean about your judgment assessing information?"

The comments from Mr. Sanders come as Mrs. Clinton is about to formally kick off her campaign with a rally in New York this weekend.

The senator acknowledged that he remains an underdog in the race but said that he is picking up momentum in terms of crowds and fund-raising. He estimated that he has received about 200,000 donations averaging about $40 each.

"This is not a protest campaign," Mr. Sanders said when asked if he really believed he could beat Mrs. Clinton. "I am in this election to win."

Rival Challenges Clinton to Say Where She Stands on Trade **// AP // Ken Thomas – June 11, 2015**

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders called on Democratic presidential rival Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday to say exactly where she stands on President Barack Obama's trade agenda now that Congress is considering it.

"I think our trade policies have been disastrous," Sanders said during a breakfast sponsored by The Christian Science Monitor. "Secretary Clinton, if she's against this, we need her to speak out right now. Right now. And I don't understand how any candidate, Democrat or Republican, is not speaking out on this issue right now."

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The House was starting debate on so-called fast-track authority, which would let the administration complete a trade deal with Pacific countries that Congress could accept or reject, but not change. The proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership would lower trade barriers among 12 nations.

Clinton, a former secretary of state, has expressed concern that the deal may allow currency manipulation and fall short on health and environmental protections. But she's said she wants to see the agreement in its final form before judging it. Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is also seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, vigorously oppose the deal.

Clinton aides did not immediately comment on Sanders' remarks. Clinton has been under pressure to oppose Obama's plan from labor unions and liberal groups, which say it would ship jobs overseas and undermine health and environmental standards.

Republicans who lead Congress are planning votes Friday on a program to retrain workers displaced by trade agreements, called Trade Adjustment Assistance, and fast-track authority may be voted on then, too.

Sanders, who launched his presidential bid in late April, has drawn large crowds to his events in Iowa and New Hampshire and estimates he has raised $8 million for his presidential campaign, based on about 200,000 contributors donating an average of $40.

The Vermont independent, who sides with Democrats in the Senate, predicted he can raise $40 million to $50 million by the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary in early 2016.

The self-described democratic socialist said his campaign manager had recently traveled to Iowa and was hiring staff in preparation for the caucuses. "We're gearing up," he said.

"This is not an educational campaign," Sanders said. "This is not a protest campaign. This is a campaign to win."

Sanders acknowledged Clinton is the "heavy favorite" at the start of the campaign but said "we have momentum. And our numbers are growing."

Bernie Sanders insists his momentum is no fluke **// Politico // Jonathan Topaz – June 10, 2015**

Bernie Sanders, enjoying a rise in early-state and national polls and attracting large crowds at his rallies, has a message for voters: believe the hype.

The Vermont senator, an Independent who is running for the Democratic nomination for president, said on Thursday he has no illusions about the gap between himself and far-and-away front-runner Hillary Clinton.

But the self-described democratic socialist said his promising early returns aren’t a fluke.

“This is not an educational campaign. This is not a protest campaign. This is a campaign to win,” said a confident Sanders to a group of reporters at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast.

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Sanders has fashioned himself as the authentic progressive and the preferred liberal alternative to Clinton, who herself has been veering leftward, promoting grassroots issues such as college affordability and criminal justice reform.

On Thursday, Sanders acknowledged, as he has in the past, that Clinton is a “heavy favorite,” but argued that he’s making ground and that name recognition plays a big role in polling.

“I think the secretary may well be one of the best-known people in the United States of America. I am not,” Sanders said.

Sanders grabbed attention this week for scoring over the weekend a surprising 41 percent in an official Wisconsin Democratic Party straw poll at the state convention, losing to Clinton by just eight points.

The Vermont senator has also been creeping up in the national polls. He’s climbed to 15 percent in the Democratic field, up from single digits before his kickoff rally in Vermont on May 26. And the most recent Iowa and New Hampshire polls showed him at 16 and 18 percent, respectively — also a jump from earlier polling.

Sanders, the longest-serving independent in congressional history, has also been drawing pretty impressive crowds. More than 3,000 supporters showed up to a fiery Sanders rally on a Sunday in Minneapolis. Last week, an estimated 1,000 people showed up in Keene, New Hampshire, and most events in his recent trips to Iowa were standing-room only, including 700 people who showed up in Davenport, the largest Iowa rally for a candidate in either race.

Sanders said on Thursday that his campaign has at least 200,000 campaign contributors and that his team is staffing up in Iowa and New Hampshire. His team is expected to open its Iowa office shortly.

“We have momentum. Our numbers are growing,” said Sanders, adding that his campaign is less than two months old and still in its early stages.

During the breakfast meeting, Sanders continued to pressure Clinton on several policy areas, notably on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the free-trade deal opposed by the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. He said Clinton’s failure to take a stand on the issue offends him.

“If she’s against this, we need her to speak out right now. Right now,” he said.

He also contrasted his leadership on several core progressive issues with Clinton — noting his efforts taking on corporate interests, in trying to block the Keystone XL pipeline and speaking out against the PATRIOT Act.

“Where is the secretary on that?” he asked.

The senator also offered some kind words for New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, a progressive leader who has declined several times to endorse Clinton despite running her 2000 Senate campaign. De Blasio at a press conference this week called Sanders a “great senator” and confirmed that he wouldn’t attend Clinton’s campaign kickoff rally on New York City’s Roosevelt Island.

“I have a lot of respect for Mayor de Blasio,” Sanders said, calling the mayor one of the nation’s “leaders” on income inequality. He said that he would call de Blasio at a certain point and that he’d love to have his endorsement.

Still, Sanders avoided attacking Clinton too harshly. Unlike fellow Democratic presidential hopeful former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, he said her vote for the Iraq War was not disqualifying — “everybody makes bad votes.”

And asked about contributions to the Clinton Foundation from foreign governments, Sanders pivoted to the Koch brothers, the GOP mega-donors who he argued were having a more corrosive impact on the democratic process.

In calling for more presidential debates, including those with Republicans, he called on Democrats to have a 50-state strategy — part of a larger argument that his progressive policies will play well with a majority of Americans

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and even traditionally conservative voters.

“It is not a radical agenda. In virtually every instance, what I’m saying is supported by a significant majority of the American people,” Sanders said, calling out Republican candidates former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry by name for wanting to cut Social Security.

Sanders, who wrote Democratic National Committee chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz to call for more debates earlier in the cycle, called the current structure “much too limited” and said he regretted that the DNC didn’t consult his campaign before rolling it out.

One of Sanders’ most direct contrasts with Republicans came during his initial discussion about paid sick leave, maternity leave and vacations — labor protections he said are central to his new “family values” agenda.

The senator, who is laying out his plan more specifically later on Thursday, said he borrowed the phrase from Republicans who have used it to restrict reproductive rights for women. Sanders, who has visited several union halls since announcing his candidacy and is a favorite of organized labor, said he will introduce legislation to guarantee ten days of vacation time for workers and keep working to institute the 40-hour work week.

Elsewhere on policy, Sanders, who has called for a single-payer health care system and typically offers only mild praise for the Affordable Care Act, confirmed that he would try to “move away from the ACA” toward a Medicare-for-all system if he were to become president.

He also added that he’d soon be unveiling a comprehensive tax plan — including a tax on Wall Street speculation and ending loopholes that allow corporations to stash income in tax havens abroad. Sanders said that those moves, plus an unspecified increase in taxes on wealthy individuals, would help pay for his investments in health care and education, including his recently introduced bill to have tuition-free four-year public college.

“I believe the overwhelming majority of Americans support it. I suspect Wall Street does not,” he said of a tax on Wall Street speculation.

Sanders will head to Iowa this weekend for a three-day swing through the Hawkeye State, and will be there at the same time as Clinton, who kicks off her Iowa campaign Saturday and Sunday.

Bernie Sanders: Hillary Clinton's Silence on Trade Deal 'Offensive' **// Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – June 11, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's refusal to take a stand on a controversial Asia trade deal is offensive, one of the Democratic presidential front-runner's challengers, Senator Bernie Sanders, said Thursday.

"I don't understand how, on an issue of such huge consequence, you don't have an opinion," Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist who launched a bid for Democratic nomination earlier this year, told reporters at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast.

The Vermont lawmaker is an outspoken opponent of the trade deal, known as the Trans Pacific Partnership. Clinton, who spoke in favor of giving President Barack Obama authority to negotiate a sweeping trade deal with Asian countries while she was serving as his secretary of state, has demurred about taking a stand on the legislation now before Congress.

“This is a campaign to win.”

Senator Bernie Sanders

Asked if Clinton's refusal to take a position offends him, Sanders said:

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"Yes, it does."

The trade debate cuts across party lines and divides Democrats like Obama from key parts of the party's constituency: labor unions and environmentalists oppose the deal because they fear it would undercut wages in the United States and permit air and water pollution globally. The Senate approved authority for Obama to cut a deal that could not be amended by Congress; the House is currently considering the bill.

"If she's against this, we need her to speak out, right now. Right now," Sanders said. "I don't understand how any candidate, Democrat or Republican, is not speaking out on that issue."

Sanders is making economic inequality and the struggles of middle-class and poor workers the centerpiece of his admittedly long-shot bid for the Democratic nomination. He said he plans to introduce legislation later Thursday to extend sick leave rights.

He insisted he's not the Don Quixote of 2016.

"This is not an educational campaign. This is not a protest campaign. This is a campaign to win," he said. While "I freely admit that Secretary Clinton comes into this a heavy favorite," the senatoradded that "we have momentum. And our numbers are growing."

Sanders also said he would not approve a super-PAC. Such entities can establish themselves without the backing of candidates, who are legally not permitted to coordinate with them. But many candidates — including Clinton — have effectively allied themselves with the outside spending groups, signaling to supporters who want to write large checks where they should send them. Sanders, who considers the amount of money that has flowed into campaigns after the Supreme Court effectively gutted legal limits on contributions "obscene," said he won't do that.

"I don't want the money of the billionaire class," he said. "Which is easy for me to say because I wouldn't get their money if I wanted to."

Sanders Explains Obama's Biggest Mistake And What Clinton Is Doing Wrong // Buzzfeed // Evan McMorris-Santoro – June 11, 2015

President Obama turned his back on the millions who rallied to support him when he assumed office, cutting off the only means he had to effect the sweeping changes he promised on the campaign trail in 2008 and leaving him at the mercy of Republicans in Congress.

That's the diagnosis from Bernie Sanders, the independent Vermont senator and Democratic presidential candidate who held court as the left-wing attack dog in the presidential race for about an hour Thursday surrounded by reporters at one of Washington's fanciest hotels.

Sanders proclaimed himself the man with the "most progressive views of any candidate" in the race — "philosophically, I am a Democratic Socialist," he said at one point — and proceeded to prove the point, detailing broad support for western European economic and education policy, attacking Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton for declining to publicly join the progressive push against free trade expansion, bemoaning money in politics while also promising never to have his own super PAC and proudly noting he never voted for any of the U.S. wars in Iraq, including the one launched in 1991.

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He spoke about how the faith he was born into motivates him, addressed a weird interview with public radio in which he was accused of having joint US-Israeli citizenship, and spoke about his surprising success in the nascent days of his presidential bid.

The impassioned critique of Obama summarized Sanders' skill at vocalizing the frustrations of the president's progressive allies, laying out succinctly what anyone who has been within distant earshot of a progressive activist has heard many times.

"The biggest mistake Barack Obama made in my view is that after his brilliant campaign in 2008 where he mobilized millions of people, ran one of the great campaigns in American history, essentially what he said to his supporters was, 'thank you very much for electing me, I'll take it from here on myself. I'll sit down with John Boehner, I'll sit down with Mitch McConnell, we'll negotiate, we'll come up with some compromises, thanks very much for what you did,'" Sanders said. "I will not make that mistake. The point that I'm making is, and this is where my campaign is very different from the others, I do not believe that any president who is standing up for the working class of this country can be successful without the mobilized activist grassroots movement behind him or her. So I will be working hard to make sure that mobilization exists."

As for Clinton, Sanders expressed bewilderment that the former Secretary of State hasn't publicly chosen sides in the trade debate with hours to go before a House vote on fast-track trade authority that the activist left has made defeating as its number one goal.

"You can be for the [Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal], I think the president is dead wrong, he is for it," Sanders said. "You can be against it, I'm against it, Warren's against it, Sherrod Brown's against it, the majority of Democrats in the Senate are against it. You can be for it, or against it. I don't understand how on an issue of such huge consequence, you don't have an opinion."

Clinton has been playing it very cautiously on the president's trade agenda, avoiding directly pitting herself against either Obama or his progressive opponents.

"There are questions being raised about this agreement. It hasn't been negotiated yet," Clinton said on the trail in Iowa recently. "I have said I want to judge the final agreement."

Sanders also spoke of big marches on Washington by students demanding a better deal on college costs and marches by workers demanding an increase in the minimum wage.

Sanders' Obama history is a little off, though his tactical critiques are often raised by liberals. Obama turned his campaign into first Organizing for America and then Organizing For Action, nonprofits whose goal in part was to keep Obama's campaign infrastructure in place for the reelect but also to use his massive list of supporters to pressure Congress via online campaigns and public rallies. Large OFA marches and rallies, feared by some of Obama's opponents after he won in 2008, never really materialized, although digital campaigns in support of the president's policies are still blasted out of OFA's Chicago headquarters on a regular basis.

Sanders has done well in his opening weeks as a candidate, amassing, he said, more than 200,000 small-dollar donors and racking up poll numbers that make him number two in the Democratic nomination contest, albeit one running far behind the frontrunner Clinton. Sanders said he's in it to win it, and promised an increase in poll numbers as his name ID increases. He also promised to be outpspent by the impressive financial operations of Clinton. On the whole, he was comfortable in the role of pugnacious underdog, dismissing the Democratic Party's plan for primary debates and promising to open discussions with the party chair and his fellow candidates about how best to build a debate calendar.

The Washington event, a breakfast sponsored by the Christian Science Monitor, came just a day after Sanders' appearance on the Diane Rehm Show, a syndicated public radio program. Sanders said he forgave Rehm for her question about joint Israeli-American citizenship, a longstanding and wholly incorrect conspiracy theory labeled anti-Semitic by some Jewish groups in the hours after Rehm's broadcast.

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“I like Diane Rehm. She is a good radio interviewer,” he said. “I suspect what happens is her staff gives her a list of questions and someone screwed up pretty bad.”

Sanders was asked to weigh in on how his relationship with Judaism affects his political outlook.

“I’m proud to be Jewish, I’m not particularly religious,” he said. He said growing up Jewish in the post-World War II years taught him elections like the one that put Adolf Hitler in office can have very serious consequences.

“The lesson that I learned as a little kid was to understand in a very deep way what politics is about,” he said.

Reporters also wanted to know a lot about Sanders’ opinion of Europe. Sanders has long called for Western European-style social safety nets, universal healthcare programs, and structures that make higher education free or next to free for most students. America has a lot to learn from Europe, Sanders said. A reporter asked if he thinks Europe has much to learn from America.

“As a former mayor, what mayors look at is the concept of best practice. What best practices means…you look all over the country and you say, ‘what are other cities doing that would be good?’ and you steal those ideas,” he said. “That’s what we should be doing as a world. Are we doing things better than other countries? Of course we are, we have a lot to be proud of. We are a very entrepreneurial country, I mean every other day someone is coming up with another great idea, another great invention. We do that probably better than any other country on earth, and people should learn from us.”

But in terms of protecting and taking care of the needs of working people,” Sanders continued, “we have a lot to learn from many other countries around the world.”

Sanders promised to bring many of those western European-style programs to the United States if he becomes president. Dinging the president again, Sanders said it was time for a more progressive approach than Obamacare.

Sanders seemed pleased by his growing standing as the Democratic Party’s progressive-in-chief, a position fueled by a campaign that has lit up the grassroots on the left despite the lack of initial support from many activist left organizations who were until recently pouring all their efforts into trying to cajole Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren into the presidential race. His campaign building steam, Sanders, said he’s been amazed by the DC money machine he’s discovered as he’s emerged as a prominent presidential candidate.

“A lot of people want to make a lot of money off of campaigns,” Sanders said, when asked what he has learned so far. “There is an entire industry here in Washington, D.C. of folks who are prepared to help you for some extravagant fees.”

Bernie Sanders hires Elizabeth Warren 'draft' director for progressive campaign // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – June 11, 2015

Bernie Sanders’ campaign for president isn’t just trying to harness the lingering progressive energy behind the failed attempt to draft his fellow liberal senatorElizabeth Warren.

Now they’re hiring the minds behind her grassroots movement, too.

The Guardian has learned that the Sanders campaign has hired Blair Lawton, who served as field director in Iowa for the Run Warren Run effort, which announced it was shutting down last week.

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Lawton will serve as political director for Sanders in Iowa, the early primary state where Sanders and Hillary Clinton will both visit this weekend. He previously worked as a regional field director in Iowa for Barack Obama's re-election campaign, then managed Democratic get-out-the-vote efforts in Alaska in 2014.

Sanders long positioned himself as a leading progressive voice in the Democratic party, and has declared he is "in this race to win" as a liberal alternative to Clinton.

The grassroots efforts to recruit Warren, however, put up a road block among the party's left-leaning base – until Run Warren Run gave in to the Massachusetts senator's repeated insistence that she would not challenge Clinton for the nomination.

"To be sure, Warren – and grassroots economic populism more broadly – was already a rising force well before our efforts began," the group's organizers wrotein preparation to fold last week. "Although Run Warren Run may not have sparked a candidacy, it ignited a movement."

Warren has long been an icon on the left, but an Iowa poll released earlier this month showed Sanders jumping ahead in the caucus state as he began to draw crowds at double capacity.

The hiring of a top staffer from the Run Warren Run effort signals an opportunity for the Sanders campaign to tap into both the enthusiasm for Warren and the organizing already done in the state on her behalf.

Sanders has also hired several other staffers to fill key positions in Iowa, including Justin Huck to serve as the campaign's state field director and Tara Thobe to oversee logistics.

Youth Unemployment and Dr. King's Dream **// Medium // Bernie Sanders – June 11, 2015**

Many years ago I was honored to be among those who marched on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I was there for his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, and I heard him say that African-Americans live "on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity."

Dr. King taught us that the struggle for justice is economic, as well as social and legal. As he said in Memphis, a few short weeks before his death:

Our struggle is for genuine equality, which means economic equality. For we know now that it isn't enough to integrate lunch counters. What does it profit a man to be able to eat at an integrated lunch counter if he doesn't have enough money to buy a hamburger?

"We have come here today," Dr. King told us in Washington, "to dramatize a shameful condition." We have seen progress, but that shameful condition persists. Too many Americans still live in poverty. Many are working in poverty, too, because they can't earn a living wage. And if we don't do something about it, the generations to come will have it even worse.

That's why I have joined with Rep. John Conyers to introduce the Employ Young Americans Now Act. It will provide $5.5 billion in immediate funding to employ one million young Americans between the ages of 16 and 24, and to provide job training to hundreds of thousands of others.

Let me tell you why this is so important. The Economic Policy Institute studied the real unemployment figures for

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recent high school graduates aged 17–20, including people who have given up looking for work and those who are working part-time but seek full-time employment. They are devastating. More than one third of white and Hispanic youth (33.8 and 36.1 percent, respectively) are looking for work. Shockingly, so are more than half of African-Americans (51.3 percent).

I want to emphasize that:

When you look at the real job figures, more than 50 percent of young African-Americans are looking for work.

Recent college graduates are struggling, too. The real unemployment rate for young white graduates is 12.9 percent. And it's nearly double that for young African-Americans and Hispanics (23 percent 22.4 percent, respectively). That's nearly one in four.

Worse, studies have shown that a person's lifetime earnings are heavily influenced by the amount of money they make in the first few years of their working lives. We're not just hurting these young people today. If we do nothing, they will be deprived economically for the rest of their lives.

The picture is already grim. More than one in six part-time workers, and nearly one in twenty full-time workers, is impoverished despite their own labors. And African-Americans and Hispanics are twice as likely to among the working poor as their white counterparts. If we do not address the crisis of youth unemployment, these statistics are likely to become even worse.

One thing is clear: We are not making the progress that Dr. King called us to achieve in the 1960s. More than one in four African Americans live in poverty, while that figure is less than one in ten for whites. The median income for African-American households is less than 60 percent that of white households. And a recent study from Brandeis University shows that the wealth gap between black and white families has nearly tripled over the last twenty-five years.

There is much that we must do to address these inequities. We need to raise the minimum wage to a livable amount. This is not unreasonable.

If the minimum wage had kept pace with productivity, it would be more than $16 per hour today. It is only the greed of the few, and the political disenfranchisement of the majority, that has kept the minimum wage so low.

When I heard Dr. King speak in on that afternoon in 1963, the actual minimum wage was actually higher than it is today. 1963's Federal minimum wage was worth $8.37 in today's dollars. Today it's $7.25.

We must not condemn young people, especially in our minority communities, to lives that are even harsher than those of their parents. It is time to declare once and for all: Black lives matter—on the streets, and on the job too.

As Dr. King told us on that sunny day in Washington, "1963 is not an end, but a beginning." It's our turn to do the work of justice. Our young people are our nation's future, and it is time to give them the future they deserve.

Sanders hires key Iowa staff members **// The Quad City Times // Ed Tibbetts – June 11, 2015**

Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders, who turned a lot of heads last month with big crowds in Iowa, is

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putting staff in place to try to capture some of that enthusiasm.

On Thursday, the campaign said Blair Lawton, the man who ran the Iowa arm of the now-suspended effort to convince U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run, is moving over to be the Vermont senator's political director in the state. Lawton's hiring was one of three positions the campaign confirmed Thursday.

"He's a good get for us," said Pete D'Alessandro, a longtime Democratic operative who has been charged with putting together a staff in Iowa for Sanders.

Lawton said that Sanders was a logical choice for him. "I've always admired the senator," Lawton said. "He's a great progressive we need in the race."

D'Alessandro also said that Justin Huck, the field director for the League of Conservation Voters in Iowa, has been picked to be the field director for the Sanders campaign here.

In addition, Tara Thobe, who worked in New Mexico the last election cycle, has been tapped to be statewide operations director.

Early polls still say former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton holds a wide lead, both in Iowa and nationally.

A Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics poll, released last week, said that 57 percent of likely Iowa Democratic caucus-goers support Clinton

Sanders was next at 16 percent. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and ex-Sen. Jim Webb, of Virginia, both were at 2 percent.

Clinton also has an organizational head start. The campaign has opened offices across the state and has more than two dozen field organizers working here.

Sanders, O'Malley and Webb all are in various organizational stages.

Still, the Sanders campaign says it is seeing dividends from the early interest in the senator.

D'Alessandro said of the more than 600 people who signed in at Sanders' event in Davenport, twice as many as he would have expected indicated they were willing to caucus for him. "This early in the game, that's a really good sign," he said.

Sanders, Clinton, O'Malley and Webb will all be in Iowa over the next few days.

O'Malley will make a trio of stops on Thursday.

Clinton, who is launching her campaign with a speech in New York on Saturday, will be in Iowa the same day. On Sunday, she will hold her first large-scale event in the state with a rally at the state fairgrounds in Des Moines.

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Webb will be in central Iowa on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Sanders, meanwhile, will be holding a half dozen events across the state Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

None of the visits are to the Quad-Cities.

Sanders pushes paid vacation legislation // Burlington Free Press // Nicole Gaudiano – June 11, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders will introduce legislation Thursday that would require paid vacations for millions of workers as part of a "true family values" agenda he's pushing as he runs for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The bill would provide 10 days of paid vacation for employees who have worked at least one year at a job, ensuring them access to the minimum vacation benefits most companies already offer white-collar, high-salary workers, according to his office. The bill would apply to employers with at least 15 employees.

Sanders, I-Vt., said the U.S. is a "stressed out nation," with nearly one in four workers getting no paid vacation time. It's also the only advanced economy that doesn't guarantee workers some form of paid family leave, paid sick time or paid vacation time, he said.

"The idea that people do not have the time to take a few weeks off to be with their kids, to enjoy themselves, to relax, is really not what America should be about and is certainly not a family value," Sanders said in a Wednesday interview. "The bottom line of all of this is to bring reality to the concept of family values."

Sanders also is co-sponsoring a bill by Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York to guarantee workers at least 12 weeks of universal paid family and medical leave, and a bill by Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington to guarantee at least seven paid sick days per year.

Murray's bill passed the Senate 61-39 in March as an amendment to a budget resolution, but that measure doesn't carry the weight of law.

In January, President Barack Obama granted federal employees six weeks of paid parental leave, and he endorsed seven days of paid sick leave during his State of the Union address.

Opponents of mandates to provide paid sick and family leave say they would hurt businesses, cost jobs and could damage job opportunities for women. But Sanders said the idea a woman could lose her job because she had a baby is "completely unacceptable."

It's "horrendous" that mothers have to rush back to work during the most important bonding time with their babies because they don't have enough money to stay home, he said.

"I know that the right wing will oppose all of this," he said. "But the question they have got to answer is, 'How come these ideas can exist in every other major wealthy country on earth except in the United States of America?"

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OTHER

Bayh won't seek Indiana Senate seat // The Hill // Jonathan Easley – June 11, 2015

Former Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) will not enter the race to replace retiring Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.) in Indiana, a source familiar with Bayh's thinking told The Hill on Thursday.

Bayh instead will focus on helping former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton win the White House, according to the source.

Bayh would have been a formidable candidate had he run. He has high name recognition and remains popular in Indiana. In addition, he still has nearly $10 million in his campaign war chest.

Many Democrats believed Bayh's entrance in to the race would be a game-changer for their party, but political watchers in the state were doubtful he would take the plunge. In 2010, Bayh decided against seeking a third term in the Senate, citing frustration over gridlock in Congress.

With Bayh on the sidelines, the path to the Democratic nomination is currently clear for former Rep. Baron Hill (D-Ind.), who previously served four terms representing Indiana's 9th district in the House.

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) will host a Washington, D.C., fundraiser for Hill's Senate bid later this month — a sign that establishment Democrats may be coalescing around his candidacy.

However, State Rep. Christina Hale (D-Ind.) has also said she's considering running. And John Dickerson, the former director of The Arc, a nonprofit that helps Indianans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is also mentioned as a potential contender.

So far, there are two Republicans in the race.

Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.), a Tea Party-aligned candidate, will be seeking to rally the conservative base in the state. Coats's chief of staff, Eric Holcomb, is also running, and considered a more establishment-friendly candidate.

Rep. David Young (R-Ind.), who defeated Hill in a 2010 House race, is also believed to be considering a bid.

The GOP candidate will likely be favored going into the race. Indiana has only gone for the Democratic presidential candidate once since 1968.

GOP

BUSH

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Wall Street lining up for Jeb Bush campaign fundraiser in New York // WaPo // Matea Gold – June 11, 2015

Wealthy hedge fund managers, bankers and private equity investors have signed on to host one of the first official fundraisers for Jeb Bush's soon-to-be-announced presidential campaign, a June 24 breakfast reception in New York that is on track to bring in at least $1 million.

Already, three dozen heavyweight players have committed to raise a minimum of $27,000 each for the event, according to a copy of the invitation obtained by the Washington Post.

Among them are New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, former Barclays chief executive Robert E. Diamond Jr., private equity executive Emil Henry, investment banker Jeff Bunzel, hedge fund manager Duke Buchan, and Alex Navab, who heads KKR's private equity business in the Americas.

New Jersey state Sen. Joseph M. Kyrillos, who chaired Chris Christie's 2009 New Jersey gubernatorial campaign, is also listed as a co-chair of the fundraiser. He defected to Bush this spring, as The Post previously reported.

Co-chairs of the June 24 event, set to be held at a midtown Manhattan hotel, get access to a 7:45 a.m. photo reception, an 8 a.m. host reception and then the larger breakfast event. They also will be invited to a retreat in Kennebunkport, Me., for bundlers who bring in $27,000 in the first 15 days of the campaign.

Bush, who spent the last five months stockpiling tens of millions in an allied super PAC, is set to officially announce his White House bid Monday in Miami. After that, he's planning two intense weeks of campaigning and fundraising, hoping to bring in millions for his official campaign committee by the close of the quarter on June 30.

Jeb Bush's legally nonexistent campaign has had a lot of problems // WaPo // Max Ehrenfreund – June 11, 2015

Disagreement, distrust and dysfunction: That's a whole lot of trouble for a campaign that legally does not exist.

The Washington Post's Ed O'Keefe and Robert Costa describe how even though former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) has not declared himself a candidate for president, his campaign has already found the time for a few serious internal squabbles. The organization has been "disjointed in message and approach, torn between factions and more haphazard than it appeared on the surface," O'Keefe and Costa report. "Bush's first six months as an all-but-declared candidate have been defined by a series of miscalculations, leaving his standing considerably diminished ahead of his formal entry into the race on Monday."

When Bush does formally declare himself a candidate, presumably he and his campaign will stop coordinating strategy with the independent committees supporting him — coordination that is illegal for a candidate for elected office, as Eric Lichtblau and Nick Corasaniti discussed in The New York Times last week.

The thing is, the law does not distinguish between candidates who claim they haven't decided whether they're running but secretly (or not so secretly) are running, and candidates who have launched their campaign already (or who have launched it more than once). Even candidates who are just "testing the waters," which is a technical term, are subject to rules.

Yes, there are gray areas, and the law isn't completely clear, but here's O'Keefe and Costa's summary of what Bush

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has been up to over the past few months:

Bush revived a 650-member alumni network of aides who worked for him as governor, and he recruited 21 veterans of his father's and brother's administrations to advise him on foreign policy. He hired state directors in the first four early states, aides for outreach to evangelical Christians and Hispanics, and a spokeswoman dedicated to fielding questions from the Spanish-language press.

As Bush travels the country, he has fielded more than 900 questions from donors, reporters and voters, according to aides. He has maintained a busy schedule that stretches from the early-voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada — where conservative Republicans remain skeptical — to places visited less frequently at this early stage by presidential candidates, including Denver, Seattle and Puerto Rico.

Watchdogs have accused Bush — along with other Democratic and Republican candidates — of violating the law, but given partisan gridlock at the Federal Election Commission, their complaints will probably go unheeded.

Bush's non-candidate candidacy isn't just a clever manipulation of obscure election law. Donors have given millions of dollars to the un-campaign — although, as O'Keefe and Costa report, probably not nearly the $100 million his advisers had predicted. The money raises serious questions about whether the only people who can fully participate in American democracy are people who have rich friends.

Bush's GOP primary opponents see him as out of touch with the party's base and more concerned about what his donors think. Ideally, good election laws would prevent candidates from relying on exorbitant fundraising dinners to buy their way into races and force them instead to win votes the hard way, by talking to citizens.

In Europe, Jeb Bush sounds like Barack Obama // Politico // Eli Stokols – June 11, 2015

Jeb Bush, now on the third day of a European tour meant to showcase his foreign policy chops, is sounding a little bit like the man he's trying to replace: Barack Obama.

Stylistically, Bush is a striking a more aggressive posture than the president, warning about Russian encroachment and vowing to more staunchly defend America's allies in Eastern Europe.

But on substance, Bush has offered little to differentiate himself from Obama's cautious, consensus-driven approach to confronting Russian leader Vladimir Putin — aside from a vague call for "defensive military support" for the Western-backed Ukrainian government.

On Thursday, Bush told reporters that his meetings with the Polish president and other government and business leaders here in Warsaw have confirmed his belief that Poland wants America to play a bigger role in Europe and the world and that "it's really important for the United States to stay active and be clear about the role that we can play.

"When there's doubt, when there's uncertainty, when we pull back, it creates less chance of a more peaceful world," Bush said.

He repeated his call for bolstering U.S. military forces in the Baltic states, where Obama last year ordered a buildup of air force units. "The numbers are, I understand, in the hundreds, and that doesn't send a signal of strength. We need to be more robust, and need to encourage our allies to invest more in security," Bush said.

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And Bush again went further than Obama has, calling for sending defensive weapons to the embattled government in Kiev. Lawmakers on both sides — as well as many of his own top advisers — have urged the president to arm the Ukrainians with lethal weapons, but he has thus far demurred.

"I think we need to provide defensive military support, because it's very hard to make the structural reforms necessary and grow the economy in a world where there's a threat of further aggression," Bush said. "That would be the first step."

But he provided few specific ideas for challenging Putin, calling vaguely for "a strategy" that is "comprehensive" and "forward-leaning."

He reiterated his line that the U.S. "can't be all things to all people; we can't be the world's policeman" — a refrain that echoes Obama's own September 2013 declaration that "America is not the world's policeman."

And Bush's calls for reassuring nervous NATO allies ignored Obama's Sept. 14, 2014, speech in Talinn, the Estonian capital, in which the president bluntly declared, "We will defend the territorial integrity of every single ally" and warned Putin against further aggression, as he did again during last weekend's G-7 summit in Bavaria.

Nor has Bush differentiated himself much on economic issues.

In Berlin, he stressed the importance of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, a U.S.-European trade deal that Obama supports.

In Warsaw, he met with the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and lauded the group, which he described as "an offshoot by the way of a U.S. effort investing in the future of this country and it was an extraordinary success"; Obama has hailed the foundation several times.

But on the question of whether the U.S. and Europe should invest more foreign aid in Ukraine, Bush was noncommittal.

So far, the U.S. has provided Kiev with $2 billion in loan guarantees; the European Union has coughed up $1.8 billion in economic aid, which The Economist has called "contemptible." Additional economic aid, many believe, could loosen Russia's grip by helping Ukraine develop its own natural gas resources, making it less reliant on Moscow.

Bush also said any future aid should be tied to economic reforms, and that Europe "should play a leading role" in this area.

Asked about whether Georgia or Ukraine should join NATO, Bush again agreed with Obama.

"There's a process that these countries need to go through," he said. "I think that process is established and it's the right one."

As for whether the U.S. should consider putting permanent military bases in Poland, Bush was careful not to over-commit, pointing out that he's not yet privy to the intelligence he'd need to decide.

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“Maybe I should get classified briefings,” Bush said with a chuckle. “I’ll talk to my national security adviser and get back to you, how about that?”

Sean Hannity scores first Jeb Bush interview // Politico // Hadas Gold – June 11, 2015

Fox News host Sean Hannity continues his streak as conservative king maker, as the network announced Thursday that he will have the first interview with Jeb Bush after his presidential campaign announcement next week.

The former Florida governor is expected to announce his presidential campaign Monday in Florida. On Tuesday, Hannity will interview Bush. Bush will also appear on "The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon" that same night.

Bush campaign spokespeople confirmed that Bush will not hold any interviews Monday and that Hannity will be his first.

Four GOP hopefuls have given Sean Hannity dibs on their first interviews as candidates: former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Sens. Ted Cruz, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio. Other candidates have tried to land an interview with the conservative host, campaign sources have previously said, only to be turned down — either because they had given their first interview to another media outlet or because they weren't popular enough.

The interview with Bush will air next Tuesday at 10 p.m.

Jeb Bush: 'Putin has changed' since brother George saw his 'soul' // CNN // Tom LoBianco & Dana Bash – June 11, 2015

Asked his opinion on the Iraq War recently, Jeb Bush struggled to find his footing while supporting his brother. But ask about Russian President Vladimir Putin -- of whom former President George W. Bush once said that he "got a sense of his soul" -- and older brother Jeb gets right to the point: "He's a bully."

How does he square that difference? Jeb Bush said Thursday that Putin has evolved over the years.

"I think Putin has changed, for sure. He has changed over time and he has been emboldened by, whether it's true or not, the perception is that we've pulled back," Bush said. "So people do change and this is an example of that."

READ: Jeb Bush's foreign policy strategy: 'I am my own man'

Indeed, George Bush's own relationship with the Russian leader deteriorated over his term, to a point where he and just about every other Republican agree Putin is a threat that needs to be contained.

Jeb Bush has not said exactly how he would handle Putin if elected president, but he did say Thursday that the U.S. needs to step up its military presence in Eastern Europe to support allies like Poland.

"We need to be more robust, we need to encourage our NATO allies in Europe to invest more in their own national security. We need to do the same In our country. We need to be consistent about what types of actions we will take should there be more aggression," he said.

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On the crisis in Ukraine, where leaders are begging for more assistance from the West, Bush said they should be provided with more military help.

"We need to provide defensive military support. It's hard to make the structural reforms and grow the economy in a world where there is aggression," Bush said.

The theme of Bush's trip this week to Germany, Poland and Estonia -- ahead of his expected announcement Monday that he's running for president -- is to highlight what he calls the importance of a "forward leaning" American approach here, one he argues is lacking under the Obama administration.

But just how Bush would take the forward leaning concept, and turn it into policy as president, is a work in progress.

He would not say, for example, whether former Soviet countries like Ukraine should be accepted into NATO, instead saying he would defer to the process that allows that.

Still, he sees plenty of room to attack the current president and implicitly criticize leading 2016 Democratic contender Hillary Clinton for an unsuccessful "reset" with Russia.

"I think to deal with Putin, you need to deal from strength. He's a bully," Bush said in Berlin Wednesday, repeating a message he's using throughout his Europe trip this week. "You enable bad behavior when you're nuanced with a guy like that."

He continued, "I'm not talking about being bellicose, but saying, 'Here are the consequences of your actions.' And that would deter the kind of bad outcome that we don't want to see."

And at the close of separate remarks in Berlin Tuesday, Bush took a final shot at Clinton and Obama.

"I think there's lots to do, and we're beginning to realize the 'reset button' didn't turn out so hot," he said.

Putin is a perfect whipping boy for Republicans as his support for separatists' hostile takeover of Ukraine combined with his condescending rhetoric toward the United States have revived Cold War rivalries between the two countries.

Since then, Western powers have pushed to isolate Putin. At the same time Bush was in Germany, Obama was in the country for a meeting of the G7, which kicked out Russia roughly a year ago. High on the agenda was whether economic sanctions against Russia were working.

Back home, the politics are easy for Republicans. Democrats have set the policy for the last seven years and one of the chief architects also happens to be the likely Democratic presidential nominee: Hillary Clinton.

"It makes sense that the Republican candidates are out to critique, and Hillary Clinton tries not to say much," said Leon Aron, U.S.-Russia relations expert at the American Enterprise Institute, who consulted with 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney but has not signed onto any 2016 campaign yet.

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Aron noted that he has been contacted by several prospective Republican presidential campaigns and said the fact that candidates have been reaching out to him so early in the election cycle is a clear sign of the importance foreign policy -- and specifically U.S.-Russian relations -- will play in this race.

The interest so early in Russia, he said, is part of a broader trend which has American voters focused abroad this cycle, including deep worries about Middle East unrest.

But for all the clear advantages of using Putin as a punching bag, that role also has a liability when it comes to the Bushes.

In his book "Decision Points," George Bush recounted a meeting with Putin in 2001. At one point he asked if it was true that Putin's mother had given him a cross blessed in Jerusalem. Putin then softened somewhat as he told the story of how he lost the cross in a fire.

"I thought of the emotion in Vladimir's voice when he shared the story of the cross. 'I looked the man in the eye,' I said, '... I was able to get a sense of his soul,'" Bush wrote. Bush also assessed then that Putin was "straightforward" and "trustworthy."

Even fellow Republicans have criticized the president's comments. As the 2008 GOP presidential nominee, Arizona Sen. John McCain said, "I looked into Mr. Putin's eyes and I saw three things — a K and a G and a B." The 2012 Republican candidate, Mitt Romney, also warned that Putin posed a much more serious threat than was perceived by the Obama administration.

Yet by the time George Bush left the White House, he, too, had soured on Putin. In the final year of his term, Bush struggled to decide how to handle Russia's stunning invasion of Georgia. In his book, published two years after he left office, Bush called the invasion a "low point" in his relationship with Putin. He also noted that in the years following his 2001 meeting with the Russian president, "Putin would give me reasons to revise my opinion."

That makes it easier for his brother Jeb to take on the Russian leader during his trip to parts of the former Soviet Union this week.

And it also helped that George Bush's role in bolstering Eastern European countries is well-regarded in those states, making the Bushes sympatico on their over-arching foreign policy stance toward Russia.

Though Jeb Bush's last name can be a negative when he travels abroad, given how disliked George Bush became in most of Europe, his campaign stops on this trip emphasize areas where there is public support for either his brother or his father.

Former President George H. W. Bush helped reunify Germany with the fall of the Soviet Union -- a fact son Jeb pointed out to applause during his speech in Berlin.

And George W. Bush stood fast with former Soviet states, proposing a missile defense shield in Poland as a means of deterring Iran, which Obama later scrapped.

Candidates often spend more time criticizing policies and decrying international villains than spelling out their own course of action. And while Jeb Bush has used tough rhetoric, his actions may prove different. Aron said the

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usual approach is for U.S. presidents to open their terms with a general policy of détente with Russian leaders before relations deteriorate.

He pointed to President John F. Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev as the model and Reagan's encounters with the Soviets early in his first term while they were fighting in Afghanistan as the exception. George W. Bush's ability to see Putin's soul? That fit into the pattern, too.

Dmitri Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, said that based on what Jeb Bush had said so far, Russians watching America would conclude that "Jeb has said the minimum that is now required in the West" so "he is generally sober."

That means he would potentially be welcomed as an alternative to the current man in the Oval Office. "'The U.S. will not turn into a friend if he is elected, but at least we will have a change of partner,'" Trenin said they would assess. "'We are so tired of Obama.'"

Jeb Bush says view on unwed births 'hasn't changed at all' **// MSNBC // Benjy Sarlin – June 11, 2015**

Facing scrutiny over his rhetoric and record regarding single mothers, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush told reporters on Thursday that two-parent homes help children "live lives of purpose and meaning."

In a chapter of his 1995 book "Profiles of Character" entitled "The Restoration of Shame," Bush, who is in Europe this week on an international tour, complained that having children outside of marriage had become common because there was "no longer a stigma attached to this behavior" and that "parents and neighbors have become ineffective at attaching some sense of ridicule to this behavior."

Asked by msnbc whether his views regarding the application of shame had changed, Bush suggested his book's warning had proved prophetic and stressed the importance of encouraging young people to get married before having children.

"My views have evolved over time, but my views about the importance of dads being involved in the lives of children hasn't changed at all," he said. "In fact, since 1995 ... this book was a book about cultural indicators [and] the country has moved in the wrong direction. We have a 40-plus percent out-of-wedlock birth rate."

Bush has talked on the trail about research showing improved economic fortunes for children who are raised with two parents and on Thursday reiterated the importance of family structure.

"It's a huge challenge for single moms to raise children in the world that we're in today and it hurts the prospects, it limits the possibilities of young people being able to live lives of purpose and meaning," he said.

After a follow-up question on whether the chapter was meant to apply to policy, Bush said that he was "speaking of [marriage] in the policy context and the focus was on men."

In responding to the story, Bush's staff has pointed reporters to a later passage in the book noting that raising the issue "does not mean we should demean the heroic efforts of single parents who are trying to raise good, decent children."

A number of news outlets and commentators this week are also revisiting a 2001 law Bush allowed to pass that included a so-called "Scarlet Letter" provision requiring mothers who give their children up for adoption to

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publicly post records of their sexual histories that might alert potential fathers about the birth. Bush raised concerns about that provision at the time but allowed the bill to pass into law without signing it. He later signed a repeal of the controversial section in 2003 after it was struck down by a court.

Asked by msnbc whether he had regrets about how the issue was handled, Bush said he could not recall the full details but that the broader law was intended to support single mothers by improving collection of child support from fathers.

“To assume you can create a fatherless society and not have bad outcomes I think is the wrong approach,” he said. “I don’t remember what the repeal was, I can remember the purpose of the law was to enhance the ability to collect child support because men have the responsibility of taking care of their children.”

Bush’s latest remarks prompted an unsolicited one-sentence response from Democratic National Committee spokeswoman Holly Shulman.

“Shame on you, Jeb,” Shulman wrote in an e-mail.

Jeb Hated Easy Divorce. So Did Hillary. **// The Daily Beast // Betsy Woodruff – June 11, 2015**

Sometimes in the course of campaigns, opposing sides circulate information that comes back to bite them.

This is one of those times.

On Wednesday, Democrats were up in arms over comments Jeb Bush wrote in his 1995 book that expressed criticism of divorce that occurred without a clear cause.

“[No]-fault divorce quickly became a tool for those who used the law not to escape physical or mental cruelty but to pursue career dreams and trade in their wives for something more appealing,” he wrote in Profiles in Character.

Cue the outrage.

“Bush has to hope the book stays out of print,” wrote Joan Walsh, Salon’s editor-at-large.

And at the Washington Post, opinion writer Catherine Rampell criticized Bush’s “histrionics about no-fault divorce” and called his views on the issue “strange and/or relatively retrograde.”

Behind the scenes, Democratic communicators pushed the “Jeb is anti-divorce” narrative calling it “insane.”

But here’s the thing:

In her 1996 book, It Takes A Village, Hillary Clinton took the same position.

Oops.

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Let's compare.

Bush argued that no-fault divorce generally hurt kids, and that lawmakers might want to consider making parents to be more circumspect about ending their marriages.

In a 1996 Orlando Sentinel op-ed, Bush wrote that Florida's no-fault divorce law provided important protections for women in abusive situations but also "threw the baby out with the bath water."

"In real terms, divorce meant parents spending less time with their children," he continued. "According to a number of studies, the absence of one parent in the household has been enough to result in an increased propensity for crime, suicide, out-of-wedlock births, depression and truancy."

He then noted that some argued for "an extended mandatory cooling-off period" before letting parents with minors finalize their divorces, but added he wasn't sure the cooling-off periods would be good policy.

Ultimately as governor, he didn't move to implement such a rule.

The AP reported in 2002 that "Bush said that he does not want that [no-fault divorce] law changed, saying it could lead to abusive situations if it is more difficult for couples to split up."

Now, in her 1996 book, It Takes A Village, Hillary Clinton argued a strikingly similar position.

"[W]ith divorce as easy as it is, and its consequences so hard, people with children need to ask themselves whether they have given a marriage their best shot and what more they can do to make it work before they call it quits," she wrote, echoing Bush's concerns about how divorce impacts children. "For this reason, I am ambivalent about no-fault divorce with no waiting period when children are involved. We should consider returning to mandatory 'cooling off' periods, with education and counseling for partners."

So both Bush and Clinton were open to—but ultimately noncommittal about—policies designed to make it harder for parents of minor children to get divorced.

Clinton's campaign didn't respond to a request for comment.

In one sense, Clinton went even further than Bush on the issue, suggesting in her book that divorce is a public health problem.

"I admire the way the Parent Education Program in Columbus, Ohio, treats divorce as a public health issue," she wrote.

And she even invoked Bill Bennett, the Reaganite and conservative culture warrior, to make the case against divorce.

"One does not have to agree with all the remarks of former Secretary of Education William Bennett to welcome his

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acknowledgment before the Christian Coalition that divorce is hard on children," she wrote.

Clinton didn't leave her anti-divorce rhetoric in the 90's.

During a Senate floor speech in 2004 arguing against a constitutional amendment that would have barred same-sex marriage (she was opposed to gay marriage until 2013), she invoked no-fault divorce again.

"Now, if we were really concerned about marriage and the fact that so many marriages today end in divorce, and so many children are then put into the incredibly difficult position of having to live with the consequences of divorce," she said. "Perhaps 20, 30 years ago we should have been debating an amendment to the Federal Constitution to make divorce really, really hard, to take it out of the states' hands and say that we will not liberalize divorce, we will not move toward no-fault divorce, and we will make it as difficult as possible because we fear the consequences of liberalizing divorce laws."

Elsewhere in the speech, she was explicit about her concerns over the divorce rate.

"We are living in a society where people have engaged in divorce at a rapid, accelerated rate," she said. "We all know it is something that has led to the consequences with respect to the economy, to society, to psychology, and emotion that so often mark a young child's path to adulthood."

It just goes to show when your potential nominee has a long record, it might pay to check it before you start questioning the other candidate's sanity.

RUBIO

Marco Rubio, like a lot of Americans, is terrible with money **// WaPo // Jonnelle Marte – June 11, 2015**

Marco Rubio has been getting a lot of attention for his financial blunders.

He once cashed out a retirement account to help pay for a new refrigerator and to cover his kids' private school tuition, despite having cash on hand. And in a deep dive into his finances, the New York Times reported this week that Rubio has saved very little, even when making a decent amount of money. In addition to paying off his student loans, he used part of his book advance to splurge on an $80,000 boat.

Rubio has been talking more openly about his struggles on the campaign trail, using the story to relate to voters. His campaign says that the boat was a fishing boat and that he isn't like other presidential candidates who came from wealth. The son of Cuban immigrants — his father was a bartender and his mother was a hotel maid — he didn't grow up with a lot of money, he says. "Like most Americans, I know what it's like for money to be a limited resource and to have to manage it accordingly," he told the Times in a statement.

Are his mistakes really that different from that of other people who are struggling to pay off student loans, raise their families and pay their mortgages? Here's what some of the numbers say.

Saving rates.

Rubio often struggled to save, even during times when he was earning high income, the Times reported. He's better off than a lot of consumers but still falls within the bottom 90 percent of households when it comes to

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wealth. By that standard, his saving habits are in line with that of other people who have similar amounts of wealth. As the chart below shows, people in the bottom 90 percent save close to zero percent of their pay each year, according to an analysis by Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman, economists with the University of California, Berkeley. Saving rates jumped to 15 percent for people in the top 10 percent, or those with more than $660,000 in net worth.

Cashing out retirement accounts.

This is a mistake that financial pros warn about constantly. When Rubio cashed out nearly $70,000 in retirement savings from an IRA last year to buy a new refrigerator and help pay for his children's private school tuition costs, he likely faced a steep tax bill and set back his retirement readiness. (He has other retirement savings, but he also had other cash on hand, according to reports.)

Early retirement withdrawals usually come with a 10 percent penalty and the requirement to pay taxes on the cash that's taken out. They also puts a dent in retirement income by cutting down on the amount of savings invested that can grow over time. Still, plenty of people dip into retirement savings before they should to pay for more immediate needs like college tuition or to cover the bills after a job loss. About 8 percent of people in their 40s and 10 percent of people in their 50s took early withdrawals from their IRAs in 2013, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute. Those rates increased as people got closer to retirement age.

Income fluctuation.

Another part of Rubio's story is that his income has changed dramatically over the years. Last year he made $174,000 as a U.S. senator last year and earned another $52,000 from book royalties and a teaching position at Florida International University, as my colleague Sean Sullivan reported. But that's still not as much as he was making when he worked as a lawyer in the private sector. And he's had other ups and downs: He earned a modest salary as a member of the Florida state legislature, then saw a huge pay raise when he landed a job at a private law firm, before taking a pay cut to join the U.S. Senate. His $800,000 book advance in 2012 was another big windfall.

Turns out that a surprising number of Americans see income fluctuate from year to year, or from month to month. While that kind of income volatility is more pronounced for the poor, it's not limited to them. One in four people saw their incomes rise or drop by 30 percent or more from 2013 to 2014, according to an analysis of 100,000 Chase Bank account holders by the JPMorgan Chase Institute.

Still a top earner.

To be sure, Rubio is better off than a lot of consumers in a key way. His annual pay, while not in the millions, still put him in the top 5 percent of households when it comes to income. That leaves him in a better position to build wealth and to have enough savings to ride out emergencies when they happen. The majority of households, or 55 percent, do not have enough cash on hand to replace one month's worth of income, according to a study by Pew Charitable Trusts. People in the bottom quintile of earnings only had enough savings to replace a median of nine days of income. For the top quintile, median savings were enough to stretch for 52 days.

Rubio And Five U.S. Congressmen Voted For Florida's 'Scarlet Letter' Adoption Bill // HuffPo // Laura Bassett – June 11, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R) was among the Florida state legislators who voted for the so-called "Scarlet Letter" law in 2001 that required single mothers to publish their sexual histories in the newspaper in order to place their babies up for adoption.

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Five U.S. congressmen -- Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart (R), Lois Frankel (D), Jeff Miller (R), Gus Bilirakis (R) and Dennis Ross (R) -- were state legislators at the time and voted for the controversial bill. Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D), Frederica Wilson (D), Daniel Webster (R) and Bill Posey (R), who were also state legislators back then, voted against it.

The law, which passed with overwhelming majorities in the House and Senate, required unwed moms who wished to put their babies up for adoptions to post details about their recent sexual encounters in the newspaper in an attempt to contact the father, even if the woman was a victim of rape or incest. The purpose of the bill was to inform estranged biological fathers that their children were being adopted and give them the chance to intervene.

The "Scarlet Letter" law gained media attention this week after The Huffington Post reported that former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) had advocated for the public shaming of unwed parents in his 1995 book. Bush allowed the controversial law to go into effect in 2001, but signed a repeal of it two years later after it was successfully challenged in court.

The fact that Rubio, a 2016 presidential candidate, supported the bill could inoculate Bush from criticism that he allowed it to go into effect if Bush decides to throw his hat in the ring.

The Gainesville Sun reported in 2002 that some lawmakers -- including Frankel, a longtime women's right activist -- did not realize the newspaper publication provision was in the bill when they voted for it. "I have to admit I'm horrified that I voted for this," Frankel told the Sun at the time.

Rubio and the other current members of Congress who supported the bill did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Is the GOP heartland ready to embrace Marco Rubio? **// LA Times // Lisa Mascaro – June 11, 2015**

Marco Rubio sliced through a pork roast at an Iowa fairgrounds, not even a softball question about his family's beloved Cuba could get the Republican presidential hopeful to veer from friendly chit-chat to engage in a more substantive political conversation.

The Florida senator, who is beginning to introduce himself to the American heartland, preferred to stick to safe topics like the deliciousness of the Iowa-made pork seasoning or roasting techniques.

Had this been his hometown of Miami, there would have almost certainly been a reference to carnitas, a favorite Latino pork dish. But this being Iowa, Rubio hardly breathed a word of Spanish throughout the event, which brought together several GOP presidential candidates hoping to make an impression in the state with the nation's first presidential caucus.

Asked by a reporter to address more serious issues, Rubio again brushed questions off with a smile, keeping his eye on the roast pork. "We're working here," he said cheerfully.

Rubio's candidacy has steadily and quietly ascended in the complicated Republican primary field. Even though he rarely tops the polls, Rubio seems to be everyone's first pick as a second choice, reflected in a recent Des Moines Register poll. Strategists say that gives Rubio the potential to emerge as a strong consensus candidate in a GOP field that already features nearly a dozen aspirants.

Rubio, 44, has a youthful, upbeat message that he hopes will contrast not only with Democratic favorite Hillary

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Rodham Clinton, but also with former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and other Republican contenders.

Rubio's potential appeal to minority voters, particularly Latinos, is another key selling point as the Republican Party struggles to broaden its base.

But it's unclear whether he can parlay boyish charisma and soaring rhetoric into a viable presidential bid, and some voters and strategists are asking the same disarmingly simple question about Rubio: Is there any there there?

And as he moves his campaign into Midwestern and early nominating states with less diversity -- Iowa is about 92% white -- it remains to be seen whether Rubio's appeal will translate with traditional GOP voters.

"I really need more information on him," said Janelle File, a retired bank vice president, after listening to Rubio speak. "He's really well-spoken and has a great background. But I really want to see more."

Last weekend's pig roast and motorcycle ride, hosted by Republican Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst in Boone, could have been Rubio's moment to shine. It was his second trip to the state, and highly anticipated. With his message of economic conservatism, Christian values and a strong national defense, Rubio was poised to capitalize on his early support for Ernst, the popular senator elected last November.

Marco Rubio enters 2016 race touting youth, avoiding messy issues

Marco Rubio enters 2016 race touting youth, avoiding messy issues

But Rubio didn't seem to impress the crowd as much as he has in other settings. In pressed khakis and a starched-collar shirt, Rubio could barely compete with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who swaggered into the roast-and-ride event wearing blue jeans and leather.

Rubio skipped the motorcycle ride and politely declined Ernst's offer to ride on the back of her bike. He joked that he would do better at a Jet Ski race.

In many ways, Rubio is an outsider here in middle America, and he takes care not to come off as too youthful, urban or ethnic. In telling his family's immigrant story here, he didn't mention his parents' journey from Cuba, as he usually does.

Rubio instead presented himself as someone just like them: a dad who pays the mortgage, sends his kids to Christian school and believes the new generation will do better.

"I had some people say I'm not old enough or haven't been in government long enough," he told the crowd. "I'm 44 years old, but I feel 45, and I've been in government long enough to know that what we're doing now doesn't work. If we keep promoting the same people, we will get the same result and the future will leave us behind."

Rubio's aides characterize his campaign strategy as "lean and mean," and deny any desire to push Rubio more out front than he is, preferring a come-from-behind strategy. He has yet to hire a director for his Iowa operations, as others have, though aides insist the campaign is ramping up and more staff is coming.

Iowa voters are a famously persnickety bunch, both aggressive in their expectation that every candidate will court their vote and passive in their unwillingness to commit to any one presidential hopeful too soon.

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That might be in part because Republicans here have picked a string of losers recently in a statewide caucus that prides itself on being the first testing ground for presidential candidates. Their past GOP choices, Mike Huckabee in 2008 and Rick Santorum in 2012, failed to win the party's nomination, let alone the White House.

That could provide an opening for Rubio as Iowans look for a viable alternative to likely front-runners Bush and Walker. "Many of us Iowans are super-sensitive to this: We're tired of being the angry white-guy party," said one senior Republican in the state, granted anonymity to speak frankly about the choices. "It doesn't hurt that [Rubio is] a different face."

Younger voters in particular call Rubio a favorite, and at the Iowa event the few Latino voters in the predominantly white crowd dashed over to Rubio for selfies.

"You're going to be all over Facebook," shouted one fan.

"That's great; we need to be!" Rubio responded.

"I love Rubio," swooned Laurie Millam, who runs the business school at an online university. She said she particularly liked how the Latino candidate smoothed racial and partisan distinctions with a "one America" message.

Recent media scrutiny about Rubio's personal debt and his family's many traffic tickets may only be helping him among ordinary Americans. At the speech, one Iowan jokingly offered driving lessons. The campaign has taken it all lightly, starting the satirical Twitter hashtag, #RubioCrimeSpree.

They attribute nearly $100,000 in online donations over the last few days to people sending money in response as a gesture of support.

At some point, Rubio will need to sit down at the kitchen table and display the skills and resources necessary to tell voters his vision for the nation, much like he did when he was a long-shot Senate candidate going door-to-door five years ago in Florida.

Cornered by one young voter with questions about the future of federal spending, Rubio broke from script and launched into a discourse on the economics of Medicare costs and need for entitlement spending reforms.

But several Iowans were less than impressed with Rubio's performance.

When asked about Rubio's speech, Joe Wells, a retired aviation services manager from Cedar Rapids, responded in a distinctly Iowa-nice way: He changed the subject.

"I never heard from Carly before," he said, referring to Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard executive turned presidential candidate, who also attended the event.

When pressed for his views on Rubio, Wells gave a lukewarm assessment: "He's certainly better than Bush or Christie," a reference to the New Jersey governor.

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Brenda Remsing, a homemaker from Corydon who rode to Boone on the back of friend's motorcycle, likes Sen. Ted Cruz, the firebrand Texas Republican, but she puts Rubio as her second favorite.

"He'd be a good No. 1 -- if I can't have No. 1," she said.

For Rubio, for now, that might be endorsement enough.

Liberals defend Marco Rubio against blistering New York Times attacks // Fox News – June 11, 2015

It's not often that Jon Stewart, host of "The Daily Show," defends conservatives, but that is what he did Wednesday.

Stewart became the latest critic of The New York Times recent stories attacking presidential contender Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, for everything from having four traffic tickets in almost 20 years to having had a large student loan and buying expensive items.

"I can't think of a single person who would be bothered by this," Stewart said on his show, in reference to the condemning tone of the Times stories against the senator's tickets and how he used money from his book to lease an Audi, and buy a fishing boat.

The Washington Post quoted some of the Times' findings – which included announcing that Rubio's wife had gotten 13 traffic tickets – and noted, sarcastically, "Outrageous!"

Rubio has somewhat turned the Times seeming hatchet job in his favor, mocking it in emails to supporters and the press, and even getting campaign donations because of the newspaper's attacks.

Said the Post of the Rubio campaign: "Now, they've even got 'The Daily Show' on their side for the moment."

Some publications cast the Times' stories as elitist and gossipy.

"If the Times wanted to make Rubio look relatable to the average American—more like them than his potential opponents—they couldn't have come up with much better than show he has had financial problems,'" wrote a Bloomberg News writer. "Rubio took out $100,000 in student loans that he just paid off three years ago; most of his opponents have probably never even seen a tuition bill. These are points in Rubio's favor. People will like this about him."

PAUL

How Rand Paul Has Already Changed the 2016 Race // TIME // Joe Klein – June 11, 2015

Rand Paul has been a bad, bad boy. Just ask him. "I'm not very popular in Washington right now" was his opening line at a series of town-hall meetings in New Hampshire, two weeks after he had filibustered and, temporarily, crashed the bulk collection of phone data by the federal government. "I messed up their Memorial Day plans."

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The line drew laughter and applause in the great state of New Hampshire, a flinty and skeptical province. Anything that gums up the federal machine is a good thing, it seems, even if it involves national security. “One of my colleagues asked, ‘What do we do if the authority to collect data lapses?'” he continued. “I told him, ‘Well, we could rely on the Constitution for a few hours.'”

More applause–but weaker this time. This was relatively esoteric stuff, and Paul had to explain himself: He’s in favor of using search warrants to collect the phone data of suspected terrorists, just not bulk collection of all the phone records of all the people, which he believes is unconstitutional under the Fourth Amendment of the Bill of Rights, which prohibits unreasonable search and seizure. He goes all the way back to the colonial lawyer James Otis, who fought unwarranted search procedures by the British. His audiences stay with him as he explains all this. He speaks plainly and well, without bombast or frills. He knows his stuff. But this is not the sort of thing Republican audiences expect from their candidates. It’s more educational than emotional. He doesn’t speak in any detail about Obamacare, immigration, Iran, abortion or gay rights.

By the time his 15-minute stump speech is over, he has delivered a tutorial about the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth and 10th amendments to the Constitution. “We Republicans won’t be successful as a party,” he says, “until we support the entire Bill of Rights as enthusiastically as we support the Second Amendment”–that is, the right to bear arms.

Rand Paul has a following in the GOP, just as his father Ron Paul did. But he’s a far more interesting candidate. Paul the Elder had cranky tendencies, railing against the Federal Reserve and in favor of hard currency. Paul the Younger has softer edges; he is an ideologue, but a supple and eclectic one–he talks about things his father never did, and his party doesn’t much, like the justice system in poor black neighborhoods (Sixth Amendment: right to a trial by jury). He tells his Republican audiences the outrageous story of Kalief Browder, a black teenager who was arrested in New York City for allegedly stealing a backpack–he claimed he was innocent, refused to plea-bargain–and spent 1,000 days in jail awaiting trial. Browder committed suicide in early June. “No wonder people in those neighborhoods are pretty angry,” he says.

Paul drives his fellow Republicans crazy with his foreign policy views, which are the opposite of the frothing militarism of the John McCain wing of the party. He’s not an isolationist, but not exactly a “realist” either. “We should arm the Kurds,” he told me, sipping water at a diner in Derry. “They’re about the only ones who are really fighting ISIS.” I pointed out that the Egyptians were fighting ISIS too, in Libya and Sinai. He considered this for a moment, then said, “Yeah, but they put thousands of people in jail for dissent.” It was a purist answer: he wasn’t ready to support an oppressive state, even if it was fighting on our side against a mortal enemy.

The current conventional wisdom is that Paul doesn’t have much of a chance to win the nomination–even though, according to a recent poll, he runs stronger against Hillary Clinton than any other Republican does. But his message is fresh and consequential. It throws a klieg light on the deficiencies of the two major parties: the mindless Republican war-silliness and the utter failure of the Democratic welfare state to alleviate intergenerational poverty. “I was on the South Side of Chicago a few weeks ago,” he said. “And the people there know the current system isn’t working. They’re about ready to try something new.”

But what? His “solutions”–like lower taxes on businesses in poor neighborhoods–are insufficient, and his libertarianism doesn’t begin to address the deficit of individual responsibility that plagues our communities, poor and rich alike. I’d love to hear what he has to say about what democracy demands from its citizens. Still, he is attempting something that few candidates will risk–an intelligent conversation, on issues that really matter. I’m thrilled he’s in the race.

Rand Paul Signs on to Amendment Barring Ground Troops Against ISIS // Bloomberg // David Weigel – June 11, 2015

Kentucky Senator Rand Paul has had a devil of a time with his amendments related to foreign policy. This week, the Foreign Relations Committee rejected Paul's amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would have cut off U.S. aid to the Palestinians. The prospects look better, but not much better, for Paul's co-sponsorship of an amendment to strengthen the 1971 Non-Detention Act. On the campaign trail, Paul likes to talk about his

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amendment that would have paid for higher military funding with cuts to foreign aid. The story ends with most senators voting against him.

Thursday, Paul took on another uphill and telling battle. He co-sponsored an amendment from Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy, a Democrat, that would bar funding for ground troops being sent to the Levant to fight ISIS. The amendment's text:

No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to support the deployment of the United States Armed Forces for the purpose of ground combat operations in Iraq or Syria, except as necessary-

For the protection or rescue of members of the United States Armed Forces or United States citizens from imminent danger posed by ISIL; or

To conduct missions not intended to result in ground combat operations by United States forces, such as-

intelligence collection and sharing;

enabling kinetic strikes

limited operations against high value targets;

operational planning; or

other forms of advice and assistance to coalition forces fighting ISIL in Iraq or Syria

Questions to Paul's office and presidential campaign went unanswered, but he's left no confusion about his ISIS stance. Since last fall, he's favored attacks on ISIS positions that threaten American interests. He's also favored arming the Kurds as they fight ISIS, telling an audience this weekend in Merrimack, N.H., that America should take the military equipment that's unused and "rusting" in Afghanistan and "airlift it" to any Kurds who need them. At the same event, Paul spoke about giving the Kurdish minority a state of its own after the defeat of the Islamic State.

All of this, according to Paul, would require a new Authorization of Military Force, and new funding votes. That's Murphy's position, too, and the position of several progressive co-sponsors. Paul, for now, appears to be the only Republican (and only Republican presidential candidate) taking this stance via the NDAA amendment.

WALKER

Scott Walker Says Supporters Have Suggested Walker-Rubio 2016 Ticket // Bloomberg // John McCormick – June 11, 2015

Some who have talked to the governor privately about a possible pairing say they have been surprised by how seriously he seems to be taking the prospect.

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker on Thursday talked positively about a Republican presidential ticket—potentially announced even before the first nomination balloting—that would include himself and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida.

In a Bloomberg Politics interview, the likely candidate also expressed agreement with President Barack Obama on the pressing issue of fast-track trade legislation.

Walker, 47, isn't expected to formally enter the race until early July, after his state has completed a two-year budget plan. Still, he's apparently given some consideration and had discussions already about a potential running

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mate, with the focus on Rubio.

“I've actually had quite a few people, grassroots supporters, donors, and others who have made that suggestion,” he said when asked about a Walker-Rubio ticket.

“For now, you know, Marco is a quality candidate,” Walker said. “He's going to be formidable in this race as things progress. And if we were to get in, we'd be as well, and we'll see where things take us.”

Walker was in Utah to meet with potential financial supporters and to speak at a summit hosted by 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney that's attracted six declared and likely presidential candidates. The full interview will air Thursday at 5 p.m. ET on With All Due Respect on Bloomberg TV and BloombergPolitics.com.

Walker said both he and Rubio often hear the suggestion that they should combine forces, potentially even before the first nomination voting in Iowa in February 2016, as a way to stand out amid a crowded field. “We'd just probably have to arm-wrestle over who would be at the top of the ticket,” he said.

Some who have talked privately to Walker about a possible pairing with Rubio say they have been surprised by how seriously the Wisconsin governor seems to be taking the prospect. At this phase of presidential campaign, the norm would be for a White House hopeful to summarily dismiss such a move, in public and in private.

Walker said he likes governors and their executive experience better than senators as potential presidents and vice presidents, but that Rubio stands out.

“I do like Marco Rubio,” he said. “I think he and I have similar thoughts on national defense and foreign policy.”

Walker noted how he tweeted greetings to Rubio, 44, for his birthday last month, a move that also underscored his own relative youthfulness amid a mostly older Democratic and Republican field.

“Marco, happy birthday from one 40-something to another,” Walker said of his greeting. “There’s certainly a generational issue there.”

In the most recent Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa Poll, Walker led in the state that starts the nomination process, while Rubio was the most popular second choice among likely Republican caucus participants.

Trade, tax policy

Walker said he supports giving Obama the authority to submit trade agreements to Congress for an expedited, up-or-down vote without amendments. “If we don't go down this path, we're going to be at a competitive disadvantage, and so I think it just makes sense,” he said.

At the same time, like many Republicans who support granting the trade authority recent past presidents have had, Walker said the deal would allow the Republican-controlled Congress to review Obama's actions.

“If this president were to give them a bad deal, they should hold him accountable and vote it down,” he said. “They

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have every right to do that under the proposal."

On taxes, Walker said he'd look for ways to lower them especially for those in "the middle of the bracket" as well as for businesses. "I certainly wouldn't be talking about anybody paying any more," he said.

The popular home-mortgage deduction is not a place where Walker would look for additional revenue to balance the cuts he'd like to see made, he said. "We're going to look at the entire tax code and what the best way to reform is, but I think homeownership is an important part of living the American dream," he said.

He expressed similar views about the popular deduction for charitable contributions.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz under fire for Tennessee campaign chairman // Politico // Adam Lerner – June 11, 2015

Ted Cruz's presidential campaign is pushing back against criticism that the Texas senator named an anti-Islamic politician as his state chairman in Tennessee.

On Wednesday, Cruz spokesman Rick Tyler called the reaction to the appointment "absurd."

Tyler's comments came in response to a prominent Muslim-American advocacy group's complaints about the Cruz campaign's new state chairman, Kevin Kookogey.

Announcing the move, Cruz hailed Kookogey's "experience and knowledge of both the landscape in Tennessee and the issues that matter to Tennesseans," such as "American sovereignty, defense, and religious liberty."

As chairman of the Williamson County Republican Party in 2012, Kookogey pushed a resolution condemning Republican Gov. Bill Haslam for hiring Samar Ali, a practicing Muslim, and for appointing a council on Islamic affairs in the state.

"RESOLVED that the Williamson County Republican Party hereby opposes Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam's recent appointment of a Shariah compliant finance expert to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development," the resolution said.

The Haslam administration swatted down the allegations at the time.

"Samar Ali was hired to be ECD's international director. Her job duties are to manage the TNTrade export program and to supervise our four international offices in Germany, Japan, China and Canada," Clint Brewer, an official with the state's Department of Economic and Community Development, told Politifact. "There is no part of her job — or any department operations — that involves Shariah compliant finance or Shariah law," Brewer said.

Ali stayed in office for 18 months, and is now a private attorney at a Nashville law firm.

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But the bruised feelings remain: On Tuesday, the Council on American-Islamic Relations demanded that Cruz end its affiliation with Kookogey for his "longstanding support for anti-Muslim and Islamaphobic causes."

Tyler, the Cruz spokesman, pushed back in a statement to the Tennessean on Wednesday.

"It is absurd to suggest that being a defender of American law under the United States Constitution is somehow anti-Muslim," Tyler said.

Ali, a former White House fellow and Obama administration counterterrorism adviser who was born in Nashville and grew up in Tennessee, told the Tennessean last year that the sharia law flap was a "very painful experience."

"It also made me realize how fast one can be dehumanized," Ali added, "and I definitely felt dehumanized."

Ted Cruz fights GOP approach on Obamacare subsidies // Politico // Manu Raju – June 11, 2015

Ted Cruz is planning to battle his party over Obamacare again — this time, if Senate Republicans seek to extend subsidies that could be killed by the Supreme Court as soon as this month.

In an interview with POLITICO, the 2016 presidential candidate weighed in on the high-stakes Supreme Court case that could end subsidies for millions of people who receive their health insurance through the federal exchange. A majority of Republican senators have endorsed an approach to keep those subsidies in place until September 2017, but Cruz flatly said "no" when asked if he'd sign on as well.

"I think the best legislative option is to allow states to opt out," Cruz said in the Capitol. "I am cautiously optimistic that the Supreme Court will conclude in King vs. Burwell that the Obama IRS disregarded the plain language of the statute and acted lawlessly. And when that occurs, it will be a real opportunity for Congress to lead."

He added: "In a perfect world, we would take that opportunity to repeal Obamacare. At a minimum, we should allow states to opt out."

Cruz's comments underscore the challenges for Republican leaders if they win the Supreme Court case: They'll have to find a way to help the millions who could immediately see their health care costs skyrocket without appearing to endorse a law they universally despise.

And it's bound to grow more complicated with the injection of 2016 politics: Republican senators in blue-states facing reelection will be eager to avoid a public revolt and find a way to keep federal dollars flowing to people who rely on the subsides to defray their health care costs; conservatives running for president will be eager to renew their demands to kill the controversial law once and for all.

There are several proposals aimed at addressing this dilemma, with one leading option proposed by Sen. Ron Johnson, a conservative up for reelection next year in Wisconsin, which has a federal exchange. While Johnson's approach would extend the subsidies through the summer of 2017, it would also kill the law's individual and employer mandates and repeal insurance industry reforms, a proposal backed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) with 31 co-sponsors.

Other Republicans have proposed their own version, including freshman Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), who wants to allow financial assistance through tax credits over 18 months but gradually reduce them over that timeframe. And Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), another freshman, has a plan that would not keep the subsidies, though he's signaled he'd

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be open to extending them depending on how the court rules.

Cruz has been open to some transition period in the past. In February, Cruz offered his own bill to repeal Obamacare. But his bill says the current law would stay in place for six months after the measure's enactment date.

It's not unlike Cruz to battle his party over health care; he did it in 2013 after a 21-hour speech demanding that the GOP use a must-pass spending bill to defund Obamacare. When the end result was a government shutdown, he became a scourge of Republicans in Washington.

Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), a member of Republican leadership, said it's unfair to contend that Republicans are seeking to protect the law if they were to temporarily extend the subsidies.

"Republicans will have a response to protect the people who have been hurt by the president's illegal action, but we are not going to protect the law," he said.

Cruz ramps up attack on ObamaCare // The Hill // Sarah Ferris – June 11, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) is ramping up his attacks on ObamaCare — but in a way that will likely put him at odds with Republican leadership.

In two separate interviews on Thursday, Cruz said he would oppose a GOP strategy to extend ObamaCare subsidies that could be struck down by the Supreme Court later this month.

Instead, he said he wants a bill that would let states "opt-out of Obamacare" altogether, he told The Washington Post.

"I think the best legislative option is to allow states to opt out," the presidential candidate told Politico.

The King v. Burwell case, which could result in an estimated 6.4 million people losing their subsidies, is the Republican Party's biggest healthcare challenge before the next election. In Texas alone, 832,334 people stand to lose their subsidies.

The majority of Senate Republicans — Cruz not included — have signed onto a plan from Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) that would temporarily continue the subsidies, while also repealing the individual and employer mandates.

Two other presidential candidates in the Senate, Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), also declined to co-sponsor the bill, though it did earn the backing from a fourth candidate, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.).

If the court rules against ObamaCare, Republicans will need to act fast to prevent millions of people from dropping out of their healthcare plans.

If no plan is enacted, Democrats are likely to cast the blame on Republicans, who had widely backed the case initially.

But the prospect of a conservative win in King v. Burwell has caused friction among congressional Republicans,

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who have sharply disagreed on how to avert a healthcare meltdown.

Last month, House and Senate leaders disclosed that they will not be releasing their contingency plans for the court case until after the decision.

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie Lays Out Education Plan // NYT // Nick Corasaniti – June 11, 2015

Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey leaned on the podium with his right elbow, his standard let-me-give-it-to-you-straight stance, and gave one of his classic blunt warnings, this time setting up a nearly hour long speech laying out his educational platform.

“It’s time we had a conversation about education that isn’t defined by ideological dogma or by narrow, personal, institutional interests,” Mr. Christie told the packed room at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. “Lets talk about what real educational reform for America looks like.”

But notably, Mr. Christie never touched on his recent abandonment of the Common Core, the set of nationwide educational standards that many conservatives abhor. He has previously denied that his new position against the standards is related to his presidential aspirations.

Instead, Mr. Christie spoke at length on his educational record in New Jersey and how that would inform his vision for the country. And, although the speech was billed as focused on kindergarten through 12th grade, Mr. Christie spent the majority of his time tackling the issue of student debt in higher education, another frequent talking point on the campaign trail.

“Entire generations are being saddled with debt,” Mr. Christie said. “There has not been a town hall meeting I’ve had, in New Jersey or outside of New Jersey, since the beginning of the year, where someone hasn’t raised the issue of student debt.”

He called for an expansion of Pell grants and other federal education funding, saying Congress should expand student aid programs for people at the bottom of the economic ladder. But he criticized President Obama’s plan to make community college free, saying, “We know there is nothing free in the world.”

He proposed “income share agreements” as an alternative to student loans. His proposal would give students the option of paying a percentage of their income for a set amount of time to whomever fronts the cost of college.

“With an income share agreement, there’s no lump sum to pay, so there’s no downside,” he said, also arguing that investors in the program would have more incentive to help the student succeed to recoup their money.

He also called for more transparency in college billing and spending, joking that students and parents had a right to know if a tuition increase was going toward building a new rock-climbing wall. And, like his speech Tuesday in Washington where he argued for a less rigid school calendar, he made the case for universities to offer both night and weekend classes, to let students who need to work their way through college hold down a steady job.

His proposals for reforming kindergarten through 12th-grade education centered on a common theme for the New Jersey governor: confronting the teachers’ union. He spoke early and often of how he restructured teacher tenure in his home state and introduced merit pay for them. He lamented that he was unable to convince the union to

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agree to change the “last in, first out” layoff policy for teachers.

“The power of the teachers’ union has prevented us from using quality based layoffs,” he said. “It’s the worst policy that money can buy.”

He also pointed to his expanded school choice in New Jersey as another victory over the teachers’ union.

“This is a program driven by a simple principle — I think parents are better suited to make decisions about their children’s education than union leaders,” Mr. Christie said.

But as he based many of his recommendations on his education record in New Jersey, reviews in his home state were mixed, most notably in the city of Newark, which has the largest school district in the state.

In 2010, Mr. Christie helped secure, along with former Mayor Cory Booker, a $100 million donation from Mark Zuckerberg, the chief executive of Facebook, to help Newark’s floundering schools. Mr. Booker is now a United States senator representing New Jersey.

The plan, executed in conjunction with Mr. Booker under the banner of “One Newark,” contained some of the important elements of Mr. Christie’s education platforms, like eliminating neighborhood public schools in favor of a lottery to give parents more choice over which schools their children attend.

But that had the unintended effect of leaving some families with children attending multiple schools across the city, and led to an uprising in Newark that helped elect Ras J. Baraka as mayor last year. He was a vocal critic of the plan.

Despite these issues, Mr. Christie, the product of New Jersey public schools himself, still seems to be sticking to school choice and other reforms he has made in New Jersey. As he said in his closing remarks, “When we dare to innovate and fight the status quo, we give our children a fighting chance in this new world.”

Top Chris Christie Aide Goes to His Political Action Committee **// NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 11, 2015**

Maria Comella, the long-serving communications director to Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, will move over to the governor’s political action committee in a senior role, the latest move that indicates he will run for president.

Ms. Comella will become senior adviser to Leadership Matters for America PAC, according to another spokeswoman for Mr. Christie, Samantha Smith.

Her move to Mr. Christie’s political arm is taking place as he appears on the verge of announcing a presidential campaign for 2016, seeing a void in the current Republican field that is as much stylistic as policy-driven.

Ms. Comella has been almost constantly by Mr. Christie’s side since he became the governor of New Jersey after defeating the Democratic incumbent, Jon Corzine, in 2009. She has advised him on a range of issues, but has also been deeply involved in a social media strategy that helped make the governor a mini-celebrity on YouTube through clips of his famously combative town hall meetings.

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“Maria understands messaging and the fast-moving and ever-changing media landscape better than anyone in the country,” said Mike DuHaime, the top political adviser to Mr. Christie, who hired Ms. Comella when both worked on the Rudolph W. Giuliani’s presidential campaign in the 2008 election cycle. “She is smart, fierce, respected and effective.”

On that campaign, Ms. Comella, a New York native and George Washington University graduate who also worked on Capitol Hill, oversaw about 20 staff members. Her most recent title was deputy chief of staff for communications and planning for Mr. Christie.

Christie: Debt-free college is 'wrong' **// Politico // Allie Grasgreen – June 11, 2015**

New Jersey Gov. and Republican presidential contender Chris Christie laid out a multi-pronged higher education agenda Thursday, and a key part — unsurprisingly — is college affordability.

The issue has shot into the spotlight in recent weeks, both in Congress and on the campaign trail. Christie delivered his address at Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa.

Setting the stage with the story of his father — a top high school student who enlisted in the Army because he couldn’t afford to accept an offer to attend Columbia University, then returned to Rutgers University on the G.I. Bill — Christie proposed “a system where we all need to take personal responsibility to grasp the opportunities in higher education, but also one where we can get a leg up when we need it.”

Debt-free college, Christie said, is not the answer.

“That is a typical liberal approach. It is wrong,” he said, according to prepared remarks. “If college graduates are going to reap the greater economic rewards and opportunities of earning a degree, then it seems fair for them to support the cost of the education they’re receiving.”

Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton, Gov. Martin O’Malley and Sen. Bernie Sanders have all expressed varying levels of interest in the increasingly popular debt-free college concept.

However, Christie said Congress should “properly fund and expand” financial aid programs for low-income students, noting that Pell grants have expanded while Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants and Perkins Loans have tapered off.

Christie also wants to consider approaches like tax credits for donors to higher education grant organizations, and income-share agreements, where students repay private financing received in college with some percentage of their income in the future. (Sen. Marco Rubio has introduced legislation for such plans).

Christie slams rival for 'scaring' voters **// The Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs – June 11, 2015**

New Jersey governor Chris Christie was the keynote speaker at the Polk County GOP's spring fundraiser Thursday night, where he stressed that the world is "an unstable, dangerous, ugly place" when America pulls back from its place as the dominant force.

He said that he, as a former U.S. attorney who prosecuted terrorists and put them in jail in New Jersey, speaks from a position of knowledge. "Something unique in politics," he said. "I actually know what I'm talking about."

Without singling out presidential candidate Rand Paul by name, Christie blasted the Kentucky U.S. senator for

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sending out fundraising solicitations noting his opposition to U.S. surveillance programs.

"To raise money off those speeches and then brag how much money they raised by scaring people about their civil liberties – it's disgraceful. And it's dangerous," Christie said. "You need to decide as you pick a new national leader: Do you want someone who wakes up every morning saying, 'My first job is to make sure I protect the lives of the American people and I will do everything that I can within the law to do that,' or another college professor?"

The country doesn't need another inexperienced leader "with theories about things they've never done and never experienced," Christie said.

Christie told personal stories about how his mother, Sondra, told him before she died in 2004 that if he ever ran for president, he'd better be direct with the American people.

"I'm one of the most psychoanalyzed national political figures in the world. We now end the mystery. You now why I am the way I am," he said, to laughter. "There will be some days where you like what I say and there will be other days where you sink your head and you say, 'I cannot believe he just said that.' But here's what you'll never have to say: You'll never have to say, 'I wonder what he's thinking. I wonder what he feels and I wonder what he's thinking and I wonder what he's willing to fight for.'"

Iowa will be a tough proving ground for Christie, who was in ninth place in a field of 16 GOP presidential contenders in a recent Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics poll of likely caucusgoers. When the Register asked him Thursday if he could win the Iowa caucuses, he answered: "Listen, the only reason to get in is to win. ... What I know is if I get into a race, I'll compete."

He said he intends to "be who I am. And if my ideas are good enough and people connect with me, I'll change minds."

Several Iowans at the Polk County dinner, including Liz Van Zomeren, a Johnston Republican, said Christie exceeded their expectations by far.

GRAHAM

Sen. Mark Kirk calls Lindsey Graham a 'bro with no ho' **// Politico // Nick Gass – June 11, 2015**

According to his Senate colleague Mark Kirk, Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) is a “bro with no ho.”

Kirk made the remark about Graham during a Senate Appropriations Committee markup session on Thursday. The Huffington Post, which first reported on the comment, posted audio of the hot mic incident.

“I’ve been joking with Lindsey,” Kirk said, according to the audio. “Did you see that? He’s going to have a rotating first lady. He’s a bro with no ho.”

Kirk’s office told HuffPost that the Illinois Republican had been “joking around with his colleagues.”

Graham has made light of his bachelorhood, joking this week that if he wins the presidency, he would have a

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"rotating first lady." The 59-year-old South Carolina senator has never married and has no children.

Lindsey Graham Introduces Abortion Bill // RealClearPolitics // Andrew Desiderio – June 11, 2015

In what some consider a play for votes on the right, Sen. Lindsey Graham introduced an abortion bill Thursday on Capitol Hill, where the South Carolina Republican was flanked at a news conference by leaders in the pro-life movement.

The legislation, titled the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, would ban abortions past 20 weeks, unless the life of the mother is in jeopardy or the woman was the victim of rape or incest and received medical treatment or counseling at least 48 hours before the abortion.

Additionally, the bill would allow women to file a lawsuit against an abortion provider who violates provisions outlined in the act.

Graham, a 2016 presidential candidate, said it is the government's duty to "protect the most vulnerable" in America. Having a debate over when life starts and ends is long overdue, he said, and the issue is something that deserves to be discussed on the campaign trail.

"I don't believe abortion, five months into pregnancy, makes us a better nation," he added. "I have no doubt the legislation will one day be passed by Congress and signed into law."

But the bill's prospects of becoming law with President Obama's signature are slim. According to the latest Gallup polling, half of Americans consider themselves pro-choice, while 44 percent say they are pro-life. But Graham says his legislation should appeal to the former, calling it a "reasonable position" to take.

Abortion-rights groups are casting Graham's efforts as an assault on women's health and a campaign ploy. "Sen. Graham's bill is not about policy. It's about politics," NARAL Pro-Choice America President Ilyse Hogue said in a statement. "He is choosing to use his position in the Senate to advance an abortion ban to bolster his long-shot White House bid in a shameless play to early state ultra-conservative voters."

Graham dismissed that assertion. "Just look at my history in the pro-life movement," he told RealClearPolitics after the news conference. "I was here long before I thought about running for president."

But the 2016 presidential candidate may need to shore up his support among social conservatives, as he has said he would not fight a Supreme Court decision that upholds same-sex marriage, and argued the Republican Party should welcome Caitlyn Jenner, formerly Bruce Jenner, and other transgender Americans. "I'm into addition," Graham argued Sunday on CNN. "I can only imagine the torment that Bruce Jenner went through. I hope she has found peace."

Hogue also said the influence of anti-abortion groups is "dwindling." But leaders of those groups – the Family Research Council, National Right to Life Committee, Americans United for Life, and Concerned Women for America – disagree.

NRLC President Carol Tobias disputed assertions by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists that scientific evidence invalidates arguments for a ban on abortions after 20 weeks. ("Legislative efforts to limit abortions after 20 weeks represent an obvious attempt to restrict the ability of American women to get the care they need, when they need it," ACOG President Mark S. DeFrancesco said in a statement.") Tobias called that

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argument “willful ignorance at its best.” She accused the media of serving as “amplifiers of misinformation” brought forth by groups like ACOG and Planned Parenthood.

“A baby at five months has developed organs and can feel pain,” CWA President Penny Nance said. “They deserve our legal protection.”

Graham promised debate on the measure this year, and told reporters that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell supports it.

SANTORUM

Rick Santorum, moderate Republican? // CNN // Alexandra Jaffe – June 11, 2015

He was conservatives' pick to take on Mitt Romney in the 2012 GOP presidential primary, but in an exclusive interview with CNN's Erin Burnett on Thursday night Santorum seemed ready to turn over a new leaf.

The former Pennsylvania senator once compared homosexuality to beastiality. But he showed a more accepting tone on Thursday, saying he would accept an endorsement from transgender icon Caitlyn Jenner. (Jenner said in an interview she is a Republican).

"If that's the way she feels about my candidacy, sure," he said.

When Jenner went public with her decision, Santorum said he accepted her as a woman and that his "responsibility as a human is to love and accept everybody."

He struck a similar tone on Thursday night, but suggested he still doesn't agree with her decision.

"My job as a human being is to treat everybody with dignity or respect -- period, stop, full stop, no qualification to that," he said. "Do I have to agree with their positions on issues or how they see America? Of course not."

Santorum also said he was open to the idea that humans are contributing to climate change.

"Clearly the earth has warmed," he said. "I do have questions about what role man plays in this warming. I think there are a lot of folks who do question that."

He said, however, the scientific consensus is still out on that and that, more importantly, the policies arising from the belief that humans are contributing to climate change are "very damaging to the United States of America."

Santorum's made strengthening the American family a centerpiece of his second bid for the White House, but said Sen. Lindsey Graham's single-dom shouldn't disqualify him from the presidency.

"I think you elect the person to be president," he said when asked whether the fact Graham has never married should impact his bid. "We've had bachelors before in the White House."

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And though he's drawing piddling crowds to Iowa diners, compared to his stunning first-place finish in the 2012 caucuses there, Santorum is totally unfazed. One-on-one contact with as many Iowans as possible, Santorum says, is all part of the plan.

"People can mock and say, 'Oh, you know, it's only four or five people.' In small rural counties, four or five people make all the difference," he said on CNN.

Santorum raised eyebrows when he encountered only two diners at a stop at a restaurant in Iowa on Monday, but he said his team felt "really good" about signing them both up as volunteers, and that one will advocate for him at the caucuses next year.

And he said he was willing to go to "every county in Iowa to recruit three or four people," which he called a "pretty good hit rate" for a campaign.

"We feel really good that if you go to a town with 350 people, if you get four, five, that's actually not a bad percentage of the folks in town," he said.

Rick Santorum Says Economic 'Stagnation' Will Help Him Win in 2016 // Bloomberg News // Mark Niquette – June 11, 2015

To hear Rick Santorum tell it, the nation's tepid economic recovery may be his key to winning the Republican presidential nomination.

Interviewed Thursday on Bloomberg's With All Due Respect, Santorum was responding to comments from Iowa voters asking what's different in 2016 after the former Pennsylvania senator won that state's caucus but lost the nomination to Mitt Romney in 2012.

"What's different is the country has been in stagnation four more years," Santorum said. "I recognize what the core of that problem is, and we have an economic platform that's going to not only unite America but win this election."

“What's different is the country has been in stagnation four more years.”

Santorum said he has a "pro-worker immigration policy" and plans to release an economic and tax plan soon that will focus on manufacturing, construction and energy jobs. It will appeal to disaffected Democrats and "folks in middle America who are seeing their wages flat-lined, income falling, and neither political party addressing that," he said.

The former Pennsylvania senator had 6 percent support in a Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa poll released May 30 with former Florida Senator Marco Rubio, behind Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker at 17 percent, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 10 percent, with former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee next at 9 percent each.

Rick Santorum signs ATR tax pledge // The Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 11, 2015

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Former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, a 2016 GOP presidential candidate, has signed Americans for Tax Reform's Taxpayer Protection Pledge committing to oppose and veto any efforts to raise taxes, the group said Thursday.

"By signing the Taxpayer Protection Pledge to the American people, Senator Santorum continues his tradition of protecting American taxpayers against higher taxes," said ATR President Grover Norquist.

Mr. Santorum signed the pledge as a U.S. Senator and as a presidential candidate in 2012. He joins Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Marco Rubio of Florida, as well as former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry as 2016 presidential candidates who have signed the pledge.

Mr. Norquist has also offered praise for former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, another presidential candidate, who took his own pledge not to raise taxes.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who is announcing his 2016 plans Monday, has indicated he does not plan on signing any such pledges, but his team has said his record on taxes is clear.

With each announcement of the 2016 presidential contenders who have signed the pledge, ATR has pointed out that the lone Republican presidential candidate in 2012 who did not make such a pledge was former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, who dropped out of the race shortly after a third-place finish in New Hampshire.

KASICH

Is John Kasich Too Cranky To Be President? **// NBC News // Perry Bacon – June 11, 2015**

He could be a top contender for the GOP nomination. But first, he might want to get people to stop calling him a jerk.

Republican insiders say that Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who is planning to officially enter the 2016 campaign next month, is an experienced swing state governor who could ultimately emerge as one of the party's leading candidates. But Republicans both privately and publicly say that Kasich's style is grating, and they are skeptical of whether it can be effective in a long presidential campaign.

In private settings and sometimes even in public ones, Kasich is known to be brusque, confrontational and dismissive of others' views, even fellow conservatives.

Fred Barnes, the executive editor of the conservative Weekly Standard and an influential voice in GOP politics, said this week Kasich could be the party's nominee if "he stops acting somewhat like a jerk."

"He spends a lot of time criticizing other Republicans ....and that doesn't make any sense," Barnes said in a radio interview this week with Hugh Hewitt, a conservative radio host.

Mark Souder, a former Indiana congressman who served in the House with Kasich, said his former colleague's "lack of patience" would be a "big challenge."

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"His mannerisms, his expressions, his sarcasm, etc. can be off-putting at times," said Souder.

Souder added, "If he can survive the initial beating in the early states, and keep his cool without lecturing people or implying they aren't smart enough to understand, I think he has an excellent chance."

Jeb Bush's struggles have potentially created an opening for Kasich, another Republican governor in his 60's. After flirting with a run for most of the year, Kasich has now hired a senior team of advisers that includes one of the men who helped John McCain nearly beat George W. Bush in 2000.

He's beginning to get the kind of exposure a potential candidate needs, too. The Ohio governor, along with several other candidates, will speak on Friday in Park City, Utah at Mitt Romney's annual gathering of influential GOP donors and other figures.

Kasich could be an appealing alternative to Republicans who like Jeb Bush's political approach but are wary that he could be derailed because of the baggage attached to the Bush name. The Ohio governor, like Bush, was twice elected in a key swing state that Republicans desperately need if they want to win the White House.

Kasich is also a more moderate conservative in the Jeb Bush mold. He is a supporter of the Common Core education standards and an occasional critic of Tea Party conservatives. He also backs a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants.

"I think he is smarter and has more knowledge of the issues than Walker and Rubio," said John Feehery, who was a top aide on Capitol Hill when Kasich ran the House Budget Committee.

Kasich is to the left of even Bush on some issues. He has set a goal that at least 15 percent of the companies hired for contracts by the Ohio state government be minority-owned. And his decision in 2013 to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act remains a deep concern on the right.

Conservatives are bitter that Kasich not only expanded Medicaid, as President Obama has urged governors across the country to do, but has cast those who opposed the move as being insufficiently Christian.

He told National Journal earlier this year, "the conservative movement—a big chunk of which is faith-based—seems to have never read Matthew 25." (In this chapter of the Bible, Jesus urges his followers to care for the poor.)

Erick Erickson, the conservative activist who runs the RedState blog, argues Kasich's comments are akin to saying, "Jesus wants him to expand government."

But other Republicans find Kasich's demeanor a welcome change from overly cautious political rhetoric.

"John's a Baby Boomer and tends to a little irreverent in conversation. I think it's kind of refreshing," said Tom Davis, a former Virginia congressman who also served in the House when Kasich.

"Some people think it's not appropriate decorum. I don't look at that as being a jerk. I like candid," Davis added.

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Feehery agreed Kasich could overcome questions about his temperament. But he argued that even with Bush's struggles, the ex-Florida governor and the other candidates have spent months courting the GOP's major donors, making it hard for Kasich to raise money.

"I would put him in the top tier, if he can get the money," said Feehery.

But Kasich's personality is already emerging as an issue. After the Ohio governor met with journalists from the Concord Monitor last week, the New Hampshire paper noted, "the prickly Republican began with a tone of irritability."

Fifty minutes into the interview, Kasich suggested that he was bored, even though a key part of his campaign strategy is winning in New Hampshire, where voters are more moderate.

"I'm getting ready to be done with this," he told the reporters. "Are we getting close?"

CARSON

Ben Carson doesn't want to talk about 'the gay issue' **// MSNBC // Adam Howard – June 11, 2015**

Dr. Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon and conservative candidate for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, is sick and tired of discussing "the gay issue."

During an appearance Wednesday on CNN, Carson brushed aside questions regarding discrimination against the LGBT community, arguing that there are "more important" subjects worth delving into.

"I don't really want to talk about the gay issue," Carson told CNN's Brianna Keilar. "Except maybe you can get the answer for this question: 'What position can a person take who has no animosity toward gay people, but believes in the traditional definition of marriage that would be acceptable?'"

"I think the Constitution protects every single American," he added. "Everybody has equal rights, nobody has extra rights."

Carson has a history of making incendiary remarks about the LGBT community. Earlier on Wednesday, he told Fox News' Bret Baier that he gets "irritated" when people equate gay rights with equal rights. In March, he was widely ridiculed for suggesting that men who enter prison straight can "come out" gay, while insisting that homosexuality is a choice.

Although Carson eventually walked back those remarks, he has consistently sparked controversy with his off-the-cuff musings about the sex lives of LGBT people. Earlier this year, he even suggested that bakers might poison wedding cakes if they were forced to make them for same-sex couples.

In 2013, after he publicly compared same-sex marriage to bestiality and pedophilia, Carson was forced to withdraw from a planned commencement speech at his alma mater, John Hopkins University.

"Someday in the future, it is my hope and prayer that the emphasis on political correctness will decrease and we

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will start emphasizing rational discussion of differences so we can actually resolve problems and chart a course that is inclusive of everyone," Carson said at the time.

On Wednesday on CNN, Carson said that "Every group faces some type of discrimination," adding, "Christians face a lot of discrimination. I wish we would talk more about that."

Ben Carson's hot mess of a campaign: A predictably dysfunct ional mish-mash of fire-breat hing rhetoric and insane policy ideas // Salon // Simon Maloy – June 11, 2015

Ben Carson's presidential campaign continues to flawlessly meet expectations, which is to say that it is a fiery catastrophe of failure, greed, and embarrassment. There was really no other way this situation could play out. Carson's political celebrity was never rooted in anything meaningful – conservatives fell in love with him because he insults President Obama and refuses to be "politically correct." The Wall Street Journal editorial board encouraged Carson to run for the White House for no other reason than his willingness to say things that are "un-PC." And, not surprisingly, Carson's attempt to transform this crude, superficial appeal into an actual political movement has been disastrous.

Carson has officially been in the 2016 race for just over a month, and already his candidacy is falling apart. The Washington Post reported last week that several top staffers have already resigned from the campaign, which "has been marked by signs of dysfunction and amateurism." A big part of that dysfunction seems to be that Carson's political orbit is populated by opportunists who are at least as interested in cashing in on the Carson boomlet as they are in electing him president. Instead of working in sync, Carson's aides and supporters fighting with each other with as they work to grab as much cash as they can:

Two independent super PACs designed to help Carson are instead competing directly with Carson's campaign for donations and volunteers, while campaign chairman Terry Giles resigned last month with the intention of forming a third super PAC.

Giles said he intends to try to persuade the other two super PACs, called Run Ben Run and One Vote, to cease operations so that all outside efforts can be coordinated through the new group. But with Carson's brand a galvanizing force on the right, there are potentially millions of dollars to be raised off his name, and the other super PACs are said to be reluctant to shut down.

As for Carson himself, he's apparently none too interested in the toxic internal fights that are sabotaging his campaign apparatus. "Carson occasionally drops by his Alexandria campaign headquarters," the Post noted, "but his main interaction with staffers is once a week, at 10 a.m. on Sundays, when he participates in a conference call." He'd rather be out on the trail, talking to voters, and proposing bad, confusing policy ideas that aren't really tethered to any sort of ideology, or even to common sense. Yesterday, according to MSNBC, Carson floated the idea of a "covert division" of government employees that would "monitor what government people do" and make sure they're doing their jobs, or something.

It's an idea that's rooted in a conservative caricature of government employees as parasitic loafers who just sit in their cubicles all day laughing as they count the money they're stealing from hardworking taxpayers who have real jobs. If you're a conservative who has a problem with the size and complexity of the federal government, I'm not sure why you'd support an expansion of the federal workforce (and an extra layer of bureaucracy) as a means to fix it. A spokesman for Carson tried to clarify what he meant: "Covert division? More like Secret Shopper, a quality control strategy used worldwide to improve customer service and customer care." It's not immediately apparent how a strategy used to improve customer service would apply to people in white-collar jobs, but whatever. It's an idea.

But again, this idea isn't meant to conform to ideology and it's not intended as a serious policy proposal – it's just another of the crude appeals to right-wing resentment that seems to be Carson's sole political talent.

The question that arises from all this dysfunction and nonsense is: how long can he keep this up? Right now he's pulling decent crowds at Iowa events and his national poll numbers are, for the moment, inching upwards. But that won't last with a shambolic campaign apparatus and a platform based entirely on generating outrage. Carson's approach to campaigning doesn't seem to diverge too significantly to his life as a Fox News pundit: just go out there and be "un-PC" and something something congratulations President-Elect Carson.

Ben Carson: 'The people are frustrated — they're waking up' **// The Washington Times // David Sherfinski – June 11, 2015**

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson appears to be heartened by recent polling on the 2016 GOP field that's put the political neophyte near the top of a crowded set of contenders.

"The people are frustrated — they're waking up, and they have a lot more brains than people think they do," Mr. Carson told Fox News' Bret Baier. "I can't tell you how many times [I've] faced situations where people say, 'He can't do that. No one's ever done that.' If I listened to that stuff, I wouldn't be talking to you right now."

Mr. Carson is currently fourth in RealClearPolitics' average of recent public polling on the Republican field at 9 percent, behind former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush at 11.3 percent, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker at 10.8 percent and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida at 10.3 percent.

"As you can see from the polling, the people are convinced to a large degree, and 40 percent of 'em still don't even know who I am," Mr. Carson said.

FIORINA

Fiorina's campaign-trail attacks leave out her own ties to Clinton **// LA Times // Joseph Tanfani – June 11, 2015**

In a crowd of Republican presidential contenders hammering away at Hillary Rodham Clinton, no one has been more relentless than Carly Fiorina.

In speeches and media interviews, some of them while shadowing Clinton on the campaign trail, the former Hewlett-Packard chief executive has attacked the Clintons' family foundation for a lack of transparency amid reports that it accepted money from foreign governments. "She is not trustworthy," Fiorina says in a video on her website, itself named ReadytoBeatHillary.com.

In a Facebook post, Fiorina excoriated the Clintons for accepting donations from foreign governments "while making promises about transparency that they never intended to keep."

What else don't we know? What don't we know about your donors?" she asked Wednesday on Fox News about the Clintons' charitable efforts. "What don't we know about the conflicts of interest that those donors represent?"

But in Fiorina's own philanthropic ventures, one of the key points of her resume as a White House hopeful, she has had a friendlier relationship with the Clintons and their foundation than she highlights on the campaign trail. And, in pressing for help for women around the globe, Fiorina is more similar to Hillary Clinton than she admits.

The discrepancies show how personal and professional ties can complicate life on the campaign trail for well-

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connected people like Fiorina, who also unsuccessfully ran for Senate in California in 2010.

One Fiorina charitable effort, a campaign to fund women's empowerment projects around the globe, went forward with help from the State Department when Clinton was secretary.

And Fiorina has roles in two charities that participated in projects that became commitments with the Clinton Global Initiative, one of the organizations in the Clintons' worldwide philanthropic network in which charities and companies announce partnerships to pledge action on social projects.

She has also twice participated in Clinton Global Initiative events. In 2013, she spoke on a small panel that discussed how to boost female entrepreneurship. Last year, she appeared with former President Clinton and three other people on a televised panel discussion on how best to pull people out of poverty.

Fiorina at times sparred with the former president and criticized Democratic economic policies, saying that the Obama administration "made the rich much richer." But she also argued for the role of small business and praised the organization's work. "Seed capital, support, tools, energy -- all of the initiatives that the Clinton Global Initiative invests in to try and build Main Street entrepreneurship -- it has always been the hope of this country," Fiorina said.

A spokeswoman for Fiorina said she was "delighted" to participate in a session advocating for women who are entrepreneurs, and characterized the second discussion as "a debate with Bill Clinton." Fiorina has contrasted her belief in transparency with Clinton's, saying last month: "Unlike Hillary Clinton, I am not afraid to answer questions about my track record or beliefs." She did not respond to follow-up questions about her involvement with the foundation or her work with the State Department.

Bill Clinton, speaking at a Clinton Global Initiative conference on Wednesday, said the foundation had always considered itself nonpolitical and had hosted a number of Republican politicians, including Mitt Romney and John McCain. He didn't mention Fiorina.

Fiorina helped spark a charitable drive in 2008 called the One Woman Initiative, targeting women's empowerment groups, mostly in Muslim countries. According to the organization, she set it up with help from the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development and then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

It took about a year to raise the money. By the time the approximately $500,000 in grants was released, in June 2009, President Obama was in the White House and Clinton was secretary of State. The initiatives included a microfinance program in Pakistan, a conflict-resolution program in the Philippines and an economic development program in India.

The initiative aimed to distribute grants with the help of corporate sponsors, and with support from the Department of State and USAID. The agencies also declined to comment on the initiative.

The Clinton Global Initiative draws together corporate and charity leaders for networking and to announce commitments to complete projects together.

Fiorina is connected to two groups that participated in such programs. She is board chairman of Good360, a Virginia-based group that connects companies who want to donate goods with charities that need them. Hilton Worldwide made that program a Clinton Global Initiative commitment in 2013.

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Fiorina also is on the advisory board of the National Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, a group that wants to open a center celebrating inventors and entrepreneurs on the National Mall in Washington. That too was announced as a Clinton initiative commitment in 2013. But the plans have stalled, in part because the Smithsonian decided it couldn't devote resources to the project, said Philip Auerswald, the group's board chairman.

The advisory board and Fiorina didn't play a role in the decision to announce the project as a Clinton initiative commitment, he said, adding: "Carly has been nothing but supportive throughout this process."

Carly Fiorina blasts media focus on her Hillary Clinton trolling // The Washington Examiner // Ashe Schow – June 11, 2015

GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina has been a tough critic of Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton, but to those who think she's spending too much time going after the former secretary of state, she says it isn't where the "bulk" of her attention goes.

Fiorina noted during a press call Thursday that she has answered hundreds of questions since she announced she was running for president and has addressed any subject.

"So it's simply not accurate to say that all I do is attack Hillary Clinton," Fiorina said in response to a Washington Examiner question. "That may be what the media pays attention to, but that certainly isn't where the bulk of my attention goes, either in my remarks with voters, or my conversations with voters, or my speeches or my Q&A."

Fiorina also said that it didn't matter who the Democratic nominee for president ends up being, she'll oppose them on their policies.

"And if, like Hillary Clinton, another nominee lacks a track record of leadership — I will point that out. And if, like Hillary Clinton, another nominee lacks a track record of transparency, I will point that out as well," Fiorina said. "Every single one of those things is fair game and it has nothing to do with her gender or my gender."

Fiorina has received some criticism in recent weeks for her continued trolling of Clinton. Marc Ambinder of The Week said that Fiorina needs "to move beyond Clinton." Two weeks ago, reporters in South Carolina — where Fiorina gave a press conference outside of a Clinton event — wondered if she had more to offer than just bashing Clinton.

Fiorina was defensive of the suggestion that she just attacks Clinton, adding that she will continue to address any and every issue.

"The fact the media pays more attention to one thing than another is nothing I can do about that," Fiorina said. "I will continue to talk about all of the issues and continue to raise up a contrast between the policies that I think work best for this nation and the policies that the leftwing of the Democratic Party is pursuing."

OTHER

Fox News Adds G.O.P. Candidate Forum Amid Criticism of Debate Plans // NYT // Maggie Haberman

Fox News has decided to add a "candidate forum" before the first Republican presidential debate on Aug. 6, after the network came under criticism for its criteria to winnow down the number of people onstage.

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The announcement from Fox News on Wednesday night came as The Union Leader, a New Hampshire newspaper, said it would host its own forum with C-Span amid concern over the debate rules.

"As we noted when we first announced the debate criteria, our intention has always been to provide coverage to the wide field of Republican candidates and we are glad to present these details today," said Michael Clemente, the executive vice president of Fox News.

The forum will be moderated by two of the network's anchors, Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum. The criteria for making it into the 90-minute forum is scoring 1 percent "or higher in an average of the five most recent national polls." It will air in the afternoon, well ahead of prime time.

Fox News has been heavily criticized by lower-polling Republicans for debate criteria for allowing only those among the top 10 in an average of polling onto the prime-time stage. Candidates have also expressed concern about the rules established by CNN, which is hosting the second debate in September.

But CNN is planning a second debate as well, which will be shown in prime time for the lower-polling candidates.

Joe McQuaid, publisher of The Union Leader, announced that the newspaper's forum with C-Span will be held the same night as the Fox News debate. He indicated the new forum was in response to the limited debate rules planned by Fox News, which has already prompted some Republicans to consider maneuvers to try to maximize their polling numbers nationally but force them to bypass time spent in Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two early voting states in the nominating contest.

"What Fox is attempting to do, and is actually bragging about doing, is a real threat to the first-in-the-nation primary," Mr. McQuaid told The Union Leader.

The Koch brothers and the Republican Party go to war — with each other // Yahoo News // Jon Ward – June 11, 2015

The Republican National Committee's data arm last yearcalled it a "historic" occasion when it struck a deal to share voter information with the Koch brothers' rapidly expanding political empire.

It was an uneasy détente between the party committee, which views itself as the rightful standard-bearer for the GOP, and the behemoth funded by Charles and David Koch, which is free of the campaign finance restrictions that bind the RNCand plans to spend almost $900 million in the 2016 election cycle to elect a Republican to the White House.

Party leaders, including the current chief digital officer for the RNC, hailed the deal as an important step forward in the GOP's attempt to modernize itself.

But after the fall midterm elections, the deal was allowed to expire without being renewed. Since then, relations between the two sides have soured, turning into what one Republican operative described as "all-out war." Interviews with more than three dozen people, including top decision-makers in both camps, have revealed that the Kochs' i360 platform for managing voter contacts — which is viewed by many as a superior, easier-to-use interface than what's on offer from the RNC — is becoming increasingly popular among Republican campaigns.

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The RNC is now openly arguing, however, that the Kochs' political operation is trying to control the Republican Party's master voter file, and to gain influence over — some even say control of — the GOP.

"I think it's very dangerous and wrong to allow a group of very strong, well-financed individuals who have no accountability to anyone to have control over who gets access to the data when, why and how," said Katie Walsh, the RNC's chief of staff.

The Koch brothers and the Republican Party go to war — with each other

The fight between the RNC's chairman and the political operatives affiliated with Charles and David Koch over who controls the rich treasury of data on likely Republican voters has raised fundamental questions about what role the party's central committee — even under the best management — can hope to play in the age of super-PACs. And it raises an even more fundamental question of how you define a political party.

Super-PACs emerged as a major new force in the wake of the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling in 2010. They now populate a political landscape that has been radically changed, leaving political parties weaker than they have ever been.

Presiding over the RNC in this new era has been Reince Priebus, who by all accounts has had a successful run as chairman since 2011. He brought the committee out of debtand has been a prolific fundraiser. He has worked hard toreform the party primary calendar to prevent a protracted fight similar to the 2012 primary that exhausts the eventual nominee. He has exerted control over the presidential primary debates, taking a hard line against moderators from media outlets who are perceived to be biased against Republicans, though he is experiencing pushback over his attempts to limit the number of participants in debates. And he has infused the building with young, digital-savvy staffers and elevated the importance of data, analytics and new technologies inside the committee.

Priebus believes the RNC is the proper custodian of the Republican Party's master file on the nation's electorate, which is used as a starting point for campaigns, who then use that information to build lists — called voter universes — of the people in a state or district that they want to target for both turnout and persuasion. Volunteers and donors are also targeted for recruitment using such lists.

The core issue, from Priebus' point of view, is one of loyalty and allegiance. The RNC is a permanent entity, committed to the Republican Party without question. The Koch network is too independent from the party to be trusted with possession of the GOP's most valuable core assets. If the Kochs — whose political history is steeped more in libertarianism than it is in any loyalty to the Republican Party — decided next week to use their database to benefit only their massive multinational corporation, they could do so.

The RNC, Walsh said, "has one job: to elect Republicans."

The Kochs' political arm, Freedom Partners, which oversees i360, views the issue as one of capability. Koch aides — several of whom used to work at the RNC — want to win elections, and in their view the RNC has inherent challenges to helping the party win. Party committee fundraising is severely limited by federal election law, while building, maintaining and enriching a database is expensive.

Michael Palmer, president of i360, emphasized in an email that his firm is a "private company that provides data, technology and analytical services to dozens of candidates, campaigns and other organizations that promote free market principles."

"Our clients own their own data and are free to share it as they see fit. We believe that a robust marketplace of political technology and data is a healthy way to advance past the single monopoly model that has failed the

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Republican Party in recent presidential elections," Palmer said.

Some in the Republican Party agree with Priebus' point of view, believing the issue of allegiance to be fundamental. Others in the GOP, even some in highly consequential positions, think Priebus and the RNC are crying wolf. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) have been reluctant to conclude that i360 represents a threat to the party.

And the problem for the RNC is that while it has political data going back roughly two decades, you need more than just data in order to be the data hub for a political party. And that is where the RNC has fallen short. Its data is good, and it has continued to enrich it and even to help campaigns and key battleground states build sophisticated voter universesthrough the work last year of a company called TargetPoint. But campaigns need to use data, not just have it on the shelf.

"You can have all the data in the world, but if you can't use it to go engage people, it's not worth that much," said Mike Moschella, vice president at NationBuilder, a nonpartisan company that specializes in building "communications systems" to talk to volunteers and voters through email, social media and targeted advertising.

This is where companies like i360, as well as companies like NationBuilder, have gained an edge. In 2013 the RNCpromised to build a next-level system called Beacon. But so far Beacon is being used by only a small handful of state parties, Walsh said. About 40 state parties are still using the RNC dashboard that Beacon was built to replace, GOP Data Center, which was designed a few years ago by a company called FLS Connect. The most common complaint from those who do not like Data Center is that it is not easy for the average volunteer or field staffer to use.

The RNC now acknowledges that it was slow to respond to the rise of i360.

"There was a time when the party itself had not made the investments it needed to make and had rested on its laurels," said one source who had firsthand knowledge of the RNC's data operation.

RNC chief strategist Sean Spicer and Walsh also said the RNC was not competitive enough with i360 over the past few years in giving campaigns and state parties tools to use the data. For as long as anyone could remember, the RNC had dispensed voter information to campaigns and state parties like a pharmacy, upon request. In modern campaigns, however, operatives want to manipulate the data themselves.

"People were calling to get access to data and were being told just call us and we'll send you a CD-ROM," Spicer said.

The source with firsthand knowledge of the RNC's operations said that "the Koch world groups saw an opportunity where they were filling a vacuum."

After the 2012 election, i360 and others gained market share in Republican politics because the RNC spent much of 2013 deliberating over what it planned to do, and state parties and campaigns who wanted to start recruiting volunteers and building a universe of target voters needed a system to work with immediately. In addition, i360 was developed with user experience in mind; it built up an enriched voter file as time went on and its client list grew, providing more inputs. Like some of the most successful tech companies, from Facebook to Snapchat, it built an audience first and then expanded its offerings.

During the 2014 election, a number of Senate campaigns used i360; i360 said it was 11 campaigns in all. This cycle the group says eight Senate campaigns are using its programs, including those of two of the most vulnerable Republican Senators up for reelection in 2016: Rob Portman (Ohio) and Kelly Ayotte (N.H.). It's not clear,

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however, how many of those campaigns used i360 for most or all of their voter contact.

Among the GOP presidential primary candidates, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) are using i360 data services exclusively, while former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) are building their own voter files. Former RNC chief technology officer Andy Barkett is a key player in the Bush operation, and his performance will be closely watched, since he was charged with building Beacon at the RNC. Barkett has told contemporaries that he was undermined at the RNC by FLS Connect and other private companies who didn't want to lose business from the RNC.

The RNC has signed data-sharing agreements with most of the 2016 candidates or likely candidates. And the RNC — as itdid in 2014 — is trying to discourage campaigns and state parties from signing up with i360, according to numerous conversations with people who have knowledge of such conversations. This was a tactic that irritated many people in 2014. But Walsh, the new chief of staff, appears to be setting a different tone that admits past shortcomings and focuses on the philosophical argument that the GOP's data should be housed at a party committee, not at a private business empire.

The RNC is now confronting the Kochs more openly than before, by having Walsh speak on the record for this article and by making other key players available for interviews. Their decision to take their dispute with i360 public shows the level of alarm inside the RNC at the growing clout of the Koch political empire. They have concluded that the Koch political machine wants to replace them and to essentially become a shadow party.

"It's pretty clear that they don't want to work with the party but want to supplant it," the source close to the RNC said.

Adding to the rivalry, in January i360 poached the RNC's chief digital officer, Chuck DeFeo, who had played a senior role within the party committee's digital operation in 2013 and 2014. DeFeo's departure was a surprise to the RNC, and his decision to work for a direct rival was not well-received in the fifth-floor suite of offices that house the committee's top decision-makers. There was talk of having him escorted by security from the building, though that did not materialize.

Palmer, the head of i360, said that his organization simply wants to be helpful to the Republican Party at large. "We have repeatedly expressed a willingness in working with the RNC, and we will continue to work with any organizations interested in advancing free markets and a free society," he said.

But Spicer said that i360 is trying to marginalize DataTrust — the RNC's private sector arm — by offering to share information only with the RNC and not DataTrust. Cutting DataTrust out of the picture would possibly cement i360 as both the main platform provider to operatives in the field doing voter contact.

As long as i360 and the RNC worked together, both entities would receive the same data from operatives and volunteers in the field knocking on doors and making calls. But if i360 achieved dominance as the user platform of choice for Republican operatives, and if its relationship with the RNC ever went south and data-sharing ended, the Kochs would continue to get the bulk of ongoing fresh data collection, while the RNC would have to scramble and might find itself well behind i360.

The fear at the RNC is that this would give a private business empire the master voter file in Republican politics, and the party's main committee would be reduced to that of playing a bit role.

The RNC is currently telling state parties and campaigns that it is updating GOP Data Center to make it more user-friendly. Walsh said this would be ready in three to four weeks.

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However, critics of DataTrust, the RNC's data arm, say that it is in serious financial trouble, and multiple sources — from Koch world to a major party committee to a source intimate with Republican congressional leadership — said that Priebus asked McConnell and Boehner to have their campaign committees give $1 million each to DataTrust to help with paying off debt. Both leaders were unreceptive, these sources said, believing a soft-money committee should be able to raise that kind of money from a few donors rather than having money from the committees — which is raised in much smaller amounts and harder to come by — transferred.

A source close to the Republican congressional leadership said that DataTrust "has barely existed for the last two cycles" because of its inability to raise money.

In mid-April, the RNC transferred $1.5 million to DataTrust. RNC and DataTrust officials characterized this transfer as routine business and denied that DataTrust has had any fundraising or debt problems.

McConnell and Boehner, according to the congressional source, do not share Priebus' concern that the Koch brothers could own the GOP's master voter file in any way that held the party hostage.

It would not be "as difficult as it sounds" for the GOP to reassemble its own file and its own voter contact apps if the partnership with i360 dissolved for some reason, the source said, adding, "Everybody needs to take a deep breath on this thing."

Walsh, the RNC chief of staff, had a different version of events. She said there was a meeting held last year where DataTrust president John DeStefano updated a room full of Republicans on the latest business plan for his organization and that one idea discussed was to have the National Republican Senatorial Committee and the National Republican Congressional Committee contract directly with DataTrust as a show of support for the organization.

"One of top bullet points was, 'i360 is gaining market share and how do we publicly show that the federal party committees are behind the DataTrust model?'" Walsh said. "It was not, 'We're out of money.'"

Prior to 2010, the NRSC and NRCC had contributed $1 million each to the RNC for data infrastructure costs, and Walsh said that prior model was interpreted by some to be what DeStefano and others were proposing. But, she said, "there was no dollar amount" mentioned.

"By no means did that imply a $1 million contribution," Walsh said.

The result of all this infighting is that for the moment, Republican campaigns and even state parties are Balkanized between different approaches on which database to use and how to use it.

The Kochs' i360 is the superior user platform with a rapidly growing adoption rate among campaigns, while the RNC's data is available to all who want it and is the de facto database for RNC field personnel who are placed in key states. DataTrust has an exclusive agreement to swap data with the RNC and has a client relationship with outside groups such as American Crossroads, the American Action Network and the National Rifle Association.

Even some state parties have chosen to use i360 instead of, or in addition to, the RNC's system in their elections.

"We used i360 a lot. We didn't really get into the DataTrust issue," said Joe Cluster, executive director of the Maryland Republican Party, which helped get Gov. Larry Hogan elected in a deep blue state last fall. "Maryland wasn't one of the states [the RNC was] prioritizing for getting that data up to speed."

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“Every time I sent [the RNC] a voter file, it took them three weeks to upload,” Cluster said. “They weren’t updating our data as quick as other people.”

In Florida, another key battleground state, the state party is using NationBuilder for some of its needs and is also getting some predictive models from i360.

But Florida is one of the clearest examples that there is a belief among some in Republican politics that the data they glean in the field should go back to the Republican National Committee. They are going out of their way to make sure that any information they collect using NationBuilder goes back to DataTrust. And while they are using some of the i360 information, they are intentionally not using the Koch brothers’ tools for voter outreach, because they want to use the RNC’s Data Center.

Florida’s choices are driven in large part by a belief that the RNC is the more appropriate repository for political data than the Kochs, according to a source with knowledge of the state party’s thinking.

Other state parties are using the RNC’s voter file but have built their own dashboards to use instead of FLS Connect’s Data Center, the clearest indication that for those who have the money, time and expertise, the RNC’s user interface of choice has not been as good as some would like it to be.

The Michigan Republican Party last cycle spent between $500,000 and $1 million to build its own dashboard. Ohio’s GOP hired a close friend of Gov. John Kasich, venture capitalist Mark Kvamme, to build a system for them. Both systems bypassed the FLS Connect product and accessed the RNC’s file at DataTrust directly.

One Republican data operative who worked in Florida during the 2012 election said that because FLS Connect’s Data Center is “not a good user interface, [the RNC doesn’t] get enough credit.”

“They have really good data. And they’re making it really easy for people who know what to do with it to get at it,” he said.

The challenge for most state parties and campaigns is that they don’t have the money or the expertise to build their own dashboard systems with which to access the RNC’s data.

The relevance of these questions to who wins and loses elections is often debated. In a wave midterm election like 2014, it may be insignificant. But in a presidential election, when the presidency can be decided in one or two swing states, or in a closely contested Senate or congressional race, a superior data and technology operation can be an important advantage.

Many Republicans believe that having a presidential nominee will solve most of the problems with infighting over data and bring coherence and cohesion. In 2008, President Obama insisted that Democrats get onboard with a company called NGP VAN and use their Votebuilder system — which is built on top of the master voter file housed at the Democratic National Committee — to interact with voters, building a more concerted system of inputs into one voter file.

But it could be that the GOP may not get on the same page until there is an incumbent Republican president who has the time and money before a reelection campaign to insist that the party row in the same direction.

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'16 At 30 Thousand // NBC // Carrie Dann & Andrew Rafferty – June 11, 2015

In a crowded Republican presidential field composed of candidates like Ted Cruz, Ben Carson and Mike Huckabee, Jeb Bush often gets painted as a moderate. After all, he's the (expected) candidate who supports Common Core and has taken a softer stance on immigration than nearly any other Republican running in 2016. But recent reporting on passages in his 1995 book "Profiles in Character" -- and his response to questions about it today -- is a good reminder that the former Florida governor is very conservative when it comes to social issues.

Bush wrote in 1995 that single mothers are on the rise because there is "no longer a stigma attached to this behavior" and "parents and neighbors have become ineffective at attaching some sense of ridicule to this behavior." And in 2001, he declined to veto a bill that required unwed mothers who did not know the paternity of a child to publish their sexual histories in the newspaper before being able to put their child up for adoption.(He did sign the bill with the understanding that the publication provision would be changed, and he later signed a repeal of the law after it was challenged in court.) Asked about the issue while in Warsaw today, Bush said, "My views have evolved over time, but my views about the importance of dads being involved in the lives of children hasn't changed at all." Remember, this is the governor who intervened to keep Terri Schiavo alive on life support in the early 2000s. From a GOP primary perspective, Bush may look like a moderate for his views on education and support for a path to legal status for undocumented workers. But from a general election perspective, if Bush ever makes it that far, aspects of his record on social issues would put him squarely on the right.

With Clinton bound for Sioux City, GOP piles on // Sioux City Journal // Bret Hayworth – June 11, 2015

With Hillary Clinton bound for her third trip in Iowa, Republican Party officials are working to offset the message of the former first lady many presume will end up as the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee. Clinton on Saturday will hold a house party at a Sioux City residence, then on Sunday will hold her first traditional town hall meeting of the cycle in Des Moines.

The Republican National Committee is ramping up with a 30-second ad, titled "Wrong For America," that will hit Facebook and other digital options in Sioux City and Des Moines. The RNC says Hillary's latest swing, coined as a campaign launch rally with a New York City event prior to coming to Iowa (she first became a candidate on April 12), shows she has had a clunky start to her campaign.

"Hillary Clinton's latest campaign reset won't change a thing. She still refuses to answer the serious questions surrounding her finances, her family foundation, and her secret email server," said RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said.

Additionally, the Iowa Republican Party will hold a Saturday event in Sioux City, where Central Committee Member Cody Hoefert, of Lyon County, will describe why he thinks Clinton would be a poor president.

Clinton's Iowa Press Secretary Patrick Burgwinkle said Clinton is enthused to see more Iowans, via her first stop in 2015 in Northwest Iowa. It may not handle a huge crowd, but the house party will undoubtedly pack as many local Democrats as possible. It also will be simulcast nationally.

"From Day 1 this campaign has said that we value Iowa and we want to get out there and listen to Iowans," Burgwinkle said.

Republicans release anti-Hillary Clinton ad ahead of her Charleston visit next week // The Post & Carrier // Schuyler Kropf – June 11, 2015

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The Republican National Committee is releasing a second digital ad targeting Hillary Clinton in advance of her second campaign trip to South Carolina. Clinton will be in Charleston on Wednesday.

The 30-second GOP ad targets Clinton for "her clunky rollout and how she's dishonest, out-of-touch, and untrustworthy."

"The ad is part of a campaign by the RNC to target and recruit voters who want to Stop Hillary Clinton," promotional material says.

The ads are slated to run in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada when Clinton travels to those states.

"Hillary Clinton's latest campaign reset won't change a thing. She still refuses to answer the serious questions surrounding her finances, her family foundation, and her secret email server," said RNC Chairman Reince Priebus.

Clinton's South Carolina campaign, meanwhile, issued a status update that included assembling 2,484 signed commit to vote cards, and 120 grassroots campaign events, including 59 phone banks.

"What she said basically was put families first and if you do that and if you do what's right for families the rest of it will follow," said Clinton supporter Jane Pulling of Pinopolis.

The Clinton campaign has not confirmed where her Charleston appearance will be but it is expected to have a college education theme.

Romney Hosting GOP Hopefuls at Utah Retreat // RealClearPolitics // Courtney Such – June 11, 2015

The climbing trip is just one of the many activities planned for Romney's annual E2 Summit – a networking event being held Thursday-Saturday for current and future candidates to mix and mingle with business executives, possible campaign donors, and each other. (E2 stands for "experts and enthusiasts.")

Sens. Lindsey Graham and Marco Rubio, Govs. Chris Christie, John Kasich, and Scott Walker, and Carly Fiorina are either already there or will be soon. Walker was among the first to arrive but did not look dressed for an adventure.

The guest list also includes New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte, former Obama adviser David Axelrod, newswoman Katie Couric, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt, Walmart CEO Lee Scot; former NBA Commissioner David Stern, and Hewlett-Packard CEO Meg Whitman, according to an AP report.

"It's a good chance for 2016 candidates. … We brought in a lot of our donors; they can meet people, get to know them, and sell them on why they think they're the best candidate," the Boston Globe reported Romney's son Tagg saying Wednesday night in preparation for the event.

Aside from networking, this year's E2 agenda includes flag football, skeet shooting, yoga, horseback riding, and a

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hot air balloon ride, according to ABC News.

Romney also hopes to share a little bit of campaign wisdom on what not to do during the presidential race.

"I think there's a lot you can learn from talking with a candidate who has run and won, but there's also a lot you can learn from a candidate who has run and lost," Craig Robinson, former political director of the Republican Party of Iowa, told The Hill.

"There were clearly problems with the Romney campaign, but if you get into [an event like this] you can really expand your knowledge base," he added.

Although Romney's days as a candidate are behind him, his efforts to have an influence on the nation's leadership are not over.

"I have come away more optimistic about America. It is the failing of White House leadership that concerns me, and that must change. I lost the election, but I will continue to fight," Romney said in his 2013 E2 Summit address.

As for what the presidential hopefuls want to get out of the retreat, they've largely been mum.

"The Governor is attending on behalf of Leadership Matters for America PAC," and the trip is "not a part of a campaign," Samantha Smith wrote RCP in an email on behalf of Gov. Christie.

Marco Rubio's team did not wish to comment, either, due to the private nature of the event.

A spokesman for Graham, however, told RCP in an email the South Carolina senator "is looking forward to discussing the importance of American leadership in the world and how a strong global presence keeps our nation safe."

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Trade Fight Goes to the Wire // WSJ // Siobhan Hughes, Kristina Peterson & William Mauldin – June 11, 2015

Supporters and foes of President Barack Obama's bid to craft a sweeping Pacific trade deal waged furious, last-ditch campaigns hours before decisive votes set for Friday in the House.

The vote over whether to grant the president the power to expedite trade pacts looks set to be razor-thin, with serious consequences for all sides. Victory would mark a triumph for the White House, Republican congressional leaders and the business community, and a sharp blow to the unions who have pulled out all stops to defeat the bill.

The chief opponents in the fight—labor unions and progressive groups on one side and the Obama administration

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on the other—converged on Congress Thursday to appeal to a Democratic caucus torn over the benefits of trade and its impact on American jobs.

Capital Journal is WSJ.com's home for politics, policy and national security news.

After that, AFL-CIO Chief Richard Trumka, who represents millions of union workers, urged Democrats to vote against both the fast-track bill and a worker's aid program that pays to retrain workers who lost their jobs to trade—aid labor has favored for decades. "Nothing is off the table" in the trade fight, Mr. Trumka said earlier this week.

Labor opposes the assistance as it appears in the current bill for a larger aim: because ending it would likely scuttle the elaborate package designed to grease passage of the fast-track legislation Mr. Obama needs to complete the Pacific deal. Unions say that deal would promote inadequate labor standards, threaten U.S. jobs and give companies incentives to move jobs abroad.

The battle between the White House and the party's progressive wing overshadowed the first step in a multipart plan by House Republican leaders aimed at getting to a Friday vote on the fast-track bill.

Approval of fast-track would give Mr. Obama the authority to submit trade deals to Congress for an up-or-down vote without amendments, as previous presidents have done. Such power would ease passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a deal among the U.S. and 11 other nations to liberalize trade across nearly 40% of the world economy.

"I have talked to the president," House Speaker John Boehner (R., Ohio) said Thursday. "He's working at this. And I hope his efforts are successful."

Supporters of the trade bill overcame an initial hurdle Thursday when the House overwhelmingly passed a trade preferences bill that was designed to accommodate new concerns among Democrats about how the workers' aid program—known as Trade Adjustment Assistance—was to be funded. But the party's progressive wing wasn't assuaged, raising a fresh set of concerns and setting up another obstacle for a fast-track bill that has already faced many of them.

Democrats had earlier threatened to vote against the workers-aid program because it was to be paid for with cuts to Medicare providers. Under a deal negotiated over the course of the week by Mr. Boehner and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.), a new funding mechanism was included in the package of trade preferences for sub-Saharan Africa. It set out that the aid would be paid for by cracking down on tax fraud and boosting tax compliance.

The new provision was aimed at allowing Democrats to vote for trade legislation on Friday without worrying that they would be criticized for voting for Medicare cuts.

Mr. Trumka, the labor leader, worked to undercut the strategy, at one point likening Democrats who voted for the workers' aid program to lost souls. "He didn't get into any hard-line threats," said Rep. Peter DeFazio (D., Ore.) "He just thanked those who were with him…and he said he would pray for the rest."

The White House made its own tough case, arguing that unless Democrats voted for the workers' aid program, the program would expire at the end of the fiscal year. "We need to treat this moment for what it is: a life-or-death moment for TAA," Mr. Lew told Democrats, according to an aide in the room.

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"If you're a member of Congress, and you vote against Trade Adjustment Assistance this week, you are adding your name to the death certificate of Trade Adjustment Assistance because it will go away," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said later.

Thursday's scuffles in the House are just one front in a much larger, district-by-district fight that has targeted lawmakers across the country. Fierce opponents of the trade bill on the left and right have sent notably similar messages in a bid to thwart the legislation.

Unions and progressive groups are emphasizing arguments that also appeal to conservative organizations, accusing the Obama administration of undue secrecy, stretching the limits of executive power and undermining U.S. sovereignty.

"The left is using the language I use," said Richard Manning, president of Americans for Limited Government, a conservative group that is working to defeat fast-track legislation.

The Stop Fast Track coalition, backed by unions and groups such as the Sierra Club and the American Civil Liberties Union, is asking the public to call members of Congress and tell them the legislation is "undemocratic"—a message that appeals to voters of both parties.

"There are some areas where the guys on the left—unions and others—get it right, and this is one of those issues," said Judson Phillips, head of Tea Party Nation, one of the main tea party organizations.

Leaders of left-leaning and conservative groups aren't working hand in hand—an approach that would likely backfire in today's polarized capital—but their combined message is forcing Mr. Obama and Republican leaders who back the fast-track bill to fight a two-front war as they seek to corral the final votes.

Backed by Republican leadership, Mr. Obama says the Pacific pact, which includes Japan and Vietnam, would increase U.S. influence in the fast-growing region, promoting U.S.-favored commercial rules of the road as an alternative to China's economic system.

The plan is for the House to hold two fast-track votes Friday, one on the portion of the Senate bill that deals with worker aid legislation—funded by cuts to Medicare providers—followed by one on the part of the bill providing fast-track powers to Mr. Obama. The two issues were split up in a procedural maneuver known as "dividing the question" to allow conservatives opposed to the workers aid to vote against it.

If the worker aid portion is defeated, the fast-track vote wouldn't be held and House leaders would have to regroup. That scenario loomed larger on Thursday, alarming the White House and setting off a scramble to avoid that defeat.

But if the House passes the aid portion, it would then move on to fast-track, which promises to be one of the most suspenseful—and consequential—votes of Mr. Obama's second term. House passage of the two parts of the Senate-passed measure would send it directly to Mr. Obama for his signature.

Democrats block cyber bill, leaving measure in limbo **// Politico // Tal Kopan – June 11, 2015**

Democrats made good on their threats to block a bipartisan cybersecurity bill on Thursday, after they were infuriated by Republican procedural moves to pass the bill with only limited amendments, something Democrats

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called a “cynical ploy.”

The partisan blowup marked a stunning turn for legislation that’s enjoyed broad support. The measure had gained new urgency after the Office of Personnel Management announced 4 million federal employees’ records had been breached — at the hands of Chinese hackers, according to anonymous federal officials.

Privacy advocates in both parties had wanted to strengthen personal data protections in the measure, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s (R-Ky.) procedural gambit made it next to impossible to make those changes.

So Democrats and libertarian-leaning Republicans banded together to defeat McConnell’s plan to attach the cyberthreat information sharing legislation to the National Defense Authorization Act days. The procedural vote was 56-40, with McConnell needing 60 votes to advance the cyber bill.

The majority of Democrats were joined by several Republicans, including Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.), to block the bill from moving forward.

On the other side, a handful of Democrats, including Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), Mark Warner (D-Va.) and Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), voted with McConnell to advance the cyber measure.

Senate Intelligence Committee ranking member Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) was the bellwether for Democrats on the bill. Despite having co-authored the measure, she opposed cloture and emerged from Thursday party lunches confident Democrats were closely aligned against advancing the amendment.

“We don’t oppose the bill, we just want it to come separately,” Feinstein said. “I think putting it on the defense bill doesn’t really make any sense. The cyber bill will take time. You just can’t pretend it’s an amendment that you can do in an hour. You can’t do it. It’s going to take debate, members want to express themselves, concerns want to be raised, and some of us want an opportunity to be able to say why certain things were done so that everybody knows.”

What happens next for the bill is unclear. The information sharing bill was expected to come to the floor as a standalone measure toward the end of the month before the McConnell move this week to attach it to the NDAA.

Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas) told reporters he wasn’t sure what would happen after Democrats sustained a filibuster: “We have a Plan A and a Plan B, and Plan B is Plan A,” he said.

“I am astonished that just after, what, it’s 4 million Americans’ records have been hacked at the Office of Personnel Management that they would not recognize the cyberthreat as real and something we need to deal with,” Cornyn added. “The president, as I recall, was just recently chastising Congress for not dealing with this, so we are, we have and we are, and I think it’s irresponsible to try to block it.”

Both sides accused the other of playing politics. Republicans said Democrats were being hypocrites for opposing cybersecurity legislation and Democrats threw the charge back at the GOP for attaching cybersecurity to a bill that has earned a presidential veto threat — though the NDAA has become law each year for decades.

Emotions ran high on the floor Thursday morning, as McConnell and Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) fired increasingly harsh criticisms at each other.

“Most Americans would find it awfully cynical for Democrat leaders — in the wake of the Administration’s inability — inability — to stop such a massive cyberattack — to vote against the very same cybersecurity legislation their own party vetted and overwhelmingly endorsed in committee,” McConnell said.

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“This speech that my friend gave, I would suggest he walk into his office, his little bathroom there, walk in and look in the mirror, because over that mirror, he should be able to see the words hypocrisy and cynicism,” Reid fired back.

Reid called the move to attach the amendment to the bill a “cynical” and “deceitful ploy.”

In fact, the cyber bill isn’t as controversial as Thursday’s rhetoric would suggest. The basic idea is to give companies protections from lawsuits so they can share cyberthreat data with each other and with government. The House overwhelmingly passed similar legislation in April.

But some Democrats and libertarian-leaning Republicans have opposed the bill as written, calling it a surveillance measure masquerading as a cybersecurity bill. While none have believed they have the votes to stop the bill’s passage outright, even some of the Democrats who voted to advance the bill in the Intelligence Committee believed there would be an opportunity to offer amendments bolstering the privacy protections in the bill when it came to the floor.

Dennis Hastert pleads not guilty on all counts // CNN // Chris Frates, Bill Kirkos and Tom LoBianco – June 11, 2015

Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert has pleaded not guilty to all charges related to lying to the FBI about $3.5 million he agreed to pay to an undisclosed subject to "cover up past misconduct."

Hastert was arraigned in court in Chicago on Tuesday afternoon, amid reports he allegedly sexually abused former students.

The former House speaker has hired high-profile white collar crime lawyer Thomas Green to defend him in court. Green has defended clients involved in Watergate, Iran Contra and Whitewater.

Judge Thomas Durkin is allowing Hastert to be released on a pretrial release. Hastert had to sign and appearance bond of $4,500 which he forfeits if he fails to appear.

He was also barred from carrying firearms, had to surrender his passport and cooperate in giving a sample of DNA.

Hastert faces charges of lying to federal investigators and hiding bank transactions as part of a plan to pay $3.5 million in hush money to one of his victims, identified only as "Individual A". Law enforcement sources confirmed a second alleged victim was interviewed by them and the sister of a third alleged victim told ABC that her brother had been molested by Hastert.

Hastert worked as a high school teacher and wrestling coach before starting his career in politics. By the time he retired, in 2007, Hastert was the third most powerful public official in the U.S. (behind the president and vice president). During his time atop the House, Hastert oversaw an internal investigation of then-U.S. Rep. Mark Foley, who had been accused of sexually harassing male pages.

A few years after he left the House, according to the indictment against Hastert, he was approached by "Individual A" and agreed to pay $3.5 million to cover up "past misconduct". From 2010-2014, Hastert paid $1.7 million to

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the person, avoiding bank reporting requirements in the process.

Hastert returned to his Plano, Ill. home Monday night. ABC News reported that Hastert had been at his Wisconsin vacation home before returning to Illinois.

INTERNATIONAL

Obama Looks at Adding Bases and Troops in Iraq, to Fight ISIS // NYT //Peter Baker, Helene Cooper & Michael r. Gordon – June 11, 2015

President Obama is open to expanding the American military footprint in Iraq with a network of bases and possibly hundreds of additional troops to support Iraqi security forces in their fight against the Islamic State, White House officials said on Thursday.

As Iraqi forces struggle on the battlefield, aides said Mr. Obama would consider establishing a series of outposts where American advisers would work with Iraqi troops and local tribesmen. The bases would be run by Iraqis, and Americans would still not engage in ground combat, but they would play a more active role closer to the front lines.

White House officials stressed that no proposal has been presented to Mr. Obama and added that they anticipated no decision in the next few weeks. But the prospect of further escalation came a day after the administration announced the opening of a new base in Anbar Province, an Islamic State stronghold, with an additional 450 American troops, bringing the total in Iraq to 3,550 — the size of a typical Army brigade.

Administration officials said they would evaluate whether that new Anbar base makes a difference in coordinating the war effort and, if it does, would consider replicating the approach in other parts of the country. Although officials said it was possible other bases could be opened without again sending more American troops, they acknowledged that more bases could require additional deployments.

For Mr. Obama, who has long resisted being drawn into another ground war since pulling out all forces in 2011, the latest developments represented another incremental step back into a sectarian conflict he had once hoped to be done with by the time he left office. Supporters of a more robust effort against the Islamic State called it a welcome if inadequate step to make good on the White House's vow to defeat the Islamic State, while critics warned of sliding into a broader, bloodier and ultimately ineffective campaign.

"The reason that we would consider expanding the training operation and the advise-and-assist operation that's underway will be because it's been an effective element of our strategy," said Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary. But Mr. Earnest emphasized that it was still "very hypothetical" and that "there are no immediate or specific plans to do that."

Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, publicly raised the idea of establishing a network of what he called "lily pads" in Iraq while on a trip to Italy on Thursday. He said he did not envision another military base in Anbar, but Pentagon planners were looking at more northern areas for additional sites.

"You could see one in the corridor from Baghdad to Tikrit to Kirkuk to Mosul," General Dempsey told reporters aboard his plane.

The model would be the new base already being built at Al Taqqadum, an Iraqi post near the town of Habbaniya in eastern Anbar. The American troops being sent there are to set up the hub primarily to advise and assist Iraqi forces and to engage and reach out to Sunni tribes in Anbar, officials said. One focus for the Americans will be to try to accelerate the integration of Sunni fighters into the Iraqi Army, which is dominated by Shiites.

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As the arrangements at Al Taqqadum show, even deploying small teams of advisers at a new base can involve much greater troop commitments. The number of Americans actually involved in advising the Iraqis at the base would be just a small fraction of the 450 announced by the administration.

While American officials said earlier this week that 110 would be directly involved in training and advising, on Thursday they said there would be just 50 advisers. They will be split into two teams, Special Forces who will work with Sunni tribes, and advisers who will work with the 8th Iraqi Army Division. The rest are to provide support, logistics and force protection.

Although the goal is to retake the city of Ramadi, which fell to the Islamic State last month, General Dempsey indicated that an effort may be months away. He said it would take several weeks for the initial command and control center to be set up at Al Taqqadum.

“Timetables are fragile,” he said. “They are dependent on so many different factors.”

For the Pentagon, the timing has been a difficult issue as the United States Central Command and the Iraqi government have clashed over the pace of efforts by Iraqi security forces to retake areas captured by the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL. While the American military once forecast recapturing Mosul this spring, the fall of Ramadi less than 70 miles from Baghdad put that city much higher on the priority list.

Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a graduation and commissioning ceremony at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., last month. Credit Mike Groll/Associated Press

General Dempsey said the United States was still hoping the Iraqi government would find a way to engage Sunnis to beat back the Islamic State, but he also talked of what he called a “Plan B” in case that never happens.

“We have not given up on the possibility that the Iraqi government could absolutely be whole,” he said, but added that “the game changers are going to have to come from the Iraqi government itself.”

“If we reach a point where we don’t think those game changers are successful,” he added, “then we will have to look for other avenues to maintain pressure on ISIL, and we will have to look at other partners.”

Mr. Obama discussed the Taqqadum plan with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq during a meeting in Germany earlier this month. But other Americans and Iraqi officials said they have also talked about expanding the concept beyond Al Taqqadum to other locations.

Some of President Obama’s statements about the American strategy to confront ISIS and its effectiveness.

Both sides have been deliberate about the idea. Sensitive to their own domestic politics, the Iraqis have said that any new American footholds in Iraq should be determined on a case- by-case basis. As a general rule, the Obama administration has conditioned American support on steps toward political inclusiveness and reform in Iraq.

Benjamin J. Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser to Mr. Obama, noted that with Al Taqqadum the president has already approved five hubs for American troops in Iraq, but has no specific plans for others at this point. “It’s more like notionally we may want to do more of that,” he said.

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Mr. Rhodes acknowledged what he called the concern of "a steady drip, drip, drip of personnel," but added that it was possible new bases could be established by moving troops around rather than sending more. Mr. Obama, he said, was not especially concerned about specific numbers of troops.

"What he's been more focused on is what they are doing," Mr. Rhodes said. "He's been more focused on not getting drawn into a combat role for U.S. forces."

The so-called lily pad bases could provide the American military with a way to advise and support Iraqi troops charged with protecting supply lines, towns and infrastructure if they do try to reclaim Mosul. And they could signal increased focus on supporting local tribes and fighters, as urged by the State Department.

"The closer the U.S. military is to the action on the ground, the better the chances of influencing positive outcomes, especially in building trusted relationships with the Sunni again," said Richard D. Welch, a retired Special Forces colonel who spent more than six years in Iraq.

At the same time, it is not clear the approach can be effective if advisers stay on bases. Many former American military officers argue the best way to help the Iraqis retake Ramadi and other cities is to have small American teams advise Iraqis on the battlefield and call in airstrikes.

Even keeping troops on base may have risks. In February, eight suicide bombers tried to get into an air base west of Baghdad where hundreds of American Marines were training Iraqi counterparts. Officials said the bombers were killed almost immediately by Iraqi forces.

Anthony Cordesman, a military analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the latest moves may have some merit. "But creeping incrementalism is rarely a way of correcting a failed or inadequate strategy," he said, "and this approach certainly is not a new strategy or a way of addressing the problems that the existing strategy does not address."

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Republicans must stop derailing the Benghazi committee // WaPo // Elijah Cummings – June 11, 2015

Now that the State Department has released former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton's e-mails relating to the attacks in Benghazi, the American people can see for themselves that there is not a scrap of evidence to back up claims that Clinton issued a "stand-down" order, or any of the other baseless allegations that Republicans have been making about her for years.

This is exactly what Reps. Adam Smith (Wash.), Adam Schiff (Calif.), Linda Sanchez (Calif.), Tammy Duckworth (Ill.) and I — the Democratic members of the Select Committee on Benghazi — have been saying since we obtained Clinton's e-mails in February. And it's why all five of us believe the time has come to voice the grave concerns we share over the extremely partisan and misguided direction this committee has taken.

For those keeping track, the committee has spent more than a year and more than $3 million trying to find evidence to damage Clinton and her presidential campaign, even as it continues to come up empty-handed.

Already, the committee has lasted longer than the investigations of the Iran-Contra affair, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the attack on Pearl Harbor and Hurricane Katrina.

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Yet the committee's chairman, Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), may not release his findings until just months before next year's presidential election, according to news reports.

At this glacial pace, the Benghazi investigation will last longer than the Watergate investigation and the 9/11 Commission, and it will squander more than $6 million in taxpayer funds.

But that has not stopped Republicans from dragging out the committee's work, offering new excuses at every turn, and — in an astonishing and disgraceful display — seeking to raise campaign funds off the deaths of four brave Americans.

Now, House Republicans want to withhold nearly $700 million from the State Department's operational budget in an Orwellian attempt to improve the department's document production processes.

That simply makes no sense. Withholding two-thirds of a billion dollars from the department's budget — more than all of the salaries of all of the employees working on document production — would only grind the process to a halt.

The committee should stop blaming others for its own delays. It waited more than six months to send a request for new documents to the State Department and nearly a year to send new document requests to the Pentagon and the CIA. The committee has not held a single hearing in 19 weeks, despite the chairman's assertion that there would be public hearings on a monthly basis. It refuses to set a date for Clinton's testimony, although she has been willing to appear since last year.

Pushing this taxpayer-funded political attack further into election season sacrifices any chance that the American people will see it as serious or legitimate. As Greta Van Susteren of Fox News has warned, the committee's findings "will forever be plagued by allegations of unfairness, and politics."

Recognizing this fact, Republicans are becoming more desperate to justify the committee's existence, and they are resorting to strong-arm tactics straight out of the partisan playbook of discredited GOP investigations of the past.

For example, the committee majority recently issued a completely unnecessary subpoena without first contacting the witness. It clearly leaked this news before the subpoena was served and sent armed marshals to the witness's home to confront his wife — all just to get a cheap headline.

These actions directly contradict the spirit of the chairman's previous statement that compelling the testimony of cooperative witnesses such as Clinton "just seems a little heavy-handed," as well as his claim that "serious investigations do not leak information."

After nine reports on the Benghazi attacks from seven congressional committees and the independent Accountability Review Board, how many more times will Republicans investigate Clinton — and how much more will we be forced to spend — before they stop trying to prove that she engaged in some sort of conspiracy?

This slow-walked and abusive political charade on the taxpayers' dime is exactly the opposite of what we promised the families of those who were killed in Benghazi.

If there is any minuscule chance left to salvage the Benghazi committee's place in history, we need to return immediately to our core mission of implementing concrete reforms designed to help protect our diplomatic corps around the world.

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The Battle for the 2016 Middle Ground // WSJ // Daniel Arbess – June 11, 2015

America is not as polarized as it might seem from the noise level that in recent years has propelled into office candidates from both parties who hold marginal views. Nonpartisan independents, including the majority of Americans 18-30, are now by far the largest group of voters, representing up to 45% of the total and rising, according to the Pew Research Center. The question is how the presidential candidates in 2016 will engage and try to persuade this critical block of moderates.

Institutional momentum favors the Republicans, whose party is about a decade ahead of Democrats in the disintegration-reinvention cycle, having hit the polarized bottom with the tea party around 2009. Republicans now appear ready to come back toward the center, while Democrats seem to be marching to the left.

Hillary Clinton is unlikely to cede the party's liberal base to economic redistributionists like Bernie Sanders, and the next generation's version, Martin O'Malley. Any remnants of the Clinton centrism that marked her husband's tenure in the White House may have vanished by the time Mrs. Clinton becomes, as expected, the Democratic nominee.

The Clinton brand remains more popular than the Bush brand, however, suggesting that moderate Republicans will need a fresh face and new ideas that appeal to the party's base. Jeb Bush has reportedly talked about how to win the general without winning the primary—in other words, without aggressively courting the tea party and evangelical wings. But returning to the politics of compromise and collaboration has to start at home: The Republicans will have to find a formula and ticket that makes space in the big tent for the fired-up base and the more-moderate establishment.

A candidate like Ted Cruz could play a pivotal role. The senator from Texas is assiduously cultivating what he calls the tea party and evangelical "brackets," yet despite his early filibustering antics, he has experience as a Supreme Court litigator and seems to understand the importance of engaging the other side. He shows Reagan-quality conviction and willingness to state reality in foreign policy and, while his personal beliefs on social issues are on the far side of the tent, he seems above all willing to honor Supreme Court decisions and the legislative will of the states. The 44-year-old Sen. Cruz is definitely young and fresh, yet he might come to realize that, on the evidence of the past eight years, another presidency for a newcomer to the national scene is unlikely.

Right-wired players like a Sen. Cruz or Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker might still be kingmakers if they manage to get centrists to accept their tea party and evangelical supporters as patriots dedicated to those most-American values of liberty, entrepreneurial initiative and family; moderate their own approach on domestic policy; and deliver their support to a more centrist candidate for a place on the ticket or in the cabinet. Ted Cruz might make an excellent partner for Jeb Bush.

Meanwhile, Marco Rubio, also 44, has more experience than Barack Obama did before he entered the 2008 race, and he is more collaborative than President Obama has ever been. The senator from Florida needs to do something creative to offset his own relative inexperience and lack of financial clout compared with the Bush family machine. An alliance of 40-somethings—Sen. Rubio and Sen. Cruz or the 47-year-old Gov. Walker—might well offer enough experience, generational freshness, vision and broad support to secure the Republican nomination.

There is also the chance for a true wild-card—a ticket led by the hugely accomplished centrist independent Michael Bloomberg. But his candidacy, even if he hasn't ruled out a run, would probably, by his own estimation, be a long shot. In any case a reunified Republican Party would be in the best position to reach across the aisle and lead a return in Washington to the bipartisan collaboration and compromise envisioned by the Constitution.

We saw it during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, two of the most effective American leaders of

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the past 50 years, and it might come to pass that the silent plurality will let us see it again, beginning in 2016

How Bill Clinton and Teneo duped t he State Dept. ethics dummies // Leader & Times // Dick Morris – June 11, 2015

In 2011, Bill Clinton had a problem. He had already figured out how to parlay his reputation into income by giving speeches. But, now, with his wife serving as Secretary of State and a Democrat in the White House, he wanted to take things to the next level and actually solicit relationships with major companies and foreign governments.

He envisioned a network of corporate and foreign clients who would give him speaking fees, generate consulting income in which he could share, and give to his Foundation whose assets and income he could use as he wished.

But to realize this grand vision, he needed an intermediary that would get clients and nurture the web he envisioned. So, working through his top aide and protégée, Doug Band, he set up Teneo.

Band, for his part, realized this was the way to cash in on the relationship with his boss.

But Doug and Bill faced a problem. They needed the approval of the State Department Ethics Office that Obama had made Hillary set up to monitor the business dealings of her peripatetic husband.

So they scrubbed the application. Band's role as a principal of Teneo was omitted and he was identified just as the Clinton aide who submitted the application. The real purpose of the new company was hidden and the application claimed it was only designed "to study geopolitical, economic and social trends."

In fact, it was a deal to hire Bill using his name and relationship with Hillary to attract global corporate and government clients. In return, Teneo paid him handsomely, solicited donations for the Clinton Foundation and set up lucrative speaking engagements for Bill.

Win-win Teneo and Clinton. He'd get them clients; they'd get him speaking gigs.

Team Teneo desperately wanted Bill Clinton to head its Advisory Board – so it could hold out the former President and husband of the Secretary of State as part of its team.

For its part, Teneo planned to tell corporations and governments about how to fashion a positive relationship with the US government and the State Department to get what they wanted.

Teneo itself described their company's mission:

"In the US, we use our deep relationships to provide strategic counsel and help clients navigate policy debates in Washington and state capitals as they look to find support, amplification and clarity around the issues that they care about."

Who better to do so than the former president and current husband of the Secretary? But Teneo couldn't tell the Ethics Officers that this was the real substance of the deal.

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An earlier application by the Clinton Foundation requesting approval of a business relationship between Bill Clinton and billionaire Clinton supporter and donor Haim Saban had been rejected. The Ethics Officer turned it down “based on the fact that Haim Saban, a founder of this entity, is actively involved in foreign affairs issues, particularly with regards to the Middle East, which is a priority area for the Secretary.” Since Teneo and its clients intended to be involved in global affairs that were a priority for the Secretary of State, there was a likelihood that the Teneo request would be denied, too.

Clinton and Band did all they could to hide the real nature of Teneo and make it seem like a routine application for State Department review.

But it was anything but routine.

The big red flag was out there in plain view for the Ethics Police to see: For the first time in two years and hundreds of submissions to the Ethics Board, this application came directly from Doug Band and not from the normal channels at the Clinton Foundation. And, again, for the first time, the request was not copied to the Clinton Foundation, but only to Cheryl Mills. The inner circle was keeping things tight.

But the State Department missed that one completely.

And, according to documents released to Judicial Watch, the State dupes never raised a question as to who was running Teneo and how Clinton would function. Had they done so, they would have discovered that Band’s other partner was Declan Kelly.

As a kind of pre-cursor to Teneo, Hillary had appointed Kelly to the newly created job as the State Department’s Special Economic Envoy to Ireland. A major donor, supporter, and financial bundler for Hillary the job put Kelly in touch with corporations in and out of Ireland on behalf of the U.S. State Department. Translation: he networked for future clients.

Now he was leaving the State Department to do the same thing for Teneo. But that conflict of interest eluded the State Department ethics dummies too.

In fact, his role begs the question of why would the State Department appoint an Irish citizen as its “economic envoy” to Ireland? Why would we even have an economic envoy to Ireland? The answer is simple — because the Clintons saw the future value — for them. And then they grabbed it. According to Irish Central, (Kelly’s) “connection and bond to President Clinton has opened up major avenues to him. In a business where power and influence is everything he has the 800-pound gorilla in his corner.”

And Kelly made sure that gorilla was well fed.

The Ethics Police never asked exactly what Clinton would be doing for Teneo. They just rubber-stamped the request.

But Bill made clear exactly what was going on when he announced that, the next year, that he had “changed his relationship” with Teneo.

“Because of the invaluable help I continue to receive with my business relationships and speaking engagements, as

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well as with CGI and other philanthropic activities, like the Ireland investment conference, I felt that I should be paying them, not the other way around."

And that valuable help has been seen in his overseas and corporate speaking engagements and the millions given to the Foundation.

Bill Clinton had the deepest of relationships in the U.S. and around the globe and perfectly fit Teneo's needs. A match made in heaven.

And no worries about the State Department.

Alexandria Phillips

Press Assistant | *Communications*

Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/23/2015 1:53:08 PM
Subject:	Fwd: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA

Can you tweet statement with something very simple like Guistra replies, adding actual facts to NYT conjecture.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com >
Date: Apr 23, 2015 8:06 PM
Subject: Statement of Frank Giustra | CEO.CA
To: "hrcrapid@googlegroups.com " <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com >
Cc:

http://ceo.ca/2015/04/23/statement-of-frank-giustra/

Statement of Frank Giustra

POSTED ON APRIL 23, 2015 BY FRANK GIUSTRA
CATEGORY FRANK GIUSTRA ,

A book that has not yet been published has caused the New York Times to publish a wildly speculative, innuendo-laced article about the Clinton Foundation and my role in contributing money to it. There is not one shred of evidence to back up the Times' conclusions. This is not about me, but rather an attempt to tear down Secretary Clinton and her presidential campaign. If this is what passes for investigative journalism in the United States, it is very sad.

The facts do not comport with the story in the New York Times. The reporter, Jo Becker, wrote a similar piece in 2008, which was eventually debunked by Forbes. http://www.forbes.com/2009/01/12/giustra-clinton-kazakhstan-pf-ii-in_rl_0912croesus_inl.html

1. I began working on financing the purchase of mining stakes from a private Kazakh company in early 2005. The purchase was concluded in late 2005.

- In late 2005, I went to Kazakhstan to finish the negotiations of the sale. Bill Clinton flew to Almaty a few days after I arrived in the country on another person's plane, not on my plane, as the Times reported. Bill Clinton had nothing to do with the purchase of private mining stakes by a Canadian company.
- I sold all of my stakes in the uranium company – Uranium One – in the fall of 2007, after it merged with another company. I would note that those were sold at least 18 months before Hillary Clinton became the Secretary of State. No one was speculating at that time that she would become the Secretary of State.
- Other media outlets have insinuated that I influenced the decision by the U.S. to sign a free trade agreement with Colombia. At one point, I was an investor in Pacific Rubiales, a Colombian energy company. I sold my shares in Pacific Rubiales several years before the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, which, I will note, was approved by several U.S. agencies and the White House. To theorize that I had anything to do with that is sheer conjecture.

I hope that the U.S. media can start to focus on the real challenges of the world and U.S. society. Focus on poverty, homelessness, infrastructure, health care, education, or fractious world politics. You are a great country. Don't ruin it by letting those with political agendas take over your newspapers and your airwaves.

I am extremely proud of the work that we have done at the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership. Thousands of people, all over the world, have been helped by this initiative. I plan to continue that work long after the harsh glare of this week's media stories has faded.

4 Votes

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Sent from my iPad

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/22/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: Success in Ukraine could Threaten Western Unity

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here.

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund of the United States
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Transatlantic Take

Success in Ukraine Could Threaten Western Unity

Andrew Moravcsik — November 23, 2015

WASHINGTON—Today's headlines about Syria obscure a major triumph for Western policy. Ukraine seems to be heading toward an informal settlement largely on European and U.S. terms. Yet this success could threaten the very Western unity that brought it about.

Over the past three months, Ukraine has witnessed a stable cease fire, partial withdrawal of military equipment, scheduling of federal instead of separatist elections, and a plan to bolster OSCE monitoring. Russian President Vladimir Putin seems resigned to pursue his aims primarily through economic and political means. In hard-headed Kissingerian terms, two years of conflict have shifted Ukraine from the Russian sphere of influence into the Western camp. Putin's actions in Crimea have failed to undermine the post-Cold War global order elsewhere in the world.

This marks a considerable Western achievement. Of course the result is not perfect. Crimea remains — and, realistically, will remain — Russian. Ukraine continues to be economically vulnerable. Complex negotiations will be required to unfreeze the conflict in its eastern provinces — and they may fail. For the moment, however, facing a no-win situation, Putin is playing along.

Yet over the next six months, transatlantic and intra-European tensions may distract Western governments from the successful formula they have pursued, which stresses civilian power wielded by a German-led Europe. Three dangers loom...

FULL ARTICLE

Andrew Moravcsik is a Senior Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy, an initiative of the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, DC, and Professor of Politics and Public Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University.

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	7/30/2015 8:24:55 PM
Subject:	Clinton Foundation in the News: Donor Update

Today, the Clinton Foundation updated its donor posting with contributors who gave in the first two quarters of 2015. We wanted to make sure you were aware, and had information about today's news.

In Elite Daily today, Clinton Foundation supporter, Benjamin Cunningham, a donor who gave $230 for the first time last year because he was drawn to the work, shared why he contributes and how his support impacts lives around the world:

> *"This new breed of philanthropy that former US president Bill Clinton has pioneered is helping several initiatives to become more efficient and effective in their efforts to improve lives around the world."*
>
> *"I'm proud to support an organization that shares my commitment to collaborating with others for the greater good, to addressing challenges that face us here and now and to making thoughtful investments that will better society."*
>
> *"I will continue to support the Clinton Foundation because it is effectively making a difference in people's lives."*

Read it here: http://elitedaily.com/news/clinton-foundation-donation/1155436/
Share this oped on twitter here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/626865768538443776

The Chronicle of Philanthropy reported on this disclosure, "Clinton Foundation, Aiming to Quiet Critics, Releases Donor Data," saying:

> *"The Clinton Foundation took a major step Thursday toward keeping its promise of increased transparency by updating its online database to reflect contributions through the end of June."*
>
> *"About 90 percent of the donations were $100 less or less, consistent with previous years, the foundation said."*
>
> *"In April, it said it would take a number of steps to increase transparency. In addition to the quarterly reports, it suspended Clinton Global Initiative international events, which in recent years had attracted prominent names and big checks. It promised to refuse money from foreign governments except from a half dozen Western nations friendly with the United States that have previously funded Clinton Foundation programs."*

Read it here: https://philanthropy.com/article/Clinton-Foundation-Aiming-to/232059

Politico this afternoon published an article, "Clinton Foundation says donations on the rise," reporting:

> *"The Clinton Foundation announced Thursday it raised more money in the first half of 2015 than it did in the same period last year, despite months of criticism and scrutiny into its donors."*
>
> *"The nonprofit is not legally required to disclose its donors, but it has been releasing the names of donors and the range of their contribution on its website."*

Read it here: http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/clinton-foundation-donations-on-rise-120825.html
Share this article on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/politico/status/626845555046633473

The Washington Post also reported on the increase in donations, saying:

> *"According to the foundation, overall giving rose for the first six months of 2015 compared to the first part of 2014. The number of new donors and previous contributors who gave new money rose as well, they said."*
>
> *"The release comes as Shalala and Chelsea Clinton, who serves as the foundation's vice-chair, travel in Haiti, viewing organization projects intended to help that nation rebuild from the 2010 earthquake."*

Read the article here: http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/07/30/amid-presidential-campaign-launch-clinton-foundation-reports-rising-donations/

Lastly, the Miami Herald reported on our recent trip to Haiti, where Foundation President Donna Shalala and Chelsea Clinton led a delegation of supports to see our life changing work firsthand. You can read that article here .

You can read more about our supporters on our website .

Below, we've provided the full statement from Foundation President Donna Shalala, background on our 2015 donors, and

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information on the work of the Foundation's initiatives in 2015.

Statement from Donna Shalala, President of the Clinton Foundation:

"This week, Chelsea Clinton and I traveled to Haiti where we saw the important work that our donors are supporting. We are grateful for the generous support of more than 300,000 donors that makes our work possible – helping farmers lift themselves out of poverty, assisting island nations with renewable energy projects, empowering girls and women, promoting healthier communities and nutritional school options here in the United States. We are encouraged by the increased support that we have received this year, which has reinforced the Foundation's operational strength, and we know that donors are giving more because they are seeing the impact of our work across the globe."

Backgrounding Points on 2015 Donors:

Today, the Clinton Foundation updated its online disclosure of contributors and grantors, to include those who have provided financial support in the first and second quarters of 2015. This voluntary disclosure reflects the Foundation's commitment to transparency and accountability.

Donations to the Clinton Foundation in the first two quarters of 2015 reflects the Foundation's continuing financial strength and support from a wide range of donors:

- Overall giving in the first half of 2015 is up compared to the first two quarters in 2014;
- Total number of donors is higher compared to the first two quarters in 2014;
- Both the number of new donors, and the number of returning donors, has increased from the first two quarters in 2014;
- Consistent with previous years, approximately 90 percent of donations were $100 or less.

Previous to this update, the Clinton Foundation has disclosed its donors and their aggregate levels of contribution on an annual basis. Those donors who contributed in the most recent time period (in this case Jan 1 - Jun 30 2015) are marked with an asterisk.

In April, the Foundation announced that it would update this list on a quarterly basis moving forward. This month's posting marks the first such update, which covers the first two quarters of 2015. For more information about the Clinton Foundation's policy update in April, please visit: https://www.clintonfoundation.org/press-releases/clinton-foundation-policy-update

The support to the Clinton Foundation has enabled specific programs to expand their work and reach even more individuals across the globe. See the below information for progress and expanded work by each of the Clinton Foundation's initiatives in the first half of 2015.

Clinton Foundation – Progress and Expanded Work in 2015

Clinton Development Initiative
In February, CDI, in partnership with the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources of the Republic of Rwanda, announced the signing of a new MOU to expand CDI's efforts into Rwanda. The expansion is currently aiming to increase soya and seed production; improve yields and crop productivity; and promote climate-smart agronomics. In this past growing season, CDI established 27 demonstration plots, managed by lead farmers, and used as training centers for more than 2,300 farmers.

Clinton Climate Initiative
In February, CCI participated in a ground-breaking for a wind power project in Jamaica which they worked to facilitate. Wigton Windfarm Ltd is Phase III of one of the largest wind projects in the Caribbean and, when completed, will reduce Jamaica's oil consumption by an estimated 37,000 barrels, and reduce CO2 emissions by approximately 48,000 tons annually.

Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership
The Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership launched its supply chain enterprise model in Haiti in 2014. To date, its enterprise Acceso Peanut has trained over 3,200 farmers on best practices for smallholder peanut growing and purchased peanuts from close to 900 farmers for sale to local buyers.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative
In May, the Clinton Health Matters Initiative unveiled its fifth Blueprint for Action in Adams County, Mississippi. The Blueprint for Action is CHMI's strategic framework for health improvement that will drive a five-year strategic plan focusing on high priority health areas with action steps and measurement criteria to improve local health outcomes.

Clinton Foundation in Haiti
In February, President Clinton participated in the opening of the Marriott in Port-au-Prince. The Marriott Port-au-Prince is

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Haiti's first internationally branded hotel. The new hotel has incorporated many positive environmental features and has worked with the Clinton Foundation to ensure local procurement of goods and services.

No Ceilings
On March 9, No Ceilings released the Full Participation Report and NoCeilings.org , through an interactive event that brought together world leaders and grassroots activists, with more than 1,000 people attending in person and over 40,000 viewing by livestream. No Ceilings also released the Full Participation Plan – a set of policy priorities and principles for action to accelerate progress and ensure that commitments to gender equality translate into measurable improvements on the ground. No Ceilings continues its Conversations series, having just concluded its 18th conversation in Haiti, and is using the data and plan to inform sustained efforts, commitments, and partnerships.

Too Small to Fail
Expanded partnerships have been critical to Too Small to Fail's efforts in 2015. Earlier this year, Too Small to Fail announced a partnership with Text4Baby, which brought early literacy tips to the mobile phones of more than 820,000 parents nationwide. In addition, our partnership with Univision's "Pequenos y Valiosos" resulted in more than 149 million viewer impressions of PSAs on early numeracy, the benefits of bilingualism and the important role of fathers and grandparents, along with 21,000 parents who pledged to spend 15 minutes a day talking, reading, and singing to their children. Too Small also released "Talking Is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" PSAs with moms Amanda Peet, Jennifer Garner, Kelly Rowland, Salma Hayek, Lisa Ling, and Lena Headey in honor of Mother's Day. And, at CGI America in June, three separate Commitments to Action were made to help grow awareness and put more resources in the hands of parents and caregivers to talk, read, and sing to their young children in every day places such as laundromats and playgrounds.

Clinton Global Initiative
At CGI America in June, 79 new Commitments to Action were announced, which are expected to: impact the lives of more than 1.6 million people in the United States, create or fill nearly 210,000 jobs, create more than $11.3 million in new capital for small- and medium-sized enterprises, and help more than 110,000 students gain access to STEM education opportunities.

At CGI Middle East & Africa in May, 29 new Commitments to Action were announced, which will positively impact the lives of more than 800,000 people. When fully funded and implemented, these efforts by CGI commitment makers will positively impact more than 132,000 girls and women through a variety of programs to improve quality of education and increase access to employment and skills development opportunities; more than 123,000 people through access to training programs; and more than 60,000 students who will become enrolled in school.

At CGI University in March, more than 1,000 Millennials made 700 Commitments to Action to increase girls and women's inclusion in STEM fields; improve access to clean water in developing nations; provide rural communities with affordable sources of renewable energy; and increase nutritional options in food deserts.

Clinton Presidential Center
From October 1, 2014 – July 19, 2015, the Clinton Presidential Center has welcomed 373,890 visitors – an increase of 19% from the same time last year. The Center also launched, in conjunction with three other presidential centers, the Presidential Leadership Scholars Program, which graduated its inaugural class of 60 scholars last month in Dallas. The Clinton Presidential Center hosted its module in Little Rock in April, led by instruction by leading academics and practitioners, and a discussion with President Clinton. Speakers for the graduation ceremony included President Clinton, President George W. Bush, and entrepreneur Mark Cuban.

Alliance for a Healthier Generation
In June, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, an affiliated organization, announced progress on a McDonald's 2013 CGI Commitment to Action to increase access to fruits, vegetables, and healthy beverages. This included removing soda from kids' meal menu boards and adding a side salad as an option instead of French fries in value meals. The study showed promising progress in just the first year of implementation. It also saw a decrease in soda selected with a Happy Meal and an increase in healthier options being offered in restaurants—low-fat dairy, fruit and side salads.

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From:	"Genevieve Thaler" <gthaler@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	nhstaff <nhstaff@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	12/5/2007 8:40:38 AM
Subject:	NH CLIPS 12/5/07 PM
Attachments:	NH CLIPS 12-5-07 PM.doc

NH CLIPS 12/5/07 PM

HRC

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http://www.boston.com/news/local/politics/primarysource/

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From: "Burns Strider \(CTRFF\)" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/25/2014 10:11:00 AM
Subject: UPDATED Russia/Ukraine TPs

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON ON RUSSIA, UKRAINE

BACKGROUND: In the last two weeks, Secretary Clinton has provided new insight about the reset with Russia, vocalized her concerns about Russian President Putin, and his role in the continuing conflict in Ukraine – especially after a civilian airplane was shot down by what evidence suggests were pro-Russian militants.

Russian Reset:

· In an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria airing Sunday, Hillary Clinton discussed the reset with Russia and how and why U.S.-Russian relations have changed since

· According to Secretary Clinton, "So when he [Putin] announced in the fall of 2011 that he would be changing positions with Medvedev, I knew that he would be more difficult to deal with. He had been always the power behind Medvedev, but he had given Medvedev a lot of independence to do exactly what you said and make the reset a success." [CNN, 7/25/14]

· Clinton continued, stating, "I think that what may have happened is that both the United States and Europe were really hoping for the best from Putin as a returned president. And I think we've been quickly, unfortunately, disabused of those hopes. [CNN,7/25/14]

The Downed Airplane:

· Discussing Putin's responsibility for the downed plane in an interview airing Sunday, Clinton said, "I think if there were any doubt it should be gone by now, that Vladimir Putin, certainly indirectly -- through his support of the insurgents in eastern Ukraine and the supply of advanced weapons and, frankly, the presence of Russian Special Forces and intelligence agents -- bears responsibility for what happened." [CNN,7/25/14]

· While the U.S. has been very clear in its criticism of Putin and Russia, Secretary Clinton believes the Europeans could do more. In an interview airing Sunday, she said, "The United States has continued to move forward on that, Europe has been reluctant…They need to understand they must stand up to Vladimir Putin." [CNN, 7/25/14]

· Secretary Clinton thinks that "Putin is pushing the envelope as far as he thinks he can" and "the only language he understands is one that is very tough, very patient, very clear." [The Charlie Rose Show, 7/17/14]

· Europe needs to toughen their own sanctions, find alternatives to Russian oil, and do more to help support the Ukrainians protect themselves and their borders.

· According to Clinton, Putin needs to know "that there is a price to pay for this kind of behavior." [Associated Press,7/21/14]

Hillary on Russia as Secretary of State:

· As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton was clear-eyed about Putin. Any other characterization is patently false. In 2008, she publicly pointed to Putin's past as a KGB agent and warned that he couldn't be trusted.

· Clinton warned of concerns in late 2012 that Russia was trying to re-Sovietize Eastern Europe.

· Secretary Clinton worked arduously to advance American interests with Russia, even in tough circumstances.

· Secretary Clinton worked successfully to secure Russia's cooperation in anti-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan, reaching a historic "lethal transit " agreement, allowing U.S. military planes to transport lethal materials over Russia to Afghanistan.

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· She worked with Russia to secure critical, crippling sanctions against Iran.

· Not to mention, Secretary Clinton oversaw passage and enactment of the New START Treaty reducing nuclear weapons and making us all safer.

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/1/2014 10:43:26 AM
Subject: Friends Don't Let Congress Drive Cuba Policy

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August 1, 2014

Dear Friends:

Congress spent a month spinning itself into a frenzy over the crisis at the southern border of the U.S.

But, after weeks of photo ops, accusations that the Obama Administration created the crisis and failed to stop it, and shameful efforts to marginalize the children who fled poverty and violence in order to get here, nothing happened.

The least productive Congress in modern history has spun itself into a ditch. It has made the migration crisis so dire and so toxic that even punitive legislation to fix it became too hot to handle. Backed up against their own deadline for the August recess, neither the House nor the Senate could find enough votes to pass even band aid-sized fixes to a greater than tourniquet-sized problem.

As of this publication, the House leadership is considering how to press forward - making the legislation meaner to migrants, which dooms the bill to failure - or by taking the moral highroad and driving off on vacation. In the meanwhile, both House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers (KY-5) and Speaker John Boehner issued statements telling the President to sweep up the mess by taking executive action (ironic, given the recent House decision to sue him for using his authority to implement health care reform).

There are media reports, such as here by the Wall Street Journal, saying the President will take broad action by September to address the crisis without waiting any longer for Congress to act.

While some in Congress hope the President will take executive action to fix the border, we and others have been urging the President to use his authority to make further reforms to U.S.-Cuba policy.

But, as the 44 signers of the letter supporting executive action on travel, negotiating with Cuba, and other issues, reminded President Obama in May, "Timing matters and this window of opportunity may not remain open indefinitely."

What could close the window? U.S. politics, as bad as it is, is likely to get worse. There are just ninety-five days until the midterm elections take place; 156 days until the new Congress is seated.

What happens if today's gridlocked Congress gives way to a 114th Session of Congress dominated by one party, as even non-partisan pundits predict today, and it takes on President Obama aggressively as he ends his term and the parties nominate candidates to replace him? Does the window close and, if so, what happens to the hope for executive action then?

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What happens if Charlie Crist, candidate for Governor in Florida, who has come out as anti-embargo and considered traveling to Cuba, is defeated in November by incumbent Governor Rick Scott in what is then interpreted as a referendum on Cuba policy reform? What happens then?

What happens as policy changes that take long lead times - for example, solving the problem of a hemispheric boycott of the Summit of the Americas by inviting Cuba to participate - are eclipsed due to the passage of time? What happens then?

What happens if Alan Gross's physical health and mental state are as precarious as his legal team indicates? If his condition deteriorates further, what happens then?

What happens if there is an abrupt change in the political structure in Cuba given the advanced ages of its senior leadership? How could the window stay open then?

The President's authority to take significant actions that reform Cuba policy, that free Alan Gross, whose imprisonment remains the chief obstacle to warming relations, and that speed the U.S. toward normalization, is greater than most people realize. Once the Supreme Court acts, perhaps later this year, on a case with implications for the foreign policy powers of the presidency, the extent of his authority to make really big changes in U.S. - Cuba relations could grow larger still.

However, it is not the President's power but his willingness to use it, given the political space he has and the time constraints that face him, which is pivotal now. What also matters deeply - and we're told, may matter more than many of us know - is whether the government in Havana understands just how close we are to the window of opportunity slamming shut.

President Obama's actions in his first term to expand travel for Cuban families and people-to-people exchanges - described as modest here and disregarded as domestic politics by some in Cuba - continue to provide big benefits. But, he can and should do a lot more.

To get there, it is President Obama and not Congress who must drive policy. But, he should start revving the engine now before it is too late.

This week in Cuba news...

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- China issues some details of loan for new Santiago port , Progreso Weekly
- How to view a changing Cuba , Kevin O'Donnell, CNN

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Cuba's hardcore skateboarders get some lift , Mary Murray, NBC
Las visitas de los presidentes de China y Rusia a Cuba: geopolítica y actualización (in Spanish), Carlos Alzugaray Treto, OnCuba Magazine

Recommended Viewing

Digitization of endangered African diaspora collections at the major archives of the province of Matanzas, Cuba, The British Library
Beautiful Sepia Portraits of Cuba's Ballet Prodigies , Maia Booker, The New Republic

Recommended Listening

5 nuevos ritmos musicales que han surgido en Cuba en los últimos años (in Spanish), The Wow

A note: CDA will be taking a summer recess on the week of August 18. There will be no Cuba Central Newsblast on Friday, August 22.

Also, CDA Summer Intern Eliana Kanefield will leave our fold today and return to Columbia University this fall. We want to thank her for all her hard work -- she will be missed!

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

Hillary Clinton tells Jorge Ramos she wants to normalize U.S.-Cuba relations

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reiterated her position that the U.S. should lift the embargo on Cuba in an interview with Jorge Ramos for Fusion TV . In response to the question of whether she thought the U.S. should end the embargo, she said:

> ***"Yes, I would like to see that. I advocate that in my book, because I think it's been a failure, and I think it has propped up the Castros, because they can blame everything on the embargo. You don't have freedom of speech, you don't have freedom of expression, you know, you're still having political prisoners; everything is blamed on the embargo. I would like to see us move toward normalizing relations eventually. And therefore more Americans [going] back and forth. That's something President Obama did and I supported. ... We do have our own political prisoner in Cuba, Alan Gross, a man who has been thrown into prison and not being given a chance to come home to his family. So I would like to see that resolved, and I would like to see us move toward ending the embargo and trying to, by our example, by commerce, by all kinds of visits, you know, help the Cuban people have a different future."***

When asked if she was interested in a "Nixon moment" going to Cuba, she said, "You know, someday I'd like to go to Cuba. I would, someday. Yes."

In June , when Clinton released her book, *Hard Choices* , she revealed that she had advocated for President Obama to work to lift the embargo. The complete video of Clinton's interview with Ramos is available here (her comments on Cuba start at the 6:00 mark). A transcript of her comments regarding Cuba is available from the Tampa Bay Times.

United Nations and U.S. Treasury Department sanction North Korean companies

On Monday, the UN Security Council (UNSC) blacklisted Ocean Maritime Management, the operator of the *Chong Chon Gang* ship, imposing a travel ban and a freeze on its assets, reports Reuters . According to the UNSC committee that made this decision, "Ocean Maritime Management Company, Ltd (OMM), played a key role in arranging the shipment of the concealed cargo of arms and related material." The UNSC, however, did not move to sanction Cuban officials involved in the case, in which weapons and military equipment were hidden under a shipment of sugar from Cuba to North Korea.

Eight Members of Congress sent a letter to Samantha Power, the U.S. Ambassador to

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the UN, asking that Power's office push for the Cuban officials who were involved in the *Chong Chon Gang* case to be named as sanctions violators, reports El Nuevo Herald. Representatives Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27) and Díaz-Balart (FL-25) wrote the letter, which was also signed by Representatives Sires (NJ-8), Salmon (AZ-5), Duncan (SC-3), Smith (NJ-4), DeSantis (FL-6), and Duffy (WI-7). According to the Miami Herald , Russia's veto power at the UNSC may have spared Cuba from facing sanctions.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Treasury Department also placed sanctions on two North Korean companies and 18 cargo ships for violation of the UN arms embargo. The sanctions similarly excluded Cuba, and according to a Washington official interviewed by the Miami Herald, such measures were likely viewed as unnecessary given the U.S. embargo against Cuba already in place.

Alan Gross now refusing visitors

Scott Gilbert, the lawyer for jailed USAID subcontractor Alan Gross, says that Gross's physical condition is deteriorating and that he is now refusing visitors due to his depression, reports Café Fuerte . According to Gilbert, Gross has lost the use of his right eye and has not been able to exercise for the past two months because his hips are in such bad shape.

Since he was arrested and imprisoned, Gross has suffered from health problems, including chronic pain and degenerative arthritis in his leg, the Gross family reports on their website, Bring Alan Home .

In June , Gross's mother passed away. His wife, Judy Gross, and Gilbert visited him a week later, and subsequently reported that he was deeply depressed.

State Dept. gives mixed review of religious freedom in Cuba

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor released its International Religious Freedom Report for 2013 . The report's section on Cuba was largely critical, but also acknowledged improvements in religious freedom on the island, the Miami Herald reports. The report said that Cuba's Office of Religious Affairs continues to regulate all forms of religious activity, and that religious groups must apply to the Ministry of Justice for authorization. The report also mentioned the repeated detentions of members of the dissident group Ladies in White while they march to and from Mass on Sundays.

The report also noted that:

> ***"Most established religious groups, however, reported an increased ability of their members to meet, worship, travel abroad, recruit new members, and conduct charitable, educational and community service projects. They also reported fewer restrictions on religious expression and the importation of religious materials."***

Spain arrests 14 in migration scheme giving Cubans fake documents for entry to U.S.

Spanish police arrested fourteen people -- eleven Cubans and three Spaniards -- who were operating an illegal network that provided false identification documents for Cubans to migrate to the U.S., reports AFP . The network was based on the island of Tenerife in the Canary Islands, where the Associated Press reports it was able to take advantage of the sizable local Cuban community.

The migrants would first receive false Spanish residence permits that would allow them to enter Mexico without a visa. Spanish citizens, along with citizens of all other European Union countries, are not required to have a visa to travel to Mexico, whereas Cubans need a visa to enter the country. Once in Mexico, the Cubans could cross the

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border into the U.S., where they qualify for residency under the Cuban Adjustment Act. The network's services cost between $1,350 and $2,000 per person.

This week, Reuters reported on the different experiences of migrants coming to the U.S. from Cuba as opposed to many Central American migrants; while Cubans are allowed to stay in the U.S. under the Cuban Adjustment Act, migrants from other countries face the threat of deportation after making their own harrowing journey.

Yris Pérez Aguilera, Cuban dissident, meets with members of Congress

Yris Pérez Aguilera, a Cuban dissident, visited the U.S. Congress this week and met with Cuban-American Members from South Florida, reports the Associated Press. She met with Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25), Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27), and Rep. Joe García (FL-26). Pérez Aguilera is married to fellow dissident Jorge Luis García Pérez ("Antunez"), who was imprisoned from 1990 to 2007 for working against the government, reports Terra.

U.S., Cuban baseball teams face off in Cuba

Cuba's baseball team swept the U.S. Collegiate National Baseball Team in a five-game series, reports the Associated Press. The annual series resumed in 2012 after having been shut down in 1996. The AP reports that last year, when the series was played in the United States, the U.S. team swept the series. The host country switches every year, reports the Havana Times.

BNP Paribas reports its 2nd quarterly loss in bank history after paying U.S. fine

French bank BNP Paribas is reporting a $5.8 billion second quarter loss after the U.S. fined the bank $8.9 billion in June for violating U.S. sanctions against Cuba, Iran, and Sudan, reports the Financial Times. This is only the second quarter in which the bank has experienced a loss since its establishment in 2000. In response to the fine, the bank will form a supervisory committee and "a conduct committee in charge of monitoring and possibly redrafting the group's policies in certain 'sensitive' business sectors or countries."

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

1.4% decrease in June tourist arrivals

This week, the National Statistics Office in Havana released a report that revealed a 1.4% decrease in tourists arriving in June 2014 as compared with the same month last year, reports Bloomberg. Prior to June, Reuters reports that Cuba had been experiencing a 3.9% increase in tourist visits for the 2014 year. When comparing total tourist arrivals in 2014 with those in 2013 to date, the arrivals have increased by 3.9%, with 1,660,055 tourists traveling to the island since January 2014 as opposed to the 1,587,000 tourists who came in 2013 up until June 2013.

The decrease in visits by tourists over the last year has been largely in travelers coming from Argentina (-34.4%) and the United Kingdom (-27.1%). It should be noted that the estimated 350,000-400,000 Cuban-Americans who visit Cuba each year are excluded from the data used to calculate these statistics, as they are not counted as tourists by Cuba.

ALBA and Mercosur to create joint special economic zone

Presidents of the Mercosur member states signed an agreement with the presidents of countries in the Bolivarian Alliance for the People of Our America (ALBA) establishing a special economic zone among those countries, as well as the member countries of Petrocaribe and Caricom, reports Telesur. The agreement "aims to facilitate trade and industrialization among member countries."

Cuba is a member of both ALBA and Petrocaribe, which is an oil alliance between

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Venezuela and seventeen other Caribbean nations. The agreement was signed at the Mercosur Summit, which took place this week in Caracas, Venezuela.

IN CUBA

Cuba celebrates anniversary of beginning of the Revolution

Cuba celebrated the July 26, 1953 attack on the Moncada Barracks that marked the beginning of the Cuban Revolution last Saturday, reports the Associated Press . This year the ceremony took place in Artemisa, Cuba, roughly an hour's drive west of Havana.

Ramiro Valdés, one of Cuba's Vice Presidents and a commander during the Revolution, gave the principal speech . In it, he emphasized Cuba's accomplishments since the Revolution and the need for Cuban unity. He also praised the results of the economic reforms taking place in Cuba, such as the commercialization of the market for agricultural goods and the development of Mariel Port.

Recommended Reading

Will warming Cuba-EU ties open up U.S.-Cuba relations? , Americas Quarterly

In the just-released summer edition of Americas Quarterly, Sarah Stephens, CDA's Executive Director, argues that the EU's engagement with Cuba should serve as a model for the U.S., while Joel Brito argues that doing so will not lead to any human rights improvements.

The other current , Rachel D. Rojas, Progreso Weekly

Progreso Weekly reports on a new energy production cooperative formed in Cuba to use renewable energy sources, and the importance of local initiatives to promote green energy use.

Museum honors Cuba's revolutionaries , Tracey Eaton, Al Jazeera

"Only 14 are left." Tracy Eaton describes the goal and vision of the new museum, constructed by former rebel Alejandro Ferras, to honor Cubans who fought against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. For photos of the museum, see Al Jazeera's display, In Pictures: Cuba's revolutionary museum.

China issues some details of loan for new Santiago port , Progreso Weekly

Progreso Weekly gives an update on the agreements that China and Cuba signed during President Xi Jinping's visit to Cuba last week . It reports that the port at Santiago de Cuba, in which China is investing, will become -- after Mariel -- Cuba's second deep-water port.

How to view a changing Cuba , Kevin O'Donnell, CNN

CNN's Kevin O'Donnell interviews Harvard professor Jorge Dominguez on recent and prospective cultural, political, and economic changes with respect to Cuba and its foreign relations.

Cuba's hardcore skateboarders get some lift , Mary Murray, NBC

Mary Murray delves into the "23 y G" skateboarding community in Havana and the work of Cuba Skate, an organization dedicated to providing resources to Cuban skateboarders so they can skate in a "safe vibrant place."

Las visitas de los presidentes de China y Rusia a Cuba: geopolítica y

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actualización (in Spanish), Carlos Alzugaray Treto, OnCuba Magazine

Former Cuban diplomat Carlos Alzugaray analyzes the recent visits of Russia's President Vladimir Putin and China's President Xi Jinping to Cuba. He describes both countries as important allies for Cuba, saying that the country's alliance with China is crucial for Cuba's economy, and its alliance with Russia is crucial in the geopolitical and military sphere.

Recommended Viewing

Digitization of endangered African diaspora collections at the major archives of the province of Matanzas, Cuba, The British Library

This collection of documentation on slavery in the sugar-producing region of Matanzas has recently been digitized. Many of the documents, which contain "demographic statistics, information on ethnicity, resistance, occupations, property, economy of free and enslaved Africans," were considered endangered, as they had not previously been protected from Cuba's humid climate. Through this digitization project, local staff learned different components of the archival process. This page contains 400 pictures of different documents.

Beautiful Sepia Portraits of Cuba's Ballet Prodigies , Maia Booker, The New Republic

Booker presents a series of 2012 photographs of dancers at Cuba's prestigious National Ballet School taken by photographer Rebekah Bowman.

Recommended Listening

5 nuevos ritmos musicales que han surgido en Cuba en los últimos años (in Spanish), The Wow

"The Cubans have been changing, evolving, reviving to become who they are." Explore this evolution through the music of five Cuban artists of 21st century Cuba.

Until next time,

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The Fantasy of a Better Iran Deal
Politico
The critics are dreaming. Tougher sanctions would only isolate Washington, not pressure Tehran.
By SAMUEL R. BERGER
April 05, 2015

Some are insisting on a "better deal" than the framework nuclear agreement reached with Iran on April 2. But the idea of a better deal is a chimera, an illusory option, and it should not lull us into thinking there is another agreement to be had if only we were to bear down harder. The present agreement, which depends on important pieces to be resolved by the end of June, can substantially reduce the ability of Iran to develop a nuclear weapon over the next ten years or more and also creates a dynamic that could be a game changer in the combustible Middle East.

Senator Mark Kirk has postponed a vote on the Iran sanctions bill he wrote with Senator Robert Menendez, possibly until June 30. This is a constructive step, avoiding an action that would undercut negotiations toward a final agreement. But we need to keep the sanctions issue in mind because it is inextricably intertwined with the same calls for a better deal emanating from people in Congress, Israel, and other critics. No one can argue that a better agreement wouldn't be better—3,000 Iranian centrifuges is better that 5,000; a 20-year deal is better than 10. The tough question is: How do you get there? Putting aside what the Iranians might do in response to additional pressure—dig in deeper, speed up their program–and looking just at our side of the equation, the notion of a better deal is unachievable.

Here is why. According to critics, seeking a better deal starts with increasing sanctions on Iran. If tough sanctions brought them to the table, tougher sanctions will bring them to their knees. At some point their economy will be in tatters from the intensified sanctions, and they will be forced to return to the bargaining table and agree to better deal. With a closer look, however, this scenario unravels.

First, it is highly unlikely that even our allies in Europe would join us in further sanctions against Iran in the wake of a nuclear agreement they believe is sensible and positive. That is even truer for other countries—like India, Japan, South Korea and China—that were pulled into the existing sanctions regime quite unwillingly. The support of these countries for the oil sanctions in particular has been critical to the sanctions' effectiveness. They will not willingly sign up for more.

Second, if a deal falls through, it is likely that the existing multilateral sanctions regime will begin to crumble. As noted, countries like India and South Korea, who don't feel threatened by an Iran nuclear weapon, will be only too happy to find a pretext to break out of the sanctions—perhaps tentatively at first but in a rush as others do. It will be hard to argue the rationale for sanctions, which, from the perspective of nearly every nation, will have achieved their purpose—bringing Iran to the table to negotiate serious limitations on its nuclear program.

Indeed, the proponents of tougher sanctions to get a "better" deal have misunderstood the nature of the Iranian sanctions. The fact is that the United States does not own or control the multilateral sanctions regime. The effectiveness of the sanctions is based on how the international community views the perceived threat and therefore the legitimacy of coercive actions to stop it.

Third, those who seek a better deal through tougher sanctions argue that we don't necessarily need international support. The United States could unilaterally enact sanctions that have extraterritorial reach, as we already have done with a number of Congressional measures since 2010. The proposition is that we will to some degree deny foreign companies access to the larger, more important American market, if they choose to do business with Iran.

However, the context has entirely changed since the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Act was passed in 2010. New extraterritorial sanctions would be directed against an Iran that has reached an agreement on its nuclear program with major world powers. The rest of the world generally detests our assertion of authority involving foreign companies in foreign countries. Here, for example, we would seek to close the U.S. market to Germany's BMW if they sold cars to Iran or Japan's Sony if it sold in Iran. If Congress imposed sanctions in spite of a nuclear agreement reached with Iran by major powers, the international community—except for a few countries—would believe those sanctions to be illegitimate. In this context, it is hard to imagine the U.S. government moving ahead with major sanctions proceedings against many of our friends and allies.

So, as we discuss and debate the merits of this framework agreement, and a final agreement that may follow, let's recognize that this is the agreement we will have—not some imagined alternative. In my judgment, if the next stage of negotiations succeeds, the framework that emerged this week lays the groundwork for a strong and effective agreement.

The framework does not—nor by itself is it likely to—fundamentally alter the other threats Iran poses in the region, including its ongoing efforts to exert control in Damascus, Beirut, Baghdad and Sanaa, and its continuing threat to Israel. That is why it is important to embed this agreement in a regional strategy that bolsters concrete cooperation with our friends in the region and reassures them that we are there for the long haul. President Obama's summit with regional partners at Camp David will be an

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important opportunity to look not only at the hot spots, but at the bigger picture.

The Iran nuclear agreement is important not despite other troubles in the region but because of them. Each challenge would be more difficult and dangerous if Iran's nuclear program was unconstrained and unmonitored, let alone if Iran were to develop a nuclear weapon and spark others in the region to follow. Under the agreement that is emerging, we will have a high degree of confidence—as will others in the region—that Iran's nuclear program is seriously constrained. Walling off the nuclear threat does not extinguish the fires that are burning in the region. But it does remove what would be the most combustible fuel.

There is no second bite at this apple. This is a good deal. We should not be distracted by talk of a better one.

Enacting new, tough sanctions in an effort to force Iran toward a "better" deal would mystify and alarm the rest of the world, isolating and weakening us. Such sanctions would crumble under their own weight —amounting to, as Shakespeare said, "sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Samuel R. Berger was national security adviser to President Bill Clinton from 1997-2001; he is currently chair of Albright Stonebridge Group.

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Before Angela Merkel wrapped herself in the cloak of madcap multiculturalism, she had tagged non-Western immigration in Germany as a "total failure." With all the irrefutable evidence-based facts slapping her in the jowly face, Frau Merkel had thus described non-Western immigration in Germany https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKG76HF24_k . Could not be any more devastating, now could it? But that was before she flip-flopped her way into farce, joined the swivel-eyed sect and painted the *Wutbürger* and, by implication, her former self as racist. Her lurch to the loony left must have disconcerted the hell out of the CSU. The glib "racists in Germany" slur would be a far harder sell to mainstream-media consumers, if they knew all the evidence-based facts and expert opinions (see a previous email headlined "Multikultistan: A house of horrors for ordinary Germans") long hidden by most MSM outlets. *Deception by omission* is the most common form of lying committed by the vast majority of mainstream media, which regard the twisting of the truth beyond all recognition as their core business. Or to quote fourth-century monk Saint Augustine, "He who conceals a useful truth is equally guilty with the propagator of an injurious falsehood."

Wouter Bos: "In the Netherlands, migrants and people of migrant background have a much greater chance than others of being poorly educated, unemployed, sick or ending up with a criminal record."

If centrist pols make you grab for your barf bag, Europe's leftists – so many of whom have gone from Communist Holocaust Denial to Immigration Disaster Denial, as I will demonstrate at a later date – are even more derisible, having discovered a new false religion to throw their weight behind. But truth be told, not all Leftists are deaf, dumb and deceivable. A handful of them did speak out and warn about the ever-worsening Immigration Debacle, yet were never heard in the cacophony of craziness similar to the Red Guardist terror in Maoist China *minus* mass murder. As a matter of astonishing fact, Wouter Bos, a former Leader of the Dutch Labour Party, admitted in the *IHT* article below, "In the Netherlands, migrants and people of migrant background have a much greater chance than others of being poorly educated, unemployed, sick or ending up with a criminal record."

Tragically, that's not even scratching the surface in terms of the NUMBER of immigration-disaster subjects. For example, there's no mention of anything from widespread political extremism and rampant Muslim anti-Semitism, to gay bashing and the ultraviolent mass grooming of white girls by Muslim men in Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, etc. (much more about that at a later date), to mention just a few items on an laundry list running from here to hell.

Likewise, that's not even scratching the surface in terms of the ever-worsening ENORMITY of the immigration-disaster subjects. For instance, a Dutch *Crimewatch*-style TV program is now actively "whitened up," so as to prevent it from showing nothing but Muslim and black thugs targeting the weakest in society. What's more, a BBC-quoted expert discloses that **all Swedish Muslim immigrants are not only unemployed, but also structurally unemployable** – so completely useless to employers for the duration of their wholly welfarized lives http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22650267. So Fox was *not* exaggerating in citing the cataclysmic joblessness rate among immigrants in Muslimized Malmö, which has already turned into one big banlieue https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwKsRa6bUp4. At the same time, a leftwing economist admits that **almost all immigrant women in the Netherlands are not only jobless but also unemployable** http://weblogs.nrc.nl/mees/2010/03/05/harteloos-nederland, while Dutch Muslim men fare only marginally less catastrophically, judging from all the damning evidence seen.

Or to mention the last remaining unmentionable in the immigration debate in the Netherlands, the otherwise PC-infantilized *NRC* newspaper quoted Dutch psychologist Jan te Nijenhuis as saying, "Many people don't want to hear this, but **the considerably lower IQ scores by immigrant children**

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translate into a considerably worse school performance." As if all of that weren't deeply disturbing enough, psychologist Indra Boedjarath http://www.trouw.nl/tr/nl/4324/nieuws/article/detail/1394009/2007/10/27/Dubbelleven-Marokkanen-fnuikt-psyche.dhtml explains that **many Moroccan youngsters suffer from psychological problems**, adding that **numerous Moroccan criminals are "slightly mentally handicapped**." Shockingly, **55% of all young Moroccan males in the Netherlands have been the subject of a police investigation** http://www.nieuwsblad.be/article/detail.aspx?articleid=GIE2B2Q4K. Indeed, the unofficial, yet reliable figure for Amsterdam is 70%! On and on, it goes.

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October 19, 2005

Globalist

Europe's Troubles Push Even the Left Rightward

By ROGER COHEN

International Herald Tribune

The pendulum of Europe's political direction tends to be erratic, but for the moment it is pointing rightward. That may be surprising at a time when the Continent has spent a lot of time defining itself in opposition to President George W. Bush's conservative administration.

But it's less surprising when two factors are considered: the alarm caused by jihadist killings in Madrid and Amsterdam and London, and the difficulties of social market economies with comprehensive welfare systems creaking under the strain of high unemployment and aging populations.

The terrorism means that law and order, part of Angela Merkel's winning message in Germany, is in and indulgence toward immigrants is out. The economic difficulties, especially in France and Germany, are pushing in the direction of free-market reform. Both these trends favor the right.

It has not been lost on Europeans that terrorism has come from within. The killings have in general been perpetrated not by agents sent from the Middle East, but by Europe's own, Muslims born and raised in European societies or long-term residents. The murderers knew freedom, often a great deal of it, and opted for an attempt to destroy the open societies that nurtured them.

That is disquieting, especially for a European left that had long held aloft the "multi-culti" model of diverse peoples living side by side and in harmony without a strong overarching national culture.

So the left is moving right. Earlier this month, Wouter Bos, the leader of the Dutch Labor Party, had some sharp comments for a gathering of European socialists. His speech suggested the degree to which the mainstream European left is reconsidering its past policies in the light of the violence that has struck the Continent.

"Every society has limits to its capacity to absorb newcomers," Bos said. "Successful integration therefore above all requires a restrictive migration policy because our capacity to integrate and emancipate is not limitless. And it will require toughness, both on those who arrive new into our societies and the society that adopts them."

Toughness on immigration is a new message for the left. So is talk of "emancipating" immigrants, a clear message that European Muslims will have to show more readiness to buy into the norms of Western societies on such matters as the equality of men and women and freedom of sexual choice.

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Bos acknowledged that past policies had proved inadequate. “Social Democrats all over Europe have not been too good at tackling these problems,” he declared. “Maybe because they were afraid to be accused of racism.”

Another reason, of course, was that hostility to immigration was the terrain of the right and, in its ugliest form, the preserve of extreme-right xenophobes like France’s Jean-Marie Le Pen.

But the left now sees that it is possible, indeed critical, to confront the grave failures of immigration policy without adopting the bigoted excesses of the right. For one thing, the welfare state that is the great creation of European social democracy depends on change because a welfare system supporting out-of-work immigrants in disproportionate degree tends to stir resentments that are explosive.

In the Netherlands , Bos said, “migrants and people of migrant background have a much greater chance than others of being poorly educated, unemployed, sick or ending up with a criminal record. Here again the result, if we do nothing about it, will be that the white middle-class tax-paying citizen wonders: Am I paying taxes for myself or am I paying for them?”

In a similar way, if basic values are not shared in a society, the welfare system, ultimately based on a sense of solidarity, frays. The welfare state is a form of collective insurance. For it to work, there has to be some agreement on the nature of the risk and the nature of the way of life to be defended. From Britain to Spain , evidence has accumulated that such a consensus has been lacking.

The bottom line, after Europe’s recent violence, is that greater efforts, in education and in imparting the meaning of citizenship in a European democracy, appear essential if tensions with immigrants are to be eased. Nationalism tends to be anathema in Europe, which knows its downside too well. But national values and national pride may be making a comeback.

Of course, as long as the economies of Germany and France remain stalled with unemployment rates hovering around 10 percent, tensions within European societies will tend to persist. Societies that fail for long periods to produce significant growth or jobs are societies that promote a paralyzing dependency and stifle hope.

That is why both Merkel and the center-right French prime minister, Dominique de Villepin, have proposed tax cuts, greater labor market flexibility, reductions in nonwage labor costs and other measures to try to stop the institutionalization of unemployment in their countries.

In a coalition with the Social Democrats, Merkel’s margin for maneuver will not be great; Villepin faces French labor unions and may opt to zigzag into ineffectiveness. But at least they have been frank about the core of their countries’ problems: the fact that it has often been more attractive financially not to work than to work.

Their joint presence may just revive the French-German alliance and give a new impulse to free-market ideas in the euro zone. Resistance will be significant. But Merkel has real convictions about where she wants to go; Villepin has unusual energy. This combination could bring results, especially as the railing of leftists against globalization, neoliberalism and the like has an increasingly sterile air in both countries.

The most successful politician in a major industrialized democracy, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan , has successfully deployed a mixture of radical reform and carefully dosed nationalism. Merkel and Villepin may take a leaf from his book.

After all, toughness, national values and a freer market are even being espoused by some of Europe’s mainstream left. Could there be a looming market for European neocons?

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Blunt Talk on Migration From Dutch and Danes

By JOHN VINOCUR

International Herald Tribune

Post-politically correct Europe starts here. It loops north to Denmark . These days, it branches east, although less distinctly, to Germany.

But in the Netherlands the words are free, and inhibitions about describing and dealing with the problems caused by immigration, particularly from Islamic countries, are largely gone.

“In 2002, I was demonized for urging the Amsterdam City Council to drop publishing notices on every piece of business it does in Kurd, Papiamento and God knows what,” said Geert Dales, who is mayor of Leeuwarden, a city of 100,000 on the North Sea.

Four years ago, Dales’s thrift was called intolerance or even racism. For a decade, anyone expressing concern about projections that Amsterdam would have a Muslim majority by 2020 (about 65 percent of its young people now have Islamic backgrounds) risked disgrace as a closet fascist. Now the Dutch discuss the implications of similar population projections and similar time frames for cities like Rotterdam and The Hague without cramped circumlocution.

In comparison, direct official- and politician-speak in places like Britain, France and Spain shies from the idea that failed national policies accommodating (or avoiding) Muslim integration have been factors in the most confidence-shaking European events of the new century:

Bomb attacks by local Islamic extremists in Madrid and London, the murder of a Dutch filmmaker by a member of the Amsterdam Moroccan community, riots in immigrant towns around Paris, and now, Denmark and Danes coming under threat and attack around the world after a newspaper published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

The post-politically correct comes in here. Danes point to Islamists in their midst - not themselves - as the key factor in turning the cartoons into a source of misery. A poll in the Danish media late last week said that 58 percent believed the central problem was not the newspaper’s choice to carry the cartoons, but imams living in Denmark who propagated them and even more devastating fakes in Islamic countries.

By way of an explanation, this comes down to both the Netherlands and Denmark, countries with small but dense populations, cherished cultures, and languages that require protection, feeling a new precariousness in their national identity as a result of substantial Islamic immigration. In both places, the mainstream left has followed the center-right onto this track.

Perhaps because there has been open contempt for assimilation by Muslims in supposedly soft and marginal places like the Netherlands and Denmark, both countries have been intent on demarcating the line where their accommodation of immigrants stops.

You could call it a flow-reversal of attitudes in two famously tolerant nations. Their emphasis, coming now with special intensity caused by a sense of declining sovereignty, is specifying that their Muslim communities must demonstrate compatibility with Dutch or Danish society.

A Dutch example: In more politically correct France, race or national origin are excluded from official statistics, whether they involve job-seekers or the prison population. In calmly talking about Leeuwarden, Dales says point-blank that an immigrant group from Curaçao, making up 1 percent of

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the city's population - Muslims represent 16 percent - is responsible for 50 to 60 percent of its crime.

What to do? Expressed in the increasingly blunt Dutch manner, Dales's response was not that short of the style of the U.S. Marine Corps: kicking butt and taking names.

He told me about a national pilot program that would let cities like Leeuwarden initiate proceedings "to send them back."

Dales, a member of the center-right Liberal Party, a component of the government coalition, believes all the same that Dutch history suggests the country can successfully absorb its Islamic immigrants. He very much trusts in the possibility of their integration and sees there are successful examples of it in every Dutch town. "But it involves an approach that says, again and again, exactly what is non-negotiable and exactly what is required."

Requirements, according to Dales: educational achievement, speaking Dutch, acceptance of the work ethic.

Dales's accompanying view of daily reality: a 65 percent dropout rate among Muslim immigrants in Leeuwarden's schools; notoriously poor language capacities; and inconsistent interest in finding jobs, complicated by insufficient training and a Dutch network of social services that for decades made the Netherlands a kind of Nirvana for the work-challenged.

Above all, Dales said, the difficulty for some Muslims was that Islam had principles that are no way in line with those of Dutch society.

When I asked Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen in Copenhagen last week about a Dutch-Danish post-politically correct link (a phrase first used by the American writer Christopher Caldwell), he talked about insisting on the same core values that Frits Bolkestein, the original politically incorrect Dutchman and former European Union commissioner, first described in relation to Islam as "non-negotiable." Like the separation of religion from politics, the importance of work, and Western notions of freedom of expression and gender equality.

"We're on the right track," Rasmussen said. "I see a very clear tendency that other European countries will go in our direction."

In Germany, where the former Social Democratic interior minister, Otto Schily, said two years ago that multiculturalism was dead, there are indications that Rasmussen's view of a European trend has some reality.

The Bundestag's vice president, Wolfgang Thierse, a Social Democrat, has recommended that only German be spoken on school grounds and received unexpected support from teachers' unions, while Christian Democratic state governors are backing a plan that would require testing acceptance of the principles of the Constitution and genuine German language skills as requirements for citizenship. Parliamentary debate in Berlin on the Danish situation on Friday was not so much a succession of calls to tolerance but of remarks that there should be respect for religion "but not its instrumentalization" and that this respect must not be a "one-way street."

But in light of the Danish experience, countries considering a more politically incorrect stance on immigration may now think twice.

Bolkestein, who warned in the early '90s about Islam's challenge to the Dutch and Europe, is not optimistic. He believes Europe has only seen "the thin edge of the wedge" of pressure to come from rogue states and Islamic extremists.

"Next time," he said, "I fear it will be oil, or Israel, or nuclear weapons rather than cartoons." End of article.

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France's under-siege Jewish community is estimated to have dwindled from 500,000 to 400,000 – with anecdotal evidence suggesting that a mass exodus may well be under way

Welfare sponging on a scale never seen before in human history is just one item on a *never-ending* list of non-Western immigration horrors in esp. Continental Europe, which also includes rampant anti-Semitism. At present, the lion's share of anti-Semitism in Germany comes from Muslims, while the Far Left and Far Right account for the much smaller remainder. Green Party Co-Leader Cem Özdemir acknowledges that anti-Semitism is rife among German Turks and other Muslims. Hell, if you translate the PC Kremlinese uttered by the BBC's previous chief Germany correspondent into plain English, even he appears to say so.

France plays host to 6 million Muslims, and a *Jerusalem Post* article http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Article.aspx?id=170731 expects France's Muslim community to be the majority within 50 years. And that's not even factoring in Turkey's probable entry into the EU. This demographic tsunami is really bad news for Jews. Let me quote from http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11335980/Antisemitism-in-France-the-exodus-has-begun.html: **Attacks on Jews have risen sevenfold since the 1990s. No wonder Jewish emigration from France is accelerating. From being the largest Jewish community in the EU at the start of this decade, with a population of around 500,000, it is expected by Jewish community leaders to have fallen to 400,000 within a few years**. That figure is thought by some to be too optimistic. Anecdotally, every French Jew I know has either already left or is working out how to leave. […] **Almost of all these attacks have been carried out by Muslims**.

The *Jerusalem Post* piece echoes this assessment: "**In recent years, burgeoning hostility emanating primarily from radical Muslims has led to increasing desecration and bombing of Jewish sites and synagogues, as well as violent altercations on the streets** climaxing with the 2006 kidnapping, brutal torture and murder of Ilan Halimi, a young Parisian Jew. Hostility has become so pronounced that Jews are now warned not to wear kippot in public even in central thoroughfares such as the Avenue des Champs Elysees in Paris.

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From:	"Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	4/23/2015 8:28:38 AM
Subject:	John, Re: Peter Schweizer

I sent the following note about the real Peter Schweizer agenda to a prominent Republican who is very close to Jeb Bush who knows I strongly support Hillary but with whom I have a good personal relationship.....here is what is really happening:

My thought for the day: I've been looking into this Peter Schweizer book and his institute. Here is my take. Set aside the merits of the issues in Clinton Cash and his upcoming Jeb Bush book. I think he is the equivalent of an operative running a private nonprofit oppo research operation funded by conservative sources who oppose both Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush.

For this reason, media is wrong when they say that Schweizer doing a Bush book demonstrates nonpartisanship, they miss the point. What I believe he is doing is running a private oppo research operation supporting a candidate or candidates other than either Bush or Clinton.....financed by sources who oppose both Bush and Clinton.

Quite an ingenious operation, especially since he is building what are essentially a form of ex parte relationships with the New York Times and Washington Post which become, regardless of the merits of the issues he raises, public relations departments of his private oppo research operation.....

best, Brent

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/1/2008 5:33:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/01/08

Main Topics: McCain's Trustworthiness, McCain Camp Using Politics of Fear, Wesley Clark Comments

Summary of Shift: And we're back! McCain coverage today focused around the Wesley Clark comments on McCain's military experience, as well as on the Charlie Black and Joe Lieberman comments on McCain benefiting from a terrorist attack on U.S. soil. MSNBC has a focus today on who is most trustworthy, with both sides being called out for their flip-flops. Obama has a new ad out that some hypothesize is an effort to force McCain to spend money in states he has yet to compete in. Other non-McCain related news highlights included Bill Clinton's support for Obama's campaign, continued violence surrounding Zimbabwe's disputed elections, and wildfires continue to ravage California. Israel is in the news over whether or not it might attack Iran over it's nuclear program, and violence in Afghanistan is up with more deaths reported there this month than in Iraq.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: McCain Attacks Obama's Trustworthiness, Called Out For Hypocrisy
2. McCain Camp & Their Politics of Fear Campaign
   a. CNN: Charlie Black and Joe Lieberman use the Bush Politics of Fear Tactic to Highlight McCain's Qualifications
   b. MSNBC: McCain Campaign Counting on October Surprise, Using Politics of Fear
3. MSNBC: New Obama Ad Forcing McCain to Go On Defensive In Some States
4. Comedy Central: Stephen Colbert's "Make McCain Exciting Challenge!"
5. Wesley Clark Scrutinized For Claiming Military Service Doesn't Qualify McCain to be Commander in Chief (CBS, Early Show, No Clip)

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Attacks Obama's Trustworthiness, Called Out For Hypocrisy (MSNBC, 07/01/08, 9:16am)
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: John McCain's new strategy against Obama isn't attacking his rival's policy positions or even his patriotism. Rather, the GOP presumptive nominee has chosen to question Obama's trustworthiness.

JOHN MCCAIN: This election is about trust, and trusting people's word. And unfortunately, apparently on several items, Senator Obama's word cannot be trusted.

BRZEZINSKI: But John McCain is no stranger to the flip-flop himself, so which candidate is more trustworthy this election season? […]

BRAD BLAKEMAN: […] Barack Obama is beyond flip-flopping, it's what I call an abomination.

BRZEZINSKI: Uh, but John McCain has his share.

BLAKEMAN: Well, look, when you have a long record of service dating back to the 80s, and you're serving over a long period of time, your policies are going to evolve and you're going to have changes in policies. That's natural. […]

BRZEZINSKI: Brad, all fair, but I'm sure that David could list some from the near past as well that apply to John McCain. Offshore drilling, tax cuts.

DAVID GOODFRIEND: If you twist my arm, I will. Brad mentioned the campaign finance reform pledge, and you know, John McCain uses campaign finance reform the way a magician uses a magic wand. He'll just wave it and try to pull something different out of the hat each time. What he did, John McCain, was say I want to use public financing and he said that to a bank in order to get a loan, and then the chairman of the federal election commission said that would be a big no-no if you wanted to somehow turn away that funding, when John

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McCain wanted to do so. So under the law, John McCain was forced to stick with his initial declaration to use public financing. So, I guess only when the federal campaign finance law steps in and tells him he has to keep his word, then he keeps his word.

BLAKEMAN: […] John McCain is not going to go back on his word, he's sticking to public financing.

GOODFRIEND: The public financing is undermined, as you know Brad, by those secret 527s organizations that McCain says he so opposes that are now funding television expenditures on his behalf across the country.

[…]

GOODFRIEND: Well, look, let's go back to the original question. Who's more of a flip-flopper, who can you trust? I think both of these gentleman are fine public servants, and I think it's ridiculous for the McCain camp to somehow points its finger at Barack Obama and say he can't be trusted because he's changed. Brad calls it evolution when it's John McCain. Well, I got news for you, politicians change their positions, that's true. Both these guys have good character, Barack Obama's my pick, he's the guy that has the best judgment.

Highlight #2
Charlie Black and Joe Lieberman use the Bush Politics of Fear Tactic to Highlight McCain's Qualifications (CNN 07/01/08 07:58am)
ED HENRY: Republican John McCain insists that if elected he will not be a Bush clone, but some McCain allies seem to be ripping a page from the president's playbook. Raising the specter of a possible terror attack next year to sway voters against Democrat Barack Obama.

JOE LIEBERMAN: Remember that the truck bombing of the world trade center happened in the first year of the Clinton administration. 9/11 happened in the first year of the Bush administration. John McCain is ready to take the reins on January 20th, 2009, he doesn't need any training.

HENRY: Lieberman, the former democratic vice presidential candidate now an independent, is so close to McCain he is mentioned as a possible running mate. And his comments follow McCain adviser Charlie Black recently saying a terror attack between now and the election would help McCain. Black apologized. A Lieberman aide told CNN the senator was not playing the fear card but highlighting McCain's qualifications.

LIEBERMANN: We need a president ready to be commander and chief on day one. Senator Clinton said that over and over again. She was ready to be president on day one. Why? Because our enemies will test the new president early.

HENRY: asked about Lieberman's comments, white house spokeswoman Perino agreed there could be a terror attack next year.

DANA PERINO: I think Senator Lieberman, unfortunately, could be right. Only reason I say is that we know that there are people very dangerous trying to attack us every day. The president has been looking for Osama bin Laden since September 12th. That effort has never let up.

HENRY: The "the New York Times" said the Bush administration did let up. Officials charging the Iraq war diverted resources from the fight against Al Qaeda. The president's approach to Iran is also under fire with journalist . . . claiming the U.S. is stepping up covert operations inside Iran and edging closer to a possible attack.

DAVID GERGEN: At this point, with George W. Bush as unpopular as he is, to argue the case for continuity in foreign policy, it does not seem to be a big election winner.

HENRY: that's why McCain is walking a fine line. His allies are touting his traditional national security credentials when voters may be ready for a new approach.

McCain Campaign Counting on October Surprise, Using Politics of Fear (MSNBC, 07/01/08, 9:48am)

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MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Will there be an October surprise? A last minute event or campaign move that could change the tide of the November election. John McCain's chief strategist Charlie Black, drew fire for saying another attack on U.S. soil would be a big advantage for John McCain. And then on Sunday, McCain supporter Joe Lieberman argued that McCain would be best prepared in case of a 2009 terror attack.

[Lieberman Face the Nation Clip Shown]

BRZEZINSKI: [...] I Got to tell you, there is a little bit of the politics of fear going on between Charlie Black and Joe Lieberman and these comments. Not sure if it's going to work this time around, is that what's happening?

SUSAN PAGE: Well, I think it's true, undoubtedly true that John McCain's strongest card is his national security experience since that he's been around longer and dealt with more of these issues over time than Barack Obama has. [...] This is an issue that probably favors John McCain over Barack Obama. An economic issue would probably favor Barack Obama over John McCain of course. You can have October surprises that aren't national security issues though. [...]

BRZEZINSKI: Democrats are accusing republicans of fear mongering here, how do they play up John McCain's foreign policy and military credentials without seeming like they're engaging in fear tactics?

JON DECKER: It's a tough road to walk and I think that they're finding that out, they being the surrogates for John McCain. You saw, and you mentioned, what Senator Lieberman said and what Charlie Black said just a week ago, essentially the same thing. If the McCain campaign is depending on an October surprise to win the election, that's not a good campaign strategy. It may help them out in the long term but it's not a strategy to depend on. You need to, obviously, win on the issues that matter most to American voters. And just bringing up, as Senator Lieberman did, just to get back to that point that presidents are tested in the first year. It is a fact that those things did occur within the first year. [...]

Highlight #3
New Obama Ad Forcing McCain to Go On Defensive In Some States (MSNBC, 07/01/08, 9:04am)
CHUCK TODD: "[...] I think it's about making McCain a little bit nervous, seeing if he ends up forcing McCain to spend money in some of these other states. McCain has yet to spend money in Virginia, in North Carolina, Indiana, Montana. So let's see, I think the Obama people want to see, can they move the polls enough in some of these supposedly red states, that suddenly McCain is playing more defense than offense."

Highlight #4
Stephen Colbert's "Make McCain Exciting Challenge!" (Comedy Central, 06/30/08, 11:35pm)
STEPHEN COLBERT: [...] McCain isn't the best speaker. That his oratory style is like an Ambien smoothie with a Nyquil boost. But at least McCain knows that. That's why he gave a recent speech in front of a green screen. He was issuing a challenge, asking average Americans to use their imagination's to make him interesting. Well, I took up that challenge and posted the green screen footage of John McCain at Colbertnation.com and you, the heroes, responded to my "Make McCain Exciting Challenge!" [...]

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/6/2008 2:50:36 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/06/08

Main Topics: McCain's New Ad, McCain and the Everglades, *McSame*

Summary of Shift: Obama and Clinton's 'secret meeting' and the future for Hillary consumed significant analysis this evening. Senator Diane Feinstein had a positive impression of the meeting, who hosted the event at her house. Clinton is expected to endorse Obama tomorrow. The Obama campaign is planning a 50 state strategy for the fall campaign. John McCain toured the everglades in Florida and released his first general election ad today. The cable networks continued to discuss the legacy of RFK, in the wake of his assassination anniversary yesterday.

Today was a bad day for the economy. The Dow dropped close to 400 points and unemployment numbers are up. There were riots in India in over gas prices.

Highlights:

1) McCain releases new general election ad
a. "CBS Evening News" plays ad, Couric says the it "portrays himself as a reluctant warrior"
b. On Fox News: New McCain ad tries to paint McCain as un-hawkish war hero
2) McCain toured the everglades in Florida, defended vote against protecting them
3) Paul Begala: Comically analyzes McCain's oratory skills, jokes McCain will bomb "all the I countries, we have already had war with Iraq, next will be Iran, Indonesia, Iceland, Italy, probably Indiana"
4) "Hardball Big Number": McCain voted with George Bush 95% of the time in 2007
5) *McSame* as Bush on wiretapping, on "Countdown"
6) McCain appropriates Obama's messaging and atheistic on campaign website
7) President Bush announces appointment of a new Housing Secretary and talks about our sluggish economy
8) Rachel Maddow says "John McCain had a tough week", mentions his Iran divestment proposal that Obama already proposed last year and embarrassingly he voted against
9) Lieberman discusses why as a Democrat he supports McCain on Fox News
10) Congressman Walker claims McCain is best at understanding economy
11) On Fox News, Israeli Minister Shaul Mofaz: "Sanctions are Ineffective, Attacking Iran to Hault Nuclear Plans Will Be Unavoidable" (no clip)

Clips:

Highlight #1
"CBS Evening News" Plays McCain's New Ad, Couric Says the "New Ad Portrayed Himself as a Reluctant Warrior" (CBS 06/06/06 6:30pm)
KATIE COURIC: The presidential candidates used the dismal economic news today to take jabs at each other [...] Barack Obama blamed the big jump in unemployment on the "the failed Bush economic policies that John McCain wants to continue for another four years." McCain said Obama favors high spending and high taxes that will only hurt the economy.

MCCAIN: Senator Obama seems to want to go back to the failed policies of the '60s and '70s.

COURIC: McCain campaigned in Florida, a key battleground state, toured the everglades. And he put out a new ad that portrayed himself as a reluctant warrior [...]

New McCain Ad Tries to Paint McCain as UnHawkish War Hero (FNC 06/06/08 1:29pm)
MARTHA MACCULLUM: Let's talk about John McCain for a moment and I want to get the rest of the panel's reaction to his new ad, as he looks at his own campaign, head to head against Barack Obama. Take a look.

[…Plays John McCain's new ad…]

MACCULLUM: Peter, what's your reaction to that?

PETER JOHNSON: Well, it's a superb ad. I think he's done similar ads before in the primaries. And what it's saying is that he's a leader. Although he has a distaste for war, he's certainly committed to keeping the country safe. And so that's going to be his calling card for this election. Are you going to value someone who has no experience in foreign policy on the democratic side, or are you going to value republican candidate who has 5 ½ years torture in a prison camp and is

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committed to keeping America safe. That will be the hallmark of his campaign.

MACCULLUM: He's clearly trying to say I'm not a hawk. I'm a military man and I have a great deal of experience, but I'm not a hawk.

Highlight #2

McCain Toured the Everglades in Florida, Defended Vote Against Protecting Them (CNN 06/06/08 5:27)

WOLF BLITZER: An old vote coming back to haunt the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, John McCain, just as he is touring the battleground state of Florida. Florida could be decisive come November […]

SUSAN CANDIOTTI: […] In trying to prove that he is the greener of the two candidates Senator John McCain in fact made a visit to the Florida everglades and took an airboat ride to try and make that point.
[…]

CANDIOTTI: […] Senator McCain is under fire by Democrats for opposing a 23 billion dollar water resources development act that includes a 2 billion dollar everglades restoration project.

[Clip of McCain media availability]

JOHN MCCAIN: They don't get it, they don't get it that the American people are fed up, they are fed up with the waste of their dollars and the out of control spending that is going to come to a halt when I am a president of the United States

CANDIOTTI: McCain says the bill also contains pork barrel projects. Democrats countered that McCain doesn't get it. Saying the bill only authorized the everglades project it didn't include the funding for it. The presumptive GOP nominee also reported for FISA, the foreign intelligence surveillance act. Allowing wiretapping phone calls without court authorization to prevent terrorism. President Bush so far has been unable to win reauthorization from congress.
[…]

Highlight #3

Paul Begala: Comically Analyzes McCain's Oratory Skills, Jokes McCain Will Bomb "All the I countries, we have already had war with Iraq, next will be Iran, Indonesia, Iceland, Italy, probably Indiana" (CNN 06/06/08 5:34pm)

PAUL BEGALA: Barack Obama has that silver tongue and that golden voice and Senator McCain has lead. He is dreadful speaker frankly, reading off prepared text. He is pretty good in town hall meetings, he is excellent in the interviews. He is the king of Sunday morning. You know, he is great in those. I don't think that is particularly useful for a president actually. To be a good interviewer on Sunday mornings. But he is really bad, I don't mean to be insulting but he was, and he stood. President Bush is also a terrible speaker, but he

WOLF BLITZER: Didn't hurt him he got elected twice.

BEGALA: Well he got elected once. The Supreme Court stole it the first time and he won the second time. But the Bush team always had great advance they had guys like Alex who cared about the pictures. The governor of Texas and then President Bush looked great at all his events. Poor McCain Tuesday night he had the green monster out there from Fenway Park. You know it looked pathetic.

BLITZER: I think you will agree Alex, he needs some help

ALEX CASTELLANOS Senator McCain's great strength is he is real, and acting the part is not certainly his strength but at the end of the day it is not about the packaging it is about the package. The substance is there. Look, no denying that Barack Obama is a remarkable, remarkable presenter and inspiring and that I think is a great strength in this election. But also a great strength is security, somebody you can trust, somebody solid. And McCain's strength is that.

BLITZER: I don't think there is any doubt, there is no doubt in my mind that maybe since Ronald Regan no American politician has been able to read teleprompter, a speech, and make it look so natural that the viewers out there have no idea he is actually reading his speech.

CASTELLANOS: He is the guy who can stand on top of the mountaintop and say we are going to go over here. And he lifts people that way. I think Republicans; we do ourselves a disservice when we say that that is unimportant. It's a big part of the job. But also a big part of the job is reassuring people that you can keep the country safe, that you're solid, you're reliable.

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If this is about the future, Obama has got an advantage.

BEGALA: This is exactly the case George W Bush made. This is why John McCain is a third term of Bush. He is essentially saying, I know I can't inspire you I know I have no vision but I'll bomb a whole bunch of countries. Well we tried that, we have seen that movie, it didn't work out very well. I think people are very hungry for the sort of leadership that Barack Obama is offering.

CASTELLANOS: Where, I missed that, he is going to bomb a whole bunch of countries

BEGALA: All the I countries, we have already had war with Iraq, next will be Iran, Indonesia, Iceland, Italy, probably Indiana, I'm joking, I'm joking

CASTELLANOS: Republicans have even kept democrats like you safe for six years.

Highlight #4

"Hardball Big Number": McCain voted with George Bush 95% of the time in 2007

CHRIS MATTHEWS: So how are the Democrats gonna run against John McCain this Fall? By seizing on things like his 100 years statement about the Iraq war and by nailing his candidacy as George Bush's third term. McCain has made a point of touting of course his Maverick credentials, his actual Senate record may indicate otherwise. According to Congressional Quarterly voting tally from last year, what percentage of the time did John McCain cast votes in support of Bush's policies? 95. John McCain voted with Bush 95% of the time, last year at least. A statistic that could haunt him right up to election day. That is tonight's big number.

Highlight #5

McSame as Bush on Wiretapping (MSNBC 06/06/08 8:30pm)

KEITH OLBERMANN: As with so many positions that Senator McCain hues closely and often precisely with the Bush Administration, the Senator has tried to finesse the issue of warrentless wiretaps [...] The McCain camp now clearly saying the Senator believes what the current president believes, that the president of the United States may claim authority to wiretap Americans even where that might directly contravene federal statute. In other words, the president may break the law using amorphous constitutional power as an excuse. The top adviser to Senator McCain set the record straight. In a letter by the Conservative National Review this week, Douglas Holtz-Eaken wrote that McCain believes the constitution gave President Bush the power to order the national security agency to monitor America's international phone calls and emails without a warrent [...] Do you see any daylight between President Bush's position on this and Senator McCain's?

JOHN DEAN: No daylight whatsoever [...]

Highlight #6

McCain Appropriates Obama's Messaging and Atheistic on Campaign Website

CHRIS MATTHEWS: By now, we've all gotten familiar with Obama's campaign slogan, it's 'Change we can believe in.' Well apparently that message is so popular, even John McCain is a fan, check out the first page of McCain's new website, 'A leader we can believe in.' John McCain and his people may have seen the success Obama's had with his strong claim of authenticity, McCain too wants to be someone we can believe in.

Highlight #7

President Bush Announces Appointment of a New Housing Secretary and Talks About the Economy (FNC 06/06/08 1:45pm)

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome. Thank you. It's -- so glad to be here at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. And I've come to introduce you to your new boss -- Secretary Steve Preston. I want to thank Steve's wife, Molly, five children -- (applause) -- and his mom and dad, Lee and Ursula.

Mr. Secretary, thanks for coming -- Secretary Kempthorne. And Director John Walters. It's good to see two of your predecessors here, Steve -- Alphonso Jackson and Jack Kemp. Thank you all for coming. (Applause.)

This is a time of turbulence in the housing market and slow growth for our overall economy. This morning, the Labor Department reported that our economy lost 49,000 jobs in May, and the unemployment rate rose to 5.5 percent. This rise was caused, in part, by a surge of new young entrants into the job market. But it's clearly a sign that is consistent with slow

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economic growth.

To help keep this economy growing, we did pass an economic stimulus package that provides tax rebates for American families and incentives for businesses to invest in new equipment. We're beginning to see the signs that the stimulus may be working. And now the Congress needs to take the next steps. At a time when Americans are concerned about higher gas prices, Congress needs to pass legislation that expands -- that will allow for the expansion of American energy production.

In this period of economic uncertainty, the last thing Americans need is a massive tax increase -- so Congress needs to send a clear message that the tax relief that we passed will be made permanent. (Applause.)

Unfortunately, these policies are being blocked by the Democratic Congress. So I call on congressional leaders to put partisanship aside, and work with me to enact these important initiatives for the American people.

This department is also critical to meeting the challenges we face in our economy. We need strong leadership in the Secretary's office. Steve Preston is the right man for the job. He's a financial expert who understands how the housing market impacts our broader economy. He's a skilled manager. He's a person of character and integrity.

Secretary Preston will work to strengthen home ownership with the same dedication he brought to his previous job of strengthening American small business community. As the head of the SBA, Steve presided over loan guarantee programs that are similar in structure to those run by the Federal Housing Administration. And just as entrepreneurs across our nation found a trusted friend in Steve Preston, so will America's homeowners.

Before coming to the SBA, Steve gained valuable financial and leadership experience in the private sector. His impressive career has taken him from investment banking to senior financial posts at major corporations. Wherever he's gone, Steve has earned the admiration of his colleagues. He takes on this new challenge with my full confidence and my trust.

Steve takes over for a good man, my longtime buddy, Secretary Alphonso Jackson. (Applause.) I thank you for your compassion and your hard work. You helped change a lot of lives. And I wish you and Marcia all the very best. See you back in Texas. (Laughter.)

I also want to thank Deputy Secretary Roy Bernardi for his service. He filled in as the Acting Secretary during this transition. He spent nearly seven years of his life here at this department. And I appreciate your hard work on behalf of all Americans. (Applause.)

As Steve takes office, his first priority will [be] to help lead my administration's response to the challenges in the housing market. We've taken aggressive action to help responsible homeowners to keep their homes by giving the FHA greater flexibility to offer refinancing options. We're also helping to bring together what's now called the HOPE NOW Alliance. By working together, participants in the mortgage industry have helped more than one and a half million families stay in their homes. HOPE NOW is working. But we've got more to do.

Yesterday, we learned that the foreclosure rates continued to rise in the first quarter. So Steve will work with Democrats and Republicans in Congress to address this challenge. We need to pass legislation to reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. We need to pass legislation to modernize the Federal Housing Administration, and allow state housing agencies to issue tax-free bonds to help homeowners refinance their mortgages. By taking these steps we'll help more responsible homeowners weather this rough patch -- and, at the same time, strengthen the dream of homeownership for generations to come.

I've got confidence that we're going to meet these challenges, and I've got confidence in the people who work in this department. I appreciate what you do every day to expand the dream of home ownership. I thank you for your efforts to provide low-income Americans with access to affordable housing. You work hard to make our communities more vibrant and hopeful. The United States is fortunate to have such devoted public servants at this department. I'm grateful for your service.

You're going to have a worthy leader in Steve Preston. I thank the Senate for confirming Steve as your new Secretary. And now I ask the Senate to confirm the three remaining HUD nominees to help him lead this department.

Steve, I appreciate your stepping forward to serve your country once again. I congratulate you. Now I ask my Chief of Staff, Josh Bolten, to administer the oath of office.

(The oath of office is administered.) (Applause.)

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SECRETARY PRESTON: Great. Thank you very much. Mr. President, Chief of Staff Bolten, Molly, my children, my parents. Current and former members of the Cabinet, thank you for coming. My new partners at HUD, my friends -- (applause) -- and the many other distinguished guests here. Thank you for being here today. This is truly very humbling to see you all here to celebrate this event.

It is a profound privilege to serve our country as the Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, and to be a voice for the people that we serve. Thank you, Mr. President, for that confidence, for that trust. I also want to thank Senators Dodd and Shelby for their role in expediting the nomination process.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's appropriate that we gather here in this building. It's named for Robert C. Weaver, who was the first Secretary for HUD. And Dr. Weaver cautioned against treating people like statistics or data. In fact, he asked instead that we look behind the data to see the values and the concerns and the hopes and the lives of the people that we all serve.

We assist the homeless find shelter here at HUD. We help provide millions of Americans with affordable and public housing. Families who want to buy a home often turn to us. And increasingly, those we -- who are currently in homes come to us to keep them.

We know that home ownership can be a source of pride. It can be a place to grow up and grow old together. It can be a source for wealth creation. And it is a source of -- it is a stake in our communities. And also at HUD, we have a role of building and rebuilding many of those communities.

At the moment, there are difficulties in the housing market, and this is a decisive moment in our nation's economic history. HUD will be central to restoring stability in our markets and in the lives of many Americans. In fact, just in the last year, thanks to changes made by you, Mr. President, FHA is increasingly a pathway for hundreds of thousands of families to a more affordable, secure mortgage. And thank you. (Applause.)

And while we're all committed to addressing the immediate challenges in the housing market, we must also show the same kind of commitment to our future. We must provide a longer-term foundation for reform in the institutions that give homeowners access to capital to make that American Dream possible, while also generating enduring confidence in our financial markets.

As we confront these challenges, we're blessed with talented and committed employees at HUD. You understand that we can make a difference. In the next few months, we will need the best efforts of every one of you in the path ahead.

So, Mr. President, I look forward to working with you. I look forward to working with my partners in the administration. I'm committed to collaborating in a bipartisan fashion with members of Congress on the path ahead. So, ladies and gentlemen, let's roll up our sleeves, let's lock our arms. We have a lot of work to do we can do together as a team. So thank you very much. (Applause.)

Highlight #8

Rachel Maddow Says "John McCain Had a Tough Week", Mentions his Iran Divestment Proposal That Obama Already Proposed Last Year and Embarrassingly He Voted Against (MSNBC 06/06/08 6:30pm)

RACHEL MADDOW: I think that John McCain had a tough week. He had some unforced errors, that is my headline tonight. He's making these errors, not because he's taken any big hits from the Democrats, he's doing it to himself. On Monday proposed a divestment campaign on Iran. His campaign seemed caught off guard by the revelation that Obama proposed that idea last year without McCain supporting it. On Tuesday, McCain's green backdrop speech in Lousiana was about as well received as a Derek Jeeter Jersey in downtown Boston. On that same trip McCain was also apparently caught off guard by questions about his own record on investigating Hurricane Katrina. Then it was off to the Everglades where McCain had to spend his time defending his votes against protecting the everglades, instead of what he wanted to do which was to promote his environmental credentials. I think it's been a week of unforced errors for the McCain campaign. And I think it's making people wonder whether or not he didn't take advantage of the three month head-start he got in this General Election by sort of working the kinks out of his campaign [...]

Highlight #9

Lieberman Discusses Why As a Democrat He Supports McCain on Fox News (Fox News Live, 06/06/08 12:41pm)

JOE LIEBERMAN: There are two main reasons why last December I decided to cross party lines and support the Republican candidate John McCain. Overall, because I think he's the best prepared, over anyone who ran this year to be the president we need. One, he's ready to be commander and chief. Not just to lead our effort in Iraq and Afghanistan but to

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protect us around the world from the terrorists who attacked us on 9/11. But I've traveled around the world with John McCain over the last 20 years and he is well regarded and trusted by leaders all over the world and he knows the world. Secondly, the biggest problem our government has in it today, is us. It's partisanship, it's tribalism that divides us. Senator McCain has been unique in this place for just reaching across party lines, working with people he may not agree with on nine other issues, but the one he agrees with to move on, why because he wants to get something done for our country and that's the kind of person we need as president. So I'm proud to be a supporter and I'm going to help him all I can because I think he's best for America.

Highlight #10

Congressman Walker Claims McCain is Best at Understanding Economy (Fox News 06/06/08 11:27am)

JON SCOTT: What do you see transpiring in a John McCain administration, should he win?

BOB WALKER: John McCain understands that you have to strengthen the weakest parts of your economy and you have to use the strong parts of your economy to your advantage. John McCain recognizes that a tax increase at this time would not be the right policy, and Barack Obama, across the board, is talking about a tax increase. John McCain wants to actually lower taxes, in particular make smaller businesses more productive. Secondly, John McCain recognizes that the strongest part of our economy is in our exports at the present time. He will expand the ability to sell American products overseas by expanding our free trade agreements. None like Barack Obama, who actually wants to back out of our trade agreements that we now have.

SCOTT: Should we listen to either one of these guys?

KELLY BINGEL: With all due respect to the congressman, I do have to say, Barack Obama is not talking about tax increases across the board. He's talking about a tax decrease of a thousand dollars for middle class families. And he's not talking about renegotiating all our trade agreements, he's talking about fair and free trade and looking at some of the environmental and labor agreements. That's what he's talking about, he's not talking about renegotiation all our trade agreements.

WALKER: He is talking about a unilateral renegotiation of the NAFTA agreement. Our biggest trading partners at the present time are Canada and Mexico. We are a huge beneficiary of that agreement. By putting that agreement into jeopardy, he is in fact causing some of the problems that are now on Wall Street, because they have a great deal of concern about that. As for tax increases, his tax increase will go directly to small business. Small business owners are people who use the individual income taxes to pay the taxes on their business. The tax increase that he is proposing will have a devastating effect on small business.

SCOTT: Let me ask you this, Kelly, on the day that Barack Obama wrapped up the nomination, when he locked it up, the DOW pushed lower. I that a coincidence?

BINGEL: No, I mean, yes it is a coincidence. It has nothing to do with Senator Obama, it has to do with the price per barrel of oil which continues to go up. That's what it has to do with, it has nothing to do with Senator Obama. And I think that most Americans recognize that what we need is change for our economy, and Senator McCain will give us four more years of this Bush administration. There's nothing different from President Bush's economic plans than from Senator McCain's economic plan. And Americans' don't want four more years of a Bush White House.

WALKER: Those are slogans that have absolutely nothing to do with securing the ills of the economy. You need to have somebody who understands the economy like John McCain.

--
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 9/3/2014 5:28:40 PM
Subject: Re: HRC @ Clean Energy Summit

I think this is great. One small addition. In the Paris graph, I think a reference to Obama's Climate Action Plan and particularly the power plant rule has changed the international dynamic and made the US credible and a global leader that make the chances of success much greater.

That's an easy place to be generous to him without taking on any baggage.

On Sep 3, 2014 3:31 PM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

John, I hope I've caught you in time. Below and attached is our draft for Nevada. Would love your feedback.
Thanks!
Dan

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

REMARKS AT NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY SUMMIT

LAS VEGAS, NV

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

Thank you, Harry, for that generous introduction and for leading the way here in Nevada and for our country toward a clean energy future.

I also want to thank the Center for American Progress, the Clean Energy Project, MGM Resorts International, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for making this event possible. I'm particularly pleased to see so many business leaders here today. This kind of all-hands-on-deck partnership – from government, business, academia, and the not-for-profit sector – is exactly what it's going to take to make real progress on our energy and climate challenges.

And, as Harry and others have explained so well here, this is one of the most sweeping, urgent, and consequential challenges we face as a nation and a world.

The data is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers say. Sea levels are rising. Ice caps are melting. Storms, droughts and wildfires are wreaking havoc. Thirteen of the top fourteen warmest years have all come since 2000.

This July, scientists found levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere not seen in millions of years.

The threat is real.

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But so is the opportunity.

If we come together to make the *hard choices* -- and make smart investments in infrastructure, technology and environmental protection, America can be the clean energy superpower for the 21st century.

Just look at what's happening in Nevada, thanks in large part to the leadership of Harry Reid.

This state has quintupled its renewable energy capacity since 2008. In the past four years, more than $5.5 billion have been invested here in clean energy production and infrastructure.

Harry helped bring together a broad coalition, including major casino companies, local tribal leaders, and environmental groups, to replace one of the nation's dirtiest coal plant with five utility-scale solar projects now under construction.

Nevada is now one of the leaders in the nation in solar energy capacity per person.

The state has more geothermal projects under development than any other.

The "One-Nevada Transmission Line" has created new markets for renewable energy and hundreds of jobs.

And on average, clean energy jobs in Nevada pay higher wages -- thousands of dollars a year higher. That means more Nevada families making it into the middle class and more families *staying* in the middle class.

This is the promise of a clean energy future. A future where we move past the old false choice between protecting our environment and growing our economy and instead do both.

Again, Senator Reid has led the way. In the Senate, he has worked with Democrats and Republicans alike and championed legislation such as the Energy Independence and Security Act, which led to new

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fuel economy standards for vehicles for the first time in 30 years.

He provided crucial support for President Obama's efforts to cut carbon pollution from power plants, which will spur billions of dollars in private clean energy investment, improve air quality and respiratory health, and make a measurable dent in harmful emissions.

And Harry understands we need to do even more. Because while we can all be proud that domestic electricity generation from wind, solar, and geothermal more than doubled between 2009 and 2013, we still have a long way to go.

China and other competitors are already racing ahead with big bets on renewables. We cannot afford to cede leadership in this area. Our economic recovery, our efforts against climate change, and our strategic position in the world all will improve if we can build a safe bridge to a clean energy economy.

Part of that bridge will certainly come from natural gas. There are challenges here, to be sure, but the boom in domestic gas production is an exciting example of American innovation changing the game. If we do this right, it can be good for both our environment and our economy.

Gas is cleaner than coal… expanding production is creating tens of thousands of new jobs... and lower costs are helping give the United States a big competitive advantage in energy-intensive industries. We're also reducing our dependence on foreign oil and freeing up supplies elsewhere to help our European allies lessen their dependence on Russian energy.

To capitalize on this boom, we have to face head on the legitimate environmental concerns about some new extraction practices and their impact on local water, soil, and air supplies. Methane leaks in the production and transportation of natural gas are particularly worrisome. So it's crucial that we put in place smart regulations and enforce them, including not drilling when the risks are too high.

And to make sure natural gas really is an effective bridge fuel, we need to keep moving forward on renewables and a clean energy future.

Today tax incentives for alternative energy investments are unpredictable at best, while generous subsidies for fossil fuel are easy to come by. In fact, the world spends more than $500 billion dollars subsidizing fossil fuel every year, bloating budgets and creating incentives against innovation and

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progress. We can do better.

We can create a positive environment for private-sector innovation and risk-taking, with targeted tax incentives, a commitment to research and development, and policies that encourage rather than undercut the transition to clean, renewable sources of energy.

We can invest in the infrastructure of the future, including next-generation power plants to produce electricity more cleanly, smarter grids to deliver it more effectively, and greener buildings to use it more efficiently.

At this point, we know a lot about what actually works.

Take the Clinton Climate Initiative, which my husband started some years ago through our Foundation. We're working with private and public sector partners to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and spur investments in green construction, including through some innovative new financing tools.

Our Home Energy Affordable Loan program works a little like a 401k or Health Savings Account, saving families as much as $500 a year in utility expenses. And the return on investment is up to about 23 percent.

When we helped retrofit the Empire State Building, with 2.8 million square feet of office space, 275 jobs were created over two years and the building's annual energy consumption dropped by 38 percent, worth roughly $4.4 million a year.

And that's just the beginning of what's possible. Good ideas are everywhere you look.

Jessica Matthews and Julia Silverman, two students at Harvard, created a soccer ball that harnesses kinetic energy with every kick and can power a lamp for three hours from just 30 minutes of play. They brought it to the Clinton Global Initiative and blew everyone away. The ball is now being used in six countries where soccer is universal but electricity is not.

If two college students can figure out a way to light up entire communities, imagine what we can do as a country if we roll up our sleeves and get to work?

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Rumor has it that Apple will soon unveil their iPhone 6. When they do, millions of Americans will rush to get their hands on this latest prize of 21st century technology. Yet, when they plug their shiny new devices into the wall, they'll be relying on an electrical grid that was built in the 1950s and still uses technology from the '60s and '70s.

We can do better.

With a true 21st century smart grid, we could time our dishwashers or air conditioners to turn on when demand for power is less and costs are lower. We could manage stresses on the grid, cutting peak demand to avoid blackouts – which research shows occur about 285 percent more often today than in 1984 and cost our businesses billions of dollars a year.

If the public and private sectors put aside politics and come together to get this done, we could do it before the iPhone 7 comes out.

All of this work at home is crucial to what we want to achieve abroad. Because America's ability to lead the world on climate and energy hinges on our commitment to act ourselves. No country will fall in line just because we tell them to. They need to see us taking significant steps of our own.

I know first-hand how hard it is to mobilize progress on a global scale. But there's no way to tackle this challenge without it.

When President Obama and I went to Copenhagen in 2009 for a global climate change conference, we ran into a brick wall of opposition from countries like China, which has become the world's largest carbon emitter but resists any kind of agreement that would obligate them to do something about it.

We had to literally crash a secret meeting between the Chinese, Indians, Brazilians and South Africans to force the issue. I'll never forget watching the President gliding by flustered Chinese security guards and the look on their faces when we finally sat down at the table.

But our persistence paid off. Thanks to the agreement we hammered out there, for the first time all major economies, developed and developing alike, agreed to make national commitments to curb carbon emissions through 2020 and report transparently on their mitigation efforts. That was just a

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start, but it provided a foundation to build on.

Next year world leaders will return to the negotiating table in Paris with the hope of achieving an even stronger agreement applicable to all.

It will be another opportunity for American leadership. A chance to show the world that we're serious about meeting this challenge. That we can still do big things in this country.

So going forward, we all need to step up. Not just our government, but our private sector, our civil society, our research institutions and universities, our families and communities — all of us.

I know we can do better. When we work together, our capacity for progress is nearly limitless.

Let's make America the clean energy superpower our world needs.

Let's leave our children – and, yes, our grandchildren – a healthy and sustainable future.

Let's get to work.

Thank you.

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From: "The Cuba Central Team" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/18/2014 10:48:53 AM
Subject: A Single Standard of Justice

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July 18, 2014

Dear Friends:

In the news summary that follows, you will find reports about a new investigation into the USAID Cuban Twitter scandal, the growing impact of the increasingly tight enforcement of U.S. sanctions against Cuba and other nations on banks and global commerce, and the resumption of peace talks in Havana between Colombia and the FARC.

But first, we wanted to acknowledge what is unfolding in and near "a large wheat field dotted with purple flowers and Queen Anne's lace," in the lyrical prose of Sabrina Tavernise, a reporter for the New York Times. This is where wreckage from Malaysia Flight 17 and the remains of some of its 298 crewmember and passengers came to rest in Eastern Ukraine after it was shot down a little more than a day ago.

The victims included 80 children, three of whom were infants, a number of AIDS researchers and activists, the spokesman for the World Health Organization, and a graduate student from Indiana University, who was a chemist and a member of the IU rowing team.

The circumstances surrounding the shoot-down of this airliner are reminiscent of an earlier tragedy during the Cold War, when a Korean Airlines Flight was shot down in 1983 by Soviet fighter pilots. That resulted in the loss of 269 people, including a Member of the U.S. Congress.

Today, our memories were also stirred by a catastrophe that took place on October 6, 1976; not half a world away, but here in the Americas. Then, like now, the victims, 48 passengers and 25 crew members, were civilians; many were also young, including all 24 members of the Cuban Fencing Team, five Guyanese medical students, the wife of a diplomat and others.

Their Cubana de Aviacion Flight 455 had just taken off from Barbados when at least one bomb exploded and knocked the plane out of the sky. This was, as Peter Kornbluh of the National Security Archives has often said, the first mid-air bombing of a civilian airliner in the Western Hemisphere. All aboard - 57 Cubans, 11 Guyanese, and five North Koreans - were lost.

As we prepared this publication, the UN Security Council issued a statement calling for a "full, thorough and independent investigation" of the Malaysian airliner tragedy. Leaders from around the world called for an investigation and for accountability.

In the 38 years since the bombing of Flight 455, there has been no accountability for the loss of life; the families of the victims are not even mentioned in the news coverage of Malaysian Flight 17, as broadcast and print journalists recall similar incidents in the past.

Yet, Luis Posada Carriles, one of the two masterminds behind the bombing of the Air

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Cubana flight, continues to live and walk free in Miami, despite outstanding extradition requests from Cuba and Venezuela, which have yet to receive the response they merit from the U.S. government.

In some quarters, it will doubtless be controversial for us to remember that justice has still not been served in the case of Flight 455.

But our interest is in reforming Cuba policy to help the United States get past the double-standards that were deemed acceptable during the Cold War, but which are injurious to the national interest today, and adopt a single standard of justice in cases like this, now and into the future. The dignity of the victims in these cases demands nothing less.

This week in Cuba news...

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Recommended Reading
- Life on the ground in Cuba , Katrina vanden Heuvel, The Nation
- Putin in Havana, America at the Movies , Sarah Stephens, Huffington Post
- Clash intensifies over travel to Cuba , William Gibson, Sun Sentinel
- President Obama could use a win , Richard Feinberg, The Hill
- Guantánamo Bay a thorn in Cuba's side , Sarah Rainsford, BBC News
- Why Cubans Are Defecting From the Republican Party , John A. Tures, Huffington Post
- All-Star Game: Tony Oliva relishes role of mentor to young Cuban stars , Mike Berardino, TwinCities.com

Recommended Listening
- Artists Try To Fuse Cultural Differences Between Miami And Cuba , David Greene, NPR

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

USAID Inspector General is investigating the U.S. "Cuban Twitter" program

USAID's Inspector General, charged with auditing the agency's activities, is conducting an investigation into its ZunZuneo "Cuban Twitter" program, reports the Associated Press .

ZunZuneo, created by USAID and funded under Helms-Burton, was a 'Twitter-like' text message service which, unbeknownst to its Cuban users, gathered their personal information and ranked their political leanings, on the way toward sending messages with political content to the users. The goal of ZunZuneo, launched after the detention of USAID subcontractor Alan Gross, was to enable political dissidents to organize "smart mobs" and incite public opposition to the government. The Obama Administration has described the project as "discreet" rather than covert. ZunZuneo acquired information on more than 68,000 Cubans before the program ran out of money and was discontinued without notice to its subscriber base in Cuba.

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The Inspector General confirmed to the AP that it is investigating whether the ZunZuneo program was subject to appropriate oversight and will publish the investigation's findings.

For Cuba Central's past coverage of the ZunZuneo scandal, see here , here , and here .

Foreign banks cautious after U.S. fine on French bank

Foreign banks are pulling back from doing business with commercial customers that have ties with countries subject to U.S. sanctions. As Bloomberg reported , the imposition of new sanctions against Russia, immediately following a record fine imposed on BNP Paribas, is causing banks to be "hyper-vigilant to the breadth of U.S. sanctions in making sure that no U.S. citizens are in any way connected to these transactions," said Michael O'Kane, a London-based lawyer at Peters & Peters LLP. "Recent events have shown there's a lot to lose."

As Reuters reports, "[M]ajor lenders in Europe and Asia are reacting to the steady flow of punishments from the United States by doing ever more to comply with U.S. laws and by cutting business ties in countries Washington dislikes rather than risk its wrath and, in the worst scenario, risk exclusion from the dollar system."

Bundesbank, the central bank of Germany, is one of the foreign institutions worried about fines that the U.S. could impose, particularly as the U.S. is currently investigating two other banks in Germany, Commerzbank and Deutsche Bank, for trading with Iran, Reuters reports.

Granma , the Cuban state newspaper, reports that Ulrich Grillo, the president of the Federation of German Industry, accused Washington of having "suffocated" German and French banks with unjustified fines.

These developments should provide additional fodder for complaints by countries against the extra-territorial reach of U.S. sanctions which emerge annually during the debate in the UN General Assembly on Cuba's resolution against the embargo.

5 Cubans play in MLB All Star game

Five Cuban baseball players participated in the MLB All Star game on Tuesday, which is the highest number in 40 years, the Wall Street Journal reports. Outfielder Yasiel Puig, of the Los Angeles Dodgers, first baseman José Abreu and shortstop Alexei Ramírez, both of the Chicago White Sox, pitcher Arnoldis Chapman, of the Cincinnati Reds, and outfielder Yoenis Cespedes of the Oakland A's, were all selected to play in the game.

The Associated Press reports that Cespedes, who repeated as winner of the Home Run Derby on Monday, said, "The Cuban league is below the major leagues levels, but the Cuban players have shown that we are capable to shine here." Puig said, "This is the sort of stuff all Cuban players dream since they were kids, being here at an All-Star game, playing at a World Series. ... We are five this year, and I hope we can add some more next year."

In recent years, the number of Cuban players coming to the MLB has increased steadily. Since 2010, 22 Cubans have started playing in the MLB, which is twice the number that arrived between 2005 and 2009. Cuban players are the third-largest group of foreign-born MLB players, behind players from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

Man who hijacked flight to Cuba in 1984 gets 20-year U.S. sentence

William Potts, a former Black Panther who hijacked a flight from New York to Miami and forced it to land in Cuba in 1984, was sentenced to 20 years in prison on Thursday, reports the Associated Press . He served a thirteen-year sentence in Cuba and lived on the island for sixteen years after his release, but decided to return to the U.S.

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in November 2013 in the hopes of being with his daughters, who live in the U.S., reports the Miami Herald .

Potts will be eligible for parole after serving seven years in the U.S., in recognition of the thirteen years he already served in Cuba. Even though most federal prisoners are not able to qualify for parole, Potts does because he committed his crime so many years ago. Potts pleaded guilty to kidnapping rather than the original charge of air piracy, for which he would have had to serve a minimum of 20 years in jail.

The Miami Herald reports that Potts was remorseful in court, saying, "If you just give me a chance, judge, I'll do you proud. ... I'm begging you, please, let me go back to my children."

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Putin denies reports that Russia will reopen Lourdes spy station in Cuba

Following his departure from Cuba, President Vladimir Putin denied published reports that Russia had reached an agreement with Cuba's government to reopen a Soviet-era base on the island that it used to monitor signals intelligence from the United States.

Active until 2001, the base was a Russian spy station that gathered signals intelligence from the U.S. during the Cold War. Putin ordered the station closed in 2001 to cut costs and to satisfy U.S. requests, and it has remained closed since, reports RT .

According to a transcript released of his press conference on Thursday, Putin was definitive about the decision in response to a reporter:

> **REMARK**: Thank you. Too bad about Lourdes, though.
>
> **VLADIMIR PUTIN**: No, it is not too bad. We are capable of resolving our defence issues without this component. We shut down this centre on agreement with our Cuban friends, and we have no plans to resume its activities.

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported that Russia had been in talks with Cuba about reopening the station in Lourdes for some years, but that these talks accelerated at the beginning of 2014. According to Reuters , this alleged acceleration may have been a reaction to the crisis in Ukraine and subsequent U.S. and EU sanctions on Russia.

When the suggestion that Russia would open the Lourdes facilities was initially reported, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27) issued a statement saying, "If true, reports of a re-opening of the Lourdes spying facility in Cuba are yet another indication of Vladimir Putin's desire to deepen ties with a state sponsor of terrorism like Cuba and poses a national security threat to the Homeland."

On the same day, a spokesperson for the U.S. State Department offered a more guarded reaction:

> **QUESTION:** Do you have any thoughts on Russian plans to reopen its electronic surveillance base in Cuba?
>
> **MS. PSAKI:** Sure. Well, given, Scott, there hasn't been any formal announcement for - from the Russian or the Cuban Governments, I have very little to say. I'd of course - and would, naturally, have nothing to add on alleged Russian intelligence facilities. So if there's more public statements made, perhaps we'll have more to say.

Putin travels to Cuba; Russia and Cuba sign cooperation agreements

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As we reported last week , Russia's President Vladimir Putin traveled to Cuba on July 11. There, he met with Raúl and Fidel Castro and signed ten agreements and memoranda of mutual understanding (MOUs) with Cuba, reports the Associated Press . The agreements covered areas including cultural exchange, cooperation in the industrial and health sectors, and space demilitarization. The two countries announced plans to develop a joint rescue worker and firefighter training center in Cuba, and to collaborate in the hydroelectric field, reports Granma .

The countries also signed an oil-drilling accord which will allow Russian companies to drill in the oil fields at Boca de Jaruco, Cubadebate reports. This follows an agreement signed in May , which allows Russian oil companies Rosneft and Zarubezhneft to drill in Cuban waters.

Another agreement provided for collaboration in the construction of four generators at Mariel Port, which would provide energy for the industrial zone of Mariel as part of an "ambitious program of diversification and modernization of the energy system" planned for completion in 2030, reports AFP . Russian company Inter Rao and the Cuban Electric Union signed the contract, reports RT . The project requires $10 billion in foreign funding, of which Putin promised a Russian investment of $1.6 billion.

For more on the recent strengthening of ties between Russia and Cuba, see last week's Cuba Central .

Cuba takes part in CELAC meeting after BRICS summit

Leaders of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) as well as other Latin American officials met with China's President Xi Jinping and Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff on Thursday, July 17, following the BRICS Summit that took place over the previous three days, reports Cuban state news agency Cubadebate . CELAC was represented by its Quartet of Chancellors, the heads of state of Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, and Antigua and Barbuda. Raúl Castro traveled to Brazil to represent Cuba. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and Chilean President Michele Bachelet also attended.

At the meeting, Jinping offered $20 billion to fund infrastructure projects in Latin America, as well as a $10 billion line of credit to CELAC nations, reports AFP . Jinping also agreed to set up a $5 billion fund for investments in Latin America.

The BRICS Summit, which concluded on Wednesday, further strengthened relations between China and Latin America, as it produced a major initiative: the creation of its own development bank to serve as a counter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, reports Reuters . The BRICS group is composed of five countries with emerging international economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

In response to the creation of the bank, President Castro stated, "We welcome this commitment to a new international order that is just and equitable." His full statements are available in Spanish here .

Cuba's increasing ties with the BRICS countries, especially now that they are forming their own development bank, could serve as a way to lessen the impact of the U.S. economic sanctions imposed on Cuba, reports Cuban state news source Radio Reloj . Jinping will travel to Cuba next week.

Colombia's government and the FARC resume peace talks in Cuba

Peace talks between Colombia's government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), resumed in Havana on Tuesday, July 15, reports AFP . A source in the Colombian government's delegation told AFP that these talks do not constitute a new round of negotiations, but rather "one or two meetings to wrap up unresolved things before starting on the issue of the victims [of violence]," the next subject the talks will

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seek to address.

Last week, seventeen victims' organizations asked the government to include victims at the talks in Havana, reports Colombian newspaper El Espectador . At the end of the last round of talks, the delegations decided on the "guiding principles" for their discussion of the victims and victim compensation. The two sides will work out further details during the current talks.

Colombia's government and the FARC have been engaged in negotiations since October 2012, and have participated in more than twenty rounds of talks in Havana since November 2012 .

Director General of World Health Organization visits Cuba

Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization, visited Cuba this week along with Carissa F. Etienne, Director of the Pan-American Health Organization, reports EFE . It was reported that the delegation would visit Cuba's Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center, its Centers for Immunotesting and Molecular Immunology, and that Dr. Chan would also give a speech at the Ministry of Public Health.

Dr. Chan stated, "Whenever I come here I always learn something new from your scientists, from your health care workers," reports state news agency AIN . Dr. Chan also met with Cuba's President Raúl Castro during her visit, during which they discussed the state of healthcare in Cuba and the world, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and the World Health Organization's Assembly held in May of this year, reports AIN .

IN CUBA

Cuba detains Ladies in White

On Sunday, July 13, Cuban authorities arrested about 100 members of the Ladies in White who had gathered for their weekly march and to mark the 20th anniversary of the sinking of a tugboat which drowned 37 people who had been attempting to flee the island, reports the BBC . The women were freed after several hours.

U.S. Department of State spokesperson Jen Psaki released a statement condemning the detentions, and "urg[ing] the government of Cuba to end these practices and respect the universal human rights of the Cuban people."

Ministry of Interior Commerce loosens restrictions on lodging houses for Cubans

Cuban and international tourists may now stay in state-run *casas de visita* across the island, reports AFP . *Casas de visita* are state-owned hotels or houses that to-date have been restricted to use by government officials on business trips or on vacation. According to the new regulations, published in the Gaceta Oficial on Wednesday, these establishments will "offer lodging services to people who stay for work, rest and recreation." Preference will be given to state entities when making reservations.

According to AFP, *casas de visita* cost less than traditional hotels. The legislation details that prices will be decided by provincial governments, and payment at most establishments will be in Cuban pesos, though some will be authorized by the Ministry of Interior Commerce to charge in Cuban convertible pesos or to accept both currencies.

Recommended Reading

Life on the ground in Cuba , Katrina vanden Heuvel, The Nation

This piece includes the reflections of Cuba traveler Anna Theofilopoulou on the Nation's

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first-ever people-to-people trip. Of the U.S. embargo, she asks: "Isn't it time for the US to engage in some self-examination regarding this particular policy and change it?"

Putin in Havana, America at the Movies , Sarah Stephens, Huffington Post

Sarah Stephens, CDA's Executive Director, writes about the lessons for U.S. policy offered by the visit of Russia's President Vladimir Putin to the island last week.

Clash intensifies over travel to Cuba , William Gibson, Sun Sentinel

Gibson writes about the debate over unrestricted travel to Cuba, noting that even as polls show the travel ban has fallen out of favor, several Members of Congress are trying to tighten restrictions.

President Obama could use a win , Richard Feinberg, The Hill

"[R]ethinking our Cuba policy is simply acknowledging that our Cold War-era strategy is woefully outdated," Feinberg writes. He argues that loosening the U.S. embargo on Cuba would help private entrepreneurs in Cuba and would be a diplomatic accomplishment for President Obama.

Guantánamo Bay a thorn in Cuba's side , Sarah Rainsford, BBC News

Rainsford reports on the effect the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay has on Cuban residents, who are cut off, not only from the outside world, but also from the rest of the island.

Why Cubans Are Defecting From the Republican Party , John A. Tures, Huffington Post

In addressing why Cuban-Americans are turning away from the Republican Party, to which they have long given their support, Tures suggests the shift has to do largely with the "anti-immigration tone of the GOP."

All-Star Game: Tony Oliva relishes role of mentor to young Cuban stars , Mike Berardino, TwinCities.com

Berardino writes about the mentorship by Tony Oliva , the legendary Cuban baseball player, who played for the Minnesota Twins organization from 1962-1976, of Cuban baseball players currently active in the U.S. major leagues.

Recommended Listening

Artists Try To Fuse Cultural Differences Between Miami And Cuba , David Greene, NPR

Greene talks with several Cuban artists about their art and the spread of ideas between Cuba and the rest of the world. He speaks with the Cuban hip-hop duo Obsesión, who performed last year at CDA's 7th Anniversary Event. See the video of their performance here and here .

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Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/1/2014 8:04:44 AM
Subject: Fallacies in the Service of Fast-Food Exploitation

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One Hundred Ways to Change the Subject: Plutocratic Fallacies in the Service of Fast-Food Exploitation

Jeffrey Nall, Truthout: Fast-food worker demands are being met with "plutocratic fallacies" attempting to justify exploitive wages and division among workers. But as a consumer you can support alternative, ethically-inspired businesses, and follow practical steps to express solidarity with the fast-food labor movement.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | Labor Day Victories to Celebrate

Dean Baker, Truthout: In recent decades the news for the country's workers has been mostly bad. We've seen stagnant wages and anti-union court rulings. It would be easy to go on about how bad things are, but it is worth highlighting a couple of good news items against this backdrop.

Read the Article

Disposable Life

Max Silverman, Histories of Violence: We have become less and less aware of the changed environment in which disposing of lives takes place and the forms that disposability takes, so that we no longer recognize what is staring us in the face.

Watch the Video

What Black Women in West Philadelphia Had to Say About Women's Equality Day

Jasmine Burnett, RH Reality Check: "Rarely are black women interviewed in their neighborhoods and asked about a policy's impact on their lives. As such, on the days leading up to Women's Equality Day, I felt it was time to begin asking black women about their experiences with laws that secured their right to vote."

Read the Article

Global Warming and Economic Crisis Lead to One Solution: Climate Jobs

Sharmini Peries, The Real News Network: May

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Russian Foreign Minister Calls for Immediate Cease-Fire in Ukraine

Read the Article at The Guardian

Labor History: The First Factory Strike

Read the Article at In These Times

At Least Five Ferguson Officers Apart From Brown Shooter Have Been Named in Lawsuits

Read the Article at The Washington Post

Restaurant Industry's Low Wages Leave 40 Percent of Workers in Near-Poverty

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Boeve from 350 and Bruce Hamilton of the Amalgamated Transit Union discuss how the environmental and labor movements have united to organize the People's Climate Summit in New York City.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Thom Hartmann | If Unions Are Breaking Automakers, Why Are BMW and Mercedes So Rich?

Thom Hartmann, YES! Magazine: In Germany, auto workers get paid well and their companies still profit. In his book *The Crash of 2016*, the author explains why living wages and corporate success don't have to be mutually exclusive.

Read the Article

Heralding a National Trend? Enrollment Surges as New York City Begins Full-Day Prekindergarten for 50,000 Kids

Amy Goodman and Juan González, Democracy Now!: As the school year begins, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is launching his signature initiative of full-day universal prekindergarten at public schools. More than 50,000 children have already enrolled and thousands of additional teachers have been hired.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

The Humanity of Michael Brown

Ian Haney López, Moyers & Company: Dog whistle politics may hurt almost all Americans, but its basic technique is to dehumanize minorities, scaring voters with spectral images of welfare cheats, illegal aliens, invading hordes, potential terrorists and, perhaps especially, black men as menacing criminals.

Read the Article

Let's Give Workers Something to Cheer About

Robert L. Borosage, OtherWords: It's been a long time since workers have been truly celebrated. That's because the union movement that gave us this holiday is a shadow of its former self. If we really want to give workers something to cheer about, we need to revitalize unions.

Read the Article

Bank of America Settlement and the Need for Legal Aid Lawyers

Julia Gordon and Sarah Edelman, Talk Poverty: One of the best ways to prevent unnecessary foreclosures is to provide struggling families with a legal aid lawyer. While the state guarantees legal representation for any criminal proceeding, there is no such guarantee in civil cases.

Read the Article

The United States' War Hawks Back in Flight

Danny Schechter, Consortium News: With the United States government-and-media war hawks back in full flight - preparing to swoop down on Syria as well as Iraq - wiser heads might reflect on the chaos that previous adventures have caused.

Read the Article

Real Poverty

Read the Article at Daily Kos

Inequality: A Broad Middle Class Requires Empowering Workers

Read the Article at Campaign for America's Future

As Bombs Go Silent, Testimonies Mount That Israeli Soldiers Used Gazans as Human Shields

Read the Article at Global Voices

Top Ten Working Class Hero Films

Read the Article at The Progressive

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/2/2008 2:17:10 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/02/08

Main Topics: McCain Speech to AIPAC, Obama vs. McCain on Foreign Policy, McCain and Phil Gramm

Summary of Shift: Tonight's punditry focused on a potential conclusion to the Democratic nomination battle. Ted Kennedy is recovering from a successful surgery. Senator Byrd is being hospitalized for a fever. President Bush urged his tax cuts to become permanent. James Clyburn is expected to endorse Obama tomorrow. Obama resigned from his church. Bill Clinton blasted Vanity Fair for an article they are publishing about him. Scott McClellan continues to hit various networks discussing the faulty path to the Iraq war. Dick Cheney said he will not read McClellan's book.
Also hot topics this evening, a Texas judge ordered the immediate return of polygamist sect children to their parents. Rock a nd Roll pioneer Bo Diddley died. A subsidiary of Blackwater bought a fighter jet for $4.5 million in February. The Iranian pre sident made veiled threats to Israel in a speech honoring the late Ayatollah Khomeini. Fuel prices hit another record high and t he Senate considers a climate change bill.

Highlights:
1) McCain speech to AIPAC, attacks Obama on Iranian diplomacy
a. New Gallup Poll shows 59% of Americans support Obama's approach to foreign policy, Cafferty says "bad news for John McCain"
b. McCain says Obama will put Israel at risk
c. Deputy RNC Chairman: McCain is trying to do "everything possible" to "change the regime in Iran" or "hurt them economically"
d. Rachel Maddow points out McCain did not support bipartisan Iran divestment bill last year, while Obama did
e. David Bonior: Iran has become a bigger problem under Bush-McCain policies
f. Fred Thompson on Fox News says Obama's willingness to engage Iran is a symptom of inexperience
g. Obama policy advisor hits back on Iran, links McCain to Bush
h. NYT's Bumiller discusses McCain-Obama Iran dispute, *McDifferent* and *McWeak* on the economy
2) Phil Gramm and McCain's lobbyist problem
a. Newsweek's Mark Hosenball: Gramm is a major McCain "economic adviser" and he lobbied on behalf of "subprime mortgage lenders", hurts McCain's image
b. Olbermann: Gramm blocked legislation that would have hurt Bin Laden before 9/11
3) MSNBC panel discusses how McCain was "inches away" from an "unprecedented" pledge to a one-term presidency because of age
4) GOP seeking Jewish vote but Obama beating McCain with group by a "healthy margin"
5) Pfotenhauer Says McCain not avoiding talks about economy, rather Obama's "mistakes" make it too difficult to avoid discussing foreign policy
6) RNC Chairman defends McCain, slams Obama on Iraq policy
7) Chris Matthews: McCain 'Isn't so old after all'

Clips:

Highlight #1
New Gallup Poll Shows 59% of Americans Support Obama's Approach, Cafferty Says "Bad News For John McCain" (CNN 06/02/08 5:00pm)
JACK CAFFERTY: We have some bad news for John McCain, who has spent the last couple of weeks beating up on Barack Obama because Obama said he would be willing to meet with leaders of countries considered to be enemies of the United States. Most Americans, most Americans support Obama. McCain was at it again today speaking to a pro-Israel group, he said it's hard to see what a summit with Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would lead too, "except an earful of anti-semitic rants and a world-wide audience for a man who denies one holocaust and talks before frenzied crowds about starting another. " Well guess what? A new Gallup Poll suggests the country backs Obama. 59% of Americans responding to this Gallup Poll say it's a good idea for the president to meet with the president of Iran [...]

McCain Says Obama Would Put Israel at Risk to AIPAC (FNC 06/02/08 6:00pm)
CARL CAMERON: [...] At annual meeting of the influential American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, John McCain warned Jewish and Pro-Israel voters that Barack Obama would put the 60 year old Jewish state at greater risk with weak policy toward Iran and an accelerated withdrawal date from Iraq [...] While Obama says US foreign policy must

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change, McCain says the real issue should be judgment. In the wake of Ahmadinejhad's latest threats, the McCain campaign says Obama should abandon his willingness to meet the Iranian leader and the fact that he's not the McCain campaign says, proves that Obama's judgment is bad.

Deputy RNC Chairman: McCain is Trying To Do "Everything Possible" to "Change the Regime in Iran" or "Hurt Them Economically" (FNC 06/02/08 5:15pm)
JOHN GIBSON: More jabs today between Obama and John McCain, at issue is US policy in Iran and the War in Iraq. McCain calling for tough new sanctions on Iran, not talks [...] You just heard David Bonior saying that Iran is more unstable after the past eight years. Your response on that?

FRANK DONATELLI: Well they're more unstable because they're ruled by someone that doesn't have the support of the general public and is pursing suicidal policies and he's somebody that's got to be stopped. I don't know how you can blame the Bush administration for that. What Senator McCain is talking about is doing everything possible, either to change the regime in Iran or to raise the stakes economically on them to such a degree by hurting them economically, that they are forced to change course. That's a far better way to approach Iran, then engaging Ahmadinejad in the first year of your administration to know preconditioned talks [...] This election is not about change or no change, it's about Change that will work versus change that won't work.

Rachel Maddow Points Out McCain Did Not Support Bipartisan Iran Divestment Bill Last Year, While Obama Did (MSNBC 06/02/08 6:07pm)
RACHEL MADDOW: I think that McCain may have goofed on Iran. Senator McCain addressed AIPAC, the hawkish pro-Israel.

[clip of McCain addressing AIPAC]

MADDOW: After mocking Obama's proposed talks with Iran, as you heard there, mocking them as a tried and fail policy of the past, McCain went on to propose his big new idea on Iran of his own, this worldwide divestment campaign to hit Iran economically. Now Obama's got his own AIPAC speech planned for Wednesday. You can expect a major counterpunch from Obama because it was Obama who proposed Iran divestment last year, in a bill with Sam Brownback, in a bipartisan effort that John McCain did not support. […]

David Bonior: Iran Has Become a Bigger Problem Under Bush-McCain Policies (FNC 06/02/08 5:10pm)
DAVID BONIOR: Senator McCain by the way, and if I can just say this, since he supports President Bush's policies, what we've seen during the Bush's years , is we've been more unstable in terms of our relationship with Iran, they've become more a nuclear power, and a nuclear problem [...] The present system certainly isn't working because they've expanded their nuclear capabilities more, under Bush and McCain policies [...]

Thompson Says Obama's Willingness to Engage Iran is a Symptom of Inexperience (FNC 06/02/08 4:40pm)
NEIL CAVUTO: Is this gonna be a central issue you think for Senator McCain and Republicans in general this Fall, Barack Obama's apparent willingness to talk to folks like Ahmadinejad and Senator McCain's leeriness of doing the same thing?

FRED THOMPSON: Well I think it's indicative of a broader issue and that is inexperience and a bit of naivety when it comes to dealing with state sponsors of terrorism and terrorists. You know, we saw again today from Ahmadinejad just how extremist and off the wall that he is. I mean this is a religious matter to them, it's not a matter of state when they talk about the coming of the 12th Iman and the destruction of mankind and the destruction of Israel and the United States and all of that. I don't know if Senator Obama will think his eloquence will allow him to persuade Ahmadinejad to talk the 12th Iman out of coming and returning to the world. So it's part of a broader issue, yeah, it's a very legitimate one.

Obama Policy Advisor Hits Back Against McCain on Iran, Links Him to Bush (MSNBC 06/02/08 1:16pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: There are also challenges from John McCain […] at AIPAC today talking about Barack Obama and Iran.

[video clip of McCain AIPAC speech]

MITCHELL: Now he—Barack Obama is going to AIPAC also.
[…]
GREG CRAIG: It will be fairly dramatic, the differences in their approach. And **if you like the way George Bush has handled our national interests in the Middle East**—

MITCHELL: George Bush has a lot of support among the Jewish community and among the people who are pro-Israel for

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the stance he has taken on Israel.

CRAIG: Andrea, if you really believe that the war in Iraq has made us stronger in that region— […] I think most neutral and objective observers believe that we are less capable of pursuing our interests and Israel's interests as a result of Iraq. And that the strong path is for our troops to be extricated from […] Iraq, where there is no longer a serious military mission to perform. And pursue our more vital interest, which includes protecting Israel. What has happened, of course, **as a result of this current policy Iran has gotten stronger throughout the region. Hezbollah has gotten stronger in Lebanon. Hamas has gotten stronger in Gaza and in Palestine. And this is all on George Bush's watch. And I think that there's gotta be a different approach**, and a different way of handling our interests in the Middle East. And it starts with withdrawal—careful, cautious, responsible withdrawal from Iraq.

NYT's Bumiller Discusses McCain-Obama Iran Dispute, McDifferent and McWeak on the Economy (MSNBC 06/02/08 2:06pm)
[video clip of McCain AIPAC speech]

JOHN HARWOOD: What do you think John McCain's trying to accomplish by pressing this argument that he's been advancing for the past several weeks—that Barack Obama has got a bad idea for negotiating with Iran?

ELISABETH BUMILLER: It's a centerpiece of their strategy to really, really go after Barack Obama on his national security credentials and to question his judgment on foreign policy. […] This is a very important message for this group this morning, this Jewish group. […] The McCain campaign says this is an important part of their fall strategy […] Obama has moved away from that more recently, but McCain has not acknowledged that.

HARWOOD: […] John McCain's going to Louisiana. […] What do you expect to hear from him tomorrow? And how much more aggressive is he gonna get at trying to put some distance between himself and Pres Bush? […]

BUMILLER: I would expect to hear an even stronger denunciation of what happened after Hurricane Katrina. […] We are going to see him running further and further away from the President. Except when it comes to fundraising. Then you will see the President behind closed doors, raising money for John McCain.

HARWOOD: **Money talks.**

TAMRON HALL: […] How does Sen McCain balance that strength in foreign policy, that many perceive him to have**, with the issue of the economy? Through his own words, saying that that was his weak spot.**

BUMILLER: Well he's come out with a big economic policy speech […] last month. There'll be more of that. He bristles when people what he said late last year, that he doesn't understand the economy as well as he should. […] So far, **he hasn't really addressed […] how he would […] better financial markets in the future**. He's put forth some proposals on how to help out people who are about to have their mortgages foreclosed. But right now, **there hasn't been a great deal of detail.**

Highlight #2
Newsweek's Mark Hosenball Discusses Phil Gramm and McCain Lobbyist Problem (MSNBC 06/02/08 1:45pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: And there's another possible headache looming for Senator John McCain's campaign. The presumed Republican nominee is under fire again over ties with close advisors who have been Washington lobbyists. The latest is former Texas Senator Phil Gramm, McCain's long time friend. A familiar face on the campaign trail and in the Senate. He's also vice-chairman of UBS. And as late as this past winter, Gramm was a registered lobbyist on mortgage securities issues. […] What is Phil Gramm's role on economic advice and on how to handle the mortgage crisis? What is his campaign role?

MARK HOSENBALL: The campaign basically says that he is […] a national general co-chairman of the campaign, one of five. He has the role in all aspects of the campaign essentially. […] And they also said that he is a regular advisor on economic matters to Sen McCain, although they won't talk about specifics and they say that there are other full-time advisors—he's not paid by the campaign.

MITCHELL: Now of course, one could argue […] that there is no one on the Republican side who has more experience, more knowledge on a lot of these issues […] than Phil Gramm. […] So tell me, what's wrong with having Phil Gramm advising the campaign?

HOSENBALL: […] **His bank […] got itself into a lot of trouble over subprime mortgages. He's been registered as a**

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lobbyist for some of the subprime mortgage-related issues […] which have actually caused his bank to get into trouble. […] Yeah, he has a lot of experience in economic policy […] but have his economics been proven by the market and by recent events to be sound economics? […] And not only some of the bills he's been lobbying on are questionable in retrospect; but certainly, the performance of his bank in this market has certainly been questionable in retrospect. And the shareholders are probably not very happy. I would add, incidentally, that the McCain people got very angry about this story and said 'well, you didn't point out that one of Obama's top fundraisers, but not advisers, Robert Wolfe, is also a senior executive of UBS.' Fair enough, but from what I can tell, Wolfe is not advising Obama's campaign on economics. […]

MITCHELL: What about the lobbying issues, though? How does this create a problem for John McCain? And is Gramm still a registered lobbyist?[…]

HOSENBALL: The bank deregistered him as a lobbyist for Congressional issues as of I think the end of April, the beginning of April. However, the bank's chief lobbyist still registered in Washington on a whole bunch of issues is somebody named John Savercool, who was for many, many years one of Gramm's top aides. **So he may not be a lobbyist, but his influence is probably still there.**

MITCHELL: And do you think this is beginning to hurt McCain, who has campaigned for so long against lobbying and against special interests? Is he beginning to lose that aura? […]

HOSENBALL: The problem is that Gramm is not the first lobbyist or ex-lobbyist […] to present an appearance problem […] for McCain. In fact, one of the other co-chairs of the campaign, […] Tom Loeffler, recently left the campaign after […] my colleague Michael Isikoff did a story about how he had got tons of money lobbying for Saudi Arabia. McCain has set very high standards […] for the people involved in this campaign, that they're not supposed to be involved in lobbying. **This is another appearance problem.**

MITCHELL: To be continued.

Olbermann Blasts Phil Gramm for Indirectly Helping bin Laden (MSNBC 06/02/08 8:37pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: McCain's top economic advisor was not only on the wrong side of the mortgage issue but also on the wrong side of this nation's effort to choke off the funding for international terrorists. […] As we revealed here on Countdown last week, Gramm, on the payroll of the giant Swiss bank, UBS, helping to defeat U.S. legislation that would give relief to Americans facing foreclosure, at the same time he was helping write McCain's economic policies. Now Newsweek magazine reporting Gramm's bank is undergoing investigation for alleged use of overseas tax havens to hide assets of the wealthy from U.S. authorities. On September 20th, 2001, the New York Times reported that a single Senator had blocked legislation that would've helped investigators track Osama bin Laden's financial network before 9/11. It was Phil Gramm. […] Where does this end for McCain with Phil Gramm? He's wrong on the mortgages. He obviously on the wrong side of terrorism financing. […]

Highlight #3
MSNBC Panel Discuss How McCain was "Inches Away" From Pledging A One-Term Presidency Because of Age
(MSNBC 06/02/08 6:56pm)
[visual of quote from McCain]

MARC AMBINDER: When he formally announced his presidential candidacy last year, Sen. John McCain was inches away from making an unprecedented pledge: if he were elected, he would serve only one term as president. It could have been an earth-shifting moment for the campaign and the primary. At the time, McCain's fundraising pace was falling well short of its target and Republicans were not treating McCain as the frontrunner. The idea to serve one term had long been discussed among top advisers, and McCain was on board.

DAVID GREGORY: […] Ultimately, he didn't sign off on it at the time he actually announced his candidacy. […] What do you think the calculation was all about?

TODD PURDUM: The calculation for it was to make him above politics, above ambition. To say, 'I'll take one shot at four years and that will stop me from having to run for reelection the minute I get into office. It will make me free as a bird to follow my conscience and be above politics in someway.' And the reason not to do it is it ties your hands, makes you a lame duck the moment you take office.

JOHN HARWOOD: Yeah, David, it makes you above politics in a very weak way. Just like a former President, which is in

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fact what you would be on the way to doing as soon as you took oath of office. I think it shows John McCain had very good judgment to step away from that idea and he turned out to not need it to get the nomination.

EUGENE ROBINSON: […] His mother is 96 years old and still rigorous and active. And so it's not as if he expects to be, you know, in his dotage in four years.

[…]

RACHEL MADDOW: […] It would give him two big benefits, as Todd says. It would give him that political advantage which we've seen resonates intensely in the response to Scott McClellan's book, this idea of the permanent campaign being such a toxic part of the Washington culture. […] Yes, it makes you a lame duck but it also gives you a political advantage and as Gene has hinted at, it would take away the fact that people are thinking about him being 80 at the end of his time in office, which is what he would be at the end of a second term. […]

HARWOOD: […] You're gonna see that maverick even more forcefully as he distances himself from President Bush and we're gonna see some of that John McCain we saw in 2000. Because the only way he can stay alive in this race. […]

Highlight #4

GOP Seeking Jewish Vote But Obama Beating McCain with Group By a "Healthy Margin" (FNC 06/02/08 9:53am)

MEGYN KELLY: […] Republicans are hoping that millions of Jewish voters that usually vote Democratic in these presidential elections, could choose McCain this November. […] Does McCain have a realistic shot, […] of actually winning over the Jewish vote that almost always goes democratic?

MARK GINSBERG: In deed there is a very good opportunity for him to capture a much more significant slice of the Jewish vote. Many of these people […] indicate that they're uncertain of exactly which way to go. So that means a good significant percentage of the community is up for grabs at this point.

KELLY: […] We expect, among other things, for McCain to rip on Obama in front of this group for not supporting the Senate Resolution that designated the revolutionary guard in Iran a terrorist organization. […] Will that resonate, do you think, with this group?

GINSBERG: Well it will resonate, particularly before the AIPAC national conference, because Senator Clinton did support that legislation. As did Senator McCain, Senator Obama did not on the basis that he felt that it would in affect grant a license to the President to launch an attack on Iran. […] Having read Senator McCain's speech, […] its quit clear that I think he is going to leave the audience a little bit disappointed because he is only calling for imposing greater economic, private economic sanctions on Iran. He's not taking it to the level of the Israeli government, which there should be at least the military option on the table against nuclear weapons of Iran.

[…]

KELLY: A recent poll shows found Obama beating McCain 6- 32, that's a pretty healthy margin among Jewish voters.

Highlight #5

Pfotenhauer Says McCain Not Avoiding Talking about Economy, Obama's "Mistakes" Make It Too Difficult to Avoid Discussing Foreign Policy (MSNBC 06/02/08 12:28pm)

TAMRON HALL: Senator John McCain is launching a new attack on Barack Obama's foreign policy. In a speech before a highly pro-Israel group in Washington this morning, he blasted Obama for opposing a resolution designating Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization. Nancy Pfotenhauer is John McCain's senior policy advisor […] So Nancy, Sen Obama has been arguing that Sen McCain represents a third Bush term and a policy that has made the U.S. and Israel less secure. How does the campaign respond to Sen Obama's claims?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: **The worst thing that can happen for Israel is for Iran to continue to gain power. And of course their big opportunity […] is if Sen Obama's plan for what to do in Iraq takes place**, where he is basically just arguing for withdrawal, which would leave a huge vacuum for Iran to step in. And of course Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism that we know. And it is absolutely foolhardy for Obama to be granting them Presidential talks, what I call premature capitulation. Giving him what they want the most, rather than forcing sanctions in place, working with our allies to really tighten things down in Iran to make it more difficult for the current regime.

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HALL: **The Obama campaign is also saying that Sen McCain promises sanctions against Iran that the Bush administration has been unable to persuade the U.N. Security Council to deliver.**

PFOTENHAUER: And of course what Sen McCain said in his speech very clearly is that we should continue to push the U.N. Security Council, but if they do not act, that we should work on a multilateral basis with allies and people in the region. So we should be sitting down, as Sen McCain has, with President Sarkozy of France, with Prime Minister Brown in Great Britain, and **we should be ready to take action**. We should be doing things like freezing their financial assets and not granting visas.

HALL:[…] It was just a few weeks ago that people were making the argument that it as the economy that would lead into the general election. But it seems that Sen McCain really has attempted to control the conversation and keep it on the track […] of foreign policy. Many obviously believing that McCain is stronger in that area, and the Republican Party being stronger in that area. **Is he trying to avoid talking about the economy?**

PFOTENHAUER: **Not at all, but Senator Obama's making it impossible not to discuss foreign policy. He keeps making mistakes that are so serious and get to the core of whether or not he is qualified to be Commander-in-Chief. And I think on issue after issue, the answer is a resounding 'no.'** I'd like to back up […] to one of your earlier points. Sen McCain stressed to the audience, because it's so revealing, that Sen Obama refused to support an amendment that identified Iran's Revolutionary Guard troops as a terrorist organization. Now they are killing American soldiers. If you're not even willing to name our enemy, how could you possibly be qualified to defeat them?

HALL: Well I know Sen Clinton supported that and she was under great criticism for doing that as well.

PFOTENHAUER: Well 75 other Senators supported it.

HALL: I know they did. But, well that's another discussion. But we're out of time. Thank you.

Highlight #6
RNC Chairman Defends McCain, Slams Obama on Iraq Policy (MSNBC 06/02/08 3:50pm)
NORAH O'DONNELL: Has the war in Iraq made Iran stronger or weaker?

MIKE DUNCAN: Well, lets talk about the lack of judgment Barack Obama seems to have. You know Senator McCain has invited him to go to Iraq and he has not been there 876 days now. He has also not talked to General Petraeus not one single time. Yet he will unilaterally meet with leaders of hostile countries

O'DONNELL: Since you didn't answer that question I'll ask you another one. Since you brought up the trip to Iraq, you are right John McCain has been to Iraq 8 times, Barack Obama has been there once. It has been over 870 days since he has been there, and yet John McCain can't seem to get facts straight. By any objective analysis including the Washington Post who gave John McCain three Pinocchios. Why is it that John McCain doesn't know how many troops we have in Iraq?

DUNCAN: Well I know that John McCain knows a great deal more about Iraq because he has been there many more times then Barack Obama. Obama has a gap in his knowledge about rather the surge is working or not. He needs to go he needs to talk to General Petraeus.

O'DONNELL: But Chairman, John McCain said we are back down to pre-surge levels and in fact we are not. We still have a hundred and fifty five thousand (155,000) troops in Iraq. How does John McCain make such an egregious mistake?

DUNCAN: Norah, I can't get into verb tenses and things like that. I know John McCain understands. He has been to Iraq, as you say 8 times. He understands the troop level there. He is committed to victory for us in the Middle East. He understands how important it is. He understands how it all fits together [...]

Highlight #7
Chris Matthews: McCain 'Isn't So Old After All' (MSNBC 06/02/08 5:27pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Cindy McCain is clearly having a good time. Last month she posed for this spread in Vogue. Pretty classy. And now in a new interview with U.S. News and World Report, she reveals that she feels the need for speed and rolling in high performance driving lessons. […] Hey, John's not so old after all, is he?

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From:	"Graham Allison" <grahamallison@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	3/8/2016 4:36:55 PM
Subject:	Is Iran Still Israel's Top Threat?

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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Demastrie, Jesse" <Jesse.Demastrie@gmmb.com>
Date: 8/5/2015 11:26:46 AM
Subject: Re: AFP-IK; Unintimidated PAC (Walker PAC); J Street (pro-Iran nuclear deal) placing this week

AFP is only NH and not IA?

On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:09 PM, Demastrie, Jesse <Jesse.Demastrie@gmmb.com > wrote:

No update on American for Prosperity-IK yet. Stations have not been told what "IK" means nor have spots been received yet. Spending looks to be very large over 3 weeks 8/10-8/30. WMUR alone took $800k, with total for state over $1.1 million over the 3 weeks.

Unintimidated PAC (Walker PAC) has placed in Iowa to run 9/8-9/21 – a :60 – and 10/6-2/1 (30s).

J Street (pro Iran nuclear deal) – new spending
8/5 – 8/10
Total $432K

8/6
Total $4K
Washington, DC, ~5 GRPs, $4K – cable only

8/5 – 8/10
Total $428K – broadcast and cable
Portland, OR, ~165 GRPs, $32K
Philadelphia, ~190 GRPs, $83K
Detroit, ~540 GRPs, $138K
Baltimore, ~510 GRPs, $90K
Denver, ~250 GRPs, $85K

Ad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDZClQADEsA

From: Demastrie, Jesse
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2015 3:41 PM
To: Andrew Bleeker; Brian Fallon; Christina Reynolds; David Binder; Demastrie, Jesse; Elan Kriegel; Huma Abedin; Jason Rosenbaum; Jen Palmieri; Jesse Ferguson (HRC); Jester, Daniel; Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; John Podesta; Kaye, Anson; Kristina Schake; Lenar, AJ; Mandy Grunwald; Margolis, Jim; Marlon Marshall (HRC); Matt Dover; Matt Paul; Michael Halle; Michael Vlacich; Nick Merrill; Oren Shur (HRC); Oxhorn, Liz; Pinelo, Greg; Rimel, John; Robby Mook (HRC); Teddy Goff; Tony Carrk
Subject: Americans for Prosperity-IK; Hispanic Democrats for Trump

Americans for Prosperity-IK is starting to place for 8/10-8/30 in New Hampshire (Boston, Manchester, Portland, and Burlington). We don't yet know what "IK" stands for or what the spot is but will let you know if/when we hear.

Hispanic Democrats for Trump
8/6
Total $1,340 – cable only

Ad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmiwXBeO8U4
Spot applauds Trump for being such so offensive that he ends up helping Democrats.

Denver, ~10 GRPs, $1K

Jesse Demastrie Vice President, Associate Media Director
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202.813.4983 | direct

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+**gmmb** cause the effect

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 1/11/2010 5:56:48 AM
Subject: [big campaign] From Politics of Fear to Politics of Nonsense

http://www.nsnetwork.org/node/1499

From Politics of Fear to Politics of Nonsense

Washington, D.C. - Fareed Zakaria reminds us, "The purpose of terrorism is to provoke an overreaction." This weekend's continuing coverage of the failed underpants bombing saw several prominent conservatives sink to an unprecedented depth of hysteria and nonsense. If taken seriously, such responses would risk turning a failed attack into a successful one.

If we are to fight terrorists successfully, we as a nation must keep our poise and learn from this failed attempt. Congress should work to aid the administration, by using its hearings on the attempt to put together a pragmatic plan for improving our security at home. As President Obama declared in his speech last week, the U.S. must move forward with the recognition that "great and proud nations don't hunker down and hide behind walls of suspicion and mistrust. That is exactly what our adversaries want, and so long as I am President, we will never hand them that victory."

On terrorism, conservatives move from politics of fear to politics of nonsense. Over the weekend, core elements of the conservative establishment shifted from fear-mongering to nonsense-peddling, making claims with absolutely no basis in reality. In an absurd illustration of this shift, Keep America Safe - the outfit designed to protect the abysmal legacy of the Bush administration on counterterrorism - released a video attacking the Obama administration's response to the failed underpants bombing, complete with a ticking clock and an explosion at the video's conclusion. Sadly, throughout the weekend, other conservatives have adopted this same hyperbolic rhetoric:

> **Liz Cheney**: Liz Cheney went on ABC's "This Week," alleging that the Obama administration was caught off guard by terrorist activity in Yemen, despite the Administration year-long, close scrutiny of precisely that issue. On Sunday, Cheney said "after the president's press conference, when you had John Brennan and Homeland Security Chief Janet Napolitano brief, they both said they were surprised that Al Qaida in Yemen was operational." Cheney's comments ignore the fact, noted by IPS, that assistance to Yemen in Obama's first year rose from 8.4 million dollars to 40.3 million dollars, nearly a five-fold increase. As the President's chief homeland security and terrorism advisor John Brennan said on Fox News last weekend, "We've worked with the Yemeni government closely since the first day of this administration." [Liz Cheney, 1/10/10 . IPS, 1/06/10 . John Brennan, 1/03/10]
>
> **Rep. Peter Hoekstra**: On CBS's Face the Nation, Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R - MI) insinuated that the any release of Guantanamo detainees by the President would put the country at risk: "The second thing that came out of Yemen was that this was -- you know, that the core of Al Qaida in the Arabian peninsula are people that have been released from Gitmo. Yet in December, the president released more individuals from Gitmo." Yet, according to an administration official quoted in the story, the White House had "been presented with no information that suggests that any of the detainees transferred by this administration have returned to the fight." In addition, Greg Sargent of Who Runs Government reported that according to this same official, the Bush administration had not done the work "the work of screening detainees slated for release that the Obama administration is doing," work that includes a task force for review detainees' cases, as well as actual record-keeping efforts that did not exist under the Bush administration. [Rep. Peter Hoekstra, 1/10/10 . NY Times, 1/7/10 . Greg Sargent, 1/07/10]
>
> **Rep. Peter King**: When asked what concrete recommendations he would make to strengthen America's counterterrorism policy, Rep. Peter King (R - NY) said "I think one main thing would be to -- just himself to use the word terrorism more often." As the Washington Monthly's Steven Benen noted, this is "why Republicans aren't taken more seriously when it comes to the substance of public policy." [Rep. Peter King, 1/06/10 . Steve Benen, 1/06/10]
>
> **Republican Massachusetts Senate Candidate Scott Brown**: Echoing the fear-hyping tactics of Keep America

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> Safe, Republican Massachusetts Senate Candidate Scott Brown filmed a commercial, in which he said "Some people believe our Constitution exists to grant rights to terrorists who want to harm us. I disagree. Our laws are meant to protect this nation, not our enemies." In fact, as former Republican Congressman from Oklahoma Mickey Edwards has said, our constitution is one of our best assets for bringing terrorists to justice: "Critics "scowl and declare that our American courts will not, or can not, convict terrorists. They seem pretty damned certain of that. Which is weird since nearly 200 terrorists have been convicted in our federal courts in the last nine years (that's 65 times as many as have been convicted by military commissions)." [Scott Brown, via Politico, 1/10/10 .Former Congressman Mickey Edwards, 1/05/10]

National security experts agree -- hysteria plays into the hands of Al Qaeda. As foreign policy commentator Fareed Zakaria reminds us, "The purpose of terrorism is to provoke an overreaction. Its real aim is not to kill the hundreds of people directly targeted but to sow fear in the rest of the population. Terrorism is an unusual military tactic in that it depends on the response of the onlookers. If we are not terrorized, then the attack didn't work. Alas, this one worked very well....His mission failed entirely, killing not a single person. The suicide bomber was not even able to commit suicide. But al-Qaeda succeeded in its real aim, which was to throw the American system into turmoil. That's why the terror group proudly boasted about the success of its mission." Hunkering down and adopting a siege mentality plays directing into the hands of Al Qaeda. Marc Lynch, senior fellow at CNAS and professor at George Washington University, explains, "In fact, this risks becoming a classic case of massive overreaction playing right into the hands of a terrorist group."

Osama bin Laden himself explains in a 2004 video "We [Al Qaeda] are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah." In the video bin Laden, referring to the fight against the Soviet Union, said, "using guerrilla warfare and the war of attrition to fight tyrannical superpowers. We, alongside the mujahedeen, bled Russia for 10 years until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat." He also said Al Qaeda has found it "easy for us to provoke and bait" the Bush administration. Dana Milbank points out that "the dismay of the past two weeks misses a larger point: that the nature of the attack shows just how lame al-Qaeda really is...In part, we overestimated (or, in the case of the Bush administration, perhaps exaggerated) the threat from al-Qaeda. In part, the post-Sept. 11 efforts to strengthen the borders and disrupt terrorist operations have worked. Whatever the cause, al-Qaeda is now less an organization than a bunch of loosely affiliated cells." By overreacting and crediting Al Qaeda with a victory, we are only adding fuel to the fire and convincing these organizations that their efforts are succeeding. [Fareed Zakaria, 1/11/10 . Marc Lynch, 1/2/10 . Al Qaeda video via CNN, 11/1/2004 . Washington Post, 1/10/10]

The administration and Congress have acted wisely and appropriately to fix problems, support men and women on the front lines of homeland security, and deny Al Qaeda the propaganda victory it seeks. After ordering several reviews, President Obama also told the nation, "the buck stops with me" and took a number of pragmatic steps:

> First, I'm directing that our intelligence community immediately begin assigning specific responsibility for investigating all leads on high-priority threats so that these leads are pursued and acted upon aggressively -- not just most of the time, but all of the time.
>
> Second, I'm directing that intelligence reports, especially those involving potential threats to the United States, be distributed more rapidly and more widely.
>
> Third, I'm directing that we strengthen the analytical process, how our analysis -- how our analysts process and integrate the intelligence that they receive.
>
> And finally, I'm ordering an immediate effort to strengthen the criteria used to add individuals to our terrorist watchlists, especially the "no fly" list.

The practical steps taken by the Obama administration will facilitate a stronger, more cohesive national security strategy. Congress will also be conducting reviews on a range of topics, including what happened to the detainees that were released from Guantanamo Bay by the Bush administration. Senator Dianne Feinstein, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, explained on Face the Nation that "the Senate is now engaged in a huge study on the interrogation and detention of the some thirty three high-value detainees. What happen to them? How were they treated? What success did the interrogation have? Were the laws followed? That kind of thing. And we should have the report completed within the next three months or so."

Fareed Zakaria explained the benefits of a more staid, meticulous approach: "the public would know that any attack, successful or not, would trigger an automatic, serious process to analyze the problem and fix it. Politicians might find it harder to use every such event for political advantage. The people on the front lines of homeland security would not get demoralized as they watched politicians and the media bash them and grandstand with little knowledge." [President Obama, 1/7/10 . Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Face the Nation, 1/10/10 . Fareed Zakaria, 1/11/10]

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	2/7/2015 8:11:20 AM
Subject:	HRC Clips | 2.7.15
Attachments:	20150207 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
February 7, 2015

HRC

Official or not, Clinton 2016 is well underway (WAPO)
Behind Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign launch window (MSNBC)
Unchartered Territory: Why Hillary Isn't Your Typical Frontrunner (NBC News)
Mandy Grunwald, Once and Future Clinton Consultant, Is A Pop Culture Archetype (Bloomberg)
EXCLUSIVE: Hillary Clinton searching for 100,000 square feet of city office space for huge presidential campaign headquarters (NY Daily News)
Hillary Clinton: Grandmother in Chief (The Atlantic)
New Hampshire, and the case for Hillary Clinton not quite being 'inevitable' (WAPO)
Why Hillary Clinton needs Taraji P. Henson (WAPO)
Clinton, Bush strongest contenders; Ohio a key state for 2016 presidential election (Dayton Daily News)
Hillary Clinton is in much better shape with a key demographic than she ever was in 2008 (Fusion)
Elizabeth Warren's top media consultant isn't ready for Warren (Vox)
Working Families Party considering backing Sen. Elizabeth Warren instead of Hillary Clinton (NY Daily News)
Biden to make Iowa trip next week (Des Moines Register)
We need to start the presidential campaign earlier? (Des Moines Register)
US Benghazi panel to query top officials (AP)
Hillary Clinton Questioning Sought by House Benghazi Panel (Bloomberg)
Benghazi panel chief wants to hear from Clinton ASAP (The Hill)
Former HP CEO: Run for prez likely (Boston Herald)
Mike Huckabee says Hillary Clinton more like Barack Obama than husband Bill (Dallas Morning News)
What isn't being said about 2016 election (Star Democrat)
Hillary Flew Private for Peanuts, and You Can Too (Vanity Fair)
Report: Pakistan aid plans hit snag after political promise by Hillary Clinton (Washington Examiner)
After a decade building trust, one wrong move (NYT)
Trust the dissidents, not the diplomats (WAPO)

National

Booming jobs market, falling gas prices make this the best economy in 15 years (WAPO)
Security plan reiterates alliances, values (WAPO)
Economy spoiling GOP's political strategy (WAPO)
New Yorkers Clamor for IDs, Swamping Mayor's Key Project (NYT)
Job Count Finds Best 3 Months Since Late 1990s (NYT)
As Jindal's G.O.P. Profile Grows, So Do Louisiana's Budget Woes (NYT)
Citing Overseas Travel Plans, Biden Won't Attend Netanyahu's Speech to Congress (NYT)
Gun Debate Is Revived in Colorado, Two Years After Theater Shooting (NYT)
How Teacher Biases Can Sway Girls From Math and Science (NYT)
Pennsylvania Tackles Deficit (WSJ)
This Is Your FCC on Drugs (WSJ)
Obama's partisan approval gap is a mirror of Bush's (LAT)
Kochs' liberal causes? Critics see ruse (LAT)
Diversity won't be a big winner at the Grammys (LAT)
Obama foundation chief: Chicago 'is definitely in play' for library (Chicago Sun Times)
NBC News launches internal investigation of Williams' reporting (Newsday)

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International

U.S., Canada should bail out Haiti (Providence Journal)
Change in Management at Petrobras Does Little to Appease Its Investors (NYT)
New face waits in Cuba; Raul Castro's heir apparent keeps a low profile (LAT)
Moscow negotiations fail to produce a peace deal for conflict in Ukraine (WAPO)
Greece Could Run Out of Cash in Weeks (WSJ)
By-Election in France Shakes Up National Politics (WSJ)
Houthi rebels in Yemen shut down parliament, tightening their control (WAPO)
Netanyahu's 'Bibi-Sitter' Ad Draws Praise From U.S. Conservatives (NYT)
Netanyahu Visit to Congress Threatens to Deepen Splits (WSJ)
At Diplomatic Conference, Turkey-Israel Rift Worsens (NYT)
Militants say U.S. hostage is dead (LAT)
India subtly shifts on climate change agreements, but power gap persists (Global Times)
Prayer Breakfast Words Ruffle China and India (NYT)
In J.P. Morgan Emails, a Tale of China and Connections (WSJ)
Tony Abbott, Australian Premier, Vows to Fight Leadership Challenge (NYT)

Miscellaneous added by PIR, NSM, and Dan

Elizabeth Warren Goes to Bat for Medical Device Industry (Time)

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Official or not, Clinton 2016 is well underway (WAPO)

By Anne Gearan;Dan Balz
February 7, 2015
The Washington Post

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who won't yet say whether she is running for president, is assembling a massive campaign team-in-waiting that outstrips anything on a Republican side that remains factionalized and focused on knocking off one another.

At this point, without so much as an announcement, she has settled on — at the least — a campaign chairman, a campaign manager, a chief strategist and lead pollster, another pollster, a lead media adviser, a communication director, a deputy communications director, a focus group director and a communications strategist.

She is also closing in on a New York City campaign headquarters and a date to make all of this official.

Some senior staff are signing on without nailing down the usual conditions of a new job, such as a salary or starting date. Recruitment is being led by White House senior adviser John Podesta and manager-designate Robby Mook, with Clinton making many of the final decisions herself.

Clinton faces no competition for Democratic campaign talent and is said to prefer to wait as long as possible to begin campaigning, but she has assured senior advisers that she would put the legal framework of a campaign in place this spring.

The advanced stage of her organization is one of many signs that Clinton is the heir apparent for the Democratic nomination, a status that has scared off serious rivals and allowed her to postpone — perhaps until summer — the day she has to begin rigorous campaigning.

Her effort at this stage looks a lot like an incumbent's reelection campaign: She will be running largely in support of a sitting president and his agenda, and is busy hiring many of President Obama's former aides.

Jim Messina, who helped engineer Clinton's downfall in 2008 as a senior aide to Obama's campaign, now runs a super PAC devoted to supporting her in 2016. "It's her turn and her time," he said on MSNBC this week. "We're going to do whatever it takes to make sure she's the president of the United States."

No Republicans now moving toward active candidacies can say that they are as far along in staffing their upper ranks with the kind of experienced people whom Clinton is bringing aboard. She's also locking in wealthy donors and has a head start on other ground organizing and fundraising because of the efforts of outside groups supporting her.

But the luxury of front-runner status could easily become a liability as Clinton attempts the historically difficult feat of leading her party to a third consecutive term in the White House.

So her advisers are working hard to fashion ways to make her seem hungrier, scrappier and less like the inheritor of Obama's mantle. A small but expanding cadre of close advisers is looking at ways to keep her in fighting form through a slow and uneventful early campaign season.

Strategies to distance herself from Obama include a focus on more populist and base-friendly economic issues, as well as suggestions that — despite her tenure as his secretary of state — her foreign policy would be more self-assured than his.

Putting a toe in the water

No one knows better than Clinton that the landscape roughly a year before the first presidential primary contests can be deceiving. She thought she had a lock on the 2008 nomination — only to lose to Obama.

But Democrats supporting Clinton see no one on the horizon this time who could become an Obama, especially now that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) has said she is not running.

That leaves Clinton considering what advisers describe as a "soft" or small-scale launch in April that would allow her to raise money and hire staff but delay traditional daily campaigning until the summer. By comparison, Clinton began campaigning for the 2008 election in January 2007.

Although some supporters worry that Clinton risks losing her edge, others said there is little or no downside to postponing the kind of daily handshaking and speechifying that Clinton often appeared to dislike last time.

Des Moines lawyer and Clinton supporter Jerry Crawford knows there is some hand-wringing among Iowa campaign regulars. At this point in 2007, candidates had established Iowa offices, hired staff and were making regular stops there.

Crawford is unconcerned.

No voters are telling him, "she's got to get out here, because campaigns aren't long enough in this state," Crawford said. "July is

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as good as March or April."

Advisers fret that GOP front-runner Jeb Bush, already known as a smooth speaker, will have lots of debate chops if he emerges from the crowded GOP field to oppose her.

Clinton advisers are looking for ways she can get in a few zingers now. A Twitter message Clinton posted Monday may give a clue to her campaign approach. She weighed in after a controversy erupted over comments from potential GOP opponents New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky that appeared to question universal childhood vaccination.

"The science is clear: The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork. Let's protect all our kids. #GrandmothersKnowBest," she wrote.

An 'exploratory committee' in name only

Clinton is likely to launch an exploratory committee or other placeholder entity in early April, to take advantage of most or all of the federal campaign fundraising period that begins April 1, four strategists and supporters said.

The details of what kind of entity she should launch are still under debate among close advisers, strategists said. They requested anonymity because Clinton is still considering her choices and has made it clear that she wants to keep most of the deliberations private.

An exploratory committee would function as a de-facto announcement, but Clinton could then take her time establishing muscular organizations in Iowa, New Hampshire and other key states, one Democratic strategist supporting her said.

"She wouldn't really be exploring anything," the strategist said.

A "leadership" PAC would be another way of planting her campaign flag without announcing a formal Clinton for President organization, and money that a PAC took in would not count against the federal totals for what individuals may give directly to campaigns.

But it now appears less likely that Clinton would form her own political action committee, strategists said. That is mostly because, like an incumbent, Clinton already has a ready political network and no fear of running out of money.

It is still quite possible that Clinton would skip the stutter-step approach and simply announce her full-fledged presidential campaign this spring.

The Obama connection

Much of the political machinery that helped get Obama elected twice has already swung behind a Clinton candidacy — adding to the feel of quasi-incumbency.

Podesta is advising her unofficially and is expected to become the campaign chairman. He has already announced that he will leave the White House within weeks. White House communications director Jennifer Palmieri is expected to assume the same title for the Clinton campaign in March or April.

Collectively, Clinton's team represents a break from the past. With few exceptions, none of the new team played the most senior roles in her 2008 campaign, and many worked actively against her as part of the Obama operation. More hiring is underway, filling out press, research, digital, political, field and other departments.

Clinton is revamping her communications and press strategy after a 2008 campaign marked by toxic relations between the campaign and the press. Joel Benenson, an Obama pollster now serving as a chief Clinton adviser, Palmieri and Podesta all have good relationships with reporters.

Recent discussions among the Clinton cadre have centered on ways she can communicate through the political press and in spite of it, strategists said, including ways she can exploit social-media outlets that did not exist when she ran in 2008.

Benenson is leading some of the discussions about communications strategy and other topics, two people familiar with recent meetings said. Clinton has ruled out the idea of locating her campaign headquarters in White Plains, N.Y., near her suburban home in Chappaqua; the office will be in Manhattan or Brooklyn, strategists said.

Close, but not too close

Ahead of an announcement, Clinton aides and advisers are charting the issues and policies where Clinton might break with Obama. One strategist advising Clinton said the differences will showcase some of Clinton's more populist and "base-friendly" domestic-policy ideas in the absence of strong primary opposition.

Speaking in Canada last month, Clinton said that although she credits Obama with leading the country out of a deep recession, "I would have differences, everybody would have differences, about what else could have been done."

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She has also hinted that she will cast her national-security leadership as more sure-footed than Obama's. A telling remark to the Atlantic magazine last summer about Obama's trademark caution on foreign affairs later brought an apology.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she had said.

At the same time, Democratic strategists said, no one wants a repeat of the awkward 2000 campaign, when Al Gore, the sitting vice president, appeared to stiff-arm President Bill Clinton. Obama is said to be prepared to do whatever he can do to help her.

Republicans are ready to pounce on any attempt to portray her as an outsider after more than two decades in official Washington. Her advisers assume that Republican criticism will only intensify and serve a purpose similar to the primary season as a proving ground.

Clinton's circle also dislikes comparisons to incumbency, insisting that she will campaign hard and on her own terms.

"You can't be something you aren't," Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said. "She's not an incumbent and wouldn't run as one. Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

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Behind Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign launch window (MSNBC)

By Alex Seitz-Wald
February 6, 2015
MSNBC

Hillary Clinton is running for president, so when does she plan to tell the world? It's one of the biggest questions in politics right now. Speculation originally focused on January, before turning to April, and now even July – but why not anytime in between those months?

"Clinton does not want a repeat of 2008 this time around."

Launching a presidential campaign is like launching a rocket – there's a ton of careful preparation and you have to wait for a window to open before conditions are right. But instead of planetary movements, a campaign launch window is determined by the cyclical nature of federal elections laws and the power of money in modern American politics.

Every four months, presidential campaigns are required to report their fundraising hauls for the previous quarter to the Federal Election Commission. Campaigns want as much time as possible to show strong results in those end-of-the-quarter reports, so an ideal launch window opens on the first day of every new quarter, and begins closing at the end of that month as it gets closer and closer to the deadline for reporting fundraising figures.

That's why, when Clinton ruled out a January (the beginning of the first quarter) campaign launch, advisers and outside speculation immediately turned to April, which is the beginning of the second quarter. And when some Clinton allies recently started urging another postponement, speculation immediately turned towards July, the beginning of the third quarter. Launching in, say, June would be malpractice, insiders say, since her campaign would have only half as much time to raise money.

This also helps explain why Clinton's potential primary opponents are almost all saying they'll make a decision on their own runs in March or "spring," in time for the April launch window.

For Republican hopefuls, who are a facing a fluid and crowded presidential primary field, other considerations might be more important than maximizing their first fundraising window.

But for Clinton, who has time on her side and can set the pace of the Democratic primary at her leisure, insiders say the reporting window is critical. She knows all too well just how important a presidential campaign's first finance report can be.

During her 2008 presidential bid, the first major sign that Clinton was in mortal trouble came from her first fundraising report to the FEC. To great fanfare, her campaign unveiled that they had raked in a whopping $36 million in the first four months since Clinton announced her candidacy in January of 2007. It turned out that only about $20 million of that was actually raised during the previous quarter for the primary campaign, though even that number was still seen as impressive.

But four days later, Obama stunned the political world with his own eye-popping number: $23.5 million. For a first-term senator who, despite all his natural talents, was not given much of a chance when it came to fundraising against the Clinton juggernaut, the number was a sign of unexpected strength that immediately put him on the same level as the far more experienced Clinton.

Voters are hardly paying attention this early in the race, and probably don't care how much a campaign raises in their first four months of operation, but early fundraising is key to the so-called "invisible primary," when candidates jockey for money and endorsements. A strong number that surpasses expectations can open new doors (and checkbooks) for an underdog candidate, while a weak number can pull the rug out from under a frontrunner.

Clinton does not want a repeat of 2008 this time around.

Fortunately for Clinton, she has a massive network of eager donors ready to open their checkbooks the moment she gets in the race. Unfortunately for her, even if none of her potential 2016 primary opponents raise anywhere near the money Obama did, the high expectations that come from her prohibitive frontrunner status mean Clinton is under pressure to report an enormous figure in her first haul.

While allies are loath to speculate about specific numbers, some worry that anything less than historic will be seen as a disappointment.

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Unchartered Territory: Why Hillary Isn't Your Typical Frontrunner (NBC News)

By Mark Murray
February 6, 2015
NBC News

As the 2016 presidential contest continues to take shape, Hillary Clinton appears to be in an extraordinary position - the former secretary of state is essentially running more as a White House incumbent (a la Barack Obama in 2012 or George W. Bush in 2004) than your traditional candidate for an open-seat race.

And her quasi-incumbent status gives her some clear advantages and disadvantages.

While Clinton still isn't officially a presidential candidate, consider these past actions:

> She's lured President Obama's campaign pollster, Joel Benenson, to do her polling;
> She's added Obama's media consultant, Jim Margolis;
> And most recently, she's bringing in the president's current communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, to handle press relations.

This isn't a presidential candidate who's starting from scratch; rather, it's someone who is surrounding herself with the current term-limited president's team.

Perhaps more significantly - and more like a presidential incumbent - she is facing little to no primary opposition.

That's in contrast to the last two clear frontrunners who tried to succeed their party's term-limited president: George H.W. Bush (who in 1988 received a challenge from Bob Dole) and Al Gore (who got one from Bill Bradley).

Yes, Clinton could very well face challenges from Democrats like former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Sen. Bernie Sanders, D-Vt., or former Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va. But as of now, it seems very unlikely that Vice President Joe Biden or Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., will run if Clinton is in the race. Indeed, Hillary Clinton also enlisting Warren's top strategist Mandy Grunwald is the latest sign that Warren isn't running.

And then there's the polling: A recent Des Moines Register/Bloomberg poll found Clinton ahead in Iowa by 40 points from her nearest competition (Warren). And a WMUR Granite State poll had Clinton up by 44 points in New Hampshire.

Advantages and disadvantages to Clinton's position

Of course, as we've seen in the past, an incumbent president running for re-election has advantages and disadvantages.

The advantages: You get to focus solely on the general election and don't have to spend precious resources in fighting back against your own party. You get to avoid the intra-party fights and attacks, which tend to resurface in the general (the 2012 attacks on Mitt Romney's work at Bain Capital first came from primary opponent Newt Gingrich). And you get the party's organization and leaders behind you from the get-go.

The disadvantages: You don't get to make the deep personal connections with voters in Iowa and New Hampshire (both of which are general-election battlegrounds) that you do when there's a truly contested race. You're a bit rustier at debates (see Obama's experience in 2012). And your fortunes are more tied to the overall fundamentals and external events (Is the economy growing? What is the president's approval rating? Is there new instability at home or abroad?).

Unchartered territory

But what's clear is that Clinton is about to set course in unchartered territory for presidential aspirants - with the party's baton passed to her before the race truly even begins.

"History suggests that in open presidential nomination contests, front-runners rarely go from the starting line to the finish without losing a few primaries or caucuses along the way," political analyst Charlie Cook writes. "Usually the leader stumbles, or a protest vote develops somewhere in the process, or another candidate catches a bit of luck or sparks a bit of interest."

In 2016, it's likely - if not a slam dunk - that Hillary Clinton will have the Democratic field and party pretty mostly to herself during the primary season. Unless something surprising happens, there isn't going to be much of a Democratic primary race.

How Clinton fares after that is anyone's guess.

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Mandy Grunwald, Once and Future Clinton Consultant, Is A Pop Culture Archetype (Bloomberg)

By Emily Greenhouse
February 6, 2015
Bloomberg

The New York Times reported Friday that Mandy Grunwald is expected to join Hillary Clinton's still-unofficial presidential campaign, as a senior advisor for communications. Grunwald has been working for another formidable female politician, as a top strategist to Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachussetts. With this move, Grunwald becomes yet another link between Clinton 2016 and Clinton 1992.

When Grunwald was a girl, on the Upper East Side and Martha's Vineyard, she used to make place cards to show Barbara Walters and Mike Wallace where to sit at the dinner table. Her father, Henry Grunwald, was the editor of Time magazine, and this was the kind of company he kept. "It actually was a great childhood for what I'm doing," she said, in 1999, "because nobody intimidates you." That's a useful character trait if you're a communications consultant, especially if your job involves consulting for a Clinton—or, as Grunwald has, both.

It is an understatement to say that Grunwald is famously tough. Her sister, Lisa, a novelist, once described her as "Older. Braver. Taller. Meaner. Stronger." Grunwald's reputation among political reporters is part ingenue and part dragon lady: untouchable, ferocious, whichever the lens. Hillary must hope that'll rub off.

After graduating from college, Grunwald got a job at Sawyer Miller, a New York political consulting and strategic communications firm. Then she joined Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, as director of advertising. (Jim Margolis, who is expected to run Hillary's advertising operation, is another veteran of Bill '92.) The strategist Paul Begala described her, then, as "the only Harvard-educated, genius level IQ I know who enjoys reading People magazine. I mean, I don't care about Sally Fields' eating disorder. But Mandy reads all of it."

Grunwald used her pop predilections to help put a glamorous sheen on her Arkansas charge, pushing him to play his saxophone on Arsenio, among other campaign moments. She was a midwife of "The Man From Hope," the short biographical film that, along with the charisma candidate, headlined the 1992 Democratic National Convention. It showed a high-school aged Clinton, a delegate to Boys Nation, meeting President Kennedy in the White House Rose Garden.

That same year, Grunwald went on "Nightline" to defend Clinton, who was facing accusations from Gennifer Flowers. Ted Koppel told her, "You've done a very effective job of putting me on the defensive." Begala observed, "in her calm, low voice and her upper-class pearls, she just cut Koppel's throat." It was all offensive; another time, she helped Clinton frame an interview with Koppel by saying to him, "You know, governor, it seems to me that the only two times you've been invited on 'Nightline' was to talk about a woman you never slept with and a draft you never dodged." Her zinger was the night's lasting sound bite.

Despite her loyalty, after the failure of health care reform, and after the Republicans took over Congress, Bill Clinton pushed her out. But Hillary kept her close. She threw Grunwald a baby shower, at the White House. And then a couple of years later, Grunwald advised Hillary on her 2000 Senate campaign. Hillary won.

Grunwald is said to be the inspiration for the character Dr. Madeline "Mandy" Hampton in The West Wing, a savvy, shrewd media and politics consultant who loves fast cars and clashes with White House Deputy Chief of Staff Josh Lyman, a former flame. The actress who played her, Moira Kelly, described Mandy (the character): "She's a fighter in a difficult business and has a lot of strength." But Mandy Hampton got cut after the "West Wing"'s maiden season.

A character in Primary Colors, the political roman à clef published by an anonymous author in January 1996, also reminded many of Grunwald: Daisy Green, the campaign media advisor. Primary Colors had alarming insight, not to mention access, into the Clinton sphere, and a good many suspected that Lisa Grunwald may have written it, with input from her older sister. But Donald Foster, a Vassar professor high off proving that a little-known funeral elegy "must have been written by Shakespeare," thought it "not very likely" that the book was written by a woman. Writing for New York magazine that February, he said there were only "two kinds of females" in the book: "bitches and bimbos." This didn't totally square with the fact that perhaps the most sympathetic character in the book is a woman: Daisy.

In a sidebar to Foster's article, Jacob Weisberg wrote that Grunwald "is not, shall we say, universally beloved. Most people found it so strange to read a flattering portrayal of her—in a vicious satire, no less" that they figured her sister Lisa was the story-crafter. But, Weisberg writes, ascribing authorship to the reporter Joe Klein, as well as the male-author tendencies, "resolves this problem. He and Grunwald are close friends."

That July, Klein finally admitted that he was Anonymous. He wrote a new afterword to the book, and noted that Daisy Green "had the same job Mandy Grunwald filled in the Clinton campaign but who wasn't Mandy at all." But Klein came to explain the book as the product, in part, of conversations with Grunwald: the two "often talked about the lameness" of political fiction. No one, he wrote, "had ever captured the intensity, velocity, and insanity of political campaigns in the television age, and so I decided to give it a try."

In the film version, Maura Tierney played Daisy, that protector of Southern Governor Jack Stanton, Clinton à la John Travolta. Tierney's Daisy is a sassy, no-nonsense, ever-present figure, wearing overalls on the campaign couch. She yells, crumples, and claps at the TV, or she stands nonchalant when Stanton emerges, tie untied, shirt unbuttoned, from a hotel room with Allison Janney (another West Wing star). Daisy knows when to look away. But she's got a feminist edge to her, too: When a fellow staffer asks her to fetch this or that thing, she replies, tartly, "only if you pinch my cheeks and call me sugar."

In one scene, Daisy sits with other campaign strategists on a bed, worried about how to avoid—and control—spin. One guy

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seems ready to give up. But Daisy says: “Well, all right then, let’s just quit. If everyone’s gonna take a bite out of him and we’re not gonna say anything, let’s just go work for someone we’re not too chickenshit to protect.”

In Klein’s afterword he writes that, before he came out as the author, Grunwald asked him if he had “read this book that people are saying you wrote.” Rather than reply directly, Klein pinged the question right back at her. He wrote that he and Grunwald were so close that she “assumed I would have told her if I’d actually written it.” She does seem like a woman who’s usually in the know.

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EXCLUSIVE: Hillary Clinton searching for 100,000 square feet of city office space for huge presidential campaign headquarters (NY Daily News)

By Annie Karni
February 6, 2015
New York Daily News

Hillary Clinton is searching for over 100,000 square feet of office space in New York City to house her presidential campaign headquarters, the Daily News has learned — a huge office equivalent in size to at least three full floors at 1 World Trade Center.

Clinton's camp is working with brokers at the CBRE real estate firm, sources said, and searching in Brooklyn and Queens.

The team is eyeing space in downtown Brooklyn, specifically the MetroTech complex near Borough Hall and 1 Pierrepont Plaza in Brooklyn Heights.

The Clinton team is also considering Long Island City, Queens.

Leases for 100,000 square feet or over in New York City are sometimes referred to by brokers as "mega deals."

"For Brooklyn or Queens it's a very large lease," said Mark Weiss, vice chairman at Newmark Grubb Knight Frank.

But it could prove difficult to find the right building.

"It's going to be hard for a landlord to get their arms around it — the credit quality of any political campaign is generally not very strong," Weiss said. "It doesn't lend anything to the cache of a building to have a political headquarters. There's no permanence to the tenancy. It doesn't elevate the patina of a building in any way."

It may just depend on finding the right landlord, who is "ready for Hillary."

"Is it cool for a landlord to say Hillary Clinton is my tenant? Yeah, that's cool," Weiss said. "Especially if she becomes the next President."

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Hillary Clinton: Grandmother in Chief (The Atlantic)

By Peter Beinart

February 6, 2015

The Atlantic

On Monday, when Hillary Clinton issued a pro-vaccination tweet with the hashtag #GrandmothersKnowBest," journalists quickly spotted a potential theme for her presidential run. For Hillary's sake, I hope they're right. Because in 2016, grandmotherhood may help her convey the quality that she so disastrously failed to convey for much of 2007 and 2008: authenticity.

It's easy to mock Hillary's constant talk about the obligations of grandmotherhood, but it comes with an intriguing backstory: She had lousy grandmothers herself. In her memoir Living History, Hillary's descriptions of her own grandmothers are harsh. On page two, she says that her maternal grandmother, Della Murray, "essentially abandoned my mother [Dorothy Howell Rodham] when she was only three or four, leaving her alone all day for days on end." At age eight, Della sent Dorothy to live with relatives. They reunited ten years later, but when Dorothy realized that Della "wanted her only as a housekeeper and that she would get no financial help for college," they parted ways again.

Hillary's own memories of Della are also strikingly negative. She remembers her maternal grandmother "as a weak and self-indulgent woman, wrapped up in television soap operas and disengaged from reality." When Hillary was ten, and Della was babysitting, "I was hit in the eye by a chain-link gate…I ran home three blocks, crying and holding my head as blood streamed down my face. When Della saw me, she fainted." Then "when Della revived, she complained that I had scared her and that she could have gotten hurt when she fell over."

Hillary is critical of her paternal grandmother too. She calls Hannah Jones Rodham—father of Hillary's father, Hugh Rodham Sr.—"a determined woman whose energies and intelligence had little outlet, which led to her meddling in everyone else's business." And she remarks that, "I believe my father knew that he had to make a break from Hannah if he was ever to live his own life."

It's clear from Hillary's memoir that she feels sadness, even anger, about the absence of more caring, competent grandmothers from her own life. Her current paeans to their importance, therefore, may be a bit like Barack Obama's lectures on the necessity of fathers. Behind the political positioning lies a conviction born of personal pain.

Emphasizing grandmotherhood may be authentic for Hillary in another way too. In the popular imagination, grandmothers are both caring and conservative. They dote on their grandchildren while also tut-tutting about a culture gone awry. They are pro-family in both the liberal and conservative senses of the world.

That's a good persona for Hillary because it reflects what she actually believes. Even Hillary's critics acknowledge that her devotion to the welfare of children runs very deep. At Yale Law School, she made children's rights the focus of her studies, and in her first job in Washington, working for what would become the Children's Defense Fund, Hillary investigated the appalling conditions endured by the children of migrant workers. In Carl Bernstein's biography, A Woman in Charge, Hillary's friend Nancy Bekavic says, "I remember being struck by this aggressive, ambitious, bright woman who studied child development and cared about children. It was unusual in some ways. Every young woman was running away from, you know, childhood and family issues. Jesus Christ, the last thing you wanted to do was family law … It was very unusual."

When Hillary burst onto the national scene in the 1990s, her work on children gained national attention. But because of the blowback she provoked as the first non-homemaker First Lady, the nature of that work was frequently distorted. The right portrayed her as a cultural radical who wanted children to be able to sue their parents.

In 2016, however, Hillary may be more effective in conveying her real attitudes toward children and families, which are

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anything but radical. In part, that's because high-profile working women are somewhat less threatening than they were twenty years ago. But it's also because running as a grandmother may help voters see the cultural conservatism that has been part of Hillary's worldview all along.

In his biography, Bernstein quotes a former Clinton administration aide calling Hillary "a very judgmental Methodist from the Midwest." And it's true. Hillary's most important mentor growing up was a local youth minister. Despite attending college and law school in the late 1960s, she never touched drugs. And while working on George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign, according to Bernstein, she carried a heavily marked-up Bible around everywhere.

In 1994, according to Sally Bedell Smith's book, For Love of Politics, Hillary said she was "not comfortable" with distributing condoms in schools. Hillary promoted abstinence from pre-marital sex in her 1996 book, It Takes a Village, and surprised many reporters by declaring in a 2005 speech to family planning activists that, "Research shows that the primary reason that teenage girls abstain is because of their religious and moral values. We should embrace this—and support programs that reinforce the idea that abstinence at a young age is not just the smart thing to do, it is the right thing to do." In It Takes a Village, Hillary is also critical of adults for being too quick to divorce, declaring that, "Children without fathers, or whose parents float in and out of their lives after divorce, are precarious little boats in the most turbulent seas."

Part of Hillary's challenge in 2016 is mobilizing progressives excited by the prospect of a woman president without mobilizing conservatives who see her as a threat to traditional morality, as she did in the 1990s. Changing times make that easier: Ambitious women are a little less scary now. But so does her new role as grandmother. For decades now, Hillary has been insisting that she's a trailblazer and a traditionalist all at the same time. Now, by running as a grandmother, she may finally make Americans believe her.

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New Hampshire, and the case for Hillary Clinton not quite being 'inevitable' (WAPO)

By Scott Clement
February 6, 2015
The Washington Post

New Hampshire has been very good to the Clintons, making Bill Clinton the "comeback kid" in its 1992 primary and helping Hillary Clinton to a badly needed victory after Barack Obama won Iowa in 2008. And Hillary Clinton is a strong favorite there again this year -- as she is nearly everywhere.

But as we enter the 2016 campaign, it's worth remembering that New Hampshire likes to surprise us. And there are plenty of reasons to keep an eye on the Granite State when it comes to Clinton's supposed "inevitability" as the Democratic nominee.

Despite vast coverage of Clinton's dominance in lining up for a presidential run, three in four likely New Hampshire Democratic primary voters in a new WMUR Granite State Poll say they're "still trying to decide" who they'll vote for in the state's 2016 primary. Just 7 percent say they've "definitely decided."

The widespread lack of commitment in the poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire, is unsurprising roughly one year before voting. But it is a reminder there's ample room for volatility in a Democratic race which thus far has looked like a looming Clinton rout. People are at least open-minded.

Between the courting of top strategists and Democratic donors, polls asking how Democrats would vote "if the election were held today" have found Clinton dominating other hopefuls. Indeed, 58 percent in the same sample of Democrats said they would support Clinton today, with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) in a distant second at 14 percent and Vice President Biden at 8 percent. This does not imply much hemming and hawing, but the "still trying to decide" number assures she hasn't put the Democratic nomination on ice just yet (nor should we expect her to have done so).

The lack of final decision is not itself worrisome for Clinton; voters simply don't decide this early. At this point in 2011, the Republican field was in a very similar situation, with 78 percent of Republican likely voters in February 2011 survey still trying to decide who to support -- even as Mitt Romney held a 30-point lead over other potential contenders in a state he wound up dominating in 2012. Romney won by 16 points over Ron Paul, smaller than his initial edge but still a no-doubted from the beginning.

But the survey offers other clues as to Clinton's vulnerabilities among primary voters and makes clear Democratic voters are not thrilled about their options so far. Fewer than one in five Democrats say they're "very satisfied" with the choice of candidates for the Democratic nomination (18 percent); 63 percent take poll choice equivalent of "meh," saying they are "somewhat satisfied." And despite nearly six in 10 preferring her to other Democrats, just 32 percent say she is the most likable and 31 percent say she's the most believable. No other candidate, though, beats her on these attributes.

The rest of the poll is gravy for Clinton's prospects, and bodes particularly poorly for Joe Biden, one of her strongest potential rivals. More than eight in 10 have a favorable impression of her (83 percent) and just 9 percent are unfavorable -- by far the best favorable-unfavorable margin (+74). Others like Warren and Sanders are similarly well-liked by those who know them, but aren't as well-known.

Biden's image is weaker according to the poll. His favorability margin is a modest +23 (53 percent favorable/30 percent unfavorable), which far weaker than Warren or Clinton and worse than surveys by the same pollster in October and July (+32 and +47 favorability margins, respectively.) Biden is less popular in New Hampshire than Iowa, where a Des Moines Register/ Bloomberg Politics poll found a 78/20 percent favorable/unfavorable split on general impressions.

The poll underscores how much Clinton's candidacy banks on other Democrats failing to make strong impression ahead of primaries this fall, and the importance of maintaining her own positive image. When New Hampshire voters do begin to decide, she'll want voters' opinions to look a lot they do right now.

The WMUR Granite State poll was conducted on landline and cellular phones Jan. 22 to Feb. 3 among a random sample of 297 likely voters in the 2016 New Hampshire Democratic primary. The margin of sampling error is 5.7 percentage points.

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Why Hillary Clinton needs Taraji P. Henson (WAPO)

By Nia-Malika Henderson
February 6, 2015
The Washington Post

This week, a long list of artists declared that they were on Team Warren for 2016. To a certain set, this was evidence of the very kind of buzz Warren would need (if she weren't pretty clearly not running for president): Galvanize artists and Hollywood/ liberal types, add social media, and voila.

Team Obama mastered that strategy, with a chorus of very prominent pop-culture figures serving as kind of sixth men for both of his runs. Warren's artist's list is far less prominent, of course (sorry Mark Ruffalo), but you get the idea.

The Warren list comes as Hillary Clinton is busy assembling her 2016 campaign team, a move that has not come without scrutiny. Full of Obama retreads and not exactly diverse, a 2008 supporter described it as "tired and predictable."

Ready for Hillary, meanwhile, has been busy reaching out to black pastors, according to BuzzFeed. Networking with "black leaders" is part of Clinton's and her husband's strategy as well. Bill Clinton is constantly in touch with black elected officials, and they have sought to repair whatever fallout from 2008 might still exist by courting black pastors.

Anybody else have deja vu? It isn't that these efforts can't be useful; it is rather that they amount to the kind of dated box-checking that doomed Clinton's candidacy in 2008. She might have had prominent Harlem pastor Calvin Butts in her corner back then, but Obama had Harlem in his. It was a cultural endorsement, underscored by Jay-Z and Kerry Washington and Scarlett Johansson, that helped give him an edge and a buzz that Clinton never had.

Which brings us to the hit Fox show "Empire" and Taraji P. Henson. (Bear with us.) This show has buzz and ratings in spades. It is terrific and over the top and addictive. And it's largely because of Henson, who plays ex-con/music mogul "Cookie" with a fierce assurance that makes her the emotional center of the show. She should be in every scene of every show on television.

Now, viewers (11 million and counting) know that President Obama has had a bit part in the show. Lucious Lyon, the head of Empire Records who is played by Terrence Howard, has the president on speed dial. They are on such familiar terms that Lyon seems to0 busy to be bothered with an invitation to a state dinner.

"Tell Barack that, yes, but this is the last one for the next few months," Lyon says one of the early scenes of the first show.

Obama "appears," yet again, when Lyon's young rapper son calls the president a sell-out in a social media ploy:

This storyline sparked an unexpected backlash.

Henson's response? "It's art, baby!" So Cookie.

Imagining that Clinton will become a plot line on "Empire" is not beyond the realm of possibility, given the Obama angle. Granted, it's a bigger stretch; Clinton isn't exactly the hip-hop secretary of state. But cultivating a circle of cultural ambassadors in the mold of Henson -- if not Henson, specifically -- would be very smart for Team Clinton.

Obama had Beyonce. Clinton should call Cookie.

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Clinton, Bush strongest contenders; Ohio a key state for 2016 presidential election (Dayton Daily News)

By Laura A. Bischoff
February 6, 2015
Dayton Daily News

COLUMBUS -- A Clinton-Bush matchup for the 2016 presidential race seems to be shaping up, according to a new poll released Wednesday by Quinnipiac University.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, if she decides to run for president, is the choice for more than half of Democratic voters in key swing states of Ohio, Florida and Pennsylvania, according to the poll.

If Clinton opts out, Vice President Joe Biden leads the pack with tallies ranging from 28 percent to 39 percent.

"Hillary Clinton has an overwhelming lead and currently no serious challengers," said assistant poll director Peter Brown in a written statement. "Should she decide not to run, the field could grow like a weed. If she stays in, the numbers indicate she has nothing to worry about when it comes to the Democratic nomination."

On the Republican side, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is the front runner in a potential presidential primaries in Florida, the poll found. Since 1960, no candidate has won the White House without taking at least two of these three states.

With 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney out of the 2016 Republican primary race, Bush would win 32 percent in Florida, 10 percent in Ohio and 12 percent in Pennsylvania.

"Taken as a whole, there is no clear leader for the Republican presidential nomination in these three critical swing states. Former Gov. Jeb Bush is way ahead in Florida with almost a third of the vote, but no candidate is in comparable situation in Ohio or Pennsylvania," Brown added. "In fact, four candidates are in low double-digits in Ohio and just three in Pennsylvania. Bush is the only one in double digits in all three states, but barely so."

In Ohio, Gov. John Kasich would win 14 percent of Republican voters while Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker would earn 11 percent. Bush and U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky would each garner 10 percent.

In Ohio, Clinton has support from 51 percent of Democrats, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has 14 percent and Biden has 7 percent. If Clinton doesn't run, Biden's support in Ohio climbs to 28 percent and Warren's goes up to 24 percent.

"The big question in Ohio is whether Gov. John Kasich runs. If so, the data indicates that he would be a formidable competitor in his home state. This Swing State Poll, however, indicates that he has a long, long way to go in Florida and Pennsylvania," Brown said.

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Hillary Clinton is in much better shape with a key demographic than she ever was in 2008 (Fusion)

By Brett LoGiurato
February 6, 2015
Fusion

One of the potential hiccups with an all-but-certain Hillary Clinton campaign for president in 2016 is a perceived problem with young voters.

There's good precedent for this perception: In 2008, the last time she ran for president, Clinton was walloped by President Barack Obama among youth voters in the Democratic primary. He tripled her share of the youth vote in Iowa, prompting a top Clinton adviser to famously say, "Our people look like caucus-goers and his people look like they are 18."

But a new poll released Friday finds that, so far, Clinton is avoiding that trip heading into 2016. The poll, from the University of New Hampshire and WMUR, shows Clinton with not only a commanding lead among young voters in the state. It also shows young voters as her biggest supporters.

The 18-34 age group is the one that appears most firm about voting for Clinton in a 2016 Democratic primary. Three-quarters of that group says they would vote for her if the Democratic primary were held today. Just 9 percent choose Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts), a liberal firebrand who has repeatedly said she won't run for president. And 4 percent would vote for Vice President Joe Biden.

The results align with those from Fusion's Massive Millennial Poll, which surveyed 1000 people aged 18-34 about everything from politics to dating to race issues. The poll found 38 percent of the millennials surveyed — including 57 percent of millennial Democrats surveyed in the poll.

Clinton has bigger problems — if they can be called problems — with the 50-and-over crowd of the possible Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire, who carried her to a surprise victory there in 2008. That year, more than two-thirds of Democratic primary voters were over the age of 40. She beat Obama by at least 9 points among the age 40-49, 50-64, and 65-and-over age groups.

This time, according to the UNH/WBUR poll, her lead is smaller than with young voters. But she still leads Warren by at least 30 points in each age group.

Some liberal groups have continued their efforts to push Warren into the race, even as she has become more firm in saying she will not challenge Clinton. This week, the "Run Warren Run" campaign — which is being led by the groups Democracy for America and MoveOn.org Political Action — announced the opening of a field office in New Hampshire.

The group, which already has offices in the early-caucus state of Iowa, said it plans to open more offices in New Hampshire. It also hired a New Hampshire state director for its campaign. It's being led mostly by younger activists who want Clinton to face a primary challenge.

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Elizabeth Warren's top media consultant isn't ready for Warren (Vox)

By Matthew Yglesia

February 6, 2015

Vox

An awful lot of people in progressive politics would like to see Elizabeth Warren run for president, but the latest sign that it's not going to happen is a big one — Mandy Grunwald is joining Hillary Clinton's team.

That's not a shocking move. Grunwald worked on Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign and Hillary Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign. So she's a natural fit for Clinton.

But she was also the top paid media consultant for Warren's 2012 Senate campaign. To take the leap from the Senate to the White House, you need to build on and expand your political team — not watch it shrink as key personnel drift off to other campaigns.

To be clear, this isn't so much bad news for Warren — who has genuinely never given any indication that she's wanted to challenge Clinton — as it is for the circle of people who've latched on Warren as the hypothetical Clinton-slayer of their dreams.

It shows that Warren is not laying the groundwork for a campaign, and that Clinton really and truly does have the Democratic Party's top operatives lined up behind her.

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Working Families Party considering backing Sen. Elizabeth Warren instead of Hillary Clinton (NY Daily News)

By Annie Karni
February 6, 2015
NY Daily News

In a sign of the growing pressure Hillary Clinton faces from the left, the Working Families Party is considering backing the movement to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run for President, the Daily News has learned.

One person said the effort was not so much a bid to get the Massachusetts senator to run but to "Warrenize Hillary" by pushing her to adopt more liberal policies.

At a meeting of the WFP's advisory council last week, executive committee members wanted to bring the idea to a vote, sources said.

Those pushing to publicly back Warren — who has said she will not run for President — included Communications Workers of America, a union that represents 70,000 local members; the labor-backed New York Communities for Change; and the community group Make the Road New York.

"It was clear that CWA, Make the Road and NYCC wanted to leave the meeting saying, 'We want to support Warren,'" a source said.

In a sign of the growing pressure Hillary Clinton faces from the left, the Working Families Party is considering backing the movement to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run for President, the Daily News has learned.

One person said the effort was not so much a bid to get the Massachusetts senator to run but to "Warrenize Hillary" by pushing her to adopt more liberal policies.

At a meeting of the WFP's advisory council last week, executive committee members wanted to bring the idea to a vote, sources said.

Those pushing to publicly back Warren — who has said she will not run for President — included Communications Workers of America, a union that represents 70,000 local members; the labor-backed New York Communities for Change; and the community group Make the Road New York.

"It was clear that CWA, Make the Road and NYCC wanted to leave the meeting saying, 'We want to support Warren,'" a source said.

That pressure comes even from Clinton supporters who want to help elect the most progressive version of the centrist Democrat possible.

Another source at the meeting stressed: "Not a single bad word was uttered about Hillary."

Clinton has yet to announce her assumed presidential run.

MoveOn.org and the PAC Democracy for America in December launched the "Run Warren Run" campaign.

The campaign "is 100% focused on getting Elizabeth Warren into the race," said Democracy for America spokesman Neil Sroka. "As an added benefit, it also shows whoever ends up being the nominee that there's a strong grassroots movement that wants a candidate focused on income inequality issues from Day One."

The group has reached out to unions and elected leaders about joining the movement.

"I was happy to hear the WFP is evening considering this issue," Sroka said. "You can be fans of Clinton and also want to see Warren in this race. A battle of ideas only makes the Democratic party stronger."

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Biden to make Iowa trip next week (Des Moines Register)

By Jennifer Jacobs
February 6, 2015
Des Moines Register

Joe Biden, the vice president and an underdog for the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, is scheduled to be back in Iowa next week.

Biden will speak in Des Moines on Thursday, sources familiar with preparations for his trip told The Des Moines Register. His office later confirmed that he will deliver remarks at Drake University and do a roundtable at Des Moines Area Community College on college affordability.

The news comes in the wake of the release this past weekend of a new Iowa Poll that shows Biden trails both Hillary Clinton and Elizabeth Warren in the horse race for most popular presidential pick among likely Democratic caucusgoers.

Biden's timing suggests he wants to keep his name in circulation as presidential material - any time top-shelf politicians make a trip here it reinforces the notion that they harbor aspirations for the top job. He is currently in Belgium, meeting with European leaders in part to talk about sanctions against Russia and security and aid to Ukraine. He'll also attend a security summit in Germany.

Democrats generally think the 2016 Democratic nomination is Clinton's if she wants it, although she has yet to announce an official candidacy. In September, Biden made headlines for chasing Clinton here just three days after she made her Iowa comeback after a seven-year absence; she spoke before an audience of 10,000 and a horde of media at the Harkin Steak Fry.

Biden's event Thursday, like the one in September, will be an official White House trip to talk about the Obama administration's economic policies. Biden remarks in September, with the Iowa Capitol in the background, had the air of a campaign stump speech, as he called for raising the minimum wage and making life better for the middle class.

Biden, 72, was here more recently, in late October, to campaign in Davenport for two Iowa Democrats who were running for federal office, Dave Loebsack, who was re-elected to Congress, and Bruce Braley, who lost his bid for U.S. Senate.

This will be Biden's fourth post-2012 trip here. He spoke at the 2013 Harkin Steak Fry, and he did a private event with invited guests at Des Moines' ballpark, Principal Park, beforehand.

Biden has a network of connections in Iowa after running for president here in both 1987 and 2007, then campaigning extensively with President Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012.

Known as a champion for the middle class and an expert on foreign policy, Biden has been described by Iowa Democrats as forceful, engaging and direct, but also has a reputation for long-windedness and verbal gaffes collectively known as Bidenisms. An Iowa Poll in September 2012 found that 47 percent of Iowans considered Biden a drag on the ticket.

Among Democratic activists, opinions of him are high, the new Iowa Poll shows. He's viewed favorably by 78 percent of likely 2016 Democratic caucusgoers, the Jan. 26-29 poll found. Just 20 percent have a negative view of him.

That means his popularity among those core Democratic voters is almost as high as Clinton's (84 percent favorable). But he's the first choice of just 9 percent of likely caucusgoers, while Clinton is the top choice for 56 percent. Warren, a U.S. senator from Massachusetts, is the first choice for 16 percent.

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We need to start the presidential campaign earlier? (Des Moines Register)

By Lanny Davis
February 6, 2015
The Des Moines Register

Many political pundits and Republicans are hyper-ventilating about the news that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton may actually wait a while longer before making up her mind whether to run for president of the United States.

How could she delay? How dare she? If you Google the words, "Hillary Clinton ... waiting too long" you will get over 2 million hits (whatever that means).

For the media, this is a crisis of major proportions. If Secretary Clinton waits months and months to decide, just imagine all the loss of expense-account paid campaign trips, front-page column inches, breathless "just breaking" cable news 24/7 reports, "gotcha" moments. Imagine media's impatience to write the stories with headlines already written, waiting to be published when and if Hillary announces: "Hillary's Rusty," "More Hillary Gaffes," "Boring Hillary Front-Runner Campaign" and — the one we know is coming, must be coming, not whether but when: "Hillary Clinton Wins By Less Than Expected; Campaign in Disarray."

Many writers say she shouldn't delay or else Massachusetts Sen. Elisabeth Warren will run. Put aside that Sen. Warren has repeatedly stated that she isn't going to run — perhaps because she and Hillary Clinton agree on virtually every major progressive issue. Yet Washington Post's Chris Cillizza and Aaron Blake insist: "[A] big reason she should at least consider announcing sooner rather than later... is Elizabeth Warren....[who] is the beating heart of the Democratic base."

Oh, really? Beating heart?

In the Jan. 22-25 Public Policy Polling (PPP) survey, Clinton leads over Warren among all voters 60 percent to 10 percent (Biden is in second place at 15 percent).

Among Democrats who describe themselves as "very liberal" (what one could accurately call the "beating heart of the Democratic base"), Clinton is the choice of 65 percent — compared with 16 percent for Warren. Clinton is rated as "favorable" by 88 percent of those who identify themselves as "very liberal" — that is, nine out of 10 — compared to 61 percent favorable for Warren.

In January 2012, the Pew Research Center found that 57 percent of the national sample found the presidential campaign was "too long." Surprise!

Is this campaign fatigue a recent phenomenon? When I Googled the words, "presidential campaigns too long," I received 10,500,000 hits. The first hit was a Time magazine article with the headline, "Is the Presidential Campaign Too Long? Both Allies & Candidates Think So."

The article states: "The long campaign is debilitating, tedious, and expensive." One presidential candidate is quoted as saying: "Obviously a year of perambulating, incessant exposure is exhausting. You grow weary, frustrated and bored. Any man who has listened to himself several times daily since February is not likely to inspire his countrymen in October."

The date of the Time article: June 27, 1960. The quoted candidate was the two-time former Democratic nominee, Adlai Stevenson, who lost the nomination to John F. Kennedy.

So the point is, nothing has really changed.

Is there any political danger, as some suggest, that if Hillary Clinton delays her announcement, she will coast to the Democratic nomination and run in the general election as if she has already won? Politico recently reported that some Iowans fear Clinton will take them for granted and not make an effort to win the caucuses.

Fear not, Iowans. Not a chance.

Full disclosure: I am a long-time friend and loyal supporter. I don't know whether, or when, Clinton will announce for president. I really don't.

But this much I do know: When and if she runs, she will work very hard. She will not act as if she is entitled to a single vote. She will work to earn every vote.

Hard work, issues, facts, respect for her opponents, respect for those who disagree, respect for those on both sides of the aisle: This is Hillary Clinton. This is who she always has been. And, no doubt: This is the kind of campaign she will run — if she runs.

Of that I am certain.

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US Benghazi panel to query top officials (AP)

By Matthew Daly
February 6, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A special U.S. House committee looking into the deadly Benghazi, Libya, attacks in 2012 will interview a host of current and former high-ranking Obama administration officials as it speeds the pace of the investigation.

The panel's Republican chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy has previously said he will ask Hillary Rodham Clinton, secretary of state at the time of the attacks, to testify at a public hearing before the 12-member committee. He said Friday that appearance should occur "as soon as possible." Clinton is widely expected to run for president in 2016.

Other high-ranking officials he said he intends to interview include former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and former CIA director David Petraeus, as well as White House chief of staff Denis McDonough and national security adviser Susan Rice.

Gowdy also said he wants to interview Cheryl Mills, a longtime Clinton aide who was her chief of staff when the attacks occurred at the U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, killing Ambassador Chris Stephens and three other Americans.

The lawmaker said last week he was frustrated at the slow pace of the investigation and was going to "ratchet it up." Dem,ocrats maintain the investigation is politically motivated and aimed at damaging Clinton's presidential prospects.

Gowdy said Friday that the interviews with the high-ranking officials will begin as soon as April, after the panel interviews 22 potential witnesses who work for the State Department or have knowledge of the attacks.

He called the timeline for new interviews "ambitious" but said he intends to "stay with this schedule and will issue subpoenas if necessary."

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said Friday that a reporter "should check in with" Democrats on the Benghazi panel for a response to Gowdy's letter

Gowdy also plans to interview former UN Ambassador Thomas Pickering and Adm. Mike Mullen, who chaired an independent panel that reviewed the September 2012 attacks.Pickering was President George H.W. Bush's U.N. envoy, and Mullen was the top U.S. general under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Their report harshly criticized the State Department for its security posture in the months before militants stormed the Benghazi facility. But House Republican members said their review was incomplete and lacked independence.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the Benghazi panel, said it was not clear what additional questions Gowdy and committee Republicans want to answer.

A majority of the 20 people named as likely witnesses "have already provided information to Congress through prior interviews and testimony - in some cases multiple times - during seven previous congressional investigations," Cummings said.

Committee Democrats sent a letter to the House Administration Committee this week expressing concern over what they called a secretive, unlimited budget for the select committee.

The panel spent nearly $1.8 million last year and is on pace to spend more than $3 million this year, Democrats said. That total is more than several House committees with legislative and oversight jurisdictions and is larger than the amount House Republicans allocated to investigate Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Democrats said.

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Hillary Clinton Questioning Sought by House Benghazi Panel (Bloomberg)

By Billy House
February 6, 2015
Bloomberg

The U.S. congressional panel investigating the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, said it wants to interview former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other Obama administration officials.

Among 20 current or former officials the committee wants to question are White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, National Security Adviser Susan Rice, former White House press secretary Jay Carney, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Martin Dempsey, former CIA Director David Petraeus, and former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

The committee's chairman, Republican Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, disclosed the plans in a letter Friday to the panel's top Democrat, Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland.

Interviews of State Department personnel will begin next week and run through April, Gowdy wrote. Those will be followed by interviews with executive branch and other administration officials, the chairman said.

The panel also would like to interview former United Nations Ambassador Thomas Pickering and Admiral Mike Mullen, who led an earlier independent board that reviewed the attack.

Gowdy said his committee wants to schedule an interview "as soon as possible" with Clinton, who led the State Department at the time of the attack that killed four Americans including Ambassador Christopher Stevens. Clinton is a potential 2016 presidential candidate.

State Department

His committee is also seeking documents from the State Department, including e-mails and other materials that Gowdy said is needed to prepare for questioning of Clinton.

Clinton testified about the Sept. 11, 2012, Benghazi attacks before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January 2013. She is prepared to testify again before Congress, Cummings said last month, according to the Hill newspaper.

White House spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters Friday he had no comment on who would appear before the committee. He referred to some of the claims about the Benghazi attack as "conspiracy theories" and said several other investigations had given the administration a "clean bill of health" on the issue.

Cummings and the four other Democrats on the 12-member panel have complained that they have been excluded from some witness interviews.

In a statement Friday, Cummings reiterated Democratic complaints about Republican secrecy regarding the committee's focus, spending limits and timetable for finishing its work.

"The committee has not adopted an investigative plan, rules, or a budget, and it remains unclear what additional questions it seeks to answer," Cummings said.

"A majority of these witnesses have already provided information to Congress through prior interviews and testimony - - in some cases multiple times -- during seven previous congressional investigations," he said.

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Benghazi panel chief wants to hear from Clinton ASAP (The Hill)

By Martin Matishak

February 6, 2015

The Hill

The Republican chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi said panel members want to speak to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton "as soon as possible."

The comments come at the end of a list of desired witnesses Rep. Trey Gowdy (S.C.) sent Thursday to Rep. Elijah Cummings (Md.), the committee's top Democrat.

However, he does not give a timeframe for speaking with Clinton.

The 20 person list "does not purport to or begin to identify the full universe of individuals the committee expects to interview or who might have knowledge about the policies, decisions and activities related" to the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks, Gowdy said in his letter.

The interviews — set to begin Tuesday and conclude in April — show Gowdy is making good on a promise he made last week during a rancorous committee hearing, that the panel would "ratchet up" the pace.

The witness roster includes a number of high-profile Obama administration officials, including: National Security Adviser Susan Rice and her deputy, Ben Rhodes, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough and Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey.

The list also includes former officials who were part of the administration at the time of the attacks, such as then-White House press secretary Jay Carney, CIA Director David Petraeus and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

Cummings derided Gowdy's witness list.

"The committee has not adopted an investigative plan, rules, or a budget, and it remains unclear what additional questions it seeks to answer," he said in a statement. "In this case, a majority of these witnesses have already provided information to Congress through prior interviews and testimony — in some cases multiple times — during seven previous congressional investigations."

In terms of Clinton, Gowdy wrote that he reissued a subpoena to the State Department seeking documents related to the agency's 2013 Accountability Review Board examination into the attacks.

He also gave the department a Feb. 13 deadline for all "emails, documents and other materials … which would be needed to constructively ask questions of Secretary Clinton."

Benghazi is a political land mine for Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016. Republicans have skewered her handling of the attacks and argue the security failure at the U.S. complex in Libya should bar her from the White House.

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An appearance before the select committee would be Clinton's third Capitol Hill appearance on the attacks that left four Americans dead, and it could provide fresh ammunition for Republicans just as the race for the White House begins.

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Former HP CEO: Run for prez likely (Boston Herald)

By Owen Boss
February 6, 2015
Boston Herald

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina said yesterday it "is looking more likely" that she will enter the 2016 GOP presidential primary and vowed to offer voters far more than just a female opponent for potential Democratic nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"I'm not running because I'm a woman but the fact is I am a woman ... and I think it is an important part of who I am," Fiorina said during an appearance on Boston Herald Radio's "Morning Meeting." "I certainly believe that all of us, men and women, are judged on our character and our accomplishments and our track records and our lives — and I look forward to those things being examined about me."

Fiorina told hosts Jaclyn Cashman and Hillary Chabot she is mulling a run at the White House because she feels the country has reached "a turning point" and that she can offer "a different and relevant experience set to the job of the president."

"Ultimately I don't think this is about gender," Fiorina said when asked how she felt about being labeled the GOP's "weapon against Hillary Clinton" in a recent Fortune magazine article. "I think it is more about my experience and my perspective and my voice."

And with Clinton and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush already raking in millions of dollars in campaign contributions, Fiorina said her primary focus will be on reaching out to voters personally.

"Of course people don't know me and they need to get to know me," Fiorina said. "Do we need to raise money? Yes. Do we need to raise as much money as Jeb Bush? No. ... Money is important, but money is not everything, and I actually think good, old-fashioned, on-the-ground, reach-out politics counts for a lot."

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Mike Huckabee says Hillary Clinton more like Barack Obama than husband Bill (Dallas Morning News)

By Gromer Jeffers Jr.
February 5, 2015
Dallas Morning News

Republican Mike Huckabee says Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton is more like President Barack Obama than her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

"Nobody, at least on the Republican side, knows the Clintons better than me," said Huckabee, a 2016 GOP presidential contender. "Hillary Clinton would govern much more like Barack Obama than she would Bill Clinton."

Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor, said Hillary Clinton was "much less a pragmatist" than her husband.

He didn't mean his words as a compliment to Hillary Clinton, the overwhelming favorite to become the 2016 Democratic nominee for president.

Huckabee spent much of his speech this week to the National Center for Policy Analysis and the Dallas Rotary Club blasting President Obama for failures in domestic issues and foreign policy, including his contention that the president cannot defeat international terrorism organizations like ISIS because he refuses to acknowledge that the groups are part of an Islamic jihad.

Clinton is Obama's former Secretary of State. She also served as a U.S. senator from New York after the leaving the White House as a popular, but polarizing first lady.

Huckabee, who became Arkansas governor four years after Bill Clinton left the post, had tacit praise for the former president.

"Bill Clinton wasn't that bad of a president," Huckabee said, pointing out that he wasn't referring to the former president's personal indiscretions.

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What isn't being said about 2016 election (Star Democrat)

By David Shribman
February 6, 2015
The Star Democrat

There's a lot being spoken about the 2016 presidential election. What isn't being said is far more interesting.

Indeed, there are two principal unspokens in the run-up to the next presidential campaign. The first is the quiet Republican hope that maverick Sen. Elizabeth Warren will challenge former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton from the left in the Democratic primaries. The second is the anguish Republican candidates are having in trying to figure out how to address economic issues.

At the heart of both of these unspokens is the increasingly apparent wealth gap. You don't have to read Thomas Piketty's "Capital in the 21st Century" - many more people have quoted or bought the groundbreaking book than have actually read it - to acknowledge that the wealth gap is the economic issue of the decade. A report issued last Sunday by Emmanuel Saez, the University of California, Berkeley, economist, affirmed that the top 1 percent of Americans captured 91 percent of the growth in incomes in the first three years of the recovery, a figure ameliorated in 2012 and 2013 by higher top tax rates.

This wealth gap undermines the animating mythology of American life (captured in one name: Horatio Alger). It questions the principal shorthand of the national ethos (captured in one alluring phrase: the American Dream). It challenges both the usual totems of the George W. Bush Republicans (the magic of free markets) and the usual prescriptions of the Barack Obama Democrats (the conviction that an activist government can soften the harsh edges of capitalism).

The Republicans want a Warren challenge to Clinton in part for the sport of it. They so dislike the onetime New York senator that they relish anything that exposes her vulnerabilities, or discovers new ones, especially if the effort pins on her the talisman ("toady of Wall Street") they have been trying to lose themselves since they nominated Wendell Willkie for president in 1940. In truth, Clinton and her husband, the 42nd president, cozied up to Wall Street for reasons Willie Sutton wasn't alone in understanding. That's where the money is.

The chances of Warren entering the presidential campaign remain small, and not for the usual reasons (she's relatively unknown and is only a freshman senator - a description that also fits Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Rand Paul, and it was no impediment to Obama). She's reluctant to challenge another female who is, by every poll, a prohibitive favorite for the nomination. At the moment, Clinton's support among Democrats is seven times as great as that of the Massachusetts senator, according to the latest CNN poll.

The Republicans began as a party of rights but ended up being a party of economic opportunity - precisely the opposite 20th-century passage of the Democrats - and so now the wealth gap is a peculiarly perplexing challenge for them. In the waning years of the Great Society, Ronald Reagan began questioning the Democrats' prescriptions for economic opportunity, an effort that through four presidential campaigns (1968, 1976, 1980 and 1984) he developed into a new ethos with its own catchphrase ("opportunity society"). So deep did that catchphrase penetrate that, nearly a year before the 2012 election, former Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, who would eventually win the GOP presidential nomination, framed his campaign as a choice between the "opportunity society" of the Republicans and the "entitlement society" of the Democrats.

Democrats for a few tantalizing weeks may have luxuriated in portraying Romney, who until Friday afternoon considered a 2016 presidential campaign, as a Harvey Comics figure (Richie Rich redux), but he actually has been supporting an increase in the minimum wage for eight months. He did so with the pointed aside that, as he put it, "I part company with many of the conservatives in my party on the issue."

Now many of those same conservatives are struggling to find ways to address the wealth gap. The new Republicans - and not only those affiliated with the Tea Party insurgents - are loath to associate themselves with figures of great wealth like Romney, whose possible appearance in the 2016 race was for them a disturbing symbol of the resilience of the East Coast establishment that GOP rebels have remonstrated against since the Barry Goldwater campaign of 1964.

But just as Democrats have adopted many of the characteristics of the Republicans they once reviled - this began as early as 1982, when the party cozied up to big-money interests with fresh but awkward ardor - the Republicans are adopting many of the characteristics of the Democrats. Since 1988 and the presidential candidacy of Rep. Jack F. Kemp of New York, Republicans have become increasingly comfortable with populist rhetoric. Before he died in 2009, Kemp, who was the Republicans' vice presidential nominee in 1996, teamed up with an unlikely ally, former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell of Maine, a Democrat and liberal. "The gap between rich and poor has grown worrisome to many of us," they wrote, adding: "A cherished piece of the American Dream - the notion that individuals have the opportunity to rise beyond their parent's economic status - is not standing up to scrutiny."

Kemp was the mentor to Rep.

Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, who followed him 16 years later as the GOP vice presidential nominee, on the Romney ticket. Ryan, who has said he would not run for president in 2016, moved last month from the chairmanship of the House Budget

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Committee to the head of the House Ways and Means Committee. In those committee chambers, as on the campaign trail in Iowa and New Hampshire, the new Republican response to the wealth gap will be shaped.

It may be the most important policy debate either party will have in the two years leading to the election. The Democratic debate will be a discussion around Clinton's Wall Street ties and will produce some heat but no light, much emotion but little thoughtful analysis. The Republican debate will be far more difficult, far more intellectual and far more nuanced.

This is where the enduring significance of the Republican struggle will lie. It will be a horse race, to be sure. Not only is the entire field open; the policy debate is wide open, too. The Republicans will talk of an opportunity society, but their debate will be an opportunity for our society.

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Hillary Flew Private for Peanuts, and You Can Too (Vanity Fair)

By Bruce Feirstein

February 6, 2015

Vanity Fair

Word comes to us from the newly redesigned Bloomberg Business site that during her years in the senate, Hillary Clinton hitched rides on lots of corporate jets, and reimbursed companies like Coca Cola and Abbot Pharmaceuticals only a tiny fraction of the actual operating costs.

Most of the reported data in the January 30 article, "Hillary Clinton Faces Scrutiny for Use of Private Jets", comes courtesy of an anonymous "Republican operative," who is clearly trying to paint the presumed presidential candidate as being out of touch with those of us who fly coach. (A more accurate headline might be "The G.O.P. Hopes Hillary Clinton Will Face Scrutiny for Use of Private Jets.")

Now, truly, we have no truck with Mrs. Clinton's supposed air-transportation preferences. We're not going to criticize her for taking private planes. Especially since the Bloomberg Business piece exonerates her of any wrongdoing. (Note to the G.O.P.: if you're trying to clip Hillary's wings, you're going to have to do better than this.) But even without Mrs. Clinton's security requirements—which no rational person can dispute—who among us wouldn't jump at the chance to avoid the boarding lines at J.F.K., praying for an upgrade, worried about whether there'll be space in the overhead bin for the roller bag, all while mourning the devastating loss of the SkyMall catalogue?

So the question, then, is: How do you and I get Hillary's airfare deals? How do we close the pernicious Gulfstream-inequality gap? How do we manage to snag 200 flights for only $225,000? Or, more specifically, how do any of us get to pay only $475.93 for a window seat on a private plane from Chicago to Washington, D.C., when air-charter companies like JetSuite.com have priced the trip closer to $10,000?

The answer lies in knowing where to look, and, above all, being flexible in your preferred destination.

It turns out that charter operators like JetSuite.com and Jets.com offer hugely discounted deals on empty flights. Some for as low as $536. JetSuite.com posts their empty legs daily; PrivateFly has a downloadable app. BlueStarJets sends out a monthly e-mail, and currently lists more than 1,200 empty flights on their site.

In the end, your prices, and your mileage may vary.

A few words of advice: if you ever find yourself hitching a ride on one of these planes, here are the three inviolate rules to fly by:

1) Show up on time, and don't start posting selfies. It's the most obnoxious way to humble-brag.

2) Even if you're flying from Colorado, don't break out the pot and hotbox the cabin. As Justin Bieber learned, private pilots don't enjoy having to put on oxygen masks in order to avoid landing stoned.

3) No matter what, don't start throwing phrases around like, "We go wheels up at 10:30." It makes you sound like a poseur. And needless to say, that's something no Vanity Fair reader ever wants to be accused of.

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Of course, another solution to the high price of c-suite flying would be to spend a million dollars buying a seat in Congress, whereupon you get to enjoy all the air perks of our elected officials. The pricing is all about optics, and corporate donors avoiding the appearance of buying favors. Pre-2007, congressmen were only required to reimburse corporations for the price of a first-class ticket when flying on a Fortune 500 Gulfstream. Nowadays, they pay for the actual cost of the jet, divided by the number of passengers.

And the ultimate, albeit more expensive route, would be to spend a billion dollars winning a presidential campaign. In this case, you get to tool around in the ultimate private jet, Air Force One, arranging your social schedule (read: fundraising events) around your official duties, so that the taxpayers pick up most of the $210,877–per hour operating costs. According to the New York Daily News, political operatives are supposed to reimburse the government for the price of a first-class ticket on these quasi-official jaunts. Perhaps Hillary will be able to fill them in on the intricacies come 2017.

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Report: Pakistan aid plans hit snag after political promise by Hillary Clinton (Washington Examiner)

By Sarah Westwood

February 6, 2015

The Washington Examiner

Officials with a State Department agency scrapped plans to renovate a failing Pakistani hospital after a political promise from then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton forced the agency to build an entirely new facility instead, according to USAID's watchdog.

The resulting hospital, which cost the U.S. $17 million, was so poorly planned that it faces the risk of falling into the same state of disrepair as the crumbling facility USAID declined to rehabilitate, the inspector general said in a report made public Jan. 29.

But an agency official told the Washington Examiner that USAID only abandoned plans to revamp the hospital in Jacobabad — an impoverished, crime-ridden city 300 miles north of Karachi — after finding its conditions so deplorable that building an entirely new facility emerged as the more economic option.

"The U.S. government made a commitment to renovate the hospital in Jacobabad in July 2010. However, after an assessment of the condition of the existing hospital, our engineers determined that it was in such poor condition that it would be more cost effective and practical to build a new hospital instead," said the USAID official spoke to the Examiner on condition they would not be named.

Under pressure "to fulfill a commitment that a senior Department of State official made in 2010," USAID initially ignored the fact that the institute would one day depend on faulty infrastructure and would struggle to attract qualified staff due to its remote location, the inspector general's report said. The document did not identify the senior official, but a USAID spokesman confirmed it was Clinton.

The Pakistani government and USAID "focused instead on building the institute" because the agency "felt compelled to fulfill that commitment," the report said.

"Details other than facility design and construction, including funding, were ironed out piecemeal," the report continued.

In remarks at the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue in July 2010, Clinton announced she was "pleased to announce we will either renovate or build three medical facilities" in the country. She also mentioned the ultimately foregone plans to renovate the hospital in Jacobabad.

Water and sewage systems in Jacobabad are "substandard," yet the new facility, the Jacobabad Institute of Medical Sciences, must rely on them to operate. The water supply there is so unclean that it must be treated for "biological impurities" before it can be used, and the district doesn't even have a functioning sewage system.

USAID is funding an effort to improve the water systems there, but the watchdog said the project isn't slated for completion until this September — a full year after construction on the institute ended.

Among other problems was the fact that "excessive political influence" has threatened to derail the hiring of competent staff.

What's more, Pakistani operators were incapable of running the backup solar power systems USAID purchased because the technology was unfamiliar and, even if they did have the ability to maintain the systems, the country's atmosphere is too "dusty"

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to allow efficient use of solar energy. The need for a backup system is made dire by the widespread and prolonged power outages that plague the district.

"The institute may struggle to remain financially and operationally viable and may devolve into the same condition as the Jacobabad hospital," the watchdog said.

USAID officials called conditions at that hospital "horrific" in a 2011 report.

The inspector general's findings raised questions as to why USAID would abandon a struggling hospital in order to build a new one that could soon devolve into the same conditions as the first.

"If the institute degenerates into a facility that cannot provide the quality of health care planned, the U.S. Government's image will be damaged, and a large U.S. Government investment will be wasted," the watchdog said in its report.

The Jacobabad construction project was part of a $180.5 million five-year contract to build schools and healthcare facilities in Pakistan's earthquake zones, although the medical facilities discussed in the watchdog report had no earthquake damage.

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After a decade building trust, one wrong move (NYT)

By Alessandra Stanley
February 7, 2015
The New York Times

It is a "thing that you build slowly, over time," according to grandiloquent promos last fall that extolled Brian Williams's 10th anniversary as anchor of "NBC Nightly News." Over shots of Mr. Williams talking to soldiers and small children in war zones and disaster areas, the narrator, Michael Douglas, adds, "And what you build, if you work hard enough, if you respect it, is a powerful thing called trust."

It may take 10 years to earn it, but trust in news anchors can be shaken in less than 10 minutes.

And that's the hard lesson of Mr. Williams's brush with scandal for telling a tale — more than once — about being under fire in a helicopter in Iraq in 2003 that turned out not to be true. When a recent NBC News segment repeated the false version, veterans who witnessed the event complained on Facebook, and the military newspaper Stars and Stripes published an article about the fudged facts.

On the NBC evening newscast on Thursday, Mr. Williams looked a little subdued but said nothing more about the disputed event.

On Wednesday, he had apologized for what he described as a "bungled attempt by me to thank one special veteran and by extension our brave military men and women veterans everywhere."

What's interesting, of course, is why he twisted the facts in the first place.

Public figures have differing reasons for embellishing their bona fides, but it most often is in the service of compensating for a perceived inadequacy or vulnerability. And television is a double-edged enabler; the camera can aggrandize normal people, but it can also undo grandiosity.

Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut stumbled during his 2010 campaign when The New York Times found a videotape of him telling a veterans group in 2008 that he had served in Vietnam. He hadn't. Mr. Blumenthal sought multiple deferments, and when he ran out of them in 1970, he won a coveted niche in the Marine Reserve in Washington.

Mr. Blumenthal did serve in the military at the time of the Vietnam War, but he led people to believe he had been in harm's way.

Hillary Rodham Clinton made a similar gaffe during her bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008. She described having dashed across the tarmac to dodge sniper fire during a 1996 visit to Bosnia when she was first lady. Video of the event quickly surfaced that showed Mrs. Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, calmly and safely shaking hands with local dignitaries. Mrs. Clinton had to admit she misspoke.

Mrs. Clinton at the time was running on her experience and knowledge of the world. Bosnia wasn't a safe place to be in 1996. It's just that the airport tarmac on that day wasn't nearly as dangerous as Mrs. Clinton preferred to remember it.

Mr. Williams has been NBC's chief anchor for a decade, and the truth about television news is that the higher you rise, the less real reporting you do. Anchors mostly travel to war zones and disaster areas to show the flag and signal the story's magnitude; wars, disasters and presidential visits serve as backdrops. Anchors aren't there to ask questions and take notes; they are there to bolster network prestige and project their own journalistic derring-do, donning work shirts, flak jackets and helmets to look the part.

But they also take risks and experience fear and discomfort and far worse: The NBC reporter David Bloom died covering the Iraq war in 2003; in 2006, ABC's anchor, Bob Woodruff, suffered a brain injury and almost died in Iraq. Mr. Williams wasn't in the helicopter that took RPG fire — he was in a different one behind it. But he was in a front-line zone in 2003, and he and his crew were grounded for several days in a sandstorm.

His experience was not as perilous as he painted it to be, but it was certainly dangerous and scary. This was a year before he became the chief anchor, two years before he made his bones covering Hurricane Katrina, and Mr. Williams back then was still seen by many as a television star whose rise had more to do with his suave manner and good looks (he was one of GQ's men of the year in 2001) than hardship posts overseas.

War stories get more polished in the retelling, and the temptation to self-aggrandize is all the greater, and easier, for people who are puffed up by the camera lens and the cult of celebrity. By the time Mr. Williams told the story to David Letterman in 2013, he sounded like Sergeant York.

A public apology is just the first step, and Mr. Williams's mea culpa was not very humble. He made his fib sound like a one-time

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misguided effort to pay homage to veterans. This time Mr. Williams really is under fire: He must now endure days of media scrutiny, schadenfreude from his rivals and an overflow of social media scorn, snark and satire. He has been at the top of his field and the ratings for a decade, but time has shown that these kinds of disgraces linger, not so much forgotten as sometimes subsumed by the next celebrity misstep.

The weirdest thing about the scandal is that Mr. Williams didn't make a journalistic blunder — as, say, the former CBS anchor Dan Rather did in 2004 with a flawed "60 Minutes" report on President George W. Bush's service in the National Guard. (As a result, Mr. Rather was forced to step down as "CBS Evening News" anchor.) But these days, network newscasts are so personality-driven that the anchor's personal life — and in Mr. Williams's case, that includes his daughter's acting career — is flaunted on the air and treated like news. And by that equation, a personal failing looms almost as large as a professional one.

Those puffy NBC promos that promote Mr. Williams's "battle scars" and "integrity" don't help. As one of them puts it, "You can't see experience, but you know it when it's there."

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Trust the dissidents, not the diplomats (WAPO)

By Natan Sharansky and David Keyes
February 7, 2015
The Washington Post

Recently leaders of the free world flocked to Saudi Arabia to meet with the new king , where they praised the country as a partner for peace and center of stability. But many dissidents disagreed. As Mansour Al-Hadj, a liberal activist who lived in Saudi Arabia for 20 years, said: "Saudi Arabia is not stable. Deep down, people are not happy. Sooner or later, the winds of change will come to Saudi Arabia. The regime will fall."

If history is any judge, the world should bet on the dissidents, not the diplomats.

On Jan. 25, 2011, just two weeks before the fall of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, then-U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave her assessment "that the Egyptian government is stable." That March, Clinton's successor, John F. Kerry, praised "good-faith" measures taken by Syria's Bashar al-Assad and predicted that his regime would change for the better "as it embraces a legitimate relationship with the United States and the West."

Clinton and Kerry were certainly not alone in assessing that these dictators were securely in power. Former Amnesty International USA executive director Larry Cox later said that "nobody that I know of predicted it, no experts, no pundits, no politicians saw the revolution coming."

After the Arab Spring, many of the same experts and policymakers who had insisted that the region was stable claimed that no one could have foreseen the uprisings. But this is untrue. A chorus of uniquely insightful individuals predicted exactly what would happen: the democratic dissidents who languished in prison cells in Tunisia, Libya, Syria and Egypt.

Witnesses to unimaginable injustice, these men and women felt viscerally that the dictators' days were limited. They were the soldiers on the front line of the historical drama about to unfold. The experts simply chose not to listen.

In 2006, for example, from the depths of his torture chamber, Syrian dissident Kamal Labwani — jailed for a decade under the Assad regime — predicted that without democratic change, Syria would end up in a situation "no less terrifying than what happened in Iraq, Lebanon and Somalia." He presaged the rise of radicalism, arguing that "the alternative to democracy is inevitably civil war and fundamentalism."

Likewise, in 2007, from his prison cell in Egypt, blogger Kareem Amer declared to the region's tyrants and authoritarians that their "attempts to shut our mouths and restrict our freedom" would eventually fail. "You should be very worried about us," he wrote. "Your days are numbered and your dark nights are approaching their end."

There were many such prophetic voices, dissidents who foresaw what would happen in their countries but whose warnings fell on deaf ears abroad. What did they know or understand that our experts and leaders did not? The answer is the power of inner freedom. Having crossed the line from living in fear to questioning and then actively fighting against their regimes, dissidents know how difficult it is to suppress the longing to live freely. As more of their fellow citizens cross this line, dissidents see how much additional energy the regime has to expend to keep its population in check. As Soviet dissident Andrei Amalrik observed, any system that has to spend all of its energy controlling the thoughts of its citizens must break down eventually.

Anyone who remembers the fall of the Soviet Union ought to understand the importance of listening to dissidents. Throughout the 1970s and '80s and until the last days of the Evil Empire, leading Western politicians and Sovietologists repeatedly diagnosed the regime as stable. In 1992, then-CIA Director Robert M. Gates admitted that it was not until 1989 that the intelligence agency began to think that the Soviet Union might collapse. Amalrik, by contrast, had predicted this years earlier, in his aptly titled 1969 book, "Will the Soviet Union Survive until 1984?" He, together with generations of Soviet dissidents led by Andrei Sakharov, paid a heavy price for explaining to the West that the regime's downfall was inevitable.

Those dissidents were admired, loved and even defended, but they were not listened to. Western experts, blinded by the power of Soviet weapons and the delusory self-confidence of Soviet parades and leaders, dismissed their predictions. Thus, when Mikhail Gorbachev began dismantling the Soviet system and the dissidents' prophecies came true, these same experts were caught by surprise.

Only a few decades later, the leaders of the free world have all but forgotten this lesson. If they had listened more closely to the Middle East's dissidents, they might have been better prepared for the 2011 revolutions. Perhaps they would have spent less money arming and funding dictators and more time supporting moderates in their quest for civil society and freedom.

To make matters worse, today we are witnessing a full-fledged return to the policy of supporting dictators. The White House has all but dropped the demand that Assad step down, hinting that he could be a partner in the fight against the Islamic State. U.S. and European diplomats are pursuing deals with the Iranian regime and regard Egypt's Gen. Abdel Fatah al-Sissi as a bulwark of stability. The new Saudi king has been touted as a robust ally.

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There may be tactical advantages to partnering with these regimes against the growing threat of fundamentalist terror. But we must not ignore the insights of dissidents who remind us that dictators are not our strategic allies and are certainly not guarantors of long-term stability.

The current propensity to neglect dissidents and prop up dictators guarantees that there will be many more surprises in the Middle East. When coups and revolutions once again upend the region, our experts will surely ask: "But who could have seen it coming?"

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 6/26/2015 12:31:43 AM
Subject: News Update - June 26, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, June 26

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Netanyahu Sends Implicit Threat to Iran Ahead of Deadline**
- **PA Presents Claims of Israeli Crimes to ICC**
- **US Slams Palestinians' Israel War Crimes Suit**
- **US Congress Passes Anti-BDS Legislation, Key Trade Bill**
- **Israel Supporters to Rally in Geneva against UNHRC Report**
- **Jordanian Press Slam 'enemy' Israel for Protesting Terror Praise**
- **Economy Minister Dery Refuses to Use Authority on Gas Deal**
- **Hapoel Jerusalem won Israel's basketball championship**

Commentary:

- **Ha'aretz: "Why are Israelis so Afraid of a Culture War?" "**
  - By Amos Oz
- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Being Right about Gaza War Report isn't enough"**
  - By Giora Eiland

Ha'aretz

Netanyahu Sends Implicit Threat to Iran

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted Thursday that Israel may attack Iran's nuclear facilities, even if Tehran and the powers nail down a historic deal to curtail Iran's nuclear program next week. "Whatever happens, Israel will always defend itself, and the Air Force plays a major role in this," Netanyahu said at a pilots' course graduation ceremony. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will head for Vienna on Friday to take part in a final phase of the talks aimed at sealing a comprehensive international agreement on Iran's nuclear program.

See also, "Nearly half of Israelis see Iran deal as existential threat" (Jerusalem Post)

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Ynet News

PA Presents Claims of Israeli Crimes to ICC

The Palestinian Authority presented the International Criminal Court on Thursday with its first documents claiming Israeli crimes under international law in regards to settlement construction, Israel's policy in the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. While the information presented by PA representatives does not constitute an official complaint against Israel, the Palestinians hope that the documents will convince ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to open an investigation against Israel. Foreign Minister Spokesperson responded to the step by the Palestinians saying, "This step is nothing more than provocation. We hope that the attorney won't fall for this trap."

Times of Israel

US Slams Palestinians' Israel War Crimes Suit

The White House on Thursday said efforts to have Israel charged with war crimes at the International Criminal Court were "counterproductive" and would be opposed by Washington. The United States has "made clear that we oppose actions against Israel at the ICC as counterproductive," National Security Council spokesman Alistair Baskey said after the Palestinians submitted their evidence in The Hague. The move comes just days after a separate investigation by the UN Human Rights Council accused both sides of committing possible war crimes in last summer's Gaza War. The council's report is also being studied by investigators at the ICC.

Ynet News

US Congress Passes Anti-BDS Legislation, Key Trade Bill

After weeks of political wrangling, President Barack Obama scored a key victory Wednesday with Congress passing legislation that allows him to swiftly negotiate a Pacific trade accord. Two amendments in the bill had also opposed the BDS campaign against Israel, particularly by European countries. The anti-BDS provisions require US negotiators to make the rejection of the BDS campaign a principal trade objective in negotiations with the European Union, making the incentive of free trade with the US a leverage against cooperation with the BDS campaign. It is the first legislation by the US Congress in four decades which pushed back against efforts to boycott Israel.

Jerusalem Post

Israel Supporters to Rally against UNHRC Report

Pro-Israel activists and human rights groups plan to rally in Geneva on Monday against the presentation of a UN Human Rights Council report that day, which charges that both Israel and armed Palestinian groups may have committed war crimes in Gaza last summer. The report was published earlier this week, but this coming Monday its coauthors, former New York Supreme Court judge Mary McGowan Davis and legal expert Doudou Diène of Senegal, plan to present the document to the UNHRC that is holding its 29th session in Geneva this month. Opponents of the report, including the State of Israel, are upset that it appears to equate the IDF with the Hamas terrorist group. They see it as one more biased report by the UNHRC against Israel.

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Jerusalem Post

Jordanian Press Slam Israel for Protesting Terror

Jordanian journalists angrily rebuked Israel's "enemy embassy" in Amman on Thursday after the Israeli mission in the Hashemite kingdom protested the media's praise of Palestinian terrorist attacks. The row was triggered by a June 24 article in the daily newspaper Al-Dustur glorifying the Palestinian attacks which left one Israeli dead in the West Bank and another Border Police officer wounded by stabbing in Jerusalem's Old City. The Israeli embassy protested the article, deeming it "ugly and shameful...incitement to kill Israelis." Al-Dustur rejected the embassy's protestations, calling the Palestinian actions "martyrdom operations...[in] heroic defense of their land and rights." "Just as [Israel] rejects these operations, we reject the killing of unarmed innocents...in Palestine and their displacement from their land and the desecration of their holy places," the newspaper wrote.

Ha'aretz

Economy Minister Dery Refuses to Use Authority on Gas Deal

The security cabinet meeting on the government's pending deal with Israel's natural gas monopoly fell apart on Thursday after Economy Minister Arye Dery declared that he refuses to use his authority to bypass the Antitrust Authority on the matter. The ministers voted on approving the security and diplomatic justifications for the plan - and voted unanimously in favor. The next stage was supposed to have been a vote by the members of the security cabinet to authorize Economy Minister Arye Dery to sign off on invoking Section 52a of the Restrictive Trade Practices Law, which would allow the government to sidestep the Antitrust Authority. But Dery them shocked those present - and especially Netanyahu - and announced that he was not willing to sign and give up his authority.

See also, " ***Adelson encouraged Netanyahu to streamline Israel's gas regulations" (Ha'aretz)***

Channel 2 News

Hapoel Jlm' won Israel's basketball championship

More than 70 years Jerusalem waited for this moment and now it finally happened: Yesterday, for the first time in its history, Hapoel Jerusalem won Israel's basketball championship. In order to win this championship, it had to defeat Hapoel Eilat twice. Jerusalem's Mayor Nir Barkat said in this regard that "This is a historic night, memorable for years to come."Hapoel Eilat caused a sensation last week after it defeated Maccabi Tel Aviv in the semi-finals 79-76, in the fifth match between the two. Following that game Maccabi Tel Aviv did not participate in the finals for the first time in 22 years.

Ha'aretz – June 26, 2015

Why are Israelis so Afraid of a Culture War?

A culture war creates a wonderful climate for the blossoming of culture, of creativity, of free thought. Societies in which there is no inkling of a culture war look more or less like North Korea.

By Amos Oz

If every creative work that can be used as a weapon by Jew haters deserves to be censored – or at least not be supported by public funds – the place to start is the Hebrew Bible. For example, that whole story about the prophet Nathan and King David has to go. Thousands of years ago, foreign media were already exploiting that narrative against us: "Look what those Jews say about themselves." And not just about themselves: about King David – David from whom the messiah is destined to spring; the prophet said of him that he committed a sin punishable by death. No less. That has to be yanked from the Bible. We can't raise our children

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on that. It deals a mortal blow to our legitimacy.

This week, I heard that a member of the Jerusalem Municipality is demanding that a play called "Ezekiel" be banned because it mentions the intifada and the Holocaust in the same breath. I haven't seen the play, I don't have an opinion on it. But if we deprive the play "Ezekiel" of public funding, we have to stop teaching the Book of Ezekiel in our schools. The prophet Ezekiel says terrible things about the people of Israel, verging almost on pornography. He calls the people of Israel a "harlot" that spread its legs for "every one that passed by" – and even more disgusting things. Utterances like that cause tremendous damage to our image internationally. Every anti-Semite will delight in quoting them.

If it's necessary to ban every work of art that portrays a murderer – and even portrays him with a measure of sympathy – then Euripides must be banned because of "Medea"; Shakespeare has to be dumped because of "Hamlet," "Macbeth" and "Julius Caesar," all plays that revolve around regicide; Dostoyevsky is out because of "Crime and Punishment," and so forth.

Is it permitted to stage a play about a Palestinian murderer in the Israeli theater? Or to screen a film about a Jewish assassin? Of course it is. What is not permitted? If a court determines that a work incites to violence, it must not be staged. If a court determines that a work is libelous, it must not be staged. A court of law – not ministers and not deputy ministers.

I haven't seen the documentary ["Beyond the Fear"] about the person who assassinated Yitzhak Rabin. If the film incites to murder or encourages murder, it must not be screened. But if it tries to penetrate to the depths of the assassin's mind, it's in the company of Shakespeare and Dostoyevsky. Possibly it's not superb like Shakespeare, but why disqualify it if it does not incite to violence?

Another question: Should such works be supported by public budgets and taxpayers' funds? That is definitely a legitimate question. In an ideal world, every work of value would merit the support of taxpayers' funds. But not even the most enlightened and most culture-loving government in the world is capable of supporting every deserving work. Public funds should not necessarily be used to support a play about the murderer of [IDF soldier] Moshe Tamam or the assassin of Yitzhak Rabin. But the criterion should not be whether the work is infuriating or outrageous. The criterion needs to be whether the work possesses artistic value or not. That decision must be taken by a public, professional committee, which will undoubtedly err many times and will certainly be controversial.

If what the committee decides is unreasonable in the extreme, it is always possible to go to court and appeal its decision. If that, too, does not help, if public committees are going to be appointed here whose members are one-sided or extremist censors, then a far-reaching step must be considered: to shut down the life of art in Israel. That will generate huge international resonance. It will not be a problem of the minister; it will be a problem of the State of Israel, whose image in the enlightened world is not so wonderful even without a general strike by most of its creative artists.

Some say: "But certain works offend the public's sensibilities." The truth is, almost every artistic work of value offends the public's sensibilities in one way or another. One of the things a good book does is to jolt the reader's sensibilities. In what way? That differs from book to book and from reader to reader. Marvelous wine songs are liable to offend the sensibilities of some Muslims. Charming songs of passion are liable to offend the sensibilities of some Jews and Christians. The prophet Amos seriously offends the sensibilities of the rich, the sensibilities of the rulers and also a few neighboring peoples. It is perhaps extremely desirable to jolt public sensibilities as well as individual sensibilities from time to time.

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Are we on the brink of a culture war? I say: if only. There is nothing wrong with a culture war, as long as it is not violent. On the contrary: a culture war gets the creative juices flowing. The great civilizations in history sprang from internal strife and internal tensions. In fact, we have been caught up in a culture war since the onset of Zionism, and long before that: Since the days of the prophets, since the period of the Houses of Shammai and Hillel, Hasidim and Mitnagdim, Zionists and Bundists, Hebrew and Yiddish and Ladino. All of those were welcome culture wars. A culture war is still underway between Zionists and the ultra-Orthodox. What's bad about that? Indeed, it's better for culture wars to be fought with exchanges of candor and not of slander.

As long as people are not being beaten in the streets, stabbed with knives or shot at – and if possible also not being slandered – why should we be afraid of a culture war? A culture war creates a wonderful climate for the blossoming of culture, of creativity, of free thought. Societies in which there is no inkling of a culture war look more or less like North Korea.

The whole culture of Israel since the great argument at Sodom – when Abraham assails God with the shocking words, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do justly?" – the whole of our culture, at least in good times, has been a culture of dispute and a fierce clash between different interpretations, different values and different worldviews. Shelo yigamer le'olam – may it never end.

Yedioth Ahronoth – June 26, 2015

Being Right about Gaza War Report isn't enough

Instead of reiterating UN report is biased and political and anti-Semitic, Israel should attack its fundamental weaknesses; it's a shallow and unprofessional report, and that's not hard to prove.

By Giora Eiland

Israel is rightfully slamming the conclusions of the United Nations commission of inquiry into Operation Protective Edge, but being right is not enough. We must also act more wisely.

Our resentment over the fact that the UN is treating us, a civilized country, with the same standards that it treats a terror organization like Hamas is understandable. But getting insulted in this case is the wrong approach. The right thing to do is to actually demand equal standards.

Gaza has been a de facto state for a long time now. It has all the characteristics of a state: A defined area, a central government, an independent foreign policy, and of course an army. The world understands that terror organizations like al-Qaeda, the Islamic States and others have poor norms. If they treat Hamas as a terror organization, they will not expect it to talk and will not put any pressure on it. It would be better if they treat Gaza as a state and demand the responsibility of a state from it.

The analogy between Israel and Hamas is a desirable thing which will actually emphasize our standards as a law-abiding state compared to the state of Gaza, where the government executes dozens of people on the streets without a trial.

The counter report prepared and published by the State of Israel does not contribute a thing and only creates damage. Naturally, it is filled with praise for ourselves, and is therefore not seen as credible by the world, even if the facts contained it in are true.

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We should have (and we should still) wait for the official report expected to be published by senior generals from European countries, the United States and Australia, who visited Israel recently and investigated Protective Edge themselves. As opposed to the rumors, they have yet to publish anything official. It's always better to "let another person praise you, and not your own mouth."

Instead of reiterating that the UN report is political and biased and anti-Semitic, we should attack its fundamental weaknesses. It is a shallow and unprofessional report, and that is not hard to prove. It says, for example, that Israel used excessive force, or that many civilians were killed. The necessary question is: "Exaggerated" or "many" compared to what?

The report's authors, like the authors of the Goldstone Report before them, did not bother checking operations conducted by other countries in population-saturated areas. The average ratio between civilian casualties and fighters in the allies' operations in Iraq was about 1:5 (five times more civilians). In Protective Edge the ratio was about 1:1. Any professional and objective source should have praised Israel.

The report's authors settled for describing the results (casualties, building destruction, etc) and completely ignored a number of parameters which can explain the results). The first parameter is the circumstances and conditions (including the population size, density, etc).

The second is the enemy's power. Clearly, the stronger the enemy – more fighters, more anti-tank weapons and more rockets, alongside a network of offensive and terror tunnels – the stronger the force that has to be used in order to achieve the desirable result. In such a case, there will necessarily be more casualties and destruction. Any professional comparison aimed at examining whether excessive or proportional force was used must therefore consider the enemy's strength in order to receive normalized results (in other words, "comparing apples to apples"). That wasn't done.

The third parameter is the enemy's code of conduct. When the enemy intentionally operates out of schools and hospitals, when it uses its citizens as a human shield and prevents them from abandoning threatened places, the result is more dead civilians.

The report's authors ignored any professional military standard which allows a comparison between Operation Protective Edge to other events, and wrote conclusions which are based on nothing.

We prefer to use explanations which mainly convince ourselves, that the UN Human Rights Council is an anti-Israel body. While that is true, it has to be the necessary conclusion following a professional refutation of the report's content, rather than the claim itself. This requires us to work vis-à-vis relatively objective elements, like the security establishment in Western countries or the American Congress. It's harder work, but it's necessary.

Major-General (res.) Giora Eiland is a former head of Israel's National Security Council.

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From:	"Stephen Hadley" <stephenjhadley@me.com>
To:	"Autumn A Brewington" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com> "Autumn Brewington" <BrewingtonA@washpost.com>
Date:	1/14/2014 6:26:33 AM
Subject:	Re: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it

Autumn --

Very nice job, as usual. Just a few points of mine and then responses to your questions.

1. The Loya Jirga approved the deal in November, 2013.

2. Karzai's request was not for a "pledge" of non-interference in the election but actual non-interference -- and that was one reason he gave for waiting till after the election, to see whether the United States actually interfered or not. So I would go back to the original: "non-interference in the April presidential election that will determine Karzai's successor."

3. As to Obama's statement giving Karzai "a face-saving way out," I think the reader will not understand what we are saying if we don't follow with the original phrase "if he really wishes to sign the BSA."

4. On the paragraph on which Obama fixes the troop numbers, the introductory word should not be "Alternatively" but "Secondly." This is all one statement, given at one time. This is the second point Obama must make in the speech. For we won't know for some time after the speech is given whether Obama's statements in the prior paragraph are enough to move Karzai to sign the BSA. And even if he signs it, Obama will still need to announce the troop number in this statement since the number is NOT in the BSA. So "Secondly" was right.

5. The results of the poll on public support for the U.S. operations in Afghanistan and for leaving a residual force was published in your paper. I am forwarding the site (which Aysha found) to you separately.

6. In the second to last paragraph, it's not just that the zero option would "threaten the safety of the presidential election" but would "threaten the outcome" (as I original wrote) in many ways: as you suggest, threaten the safety, but if the zero option did collapse the Afghan security forces, the election might not even be held -- or the turn out (especially in Sunni areas) would be so low that the outcome would have no legitimacy. This is why "threaten the outcome" seemed the right term.

Let me know if there is anything else you need from us.

And please confirm that you received these comments.

Thanks again for your great work on this piece.

Steve

Stephen J. Hadley
(202) 220-5061

> On Jan 14, 2014, at 12:07 PM, "Brewington, Autumn A" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com> wrote:
>
> Thanks so much for your patience, and I apologize for the delay. Can you let me know, please, how this looks?
>
> Best regards,

> Autumn
>
> U.S. officials are struggling again with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. After painful and prolonged

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negotiations, they concluded a draft bilateral security agreement last year that lays the foundation for leaving U.S military forces in Afghanistan after 2014. It is expected to involve 8,000 to 10,000 U.S. troops with counterterrorism, training and other responsibilities in support of Afghan forces.
>
> Most U.S. experts on Afghanistan believe that such a residual force is critical if Afghan forces are to continue to professionalize. Only with such help will they have a reasonable chance of containing the Taliban and giving Afghan authorities the space to negotiate a political settlement that includes the Taliban. Some NATO forces would also remain, but only if U.S. troops stay.
>
> Most experts also believe that without such residual forces, the billions of dollars in financial support promised for Afghan security forces and for Afghanistan's economic development will not materialize. Few believe that any Afghan government would survive long without this assistance. So the stakes are high — for Afghanistan and for preserving the investment of lives and treasure that the United States and its coalition allies have made over the past 12 years.
>
> Initially Karzai said he would sign the agreement after a loya jirga, or traditional congregation of Afghan leaders, approved the pact. The loya jirga approved the deal in XXX, but Karzai soon demanded further concessions: an end to counterterrorism raids into Afghan homes at night, active U.S. support for the peace process with the Taliban, and a pledge of? non-interference in the April presidential election that will determine Karzai's successor. Lately he has threatened to leave the matter to his successor.
>
> U.S. officials have responded by pressuring Karzai directly and indirectly. They have set a succession of deadlines and said the agreement must be signed in "weeks, not months." So far, nothing has worked. U.S. officials need an alternative approach.
>
> One option would be for President Obama to make a public statement praising Afghanistan's progress in assuming responsibility for its security; improving the education, health and well-being of its citizens; and preparing for the April election. To support that progress, Obama would say, he has directed U.S. forces to curtail all but essential night raids. He is committed to facilitating the peace process, he would note, and pledges full support for an election free from all outside influences.
>
> These statements would not represent a major U.S. policy change, but together they would offer Karzai a face-saving out.
>
> Alternatively, Obama could announce the number of troops that he is prepared to leave in Afghanistan post-2014 and direct the Pentagon to develop plans on that basis. He would call on our NATO allies to announce similar force commitments.
>
> This step would go a long way toward reassuring Afghan presidential candidates, and the Afghan people, of America's post-2014 presence. The lack of such reassurance has become a source of serious instability, threatening the election and the morale of Afghan security forces. For similar reasons, Obama should at this point resist any pressure to set a date for the termination of the post-2014 U.S. deployment.
>
> Third, Obama could state that while he is willing to sign the bilateral security agreement with Karzai he is also willing to sign it with the next Afghan president. U.S. officials should then stop pressuring Karzai — or anyone else — for a signature before the April election. Such pressure only strengthens Karzai's hand, encourages further delay and makes the United States look desperate.
>
> Obama should make clear that his commitment of troops is dependent, ultimately, on the bilateral security agreement being signed. But a post-election signing by a new Afghan president would give more than enough time to complete the necessary U.S. military planning before year's end. Indeed, experts say that even without the deal, U.S. forces could remain in Afghanistan after 2014 under the existing status-of-forces agreement, though our allies would have to negotiate a new agreement for their forces with the new Afghan government.
>
> Recent polling suggests that more than 60 percent of Americans believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting. [DO YOU HAVE A LINK FOR THIS?] But the same poll also found that 55 percent support leaving some U.S. forces for training and "anti-insurgency" operations. And lawmakers' public statements suggest that a post-

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2014 deployment would have bipartisan support in Congress.
>
> Obama should avoid any suggestion that he might embrace a “zero option” and leave no U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014. Almost every Afghan expert believes it would destabilize Afghanistan, threaten the safety of the presidential election and ultimately risk the collapse of Afghan security forces. This would profoundly affect U.S. security interests. Afghanistan would once again become a haven for terrorists — who, history shows, would ultimately attack U.S. interests and territory. Afghanistan would contribute to destabilizing a nuclear-armed Pakistan. And the Afghan people would forfeit all the progress they have made, with our help, in building a more tolerant, inclusive, secure and prosperous society.
>
> Afghanistan’s presidential election is less than three months away. U.S. policy must not be based on frustration with Karzai’s mercurial behavior but on ensuring the election of a legitimate successor to Karzai with whom the United States can sign a security agreement that is overwhelmingly in the interests of both countries.
>
> The writer was national security adviser in the George W. Bush administration.
>
>
>
>
> _____
> Autumn Brewington
> Op-Ed Page Editor
> Autumn.Brewington@washpost.com
> 202-334-5120
>
> _____
> From: Stephen Hadley <stephenjhadley@me.com>
> Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 10:54 AM
> To: Brewington, Autumn A
> Cc: Aysha Chowdhry; Catherine Eng
> Subject: Re: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it
>
> Autumn --
>
> Great. Standing by and will turn to it promptly.
>
> Steve
>
> Stephen J. Hadley
> (202) 220-5061
>
>> On Jan 14, 2014, at 10:30 AM, "Brewington, Autumn A" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com> wrote:
>>
>> I will have an edited draft back to you in the next hour; and thanks for e-mailing all of us. The e-mail was somehow delayed in getting to my inbox, so I'm glad Fred saw it right away.
>>
>> Cheers,
>>
>> Autumn
>>
>> _____
>> Autumn Brewington
>> Op-Ed Page Editor
>> Autumn.Brewington@washpost.com
>> 202-334-5120
>>
>> _____

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>> From: Stephen Hadley <stephenjhadley@me.com>
>> Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 10:37 PM
>> To: Hiatt, Fred; Hiatt, Fred; Diehl, Jackson K; Diehl, Jackson K; Brewington, Autumn A; Brewington, Autumn A
>> Cc: Aysha Chowdhry; Catherine Eng
>> Subject: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it
>>
>> All --
>>
>> The purpose is to help the Administration out of the box on the signature of the BSA. The op ed reflects a lot of input from U.S. experts on the subject, some key Afghan leaders, and from some Administration officials. I believe that the Administration would find it helpful -- and this is a problem that certainly needs solving.
>>
>> Let me know what you think.
>>
>>
>> "U.S. officials are struggling again with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. After painful and prolonged negotiations, they reached agreement on a draft "bilateral security agreement" or BSA. The draft BSA lays the foundation for leaving U.S military forces in Afghanistan after the end of 2014. It is expected to involve 8,000 to 10,000 U.S. troops with counterterrorism, training, and other responsibilities in support of Afghan forces.
>>
>> Most U.S. Afghanistan experts believe such a residual force is critical if Afghan forces are to continue to improve and professionalize. Only with such help will they have a reasonable chance of containing the Taliban and giving Afghan authorities the space to negotiate an inclusive political settlement including the Taliban. Some of our NATO allies will also leave forces but only if we do.
>>
>> Most experts also believe that without such residual forces, the billions of dollars in financial support promised for the Afghan security forces and for Afghanistan's economic development simply will not materialize. Without this assistance, few believe any Afghan government can survive for very long. So the stakes are high -- for Afghanistan, and for preserving the investment of lives and treasure that the United States and its coalition allies have made over the last twelve years.
>>
>> Initially President Karzai said he would sign the BSA after its approval by a traditional convocation of Afghan leaders called a Loya Jirga. The BSA received overwhelming approval, But Karzai nonetheless declined to sign. He has required further concessions: an end to counterterrorism raids into Afghan homes at night, active U.S. support for the peace process with the Taliban, and non-interference in the April election to choose President Karzai's successor. Lately he has threatened not to sign at all and to leave it to his successor.
>>
>> U.S. officials have responded by pressuring President Karzai directly and indirectly and setting a succession of missed deadlines, most recently saying that the BSA must be signed in "weeks, not months." So far, nothing has worked. U.S. officials need an alternative approach.
>>
>> One option would be for President Obama to make a public statement along the following lines.
>>
>> First, he would praise Afghanistan's progress in assuming greater responsibility for its security, in improving the education, health, and well-being of its citizens, and in preparing for the upcoming Presidential election. He would state that, to support that progress, he has directed U.S. forces to curtail all but essential night raids, he is committed to facilitating the peace process, and pledges full support for an April election free from all outside influences.
>>
>> These statements would not represent a major U.S. policy change, but together they would offer President Karzai a face saver if in fact he wishes to sign the BSA.
>>
>> Second, President Obama would announce the specific number of troops that he is prepared to leave in Afghanistan post-2014 and direct the Pentagon to develop plans on that basis. He would call on our NATO allies to announce similar force commitments.
>>
>> This step would go a long way to reassuring the candidates for the Afghan Presidency and the Afghan

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people of America's post-2014 presence. The lack of such reassurance has become a source of serious instability, threatening the success of the Afghan election and the morale of the Afghan security forces. For similar reasons, President Obama should resist any pressure to set at this point a date for the termination of the U.S. post-2014 deployment.
>>
>> Third, President Obama would state that while he is willing to sign the BSA with President Karzai, he is also willing to sign it post-April with a new Afghan President. U.S. officials should then stop pressuring President Karzai -- or anyone else -- for a signature before the April election. Such pressure only strengthens President Karzai's hand, encourages further delay, and makes the United States look weak and desperate.
>>
>> President Obama should make clear in his statement that his troop commitment is dependent upon the ultimate signature of the BSA. But a post-election April or May signing by a new Afghan president would give more than enough time to complete the necessary U.S. military planning before the end of the year. Indeed, informed experts say that even without the BSA, U.S. forces could remain in Afghanistan after 2014 under the existing Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) (although our allies would have to negotiate a new SOFA for their forces with the new Afghan government).
>>
>> Recent polling suggests that over 60% of the American people believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting. But the same poll suggests that 55% support leaving some U.S. forces for training and "anti-insurgency" operations. And public statements by members suggest that a post-2014 deployment would have bipartisan Congressional support.
>>
>> President Obama should avoid any suggestion that he might embrace a "zero option" and leave no U.S. troops post-2014. Almost every Afghan expert believes it would destabilize Afghanistan, place the Presidential election in doubt, and ultimately risk the collapse of the Afghan security forces. It would profoundly affect U.S. security interests. Afghanistan would become once again a safe haven for terrorists -- who, history shows, would ultimately attack U.S. interests and territory. Afghanistan would contribute to destabilizing a nuclear-armed Pakistan. And the Afghan people would forfeit all the progress they have made (with our help) in building a more tolerant, inclusive, secure, and prosperous society.
>>
>> There are less than three months to go before elections to replace President Karzai. U.S. policy must not be based on frustration with Karzai's mercurial behavior. It must be based on ensuring the election of a legitimate successor to President Karzai with whom the United States can sign a BSA that is overwhelmingly in the interests of both countries."
>>
>>
>> All -- That's it. May be a little long for you but Autumn has shown great skill in helping to shrink my stuff without losing the substance. And I will help. At the same time, the subject is important enough to warrant an extended treatment.
>>
>> Thank you for your consideration.
>>
>> Steve
>>
>>
>>
>> Stephen J. Hadley
>> (202) 431-9797

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/28/2014 1:17:17 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday October 28, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday October 28, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

National Memo opinion: Joe Conason: "Stop Hillary? Not With These Mistakes (Or The Wisdom Of Dick Morris)"

"Assuming that Hillary Clinton indeed runs for president, I expect to write and say more as the 2016 campaign unfolds. For now, however, my friend and co-author Gene Lyons and I believe it is worth correcting the flagrant errors and misrepresentations set down by Doug Henwood, author of the Harper's article."

New Republic: "The GOP's Obsession With Hillary Clinton's Latest 'Gaffe' Is Great News for Hillary"

"They [Republicans] haven't considered the possibility that voters will instead hear Clinton's 15 words ['Don't let anybody tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs…'] and think she makes a decent point."

U.S. News & World Report opinion: Matthew Dickinson: "She Didn't Fumble That"

[Subtitle:] "Hillary Clinton's comment about corporations and jobs isn't a gaffe and might help her."

BuzzFeed: "Hillary Clinton Corrects Fumbled 'Jobs' Line"

"At the Maloney event in a club in Westchester County, Clinton cleaned up the stumble toward the middle of her 20-minute speech for Maloney, praising businesses that are 'showing what it means to be responsible corporate

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citizens.'"

Media Matters For America: "Right-Wing Media Praise Failed Theory Of Trickle-Down Economics Myth To Condemn Hillary Clinton"

"Conservative media praised the failed theory of trickle-down economics in response to Hillary Clinton's remark that the middle class, not tax cuts for corporations, spurs economic growth, a position backed by economists."

Media Matters For America: "Media Forget Context In Effort To Scandalize Hillary Clinton's Assessment Of Trickle-Down Economics"

"Mainstream media figures, following in the footsteps of conservative media, are trying to manufacture a scandal out of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent argument against trickle-down economics by stripping her comments of context to falsely cast them as a controversial gaffe or a flip-flop on previous statements about trade."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton tries to clarify jobs comment"

"Hillary Clinton on Monday mopped up her botched statement from a rally in Massachusetts last week, making it clear she'd misspoken and hadn't intended to deliver a fresh economic policy message."

Bloomberg: "Clinton: 'Trickle-Down Economics Has Failed'"

[Subtitle:] "Her remarks boil down to one message: She's for the little guy."

New York Times blog: DealBook: "Hillary Clinton's Comment About Corporations and Job Creation Raises Wall St.'s Eyebrows"

"'Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in an America where workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out — not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas,' she said."

Defense News opinion: retired Adm. Stuart Platt: "Climate Change Increases Instability for All"

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“And so when Clinton says climate change is ‘the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges’ facing us today, she does so with the knowledge that it feeds into other serious global issues.”

Associated Press: “Bill Clinton Stumps for Colorado Democrats”

“[Pres.] Clinton talked about the improving economy and said conservatives see the midterm elections as a change to revive ‘trickle-down economics.’”

BuzzFeed: “Back To The ’90s: Hillary Clinton Campaigns With ‘Clinton Democrat’”

“This month on the campaign trail, where she has tweaked and honed a stump speech at rallies across about a dozen states, Clinton has found a window into the debate over economic inequality through issues like equal pay for women and a minimum-wage increase.”

Politico: “Reince Priebus: Hillary Clinton ‘not really good at politics’”

“Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus says Hillary Clinton is ‘becoming sort of a caricature’ and that ‘she’s not really good at politics.’”

National Journal: “Republican 2016 Contenders Have Taken Positions on NSA Reform. Where Does Hillary Clinton Stand?”

“If Hillary Clinton has a position on the government's domestic spying, she's doing a good job of hiding it.”

CNN: “Hillary Clinton's 7 favorite midterm campaign lines”

“Like most politicians have some formula of commonly used phrases and lines of attack, the former secretary of state has started to shape a stump speech with similar expressions.”

New York Daily News column: Richard Cohen: “The old hands vs. the shaky newbies”

“For the Democrats, there’s no one more mainstream than Hillary Clinton, practically an incumbent. Warren is virtually Clinton’s opposite: a neophyte who has been in the Senate only since 2013 and has never run a company or state. We have learned — have we not? — that the presidency requires some executive experience.”

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The Hill: “Warren vs. Clinton: Dems say 'Why not?'”

“The Democratic field in 2016 has more than enough room for two women competing to be the nation’s first female president, according to liberal activists.”

Mediaite: “Chris Matthews: Clinton-Warren 2016 Ticket Not ‘Smart’”

“Liberal Democrats looking to MSNBC’s Chris Matthews to keep hope alive that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) could still in some way be involved with the 2016 presidential election had it all squashed Monday.”

The Atlantic: “The Jeb Bush Effect”

[Subtitle:] “A presidential bid by the former Florida governor would complicate the party's case against Hillary Clinton.”

Salon: “Hillary Clinton’s populism problem: What her awkward campaign trail comments reveal about her biggest weakness”

[Subtitle:] “As the former secretary of state eyes a 2016 bid, she's struggling to come to terms with the new Democratic Party”

Articles:

National Memo opinion: Joe Conason: “Stop Hillary? Not With These Mistakes (Or The Wisdom Of Dick Morris)”

By Joe Conason

October 27, 2014, 11:15 a.m. EDT

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Expectations that Hillary Rodham Clinton will run for president in 2016 have, predictably enough, revived a variety of attacks promoted by her political adversaries over the past two decades – in particular, the story of the $50 million prosecutorial fiasco known as “Whitewater.” America Rising, the Republican opposition research SuperPAC, has announced already that it plans to inform voters about the “Clinton scandals” of the 1990s, just as the right-wing propaganda machine did then. And they’re already enjoying assistance from certain thinkers on the left who consider the former Secretary of State too moderate politically, notably in a current Harper’s magazine cover essay headlined “STOP HILLARY!”

Assuming that Hillary Clinton indeed runs for president, I expect to write and say more as the 2016 campaign unfolds. For now, however, my friend and co-author Gene Lyons and I believe it is worth correcting the flagrant errors and misrepresentations set down by Doug Henwood, author of the Harper’s article. (Clinton’s supporters have posted a painstaking rebuttal of Henwood’s dismissive assessment of her career in the U.S. Senate and the State Department.)

While conceding that Whitewater was never quite the “diabolical conspiracy” imagined by Republicans, Henwood insists “it was not nothing” (his emphasis). Yet he never says precisely what he thinks it was, except to imply that it demonstrates Hillary’s bad character and personal dishonesty. With that mindset, the actual history of the ill-fated real-estate investment eludes him again and again.

Henwood grudgingly acknowledges that the Whitewater investment undertaken by the Clintons with James McDougal — who later acquired a small savings-and-loan institution called Madison Guaranty — “seems to have” lost money for them. But while admitting that they were “never convicted of any criminal behavior,” he neglects to mention that they were never even indicted, and that the Resolution Trust Corporation’s three-volume report on Madison Guaranty Savings & Loan – written by a Republican lawyer who had previously been fired as United States Attorney by Bill Clinton — fully exonerated them both on all aspects of the probe.

Instead, he complains that McDougal hired the Rose Law Firm, where Hillary Clinton was a partner, to represent Madison Guaranty, which he says represented a “farcical round robin” of conflicts of interest, because she was the governor’s wife and the state government regulated the S&L industry. He also suggests that Madison Guaranty—not acquired by McDougal until five years after the Whitewater investment was made—financed the deal. But that’s simply wrong; the Clintons’ investment cost the bank nothing.

To heighten the alleged ethical conflict, Henwood adds that “the Clintons, of course, were also investors in McDougal’s schemes.” This too is categorically false. The Clintons had no other business ties with Jim McDougal whatsoever. The RTC report states unequivocally that “there is no basis to charge the Clintons with any kind of primary liability for fraud or intentional misconduct.”

Moreover, neither Hillary Clinton nor the state banking department did anything to protect Madison from regulatory authorities. Far from protecting McDougal, the RTC report found that “if anything, Arkansas regulators took a more aggressive position toward Madison Guaranty than the FHLBB [Federal Home Loan Bank Board].” The report also noted that in December 1987, Arkansas securities commissioner Beverly Bassett Schaffer (a Clinton appointee) had written the FSLIC (Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation) urging that it declare Madison Guaranty insolvent and shut the bank down at once. The Feds waited until 1989 to comply.

For all of Henwood’s dark imaginings, his research left him insufficiently aware of well-documented facts. Like many a conspiracy theorist before him, he makes much of the lost-and-found Rose Law Firm billing records, an old red herring.

Ominously, he writes that Hillary “claimed the Rose billing records for the Madison case, which were under multiple subpoenas, had disappeared. Then they suddenly reappeared, discovered by a personal assistant in a

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room in the residential quarters of the White House. When asked about this mysterious turn of events, Hillary responded as if she, too, were an injured party: 'I, like everyone else, would like to know the answer about how those documents showed up after all these years.' The records showed that far from having a trivial role in representing Madison, she had actually billed for sixty hours of work."

What Henwood seems not to grasp is that the billing records found in the White House on January 5, 1996, were merely photocopies of computer printouts from the Rose Law Firm's data system. Independent counsel Kenneth Starr and the congressional committees that subpoenaed those records already had all of the same information. The independent counsel's hope seemed to be that Hillary Clinton's own printouts would somehow show alterations or inculpatory handwritten marginalia, but those suspicions proved unfounded.

The idea that she would hide those photocopies, only to "find" them at the beginning of her husband's re-election campaign, makes no sense at all — particularly in view of the fact that the documents vindicated her previous testimony in great detail.

Elsewhere Henwood makes a glancing reference to the Southern Development Bancorp, as if the Rose Law Firm's representation of that bank was another sinister fact that Hillary Clinton sought to conceal. What he doesn't mention is that Southern Bancorp began as a development initiative founded by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and the state government under Bill Clinton. Hillary Clinton sat on its board, without compensation. Far from raking in illicit profits, the bank provides much-needed credit and financing for hundreds of worthwhile projects, from low-income housing, home repairs, farms, and small businesses to Boys & Girls clubs in neglected rural Arkansas. Its first CEO was the late Tom McRae, Bill Clinton's idealistic rival for the 1990 Arkansas Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

Finally, in a footnote, Henwood hints at guilt by association when he writes that the Clintons somehow "escaped" the "Whitewater morass," while others went to prison, notably James and Susan McDougal and Jim Guy Tucker, who succeeded Bill Clinton as governor. But again he gets the facts and timeline wrong.

Tucker was not, as Henwood writes, convicted of "Whitewater-related" charges. A longtime political rival, Tucker had no business ties to the Clintons whatsoever. Kenneth Starr prosecuted him on totally unrelated fraud charges, in the apparent hope that Tucker could provide damning testimony against the Clintons. But he could not and did not. With this kind of error, Henwood not only reveals his own ignorance but parrots the misinformation about Whitewater usually offered by Starr and his far-right defenders.

Jim McDougal went to prison for swindling the Clintons, among others, as the prosecutor who convicted the mentally ill banker pointed out in his closing argument. For her part, Susan McDougal was jailed for 18 months for refusing to provide false grand jury testimony against Bill Clinton at Starr's behest. In a subsequent criminal contempt trial, she testified in open court for several days, and was acquitted. Bill Clinton awarded her a presidential pardon a couple of years after the fact. (Clinton did not pardon Tucker, which many Arkansas observers thought small of him.)

In short, Henwood simply doesn't know what he's talking about (and his reliance on former Fox News personality Dick Morris for guidance is mindboggling). What's most disappointing is that a magazine of Harper's' reputation – which first exposed Whitewater as a political hoax – would provide a platform for his baseless speculations.

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New Republic: “The GOP's Obsession With Hillary Clinton's Latest ‘Gaffe’ Is Great News for Hillary”

By Brian Beutler

October 27, 2014

High on the long list of things Republicans decided not to change after the 2012 election—below opposition to immigration reform, but above the belief that Democrats buy elections by showering the poor with generous welfare benefits—is an abiding faith that the fundamental unit of politics is the decontextualized “gaffe.”

As a demonstration of that faith, Republicans are leaning heavily into 15 words Hillary Clinton uttered late last week while stumping for Martha Coakley in the Massachusetts gubernatorial race.

“Don't let anybody tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs.” Throw in the context and it’s clear that Clinton was reciting a standard Democratic denunciation of the view that liberating the wealthy from taxes and regulations is the key to economic growth. "You know, that old theory, trickle-down economics,” she added. “That has been tried. That has failed. That has failed rather spectacularly.”

But shear off the surrounding language and you’re left with a game-changing soundbite that will propel a Republican into the White House two years from now.

Right?

I think the opposite is true. Republicans are no less obsessed with gaffes today than they were in October 2012. Just last week, Republicans were riding high on President Obama’s gaffetastic observation that Democrats in the Senate vote with him most of the time, and before that, his admission that the policies he supports are on the ballot in November. But what makes their obsession with this gaffe particularly revealing is that it’s substantively identical to a gaffe they seized upon two years ago, weeks before they went on to lose the election—to their great astonishment—by a pretty wide margin.

In 2012, Republicans made “you didn’t build that”—a decontextualized comment Obama made about the fact that the wealthy depend on and must contribute to the public space—the unifying theme of their party convention in Tampa, Florida. They were certain that it would cause, or at least contribute, to Obama’s demise. But in hindsight, many conservatives acknowledged that the GOP’s obsession with that gaffe revealed more damaging truths about the Republican Party than the gaffe itself said about Obama.

“One after another, [Republican businessowners] talked about the business they had built. But not a single—not a single—factory worker went out there,” Rick Santorum told activists at the Faith & Freedom Coalition conference last year. “Not a single janitor, waitress or person who worked in that company! We didn’t care about them. You know what? They built that company too! And we should have had them on that stage.”

After the election, conservative writer Ramesh Ponnuru lamented that “the Republican story about how societies prosper—not just the Romney story—dwelt on the heroic entrepreneur stifled by taxes and regulations: an important story with which most people do not identify. The ordinary person does not see himself as a great innovator." Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell aped this analysis when he admitted in a speech at the American Enterprise Institute that Republicans "have often lost sight of the fact that our average voter is not John Galt."

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None of the Republicans pushing the “corporations and businesses” line actually thinks Hillary Clinton meant to say that investment isn’t a component of economic growth, just as they know from their perches in congressional offices and at donor-dependent non-profits that the entrepreneur isn’t the solitary engine of job creation.

But it’s clear they all still believe that riling up business elites by selectively quoting Democrats is a key to political success. The fixation on this gaffe foreshadows another Republican presidential campaign centered on the preeminence of the entrepreneur, to the exclusion of the wage worker and the trade unionist and the unemployed. It suggests an unwavering faith that a majority of voters will support the other guy when they hear “don’t let anybody tell you that … it’s corporations and businesses that create jobs.” They haven’t considered the possibility that voters will instead hear Clinton’s 15 words and think she makes a decent point.

U.S. News & World Report opinion: Matthew Dickinson: “She Didn't Fumble That”

By Matthew Dickinson

October 27, 2014, 4:20 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton's comment about corporations and jobs isn't a gaffe and might help her.

With the midterms elections less than nine days away, it is easy to forget that there’s another national contest underway: the race for the presidency in 2016. While no politician has formally announced their presidential candidacy, a number of them are actively running in what political scientists call “the invisible primary” – the period before the nominating process formally begins, when potential candidates start to measure their likely support among party activists, including potential campaign donors. Candidates-to-be are particularly interested in gauging their potential support in those states like Iowa and New Hampshire that hold early nominating contests.

It is also a period when the media begin vetting the potential candidates. Because of their interest in creating the perception of a horse race, their initial coverage tends to be more critical of potential frontrunners. Not surprising, Hillary Clinton – who polls show outpacing her potential Democratic rivals by a large margin – has received unwanted attention for a series of media-labeled “wealth gaffes” she has made in recent months that purportedly show that because of her wealth she cannot related to “average” people. If initial media reports are to be believed, Clinton has just committed another wealth-related gaffe, this time as she was stumping for Massachusetts Democratic gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley, who is in a tough race in that state against Republican Charles Baker. According to news reports, in her speech on Coakley’s behalf Clinton – while criticizing Republicans who support “trickle down” economics based on not raising the minimum wage, cutting taxes and reducing business regulations – added: “Don’t let anybody tell you that it’s corporations and businesses that create jobs. You know that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried, that has failed. It has failed rather spectacularly. One of the things my husband says when people say, ‘What did you bring to Washington?’ He says, ‘I brought arithmetic.’”

Critics, initially primarily those writing on right-leaning blogs and columns, immediately pounced on Clinton’s remarks, likening it to Barack Obama’s widely publicized “you didn’t build that” comment in July 2012 that was immediately incorporated into attack ads on behalf of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Conservative columnist S.E. Cupp tweeted, “Hillary's ‘businesses don't create jobs’ quote is honestly inexplicable. Like, cannot be explained.” A Forbes columnist chimed in: “[T]his attitude shocked many people in the trenches, those pulling the economic wagon, those looking for work. The condescension in the way Clinton

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articulated it was noteworthy also…" As is often the case, the tempest on social media spilled over into the mainstream media. USA Today's Paul Singer predicted that "If the former secretary of State runs for president in 2016, as she is widely expected to do, there is no doubt Republicans will make hay out of this comment."

These pundits are undoubtedly correct. Clinton's Republican opponents will almost certainly use these and other "gaffes" by her as part of a broader attempt to paint Clinton as a wealthy elitist who doesn't understand how the economy provides opportunity for the middle class. However, political scientists have found little evidence that candidate gaffes by themselves – even widely publicized ones such as Obama's "you didn't build that" or Romney's equally infamous "47 percent" comment – have a lasting impact on campaign dynamics or that they influence the eventual presidential vote. This is both because the gaffes tend to have a short-half life in public consciousness – if the public hears of them at all – and because their impact is dissipated in the ongoing give-and-take of a presidential campaign in which both sides are engaged in a continual effort to "win the issue moment." This makes it hard for any single gaffe to move public opinion as much as pundits covering these stories would have one believe. And, if gaffes in the heat of a campaign don't seem to matter, it is hard to believe that a misstatement from 2014 is going to have much staying power two years later.

But there is a more fundamental reason to doubt that Clinton's latest "misstatement" will have much lasting impact – it probably wasn't a gaffe in the first place. Instead, it is likely she knew exactly what she was saying, and how to say it. If so, her remarks provide an early clue to how Clinton might seek to frame her presidential candidacy in 2016. In her book "The Message Matters", political scientist Lynn Vavreck shows that presidential candidates generally run one of two types of campaign, which Vavreck labels "clarifying" and "insurgent." Clarifying campaigns typically focus on the economy, and do so in a way that advantages one's own candidacy while hurting their opponents'. That means incumbents take ownership of strong economic performances, while opponents will attack an incumbent's weak economic record. In 2012 both Obama and Romney ran versions of clarifying campaigns, with Obama asking for more time to continue healing the economic mess he inherited, while Romney argued that the president hadn't done nearly enough to mend the economy and should be replaced. Insurgent candidates, in contrast, try to shift the campaign dialogue to another issue that differentiates the candidates and on which the insurgent can count on favorable public support.

In Clinton's case, because she will run as the incumbent party's flag bearer, she will likely have to run a clarifying campaign that defends her party's economic record over the previous eight years. While she can't be sure of her opponent as yet, she does know that Democrats are generally viewed as stronger advocates for policies promoting economic "fairness" and government-based protection of the most economically vulnerable. It makes sense, then, as Clinton did in her speech, to try to link opposition to raising the minimum wage with "trickle down" economics. This is exactly the clarifying strategy pursued by Barack Obama in 2012, when he sought to portray Romney as a plutocrat whose free-market oriented economic policies would disadvantage the less wealthy in favor of the "one percent." Moreover, by staking out this more economically populist ideological ground, Clinton also presumably hopes to protect herself from a possible challenge within her own party on her left from someone like Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren or Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats and is considering running for the party's nomination.

It is understandable that pundits, particularly those on the right, would paint Clinton's recent remarks as the latest in a series of wealth-related misstatements she has made. But Clinton's strategy is to make sure the last gaffe is on them.

BuzzFeed: "Hillary Clinton Corrects Fumbled 'Jobs' Line"

By Ruby Cramer

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October 27, 2014, 3:08 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] “I short-handed this point the other day.”

SOMERS, N.Y. — When Hillary Clinton fumbled a line at a rally last Friday — “Don’t let anybody tell you that corporations and businesses create jobs” — the comment caused a minor outrage among political observers. Republicans said she’d been pandering to liberals. Democrats wondered if she’d been trying too hard to channel Elizabeth Warren, the populist senator who also spoke at the event.

On Monday, Clinton went out of her way to correct the comment at a rally for Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, the Democrat up for reelection in this Hudson Valley district.

Clinton said in her speech that corporations that outsource jobs or move profits overseas should not be granted tax breaks. The clarification made clear that the remark was a botched line — not new messaging from Clinton, who has honed a new stump speech during a series of rallies ahead the election next month.

“The Republican alternative is a discredited economic theory that will hurt middle class families,” Clinton said. “So-called trickle-down economics has failed.”

“I short-handed this point the other day, so let me be absolutely clear about what I’ve been saying for a couple of decades.”

“Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in America and workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out — not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas.”

Clinton voted a number of times for tax cuts for businesses when she was a U.S. senator from New York. But a Clinton aide said on Monday afternoon that she has not supported the tax breaks when they benefit top earners.

At the event with Warren on Friday, a rally for Martha Coakley, the Democrat running for governor in Massachusetts, Clinton made her initial remark in the lead-up to her case against “trickle-down economics” — an argument she’s long made.

Her original line — that “corporations and businesses” don’t “create jobs” — doesn’t make much sense as a concept. An aide initially said on Friday that she’d meant to refer to “tax cuts” for corporations.

Clinton in particular has also more often been accused of being too friendly to corporations. But she didn’t clarify the remark in speeches at her next two public events: a rally for Mike Michaud, the Democrat running for governor in Maine, and one for Kay Hagan, the U.S. senator in North Carolina up for reelection.

At the Maloney event in a club in Westchester County, Clinton cleaned up the stumble toward the middle of her 20-minute speech for Maloney, praising businesses that are “showing what it means to be responsible corporate citizens.”

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“They’re paying workers a living wage instead of a poverty wage. They are investing in communities instead of hollowing them out. They are empowering workers instead of preventing them from organizing and joining unions to represent them.”

“But we still don’t have enough who are doing all of that,” Clinton said.

Asked about the “jobs” comment after the event, Clinton glanced at her press secretary, Nick Merrill, and said, “You can talk to Nick about that.”

Media Matters For America: “Right-Wing Media Praise Failed Theory Of Trickle-Down Economics Myth To Condemn Hillary Clinton”

By Craig Harrington & Olivia Marshall

October 27, 2014, 5:59 p.m. EDT

Conservative media praised the failed theory of trickle-down economics in response to Hillary Clinton's remark that the middle class, not tax cuts for corporations, spurs economic growth, a position backed by economists.

Hillary Clinton Warns Against Myth That Trickle-Down Economics Creates Jobs

Hillary Clinton Criticized Failed Theory Of Trickle-Down Economics At Martha Coakley Campaign Event. Hillary Clinton appeared at a campaign event for Massachusetts Democratic gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley on October 24, where she pushed for a minimum wage increase and warned against the myth that businesses create jobs through trickle-down economics (emphasis added):

CLINTON: Don't let anybody tell you that raising the minimum wage will kill jobs. They always say that. I've been through this. My husband gave working families a raise in the 1990s. I voted to raise the minimum wage and guess what? Millions of jobs were created or paid better and more families were more secure. That's what we want to see here, and that's what we want to see across the country.

And don't let anybody tell you, that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs. You know, that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried. That has failed. That has failed rather spectacularly.

One of the things my husband says, when people say, what did you bring to Washington? He says, well I brought arithmetic. And part of it was he demonstrated why trickle down should be consigned to the trash bin of history. More tax cuts for the top and for companies that ship jobs over seas while taxpayers and voters are stuck paying the freight just doesn't add up. Now that kind of thinking might win you an award for outsourcing excellence, but Massachusetts can do better than that. Martha understands it. She knows you have to create jobs from everyone working together and taking the advantages of this great state and putting them to work. [Associated Press, **10/24/14**]

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Right-Wing Media Hail Trickle-Down Economics, Lash Out At Clinton For "Stupid" Remarks

Washington Free Beacon: Clinton Will Likely Be Attacked "As Another Big Government Democrat" For Criticism Of Trickle-Down Economics. In an October 24 blog post, the Washington Free Beacon claimed that Clinton's criticism of trickle-down economic theory "will likely be used to attack her as another big government Democrat," writing that the soundbite could follow her into a "widely assumed presidential bid." [Washington Free Beacon, **10/24/14**]

Rush Limbaugh: Belief That Trickle-Down Economics Doesn't Work Is "Genuinely Stupid." On the October 27 edition of his radio show, Rush Limbaugh declared that despite Clinton's remarks, trickle-down economics "works," and "if it weren't for trickle-down, [Bill Clinton] would not have had a roaring economy in the 1990s." Later in the show, Limbaugh claimed Clinton is part of a "marauding band aiming at every private sector business they can get their hands on." [Premiere Radio Networks, *The Rush Limbaugh Show*, **10/27/14** ,**10/27/14**]

Fox Business' Bartiromo: Trickle-Down Economics Works, "Business And Corporations Do In Fact Create Jobs." On the October 27 edition of Fox News' *Fox & Friends*, Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo claimed that trickle-down economic principles work because "business and corporations do, in fact, create jobs. That is where the job creation comes from." Bartiromo argued that Clinton was merely making a divisive "political statement." [Fox News, *Fox & Friends*, **10/27/14**]

Fox Business Host: Clinton's "Outrageous" Criticism Of Trickle-Down Theory "Sound[s] Like The Mafia." On the October 27 edition of Fox News' *America's Newsroom*, Fox Business host Melissa Francis alleged that Clinton's criticism of the conservative economic theory sounded "like the mafia" before claiming that the remarks were "outrageous." [Fox News, *America's Newsroom*, **10/27/14**]

***Outnumbered* Hosts Deemed Clinton's Criticism Of Trickle-Down "Factually Incorrect" And "Stupid, Idiotic."** The hosts of the October 27 edition of *Outnumbered* mocked and attacked Clinton for her condemnation of trickle-down economics. Co-host Sandra Smith said Clinton's comments were "barely worth a response," and "factually incorrect," while guest co-host Bo Dietl called Clinton a "disgrace." Co-host Jedediah Bila blasted Clinton's remark as a "dumb, stupid, idiotic statement." [Fox News, *Outnumbered*, **10/27/14**]

Economists Back Clinton: Job Growth Tied To Economic Security Of Middle Class, Not Trickle-Down Economics

Nobel Prize Winning Economist: Middle Class Consumers Are The "True Job Creators." In *The New York Times*, Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz explained how middle class consumer spending has "historically driven our economic growth":

There are four major reasons inequality is squelching our recovery. The most immediate is that our middle class is too weak to support the consumer spending that has historically driven our economic growth. While the top 1 percent of income earners took home 93 percent of the growth in incomes in 2010, the households in the middle -- who are most likely to spend their incomes rather than save them and who are, in a sense, the true job creators -- have lower household incomes, adjusted for inflation, than they did in 1996. The growth in the decade before the crisis was unsustainable -- it was reliant on the bottom 80 percent consuming about 110 percent of their income. [*The New York Times,* **1/19/13**]

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Economist Heather Boushey: Consumer Demand Drives Economic Growth. In testimony before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, economist Heather Boushey pointed out that, "It is demand for goods and services, backed up by an ability to pay for them, which drives economic growth." Boushey noted that, "The hollowing out of our middle class limits our nation's capacity to grow unless firms can find new customers." [Center for American Progress, **5/12/11**]

UC Berkeley Economist Robert Reich: "Businesses Don't Need More Financial Incentives." Robert Reich, professor at UC Berkeley and former Secretary of Labor, wrote that economically "the problem isn't on the supply side. It's on the demand side":

Can we get real for a moment? Businesses don't need more financial incentives. They're already sitting on a vast cash horde estimated to be upwards of $1.6 trillion. Besides, large and middle-sized companies are having no difficulty getting loans at bargain-basement rates, courtesy of the Fed.

In consequence, businesses are already spending as much as they can justify economically. Almost two-thirds of the measly growth in the economy so far this year has come from businesses rebuilding their inventories. But without more consumer spending, there's they won't spend more. A robust economy can't be built on inventory replacements.

The problem isn't on the supply side. It's on the demand side. Businesses are reluctant to spend more and create more jobs because there aren't enough consumers out there able and willing to buy what businesses have to sell.

The reason consumers aren't buying is because consumers' paychecks are dropping, adjusted for inflation. [Huffington Post, **6/9/11**]

Media Matters For America: “Media Forget Context In Effort To Scandalize Hillary Clinton's Assessment Of Trickle-Down Economics”

By Ellie Sandmeyer

October 26, 2014, 3:41 p.m. EDT

Mainstream media figures, following in the footsteps of conservative media, are trying to manufacture a scandal out of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent argument against trickle-down economics by stripping her comments of context to falsely cast them as a controversial gaffe or a flip-flop on previous statements about trade.

Conservative media outlets rushed to vilify Clinton's stance after she pushed for a minimum wage increase and warned against the myth that businesses create jobs through trickle-down economics at an October 24 campaign event for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley (D). Breitbart.com complained, "Clinton told the crowd ... not to listen to anybody who says that 'businesses create jobs,'" conservative radio host Howie Carr said the comments showed Clinton's "true moonbat colors," while FoxNews.com promoted the

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Washington Free Beacon's accusation that she said "businesses and corporations are not the job creators of America."

Mainstream media soon jumped on the bandwagon.

CNN host John King presented Clinton's comments as a fumble "a little reminiscent there of Mitt Romney saying corporations are people, too," and USA Today called the comments "An odd moment from Hillary Clinton on the campaign trail Friday - and one she may regret." In an article egregiously headlined, "Hillary Clinton No Longer Believes That Companies Create Jobs," Bloomberg's Jonathan Allen stripped away any context from Clinton's words in order to accuse her of having "flip-flopped on whether companies create jobs," because she has previously discussed the need to keep American companies competitive abroad.

Taken in context, Clinton's comments are almost entirely unremarkable -- and certainly don't conflict with the philosophy that trade can contribute to job growth, as Allen suggests. The full transcript of her remarks shows she was making the established observation that minimum wage increases can boost a sluggish economy by generating demand, and that tax breaks for the rich don't necessarily move companies to create jobs:

CLINTON: “Don't let anybody tell you that raising the minimum wage will kill jobs. They always say that. I've been through this. My husband gave working families a raise in the 1990s. I voted to raise the minimum wage and guess what? Millions of jobs were created or paid better and more families were more secure. That's what we want to see here, and that's what we want to see across the country.

“And don't let anybody tell you, that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs. You know, that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried. That has failed. That has failed rather spectacularly.

“One of the things my husband says, when people say, what did you bring to Washington? He says, well I brought arithmetic. And part of it was he demonstrated why trickle down should be consigned to the trash bin of history. More tax cuts for the top and for companies that ship jobs over seas while taxpayers and voters are stuck paying the freight just doesn't add up. Now that kind of thinking might win you an award for outsourcing excellence, but Massachusetts can do better than that. Martha understands it. She knows you have to create jobs from everyone working together and taking the advantages of this great state and putting them to work.”

Economic experts agree that job growth is tied to the economic security of the middle class.

U.S. economic growth has historically relied on consumer spending, and middle class consumers are "the true job creators," Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz points out. Right now, the U.S. economy is "demand-starved," as Economic Policy Institute's (EPI) Joshua Smith puts it. Steiglitz says that, of all the problems facing the U.S. economy, "The most immediate is that our middle class is too weak to support the consumer spending that has historically driven our economic growth."

In a testimony before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Economist Heather Boushey noted that "It is demand for goods and services, backed up by an ability to pay for them, which drives economic growth" and "The hollowing out of our middle class limits our nation's capacity to grow unless firms can find new customers."

UC Berkeley economist Robert Reich agrees that the problem in the U.S. economy is demand. "Businesses are reluctant to spend more and create more jobs because there aren't enough consumers out there able and willing to buy what businesses have to sell," he writes, and places the blame on low paychecks and growing inequality:

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"The reason consumers aren't buying is because consumers' paychecks are dropping... Consumers can't and won't buy more." He says the key to job growth is "reigniting demand" by "putting more money in consumers' pockets." From The Huffington Post:

“Can we get real for a moment? Businesses don't need more financial incentives. They're already sitting on a vast cash horde estimated to be upwards of $1.6 trillion. Besides, large and middle-sized companies are having no difficulty getting loans at bargain-basement rates, courtesy of the Fed.

“In consequence, businesses are already spending as much as they can justify economically. Almost two-thirds of the measly growth in the economy so far this year has come from businesses rebuilding their inventories. But without more consumer spending, there's they won't spend more. A robust economy can't be built on inventory replacements.

“The problem isn't on the supply side. It's on the demand side. Businesses are reluctant to spend more and create more jobs because there aren't enough consumers out there able and willing to buy what businesses have to sell.

“The reason consumers aren't buying is because consumers' paychecks are dropping, adjusted for inflation.”

Clinton's emphasis on the minimum wage is supported by economic experts as well. Reich says that raising the minimum wage is an effective way to generate the consumer demand that would spur job growth. It "would put money in the pockets of millions of low-wage workers who will spend it -- thereby giving working families and the overall economy a boost, and creating jobs." He also rejected critics' claims that giving low income-earners a raise hurts job growth: "When I was Labor Secretary in 1996 and we raised the minimum wage, business predicted millions of job losses; in fact, we had more job gains over the next four years than in any comparable period in American history."

EPI called the minimum wage a "critically important issue" that "would provide a modest stimulus to the entire economy, as increased wages would lead to increased consumer spending, which would contribute to GDP growth and modest employment gains" (emphasis added):

“The immediate benefits of a minimum-wage increase are in the boosted earnings of the lowest-paid workers, but its positive effects would far exceed this extra income. Recent research reveals that, despite skeptics' claims, raising the minimum wage does not cause job loss. In fact, throughout the nation, a minimum-wage increase under current labor market conditions would create jobs. Like unemployment insurance benefits or tax breaks for low- and middle-income workers, raising the minimum wage puts more money in the pockets of working families when they need it most, thereby augmenting their spending power. Economists generally recognize that low-wage workers are more likely than any other income group to spend any extra earnings immediately on previously unaffordable basic needs or services.

“Increasing the federal minimum wage to $10.10 by July 1, 2015, would give an additional $51.5 billion over the phase-in period to directly and indirectly affected workers, who would, in turn, spend those extra earnings. Indirectly affected workers--those earning close to, but still above, the proposed new minimum wage--would likely receive a boost in earnings due to the "spillover" effect (Shierholz 2009), giving them more to spend on necessities.

“This projected rise in consumer spending is critical to any recovery, especially when weak consumer demand is one of the most significant factors holding back new hiring (Izzo 2011). Though the stimulus from a minimum-wage increase is smaller than the boost created by, for example, unemployment insurance benefits, it has the crucial advantage of not imposing costs on the public sector.”

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The economic benefits of a minimum wage increase are widely accepted. Over 600 economists signed a recent letter supporting an increase, arguing, "Research suggests that a minimum-wage increase could have a small stimulative effect on the economy as low-wage workers spend their additional earnings, raising demand and job growth, and providing some help on the jobs front."

Politico: “Hillary Clinton tries to clarify jobs comment”

By Maggie Haberman

October 27, 2014, 1:15 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton on Monday mopped up her botched statement from a rally in Massachusetts last week, making it clear she’d misspoken and hadn’t intended to deliver a fresh economic policy message.

Clinton’s clean-up came as she campaigned with Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney in Somers, about 90 minutes north of New York City, after two days in which Republicans bandied the likely White House candidate’s Friday comment on social media and it began gaining broader attention.

“Don’t let anybody tell you that corporations and businesses create jobs,” Clinton had said at the rally in Boston, where she appeared on behalf of gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley along with Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a populist, anti-Big Banks crusader who has become the wished-for candidate from some progressives for 2016.

A Clinton aide later said the former secretary of state had meant to talk about tax breaks in that sentence, which led into a line about how trickle-down economics had “failed spectacularly” – a sentiment she has long held. The overall context was clear that she had left words out of a sentence; the comment made little sense without it.

But some Democrats who back Clinton said privately she appeared to be trying too hard to capture the Warren rhetoric and adjust to the modern economic progressive language – much in the way President Barack Obama did during a campaign rally in 2012, when, discussing businesses relationships to the infrastructure of cities, he said, “You didn’t build that.”

In Somers on Monday, Clinton called for a raise in the minimum wage and said, “Look, I know the Republicans will tell you raising wages kill jobs except for wages at the very top, so trickle-down can create jobs.”

But she noted that when her husband was president the minimum wage was raised, and that she voted for its increase when she served as a senator from New York.

“We are supposed to be about upward mobility,” she said.

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Nan Hayworth, Maloney's rival, represents "a discredited economic theory that will hurt middle class families," Clinton said. "I shorthanded this point the other day so let me be absolutely clear on what [I've been saying for decades].

"Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in America and workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up. … Not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas."

Maloney, who talked extensively about getting his start in national politics by working on Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential run, is one of the only House candidates Hillary Clinton is individually helping with a public rally.

The event, at Heritage Hills, a housing complex, was attended primarily by senior citizens.

In addition to the mop-up, Clinton tried out a few new lines, describing Maloney as part of the ongoing bridge to the 21st Century.

He's part of "a new political mission to make our government work again for the people of the country that we love," said Clinton – another sentence that could end up as part of her own stump speech.

Bloomberg: "Clinton: 'Trickle-Down Economics Has Failed'"

By Jonathan Allen

October 27, 2014, 3:49 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Her remarks boil down to one message: She's for the little guy.

Days after Republicans feasted on her claim that corporations don't create jobs, Hillary Clinton tried Monday to "be absolutely clear about what I've been saying for a couple of decades."

"So-called trickle-down economics has failed," Clinton said as she stumped for Representative Sean Patrick Maloney in New York. "Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in an America where workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out–not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas."

While campaigning Friday for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley, Clinton created a stir–and drew criticism from Republicans–by saying, "Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs."

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She followed that with a line about President Ronald Reagan's pet economic concept: “You know that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried, that has failed. It has failed rather spectacularly."

The cleaned-up message, though, hits at the same theme: Clinton's for the little guy.

She has been sounding more populist notes of late as a campaign-trail advocate for Democratic candidates who are on the ballot next week. That's an important turn as she contemplates a run for president in 2016 because Clinton's biggest weakness among Democrats, and some Republicans, is the perception that she's too close to Wall Street and corporate America. One Clinton confidant told Bloomberg Politics he'd rather have her make mistakes like Friday's than say she's for Wall Street banks.

And the more anti-corporate tone is pleasing to the ears of liberals who have pined for Senator Elizabeth Warren, a scourge of Wall Street banks, to challenge Clinton for the Democratic nomination. And, they say, it's a message Clinton can use against Republicans because many in the GOP have turned wary of Wall Street and big corporations since the 2008 financial crash.

"Warren's economic populist agenda offers a pathway to success for Democrats in 2014 and 2016 –if they choose to take it," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "Hillary Clinton may be realizing that Elizabeth Warren's economic populist positions are the path to electoral success in 2016–both in the primary and general election."

In the 2008 campaign, Clinton rolled out a $7 billion plan to create incentives, including tax breaks for corporations, to create jobs in the U.S. As a senator from New York, she supported targeted tax cuts or credits for a variety of industries and businesses.

New York Times blog: DealBook: “Hillary Clinton’s Comment About Corporations and Job Creation Raises Wall St.’s Eyebrows”

By Andrew Ross Sorkin

October 27, 2014, 9:33 p.m. EDT

“Hillary said what?”

That was the question whispered among some of Wall Street’s most prominent Democratic supporters over the weekend after Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke on the campaign trail for Martha Coakley, the Democratic candidate for governor of Massachusetts.

“Don’t let anybody tell you that it’s corporations and businesses that create jobs,” Mrs. Clinton said on Friday in Boston. “You know that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried, that has failed. It has failed rather spectacularly. One of the things my husband says when people say, ‘What did you bring to Washington?’ He says, ‘I brought arithmetic.’ ”

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It was the first part of the quotation that some on Wall Street focused on, comparing it to a phrase uttered by President Obama in 2012 — “If you’ve got a business, you didn’t build that” — that, similarly stripped of its context, provided Republicans with fodder to rally their base.

On Monday, Mrs. Clinton seemed to backpedal on her earlier comment, perhaps after some of her Wall Street supporters had telephoned.

She made her initial remarks at a rally on Friday, where Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts appeared as well. She also declared at the time, “I love watching Elizabeth give it to those who deserve to get it.”

Mrs. Clinton didn’t explicitly say who deserved to get it, but she appeared to be directing her ire at Ms. Warren’s favorite target, Wall Street banks. Within the world of finance, Mrs. Clinton has long been seen as a friend of Wall Street — or at least not an enemy. She has rarely engaged in the kind of vitriol that has made Senator Warren a hero of the progressive left. She has accepted $200,000 fees for speeches and has spoken at firms like Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase. In some cases she has praised and defended firms like these.

Ms. Warren has criticized Mrs. Clinton in the past for being too cozy with Wall Street.

So Mrs. Clinton’s harsh words about the business world had tongues wagging, especially among some of her supporters who seemed nervous that someone perceived as a friend might be moving away from them.

Some on Wall Street had already noticed that Mrs. Clinton, while campaigning for Senator Al Franken of Minnesota last week, had singled out the financial industry. “Al has pushed for more and better oversight of the big banks and risky financial activity, and there’s more work for him to do,” she said. “There’s a lot of unfinished business to make sure we don’t end up once again with big banks taking big risks and leaving taxpayers holding the bag.”

The main question was whether Mrs. Clinton’s words were more about political maneuvering than reshaping her beliefs.

One senior banker, who has long supported Mrs. Clinton, said: “The reality is that she might have to tack left a little for the party. What I don’t know is whether she will stay there or double back.”

Another banker said of her comment: “I doubt she meant that.”

Ari Fleischer, a press secretary for President George W. Bush, took to Twitter: “Sometimes you have to wonder if Hillary really believes in anything, except appealing to whatever is current. Iraq war? Yes. Business? No.”

While Mrs. Clinton has yet to declare that she is running for president in 2016, she is widely seen as the presumptive Democratic nominee, and an army of Wall Street bankers has been angling for roles in her campaign in hopes of clinching spots in her administration. (Another set of bankers is cozying up to Jeb Bush in hopes that he runs on the Republican ticket.)

A series of right-leaning blogs trumpeted Mrs. Clinton’s comments over the weekend, seemingly as a way of

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highlighting the inconsistency in some of her positions.

What Mrs. Clinton's supporters within the business world want to know is whether she plans to govern the way her husband did as a moderate, center-left president or whether she will be pressed to take more so-called progressive stances — code for anti-business within the business world — as the Democratic Party, in the wake of the financial crisis, appears to have shifted leftward since Mr. Clinton left office.

Mr. Clinton, whose Clinton Global Initiative and other ties to business have made him appear friendlier to the financial world, found himself offending some of the Democratic base when he appeared to sympathize with corporations seeking to reincorporate overseas to lower their tax rates in so-called inversion deals. "Like it or not, this inversion, this is their money," he said.

On Monday at a campaign rally in New York, Mrs. Clinton said she had misspoken.

"I shorthanded this point the other day, so let me be absolutely clear about what I've been saying for a couple of decades," Mrs. Clinton said.

"Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in an America where workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out — not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas," she said.

Still, whatever position Mrs. Clinton takes on Wall Street, she will most likely face a continuing struggle to win over the most progressive members of her party: "The neo-liberal capture of the Democratic Party narrowed the range of policy alternatives available to American voters, and what excites voters about Warren is that she represents a break from that sordid history," Luke Brinker, deputy politics editor at Salon, wrote. "And Clinton's inextricable link with that history — not some clumsy campaign stump gaffe — is the real problem," he added.

That view takes for granted that it is not a good idea for a Democrat to be a friend of Wall Street. But certainly there is a place for a candidate at the crossroads of Wall Street and Main Street.

Defense News opinion: retired Adm. Stuart Platt: "Climate Change Increases Instability for All"

By retired Adm. Stuart Platt

October 27, 2014 1:24 p.m. EDT

Recently, former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke at Sen. Harry Reid's Clean Energy Summit in Nevada, where she announced that climate change is "the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges" facing us today. She is right on point. It was a strong statement, in line with her past actions. But what many people might not know is that climate change isn't just an issue for environmentalists. It is also an important one for the armed forces and national security communities.

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In March, the Pentagon published the latest quadrennial defense review, a standard-bearing report for military strategy, security threats and defense spending. It reads in part:

“The pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world. These effects are threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions — conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence.”

In other words, climate change exacerbates global unrest and worsens conditions in already unstable countries. Specifically:

■ When droughts and severe storms damage crops, it puts stress on the global food supply in regions where there is already too little to go around.

■ When unexpected severe storms sweep through countries and destroy infrastructure, governments struggle to provide social services for their people.

■ When people have too few resources, they migrate across borders, leading to land disputes and ethnic or religious confrontations

■ When crops are the backbone of your economy, crop failures lead to trade disputes and economic struggles

Like many other complicated ills, climate change knows no barriers. The US is not immune, especially to potential flooding problems. A large portion of the American population lives in coastal areas.

In Virginia, for example, the mission readiness of Naval Base Norfolk could be threatened if major investments are not made to adapt to already rising sea levels. The Department of Defense has begun work on this, but if serious actions aren’t taken to curb CO2 emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change, we will be fighting a losing battle.

Some regions of the world are at higher risk for conflict than others. Syria is an unfortunate example. The country suffered an extreme and unusually long drought between 2006 and 2011. Three-fourths of farmers suffered total crop losses, and President Bashar al-Assad mismanaged water resources, ultimately displacing 1.5 million Syrians. Many believe that these circumstances, understood by scientists to be partially the result of climate change, contributed to the country’s civil war.

Military experts also are greatly concerned about the impending national security challenges beginning to present themselves as Arctic ice melts (not to mention how it’s contributing to sea level rise). The melting ice is opening up the polar region, creating new and uncharted operating areas for all the world’s navies and commercial vessels — not just for the US.

As shipping routes through the Arctic waters increase, we must be prepared to defend our interests. Greater access to the Arctic will require more US naval engagement in the region.

And no matter where a conflict occurs, we are often called upon to bring prompt relief to at-risk populations,

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because America is a global leader. It is a responsibility in which our brave men and women in uniform take pride.

In short, fighting climate change is about much more than warmer temperatures. It's about famine, borders, the economy and yes, terrorism. Fighting climate change is one of many critical components to stabilizing the rest of the world. Instability breeds conflicts.

This is why Clinton prioritized addressing climate change at the State Department. As secretary of state, she appointed a special envoy for climate change to serve as an adviser on international climate change policy. She also established the Bureau of Energy Resources, which addresses the threat of climate change posed by the world's energy consumption. These are both important steps for a healthier environment, but they're also steps towards a safer world.

And so when Clinton says climate change is "the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges" facing us today, she does so with the knowledge that it feeds into other serious global issues. The military understands that it's not just about warmer temperatures. It's about America's basic national security.

Associated Press: "Bill Clinton Stumps for Colorado Democrats"

By Kristen Wyatt

October 27, 2014, 10:53 p.m. EDT

AURORA, Colo. (AP) -- Former President Bill Clinton urged Democrats to ignore polls showing their party is unlikely to retain control of the U.S. Senate, telling a suburban Denver crowd Monday to resist cynicism and redouble their efforts to get out the vote.

Clinton said midterm elections in a president's second term are dominated by appeals to vent frustration at the president by voting out others in his party. He accused Republicans of trying to get people to "just vote your fears and your anger."

Clinton talked up Democratic Sen. Mark Udall, who is locked in a tough re-election contest against Republican Rep. Cory Gardner.

Clinton said Republican Senate hopefuls are asking voters to give them a six-year job as a way of showing dislike for a president who will be gone in two. Gardner, who has a narrow lead on Udall in many recent polls, frequently criticizes Udall for how often he sides with President Barack Obama.

"It's a pretty slick deal," Clinton joked. "He wants to take Mark Udall off the ballot and put the president on the ballot."

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Democrats have sent their biggest names in recent weeks to rally support for Udall. Just last week, former first lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and first lady Michelle Obama traveled to Colorado to campaign for Udall.

Colorado's race could decide whether Republicans or Democrats control the Senate.

"Control of the U.S. Senate hangs in the balance when it comes to this race right here," Udall told the crowd. "This race is going to be close right through Nov. 4."

Clinton also talked up Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper, locked in a tough re-election battle of his own against Republican Bob Beauprez, and congressional hopeful Andrew Romanoff. Romanoff is trying to unseat three-term incumbent Republican Rep. Mike Coffman, who represents Aurora, just east of Denver.

Clinton talked about the improving economy and said conservatives see the midterm elections as a change to revive "trickle-down economics."

"I don't care what they tell you, that is what's going to be on the ballot," Clinton said.

BuzzFeed: “Back To The ’90s: Hillary Clinton Campaigns With ‘Clinton Democrat’”

By Ruby Cramer

October 27, 2014, 10:55 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Campaigning for a former employee on Monday, Clinton smoothly folded ’90s themes into her fast-developing stump speech. A more comfortable atmosphere.

SOMERS, N.Y. — When Sean Patrick Maloney took the stage on Monday at a Westchester County rally with his old boss, Fleetwood Mac’s “Don’t Stop,” the theme song for Bill Clinton’s first presidential campaign, filled the banquet hall.

Don’t stop, thinking about tomorrow.

Don’t stop, it’ll soon be here.

When the crowd greeted him in Heritage Hills, a complex of condos in this mid-sized New York town, they raised signs that read, “Clinton Democrat for Congress.”

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And when Maloney, running for a second term in Congress, wrapped up his speech here, he invoked a string of legendary lines from that 1992 race. “I believe in a place called Hope,” Maloney said. “I believe in walking across that bridge to the 21st century. And we won’t stop thinking about tomorrow.”

By the time Maloney introduced his headliner, Hillary Clinton, he’d made the point clear enough: “I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again. I’m a Clinton Democrat.”

Maloney, a former Clinton campaign staffer and senior White House aide, rallied the crowd in Somers with repeated references to the former first family and the distinct political brand they brought to the Democratic Party in the early ’90s.

The speech was a bit of a time-warp. But it also proved that the ideas behind the 1992 campaign, which Maloney outlined in his speech, could still translate more than two decades years later on the stump for him and Clinton both. Even as the former secretary and New York senator has moved toward embracing a more explicitly progressive message than the mix of centrism and populism that defined her husband’s first White House bid, she knitted together the speech she’s been using on the trail this month with a handful of themes from that first campaign.

Maloney, for example, closed his speech with language Bill Clinton took national in 1991 — the troika of “basic, enduring” values: “opportunity for all, responsibility from all, in a community of all.”

When she took the stage, Clinton came back to the line. “I loved what you said at the end,” she said during the 20-minute speech.

“When we crisscrossed our country in 1992, that’s exactly the message that Bill Clinton took forth: opportunity, responsibility, community. And just like Sean, I was blessed to have parents who worked hard and gave me the opportunities and expected the responsibilities in the community that I grew up in.”

Clinton added that she wanted to make sure her “precious granddaughter, Charlotte,” who was born late last month, would enjoy those same rights, too.

During his speech, Maloney recalled his move to Arkansas in early 1992 to work for Hillary Clinton on the campaign. He packed everything he owned into his pick-up truck — “Everything,” he stressed. “I didn’t have any future” — and drove the 1,300 miles to Little Rock, where he set up his mattress on the floor of another aide, Susan Thomases. “I was part of what they called Hillaryland.”

The Clintons, Maloney said, “spoke about a dream of a prosperous America where the middle class would do well, where the middle class would thrive.”

“And folks, they made that dream a reality.”

Clinton said she remembered meeting Maloney in New Hampshire one night in 1992. He joined the campaign, she said, because he believed, “as Bill and I did, that we needed changes in America and we needed to be putting people first.”

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“I’m proud of how hard Sean has worked since then — in the White House, in other important positions, now in the Congress — to continuing that idea.”

This month on the campaign trail, where she has tweaked and honed a stump speech at rallies across about a dozen states, Clinton has found a window into the debate over economic inequality through issues like equal pay for women and a minimum-wage increase. And she has more consciously embraced some of the populist language associated with Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a progressive figurehead.

That appeared to go awry last Friday when Clinton fumbled a line saying that “corporations and businesses” don’t create jobs. She clarified during her speech in Somers that she had “short-handed” the point. Corporations that “outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas” shouldn’t be handed tax breaks, she said.

On Monday, Clinton’s economic arguments seemed much more natural, framed through the lens of middle-class families. She also returned to a familiar line about “trickle-down economics,” a theory she and her husband have long denounced. He first campaigned against the idea in 1992.

“The Republican alternative is a discredited economic theory that will hurt middle-class families.” Maloney, Clinton added, “stands for equality, equality of opportunity.”

“We are supposed to be about upward mobility. If you work hard and do your part, you and your family are supposed to be able to have a better life.”

Maloney, one of the few openly gay members of Congress, is in a competitive race against Nan Hayworth, the Republican he beat two years ago to win his seat in New York’s 18th district.

About 150 people, many elderly residents of the housing complex, packed the event at the restaurant hall in Heritage Hills. (Attendees couldn’t leave until Clinton had vacated the venue, and two people passed out waiting for her departure, according to a security officer staffing the event.)

Clinton is scheduled to continue her tour on behalf of Democrats on Wednesday, with two campaign events for Rep. Bruce Braley, the U.S. senate candidate in Iowa. On Thursday, she heads to Maryland for Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, the gubernatorial nominee there. And on Saturday, she will return to Kentucky to stump at two events with Alison Lundergan Grimes, another longtime friend of the Clintons.

Maloney is the only individual candidate in the House of Representatives that Clinton has campaigned for this fall.

Asked later by reporters to define “Clinton Democrat,” Maloney said, “Fighting for the middle class, reaching across the aisle, and getting bipartisan results.”

Grimes, running against Sen. Mitch McConnell in Kentucky, has also called herself a “Clinton Democrat.” Her family has been close to the Clintons for years.

Maloney and his old bosses have remained close. The Clintons were invited to his wedding. And Bill Clinton campaigned for Maloney two years ago.

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The congressman's campaign said on Monday that they planned to roll out a new television ad featuring tape of that event with the 42nd president.

Before closing his speech on Monday, Maloney said that when people ask him why he wants to work in government, he often replies, "Because I've seen it work."

"I've seen the Clintons work."

Politico: "Reince Priebus: Hillary Clinton 'not really good at politics'"

By Lucy McCalmont

October 27, 2014, 7:09 p.m. EDT

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus says Hillary Clinton is "becoming sort of a caricature" and that "she's not really good at politics."

"I think she's trying too hard and she's not really good at this stuff," Priebus told NewsmaxTV in a interview posted Monday.

Priebus' comments follow a Clinton remark about businesses and jobs that drew GOP taunts on social media.

During an appearance last week at a Boston rally for Democrat Martha Coakley's gubernatorial bid. Clinton said, "Don't let anybody tell you that corporations and businesses create jobs." Her aides and Clinton herself have since sought to clarify that statement, saying that the likely White House candidate simply misspoke and that she was referring to tax breaks for corporations and businesses.

In his interview, Priebus said Clinton was trying to be like Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) who also was present at the Boston rally and who some liberals hope will challenge Clinton from the left for the party's presidential nomination.

"I don't know if she was a little off-script on that particular moment, but it clearly wasn't natural and it was certainly awkward," the RNC chairman said. "And if it was serious, then obviously she doesn't understand capitalism and democracy in a way that business and jobs operate."

However, the Priebus added that Clinton "is bordering on becoming sort of a caricature," adding for the GOP, there's nobody better to run against in 2016.

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“There’d be no one you would want more to run against than Hillary Clinton, and on top of it, she’s not really good at politics,” Priebus said, pointing to her recent book tour, which he called a “disaster.”

“She talks off the cuff; it doesn’t work,” he said. “She makes one mistake after the next.”

National Journal: “Republican 2016 Contenders Have Taken Positions on NSA Reform. Where Does Hillary Clinton Stand?”

By Dustin Volz

October 27, 2014

If Hillary Clinton has a position on the government's domestic spying, she's doing a good job of hiding it.

More than a year after Edward Snowden's leaks, the former secretary of State has yet to offer a meaningful assessment of the National Security Agency's mass-surveillance programs. She's had plenty of chances, but in interviews, speeches, and even her new book, Clinton has repeatedly ducked the issue with vagaries and clichés.

The possible 2016 candidate rarely discusses NSA spying unprompted. And when she does, her remarks are often couched in opaque platitudes about the need to balance privacy and national security concerns.

Last week, for example, Clinton heaped praise on Sen. Mark Udall for "leading the Senate in asking the hard questions about intelligence and the trade-off between liberty and security." Her remarks came during a campaign rally for the Colorado Democrat, who is locked in a fierce reelection battle with GOP challenger Rep. Cory Gardner.

Udall has been among the Democrats leading a push for tighter reins on the NSA, but Clinton hasn't endorsed any of his proposals to pull back the agency. At times, she has appeared to fall on the other end of the spectrum.

The push for surveillance reform largely stems from NSA secrets spilled by Snowden, the former agency contractor who now lives under asylum in Russia. Yet during his globe-trotting quest for asylum last summer, Clinton condemned Snowden's leaks as "outrageous behavior" and said that Hong Kong's decision to let him flee would "unquestionably [have] a negative impact on the U.S.-China relationship." In April of this year, Clinton went further, suggesting Snowden's leaks helped terrorists.

But Clinton has said that "some changes" must be made.

In June, Fox News journalist Greta Van Susteren tried asking Clinton three consecutive times whether she thought warrantless spying on Americans violated the Constitution. Clinton largely demurred. "The Congress is

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trying to square Americans' constitutional right under the Fourth Amendment and the necessity for information that can be connected to terrorist activity here at home or abroad. It's a really difficult balancing act," Clinton said in the interview. "But you are 100 percent right, that we have to make some changes in order to secure that privacy, that constitutional right to privacy that Americans are due."

And what changes are those? Clinton hasn't elaborated.

Ready for Hillary, a pro-Clinton PAC, did not reply to a request for comment on Clinton's NSA views, and a pair of former Clinton advisers could not be reached.

The best clues to Clinton's NSA views come from her Senate voting record, but her history reveals no clear pattern.

Clinton voted in favor of the post-9/11 Patriot Act, which greatly expanded the intelligence community's surveillance authority and is the legal underpinning for the NSA's bulk collection of nearly all American phone records. But that was a vote taken at a time when a shell-shocked American public was much more sympathetic to surveillance than it is in 2014. Ninety-six other senators also voted for the Patriot Act, but a significant portion have since walked back their support for broad spying powers. The legislation's author in the House—Republican Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin—is now crusading to pull back surveillance programs ushered in under the bill.

Perhaps more instructive is when Clinton, just a month after dropping out of her protracted presidential primary battle with then-Sen. Barack Obama, joined 27 Democrats in voting against an amended version of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

The measure was fiercely opposed by civil-liberties groups, which assailed a controversial provision granting immunity to telecom companies that complied with President George W. Bush's warrantless-wiretapping program. It also secretly provided the authority for the NSA's PRISM program, which was exposed by Snowden and allows the government to collect Internet communications from U.S. companies, including Google and Facebook. Clinton's opposition was especially notable given that Obama voted for the bill, a decision that enraged many of his most ardent supporters.

"Any surveillance program must contain safeguards to protect the rights of Americans against abuse, and to preserve clear lines of oversight and accountability over this administration," Clinton said in a statement at the time. "While this legislation does strengthen oversight of the administration's surveillance activities over previous drafts, in many respects, the oversight in the bill continues to come up short."

Quiet Clinton, Loud Republicans

Clinton's relative quiet on NSA reform stands in contrast to Republicans' 2016 field, whose likely members have taken public—and opposing—stands on the issue.

Assuming that Sen. Rand Paul officially declares his intention to run for president, a central plank of his platform will be dismantling the government's mass-surveillance programs. The Kentucky Republican has been among the loudest critics of the NSA, going as far as to file a class-action lawsuit accusing the agency of violating the Fourth Amendment with its bulk collection of American phone records.

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And when Sen. Ted Cruz joins the 2016 fray, it's clear he also would campaign on reigning in the intelligence community's snooping. The tea-party Texan has attached his name to Senate legislation that would curtail several key parts of NSA spying.

Marco Rubio? Florida's defense-hawk senator has flown a different course, cautioning that limits to the NSA could hamper our fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, meanwhile, has also defended government spying, instructing its critics to reevaulate their stance by sitting down with the families of victims lost in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Clinton's relative quiet on the issue compared with Republicans likely stems from the fact that—unlike Paul, Rubio, Cruz, and Christie—she currently doesn't hold elected office, leaving her free from making any decisions on the issue. But if she does run for president, ducking the question will become near impossible.

Sooner or later, Clinton will need to articulate a firm stance on government snooping if she wants to return to the White House, said Neema Guliani, legislative counsel with the American Civil Liberties Union.

"Candidates are going to have to answer questions about specific programs, and they won't be able to hide from issues the way they could six, seven years ago," Guliani said. "People are going to keep asking. There is no hiding from this question."

CNN: “Hillary Clinton's 7 favorite midterm campaign lines”

By Dan Merica

October 28, 2014, 6:45 a.m. EDT

By Election Day in November, Hillary Clinton will have stumped for candidates in over 15 states, with sometimes multiple events at each destination.

What does this mean: Lots of speeches.

Like most politicians have some formula of commonly used phrases and lines of attack, the former secretary of state has started to shape a stump speech with similar expressions.

The lines are more than just cliches, however. They shed light on the type of campaign Clinton would have if she decided to run for president in 2016, and highlight what she will focus on and how she has learned from many of the mistakes that caused her to lose to Barack Obama in 2008.

Here are Hillary Clinton's seven most used lines on the 2014 stump:

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1.) [Insert candidate's name] is the "right leader at the right time with the right plan"

This is Clinton's go-to endorsement line and she's used it regularly this fall.

"There is no doubt the governor is the right leader at the right time with the right plan," Clinton said during an event with Gov. Andrew Cuomo in New York last week.

Clinton used the same line -- almost exactly -- for Democratic candidate Tom Wolf in Pennsylvania and Sen. Mark Udall in Colorado this month.

"You are convinced as I am convinced that Tom Wolf is the right leader and the right time for Pennsylvania hard working people," Clinton said of Wolf.

2.) "It's as though the other side wants to cast an air of amnesia"

Clinton, who spent four years separated from politics as America's top diplomat, has stepped up her Republican attack lines on the stump, and she seems extremely fond of linking the "other side" with "amnesia."

"It appears to me that the campaigns being run against them are depending on the voters of Colorado having a mass case of amnesia," Clinton said in her endorsement of Udall and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper. They want voters to "somehow just forget the accomplishments."

Clinton made a similar argument for Martha Coakley, Massachusetts' Democratic governor nominee, earlier this month.

Republicans are counting on "amnesia in this midterm election," Clinton said, adding they were hoping "people will forget what they have done and what they could do. We have been down the road. That is what is happening."

At a fundraiser in California earlier this year, she said this: "It's as though the other side wants to cast an air of amnesia."

The line appears to be borrowed from her husband, former President Bill Clinton, who while stumping for candidates in 2010 accused Republicans of "amnesia."

"The Republicans are trying to make this a referendum on people's anger ... with a good dose of amnesia," Clinton said while endorsing Sen. Richard Blumenthal in 2010, according to reports.

3.) "You can't take anything for granted."

Clinton usually employs this line when she is stumping for Democrats who are way up in the polls.

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"If you don't show up, you don't know what is going to happen," Clinton said in Minnesota earlier this month where she endorsed Gov. Mark Dayton and Sen. Al Franken, two Democrats who look likely to win. "You can't take anything for granted."

The line is more than just a call for voters to activate, however. In 2008, Clinton found herself with a sizable lead over then-Sen. Barack Obama. Clinton went on to lose the nomination fight and some critics of the campaign said it was because Clinton's top advisers saw her win as a forgone conclusion.

But as much at it is a call to voters, the line is a nod to what Clinton has learned about campaigning.

"I want you to promise yourselves before you leave here tonight that you won't just come to this beautiful Constitution Center and listen to the speeches and the music then go home feeling good," Clinton said in Pennsylvania where she endorsed frontrunner Wolf for governor. "You need to resolve to do everything you can to make sure you don't take this election for granted."

4.) "Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance..."

Clinton has focused a great deal on economic populism on the stump, an issue other Democrats thinking about seeking the presidency in 2016 have started to tweak Clinton on.

"Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance to keep going and to make something of themselves," Clinton said in Iowa earlier this year. "That was one of the most important lessons of my life."

Clinton usually uses the line to encourage compassion from a crowd, and to show that she has compassion, too.

"The only direction that matters in life is forward," Clinton said in Minnesota. "Never quit. Never lose faith. When you get knocked down get right back up, recognize there is worth and dignity in every human being and that everyone — everyone — deserves not just a chance but a second chance and even a third chance and a better life for themselves and their families."

5.) "Women hold a majority of minimum wage jobs in our country."

This is a double whammy for Clinton: In one line, she nods to women and the economic struggles that many women -- and men -- are experiencing.

Clinton's many appearances have focused a great deal on women and this line has become a staple.

"Women hold a majority of minimum wage jobs in our country," Clinton said in San Francisco earlier this month. "When women succeed, America succeeds."

Clinton used a similar line in North Carolina while stumping for Sen. Kay Hagan, at an event for the Democratic National Committee earlier this year at an event with other female politicians in Washington, D.C in September.

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"If we had been able to close the gap between men and women participating in the work force, our Gross Domestic Product would be 10 percent higher," Clinton said at the event. "Why are we leaving 10% on the table because we don't do enough to give women the support that they need to be empowered, to take care of themselves and their families?"

6.) "Grandmother glow"

Hillary Clinton recently became a grandmother, and those who attend her stump speeches get reminded of that pretty quickly.

Clinton has made her new granddaughter -- Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky -- a staple of her stump speech and usually uses the one month old to pivot to her vision for the future and the world she and other Democrats want to leave for their children and grandchildren.

Clinton unveiled the line during an October paid speech in Miami, Florida.

"You look beautiful," said the moderator of a question and answer with Clinton.

"I think it is a grandmother glow," she responded.

Since then, the line has been regularly repeated.

She took the line a step further in Charlotte, North Carolina on Saturday, giving a nod to the city's name within the first two minutes of her speech.

"It is pretty excited being here in Charlotte," Clinton said. "I mean, it is true that I am a new grandmother, a month tomorrow. I still have that grandmother glow."

She added, "But I just can't tell you how much we love the name."

7.) "Fear is the last resort of those who have run out of hope"

This is another way Clinton hits Republicans. She accuses the party of peddling fear because, as she says, that is what people do when they have "run out of gas."

The line is regularly used when she is endorsing candidates who are facing stiff opposition and a sizable amount of outside spending and ads.

"Elections come down often to who's got more money, who's peddling more fear and who turns out," Clinton told the audience in North Carolina. "We want leaders like Kay Hagan, who appeal to our hopes, not our fears," she later added.

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So far, $80 million has been spent in Hagan's race against Tillis and local voters have complained about the number of negative ads.

"There is a reason that the senators and the governor's opponents are running campaigns based on fear," Clinton said in Colorado. "Fear is the last resort of those who have run out of hope... run out of gas."

New York Daily News column: Richard Cohen: "The old hands vs. the shaky newbies"

By Richard Cohen

October 27, 2014, 8:00 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Experience without passion or the opposite?

At dinner the other night with a collection of political consultants, pollsters, some journalists and a few civilians, we went around the table giving our predictions of the presidential nominees for 2016. Some interesting names popped up.

One of them was Bill de Blasio, the lefty mayor of New York, and another was Rand Paul, the Kentucky senator who seems to be running for President on a platform of discovering who he is. Elizabeth Warren was also mentioned, and so, in a weary sort of way, was Hillary Clinton. Like Paul, she's looking for a message.

Jeb Bush was, of course, mentioned, with some insiders confiding that they knew he would run while others said he would not. Gov. Rick Perry of Texas was also mentioned, but his state's bungling of the Ebola crisis did not enhance his image any. Mitt Romney was ruled out because his wife is dead set against another campaign.

Absent Jeb Bush, the Republican field is so wide open I almost jumped in myself. All I lack is the necessary funds and the appropriate ideological convictions. Still . . .

OK, let's clear away some brush. The consensus was that the left and the right wings of the two parties are in furious turmoil and very unhappy with the mainstream candidates. For the Democrats, there's no one more mainstream than Hillary Clinton, practically an incumbent. Warren is virtually Clinton's opposite: a neophyte who has been in the Senate only since 2013 and has never run a company or state. We have learned — have we not? — that the presidency requires some executive experience.

Clinton has plenty of experience. What she lacks — and what she has lacked for some time — is a rousing theme. Warren would be the authentic champion of the besieged middle class and make the banks pay for their sins. Hillary would do . . . what? Invite them to yet another meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative? At the moment, Clinton's main appeal is to women. Trouble is, Warren happens to be a woman, too. Clinton needs more — something else. In an anti-incumbent period, she's an easy target.

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Jeb Bush has a similar problem. No one could be more of an incumbent without actually holding the office. He is the son of one President, the brother of another and the former governor of Florida. He has adopted mainstream positions on education and immigration, but he, too, lacks a clear message, and he certainly is not going to criticize Bush programs that helped trigger the creation of the Tea Party. Bush is the very soul of conservatism. 'Tis a pity. What the party wants is spleen.

So we get to Paul. He is the son of Ron Paul, the unabashed libertarian, and he started out as one, too. Of late though, he has been amending and revising his positions, Botoxing some of his strange views — such as his now-retracted objection to a crucial part of the Civil Rights Act — and making an effort to appeal to black voters.

The trouble with Paul is that he is running ahead of his views, revising as he goes along. He has the process backward: First find out who you are, and then run for President. Paul is taking foreign policy tutorials, but there is a lot to learn, and he has made some rookie errors. Last month, he accused John McCain of having his picture taken with Islamic State rebels in Syria — swallowing whole a ridiculous Internet rumor.

Rand Paul is not ready — never mind his cockamamie ideology. The same holds for Warren, although she makes abundant sense. As for the establishment front-runners, they are safe but unexciting. Almost a century after he wrote it, we now have a political version of William Butler Yeats' poem "The Second Coming": "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity."

Oh, yes, my prediction: The center will not hold.

The Hill: "Warren vs. Clinton: Dems say 'Why not?'"

By Kevin Cirilli

October 28, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

The Democratic field in 2016 has more than enough room for two women competing to be the nation's first female president, according to liberal activists.

They pour scorn on the notion that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), or any other woman, ought to step aside if former secretary of State Hillary Clinton launches a second quest for the White House.

"The idea that you can't run because there's somebody else who looks like you running? Oh my God, what would all the white men do?" quipped Terry O'Neill, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

"I think the argument that two women shouldn't compete in a primary is insulting to voters — both women and men," said Robert Borosage, the director and co-founder of the progressive Campaign For America's Future "This isn't a gender contest. This is a race to determine the best leader for our country. Anyone making that argument in public would be hooted off the stage."

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A former senior Democratic staffer who supports Clinton also decried the notion.

"I'm sick of the political boys' club," said the former staffer, who is female. "We always have several men running at the same time. The more women who run for public office, the better. I want nothing more than to have Hillary as the first female president... [but] people don't become president because they deserve it — who becomes president is up to the voters."

Spokespeople for Clinton and Warren did not respond to requests for comment.

Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign was largely perceived as shying away — at least in its initial stages — from highlighting that she'd be the first female president, said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Walsh said that Clinton had fully embraced the historic nature of her candidacy by the end of her campaign, perhaps most notably in her June 2008 concession speech.

Clinton referred in that address to the numbers of cracks her campaign had put in the "glass ceiling" that restricts women's ascent.

She also said, "I am a woman and like millions of women I know there are still barriers and biases out there, often unconscious, and I want to build an America that respects and embraces the potential of every last one of us."

Walsh said that if Warren and Clinton were to both run, it would likely "reshape and change the nature of the conversation" for Democrats during the primary.

"[Clinton] could talk about the importance and historic nature of her candidacy," Walsh said, "but she'd likely have to run more on her experience, too."

That reflects one potential worry for the Clinton campaign – that a Warren candidacy would provide voters with a chance to get behind another Democratic woman with a credible shot at making it to the White House.

Maybe that simply won't happen. Warren joined all the other female Democratic senators in October 2013 in a letter encouraging Clinton to run for president.

But Warren has signaled in recent weeks that she could indeed run, despite having previously insisted she wasn't interested.

"I don't think so," Warren first told People magazine when asked if she'd run for president recently. But she then added, "If there's any lesson I've learned in the last five years, it's don't be so sure about what lies ahead. There are amazing doors that could open."

Other prominent female Democrats have also indicated that they're ready to rally behind Clinton, who holds a dominant lead in early 2016 polls.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) told TIME Magazine in March that "Hillary Clinton will be our first female president."

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) backed the pro-Clinton super-PAC Ready For Hillary in June 2013.

And Democratic National Committee chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) said at a Washington forum in May that Americans would elect a female president "in a couple of cycles" if Clinton didn't run for president, as reported by the The Christian Science Monitor, which sponsored the event.

When asked to clarify her remarks, Schultz appeared to back off through a spokeswoman.

"Right now, there is no shortage of Democratic women who are ready to run and win at every level – from the state house the White House," said DNC spokeswoman Lily Adams.

NOW endorsed Clinton early in the 2008 Democratic primary when Clinton was battling then-Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) for the nomination.

But O'Neill, who called both Warren and Clinton "fabulous," pushed back against the notion that Warren would have to step aside for the Clinton candidacy.

"Sen. Warren is entitled to run for president if she wants and I think she's a great candidate," O'Neill said. "There's no reason she shouldn't run for president. We need to have a conversation about where we want this country to go. Do we really want the .01 percent controlling everything?"

O'Neill added that, “more women need to run against each other in all races to show it's not a big deal. That says to other women on the sidelines, 'Well, maybe I could jump in, too.'"

Mediaite: “Chris Matthews: Clinton-Warren 2016 Ticket Not ‘Smart’”

By Eddie Scarry

October 27, 2014, 3:01 p.m. EDT

Liberal Democrats looking to MSNBC’s Chris Matthews to keep hope alive that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) could still in some way be involved with the 2016 presidential election had it all squashed Monday.

Since her election to the Senate in 2012, Warren has risen as a voice for the progressive wing of her party, gaining fans who want her to run in 2016 as a challenger to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is

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considering a run herself. Warren has said she isn't running but that hasn't kept her supporters from pushing her toward the White House in one way or another.

Asked by one follower during a Twitter Q&A whether Matthews thought a hypothetical Clinton-Warren 2016 ticket would be "smart," he said no.

"No I don't think that is a smart ticket," Matthews aid. "I think a smart ticket would be Clinton/Sherrod Brown. Brown is the two-term Democratic senator from Ohio.

What about a cabinet position for Warren in a potential Clinton administration, another person asked Matthews. Still no.

"I think she'll stay in the Senate," he said.

Of course, Matthews is an open supporter of Clinton's. And his contentious summer interview with Warren was notable for their constant cross-talking and his telling her that Democrats have failed to enact policies that help middle class Americans.

The Atlantic: "The Jeb Bush Effect"

By Russell Berman

October 27, 2014, 4:33 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] A presidential bid by the former Florida governor would complicate the party's case against Hillary Clinton.

It has been clear for some time that a significant portion of the Republican establishment in Washington wants Jeb Bush to run for president in 2016. Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, the party's senior-most elected official, has even departed from his formal posture of neutrality to openly pine for the former Florida governor to enter the race. Bush's family name notwithstanding, Boehner and other top Republicans see him as the candidate with the gravitas and fundraising potential to overcome a flawed field, unite the party, and stand on equal footing with Hillary Clinton, the prohibitive Democratic favorite.

If this weekend's headlines are an indication, the GOP pooh-bahs may get their wish. Bush's eldest son, George P. Bush, told ABC News that his father was "more than likely" to run next year, and The New York Times reported Sunday night that Jeb Bush's family–save his famously reluctant mother–was urging him to do so.

Bush would be something of a elder statesman in a Republican presidential field expected to feature several relative newcomers to the national stage, including Senators Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Governor Chris Christie. Governor Rick Perry ran in 2012 and led Texas for the same two terms as Bush ruled Florida,

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while another potential contender, Representative Paul Ryan, was the GOP vice presidential nominee two years ago.

Yet more than the other candidates, Bush's presence in the race would force many Republicans to recalibrate their attacks on Clinton. So far, party officials have targeted her on a range of issues, from criticizing her handling of the Benghazi terrorist attacks in 2012 to lampooning her comment that the Clintons were "dead broke" after they left the White House. When Clinton went on her book tour over the summer, the Republican National Committee sent a intern dressed as a squirrel to trail her while wearing a T-shirt that said, "Another Clinton in the White House is Nuts."

The undercurrent of the GOP's argument is that the 67-year-old Clinton is a relic whose wealth and cloistered life in the government for the last three decades has put her out of touch with ordinary Americans.

“People are kind of tired of this show, quite frankly. There’s Hillary fatigue out there. It’s setting in,” RNC chairman Reince Priebus said on NBC's Meet the Press at the end of June.

Jeb Bush, of course, is no fresh face either, and the fact that a Bush or a Clinton has occupied the White House for 20 of the last 26 years is exactly what his mother, former First Lady Barbara Bush, had in mind when she spoke out in opposition to his candidacy in 2013.

"If you're planning to make a legacy argument, having Jeb Bush as the nominee would complicate that," said Doug Heye, a Republican strategist and former RNC spokesman. "But I don't think that's the best argument to make against Hillary Clinton." Heye said Republicans would be better off focusing on Clinton's record as New York senator and then secretary of state.

Bush would face his own obstacles in a Republican primary, particularly on the issues of immigration and education, where the party's base has moved to the right in the years since he served as governor and his brother, George W. Bush, served as president. And there is little doubt that Bush's opponents–particularly the more libertarian Paul–would argue that the country needed to move on from the Bush family just as it should leave the Clintons in the past.

Democrats would probably relish a Bush candidacy, even if some in the party would fear his strength with Hispanic voters who have been alienated by just about everyone else in the GOP in recent years. If both Bush and Clinton made it to the general election, a battle for nostalgia between the Clinton era of 1990s and the George W. Bush era of the 2000s would undoubtedly favor Democrats.

That in itself is a big reason why Republicans are now trying to link Hillary Clinton closer to her one-time rival, the unpopular President Obama, than to her more widely-admired husband. Jeb Bush, they point out, has his own stellar record as governor of Florida.

"She is so tied to this administration," a Republican strategist in Iowa, Tim Albrecht, said of Clinton on Monday. "Jeb Bush was part of one administration, and that was his own in Florida."

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Salon: "Hillary Clinton's populism problem: What her awkward campaign trail comments reveal about her biggest weakness"

By Luke Brinker

October 27, 2014, 1:32 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] As the former secretary of state eyes a 2016 bid, she's struggling to come to terms with the new Democratic Party

Such is the absurdity of American politics that Hillary Clinton — who voted for the financial industry's bankruptcy "reform" bill as a U.S. senator, graced the cover of Fortune magazine in 2007 as corporate America's presidential candidate of choice, and has spent her post-diplomatic career giving paid speeches to the likes of Goldman Sachs and the medical device industry – is now the subject of Republican attacks that she's an anti-business radical.

The impetus for this rather disingenuous claim came Friday, as Clinton campaigned in Boston for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley. Channeling the Massachusetts' senior senator, Elizabeth Warren — a potential 2016 presidential rival — Clinton struck a populist chord in her speech, assailing trickle-down economics and championing an increase in the minimum wage. But the former secretary of state ignited a political firestorm with her remarks about businesses and job creation.

"And don't let anybody tell you, that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs," Clinton told the crowd. "You know, that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried. That has failed. That has failed rather spectacularly."

Gleeful at the chance to seize another "you didn't build that" moment, Republicans pounced. "How then did private sector people get jobs?" former Bush press secretary Ari Fleischer asked on Twitter. Meanwhile, the right-wing blog HotAir asserted that Clinton's comments reflected "Hillarynomics." But just as President Barack Obama wasn't actually saying that entrepreneurs"didn't build" their businesses, it's unlikely that Clinton truly believes that businesses don't create jobs. Instead, her remarks likely represented what Tim Miller of the conservative super PAC America Rising called "a ham-handed attempt to pander to liberal voters."

Emphasis on "ham-handed." Clinton's clumsy language reveals a politician woefully out of sync with her party's progressive populist base. Her awkward attempt to relate to the Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party calls to mind Mitt Romney's cringe-inducing efforts to woo GOP conservatives during his last presidential bid. Michael Kinsley aptly compared Romney's rhetorical red meat to serving haggis to your Scottish cousins when they're in for a visit. "You can't stand the stuff, but they're supposed to like it," Kinsley wrote. Likewise, it was hard not to get the sense that Clinton, so unable to relate to the progressive strain of Democratic thinking, simply thought that this is the kind of talk Warren Democrats like to hear.

Compare Clinton's inartful populist pandering with Warren's extemporaneous paean to the social contract in 2011, just as Warren launched her campaign for the U.S. Senate against Scott Brown.

"You built a factory out there? Good for you," Warren told a Massachusetts house party. "But I want to be clear: you moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for; you hired workers the rest of us paid to educate; you were safe in your factory because of police forces and fire forces that the rest of us paid for. You didn't have to worry that marauding bands would come and seize everything at your factory, and hire someone to protect against this, because of the work the rest of us did."

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“Now look,” Warren went on, “you built a factory and it turned into something terrific, or a great idea? God bless. Keep a big hunk of it. But part of the underlying social contract is you take a hunk of that and pay forward for the next kid who comes along.”

Recognizing that that message has resonated in the party, Clinton paid tribute to Warren in her Boston appearance on Friday.

“I am so pleased to be here with your senior senator, the passionate champion for working people and middle class families, Elizabeth Warren!” Clinton roared. “I love watching Elizabeth, you know, give it to those who deserve to get it,” she added. And who might “those who deserve to get it” be? Clinton, whose family foundation has collected up to half a million dollars from Goldman Sachs and whom many Wall Street Republicans are already prepared to support in 2016, didn’t elaborate.

It’s telling that just after she lauded Warren’s principled liberalism on Friday, Clinton ventured to neighboring Rhode Island, where she hailed gubernatorial nominee Gina Raimondo as a key part of the Democratic Party’s future. Last year, Raimondo earned the enmity of public workers in Rhode Island when she gutted their pensions in her role as state treasurer. Very Serious centrists and the right-wing Wall Street Journal editorial board applauded Raimondo’s move, while party progressives decried her so-called pension reform. In September’s gubernatorial primary, 58 percent of Rhode Island Democrats voted for a candidate other than Raimondo.

Democrats like Warren — who spends as much time excoriating Wall Street Democrats like Robert Rubin as she does launching broadsides against Republicans — recognize that Democrats like Raimondo pose an even more dire threat to a progressive economic agenda than conservative Republicans do. The neoliberal capture of the Democratic Party narrowed the range of policy alternatives available to American voters, and what excites voters about Warren is that she represents a break from that sordid history. And Clinton’s inextricable link with that history — not some clumsy campaign stump gaffe — is the real problem.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· October 29 – IA: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Iowa Senate candidate Bruce Braley (Quad-City Times)

· October 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by The Executive Leadership Foundation (CNN)

· October 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton will speak on ‘The Power of Women’s Economic Participation’ at Georgetown (Georgetown)

· October 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the launch of The International Council on Women’s Business Leadership (CNN)

· October 30 – College Park, MD: Sec. Clinton appears at a rally for Maryland gubernatorial candidate Anthony Brown (WaPo)

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· November 1 – KY: Sec. Clinton campaigns in Northern Kentucky and Lexington with Alison Lundergan Grimes (BuzzFeed)

· November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Traci Blunt" <tblunt@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Clips Distro" <Clips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 12/24/2007 4:36:23 AM
Subject:

IN THE NEWS:

Congressional Black Caucus Split Between Clinton and Obama

by Hazel Trice Edney; *NNPA Editor-in-Chief*
Originally posted 12/23/2007
WASHINGTON (NNPA) – As America prepares for a string of primaries and caucuses to determine who will be its next Democratic and Republican nominees for president, the majority of the 42-member Congressional Black Caucus who have chosen to endorse in the race is split 15-15 between CBC member Illinois Sen. Barack Obama and New York Sen. Hillary Clinton. In interviews this week, CBC members pointed mainly to the candidates' stances on specific issues as the reasons for their endorsements.

"He is the most likely to actually produce change in areas that make a difference – home ownership, education, health care, crime policy," says U. S. Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), explaining his endorsement of Obama.

Scott, who chairs the House Crime Subcommittee, says, "For years we've concentrated on and focused more on codifying… sound bites rather than seriously addressing crime.''

He adds that he is impressed with Obama's record on health care and the war in Iraq.

"He led the charge to get more people health insurance in the Illinois legislature…He also had the strength of character and courage to stand up against the Iraqi war."

U. S Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-Texas), who has announced her endorsement of Clinton, says she believes Clinton's long record of service to children shows where her heart really is.

She says she is especially impressed that Clinton, as a young lawyer, served as a staff attorney for Marian Wright Edelman's Children's Defense Fund during her post graduate studies and that she served as a consultant to the Carnegie Council on Children.

"This is a very important election and I do think that as people begin to know Sen. Clinton and they know her personally and they know her story, she has an enormously convincing story of someone who has empathy and out of empathy, one can act upon the pain of others and the joy of others," says Jackson-Lee.

While Scott says his endorsement of Obama has nothing to do with the fact that he is Black, Jackson-Lee made no bones about what she sees as an opportunity to raise the ceiling for women in America.

"I do think that as women, whether it is minority women or majority women, we have a long way to go. Now, it is frankly innovative and inspiring that America would find its way to possibly selecting someone who has both talent and experience who happens to be a woman, which would make us move to where countries around the world have already gone in selecting women as heads of state," Jackson-Lee says.

John Edwards, a former North Carolina senator, has three endorsements from CBC members.

''Too many women are not getting the health care they need,'' said U. S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) in a statement posted on the Edwards campaign website. ''John Edwards is the only candidate to outline a specific plan to provide universal coverage and I'm proud to be part of a campaign—the only campaign—with a detailed plan to cover all Americans.''

Eight CBC members had not made public endorsements by NNPA deadline.
The 15-15 Clinton-Obama split among the CBC members closely reflects the dividing lines among Black voters, according to polls.

A poll taken between Oct. 5 and Nov. 2 by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies showed Clinton with 83 percent of Black votes, compared to Obama, who then had 74 percent. About 10 percent of those surveyed viewed them both negatively.

Voters must decide between two Democratic front-runners in a heated race for the White House, which has been run by

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Republican President George Bush for eight years. Most Bush performance approval ratings are under 40 percent. Plus, about 160,000 troops are still stationed in Iraq in a war that more than half of Americans want ended, according to Pew Research opinion polls. Democrats are banking on these facts to win back the White House.

Leading Republican candidates are former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Tennesee Sen. Thompson, Sen. John McCain and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

In recent history, Blacks have overwhelmingly supported Democratic candidates for president.

The split between the all-Democratic members of the CBC is as follows:
Endorsing Hillary Clinton are Lee, Stephanie Tubbs Jones of Ohio; Kendrick Meek, Corrine Brown and Alcee Hastings of Florida; Yvette Clarke, Charles Rangel, Gregory Meeks and Edolphus Towns of New York; Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri; Dianne Watson and Laura Richardson of California; David Scott and John Lewis of Georgia; and Donna Christian-Christensen (V.I.).

Endorsing Barack Obama are Scott, Danny Davis, Bobby Rush and Jesse Jackson Jr. of Illinois; Barbara Lee of California; Artur Davis of Alabama; Gwen Moore of Wisconsin; Lacy Clay of Missouri; Elijah Cummings of Maryland; Sanford Bishop and Hank Johnson of Georgia; John Conyers of Michigan; Keith Ellison of Minnesota; Chaka Fattah of Pennsylvania; and Al Green of Texas.

Endorsing John Edwards are: Johnson of Texas; Mel Watt and G. K. Butterfield of North Carolina.

Those who had not endorsed by NNPA deadline were: Eleanor Holmes Norton of D.C.; Jim Clyburn of South Carolina; Bennie Thompson of Mississippi; Al Wynn of Maryland; William Jefferson of Louisiana; Donald Payne of New Jersey, Maxine Waters of California and CBC Chairwoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick of Michigan.

The Clinton-Obama choice is complicated by questions over whether America will really elect Clinton as its first woman or Obama as its first African-American president while both race and gender – specifically the Black race and the female gender - have historically been excuses for prejudice and discrimination in America. However, poll readings show both Democratic front-runners as being well ahead of their Republican opponents.

The focus is currently on the state of Iowa and its early Democratic Presidential Primary Jan. 3 and the New Hampshire primary Jan. 8. Obama leads slightly in Iowa and Clinton in New Hampshire.

But, pundits predict that Super Tuesday, Feb. 5 will be the deciding factor for who will likely win enough delegates for the Democratic nomination in Denver, Colo. Aug. 25-28. Super Tuesday is when 22 states will hold primaries and caucuses. Scott says he believes Obama could win a general election despite racial prejudices.

“If he wins Iowa, he would be favored in New Hampshire and if he wins New Hampshire, he’ll have a lock on South Carolina, which would put him well-postured to compete on Super Tuesday and he’ll have enough money,” Scott says.

It’ll be easier for Obama to win a national election than a Republican, Scott predicts.

“You have the worst job performance since Herbert Hoover. You’ve got the foreclosures at record highs. You’ve got the median income significantly lower,” he says. “By the time the year is out, if people have a chance to look at the Republican administration, I think any Republican candidate will be hard-pressed to do well.”

http://www.amsterdamnews.com/News/article/article.asp?NewsID=14868&sID=3

* * *

As Holiday Break Nears, Obama and Edwards Spar Over Outside Groups

By Anne E. Kornblut and Perry Bacon Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writers
Monday, December 24, 2007; A04
MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa, Dec. 23 -- In a final day of campaigning before suspending their campaigns for Christmas, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) encouraged voters here Sunday to view the holiday as a time to become "instruments of peace and change," while Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) accused former senator John Edwards (D-N.C.) of using outside groups to shape an intense three-way race.

Obama continued his attempt to undercut Edwards over the use of independent "527" groups, which are playing an increasing role in the campaign. Such outside Democratic groups are backing Edwards and Clinton and have bought sizable blocks of broadcast advertising in the early-voting states, including Iowa.

Obama cited one such group that is running ads on Edwards's behalf and is being operated, in part, by his former campaign manager and political director. By law, Edwards cannot coordinate with the group, but Obama said his rival should block it from participating in the process.

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"My attitude is that if you can't get your former campaign manager and political director to do what you'd like, then it's going to be hard to get the insurance companies and drug companies to do what you want," Obama said.

Edwards aides struck back by noting that their candidate, unlike Obama, has never taken money from lobbyists or PACs. "John Edwards is the only candidate with the courage and the backbone to urge the Democratic Party to stop taking lobbyist contributions," said Jennifer O'Malley, Edwards's Iowa state director. "If Senator Obama is serious about reform, he should join John Edwards in this challenge."

For her part, Clinton pushed through blinding snow to a sparsely attended church service in Waterloo, bringing her husband to introduce her to an African American congregation in one of the state's largest minority communities. She later visited a veterans home.

All three Democrats will resume their campaigns in Iowa on Wednesday, eight days before the first votes of the 2008 election season are cast in the state's caucuses.

Clinton is planning to restart her campaign with a new slogan, "Big Challenges, Real Solutions -- Time to Pick a President." She hopes it will convince undecided voters that she is more experienced than Obama. He is launching a "Stand for Change" tour in the final days, and aides said he will also focus on the question of electability.

Even with the caucuses on the immediate horizon, Clinton and Edwards will make at least one more stop in New Hampshire before Jan. 3, with an eye toward that state's first-in-the-nation primary on Jan. 8.

Black churches are not typically a mainstay of Iowa politics, but the Clintons sought one out on Sunday morning. Waterloo has five Democratic precincts with significant African American populations and, even though they will elect only 40 delegates, this pocket of the state was considered important enough for both Clintons to penetrate stormy weather for one final visit a few days before Christmas.

Flying in from their home in Chappaqua, N.Y., the Clintons arrived shortly after noon at Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, with the service already begun. They were joined by former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack and his wife, Christie; former Denver mayor Wellington Webb; and Bob Nash, a Clinton administration official and current campaign official. The church was more than half-empty, with only a few dozen people in the pews.

Hailing Christmas as "the birth of the God of second chances," Bill Clinton introduced his wife as a "giver" and encouraged congregants to vote. He cited the Book of Romans, saying the Bible instructs people to "be good citizens as well as good followers of the Lord."

"For as long as I have known Hillary, she has been giving of herself to benefit others. I think we want that sort of giver to lead our country," he said.

Hillary Clinton has drawn women steadily to her events, holding female-focused appearances in New Hampshire on Saturday and referencing her gender on Sunday. "We've never had a woman president before," she told veterans.

"We need it," an elderly woman shouted from the audience.

Obama braved the storm to attend three town-hall meetings, after five events on Saturday, and also appeared on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Speaking before crowds in central and western Iowa, where at least one-third said they were undecided, Obama added to his stump speech lines intended to address concerns about his candidacy. He repeatedly emphasized that voters should not consider his race a barrier to his being elected, an issue that he has begun discussing publicly in the past week. He also explained why he is running for president now, rather than waiting for more seasoning, by invoking a Martin Luther King Jr. quote about the "fierce urgency of now."

In the past week, a late but extremely muscular effort by independent expenditure groups emerged in Iowa. The issue-oriented groups, known as 527s because of their designation in the federal tax code, are influential because they can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money. The only restrictions are that they cannot explicitly urge people to vote for or against a candidate, and they cannot coordinate their efforts with any active campaign.

Three organizations, including two labor unions, have spent more than $2.1 million over the past month in Iowa and New Hampshire to help support Clinton's candidacy. Three more groups, all backed by labor, have spent nearly $1.3 million on Edwards's behalf.

By contrast, there appears to be little independent expenditure activity in Iowa from groups backing Obama. The issue flared over the weekend as Obama criticized efforts of the Alliance for a New America, a group formed by the Service Employees International Union and run by Nick Baldick, who served this year as a top adviser to Edwards.

Last week, the group spent $769,610 to reserve television ads that help promote Edwards's candidacy. Obama aides have

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questioned how the group could be operating without the inside knowledge that Baldick must have soaked up from his former boss.

Baldick said Sunday that his work for the group has been thoroughly vetted by SEIU's lawyers.

"This is an issue advocacy organization with its own agenda," Baldick said. "There is nothing inappropriate about a former adviser leaving a campaign and later working with an organization that is not about any campaign but about raising issues."

The ease with which political operatives moved between campaigns and independent expenditure groups prompted several legal challenges four years ago, and some are still moving through the courts.

Staff writer Matthew Mosk contributed to this report from Washington.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/23/AR2007122302443_pf.html

* * *

Obama reaches deep into S.C. -- His political machine could break through the state's longtime barrier to black candidates.

By WES ALLISON, Times Staff Writer; Published December 23, 2007

COLUMBIA, S.C. - On one of those steamy days in the middle of summer when even the flies seem to buzz slowly, a tall young white man pulled into the sand parking lot and knocked on the door of Styles of Distinction Beautique.

He told the owner, Latrice Lewis, that he worked for Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential candidate, and he wanted to leave some literature for her customers. But more than that, he wanted Lewis to help spread Obama's vision of hope for America, and to get her permission to check back every now and then.

Lewis, 37, whose shop serves about 200 customers each week, was flattered to be asked. No candidate ever had. So Styles of Distinction joined scores of African-American barber shops and beauty salons across South Carolina serving as mini-campaign offices in Obama's quest to become president of the United States.

"One thing about the African-American community, you're going to get your hair done," Lewis, a statuesque woman wearing white and black boots, said Wednesday. "While they're sitting in our chairs, we're giving them some of the points."

In the race for the Democratic nomination, it is hard to overstate the importance of South Carolina, the first primary state with a large population of African-American voters. About 30 percent of the state's residents are black, as are about half the voters in its Democratic presidential primaries.

Buoyed by the affection that her husband, former President Bill Clinton, enjoys among many African-Americans, by the strength of her national campaign, and by the support of the state's black political establishment, polls showed Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton leading Obama among black voters here by 10 percentage points as recently as August.

Now, several polls show them tied, or give Obama a slight edge. Campaign workers, Democratic activists and independent analysts cite two main reasons for his surge. First is a strong grass roots organizing effort, like the beauty salons and barber shop initiative - known in the campaign as B-and-B - that is now bearing fruit.

Second is his recent success in the polls in lily-white New Hampshire and Iowa, where just 2 percent of residents are black. Contrary to the initial feelings of many African-Americans here, it now appears that white people just might vote for him.

"If Obama demonstrates in Iowa that he's a winner, he's going to run away with South Carolina," said House Majority Whip James Clyburn, D-Sumter, South Carolina's top black politician, who isn't taking sides. "There's no question about that. He will run away with South Carolina."

- - -

Prominent lawyer Steve Benjamin adores former President Clinton and had discussed his wife's candidacy with him earlier this year. He had also met with Hillary Clinton, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, Obama and their surrogates.

Benjamin, 37, is a Democratic activist who ran for state attorney general in 2002. He lost with 44 percent of the vote, a drubbing by almost any measure, but it was a record draw for a black candidate in a statewide race.

Now he is chairman of the Democratic Party in Richland County, which includes Columbia, the state capital. Nearly half the county's residents are black, and it delivered about 17 percent of the total votes in the Democratic presidential primary back in 2004.

But when the former president called again while in town for a banquet Monday night, Benjamin declined to meet with him. "I

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thought it would be somewhat disingenuous," he said.

The next day, Benjamin and a dozen other attorneys gathered outside a courthouse named for the first black federal judge from the Deep South and pledged their allegiance to Barack Obama.

"To not be part of it, I think I'd regret to my dying day," explained Benjamin, the father of two young girls. "The consistency of Barack Obama's message of hope, and America's better days being ahead of her, just won me over."

He added, "I think the world of Bill Clinton. Hillary Clinton is bright and tough ... and I like the thought of a woman in charge."

But Benjamin says he chose Obama in part because of his campaign's focus on reaching voters directly.

He, Clyburn and other South Carolina operatives said Obama is far less dependent than Clinton on traditional conduits of black politics here, the preachers and elected leaders.

"It's staff- and volunteer-driven, with a huge number of volunteers, not the old-school street politics," Benjamin said. "He's challenging the way politics have been done in this state for the last 50 years."

Dick Harpootlian, a former state Democratic Party chairman who campaigned for Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996, said Obama's grass roots machine is the most sophisticated he has seen in 40 years, and it's one reason he's backing him.

The campaign boasts seven offices around the state, vs. six for Clinton, and has teams of volunteers contacting potential voters in each of the 46 counties, including several poor, largely black counties that are rarely courted except on election day.

Earlier this month in Columbia, an Obama rally with talk show host Oprah Winfrey drew nearly 30,000 people, most of them black, the largest crowd for a political event in state history.

"It was awesome," gushed Nicole Dubose, 22, who attended and plans to vote for Obama. "He seemed so down to earth." But the event was more than just another rally.

As the crowd passed through the stadium gates, everyone was handed the names and phone numbers of four likely Democratic voters to call during the program. The campaign rented mobile towers to handle the extra wireless traffic.

And at the start of the show, the crowd was told to send a text message to a special number to register for an instant drawing. Three winners and their guests got to sit down front and meet Oprah and Obama. More than a sweet door prize, the drawing provided Obama's strategists with the cell phone numbers for thousands of likely supporters.

"If they missed anything, I don't know what it was," Harpootlian said. "I've never seen anything like this, the scope of it, the scale of it, and the ability to squeeze every drop out of the effort they make."

Clinton, of course, has a formidable machine as well, and she has won the backing of prominent black activists and politicians in every corner of the state. Her husband has visited several times in the past month on her behalf, as has Georgia Rep. John Lewis, an icon of the civil rights movement.

Katie Catalon of Charleston, president of the National Beauty Cultural League, which represents black salons, is campaigning for her as well, and several Obama supporters say they expect Clinton to win the endorsement of the state chapter of the National Baptist Convention, the main association of black Baptist churches.

Last week, she was endorsed by Don Fowler, a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and the state Democratic Party whose wife, Carol, is the state party chairman.

Fowler and other Clinton supporters say they aren't surprised that Obama is threatening Clinton in South Carolina and that her aura of inevitability was bound to fade as the Jan. 26 primary date neared and more voters began paying attention.

"This is a close race," Fowler said. "Anyone who ever thought this was a done deal is a bit mistaken and perhaps naive."

- - -

Former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, who was born in Seneca, S.C., won South Carolina in 2004 but is running a distant third now, despite aggressive advertising. Polls put his support among black voters in the single digits.

As they weigh Obama and Clinton, African-American voters sound a lot like all Democratic voters: Obama's backers see him as a fresh voice and an agent of change, and someone who could unite America, rather than deepen the fissures between Democrats and Republicans. Invariably, they say they fear Clinton is too polarizing to win nationwide.

Clinton's supporters cite the New York senator's experience and her perceived toughness, and invariably say they believe she has the best chance to win nationwide.

But in a state that hasn't elected an African-American to statewide office since Reconstruction, despite the large black

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population, and where at times it seems as if the Confederacy has somehow retained an embassy, a little poking easily brings Obama's race to the surface.

In February, state Sen. Robert Ford of Charleston, a longtime political leader and organizer in the black community, threw his heft behind Clinton, saying that putting Obama atop the ballot next November would sink the entire Democratic ticket.

Having a black leader suggest that a black candidate would "doom" the party caused quite a ruckus, and Ford later apologized. But he still believes Clinton is the Democrats' best hope. "I'm not willing to take any chance and experiment," Ford said Thursday.

Benjamin, the Columbia lawyer who rebuffed Bill Clinton to ally with Obama, said his own campaign for state attorney general convinced him otherwise, and he has faith that South Carolina will put him on track toward the White House.

"For the naysayers out there - and they come in every stripe - who say he can't win, this country is better than we think it is," Benjamin said. "The country and the state aren't where we ought to be, but we're a lot closer ... than we give ourselves credit for."

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http://www.sptimes.com/2007/12/23/news_pf/Worldandnation/Obama_reaches_deep_in.shtml

* * *

History creates 'place of fear' for some

By JASON CLAYWORTH; REGISTER STAFF WRITER
Mildred Otis won't caucus for Barack Obama for president largely for one reason: She wants to save his life.

Otis, 87, remembers America's violent civil rights movement 40 years ago when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

And, having lived through those events, the Des Moines woman and others fear that Obama's nomination could end in tragedy. "I think there's a lot of people not ready for an African-American to be a president," said Otis, a black woman.

With less than two weeks remaining before the Iowa caucuses, the Democratic party could be poised to embark on a historic nominating process. Democrats could wind up with the first African-American or first woman nominated for president on a major ticket as Obama and Hillary Clinton rank first and second, in either order, in most Iowa polls.

Obama and Clinton both travel in caravans that include Secret Service protection. Neither staff discusses campaign security, but Obama's wife, Michelle, addressed the topic in speeches, and his half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, has recently encouraged voters to set aside any apprehensions.

"We can't work from a place of fear," Soetoro-Ng said. "This is a critical juncture in our nation's history, and we have to press forward with courage. ... I see so much love and affection from such a wide range of individuals. I think we are certainly ready for a man like Barack."

Michelle Obama last month urged supporters to confront their own doubts, acknowledging that people want to protect themselves and her family from disappointment and failure but saying the right action is to show bravery and move ahead.

"That veil of impossibility that keeps us down and keeps our children down - keeps us waiting and hoping for a turn that may never come," she said in a speech titled "A Challenge to Overcome," according to text provided by campaign staff. "It's the bitter legacy of racism and discrimination and oppression in this country. A legacy that hurts us all."

Obama has had Secret Service protection since May. Neither national security nor campaign officials have disclosed the reason for the protection.

The vast majority of Iowa's presidential campaign stops take place at small businesses or public places. Only on rare occasions are bomb-sniffing dogs or metal detectors used.

For the most part - even at Obama campaign stops - people simply write their name on a sign-in sheet and walk into the venue without requests for identification. At some events, staffs of candidates don't even bother with sign-in sheets.

Campaign security breaches are rare, but an event last month provided the nation with an example of how serious they can become. The incident occurred when a man walked into a Clinton campaign office in New Hampshire wearing what appeared to be a bomb, demanding to speak about mental health care. The event ended without injury when the man surrendered to police after nearly six hours.

Mark Daley, a spokesman for Clinton's campaign, declined to comment for this article, noting that the campaign generally

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does not discuss security measures. The former first lady's campaign stops in Iowa after the incident appeared to have the same level of security as before.

Abraham Funchess, who heads Iowa's Commission on the Status of African Americans, said those who chose to vote differently as a safety precaution have been disabled by fear.

"We have to get away from that self-defeating attitude," Funchess said. "I would hope we would not allow that to keep people from participating in democracy. ... There are possibilities that something like that could happen, but there are possibilities at the same time that Hillary Clinton or Bill Richardson could deal with the same type of challenges."

Valeria Sinclair-Chapman, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Rochester, said she's careful not to dismiss such fears because many times they're grounded in relevant history that is central in the African-American experience.

"The strength of the Obama candidacy, I think, is an indication of how far the country has come," said Sinclair-Chapman. "If, in fact, voters are sincere when they say that they won't support a candidate because they fear for his or her life if they win the nomination, then that really completely undermines the progress that we think we see."

http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071222/NEWS09/712220338/-1/SPORTS12

* * *

The American Debate | A look at what Democrats will say
Clinton will dominate the party's presidential debates. Which Clinton? Read on and find out.

By Dick Polman; For The Philadelphia Inquirer

Here's an exclusive advance transcript of the next Democratic presidential debate:

Host: My first question goes to . . . excuse me, sir, this is highly irregular.
Bill Clinton: Y'all had this extra lectern backstage, so I thought I'd bring it out, make myself at home. Hey, throw that spotlight over this way!

Host: Sir, this stage is reserved -
Bill: I'll just be a moment. Got a little gift here for my wife. Here, honey, open it up.
Hillary: Awww, how precious! It's an itty-bitty kitten! Look how warm and fuzzy it is. I've got real tears in my eyes, just thinking about how, when I was a girl, I petted every kitty in my neighborhood each and every day, and the boys all flirted with me because I had so much human empathy for those kitties. They flirted with me even though I wore thick glasses, which I refused to remove as a matter of principle -

Bill: Exactly, because you were fighting for change. A change agent. An agent for positive change. A lifetime advocate for a change agenda -

Joe Biden: For Pete's sake, can anyone else talk around here?
Host: Mr. President, please return that lectern to the stagehands. Sen. Obama, a question. In the upcoming South Carolina primary, nearly half the electorate will be African American. What will you say to them?

Barack Obama: Well, I -
Bill [bellowing]: I have a dream today! I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character! I have a dream today!

Host: Mr. President, I thought you were leaving.
Bill: That was from Martin Luther King's '63 speech at the Lincoln Memorial. Can Sen. Obama do that? You want to hear me do the whole speech?

Hillary: Maybe later, dear. Thank you, goodbye.
Obama: Let me speak to the larger issue here. I believe Americans want to reject the dynasty of the '90s. They're tired of the old, they yearn to hope anew. Those of you in the audience will find the song sheet for "Kumbaya" on page three of your Obama campaign brochure -

John Edwards: As the son of a mill worker, I was too poor to have a kitten. Every day, a child in poverty wakes up without a kitten. You know, I learned a lot about poverty last year while earning half a million dollars for a hedge fund, and I believe that poor people opposed the Iraq war from the beginning. I was, too, except for when I voted for it. Mrs. Clinton also voted for it. She and her rich lobbyist pals marched us to war and sent poor people to fight it.

Hillary: John, you don't want this warm and fuzzy kitten to bare its claws.
Host: Seems like a good time for audience questions. What do we have here . . . a citizen dressed as a snowman! Didn't you show up at the Democratic debate sponsored by YouTube? Welcome back, snowman.

Snowman: How are y'all tonight?

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Host: Mr. President? C'mon, you're not playing fair.
Bill [removing snowman head]: My wife is being Swift-boated up there, and she needs my help. Honey, isn't it true that you and I were both against that war from the very beginning, despite what I'm on record as saying at the time?

Hillary: Bill, let me handle this, since I am running on my own. It's true I voted yes on the Iraq war, but that doesn't mean I thought it was a good idea, any more than I saw it as a good idea to give drivers' licenses to illegal immigrants when I voiced support for the idea. With respect to the war vote, it's true I didn't read the National Intelligence Estimate, with all the footnotes that argued against war, but that's because I was so busy reminiscing about childhood. Did you know I was a crossing guard in sixth grade? And all the boys -

Biden: Did that "snowman" leave? Good. Let's get some equal time around here. I'm the only one on this stage who can out-talk Bill Clinton -

Chris Dodd: Speaking of warm and fuzzy, I'm the only sixtysomething on this stage with two kids under the age of 7.
Dennis Kucinich: I'm the only one on this stage who would sit down with space aliens, and negotiate with no preconditions -

Bill Richardson: I'm the only one on this stage who served as U.N. ambassador, and, in that capacity, offered Monica Lewinsky a job. . . . No, let me amend that. There was much I didn't know at the time. . . . No, let me amend that. I love the Clintons, the vice presidency is open, and I -

Obama: Let me speak to the larger issue here. What we've seen tonight is a demonstration of why we need a different kind of politics. I'll give you an example. Hundreds of thousands of donors are financing President Clinton's library, but we don't know who most of them are or whether they'd expect favors in a Hillary presidency. They'd get none from me. All special interests would be automatically in thrall to my unique life story.

Host: I have a follow-up question. . . . Wait, give me back that microphone! Guards, remove the president from the premises!

Bill: Y'all keep your hands offa me. I just have one question as guest host. Sen. Obama, would you agree there's no truth to the rumor that you were snorting coke in kindergarten while you were writing your essay about wanting to be president?

Hillary: C'mon, Bill, I'm running a positive campaign. I once painted my kitchen orange, my mom loves me, I love this kitty -

Host: Sir, you're being removed. I know this is not your last interruption.
Bill [being carried off]: It all depends on what the meaning of the word *is* is!
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20071223_The_American_Debate___A_look_at_what_Democrats_will_say.html

* * *

*Dallas Morning News (*DMN*) editorial board recommends Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination*

Sunday, December 23, 2007

America is at a historic crossroads as a woman, a Hispanic and an African-American vie for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Two of those candidates, Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, were finalists for our recommendation – not because of ethnicity or gender but because they most closely aligned with our positions on major domestic and international issues.

Mr. Obama is our choice because of his consistently solid judgment, poise under pressure and ability to campaign effectively without resorting to the divisive politics of the past.

Race is not an overriding factor for us. But it is undeniable that America has failed to heal its racial wounds, including here in Dallas. We need a motivated leader capable of confronting the problem, and no candidate is better equipped than Mr. Obama. His message isn't about anger and retribution. It's about moving forward.

There's been lots of noise about his lack of experience. It is a legitimate concern, considering he's a 46-year-old first-term senator. But Mr. Obama's experience in elective office matches that of Abraham Lincoln before he became president. And he has served more time on Capitol Hill than four of the past five White House occupants.

If youthful inexperience were such a liability, it has failed to resonate despite his opponents' best efforts. Mrs. Clinton, by contrast, flip-flopped over a plan to give driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Her campaign accepted donations from questionable sources. When Mr. Obama's support recently surged in early primary states, her campaign tried to smear him over drug use in his youth.

It's a tired ploy that has failed in four previous presidential elections. Bill Clinton twice won election after admitting he'd smoked (but not inhaled) marijuana. George W. Bush won despite an alcohol problem and drunken-driving conviction at age 30.

Mrs. Clinton called Mr. Obama "irresponsible" and "naive" for saying he would talk to leaders of rogue nations like Syria and Iran. Considering the current failed strategy of confrontation and diplomatic isolation, we think Mr. Obama is wise to include

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direct negotiations among his tools to reduce regional tensions.

Mr. Obama drew criticism for saying he would pursue terrorists, if necessary, by sending troops into Pakistan. The fact is, U.S. troops have been going into Pakistan for years in pursuit of terrorists. All Mr. Obama did, in effect, was to keep that option open for the future. To say otherwise is to declare Pakistan a sanctuary for America's enemies.

Mr. Obama, the son of a white American mother and black Kenyan father, spent part of his childhood in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country.

His life experience gives him a unique perspective and a greater ability to build diplomatic bridges.
We don't always agree with his positions, but we recognize his potential to unite disparate political factions and restore cooperation between the White House and Capitol Hill.

Americans are tired of divisive, hard-edged politics. Democrats would inspire a refreshingly new approach by choosing Mr. Obama as their 2008 candidate.

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/editorials/stories/DN-demprezrec_23edi.ART.State.Edition1.36adeae.html

* * *

Racial Undercurrent Is Seen in Clinton Campaign

By Chris Cillizza And Shailagh Murray
PLAYERS and PLAYERS
Sunday, December 23, 2007; A02

It has unfolded mostly under the radar. But an important development in the 2008 Democratic battle may be the building backlash among African Americans over comments from associates of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton that could be construed as jabs at Sen. Barack Obama 's race.

These officials, including Clinton aides and prominent surrogates, have raised questions or dropped references about Obama's position on sentencing guidelines for crack vs. powder cocaine offenses; on his handgun control record; and on his admitted use of drugs as a youth. The context was always Obama's "electability." But the Illinois senator's campaign advisers said some African American leaders detect a pattern, and they believe it could erode Clinton's strong base of black support.

Here's a sample of how the issue is playing out:

From the "Tom Joyner Morning Show," Dec. 14:
Tom Joyner: "Yeah, man, they are coming after you now. So the story about the Clinton campaign putting out this statement not to vote for Barack Obama because he used drugs, and then yesterday I understand that she apologized and the campaign worker quit."

Obama: "Well, I think everybody knows, because I wrote about it in a book 10 years ago. . . . and part of the reason I wrote about it and I talk about it in schools is because I want young people out there to know that if they make the same kinds of mistakes that I made that they can get over it and that they can move on. . . ."

From columnist Derrick Z. Jackson of the Boston Globe, Dec. 15:
"That leaves open as to how far the Clinton campaign, whose poll leads have evaporated in Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina, will go to stereotype Obama as not only naive, but cast him in a sinister light in a nation where black drug use and criminality is exaggerated in the media . . . ."

" 'I don't think these strategies are very subtle,' Obama said. 'I won't speak to the racial element of it because I think, you know, if I were a white candidate, obviously, somebody suggesting falsely they were a drug dealer, it's never good.' But in sum, Obama, who has written about his teenage drug use in his memoirs, said, 'There's been a series of these kinds of tactics that at some point we've just got to send a clear signal this is not what we're about.' "

From Black Star News of New York, Dec. 19:
"So the Clinton campaign decided to use the race card. A senior campaign official, Billy Shaheen, the co-chairman of Hillary Clinton's campaign in New Hampshire, warned voters that Obama might not be the suitable candidate because were he to win the Democratic nomination, those nasty Republicans could bring up the fact that Obama has admitted to using marijuana and cocaine in his youth. Might the Republicans not even ask whether Obama had also been a drug dealer? This was clearly playing to the deep seated stereotype that some white people harbor -- of Blacks as natural born criminals and drug dealers."

Huckabee's Message Simple for Christmas
Practically every candidate running for president is up with some sort of Christmas commercial ranging from the serious (Sen. John McCain's retelling of Christmas in a POW camp) to the humorous (Rudy Giuliani's appearance with Santa.)

The Fix chose three of the ads -- Giuliani's, as well as the commercial by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in which she is wrapping a

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variety of presents corresponding to the issues of her campaign and former governor Mike Huckabee's "reason for the season" spot -- and asked a variety of unaffiliated political operatives for their takes.

Here's what they had to say:

The favorite, by far, of our informal panel was Huckabee's ad. "Huckabee's ad is the most effective because it was first, it is simple, and, in case there was any doubt, it reminds viewers of his singular strength -- that he's a Christian," said Democratic consultant Stephanie Cutter. "He is just so genuine that it really does give you a good feeling," said Democratic pollster John Anzalone, a sentiment echoed by Republican pollster Glen Bolger: "Huckabee's is the best, because it is not political and shows a sense of genuineness about the guy."

Reviews were more mixed for the ads by Giuliani and Clinton.

Of Giuliani's "Santa" commercial, Democratic pollster Dave Beattie said: "It attempts to use humor to makes promises and criticize the process, but unlike Huckabee's and even Hillary's ad, it is more about the process of politics rather than political belief and motivation." Jennifer Burton, a Democratic media consultant, was more complimentary -- arguing that Giuliani's ad "succeeds in hitting his message points and using humor to make Rudy two-dimensional."

Not surprisingly the Clinton ad, like everything in her campaign, provoked strong feelings on both sides. "Hillary's ad is a clever treatment," said Republican media consultant Erik Potholm. "The spot does a good job of bringing the viewer in -- as if they are watching the latest ads for Macy's last-minute, holiday sale -- while reminding voters of her agenda." Beattie was far less sanguine about the ad's impact. "It treats the holidays as a prop, which probably does little to move voters and does little to keep expanding her image as a person rather than a politician."

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/22/AR2007122201762_pf.html
* * *

Obama, Clinton spar on foreign policy; Both say they have greater backing

By Marcella Bombardieri, Globe Staff | December 23, 2007
MILFORD, N.H. - Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have opened a new front in their battle over who is best equipped to lead American foreign policy.

The latest skirmish started when Obama boasted that he has more support than Clinton does from foreign policy specialists who served in President Bill Clinton's administration.

"Why is the national security adviser, the secretary of the Navy for Bill Clinton, the assistant secretary of state for Bill Clinton, why are all these people endorsing me?" Obama asked in Iowa on Friday. "It's not just because I give a good speech. They apparently believe that my vision of foreign policy is better suited for the 21st century, and is not caught up in the politics of fear that we've been seeing out of George Bush for the last seven years."

Visiting a diner here yesterday, Hillary Clinton waved away that assertion as something that "was easily disproved," and said she had far more support in the foreign policy community. But more fundamentally, she tried to turn the issue around and use it against Obama, suggesting his crowing about his advisers was a way to mask a personal lack of experience on the issue.

"I'm not holding myself out by leaning on advisers. I'm saying, here I am, here's what I believe, here's what I've done for 35 years," she said in response to reporters' questions. "When the door closes, and when you're having to make those difficult decisions that presidents confront every day, ultimately there is no adviser."

Both Hillary Clinton and Obama have cadres of highly respected foreign policy officials who served in Bill Clinton's administration. Hillary Clinton's kitchen cabinet includes former secretary of state Madeleine Albright, former ambassador to the United Nations Richard Holbrooke, and General Wesley Clark, former supreme allied commander of NATO.

Obama's brain trust includes former national security adviser Anthony Lake, Richard Danzig, former secretary of the Navy, and Susan Rice, former assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

On the question of who has more Bill Clinton foreign policy veterans, both sides could be accused of fudging. The Obama campaign said his assertion was based on a New York Times Magazine article that described an enormous reservoir of support for Obama in foreign policy circles, but that story was based in part on anonymous sources and did not say it represented a specific count.

In response, the Clinton campaign offered a list of 83 foreign policy advisers. But some of them were minor ambassadors or people who made their names primarily in other arenas or other eras, such as Walter Mondale, former vice president.

After Hillary Clinton's remarks yesterday, Obama spokeswoman Jen Psaki shot back again, saying, "If Senator Clinton wants to make this election about who's made the best decisions on foreign policy, that's a comparison we're happy to make since Barack Obama is the only major candidate who opposed the war in Iraq and refused to give George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran."

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Marcella Bombardieri can be reached at bombardieri@globe.com .
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Wayne Ford Endorsement Gives Obama Legislative Lead

by: John Deeth - Sunday (12/23) at 09:38 AM

With Sunday's endorsement from Rep. Wayne Ford of Des Moines, Barack Obama takes the lead in endorsements from Iowa Legislators with 20 to Hillary Clinton's 19.

Clinton still leads the Iowa Senate with 10, while Joe Biden has the most House endorsements with 14.
Rumors had abounded that Ford was planning to endorse Clinton immediately after the Dec. 1 Brown and Black Forum in Des Moines, but on Dec. 4 Ford issued a non-endorsement, saying, "In my opinion, none of the candidates aggressively dealt with the problems in the urban communities." In Sunday's Obama press release, Ford said Obama will be "a President who can successfully expand economic opportunity and access to affordable housing for every American - including those who live in urban communities."

The release also noted that Ford's endorsement gives Obama support from all four of Iowa's African-American legislators.

In addition to Ford, Obama recently picked up support from Council Bluffs Rep. Paul Shomshor, while Biden added Reps. Eric Palmer of Oskaloosa and Dennis Cohoon of Burlington.

Only 14 of the 83 Democratic legislators remain uncommitted, including House Speaker Pat Murphy and Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal (whose family members are backing Clinton.)

Below the fold, the roll call.
TotalSenateHouse
Obama20713
Clinton19109
Biden16214
Edwards1028
Dodd321
Richardson101
Kucinich000
Gravel000
Uncommitted1477
Total833053

NameDistrictHome CountyEndorsement2004 Endorsement
Sen. Herman C. QuirmbachSenate District 23StoryBidennone
Sen. Dr. Joe M. SengSenate District 43ScottBidennone
Rep. McKinley BaileyHouse District 9HamiltonBidennew
Rep. Doris KelleyHouse District 20Black HawkBidennew
Rep. Roger ThomasHouse District 24ClaytonBidenKerry
Rep. Polly BuktaHouse District 26ClintonBidenDean
Rep. Dick TaylorHouse District 33LinnBidenKerry
Rep. Lisa HeddensHouse District 46StoryBidenKerry
Rep. Bruce HunterHouse District 62PolkBidenDean
Rep. Kevin McCarthyHouse District 67PolkBidenLieberman
Rep. Jim LykamHouse District 85ScottBidennone
Rep. Mary GaskillHouse District 93WapelloBidenKerry
Rep. John WhitakerHouse District 90Van BurenBidenGephardt
Rep. Mike ReasonerHouse District 95UnionBidenLieberman
Rep. Eric PalmerHouse District 75MahaskaBidennew
Rep. Dennis CohoonHouse District 88Des MoinesBidenEdwards
Sen. William A. Dotzler, Jr.Senate District 11Black HawkClintonGephardt
Sen. Roger StewartSenate District 13JacksonClintonKerry
Sen. Michael ConnollySenate District 14DubuqueClintonKerry
Sen. Wally E. HornSenate District 17LinnClintonnone
Sen. Rob HoggSenate District 19LinnClintonnone
Sen. Dennis H. BlackSenate District 21JasperClintonKerry
Sen. Dick L. DeardenSenate District 34PolkClintonGephardt
Sen. Staci AppelSenate District 37WarrenClintonnew
Sen. Becky SchmitzSenate District 45JeffersonClintonnew
Sen. Gene FraiseSenate District 46LeeClintonnone

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Rep. Roger WendtHouse District 2WoodburyClintonKerry
Rep. Mark KuhnHouse District 14FloydClintonGephardt
Rep. Todd TaylorHouse District 34LinnClintonnone
Rep. Swati DandekarHouse District 36LinnClintonKerry
Rep. Paul BellHouse District 41JasperClintonKerry
Rep. Beth Wessel-KroeschellHouse District 45StoryClintonnew
Rep. Mary MascherHouse District 77JohnsonClintonKerry
Rep. Vicki LensingHouse District 78JohnsonClintonnone
Rep. Cindy WincklerHouse District 86ScottClintonDean
Sen. Jeff DanielsonSenate District 10Black HawkDoddnew
Sen. Tom HancockSenate District 16DubuqueDoddnew
Rep. Ray ZirkelbachHouse District 31JonesDoddnew
Rep. Bob KressigHouse District 19Black HawkEdwardsnew
Sen. Daryl BeallSenate District 25WebsterEdwardsDean
Sen. Keith A. KreimanSenate District 47DavisEdwardsEdwards
Rep. Wes WhiteadHouse District 1WoodburyEdwardsGephardt
Rep. Andrew WentheHouse District 18FayetteEdwardsnew
Rep. Ro FoegeHouse District 29LinnEdwardsEdwards
Rep. Art StaedHouse District 37LinnEdwardsnew
Rep. Geri HuserHouse District 42PolkEdwardsEdwards
Rep. Nathan ReichertHouse District 80MuscatineEdwardsnew
Rep. Kurt SwaimHouse District 94DavisEdwardsEdwards
Sen. Steve WarnstadtSenate District 1WoodburyObamaKerry
Sen. Rich OliveSenate District 5StoryObamanew
Sen. Bill HeckrothSenate District 9BremerObamanew
Sen. Robert E. DvorskySenate District 15JohnsonObamaGephardt
Sen. Tom RiellySenate District 38MahaskaObamanew
Sen. Joe BolkcomSenate District 39JohnsonObamaDean
Sen. Frank WoodSenate District 42ScottObamanew
Rep. Brian QuirkHouse District 15ChickasawObamaKerry
Rep. Deborah BerryHouse District 22Black HawkObamaKerry
Rep. Pam JochumHouse District 27DubuqueObamaKerry
Rep. David JacobyHouse District 30JohnsonObamaKerry
Rep. Tyler OlsonHouse District 38LinnObamanew
Rep. Mark SmithHouse District 43MarshallObamaKerry
Rep. Donovan OlsonHouse District 48BooneObamaKerry
Rep. Helen MillerHouse District 49WebsterObama</TD<Gephardt
Rep. Janet PetersenHouse District 64PolkObamaKerry
Rep. Ako Abdul-SamadHouse District 66PolkObamanew
Rep. Elesha GaymanHouse District 84ScottObamanew
Rep. Wayne FordHouse District 65PolkObamaEdwards
Rep. Paul ShomshorHouse District 100PottawattamieObamaLieberman
Rep. Marcella FrevertHouse District 7Palo AltoRichardsonDean
Sen. John P. "Jack" KibbieSenate District 4Palo Alto Kerry
Sen. Amanda RaganSenate District 7Cerro Gordo none
Sen. Brian SchoenjahnSenate District 12Fayette new
Sen. Matt McCoySenate District 31Polk Kerry
Sen. Jack HatchSenate District 33Polk Kerry
Sen. Thomas G. CourtneySenate District 44Des Moines Gephardt
Sen. Michael E. GronstalSenate District 50Pottawattamie none
Rep. Dolores MertzHouse District 8Kossuth none
Rep. Tom SchuellerHouse District 25Jackson new
Rep. Pat MurphyHouse District 28Dubuque none
Rep. Jo OldsonHouse District 61Polk Kerry
Rep. Rick OlsonHouse District 68Polk new
Rep. Mark DavittHouse District 74Warren Kerry
Rep. Philip L. WiseHouse District 92Lee Lieberman

http://www.iowaindependent.com/showDiary.do?diaryId=1711
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Paul B. Hertneky: Let's compare the public accomplishments of Clinton and Obama

By PAUL B. HERTNEKY – *Union Leader (NH)*

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INSTEAD OF COMPARING Hillary Clinton's and Barack Obama's experience -- a vague set of claims -- I turned my attention toward accomplishments. Not what they've accomplished for themselves, but what they've accomplished for others.

In doing so, I excluded purely personal gains. I also eliminated all distinctions or honors. For similar reasons, I ignored the elections they've won. These credentials are well-known.

Also, like any alert prospective employer, I am informed by what they support, worked on, worked toward and fought for, but I am more interested in what they have accomplished for their constituents.

After graduating from Columbia, Obama went to work with churches that organized job training and other programs for residents of a massive housing project in Chicago. He persuaded the city to provide summer jobs, remove asbestos, repair toilets, pipes and ceilings. He went door to door, offering help for three years, then went to Harvard Law School.

Upon graduating from Wellesley, Hillary Rodham made a commencement speech that moved her audience. She went immediately to Yale Law School.

Obama returned to Chicago to lead Project Vote, which signed up about 150,000 new African-American voters. He also joined a big law firm.

Following Yale, and a year in Washington, Rodham moved to Arkansas and married Bill Clinton. She taught at the University of Arkansas and joined a big law firm.

Clinton established a legal aid clinic at the university, where she taught for two years. Obama began teaching at the University of Chicago, where he would continue to lecture for 11 years. I mention teaching because I consider it an accomplishment in the service of others.

During her time as an attorney in Arkansas, Clinton gave birth to Chelsea. Her husband ran unsuccessfully for Congress, successfully for attorney general, and governor. During Obama's time as an attorney in Chicago, he became a husband and father of two daughters. He entered the Illinois Senate in 1994.

As a member of the minority party of the Senate for six of his eight years there, Obama wrote a health insurance law that covered an additional 20,000 children, a welfare reform law, an earned-income-tax-credit law for working-poor families, and death penalty reform that passed unanimously. During his last two years in the majority, he sponsored 780 bills, 280 of which became law.

As first lady of Arkansas, and of the United States, Clinton served on many boards. She chaired only one: the Task Force on National Health Care Reform, which failed, accomplishing only political traction for Republicans and a setback for her husband.

She fended off prosecution involving the White House Travel Office and her investments with Whitewater. Although these are personal accomplishments, they also served constituents by protecting her husband.

A year after Clinton became a senator, she secured $20 billion for New York City in the wake of 9/11. Among other funding measures she directed toward her state, she prevented the closing of a military base there. Although she is considered to be one of the most influential Democrats in the Senate, most of her sponsored legislation has been symbolic -- naming two post offices, two courthouses, honoring and congratulating sports teams and historic figures from New York.

Since Obama entered the U.S. Senate in 2004, he has joined Republican Richard Lugar in writing a law that funds the destruction or securing of loose nuclear and conventional weapons (shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, for example) throughout the world. He also introduced the first bill, that soon became law, to fund and address pandemic flu preparedness.

In one inspiring discovery, Obama and Clinton teamed up to pass a law that helps hospitals disclose medical errors. It goes a long way toward serving patients while reducing malpractice claims.

There is no way to assess the value of each candidate's participation in collective efforts to serve our country. Clinton has given time to many efforts and lived approximately 5,000 more days than Obama, amassing supporters, money and fame. But time spent achieving such goals can hardly be seen as accomplishments for the good of the people.

Obama's accomplishments show greater efficiency and clarity of purpose, forming productive alliances, making the most of his comparatively short career.

People talk about his charisma, but give me that skill and focus, trained on a four-year term, and we could see unprecedented results.

Paul B. Hertneky is a freelance writer who teaches at Antioch University New England in Keene.
Opinions expressed in this weekly column aren't necessarily those of the New Hampshire Union Leader. All readers are welcome to submit essays of up to 750 words for the editors consideration. Please include a word or two about yourself, along with name, address, phone number and, if possible, a photograph. Mail to: Your Turn, c/o New Hampshire Union Leader, P.O.

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* * *

FROM THE BLOGS

On CNN, Donahue claimed Penn repeated "drug issue ... over and over and over" -- but Matthews first asked about drugs

http://mediamatters.org/items/200712220004

* * *

Clinton Launches Obama Attack Web Sites

Clinton Campaign Registered Names of Two Web Sites to Attack Ill. Senator

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* * *

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* * *

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USING HIS RACE AGAINST OBAMA

http://www.tpmcafe.com/blog/coffeehouse/2007/dec/23/using_his_race_against_obama

* * *

VDARE Blog:

Hillary, Obama, and the Press

http://blog.vdare.com/archives/2007/12/23/hillary-obama-and-the-press/

* * *

THE SWAMP:

Jackson stumps for Obama, history

by Christi Parsons

SUMTER, S.C. — Jesse Jackson Jr. was bound and determined to get some unregistered voters on the rolls. If only he could find them. But the first door the young congressman knocked on belonged to an elderly man who already had a valid voter card.

Next door lived a retiree who had done better than simply register herself. She had a sheaf of her own registration forms handy in case there were any stragglers among her holiday visitors.

Eventually, Jackson just decided to give a rousing pep talk for his fellow canvassers, fifteen volunteers who paused on a street curb to listen.

"This is God's work in the vineyard," Jackson said. "You are on the winning side."
A high rate of registration on his call list was good political news for Jackson, in town over the weekend to promote his friend and fellow Chicagoan Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination. Most of those he visited were fully registered, Obama-friendly voters.

But as he worked his way around the state in the final days before the Wednesday registration deadline, Jackson — son of the civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson, who twice sought the presidency — couldn't help but see things in more sweeping terms.

In a region with a history of disenfranchising its black voters, African-Americans are poised to play a critical role in the selection of the Democratic nominee.

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"People on the South Side of Chicago are waiting to hear from the state of South Carolina," Jackson told one gathering in Columbia. "People in Harlem are waiting to hear from the state of South Carolina . . . They are waiting for you to write a new chapter."

That arguably happens even before the first vote is cast. Democratic officials deliberately set the early primary in South Carolina to give a greater voice to African-Americans, who account for roughly half the Democratic voters here.

Democrats are competing hard for their support and addressing the things they care about. Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Obama especially have been working to identify supporters and to make sure they're eligible to vote.

Republican candidates also worked to reach their voters before the registration deadline for their Jan. 19 primary passed last week. The rise of the South Carolina primary for the GOP likely gives more influence to the state's heavy concentration of social conservatives, who have traditionally had a strong say in the Iowa caucuses.

But for Democrats, this is an unprecedented opportunity. Their last big voter registration push took place in the past few days and weeks, in advance of the day-after-Christmas deadline. The Edwards team say they registered more than 900 high school seniors one recent day.

Clinton's volunteers worked the phones and went door-to-door over the weekend, and also made a few final stops at the barbershops and beauty salons that have become a point of competition for Democrats this year.

And for Obama, Jackson flew down from Chicago to campaign, participating in one canvass in a multi-racial neighborhood of large brick ranch-style homes and tidy lawns.

Angela Willis came from just a few blocks away to help him out. The Saraf-Tulsky family drove down from Durham, N.C., in their SUV.

Danny Kim arrived in a car full of volunteers from Atlanta, and kicked off the afternoon canvass with the familiar Obama call-and-response: "Fire it up!" and "Ready to go!"

"You'll be able to tell your high school classmates you were out here for Barack Obama," Jackson told Noah and Zeke Tulsky, both young teenagers, as they set out. The boys and their parents ended up registering three voters.

Jackson wasn't so lucky. His first stop was at the home of Caroline Bohanon, a retired radiologist and Air Force colonel who didn't need to be registered.

She had papers in her kitchen, and had already signed up eight voters of her own — including a granddaughter home from college at North Carolina's High Point University.

"Is she going back to campus . . . " Jackson started to ask, but Bohanon was way ahead of him.

"She's already voting absentee," she said.

Next door, Edward Porter also turned out to be a registered voter of long standing. As long as Jackson was on his doorstep, though, Porter wanted to express his concern about Obama's safety as a fellow African-American seeking such a high station.

Jackson paused by a white rocking chair on Porter's front porch for a few minutes. He talked about Martin Luther King's speech "I've Been to the Mountaintop," in which the civil rights leader told a Memphis crowd that he cared less about dying than about working for freedom and equality.

King was assassinated the next day, he reminded Porter.

"In a sense, it was his last will and testament for us," Jackson said. "We have to move beyond fear."
Jackson was 3 years old at the time of that speech, the same age as the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965 to protect poll access for minority voters in South Carolina and other Southern states.

As he headed toward his car to go to a town hall meeting nearby, Jackson said he thinks of the current effort in the same terms.

"This is not a generation of Americans that is separate and apart from any other struggle that women have undertaken that led to the 19th Amendment, or that African-Americans have undertaken that led to the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments," he said. "These are profound historical revelations and times."

As the congressman left his doorstep, Porter asked the name of the young man to whom he'd been speaking.

"That was Rev. Jackson's son?" Porter said. "Wish I could have let him sign me up."

http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2007/12/jackson_stumps_for_obama_histo.html

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Hillary Clinton for President
Press Office -- African American Media
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Arlington, VA 22203
direct dial: 703.875.1282
cell: 202.315.8117

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From:	"Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	4/24/2015 8:37:54 AM
Subject:	The Hill: Is Peter Schweizer part of a vast right-wing conspiracy? | TheHill

http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/presidential-campaign/240004-is-peter-schweizer-part-of-a-vast-right-wing

Sent from my iPad

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From:	"Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
	"Corey Ciorciari" <cciorciari@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/26/2015 10:00:25 AM
Subject:	Re: Iran

Stu -- I'm copying Corey to find a time for us to talk tomorrow. I have a hunch I know what troubled you.

On Sun, Jul 26, 2015 at 4:52 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

> Dear Jake,
>
> At our offices tomorrow, I am hosting the. Geo-Political Group for the Jewish People's Policy Institute (JPPI) of Jerusalem, which Dennis and I co-chair. We will have the heads of ADL, AIPAC, The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, and the leadership of major UJA Federations (e.g. NY and Chicago), along with several of our security experts from Jerusalem (e.g. former general Michael Herzog, Avi Gill, and Einat Wilf).
>
> Secretary Kerry's remark Friday that the international community might blame Israel if Congress blocked the Iran deal and Israel might "wind up being more isolated", is truly outrageous. While Hillary obviously cannot take him on directly, she could stress the following, building on her Iran statement:
>
> 1. While she supports the Iran agreement, she understands and the American people need to understand the depth of feeling across party lines in Israel, and that 70 years after the Holocaust, they believe an Iranian nuclear weapon is a genuine existential threat to Israel.
>
> 2. As she said in her statement, she will give all our allies in the region all the means, including military means, to defend themselves.
>
> 3. The US will be willing to discuss a public pledge with Israel and our Arab allies, in which Iran would be told any attack against them would be seen as an attack against the US, and as with Article 5 of NATO and our commitment to Japan, we would act accordingly with the full force of our resources.
>
> Jake, at his initiative, Secretary of Energy Moniz gave me a 35 minute telephonic briefing on the agreement, and invited me to meet with him personally this week. There is one element of the briefing about which I was deeply troubled. I do not want to put it in writing. Please call (202-549-4454 or 202-549-5776) when you have a minute.
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Stu

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From: "Global Europe Program" <ionratiu-award@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/5/2016 4:32:01 AM
Subject: 2016 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award - Call for Nominations

To view this email as a web page, click here



2016 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award - Call for Nominations

Deadline: June 1, 2016

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars welcomes nominations for the 2016 Ion Ratiu Democracy Award. The purpose of the Ion Ratiu Democracy Award (IRDA) is to bring visibility and international recognition to the ideas, ideals and accomplishments of individuals around the world who are working on behalf of democracy. The award expresses the deep commitment to democracy of the late Ion Ratiu through his contributions as a Romanian politician as well as his interest in democratic change worldwide.

Previous awardees include Jamil Hasanli (Azerbaijan, 2015), Mustafa Nayyem (Ukraine, 2014), Angela Kocze (Hungary, 2013), Aung San Suu Kyi (Myanmar, 2012), Nabeel Rajab (Bahrain, 2011), Oleg Kozlovsky (Russia, 2010), Adam Michnik (Poland, 2009), Eleonora Cercavschi (Moldova, 2008), Anatoli Mikhailov (Belarus, 2007), Saad Ibrahim (Egypt, 2006), and Sergio Aguayo (Mexico, 2005).

Read Now

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From:	"Christopher Chase" <cchase@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Christopher Chase" <cchase@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	12/23/2007 2:43:32 AM
Subject:	HRC IA Clips 12.23.07
Attachments:	HRC IA Clips 12.23.07.doc

HRC Iowa Campaign Clips
Sunday, December 23, 2007

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Full Text of Articles

I. MUST READS

BEAUMONT

Democrats ratchet up message of electability, DM Register, 12-23
By THOMAS BEAUMONT and JASON CLAYWORTH

For the past 11 months, Democratic caucusgoers in Iowa have heard two words - "change" and "experience" - over and over.

For the next 11 days, they will hear this one the most: "electability."

Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards are trying to break out of a three-way battle for the lead as they barrel toward Iowa's Jan. 3 caucuses by stressing what they argue are general-election strengths that make them uniquely able to win next year.

Clinton's electability argument relies on a perception that she is the most experienced; questions about Obama's readiness; and her potential to be the nation's first female president.

Obama, like Edwards, says he is the most electable because he represents a starker change. The two are trying to present themselves as more electable than Clinton, whom many Democrats admire but also see as a rallying figure for Republicans.

The Republican field has stressed electability less, in part because the candidates vary more on core issues, observers say.

The leading Democratic candidates' emphasis on strategic instead of policy distinctions in their closing arguments to caucusgoers recognizes what many activists in the leadoff nominating state agree is a strong field of candidates who generally align on key issues.

It's also a sign that the candidates are tapped into Iowa Democrats' intense focus on nominating a general-election winner, after trying and failing in successive campaigns, observers say.

"They know that they don't want to screw up and give the party somebody who ends up not winning," said Elaine Kamarck, a Harvard University political science professor and member of the Democratic National Committee. "I think that a lot of the concern about electability goes to the responsibility Iowans feel about being first and getting it right."

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Consider the messages from the campaign trail last week:

• Iowa first lady Mari Culver stamped her endorsement for Edwards, a former North Carolina senator, with, "I think he can really rally Americans in the fall."

• Obama, a U.S. senator from Illinois, enlisted Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, who told reporters, "Head and shoulders above everyone else, Senator Obama is the most electable candidate we have."

• And a new radio advertisement for Clinton, a U.S. senator from New York, by the American Federation of Teachers ends with a woman's voice proclaiming, "Hillary can win in November."

As Obama has edged ahead in some Iowa polls, Clinton has stepped up her claim that she can survive Republican attacks, framing her well-known public trials over the past 16 years as proof she has been more thoroughly examined than Obama.

"When Republicans come out full-throttle, it is always difficult for someone who's not been through this before even to imagine what the incoming fire is like," Clinton said in a Des Moines Register interview. "So, one thing you know about me is I've been on the receiving end for a long time. You're going to be able to count on me to withstand whatever comes at me."

Obama says that among his chief electability points is that he would not automatically have the Republicans rallied against him the way he argues Clinton would against her.

"My campaign is premised on a different idea, and that is that we can stay true to our progressive ideals, but reach out to Republicans and independents and after the election form a working majority for change," Obama told the Register last week. "And I don't think that there's anybody out there who can do that better than I can."

Recent Iowa polls have shown Obama and Clinton trading a narrow lead in Iowa, with Edwards within striking distance. In all recent surveys, there has been a sizable gap between the top three and the rest of the field.

Few Iowa polls show how electability rates among other perceptions of the candidates, although some national surveys show the factor has become more of a concern among Democrats during the fall campaign.

Democratic strategists say it weighs on Iowa caucusgoers, as it did in 2004. A plurality backed Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, whose military experience lent to the perception he was more electable.

Joe Trippi, who managed former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean's 2004 campaign through the early contests, said caucusgoers this year are even more concerned about choosing a candidate they believe can win, in light of Kerry's defeat in 2004 and caucus winner Al Gore's general election loss four years earlier.

The caucuses' earlier-than-ever spot at the front of a tightly packed nominating schedule also puts pressure on caucusgoers to choose wisely this time, Trippi said.

"In Iowa, more than anyplace else, it clearly weighs in, and I think that's one of the reasons the caucuses are so unpredictable this time because I think people clearly have doubts about all of these issues, including electability," Trippi said.

It's in the front of undecided Cedar Rapids Democrat Lois Livingston's mind.

"It's very important," Livingston said. "If the Democrats want to get the presidency, get the White House back, it's very important to go with someone who is electable."

A USA Today/Gallup Poll taken two weeks ago showed roughly half of likely Democratic primary voters nationally were almost evenly split between those who prefer a nominee who agrees with them and those who want one with the best chance of beating the GOP nominee. In November, Democrats preferred agreement on issues 3-2 over electability, according to the poll.

The electoral map is a big part of Democrats' electability argument. Most candidates tout a special claim to turning states that voted Republican in 2004 back to the Democrats, who lost the 2000 and 2004 elections by razor-thin electoral margins.

Edwards says his Southern roots and message of economic fairness would appeal to voters in states that have voted Republican in the past two elections.

"We all know that Democratic presidential candidates need to lead in those places to be successful nationally and state-by-state in the Electoral College. I can do that," Edwards told reporters in Des Moines last week. "I'm the only one who's actually won in a red state."

All the candidates point to recent polls showing them receiving more support than the Republican candidates in hypothetical general election matchups, which scholars say have little meaning.

Clinton and Obama, who have won in heavily Democratic states, argue they would grow the Democratic electoral map in their own way.

Clinton says her nomination would boost Democratic support from women in all states.

"There's going to be a tremendous coalition for change that crosses party lines and a lot of excitement about the possibility of the first woman president that will give me a much broader electoral map on which to compete," she said.

Obama, who is black and just 46 years old, says his race could bring back states abandoned by Democrats in recent elections.

"I am absolutely convinced that I have the best chance of any candidate of breaking out of the 50-plus-1 election formula," he said.

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Electability has not been a top issue coming out of the Republican campaigns, in part because the field of candidates for 2008 is less alike on core GOP issues, such as immigration and abortion rights, party strategists said.

Electability has come up at times during the GOP campaign. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee tout their elections in Democrat-leaning states, for instance.

But the USA Today poll shows Republican voters by about 3-2 preferred a presidential nominee who agrees with them on most issues. It is a sign that ideological differences remain a factor in the Republican race, said GOP strategist John Maxwell, who has advised past presidential candidates.

"There are wider issue differences among the Republicans, making electability less a concern," said Maxwell, a top adviser to Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley.

Electability is subjective, a perception voters include with other factors they attribute to the candidate they prefer, sometimes unconsciously, former Brookings Institution presidential scholar Charles Jones said.

"It's part of what you've decided by way of supporting a candidate, and wrapped up in that is your judgment that the person can win and should win," Jones said.

GLOVER

Obama Criticizes Edwards' Record, AP/Quad City Times, 12-23
By MIKE GLOVER

OSKALOOSA, Iowa - Democrat Barack Obama criticized John Edwards on Saturday as an unconvincing populist who passed up chances in the Senate to curb the power of lobbyists and is tolerating presidential campaign tactics that he claims to oppose.

As an example, Obama pointed to a nearly $800,000 advertising campaign being launched for Iowa voters by Alliance for a New America, a labor-affiliated group that is independent of the Edwards campaign but supportive of him. Such "527" organizations can raise unlimited amounts of money for ads that frame the debate in ways favorable to a candidate without directly advocating how voters should cast their ballots.

"John said yesterday, he didn't believe in these 527s," Obama said. "You can't say yesterday, you don't believe in it and today three-quarters of a million dollars is being spent for you. You can't just talk the talk. Everybody talks change, but how did they act when it was not convenient, when it's hard?"

Edwards said in response that he didn't know anything about the ad buy and has no say in it.

"The way the law operates is we're not allowed to be involved in this _ the campaign's not allowed to be involved, I'm not allowed to be involved," Edwards told reporters after a campaign stop Saturday in Lisbon, Iowa. "I found out about this probably after most of you did through the news media."

He said after campaigning in Coralville, "I would prefer that all the 527s _ not just this one _ that all the 527s stay out of Iowa."

Several presidential candidates in both parties are benefiting and taking hits from independent groups that are only now beginning to make their presence known in the early contest states of Iowa and New Hampshire. These groups can be more targeted and more negative and can coordinate their activities in ways that candidate campaigns cannot.

Former Edwards advisers Nick Baldick and Jeff Link have been advising labor-backed groups that are putting up hundreds of thousands of dollars in issue ads supportive of Edwards. Obama says these efforts amount to "huge, unregulated contributions from special interests" of the kind Edwards talks about bringing under control.

"I've got a track record," Obama said of restraining special interests. "I don't just talk the talk, I walk the walk."

He said that "when we actually had a chance to do something about it, I did something and John didn't" during Edwards' six years as a North Carolina senator.

Edwards attributed the Illinois senator's criticisms to concern about the Iowa race.

"I guess he's seeing the same thing on the ground that we're seeing here, which is why he's started talking about me, which is that we're moving," Edwards said.

Opening his latest Iowa swing, Obama coped later in the day with a driving snowstorm that reduced his motorcade to a crawl on treacherous highways. Still, more than 200 people came to a high school in Winterset to hear his pitch, and one sang him a song.

Late in the day, another 300 braved the wintry weather at a suburban Des Moines school to hear Obama's pitch, a sure sign they are the kind of activists likely to show up on a frigid night next month for precinct caucuses. When asked, virtually all raised their hands to indicate they planned to attend.

"You're here tonight, you're pretty committed," said Obama. "Thank you for braving this weather."

Edwards has generally lagged slightly behind Obama and New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in polls of likely Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa, although the three-way race is considered tight.

Obama also gave special emphasis Saturday to trade and its impact on workers, which has been a big part of Edwards' campaign.

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On the stump and in new television commercials, Obama called for more training and health coverage for workers whose jobs are shipped overseas.

"We're not going to stop globalization in its track, but what we can do is have a president who's standing up for American farmers and workers," Obama told about 300 people in a middle school gymnasium.

Obama also began broadcasting a commercial in Iowa titled "Enough," in which he says he would end tax breaks for companies sending jobs abroad.

"When I'm president we'll give you training before you lose your job if there's a good chance it will get shipped overseas," he said. "We'll give you an education account that you can use to retrain."

Obama focuses on Edwards' track record, trade issues, AP: Muscatine Journal, 12-22
By MIKE GLOVER

OSKALOOSA, Iowa - Opening his latest presidential campaign swing through Iowa, Democrat Barack Obama singled out rival John Edwards for criticism, arguing that the former North Carolina senator doesn't have a track record to back up the sharply populist themes he sounds on the campaign trail.

"I've got a track record," said Obama. "I don't just talk the talk, I walk the walk. John does not have the same track record."

The Illinois senator and his aides also singled out a new television campaign they said is being launched on Edwards' behalf, accusing him of hypocrisy.

"John said yesterday, he didn't believe in these 527s, those are these independent groups that raise money with no disclosure, nobody knows who is giving them, he said I don't believe in them," said Obama. "We found out today there's a group buying three-quarters of a million dollars worth of television and the individual running the group used to be John Edwards' campaign manager."

Obama used the occasion to suggest that Edwards is guilty of hypocrisy.

"You can't say yesterday, you don't believe in it and today three-quarters of a million dollars is being spent for you," said Obama. "You can't just talk the talk. Everybody talks change, but how did they act when it was not convenient, when it's hard."

Campaign aides distributed to reporters a list of television ad buys in six markets covering Iowa totaling $796,610 that were purchased by the Alliance for a New America, which they described a pro-Edwards group. Focusing on Edwards could signal that Obama views him as a greater threat than previously perceived.

Edwards has generally slightly lagged behind Obama and New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in polls of likely Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa, although the three-way race is considered tight.

Obama also extended his criticism to Edwards' single term in the Senate.

"During six years in the Senate he wasn't passing laws to reduce the power of lobbyists," said Obama. He contrasted that with his own role in crafting new ethics legislation.

Obama was spending his day seeking to focus on trade policy, an issue Edwards has strongly emphasized.

On the stump and in new television commercials, Obama called for more training and health coverage for workers who find their jobs shipped overseas as well as giving them significantly more time to find another job.

"We're not going to stop globalization in its track, but what we can do is have a president who's standing up for American farmers and workers," said Obama, speaking to about 300 people in a middle school gymnasium.

Obama also began airing a new commercial in Iowa titled "Enough" in which he uses the 30-second spot to vow to end tax breaks for companies shipping jobs overseas, giving them instead "to companies that are investing right here in Iowa."

As the voting season nears, there are signs that voters are beginning to focus on pocketbook economic issues and Obama was responding by seeking to capitalize on the frustration and anger many feel as they watch companies move overseas, leaving workers high and dry.

"When I'm president we'll give you training before you lose your job if there's a good chance it will get shipped overseas," said Obama. "We'll give you an education account that you can use to retrain."

Also, Obama vowed financial aid for workers who find themselves displaced.

"We'll help ensure that losing your job doesn't also mean losing health care by giving you some extra money to pay for it," said Obama. "And we'll make sure employers give you an extra month's notice before letting you go _ so you have 90 days notice instead of just 60."

Obama said he's formulated his economic policy by holding round table meetings with small groups of voters around the state, where he hears stories of working families.

"People are working harder and harder just to keep pace," said Obama. "People have lost faith that their leaders can or will do anything about it."

Edwards says 'my people will be there', AP: Muscatine Journal, 12-22
By MIKE GLOVER

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JOHNSTON, Iowa - Democrat John Edwards said Friday his experience gives him an edge in the closing days of a tight contest for the state's leadoff precinct caucuses because he knows "what the caucus-goers are looking for."

"They're looking for energy and passion and focus and that's what they're going to get from me," said Edwards.

He took a passing swipe at leading rivals Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton, suggesting they are running far more cerebral campaigns that don't generate as much energy as his campaign.

"Having been through this before, I know what you have to do. I know what you have to do to close and what Iowa caucus-goers are looking for," Edwards said. "They're not looking for academic, they're not looking for analytical, they're looking for somebody who speaks from right here, from their gut, and who believes deeply and passionately in what they're talking about."

Edwards spoke during a taping of Iowa Public Television's "Iowa Press" program, airing this weekend. He assessed a race that most polls indicate is a dead heat less than two weeks before the caucuses launch the presidential nominating process on Jan. 3.

Roughly 124,000 Democratic activists showed up in 2004, and Edwards declined to predict turnout this time.

"What I know is my people will be at the caucus," said Edwards. "If you come to my events, they look like caucus-goers. My people are strongly for me, that's what I know."

Edwards finished a surprising second in the caucuses in 2004, and he said he's banking on that experience to give him an edge in closing the sale with activists.

As the sniping between Democratic candidates has increased in recent days, Edwards warned that activists are not likely to reward those who launch attacks on opponents.

"What Iowa caucus-goers are looking for is not petty, personal fighting between politicians. They're looking for someone who is actually willing to take on the corporate power and corporate greed," said Edwards.

Edwards noted that he surged late in the 2004 campaign, and told reporters Friday he's feeling the same thing on the ground in this election cycle.

"Things are moving, there's an enormous amount of energy on the ground," said Edwards. "The energy and the momentum has a familiar feel to me."

But he conceded the race remains unsettled.

"I think all three of us, Clinton, Obama and me are in a very tight race here," he said. "They've invested and so have I, very heavily in this contest. I think what that means in practical terms is someone is going to come out of here with momentum."

Many argue that Edwards needs to improve on his second-place showing last time and needs to win.

"I don't think you can say for any of the three of us that you have to win because it depends on how it plays out," said Edwards.

He was also asked about comments Clinton made earlier in the week in which she said she would pull U.S. troops from Iraq within a year.

"I was startled by it, to be honest with you," said Edwards. "Having been on the stage with her so many times at forums and debates and hearing her say something very different from that. She's certainly entitled to change her opinions. There's nothing wrong with that. It certainly is different."

Clinton spokesman Mo Elleithee later said Edwards was misquoting the New York senator and that she had called for withdrawing most troops within a year. Clinton has consistently argued that one to two battalions a month could be withdrawn from Iraq, Elleithee said.

Edwards later headed for a suburban community college, where he continued to sound the sharply populist themes that mark his campaign.

"An America where big corporations are favored over middle class families is not the America I believe in," said Edwards. "That's not the America I see over the horizon."

TIBBETTS

Thompson not bothered by campaign criticism, The Ames Tribune, 12-22
By: Ed Tibbetts, Davenport Quad-City Times

About the nicest adjective some analysts have applied to Republican presidential candidate Fred Thompson is he's laid back.

More often, they're apt to call his campaign lethargic, dull, lazy, sleepy-eyed or, in the words of a conservative columnist, "fizzy as day-old cherry Coke."

Thompson, if he cares, doesn't show it.

In fact, he seems to wear his demeanor and his campaign's pace quite proudly.

Take when he walked into the Thunder Bay Grille restaurant in Davenport this month.

Barely had he begun speaking when he acknowledged the criticism. He said it reminds him of his first run for the Senate in Tennessee in 1994.

"It's kind of funny because the same things I hear about myself today, I heard about then," he told a room of more than 150 people. "Does he want it

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bad enough? Is he ambitious enough? Did he get in soon enough? All those things that didn't, to me, have anything to do with the future of our country, seemed to consume the attention of the chattering classes a whole lot."

In the end, he tells the crowd, his campaign went from 20 points down to a 20-point win. And in a state that Bill Clinton carried.

"I think I know a little something about winning elections," Thompson said.

With little time left before the Jan. 3 caucuses, Thompson trails in most polls, lagging behind Mike Huckabee, Mitt Romney and, often, Rudy Giuliani.

He's trying to change, though. Thompson's cranked up a bus tour, heavy with stops at local newspapers and town squares. And in perhaps the biggest boost to his Iowa campaign thus far, he won U.S. Rep. Steve King's endorsement.

The conservative Republican from western Iowa is a favorite of the right.

"There is only one candidate who epitomized the full spectrum of our conservative values," King said. He said Thompson was the best candidate when it came to appointments to the Supreme Court, something he called a "destiny issue."

Thompson's entry into the presidential race was much anticipated.

There was speculation he would consolidate conservatives unhappy with the records or prospects of the rest of the field.

It hasn't worked out that way, but what Thompson has done along the way is win plaudits for substantive policy proposals on immigration, taxes and Social Security.

On Social Security, for example, he's said the government needs to change the way it pays out future benefits, tying it to the consumer price index. What that will do is lower the rate of increase, something some economists believe is essential to the retirement program's long-term future.

He's also proposed allowing people to create private accounts.

"There's no reason to run for president of the United States if you can't tell the American people the truth about complex issues like Social Security," Thompson said while rolling out the plan last month.

He's also proposed cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 27 percent and ending the alternative minimum tax, which was initially instituted to catch rich people who avoided paying taxes but now is threatening to ensnare more middle-class taxpayers.

There have been proposals to fix the tax so it goes back to its original intent, but some conservatives want to get rid of it.

Bill Edmonds, a Davenport man who left a job as a car salesman in Wyoming two years ago to be closer to his grandchildren, said Thompson is the "true conservative" in the race.

He said people who just see Thompson as laid back, miss his strength.

"I come from the state of Wyoming. We're kind of the same way. We're pretty laid back. We don't get real excited about things until somebody excites us. Fred is going to be there," said Edmonds, who is a volunteer leader in the Quad-City area.

Thompson is perhaps best known today for the roles he's played in movies like the "Hunt for Red October" and on television's "Law & Order" where he plays prosecutor Arthur Branch.

Thompson gained initial fame as legal counsel for Republicans during the Watergate hearings. And his career got a big boost in the late 1970s when he represented a woman fired from Tennessee's parole board for failing to help the politically connected.

The case became a movie, in which Thompson starred.

Thompson got to the Senate by winning a special election in 1994, then a full, six-year term in 1996.

He focused on stopping nuclear proliferation and, in 1997, led a Senate investigation into the Clinton White House's fundraising.

Thompson faces long odds in Iowa, though he's performed better in most national polls. Here, he appears to be targeting Mike Huckabee, criticizing his record as governor of Arkansas and frowning on his foreign policy credentials.

Thompson may blame the attention to his demeanor on the "chattering classes," but interviews with Iowans say they, too, are paying attention to how all this is translating in national polls.

"If I don't see national support for Thompson, then I'm going to support the candidate who's the best conservative," George Templer, a conservative activist from Davenport, said earlier this month.

MISC./OF NOTE

Times Democratic caucus endorsement: Hillary Clinton passes the test, QC Times, 12-23
By The Quad-City Times

Hillary Clinton passes test after test after test. This Clinton arrived for the caucus campaign with much, much more experience than the first Clinton to stump across Iowa. In campaign speeches and in an interview with the Times Editorial Board, she spoke passionately of people — specific, real people — whose stories drive her desire to solve problems. “I was brought up to believe we were the problem solvers,” she told the editorial board. “If it was hard, that meant America would do it.”

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This Clinton hasn't shied away from problems.

As first lady, she stepped far beyond the traditional role and took on a major policy issue: health care. Washington special interests villified her for trying, branding any reform "socialized medicine" and even giving it her name: "Hillarycare."

Regardless, she persevered, becoming an advocate for children worldwide and pioneering the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which has survived Republican and Democrat Congresses.

She passed perhaps the toughest personal test. Many Americans stand up for the sanctity of marriage. Hillary Clinton did something much harder. She very publicly stood up for her own marriage.

She passed the New York voters' tests. Twice. Rudy Giuliani backed away from challenging her to address his own health and marital problems. She went on to win and six years later won again by an even larger margin.

In the Senate, she's worked across party lines to pass test after test and earn this testimonial: "This blue-state senator with a blue-state perspective has managed to build unusual political alliances on a variety of issues with Republicans." That commendation was written for Time magazine by U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who led the impeachment prosecution against her husband.

We tested her, too, in our editorial board interview, looking for evidence of the partisan rancor that is destroying our country. We found none. Instead, we found a proven, passionate, intelligent leader with a breadth of legislative and executive experience that is the best of a good bunch.

For Iowa's Democratic caucuses, we support Hillary Clinton.

Read about and listen to excerpts of Sen. Clinton's meeting with the Times Editorial Board.

Democrat candidate notes

Barack Obama

The Obama phenomenon electrifies this caucus campaign and inspires thousands of young people to invest their time and hope in politics. Our conclusion after tough, tough discussions: Not yet.

Joe Biden

The Delaware senator stayed on our short list through the entire process. More than any other legislator, Biden exhudes an aura of a statesman.

John Edwards

The candidate who seemed to invest most in the Iowa caucus process won our heart, but not quite the endorsement. He's ready for a fight in Washington. We'd prefer a less combative approach.

Chris Dodd

Intellect, congressional experience and a rich family tradition of public service encouraged our serious consideration of Dodd. In the end, we believe Dodd is too valuable in the Senate to risk a long-shot presidential run.

Bill Richardson

Richardson's colloquial, candid and clear speech is different from every other candidate and builds instant rapport. His deep experience, however, still falls short of our favored candidate.

II. CLIPS

HRC

Hillary is 'polarizing' only because of what rivals say, Bill Clinton says, Des Moines Register, 12-22
By JENNIFER JACOBS

Republicans may hammer Hillary Clinton for being polarizing, but its simply a strategy to block independent voters from supporting her, former president Bill Clinton said today.

You become polarizing not because of what you do (but) because of what people say about you. Thats all thats going on here. She can win this race.

He continued: I believe, I would draw on todays facts: all of our people could probably win.

On the campaign trail in West Des Moines and Boone today, the former president tossed out words that his wifes campaign staffers dont like to even speak: cold, calculating, polarizing.

But he used them lightly, using humor to try to convince Iowans that his wife is the opposite.

Now when people say how calculating she is and how she had a decades-long strategy to be president, he told an audience in Boone, I thought, If thats true then she ought to get 100 percent of the votes. Because shes the only person in history to ever figure it out, that the best way to become the first woman president is .. not to run for office, but to go to small town in the Arkansas Ozarks, in a state that had never produced a

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president, and marry a guy who had lost his only election for public office, who was making $26,000 a year and was $42,000 in debt.

If she was smart enough to figure that out, he said, she deserves to be president.

On a holiday weekend with a looming winter storm, Bill Clinton drew about 460 people in Boone, and about 600 people in the Republican stronghold of West Des Moines, who cheered for so long when he strolled on stage that the former president had to wave them to sit down.

I must say youre like an early Christmas present for me theres so many here and youre in such good humor and its so early in the morning, he told the audience.

Rival Democrat Barack Obamas campaign staff, after reading news reports about Bill Clintons glowing recommendation of his wife he used the word positive multiple times when describing her sent out a statement about outside groups slamming Obama on Hillary Clintons behalf.

Obama spokesman Tommy Vietor said the campaigns for both Hillary Clinton and Democrat John Edwards are having millions of dollars spent on their behalf by powerful Washington insiders.

Three outside groups have spent over $2 million on Clintons campaign - $730,000 by the American Federation of Teachers, $486,000 by the women-friendly political action committee EMILYs List, and $907,000 by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, he said. Some of that has been for positive advertising.

But the pro-Clinton AFSCME forked over $34,000 to send negative mail pieces explicitly against Obama, Vietor said. The mailer said Obamas health care plan would leave 15 million Americans without health insurance, and quoted Edwards criticizing Obama.

This deceptive health care attack is exactly the kind of politics Iowans are tired of, Vietor said. Barack Obama is running to change this politics and has a plan to provide affordable health care to every single American.

Clinton campaign spokesman Mo Elleithee responded: Just this week, Barack Obama sent out a misleading and negative mail piece in New Hampshire attacking Senator Clintons character. The truth is, Senator Clinton has a health care plan that covers every American, while experts say the Obama plan would leave 15 million uncovered. His attack mail cant change that fact.

Meanwhile, it is not surprising in the slightest that Bill Clinton is gushing about his wife, but die-hard Hillary Clinton fans and some undecided voters in the room leaned in to hear his strategy of persuasion.

He said grizzly old Republicans in Upstate New York voted for Hillary Clinton in the U.S. Senate race, saying she was the only person whos ever done anything for them.

He said: One area that Hillarys more conservative in than the Republicans is the budget ... and shes got a good economic plan.

He clicked through other points in his wifes stump speech, saying she has a good vision to rebuild the middle class, reclaim the future for children, and restore Americas standing in the world.

After going into detail about one of the topics hes most passionate about - clean energy - Bill Clinton said his wifes plans for health care, job creation, education and also have that level of meat on it.

Everything she proposes to do is fully paid for, he said.

At the end of his talk, Bill Clinton said he hoped Iowans would sign a card pledging to caucus for his wife, otherwise this becomes a highly academic discussion.

Obama supporter Marie James, 54, was in the cafeteria at Valley Southwoods freshman high school in West Des Moines, sitting right below a red-white-and-blue Ready for change! Ready to lead! banner.

Her husband, Leo James, 65, a serious Hillary Clinton fan, convinced her to come. Hes trying to convert me, Marie James said. Weve been together 30 years and weve never, ever been split like we are on this.

The first time Marie James saw Obama, at her church, I was like, Oh, my God, she said. But then her husband told her he thinks the reason Bill Clinton was a successful president was because of Hillary Clinton.

So Im open, said Marie James, who lives in West Des Moines. And so is he.

Leo James intended to go to his first Obama event today.

Afterward, Marie James, who had never been to a Clinton rally before, said: I was very impressed, especially the way he talked about the universal heath care and Hillarys support of the middle class. But Im still on the fence. But Im going to be pursuing more about Hillary. I definitely could be persuaded, I can say that.

West Des Moines is Republican territory by a good margin, said Michael Mauro, the state official who oversees Iowas election system, and who endorsed Hillary Clinton Friday night.

Later in Boone, although his mission was to talk about his wife, Bill Clinton couldnt resist sharing some anecdotes about himself, although he was careful to say she believes or we believe instead of I believe, as he has said on the campaign trail in the past.

Chuckling at the name of the Boone venue, an old grocery store thats being converted into a restaurant called the Gigglin Goat, Bill Clinton told the crowd that when he was six years old he was nearly killed by a ram, and still has the scars on his head.

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It gave me a very high pain threshhold, he said. It was probably the best preparation I ever had for becoming president.

Hillary Clinton may not always inspire the rock-star-shrill screams her husband was greeted with by some Iowans today, but her campaign was quick to point out that when she appeared at the same Boone venue in October, the fire marshal had to shut people out of the overcrowded room. The campaign pumped audio into the street so about 200 people could listen.

I could keep you here till tomorrow morning, Bill Clinton told the Boone audience before leaving without taking questions. I left out a bunch of stuff.

Bill Clinton stresses Hillary's 'vision' in Des Moines speech, CR Gazette, 12-23

By Rod Boshart
The Gazette

WEST DES MOINES – New York Sen. Hillary Clinton will make a great president because she has an ability to tackle a challenge and leave it in better shape than she found it – a talent sorely needed in the White House right now, according to the man who knows her best.

Former President Bill Clinton brought his sales pitch for his wife's 2008 Democratic presidential bid to about 300 potential caucus goers at a suburban school Saturday, calling her a "world class" agent for change who offers the best vision for America.

"America needs a president with the right vision, the right plans and the capacity to change other people's lives for the better. On all three of those counts, I think she is your best choice and I hope that you will caucus for her," the former president said. "She's a good person, will be a great president, she can't get there without you." Clinton said his wife has the credentials needed to win in a general election, and brings a solid agenda to rebuild the nation's middle class, restore America's standing in the world and reclaim the future for America's children.

"It's true that she has higher negatives because they (critics and Republicans) have been beating up on her for 15 years," he told the crowded school forum. "I think she is the most electable because national security experience will be far more important in the general election than it is now and because she is not fresh fodder for them." Clinton touted his wife's universal health care plan and said he was not bothered by his administration's failed effort in 1993 that she led, noting a number of significant reforms and improvements for children and others came out of that process.

"If you're not willing to fail, you'll never try to do anything, and it's better to fail struggling in the right direction then succeed in taking the nation in the wrong direction," he said.

Jerry Crawford, the Clinton campaign's Midwest coordinator, called the former president the campaign's "secret weapon down the stretch," saying his Iowa speeches are greeted with a lot of nodding heads that translate into late-deciding caucus supporters.

Along with organization, weather on the evening of Jan. 3 will play a "big, big role" in the Iowa caucus outcome, Crawford predicted.

"I can tell you from Hillary Clinton's perspective, we're hoping for a nice night," he said.

Clinton: We Don't Vote for Advisers, AP/Quad City Times, 12-23

By PHILIP ELLIOTT
MILFORD, N.H. - Hillary Rodham Clinton said Saturday that even if rival Barack Obama's claim that he has more support from her husband's administration was true, the statement was "silly" because voters look at qualifications, not a candidate's brain trust.

"This is not a campaign between lists of advisers," Clinton told reporters in a packed diner. "This is a campaign between real people with experience and qualifications to become president on day one."

In Iowa on Friday, Obama suggested he had the support of more Clinton administration figures than the former first lady. Lists provided by both campaigns quickly showed hers is almost twice as large.

"Why is the national security adviser of Bill Clinton, the secretary of the Navy of Bill Clinton, the assistant secretary of state for Bill Clinton, why are all these people endorsing me?" Obama said. "They apparently believe that my vision of foreign policy is better suited for the 21st century."

Clinton rejected the comment's premise.

"Honestly, it's a silly question. We have hundreds of people's support, not just people who were in my husband's administration, but people from all over the country who have expertise."

She added: "It's important to pick the person who can make the best decision, who is tested and proven as a leader."

Obama's campaign disputed Clinton's proclaimed independence, again citing her support of a 2002 Senate resolution authorizing the use of U.S. force against Iraq.

"If Senator Clinton wants to make this election about who's made the best decisions on foreign policy, that's a comparison we're happy to make since Barack Obama is the only major candidate who opposed the war in Iraq and refused to give George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran," Obama spokesman Reid Cherlin said.

Clinton said Obama's opposition to the war in Iraq came while he was a member of the Illinois state Senate.

"He wasn't in the Congress at the time," Clinton told reporters.

Clinton Makes Closing Argument to Women, AP/Quad City Times, 12-23
By PHILIP ELLIOT

MANCHESTER, N.H. - Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton on Saturday made her closing argument to female voters in a message that could be reduced to three words.

You. Go. Girl.

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Clinton, standing in a lobby of a YWCA, told undecided mothers and their daughters that her agenda for families and children is the most aggressive to help them. She touted her family care and child care tax credits designed to lessen the burden on working women.

"We can do a better job in supporting families than we do right now," Clinton said. "We give a lot of lip service to family values, but we've never really valued families in a way that we can."

Clinton, on the last of a two-day trip to this early voting state, tailored her message and appearances to female voters with whom she enjoys a sizable lead in the contest for the Democratic presidential nomination. She bests rival Barack Obama, 42 percent to 25 percent among women in the latest CNN-WMUR poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire. She leads overall in that poll, 38 percent to 26 percent.

A separate New Hampshire poll, released Friday from USA Today and Gallup, showed Clinton and Obama tied at 32 percent each of Democrats overall. Her outreach to women underscores the tightness of the race in this first-in-the-nation presidential primary state and the support she is trying to cement in case she falters in Iowa's three-way race.

Iowa's presidential caucuses are Jan. 3, followed by New Hampshire's primary on Jan. 8.

One voter, a self-described feminist, asked Clinton later in Keene if she thought it was acceptable to support her based solely on her gender.

"Of course I do," Clinton said with laughter. "I'm not asking you to vote for me because I'm a woman. ... But the fact that I am a woman gives this election extra significance."

With daughter Chelsea and mother Dorothy Rodham in tow, Clinton's four-event schedule highlighted what could be a history-making nomination. As her campaign released a list of 3,500 female supporters, she said there are too many challenges facing working mothers.

"We put so many burdens on families trying to do the right thing, trying to take care of their families," Clinton said.

She cited her time as a young mother in Little Rock, Ark.

"When I was a young lawyer and also a mom, I learned how difficult it was for a lot of the other women who worked in the law firm _ the secretaries, the paralegals. At 3 o'clock every day, they'd all be on the phone, whispering to make sure their children were there safely. ... It was just such a time of tension and concern to make sure they got home."

Clinton highlighted her proposals to help working women with young children or who _ like Clinton _ take care of their parents.

"She's going to hit the ground running," said Barbara Marzelli, a mother whose son benefited from a children's health program Clinton supported. "She has the experience, the strength and the commitment _ and above all, a heart _ to lead the country."

Throughout the day, Clinton's supporters invoked history.

"It's been 220 years and we do not have a woman as a leader of this country," state Sen. Molly Kelly said during a mostly women's meeting in Keene. "My mother passed away this past year. She was 80. I think about that. Only seven years before she was born did women have the right to vote and we take that for granted."

The history wasn't avoided by Clinton.

"As the first mom who would ever be president, I want to set an example that, you know, being a mom and being a daughter and taking care of your family is one of the most important obligations any of us have. You shouldn't have these really false choices presented to people: We can either be good workers or you can be a parent. You can be both," Clinton said in Keene.

Clinton also turned back to her book, "It Takes a Village." She said families have to work together to strengthen their relationships.

"It sounds incredibly old-fashioned, but having a meal together really makes a difference. It stabilizes your children during the day. It gives them a chance to interact with the family," she said. "That kind of investment is every parent would like to be able to do, but so many parents can't."

Clinton appearance set for Sunday night, Dubuque Telegraph Herald, 12-22

Former first lady and New York Sen. Hillary Clinton is scheduled to be in Dubuque Sunday night, according to her campaign.

The Democratic presidential candidate will take part in the "Holidays with Hillary" event at 7:30 p.m. at the Grand River Center.

It is likely that her Dubuque event will be Clinton's last before she

and other candidates take a two-day Christmas break.

Fog makes Bill Clinton a no-show, Burlington Hawk Eye, 12-22
Former president phones it in to talk to enthusiastic crowd.
By JEFF ABELL
jabell@thehawkeye.com

COLUMBUS JUNCTION -- Bill Clinton knows how to fire up a crowd, even when he isn't able to do so in person.

The former president had planned to appear Friday afternoon at the Columbus Junction Community Schools campus to campaign for his wife, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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As the high school choir readied, students and adults packed the gymnasium to listen to the two-term president. Then, the announcement was made that Clinton was unable to attend the event due to dense fog that forced his plane to land in Des Moines.

Some in the crowd left disappointed by the news. The majority, however, waited for Clinton to speak via telephone, which was piped through loud speakers.

Clinton was greeted by thunderous applause as he thanked the crowd for showing up to support his wife's presidential bid. Clinton spoke for about 10 minutes and made his pitch to convince caucusgoers to turn out Jan. 3 for Hillary.

Recent state polls show the two-term senator from New York is in a statistical dead heat with Illinois Sen. Barack Obama and former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina.

Clinton touted his wife as the most experienced candidate and said she would provide bold leadership in a changing world.

"If you will nominate her, I believe she will be elected handily based on everything I know about politics," he said. "This is a big decision that you will have to make. She is ready to make a difference in this country."

Speaking on health care, Clinton defended his wife's unsuccessful attempt in the 1990s to provide universal coverage. If elected, he said, she would reach across the aisle to ensure health care reform is passed.

Under her plan, insurance companies would be required to provide affordable coverage for everyone regardless of a pre-existing condition.

"We had to go back to the drawing board," he said. "If you like the coverage you have, you can keep it. This plan would provide coverage to all Americans."

Former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack and Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who were standing in for Clinton, both said the senator was the most electable candidate in the Democratic field.

Vilsack recounted how Hillary Clinton's support in his 1998 bid for governor helped to turn around his campaign. Like she did in that campaign, he said, Iowans have a chance to make a significant impact this election.

"This time you have a chance to make history," he said.

Kulongoski discussed the candidate's promise to take care of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. He charged President George Bush has turned a blind eye to the health care 'concerns of veterans.

"Hillary Clinton has spoken more on behalf of veterans than any other candidate," he said. "We have to once again invest in these young soldiers, these young men and women who give their lives, give their time and their careers to protect you and me."

A day earlier, Hillary Clinton pressed her case to The Hawk Eye editorial board. She met with the board to seek the newspaper's endorsement.

Clinton dismissed statements made by her rivals that she is a Washington insider. Clinton said her record over the past 35 years is that of an agent for change.

"It's about being able to actually produce results. We don't need more false hopes after the disastrous years of the Bush administration. We actually need to get our country back on the right track."

An hour later at the Port of Burlington, Clinton said Bush administration's foreign policy has damaged the image of America abroad. The country is looking for change tempered by experience, she added.

Her husband agreed.

"Hillary is ready to lead ... I know if you elect her she will be an amazing president," he said.

Political understudies stand in for absent political star: Former Iowa governor and Oregon governor fill in for President Clinton in Columbus Junction, Muscatine Journal, 12-21
By Jennifer Meyer of the Muscatine Journal

COLUMBUS JUNCTION, Iowa — Louisa County residents came to see a president Friday, but got two governors instead.

Former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack and Gov. Ted Kulongoski of Oregon filled in for President Bill Clinton in Columbus Junction to campaign for Clinton's wife, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Clinton.

"I thought it would really be something to see a president in a small town like this," said Jim Ingersoll of Fredonia. "It probably never, ever happened before. You don't usually even get a governor here."
Fog delayed the president's flight from landing Friday in Des Moines until shortly before his 1:15 p.m. appearance in the community of about 1,900.

"They wouldn't let my plane land anywhere within the borders of Iowa almost," President Clinton said in a telephone call from Des Moines. The call was broadcast on the speaker system in the Columbus Junction High School gymnasium, where students and about 60 others gathered.

President Clinton was scheduled to visit Louisa County last week, but cancelled an appearance in Wapello on Dec. 11 due to an ice storm in the area.

He delivered an approximately 15-minute speech Friday focused on Sen. Clinton's plans for affordable health care.

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"Our first job is to try to insure all Americans. The second thing is ... delivering care in a more efficient and more effective way," President Clinton said.

He asked Iowans to caucus for Hillary Clinton on Jan. 3.

"It all starts in Iowa with your responsibility to caucus," he said. "I hope you will caucus for her."

Jane Wolford said she's leaning toward supporting Sen. Clinton at the caucuses, but attended the campaign event because, "Who would miss the opportunity to come two blocks to see a former president?"

High school student Earl Martin, 17, "really looking forward" to seeing Clinton.

Classmate Aaron Allen, 18, said, "I don't really agree with them, but how often do you see a former president?"

Allen said he plans to caucus for caucus for either Republicans Mitt Romney or Rudy Giuliani, both Republicans.

Reporter contact information

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Vilsack said Iowans can make history by backing Clinton, AP: Muscatine Journal, 12-22
By DAVID PITT
COLUMBUS JUNCTION, Iowa - Former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack on Friday told a high school gymnasium full of students and local townspeople that January's caucus was about making history.

Asking caucusgoers and the students in this town of 1,900 people to support Hillary Rodham Clinton, he noted the opportunity to elect the nation's first female president.

"This is an opportunity to make a difference," he said. "This time you get to make history by supporting Sen. Clinton."
Vilsack and Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski were standing in for former President Bill Clinton, who was prevented from attending the event for his wife by a dense fog that prevented his plane from landing.

Bill Clinton was later able to land about 150 miles away in Des Moines, and he spoke by telephone, which was piped through speakers into the room.

He spoke for about 10 minutes, mostly about his wife's health care plan, which he said is broad and has support from "every sector of the economy."

"If you will nominate her, I believe she will be elected handily based on everything I know about politics," he said. "It all starts in Iowa with your responsibility to caucus and I hope you will caucus for her."

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski discussed health care and Clinton's promise to take care of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We have to once again invest in these young soldiers, these young men and women who give their lives, give their time and their careers to protect you and me," he said. "They're entitled to health care and a job when they get back. We have to give them that opportunity."

Blog Post: **Union members plan to disavow themselves from Obama/Edwards attack ad**, Des Moines Register, 12-22

Iowa members of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees union will formally disavow themselves from a flyer some believe is misleading.

The flyer is paid for by AFSCMEs People Committee, a union that has endorsed Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

The flyer says that Barack Obama's "health care plan is not up to the job" and quotes John Edwards, a North Carolina senator, saying it would leave 15 million people uninsured.

Edwards has made such statements as has Clinton.

Edwards staff notes that the flyer does not mention Clinton and, because it uses the Edwards quote, makes it appear as if his staff has gone negative, said Jennifer O'Malley Dillon, the Iowa state director for Edwards' campaign.

A spokesman for Clinton's campaign declined to comment, noting that it was not their mailer.

Today, Iowa AFSCME members Phyllis Thede – a former local president – and Angie Barnes will join Henry Bayer, Executive Director of AFSCME Council 31 on a press conference call at 12:30 p.m.

The Iowa AFSCME members will disavow the paid media campaign being launched by the group's Washington, DC leadership, according to a press release sent by Obama's campaign staff.

Blog Post: **Bill Clinton Woos Iowa Undecideds,** Iowa Politics, 12-22
By Chris Dorsey

WEST DES MOINES -- Bill Clinton sold at least one caucus-goer Saturday as campaigns around the state spent the long holiday weekend shopping for undecided Iowans.

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The former president's pitch focused on his wife's "can do" spirit, especially in the fight for a better health care system. Clinton said he's sick of hearing excuses.

Rachel Rowley must have liked what she heard. She's spent several months trying to determine who to caucus for on Jan. 3. She has been torn between two Democratic senators, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. After listening to the former president speak at Valley Southland High School, the Des Moines woman is sold on Hillary Clinton.

The former president has spent significant time in time since November campaigning nearly every week on behalf of his wife, whom he calls the non-incumbent he has ever had the opportunity for vote for in a presidential election.

Though Rowley is a avid admirer of President Clinton, she said she is also impressed with Sen. Clinton, especially after reading her book, "It Takes A Village."

"Coming here reinforced what I was thinking," Rowley said.

The country faces many challenges and obstacles in the next several years, and to marshal that change requires someone with a plan, President Clinton said. He touted his wife's health care, energy and education plans.

"She always leaves things better than she found it," the president said. "You need that as a president. You elected her president, she will do a magnificent job."

Clinton also touted a mindset Hillary boasts -- a can-do spirit -- to make change a reality. He cited health insurance as an example. Sen. Clinton was criticized in 1993 trying to get universal health care passed when she was first lady. But, she never gave up, and that fighting for Americans is vital to the direction the country must go, the president said.

"People still want to come here. You know why, because we are a can-do country, except in health care where we say, 'I"m sorry we're a can't do country,'" Clinton said. "We can' figure out how to insure everybody. Every other rich country has, but we can't do it. The insurance countries won't let us, the drug companies won't let us. It's pitiful; I'm tired of hearing it. Aren't you?"

The president is slated to campaign for Sen. Clinton this afternoon in Boone. Before ending his appearance in West Des Moines, he urged the crowd in excess of 200 to caucus for Clinton on Jan. 3.

"She is a good person and she would make a good president," the former president said

BIDEN

Biden hopes late "Mo-Joe" pushes him to 4th, maybe higher in Iowa, AP: Muscatine Journal, 12-22
By BETH FOUHY

DES MOINES, Iowa - Joe Biden's aides call it "Mo-Joe" _ a last-minute surge of momentum and good luck they hope could power the Delaware senator into a better-than-expected showing in Iowa's leadoff caucuses.

"There's a fingertip instinct that tells me something is going on. I feel like I'm still in the game," Biden said in a telephone interview as he traveled to a campaign event in Cedar Rapids.

Aides acknowledge it remains an uphill trudge for Biden, a Democrat whose distinguished 35-year Senate career has been eclipsed by the star power of rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama.

But with all eyes on those two candidates and former Sen. John Edwards as they compete for the lead in Iowa, Biden is on a high-energy sprint across the state hoping to catch on with enough voters to make a difference.

He draws enthusiastic crowds to his events and last week began his first sustained TV ad campaign. He was approved for $857,000 in matching funds this week by the Federal Election Commission, helping to ease the financial pressure on his cash-strapped campaign.

Operatives for rival candidates say privately they've detected substantial pockets of support for Biden in some rural areas and in the ethnic, heavily Catholic industrial towns along the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa. Complicated caucus rules mean those pockets could produce enough delegates for Biden to have an impact.

With polls showing Bill Richardson's support appearing to fade and Chris Dodd still struggling to catch on, Biden's advisers are hoping for a strong fourth-place finish and say they can even envision coming in third. Their outside hope is for Biden somehow to overtake Edwards, who draws much of his support from the same blue-collar and rural voters Biden is trying to woo.

While it sounds like a long-shot scenario _ Edwards has a strong organization in Iowa that he began building in his 2004 presidential effort _ the Biden team suggests Edwards could stall before caucus night as voters consider which candidate is best prepared to deal with national security issues such as Iran and Iraq.

"Authenticity and electability matter," Biden Communications Director Larry Rasky said.

However, Edwards' spokeswoman, Colleen Murray, said the former North Carolina senator has strong momentum in the state and is the most electable Democrat in the general election.

"As Iowans are making up their minds, they know that John Edwards can beat the Republicans," she said.

Should Biden get any sort of bounce out of Iowa, his team believes he would fare well in other early voting states such as Nevada, where he

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would benefit from long ties to organized labor, and South Carolina, where he has the support of several black legislators and community leaders.

It's been a bumpy road for Biden, who spent much of the early part of his campaign explaining why he had called Obama "clean" and "articulate" in a newspaper interview and has often had to fight for air time in nationally televised debates. Still, the debates have generally served him well, allowing him to show off his sense of humor and expertise on national security issues.

He's also thrown a few memorable zingers, like saying the only words Republican Rudy Giuliani uses in a sentence are "A noun, and a verb and 9/11."

Biden said that no matter what happens Jan. 3, he's glad he undertook the adventure.

"I feel more passionately about issues now than when I entered politics," he said. "I'm going out, saying what I believe, laying out what I think should be done, and the response is good. There are an awful lot of people coming to take a look."

Biden says election is about security, Carroll Times Herald, 12-21
By DOUGLAS BURNS
Staff Writer

Saying that western Iowa may hold the key to the Democratic side of the Iowa caucuses, U.S. Sen. Joe Biden Wednesday put in kitchen-table, one-on-one campaign time with Carroll-area residents.

A veteran senator from Delaware, and one of the more powerful figures in Washington, Biden spent 90 minutes in Carroll meeting with about 75 people at the Moose Lodge. The senator listened to concerns about veterans' benefits, teacher salaries and even provided a position-paper-length answer on why he thinks meat-packing operations shouldn't be able to own livestock - all in a style that ranged from intimate to theatrical.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in a late sprint of Iowa caucuses campaigning, stressed his credentials on national security and international relations.

"The next president has the single greatest opportunity any president has had since President Franklin Roosevelt to literally reshape the world," Biden said.

Biden said he is frustrated that many candidates aren't focusing on Iraq.

"I think this election at the end of the day is going to be about security," Biden said.

For his part, Biden was successful recently in getting a plan passed in the Senate 75-23 that, according to the Baltimore Sun, requires the United States to work to support the division of Iraq into three semi-autonomous regions, each governed locally by its dominant ethnic and religious factions, the Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds.

The regions would have dominion over police protection, jobs, utilities and other municipal functions, supported by a weaker federal government in Baghdad. All three regions would share in the country's oil revenues, The Sun reported.

"There will be no peace until there is a political settlement," Biden said.

Biden said world leaders are coming around to his viewpoint on Iraq - a war, he says, that will cost the United States between $125 billion and $150 billion.

A strong advocate for better protective gear and equipment for American fighting men and women, Biden said it is an outrage that troops don't have the best available armor in theater and the most sophisticated medical care when they return stateside.

"It's a matter of our honor," Biden said. "Our military has done everything we've asked them."

LTE: **Biden has necessary foreign policy experience**, CR Gazette, 12-23

Washington pundits and some Democratic candidates mention that Sen. Joe Biden would make an excellent secretary of state. During his 33 years of service on the Foreign Relations Committee, Biden has become one of the country's foremost foreign affairs experts.

Nobody seriously suggests Hillary Clinton, John Edwards or Barack Obama are qualified to be secretary of state. Given the state of the world, supporting a candidate for president who lacks the qualifications to be secretary of state carries inherent risk.

Comparing the two Bush presidencies illustrates the inherent danger in electing a president lacking expertise in foreign affairs. The elder Bush was experienced in foreign affairs and wasn't forced to rely heavily of the judgment of advisers. As a result, in 1991, he wisely ignored pressure from members of his administration advocating a march into Baghdad to overthrow Saddam Hussein. The second President Bush lacked his father's foreign affairs expertise, and his misplaced reliance on the advisers has proved disastrous.

I support Biden for president not only because his record of domestic accomplishments far exceeds that of all other candidates, but more importantly, given the state of the world today, we need a president who knows as least as much about foreign affairs as the next secretary of state.

Ray Havlik Atkins

Blog Post: **Biden Asks Caucus-goers To Focus on Credentials,** Iowa Politics, 12-23
By Matt Clark

DAVENPORT -- Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Joe Biden asked potential caucus-goers Saturday to remember his "unparalleled credentials" when deciding which candidate to support on Jan. 3.

"Americans are neither liberal, nor conservative – they're pragmatic," he said.

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Biden touted his record of achieving results as a key reason voters should be interested in the thought of a Biden presidency. In outlining his health care plan, which would focus on preventative treatment of chronic diseases, Biden compared himself and his plan to the proposals put forth by his Democratic challengers. Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and John Edwards are “good people with decent plans,” Biden said, adding his plan was the best because it is the clearest and easiest to understand for Americans.

“I have a history of taking complicated issues and articulating them to the public in a way that can be understood,’ Biden said.

The Delaware senator is hoping his talent for making the often-dense intricacies of public policy clear to caucus-goers will result in support for his candidacy. With just two weeks left until the Iowa caucuses, Biden remains optimistic that if voters hear what he has to say they will make him the Democratic nominee, to the surprise of pollers who consistently put Biden in the second-tier of candidates.

“When we win this election, it will have started here on the Mississippi River, in the Quad Cities,” he said. “With your help, we’re going to shock the devil out of them.”

Anita Ohren of Davenport said she will be caucusing for Biden because of his Iraq exit strategy.

“His experience with world leaders and his knowledge of the warring factions within nations is amazing,” Ohren said. “Americans are being robbed by the flawed foreign and domestic policies of the Bush administration, and Biden is the best guy to turn that around.”

Biden said his administration would “fundamentally change the way Republicans spend money.” He explained that ending the war in Iraq, rolling back tax cuts for wealthy Americans, and cutting funding for out-of-date and unnecessary weapons systems would free up $350 billion from the budget. Biden said his plans for public health care, education reform, and other spending initiatives would cost $170 billion at the most, leaving nearly $200 billion to put toward balancing the budget and reducing the deficit.

Acknowledging his goals were ambitious, Biden explained that while some have accused the Democrats of being timid, “that adjective has never been assigned to me.”

Another Quad Cities resident is sure Biden has what it takes to be the next president. Stephanie Callaway blamed the media for labeling Biden a long shot, saying his message is resounding with voters, but the press is not paying attention.

“Biden is right where John Kerry was in the 2004 race,” Callaway said. “He is set to win over undecided voters and come out strong in the early states. The media decided early on who they wanted, creating a buzz around certain candidates rather than following the progress of people like Joe Biden.”

The senator introduced those in attendance to his two sons who have been campaigning with him, and his niece who recently became part of his staff. He thanked his family for their support, likening the experience of campaigning in Iowa to the expression “if you build it, they will come” from the movie, “Field of Dreams.”

“Hold a caucus, and the Bidens show up,” he said.

Blog Post: Biden picks up two more legislator endorsements, Bleeding Heartland, 12-22
by: Chris Woods

Potential sleeper candidate Joe Biden picked up two more state legislator endorsements this morning. From a Biden for President campaign release:
"Today, Sen. Joe Biden received endorsements from two key Iowa elected officials. State Representatives Dennis Cohoon of Burlington and Eric Palmer of Oskaloosa become the 15th and 16th Iowa State legislators to endorse Sen. Biden.

"I am supporting Sen. Biden because he's the most prepared to be president from Day One," said Rep. Cohoon. "And as a high school special education teacher for thirty years, I know Sen. Biden can accomplish the education reforms we need to get kids in preschool earlier and give them the opportunity to go to college."

Rep. Palmer stressed Sen. Biden's experience in world affairs and his commitment to civil rights: "The Des Moines Register talked about knowledge and experience in their endorsement. To me Joe Biden exhibits real knowledge and experience in foreign affairs and his understanding of the constitution, both qualities not exhibited by this White House. As Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, I am particularly impressed with Sen. Biden's expertise in constitutional law, which will be critical to getting America back on track.""

Like the release says, that brings his endorsement total to 16. And trust me, that's a lot in the state legislator race and puts him just behind Clinton and Obama. That bodes well for Biden in terms of organization and contacts. State legislators have strong local connections that help them get elected in the first place. Their opinion matters if nothing more than to help Iowans pick a solid second choice.
Now, don't get me wrong, these endorsements aren't going to catapult Joe Biden into the top three. But they could help him a lot. If any of the three front-runners do poorly in terms of rural organizing or see troubles in viability, Joe Biden could see a boost. And with his Iraq policy and seriousness he still captures Iowans' attention to at least listen to him. The question is what kind of crowd will show up to the caucuses on January 3rd.

DODD

Dodd asks for ‘good look’ in Coralville, CR Gazette, 12-23
By Erika Binegar
The Gazette

CORALVILLE — Presidential hopeful Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., expressed confidence Iowa voters will choose the next Democratic Party nominee based on who they believe has the experience to bring about real change, rather than on celebrity endorsements.

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Iowans, he added, have the job of weeding the candidate pool.

"I've been impressed over the years here, that you've not been diverted by money, or glitter or celebrities," Dodd said, "that you've cut through all that." Dodd asked a crowd of about 40 in the Old Town Hall, 406 Second Ave., on Saturday to give him the chance to continue making his case. "In the next 11 days, I hope you'll give me a good look." He garnered applause from the crowd after joking his talk Saturday would be much shorter than his 11-hour speech on the Senate floor last Monday. "I'm not going to engage in a filibuster here," he said, referring to his effort last week to block a bill that would have shielded from lawsuits telecommunications companies that helped the government tap American communications after Sept. 11.

Dodd cited the proposed legislation as an example of how President Bush has sacrificed rights in the name of safety. "That is a dangerous, dangerous notion," Dodd said. "We are more secure because we fight and defend those rights." The senator was in town on a "12 Days of Results Tour," during which — as a play on the 12 Days of Christmas — he highlighted his record of results on a particular issue each day. On Saturday, it was democracy and the right to vote.

Dodd pointed to his work on the Help America Vote Act of 2002, which flooded additional resources into communities to improve voting procedures and authorized statewide registration and provisional ballots. The 26-year senator also drew on life experiences to prove he's most qualified for the job. "I didn't cram for this meeting here today," he said.

Instead, he talked of an upbringing that anchored his belief in the Constitution, his time in the military and Peace Corps, and his work passing landmark child care legislation and the Family and Medical Leave Act — proof he can reach across party lines to make a difference, he said.

"He understands how you have to compromise to make progress," John McNamara, 56, of Coralville said after the event. McNamara said he was impressed with Dodd's pas sion and knowledge, but added he's still unsure who he'll caucus for. "He's deserving of the White House, whether he gets there or not." Dodd, who is scheduled to remain in Iowa with his family through the holidays, said he posted a sign reading, "Dear Santa, we're in Iowa," outside his Connecticut home to put his daughter, Grace, 6, at ease. He has scheduled stops today in Clinton, Muscatine, Burlington and Fairfield. He'll finish his "12 days" tour Monday in Carroll.

Blog Post: **Dodd Hopes for Third or Fourth in Iowa, Contrasts on FISA,** Iowa Independent, 12-22
John Deeth

At a stop at Iowa City's Hamburg Inn, Chris Dodd told Iowa Independent that "third or fourth" would be a good showing in Iowa, but "first is best."

Dodd spent close to an hour at the politically famous diner, offering no speech but speaking with every one of about 50 every patrons, sometimes at length. Owner Dave Panther said Dodd was the sixth candidate to visit this cycle, joining fellow Democrats Joe Biden, John Edwards and Barack Obama, Republican John McCain and Green Cynthia McKinney. Three candidate's spouses -- Elizabeth Edwards, Jackie Dodd and former president Bill Clinton -- have also visited.

It was the second of Dodd's three Johnson County stops in 24 hours. Friday night, Dodd spoke at the Knights of Columbus Hall, where he won the endorsement of Iowa City Council member-elect Matt Hayek. "We need an adult in the room," Hayek said after the event. "Our next president won't have the luxury of getting up to speed internationally."

Dodd discussed his recent FISA filibuster with Iowa Independent at the Hamburg Inn.

Deeth: How's the FISA work that you did playing out on the campaign trail?

Dodd: I'm impressed how many people are aware of it, because the mainstream media wouldn't hardly cover it. People wonder whether or not blogs and the internet are having any value, and this story would have been buried away, forever maybe, and they might have gotten away with it. But we had 500,000 emails sent to members of Congress through our campaign office by the way, that was through our office and I respect that people did it. People expressing their concern about this had a lot of influence, I think, on people deciding they were going to pull this bill off the floor of the Senate. So it made a big difference, and people here this morning have certainly thanked me for making that trip back to Washington to be there to defeat that legislation.

Deeth. Some of the other Senators who are doing the same thing you're doing didn't go back.

Dodd: No, and they all went back for the farm bill, because that was good politics in Iowa. But the Constitution is what you swore to uphold when you are inaugurated or confirmed in the Senate, that's what you do when you take an oath of office. To me there's nothing more important, and this administration's had an assault on the Constitution for the last six years, and they continue to do it almost on a daily basis. If you can't come back and defend the constitution, I mean, this is a time when we need people to do that. If you let it pass and exonerate the phone companies who've vacuumed up people's phone messages, emails for five long years without a court order at the behest of the Bush administration, and they want to pretend it never happened, is just wrong. And that's why I stood up for 11 hours on the floor of the Senate and pushed back, and they finally pulled the bill out. That's going to come back in January, so we're not done with defeating that. It's a temporary victory, and I'm hoping next time I'll get some more members to come back to be a part of it. If you want to be President of the United States, you've got to lead, not just talk.

Deeth: You were saying last night at the Knights of Columbus that you were the best able to work across the aisle. So far this week I've heard Senator Obama and Senator Clinton also say exactly the same thing. What makes you more effective at working across the aisle than the other candidates who are claiming the same thing?

Dodd: Because I have. I mean, it's a simple record, it's one thing to say it, it's another to have done it. For 26 years, going back to the very first major legislation I was involved in, all the way up till just a week ago on Darfur. People say they are that way, I've actually done it. On the Family and Medical Leave, child care, all those I've done over the years really dozens and dozens, including fourteen pieces of legislation in the last two weeks that have become the law of the land as a result of my working with Dick Shelby, the Republican from Alabama, to get it done. So other people can say it, it's one thing to say it. But the question you want to ask is, where have you done this? What confidence do I have? Of course everyone wants to say that, but I think I'm the only one who's actually done it.

Deeth: You've been working really, really hard here in Iowa, literally staying in Iowa for a while, yet you're still lagging number-wise. What do you have to do to go on from Iowa?

Dodd: I think polls here don't mean as much as they do other places. It's a question of celebrity to some extent, and I think people are getting much more serious about this with ten or 11 days to go here before Jan. 3, and you need to have a good showing here. I don't know what that showing means, it depends where the others are.

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Deeth: What's good?

Dodd: Well, you know, third, fourth, first is best here... and I'm hoping Iowans will recognize that it's important of those of us who've had something to say... I've been the most outspoken on the Constitution, the most outspoken on the Iraq war. I bring military service, Peace Corps service, I'm a person who can actually, with proven results bring Democrats and Republicans together. If that's what people are interested in, I think I'm an ideal candidate for Iowans.

Also at the Hamburg Inn was Jim Larew, chief legal counsel to Governor Culver, dining with former state legislator Dave Osterberg of Mt. Vernon. Larew, a leading backer of John Edwards in 2004, was pleased with First Lady Mari Culver's Edwards endorsement, though he was careful to note that the governor himself is neutral. Larew said the governor has "released" his staff to follow their conscience and support the candidates of their choice, and though Larew is busy he hopes to help Edwards again in the remaining days.

Patricia McMichael of Iowa City was signing a Dodd pledge card at the Hamburg. "He's a statesman," she said," and we need that."

Blog Post: **Dodd: "Third, Fourth, First Is Best" in Iowa** , Iowa Independent, 12-22
by: John Deeth

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David Osterberg and Jim Larew with Dodd

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John Deeth :: Dodd: "Third, Fourth, First Is Best" in Iowa

Matt Hayek with Dodd Friday.
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EDWARDS

Edwards tells '527s' to stop ads, Des Moines Register, 12-22
By TONY LEYS

Lisbon, Ia. Presidential candidate John Edwards declared Saturday that the country should ban independent political groups that buy ads flattering or trashing candidates, and he said he wished that groups running ads favoring him would stop doing so.

After a rally here, the former North Carolina senator told reporters that by law, he can have no control or over such groups, known as 527s.

I cant talk to them at all, he said. When asked if he would say publicly that he wished the groups would stop running ads for him, Edwards changed the subject. But later, in Coralville, he said that he did wish the groups would drop the ads.

I would encourage all the 527s, not just this one, but all the 527s to stay out of it, he said. But I have no legal authority over that.

Edwards trails his two top Democratic competitors in fund-raising, and he often says that the campaign-finance system should be drastically changed to increase transparency and limit the role of corporations and lobbyists.

Rival candidate Barack Obama criticized Edwards earlier Saturday for benefiting from the 527 groups ads while saying the groups should be banned. Obama said in Oskaloosa that Edwards former campaign manager is working with one of the groups.

You cant just talk the talk, Obama said, according to a transcript provided by his campaign. The easiest thing in the world is to talk about change during election time.

One of the groups running pro-Edwards radio ads is associated with several locals of the Service Employees International Union.

As it happened, an SEIU leader was sitting in Edwards audience in Lisbon Saturday. Cathy Glasson is president of an SEIU local that covers most of Iowa and has endorsed Edwards.

Glasson, wearing one of her SEIUs trademark purple shirts, acknowledged that her union has a 527 group that has been running Iowa radio ads complimentary of
Edwards.

She said she understands the criticisms of such groups, including that their finances are not made public, and she has heard calls for them to be banned. I dont think thats necessarily wrong, she said.

But we have to live in the situation were in.

Edwards speculated that his surging strength in Iowa spurred Obamas criticism.

Edwards tells Lisbon he feels momentum again, CR Gazette, 12-23
By James Q. Lynch
The Gazette
LISBON – Four years ago, when he was polling in the single digits, John Edwards kept telling reporters that his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination was picking up momentum that would surprise people on caucus night.
Now in the thick of a threeway statistical dead heat at the front of the Democratic field less than two weeks from the Jan. 3, Edwards says he getting that feeling again.
“I believe it’s happening right now,” the former North Carolina senator said after speaking to about 300 people at Lisbon High School on Saturday afternoon. “I can see it in the energy and the enthusiasm at the events.” More than that, Edwards, who was the party’s vice presidential candidate in 2004, hears it from people who come up to him after his events.
“I can see it when people come to me after the events and say ‘I came here for Obama, I came here deciding between you and Obama — which is what I hear more often, and I’m for you. I’m committing right now,’” said Edwards, who consistently has trailed Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in polls.
“I had a bunch of people tell me that right up there in the middle of that event.” That didn’t surprise Nate Willems, an Edwards supporter from Lisbon, who predicted the former trial attorney would carry caucuses in the southeastern Linn County community. Other candidates might fare better in caucuses dominated by professional and white-collar voters, but Willems thinks Edwards’ promise to fight for working people against corporate greed will play well in blue-collar communities.
“His appeal isn’t personality-driven,” Willems said. “Edwards stands for what the Democratic party is supposed to stand for.” That was the thrust of Ed wards’ comments Saturday.
Focusing on “corporate greed controlling our democracy,” Edwards told his audience that people with the top 1 percent of incomes are taking in twice as much as they did a quarter of a century ago while 35 million Americans go hungry, 47 million are uninsured and 200,000 veterans are homeless. “Enough is enough,” Edwards said. “It’s time to tell the truth and the truth is corporate greed is stealing our children’s future.” He predicted that on Jan. 3, “right here in Iowa, you’re going to rise up and say enough is enough. You’re going to start a wave of change and

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American is going to be changed." His passionate rhetoric might be part of the reason Edwards is rising, Matt Glasson of Cedar Rapids said.
"It's a much different message than he had four years ago," said Glasson, a member of SEIU of Iowa, a union that has endorsed Edwards. "He has more passion than four years ago."

Edwards doesn't 'walk the walk,' Obama says, Omaha World Herald, 12-23

OSKALOOSA, Iowa (AP) — Opening his latest presidential campaign swing through Iowa, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama on Saturday singled out rival John Edwards for criticism, arguing that the former North Carolina senator doesn't have a track record to back up the sharply populist themes he sounds on the campaign trail.
"I've got a track record," Obama said. "I don't just talk the talk, I walk the walk. John does not have the same track record."
The Illinois senator and his aides also singled out a new television campaign they said is being launched on Edwards' behalf, accusing him of hypocrisy.
"John said yesterday, he didn't believe in these 527s," Obama said. "Those are these independent groups that raise money with no disclosure, nobody knows who is giving them. . . . We found out today there's a group buying three-quarters of a million dollars' worth of television, and the individual running the group used to be John Edwards' campaign manager."
Edwards said in response that he didn't know anything about the ad buy and has no say in it.
"The way the law operates is we're not allowed to be involved in this — the campaign's not allowed to be involved, I'm not allowed to be involved," Edwards said after a campaign stop Saturday in Lisbon, Iowa. "I found out about this probably after most of you did through the news media." At a stop in Coralville, Iowa, Edwards said, "I would prefer that all the 527s — not just this one — that all the 527s stay out of Iowa."
Candidates in both parties are benefiting and taking hits from advocacy groups that are only now making their presence known. Their ads often are more negative than those from the candidates.

Edwards: Industry won't solve health care crisis, Iowa City Press-Citizen, 12-23
Says he wouldn't set policy with drug companies
By Rachel Gallegos

CORALVILLE -- Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards said Saturday that sitting down at the table with health insurance and drug companies would not be his solution for America's health policies.

"Anybody who says to me I'm going to sit at a table with those people and determine America's health policy -- I say never. It's never going to happen," he said.

Edwards, who spent 20 years in courtrooms fighting against big corporations, said he would continue that mission as president.

"I've been in this fight my whole life, and I take every single bit of it very personally," he said to a standing room-only crowd of more than 350 -- including about 60 people who stood in a hallway throughout the campaign speech -- at the Holiday Inn in Coralville. "We have an enormous, epic fight in front of us."

"America doesn't belong to them. American belongs to us," Edwards said.

With Edwards at his campaign stop was James Lowe, a man Edwards said he met in the Appalachian mountains of Virginia, who was born with a cleft palate. Because of this condition, and having no health insurance to make the necessary surgery affordable, Lowe could not speak for five decades until a doctor fixed it voluntarily for him when he was 50 years old.

"James finally got his voice back. When will you get your voice back?" Edwards said.

Lowe said he believes that Edwards is the man who should be the next president.

"If we don't vote for him, we're messed up," Lowe said.

Before Edwards spoke, supporters started chants to excite the crowd, including "We love Elizabeth. We love John. We want to see them on the White House lawn."

Coralville City Councilor John Lundell said he and his wife, Diana, are both longtime Edwards supporters.

"Not only are his positions well thought out and doable, but what impresses me most about Sen. Edwards is his tenacity," Lundell said.

Johnson County Sheriff Lonny Pulkrabek also helped introduce Edwards, saying that since he became an Edwards' supporter, the former North Carolina senator has continued to impress him.

"The campaign actually implemented some of the ideas I gave him about public safety into his initiatives," Pulkrabek said, adding that Edwards has pledged that he is committed to funding methamphetamine programs both in and out of jails.

At Saturday's event, Edwards also emphasized his dedication to the middle class.

"Corporate greed is killing the middle class, robbing you of your jobs and robbing your children of their future," Edwards said.

He said he believes mill workers, using the example of his own family, are worth every bit as much as the person who owns the mill.

Edwards said roughly 35 million people in this country -- almost equal to the population in California -- went hungry this past year.

"Enough is enough, really," Edwards said. "Our country is better than this."

On Saturday, the final day of his "Fighting for America's Voice" tour, Edwards proposed an economic stimulus packages to strengthen the American economy and create new jobs, according to a news release from his campaign. This proposal urges Congress to act immediately and pass at least a $25 billion jobs plan in early 2008, with the possibility of passing $75 billion more if there is evidence of that nation entering into a recession.

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The plan calls for investing in clean energy infrastructure, increasing federal aid to help states avoid cutting programs that help families during difficult times, reforming unemployment insurance and addressing the housing crisis.

Luyen Tran of Washington, D.C. said he's still undecided, but he thought Edwards' speech was "quite inspirational."

"I wish more Democratic candidates could speak like he does," Tran said.

Edwards wants Congress to create $100 billion economic cushion, AP/Globe Gazette, Quad City Times, 12-22
By AMY LORENTZEN

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) -- Presidential candidate John Edwards will argue Saturday said the country can't simply wait for the economy to turn around, and he will call on Congress to come up with $100 billion to prepare for a potential economic slowdown.
The Democrat and former North Carolina senator suggests an initial investment of $25 billion for job creation and other aid, with the rest set aside if the economy slides into a recession. He was scheduled to unveil his plan at campaign stops on Saturday in eastern Iowa.
In his policy paper provided to The Associated Press, Edwards said the economy is struggling because of the housing crisis and stagnant wages. Housing, energy and health care costs have increased while the median income for working-age families dropped $2,400 between 2000 and 2006, he said.
Edwards wants Congress to make a major investment in clean energy that he contends would both fight global warming and create jobs to spark economic activity.
His plan calls for lawmakers to encourage wind and solar farms, help weatherize 250,000 homes and extend the renewable energy production tax credit. Congress should also train workers for "green collar" jobs related to clean energy, and support energy-efficient transportation systems including bus projects and light rail, Edwards said.
He also wants Congress to update the nation's unemployment system, which he said now leaves workers unprepared for hard times. He calls on Congress to help states cover 500,000 additional workers each year, and set aside resources now to keep workers from having to wait for benefits if the unemployment rate rises.
Aid to states also should be boosted to keep them from having to increase property taxes or cut programs such as Medicaid in order to balance their budgets, Edwards said.
To combat the housing crisis, Edwards wants lawmakers to create a home rescue fund to help families get counseling, loans or other financial aid to avoid foreclosure. He also believes that families facing bankruptcy should be allowed to rewrite terms of their mortgage, and write off debt that exceeds the value of their home.
To keep such a crisis from happening again, Edwards said Congress should pass stronger laws against predatory lending and create a federal regulator to oversee financial services products.

Edwards: Greed created health crisis, WCF Courier, 12-22
By CHARLOTTE EBY, Courier Des Moines Burueau

DES MOINES --- Less than two weeks before Iowa's leadoff caucuses, Democrat John Edwards turned up the volume at a rally in West Des Moines Friday, pledging to fight against what he called corporate greed in order to help people who need a voice.

He argued that health insurance and drug companies have managed to block universal health care in the country.

"We will never change this country the way that we need to unless we're willing to take those people on," Edwards said to cheers.

For hundreds who packed a community college meeting room, Edwards brought to life the people he has been talking about for months and years on the campaign trail.

Friday's trip had Edwards campaigning alongside James Lowe, a former coal miner whom Edwards met in Virginia during his poverty tour earlier this year.

Lowe, who lived with a cleft palette that left him barely able to speak, was 50 years old before his condition was fixed because he lacked health care.

Edwards has made Lowe's story a regular part of his stump speech to illustrate the need for universal health care. He often tells voters he was angry when he heard of Lowe's story.

Lowe made his first trip to Iowa so he could campaign for Edwards and got a standing ovation from the crowd.

"The first time I met him, I felt a connection," Lowe said of Edwards. "I felt like he's the man who cares for people like me."

Edwards also introduced the family of Valerie Lakey, who was seriously injured in an accident with a swimming pool drain at the age of 5. As a lawyer, Edwards won a multimillion dollar settlement for the family after making a case that the drain cover was faulty and that the manufacturer knew it but hid the truth.

Mother Sandy Lakey praised Edwards for helping her family.

"John Edwards gave us hope in our darkest hour," she said.

Speaking with reporters after the event, Edwards was upbeat about the state of his presidential campaign. Polls show him locked in a tough three-way fight with Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in Iowa.

"We're very excited about the energy and momentum behind this campaign. You can literally feel the movement," Edwards said.

He also expressed optimism about his chances in New Hampshire, which holds the nation's first primary five days after the Iowa caucuses. He described huge crowds in that state after returning from a campaign trip, bigger crowds than during his last presidential campaign.

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"I never saw those kinds of crowds ever in 2004, and there's a lot of energy. They're responding to the same message," Edwards said.

Edwards steps up rhetoric against health insurance, drug companies, WCF Courier, 12-22
By CHARLOTTE EBY, Courier Des Moines Bureau

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Edwards in Northeast Iowa late next week, WCF Courier, 12-22
WATERLOO --- Democratic presidential hopeful John Edwards will visit Northeast Iowa on Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday the former North Carolina senator will visit Luther College at 1:45 p.m., the Amvets in Waverly at 5 p.m. and Waterloo East High School at 7 p.m.

On Friday, at 10:30 a.m. Edwards will stop by Bill's Pizza and Smoke House, 201 W. First St., in Independence

Edwards rails against corporate influence, Ames Tribune, 12-22

By: Gavin Aronsen/Special to The Tribune

By Amy Vinchattle/The Tribune
Democratic presidential hopeful former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards speaks to a crowd during a roundtable discussion Friday at S.C.O.R.E pavilion in Nevada.
At a Friday campaign stop, former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., vowed to fight against the corporate influences he said have corrupted the nation and asked his audience for their votes at the Jan. 3 caucuses in Iowa.

Edwards, who runs third in state polls behind Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., addressed his populist message to a gathering of 120 people at the S.C.O.R.E pavilion in Nevada.

He brought with him James Lowe, a Virginia man who he said couldn't speak until he underwent surgery for a cleft palate at age 50, and the Lakey family, whose daughter Edwards successfully represented as a lawyer after a pool drain disemboweled her.

He also mentioned 17-year-old Nataline Sarkisyan, who died Thursday, hours after CIGNA, a health care insurance corporation, finally agreed to approve a liver transplant it previously had refused her on the grounds that her health care plan didn't cover the procedure.

At the stop, Iowa Farmers Union President Chris Peterson also announced his support for Edwards, applauding the candidate for fighting for the

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interests of family farmers.

"Corporate greed has taken over the government, it's that simple," Edwards said. "It's infiltrated everything that's happening."

Much of his ire was directed at insurance companies and their Washington lobbyists, tax breaks granted to American companies relocating jobs out of the country and private military contractors Blackwater and Halliburton, which have both been embroiled by controversy over their profits off no-bid contracts in the Iraq war.

"These people are stealing your children's future," he said.

Last year, Edwards said, 35 million Americans went hungry. Insurance companies, whose heads make hundreds of millions of dollars annually, lobbied Congress to prevent popular health care reform legislation.

Halfway through his speech, he invited Lowe to talk. Edwards said Lowe's cleft palate could have been fixed by a simple operation had he been able to afford health care coverage.

"I can't talk too well right now, but I'm learning," Lowe said. "And I want to thank Mr. Edwards and all the doctors who helped me, and thank God for it all."

Edwards said he had never taken a dime from Washington lobbyists or political action committees. He invoked Presidents Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt, whom he said were hated by corporate America for not bowing to their whims.

"I won't sit at a table and negotiate with (lobbyists)," he said.

During a brief question and answer session, Nevada High School special education teacher Kevin Ericson asked Edwards what he would do to make the No Child Left Behind Act more equitable for special needs students.

Edwards said he would radically change the act if he kept it at all, with "teachers central to the evaluation process so it's not kids filling in bubbles on a multiple
He also reiterated the necessity of universal health care and said the system should mandate mental health parity.

Ericson said he planned to caucus for Edwards and that his wife, also a teacher, liked the candidate as well.

"We both feel he's genuine in his feelings toward kids and education, and his passion comes through so we know he's going to stand up and do what we need him to do," Ericson said.

Edwards wants Congress to create $100 billion economic cushion, Muscatine Journal, 12-22
By AMY LORENTZEN
DES MOINES, Iowa - Presidential candidate John Edwards will argue Saturday said the country can't simply wait for the economy to turn around, and he will call on Congress to come up with $100 billion to prepare for a potential economic slowdown.

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To keep such a crisis from happening again, Edwards said Congress should pass stronger laws against predatory lending and create a federal regulator to oversee financial services products.

Edwards brings his 'Fighting for America' tour to Le Mars, Le Mars Daily Sentinel, 12-21
By Earl Horlyk

Former United States Senator John Edwards brought his bus tour to Le Mars on Thursday afternoon. Edwards, who is locked in a close race to

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win the Iowa Democratic Caucus, drew a crowd of about 240 to the Plymouth County Historical Museum.
[Click to enlarge]
Touting his experience, both in the courtroom and in the halls of the U.S. Senate, and his willingness to fight on the behalf of working Americans, former North Carolina Senator John Edwards kicked off a three-day tour of the Hawkeye State, bringing his "Fighting for America" Tour for a rally in Le Mars Thursday.
Bounding into the Plymouth County Historical Museum with John Mellencamp's "Our Country" playing in the background, the Democratic presidential hopeful remembered the sacrifices made by his parents and grandparents to ensure his life would be better than theirs.

"But what will we do?" Edwards asked the 240 political junkies and undecideds who filled the museums's Old Central gymnasium. "What will we do to insure the future of our children and grandchildren?"

"We have 47 million Americans begging for health care," he continued, "35 million Americans went to bed hungry last night, and 200,000 of our nation's veterans are sleeping under bridges or in homeless shelters."

Edwards shakes his head.

"Yet corporate profits are at an all-time high," he mentioned, "and we continue to give tax breaks to our nation's wealthiest CEOs."

Edwards added: "Iowans have a chance to send a message to the health insurance industry and to the CEO of Exxon-Mobil. And that message is going to be loud and clear. That there is going to be a sea of change taking place. And I'm the man who can lead that change."

This was a message that resonated with Mark Sturgeon.

(Advertisement)

The Le Mars man had first seen Edwards when the Democratic candidate made a stop in Le Mars during Ice Cream Days last summer.

"I truly believe Edwards is the man who can stand up to all of those lobbyists in D.C., put an end to 'pork barrel' politics, and get the country back on the right track," Sturgeon said confidently.

More importantly to Sturgeon is the perception people have of America.

"George W. Bush trashed our image overseas," he contends. "There's no other way to say it. He trashed our country."

Jan Utesch agrees.

The Le Mars woman has been a teacher in the Remsen-Union school district for the past 26 years.

"And in those 26 years," Utesch admits, sighing, "I've seen a lotta programs instituted. But nothing has been as disastrous as Bush's 'No Child Left Behind.'"

"We even have a couplet that uses the acronym of the policy," she said. "'Nickel me/Nickel you/Learning is no longer fun to do.'"

"When it comes to education," Utesch said, throwing up her hands, "Bush has been a disaster."

Steve Mohning knows where Utesch is coming from.

A former educator himself, the Le Mars man said he has been a registered Republican and a registered Independent in the past.

"But I've been a registered Democrat since 2004," Mohning admits. "We need a leader who can lead in a diplomatic way and I don't see the Republican doing that."

"In fact," he continued, "I don't see the Republicans do much leading at all."

Back on stage, Edwards introduced James Lowe, a former Virginia coal miner who could barely speak for 50 years because he didn't have health care and couldn't afford the operation he needed to fix his cleft palate.

"For 50 years," he reiterated, "James could not speak simply because he could not afford medical care."

Last year, the Virginia man finally met with medical professionals at a free clinic who donated their time to perform the surgery he needed to speak.

"And now James' wife says he talks too much," Edwards teased.

"But it just goes to show that our country needs someone who will stand up for working Americans," he mentions decisively. "I am that man."

"I have dedicated my life as an attorney and as a senator to this fight," Edwards explained. "I've been through (the presidential election cycle) before and I bring a seasoned toughness to the table. I WILL win back the White House."

Edwards is currently run neck and neck with Democratic rivals, Illinois Senator Barack Obama and New York Senator Hillary Clinton.

This excites veteran Associated Press reporter Mike Glover because he says it excites likely Iowa Caucus goers.

"The Iowa Caucus is less than two weeks away," he smiles, "and anybody can take it. It's that close."

Becoming a handicapper for a moment, Glover says Edwards' plan for success in the Iowa Caucus will be to emphasize the fact that he came in

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second place during the 2004 caucus.

"His people know how to play the game," he said, "and they're playing to win."

Clinton will emphasize that has the Democratic party establishment in her corner.

"During the Iowa caucus, you're playing to a pretty limited audience of party faithful," Glover informs. "Having the party machinery behind you definitely helps."

As for Obama, he brings new energy and new people into the fold.

Glover predicts: "In 2004, the Iowa Caucus drew about 124,000 people. If this year, there's fewer people or about the same amount of people, Edwards will win. If there is more, Clinton or Obama can point to the fact that they brought a new following into the race."

"But no matter how anyone spins it," Glover says with a grin, "it's exciting to see a horse-race in Iowa."

Back on stage, Edwards recalls a lesson taught to him by his father.

"I was six-years-old when I got into a fight with a classmate," he remembers. "I got my butt kicked. I went home pretty messed up and my dad asked what happened. I told him I got into a fight. He asked: Did I start it? No, I said. He said: Good, never pick a fight."

"But my dad said never walk away from a fight either," Edwards tells the crowd. "I will never back away from what I believe in and I am ready to fight to bring back our country."

"I am ready to work hard and commit myself with every fiber of my being to bring this country back," he continued, "so on a cold night in January, Iowans across this great state can rise together, look their children in the eye and say we made a difference."

LTE**: Man of integrity**, Burlington Hawk Eye, 12-22

John Edwards -- direct and to the point.

As a union worker, I appreciate that all of the democratic presidential candidates support the Employee Free Choice Act which is arguably the most important legislation to organized labor. They all support fair trade agreements which are sensitive to workers rights and contain strong environmental laws. They all say the Department of Labor in their administrations would actually support labor.

So any of these candidates would be a welcome change after the current administration. This is why democrats have a tough choice deciding who to caucus for in January.

However, if you've ever been on a long strike or lockout and experienced first hand the weak labor laws protecting the rights of workers, if you have voted for a terrible contract because you felt you would lose your job by voting against it, if you have feared for your family's well being as you've looked in the paper and seen ads for replacement workers as a company says, "this is your final offer, take it or leave it," if you have been in any of these situations, I believe one candidate stands out from the rest.

John Edwards is direct and clear when he says, "Imagine a president saying the word union and telling the nation from the White House that organized labor is important to the strength of America. The banning of permanent replacement workers would be the law of the land in my administration." When you're out there fighting for your family's rights and benefits, no scab should be able to walk through your picket line and take your job.

John Edwards has been to hundreds of labor organizing events and has walked picket lines with workers.

He is a man of integrity who backs up his words with his actions.

BUDDY HOWARD

Keokuk

LTE: **What I believe in**, The Burlington Hawk Eye, 12-22
My heart beats silently to the red, white and blue of our American flag. I ask myself, with tearful eyes, "What has become of our America"?

I encourage all voters to attend the caucuses on Jan. 3. Your presence at your precinct can and will make a distinct impact on the future of this country and its people.

While canvassing in Mount Pleasant on Nov. 17, 2007, for John Edwards, I realized just how important it was as an American to have the freedom to express my opinion and beliefs at the doorsteps of 27 Mount Pleasant homes.

Afterward, I took out a piece of paper and began to write the emotions that had been created, the enthusiasm and excitement, all due to my actions as an American, and all of this was done in honor of John Edwards and his family. My legs may become weary, my feet begin to tire, but I will not become weak. I shall stand strong for what I believe in and that is for a man who is willing, with our help, to give America back to her people.

John Edwards is indeed that man. As testimony to my belief, I shall walk from my place of employment, New London School, after every eight-hour work day, to my home, 6.l miles. I will begin my walks Dec. 3 until the day of the Iowa Caucuses on the evening of Jan. 3, 2008. "I walk for what I believe in."

CARRIEDUNCAN

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New London

LTE: **Edwards has a plan to end war, health care**, Muscatine Journal, 12-21
By Jeffrey Shay, Muscatine, Iowa

The United States has been involved in a war that has caused the death of nearly 4,000 Americans, not to mention becoming one of the most expensive wars in our history, and for debatable policies. John Edwards wants to bring it to an end, and has a plan to have all combat troops out of Iraq in nine to 10 months. Mrs. Clinton is against keeping troops in Iraq, depending on which day she is asked.

John Edwards has presented a plan for helping agriculture and has toured every Iowa county, meeting with individual farmers. Mrs. Clinton decided to examine farm issues by holding meetings with agribusiness lobbyists.

Over 46 million Americans lack health insurance, while the rest are putting up with high co-payments, deductibles and coverage exclusions. United Health Group has increased premiums for most of its policies, yet recently, paid its ex-CEO $1.4 BILLION in stock option gains, $620 million of which has been declared illegal by the U.S. government due to back-dating of his shares, not to mention his salary of $520 million over the last several years.

Yet, Hillary Clinton has a health plan that (in her own words) would give United Health and other insurance companies their “place at the table.” John Edwards has offered a plan to cover all Americans, and put the rascals in their place.

The caucus in January will decide if most Americans will have their place at the table, or under it.

LTE: **Edwards will put nation on new course**, Muscatine Journal, 12-22
By Sam Osborne, West Branch, Iowa

An old movie, “Wild River,” provides a moving glimpse of a long-past era when Franklin D. Roosevelt put his steady hands to the task of steering our beloved nation out of the Great Depression and onto a new course bent to ensuring that everyone had an opportunity to fairly share in the American Dream.

Back then, FDR offered the same grip and grit that Sen. John Edwards now brings to this pivotal moment in American history. This is why I will enthusiastically and determinedly support John Edwards at our Democratic caucus.

Let us all join together with John Edwards to set this nation moving again. And while Karl Rove, his operatives, and a dwindling flock of Bush excusers go whimpering and woof woofing “Who let the dogs out,” the rest of the American people will joyously feel like singing “Happy Days are Here Again.”

And perchance we might go to the movies and see a John-Edwards-era remake of “Wild River” that fittingly casts Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins in the lead roles. These two outstanding actors have joined us and John Edwards in this determined fight to ensure a good future for all of We the People and our posterity. It is time to make history.

Blog Post: **What Edwards has going for Him in Iowa**, 12-22

Time's Mark Halperin says John Edwards has a chance to shock the pundits and win Iowa. Halperin has compiled a list of what Edwards has going for him in Iowa...

1. The endorsement of the First Lady of Iowa.

2. The support (some secret) of people close to Governor Culver.

3. Big Labor help being quietly marshaled by one of Iowa’s top Democratic operatives and by Edwards’ 2004 campaign manager.

4. A consistently confident, upbeat demeanor.

5. A re-tooled stump speech that has audiences rising up, and that is filled with specifics of his agenda.

6. Caucus rules that work to the advantage of those with strong support in rural and blue collar areas.

7. Dedicated supporters who will likely turn out even if the weather is cold and inclement.

8. National trial lawyers who are going to do something (read: “everything”) to get their guy elected.

9. A popular, visible spouse.

10. More than enough money to be competitive.

11. Fearlessness.

12. A stronger work ethic than anyone in the race.

13. Perfect pitch in handling Clinton-Obama conflict.

14. A strong Des Moines Register debate performance.

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15. New polling showing him as a strong general election candidate and some new boffo national media clips.

16. High favorables and strong second choice support.

17. Trained precinct captains in almost every precinct – a true, old-fashioned organization.

OBAMA

History creates 'place of fear' for some, DM Register, 12-23
By JASON CLAYWORTH

Mildred Otis won't caucus for Barack Obama for president largely for one reason: She wants to save his life.

Otis, 87, remembers America's violent civil rights movement 40 years ago when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

And, having lived through those events, the Des Moines woman and others fear that Obama's nomination could end in tragedy. "I think there's a lot of people not ready for an African-American to be a president," said Otis, a black woman.

With less than two weeks remaining before the Iowa caucuses, the Democratic party could be poised to embark on a historic nominating process. Democrats could wind up with the first African-American or first woman nominated for president on a major ticket as Obama and Hillary Clinton rank first and second, in either order, in most Iowa polls.

Obama and Clinton both travel in caravans that include Secret Service protection. Neither staff discusses campaign security, but Obama's wife, Michelle, addressed the topic in speeches, and his half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, has recently encouraged voters to set aside any apprehensions.

"We can't work from a place of fear," Soetoro-Ng said. "This is a critical juncture in our nation's history, and we have to press forward with courage. ... I see so much love and affection from such a wide range of individuals. I think we are certainly ready for a man like Barack."

Michelle Obama last month urged supporters to confront their own doubts, acknowledging that people want to protect themselves and her family from disappointment and failure but saying the right action is to show bravery and move ahead.

"That veil of impossibility that keeps us down and keeps our children down - keeps us waiting and hoping for a turn that may never come," she said in a speech titled "A Challenge to Overcome," according to text provided by campaign staff. "It's the bitter legacy of racism and discrimination and oppression in this country. A legacy that hurts us all."

Obama has had Secret Service protection since May. Neither national security nor campaign officials have disclosed the reason for the protection.

The vast majority of Iowa's presidential campaign stops take place at small businesses or public places. Only on rare occasions are bomb-sniffing dogs or metal detectors used.

For the most part - even at Obama campaign stops - people simply write their name on a sign-in sheet and walk into the venue without requests for identification. At some events, staffs of candidates don't even bother with sign-in sheets.

Campaign security breaches are rare, but an event last month provided the nation with an example of how serious they can become. The incident occurred when a man walked into a Clinton campaign office in New Hampshire wearing what appeared to be a bomb, demanding to speak about mental health care. The event ended without injury when the man surrendered to police after nearly six hours.

Mark Daley, a spokesman for Clinton's campaign, declined to comment for this article, noting that the campaign generally does not discuss security measures. The former first lady's campaign stops in Iowa after the incident appeared to have the same level of security as before.

Abraham Funchess, who heads Iowa's Commission on the Status of African Americans, said those who chose to vote differently as a safety precaution have been disabled by fear.

"We have to get away from that self-defeating attitude," Funchess said. "I would hope we would not allow that to keep people from participating in democracy. ... There are possibilities that something like that could happen, but there are possibilities at the same time that Hillary Clinton or Bill Richardson could deal with the same type of challenges."

Valeria Sinclair-Chapman, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Rochester, said she's careful not to dismiss such fears because many times they're grounded in relevant history that is central in the African-American experience.

"The strength of the Obama candidacy, I think, is an indication of how far the country has come," said Sinclair-Chapman. "If, in fact, voters are sincere when they say that they won't support a candidate because they fear for his or her life if they win the nomination, then that really completely undermines the progress that we think we see."

Obama vows strong trade agreements, DM Register, 12-23
By JONATHAN ROOS

Indianola, Ia. - Illinois Sen. Barack Obama took a hard line on trade during a snowy day of campaigning in central Iowa on Saturday.

As Democratic presidential candidates continue to battle for support from blue-collar workers in the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses, Obama tried to press the case that he would best look after their interests.

"If we're serious about fighting for working people - you hear it all the time - then we're going to have to do something to help working people compete abroad," Obama told an audience that filled the auditorium of the Warren County Administration Building.

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"I think trade is a good thing for our country as a whole and for rural areas in particular, but only when we sign deals that put American farmers and American workers first," he said.

Obama's remarks coincided with a new campaign television commercial that features a pledge to end tax breaks for companies that move jobs overseas.

Obama says that if he wins the presidency, he will only negotiate trade agreements that have strong, enforceable environmental and labor standards, and that he will make enforcement a top priority.

"I'm going to make sure our trading partners live up to our trade agreements," he told supporters here. "We'll do more to stop countries like China from acting unfairly when it comes to trade because no country should get a free pass to bend the rules."

Obama said during an earlier campaign stop in Oskaloosa that he wasn't going to play by the same old rules of Washington politics. "We don't need someone who knows how to play the game better, we need to put an end to the game-playing," he said.

Sreedhar Somisetty, an undecided voter from Oskaloosa, said Obama is an inspirational speaker. But Somisetty is skeptical of whether Obama can make good on his vow to change the political climate in Washington, D.C.

"He speaks great. He inspires people, that's for sure. But I don't know if he'd be able to deliver on what he's promising," said Somisetty, an independent who is unsure whether he will caucus on Jan. 3.

Winterset, Waukee and Urbandale were also on Obama's Saturday schedule.

Obama criticizes Edwards on new ads, CR Gazette, 12-23

OSKALOOSA (AP) — Opening his latest presidential campaign swing through Iowa, Democrat Barack Obama singled out rival John Edwards for criticism, arguing that the former North Carolina senator doesn't have a track record to back up the sharply populist themes he sounds on the campaign trail.

"I've got a track record," said Obama. "I don't just talk the talk, I walk the walk. John does not have the same track record." The Illinois senator and his aides also singled out a new television campaign they said is being launched on Edwards' behalf, accusing him of hypocrisy.

"John said yesterday, he didn't believe in these 527s. Those are these independent groups that raise money with no disclosure. Nobody knows who is giving them. He said I don't believe in them," said Obama.

"We found out today there's a group buying three-quarters of a million dollars worth of television and the individual running the group used to be John Edwards' campaign manager." Obama used the occasion to suggest that Edwards is guilty of hypocrisy.

"You can't say yesterday, you don't believe in it and today three-quarters of a million dollars is being spent for you," said Obama.

"You can't just talk the talk. Everybody talks change, but how did they act when it was not convenient, when it's hard." Campaign aides distributed to reporters a list of television ad buys in six markets covering Iowa totaling $796,610 that were purchased by the Alliance for a New America, which they described as a proEdwards group.

Edwards said in response to Obama's criticisms that he would like to ban political committees of the type known as 527s, and that he had no knowledge of the ad buy, which was made independently of his campaign.

"The way the law operates is we're not allowed to be involved in this — the campaign's not allowed to be involved, I'm not allowed to be involved," Edwards told a group of reporters after a campaign stop Saturday in Lisbon. "I found out about this probably after most of you did through the news media. I didn't know anything about it."

Obama's Views Have Changed With Time, Quad City Times, 12-23

By CHRISTOPHER WILLS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - If he wanted, the Barack Obama of today could have a pretty good debate with the Barack Obama of yesterday.

They could argue about whether the death penalty is ever appropriate. Whether it makes sense to ban handguns. They might explore their differences on the Patriot Act or parental notification of abortion.

And they could debate whether Obama has flip-flopped, changed some of his views as he learned more over the years or is simply answering questions with more detail and nuance now that he is running for president.

The Democratic senator from Illinois hasn't made any fundamental policy shifts, such as changing his view on whether abortion should be legal. But his decade in public office and an Associated Press review of his answers to a questionnaire show positions changing in smaller ways.

Taken together, the shifts could suggest a liberal, inexperienced lawmaker gradually adjusting to the realities of what could be accomplished, first in the Illinois Legislature and then the U.S. Senate.

On the other hand, political rivals could accuse him of abandoning potentially unpopular views or of trying to disguise his real positions.

Take the death penalty.

In 1996, when he was running for a seat in the Illinois Senate, Obama's campaign filled out a questionnaire flatly stating that he did not support capital punishment. By 2004, his position was that he supported the death penalty "in theory" but felt the system was so flawed that a national moratorium on executions was required.

Today, he doesn't talk about a moratorium and says the death penalty is appropriate for "some crimes _ mass murder, the rape and murder of a child _ so heinous that the community is justified in expressing the full measure of its outrage."

Then there's another crime-related issue, gun control.

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That 1996 questionnaire asked whether he supported banning the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns in Illinois. The campaign's answer was straightforward: "Yes." Eight years later, he said on another questionnaire that "a complete ban on handguns is not politically practicable" but reasonable restrictions should be imposed.

His legislative record in Illinois shows strong support for gun restrictions, such as limiting handgun purchases to one a month, but no attempts to ban them. Today, he stands by his support for controls while trying to reassure hunters that he has no interest in interfering with their access to firearms.

Obama's presidential campaign contends that voters can't learn anything about his views from the 1996 questionnaire, which was for an Illinois good-government group known as the IVI-IPO. Aides say Obama did not fill out the questionnaire and instead it was handled by a staffer who misrepresented his views on gun control, the death penalty and more.

"Barack Obama has a consistent record on the key issues facing our country," said spokesman Ben LaBolt. "Even conservative columnists have said they'd scoured Obama's record for inconsistencies and found there were virtually none."

IVI-IPO officials say it's inconceivable that Obama would have let a staffer turn in a questionnaire with incorrect answers. The group interviewed Obama in person about his answers before endorsing him in that 1996 legislative race, and he didn't suggest then, or anytime since, that the questionnaire needed to be corrected, they said.

Since he came to Washington, one piece of legislation that raises questions is the USA Patriot Act, the security measure approved after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

When he ran for the Senate, Obama called the act a "shoddy and dangerous law" that should be replaced. After he took office, the Senate considered an update that Obama criticized as only a modest improvement and one that was inferior to other alternatives.

Still, Obama ended up voting for that renewal and update of the Patriot Act.

Another disputed issue is health care.

Obama was asked in the 1996 questionnaire whether he supported a single-payer health plan, in which everyone gets health coverage through a single government program. The response was, "Yes in principle," and probably best to have the federal government set up such a program instead of the state.

Today, health care is a hot issue, and Obama does not support creating a single government program for everyone. In fact, rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and John Edwards have criticized his health proposal for potentially leaving millions of people uninsured because they wouldn't be forced to buy insurance.

Political analysts don't see much danger for Obama in the changes. They aren't major shifts akin to Republican Mitt Romney's changes on abortion and gun control, so voters aren't likely to see the senator as indecisive or calculating.

"I think they allow for some adjustment," said Dante Scala, a political science professor at the University of New Hampshire. "It depends on whether they're changing the core of what they're about."

In the general election, the Republican nominee would be more likely to go after the first-term senator on another front.

"If Obama is the Democratic candidate, I don't think the Republicans will be attacking him on a particular issue," said Dianne Bystrom, director of the Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University. "They'd be attacking him on his experience."

Obama's Democratic opponents, concerned about turning off voters who dislike negative campaigning, haven't been aggressively using his shifts against him. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign does quietly argue that they amount to a pattern that should concern the public.

Clinton spokesman Phil Singer noted Obama's positions on handguns, health care and the Patriot Act. "Voters will ultimately decide whether these are significant shifts in his views or not," he said.

One area where Obama's campaign acknowledges his views have changed is on the Defense of Marriage Act, which bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages. In January 2004, Obama said he was opposed to repealing the law. By February, one month later, he supported a repeal.

His campaign says Obama always thought the Defense of Marriage Act was a bad law but didn't believe it needed to be repealed. After hearing from gay friends how hurtful the law was, he decided it needed to be taken off the books.

Obama sees energy as new frontier, Burlington Hawk Eye, 12-22
By KILEY MILLER
kmiller@thehawkeye.com

Barack Obama pinned his claim to the presidency Friday on his power to inspire and picked energy independence as his Apollo program.

"The skills that I've got, I think, are the skills that the country needs right now," the senator from Illinois said in a telephone interview with a reporter and a member of The Hawk Eye editorial board.

"I can't say that what I offer is in all circumstances more important than what other candidates offer," Obama continued, "but if voters agree that we can't make progress on big issues like health care or energy or education unless we can rally the country together around a common purpose, if voters agree that it is vital for the next president to project a new vision of America around the world, and if voters agree that we need to restore a sense of trust in our leaders and our government and inspire people to think long-term, then I'm convinced that I'm the best equipped to do those things."

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Obama, welded into a virtual tie with Hillary Rodham Clinton in Iowa, was seeking The Hawk Eye's endorsement in his bid for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

Obama is often compared to President John F. Kennedy, with members of the Des Moines Register editorial board going so far as to liken the choice between him and Clinton to picking between Kennedy and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. (They chose Roosevelt.)

In a speech to Congress in 1961, Kennedy called for millions of dollars to put a man on the moon within a decade.

Asked for his own "man on the moon" dream, Obama had said "energy" before the question was complete.

"I think energy is the place where we get a three-fer," the senator said.

That "three-fer" includes an "immediate boost in the economy" through investment in green energy technology, a response to the "planetary crisis" of climate change and a new freedom from foreign oil.

With the latter comes a diminishing of the role of oil exporting countries Iran, Russia and Venezuela on the world stage, Obama said.

An energy bill President Bush signed Wednesday mandates that vehicles sold in the United States average 35 miles per gallon by 2020.

Obama said he would have reached further, perhaps to 40 miles per gallon by 2016.

His energy proposal also features a cap-and-trade system to slow carbon emissions, incentives to encourage construction of efficient buildings and a heavy emphasis on wind and solar power and renewable fuels.

"And like the Apollo project," Obama said, "what it promises is our ability to train a whole new generation of scientists and engineers, which was one of the most important spin-offs from the space program."

Questioned further on how he would respond to the fuel crunch in the near term, Obama said he has promised to be "straight with people," and that includes telling them there are no easy and immediate solutions.

"I will argue that my election and a change in foreign policy will reduce the world oil market somewhat," he said, "because there's probably a 20 to 25 percent premium that's being paid right now because of concerns about hostilities between the United States and Iraq."

Technology also exists to help Americans cut consumption, Obama said. As an example, he mentioned a plug-in hybrid at the Google campus in California that gets 150 miles to the gallon.

"I actually think a decade is not an unreasonable time for us to start seeing some savings that will impact consumers," the senator said. "The most important thing that we can do in the meantime is make sure that our tax policies and other economic policies are such that the average working families are seeing some boost in their income to meet the rising costs."

Beyond linking Iraq to oil prices, Obama touched on the war there for only a few minutes. His plan for disengagement couples a phased pull-out of U.S. troops over 16 months with a multi-national diplomatic push to bring Iraq's Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds "to the table."

A successful U.S. exit under a peace plan the "Iraqis take some ownership of" will send a signal that this nation does not have long-term plans in the region, he said. That, in turn, will strengthen efforts to root out the Taliban in Afghanistan and help the United States initiate direct talks with Iran regarding its nuclear weapons program and its aid to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

"All of these things are connected," Obama said.

He then reiterated a proposal to convene a summit of Muslim leaders if elected.

At that summit, he said, "I would present a vision of how the west and the Islamic world can cooperate, avert a clash of civilizations and align the Muslim world to go after the terrorist networks that really are out there that we have to strike."

In Burlington Thursday, Obama's wife, Michelle, called her husband the only Constitutional scholar in the race.

That description led to a question to the senator on what guidance he found in the Constitution for use of military force.

Obama responded that the nation's founding document gives Congress the power to declare and fund war, but the president always has authority to strike against an imminent threat to American lives or immediate interests.

"My goal is always going to be to protect and preserve the United States," he said. "I will do what has to be done in concert with the co-equal branches of the government."

The senator then drew a distinction between a plot by al-Qaida terrorists and the situation in Iraq, "where there was not an imminent threat, there was ample time and room for diplomatic negotiations and the potential for congressional involvement."

"There may be cases in the middle that are tougher calls," Obama continued, "but I think the important point is the president has to exercise judgment, and that's part of what's been lacking in this administration."

Like the other front-running Democrats, Obama has put forth a massive health care expansion plan built around employer-provided coverage.

Challenged on what that might do to small businesses, he said such a concern explains why cost control through prevention programs, information technology upgrades and other changes is imperative.

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"We can't initiate a universal health-care plan and not have a cost-control element to it," he said, "because not only will it bankrupt employers, it will bankrupt our federal government."

Obama pointed to his proposal for a government-funded catastrophic insurance program to protect employers from sudden spikes in premiums.

The lone African-American candidate in either party and a former community organizer in Chicago, Obama claims an intimate perspective on both race and poverty.

Those two factors are clearly in play in the firestorm issue of illegal immigration and, also, on the less discussed matter of welfare reform.

When it was suggested that the general public does not comprehend the nuances of the nation's immigration struggles, Obama, like New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who met with The Hawk Eye editorial board Sunday, concurred.

He blamed that lack of understanding among citizens on leaders "who don't bother to explain it to them."

With stronger border security and harsher sanctions against employers, Americans can be persuaded to accept a "pathway toward legalization" for illegal immigrants who already have put down roots, he said.

"I think there's a generosity of spirit in the American people that can be tapped into," the senator said, "but right now they feel the government has ceded sovereignty and have no control."

As for welfare, the senator said prior reforms have worked to change attitudes --people no longer expect government assistance to continue indefinitely.

The new problem, he said, is workers churning out of the low-wage labor market. He cited "The Working Poor: Invisible in America," a 2005 book by David Shipler that describes the lives of people at the bottom end of the economy.

Specifically, Obama mentioned the story of a white single mother in the northeast who, because she has no teeth, struggles "to even get a job as an associate at Wal-Mart."

Then there are the inner-city residents with drug addictions, he said.

"Part of our job is, as much as possible, to catch kids when they're young, make sure they are getting the education they need, making sure there are pathways for success for them," he said.

Parents play a huge part in a solution, Obama added.

"We as a culture, as a whole, have been living on the surplus of the Greatest Generation, the hard work and sacrifices of earlier generations, and haven't always been willing to make those same sacrifices," he said. "That's something that has to be talked about, and I intend to talk about that as president."

Obama touts foreign affairs judgment, Ft. Dodge Messenger, 12-22
U.S should 'act more deliberately'

By BILL SHEA, Messenger staff writer POSTED: December 22, 2007

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama may be fairly new on the national scene, but he says Americans can have confidence in his ability to go one-on-one with foreign leaders if he becomes president.

"I think they can have confidence based on the judgment I've shown on foreign policy issues, judgment that has generally been borne out by events," the Democratic senator from Illinois said Friday afternoon.

Obama spoke with The Messenger by phone while traveling to a campaign stop in Washington, Iowa.

During that interview, he recited a few international issues that he believes he judged correctly. He said he was clearly opposed to the Iraq war before it started. And he said he's been pushing for the United States to "act more deliberately" toward Iran. That's a position he said is supported by a recent National Intelligence Estimate which stated Iran has stopped its nuclear weapons program.

He said American leaders should pressure Pakistani President Pervez Musharaf to fight Al Qaeda and make his country more democratic.

Obama added that the United States should deal with Pakistan in a way that doesn't "put all our eggs in the Musharaf basket."

On the domestic front, Obama isn't offering any quick solutions to the pain people now feel at the gasoline pump.

He said the nation needs vehicles with greater fuel efficiency and more alternative fuel production.

The federal government, he said, needs to work with the airlines to find ways to reduce congestion at airports. He said the eventual solution will involve building some additional runways, which the government would help pay for.

Obama favors more aggressive action to deal with the subprime mortgage crisis. He said the country needs a plan that will join lenders and homeowners with the goal of keeping people in their houses.

Obama to visit the Bluffs Sunday, Council Bluffs Nonpareil, 12-22
Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama will return to Council Bluffs to meet with the public on Sunday at Thomas Jefferson High School, 2501 W. Broadway.

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Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with the event beginning at 5 p.m.

The visit is part of a statewide tour that also includes a stop in Harlan earlier in the day at the Therkildsen Activity Center, 706 Victoria St. at 2:30 p.m.

LTE**: JFK to Obama**, Burlington Hawk Eye, 12-22

My heart beats silently to the red, white and blue of our American flag. I ask myself, with tearful eyes, "What has become of our America"?

I encourage all voters to attend the caucuses on Jan. 3. Your presence at your precinct can and will make a distinct impact on the future of this country and its people.

While canvassing in Mount Pleasant on Nov. 17, 2007, for John Edwards, I realized just how important it was as an American to have the freedom to express my opinion and beliefs at the doorsteps of 27 Mount Pleasant homes.

Afterward, I took out a piece of paper and began to write the emotions that had been created, the enthusiasm and excitement, all due to my actions as an American, and all of this was done in honor of John Edwards and his family. My legs may become weary, my feet begin to tire, but I will not become weak. I shall stand strong for what I believe in and that is for a man who is willing, with our help, to give America back to her people.

John Edwards is indeed that man. As testimony to my belief, I shall walk from my place of employment, New London School, after every eight-hour work day, to my home, 6.l miles. I will begin my walks Dec. 3 until the day of the Iowa Caucuses on the evening of Jan. 3, 2008. "I walk for what I believe in."

CARRIEDUNCAN

New London

Blog Post: **Obama rakes Edwards over indie groups' ads,** Radio Iowa, 12-23

By O. Kay Henderson

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama today accused rival John Edwards of having an "inconsistent" message when it comes to promising to adandon old-style politics. Obama pointed to outside groups which have purchased time on Iowa broadcast outlets to run ads promoting Edwards.

"Yesterday my understanding was is that (Edwards) said he did not approve of 527s, these independent groups where there's no disclosure so you don't know who's funding them and how much is being spent," Obama said today during an interview with Radio Iowa. "We find out today that a 527 run by his former campaign manager and political director is running three-quarters of a million dollars worth of ads on his behalf and it strikes me that if you say yesterday you don't agree with 'em and today you're benefiting from them -- that's not consistent."

Obama and Edwards are in a tight race to present themselves as the candidate best able to enact change in Washington and Obama points to this episode as proof that Edwards "talks the talk" and doesn't "walk the walk."

"Part of what we need is some consistency when it comes to the positions we take, not just taking them when it's politically convenient," Obama told Radio Iowa.

Later Satuirday afternoon the Edwards campaign issued a statement calling on the so-called "527 groups" to stop running ads.

"I do not support 527 groups. They are part of the law, but let me be clear: I am asking this group and others not to run the ads," Edwards said in the written statement. "I would encourage all the 527s to stay out of the political process."

On Friday, Edwards said during a news conference that he has no control over independent groups -- referred to as "527s" -- as by law candidates are not allowed to coordinate strategy with such groups. Edwards has not commented yet on the role his 2004 campaign manager has in heading up one of the groups planned to run ads on his behalf.

Blog Post: Will Latino caucus-goers break for Obama? , Bleeding Heartland, 12-22

by: desmoinesdem

I don't read the *Washington Times*, but MyDD user Piuma noticed a piece there about *El Latino*, Iowa's largest Spanish-language newspaper, endorsing Barack Obama. Here is a link to Piuma's diary .

The *El Latino* editorial includes this line, which appears to be aimed at Hillary Clinton:

> No other presidential candidate, particularly divisive candidates, can unite Congress and secure the votes to finally pass comprehensive immigration reform.

(I would add that it's a fantasy to think that any presidential candidate will be able to unite Congress on any controversial issue, but that's a matter for another post.)

In the comments below the diary, Piuma notes:

> The Obama campaign has made an outreach to the Latino community and he is endorsed by Perla A., the Vice-President of Siouxland Unidad Latina, the area's oldest and largest Latino organization, as well as City Councilmember Sara Monroy Huddleston, one of four Latino elected officials in Iowa. This may be one of the many surprise groups Obama will turn out who have been ignored by polling.

Obama has several field offices in Iowa towns with significant Latino populations.

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I have felt all year that Obama is the candidate who would benefit most from a primary rather than a caucus, because his support appears to be more concentrated in some parts of the state. However if his campaign can turn out large numbers of Latino supporters, then he could get a significant number of delegates in towns and neighborhoods where there are a lot of Latino residents.

This newspaper endorsement is a good get for Obama and has to be disappointing for Bill Richardson.

I have seen national polling suggesting that Hillary Clinton has much more support among Latinos than Obama does. Jerome Armstrong recently argued that Obama would fare poorly against John McCain among Latino voters. It will be interesting to see if Obama can win strong support among Latinos in Iowa. If so, that could help him in several of the states that will hold primaries on February 5.

Obama's Health Care Plan: 'Not Behind Closed Doors' , Iowa Independent, 12-22

By: Adam Burke

Yesterday in Washington, Iowa, Barack Obama took a question from a skeptical audience member who said there was "a certain unreality about listening to you [Obama] that's about like listening to George Bush..."

Obama responded by addressing two parts of the man's question: "electability and governance."

For the final part of his answer he drew a sharp distinction between his methods and the Clintons' work on health care in the 1990s.

He said, "My plan is not that different from Hillary Clinton's plan or John Edward's plan or any of the other plans. The question is how do you move it forward ... I admire Sen. Clinton and Bill Clinton for having tried in 1993 but they did it the wrong way ... they went behind closed doors ... the Clinton plan was dead on arrival ... "

He went on to say he would try to work differently: "This is all going to be on C-SPAN, the American people will be watching, so it's not behind closed doors, it's open."

Obama was joined onstage by Rep. Dave Loebsack. He recently endorsed Obama for president and introduced the Illinois Senator.

Obama fan Rachel McPherson teaches family literacy and ESL at Kirkwood Community College in Iowa City, Iowa.

She told the Iowa Independent that Obama would make her proud to live in the U.S. again. She said sometimes she tells people she is from Brazil and has had thoughts of moving to Spain to get out of the U.S.

She met Obama at the 2007 Tom Harkin Steak Fry and said that he was her "man" for the caucuses.

In this video she describes that experience and her thoughts on his plan for education:

Another questioner asked him about funding for U.S. schools

Obama said before the crowd in the Washington Junior High School gymnasium that he said he would "change No Child Left Behind, which left the money behind."

Blog Post: **Obama rakes Edwards over indie groups' ads**, Radio Iowa, 12-22
By O.Kay Henderson

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama says rival John Edwards has an "inconsistent" message when it comes to promising to adandon the traditional, old-style politics. Obama points to outside groups which have purchased time on Iowa broadcast outlets to run ads promoting Edwards.

"Yesterday my understanding was is that (Edwards) said he did not approve of 527s, these independent groups where there's no disclosure so you don't know who's funding them and how much is being spent," Obama said today during an interview with Radio Iowa. "We find out today that a 527 run by his former campaign manager and political director is running three-quarters of a million dollars worth of ads on his behalf and it strikes me that if you say yesterday you don't agree with 'em and today you're benefiting from them -- that's not consistent."

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On Friday, Edwards said he has no control over independent groups -- referred to as "527s" -- as by law candidates are not allowed to coordinate strategy with such groups. However, Edwards did not comment on having his 2004 campaign manager heading up one of the groups running ads on his behalf.

Blog Post: **Obama says Edwards "inconsistent"**, Radio Iowa, 12-22

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has opened up a line of attack against rival John Edwards and the issue is...campaign finances & ethics. Here's the Radio Iowa story.

Here are the key quotes on this subject from Obama's interview with Radio Iowa earlier this afternoon: "Yesterday my understanding was is that (Edwards) said he did not approve of 527s, these independent groups where there's no disclosure so you don't know who's funding them and how much is being spent. We find out today that a 527 run by his former campaign manager and political director is running three-quarters of a

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million dollars worth of ads on his behalf and it strikes me that if you say yesterday you don't agree with 'em and today you're benefiting from them -- that's not consistent....Part of what we need is some consistency when it comes to the positions we take, not just taking them when it's politically convenient."

Obama discussed what he hoped "trickles down" from him as the leader of the campaign to his campaign operatives. "I'm very proud of the fact that you haven't seen a lot of drama or a lot of back-biting in our campaign. I think everybody is focusing on doing their job," Obama said. "People generally left their egos at the door. People take responsibility for their work and, you know, don't blame others when mistakes are made and people don't jump on people when mistakes are made. We hold folks accountable, but there's a calm in our organization and a trust, I think, between people and I like to take a little bit of credit for that."

What is the most important decision you've made in Iowa?

"To put together and trust the best staff on the ground here. I mean, we've got an organization that is just unbelievable. You know, young people with energy and enthusiasm and, you know, we hired them early and so they got into these communities and made friendships and established relationships. You know, they're not mercenaries. They're here because they believe in the kind of change that I think most Americans are looking for and because they're sincere and here for the right reasons I think that communicates itself to Caucus-goers and that's, I think, our ace in the hole."

Blog Post: **Obama: Government should Lift Barrier**, Century of the Common Iowan, 12-22
Here's a clip of Obama campaigning in Sioux City where he is talking about the government's role in people's lives.

That's what our government should be doing — is lifting these barriers off the shoulders of people so they can live out their dreams and create a better country. along with a better life for themselves.

RICHARDSON

Richardson volunteers to stream into Iowa from New Mexico, Des Moines Register, 12-22
By WILLIAM PETROSKI

Adel, Ia. - About 300 volunteers from New Mexico will arrive in Iowa after Christmas to help launch a final push for Gov. Bill Richardson, their states chief executive, in his Iowa caucus campaign, aides said today.

Richardson said after a campaign appearance here Saturday that he already has a solid political organization in Iowa with precinct captains in 85 percent of the states precincts. His New Mexico volunteers will strengthen the effort, knocking on doors, telephoning caucus-goers and doing other campaign work, aides said.

I feel like I have a very good chance of meeting my goal of being in the top three Democrats in the Jan. 3 caucus, Richardson said in an interview. The momentum right now is a quiet, silent momentum that is building. All of this grass-roots campaigning is paying off

Richardson, who has been running fourth in polls of Democratic presidential candidates in Iowa, has campaigned heavily the past week on ending the Iraq war. He has promised to withdraw all American troops within one year of being elected president.

He said today that his emphasis on the war is paying off because the three Democratic front runners - Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, and former Sen. John Edwards - havent made such a strong commitment for withdrawal.

Richardson told almost 100 prospective caucus-goers on this morning at Hannys of Adel cafe that the United States has spent $500 billion on the war when that money could have been used to improve education, health care, create jobs and meet other needs. The nation cant make progress on critical domestic issues until the war is ended, he added.

We are going to continue to hit hard on that issue, Richardson said afterward. The fact that I am firm on the war in Iraq and that I want to bring all the troops home is resonating with people.

The New Mexico volunteers who will be arriving in Iowa in the coming days are part of what the campaign has dubbed the Road Runner program, said Richardson aide Tom Reynolds. They are people who have supported Richardson, a former congressman, in past political campaigns in New Mexico and they want to see him elected to the White House, he said. They will be working throughout Iowa.

They are paying their own way and coming of their own free will, Reynolds said.

Several top officials in Richardsons state cabinet in New Mexico have already been in Iowa to campaign on his behalf. In recent days they have included John Garcia, New Mexicos secretary of veterans services, and Reed Dasenbrock, New Mexicos secretary of higher education.

Richardson today wrapped up a week of intensive campaigning throughout Iowa with a series of appearances in Dallas and Polk counties. He said he was elated with his crowds, noting more than 300 people attended his Conversation on Iraq Friday night at Iowa State University in Ames.

Richardson was scheduled to fly home with his wife, Barbara, to New Mexico on Saturday night with plans to remain there through Christmas Day. He plans to resume campaigning on Wednesday with a trip to western Iowa, and he will stay in the state until the Iowa Caucuses are over.

Richardson calls out Congress, CR Gazette, 12-23
By Rod Boshart
The Gazette

WEST DES MOINES – Democratic presidential hopeful Bill Richardson on Saturday criticized Congress for being weak in challenging President

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Bush to set a timetable for bringing U.S. troops home and pushing a political reconciliation in war-torn Iraq.

The New Mexico governor also took aim at his Democratic rivals who serve in the Senate, saying he is disappointed that the talk of leadership he hears on the campaign trail doesn't jibe with the reality he sees in Washington.

"I think we're going to be stuck with this war because the Congress is weak and the president is persistent," Richardson told about 150 people at the city's public library.

"I think the whole Senate and the whole Congress, their actions are very disappointing and there's an inconsistency between what they're saying on the trail and what they're doing," he later said in an interview, referring specifically to his presidential rivals.

"I'm very disappointed that many of them don't even make the vote. They're out campaigning, so they should practice what they preach," he added. "They need to show up and filibuster. They should put timetables on legislation on the war. But instead they're staying home or they're campaigning." Richardson said he is upset that the focus of the 2008 campaign is shifting away from the war to domestic issues – issues that he contends will continue to languish in inactivity until the costly war in Iraq is brought to an end. He pledges to end it in his first year as president.

Richardson also said it upsets him to hear pundits say the president's surge of U.S. troops in Iraq is working and that November's death toll of U.S. soldiers stood at 37. "That's 37 too many," he told the potential caucus goers in pledging to keep the focus on the war issue until Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses Jan. 3.

"The surge is not working. There is no more movement to a political solution. Maybe there's a temporary lull in the violence."

Caucus Digest: Richardson health plan, WCF Courier, 12-22
By Courier Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES --- Democratic presidential candidate Bill Richardson on Friday presented his plan to improve mental health treatment.

Speaking in Newton, Richardson outlined a plan that would increase federal funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment. He would also take steps to improve community support for people with mental health needs.

"We need to stop treating people with a mental illness or substance use disorders like second-class citizens," Richardson said, according to a statement from his campaign.

He emphasized the need to improve mental health care for military personnel.

"We are going to treat mental trauma such as (post-traumatic stress disorder) the same way that we treat physical wounds-- like the battlefield injuries that they are," he said.

Richardson, the governor of New Mexico, had previously proposed a "Heroes Health Card" that would entitle all returning military personnel to government-funded health care wherever they want it.

OBAMA HITS BACK --- Barack Obama's campaign continued its pushback Friday against a union mailer that criticizes the candidate's health care plan.

At the campaign's behest, two members of the union --- the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees --- stepped forward to say the attack was unfair.

AFSCME has endorsed Hillary Clinton and has joined her in arguing that Obama's health plan is flawed because it doesn't mandate that all Americans receive coverage.

Carter Woodruff of Des Moines, an AFSCME member and a former top official for the union in Iowa, said the mailer is unfair. He said the union is being hypocritical in calling for an insurance mandate, when it had previously opposed such a mandate.

"It's a shame that they're stooping to this level to try to win an election," Woodruff said.

He was joined in a conference call by Henry Bayer, executive director of the AFSCME council in Illinois, Obama's home state.

Clinton and Obama have gone back and forth for weeks about their health plans. Clinton says Obama's plan is fundamentally flawed because it doesn't cover everyone, while Obama says the first priority should be lowering health care costs so it becomes possible to one day cover everyone.

ROMNEY CALLED MISLEADING --- Mitt Romney's most recent attack on Mike Huckabee is misleading, according to an independent analysis from FactCheck.org.

"Romney attacks Huckabee again with false and misleading claims," said the headline of the item published on the site this week.

FactCheck, a research group at the Annenberg Public Policy Center in the University of Pennsylvania, looked at the Romney ad dealing with anti-methamphetamine laws. Romney argues in the ad that he was tougher on meth as governor of Massachusetts than Huckabee was as governor of Arkansas.

Analysts for FactCheck said it's misleading for Romney to say he got tough on meth when he is referring to legislation that never passed.

However, Romney is accurate when he says Huckabee reduced some penalties for drug offenses. But the ad doesn't mention that the penalties in Arkansas were, and remain, much greater than they are in Massachusetts.

Finally, the analysts criticize Romney for the way the ad uses simulated news clippings to say things that don't appear in the actual news articles. For example, the ad uses the quote, "Tough on drugs like meth," and attributes it to the Berkshire Eagle newspaper, but those words don't appear in that order in the article.

While FactCheck is defending Huckabee in this instance, the group raked him over the coals last month when it accused him of misrepresenting his record for tax cuts as governor.

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Richardson: War still big issue, Muscatine Journal, 12-22
By: Bob Zientara/The Tribune

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Richardson continues to stake his claim to military ground once monopolized by Republicans.

Ending the U.S. presence in Iraq, promising "a hero's health care" for veterans and even excusing college student loans in exchange for a year's service to the country (including the military or the Peace Corps) were among issues Richardson raised Friday evening in Ames.

A crowd of between 250 and 300 people drove through a heavy fog to fill the Great Room at the Iowa State University Memorial Union for the New Mexico governor's appearance.

Huxley resident Sue Dinsdale led off the evening. She said she'd come to oppose the war after watching her son serve two tours of duty there, and added she was impressed with Richardson's vow to extricate the United States from the struggle.

After three more warm-up speeches, including one by Richardson's wife, Barbara, Richardson admonished his listeners that talk about the war (among voters and the media) seems to be quieting down.

"People say the surge is working, (that) 'only 37 Americans died' during December. That's 37 too many," he said.

The war still is front and center among vital issues, Richardson said, not the least of which is the $500 billion it has taken to fight it - money that could have been spent on domestic problems. He vowed to remove all U.S. troops and private contractors within a year of being elected.

The war is affecting America's moral authority as well, he added.

"Now, we're a nation known for Guantanamo, and I'll get rid of that my first day in office," he said.

Richardson was asked what he'd do to correct the alleged wrongs committed by private Iraq contractors like Halliburton and Blackwater.

"Simple. I'd fire them," he said. "They're paid three times as much as our troops and they have no accountability.

"If we leave (Iraq), we can focus on international terrorism, nuclear proliferation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions," said Richardson.

He said he would help to assure other countries that "we are not the world's policeman, but the world's conscience."

And he'd go to work on other issues, like guaranteeing health care for everyone "from a ditch digger to a professional," and on ending the No Child Left Behind program - which drew one of the evening's biggest rounds of applause.

The run-up to the Dec. 3 Iowa Caucuses has been a marathon for both the candidate and his staff. But Richardson said it has also endeared him to the state where he hopes to do well in less than two weeks.

Richardson said he'd learned to put a long "a" in Nevada and accent the first syllable for Madrid, but he's still struggling with pronouncing Keokuk and Maquoketa.

Blog Post: **Richardson says Iowans Can Deliver Win over "Smarty Pants Set in Washington,"** Iowa Politics, 12-22
By Chris Dorsey

WEST DES MOINES -- New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson on Saturday made the case Saturday that there's room for him in that supposedly "three-person race" in the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses.

"Here in Iowa, we are moving up," Richardson told about 150 people. "We are going to win this thing -- just watch. Look where John Kerry and John Edwards were four years ago at this stage. I can feel this surge."

Since entering the presidential fray in May, Richardson has admitted he doesn't boast "rock star" or celebrity status. Instead, he has focused on his experience as a governor, congressman, UN ambassador and secretary of energy. Along the way in visiting all 99 Iowa counties, Richardson faced the daunting task of overcoming the perception he wasn't a frontrunner. That perception came from a deficit in many polls -- trailing behind the Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton and former Sen. John Edwards.

Yet, Richardson still trudges forward. He campaigned Saturday in central Iowa despite strong winds and significant snow fall. He has his eye on the prize, and told the crowd at the West Des Moines Public Library that he can win Iowa -- with their support.

One issue Richardson can distinguish himself from the Democratic field is on Iraq. Richardson has stressed while other issues are emerging as the Iowa caucuses near, candidates can't overlook Iraq. He says the war should end with no residual troops behind.

"I am upset at the fact the media is saying this is one of the issues," Richardson said. "I have the clearest plan. We get out in one year."

Richardson's plan resonates with Ken Briggs, a retired Vietnam veteran.

"I was at a function in June or May," Briggs said. "Every veteran question I asked him, he answered right."

The New Mexico governor contradicts statements made by Republican presidential candidates and the White House that the surge in Iraq is working. Thirty-seven U.S. soldiers died in December in the war-torn region; that's 37 too many, he added.

Richardson spent Saturday afternoon at central Iowa house parties hosted by military families. As the caucus nears, Richardson -- like all presidential candidates -- is taking his message to as many Iowans as he can before Jan. 3.

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He asked Iowans determine his fate, not the media or Washington, D.C. insiders.

"It is Iowa that is making the decision," he said. "Not the smarty pants set in Washington, not the national media and T.V. that tell you this is a two-person race. This is a race that should be who can bring this country together."

GOP

Huckabee: Caucus clout stays - if you support me, Des Moines Register, 12-23
By PAULA LAVIGNE

Council Bluffs, Ia. - Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee promised Iowa voters Saturday that they can maintain their influence as the leading caucus state if they support his campaign.

The former Arkansas governor pointed out that he was able to come from behind in the polls to become Iowa's GOPfront-runner despite "being outspent 20 to 1" by the other candidates on fliers, TV ads and consultants.

"This election is going to be an opportunity to prove that, in America, the presidency is not so much a matter of money. It is about the message, and it is about the direction this country is going to take," he said. "It would forever enshrine Iowa's role and significance in having the caucus."

Huckabee spoke to about 120 people who came to the downtown civic center on a blustery morning. He was scheduled to continue his western Iowa tour later in the day at stops in Sioux City, Orange City and Sheldon.

Steve Jacobsen, his wife and their 13-year-old daughter, who helped make several pro-Huckabee signs, were among those who waited to talk to the candidate. Jacobsen, a 47-year-old information technology director from Glenwood, said Huckabee's appeal shows that his message has strength beyond all the other candidates' "glitzy ads."

"I just like him because I know he has a basic value he'll use in any decision," Jacobsen said. "I don't have to worry about where he's going to come from when he makes a decision."

Jacobsen said Huckabee's position on taxes appealed to him because the system is too burdensome.

Huckabee spoke for about 30 minutes on a variety of issues, including his desire to replace federal income and payroll taxes with a national sales tax, for which people below the poverty line would receive a full rebate.

"Imagine how much of a difference it will make to small-business owners who now spend so much time and energy just trying to comply with the tax code," he said, adding that his plan "gives us the best way to revitalize our economy and particularly untax the poor and give them a chance to meet the next rung on the economic ladder."

Huckabee also touched on his proposals to invest more in preventive health care, spend more to better equip the military, secure the nation's borders against illegal immigration, and oppose amnesty for people already here illegally.

He reaffirmed his stances against gay marriage and abortion, and spoke more about the latter issue after a woman asked him to pray with her group in front of a nearby Planned Parenthood clinic.

"Either we value human life or we don't," he said. "In many ways, I got into politics because I'm deeply pro-life and I believe that, on this issue, the future of our civilization will live or die."

Not all of Huckabee's promises dealt with such weighty topics. At the start of his speech, he apologized to the crowd for being a half-hour late and blamed the delay on "the world's longest train," which generated laughter among the crowd.

"When I'm president, we're going to fix that," he said. "We guarantee short trains in Council Bluffs."

In Sioux City, Huckabee said he'd "love to win" in Iowa.

"Obviously, we've been playing to win, not show," he said. "If we do win, it will be a true upset of the classic form to win having been outspent as we have, and outmanned. To win would give us great momentum going into the next several contests."

Analysis: Can Thompson's late effort pay off?, Des Moines Register, 12-23
By WILLIAMS THEOBALD

Mason City, Ia. ◆ Even his harshest critics would likely concede that Fred Thompson had a good campaign swing through Iowa this week.

But as he headed home to Virginia on Saturday for a three-day Christmas break before returning to Iowa for the second half of his Iowa bus tour, the question that this last-minute effort began with still stands.

Will it make any difference?

Sure, Thompson won the endorsement of influential conservative Republican U.S. Rep. Steve King of Iowa. And despite losing out on Rep. Tom Tancredo's endorsement when the Colorado congressman dropped out of the presidential race and backed Mitt Romney, the next day Tancredo's Iowa campaign chairman endorsed Thompson.

Yes, Thompson's five-stop-a-day schedule answers critics who say he is a lazy campaigner. And the press coverage has been more positive, the crowds larger, the candidate sharper yet more relaxed and sometimes even appearing to be having fun.

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But politics, in the end, is about concrete things like fundraising dollars and votes. And in those empirical categories it is difficult to see any impact yet.

Some polls have shown slight improvement but others have shown him dropping slightly among voters in Iowa and nationally. The Rasmussen Reports daily tracking poll found Thompson at 11 percent nationally at the start of the week and the same number at the end of the week. That left him tied for third behind Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

While staffers say there have been no pay cuts or layoffs, the financial leanest of Thompson's campaign is obvious. Romney launched three new TV ads in the past week and was on a jet. Thompson was on a bus, albeit a large, tricked-out one, and left to stopping at small newspapers, doing radio "town hall meetings" and posting pleas for money on his Web site.

Thompson aides say that they have seen increases in donations and in traffic on the candidate's Web site, but would not give specific numbers. And they point to the pile of commitment cards signed by voters at this week's events promising to go to the Jan. 3 caucus and support Thompson.

Thompson said Saturday at the only event he held before a snowstorm forced him to cut short his campaigning and head home that he sees improvement in the reaction of the audiences, the polls, and the comments of prominent conservative political pundits.
"It's also the feeling I have as a person who's won elections," Thompson said.

In the end, however, Thompson supporters in Iowa are left to hope there are more people like the woman in Fort Dodge, who came to see Thompson speak at the Webster County Republican headquarters. As her husband stood outside in the Iowa cold smoking a cigarette, he looked through the window at his wife chatting with members of Thompson's staff.

His wife, he said, had attended a Romney event the night before and had decided to support him. "Now, I bet she's in there changing her mind," he lamented.

Sure enough, when she came out the door she was a committed Thompson supporter who had even sat for a video interview to the posted on the campaign Web site.

Huckabee: My campaign proves it's not about the money, Des Moines Register, 12-22
By PAULA LAVIGNE

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Ia - Mike Huckabee promised Iowa voters Saturday that they can maintain their influence as the leading caucus state by supporting him for president.

Huckabee pointed out that he was able to come from behind in the polls to become Iowa's Republican front runner despite "being outspent 20 to 1" by the other candidates on fliers, TV ads, and consultants.

"This election is going to be an opportunity to prove that, in America, the presidency is not so much a matter of money. It is about the message, and it is about the direction this country is going to take," he said. "It would forever enshrine Iowa's role and significance in having the caucus."

The former Arkansas governor spoke to a crowd of about 120 people who came to a downtown civic center on a blustery weekend morning. He was scheduled to continue his Western Iowa tour later in the day at stops in Sioux City, Orange City, and Sheldon.

Steve Jacobsen, his wife and their 13-year-old daughter Sarah, who helped make several pro-Huckabee signs, were among those waiting to talk to the candidate after the event. The 47-year-old IT director from Glenwood said Huckabee's appeal shows that his message has strength beyond all the other candidates' "glitzy ads."

"I just like him because I know he has a basic value he'll use in any decision," Jacobsen said. "I don't have to worry about where he's going to come from when he makes a decision."

Jacobsen said Huckabee's position on taxes most appealed to him because the current system for filing taxes is too burdensome and difficult.

Huckabee spoke for about a half hour on a whole slate of issues, including his support for replacing all federal income and payroll taxes with a progressive national sales tax, from which people below the poverty line would receive a full rebate.

"Imagine how much of a difference it will make to small business owners who now spend so much time and energy just trying to comply with the tax code," he said. "….The FairTax gives us the best way to revitalize our economy and particularly untax the poor and give them a chance to meet the next rung on the economic ladder."

Huckabee also touched on his proposals to invest more in preventative health care, spend more money to better equip the military, secure the nation's borders against illegal immigration, and oppose amnesty for people already here illegally.

He reaffirmed his stance against recognizing gay marriage and abortion, and spoke more about the issue after a woman asked him to pray with her group protesting that morning in front of a nearby Planned Parenthood clinic.

"Either we value human life or we don't," he said. "In many ways, I got into politics because I'm deeply pro-life and I believe that, on this issue, the future of our civilization will live or die."

Not all of Huckabee's promises dealt with such weighty topics. At the start of his speech, he apologized to the crowd for being a half-hour late and blamed the delay on waiting for "the world's longest train."

"When I'm president, we're gonna fix that," he said, generating laughter among the crowd. "We guarantee short trains in Council Bluffs."

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Fred Thompson events canceled, Des Moines Register, 12-22
Two meet-and-greet campaign events for Republican Fred Thompson scheduled for today have been canceled due to the weather.

Thompson will not appear at either the 1 p.m. Ames event, nor the 5:10 p.m. Urbandale event. Campaign staff are working on rescheduling, but do not yet have concrete details, a spokeswoman said.

Romney says McCain flunked ‘Reagan 101’, Omaha World Herald, 12-23

NORTH CONWAY, N.H. (AP) — Taking aim at a rallying John McCain, New Hampshire frontrunner Mitt Romney said Saturday that his GOP presidential rival had failed “Reagan 101” by twice opposing President Bush’s tax cuts.

Romney also sought to turn McCain’s well-known maverick streak — a central theme in his campaign ads — against the Arizona senator. McCain’s go-italone attitude, Romney suggested, will breed more divisiveness in Washington if he wins.

“Anyone who’s run something, whether it’s a small business or a big business, knows that the No. 1 ingredient for success is building a remarkable team of people around you, motivating them, guiding them, insisting on them drawing out their best capacities,” Romney told a crowd of more than 100 people at an elementary school. Taxes, a major focus in a state without an income tax, also came up in Romney’s criticism of McCain.

“He voted against the Bush tax cuts — twice,” Romney said. “That’s failing Reagan 101. (Ronald) Reagan taught . . . almost all of us in the Republican Party that lowering taxes would grow the economy and was good for our economy and good for individuals. And I believe that the Republicans are going to nominate a tax-cutter to become president of the United States.”

The McCain campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In 2000, McCain beat Bush in the New Hampshire primary, and the two later squared off over the president’s tax-cut policy. Romney’s criticism could open him up to a line attack about his own position on the tax cuts, given a report from the Boston Globe about a meeting in Washington in 2001 with the Massachusetts congressional delegation. The Globe said Romney, governor of Massachusetts at the time, was asked about Bush’s tax cut plan, and Romney replied that he “won’t be a cheerleader” for proposals he did not agree with. “But I have to keep a solid relationship with the White House,” the Globe reported him as saying.

Giuliani downplays hospital stay

HOPKINTON, N.H. (AP) — Republican presidential hopeful Rudy Giuliani said Saturday that he is glad to be back campaigning after canceling some events last week because of illness.

The former New York mayor spent Wednesday night at a hospital in St. Louis and was released Thursday.

On Saturday, Giuliani downplayed the episode. “I am in good health,” he said. “This is just something that came about because I was tired, not

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sleeping, who knows exactly why, but I had a very bad headache. They were concerned it might be other things, (but) they ruled out just about every other possibility. It was just a bad headache."

Clinton pledges help for working women

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Sen. Hillary Clinton on Saturday tailored her messages and appearances to female voters, with whom she enjoys a sizable lead in this state's contest for the Democratic nomination.

Clinton, speaking at a YWCA here, said her agenda for families and children is the most aggressive among the candidates. She touted her plans for familycare and child-care tax credits that she said would ease the burden on working women.

"We can do a better job in supporting families than we do right now," Clinton said. "We give a lot of lip service to family values, but we've never really valued families in a way that we can."

Huckabee: Stronger Military, Families, AP/Quad City Times, 12-23

By LIBBY QUAID

SIOUX CITY, Iowa - Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee appealed to Iowa conservatives on two fronts Saturday, calling for a stronger military and stronger families.

Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor who jumped to a lead in Iowa polls earlier this month, wants a drastic increase in regular forces to ease the strain on National Guard and reserve units being called up for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We need to have a larger regular force to make sure we are capable if we do have to go into battle, and let's pray to God that we don't," Huckabee told about 120 people in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Huckabee acknowledged the criticism leveled at him last week for his negative comments about President Bush's foreign policy, although he mischaracterized the criticism.

Huckabee said detractors don't like his opinion that a larger force should have invaded Iraq. In fact, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice disagreed with a separate Huckabee complaint, that Bush has an "arrogant bunker mentality" toward foreign policy that is offensive to other countries.

"Mistakes were made in how things were handled; we all understand that," Huckabee said of the Iraq war. "Now I'm getting criticism because I'm suggesting there were mistakes in the light-footprint concept."

He repeated his complaint that Bush should have listened to military commanders who said more troops were needed for the initial invasion.

"Once you engage in battle, you do not let the politicians second-guess and mess with the decisions of the battlefield commanders who have the blood on their boots and the medals on their chest," Huckabee told around 300 supporters later in a high school auditorium in Sioux Falls.

Huckabee's foreign policy views were also criticized by GOP rival Mitt Romney, whom Huckabee knocked out of the lead in Iowa polls earlier this month.

The ascent of Huckabee, an ordained Baptist minister, has been fueled by Christian conservatives who share his evangelical faith and, in many cases, say they are uncomfortable with Romney's Mormon faith.

On his final stretch of campaigning before the Christmas holiday, Huckabee underlined his lifelong opposition to abortion and gay marriage, issues that will likely drive many churchgoers to the Jan. 3 caucuses in Iowa. He spent Saturday traveling the western edge of Iowa, the most conservative part of the state.

"It's not because I don't like them," Huckabee said of gay people. "It's because I like even more the idea that the heart and soul, the essence of our civilization is in the family. It's not in the government. It's not even in some institution, not even the church. Before there was the church, and before there was government, there was family.

"When you mess with the design, you end up messing with results," he added. "We can't afford to do that. That's why you will never hear me waver."

His emphasis on consistency calls attention to Romney's inconsistency. Romney favored abortion rights and gay rights when elected governor of Massachusetts, but has since changed his mind on abortion and in his presidential campaign has played down his support for gay rights, while playing up his opposition to gay marriage.

Huckabee also thumped Romney for spending millions of dollars to organize and boost his profile in Iowa. Huckabee runs a tiny campaign on a shoestring budget and, even with significant help from outside groups and pastors, is vastly outgunned in the state.

"But what would happen in this country if money couldn't buy the presidency?" Huckabee asked. "What would happen if Iowa said we're not for sale, and we're not even for rent?"

In Orange City, he joked about mailboxes stuffed full of campaign mailings: "I know you normally look forward to Christmas cards this time of year. This time, you go and _ Huckabee's a bum, Huckabee's a bum, Huckabee's a bum, Huckabee's a bum.

"My wife could've told you that and saved the postage," he said as a packed auditorium laughed and clapped.

It wasn't all talk for Huckabee, who despite his conservative image likes to rock out on bass guitar. In Sioux City, to illustrate what he needs to do over the crucial next few days, Huckabee played "Takin' Care of Business," the 1970s hit by Bachman-Turner Overdrive.

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Romney Takes on McCain Over Taxes, AP/Quad City Times, 12-23

By GLEN JOHNSON
NORTH CONWAY, N.H. - Taking aim at a rallying John McCain, New Hampshire front-runner Mitt Romney said Saturday that his GOP presidential rival had failed "Reagan 101" by twice opposing President Bush's tax cuts.

Romney also sought to turn McCain's well-known maverick streak _ a central theme in his campaign ads _ against the Arizona senator. McCain's go-it-alone attitude, Romney suggested, will breed more divisiveness in Washington if he wins.

"Anyone who's run something, whether it's a small business or a big business, knows that the No. 1 ingredient for success is building a remarkable team of people around you, motivating them, guiding them, insisting on them drawing out their best capacities," Romney told a crowd of more than 100 people at an elementary school.

"I've had occasions to run business, to run the Olympics and to run a state, and you don't do that by yourself," said Romney, a former Massachusetts governor.

Taxes, a major focus in a state without an income tax, drew Romney's attention in his criticism of McCain.

"He voted against the Bush tax cuts _ twice," Romney said. "That's failing Reagan 101. (Ronald) Reagan taught ... almost all of us in the Republican Party that lowering taxes would grow the economy and was good for our economy and good for individuals. And I believe that the Republicans are going to nominate a tax-cutter to become president of the United States."

The McCain campaign's state vice chairman, Chuck Douglas, said Romney had a tendency to change political positions depending on the circumstance.

"From his claims of being a 'lifelong hunter' to receiving the NRA's endorsement to marching with Martin Luther King Jr., it's clear that Mitt Romney has trouble with the truth," Douglas said. "His latest attacks are yet another example of his complete inability to level with the voters of New Hampshire. The facts are clear: Romney refused to endorse the Bush tax cuts he now claims to champion, maybe because he was too busy raising taxes in Massachusetts by over $700 million per year."

In 2000, McCain beat Bush in the New Hampshire primary, and the two later squared off over the president's tax-cut policy.

The attacks on McCain come as the latest public opinion survey shows the lawmaker gaining on Romney, who long held double-digit leads in the state. Those questioned in the USA Today/Gallup Poll said they liked McCain for standing up for his beliefs and being in touch with average people, but Romney for having new ideas to solve problems and sharing voters' values.

Romney's criticism could open him up to a line attack about his own position on the tax cuts.

McCain was one of two Republican senators to vote against a $1.35 trillion tax cut that Bush proposed in 2001. McCain also voted against similar plans in 2003, as well as a proposed repeal of the federal estate tax. McCain said they disproportionately benefited the wealthy.

"That sounds like Ted Kennedy and John Kerry," Romney later told a house party in Tuftonboro, referring to the two liberal Democratic senators from his home state.

At the time of the latter votes, Romney was in his first stint in elective office, leading Massachusetts.

The Boston Globe reported that year that during a meeting in Washington with the Massachusetts congressional delegation, Romney was asked about the tax cuts and said he "won't be a cheerleader" for proposals he did not agree with. "But I have to keep a solid relationship with the White House."

Now, Romney is solidly behind the cuts, arguing they should be made permanent before they expire in 2011.

A questioner at a town hall meeting Friday night in Rochester asked Romney about his apparent change of heart. The man refused to give his name, and Romney aides surrounded him afterward and accused him of being a Massachusetts Democrat who had challenged Romney about his tax record at another event.

Romney said that his first public comments were in support of the tax cuts, and that he campaigned on behalf of Bush in 2004.

Turning back to 2003, Romney told the man: "You see, I wasn't a U.S. senator. I didn't have to vote on this, didn't get a choice to. I was running my state, so I didn't have a comment on their position. And I said, `I'm not weighing in on federal issues.' But Senator McCain was a senator. He had to vote. He had to decide, `Am I in favor of pursuing these tax cuts or not,' and he voted against the tax cuts _ twice. That's a very different position."

Rivals: Huckabee Another Bill Clinton, AP/Quad City Times, 12-23
By: Liz Sidoti

DAVENPORT, Iowa - To hear Mitt Romney tell it, Republican Mike Huckabee shares more with Democrat Bill Clinton than a hometown in Hope, Ark., and a stint as Arkansas governor.

Both men, Romney suggests, have left-leaning governing philosophies, particularly on taxes and spending.

"Governor Huckabee's record is more liberal than our nation needs right now," the former Massachusetts governor said in Iowa last week, seeking to link his GOP presidential rival to the former Democratic president who is loathed by many Republican loyalists.

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Retorted Huckabee: "This nonsense about being a liberal is pure nonsense."

Romney started giving Huckabee that brand _ and implicitly linking him to Clinton _ as polls started showing a tight race in the first state to speak in the GOP nomination fight. Romney had led in Iowa for months, but Huckabee's recent rise here and elsewhere has prompted Romney to go after his opponent.

The effort may be paying off. Polls show Huckabee's double-digit lead dropping to single digits less than two weeks before the caucuses.

Romney's aides argue Huckabee's record as governor undercuts his claim that he's the only authentic conservative in the race. Romney himself has stopped short of explicitly saying his rival is simply another Clinton, though he's less shy about it in campaign literature mailed to thousands of Iowa Republicans.

He wouldn't bite this past week when pressed on whether Huckabee and Clinton were one and the same.

"They're very different people, and obviously the area of concern relates to spending and taxation. We think of Bill Clinton as being a tax raiser and a spender," Romney said _ then mused that he had read somewhere that Huckabee had raised more taxes than Clinton when they were governors.

Asked whether Huckabee was more like him or Clinton, Romney sidestepped.

"I think you have to look issue by issue," he said.

Huckabee returns to city, now with front-runner status, Sioux City Journal, 12-23
By Bret Hayworth Journal staff writer

SIOUX CITY -- Campaigning July 11 in Sioux City, Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee spoke to 35 people in a stop at Panera Bread.

Like a band growing in stature, sometime-bassist Huckabee has moved from small venues to the big halls. On Saturday, Huckabee drew roughly 10 times the amount of the summer stop when 330 people came to the North High School auditorium. In a Journal/Lee Enterprises Poll last week, Huckabee had vaulted to the lead in Iowa, surpassing Mitt Romney, who had been the polling leader for much of 2007.

Siouxlanders taking in the event heard Huckabee namecheck a wide variety of topics, including the Declaration of Independence, the prophet Isaiah and the 1972 movie "Billy Jack." The crowd was energized from the beginning, and a group of teen girls began a chant of "Huckabee, Huckabee" when he strapped on a bass and played a Bachman Turner Overdrive song prior to delivering a 35-minute speech.

"You guys are jazzed up, aren't you? I'm not sure if this is a political rally or the set for The Price Is Right," Huckabee said as he began.

He noted he was the 44th governor of Arkansas, serving for 10 years, and pointed to the numerical symmetry of what he's looking to become. "Ladies and gentlemen, with your help on Jan. 3, I'll be on the way to becoming the 44th president of the United States," Huckabee said.

Huckabee pointed with relish to his status at the top of polls, noting the difference from "the days nobody knew or cared about me."

At a time when there is increased back-and-forth between the Romney and Huckabee campaigns, Huckabee encouraged Iowans to listen to the candidates themselves, not what's coming out of opponent camps. He said he's gotten some advice on "going negative" against GOP candidates, but said he's not going down that path.

"I can't stop the negative attacks, and I can't equally spend what my opponents will spend," he said.

Rather, Huckabee said, "I've got a record I'm very proud to stand on -- more executive experience than any one else running, Republican or Democrat." He added that the nation needs a president who will take the country "not to the left or the right, but up."

On immigration reform, Huckabee said he supports beefing up border security and having illegal immigrants go "to the back of the line" for legal status. He also cited support for revising the tax system and for "traditional marriage," terming that as only between a man and a woman.

Romney ads have been critical of the number of pardons and commutations Huckabee gave Arkansas prisoners, and Huckabee noted some contend he's been "soft on crime."

Said Huckabee, "The 16 people who were executed when I was governor probably wouldn't agree with that statement."

The event was attended by three Kingsley, Iowa, natives now living elsewhere but home for the holidays, including one now living 20 minutes away from Huckabee's hometown of Hope, Ark. Sherri Kaneversky of Sioux City said she came to the event unsure of which candidate she would support.

"I liked everything I heard and, yeah, I'm going to support (Huckabee) for the caucuses. I'm going to my first caucus," said Kaneversky, who moved from California three years ago.

She's a former school teacher who now home schools her children. Homeschoolers have had a strong affiliation with Huckabee, and some from Iowa and Nebraska were in attendance.

"He's clear and concise and he answers the questions," Kaneversky said, and cited her agreement with Huckabee on tax policy, education and immigration reform.

"If the true conservatives will listen to him and get out to vote ... I think he can win," she said.

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At the conclusion of the event, Sioux City councilman Jason Geary announced he was endorsing Huckabee. "He's a man of principle, a man who governs effectively," Geary said.

Huckabee touts poll climb, Dubuque Telegraph Herald, 12-22

Former Arkansas governor, appearing at Loras, says he is accustomed to being the underdog
By EILEEN MOZINSKI TH staff writer

Republican presidential hopeful, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee greets people during a campaign stop at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, Friday, December 21, 2007.
Other candidates have shelled out a lot more cash, but Mike Huckabee said his recent climb in the polls is more than a fluke.

In an appearance Friday at Loras College, the former Arkansas governor and suddenly heavyweight contender for the Republican presidential nomination said he's used to being the underdog. Huckabee said he thinks his Iowa lead is destined to stick even though, by Huckabee's numbers, one opponent, Mitt Romney, has outspent him 20-to-1.

When questioned about what his thoughts were after the campaign took the lead among Republican candidates in Iowa, Huckabee said he has always believed in the possibility that big aspirations can sprout from humble roots.

It's a theme he said has been peppered throughout his life and presidential campaign.

"It's about all those people who grew up like me," Huckabee told a crowd of about 60 people at the Loras Alumni Campus Center. "With the odds stacked against them 20-to-1."

In a town hall-style question- and answer-session, the presidential hopeful defended himself against recent attacks questioning Advertisement

his record of tax increases and pardons as governor.

Huckabee said the accusations have missed the big picture about his record.

"When you tell a half-truth as if it was a whole truth, it becomes an untruth," he said.

Huckabee touted his ability to improve and maintain the Arkansas budget and bolster the state education system.

"If I messed up that bad, I hid it really well from the people who voted for me," he said.

Huckabee added that the pardons he granted were typically situations that rectified a minimal offense so someone could attend college or get a job and came from a stack of more than 8,700 requests.

"The idea that I stood at the prison door and let people out en masse is ridiculous," he said.

The candidate also took questions on his views about gay marriage, gun control and illegal immigration.

After telling his personal story of losing more than 100 pounds and becoming healthy enough to participate as a marathon runner, Huckabee outlined his belief that health care needs to focus on "prevention and wellness."

He shared his "unabashed view" that the Second Amendment is as sacred as the First and said the illegal immigration issue is a complex one that can be remedied by establishing a firm border. "The first thing has to be a sealed border, and I mean a literal fence," he said.

To a young woman asking about same-sex marriage who said she strongly believes that "people can't help who they love," Huckabee asked the audience to applaud her candor. But the candidate demanded he supports a more "traditional" view of marriage.

"When you start redefining words like 'family' and 'marriage' it's a pretty big deal," he said, adding that he is not the candidate to count on to "change those rules."

Huckabee urged participants to help him win the Jan. 3 Iowa caucus. He said the move would reaffirm the importance of the caucuses by making them more than being about supporting the candidate who spends the most.

"It would create such havoc in the whole political world," he said, promising to honor the idea that elected officials are not supposed to be rulers. "We're elected to be servers."

Angela Warnke, of Dubuque, asked Huckabee about alternative energy and said she was pleased with his stance that the United States needs to become energy independent in the next decade. Warnke supported Huckabee in the summer straw poll.

"Every time I try to change candidates, I keep coming back to him," she said.

'I dance to no man's tune', Ft. Dodge Messenger, 12-22
By BILL SHEA, Messenger staff writer

Former U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson came to Fort Dodge Friday and quickly staked his claim to being the true conservative Republican who can protect American values if he becomes president.

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He defended his qualifications for that job by asserting that a resume loaded with administrative experience doesn't always make a good leader.

''Administrators are people who leaders hire,'' he said. ''There is a difference between administration and leadership.''

Speaking in the measured baritone that TV viewers came to expect on ''Law & Order,'' the actor-turned-politician recited what he views as the basics of conservative government.

Along the way, he enhanced his homespun Tennessee lawyer image with quips such as calling the signers of the Declaration of Independence ''the old boys.''

Of himself, he said, ''What you see is what you get. I dance to no man's tune.''

He spoke to about 80 people at the Webster County Republican headquarters, 900 Central Ave., winning over Linda Sorenson, of rural Webster County, who had been a Democrat for years.

''I was not at all a Fred Thompson supporter until tonight,'' Sorenson said. ''He's very straightforward. He doesn't hold back punches. He says what he thinks.''

Sorenson said she'll caucus for him because she believes he'll bring leadership and truthfulness to the White House.

Others in the crowd, like Howard Ortmeyer, of Fort Dodge, are still making up their minds about the candidates.

''I kind of liked him,'' Ortmeyer said. ''I do think he's a little conservative for me, but he has good ideas.''

He said he's still considering three candidates.

Thompson said he's committed to the ''sound conservative principles that have unified us for over 200 years.''

Topping the list of those principles, he said, is the idea that basic rights come from God, not government.

Smaller government and a federal court system that's limited to case law, not social policy, are also key, he said.

He called for tight-fisted budget policies.

''You don't spend money you don't have and you don't borrow money that only your children and grandchildren can pay back,'' he said.

Thompson said all those ideals are threatened by a ''liberal, big-government, high-taxes, weak-on-national-defense Democratic Party that is licking its chops to get back in power to lead us down the road to a welfare state.''

The candidate said that if he's elected he'll simplify the tax system, save Social Security, modernize the military and stop illegal immigration.

The security of the nation would be his No. 1 priority, he said. The United States, he said, is ''one terrorist plot away from nuclear disaster.''

A Thompson administration, he said, would permit an aggressive search for domestic energy sources that would include drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. He said he also supports ''clean coal,'' nuclear energy and alternative fuels such as ethanol.

While some of his competitors hit the campaign trail in 2006, Thompson entered the race in late summer 2007. He said presidential campaigns ought to be shorter. Long campaigns, he added, are ''certainly not adding to the intellectual capital of our nation.''

In Iowa, barnstorming Thompson aims to keep campaign alive, Muscatine Journal, 12-22
By LIBBY QUAID

SIOUX CITY, Iowa - Actor-politician Fred Thompson is making an eleventh-hour push to convince Iowa voters he is the only real conservative in the presidential race, contrasting his ideas and record on immigration and abortion with those of his leading rivals.

His job isn't getting any easier. Thompson suffered a stinging setback Thursday, when conservative Rep. Tom Tancredo dropped out of the presidential running and endorsed another rival, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

Tancredo, a Colorado congressman, is a hero to many voters who are furious at illegal immigration in this country, and a lot of them are Iowa caucus goers. The endorsement was a disappointment to Thompson, especially since his week had begun on a high note with the unexpected backing of another anti-immigration hero, Rep. Steve King.

King, an Iowa congressman, said volunteers are frantically calling Tancredo supporters to try to recruit them for Thompson. Two senior officials came on board Friday, campaigning with Thompson in Sioux City in conservative western Iowa, which King represents and where he traveled with Thompson this week.

"I am convinced the majority of Tancredo people will end up with Thompson," King said in an interview.

Thompson is barnstorming across Iowa by bus to make the face-to-face contact that voters in Iowa have come to expect. The state begins the nominating process in just two weeks, on Jan. 3.

A long shot because of his late and sluggish entry to the race, Thompson is battling for third place to keep himself in the running. No one has gone on to win the nomination without a top-three finish in Iowa.

He shrugged off polls, saying he has the potential to come on fast in the final days of the Iowa campaign. If history is any guide, Thompson may be

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right.

"The experts don't know nothin'," Thompson said Friday in Sioux City. "It's the people of Iowa who decide these things, and momentum makes a whole lot of difference."

Later in Sioux Center, he laid out his conservative credentials for a community college audience: "We ought to be a nation with high fences and wide gates, but we get to decide when we open that gate and how long we leave it open."

Thompson wants to force employers to verify they aren't hiring illegal immigrants. And he says the government should yank federal dollars from "sanctuary" cities that don't report illegal immigrants, a dig at Romney and especially former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Giuliani sued the federal government to keep from having to report illegal immigrants. The reason: New York officials wanted to encourage people to report crimes, send their kids to school and seek medical treatment. And cities in Massachusetts had similar policies while Romney was governor.

Thompson also took a swing at Mike Huckabee, who has risen to the top of Iowa polls, for trying to make children of illegal immigrants eligible for scholarships and in-state college tuition when he was governor of Arkansas.

Thompson called for "stopping sanctuary cities or giving in-state tuition to illegal immigrants, which would lure people in, and lure them to bring innocent children in, in the future by the millions."

At the same time, Thompson is emphasizing endorsements from at least 10 anti-abortion groups, including the National Right to Life Committee and nine state groups. His record is not perfect to abortion foes _ he made conflicting statements in his Senate races and as a lawyer lobbied on behalf of an abortion-rights organization.

But Romney's and Giuliani's records are even less agreeable to abortion foes. Romney switched from supporting to opposing abortion rights before running for president, and Giuliani still supports abortion rights.

Thompson tries to close the deal with an appeal that is broader than those two issues, saying he is the best person to sit down at the negotiating table with the nation's worst enemies, an argument he made in a debate performance that won him praise earlier this month in Des Moines.

He argues his experience as a senator and on foreign policy is better than Romney's and Huckabee's experience as governors and Giuliani's as a mayor.

"When it gets right down to it, you're not electing a set of plans or position papers," he said. "You're going to be electing a leader for dangerous times. Nobody likes to be a fear monger, but I've been there. It is no exaggeration in this country to say that for a long time to come, I fear, we're going to be one terrorist plot away from nuclear disaster.

"This is not the time for on-the-job training."

A Rendezvous with Huckabee: Republicans' rising star lands in Muscatine for campaign appearance, Muscatine Journal, 12-21
By Melissa Regennitter Of the Muscatine Journal

MUSCATINE, Iowa — About 50 people — and nearly as many media representatives and political crew members — were at The Rendezvous banquet facility in Muscatine Friday afternoon for an appearance by Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee.

Bob Vander Plaats, who ran for Iowa lieutenant governor in 2006, introduced Huckabee and reminded the crowd how things can change for candidates in this race.

“He went from second tier ... to front-runner in Iowa,” Vander Plaats said of Huckabee’s current ranking in the state.

Huckabee has focused on issues including how to improve the nation’s infrastructure, education system, environmental policy and failing health-care system.

In Muscatine, Huckabee, the 44th governor of Arkansas, said he’s more than ready to be the 44th president of the United States. He said that people are beginning to realize the importance of the upcoming caucus and that on caucus night, the rest of the world will be focused on Iowa.

Huckabee spoke of the hardships he faced in life, such as his wife’s need for spinal surgery early in their marriage and how his father had to work hard to make ends meet.

He also wanted to remind young Americans to get out and vote because the decisions made by the next president will dramatically affect their future.

Sheila Blaskowski, 48, Fruitland, said she is leaning strongly toward Huckabee. She brought along her seven home-schooled children, ages 5-18, to hear his message.

“Our family is strongly pro-life and we are for his conservative ideas,” she said. She added that it’s important for her children to learn about politics and see candidates before making a decisions based on what they hear in person, not just on television advertisements.

Her oldest son, Bernard, 18, said he’ll vote in 2008 for the first time and is also leaning toward Huckabee. After hearing the speech, he said that Huckabee had confirmed his previous beliefs in the candidate.

Immigration

Huckabee said he had a nine-point immigration plan that starts with securing the borders with a fence, no amnesty in sanctuary cities and requiring

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illegal immigrants get to the back of the line and earn their right to become an American citizen.

We have an “insecure border that the government has failed for more than 20 years to do anything about,” he said. “When you come to the United States you come through the front door, not the back door.”

He added that people who want to immigrate to the U.S. shouldn’t have to live in hiding or in shame for breaking the laws. They should have the opportunity to become part of the nation through the proper means.

Curriculum

Huckabee said he’s interested in “launching a curriculum of mass instruction” into the school systems. He believes that students are being taught with an 18th century model in a 21st century world and they are bored, not stupid.

“We need to make the curriculum about what they enjoy and excite them,” he said.

He believes if teachers had the materials and curriculum to teach kids what they are interested in learning that it would be more productive than the “sit down, be quiet and be still, put your nose in a black-and-white book and hope you learn something from it” attitude.

Military

Huckabee said there should be strength in the U.S. military that no one wants to mess with, and that peace doesn’t come through weakness.

We should have “a military that intimidates the rest of the world,” he said, adding that if the U.S. military were feared because it was fully equipped and strong, there would likely never be a reason to use it.

But if it was necessary to engage the military, “do it in full-force ... no politicians interfering with military commanders,” he added.

Huckabee was in Davenport before stopping in Muscatine and then planned to head to Iowa City and Dubuque.

Q&A: Inside the bus with Fred Thompson, Carroll Times Herald, 12-21

Daily Times Herald reporter and columnist Douglas Burns spent about 15 minutes speaking one-on-one with Republican presidential candidate Fred Thompson on his campaign bus outside the Carroll Country Club Thursday morning.

Thompson, a former U.S. senator from Tennessee and accomplished actor, discussed the war in Iraq, his own campaign style, criticism of his admitted lack of "type A" personality, his chances against Hillary Clinton in a potential general election match-up and the recently held Des Moines Register GOPdebate.

U.S. Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, a Thompson supporter, was present for the full interview, and the presiden-tial hopeful's wife, Jeri, stood in for some of the session aboard a bus bearing the slogan: "Clear Conservative choice: Hands down!" bus tour.

The following is a transcript of the Daily Times Herald exchange with Thompson.

Daily Times Herald: We aren't hearing too much on the war in Iraq from the Democratic side of the presidential race right now. Perhaps they feel it is going well. Do you think at the end of the day the Iraq war becomes a good issue for the Republicans?

Thompson: Yeah, I think it is going well from all those whose opinions I value who have come back from over there. We have very close friends of ours who have kids over there who have re-upped and we get reports back from them from time to time and things are going on the provinces, just something that hasn't been going on before.

We saw some of these atrocities I think in the last day or two day, al Qaeda torch hospitals or whatever they call them. That's indicative of what's been happening out there and people are sick and tired of it. And they're coming to our side. Some of the Sunni leadership is coming to our side.

They're reaching some arrangements at the local level that has not yet made its way to the politicians in Baghdad.

And that needs to happen but it doesn't mean a lot of good things aren't happening. Violence is down. Car bombings are down. Ramadan was much more peaceful than it has been in a long, long time.

So all indications are good. I was amazed the other night at the Iowa debate when they took Iraq and immi-gration off the table to start with.

I said to myself, if there had been some bad news out of Iraq it wouldn't have been off the table.

Daily Times Herald: Was that last Des Moines Register debate at Iowa Public Television the worst-run debate you've ever been involved with, senator?

Thompson: I'll have to think for a minute because I've been involved in some pretty badly run debates.

I don't think the format serves the people well. It's an exchange of sound bites and then when they come in and get even more officious than usual.

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They set the ground rules and tell the candidates, "it's take it or leave it."

They wouldn't even give a break in the middle of that hour-and-a-half debate. Any other debate we've had there's been a break or two, usually two little breaks along the way.

They said "no." I said, "Wait a minute, this is kind of unusual." They said, "Take it or leave it."

So that's the attitude they have. This is our deal. You have to dance to our tune and do it our way.

Then when they take that extra added step when they say now we're going to have a show of hands like we're a bunch of trained seals waiting for a fish to be thrown to them there are some things that ought to be even beneath the dignity of a presidential candidate. When I basically said, "No," it kind of broke them and showed it for what it was.

And now they're getting an awful lot of bad comments about it and I think richly deserved.

It was a poorly conceived deal and they would have been a whole lot better off if they would talk to some people in the process a little bit about what might make a better debate, instead of being so officious about it.

Daily Times Herald: On the Democratic side of the presidential race U.S. Sen. Barack Obama has admitted in his book and in different speeches that not only has he done marijuana in his past but that he has had some experience with cocaine. His campaign's explanation is that the honesty, the forthright element of that, is good. Some people have been critical of it, suggesting that it might red carpet the notion of experimentation for kids. Do you have any thoughts on that, that this is out there in the dialogue and it's not just marijuana, it's cocaine?

Thompson: Well, it's hard to comment on somebody else's personal revelations without knowing all the circumstances involved.

Obviously, that's not a good example for kids and it's very unfortunate, but I imagine Obama thinks the same thing. I imagine that's his own opinion about it. I wish it hadn't happened. He probably wishes it hadn't happened.

The political effect of that is for people to decide.

He's like every other human being. You have to live with the consequences of your actions.

Daily Times Herald: With the fighting between GOP candidates Mitt Romney (former Massachu-setts governor) and Mike Huckabee (former Arkansas governor), do you see a dynamic at work here similar to the Democratic side in 2004 where you had (U.S. Rep. Dick) Gephardt and (former Vermont Gov. How-ard) Dean going at it and you had (U.S. Sen. John) Kerry emerge? You're just about as tall as Kerry. Do you see yourself playing that role?

Thompson: I think I'm ahead of where he was in the polls. I don't know. You just kinda got to follow your own game plan.

And, you know, my game plan is just to be who I am and what I am. It's a whole lot easier to remember. My positions on the issues are constants.

Some people say I'm not a Type A personality and they're right.

They want examples of me clicking my heels and things like that. That ain't me. It wasn't me in Tennessee when I got more votes than anybody in the history of Tennessee politics.

It's served me well all my life being who I am. A large part of what I am is that, you know, I don't mind telling it like it is.

Daily Times Herald: You stayed in Carroll last night at the Super 8. Your first event started at 10 o'clock today. One of the knocks on you has been maybe that you're a little lazy. Why did you start your first event at 10 o'clock?

Thompson: First of all we had telephone interviews this morning in our room. We had briefings in our room. We got in last night from over in east Iowa. I don't know what time we finally got to bed but it was late last night. We've been doing I don't know how many events. We're going to do 50 towns and communities. You can catch us sometimes where there is a gap there. But if you look at the overall schedule you'll find it to be a very, very active one.

I don't have anything to prove to anybody.

I mean, you know, I actually like to read a little bit along the way. The first thing I do when I walk out is get asked about the president's news conference that he had this morning that I saw, and what's happened with the other candidates and comments that they've made, and sometimes disasters that have happened in various communities and shootings and so forth. I read and talk to people about that. Talk to them in the home office. Get my plan for the day and the information I need for the day.

You can't put yourself in another man's shoes, figure out well he got in this time that night so he ought to start this time the next morning in order to prove he's more energetic. That's the kind of thing they used to say about Ronald Reagan and he always said, 'They say hard work never hurt anybody but why take a chance?'

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Daily Times Herald: If Hillary Clinton is the nominee and you are, do you take the South off the table? Are you just going to destroy her in the South?

Thompson: That's a little premature. I think that we're going to need somebody who is a solid conservative who can unite the country. I think that I would match up very, very well with her in that regard.

Daily Times Herald: By the way I saw "Hunt for Red October" four times in the theater when it came out.

Thompson: That's more times than me.

Republicans, Le Mars Daily Sentinel, 12-21

People registered as Democrats, Independents, or even unregistered eligible voters can still participate in the Republican Caucus. They will have to fill out the voter registration form at that caucus site.

Choosing a presidential candidate will be the first order of business at the Republican caucus sites, starting at 7 p.m. sharp.
"Instead of having a ballot, we will pass out a colored piece of paper and the people will write the candidate's name of their choice," said Don Kass, the county Republican chairman since 1994.

Before the vote, one person for each candidate is allowed to speak on their behalf. After the ballots are cast, they will be immediately counted, with one representative from each candidate watching.

Numbers from each precinct will be tallied, then Kass will call the total in to the state.

"Precinct by precinct, people will know immediately," Kass said. "Lately, I've known easily by 9 p.m. what the county total is. I'll be calling the state as soon as humanly possible since they have 99 counties reporting. Having 99 counties is like herding 99 cats."

Candidates, he said, might show up at a precinct in Des Moines or Iowa City. That would not be unusual.

Next up, the Republicans will choose delegates to go to the county, district and state conventions. They will also pick people to serve on the county's Central Committee, what Don Kass calls the "nuts and bolts organization" that runs the party in the county.

Separate from the Central Committee, county delegates serve for two years. If a county elected official would need to be replaced mid-term, they would convene to nominate one. There are usually 100 total county delegates for the Republican party, Kass said, and each precinct gets a certain number based on voter turnout in that precinct for the last general election.

Finally, they'll discuss the local platform.

"Let's say a person has a given issue that they feel very strongly about, they can write down what they believe -- "this is what we should stand for" -- bring it, submit it at the caucus, it can be discussed and voted up or down, and it will go to a committee set up by the new Central Committee to sort through those and compile them into a proposed county platform.

"If you have a new platform plank, please write it as legibly as possible and in complete sentences," Kass said. "It might be the best thing in the world, but if we can't read it, we can't use it."

If they have opposing views from two separate precincts on a platform plank, they will list both in a proposed platform and have the county convention decide which to go with.

"And conceivably you could have a motion from the floor to through them both out," Kass said.

On March 8, the county convention will ratify the county platform.

"We will send representatives who will fight for what's in the county platform at the district level," Kass said. "Then we develop a district platform, and that evolves into the state platform."

Some issues, he said, will move from the state level to define the party's national platform. Abortion has been one of those issues in the past. This year, he said, illegal immigration will likely be one of those topics.

The caucuses will likely last about an hour or an hour and a half, Kass said.

"We're in the national news so much -- you're kind of missing out on history not to participate," Kass said. "This is how you make your voice heard. This is Iowa's only selection process for the two parties. You're not entitled to have your way without doing something to get it."

Kass said he'd like to see more people get involved, especially young people.

"We need new blood," he said. "The most basic unit of government is the citizen, the individual."

Republican Caucus Sites for Plymouth County

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Precinct I Akron & Portland Township., Precinct 6 Westfield, Westfield & Sioux Townships

Location: Akron Public Library

Precinct 2 Craig, Preston & Grant Townships, Precinct 4 Brunsville, Johnson & Washington Townships

Location: Brunsville Legion Hall

Precinct 3 Seney, Struble, Elgin & America Townships, Precincts 11, 12, & 13-City of LeMars

Location: Prime Bank of Le Mars (Basement)

Precinct 5 Remsen, Fredonia, Marion, Meadow, & Remsen Townships

Location: Remsen-Union High-School Auditorium

Precinct 7 Merrill, Liberty & Plymouth Townships

Location: Merrill Civic Center

Precinct 8 Hancock & Perry Townships

Location: Ed & Sandy Fravel Residence 17073 C60 Sioux City

Precinct 9 Hinton, Hungerford & Lincoln Townships

Location: Hinton Community Center

Precinct 10 Kingsley, Elkhorn, Garfield, Henry & Union Townships

Location: Kingsley State Bank

LTE: **As candidate, Thompson is refreshingly honest**, CR Gazette, 12-23

Fred Thompson’s personal ambitions did not drive him to began preparations years ago for a run at the presidency.
He never enlisted a staff of writers to formulate the perfect positions to attract the most support at each stage.
He didn’t think to memorize a litany of perfectly pat answers to all conceivable questions — as tested and rated by his focus groups. He didn’t even start assembling a crackerjack marketing team as soon as the polls closed in ’04.
Thompson stepped up and entered the race only when called upon by those who saw the absence of any true conservative among the existing candidates.
All the work that had to be done to put together a national campaign had to be accomplished in months, not years. No doubt it has slowed his start, but it hasn’t changed his commitment. Thompson is here until we caucus.
Are you looking for a candidate whose declared beliefs actually agreed with his history? Are you looking for a candidate who will answer your questions directly and honestly, without relying on a prepared script, designed to avoid any commitment? Look closely at Thompson because what you see is exactly what you will get — a refreshingly honest and remarkable man.
Allan Stewart, Iowa City

LTE: **McCain right to speak out about U.S. use of torture**, CR Gazette, 12-23

I applaud the fact that Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has courageously spoken out against the sadistic practice of torture the Bush administration has repeatedly used in violation of our values as a nation. There are other ways to get information without stooping to the level of our enemies. If we practice torture, how are we better than the cruelest regimes on Earth?
The Rev. Don Hodson Coralville

Blog Post: **Huckabee Delivers Populist Message in Iowa's Democratic Stronghold**, Iowa Independent, 12-22

In the last couple of weeks, Iowans saw a new face atop the GOP polls, a dwindling campaign resurrected with the endorsement of Iowa's largest newspaper, and one contender throwing in the towel while simultaneously endorsing the former frontrunner.
Welcome to the Iowa Caucuses, where five months is a lifetime.

Just ask former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who, having recently usurped the position of former Massachussetts Gov. Mitt Romney, now leads the latest polls in Iowa. However, this was not the case the last time Huckabee visited Johnson County, Iowa's Democratic stronghold, in July, when he delivered some good tongue-in-cheek news.

"A new AP poll shows I was actually the new leader in the entire race," Huckabee told a crowd of 45 gathered at the North Liberty Pizza Ranch. "The poll says that the new leader is 'none of the above.' I am none of the above, since I'm not those guys at the top. What a great day for me. The dynamics of this race are beginning to change. Our campaign has been on an upward trajectory. Iowa has a great tradition of telling the national media that maybe they didn't quite get it right and maybe their picks aren't quite America's picks."

Prophetic? Maybe so. Huckabee returned to Johnson County Friday, only this time he was greeted by over 250 people crammed into a meeting room at the Marriott Hotel in Coralville. A large contingency of the crowd, roughly a third, was comprised of younger people-college aged and younger. This observation was not lost on two elderly gentlemen standing by the media pit. "Boy, there sure are a lot of young folks here," one gentleman said to the other.

T.M. Lindsey :: Huckabee Delivers Populist Message in Iowa's Democratic Stronghold

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Huckabee charmed the crowd with his populist message, disarming them with his sense of humor as took on his opponents' negative attacks, the ruling class, Congress, the IRS, and the Clinton machine. Pointing out a sign in the audience, "Chuck Norris Approved," Huckabee noted that this can't be done alone, and it helps to have Chuck Norris watching his back. (see pic of Hawkeyes for Huckabee holding signs)
Huckabee wasted no time appealing to Iowans and their coveted first-in-the-nation-caucus responsibility by bucking the national polls and media in the process. "Despite being outspent 20 to 1 in Iowa, we're seeing a tremendous amount of enthusiastic support across the state," Huckabee said. "What this is saying is much more than Mike Huckabee. It's saying something about the caucus process. It's saying Iowans can't be bought, or as I said after the Ames Straw Poll, `Iowans cannot be rented.'"

This message has appealed to UI student and Hawkeyes-for-Huckabee Chair Brad Brett: "Huckabee caught my attention a while back despite the fact he's not a money candidate. Now he's got everyone's attention and people are starting to take him seriously."

Alluding to recent criticisms launched against his campaign, more notably Romney's recent attacks, Huckabee commended Iowans for their resistance to wholeheartedly accepting negative critiques, especially if the source is one of the candidate's opponents "Iowa gets the first bite of the apple," Huckabee said. It's best for the country that a candidate who wants to be president has to come to the middle of America and talk to folks who understand what it's like to get the rent paid, put food on the table, and struggle with things that people in the real world where you live do. Sometimes people get elected to office and they forget that they were elected to the serving class, not the ruling class. And the average person is the ruling class."

Brett has been impressed by how Huckabee has handled criticisms from his rivals and has not gone to the negative side. "I hope this pays off at the caucuses," Brett said. "I'm tired of all the mudslinging and personal attacks, when we should be focusing on the candidates' substance and what they stand for."

Maintaining a positive approach has also resonated well with Coralville resident and grassroots organizer Lindsey Helpser: "Best of all, Huckabee has chosen to stay positive. I realize that negative attacks are part of politics, but this is also why a lot of people don't want to get involved."

Huckabee set his sights on Congress, arguing that they are so completely paralyzed, because they are so polarized. "They can't get anything done. The best thing they can do is go home. When they're in business, they're dangerous. When they go home, we at least have some relief for a little while.

"It doesn't seem to matter whether it's Republicans or Democrats in charge, they're more interested in defeating the other side than they are in winning something that will help our lives. Americans are tired of this and want to see change."

Huckabee took aim at the current tax system, which he contends is dysfunctional, to pitch his Fair Tax proposal. Citing a poll conducted by FOX news, Huckabee said, "The average American is more afraid of being audited than being mugged. This didn't make sense at first, but when you think about it, it does make sense. When you get mugged it only lasts a few seconds, Huckabee quipped. "When the IRS comes after you, they don't quit until they have every last dime and it could take years."

"I'm the only person running for president who has done something that might have to be done next year, and that's run against and win against the incredibly, formidable force of the Clinton machine. I've done it four times, I've won four times, and I would like to round it out by doing it just one more time."

Huckabee ended his stump speech by pitching for support at the caucuses and reminding Iowans that "You can't but the white house, you'll have to earn it the old fashioned way."

After his speech, the Iowa Independent caught up with former Iowa Rep. Danny Carroll of Grinnell, who is serving alongside Bob Vander Plaats as Huckabee's state co-chair. Carroll touched on Huckabee's latest surge and viability. "People across Iowa have responded to Huckabee's sincerity and genuineness and we're starting to see the press converge on his campaign. People are seeing that he's a viable candidate," Carroll said. "There's always been a reservoir of willingness to support Huckabee in Iowa, but people were holding off their support to see if he would be viable.

Pressed as to why this was the case, Carroll told the Iowa Independent, "Holding off before committing is typical for a lot of Iowans. They don't want to commit to candidates early, knowing they may want or have to retract later for another candidate," Carroll said. "Iowa voters are not easily swayed by the early polls and the lack of media coverage for some of the lesser-known candidates. Huckabee is the perfect example of the Iowa caucuses doing what they are supposed to be doing."

Blog Post: **Doing Mitt's Bidding in Des Moines**, Des Moines Register, 12-22
On a recent evening at People's Court, a bar in downtown Des Moines, the former most powerful woman in the world sat down at a table with 20 young professionals. Then the former most powerful woman in the world sipped her white wine and waxed eloquent on this year's presidential race.

Was she Hillary Clinton?

Nope.

Oprah Winfrey?

Not quite.

Er, Martha Stewart?

Getting closer. Joining the Young Professionals Connection's Candidate Conversations event was Meg Whitman, the CEO of eBay and the 2005 "most powerful woman in business," according to Fortune magazine.

"I'm in Iowa for the same reason everyone is right now who isn't living here," Whitman said.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Er, the pork chops?

Ah, yes. The upcoming caucuses, of course. Whitman is a close personal friend of presidential hopeful Mitt Romney and was dispatched by the campaign to Iowa to lobby voters on behalf of the former Massachusetts governor and wildly successful businessman.

"He's the best business executive we had on either side of the aisle, and he has the ability to work with the other side of the aisle," Whitman told the intimate group after she detailed the meteoric rise of eBay since she started there during the company's infancy in 1998. (The company now employs 16,000 worldwide and had $7.6 billion in revenue this year.)

Whitman also worked at Bain and Co., the consulting firm, with Romney for a decade.

"Even back then, Mitt was the one you wanted to work for at Bain," she said.

So why vote for him for president? It's simple, Whitman said. There are plenty of parts of America that needs reinvestment: schools, health care, roads, bridges, airports, the military. And that money has to come from somewhere. A president could raise taxes. Or a president could look at the basic cost structure in the federal government and eliminate waste and duplicated efforts and make the government efficient, run like a corporation.

"I think we should try that before we start raising taxes on corporations and individuals," she said. "Mitt would be the best at doing a stem to stern review of the cost structure of the federal government."

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by: T.M. Lindsey

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Huckabee Disavows Anti-Catholic Sentiments At Church Where He Will Speak, Iowa Independent

by: Jay Wagner

During an interview at his last campaign stop in Iowa before Christmas, Republican front-runner Mike Huckabee disavowed anti-Catholic comments and teachings made by the senior pastor of a Texas church where he will be speaking on Sunday.

Huckabee wrapped up an ambitious pre-Christmas tour of Iowa on Saturday with four appearances in the Fifth Congressional District, home to more than half of the state's registered Republicans. He returns to Iowa after celebrating Christmas with his family in Arkansas. But on the way home, Huckabee will make a stop in San Antonio where he will speak to members of the Cornerstone Church.

Cornerstone is one of the nation's largest churches, with nearly 17,000 members. John C. Hagee, senior pastor at the church, has told his congregation in the past that the Beast referred to in the Bible is actually the Catholic Church and the so-called Anti-Christ is the Pope.

"I have to say that I don't agree with those teachings," Huckabee told the Iowa Independent following a speech in Sheldon. "Several members of my staff are Catholic and have marched shoulder to shoulder many times in pro-life marches with people of the Catholic faith."

When he was asked if he was aware of Hagee's teachings about the Catholic Church, Huckabee said he wasn't. "There are things that he believes that I wouldn't agree with and I am sure there are things that I believe that he wouldn't agree with."

Hagee has also been criticized by some Evangelicals because of the large salary he collects for the work he does, more than $1.25 million in 2005, according to the San Antonio News-Express. Hagee said at the time that he deserves the pay because of the long hours he works.

Hagee has also said that the Catholic Church was implicit in its support of Adolph Hitler. "When Hitler became a global demonic monster, the Catholic Church and Pope Pius XII never, ever slightly criticized him," Hagee wrote. ".... In all of his [Hitler's] years of absolute brutality, he was never denounced or even scolded by Pope Pius XII or any Catholic leader in the world. To those Christians who believe that Jewish hearts will be warmed by the sight of the cross, please be informed-to them it's an electric chair."

THE FIELD

The Tribune's guide to caucusing. Ames Tribune, 12-21
12/22/2007

What is caucusing?

It's a grassroots and largely informal method of determining who has the support to win the nomination of a given party.

Who caucuses?

You have to be a registered Democrat or a Republican, and you have to be able to prove residency in Iowa.

When is the caucus?

7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3.

Where do I caucus?

Check the lists below. If you don't know your precinct, check the Story County auditor's Web site at http://www.storycounty. com. Also, some candidates have Web sites to direct you to your caucus location. Here are two good sites:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

* For Democrats: www.iowafirstcaucus.org/caucus_finder.php.

* For Republicans:www.iowagop.net/countycontacts.asp.

(Note: If you're a Republican, you'll need to know your precinct first. You can find that by entering your address here: www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/voterreg/PollingPlace/search.aspx.)

If those don't work, you can call the Story County Democrats at (515) 268-0313 or the Story County Republican Party at (515) 282-8105. If all else fails, call the local headquarters of your candidate and ask. Chances are, they'll be happy to help you out.

How do I caucus?

If you're a Republican, it's easy; you show up, you cast your vote for the candidate of your choice, and the one with the most votes wins. Then you elect delegates to the county caucus. They, in turn, elect delegates to the district caucuses and the statewide convention.

If you're a Democrat, the process is a bit more complicated. Caucus goers will establish "preference groups" to determine the viability of a candidate. Basically, the more people in a preference group, the more delegates they can send up to the higher levels. They also allow for "realignment" of preference group members whose groups don't have enough people, allowing them to be taken in by other candidate groups. This is why it's a good idea to have a second choice when you caucus.

What about the party platform?

Both Republicans and Democrats take time in the caucus process to examine platform planks suggested by attendees. These in turn are taken to higher levels and eventually presented before national committees.

Where to caucus

Ames Democrats

W1-P1, Scheman Building, Rooms 167 to 179, Iowa State Center

W1-P2, Heartland Senior Services, 205 South Walnut Ave.

W1-P3, Ames Public Library, Farwell T. Brown Auditorium, 515 Douglas Ave.

W1-P4, Ames City Hall, City Auditorium, 515 Clark Ave.

W1-P5, Meeker Elementary School, Auditorium, 300 20th St.

W2-P1, Ames High School, Commons, 1921 Ames High Drive.

W2-P2, ISU Memorial Union, Great Hall, Union Drive.

W2-P3 Fellows Elementary School, Multi-purpose Room, 1400 McKinley Drive.

W2-P4, Ames High School, Auditorium, 1921 Ames High Drive.

W2-P5, ISU Memorial Union, Sun Room, Union Drive.

W3-P1, Ames Middle School, Commons, 3915 Mortensen Road.

W3-P2, St. John's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 2338 Lincoln Way.

W3-P3, Ames Middle School, Rooms G103/104, 3915 Mortensen Road.

W3-P4, Ames Middle School, Sixth Grade Commons, 3915 Mortensen Road.

W3-P5, Scheman Building, 195 Benton Auditorium, Iowa State Center.

W4-P1, Edwards Elementary School, Gymnasium, 3622 Woodland St.

W4-P2, Sawyer Elementary School, Gymnasium, 4316 Ontario St.

W4-P3, ISU Memorial Union, South Ballroom, Union Drive.

W4-P4, ISU Memorial Union, Campanile Room, Union Drive.

W4-P5, ISU Memorial Union, Gallery, Union Drive.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Ames Republicans

W1-P1, Kate Mitchell Elementary, Gym, 3521 Jewel Drive.

W1-P2, Coldwater Golf Links, 615 S. 16th St.

W1-P3, Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave.

W1-P4, High School, Multi-Purpose Room, 1921 Ames High Drive

W1-P5, Meeker Elementary School, Gym, 300 20th St.

W2-P1, Ames High, Band Room 1, 1921 Ames High Drive.

W2-P2, Ames High, Band Room 2, 1921 Ames High Drive.

W2-P3, Fellows Elementary, Gym, 1400 McKinley Drive.

W2-P4, Stonebrook Church, 3611 Eisenhower Drive.

W2-P5, Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1517 Northwestern Ave.

W3-P1, Middle School, Room B112A, 3915 Mortensen Road.

W3-P2, Middle School, Room B111A, 3915 Mortensen Road.

W3-P3, Middle School, Room E205, 3915 Mortensen Road.

W3-P4, Middle School, Room F204, 3915 Mortensen Road.

W3-P5, Middle School, Room F206, 3915 Mortensen Road.

W4-P1, St Andrews Church 209 Colorado Ave.

W4-P2, Middle School, Room G203, 3915 Mortensen Road.

W4-P3, St Andrews Church, 209 Colorado Ave.

W4-P4, St Andrews Church, 209 Colorado Ave.

W4-P5, St. Andrews Church, 209 Colorado Ave.

Mid-Iowa Democrats
Collins, Collins Community Center, 212 Main St., Collins

Franklin/Gilbert, Gilbert High School, Commons, 103 Mathews Drive, Gilbert

Grant, Mitchell Elementary School, The Forum, 3521 Jewel Drive, Ames

Howard/Roland, Roland-Story Middle School, Cafeteria, 206 S. Main St., Roland

Indian Creek/Maxwell, Collins-Maxwell High School, Lunch Room, 400 Metcalf St., Maxwell

Kelley, Kelley City Hall, 1111 Grace St., Kelley

Lincoln/Zearing, Security State Bank, 103 E. Main St., Zearing

Milford, Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park, 56461 180th St., Ames

Nevada 1, Nevada Middle School, Cafeteria, 1035 15th St., Nevada

Nevada 2, Nevada Elementary School, Cafeteria, 925 Ninth St., Nevada

Nevada 3, ISU Extension Bldg., Christy Hall, 220 H Ave., Nevada

Nevada 4, Nevada High School, Cafeteria, 1001 15th St., Nevada

Nevada Township, Nevada High School, Library, 1001 15th St., Nevada

New Albany/Colo, Colo Community Center, 309 Main St., Colo

Palestine 1/Huxley, Ballard Community High School, Auditorium, 509 N. Main Ave, Huxley

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Palestine 2/Slater, Nelson Park Log Cabin, Nelson Park, Slater

Richland, Nevada Middle School, Library, 1035 15th St., Nevada

Sherman, Colo Community Center, 309 Main St., Colo

Story City 1, Roland-Story High School, Auditorium, 1009 Story St., Story City

Story City 2/LaFayette, Story City City Hall, Community Room, 504 Broad St., Story City

Union/Cambridge, Ballard East Elementary School, Commons, 505 W. Fourth St., Cambridge

Warren/McCallsburg, Colo-Nesco Elementary School, Music Room, 400 Latrobe Ave., McCallsburg

Washington, Ames Middle School, Chorus Room, Room B109A, 3915 Mortensen Road, Ames

Mid-Iowa Republicans

Collins, Collins Elementary-Lunch room 416 Fourth St., Collins

Franklin, Gilbert High School, Media Center, 103 Mathews Drive, Gilbert

Grant, Cornerstone Church, Activity Room, 56829 U.S. Highway 30, Ames

Howard, Roland-Story Middle School, 206 S Main St., Roland

Indian Creek, Collins-Maxwell Middle School, 400 Metcalf St., Maxwell

Kelley, Kelley City Hall, Council Chambers, 111 Grace St., Kelley

Lafayette, Roland-Story High School, 1009 Story St., Story City

Lincoln, Colo-Nesco Middle School, Lunch Room, 407 N. Center St., Zearing

Milford, Cornerstone Church, 56829 U.S. Highway 30, Ames

Nevada 1, Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada

Nevada 2, Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada

Nevada 3, Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada

Nevada 4, Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada

Nevada Township, Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada

New Albany, Colo-Nesco High School, 919 West St., Colo

Palestine 1, Huxley, Community Center

Palestine 2, Senior Center, 301 Tama St., Slater

Richland, Gates Hall, 825 15th St., Nevada

Sherman, Colo-Nesco High School, 919 West St.

Story City 1, Roland-Story High School, 1009 Story St., Story City

Union, Legion Hall, 216 Water St., Cambridge

Warren, Colo-Nesco Elementary School, Lunch Room 400 Latrobe Ave., McCallsburg

Washington, Ames Middle School, Vocal Music Room, 3915 Mortensen Road, Ames

Together we caucus, ... Divided they can fall. The Iowa caucus, is the first big test of a presidential candidate's viability and popularity, and it's one where every person's involvement can reap big dividends - or losses - for a White House hopeful., Muscatine Journal, 12-21

By Connie Street Of the Muscatine Journal

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MUSCATINE, Iowa — Don't skip the Iowa caucuses on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008, just because you don't understand how they work.

Both the Republican and Democratic parties begin their caucus the same way. Business begins at 6:30 p.m. and the doors close at 7 p.m. To participate, you must be signed in or in line to sign in by 6:30 p.m. Latecomers can watch, but cannot participate.

At both caucuses, anyone can attend, but those who wish to participate must live in the geographic area of the caucus, be registered to vote and be registered as a member of the political party for which they are caucusing.

If you don't know what precinct you live in, call your county auditor's office (contact information for Muscatine and Louisa County auditors appears elsewhere in this article).

If you are not registered to vote, you can do so at the caucus. Becoming a member of a political party is simple and doesn't cost anything. When you register to vote, just check the box for the party of your choice and make sure you are at the right caucus. You may also be asked to sign a separate piece of paper for the party.

There is no rule that you have to stay in a political party for a certain length of time.

"You can go to the auditor's office the next day and change your party preference," said Don Foor, a Democratic caucus leader in Louisa County.

Youth who will be 18 by Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008, may participate at caucuses.

In Muscatine County, the Republican caucuses are being held at two locations.

The reason is to make it easier for any candidates who want to stop and speak to party members, said Bob Bahn, co-chairman of the Muscatine County Republican Party.

Record-breaking numbers are expected since there are so many candidates, Bahn said. He said a typical number at a Muscatine County Republican caucus is anywhere from 300 to 500 people. He is predicting attendance of 1,200-1,500 people. Others in the party are hoping for up to 2,500.

"The candidates are trying to get supporters to go to the caucuses and have held caucus-training events," Bahn said.

Don Paulson, Muscatine County Democratic Party co-chairman, said caucus-goers in his party should come early and have patience while registering. Registration begins by 6 p.m.

"We are looking forward to a huge turnout this year," he said, adding that attendance at larger precincts is typically about 50 people.

"We are expecting to triple our average attendance this year," Paulson said.

As for predicting the outcome, Bahn said, "May the best man win."

The caucus agenda

n A temporary chairman opens the caucus, then an election is held for the permanent chairman. Generally, the temporary chair is elected, mainly because he or she has had training on how to run a caucus, said Mike Hodges, chairman of the Louisa County Republican Party. A secretary is also elected to record the actions taken at the meeting.

n Letters from candidates will be read or made available, as will nomination petitions for candidates. You will be encouraged, but not required, to sign the petitions. You may also be asked to complete surveys and you will have the opportunity to donate to the party.

n The main item for the evening is choosing a candidate. That's what happens at 7 p.m. The way this is done differs between Republicans and Democrats.

The Republican Party carries out a straw poll, either by handing out a list with the names of the declared candidates and asking caucus-goers to circle the name of the candidates they prefer. Or, they are given a blank piece of paper and asked to write in the name of their favorite candidate.

The Democratic Party uses a more complicated system. A mathematical process determines the viability of the preference group for each candidate. To be viable, a group needs to have 15 percent of the total participants at the caucus.

If there aren't enough people in a group to be viable, you can approach members of other preference groups and try to persuade them to join your candidate's group.

Results are tallied immediately and phoned in to the state party and are considered to be a good barometer of the composition of Iowa's national delegation.

"These votes are non-binding," Hodges said. "It could be compared to a popularity poll. When delegates go to the state conventions, that's when they choose their candidate preference."

n Delegates and alternate delegates to the county convention slated for Saturday, March 15, 2008, are nominated from the floor and elected. The number of delegates is determined by the number of votes cast in the previous general election.

The Muscatine County Republicans will elect 300 delegates and 150 alternates. The Louisa County Republican Party will be seeking 120 delegates and 60 alternates.

Muscatine County Democrats will seek 150 delegates and 75 alternates, while Louisa County Democrats will seek 50 delegates and 25 alternates.

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The county conventions in turn elect delegates to district and state conventions, and those conventions choose delegates to attend the national conventions.

Also elected are committee persons to organize the county convention, and members of the party's County Central Committee, which takes care of party business through the following two years.

n Attendees also have the chance to discuss and adopt party platforms or goals. A platform committee will be chosen to organize the proposed platforms and those will be presented at the county convention. Platforms that are approved at the county level will then be presented at the district convention, then at the state and national levels.

Reporter contact information

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Auditor Info

Muscatine County

Leslie A. Soule, Auditor and Commissioner of Elections

Address: 414 E. Third St. Suite 201, Muscatine

Telephone: 563-263-5821

Fax: 563-263-7248

E-mail: auditor@co.muscatine.ia.us

Office hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Louisa County

Sylvia Belzer, Auditor

Address: 117 S. Main St., Wapello

Telephone: 319-523-3371

Fax: 319-523-3713

E-mail: auditr58@louisacomm.net

Office hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Caucus doors open at 6:30 p.m. Doors close at 7 p.m., sharp.

Muscatine County

n Republican precincts:

Wapsie Township and the City of West Liberty will caucus at the West Liberty Community Center

All other precincts and townships in Muscatine County will gather at Muscatine High School

n Democratic precincts:

Muscatine 1 – School Board Office great room, 2900 Mulberry Ave.

Muscatine 2 – West Middle School media center

Muscatine 3 – Washington School gym

Muscatine 4 – Muscatine County Courthouse

Muscatine 5 – Central Middle School cafeteria

Muscatine 6 – Grant School gym

Muscatine 7 – Franklin School gym

Muscatine 8 – Garfield School gym

Muscatine 9 – Colorado School gym

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Muscatine 10 – Madison School gym

Bloomington /Lake – Mulberry School gym

Cedar 76 – Township Hall

Fruitland 1 – Fruitland Community Building

Fruitland 2 – Fruitland Community Building

Fulton – Stockton City Hall

Goshen – Atalissa City Hall

Montpelier – Varner's Bed and Breakfast, 201 E. Second St.

Moscow/Wilton Township – Wilton Elementary School upper commons

Orono – Conesville City Hall

Pike – Nichols City Hall

Seventy-Six – 76 Township Hall

Sweetland – Little Theater, Strahan Hall, Muscatine Community College

Wapsie – West Liberty Community Center

West Liberty – West Liberty Community Center

Wilton – Wilton Elementary School gym

Louisa County

n Republican precincts:

Columbus Junction (City of Columbus Junction) and Concord-Oakland (Concord and Oakland townships and City of Fredonia) – Columbus Junction American Legion Hall

Eliot (Eliot Township and City of Oakville) – Oakville City Hall

Grandview-North Port Louisa (Grandview and North Port Louisa townships and cities of Grandview and Letts) –Louisa-Muscatine High School

Morning Sun- Marshall (City of Morning Sun and Marshall and Morning Sun townships) – Morning Sun American Legion Hall

Wapello City I, II and III – Briggs Civic Center

Wapello-Jefferson-South Port Louisa – Louisa County Courthouse

West Louisa (cities of Columbus City and Cotter and Elm Grove, Columbus City and Union townships) – Columbus City Masonic Lodge

n Democratic precincts:

Columbus Junction (City of Columbus Junction) –Roundy Elementary School library

Concord-Oakland (Concord and Oakland townships and City of Fredonia) – Roundy Elementary

Eliot (City of Oakville and Eliot Township) – Oakville Community Building

Grandview-North Port (cities of Grandview and Letts and Grandview and North Port Louisa townships) – Louisa-Muscatine High School gym

Morning Sun-Marshall (City of Morning Sun and Morning Sun and Marshall townships) – Morning Sun School cafeteria

Wapello (all wards) – Wapello High School band room

Wapello Township-Jefferson-South Port (Wapello, Jefferson and South Port Louisa townships) – Wapello High School library

West Louisa (cities of Columbus City and Cotter and Union, Columbus City and Elm Grove townships) – Columbus City City Hall

Democrats, Le Mars Daily Sentinel, 12-21

People not registered as a Democrat can participate in their precinct's Democratic Caucus. They must simply register as a Democrat the night of the caucus at the site.
For Democrats, the evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with party business but the actual caucus doesn't begin until 7 p.m.

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At that point, everyone will be invited to separate themselves into groups based on which presidential candidate they want to support.

"That's one thing about the caucus," said Jon Neunaber, the county Democratic chairman. "It's not a secret ballot. You actually have to declare that you're for this candidate."

Candidate's groups must have a certain number of people in them -- called a "viability number." This number is determined based on how many people attend the precinct caucus. If groups fall below that, they have to disband and join the group supporting another candidate that does meet that limit.

"The campaigns that are viable try to recruit those that aren't," Neunaber explained. "They try to convince them, 'This is how our candidate is just like yours.' There usually is at least one unhappy group."

The narrowing process continues until all groups are viable and there is at least one precinct delegate for each viable group. The number of delegates differs from precinct to precinct.

"We're allowed to take up to 30 minutes for this, but usually we're done in a few minutes," Neunaber said.

Depending on the presidential candidate's group size, a number of the precinct's delegates are assigned to that candidate. For example, if 10 out of 40 people support Hillary Clinton at a precinct that has four delegates, one of those delegates will be assigned to support her.

Once the delegates are assigned, the precincts call the numbers in to Neunaber, who will put them together and call them in to the state hotline.

After those numbers are in, the caucus-goers will elect people to hold those delegate positions, plus a few alternates. These delegates will represent the precinct at the county convention on March 15, where a second caucus will be held.

They'll also elect precinct committee people to serve on the county central committee.

"If we were to have an opening for a state legislator race, the precinct people would meet to nominate that person," Neunaber said. In general, the central committee meets once a month.

Electing three convention committee members per precinct is next. One of these committee members will be on the platform committee, and the other two will be in charge of things like arrangements, credentials and rules for the upcoming convention.

All the elected representatives will then have to be ratified, or voted upon and approved, by the whole group in attendance.

Finally, the caucus will switch focus to the local Democratic party's platform.

People can submit proposed ideas for the party to stand by -- called platform "planks."

"For example, take the bottle/can return law. It's been the way it has for 30 years," Neunaber said. "One platform plank might be to raise the handling fee from one cent to three cents."

The party platform is the last item for the night.

"Around here, caucuses take around an hour," Neunaber said. "I've heard legendary stories of caucuses that lasted until midnight, but I've never seen one."

Caucusing, he said, is pretty easy. It's simple, it's short and it's free. And, he added, with Iowa hosting the first caucus in the U.S., it's good for Iowa.

"Apartments get rented, offices get rented, restaurants get customers. It's an economic boost to Iowa," he said. "A good turnout will be crucial to have Iowa continue to have the first in the nation title."

Democratic Caucus Sites for Plymouth County

Precinct # I City of Akron, Portland Township

Location: Akron-Westfield High School

Precinct #2 Preston, Grant Townships

Location: County Line Bar and Grill, Craig

Precinct #3 Elgin, America Townships minus city limits of Le Mars

Location: Lally's Eastside Restaurant, Le Mars

Precinct #4 Johnson, Washington Townships

Location: Legion Hall Bar Area, Brunsville

Precinct #5 Fredonia, Meadow, Marion and Remsen Townships

Location: Remsen-Union High School Commons

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Precinct #6 Westfield Township minus city limits of Akron, SIOUX

Location: Westfield Congregational United Church Of Christ

Precinct #7 Liberty, Plymouth and Stanton Townships

Location: Merrill Civic Center

Precinct 48 Hancock and Perry Townships

Location: Perry Township Hall, 22500 C60, Hinton, IA, 51024.

Precinct #9 Hungerford, Lincoln Townships

Location: Hinton High School Library

Precinct 4 10 Union, Henry, Elkhorn and Garfield Townships

Location: Kingsley Community Center

Precinct#11 Le Mars #1

Location: Le Mars Community High School Commons

Precinct # 12 Le Mars #2

Location: Le Mars Community High School Little Theater

Precinct #13 Le Mars #3

Location: Le Mars Community High School Commons

Note: The three LeMars Precincts will have a common entrance. Entrance A.

Iowa Caucus 2008: A how-to guide, Le Mars Daily Sentinel, 12-21
By Magdalene Biesanz

On Jan. 3, Iowans have the chance to help decide who will run for our nation's president in 2008. The Iowa caucuses, both Democratic and Republican, are the first in the nation, and eligible voters can have a voice not only in nominating a presidential candidate, but also setting up the platform for their party. Here's how it works:
Who:

(Advertisement)

Anyone who will be 18 by Nov. 4

You do not have to be registered for the party you will caucus with. But in order to caucus with a party, you must register that day on-site or already be registered with that party.

When:

Thursday, Jan. 3

Democratic precincts - 6:30 p.m.

Republican precincts - 7 p.m.

Caucuses will likely last an hour or an hour and a half.

Where:

Location depends on your party and your precinct. See the lists.

Why:

To nominate a presidential candidate.

To pick local leaders for the party for the year.

To set up the party's platform, their core values and beliefs, for the county.

What to bring:

Driver's license (Republicans)

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Ideas for party platform

Names and addresses of people who might serve as delegates

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LTE: **Caucus buddy**, Burlington Hawk Eye, 12-22

As we wrap up 2007, it gives us time to think about what awaits us in 2008. All of us in Iowa are aware we will have caucuses where we will have an impact on how the rest of the nation will react to presidential candidates. While it is somewhat frustrating at times to be inundated with presidential campaigns and commercials, we are viewed with envy by many other states. That was obvious by the constant moving of the caucuses to an earlier date to be first in the nation to have a voice.

Hopefully you are making plans to be part of that voice by participating in your local caucus. If you have never attended a caucus, make plans now to let this be your first. Jan. 3 is the date. Look in your local newspaper for caucus precinct places to vote. Bring your neighbor or friends. Bring a caucus buddy.

CELINE SCHULTE

West Point

LTE: **Iowa college students are Iowans**, DM Register, 12-23

David Yepsen seems to believe that out-of-state college students would "taint" the Iowa caucuses if they returned to exercise their democratic right at the Jan. 3 caucuses ("Parties, Candidates Must Make Sure Caucuses Are Clean," Dec. 11 column).

As a sophomore at Drake University, I have been working hard to make Iowa my home. I pay rent, I volunteer at a local school and I support local businesses. For eight months of the year, I live in Iowa; I consider this state my home. I can count on one hand the number of times I have been to my hometown in the past months. Why should I vote where my parents live instead of where I live?

Students are an increasingly important part of the electorate. Asking tens of thousands of us not to vote simply because we may or may not leave the state for three months of the year is blatant disenfranchisement. Would we ask the same of a homeowner in Des Moines who vacations in Florida for the winter?

Our leaders should be trying to figure out how to engage young people directly in this upcoming election - by talking to us about the issues we care about, such as global warming and college affordability.

We are the future of this country, and we will be making the big decisions for our country in years to come. Don't stifle our voices and tell us we are not welcome in our own state.

As the race heats up, cool heads should prevail - let students have their voices be heard.

- Stacey Wilson, sophomore, Drake University, student leader, Rock the Caucus, Des Moines.

David Yepsen's repeated insinuations that out-of-state college students should go home to vote are irresponsible. If we want to solve our brain-drain problem, out-of-state students should be welcomed into every aspect of Iowa life, including our caucuses. Caucuses are a distinctly Iowa experience, and for some students, they could be the symbol of Iowa's community and pride in civic responsibility that makes them decide to stay.

It is difficult to imagine a more unwelcoming gesture than to have Iowa's most noted columnist tell them they should go home to vote. As students at the University of Iowa law school, one supporting Clinton, the other Obama, we find our out-of-state classmates excited about being in Iowa when we talk about the caucuses.

We should encourage all young people in Iowa to become civically engaged and invested in their communities, because the more they do, the more likely they are to stay. This issue isn't about politics. It is about what is best for our state.

- Rob Sand and Josh Mandelbaum, Iowa City.

III. Op-Eds and Editorials

Voter's voices, DM Register, 12-23

Should the candidates take a timeout from campaigning in deference to the Christmas holiday? What do you think the consequences will be if they do or do not?

It's unanimous: Give it - and us - a rest

Absolutely. The break would be a welcome relief from the volumes of horsefeathers being spewed out of each of them. It would be a miracle if they just shut up for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

- Wayne Dominowski, Republican, Sergeant Bluff.

Yes, candidates should take a timeout for the holidays. It is a time for family. The national problems can be picked up again on Dec. 26th.

- Mike Kennedy, Democrat, New Hampton.

I have been around all of the caucus campaigns since their inception and I have never witnessed such intensity among andidates, their staffs and supporters, nor as much frustration and mental fatigue among the citizenry. Let's all take the Christmas holidays off as a much-deserved reprieve

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from the hullabaloo of campaigning and refresh ourselves by celebrating the season. Perhaps the consequence of such a move would be to provide candidates and citizens alike the capacity to endure.

- Jim Wise, Independent, Des Moines.

Spending must be controlled, CR Gazette, 12-23
Rep. Ron Paul

An out-of-control federal government is the biggest problem confronting Iowans. They are joining other voters all over America in demanding a change.

The federal government has long traveled two disastrous roads. First, Washington has pursued an interventionist foreign policy against the Founders' advice. Second, it has financed that and other extravagant expenditures with a fiat currency — money printed with its only backing being the promises of politicians that it is sound.

Partisanship, political posturing and the failure of too many politicians to take seriously their oaths to the Constitution have stopped efforts to address these policies.

Iowans know that our outof-control foreign policy is harming our national security. Our troops are spread all over the world, meaning we may have difficulty defending ourselves from threats. At the same time, our intelligence community tells us that our presence in Iraq is "rejuvenating" al-Qaida. Our policies damage our national security by serving as a recruiting tool for Osama bin Laden.

While most Americans agree we should bring our troops home and out of harm's way, those who caution that leaving Iraq would be a disaster are the same "experts" who promised that it would be a "cakewalk." The lesson must be learned that we should never again go to war without a congressional declaration of war, as the Constitution requires.

I would refocus the efforts of our intelligence services and military on locating those individuals who planned the terrorist attacks on the United States and who remain at large. It must be made clear that the United States cannot be attacked with impunity.

As president, I would make securing our borders against a possible terrorist threat the top defense priority. It makes no sense to fight terrorists abroad when our own front door is left unlocked.

As off-track as our foreign policy is, it is ultimately the federal government's refusal to adopt a sound monetary policy that weighs most heavily on the backs of Iowans.

Iowans feel this burden daily with rising costs at the pump, in the store and on mortgages. Meanwhile, government demands more of their money to continue these policies. The idea of an estate tax is especially an affront to our founding principles.

A plan to guarantee health care for all, CR Gazette, 12-23
By Hillary Clinton

When the next president takes office in January 2009, he or she will face challenges unlike any we've ever known: a war to end.

An economy to revive. An energy crisis to solve. A homeland to secure.

And a health care system in crisis. A system in which 47 million Americans are uninsured, and millions more are underinsured — they have health care, except when they need it most, and their insurance company refuses to pay. I hear their heartbreaking stories day af ter day out here in Iowa.

I'm running for president because it's time for a new beginning on health care.

That's why my health care plan doesn't just cover some Americans, or most Americans — but all Americans.

Here's how it works: If you have private insurance you like, you keep that insurance — the only thing that changes is that your current coverage will become more affordable.

But if you don't have health insurance — or don't like the insurance you have — you can choose from the same wide variety of private plans as members of Congress. And I'll ban insurance company discrimination, so people will never again be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions or other risk factors.

Whatever plan you choose, your coverage will be guaranteed. Even if you lose your job. Even if you decide to start your own business, or stay home with your children for a few years. And you'll be able to take your plan with you as you move from job to job and state to state.

Everyone will have a responsibility to get health insurance, and we'll provide tax credits to make sure everyone can afford it and tax credits to small businesses to cover more of their employees.

I'm not new to this fight.

As first lady, I fought for universal health care back when it was still considered a pretty radical idea. And I didn't give up when we didn't succeed. I helped create the State Children's Health Insurance Program to get health care for 6 million children. I won vaccinations for all our children and pediatric drug testing so kids could get the medicines they need. And I successfully pushed for mammograms to be covered under Medicare and for more funding for early cancer detection for all Americans.

I continued my work on health care in the Senate, working to expand and improve health care for our veterans and troops, lower drug prices for our seniors, and help first-responders who got sick after Sept. 11.

I know that insuring every American won't be easy.

People have told me that Republicans and insurance companies would attack me for making my plan truly universal. Well, I wasn't afraid of the Republicans back in 1994, and I'm not afraid of them now. I'm not running to put a Band-Aid on this problem. I'm running to solve it.

After eight years of incompetence, it's time for leadership that can get results. It's time for a president with the strength and experience to lead on day one. Someone who's beaten the Republicans and the special interests before — and will stand up and fight for our families every day in the White House. A president who doesn't just talk about change — but delivers.

If you caucus for me Jan.

3, I pledge to you that I will be that president.

Hillary Clinton, a Democrat, is a U.S. senator from New York. Web site: www.

hillaryclinton.com/

No. 1 duty: Protect nation from our enemies, CR Gazette, 12-23
By John McCain

As president, I would take all my responsibilities seriously and would work hard to secure the border, reform health care and entitlement programs, end reckless spending, keep taxes low and nominate judges who don't legislate from the bench. But I would have one responsibility above all that must be met from day one of my presidency and that is to protect the security of this great nation from all enemies. In particular, we must understand that we confront a lengthy struggle against Islamic extremism that will not be won quickly or easily. But we will win it.

While our ultimate victory is not in doubt, the length and intensity of this struggle remain to be determined. It's up to us.

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We must recognize that our enemies are in this fight to win, and I assure you that I would employ all instruments of national power — military, intelligence, law enforcement, economic and political — to defend our nation and defeat them.

Defeating radical Islamist extremists is the national security challenge of our time. At home, my administration will be fully prepared to deter, detect and respond to any attack. But we must stay on offense. The Sept. 11 attack highlighted a failure to adequately respond to a hostile global terror network.

Before Sept. 11, al-Qaida was basically free to plan, train and conduct attacks from Afghanistan despite bombing U.S. embassies and attacking the USS Cole. As president, I will not allow such terrorist sanctuary. We must never again assume that the activities of extremists overseas do not impact our own security, which is why we must succeed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But prevailing in this struggle will require more than military power. I would employ every tool possible to help moderate Muslims resist the well-financed campaign of extremism that is tearing their societies apart. I would also seek a Free Trade Area from Morocco to Afghanistan, open to all who do not sponsor terrorism.

Secondly, I will act to break our dependency on foreign oil. Al-Qaida continues to plan attacks on oil facilities, hoping to skyrocket oil prices and nose dive the American economy.

We cannot continue to enrich the foreign oil cartel and petro-dictators. In fact, some of our gas dollars flow to the very fanatics we are fighting. As president, I'll implement an energy strategy of diversification and conservation to break the dominance of oil in our transportation sector.

For example, my agenda will include deploying more technologies to improve energy efficiency, developing alternative fuels, increasing electrical power generation from nuclear power and other sources and increasing domestic oil production in environmentally friendly ways.

I also will push for a worldwide League of Democracies. It could act where the United Nations fails, principally because of the vetoes of autocratic states. The United Nations has proved to be ineffective in meeting the great challenges of our time. The league would not supplant the United Nations but would harness the political and moral advantages offered by united democratic action.

Whether pressuring tyrants on human rights, uniting to impose sanctions on nations to stem nuclear proliferation, or supporting struggling democracies, the league would advance freedom and opportunity.

As president, I would call a summit of the world's democracies in my first year — just as America led 60 years ago in creating the NATO alliance.

John McCain, a Republican, is a U.S. senator from Arizona. Web site: www.explore mccain.com/

There's no U.S. military solution for Iraq, CR Gazette, 12-23
By Bill Richardson

Recently, I attended a funeral for Korean War veteran Clem Boody (Otterville), whose remains I was honored to bring back from North Korea. As such, I was unable to attend National Public Radio's Democratic forum. When I later read the transcript, however, I was shocked that there was almost no discussion of the single most important issue facing our county: Iraq.

The conventional wisdom on Iraq is once again wrong.

After three months of declining casualty rates, the Beltway consensus seems to be that Iraq is on a glide path to stability. The only problem with this rosy-eyed scenario is that it's not true.

U.S. troops occupying Iraq for the long term would be a disaster for those troops, for Iraq itself and for American security around the world.

It would lead to thousands of additional dead American soldiers; it would prevent Iraq from reaching a peaceful settlement; and it would continue to inflame Muslims around the world.

Progress cannot be measured from body counts. I'm not sure who decided what an "acceptable" level of American troop deaths is, but 37 — the number who perished last month — is too many. After nearly five years of war, the only acceptable number is zero.

Americans elected a Democratic Congress last year in order to end the war in Iraq. That has not happened.

Some now say that we're finally turning a corner, and that the sacrifices of the few must continue for a few more years. And in the face of this sacrifice, other leading Democrats, including Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Barack Obama, refuse to pledge to remove all troops from Iraq by 2013.

We have heard this flawed reasoning before. From "Mission Accomplished" to "Last Throes," Americans have been told again and again that victory is just around the corner.

Unfortunately, we have turned the corner so many times that we're walking in circles.

Indeed, on nine previous occasions casualties have fallen three months in a row, and each time we were told that this represented a great step forward. On each of those nine occasions, however, casualties rose back to newer and more tragic levels.

Washington insiders forget that the stated purpose of the surge was not to reduce violence mildly in certain parts of the country. It was to give Iraqi politicians the breathing room to effect real reconciliation. That has not happened.

Iraq's Kurdish Deputy Prime Minister, Barham Salih, has flatly declared that "there will be no reconciliation. ... This is a struggle about power." Iraq's vice president and most influential Sunni politician, Tariq al-Hashemi, echoed these sentiments, stating: "There has been no significant progress for months." To truly reduce violence and pressure the Iraqis into making the hard choices necessary to create a functioning state, we must begin immediately to withdraw all of our forces.

We face a choice. Our forces can stay for years, or even decades, trying to impose an outside resolution upon warring factions, having horrific months and less horrific months along the way. Or we can take the initiative to end this war now — by withdrawing all of our forces, and leaving no troops behind.

The conventional wisdom on Iraq has been wrong every step of the way. It is wrong once more. There is no military solution to Iraq, and there can be no political solution while our military remains there. Until then, we can only look at the body counts that some tout as success, pray for our men and women overseas and work hard to change our leadership.

Bill Richardson, a Democrat, is governor of New Mexico. Web site: www.
richardsonforpresident.com/

Pause the PlayStation; focus on Iowa caucuses, CR Gazette, 12-23

This is one in a series of guest columns by Linn and Johnson county adult and student leaders involved in the Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses.

What do Bill Richardson, Barack Obama, John Edwards and Rudy Giuliani have in common? Of course, they are all running for president, but more importantly, they have all made campaign stops at Coe College.

These stops mean a lot to me.

First of all, I have gotten to meet, shake hands and ask questions of people who may be the next president.

Second, I hope this means that politicians are taking my generation seriously and that my generation is taking them seriously as well. The political apathy of my generation is disheartening. We don't understand that in numbers, we are a force that could demand significant attention.

Unfortunately for some of us, playing PlayStation is a better use of our time than choosing our nation's leaders.

When Obama visited campus, however, I was given hope.

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Students stood outside in line waiting for tickets, the theater was full, and those who didn't get in stayed outside and watched the event on a big-screen TV. Maybe people showed up because MTV was the host or because they got extra credit for a class, but, still, they went.

Opportunities like this give students in Iowa exceptional access. Even though students were going for different reasons, they got to see a man who wants to be president, and maybe he inspired them. Maybe they fell in love and decided to caucus for him or maybe he upset them and they decided to caucus against him. I don't care; maybe they felt something!

My friends and family who are into politics and live out of state send me jealous e-mails when I show them pictures of the candidates I've been meeting. They understand how important Iowa is in choosing the candidates for the next election.

This important role that Iowa plays and my potential to be a part of shaping the outcome of national events has me excited.

As the caucus nears, I'll continue to read the news and educate myself so I'm ready when the day comes. I'll be back at home in De Witt caucusing with my friends and family. I'll be looking to the guidance of family members who are veteran caucusgoers, and sharing the excitement with my friends who also are participating for the first time. I'm eagerly waiting to be in a room with people who care about democracy and share some of my political values.

We will be a group doing what we think is important, what I think is important — exercising the right to select our future leaders. And if that opportunity isn't exciting, go back to your PlayStation.

Mitchell Lincoln, 21, of De Witt, is a junior at Coe College, where he is president of the Coe College Democrats.

Poll-obsessed media focus on strategy over substance, CR Gazette, 12-23
By Peter Hart
Seattle Times

With just a week and a half to go before the Iowa caucuses, polls are providing pundits and political junkies with fresh data to spin out a new round of the usual "who's up, who's down" campaign coverage. But while the press seems settled on a new narrative for the campaign, journalists should recall what the polls told them last time around about who would likely win the Iowa caucuses.

The tone of coverage of the Democratic race seemed to shift when a Nov. 19 ABC/ Washington Post poll of likely caucusgoers showed a tight race among three candidates: Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards.

The difference from the previous survey was within the poll's margin of error, so the actual data said very little. Much of the media seemed to think otherwise. "The ground may be shifting," NBC anchor Brian Williams said. The Los Angeles Times called it "a shift in momentum in this crucial state" — in an article that boiled the race down to just two candidates, Clinton and Obama.

The Washington Post's write-up was downright confusing — the Post mentioned the results were "only marginally different" from their poll several months earlier, yet nonetheless pointed to "significant signs of progress for Obama — and harbingers of concern for Clinton." On ABC, reporter Kate Snow mentioned something most of her colleagues seemed unconcerned with: the fact that these polls actually tell you very little about the outcome of the race. Snow recalled that "four years ago, John Kerry — who eventually was the Democratic nominee — he was polling in Iowa at 4 percent." Indeed, campaign reporters should all remember the lesson of the 2004 Iowa caucus. A little more than a month before Iowa Democrats actually caucused in January, the pollobsessed media had narrowed down the field to two "frontrunners": Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

"Two see Iowa as crucial battleground," announced the Washington Post on Nov.

29, 2003, billing the race as a "fight rich in substance and symbolism." A Nov. 9 Post report said that Dean was "for the first time, threatening to pull away from the pack," and even discussed his "opening for a quick-kill strategy" by winning Iowa and New Hampshire.

The polling was presumably a key factor leading reporters to reach such conclusions. A December 2003 Pew poll of likely Iowa caucusgoers showed Dean leading the pack with 29 percent, followed by Gephardt at 21 percent.

Kerry was in third with 18 percent, followed by John Edwards at 5 percent. A Zogby poll from around the same time had a closer race between Dean and Gephardt (26 to 22 percent), with Kerry and Edwards picking up 9 and 5 percent, respectively.

And what happened when Iowa Democrats actually caucused? Kerry won with 37 percent, followed by Ed wards at 32 percent. "Frontrunners" Dean and Gephardt finished with 18 and 11 percent, respectively.

The fundamental problem for the press — and for American democracy — is that the media's overreliance on polls encourages a kind of political conversation that prioritizes strategic consideration and tactics over substance.

A recent study from the Project for Excellence in Journalism confirmed that much of what passes for campaign journalism focuses primarily on the tactical dimensions of the race (like poll results and fundraising) and not on the actual policy differences between the candidates.

In a recent New York Times op-ed, former ABC News political director and current Time magazine editor-at-large Mark Halperin admitted that most political coverage is built around the notion that you can judge candidates' potential to be a good president based on how well they run their campaigns.

Halperin admits he was "wrong" and suggests a change of course: Journalists "should examine a candidate's public record and full life as opposed to his or her campaign performance." What a concept. That's bad news, to say the least — and makes it hard to imagine journalists are going to change any time soon.

Peter Hart is the activism coordinator at Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting, www.
fair.org , a media-watch group in New York. He wrote this for the Seattle Times.

Who elected Iowa?, CR Gazette, 12-23
IOWA CAUCUSES

KNOXVILLE, Iowa — It isn't until his seventh stop, almost two hours into his work on an icy Sunday afternoon, that James Ahn hits pay dirt, in the form of Jennie and Arvin Van Waardhuizen.

Until recently, Ahn, a 31-year-old Columbia law school graduate, was working for a posh Boston law firm, structuring complex investment deals for venture capital funds.

Today, computer printout in hand, he is trudging from house to house, seeking to explain to potential Hillary Clinton supporters a process that seems nearly as arcane: how to participate in the Iowa caucuses.

The Iowa ground game is a game of centimeters.

The universe of known caucusgoers is small and hotly contested: Just 122,000 Iowans participated in the 2004 Democratic caucuses.

The victor this year will be the candidate who can lure more of those proven caucusgoers, or the one who succeeds in expanding the pool with new entrants.

This is where Ahn comes in. The people on his printout have already been identified as Clinton prospects; his job is to seal the deal with these folks, who've never caucused before or haven't gone in years.

So after a series of fruitless knocks at empty homes, after talking fast through a barely opened door to a woman whose commitment to Clinton — or to caucusing, for that matter — seems doubtful, Ahn has finally made it into the Van Waardhuizens' cozy living room, where Santa figurines line the mantel.

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Within minutes, Ahn has given his basic, don't-let-theprocess-scare-you spiel: Get there by 7, stand in Clinton's corner, make sure you're counted. He has jotted down that Arvin wants to see Bill Clinton and has delivered a requested yard sign.

In a mass-media age, there is something charmingly anachronistic about the smalltown way presidential politics is practiced here. Iowa and New Hampshire are valuable in preserving the ability of voters, at least some voters, to get to know candidates as more than flickering images on a screen or talking heads in a televised debate.

"This is our third followup visit since Hillary's come to town," says Jennie Van Waardhuizen, 55, who runs her parents' small manufacturing plant. "I got an e-mail from Hillary," offers Arvin, 60, an Air Force veteran.

And yet, to join Ahn on his appointed rounds is also to reinforce doubts about a system of irrationality layered on irrationality.

The caucuses draw a small, unrepresentative sample of a small, unrepresentative state. While nearly 30 percent of eligible voters participated in the 2004 New Hampshire primary, just 6 percent went to the Iowa caucuses, according to data compiled by George Mason University professor Michael McDonald. The 2000 turnout figures were even more skewed, 44 percent in New Hampshire compared with 7 percent in Iowa.

This year's outreach may boost those numbers, but most Iowans view the caucuses as an obscure art practiced by an elect few.

"Usually I don't go, because I'm afraid I'm going to get there and feel like a dummy," one man on Ahn's list confides.

Candidates spend enormous sums — it could be as high as $20 million — to win this handful of votes. John Norris, the organizing guru who helped propel John Kerry to his 2004 victory here and is advising Obama, estimates that the top candidates will spend around $400 per caucus vote.

All for a result whose significance resides largely in the fact that it is deemed significant. Political reporters, myself included, get misty over the notion of neighbors gathering on a cold winter night to hash out differences over who is the best candidate. But the caucus process also serves to disenfranchise — those who would rather not state preferences publicly or those who can't make it at the assigned hour. The bizarre rules of the Democratic contest further distort the results. Why should the final outcome depend on how those losing campaigns decide where to throw their backing when, in caucus-speak, nonviable preference groups realign for a second round?

No wonder the caucus process makes ordinary people's heads hurt.

Why should some votes — in precincts that had a good turnout in the last election, in rural areas — get more weight than others? Why aren't the raw numbers — how many voters supported which candidates — made available?

And perhaps the most important question: Given all this, why do we in the media invest the caucuses with such make-or-break significance?

Ruth Marcus is a member of the Washington Post's editorial page staff.

The caucuses draw a small, unrepresentative sample of a small, unrepresentative state.

While nearly 30 percent of eligible voters participated in the 2004 New Hampshire primary, just 6 percent went to the Iowa caucuses.

The '70s live on in the '08 race through Arkansas connection, Omaha World Herald, 12-23

In a political season that has become like "That '70s Show," a Richard Nixon revival infects both parties' primaries. Even Spiro Agnew — Nixon's Nixon— is being reprised.

Hillary Clinton attacks Barack Obama by recycling a slogan Nixon used in 1960 against John F. Kennedy: "Experience Counts." But is it prudent of her to invite remembrances of things past? She had two experiences of wielding power regarding important matters for her husband's administration. One concerned the selection of his first, second and third choices to be attorney general — all in just 50 days. The decisive criterion would be chromosomes: The attorney general had to be a woman.

The first selection, Zoe Baird, crashed because a slipshod selection process did not discover that she and her husband had employed two illegal immigrants as domestic help and had not paid Social Security taxes.

Then Kimba Wood failed because she once hired an illegal immigrant before such hiring was itself illegal, a nonoffense magnified by the Baird debacle.

The third choice was Janet Reno, whose eight-year tenure was notable for three things. One was the botched assault on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, in which 86 people died, 17 of them children the assault was supposed to rescue.

Another was seizing, at gunpoint, 6-year-old Elian Gonzales from his Miami relatives and deporting him to Fidel Castro's Cuba, from which he and his mother had fled in an escape in which she drowned.

The third was the optional appointment of an independent counsel to investigate the Whitewater land deal, an investigation that led to Paula Jones. When Hillary Clinton adamantly opposed a financial settlement with her, the investigation meandered to Monica Lewinsky and impeachment.

The second of Hillary Clinton's important experiences was the drafting, in secret, of a national health care plan. It was so dauntingly baroque and ominously statist that a Congress controlled by her party would not bring it to avote.

Her experiences that should matter most to primary voters reveal consistently bad judgment. Her campaign's behavior radiates bad character.

Mark Penn, a senior campaign official, served as her Agnew after Bill Shaheen, co-chairman of her national campaign, made a Nixonian observation. Nixon specialized in mock-solemn tropes such as "It would be wrong to say" this or that, thereby getting this or that into the political conversation.

Shaheen theatrically worried that if Obama, who in a book published 12 years ago acknowledged using drugs as a teenager, is nominated, Republicans will ask him when he last used drugs and if he ever gave or sold them to others.

Penn then kept the story bubbling by talking about how uninterested the Clinton campaign is in talking about it: "The issue related to cocaine use is not something that the campaign was in any way raising."

On the Republican side, Mike Huckabee's role in the '70s Show involves blending Jimmy Carter's ostentatious piety with Nixon's knack for oblique nastiness.

"Despicable" and "appalling" evidence of a "gutter campaign" — that is how The Eagle-Tribune of Lawrence, Mass., characterized this from a recent New York Times Magazine profile of Huckabee: " 'Don't Mormons,' he asked in an innocent voice, 'believe that Jesus and the devil are brothers?' " Imagine someone asking "in an innocent voice" this: "Don't Jews use the blood of Gentile children to make matzoth for Passover?" Such a smarmy injection of the "blood libel," an ancient canard of anti-Semitism, into civic discourse would indelibly brand the injector as a bigot with contempt for the public's ability to decode bigotry.

Huckabee's campaign actually is what Rudy Giuliani's candidacy is misdescribed as being— a comprehensive apostasy against core Republican beliefs.

Giuliani departs from recent Republican stances regarding two issues — abortion and the recognition by the law of samesex couples. Huckabee's radical candidacy broadly repudiates core Republican policies such as free trade, low taxes, the essential legitimacy of America's corporate entities and the market system allocating wealth and opportunity.

And consider New Hampshire's chapter of the National Education Association, the teachers union that is a crucial component of the Democratic Party's base.

In 2004, New Hampshire's chapter endorsed Howard Dean in the Democratic primary and no one in the Republican primary. Last week it endorsed Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary — and Huckabee in the Republican primary. It likes, as public employees generally do, his record of tax increases, and it applauds his opposition to school choice.

Huckabee's role in this year's '70s Show is not merely to attempt to revise a few Republican beliefs. He represents wholesale repudiation of what

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came after the 1970s —Reaganism.

OP-ED: **Obama, Romney best tap into America's desire for change,** Sioux City Journal,12-23

Last weekend, the Journal published the results of a poll of Iowans done for all Lee Enterprises newspapers in the state, including us. Although Republicans, Democrats and Independents who responded to the poll differed in terms of how they prioritized issues, they shared an unhappiness with Washington. They all gave President Bush and the Democratic-led Congress approval ratings in the 20s.

It's clear people in this state want change. In that regard, we don't think Iowans are any different from anyone else in the country.

Americans, it seems, want a new face, a different voice. They want vision. They want someone to inspire and lead them. They want someone who will unite them. They want a positive, issue-oriented campaign. They want less poisonous partisanship and more cooperation in finding solutions to our challenges.

This election for president provides an opportunity for them to get exactly that. For the first time since 1952, no incumbent president or vice president is seeking the White House.

Over several months, we have interviewed, studied, watched and listened to candidates for president from both major political parties. Today we offer our opinion on who among the Democrats and who among the Republicans best combines a new face and voice; a strong vision; integrity and the potential for running a positive, issue-oriented general election campaign, and an ability to lead, motivate and forge consensus.

We understand Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are different men who possess different ideas and approaches. We neither agree nor disagree with either of them on all the issues facing our country.

We do, however, believe the Illinois senator and the former Massachusetts governor share a unique ability to tap into that need for change which most Iowans and Americans appear to want.

The country would be well-served by a contest between them.

OP-ED: **Obama vs. Romney**, Sioux City Journal, 12-23
'A common good and a higher interest'

The morning of Jan. 20, 1961, dawned under a bright sky. Despite a heavy snow, the blinding sun’s reflection forced poet Robert Frost, 86, to put aside the copy of the inaugural poem he had prepared and instead recite from memory “A Gift Outright.”

The poem set aside soared, and John F. Kennedy epitomized Frost's “young ambition eager to be tried,” delivering one of our finest political speeches.

This is not 1961.

There are striking parallels, however, between the landscape our country faced then and today, representing a challenge few generations are charged with answering, and “the trumpet summons us again.”

Barack Obama is the Democratic candidate who best understands this critical moment in our nation’s history. He is equipped to bring a fractured people together and possesses the gifts to move us forward, united with a common mission, ready to answer that call.

That is why we are endorsing the U.S. senator from Illinois in the Jan. 3 Iowa Caucuses.

Obama is a gifted orator. Yet, his skills extend beyond the stage of political theater. He has demonstrated a deep understanding of the challenges, home and abroad, our next president must confront. His record in Congress and the Illinois state senate indicates he has the ability to reach out to Republicans and Independents to identify sound, bipartisan solutions and take on special interests.

Obama’s domestic priorities are similar to those of many of his opponents in the Democratic field. That doesn’t mean he fits neatly into the traditional liberal mold.

His health care plan, for instance, is the only Democratic plan that does not require that all Americans have health insurance, only access. He supports merit pay for teachers, something that doesn’t sit well with one of the party’s key union supporters. The Obama energy plan includes a sensible cap on carbon emissions without sacrificing his demand for “big” rather than incremental change.

Obama’s lack of experience is most notable in the realm of foreign policy. His assertion, however, that experience can’t match sound judgment has merit. Obama opposed the war in Iraq early, predicting a scenario that closely resembles the situation today. Now, he understands the complexities prohibiting immediate withdrawal. Instead, he has called for a phased, responsible withdrawal that may not be completed until 2010.

He’s been a hawk on the war on terror, criticizing the Bush administration for its failure to find Osama bin Laden and other key al-Qaeda leaders. There is no negotiating with these “hard-core jihadists,” Obama maintains, “all we can do is hunt them down.” He won’t, however, abandon diplomatic efforts abroad and maintains we must enhance our image elsewhere in the world.

Still, Obama has been wise to surround himself with an impressive group of foreign policy advisers. A running mate with a strong foreign policy track record would be the perfect complement. If nominated, we recommend Obama consider one of his competitors n U.S. Sen. Joe Biden. An Obama-Biden ticket would offer an intriguing mix of fresh ideas and measurable achievement.

The experience of a respected politician like Biden can certainly be a blessing. Too often, however, beltway experience manifests itself in a political culture Obama describes as settling for “the constraints of the past.”

The great hope embodied by a candidate like Obama is the promise of a new path. He has little patience for the “that’s-just-the-way-it-is” mentality

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of Washington, D.C. It's a culture that increasingly relies on polling and special interests to guide policy and measures success by political points scored. Instead, Obama speaks of a change harkening back to moments in our nation's history when we shared "a common good and a higher interest. That's the change I'm looking for."

It's the kind of change America appears eager for.

Opinion: Caucus 2008: Our Endorsements, Daily Iowan, 12-23

DEMOCRAT: Sen. Barack Obama

From the start, Obama was viewed as charismatic but lacking in substance. Now, fewer than two weeks from our state caucuses, this is no longer the case. Obama's commanding oratorical abilities should not distract voters from his policy proposals, objectives that outline a return of "united" to the United States. We believe his judgment and ideas are the best fit, not just for a party but for a people. We believe Obama represents the best of our polity and a better future for our nation, which is why he is receiving The Daily Iowan's endorsement.

REPUBLICAN: John McCain

John McCain was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986 after spending four years in the House of Representatives. A U.S. Navy veteran, McCain was captured while serving in Vietnam and spent more than five years as a prisoner of war. The Arizona senator has succeeded in two careers: as a courageous naval aviator who defended our country in war and a longtime civil servant. These accolades make him the most qualified Republican presidential-nomination candidate, and The Daily Iowan endorses McCain's candidacy.

Guest Columnist: **A plan to end the war**, Council Bluffs Nonpareil, 12-22

One of the most important responsibilities of the next president is to restore the trust relationship between the president of the United States and the rest of the world. The war in Iraq has badly damaged our reputation in the world, decreased our national security and increased terrorism worldwide.

The world desperately needs America to show moral leadership again, but moral leadership is based on truth. America's leaders must tell the truth. I voted for this war, and I was wrong. I take responsibility for that vote. Now every American, including myself, who believes this war is wrong must make our voices heard loud and clear: It is time to end this war.

Unfortunately, President Bush refuses to level with the American people and admit his strategy in Iraq is not working. Earlier this year, instead of implementing a plan to bring about real change in Iraq, President Bush decided to escalate the war. And now Defense Secretary Robert Gates has proposed leaving our troops in Iraq for another decade in a "Korea-like" model. The actions of the Bush administration are wrong for Iraq and wrong for America. Our brave men and women in uniform have served heroically, and now it is time to bring them home to the heroes' welcome they deserve.

If President Bush won't end this war, then Congress must use its power and force him to end it.

We don't need more debate and non-binding resolutions to end this war - we need Congress to force a change of course. Congress needs to stand firm against the president and use their constitutional funding power and send the president a funding bill that stops the surge and implements a timetable for withdrawal. And if the president vetoes that bill, they should send it back to him, again and again, as many times as it takes for him to finally get the message. Congress has the power to end this war. They should use it now.

The American people deserve to know where I stand on the important challenges facing our nation, especially the war in Iraq. More than a year ago, I proposed a specific plan to end the war. I would immediately draw down 40,000 to 50,000 combat troops, require a complete withdrawal of combat troops within nine to 10 months and prohibit permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq. After withdrawal, we should retain sufficient forces in Quick Reaction Forces located outside Iraq, in friendly countries like Kuwait, to prevent an Al Qaeda safe haven, a genocide or regional spillover of a civil war.

Additionally, Congress should prohibit funding to deploy any new troops to Iraq that do not meet real readiness standards. American tax dollars should be used to train and equip our troops, instead of escalating the war. It is disgraceful to send our brave men and women of the military into harm's way without the training and equipment they need.

Congress should also make it clear that President Bush is conducting this war without authorization. The 2002 authorization did not give President Bush the power to use U.S. troops to police a civil war. President Bush exceeded his authority long ago and now needs to end the war and ask Congress for new authority to manage the withdrawal of the U.S. military presence and to help Iraq achieve stability.

A stable Iraq should be a priority not just for the United States but also for the entire world. We must intensify our efforts to train the Iraqi security forces and step up our diplomatic efforts by engaging in direct talks with all the nations in the region, including Iran and Syria. The United States should convene a peace conference with the regional powers to discuss how all parties can work to bring about a peaceful and prosperous Iraq.

It is time for the Iraqi leaders to take responsibility for their country. We must show them that we are serious about leaving, and the best way to do that is to actually start to leave.

The deteriorating situation in Iraq will only be resolved when the factions in Iraq engage in the search for a political solution that will end the sectarian violence and create a stable Iraq.

All of us who know this war is wrong have an obligation to speak out and tell Congress to bring our brave men and women home. Our silence enables this president to continue the war; our voices can bring it to an end.

- John Edwards is a Democratic candidate for president.

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Columnist: **People's Business: Looking for a sure thing? Look elsewhere**, Ames Tribune, 12-22
By: Charlotte Eby
12/22/2007
Updated 12/21/2007 07:19:05 PM CST
Email to a friendPost a CommentPrinter-friendly
The one thing that's a sure bet is that nothing's a sure bet on caucus night.

The Republican campaign is in flux, and it's hard to predict who will pull out a win on Jan. 3.

Although Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor, has enjoyed a meteoric rise in Iowa, he could be in for a tough finale.

His shoestring campaign might have difficulty capitalizing on his popularity in the Iowa caucuses, where organization and getting supporters to the caucus matters as much as message.

Huckabee, who has led in recent polls, has been attacked from all sides on questions about his foreign policy experience and his record as governor.

Rival Mitt Romney has been relentless in his criticisms of Huckabee's record on crime, pointing to commutations Huckabee granted to convicted criminals in Arkansas.

Huckabee took on the question of commutations head-on during an Iowa appearance. He said of 8,700 commutation requests he received during his time as governor, he denied 90 percent.

But he highlighted a few that he was proud of granting. He talked of a 25-year-old who wanted to attend culinary school but had the black mark of joy-riding in a stolen car as an 18-year-old in his record.

Huckabee said it was the right thing to do to grant him a clemency and give him a second chance.

He also granted commutations to single moms who couldn't get a job in a nursing home years later after writing a "hot" check.

Huckabee bashed Romney's decision not to grant clemency to a man who wanted to be a police officer but had shot someone with a BB gun when he was 13 years old, not even breaking the skin.

Huckabee said the best political decision is to deny every application.

"I think we ought to make decisions on what's best for the future of a young man, not what's best for the future of somebody who wants to run for a future office," Huckabee said.

Polls show Romney, who once held a lead in Iowa, still coming in a close second. Romney packed a hotel ballroom with nearly 1,500 revelers for his Christmas party Wednesday night in West Des Moines.

Romney has one thing Huckabee lacks - a strong campaign organization that knows how to turn out supporters. They flexed that muscle in August at the GOP straw poll in Ames, busing in supporters from around the state who handed Romney a win.

But don't call it a two-person race just yet.

Fred Thompson has been trying to wrangle interest in his campaign by spending time in Iowa, although to less-than-stellar reviews.

He's been labeled as a lazy, unenthusiastic campaigner, and it is starting to stick.

Thompson has still managed to land the endorsement of U.S. Rep. Steve King, the king of right-wing true believers in Iowa.

John McCain, riding a new wave of momentum after an impressive string of newspaper endorsements, is trying to breathe new life into his sagging campaign.

But he's doing that in New Hampshire, not Iowa, where he hasn't shown his face much in recent months.

McCain isn't the only candidate running a drive-by campaign in Iowa.

Public schedules for Rudy Giuliani don't show him making a stop in Iowa on his latest 10-day campaign stretch. His scattershot approach has him stopping in Missouri, hardly an influential primary state, but not crossing the border to meet voters in Iowa.

The X-factor this year could be Ron Paul if he can encourage his backers to log off their computers long enough to head to the caucuses.

Even without a strong campaign structure in Iowa, Paul was able to surprise many by snagging fifth place at the GOP straw poll in Ames.

And everybody likes a surprise on caucus night.

Charlotte Eby is a reporter for the Lee Enterprises Des Moines bureau. She can be reached at (515) 243-0138 or chareby@aol.com.

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/16/2015 3:46:21 AM
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

Maybe a continued waste of taxpayers' money while the Republicans in Congress continue to block anything that would help everyday Americans get ahead.

Joel Benenson
Benenson Strategy Group

On Mar 16, 2015, at 6:29 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I think we should be calling this millions of dollars of taxpayer funded oppo research.

On Mar 15, 2015 5:13 PM, "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com > wrote:

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.

2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on

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Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post: "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal: " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: "When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio's spokeswoman said they had been deleted." (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press, "Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival." [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call, "But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever." [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Andre, Project On Government Oversight" <afrancisco@pogo.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/30/2014 12:00:34 AM
Subject: Weekly Reader: Making sure weapons work

POGO PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

The independent weapons testing office is under fire, again.

August 30, 2014

Editor's Choice

Independent Weapons Testing Comes Under Fire, Again

In 1983, Congress passed a law to ensure that weapons would be tested to see if they actually work in real-world scenarios. Ever since, the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation has been under fire from critics in the defense industry and their allies in Congress, even though operational testing reduces the overall cost of weapons and makes sure our fighting men and women are given systems that work. Read more on POGO.org.

Watchdogs and Whistleblowers: A Progress Report

This summer, POGO surveyed the websites of all 72 statutory Inspectors General to see how they are complying with a new law that requires them to have a Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman to provide information about whistleblowing to federal employees. Many agencies had comprehensive information and dedicated contact information for the ombudsman, but three agencies had little to no information on their website. Read more on POGO's blog .

Billions of Dollars in Federal Spending Not Reported

USAspending.gov is supposed to be a central website that allows the public to track all kinds of federal spending, but a Government Accountability Office audit found that in 2012 federal agencies failed to report nearly $619 billion in grants, loans, and voucher programs to the site. That's nearly one-quarter of what the government spent on federal assistance for that year. Read more on POGO's blog .

No More Excuses for Failing to Downblend

Highly enriched uranium is an enormously dangerous nuclear material used in nuclear weapons. With as little as 20 pounds, a terrorist could create an improvised nuclear device within minutes. So why isn't the government doing more to downblend the 375 metric tons of excess highly enriched uranium into a safer type of uranium? Read more on POGO's blog .

Another Take on FOIA Objections by Contractors

Last week, POGO's Scott Amey wrote about contractors being allowed to redact government documents before they are released through Freedom of Information Act requests. In response, Scott received a thoughtful email from someone who has spent years on the other side of those redactions. Read the response on POGO's blog.

POGO Joins in Asking FCC to Reform Radio Political Ad Info

This week, POGO joined 10 other groups in asking the Federal Communications Commission to require radio stations to post political ad spending information to an online database. Right now, that information is only available in physical files at individual radio stations, which can keep it from the public. Read more on POGO's blog.

Come Work at POGO!

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POGO is currently looking to fill two positions.
Congressional Program Coordinator: A former Hill staffer to help POGO expand its oversight training series to create a new initiative to strengthen the institutional role of Congress.
Jack Shanahan Fellow: A post 9/11 combat veteran interested in military reform and national security issues.
Visit our jobs page to find out more about the positions and how to apply.



Click Here to See's POGO's List of 10 Books that Matter

Tweets of the Week

"I hope the public decides to get angry and demand more truth" great sentiment from @crelewis over on @POGOBlog . http://t.co/kYk1ZAL1Bb
— Liz Hempowicz (@lizzy_loo_hoo) August 25, 2014

Every day I hear people complaining about the government. Do something. Speak up. Use your voice. I do. It counts. Follow @POGOBlog
— Holly Ann Thomas (@HollyGirlRox) August 25, 2014

$500 million in #HealthCare .gov spending explained http://t.co/a8H8AZzXPA #obamacare #ACA
— Scott Amey (@SAmeyJD) August 28, 2014

#Congress doesn't work for a lot of reasons. Decimating its own ability to know anything's gotta be top among them. http://t.co/Rmx1AygnK4
— Danni Downing (@dannidi) August 27, 2014

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/8/2008 2:46:18 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/08/08

Main Topics: China Olympics, Edwards Affair, Russia Invades Georgia, Surrogate Interviews

Summary of Shift:
The Summer Olympics in Beijing, China got under way this evening, dominating discussion across all networks. President Bush's arrival in China, his tepid response to the country's human rights abuses, and China's pollution issues were mentioned along with this. Russia invaded Georgia over the disputed area of South Ossetia. Fighting quickly escalated, with hundreds reported dead, and full out war quickly escalating. The price of a barrel of oil dropped $5.00 today, giving Wall Street some welcomed relief which saw stocks soaring to their biggest gains in more than three months.

Political coverage was dominated by the breaking scandal of John Edward's confession to an extra-marital affair. An interview will air this evening on ABC Nightline News. Bill Clinton has been asked to speak at the DNC Convention's third night and Hillary has picked up her campaigning for Obama while Obama goes on vacation to Hawaii this week. Detroit's Mayor was released from prison today, followed by his indictment for assaulting a police officer.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: Nicole Wallace Talks McCain's Energy Policy, Attack Ads, and Maverick Status
2. FNC: Morris Dismisses Romney as Poor V.P. Choice For Flip-Flops on Abortion
3. MSNBC: McCain Is Takes Bronze in Olbermann's Worse Person For Hamdan Lies
4. MSNBC: Donatelli Discusses McCain's Energy Plan and Vice Presidential Selection

Highlights, No Clips:
1. CNN – JOHN MCCAIN: "The government of Georgia has called for a cease-fire and for a resumption of direct talks on South Ossetia with international mediators. The U.S. should immediately convene an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council to call on Russia to reverse course."
2. CNN – John McCain, when asked on for his opinion on the Edwards affair scandal, gives a simple no comment.

Clips:

Highlight #1
Nicole Wallace Talks McCain's Energy Policy, Attack Ads, and Maverick Status (MSNBC 08/08/08 6:58pm)
DAVID GREGORY: Let's talk about this campaign, and talk about McCain campaign strategy. You have tried- the campaign has recently to tarnish Obama's credibility and his image in a couple ways. On the one hand, it is to describe him as a celebrity, to use Britney spears, Paris Hilton to suggest he's sort of famous for being famous, that he's a lightweight. That's on the one hand. On the other hand, it is to reduce his energy plan to the idea of the tire gauge, to suggest that his whole energy plan is really about whether there's enough air in the tires. So the question is, are these ambush political tactics? And is that consistent with the original maverick that you claim john McCain is?

WALLACE: You know, two quick things here, David. One, I never hear anyone put it to the Obama campaign, the internal deliberations that they may have gone to when they made the strategic decision to essentially filet an American hero, a former p.o.w. On the stump every day, which is what comes out of their candidates mouth. And two, Barack Obama, tarnished himself. We didn't paint him as anything that he isn't. He certainly, you know, he went overseas, we were pleased that he was finally going to visit the war zone. But their campaign made a decision, and they obviously did it to gain advantage. Because you don't do things in campaigns for other reasons. To hold a 200,000 person rally in Europe in the midst of a presidential campaign. So it was obviously a decision to celebrate his celebrity with a crowd of screaming Europeans. And you know, by pointing it out it's not our effort to tarnish him, it's shining a light on something his campaign spent a lot of time and money trying to shine the light on themselves.

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GREGORY: And when you talk about trying to tarnish McCain's image or filet his image, his reputation, certainly, there's been a very aggressive attempt to tie him to president bush and say he's a third bush term. What else do you have in mind in terms of what they've done?

WALLACE: let's not gloss over that. I covered this White House, I worked at this White House. John McCain used to make major news every time he ended up at odds with the bush white house. Whether it was attacking the secretary of defense for the conduct of the war, whether it was a very high profile disagreement that he had with the bush white house over torture and other aspects of the war on terror. So it is a blatant lie when Barack Obama stands in front of his supporters and calls john McCain an extension of the bush administration. It's simply not true. So, it's not something to gloss over. On the other hand, Barack Obama is someone who's -- the two pillars of his candidacy are a politician who's going to do things differently, change we can believe in and the other is judgment that he pointed to in his race against Hillary Clinton when he said "I gave a speech in 2002, in which I had better judgment than you did on Iraq." So I think that Barack Obama's wounds are self-inflicted and I think it's the job of any campaign to highlight a candidate's weaknesses, so that's all that we've done. And really our focus is on communicating John McCain's vision for the future, for making this country energy independent., getting people working again.

GREGORY: but, clearly, the McCain campaign has made a calculated decision to turn up the heat on Obama, to go on the attack, to try to have a different narrative frame for this campaign. In fact, senator McCain told David Broder that he laments the tone of this campaign and what's happened over the past several weeks. This is what he said in back in April about the kind of campaign that he was looking forward to. We'll let you listen and have a response. >>
WALLACE: okay.

MCCAIN: this will be a respectful campaign. American's want a respectful campaign. They're tired of the attacks, they're tired of the impugning people's character and integrity. They want a respectful campaign and I'm of the firm belief they'll get it, and they can get it, if the American people demand it and reject a lot of this negative stuff that goes on.

GREGORY: has senator McCain lived up to that?

WALLACE: I believe he has. And you know, look, it is a respectful campaign. But that that doesn't mean you shy away from highlighting the differences. As your own Tim Russert used to say, it's a big election about big stuff. And I think when you're talking about big differences, these are very different men with very different biographies. The Obama campaign is never shy about pointing out an age difference and philosophical difference, and time in Washington. And you know, that's the work of campaigns to make sure that people understand the choice that they have. And on the big issues, there are very stark differences., and the policies people care about- people are looking for leadership. I believe this is a leadership election. They want someone that's going to end this war with victory. They want to achieve the objectives. I think everyone agrees now, as a country, it's time to end the war in Iraq, it's how do we do it. I think everyone agrees now, as a country, it's time to stop shipping $700 billion overseas to countries that aren't friendly very to us. The question is how do we make ourselves energy independent. So there are big differences there. And we are certainly committed to running the honorable campaign that john McCain promised.

GREGORY: let's talk about McCain, the maverick. Which is a theme that's been highlighted by the McCain campaign this week. There's a new ad that has been put on the Internet in support of that idea. Let's run it and talk about it on the other side of it.

[…]

MATTHEWS: It is a very cleverly constructed ad, I have to admit. But is this a conversation that you really want to have. John Kerry, for instance, in a response that you knew the democratic committee would have, said this about McCain today "John McCain has changed in profound and fundamental ways that I find personally really surprising, and frankly upsetting. He is not the john McCain, as a senator who defined himself, quote, as a maverick, though questionable. This is a different john McCain." And that's an argument you get from democrats and critics of john McCain. That this is not the john McCain of 2000, who took on George W. Bush. It's a

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different figure.

WALLACE: Well look, I put all my faith in the wisdom of the voters. And I think if you came out with us on the trail, which I hope you will do, you'd see that john McCain the maverick, john McCain the straight talker and john McCain the guy that gets a standing ovation when he talks about you need to drill and drill now. Who would have thought two years ago that would be the largest applause line, when you travel through Wisconsin and through Michigan and through Ohio and through Florida? You know, if you come out and see it, and if we get out of some of the back and forth that happens, as I understand it must in the Northeast Corridor, you'll see that john McCain is still offering straight talk. He spends his days on the campaign trail face to face with voters. He does not stand in the arena. We do not have crowds of 200,000 people. And he interacts. These are spontaneous interactions. I think even his early supporters consider him vintage john McCain. And he's talking about his vision for the future. So that's the campaign we're running, and I think people in Washington are going to say what they are going to say. It's really not the focus of our campaign.

GREGORY: Nicole, certainly, the McCain campaign has landed some blows against senator Obama the last week and a half, some of the polling reflects that in your estimation here, as we start to gear up to the convention, is this a dead even race?

WALLACE: oh, god. I feel like we are still very much the underdog, and I think that polls go up and polls go down. You and I have been involved in more than a couple presidential campaigns and the only campaign and the only poll that matters is the one on Election Day. So, um, we're the underdog. I think we expect to remain in that position. It's one that senator McCain is comfortable running as. I think we'll look forward to staying neck in neck through November.

Highlight #2
Morris Dismisses Romney as Poor V.P. Choice For Flip-Flops on Abortion (FNC 08/08/08 8:18pm)
BILL O'REILLY: […] Who do you predict for John McCain?

DICK MORRIS: Predict Tom Ridge. Think he should do? Condi, Powell, or Joe Lieberman. He needs a vice president that wakes up this campaign. And the country says, wow.

O'REILLY: Yeah, but Lieberman's already had that shot. […]

MORRIS: Yeah, but he will be the first president since Abraham Lincoln to cross party lines in his ticket.

O'REILLY: Let's deal with your Tom Ridge prediction.

MORRIS: Marine, Homeland Security, good looking guy, Pennsylvania.

O'REILLY: But, pro-abortion. That's going to hurt him among conservatives, he's already weak there.

MORRIS: It'll hurt him, but not terminally, and Ridge will back and fill like he did in Pennsylvania. He didn't change the Medicade ban in Pennsylvania. And Ridge would be ok on that.

O'REILLY: Now how convinced are you that Ridge is going to get it?

MORRIS: Oh not. […] But the guy I'm praying it isn't, is Romney.

O'REILLY: See, I don't get that. Because I think Romney would be the best choice, because for McCain obviously, because of Michigan. He gets that in play, and because of the economy, he's a business guy. But you go ahead.

MORRIS: This guy outspent his rivals a hundred million to one. And he lost New Hampshire, and Iowa, and Florida, and South Carolina, and California. The only states he carried were Michigan, because his Dad was governor in a republican primary which is a very small affair there, and a couple of Mormon states, and a couple of states where nobody else could afford to run because they were all spending money on California. There is a national propensity not to vote for Romney.

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O'REILLY: Why?

MORRIS: Well it could be the flip-flop on abortion, which is a reason not to vote for him. It could be the Mormon, which is not a reason not to vote for him but people feel it. And he would send, at best, a gigantic yawn, and at worst an animus throughout the country.

O'REILLY: Now he's a conservative guy that could mobilize the base to be friendlier to McCain, though. Some people might say, oh, I might come over.

MORRIS: But he's pro-life and pro-choice depending on week you find him in.

O'REILLY: No, but now he's a conservative.

MORRIS: Yeah, but 48 months ago he was a liberal.

O'REILLY: That's alright though, because, I mean, people have a right to change their minds. Barack Obama changes his mind quite often.

MORRIS: You have the right to change your mind on abortion once. You can't go from pro-life to pro-choice to pro-life, and expect the base to believe you're pro-life.

O'REILLY: So you think if he puts Romney on the ticket it's a big mistake. I disagree, I think Romney would probably bring him some votes.

Highlight #3
McCain Is Takes Bronze in Olbermann's Worse Person For Hamdan Lies (MSNBC 08/08/08 8:57pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: Time for Countdown's worst person's in the world. The bronze to John McCain. It will soon be news, not if he gets something terribly wrong, but if he goes a week without getting something terrifyingly wrong. The candidate issued a statement about the conviction of Salim Hamdan by military commission, which McCain helped to design, and he exaggerated reality again. The jury found that the prosecutions lawyers had proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Hamdan had aided terrorists by supplying weapons to Al-Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan. But that's not what the jury ruled. It convicted him of supplying resources to Al-Qaeda, namely himself as Bin Laden's driver. But this is getting clearer, John McCain either lies or can't tell the difference between reality and stuff he dreamed or imagined. Those are not two good options.

Highlight #4
Donatelli Discusses McCain's Energy Plan and Vice Presidential Selection (MSNBC 08/08/08 1:17pm)
MITCHELL: … you know that's not all of Barack Obama's energy policy. We're in the silly season. What's going on here?

DONATELLI: I have a tire gauge right here, so when I finish this interview I'm going to go out an inflate my tires right.

MITCHELL: Actually you probably should.

DONATELLI: It's not a bad idea, but it's a very small idea. I think the key point that Senator McCain is trying to make is that whether you want to talk about his tire pressure proposal or his windfall profits tax, or anything else he's been talking about, nothing that he has proposed, this is the important point, adds a drop of additional domestic oil or additional energy produced here in the United States for use by Americans. That's the bottom line. For him it's all scarcity. I mean he's morphing into Jimmy Carter when it comes to his energy policy.

MITCHELL: In fairness to the democratic nominee, he is talked about taking 70 million barrels out of strategic petroleum reserve; he has talked about offshore drilling as part of a larger compromise; he's talked about alternative fuels. I mean he's got a number of things. He's also talked about rebates and putting money in

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consumers' pockets of a thousand dollars, paid for by the windfall profits tax, just to balance things up here.

DONATELLI: Yeah, well let's talk about each of those. Alternative fuels, that's a good idea. But you just can't wish it to happen. It'll happen when it becomes technologically feasible, and most people tell us that that's not for several years. Um, as far as this new plan for drilling that he says he favors- Andrea, there's no bill. There's no bill at all. It's just some speech that he gave. I mean if he's for offshore drilling and he's going to change his position, then let him say so. Um, again, I stand by my statement., that there's nothing that he's proposed that will increase America's proven reserves. McCain favors increasing America's energy reserves, that's why there's such a big distinction on this issue.

MITCHELL: Of course, offshore drilling is a long-term solution, so is nuclear power. John McCain has talked about 45 new nuclear plants by 2030, and that is considered pie in the sky, uh, a fantasy kind of scenario, given how long it's taken to get even one nuclear plant license. It's been decades since anything's been licensed in this country.

DONATELLI: You're absolutely right about that, but it's a government created problem. There isn't any reason why if we don't have the will in this country, to try to untangle some of the red tape involved, that we couldn't put nuclear plants online much quicker.

MITCHELL: It's also market-based and insurance-based. Uh, it's liability issues as well.

DONATELLI: Well, I mean, we have to get to all of those, but I don't think anyone would dispute that fact, Andrea, that the number one problem is red tape for the government. As far as oil becoming more available to the United States quickly, you can do that much more quickly in the Gulf of Mexico, uh, because you have the infrastructure there already. You know I'm really amazed Senator Obama claims to campaign on the audacity of hope, on the issue of energy, he's hopeless. You know, nothing can be done. Nothing can be done. It's going to take seven years. It's gonna take ten years . You should inflate your tires. I mean, the obvious answer is staring him in the face. We have to drill for more energy and more oil and more gas. That's the thing we need right now to gradually begin to bring the price down.

MITCHELL: Now, the announcement today from the Republicans, that Dick Cheney will be the big speaker on Monday night. Uh, tell me about the plusses and minuses. You've got a vice president who is very, very popular with the Republican base, the conservative base. He's been a great fundraiser, he's a great campaigner. At the same time, he's not popular with your wider audience. So, how do you bridge that divide?

DONATELLI: Well Monday night, uh, you know, would be the vice president. Uh, and probably the president. And, uh, normally it would be the first night. Uh, he's the president and vice president of our party, uh, you want to give an appropriate- you want to honor them appropriately. At that point, Andrea, you then shift away, and you're talking about Senator McCain and his running mate and his policies. That'll be the focus for the rest of the convention, highlighted, of course, on Saturday night by Senator McCain's acceptance speech.

MITCHELL: So basically, you want to get Dick Cheney and George Bush on and off the stage as quickly as possible, and have that torch passed because of their singular unpopularity right now, fair or not, with the voters.

DONATELLI: Look, passing the torch I would agree with, but I'll go back to 1988 when I worked for President Reagan. Monday night was President Reagan's night. Um, he was honored, appropriately, then he exited the stage in favor of then Vice President Bush. I mean, this happens all the time, it should not be any different in this case.

MITCHELL: Now, as I recall in 1988, because it had something to do with the way it unfolded, 1988 the vice presidential nominee was introduced on the second night, the Tuesday night of the convention. Can you imagine that scenario, or do you expect that John McCain would be doing it sooner than that , perhaps to step on the bounce that the democrats might have after their convention?

DONATELLI: You know, uh, Senator McCain is going to make his decision when he's comfortable making it. And I honestly can't tell you if that's going to be the second night of the convention, before the convention, or

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tomorrow. All I can tell you is that he's giving serious thought. This is an important choice, and he'll make the decision, he'll announce it when he's comfortable doing so.

MITCHELL: Ok, he's in Iowa today, he's in Las Vegas tomorrow. I think it's a safe bet it's not going to be tomorrow.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 3/17/2015 12:24:22 PM
Subject: Re: Iran Nuclear Agreement

Stu - can we talk Thursday afternoon?

On Mar 17, 2015, at 7:02 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

As I have mentioned, for over three years I have chaired the Iran Task Force of the Atlantic Council, the first year as co-chair with Chuck Hagel. We have done extensive work of the Iran nuclear issue, Iranian internal politics and their foreign policy goals, publishing more than a dozen papers.

Along the lines of the previous notes to you about the emerging Iran Nuclear Agreement, it appears increasingly clear there will be a framework agreement by or before March 24, which will set the parameters in some detail of the obligations of Iran and the phase-out of sanctions. The sanctions relief will entail not only the exercise of presidential waiver authority in congressionally imposed sanctions, but the U.S. going to the UN and seeking sanctions relief there, as well. The latter would have the force of international law.

Obviously, with the 47 Republican Senator letter, Bibi's congressional speech, the distinct possibility Bibi will be the prime minister again (exit polls as of this moment are 27-27 between Likud and Labor, and Bibi can more easily get to 61 seats than Herzog), and that the Saudis, Egyptians, Gulf States, as well as Israel and most of the organized Jewish community, will have great problems with the Agreement, this presents a very difficult issue for Secretary Clinton.

I start with the premise that having been Secretary of State and being involved in earlier phases of the negotiations, and being a Democrat, she has to endorse the outcome. But permit me to suggest that she should take a harder line on a number of issues.

She could say something along these lines, subject to modification when the details are published:

"Given the development of Iran's nuclear program, this Agreement, while far from perfect, offers the best way to constrain Iran from getting a bomb. It reduces the number of active centrifuges enriching uranium, and places limits on the number and quality of centrifuges for the next 10 (or 15 years). It would send most of the enriched uranium out of Iran for reprocessing in ways that makes it highly unlikely it could be used to make a bomb. It would limit enriched uranium to low levels (around 5%). It also places strict limits on the heavy-water plutonium plant at Arak, which would potentially be another way for Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. It would limit the underground facility at Fordow to research and development. It provides for intrusive 24/7 inspections by the respected International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), under the additional Protocol of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. And sanctions would be only gradually withdrawn, based upon Iranian performance (check on details). It creates a one year (check) breakout period, in which the U.S. and our allies would have notice if Iran decided to pursue a nuclear weapon. Moreover, 10 (or 15) years is a long time and Iran's conduct may moderate.

Without this Agreement, Iran would be free to develop its plutonium facility at Arak; would continue to increase the number and sophistication of its centrifuges (indeed has another 10,000 waiting on line); would not be subject to intrusive inspections; and could make more progress toward a nuclear weapon. It has added more centrifuges during the course of the severe sanctions already imposed.

Because we already have the most comprehensive sanctions ever exacted in peacetime against Iran (its private banks out of the SWIFT clearance system; the Central Bank of Iran on the sanctions list; the EU taking no Iranian oil exports; etc.), it is difficult to see any set of additional sanctions which would lead to a better result. While we must keep the military option on the table if Iran moves forward with a weapons system, this Agreement is the best opportunity to avoid the need for military action.

We also have to recognize that one of the reasons sanctions helped bring Iran to the negotiating table is that we were able to forge a partnership with the European Union. If we fail to endorse this Agreement, there is a real possibility the EU would remove its sanctions, and the U.S. would be left alone, with sanctions that would be less effective.

At the same time, there are important gaps in the Agreement. It does not cover Iran's ballistic missile program, which would not exist if Iran simply wanted a civilian nuclear program. It does not require Iran to answer the IAEA's questions

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about its potential military-related testing of equipment, which was one of the reasons for the UN sanctions (check on final product). It does not permit full inspection at military facilities, like Parchin. It leaves Iran with an industrial-size nuclear facility. And at the end of the 10 (or 15) year period, Iran would be unconstrained.

Therefore, while this Agreement is an important step forward to limit Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions, we must take additional steps to assure that Iran does not pursue a breakout strategy either during or after the expiration of the Agreement. The U.S. strategy should include the following:

1. The toughest sanctions possible should be given to the next President to employ if Iran cheats during the course of the Agreement.

2. Even after the expiration of the Agreement, Iran should know that if it pursues a nuclear weapons strategy, the U.S. would consider this unacceptable, and would take all actions necessary to prevent it.

3. The U.S. should insist that Iran "come clean" and answer all of the IAEA's questions to their satisfaction.

4. The U.S. should do everything possible to limit Iran's development of long-range missiles.

5. The U.S. should assure our friends and allies in the region, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, Jordan, and others that this Agreement will not lead to across-the-board cooperation with Iran on issues like Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, Afghanistan, where directly or through surrogates Iran is acting in ways contrary to U.S. national security interests and those of our friends and allies. Iran has provided the equipment and training of IEDs and other weapons which have killed American soldiers. Their interests and ours diverge in important ways. We will never forsake our friends, and should begin immediate consultations to provide defense arrangements to reassure them of our continued support and constancy. We will do everything possible to limit Iran's efforts at regional hegemony at the expense of our friends and allies. We will build up our forces in the Persian Gulf to demonstrate this."

Jake, these are some preliminary thoughts. But I do believe Secretary Clinton cannot afford to take a pass on this Agreement, or simply endorse it without these caveats.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

Stuart Eizenstat

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Greg Rosalsky" <GRosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/25/2008 1:20:35 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/25

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 25th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time
1:30pm McCain: Speech in Las Vegas, NV
- Tracking scheduled for this event
2:15pm Bush: Attends National Security Advisor's Meeting with UN Security Council Reps at White House

2:30pm McCain: Finance Luncheon in Las Vegas, NV

5:00pm McCain: NV HQ Opening in Las Vegas, NV

5:15pm Bush: Makes Remarks at Max M. Fisher National Republican Award Dinner

News Clips:

MORE FALLOUT FROM CHARLIE BLACK COMMENTS

McCain Adviser May Have Struck a Nerve (Washington Post 6/25/08)
By Jonathan Weisman and Anne E. Kornblut
Sen. Barack Obama and his surrogates continued to criticize Charles R. Black Jr., a top adviser to Sen. John McCain, on Tuesday for saying a terrorist attack before the November election would help the presumptive Republican nominee... Obama dispatched Richard Ben-Veniste, a member of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, to hold a conference call with reporters in which he called Black's comments "a candid and very disappointing glimpse into the thinking of one of McCain's closest advisers."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/24/AR2008062401331.html?nav=hcmodule

No. 1 Faux Pas in Washington? Candor, Perhaps (NYT 6/25/08)
By Michael Cooper
It was the journalist Michael Kinsley who changed Washington's understanding of gaffes with his observation that a gaffe occurs not when someone lies, but when they say what they really think. And more than a few politicians and pundits were put in mind of the classic Kinsleyian gaffe this week after Charlie Black, a senior adviser to Senator John McCain, was quoted in a magazine interview saying that another terrorist attack in the United States would "be a big advantage."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/25/us/politics/24cnd-memo.html?ref=politics

Analysis: Chiding aide, McCain forgets own remark (AP 6/24/08)
By Glen Johnson
John McCain wasted no time disawoving comments by an aide who suggested a terrorist attack on U.S. soil would boost his presidential campaign. McCain may have wanted to take a moment to consult the history books before he spoke. In ways both overt and subtle, the Republican presidential contender has been making much the same point as senior adviser Charlie Black, who backed off Monday after he was quoted as saying an attack "certainly would be a big advantage to him."
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080624/ap_on_el_pr/mccain_terrorism

McCain Battles 'Unforced Errors' to Stay on Message (ABC News Blog 6/24/08)
By Jack Tapper
Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is having trouble staying on message -- or, more specifically, his campaign is.McCain had hoped to spend the early part of this week discussing energy and the environment but instead the

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Republican presidential candidate found his message muddled when one of his top advisers told Forbes magazine in an upcoming issue that a new terror attack on Americans "certainly would be a big advantage to him."
http://www.abcnews.go.com/GMA/Vote2008/story?id=5233012&page=1

Charlie Black Reveals McCain Campaign Strategy (Houston Chronicle Blog 6/24/08)
Charlie Black, chief strategist for John McCain, made some surprisingly frank comments in an interview with Fortune Magazine, surprising only in the fact that someone in the McCain campaign would openly say what they are thinking. Mr. Black referred to the assassination of Benazir Bhutto as an "unfortunate event" but acknowledged that "it helped us" referring to the timing of the assassination coinciding with the New Hampshire primary. He also said of a future terrorist attack; "Certainly it would be a big advantage to him (McCain)."
http://www.chron.com/commons/persona.html?newspaperUserId=desperado&plckController=PersonaBlog&plckScript=personaScript&plckElementId=personaDest&plckPersonaPage=BlogViewPost&plckPostId=Blog%3AdesperadoPost%3A089da9be-32cc-4b09-8a7d-cf2f00573ffc

Team Obama Keeps Heat on Over Black Comments (Washington Post Blog 6/24/08)
By Anne E. Kornblut
Obama advisers have seized on Charlie Black's controversial remark on terrorism - that an attack would be politically beneficial for his client, Sen. John McCain - as an obviously tone-deaf gaffe. On Tuesday, even after Black, a senior adviser to McCain, apologized, the Obama team portrayed it as a policy misstep as well, arguing that the campaigns should be talking about the substance of terrorism policy rather than its political impact.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/24/team_obama_keeps_heat_on_over.html

Who Said This? (National Journal Blog 6/24/08)
By Jennifer Skalka
"It's very helpful to the president," remarked a GOP pol in an October 2004 report about the release of a new Osama bin Laden tape. A hint, it wasn't Charlie Black. It was John McCain, commenting in a 10/30/04 AP story.
http://hotlineblog.nationaljournal.com/archives/2008/06/who_said_this.html#more

National security events helping Republicans (Politico 6/24/08)
By Jonathan Martin
Reaching into their oppo files, Dems point out that McCain has been more candid about the obvious advantage a national security event would provide the GOP. In the closing days of the 2004 campaign, McCain said this about bin Laden's video message: "I think it's very helpful to President Bush," said McCain, R-Ariz., while stumping in Stamford for U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays. "It focuses America's attention on the war on terrorism. I'm not sure if it was intentional or not, but I think it does have an effect."
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0608/National_security_events_helping_Republicans.html

Charlie Black's Position Is Secure, For Now (The Atlantic Blog 6/24/08)
By Marc Ambinder
Democrats hope to pressure McCain strategist Charlie Black to resign, but so far, McCain is having none of it, according to two people with knowledge of the situation. As of last night, "Internally, McCain is supporting Charlie," said one of those people. Black recongizes the gravity of his mistake, people close to him said.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/06/charlie_blacks_position_is_sec.php

MCCAIN NEWS

Santa Barbara fumes over McCain drilling plan (LA Times 6/25/08)
By Maeve Reston and Michael Finnegan
John McCain came to California promoting an array of ideas to spur the market for clean cars and otherwise reduce carbon emissions. But in this coastal city, the site of a disastrous oil spill in 1969, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee was dogged by critics at nearly every turn for his recent embrace of offshore drilling.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign25-2008jun25,0,1618946.story

McCain Has Plan to Make Government More Green (Washington Post 6/25/08)

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By Juliet Eilperin and Lyndsey Layton
Sen. John McCain pledged yesterday that he would make the federal government more environmentally friendly, while Sen. Barack Obama mocked his rival as crafting energy policies that merely pander to voters, in the latest skirmish over which presidential candidate is better prepared to tackle the nation's energy and environmental problems.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/24/AR2008062401412.html

Obama Assails Remarks by McCain on Offshore Oil Drilling (NYT 6/25/08)
By Michael Powell and Michael Cooper
Senator Barack Obama took a poke at his Republican opponent on Tuesday, saying that for Senator John McCain to talk of a "psychological benefit" from expanded offshore drilling is to define that policy as a gimmick.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/25/us/politics/25campaign.html?ref=politics

McCain's Fine Line of Security (WSJ 06/25/08)
One of Sen. John McCain's main strategies for overcoming the deficit he and his party face in opinion polls is to make the election about national security and terrorism... Even so, Sen. McCain risks accusations from Democrats that he is following the Bush administration by playing into the politics of fear.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121435467915401859.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain aides seek undecideds, non-partisans for town halls (USA Today 6/25/08)
By David Jackson
Instead of picking crowds of committed supporters to fill his town hall meetings, aides to Republican John McCain say they are hiring specialists to find undecided and not overly partisan voters. That's a contrast from the last Republican presidential campaign in which President Bush's aides and the Secret Service screened out opponents and emphasized loyal GOP supporters.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-24-McCain-screen_N.htm

McCain calls for energy-efficient government (AP 6/24/08)
Republican John McCain said Tuesday the federal government should practice the energy efficiency he preaches, pledging as president to switch official vehicles to green technologies and do the same for office buildings.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25351310/

Californians Object to McCain's Drilling Plan (NYT Blog 6/24/08)
By Michael Cooper
The McCain campaign sometimes makes a virtue of Senator John McCain's propensity for telling people not only what they want to hear, but also what they don't. It certainly seemed like many of the people he met in California this week did not want to hear about his newfound support for off-shore drilling.One of his donors expressed concern about it at a fund-raiser. Anti-drilling protesters stood outside his campaign event here Tuesday morning, raising the specter of the devastating 1969 oil spill here that helped launch the modern environmental movement.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/24/californians-object-to-mccains-drilling-plan/#more-5458

California Official's "Straight Talk" On Drilling (CBS News 6/24/08)
By Clifden Kennedy
Senator McCain had some interesting company at his environmental briefing today. At most campaign events, people appearing onstage with the candidate support whichever plan he is promoting. But that wasn't the case today.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/06/24/politics/fromtheroad/entry4206202.shtml?CMP=OTC-RSSFeed&source=RSS&attr=FromTheRoad_4206202

Someone Didn't Get The Memo (National Journal Blog 6/24/08)
By Adam Aigner-Treworgy
Usually John McCain's panel discussions feature a stage full of experts in a given field telling McCain how great his proposals would be for the country. But at today's discussion about energy at the Museum of Natural History here, one panelist didn't get the memo. Michael Feeney, the executive director of the land trust for Santa Barbara County and a professional land conservationist, took issue with some of McCain's environmental

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policies, accusing the candidate and fellow panelist CA Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of being too willing to compromise on environmental standards in devising energy solutions.
http://hotlineblog.nationaljournal.com/archives/2008/06/someone_didnt_g.html#more

Obama/McCain: 'Psychological' Benefit? (MSNBC Blog 6/24/08)
By Domenico Montanaro
Yesterday, McCain admitted that his offshore drilling proposal would probably have mostly "psychological" benefits, NBC/NJ's Adam Aigner-Treworgy reports. At a town hall in Fresno that primarily focused on energy issues, McCain was asked a question about the price of gas and the viability of various short-term solutions.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/06/24/1163504.aspx

Another lobbying headache for McCain? (Chicago Tribune Blog 6/24/08)
By James Oliphant
Former Homeland Security secretary Tom Ridge, a national co-chair of John McCain's campaign, failed to properly disclose he was working on behalf of the Albanian government, a Washington newspaper reported Tuesday. The Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call reported that Ridge, who formed a strategic consulting company after leaving government, signed a $500,000 lobbying contract with Albania in 2006 but didn't file required documents about the deal until this month.
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/06/another_lobbying_headache_for.html

Ridge Files Very Late for Albania (Roll Call 6/24/08)
By Anna Palmer
For almost two years former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge failed to register a nearly half-million-dollar lobbying contract that he had with the government of Albania.
http://www.rollcall.com/issues/53_157/news/26197-1.html

For John McCain's Mom: Another Day, Another Speeding Ticket (Washington Post Blog 6/24/08)
By Mary Ann Akers
Even skyrocketing gas prices aren't slowing down Roberta McCain, the indefatigable 96-year-old mother of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) The would-be first mother -- and yes, she fully expects her Johnny to win the presidency in November -- is still speeding around like a NASCAR driver on the last lap. At a cocktail party held at the luxurious home of GOP super lobbyist Wayne Berman recently, Mrs. McCain gave the Sleuth some advice: "Don't speed up there (in Chevy Chase)."
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/sleuth/2008/06/for_john_mccains_mom_another_d.html

Tancredo Questions McCain (Washington Post Blog 6/24/08)
By Jonathan Weisman
He may be the presumptive nominee of the Republican Party, but John McCain has yet to heal all the wounds on his right flank. Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.), a failed presidential rival of McCain's and an anti-illegal immigration gadfly, launched into the senator from Arizona for meeting in secret with Latino leaders last week in Chicago.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/24/tancredo_questions_mccain.html

Undue North? (National Journal Blog 6/24/08)
By Adam Aigner-Treworgy
McCain Hands Dems Political Opening With Visit To Canada... Republican presidential candidate John McCain had some observers scratching their heads last week over his decision to head north to Ottawa to deliver remarks on the economy and U.S. trade policy. For his part, Democrat Barack Obama was quick to take up the issue, saying on Friday that it was "interesting" that McCain "chose to talk about trade in Canada instead of in Ohio or Michigan."
http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/no_20080624_3113.php

McCain's EBay Model for Jobs Finds Few Buyers Among Economists (Bloomberg 6/24/08)
By Hans Nichols
John McCain's model for ginning up the economy isn't Keynesian or Milton Friedmanite. It's EBay Inc. The presumptive Republican presidential nominee regularly asserts that 1.3 million people worldwide ``make a living off EBay.'' He holds up the figure as evidence the world's largest Internet auctioneer is a model for job and

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economic growth... This affection for EBay as an engine for job creation, however, confounds economists such as Betsey Stevenson, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aJXBcBPLYnWY&refer=us

D.N.C. Sues McCain Over Campaign Loan (NYT Blog 6/24/08)
By Leslie Wayne
The Democratic National Committee filed suit today in U.S. District Court in Washington challenging Senator John McCain's decision to opt out of the federal public financing system in his primary race.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/24/dnc-sues-mccain-over-campaign-loan/

DNC Files Lawsuit over McCain Financing (MSNBC Blog 6/24/08)
By Mark Murray
With so much attention on Obama's reversal on public financing, liberal bloggers like Arianna Huffington and Josh Marshall have wondered why McCain's own apparent flip flop on the subject hasn't received as much scrutiny. Well, the Democratic National Committee is trying to change that by filing a lawsuit in US District Court in DC to force the Federal Election Commission to investigate McCain's decision to opt in the public matching funds system for the primaries, secure a loan based on those public funds, and then withdraw from the system after becoming the GOP front-runner.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/06/24/1163808.aspx

Splintered conservatives hurt McCain (Politico 6/24/08)
By Allan J. Lichtman
With America's attention riveted on the battle between Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton, few noticed that presumptive Republican nominee John McCain limped through his party's late primaries. McCain won 73 percent of the vote in Pennsylvania, 72 percent in Kentucky, 70 percent in Idaho and 70 percent in South Dakota. McCain's problem with the Republican base is not his lack of conservative credentials...

McCain Staffer Turns His Candidate Into A Joke The Whole Internet Can Enjoy (Huffington Post 6/24/08)
By Jason Linkins
...Mark Soohoo, who is ostensibly part of John McCain's "internet team" was explaining to the assembled that despite the outward appearance that McCain hasn't learned how to use Google - and is thus still unaware that his campaign's BFF Charlie Black has this annoying hobby of repping for bloodthirsty dictators - the candidate has plenty of what we used to call "computer literacy." But then: DAG! Here comes blogger (and former John Edwards internet director) Tracy Russo, gettin' all up in Soohoo's grill, funnin' on McCain! That led Soohoo to utter these immortal words, "John McCain is aware of the internet."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/24/mccain-staffer-turns-his_n_109052.html

McCain aware of Internet and its traditions (Politico 6/24/08)
By Ben Smith
Here's the video from that instant classic -- for a small class of tech-and-politics junkies -- moment at yesterday's Personal Democracy Forum, at which McCain aide Mark Soohoo gamely defended his boss's lack of computer skills against the incredulity of former Edwards blogger Tracy Russo. Fortunately for McCain, snarky tech-and-politics junkies were probably already lost.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0608/McCain_aware_of_Internet_and_its_traditions.html
To View Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYs8X0D

McCain travels to Colombia, Mexico (Chicago Tribune Blog 6/24/08)
By Jill Zuckman
As if the extended presidential campaign weren't enough of a giant road trip, Sen. John McCain will take his show south of the border next week during the Fourth of July Congressional recess. McCain will travel to Colombia and Mexico with best buddies (and Senators), Lindsey Graham and Joe Lieberman. The trio will meet with the presidents of each country, as well as Cabinet members, foreign ministers and law enforcement officials.
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/06/mccain_travels_to_colombia_mex.html

CAP launches McCain U (Politico 6/24/08)

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By Ben Smith
The Center for American Progress Action Fund -- the political arm of John Podesta's think tank-- just sent out an email announcing that next Monday it will host "McCain University."Basically, reporters who haven't done the left-leaning half of their homework can spend a half-day listening and questioning progressive policy wonks (and Elizabeth Edwards).
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0608/CAP_launches_McCain_U.html

A Look At John McCain's Media Spending (The Atlantic 6/24/08)
By Marc Ambinder
According to research compiled by one Democratic media buyer, John McCain is spending roughly $1.5 million a week on television advertising across the country with an average buy rate of about 400 gross ratings points per market. A McCain campaign spokesman would not say whether the Democrat's compilation reflects their purchasing trends, although an Obama campaign adviser, when shown the data, said that it comports with what they're seeing.
http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/06/a_look_at_john_mccains_media_s.php

Will Pro-Choice Women Back McCain? (Time 6/23/08)
By Amy Sullivan
The 2008 presidential race may have been branded a "change" election, but abortion rights advocates have seen this movie before. Once again they face a Republican nominee who supports abortion restrictions yet is widely viewed as moderate and unthreatening to pro-choice voters. Eight years ago, it was George W. Bush who convinced pro-choice Republican and independent women that he was a safe bet, asserting that "America is not ready to ban abortions." This time, according to a poll released last week by NARAL Pro-Choice America, voters have a fuzzy sense of John McCain's views on abortion — which is just the way the McCain campaign wants it.
http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1817314,00.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

I'm for McCain, but not the GOP (USA Today 6/25/08)
By Ralph Peters
The Republicans go awry — and disgrace 'conservatism' — when it comes to Big Oil. support John McCain for president. But that doesn't mean I support the Republican Party. Had the GOP nominated anyone else this year, I'd be struggling to rationalize a vote for the Democrats in November.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/06/im-for-mccain-b.html#more

Does McCain Understand Markets? (RCP 6/25/08)
By John Stossel
"I believe there needs to be a thorough and complete investigation of speculators to find out whether speculation has been going on and, if so, how much it has affected the price of a barrel of oil. There's a lot of things out there that need a lot more transparency and, consequently, oversight." Those are the words of presidential candidate John McCain. This man is the Republican?
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/06/bless_the_speculator.html

Conservatives and Their Carnival of Fraud (WSJ 6/25/08)
By Thomas Frank
...The ideological assumption was only barely concealed: Whatever "big government" could do, the private sector could do better, cheaper and faster. There was another unspoken ideological angle: Every federal job privatized was a job pried from the grip of the hated Washington bureaucracy. Every dollar contracted out meant that much less for bureaucrat unions and that much more for friendly companies, well-connected lobbyists and corporate political action committees. In the Bush era, the idea was pushed to a sort of extreme, with each of our great national initiatives – the Iraq occupation, Katrina reconstruction and the Department of Homeland Security – largely entrusted to private contractors.
http://online.wsj.com/article/fighting_words.html

Taking Ownership of Iraq? (NYT 6/25/08)
By Thomas L. Friedman

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...One of the first things I realized when visiting Iraq after the U.S. invasion was that the very fact that Iraqis did not liberate themselves, but had to be liberated by Americans, was a source of humiliation to them... When someone else has to liberate you in your own home, that is humiliating — and humiliation, I believe, is the single-most underestimated force in international relations, especially in the Middle East. That also helps explain why Iraqis initially never took ownership of their governing institutions, like the Coalition Provisional Authority, or C.P.A. ...People have to fight and win their own freedom, and that's what gives their institutions legitimacy.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/25/opinion/25friedman.html?ref=opinion

Can't-Do Government (Washington Post 6/25/08)
By Paul C. Light
We've seen the federal government at its worst over the past six months. Consider the controversies over contaminated tomatoes and meat, tainted toys, toxic trailers, counterfeit Heparin, aircraft groundings, veterans' care, missing warheads and unrelenting contract fraud... Congress and the presidential candidates have yet to connect the dots: The next president will inherit what Alexander Hamilton called a "government ill executed."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/24/AR2008062401215.html

More Phony Myths (NYT 6/25/08)
By Maureen Dowd
Karl Rove was impressed with Barack Obama when he first met him. But now he sees him as a "coolly arrogant" elitist...The cheap populism is really rich coming from Karl Rove.... Rove is trying to spin his myths, as he used to do with such devastating effect, but it won't work this time. The absurd spectacle of rich white conservatives trying to paint Obama as a watercress sandwich with the crust cut off seems ugly and fake.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/25/opinion/25dowd.html?ref=opinion

Medicare Savings vs. the Lobbyists (NYT 6/25/08)
To cut costs and reduce fraud in one corner of the sprawling Medicare program, Congress called for competitive bidding on medical equipment that is provided to elderly and disabled Americans and set a sensible schedule for phasing in the program... With those companies about to start selling their wares next month, Congress has bowed to pressure from the losing bidders. The House approved legislation Tuesday that would terminate the contracts and delay the launch for 18 months. In the Senate, key committee leaders are leaning toward a delay.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/25/opinion/25wed1.html

McCain's Misguided Strategy? (NYT Blog 6/25/08)
By Michael A. Cohen
As the 2008 general election heats up, one of John McCain's strongest political advantages is his opponent Barack Obama's lack of political experience. No surprise there: when Mr. McCain began his political career, Mr. Obama was still a college student. But lately, Mr. McCain seems to be taking the experience argument in an extreme direction: intimating that Mr. Obama doesn't actually know, well, much of anything....By continually attacking Mr. Obama's understanding of policy issues, John McCain runs the risk of actually helping the Democrat neutralize the experience issue.
http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/24/mccains-misguided-strategy/index.html?ref=opinion

Triple $$$ Ranch (New York Observer 6/24/08)
By Jason Horowitz
John McCain used to be Lincoln Chafee's kind of Republican. In 2001, Mr. McCain and Mr. Chafee were the only two Republican senators to vote against George Bush's tax cuts. Now, Mr. McCain favors making them permanent, and Mr. Chafee thinks the Arizona senator has lost the right to call himself a maverick.
http://www.observer.com/2008/triple-ranch

America looks to a nuclear-free world (Financial Times 6/24/08)
By John Kerry
When candidates agree, it is not always front-page news. Election coverage hinges on conflict. Effective governance works differently. The next president must work to build consensus to get things done. Nuclear security is an excellent place to start; in fact, a remarkable bipartisan consensus is emerging that can help the 44th president revolutionise America's policy towards nuclear weapons.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/6bf6c51e-41fd-11dd-a5e8-0000779fd2ac,Authorised=false.html?_i_location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fcms%2Fs%2F0%2F6bf6c51e-41fd-11dd-a5e8-

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BUSH NEWS

Vietnamese Premier Meets With Bush, Gates (Washington Post 6/25/08)

By Dan Eggen

President Bush met with the prime minister of Vietnam yesterday to discuss closer ties on trade and greater religious freedom, signifying another step forward in the slow warming of relations between the United States and its communist former enemy.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/24/AR2008062400963.html

Bush cancels S Korea trip after street protests over beef imports (Financial Times 6/25/08)

By Andrew Ward and Daniel Dombey

Weeks of street protests in South Korea against the resumption of US beef imports have forced George W. Bush to cancel a trip to the country next month.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2a970adc-424f-11dd-a5e8-0000779fd2ac.html

Bush helps GOP take in $750,000 at VA fundraiser (AP 6/24/08)

President Bush's appearance at a Republican National Committee reception Tuesday boosted his fundraising total for the year to about $66 million. More than 100 people attended the evening fundraiser, which raised $750,000 for the RNC.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i_f6QlcJVrUasGmrIII1QL-0ZNBgD91GMT6G0

Anti-Bush Tour Bus Makes Its Debut (The Hill's Blog 6/24/08)

By Chris Good

Americans United for Change has long opposed many of President Bush's policies, but this year it's found a new way to say it–with a 28-ton bus. The group today launched its Bush Legacy Bus, a rolling museum dedicated to the "worst policy failures" of the Bush administration. The bus will travel the country for the next five months, stopping in 150 cities and bearing a simple message: that Bush's policies have wreaked havoc on America.

http://briefingroom.thehill.com/2008/06/24/anti-bush-tour-bus-makes-its-debut/

Bush To Filipino President: "I Am Reminded Of The Great Talent Of The -- Of Our Philippine-Americans When I Eat Dinner At The White House" (Huffington Post 6/24/08)

President Bush met with Filipino President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo today at the White House. Arroyo was in Washington while her country tries to recover from a typhoon that devastated coastal areas and flipped a ferry carrying over 800 passengers last week. Before discussing aide for the Philippines, Bush couldn't resist beginning the sober meeting with a quip about a Filipino member of his kitchen staff.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/24/bush-to-filipino-presiden_n_108985.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Evangelical Leader Attacks Obama on Religious Views (NYT 6/25/08)

By Larry Rohter

Just days after Senator Barack Obama met quietly with religious leaders, including the son of the Rev. Billy Graham, another of the evangelical movement's most prominent names, James C. Dobson, has sharply attacked Mr. Obama, accusing him of having "a fruitcake interpretation of the Constitution" and twisting the meaning of both the Old and New Testaments.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/25/us/politics/25dobson.html?ref=politics

3 U.S. Soldiers Killed by Bomb in Mosul Region (NYT 6/25/08)

By Richard A. Oppel Jr

Three U.S. soldiers and an interpreter were killed by a roadside bomb in Ninewa Province on Tuesday night in the second large explosion to strike the Mosul region in a day and further evidence that Sunni Arab guerrillas remain very active in the northern city despite recent Iraqi military operations.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/26/world/middleeast/26baghdad.html?hp

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Obama asks donors to help Clinton with debt (AP 6/24/08)
Democrat Barack Obama on Tuesday asked his finance team to help Hillary Rodham Clinton pay off a debt of at least $10 million from her failed presidential campaign, setting the stage for joint appearances by the two former rivals later in the week.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25357545/

Bill Clinton announces support for Barack Obama (LA Times 6/24/08)
By Michael Muskal
Former President Bill Clinton, whose comments during his wife's unsuccessful presidential campaign angered the Barack Obama camp, announced his support for the Illinois senator's candidacy for president this morning.n
http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-campaign25-2008jun25,0,1119667.story?track=rss

The Greenest Show on Earth: Democrats Gear Up for Denver (WSJ 06/24/08)
By Stephanie Simon
As the Mile-High City gears up to host a Democratic bash for 50,000, organizers are discovering the perils of trying to stage a political spectacle that's also politically correct.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121434145793701111.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Largest labor organization poised to endorse Obama (CNN 6/24/08)
By Emily Sherman
The AFL-CIO, the nation's largest labor organization, is poised to throw its support behind Sen. Barack Obama and launch a broad grassroots mobilization effort in support of the Democratic presidential nominee.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/06/24/largest-labor-organization-poised-to-endorse-obama/

Will Obama's name help a Republican senator? (CNN 06/24/08)
By Alexander Mooney
...Oregon Sen. Gordon Smith, one of the most vulnerable Senate Republicans, is stressing his history of working with the presumptive Democratic nominee in a new campaign ad hitting airwaves Tuesday.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/06/24/will-obamas-name-help-republican-senator/

Color Oregon blue? (Politico 6/24/08)
By Ben Smith
A fairly stunning new ad from Oregon's Republican senator Gordon Smith leaves little doubt as to which way the wind is blowing there.In the ad, Smith, running hard away from Bush, associates himself at length and explicitly with Obama. "Who says Gordon Smith helped lead the fight for better gas mileage and a cleaner environment?" the female narrator asks. "Barack Obama."
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0608/Color_Oregon_blue.html

Can Iraq Sink Obama? (Washington Post Blog 6/24/08)
By Chris Cillizza
Could positive developments on the ground in Iraq force Barack Obama to reconsider his position on the war in Iraq? And, if so, how would such a reconsideration impact the current dynamic between Obama and John McCain? ... The situation in Iraq then, at least according to the party strategists we talked to, is a win-win for Obama...
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/06/can_iraq_sink_obama.html?nav=rss_blog

Violence spikes in eastern Afghanistan (Chicago Tribune Blog 6/24/08)
By Aamer Madhani
In a sobering assessment of the situation in eastern Afghanistan, a top U.S. general said today that attacks have increased by 40 percent this year in the large swath of area controlled by American troops.
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/06/violence_spikes_in_eastern_afg.html

NBC: U.S. Commanders In Afghanistan 'Complained To Us' That They Lack Resources Because Of Iraq (Think Progress 6/24/08)
On NBC Nightly News last night, anchor Brian Williams reported that on a recent trip to Afghansistan, "several U.S. commanders complained" to NBC that they lack "resources, aircraft, soldiers and support because of the war in Iraq."

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http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/24/nbc-afghanistan-iraq/

Left-leaning Justice Department applicants were denied interviews, report finds (LA Times 6/24/08)
By Richard B. Schmitt
Two officials illegally allowed political considerations to come into play when screening applicants for the department's honors program and summer internships, the Justice investigation finds.
http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-justice25-2008jun25,0,977076.story?track=rss

American Envoy Is Linked to Arms Deal Cover-Up (NYT 6/24/08)
By Eric Schmitt
An American ambassador helped cover up the illegal Chinese origins of ammunition that a Pentagon contractor bought to supply Afghan security forces, according to testimony gathered by Congressional investigators. A military attaché has told the investigators that the United States ambassador to Albania endorsed a plan by the Albanian defense minister to hide several boxes of Chinese ammunition from a visiting reporter. The ammunition was being repackaged to disguise its origins and shipped from Albania to Afghanistan by a Miami Beach arms-dealing company.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/24/washington/24arms.html?_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&oref=slogin

POLL

Obama holds 12-point lead over McCain, poll finds (LA Times 6/25/08)
By Doyle McManus
A Times/Bloomberg Poll says that in a two-man contest, 49% of respondents favor Barack Obama, while 37% support John McCain. With Ralph Nader and Bob Barr added to the mix, Obama holds 15-point edge.
http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-poll25-2008jun25,0,3900845.story?track=rss

Bush's approval his new low: 23 percent (Think Progress 6/24/08)
Only 23 percent of Americans said they approve of President Bush's job performance in a new Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg survey, which is a new low for him in that poll. Seventy-three percent of respondents said they disapproved of the job Bush is doing.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/24/bushs-approval-hits-new-low-23-percent/

Survey on Religion Offers Good News for Democrats (WSJ Blog 6/24/08)
By Steven Waldman
Buried in the spectacularly deep U.S. Religious Landscape Survey are some statistics of great interest to politicos, especially on the three big religion-and-politics questions of 2008. The God Gap Is Gone – In past elections, voters who were the most religious clearly broke for the Republicans, and Democrats were increasingly seen as hostile to religion. ven now, 43% of those who attend church weekly or more identify themselves as Republicans compared with 40% who call themselves Democrats, and it's still the case that the more religious you are, the more likely you are to prefer Republicans. But by a variety of other measures, the survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life found that Democrats have pulled even or ahead among the religious...
http://blogs.wsj.com/politicalperceptions/2008/06/24/survey-on-religion-offers-good-news-for-democrats/

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Gregory E. Rosalsky
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "William Fontenot - Clean Water Action" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/29/2010 6:41:43 PM
Subject: A Clean Energy Future Without Offshore Drilling

Clean Water Action logo with wave background

Offshore Drilling Should be Off the Table

Dear Mary,

A flawed energy policy affects us all

Brown pelicans covered in oil from the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico; photo courtesy International Bird Rescue Research Center

Make a donation today to help Clean Water Action fight for a clean energy future without offshore drilling!

GRAPHIC: Donate now button

Brown pelicans covered in oil from the BP disaster in the Gulf photo courtesy International Bird Rescue Research Center

As a resident of the Gulf Coast, I have seen - firsthand - the oil that has been washing up in the wetlands of coastal Louisiana for over a month. If the ocean currents and winds follow their normal patterns, between now and the end of the year, tar balls will be washing up on coastal beaches from Florida to Maine.

The BP oil drill spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico is a horrible reminder of what can happen with energy policies that make oil company profits more important than water protection and community well-being.

Mary, we can - and must - act now to win new energy policies that put water protection first. Expanded offshore oil drilling is simply not worth the risk to our water, our health and our economic well-being.

The BP spill is devastating proof of the high cost that comes with our dependence on oil and other dirty energy sources. We will pay the price for Big Oil's reckless behavior for years to come: damaged health, ravaged coastal economies, destruction of entire ecosystems and the fish, birds and other animals and not just here in Louisiana.

Help Clean Water Action fight for a clean energy future today!

Energy technologies which degrade and deplete the nation's water resources must be phased out. Our energy needs can be met with clean energy that will not result in disasters like the oil spill here in the Gulf coast. By moving away from the old, dirty energy technologies and fuels of the past, we can curb global warming pollution, and create jobs and build strong local economies.

Last weekend, Clean Water Action staff and members in Florida, New Jersey, California, and other places around the country, participated in Hands Across The Sand, a national day of action to draw a literal line in the sand against off shore oil drilling in coastal waters.

Demonstrations like this make visible Clean Water Action's commitment to promoting smarter energy policies all across the U.S. and opposing dirty energy practices including new offshore drilling. As we have throughout our history, we will continue to oppose offshore drilling in Florida, California, New Jersey and Virginia, as well as natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania. In New England and elsewhere, Clean Water Action is a lead player in promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

But our clean energy campaign doesn't stop there. We are telling Congress the U.S. must curb global warming and usher in a clean energy future - but not with dirty, expensive and unsafe technologies, like coal and nuclear power or more offshore oil drilling.

With your on-going financial support, Mary, Clean Water Action can continue to push for smart energy choices. Together, we can win a new energy policy that protects drinking water and puts public health and natural resource protection first.

Yours for Clean Water,



William "Willie" Fontenot
Board Member
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Willie served on the Clean Water Action Board from 1989 to 2007 and now currently serves on the Board of Clean Water Fund. During much of his professional career, Willie worked in the Louisiana Attorney General's office assisting grassroots groups across the state and region. Willie has close personal and professional ties to many of the communities, leaders and local organizations on the front lines of responding to the BP oil spill disaster.

Contact Us

National Office
1010 Vermont Ave NW,
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005-4918
202-895-0420

GRAPHIC: Contact Us button

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/30/2015 4:02:33 PM
Subject: New News! (10/30/2015)



de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Week ending October 30, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

- Boots on the ground in Syria with a small US Special Ops deployment there
- International confab, including US, Russia, Saudi Arabia & Iran, seeks a political solution for Syria
- Paul Ryan in as Speaker of the House; Congress approves two year deal on the budget
- Post-debate - rising fortunes for Rubio and Cruz?
- Get an extra hour of sleep. Set your clocks back Halloween night!

Carson tops Trump: Carson 26, Trump 22, Rubio 8, Bush 7, Fiorina 7, Cruz 4, Huckabee 4, Paul 4, Kasich 4 *CBS/NY Times Poll* **[More]**

Deep GOP divide on issues from taxes to guns, drifting toward Ben Carson: According to the NYTimes and CBS News poll, "The churn in the field suggests more volatility" ahead. **Jonathan Martin and Megan Thee-Brenan**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Iowa up for Clinton: Mrs. Clinton was ahead of **Mr. Sanders** by 41% among likely caucus voters in a Monmouth University poll and by 38% in a Loras College survey. **Patrick Healy**, *New York Times* **[More]**

2016 Campaign

Post-CNBC debate Rubio, Cruz looking good: "Though the polls still show **Donald Trump** and **Ben Carson** on top, even before Wednesday night, it's become increasingly common for commentators to theorize that **Cruz** and **Rubio** are on the rise — and will end up being the two most formidable contenders for the nomination." **Andrew Prokop** , *Vox* **[More]**

Jeb Bush campaign in death spiral?: "[T]he defiant candidate tried to reassure panicked supporters he can get off the ground and dust himself off in the wake of his disastrous debate performance. 'It's *not* on life support,' the former Florida governor told reporters. 'The end is *not* near.' ...**Matthew Dowd, (TCG Speaker)** the chief strategist for **George W**.'s 2004 campaign: "**Jeb** has no reservoir of positive support." **Philip Rucker**, **Dan Balz (TCG Speaker)** and **Ed O'Keefe,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

New Republican frontline shaping up?: "**[Paul] Ryan** is the new House speaker and right now

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[Marco] Rubio is the most likely presidential nominee. The shape of the presidential campaign is coming into focus…Of all the candidates, **Rubio** has done the most to harvest the work of Reform Conservatism, which has been sweeping through the think tank world. In a year in which many candidates are all marketing, **Rubio** is a balance of marketing and product. If **Ryan** and **Rubio** do emerge as the party's two leaders, it will be the wonkiest leadership team in our lifetime. That's a good thing." **David Brooks,** Op-Ed, *New York Times* **[More]**

Ted Cruz said he raised $1.1 million in the 24 hours after the debate. The campaign also said it has 77,000 volunteers on the ground, with 6,000 in the first four voting states. **Katie Zazima,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

RNC dumps NBC for primary debate: "After the partisan debacle that was CNBC's Wednesday night Republican presidential debate, **Reince Priebus,** Chairman of the Republican National Committee, fired off a letter to NBC News announcing that the left-wing network will be booted from participating in the upcoming February 26 debate in Houston, Texas." **John Nolte,** *Breitbart News* **[More]**

GOP campaigns plot revolt against RNC: "[C]ampaigns are planning to gather in Washington...to plot how to alter their party's messy debate process - and how to remove power from the hands of the [RNC]... [M]any of the campaigns told POLITICO that...It was time ... to begin discussing among themselves how the next debates should be structured and not leave it up to the RNC and television networks." **Alex Isenstadt**, *Politico* **[More]**

The Economy

Wages ought to go up as the economy improves, pushing inflation up - but it's not going to according to script: " Federal Reserve policy makers expect the job market will improve to the point where it starts pushing inflation higher. But there is no sign of this happening yet." **Justin Lahart**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

US companies to post first decline in earnings and sales since the recession: "From railroads to manufacturers to energy producers, businesses say they are facing a protracted slowdown in production, sales and employment that will spill into next year...Analysts expect the index's companies to book a 2.8% decline in per-share earnings from last year's third quarter, according to Thomson Reuters. Sales are on pace to fall 4%—the third straight quarterly decline. The last time sales and profits fell in the same quarter was in the third period of 2009." **Theo Francis** and **Kate Linebaugh,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

The risk of right-wing authoritarian European populism: "The recent victory of the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party in Poland confirms a recent trend in Europe: the rise of illiberal state capitalism, led by populist right-wing authoritarians..[M]acro and structural economic policies that boost aggregate demand, job creation and growth, reduce income and wealth inequality, provide economic opportunity to the young, and integrate rather than reject refugees and economic migrants will be needed...Failure to act decisively now will lead to the eventual failure of the peaceful, integrated, globalized, supra-national state that is the EU, and the rise of dystopian nationalist regimes." **Nouriel Roubini (TCG Speaker),** *Project Syndicate* **[More]**

Clinton on Colbert: I would let the big banks fail: 'If you're president and the banks are failing, do we let them fail?' asked **Colbert** ... 'Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes,' **Clinton** said emphatically." **Dan Merica,** *CNN* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

US backs off hardline on Syrian President's Future: "The Obama administration entered a crucial round of international talks on Syria's war prepared to accept a deal that leaves President **Bashar al-Assad** in place for several months or more during the transition to a new government. The U.S. shift on the dictator's future caps months of backtracking on the most significant obstacle to a resolution of the Syrian conflict. While U.S. officials once argued **Mr. Assad** couldn't take part in a political transition, they have gradually eased that stance, eventually signaling he wouldn't have to step down immediately.." **Carol E. Lee (TCG Speaker)** and **Adam Entous**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Iran invited to participate Middle East conference: (TCG Speaker) Secretary of State **John Kerry**'s biggest challenge is to try to make peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran, rivals who are using

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Syria as a proxy war for Mideast dominance: "The inclusion of Iran in the talks represented the first time that the United States has chosen to formally engage the Iranians diplomatically on the Syria issue. It also came a little more than three months after Iran signed a historic nuclear accord with the United States and other powers that promised to end Iran's economic isolation in return for limits on its nuclear enrichment, suggesting an effort to broaden the discussion beyond that successful negotiation." **Thomas Erdbrink, Sewell Chan,** and **David E. Sanger**, *New York Times* **[More]**

American Mideast allies leaning more toward Russia: "**Prince Turki al-Faisal**, Saudi Arabia's former ambassador to Washington and former intelligence chief, said as much Friday at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. There he gave **President Vladimir Putin** credit for outmaneuvering the U.S. and said Russia was now in a position to demand attention and respect." **Josh Rogin** and **Eli Lake**, *Bloomberg* **[More]**

China ends one-child policy: "From now on, Chinese couples will be allowed to have two kids. Chinese authorities are 'actively taking steps to counter the aging of the population', a massive problem for China. The UN projects that the share of the Chinese population over 60 is increasing at...the [fastest rate] in the world." **Zack Beauchamp,** *Vox* **[More]**

China naval chief says minor incident could spark war in South China Sea: "China's naval commander told his U.S. counterpart that a minor incident could spark war in the South China Sea if the United States did not stop its "provocative acts" in the disputed waterway, the Chinese navy said on Friday...China has rebuked Washington over the patrol, the most significant U.S. challenge yet to territorial limits China effectively claims around its seven artificial islands in one of the world's busiest sea lanes." **Ben Blanchard** and **Andrea Shalal**, *Reuters* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Senate approves two-year bipartisan budget agreement: "The Senate voted to approve a two-year budget deal that would increase spending limits and avert a damaging default, essentially ending the budgetary battles that have defined **President Obama**'s relationship with Congress in recent years. The legislation passed by a vote of 64-35 after overcoming objections from conservative senators, including presidential candidates **Rand Paul** (R-Ky.) and **Ted Cruz** (R-Texas), that forced a rare series of votes at 1 a.m. Obama has until Nov. 3 to sign the agreement before the debt-limit deadline set by the Treasury Department." **Kelsey Snell,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Ryan takes gavel with focus on overhauling taxes: The House elected Republican **Rep. Paul Ryan** as its speaker, catapulting one of its youngest members to the top job in hopes that a policy-oriented fiscal conservative could give the party a fresh start after years of strife." **John D. McKinnon** and **Siobhan Hughes,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

SC police deputy fired for his rough handling of teenager girl: "Deputy **Ben Fields** went too far when he picked up the 16-year-old and hurtled her across a classroom before arresting her, Richland County Sheriff **Leon Lott** told a news conference..A civil rights probe by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Justice Department into the arrest is under way and the state law enforcement division also is investigating." **Harriet McLeod,** *Reuters* **[More]**

US Student national exam scores plummet: "Fourth-graders and eighth-graders across the United States lost ground on national mathematics tests this year, the first declines in scores since the federal government began administering the exams in 1990. ... Eighth-grade [reading] scores dropped ... fourth-grade performance was stagnant." **Emma Brown**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

ObamaCare not signing up enough enrollees: "Recruitment for 2015 is roughly 70% of the original projection, but ObamaCare will be running at less than half its goal in 2016. HHS believes some 19 million Americans earn too much for Medicaid but qualify for ObamaCare subsidies and haven't signed up...for every person who's allowed to join and has, two people haven't." **Editorial,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Books & Film

Book: *My Life on the Road*: (TCG Speaker) Gloria Steinem's new book "abounds with fresh insights and is as populist as can be... One minute Steinem is writing about stewardesses on the shuttle, the next on women who taught Gandhi. Now she's railing against **Betty Friedan**, whose focus on white middle-class feminism Steinem argues damaged the movement." **Rachel Shteir**. *Boston Globe* **[More]**

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Films worth seeing: ***Trumbo*** depicts the human toll on Hollywood's many writers, directors and actors blacklisted for their political beliefs following hearings before the US House Committee on UnAmerican Activities, with **Bryan Cranston** as **Dalton Trumbo**, one of the Hollywood Ten who wrote a number of Oscar-winning films (*Roman Holiday, Spartacus*) and **Helen Mirren** as the town accuser-in-chief, **Hedda Hopper**. Famous stars, studio chiefs and writers of the era are by turns heroes or knaves during this Cold War story of character and courage.

Suffragette , starring **Meryl Streep** and **Carey Mulligan**, "tracks the story of the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement, women who were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal State...Radicalized and turning to violence as the only route to change, they were willing to lose everything in their fight for equality."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jason Kander, Missouri Secretary of State

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Remarks: 3:00-4:00pm

RSVP

Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III

Monday, November 9, 2015

Lunch & remarks: 12:00-1:30pm

Executive Members only.

Limited seating available. Please register by Monday, November 2nd, 2015.

RSVP

Ambassador Melanne Verveer

Empowering Half the World

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband

Fallout: Ramifications of the Great Refugee Crisis

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner, Isaac Getlan, and our interns, Tracey Pennito, Justin Vacura, and Samar Nadi.

Visit our website www.thecommongoodusa.org, Facebook, and our Twitter @TheCommonGood. JOIN IN by sending us your ideas, news, and reactions to admin@thecommongood.net .

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RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner, Isaac Getlan and our interns Samar Nadi, Tracey Pennito and Justin Vacura.

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From: "Mills, Cheryl D" <MillsCD@state.gov>
To: Doug@presidentclinton.com
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/4/2009 5:11:22 PM
Subject: FW: background briefing on north korea, internal transcript

Can't recall if I sent.

From: Vietor, Thomas F. [mailto:Thomas_F._Vietor@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 11:57 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Abedin, Huma; Reines, Philippe I
Subject: FW: background briefing on north korea, internal transcript

This is the backgrounder we just did

From: Eckert, Ellen E.
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 11:55 PM
Subject: background briefing on north korea, internal transcript

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Internal Transcript August 4, 2009

PRESS BACKGROUND BRIEFING
ON NORTH KOREA
BY SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL

Via Conference Call

10:45 P.M. EDT

MR. McDONOUGH: Hey, everybody. Thank you very much for waiting for us, and apologies for making you wait. We do appreciate very much the opportunity to get on the phone here and just talk you through a little bit of what's transpired over the last couple days.

I do think it's worth noting that earlier tonight, between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. eastern time, the President did call family members of both Euna Lee and Laura Ling to express his relief that their families will be reunited here shortly.

I'm going to turn it over to one of my colleagues -- senior administration official colleagues here to talk through several important data points as it relates to the last several days and then we'll open it up to your questions, mindful of the fact that it's late in the night here and everybody wants to get some rest. I'd just remind everybody that this call is on background and let me turn it over to my senior administration official colleague.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Good evening and thanks for joining us.

I want to not just go back a couple of days, but go back a few months here to give some context to the events of today in Pyongyang. Today's events reflect an awful lot of work over a couple of months on behalf of two United States citizens who were detained in North Korea and also the very fine work of President Clinton and his team in North Korea today.

As I think most of you know, on March 17, 2009, North Korea border guards seized and detained two American journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, while they were filming for former Vice President Al Gore's Current TV along the China-North Korean border. Since their being detained the President and Secretary of State directed that we in the

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administration take every appropriate step to look out for the safety of these Americans and expedite their release.

On June 8, 2009, Laura Ling and Euna Lee were convicted on charges brought by the North Koreans and were sentenced to 12 years of hard labor in a labor camp. As the State Department has briefed -- and the set-up here, as you know, we don't have relations, formal diplomatic relations with the North Koreans, so that we have in Pyongyang what's called a protective power, a protecting power, and it's the Swedish government.

The Swedish ambassador in Pyongyang, acting on our behalf, provided consular services and got mail and medicine to the two women. At our request Sweden also pressed very hard to ensure their safety and good treatment, and were very appreciative of that good work by the Swedes, especially Ambassador Mats Foyer in Pyongyang.

Through the Swedish ambassador and other channels, as I said, we repeatedly pressed the North Koreans to agree to the quickest posture release of the two journalists and the guarantee of their well-being in the meantime. During this time we in the State Department maintained very close contact with the families of the two journalists, talking to them daily, briefing them on efforts each week. And as you know, Secretary Clinton met with the families in person in May.

In response to our many requests, the North Korean authorities at a point during the spring began allowing Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee to call their families periodically, and family members, they shared their readouts of these calls with us. Often Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee reported what the North Korean officials were telling them.

In mid-July, during one such phone call, Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee shared what the North Koreans had told them -- that they would be willing to grant them amnesty and release the two Americans if an envoy in the person of President Clinton would agree to come to Pyongyang and seek their release.

This, as I said, was reported by family members to us, and to Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee's employer, former Vice President Al Gore. Both the families of former [Vice] President Gore asked us in the United States government to assist in seeing if President Clinton could go on a humanitarian mission, and if he did, whether such a trip would be successful in securing the release of Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee.

The National Security Advisor and our team here did quite a bit of due diligence on this issue through a variety of channels and a variety of means to seek a judgment -- to make a judgment as to whether or not if in fact President Clinton did go to Pyongyang, that he would be able to successfully secure the release of our two American journalists there. As I said, we did a lot of due diligence on this through a variety of channels, and worked this issue very hard.

During the weekend of the 24-25 of July, the National Security Advisor spoke with President Clinton about his willingness to take on this mission and as we indicated, Vice President Gore, on behalf of the families, had already been in touch with President Clinton about this.

So the families and Vice President Gore made their appeal to Bill Clinton to go to Pyongyang. We spoke to him over that weekend. President Clinton indicated that he would be willing to undertake this mission as a private, humanitarian mission if there were a reasonable chance of getting Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee released. We continued to do our due diligence on this issue. We considered the request carefully. We tested directly with the North Koreans repeatedly. We sought and received North Korea's agreement in fact that a visit by President Clinton would secure the release of Ms. Ling and Ms. Lee.

During the course of these discussions, it was insisted that the North Koreans acknowledge, as former President Clinton's visit was not any part of a negotiation, it was not in any way connected to the nuclear issue or other issues that we have a government-to-government basis with the DPRK, including their noncompliance with international obligations and behaviors that have been the subject of Security Council resolutions and statements and actions by our government and other governments in the international community.

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The North Koreans confirmed to us directly that they accepted his visit in a private capacity that exclusively focused on the humanitarian purpose of releasing the two Americans. On this basis, President Clinton proceeded to make the logistical arrangements to go to North Korea to seek the -- secure their release.

In advance of departure, President Clinton did talk directly with the families and with Vice President Gore, where they repeated his request that he make this trip.

I should also point out that we in the administration, prior to President Clinton making the trip, consulted directly with allies to ensure that they understood what the trip was about and what it wasn't about. Consistent with the humanitarian nature of the trip, we offered President Clinton's good (inaudible) in pressing North Korea on humanitarian concerns of other countries, including South Korean citizens and abducted Japanese citizens.

In advance of the departure, we also conferred with China and Russia and our other partners in the six-party talks to make sure, again, as I said, that they fully understood what the trip was and what it wasn't; that they fully understood specifically the unofficial, humanitarian character of the trip.

As you all know by now, President Clinton and his party have left North Korea. They're on their back to the United States. We've been in touch with them. We can report that the two journalists are enormously relieved and in seemingly very good health.

And with that, Denis, I'd be glad to answer any questions as to what we know about this and what we can tell folks about our efforts to date.

Q Yes, when you say that you tested the idea with the North Koreans repeatedly, do you mean there were direct talks between the U.S. and North Korea or was that also conducted through an intermediary?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't want to get into the details of how this has gone. I can tell you, though, that after the two journalists in conversations with their family members indicated that North Korean officials had told them that if President Clinton visited as an envoy on a private mission that they would be released, that we, through a variety of means, tested that proposition and to our satisfaction were convinced that in fact the North Koreans would, in response to President Clinton visiting Pyongyang would release the journalists. I don't want to get into the details of exactly how we communicated, the back and forth.

I can tell you though that we became convinced through our contacts that in fact this would be the result, and it was based don that that we could advise President Clinton that his trip was likely to be successful.

Q Thank you very much. I just really wanted to take a step back and look at policy overall to North Korea. How is it possible to maintain that North Korea is deepening its isolation as a result of the nuclear program when you just had this very high-level, albeit private, visit by a former President of the United States? I know that you're insisting that these are two wholly separate tracks, but doesn't it at least complicate your message that North Korea is isolating itself still further?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We, in undertaking this project -- and I will tell you and we can tell you after talking to our colleagues who were in Pyongyang over the last day, can tell you that we made clear in every communication we had with the North Koreans, and President Clinton made clear in all his conversations, that this was a purely private humanitarian mission aimed solely at the release of the two American journalists -- and that in fact was completely separate from issues between North Korea and the international community. It was made crystal clear, the separation here. That's point one.

Point two is that the United States and its international partners continue to pursue aggressively the goal of a verifiable denuclearized Korean Peninsula. The United States -- and as you've seen over recent weeks, having secured a new Security Council Resolution, 1874, fully intends and has to successfully implement that resolution. You've seen a number of instances -- a couple of instances of that in recent weeks and we'll continue to implement that resolution vigorously.

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I have to tell you, as Secretary Clinton said after her trip to the ASEAN meeting last week, that I don't know of a time when the Koreans have been more isolated. I don't know of a time when there's been such cooperation among the international community with respect to actual implementation -- not just adoption, but implementation of an important and tough U.N. resolution. And we will continue on that path.

So I -- you know, it's just the facts. It's in the performance. So it was both in the communications with North Korea about what this was and what this wasn't, and we had one goal in mind, which was in the U.S. interest, which was to seek to release of these two Americans. That's what it was, and we've been very clear about what it wasn't. It in no way indicates -- and we've been -- that's why I also wanted to underscore the consultations that we had with allies before the mission to make sure we were absolutely clear here as to what it was and what it wasn't. And it wasn't in any way about our disagreements with the DPRK with respect to its conduct or with respect to our intention to vigorously enforce the resolution and to vigorously seek the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Q If I could follow up on that --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure, of course, go ahead, sorry.

Q The other argument, of course, is that -- is there any possibility that at a time when North Korea has indicated it may be willing to get back to some kind of talks with the U.S., that this might create a certain positive momentum by cooling tensions? Is there any overlap in that sense?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, we have indicated quite clearly, in coordination with our partners in the six-party talks, that the Koreans have two paths to consider here. They can consider the path of provocative behavior, continuing to pursue their nuclear program, and they will face deepening isolation. There's another path, which is they actually implement irreversibly the steps that they've agreed to implement to date, and that they can come back into talks. But the two paths are quite clear here, and we feel that those paths remain in front of them.

So, you know, to answer to your question directly, that's up to the North Koreans, as it has been. Provocative behavior, continued pursuit of the nuclear program, continued violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions will result in their facing the kind of unified international community isolation that they're facing at this moment. A path that says that they re-embrace the irreversible denuclearization of the North Korean Peninsula, and engage in a way that indicates the irreversible taking of the steps that they've agreed to take in 2005 and beyond would put it on a different path. That's our firm view going forward here, and it's up to them.

Q Thank you.

Q Hi, there. I won't use your name, but nice to talk to you. Can you tell us about the conversations between former President Clinton and Kim Jong-il? I mean, to what degree did they discuss the nuclear program? Who brought it up first? What can you tell us?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Margaret, I can't -- you know, we don't have a detailed readout on exactly what happened. I can give you a couple of things here, though.

Number one, of course the principle discussion was around seeking the release of the journalists. Point one.

Point two, I can give you a couple of details which we've learned in our conversation with the folks on the airplane before getting on the phone with you all; that President Clinton and his team did engage in an hour-and-fifteen-minute meeting with President Kim Jong-il this -- I guess yesterday afternoon, right, and then had a dinner which lasted a little over two hours. So the total amount of time that they were speaking -- or in meetings or in dinners with each other was about a little over three hours and 15 minutes. And I don't have a readout on the particulars of what was discussed at this point.

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Q Was the nuclear issue at least discussed?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't know the answer to that question, you know. President Clinton -- I'm sure he gave him -- I'm sure President Clinton gave President Kim his views on denuclearization, and his views are well known with respect to denuclearization.

And President Clinton, as you know, Margaret, has a history here of both being quite tough, where we went through some very serious episodes with the North Koreans, as you know when you covered in the 1990s, but also entered into agreements and with President Kim's father.

And President Clinton's view on denuclearization and on the question of whether or not pursuit of nuclear weapons will make the North Koreans safer or -- more safe or less safe are well known. But again I'd be speculating at this point, given the short conversations we've had with them to go beyond that.

But I can tell you this, though, one other thing that one of my colleagues just reminded me of here, is that in addition to discussing, Margaret, the U.S. journalists, he also discussed and we know pressed very hard -- and we heard this from our debrief, our short debrief from the plane -- he did press very hard on the positive things that could flow from the release of the South Korean detainees and entering into talks and to really -- seeking the release of Japanese abductees. So I can tell you with confidence that both those issues were raised.

Q Good evening, gentlemen. Let me ask this. In this sequence of events did President Obama speak either directly to former President Clinton or Vice President Gore as this process moved along? And for a while there was this sort of public spat between the North Korean government and Secretary of State Clinton about her characterization of North Korea's isolation and it I guess is maybe consistent with North Korea's own behavior, but it just seems interesting that that kind of spat would be going on while it appears, based on your timeline, that these other very significant conversations were going on in back channels about the release of these two journalists. Can you address both of those issues?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can, Major. With respect to conversations that President Obama has had, former Vice President Gore has been directly, vigorously, and constantly involved in trying to seek the release of his colleagues at Current TV. And Vice President Gore has been, as I said, pretty tireless in this effort, and I think if you talk to the families of the two journalists they'll tell you that. And that includes being in touch quite frequently with members of the United States government -- and I do believe he did have at least one conversation with President Obama. Point one.

Point two on your question is that President Obama has not spoken to President Clinton about this mission or about this issue. President Clinton has had, as you would expect, conversations with members of the national security team and in preparation -- well, two things: One, in determining the bona fides of the offer -- that is, whether or not we could assure him that if he undertook this visit, as I said earlier, that in fact it would succeed, and we did tremendous amount of due diligence on that, and we did talk to him obviously about that.

And secondly, prior to his trip, he was -- as we would do with any other prominent American undertaking such a trip, we did sit down with him on two occasions, the last one being last Saturday at his residence in Washington --

Q Would these be face to face?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, absolutely. There were telephone conversations, but there were at least two face-to-face briefings, Major. One on the issue, as I said, of the bona fides of the offer, but the second, as we would do with any prominent American or any American who undertook such a trip, we did last Saturday. He did sit down with members of the interagency team and experts on the Korean issue to receive a briefing on the issues and on the current circumstance in Korea. And that's, as I said, that last briefing took place at his residence in Washington, D.C., last Saturday.

Q Last Saturday?

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SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes.

Q And on the spat?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Remind me of the spat?

Q Oh, the -- you'll remember, there was this kind of dialogue, official commentary from the North Koreans comparing the Secretary of State to a child or a young girl or a schoolgirl or something like that, and it just seems odd that that kind of highly undiplomatic language was going on at the same time it appears, based on your timeline, that very high-level and intense back-channel diplomacy was going on about the two journalists.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, both those things were going on at the same time. That's just a fact.

Q Anything unusual or striking about that in your mind?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, I just think, as I said earlier to the question from the Financial Times, that we are engaged in an effort, worked with the international community, with respect to the North Korean nuclear program and other issues. And those efforts are important and they continue. But we also had an effort underway to -- as we had from March of 2009 -- an effort underway to seek the release of American citizens, which we consider to be one of our obligations. And as you know, we take that really seriously here.

Q Very good, thank you.

MR. McDONOUGH: Why don't we take one more?

Q Hi. Can you just clear up whether there was an apology or sign of contrition from former President Clinton towards the North Koreans as the official media has reported? And how much of a sort of bounty do you expect to receive in terms of the kind of intelligence the former President was able to gather about the state of Kim Jong-il's health, possible succession moves, and what's going on inside North Korea?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: With respect to the first question, the answer is no. With respect to the second, I'm not going to comment on that.

MR. McDONOUGH: All right, everybody. Sure appreciate you getting on the phone with us here and I'm sure we'll be in touch on this and other issues. But let me just reiterate here in closing that this is a briefing on background and we sure appreciate you're taking the time to be with us.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks for your patience, everybody, and I apologize for being so late.

END 11:10 P.M. EDT

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From: jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/29/2015 4:47:27 AM
Subject: Fwd: It's out there

Fyi

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: April 29, 2015 at 11:25:34 AM EDT
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: It's out there

http://dailycaller.com/2015/04/29/firm-co-founded-by-hillarys-campaign-chair-lobbies-for-russias-uranium-one/

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From: "Mike Palamuso" <mike_palamuso@lcv.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/7/2010 6:05:48 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Memo: Flat Earthers

TO: Interested Media

FROM: Gene Karpinski, League of Conservation Voters President

RE: Republican Senate Candidates: Global Warming Deniers

DATE: 9/7/10

The failure of the U.S. Senate to act on a comprehensive climate change and clean energy bill before the August recess makes it highly unlikely that such legislation will pass this year – which only serves to underscore the importance of the make-up of the U.S. Senate following this November's midterm elections.

Unfortunately, a disturbing trend has emerged this year among the Republican Senate candidates running as challengers or in open seat races: a refusal to accept the sound and settled science that man-made carbon pollution is causing the planet to warm. Simply put, these candidates are full-fledged global warming deniers. If they win, the number of card-carrying members of this "Flat Earth Society" will rise exponentially in the world's greatest deliberative body.

To be clear, despite an orchestrated misinformation campaign – funded in large part by the oil industry and other corporate polluters – independent scientific bodies across the world have found that climate change is unequivocal and driven largely by human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels and the clearing of forests. Worse yet, the impacts are occurring far faster than the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projected in its comprehensive 2007 report. Arctic sea ice is melting faster than anticipated. We just witnessed the hottest decade, hottest year, and hottest 6 months in the history of recorded temperature. The devastating floods in Pakistan and the forest fires in Russia are yet the latest reminders of the deadly impact of a warming world.

Yet most of the Republican candidates looking to join the U.S. Senate have taken positions on climate change that are decidedly outside of the mainstream. A few samplings are included below:

Wisconsin: Ron Johnson

"I absolutely do not believe that the science of man-caused climate change is proven. Not by any stretch of the imagination. I think it's far more likely that it's just sunspot activity, or something just in the geologic eons of time where we have changes in the climate."

(8/19/10), http://www.jsonline.com/multimedia/video/?bcpid=13960334001&bctid=590004292001

New Hampshire: All Republican Senate Candidates

It was symbolic when the six Republican candidates for U.S. Senate stood up together side-by-side during a debate Wednesday. It resembled their positions on major issues. … All said man-made global warming hasn't been proven.

8/18/10, http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100819/GJNEWS_01/708199891/-1/FOSNEWS

Alaska: Joe Miller

"We haven't heard there's man-made global warming."

8/10, http://newsminer.com/view/full_story/9239938/article-Joe-Miller-on-the-issues

Pennsylvania: Pat Toomey

"There is much debate in the scientific community as to the precise sources of global warming."

6/14/10, http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10165/1065472-84.stm

Nevada: Sharon Angle

"I don't, however, buy into the whole ... man-caused global warming, man-caused climate change mantra of the left. I believe that there's not sound science to back that up."

5/26/10, http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2010/05/26/26climatewire-reid-in-fistfight-could-take-more-punches-fr-84354.html

California: Carly Fiorina

(Asked "Is climate change real?") *"I'm not sure. I think we should have the confidence and courage to test the science."*

3/18/10, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YH8ig-lSk30

Colorado: Ken Buck

"I'll tell you, I have looked at global warming, now climate change, from both sides. While I think the earth is warming,

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I don't think that man-made causes are the primary factor." Buck said. "I am one of those people that Al Gore refers to as a skeptic."

3/10, http://vimeo.com/10208210 (~24:00)

Florida: Marco Rubio

"I don't think there's the scientific evidence to justify [climate change]."

2/13/10, http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/feb/13/na-rubio-questions-climate-change/

Kentucky: Rand Paul

"…[climate change] may or may not be true, but they're making up their facts to fit their conclusions."

2/10, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmqozUC4VWk (~3:00)

Missouri: Roy Blunt

"There isn't any real science to say we are altering the climate path of the earth."

4/29/09, http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=31656

We hope you choose to write about this issue in the sixty days remaining before the elections.

# # #

Contact:
Kate Geller
Press Secretary, League of Conservation Voters
202-785-8683
Kate_geller@lcv.org

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/12/2008 4:24:25 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/12/08

Main Topics: Foreign Policy, Response to Russia/Georgia Conflict, Hard Line Against Putin, Rove Response to McCain Lobbyists

Summary: McCain continues to play up conflict in Georgia, with a hard line stance on Russia. Leaks reveal Hillary's campaign downfall was characterized by divisions within her top campaign associates, as well as a recommendation by her chief campaign adviser to focus un the "un-American-ess" off Barack Obama. Vice presidential speculation continues to run rampant.

Morning news was dominated by Olympic coverage. Russia reported a ceasefire in Georgia amidst Georgian claims that attacks continue. The price of oil is at a 3-month low at $113 a barrel, as the U.S. dollar is gaining value. North Vietnam is still plagued with flooding and landslides from recent tropical storms, and a road side bomb in Afghanistan killed at least 14 people. In the U.S., a West Palm Beach video reveals a man being abused by local police, and the Rockefeller impersonator mystery has been solved.

Highlights:
1. CNN: As McCain Attempts to Push His Foreign Policy Experience In Wake of Russia/Georgia Conflict, He Flubs Georgia's President Name
2. FNC: Pawlenty Approves of McCain's Hard Line on Russia and Sites His Foreign Policy Experience
3. FNC: McCain's Early Hard Line Against Russia/Putin Highlighted on Fox and Friends
4. FNC: Rove Plays Down Importance of McCain Lobbyists, Rick Davis, and DHL Scandal

Highlights No Clip:
1. WHTM (ABC) - Harrisburg, PA: "It's hard trying to do the lord's work in the city of Satan. But the fact is its' a lot harder now. It's a lot harder now because people aren't putting their country first. They're putting the party first. We want them to put their country first."

Clips:
Highlight #1
As McCain Attempts to Push His Foreign Policy Experience In Wake of Russia/Georgia Conflict, He Flubs Georgia's President Name (CNN 08/12/08 6:49am)
KIRAN CHETNY: That deadly conflict that unfolded yesterday, John McCain saw an opening. […]

ED HENRY: […] With Russian tanks running deeper and deeper into Georgia, John McCain is trying to seize upon the issue to show he's better prepared to be commander and chief. **Appearing in Pennsylvania with Tom Ridge, the former homeland security secretary, John McCain tried to showcase his own foreign policy credentials.**

MCCAIN: The United States and our allies should continue efforts to bring a resolution before the United Nations Security Council, condemning Russian aggression.

HENRY: With Barack Obama vacationing in Hawaii, **McCain has the stage to himself to try to show he has the experience to handle a crisis, and claim he was ahead of the curve months ago when he started denouncing Russian leader Vladimir Putin anti-democratic muse.**

MCCAIN: We must remind Russia's leaders that the benefits they enjoy from being part of the civilized world require their respect for the values, stability, and peace of the world.

HENRY: […] McCain's offensive harkens back to the 3am ad Hillary Clinton ran in the democratic primaries to suggest Obama was not up to the job.

[3am ad shown]

HENRY: The ad didn't work for Clinton, but the McCain camp thinks the issue may resonate more in the general election with independent voters concerned about security. **Though McCain's claim to have a handle on national security could be slightly undermined by mispronouncing the name of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili three times.** […] An ABC News/Washington Post poll found last month that when asked who they trust more to handle an unforeseen crisis, 50 percent said McCain, 41 percent said Obama. A 9 point edge for the Republican, but not necessarily as big as one might expect. For example, when asked who they trust to handle the economy, 54 percent said Obama, 35 percent said McCain. A 19 point edge for the Democrat.

Highlight #2
Pawlenty Approves of McCain's Hard Line on Russia and Sites His Foreign Policy Experience (FNC 08/12/08 7:20am)
BRIAN KILMEADE: […] Will Senator McCain's hard line stance on foreign policy carry over to the White House if he gets elected in November? […] So far Senator McCain has said that he thinks the objectives of the Russian's is regime change in Georgia. Do you think that he's been on target so far?

TIM PAWLENTY: Well one of the advantages of having experience in military and national security matters is you get the wisdom that comes with it, as he correctly called the need for a change in strategy in Iraq with the surge. I think he's correctly calling this situation. He said when he looked in the eyes of Vladimir Putin he saw a K, a G, and a B. I think he senses correctly that Russia still has an aggressive posture in terms of its foreign policy. And this could be, very well, an example of that. So Senator McCain's response, an aggressive response as it relates to the U.N., as it relates to NATO, as it relates to sending the Secretary of State to Europe, I think are the right steps and it reflects his wisdom and experience in dealing, not just with this region, but dealing with the people involved. And I think that's a big benefit to him.

Highlight #3
McCain's Early Hard Line Against Russia/Putin Highlighted on Fox and Friends (FNC 08/12/08 6:36am)

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[…]
BRIAN KILMEADE: You know, a month ago John McCain came out and said, you know, I don't buy, I think Russia is still a threat, in fact, I'd kick them out of this group of 8. And everybody thought, woah, Senator McCain calm down. Where's this coming from? Now you know exactly where he's coming from. **He says and he's been buddies with the now current President of Georgia since he was a student over in America. Now that he became President, they're in constant contact. And he says they are looking to throw this guy out because he's for democracy and freedom and they don't want that in the door step. So now all of a sudden, in terms of what we can actually do to Russia, people are saying we could kick them out of the group of eight. John McCain said that a month ago!**

[…]

KILMEADE: With yet, also, John McCain at the same time said I looked into the eyes of Vladimir Putin's eyes and I see K.G.B. And that's exactly what he is!

Highlight #4
Rove Plays Down Importance of McCain Lobbyists, Rick Davis, and DHL Scandal (FNC 08/11/08 9:17pm)
[…]
SEAN HANNITY: I want to get back to the issue of lobbyists, because I know this keep coming up in the campaign. John McCain wanted to do a campaign financer for him. I mentioned his lobbyist on Georgia. He's got Randy Ulshuler, founder of Office Tiger, that gets companies to go and do business overseas, like in India. **You've got Rick Davis, a lobbyist for DHL, who made a deal with Airborne express to bring DHL into Ohio… lost 282 jobs. This has gotta hurt John McCain in a general election.**

KARL ROVE: Well, first of all, Rick Davis, I'm not holding a brief for lobbyists. **If I ever get to be a lobbyist, you know, do something to me.** […] Rick Davis' job was to encourage a merger between a U.S. company and a German company and an expansion of their facility inside the United States. The issue inside Ohio is that they expanded the facility and now their thinking of closing the facility… I don't know if I see it as outsourcing jobs. But look, there are people on both sides of the campaign, on both parties who are lobbyists. That's the way a lot of politics happens. I wish it were different, but it is the way it is. I wouldn't get in there and start throwing mud at McCain over lobby associations without then realizing what kind of lobby associations there are among democrats, particularly congressional democrats. … Senator Harry Reid's own son is a lobbyist.
[…]

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/15/2008 3:43:01 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/15/08

Main Topics: Economy, Foreign Policy, Afghanistan and Iraq, Drilling

Summary of Shift: On the domestic front the economy continues to be the top concern; President Bush spoke today, trying to assuage American's fears as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac still teeter. Meanwhile, General Motors, facing tough prospects, cuts thousands of jobs. In foreign affairs, Afghanistan, with its increasing violence, took over for Iraq. The candidates sparred over the correct course of action and Afghanistan was used as a springboard to the debate over the efficacy of the surge and withdrawal timetables in Iraq. Lawyers for a detainee released Guantanamo interrogation tapes and new studies show that our children, poor or not, are getting fatter.

Highlights

1) Bush's economy speech
   a. CNN: Bush continues to push that the economy is doing well
   b. CNN: Bush talks government bailouts, gas prices, oil exploration and Obama's trip to Iraq
   c. CNN: Bush says we are already "surging" and have "surged" in Afghanistan
   d. CNN: Bush: "I'm not an economist . . . I'm an optimist . . . I am 62. I'm having trouble remembering a lot of things
2) Foreign policy
   a. CNN: Begala calls out Fiorina for working with Ahmadinejad, Iran
   b. CNN: Dana Bash investigates McCain's claim that "I know how to win wars"
   c. MSNBC: The surge's efficacy debated, McCain is no Eisenhower
   d. MSNBC: McCain's Czechoslovakia mistake on *Hardball*
   e. ABC: New polls show McCain with foreign policy advantage, Obama winning on economy
   f. MSNBC: Matthews brings up McCain's "Bomb-Iran" joke during discussion on Iran policy
3) CNN: Investigation of Cindy as John's "Meal Ticket" and the impact of Busch deal on McCain's fortune and campaign
4) MSNBC: McCain stresses his closeness to Bush in clips from 2003 to the present
5) CNN: Rep. Boehner distances himself and Republicans from McCain's energy policies
6) FNC: High gas prices help McCain on drilling

Clips

Highlight #1

Bush Continues To Push That the Economy Is Doing Well (CNN, 07/15/08, 10:23am)

GEORGE BUSH: Our citizens are rightly concerned about the difficulties in the housing markets and high gasoline prices and the failure of the democratic congress to address these and other pressing issues. Yet, despite the challenges we face, our economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience. While the unemployment rate has risen, it remains at 5.5 percent, which is still low by historical standards. And the economy continued to grow in the first quarter of this year. The growth is slower than we would have liked, but it was growth nonetheless. We saw the signs of a slowdown early and enacted a bipartisan economic stimulus package. We have now delivered more than $91 billion in tax relief to more than more than 112 million American households this year. It's going to take some time before we feel the full benefit of the economic stimulus package, but the early signs are encouraging. Retail sales were up in May and June, and should contribute and will contribute to economic growth. In the months ahead, we expect more Americans to take advantage of these stimulus payments, and inject new energy into our economy. The bottom line is this, we are going through a tough time. But our economy is continually growing, consumers are spending, businesses are investing, exports continue increasing, and American productivity remains strong. We can have confidence in the long-term foundation of our economy and I believe we will come through this challenge stronger than ever before.

Bush Talks Government Bailouts, Gas Prices, Oil Exploration, Obama's Trip to Iraq (CNN, 07/15/08, 10:33am)

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REPORTER: […] Are there other entities that are so crucial to stability, that they would require government action to show support for them?

GEORGE BUSH: Government action, if you are talking about bailing out, if your question is should the government bailout private enterprise, the answer is no it shouldn't. And by the way, the decisions on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, I hear some people say it is a bailout, I don't think it is a bailout. The shareholders still own the company. That's why I said we want this to continue to be a shareholder-owned company. In this case, there is a feeling that the government will stand behind mortgages through these new entities. And therefore we felt a special need to step up and say that we are going to provide, if needed, temporary assistance through either debt or capital. In terms of private enterprises, I do not think the government ought to be involved with bailing out companies. I think the government should create conditions so that companies can survive. I have listed four. One of the things I am deeply troubled about is the people that think it is okay to raise taxes during these times. It would be a huge mistake to raise taxes right now.

[…]

REPORTER: Mr. President, in February you were asked about Americans facing the prospect of $4 per gallon gasoline, and you said you' d had not heard of that at the time.

GEORGE BUSH: I have heard of it now.

REPORTER: Gas prices are now approaching $5 per gallon, in some parts of the country. Offshore oil exploration is obviously a long-term approach, what is the short-term advice for Americans? What can you do now to help out?

GEORGE BUSH: First of all, there is this psychology in the oil market that basically says that supplies are going to stay stagnant while demand rises. And that is reflected somewhat in the price of crude oil. Gasoline prices are reflected. The amount of gasoline, the price at the pump is reflected in the price of crude oil. And therefore, seems like it makes sense to me to say to the world, that we going to use new technologies to explore for oil and gas in the United States. Offshore oil, Anwar, oil shail projects, to help change the psychology, to send a clear message that the supplies of oil will increase. Secondly, obviously, good conservation measures matters. I have been reading a lot about how the automobile companies are beginning to adjust. Consumers are beginning to say, now wait a minute, I don't want a gas guzzler anymore, I want a smaller car. So, the two need to go hand in hand. There is no immediate fix. This took us a while to get to this problem, there is no short-term solution. I think I was in the rose garden where I issued this brilliant statement, if I had a magic wand, but the president doesn't have a magic want. You just can't say, low gas. It took us awhile to get here, and we need to have a good strategy to get out of it.

REPORTER: What about the strategic petroleum oil reserve, what about opening up that?

BUSH: The strategic petroleum oil reserve is for emergencies, but that doesn't address the fundamental issue. And we need to address the fundamental issue, which i frankly, have been talking about since I first became president, which is a combination of using technology to have alternative sources of energy but, at the same time, finding oil and gas here at home. Now is the time to get it done. I heard somebody say, well it's going to take seven years. Well if we had done this seven years ago, we would be having a different conversation today. i am not suggesting that it would have completely, you know, changed the dynamics in the world, but it certainly would have been, we would be using more of our own oil and spending less money overseas.

[…]

REPORTER: And we know you prize loyalty, and I ask, I wonder if you feel betrayed by Scott McClellan' assessment of the war in Iraq. And moving forward, since there have been positive signs on the ground in Iraq, Senator Obama is also about to take a trip there. What would be your advice to him as he tries to assess the situation on the ground?

BUSH: I have had no comment, no comment now on Scott's book. Secondly, I would ask him to listen carefully to Ryan Crocker and General Petraues. There is a temptation to let the politics at home get in the way with the

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considered judgment of the commanders. That is why i strongly rejected an artificial timetable of withdrawal. It is kind of like an arbitrary thing. We will decide, in the halls of Congress how to conduct our affairs in Iraq based upon polls and politics, and we will impose this on people. As opposed to listening to our commanders, and our diplomats, and listening to the Iraqis for that matter. The Iraqi's have invited us to be there. But they share a goal with us, which is to get our troops out as conditions permit. Matter of fact, that is what we are doing. Return on success has been the strategy of this administration. And our troops are coming home, but based upon success. So I would ask that whoever goes there, whatever elected official goes there, to listen carefully to what is taking place. And understand that the best way to go forward is to listen to the parties actually on the ground. That is hard to do, I understand for some in Washington, there is a lot of pressure. You got these groups out there, moveon.org , banging away on these candidates, it is hard to kind of divorce yourself from the politics. I am glad that all, a lot of these elected officials are going over there. Cause they are going to get an interesting insight. Something that you don't get from just reading your wonderful newspapers, listening to your t.v. shows.

Bush Says We are Already "Surging" and Have "Surged" In Afghanistan (CNN, 07/15/08, 10:44am)
REPORTER: Should Americans expect a troop surge in Afghanistan?

GEORGE BUSH: We are surging troops in Afghanistan. We will analyze the situation, of course, and make a determination based on the conditions on the ground. But we did surge troops. We surged troops, France surged troops, I said in Bucharest, we'll add more troops. And then, of course, we have to make sure that the strategy works. Have a counter-insurgency strategy that not only provides security but also provides economic follow up after the security has been enhanced. The question really facing the country is will we have the patience and determination to succeed in these very difficult theaters. And I understand exhaustion. And I understand people getting tired. But I would hope that whoever follows me understands that we are at war. And now is not the time to give up in the struggle against this enemy. And that while there has not been an attack on the homeland, that is not to say that people do not want to attack us. And safe havens become very dangerous for the American people, and we need to deny that safe haven. And at the same time, win the struggle by advancing democracy. This is an ideological struggle that we are involved in. These people kill for a reason. They want us to leave, they want us to, you know, not push back, they do not want democracy to succeed. And yet, if given a chance, democracy will succeed. And so these two theaters are the big challenges of the time, and the war itself is a challenge.

Bush: "I'm not an economist... I'm an optimist... I am 62. I'm having trouble remembering a lot of things." (CNN, 07/15/08, 11:05am)
GEORGE BUSH: Whether the economy will turn around? I'm not an economist, but I do believe that we are growing, and I can remember, this press conference here, people yelling recession this, recession that, as if you're economists. I'm an optimist. I believe there are a lot of positive things for our economy. But I will tell you, it is not going the way it should, and I am sorry people are paying as high of gasoline prices as they are.

[…]

BUSH: What was the question? I am 62. I'm having trouble remembering a lot of things.

REPORTER: It was about Afghanistan, sir.

BUSH: Good, I remember it now.

Highlight #2
Paul Begala Talks National Security, Calls Out Carly Fiorina for Working With Ahmadinejad, Iran (CNN, 07/15/08, 4:44pm)
WOLF BLITZER: This is the one area, as you know Paul, national security, where John McCain polls really well against Barack Obama. And some suggest whenever Obama has to deal with this, he sort of falling into a trap laid by the McCain campaign. What do you think?

PAUL BEGALA: I think tactically McCain wins the day, because he's stronger on national security in the eyes of the voters. But I think what Obama's trying to do is be strategic. He can't allow that gap to continue. That strength gap, that national security gap. So he, I think, is willing to sacrifice the day. The news of the day should

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have been the economy, right?

[…]

KEVIN MADDEN: […] This is exactly the type of terrain, the issue terrain, that John McCain wants. Where he wins here, is that John McCain has a certain degree of clarity here. And what Barack Obama is doing is re-litigating his position on Iraq. He's changed it in the last couple of days. He's using rather amorphous language. He's trying to win on nuance. Where as John McCain can go and make a very black and white issue, and that's where John McCain wins. He looks more like a commander in chief, and the judgment of voters right now in a lot of these polls we're seeing, is that John McCain wins that debate.

BLITZER: And the McCain campaign is really ridiculing this passage. This excerpt from Senator Obama's speech today dealing with Iranian President Ahmadinejad. […] The McCain campaign is saying, why would you meet with this guy who calls for Israel's destruction, says it's nothing more than a stinking corpse?

BEGALA: Right, that is the extension of the Bush policy. We only meet with our friends. Well, guess what? We don't have any more friends, to speak of, around the world. I think, Barack Obama has the better of the argument here. But here's the thing we should look for. When will he counter attack? If John McCain is so all-fire opposed to the Iranians, why is his chief economic advisor, Carly Fiorina, a woman who when she ran HewlettPackard as CEO, HewlettPackard was selling computers to the Iranian regime! A terrorist regime. Counter-attack Barack! If I was advising him I would say, make Carly Fiorina the Ahmadinejad. She's already participated in a company that was selling equipment to the Iranians. Computers, at that!

MADDEN: […] This, again, is where John McCain can win. It becomes a question of whether or not you have the experience, whether or not you have the readiness to take over the oval office and to be commander in chief. And Barack Obama is going to continue to lose that.

BLITZER: What about the argument that Senator Obama made today. It was a major part of this speech, when he said, you know what? Talk about national security judgment. Senator McCain was wrong back in October, November 2002 in supporting this war in Iraq. The biggest strategic blunder in recent years. I was right in opposing this war in Iraq, and all of the negative consequences, the trillion dollars Senator Obama says that have occurred. The 4,000 Americans plus, who have been killed, wouldn't have happened if Senator McCain among others wouldn't had been a cheerleader for this war.

MADDEN: Well, I think that that is an effort by the Obama campaign to make what they believe is their most compelling argument. But I think a lot of Americans right now are not going to be making a judgment on this election at this time based on whether or not we ought to be re-litigating when we went in. But instead, what's your plan for going forward? How are you going to achieve success?

BLITZER: Is it just history?

MADDEN: Who has the best credentials to do that?

BLITZER: Politically, put on your strategic political hat, can he make the case as he tried to do repeatedly against Hillary Clinton, I was right in opposing this war, she was wrong in voting for it. And now he'd have to make the same case against McCain.

BEGALA: It certainly worked in the primaries against Senator Clinton and his other opponents.

BLITZER: Does it work in the general election?

BEGALA: I think yes. I think it's good to go right at the other fella's strength. Don't make it the entire campaign, but go right at that. And John McCain, not just Dick Cheney, John McCain said we will be greeted as liberators. John McCain said, at one point, the war would last a month or two. It was John McCain, who was part and parcel, of misleading us into this war, and I think that is an important thing. It also has the strategic advantage of linking again, once more, to George

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W. Bush, the most unpopular president of modern times.

[…]

BEGALA: This is where, now, John McCain is chasing Barack. Obama comes out today, as he has said for months, and said Afghanistan, al-Qaeda, Pakistan, that' where we need to be. Well guess what, Senator McCain almost never mentions Afghanistan. And just a month ago, he said we have sufficient forces in Afghanistan. Then Obama says we need more troops in Afghanistan. It's McCain now chasing Barack, saying well I guess Barack's right, we do need more troops in Afghanistan.

MADDEN: I think John McCain has shown he does have the experience, he knows a lot more about Afghanistan and this, whole entire theater on the war on terror, than Barack Obama does. […]

[…]

BEGALA: […] I thought Obama's best line today was when he said, McCain says when violence is up the troops have to say, and when violence is down the troops have to stay. McCain wants troops there a hundred years.

Dana Bash Investigates McCain's Claim That "I know how to win wars." (CNN, 07/15/08, 8:06pm)
DANA BASH: John McCain was supposed to talk, once again today about the economy. But aids scrabbled to move up a speech about Afghanistan in order to offer a contrast to Obama's address today. They saw it as a chance to play on what McCain aids believe is their turf, foreign policy.

Experience is his calling card, and on a day both candidates talked national security, John McCain laid this down as a basic test.

JOHN MCCAIN: I know how to win wars.

BASH: He offered proof. A new proposal for Afghanistan, where violence has spiked.

MCCAIN: And I'll turn around the war in Afghanistan just as we have turned around the war in Iraq. With a comprehensive strategy for victory.

BASH: McCain was an earlier supporter of the military surge in Iraq, which he repeatedly tells voters is working. He said he would apply those lessons to Afghanistan. More troops and a better strategy for how to use them.

[McCain Clip Shown]

BASH: But this was as much about slamming Obama's war plans as praising his own. Obama wants to take troops out of Iraq and send them to Afghanistan.

MCCAIN: Senator Obama will tell you that we can't win in Afghanistan without losing in Iraq. In fact, he has it exactly backwards. It is precisely the success of the surge in Iraq that shows us the way to succeed in Afghanistan

BASH: He mocked Obama for outlying his plan for Afghanistan before ever visiting the country.

[McCain clip shown]

BASH: Later on his bus, McCain continued to hit Obama on his national security credentials. McCain reminded reporters that Obama is chairman of the Senate Committee that oversees NATO which has command in Afghanistan, but Obama has never held a hearing.

The Surge's Efficacy Debated, McCain is No Eisenhower (MSNBC 07/15/08 5:03pm)
PAT BUCHANAN: . . . I thought John McCain clearly won the day today when he came out and said, I know how to win wars, Barack Obama opposed the surge, we would have been defeated in Iraq, I supported the surge,

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we're winning in Iraq, I will win in Afghanistan, this is the way to do it. I think he's on his strongest ground, it's Eisenhower vs. Adlai battle here Chris. I think it's McCain's strongest ground . . . I do believe he had the stronger, simpler, clearer, more focused day.

[. . .]

MARK GREEN: . . . I see this Chris as good policy, which is Obama, vs. good biography from McCain. Hence the public is split on who to trust more.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: . . . let's look at what McCain said today . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: . . . it's by applying the tried and true principles of counterinsurgency used in the surge, that Sen. Obama opposed, that we will win in Afghanistan . . . I know how to win wars. I know how to win wars . . . I know how to do that.

MATTHEWS: Pat, are you saying that we've won the war in Iraq? . . . what wars has John McCain won? List them. Name the wars that we have won under his leadership or in his view.

BUCHANAN: . . . the American people believe the surge has worked, it is working—

MATTHEWS: No it hasn't, the American people haven't been asked the right question . . .

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: . . . have we won?

BUCHANAN: . . . by the loudness of your argument and the intensity, you are suggesting that McCain indeed has a powerful point. We are winning in Iraq, violence is down, American casualties are down—

MATTHEWS: That's not the strategy.

BUCHANAN: McCain is saying that strategy is working, that strategy will succeed.

MATTHEWS: At what?

BUCHANAN: In ending and succeeding in Iraq.

MATTHEWS: Succeeding at what?

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: Pat, I just want to know what you're talking about . . .

BUCHANAN: . . . the overthrow of Saddam Hussein . . . the placement of a regime that's more pro American . . . the ability to go home and say this is no longer an anti-American, anti-Western country . . .

[. . .]

GREEN: . . . John McCain made no sense in the clip you just ran . . . he said the success of the surge in Iraq, his words, show how we can win in Afghanistan . . . we don't have the troops to replicate in Afghanistan what we did in Iraq. Second, on the surge succeeding . . . if the Yankees are beating the Red Sox, 6-1 in the eighth and the Red Sox score one run, then the Red Sox aren't winning, they're still behind 6-2 . . .

BUCHANAN: . . . there's unquestionably, the surge has worked and I think the American people see it as working and they do see McCain by something like 7 to 4 or 7 to 5 as a far stronger man to lead the country and there is a clarity to that argument he is making whether you agree with its substance and ultimate results or not .

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. . "I know how to win wars" is very powerful. It is Ike vs. Adlai.

GREEN: . . . it was Bush who said that the success of the surge will be measured by less violence and political rapprochement. The first, I agree. The second simply has not happened.

BUCHANAN: . . . Maliki has made tremendous gains . . . that's why he's saying the Americans can maybe start going home . . . if the Americans see that and McCain picks up on that: We're moving in the right direction, we're moving out of Iraq, now I'm going to win Afghanistan the way I run Iraq. The substance aside, it is a powerful political message for November . . .

[. . .]

MATTHEWS: . . . I want to respond on Eisenhower and some history here. Gen Eisenhower was elected in 1952 to end a war, which he did in Korea. Gen Eisenhower refused to go into Viet Nam in 1954 despite the urgings of others, including Richard Nixon. He refused to go into the Suez campaign in the Middle East in 1956 despite the good intentions towards Israel. Let me just make this point, Gen Eisenhower was a man of peace, who knew how to restrain US foreign policy in the interest of US foreign interest. Pat, you know this. Why are you going back with this ridiculous comparison between a hawk like McCain and man of strength and restraint like Eisenhower? You know they are two very different men.

BUCHANAN: I agree with you . . .

McCain's Czechoslovakia Mistake on Hardball (MSNBC 07/15/08 5:29pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: John McCain would like you to think that he's the foreign policy expert in this election. Well, he may need a history refresher. At least when it comes to one region. Check out this exchange yesterday:

JOHN MCCAIN: I was concerned bout a couple of steps that the Russian government took in the last several days. One of those is reducing the energy supplies to Czechoslovakia. Apparently that is reaction to the Czech's agreement with us concerning missile defense.

MATTHEWS: You have a problem there. Czechoslovakia hasn't existed for over fifteen years. It split up into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. Apparently, it seems that no one gave McCain the head's up. Here he is at a town hall, just this afternoon.

MCCAIN: I regret some of the recent behavior that Russia has exhibited and I'll be glad to talk about that later on, including reduction of oil supplies to Czechoslovakia after they agreed with us on a missile defense system.

MATTHEWS: Czechoslovakia was of course that country that Hitler began grabbing in 1938 and took all of in 1939.

New Polls Show McCain with Foreign Policy Advantage, Obama Winning on Economy (ABC, 07/15/08, 6:40pm)
CHARLES GIBSON: […] Foreign policy was the focus of the day. John McCain said he would send 10,000 more troops to join the fight in Afghanistan. Barack Obama said the war in Afghanistan would be at the top of his foreign policy agenda, and defended his call to withdraw all combat troops from Iraq in 16 months. Foreign policy also dominated our latest ABC News poll. […] On the foreign policy issue, it's not particularly good news for Barack Obama.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, it shows that questions about his experience in foreign policy are probably the single biggest hurdle between Barack Obama and the White House. Look at this question about knowledge on world affairs, 63 percent say John McCain is more knowledgeable over 26 percent for Barack Obama. And then who do you trust to handle an unexpected foreign crisis? The 3am question, 50 John McCain, 41 Barack Obama. The Obama campaign knows that he has this big foreign trip coming up, they have to show him doing the job to calm these questions.

GIBSON: But on the economy, much better news for Obama.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: Single biggest for John McCain, between him and the White House right now. Look at these numbers, 54 percent trust Barack Obama to handle the economy, only 35 percent trust John McCain. A 19 point advantage, everyday of bad news on the economy, I mean the Obama campaign will never admit it, but it's good news for his campaign.

GIBSON: All right, it's still a long ways away from Election Day. But we did ask about the horse race.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Yeah, you have to ask that question.
GIBSON: And?

STEPHANOPOULOS: Among registered voters, Barack Obama has an eight-point lead. 50 to 42. But look at this number, you trade it over to likely voters, those most likely to vote, it's down to 49 to 46. Only a three-point lead. We dug into that Charlie, and it shows that Barack Obama's most committed partisans, beyond African American voters, are young voters. Voters under 30. In March, 66 percent of them said they would vote no matter what. That is down to 46 percent right now, their enthusiasm has been dampened a bit over the course of this campaign.

[…]

Matthews Brings Up McCain's "Bomb-Iran" Joke During Discussion on Iran Policy (MSNBC 07/15/08 5:55pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Here's what John Bolton, Bush's former Ambassador to the U.N. . . . wrote today in *The Wall Street Journal:* "Instead of debating how much longer to continue five years of failed diplomacy, we should be intensively considering what cooperation the U.S. will extend to Israel before, during and after a strike on Iran. We will be blamed for the strike anyway . . . " . . . going to war with Iran, is this going to be an issue come October?

PERRY BACON: . . . neither Sen. McCain nor Sen. Obama, we're fighting two wars now, I think they won't discuss starting a third . . .

MATTHEWS: . . . John McCain has been very clear on this, saying if they move towards weaponization, we ought to strike.

JILL ZUCKMAN: Well, Sen. McCain is very concerned about Iran; he talks about it a lot. I think actually though . . . McCain and Obama are both supportive of multi lateral talks . . . I think the difference comes more from McCain not wanting to engage in direct talks . . . this is a substantive disagreement and they're having a substantive debate and it's the real deal and they're both coming at it from different areas.

MATTHEWS: . . . John McCain was caught making a joke on this, saying his policy towards that region was "bomb-bomb-bomb-Iran," like in Barbara-Ann from the Beach Boys. But clearly he is a hawk on this matter.

KAREN TUMULTY: . . . John McCain is certainly more forceful right now in how he talks about this. He talks about the need to start imposing sanctions right now on Iran . . .

Highlight #3
CNN Investigates McCain's "Meal Ticket" and Impact of Busch Deal on McCain's Fortune and Campaign (CNN, 07/15/08, 8:44pm)
CAMPBELL BROWN: So there could be some political fallout to this weeks big deal in the beer industry. The Belgium company InBev is buying Anheuser-Busch for $52 million bucks. Cindy McCain just happens to run one of the biggest Anheuser-Busch distributers in the country, beyond what she stands to make in the deal, red flags are already starting to go up on how a McCain presidency would affect his wife's business.

DAVID MATTINGLY: Fair to say, Cindy McCain, is not only a wife to Senator John McCain, she is

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also his meal ticket. Her reported 2006 income of more than 6 million dollars exceeded her husband's earnings 16 times over. That money pays for a wealthy lifestyle of high-end condos, an Arizona ranch, flying in a corporate jet, and more.

KEN VOGEL: He wouldn't be able to afford that if not for her. Politically, he is in Congress arguably because her company and her wealth funded his first Congressional campaign and has certainly been helpful in subsidizing his presidential campaign.

MATTINGLY: It's a lifestyle built on beer. Cindy McCain is on the chair of one of the biggest Anheuser-Busch distributers in the country. A company founded by her father with a value estimated at more than $100 million. In Congress, Senator McCain has been able to avoid a conflict of interest by staying out of the family business and excusing himself from beer related issues. But critics of that industry doubt that a President McCain would be able to stay so hands-off.

BRUCE LIVINGSTON: It would not be possible, the corporation of which Cindy McCain is an owner of has lobbied ten times in the last 8 years on various issues that have gone to Congress and that have gone to executive branch agencies.

MATTINGLY: As President, Senator McCain would run a mammoth beaurocracy with regulatory control over alcohol sales, distribution, and consumption. The next administration would probably have to deal with issues of beer taxes, labeling, maybe even the politically sensitive international merger just announced involving the giant Anheuser-Busch. These are all issues that could create a conflict because they could have an impact on the McCain family bottom line.

Though she does not run the day to day operations, Cindy McCain's Hensley & Co. website links to a newsletter calling for a rollback in the Federal beer tax. And this 2005 letter posted on the internet by the Los Angeles Times shows company executive Andrew McCain. Yes, that is the Senator's son lobbying against a Federal beer labeling proposal.

[...]

JAMAL SIMMONS: Of course there are red flags. The real question is not so much about what Cindy McCain does for a living, because she can do whatever she wants to do for a living, this is America. The question is whether or not John McCain is going to lead a transparent government, and he so far is not leading a transparent campaign. Here's what I mean. He hasn't talked about how much he pays, or why he doesn't pay full fair for those airplane flights he flies around in that jet. He doesn't talk about what's going to happen to Cindy McCain if he goes into the White House. And so the question is, of course he listens to somebody like Phil Gramm who thinks that the economy is all in our heads, or that economic problems are all mental, because John McCain he has eight houses, they spend $750,000 on credit cards in one month, and he's flying around the country in this corporate jet. He's not in touch with where most of Americans are.

[...]

BROWN: McCain has used his wife's fortune to help fund his campaign, providing a private plane to travel around the country. [...] Does he have an obligation to be open with people about this if you want to be president of the United States?
[...]

GLORIA BORGER: There is sort of a basic issue of transparency here, because this is sort of the bedrock of John McCain's campaign, which he wants to be open. His wife has only released the first two pages of her 2006 tax returns. And I remember in covering the 2004 campaign when Teresa Heinz Kerry who is also a very wealthy women, wealthier than Cindy McCain, did not want to release her taxes, republicans were complaining about it.

[...]

SIMMONS: That month where he was spending $750,000 dollars on credit card debts was from March 2007

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until the beginning of, middle of 2008, and that's when they were spending all this money on credit cards. They would not have been able to keep the John McCain campaign alive had he not had this personal wealth.

Highlight #4

McCain Stresses His Closeness to Bush from 2003 to Present (MSNBC 07/15/08 8:03pm)

RACHAEL MADDOW: Part of the McCain campaign strategy for victory in November is making seem as if he never, not once, supported the Bush administration's failed strategy in Iraq . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: You know, over the last year Sen. Obama and I were part of a great debate about the war in Iraq. Both of us agreed that the Bush administration had pursued a failed policy there and we had to change course.

RACHAEL MADDOW: McCain might be learning how to use the internets but how the internets can be used against him must still be on his "to-figure-out-list." The wonders of the Google and the blogosphere have provided a long list of examples where McCain and Bush have appeared to be one and McSame in the war in Iraq. Our list, by no means the definitive and complete edition, working backwards, we begin in March, when on Mike Gallagher's talk radio show where McCain said, quote, "No one has supported Bush on Iraq more than I have." Then in February, when he was endorsed by Bush 41 and asked by our correspondent, Kelly O'Donnell, about the backing of that other, less popular, President Bush, McCain claimed some policy differences with the current president, but decidedly, definitely not on Iraq.

JOHN MCCAIN: As any president that follows, one has different views on particularly specific issues but I am proud of the president's strategy in Iraq. It is succeeding.

MADDOW: In the summer of 2006, when Iraq was in the midst of a civil war, McCain still had every confidence in the president.

DAIVD GREGORY: Do you have confidence in the president and his national security team to lead the war at this stage?

JOHN MCCAIN: I do. I do. I have confidence in the president and I believe that he is well aware of the situation.

GREGORY: Despite all the misjudgments you think have been made?

MCCAIN: Yes.

MADDOW: In June of 2005, when Tim Russert tried to give McCain a chance to distance himself from president Bush and his war in Iraq, McCain wouldn't take that chance.

TIM RUSSERT: The fact is, you are different from George Bush?

MCCAIN: No, no. The fact is that I am different but the fact is that I have agreed with President Bush far more than I have disagreed. And on the transcendent issues, the most important issues of our day, I have been totally in agreement and support of President Bush. My support for President Bush has been active and very impassioned on issues that are important to the American people. And I am particularly talking about the war on terror, the war in Iraq, national security, national defense, support of men and women in the military, physical discipline, a number of other issues. So I strongly disagree with any assertion that I've been more at odds with the President of the United States than I have been in agreement with him.

MADDOW: At the Republican convention, four years ago this summer, McCain admired the president as much as every and believed in his mission in Iraq as strongly as ever.

MCCAIN: I believe as strongly today as ever the mission was necessary, achievable and noble. [applause] For his determination to undertake it and his unflagging resolve to see it through to a

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just end, President Bush deserves not only our support but our admiration. [applause]

MADDOW: At last, but certainly not least, in the conflict's early weeks, the same man who now cannot tell the difference between Sunni and Shia, believed they had a peaceful history of coexistence that would continue.

MCCAIN: There is not a history of clashes that are violent between Sunnis and Shias, so I think they can probably get along.

Highlight #5
Rep. John Boehner Distances Himself and Republicans From McCain's Energy Policies (CNN, 07/15/08, 4:17pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Senator McCain has been outspoken in his determination to deal with global warming in contradiction to some of the republicans out there who have some doubts about the whole science of that.

JOHN BOEHNER: I think that John McCain's position is not really very different than most Republicans. […] The fact is, that we have had climate change. Clearly, humans have something to do with it. And we ought to begin reducing our CO2 emmisions. […]

Highlight #6
High Gas Prices Helping McCain on Drilling (MSNBC 07/15/08 4:21pm)
NEIL CAVUTO: Now usually, Americans blame the party that's in the White House for their pain but look at these numbers, in less than a month McCain has closed the gap on Sen. Obama, turning a fifteen point deficit into a dead heat there nationally . . . how do you make sense of that Scott? If McCain is supposedly the candidate for whom the economy's not his specialty?

SCOTT RASMUSSEN: Well, there's a couple of things in that. First of all, everybody puts the question about John McCain; party of what we're seeing is a little bit of concern about Barack Obama. But in the short term what we're also seeing is the impact of higher gas prices. The American people want to energy prices to come down . . . and John McCain said, let's go find some more energy and Obama said no.

[. . .]

RASMUSSEN: . . . through the vast majority of the country they support John McCain's decision on offshore drilling and they'll support any effort to find more energy . . .

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/12/2014 10:18:44 AM
Subject: The Continuing Saga of Anti-Indianism in America: Critique of a Bestseller

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Sunday, 12 October 2014

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The Continuing Saga of Anti-Indianism in America: Critique of a Bestseller and the Reviewers Who Praise It

Four Arrows, Truthout: Bob Drury and Tom Clavin's heralded biography of Red Cloud, *The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend*, reflects strong anti-Indian bias that seems to fly beneath the radar of mainstream reviewers.

Read the Article

Columbus Day and the Sanitization of History

Owen McCormack, Truthout: The strife that has engulfed Christopher Columbus' legacy in recent years has put the concept of an Indigenous People's Day at the forefront of discussion. Each year, the question is raised: What are we celebrating about his life?

Read the Article

ISIS vs. Ebola: A Blank Check to Bomb ISIS While Funding to Fight Ebola Is Slashed

Michael Meurer, Truthout: A stunning disproportion in spending to bomb ISIS versus money allocated to fight Ebola and protect public health highlights a fatal distortion in US priorities and an historic failure of presidential and Congressional leadership.

Read the Article

In Which the Authors Interview Ralph Nader in the Bathtub

Allison Kilkenny and Jamie Kilstein, Simon & Schuster: *#NEWSFAIL* - the first book by the co-founders and hosts of "Citizen Radio" - is a sometimes hilarious, sometimes deadly serious clarion call in support of independent media and independent thinking.

Read the Excerpt

Banksy: Graffitist of the White Bourgeoisie

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

You Do Not Have the Right to Declare Ferguson a First Amendment-Free Zone

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

The New US Price Tag for the War Against ISIS: $40 Billion a Year

Read the Article at The Fiscal Times

Asset Seizures Fuel Millions in Police Spending

Read the Article at The Washington Post

How a SWAT Team Upended My Baby's Life - and Got Away With It

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Arianne Shahvisi, Truthout: Middle-class outrage at the recent removal of Banksy's graffiti in an area of poverty and racial tension indicates how disconnected the bourgeoisie are from the realities of working-class life in Britain, and is an example of the appropriation of subversive art forms by the elite.

Read the Article

Truthout Interviews Candice Bernd on Police Retaliation Against "Cop Watch" Groups

Ted Asregadoo, Truthout: Candice Bernd discusses police retaliation against cop monitoring groups. In Austin, Texas, the police department is trying to classify one group as a "domestic extremist" threat in order to shut down the organization.

Watch the Interview

A Life-and-Death Struggle for Asylum in the US

Susan Ferriss, The Center for Public Integrity: As federal officials rush to prioritize resolution of minors' applications, members of Congress are aggressively attacking the current asylum system as well as children's claims they actually face mortal threats.

Read the Article and Listen to the Audio

How Does Your State Rank on Greenhouse Gas Emissions?

John Light, Moyers & Company: The Environmental Protection Agency recently released a breakdown of who in the US contributes the most to climate change - by state, by sector and even by individual business.

Read the Article

Read the Article at Salon

The Biggest Political Donors: 12 People Who Have Given Millions

Read the Article at The New York Times

Snowden Documentary Confirms Existence of New National Security Whistleblower

Read the Article at Common Dreams

St. Louis' Pride and Unrest: Cardinals October vs. "Ferguson October"

Read the Article at the Los Angeles Times

Banning Medical Pot Makes No Sense

Jill Richardson, OtherWords: Why deny a cancer or AIDS patient a medication that reduces suffering? Because a healthy person somewhere might use it recreationally for pleasure? Let's reform our laws to give patients relief.

Read the Article

Schools Need to Learn the Importance of Recess

Jesse Hagopian, The Seattle Times: Unfortunately, Seattle is following a national trend in reducing recess time in primary grades as school districts obsess about raising test scores. This obsession is driven by the federal education policy of the No Child Left Behind Act and the Race to the Top Fund.

Read the Article

This week in SpeakOut:

Reprieve states that Mylan pharmaceuticals, a major supplier to the National Health Service, is at risk of becoming involved in death row executions in the United States; **Elle Kurancid** argues that, in regard to climate action, the difference between "inextricably bound" and "nonbinding" is the difference between life and death; **John LaForge** looks at the United States' recent (and not-so-recent) love affair with nuclear weapons; **Lawrence Davidson** warns that the legitimacy of a nation is dependent on its commitment to human rights, and that the United States' lack of such a commitment calls the state's legitimacy into question; **Ramzy Baroud** examines the different narratives used by those when discussing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and concludes that much of the Western media only see the status quo Palestinian and the adversarial Palestinian; **D.H. Garrett** implores the United States to welcome

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immigrants with open arms in a heartfelt poem; and more.

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From:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
To:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
Date:	9/11/2013 1:30:21 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-Ultimate Reason to Support Resolution Authorizing Use of Military Force to Stop Chemical Weapons in Syria: It's Working

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-creamer/ultimate-reason-to-suppor_b_3905940.html

Ultimate Reason to Support Resolution Authorizing Use of Military Force to Stop Chemical Weapons in Syria: It's Working

The ultimate reason to support the Congressional resolution to authorize the use of military force to stop chemical weapons use in Syria is clear: it's working.

Over a year ago, the U.S. proposed that Syria turn over its chemical weapons for destruction by the international community and join the chemical weapons treaty that bans their possession or use. Syria refused, and Russia refused to demand that it do so.

Today they have both said yes. There is only one reason. They hope to stop the use of military force that President Obama has proposed to degrade their ability to deliver these weapons -- and make the regime pay a price for the indiscriminate slaughter of 1,400 adults and children using chemical weapons containing poison sarin gas.

Many of my fellow Progressives – who like me were strong opponents of the Iraq War -- support President Obama's request for Congressional authorization to use force to sanction chemical weapons use in Syria and deter its future use. They include Congressman Keith Ellison, the Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; former anti-war Presidential Candidate Howard Dean, progressive columnists E.J. Dionne and Gene Robinson; and of course House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

But for those who do not want to see the use of military force in Syria, the best thing they can do to assure that the military action is not needed, is to support the Congressional resolution authorizing the President to use military force if necessary. That is the absolute best way to make certain the Syrian regime actually gives up its chemical weapons once and for all -- and that there is no need for the U.S. to take military action to force Assad to comply.

As the President argued last night, we need to make certain that the Russians and Syrians are absolutely convinced that if they do not make good on their new promise to turn over Syrian chemical weapons, military action will ensue – it's that simple.

Three additional arguments have been used over the last few days that need to be addressed:

1). Some have argued that it is never justified to use force to counter malicious use of violence.

There are some Progressives who are truly pacifists – who feel that the use of force and violence is never justified.

I respect the convictions of those who hold pacifist views, but I do not agree with them.

When Governor Orville Faubus of Arkansas refused to allow the integration of the schools in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1954, it would have been easier for the rest of America to simply shake our collective fingers and decry racism. It would have also been more popular. Instead the federal government sent troops from the National Guard to enforce the desegregation order with the threat of force.

Some times the threat – or actual use of force – is necessary – especially to prevent violence.

That's why we empower police departments with the ability to use the force of arms when necessary to prevent violent acts.

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2). Some politicians worry that supporting the President's proposal is simply too unpopular. They should remember that polls showed the public opposed the possible bombing campaign in 1999 that was aimed at protecting Kosovars from ethnic cleansing as well. A Gallup poll in February 1999 showed that 45% of the public opposed the proposed bombing compared with only 43% who supported it.

After the campaign was successful at achieving its goals, that opposition turned into public support, and the issue played very little role in the November 2000 Congressional elections.

3). Some opponents say simply, the use of poison gas in Syria is just not our problem. Let someone else worry about it, they say.

In fact, of course, nothing could be further from the truth. If the use of chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction can occur with impunity any where on our small planet, they will be used more and more frequently in military conflicts. And if they are, they pose a massive danger for human beings everywhere.

If Assad can get away with using these weapons with impunity that will ultimately endanger us all.

But assume for a moment it were possible to isolate their use, so that it would never impact those of us thousands of miles away from the suburbs of Damascus. Can we just ignore the suffering of those who are its victims?

There was another story about the road to Damascus where the hero of the tale did not ignore an injured foreigner who lay suffering by the roadside. That of course was the story of the Good Samaritan – the quintessential story that is at the center of the Christian New Testament. It was the story Jesus used to explain what it meant to "love your neighbor as yourself."

Can we sit by and ignore the cries of people in foreign lands who are slaughtered in Rwanda, or ethnically cleansed in Kosovo, or gassed by the Nazis? I don't think so. And sometimes getting involved is not always clean and sterile. Sometimes it is messy and inconvenient and difficult.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com . *He is a partner in Democracy Partners and a Senior Strategist for Americans United for Change. Follow him on Twitter @rbcreamer.*

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/12/2014 7:40:06 AM
Subject: Uruguay Takes on London Bankers, Marlboro Mad Men and the TPP

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Uruguay Takes on London Bankers, Marlboro Mad Men and the TPP

Michael Meurer, Truthout: Uruguay is the unlikely protagonist in a fight to defend democratic self-government and national sovereignty against an emerging transnational governing order controlled by multinational corporations and banks through global trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Read the Article

Can a New "Progressive ALEC" Advance Effective Police Reform Through Municipal Governments?

Candice Bernd, Truthout: Local Progress, a network of hundreds of local elected officials from around the nation, recently convened in New York just a day after ALEC's new American City County Exchange held its own winter conference. One of the network's main policy goals for cities: police reform.

Read the Article

Convicted With No Evidence by an All-White Jury, Black Community Leader Faces Life in Prison

Victoria Collier and Ben-Zion Ptashnik: For decades, Rev. Edward Pinkney has been a highly irritating thorn in the side of the Whirlpool Corporation and the power structure in Michigan, a state where racial and economic divisions are ugly and stark. Now, the 66-year-old black activist, convicted of a felony by an all-white jury, faces life in prison at his upcoming sentencing.

Read the Article

Three College Endowments Are Doing Fine a Year After Divesting From Fossil Fuels

A.C. Shilton, YES! Magazine: On college campuses nationwide, the key argument against divestment - or removing all investments from oil, coal and natural gas companies - has been that it's not economically feasible. But those colleges that have already done it

BuzzFlash

In New Federal Spending Bill, Rich Strengthen Hold Over Government and We Get Lumps of Coal

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: The poobahs of both parties have decided to up political contribution fees as the cost of "doing business" in the nation's capital.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Elizabeth Warren Goes to War

Read the Article at Salon

Nobody Wants Pollution, so Why Is There so Much of It?

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

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say the risk is minimal.
Read the Article

South of the US Border, the War on Drugs Is Really a War on People

Dawn Paley, AK Press: If there really was a war on drugs, it wouldn't make for very good media fodder: Bullet-riddled packets of cocaine don't bleed, and so probably wouldn't lead. As we shall see, in Mexico, Colombia and elsewhere, the primary victims of the so-called war on drugs are poor people.
Read the Excerpt

Amy Goodman | "We Are Like the Walking Dead": Latin American Indigenous Groups Decry Corporate Destruction of Land

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!: As the United Nations Climate Conference in Peru enters its final phase, thousands of people marched in downtown Lima on Wednesday to call for action on global warming. We hear from some of the voices who took to the streets: frontline indigenous and rural communities.
Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Congress to Reinstate Taxpayer Subsidies for Reckless Derivatives Trading

Mary Bottari, PR Watch: Congress is poised to roll back a key taxpayer protection contained in the 2010 Wall Street reform bill.
Read the Article

Drones and Discrimination: Kick the Habit

Kathy Kelly, Voices for Creative Nonviolence: "On December 10, International Human Rights Day, federal Magistrate Matt Whitworth sentenced me to three months in prison for having crossed the line at a military base that wages drone warfare. The punishment will be an opportunity to speak with people trapped by prisons in the US."
Read the Article

US War Debt Is Over $2 Trillion, Obama Wants to Spend More, but Is That the Answer?

Pierce Nahigyan, Thought Catalog: The ultimate costs of the US wars in the Middle East will accumulate long after they have officially ended. All told, Harvard calculates that the price tag for these conflicts will double and potentially triple. That means $4 trillion at its most conservative and $6 trillion at its highest.
Read the Article

Citigroup Wrote the Wall Street Giveaway the House Just Approved

Read the Article at Mother Jones

Rick Santorum Announced He's Running for President and Nobody Noticed

Read the Article at Mediaite

"Are You Listening?" Ten Highlights From a Generational Moment

Read the Article at The Nation

Booted From Occupy Central, Hong Kong's Pro-Democracy Protesters Take on New Battlefields

Read the Article at Global Voices

George W. Bush Knew About CIA Torture, Says Dick Cheney

Read the Article at the Sydney Morning Herald

Civil Society Support for Marshall Islands Against Nuclear Weapons

Julia Rainer, Inter Press Service: Ahead of the December Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, activists from all over the world came together in the Austrian capital to participate in a civil society forum organized by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.
Read the Article

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Richard D. Wolff | Economic Update: Mainstream Economics vs. Critical Economics

Richard D. Wolff, Truthout: This week's episode provides updates on Mexican farm exploitation, Grenoble taking down advertising, US teachers being underpaid and the cutting of workers' pensions. We also respond to listeners on Harvard and Yale as full participants in capitalism's defects. Finally, we analyze modern "economics" as a discipline.

Listen to the Audio Segment

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 9:52:47 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

Welker is heading back to DC in the afternoon so we're going to a shoot for a coffee close to the personal office around 10:15. Your first meeting in the personal office is just the NH polling call at 11:00 am.

Since we're starting senior staff early at 12:30 pm we will have a room where you Kristina, Jake, Huma, Robby, Jen, Joel, Mandy, and Jim can take the NH polling call from the personal office.

Let me know if that all sounds OK.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:15 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> Yep, will do. Welker seems intent on meeting you at some point so we may try to reschedule for tomorrow if it works for you. Do you plan on coming back to the office after the series of HRC meetings ends at 4:30?
>
> On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:12 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > Let Jen and Kristina know that I am blowing off ABC.
> >
> > On Jun 29, 2015 4:08 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > Also- Trevor just followed up again with the following on the SCOTUS ruling:
> > >
> > > "One more thing to flag. John is certainly aware of today's Supreme Court decision presenting a near-term obstacle for Mercury regulations. He may be asked about it, and he could underscore his confidence that the Obama administration will take the necessary steps to comply and fully implement the regulations, but should there be a delay, HRC will do so as President.
> > >
> > > Of note, These pollutants are dangerous primarily to women and their fetuses. They have never been regulated. It's been 25 years since the toxics provisions were adopted by Congress in 1990. The regulations are long overdue."
> > >
> > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:00 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > Yep, you're all good to call him at 5:00 or even later if it takes you longer to get here or home. His best number is his desk line: 202-266-7429
> > > >
> > > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:56 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > Yep I have a number and I will call him now to ask. Will circle back.
> > > > >
> > > > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:54 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > > > > Can you call Ben and see if I can cal him at 5:00
> > > > > > Get a number.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > On Jun 29, 2015 3:19 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > > > Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > _____
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > - investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > - protecting families from pollution
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > - safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > - preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.

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On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Hi John-

Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.

Thanks,
Milia

Note From Trevor Houser:

"Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:

1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.

The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."

Secretary of State Record

As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)

She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing

Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting

She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

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The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

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A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

--
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From:	"Wilson Center - Middle East Program" <mep@wilsoncenter.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	9/9/2015 4:08:16 AM
Subject:	INVITATION: 9-11 "Iran's Nuclear Chess: After the Deal"

To view this email as a web page, click here

Middle East Program | Wilson Center

Iran's Nuclear Chess: After the Deal

As the U.S. Congress considers the nuclear agreement concluded between the P5+1 and Iran, please join us for this meeting to assess its terms and prospective implementation, as well as the implications should the agreement not be implemented. The meeting will feature the updated edition of the monograph by Robert Litwak, vice president for scholars at the Wilson Center and a former director for nonproliferation on the National Security Council staff in the first Clinton administration in conversation with *New York Times* Correspondent David Sanger.

Author:
Robert Litwak
Vice President for Scholars and Academic Relations
and Director, International Security Studies, Woodrow Wilson Center

Commentator:
David Sanger
National Security Correspondent, *The New York Times,*
and former Public Policy Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center

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9am - 10am

6th Floor Flom Auditorium

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From:	"Angel Urena" <aurena@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	
Date:	12/5/2007 2:18:05 AM
Subject:	Hispanic Media Clips
Attachments:	120507_clips.doc

<<120507_clips.doc>>

Hispanic Media Clips

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

NPR Debate - The discussion of immigration during yesterday's NPR/Iowa Public Radio debate was in sharp contrast to the Republican debate last week in which the GOP candidates tried to outmaneuver each other on who would be tougher on illegal immigrants. The Democratic candidates said they were not willing to encourage Americans to arrest illegal citizens, reports *Univision Online, El Nuevo Herald, El Paso Times, Houston Chronicle, La Voz (AZ),* and *El Diario La Estrella*, in the Spanish language version of an AP article. "They are embedded in our society," said Senator Clinton. "If we want to listen to the demagogues and the calls for us to begin to try to round up people and turn every American into a suspicious vigilante, I think we will do graver harm to the fabric of our nation than any kind of person-by-person reporting of someone who might be here illegally," she added. In regards to Iran, the Democratic presidential candidates pilloried President Bush for saying "nothing's changed" in the wake of a new intelligence report concluding that Iran abandoned its nuclear-weapons program in 2003, reports *El Nuevo Herald,* in a story for McClatchy news service. "He should seize this opportunity and engage in serious diplomacy, using carrots and sticks," New York Senator Hillary Clinton said during the two-hour debate in Des Moines.

Small Businesses – "Small businesses create nearly half of all private jobs in the country, but most of the times these same businesses seem to be invisible to the 2008 presidential candidates," writes Yolanda Arenales in an opinion piece for *El Diario La Prensa*. Fabiola Rodriguez-Ciampoli said that one of Senator Clinton's "most significant proposals would be the creation of tax credits so that businesses can offer their workers healthcare."

Peru FTA – With strong bipartisan vote of 77-18, the Senate concluded yesterday with the process of ratification of the free trade agreement between the US and Peru, reports *El Nuevo Herald, La Opinion, La Voz, Houston Chronicle, Diario La Estrella* and *New York Daily News*, in an AP article by Nestor Ikeda. The article mentions that Senator's Clinton, Obama and Biden and Republican Senator John McCain, did not vote. Campaign spokesperson Fabiola Rodriguez-Ciampoli said that "Senator Clinton has expressed her support for the agreement in the past, and that she was not in the Senate to vote because she was in Iowa, along with other Democratic candidates, for a debate."

NPR Debate

Democratic rivals talk immigration during debate - Rivales demócratas hablan de inmigración, durante debate
Univisión – 12/04/07

Democratic rivals talk immigration during debate -Rivales demócratas hablan de inmigración, durante debate
El Nuevo Herald - 12/04/07

Democratic rivals talk immigration during debate -Rivales demócratas hablan de inmigración, durante debate
El Paso Times - 12/04/07

Democratic rivals talk immigration during debate -Rivales demócratas hablan de inmigración, durante debate

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Houston Chronicle - 12/04/07

Democratic rivals talk immigration during debate -Rivales demócratas hablan de inmigración, durante debate
La Voz (AZ Central) - 12/04/07

Democratic rivals talk immigration during debate -Rivales demócratas hablan de inmigración, durante debate
Diario La Estrella - 12/04/07

Iran divides Democratic candidates - Tema de Irán divide a candidatos demócratas
El Nuevo Herald – 12/05/07

Small Businesses

Small businesses, the forgotten - Pequeños negocios los olvidados
El Diario (New York) – 12/05/07

Peru FTA

US Senate ratifies FTA with Peru - Senado estadounidense ratifica TLC con Per
El Nuevo Herald – 12/04/07

US Senate ratifies FTA with Peru - Senado ratifica el Tratado de Libre Comercio entre EU y Perú
La Opinión Digital - 12/04/07

FTA between the US and Peru ratified; Senate votes 77-18 in favor - TLC EEUU-Perú ratificado; Senado vota a favor 77-18
La Voz (AZ Central) - 12/04/07

US Senate ratifies FTA with Peru - Senado estadounidense ratifica TLC entre EEUU y Perú
Houston Chronicle - 12/04/07

FTA between the US and Peru ratified; Senate votes 77-18 in favor - TLC EEUU-Perú ratificado; Senado vota a favor 77-18
Diario La Estrella - 12/04/07

US approves FTA with Peru - Estados Unidos aprueba tratado de libre comercio con Perú
New York Daily News - 12/04/07

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/14/2014 9:13:57 AM
Subject: Dahr Jamail | Iraqi Doctors Call Depleted Uranium Use "Genocide"

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Dahr Jamail | Iraqi Doctors Call Depleted Uranium Use "Genocide"

Dahr Jamail, Truthout: Contamination from depleted uranium munitions is causing sharp rises in congenital birth defects, cancer cases and other illnesses throughout much of Iraq, according to numerous Iraqi doctors.

Read the Article

The Death Penalty, Missouri and the Continued Devaluing of Black Life

William C. Anderson, Truthout: Death penalty states like Missouri have been treating their predominantly black death row prisoners like test subjects while protests over the worth of black life continue in Ferguson and around the country. Although there hasn't been as much protest around those condemned to death, their lives matter, too.

Read the Article

Pesticide Use by Farmers Linked to High Rates of Depression, Suicides

Brian Bienkowski, Environmental Health News: Some research suggests that the chemicals that farmers and their workers spread on fields may alter certain brain chemicals, and that chronic exposure to low levels of herbicides over time may raise the risk of depression.

Read the Article

Laura Flanders | From Indigenous Socialism to Colonial Capitalism, Examining Native History of a Settler State

Laura Flanders, Truthout: Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, author of *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*, argues that an understanding of the history and functioning of the settler state is essential to all of us.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

AIG Bailout Trial Bombshells: The Repellent Hank Greenberg May Have a Case

Yves Smith, Naked Capitalism: Hank Greenberg,

BuzzFlash

International Small Farmer Movement Calls Free Trade a Threat to Food Security

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: There's a new wave of free trade agreements coming down the pike - unless they are defeated by an uprising of those concerned about unsustainable farming, climate change, corporate interests superseding sovereignty, unfair labor practices and many more perilous threats.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Welcome to the United States; What Flavor of Torture Would You Like?

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

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the former CEO of AIG, is hardly a sympathetic figure. Yet in his lawsuit against the governmental team that led the AIG bailout, he may come out looking better than the defendants.

Read the Article

"Hands Up! Don't Shoot!": Gesture, Choreography and Protest in Ferguson

Anusha Kedhar, The Feminist Wire: Unlike other slogans, "Hands up! Don't shoot!" is not just voiced. It is also embodied. Contained within the phrase is both a plea not to shoot, as well as the bodily imperative to lift one's hands up. The hands up gesture "has been transformed into a different kind of weapon."

Read the Article

Is This "American Exceptionalism"?

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: While jingoistic politicians might argue that the United States is the greatest country in the world, the facts really speak for themselves: We aren't and inequality is to blame. The United States will only be exceptional when all Americans have an equal shot at success.

Read the Article

Building an Ark: How to Protect Public Revenues From the Next Meltdown

Ellen Brown, The Web of Debt Blog: A publicly owned bank can provide security from risk while generating a far greater return on the local government's money. As we peer into the jaws of another economic meltdown, moving our public funds into our own banks is an investment we can hardly afford not to make.

Read the Article

A Trip to Kuwait (on the Prairie): Life Inside the Boom

Laura Gottesdiener, TomDispatch: In the US heartland, thousands of workers shaken loose from other worlds have been heading for boom times in North Dakota and elsewhere in our fracklands. The author reports from the front lines of this fossil fuel extraction boom.

Read the Article

Sunshine State Uses Fees to Prevent Sun From Shining on Judicial Records

Alison Fitzgerald, The Center for Public Integrity: When the Center for Public Integrity requested records from Florida's 17th judicial circuit regarding the procedures and policies surrounding foreclosure cases, officials were more than happy to comply - for a price. A price of $132,348, to be exact.

Read the Article

On the News With Thom Hartmann: Pollution Inequality Worse Than Income Inequality in the US, and More

In today's On the News segment: Most of us know how bad income inequality has become in the United States, but pollution inequality is even worse;

Whistleblower Cop: Fellow Officers Getting "Gang Tattoos" to Celebrate Their Shooting Victims

Read the Article at The Free Thought Project

Creationists' Ark Park Tax Subsidy Threatened by Bigoted Hiring Practices

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

The Worsening Ebola Crisis

Read the Article at The New York Times

Red Dawn: The GOP's Growing Monopoly on State Government

Read the Article at Mother Jones

Will the Right to Be Forgotten Inspire Repressive Regimes to Expand Internet Censorship?

Read the Article at Global Voices

Christian Right's Vile PR Sham: Why Their Bizarre Films Are Backfiring on Them

Read the Article at Salon

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researchers have discovered a new way to see the features hidden deep under water; humans aren't the only multilingual species; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Company That Sues Soldiers Pledges Reform, Changes Name

Paul Kiel, ProPublica: USA Discounters, promising to change how it pursues military debtors, will now be known as USA Living. The Virginia-based retailer was the focus of an investigation in July into its lending practices to service members.

Read the Article

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/6/2008 6:56:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Company Tour in Jackson, OH 08/06/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately, our tracker was not allowed into this closed event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online streaming video (and our tracker, Lee, got footage outside the event). Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights

- McCain tries to exit wrong side of platform, has to walk back the other way
- McCain calls for an "economic surge" since the surge in Iraq has succeeded
- Supporters/undecideds outside event say they're disappointed the event is closed

Jackson, OH: McCain Company Tour 08/06/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- about 10 supporters gathered outside to see McCain's bus pull up
- Meghan McCain accompanied him into event
- McCain's tone was noticeably unenthusiastic/rote
- According to interviews with local people (not at event) conducted by tracker,
    - Next-door to Merillat, where McCain spoke, is Meridian plant, which closed down in 2006 and fired all its employees - bitterness in community [footage available]
    - Merillat is non-union, according to a local restaurant worker
- 3 Interviews with supporters/undecideds at the event expressed disappointment that event was closed [footage available]
- McCain speaks at podium with about 20 employees standing behind him on platform
- Tries to exit platform wrong way - has to walk back the other way

Notes from Speech (not included in prepared remarks)

- Thanks Karen Strauss, John Lewis, State Sen John Kerry
- Great people here at the company - hard times, hurt by housing industry- but spirit of hope - their msg to me is it's time get economy moving again
- Concludes with TY for your hard work and your outstanding dedication to safety
- Jokes next time I'll wear the proper shirt [all employees wearing casual/Hawaiian shirts, etc]

LINK TO FULL REMARKS: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-remarks-after-touring-ohio-plant/

[Please see Senator John McCain's remarks as they are prepared for delivery in Jackson, Ohio today. Senator McCain will deliver the following remarks following his tour of the Merillat Kitchen Cabinet Plant:]

It's time to get America's economy moving again. Companies like Merillat and families across Ohio face challenges in their business and around the kitchen table. Our energy prices are too high. We are losing jobs. Our housing market is in decline. The cost of everything is going up, and in the face of this, Washington is on vacation.

Now is the time for action. We need an "all of the above" plan to address our energy crisis with alternative energy, drilling and nuclear power. We need to crack down on those who have abused our credit market and

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caused this housing decline. And we need to take action to support American businesses so that we stop jobs from going overseas and create more jobs here at home.

America has the second highest business tax rate in the entire world. Is it any wonder that jobs are moving overseas when we are taxing them out of the country? Unfortunately Senator Obama's plans would raise taxes on businesses even more. He has promised tax increases on income, tax increases on investment, tax increases on small businesses. This is exactly the wrong strategy. Raising taxes in a bad economy is about the worst thing you could do because it will kill even more jobs when what we need are policies that create jobs.

What we need today is an Economic Surge to keep jobs here at home and create new ones. [paraphrase--not in prepared remarks: The surge in Iraq was so successful, we need to have an economic surge here at home] We need to reduce the tax burden on businesses that choose to make their home in the U.S. We need to open new markets to U.S. products. We need to reduce the cost of healthcare. And we need to end the out of control spending in Washington that is putting our debt on the backs of our children.

Now is the time for action, and when I am President, we are going to get it done.

--
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410-967-7306 (cell)

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From: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 12/22/2015 1:35:30 PM
Subject: Clinton Foundation News & Guidance

Hi all - we wanted to give you some updates on recent events, Foundation work, and announcements in the news.

Clinton Foundation removed from Charity Navigator "Watchlist"
Today, Charity Navigator announced they had removed the Clinton Foundation from their Watchlist. Read the statement under "Archived Watchlist:" https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=search.profile&ein=311580204#.VnmRVvkrLIU.

> *"In accordance with our policy for removing charities from the CN Watchlist, Charity Navigator removed the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation from the Watchlist in December 2015 because the charity provided publicly accessible information regarding their amended tax Forms for 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. This information, along with the public memorandum submitted addressing the other issues raised in the Watchlist entry, meets our requirements for removal."*

The Chronicle of Philanthropy published an article on the announcement. The article includes Clinton Foundation president Donna Shalala's statement regarding the change. Read the article here: https://philanthropy.com/article/Charity-Navigator-Removes/234700.

> *In response to Charity Navigator's move, the president of the Clinton Foundation, Donna Shalala, said: "The Clinton Foundation is committed to making a difference across the globe, excellence in our operations, and remaining accountable to our supporters and the public. Today's action by Charity Navigator affirms that commitment. We are well positioned to build on our successes and expand our impact in the years ahead."*

Clinton Development Initiative and Visa announce new partnership
This week we announced a new partnership between the Clinton Development Initiative (CDI) and Visa to help farmers in Rwanda conduct business through digital transactions. CDI's work in Rwanda focuses on helping farmers improve their livelihoods through better training, improved connection to markets and inputs, and stronger linkages between farmers and stakeholders. This work, coupled with Visa's expertise in global electronic payment, will allow farmers to take a larger role in agricultural financing. Read a piece in AllAfrica about the partnership: http://allafrica.com/stories/201512170253.html

> *"Rwandan farmers are set to benefit from a partnership between Clinton Foundation and Visa, a global payments technology company which will enable them conduct business transactions digitally.*
>
> *The partnership by the two entities will connect individual farmers and cooperatives with financial institutions, retailers, processers, buyers and other producers consequently creating a digital payments ecosystem.*
>
> *These connections aim at helping improve farmers' financial security and empower them economically to make purchases with greater knowledge and ease."*

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/677151210294636545
Share the article on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/890582651063177

Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership profiled in GOOD Magazine
The Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership's CEO Mark Gunton was profiled as one of GOOD's "local globalists" who is helping to turn the U.N.'s global goals into reality. The piece explains how CGEP's transformative work to promote inclusive and sustainable industry helps break down barriers for farmers and female entrepreneurs in Latin America and Haiti.

> *"Since its inception in 2007, CGEP, which develops and manages 'social enterprises that foster sustainable economic development,' has impacted 400,000 people worldwide, generated over $4 million in sales, increased the incomes of more than 23,000 farmers and entrepreneurs by training and connecting them with larger markets, provided job training to over 3,000 youth, and equipped upwards of 1,300 women with entrepreneurial training and opportunities."*
>
> *"CGEP's goal is poverty alleviation at scale. 'I hope that in 20 years, we would have replicated our enterprise models over 200 times and transformed the lives of millions of people. I also hope that we would have introduced a new enterprise model that focuses on low-cost health delivery, in a way similar to our distribution model, that has a great need but also great potential in the developing world. I believe our work will pave the way for other NGOs, social enterprises, development finance institutions, and others to engage individually and collectively in market-driven,*

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sustainable solutions to developmental challenges and shift away from traditional reliance on donor funds.'"

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/674339475129049088
Share the article on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/886884191433023

Tips from Too Small to Fail on the importance of talking, reading, and singing to babies
A recent post on Mother.ly, titled "Talking is teaching: 5 creative ways to help your baby learn today" incorporates tips from Too Small to Fail on how simply talking, reading, and singing to children can help improve babies' brain development.

"The more words children hear spoken to them by parents and caregivers from birth, the more words they learn. They can then become better communicators with others, and are better prepared to read and learn."

CGI commitment converts animal waste into energy
An article published in Quartz discusses Sistema Biobolsa , a CGI commitment-maker that develops and installs "biodigesters" to convert animal waste into energy and fertilizer. With the help of CGI, Sistema Biobolsa aims to scale up their commitment.

"And they're not stopping any time soon. With the help of private investors and high-profile partners like the Clinton Global Initiative and the Nature Conservancy, Sistema Biobolsa plans to expand their reach into the most underserved parts of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa. Their mantra is simple: There is no waste, only resources. It's an elegant solution to a problem not enough people know exists."

Read a Clinton Foundation blog post authored by the co-founder of Sistema Biobolsa: https://www.clintonfoundation.org/blog/2015/10/05/creating-renewable-energy-organic-waste
Share the blogpost on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/674340685558886400

Clinton Health Matters Activation Summit to explore "Communities as Centers of Health Innovation"
We're excited to announce that we will be returning to the Coachella Valley, where President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton will host the Clinton Health Matters Activation Summit. The anchor event of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative will bring together more than 400 leaders in healthcare, technology, business, education, and government to highlight systemic approaches to chronic disease prevention nationwide. Read a story in the Desert Sun on what to expect at the 2016 summit.

"The Clinton Health Matters Initiative Activation Summit, now going into its fifth year, aims to bring together leaders in health care and other fields to discuss ways to address chronic diseases nationwide."

Share the announcement on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/674617004687548416

#NotThere named finalist for best nonprofit campaign of the year
PR Week announced that the No Ceilings' "#NotThere " campaign is a finalist for their "nonprofit campaign of the year" award. On International Women's Day, "Not There" used data compiled and released on NoCeilings.org to engage hundreds of thousands of Americans on the progress girls and women have made over the last twenty years, and the gaps to gender equality that still remain. The winner will be announced on March 17.

In Case You Missed It:

Television host Conan O'Brian will be participating in this year's CGI U meeting, which is taking place at the University of California, Berkeley from April 1-3, 2016. Watch a clip of Conan discussing his involvement with CGI U.

Clinton Foundation president Donna Shalala authored a piece for Elite Daily on ways young people can get involved in social good.

The Clinton Health Matters Initiative announced progress with their Northeast Florida Blueprint for Action to decrease rates of preventable disease in the region. Read the front page story in The Florida Times-Union.

A piece in the Des Moines Register argues that more women are needed in STEM-related fields and references the Clinton Foundation's No Ceilings report when discussing the gender imbalance in STEM.

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From: "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
Date: 10/4/2015 8:24:51 AM
Subject: Re: BS and guns

Circling back around on guns as a follow up to the Friday morning discussion: the Today show has indicated they definitely plan to ask bout guns, and so to have the discussion be more of a news event than her previous times discussing guns, we are going to background reporters tonight on a few of the specific proposals she would support as President - universal background checks of course, but also closing the gun show loophole by executive order and imposing manufacturer liability.

On Friday, October 2, 2015, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

> Here is the BS interview last night on tragedy/guns last night I referenced on the call where he punts on gun manufacturer liability. He also keeps using the term "sensible" gun legislation
>
> **MSNBC's All in With Chris Hayes: Bernie Sanders on Gun Control and Oregon Shooting**
>
> Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=5d507cd6-3074-4f06-aabe-41c26000012a
>
> Rough Transcript
>
> **CHRIS HAYES:** i just spoke with presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, vermont senator, and i asked him for his reaction to today's mass shooting.
>
> **BERNIE SANDERS:** you know, chris, i saw the president's statement. and i know him well enough to know that this was very personal for him, that he is disgusted, he is angry, he is sick and tired, as we all are, of sending our condolences to the families of people who have been murdered in cold blood. and the president is right. condolences are not enough. we've got to do something. we have to stop shooting at each other. we need sensible gun control legislation. and by the way, we need to significantly improve mental health services in the united states of america. and i pledge to do everything that i can in both of those areas.
>
> **CHRIS HAYES:** yeah, if you were elected president is this something that would be a priority for you? have you thought about how you go about putting in place the policies that could reduce the amount of mass shootings we see?
>
> **BERNIE SANDERS:** well, i don't think anyone has all the answers, but i think some of the components are first of all guns should not be in the hands of people who should not have them. people who have criminal records, people who are mentally ill. and that means we need a very strong instant background check system. number two, we have a huge loophole right now in gun legislation in that unlicensed gun dealers can sell guns at these gun shows. that's the gun show loophole, which has to be eliminated. and in my view, which is somewhat controversial, i don't think in this country we should be selling or distributing weapons of mass -- weapons that are designed just to kill people, automatic weapons, military type weapons. and that's what i voted for. but what we need, chris, as a nation is to get beyond the shouting. some people want to ban every gun in america and some people believe in nothing at all. i think the vast majority of the american people, as the president indicated, including gun owners, and i know that's true here in vermont, want sensible gun control legislation and they also believe that we should have more access to mental health facilities and counselors than we presently do. the bottom line is if somebody is suicidal, somebody is homicidal, you've got to make sure that person gets care and attention immediately, not two months from today.
>
> **CHRIS HAYES:** you reference that your constituents in vermont, a state of course you represent, that's a state that it's my understanding of the statistics has relatively high levels of gun ownership, relatively low levels of gun violence. compared to some other states.
>
> **BERNIE SANDERS:** yeah.
>
> **CHRIS HAYES:** you also -- you voted for some gun safety legislation and against others. you voted for the brady bill, for instant background checks, against a bill that would have allowed lawsuits against gun companies. has your thinking on this evolved over time? have you been influenced in how you think about it in discussions with your constituents who are gun owners?
>
> **BERNIE SANDERS:** well, i think we are all disgusted and horrified by these mass killings. and as the president indicated, we're tired of sending condolences and we know that it could happen tomorrow, it could happen again a month from now. i have voted as i said a moment ago for what i think is the most important provision, and that is strong instant background checks to make sure that people who should not have guns do not have guns. and i have voted to eliminate this gun show loophole, which is what we have got to do. and i think, chris --
>
> **CHRIS HAYES:** but the fact --
>
> **BERNIE SANDERS:** -- that at the end of the day --
>
> **CHRIS HAYES:** if i could just say, senator --

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BERNIE SANDERS: yes.

CHRIS HAYES: there's two things about this. one is it strikes me it may prove to be a more difficult policy problem than we're prepared to admit about keeping guns out of the hands of the wrong people. and it may be that that isn't enough. the sort of items that you've indicated, that if we need to take a more robust approach like, say, in australia or england, which the president mentioned today.

BERNIE SANDERS: well, i don't -- i don't know that anybody knows what the magic solution is. what we do know is the current situation is not tenable. it is clearly not working. and as the president indicated we can and must do a lot better. i believe -- i'll tell you what else i believe. you can sit there and say i think we should do this and do that states in this country where but you've got a whole lot of people want virtually no gun control at all. and if we are going to have some success we are going to have to start talking to each other. and here's what i think is the good news, that i think there is a consensus for serious gun control including among people who own guns. and i think that's what we have to bring about. and the fact we have folks in congress who don't even want us to get information about shootings in this country and fatalities, that's pretty crazy stuff. so i think the job is to bring people together and say yes, we've got to move forward, we've got to move forward aggressively, stop the shouting and let's work together to do something that's realistic.

CHRIS HAYES: senator Bernie Sanders.

John Anzalone
Partner
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
(o) 334.387.3121
Website | Twitter | LinkedIn | Facebook

From: Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Friday, October 2, 2015 at 6:01 AM
To: Amanda Renteria <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, "caitlin@grunwald-communications.com" <caitlin@grunwald-communications.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, David Binder <david@db-research.com >, Ellen Esterhay <ellen.esterhay@gmmb.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, Joel Beneneson <Jbenenson@bsgco.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, John Podesta <jp66@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Mindy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >, Maya Harris <mharris@hillaryclinton.com >, Mike Vlacich <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com >, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >, Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, Shannon Currie <scurrie@bsgco.com >, Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >, Varun Anand <vanand@hillaryclinton.com >, Heather Stone <hstone@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Accomplishments for 8AM

Dear all,

Please see the below foreign policy accomplishments, for discussion on today's 8am call.

Thanks!
Kate

She has a long list of accomplishments, but to name 3…:

- She built the toughest sanctions regime on Iran in history, twisting arms in China, Russia, and dozens of other countries, to force Iran to the negotiating table. And when pressure started working, she sent her closest aides to explore a deal that would cut off Iran's path to a nuclear weapon.

- She personally negotiated an end to Hamas rockets raining down on Israel in 2012 and worked to build stronger defense programs for Israel, including upgrading the Iron Dome rocket defense system, which has saved the lives of so many Israelis.

- She fought to make women's rights a priority in international relations. She stood up against sex trafficking of women and children, intervened in Saudi Arabia to prevent child marriage, and led the fight for a UN Security Council resolution to combat sexual violence

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against women and children around the world that passed unanimously.

...And 3 more....

- She oversaw negotiation and worked to ensure ratification of the New START treaty, which will make the world safer by reducing U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals to their smallest size in 50 years.

- She helped build the unprecedented global effort to combat climate change, joining with President Obama to stand up to the Chinese in Copenhagen and get them to take responsibility for the first time, resulting in last year's major climate agreement.

- She stood up to Russia, China, and Iran on internet freedom and fought for the "freedom to connect" around the world.

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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	12/21/2012 9:17:17 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 12.21.12.docx

Hannah,
Attached and below is the latest biweekly report for President Clinton.
Please let me know if he has any questions or comments.
Happy holidays!
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
December 21, 2012

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation (AHG)

Kaiser Permanente has awarded the Alliance a $5.3 million grant to expand the Healthy Schools Program in six new markets. This is embargoed until the formal announcement in early 2013.

Senior Alliance team members continue to meet with the ABA, Coke, PepsiCo and Dr Pepper Snapple about expanding Alliance nutrition guidelines to afterschool programs and other child-focused settings.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative (CHMI)

Mayor Steve Pougnet of Palm Springs has raised more than $200,000 to support local CHMI efforts in the Coachella Valley. The Desert Healthcare Foundation has agreed to match these finds and to administer the funds in partnership with the Foundation.

The CHMI has amassed more than 20 pledges to showcase at the Health Matters conference in January.

With the support of GE, CHMI will add Houston to its list of focus communities in early 2013. This is embargoed information.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative (CDI)

Rwanda (CHDI)

Construction of the soybean factory is 70 percent complete and is projected to be complete in June/July 2013. The boiler arrived at the site last week. From December 22 to January 2, work on the site will be put on hold for the holidays.

Regarding the AGRA project, planting is now complete and crops look good in the areas that received rains. The AGRA representative who visited the site last week was very pleased with the progress on the field and the way CHDI has set up its demos. CHDI's report for the AGRA project last semester has been sent to the AGRA headquarters.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative (CGSGI)

CGSGI is concluding 2012 with some key accomplishments, including:

- Completion of over 47,000 cataract surgeries in Peru with the 50,000 goal expected to be reached by March, 2013 and at a cost of $160/surgery, which is $40 less per surgery than the original targeted cost of $200.

- Training and certification of 5,300 construction workers in Colombia, exceeding the 5,000 target.

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- Investment approval of two new ventures in Cartagena, Colombia including 1) creation of a Manpower Training Center that will train over 20,000 low income residents over the next ten years for jobs in the hospitality and other sectors and 2) creation of a Supply Chain Impact Enterprise for the purchase and collection of produce, fish and seafood from small vendors and producers for market and distribution to hotels, restaurants and supermarkets. This new venture will create over 1,000 jobs and impact over 4,000 beneficiaries.

- Restructuring of CGSGI's strategy to achieve scalable, sustainable and measurable results in poverty reduction through the creation of supply chain impact and distribution enterprises that provide poor communities gainful access to markets.

- In addition to the supply chain impact enterprise being formed in Cartagena, CGSGI is developing new projects or pilots that will lead to other potential impact enterprises including a hotel supplier network in Cusco, Peru, a small supplier network for one of Peru's largest supermarkets, and the piloting of an agro value chain opportunity in India with the prospect of benefitting 10,000 farmers.

As you know, CGSGI also hosted a successful Fair Trade summit in December along with the Skoll Foundation and the Avina Foundation. Approximately 40 stakeholders attended including representatives from corporate bodies (e.g. Green Mountain Coffee, Whole Foods, Walmart), NGOs (e.g. Heifer International, Catholic Relief Services), and beneficiaries from Rwanda, Haiti, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. The goal of the summit was to discuss the collaboration and commitments required to take Fair Trade's impact to scale. Both you and Frank Giustra participated in the Summit.

Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

On Thursday, December 20, New York City Comptroller John Liu announced in his State of the City address that an *additional* $1.5 billion or more has now been allocated for the AFL-CIO/AFT CGI America Commitment by New York City public employee pension funds. The funds making these additional allocations represent the NYC Local of the Teamsters, AFSCME, and Transportation Workers Union as well as the Firefighters and Police. This should bring the total raised for the entire commitment well above $4 billion out of the $10 billion original commitment. This follows up on your announcement in a press conference last week of a $1 billion allocation to new investments in infrastructure projects.

On Friday, December 14, as part of the year-round programming in the Response and Resilience Track, CGI held a convening to discuss where collaboration is most needed as we transition from immediate response to reconstruction post Hurricane Sandy. Mayor Mitch Landrieu of New Orleans shared lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. John Liu, Comptroller of the City of New York, and other federal, state and city government officials from New Jersey and New York along with more than 40 CGI members attended.

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 6/23/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: NATO, Russia, and the West | Conversation with U.S. Air Force Sec | Tech Entrepreneurship

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

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GMF's World Wire

June 24, 2015

After Ukraine, NATO's Chance for a New Normal



Derek Chollet
Listening to politicians and pundits on both sides of the Atlantic, it would be easy to conclude that U.S.–European relations are suffering a major crisis. Yet the reality is better than it seems, and at the same time more complicated. | *Defense One*

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What's Ahead for Russia and the West?



Joerg Forbrig
An optimistic era in Russian-Western relations has ended. Several scenarios for the changing relationship between the West and Russia are outlined.

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Transatlantic Academy 2016 Fellows Announced



The Transatlantic Academy announced its new 2015-16 fellows who will research "Russia and the West," producing recommendations that outline Western policy options regarding Russia.

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Tweet of the Week

@braderstorf :
If you read one explanation of where #TPP stands, make it this one from @The_Dialogue board member Jim Kolbe @gmfus http://www.gmfus.org/blog…

RETWEET

Conversation with U.S. Secretary of the Air Force



On June 17, GMF hosted a conversation in Brussels with U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. James offered her vision of the global security challenges.

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Challenges of Tech Entrepreneurship



On June 18, GMF hosted a roundtable discussion with board member Chris Schroeder in Berlin on the opportunities and challenges of tech entrepreneurship.

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 4:15:15 AM
Subject: Re: TWEETS 5/1

BREAKING: "The state attorney of Baltimore, in a unexpected announcement, said Friday that she had probable cause to file homicide, manslaughter and misconduct charges against the police officers in the death of Freddie Gray, who died after sustaining a spinal cord injury while in police custody.

In a news conference Friday, the state attorney, Marilyn J. Mosby, said that the death of Mr. Gray had been ruled a homicide and the police had been negligent in his death.

“We have probable cause to file criminal charges,” Ms. Mosby said. As Ms. Mosby spoke outside the War Memorial here, dozens of police officers dressed in riot gear stood nearby."- NYT

Her statement has been met with an outpouring of support on Twitter. Including:



TWEET:

Commend efforts of @MarilynMosbyEsq to seek justice for Freddie Gray and for the youth of Baltimore.

Note: "justice for the youth of Baltimore" echoes a line from her press statement. Could wait until HRC makes a statement if you're worried about getting out ahead of her.

On Fri, May 1, 2015 at 10:25 AM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> *Note: my new goal is to send a second round of Tweets in the PM to respond to campaign developments throughout the day.*
>
> TWEETS 5/1
>
> New study: ice-loss in Antarctica increased 6 bil tons/year each year from 2003 to 2014. Cap melting faster than ever. tp://bit.ly/1JegM3y (140)
>
> If you can't keep track of Schweizer's fabrications, distortions in "Clinton Cash" @MediaMatters can help: http://bit.ly/1GCbj3A (137)
>
> RETWEETS 5/1
>
> *Suggestion from KLC:*

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US Dept of Interior @Interior · 22h

Check out the Share the Experience photo contest winner: Polar bears at Arctic #WildlifeRefuge by Gregory Teller



193 226 View more photos and videos

--
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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/28/2008 4:44:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain/Palin Rally in Hershey, PA 10/28/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Jacob, on the ground in Hershey, PA. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights
[McCain Highlights]

- 2 mavericks don't always agree, but it's a lot of fun
- Says Obama has made a lot of promises. first he said people making less than $250k would benefit from his plan, then this weekend he announced in an ad that if you're a family making less than $200k you'll benefit -- yesterday in PA Biden said tax relief should only go to "middle class people -- people making under $150k/year."
    - Says It's interesting how their definition of rich has a way of creeping down. At this rate, it won't be long before Senator Obama is right back to his vote that Americans making just $42k / year should get a tax increase
- says Obama wants to punish the successful, I want to make people successful.
- Chides: no one will delay World Series w/ an infomercial when I'm president
- Repeats Palin will reform old-boy network just like she did in AK
- Vows we'll fool the pundits and win PA - this state is independent and thats why we're gonna win
- Brings up obama's comments 7 yrs ago for "resdistributive change" -- Repeats line that Obama will be Redistributionist-in-Chief

[Palin Highlights]

- disrupted by Obama demonstrators -- repeats standard line that she's tempted to have them stay and learn something from all of you

Hershey, PA: McCain / Palin Rally 10/28/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- about 8000-9000 ppl (75% full, seats in 2nd tier and behind press risers mostly empty)
- People wearing Obama shirts stood up during Palin's speech w/ signs and were escorted out
- Tracker didn't see any demonstrators outside the event
- Mike Duhaime spotted walking around the press risers
- Before event, lights went down and videos of Palin speech excerpts (ppl being excited about her) and McCain biography (focusing on his time as POW and being tortured, McCain tells 'cross-in-the-dirt' story) were shown
- Intros
    - Tom Corbitt (AG) gives intro remarks - I cant wait to hear from McCain, and I definitely can't wait to hear from Palin (crowd roars)
    - State Rep. Jeff Poppola
- Straight Talk Express bus pulls into stadium to "Eye of The Tiger" -- Cindy, John, Sarah and Todd descend
- Cindy McCain intros McCain

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Speech Highlights
[Palin Highlights]

-
- Thank you so much. Thank you PA. It is so good to be here with you and to be here with the next first lady of the US first lady, Cindy McCain
- Alaska's first dude, commercial fisherman, production operator, great dad, 4 time world champion of Iron Dog.
- You are such a welcoming and patriotic state, I know we have patriots here. Raise your hands if you are veterans, let us honor you. We thank you for your service and sacrifice
- Come down to the wire here. PA, ready to carry this state to victory? Make John McCain next Pres? Send us to Washington to shake things up?
- A week from today will be our time for choosing [booing] [John McCain]
- I don't know, when we hear protests like that, tempted to tell security to let them stay so they can learn a thing or two from you.
- Need a leader with experience, good judgment, isn't afraid to use the word victory. Served for 22 yrs, POW. Kind of man I want as commander in chief.
- We know that when it comes to national security it is a given it must be JM.
- On our economy, you have such a choice. Our opponent not being candid. Not mean-spirited, not negative campaigning to call someone out on their record. In fairness to you, our voters. Hiding being agenda of redistributing your hard-earned money. Takes your money and gives it away according to politicians' priorities. JM, tax cut.
- Gotta hand it to Joe the Plumber. Got our opponent to state his intentions in plain language. Spread the wealth. Govt. taking your money, from small business, and doling it out. Joe Biden calls it patriotic. Joe the Plumber says it sounds like socialism. Not the time to experiment like that.
- Joe the chocolate maker. "I am Joe-mama". Yesterday, Tito Munos owns small construction company. "Tito the Builder" Not happy with roughing up Joe the Plumber. Tito question of his own, wants to know, why the heck are you going after Joe the Plumber? He has a future. He wants something else. Why is that so wrong? Immigrant from Columbia. Everything is possible in America. I made it, and Joe can make it bigger than me. Born in Columbia, but made in the USA [USA]
- Tito isn't only McCain supporter who feels that way. Small business owners here with us. If you know what hard work feel like, and if you don't want your dreams dashed by Obama, then you're Joe the Plumber too. And we're all in this together. Doesn't sound like too many of support Barack the Wealth Spreader. His attempt to distribute stifles entrepreneurial spirit that makes this greatest country on earth
- John McCain will lower your taxes, double child tax deduction, capital gains tax, cut business tax to keep businesses in America.
- Set this nation on course to energy independence. Drill here, drill now. [drill baby drill]. That's right, drill baby drill, and mine baby mine. Because we need American resources, brought to you by American ingenuity, by American workers.
- Our opponents put our faith in govt. John and I put our faith in you. We believe in R.R., forward movement of freedom, not constant expansion of govt. We believe that the best of America not all in DC. Here in kindness and courage of everyday Americans. Grow our food, teach our children, fight our wars. This is where the goodness is . America is not the problem. America is the solution. Shining city on a hill that Reagan used to speak of. Someone that inspires us with heroic deeds, not just words.
- PA, if you believe in what we believe in, shake up Wall Street, get economy on track, win the war- we need your votes. A week from now you're going to hear our opponents say they will fight for you. There is only one man in this race who has ever really fought for you. Only one man with the courage to keep on fighting for you.

[McCain Highlights]

-
- Thank you, thank you. Isn't this just going to be a marvelous vp of America? *You know, I couldn't be more pleased because of your enthusiasm. One place not enthused, old boy network. Palin will show them reform, like she did in AK.* When two Mavericks join up, we don't believe in everything. Todd broke his arm and finished the race, do you think he's afraid of anything in DC?
- Cindy McCain. A word of gratitude. *Tom Ridge, best governor. Friend and comrade.*

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- Wonderful to fool the pundits. We're going to win on November 4th. We can't spend the next 4yrs like the last 8. Waiting for luck to change at home and abroad. I've been fighting, have the scars to prove it. If I'm elected, will shake up Washington. I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it. Hold the line on taxes, cut them, double the child deduction, cut capital gains tax, cut business taxes. Raising taxes makes bad economy worse. Keeping taxes low creates jobs. Senator Obama will spend another trillion of your money. I going to make govt. live on a budget, just like you do. Freeze govt spending, except for defense, vets, social security, healthcare. Veto every pork barrel earmark bill. You will know their names. [no more pork] No more pork, that's right. Not going to bail out bankers and brokers that got us into this mess. Take care of people devastated by excess of wall street. Mortgage plan to your neighbor doesn't default. Stay with American dream of staying in your home.
- We're going to stop sending billions overseas to countries that don't like us very much . We're going to stop it. In debate, I paid a great appreciation to Obama's eloquence, gotta pay attention to his words. he said he did blah, blah,blah. We don't need to consider off shore drilling. Says for nuclear fuel, doesn't want to store or reprocess. We've been sailing navy ships around the world and its safe. Creating 45 new nuclear powerplants- create jobs. Clean coal will lead us, will create millions of jobs. Us and PA on coal reserves. [We want coal] You've got coal, that's right. And you've got independence, and you've got judgment
- We learned over last two weeks Senator Obama's plans because Joe asked him. When Senator Obama says he wants to spread the wealth around. Joe didn't ask for Obama to come to his house, to become famous, for political attacks form Obama campaign. Joe dream American dream. Attack on him is attack on small businesses. We need to support small businesses, not tax them. After months of campaign eloquence, we find out the real. *Obama said the tragedy of civil rights movement, it didn't bring back redistributive change.* Favors higher taxes on investment for fairness. [impassioned] Nothing fair about driving economy into the ground. More interested in controlling wealth than creating it. I'm going to create wealth for all Americans, by creating opportunity.. Sen Obama *redistributionist in chief.* I run for commander in chief. Obama spread the wealth, I create the wealth. Senator Obama punish the successful, I want to make people successful.
- Senator *Obama has made a lot of promises. First he said people making less than 250,000 dollars would benefit from his plan, then this weekend he announced in an ad that if you're a family making less than 200,000 dollars you'll benefit -- but yesterday, right here in Pennsylvania, Senator Biden said tax relief should only go to "middle class people -- people making under 150,000 dollars a year." It's interesting how their definition of rich has a way of creeping down. At this rate, it won't be long before Senator Obama is right back to his vote that Americans making just 42,000 dollars a year should get a tax increase. We can't let that happen.*
- We can't let democrats take control of Washington. We need pro-growth, not pro-spending. Fundamental difference, both disagree with Pres Bush, difference he thinks taxes too low, I think too high. Next pres won't have time to get used to the office.
- I will bring troops home with victory and honor, not defeat. *Ever heard victory pass Obama's lips? My friends, we're winning in Iraq. We'll win in Afghanistan. S*
- Senator Biden warned, Senator Obama with an intl. crisis. I've been tested, Senator Obama hasn't. Senator Biden said Jack Kennedy tested during Cuban missile crisis. I was on USS enterprise, I know, I don't need to be tested. Already know Obama won't have right response, wrong response the entire campaign. Sit down unconditionally with bad leaders.
- We will win in Afghanistan, our troops will come home. They will be proud, you will be proud. Pundits wrote us off, as they have before. Obama mapping out details with Pelosi and Reid to raise your taxes, measuring his drapes, planning his address. *No one will delay World Series with a statement when I'm president.* Guess I'm old fashioned about these things, I 'll let voters decide outcome. Someone who will fight to the end. Others way to love this country, I don't back down when the stakes are high. My friends, I know you're worried. Moment of national crisis that will decide our future. Will we lead economy, will our military stay strong, will our children''s future be brighter than ours. Yes we'lll be safer, yes we'll be stronger. I choose to fight. Fight for new direction, what's right for America, get economy out of ditch, fight for ideals of people. Fight for justice. Stand up and fight, America is worth for fighting for. Nothing is inevitable. Let's win this election and get this country moving again. [impassioned]
- [hugs Palin]

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 9/18/2015 11:44:34 AM
Subject: As Francis Takes Flight to Cuba, Obama Revises the Rules

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September 18, 2015

Dear Friends,

Pope Francis will land in Cuba tomorrow for a three-day visit for what the Vatican has called a "complex trip."

In the run-up to his visit, Cubans were able to prescreen a video from the Pontiff whose message was direct, open, and clear:

> "I would like to convey to you such a simple message. I think it's important and necessary. Jesus loves you very much. He seriously loves you. He carries you in his heart and knows better than anyone what each of us needs and craves, what our deepest wishes are. And he never abandons us. And when we don't behave as he wishes, he is always there, ready to comfort, to give us new hope, a new opportunity, a new life. He never leaves. He is always there."

Like John Paul II and Benedict XVI before him, Pope Francis is visiting Cuba believing he can make a difference - in the lives of faithful Cubans and in the normalization process between the U.S. and Cuban governments that was able to launch, in part, because of his support.

There's a sign in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston - One person can make a difference, and everyone should try - quoting a speech that today exemplifies the leadership that Pope Francis is trying to provide.

Much has been written about Francis's imminent trip to the island that demonstrates his seriousness of purpose and illustrates the ripple effects his visit can have.

The commentary reminds us that he is the first South American to lead the Roman Catholic Church, a native speaker of Spanish, the author of a book about John Paul II's 1998 visit to Cuba, and someone who has dedicated his papacy, as Andrew Chesnut reminds us, "to the periphery."

It is from this vantage point that Cardinal Jaime Ortega says the pontiff is paying "special deference" to the Cuban Catholic Church at a time when, as the Miami Herald reported , "interesting perspectives are being opened in our national life by the new possibilities of dialogue and mutual listening taking place between the United States and Cuba for the good of both countries and all of Latin America."

The opening, which Pope Francis helped make possible, is not the only motivating force in his visit, but it is present in its political and pastoral dimensions. The Pope is expected to raise his voice in favor of ending the U.S. embargo against Cuba - if not on the island, perhaps later in Washington or in New York at the United Nations where he will address the General Assembly - because, as the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin said, 'the Holy See had always opposed the trade and economic embargo against

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Cuba because it hurts ordinary people most.'

This is consistent with his history of John Paul II's visit. As Nick Miroff writes, "the book was critical of Cuba's version of authoritarian socialism, but it echoed John Paul's call for an end to the punitive U.S. trade embargo."

In his journey to and across Cuba, Pope Francis will elevate the role that Cuba's Catholic Church is playing in the pews, the places outside of Church, and the halls of power.

Quoting again the Miami Herald, "Since John Paul's visit in 1998 and Benedict's 2012 trip, the church has been consolidating its strength on the island and building on those papal visits to gain more space for its activities, which range from educating Cuba's budding private entrepreneurs in its Cuba Emprende program to running soup kitchens for the elderly and after-school programs for children."

Cardinal Ortega will be by the Pope's side, and for good reason. As Reuters explains, "Ortega negotiated the release of 126 political prisoners in 2010 and 2011. He also played a role last year in Cuba's detente with the United States, leading to the renewal of diplomatic relations after 54 years of Cold War hostility."

That has made the Cardinal controversial among U.S. hardliners who don't appreciate the extent to which the church has become "the largest non-governmental organization in Cuba," again quoting Reuters. In 2012, the director for Radio and TV Martí, Carlos Garcia-Perez, called Cardinal Ortega "a lackey" just ahead of Pope Benedict's visit, and the Cardinal has been under fire for his role in creating greater space for expression in Cuba.

It may be politically inconvenient to see the Church erase the black-and-white imagery with which hardliners describe Cuba, but that has not discouraged pilgrims from Miami, hopeful about the Pope's message of reconciliation, from making the trip to Cuba (some for the very first time) in order to hear and see Francis say Mass.

In fact, the last two Papal visits have changed Cubans' lives. Dionisio Garcia, the archbishop of Santiago de Cuba and president of the Cuban Bishops' Conference, told Reuters, "Things have improved for all religions. I believe the state's mentality has changed. There is more tolerance at the moment for religious practices. Not everything one would want, but it has changed for the better."

Not everything is better. Ahead of the Pope's visit to Cuba, Cuban police arrested protesters from The Ladies in White, as NBC News reported, but these detentions gain greater visibility because the Pope is about to land for a three-day trip to Cuba.

Three time zones away from the Kennedy Library, Senator Marco Rubio closed the debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library with the other candidates running for president, saying he'd fly Air Force One to Israel, South Korea and Japan, to show our allies "we stand with them."

Then, he'd fly to China "not just to meet with those adversaries of ours that are there, but also to meet with those that aspire to freedom and liberty within China." He said he'd fly into Moscow, meeting both with Putin and his opponents.

But, ultimately, he'd never go to Cuba on Air Force One, until its people "could choose its leaders and its own destiny."

It's a mighty contrast with how Pope Francis defines his leadership. He is acting to make a difference now; not to dictate Cuba's future from Rome (or have it dictated from Washington), but to put the pen in the hands of the Cuban people so they can write their own.

The Pope's plane lands in Havana tomorrow. Someday, Air Force One will land there,

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too. We suspect we will see it arrive before January 20th, 2017. Aboard will be a president who made significant changes in U.S. policy toward Cuba even today.

This week in Cuba News..

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS
U.S. issues new rules boosting travel, trade with Cuba; Countries close to pacts on mail service and flights
CDA Urges Secretary Kerry Halt to BBG's Regime Change Sitcom
New school to be built at Guantánamo Bay according to U.S. Navy contract announcement
Sony Music Entertainment signs major deal to distribute Cuban music worldwide
IN CUBA
Pope will touch on Cuba embargo during US-Cuba trip
"Social cleansing" and dissident arrests continue prior to papal visit
CARICOM seeks scientific collaboration in Cuba this week
CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS
President Raúl Castro will speak at UN General Assembly in New York
Jose Cabañas Appointed as Ambassador to the United States
China and Cuba sign memorandum to boost cooperation in tourism sector
Recommended Reading
The State of Cuba, Azam Ahmed and Victoria Burnett , The New York Times
Memo to Pope Francis: Cuba Wasn't All That Catholic Even Before Castro , Tim Padgett, WLRN
Pope of the Periphery Puts Cuba Front and Center , Andrew Chesnut, The Dialogue
Recommended Viewing
The Moral Perspectives and Policy Priorities of Pope Francis , John L. Allen Jr., Council on Foreign Relations
U.S. Kayakers Paddle from Cuba to Key West , WSJ

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

U.S. issues new rules boosting travel, trade with Cuba ; Countries close to pacts on mail service and flights

The Obama administration today issued new regulations further easing restrictions on travel to Cuba and doing business in Cuba, changes that will benefit people and businesses in the U.S. and on the island. Restrictions on certain remittances to Cuba have been entirely removed according to new Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) regulations.

Press reports also indicate that the U.S.-Cuba have agreed to the resumption direct mail service, with a civil aviation pact nearing completion. In a related development, Verizon Wireless announced it will be the first U.S.-based wireless company to offer roaming services in Cuba, beginning next week.

The new rules will be implemented on Monday, September 21.

According to the Associated Press , what is driving this progress is an agreement at talks that took place in Havana last week: "delegations from each side established a plan to settle a half-century of economic and legal disputes within the next 15 months."

Reuters reported the new rules:

- Allow U.S. companies to establish offices in Cuba
- Permit joint ventures between U.S. and Cuban firms and establish subsidiaries with Cuba
- Make it easier for airlines and cruise ships to import parts and technology to Cuba to improve the safety of their operations

According to the Wall Street Journal , the new rules also permit "U.S.

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telecommunications companies to open locations as well as bank accounts in Cuba."

The Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security has also updated its regulations "to authorize exports and re-exports of commodities and software to individuals and private sector entities in Cuba that will be used to develop software that will improve the free flow of information." OFAC further authorized the "employment of Cuban nationals to develop mobile applications."

The new rules governing trade will intensify commercial relations between Cuba and the U.S., invest more U.S. businesses in the process of normalizing trade relations, and build on the actions taken by President Obama in the wake of his historic December 17 announcement of restored diplomatic relations with Cuba.

The Associated Press explained the logic behind the changes:

> "Efforts to expand business, tourism and other exchanges have run into an overlapping thicket of U.S. laws and hindrances, not to mention an uneven response from Cuba's political leaders, the U.S. official said.
>
> "Many U.S. travelers still need to go on supervised group trips. Routine airline service hasn't satisfied various federal conditions. Cruise ships and ferries are still trying to finalize regular maritime routes with Cuban authorities. Credit card and other companies still can't transfer payments to Cuba. Telecommunications companies haven't been able to set up shop and get equipment to the island 90 miles south of Florida. And Cuba's government isn't even running its Internet connections anywhere near capacity levels.
>
> "The new U.S. rules should help cut through some of these bureaucratic hurdles, the official said, though he declined to describe all the legal changes in concrete terms."

According to news reports, "citizens of both the U.S. and Cuba will be able to send and receive letters and packages directly to one another for the first time since 1963."

A prospective agreement between the U.S. and Cuba on civil aviation would enable U.S. carriers to offer regularly scheduled commercial flights to the island, adding to the options for travelers who are now permitted to fly on federally-approved charter services. The U.S. and Cuba have not updated their bilateral agreement for flights since 1953. Additional flights would link logically to reforms expanding travel to Cuba.

The Washington Post reported today that for people-to-people or non-tourist travel - "visitors to Cuba for a wide range of allowed purposes, including business, religious, educational and people-to-people exchange - can now include family members, and travelers can open Cuban bank accounts."

Companies are continuing to use the reforms announced by the Obama administration in January to offer new services in Cuba.

On Thursday, Verizon Wireless said it will provide roaming service that will help make visits and business in Cuba easier. Verizon customers will be able to talk on the phone, send messages, and use data through the company's Pay-As-You-Go International Travel option, according to Miami Herald. Customers using a World Device can add the Pay-As-You-Go International Travel option "to stay connected while in Cuba."

Verizon Wireless joins other communications ventures like IDT Corp which reached an agreement in March with Cuba's Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba S.A. (ETECSA) to provide direct international long distance communication by telephone.

Most recently, on Wednesday, President Obama urged businessmen to pressure Congress to lift the Cuban embargo, emphasizing the "significant economic opportunities" created by renewed relations reports Fox News Latino.

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CDA Urges Secretary Kerry Halt to BBG's Regime Change Sitcom

The Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA) wrote Secretary of State John Kerry urging him to stop the project initiated by the Broadcasting Board of Governors to fund a ten-episode situation comedy to ridicule the leaders of Cuba's government and civil society.

We wrote about the BBG program in last week's news blast .

Secretary Kerry also serves on the Broadcasting Board of Governors by virtue of his office.

CDA questioned why the U.S. government was planning to fund programming transmitted to Cuba that ridicules the Cuban leadership at the same time that President Obama and the Secretary are working to reorient U.S. policy toward engagement and respect and away from previous efforts to undermine the Cuban government.

"More than a waste of tax dollars is at stake," Sarah Stephens, executive director of CDA said in her letter to the Secretary, the BBG program risks "confusing the overwhelming majority of Cubans, who want normalization to take place, and emboldening hardliners in Cuba who do not."

Earlier this week, Tracey Eaton , who unearthed the BBG solicitation titled "OCBSatire," reported that the deadline for submitting for programming proposals had been extended from Monday September 14th until today.

The New York Times and Pundit Wire also wrote about the regime change sitcoms. A piece about the controversial program appeared under Sarah Stephens' byline in the Huffington Post .

New school to be built at Guantánamo Bay according to U.S. Navy contract announcement

On Wednesday, the U.S News and World Report reported that the U.S. Navy is seeking a contractor to build a new school for dependents of U.S. civilian and military personnel working on base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Despite Cuban calls for the return of the base, Administration officials including both Roberta Jacobson , the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and National Security Advisor Susan Rice have said that Guantánamo Bay is not up for negotiation.

Although the Obama Administration continues to consider ways to close the Guantánamo Bay detention center, the administration contends that Guantánamo Naval Base still has "operational value" and new construction is likely a sign of the Administration commitment to maintaining the base.

On Saturday, the Houston Chronicle reported that efforts to close the detention center, a campaign promise of President Barack Obama in 2008, remain "frustrating." According to U.S. officials familiar with the process, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter recently notified Congress of two prisoner transfers, and has four more files set to go to Congress by the end of the month. Under the 2014 Defense Department authorization law , Congress has 30 days to review the transfers before they become public. Arrangements must be made to transfer the remaining 116 prisoners out of Guantánamo Bay prison before it can be closed.

The U.S. has occupied the forty-five square acre land adjacent to Guantánamo Bay since 1898 as part of the imposition of the Platt Amendment following the Spanish-American War. The U.S relies on the 1934 Treaty of Relations between the U.S. and Cuba as the basis for doing so.

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Sony Music Entertainment signs major deal to distribute Cuban music worldwide

On Tuesday, Billboard reported that Afo Verde, Sony Music chairman and CEO for Latin America, Spain and Portugal and Mario Angel Escalona Serrano, managing director of the Cuba's Empresa de Grabaciones y Ediciones Musicales (EGREM), signed a historic deal licensing EGREM's music catalog for global distribution. The catalog includes over 30,000 songs and 2,300 albums dating from 1964 according to OnCuba.

The agreement, signed in the historic Areíto studio 101, where Cuban artists have recorded since the 1940s, allows Sony to "expand international awareness and appreciation of Cuban culture, Cuba's rich musical heritage and its many wonderful artists" according to Doug Morris, chief executive officer of Sony Music Entertainment. EGREM's managing director echoed Morris saying that the deal would "give new impulsion to the worldwide diffusion of Cuban music."

Recordings included in the catalog are by artists like Bola de Nieve, Elena Burke, Ibrahim Ferrer, Compay Segundo, Celina Gonzalez, Cesar Portillo de la Luz, and Guillermo Rubalcaba, as well as groups like Aragon, Irakere and Los Van Van. While parts of this catalog have been licensed previously, this is the first time that a multinational company has acquired access to the entire catalog as part of a multi-year agreement.

EGREM is the largest record label in Cuba with 95 percent of the market. Sony made this agreement pursuant to the "informational materials" exemption under U.S. sanction rules for Cuba administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). This exemption applies to music and other works of art and is intended to promote free expression.

IN CUBA

Pope will touch on Cuba embargo during US-Cuba trip

Pope Francis leaves Rome for Cuba on Saturday, where a meeting with Fidel Castro is "likely" but still not scheduled.

On Thursday, September 17, a video of Pope Francis' message to the people of Cuba aired on Cuban TV, according to Cuba's state media. Gustavo Andujar, director of the Felix Varela Cultural Center (one of the main community outreach arms of the Archdiocese of Havana), told Associated Press that the state "has been coming to grips with the reality that they can't guarantee everything to everyone from cradle to the grave, " adding "More and more spaces are opening up each day."

During a trip lasting a total of 9 days, Pope Francis will visit three cities in Cuba (Havana, Holguín, and Santiago) and three in the U.S. (Washington, New York, and Philadelphia), reports La Nación. The schedule can be viewed here .Vatican officials say there is no symbolic significance in the Pope's decision to deliver most of his speeches in the U.S. in Spanish, but the decision to combine the U.S. and Cuba trip is more than coincidental; it is a way for the Pontiff to express support for the rapprochement between the U.S. and Cuba.

Pope Francis' remarks at the White House and first ever speech by a pope to Congress will be in English. The Vatican opposes the embargo; a position that the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference has expressed publicly for decades; their website has letters, statements, and testimonies on U.S.-Cuba relations dating back to 1989.

Pope Francis will deliver homilies in Spanish at a canonization in Washington, the Catholic Church's world family conference in Philadelphia, and Madison Square Garden, where Cuban American singer Gloria Estefan will sing at a headline show hosted by Archdiocese of New York before Pope Francis' September 25 Mass.

"Social cleansing" and dissident arrests continue prior to papal visit

Today, Cuba's Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation expressed "profound indignation" regarding the "social cleansing" of Cuba prior to the papal visit. In their press release, the commission estimates that thousands of poor and homeless

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Cubans have been removed from the streets in anticipation of foreign press surrounding Pope Francis' visit.

The commission explains that government actions are concentrated in Havana, Holguín and Santiago de Cuba- three locations in which Pope Francis will give a mass. Commission representatives ask that the Pope request the immediate release of those detained during the government's clean-up operation.

On Monday, El Nuevo Diario reported that Roberta Jacobson, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs tweeted that she was "Disturbed to see detentions of ladies in white exercising right to non-violent protest in #Cuba ahead of Papal visit." Jacobson's tweet came in response to arrests this past Sunday of 50 individuals participating in a Ladies in White protest according to Reuters . Detentions following mass have become common for the Ladies in White. Ladies in White leader Berta Soler told Reuters individuals with the organization plan to attend masses that Pope Francis will lead in Havana and Holguin while he is in Cuba from Sept. 19-22. The organization has asked to meet with the Pope but it is unclear if this is on the agenda according to PanAm Post .

Sunday's arrests came on the heels of a decision by Cuba's government to release over 3,500 prisoners prior to the papal visit in a gesture of goodwill as we reported here . Groups like #CubaNow expressed concern that the release did not include any political prisoners while calling the overall release "progress."

Jacobson's tweets echo previous concerns she expressed on Twitter like, "We will always speak out against violations of international human rights. These attacks can never be justified. #cuba." At the first meeting of the bilateral commission between the U.S. and Cuba this past Friday, the U.S. and Cuba agreed to a tentative timeline for continued discussion on key topics like human rights according to the U.S Department of State.

CARICOM seeks scientific collaboration in Cuba this week

Members of the Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) travelled to Cuba on Monday to discuss collaboration according to the Latin American Herald Tribune. Cuban news sources report that experts from CARICOM will meet with officials of the Cuban Ministries of Science and Agriculture, as well as visit the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, and the Center of Molecular Immunology.

The three-day delegation is headed by Professor Harold Ramkissoon, who is the director of the regional scientists' network, CARISCIENCE. The government of Grenada organized the trip; however, Cuba is not a CARICOM member. CARICOM comprises Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The U.S. is also interested in scientific collaboration with Cuba on topics like Cuba's cancer vaccine. Frances Colón, acting science and technology adviser to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, gave an interview in May during which he voiced strong interest for increased collaboration noting, "We should empower innovators wherever they are, because solutions can come from anywhere and will more often than not be an idea that is developed and tested by teams that span national and institutional borders. Given our proximity and shared challenges, U.S.-Cuba cooperation can benefit the people of both countries which is why we continue to pursue it."

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

President Raúl Castro will speak at UN General Assembly in New York

On Tuesday, the United Nations announced that President Raúl Castro will address the UN General Assembly on September 28 reports Reuters . This is President Castro's first visit as head of state and his only visit since 1959.

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A meeting between Presidents Obama and Castro on the sidelines of the General Assembly is not officially planned. The leaders first encountered each other at Nelson Mandela's memorial service in 2013 where they shook hands . This April, they met in Panama at the historic seventh Summit of the Americas which included Cuba for the first time since its inception in 1994.

The UN General Assembly meeting begins on September 25th. Pope Francis will give the opening speech of the meeting during his official visit to the U.S after visiting Cuba.

On Wednesday, Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez confirmed that Cuba would again present a resolution before the international community calling for the end of the embargo. According to Rodríguez, the resolution contains two paragraphs applauding renewed bilateral relations between the U.S. and Cuba and President Obama's support for ending the embargo.

During his press conference on Wednesday, Rodríguez explained that "Cuba appreciates and recognizes U.S. President Barack Obama's proposals towards lifting the blockade." However, Rodriguez estimated the total damage to Cuba from the embargo has been $121 billion, "an exorbitant figure for a small economy."

Cuba has presented similar resolutions before the UN for over 20 years. Last year, the General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in support of ending the embargo with 188 countries voting in favor. Only the U.S. and Israel voted against the resolution.

Univisión reports that 140 heads of state will participate in this year's UN proceedings. In celebration of its 70th anniversary, the UN General Assembly agenda includes a special summit where world leaders will approve global development goals for the next 15 years.

Jose Cabañas Appointed as Ambassador to the United States
The Republic of Cuba has formally appointed Dr. José Ramón Cabañas, who previously held the post of Chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington DC, to serve as Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Cabañas joined Cuba's Foreign Ministry in 1984.

He holds a B.A. in International Political Science from the Institute of International Relations "Raúl Roa García" in Havana, Cuba. He is the author of "Radio Martí: Una nueva agresión" ("Radio Martí: A New Agression").

The ambassador succeeded Jorge Bolaños, who started at the Interests Section just before President Obama's first term

China and Cuba sign memorandum to boost cooperation in tourism sector
On Wednesday, a memorandum of understanding to increase collaboration in the tourism sector was signed by Cuban Tourism Minister Manuel Marrero and head of China's National Tourism Administration Li Jinzao, visiting the island with a business delegation.

In June, Air China announced that it would begin operating direct flights from Beijing to Havana beginning this fall, bringing more Chinese tourists to the island. Cuba and China are creating joint ventures to diversify options for tourists by boosting real estate development and building golf courses .

Overall, China and Cuba's bilateral trade was worth $1.3 billion in 2014, with over $1 billion of that made up of Chinese exports to Cuba (mainly mechanical consumer goods, such as refrigerators, buses, and pick-up trucks, according to China's Foreign Ministry).

Recommended Reading

The State of Cuba , Azam Ahmed and Victoria Burnett, The New York Times
The feature highlights Cuba's change and contradiction through photos and paragraph entries on topics such as race, political freedom, tourism, private sector growth, economic growth, trade, and migration.

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Memo to Pope Francis: Cuba Wasn't All That Catholic Even Before Castro , Tim Padgett, WLRN
Even before Fidel Castro's communist revolution, Catholicism wasn't incredibly vibrant in Cuba, according to Padgett. One explanation is the Church aligned with the Spanish crown during Cuba's fight for independence.

Pope of the Periphery Puts Cuba Front and Center , Andrew Chesnut, The Dialogue
Cuba has been one of the focal points of the Vatican attention in Latin America. While the Catholic Church is a highly respected institution on the island, only 27% of Cubans are Catholic and most of them are cultural Christians.

Recommended Viewing

The Moral Perspectives and Policy Priorities of Pope Francis , John L. Allen Jr., Council on Foreign Relations
John L. Allen Jr., associate editor of the *Boston Globe*, discusses Pope Francis's moral perspectives and policy priorities in advance of the papal visit to the United States, as part of CFR's Religion and Foreign Policy Conference Call series.

U.S. Kayakers Paddle from Cuba to Key West , WSJ
U.S Olympians left Cuba to cross the Florida Straits to Key West on Friday, September 11. The American team attempted the 30-40 hour nonstop journey with the realization that "the symbolism is more important than the journey itself."

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jroberts@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/10/2008 3:57:29 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/10/08

Main Topics: McLobbyists, McAnti-Choice, McBush, McCan't rally the base

Summary of Shift: Tomatoes continue their reign of deadly terror on a sick nation amidst an enormous salmonella outbreak. The cable programs cover McCain extensively as their campaign focus remains strong. Minnesota receives much attention in the midst of its devastating flood.

Highlights
1. In interview McCain says he would extend unemployment benefits
2. Fiorina interviews
   a. Explains why she outsourced to Ireland, says Exxon-Mobil would benefit from McCain's tax policy
   b. Advocates for McCain's economic policy while attacking Obama
3. McCain and the right to choose
   a. Boxer slams McCain on women's issues
   b. McCain has kept his stance ambiguous to garner women's votes
   c. Emily's List call points to future troubles McCain will have with women's vote
4. Culvahouse
   a. Olbermann covers FEC complaint as part of McLobbyist story
   b. McLobbyist becomes part of the Obama VP story
   c. Fox News mentions the Culvahouse controversy, follows with McCain explanation
5. McBush problems persist
   a. Rising fuel costs and oil tax breaks link McCain to Bush, says Schuster
   b. Lizza concludes McCain has grown closer to Bush during election
6. Problems with the GOP enthusiasm persists
   a. Krauthammer mocks McCain's Carter attack
   b. Paul to hold his own convention
7. McCain and the economy
   a. Greenberg approves enthusiastically of McCain's plan to drill offshore
   b. McCain gets decent marks from CNBC's Larry Kudlow
8. Epstein alleges Obama's plans will hurt future retirees
9. Jindal repeats that he is not interested in VP position
10. The lighter side
   a. Jeanne Moost takes a sardonic look at McCain's green backdrop
   b. McCain's beer slip and 'It's a Google' remark
11. Robert Gates on CNN: We have no interest in permanent bases in Iraq [no clip]
12. Keith Olbermann did an extensive segment on Kucinich's effort to impeach Bush [No Clip]
13. Rachel Maddow debunks McCain's new attack calling Obama "Carter's second term", says "mostly what this does is remind Americans that John McCain was 40 in 1976" [No Clip]
14. "Hardball Big Number": Only 8% of Big Bush Donors Have Given to McCain [No Clip]
15. "CBS Evening News" and "NBC Nightly News" aired the back and forth between McCain and Obama on taxes [No Clip]

Clips
Highlight #1
In CNBC Interview, McCain Says He'll Extend Unemployment Benefits, Discusses Paying for Iraq and for his Budget Proposals (CNBC 06/10/08 2:16pm)
Part 1
MARIA BARTIROMO: We are in a slow growth period, plus we're facing inflation, oil, food. What's your plan to take us out of this?

JOHN MCCAIN: […] We have to keep taxes low. We have to make sure that we go to alternate fuels. I think wind, solar, nuclear has got to be accelerated. […] We have to make sure that we're not going to increase taxes. We've got to maintain our commitment to free trade. I know that you know that one of the really small bright

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spots, and maybe it has to do with the weakness of the dollar, which is a concern, is our exports […].

Senator Obama said he wants to unilaterally, unilaterally renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement. I am a free trader. The Colombian Free Trade Agreement. What message do we want to send? […] It opens up […] markets for […] American workers and goods and services. And we profit by importing from them as well. So we've got to re-emphasize our commitment to free trade. But we're gonna have to become independent on foreign oil. We have to extend the unemployment benefits. […] There's a lot of things we'll have to do to think outside the box because we all know Americans are hurting […]

BARTIROMO: […] You want to cut taxes. Here we are in the middle of a war, which you say is important to our national security. Why not ask people to pay for it?

MCCAIN: […] Sen Obama […] wants to increase capital gains taxes. There's 100 million people who have some kind of investment. […] The Iraqis will pick up a greater amount of the costs. As we succeed, and we are winning […], that will bring those expenses and costs down over time. […] If we did what senator Obama wanted to do, […] it would have been a lot more expensive in more than dollars.

BARTIROMO: […] What is your energy policy? Give us specific incentives that are going to get people to conserve and get automakers to make the products people want, fuel efficiency.

MCCAIN: […] investment in pure research and development. […] We need to […] make those research and development tax credits permanent […] We have to accelerate the whole process of building nuclear power plants. […] Clean coal technology is vital. […] We can become independent on foreign oil. […]

BARTIROMO: Where does the money come from, senator? I mean, right now we've got a $500 billion deficit that we're looking at. Even if you look at eliminate earmarking, that's only $60 billion. […]

MCCAIN: […] Reduce spending. Stop the growth of spending. In the 1980s we break the growth of spending and, therefore, we embarked, along with tax reductions, on one of the biggest eras of prosperity […] In all due respect […] $60 billion is a great deal of money […] Senator Obama has been involved in tens of millions of pork barrel projects. I've never asked for one or received one. […] We're gonna scrub every agency of government and make them justify their existence and if they can't they will go out of existence.

BARTIROMO: […] Name three programs you would cut right now.

MCCAIN: […] I voted against the farm bill, ethanol subsidies, start with that. Funding for a whole bunch of different defense acquisitions, which is very large. The sugar—
[…]

Part 2:
MCCAIN: We are very wealthy Americans in agribusinesses while Americans are struggling to stay in their homes. Help me out. (laughs)

BARTIROMO: […] The other day a senior Israeli official indicated that if Iran built nuclear weapons, Israel would attack it. […] What would you do in that scenario?

MCCAIN: I don't think we can afford to have Iran with nuclear weapons. […] We can join together and there's movement in this direction with all of our "democracies"--a league of democracies--impose meaningful trade, economic, diplomatic and every other kind of sanction on what is a very weak economy. […] Finally, […] I'd have lots of communications with the Iranians as we do now, but to sit down across the table without preconditions with Ahmadinejad, as senator Obama wants to do, I think would be a mistake of enormous proportions.

BARTIROMO: […] What's a bigger risk to the American people today? The slowdown or inflation?

MCCAIN: I think they are both inextricable. […] I'm very worried about the strength of the dollar. We all know when the dollar weakens the price of oil goes up, and by the way, could I mention one other thing, the gas tax

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holiday that I proposed? […] I think you're out of touch with America […] when you don't support such a thing and it was just a break. […]

BARTIROMO: You mentioned trade deals. […] What do you tell people who feel displaced by what's been going on with the rest of the world? […]

MCCAIN:. […] I tell them that unilaterally renegotiating any agreement with another sovereign nation is a serious threat to the entire fabric of international relations, particularly with china. […] I also tell them that I'm going to have a program for education and retraining of workers that works. […] There are green technologies. I believe in the fundamental strength of our economy, but I also know full well how tough these times are. […]

BARTIROMO: […] How are you going to get young people to vote for you?

MCCAIN: […] We've got to do a lot more appearances on "Saturday night live" […] and a lot of venues that Americans don't get up to watch the Sunday morning talk shows. But most […] I've got to convince them, and I've got a lot of work to do, [..] that i will hand to them a generation to this next generation a world that is safer and more prosperous […]

BARTIROMO: Tell me how you increase confidence in the U.S. and create friendships that were lost over the last few years?

MCCAIN: One of the first things that I would do is declare that the USA will never torture another person who is in the custody of the USA. […] I would also say that I would close Guantanamo Bay. I would also say that I will work together with our allies, our traditional allies, and we will come up with hemispheric trade agreements. I would love to see a US-EU free trade agreement […] I have personal relationships with these leaders all around the world. […] I've been involved in these issues for a long, long time.

Highlight #2

Fiorina Speaks about Outsourcing, US Presence in Iraq and Tax Breaks for Big Oil (CNN 06/10/08 5:13pm)

WOLF BLITZER: Joining us now is the former hewlett-Packard CEO, Carly Fiorina. She's a top McCain adviser. She chairs the republican national committee's victory campaign as well. […] Here's the main charge that Barack Obama is leveling against John McCain when it comes to the economy. Listen to this

BARACK OBAMA: I've said that John McCain is running to serve out a third Bush term, but the truth is when it comes to taxes, that's not being fair to George Bush. Senator McCain wants to add $300 billion more in tax breaks and loopholes for big corporations and the wealthiest Americans, and he hasn't even explained how to pay for them.

CARLY FIORINA: Well, first, while it's a good line, I think it betrays a fundamental misunderstanding of how the economy works on Barack Obama's part. The reality is that John McCain has proposed to lower the business tax rate from 35% to 25%. That's because we have the second highest tax rate in the world and that motivates businesses to take jobs overseas, which they have done. So, the tax rate in Ireland is lower. The tax rate in Singapore is lower. The tax rate in china is certainly lower. We need a competitive tax rate so businesses bring jobs back home.

BLITZER: Does it also include as Obama said Exxon-Mobil and the other big oil companies who are awash in record profits?

FIORINA: Well, his proposal to levy a windfall profits tax against oil companies will only do two things for the American consumer; limit supply and raise prices. Neither of which is very good. I'm talking about the tax rate for all businesses.

BLITZER: Including Exxon-Mobil and the other big corporations. [...] is Obama right when he says under a McCain administration Exxon-Mobil would get additional tax breaks?

FIORINA: No. What John McCain proposes is to lower the tax rate on all businesses. So that it is

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more in their interests to put jobs here in the US.

BLITZER: But no exemption for big oil and -- and no exemption for big oil, then.

FIORINA: No, no exemption for any businesses. On the other hand, big oil companies go where the oil is. So, you're not going to change their behavior much in terms of the tax rate, but you will change a manufacturing company's behavior. We sent jobs to Ireland when I was at Hewlett-Packard because the tax rate in Ireland was lower.

BLITZER: I understand the need to cut taxes if you want to compete globally, which is the point you're trying to make but—

FIORINA: Barack Obama doesn't understand that.

BLITZER: I'm sure he understands that but he also says Exxon-Mobil has got these billions and billions of dollars in record profits. They can afford to not necessarily get additional tax cuts.

FIORINA: But that isn't what Barack Obama's proposing. What Barack Obama's proposing is to tax the profits of oil companies. That's a different proposal and taxing the profits of oil companies would do two things—it would raise the price of oil, and it would lower the supply.

So, it's not a good proposal for the American consumer. On the other hand, John McCain said, 'I'm going to give the consumer a summer gas tax holiday by suspending the federal gas tax,' and Barack Obama opposed that even though the American trucking association is for it.

BLITZER: Hillary Clinton supported it as well and he opposed it.

FIORINA: So do the majority of Americans.

BLITZER: Here's another charge that he makes. I'll play this clip and then we'll discuss it. Listen to this

OBAMA: At a time when we're fighting two wars, when millions of Americans can't afford their medical bills or their tuition bills, when we're paying more than $4 a gallon for gas, the man who rails against government spending wants to spend $1.2 billion on a tax break for Exxon-Mobil.

BLITZER: All right, we were just discussing that, but the $1.2 billion tax break that he says Exxon-Mobil would win as a result of reducing the corporate tax rate structure across the board, is that an accurate number?

FIORINA: No, I don't know where he gets those numbers. It was $300 billion. It was $1.2 billion. By the way, yesterday he said he could pay for all his programs and less than 24 hours later he said if the tax increases would hurt the economy, he would consider postponing them because they clearly would hurt the economy.

I can't make Barack Obama's numbers add up but I will tell you this, having studied John McCain's numbers for quite a few weeks now, he will balance the budget by the end of 2013 and he is proposing a set of tax measures that will help small businesses grow, which is vitally important because small businesses create most of the jobs in this country.

BLITZER: He […] made reference to the cost of the war in Iraq right now. Here's how he phrased it in another part of this presentation. I'll play this for you.

OBAMA: I have a different vision for the future. Instead of spending $12 billion a month to rebuild Iraq, I think it's time we invested in our roads and schools and bridges and started to rebuild America.

BLITZER: You could do a lot of money with -- you can do a lot of good things with $12 billion a month.

FIORINA: There's no question and there's no question that the Iraq war is costing a lot of money and there's no

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question as well that as the troops are reduced over time in Iraq that John McCain will put those savings toward budget deficit reduction but it's also true that Barack Obama has proposed no plan for how he is going to get out of Iraq successfully without creating genocide. He's created no plan—spoke of no plan, about what he's going to do on the ground now. So, to rhetorically link transportation in this country and the war in Iraq, it's a nice speech but it's not real.

BLITZER: I guess the question is how much longer will the American taxpayers have to shell out $12 billion a month or hundreds of billions of dollars a year or whatever it costs?

FIORINA: Well, I think they will have to continue to shell money out until we have a way to bring our troops home and leave a stable democracy in place. I think that is the sensible thing to do now, given the interests we have at stake in Iraq, in Iran, and in the Middle East and there's no question that we need to invest more in the infrastructure of this country but to simply say, 'I'm going to yank the troops out immediately and put that money over to the federal budget,' betrays a misunderstanding of how the federal budget is put together, and also it's a naive approach to a very complex situation on the ground in Iraq.

Fiorina Attempts to Link Obama to Bush on Energy Bill, Discusses McCain-Big Oil Relationship, Corporate Tax Break (MSNBC 06/10/08 3:34pm)
NORAH O'DONNELL: […] Answer that charge that Barack Obama just laid out that John McCain has proposed $300 billion in tax breaks and he doesn't have a way to pay for it. […]

CARLY FIORINA: Well, it betrays a misunderstanding on Barack Obama's part of how the economy works. […] The U.S. has the second highest tax rate in the world for businesses. And what that means is that businesses are motivated to take their jobs overseas where the tax rates are lower. For example, to Ireland, to Singapore, to China. […] So it's not a corporate loophole. What John McCain is proposing is to make our tax rate here in the U.S. competitive so that American businesses bring jobs back home.

O'DONNELL: How do you pay for it without ballooning the deficit?

FIORINA: Well absolutely you can't balloon the deficit. And that's why John McCain has not only proposed a series of economic plans that will restore prosperity to our economy, but a series of programs to bring real reform to Washington. Washington has to be reformed. The size of government has ballooned 55% in the last eight year alone. […]

O'DONNELL: Let me ask you how John McCain would respond to like a Democratic campaign ad which just said, you know, when George Bush took office gas was $1.47 a gallon. It's now $4 a gallon, and you're planning on voting for another Republican. How does John McCain make an argument against that?

FIORINA: Well I think he one of the arguments he would make against that is a President doesn't have a lot to do with the price of gas. But […] more importantly what he would say is, why is it then that Barack Obama voted with Vice President Cheney and President Bush on this recent energy bill, which John McCain opposed? Why is it then that a Democratic Congress, which has the lowest approval ratings of Congress--even lower almost than President Bush--that Barack Obama has sided with that Democratic Congress? I think there's lot office evidence to suggest that John McCain is not President Bush and I think there's evidence as well to suggest that Sen Obama, who has voted to increase taxes 94 times in 3 short years in the U.S. Senate is a fairly traditional tax-and-spend liberal.

O'DONNELL: […] In the Senate today. There was an effort by the Democrats to impose a windfall profits tax on the oil companies, the Democrats say that since President Bush took office the oil companies have made over $600 billion. John McCain voted against that. Is John McCain on the side of Big Oil companies like George Bush and Dick Cheney?

FIORINA: No, that's not exactly balanced question, I would say, Norah. But, look, […] if we want to wean ourselves off of foreign oil, […] then oil companies must be motivated and incented to look for and refine more oil. And you don't achieve that motivation by taxing their profits. Again, this betrays in my judgment as a businesswoman, a fundamental misunderstanding on Barack Obama's part about how the economy actually works and how businesses make decisions.

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O'DONELL: […] And as always, we play devil's advocate on the show. That's how we try to elicit good answers from our guest.

FIORINA: I understand.

Highlight #3
Barbara Boxer Slams McCain on Women's Issues (CNN 06/10/08 6:14pm)
BARBARA BOXER: […] I double-checked John McCain's record. He has a zero on a woman's right to choose. Now you have to be pretty, pretty far right to be a zero on a woman's right to choose and—

WOLF BLITZER: He opposes abortion rights and Obama supports abortion rights. that's important for a lot of women, and men as well […].

BOXER: […] He wants to criminalize the right to choose. He wants to overturn Roe v. Wade. That will take us back to before the '70 s. He has a zero record on funding the victims of domestic violence. He has a zero record on equal pay for equal work.

He didn't even show up for the last vote we had on equal pay for equal work. So the fact is, yes, there's some people who are hurt and they feel bad, and I get it. Look, I've been in tough campaigns myself where I have had to support someone who won a primary and I was sad about it, but you've got to look at where we are. This isn't about me, it's not about the angry voter—and by the way, as far as women are concerned, the women shouldn't be angry, they should be proud because that glass ceiling has been shattered. Hillary said it herself. It's been shattered by her and shattered by Barack.

[…] I think things are so bad in this country right now whether you look at gas prices, food prices, the war in Iraq, you know, the foreclosure situation, people can't afford tuition, we have all of these terrible domestic problems, and we have a war with no end in sight, and our, you know, the way people view us in the world has never been lower. The table is set for a democratic victory, and I do believe that we democrats, the independent voters and many republicans really want change.

BLITZER: One final question about California. Some are suggesting, given around Schwarzenegger's popularity out there, twice-elected republican, moderate republican, working now hard for John McCain, he can maybe help that state go republican this time around. Is that a dream that the republicans have or is there any seriousness to it?

BOXER: Well, of course it's a dream that they have but I would like to shatter it at this very moment by saying that Arnold has—I like him as a person, but his ratings now are way down in the 30s , about 34, maybe low 40s, but more like upper 30s. The republicans are very unpopular at home. George Bush is unpopular.

[...] California is suffering mightily from many of the problems. Recession, housing problems, the war in Iraq, we've lost more than any other state. So we want change. So of course the republicans will try. I will never take California for granted for 30 seconds but at the end every time day, we'll be bluer than ever because we have a great candidate. They have a candidate who would take us back to the past, doesn't rep the future and that's what I think.

BLITZER: The McCain campaign is immediately responding to something we just heard Senator Boxer say regarding the senator's claiming that McCain gets a zero on women's issue. The McCain campaign sent CNN this statement, and let me read it to you.

"Senator Barbara Boxer is misguided. Not only is she off base in many of her charges about John McCain's record, Senator Boxer ignores the fact that Barack Obama opposes school choice for families, flexible health care for women but supports unconditional meetings with rogue leaders and higher taxes on family budgets. All of those are key issues for women."

Immediate response from the McCain campaign.

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Carlson Says McCain's Appeals on Women's Issues and on McSame as Carter Weak, But Women Don't Know Where McCain Stands (MSNBC 06/10/08 1:23pm)
MARGARET CARLSON: […] Women don't really know where John McCain stands. Because he's not a movement conservative, and he's not pro-life in an intense way. […]

ANDREA MITCHELL: Well he's been pro-life all of his legislative.

CARLSON: His votes are all pro-life. But he's not, like, in the movement. And Tony Perkins yesterday was telling me how his lack of intensity makes them doubt him but makes women think, oh he's not gonna appoint judges we don't like. And he once said, he wouldn't overturn Roe v. Wade. He once said that; that's not necessarily his policy. But he did give a speech a few months ago about the judges he would appoint. […] A very tough speech. So, you know, is he going to keep it hazy, hoping that women don't quite get it? […] The only time [women] want Republicans is when they're scared. And if there's a national security event, that helps McCain with women. But I don't think issues do.

MITCHELL: And right now they're more scared about prices at the pump and at the food store.
[…]

[photograph of Hillary and McCain on a boat c/o johnmccain.com]

MITCHELL: Let's took a look right now at the John McCain website, which so clearly shows the appeal he is trying to make, trying to show himself and Hillary Clinton, talking about how affectionate they are […]. Does that work?

CARLSON: […] I just don't know if a few snapshots are going to help you […]
[…]
MITCHELL: Who has a better message to the American voter right now on energy? […]

(video clip of McCain)

MITCHELL: He's trying to remind people of the Carter years, the 70s, the gas lines. […] Who remembers that, though?
[…]
CARLSON: The Bush Third Term is far more frightening.

Michael Crowley Brings Up CAP-Emily's List Tomorrow As Proof that Democratic Women Won't Vote for McCain (MSNBC 06/10/08 5:45pm)
MICHAEL CROWLEY: I think five months is a long time [for the party to heal and for Democratic women to rally to Obama]. Your already starting to see, just on my way over, the Center for American Progress are doing a press call, Ellen Malcolm of Emily's List, Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, who's a prominent Hillary Clinton Supporter, press conference on John McCain's record on women's issues. And you're gonna hear the word Supreme Court, Supreme Court, Supreme Court.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: Well Ellen Malcom's out there already?

CROWLEY: She's coming out...

MATTHEWS: Good to see her engaged again.

CROWLEY: It's not an Obama campaign event, Center for American Progress. But the issue is John McCain's record on women. They're not gonna be saying positive things.

MATTHEWS: That's faster than I thought.

Highlight #4
Olberman Highlights McCain's Lobbyist Hypocrisy With Culvahouse, and Donnelly's FCC

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Complaints (MSNBC 06/10/08 8:39pm)
KEITH OLBERMAN: Of course there is issue with taking a legitimate issue and inflating it beyond reason. Senator McCain's own man on this job, the one who will vet his vice presidential hopefuls, is former Reagan White House council Arthur Culvahouse. He has been a Washington lobbyist until about a month before joining the McCain campaign. That according to the newspaper, The Hill.

Mr. Culvahouse, a partner at the law firm of Olmeldehy & Myers and in that capacity he has lobbyist for various organizations since 1999, like Lockheed Martin in 1999 and TimeWarner in 2003, and as recently as 2004 he lobbied for Fannie Mae. All this according to public record. So if the accusations of the unpaid vetters are going to be an issue in this campaign, it would still seem Obama's hands are the cleaner. Especially in so much that ABC News reported today that a watchdog group has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission, asking for investigations of payments by a lobbying firm to McCain's Finance Director, Susan Nelson. And a separate inquiry into how a computer company, partially controlled by McCain campaign director Rick Davis, wiped out about 10 percent of the debt the McCain campaign still owed it.

McLobbyist, Arthur Culvahouse Gets Some of the Spotlight in Obama Story (CNN 06/10/08 7:27pm)
BRIAN TODD: Obama's campaign also points out a once high-powered lobbyist, Arthur Culvahouse who once lobbied for Fannie Mae is heading McCain's vice-presidential search team and a lower-level McCain advisor [either Wayne Berman or John Green] once lobbied for a sub-primer lender.

LOU DOBBS: […] The issue here is the role of lobbyists and the role of influence in Washington. Neither of these candidates to this point have done nearly even close to enough, in my opinion, to push back the influence of lobbyists on their campaign staffs let alone on the administration of one of these two senators.

McCain in Hot Seat Over Reports of Former Lobbyist Assisting in Vetting Vice Presidential Candidates (FNC 06/10/08 7:09pm)
SHEPARD SMITH: But now questions over one of the people reportedly helping McCain vet his candidates for vice president. Reports surfacing that the former White House Reagan council is a former lobbyist, serving McCain despite the candidate's anti-lobbyist stance. James Rosen is in the DC newsroom. James this all seems like tit-for-tat but what's the McCain camp saying about this in particular?

JAMES ROSEN: Tit-for-tat on the campaign trail? Shocking! McCain campaign communications director Jill Haselbaker, we spoke with her a few moments ago, she said, "The McCain campaign does not discuss its vice presidential process at any level. And has therefore never confirmed that Arthur Culvahouse, the former Reagan White House council that you mentioned, a former lobbyist as well, is in fact assisting the campaign in vetting possible running mates. The issue, Haselbaker went on to say, as political operatives will, is the hierocracy of the Obama campaign. Attacking Hillary Clinton for her chief strategist Mark Penn's Countrywide ties, despite the ties of Jim Johnson to that same corporation.

Highlight #5
"Hardball" Does Segment on Bush's Ineptitude on Energy Policy; Schuster: Rising Fuel Prices and His Tax Cuts for Big Oil Are a "Big Problem for John McCain" (MSNBC 06/10/08 5:15pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: [...] If you drive a car you know that energy prices seem like they're out of control right now. It was never supposed to be this way. In the Bush-Cheney Administration and that was the word, Big War Cheaper Gas. And the impact on the 2008 race could be huge [...]

DAVID SCHUSTER: Today the average price of gasoline went up again [...] The four dollar mark for gasoline is another blow to the legacy of President Bush, a former oil man, who just five months ago scoffed at predictions prices would reach this high [...] Energy policy was supposed to be President Bush's strength. While running for president in 2000 he spoke of his industry experience and declared that if oil supplies got tight he would get countries in the Mideast to "open up the spigot." And vice-president Cheney, who ran energy giant Halliburton before joining Bush, was so confident at his expertise that he led an energy task force in secret and dismissed all criticisms. But gas prices today are more than twice what they were when President Bush and Vice-President Cheney took office [...]

Voter anger over rising fuel prices could be a big problem for John McCain. On top of being tied

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politically to President Bush, McCain is proposing tax breaks for energy corporations. McCain says they will help the companies invest in crucial research that could locate new energy sources and lower prices. And today McCain attacked Barack Obama for proposing new taxes on corporations and individuals [...]

Olbermann pokes fun at McCain's "Beer" gaffe, Explores McBush Economics and McCain's Flip-Flop on the Bush Tax Cuts (MSNBC 06/10/08 8:20pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: [...] And for a second it sounded like he was supporting the reintroduction of prohibition [...]

[Video of John McCain]

JOHN MCCAIN: Too many Republicans in Congress became indistinguishable from the big spending Democrats that they used to oppose. The only power of government that could stop them was the power of the veto and it was rarely used. If that authority is entrusted to me I will use the veto as needed, I will veto every single beer, er bill with earmarks.

OLBERMANN: Or beer marks. McCain's slip on the 18th amendment was possibly a Freudian reference to his wife's wealthy family, which owns a beer distributorship [...]

RYAN LIZZA: [...] McCain has had a long evolution over the last eight years on tax cuts. In 2000 he represented a completely different wing of the Republican Party. He ran to the left of George Bush on taxes, he was a deficit hawk, during the run up to the war the same thing. He was arguing that we shouldn't cut taxes in wartime. As he came closer and closer to his party's nominee he became more doctrinaire on this issue and look, let's be frank he couldn't have been elected, he couldn't have won the nomination unless he had changed his position on tax cuts and embraced the Bush tax cuts [...]

OLBERMANN: But that necessarily leads him to the position where he opposed the tax cuts, the Bush tax cuts when they were popular and now he's defending them when they're not popular [...]

Highlight #6
Krauthammer Mocks McCain's Carter Third Term Quote, Wants McCain to Push for Drilling in Arctic (FNC 06/10/08 6:44pm)
CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER: McCain's okay with making this claim with a teleprompter. But when he's on his own, all he does is repeat slogans, is that Obama's a tax and spend liberal as in the 60s and the 70s. I wouldn't bring up the 60s and 70s, because first of all, nobody under 50 remembers the 60s, in fact a lot of the people over 50 don't remember the 60s for other reasons. And secondly, the 60s was a time of prosperity. And the 70s, you know, Republicans were in office until January of 77.

So it's a hard argument to make, and then he says Obama's going to be the third Carter campaign. Well that doesn't really ring a lot because the last Democratic administration wasn't Carter it was Clinton and his economy was relatively strong. I think McCain has to get away, look, he'll fight Obama to withdraw on taxes. But he's got to do a bold thing, and I think he can win the economic argument by going after energy and gas.

That's what's hurting, that's why American's are angry, high gas prices. He ought to say, two years ago with gasoline at $2 dollars a barrel I was against drilling. Conditions have changed, I have changed. Obama isn't the guy who changes, he's stuck in the past. We have to drill in the arctic, we have to drill domestically. And every American understand if you get American supply, we're going to be energy independent and the price will come down. It's a case he can make, the Republicans are making in Congress, but McCain has disarmed himself.

Ron Paul to Hold His Own Convention, Claims Republican Party Has Lost Its Way and is Losing the Election (FNC 06/10/08 4:35pm)
RON PAUL: [...] I think that we've lost our way, our party is weak, we're losing our numbers, we're losing the election. And I think it's because we've lost our way. We've changed our foreign policy, we essentially act like democrats. So, no, I'm not driven in any way by anger as much as

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frustration that I think the Republican party doesn't even live up to it's platform. If you look at what I stand for and for what I vote, I'm really pretty darn close to the Republican platform and what they profess they believe in.

NEIL CAVUTO: Well, philosophically they say that you're going to be hurting John McCain by doing this. Do you care?

PAUL: Yeah, but we're not going to be hurting our philosophy. We're going to be asking them to reconsider their positions on taxes, on the environment, on immigration, and all these positions that the party has drifted from. And certainly I've always challenged the foreign policy of the last several years. I'm still defending George Bush's foreign policy of 2000 where he won on a humble foreign policy with no nation building and no policing the world. So all I'm asking for is the people, the republicans and conservatives, to look at what we're saying and ask the party to come back to its roots.
[…]

Highlight #7
Greenberg Applauds McCain's Economic Ideas and Plans to Drill Offshore (CNBC 06/10/08 8:30pm)
HANK GREENBERG: Look I think McCain has got a very good energy policy. One, he would like to see us drill more offshore, where we have lots of oil off the coast of Florida and California. And I think his plan to share the revenues with the states, where before they have resisted, I hope they will not now.

The second, he wants a lot of alternative energy sources. Wind, solar, bio-fuel, all of that. These are all things, in the meantime, while we're spending a lot of money on research to accelerate new sources of energy. He's got a comprehensive policy rather than just a distorted policy. It's a very comprehensive plan. And I think it'll work.

Kudlow Grades McCain's Economic Speech Well, Wants More Oil Drilling And Support for Corporations (CNBC 06/10/08 8:51pm)
LARRY KUDLOW: I think McCain gave a good speech today John. It's basically a supply side speech on taxes and spending cuts. I think he's got to stay with it, stay with it and hammer home the differences. I think McCain needs to drill more oil, that's a big winner. I think he should quit bashing corporations. The main thing is, today was a really important speech for McCain. You could see he was all lit up in Maria's interview, he knows he did good. Can he hammer it home John? Can he make the sale?

Highlight #8
Julian Epstein Claims Obama's Plan to Tax Big Oil Will Hurt American's Retirement Plans (FNC 06/10/08 5:52pm)
JOHN GIBSON: Now Obama and McCain are squaring off against this, how will they find themselves arguing which one is better to get us out of a soft hole?

JULIAN EPSTEIN: Well McCain is definitely better and I'll tell you why Obama's is the wrong answer. Today in the senate you saw Democratic senators trying to raise the taxes on big oil. It's very easy to say, let's tax the profits on big oil. But what people don't understand is that a lot of these large pension funds, that a lot of your viewers right now have their retirement plans invested in, have put their investments in Exxon Mobil. This is a really big deal, they need to look and see where their money is.

GIBSON: So you're saying, you tax the company, you tax the shareholder value, you lose your retirement.

EPSTEIN: If you tax the company you tax the shareholders.

GIBSON: I'm not sure if I'm accepting that.

Highlight #9
Jindal Denies Interest in Being McCain's V.P. But Supports His Tax Plans (FNC 06/10/08 5:27pm)
MEGYAN KELLY: The thing that people know about you is isn't he on the short list for McCain's v.p.? What's the answer to that Governor?

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BOBBY JINDAL: Well, look. I've got the job that I want. I enjoy being governor. We've cut taxes 6 times, reformed our ethics laws and we have a lot more work to do right here in Louisiana. I'm supporting john McCain. I want him to be elected president. I think he will be selecting someone else. I've got the job I want. I'm honored to have been elected by the voters of Louisiana, during a very historic time. This is the best chance we'll have in our lifetime to fix the problems in our state, and I want to be a part of leading that effort.

KELLY: Let me ask you, Gov. Ted Strickland of Ohio just came out today, in respect to Obama's short list of Vice Presidential candidates, "If asked I will not run." As James Rosen put it, "a Sherman-esque answer". Will you say the same?

JINDAL: Look, I think that Senator McCain will ask somebody else, I think whoever he asks will say yes. I think he'll get his first choice. I think it be rude and presumptuous of me to turn down something, I've not been offered. We enjoy the Senator's visits down here, he was down here last week as well. I hope he continues to come down to Louisiana and other states as he makes his case to the American people. This is an important election, and I hope voters are paying attention. We got two likeable senators who have served our nation well. But they have fundamental differences on their policies and on their views. They need to pay attention.

KELLY: They really do, including on taxes. You mentioned that you have passed six tax cuts in just the last five months in your state, managed to get those passed. John McCain is now in favor of extending the bush tax cuts, wanting to make them permanent. Barack Obama is not. How do you see the issue?

JINDAL: This is such a fundamental issue. Today in Louisiana we passed our largest income tax ever. Over $300 million dollars going back to the tax payers. We've eliminated taxes on debt, new equipment, utilities. It's encouraging investment, encouraging the creation of jobs. We're in a 30 year low in unemployment, our economy's growing faster than the country's. You look at the two senators records, Senator Obama wants to raise capital gains taxes, income taxes, energy taxes. I worry about the impact that will have on our economy. I think we got two different views on the world.

KELLY: Help them understand why you say that is a problem. Cause I think a lot of middle-income voters hear that, capital gains tax and raising the income tax on the wealthy and they think right on, I want that.

JINDAL: Well, there are two problems with that. Number one, be suspicious. Whenever they talk about raising taxes like energy taxes or capital gains, or income taxes, we the average taxpayers end up paying more. The super wealthy almost have these ways to avoid paying these taxes.

Remember, it is the average American worker and taxpayer that gets the short end when they start raising your taxes. Secondly, you have a fundamentally different view of the world, one that says control spending, cut out the earmarks, the wasteful spending so you can cut our taxes, leave more dollars in our pockets. It comes down do you trust taxpayers or government to spend your money more wisely? I trust taxpayers, I trust the American families as their struggling to pay for their education, healthcare, gasoline, their mortgages. Cut their taxes and let them keep more of their own dollars and help the economy grow. We just believe in Louisiana that when you cut taxes and you control government spending, you can grow your economy and leave more money in the hands of America's hard-working families.

Highlight #10
Jeanne Moost Takes a Look at the Response to McCain's Green Backdrop (CNN 06/10/08 6:57pm)
WOLF BLITZER: The world may little note nor long remember what he said but critics certainly can't forget the setting for this particular John McCain speech. It had some of them feeling a little green around the gills. […]

JEANNE MOOST: […] Never has a color been so maligned. Called 'the lime green monster' by the left and 'dumb green puke' background even by the right all on a night when McCain's speech was being compared to Obama's. [Moost summarizes Colbert's invitation for viewers to insert their own backgrounds into the McCain speech and the ensuing responses.]

A senior McCain advisor says the green screen will not be returning. The campaign realizes it was a horrible visual. And look what the senator stood in front of Tuesday.

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MCCAIN: I will veto every single beer—bill with earmarks.

MOOST: If only they could get him to read a teleprompter better. Perhaps the ultimate insult about the white-haired candidate with the green background: it'll make you look like the cottage cheese in a lime jell-o salad.

McCain: Impressed with the Internets; Stumbles Comically in Speech (CNN 06/10/08 4:57pm)
WOLF BLITZER: […] McCain went on to say, 'It's remarkable what you can find out these days on the Internet.' […] he meant to say he would veto every bill with earmarks but the words 'bill' and 'earmarks' somehow morphed into [beer]. An honest mistake but it might raise some eyebrows in Cindy McCain's family that made it's fortune on beer distribution across the country.

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From:	"Jeremy Funk" <funk@americansunitedforchange.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	6/5/2008 8:50:35 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] McBush Judgment Problem Confirmed by New Senate Intelligence Committee Report

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: Jeremy Funk, 202.470.5878**
DATE: June 5th, 2008

McBush Judgment Problem Confirmed by New Senate Intelligence Committee Report

New U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee bipartisan Phase II report on pre-Iraq war intelligence concludes Bush Administration pre-Iraq war statements "on numerous occasions, misrepresented the intelligence and the threat from Iraq"

"The war, the invasion was not a mistake" -- Senator John McCain [NBC, Meet the Press, 1/06/08]

McCain Parroted Bush's Iraq Talking Points from Day 1

http://www.mccainsource.com/

McSame on...	Bush White House	McCain
... WMDs	**Bush Insisted Iraq Had Weapons of Mass Destruction.** During an address to the nation in March of 2003, Bush said, "Saddam Hussein has had a long history of reckless aggression and terrible crimes. He possesses weapons of terror. He provides funding and safe haven to terrorists who would willingly use **weapons of mass destruction** against America and other peace-loving countries." He added, "We will not wait to see what terrorists or terrorist states could do with weapons of mass destruction." [The President's Radio Address, 3/7/03; emphasis added]	**McCain: Hussein Continues To Acquire, Amass And Improve On His Arsenal of Weapons of Mass Destruction.** During a floor debate on the floor of the senate, McCain said, "Saddam Hussein continues to acquire, amass, and improve on his arsenal of **weapons of mass destruction**. He continues to attempt to acquire a nuclear weapon. These are all well-known facts. So if you believe that Saddam Hussein....is not going to abandon his request for his weapons, then the longer we wait, the more dangerous he becomes." [Asheville Citizen-Times, 10/13/02; emphasis added]
... Being Greeted As Liberators	**Cheney Said, "I Really Do Believe We Will Be Greeted As Liberators."** While appearing on *NBC's Meet the Press*, Vice President Cheney said, "I really do believe that we will be **greeted as liberators**. I've talked with a lot of Iraqis in the last several months myself, had them to the White House. The president and I have met with them, various groups and	**McCain Said "The Iraqi People Will Greet Us As Liberators."** While appearing on *NBC's The Today Show*, McCain said, "But I believe, Katie, that the Iraqi people will **greet us as liberators**. I believe that they will have an opportunity over time, and it will be difficult, to realize the same hopes and dreams and aspirations that every person in the world has and

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	individuals, people who have devoted their lives from the outside to trying to change things inside Iraq." [NBC, "Meet the Press," 3/16/03; emphasis added]	deserves the opportunity to live in a free and open society." [NBC, "The Today Show," 3/20/03; emphasis added]
... A Mission Accomplished	**Standing Under A "Mission Accomplished" Banner, Bush Declared An End To Major Combat Operations.** While giving a speech aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln and standing under a giant "**Mission Accomplished**" banner, Bush announced, "Major combat operations in Iraq have ended." [Associated Press, 5/2/03; emphasis added]	**McCain Said Capture Of Saddam Hussein Was A "Mission Accomplished."** During an interview on ABC News "This Week" McCain was asked about the capture of Saddam Hussein and the effect on US Forces. McCain said, "Their morale could not be higher. This is a **mission accomplished**. They know how much influence Saddam Hussein had on the Iraqi people, how much more difficult it made to get their cooperation. Every member of the military and civilian over there are rejoicing today. It was interesting to see Ambassador Bremer's emotion. It was well- deserved." [ABC, "This Week," 12/14/03; emphasis added]

McCain's "Judgment" on Investigating Intelligence Failures: Deny, Deny, Deny

McCain Voted Against Requiring The President To Submit A Report Regarding Pre-War Intelligence. In 2003, McCain voted to table an amendment that would withhold $50 million in intelligence funding from the bill until the president submits a report on the role executive branch policymakers had on the development and use of intelligence relating to the war in Iraq. The report would have to be submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House International Relations Committee and the Appropriations, Armed Services and Intelligence committees of both chambers. The motion to table passed 62-34. [H 2658, Vote #287 , 7/17/03]

McCain Voted Against Creating Iraqi Intelligence Commission. In 2003, McCain voted to table an amendment that would establish a 12-member independent bipartisan commission to examine and report on the role of policy makers in the development and use of intelligence related to Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The commission would be required to submit a report to the president and Congress within nine months of its first meeting on its findings and recommendations. The amendment also would authorize $5 million for the commission. The motion to table passed 67-32. [S 1689, Vote #395, 10/17/03]

McCain Voted Against Creating Iraqi Intelligence Commission. Senator McCain voted to table the Corzine Amendment, which would have created a 12-member independent commission to investigate the development and use of intelligence leading up to the war in Iraq. McCain voted yea. Motion to table passed 51-44. [HR 2658, Vote # 284 , 7/16/03]

McCain Would Have Done "Nothing" Differently In The Run Up To The War

2003: McCain Said He Would Have Done "Nothing" Differently In The Run-Up To War If He Were President. During an appearance on The O'Reilly Factor, Bill O'Reilly asked, "All right, Senator, if you were president, what would you have done differently in the run-up to this war?" McCain said, "Nothing." He added, "The president has handled this, in my view, skillfully." [Fox News, "The O'Reilly Factor," 3/18/03]

McCain: "The War, The Invasion Was Not A Mistake." In 2008, Tim Russert quoted Bush who said that he would have gone into Iraq even if there were no weapons and asked McCain if he would have gone into Iraq. McCain said, "I--

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yes, but the point is that if we had done it right, it's been well chronicled in many, in many books, you and I wouldn't be even discussing that now. The mishandling after the war. …The war, the invasion was not a mistake. The handling of the war was a terrible mistake." [NBC, Meet the Press, 1/06/08]

McCain Said The U.S. Invaded Iraq For Oil. During a town hall meeting in Denver, McCain said, "My friends, I will have an energy policy that we will be talking about, which will eliminate our dependence on oil from the Middle East that will prevent us from having ever to send our young men and women into conflict again in the Middle East." [Associated Press, 5/2/08]

2004: McCain: "I Still Believe That We Did The Right Thing By Going In There Because Saddam Hussein Had Weapons Of Mass Destruction." Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press" in April of 2004, McCain said, "But I still believe that we did the right thing by going in there because Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, had used weapons of mass destruction. If he was still in power, he would be trying to acquire those weapons of mass destruction. Now let's set that aside and say that the greatest threat that we face is a use of weapons of mass destruction against the United States by a terrorist organization." [NBC News, "Meet the Press," 4/11/04]



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Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday December 9, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Tuesday December 9, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Sacramento Bee opinion: Karen Skelton: "'Mockingjay' script offers tips for Hillary Clinton's campaign"

"Clinton is the right leader for this campaign at the right time."

Detroit News: "Mark Schauer looks back at failed bid"

"Schauer said he intends to get involved with the likely 2016 presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton. He co-chaired Clinton's 2008 Michigan campaign."

Washington Post: "A crowded GOP field for 2016 encounters donors reluctant to commit early"

"The upheaval on the right stands in stark contrast with the coalescing of major Democratic financiers behind the expected candidacy of former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton."

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton adds paid speech in March, complicating 2016 timeline"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has added a paid speech to her calendar in mid-March, complicating the time-frame for when she might announce a potential second run for the presidency."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton's March Speech Raises Timing Questions"

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"Hillary Clinton is scheduled to deliver a paid speech in March 2015, a point on the calendar that raises questions about when she will announce her decision on running for president and whether she intends to leave the Democratic Party uncertain of her plans until next spring."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "New race, old faces for Hillary"

"At a recent Ready for Hillary meeting in New York, many of the same players — including Harold Ickes, who served as senior adviser in the 2008 campaign, and even older hands such as James Carville and Paul Begala, who worked in the Bill Clinton White House — addressed hundreds of donors and supporters… Other former Clinton aides who are now involved in the pro-Clinton super-PACs Ready for Hillary and Correct the Record were also in attendance."

Politico: "Big Labor eyes Hillary warily"

"Their dilemma will be whether any of the underdog candidates can gain enough traction to nudge Clinton toward policies they want discussed, such as how to grow the middle class."

New York Times: "MoveOn.org Looks to Nudge Elizabeth Warren Into 2016 Presidential Race"

"The liberal group is poised to spend $1 million on a campaign to draft Senator Warren, the Massachusetts Democrat, into the 2016 presidential race, an indication of an appetite among some activists for a more progressive alternative to Hillary Rodham Clinton."

Politico Magazine: "Can the Left Launch Its Own Tea Party?"

[Subtitle:] "After the midterm debacle, liberal insurgents say it's time to upend the Democratic Party."

Wall Street Journal column: WSJ's Bret Stephens: "Hillary Clinton's Empathy Deficit"

"Her problem is that she appears to be a singularly lousy empathizer."

Articles:

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Sacramento Bee opinion: Karen Skelton: "'Mockingjay' script offers tips for Hillary Clinton's campaign"

By Karen Skelton

December 6, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

If you're a "Hunger Games" fan, you probably saw "Mockingjay – Part 1" over the Thanksgiving weekend, the third of the four-part movie franchise starring Jennifer Lawrence as the revolutionary leader Katniss Everdeen. As Hillary Rodham Clinton's inner circle now hunkers down to plot her probable presidential campaign, they would do well to memorize the script.

In the movie, Everdeen becomes the face of the populist revolution against the "Capitol" and its control over the fictional nation's economic and social infrastructure. In the 2016 presidential race, it is possible for Clinton to become the face of another bottoms-up economic revolution, one that makes history by forcing a dysfunctional and out-of-date government to do something about expanding the middle class. This revolution requires government to see the economy through the lens of women, which has never been done before.

Clinton is the right leader for this campaign at the right time. Recognizing the central economic role of women and girls has been a through line of her work for 40 years, as a young attorney, first lady, United States senator and secretary of state, where she championed an unprecedented number of programs to advance women's entrepreneurship and empowerment.

But there is nothing inevitable about this plot. No serious political operative or casual observer or hopeful friend thinks Clinton is going to have an easy time being elected president.

Her vulnerability lies in appearing inauthentic and unconnected to the very people she can help most. These are anxious voters far removed from Washington politics, marching to and from work, juggling child care and elder care, just trying to make ends meet. How can she let them know she understands what their life is really like when she's lived most of the last 30 years in a celebrity bubble?

Clinton's global iconic status has unfortunate consequences for a presidential candidate running on issues of fairness and economic mobility. Clinton cannot truly be connected to most people, and people cannot get traction with her, when they are separated by the motorcades, rope lines, security detail and staff surrounding her.

Clinton is tightly scripted and scheduled, with few opportunities to live like people whose vote she needs, people who grocery shop, drive cars and exercise with friends. In the bubble, there are handlers everywhere, pushing elevator buttons, handing you breath mints, whispering supporters' names into your ear before meticulously organized "meet and greets" with "real people." I know. I've done this duty hundreds of times as an inside-the-bubble staffer.

While a lot of Clinton's handling and separation is necessary and inevitable, it comes at a cost, especially to her. It deprives her of the connections to people who nourish her emotional memory bank and who will introduce her to stories that matter, because they illustrate the policy changes she speaks to. Without this sustenance, candidates become automated, less authentic and less appealing to voters. Voters stay home.

Confronting this problem of inauthenticity is where Everdeen and her team help Clinton most.

"Think of those incidents when Katniss Everdeen genuinely moved you … made you feel something real," instructed the revolution's tortured campaign consultant, played by Woody Harrelson. "You'll see that it was when no one told her what to do. She was unscripted."

When did Clinton make you feel something real? How about the moment in New Hampshire when she teared up at a local diner after the grueling Iowa caucuses she lost? Or the pure delight of looking into her infant granddaughter's eyes?

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These unscripted moments gave us a genuine view – and they are the moments that matter most to voters. It is no coincidence that Clinton came from behind to win the New Hampshire primary.

To lead the revolution she is so capable of leading, she must, like the Mockingjay, look for opportunities of spontaneity. There's a risk mistakes are made in unscripted moments – "we were broke after we left the White House" comes to mind – but they are mostly avoidable when caution is exercised.

And that is now her greatest challenge: to get into the field and be with the people who form the storyline of her narrative about women and America's economy. Clinton's folks should figure out how to use this time to allow her to go back to a stripped-down version of her life. How can she make a few anonymous visits to locations where men and women are living middle-class lives, being with them as they head to work at a minimum-wage job as caretakers in hospitals, waitresses or line mechanics?

It might take ingenuity and discreet planning to get someone as recognizable as the pope into normal life settings, but it might be one of the campaign's most important and fun assignments. Think of the decoys and disguises. It is all about seizing the opportunity to let Hillary return to Hillary.

Clinton, with her emotions recharged, will speak to fairness with renewed hunger and authenticity. Like the impassioned Jennifer Lawrence, when Clinton says "join the fight," Americans likely will.

Detroit News: "Mark Schauer looks back at failed bid"

By Chad Livengood

December 8, 2014

Lansing — One month after losing the race for governor, Mark Schauer is still searching for answers as to why Democrats stayed home on Election Day and passed on a chance to unseat Republican Gov. Rick Snyder.

Michigan Democratic Party leaders have begun analyzing election data to figure out which voters turned out to the polls or returned an absentee ballot and which ones did not.

Turnout in the Nov. 4 general election was 3.18 million, nearly 80,000 fewer voters than the 2010 election turnout when Republicans took control of all three branches of state government. Schauer and other Democrats never envisioned turnout being worse than 2010.

"The mystery is why turnout was less than 2010," Schauer said Monday in a wide-ranging interview with The Detroit News. "I think if we had had a turnout anywhere close to turnout in 2006, I'd be Gov.-elect Mark Schauer right now. I have no doubt about that."

The 2006 contest was a national wave election for Democrats, drawing a record 3.8 million voters to cast ballots in Michigan and carrying then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm to re-election victory over Republican businessman Dick DeVos.

"The evaluation that I'm interested in is why Democrats don't vote in midterm elections near to the level that they do in presidential elections,"

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Schauer said.

In one of his first interviews since losing the election, Schauer said he believes his campaign “controlled the narrative” on education funding and Snyder’s controversial tax on some pension income.

But as campaign manager BJ Neidhardt reminded him after the 4 percentage point loss: “There are no moral victories.”

“I agree completely. We lost,” Schauer said in an interview at the Michigan Laborers District Council’s office in Lansing. “But if I had a crystal ball, it would be about figuring how we can better connect with those voters that didn’t vote and turn them out.”

Schauer, a former congressman and state legislator from Battle Creek, said he’s participating in a “post-mortem” study of election data with other Democratic Party leaders.

But Schauer says he has no future political “agenda,” only an interest in helping his party win races in future midterm elections when the balance of power in Lansing is determined.

“It’s unlikely I’ll be on the ballot again as a partisan candidate,” said Schauer, 53.

Bobby Schostak, chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, said Schauer’s search for answers about the lackluster Democratic turnout may be fruitless.

“It really is no mystery as to what happened here,” Schostak said Monday. “We turned out our voters, we had a better candidate and we had Michigan recovering under this governor.”

The Secretary of State’s Office released the qualified voter file Thursday, detailing who voted and who did not. Political operatives in both parties are scouring over the data, comparing the names of voters who cast ballots with the ones they appealed to this fall through door knocking, phone calls, emails and social media.

Based on that data, the Michigan Republican Party has determined that about 250,000 Republicans who didn’t vote in 2010 cast ballots this year, which may have aided Snyder as it was assumed he would lose some Democratic and independent votes he won in 2010.

Snyder defeated Schauer by about 128,000 votes.

“Not only did we get our folks vote, but I’m sure we got some soft Democrats to vote with us as well,” Schostak said. “We knew going into 2014 that we have to be focused on turning out our base.”

Schauer’s one regret

Schauer said one of his only regrets of the campaign was skipping a press conference after his Oct. 12 debate with the governor at Wayne State University.

Snyder and Schauer had both agreed to talk to reporters separately after the debate co-sponsored by The Detroit News.

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Schauer said he skipped the appearance because he wanted to spend time backstage with his wife, sister and family before heading to another late-night event.

“If I had a do-over in the campaign, that would be it,” Schauer said. “I regret not sharing my positive feelings about the debate with the press.”

Schauer later added jokingly: “I should have taken my victory lap.”

Schauer defends campaign approach

During the campaign, some fellow Democrats joined Republicans in criticizing Schauer’s lack of a specific governing plan.

They said he was not offering enough specifics about how he would pay for repeal of a tax on pension income that generates $350 million for the state’s coffers or how he would put more money into K-12 education without raising taxes.

Schauer defended his campaign’s approach.

“I don’t think there’s any question that we provided more specifics in a more specific jobs plan than Rick Snyder did about what he would do in a second term,” Schauer said. “I would challenge anyone to say what did Rick Snyder promise in a second term, other than more of the same.”

Schauer conceded, though, that Snyder’s work to turnaround the city of Detroit aided his re-election campaign with voters in the suburbs.

“It seems clear that the governor had an advantage in the critical counties of Oakland and Macomb,” Schauer said.

‘I’ve moved on from that’

Schauer’s race for governor was his 10th bid for public offices, which have included the Battle Creek City Commission, the state House and Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

Schauer lost re-election to Congress in 2010 to Republican Tim Walberg, swept out of office after one term by the same wave that helped put Snyder in office.

After that, he went to work for the Michigan Laborers. He has resumed consulting for the labor union and is weighing future job options in Michigan or out-of-state, but did not elaborate.

“I’m exploring some other ways to be engaged in public service,” he said. “I haven’t made any big decisions yet on any changes professionally.”

Schauer said he intends to get involved with the likely 2016 presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton. He co-chaired Clinton’s 2008 Michigan campaign.

On the campaign trail this fall, Schauer at times exerted more enthusiasm for being governor than Snyder sometimes does.

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“It was a job that I felt I was ready for, I was excited about, I was passionate about,” Schauer said Monday. “But look, I’ve moved on from that.”

Washington Post: “A crowded GOP field for 2016 encounters donors reluctant to commit early”

By Matea Gold and Tom Hamburger

December 8, 2014, 7:44 p.m. EST

Efforts by potential Republican presidential candidates to win over wealthy donors have set off a series of contests for their support that could stall the GOP race for months.

In Florida, allies of former governor Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio are tussling over many of the same donors. In Texas, bundlers are feeling pulled by Bush, Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Ted Cruz. Perry and Cruz are also competing for the backing of wealthy evangelical Christians, as are Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee.

Despite the appeals, which have stepped up in recent weeks, many top donors have committed to being noncommittal, wary of fueling the kind of costly and politically damaging battle that dominated the 2012 primaries. Senior party fundraisers believe that most campaigns will not be able to fully set up their fundraising operations until at least the spring.

A telling sign of the mood can be seen in the attitude of casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, one of the GOP’s biggest donors, who has expressed reluctance about engaging in the early primary fight. Instead, he and his wife, Miriam, are likely to set up their own super PAC to influence 2016 congressional campaigns as well as the White House race.

The hesitancy among the party’s financial patrons about jumping into the White House race right away could hamstring the ability of some candidates to ramp up their campaign operations and quickly break out of a pack of hopefuls that could number as many as two dozen.

Veteran fundraisers said there is a widespread desire among donors to pool their funds with other like-minded contributors, so as not to undercut their impact. Many are holding back from picking a candidate until Bush signals whether he will run.

With so many potential candidates — but no clear front-runner — the early maneuvering has had the effect of “just freezing” many donors, who are meeting with candidates but not making an early commitment, said Dan Senor, who advised GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney in 2012.

“You would be hard pressed to find any invisible primary going back decades that was this fluid,” Senor said. “This is going to be chaotic and cluttered for some time.”

Establishment Republicans contemplating bids by figures such as Bush, Perry, Romney and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie are pondering how to whittle the field to one of them, worried that a drawn-out primary process could produce a weakened GOP nominee.

“It’s really important for those donors who share the center-right philosophy to try to clear the field,” said Bobbie Kilberg, a longtime Republican fundraiser in Virginia who, with her husband, raised more than $4 million for Romney’s 2012 campaign. “We have to have one candidate we can all

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get behind."

Doing their homework

The discussions are not just about rallying around a single candidate but also about how to pick the strongest one.

"There is a heightened awareness of the need for further and deeper homework on candidates and how they are going to win," said one major GOP fundraiser who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private talks.

The upheaval on the right stands in stark contrast with the coalescing of major Democratic financiers behind the expected candidacy of former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton. Operatives running a network of independent groups poised to flank her campaign began soliciting financial commitments the day after last month's elections. Billionaire media mogul Haim Saban, a longtime Clinton backer, recently said he would spend "whatever it takes" to get her into the White House.

The prospect of Clinton's financial might has spurred anxious conversations among GOP donors about identifying early funding for the opposition-research group America Rising and others to take aim at Clinton while the Republican primaries are underway.

"There will be a coalition of people who are going to really focus on making sure the Democratic candidate is not able to take a huge advantage over the Republican, as happened in 2012," said Ron Weiser, a former Republican National Committee finance chairman. "If Hillary is the Democratic candidate, she will be in a position of being able to define the leading Republican candidate long before it's clear who has won. The same must be done to Hillary in order to be sure she doesn't gain an advantage."

The prospective 2016 candidates face more intense pressure than ever to raise substantial sums of money, with GOP strategists predicting that the winner will need at least $75 million to get through the first three primaries — and $1 billion by Election Day.

In a field of as many as 23 Republican candidates, raising that kind of money will not be easy.

"It's a very large field of very competent candidates, and there's just so much money to go around," Kilberg said.

GOP White House hopefuls began reaching out to party donors in earnest as soon as this year's midterm elections were over. Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) held strategy sessions in Washington with advisers and supporters last month. Perry is inviting hundreds of wealthy Republicans to dinners he is holding in a tent outside the Austin governor's mansion this month. Aides to Christie and Bush, among others, have individually contacted wealthy party backers.

The perennial discussions about assembling a national finance team have been accompanied by conversations about which billionaires will fund candidate-specific super PACs.

The Adelson effect

Wealthy donors such as Adelson "have an amazing ability to affect an outcome," said one party fundraiser. "What if one of them plops $50 million into one of the primary candidates?"

At a gathering of major donors to the Republican Governors Association last month in Boca Raton, Fla., aides to some of the prospective candidates hinted to contributors that Adelson was behind them as a way to signal momentum, according to people in attendance.

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In fact, while the casino mogul has been meeting privately with the top prospective candidates for months, he is holding off on making any commitments, his associates said. “He is meeting with everybody,” says Andy Abboud, his top political adviser. “But any decision about 2016 candidates is a long ways down the pike.”

This week, Adelson was scheduled to host a dinner in Las Vegas with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and top Republican donors. The event follows private conversations he has had in recent weeks with Christie, Huckabee, Cruz and Jindal.

While Adelson and his wife assess the field, they are taking steps to dramatically change the way they spend their political money. After contributing nearly $100 million in 2012, largely to independent groups that backed GOP candidates, the couple are leaning toward setting up their own super PAC, as the New York Times first reported.

The decision to create an independent political operation follows an informal study by Adelson’s staff of spending in the 2012 and 2014 federal elections.

“We found a lot of inefficient and wasteful spending,” said a person close to Adelson,who asked not to be identified by name.

Adelson has become convinced that a shift to direct giving would permit the couple “to participate more directly in individual congressional campaigns without going through” the committees controlled by party leaders, the Adelson associate said.

Adelson is not alone in his cautious posture toward the 2016 White House race.

“The adage of jumping on the bandwagon early doesn’t apply this presidential cycle,” said Richard Hohlt, a Washington lobbyist who has served on the finance committees of GOP candidates since the days of Ronald Reagan. Hohlt has been attending meetings with potential 2016 candidates since the fall and says that he senses a noticeable hesitancy in the donor community.

“What most of us have learned in the last two cycles is that you need to verify the effectiveness of the campaign organization and the ability of the candidate to get across the finish line,” he said. “With so many candidates potentially running, most of us are thinking, ‘It is better to keep our powder dry.’”

MSNBC: “Hillary Clinton adds paid speech in March, complicating 2016 timeline”

By Alex Seitz-Wald

December 8, 2014, 5:25 p.m. EST

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has added a paid speech to her calendar in mid-March, complicating the time-frame for when she might announce a potential second run for the presidency.

On March 19, Clinton will give the keynote address at a conference organized by the New York and New Jersey chapter of the American Camp Association. The conference bills itself as the largest gathering of camp professionals in the world.

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Susie Lupert, the group's executive director, confirmed to msnbc that Clinton will be paid for her appearance. "She is being paid for this speech. We went through the regular channels," Lupert said. Lupert stopped short at specifying how much, however.

The timing of Clinton's potential 2016 presidential run remains very much up in the air. The first time Clinton ran for president, she announced her candidacy on January 20, 2007. Many Clinton allies and observers had expected a similar announcement date, but the addition of paid speeches deeper into 2015 complicates the matter.

Clinton could run and continue to collect money for speeches, but her speaking fees – which range up to $300,000 – have been controversial and would likely be a political headache. She could also cancel the appearances after an announcement. But the fact that she's adding new bookings shows that Clinton has not fully made up her mind on timing, or even if she'll run, Clinton allies say.

Asked about timing at a recent gathering of the pro-Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary, former Clinton White House political director Craig Smith said no one really knows. "I've given up on speculating on that. There's the get in early crowd, the get in late crowd. All I know is I've got to keep going until the day she decides," said Smith, who is now advising Ready for Hillary.

The former secretary of state will also give what appears to be a paid speech in Silicon Valley in late February, as Politico first reported, and two speeches in Canada sponsored by a bank.

Her scheduled appearance in March at the camp association may be more in keeping with themes Clinton will likely include if she runs for the White House. "The camp business is all about youth development and learning outside of school," Lupert said. And Clinton's "passion for youth development is clear. The importance of early education is clear. And she just seems to fit really well with what we are trying to do in this industry."

The Tri-State CAMP Conference, which will be held at the Atlantic City Convention Center in New Jersey, expects to draw 3,000 camp professionals, camp staff, youth development professionals, and "out of school" experiential educators, according to a press release.

Lupert said her group considered that Clinton might be running for president, but said they have long wanted to bring her to their conference. "It's something that we obviously considered," she said, while stressing that the non-profit is "completely non-political."

The date for conference was set three years in advance.

Clinton's spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton's March Speech Raises Timing Questions"

By Peter Nicholas

December 8, 2014, 8:18 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton is scheduled to deliver a paid speech in March 2015, a point on the calendar that raises questions about when she will announce her decision on running for president and whether she intends to leave the Democratic Party uncertain of her plans until next spring.

The American Camp Association, New York and New Jersey said Monday that Mrs. Clinton will address its conference in Atlantic City on March

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19. She will be paid for the appearance, said Susie Lupert, executive director of the association. Ms. Lupert wouldn't disclose the sum. Mrs. Clinton typically receives speaking fees in the range of $200,000 to $300,000.

"We often have high profile people and it seemed like, wow, if we could get someone like her at this moment , that would be a real coup for our organization," Ms. Lupert said in an interview on Monday. When Mrs. Clinton agreed to appear, "we were thrilled," she added.

She said her association began discussions with Mrs. Clinton over the summer. A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton's office didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The association describes itself as a nonprofit group that aims to promote "the quality of the summer camp experience."

Mrs. Clinton has said she is mulling a presidential bid but won't announce her plans until the new year.

In the 2008 presidential race, she announced her candidacy in January 2007. Were she to stick to that timetable in the 2016 election cycle, she would announce her plans next month.

She is running well ahead of other prospective Democratic candidates in early polling and she is widely expected to run.

But it would seem unlikely that she would be an announced candidate for president and still be delivering paid speeches. Were she to do that, she would open herself to criticism that her interests are divided. She would also be vulnerable to criticism that private interests were trying to curry favor with a potential president of the U.S. by paying her speaking fees.

Such considerations would suggest that she won't announce her candidacy until at least the spring of 2015 – after she is done with her paid speeches.

But waiting that long poses another set of complications. Some Democrats say that that Mrs. Clinton has effectively frozen the field – that potential candidates can't raise money or actively begin running until they know whether she's in the race. Were she to bow out, that could leave some lesser-known prospective Democratic candidates at a disadvantage, forcing them to mount a campaign at a comparatively late date in the calendar.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "New race, old faces for Hillary"

By Amie Parnes

December 9, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

Just a few months before many expect Hillary Clinton to announce a second bid for the White House, the players in her orbit look a lot like the ones who surrounded her the first time she ran for president.

And that's a worry to many Clinton supporters, who fear a 2016 run could fall victim to some of the same dysfunctions as her 2008 bid.

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Clinton's 2008 campaign was infamous for infighting at the staff level — complete with epic outbursts at staff meetings and power struggles throughout the operation.

"I don't think it'll be much different," said one top Democratic strategist. "While some people won't be returning, the core group will be the same as 2008 and I don't see it changing much."

While Clinton only has a staff of about a half-dozen currently working for her, hundreds of former Clintonites, from her East Wing and Senate days as well as from her last campaign, are itching for an announcement so they can pounce for Round 2.

One of Clinton's biggest strengths is also one of her biggest weaknesses, say veteran Clinton-watchers: loyalty to a fault.

She and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, have built an endless Rolodex from their days in Arkansas to Hillary Clinton's time at the State Department and value loyalty in staff. In turn, ex-staffers support the former first couple to no end.

That creates a problem, says a former aide.

"They have these fan boys and fan girls who go all the way back to Arkansas, former staff, longtime friends, donors, acquaintances," the ex-aide said. "You don't need all those people to provide advice or run a campaign."

Separately, a Democratic strategist said Clinton's first campaign was "too ridden by faction" and included too many people "fighting for their piece of the pie."

"They need a 'come to Jesus' moment where they realize some pretty significant mistakes were made in 2008 and they've gotta find a way to change it," the strategist said of the Clinton team, adding that Hillary Clinton needed to "get rid of some of the dead wood" and add some new blood to the operation.

At a recent Ready for Hillary meeting in New York, many of the same players — including Harold Ickes, who served as senior adviser in the 2008 campaign, and even older hands such as James Carville and Paul Begala, who worked in the Bill Clinton White House — addressed hundreds of donors and supporters. Throughout the day-long meeting, the halls at the Sheraton Times Square hotel felt like a Clinton reunion, with the likes of Craig Smith, a former senior adviser to Clinton's 2008 campaign, and Jonathan Mantz, who served as Clinton's finance manager in 2008, among the familiar faces.

Other former Clinton aides who are now involved in the pro-Clinton super-PACs Ready for Hillary and Correct the Record were also in attendance.

Clinton allies say that good staffers shouldn't be disqualified from working on the 2016 campaign just because they worked on the losing 2008 bid.

"All of her former, current and potentially future staff should have grown up and wisened up," one former Clinton aide said. "Tools have changed, campaigns have changed, the electorate has changed, the whole world has changed.

"Involvement in 2008 should not be a disqualifier, but a resistance to shaking up the status quo should," the aide added.

Clinton herself seemingly learned some of these lessons while doing post-mortem sessions.

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Patti Solis Doyle, who was Clinton's first campaign manager before she was let go in the middle of the grueling Democratic primary, and strategist Mark Penn, whose ties went back to Bill Clinton's White House days, are not expected to play roles during a 2016 campaign. Both were blamed by people in the Clinton inner circle for an arrogance at the top of her 2008 campaign.

When Clinton went to the State Department the following year, she surrounded herself with many longtime Senate and campaign aides — but she also brought in and relied upon a number of staffers outside her close-knit network.

It is unclear how many aides to President Obama might go on to work for Clinton's would-be campaign, but some have already made inroads.

Mitch Stewart, for example, who served in key roles during Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, currently serves as an adviser for Ready for Hillary. And Jim Messina, Obama's former campaign manager, is the co-chairman of Priorities USA, another political action committee backing Clinton.

And when Clinton rolled out her book, Hard Choices, earlier this year, Tommy Vietor, a longtime Obama spokesman, helped manage her press.

Even if many of the same aides reemerge this year, political observers say Clinton can run a successful campaign.

"In 2008, there were too many colonels and no general to deploy and discipline the colonels and their troops," said Cal Jillson, a professor of political science at Southern Methodist University. "There is nothing like getting beat ... to instill a little discipline the next time around."

Politico: "Big Labor eyes Hillary warily"

By Maggie Haberman and Mike Elk

December 9, 2014, 5:32 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Union leaders vow they won't be taken for granted in 2016.

Frustrated by President Barack Obama and wary of Hillary Clinton's perceived closeness to Wall Street, several leading figures in organized labor are resisting falling in line early behind the former secretary of state as the inevitable Democratic presidential nominee.

Top officials at AFL-CIO are pressing its affiliates to hold off on an endorsement and make the eventual nominee earn their support and spell out a clear agenda. The strategy is designed to maximize labor's strength after years of waning clout and ensure a focus on strengthening the middle class, but it could provide an opening for a candidate running to Clinton's left to make a play for union support.

"We do have a process in place, which says before anybody endorses, we'll talk to the candidates," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said in an interview. That could postpone an endorsement until the second half of 2015, he said.

"The big question we want to know is, 'What's the agenda?'" added Trumka. "We don't want to hear that people have a message about correcting the economy — we want to know that they have an agenda for correcting the economy. If we get the same economic [plan] no matter who the

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president is, you get the same results."

The plan doesn't mean that someone other than Clinton will win the unions' backing, though some labor leaders are holding out hope that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) will run for president, and others speak highly of Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). But it is a warning shot to Clinton or any other potential Democratic hopeful not to take labor for granted.

For Clinton, who's been battered in the media over the past year for her paid speeches, jet-setting travel demands and questions of whether she truly understands the new economic populism of the progressive left, labor could be a key validator. And at a moment when economic populism is dominating discussion and Democrats are worried about how to relate to the middle class again, the efforts to stave off endorsements could be troublesome for Clinton.

Her backers are mindful of the need to have a strong showing among labor groups, especially after 2008, when a divided labor movement gave lift to then-Sen. Barack Obama.

The former New York senator showed how mindful she is of the concerns of the Democratic base on the economy during a late-October appearance in Massachusetts on behalf of failed gubernatorial hopeful Martha Coakley. Embracing the populism of Warren, who spoke just before her, Clinton made a clunky statement that "corporations and businesses don't create jobs."

But Trumka's hopes of a united front may be difficult to achieve for a number of reasons. Major unions such as SEIU aren't part of the AFL-CIO and tend to operate independently when it comes to politics. There's significant doubt within organized labor whether any of the alternative candidates can gain enough traction to make an endorsement meaningful.

And Clinton has strong, long-standing relationships with some unions, which could allow her to pick up support earlier than Trumka's process calls for.

"There's a sense that people — the members who have talked to me about it — they feel very close to her," said Randi Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, an AFL-CIO member and a longtime supporter of Clinton.

"They feel like she's their colleague, that she's their champion, that she is someone who worked doggedly in 2008 or worked doggedly as their senator," said Weingarten, who used to helm the teachers union in New York City. She added that her own union has an endorsement process that she will adhere to.

Weingarten is also on the board of the reconstituted super PAC Priorities USA, which plans to support Clinton in a primary if necessary, according to people familiar with its plans.

The labor movement has suffered a string of defeats since the 2008 fiscal collapse. Efforts to reel in major pension obligations in several states, including blue states like New York and California, have often pitted unions against governors.

In the two years after the fiscal collapse, public-sector unions in particular became public enemy No. 1, targeted by Republican governors including New Jersey's Chris Christie and Wisconsin's Scott Walker.

Labor leaders have repeatedly been disappointed by Obama. They had high hopes after he declared in 2007 that he would "walk on the picket line with you" if bargaining rights were threatened. But once he took office, Obama never pressed for labor's top priority during the election: the Employee Free Choice Act. The measure would have made it easier for workers to form unions but was opposed by Senate Republicans and a few Senate Democrats.

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Labor later lost a standoff with the White House in a 2010 Arkansas primary, when Sen. Blanche Lincoln defeated the union-backed candidate, then went on to lose in the general election. And labor leaders were again dismayed by Obama's muted comments when Walker moved successfully to curtail collective-bargaining rights. In recent months, organized labor, particularly unions that represent manufacturing workers, has been angered by Obama's push for the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, which some have dubbed "NAFTA on steroids."

AFL-CIO, the massive umbrella group for other major unions, is staging a series of forums on wage stagnation in the coming months. The first one, in January, will feature as the keynote speaker Warren, who some progressives are pleading with to run. Trumka has frequently praised Warren's efforts to address income inequality.

Some smaller unions are also taking a look at O'Malley, who will soon leave office, and Sanders. Their dilemma will be whether any of the underdog candidates can gain enough traction to nudge Clinton toward policies they want discussed, such as how to grow the middle class. They also want to hear how she speaks about Wall Street and efforts to reel in big banks.

The labor movement splintered in 2007, during the run-up to the primaries. Back then, Clinton was the overwhelming favorite for the nomination, and AFSCME, a major public-sector union, supported her in October of that year, at a moment when then-Sen. Obama was on the rise. But SEIU went on to endorse Obama in early 2008, giving him a critical lift.

This time, much of organized labor is willing to let the nomination process play out for a while.

"Labor would love to see her have to [work for] the nomination and not have it given to her," said one labor official, who has worked with Clinton in the past and asked to speak anonymously in order to be candid. "I think she has to deal with our issues first before she gets our support, and we're laying off on an early endorsement."

Every major labor figure interviewed pointed out that the Democratic field is still unformed and that Clinton is not yet a candidate.

AFSCME President Lee Saunders, who worked with Clinton when he was in charge of the union's embattled New York affiliate, District Council 37, signaled his group is heeding Trumka's call not to rush.

"I believe that she understands the plight of the middle class," Saunders said of Clinton. But, "we'll have to see if she's going to wrap her arms around that and make it a major issue."

Communications Workers of America President Larry Cohen said there is concern within the labor movement about too little competition for the Democratic nomination. The worry, he said, is that "the next candidate will do more of the same as they raise $2 billion mostly from [big] donors for their campaign. We need fundamental reform, and it is not in sight."

Cohen said his union is devoting more attention to electing local officeholders who back its policies, as opposed to focusing on the White House. The 2008 election "was a clear signal that billion-dollar presidential politics will not lead to change without a much deeper movement across our nation."

To some extent, Clinton, if she runs, will have to bear the brunt of labor's pent-up frustration with Obama. But there's also wariness of the policies her husband put in place as president, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement. And as secretary of state, Clinton led the negotiations for the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership deal, which is opposed by many manufacturing unions, including the Steelworkers and the Teamsters. Officials from both unions declined to comment for this story.

Steve Rosenthal, a former AFL-CIO political director, stirred the pot on that very question in an op-ed on Huffington Post shortly after the midterms, suggested that labor change its entire approach to elections.

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"The only way to help the party that won't help itself is to stop giving it all your campaign money," he wrote. "Instead, unions and progressive groups should lead the way — stop preaching and start practicing what we have always said the party should do: invest in a national campaign aimed at mobilizing millions of Americans committed to voting only for candidates who support a new, populist, all-inclusive American economic agenda. If we start this parade, other progressives — and the Democratic Party and its candidates — will follow."

Some unions are giving O'Malley and Sanders a look. Since the beginning of September, labor interests, primarily construction unions, have given $122,000 to a pro-O'Malley political action committee.

Leaders of Change to Win, an umbrella group consisting of Teamsters, SEIU and UFW, see Sanders as a forceful advocate for union issues, noting his presence at union halls and on the picket line of a fast-food strike last week. They want to see other presidential candidates embrace strike actions by low-wage workers.

"The Democratic Party economic agenda is bankrupt," Change to Win Deputy Director Joseph Geevarghese said. "The only way that workers can have power is through a robust system of collective bargaining, and that is not a central pillar of the Democratic Party's economic platform."

Trumka said he has spoken with Clinton and does not expect she will take labor for granted.

"I think she's very astute, and I don't think she would do that," he said. "It's not about us; it's about the agenda. They can take me for granted all they want."

New York Times: "MoveOn.org Looks to Nudge Elizabeth Warren Into 2016 Presidential Race"

By Jonathan Martin

December 8, 2014

WASHINGTON — Some Democrats are "Ready for Hillary." MoveOn.org is ready for Elizabeth Warren.

The liberal group is poised to spend $1 million on a campaign to draft Senator Warren, the Massachusetts Democrat, into the 2016 presidential race, an indication of an appetite among some activists for a more progressive alternative to Hillary Rodham Clinton.

MoveOn.org's executive director, Ilya Sheyman, said the group planned to open offices and hire staff in Iowa and New Hampshire, the states that kick off the presidential nominating process, and ultimately to air television ads in those states. The group will begin its push with a website, "Run Warren Run," allowing supporters to sign a petition urging Ms. Warren to pursue a White House bid and featuring a video about her.

"We want to demonstrate to Senator Warren that there's a groundswell of grass-roots energy nationally and in key states and to demonstrate there's a path for her," Mr. Sheyman said. He added that the effort was not being made in coordination with Ms. Warren and that the group advised her staff about it only last weekend.

Ms. Warren, who is entering her third year in the Senate, has fast become a favorite among liberal activists for her unapologetic brand of economic populism, but she has also repeatedly denied any interest in pursuing the presidency.

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"As Senator Warren has said many times, she is not running for president," said Lacey Rose, Ms. Warren's press secretary, regarding the draft effort.

Such comments have not, however, dissuaded her admirers. MoveOn.org is set to survey its eight million members for one day starting Tuesday, with the expectation that they will affirm its support of the effort to nudge Ms. Warren into the race. She is well regarded by the group, having gotten its support in her 2012 race and joining members on conference calls during her time in the Senate on such issues as student loan debt.

Mrs. Clinton is a popular figure among Democrats and enjoys a wide lead in early polls, but some progressives are wary of her style of politics and believe that widening income disparities in the country call for a more confrontational figure.

Ms. Warren, a former Harvard law professor, is the most sought-after candidate among this liberal bloc, but others could fill the void if she remains on the sidelines. Former Senator Jim Webb of Virginia has already opened an exploratory committee, and Senator Bernie Sanders, a liberal independent from Vermont, and Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland have also discussed presidential bids.

Asked about Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Sheyman said the group's effort was unrelated "to any other candidate," but added that MoveOn.org members want a Democratic nominee who fits the moment.

"Voters are looking for bold solutions about how you fix a rigged system in which middle- and working-class families are falling behind," he said.

Whether there is significant energy behind the "Run Warren Run" effort may be known soon: MoveOn.org is planning a kickoff on next Tuesday in Des Moines.

Politico Magazine: "Can the Left Launch Its Own Tea Party?"

By Bill Scher

December 8, 2014

[Subtitle:] After the midterm debacle, liberal insurgents say it's time to upend the Democratic Party.

Even as they publicly condemn Tea Party Republicans as hostage-taking legislative thugs, the truth is that some Democrats are quietly jealous of them. Think of it: the Tea Party gang gets to intimidate party leaders, threaten legislation, block nominees, shut down the government and default on the debt if they don't get their way. They cause major trouble.

Boy, does that sound good.

The extreme right has power, and that's something the left hasn't had much of for a long time. But in the aftermath of the party's disastrous midterm performance, it's very possible that the Democratic Party leadership will be facing its own Tea Party-style insurgency from the other side of the spectrum. "You're going to get a fight within the Democratic Party. There is a substantial disagreement coming up," Rep. Jerry Nadler, an outspoken Congressional Progressive Caucus member, recently told the Wall Street Journal.

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The only question is, how serious a fight will it be? Will it be a polite spat that results in what has happened most often before—the fast marginalization of the left, with the best elements of the various critiques being stitched together by a centrist Hillary Clinton, or whoever is the nominee in 2016? Or are the populists ready to stage their own grassroots rebellion, setting their sights on eradicating all corporate influence from the Democrats and undermining any attempt by President Obama to compromise with Republicans by any means necessary?

Progressive activists such as the feisty Progressive Change Campaign Committee would love to be able to instill some of their own intraparty fear, sharpen their populist pitchforks and prod Democratic leaders leftward. And there is reason to believe this could be their moment.

The rebels offer a message about the chronic unfairness of the system so potent that even the Koch brothers aren't above poaching it (a recent ad from the Kochs' political arm chastised newly deposed Sen. Mary Landrieu for flying in private jets, even though the brothers have a few of their own.) The new liberal insurgency issavvy enough to stress issues that poll well and relate to the economic anxieties gripping the electorate, such as increasing Social Security benefits and shrinking the size of Wall Street, instead of chasing stale leftist pipe dreams like nationalizing the health insurance industry. And they have the good fortune of going up against rivals unable to match the intensity of their focus, with a sitting president managing a never-ending list of crises, a 2016 Democratic front-runner who is congenitally cautious, and an incoming Republican majority distracted with figuring out how to keep a government open.

With progressive Sen. Elizabeth Warren's ascension to the Senate Democratic leadership, momentum would appear to be with the populists, and they will likely have multiple opportunities in the next Congress to plant their flag. Already Warren – who often refrains from personal attacks against leaders of the Democratic establishment – is turning opposition to Obama's Treasury undersecretary nomination of Wall Street investment banker Antonio Weiss into a populist rallying cry.

And despite the recent jousting between the White House and the Republican leadership (not to mention the White House and the Senate Democratic leadership), there are several policy matters on the horizon where Obama's, Boehner's and McConnell's interests could converge. But since most areas of potential compromise will likely fail to unify the Republican caucus, congressional Democrats will have leverage to shape deals, or sabotage them.

Another potential flashpoint for populists is a budget deal. Any bill passed this month to keep the government open will only run as long as the end of the fiscal year in September, if not earlier. (Also of note, last year's debt ceiling suspension is up in three months.) At some point in 2015, Obama and the Republican majority are going to have reach agreements on spending levels if government agencies are to stay open. With discretionary social spending already cut by 15 percent since Republicans took over the House in 2011, any additional cuts will be hard for Democrats to swallow. If Obama chooses to trade additional cuts to win something else, congressional Democrats could opt to play their own shutdown card.

Also on tap is surveillance reform, an issue that animates liberals as much as civil libertarians of the Tea Party. If no bill is passed by June 1, the Patriot Act sections that provide the legal basis for the controversial metadata collection program and the "roving" wiretap program will expire. As libertarian-minded Republicans have already balked at the mild NSA reform that passed the House (but failed to clear the Senate) earlier this year, Democratic votes will likely be needed, and could be withheld.

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If a Tea Party of the Left rises, it will be something that we haven't experienced on the national scene for a long time. Ever since Bill Clinton moved the Democratic Party to the center in the early 1990s, and certainly through much of the Obama era, most elected Democrats were reluctant to play hardball.

For example, in March 2010 the Congressional Progressive Caucus chose not to follow through on its 2009 threat to vote against any health care bill that didn't give consumers the choice of a government-run health insurance plan, supporting an Affordable Care Act that saved private insurers from competing with the federal government. Immediately after the 2010 midterms, the House Democratic caucus initially supported a nonbinding resolution declaring opposition to Obama's deal with the Republicans to temporarily extend the Bush tax cuts, but Speaker Nancy Pelosi still put it on the floor and a majority of her caucus voted for it.

By 2011, with Obama now trying to work with a Republican majority in the House, Democratic willingness to buck the President increased, yet was still limited. House Democrats split evenly over the bipartisan deal that swapped spending cuts for a higher federal debt limit. But few Democrats

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were serious about risking a debt default; the 95 “no” votes surely would have been fewer if passage wasn’t already assured. And the split did not cause a deeper rift and did not hamper Obama’s 2012 re-election bid.

However, once Obama’s days on the ballot were over, and Democratic fates were no longer intertwined with his, populists began to feel out opportunities to more openly oppose any presidential rightward leanings. Sen. Warren led a pressure campaign to prevent Obama from nominating Larry Summers to the Federal Reserve. Immigration advocates antagonized Obama as “deporter-in-chief” instead of taking Obama’s advice and training their fire on obstructionist Republicans.

Still, Democrats stopped short of a scorched-earth, Tea Party-style insurgency. Some progressives wanted Democrats to thwart the December 2013 post-shutdown budget deal over its exclusion of long-term unemployment benefits, in effect threatening their own shutdown. But in the end, only 32 House Democrats broke ranks. And despite their unease over the President’s offer to swap higher tax revenues for reducing Social Security benefits by rejiggering the cost-of-living formula, only 40 Democratic House members signed a pledge to vote against any such deal.

Moreover, there were no Tea Party-style populist primary challenges of incumbent Democrats of any significance in 2014, prompting Brookings Institution’s Walter Shapiro to declare, “the Democrats appear to have swapped their rambunctious heritage for a hefty dose of Xanax.”

The same could be said for Democrats’ approach to the November election. They did not embrace the proud Obama message bragging on how the Gross Domestic Product, private sector job creation and corporate profits all have grown during the past six years. After crediting the Democrats’ “new foundation” of public “investments,” health care reforms and Wall Street “rules,” Obama contended we should build on his record of activist government to tackle the remaining problem of stagnant wages. Nor did Democrats go all-in on the combative Warren message that eschewed praise of the incrementally improved system, bypassing the Obama record to excoriate a fundamentally broken system: “The game is rigged.”

Democrats by and large passed on any pointed, overarching vision, and instead ran on a “populist lite” platform of higher minimum wages, equal pay, birth control access, lower student loan rates and closing corporate tax loopholes, with some paeans to bipartisanship and fiscal restraint thrown in the mix.

But now, since no single big-picture approach was fully tested in 2014, Democrats of all stripes are free to insist their preferred narrative lights the path to a successful 2016 and beyond. The race to define the Democratic Party of the future is on.

There will be several testing points along the way. Beyond those issues with hard deadlines in 2015 is the higher-hanging fruit of corporate tax reform. President Obama and Republican leaders expressed interest in finding common ground after the midterms – with Obama linking the issue to a priority nearer to his heart, job-creating infrastructure spending. There are several factors that suggest such a grand bargain could happen. Bipartisan legislation already exists that would set up a public-private infrastructure loan fund with money collected from corporate profits now stashed in offshore bank accounts, via “repatriation” of the cash with a one-time discount tax rate. The concept has been backed by strange bedfellows such as former President Bill Clinton and Sen. Rand Paul.

But there is a reason this deal wasn’t struck already. Any corporate tax reform acceptable to Obama involves offsetting the cost of lower rates by closing loopholes, sparking a myriad of fights between corporations that has yet to be resolved. And Warren’s populists see the president’s supposed “repatriation” gambit – if corporations bring back money from overseas they’ll get tax breaks — as a perfect example of how “the game is rigged” Progressives see it as a giant handout to corporations leavened only by the few crumbs of infrastructure they will reportedly be obligated to invest in. Even if Obama, Boehner and McConnell could pull off this deal, a Democratic Tea Party could partner with Republicans and scotch Obama’s hope to add to his legacy a literal concrete achievement.

In the populists’ wildest dreams, Democrats would band together with Republicans steamed at Obama’s executive actions to derail legislation giving the president “fast-track” trade negotiation authority. The bill would allow trade agreements signed by Obama to be submitted to Congress without any opportunity for amendments or filibusters. Trade proponents see fast-track as a critical precursor to securing economically beneficial regional agreements with Asia and Europe, whereas Warren sees another case of how the game is rigged to serve “Wall Street, pharmaceuticals, telecom, big polluters [and] outsourcers.”

However, for Democrats to have leverage on trade, Republicans have to be divided. To date, Republican support for Obama’s trade deals has been strong, with near unanimous support for the South Korea, Panama and Colombia agreements. This month, Republican leaders have been

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striving to keep the executive action controversy separate from their fast-track push, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – which significantly funded the Republican midterm victories — will be lobbying their clients heavily. Republicans would have to snub their own patrons for a Democratic Tea Party to stymie Obama's trade agenda.

While trade may be too big a reach, the other issues appear to give the populists strong opportunities to make their mark. But with opportunities come risks.

Populists can make the case that the public is with them on reining in Wall Street, demanding corporations pay their fair share of taxes, and opposing unfair trade deals. But last year Tea Party Republicans thought they could win a shutdown showdown because polls showed opposition to Obamacare. They were wrong. Republicans suffered major public opinion damage for instigating the shutdown and were forced to cave in the subsequent budget agreement.

Furthermore, the Democratic base is far more open to compromise than the Republican base. In a post-election Pew poll, only 32 percentof Republican voters wanted the new Congress to work with President Obama. But 52 percent of Democratic voters wanted Obama to work with the incoming Republican majority. Democrats are more inclined to see compromise itself as a public good, a fealty to the cult of bipartisanship that drives progressive activists nuts. If Democratic base voters get squeamish over reflexively oppositional tactics, the attempt to launch a progressive populist uprising could fizzle.

The lesson is: There are limits to how much confrontation the public will tolerate, a fact of political life that Tea Party Republicans still have difficulty accepting — witness the conservative rationalizations that the shutdown helped Republicans win the midterms, leaving out the fact that Republicans prudently refused an opportunity to shut it down again one month prior to Election Day. Fighting on principle can earn respect, but putting gamesmanship ahead of governing will not.

If copying the Tea Party handbook is fraught with danger, where does that leave the Warrens and the Nadlers? One alternative to maximum congressional confrontation is maximum public communication. Selling the populist worldview and winning the argument in the court of public opinion is more important than fighting each and every legislative skirmish to the bitterest of ends. If a Democratic Tea Party is going to improve upon the Republican version, more strategic thinking will have to be applied regarding what battles to pick and when it's time to stand down.

The Washington Post's Dana Milbank recently recoiled at the recent friction within Democratic ranks. Noting the difficulties the Republican majority will have resolving its fissures, he argued, "Democrats should be exploiting those, not rehashing old fights [and] thwarting themselves." But Milbank ignores the fact that tussles between populists and centrists inside the Democratic big tent have proven constructive, leading to compromises that form the heart of Obama's liberal legacy: the Recovery Act, Affordable Care Act and Dodd-Frank bank reform. Tension over proposed centrist reforms that the populists helped stall, such as with Social Security and trade, have yet to tear the party apart.

One of the oddities of the past six years is that the Democrats have carried the burden of managing the broader ideological spectrum within their rank-and-file, yet Republicans are the ones who have suffered the most from intraparty warfare. The greater acceptance among Democratic base voters for compromise and diversity of opinion are the poles that have kept up their tent.

That acceptance will give the populists plenty of running room when seeking to win the debate with voters, but will also constrain them from employing the most confrontational tactics inside Congress. Populists need not muzzle their vision or surrender their votes, but neither do they need to read Green Eggs and Ham on the Senate floor to move the Democratic Party in their preferred direction.

Wall Street Journal column: WSJ's Bret Stephens: "Hillary Clinton's Empathy Deficit"

By Bret Stephens

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

December 8, 2014, 7:09 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton is being pilloried by pundits on the right for saying, at a recent speech at Georgetown, that America's leaders should "empathize" with America's enemies. But what's so wrong about that?

"This is what we call smart power," she said, using the phrase that was supposed to define her tenure as secretary of state. "Using every possible tool and partner to advance peace and security. Leaving no one side on the sidelines. Showing respect even for one's enemies. Trying to understand, in so far as psychologically possible, [and] empathize with their perspective and point of view."

As a matter of politics, "empathize" was a lousy word choice, a reminder that Mrs. Clinton is as tin-eared as she is ambitious: Expect a GOP political attack ad if and when she runs for president.

But empathy isn't sympathy. Understanding an enemy's point of view does not mean taking their side. Respect is not solidarity. "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles," Sun Tzu teaches in "The Art of War." "If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

It's good advice. Mrs. Clinton isn't wrong to adopt it. Her problem is that she appears to be a singularly lousy empathizer.

In April 2005 Vladimir Putin said the collapse of the Soviet Union was "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century." In 2006 a Russian dissident in London was poisoned by polonium—a nuclear attack in miniature—leading to a breakdown in relations between London and Moscow. In 2008 Russia invaded Georgia. That same year, educational manuals for Russian social-studies teachers took the view that Joseph Stalin was "the most successful Soviet leader ever."

What about the Great Terror of the 1930s, in which millions of Soviet citizens were killed by Stalin's henchmen? That, according to the manual, happened because Stalin "did not know who would deal the next blow, and for that reason he attacked every known group and movement." Commenting on the Terror, Mr. Putin allowed that the killing was terrible "but in other countries worse things happened."

Such was the man Mrs. Clinton had every reason to "understand" when she arrived at the State Department in 2009. What conclusions was she supposed to draw about someone whose core ambition was to restore the reputation, and the former borders, of the old Soviet Union? That the time had come to clink glasses and announce a reset?

Or take Iran. In her most recent memoir, Mrs. Clinton asks: "If Iran had a nuclear weapon tomorrow, would that create even one more job for a country where millions of young people are out of work? Would it send one more Iranian to college or rebuild the roads and ports still crumbling from the war with Iraq a generation ago? When Iranians look abroad, would they rather end up like North Korea or South Korea?"

These are the kinds of questions that often confound Americans who too easily assume that the things democratic politicians want for their people are the same things dictators want for themselves. South or North Korea? That's easy: Tehran's ties to Pyongyang run deep because both capitals see themselves resisting American imperialism. Nuclear weapons or a better economy? That's easy, too, since the former allow you to bully your neighbors and dominate the region, while the latter merely create a growing middle class demanding greater civic and political freedoms.

If Mrs. Clinton made a serious effort to see things from the ayatollahs' point of view, maybe she'd get this. If she had real respect for them, she wouldn't suppose that they are merely too stupid, or blinded by prejudice, or stuck in the past, to understand their own values and self-interest. Why do liberals who celebrate diversity seem to think that, deep down, all people want the same things?

Here's another question: If Mrs. Clinton is at least prepared to attempt a show of empathy for the Putins and Khameneis of the world, why so little empathy for American allies? In March 2010 a minor Israeli official announced the approval of some additional construction in a Jerusalem neighborhood, mischaracterized as a "settlement," when Vice President Joe Biden was in the country. It was an ordinary bureaucratic bungle by the Israeli government.

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So what did Mrs. Clinton do? She called Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu to yell at him. "I told the Prime Minister that President Obama had viewed the news about East Jerusalem as 'a personal insult to him, the Vice President, and the United States,' " as she recounts in her memoir.

Such has been the pattern of the Obama administration, whose foreign policy record Mrs. Clinton cannot escape or finesse: misplaced understanding toward our adversaries, shrill lectures for our friends. The next president needs to make it the other way around.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 19, 2015 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

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From:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
To:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
Date:	9/1/2013 2:46:52 PM
Subject:	[big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-Why Congress Should Approve the President's Request to Punish the Use of Chemical Weapons

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-creamer/a-progressive-perspective_b_3854243.html

A Progressive Perspective: Why Congress Should Approve the President's Request to Punish the Use of Chemical Weapons

I began my work in politics and the Progressive Movement working for civil rights and the end of the Viet Nam War in the 1960's. And I worked hard to end one of the greatest foreign policy outrages of my lifetime – the War in Iraq.

I believe that U.S. military and covert actions to support the status quo in Central and South America, Africa and Asia were utterly indefensible.

But I also believe that there are times when the use of military force is not only justified – but required.

Bashar al Assad cannot be allowed to use chemical weapons to kill 1,400 people – over 400 children – in the plain site of the entire world – with impunity. It's that simple.

Since the end of World War I – almost a century ago – there has been a worldwide consensus that human society will not allow combatants in conflicts to use chemical or biological weapons. After World War II, nuclear weapons were added to the list.

These true weapons of mass destruction present a danger far beyond their effects on the immediate combatants – or even the innocent bystanders – of a particular conflict. If the world allows and thereby legitimates their use, it will unleash forces that could endanger huge swaths of human society – and even the existence of humanity itself.

While chemical weapons cannot do damage as extensive as nuclear or radiological weapons – they have the potential of killing and maiming tens of thousands of our fellow human beings within hours or minutes. And their horrific effects have been graphically demonstrated in real time on the television screens of the world documenting Assad's attacks on innocent civilians.

Sometime in the last century, human society entered a gauntlet. As we pass through that gauntlet, a race is on to determine whether our values and political structures evolve fast enough to keep up with the geometric increases in our technology? If they do, technology could propel human beings into an awesome and unprecedented period of freedom, possibility and fulfillment. If not, we could destroy ourselves and turn into an evolutionary dead end – like our cousins the Neanderthals.

To survive that gauntlet, it is critically important that we do everything in our power to absolutely ban the use of weapons of mass destruction – and to make those who violate that ban into worldwide pariahs. We must make their use *unthinkable.*

In political and historic narratives – some moments take on an iconic, symbolic importance. Assad's use of chemical weapons is now one of them. Will the world stand idly by while we watch – up close and personal – as a government uses chemical weapons with impunity? Or will someone take action to require that the perpetrators of this crime be made to pay a price?

Most people in the world wish that someone had stepped up to stop the horrific genocide in Rwanda. Most now believe President Clinton and NATO did the right thing to prevent ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

History will judge us harshly, if we stand by idly, and legitimate the use of chemical weapons – and weapons of mass destruction in general – by allowing their use in the view of the full world to go

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unpunished.

And let's be clear. We're not debating who has the right to possess these weapons – or to possess nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction here -- a major topic of political debate in the world for the last decade. We are talking about their *actual use*.

If we agree that we cannot allow that actual use to occur with utter impunity, then the only question remaining is – who will act to impose a serious sanction?

Unfortunately the United Nations has not yet evolved into an institution that has the ability to escape gridlock if one of the world's major powers stands in the way. It will not act. Russia and China will prevent it.

So as a practical matter, if the United States does not lead some sort of international action to do so, it will not happen.

Of course the legacy of the War in Iraq casts a giant shadow on this showdown over chemical weapons in Syria. Its legacy casts doubt on the accuracy of American intelligence, and causes everyday Americans to be very reluctant to support any use of force in the world.

But this is not Iraq. The President is not asking for authorization to go to war – or to become engaged in the Syrian Civil War. He is not proposing – as Bush proposed in Iraq – an American military invasion. He is not proposing a campaign of "regime change" or "nation building." America's decision will surely have implications for the Syrian Civil War, but this decision is not even mainly about the Syrian Civil War. It is mainly about the use of chemical weapons.

The President is proposing that the Congress authorize him to take action in this very narrow circumstance. He is proposing that the world community demonstrate that if someone uses chemical weapons, there will be a substantial cost to that action – that we do not allow such an act to occur with impunity. Because if the world sits by, the message will be crystal clear: *that the use of chemical weapons has once again become an acceptable means of armed conflict*. That would be a tragedy – and would endanger the future of all of the world's children – who could one day find themselves writhing in pain and gasping for breath like the Syrian children we all watched on television.

Condemnation and "moral outrage" against the use of chemical weapons do not constitute a sanction. They are, in fact, no sanction at all. We would never allow the perpetrator of a rape or murder in the United States to be subjected to "moral outrage" and sent home to contemplate his deed. How much less can we allow that to the be case when a government has murdered 1,400 of its own people using weapons that have been universally condemned by the entire international community for almost 100 years. That defies common sense.

I would argue that the control – and ultimate elimination of weapons of mass destruction – chemical, biological and nuclear – is one of the most critical priorities for Progressives like myself, and for our entire society. To secure the future of our species, we must eliminate them – not only from the hands of tyrants like Assad, or unreliable nation states, or non-state actors – but from all of the world's arsenals, including our own.

We have begun to make progress down that long and difficult road with the end of the Cold War, the chemical weapons treaty, nuclear weapons treaties – and most importantly, the developing worldwide consensus that their use is unthinkable.

The world cannot afford an iconic use of chemical weapons to go unpunished. And the United States of America alone in the world has the ability to lead an appropriate international response.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com . *He is a partner in Democracy Partners and a Senior Strategist for Americans United for Change. Follow him on Twitter @rbcreamer.*

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From:	"Stuart Eizenstat" <seizenstat@gmail.com>
To:	jake.sullivan@gmail.com
Date:	10/7/2015 5:06:25 PM
Subject:	Zarif/Iran

From: Eizenstat, Stuart [mailto:seizenstat@cov.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:21 PM
To: 'seizenstat@gmail.com'
Cc: Holte, Laurina
Subject: TPP and Iran

Dear Jake,

I attended a meeting on Monday, October 5, in New York with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif, hosted by the Atlantic Council (whose Iran Task Force I chair) and the New America Foundation (with Bill Leurs and Tom Pickering). This is the third meeting I have had with Zarif.

He made the following points in a 20 minute speech and answers to questions:

1. The nuclear agreement was a victory for diplomacy and dialogue. What was a success for Iran is not a defeat for the U.S. This is not a zero sum game. The agreement is the best insurance against an Iranian breakout. The "fabricated nuclear material cannot be used for making a bomb." We are willing to take "your nuclear fuel, so we will not need to make any of our own."

2. Implementation of the agreement requires transparency and a commitment to abide by its terms, and Iran will do so.

3. The US seems intent in terms of sanctions relief to do the "least it can do". He is "concerned with the tough interpretation of sanctions relief by OFAC. Moreover, the New York banking authorities are complicating things even more with financial sanctions, making it difficult for European companies to get the funds to invest in Iran.
This sends negative signals Treasury and DOJ should give a reasonable interpretation to the lifting of sanctions. Otherwise, it will make it difficult for even European companies to do business in Iran. Here again, the U.S. seems to view sanctions relief as a zero sum game, in which whatever helps Iran is bad for the U.S. It is in everyone's interest if Iran's economy recovers, and gets out of a "siege mentality".

4. Iran does not expect American companies to do business with Iran because of continuing U.S. sanctions. But under existing rules, many U.S. companies can do business with Iran. For example, Iran needs 400 new aircraft, and can purchase them from either Boeing or Airbus. There is no legal bar to Boeing selling its aircraft to Iran, with an OFAC license. Likewise, humanitarian goods can be sold to Iran from the U.S. now, including pharmaceuticals and medical devices made by GE. Iran can be a "huge market" for U.S. goods and services.

5. Even if the lifting of sanctions will not help U.S. companies that much, compared to European companies, eventually this will happen.

6. Just as politics in the U.S. are difficult, they are also "difficult" in Iran .A member of the Iranian parliament said that Zarif's hands should be cut-off for shaking hands with President Obama at the United Nations this week. It is wrong to think that all decisions in Iran are made by one man.

7. Iran and the U.S. have negative views of each other. The U.S. sees Iran as determined to get a nuclear weapon, while Iran sees the U.S. as trying do dominate the Middle East.

8. He spent a good deal of time discussing Saudi Arabia. He said since his first days in office he has sought a dialogue, but Iranian overtures have been rebuffed. He was told by the Saudis, "leave the Arabs to ourselves". He recounted that he left the World Economic Forum immediately and made the long trip to Saudi Arabia for the funeral of King Abdullah. But he received barely a handshake for his efforts. Saudi Arabia also sees relations with Iran as a zero sum game. The Saudis think ISIS can help them against Iran. Iran has sent a new Ambassador to Saudi Arabia who they trust, and he hopes this will help the relationship.

9. I asked him about the use of the unfrozen assets, and I said that people here will be looking to see if Iran spends its new-found funds on its people and investments, of if substantial amounts go to Hezbollah. He gave a tough response. "The money is our money and it was illegally blocked by the U.S., and what we do with our money is purely our business." He further said, "You spend 10 times more in the Middle East than we do, and what has it gotten you?" He contended Iran would only get $40 billion and we will spend it for our people.

10. If we give funds to Hezbollah, they are a positive force in Lebanon, and have kept ISIS out of Lebanon.

11. Regarding Syria, he said the presence if Russian military equipment and personnel was a good thing for Syria. He contented that "four months ago ISIS was close to Damascus, and this necessitated Russian help to beat them back. Iran "does not intend to send troops to Syria, but we will play a greater role in training and supporting the Syrian Army. He asked rhetorically, "what good has the U.S. and its allies done in combating ISIS? " He said flatly, "We are cooperating with Russia in Syria." The U.S., he asserted, has a dilemma in Syria. If you stick with the rebels, your support is not likely to be effective; if you support Assad you are changing your policy. He asserted that

12. Regarding the 1994 AMIA bombing and the recent controversy over the death of the prosecutor Nisman, shortly before he was to deliver a report to the Argentine Congress, the person who alleged Iran blew up AMIA has been proven a fraud and liar. He did saw shortly after Nisman's death that it was a suicide, but he was simply following the statement made by Argentina's

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democratically elected leader. “It is a mistake to allege Iran blew up AMIA.” The Saudis are behind all of this with their incorrect allegations.

13. Robin Wright of the Post, asked him about the release of the prisoners, including Jason, their journalist. Zarif said he knows Jason and would like to see him released, but he is an Iranian citizen, and an Iranian court found him guilty of passing along intelligence to a foreign power He is subject to Iranian law. “It will be hard to justify their release to our public.” However, he added, “I am ready for a negotiation, but it will have to involve the release of Iranian prisoners in the U.S.” The US “says we should be flexible”, but you are not flexible with our prisoners”. But he would like to see them back in the U.S. and their prisoners back in Iran.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

P.S. On the unrelated issue of TPP, I am disappointed with the position Hillary took. Of course, I am fully aware of the politics of the issue, but she could have stressed the geo-political advantage of passing it, in terms of combating Chinese influence in Asia. Also, the environmental groups seem positive. She might have dealt with the deficiencies in the trade area by bilateral side agreements, as with NAFTA. Her position will complicate an already difficult fight to pass TPP; its defeat would be a gift to China.

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/8/2016 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: Feminist Foreign Policy | GMF's Brussels Forum Agenda Announced | Japan-Russia Relations

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

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GMF's World Wire

March 9, 2016

A Conversation with Margot Wallström, Swedish Foreign Minister: On Women, Peace, and Security



GMF will host a conversation with Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström in Brussels on March 14. The Swedish government's commitment to pursue a "feminist foreign policy" puts gender equality and human rights at the center of Sweden's international objectives. The event will be livestreamed at 18:00 CET.

WATCH LIVE

Brussels Forum Convenes March 18-20



See what is on the agenda for this year's Brussels Forum. Press can now register to cover the event.

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Rosa Balfour & Timo Lochocki
In Europe, populist parties are thriving, challenging the *status quo* and the ruling elite. *European Policy Center*

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@D_Schwarzer :
While #EUCO debates migration, we took Parliamentarians from 9 EU countries to Athens refugee camp to see challenges @eliamepgr @gmfus #MED

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Will the EU Survive These Crises?



In the second installment of the GMF podcast series examining the crises facing the EU and possible solutions, Stephen Szabo, executive director of the Transatlantic Academy , talks with GMF Senior Fellow Sir Michael Leigh .

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Can Japan Bring Russia Back to the G7?



Joshua W. Walker
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 11/25/2014 1:49:45 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday November 25, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday November 25, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: MMFA: Fox News Sunday Ignored Congressional Report Debunking Benghazi Myths

"Fox News Sunday ignored a new report from the GOP-led House Intelligence Committee that debunked many of the myths that Fox News has spent the last two years promoting."

Sunshine State News: "Hillary Clinton Routing Democratic Primary Foes in Florida"

"Gravis Marketing unveiled a new poll this past weekend showing Clinton claiming 51 percent of Florida Democrats."

Bloomberg: "Here Is the Perfect Date to Launch a Presidential Campaign"

"This time around, that's June 12. Candidates, mark your calendars."

BuzzFeed: "Clinton Shadow Campaign Gets Ready For The Real Thing"

"Susie Tompkins Buell, a major Democratic donor and Clinton's close friend, provided Correct the Record with early, significant backing. 'My instinct is to protect Hillary,' said Buell. 'She's such a target, and she needs to be protected by those who believe in her so she can focus on doing her important work.'"

Slate: "Barnes & Noble Has a Plan to Make Physical Books Popular This Black Friday"

"Instead of competing head on with Amazon this Black Friday, Barnes & Noble is looking to offer something that the online retailer can't. The

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bookstore announced today that come this weekend, it will sell 500,000 signed copies of the latest works from 100 prominent authors. On the non-fiction side, authors include George W. Bush, Hillary Clinton, Malcolm Gladwell, Neil Patrick Harris, and Amy Poehler. In fiction, Dan Brown, Jodi Picoult, and Donna Tartt are among those taking part."

U.S. News & World Report: "Benghazi Isn't Going Away For Hillary"

"Politics is often irrational and more driven by perception than any series of facts. And it's hard to imagine any report that would be powerful enough to halt Republicans from using the incident and its aftermath against Hillary Clinton in 2016."

Washington Post: "With other Benghazi investigations completed, final probe ramping up"

"Republicans who remain convinced that there was an Obama administration coverup surrounding the deadly 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, are pinning their hopes on one last congressional probe to produce proof of a scandal. Others in the GOP, however, are urging that the party drop the Benghazi conspiracy theories and move on."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "House GOP Benghazi Probe Goes On Despite Intel Panel Report"

"House Speaker John Boehner (R., Ohio) said Monday that Rep. Trey Gowdy (R., S.C.) will continue to head a special panel to investigate the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, pushing ahead with the probe despite the release Friday of a GOP-led report that found no attempt to mislead the public."

The Hill: "Pressure builds for Senate to join Benghazi probe"

"Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), three young rising conservative stars who are weighing 2016 bids, say the Senate should participate in a joint investigation with the House."

Politicker NJ: "Source: Kempner and Gottheimer prep another group of Clinton for Prez backers"

"Hillary Clinton anchor fundraisers Mike Kempner and Josh Gottheimer welcomed the second round of Clinton fundraisers and friends to the Robert Treat Hotel tonight to polish the fundraising arm in the lead-up to a 2016 Clinton presidential candidacy."

Associated Press: "Democrats name 3 finalists to host 2016 convention"

"Democrats narrowed the list of contenders for their 2016 national convention to three cities on Monday, announcing the party's next presidential candidate will be formally nominated in New York City, Philadelphia or Columbus, Ohio."

Politico: "Al Sharpton: Rand Paul's outreach to blacks could hurt Democrats in 2016"

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"Sharpton added that Paul's actions could put 'a lot of pressure' even on Democrats such as Hillary Clinton — a potential 2016 frontrunner for the party — who have good records on civil rights."

The Hill blog: Congress Blog: "Ex-Im helps Hillary's friends at Boeing, not women-owned firms"

"Clinton maintains questionable political alliances with some of Ex-Im's biggest beneficiaries."

Articles:

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: MMFA: Fox News Sunday Ignored Congressional Report Debunking Benghazi Myths

By Oliver Willis

November 23, 2014, 5:02 p.m. EST

Fox News Sunday ignored a new report from the GOP-led House Intelligence Committee that debunked many of the myths that Fox News has spent the last two years promoting.

On November 21, the Republican-led House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence released its reporton the September 2012 attacks on two U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya. Similar to the many preceding investigations into the attacks -- including the Accountability Review Board and the bipartisan U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence -- the report found that no stand down order was issued during the attacks, there was no intelligence failure leading up to the attack, and that the talking points the administration used in the days following the attacks were based on the CIA's best assessment at the time.

The November 23 edition of Fox News Sunday did not inform viewers of the report's findings. This stands in stark contrast to Fox's longstanding campaign to promote myths about the attacks.

Fox has been a tireless promoter of nearly every facet of the Benghazi hoax. In the 20 months following the attacks, Fox ran over 1,100 segments on Benghazi and hosted Republicans at a rate of 30:1 over Democrats to discuss the issue. Meanwhile, the network has routinely ignored and downplayed evidence refuting its conspiracy theories.

CNN media critic Brian Stelter noted that other Fox programs only provided cursory coverage of the report on the night of its release and that Fox never mentioned it the following day. According to Stelter (emphasis added):

STELTER: Boy, has Fox News spent a lot of time over the past two years focused on the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, and I mean a lot of time. [...] But when a new Benghazi report came out on Friday, there was hardly a peep, and maybe that's because the report, which was Republican led, it was by the House Intelligence committee, debunks many of the myths that have run rampant on Fox News and in conservative media circles. [...] So I have to wonder: will Fox will stop aggressively pushing its theories about Benghazi? Probably not. With its audience largely in the dark about the latest findings, the myths may, and perhaps will, live on.

On the November 23 edition of Fox News' own MediaBuzz, host Howard Kurtz noted that it only received "brief" coverage on Fox and that the results of the two-year long investigation "deserved more coverage from all news outlets."

Sunshine State News: "Hillary Clinton Routing Democratic Primary Foes in Florida"

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By Kevin Derby

November 24, 2014, 1:56 p.m. EST

Former Sec. of State Hillary Clinton starts out 2016 as the favorite to win the Florida primary for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Gravis Marketing unveiled a new poll this past weekend showing Clinton claiming 51 percent of Florida Democrats. U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., stands in distant second with 18 percent followed by Vice President Joe Biden with 12 percent. Two governors--Martin O'Malley of Maryland and Andrew Cuomo--lag far behind. O'Malley takes 4 percent and Cuomo 2 percent.

The poll of 694 Florida Democratic primary voters was taken from Nov. 20-21 and had a margin of error of +/- 4 percent.

Bloomberg: "Here Is the Perfect Date to Launch a Presidential Campaign"

By Mira Rojanasakul and Adam Pearce

November 25, 2014, 5:01 a.m. EST

The midterm elections are barely behind us, but already the political world is speculating about who will be the first major presidential contender—Hillary Clinton? Chris Chris Christie? Rand Paul?—to officially enter the 2016 race for the White House. (Jim Webb, a former Democratic senator from Virginia, said last week he was forming an exploratory committee.) Would-be candidates might be wise to hold off. If history is any guide, the ideal day to announce for president is…

… First In

Why? Going back to 1952, the most recent year with accurate records, no candidate who was first onto the field has won the presidency. Democrats Adlai Stevenson (1956) and George McGovern (1972) got as far as clinching their party's nomination but went on to lose in the general election.

… Last In

Have candidates had better luck swooping in all fresh-faced at the very end? Only one: Ronald Reagan, who was last to announce in 1980 and won the White House.

… Somewhere in Between

In every other election since 1972—the year state primaries became more important than nominating conventions as the way parties choose presidential candidates—successful contenders announced somewhere in the mushy middle, not long before or long after their rivals.

… Every Candidate, Each Year

Since '72, winners have declared an average 492 days before the general election. In years where no incumbent was running, the winner announced an average 511 days before Election Day. This time around, that's June 12. Candidates, mark your calendars.

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BuzzFeed: "Clinton Shadow Campaign Gets Ready For The Real Thing"

By Ruby Cramer

November 25, 2014, 7:00 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] How three groups plan to raise unimaginable money, duel Republicans, and deliver a huge email list to Hillary Clinton. A big shift is coming after an unprecedented year.

The first item on the agenda was titled, "Why We're Here."

That's how it started, one year ago this month. Except no one at the Parker Meridien that day in New York seemed to know the answer.

Political operatives wandered the halls of the hotel between meetings, while two or three reporters hung around near the elevators, aimless. What they were covering, how it would all work and exactly to what end, wasn't clear at the time. But that small, scattered scene at the conference — a day-long series of panel discussions billed as a 2016 "strategy session" — marked the loose beginnings of a coordinated, unprecedented early effort to elect a U.S. president.

The Hillary Clinton "shadow" operation — call it a pre-campaign, or the "queen's machine," as one Republican news site has put it — is better defined now.

Three organizations make up what, together, is considered a formidable triad: Ready for Hillary, Correct the Record, Priorities USA. Respectively, the groups have amassed Clinton supporters, defended her in the press, and made preparations to raise millions to augment her possible campaign.

Last Friday, the stakeholders convened in New York again.

The occasion was the same: the Ready for Hillary national finance council meeting — a day of closed-door panel discussions with Clinton supporters, donors, and strategists who work at the other two outside groups.

But one year later, the pro-Clinton enterprise was larger — more organized and better synchronized. The aimlessness of the first meeting had been replaced by an air of authority. It was all very official. There were Ready for Hillary-branded centerpieces at each table. There were more people, and more reporters. Surrogates of the shadow campaign like Buffy Wicks, executive director of Priorities, cycled through the pressroom to take questions. The day before, Correct the Record aides set up a lunch with a few dozen donors.

Ready for Hillary had even moved the conference from the Parker Meridien to a larger, perhaps more symbolic venue: the Sheraton in Midtown — the place the Clintons host their foundation's annual Global Initiative meeting.

The trio of groups was a long way past the "Why We're Here" panel last November. At the meeting, Wicks described the alliance between the pro-Clinton groups as a "three-legged stool" that would be kept stable and well-resourced.

Together, the three organizations have appeared powerful and effective. The coalition has tacitly communicated something important: that a team of strategists have "laid the groundwork," "set the stage," and "built the foundation" for a campaign. The perception of a Clinton machine is valuable.

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But individually, the impact of each group is harder to grasp, and less discussed. In more than two dozen interviews and conversations this month about what Priorities, Correct the Record, and Ready for Hillary, Democrats inside and outside the Clinton effort said the campaign cliches reveal little about what each organization did and did not actually accomplish in the last year.

Now Clinton's real campaign could be just months away. And in the waning days of the "shadow" efforts, the role and shape of all three groups is rapidly shifting.

The super PAC had a new board of directors, a new office, and a new candidate: Hillary Clinton. But three months after the closely watched retooling, when the first quarter closed this year, Priorities USA Action issued a statement trumpeting how little it had raised. The finally tally was just over $4,000.

After the second quarter, they did it again, raising just shy of $2,000. In the third quarter, the number was even lower: $216.

This is the same PAC that spent $67 million on President Obama's reelection.

The slow fundraising was a sign of good faith — evidence, as the group's spokesman, Peter Kauffmann, said this summer, that the PAC was continuing to "focus our efforts on supporting Democrats in 2014," rather than distracting from the midterms by raising money for an unconfirmed Clinton bid.

Earlier in the year, Priorities received a spate of unwanted headlines after the group announced they wouldn't be funding midterm candidates directly. (Democrats ended up losing at least eight seats in the Senate and 12 in the House this fall.)

Instead, officials at the PAC encouraged their donors to give to midterms candidates, while also taking informal meetings with contacts about 2016.

Now the real work begins for Priorities: raising a massive sum of money.

Officials have not made a fundraising goal public. The number $300 million has been discussed as a possible benchmark, according to two people familiar with the group's plans. Wicks wouldn't talk dollar targets on Friday. "The answer is enough resources to communicate the message," she told reporters.

Even for Priorities, considered one of the most potent big money groups in either party, raising $300 million would be an enormous feat. But this time around, the organization will benefit from more accepting attitudes toward super PACs.

During Obama's reelection campaign, when two former White House aides formed Priorities, the president was among the loudest opponents of outside, unlimited spending. Even after he endorsed Priorities in early 2012, donors were still nervous to give to the PAC — would it be held against them?

The group would eventually secure 29 checks for $1 million or more from individual donors. Each one required significant legwork from the Priorities co-founders and two other key figures: Jeffrey Katzenberg, a Hollywood executive and a longtime donor and fundraiser, and Paul Begala, the former Bill Clinton strategist who serves as a senior adviser to the PAC.

"Priorities had to devote a lot of energy to justifying its existence, in addition to doing the work of helping reelect Obama," said Geoff Garin, a pollster who served as Clinton's top strategist for the final two months of her campaign. "In 2016, Priorities will start off from a better position of strength and credibility."

Ahead of the next election, it's not clear who will lead on what could be one of the most ambitious outside fundraising projects in politics.

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The Priorities co-chairs both work on the PAC in a part-time capacity. Jim Messina, Obama's reelection campaign manager, runs his own consulting firm, and Jennifer Granholm, the former governor of Michigan, teaches at Berkeley.

Jonathan Mantz, the national finance director on Clinton's last presidential race, is currently the PAC's senior adviser to finance. He and Diane Rogalle, Priorities' finance director, are expected to direct the group's fundraising strategy. And Begala and Katzenberg, one source said, will help secure checks again this cycle.

But how Priorities will get the big checks, and with whose help, is the question occupying officials there now, two sources close to the group said.

Donors anticipate that the Clintons, and particularly Bill Clinton, will play a direct role in Priorities fundraising efforts, according to three people with knowledge of discussions among the PAC's network about the idea.

One suggested that Bill Clinton, among the most popular political figures in the country, would be the bold name the PAC needed to help bring in big checks.

"I would expect them both to be involved," one Democratic donor said.

Kauffmann, the spokesperson, said Priorities officials hadn't discussed the possibility that the former president would help with fundraising. "There have been no conversations about President Clinton raising money for Priorities," Kauffman wrote in a statement last week.

Before the announcement of a campaign, federal election rules would not restrict the Clintons from fundraising for Priorities. They could both speak at events and make direct solicitations for unlimited amounts of money — a scenario people close to the couple dismissed as improbable.

If Clinton does open a campaign account, either in the former of an initial exploratory committee or a campaign committee, she and her husband could still appear and speak at Priorities fundraisers — so long as they don't make the asks for contributions, according to a 2011 Federal Election Commission ruling.

Mitt Romney took this approach with his super PAC, Restoring Our Future.

In 2012, Bill Clinton attended multiple events for Priorities. Obama appeared at only one, a lunch hosted by Katzenberg. The White House later described it as a "thank you event for the campaign's supporters," not a fundraiser.

Clinton could have a different approach to the optics of outside spending. "She will take a more favorable view of these super PAC activities than Obama ever did," said a source with knowledge of her thinking on the topic.

The group has already started soliciting major donors, one source said. But officials also said Priorities won't move at full pace until Clinton runs.

"Priorities is meeting with key supporters to discuss the dynamics of the 2016 presidential race," said Kauffman. "We played a critical role in helping elect a Democratic president in 2012 and we look forward to doing the same in 2016."

On a Friday in late May, Democrats from an array of left-leaning groups in Washington met for a national security briefing at the offices of Third Way.

The centrist think tank regularly holds briefings for strategists. But the gathering last spring, as first reported by Politico, took place about two weeks ahead of the release of Hillary Clinton's new memoir, a chronicle of her four years as secretary of state. And the discussion focused in part on how best to respond to Republicans about the most controversial moment of Clinton's tenure: the 2012 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

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Clinton's longtime spokesman, now a top adviser, Philippe Reines, attended the Third Way briefing, along with a number of her former aides.

A new partner was also at the table: Correct the Record.

The group — an arm of the the super PAC, American Bridge — was one of many represented at the May briefing. But their presence at the Third Way offices signaled the extent to which the organization has served as, and was sanctioned to be, a de facto Clinton communications shop for much of the last year.

Clinton has voiced her approval of the group's work. "She has told donors that this needed to be done," someone familiar with the conversations said.

Susie Tompkins Buell, a major Democratic donor and Clinton's close friend, provided Correct the Record with early, significant backing. "My instinct is to protect Hillary," said Buell. "She's such a target, and she needs to be protected by those who believe in her so she can focus on doing her important work."

Buell said she hasn't talked to Clinton about backing Correct the Record. (She is also a co-chair of Ready for Hillary's finance council.) "It wouldn't be appropriate," she said. "I know she's an appreciative person, so I don't need to hear anything from her. I don't expect it and don't need it."

Correct the Record is led by David Brock, the founder of American Bridge and Media Matters, an organization that monitors conservative news outlets.

The group has two components: a research team that has compiled pages and pages of material about Clinton's political history, and a "rapid response" communications operation that aims to defend her in the press.

At first, the group occasionally launched hits in the press unprompted against possible Republican presidential candidates, including Gov. Chris Christie and Sen. Rand Paul. When Christie got in trouble for closing lanes on the George Washington Bridge, Correct the Record released a graphic showing traffic signs that read, "Political Retribution" and "Lanes Closed. Expect Christie?" The picture drew story headlines like "Clinton-linked group attacks Christie."

Since then, Correct the Record has stayed focused on Clinton.

Democrats inside and outside the pro-Clinton effort said in interviews this month that Correct the Record's value hasn't been its public research material. (Clinton is one of the most covered, and vetted, potential presidential candidates in modern politics.) Instead, the organization has filled a void, serving as an on-the-record political voice for Clinton.

After she left the State Department, Clinton spent most of her time working at the family foundation, writing her book, and giving paid speeches. When she was criticized in the press — whether by a Republican lawmaker or a right-leaning group — it was most often Correct the Record that responded with a quote or a press release. Political reporters were more likely to get a comment from the outside group than a reply from a Clinton spokesperson.

Since her memoir came out this summer, Clinton has waded back into the debate. In September, she returned to the campaign trail, holding fundraisers and rallies for more than 26 candidates. And last week, when Obama announced a series of executive actions to slow deportations, Clinton's personal office released statement to reporters, saying she supported the move.

As a campaign gets closer, Clinton will become even more involved. When it begins, she will build up her own existing communications team.

Correct the Record has plans to stay active alongside her campaign, as first reported in the New York Times last week. The group, Clinton supporters said, faces the challenge of staying out of her staff's way while still being helpful.

“Correct the Record’s mission all along has been to fight the right against false and unfair attacks on potential presidential Democratic candidates, most notably Hillary Clinton,” the group’s communications director, Adrienne Elrod, said in a written statement. “Our mission is far from complete.”

“Moving forward, Correct the Record will remain central and fundamental to taking on the right-wing and others who seek to mislead the public.”

The organization will likely focus on responding to attacks from other outside groups, like the anti-Clinton firm, America Rising. Supporters said that if Correct the Record is successful in engaging Republican attacks, Clinton’s campaign would be able to focus on its message, staying as “positive” as possible.

“The campaign itself might not want to be in perpetual response mode,” said Garin, the pollster and former Clinton strategist. “In that sense, it’s helpful to have a third-party correcting falsehoods about Clinton from outside entities and right-wing news outlets whose oxygen will be attacking Hillary.”

Ready for Hillary was just a few months old. It was late spring in 2013, and no one quite knew what to make of the thing. Was it a draft movement? A fundraising venue? A campaign-in-waiting? The group had only 200,000 people on its email list — but each week more and more followers signed up.

Clinton’s advisers and former aides were watching warily.

By May, the group received valuable stamps of approval from Clinton loyalists like James Carville, Harold Ickes, Ellen Tauscher, and Buell. Bill Clinton’s old political director, Craig Smith, had also signed on as a senior advisor.

Early that summer, a leading New York donor sent an email to a group of fundraising contacts: “I just spoke with Craig Smith who is now advising Ready for Hillary PAC and, just so you know, it is okay for us to be supporting this now.”

The mass email from the donor, a longtime Clinton backer, is emblematic of the slow, begrudging way in which her world eventually accepted Ready for Hillary.

The group, co-founded by 29-year-old former Clinton staffer Adam Parkhomenko, still had detractors — including, for a time last year, the officials at Priorities, who believed the new PAC would compete for its donors. But most have embraced the group. In the absence of a real campaign, and with a growing list of supporters and strong marketing acumen, Ready for Hillary became impossible to ignore.

Clinton’s supporters also saw the value of a single hub for a pre-Clinton PAC, rather than an array of smaller, less reliable groups, which were already sprouting up in election filings by the spring of last year. Eventually, it became clear that Ready for Hillary was considered the dominant organization.

A year and a half later, the self-described “grassroots super PAC” has grown to a massive size. State and federal elected officials, including 16 senators, have directly endorsed the group since last summer. The PAC has appeared in every state, assembled a list of more than 3 million Clinton supporters, built a squad of about 35,000 volunteers, and hired a staff of 29 full-time employees. Their operating costs total roughly $23,000 per day, according to Bloomberg Politics.

The Ready for Hillary mission is straightforward: to build a list of people who support Clinton — and to provide fans a viable outlet for their enthusiasm.

“The storyline remains familiar and simple,” said Tracy Sefl, a Democratic strategist who has served as a senior adviser to the group since last year. “And for some time now, Ready for Hillary has been doing what we do.”

But of the three pro-Clinton entities, the group is perhaps the most misconstrued. The group is often credited with “laying the groundwork” for a Clinton bid, or building a “campaign infrastructure” two years in advance. But the generalizations glaze over the actual work of the PAC, which will

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come to an end when a Clinton campaign begins, as Politico first reported in detail.

Ready for Hillary's most valuable asset is its list of 3 million Clinton supporters.

Each person on the list has, at the very least, supplied an email address and mailing zip code — or, if a supporter signs up through the mail, a physical address where he or she can be contacted. (The 3 million figure does not include Facebook users who have liked the group's page, an official said.) The PAC also collects data about whether a member has made donations, volunteered, attended events, or purchased merchandise on the Ready for Hillary website.

Officials with the PAC expect Clinton will want the list.

The group has taken steps to ensure the quality of the data. Through an internal system, built by NGP VAN, the leading technology company for Democrats, the Ready for Hillary list "instantaneously" marries up, or syncs data, with a 50-state voter file, according to a person familiar with the system.

Ready for Hillary purchased the voter file from NGP VAN last year. The file is a comprehensive database that includes information about voting history. An official with the PAC would not disclose what percentage of this list matches the voter file — a possible indicator of the list's value to a campaign.

Officials expect they will be able to transfer the data to Clinton through a list swap. The process could be logistically and legally complicated. But the group has, one aide said, already walked through the ways a swap could work with Jim Lamb, the former Clinton lawyer Ready for Hillary hired last year. Organizers said they hadn't discussed the list with anyone inside Clinton's direct orbit.

"It's a safe assumption that someone should acquire the data and utilize it fully," said Sefl, the Ready For Hillary senior advisor.

The list's value is often confused for a field operation in the making. Aside from the work of a few regional staffers, the PAC hasn't built an infrastructure that resembles the scale of a presidential campaign's field organization.

"People think there's this huge campaign structure that Ready for Hillary has built, but if there is, not a lot of folks have seen it," said a senior Democratic operative. "They're not building a huge field operation. They're building a list."

"But it's an important list. Martin O'Malley and Jim Webb would kill to have that."

Scott Brennan, the chair of the Democratic Party in Iowa, described the PAC's work in clear terms. "They've built lists," he said. "They have volunteers."

In Iowa, where the first event of the nominating process is historically held, voters can get "a little squishy," Brennan said, about nontraditional campaign methods, such as a super PAC supporting a campaign that doesn't yet exist.

"Obviously, people want to see candidates here, and she has been here," he said.

As the next presidential race gets closer, more and more voters will want the candidate, not the PAC. Ready for Hillary officials are now preparing for that next phase. The group is planning to shut down when a campaign begins, though it still has events planned in cities across the country through at least January.

After a year on the road promoting their "Ready" brand on state-to-state bus tour, the group is quieter now, shifting into its role in the background.

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When Bill Clinton spoke in New Hampshire this fall, Ready for Hillary co-hosted the event and stocked the venue with posters bearing their trademark.

But a month later, when Hillary Clinton returned to the state to headline a campaign rally for two Democrats, the super PAC's presence was far more faint.

There were no signs or posters, no "Ready" branding on the walls. From the venue, you could barely spot the group's bus, idling on the far edge of the parking lot, allowing more space than usual to the candidate-to-be.

Slate: "Barnes & Noble Has a Plan to Make Physical Books Popular This Black Friday"

By Allison Griswold

November 24, 2014, 6:07 p.m. EST

Instead of competing head on with Amazon this Black Friday, Barnes & Noble is looking to offer something that the online retailer can't. The bookstore announced today that come this weekend, it will sell 500,000 signed copies of the latest works from 100 prominent authors. On the non-fiction side, authors include George W. Bush, Hillary Clinton, Malcolm Gladwell, Neil Patrick Harris, and Amy Poehler. In fiction, Dan Brown, Jodi Picoult, and Donna Tartt are among those taking part.

Barnes & Noble says the effort has been in the works for more than half a year, with each author signing thousands of copies of their books for readers. "Some went beyond their signature to personalize the books," the chain notes in its release. Mo Willems, a children's book author and illustrator, sketched the head of one of his characters in signed editions. Mary Amicucci, Barnes & Noble's vice president of adult trade and children's books, told MarketWatch that authors weren't paid for their efforts but were "hugely enthusiastic" about the plan.

The key to this particular Black Friday deal is that it's available in stores only. In that way, it's a pretty obvious ploy to get book lovers off of Amazon and into Barnes & Noble's physical locations, but it also seems like a savvy one. After all, if you come in to snag an autographed copy of The Goldfinch or The Polar Express—the kind of thing you can't just download onto your Kindle—you might also decide to pick up that copy of Pride and Prejudice you'd been meaning to get instead of ordering it online.

Barnes & Noble is under significant pressure to perform well this holiday season; its same-store sales have sunk for seven straight quarters, though its stock is up 60 percent year-to-date. Signed copies alone might not be enough to reverse that decline. But if nothing else, the amount of foot traffic and sales they generate should be a good test of whether big-name authors still have enough fan power to make a physical book worth its often hefty price.

U.S. News & World Report: "Benghazi Isn't Going Away For Hillary"

By David Catanese

November 24, 2014, 2:55 p.m. EST

At first glance, a rational observer might see a Republican-led House committee's verdict on the attack on a U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, as the resolving voice in the 2012 tragedy that took the lives of four Americans, including a U.S. ambassador.

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The House Intelligence Committee found there “was no intelligence failure, no delay in sending a CIA rescue team, no missed opportunity for a military rescue, and no evidence the CIA was covertly shipping arms from Libya to Syria.”

Some in the media seized on the report to declare that “Benghazi coverage will finally be put to rest.”

But politics is often irrational and more driven by perception than any series of facts. And it’s hard to imagine any report that would be powerful enough to halt Republicans from using the incident and its aftermath against Hillary Clinton in 2016.

After more than a year of drumbeat coverage on the issue in conservative media, for a GOP White House aspirant to just drop it because of a 37-page House report would be akin to political malpractice. Besides, there’s another investigation still underway, helmed by South Carolina GOP Rep. Trey Gowdy.

It’s true: This report will give Clinton a nice reference point to combat the coming attacks. Even Republicans investigated and found no systemic failure, she can say.

But that doesn’t mean it’s going away. Not by a long shot.

Take Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who is floating his own name for a presidential run in 2016.

“Full of crap” is how he succinctly described the report’s findings on CNN this weekend.

As a respected foreign policy voice on the GOP side of the ledger, his comments give other 2016 contenders cover for continuing their own verbal broadsides on the controversy.

Republicans see the Benghazi attack as an inarguable blemish on Clinton’s tenure as secretary of state. Her off-handed comment (“What difference – at this point – does it make?”) questioning the worthiness of identifying the reason for the attacks at the moment they occurred will be fodder for countless ads against her.

Additionally, the Benghazi episode is a critical piece in the larger narrative the GOP will attempt to construct around what they see as a feckless Barack Obama-Hillary Clinton foreign policy.

There isn’t a special committee or gray-bearded statesman who can change that.

The red-hot issue is bound to come up in the GOP primary and in the general election. It’s difficult to imagine Benghazi not being a pointed question Clinton has to address in debate over foreign policy in 2016.

If it’s not, the Republican nominee will be sure to make it one.

Washington Post: “With other Benghazi investigations completed, final probe ramping up”

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By Ed O'Keefe

November 24, 2014, 7:46 p.m. EST

Republicans who remain convinced that there was an Obama administration coverup surrounding the deadly 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, are pinning their hopes on one last congressional probe to produce proof of a scandal.

Others in the GOP, however, are urging that the party drop the Benghazi conspiracy theories and move on.

The House Select Committee on Benghazi will produce what Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) said Monday will be "the definitive report" on the attack that killed four Americans on the night of Sept. 11, 2012, and he reappointed Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) , a former federal prosecutor known for his patterned blazers and impressive oratorical skills, to lead the panel.

"Two years later, the American people still have far too many questions about what happened that night — and why," Boehner said in a statement.

The heightened interest in the select committee comes in the wake of a House Intelligence Committee report, released last week, that rejected long-running conspiracy theories that the U.S. military was prevented from rescuing Americans targeted in the attack.

Gowdy's committee will hold a public hearing next month — only its second since being established in May — with other hearings planned for next year, including several behind closed doors in order to review classified information, according to aides who weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Democrats complain that the committee is a waste of both time and money, since it has developed no clear purpose or specific plan.

Republicans, including Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) — an outspoken critic of the Obama administration's foreign policy — say that the Gowdy panel can produce significant results because it enjoys a broader mandate than the oversight committees that have produced reports so far. In those cases. the committees investigated specific actions by the CIA, Pentagon or State Department.

"I hope a joint committee looking at all three agencies together, rather than stove-piping, can get through this," Graham said over the weekend on CNN. The South Carolina Republican was especially critical of the House Intelligence Committee report.

While the report did fault the CIA and other agencies for incorrectly assessing what caused the attacks and the White House for a "flawed" public response, it mostly debunked the assertions that the casualties were caused by delayed military response.

Graham called the intelligence panel's report "absolute garbage." Speaking Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," he said the report "puts all the blame on the State Department and absolves the intelligence community."

"When the Department of Defense committees looked at [the attacks], the Department of Defense was held blameless. At the end of the day, everybody is pointing fingers to everybody else," he said.

A spokeswoman for Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), a potential 2016 presidential candidate, said Rubio was not pleased with the House Intelligence report.

"Regardless of the report's conclusions, many unanswered questions still remain, such as why no one at the State Department has been held accountable for the failure to heed the intelligence warnings of the deteriorating security situation in Libya, which is outrageous," spokeswoman Brooke Sammon said in an e-mail.

Spokesmen for other potential GOP presidential candidates, including Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.), didn't respond to requests for comment.

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At least some Republicans, including Sen. Jeff Flake (Ariz.), believe it's time for the GOP to drop the issue altogether.

"I've always thought the biggest problem with Benghazi is how it was cast by the administration and the remarks that Susan Rice just really threw in the face of what we knew was going on," he said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "But with regard to the other things that were addressed by this report, well, yes, I thought for a long time that we ought to move beyond that."

Gowdy said in a statement that the intelligence panel's report will assist his "comprehensive investigation" that is designed to produce the "final, definitive accounting of the attack on behalf of Congress."

Rep. Susan Brooks (R-Ind.), another former federal prosecutor and a member of the select committee, said that the intelligence panel's work "is one of many tools" that will be used "to put together a cohesive and comprehensive picture of the attack on our consulate."

"The American public deserves all of the facts regarding this tragic attack, and we are employing a deliberative and thorough process to find them," Brooks said.

Democrats on the committee have complained that Boehner is devoting at least $3.3 million in taxpayer funding to bankroll a committee without any clear goals

"We don't have a timetable yet, and we don't have a scope of investigation yet," Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.), a member of the Intelligence Committee and the Benghazi committee, said Monday in an interview. "It's not because [Gowdy] is unwilling to work with us, it's that we haven't come to a conclusion about where it's headed."

Schiff defended the intelligence panel for working over two years on a report that was unanimously approved by all the members.

"The only real objection we're hearing is that it contradicts a myth. And for some, no amount of factual documentation is going to change their Fox-driven conclusion," he said, referring to the Fox News Channel, which has aggressively covered the attack, its aftermath and subsequent investigations.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "House GOP Benghazi Probe Goes On Despite Intel Panel Report"

By Michael R. Crittenden

November 24, 2014, 7:51 p.m. EST

House Speaker John Boehner (R., Ohio) said Monday that Rep. Trey Gowdy (R., S.C.) will continue to head a special panel to investigate the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, pushing ahead with the probe despite the release Friday of a GOP-led report that found no attempt to mislead the public.

Mr. Boehner said in a statement that "the American people still have far too many questions about what happened that night – and why" in announcing that he would reappoint Mr. Gowdy and the other GOP members to a House select committee to investigate the Sept. 11, 2012 attacks that left four Americans dead.

"I look forward to the definitive report Chairman Gowdy and the Select Committee will present to the American people," Mr. Boehner said.

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Mr. Boehner made his announcement just days after the House Intelligence Committee issued a report that deflated many of the allegations made by White House critics over the attack and subsequent response by the Obama administration. The report found that the U.S. military and Central Intelligence Agency responded properly at the time of the attacks and that, while some "talking points" used by the administration were flawed, there was no attempt to mislead the public.

The intelligence panel's report said that it is meant to be the "definitive House statement" on the matter and that it was being made public "so that the American public can separate the actual facts from the swirl of rumors and unsupported allegations."

Democrats have repeatedly said the formation of the Benghazi select committee is a political stunt and is intended to provide political fodder to use against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton if she runs for president in 2016. Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, top Democrat on the select Benghazi panel, questioned the point of replicating the numerous other investigations into the attacks.

"Based on these unanimous, bipartisan findings, there is no reason for the Benghazi Select Committee to reinvestigate these facts, repeat the work already done by our Republican and Democratic colleagues, and squander millions of additional taxpayer dollars in the process," Mr. Cummings said in a statement.

A spokesman for Benghazi Select Committee Republicans said on Friday that the panel had received the intelligence committee's report "months ago," and that it would aid the panel's investigation.

The Hill: "Pressure builds for Senate to join Benghazi probe"

By Alexander Bolton

November 25, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

Senate Republican leaders are under pressure from GOP lawmakers with presidential ambitions to join the House in investigating the 2012 Benghazi attack.

Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), three young rising conservative stars who are weighing 2016 bids, say the Senate should participate in a joint investigation with the House.

"The House is doing its job and engaged in oversight. For six years under [Senate Majority Leader] Harry Reid [D-Nev.], the Senate has refused to do its job. I am hopeful and optimistic the Senate will finally begin meaningful oversight. That is its constitutional responsibility," Cruz told The Hill.

But Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who is set to take over as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, has yet to decide whether the Senate needs to deploy its investigate resources while the House is already doing so.

"What we need to do is talk with the House guys, see where they are and see if they think it's helpful," McCain said when asked whether the Senate should launch an investigation. "I'll be guided by that."

The 2008 presidential nominee has been discussing his options with Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), the chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi.

A House GOP aide said the decision about whether the Senate participates is up to the leadership, including McCain and other incoming Republican leadership. Meanwhile, Gowdy has directed his panel to continue moving forward with its investigation..

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The South Carolina congressman has scheduled a hearing for December although the date and witness list has yet to be determined. He has also laid out an intensive investigative plan for 2015 that will include multiple hearings early in the year — some open to the public and others behind closed doors.

Cruz introduced a resolution last year calling on Congress to create a joint Senate-House committee to investigate Benghazi.

Paul, Rubio and 23 other Senate Republicans co-sponsored the measure — including Senate Republican Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas) but not Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.).

Aides to Paul and Rubio on Friday said their bosses believe the Senate should join the House select committee.

Rubio earlier this year criticized the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which he sits on, because it had “not even attempted to conduct a thorough investigation into these terrorist attacks that took the lives of four brave Americans.”

The House Intelligence Committee released a report Friday that largely exonerated the Obama administration of Republican charges that it had covered up the circumstances of the attack and intentionally mislead Congress.

Democrats argue the latest House findings call into question the need for further investigation.

“Serious investigations have shown that the administration acted appropriately in Benghazi. Sen. McCain should think twice before throwing even more taxpayer dollars into what amounts to a baseless partisan stunt,” said a Senate Democratic aide.

The House intelligence panel, chaired by retiring Republican Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Mich.), found the administration did not intentionally mislead the public when Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, used talking points describing the attack as “spontaneous” and “not premeditated.”

The GOP-controlled panel also concluded “there was no stand down order issued” to the military that stopped it from intervening in the attack.

A spokesman for the House Select Committee on Benghazi said it has reviewed the Intelligence Committee’s report “along with other committee reports and materials as the investigation proceeds.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), McCain’s closest ally in the Senate, attacked the House report Sunday as “full of crap.”

"I don't believe that the report is accurate, given the role that Mike Morell played in misleading the Congress on two different occasions. Why didn't the report say that?" he told CNN’s “State of the Union” in an interview Sunday, referring to the deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency at the time.

He argued that when Rice went on television after the attack she said on three occasions the consulate was strongly, secured when “nothing could be further … from the truth.”

“She gave an impression to the American people that these folks were well taken care of, when it was in fact a death trap. Who told her to say that?” he said, describing the House report “a complete bunch of garbage.”

Graham, who has floated a White House bid of his own, said last week the Senate needs to investigate.

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"What I would envision is a select committee being formed in the Senate of members from the appropriate committees instead of a stovepipe approach," he told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt.

"We would create a select committee in the Senate to marry up with the select committee in the House, become a joint select committee, bootstrap on the work already done by the House, and take this to its logical conclusion," he added.

The attack killed Christopher Stephens, the U.S. ambassador to Libya, two months before the 2012 presidential election and became a vulnerability for President Obama in the campaign.

Evidence that the State Department mishandled security before the attack, botched its response or tried to hide mistakes would become an issue in the 2016 campaign if Hillary Clinton, who served as secretary of State at the time, runs for the White House.

Paul, a leading 2016 contender, has repeatedly criticized Clinton for not taking the security situation in Libya more seriously.

He argues that if "she cannot protect our embassies" it "precludes her from ever being considered as commander in chief."

Politicker NJ: "Source: Kempner and Gottheimer prep another group of Clinton for Prez backers"

By Max Pizarro

November 24, 2014, 9:13 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton anchor fundraisers Mike Kempner and Josh Gottheimer welcomed the second round of Clinton fundraisers and friends to the Robert Treat Hotel tonight to polish the fundraising arm in the lead-up to a 2016 Clinton presidential candidacy.

Thirty donors and public personalities convened for dinner at the Robert Treat tonight.

The guests included Democratic State Chairman John Currie, Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle (D-37), Englewood Mayor Frank Huttle, Bergen County Democratic Chairman Lou Stellato, state Senator M. Teresa Ruiz (D-29), labor leader Milly Silva, attorney Phil Sellinger.

Former Obama State Director Mark Alexander was in the room.

A source with knowledge of the meeting said the group members left with a charged-up sense of the coming presidential contest and prepared to fundraise and campaign for the former Secretary of State.

The New Jersey goal is to raise $5-$10 million by day one of Clinton's launch, the source added.

Kempner – CEO of MWW – and Gottheimer – a former Clinton speechwriter – convened the first big power broker summit for Clinton a month ago.

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Associated Press: "Democrats name 3 finalists to host 2016 convention"

By Ken Thomas

November 24, 2014, 2:42 p.m. EST

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats narrowed the list of contenders for their 2016 national convention to three cities on Monday, announcing the party's next presidential candidate will be formally nominated in New York City, Philadelphia or Columbus, Ohio.

The Democratic National Committee said convention bids made by Birmingham, Alabama and Phoenix had been eliminated.

DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Florida congresswoman, announced the finalists in an email to Democrats and said the event would be held either the weeks of July 18, July 25 or August 22. She said the DNC expects to announce the host city in early 2015.

The three remaining cities could offer an appealing backdrop for Hillary Rodham Clinton, the leading Democratic presidential contender should she seek the White House again.

Clinton represented New York in the Senate and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, was first nominated at New York City's Madison Square Garden in 1992. The couple lives in nearby Westchester County and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has promoted the Brooklyn convention site as a popular option for the party's liberal base.

The Clintons have deep ties to Philadelphia's organizers, including Mayor Michael Nutter and former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell. The city was the site of the 2000 Republican convention and its East Coast location and patriotic heritage as the home of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell could be a plus.

Columbus, meanwhile, would put Democrats in the center of the nation's top presidential battleground state and offer an in-state rebuttal to Republicans, who are holding their convention in Cleveland.

The winning bid is expected to be based on a number of factors, including the city's ability to raise an estimated $65 million or more along with the potential venues, hotels and transportation options for delegates, party activists and the media.

Birmingham, Alabama, and Phoenix, Arizona, had both offered out-of-the-box options. Alabama is a solidly Republican state and has not supported a Democratic presidential candidate since 1976, limiting its appeal. Democrats would like to turn Arizona into a presidential battleground state — the party has not carried it since 1996 — but some party activists have been critical of the state's approach to immigration enforcement.

Republicans are planning to hold their Cleveland convention beginning either June 27 or July 18. The DNC is keeping the July 18 week as an option but would hold it a different week if Republicans select a mid-July convention.

Politico: "Al Sharpton: Rand Paul's outreach to blacks could hurt Democrats in 2016"

By Katie Glueck

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

November 24, 2014, 2:12 p.m. EST

The Rev. Al Sharpton says Rand Paul's efforts to engage black voters could present a strategic challenge for Democrats: If the Republican senator runs for president, fewer African Americans may be motivated to show up and vote against him.

The civil rights activist and TV host had breakfast with the Kentucky senator last week, and the pair discussed the need for criminal justice reform before disagreeing over how to deal with the immigration system.

Democrats have traditionally done well among African American voters, especially with Barack Obama at the top of the ticket. In 2016, Democrats will "need maximum black turnout in a lot of states," Sharpton told POLITICO.

"What I think is more dangerous for Democrats is, if a guy like Paul is out there, if he becomes the nominee, for argument's sake, he … does not generate a turnout against him" among African Americans, Sharpton said. He added, "If he's able to neutralize his past image on civil rights, if he becomes the candidate … and if you don't get a huge black turnout saying 'We're afraid [of him],'" that could be a pitfall for Democrats.

Sharpton pointed to former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's efforts to engage the black community as an example. Bloomberg "didn't get a lot of black votes … but because he reached out, a lot of blacks were not energized to come out and vote against him," Sharpton said.

Paul came under fire in his 2010 Senate race for equivocating over whether the Civil Rights Act should apply to private businesses (he later stressed he would have voted for the measure). But he has made engaging minority communities a priority in recent years. He has called for restoration of voting rights for some non-violent felons; visited Ferguson, Missouri, where a white police officer fatally shot a black teenager; worked with Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey on criminal justice reform and decried police militarization. He's also called on the GOP to be more inclusive.

Sharpton stressed that he is not endorsing Paul, but suggested he was impressed with Paul's efforts.

"Now that he's [working] with Booker, going to Ferguson, having breakfast with Al Sharpton … he is beginning to demonstrate some very open, very consistent patterns of trying to broaden the framework of a potential candidacy," Sharpton said. "I think he knows it's unlikely someone like Al Sharpton would endorse him, but I can't ignore him. He's openly dealing with issues that [politicians] including people in the Democratic Party, haven't done."

Sharpton asked for the meeting, which was held in the Senate dining room, and said he was pleased that Paul was willing to get together in such a high-profile place. The reverend floated a possible invitation to his annual civil rights conference, and Paul did not rule out attending. The senator's office confirmed that he is open to a possible appearance.

Sharpton added that Paul's actions could put "a lot of pressure" even on Democrats such as Hillary Clinton — a potential 2016 frontrunner for the party — who have good records on civil rights.

"In this era of Ferguson and chokehold and the fact that we have the first black president leaving the White House, you can't just go by record," he said. "You gotta go by, as Janet Jackson used to say, 'What have you done for me lately?'"

The Hill blog: Congress Blog: "Ex-Im helps Hillary's friends at Boeing, not women-owned firms"

By Veronique de Rugy and Andrea Castillo; de Rugy is a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Castillo is the program manager of the Technology Policy Program with the Mercatus Center.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

November 24, 2014, 4:00 p.m. EST

Here's some news that is sure to shock no one: Hillary Clinton is a big fan of the Export-Import Bank. During a recent address at a Little Rock event hosted by the No Ceilings Project, Clinton made a point to support the federal subsidizer of exporting multinational corporations.

The perpetual presidential hopeful told the crowd that the Ex-Im Bank is "a tool for us to be competitive in order to support our businesses exporting." She claimed that those who oppose Ex-Im's questionable lending practices to large, politically connected corporations are driven by ideology, not by evidence. Setting aside the fact that economists of all ideological backgrounds have amassed mountains of evidence that Ex-Im does not meaningfully improve U.S. exports or jobs, distorts international markets, and directly harms the 98 percent of unsubsidized workers, consumers, and exporters that don't have friends in Washington, Hillary Clinton's own support of Ex-Im isn't exactly based on "evidence" either. In fact, Clinton maintains questionable political alliances with some of Ex-Im's biggest beneficiaries.

First, it is ironic, and wildly out-of-touch, that Clinton should sing Ex-Im's praises at an event dedicated to promoting equality for women and girls. Corporate interest groups like the Chamber of Commerce try to spin Ex-Im's corporatist lending to politically favored firms by arguing that women-owned firms greatly benefit from Ex-Im. But the data show otherwise.

Ex-Im assistance to women-owned firms barely makes a dent as a portion of the total economy. The roughly 200 women-owned firms that Ex-Im backs each year constitute a mere 1 percent of the total 20,000 women-owned firms in the entire U.S. economy. The same is true when you look at export value backed: The $403.5 million in Ex-Im-backed export value for women-owned firms is a mere 3 percent of the roughly $15 billion in export value produced by all women-owned firms in the economy.

Nor is Ex-Im's portfolio significantly dedicated to the cause of women. Only 1.02 percent of Ex-Im authorizations and 5.8 percent of the Ex-Im firms backed from 2007 to 2014 are marked as "women-owned." Then there's the inconvenient fact that only 3 of Ex-Im's 44 presidents and chairmen have been women. By all accounts, it appears that the patriarchy is alive and well down at the Export-Import Bank.

This all assumes that Ex-Im's women-owned firm assistance data is accurate. Recently, Reuters released a bombshell report revealing that hundreds of firms that Ex-Im records designated as "small business" firms are in reality huge corporations owned by billionaires like Warren Buffett and Carlos Slim. This means that at least $3 billion in authorizations, or 8 percent of Ex-Im's portfolio, have been improperly categorized as small business lending. While the Reuters report did not analyze the accuracy of Ex-Im's women-owned lending, it is possible that much of this portfolio reached less than the "100 percent accuracy" that an Ex-Im representative admitted was "unacceptable."

Reuters concludes that Ex-Im's misleading reporting is a "primarily political" problem. So is Hillary Clinton's support of the bank. In April of this year, Clinton's questionable relationship with Ex-Im's top beneficiary, the Boeing Corporation, was revealed. The Washington Post reported that while serving as Secretary of State, Clinton "functioned as a powerful ally for Boeing's business interests at home and abroad, while Boeing has invested resources in causes beneficial to Clinton's public and political image."

Although the State Department had developed ethics guidelines against assisting Boeing because of its "frequent reliance on the government for help negotiating overseas business," Clinton ignored these prohibitions and negotiated a $2 million deal with the aerospace giant to host a pavilion at the World's Fair. Shortly after Clinton shepherded a $3.7 billion aircraft purchase deal between Boeing and the Russian government in 2010—characterized in her own words as "a shameless pitch … to buy Boeing aircraft"— Boeing announced it would contribute $900,000 to the William J. Clinton Foundation.

More recently, Boeing's Senior Vice President for Government Relations, Tim Keating, worked for the Ready for Hillary Super PAC, along with an "an array of well-connected Democratic lobbyists and politicos." In her memoir, Clinton writes that she considered her role as Secretary of State to be as an "advocate-in-chief" for American corporations like Boeing, Caterpillar, and General Electric, two other top Ex-Im beneficiaries. Clearly, Clinton's support of Ex-Im stems from her cozy relationships with some of the U.S.'s most powerful corporations, not average Americans and certainly not women and girls.

While Hillary Clinton and Boeing's relationship may be "mutually beneficial," the Export-Import Bank is certainly of no benefit to the average American. The bank imposes annual net costs of $3 billion on U.S. industries that are not subsidized by Ex-Im, is projected by the Congressional Budget Office to cost taxpayers $2 billion over the next decade, and privileges politically connected corporations over everyone else. If opposing Clinton's brand of corporatism and political opportunism makes one an "ideologue," then who would want to be anything else?

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 1/28/2015 8:13:24 AM
Subject: HRC Clips | 1.28.15

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HRC Clips
January 28, 2015

HRC

Romney home-building may clash with talk of income gap ; Costly projects began after last race ended (Boston Globe)
A burst of Democratic ideas (LAT)
Democrats see new chance to attack Kochs after $1 billion spending announcement (WAPO)
Fight the Temptation to Pay Attention to Polls (NYT)
Hillary Clinton's diversity problem ; It's a lot like Obama's diversity problem (WAPO)
Hillary Clinton and Her Detractors: Reporter's Notebook (NYT)
Can Hillary Clinton Get Along With the Press? (Bloomberg)
Obama Is Setting Up Hillary Clinton to Fail (National Journal)
Palin receives plaudits from pro-Hillary Clinton group (AP)
Gowdy: Benghazi investigation 'incomplete' without Clinton testimony (WAPO)
Congressman: Hillary Clinton agrees to testify to House's Benghazi panel (CNN)
Clinton willing to testify before Benghazi panel, Democrat says (Hill)

Romney home-building may clash with talk of income gap ; Costly projects began after last race ended (Boston Globe)

January 28, 2015
The Boston Globe

LA JOLLA, Calif. -- On a recent weekday, a half-dozen construction workers crowded onto a small plot of land in this pricey community, banging away on an 11,000-square-foot house with expansive oceanfront views that will soon replace one a fraction of the size.

There's a large master suite, a room for all the beach gear -- and a car elevator. Outside, scrawled in graffiti on a wall separating the property from the beach, was a message touting Mitt Romney for president.

Two years ago, Mitt Romney didn't think he would run for political office again. And in the aftermath of his bitter defeat in the presidential campaign, he embarked on something of a real estate spree. He simultaneously began building two multimillion-dollar homes, one here on the Pacific Ocean and another outside Salt Lake City. He also bought a third, a slopeside ski chalet in Park City, Utah.

For the first time in more than a decade, unencumbered by political considerations, the two-time presidential candidate and former private equity executive was free to spend his many millions without concern of how it might look. But now that he's considering a third presidential bid, the monuments of his wealth could become a political inconvenience, particularly as one of his key themes has been America's growing income divide.

Romney is traveling on Wednesday to Mississippi State University, a campus in the country's poorest state, where aides say he will outline his vision for a better America.

Romney, whose last presidential bid was hampered by his image of excessive privilege and insensitivity, may recognize the trouble his real estate holdings could cause in another campaign.

He is taking steps to shed some of his property, including retaining a broker who is currently showing the La Jolla home to potential buyers, according to a Romney aide. The aide would not disclose the asking price or explain why the former Massachusetts governor and his wife, Ann, want to sell the home after more than four years of city permitting, hearings, and construction.

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In all, Romney has four homes. All of them are at least twice as large as the average home in the United States. They contain spas and hot tubs, and garages to hold up to four cars. They've built kitchens and dining rooms large enough to accommodate their large, sprawling family (5 sons, 5 daughters-in-law, and 23 grandchildren and counting).

"He wants to be close to his family," said Ron Kaufman, a longtime Romney confidant. "There's nothing more important to him than his kids and grandkids. . . . And if you could afford a house, and you're as close as the Romneys are to their kids, that's what you do."

Romney's plans to tear down and rebuilt his home in La Jolla were already underway during his last campaign. But since he lost the 2012 election, Romney has also purchased a six-bedroom home that was listed for $8.9 million in Park City, Utah, and he's built another 5,900-square-foot home 30 miles away near Salt Lake City.

He still has his New Hampshire vacation home on Lake Winnipesaukee, but last year sold his condominium in Belmont for $1.2 million, cutting his remaining ties to Massachusetts and raising questions about whether his 2016 campaign would again be headquartered in Boston.

"During the campaign neither Ann nor I had any time to think about home projects," Romney said in an interview a year after the 2012 election. "But now that the campaign is over, we have a little more time."

The new home in California includes an infamous "car elevator," first reported in 2012 by Politico and used by Romney's opponents to cast him as out of touch. A May 2013 planning document described it this way: "The proposed garage will have the appearance of a two- car garage, but will include a lift inside that will rotate two cars below grade to the basement area."

Building the home was the culmination of a long battle, which at times became heated with neighbors who said Romney's new home -- much larger than his former one -- was out of character with the neighborhood. Some neighbors also complained that he was incorporating square footage from a beach long believed to be public in order to build a larger home. Romney's home is on a street where houses are clumped together on small lots, with cherished views of the Pacific Ocean.

"It was contentious," said Anthony A. Ciani, a local architect and the chief opponent of Romney's expansion. "The issue was the bulk of it compared to the houses right next to it. It's not compatible with the gingerbread houses that are immediately adjacent. It's two, three times bigger than those."

A group of neighbors appealed to the state, but local and state officials ruled in the Romneys' favor, a process followed by the Los Angeles Times. Their former 3,000-square-foot home has been demolished -- except for a swimming pool and spa -- and a new one is under construction.

Planning documents call for a first floor that includes a library, and a large combined living room and dining room. The basement includes an exercise room, recreation room, and a room to hold the beach gear. Outside there will be a wraparound porch, as well as several palm trees, and a mixture of shrubs -- boxwoods, coffeeberry, and California blue sage -- to cover the property.

The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year, although it is unclear whether the Romneys will move in or find a buyer.

"Mitt and Ann's plans are firm," Matthew Peterson, the Romneys' San Diego-based attorney, said in an e-mail. "They will be completing the construction of the home by the end of the year, but no decision has been made at this time whether to keep it, or sell it."

He said that the home has been shown to potential buyers already, but "it is the Romneys' expectation that if the home were to be sold, it would best be sold after it is completed."

Romney's wealth defined him in 2012, with a mixture of inadvertent comments, a reluctance to talk about his successful business career, and a video showing him disparaging 47 percent of Americans who rely on government assistance.

In a Washington Post-ABC News poll taken shortly before the 2012 election, 53 percent of likely voters said that Romney's policies would favor the wealthy, with only 34 percent saying he would favor the middle class. Romney often seemed more comfortable talking with donors than he did in diners.

But those close to Romney have long described him as far more frugal than the caricature of him suggests. He frequently

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flies in coach, carrying his own bags. He repairs winter gloves with duct tape, refuses to spend money on apps for his iPad, and has a go-to meal that consists of a home-made peanut butter and honey sandwich.

Romney is donating his $50,000 honorarium from Wednesday's speech to charity, a contrast with Hillary Rodham Clinton, who collects fees that are five times higher. Clinton, too, has struggled in talking about her wealth, saying she was once "dead broke" while in her $5 million home.

"It's going to be hard for Hillary Clinton to make Mitt Romney's wealth a fruitful line of attack, with her multimillion dollar mansions in Georgetown and Chappaqua and her jet-setting lifestyle of the rich and famous," said a Romney aide, who declined to be identified.

But even if he is modest in some of his personal spending decisions, one area Romneydoes splurge on is real estate. His properties are all close to where his five sons are living. Every summer, they all gather at the home in Wolfeboro, N.H., and they spent last Christmas at the home in Deer Valley, where the massive stone fireplace was large enough to hold stockings for nearly two dozen grandchildren.

In August 2013, a holding company managed by Ann Romney purchased the home in Park City that had been listed at $8.9 million. The 8,730 square-foot home -- which has six bedrooms, eight bathrooms, an outdoor hot tub and a sauna -- was once featured in Architectural Digest, showcasing blond wood, two-story windows, and a chandelier made from antlers.

A Romney aide said that he co-owned the home with L.E. Simmons, a prominent Romney donor who runs a Houston-based private equity firm.

The Romneys also bought property in Holladay, Utah, where they tore down a smaller home and built a 5,900-square-foot house that features a fountain, terraces, a gazebo, a fire pit, and a spa, according to plans reviewed by the Salt Lake Tribune.

The plans also called for a hidden room, an 11-foot-long area masked by a bookshelf that swings open. But Romney told the Globe that it was much less mysterious than initial news reports suggested.

"It's a closet where we plan on keeping the copying machine, and the printer, and paper," he said, laughing. "Not even a lock on the door. It's hardly a secret room."

A burst of Democratic ideas (LAT)

By Doyle McManus
January 28, 2015
Los Angeles Times

Only a few months ago, it looked as if Republicans had recaptured their old claim to be the party of ideas, especially on the economic issue that has seized the attention of most Americans: the stagnation of middle-class incomes.

The GOP's former vice presidential nominee, Rep. Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), unveiled proposals to help the struggling middle class. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), another conservative hero, inveighed against income inequality. Even Mitt Romney, the once and perhaps future presidential candidate, has started saying it is time to get serious about poverty.

Meanwhile, Democrats seemed like an extinct volcano. Many of them campaigned for November's midterm election without any clear economic message at all. It didn't turn out well.

In politics, nothing concentrates the mind like electoral defeat -- unless it's the low roar of an oncoming presidential campaign.

And so, in the last few weeks, the Democratic volcano has erupted with ideas. President Obama listed dozens in his State of the Union speech, beginning with a tax increase on the top 1% to pay for child-care and education benefits for the middle class. House Democrats went further, proposing a tax on financial transactions that would allow for broader tax cuts for workers. And a think-tank task force co-chaired by former Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers proposed tax breaks for middle-income folks as well as tax incentives to push companies toward sharing profits with their workers.

"Stagnation in wages and income is a choice, not a necessity," Summers said. "A different choice is possible."

You probably haven't seen much about, much less read, his report; It's 160 pages long and stuffed with serious economic

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analysis of why most Americans' incomes haven't grown much in real terms since -- ouch -- 1973.

But its prescriptions are serious, and they are probably close to what Hillary Rodham Clinton's economic platform will be, when we get to see it. The report was sponsored by the liberal Center for American Progress, whose founder, John Podesta, is expected to become chairman of Clinton's presidential campaign. The think tank's president, Neera Tanden, was Clinton's chief policy advisor in 2008.

And the report isn't coy about its political purpose; it sets out to update the centrist Democratic policies Bill Clinton ran on in the 1990s. "The world has changed," Summers said.

The core argument is that economic growth alone isn't enough to ensure sustained prosperity any more. Unless profits are broadly shared, the argument goes, the economy won't generate enough domestic spending to keep growth going -- or alleviate the widening gap between rich and poor.

Most of the solutions would be on almost any Democrat's wish list: more spending on education and training, more spending on roads and bridges and airports, paid parental leave for both fathers and mothers, and paid sick and vacation days for all.

And there's that corporate reform: legislation to push employers to share more of their growing profits with their employees, and to shift financial incentives for executives from short-term stock price increases to long-term growth.

The report calls for strengthening the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law, including tougher punishment for financial crimes beginning with mandatory "clawbacks" of bonuses paid to executives who are found responsible for malfeasance.

That sounds like a bow to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and others on the Democratic left who have long complained that Wall Street got away with too much in the Great Recession. But the Summers report doesn't call for breaking up or shrinking big banks, as Warren has proposed, so it's unlikely to satisfy every progressive.

It won't make every centrist Democrat happy, either. The Progressive Policy Institute, a think tank spawned by Bill Clinton's New Democrat movement, began work this week on a list of policies focused on promoting private sector growth. "We need to expand our growth agenda to attract voters who may not agree with us," the group's president, Will Marshall, told me.

And what does Hillary think? She's not saying. As the prohibitive front-runner in a race she hasn't formally joined, she can let the arguments percolate.

She's given clues, of course -- but in all directions. She said she loved "watching Elizabeth [Warren] give it to those who deserve to get it." In Canada last week, she struck a less populist note, saying the pressing problem is "small- and medium-sized business formation."

And she has offered terse tidbits of policy via Twitter, warning Congress that "attacking financial reform is risky and wrong" and praising Obama's State of the Union address -- but adding: "Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class."

But for Democrats who worried that their party's idea shortage might be chronic and disabling, the eruption of economic prescriptions must come as a relief. There's a debate underway, and the front-runner even has a draft platform in hand. The Democrats won't have to wage another campaign without an economic message after all.

Democrats see new chance to attack Kochs after $1 billion spending announcement (WAPO)

By Anne Gearan and Sean Sullivan
January 28, 2015
Washington Post

Forget Jeb, Rand and Ted. For Democrats, it's all about Charles and David.

The announcement this week that the vast political network backed by the wealthy industrialist Koch brothers aims to spend nearly $1 billion on the 2016 elections has reignited Democratic hopes of casting the brothers as electoral villains and linking them closely to Republican candidates.

It's a campaign strategy that yielded little success for the party in 2014, a banner year for the GOP. But Democratic officials

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and operatives say they are hopeful that their anti-Koch message will have more potency in a presidential election year.

Groups supporting potential Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as the House and Senate Democratic campaign arms, plan to single out the Kochs in their advertising and fundraising efforts.

“I think the Koch brothers dumping a billion dollars on the elections is definitely something the American people are interested in learning about,” said Rep. Ben Ray Luján (N.M.), chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

He said the DCCC plans to mention the brothers in online fundraising efforts. The DCCC raised $70 million in the last election cycle.

David Brock, founder of the pro-Clinton American Bridge political action committee, said his group will be retooling a 2014 war-room operation called “Real Koch Facts,” which he acknowledged did not achieve big results. The project aims to educate potential voters about what Democrats say is the Kochs’ largely hidden agenda and to attempt to shame recipients of Koch money.

Said Peter Kauffmann, a spokesman for the pro-Clinton Priorities USA Action super PAC: “Will Priorities USA Action talk about the Koch brothers’ attempt at a hostile takeover of the government of the United States? Stay tuned.”

But former House speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), who ran for president in 2012, compared Democratic attacks against the Kochs to failed GOP efforts to tar Democrats for receiving support from organized labor.

“The fact is we never got anywhere trying to explain to the country all of the extra advantage they got, for example, from labor unions,” Gingrich said. “It’s too indirect an argument.”

The Koch-backed network’s plan to spend $889 million on the 2016 elections was announced Monday at a Rancho Mirage, Calif., event hosted by Freedom Partners, a tax-exempt organization that serves as the nerve center of the political operation supported by the brothers and several hundred other conservative donors. Not all of the money will be put toward shaping elections; it will cover advertising and policy work as well as education and academic research, among other things. Much of the spending will be cloaked in secrecy.

James Davis, a Freedom Partners spokesman, said in an e-mail: “Democrats’ past attempts to divide America by demonizing job creators didn’t work too well. We remain focused on advancing free-market principles.”

In 2014, Democrats made a concerted effort to make the Kochs into bogeymen. Then-Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) routinely used Senate floor speeches to castigate them. Democratic groups ran TV and radio ads tying the Kochs to GOP candidates and presenting them as polluters and job outsourcers who were out of touch with the middle class.

“The oil billionaire Koch brothers are showering millions on Thom Tillis like he’s one of the family,” said an ad from the Democratic-aligned Patriot Majority USA.

But Tillis is now a U.S. senator from North Carolina, part of a wave of Republican wins that cost the Democrats their majority.

“It clearly didn’t work in 2014,” said Darrell West, vice president and director of governance studies at the center-left Brookings Institution. “That election was a disaster for Democrats. It seems to me they need to recalibrate the message.”

He said Democrats would need to tie their anti-Koch rhetoric to “substantive issues in a way that resonates with voters.”

Most voters don’t know who the Kochs are. Sixty-four percent of voters said they had no opinion or a neutral impression of them, according to an NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll conducted about a month before the November midterms. But among those who did, attitudes were overwhelmingly negative.

“The Koch brothers are not going to be a household name overnight, but our goal of making them a political liability for the people they are funding will continue,” Brock said.

The newly announced spending goal is unlikely to affect Clinton’s plans to begin her formal campaign in early April, strategists said. The goal is for her to raise an impressive total for the fundraising quarter that begins April 1.

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But the early flurry of activity could apply pressure on mega-donors such as billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer and former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, a former Republican and staunch gun-control advocate who has donated mostly to Democratic candidates. The two were among the biggest givers in 2014.

Adviser Chris Lehane said Steyer will be looking at "where he can have the biggest impact" in 2016.

Like many Democrats, Lehane subscribes to the view that an anti-Kochs attack strategy could work better in 2016 than it did in 2014. "There will be a better voter pool, the Senate states will be more blue states than red states, and the media interest will be even bigger," he said.

Campaign finance reform advocates also say the Koch-backed spending plan is a fresh opportunity to push for revamping laws that allow well-funded independent groups to dominate elections, often without revealing their donors.

"There is just no matching this amount of wealth directed in this way," said Rep. David E. Price (D-N.C.), who introduced a bill this week that would create a matching system for small donations and seek to limit the influence of super PACs. "Of course, nobody should have to match it. We should have a system that keeps spending within reasonable limits."

But Price acknowledged that it would be difficult to pass such reforms in a Republican-controlled Congress. In the meantime, he said, raising the Kochs as an electoral issue isn't a bad idea.

"I think in some cases it does work to dramatize the issue and make it more real," Price said.

Fight the Temptation to Pay Attention to Polls (NYT)

By Brendan Nyhan
January 28, 2015
New York Times

Public service announcement: For now, you should ignore surveys testing potential Democrat/Republican matchups for the 2016 presidential election.

I'm referring to polls like The Washington Post-ABC News survey released last week, which made headlines with the finding that Hillary Clinton enjoys a big lead against Republicans like Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney. Other media organizations have also been releasing head-to-head polls like this, and more are sure to follow in the coming months.

I realize it's tempting to believe that these head-to-head polls have at least a little bit of meaningful information in them. Poll numbers are irresistible to political obsessives like me, but it's just too early for them to be useful in forecasting the general election.

Take the case of Mrs. Clinton's husband, Bill. In October 1991, Mr. Clinton, then the little-known Arkansas governor, pulled in only 20 percent of the vote in a prospective head-to-head matchup against President George H.W. Bush. His standing in the polls against Mr. Bush averaged only 34 percent as late as January 1992. But in the months that followed, Mr. Clinton gained stature while winning the Democratic nomination, and Mr. Bush's numbers plunged as his Gulf War-induced surge in approval dissipated. The campaign eventually brought the electoral fundamentals into focus: an electorate ready for change after 12 years of Republican control of the White House, a relatively weak economy, and an unpopular president. Mr. Clinton went on to beat President Bush by more than five points, winning 53.5 percent of the major-party vote in a three-way contest that also featured the eccentric billionaire H. Ross Perot.

The polls are likely to be even less accurate further from Election Day. In polls conducted in January 2003, for example, President George W. Bush led Democratic Senator John Kerry by 8 and 17 percentage points, but Mr. Bush's final margin of 2.5 percent of the popular vote was the narrowest of a re-elected president since Woodrow Wilson in 1916.

The political scientists Robert S. Erikson and Christopher Wlezien have shown that this pattern of early inaccuracy is consistent across the post-World War II era. Trial heat polls measuring support for potential general election candidates even 300 days from an election have virtually no predictive power in forecasting the final vote. (We are currently more than 650 days away.) It's not until near the end of primary season — mid-April of 2016, or approximately 200 days from Election Day — that polls start to be useful predictors, they find.

Why are polls so inaccurate for so long? The reality is that ordinary people pay very little attention to politics most of the time. Their responses to early survey questions are unconsidered and reflect factors like name recognition. Over time,

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however, the campaign eventually brings the state of the country into focus, drawing people's voting intentions into line with their partisanship and their perceptions of the state of the economy. As a result, the polls tend to converge toward the result predicted by forecasting models based on the fundamentals.

A key post-primary turning point, Mr. Erikson and Mr. Wlezien show, are the nominating conventions, which effectively deliver party messages to voters, helping influence independents and reel back in wayward partisans. By that point, the polls are almost as predictive as they will be at the end of the campaign. (The debates, by contrast, provide conflicting flows of information that rarely move the polls appreciably despite all the media coverage they attract.)

For all of these reasons, Mrs. Clinton's giant lead wouldn't hold up in an actual election contest. Her public standing has been artificially inflated by her tenure as secretary of state, which largely removed her from the partisan fray. A campaign would remind many Americans why they used to have unfavorable views of her. The winner of the Republican nomination will gain in stature and consolidate the support of the party in the first part of next year — the reason that the performance of G.O.P. candidates against Mrs. Clinton right now is not especially instructive in analyzing their prospective appeal. (At this point in January 2011, for instance, a McClatchy/Marist poll found President Obama leading Mitt Romney, 51 percent to 38 percent, but Mr. Romney ultimately attracted 47 percent of the vote and narrowly lost the race.)

Moreover, despite Mr. Obama's recent uptick in approval, approximately half of all Americans disapprove of his performance in office. While the growing economy is likely to continue to improve his standing and strengthen the prospects for a Democratic successor, any competent Republican would be expected to outperform the 39-41 percent mustered by G.O.P. candidates in The Post's polls.

Ultimately, all we can do is wait. We know head-to-head polls won't be useful for more than a year. Until then, your time is better spent following the direction of the economy — the most important predictor of presidential election outcomes — and the battle among G.O.P. candidates, who are already contesting the invisible primary that will help determine which candidate Mrs. Clinton or some other Democrat will face in November.

Hillary Clinton's diversity problem ; It's a lot like Obama's diversity problem (WAPO)

By Nia-Malika Henderson
January 27, 2015
Washington Post

When I first read the list of top campaign staffers with whom Hillary Rodham Clinton will surround herself in her presumed 2016 campaign for the White House, I had two thoughts.

One, that's a lot of white men. (Over at the Daily Beast, Tim Mak had the same reaction, wondering if Clinton needs "binders full of women.")

But my second thought was this: Of course it's that way.

Of the six people named in Anne Gearan and Philip Rucker's story, every single one is a white man. Now, in fairness, it's still early, and Karen Finney, Dennis Cheng, Jennifer Palmieri and the DNC's Mo Elleithee have been floated as options for top jobs. And Clinton's standing cast of advisers is also fairly diverse, with Huma Abedin and Cheryl Mills among her closest counselors and aides. Clinton picked Patti Solis Doyle as campaign manager in 2008.

But in filling out the top slots, Clinton has drawn from Obama's campaign circle, and that group of people is largely white and male. The frustration among black staffers and strategists has been that rather than creating and growing a new class of black politicos, Obama has surrounded himself with a cast of mostly white men. Obama and Clinton have relied on what academics call "path dependence," a theory that could explain everything from why the majority of labor secretaries over the last 25 years have been women to why women who appear on television have a similar look.

The person who has the job gets the same job again and looks like the person who had the job before. (Robert Gibbs. Jay Carney. Josh Earnest.) But in political campaigns, which are dynamic -- especially in the age of Twitter -- this kind of stasis can be a drawback.

Typically, surface diversity has been an easy thing to achieve. It's akin to the one-drop rule. If you have one black/Hispanic/Asian/woman in a group of white men, then, presto, you've achieved diversity. Obama's race came with expectations of more diversity, but it also shielded him from public complaints. He was sometimes the one drop, and that was often enough.

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Clinton, who will bank big on women and minorities, will have to do much more than simply follow Obama's path. She will have to create something new and different that matches the times and her profile, rather than absorb Obama's inner circle into her own.

"I love Barbra Streisand," said Donna Brazile, in an interview with The New York Times Magazine, "but Beyoncé is what's happening now. I love Peter, Paul and Mary, but she needs to be Justin Timberlake. She can't afford to kick people out, but she can afford to let new people come in. I realize that's uncomfortable."

Hillary Clinton and Her Detractors: Reporter's Notebook (NYT)

By Amy Chozick
January 27, 2015
New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton's presumed 2016 presidential campaign is already drawing a lot of criticism. That may not be a surprise. But Amy Chozick, a political reporter, is finding that the attacks against Mrs. Clinton have a new angle. She describes the challenge of reporting fairly on this subtle shift and what it may mean.

The cottage industry of attacking Hillary Rodham Clinton is not new, but I noticed over the past several months that the attacks that landed in my inbox struck a very different tone than those that Republicans used when she was first lady and later when she ran for president in 2008.

Remember when she was portrayed as the embodiment of bra-burning feminism? Then, in 2008, there were a lot of attacks that seemed based on gender, like an anti-Hillary website that called her a witch.

But ahead of the 2016 presidential campaign, the groups trying to stop Mrs. Clinton instead focus on her paid speeches, her response to the attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, and her comments last summer that her family was "dead broke" when leaving the White House. Instead of being the 1960s radical, she is portrayed as an elitist who is overly centrist.

The tricky thing in reporting this type of story is that you don't want to dismiss legitimate questions about her record as partisan "hating." Every political candidate faces attacks and should be thoroughly vetted if they're running for president. George W. Bush and other Republicans have certainly faced intense partisan attacks from the left.

But for some reason, Mrs. Clinton has always sparked a different level of ire. Mrs. Clinton's supporters largely believe the level of ire she sparks has to do with her being the first woman with a real chance to become president. Others point to how polarizing she is; polls show the country is almost equally divided in opinions about her.

Whatever the reason, I can't think of another candidate who has prompted an entire industry of kitschy items — like a "Hillary nutcracker," "No way in Hellary" aprons, and "Even Bill Doesn't Want Hillary" bumper stickers.

All this is a good way to rally Republicans, but it remains to be seen how much impact it would have on Mrs. Clinton's presumptive campaign.

Can Hillary Clinton Get Along With the Press? (Bloomberg)

By Joshua Green
January 27, 2015
Bloomberg

Last week, I was speaking with a veteran Republican strategist for a likely presidential candidate about what factors would shape the 2016 race that weren't already being obsessed over by the press. He replied, with grim satisfaction, that Hillary Clinton would have to endure more hostile press coverage than Barack Obama did and that this would redound to the GOP's benefit. For this strategist, as for many Republicans, it has long been an article of deep, almost cult-like faith that Obama's electoral success owed in no small part to the media's fawning coverage of his campaigns—and that this supposed bias will not be extended to Clinton.

Evidently, Clinton agrees. In a blockbuster piece in Monday's Politico, Mike Allen reports that a major component of Clinton's soon-to-emerge presidential campaign is a new approach to dealing with the press, which "Hillaryland," radiating the conviction of its principal, has generally abhorred and treated with hostile disdain. It seems those feelings haven't changed. "Advisers know that Clinton doesn't like or trust the press," Allen reports. But he quotes one of them conceding

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that open hostility toward the press hasn't been a successful strategy and that Clinton is ready to try something different. "You do see what works, and address what works the next time around," the adviser tells Allen. "The default isn't toward the pit-bull mentality." The campaign is apparently even searching for someone who could play the role of "good cop."

If anything, Allen undersells his scoop. Clinton's relationship with the press isn't some minor campaign detail along the lines of who'll run Iowa or who'll shoot her ads. It's what's shaped her as a politician. As Allen's colleagues Glenn Thrush and Maggie Haberman detailed last summer, Clinton's relationship with the press has been caustic throughout her career.

Over the 25 years Hillary Clinton has spent in the national spotlight, she's been smeared and stereotyped, the subject of dozens of over-hyped or downright fictional stories and books alleging, among other things, that she is a lesbian, a Black Widow killer who offed Vincent Foster then led an unprecedented coverup, a pathological liar, a real estate swindler, a Commie, a harridan. Every aspect of her personal life has been ransacked; there's no part of her 5-foot-7-inch body that hasn't come under microscopic scrutiny, from her ankles to her neckline to her myopic blue eyes—not to mention the ever-changing parade of hairstyles that friends say reflects creative restlessness and enemies read as a symbol of somebody who doesn't stand for anything.

This has instilled a resentment that her closest allies consider unshakeable. "Look, she hates you. Period," a Clinton adviser tells Thrush and Haberman. "That's never going to change." Of course, these bad feelings toward the press are not entirely unjustified. In addition to the deranged and misogynistic attacks Thrush and Haberman lay out, Clinton has also been raked through the coals over more serious matters, such as Whitewater, that never merited such treatment and inflicted real damage. What both Clintons learned, and what eventually got her into trouble, was that attacking the press allowed them to survive scandals both real (Monica Lewinsky) and imagined (Whitewater).

This bred a kind of paranoid hubris that was the hallmark of Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. My own experience in the Clinton crosshairs stands as a good example of why her "old" approach to the press often backfired.

In 2007, I was writing a story for GQ on the inner workings of the Clinton campaign. The Clinton campaign was unhappy about this. At the time, Clinton was presumed (by herself and nearly everyone else) to be the inevitable Democratic nominee and likely future president. This gave her a great deal of power and the illusion that she could control how the press covered her. So a Clinton aide threatened to withdraw Bill Clinton's cooperation to be the magazine's "Man of the Year" cover model if GQ didn't kill my piece. GQ killed my piece. (Full story here, via Ben Smith.)

The problem with this strategy, as anyone outside the Clinton bubble would easily recognize, is that it created more problems for her than it solved. Information wants to be free—especially juicy tales of Clinton campaign turmoil. When the story inevitably leaked, it drew far more attention than it otherwise would have, deepening the impressions of Clinton as imperious and entitled and her campaign staff as goonish extras from House of Cards. The stories they'd tried to squelch simply wound up in a different magazine (here, for anyone interested).

Can Clinton really let bygones be bygones and try a new approach? It would make all the sense in the world, since the lack of competition in the Democratic primaries means she'll have to contend with a bored and restless press corps. But it would also require her to willingly give up a measure of control at a time when she is even more powerful and inevitable-seeming than she was before. (For what it's worth, I haven't yet been invited to tea.)

That's a pretty tall order. Allen doesn't mention it, but a New York Times story last week raises some doubts. Amy Chozick and Michael Cieply report that Bill Clinton has broken off cooperation with a Martin Scorsese documentary for HBO that would have been released during his wife's campaign. Clinton wanted to control the interview questions and the final cut of the film, according Chozick and Cieply, and Scorsese refused.

This doesn't mean that Clinton's desire to reset her relationship with the media isn't sincere, or at least a sincere recognition of her self interest. Nor does it mean the effort is doomed. But it is a reminder that old habits die hard.

Obama Is Setting Up Hillary Clinton to Fail (National Journal)

By Joshua Kraushaar
January 27, 2015
National Journal

President Obama delivered his penultimate State of the Union with renewed confidence, eager to take credit for the economy's recent growth spurt. He offered few olive branches to Republicans for their landslide victory two months earlier; articulated a panoply of liberal proposals that stand little chance of passing through Congress; and took the rosiest possible

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view of the economy and international landscape—even in the face of contrary evidence. In the moment, it's a savvy political play: Claim credit for an improving public mood and force Republicans on the defensive.

But despite the hoopla, recent polling shows that the public is much more in sync with the GOP's agenda than the White House's. This month's NBC/WSJ survey illustrated a striking disconnect between the president's improving approval rating (at 46 percent, up 2 points since November) and the top priorities of the American electorate. In the survey, 85 percent of voters rank "creating jobs" as a top priority, followed by defeating and dismantling ISIS (74 percent), reducing the federal deficit (71 percent), securing the border with Mexico (58 percent), and addressing Iran's nuclear program (56 percent). The last four are core GOP strengths; polls consistently show Republicans with an edge on those issues.

The items at the bottom of the priority list are all top administration priorities: closing the Guantanamo prison camp (24 percent rate as top priority), addressing the issue of climate change (34 percent), creating a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants (39 percent), and increasing the minimum wage (44 percent). It wasn't just Obama's assessment of the international stage that was disconnected from reality. It was also his assessment that the American people are with him on his agenda.

That disconnect will be driving the upcoming presidential election, which will provide a decisive verdict on the sustainability of Obama's accomplishments. Obama, as he ad-libbed in the State of the Union, couldn't help but brag that he won two elections as proof of his mandate. The GOP also won a historic number of seats in Congress, capitalizing on public anger over his policies. Rather than move to the middle and compromise with Republicans, Obama appears intent on playing to his party's progressive base in the run-up to the 2016 elections – and pass along that legacy to Hillary Clinton's nascent campaign. It's a gamble that will determine whether his landmark legislation will remain law, or be rolled back by a new Republican president.

Obama should recognize how much of his post-election bump is being driven by forces outside of his control. The president is eagerly taking credit for the improved economy, even though little has passed legislatively in recent years. It wasn't long ago that he was blaming GOP intransigence for the slow growth. Now he's betting his remaining political capital that the encouraging economic trends will continue into next year—hardly a guarantee, given the history of false starts in the past.

"We're going to have to see sustained growth in the number of middle-class jobs and an increase in median income before we really see attitudes about the economy turn around," said Republican pollster Whit Ayres, who is advising potential presidential candidate Marco Rubio. "Debates on how to get the economy going to get more well-paying middle-class jobs will remain one of the very top issues in the next presidential campaign. The depth of middle-class anxiety is so widespread."

Obama's own emphasis on "middle-class economics" demonstrated that, despite his optimism, he recognizes that many Americans are still struggling to make ends meet. But his solutions were oddly disconnected from both the economic and the political realities he faces.

Consider the lack of creativity from the administration in its signature initiative from the State of the Union: free community college tuition for everyone. For most low-income Americans, the tuition is already free or heavily subsidized. There's not a groundswell of middle-class households whose goal is to receive an associate degree. The plan wasn't accompanied by a more ambitious approach to, say, help community colleges teach certain skills that aren't taught at traditional four-year colleges. (Rubio, for instance, has proposed expanding access to career and vocational education as part of his detailed educational blueprint.)

It's merely a tuition giveaway, one that originally was partly paid for by the very middle- and upper-middle-class families that are saving money for the four-year colleges that Obama has called essential for a successful career. The plan proposed getting rid of the tax exemption on 529 college savings accounts, which have been growing in popularity, to help parents prepare for their childrens' rising education expenses. That provision was so politically tone deaf that the White House withdrew it just one week after the president introduced it.

The proposal smacked of the very redistributive schemes that dogged Democrats throughout the 1980s.

Anytime a politician promises to "lower the cost to zero," as Obama did in his address, it's worth remembering the economic maxim "there's no such thing as a free lunch." And it directly puts a squeeze on the very middle-class constituency that Obama claims to be courting. Hillary Clinton will certainly want to echo a message centered on educational opportunity, but she's probably not eager to alienate a sizable group of voters who will be up for grabs in the next election.

Clinton has been publicly supportive of the president, but he's boxed her into a corner. She can't afford to publicly break with a president whose fortunes align closely with hers. Yet she's undoubtedly aware that her odds of winning the

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Democratic nomination are very strong, and moving away from the center won't help her in a general election.

Palin receives plaudits from pro-Hillary Clinton group (AP)

January 27, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sarah Palin is picking up an unexpected title: top fundraiser for a group promoting a potential Hillary Rodham Clinton campaign for president.

During a speech in Iowa last weekend, the former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee held up a Ready for Hillary car magnet as she talked about ways for Republicans in Iowa to stop a Clinton campaign. Ready for Hillary, the super PAC backing a possible Clinton campaign, used the moment as a fundraising tool and said they raised more than $25,000.

Adam Parkhomenko, Ready for Hillary's executive director, sent an email to supporters saying: "By raising $25,000, Sarah officially qualifies as a co-chair of our National Finance Council. (We will wait until Sarah calls before officially adding her name to the list.)"

Palin appeared alongside several potential GOP presidential candidates at the weekend event organized by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa. On the question of whether anyone can stop Clinton, she borrowed a phrase from the Obama campaign and said, "Yes we can."

A SarahPAC official did not immediately comment on the Ready for Hillary email.

Gowdy: Benghazi investigation 'incomplete' without Clinton testimony (WAPO)

By Colby Itkowitz
January 28, 2015
Washington Post

Whether she runs for president or not, Hillary Rodham Clinton is probably not done answering questions about Benghazi, Libya.

The House panel investigating the deadly attacks on the Benghazi mission in September 2012 met Tuesday in a fiery public hearing where Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), who is chairing the 12-member select committee, said he would "ratchet up" the investigation and claimed the administration wasn't cooperating.

After the hearing, Gowdy told reporters he planned to call on Clinton to testify, saying a Benghazi investigation would be "incomplete" without questioning the former secretary of state.

"Every witness who has relevant information needs to be talked to," Gowdy said, according to ABC News.

Gowdy said he is waiting for pertinent documents from the State Department before calling Clinton to appear before the committee. Clinton has said she doesn't think the committee's investigation is necessary — other independent panels have not found any wrongdoing by the Obama administration — but has also said she would testify if asked.

But Democrats accused Gowdy of delaying the invitation to coincide closer with the 2016 election. At the hearing, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) said the committee, which was created eight months ago, is at risk of becoming a "partisan fishing expedition, or it'll be drawn out to affect the presidential election cycle."

At Gowdy's request, ranking member Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) said he asked Clinton back in September if she would willingly testify, and she offered to come in December or January.

"She said I'll do it, period. The fact is she was very clear. She did not hesitate for one second," Cummings said. But Gowdy has yet to formally invite her to come testify, citing the need for additional documents.

Clinton appeared before Senate and House committees during back-to-back hearings on Benghazi as one of her final acts as secretary of state in January 2013. She defended the White House's response and famously lost her patience at one point, asking a Republican "what difference does it make" when pressed on the White House's initial explanation of why the attack

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occurred.

A year ago, Clinton said the attacks were her “biggest regret” during her years at State.

Congressman: Hillary Clinton agrees to testify to House’s Benghazi panel (CNN)

By Dan Merica
January 27, 2015
CNN

Washington (CNN) - Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has agreed to testify to the House’s select committee investigating Benghazi, the panel’s Democratic ranking member told CNN on Tuesday.

Rep. Elijah Cummings said that Clinton agreed to testify before the committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attack in December after he contacted her months earlier.

“The chairman asked me back in September to inquire as to whether Secretary Clinton would testify,” Cummings said. “She immediately said she would and that she wanted to come in December, but if December did not work, she would come in January. She said I’ll do it, period. The fact is she was very clear. She did not hesitate for one second.”

The U.S. consulate in Libya was attacked on Sept. 11, 2012. Four Americans, including the U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens, were killed. Initially, the attack was thought to be perpetrated by an angry mob responding to a video made in the U.S. which mocked Islam and the Prophet Mohammed, but was later determined to be a terrorist attack.

Nick Merrill, the former first lady’s spokesman, declined to go into detail about why Clinton agreed to testify and when she might do so.

“I’m going to leave it to the committee to address their plans,” said Merrill.

Cummings’ comments on Tuesday revealed the clearest indication to date that Clinton was willing to show up before the committee, though many details remain to be agreed upon and the appearance could well never happen.

While touring the country selling her new memoir in June 2014, Clinton was asked whether she would be willing to testify before the House committee.

“We’ll see,” she told NBC in an interview. “I’m not going to prejudge it.”

Clinton added that she took a lot of notes during the attack, but declined to say whether she would hand over the notes.

“Let’s see if it’s on the level or not. I don’t want to be part of anything that in any way politicizes or demeans the sacrifice that we saw happen there,” Clinton said.

The attack has remained a political issue for Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, since 2012. As the former first lady eyes a potential presidential bid, a number of Republicans have signaled that Benghazi will be a main line of attack against Clinton.

Sen. Rand Paul has said the attack should disqualify Clinton from higher office.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, the chairman of the Benghazi committee, told reporters on Tuesday that he still intends to have Clinton testify as part of the investigation.

“Every witness who has relevant information needs to be talked to,” he said.

According to The Hill, Gowdy is prepared to hear from Clinton 30 days after receiving “all the [State Department] documents” on the attack.

Clinton testified for more than five hours before another House committee investigating Benghazi in January 2013, shortly before she left the State Department. At the time, Clinton acknowledged a “systemic breakdown” but said that her department was taking additional steps to increase security at U.S. diplomatic facilities.

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Since then, Clinton has said her biggest regret a during the four years she served as America's top diplomat was the Benghazi attack.

"My biggest regret is what happened in Benghazi," Clinton said in January 2014. "It was a terrible tragedy losing four Americans, two diplomats and -- now it is public so I can say -- two CIA operatives."

Clinton willing to testify before Benghazi panel, Democrat says (Hill)

By Martin Matishak
January 27, 2015
The Hill

Hillary Clinton is willing to testify before the House Select Committee that is investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya, according to the panel's top Democrat.

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) on Tuesday said he has spoken to Clinton about the possibility of testifying at the request of Rep. Trey Gowdy (S.C.), the panel's Republican chairman, and she "did not hesitate for one second."

"She said ... I'll do it, period," Cummings said after the committee's third hearing.

Cummings said Clinton, who was secretary of State at the time of the Benghazi attacks, indicated to him last year that she "wanted to come in December" to testify but could also come in January.
"The fact is that she was very clear," Cummings said.

The possibility of an appearance from Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016 if she makes a bid, has loomed as the biggest question for the Benghazi panel since its formation last summer.

Gowdy first floated the possibility of Clinton testifying late last year, creating the potential for a dramatic confrontation with the former secretary of State over a security failure that some Republicans argue should disqualify her from the presidency.

Clinton is "a witness that we would like to talk to. I cannot tell you when," Gowdy said in December.

With the race for the White House set to erupt soon, Democrats could be maneuvering to accelerate the work of the Benghazi panel so that it is not investigating Clinton while she is running for the presidency.

Gowdy, a former prosecutor, on Tuesday said he and Cummings had initially agreed last year that Clinton should be brought before the panel.

But after that discussion, Gowdy said, Cummings had an unexpected change of heart.

"The deal I had with Mr. Cummings is we will bring her before the committee within 30 days of receiving all the [State Department] documents responsive to our request," Gowdy said.

He said the State Department must hand over the information the panel is seeking, including potentially some of Clinton's emails, before Clinton testifies.

"If I were to conclude this investigation having not talked to the secretary of State at the time it would be an incomplete investigation," Gowdy said. "But I can't talk to her until I have the documents that would make that conversation productive. I'm not interested in having a conversation where old allegations are repeated or a shouting match."

"I want to ask specific questions rooted in documents," he added.

Gowdy said he would be "happy to take her in January, February, March, whenever" but that it was up to the panel's Democrats on "how quickly" they get to her testimony.

"I'm willing to work with them on the timing. I'm willing to do it sooner rather than later," Gowdy said. "What I'm not willing to do is do it in a vacuum where I don't have access to the documents."

Cummings disputed that he changed his mind about having Clinton appear.

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“That’s not true. I don’t know how he could say that because we’ve never been against it. He asked me to check with her. I did that she said she was willing to come so it was a non-issue,” Cummings said.

“If the committee wants her to come, she’s willing to come,” the Democrat added.

The spat over Clinton’s testimony comes at time of rising partisan tensions on the select committee, with members clashing over how the panel is conducting its investigation.

On the eve of an open hearing Tuesday, Cummings released letters in which he accused Republicans of conducting witness interviews in secret and withholding information from the Democratic members of the panel.

“I am saddened to report today that there are major, major problems with this committee and its work,” Cummings said in his opening statement, adding that its work is moving at a “glacial pace.”

Gowdy fired back that the criticism was “interesting” coming from Democrats, given that they fought the creation of the panel and have repeatedly threatened to boycott its work.

But Gowdy saved most of his ire for the State Department, taking it to task for failing to comply with requests for witness testimony and documents.

“This is not a political exercise for us,” Gowdy said. “We’re going to ratchet it up because I need access to the documents and the witnesses and we need to be able to conclude our work.”

The House created the select committee last May to investigate the 2012 Benghazi attacks. Republicans argue a new probe was needed to explore unanswered questions about the administration’s response to a terrorist assault that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

Democrats have accused the GOP of launching a “witch hunt” against Clinton, and on Tuesday portrayed the panel as a partisan exercise.

“Now, more than ever, I’m convinced that my colleagues are in search of a mythical creature — a unicorn, that is, a made-up conspiracy that does not exist,” said Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-Calif.).

Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) said the Republican majority on the committee made no document requests between May and December, adding that Gowdy’s comments about wrapping up their work “boggles the mind.”

Republicans dismissed the complaints as “ridiculous” and said the five Democrats’ on the panel were hypocrites because they have not suggested any witnesses or requested any documents for the probe.

“The happiness of the Democrats was never my objective in the first place,” Gowdy said after the hearing.

“They’re looking for a reason to leave.”

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/3/2014 11:29:38 AM
Subject: Democracy: Is there an app for that?

Having trouble viewing this message? Click Here



July 3, 2014

Dear Friends:

We are on the cusp of our July 4th holiday here in the U.S., when we remember the revolutionary origins of our country and celebrate our independence with baseball, beer, and displays of fireworks accompanied by a spirited rendition of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

Because we're eager to finish the work week, we're circulating our Cuba Central News Blast a little early so you can read the news now and all of us can join the party.

We start with Chip Beck , a U.S. citizen with ties to the CIA and the Navy. According to this blog post on Wikistrat, between 1998 and 2001, while he was working as a freelance journalist, Beck traveled to Havana and received significant cooperation from the Cuban government as he investigated the disappearance of Americans in Asia, Africa, and Central America during the Cold War. It's a great story.

In Beck's account of his five trips to the island, he describes familiar sounding offers by Havana to sit down and negotiate with Washington without preconditions, so long as the U.S. recognized Cuba as a sovereign nation. He concludes by quoting a conversation he had on the Malecón with a Cuban he identifies only as a single mom with a college degree.

She said, "If you tell a Cuban what to do, he will do the opposite just to spite you. If you [Americans] stop telling us what to do, things will work out exactly like you want."

Needless to say, this was very good advice which, a dozen years later, we're still waiting for the U.S. government to heed.

Instead, President Obama, the 11th president in charge of foreign relations with Cuba's revolutionary government, pursues the stale and failed policy he inherited from his predecessors. On one track, he has made some important moves to promote two-way travel, family reconciliation, and modest forms of bilateral cooperation. But, on the second track, he aggressively enforces the embargo with its international overreach to shut down Cuba's access to finance and global trade.

As of last week, for example, his Administration had already imposed penalties totaling $4.9 billion against 22 banks for violating U.S. sanctions against doing business with Cuba. That record was shattered by a penalty meted out against BNP Paribas, which pled guilty to two charges, agreed to pay a nearly $9 billion fine, and accepted bans for one and two years respectively on certain dollar clearing and processing activities - all for violations of sanctions against countries including Cuba. This led the Bank of Ireland, which has "long-standing customers with legitimate business interests in Cuba," to tell them it would no longer clear their transactions to or from Cuba, as the Independent reported.

At a time when tens of thousands of Cubans (like our friend Barbara Fernández) are

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working hard to take advantage of economic reforms - in cooperatives and private businesses - in order to live more prosperous and independent lives, tightening the screws on a policy that disregards their nation's sovereignty and increases their daily struggles makes no sense.

Eric Schmidt, Google's Executive President, who just wrapped up a visit to Cuba during which he voiced support for an open Internet, underscored the contradictory goals of U.S. policy in a blog post about his trip.

> "The 'blockade'," he writes, "makes absolutely no sense to US interests: if you wish the country to modernize the best way to do this is to empower the citizens with smart phones (there are almost none today) and encourage freedom of expression and put information tools into the hands of Cubans directly."

We were in Cuba at the same time as Google and heard Cubans express similar ideas. They want an Internet opening to complement their economic opening. They want workers, especially working women, to be able to get online and connect to their jobs from home. They want a more lively public debate. Just as Cubans are now free to travel overseas, they want to be able to access more information without having to leave. Dumping restrictions - whether on technology, U.S. travel, or finance - imposed by the U.S. would put what Cubans want in greater alignment with the ostensible goals of U.S. policy and help them get it.

Writing about the architects of our nation and their ideals, former Senator Gary Hart described what the Founders saw in history's great republics: civic duty, popular sovereignty, resistance to corruption, and a sense of the commonwealth; what we own in common that binds us together. Every time we visit the island, we see Cubans who share these ideals as well.

July 4th is a great day to celebrate the virtues of our system, which are many, but it can also be an occasion for some humility. In Cuba's case, that means to stop telling them what to do, and showing respect to Cubans and their ability to figure out their future and how they want to live for themselves.

If you need help figuring out why, when we celebrate Independence Day, we set off fireworks to music commemorating Russia's defense of Moscow against Napoleon, listen here .

This week in Cuba news...

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- OFAC Gores Red Bull for Skateboarding in Havana , George Murphy and Clif Burns, ExportLawBlog
- Cuba: is foreign investment the future? , Russell White, Latin America Bureau
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U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

Google executives visit Cuba, advocate for Internet freedom

Eric Schmidt, Executive Chairman of Google, and Jared Cohen, Brett Perlmutter, and Dan Keyserling of Google Ideas, traveled to Cuba last week "to promote the virtues of a free and open Internet," Reuters reports. Google Ideas is "a think/do tank that explores how technology can enable people to confront threats in the face of conflict, instability or repression."

The story was first reported on 14ymedio , the new digital journal created by dissident blogger Yoani Sánchez. The story notes that this was the first visit by Google executives to the island and that Schmidt had expressed interest in traveling there in a 2013 interview with the Wall Street Journal .

Yoani Sánchez has collaborated with Google in the past, for example, by visiting Google headquarters and participating in a Google Hangout in October 2013.

State newspaper Granma wrote that "there would be nothing surprising about this news in any other country in the hemisphere." Cubans do not have access to Google's products, such as Google Analytics and the web browser Chrome, because of the U.S. embargo, Granma reports.

As CNN reported, Schmidt reflected on the trip, saying:

> ***"Our visit confirmed that the government recognizes some of the benefits of increasing access for Cubans, but it has not gone far enough in implementing the policy reforms needed to open the country to the web."***

Currently, Internet access in Cuba is limited mostly to the government, as well as foreign companies and hotels, reports Reuters. AFP reports that the only individuals who can access Internet in their homes are doctors, journalists, and others with government authorization.

The Google delegation met with students attending polytechnic schools, toured the University of Information Sciences, and also met with some editors and journalists at 14ymedio, according to 14ymedio.

BNP Paribas to pay $8.97 billion for violating U.S. sanctions against Cuba, Iran, Sudan

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The French bank BNP Paribas, accused of violating U.S. sanctions against Cuba, Iran, and Sudan, agreed on Monday to plead guilty to these charges and pay the U.S. a fine of $8.97 billion, reports Reuters . According to the Wall Street Journal, the almost $9 billion fine is the largest ever imposed for sanctions violations.

Investigators found that sanctions violations, committed by removing the names of illegal clients from wire transfers within the American system, took place from 2002-2012. The New York State regulator, led by Benjamin Lawsky, said in a press release on Monday:

> ***"Through a series of egregious schemes to evade detection and with the knowledge of multiple senior executives, BNPP employees concealed more than $190 billion in transactions between 2002 and 2012 for clients subject to U.S. sanctions, including Sudan, Iran, and Cuba."***

$2.24 billion of the fine will be paid to the New York's Department of Financial Services. The bank pled guilty on Monday to separate charges of conspiracy and falsifying business records. The Wall Street Journal reports that a hearing for BNP Paribas' guilty plea will take place on July 9. BNP is "the seventh bank to settle a criminal sanctions violation case but the first to plead guilty," reports the New York Times .

The bank will be banned for a year, starting in January 2015, from "dollar clearing," or "process[ing] payments in dollar denominations," the New York Times reports. BNP will not be able to "move dollars into or out of the United States" or convert foreign currencies into dollars, reports Foreign Policy , a punishing sanction since the terms of most international trade are in dollars. Furthermore, BNP will fire thirteen employees, including a chief operating officer. No individuals are facing criminal charges.

Cuba Standard reports that "the cost [of this ruling] to Cuba is likely high." It will set back banking in Cuba in several ways, and:

> ***"Observers believe this will prompt the Cuban government and its business partners to reduce dollar transactions to those impossible to avoid - thus raising transaction costs even more - seek business with banks less vulnerable to U.S. threats, and cause other large western banks to pull out or abstain from doing business with Cuba."***

Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27) praised the results of the investigation in a press release and said that the U.S. should take similar action against other sanctions violators:

> ***"We can be sure, however, that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to banks willing to assist regimes evad[ing] U.S. sanctions. ... This is why the U.S. must make it a priority to enforce the sanctions which we have worked so hard with our partners to create and impose, and continue to impose strict penalties against those who violate them."***

Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations (MINREX) stated that the U.S. punishment of BNP "qualifies as an illegal and extraterritorial application of U.S. law against a foreign entity." MINREX said further:

> ***"Once again, the U.S. government ignores the overwhelming international rejection of this criminal and failed policy against our nation. With actions like this one, it also ignores the growing demands of various sectors of U.S. society for a fundamental change in policy toward Cuba."***

Cuban Americans for Engagement meets with U.S. and Cuban officials

Cuban Americans for Engagement (CAFE), a group that advocates for improved U.S.-Cuba relations, visited Washington last week, meeting with representatives of both the U.S. and Cuban governments, reports Progreso Semanal .

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They met with representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture about increased agricultural trade with Cuba, and Representatives Joe García (FL-26) and Jim McGovern (MA-2).

At the Cuban Interests Section, the group spoke to Ambassador José Ramón Cabañas, Cuba's Chief of Mission to the U.S., about lowering fees for consular services, making the repatriation process more transparent, allowing widespread and inexpensive Internet access, and encouraging Cuban investment in Cuba.

CAFE board members also met with Scott Gilbert, Alan Gross's lawyer, who reiterated the urgency of Gross's situation and the need for U.S. government action to secure his release.

Cuban drug receives patent in U.S.

Heberprot-P, a drug that helps treat diabetic foot ulcers, has been patented in 30 countries, including the United States, Cuban state news agency ACN reports. The drug was developed by Cuba's Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB). The patent will last until 2022, ACN says, and CIGB is working on having variants of the drug available before that time.

As recently as late April, the U.S. government had not allowed Heberprot-P to enter the U.S. because of the embargo, even though U.S. groups had been attempting since October 2013 to get special approval for the drug. The Cuba Central News Blast team explored this issue in October 2013.

The other countries in which the drug is patented include: Canada, Argentina, Australia, Singapore, South Korea, South Africa, Russia, China, India, Indonesia, Ukraine, Mexico, Malaysia, Japan, and Cuba.

Miami man receives 20-year prison sentence for smuggling Cubans into U.S.

Antonio Comin, a Miami resident, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for illegally smuggling Cubans into the United States, reports AFP. Comin was originally detained in September 2012, when his boat, holding 21 Cubans, ran out of gas in the middle of the Florida Strait.

In October 2013, the U.S. Department of Justice indicted Comin and eleven others on several smuggling charges. The press release by the Justice Department said that the men were accused of smuggling a total of 69 people into the U.S., from 50 of whom they made a profit. AFP reports that in addition to Comin, seven others so far who faced indictments have been sentenced, with prison terms ranging between 1.5 and eight years.

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Panama court acquits all *Chong Chon Gang* crew members

On Friday, June 27, the captain and two other officers of the *Chong Chon Gang* ship were acquitted in a Panama court of charges related to an attempt to transport undeclared weapons from Cuba to North Korea, reports the Associated Press. Panamanian forces seized the North Korean ship in July 2013, finding weapons, including anti-aircraft and missile systems, buried under several tons of Cuban sugar. Find our complete coverage of the *Chong Chon Gang* incident here and here.

The ruling on Friday, in addition to acquitting the three officers still held in Panama, acquitted the other 32 crewmembers, who were released in February 2014, reports AFP. According to AFP, a court statement said that Judge Carlos Villareal made the decision to acquit all crewmembers involved because the incident "was of international character and outside Panamanian jurisdiction."

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Judge Villareal allowed for the return of the more than 200,000 bags of sugar that had been on the boat, reports AFP. He ordered that the weapons remain in the possession of the Panamanian Treasury, reports the Havana Times .

The United Nations (UN) ruled earlier this year that Cuba violated the UN arms embargo on North Korea.

Prosecution in trial of Canadian businessman seeks 15-year prison sentence

Prosecutors in the corruption case against Canadian businessman Cy Tokmakjian, of the Tokmakjian Group transportation company, are seeking a 15-year prison sentence for the defendant, reports Granma . Tokmakjian was arrested in 2011 during Raúl Castro's crackdown on corruption. His trial began in mid-June, as we reported here .

According to the Associated Press , a report on the case in Granma, Cuba's state newspaper, revealed the names of the two other Canadian citizens and over a dozen Cubans involved in the case. The report said prosecutors were seeking the harshest sentence, 20 years, for Nelson Ricardo Labrada Fernández, former Vice Minister of the Ministry of Sugar. The prosecution said it was seeking eight to twelve years for the other Cuban and Canadian Tokmakjian employees and contacts.

The Tokmakjian Group alleges that Tokmakjian's trial was "stacked against him," and that what the Cuban court called corrupt dealings were really legitimate, reports the AP .

Argentina VP visiting Cuba on investment trip is indicted at home for bribery

Amado Boudou, Vice President of Argentina, arrived in Cuba on June 27, the day before Cuba's Foreign Investment Law went into effect, and announced Argentina's interest in investing in Cuban industry, Granma reports. Boudou said that foreign investment would stimulate Cuba's economy and create jobs, which, in turn, would encourage Latin American integration.

While in Cuba, Boudou also met with Manuel Marrero, Minister of Tourism, according to Granma, and Cuba's Vice President, Miguel Díaz-Canel, reports Radio Cadena Agramonte.

Also on Friday, while in Cuba, Boudou was charged with "bribery and conducting business incompatible with public office" by an Argentine federal court, reports the Associated Press . He could face between one and six years in prison, as well as a lifelong ban on holding elective office. Boudou maintains that he is innocent.

Cuban baseball players may legally play in foreign leagues

Cuba is allowing some of its baseball players to sign contracts with foreign leagues in an effort to cut down on defections to the U.S., reports Reuters . In April , we reported that Cuba would raise the salaries of those who remain in-country, and was debating allowing them to play in foreign leagues.

Reuters reports that many Cuban baseball players will likely go to Japan -- Frederich Cepeda and Yulieski Gourriel have already signed contracts with teams in the Nippon Professional League -- and that Cuba will also allow foreign scouts onto the island for the first time. Now, all that prevents Cubans from participating in Major League Baseball in the U.S. is the embargo, Reuters reports.

Second round of negotiations between EU and Cuba to take place in August

Cuba and the European Union (EU) will conduct a second round of negotiations at the end of August as they work toward a bilateral agreement, reports Europa Press . Europa Press citing a "European source" said that the EU and Cuba are working toward "political

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dialogue, cooperation, and trade."

The first round took place in April during which the two parties agreed to a road map for the negotiations, as the AP reported at the time.

In February , the EU and Cuba began working to establish closer ties. Europa Press says negotiations to reach the cooperation agreement could take between one and two years.

IN CUBA

Former editors of Espacio Laical to start new publication

Roberto Veiga and Lenier González, two former editors of the Catholic magazine Espacio Laical, announced in a public letter on June 30 that they will start a new digital project, entitled *Cuba Posible*, reports the Havana Times . Veiga and González resigned from *Espacio Laical* in June , citing divisions that the magazine had created within the Catholic Church.

Veiga and González wrote that *Cuba Posible* would address "the practice of human dignity by every compatriot through the responsible exercise of liberty, equality and solidarity; the development of culture and the education of all citizens; [and] the economic progress of the country."

Veiga and González wrote that they decided to embark on this new project because:

> ***"We firmly believe that the restoration of trust among Cubans, and between Cuba and the world, and the depolarization of the political field, will open the doors of the future.* Cuba Posible *will work hard to build a better country."***

Cuba Posible will be an online publication, reports IPS . In an interview with dissident blogger Yoani Sánchez's online newspaper 14ymedio , Veiga said he hopes to transcend the digital medium:

> ***"We will facilitate debates, channeling these debates and especially the dialogue, which is where the project can become more than just a digital space. We will encourage dialogue among people in a gathering of friends where civil society can participate, as can Cubans living abroad and foreigners."***

The Nuevo Herald reports that *Cuba Posible* will be independent from the Catholic Church.

88,000 Cuban houses sold in 2013

A study carried out by the Havana Consulting Group finds that home prices in Cuba have dropped slightly since reforms legalized the purchase and sale of houses, and that home sales have significantly increased, reports Café Fuerte . According to the report, in 2013 88,000 homes were sold in Cuba, compared with 45,000 in 2012. The growth in home sales has been influenced by lower prices, as well as the supply created by Cubans who have left the country definitively and, since the sale and purchase of homes was legalized in November 2011, have been able to sell their homes instead of turning them over to the state. The greatest drop in housing prices occurred in the provinces of Matanzas (27.47%), Havana (19.80%), and Cienfuegos (16.04%).

Havana remains Cuba's biggest real estate market with 19% of the country's population and 18% of housing capacity. More than 50% of homes for sale are in Havana. Havana also has the highest average price of homes at 31,157.59 CUC. In Havana, the prices of homes vary greatly by neighborhood, with the most expensive in Playa and Old Havana, and the least expensive across the bay in Regla. Some of the most expensive homes are valued at one million CUC.

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Despite growth in sales, Cuba's housing deficit has continued to climb, with an estimated shortage of some 700,000 homes.

Phil Peters explores the ins-and-outs of Cuba's real estate market in a report for the Brookings Institution.

Just 50 cars sold in six months following opening of auto market

In a stark contrast with Cuba's real estate market, only fifty cars and four motorbikes have been sold in Cuba in the past six months following the legalization of such sales, reports the Associated Press . In January , a new law went into effect allowing Cubans to buy vehicles from state dealerships without having to obtain permission from the government beforehand.

The car prices are prohibitive, since the majority of Cubans work state jobs that pay roughly $20 per month. The AP reports that a car that would cost $13,600 in the U.S. costs $42,000 in Cuba, and a car that would cost $53,000 in the U.K. costs $262,000 in Cuba. In January of this year, the announced prices of new cars led to widespread disappointment on the island, because most had been marked up by 400% or more. This disappointment was shared by nearly all sides of Cuban society - as Havana Times reported at the time:

> ***"On various social networks, a State journalist published calculations that estimate that, to purchase a car, a person would need to save 5,790 full salaries in the course of 482 years, concluding that 'they went off the deep end with these prices - we're going to be the world's laughing stock.'"***

There are eleven dealerships selling cars in Cuba, reports Cubadebate . The AP reports that dealerships sell both new and used cars, and that the majority of those purchased are used, as they cost much less.

Profits from the past six months totaled $1.28 million, 75% of which Cuba's government has said will go toward its public transportation system, reports Reuters .

ETECSA to eliminate mandatory minimum payment for cell phone service

Cuba's state telecommunications company, ETECSA, will eliminate the mandatory minimum payment of 5 Convertible Pesos (CUC) for cell phone service starting in November, reports Café Fuerte . Mayra Arevich Marín, president of ETECSA, told Cuba's media Wednesday that she predicts the new measure will increase demand. She also explained:

> ***"It didn't happen sooner because it was necessary to make a series of investments to assure that when the measure went [into effect] we would have created all of the infrastructure for new lines."***

Official statistics indicate that there were 2,104,600 cell phone service customers in Cuba at the close of 2013. That number has grown in the first part of 2014 and is expected to near 3 million by the end of year, reports Café Fuerte.

Railway between Havana and Mariel Port begins running

The construction of a railroad connecting Havana and Mariel Port was completed on Tuesday, July 1, the International Railway Journal reports. The track stretches 65 kilometers and is Cuba's first new railway in over two decades. Trains are currently running on the tracks, but the ceremony for the opening of the railroad will not take place until July 26.

Recommended Reading

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How Cuba's Gay Rights Activists Are Starting a Revolution With One Simple Act, Carolina Drake, World.Mic

Cubans staged a "kiss-in" as part of the ongoing LGBT rights movement on the island. The piece also gives a short history of LGBT rights in Cuba, describing shifting perceptions.

OFAC Gores Red Bull for Skateboarding in Havana , George Murphy and Clif Burns, ExportLawBlog

ExportLawBlog breaks down OFAC'S case against Red Bull North America, Inc.

Cuba: is foreign investment the future? , Russell White, Latin America Bureau

White analyzes Cuba's new foreign investment law and asks if the legislation will succeed in bolstering investor confidence, or if the "scars" of the past are too "hard to erase."

Hola Cuba! , Tom Risen, U.S. News & World Report

Risen reports on the increased U.S. travel to Cuba, talking to *Americas Quarterly* editor Chris Sabatini about the importance of people-to-people trips, despite their often rigid structure.

Republican Party No Longer Has Tight Grip On Cuban-American Vote, Bill Clinton Says, Serafin Gómez, Fox News Latino

Gómez reports on Clinton's fundraising speech in Florida, where he referred to Cuban Americans' turn toward the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party needs to get out the Cuban American and Latino vote, the former president says. In June , with the publication of her memoir, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed her support for lifting the embargo.

Illegal, but was it wrong? , Phil Peters, The Cuban Triangle

Phil Peters focuses on the Cuba-related transactions that resulted in massive penalties this week for French bank BNP Paribas, noting that the prosecutors did not cite commercial activity as threatening "national and hemispheric security," adding: "as a foreign policy matter, for all we know the United States brought this case against a bank that was financing routine imports to Cuba -- food, consumer goods, construction materials, etc."

The new realities of running a business in Cuba , Jonathan Wolfe, Christian Science Monitor

Wolfe highlights the bureaucratic challenges faced by those working in Cuba's newly approved cooperatives and also examines the benefits such as higher wages and more autonomy in business decisions.

Recommended Viewing

Cuban Carmen Jones revives musical theatre on island , Sarah Rainsford, BBC News

Sarah Rainsford reports on how Cuba is reinvigorating the island's once-vibrant musical theatre scene with the performance of a re-imagined version of the Broadway musical Carmen Jones.

Intriguing Photos of Cuba Show the Country in a New Light , Amanda Gorence, Feature Shoot

Photographer Rose Marie Cromwell's striking photos combine "images of everyday Cuban rituals with images that capture the country in new ways, far from the traditional

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representations photographed over the years."

We Said, "No Car Pictures" , Kainaz Amaria and David Gilkey, NPR

NPR photographer David Gilkey talks about his experience taking photos in Cuba for last week's special series, "Heirs of the Revolution ." Although he wanted to avoid the stereotypical car photos that surface in any Google search for "Cuba," he found that "Cuba's cars are impossible to ignore." Here, he presents some of the more unique car photos that he wound up taking.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Joshua Dorner" <jdorner@americanprogress.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/6/2010 4:07:56 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Progress Report: The Chamber's Foreign Influence

We're currently preparing a more talking pointsy version of all of this, but this a good comprehensive look at where we're at so far on the Chamber.

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THE PROGRESS REPORT

October 6, 2010 by Faiz Shakir, Benjamin Armbruster, George Zornick, Zaid Jilani, Alex Seitz-Wald, and Tanya Somanader

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CORPORATE ETHICS

The Chamber's Foreign Influence

Following the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision in January, the right-wing U.S. Chamber of Commerce has taken record-breaking steps to influence the 2010 midterm elections. Pledging to spend an unprecedented $75 million this year, the Chamber is in the midst of launching one of the largest partisan attack campaigns to defeat Democrats, including candidates like Jack Conway (KY), Sen. Barbara Boxer (CA), Jerry Brown (CA), Rep. Joe Sestak (PA) and Rep. Tom Perriello (VA). Having aired more than 8,000 campaign ads on behalf of GOP Senate candidates alone and having spent 85 percent of its current expenditure on Republicans, the Chamber's spending has "dwarfed every other issue group and most political party candidate committee spending." It is well-established that the Chamber has used dues from corporations like health insurance giant Aetna to try to defeat health care reform, received contributions from bailed-out banks to lobby against Wall Street reform, and solicited funds from Fox News' parent company News Corporation for its election season attack campaign. But a new ThinkProgress investigation reveals that the Chamber is leveraging foreign companies to help fund its activities. Foreign corporations that join the Chamber pay dues that go into the Chamber's general account, which the Chamber then employs to fund its attack campaign. The Chamber "firmly denies the charge, saying its internal accounting rules prevent any foreign money from being used for political purposes." But, as a New York Times editorial notes today, foreign money is fungible, so "it is impossible for an outsider to know whether the group is following its rules." "We want to know what the system is. Basically, they claim they have a system, it's not enough to simply trust them, we need to verify," said Think Progress' Editor-in-Chief Faiz Shakir on MSNBC's

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Fox News follows all of its personalities on Twitter -- except for Glenn Beck.

The way forward on climate change.

What are you owed for 14 years on death row?

Revisiting the Henry Louis Gates Jr. affair.

Why we can't have nice things.

New health care law

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Hardball with Chris Matthews yesterday. While Congressional members and watchdog groups are calling for further investigation into the charges, such campaign actions fall into "something of a regulatory netherworld" leading campaign finance watchdogs, lawyers, and current and former federal officials to believe regulatory agencies like the IRS or the FEC will not examine them closely. Thus, with the *Citizens United* ruling and the Chamber's abuse of its 501(c)(6) standing, the Chamber is set to use "unlimited money from donors who have no fear of disclosure."

HOW IT WORKS: Under the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA), it is illegal for "foreign nationals" to "directly or indirectly" contribute, donate, or spend funds in connection with any federal, state, or local election in the U.S. It is also illegal to "solicit, receive or accept contributions or donations from them." The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a trade association that qualifies as a 501(c)(6) organization which can engage in limited political activity, lobbying, and accept d ues from foreign members. While regular dues from American companies like Aetna or News Corp. can be used for any purpose deemed necessary by the Chamber leadership, 501(c)(6) organizations, like any organization, cannot use foreign funds to advocate for a political candidate or cause. What the ThinkProgress investigation found is that the Chamber has spearheaded efforts "to raise money from foreign corporations, including ones controlled by foreign governments" and funneled that money into its general 501(c)(6) account. Foreign members send money either directly to the U.S. Chambe r or to their country's local American Chamber (AmCham), which then transfers dues payments back to the Chamber's H Street office in Washington, D.C. While the Chamber may claim to have internal controls, foreign funds are fungible and all dues go to the same general account, which is then used to fund the Chamber's political attack campaign. Essentially, as Shakir pointed out , "they're acting as a [Political Action Committee]" which "run[s] ads against political candidates. But the difference here is PACs disclose where they get the money from." The Chamber refuses to disclose its donors.

OUTSIDE PLAYERS: The Chamber has aggressively cultivated foreign business connections to raise significant sums to augment domestic funds in its general account. In 2006, the Chamber created the "U.S.-Bahrain Business Council" (USBBC), a local office of the Chamber's 501(c)(6) trade association to help Bahranian businesses take advantage of the Chamber's "network of government and business relationships in the US and worldwide." Many of the USBBC board members are Bahranian, including B ahrain Martime & Mercantile International, Aluminum Bahrain, and the state-owned Bahrain Petroleum Company. USBBC's membership form explicitly states that foreign-owned firms are welcome and directs applicants to send or wire dues directly to the Chamber. With each USBBC board member contributing at least $10,000 annually, the Chamber of Commerce raises well over $100,000 a year in funds from its operation in Bahrain. The Chamber also operates a "U.S.-India Business Council" (USIBC) in its U.S. headquarters that includes some of India's largest corporations like the state-owned State Bank of India and the ICICI Bank as members. Annual membership dues range from $7,500 to $15,000 or more, and the funds are funneled directly into the

literally covers young people.

The House GOP's Pledge to America is unpopular with small minority that have heard of it .

Rep. Pete King (R-NY) has little faith in the U.S. justice system .

DAILY GRILL

"The guy who tried to blow up Times Square with a car bomb was sentenced [in civilian court] to life in prison without parole. Good."
-- Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, 10/05/10, on Fox News

VERSUS

"Last night, Judge Andrew Napolitano put forth on 'The Factor' that the Constitution demands a civilian trial for the terrorists. I think that's hooey."
-- O'Reilly, 11/17/09, on Fox News

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Chamber's 501(c)(6) bank account. The USBIC, which advocates changing American manufacturing policy to help guide U.S companies to India, generates over $200,000 a year in dues from foreign businesses. While foreign "AmChams" operate outside the Chamber's direct sphere, they nonetheless send dues back to the U.S. In the Middle East, for example, the AmCham in Egypt calls itself one of the Chamber's "most active affiliates " and Abu Dhabi AmCham -- which includes a subsidiary of the state-run Abu Dhabi National Oil Company -- claims it is a "dues paying member" of the U.S. Chamber. The AmCham of Russia's relationship to the U.S. Chamber is less clear because many of the dues-paying members are Russian state-run companies, like VTB Bank , and controlled by the Russian government. When asked if members do pay dues, the Russia AmCham membership development manager replied, "Unfortunately, the information that you require is closed for the public ." And in what looks like an attempt to raise money for election from foreign nationals, the Chamber also commissioned former U.S. Ambassador to Singapore and McCain-Palin cam paign aide Frank Lavin to speak before foreign Chamber affiliates to talk about the stakes for the midterm elections. If such solicitation occurred, it would be a clear violation of FECA law.

TRUST AND DON'T VERIFY: Following ThinkProgress' report, Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) wrote to the FEC -- a federal agency that has ironically "been rendered toothless by its Republican members" -- to launch an investigation and insist that foreign companies prove whether their funds had b een used in campaign activities. He also asked the FEC to change its regulations allowing foreign companies that are incorporated in the U.S. to spend on elections. Rep. Tom Perriello (D-VA) also repudiated the funding as "fundamentally un-American and undemocratic" and called on his Republican opponent to denounce the ads. And finding Lavin's actions to amount to "indirectly soliciting contributions from foreign nationals for the use in U.S. elections" thereby violating the FECA law prohibiting anyone "to solicit, accept, or receive" contributions, the public advocacy group M oveOn.org requested the Department of Justice yesterday to launch a criminal investigation. The Chamber, however, has responded to the allegations by claiming it does not use foreign funds for political activities, calling ThinkProgress' report "completely erroneous" and a "partisan" "smear ." But instead of rebutting the actual allegations with evidence, Chamber spokeswoman Tita Freeman offered unverifiable assurances that the Chamber complies "with all applicable law." "We have a system," she said, that ensures AmChams "are not government-controlled entities." But as for addressing whether the AmChams transfer money from government-controlled entities, the Chamber was demonstrably silent. Indeed, as ThinkProgress' Lee Fang noted on MSNBC's Countdown with Keith Olbermann Tuesday, "what's alarming is the Chamber of Commerce hasn't put out any documentation. They haven't proved that there's a firewall. They're just saying, 'hey, trust us.'" What's more, with the *Citizen's United* decision and the Chamber's successful effort to kill a campaign finance reform bill mandating disclosure, the Chamber could continue to use foreign dues while funding more attack ads against Democrats without ever having to reveal any of its foreign contributors. Still, the Chamber insists that its unverified "system" should be enough

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to quell concern. As the Washington Monthly's Steve Benen puts it , "there's nothing like vague, terse responses from an already-secretive, conservative lobbying group to set minds at ease."

THINK FAST

Politico reports that conservative activists are **demanding that former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney apologize** for passing a health reform law in his state. "I would advise him to acknowledge he made a mistake ," said Brent Bozell, president of the Conservative Victory Committee. Referencing a recent ThinkProgress post, Politico states that Romney's record is causing "a distraction" for the GOP.

Todd Palin fired off an email to Alaska's GOP U.S. Senate candidate Joe Miller, complaining that Miller refused to say whether his wife, Sarah Palin, is qualified to be president. "Sarah put her ass on the line for Joe and yet he can't answer a simple question," Todd Palin said in the email, adding, "Joe, please explain how this endorsement stuff works, is it to be completely one sided[?]"

Joe Miller has revealed this his wife drew unemployment benefits after working as Miller's clerk when he was a federal magistrate in 2002. Miller has argued that such benefits are unconstitutional, but he recently softened his position, saying that payments for unemployment should be entirely under the control of the states .

The Washington Post reports that "half a dozen" well-placed sources reveal that the Afghan Taliban are in high-level talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai **to end the war in Afghanistan**. The talks are different from previous ones in that the Afghan Taliban are for the first time authorized to speak for the Quetta Shura, "the Afghan Taliban organization based in Pakistan, and its leader, Mohammad Omar."

This week, both **President Bush and Vice President Cheney spoke** separately before the Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers in Colorado. Both appearances were closed to the press. The Council is the leading industry voice of commercial insurance agencies and brokerage firms.

A poll shows that voters may **like the health care reform bill** passed earlier this year, contrary to frequent claims by Republicans and pundits that it's unpopular. The Public Religion Research Institute found that a majority -- 54 percent -- said they would be more likely to support a candidate who voted for health care reform.

Women on Wall Street **earn less and have fewer jobs**, according to a report by Bloomberg. More than five times as many women then men lost their jobs since July 2007, and their pay has also fallen: they earn only 58.8 cents for every dollar men in the industry earn.

"The House since January 2009 **has passed 420 bills that have sat**

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on the Senate shelf," according to a list of legislation given to The Hill. Legislation awaiting Senate action includes "measures to audit the claims fund set up by BP after the Gulf oil spill and legislation to increase screening for diabetes."

And finally: Outwitted by Weekly World News , **Fox & Friends fell for a false story published by the tabloid**, reporting as true that the Los Angeles police department was planning to purchase 10,000 jetpacks at $100,000 each. Co-host Brian Kilmeade offered the sage advice, "You gotta make up some rules. Because you're going to have jetpacks flying into choppers !" But about 40 minutes later, co-host Steve Doocy corrected the record.

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/16/2008 4:03:31 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/16/08

Main Topics: McCain and Misogynist Clayton Williams, McCan't Rally His Base or the Female Vote

Summary of Shift: Al Gore endorsed Barack Obama this evening. John McCain canceled a scheduled fundraising event today at the home of Clayton Williams, after Williams' past misogynist comments surfaced. Yet McCain refuses to return the $300,000 that Williams helped raise. Only CNN and MSNBC covered this story. McCain is expected to call tomorrow for the repealing of a moratorium on offshore oil drilling. Obama said he will travel to Iraq before the November election. President Bush met with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who announced further sanctions against Iran.
Security in Afghanistan is deteriorating because hundreds of imprisoned Taliban members have escaped and taken control o f several villages. The Saudis decided to increase their production of oil. Abdul Qadeer Khan, a Pakistani scientist, is accused of giving nuclear blueprints to Iran and North Korea. The now teenaged Elian Gonzalez has joined Cuba's Youth Communist Union. The DNC is starved for cash as it plans its August convention. Gay marriage is now legal in California and flooding is causing a crisis in the Midwest.

Highlights:
1) McCain cancels fundraiser at Texas misogynist Clayton Williams' home after his controversial comments surface, including a statement comparing rape to bad weather
a. Dana Bash: McCain "campaign fumble" is a "vetting problem" that is part of a pattern that includes Pastors Hagee and Parsley; McCain won't return $300,000 that Williams raised for him
2) Fox News' Cavuto calls out McCain for double talk on domestic oil drilling, Donatelli admits McCain's removal of drilling moratorium "may be a punt, but it's a long punt"
3) MSNBC explores McCain and the female vote
a. On "Hardball": McCain's pro-life record will hurt him with the female vote
b. MSNBC panel discusses McCain's 25 year history voting against women's health issues
c. Brewer on MSNBC: McCain continues to aggressively seek Clinton female voters, yet "polls show they are really lining up behind Barack Obama"
d. Fiorina Touts McCain's Appeal to women, also pushes *McDifferent* from Bush
4) McCan't Rally His Base
a. CNN's Bill Schneider reveals that "only one-third" of McCain supporters "feel fired up"
b. On "Countdown": McCain's base support and straight talk image are crumbling
5) Jack Cafferty highlights historically bleak odds that face the McCain campaign
6) Fred Thompson expressed his disapproval with the recent Supreme Court decision on Fox News [No Clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
Dana Bash: McCain's Domestic Oil Exploration Statement Was Made to Cover Up "Campaign Fumble" Involving Fundraiser at Controversial Misogynist Clayton Williams, "Vetting Problem" Part of a Pattern That Includes Hagee and Parsley (CNN 06/16/08 4:05pm)
WOLF BLITZER: John McCain's campaign is grappling today with new evidence that it's vetting process isn't all that it should be. But publicly the all but certain Republican nominee is putting his energy into talking about the energy crisis […] Dana, what was McCain's basic message today?

DANA BASH: You know it was really interesting Wolf. McCain declared himself the underdog today. That's an age-old political move to try to lower expectations but he was also trying to get over his campaign's latest difficulty in avoiding be associated with a controversial figure.

[Beginning of Segment]

BASH: A hastily arranged press conference at his campaign headquarters. John McCain wanted to get in the news with a new idea for voter's pain at the pump: allowing states to drill for oil off-shore.

JOHN MCCAIN: Providing additional incentives for states to permit exploration off their coasts, would be very helpful in the short term, in resolving our energy crisis. That announcement was moved up to try to drive the day's story, not be driven by the day's campaign fumble that McCain had to cancel a Monday fundraiser at the home of Texas Republican Clayton

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Williams after the campaign was questioned about William's controversial comments about women during his 1990 Texas Governors race. Then Williams compared bad weather to rape, saying, "as long at it's inevitable, you might as well lie back and enjoy it."

[Video of Dana Bash asking McCain a question]

BASH: How did it come to pass that you had this fundraiser planned?

MCCAIN: First of all, my people are not aware of a statement that he made 16 or 18 years ago. I've forgotten how many years ago it was.

[Back to Segment]

BASH: But a Lexis-Nexis search for what Williams' is know for in politics, his 1990 Governor's race, comes up with multiple references to his comments about women. It was a big campaign issue because he was running against a woman, Ann Richards.

[Old Footage of Ann Richards]
ANN RICHARDS: When I hear remarks like Clayton Williams made, I don't care whether it's made around a campfire or in a living room or in a formal speech, it indicates a level of thinking that is an embarrassment.

[End Footage]

BASH: Williams is just the latest vetting problem for McCain. Last month McCain rejected endorsements from Pastors John Hagee and Rod Parsley, after months of controversy around their views of Catholics and Muslims.

[…]

BASH: And that fundraiser, originally slated for today will be rescheduled for a new location other than Williams' house later this summer. McCain made clear he won't return $300,000 William's helped raise, saying "those donor are his supporters" and McCain did not answer whether he thinks this will have any impact on his big push Wolf for those women voters. Those women voters, of course, he's trying really hard for, in light of Hillary Clinton's defeat.

Highlight #2
Fox News' Cavuto Calls Out McCain for Double Talk on Domestic Oil Drilling, Donatelli Admits McCain's Removal of Drilling Moratorium "May Be a Punt, But It's a Long Punt" (FNC 06/16/08 4:34pm)
NEIL CAVUTO: Sen John McCain will call tomorrow to lift the moratorium on states that choose to permit exploration off their shores. Carl Cameron, what's going on here?

CARL CAMERON: Sen McCain's gonna go to Texas, the heart of the American oil industry, and deliver a speech that does create some real challenges for him. Over the course of this campaign, Sen McCain has suggested that CEO pay is disproportionate and way out of whack in the oil industry; the oil industries have been profit-taking and gouging consumers. He's even gone so far as to suggest that rising gas prices amount to the equivalent of domestic terrorism, although obviously he was making a sort of hyperbolic political reference there. **Tomorrow Sen McCain will make this speech. He will beat up on the oil industry but also offer them some oil branches, olive branches.** One of them will be to lift the moratoria—and there's a whole series of them—on offshore drilling around the country. Now, there's a lot of states that do have offshore drilling and have not been eager to increase it. There's an awful lot of states that don't and have absolutely no interest in additional—it's the "not in my backyard" Nimby syndrome. Sen McCain believes that more oil production in the United States is necessary. He is a big, big believer in increasing nuclear energy, as well as renewable fuels. He fancies himself the most green, most environmentally-friendly Republican nominee the GOP's ever seen. So tomorrow he goes to Texas to talk about that, and he's not suggesting that states must drill offshore; he's only saying that by lifting the federal moratorium on new drilling they would have a choice and he'd leave it to them.

CAVUTO: […] **So why do so many feel the Straight Talk Express is having it both ways on this drilling issue: drill more at sea but not on land in places like the Everglades or ANWR**? Frank Donatelli is a McCain adviser and a deputy chair of the RNC, RNC's no double speak here. That is the part that confuses me. You know: water – fine, have at it, let the states decide, but don't touch the land. Am I reading him right?

FRANK DONATELLI: Well no. I think it's a moderate position. There are many, many different factors that you have to

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consider. But when it comes to drilling offshore, the key point to make is, number one, there's lots of oil and gas there. Number two, can be reached relatively quickly. And when we're in a […] supply-side crisis like we are, where the price of gasoline continues to go up it seems without end, It seems that going to the outer continental shelf and urging stje tates to participate in this, possibly with financial incentives,is the way to get more oil and gas online in the quickest way possible.

CAVUTO: But Frank, you know, it confuses a lot of folks who say, well what is it? **You're gonna explore for more oil? Well yeah I am but in water, essentially and not on land. And then people scratch their heads and say, well wait a minute, Straight Talk Express, this ain't clear.**

DONATELLI: Well, I think it's a question of getting the job done. As I say, most people believe that there's lots of oil and gas supplies off of our shores that could be reached quickly. The other thing to remember is that we now have a federal ban in place, and the first thing that has to be done […] is to get the federal ban lifted. […] Let' s understand that what Sen Obama favors apparently is to allow gas prices to continue to increase and increase. And when McCain is trying to say with his speeches is wait a minute, we've already reached the point where gas prices are far too high. In the short- and medium-term, the best way to counterbalance that is to increase supply and the best way to do that is to allow, under proper circumstances, drilling in the outer continental shelf.

CAVUTO: But it's at the edges, Frank. And I think where most Americans step back and say Barack Obama and John McCain are against drilling in ANWR; they're against drilling in the continental United States. They are against, you know, ripping up the land. That's fine, […] have at it. What isn't clear is whether John McCain' s even short-term solution—for example, removing the federal gas tax; or saying jump-ball have the states decide this and having 50 states or the most affected states on the coast decide how they're gonna handle exploration of oil off of their coasts. […] **That's my impression of it. He's just punting. He hasn't decided or said anything of substance.**

DONATELLI: **Well, it may be a punt but it's a long punt.** Because to […] remove the federal ban against drilling off of all of our coast and to hopefully get state participation—and by the way, I think […] $4.50 gas […] has concentrated the minds of maybe some voters and in some cases some legislatures.

CAVUTO: Yeah, but I tell you, it's not in Florida, it's not in California. Under Republican and Democratic governors alike, they've always said no no no no. […] I think the senator knows that if i punt and give back to them, they're gonna just do nothing.

DONATELLI: But again, we haven't had these kind of gas prices before. And we have not had a proposal that the state should possibly be able to share in the royalty revenue in some way. You've got a lot of states hurting for additional revenue. And we have a national crisis here. […] These are extraordinary times. And if we're going to break this cycle of gas prices $4, $5, $6 a barrel, this is a very practical short-term way to do it. Senator Obama is not for it.

CAVUTO: Alright, we shall see. What you say about the states could potentially share in revenue, that could be a real deal-maker. Always good seeing you.

Highlight #3

McCain's Pro-Life Record Will Hurt Him with the Female Vote (MSNBC 06/16/08 05:38pm)

CHRIS MATTHEWS: John McCain continues to speak glowingly about Hillary Clinton in an obvious effort to court Clinton supporters. But are Clinton's women voters so disillusioned by their democratic candidates lost that they are willing to desert their party and go vote for Republican John McCain instead. […] Senator Obama is beating John McCain among women by 19 points, white women by 7 but McCain leads among suburban women by 6. […]

HIEDI HARRIS: […] John McCain's going to have to work really hard to get some of those women over, who are Hillary supporters, to his side.

MATTHEWS: Most voters are women. […] Will most Democratic Women vote Democratic?

AMY GOODMAN: […] It's interesting that we are talking about this today, Monday, which was the scheduled fundraiser for John McCain at the home of the Texas Oilman, Clayton Williams. Who is famous for having compared rape to bad weather saying you just have to lay back and enjoy it. He's also the guy that ran against Anne Richards in 1990 in Texas. And compared her to a cow saying you have to head her, hoof her and drag her through the dirt. Yes, they cancelled the fundraiser but it's very significant. He's very well known for these comments. […]

[…]

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GOODMAN: I think we won't hope if you have policies like John McCain just advocated for on Friday. When the Supreme Court came down with their decision, […] John McCain said he thought it was one of the worst decisions in History. That's very sad. […]

MATTHEWS: Why do you think most women vote Democratic?

HARRIS: A lot of women are very emotional. […]

MATTHEWS: You mean its not hard issues like abortion rights, or social security or minimum wage. Logical reasons?

HARRIS: I don't think most women under 50 care about abortion rights. Because women at that age, […] its always been legal. […]

MATTHEWS: Shouldn't they have a concept of it that if the Supreme Court moves further right and there is no longer a right to have an abortion?

HARRIS: I don't think it's going to change. I don't think no matter who is on the Supreme Court it's going to be over ruled. And the women who are complaining about it the most are too darn old to get pregnant. So I don't think it's a big issue for young ones.

GOODMAN: I think it's a very important issue. And when people learn, and they don't know right now, but especially when women learn about John McCain's record on reproductive rights, that he's 100% against abortion. They are going to be deeply concerned.

[…]

MSNBC Panel Discusses McCain's 25 Year History Against Women's Health Issues (MSNBC 06/16/08 3:52pm)
DAVID SHUSTER: John McCain is trying to win over disappointed Hillary Clinton voters, especially women. But according to a brand new poll by NARAL, the pro-choice organization, independent and republican women are more likely to cross over and vote for Barack Obama, instead of McCain. Obama leads McCain 53 to 40 percent. And this was after respondents were presented with the candidates views on abortion[…] Sabrina, I wonder if you will acknowledge that John McCain's pro-life position means that he's at odds with, essentially, most women on the issue of abortion.

SABRINA SCHAEFFER: Look, what I think is interesting about this is, we're talking about the women's vote and sort of assuming that because women share the same anatomy they're somehow going to share the same political convictions. And I think that's off. It's a little ridiculous to think that way. I'm not sure if this is a done deal for Senator McCain. I think he has to make the case.

SHUSTER: But Sabrina, can you point us to one poll in which a majority of women agreed with the pro-life position?

SCHAEFFER: Right, I don't know. At this point we're five months out of the general election and I think to look at any poll numbers and to take them too seriously at this point is off. I think, especially when we're looking at women who are known to be making their decisions much later in the game, to look at the poll numbers in June, right after when Senator Clinton has dropped out of the race, just doesn't do much good for anybody.

SHUSTER: Alright, Cecile, maybe I'm missing something then. Do you think women will go to John McCain when they hear more about John McCain's position on issues of abortion?

CECILE RICHARDS: **Well, actually, I think it's a whole basket of access to affordable health care for women, and I think John McCain has a 25 year record with Planned Parenthood on voting against, he's voted against everything we've supported in terms of making health care more accessible and affordable for women. And I think that as women find that out, they frankly go to Senator Obama**. We see in NBC's own poll, I think a 19 point spread of support of Senator Obama over Senator McCain. And again, certainly too, Senator Clinton supporters are seeing her record and Senator Obama's record are very closely aligned, their positions are very closely aligned on women's healthcare issues. And Senator McCain, is frankly, just very out of touch on women's healthcare needs.

SHUSTER: Cecile, I want to ask you if you're a little bit disappointed because, all of which you said is true but, you haven't heard a word about it from Barack Obama. It's almost as if he doesn't want to talk about women's issues right now.

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RICHARDS: Oh, actually, I really disagree. In fact, we at Planned Parenthood, we have a long history of working with Senator Obama on a whole host of women healthcare issues. On affordability, on accessibility of family planning, breast cancer screening, the like. And I think that, certainly now it's a general election you're going to see a big focus on access to affordable health care for women. I think in the primary the candidates positions were very similar. I think when you see the difference between Senator Obama and Senator McCain on these issues, women are going to continue to move to Senator Obama. In particular, independent and republican pro-choice women.

SCHAEFFER: I wanted to point out that the PEW Center for Survey Research just did another survey and they found that abortion is actually on the very bottom of the list in terms of people's top priorities. And I think what we need to remember is that women, like men, are going to be voting on some of the big ticket items. National security and the economy. And I think when people see Senator Obama's record on national security, when they realize he doesn't have any foreign policy experience, that's going to be a liability against him. And when it comes to the economy, especially when we're talking about women who are concerned about their financial security and their security in the work force, they're going to want a president that is not going to be a traditional tax and spend liberal but somebody who's going to help us promote more free market policies.

SHUSTER: […] Clarify for us, is it your position and is it John McCain's position that abortion should be restricted?

SCHAEFFER: You know, I can't speak for Senator McCain. I think that this is, you know, his issues are going to have to, he's going to have to speak to the larger issues that are facing women.

SHUSTER: Then speak for the Independence Women's Forum. Is it your position that abortion should be restricted?

SCHAEFFER: You know I don't actually think that IWFF takes a position on abortion.

[…]

Our focus is actually on economic issues, on education, on school choice, on national security.

RICHARDS: So I'd really love to pick up on this one point, because I think it's important to understand very clearly. Senator McCain has a 25 year history of voting against women health care issues. He has said, publicly, his commitment is to overturn Roe v. Wade. So, it's very clear where he is. I think what's important in Sabrina's mentioning that the economy is an important issue in this election, and Planned Parenthood absolutely agrees. So I believe that women's access to affordable healthcare for themselves and their families is going to be a paramount issue, and that's where I think Senator McCain is found incredibly lacking. It's not only his position on Roe, it's his position against opposing women's family planning access, opposing the programs that support women getting affordable breast cancer screening. This year, he even voted against the program that would have covered children's health insurance. So I think on a whole host of bread-and-butter economic issues that relate to women's health and families health, Senator McCain has a record that's going to really going to cause him problems with women voters.

Brewer on MSNBC: McCain Continues to Aggressively Seek Clinton Female Voters, Yet "Polls Show They Are Really Lining Up Behind Barack Obama" (MSNBC 06/16/08 10:33am)
CONTESSA BREWER: […] can John McCain and Barack Obama be decided by Hillary Clinton supporters? McCain is aggressively targeting those very voters, hoping to sway Clinton loyalists who still harbor lingering bitterness towards Barack Obama.
[…]
Emily, what do you make of this strategy by John McCain? He has former HewlettPackard CEO, Carly Fiorina out there, trying to help him gain traction from women.

EMILY HEIL: And a lot of other things too. I mean, he is a ladies man these days! He's on the view, he's hanging out with Ellen Degeneres. You know, Carly Fiorina is everywhere for him. He's talking about how great a candidate Hillary Clinton was. He's really clearly trying to reach out to women voters. And you know, trying to talk to them about issues. But also, trying to engratiate himself with that voting bloc. Clearly, he thinks that's very important and he thinks he can make some gains there.

BREWER: Jonathan, **polls show that women are really lining up behind Barack Obama.** The only segment of the population that polls show that John McCain is doing really well, is white suburban women. Weren't those women, who may have been supporting a republican candidate anyway?

JONATHAN CAPEHART: Um, possibly. I mean, these possibly, very well be […] first they were the soccer moms and

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then they became the security moms after 9/11. Those are the voters that Senator Obama and McCain are going to go after rather vigorously. Senator McCain, let me start again. Women supporting Senator McCain, I think we'll see some shifting and some more movement when the two candidates really go at it. Particularly on issues of choice. And the democrats are hoping once women find out Senator McCain's record on choice that they will go in groves over to Senator Obama.

Fiorina Touts McCain's Appeal to Women, Also Pushes McDifferent From Bush (MSNBC 06/16/08 01:07pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: Why should women turn to John McCain, who for a majority of women in America is on the opposite side of Roe vs. Wade. Also skipped a vote on equal pay, voted against requiring health care plans to cover birth control, voted against family planning programs. These are all majority positions amongst women's groups.

CARLY FIORINA: […] John McCain, […], has a long record on pro-life. On the other hand I know many, many women, some who are pro-life and some that are pro-choice who support John McCain because they are not single-issue voters. […] When we look at important issues like healthcare for example, John McCain proposes that every American be able to choose their health insurance plan from anywhere in the United States, in other words he would inject competition into health Insurance. That's important because for some women health insurance covers Viagra for example but it doesn't cover birth control and competition would provide a choice for many women. […] John McCain's proposal for portable health insurance programs, that is health insurance that individuals own, not the company for whom they are employed is very important to women. Because women are frequently the last hired, the first fired, they are more likely to be self-employed. […]

MITCHELL: Even though Barack Obama has a very big lead nationally among women, in a key cohort, white suburban women, McCain is ahead 44 to 39.

FIORINA: […] A large number of women who were Clinton supporters were open minded enough to listen to John McCain. […]

MITCHELL: One of the drags on McCain, very frankly, is George W. Bush. […]

[Visual of Bush quote]
"I want it to be said about George W. Bush that when he finishes his presidency, he looked in a mirror as a man who did not compromise his core principles for the sake of politics or the Gallup poll or the latest, you know, whatever. You can't lead in this world if you are chasing something as temporary as a popularity poll."

MITCHELL: […] The issue is he might not care about his popularity and he may stick to his principles but it does as a practical matter make it a lot harder for John McCain.

FIORINA: Well this is the number one talking point for the Democratic Party, that John McCain is just like George Bush. They believe it's the strongest argument they have against John McCain. Unfortunately it's just not true. The American people understand John McCain opposed George Bush on global warming and climate change; He opposed George Bush on the issue of Guantanamo Bay, […]

[Mitchell struggles to cut in]

MITCHELL: […] He took a position after the Supreme Court decision last week, praising the descenters, and saying that he agreed with Justice Roberts and the other justices that believe that the writ of Habeas corpus should not be extended to those prisoners.

FIORINA: Well, that is correct but they are different issues. […] We are in essence giving enemy combatants the same rights that we give to American citizens. […]

Highlight #4
CNN's Bill Schneider Reveals "Only One-Third" of McCain Supporters "Feel Fired Up" (CNN 06/16/08 5:00pm)
BILL SCHNEIDER: What we're seeing in this poll is a moral gap, and it's an enormous one. The moral gap in this campaign is huge. Barack Obama supporters are all fired up. Two-thirds of Obama supporters say they are extremely or very enthusiastic about voting for president this year. John McCain supporters, not so much. Only one-third feel fired up. Four years ago, there was almost no difference in enthusiasm between George W. Bush supporters and John Kerry supporters. Everybody was fired up. After 8 years of the Bush presidency, republicans are demoralized. McCain is trying to deal with it. Look at expectations, most voters believe Obama is going to win in November. So are democrats singing, "happy days are here again?" Actually, they're a little worried. Obama's running only a few points ahead of McCain. 42 percent of voters

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believe Obama's race will make it more difficult for him to get elected. That concern is higher among democrats. Obama also has a problem with seniors. He sometimes sounds like he's leading a youth movement. Republican have been making steady gains with seniors for at least 16 years. McCain now leads Obama by 8 points among voters 65 and older. Obama is trying to deal with it. The greatest generation, the one that lived through the depression and World War II was strongly democratic, they're passing from the political scene. Obama is trying to rally a new generation of democratic voters to replace them.

McCain's Base Support and Straight Talk Image is Crumbling (MSNBC 06/22/08 08:04pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: […] Only 52% of Republican primary voters approve of John McCain as their candidate. […] That lack of enthusiasm extending to members of the house and senate. The hill reporting last week that at least 14 Republican members of congress having refused to endorse or publically support Senator McCain. Nearly one dozen others refused to answer the question. […]

[Clip of McCain]

OLBERMANN: […] of the 3200 individuals that gave to Mayor Giuliani and Governor Romney's campaigns, only 113 of them, 3.5% have also since given to Senator McCain. That might explain why McCain was unwilling to say no to any of the money raised by Clayton Williams. […]

{Clip of McCain]

MCCAIN: First of all my people were not aware of a statement that he said 16 or 18 years ago. I've forgotten how many years ago it was. […] The people who contributed were supporters of mine not supporters of his. So when we found out that this was planned there we said no, we'll reschedule it and we'll do it somewhere else and I understand that he's not attending.

OLBERMANN: […] Mr. Williams is not attending, Senator McCain is still planning however to except all the 300,000 dollars […].

RICHARD WOLFFE: […] you cannot separate the man from the money. […] And in this case for John McCain that's built his brand around the idea of straight talk, people want to see him dealing straight, in a straight and honest way with this kind of issue. I'm not sure that in taking the money but rejecting the guy that is necessary a piece of straight talk.

[…]

WOLFFE: This enduring suspicion and mistrust about McCain from big pieces of his own party, its not just the financial backers of people like Giuliani or Romney. But the Bush money machine, which was this formidable enterprise for two election cycles, really has not rallied around John McCain. That's causing him problems now and it looks like it will cause him problems going forward.
[…]

Highlight #5
Jack Cafferty Highlights Historically Bleak Odds That Face the McCain Campaign (CNN 06/16/08 4:30pm)
JACK CAFFERTY: Don't bet on John McCain becoming the next President of the United States. That is the message coming from several presidential scholars and historians. Politico reports, these historians paint a bleak picture for McCain. They also say Barack Obama has the best chance for any democrat perhaps since Roosevelt beat Hoover in 1932. The historians say it should be an overwhelming democratic victory, noting McCain is facing one of the worst political environments for the party in power since World War II. There's also this, only twice in the 20th century has the candidate from the same party from a two-term president go on to win the White House. The last time it happened, in 1988 was when President Bush's dad replaced Ronal Reagan. But remember, Reagan was more than twice as popular as the current president is now.
McCain does have some advantages, including the fact that most people don't see him as a traditional Republican. Also, he could appeal more to moderates than Obama if the public would end up seeing the democrat as far left. And McCain might benefit from left over divisions in the democratic party from the long running primary season. Meanwhile, a new Gallup poll suggests the American people agree with these historians, 52 percent of those surveyed think that Obama will win regardless of who they support. 41 percent say McCain. And the world is weighing in too. A PEW poll, 25,000 people in 24 countries found that in all but two nations people put more faith in Barack Obama than in John McCain to do the right thing when it comes to world affairs. One of the two exceptions, that would be the United States.

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	11/7/2014 1:10:03 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Friday November 7, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Friday November 7, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

New York Times: "Midterms, for Clinton Team, Aren't All Gloom"

"Before any campaigning begins, Mrs. Clinton will first embark on a listening tour that echoes what she did first as a candidate for the Senate in New York and then as a freshman senator, gathering ideas and advice from a cross-section of influential people about their concerns."

Politico: "Clinton may put campaign HQ in Westchester"

"Her [Sec. Clinton's] aides are all preparing for a campaign based in New York – and talks about where to set up shop have increasingly focused on Westchester County, according to several people familiar with the discussions."

New York Times blog: The Upshot: "What 2014 Elections Can Tell Us About the 2016 Ones: Not So Much"

"In particular, the widespread Democratic losses weren't a 'repudiation' of Hillary Rodham Clinton (who played a minor role). But despite claims that they actually offer her a useful opportunity to contrast herself with a Republican Congress, she doesn't face a 'great situation' for her prospective 2016 presidential candidacy either."

Bloomberg: "Is Clinton the Biggest Winner or the Biggest Loser of the Midterms?"

"The question creeping onto everyone's mind is: How ought the sages of ClintonLand read the midterm leaves?"

Slate: "What Does It Mean for Hillary?"

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"The question for Hillary Clinton's campaign is this: Will voters see her as a singular figure—Hillary—standing against an unpopular Republican Party, or will they see her as just another Democrat against just another Republican?"

Bloomberg: "Post Midterms, the 2016 Presidential Contenders Recalibrate"

"Hillary Clinton hasn't made any major appearances, or even minor ones, but is still the talk of the town. What do the midterms mean for Hillary? One thing we know for sure is that, according to the exit polls, more people thought Clinton would be a bad president than a good president. Paul, Christie and other GOP hopefuls fared worse, but it's another sign that running for president isn't good for your popularity."

New York Times opinion: Timothy Egan, NYT correspondent: "The Big Sleep"

"Clinton would be running for a third term of her husband, the most popular president of the last 20 years and the last Democrat who knew how to win over white people in red states."

MSNBC: "The curse of the Obama coalition"

"One silver lining here for Democrats is that Hillary Clinton tends to do well among working class whites, and thus could make up for some of Obama's major losses among those groups in 2016."

Mediaite: "O'Reilly to GOP: Stop Fighting or Hillary Will Cruise to Victory in 2016"

"He [O'Reilly] warned that if Republicans "continue to fight each other [and] don't compromise," they will lose and Hillary Clinton will glide to victory in 2016."

Washington Free Beacon: "The Biggest Loser"

"The 2014 election was a disaster for Hillary Clinton."

Articles:

New York Times: "Midterms, for Clinton Team, Aren't All Gloom"

By Amy Chozick

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

November 6, 2014

In the coming weeks, Hillary Rodham Clinton will stop delivering paid speeches. She will embark on an unofficial listening tour to gather ideas from the business community, union leaders and others. And she will seek advice from such far-flung advisers as an ad man in Austin, Tex., behind the iconic “Don’t Mess With Texas” campaign and a leading strategist at a Boston-based public affairs consulting firm with ties to the Kennedys.

The Democratic debacle in Tuesday’s midterm elections has put new urgency on Mrs. Clinton’s efforts to create a blueprint for a 2016 presidential candidacy, including exploring White Plains as a possible national headquarters and digesting exit polls to determine what the midterm results could mean for the presidential electoral map.

A number of advisers saw only upside for Mrs. Clinton in the party’s midterm defeats. Before then, opinions had been mixed about when she should form an exploratory committee, the first step toward declaring a presidential candidacy, with some urging her to delay it until late spring.

But over the past few days, a consensus formed among those close to Mrs. Clinton that it is time to accelerate her schedule: She faces pressure to resurrect the Democratic Party, and she is already being scrutinized as the party’s presumptive nominee, so advisers see little reason to delay.

No action will be taken before the Dec. 6 runoff in Louisiana between Senator Mary L. Landrieu, a Democrat and a Clinton friend, and her Republican challenger, Rep. Bill Cassidy, putting the likely date for the establishing an exploratory committee in early next year, said several Clinton advisers who insisted on anonymity in discussing private conversations.

Donors, meanwhile, have already started to discuss a Clinton candidacy, at times barely veiling a giddy excitement.

On Wednesday evening, Ready for Hillary, a “super PAC” that supports her candidacy, sent a fund-raising email. “Now more than ever we need to show Hillary that we’re ready for her to get in this race,” the plea for donations read. “America needs Hillary’s leadership.”

In many ways, Tuesday’s election results clear a path for Mrs. Clinton. The lopsided outcome and conservative tilt makes it less likely she would face an insurgent challenger from the left.

And a Republican-led Senate creates a handy foil for her to run against: Rather than the delicate task of trying to draw a stark contrast with an unpopular president in whose administration she served, her loyalists say, Mrs. Clinton can instead present herself as a pragmatic alternative to what they predict will be an obstructionist Republican Congress.

"Rand Paul and Ted Cruz and their allies in the House" will be "pushing Republican leadership hard," said Geoff Garin, a pollster who succeeded Mark Penn as chief strategist for Mrs. Clinton’s 2008 campaign. "When that happens it will give Hillary Clinton or whoever the Democratic nominee is a better platform to run."

But before any campaigning begins, Mrs. Clinton will first embark on a listening tour that echoes what she did first as a candidate for the Senate in New York and then as a freshman senator, gathering ideas and advice from a cross-section of influential people about their concerns.

“She’ll slow down a bit, get off the radar, get ready for this, and ready includes being a good freshman senator, with a legal pad and lots of conversations,” said one person with direct knowledge of her plans who spoke on condition of anonymity because the plans have not been made public.

Meanwhile, the people around Mrs. Clinton will speed up their efforts to vet potential campaign aides, casually connect with donors and begin to help Mrs. Clinton craft a clearer message, especially on the economy. Although Mrs. Clinton’s midterm campaigning schedule took her to Iowa, Pennsylvania, Colorado, North Carolina and other important 2016 states, she did not spend much time getting to know the specific concerns of voters, something she would need to do ahead of a presidential campaign.

Exit polls from Tuesday are being pored over for signs about what voters’ opinions could mean for Mrs. Clinton’s message and approach. Midterm voters expressed frustration with government, but also economic unease.

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“One of the questions for 2016 is: Which of those will 2016 be about? Will it be about the size and cost of government, or will it be about who the economy works for?” Mr. Garin asked. “If it’s an election about who the economy works for, then the Democratic nominee will be in a much better position to win,” he added.

To help Mrs. Clinton do just that, several advisers are already being eyed for senior positions in a potential 2016 campaign. People close to Mrs. Clinton often point to a potential campaign manager in Robby Mook, a 34-year-old operative who managed the campaign for the Clintons’ longtime money man, Gov. Terry McAuliffe of Virginia. In addition to her small personal staff, Mrs. Clinton also receives advice from Minyon Moore, a savvy former White House adviser who works at the Dewey Square Group, a Boston-based consultancy with an office in Washington. A spokeswoman for Dewey Square said the firm has no formal relationship with Mrs. Clinton.

Ms. Moore is close to other potential campaign aides like Guy Cecil, executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and who previously worked at Dewey Square.

Other advisers are more far-flung. Roy Spence, the Austin advertising executive who helped develop the state’s ubiquitous “Don’t Mess with Texas” anti-littering campaign and who has known the Clintons for decades, is offering advice about image and messaging.

Mrs. Clinton turned to Sean Wilentz, a Princeton professor and presidential historian, for advice on shaping her stump speech ahead of Tuesday’s election. During the 2008 Democratic primary, Professor Wilentz, a longtime Clinton defender, accused Barack Obama’s campaign of “the most outrageous deployment of racial politics since the Willie Horton ad campaign in 1988.”

(A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton declined to comment, and Mr. Spence and Professor Wilentz did not respond to requests for comment.)

During the midterm campaign, Mrs. Clinton raised more than $10 million for Democrats, and she and former President Bill Clinton attended at least 75 events on behalf of more than 30 candidates, building and rebuilding the relationships she and her husband are known for.

The Clintons worked hard on behalf of Alison Lundergan Grimes, a candidate for Senate in Kentucky, and Senator Mark Pryor of Arkansas, and were somewhat startled by their double-digit losses. But it was former Gov. Charlie Crist’s loss to Gov. Rick Scott of Florida that carried the biggest implications for a 2016 presidential campaign, as the Clintons had hoped for Democratic leadership in a critical battleground state.

Other Democratic defeats had a silver lining. The Maryland governor’s race in which a Republican, Larry Hogan, defeated the Democrat, Anthony G. Brown, 51.6 percent to 46.9 percent, for example, diminished the likelihood that former Gov. Martin O’Malley, another Democrat, could emerge as a serious primary challenge to Mrs. Clinton.

As the outline for a campaign is drawn, Mrs. Clinton’s supporters describe what they envision as a “New Clinton Map” that they believe could create a winning coalition for 2016, drawing on the white working-class women who have long supported Mrs. Clinton and the young voters and African-Americans who helped elect Mr. Obama.

Politico: “Clinton may put campaign HQ in Westchester”

By Maggie Haberman

November 6, 2014, 3:51 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton has yet to say for certain whether she’ll run for president, or for that matter who her campaign manager or what her message would be.

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But this much she has settled one: if a second presidential campaign happens, it will not be run out of Washington, D.C.

Her aides are all preparing for a campaign based in New York – and talks about where to set up shop have increasingly focused on Westchester County, according to several people familiar with the discussions.

Westchester is Clinton's home county – she lives in Chappaqua, an affluent hamlet north of New York City. Having the campaign there would not just keep it close to Clinton – but it would place it far away from New York City and the hordes of political reporters and elites who live there.

It will be a far cry from Ballston, the Virginia suburb where Clinton's campaign was based in 2008, in a onetime Immigration and Naturalization Services building. While a few of Clinton's advisers at the time wanted her to put her campaign in upstate New York, most of her senior advisers wanted it based near Washington so they wouldn't have to move.

This time, the only question is how far away from Manhattan it will be.

Clinton advisers say no decision has been made about where she will put a campaign, and they continue to insist there is a chance – no matter how small – that she doesn't run.

Still, one group of Clinton insiders has advocated for White Plains, a city in the south-central part of Westchester County replete with office parks. It's more socioeconomically diverse than some other parts of a county best known as a haven for wealthy suburbanites who commute to Manhattan.

"It's close to the city," one Clinton insider explained, adding that it's easily accessible by rail service.

Other sources have said that officials like Westchester because many places there are more than an hour's car ride away from the city.

Brooklyn has also been under discussion for the campaign headquarters, according to people close to Clinton. And Queens and Long Island have also been in the mix.

"We're certainly ready for Hillary Clinton if Hillary Clinton's ready for us,"said Brooklyn Congressman Hakeen Jeffries, a Barack Obama supporter in 2008, who called the borough "one of the coolest… most diverse places on the planet."

But others say that separation from New York City — and proximity to the Clinton household — weigh in favor of Westchester.

"That tendency is to have it close the family house and convenient to them….and [Westchester is] better than the West Side of Manhattan," said James Carville, a longtime Clinton ally. In 1992, Carville said, the family chose Little Rock, Ark. for Bill Clinton's presidential campaign "because that's where they lived."

"It's not about the place, it's about an attitude," Carville, who has provocatively suggested locating the campaign in Buffalo.

That attitude, according to a number of operatives and veterans of past campaigns, is that people are opting to make the campaign their lives. So a less centrally-located headquarters may allow for a more complete focus on the job.

President Obama's campaign aides have often said that being in Chicago in 2008 was crucial to their success. It kept them out of the Beltway feedback loop, kept their staffers focused on the task at hand and stanched the viral spread of gossip from operatives to political reporters.

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The same was true for George W. Bush, who chose Austin as a base for his 2000 campaign.

"I'm not saying that lobbyists, hangers on, and special pleaders couldn't find there way to the campaign, but at least they couldn't just walk across the street," said former Bush adviser Mark McKinnon.

"It had a fundamental impact on our entire attitude, our DNA, and the core approach and messaging of the campaign. We were not by, of, or sponsored by Washington. We were from outside the beltway and, therefore, better understood voters and what they wanted."

Being sponsored by New York is not necessarily a selling point for the rest of the nation. Neither is Westchester, a wealthy and fairly homogenous area. But Clinton's advisers believe it's preferable to Washington.

For months, Washington-based operatives have been preparing to move to New York; they just weren't sure exactly where. Even when it isn't explicit, New York as the new center of Democratic political gravity seems to be understood.

For instance, allies of Robby Mook — a potential Clinton campaign manager whose legion of former staffers talk on a "Mook Mafia" listserv and go on vacation together yearly — recently posted that their annual retreat will likely be held in New York next year.

Being in Westchester "would pose some logistical challenges, but look, everything's done these days electronically," said Judith Hope, a longtime friend of the Clintons and a former New York State Democratic Party chair.

"It might be a good thing to do," she added. "And it would be a suburban-based campaign, which wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing."

New York Times blog: The Upshot: "What 2014 Elections Can Tell Us About the 2016 Ones: Not So Much"

By Brendan Nyhan

November 6, 2014

America has again embraced our long history of electoral overreaction. While it's true that Republicans won a major victory at the polls, the results tell us far less about future elections than some commentary has suggested.

In particular, the widespread Democratic losses weren't a "repudiation" of Hillary Rodham Clinton (who played a minor role). But despite claims that they actually offer her a useful opportunity to contrast herself with a Republican Congress, she doesn't face a "great situation" for her prospective 2016 presidential candidacy either.

Historically, midterm results, which are typically unfavorable to the president's party, tell us relatively little about the coming presidential election, as the accompanying chart illustrates. The record shows that the president's party can rebound from major losses to win at the polls in two years. Bill Clinton, for instance, bounced back from the 1994 Republican landslide to easily win re-election in 1996. Similarly, President Obama, whose party suffered major losses in 2010, went on to defeat Mitt Romney in 2012, and George Bush won the 1988 election after Republicans suffered major losses in 1986, President Reagan's sixth year in office.

Candidates from the president's party can also perform poorly immediately after a favorable midterm election. Most notably, Democrats performed unusually well for the party of the incumbent president in 1998, gaining seats in the House and avoiding losses in the Senate in what was seen as a repudiation of the Republican impeachment of Bill Clinton. However, Al Gore significantly underperformed what most forecasting models expected just two years later, winning the popular vote only narrowly (and losing the White House) despite campaigning against the G.O.P. Congress. Similarly, George Bush was soundly defeated by Mr. Clinton just two years after his party lost only one Senate seat.

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The reality is that the fundamental factors that dictate presidential elections will again matter in 2016 – principally, the state of the economy in the months before the vote. Mrs. Clinton faces an additional headwind because Democrats have held the presidency for two terms, which seems to reduce incumbent party performance.

From that perspective, party control of Congress is a relatively minor issue for future presidential elections. If the economy is strong, Mrs. Clinton won't need to distance herself from Mr. Obama – she'll be rushing to take credit for the prosperity Democrats have brought to America. If Americans are still feeling pessimistic about wages and jobs, however, she is likely to lose no matter who or what she tries to run against.

A more significant consequence of the recent election results may be the effect it has on the pool of candidates in future campaigns. Wave elections decimate lower-level officeholders on the losing side, depleting a party's ranks and depriving it of possible aspirants for higher office in future races (though some may be able to mount comebacks). Senator George Allen of Virginia, for example, was once thought to be a promising Republican presidential candidate, but lost in 2006 and is now forgotten. By contrast, wave elections can help fuel – or preserve – political careers for the winning party. In 1994, George W. Bush easily defeated the incumbent Democrat, Ann Richards, for the Texas governorship, starting a career in elected office that took him to the White House just six years later.

In this sense, it's far more likely that Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin or one of the other G.O.P. candidates who narrowly won on Tuesday will be the ultimate beneficiaries of Tuesday's result, not Mrs. Clinton.

Bloomberg: "Is Clinton the Biggest Winner or the Biggest Loser of the Midterms?"

By Emily Greenhouse

November 6, 2014, 6:11 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The answers to that question were surprisingly diverse.

The Republicans won big on Tuesday—or, depending on which part of the bifocals you're peering out of, the Democrats lost bad. President Obama is terribly unpopular, and Americans, on the whole, do not feel their country is going in the right direction—not close. But Obama is done facing national election, and he knows it; he was practically chipper with relief at yesterday's press conference. So the question creeping onto everyone's mind is: How ought the sages of ClintonLand read the midterm leaves?

She's a loser

In the very first hour of the first day after midterms—and therefore to some the very first day of the 2016 campaign—Sen. Rand Paul unleashed this clot of virality, complete with a new hashtag:

[IMAGES OF SEN. PAUL'S #HILLARYSLOSERS]

In his rundown of the Midterm winners and losers, Mark Halperin, the managing editor of Bloomberg Politics, put her squarely in the "Loser" column. Whatever her plan was before, Halperin said, "it's all thrown up in the air because no one expected the result they got. . . The party is now in disarray. Hillary Clinton and her team are so cautious–they overthink, overanalyze everything–this gives them a lot of new complexity to deal with."

She needs a vision

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In The Washington Post, Jennifer Rubin reduced “Clinton’s main selling point [to] her gender identity," then wondered if Clinton would be “as delusional and defiant about the state of the Democratic Party as Obama is.” She added:

As the GOP becomes harder to typecast, it becomes harder to think of Clinton as the future of a major political party and a movement that likes to think of itself as progressive. What exactly is she progressing toward and how is she going to get there?

Yuval Levin took a more overtly aggressive tack, in the National Review, writing that “people are bored of her and feel like she has been talking at them forever.” Levin saw Tuesday’s results as evidence of the Democrats' "overwhelming intellectual exhaustion”—nothing fresh to offer or say. He wrote of Clinton, “She is a dull, grating, inauthentic, over-eager, insipid elitist with ideological blinders yet no particular vision and is likely to be reduced to running on a dubious promise of experience and competence while faking idealism and hope.” Ouch.

At The Atlantic, Peter Beinart used milder terms, but similarly considered the Democratic voter’s hunger for inspiration. “Her gender alone won’t be enough,” he wrote. “She lost to Obama in 2008 in part because she could not overcome her penchant for ultra-cautious, hyper-sanitized, consultant-speak.”

Actually, she is now golden

So Clinton may have to work on energizing and rebranding, but what candidate doesn’t? She sure has the energy—she did 45 campaign events for 26 candidates in 18 states (and Washington, D.C.) in less than two months. It may be her fame and the bath of inevitability around her, but many feel that Hillary’s day has come. A good number of journalists found silver linings for Clinton in Tuesday’s news.

Writing for Politico, Maggie Haberman noted that "Clinton’s major problem was always going to be running as the candidate of the two-term party in power ... But a newly minted Republican Senate helps her to solve the problem of how to run against Washington.”

This logic was found in many pockets online. Rick Ungar, in Forbes, energetically announced that the Republican sweep will “make it easier to let Hillary be Hillary.” He concluded, “Inside the Clinton camp, the results of the 2014 midterms no doubt feel like a large steam valve has been turned, allowing all that left-wing pressure to release and dissipate.” Make no mistake, he said, it is she who emerged on top.

Andrew Romano at Yahoo News followed the same line of thinking, with greater verve and a little more wonk talk. The "easy answer" for 2014 midterm election winner is the Republican Party—but the "long-term winner" is Hillary Clinton. He wrote:

Under the surface, almost everything about last night’s midterm results — and the map, the math and the legislative morass that lies ahead in the run-up to 2016 — suggests that the former first lady and secretary of state could have a better next two years than the party currently guzzling champagne.

He detailed how many seats were likely to open up to the Democrats in 2016, and pointed out that, for Mitch McConnell, who “says he wants to compromise with Democrats, it’s hard to imagine that he’ll be able to control his party’s vehement Just Say No caucus for long.” Fox News took after NewsBusters in running a headline, “Hillary Clinton won the 2014 midterms? That's what Yahoo says,” in which Tim Graham, author of "Collusion: How the Media Stole the 2012 Election and How to Stop Them From Doing It In 2016,” lightly mocked Romano. But mostly he just pasted in paragraphs of Romano’s column, without bothering to add any words by way of disagreement.

One thing is for sure

Competition is necessary for evolution, and the Democratic party, the week proves, certainly needs to evolve. Clintons always survive, but it’s yet to be seen if Hillary Clinton will be the fittest. Inevitability smells stale, especially after Tuesday's shake-up. Her political brand needs spontaneity.

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Slate: "What Does It Mean for Hillary?"

By Jamelle Bouie

November 6, 2014, 1:33 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The Republicans ran the table on Election Day. What does it mean for the Democrat in waiting?

The night was hardly over before Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul had his take on Tuesday's election results. "I think this election was basically a repudiation of the president, but also Hillary Clinton," he said. "The Democrat [in Kentucky] ran and wouldn't admit that she voted for President Obama. She was very specific—'I am a Clinton Democrat.' "

As political explanations go, this is unusually self-serving. Yes, the Clintons campaigned for Alison Lundergan Grimes, but there's no evidence Kentuckians were voting against Clinton as much as they were voting against Obama. Paul's take is purely a product of his aspirations; he's running for the Republican presidential nomination, and he wants you to think that he's the only one who can take on Hillary Clinton and win. Still, his comment raises a question: What does Tuesday mean for the unofficial—but very real—Clinton campaign?

Writing for Yahoo News, Andrew Romano says that the Republican win is a boon for the presumptive Democratic nominee. Because it's "hard to imagine" soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "will be able to control his party's vehement Just Say No caucus." In fact, there's a great chance Washington will stay broken, allowing Clinton to "run as the antidote to D.C.'s dysfunction," writes Romano.

On the other side, the National Review says this is nonsense. "Let's get something clear: Watching your party get stomped like a narc at a biker rally in a midterm election is not something that helps a party's presidential frontrunner," writes Jim Geraghty for the conservative magazine. "America is not happy with Washington, and particularly furious with Obama and Democratic governance as a whole."

Both takes get part of the picture right. The new Senate Republican majority is filled with Tea Party politicians—like Joni Ernst of Iowa and Tom Cotton of Arkansas—who have no interest in compromising or even working with the president, much less the Democratic minority. What's more, the most extreme lawmakers—like Sen. Ted Cruz and the hard-right caucus of the House—likely feel vindicated. After two years of obstruction—including a government shutdown and a debt ceiling standoff—they won a huge midterm victory. Why change course? What's the incentive?

In which case, the antics of an irresponsible Republican Congress will burden the eventual Republican presidential nominee, which only helps a Clinton candidacy. At the same time, the Democratic Party is in utter disrepair. Some progressives have comforted themselves by noting the popularity of Democratic ideas: Otherwise conservative states have raised the minimum wage, legalized marijuana, and protected abortion rights from draconian "personhood" laws. But this only highlights the problem with the Democratic brand, which is so unpopular it weighs down candidates who push otherwise popular proposals.

The question for Hillary Clinton's campaign is this: Will voters see her as a singular figure—Hillary—standing against an unpopular Republican Party, or will they see her as just another Democrat against just another Republican? If it's the former, then Tuesday doesn't mean much for her prospective candidacy; voters will see her as Clinton first and a Democrat second, and may even see her ideas as Clinton ideas and not Democratic ones, which could help if she tries to expand the national issue space to include things like universal child care.

If it's the latter, however, then Team Clinton has a new challenge: to turn the Democratic brand into something worth supporting in 2016. But even that comes with the important caveat that presidential candidates have done just fine following a bad midterm year and have failed after a good one. George H.W. Bush won the election after the Republican failure of 1986—the closest analogue to Hillary Clinton's situation—and Al Gore lost it after the Democratic success of 1998.

I should say that there's a third option in all of this: that Tuesday didn't matter at all, and in a way that has nothing to do with Clinton's persona. Put simply, there's a good chance that 2014—like 2010—was driven by the demographics of American politics, in which Republican voters dominate midterm elections, and Democratic voters dominate presidential years. In which case, Clinton doesn't have to worry about 2016 since she won't be speaking to the people who elected a Republican Congress; she'll be speaking to the people who twice elected Barack Obama. And that is a good position to be in.

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Bloomberg: "Post Midterms, the 2016 Presidential Contenders Recalibrate"

By Arit John

November 6, 2014, 2:47 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Some candidates are already gearing up for 2016, while others are nowhere to be found.

The 2014 midterm elections may be in the books, but for the crop of contenders who hope to be elected president in 2016, the next chapter is already being written. For some that means jumping into campaign mode, for others it means laying low and nursing political wounds, and for Texas Governor Rick Perry it means spending the morning in court.

Here's how the politicians expected to run for their party's nomination have spent their time since Tuesday.

Rand Paul

Republican Kentucky Senator Rand Paul's main goal since the GOP's D-Day has been to tie Democrats' losses not just to Obama, but to favored 2016 nominee Hillary Clinton. "Today, voters sent a message to President Obama and Hillary Clinton, rejecting their policies and many of their candidates," he wrote in a Facebook post late Tuesday called #HillarysLosers. Paul has also said that he would push for tax reform in January.

Paul Ryan

Republican Wisconsin Representative Paul Ryan is the favorite to become the Ways and Means Committee chairman. Given the nature of the job—proposing sometimes unpopular reforms to entitlement programs—it would probably not be helpful to a presidential bid. Like Paul, Ryan also went after Hillary Clinton. During an appearance on the "Hugh Hewitt Show" Thursday, Ryan said that the substantial Democratic loses showed that she could lose in 2016. "It just tells you that she's not inevitable," he said. "I think she's very beatable."

Rick Perry

Not all Republicans are having a great post-election week. After being allowed to miss the first two pretrial hearings, Republican Texas Governor Rick Perry will made his first court appearance on Thursday morning. The governor was indicted in August by an Austin grand jury on abuse of power charges, which his team has called a politically-motivated attack from Democrats. His lawyers will attempt to get the case dismissed on technicalities.

Bernie Sanders

Independent Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has made it clear that he thinks Americans made a mistake on Tuesday. "I fear that the American people who want change … I think perhaps they have just voted for some folks whose agenda is very different than what they want and need," Sanders said Wednesday during an appearance on CNN. Sanders, also retweeted a link to a statement he released last month, making it clear that he's not going to caucus with Republicans. In the statement, he said he intended to caucus with the party that supports stances like rebuilding infrastructure, raising the wage, pay equity for women and a single-payer health-care system. "I could be wrong," Sanders said, "but my guess is that will not be the Republican Party."

Hillary Clinton

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Hillary Clinton hasn't made any major appearances, or even minor ones, but is still the talk of the town. What do the midterms mean for Hillary? One thing we know for sure is that, according to the exit polls, more people thought Clinton would be a bad president than a good president. Paul, Christie and other GOP hopefuls fared worse, but it's another sign that running for president isn't good for your popularity.

Scott Walker

Winning re-election means Republican Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker gets to stay on the 2016 presidential long list. Earlier this year he declined to commit to serving his full term if elected, but on Tuesday night he told the Associated Press that his decision on running "will have to wait [until] long after" he passes the next state budget, which might be next spring.

Mitt Romney

Gov. Mitt Romney @MittRomney: Big tent Republicans win big races. Congratulations. [11/5/14, 10:24 a.m. EST]

Ted Cruz

In an interview with The Daily Beast Tuesday night, Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz said he was prepared to work with the White House. But on Wednesday he and a few likeminded senators sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, threatening to use "all procedural means necessary" to prevent Obama from following through with his promise to "lawlessly grant amnesty." Cruz, who will likely be the bane of Mitch McConnell's existence, has also repeatedly refused to say whether he supports him for Majority Leader.

Jeb Bush

Jeb Bush released a statement Tuesday night congratulating "Majority Leader Mitch McConnell" on a great night. "Republicans in Congress now have the opportunity–and the responsibility–to demonstrate to American voters that our party can effectively govern," he wrote.

Marco Rubio

Florida Republican Senator Marco Rubio released his own statement, saying he looks "forward to working in a Senate Republican majority to advance the reform agenda I've presented this year." In January the senator released a plan to help families lift themselves out of poverty, which doesn't include raising the minimum wage.

Chris Christie

After visiting 19 states in 5 days to help rally the troops for Republican governors, New Jersey Republican Governor Chris Christie probably took a well-deserved nap. On Wednesday, he has a fancy two-course lunch at the four Seasons Grill Room with a few billionaires.

Bobby Jindal

Louisiana's Republican Governor Bobby Jindal gave a late endorsement on Wednesday to Republican Representative Bill Cassidy, who's heading into a runoff election to try to unseat Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu. "I don't think Mary, anymore, represents Louisiana's values in Washington D.C.," Jindal said of Landrieu.

Martin O'Malley

After watching his second in command lose, Maryland Democratic Governor Martin O'Malley has spent his post-election days being taunted by Governor Christie. The outgoing governor's lieutenant, Anthony Brown, suffered a surprise defeat for governor against Republican Larry Hogan

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and many saw the race as a referendum on O'Malley, including Christie. "Even for Maryland, it got to be too much," Christie said Wednesday of O'Malley's policies. "That's quite an accomplishment."

Joe Biden

On Wednesday, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife hosted a reception commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness month, but otherwise he has kept a low profile. Given that he predicted on Monday that Democrats would keep the Senate and that Greg Orman would likely caucus with his party, that's probably for the best.

Elizabeth Warren

The general consensus is that unlike Biden, O'Malley and Clinton, Senator Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat and populist hero, backed winners. Her record on the trail (of the 11 candidates she campaigned for, six won and five lost) is decent given the circumstances, and while she's still a "no" on running in 2016, her supporters saw the results as more proof that Democrats need to get with the Warren program.

New York Times opinion: Timothy Egan, NYT correspondent: "The Big Sleep"

By Timothy Egan

November 6, 2014

Maybe it's best to close your eyes and fall into a Rip Van Winkle slumber for the next two years. The party that has refused to govern for half a decade and ran a substance-free campaign will now play at governing and not take up anything of substance.

Of course there will be votes, investigations and intrigue. Having worked tirelessly to make the Senate inert, Mitch McConnell now says he wants it to be relevant again. The man most likely to head the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma, would flunk a high school science class. He claims climate change is a huge hoax. The new senator from Iowa, Joni Ernst, vowed to bring at least one thing to the capital. "I have a beautiful little Smith & Wesson 9 millimeter and it goes with me virtually everywhere," she cooed.

Did you vote for that? No, you voted against President Obama. Why? David Letterman had the best line of the campaign. "Take a look at this: Gas under $3 a gallon — gas under $3 a gallon! Unemployment under 6 percent — who ever thought? Stock market breaking records every day. No wonder the guy is so unpopular."

Democrats would not embrace that record, or even try to explain it as a decent start for a country shaken by two decades of income stagnation. And so they were trounced. Where substance was allowed on Tuesday's ballot — minimum wage increases in four red states, gun background checks in a blue state — big majorities did what the new Congress never will.

But enough with the postmortems. On to 2016!

Hill and Jeb. Can we get to it now, and treat the next two years as a fog of fractious do-nothingism that has already passed? Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush are poised to complete some unfinished business. Bush would be running for the second term of his dad, the now beloved George H.W., and to make everyone forget the two terms of his brother. And Clinton would be running for a third term of her husband, the most popular president of the last 20 years and the last Democrat who knew how to win over white people in red states.

Call it monarchy in a country that got its start by throwing off a king, or a dynasty in a nation that still likes to think of itself as a model of egalitarianism. But a moderate Bush and a problem-solving Clinton are really the only choices. Everyone else is flawed in special ways.

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Take Senator Rand Paul, who always manages to look like a guy who just woke up from a long nap and missed a button on his shirt. Sure, he has some of his kooky father's baggage, the 18th-century view of 21st-century issues. But of late, Paul's been trying a little outreach beyond the Republican base of old white Southerners. He thinks our prisons shouldn't be stuffed with drug offenders, predominantly black. He says Republicans should not be passing laws making it harder for the poor, minorities and students to vote. And he says his party's brand "sucks" — his word — in many, many parts of the country.

All of this will get him nowhere, and be replayed in attacks ads, when the Republican presidential primary moves to its whitest of bastions in the South.

We saw a lot of Gov. Chris Christie in the last week of October. If you liked seven days of a red-faced guy shouting "shut up" and "get in line" and medical diagnosis from afar — "She was obviously ill," he said of a healthy nurse — you'll love a Christie presidency. The New Jersey governor demonstrated, again, the character traits we don't want in a president: poor judgment, a temper, pettiness. He's all bombast without even the belly anymore.

Scott Walker, the Wisconsin governor re-elected Tuesday after taking on and taking down organized labor, will be a flavor of the month. That's part of the problem: Scott is personality-free. But more important, an anti-labor candidate will not fare well in old-school blue-collar states like Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Ted Cruz will be around — a microphone, that is. He'll be shadowed by his female doppelgänger, the new Iowa senator, Ernst. His problems are myriad. He loves brinkmanship and shutdowns, but more than that, he really loves himself. Nearly everyone who comes in contact with him in the Senate, no matter the party, can't stand him.

That leaves Jeb Bush, a seemingly sensible nonpartisan. He's for immigration reform, the kind his base despises. If he can get over that hurdle, he's the nominee. And then he'll face one final problem: his name. He is, of course, the younger brother of a man who will long remain on the list of worst presidents. Take it from his mother, the reliably blunt-speaking Barbara Bush, last of the flinty New Englanders. The country, she said, has had "enough Bushes" in the White House.

Hillary Clinton, it's yours to lose. You've already started co-opting the progressive flank, making nice with Senator Elizabeth Warren. And yet, Wall Street likes you! The best thing Hillary has going for her right now is what happened in this week's midterms. Republicans will overreach, because they always do, prompting much nostalgia for the days when Stuff Got Done.

Two years is a long time to wait if, say, you are a fan of the New York Jets and believe that professional football teams should get more than one win every now and then. But it's nothing in politics. It's here now. Take a long snooze, and then wake up to 2016.

MSNBC: "The curse of the Obama coalition"

By Alex Seitz-Wald and Trymaine Lee

November 6, 2014, 4:40 p.m. EST

Barack Obama's coalition has become a curse for Democrats, in addition to a blessing.

In 2008, running to become the first black president, Obama made history by inspiring Americans who don't typically vote to get to the polls. The problem is that it's difficult to reliably capture that kind of lighting in a bottle on the first Tuesday of November every two years.

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There may be more people in Democrats' "coalition of the ascendant" – young people, minorities, single women and others – than in the GOP grouping, which skews white and male and old. But the Democratic coalition is much more fragile, as Tuesday night's victory proved.

There are lots of important numbers that help explain Democrat's drubbing, but here's the underlying landscape of Tuesday's vote, as well as virtually every other election: There are more conservatives in America. Far more. And they vote in every election, not just in presidential years.

Exit polls from Tuesday night show 37% of voters identify themselves as conservative, compared to just 23% who say they're liberals. About 40%, say they're moderate.

That's consistent with survey data going back decades, and the numbers have held more or less steady over time. In 1996, 20% of Americans said they were liberal and 40% conservative, according to Pew.

Ideological partisans tend to be the most dedicated voters and the ground troops of the party, so Democrats start every election with a deficit here. Lately, Democrats have only overcome that drag with the intensity of a presidential campaign and the inspirational force of a charismatic leader.

"There's basically two Americas – there's midterm America and there's presidential-year America," White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer told The Washington Post. "They're almost apples and oranges. The question was, could Obama voters become Democratic voters?"

The answer to that question looks like a resounding "no."

Part of what attracts Democrats to Hillary Clinton 2016 is the groundbreaking possibility of electing the first woman president. But is a reliance on history-making presidential contenders really a sustainable approach?

In North Carolina, which hosted this year's most expensive Senate race, progressives have been trying to create a more durable coalition under the Moral Monday Movement banner.

Rev. William Barber, the president of the North Carolina NAACP and leader of the Moral Monday Movement, is trying to move past the "messiah" politics of the Obama era.

Barber said the task moving forward would be building a wider coalition that isn't simply charged by one charismatic politician, in this case, Obama. "If you're going to change America you've got to break through that," Barber said after a speech and rally the night before the election in Greensboro.

"If you get whites, blacks and women and young people and Latinos to begin to come together and begin to change their language and not be trapped by Democrat versus Republican, liberal versus conservative, but really begin to talk about coming together around five issues," Barber said. He listed among those issues: Poverty and labor rights, educational opportunity, healthcare for all, fairness in the criminal justice system and protecting voting, LGBT, women's rights and immigration reform.

"Those five areas can garner and pull together a different kind of movement and we've seen that right here in North Carolina that does not back away from the race critique but allows people to come together across many, many different lines," he said.

Still, the effort was ultimately unsuccessful in reelecting Sen. Kay Hagan. Even with the most sophisticated and expensive turnout operation ever deployed in a congressional midterm election, Democrats got crushed when the Obama coalition didn't show up.

The electorate skewed along racial and generational lines, very much similar to what happened four and eight years earlier. The drop-off among young voters, who fueled Obama's insurgency in 2008, was particularly pronounced. Nationally, 18-29-year-olds made up only 13% of the electorate this year, while a quarter of voters were seniors, who lean Republican. That's a steep drop from 2012, when 21% of the electorate was young.

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Across the country, voters were much older and whiter than they were in 2012, according to William Frey, a demographer with The Brookings Institution who analyzed exit polls and data from Tuesday's election.

Still, Frey said demographic and cyclical factors point to the sweeping Republican victory as more of an "aberration" than a trend indicator.

Frey also said there are a few key points to distill from the election data. He said the data suggests less of a referendum on the president than a pattern consistent with a cultural and generation gap, where older whites are resistant to policies associated with a younger, progressive and more diverse America.

In a way, Frey said, North Carolina even in this Democratic loss, is a sign that the Democratic coalition of hardcore whites, young and diverse voters isn't going anywhere – even if it didn't work this time.

"They just didn't turn out. They weren't as interested," he said.

Democrats will have a much better shot during the presidential election in 2016, but Republicans will try to head them off at the pass. "What GOP really won yesterday was a huge opportunity to recast our brand before 2016, when the terrain will swing back toward the Ds," longtime GOP strategist Mike Murphy tweeted.

What Democrats gained among minorities and young people with Obama, they've lost among whites and older voters, who still make up the larger single segments of the voting population. And worse – those demographics are more likely to vote regularly. For instance, Democratic Senate Candidate Bruce Braley was been leading among women by several percentage points in the final polls, but Ernst easily doubled that margin in her lead among men. And in a state that's 95% white, no amount of minority turnout could make up for Braley's 11 point deficit among whites.

One silver lining here for Democrats is that Hillary Clinton tends to do well among working class whites, and thus could make up for some of Obama's major losses among those groups in 2016. But she'll also have to contend with the possibility that blacks won't turn out in the record numbers they did in 2008 and 2012 to vote for an African-American president.

Clinton does have the potential to electrify a diverse coalition if she decides to run. But once again, Democrats may be lurching from one messiah to another.

Mediaite: "O'Reilly to GOP: Stop Fighting or Hillary Will Cruise to Victory in 2016"

By Josh Feldman

November 6, 2014, 8:18 p.m. EST

Bill O'Reilly kicked off tonight's Factor with some advice for Republicans on how to fix the country, and predicted President Obama would be remembered as a "villain" if he vetoes any of it. In order to establish their authority, O'REilly said, Republicans should lower corporate income tax, grant a six month tax amnesty on corporate money so that companies will have a window to bring money back into the U.S., and raise the minimum wage, among other things.

O'Reilly said all of this would bring an immediate boost to the economy and if Obama dares veto any of it, he "will go down in history as a villain."

That being said, O'Reilly did have some cautions for the GOPto keep in mind. For one thing, they shouldn't try to kill Obamacare while there's a president in office who will veto it every time. And he warned that if Republicans "continue to fight each other [and] don't compromise," they will lose and Hillary Clinton will glide to victory in 2016.

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Watch the video below, via Fox News:

[VIDEO]

Washington Free Beacon: "The Biggest Loser"

By Matthew Continetti

November 7, 2014, 5:00 a.m. EST

The 2014 election was a disaster for Hillary Clinton. Why? Let us count the ways.

She will have to run against an energetic and motivated Republican Party. If the GOP had failed to capture the Senate, the loss would have been more than demoralizing. It would have led to serious discussion of a third party. Donors would have reconsidered whether their spending was worth the reputational cost. Candidate recruitment efforts would have stalled. Republican voters would have asked why they bother to show up. The Republican circular firing squad, always a problem, wouldn't use conventional weapons. They'd use ICBMs.

Clinton would have loved to capitalize on this scenario. It would have enabled her to prolong strategic decisions such as how and when and to what degree she breaks from Obama. She would have claimed partial credit for saving the Senate. She would have promised to build on Democratic success. You would have been able to see her aura of inevitability for miles.

But she has been denied. Instead she must calculate how to salvage the wreckage of 2014. She must convince Democrats that their savior is a grandmother who lives in a mansion on Massachusetts Avenue. It is her party that is shell shocked, not the GOP. Trust me: You don't want to be in that position.

The results also showed that the electorate looks forward rather than backward. Clinton's 2016 argument will be based in part on recollection. Her message: If you liked the 1990s, the last period of broad-based growth and full employment, put my husband and me back in the White House.

But voters are not retrospective. They judge based on the conditions of the moment. In 2010, Democrats tarred Rob Portman as a former Bush official. In 2014, they tried something similar with congressional candidate Elise Stefanik. Both Portman and Stefanik won.

This year, several candidates ran explicitly as "Clinton Democrats." They tried to associate themselves with fond and gauzy memories of a better time. They lost. Arkansas—the birthplace of Bill Clinton, the test tube of Clintonism—became a GOP stronghold. Tom Cotton defeated Mark Pryor by 17 points. The Clintons' star power, such as it is, was overwhelmed by the Republican wave of discontent and anger at liberal incompetence.

The Clintons aren't gods. They are human beings—extremely, terribly, irredeemably flawed human beings.

Their specialty: Mitigating Democratic losses among whites without college degrees. In 2014, the Clintons couldn't stop the bleeding. Republicans won the white working class by 30 points. And it will be difficult for Hillary Clinton to reduce this deficit over the next two years.

That is because of her problematic position as heir apparent to an unpopular incumbent. Her recent talk of businesses and corporations not creating jobs illustrates the dilemma: She has to identify herself with her husband's legacy in Elizabeth Warren's left-wing Democratic Party, while dissociating herself with the repudiated policies of the president she served as secretary of State. Has Clinton ever demonstrated the political skill

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necessary to pull off such a trick?

A failed president weighs heavily on his party. He not only drags it down in midterm elections such as 2006, 2010, and 2014. He kills its chances in presidential years. Think Hubert Humphrey. Think John McCain.

The McCain-Clinton comparison is worth considering. Both would be among the oldest presidents in American history. Both are slightly at odds with their party: McCain on campaign finance and immigration, Clinton on corporatism and foreign policy. Both lost the nomination to the presidents they sought to replace. Both campaigned for rare third consecutive presidential terms for their parties in the cycle after those parties lost Congress.

The environment was so hostile to Republicans by the time Election Day 2008 arrived, and the Democrats had so successfully defined themselves in complete opposition to the incumbent, that McCain didn't have a chance. But who in 2006 had predicted that a financial crisis would be the most important issue of 2008? Who in 2012 had the slightest idea that the Islamic State and Ebola and illegal migration would be factors in 2014? Who in 2014 knows with even the faintest degree of certainty what will loom over the electorate on Election Day 2016?

Russia, Iran, Syria, Iraq, North Korea, and al Qaeda are not moving to another planet. The Federal Reserve is not about to acquire the power of prophecy. The business cycle is exactly that—a cycle.

I do know this: Whatever voters are upset about two years from now, they are unlikely to hold it against John Boehner and Mitch McConnell. They are more likely to direct their ire at the president and his party: Hillary Clinton's party.

Do the Democrats begin presidential campaigns with the advantage? Absolutely. The distribution of the population, the composition of the presidential electorate, and the clustering of liberal voters in major metropolitan areas give the party of government a head start in the race to 270 electoral votes. Republicans can win. But, like in 2000 and 2004, it will be close.

What the 2014 results suggest, however, is that the "coalition of the ascendant" that elected and reelected Barack Obama may be more tied to him personally than to a generic Democrat. The panicked racial appeals to motivate black turnout failed not only because conditions are poor, but also because Obama was not on the ballot. The significance of electing the first black president, and then of legitimating his first term, did not apply. Nor will it in 2016, in which voters are likely to once again face a choice between two white people.

A lot will depend on those two candidates. If there was a sure lesson in 2014, it was that candidate performance matters. Colorado, Iowa, and Arkansas are the clearest examples of states where the Democratic Senate candidate became an embarrassment, and his Republican opponent made no unforced errors. The importance of candidates was also the lesson of Virginia, where Ed Gillespie used substance, clever advertising, and a winning personality to come within striking distance of Mark Warner. It was the lesson of New Hampshire, where Scott Brown's reputation as a carpetbagger may have prevented a tenth GOP pickup. And it was the lesson of Maryland, a deep blue state where the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Anthony Brown, stumped so poorly coming off two terms of Martin O'Malley that partisan and demographic advantages could not save him.

Hillary Clinton is famous, ambitious, methodical, and clever. As I write, she faces no significant challengers for the Democratic nomination. She is the frontrunner to win the 2016 election. But she is not flawless. Her political skills are limited. She says things she later walks back. She represents the past. There are so many skeletons in her family's closets that the skeletons have closets. Her favorable numbers have already returned to Earth, and she will spend the next two years under attack by both Democrats and Republicans.

Faced with a younger, positive, appealing Republican candidate who avoids gaffes and runs not on amnesty and entitlement reform, but on a platform aimed at middle-class families and working-class whites, there is no telling how Hillary Clinton would look, how she would perform, what choices she would make. And if she slips and falls, who's going to rescue her? David Brock?

Calendar:

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Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

- November 14 – Little Rock, AR: Sec. Clinton attends picnic for 10th Anniversary of the Clinton Center (NYT)
- November 15 – Little Rock, AR: Sec. Clinton hosts No Ceilings event (NYT)
- November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton presides over meeting of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Bloomberg)
- November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton is honored by the New York Historical Society (Bloomberg)
- December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)
- December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/15/2015 12:11:02 PM
Subject: Andy Spahn Brock flag

Ian and Brian think he's referring to an email that CTR sent. Here's the story.

A Pro-Clinton Super PAC Is Going Negative On Bernie Sanders

The group links Sanders to Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and the United Kingdom's new Labour Party leader, Jeremy Corbyn.

He of Samantha Lachman Staff Reporter, The Huffington Post

He of Ryan Grim Washington Bureau Chief, The Huffington Post

Posted: 09/14/2015 09:59 PM EDT | Edited: 09/14/2015 10:20 PM EDT



ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON -- A super PAC backing Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is going negative, circulating an email that yokes her chief rival Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) to some of the more controversial remarks made by Jeremy Corbyn, the United Kingdom's new Labour Party leader, including his praise for the late Hugo Chavez, the Venezuelan leader who provided discounted fuel to Vermont in a deal supported by Sanders Clinton's camp has long said it has no plans to attack Sanders. But the super PAC, called Correct the Record, departed from its defense of Clinton's record as a former secretary of state in an email Monday that compares Sanders with Corbyn. Correct the Record, led by Clinton ally David Brock, also has sent trackers after Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

The Democratic candidates have refrained from criticizing each other directly. Sanders has obliquely knocked Clinton for not stating her position on the Keystone XL pipeline, and hasn't made an issue of her use of a private email server and account while at the State Department. Clinton, in turn, almost never mentions Sanders' name and has focused on her Republican rivals.

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Monday's Correct the Record email strays from that pattern. The email, sent to a Huffington Post reporter in response to an article about Corbyn and Sanders without any agreement that it would be off the record, was meant to flag Corbyn's "most extreme comments." Among those was the suggestion that the assassination of Osama bin Laden was "a tragedy ," since there was no attempt to arrest the former al Qaeda leader and put him on trial. The email also cites Corbyn's comment that he'd invite his "friends " from Hezbollah to come to the U.K. to discuss peace in the Middle East and an editorial in which he said that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's "attempt to encircle Russia is one of the big threats of our time."

The email uses those comments to pivot to "similarities" between Corbyn and Sanders, who have engaged in a mild cross-Atlantic love-fest of late, given that they are both insurgent populists challenging their political parties' establishments. Corbyn has said he is following Sanders' campaign "with great interest ," and Sanders said he was "delighted " that the Labour Party elected Corbyn as its leader.

The "similarities" between the two, according to the email, include Sanders' introduction of legislation to terminate the United States' nuclear weapons program, comments that NATO's expansion into former Soviet states is dangerous because it could provoke Russia, opposition to more U.S. funds for NATO, and saying he "was concerned" that proposed new NATO members had shipped arms to Iran and North Korea.

The more serious stretch comes as the email highlights how Sanders helped negotiate a program with Venezuela's national oil company in 2006 that provided discounted heating oil assistance to low-income Vermonters. The senator said it was "not a partisan issue," in the state, which was the sixth to make the deal. His support for the program was apparently enough to merit a mention, since Corbyn has written that the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez's "electoral democratic credentials are beyond reproach ."

Sanders spokesman Michael Briggs wrote in an email to The Huffington Post that Correct the Record was "distorting the record." The Sanders campaign has argued that attacks from Clinton supporters are inspired by anxiety over his leads in polls of Democratic voters in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"It is disappointing that Secretary Clinton's super PAC is spreading disinformation about Bernie," Briggs wrote. "This is exactly the kind of politics that Bernie is trying to change. To equate bringing home heating oil to low-income Vermonters with support for the Chavez government is dishonest."

Only a handful Clinton surrogates have attacked Sanders directly, and it remains to be seen whether the gist of the email from Correct the Record will be fed to anyone other than reporters. If so, the attack would be in the vein of what Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) said about Sanders earlier this year -- that he's unelectable, since he's a self-identified democratic socialist.

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"Tara McGuinness" <tmcguinness@progressivemediausa.org>
To:	tmcguinness@progressivemediausa.org
Date:	6/27/2008 11:21:44 AM
Subject:	This week June 27, 2008 ? Progressive Media USA Campaign Update
Attachments:	Weekly Update June 27 (2).doc

This week June 27, 2008 – Progressive Media USA Campaign Update

New McCain Campaign Developments . . .

This week, the campaign rolled out a new theme: "Paint Obama as conventional politician who always takes the safe and easy political road, then amplify the distinction by framing McCain as a patriot, somebody who has put sacrifice above self." [Politico , 6/26/08]

McCain launched a new ad touting his plan for energy independence and ending with the tagline, "Putting country first." The ad will air on national cable and key battleground states. [The Page , 6/27/08]

The McCain campaign has begun to hold town halls with "undecided" voters. The campaign is paying Direct Response Group $8,000-10,000 per town hall to develop the guest list of undecideds. Our trackers have not been to get into undecided town halls. [USA Today , 6/24/08]

Progressive Media USA and Partner Activities This Week . . .

Charlie Black Terror Comments

This week, Charlie Black, McCain's top adviser and a former lobbyist, said in an interview with Fortune magazine that another terrorist attack would be politically beneficial to John McCain. We used this opportunity to frame the comments as McCain using a page from the Karl Rove-GOP playbook of fear-and-smear tactics and remind the press of McCain's previous similar statements. We also used Black's comments as an opportunity to remind reporters of Black's many other controversies and that Black is one of 137 lobbyists advising or raising money for McCain.

RESEARCH: Our research team put together a document outlining the McCain campaign's use of fear and the terror card. Among research's find was a McCain web ad from the GOP primaries that used graphic images of terrorism to hit Mitt Romney's foreign policy experience. They also found a quote from 2004, where McCain said that the bin Laden October tape was helpful to Bush.

- **2004: McCain On Bin Laden Tape: "I Think It's Very Helpful To President Bush."** According to the Associated Press, "Sen. John McCain, campaigning in southwestern Connecticut on Saturday, said Osama bin Laden's video message to Americans will likely energize President Bush's re-election campaign. 'I think it's very helpful to President Bush… It focuses America's attention on the war on terrorism. I'm not sure if it was intentional or not, but I think it does have an effect." [Associated Press, 10/30/04]

- **2007: McCain Emphasized Bhutto Assassination Would "Enhance" His Foreign Policy Credentials.** In the immediate aftermath of the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, the Associated Press reported, "McCain was not so reticent about comparing his experience with that of other GOP contenders. ' My theme has been throughout this campaign that I'm the one with the experience, the knowledge and the judgment. So perhaps it may serve to enhance those credentials to make people understand that I've been to Pakistan, I know Musharraf, I can pick up the phone and call him. I knew Benazir Bhutto.' " [Associated Press, 12/28/07]

Research also put together a document on Charlie Black, including his involvement with campaign smear tactics, like the Jesse Helms "White Hands" ad.

PRESS: The press team gave the research to reporters and got Hotline to write on the McCain web ad. Hotline and Politico also wrote on the 2004 quote.

- "With all the talk of **Charlie Black**'s recent remark in Fortune that a terrorist attack on U.S. soil would ultimately be good for **John McCain**, we thought we'd remind readers that this was not the first time fear-mongering was employed by the GOPer's team.

  "Remember this Web ad from the GOP primary? The spot -- title ' Experience' -- included graphic footage of a car bombing in making the case for McCain's foreign policy experience over that of rival **Mitt Romney**:" [Hotline , 6/25/08]

The press team pitched the Black story and got Ari Melber at The Nation to write a lengthy piece on Black.

- "For those who've followed Black's career, this latest ' gaffe' should hardly be surprising. Black has a long history of rough-and-tumble politics, on behalf of some of the most controversial figures in this country and abroad.

  "Black was a protege of the late GOP operative Lee Atwater, who coldly implemented the Republican Party's racially divisive ' Southern strategy .' Both Atwater and Black were longtime advisors to former North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms. In 1990, with Black as his senior advisor (the same position he now holds for McCain), Helms ran this ad

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against his African- American opponent, Harvey Gantt." [The Nation , 6/25/08]

Partner Activities: NSN released a memo to the press on how McCain and Republicans play politics with terror. The memo also included a PMUS A research document. Move On called on Black to be fired.

- "For the last eight years, George Bush has built power using the politics of fear. Now, J ohn McCain's team is doing the same thing.

  "On Monday, McCain's top adviser, Charlie Black, said that a terrorist attack will help his candidate win the election.[1] This kind of fear- based tactic is straight out of the Bush play book, and it's just plain wrong." [MoveOn email, 6/25/ 08]

Here are examples of the press using our frame:

- "The comments also returned the political spotlight to McCain's advisers and, in particular, to Black, who has drawn criticism for his long lobbying career and his representation of controversial foreign governments. McC ain has been criticized for surrounding himself with top advisers who were lobbyists." [Washington Post , 6/24/08]
- "During the 2004 presidential race, President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and other Republicans argued that Democratic nominee J ohn Kerry was soft on terrorism; the argument resonated with voters. The GOP also questioned the Democrats' record on national security in 2002, with White House political adviser Karl Rove saying Republicans should not shy away from citing terrorism concerns as a reason to vote for their party." [Associated Press , 6/23/ 08]

Energy

McC ain once again focused on energy this week. He proposed a $300 million prize for whoever develops a reliable car battery to replace gasoline. He also traveled to Nevada where his stance on Yucca and nuclear power is unpopular.

RESEARCH: Our research team put together a document on McC ain' s true energy priorities, which include billions in tax breaks for big oil companies.

PRES S: We shared research' s energy priorities document with reporters and our environmental partners. On the day McC ain was in Nevada, we sent the Sierra Club a video we found of McCain telling a reporter that he would not be comfortable having nuclear waste travel through Arizona. The Sierra C lub sent out a release about this video.

- "As J ohn McCain travels to Nevada today to raise money and tout his misguided energy proposals, a newly uncovered television interview exposes the Arizona Senator's hypocrisy when it comes to the issue of Yucca Mountain and nuclear waste. McC ain is a major proponent of storing thousands of tons of high- level nuclear waste at the unproven and unsafe Yucca Mountain site and just last week proposed a building 100 new nuclear reactors—a plan that by utilities' own estimates could cost more than $1 TRILLION. Yet, in an interview posted to the YouTube website in May 2007 and uncovered today, McC ain says he would not be comfortable with the waste traveling through his own home state on its way to the proposed Nevada repository." [Sierra C lub release, 6/25/08]

Lobbyists/S pecial Interes ts Dominate Mc C ain T eam

We continue to keep the pressure on McCain' s lobbyists – finding and sharing new research, highlighting McCain' s lobbyists for the press and giving our partners information on how McC ain' s lobbyist connect to their issue area. McC ain' s lobbyist advisers were in the news every day this week and we made sure to share the stories with our partners and other reporters.

Charlie Black, Senior Adviser – Black' s controversy has been documented above.

Rick Davis, C ampaign Manager – On Thursday, The Washington Post did a front page story on Davis' lobbying career and how it has profited from Davis' relationship with McCain.

- "But in the eight years since Davis first managed a McCain campaign, his relationship with the senator has been a lucrative commodity. He and his lobbying firm, Davis Manafort, have earned handsome fees representing clients who need McCain's help in the Senate. He also has made money from a panoply of McCain- related entities, some of which have operated from the upscale riverfront office space that houses his lobbying shop… **Their relationship is typical of the symbiotic ties that have c ome to define the culture of the nation's capital.**" [Washington Post , 6/26/08]

Phil Gramm, Campaign Co- Chair – Gramm came under fire over the weekend for his support of the "Enron Loophole," which Obama proposed closing. Gramm continues to receive scrutiny for his lobbying work for the banking industry while he was helping craft McC ain' s economic policies.

- "Democrats also say that Gramm's post- Senate lobbying activities conflict with McC ain's promise to steer clear of lobbyists in his presidential campaign. And left- leaning critics point at Gramm for turning McCain, a longtime fiscal conservative who voted against President Bush's tax cuts, into a supply- sider who wants to make those tax cuts permanent." [Houston C hronicle , 6/21/08]

Tom Ridge, Campaign Co- C hair - On Tuesday, it was reported that former Homeland Security secretary and McCain co-

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chair Tom Ridge failed to properly disclose that he was lobbying for the Albanian government.

Guns

Yesterday, the Supreme Court ruled that the D.C. gun ban was unconstitutional. McCain quickly released a very pro-gun statement praising the decision. We made sure reporters writing on McCain's position had our research document on McCain's mixed gun record and how he moved to the right to pander to the conservative base.

- "But McCain has his own checkered history when it comes to the Second Amendment.

  "For years, the NRA considered him one of the 'premier flag carriers for the enemies of the Second Amendment' for his efforts to require background checks at gun shows.

  "McCain's support for background checks was not casual. He appeared in television commercials on behalf of referenda aimed at requiring them. And his efforts to pass a federal law caused the NRA to abandon one of their top priorities -- immunity for gun makers -- rather than have McCain succeed in attaching a gun show amendment to their bill.

  "But since becoming the presumptive GOP nominee, McCain has worked hard to woo his former opponents, appearing at the NRA convention in Kentucky last month and telling it, 'For more than two decades, I've opposed efforts to ban guns, ban ammunition, ban magazines and dismiss gun owners as some kind of fringe group unwelcome in 'modern' America.'" [Washington Post, 6/26/08]

Coordinated Activities with Progressive Partners

National Security Network – In addition to releasing a memo on McCain playing politics with terror, NSN also held a pen-and-pad briefing with reporters to get them up to speed on McCain's true foreign policy record.

Fortune 200 Report – The Center for American Progress Action Fund released a report on Thursday that shows that under McCain's tax plan, the Fortune 200 companies would get $200 billion in tax breaks. CAPAF held a press conference with Senators Durbin, Casey and Klobuchar to release the report.

- "If you're a CEO of one of America's largest corporations and have enjoyed the Presidency of George W. Bush, a contribution to the McCain campaign is looking like a pretty good investment.

  "A new report from the Center For American Progress Action Fund finds that a key piece of John McCain's tax plan —cutting the corporate tax rate from 35% to 25% —would cut taxes by almost $45 billion every year for America's 200 largest corporations as identified by Fortune Magazine." [CAPAF Wonk Room, 6/26/08]

In conjunction with CAPAF's report, Campaign Money Watch released a report that found that the top 200 corporations in America are well represented among McCain's campaign contributors and the lobbyists working to get him elected.

- "Apparently, one of the best investments corporate America could make right now is to make a campaign contribution to John McCain, or to hire one of the many lobbyists working for his campaign," commented David Donnelly, director of Campaign Money Watch. "But regular Americans can't afford to hire a lobbyist like Charlie Black or Rick Davis, or to make a $2,300 contribution. Perhaps that's why McCain's tax plan is so skewed to help corporate America." [Campaign Money Watch release, 6/26/08]

PMUSA also sent reporters and partners a flash report showing that McCain's 137 lobbyist adviser/staff/fundraisers have represented 120 of the Fortune 200 companies.

McCain U – On Monday, CAPAF is hosting McCain U – a briefing for reporters, the Hill and partners on McCain's policies on the economy, health care, foreign policy and energy. Our research team has been working on summary documents on McCain's record on these issues for inclusion in the McCain U packet. Our new media team has been working on videos to show at the briefing.

Sunday Shows – PMUSA prepared research materials on McCain and Pawlenty for Rep. Rahm Emanuel's Sunday show appearance.

In the States

Iowa

Policy Works spent a good deal of time this week figuring out the precise mix of policy and politics that the *Des Moines Register* requires for opinion editorials to get published. They continue to recruit high level, high quality surrogates and have started efforts to reach farther into the blogosphere of Iowa progressives.

- **Clips:**

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McCain didn't support GI bill Des Moines Register LTE, June 20, 2008

John McCain is on the wrong side of maverick. The Republican presidential candidate and Vietnam POW opposed bipartisan support for renewal and expansion of the "21st- century GI Bill" that increases educational benefits such as in- state tuition reimbursement and extends coverage to National Guard troops and Reserves. The bill, which was sponsored by Vietnam Marine infantry officer and former Secretary of the Navy, U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, is also supported by 91 percent of Americans. McCain who initially supported the bill said, "One of the things we ought to do is provide significant educational benefits in return for serving." Later, he opposed the measure. Facing opposition from veterans' groups, McCain argued that if government makes college more affordable, people might leave the military rather than re- enlist. Conversely, the Congressional Budget Office calculates that raising the educational benefits as proposed would result in a 16- percent increase in military recruiting. Moreover, McCain lacked the courtesy to show up for the vote, choosing instead to attend a pro- football fundraiser in California. Although the Senate bill passed 7522, McCain should be questioned regarding his alleged devotion to fellow veterans. His opposition to the bill is blatant hypocrisy. - Ellen Ballas, Coralville

New Mexico

Clearly New Mexico is continuing to drive recruitment of Veterans and is pitching a panel to public affairs television shows across the state (General Mel Montano and representatives of the GI Rights Hotline and GI Forum have signed on.) McCain will be in New Mexico on July 12; his finance chair (Ken Zangara) has quite a checkered press and will initiate a media campaign next week to have him removed as McCain's New Mexico Finance Chair.

- **Blog:**

No Help At All By **Matt Brix** - Jun 24th, 2008 at 7:24 pm MDT

Over the last week, we here at Clearly New Mexico have registered our disgust with the direction of the debate and the level of rhetoric over American energy policy (link)(link). Billions of dollars in public subsidies for oil and gas companies continue, while productive incentives for renewable energy languish. And, the inane idea of drilling for oil in coastal areas on the outer continental shelf is being billed as a legitimate response to the problem of $4.00 per gallon. The Albuquerque Journal (subscription required) saw fit to ignore reality and jump on the "black gold" bandwagon in its Sunday editorial. Like Congress and the president, the Journal is no help at all for the people of New Mexico. Because the president and his apologists in the press are beating the domestic drilling drum, I thought it might be interesting to find out just what kind of a marginal effect, if any, increased American oil exploration would have. So, I did what any armchair research novice would do; I jumped on Google. My grandiose plans of finding a slick econometric analysis quickly ended when I came across a story on NPR, one that put the nonsense about offshore drilling into simple perspective. Henry Lee of the Kennedy School of Government talks about the 8- 14 year time line for getting outer continental shelf drilling on- line and fully operational. High- end estimates put daily production at about 1 million barrels per day, or less than 1% of the world's daily oil consumption. This is hardly the kind of volume that would make a discernible dent. Plus, with growing needs from China, India and other Asian countries, oil from the outer continental shelf would have virtually zero impact on world demand. (NPR story) There you have it. When it comes to finding a sensible solution to the related crises of skyrocketing fossil fuel costs and global climate change, leaders in Washington are ignoring plain facts. Instead of serving the public interest, leaders in Washington, and our own Albuquerque Journal, are no help at all.

Minnesota

Alliance for a Better Minnesota continues to lead the charge in organizing around the National Republican Convention. Surrogates have been recruited as experts to be featured in earned media reports from the convention. This week ABM also worked on issues surrounding Norm Coleman's ties to lobbyists in DC. ABM also helped us put together research on Gov. Pawlenty to help prep Rep. Emanuel for his Sunday show appearance.

- **Blog:**

McCain Advisor Says Another Terrorist Attack Would Be "Big Advantage" for McCain

Another great week for McCain, and it's only Monday.

Ohio

It was another busy week for ProgressOhio: first the Bush Bus stopped in three locations and then McCain came to visit Youngstown at the end of the week. Press was generous to both organizing opportunities thanks to ProgressOhio's hard work: clips of McCain's visit often references UAW's objections to his record on free trade and gutting workers' rights and the Bush Legacy Bus clips noted many ways in which conservative policies have failed America.

Clips from McCain's Visit:

McCain talks trade, innovation with auto workers **By GLEN JOHNSON – June 27, 2008**
While McCain received a respectful welcome from a largely union audience, one employee firmly asked him about trade pacts such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Central American Free Trade Agreement - both of which workers believe have triggered job shifts to Canada, Mexico and Central America.

McCain supports the agreements but Democratic rival Barack Obama has threatened to unilaterally re- open NAFTA if labor and environmental concessions are not made.

The worker who asked the question, 37- year- old Raymond Francisco, moved his family to Ohio after GM closed the sport- utility vehicle factory where he worked in Linden, N.J.

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"I don't believe that every trade agreement is totally fair, and we do have mechanisms in these agreements where you can bring suit where unfair practices exist," McCain told Francisco. "I would say that if and when we conclude additional free trade agreements, perhaps we could do a better job of setting up and implementing mechanisms that would address unfair or violations, basically, of the free trade agreements that we make."

McCain returns to battered Youngstown area By ANDREW WELSH- HUGGINS , The Associated Press 6/27/ 2008, 1:09 a.m. ET

(AP) —John McCain planned his second visit in three months to the Youngstown area Friday, an economically depressed region cool to the Republican's position on trade and jobs.

[snip]

"Sen. McCain's going to Youngstown, Ohio?" a skeptical Gov. Ted Strickland, who represented the area in Congress, said Thursday. "I could not imagine Sen. McCain could hope to gain political advantage in the Mahoning Valley," said Strickland, a Democrat who backed Hillary Rodham Clinton and now supports Sen. Barack Obama. "I really see nothing in Sen. McCain's economic policies that would have an appeal to the folks in these distressed Ohio communities."

[snip]

Mike Sullivan, retiree chairman for the Lordstown GM plant's United Auto Workers' local, said he hoped McCain wouldn't sway the minds of the union's largely Democratic members. McCain doesn't "have any of the kind of philosophies that are going to help working people," Sullivan said.

McCain to tour Lordstown Complex today

By STEPHEN ORAVECZ, Tribune Chronicle. *POSTED: June 27, 2008*

Auto workers want GOP presidential candidate John McCain to talk about jobs, trade and health care when he holds a town hall meeting this morning with employees at the General Motors Corp. Lordstown Complex.

Mike Sullivan, chairman of the United Auto Workers Local 1714 retirees, summed it up Thursday in anticipation of the Republican presidential candidate's second visit to the Mahoning Valley. He said, ''We need to have someone who understands the problems of working people.''

Auto workers who took part in a telephone news conference in anticipation of McCain's visit doubt he fits that bill. The UAW has endorsed Democratic candidate Sen. Barack Obama.

Among other things, the auto workers are concerned about McCain's support for free trade agreements and his opposition to increases in the minimum wage, said Dave Green, president of Local 1714. Putting money into the hands of working people ''is essential to our economy,'' he said.

Green said the next president needs to find a way to revive manufacturing in the United States. Training workers for new technology jobs is not enough, he said, because existing trade agreements let those jobs move overseas along with American manufacturing jobs.

Amid criticism from UAW, McCain to stop at GM plant
By Don Shilling, Published:Friday, June 27, 2008

The United Auto Workers, which typically supports Democratic candidates, launched a news release Thursday in advance of McCain' s visit to the car plant.

"McCain is out of touch with working people and their hardships," said Dave Green, president of UAW Local 1714 in Lordstown.

The UAW criticized McCain for supporting the North American Free Trade Agreement and voting against raising the minimum wage.

McCain coming to GM's Lordstown plant to talk about energy policy, push his plan to contain fuel costs

Sabrina Eaton, **Plain Dealer Bureau**, Friday, June 27, 2008

Leaders of a union that represents the plant' s workers —United Auto Workers Local 1714 —said they disliked McCain' s past opposition to minimum- wage increases and his past support for the North American Free Trade Agreement and other trade pacts that they blame for the decline of U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Union President David Green said he doesn' t expect McCain will gain support from workers at the plant because of that record, although they' ll give him a polite hearing.

"Just because we don' t necessarily agree with his philosophies and ideals doesn' t mean it' s going to be a disrespectful conversation," Green said.

Americans United for Change Bush Bus Clips

Anti- Bush group motors exhibit into Dayton **The Bush Legacy Bus will tour 150 cities in effort link John McCain to president's policies.** By Lynn Hulsey, Thursday, June 26, 2008

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DAYTON —An advocacy group brought the Bush Legacy Bus to Dayton on Wednesday, J une 25, the first stop on a five- month, 150- city tour designed to bash President George Bush's record and to paint presumptive Republican presidential nominee Sen. J ohn McCain with the same broad brush.

"It's very powerful to see the timetable and cause and effect of so many of the administration's failed policies," said Marlene Ostrow, 49, who traveled from C incinnati to see the bio- diesel- powered rolling anti- Bush museum at Courthouse S quare in downtown Dayton.

Displays in the bus include timelines, videos and photographs outlining what the advocacy group, Americans United for Change, believes are the Bush Administration's disastrous policies and actions.

Displays covered Iraq, the economy, Hurricane Katrina, health care, workers' rights and education. A large old- fashioned style gas pump sat at the back of the bus, with an electronic display that could determine the annual cost of gas to a consumer. Atop the pump was a round sign with a large "W" in the middle and the words "Bush Cheney Oil," and at the bottom, and one that said "GOP Grand Oil Party."

Asked to react to the group's message, Republican National C ommittee spokeswoman Blair Latoff said, "The last thing Ohioans want or need is a bus full of professional partisans rolling into town and tearing people down. Ohio needs leadership and they are looking for someone like J ohn McC ain who has demonstrated the capability and willingness to work on both sides of the aisle to get things done."

McC ain was targeted along with Bush in speeches by local government officials and union and civil rights leaders. They asked the lunchtime crowd to support Democratic Sen. Barack Obama for president and they took particular aim at gas prices.

McC ain is on the side of "big oil and corporate greed," said Wesley Wells, executive director of the Dayton- Miami Valley AFL- CIO Regional Labor C ouncil.

"I agree with Senator Barack Obama. It's time for change. Don't you agree?" Wells said.

Keith Lander, 45, of Dayton came downtown to see the tour bus and hear the speakers. Given the state of the economy, high gas prices and the war in Iraq, Lander said he doesn't see how anyone could vote for Republicans in the fall. Those that do are "setting themselves up for their own demise," Lander said.

Radio C overage: Left- leaning advocacy group starts nationwide tour in Dayton Americans United for C hange, an issues- driven advocacy group, began a campaign this week called the "Bush Legacy Bus Tour". It's dubbed a "museum on wheels", highlighting what they describe as the failures of the Bush administration over his two terms in office. The courthouse square in Dayton was the first stop on the trip after its launch in Washington, D.C . From member station WYSO, Emily McCord reports.

http://www.statenews.org/media/2008/06/25/11526/11092.ram

Wisconsin

The executive director of One Wisconsin Now was in Washington, DC this week so clips and actions were lighter than we' ve come to expect. However, LTE' s and an adwatch clip on McCain' s energy ad were generated and OWN helped in outreach for SEIU' s Health Care bus. OWN continues to push their petition calling for less breaks for big oil in light of manufacturing plants closing and affecting the economy of Wisconsin.

C lips:

Reality C heck: McC ain Ad On Global Warming
***General Election Ad Airs In Wisconsin*,** UPDATED: 8:47 pm CDT J une 25, 2008

"Today, (McCain) has a realistic plan that will curb greenhouse gas emissions. A plan that will help grow our economy and protect our environment," the ad says. WISC- TV found that this claim needs clarification. McC ain's plan stems from the Stewardship Act he co- sponsored. The S tewardship Act failed in the S enate in 2003. It would create a so- called "cap and trade" system.

The program would cap emissions, aiming to reduce them by nearly 70 percent by 2050.
It would allow companies to buy, sell or trade their rights to emit gasses like carbon dioxide. So, companies that emit below the cap can sell their allowances not used back to the government... for cash or sell them to companies that want to emit more.

The main argument against McC ain's plan comes from his own party. The headline shown at the beginning of the ad

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was from the end of May, just before Republicans blocked a vote on a similar bill."

McCain wrong on health care, says industry union Doug Shore — 6/25/2008 6:24 am

In the coming months, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Sen. Barack Obama will be traveling across the country attempting to convince voters that they have a plan to improve our nation's health care system. A group of health care advocates will likely cross paths with the presidential candidates as it travels through many key battleground states to bring more attention to the respective plans of the two candidates. "The Road to American Health Care," a national bus tour organized by Service Employees International Union (SEIU), came through Wisconsin Tuesday and held a small rally in the Capitol building. Its primary message: John McCain's health care plan is not going to do anything to control skyrocketing costs of health care.

Blogs:

Beer conflict brewing for McCain Uppity Wisconsin, Posted June 23rd, 2008 by warmmidwest

It's going to be difficult for a large segment of McCain's base to look the other way concerning his family's alcohol fortune and lobbying for distribution of sweet-tasting beer concoctions aimed at the youth markets. "You can't run a beer company out of the White House," said Samuel L. Popkin, a political science professor at UC San Diego. "You can't run any company from the White House. McCain is leaving a live hand grenade on the table, a major embarrassment."

One Wisconsin Now continues to beat the drum over McCain's handouts to big oil:
Reject McCain's Latest Big Oil Handout By **Cory @ One Wisconsin Now** - Jun 20th, 2008 at 11:28 am EDT

One Wisconsin Now has launched a petition to Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation demanding that they stand against Senator John McCain's plan to giveaway $4 billion in new tax breaks to his friends in Big Oil. In 2006 Bush and McCain supported budget giveaways of $5 billion in tax cuts. This at a time when working people are struggling to pay $4-a-gallon gas prices and Big Oil companies are raking in records profits. One company pocketed as high as $7 billion in only one quarter recently. According to a report from the Capital Times, "The unprecedented rise in gasoline prices helped put 2,600 General Motors employees out of work in Janesville." That plant is scheduled to close as early as the end of 2009. It is pretty clear that the pain at the pump is spreading quickly to many other areas of our economy, especially in working family wallets. Take a moment to sign a petition to your representative in Congress! Tell them to reject the Bush/McCain policies of more tax giveaways to an industry that has devoured so much and given back so little.

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/12/2015 3:43:34 PM
Subject: Re: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks

Can we draw smiley faces at the top of the page?

Or just give them the attached.*

Kidding, please don't share the attached.

On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:37 PM, Adrienne Elrod <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> FYI - our talkers tomorrow already have our positive "the reviews are in" doc. This is just an addendum that is only going to a handful of folks who are going on tv tomorrow
>
> On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:35 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Agree on need for positive stuff. If we're not already let's add the topper but send them all the great stuff we've put together today so that people aren't seeing this in a vacuum.
> >
> > On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:31 PM, Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Can we start with a positive line like - despite the overwhelmingly positive response to Hillary's message, the GOP went into attack mode.
> > >
> > > On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:15 PM, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > Hey folks. Here are some points we pulled together for surrogates going on TV -- not a wide blast -- on how to respond to day one attacks on HRC. Thoughts? Adrienne/Karen/etc. can get to surrogates once we're all good.
> > > >
> > > > Thanks.
> > > > Ian
> > > >
> > > > **OPENING DAY -- SURROGATE TALKING POINTS ON GOP ATTACKS**
> > > >
> > > > Today we've seen a wide range of attacks from the entire GOP field and their allies. Below are some points to respond -- keeping the focus on Hillary's desire to focus on voters while the Republicans are trotting out tired attacks on her.
> > > >
> > > > - **Republicans can focus on attacking her, but Hillary is focused on meeting voters and having real conversations about issues facing everyday Americans.** This is the start of the different kind of campaign that Hillary wants to run -- one that is squarely focused on having a conversation with voters -- answering their questions, asking them questions and sharing ideas.
>
> - **Meanwhile, Republicans want to be the champions for those at the top.** While Hillary is talking to voters and focused on everyday Americans, every single Republican candidate has offered the same tired attacks and the same economic agenda that Americans know rob them of the stability they've worked so hard for -- with a top-down agenda that would stack the deck even more in favor of those at the top.
>
> - **Americans have responded clearly that they appreciate Hillary's focus on their issues and their lives**, so if Republicans want to keep their focus on tired political attacks, that's their choice.
>
> ***If pressed on specific GOP attacks on foreign policy/HRC's record at the State Department, stemming from Jeb Bush's video or other attacks:***
>
> **Job number one for Hillary as Secretary of State was to restore America's leadership after it was badly eroded by eight years of the Bush administration's foreign policy** -- two wars, damaged alliances, diminished moral standing, no stopping Iran's nuclear program, and no action on climate. She's proud of her accomplishments.
>
> - Hillary led the effort to build a worldwide coalition to impose the toughest sanctions in history against the Iranians, which forced them to the negotiating table and gave us our best shot at preventing them from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
> - Hillary brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, which prevented a wider war and protected Israel's

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security.
- Hillary stood up to Putin by strengthening NATO, encouraging Europe to find alternative sources of energy, and called him out for trying to rebuild the Soviet Empire.
- Hillary worked with President Obama to get every major developing country, including China and India, to agree for the first time to reduce their carbon emissions and be held accountable for it.
- Hillary put internet freedom, LGBT rights, and women's rights on the global agenda, and defending human rights advocates on the frontlines around the world.
- And, of course, she was part of the President's team making the decision to launch the raid against bin Laden.

Jeb Bush may attack Hillary's time as Secretary of State now, but it's just negative politics meant to gin up his Republican base.

- Jeb Bush in 2013: "Former Secretary Clinton has dedicated her life to serving and engaging people across the world in democracy. These efforts as a citizen, an activist, and a leader have earned Secretary Clinton this year's Liberty Medal." [National Constitution Center, 6/27/2013]

Jeb Bush is advocating for the same failed foreign policy that led us to misguided wars and degraded our nation's standing in the world.

- Jeb Bush on George W. Bush: "I will tell you that I'm the only Republican that was in office when he was office as President that never disagreed with him. And I'm not going to start now. Why would I do that now after two years? …I'm not going to start now. It's just – 'til death do us part." [CNN interview]

--
Ian Sams | Rapid Response Associate
Hillary for America
(423) 915-6592 | @IanSams
Gchat: icsams

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/CABd81JJxcSiv95x3%3Duc5H1fSQ5M9CZZ0deNmoNAwM%2BHKiO-p3Q%40mail.gmail.com.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .

To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/CANOiRV9voo87eQ%2B49MXGxRrOM5gUxNkP0nCAL5ybLthiBFQVhA%40mail.gmail.com.

For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .

To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/CAE_%3DYH9A96%3DBbB_V%2Bc2TuOy_zj4wT64H-ge3x9KHPB77Ob4ZEA%40mail.gmail.com.

For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/CAE_%3DYH94MjOiM-GeGscqO5Uu1vsJtG0trgu%2BCBmMs9efPea8iQ%40mail.gmail.com.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .



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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 9/17/2008 1:42:24 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 9/17

08 Election Daily News Clips
September 17th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

7:30am McCain: Interview on ABC - "Good Morning America"

8am Palin: Fund Raiser in Dayton, OH

1:15pm BUSH: Meets with the President of Panama at the White House

7pm McCain and Palin: Town Hall in Grand Rapids, MI
- Tracking scheduled for this event

7:50pm BUSH: Attends Iftaar dinner with ambassadors and Muslim leaders

9pm Palin: Interview with Fox's "Hannity & Colmes"

News Clips:

MCCAIN ECONOMIC NEWS

McCain Embraces Regulation After Many Years of Opposition (WaPo 9/17/08)
By Michael D. Shear; A01
A decade ago, Sen. John McCain embraced legislation to broadly deregulate the banking and insurance industries, helping to sweep aside a thicket of rules established over decades in favor of a less restricted financial marketplace that proponents said would result in greater economic growth. Now, as the Bush administration scrambles to prevent the collapse of the American International Group (AIG), the nation's largest insurance company, and stabilize a tumultuous Wall Street, the Republican presidential nominee is scrambling to recast himself as a champion of regulation to end "reckless conduct, corruption and unbridled greed" on Wall Street.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091603732.html?hpid=topnews

McCain Laboring to Hit Right Note on the Economy (NYT 9/17/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
On Monday morning, as the financial system absorbed one of its biggest shocks in generations, Senator John McCain said, as he had many times before, that he believed the fundamentals of the economy were "strong."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/17/us/politics/17mccain.html?_r=1&em=&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin

Candidates Promise Broad Changes for Wall Street (WSJ 9/17/08)
By NICK TIMIRAOS , ELIZABETH HOLMES i, and MICHAEL M. PHILLIPS
McCain and Obama Have Similar Plans to Address Crisis
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122161274563645947.html

John McCain tries to recover from comment on 'strong' economy (LA Times 9/17/08)
By Michael Finnegan and Noam N. Levey
The Republican says he does understand voters' concerns about the financial crisis. Barack Obama mocks his rival's grasp of the issue and his resolve to improve regulations.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign17-2008sep17,0,1422335.story

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McCain calls for Wall Street commission (Politico 9/17/08)
By Mike Allen
He becomes the first presidential nominees to call for a specific response to this weekend's finance crisis.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0908/13493.html

McCain, Obama trade heated jabs over the economy (AP 9/17/08)
By TERENCE HUNT and GLEN JOHNSON
John McCain and Barack Obama traded increasingly barbed insults along with prescriptions for the ailing economy Tuesday as financial fears shoved aside lipstick on pigs and every other political issue in a blink with just weeks left in the long presidential campaign.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091600859_pf.html

McCain Ad: Obama's Economic Solutions "Talk and Taxes" (The Page 9/17/08)
Latest TV spot from the Arizonan accuses Obama of having no real answers to the crisis on Wall Street. "My opponent's only solutions are talk and taxes. I'll reform Wall Street and fix Washington. I've taken on tougher guys than this before." Will be televised nationally. Amount and length of buy TBD.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/ ~3/395138001/
Link to video of ad ("Foundation"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRg8kaKfLXs

New McCain Ad Addresses Financial Crisis (AP 9/17/08)
John McCain, struggling to strike the right note amid roiling financial markets and a Wall Street restructuring, released a new television ad Wednesday asserting he is the right leader to keep Americans' savings safe in the future.
http://elections.foxnews.com/2008/09/17/new-mccain-ad-addresses-financial-crisis/
Link to video of ad ("Enough is Enough"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7EbK1RREU4
Link to script: http://thepage.time.com/script-for-mccain-tv-ad-enough-is-enough/

Obama Speaks Directly to Voters on Economy in Two-Minute Ad (The Page 9/17/08)
In straight-to-camera remarks, the Land of Lincolner delivers his assessment of the economy and how he would fix it if he were president. Doesn't mention McCain by name, focuses instead on touting his economic plan and pushing unity. "This isn't just a string of bad luck. The truth is that while you've been living up to your responsibilities Washington has not. That's why we need change." Ad to air starting Wednesday nationally and in battleground states. Amount and length of buy TBD.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/ ~3/395087376/
Link to video of ad ("Plan for Change"): http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/planforchange_ad/
Link to script: http://thepage.time.com/script-for-obama-two-minute-ad/

Analysis: Are economy's fundamentals actually OK? (AP 9/16/08)
By Tom Raum
Unemployment is at a five-year high. Financial firms that withstood the Great Depression are failing. Congress and a lame-duck president are gridlocked. So when John McCain declared that "the fundamentals of our economy are strong," it drew ridicule from Democrat Barack Obama. McCain later toned down his remarks, but his observation reflected a debate among analysts and policymakers about the economy's underlying health. Plenty of them think he's right.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/09/16/
analysis_are_economys_fundamentals_actually_ok?mode=PF

McCain Described The Economy's Fundamentals As 'Strong' At Least 18 Times In 2008 (ThinkProgress 9/16/08)
Yesterday, after two of Wall Street's major banking institutions had just collapsed, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) declared that he "still" believes "the fundamentals of our economy are strong." As MSNBC's First Read notes today, yesterday was only the most recent occasion that McCain has called the economy's fundamentals "strong" as the economy worsened throughout 2008:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/09/16/mccain-economy-strong-18/

McCain Gets Both Acronym And Purpose Of SIPC Wrong (Wonk Room 9/16/08)
By Andrew Jakabovics

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Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) demonstrated again today that he was telling the truth about not knowing much about the economy. For a man concerned about protecting the average American from Wall Street greed, he seemed not to know who plays what role.
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/09/16/mccain-sipc-wrong/

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Able to Skirt Limits of Federal Financing (WaPo 9/17/08)

By Matthew Mosk; A04
...With backing from the Republican National Committee, McCain has taken advantage of loopholes such as "hybrid" television advertisements and joint fundraising committees that may keep him close to financial parity with Obama.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091603321_pf.html

Hobnobbing Fund-Raisers Undercut Candidates' Talk of Reform (WSJ 9/17/08)

By BRODY MULLINS and GLENN R. SIMPSON
Barack Obama and John McCain both say they want to change Washington as part of their bids to win the White House. But the price of getting close to the candidates seems a lot like business as usual.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122161470139346065.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain has 2 faces: Washington in- and outsider (AP 9/17/08)

By GLEN JOHNSON
John McCain embraces and expels Washington like an accordion player belting out a song. Squeeze in and he touts his vast knowledge of the capital city. Draw out and he casts himself a reformer bent on changing its ways.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/17/AR2008091700257_pf.html

Dems hit McCain on access (Politico 9/17/08)

By: Mike Allen
The Democratic National Committee on Wednesday is launching a "McCain Press Watch" – a counter showing the number of days, minutes and hours since the last news conference by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.). Currently, it's at 34 days and counting.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=6FBF9F4C-18FE-70B2-A8BE7D8887C8143F

McCain BlackBerry Easily Connects With Gore Internet (WaPo 9/17/08)

By Michael D. Shear; A04
The campaign of Sen. John McCain wanted to be clear yesterday: The Arizona Republican did not help create the BlackBerry. That message came after McCain's top economic adviser said that the senator had, in fact, helped bring about the handheld device, comments that the campaign later called a "boneheaded joke."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091603226.html
See Chicago Tribune's "BlackBerry inventor? Odd claim dies quickly": http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-berries17sep17,0,2391751.story

Move over, Al Gore: John McCain invented the BlackBerry (LA Times 9/17/08)

Noam N. Levey
A McCain campaign staffer attributes the creation of the technological device to the work of the Senate commerce committee -- of which McCain is a veteran member.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailblackberry17-2008sep17,0,7962227.story

Sarah Palin, others don't have heads for business, Carly Fiorina says (LA Times 9/17/08)

Maeve Reston
The former Hewlett-Packard CEO says that none of the top candidates would be ready to lead a big company. Barack Obama's team uses the comments against John McCain.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailcarly17-2008sep17,0,2276681.story?track=rss
See The Hill blog's "Fiorina: Palin Doesn't Have Experience to Run Major Company": http://briefingroom.thehill.com/2008/09/16/fiorina-palin-doesnt-have-experience-to-run-a-company/

Fiorina Sets off Flap, Saying Palin Not Ready for Big Business (NYT blog 9/16/08)

By Leslie Wayne

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Having once been dubbed the "most powerful woman in business," Carly Fiorina, a top economic adviser to Senator John McCain and the former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard, knows a little something about executive talent. After all, until she was ousted from the executive suite at Hewlett-Packard, Ms. Fiorina was a Silicon Valley legend,
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/09/16/fiorina-sets-off-flap-saying-palin-not-ready-for-big-business/#more-6309
See CNN blog's "Fiorina's comment called 'Biden-like'": http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/09/16/fiorinas-comment-called-biden-like/

McCain reportedly 'furious' with Fiorina, campaign adviser says she will 'disappear' from TV (ThinkProgress 9/16/08)
Today, McCain economic adviser Carly Fiorina bluntly stated that neither John McCain nor Sarah Palin were capable of running a major corporation (she said the same of Barack Obama and Joseph Biden). A top campaign adviser said Fiorina will be punished for her candid sentiments:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/09/16/mccain-reportedly-furious-with-fiorina-campaign-adviser-says-she-will-disappear-from-tv/

Flagging economy may propel Obama (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review 9/17/08)
By David M. Brown
As the national economy shows signs of weakening further, the chances of Democrat Barack Obama winning the presidency could strengthen, analysts said Tuesday.
http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/business/s_588629.html

McCain rallies in Dem-fertile Ohio region (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review 9/17/08)
By Salena Zito
You have to wonder: With just 49 days left until Election Day, what is Sen. John McCain doing in Ohio's Mahoning Valley -- again?
http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/s_588683.html
See PTR's "Workers are economy's 'fundamentals,' McCain says": http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/s_588617.html

McCain Addresses A Red, White And Blue Crowd (Tampa Bay Tribune blog 9/16/08)
by Keith Morelli
Most of those who came to hear John McCain were in the room by 11 a.m. and the speech started just after noon. In the meantime, a rambunctious crowd listened to young women belt out patriotic songs from "Little Pink Houses" to "Sweet Home Alabama" to "Born in the U.S.A.," which is more of a protest song than a patriotic one, but few ever get past the title.
http://www.tboblogs.com/index.php/news/story/mccain-speech-now-over-less-than-12-minutes-long/
See TBT blog's "McCain Goes Populist After Market Fall": http://www.tboblogs.com/index.php/news/story/mccain-goes-populist-after-market-fall/
See TBT blog's Palin's Fans Show Up Despite Her Absence": http://www.tboblogs.com/index.php/news/story/palins-fans-show-up-despite-her-absence/

Protesters Here To Greet McCain, Too (Tampa Bay Tribune blog 9/16/08)
by Keith Morelli
9:45 a.m.: A handful of protesters sets up shop with signs and offering opinions near the front of the Tampa Convention Center entrance. One woman holds a red and white sign that reads: "McCain voted against equal pay for women."
http://www.tboblogs.com/index.php/news/story/protesters-here-to-greet-mccain-too/

Historians say McCain camp not sleaziest (Politico 9/16/08)
By: David Mark and Avi Zenilman
David Axelrod, Barack Obama's chief strategist, said Sunday that John McCain is running the "sleaziest and least honorable campaign in modern presidential campaign history." It was a line trotted out all weekend by various Obama staffers as part of an effort to portray the Republican nominee as a purveyor of the slimiest tactics in recent memory.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=6AF39D2E-18FE-70B2-A88DF3EFEBB3D8AE

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McCain says Obama is 'making up facts' (Politico 9/16/08)
By MIKE ALLEN
Sen. John McCain says his rival is "making up facts" and 'hurling insults" to try to get the upper hand in the campaign now that voters are worried about the nation's financial meltdown.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0908/13513.html

McCain avoids saying 'Bush' on the stump (DC Examiner blog 9/17/08)
Throughout the presidential campaign, analysts have mentioned ad nauseum that Barack Obama is trying to identify John McCain with the policies of President Bush, while McCain is doing his best to run from those policies.
http://www.dcexaminer.com/opinion/blogs/YeasandNays/
Obama_says_Bush_five_times_as_much_as_McCain.html

McCain Rep Lies: McCain's Global Warming Targets 'Consistent With International Scientific Consensus' (Wonk Room 9/16/08)
Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Sen. John McCain's "I'm a Ph.D. economist" adviser, is evidently having a mental meltdown, perhaps brought on by the collapse in the financial markets engineered by McCain's other "economic brain," Phil Gramm. Although his comment giving Sen. McCain credit for the miraculous invention of the Blackberry is meriting deserved ridicule, Holtz-Eakin's column in yesterday's Financial Times on climate change includes unambiguous lies to defend McCain's polluter-friendly climate plan. Holtz-Eakin lies about McCain's cap and trade plan:
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/09/16/dhe-lie-emissions-targets/

McCain Mocks Obama's Fundraiser with Streisand (WaPo blog 9/16/08)
By Robert Barnes
...[R]eunited with running mate Sarah Palin and in front of a boisterous crowd, McCain pointed out that Democratic rival Barack Obama's hard-edged comments about McCain and the economy came "just before he flew off to Hollywood for a fundraiser with Barbra Streisand." ...McCain recited a speech he had given earlier in the day about the need to reform Wall Street. A slow but steady trickle of supporters began to file out after Palin's speech introducing McCain.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/09/16/mccain_mocks_obamas_fundraiser.html#more

PALIN NEWS

Palin Exaggerates Alaska's Energy Role (WaPo 9/17/08)
The woman touted by John McCain as the most knowledgeable person in America on energy issues has been having a lot of trouble getting her basic energy statistics straight. Last week, Sarah Palin told Charles Gibson of ABC News that her state, Alaska, produced "nearly 20 percent of the U.S. domestic supply of energy." On Monday, she told a campaign rally in Golden, Colo., that she had been responsible for overseeing "nearly 20 percent of the U.S. domestic supply of oil and gas." Both claims are way off.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091603406_pf.html

Palin to Meet Foreign Leaders at U.N. (WSJ blog 9/16/08)
By Monica Langley
Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin will meet with foreign leaders next week at the United Nations, a move to boost her foreign-policy credentials, a Republican strategist said.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/09/16/palin-to-meet-foreign-leaders-at-un/

Aides say despite campaign travel, Palin's still in charge (ADN 9/17/08)
By KYLE HOPKINS
GOVERNOR'S ABSENCE: Aides say buck still stops with governor.
http://www.adn.com/sarah-palin/story/528484.html

Official Says Palin Team Implied Trooper Should Go (WSJ 9/17/08)
By JOEL MILLMAN
The former Alaska public-safety official at the center of a controversy surrounding Sarah Palin said in an interview that he and other police officials heard from the Alaska governor, her husband and aides "at least a

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dozen times" on the subject of Gov. Palin's former brother-in-law.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122158863680544013.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Can He Stop 'Troopergate'? (Newsweek 9/17/08)
Michael Isikoff
A former top Justice Department prosecutor now working for John McCain's presidential campaign has been helping to direct an aggressive legal strategy aimed at shutting down a pre-election ethics investigation into Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/159260

McCain campaign clamps down on questions in Alaska (AP 9/17/08)
By ANNE SUTTON
GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin is effectively turning over questions about her record as Alaska's governor to John McCain's political campaign, part of an ambitious Republican strategy to limit any embarrassing disclosures and carefully shape her image for voters in the rest of the country.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jss1GQ0bw-wiD2RIwoldMMSE1dBwD938AT180

Attorney general says state staff won't testify (AP 9/17/08)
By STEVE QUINN
Alaska's investigation into whether Gov. Sarah Palin abused her power, a potentially damaging distraction for John McCain's presidential campaign, ran into intensified resistance Tuesday when the attorney general said state employees would refuse to honor subpoenas in the case.
http://www.adn.com/politics/story/528468.html

Lawmakers Sue to Stop 'Troopergate' Probe of Palin (AP 9/16/08)
By STEVE QUINN
Five state Republican lawmakers want a judge to stop an investigation into Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's firing of a public safety commissioner.
http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1841614,00.html

Palin triggers feminism reversal (Washington Times 9/17/08)
By Jennifer Harper
The old partisan thinking about motherhood and the workplace has been rapidly reversed in America by the McCain-Palin ticket. ...'Mommy war' evolves in race
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/17/palin-triggers-feminism-reversal/

Palin 'phenomenon' hijacks online sales (CNN 9/16/08)
By Kristi Keck
For the first time since the start of the election, merchandise for John McCain's campaign rivals sales of Barack Obama gear at CafePress, an online store specializing in user-generated T-shirts.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/09/16/palin.online.sales/index.html

Christian publishers score big with Palin books (Religion News Service 9/17/08)
By G. Jeffrey MacDonald
In this high season for political books, two evangelical publishers are leading the race to capitalize on fascination with Alaska governor and GOP vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2008-09-16-palin-evangelical-books_N.htm?csp=34

Couric gets second Palin interview (AP 9/16/08)
Second in the broadcast network competition to talk to Sarah Palin: Katie Couric. The CBS anchor will spend two days on the road with the Republican vice presidential candidate as well as presidential hopeful John McCain, the network said Tuesday. Couric's interview material will be aired Sept. 29 and 30 on the "CBS Evening News" and "The Early Show."
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hehMkMu23Oc1VW0z4nSrog8UvGLgD9385KP80

Rejoining McCain, Palin drops references to bridge and plane (Politico blog 9/16/08)
By Jonathan Martin

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Rejoining John McCain for a joint rally near Youngstown, Ohio, Sarah Palin offered an abbreviated version of her stump speech that included no mention of her putting the state plane in Alaska on eBay or her opposition to the "Bridge to Nowhere."
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0908/Rejoining_McCain_Palin_drops_references_to_bridge_and_plane.html?showall

Palin's Favorability Ratings Begin to Falter (Newsweek blog 9/16/08)
By Andrew Romano
To know her, it seems, is not necessarily to love her.
http://blog.newsweek.com/blogs/stumper/archive/2008/09/16/palin-s-favorability-ratings-begin-to-falter.aspx

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Mr. McCain and the Economy (NYT 9/17/08)
John McCain spent Monday claiming as he had countless times before — that the economy was fundamentally sound. Had he missed the collapse of Lehman Brothers or the sale of Merrill Lynch, which were announced the day before? Did he not notice the agonies of the American Insurance Group? Was he unaware of the impending layoffs of tens of thousands of Wall Street employees on top of the growing numbers of unemployed workers throughout the United States? On Tuesday, he clarified his remarks. The clarification was far more worrisome than his initial comments.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/17/opinion/17wed1.html?pagewanted=print

McCain out of touch with the costs of a 'free market' (Boston Globe 9/17/08)
GEORGE BUSH, John McCain, and so many other Republicans have continually touted the benefits of a "free market" without government controls. Well, we've had that for nearly eight years. Are we happy with the results?
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/letters/articles/2008/09/17/mccain_out_of_touch_with_the_costs_of_a_free_market?mode=PF

McCain and the Markets (WSJ 9/17/08)
It's easy to see how a 21-year member of the U.S. Senate like John McCain, or even a Senate rookie, could regard Wall Street as a mysterious and distant planet. Indeed, on the evidence of the past few days, Senators McCain and Obama would appear to know more about Mars than they do about financial markets.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122160943366545595.html

True Whoppers (WaPo 9/17/08)
By Ruth Marcus
Is there any reason to trust that McCain would go on to be an honest president?
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/16/AR2008091602874.html?nav=rss_print/editorialpages

No more Mr. Truth Guy (Denver Post 9/17/08)
By Richard Cohen
Following his loss to George W. Bush in the 2000 South Carolina primary, John McCain did something extraordinary: He confessed to lying about how he felt about the Confederate battle flag, which he actually abhorred. "I broke my promise to always tell the truth," McCain said. Now he has broken that promise so completely that the John McCain of old is unrecognizable. He has become the sort of politician he once despised.
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_10479810?source=rss

No one is above the truth, even Palin (ADN 9/17/08)
DAN FAGAN
You really can't experience the full effect of Monday's news conference featuring Palin spokeswoman Meghan Stapleton unless you hear it for yourself. Stapleton passionately attacked former Commissioner of Public Safety Walt Monegan. Her rhetoric was plain, desperate, and obvious. Her tone, pure shrill.
http://www.adn.com/opinion/story/528420.html

Searching for an economic leader (The Denver Post 9/17/08)
The unfolding financial crisis that has brought venerable Wall Street investment banks to their knees is posing a

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crucial test for presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain.
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_10480440?source=rss

From moose whacker to McCain's meal ticket (LA Times 9/17/08)
By Tim Rutten
Sarah Palin has become integral to the GOP candidate's hopes of winning the presidency.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-rutten17-2008sep17,0,4732430.column

'Barbies for War!' (NYT 9/17/08)
MAUREEN DOWD
At gatherings in Wasilla, Alaska, pastors pray for reporters, drilling evokes cheers and Todd Palin is hailed as a guy who likes to burn fossil fuels.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/17/opinion/17dowd.html

Pinpointing Palin's appeal (Washington Times 9/17/08)
There is something about Sarah Palin that captures people's attention.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/17/pinpointing-palins-appeal/

Enough of the Palin feeding frenzy (Boston Globe 9/17/08)
By Jeff Jacoby
IN POLITICS, cheap shots and invective are occupational hazards. But when have we seen anything to match the frenzy of rage and contempt set off by the nomination of Sarah Palin?
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/09/17/enough_of_the_palin_feeding_frenzy?mode=PF

The frozen world view of a McCain guru (Boston Globe 9/16/08)
By H.D.S. Greenway
FOR SOME on the political right, Russia's overreaction to Georgia's attempt to pull a fast one in South Ossetia is a source of satisfaction and we-told-you-so. For those steeped in nostalgia for the Cold War, Russia will always be an enemy - and that goes for China, too. ...All this would be academic were not Kagan a foreign policy adviser to John McCain's campaign, and it is there that the struggle between realists and neoconservatives is being played out.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/09/16/the_frozen_world_view_of_a_mccain_guru?mode=PF

Props to Megyn Kelly (PoliticsWest 9/16/08)
Fox News' Megyn Kelly proved CNN's Campbell Brown has nothing on her. Taking on John McCain spokesman Tucker Bounds Monday, Kelly asked the pertinent questions and didn't let go. Specifically, why is the McCain camp lying about Barack Obama's tax plan?
http://www.politicswest.com/30180/props_megyn_kelly

BUSH NEWS

Bush suddenly scraps comments on financial markets (AP 9/16/08)
By BEN FELLER
With little explanation, President Bush on Tuesday scrapped a statement he planned to give on the tumultuous financial markets, abandoning any press coverage of his meeting with key economic advisers as more developments roiled Wall Street.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gH8vjAe8Yxxfh2Mgi2N-G9cqOD8QD9386Q880

Bush returns to Gulf Coast, this time for Ike (AP 9/16/08)
By DEB RIECHMANN
President Bush got a firsthand look Tuesday at the fury that Hurricane Ike unleashed on the Gulf Coast, and was greeted by a virtual ghost town here where it made landfall. He urged frustrated storm evacuees to keep it that way until local officials say it is safe to return.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h6z_UhxmDFaJau83XPy_PFobzfQwD9387FPO0

OTHER TOP NEWS

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Fed steps in to rescue AIG, adding to string of bailouts (McClatchy 9/16/08)
The Federal Reserve Board stepped in Tuesday night to provide an $85 billion emergency loan to American International Group in return for a nearly 80 percent stake in the teetering insurance and finance giant.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/52646.html

On Texas' coast, a scramble for basic needs amid 'chaos' (USA TODAY 9/1/7/08)
By Donna Leinwand, Marisol Bello, Oren Dorell and Andrea Stone
Landress Pouncy has electricity. In these parts, that means she has houseguests — lots of them.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-09-16-IkeDay4_N.htm?csp=34

Democrats Join the 'Drill, Baby, Drill!' Chorus (TIME 9/17/08)
By Massimo Calabresi
House Democrats passed a bill Tuesday night that would end a 26-year ban on drilling for oil in federal waters 50 miles or more from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts — in a belated attempt to find political shelter from Republican election attacks over gas prices. But even as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi steered the bill through procedural hurdles to passage during the day, Senator John McCain was demonstrating the continued power of the issue on the campaign trail.
http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1841769,00.html

Pelosi orders wide Wall Street probe (Politico 9/17/08)
By: Mike Allen
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has ordered a broad, swift investigation of Wall Street and will demand testimony from Bush administration officials and captains of finance, congressional officials said.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=6D44EFAF-18FE-70B2-A81BF5A9D7E5EC09

Elizabeth Edwards discouraged by health care focus (AP 9/17/08)
By MIKE BAKER
Elizabeth Edwards said Tuesday she is discouraged that health care is falling on the nation's list of priorities and critiqued the plans of both leading presidential candidates.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/ELIZABETH_EDWARDS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-09-16-21-46-23

Policy Makers Keep Key Rate Steady (NYT 9/17/08)
By EDMUND L. ANDREWS
Federal Reserve policy makers kept their benchmark lending rate unchanged at 2 percent on Tuesday, highlighting the conflicting pressures of an epic financial crisis and nagging inflation.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/17/business/economy/17fed.html?hp=&pagewanted=print

Odierno takes reins in Iraq; general calls gains 'fragile' (USA Today 9/17/08)
By Jim Michaels
Gen. Ray Odierno, the incoming commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, said Tuesday that conditions in the country remain fragile despite dramatic security gains over the past year.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2008-09-16-iraq-news_N.htm?csp=34

Vets Group to Launch Ad Contrasting Petraeus, Obama on Surge (WSJ blog 9/16/08)
By Susan Davis
Veterans for Freedom will launch a national cable ad Wednesday juxtaposing comments by Gen. David Petraeus on the success of President George W. Bush's 2007 troop surge in Iraq and comments by Barack Obama opposing the strategy.
http://feeds.wsjonline.com/%7Er/wsj/washwire/feed/%7E3/394550452/
Link to video of ad: http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid452319854/bctid1785322772

MoveOn Ad Uses "My Friends" Tic On McCain Lobbyists (HuffPo 9/16/08)
By Rachel Weiner
A new MoveOn ad posits who John McCain is really talking about when he says "my friends" -- his favorite lobbyists. Watch:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/16/moveon-ad-uses-my-friends_n_126797.html

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Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPuoAWaVStE

Ads from 527s aim to divide, conquer (Washington Times 9/17/08)
Christina Bellantoni
Initially pushed to the sidelines by the presidential nominees, independent political groups are readying a 24/7 barrage of attack ads designed to influence Americans' choices at the ballot box in November.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/sep/17/ads-from-527s-aim-to-divide-conquer/

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Michael Huttner, Founder and CEO" <michael@progressnoweducation.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/23/2010 5:32:39 AM
Subject: Will I see you at the Council on Foundations in Denver?

Board, Investors and Key Partner Organizations,

In a time when the stakes have never been higher, we are working day & night to ensure the public is properly educated on the key issues. Below you will find a sampling of our most recent successes in helping our allies with communications and new media.

We are looking forward to seeing many of our friends at the upcoming Council on Foundations in Denver. Please let me know if you will be in Denver & available to meet while there.

If you will not be joining us, please let me know when is a good time to connect in the near future.

Best,
Mike
(303) 931-4547 - cell

State	Organization	ED	Advisor
California	Courage Campaign Institute	Rick Jacobs	Deborah Rappaport
Colorado	ProgressNow Colorado Education	Bobby Clark	Ted Trimpa
Florida	Progress Florida Education	Mark Ferrulo	Doug Phelps
Michigan	Progress Michigan Education	David Holtz	Frank Smith
Minnesota	Alliance for a Better Minnesota Education Fund	Denise Cardinal	Ken Martin
Nevada	ProgressNow Nevada Education	Erin Neff	Susan McCue
New Hampshire	Granite State Progress Education Fund	Zandra Rice-Hawkins	Peter Glenshaw
Ohio	ProgressOhio Education	Brian Rothenberg	Jeff Rusnak
Pennsylvania	Keystone Progress Education Fund	Michael Morrill	Anna Burger
Washington	Fuse Innovation Fund	Aaron Ostrom	Martin Collier
Wisconsin	Institute for One Wisconsin	Scot Ross	Anne Summers

Here are updates and success stories from each of our partner states:

CALIFORNIA / Courage Campaign Institute:

Focus on ENDA

The religious right is working hard to ensure that LGBT judges are prohibited from being nominated to the US Supreme Court. In view of this aggressive discrimination, we began rallying our members this week to remind President Obama that this kind of intolerance cannot be associated with the selection of the very panel of judges charged with upholding equal protection under the law. The other point we are making is that Focus on the Family and other such groups are really no different from Fred Phelps and other extremists.

"This truly scandalous attempt to marginalize and dehumanize LGBT people, shared by countless others in this country, is exactly why we need legislation like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And it is exactly why we need to draw attention to this discrimination. ... In the coming years, the Supreme Court will adjudicate several historic

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cases, including Perry v. Schwarzenegger -- the Prop 8 case that will soon be decided in federal district court. That's why it is so important that President Obama gets this decision right, no matter the sexual orientation of his nominee."

Join us in writing to the President: http://www.couragecampaign.org/page/s/NotAFactor

COLORADO / ProgressNow Colorado Education:

Tax Day Messaging - ProgressNow Colorado Education has led efforts in Colorado to define and communicate a progressive message in response to the far-right Tea Party, anti-tax, anti-government efforts in this state. To counter the Tax Day protests, for example, we successfully injected our messaging into nearly all of the Tax Day coverage. We drafted and placed an op-ed on Tax Day in the Denver Post from one of our progressive allies, the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute: http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_14883383 We also were quoted in the Denver Daily News:http://thedenverdailynews.com/article.php?aID=8064 At the Tax Day protest at the Capitol, we were able to pitch two staffers from COFPI for interviews with Fox 31, 9 News, Channel 7, News 4, and KOA. In addition, we placed Kathy White from COFPI for an interview with Mario Solis Marich on AM 760's Progressive Talk during the evening drive time on Tax Day. Finally, we launched a new website for Tax Day that we will use in the coming months to tell positive stories about the impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in Colorado as well as other stories about the positive role of government in creating opportunity and promoting the common good: http://www.stuffmygovernmentdoes.com

Progressive Communications Capacity-Building - New in 2010, ProgressNow Colorado Education has launched a program to expand the overall communications capacity of our allied organizations that are fellow members of the Colorado C3 Roundtable. We are working with these organizations in the context of our issue education campaigns to expand their respective communications capacity. In May, we also will be hosting the largest-ever media training for organizations that are members of the Colorado C3 Roundtable.

Media Watch - Also new in 2010, ProgressNow Colorado Education has launched a project to critique media coverage of important public policy issues in Colorado. For this project, we monitor all of the local network television news as well as every daily newspaper in the state. We also monitor right-wing radio as capacity permits. We already have produced over ten stories in two months highlighting errors and omissions in stories.

FLORIDA / Progress Florida Education Center:

Activism 101

After assisting in recent trainings with Wellstone Action and Equality Florida, In March, Progress Florida Education Center teamed up with The Public Interest Network, Repower America and the Sierra Club and co-sponsored a citizen activist training in Tampa Bay.

The training was a big success with 58 participants from across the region from all walks of life, concerned about a broad spectrum of progressive issues. Participants learned the three cornerstones of community organizing: recruitment, coalition building and generating media. Feedback from participants was very positive and one local elected official who attended stated his amazement that such great turnout could have been organized just through internet organizing.

(photo caption: *Progress Florida Political Director Damien Filer runs a workshop on generating earned media (top). Director Mark Ferrulo conducts a group session on coalition building (middle). Participants introduce themselves by answering the intro question - "Name one issue that has you fired up!" (bottom)*

Standing up to "Drill Baby, Drill"

Progress Florida Education Center played a central role in a large coalition of groups who organized the hugely successful Hands Across the Sand event. The event was organized to demonstrate widespread opposition to offshore oil drilling. Thousands and thousands of protesters, dressed in black to represent an oil spill, joined hands at more than 70 coastal locations across the state, sending an unmistakable message to our elected officials that Florida's shoreline should not to be sacrificed to Big Oil. The event garnered extensive press coverage statewide and has created numerous local networks of activists that continue to organize against the threat of offshore drilling today.

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In March, Progress Florida unveiled the "Resolved Against Drilling" map, a powerful illustration and visual reminder to lawmakers of the overwhelming opposition to legislation that would end Florida's ban on oil drilling in state waters.

The map shows that at least 55 cities, counties, chambers of commerce, and local agencies around the state have passed resolutions opposing Speaker-Designate Dean Cannon's (R-Winter Park) and Senate-President Designate Mike Haridopolos's (R-Melbourne) effort to sell Florida's world famous coastline to Texas oilmen. From Key West to Pensacola, few other issues have met with such unified opposition from local communities.

Although the main purpose of the Resolved Against Drilling Google map was for it to be a tool for legislative advocacy, website use and field organizing, we were able to leverage it for some great press in both traditional and new media outlets.



MICHIGAN / Progress Michigan Eduction:

Fighting Climate Change, Defeating Coal

Progress Michigan Education's fight to stop a proposed dirty coal plant near one of Michigan's Great Lakes got a major media boost April 8 when an NRDC report we pushed out got major media coverage reporting that electric rates for consumers would jump up to $74 a year if the plant is built.

Serving as the media hub for the Beyond Coal campaign, Progress Michigan Education has helped to defeat four proposed coal plants in Michigan but the biggest one-sited near Lake Huron-would saddle electric ratepayers with $1.8 billion in debt for a coal plant that isn't needed and would contribute to climate pollution. CMS Energy, which has ties to Massey Energy Company, is the target of Beyond Coal's corporate campaign.

Building Partners' Communications Capacity

More than 30 activists from over 16 organizations have undergone trainings during March and April in earned media and strategic messaging as part of Progress Michigan Education's Communications Capacity Building Project.

The project, in partnership with the Michigan Voice civic engagement table, links larger group trainings with one-on-one specialized capacity building with the goal of training up to 120 individuals on earned media, new media, communications planning and online advertising. In addition, up to 10 organizations will receive comprehensive specialized and interactive communication analysis and training.



MINNESOTA / Alliance for a Better Minnesota Education Fund:

Census Work with MN Civic Engagement Table

Alliance for a Better Education Fund (ABMEF) is an active participant of the Minnesota Civic Engagement Table, which is part of the state voices network. In its role as communications hub for the table, ABMEF assisted the groups in messaging for their census work - reminding those residents in hard-to-count communities to turn in their forms. The result: early numbers show a significant increase in returns in these communities when compared to return rates in 2000.

thanktaxes.org

As the lead organization in Minnesota assigned to counter the TEA parties happening on April 15, Alliance for a Better Minnesota (ABM) provided citizens with a place to show their appreciation for the things taxes pay for. The campaign was centered around the website www.thanktaxes.org, and was continued through a twitter campaign (#thanktaxes). The result included hundreds of photos, thousands of tweets (and retweets) and every television in the twin cities featured our message - and the 20-foot-long moving billboard ABM featuring 20 different photos of people showing off their "thank taxes" sign in front of favorite public projects that circled the TEA party of tax day.



NEVADA / ProgressNow Nevada Education Fund:

ProgressNow Nevada organized the progressive response to Tax Day Tea Parties by

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creating alternative events that drew great media coverage. Our progressive tea parties focused entirely on revenue plans; reframing government and helped hammer the message narrative that "No is not a plan." Ironically, we made the top of the fold, front page of the conservative paper that is the subject of our media accountability project.

http://www.lasvegassun.com/photos/2010/apr/15/70100/

We also worked with numerous C3 immigration partners in advance of the major Rally for America on message development and media relations. This included work with Democracia Ahorra, The Hispanic Institute, Reform Immigration for America and the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada. The event on April 10 in Las Vegas drew 10,000 people and resulted in immediately changing the political dynamic for immigration reform in Washington about. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP-84ylRaXo

We continue to expose the right-wing bias of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Our reporting led to this feature in Media Matters on March 22. http://mediamatters.org/research/201003220062



NEW HAMPSHIRE / Granite State Progress Education Fund:

Brown Bag Lunch

Granite State Progress Education Fund is helping coordinate rapid-response needs for the 2010 legislative session that runs January through June in New Hampshire. Each week we host a weekly Brown Bag Lunch for progressive organizations, State House leaders and other strategic community advocates to network and exchange important information about upcoming hearings, hot-button bills and conservative shenanigans. The weekly gathering has provided an opportunity for cross-collaboration and proactive messaging.

For example, it came to our attention that conservatives were attempting to overturn a State House ban on guns and other dangerous weapons. House Bill 1693 would have turned the New Hampshire State House into an open carry zone, allowing guns and other weapons into places like the State House galleries, committee rooms, and Governor's office. Granite State Progress Education Fund alerted the New England Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and drafted a joint action alert and talking points. We then organized oral testimony for the public hearing, including having a former coordinator of Read Across America raise concerns about having large groups of schoolchildren in open carry zones. Other participants from the Brown Bag Lunch agreed to sign in opposition to the bill as individuals and organizations, and helped spread the word. In the end, the committee - and full House - defeated the bill .



OHIO / Progress Ohio Education:

ProgressOhio member Robert Letcher was at a Health Care Protest in March, when the Columbus Dispatch caught a Tea Party member on tape berated him. Mr. Letcher was holding a sign saying that he suffered from Parkinson's disease and wanted the Bill passed.

In the Dispatch video one Tea Party member berated him and said "handouts are for the other side of town" while a second threw dollar bills at Letcher saying "I decide when you get a handout."

ProgressOhio jumped on the story which was buried (the paper wasn't even aware of the video content) and through email and new media turned the issue into a national story on civility in the health care debate. PO was the number 1 non-profit on YouTube for a number of weeks and had over a Half-Million views of the video and subsequent interviews of Letcher.

Letcher has a doctorate as a nuclear physics and also did many national interviews.



PENNSYLVANIA / Keystone Progress Education Fund:

The Keystone Progress Education Fund (KPEF) has set up a Technology Bank for other progressive 501(c)(3) organizations. Our vision is to have a stock of technology items that can be loaned at no or low cost to progressive groups. We will have items in at least 3 cities (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg). The items in our bank will be things that groups need occasionally, but cannot justify purchasing because of budget limitations.

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Our first purchase was six projectors.

KPEF developed a template for organizations wanting to hold local versions of our highly successful Pennsylvania Progressive Summit. The template, called "Progressive Summit in a Box," is currently being used by activists in Berks County to hold the first local progressive summit in PA.

KPEF is planning a series of webinars using presenters from the Pennsylvania Progressive Summit. The first webinars will be held in May. The first topic will be "Effective GOTV Strategies." The presenter is Regina Schwartz, Director of Communications and Outreach at the Analyst Institute.



WASHINGTON / Fuse Innovation Fund:

Fuse coordinated the progressive community's successful legislative campaign to raise new revenues in response to the State's financial crisis. The legislature adopted a package that raised $800 million in new revenues earlier this month. We organized a coalition of over 100 groups, with a combined field, lobbying and communications program.

- Our campaign organized a coalition rally of 6,000 people at the state capitol on Feb. 15th, calling on the legislature to protect our kids and the environment, care for the elderly and invest in the future. We went head to head with the Teabaggers' anti-tax rally earlier in the day, and outnumbered them two to one. This show of force made a huge impression on legislators.
- To open the session, Fuse organized a team effort that generated over 20,000 signed petitions and postcards urging the Governor and legislators to take a balanced approach to the state's financial problems. Four TV news stations and several reporters joined our team as we delivered the petitions to Governor Christine Gregoire, Speaker of the House Frank Chopp, and Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown. This link includes our own video, as well as KING 5's coverage highlighting public support for new revenues: http://www.fusewashington.org/page/content/petitionvideos/%20



WISCONSIN / Institute for One Wisconsin:

The Institute for One Wisconsin has been assisting its Communications Capacity Building Project class of 2010 providing analysis and strategic communications advice. We've got eight energetic groups participating representing constituents across Wisconsin and serving a number of traditionally-underserved communities to increase the ability of these groups to communicate with their members, the media, decision-makers and donors.

The early impact of our work in 2009 has show in the written feedback and reports the Institute has received from previous participants. These lower-capacity organizations were not only able to improve and professionalize all aspects of their communications program, but also they reported member growth of 14 percent for all of the organizations in less than one year. The Institute will continue to work with these 12 groups, as well as the enthusiastic class of 2010 to further our vision of a Wisconsin with equal economic opportunity for all.



--
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CA: Courage Campaign Institute
CO: ProgressNow Colorado Education
FL: Progress Florida Education Fund
MI: Progress Michigan Education
MN: Alliance for a Better Minnesota Education
NH: Granite State Progress Education
NV: ProgressNow Nevada Education

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OH: ProgressOhio Education
PA: KeystoneProgress Education
WA: Fuse Washington Education
WI: Institute for One Wisconsin

To unsubscribe from these updates, please click here: http://progressnow.org/unsubscribe

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From:	"Michael Morrill" <mike@keystoneprogress.org>
To:	sara@progressiveaccountability.org bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	10/21/2008 9:45:58 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Re: Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Harrisburg, PA 10/21/08

There were 60-70 protesters in Harrisburg. Mostly from building trades, Planned Parenthood, SEIU. Video later tonight at www.youtube.com/morrillmajority

Michael Morrill
Executive Director
Keystone Progress
610-568-0469-office
mike@keystoneprogress.org
www.keystoneprogress.org

From: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com [mailto:bigcampaign@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Sara DuBois
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 2:51 PM
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Harrisburg, PA 10/21/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Lisa, on the ground in Harrisburg. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights

- Continues to hit on Biden-Crisisgate-- Adds anecdote: Biden referred to how JFK was tested in Cuban missile crisis. i was involved in that, on board the USS Enterprise, we had a target. we came so close. america does not need a president who needs to be tested. i've been tested my friends
- On drilling, contrasts his approach with Obama's: we wont delay, "we wont consider," we will do it.
- Says Obama is picking his Cabinet -- Adds Barney Frank to the Obama-Pelosi-Reid triumverate of undesirables, accusing Frank of wanting to "redistribute the wealth"
- McCain continues hammering Obama for wanting to "spread the wealth" with another "phony tax cut ... government giveaway"

Harrisburg, PA: McCain Rally 10/21/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Cindy McCain intros McCain
    - TY for your kind support, generosity, your belief in my husband for all these months
    - when we decided to do this, we sat down as a fam -- it takes a fam to do this -- some of the most important reasons are b/t the mccain and palin fam, where we have 3 active duty kids serving-- jack in navy, jimmy in marine corps, and jack palin in the army -- it is b/c of those 3 men and your sons and daughters serving that i belive that my husband should be the next president -- his experience, his leadership and most of all his character, he would make the best president -- has served his country since he was 17 and since then he has always put country first [thank you john! thank you john!] -- **he has inspired our kids and so many others around the world to serve causes greater than self interest, not just put campaign first but each other first**
    - our camp stands for reform, peace and prosperity -- the only person in this race who truly knows to lead and who doesnt have to wait 60 days to learn how to do the job is john mccain
- 750 people, at capacity
- Tracker didn't see any demonstrators

Speech Highlights

TY TY now you see why they often say in AZ why isnt she the candidate? cindy's done great job for our campaign and as mother. and so proud to have sarah palin. TY Rep. Todd Platz, doing a great job as your Rep. and Sen. Jim Rhoades suffered a tragic accident (http://www.wnep.com/Global/story.asp?S=9200083) and our thoughts and prayers go out to him. id like to say how important and how happy i am to be here in PA - we need to win PA and we'll bring real change to

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DC- TY for this turnout and warmth and enthusiasm. in next 14 days we're gonna GOTV and win this. and you know, last wk it almost [yelling , McCain alaughs] it almost seemd like there were 3 candidates: obama me and JTP.

joe can claim achievement that few can top, only one to get straight answer out of obama about his plans for this country.

Now, Joe didn't ask for Senator Obama to come to his house, and he didn't ask to be famous. He certainly didn't ask for the political attacks on him from the Obama campaign. like so many americans, Joe's dream is to own a small business that will create jobs, and the attacks on him are an attack on small businesses all over the country. Small businesses employ 84 percent of Americans, and we need to support small businesses, not tax them the way obama wants to.

After months of campaign trail eloquence, we've finally learned what Senator Obama's economic goal is. As he told Joe, he wants to spread the wealth around. He believes in redistributing wealth, not in policies that grow our economy and create jobs and opportunities for all Americans. Senator Obama is more interested in controlling who gets your piece of the pie than he is in growing the pie. This explains some big problems with my opponent's claim that he will cut income taxes for 95 percent of Americans. You might ask: How do you cut income taxes for 95 percent of Americans, when more than 40 percent pay no income taxes right now? How do you reduce the number zero?

Well, that's the key to Barack Obama's whole plan: Since you can't reduce income taxes on those who pay zero, the government will write them all checks called a tax credit. And the Treasury will have to cover those checks by taxing other people, including a lot of folks just like Joe. In other words, Barack Obama's plan to raise taxes on some in order to give checks to others is not a tax cut; it's just another government giveaway. We have too much of that already.

The Obama tax increase would come at the worst possible time for America, and especially for small businesses like the one Joe dreams of owning. The small businesses Senator Obama would tax provide 16 million jobs in America. And a sudden tax hike for those businesses will kill jobs at a time when we need to be creating more jobs. I'm not going to let that happen.

America has an alternative to the phony tax cut my opponent started talking about only months ago. The McCain-Palin tax cut is the real thing. We're going to double the child deduction for every family. We will cut the capital gains tax. And we will cut business taxes to help create jobs, and keep American businesses in America.

As Joe has now reminded us all, America didn't become the greatest nation on earth by giving our money to the government to "spread the wealth around." In this country, we believe in spreading opportunity, for those who need jobs and those who create them. And that is exactly what I intend to do as President of the United States.

The next President won't have time to get used to the office. We face many challenges here at home, and many enemies abroad in this dangerous world. This weekend, Senator Biden guaranteed that if Senator Obama is elected, we will have an international crisis to test America's new President. We don't want a President who invites testing from the world at a time when our economy is in crisis and Americans are already fighting in two wars. **Biden referred to how JFK was tested in Cuban missile crisis. i was involved in that, on board the USS Enterprise, we had a target. we came so close. america does not need a president who needs to be tested. i've been tested my friends.** [USA! USA!]

What is more troubling is that Senator Biden told their campaign donors that when that crisis hits, they would have to stand with them because it wouldn't be apparent that Senator Obama would have the right response. Forget apparent. We know Senator Obama won't have the right response.

We've seen the wrong response from him over and over during this campaign. He opposed the surge strategy that is bringing us victory in Iraq and will bring us victory in Afghanistan. He said he would sit down unconditionally with the world's worst dictators. When Russia invaded Georgia, Sen. Obama said the invaded country should show restraint. He's been wrong on all of these. and btw, i will bring our troops home in honor and victory.

We cannot spend the next four years as we have spent much of the last eight: hoping for our luck to change at home and abroad. We have to act. We need a new direction, and we have to fight for it. I've been fighting for this country since I was seventeen years old, and I have the scars to prove it.

If I'm elected President, I will fight to shake up Washington and take America in a new direction from my first day in office until my last. I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it.

I'm not going to spend $750 billion dollars of your money just bailing out the Wall Street bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. I'm going to make sure we take care of the working people who were devastated by the excesses and greed of Wall Street and Washington.

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my friends, home values home values. the subprime disgrace and crisis caused this.

I have a plan to protect the value of your home and get it rising again by buying up bad mortgages and refinancing them so if your neighbor defaults he doesn't bring down the value of your house with him. we've got to have americans keep their dreams of staying in their home and owning a home.

I have a plan to let retirees and people nearing retirement keep their money in their retirement accounts longer so they can rebuild their savings.

I have a plan to hold the line on taxes and cut them to make America more competitive and create jobs here at home. Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse.

Keeping taxes low creates jobs, keeps money in your hands and strengthens our economy.

The explosion of government spending over the last eight years has put us deeper in debt to foreign countries that don't have our best interests at heart. It weakened the dollar and made everything you buy more expensive.

If I'm elected President, I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money. Senator Obama will. And he can't do that without raising your taxes or digging us further into debt. I'm going to make government live on a budget just like you do.

I will freeze government spending on all but the most important programs like defense, veterans care, Social Security and health care until we scrub every single government program and get rid of the ones that aren't working for the American people. And I will veto every single pork barrel bill Congresses passes.

If I'm elected President, I won't fine small businesses and families with children. Senator Obama will. He will force them into a new huge government run health care program, while he keeps the cost of the fine a secret until he hits you with it. I will bring down the skyrocketing cost of health care with competition and choice to lower your premiums, and make it more available to more Americans. I'll make sure you can keep the same health plan if you change jobs or leave a job to stay home.

I will provide every single American family with a $5000 refundable tax credit to help them purchase health care insurance. Workers who already have insurance from their employers will keep it and have more money to cover costs. Workers who don't have health insurance can use it to find a policy anywhere in this country to meet their basic needs.

If I'm elected President, I won't make it harder to sell our goods overseas and kill more jobs. Senator Obama will. I will open new markets to goods made in America and make sure our trade is free and fair. And I'll make sure we help workers who've lost a job that won't come back find a new one that won't go away.

Senator Obama wants to raise taxes and restrict trade. The last time America did that in a bad economy it led to the Great Depression. They say those who don't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. Well, my friends, I know my history lessons, and I won't make the mistakes Senator Obama seeks to repeat.

If I'm elected President, we're going to stop sending $700 billion to countries that don't like us very much.

in the debate we had the other night -- i think it went pretty well -- you have to admire his eloquence, but you have to listen to his words. he said he would quote "consider" offshore drilling. consider. **we wont delay, wont consider, we will do it.** [drill baby drill!] he'll argue to delay drilling for more oil and gas and against building new nuclear power plants in America. If I am president, we will start new drilling now. We will invest in all energy alternatives -- nuclear, wind, solar, and tide. We will encourage the manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric automobiles. **We will invest in clean coal technology that can turn the economy of this state around**. USA is sitting on world's largest supply of coal. Clean coal tech will reduce greenhouse emissions, itll save money. We will lower the cost of energy within months, and we will create millions of new jobs.

Let me give you the state of the race today. We have 14 days to go. We're a few points down. The national media has written us off.

Just the other day, Senator **Obama's campaign announced that he is choosing his cabinet.** He's measuring the drapes, and planning with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid to raise taxes, increase spending. Just last night, **Barney Frank [boos], one of the most powerful members of Congress, said guess what, he wants to raise taxes and redistribute the wealth. and pelosi and reid want to concede defeat in Iraq**, i will never do that. But they forgot to let you decide. My

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friends, as we've said several times in the past, we've got them just where we want them.

What America needs in this hour is a fighter; someone who puts all his cards on the table and trusts the judgment of the American people. I have fought for you most of my life. There are other ways to love this country, but I've never been the kind to do it from the sidelines.

I know you're worried. America is a great country, but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future. Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

I'm an American. And I choose to fight. Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight.

Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for our children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.

TY and god bless!

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/16/2014 6:45:18 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday October 16, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday October 16, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton empowered women to drive agricultural growth via @FeedtheFuture #RuralWomen #HRC365 http://www.feedthefuture.gov/about [10/15/14, 4:54 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Associated Press, via WXYZ Detroit: "Hillary Clinton to campaign for Michigan Democrats Schauer & Peters during Oakland University visit"

"Michigan Democrats hope to make the most of Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit by dispatching her to a bellwether county to keep an open Senate seat and upend the state's Republican governor."

Bloomberg: "Hollywood McCain Is Ready For Hillary Clinton"

"'Game Change' actress Sandy Bainum wrote a $25,000 check to the Ready for Hillary PAC, one of the 38,000 donors who are financing the group that is laying the foundation for Clinton to run for president in 2016."

AFP, via Business Insider: "John Kerry's Plane Just Broke Down ... Again"

"Since taking up his post in February 2013, Kerry has flown some 566,000 miles (911,000 kilometres) around the globe and visited 55 countries -- many of them multiple times -- spending some 249 days on the road. He's well on his way to overtaking his predecessor Hillary Clinton who flew

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Time: "White House Works To Get Poor Parents to Speak More to Kids"

"A little over a year ago, Too Small to Fail was started with the goal of getting more parents talking, singing, and reading to their kids starting from birth. Studies have shown children born to higher-income families are exposed to some 30 million more words than their counterparts on welfare before the reach kindergarten."

Articles:

Associated Press, via WXYZ Detroit: "Hillary Clinton to campaign for Michigan Democrats Schauer & Peters during Oakland University visit"

[No Writer Mentioned]

October 16, 2014, 8:45 a.m. EDT

Michigan Democrats hope to make the most of Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit by dispatching her to a bellwether county to keep an open Senate seat and upend the state's Republican governor.

Clinton on Thursday will campaign for Senate candidate Gary Peters and gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer in Oakland County in suburban Detroit. It's not only an attempt to excite the base but also to persuade middle-of-the-road voters in the swing county.

Gov. Rick Snyder won nearly 100,000 more votes there in 2010 than his opponent. But two years later President Barack Obama had a 52,000-vote advantage in the county, which benefited from the federal government's rescue of the auto industry.

Clinton supported the bailout as a senator, and the loans remain a political issue in Michigan even five years later.

Bloomberg: "Hollywood McCain Is Ready For Hillary Clinton"

By Annie Linskey and Greg Giroux

October 16, 2014, 6:34 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Actress Sandy Bainum gives to Ready For Hillary as Republican Ben Carson draws more quarterly cash for the 2016 draft.

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Hillary Clinton just got a vote of support from Cindy McCain — the fictional version as played in a movie recounting the 2008 presidential campaign.

"Game Change" actress Sandy Bainum wrote a $25,000 check to the Ready for Hillary PAC, one of the 38,000 donors who are financing the group that is laying the foundation for Clinton to run for president in 2016. Others include ESPN executive Marie Donoghue, who cut a check for $25,000; investment banker Roger Altman, who gave $20,000; and former diplomat Stuart Eizenstat, who donated $1,000.

The fundraising factoids started rolling in Wednesday as political committees large and small filed disclosure reports to the Federal Election Commission that were due at midnight. By far, the most watched group is Ready For Hillary. It's organized volunteers to cheer for the potential candidate at multiple public events from Iowa to Kentucky and has a bus with "Ready for Hillary" emblazoned on the side.

But it's not the best-funded for the 2014 third quarter. A group trying to convince retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, a Republican, to run for president raised $3.3 million from July through September — the most of any contender from either party.

Ready for Hillary collected $2 million. That's a slowdown in both cash flow and donors from the group's last quarter, when it collected $2.5 million from 43,000 people. The group has a self-imposed cap of $25,000. Ninety-eight percent of the checks were for amounts less than $100, according to spokesman Seth Bringman, which means the super-PAC can continue to tap those supporters in coming fundraising pitches.

It's early to be looking at 2016 cash, though how prospective candidates and groups raise and spend money can be telling. Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, for example, spread his cash around to Republican candidates, while Rick Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, hasn't done much at all.

Here's a look at some of the groups likely to be active as 2016 presidential season approaches.

* America Rising: Republicans are far from sorting out their field, but they do have an opposition research team digging up nuggets that Democrats would prefer stay buried. The group's super-PAC raised $190,000 this quarter — mostly from a $100,000 contribution from Restore Our Future, the super-PAC that supported Republican Mitt Romney's presidential bid in 2012.

* Martin O'Malley: Democrat O'Malley, Maryland's soon to be ex-governor, raised about $710,000 during the quarter when the receipts from his two political organizations are combined. Checks included $25,000 from Florida Crystals Corporation, a West Palm Beach sugar company that is closely held. He also rounded up a $10,000 gift from Richard Holland of Omaha, Neb. — one of Warren Buffett's early investors. Holland was in the front row at a recent state party fundraiser that O'Malley headlined in July and gushed about how much he enjoyed the governor's speech as he left the event.

* Elizabeth Warren: Senator Warren of Massachusetts has disavowed the super-PAC that is pushing her to run for president in 2016 and it shows: The Ready For Warren PAC brought in $60,000 this quarter, and that includes in-kind donations. The biggest backer so far is Daniel Buk, a Washington political consultant who gave $25,000 to the effort. Warren's leadership committee, PAC for a Level Playing Field, raised $557,000 in the third quarter and donated $146,400 to Democratic candidates and committees where Senate elections could determine partisan control of the chamber after the Nov. 4 midterm elections.

* Ben Carson: The committee promoting Carson, a Republican doctor, to run for president raised an eye-popping $3.3 million in the third quarter — besting Ready for Hillary for a second quarter in a row. The retired neurosurgeon is a conservative darling taking top spots in polls, as the Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa Poll showed this week and colleague Phil Mattingly recently reported. Much of the cash came from donors who gave less than $200. The larger chunks of change included $10,000 from fellow doctor Robert G. Burlingame from Texas and $30,000 from Harry Bettis, an Idaho rancher.

* Marco Rubio: Senator Marco Rubio raised almost $1.5 million for his Rubio Victory Committee. Notable contributions include $1,000 from the Ohio Gun Collectors Association, which is far afield from his Florida constituency but in a prime swing presidential state.

* Mike Huckabee: The Huck-PAC saw nearly $1 million in contributions this quarter, from mostly small donors giving hundreds of dollars. The former Arkansas governor was fairly generous with his committee's cash, donating $1,000 to Republican Mike Rounds of South Dakota, who is locked in an unexpectedly tight Senate contest. Other top-tier Senate races where he contributed to the Republican contender include Kansas, Georgia, Alaska and North Carolina.

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* Rand Paul: Just under $500,000 in checks came in the door for Paul's Kentucky's Victory Fund. That includes $5,000 from Goldman Sachs' political action committee and $5,000 from Koch Industries. Straddling Wall Street and the Tea Party base is a strategic aim that could set Paul apart from what's shaping up to be a crowded primary field.

* Rick Perry: Texas Governor Perry's federal PAC raised $181,000 from donors including Shaun McCutcheon, an Alabama businessman who was on the winning side of a Supreme Court campaign-finance case earlier this year. RickPAC, which Perry formed in August, donated to 13 Iowa Republican candidates, including Joni Ernst, a state senator in a close race with Democratic Representative Bruce Braley for the U.S. Senate seat of retiring Democrat Tom Harkin. Iowa's caucuses traditionally kick off the presidential nominating contests.

* Rick Santorum: Santorum's federal committee pulled in about $15,000 this quarter — entirely from renting out his list of political supporters.

AFP, via Business Insider: "John Kerry's Plane Just Broke Down ... Again"

[No Writer Mentioned]

October 16, 2014, 4:35 a.m. EDT

Globe-trotting top US diplomat John Kerry was left hoofing it back on a commercial flight from Vienna Thursday, after his ageing Air Force plane broke down for the fourth time this year.

After marathon talks on Iran's nuclear programme in the Austrian capital Wednesday, Kerry's party of more than 40 State Department staff and journalists were checking out of their hotel rooms before dawn Thursday when the news came that his Boeing 757 needed unspecified repairs -- again.

Since taking up his post in February 2013, Kerry has flown some 566,000 miles (911,000 kilometres) around the globe and visited 55 countries -- many of them multiple times -- spending some 249 days on the road.

He's well on his way to overtaking his predecessor Hillary Clinton who flew just short of a million miles in her four years in office, visiting a record 112 countries.

But despite a normally well-planned, slick logistical operation to move Kerry and his posse of staff, security agents and the travelling press as he jumps from country to country, he has been beset this year by a frustrating number of glitches.

In August, the US secretary of state was forced to take a commercial nine-hour flight back to Washington from Hawaii when the plane suffered electrical problems after a trip which had seen him literally fly around the globe.

Earlier this year, a new transponder had to be flown from the United States to Switzerland when in the middle of international talks on the Syrian conflict in January his aircraft was grounded.

And in London in March, a similar mechanical problem was hastily fixed -- after a few nerve-wrecking hours which saw his party anxiously checking for flights home.

Kerry was Thursday flying back from a whirlwind six-day trip which saw him first travel to Cairo for an international donor's conference for Gaza, and then head to Paris for talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

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He had arrived in Vienna early Wednesday and went straight into talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and EU foreign policy chief Cathy Ashton on Iran's nuclear programme.

Zarif chuckled Thursday when he heard Kerry's plane was grounded due to apparent mechanical issues. "So it is not just our planes," he told the online news site al-Monitor.

Time: "White House Works To Get Poor Parents to Speak More to Kids"

By Maya Rhodan

October 16, 2014, 12:11 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] By reading and talking to babies from birth, research has shown kids can enter school better prepared for success

At UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, a new program is about to get underway that serves a purpose near to both the Obama White House and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton care a great deal about.

Benioff is one of two locations where Too Small to Fail, a joint venture between the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation and Next Generation, is launching a pilot program that will expand their efforts to close the so-called word gap. A little over a year ago, Too Small to Fail was started with the goal of getting more parents talking, singing, and reading to their kids starting from birth. Studies have shown children born to higher-income families are exposed to some 30 million more words than their counterparts on welfare before the reach kindergarten.

About 73% of the families served by Benioff Children's Hospital utilize Medicaid, says the hospital's President and CEO Dr. Bert Lubin, making it the ideal setting to test the benefits of providing tools and support to families and communities that encourage them to interact with their babies. "It's such a simple thing," Lubin says . "The parents who are not talking, singing and reading. They love their children, but they don't know that not doing it is something that really permanently effects the child."

On Thursday, representatives from the Oakland program will be at the White House sharing their stories with other community leaders, including the Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island where a Bloomberg Philanthropies funded program that records and tracks the words spoken to babies has been underway for a little over a year. Too Small is joining with the White House to use the nation's most powerful bully pulpit to spread the message that learning is important and support local communities working to get their children and babies best prepared for school.

The White House will announce an investment to fund a research coalition to build more research around the word gap. The federal government will also be working with the tech community to get their input in the effort to close the word gap. Some apps, like the Text4Baby mobile application, are already in use, helping provide mothers with information on the development of their child throughout pregnancy and infancy.

Over the next year at Benioff and around Oakland, parents will receive books, clothing and reading materials from birth to remind them to get chatty with their bundles of joy. They'll be reminded of the benefits of speaking to their kids on billboards and in advertisements, at community-based programs and in churches. The hospital also plans to track and record the development of babies who are being interacted with regularly to gauge the benefits and encourage other cities to do the same. "The reality is if we address this word gap, everyone is more likely to stay in school, get a job afterwards and contribute to society," Lubin says. "The investment is small in terms of the impact it will have on our society."

Almost half of infants and toddlers come from low-income families and about 25% live in poverty, according to the National Center for Infants and Toddlers. Though having enough food and shelter is extremely important to a child's health, cognitive development is equally important. Families play a pivotal role in children's early development, but only about 48% of parents read to their kids every day. That lack of interaction is detrimental to children who's way out of poverty is through school. According to research from Rice University, children from low income families heard about 30 million fewer words by age 4 than their high income peers. Kids from working class families heard about 15 million fewer.

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“This word gap turns into an achievement gap once children reach school,” says Ann O’Leary, the director of the children and families program at Next Generation.

Too Small to Fail’s first year was spent increasing public awareness on the importance of closing the word gap. A partnership with Univision ensured ads appeared in Spanish and English. The topic came up on television shows including The Fosters and Orange is the New Black—this year, the issue is expected to come up on more shows including Modern Family and Criminal Minds. The American Academy of Pediatrics adopted a policy message that speaks to the importance of early literacy. And last March, Tulsa became the first city to launch a partnership with Too Small to Fail, similar to what’s happening in Oakland.

O’Leary says reading and speaking to children should be as important as brushing their teeth.“When you imagine that this is not an optional activity, but that this is a must-do activity it becomes kind of shocking that only half of families are doing this,” O’Leary says. “What if half were only brushing their teeth? We think it’s just as urgent to get this information out. These are not optional activities.”

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From: David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/10/2008 8:09:45 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Gas Prices: Obama's Plan for Relief, McCain/GOP Rake in $5 mil from Big Oil

This went out nationally this morning, with localized versions being distributed in our target states (NH, PA, OH, MN, WI, NM, NV, OR, CO)

(Note, the McCain fundraising numbers are slightly different than what has been used recently because we're highlighting the dramatic increase in donations this year.)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 10, 2008
CONTACT: Josh Dorner, 202.675.2384
David Willett, 202.675.6698

Big Oil Rakes In $610 In Profits For Each American Driver

Obama Offers Plan for Real Relief from Pain at the Pump, Energy Independence;

McCain, 'Grand Oil Party' Receive Over $5 Million from Oil Industry, Propose More of the Same

Washington, D.C.----Newly released campaign finance records coupled with John McCain's misguided and dangerous energy proposals demonstrate that McCain and his allies in Congress are only interested in more of the same: more drilling; more expensive, dirty, and dangerous nuclear power; and more schemes designed to pad Big Oil's bottom line while denying consumers real relief at the pump. Meanwhile, American families are suffering as gas prices--and oil company profits--surge to new records.

"Having Big Oil's best friends in the White House has crippled our economy and hardworking Americans are suffering," said Cathy Duvall, Sierra Club National Political Director. "Barack Obama went to Detroit and told the automakers what they needed to hear--that they must make cars that get better gas mileage; John McCain went straight to Houston and told the oil industry what it wanted to hear--that he strongly supported their desire to begin the wholesale, unfettered 'exploitation' of our coasts. It's clear that America simply cannot afford another president from the 'Grand Oil Party.'"

Big Oil Raking in Record Profits at the Expense of American Drivers

An analysis of the record--breaking 2007 profits of just the five biggest

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oil companies--ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, Shell, and ConocoPhillips--shows that they made an astonishing $123,300,000,000 last year alone. With approximately 202 million American drivers on the road, that means Big Oil is raking in about $610 in profits for each and every driver. As oil and gas prices continue to surge, the amount every driver is paying to pad Big Oil's bottom line will only keep increasing.

"Big Oil has American consumers over a barrel," said Duvall. "We literally cannot afford to continue the failed policies of the Bush administration, but it seems unlikely that a campaign full of oil industry lobbyists and awash in millions made at the expense of American consumers is going to stand up to Big Oil and deliver the kind of change we need. By contrast, Barack Obama has stood up to special interests and has a plan to help Americans get through today's crisis, while putting us on the path to energy independence in order to rid us of Big Oil's chokehold once and for all."

New Campaign Finance Reports Show Big Oil Has Funneled over $5 million to McCain and the Republican Party

Campaign finance reports filed June 30, 2008 and analyzed by the non--partisan Center for Responsive Politics show that John McCain has received $1,001,668 from the oil and gas industry, while the Republican Party has separately raked in an astonishing $4,002,662. These new reports show that McCain hauled in nearly $210,000 from the industry in the month of June alone--a month in which he flip--flopped on offshore drilling and held numerous fundraisers in Big Oil's backyard.

Additional analysis of past campaign records by Campaign Money Watch underscores McCain and Big Oil's mutual embrace. From 1989--2006, McCain received a total of $305,277 from oil and gas interests----despite running for president in 2000 and occupying the high--profile position of Senate Commerce Committee Chairman. Big Oil has already poured nearly three times that much into his campaign in just the past few months alone.

"It looks like the Big Oil fat cats in Texas gave John McCain more than just a couple standing ovations after he flip--flopped on offshore drilling and gave them exactly what they wanted," noted Duvall. "And is it just a coincidence that the Republican Party hauled in over $4 million from Big Oil and then turned around and bought $3.4 million worth of false and misleading attack ads riddled with blatant lies about Barack Obama's energy plan?"

Lobbying disclosure forms also indicate that at least 22 lobbyists who lobby on behalf of some of the biggest oil companies in the world are involved in John McCain's campaign.

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John McCain v. Barack Obama on Gas Prices and Breaking Big Oil's Chokehold on America

Obama's Plan for Real Short--Term Relief v. John McCain's Gas Tax Gimmick
Obama wants a second round of stimulus checks for consumers and an additional $1000 tax cut for working and middle--class families to offer Americans short--term relief from crippling energy prices and the skyrocketing cost of food and other goods. Obama would pay for this tax credit by repealing billions in taxpayer--funded giveaways to Big Oil and by imposing a windfall profits tax on oil companies that fail to invest their excess profits in clean energy. (Source: Bloomberg, 05/01/2008)
John McCain has proposed a gimmick: a so--called gas tax holiday that would do absolutely nothing to lower prices at the pump, but would pad Big Oil's bottom line with an extra 18 cents a gallon and potentially bankrupt the highway trust fund at a time when our infrastructure is already crumbling. His misguided plan has been denounced by over 200 leading economists--including 4 Nobel Prize winners. (Source: Bloomberg News, 05/05/2008)

Obama's Plan for 50 MPG Cars v. John McCain's $300 Million Giveaway Gimmick
Obama knows that the long--term solution to high gas prices is making sure we have cars that get better gas mileage. He fought hard to pass the first increase in fuel economy in more than 30 years. Now he wants to go further and give American automakers the tools they need to double fuel economy to 50 miles per gallon. (Source: www.barackobama.com/issues/energy)
John McCain didn't even bother to show up for any votes on last year's landmark fuel economy/energy bill. And he has had a spotty record on the issue in the past. Instead of providing the real leadership we need right now and putting forth a real plan, McCain proposed a $300 million gimmicky giveaway to grab headlines. (Sources: Washington Post, 05/13/2008; New York Times, 05/12/2008; 2007 Senates Votes #208, #225, #226, #416, #425, #430; Detroit Free Press, 07/09/2008)

Obama's Plan on Speculators v. McCain's Empty Rhetoric
Obama knows that Wall Street speculators are gaming the system and running up the price of oil at the expense of hardworking American consumers. He supports the Consumer--First Energy Act of 2008 (S.3044), which would crack down on speculators and put in place other measures to protect consumers, make sure oil companies are paying their fair share on their record profits, and encourage the development of renewable energy. (Source: Associated Press, 06/10/2008)
John McCain says he wants to take on speculators, but has refused to support the Consumer--First Act. One of the biggest loopholes exploited by speculators--the so--called "Enron Loophole"--was put into law by one of McCain's closest campaign advisers, former Senator Phil Gramm, who also blocked efforts to close the loophole in 2002. (Sources: Associated Press, 06/10/2008; Dallas Morning News, 06/29/2008)

Obama's Plan to Make Big Oil Pay Its Fair Share v. McCain's Texas--Sized Tax Cut for Big Oil
Obama wants to end the billions in subsidies and giveaways that the oil

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industry receives each year--at taxpayer expense. He also wants to make sure Big Oil is paying its fair share on its tens of billions in record profits. He would impose a windfall profits tax on oil companies that fail to invest their excess profits in the clean energy technologies we need to end our addiction to oil and fight global warming. (Source: Reuters, 06/09/2008)
John McCain has mocked Obama over his proposal for a windfall profits tax--even though McCain himself said he was open to the idea just two months ago. Meanwhile, he has proposed a tax plan that would offer a $3.8 BILLION tax cut to the five largest American oil companies alone. This plan would cost a stunning $1.7 trillion overall and put any hope of balancing the budget well out of reach. (Sources: New York Times, 06/17/2008; Grist, 05/16/2008; Center for American Progress Action, 05/27/2008, http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2008/pdf/oil_tax.pdf)

Offshore Drilling Reality v. Rhetoric
John McCain flip--flopped on offshore drilling and gave the oil industry exactly what it's wanted for 30 years. (Source: Politico, 06/18/2008)
McCain claims that the Bush--McCain drilling plan would offer Americans "psychological" relief. (Source: ABC News, 06/24/2008)
Even the Bush Administration admits that drilling offshore won't do anything to lower gas prices today, tomorrow, or even a decade from now. (Source: Energy Information Administration)
Oil companies currently hold leases on 41,000,000 acres offshore, but a mere 8,123,000 of those acres are actually in production. (Source: House Natural Resources Committee)
More than 80 percent of the total oil available offshore is in areas that are already open to leasing. (Source: House Natural Resources Committee)

*Profits per driver were calculated using 2006 figures (the most recent available) for the number of licensed drivers in each state and the 2007 profit figures for the five largest oil companies: ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, and Shell.

Paid for by the Sierra Club Political Committee, http://www.sierraclub.org/, and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

# # #

---------- Forwarded by Josh Dorner/Sierraclub on 07/10/2008 10:07 AM ----------

"Josh Dorner,

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Sierra Club"
<josh.dorner@sier To
raclub.org> josh.dorner@sierraclub.org
cc
07/10/2008 09:58
AM Subject
Gas Prices: Obama's Plan for
Relief, McCain/GOP Rake in $5 mil
Please respond to from Big Oil
"Josh Dorner,
Sierra Club"
<josh.dorner@sier
raclub.org>

Having trouble receiving our e--mail? Try adding us (
sierra.news@sierraclub.org) to your Address Book.

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Immediate Release

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 10, 2008 (
E CONTACT: Josh Dorner, 202.675.2384 E
m David Willett, 202.675.6698 m
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d Obama Offers Plan for Real Relief from Pain at the Pump, Energy d
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d McCain, 'Grand Oil Party' Receive Over $5 Million from Oil d
i Industry, Propose More of the Same i
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An analysis of the record--breaking 2007 profits of just the five biggest oil companies--ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, Shell, and ConocoPhillips--shows that they made an astonishing $123,300,000,000 last year alone. With approximately 202 million American drivers on the road, that means Big Oil is raking in about $610 in profits for each and every driver. As oil and gas prices continue to surge, the amount every driver is paying to pad Big Oil's bottom line will only keep increasing.

"Big Oil has American consumers over a barrel," said Duvall. "We literally cannot afford to continue the failed policies of the Bush administration, but it seems unlikely that a campaign full of oil industry lobbyists and awash in millions made at the expense of American consumers is going to stand up to Big Oil and deliver the kind of change we need. By contrast, Barack Obama has stood up to special interests and has a plan to help Americans get through today's crisis, while putting us on the path to energy independence in order to rid us of Big Oil's chokehold once and for all."

New Campaign Finance Reports Show Big Oil Has Funneled over $5 million to McCain and the Republican Party

Campaign finance reports filed June 30, 2008 and analyzed by the non--partisan Center for Responsive Politics show that John McCain has received $1,001,668 from the oil and gas industry, while the Republican Party has separately raked in an astonishing $4,002,662. These new reports show that McCain hauled in nearly $210,000 from the industry in the month of June alone--a month in which he flip--flopped on offshore drilling and held numerous fundraisers in Big Oil's backyard.

Additional analysis of past campaign records by Campaign Money Watch underscores McCain and Big Oil's mutual embrace. From 1989--2006, McCain received a total of $305,277 from oil and gas interests----despite running for president in 2000 and occupying the high--profile position of Senate Commerce Committee Chairman. Big Oil has already poured nearly three times that much into his campaign in just the past few months alone.

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"It looks like the Big Oil fat cats in Texas gave John McCain more than just a couple standing ovations after he flip--flopped on offshore drilling and gave them exactly what they wanted," noted Duvall. "And is it just a coincidence that the Republican Party hauled in over $4 million from Big Oil and then turned around and bought $3.4 million worth of false and misleading attack ads riddled with blatant lies about Barack Obama's energy plan?"

Lobbying disclosure forms also indicate that at least 22 lobbyists who lobby on behalf of some of the biggest oil companies in the world are involved in John McCain's campaign.

John McCain v. Barack Obama on Gas Prices and Breaking Big Oil's Chokehold on America

Obama's Plan for Real Short--Term Relief v. John McCain's Gas Tax Gimmick
Obama wants a second round of stimulus checks for consumers and an additional $1000 tax cut for working and middle--class families to offer Americans short--term relief from crippling energy prices and the skyrocketing cost of food and other goods. Obama would pay for this tax credit by repealing billions in taxpayer--funded giveaways to Big Oil and by imposing a windfall profits tax on oil companies that fail to invest their excess profits in clean energy. (Source: Bloomberg, 05/01/2008)
John McCain has proposed a gimmick: a so--called gas tax holiday that would do absolutely nothing to lower prices at the pump, but would pad Big Oil's bottom line with an extra 18 cents a gallon and potentially bankrupt the highway trust fund at a time when our infrastructure is already crumbling. His misguided plan has been denounced by over 200 leading economists--including 4 Nobel Prize winners. (Source: Bloomberg News, 05/05/2008)

Obama's Plan for 50 MPG Cars v. John McCain's $300 Million Giveaway Gimmick
Obama knows that the long--term solution to high gas prices is making sure we have cars that get better gas mileage. He fought hard to pass the first increase in fuel economy in more than 30 years. Now he wants to go further and give American automakers the tools they need to double fuel economy to 50 miles per gallon. (Source: www.barackobama.com/issues/energy)
John McCain didn't even bother to show up for any votes on last year's landmark fuel economy/energy bill. And he has had a spotty record on the issue in the past. Instead of providing the real leadership we need right now and putting forth a real plan, McCain proposed a $300 million gimmicky giveaway to grab headlines. (Sources: Washington

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Post, 05/13/2008; New York Times, 05/12/2008; 2007 Senates Votes #208, #225, #226, #416, #425, #430; Detroit Free Press, 07/09/2008)

Obama's Plan on Speculators v. McCain's Empty Rhetoric
Obama knows that Wall Street speculators are gaming the system and running up the price of oil at the expense of hardworking American consumers. He supports the Consumer--First Energy Act of 2008 (S.3044), which would crack down on speculators and put in place other measures to protect consumers, make sure oil companies are paying their fair share on their record profits, and encourage the development of renewable energy. (Source: Associated Press, 06/10/2008)
John McCain says he wants to take on speculators, but has refused to support the Consumer--First Act. One of the biggest loopholes exploited by speculators--the so--called "Enron Loophole"--was put into law by one of McCain's closest campaign advisers, former Senator Phil Gramm, who also blocked efforts to close the loophole in 2002. (Sources: Associated Press, 06/10/2008; Dallas Morning News, 06/29/2008)

Obama's Plan to Make Big Oil Pay Its Fair Share v. McCain's Texas--Sized Tax Cut for Big Oil
Obama wants to end the billions in subsidies and giveaways that the oil industry receives each year--at taxpayer expense. He also wants to make sure Big Oil is paying its fair share on its tens of billions in record profits. He would impose a windfall profits tax on oil companies that fail to invest their excess profits in the clean energy technologies we need to end our addiction to oil and fight global warming. (Source: Reuters, 06/09/2008)
John McCain has mocked Obama over his proposal for a windfall profits tax--even though McCain himself said he was open to the idea just two months ago. Meanwhile, he has proposed a tax plan that would offer a $3.8 BILLION tax cut to the five largest American oil companies alone. This plan would cost a stunning $1.7 trillion overall and put any hope of balancing the budget well out of reach. (Sources: New York Times, 06/17/2008; Grist, 05/16/2008; Center for American Progress Action, 05/27/2008, http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2008/pdf/oil_tax.pdf)

Offshore Drilling Reality v. Rhetoric
John McCain flip--flopped on offshore drilling and gave the oil industry exactly what it's wanted for 30 years. (Source: Politico, 06/18/2008)
McCain claims that the Bush--McCain drilling plan would offer Americans "psychological" relief. (Source: ABC News, 06/24/2008)
Even the Bush Administration admits that drilling offshore won't do anything to lower gas prices today, tomorrow, or

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even a decade from now. (Source: Energy Information Administration)
Oil companies currently hold leases on 41,000,000 acres offshore, but a mere 8,123,000 of those acres are actually in production. (Source: House Natural Resources Committee)
More than 80 percent of the total oil available offshore is in areas that are already open to leasing. (Source: House Natural Resources Committee)

*Profits per driver were calculated using 2006 figures (the most recent available) for the number of licensed drivers in each state and the 2007 profit figures for the five largest oil companies: ExxonMobil, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, and Shell.

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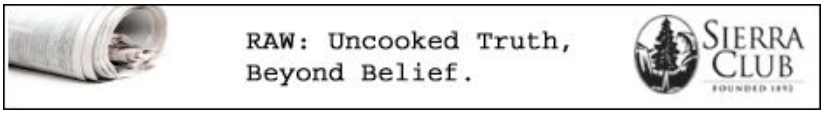
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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/14/2014 8:06:51 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday October 14, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday October 14, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: #ICYMI @GGPotter is proud to have @HillaryClinton at UNLV via @ElkoDaily http://elkodaily.com/09/commentary-proud-to-have-hillary-clinton-at-unlv/article_c5a48f1d-9ee8-58a5-bef1-8b126969ebdc.html … [10/13/14, 5:41 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton "has done so much more to promote education than just raise money… She's... made a real difference." -Gregg Potter [10/13/14, 3:43 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: UNLV grad: "Hillary Clinton… has spent her entire career increasing educational opportunities for so many people, including me." @ElkoDaily [10/13/14, 3:38 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Commentary: Proud to have Hillary Clinton at UNLV via @ElkoDaily http://elkodaily.com/09/commentary-proud-to-have-hillary-clinton-at-unlv/article_c5a48f1d-9ee8-58a5-bef1-8b126969ebdc.html … [10/13/14, 3:34 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Huffington Post opinion: Peter D. Rosenstein: "Hillary Clinton is Right; Every Child must be Considered 'Too Small to Fail'"

"Ensuring that children do well is the goal of a new Clinton Foundation initiative begun by Hillary Clinton."

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Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "Christie, Clinton top 2016 coverage"

"Hillary Clinton and Chris Christie have received more newspaper coverage than any other potential 2016 presidential candidate so far this year, a new Pew report found."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Hillary Clinton's best campaign surrogate is barely a month old"

"Politicians show off their kids and their families all the time, mostly as a way to telegraph all- American normality. Clinton is doing something different. She is using Charlotte as a kind of mirror to both recognize her own privilege and argue against it."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton: Putin Must Be Kept Contained"

"In a speech Monday night in Las Vegas, Mrs. Clinton depicted Russian President Vladimir Putin as a mortal threat to sovereign European countries and U.S. interests. She called for a sustained commitment to keep him contained."

Washington Post blog: All Opinions Are Local: "Tim Kaine probably is at the top of everyone's VP list"

"The political bottom line: Kaine's the right balance for her [Sec. Clinton] should she win the 2016 presidential nomination."

Yahoo: "In Iowa, Ready for Hillary builds a list and hopes for the best"

"So why is Ready for Hillary hard at work in Iowa — and so far in advance of the caucuses — if Clinton did so well here in 2008? There are a few reasons, her supporters say."

Associated Press: "Arkansas Democrats calling, again, on Bill Clinton"

"Democrats announced Tuesday that former President Bill Clinton will headline rallies this weekend in several Arkansas cities. Most of his stops will be in the 4th District, where one of his former Cabinet officials is running for Congress."

Articles:

Huffington Post opinion: Peter D. Rosenstein: "Hillary Clinton is Right; Every Child must be Considered 'Too Small to Fail'"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Peter D. Rosenstein

October 14, 2014, 1:15 p.m. EDT

In a recent Washington Post article it was reported that the federal Healthy Start program was changing and becoming more of a competitive grant program. That would be totally counter-productive to the stated goals of the program. Rather than cutting it this program should be expanded to include even more children and focus on them from birth to five.

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) website "The Healthy Start program works to prevent infant mortality in 87 communities with infant mortality rates at least 1.5 times the national average and high rates of low birth weight, preterm birth, maternal mortality and maternal morbidity (serious medical conditions resulting from or aggravated by pregnancy and delivery). Healthy Start communities are some of our nation's poorest and Healthy Start families frequently struggle to meet their most basic needs. Healthy Start reaches out to pregnant women and new mothers and connects them with the health care and other resources they need to nurture their children."

The benefits of this program have been seen in the District of Columbia, a city of both rich and poor. There are parents who can afford the best for their children and don't need help and parents who desperately need help so their children can grow up healthy with the opportunity to reach their full potential. Both sets of parents want the best for their children but one group either doesn't have the knowledge or the resources, or both, to do what is needed. The Healthy Start program is making a difference.

The Mayor of the D.C. recently announced the District's partnership in a Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) program called Stronger2gether. It is a public-private partnership with over 40 CGI partners working to improve maternal and child-health outcomes. According to the Mayor "Stronger2gether is working to reduce infant mortality utilizing innovative analytics, best clinical practices and the mobilization of community partners. The idea is to create a culture of health and help babies get to their first birthday healthy and ready to thrive." One must question why when CGI and its 40 partners recognize the importance of such a program the federal government is cutting back theirs.

Our priorities as a nation must include a focus on children and their quality of life from birth to age five. We need to not only keep children alive but ensure that with a combination of nature and nurture they thrive.

Ensuring that children do well is the goal of a new Clinton Foundation initiative begun by Hillary Clinton. The foundation in partnership with Next Generation began a project called Too Small to Fail. Its stated goal is, "to help parents, caregivers, communities and businesses take meaningful, evidence-based actions that will improve the health and well-being of America's youngest children, age zero to five, and prepare them to succeed in the 21st century."

According to its materials the Too Small to Fail project, which builds on the work for children that has been the hallmark of Hillary Clinton's career, it is based on the fact that, "Research on the brain informs us that the most important time in building a person's capacity to learn and understand is between the ages of zero to five. That is when with appropriate stimulation a child's brain grows the fastest and synapses connect. It is the time when every sound, every sight, every touch, and every spoken word get gathered together and filed away to be referenced and built upon with every interaction as the brain develops. It is during these first few years of life that we learn language, important social and emotional skills, critical thinking, and how to focus on tasks at hand."

If we strengthen our focus on infants and young children we will accomplish what has been the elusive holy grail of the education system; doing away with the achievement gap. We can ensure every child comes to school equally ready to learn. While Too Small to Fail is developing a public action campaign and testing it out in a number of communities, others need not wait to adopt this idea. One option is to push for expanding Healthy Start. We should provide for each child age zero to five who doesn't have someone at home who can do it; a mentor who will talk to, read to, sing to, and play music for them.

We need to model this program on the idea some attribute to an old African proverb, and which Hillary used as the title for her book, 'It Takes a Village'. We must involve the whole community, including the faith community, so that each child has at least one person able to commit the quality time it will take to make a difference in their lives from zero to five. We must insist that government not shirk what should be its responsibility and provide the funding for our children's future when others either can't or won't.

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Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "Christie, Clinton top 2016 coverage"

By Hadas Gold

October 14, 2014, 11:11 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton and Chris Christie have received more newspaper coverage than any other potential 2016 presidential candidate so far this year, a new Pew report found.

In 15 top U.S. newspapers from Jan. 1 to Sept. 27, 2014, the New Jersey governor and former Secretary of State were each the subject of 82 stories focused on the 2016 campaign. On the Republican side, Mitt Romney came in second for coverage with 74 stories. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is a trailing second for Democrats, with just 22 stories.

Overall, Pew found that more stories focused on potential Republican candidates than Democratic ones, 202 to 115 stories respectively.

And, Pew found that there's more coverage two years before the 2016 election as there was two years ahead of the 2012 and 2008 election. In the first nine months of 2014, there have been 541 newspaper stories written about the 2016 presidential campaign compared to 271 in 2010, and 460 in 2006. The 2010 decrease is expected since President Barack Obama did not have a primary challenger. Pew credits the uptick in 2014 and focus on Christie to the "Bridgegate" scandal that dominated media earlier this year.

In the same study last year the coverage focused on Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Christie, while Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden dominated on the Democratic side.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Hillary Clinton's best campaign surrogate is barely a month old"

By Nia-Malika Henderson

October 14, 2014, 12:06 p.m. EDT

The prospect of Grandmother Hillary Clinton offered so many opportunities for political reporters and pundits to chew over so very many things.

How would Clinton weigh being a grandmother against being president? Could she in fact do both, or would the pull of knitting booties just be too strong?

Would the whole experience and the grandbaby anecdotes "humanize her"?

What would be the most politically beneficial name?

If she had a girl, what would that mean?

And then there was that question about what little Charlotte would call her grandmother. Nana Secretary was one guess, with a request for readers to offer more suggestions. (How about let's not and say we did?)

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Just in case you are wondering:

Aides to Hillary Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea Clinton, declined to answer what Charlotte will call her maternal grandmother. And three people close to Hillary Clinton said they couldn't pry an answer out of her when they asked.

The overarching question was, as always, how Charlotte would fit into the Clinton narrative. That is to say, how Charlotte/Grandmother Clinton would be received by the public and what all of it had to do with politics. (Let's note here that this question was never, ever, ever, once asked about Grandpa Mitt Romney. Not once.)

Based on Clinton's last few post-Charlotte speeches, we now have an answer to a question that probably should not even have been asked.

Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky, the closest thing we Americans have to a royal baby, is the poster infant for girl power and for economic populism. At a time when high profile politicians tend to steer clear of the "regular person" anecdotes (remember what happened to Al Gore?), Charlotte is the anecdote that keeps on giving.

Just five days after she was born, Clinton was already putting her to work.

“I think my granddaughter has just as much God-given potential as a boy who was born in that hospital on the same day,” Clinton said at a women's real estate convention in Miami. “I just believe that. That’s the way I was raised.”

Speaking at a rally for Tom Wolf, running for Pennsylvania Governor, Clinton offered Charlotte up as an example of what Elizabeth Warren has said is a system rigged towards the rich.

"You should not have to be the grandchild of a president to get a good education, to get good healthcare,” she said. "Let’s make sure we give every child in Pennsylvania the same chance that I’m determined to give my granddaughter.”

In some ways, Clinton is assuming the gaze of the American public when she considers her granddaughter. Much the same way people look at say Prince George and wonder about the life of riches he will enjoy, Clinton knows the average American might wonder the same about Charlotte and then perhaps wonder about fairness and what exactly elite, wealthy Americans like her know about it.

Politicians show off their kids and their families all the time, mostly as a way to telegraph all- American normality. Clinton is doing something different. She is using Charlotte as a kind of mirror to both recognize her own privilege and argue against it.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: “Hillary Clinton: Putin Must Be Kept Contained”

By Peter Nicholas

October 14, 2014, 7:47 a.m. EDT

As a newly minted secretary of state, Hillary Clinton seemed convinced that she could bring about a thaw in America’s chilly relationship with Russia.

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That heady period in 2009 is long gone.

In a speech Monday night in Las Vegas, Mrs. Clinton depicted Russian President Vladimir Putin as a mortal threat to sovereign European countries and U.S. interests. She called for a sustained commitment to keep him contained.

Mrs. Clinton, a likely presidential candidate in 2016 warned that under Mr. Putin's leadership Russia is using military power in combination with its leverage as an energy producer to cow European leaders.

Some Europeans "just don't want to confront Putin in any way," Mrs. Clinton said in a question-and-answer session that was part of a paid speaking engagement sponsored by the UNLV Foundation. "I think that's a mistake. I think he is at heart a bully and you have to be smart; not confrontational, but you have to stand up and you have to encircle and you have to try to choke off his ability to be so aggressive."

Mrs. Clinton's appearance had drawn protests from student leaders at the university, who objected to her $225,000 speaking fee. Mrs. Clinton has said she won't pocket the money but will instead plow it into her family's charitable foundation.

She received a warm reception at the event, held at the Bellagio hotel. The moderator, Las Vegas Sun Publisher Brian Greenspun, gave her a pair of running shoes as a gift. The shoes were a nod to her possible political ambitions — and also a light reference to her appearance in Las Vegas six months ago when someone in the audience hurled a shoe at her.

Famously, former President George W. Bush said in 2001 that he had looked Mr. Putin in the eye and found him to be "straight-forward and trustworthy."

Asked how she perceived the Russian leader, Mrs. Clinton said: "Well, I see a very cold-blooded, calculating former KGB agent who is determined to not only enrich himself and his closest colleagues, but also to try to revive Russia's influence around its border."

The line echoes one used by Sen. John McCain (R., Ariz.) who while running for president in the 2008 election said he looked into Mr. Putin's eyes and saw "three letters: A K, a G, and a B."

Should Mrs. Clinton run for president in 2016, opponents are likely to call attention to the moment in 2009 when Mrs. Clinton and her Russian counterpart pushed a mock "reset" button to symbolize a new era of good will.

The rapprochement ultimately fizzled. With Russia's annexation of Crimea and incursions into Ukraine, U.S.-Russian relations have hit a post-Cold War low point.

No more is Mrs. Clinton talking of a reset.

She warned of allowing "the borders of Europe — after the bloodiest century in human history – to be rewritten the way Putin is trying to rewrite Ukraine and threatening other places as well. We cannot let that happen because there will be no stop to it.. … Put aside his personality, his agenda is one that threatens American interests and we have to be smart about how we're going to contest it."

As secretary of state she said she warned Europeans that they needed to "move toward energy independence" so that they wouldn't be so reliant on Russia.

"I think there was an unwillingness on the part of the Europeans to commit to that," she said. "Each country was pretty much looking out for its own energy needs. Now, of course, they're scrambling to figure out how to get out from under Russian intimidation using energy as a weapon. And the United States needs to stay deeply involved in working with our allies in Europe – to move them toward more energy independence."

As ever, Mrs. Clinton fielded the inevitable question: Will she run for president?

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And, as ever, she gave an answer that was noncommittal. Yes, she's considering it. She wants to find ways to help people, but hasn't decided whether the presidency or her family foundation is the best vehicle.

"As I make my decision, part of what I will be thinking about is, What do I want to do with the next years of my life," said Mrs. Clinton, who will turn 67 on Oct. 26. "How do I want to spend my time?"

Washington Post blog: All Opinions Are Local: "Tim Kaine probably is at the top of everyone's VP list"

By Norman Leahy and Paul Goldman

October 14, 2014, 10:09 a.m. EDT

Is Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) the new Harry Truman? As a senator from Missouri, Truman led a bipartisan congressional effort overseeing World War II operations. This rankled President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration. Not wanting to draw FDR's ire onto themselves, senior senators gave the job to the backbencher from the "Show-Me" state.

But when FDR ran again, bipartisan praise for a job well done led to Truman getting on the party's national ticket. Seventy years later, a young man who grew up in Missouri seemingly has acquired some of "Give'em Hell Harry's" moxie.

In January, Sen. Kaine co-sponsored legislation challenging President Obama's professed authority to pursue his Middle East war policy. "It really concerns me that the president would assert he has the ability to do this unilaterally," Kaine said.

The Virginian's co-sponsor: Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, who lost to Obama in 2008.

This meant Kaine, among the president's earliest backers, had hooked up with the strongest Republican critic of his friend's Middle East military policy. Media commentators predictably said Kaine and McCain wanted to rein in the president. Their proposed legislation changed the 1973 War Powers Act to give Congress more say — and the president less — in deployment and use of U.S. military force.

Kaine said the historic tension between the legislative and executive branches over foreign intervention had always been a legal "obsession."

The Constitution gives Congress sole authority to declare war. But since Truman, every president, including Obama, has maintained that the Constitution gives the commander in chief the power to send military forces into harm's way without official congressional approval.

President George W. Bush, for example, did ask for congressional "authorization" of the Iraq war. But he made clear he didn't legally need their approval, much less a war declaration.

Kaine believes the current constitutional and legal murkiness needs clarification. Yet Congress's long-standing ambivalence on the scope of presidential war powers reflects military and political reality.

History shows that it can be politically risky to vote against a president after the commander in chief has made a case that military action is vital to national security.

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Sen. Kaine underscored this point by combining his seemingly anti-war measure with strong support for Obama's actual military policy.

The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis is also instructive. President Kennedy followed the basic Kaine-McCain approach. He created a special war group that included congressional leaders, met with them whenever requested, shared secret information, gave them full access to the Pentagon brass and didn't act until getting their final advice.

What happened? Congressional leaders didn't want to appear weak against communism, perhaps fearing their "secret meeting" recommendations wouldn't stay secret. Their recommendations surely would have led to a nuclear war.

Fortunately, JFK ignored them. Back-channel discussions with the Soviet premier uncovered his similar willingness to stand up to his own nuclear war hawks, saving humanity.

In the end, no War Powers Act, however amended, can guarantee the required good judgment. Still, Kaine has a valid point: To help get this good judgment, a more defined and mandatory consultation process would seem to be necessary.

Kaine's self-described "obsession" with the obvious has earned him political plaudits and a Truman-like advantage.

Democrats are generally seen as the anti-war party. Then-Sen. Hillary Clinton's vote to green light the Iraq war is likely the main reason she failed to shut down anti-war underdog Barack Obama's campaign in 2008 before it became unstoppable. Tim Kaine is uniquely positioned politically: dovish enough for the anti-war left but covered on the right by hooking up with the hawkish McCain. Front-runner Clinton figures to run more hawkish than the dovish Democratic norm.

The political bottom line: Kaine's the right balance for her should she win the 2016 presidential nomination. He created picture-perfect politics from perfunctory policy. Luck? No way. Then-Gov. Kaine made the Veep list in 2008. Right now, he leads the one for 2016.

Yahoo: "In Iowa, Ready for Hillary builds a list and hopes for the best"

By Jon Ward

October 13, 2014, 5:12 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] It's less glamorous than you might think

DES MOINES, Iowa – You get a funny response when you ask Ready for Hillary leaders in Iowa what they're doing to avoid a repeat of Clinton's loss in the 2008 caucuses here, where she came in third.

Ready for Hillary was built to avoid and correct the mistakes of 2008, right?

"You know, I'm kind of confused by that," said Derek Eadon, who oversees Iowa and the entire Midwest for Ready for Hillary, the group started last year to prepare a campaign in waiting for Clinton.

Jerry Crawford, an Iowa-based adviser to the group, was even more blunt. "I think Hillary ran a very good campaign in 2007-2008 in Iowa. The notion that she didn't … is more urban legend than truth," Crawford told me. "She was a very good candidate. She turned out more caucusgoers than had any Democratic candidate for president in history."

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Only, of course, Barack Obama turned out more people than she did. John Edwards wooed more supporters than Clinton, for that matter.

Eadon and Crawford hail from different generations and look back at 2008 from different points of view. Eadon, a 30-year-old Iowa native, worked for Obama in 2008 as a paid campaign organizer in Cedar Rapids. Crawford, 65, is a longtime Clinton loyalist who helped run Clinton's 2008 campaign in Iowa and is helping Ready for Hillary's efforts today. But Eadon now says he thinks the Clinton campaign in Iowa was about as good as Obama's, and that too much retrospective meaning about their operations has been attached to the outcome of the 2008 caucusing.

"Because [Clinton] lost they did everything wrong. Because Obama won he did everything right. But I think there were a lot more similarities in the two campaigns," Eadon said, sitting in a windowless conference room inside an office park near the state Capitol building.

So why is Ready for Hillary hard at work in Iowa — and so far in advance of the caucuses — if Clinton did so well here in 2008?

There are a few reasons, her supporters say.

First, there is the perception among Iowans that Clinton ignored them in 2008 and didn't want to campaign hard for their votes. And to some extent this is true. She didn't fully commit to the state until the summer of 2007, after an internal campaign memo was leaked that showed advisers encouraging her to totally skip over the Hawkeye State. So in a way, Ready for Hillary — a national organization — has a very specific job to do in Iowa when it comes to salving hurt feelings and forestalling resentments.

Ready for Hillary operatives at the national level have a clear sense of this mission. "You can't take grass-roots supporters for granted," said Adam Parkhomenko, the group's executive director.

Second, Obama did a better job than Clinton did of hiring Iowa natives around the state as organizers and of attracting new blood into the caucus process to volunteer and vote. Crawford bristles at the charge that Clinton's Iowa operation failed here, and points the finger at the national operation, which he said treated Iowans and their unique process with disrespect. "When people say top-down, that's really a comment about the national campaign staff last time," he said. "If you're looking for accuracy, it's more a comment about them than about the Iowa campaign."

Third, Clinton supporters wanted to try to keep the playing field clear of competitors who could take advantage of a vacuum to develop momentum. They have done this very effectively. And Clinton will need every advantage here in the general election if she is the nominee in 2016. She trailed Republican Mitt Romney in a Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics survey of voters released on Saturday.

But what is Clinton going to do in 2016 (insert obligatory "if she runs") that she didn't do in 2008?

"It's a good question," Eadon said.

If that answer seems puzzlingly noncommittal, it's probably because Ready for Hillary is doing a lot of the same things that Clinton's supporters did in 2007 and 2008. They're just doing it earlier than Clinton or Obama or Edwards did it, by more than a year. They are building a list of supporters for Clinton, which could be sold to an eventual Clinton campaign. Its staffers and volunteers are building a local organization in the hopes that an eventual national Clinton campaign team will come along and pick up their work.

The work is not that complicated and it also cannot address the biggest problems of the 2008 campaign, which involved high-level strategic decisions, such as choosing not to make Clinton available to the local press in Iowa, and not prioritizing repeated trips to the hinterlands of Iowa's many small towns.

Furthermore, much of the corrective work being done by Ready for Hillary is outside of Iowa. Clinton was plenty organized in Iowa in 2008, but she wasn't able to catch up to Obama because he out-prepared and out-organized her in many of the subsequent primary and caucus states.

"A lot of states where there were no volunteer organizations during the 2008 campaign, we wanted to make sure that — should she run and she goes to Minnesota or Maine or Utah — those people are ready to go," Parkhomenko said.

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Ready for Hillary's list-building will also give Clinton something like the advantage that Obama, as an incumbent president, had in 2012. He set up an operation to maintain a list of supporters through Organizing for America after taking office, which kept its hands on his 13 million-member email list, and kept many of those supporters engaged and in touch. Most importantly, they ensured that Obama had the most current contact information for these supporters, in an age when people change cell phone numbers and email addresses with high frequency.

The 2008 Clinton campaign's list was at about 3 million email addresses at its height, and has now shrunk to about 1 million active names, said a source familiar with the list. Ready for Hillary, meanwhile, has an up-to-date list of nearly 3 million names, ready to hand over to a Clinton campaign.

"We've surpassed where she ended her campaign in 2008," Parkhomenko said. "What that does is, she starts off where she left off. For a nonincumbent, that is just a remarkable place to begin."

Eadon and his deputy, Gracie Brandsgard, have full-time organizing counterparts in the northeast, working in New Hampshire; in the South, based at the group's Northern Virginia headquarters, and active in South Carolina and North Carolina; and out west, based in California.

In the end, however, the value and impact of any work done now will be determined by the actions of a formal national organization that does not yet exist.

One Clinton insider who has worked in Iowa politics for a long time says getting her national team to value the hard work of early primary state blocking and tackling and of empowering grass-roots volunteers rather than taking them for granted is "a done deal." "Is she going to put together an A team nationally? Yes, she never makes a mistake twice," the insider said.

In Iowa, where 239,000 Democrats set a record for caucus participation in 2008, the work of building a list is as much about human interaction with key activists as it is about data wizardry.

There are only two Ready for Hillary staffers in Iowa: Eadon and Brandsgard. They are in charge of the entire Midwest. Their headquarters is a single open room on the ground floor of an office building two blocks from the intersection where Obama held his last rally of the 2012 campaign. They share space with employees of Eadon's consulting firm, Blueprint Strategies, and of NextGen Climate, the climate change group founded by billionaire Tom Steyer.

The Democratic Party's data capabilities are formidable. But they have been so worshipped in the press that the perception is they have not just the name of every voter but also their favorite toothpaste.

Ready for Hillary, however, is building a list of supporters "from scratch," Eadon said. It's a little bit of an exaggeration. But not entirely.

Democrats have an impressive array of voter information at their fingertips dating back several election cycles. And late in the fall of 2013, Ready for Hillary bought the 50-state voter file through NGP VAN, the company that coordinates the building of the Democratic Party's voter file. In January, it bought a list of all Hillary Clinton's 2008 supporters and emailed them, offering a free bumper sticker in exchange for a signup with the group.

Since then, Ready for Hillary has continued to sign people up through its website, through social media, and by showing up at fairs and community events. It has also built up a robust direct mail operation. But in Iowa, after those initial contacts, Eadon and Brandsgard have not been sitting at their desks dialing phone numbers for the last six months.

Instead they hit the road to meet people who have already signed up. A common misperception is that list-building is just a one and done activity: get the name, get the person's info, add it to the list, and move on to the next one. This is a static view of organizing that the Republican Party is still trying to overcome in many quarters.

The Democratic view is kinetic. Eadon and Brandsgard did events in the 12 biggest counties in Iowa early in the year. There they met with Clinton's most gung-ho supporters, and asked them to start building local support networks for Clinton and to start recruiting people to sign up with Ready for Hillary through their neighborhoods and their social networks. They also sent volunteers to county conventions in 84 of Iowa's 99 counties in

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March.

But if that was the end of the engagement, RFH might have lost contact with the supporters and allowed their enthusiasm to lapse. And so the midterm elections have served as an important galvanizing agent for Ready for Hillary. The group has directed members to the state party in Iowa and helped turn them out to knock on doors and make phone calls for Democratic candidates on the ballot this fall. It has curried favor with the grass roots and establishment at the same time, while also keeping these Clinton fans engaged in the political process, and in touch with her proto-campaign in waiting.

The national group continued this virtuous cycle in the late summer and early fall, exchanging portions of its lists with 14 different campaigns across the country. The campaigns, which were not disclosed, got a list of active volunteers eager to help them campaign. And Ready for Hillary got a batch of names ripe for targeting over email. Ready for Hillary has also dispatched staff from its offices in the Washington area to 14 states across the country, including Iowa, to help the last-ditch effort to keep the Senate. Iowa's Senate race between Republican Joni Ernst and Democrat Bruce Braley is one of the closest in the nation.

The plan was always for RFH to dissolve after Clinton makes a decision in the months immediately following the midterms. Parkhomenko said that on the day Clinton announces, the group plans to send an email to its list, directing people to Clinton's campaign website. It will check to see who clicked the link in their email and visited Clinton's website, and follow up a few times with those who didn't. The final step would be to work with a third party vendor to compare Ready for Hillary's list with the Clinton campaign's list, to see which supporters it doesn't have.

The organizations would then do an even swap, with the Clinton campaign getting names and emails it doesn't already have, and Ready for Hillary getting the same from the campaign in exchange.

At that point, Ready for Hillary's work will be done. Iit will be up to Clinton's people to make sure they don't waste it.

Associated Press: "Arkansas Democrats calling, again, on Bill Clinton"

By Andrew DeMillo

October 14, 2014, 12:25 p.m. EDT

Arkansas Democrats are again enlisting their favorite political son as they try to fend off a Republican takeover of the state's top offices in November.

Democrats announced Tuesday that former President Bill Clinton will headline rallies this weekend in several Arkansas cities. Most of his stops will be in the 4th District, where one of his former Cabinet officials is running for Congress.

The visits come only a week after the former Arkansas governor led rallies in central and northern Arkansas. At those events, Clinton urged voters to not use the November election as a protest vote against President Barack Obama. Early voting beginsMonday.

Clinton will visit Hot Springs on Friday; Hope, where he was born, on Saturday; and North Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Forrest City on Sunday.

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From: "Tara McGuinness" <tara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/13/2008 4:25:35 AM
Subject: [big campaign] and this week's WI Framing (the article I meant to send)

"Also greeting McCain was a now customary contingent of costumed and non-costumed demonstrators: a Citizen Action cow ("Got Health Care? "), and McCain and Bush impersonators from One Wisconsin Now play-acting around a giant mock rubber stamp."

McCain targets women at Hudson campaign stop: At J&L Steel Erectors, senator touts himself as better choice than Obama

(Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, The (KRT) Via Acquire Media NewsEdge) Jul. 12--HUDSON -- In a first-of-its-kind event for his campaign, a town hall meeting for women only, Republican John McCain argued Friday that "when you cut through all (of Democrat Barack Obama's) smooth rhetoric," McCain's economic agenda of business tax cuts, lower spending and expanded trade makes him a better candidate for women than Obama.

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Lauding Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign, and even hailing the first female speaker of the House, Democrat Nancy Pelosi, McCain sought to connect with a demographic that, in his words, is "as we all know . . . a majority of the voters."

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McCain offered a biting critique of Obama, accusing him of being a tax-raiser and a naysayer, especially on energy issues, which have dominated the first heavy exchange of TV ads in the Great Lakes battleground states.

"His answer is no . . . no to more drilling, no to more nuclear power. . . . You know, for a guy whose official seal carried the motto of, 'Yes, we can,' Senator Obama's agenda sure has a lot of, 'No, we can't,' " McCain said.

Obama has not ruled out supporting nuclear power but has said he has safety concerns about it.

The Illinois Democrat also opposes the expanded offshore drilling that McCain is touting, arguing that it won't have an effect in oil production for years.

But the event, at J&L Steel Erectors, was intended as an outreach to women in particular. On Thursday, Obama hosted an economic event geared to women in northern Virginia.

At the Hudson event, McCain was accompanied by his wife, Cindy. The local businesswoman who introduced McCain -- company Chief Executive Officer LouAnne Reger -- joked about fashion, dieting and her two divorces as she warmed up the crowd.

"I know you all want to know how to lose five pounds in one week. All you have to do is host a town hall for John McCain," Reger told the crowd, drawing laughter.

"Do you want to know how to lose 30 pounds?" Cindy McCain said a few moments later. "Help your husband run for president."

The hundreds in the audience were overwhelmingly women.

"Yesterday (Thursday) in New York, Senator Obama went on at great length about how much he cares about women's issues," McCain said. "I believe him. But when you cut through all the smooth rhetoric, Senator Obama's policies would make it harder for women to start new businesses, harder for women to create or find new jobs, harder for women to manage the family budget, and harder for women and their families to meet their tax burden."

McCain supports extending the Bush tax cuts and also proposes a cut in corporate taxes and a doubling of the child credit. Obama has proposed a series of tax cuts for middle-income earners and below, while favoring higher income and capital gains taxes on people making more than $250,000.

McCain sought to assure voters in Hudson he felt their economic pain, especially after published comments this week by his longtime friend and adviser Phil Gramm that the United States has become a "nation of whiners" and the country is in a "mental recession." Gramm said later that he was referring to "our leaders" when he said that, not average people.

"Juggling family and career can be hard," McCain told his audience. "Now you have to deal with the rising costs of both running a business and raising a family."

Pay legislation 'flawed'

Democrats criticized McCain this week for opposing legislation in Congress aimed at ensuring pay parity for women; McCain has said the legislation was flawed.

"We have not done enough. I'm committed to making sure that there is equal pay for equal work," McCain told the crowd Friday.

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In a statement Friday, Obama senior adviser Anita Dunn said: "Senator Obama believes every woman deserves equal pay for equal work. He has a plan to help working women by guaranteeing seven paid sick days to the 22 million who currently have none, and by providing child tax credits, additional after-school programs, and a tax cut for 71 million working women and eliminating capital gains taxes for 8.7 million women who own small businesses or start-ups. Senator McCain thinks the Supreme Court was right to make it harder for women to challenge pay discrimination at work, and he opposed legislation that Obama co-sponsored to reverse that decision."

In an Obama campaign call with reporters Thursday in advance of the McCain visit, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) said, "There could not be a starker difference (between the two), both with regard to working women and pay equity."

Baldwin said that for "all the strain that the middle class in Wisconsin and the rest of the nation is feeling right now, Senator McCain is not offering any meaningful short-term (stimulus) plan or meaningful middle class tax cut."

A recent report by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center found that McCain's tax cuts would go far more to upper earners, while Obama would raise taxes on upper earners, but lower them more than McCain for people below the highest brackets. McCain argues that his plan would do more to stimulate job creation, and thereby benefit Americans broadly.

Third visit to Wisconsin

McCain's visit was his third to Wisconsin in the general election campaign and brought him to what is easily the fastest-growing part of the state, St. Croix County, which gave President Bush a nine-point cushion in 2004.

High-growth suburbs have proved fertile for the GOP in recent elections. Bush won Wisconsin's six fastest-growing counties four years ago (although he badly lost the biggest top-10 county in growth, Dane).

Since Hudson is in the Twin Cities media market, the visit is also a media two-fer, drawing heavy coverage in Minnesota and Wisconsin, both states that Democrats narrowly carried in 2004 and that McCain would like to flip from blue to red.

"This is a battleground state. There's no doubt that Wisconsin will be one of those states that decide who the next president of the United States is," McCain said Friday, although most recent polls have given Obama a double-digit lead in both states.

The crowd at Friday's event was made up largely, but not entirely, of McCain supporters. Some people interviewed supported Obama or were undecided.

The McCain campaign said seats were mostly allocated through a group of pro-McCain women in the state who recruited friends, phone-tree style, to come.

Also greeting McCain was a now customary contingent of costumed and non-costumed demonstrators: a Citizen Action cow ("Got Health Care?"), and McCain and Bush impersonators from One Wisconsin Now play-acting around a giant mock rubber stamp.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/3/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF World Wire: The Atlantic Dialogues Wraps | Turkish and Polish Elections | Migration

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This year's edition of The Atlantic Dialogues brought together a diverse group of public- and private-sector leaders from around the Atlantic Basin to discuss cross-regional issues ranging from security to economics, migration to energy. Watch the videos, read the transcripts, and see the photos from the conference in Marrakesh, Morocco.

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The Law and Justice Win in Poland: Implications for the United States, Germany, and the EU



GMF experts Michal Baranowski, Daniela Schwarzer, and Hans Kundnani analyze what the Polish elections means for its allies, as well as Poland's position in the European Union.

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Fascinating conv with #NATO Dept SecGen A.Vershbow @NATOdsg on #Russia , #A2/AD & #deterrence @gmfus #VoiceoftheFlank pic.twitter.com/9KcvfhNcBr

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Migration: Not a Problem to be Solved, but Challenge to be Managed



PODCAST : While at The Atlantic Dialogues, GMF's Astrid Zeibarth and Adnan Kifayat talk with Katrin Hirseland and Anna Wittenborg about how different regions can respond to migration , particularly in Europe now.

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/19/2015 12:48:06 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 5.19.15
Attachments:	H4A 5.19.15 Clips.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 19, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Yesterday Hillary Clinton spoke in Iowa at the home of Dean Genth and Gary Swenson about the economy, small businesses and drug abuse and mental health.

The New York Times did a piece on Hillary Clinton's first impression on voters saying that only 1% of voters do now know who Hillary Clinton is. Also saying that during she has used the smaller sessions to share lesser-known vignettes from her past: her mother's impoverished upbringing; her middle-class childhood in Chicago; her work in the 1970s as an advocate for children; her juggling work and child rearing as a young lawyer in Arkansas.

The Clinton Foundation will disclose this week a list of nearly 100 paid speeches given by Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton dating to 2002. On Friday, Mrs. Clinton's campaign released her personal financial disclosure form for 2014 through the present, which reported that she and her husband had earned $25 million delivering paid speeches.

The State Department is proposing a deadline of January 2016 to complete its review and public release of 55,000 pages of emails former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton exchanged on a private server and turned over to her former agency last December.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

There was no 2016 coverage on last night's major outlets except for to highlight President Clinton's tweet to President Obama about his new twitter handle. Instead they covered the biker gang shooting in Waco, Texas where 9 died and 170 were arrested, coverage of the progress being made by Amtrak to recover the affected tracks. Also featured on ABC World News Tonight was a special segment on Elian Gonzalez and immigration.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

In Iowa for second visit, Clinton keeps to her low-key, tilt-left strategy // WaPo // Robert Costa - May 18, 2015

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MASON CITY, Iowa — Hillary Rodham Clinton's appearance here Monday at the home of Dean Genth and Gary Swenson — one of the first gay couples to marry in Iowa — spoke volumes about the political pitch and style of her nascent presidential campaign.

Even as a global celebrity and the overwhelming Democratic front-runner, Clinton is doggedly focused at this early stage on highlighting her progressive values and on what she called "people-to-people connections" — aggressive organizing in the state where she placed a disappointing third in the 2008 caucuses.

The event — the first of Clinton's two-day visit — was tailored to fit that low-key, tilt-left strategy, which her campaign hopes will signal that she is taking little for granted in the primary race. She arrived quietly in a minivan trailed by Secret Service agents and ducked inside to greet a crowd of volunteers, who were given "commit to caucus" cards to share with friends. The tightly controlled setting also allowed her to continue to steer clear of the press pack following her.

Holding court in the living room, Clinton embraced her ties to President Obama and cast herself as his tested and natural heir. It was an acknowledgment that Obama's leftover network remains a coveted coalition in Iowa and an assertion that her time on the world stage is an asset, rather than a liability, as Republicans have challenged.

"I'm going into this race with my eyes wide open about how hard it is to be president of the United States," Clinton told approximately 50 Democrats gathered. "I do have that experience to know what is possible and how best to proceed."

On economics, her message was populist. Facing vocal competition from bank-bashing Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and other likely rivals for the Democratic nomination, Clinton said she is as frustrated as anyone with the gap between the rich and the poor.

"The deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top," Clinton said. She attacked "hedge-fund managers" and other financiers for exploiting loopholes in the U.S. tax code.

"Warren Buffett has said it, but so have a lot of other people. There's something wrong when the average American CEO makes 300 times more than the typical American worker," she said.

But Clinton continued her stretch of declining to take questions from reporters — ignoring the media contingent outside the house and bypassing controversial topics, such as the debate over U.S. trade policy that has roiled Congress for weeks. Reporters were ushered out of the home after she delivered her remarks, unable to record her exchanges with attendees.

Clinton's talk also came days after reports that she and husband, former president Bill Clinton, have earned more than $25 million since early last year in speaking fees — a development she did not mention during her comments about the unsettling power of wealthy Americans.

Republicans seized on her event's closed nature and her refusal to take questions from reporters. On Twitter, the Republican National Committee promoted its "#AskHillary" hashtag campaign in an attempt to pressure Clinton to engage with the media.

As Clinton left the house Monday, reporters shouted questions that went unanswered, including this from Fox News's Ed Henry: "Why won't you answer any questions?"

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Clinton is scheduled to appear Tuesday in nearby Cedar Falls for a roundtable with small-business leaders. The stop, like Monday's, will be open only to invited guests.

Many people in the house were excited about getting a chance to hear her up close, but some onlookers were less than enthused.

Doug Bell, 59, a farmer from Thornton, Iowa, waited outside for an hour to catch a glimpse of Clinton but left without getting a chance to speak with her.

"I caucused for her in 2008, but the world has changed, and I'd like to get her update about what's been happening with us, the backbone of America," he said.

Clinton said she understood the concerns of everyday Iowans and would guard the landmark policies of the Obama years, particularly the president's health-care law, to "reignite" the national economy and give a lift to those struggling.

"We aren't running yet, but we are on our feet," Clinton said.

Turning to the issue of drug abuse and mental health, Clinton sounded compassionate and solemn. "It is below the surface people are talking about it," she said. "It is something hard to deal with."

"I did not believe I would be standing in your living room talking about the drug abuse problem, the suicide problem and the mental health problem," she said. "Now I am convinced I have to talk about it."

The visit was also a nod to solidarity with the gay rights movement, including her own shift toward supporting same-sex marriage as a constitutional right. Genth, one of her hosts, is a board member of One Iowa, the largest gay rights organization in the state, and was a prominent backer of Obama in 2008. He and Swenson were married in 2009, soon after the Iowa Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex unions.

Across Iowa, Clinton's campaign already has 21 organizers and six regional directors building her ground game — far more than other Democratic contenders and part of her plan to cultivate skeptical liberals who may be tempted to back a lesser-known candidate.

For Clinton, that means going small, rather than big. Cookies, grapes and bottles of water were offered at the home, and no signs were displayed on the lawn. If it wasn't for the row of satellite trucks outside, there would have been little evidence in the neighborhood that a presidential candidate was mixing and mingling just up the block.

"It is the best way to make those connections," Clinton said of her approach.

Why Hillary Clinton's Campaign Isn't the Most Liberal Ever // TIME // Haley Sweetland Edwards - May 18, 2015

A number of Beltway pundits have recently decided that Hillary Clinton is not just running a liberal campaign, but perhaps the most liberal campaign in decades. But that's not entirely accurate.

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Just as you can't step into the same river twice, no presidential campaign ever faces the same electorate. And on a range of issues, America has become more liberal since the last time Clinton ran.

Without exception, the positions that have been cited as "boldly liberal" are entirely in line with mainstream public opinion.

Take gay marriage, which Clinton endorsed in 2013. As of last year, 6 in 10 Americans—and a whopping 74% of Democrats—were in favor of it too, according to a recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll.

Or immigration. Last week, Clinton was congratulated by many liberals for backing a broad path to citizenship for roughly 11 million undocumented people. But in an NBC/WSJ poll last fall, 60% of Americans were in favor of a "path to citizenship" and nearly 75% were even more in favor of it if the plan involved asking immigrants to jump through certain hoops, such as paying back taxes.

Or criminal justice reform. Last week, Clinton called for reforming sentencing laws and reducing how much military-grade equipment is funneled off to police departments. But as of last year, that's pretty much exactly where most Americans were, too: 63% were against mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes, according to Pew Research, and nearly 60% thought militarization of police had gone too far.

The same is true on other socially liberal issues that Clinton has backed lately, much to the delight of the liberal base, including better gun control measures, a minimum wage increase, and paid family leave. As of 2013, 91% of Americans supported mandating criminal background checks before someone is allowed to purchase a weapon, and 60% supported reinstating a ban on assault weapons, according to Gallup. Roughly two-thirds of Americans are now in favor of raising the minimum wage and 60% believe that employers ought to give paid time-off to employees when they're sick, according to a February AP-GfK poll.

In early May, liberal activist groups claimed victory after Clinton's campaign manager, Robby Mook, hinted that the Democratic front-runner would soon announce a comprehensive plan to make college more affordable. But again, she's right in line with most Americans. According to the Harvard Institute of Politics, 79% of Americans described student debt as "a problem" that needs to be addressed.

At the same time, Clinton has kept mum on some liberal ideas that are more divisive. She's avoided taking a stance on President Obama's big new free trade deal, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which many liberals have criticized. While she's made some populist remarks about reining in Wall Street, she's stopped short of getting specific on liberal ideas like capping CEO pay or breaking up the big banks. And she's not taken a definitive stance on the construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, which has become a signature issue for environmentalists hoping to address climate change.

It's possible, then, to imagine a more liberal campaign than the one Clinton is running. And if seems like she has the most liberal campaign in history, that's partly because she's facing an America that is more liberal on those issues.

Hillary Clinton May Not Need a Second Chance to Make a First Impression // NYT // Amy Chozick – May 19, 2015

Jeb Bush has his famous last name as a calling card, for better or worse. But Scott Walker's name does not ring many bells outside Wisconsin.

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Ted Cruz is not even well known in Texas.

Republican presidential hopefuls will spend millions of dollars trying to get voters to remember their names and something that sets them apart. But the one White House contender who needs no introduction faces a different sort of problem:

Everybody knows Hillary Rodham Clinton.

She did not just co-star in a national soap opera during her husband's eight-year presidency: She reinvented herself as a senator from the nation's biggest media market, New York; reintroduced herself again, this time to the nation, as a presidential candidate in 2008 and then remade herself into the country's chief diplomat.

She never left the stage.

Not since Richard M. Nixon mounted a comeback in 1968, historians and pollsters say, has a candidate entered a presidential contest with so low a bar for name recognition or so high a bar for changing voters' opinions.

The campaign playbooks of Nixon and Mrs. Clinton seem to share some pages.

Nixon strove to show a more casual side by bypassing journalists and staging town-hall-style events — orchestrated by his media consultant, Roger Ailes — at theaters across the country packed with friendly audiences. Taking softball questions, he kept to his talking points and struck television viewers as more relaxed than the sweaty man they remembered from his debates against John F. Kennedy in 1960.

"A lot of people who thought they'd made up their minds about him saw a different version," said Kenneth L. Khachigian, a speechwriter for Nixon and later for Ronald Reagan. "That's a prime example of someone who had a lot of perceived political baggage and who remade himself."

Mrs. Clinton, too, has been ducking reporters and instead holding round-table discussions with carefully chosen voters in early voting states. (Aides say the questions those voters ask are not screened.) She has used the sessions to share lesser-known vignettes from her past: her mother's impoverished upbringing; her middle-class childhood in Chicago; her work in the 1970s as an advocate for children; her juggling work and child rearing as a young lawyer in Arkansas.

On Tuesday, she will talk to small-business owners in Cedar Falls, Iowa, part of her second swing through the state.

At one event in Las Vegas, she sat with high school students whose parents are undocumented immigrants. It was a canny move: Young people and Latinos are two demographic groups whose opinions Mrs. Clinton may still be able to shape, Democratic pollsters say.

There are not many others.

Only 1 percent of voters have never heard of Mrs. Clinton, a CNN poll found in March (suggesting the network's pollsters managed to reach a few people living in caves).

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A larger number, but still just 11 percent of all voters, said they did not know enough about her to form an opinion, according to a New York Times-CBS poll published this month. By contrast, 43 percent said they did not know enough about Mr. Bush, the best-known Republican contender.

On the bright side for Mrs. Clinton, she enters the race with a devoted base of supporters, mostly women, who appear solidly in her corner. Women in big states like Ohio and Pennsylvania heavily favored Mrs. Clinton in the 2008 Democratic primaries, driving her defeat of Barack Obama in those states.

Mrs. Clinton remains highly popular with African-Americans, college-educated women and single women, said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster.

Scott Keeter, director of survey research at the Pew Research Center, said Mrs. Clinton's profile in the polls was like that of an incumbent facing re-election.

"We know from political science that a significant majority of the electorate, upward of 90 percent, know how they'll vote," he said. "You're talking about 10 to 15 percent of the electorate who are in play, and then you have to factor in enthusiasm and turnout."

The slivers of swing voters Mrs. Clinton's campaign hopes she can sway include married women in the suburbs. "They love her experience," Ms. Lake said, "and they like the idea of having a woman president."

The unknown"wild card" is whether Mrs. Clinton's chance to make history as the first female president will motivate voters who may be less inclined to support her, Mr. Keeter said.

Similarly, voters under 30 years old were far more likely to be undecided or to say they did not have an opinion of Mrs. Clinton, according to the Times-CBS poll.

"Even though she's so well known, there's an aspect of a slate that can be written upon," said Jennifer Granholm, the former governor of Michigan who is co-chairwoman of Priorities USA Action, a pro-Clinton "super PAC." "Young people may need to be reminded about her."

This year's cozy round-table discussions are not the first time Mrs. Clinton has tried to show voters a softer side. In her 2008 campaign, though, she waited until her favorability ratings had fallen during her heated primary battle with Mr. Obama.

The effort then included warm video testimonials about "the Hillary I know" from her oldest friends and people she had met as a senator. "I thought she was a bit remote," Shannon Mallozzi, a Long Island mother said in one video. "She sat with me, and she was just phenomenal. That day, it was two moms sitting in a car."

But the effort seemed to some to be a calculated attempt by a candidate who was behind.

Trying too hard to change voters' minds about a candidate's character or life story can be a trap, as Mitt Romney discovered in 2012.

Stung by attacks portraying him as a ruthless corporate titan, his aides tried to change public opinion about Mr. Romney's years at Bain Capital. Kevin Madden, who was a senior adviser to Mr. Romney, said it was a mistake not

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to keep focused on communicating the candidate's forward-looking ideas.

"Instead of reintroducing his businessman profile, it should have been, 'How are we going to tackle the big economic challenges?'" he said.

The 2016 campaign is still in its early days, making this the prime time for the candidates to try to shape what the voters think of them. The later it gets, the harder that can be.

In 2004, the Democratic nominee, John Kerry, who battled an image of being effete, took a well-publicized hunting trip dressed in camouflage, hoping to show he could relate to voters who drive pickup trucks with gun racks.

"That was authentic, but perceived as inauthentic," said Mark Mellman, a pollster who advised Mr. Kerry. "The truth is, he did actually bag a lot of birds on that trip."

"Changing people's deeply held views," he added, "is the hardest thing to do in politics and in life."

State Department won't release Hillary Clinton's emails until January 2016 // Politico // Josh Gerstein - May 18, 2015

The State Department is proposing a deadline of January 2016 to complete its review and public release of 55,000 pages of emails former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton exchanged on a private server and turned over to her former agency last December.

The proposal came Monday night in a document related to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit Vice News filed in January seeking all of Clinton's emails.

"The Department's plan ... would result in its review being completed by the end of the year. To factor in the holidays, however, the Department would ask the Court to adopt a proposed completion date of January 15, 2016," State's acting director of Information Programs and Services John Hackett said in a declaration filed in U.S. District Court in Washington.

"The Department understands the considerable public's [sic] interest in these records and is endeavoring to complete the review and production of them as expeditiously as possible. The collection is, however, voluminous and, due to the breadth of topics, the nature of the communications, and the interests of several agencies, presents several challenges," Hackett added.

The controversy over Clinton's private email account led to a turbulent start for her presidential campaign, which she announced last month. She has said she wants the emails public and is eager for State to release them as quickly as possible.

The State Department's proposal, however, could mean a delay of almost 13 months between the time Clinton turned over her records and the bulk of them being made public.

Soon after the New York Times revealed in March that Clinton had exclusively used a private email account as secretary of state, State Department spokespeople repeatedly said that they expected the review of the Clinton

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records to take “several months.” They did not immediately respond to messages Monday night seeking an explanation of why that estimate was so off base.

Hackett said 12 State staffers have been assigned full-time to reviewing the Clinton emails and that it took until sometime this month to scan in the records, which were provided on paper by Clinton in 12 “banker’s boxes” in December. He said the scanning process took five weeks and was “complicated” by some of the printouts of Clinton emails being double-sided.

State Department officials did say they planned an earlier disclosure of a batch of the emails provided to a House committee investigating the Benghazi attacks. However, the department’s spokespeople have said only that the initial release will come “soon,” declining to be more specific about the timing of that first release.

Asked by POLITICO Friday when that Libya-related batch of records should emerge, State spokesman Jeff Rathke was vague. “I don’t have an update to share. But yes, we’re aware that there’s interest out there, certainly,” he said at a daily briefing for reporters.

State Department lawyers have complained in court of a “crushing burden” of FOIA requests as well as at least 79 FOIA lawsuits pending against the department. They have also cited the need to prioritize the Clinton email project as a reason for delays in other FOIA cases.

The Iowa caucuses are due to be held Feb. 1, 2016 — just two weeks after the proposed release of Clinton’s emails.

More Clinton Fees to Be Disclosed // WSJ // Rebecca Ballhaus and Peter Nicholas - May 18, 2015

WASHINGTON—The Clinton Foundation will disclose this week a list of nearly 100 paid speeches given by Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton dating to 2002 for which the foundation accepted the fees, officials at the charity said Monday, providing a window into another source of revenue for a family philanthropy whose fundraising practices have cast a shadow over Mrs. Clinton’s young presidential campaign.

On Friday, Mrs. Clinton’s campaign released her personal financial disclosure form for 2014 through the present, which reported that she and her husband had earned $25 million delivering paid speeches. Not included on that disclosure were payments for at least five speeches that Mrs. Clinton directed to her family’s foundation.

The Clinton campaign and a spokesman for Bill Clinton said that by law, the speeches didn’t need to be disclosed because the speaking fees were donated to charity. Separately, a foundation official said the decision to post the list was made in prior weeks, before Mrs. Clinton’s personal financial disclosure form was filed, a requirement that federal law makes of presidential candidates.

The foundation will report the fees associated with each speech in ranges, officials said. Some of these fees are already known.

Federal law leaves room for interpretation on whether candidates are required to include speeches on that form if the funds go to charity. Guidelines posted on the website of the Office of Government Ethics, which oversees personal financial disclosures, say payments of any kind—including those given to a charity—must be reported “as usual.”

But Vince Salamone, a spokesman for the office that oversees the ethics program for the executive branch said there are scenarios in which a candidate wouldn’t be required to disclose speaking fees. If a person was in the role

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as an “agent” for the charity and the money was paid directly to the charity, disclosure wouldn’t be required, the office said.

Mr. Salamone said in a statement that “disclosure of speaking fees is not required when a public filer or the filer’s spouse is acting as an agent of an organization and payment is made directly to that organization.”

He added: “The rule is different when the speaking is done in a personal capacity and the fees are directed or donated to charity, in which case disclosure would be required.”

The spokesman for the Clintons said they had complied with all disclosure requirements. “Speaking engagements for which fees are designated for the foundation do not fall within those personal income reporting requirements,” the spokesman said. “The payment generated from that service is listed as revenue to the foundation on its tax documents.”

Since Mrs. Clinton launched her campaign last month, the foundation has been taking steps to become more transparent. Starting in July, it will begin releasing donor names quarterly. Previously, the names were released annually.

Still, critics seized on the omission of those speeches from the campaign filing to paint the former secretary of state as secretive. Her disclosure came on the heels of recent revelations that some names of donors to organizations affiliated with the Clinton Foundation remained undisclosed. “This is just another example of Hillary Clinton trying to play by a different set of rules,” said Allison Moore, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee.

The new list will include speeches Mrs. Clinton made at colleges and universities, which could revive criticism of the Clintons for accepting payments—even on their foundation’s behalf—from schools that have been hard-pressed to keep tuition costs down.

Last June, Mrs. Clinton faced a backlash when the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that the University of Nevada at Las Vegas was paying her $225,000 to deliver the keynote speech at a university fundraising event. Students called for her to reject the fee. A spokesman declined to confirm the amount of the payment at the time but said such fees are paid through private donations and that no university funds are involved.

A review of Mrs. Clinton’s financial disclosures while she was secretary of state shows she has long followed the practice of omitting speeches where she or her husband directed the payment to the Clinton Foundation.

In May 2012, Mr. Clinton was paid $250,000 for speaking at the Luskin Lecture for Thought Leadership at the University of California, Los Angeles. The fee was donated to the Clinton Foundation, a spokesman for the university said, and didn’t appear in Mrs. Clinton’s disclosure forms.

In the 11 years during which Mrs. Clinton filed financial disclosures as a U.S. senator and as secretary of state, she reported that her husband made $105 million in speaking fees. All told, since leaving the White House, the Clintons have earned at least $130 million in speaking fees.

Mrs. Clinton also delivered several speeches at universities in 2013, when she wasn’t required to disclose her income—including one at the University of Buffalo for $275,000, which she donated to her foundation.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Bill Clinton (5/18/15, 12:57 PM) Welcome to @Twitter, @POTUS! One question: Does that username stay with the office? #askingforafriend

President Obama (5/18/15, 2:07 PM) Good question, @billclinton. The handle comes with the house. Know anyone interested in @FLOTUS?

Matthew Boyle (5/18/15, 8:21 AM) @RandPaul to @HillaryClinton : "your husband passed the laws that put a generation of black men in jail"

Katie Zezima (5/18/15, 8:22 AM) Paul: If I'm the Republican nominee I'll be competitive in Philly: "I'll ask Hillary Clinton: 'what have you done for criminal justice?'"

Josh McElveen (5/18/15, 9:04 AM) BREAKING @KellyAyotte says @RepFrankGuinta should resign his seat in wake of FEC deal. #nhpolitics #wmur

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Clinton's super PAC fundraising irks progressives // CNN // MJ Lee - May 18, 2015

(CNN)Hillary Clinton's decision to personally raise money for a super PAC supporting her campaign is agitating her progressive critics, who see the move as further proof that the Democratic presidential frontrunner doesn't share some of their values.

There was never any expectation that Clinton would renounce super PAC money this election cycle. But liberal activists determined to use the Democratic primary to pressure Clinton to embrace a progressive agenda say the idea of the former secretary of state personally wooing the wealthiest class of donors runs counter to the populist rhetoric she's employed this year.

Within days of announcing her White House bid, Clinton had called out wealthy investors for paying too little in taxes and pledged to get big money out of politics. At the time, it was a welcome message for liberal Democrats who are uncomfortable with Clinton's close ties to Wall Street and find the prominent role of super PACs in elections utterly distasteful.

But the recent revelation that Clinton will personally fundraise for a super PAC supporting her campaign -- a decision to play by the rules of a system she has condemned as "dysfunctional" -- has invited fresh eye-rolling. It has also exposed a core tension for Democrats, who have increasingly embraced super PACs at the same time that they decry the explosion of soft money in national politics.

Clinton's campaign is explaining the decision as a matter of political necessity.

"With some Republican candidates reportedly setting up and outsourcing their entire campaign to super PACs and the Koch Brothers pledging $1 billion alone for the 2016 campaign, Democrats have to have the resources to fight back," a Clinton campaign official said in an email, who spoke anonymously to discuss the sensitive topic of fundraising. "There is too much at stake for our future for Democrats to unilaterally disarm."

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Clinton's expected involvement with Priorities USA has highlighted the contrast between her and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who is Clinton's only declared rival to date for the Democratic presidential nomination, as well as other potential challengers.

An independent from Vermont seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, Sanders has aggressively opposed super PAC donations. A long-shot candidate without a national fundraising operation, Sanders has no chance of matching Clinton's fundraising haul and has little to lose by going after millionaire and billionaire donors.

On Capitol Hill last week, Sanders told CNN that Clinton's decision to personally court super PAC donors was "unfortunate."

"We're living in a world since Citizens United where multi-millionaires and billionaires are playing a horrendous role in the political system," Sanders said, referring to the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling that paved the way for super PACs to direct virtually uncapped amounts of money to aid political candidates. "That's why I believe that we need to overturn Citizens United and move to public funding of elections."

Phil Noble, a South Carolina Democratic activist and supporter of former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a potential Democratic candidate for president, said the development underscores what progressives view as a "fundamental disconnect" between Clinton and middle class voters.

"It's not that she raises a bunch of money for a PAC that causes her problems with middle class voters. That is a symptom as opposed to the ailment," Noble said. "The larger illness is she is out of touch with middle class voters -- she does have a lifestyle and a history that is about as alien to middle class voters as corporate jets are to a Subaru."

And activists who are pushing Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren to challenge Clinton see campaign finance reform as a major issue.

"Being a true champion for working families like Elizabeth Warren is about clearly and unequivocally supporting such critical priorities as a constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United," said Erica Sagrans, campaign manager for Ready for Warren, a movement dedicated to drafting Sen. Elizabeth Warren into the 2016 race.

Clinton's personal involvement with Priorities USA marks the latest chapter in the Democratic Party's evolving relationship with super PACs.

Democrats initially fiercely opposed Citizens United. But for all of their rhetoric against super PACs, and as much as the party continues to use the Supreme Court decision as a political rallying cry, over the years political interest has largely won out over progressive idealism.

In 2012, President Barack Obama reversed course, declaring after years of keeping his distance from super PACs that his campaign would participate in raising money for Priorities USA.

Now that tension is being brought to new heights as the party's next likely presidential nominee personally plans to drum up support for a super PAC backing her candidacy.

Clinton allies also see that her fundraising prowess and the depth of her connections with the kinds of donors who can cut multi-million dollar checks will likely make her a formidable competitor against any Republican candidate

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she may face in the general election. Officials are careful to emphasize, however, that Clinton and everyone else involved with her campaign will strictly follow the law as they solicit funds for Priorities USA.

The 2016 money race is well underway on the other side of the political aisle.

Declared GOP candidates including Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida, as well as expected candidates like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, are on a fundraising tear. And they've shown no signs of distancing themselves from super PAC money. Cruz launched his campaign in March, and the senator's allies declared that an affiliated network of pro-Cruz super PACs had raised upwards of $30 million in just a matter of days.

The stiff competition against Republican money is a reality that some progressive leaders say they cannot ignore.

Former Vermont governor and Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean said it would be unwise for Clinton to reject super PAC money.

"Unfortunately, if you don't play by the same rules everybody else does, you end up losing elections," said Dean, founder of Democracy for America, one of the groups behind the draft Warren movement. "The key is to change the rules, and I think we have a much better chance of doing that with her as president than we do with one of the Republicans."

Back in Iowa, Hillary Goes Big on Small Business // Real Clear Politics // Alexis Simendinger - May 18, 2015

The last time Hillary Clinton was publicly photographed riding a bicycle may have been when she was secretary of state, accompanying her husband along a beach.

The bike motif, without the sand, will serve as a campaign backdrop this week in Iowa, when Clinton focuses on small business owners and their employees, who say in national surveys they need customers, access to capital, and less government red tape.

Clinton, who kicked off her campaign a month ago and then spent three days in Iowa, is returning to hail her team's grassroots organization in the early caucus state, and to describe her vision for a U.S. economy that relies on small entrepreneurs to create jobs.

On Monday, she'll meet grassroots organizers at the home of a supporter in Mason City, Iowa, and on Tuesday she'll participate in a roundtable discussion with community lenders and business representatives in Cedar Falls. That discussion is to take place at Bike Tech, a bicycle and sports shop that outgrew its location on Main Street this year and moved to larger quarters in a vintage former post office a few streets away.

"I want to be the president for small business," Clinton declared May 5 while speaking during a similar roundtable at a library in Nevada.

After launching her second bid for the White House in April and committing to victory in Iowa next year, Clinton vowed to return to the state as often as possible. Caucus-goers proved challenging for her in 2008, and for her husband in 1992.

Iowans insist on taking the measure of presidential aspirants up-close, and Clinton is determined to deliver the

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personal attention that requires shoe leather, hand-shaking, careful listening, and selfies posed with strangers.

Younger voters -- who embraced Barack Obama in 2008 -- are among Clinton's targets in 2016. The popular bike shop in Cedar Falls where the candidate will appear Tuesday is a setting meant to enlarge her narrative in a number of ways.

She wants the attention of young voters, progressive voters, small shops and family-run enterprises (which are America's economic engine, and by the way, are led by many swing voters). She wants her message to come across as "Main Street v. Wall Street" (to blunt critics who say she's too cozy with big financial institutions and New York's business elites). And Clinton wants support from female voters (a quarter of Iowa's businesses are women-owned).

In 2008, Clinton lost Iowa in part because voters there said they had trouble warming up to her.

"I know what people have been saying,`Well, you know, we've got to know more about her, we want to know more about her personally,'" she said before Obama's victory. "And I totally get that. It's a little hard for me. It's not easy for me to talk about myself."

This time around, Clinton is campaigning as close as she can get to "outside-the-bubble" just-folksiness, reminding her audiences that before she was an attorney, first lady of Arkansas, wife of a president, senator from New York, and secretary of state, she grew up with Midwestern values as the daughter of a small businessman who ran a drapery business. She may be a wealthy international icon at age 67, but Clinton's message is that she's never relinquished her middle-class, middle-America sensibilities.

President Obama visited Cedar Falls in January, turning to the community as a favored setting for a pre-State of the Union message, describing the economic imperatives of universal broadband connectivity (Cedar Falls is an "eCity" leader, according to Google).

During the first week of May to mark Small Business Week, the president described his national agenda for small entrepreneurs, hitting everything from regulations to lending. Clinton is expected to echo those themes as she begins to describe how she would enlarge "the economy of the future," as she's pledged to do if elected president.

Obama a few weeks ago said, "I have signed into law 18 different tax cuts for small businesses, which are helping them thrive in the 21st-century economy."

"By investing in our infrastructure, expanding access to credit, and assisting entrepreneurs as they start out and scale up, we are continuing to bolster America's small business community," he added.

The president talks about expanding export markets for U.S. small businesses, a topic that in Iowa could encourage Clinton to touch on international trade.

As Congress debates legislation to grant the president fast-track authority to conclude a trade pact with 11 other nations, Clinton has been conspicuously mute. Trade Promotion Authority, which would permit the legislative branch to approve or disapprove a trade deal but not to amend it, divides Democratic lawmakers and is vigorously opposed by organized labor. But she promoted the merits of the Trans-Pacific Partnership as secretary of state.

As the U.S. economy has continued to recover, small business owners say they're more optimistic about the future. But that outlook dimmed a tad in the first quarter compared with late 2014, even as it remained at the

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highest level measured since January 2008, according to a quarterly survey reported by the Gallup Organization. Small entrepreneurs are focused on their prospects for revenues, and on the challenges of accessing capital and credit.

Recently, Clinton said the expansion experienced by many small businesses had “stalled out,” an assertion Obama disputed as a blip tied to slower growth in Europe rather than a U.S. trend.

In the Hawkeye State this week, advised by many of the same economic experts who served Presidents Clinton and Obama, Hillary is expected to have her say.

Clinton talks economy, campaign finance on return to Iowa // Des Moines Register // Tony Leys - May 18, 2015

Mason City, Ia. – Hillary Clinton vowed Monday to fight for more fairness for American workers as the economy continues to recover.

"We need to get back into the habit of actually rewarding workers with increases in their paychecks for the increases in productivity and profitability that they have helped" achieve, Clinton said to applause from about 60 Democratic activists gathered at a house in Mason City.

The former senator, first lady and secretary of state, who is the heavy favorite for the Democratic nomination for president, was beginning her second trip to Iowa since announcing her candidacy last month.

She has been focusing on small events, such as the one held here Monday. "Not only do I learn a lot, but I also feel like it's the best way to make those connections," she told the activists. "... It will also give me the kind of information I need to be a better president."

Among the things she said she's heard about on her travels is the drug-abuse crisis, including methamphetamine in Iowa and heroin in New Hampshire. She noted reports that more Americans are now dying from drug overdoses than from car crashes. "This is tearing families apart, but it's below the surface. People aren't talking about it," she said.

Clinton said she's committed to reforming the political process, including by appointing Supreme Court justices who would rule against the kind of untraceable money that has flowed into the system since the Citizens United decision gave corporations more freedom to make donations. She said that if it takes a Constitutional amendment to change the situation, "I will work for that."

But Clinton, who is being supported by a so-called superPAC, said "we also have to stand our ground, and we have to try to figure out how to get people to work with us for the betterment of our country, the betterment of people who need a good, positive support system."

Organizers said the crowd was made up of Democrats invited by the campaign, the local party or the homeowners, Dean Genth and his husband, Gary Swenson.

Genth, who is vice chairman the Cerro Gordo County Democratic Party, said in an interview that he supported Barack Obama over Clinton in the 2008 caucuses. Genth said he also liked Clinton then, but he went with the challenger from Illinois.

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Genth, 65, said he believes Clinton has grown since then, including from her service as Obama's secretary of state. "There is not a living, breathing human being on the face of the Earth with her resumé and experience and background."

Clinton has come under fire from Republicans for taking few questions from reporters during the early weeks of her candidacy. She took no questions from reporters at Monday's event, and the press was ushered out of the house as she began to greet voters after giving her 25-minute remarks.

State Republican Party Chairman Jeff Kauffman renewed the criticism Monday with a statement emailed to reporters covering Clinton. "Hillary Clinton still refuses to answer simple questions about her unseemly financial dealings, secret email server, or disastrous foreign policy. Polls show Iowans already find Clinton untrustworthy and her actions have confirmed their suspicions."

Clinton spokeswoman Lily Adams issued a statement in response to the criticism: "The focus of our ramp up period is to hear from voters about the issues they care about. She's enjoyed engaging in hours of public question and answer sessions and, as the campaign progresses, looks forward to more engagement with voters and the press as well."

Clinton is scheduled to make a stop Tuesday morning at a bike shop in Cedar Falls.

Hillary Clinton Campaign Begins Drafting Policy Solutions To Heroin Epidemic // Huffington Post // Marina Fang – May 18, 2015

WASHINGTON -- After hearing story after story from voters on the campaign trail about heroin's toll, Hillary Clinton instructed her policy team to draw up solutions to the burgeoning opiate epidemic.

A Clinton aide told The Huffington Post that the Democratic presidential candidate decided to make mental health and drug addiction a major campaign issue after stops in Iowa and New Hampshire, where she kept hearing from people that the problem needs more attention. It's the type of issue that may not get much attention inside the Beltway and on Sunday talk shows, but opiate addiction has become a devastating problem.

Clinton brought it up on Monday during a stop in Iowa, telling supporters that she wants to "end the stigma against talking about it."

“When I started running, when I started thinking about this campaign, I did not believe I would be standing in your living room talking about the drug abuse problem, the mental health problem, and the suicide problem," she said at the home of one of the first gay couples in the state to wed. “But I’m now convinced I have to talk about it. I have to do everything I can in this campaign to raise it, to end the stigma against talking about it."

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study of 28 states found that heroin deaths doubled from 2010 to 2012. U.S. heroin-related overdose deaths increased 39 percent in 2013 from the year before, hitting 8,257. Vermont’s governor devoted his entire 2014 state of the state speech to heroin. In New York City, there are more heroin deaths than homicides.

“This is tearing families apart, but it is below the surface," Clinton said. "We aren’t talking about it because it is something that is hard to deal with."

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The heroin or opioid epidemic has exposed the U.S. drug treatment system as inadequate, both in its capacity to treat those addicted and to do so using evidence-based care. Although medically assisted treatments, such as medications methadone and buprenorphine, are viewed by the medical community as essential components of an opioid addict's recovery, they are inaccessible to the vast majority in need.

Some treatment centers and drug courts continue to insist that addicts refuse these medically assisted treatments. Following a HuffPost investigation into "abstinence-based" opiate treatment, the federal government barred state drug programs from getting federal money if they force addicts to wean off of medications.

Clinton has been holding a series of events to discuss substance abuse and mental health. She laid the groundwork for these events at a roundtable in New Hampshire last month, one of her first campaign events as an announced presidential candidate.

When a voter mentioned that substance abuse was a major problem in the community, Clinton called it a "quiet epidemic" and said it's "not just something we can brush under the rug." She commended the Affordable Care Act for placing more emphasis on requiring health insurers to cover treatments for mental health and substance abuse, but said there needs to be more policy reform, from local to national.

"There is a hidden epidemic. We know the drug use problem, whether it's pills or meth or heroin, is not as visible as 30 years ago when there were all kinds of gangs and violence," Clinton said. "This is a quiet epidemic and it is striking in small towns and rural areas as much as any big city. I think a lot of people are thinking, well, that's somebody else's problem, that's not my problem. And indeed, it is all of our problem and we don't have enough resources, so that if somebody decides that they wanted to get help, where do you send them to? What kind of opportunities do they have for treatment? And I am convinced that the mental health issues -- because I consider substance abuse part of mental health issues -- is going to be a big part of my campaign, because increasingly it's a big issue that people raise with me."

Clinton also mentioned substance abuse and mental health in a major speech on criminal justice reform that she made last month in the wake of the riots in Baltimore after the death of Freddie Gray at the hands of police. She emphasized the links between problems in the criminal justice system and problems in treating mental health and drug abuse.

"The promise of deinstitutionalizing those in mental health facilities was supposed to be followed by the creation of community-based treatment centers," she said. "Our prisons and our jails are now our mental health institutions."

Clinton Returns to Iowa to Help Rally Caucus Volunteers // ABC News // Julie Pace - May 18, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton returns to Iowa on Monday to help ramp up her campaign's volunteer network in a state where she struggled to build an effective ground game during her first run White House run in 2008.

Clinton will meet with volunteers and campaign organizers in the northern Iowa town of Mason City. The event is being hosted by Dean Genth and Gary Swenson, who were active supporters of President Barack Obama when he defeated Clinton in the 2008 Iowa caucuses.

While Clinton's path to victory in Iowa so far seems easier this time around, her campaign is eager to show she's not taking the state for granted. The campaign has hired 21 caucus organizers and six regional field directors who are seeking commitments from voters to caucus for Clinton early next year.

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The early organizing could also yield longer-term benefits for Clinton's campaign, should she win her party's nomination. Iowa will be among the competitive battleground states in the general election and her campaign can draw on the voter contacts it makes now next year.

Clinton's two-day swing through Iowa marks her second trip to the state since she formally launched her campaign last month. On Tuesday, she'll head to Cedar Falls, where she'll begin outlining proposals for boosting small businesses.

Clinton arrives in Iowa under pressure from Republicans who want her to clarify her position on a massive Asia-Pacific trade deal being debated on Capitol Hill. While Clinton was supportive of the Trans-Pacific Partnership pact while serving as Obama's secretary of state, she has been largely silent on the matter since announcing her campaign.

Obama's push for the trade deal has angered some liberal Democrats who fear the agreement with Japan and several other nations would hurt U.S. companies and workers.

Hillary Clinton's second wave of Iowa courtship arrives in Mason City // CNN // Dan Merica - May 18, 2015

Mason City, Iowa (CNN)More than 70% of Iowa's Democratic caucus-goers chose an alternative to Hillary Clinton in 2008, a fact her aides in the state are actively looking to address early in her 2016 run.

Clinton will make her second visit to the state Monday when she headlines a small "house party" in Mason City that campaign aides hope will showcase their focus on moving Democrats who supported other candidates -- particularly then-Sens. Barack Obama and John Edwards - to Clinton's 2016 campaign.

Clinton's Iowa operation has a total of 27 field organizers on the ground in Iowa, six regional organizing directors and 21 organizers who live in cities and towns across the state. So far, according to campaign aides, their focus has been on reconnecting with Clinton supporters from 2008, winning over those who rejected her first presidential bid and connecting with those young people and students who are new to the state.

Monday's event in Mason City, which will be hosted by Dean Genth and Gary Swenson, is an example of Clinton's campaign looking to target former Obama supporters.

Genth and Swenson were the first gay couple to receive a marriage license at the Cerro Gordo County Courthouse when same-sex marriage was legalized in the state in April 2009. During the 2008 caucus, both were outspoken and early Obama supporters. They housed Obama campaign staff and volunteers in their Mason City home and told Obama's campaign office in Chicago that they would be willing to do whatever they could to get the senator elected.

"We were supportive of Clinton but we actually caucused for Obama," Genth said Monday. "As the caucus campaigning went on we got really involved with the Obama campaign. It was more a function that we were so early on with Obama, we had already pitched out tent at that point."

A former business executive, Genth moved from Ohio to Iowa in 2003 after meeting Swenson, a radiologist and breast cancer specialist, in 2002. Genth said it was love at first sight. The two have long been activists for same-sex marriage and Genth is a member of One Iowa, the state's leading LGBT rights organization, that spearheaded efforts to legalize same-sex marriage in the state.

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Genth said that while Obama's position on same-sex marriage was "not a determining factor" for their support in 2008, it did play a role.

"We definitely got signals from Obama where he stood on some of the basic principles and basic rights," he said.

As a candidate in 2008, Clinton opposed same-sex marriage, supporting the idea of civil unions instead. She did not proclaim her personal support for same-sex marriage until 2013, after she left her diplomatic position as secretary of state.

Shortly after her announcing her presidential bid, her campaign said that Clinton now believes same-sex marriage is a "constitutional right," a departure from her past statements.

The steady change in her position hasn't bothered Genth. "Some people seem to never evolve," he said. "So somebody that does evolve is a great thing."

Genth is the vice chairman of the Cerro Gordo County Democratic Party and has said he has "reached out to every Clinton campaign person that walks into the area or has a phone number" about getting the candidate to North Iowa as much as possible.

Clinton's campaign aides have regularly said the candidate will focus on Iowa and come back regularly, but no future trips have been announced. Clinton will overnight in Iowa on Monday and headline an event on small business at a bike shop in Cedar Falls, Iowa on Tuesday.

The state of play in Iowa is also vastly different than it was in 2007 and 2008. Clinton leads every poll on the Democratic side and many activists in the state, despite hungering for a competitive primary, acknowledge that there isn't a Barack Obama-like candidate that could come from behind to topple Clinton. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent, is the only other declared candidate for the Democratic nomination, although former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is expected to announce his run later this month.

In an effort to showcase their grassroots organizing efforts, Sarah Marino, the campaign's Mason City grassroots organizer, will introduce Clinton at the event on Monday.

10 questions for Hillary Clinton // CBS News // Rebecca Kaplan – May 19, 2015

In the 36 days since Hillary Clinton announced she was running for president, she has answered just 13 questions from reporters. The last time she took a question was a month ago, Apr. 21, 2015, about the book, "Clinton Cash," which took a critical look at her family's finances.

(Clinton's response was, "Those issues are in my view distractions from what this campaign should be about, what I'm going to make this campaign about.")

In the intervening month, there have been news developments that have elicited reactions from other presidential candidates and potential candidates. Clinton, however, has said little.

As she returns to the campaign trail in Iowa and New Hampshire this week, here are 10 questions CBS News might ask:

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1. Do you support the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)?

The Democratic Party is divided on trade. Mr. Obama, Republicans and some Democrats want legislation that would put the Asia-Pacific free trade agreement on an expedited path through Congress. Other Democrats think the agreement would hurt American workers and the environment. Which Democrats would Clinton side with now?

She argued for TPP as secretary of state and in her 2014 memoir, "Hard Choices" but has been noncommittal since. She has said on this issue only that "any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security, and we have to do our part in making sure we have the capabilities and the skills to be competitive."

And as CBS News Correspondent Julianna Goldman reported Monday, Clinton earned more than $2.5 million giving speeches to organizations that have lobbied in favor of the trade deal.

2. Should Congress have a say in whether the U.S. signs a nuclear agreement with Iran?

Both the House and Senate have now passed bills that would allow Congress to review the framework deal that rolls back Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. The legislation would allow lawmakers to block the president from exiting at least some sanctions if enough members don't like the deal.

White House caves on Iran nuclear bill after veto threat

The White House had resisted congressional efforts to weigh in, arguing this negotiation is the purview of the president, but given the substantial Democratic support, the president is expected to sign the deal.

3. Does the president need a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) to fight the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)?

In mid February, the White House sent Congress legislation that would formally authorize war against ISIS - six months after the air campaign against the Islamic group actually began. The administration believes that the 2001 authorization that gave the president the authority to deploy U.S. troops to fight the instigators of the 9/11 attacks also enables him to fight ISIS, so a new AUMF hasn't topped his agenda. Still, the fight against ISIS will almost certainly bleed into 2016 and the campaign.

4. Why are Republican candidates struggling to give a straight answer on whether they would have authorized the 2003 Iraq invasion?

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush Bush was the first to stumble, saying he would have authorized the war in Iraq. He then claimed he misinterpreted the question posed by Fox News' Megyn Kelly, who initially asked whether he would have authorized the invasion, "knowing what we know now." Eventually, he said, "Knowing what we now know, I would not have engaged."

How the Iraq War question could shape 2016 campaign

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And Florida Sen. Marco Rubio struggled to articulate his position after "Fox News Sunday" host Chris Wallace played two video clips in which he appeared to take different stances on the 2003 invasion.

This is an area where Clinton has been unequivocal. "I thought I had acted in good faith and made the best decision I could with the information I had. And I wasn't alone in getting it wrong. But I still got it wrong. Plain and simple," she wrote in "Hard Choices."

What do independent voters think about foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation?

5. What can you say to ensure voters that contributions to the Clinton Foundation will not affect your decisions as president?

Clinton has been asked about foreign government donations to the Clinton Foundation, related to her tenure as secretary of state, and especially on whether foreign entities received special treatment in exchange for contributions to the foundation. She said, "We're back into the political season and therefore we will be subjected to all kinds of distraction and attacks. And I'm ready for that. I know that that comes, unfortunately, with the territory."

After she last interacted with the press, the Clinton Foundation admitted it had erred in its public disclosure of donors.

6. What steps would you take to help same-sex couples get married if the Supreme Court does rule it is a constitutional right?

Since former President Bill Clinton, signed the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, Clinton has held just about every view on the spectrum of same-sex marriage. In 2000, she said she believed marriage was for a man and a woman. For awhile, she said it fell under the authority of states. In 2015, the video she released to announce her presidential bidfeatured a gay couple. Now, her campaign staff says she supports same-sex marriage and wants the Supreme Court to rule that it is a constitutional right.

Supreme Court divided in historic gay marriage case

But what if they don't? After hearing arguments on the issue in late April, the justices appeared sharply divided over whether gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to marry. If the court rules in June that states have a right to declare only men and women can enter into marriage, will Clinton take action?

7. How would you go "even further" than President Obama on immigration and stay within the limits of the law?

Clinton gave an immigration speech in Nevada earlier this month, and pledged to go "even further" than President Obama did by allowing a larger pool of people, such as the parents of children brought to the U.S. illegally, to apply for a reprieve from deportation.

Clinton takes on Nevada as controversial book debuts

President Obama spent months publicly saying he didn't have the authority to expand relief for undocumented immigrants before he used his executive authority to protect millions from deportation. And he had his legal team

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spend months making sure the case for that action was airtight and would hold up against a potential court battle.

Congress, meanwhile, is far from acting on immigration and is even looking for ways to roll back programs the president has put into place.

8. You left the White House "dead broke," in your words. You now command upwards of $200,000 a speech. How much money do you think you and your husband need to be comfortable?

Clinton later apologized for the "dead broke" comment, saying she could have been more "artful."

She and husband Bill Clinton earned just over $25 million from a total of about 100 paid speeches since January 2014 and $5 million from the proceeds of "Hard Choices."

9. Is it hypocritical for you to accept super PAC support -- and to push the boundaries of the law by coordinating with a super PAC -- while calling for new rules to limit third-party campaign spending?

Like President Obama before her, Clinton is accepting campaign support from super PACs -- independent groups that can accept unlimited campaign donations from individuals or corporations -- while at the same time condemning their influence on the political process.

"We need to fix our dysfunctional political system and get unaccountable money out of it once and for all, even if that takes a constitutional amendment," Clinton said last month in Iowa, calling campaign finance reform one of the four key pillars of her campaign.

Even so, her campaign insists that as long as others in the race for the White House are exploiting super PACs, her campaign will as well. The Clinton campaign, however, is actually empowering super PACs even more by coordinating with one specific group. Super PACs are barred from coordinating with candidates, but this group says it has found a loophole allowing it to work with the Clinton team.

10. Are you willing to tell Saudi Arabia that they must encourage equal rights for women?

Women's rights was one of Clinton's chief causes as secretary of state - and it's likely to become a point of contention during the 2016 campaign as well given the lingering questions about the Clinton Foundation's acceptance of donations from foreign governments. On the day she announced her presidential bid, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky - himself a contender for the White House - honed in on Clinton's relationship with the Saudis.

Rand Paul: Hard for Hillary Clinton to say she's for women's rights

"In Saudi Arabia, a woman was raped by seven men. The woman was then publically whipped. And then she was arrested for being in a car with an unmarried man. I think we should be boycotting that activity, not encouraging it. And it looks really bad for the case of defending women's rights, if you're accepting money," Paul said in an interview on CBS' "Face the Nation" in April.

After Clinton announced, the foundation announced a new donor policy. Now, the foundation will accept large donations from six foreign governments - Australia, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

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Hillary Clinton Backs Obama Plan To Reverse Police Militarization // Huffington Post // Ryan Grim and Ryan J. Reilly - May 18, 2015

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama's executive order banning the federal government from transferring certain types of military-style equipment to police forces would remain in place if Hillary Clinton wins the presidency in 2016.

Clinton is "supportive of the recommendations and of the need for reform," a spokesperson for the Democratic candidate said Monday after Obama announced in Camden, New Jersey, that the transfer of certain military gear to police would be sharply curtailed.

Clinton last month slammed police militarization in a major speech on criminal justice issues. "We can start by making sure that federal funds for state and local law enforcement are used to bolster best practices, rather than to buy weapons of war that have no place on our streets," she said in the speech, which followed the death of Baltimore's Freddie Gray at the hands of police. "President Obama's task force on policing gives us a good place to start. Its recommendations offer a roadmap for reform, from training to technology, guided by more and better data."

Obama's announcement flowed from the task force recommendations that Clinton cited. Under the president's plan, bayonets, camouflaged uniforms, grenade launchers, certain types of armored vehicles, firearms of .50-caliber or larger and weaponized vehicles would no longer be transferred to law enforcement agencies. Other military equipment would be on a controlled list that would require law enforcement organizations to demonstrate need.

Clinton, in her speech, called for every police department to have body cameras for officers, and highlighted the need for community policing. "We should listen to law enforcement leaders who are calling for a renewed focus on working with communities to prevent crime, rather than measuring success just by the number of arrests or convictions," she said. "As your senator from New York, I supported a greater emphasis on community policing, along with putting more officers on the street to get to know those communities."

Obama on Monday said militarized gear “can sometimes give people the feeling like there's an occupying force as opposed to a force that's part of the community."

The Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services is preparing after-action report looking at mistakes by the St. Louis County Police Department in handling protests in Ferguson, Missouri, related to the police killing of teenager Michael Brown in August. Photos of the police department's heavily armed officers and military-style gear made world news.

Hillary Clinton: "Grateful" For Obama's Work on Economy, But "Deck Is Still Stacked In Favor Of Those At The Top" // Real Clear Politics // Ian Schwartz - May 18, 2015

On Monday, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton spoke to a small group of Iowans at a "house party" event in Mason City. In this part of her speech Clinton talked about domestic issues such as the economy and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The video is from a livestream captured by Bloomberg's Jennifer Epstein on Periscope.

Clinton praised Obama for the "hard work" he's done on the economy, but lamented the "deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top."

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"We're not running yet but we are on our feet," Clinton said about the economy.

"The deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top, we know that, and so we have to be especially focused on how we're going to bring about the changes that will ignite opportunity for everybody willing to work hard for it," Clinton also said.

HILLARY CLINTON: I'm so relieved that as I travel around the country and talk with people, there is a sense that we are on our feet. We're not running yet but we are on our feet. We can see the changes that are happening in people's life and can put them in a context as to where we go from here now as a country. I am very grateful to President Obama for the hard work [he's done on the economy]...

I know that although we have begun to move forward again, it is still hard to imagine exactly how we're going to get to the point where people are not just getting by but getting ahead again and staying ahead. Because, look, the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top, we know that, and so we have to be especially focused on how we're going to bring about the changes that will ignite opportunity for everybody willing to work hard for it.

US Reps. Jim McGovern, Joe Kennedy campaign for Hillary Clinton // Mass Live // Shira Schoeberg - May 18, 2015

U.S. Reps. Joe Kennedy and Jim McGovern, both Massachusetts Democrats, spent parts of their weekends campaigning for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

McGovern attended a Worcester event on Saturday and Kennedy attended an event Sunday in Newton. Both events were grassroots organizing meetings. Early organizing meetings are a way for a campaign to energize the so-called "grasstops," committed activists who are likely to volunteer for campaigns, recruit other volunteers and donate money.

The public support for Clinton by liberal congressmen in Massachusetts comes as liberal organizations nationally have organized a movement to draft U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat, to run for president.

Warren has gained clout as a charismatic liberal leader in the Senate focused on economic policy, but she has said repeatedly that she will not run for president. The Clinton campaign is likely hoping that having Kennedy and McGovern throw their support behind Clinton now could galvanize other Massachusetts liberals to do the same and not to hold out hope for a Warren candidacy.

In addition to Clinton, who is a former secretary of state, U.S. Senator and first lady, Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders is running for the Democratic nomination for president and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley is seriously considering it.

More than a dozen Republicans are running or seriously considering it.

Clinton Sets Citizens United as Supreme Court Litmus Test // ABC News // Julie Pace, Associated Press - May 18, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday that if elected president, she would make opposition to a Supreme Court ruling that cleared the way for unlimited political donations a litmus test for nominees to the high court.

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"I will do everything I can do to appoint Supreme Court justices who will protect the right to vote and not the right of billionaires to buy elections," Clinton told about 50 supporters at a house party in Iowa.

While Clinton has previously said she would support a constitutional amendment overturning the 2010 decision known as Citizens United, she has not previously said publicly that she would use the ruling as a benchmark for nominating justices.

She added Monday she is consulting with legal experts about other ways the court's ruling in the case could be trumped.

Despite her staunch opposition to Citizens United, which helped usher into politics groups known as super PACs that can raise unlimited amounts of campaign cash, Clinton is directly courting donors for a super PAC backing her candidacy.

Democrats were initially reluctant in the elections after the court ruled in Citizens United to fully embrace such outside groups, while Republicans did so with fewer reservations and are aggressively raising money for them in the early days of the 2016 campaign.

Clinton's stop in the northern Iowa town of Mason City marked her second trip to the state since she formally launched her campaign last month. She spent more than an hour talking with local officials, campaign organizers and volunteers — the type of small-scale campaigning some Iowa Democrats say she didn't do enough of during her first bid for the Democratic nomination in 2008.

Clinton placed third in the Iowa caucus that year, behind President Barack Obama and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards.

The hosts of Monday's event, Dean Genth and Gary Swenson, campaigned actively for Obama in 2008. Genth said he didn't choose Obama over Clinton for any ideological reasons, but more because he "captured everyone's imaginations with his charismatic campaign and his ability to connect to the grassroots."

While Clinton so far doesn't face as tough of a primary challenge as she did in 2008, her campaign is eager to show she's learned lessons from her past missteps. The campaign has hired 21 caucus organizers and six regional field directors who are seeking commitments from voters to caucus for Clinton early next year.

The early organizing could also yield longer-term benefits for Clinton's campaign, should she win her party's nomination. Iowa will be among the competitive battleground states in the general election and her campaign can draw on the voter contacts it makes now next year.

Clinton arrived in Iowa under pressure from Republicans who want her to clarify her position on a massive Asia-Pacific trade deal being debated on Capitol Hill. While Clinton was supportive of the Trans-Pacific Partnership pact while serving as Obama's secretary of state, she has been largely silent on the matter since announcing her campaign.

Obama's push for the trade deal has angered some liberal Democrats who fear the agreement with Japan and several other nations would hurt U.S. companies and workers.

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As she opened her remarks Monday, Clinton subtly defended her decision to avoid wading into the trade debate or taking questions from reporters on a range of other issues.

Though she never mentioned the Republican criticism directly, she said small events that put her in direct contact with voters are providing her with the foundation for her campaign, as well as "the kind of information I need to be an even better president."

Gowdy: Benghazi report may leave questions unresolved // Greenville Online // Mary Troyan - May 18, 2015

WASHINGTON — The final congressional report on the 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks may present conflicting information on issues without concluding which version is true, according to Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the special House committee investigating the attacks.

Democrats on Gowdy's committee, who have already declared the investigation a waste of taxpayer money, were further irritated by the possibility that the much-touted House investigation will leave some facts open to interpretation.

Gowdy, R-S.C., said in a recent interview the investigation is a fact-finding mission, but every factual dispute may not be settled.

"If you do a good enough job laying out the facts, the conclusions will either speak for themselves or you'll have competing factual narratives and you can draw your own conclusions," Gowdy said.

The House Select Committee on Benghazi was created a year ago to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the events surrounding the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attack on the U.S. facilities in Libya that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens. Seven Republicans and five Democrats serve on the panel.

At the time the committee was created, Republican leaders said previous congressional investigations, which were limited to specific jurisdictions such as the military or intelligence agencies, had left questions unanswered, and a special committee with wider latitude was needed address new revelations.

"I intend for this select committee to have robust authority, and I will expect it to work quickly to get answers for the American people and the families of the victims," House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio said last year when he asked the House to create the panel.

Gowdy said the final report could be finished by the end of the year if the Obama administration cooperates more quickly in producing documents.

But he also warned that issues may be left unresolved, especially if witnesses or documents contradict each other.

"It's not my job to tell people what to conclude," Gowdy said. "If you have two witnesses, (and) one says the light was red and one green, I don't view myself as being the arbiter of who is more credible."

The committee is investigating security lapses related to the attack, the military's response to the incident, and whether the Obama administration, for political reasons, intentionally downplayed the event as something other than a coordinated terrorist attack.

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Committee Democrats have grown increasingly critical of how Republicans are proceeding.

Asked to comment on the possibility the committee won't draw conclusions about disputed facts, the panel's top Democrat said the investigation is an attempt to discredit Hillary Rodham Clinton, a presidential candidate who was secretary of state at the time of the attacks in Benghazi.

"For the Committee's report to be credible... we should draw bipartisan conclusions based on the facts, state publicly when conspiracy theories are debunked, and set forth concrete recommendations to implement reforms that protect our diplomatic corps around the world," Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., said in a statement.

During the committee's most recent public hearing in January, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said the report needs bipartisan support to be considered credible.

"Let's make it bipartisan so that the country and the families will have the confidence of knowing that this was an objective work product," Schiff said.

Gowdy said the panel has uncovered new evidence and has talked to witnesses never before interviewed.

But most of those interviews have been conducted in private. Publicly, committee members have focused mostly on improving security at diplomatic outposts and on disputes with the State Department and Clinton over access to emails, documents and witnesses.

Gowdy said he knows not everyone will be satisfied with the panel's final report, especially extreme partisans on either side.

"If you do a good enough job getting every bit of information the fact-finder needs, they'll be able to draw their own conclusions," Gowdy said. "People are going to draw different conclusions. That's fine."

GOP committee member Martha Roby of Alabama said she's tried to manage her constituents' expectations about the results of the investigation.

"This is a fact-finding, truth-finding mission, and whatever that reveals is what it reveals," Roby said. "Truth is a stubborn thing."

Clinton Friend's Libya Role Blurs Lines of Politics and Business // NYT // Nicholas Confessor and Michael S. Schmidt – May 18, 2015

When the Clintons last occupied the White House, Sidney Blumenthal cast himself in varied roles: speechwriter, in-house intellectual and press corps whisperer. Republicans added another, accusing Mr. Blumenthal of spreading gossip to discredit Republican investigators and forced him to testify during President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial.

Now, as Hillary Rodham Clinton embarks on her second presidential bid, Mr. Blumenthal's service to the Clintons is once again under the spotlight. Representative Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, a Republican who is leading the congressional committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, plans to subpoena Mr. Blumenthal, 66,

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for a private transcribed interview.

Mr. Gowdy's chief interest, according to people briefed on the inquiry, is a series of memos that Mr. Blumenthal — who was not an employee of the State Department — wrote to Mrs. Clinton about events unfolding in Libya before and after the death of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi. According to emails obtained by The New York Times, Mrs. Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, took Mr. Blumenthal's advice seriously, forwarding his memos to senior diplomatic officials in Libya and Washington and at times asking them to respond. Mrs. Clinton continued to pass around his memos even after other senior diplomats concluded that Mr. Blumenthal's assessments were often unreliable.

But an examination by The New York Times suggests that Mr. Blumenthal's involvement was more wide-ranging and more complicated than previously known, embodying the blurry lines between business, politics and philanthropy that have enriched and vexed the Clintons and their inner circle for years.

While advising Mrs. Clinton on Libya, Mr. Blumenthal, who had been barred from a State Department job by aides to President Obama, was also employed by her family's philanthropy, the Clinton Foundation, to help with research, "message guidance" and planning of commemorative events, according to foundation officials. During the same period, he also worked on and off as a paid consultant to Media Matters and American Bridge, organizations that helped lay the groundwork for Mrs. Clinton's 2016 campaign.

Much of the Libya intelligence that Mr. Blumenthal passed on to Mrs. Clinton appears to have come from a group of business associates he was advising as they sought to win contracts from the Libyan transitional government. The venture, which was ultimately unsuccessful, involved other Clinton friends, a private military contractor and one former C.I.A. spy seeking to get in on the ground floor of the new Libyan economy.

The projects — creating floating hospitals to treat Libya's war wounded and temporary housing for displaced people, and building schools — would have required State Department permits, but floundered before the business partners could seek official approval.

It is not clear whether Mrs. Clinton or the State Department knew of Mr. Blumenthal's interest in pursuing business in Libya; a State Department spokesman declined to say. Many aspects of Mr. Blumenthal's involvement in the planned Libyan venture remain unclear. He declined repeated requests to discuss it.

But interviews with his associates and a review of previously unreported correspondence suggest that — once again — it may be difficult to determine where one of Mr. Blumenthal's jobs ended and another began.

Mr. Gowdy's committee on the attacks in Benghazi hopes to ask Mr. Blumenthal who, if anyone, was paying him to prepare the memos for Mrs. Clinton and whether they were among his responsibilities at the Clinton Foundation. The committee's investigators are also interested in whether the planned business venture in Libya posed any potential conflicts for Mr. Blumenthal or Mrs. Clinton, whose aides the business partners sought meetings with in early 2012.

The Libya venture came together in 2011, when David L. Grange, a retired Army major general, joined with a newly formed New York firm, Constellations Group, to pursue business leads in Libya. Constellations Group, led by a professional fund-raiser and philanthropist named Bill White, was to provide the leads. Mr. Grange's company, Osprey Global Solutions, based in North Carolina, would put "boots on the ground to see if there was an opportunity to do business," Mr. Grange said in an interview.

The men had little experience in Libya. Exactly how Mr. White was to procure leads in Libya is unclear. He spent much of his career as an executive at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, and had raised money for politicians, businesses and charities. His biography also describes Mr. White as a consultant for Aquahydrate, a bottled-water

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company whose backers include Ron Burkle, the billionaire investor who had been a close friend of the Clintons.

“We were thinking, ‘O.K., Qaddafi is dead, or about to be, and there’s opportunities,’ ” Mr. White said in a brief telephone interview, adding, “We thought, ‘Let’s try to see who we know there.’ ”

Mr. White declined to answer follow-up questions about what role Mr. Blumenthal was playing in the business venture. But Mr. Grange described Mr. Blumenthal as an adviser to Mr. White’s company, along with two other associates: Tyler Drumheller, a colorful former Central Intelligence Agency official, and Cody Shearer, a longtime Clinton friend whose sister once worked for Mrs. Clinton.

“I just know that he was working with the team to work on business development,” Mr. Grange said of Mr. Blumenthal.

In the spring of 2011, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Drumheller and Mr. Shearer were helping plan what was to be Mr. Grange’s first trip to Libya, according to emails stolen by a Romanian hacker and published by Gawker and ProPublica in March. Mr. Blumenthal said he had been advised not to comment on the correspondence because the theft remained under investigation by the F.B.I.

In August, Mr. Grange signed a memorandum of understanding with two senior officials in the Libyan transitional government to provide “humanitarian assistance, medical services and disaster mitigation,” along with helping to train a new national police force.

The agreement fell apart, Mr. Grange said, but the partners continued to seek other projects in Libya, including a proposal to create the floating hospitals to treat the country’s war wounded. But doing business there proved difficult: Some Libyan leaders were wary about working with Western companies, while the contractors could not figure out whom to make deals with.

“It was just so factionalized over there,” Mr. Grange said. “You never knew who to believe or trust, or know who was in charge of what.”

Even as their plans sputtered, Mr. Blumenthal continued to draw on the business associates for information about Libya as he shaped his memos to Mrs. Clinton. Sometimes the two realms became blurred.

In January 2012, for example, Mr. Blumenthal sent Mrs. Clinton a memo describing efforts by the new Libyan prime minister to stabilize his fragile government by bringing in advisers with experience dealing with Western companies and governments.

Among “the most influential of this group,” Mr. Blumenthal wrote, was a man named Najib Obeida, who worked at the fledgling Libyan stock exchange. Mrs. Clinton had the memo forwarded to her senior State Department staff.

What Mr. Blumenthal did not mention was that Mr. Obeida was one of the Libyan officials Mr. Grange and his partners hoped would finance the humanitarian projects. The day before Mr. Blumenthal emailed Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Grange wrote to a senior Clinton aide at the State Department to introduce the venture with Mr. Obeida in Libya and seek an audience with the United States’ ambassador there. Mr. Grange said he did not receive a reply.

Mr. Blumenthal sent Mrs. Clinton at least 25 memos about Libya in 2011 and 2012, many describing elaborate intrigues among various foreign governments and rebel factions.

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Mrs. Clinton circulated them, frequently forwarding them to Jake Sullivan, her well-regarded deputy chief of staff, and requesting that he distribute them to other State Department officials. Mr. Sullivan often sent the memos to senior officials in Libya, including the ambassador, J. Christopher Stevens, who was killed in the 2012 attacks in Benghazi.

In many cases, Mr. Sullivan would paste the text from the memos into an email and tell the other State Department officials that they had come from an anonymous “contact” of Mrs. Clinton.

Some of Mr. Blumenthal’s memos urged Mrs. Clinton to consider rumors that other American diplomats knew at the time to be false. Not infrequently, Mrs. Clinton’s subordinates replied to the memos with polite skepticism.

In April 2012, Mr. Stevens took issue with a Blumenthal memo raising the prospect that the Libyan branch of the Muslim Brotherhood was poised to make gains in the coming parliamentary elections. The Brotherhood fared poorly in the voting.

Another American diplomat, after reading the same memo, noted that Mrs. Clinton’s source appeared to have confused two Libyan politicians with the same surname.

Mrs. Clinton herself sometimes seemed skeptical. After reading a March 2012 memo from Mr. Blumenthal, describing a plan by French and British intelligence officials to encourage tribal leaders in eastern Libya to declare a “semiautonomous” zone there, Mrs. Clinton wrote to Mr. Sullivan, “This one strains credulity.”

Mr. Sullivan agreed, telling Mrs. Clinton, “It seems like a thin conspiracy theory.”

But the skepticism did not seem to sour Mrs. Clinton on Mr. Blumenthal, who continued to forward Mr. Blumenthal’s memos, often appending a note: “Useful insight,” or “We should get this around asap.”

In an August 2012 memo, Mr. Blumenthal described the new president of Libya, Mohammed Yussef el-Magariaf, as someone who would “seek a discrete relationship with Israel” and had “many common friends and associates with the leaders of Israel.”

“If true, this is encouraging,” Mrs. Clinton wrote to Mr. Sullivan. “Should consider passing to Israelis.”

The emails suggest that Mr. Blumenthal’s direct line to Mrs. Clinton circumvented the elaborate procedures established by the federal government to ensure that high-level officials are provided with vetted assessments of available intelligence.

Former intelligence officials said that it was not uncommon for top officials, including secretaries of state, to look outside the intelligence bureaucracy for information and advice. But Paul R. Pillar, a former C.I.A. official who is now a researcher at the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University, said Mr. Blumenthal’s dispatches went beyond that sort of informal channel, aping the style of official government intelligence reports but without assessments of the motives of sources.

“The sourcing is pretty sloppy,” Mr. Pillar added, “in a way that would never pass muster if it were the work of a reports officer at a U.S. intelligence agency.”

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The long and winding road ahead for Hillary Clinton's e-mails // Washington Post // Fred Barbash – May 19, 2015

The State Department said in a court filing late Monday that it will take at least until January 2016 for it to review a cache of 30,000 e-mails provided by former secretary of state Hillary Clinton and decide which ones can be made available to the public, and in what form.

Even then, it said, an "interagency review process could impact the Department's proposed" timeline for public release of redacted versions of the e-mails.

And any other requests for Clinton e-mails, it warned, could make the review even slower.

At best, according to the plan, some e-mails could land just at the beginning of the Democratic presidential nominating process, which starts in February with the Iowa caucuses.

The e-mails were turned over to the department at its request by the former secretary of state in December following reports that she was keeping them on a private server.

The court filing came in response to a Freedom of Information Act suit filed by Vice News.

Why will it take so long?

The State Department filing explained that Clinton sent over the e-mails on paper, rather than in some digital form. They consume a total of 55,000 pages in "twelve bankers boxes…that corresponded approximately to the time frame of the documents within a given box."

Now each page "must be individually hand–processed in order to ensure that all information is being captured." That alone is a five-step process that is "time consuming and labor-intensive," the filing to the U.S. District Court in Washington said.

But that was just the beginning. The state department outlined a 15-step process involving sign-offs by at least three different offices internally and an unknown number of other agencies, each of which will undoubtedly impose its own review procedure on the missives.

For example, if the Treasury Department had some role in a subject under discussion in an email, its lawyers will be given the opportunity to review it and perhaps to suggests at one extreme, reasons why it should not be released or portions that should be redacted.

"The review of these materials will likely require consultation with a broad range of subject matter experts within the Department and other agencies, as well as potentially with foreign governments," the filing said, adding by way of warning that the department "operates in approximately 285 locations around the globe."

Nor did the filing suggest any firmness in the January, 2016 date. Indeed, a footnote warned that additional requests for Clinton emails that are subject-specific, as opposed to the Vice's demand for everything, could "slow down the Department's processing of the collection."

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What Sidney Blumenthal's Memos to Hillary Clinton Said, and How They Were Handled // NYT // Michael S. Schmidt - May 18, 2015

In 2011 and 2012, Hillary Rodham Clinton received at least 25 memos about Libya from Sidney Blumenthal, a friend and confidant who at the time was employed by the Clinton Foundation. The memos, written in the style of intelligence cables, make up about a third of the almost 900 pages of emails related to Libya that Mrs. Clinton said she kept on the personal email account she used exclusively as secretary of state. Some of Mr. Blumenthal's memos appeared to be based on reports supplied by American contractors he was advising as they sought to do business in Libya. Mr. Blumenthal also appeared to be gathering information from anonymous Libyan and Western officials and local news media reports. What follows are descriptions of some of the memos and how they were handled by Mrs. Clinton and her aides.

Clinton Says Idea on Rebels Should Be Considered

In April 2011, Mr. Blumenthal sent Mrs. Clinton a memo about the rebel forces fighting the regime of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi. The rebels, Mr. Blumenthal wrote, were considering hiring security contractors to train their forces. Mrs. Clinton forwarded the memo to her aide, Jake Sullivan, and said that the idea should be considered. (Pages 1-3)

In 2011 and 2012, Mrs. Clinton forwarded 18 memos to Mr. Sullivan, who in turn circulated them to senior State Department officials, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, who was killed in the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, and Ambassador Gene A. Cretz, who preceded him.

An Alert to Possible Terrorist Attacks in Libya

In May 2011, Mr. Blumenthal sent Mrs. Clinton a memo reporting that affiliates of Al Qaeda in Libya were plotting attacks in revenge for the United States' killing of Osama bin Laden. Mrs. Clinton forwarded the email to Mr. Sullivan, saying that it was "disturbing, if true." Mr. Sullivan questioned its accuracy, but said he would share with others. (Pages 4-5)

Highlighting the Role of a Potential Business Partner

In January 2012, Mr. Blumenthal wrote to Mrs. Clinton about challenges facing Libya's new government. In the memo, Mr. Blumenthal said that Libya's prime minister was bringing in new economic advisers, and that a businessman, Najib Obeida, was among "the most influential of this group." At the time, Mr. Obeida was a potential business partner for a group of contractors whom Mr. Blumenthal was advising. Mrs. Clinton instructed Mr. Sullivan to ask for a response from senior State Department officials including Mr. Cretz, then the ambassador to Libya. (Pages 6-15)

A Memo Is Passed On, Despite Questions

In March 2012, Mrs. Clinton forwarded a memo by Mr. Blumenthal to Mr. Sullivan, saying that she was dubious about its content. Mr. Sullivan agreed, stating that Mr. Blumenthal's report resembled "a conspiracy theory" — but still asked State Department officials to review it. (Pages 16-17)

A Warning Is Forwarded to Incoming Ambassador

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In April 2012, Mr. Blumenthal wrote to Mrs. Clinton warning about the imminent rise of the Muslim Brotherhood in Libya. Mrs. Clinton forwarded the memo to Mr. Sullivan, who sent it to Mr. Stevens, the incoming United States ambassador to Libya. Mr. Stevens' response — that the Brotherhood in fact had a relatively small following in Libya — was passed on to Mrs. Clinton. (Pages 18-24)

Clinton Suggests Sharing Information With Israel

After receiving an August 2012 memo from Mr. Blumenthal about how the new Libyan prime minister wanted to have a better relationship with Israel, Mrs. Clinton suggested to Mr. Sullivan that they pass the intelligence along to the Israelis. (Pages 25-27)

Hillary Clinton's army of trolls // Politico // Annie Karni – May 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton's tweets aren't particularly edgy or provocative. But no matter what she says, they tend to generate a passionate response – much of it negative.

No matter the message, whether it's an opinion on a contentious issue or an unremarkable snapshot from the campaign trail, the result tends to be the same: an avalanche of cynicism, snark and some outright bile.

In part, it's a function of the size of her account — with 3.5 million followers, Clinton's Twitter following dwarves every other contender in the 2016 hunt. And Twitter trolling, as all of the prospective candidates and anyone in public life can attest, is the price of admission.

Still, when it comes to Clinton, the trolling is of a different scale and measure, a clear reflection of the strong feelings she provokes among her legion of detractors.

"How can you tell Hillary will fight every day for kids and families? Because it's what she's always done," @HillaryClinton tweeted May 12, with a link to a Huffington Post story outlining her legacy as Arkansas' first lady.

That relatively mundane tweet provoked anger from both the right and the left. "What about the ones she voted to send to war in Iraq," replied Karen Geier, whose Twitter bio identifies her as a digital and social media strategist, a feminist and a proud progressive.

Ted Bingham, a self-described conservative Mormon from Sheboygan, WI, replied: "After she's done lying about the 30,000 emails, how she was named, and her 'immigrant grandparents. She's a total waste!!!"

And Christopher Mahoney, who identified himself online as a retired vice chairman at Moody's, replied to Clinton by reaching back to the suicide of a close Clinton confidante in the '90s: "Especially the family of Vince Foster."

Amid a long stream of detractors, one fan account, whose handle is @HRC, tweeted encouragingly, like a small voice working up the nerve to express an unpopular opinion: "Next Prez."

Clinton's online detractors most often paint her as untrustworthy, or raise questions about the foreign money that has flowed to the Clinton Foundation while she was secretary of state. Some call her names like "witch," dictator," "monster," and even "Hitlary," all reminders of how polarizing Clinton can be — a feminist hero and glass-ceiling

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cracker to supporters; an untrustworthy, pandering operative to the haters. (Her most devoted supporters sometimes break through the noise with supportive exclamations of “Queen!”)

Her large Twitter following is, on the whole, an advantage for Clinton, who can exert more control over her own message and image: a recent picture of Clinton in Iowa was retweeted 251 times and favorited by 561 Twitter users. In contrast, a recent picture of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie campaigning in New Hampshire with his wife, Mary Pat, was retweeted once and favorited three times.

With more followers than all the top-tier Republican candidates combined (her closest GOP competitor is Sen. Marco Rubio, who has 736,000), Clinton’s Twitter account is a powerful messaging tool for pushing out her own snapshots from campaign stops, weighing in on national issues in 140 characters, and directing supporters to her fundraising and volunteer pages online.

But that formidable footprint comes with a price: she also trumps her opponents in terms of her legions of trolls, who sometimes overwhelm the conversations she generates, picking at the scabs and scars Clinton has accumulated over nearly four decades in public life.

When Clinton recently tweeted “Healthy women ? healthy communities. Sign up if you agree with Hillary,” one quick response to that relatively anodyne message was, ““On average how much does Bill spend on hookers each week?”

Clinton’s physical appearance is not considered out of bounds among her Twitter tormenters. One response to photos of Clinton walking around Brooklyn last week, dressed in a long green jacket, that were posted on Twitter: “She’s a human pear.”

On May 14, Clinton’s tweet about “words that ring truer than ever today: ‘Human rights are women’s rights, and women’s rights are human rights.’ #TBT” — along with a picture of Clinton from her famous 1995 speech on human rights in Beijing — drew an especially pointed response. One Rachel Cohen — a self-described protestant Christian, conservative libertarian gun owner replied: “Oh for the days when you weren’t tired, fat, old and gray.”

The campaign doesn’t engage with its trolls — or even acknowledge them. “Hillary Clinton listens to everyone’s voices whether they have substantive feedback during the hours of roundtable discussions she’s had or 140 characters of feedback in response to a tweet,” said a Clinton campaign aide.

A Democratic strategist who is not affiliated with the campaign explained the Clinton approach this way: “Haters gonna hate.”

And they do.

“Hillary wants to call someone’s mom on Mother’s Day. It could be yours,” Clinton tweeted — seemingly innocuously — on May 4, with a link to the campaign contest fundraiser.

Not so innocuous, it turned out.

“I am so thank U R Not my mom or Grandma and U stay away from my MOM! Dictator Hypocrite!” replied one woman whose Twitter handle is Judy Ameil.

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“How about calling the moms of those killed at Benghazi? that’s a great start. Instead, it’ll probably be rich donors. #Witch.” wrote Paul Hicks, who tweets under the handle @PaulAniston and responds often to Clinton’s tweets.

While the attacks seem to be personal and sometimes sexist, the attackers claim they are not.

“Yep. I troll quite a bit I guess,” Hicks, who works as a quality control engineer, explained in a direct message on Twitter. “I don’t dislike her personally because I don’t know her personally. As with all politicians, I’m sure she’s very likeable and says all the right things…. I’m as tired of old white men leading this country as the next guy. We need someone that’ll unite the country, protect it & stand up for its citizens.”

The constant stream of criticism “comes with the territory” of a high-profile campaign, said Rebecca Heisler, former social media director for Mitt Romney’s 2012 presidential campaign. “The key is to create enough quality content that you’re not just getting negative feedback, you’re also getting supporters to actively engage and drown out the noise.”

Reading the individual comments is counter-productive, she said, but getting a bigger picture of a candidate’s reception online can be helpful to a campaign. “There are social listening tools where you can monitor more broadly how people are engaging with your content,” Heisler said.

“There is a big difference between social noise and social action,” warned Betsy Hoover, a partner at 270 Strategies, who was President Obama’s 2012 digital organizing director and worked with Ready for Hillary. “You have to recognize that and know what you’re seeing and when. Engagement is high and the focus is really high. With Clinton, you have a very focused place for that energy to go in a way you don’t on the other side. It’s much easier to be against something on Twitter than for something, but the people that are pro-Hillary are donating money, sharing a video, or volunteering in their communities.”

By now, the campaign has come to expect a stream of trolling — especially when Clinton weighs in on divisive issues like abortion.

“When it comes to women’s health, there are two kinds of experts: women and their doctors. True 40+ years ago, true today. - H” she tweeted last Wednesday, weighing in on the debate surrounding a bill to ban 20 week abortions (it passed in the House earlier that day).

The responses were as expected: “Why don’t you just come out and say you have no problem with killing babies? We’re talking 20 weeks. you’re a monster…” tweeted “Ryan,” a self-described “Christian. Texan. Conservative,” who has over 6,000 followers.

Jeb Bush also weighed in on the bill on Twitter: “I urge Congress to support the late-term abortion ban today. We need to stand up for life and the most vulnerable among us. #HR36.” As with Clinton, some of his trolls also started a conversation that seemed to be more about general attacks on his candidacy than the 20-week abortion ban.

In the end, though, Clinton’s online presence trumped his, even if it came with a stream of ugly comments from those that will never vote for her.

Bush’s comment was retweeted 265 times, compared to Clinton’s 2,345.

Hillary Clinton was paid millions by tech industry for speeches // WaPo // Matea Gold, Rosalind S. Helderman,

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and Anu Narayanswamy - May 18, 2015

In one of her last gigs on the paid lecture circuit, Hillary Rodham Clinton addressed an eBay summit aimed at promoting women in the workplace, delivering a 20-minute talk that garnered her a $315,000 payday from the company.

Less than two months later, Clinton was feted at the San Francisco Bay-area home of eBay chief executive John Donahoe and his wife, Eileen, for one of the first fundraisers supporting Clinton's newly announced presidential campaign.

The two events spotlight the unusually close financial ties between Clinton and a broad array of industries with issues before the government that paid tens of millions of dollars to her and her husband, former president Bill Clinton, in the months preceding the launch of her presidential campaign.

Disclosure documents filed by Hillary Clinton last week revealed that the couple have earned about $25 million for delivering 104 paid speeches since January 2014.

While Bill Clinton's lucrative speaking career since leaving the White House in 2001 has been well documented, the new disclosures offer the first public accounting of Hillary Clinton's paid addresses since she stepped down as secretary of state. And they illustrate how the Clintons have personally profited by drawing on the same network of supporters who have backed their political campaigns and philanthropic efforts — while those supporters have gained entree to a potential future president.

Silicon Valley is one place where those overlapping interests come together, according to a Washington Post analysis of the new Clinton disclosures.

Out of the $11.7 million that Hillary Clinton has made delivering 51 speeches since January 2014, $3.2 million came from the technology industry, the analysis found. Several of the companies that paid Clinton to address their employees also have senior leaders who have been early and avid supporters of her presidential bid.

The tech sector was the largest single source of speaking fees for Clinton, followed by health care and financial services, according to the Post analysis. Bill Clinton also made substantial income speaking to tech groups but focused more heavily on financial services, insurance and real estate companies.

A Hillary Clinton campaign spokesman declined to comment.

While it is common for former presidents to receive top dollar as paid speakers, Hillary Clinton is unique as a prospective candidate who received large personal payouts from corporations, trade groups and other major interests mere months before launchinga White House bid. In some cases, those speeches gave Clinton a chance to begin sounding out themes of her coming campaign and even discuss policy issues that a future Clinton administration might face.

Companies that paid her to speak include industry giants such as Xerox, Cisco Systems and Qualcomm, as well as start-ups and trade groups focused on biotechnology and medical technology.

The blurred line between personal and political is apparent in the cases of companies that hired Clinton to speak and are led by executives who are now prominent backers of her campaign. Salesforce.com, for instance, paid Clinton $451,000 to deliver two talks last year, and its CEO, Marc Benioff, is a major donor to Ready for Hillary, a

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super PAC that laid the groundwork for her presidential bid. Another major backer of the PAC is Irwin Jacobs, he former chairman of Qualcomm, which shelled out $335,000 for Clinton to speak in late October.

A spokeswoman for Salesforce declined to comment on how Clinton came to be invited to speak. Qualcomm did not return requests for comment. A spokeswoman for Jacobs said that he is retired from the company and does not play a role in its decisions.

When Clinton arrived at eBay for her March 2014 women's-leadership speech, she had another connection to the company. Eileen Donohoe, wife of the CEO, had worked for Clinton as U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Abby Smith, spokeswoman for eBay, said that, "as one of the world's most admired women, Hillary Clinton was the perfect choice" for the event. Smith declined to comment on the Donahoes' fundraiser for the Clinton campaign.

The new disclosures showed Clinton's vast earning power on the public speaking circuit as a former secretary of state who many viewed as the Democratic presidential nominee in waiting.

In some cases, organizations that had once paid Bill Clinton to speak now paid even more to lure his wife.

The Biotechnology Industry Organization paid Bill Clinton $175,000 in 2010. Four years later, the group paid $335,000 — nearly twice as much — to hear from Hillary Clinton. Likewise, the Advanced Medical Technology Association paid Bill Clinton $160,000 to speak in 2009 and paid Hillary Clinton $265,000 to speak in 2014.

The warm reception for Hillary Clinton in Silicon Valley comes after she watched a young upstart named Barack Obama lock up many of the industry's top money players during their fight for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

Since then, the region has experienced explosive growth, making it an even bigger target for candidates hunting for political donors. Republicans such as Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and former Florida governor Jeb Bush are making a play to win over the traditionally left-leaning enclave.

But Clinton is not giving them much of an opening, assiduously courting tech leaders as she contemplated another White House run.

One day last July, she tweeted, "In #SiliconValley today visiting @Google, @Facebook, & @Twitter. Looking forward to seeing everyone and answering some questions."

Clinton did not receive any speaking fees from those companies, which she visited as part of a tour promoting her latest book, "Hard Choices."

But about a month later, she scooped up $625,000 in one day from the tech sector — first addressing a conference in San Francisco sponsored by Nexenta Systems, a data storage start-up, and then as a surprise guest at Cisco's sales conference in Las Vegas, where she was interviewed by chief executive John Chambers.

At the Nexenta conference, Clinton addressed several hot-button policy issues in Silicon Valley that the next

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president will have to confront. She spoke of the need to “rebalance” privacy and security when it comes to government surveillance, an issue viewed as both a business and philosophical matter among tech leaders. And she expressed interest in an idea proposed by Chambers and other chief executives to allow companies to bring profits invested overseas back to the United States at a reduced tax rate.

“It doesn’t do our economy any good to have this money parked somewhere else in the world,” Clinton said, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The event also provided Clinton, who was making few public appearances, a platform to weigh in on an increasingly hot national issue. In her first remarks about the unrest that followed the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., she urged Americans not to ignore “inequities that persist in our justice system.”

Allison Darin, director of communications for Nexenta, said that the topic “has nothing to do with what we do.”

But, she added, “it was obviously compelling news which brought a lot of attention to the event, which is exactly what we want.”

Tarkan Maner, the company’s chief executive, sits on the national finance committee of the Ready for Hillary PAC and made a $5,000 donation to the group in September, about a month after Clinton’s speech.

Darin said Maner’s support for Clinton had nothing to do with the company’s invitation to have her speak. Rather, she said, company officials decided Clinton would have broad appeal for the audience of 500 top executives who attended the conference.

“It really wasn’t politically focused at that time,” she said. “It was just good timing.”

Most of Clinton’s paid speeches were closed to the public and the press. But in the few that were open, Clinton appeared to be road-testing themes that would become a part of her upcoming campaign.

In an April 2014 speech at a technology conference sponsored by Marketo, a software branding company, she discussed the growing gap between rich and poor in the United States. According to news reports, she proposed changes to taxation and corporate policies to address the issue.

“Inequality of the kind we are experiencing is bad for individuals, bad for society, bad for democracy,” she said, according to the New York Times. “If you look around the world, this is becoming a bigger issue everywhere.”

Clinton’s latest financial disclosures also highlight the extent of personal support she and her husband have received from organizations and individuals who have donated to their charity, the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

At least 72 organizations that have paid the Clintons for speeches since 2001 have also donated to the Clinton Foundation.

For example, Cisco, which paid Hillary Clinton $325,000 for her August appearance, has given the foundation between $1 million and $5 million. In 2011, the company paid Bill Clinton $210,000 to speak at an event on Kiawah Island in South Carolina.

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As for eBay, the company's charitable foundation has given more than $50,000 to the Clinton Foundation.

Clinton Criticism of Wealth Leaves Us 1% Convinced // Bloomberg // C. Thompson and Lauren Arnold - ay 18, 2015

"Hillary Clinton sold her soul when they accepted that money."

The speaker here is a Sahrawi Arab from the disputed territory of Western Sahara named Mohamed Lahwaimed, quoted in a Politico story from last Friday. While he's referring to the $1 million (or more) in donations to the Clinton Foundation from a Moroccan mining company with ties to King Mohammed VI, he could be speaking as well to a lot of voters in the U.S. today.

Wonder if she's listening.

"Let's finally do something about the growing economic inequality that is tearing our country apart," she said in 2007 during her campaign for the 2008 election, according to the New York Times. "The top 1 percent of our households held 22 percent of our nation's wealth." We're not sure of the time frame to which she's referring, but it doesn't matter. We get it already.

How difficult will it be to run a campaign on a platform of tackling wealth inequality, which she is reprising for this run (probably because she has to), when we have all just learned that she and her husband can pretty much just burp money?

A haul of $30 million or so from talking to Rotarians in the past 16 months, revealed in a financial disclosure filed to the Federal Elections Commission on Friday, has got to be some weight around her neck now. As Jennifer Epstein and Richard Rubin reported over the weekend, that's not even everything—notably, the almost $105 million Bill Clinton pulled down from 2001 to 2013.

The once-and-perhaps-future first couple's net worth, Epstein and Rubin write, is somewhere between $11.3 million and $52.7 million (our range is narrower), and this excludes homes in New York and Washington, retirement savings accounts and other personal effects, as if those would tip the scale even more—from, say, astounding to astonishing.

The Clintons may have been "dead broke" when they left the White House in 2001, but it doesn't look like they stayed that way for very long.

So, what is it about her that is supposed to resonate with the middle-class voters? This will be the talking point from the other party for some time to come, one could reasonably assume, and of course it's a layup for them. But the Republicans might want to watch where they step because there are still steaming piles of Romney and Bush and, hell, even McCain money out there on the trail.

The bigger issue probably is that this information is going to be wielded against her by her own party.

So, again, what is it? Where's she coming from, when she's taking in money so fast and from so far afield, when she says she's a champion of the poor? Is it some kind of noblesse oblige thing? Does wealth not have its place?

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At Forbes magazine, the argument goes that the inequality Clinton claims to attack is, in fact, what's made it possible for her to be in this position in the first place.

"[T]he Clintons are rich for having been wise enough to make a profession of politics in what is the richest, most innovative country on Earth," John Tamny writes.

They're rich because people care about them, and people care about them because they're rich, he suggests:

"What's most bothersome is that Hillary would bash the very inequality that has made it possible for her and Bill to be prominent global figures, and by extension wildly rich global figures. If not for the immense taxable wealth in the U.S., and the Clintons' ability to influence its direction around the world, very few would give them the time of day.

"In short, the Clintons are nothing without the wealth inequality they claim to disdain. It's the sole source of their power," Tamny writes. "The swagger of the world's foremost political couple was taken from someone else."

Will it be taken from her?

CNN commentator: Hillary Clinton's 'strong point' is her last name, husband // WaPo // Erik Wemple – May 18, 2015

CNN commentator Tara Setmayer today identified what Hillary Clinton has going for her. "Hillary Clinton — she's her own worst enemy … she's not her husband, she's not the consummate politician, campaigner … warm and fuzzy person. … That is not her strong point," said Setmayer, who is also a contributor to The Blaze TV.

So what is her strong point? Setmayer: "Her strong point is that her last name is Clinton and that she has a husband that people adore and that she's a woman."

Fellow CNN commentator Marc Lamont Hill had a problem with all that: "That's sexist, that's absolutely sexist. … I reject completely the idea that Hillary Clinton has nothing going for her but her last name and her husband," said Hill, in a segment moderated by CNN's Carol Costello.

At which point, Setmayer pressed Hill on Clinton's accomplishments as secretary of state. Hill stumbled a bit on that one: "Opening up Myanmar, resetting Russia, having some of the most important, I think, sanctions intensified on Iran that we've seen in decades. I think all of those things that this secretary of state has done that have been effective," he responded.

The discussion broke out into a very brisk, occasionally boisterous, face-off over Clinton's record. Charges of sexism went back and forth, but get ready, viewers: The question of just what Clinton accomplished as secretary of state will get a great deal of rotation on cable news in the coming year and a half. Clinton defenders, prepare your lists!

Politics More: 2016 Elections Hillary Clinton Media // Business Insider // Colin Campbell – May 18, 2015

Compared to her rivals, former Secretary of Hillary Clinton has barely talked to the media since launching her presidential campaign on April 12.

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And the media has responded by heavily criticizing Clinton's campaign for ducking the issues of the day.

On Monday, The New York Times announced Clinton's upcoming tour of swing states with the backhanded headline: "Hillary Clinton's Busy Week Presents More Opportunities for No Questions."

The Times story noted that there are still a number of controversial topics that Clinton has yet to personally address, including new questions about her family's foundation and last Friday's disclosure from her campaign indicating she and her husband made more than $25 million in paid speeches alone since 2014.

Also last week, The Washington Post unveiled a new clock to track the minutes — roughly 40,000, as of Monday — since Clinton last answered a question from a reporter. That question came on April 21.

Meanwhile, a wide range of outlets have gone out of their way to document every question Clinton has answered from the press since announcing her campaign. That total reportedly stands at 13 questions, depending on who's counting. The Daily News, National Journal, and Politico reported that she has answered only eight inquiries from reporters.

One of President Barack Obama's closest former campaign advisers, media consultant David Axelrod, said it would be a "terrible mistake" for Clinton not to reverse course and open up to the media.

Axelrod, whose team beat Clinton in the 2008 Democratic primary, argued that Clinton doesn't want "a major news event" every time she answers a routine question.

"She has to answer questions, and she has to do it routinely, so it's not a major news event when she takes a few questions from the news media," Axelrod said on NBC's "Meet the Press," according to a transcript. "It would be a terrible mistake to not do that."

For her part, Clinton's campaign and supporters have dismissed the criticism as media navel-gazing.

A campaign spokesman declined to comment to Business Insider for this story, but another spokesman, Jesse Ferguson, reacted last week on Twitter by pointing to Clinton taking questions at length during town hall events: "Philosophical Q: If a candidate answers hours of questions from real people on camera but they didn't come from press, did they happen?"

Perhaps seeking to counter potential criticism on the issue, the pro-Clinton super PAC American Bridge on Monday released a lengthy list of questions Clinton has both asked and taken from "everyday Americans while on the campaign trail."

"While other candidates are using the media to further their own agendas and attack each other, Hillary Clinton is displaying the qualities of a true leader by meeting with the people she hopes to champion as the next President of the United States," the PAC said in a statement to reporters.

Hillary Clinton Paid by Jeb Bush's Education Company // First Look // Lee Fang – May 18, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton received nearly a quarter of a million dollars last year for a speaking engagement on behalf of Academic Partnerships, a for-profit education company in which Jeb Bush held

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an ownership stake and on whose board he served.

Clinton's newly-filed personal financial disclosure shows that she was paid $225,500 on March 24, 2014 by Academic Partnerships. At the invitation-only event in Dallas, Texas, Clinton reportedly said, "today a student doesn't need to travel to Cambridge, Mass., or Cambridge, England, to get a world-class education."

Academic Partnerships assists universities in converting their academic degree programs into online versions that can be taken by students around the world.

In 2011, Bush joined Academic Partnerships as an investor and as a paid advisor. He helped the company host multiple conferences and has appeared in online videos encouraging others to consider the Academic Partnership business model. Though he did not share the stage with Clinton, Bush spoke at the same conference.

Preparing for an expected bid for the Republican nomination for president, Bush resigned from Academic Partnerships in December.

Rand Paul: Bill Clinton put 'generation' of black men in prison // The Hill // Alexander Bolton – May 18, 2015

PHILADELPHIA — Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul says he will bash Hillary Clinton over her husband's record of putting "a generation of black men in prison" if he is the nominee.

Paul, a freshman senator from Kentucky, says he will compete with Clinton in Philadelphia, where Democrats have a 7-to-1 registration advantage, and other impoverished cities by highlighting his support for criminal justice reform.

"If I were the nominee, we will compete in Philadelphia," he told CBS radio talk show host Dom Giordano at the National Constitution Center.

"I'll ask Hillary Clinton, what have you done for criminal justice. Your husband passed all the laws that put a generation of black men in prison. Her husband was responsible for that," he said.

"She's changing her tune now. She's changing her tune because people like me have been speaking out against these injustices," he said.

As president, Clinton signed the 1994 Violent Crime Control Act, which gave sentences fiscal incentives to enact tougher sentencing laws.

Paul noted that in some predominantly African-American communities such as Ferguson, Missouri, there are substantially fewer black men than women because so many black men are incarcerated.

He touted bills he has introduced with Democratic support that would give judges more discretion in handing out sentencing and reduce penalties for non-violent drug offenses.

Paul said he would also challenge Clinton about her vision for reinvigorating blighted urban centers.

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"I'll also ask her what she's going to do for poor people in Philadelphia. I have a specific plan that would dramatically lower the taxes for people who live in zip codes of poverty and high unemployment. I would leave billions of dollars in Philadelphia over ten years. What's Hillary Clinton going to do?" he said.

Bill Clinton signals he can be Hillary's second fiddle // The Hill // Niaill Stanage – May 19, 2015

Bill Clinton is going out of his way to suggest he can play second fiddle to Hillary Clinton in the 2016 campaign.

The former president, considered one of his party's greatest campaigners and political minds, has implied he will play the wallflower when it comes to his wife's presidential bid.

Appearing on David Letterman's "Late Show" last week, Bill Clinton jokingly suggested that if his wife wins the presidency, he'd only move back to the White House "if I'm asked."

He's happy to give Hillary Clinton advice "if his advice is asked for," his chief of staff, Tina Flournoy, told The Washington Post the same week.

Bill Clinton is "not directly engaged in the campaign," Flournoy added.

But many political observers doubt that Bill Clinton can hang back. In fact, some find the idea preposterous.

On Sunday, NBC's "Meet the Press" host, Chuck Todd, declared that the former president had become "the face of the Clinton campaign, in an odd way," because he had answered 39 on-camera questions since his wife formally declared her candidacy, compared with nine answered by Hillary Clinton.

On the same show, David Axelrod, a former senior adviser to President Obama, said that Hillary Clinton would be making "a terrible mistake" if she did not quickly get into the rhythm of fielding media questions herself.

Veterans of recent presidential campaigns, such as Axelrod, need no reminding of the assets and liabilities Bill Clinton brings to the trail.

In 2012, Bill Clinton's speech at the Democratic National Convention was hailed as one of the most effective of the presidential campaign.

In 2008, by contrast, his appearances often backfired on his wife, most notably when he compared Obama's performance against her in the South Carolina primary to that of civil rights leader Jesse Jackson in earlier presidential races. The remark was widely seen as racially insensitive.

The issue faced by Hillary Clinton's campaign is how to take advantage of her husband's prodigious skills while steering him around

potential pitfalls.

Strategists on both sides of the political divide agree that one vital issue is the extent to which the former president can be kept focused.

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“When I was at the White House, so long as there was a bull’s-eye, he would invariably hit it,” said Chris Lehane, who worked in the Clinton administration before going on to serve as press secretary for then-Vice President Gore’s 2000 presidential campaign. “If there isn’t a bull’s-eye, then it’s harder to know where you’re supposed to be going.”

“Bill Clinton has tremendous speaking skills and the ability to motivate voters,” Republican consultant Ron Bonjean acknowledged. “But he eventually acts of his own accord, and there is a significant possibility that he can take the campaign off message.”

The former president has already displayed that downside to some extent, drawing unflattering headlines in recent months on donations to the Clinton Foundation and on the massive fees he can command for speeches — around $500,000 per appearance.

Bill Clinton’s response when asked by NBC News if he would continue making such lavishly rewarded speeches — “Yeah, I gotta pay our bills” — only deepened the worry on the part of some of his wife’s supporters that he has, in political terms, lost a step.

“Bill Clinton could be well-used in 2016, but even if you are as good a politician as he is, your skills atrophy, you get a little bit rusty,” said Cal Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University. “Bill in a set piece, like a speech to a convention, is always masterful. But out on the stump, and particularly when he is ad-libbing, he can get himself in a little bit of trouble.”

Still, it could be easier for the Hillary Clinton campaign to keep Bill Clinton on message this time than it was in 2008.

While it has never been a secret that there are separate camps of advisers and confidants around each of the Clintons, many of the former secretary of State’s aides now are too young to bear the baggage accrued during Bill Clinton’s White House years.

Her campaign manager,

Robby Mook, is 35 and a member of a different generation than 2008 campaign aides such as Mark Penn or Bill Clinton loyalists such as James Carville.

“I think her campaign will be careful not to let him do whatever he wants,” said Princeton University public affairs professor Julian Zelizer. “You need to contain him, and I think no one knows that better than his wife.”

Bill Clinton is viewed positively by a majority of the public.

A Gallup poll released last week found that 59 percent of adults in the U.S. viewed him favorably compared with 38 percent who viewed him unfavorably. Opinions of his wife were more evenly split: 50 percent favorable to 46 percent unfavorable.

Lehane argued that Bill Clinton is the Babe Ruth of politics, adding that the 42nd president might be used sparingly until Hillary Clinton’s campaign is well underway but that he could be vital in big moments.

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"If you are the manager of a baseball team, you're in the World Series and you see on the bench Babe Ruth, to me you put Babe Ruth in the starting lineup," he said. "There is more of a question about whether you put Babe Ruth in spring training."

But the former president proved once again on Monday that he might get a little restless as a benchwarmer. After President Obama debuted a new Twitter account with the handle @Potus, Clinton responded.

"Welcome to @Twitter, @POTUS!" the tweet read. "One question: Does that username stay with the office? #askingforafriend."

Bill Clinton's Hud Secretary: Julian Castro Team Hillary's Top VP Choice // Breitbart News // May 18, 2015

Bill Clinton's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Henry Cisneros believes that Hillary Clinton's campaign is intent on picking current HUD secretary Julian Castro as her running mate.

"What I am hearing in Washington, including from people in Hillary Clinton's campaign, is that the first person on their lists is Julian Castro," Cisneros said in an Univision interview that aired on Sunday. "That they don't have a second option, because he is the superior candidate considering his record, personality, demeanor and Latin heritage. I think there is a very high possibility that Hillary Clinton may choose Julian Castro."

As The Hill noted, "Castro has followed a political path similar to the one Cisneros traveled in the 1990s" when "Cisneros served as Mayor of San Antonio and was then HUD secretary under President Bill Clinton." But Cisneros "ultimately left the Clinton administration in the shadow of a scandal about payments he had made to a former mistress. He later pleaded guilty to one count of lying to the FBI and was pardoned by Clinton."

Castro, who appeared at a March Center for American Progress event with Clinton, essentially ruled out running for Texas governor in 2018 in a recent interview with MSNBC, saying that was not on his radar screen. When host Jose Diaz-Balart asked him about the vice presidential rumors, Castro said he had "no comment."

Clinton is reportedly running as "the most liberal Democratic front-runner in decades" because she is projecting that minorities will comprise 31% of the 2016 electorate compared to 28% in 2012 and 26% in 2008.

House liberals play hard-to-get with Hillary Clinton // Politico // Lauren French – May 19, 2015

More than 30 members of the House Progressive Caucus still aren't ready to back Hillary Clinton's campaign, saying she has a ways to go to show she would champion their agenda as president.

The resistance comes even as they acknowledge she'll likely be the party's nominee, and her campaign has mounted an early, aggressive courtship of lawmakers.

"Ultimately, she simply needs to ... not [be] a Republican for me to endorse her," said Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), co-chairman of the 70-member House Progressive Caucus. "I will support the Democratic nominee, there is no question about that. The real question is: What is going to make me get excited? I want to hear her talking about the most pressing issue in America today, which is the concentration of wealth at the top."

Ellison and other House liberals hope that by holding out on a formal endorsement, they can nudge Clinton to the

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left, not only on income inequality but poverty, trade, criminal justice and college affordability — essentially, the Elizabeth Warren agenda. Progressive Caucus members have asked to meet with Clinton aides soon to discuss their policies.

So far, there are close to three dozen House progressives who already have endorsed Clinton. But most House liberals want to see a stronger commitment to their platform.

“I want her to declare a war on poverty,” said Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.), chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. For Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), co-chairman of the Progressive Caucus, it’s climate change and the role of government and trade. “Progressives are looking for definitive positions on the issues,” he said.

Both have withheld their endorsements, at least for now.

The resistance to her among liberals isn’t a direct threat to her campaign so much as another reminder of the wariness among the party base toward its presumed nominee. The lawmakers aren’t so disillusioned that they would get behind Martin O’Malley or Bernie Sanders. In the end, they’re all but sure to come around to Clinton, but like other activists on the left, they want her to earn it.

Still, their lack of enthusiasm for Clinton has practical implications. If she fails to energize progressives, it could depress turnout and hurt Democrats’ chances of eating into the GOP’s 245-seat House majority — a major priority for the party in an election year that should favor Democrats.

And as of now, progressives say they aren’t seeing enough from the Clinton campaign.

The former secretary of state has, for example, refused to weigh in on the controversial battle over “fast-track” authority for trade deals — raising the suspicions of some progressives as Clinton was a key player in the Trans-Pacific Partnership currently being negotiated by the Obama administration.

The fast-track bill is the procedural first step Obama needs to complete the largest trade agreement in American history and a large bloc of Democrats in the House and Senate has been working for months to defeat it. The Senate is set to vote on the bill this week, but the measure’s fate in the House is still uncertain.

Clinton gave a tempered response on trade in April but has refused to answer questions from the media about her concerns or thoughts on the issue since.

That, Grijalva said, is not acceptable for a candidate seeking favor with progressives.

“That is critical,” he said. “The campaign and the secretary have to … tell us where they stand on it.”

A spokesman for Clinton’s campaign, Josh Schwerin, said Clinton appreciates the support she’s seen from the left.

“Hillary Clinton appreciates the support of so many members of the Progressive Caucus and looks forward to continuing to work with them throughout the campaign,” Schwerin said. “She will build on the proposals she’s laid out on issues like criminal justice reform, immigration and helping everyday Americans get ahead and stay ahead.”

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And the campaign has signaled in recent weeks that Clinton is eyeing the populist base that helped elect President Barack Obama. Campaign manager Robby Mook excited liberals when he said on CNBC that voters are seeking out a candidate who is a "champion" for progressive issues like "debt-free college."

Clinton also gave a speech in April on the need to end "mass incarceration" that many progressives lauded.

Still, there's pressure on lawmakers' in progressive districts to stay out of the endorsement game until later in the election. Grijalva, who represents the Tucson and Phoenix areas, said liberal voters in his state would question his judgment if he got out early in favor of Clinton.

"I hear more about Sen. Warren than anybody else, people saying that she should be an alternative ... but if there is any person being talked about Secretary Clinton sounding more like, it's Elizabeth Warren," he said.

"If I were to endorse Hillary Clinton, if someone like Elizabeth Warren was in the race, there would be a lot of questions [from progressives.] A lot of questions," Grijalva added.

To be sure, many progressives have already endorsed Clinton. Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.), a member of the Progressive Caucus, tweeted her endorsement in the days after Clinton announced. And Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.) said at the time of the announcement that he "can't wait" to see her elected to the White House.

But the majority of the Progressive Caucus isn't ready to jump on board yet. And congressional sources say that while endorsements are inevitable for Clinton, progressives want to see her work to woo them first, especially when one of their own, Sanders, has jumped into the race.

Even senior leaders in the Democratic Party haven't given Clinton their formal nod. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, who helped recruit then-Sen. Obama to challenge Clinton in 2008, was asked about the 2016 Democratic field during an interview earlier this month on MSNBC.

"I have a few friends out there," Reid said. But he didn't offer an endorsement of Clinton and touted the benefits of a competitive primary.

"Everybody — everybody knows I love the Clintons," Reid said. "And I don't need to say more."

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelsoi hasn't formally endorsed Clinton, either. She said in January that Clinton would likely win the general election if nominated, even though the party isn't "devoid of other voices."

"Well, your question was, do I believe she's the presumed nominee and will she win if she runs," Pelosi said at the time. "If the secretary runs, I believe that she will win and she will be one of the best-prepared people to enter the White House in a long time in terms of her experience and her knowledge."

5 Things You Might Not Know About Hillary Clinton // NYT // Amy Chozick – May 19, 2015

She is not exactly an open book, though she has written six of them. Most presidential candidates would count themselves lucky to finish their campaigns as recognized as Hillary Rodham Clinton started this one (excluding Chipotle restaurants near Toledo, at least). Here are some things you may still not know about her.

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A Formative Experience With Slime

Fresh out of Wellesley, she worked in a salmon cannery in Valdez, Alaska, wearing hip boots and an apron. The fish would be slit open, and young Hillary Rodham's job was to "slime" them, or "to take a spoon and clean out the insides," she told David Letterman in 2007. "Best preparation for being in Washington that you can possibly imagine."

She's Bounced Back Before

She failed the Washington, D.C., bar exam in 1973 — but passed the Arkansas one.

'Drink Your Wine With a Merry Heart'

She has been known to enjoy a drink or two — though she grew up in the Methodist Church memorizing passages from the Bible and still calls it "the biggest influence on my thinking."

Comedy With an Edge

She may be stressing sunny earnestness in the early going of her presidential campaign, but Mrs. Clinton has a funny and sarcastic side, with a streak of biting wit. Ask Dick Armey. Or Barack Obama.

No, Ella No Puede

She will not win many votes with Latinos for her Spanish accent. (Then again, Jeb Bush — who makes a habit of speaking Spanish — doesn't have this song.) "I'm barely monolingual," she said last month, making light of her language skills while recalling how Spanish-speaking parents worried about being unable to talk to their children in English.

What Young Feminists Think of Hillary Clinton // National Journal // Molly Mirhashem - May 16, 2015

Alexandra Svokos was six years old, growing up in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, when she became a Hillary Clinton fan. It was 1998, and Clinton had published Dear Socks, Dear Buddy, a collection of children's letters addressed to the first family's pets. Svokos became so obsessed with the book, she recalls, that she wrote her own letter—not to Socks the cat or Buddy the Labrador, but to Clinton herself. When she got a reply on official White House stationery with the first lady's signature, Svokos was thrilled.

Clinton was an early feminist icon for many women of Svokos's generation—long before they even began to think of themselves as feminists. Svokos, who's now 23 and a fellow at The Huffington Post, grew up with parents who called themselves feminists and practiced gender equality in the house, balancing household responsibilities and encouraging Svokos and her two sisters to "fight for what we deserved." Mostly, she says, feminism meant "girl power" to her—and that meant, in turn, rooting for Clinton when she made her first run for the presidency in 2008. Svokos was in high school then, and her ideas about feminism were still pretty simple; she admired Clinton "because she was a woman, rather than knowing much about what she stood for."

Eight years later, Svokos's notion of feminism has evolved—and the prospect of Hillary Clinton becoming

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president no longer fills her with unbridled excitement. Svokos says her ideas about feminism began to change when she studied economics at Columbia University, beginning in 2010. As she learned about economic inequality in the United States and around the world, she says, she began to see how gender, race, and class were intertwined—how, for instance, expanding access to birth control can stimulate an economy by enabling women to pursue their own careers.

Feminism came to mean something very different from girl power. And Hillary Clinton came to look like the symbol of an older generation of women more concerned with female empowerment—in particular, with white, middle-class, American female empowerment—than with broader issues of social and economic justice. Svokos says she'll vote for Clinton in 2016, but she's not expecting her to make social justice and inequality true priorities if she makes it to the White House. "I find her lacking, in that I realize she's not likely to push for the kind of change I'd like to see," Svokos says. "At the same time, though, I believe she knows how to manage politics and will be more than capable in the position."

Among feminists of her generation, Svokos is hardly alone in her lukewarm feelings about Hillary Clinton's presidential bid. I recently interviewed 47 young women, most in their early to mid-20s, who call themselves feminists; they talked about what feminism means to them and shared their thoughts about Clinton's candidacy and public image. While the overwhelming majority of these women said they would likely vote for her in 2016, only about a quarter of them were enthusiastic or emphatic in their support. Jennifer Schaffer, a 22-year-old weekend editor at Vice, summed up a common sentiment among these women: "I'm glad we have a female presidential candidate," she told me, "but it's incredibly difficult to get excited about something that should have happened decades ago." A vote for Clinton, many said, would be a vote by default, because no other viable progressive alternatives—female or male—are in the offing.

While it's not exactly news that Clinton is a less-than-ideal candidate for many on the Left, the critique of her from those on the vanguard of contemporary feminism is more surprising—and potentially problematic for her presidential effort. To win in 2016, Clinton doesn't just need half-hearted support from young women; she needs them to be a base of her grassroots efforts, as fired up as young people were for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. But even as more and more young women are embracing the "feminist" label—with pop-culture icons like Beyoncé making it central to their public personas—the feminism that Clinton represents seems increasingly outmoded. While her campaign banks on young feminists like Svokos and Schaffer being "Ready for Hillary," these women say they're ready for more.

HILLARY CLINTON came of age during the peak years of second-wave feminism. The first wave began in the mid-1800s, with women's suffrage as the goal; the second stretched from the 1960s to the early 1980s, and focused on reproductive and workplace rights. Writer and activist Betty Friedan is usually credited with catalyzing the second wave with The Feminine Mystique. Published in 1963, the landmark book called for women's liberation from housework, with Friedan famously writing: "We can no longer ignore that voice within women that says: 'I want something more than my husband and my children and my house.' "

As the feminism of Friedan and second-wave stalwarts like Gloria Steinem moved into the mainstream, some began to criticize it as a movement tailored to white women of means. Who, they asked, would clean the homes and care for the children of Friedan's liberated middle-class housewives? Where was their liberation? Such questions fed into a larger critique of second-wave feminism: that it saw white American women's concerns as representing those of all women.

In 1989, a term emerged for a feminist philosophy that would include women of color and other marginalized groups: "intersectionality." To the uninitiated, the word might sound like unwieldy academic jargon. But without my bringing it up, many of the women I spoke to said intersectionality was the foundation of their feminism—and of their skepticism about Clinton. First coined by legal scholar and professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, the word refers to the connections (the "intersections") between different systems of oppression—not just sexism, but also racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism. It's a recognition that a black woman, for instance, is not affected independently by racism and sexism—those forms of discrimination are inextricably linked, which makes her experience sexism differently from a white woman and racism differently from a black man.

The concept itself was far from new; it stretched as far back, at least, as Sojourner Truth's famous "Ain't I a

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Woman?" speech in 1851, in which she highlighted the dramatic differences between the ways black and white women experience sexism. "That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere," Truth said. "Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman?"

Now the idea had a name. But in the 1990s, as intersectionality was gaining popularity in academic circles, Hillary Clinton was bringing her own, more traditional brand of feminism to her role as first lady. Her domestic initiatives included adoption, foster care, and child care. In 1995, Clinton gave her famous Beijing speech to the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, declaring that "women's rights are human rights." She helped to form the Justice Department's Violence Against Women Office and partnered with then–Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to found the Vital Voices Democracy Initiative, a series of conferences devoted to promoting female leaders and involving women around the globe in politics.

In the early and mid-2000s, after she left the White House and took up residence in the U.S. Senate, Clinton largely shifted away from a women-centered agenda as she worked to bolster her presidential résumé. At the same time, young bloggers like Lauren Bruce (Feministe) and Jessica Valenti (Feministing) were bringing feminist theory out of the Ivory Tower. "Each month seemed to bring a new site with feminist content," Rebecca Traister writes in her 2010 book, Big Girls Don't Cry. "At various points there were about six sites calling themselves The F-Word."

Social media changed the landscape of feminism. Young women who might not learn about feminism in their schools or communities could find primers on Tumblr blogs with names like intersectional feminism 101. Their feminist awakenings thus involved, from the start, debates about second-wave feminism's perceived failures of inclusivity. "Anyone who entered the feminist conversation in the Internet age has immediate access to not only research about those failures, but also to a lot of the conversations about them," says feminist organizer and writer Shelby Knox, who's 28. "The barriers are a lot lower for participation in the movement."

Young women could now do more than read about feminist issues and discuss them in class; they could find communities of women on Twitter or Tumblr whose experiences they could relate to—or who could open up new vistas for them on what other women's lives are like. They could participate in the creation of a new feminism—one that would be a far cry from Friedan's. By 2011, the writer Flavia Dzodan was famously declaring on her blog: "My feminism will be intersectional or it will be bullshit." Her words became a rallying cry.

As young women's notions of feminism evolved and broadened, so did their idea of what constitutes "women's issues" in the political arena. "If you're taking intersectionality as the foundation of this kind of feminism, you wouldn't just be concerned with how any particular policy issue is affecting women," says Gwendolyn Beetham, director of the Global Village at Douglass Residential College, the women's residential college affiliated with Rutgers University. "But you would be asking, 'Which women, and how?' And you would be asking this whether or not you are a member of one of those groups."

To young women like Sylvie Edman, a 20-year-old student at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Clinton embodies "corporate feminism," which Edman defines concisely: "It's empowering women who are already powerful." Clinton and Sheryl Sandberg, the Facebook COO and author of Lean In, are often name-dropped in this context; while they experience sexism, the thinking goes, they've been able to dare greatly because of their race and class—while being helped along the way by working-class women and women of color who didn't have the same opportunities.

Some of the concerns raised by the women I spoke to about Clinton were traditional "women's issues" like reproductive justice and equal pay. But just as many brought up police brutality, criminal-justice reform, and environmental issues as primary concerns—and as integral to what they mean by "feminism." Some of the most commonly expressed critiques of Clinton echoed those of many left-of-center Americans: She's "hawkish" on foreign affairs, "part of a political dynasty," and simply "not very progressive." Collier Meyerson, who writes for the website Fusion, told me that her ideal candidate "wouldn't be part of a legacy, and wouldn't be a career politician." A candidate more like Barack Obama—"somebody who is rooted more in community-organizing"—would fit the bill better, Meyerson says.

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Ayesha Siddiqi, the 24-year-old editor-in-chief of the online magazine The New Inquiry, says that this range of concerns should be no surprise. "Feminist issues," she says, "are no more complicated than the issues of people's lives." But that philosophy makes young women's views of Clinton—and her campaign's efforts to galvanize them behind her—very complicated indeed.

AT THE ANNUAL Women in the World Summit in New York this April, Sam Viqueira stuck out from the crowd. The summit, a high-powered gathering of leaders and activists launched by former New Yorker and Daily Beast editor Tina Brown in 2010, this year featured a keynote address by Hillary Clinton. Most of the women in attendance looked like Clinton's crowd, her generation: Dressed business casual, the mostly middle-aged women flocked to the free coffee and Luna bars on offer, chatted in small groups, and snapped selfies in front of a Dove-sponsored backdrop. The 17-year-old Viqueira and her high school friend stood off to the side in a small lounge, looking like they were dressed for a regular day of school. They'd taken the train in from Maplewood, New Jersey. "To me, feminism isn't only about wanting equality for all genders," Viqueira told me later, "but wanting and advocating for the equality of all oppressed groups, which can and do intersect."

In some respects, Viqueira exemplifies the rising generation of feminists—and their conflicted feelings about Clinton. She grew up with three sisters and parents who were big on women's empowerment, encouraging the girls to play sports and study math and science. But she credits social media with teaching her about the intersection of race and gender, and the issues women face outside of the United States; she first read the term "intersectionality" online when she was just 15 and now follows a lot of young women on Twitter who help broaden her perspective.

This spring, she's taking the first gender-studies class ever offered at her public high school. Next fall, Viqueira will be old enough to cast her first vote. That has led her, like so many other young feminists, to think long and hard about what Clinton would—and wouldn't—represent as the first woman president. "It's nice to see a strong female candidate running for president," Viqueira says, but she can't help wishing it were a woman with a different track record. She's particularly troubled by Clinton's support of the 1996 welfare-reform bill her husband signed and of the Clinton-era crime-fighting legislation that, among other things, lengthened prison sentences for drug offenses. At best, she says, Clinton has been inconsistent on social-justice issues; at worst, she has been a hypocrite.

While Viqueira is hesitant to say she'll vote for Clinton, she acknowledges that the limited options for progressive-minded voters will probably push her in that direction. But it bothers her to see Clinton held up as a model feminist: "I think it's problematic to assume that just because she's a woman, she's the best spokesperson for all women."

Clinton's first presidential campaign relied heavily on that assumption. An internal campaign memo from March 2007, written by the campaign's chief strategist and pollster, Mark Penn, and published in The Atlantic the following year, advised Clinton thusly:

1) Start with a base of women.

a. For these women, you represent a breaking of barriers.

b. The winnowing out of the most competent and qualified in an unfair, male-dominated world.

c. The infusion of a woman and a mother's sensibilities into a world of war and neglect.

2) Add on a base of lower- and middle-class voters.

a. You see them; you care about them.

b. You were one of them, it is your history.

c. You are all about their concerns (health care, education, energy, child care, college, etc.).

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For young feminists, Penn's memo, and Clinton's campaign, represented the antithesis of intersectional thinking. The problem isn't merely the assumption that women would be Clinton's primary base because of their gender alone; it's also the fact that lower- and middle-class voters are itemized as a separate group, with a different (and far more specific) set of concerns from those of "women." "With strategies like this," Traister writes, "it was not unjust to suggest that one serious problem with the Clinton campaign leadership was that it did not think much of the women with whom it was supposed to be making history." Traister notes that "Penn assured Hillary that internal polling showed that 94% of young women would automatically vote for the first female president. It was perhaps this confidence that led him to shrug off concerns about reaching them." In the end, according to a CBS News poll, Penn's initial estimates were way off: 53 percent of young women backed Obama over Clinton.

Far from a high-water mark for feminism, Siddiqi, The New Inquiry editor, sees Clinton's presidential campaigns as "the nadir of the 'Lean In' feminism moment. This is what you get when that's what your feminism looks like," she says. "You don't get a victory that all women can celebrate."

OF COURSE, plenty of young women will be celebrating next November if Hillary Clinton wins the presidency—including some who see themselves rooted in "intersectionality." Gabriel Clarke, a 20-year-old musician and student at Oakwood University in Alabama, says she had a wake-up moment during protests over the shooting of Michael Brown last summer in Ferguson, Missouri. "A young woman grabbed the microphone and said, 'I am a woman, but before I am a woman, I am black.' And I was thinking, that's not how we have to look at these things. That's not how we have to be. We have to understand that we are both of those things simultaneously."

Women of color like herself have long been "on the back burner in the movement," Clarke says. It's a welcome change that "people are starting to see that you can't have a social movement about equality and leave out everyone else who's not a white woman." But intersectional thinking hasn't dimmed her passion for electing Clinton. The first time Clinton ran, Clarke was just 13. She had a hard time taking the candidate seriously, she says, because of the media's relentless focus on her hair, clothes, and manner of speaking. But the summer before Clarke went off to college in 2013, her impression was changed by watching the documentary Miss Representation, which shines a critical light on the way women leaders are portrayed by the media. "It really opened my eyes and made me see Hillary in a totally different way," Clarke says. "They talked more about her pantsuits than her policies!"

Like most of the one-quarter of these young women who told me they're gung ho for Clinton, Clarke cites the candidate's extensive experience—the same experience others use to knock her as a "career politician"—as a prime factor in her support. Clinton, says Clarke, is obviously the most-qualified candidate in the race. "But that's the story of being a woman," she says. "You have to be ten times better than everyone else to even get your foot in the door." Clarke realizes that many feminists of color are "very skeptical" of Clinton, wondering "whether she will really be a champion or a voice for them, or only for white women"—and she gets the skepticism. But to her, there's something more fundamental at stake: "I think that even her as a symbol for women, that a woman can be president, is powerful enough."

This time around, the Clinton campaign isn't taking that kind of solidarity for granted. Young feminists' social and economic views may have been overlooked in 2008, but in the early stages of Clinton's second run, they've been front and center. You could hear it in her keynote at the Women in the World Summit, where Clinton talked about inequities in what women are paid, taking care to note the "even wider gaps for women of color." You could hear it in another speech she recently gave in New York calling for police reform and in her frequent invocations of income inequality. "Americans have fought their way back from tough economic times," Clinton said in the April video announcing her campaign. "But the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top."

Such talk is welcomed by Clinton skeptics like Viqueira, the 17-year-old, who sees the candidate "redefining her feminism to be all-inclusive." Collier Meyerson says that Clinton's announcement video—which, as pundits noted, took pains to feature just about every group of "marginalized" people in America—was a clear attempt to reach people ignored during her 2008 campaign. "My hope is that she continues with this thread," Meyerson says, "and goes on to pull in people from different socioeconomic classes, backgrounds, and races."

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By and large, these women say they'll need to see more evidence of Clinton's new inclusiveness before their ambivalent support morphs into enthusiasm. "So far, she's hit on a lot of the things I'm passionate about," says Laura Brown, a 26-year-old fashion designer and seamstress in Los Angeles. "I want to see her prove it. I want to know it's genuine and not just part of the game."

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Why Not Martin O'Malley? // Harvard Political Review // Quinn Mulholland - May 18, 2015

On April 10, Elizabeth Warren joined Jon Stewart on the Daily Show and declared, "Powerful corporations [and] rich people have figured out that if you can bend the government to help you just a little bit, it's a tremendous payoff, and if you can bend it to help you just a little bit more and a little bit more, the playing field just gets more and more tilted, and the rich and the powerful just do better and better." A week later, Martin O'Malley stood before a packed crowd at Harvard's Institute of Politics and proclaimed, "Concentrated wealth has accumulated concentrated political power in the halls of our Congress, and also in many, many, many of our state houses, making it harder than ever to get things done."

Both of these quotes are emblematic of a nascent populist movement in the Democratic Party. Both reflect a deep concern that all Americans don't have an equal shot at prosperity. Both demonstrate a growing opposition to the centrist Democratic policies of the Clinton era—the trade policies and the welfare reform—that seemed to mostly benefit the wealthiest Americans.

Yet it is Martin O'Malley, not Elizabeth Warren, who has a proven record of accomplishing real progress on these issues on a state level. It is Martin O'Malley, not Elizabeth Warren, who became the first major Democratic politician to endorse a national $15 minimum wage at the Institute of Politics on Thursday. And it is Martin O'Malley, not Elizabeth Warren, who is seriously considering challenging Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination for president in 2016.

So why have political pundits come to the consensus that Elizabeth Warren is the only one who could give Hillary a run for her money in the Democratic primary? Perhaps it is O'Malley's lack of name recognition. He is currently polling at around 0.3 percent in the Iowa Democratic Caucus, compared to Clinton's 58 percent, and Warren's 17 percent. But that number is increasing, and O'Malley received a warm reception in recent trips to New Hampshire and Iowa.

Perhaps it is because O'Malley is not a woman. While a first female president would certainly be a symbolic victory for women, it is unclear that a Clinton presidency would produce many tangible benefits for women. In fact, in terms of policy, O'Malley seems to have proposed just as many, if not more, policies to help women as Clinton has. At the Harvard Institute of Politics, O'Malley declared, "We must recognize that policies that are good for women and families, like paid leave and safe and affordable child care, are also good for our national economy, and for economic growth, because when women succeed, our American economy also succeeds."

O'Malley also proclaimed his support for a federal $15 minimum wage, which would give a much-needed raise to the 3 million Americans who work at or below minimum wage, 62 percent of whom are women. Clinton has voiced her support for fast food workers striking for a higher wage, but she has yet to establish how much of an increase in the minimum wage she would support. Despite his gender, O'Malley could be the candidate that would make the biggest difference for women.

O'Malley's possible candidacy seems to already be pushing Clinton towards the left. She recently declared her support for a Supreme Court decision guaranteeing the right to gay marriage nationwide, which she previously thought should be dealt with on a "state by state" basis, and she switched her position on driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants. O'Malley chided Clinton for these flip-flops, telling the HPR at a press conference, "I'm glad Secretary Clinton has come around to the right position on these issues ... I believe that we are best as a party when we lead according to our principles, and not according to the polls."

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Yet Clinton's campaign has challenged the notion that she is a newcomer to the populist themes her candidacy is centered around. Close friends and advisers insist that she has championed populist causes long before Elizabeth Warren or Martin O'Malley ascended to the national stage. Even so, there is no denying her many ties to Wall Street, which make it hard for statements like "the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top" to ring genuine.

Clinton will be nowhere near as "inevitable" in the general presidential election as she was in the Democratic primary, assuming—perhaps prematurely—that she wins it. She will have to face voters on the left concerned with her ties to Wall Street and her flip-flopping on gay marriage and immigration, as well as voters on the right who will have been inundated with anti-Hillary attacks for months. Perhaps America is ready for a genuinely populist Martin O'Malley campaign. O'Malley certainly appears to be ready.

Bernie Sanders Wants to Be President, but He's Already Facebook Royalty // NYT // Nick Corasaniti - May 18, 2015

WASHINGTON — The quotes he posts are rarely pithy, and often sayings he thinks up in the shower. The photographs he puts up sometimes show him frowning, while others show him gazing oddly into the horizon. And he does not seem to care about the importance of videos.

But somehow, Bernie Sanders, the 73-year-old senator from Vermont, has emerged as a king of social media early in the 2016 presidential campaign, amid a field of tech-savvy contenders.

His Facebook posts attract tens of thousands of likes and shares, and threads about him often break through to the home page of Reddit, where the cluster of topics rarely focuses on presidential election politics.

"I'm a grumpy old guy," Mr. Sanders joked when explaining his approach to posting online. "I know that people talk about their cats and 'I'm walking to the grocery story and getting a can of chicken soup' and 'this is so exciting.' By and large, we have not done that."

Mr. Sanders's prominence online is all the more improbable given that he does not do many things the way social media experts say they should be done.

He has not shied away from posts of 300 words or more, with a "continue reading here" link to his personal website.

Mr. Sanders, an independent who describes himself as a socialist, has stuck to an idiosyncratic method: posting images that share a quote, which he has either written himself or dug up from a historical figure and then burned onto a photograph. (President Theodore Roosevelt and President Dwight D. Eisenhower are among those he has recently cited.)

Social networking sites like Facebook recommend that when users post text, they do so with searchable words that would be attractive to newsfeed algorithms and search engines.

But Mr. Sanders's team rarely uses buzzy introductory text when sharing his posts, leaving the chances of their going viral to users who stumble upon them. Fortunately for Mr. Sanders, who is seeking the Democratic nomination, he has loyal followers who somehow always know how to find his latest musing.

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Take, for example, a block quote advocating making Election Day a national holiday. The quote is posted atop a stock photo of ballot boxes. And it contains no searchable text. Still, it received nearly 100,000 likes and 22,000 shares. By comparison, Hillary Rodham Clinton's video announcing her presidential candidacy received over 79,000 likes and 41,000 shares.

"He can post a quote graphic or a long text-only Facebook status, and it doesn't really matter what the algorithm favors," said Laura Olin, who was in charge of the much-praised social media strategy for President Obama's 2012 campaign.

"If it sounds like him," she said, "his people will find it and spread it."

And the reason Bernie Sanders posts sounds like him is that, for the most part, they are from Bernie Sanders. He often comes to his Senate office with quotes at the ready.

"Usually, it's in the shower where something pops into my head," Mr. Sanders said, adding, "I play a very, very active role in writing, literally writing, what goes up there on Facebook."

And unlike many candidates, he does not share warm details of his daily life. "People don't need to know what I buy in the grocery store or what the name of my dog is — I don't own a dog, by the way — but they do need to know why billionaires are getting richer and the poor getting poorer."

A former journalist who began sending newsletters to his constituents in the early 1990s, Mr. Sanders relishes writing. He carries yellow legal pads with him wherever he goes, "for a little jabbering," and their contents are often turned verbatim into a posting.

A typical quote from him on his Facebook page, which often deals with income inequality, says, "We must rebuild American manufacturing and rewrite our trade agreements so that our largest export is not our jobs."

"I think the people that have the most success on Facebook, they're developing an authentic method and sticking to it," said Anton Vuljaj, director of advertising at IMGE, a consulting firm. "He's matching what he's saying online to what he's doing offline."

While Mr. Sanders's popularity cuts across social media platforms, it appears most pronounced on Facebook. He did not start his campaign with a big announcement event, and he did not enjoy the explosion of interest that Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky experienced when they declared that they were seeking the Republican nomination.

Mr. Sanders had 1.3 million Facebook interactions, compared with 5.6 million for Mr. Cruz and two million for Mr. Paul, according to data provided by Facebook.

But since their announcements, the popularity of Mr. Cruz and Mr. Paul on Facebook has tempered, while Mr. Sanders's has risen. In a seven-day stretch leading up to May 3, Mr. Sanders had 5.3 million interactions, compared with 1.2 million for Mr. Paul and 1.7 million for Mr. Cruz.

On Reddit, he is similarly popular. The site's home page, which is powered by the so-called upvotes of users on a topic thread, is often filled with viral news and esoteric, humorous discussions; politics is often found only on a subreddit. But Mr. Sanders is one elected official who has on occasion leapt over the barrier.

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Among politicians, he is one of the most frequent posters to the site, and nearly a quarter of the top most-voted politics posts of all time on Reddit are about or by Mr. Sanders.

But Mr. Sanders has not eclipsed everyone else in the 2016 field on the social media front. Mrs. Clinton's videos are viewed by hundreds of thousands, Mr. Paul and Mr. Cruz have large and dedicated armies of supporters, and Jeb Bush has built a following by making most of his major announcements online.

But for a candidate who performs poorly in the polls, Mr. Sanders appears to be everywhere. And like many of his positions over the years, his social media tactics are unlikely to change with the times.

"I'm not some kind of tech nerd, I really am not," Mr. Sanders said. "But I have always believed in communication, and not just photo ops and stuff, but educating people, and communicating with people about the real work that we're doing."

Sanders: Make Wall St. pay college tuition // Burlington Free Press // April Burbank – May 18, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders says he's about to introduce a bill that would provide free tuition at public colleges and universities by using Wall Street stock transfer fees.

The independent senator from Vermont and aspiring Democratic presidential candidate said Monday that unaffordable college education and high student debt hinders the United States economy.

"What we're going to be introducing tomorrow is legislation which says two things, that tuition in public colleges and universities will be free, and that we're going to substantially lower interest rates on student debt," said Sanders, I-Vt., following an unrelated event at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Tuition-free public higher education would cost about $70 billion per year, Sanders said.

"The program that we're offering will be a grant program by which the federal government puts in $2 and the states put in $1," Sanders said. "Now, $70 billion is a lot of money, but in a nation in which we lose $100 billion every year because corporations stash their money in tax havens around the world, that's one way you can approach it.

"What we are going to be dealing with tomorrow is a transaction fee on large stock transfers," Sanders continued. "So we're going to ask Wall Street, whose greed and recklessness drove us into the recession that we're climbing out of right now, to start helping us fund college education."

A spokesman for the Republican National Committee responded to the potential cost of the proposal.

"We need to work to make college more affordable," said Republican spokesman Raffi Williams, "but if Clinton and Sanders were truly interested in helping students achieve the American Dream, they would fight to reduce our $18 trillion national debt instead of adding to it."

Sanders expects to file the bill Tuesday with more details on the plan.

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Elizabeth Warren Details Obama's Broken Trade Promises // Huffington Post // Zack Carter - May 18, 2015

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) issued a report Monday morning detailing decades of failed trade enforcement by American presidents including Barack Obama, the latest salvo in an ongoing public feud between Warren and Obama over the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Obama is currently negotiating the major trade pact with 11 other nations. While the text of the TPP agreement remains classified information, it is strongly supported by Republican leaders in Congress and corporate lobbying groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The deal is opposed by most congressional Democrats, along with labor unions, environmental groups and advocates of Internet freedom.

Obama has repeatedly insisted the TPP will include robust labor protections, and has dismissed Warren's criticisms as "dishonest," "bunk" and "misinformation." On Monday, Warren fired back, showing that Obama simply has not effectively enforced existing labor standards in prior trade pacts. According to the report, a host of abuses, from child labor to the outright murder of union organizers, have continued under Obama's watch with minimal pushback from the administration.

"The United States does not enforce the labor protections in its trade agreements," the report reads, citing analyses from the Government Accountability Office, the State Department and the Department of Labor.

Of the 20 countries the U.S. currently has trade agreements with, 11 have documented reliance on child labor, forced labor or other human rights abuses related to labor, according to the report. The violations are not confined to exploitation. Since Obama finalized a labor action plan with the government of Colombia in 2011, 105 union activists have been murdered. Obama called the Colombian deal "a win-win for workers" at the time.

Despite these trade violations, none of these countries have faced significant consequences from the United States government.

Warren's report undercuts an Obama public relations offensive that has repeatedly characterized TPP as "the most progressive trade deal in history." The Senate is currently considering legislation that would grant Obama "fast track" authority, barring Congress from amending any trade pact he negotiates, including TPP. Liberals are concerned TPP will exacerbate income inequality and undermine key regulations.

But while much of the TPP controversy has concerned the legal language involved in the agreement itself, Warren's report highlights a broader concern among progressives. Regardless of what the final TPP deal looks like, presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama himself, have all failed to effectively enforce promises to protect workers, even as rogue regimes have continued to benefit from other provisions of the agreements.

"We have two decades of experience with free trade agreements under both Democratic and Republican Presidents. Supporters of these agreements have always promised that they contain tough standards to protect workers," the report reads. "The rhetoric has not matched the reality."

The Obama administration has said it takes labor violations seriously and has pushed countries to improve conditions.

“The Obama Administration is taking unprecedented actions to promote and protect fundamental labor rights and ensure acceptable conditions of work,” reads a joint report from the Department of Labor and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative from February. Those commitments include “bringing the first-ever labor dispute

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under a free trade agreement"-- in Guatemala.

But labor unions and other critics say these measures have been ineffective. The AFL-CIO has been pressing for action on Guatemalan violations for Obama's entire term in office, and the dispute remains unresolved. Meanwhile, as Warren's report documents, Guatemala remains one of the most dangerous places in the world for union workers. In 2013 and 2014, according to the AFL-CIO, 17 labor activists were murdered in Guatemala while the Obama administration pursued diplomatic action. Three of the slain union workers were reportedly killed during a dispute with a local government over unpaid back wages.

Much of Warren's trade critique has focused on the capacity for free trade pacts to undermine financial regulations. Last week, Canadian Finance Minister Joe Oliver gave a speech arguing that a key tenet of Obama's 2010 Wall Street reform law violates the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Snoop Dogg: I'll be voting for Hillary Clinton // The Hill // Judy Kurtz - May 18, 2015

Snoop Dogg is high on Hillary Clinton.

The "Gin & Juice" rapper said he'll be supporting the former secretary of State and Democratic candidate in her 2016 White House bid.

"You know I like to be politically correct, but sometimes I'm politically incorrect," Snoop Dogg said when asked about his political pick on Bravo's "Watch What Happens Live" on Sunday. "But I'll say that I would love to see a woman in office because I feel like we're at that stage in life to where we need a perspective other than the male's train of thought."

"And just to have a woman speaking from a global perspective as far as representing America, I'd love to see that. So I'll be voting Ms. Clinton," he added.

Snoop Dogg is the latest high-profile entertainer to throw his support behind Clinton in the last few days. In similar remarks to ITK last week, R&B star Ne-Yo called Clinton "a favorite of mine."

GOP

In Philadelphia, Rand Paul Talks Privatized Amtrak and Criminal Justice // Bloomberg // David Weigel - May 18, 2015

One day before Philadelphia's Democratic primary for mayor, an event usually tantamount to election, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul told an audience at the city's National Constitution Center that his brand of Republicanism could make urban politics competitive again.

"If I am the nominee, we will compete in Philadelphia," Paul told radio host Dom Giordano. "I'll ask Hillary Clinton, what have you done for criminal justice ... I'd ask her, what's your plan to help poor people in Philadelphia?"

Philadelphia has not elected a Republican to the mayor's office since 1951; no Republican candidate has come

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particularly close to the top job since the near-miss 1999 run of businessman Sam Katz. The city's strong Democratic vote has kept Pennsylvania in the Democrats' Electoral College–in 2012, the Obama-Biden ticket's 492,339 margin out of the city overwhelmed a Romney-Ryan edge from the rest of the state.

Paul, who spoke first in what the National Constitution Center hopes to be a series of candidate events, tried to front the issues where he could run to Hillary Clinton's left. (The crowd, which frequently interrupted Paul with applause, included more than a dozen college-aged volunteers wearing shorts and campaign T-shirts.) He retold the story of Christos Sourovelis, a Philadelphian whose home was briefly seized in a drug raid that targeted his son, and who subsequently found legal representation from the libertarian Institute for Justice.

"A lot of us don't understand it, but a lot of people who are poor live on the edge," said Paul, describing visits to urban centers that had been "decimated" by over-incarceration. He walked through the scenario of a poor man with $2,000 to his name being shaken down by police over contraband they'd claimed to have found on him. "The government will sometimes say to the people in the car, we'll let you keep a thousand," Paul said. "They negotiate on the side of the road."

In a Q&A that included suggestions from the crowd, Paul tried to focus on libertarian-liberal synergy more than traditional conservative politics. He quickly dispatched a question about abortion rights, saying laws should be left to the states, averring that he "didn't run for office because of this issue." (One of Paul's first acts as a newly elected senator, in 2011, was the introduction of an amendment that would have defined personhood as starting at conception.) But he talked more about police militarization that he had in some time.

"I see no reason to have a 20-ton, mine-resistant, ambush-protection vehicle in the streets of any country," Paul said. "We've found that a third of this military surplus is brand new... is this some kind of churning? It's not a great idea to show up everywhere with a grand military presence, like an army."

Paul also went long on fiscal policy, saying that Amtrak would be better off in private hands. "You would think after having commercial railroads for over 100 years, we could do a better job than that," he said, referring to last week's derailment just miles north of Philadelphia.

"They've lost money every year they've been existent. I'm looking at the easement and thinking, 'Man, we should sell that.' [Imagine] if we could sell that and let a real company put up a fast train."

Rand Paul Vows to Filibuster to Block Patriot Act // ABC News // Steve Peoples, Associated Press - May 18, 2015

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul vowed on Monday to "everything possible" to block renewal of the terrorism-era Patriot Act, but the Republican presidential hopeful conceded it may not be enough.

Speaking in front of Philadelphia's Independence Hall, Paul lashed out at the National Security Agency's bulk collection of American citizens' phone records, which many in his own party say are needed to prevent terrorism.

"We will do everything possible — including filibustering the Patriot Act to stop them," Paul said, acknowledging that a filibuster likely wouldn't be enough to block the program. "They have the votes inside the Beltway. But we have the votes outside the Beltway, and we'll have that fight."

The Patriot Act, which authorizes the surveillance program, will expire on June 1 unless Congress acts.

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Government surveillance could play prominently in the GOP presidential primary contest, which is heating up just as Congress debates surveillance programs initiated by President George W. Bush's administration and continued under President Barack Obama.

Supporters of the surveillance law, including presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., say it's critical to anti-terrorism efforts. Paul and fellow Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, see the law as a privacy infringement.

Neither Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker nor former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has yet to take a formal position on the program, although Bush recently praised the Obama administration's use of big metadata programs that began under Bush's older brother, former President George W. Bush.

Paul has promised to sign an executive order to end such government surveillance programs on his first day in office, should he win the presidency.

On Monday, Paul said he also opposes a House bill that would end the government's bulk collection of phone records and replace it with a system to search the data held by telephone companies on a case-by-case basis. Paul said he feared the bill would transfer too much power to phone companies and could jeopardize a related lawsuit.

Paul's comments on Monday also put him at odds with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has introduced a separate version that would keep the program as is.

"We do not have the votes to ultimately defeat the Patriot Act," he said. "I can delay it. I can force them to debate it so the public at large can know what they're doing."

R and Paul Cites Questionable Benghazi Reporting In Forthcoming Book // Buzzfeed News // Molly Ward – May 18, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul cites information that has been disputed or found to be baseless by the House Select Intelligence Committee about the 2012 Benghazi attack in his new book Making a Stand: Moving Beyond Partisan Politics to Unite America.

In a chapter titled “Libya: A Jihadist Wonderland,” Paul writes at length about the attack on the Benghazi compound and the ensuing political debate over who is responsible for the tragic events.

“A story in Forbes magazine said that President Obama, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, and other high-ranking officials watched a live video feed of the attack from a drone that hovered overhead, and did nothing,” Paul writes. “The White House denied that gathering ever happened.”

The Forbes piece Paul cites, written by opinion contributor Larry Bell, includes the same claim.

“Just one hour after the seven-hour-long terrorist attacks upon the U.S. consulate in Benghazi began, our commander-in-chief, vice president, secretary of defense and their national security team gathered together in the Oval Office listening to phone calls from American defenders desperately under siege and watching real-time video of developments from a drone circling over the site,” Bell writes. “Yet they sent no military aid that might have intervened in time to save lives.”

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Reporting from CBS News cited by Bell states only that a real-time audio feed of the attack was monitored by a diplomatic security official in Washington at the time. While the attack was captured on security cameras at the compound, the footage was only recovered 20 days later.

The Daily Beast reported that there was also footage of the attacks taken by a U.S. surveillance drone, but there is no reporting to suggest that it broadcast live.

Paul also writes, “Another report stated that the embassy made three urgent requests for military back up during those hours and were denied. The administration refuted that report also.”

That statement was also featured in an article by Bell another piece by Bell, in which he cites reporting by Fox News that two Navy Seals “were ordered to stand down three times following calls during the attack.”

The report on the Benghazi attack released by the Republican-led House Select Intelligence Committee later found that there was no evidence “that there was either a stand down order or a denial of available air support.”

Paul cites an article by Seymour Hersh in the London Review of Books, in which he reported that the CIA annex also attacked that night was part of an operation to ship guns through Turkey into Syria to assist in arming the Syrian rebels.

“It’s hard to imagine, should there be any legitimacy to the reports, that the Secretary of State would be kept out of such a loop,” Paul writes. “If the gunrunning operation in Benghazi existed, then Mrs. Clinton and the very upper reaches of our government had to be aware and perhaps even complicit.”

The House Select Intelligence report on the attack “found no evidence that the CIA conducted unauthorized activities in Benghazi and no evidence that the IC [Intelligence Community] shipped arms to Syria.”

An aide to Paul’s presidential campaign said the senator noted the two allegations from Bell’s Forbes articles in an attempt to lay out the narrative following the event.

In addition, the aide noted that reports on documents released on Monday by the conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch provide support for Hersh’s gunrunning story ahead of the attack.

Why We Must Reform the VA // Medium // Jeb Bush – May 18, 2015

When veterans come home and leave active service, we have a duty to provide care for them for the rest of their lives. This is an obligation we hold dear, as President Lincoln made clear in his Second Inaugural: “With the firmness in the right as God sees us to give to see the right,” he said “let us… care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.”

Unfortunately, the recent scandals at the Department of Veterans Affairs demonstrate that some in Washington do not take this responsibility seriously. Americans are rightly upset.

A new report out last week showed that every year there was about $6 billion in waste, fraud, and abuse in our VA. This has been a systemic problem. Last year, in Phoenix, a whistleblower came forward to show that while the facility publicly reported on-time delivery of care, in actuality, veterans were made to wait on a secret wait list to see doctors.

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One such veteran was Thomas Breen, who had served in the United States Navy. He was so proud of his service, he would only seek treatment at one of the VA's hospitals. After spotting blood in his urine in the fall of 2013, Thomas was seen by the Phoenix VA hospital and then released to be seen at a later date. The wait list for an appointment was months long. As his condition worsened, his family called and called again, insisting on an appointment. In December, the VA hospital finally called to schedule an appointment. There was no need. Thomas Breen had passed away a month earlier, waiting for care that never came.

Soon after, the VA found that 120,000 veterans nationwide were either left waiting for care or never received care. This came even after the VA's budget had been increased significantly for years. Where has the money gone?

This is a failure of the local VA hospital, but it is also an indictment of the way Washington works. Too many Washington bureaucrats have treated our veterans like they are just another line item in a budget, wedged between the Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce.

We can do better.

It starts with accountability. As of February, only 8 employees out of 75 cited for disciplinary action in the wake of the VA scandal have been fired. We can't expect the culture of the VA to change until employees are held responsible for failure to deliver what the taxpayers expect and veterans deserve.

And it's time we look at fresh approaches to providing health care to veterans.

More vets should be able to take advantage of a Congressionally authorized "choice" card, designed to give veterans a choice in where they receive care. We can expand their access to neighborhood clinics, instead of making them wait months to see a VA doctor or travel 200 miles to a VA hospital. This would also ease the long queues of veterans waiting to see VA doctors.

The VA bureaucracy has been reluctant to change and slow to implement reforms that passed in rare bipartisan fashion in 2014 that would bring more veterans choice and increased accountability to the process.

We have to approach any reforms to the VA with humility before their sacrifice, respect for their service, and reverence for the obligation we owe them. When a service member concludes their active duty service, they should know that we are ready to take on the responsibility of their care.

Jeb Bush's GOP Rivals Keep Him Front and Center // WSJ // Reid J. Epstein - May 17, 2015

DES MOINES, Iowa—Attacks on Jeb Bush are ramping up even before he enters the 2016 presidential race, with fellow Republicans questioning everything from his conservative bona fides to whether he is prepared for a long campaign to become the party's nominee.

Mr. Bush's rivals, 10 of whom joined him for a Saturday night fundraising dinner for the Iowa Republican Party, have latched onto the former Florida governor's shaky responses last week about the wisdom of his brother's entry into the Iraq war, ensuring the issue will dog him for the foreseeable future.

It highlights the core challenge of Mr. Bush's expected formal entry into the campaign: a family name that has given him outsize attention and access to an unparalleled fundraising network that at the same time could make it difficult for him to forge a political independence.

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It also shows that even though Mr. Bush's political standing is weaker in Iowa than elsewhere, he remains the focus of the race, with the other presidential hopefuls implicitly defining themselves against him.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who has positioned himself as the only likely GOP candidate not presenting an aggressive overseas military posture, suggested to the audience of 1,300 Republicans at the state party's Lincoln Day dinner here that Mr. Bush would mount another unpopular war.

"The question was asked of one of our candidates this week, was the Iraq war a mistake? Was it a good idea? Would you do it again?" Mr. Paul said. "It's a valid question, not because we're just talking about history, but we're talking about the Middle East, where history repeats itself."

The other White House contenders spent last week explaining that they wouldn't have started the Iraq war. By the time they arrived in Iowa, the critique expanded to suggest that Mr. Bush, who is expected to raise far more money than anyone else in the field, isn't prepared to be the party's standard-bearer.

"Whoever we nominate as a Republican Party has got to be ready to answer the tough questions," Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who is planning a June presidential announcement, said in an interview.

In a hallway outside the state party dinner, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum said the episode illustrates the need for the party to choose someone who has been through the rigors of a national campaign.

"It just goes to show you, don't try this at home, it's hard," said Mr. Santorum, who placed second to Mitt Romney for the GOP presidential nomination in 2012 and is planning to announce his intentions for a second presidential campaign on May 27. "There's a reason the Republican Party has gone back to folks who have gone through it before, because they tend to be a little better at doing it the next time around."

Only hawkish Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) defended the Iraq war. But in doing so, he made an implicit reminder of mistakes made by President George W. Bush. "President Bush, W., had the same information everybody else in the world did and made the best decision he could," Mr. Graham said. "Bush made mistakes, but he corrected his mistakes."

The issue has proved to be tricky territory for other GOP contenders. In an interview broadcast Sunday on Fox, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio struggled to deliver a straight response to the question of whether the Iraq invasion was worth it.

Mr. Bush's new political problem began early last week when Fox News broadcast an interview in which Mr. Bush said that, knowing what is known now, he would have launched the Iraq war his brother began. During the course of four days, his position evolved, beginning by saying he misheard the question to making a categorical statement that he wouldn't have launched the Iraq war, given today's information.

When he arrived in Iowa, Mr. Bush had no choice but to own the mistake. "I answered the question wrong," he told reporters in Iowa City. "We're all going to make mistakes."

Robert Gates, who was defense secretary under both Mr. Bush's brother and President Barack Obama, said in a CBS interview broadcast Sunday that while he wasn't impressed by the foreign-policy experience of any of Mr. Bush's potential 2016 rivals, the former governor should have been ready for questions about Iraq.

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“It was an inevitable question that would be asked,” Mr. Gates said in the interview. “And I think that the way to deal with it, frankly, is to say, you don’t make policy by going back and reliving old decisions.”

Mr. Bush begins every campaign speech by noting his love for his father and brother. He told a Republican National Committee gathering in Arizona last week that he wouldn’t be “going out of my way” to criticize either previous President Bush.

Tim Miller, a Jeb Bush spokesman, said he “was the most successful conservative big state governor in the country and he is prepared for the rigors of the campaign should he decide to run.”

Also weighing on Mr. Bush’s standing in Iowa is his plan, announced by aides last week, to skip the August state straw poll, a major quadrennial fundraiser for the state GOP.

State GOP Chairman Jeff Kaufmann and Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley on Saturday night made explicit pitches to the other candidates to attend the straw poll.

Now, even Iowa Republicans who figure to support Mr. Bush after he formally declares himself a candidate said they were baffled by his Iraq stumbles.

“It’s been hard,” said Zach Nunn, an Iowa state representative who said he is leaning toward backing Mr. Bush and with whom he had his third one-on-one meeting of the year on Saturday. “It’s great to be popular. It’s great to raise money. But for me what’s going to determine who’s the best candidate is, do you have the leadership capability to run the country?”

Jeb Bush stands by opposition to same-sex marriage // CNN // Alexandra Jaffe - May 18, 2015

Washington (CNN)Jeb Bush stood by his opposition to same-sex marriage in a new interview, saying he doesn't believe it's a constitutional right and that traditional marriage is central to Catholicism.

"It's at the core of the Catholic faith, and to imagine how we are going to succeed in our country unless we have committed family life, a child-centered family system, is hard to imagine," he said on Christian Broadcasting Network's "The Brody File."

"So, irrespective of the Supreme Court ruling — because they are going to decide whatever they decide, and I don't know what they're going to do — we need to be stalwart supporters of traditional marriage."

The Supreme Court is expected to rule next month on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, and many observers — even opponents of gay marriage — believe the court will in some way expand marriage rights to gay men and lesbians. Many in the GOP are split over how to tackle such a ruling, as Evangelical Christians make up a significant subset of the GOP base and are adamantly opposed to gay marriage.

Those Evangelical Christians remain some of Bush's biggest skeptics as he moves towards a presidential run.

Bush didn't offer his own prescription for how to respond to the decision, but he again reaffirmed that he doesn't believe same-sex marriage is a constitutional right — "but I'm not a lawyer, and clearly this has been accelerated at a warp pace."

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The expected presidential contender then took aim at his likely Democratic opponent in the race, Hillary Clinton, who surprised many in recently calling for the Supreme Court to back gay marriage, a shift from just two years prior when she said marriage was a matter best left to the states.

"What's interesting is that four years ago Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton had the same view that I just expressed to you. It's thousands of years of culture and history is just being changed at warp speed. It's hard to fathom why it is this way," Bush said.

Jeb Bush Says Christian Business Owners Can Refuse To Serve Gay Weddings // Huffington Post // Marina Fang - May 17, 2015

Likely Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush said that Christian business owners should not have to provide services for gay weddings if it goes against their religious beliefs.

“Yes, absolutely, if it’s based on a religious belief,” he said when asked by the Christian Broadcasting Network in an interview Saturday if businesses should be able to decline services to same-sex weddings.

The former Florida governor justified his position by claiming that not providing a service does not count as discrimination if business owners feel that it violates their religious rights.

“A big country, a tolerant country, ought to be able to figure out the difference between discriminating someone because of their sexual orientation and not forcing someone to participate in a wedding that they find goes against their moral beliefs,” he said. “This should not be that complicated. Gosh, it is right now.”

The blurry distinction has become a controversial topic, as many wedding-related businesses around the country, like florists and bakeries, have turned down gay customers, citing religious freedom. The issue became politically charged in March, when Indiana Gov. Mike Pence (R) signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act into law, which allows businesses to cite religious rights as a reason for refusing service. Many in the GOP presidential field, including Bush, defended the law. “Once the facts are established, people aren’t going to see this as discriminatory at all,” he said in March.

After widespread backlash, Pence was forced to sign a revised version of the law, which delineated that businesses could not discriminate against customers and clients on the basis of sexual orientation or identity. But gay rights advocates argued that the revised law did little to amend the original one, and that it still leaves much room for interpretation and opens the door for discrimination.

In Saturday's interview, Bush also reiterated his opposition to marriage equality, saying that gay marriage is not a constitutional right and that "we need to be stalwart supporters of traditional marriage." He did say last month that he would attend a gay wedding if asked.

Bush insists he's not writing off Iowa // Politico // Eli Stokols - May 18, 2015

DES MOINES, Iowa – His brother won the caucuses here in 2000. His likely campaign manager is a veteran Iowa campaign strategist. And as he stumped around the state this weekend, Jeb Bush repeatedly insisted he’s going to compete hard in next year’s caucuses.

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Even so, skepticism runs high about Bush's intentions for next February's caucuses.

Between his low standing in state polls, the socially conservative bent of the Iowa GOP base and his decision to skip the state's straw poll in August, Bush has lots of incentives to give up on Iowa next year. Republicans here know it, which is why the former Florida governor spent his weekend reassuring them he hasn't already written off the state as a lost cause.

"I'm going to be here. I'm here right now!" Bush told reporters Saturday after appearing at a fundraiser in Iowa City for Sen. Chuck Grassley. "Why would I be here if I wasn't going to compete in Iowa?"

From Dubuque to Iowa City to the state GOP's Lincoln Dinner in Des Moines on Saturday night, Bush threw everything he had into the effort to convince Iowans that he doesn't plan to blow off the state. His intensely private wife, Columba, and his son Jeb Jr., both accompanied him to Dubuque, where he held an hourlong town hall. He took 11 questions from the crowd there, and then a few dozen "selfies" with attendees before leaving. He met privately with several top donors, county chairs and elected officials — some of whom have been alarmed by Bush's laissez-faire approach thus far to Iowa — prior to his speech at the Republican Party dinner; when it was over, he greeted a long receiving line of supporters in his hospitality suite.

The decision to do a full day of in-state events — not just the dinner — wasn't lost on Republicans here. David Kochel, the top Iowa strategist now working for Bush in Miami, was happy with Bush's day introducing himself to Iowa Republicans.

"They don't know him yet, but there's time for us to let people get to know him," he said. "When they get to know him, they're going to like him."

Bush has much more work to do to convince Iowans that he's truly invested. After being absent from the state since early March, he felt the lash of state GOP chairman Jeff Kauffman on Twitter last week after reports first surfaced that Bush was planning to bypass the Iowa straw poll in August and attend another event outside the state.

"We hope Governor Bush rethinks his decision and realizes that grassroots will only grow in Iowa if he waters them," Kauffman wrote. "We don't buy this excuse and neither will Iowans."

When reporters asked Bush on Saturday about his reasons for skipping the Aug. 8 straw poll, he hinted at a broader strategy that doesn't hinge on the Hawkeye State.

"It's not relevant," Bush said of the straw poll. "What's relevant is running a campaign, creating a strategy, building a good team towards success, which is in the primaries, and doing it in a way that makes it possible to win the general, which is the whole point of this."

According to a number of people close to the candidate, Bush's strategy rests on simply doing well enough in February's earliest contests to come out of South Carolina as one of the two or three leading candidates — in other words, a first-place finish in Iowa isn't essential.

When Bush met the traveling press in Iowa City on Saturday afternoon, the second time he got a question about the straw poll and his seriousness about the caucuses, he turned it back around at the reporter.

"Would you aspire to fourth place in anything? Or sixth place?" Bush asked. His point: His own competitive nature wouldn't allow him accept such a weak performance. Besides, a win for Bush might be defined as a finish anywhere in the top three.

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As long as Bush doesn't get embarrassed in Iowa and potentially can win in New Hampshire, the campaign's anticipated financial advantage could be the difference-maker, especially in March, when crowded primary days take place and only the best-funded campaigns will be able to compete across the map.

To get to March, Bush still must deliver a respectable performance in Iowa in February, and that'll mean investing the kind of resources here to ensure a win, place or show finish.

"He'll signal with his time how much of a priority Iowa is," said Zach Nunn, a Republican state legislator. "Any time he comes to Iowa is a serious indicator that he sees Iowa as a place he needs to do well."

The most recent polling shows Bush in seventh place among likely Republican presidential hopefuls with just 5 percent support among Iowa primary voters — a sign that Bush, who'd made just one trip here before last weekend, has a lot of work to do here. Bush's father and brother both had campaigned far earlier and more frequently than Jeb Bush at this point in the election cycle.

"Does he have a one- or two-state strategy like some other candidates? Of course not," said former Iowa GOP chairman Matt Strawn. "The challenge is to make sure those activists who are predisposed to support Bush are seeing him here. They want to see a candidate making a commitment to Iowa before they make a commitment to Gov. Bush."

In the end, the size of the GOP field could work to Bush's advantage. With as many as 19 potential candidates, it's possible that evangelicals won't coalesce around one clear choice and the vote will be splintered — which would open the door for a steady and solid establishment candidate like Bush to finish near the top in Iowa.

"If the evangelical vote gets split up, it's possible that someone can win the Iowa caucuses with 20 percent of the vote," Strawn said.

When he opened his town hall meeting Saturday morning at Loras College in Dubuque, Bush spoke to those who doubt his prospects in Iowa — or the depth of his commitment to playing here — by pointing to his father's 1980 come-from-behind win in the Iowa caucuses.

"I'll just remind everybody that's interested in political history," Bush said. "He started here in Iowa as an asterisk, literally an asterisk, and he won the Iowa caucuses."

Team Jeb: He's held to 'different standard' than Hillary // Washington Examiner // Byron York - May 18, 2015

Jeb Bush first stumbled on the Iraq if-you-knew-then-what-you-know-now question in an interview with Fox News' Megyn Kelly. He stumbled again the next day in a radio interview with Sean Hannity. He stumbled yet again in a town hall taking questions from unscreened voters in Nevada, which was followed by taking questions from the press. And, after four days of trying, Bush finally answered the question in another session with voters and the press in Arizona.

Notice anything about that? Of course Bush took plenty of deserved criticism for the substance of his answers. But give him this: All of Bush's missteps took place in open, unscripted exchanges with the press or with voters in full view of the press. And when Bush messed up on a serious question, he did not withdraw or limit access to his events. Some voters who attended really let him have it, like Ivy Ziedrich, the Young Democrat who told Bush, "Your brother created ISIS!" Still, Bush didn't subject anyone to any sort of pre-questioning. He didn't cancel events. He was available the whole time, even as he struggled to find an answer to a question that clearly troubled him.

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The contrast between Bush's openness and the airtight seal around Hillary Clinton could not have been greater.

"Jeb doesn't fear taking risks or making mistakes," close Bush associate Sally Bradshaw told me via email. "He's always believed public service is about actually serving the public, and doing so on a very personal level requires putting yourself in the arena." The result of that belief, Bradshaw continued, is that "He engages. He doesn't back away. He doesn't worry about the impact of having an honest conversation or thinking something through and taking a thoughtful approach."

In the aftermath of the Iraq mistakes, Bush has taken to mentioning Clinton at events. "I asked someone to kind of add up the questions that I've been asked by people who can ask whatever they want, and of course the press that follows me around from time to time," Bush said at a town hall in Dubuque, Iowa over the weekend. "And we're probably around 800 to 900 questions asked and hopefully answered."

"Just as an aside," Bush added, "Hillary Clinton has been a presidential candidate for a month maybe, and she's had 13 questions asked by the press."

As the Iraq controversy built, Bush aides increasingly focused on Clinton and the contrast between her reclusiveness and Bush's openness. "It continues to be interesting, the extent to which every single verb, noun, adverb, and adjective that he utters is psychoanalyzed," one Bush aide said of the former Florida governor. "There's clearly a different standard from Hillary Clinton. It's remarkable how little she has engaged with the public and the press since she became a candidate."

"Yes, he is held to a different standard," the aide continued. "And that's okay. But it's stunning that she is allowed to evade the press and evade the public in the way that she is being allowed."

One example. At the same time Bush was going through the Iraq questioning, Annie Karni, a Politico reporter covering Hillary Clinton, tweeted a photo of a man in a suit — apparently someone associated with Clinton — standing in front of a drape concealing some sort of hallway. Karni's tweet said: "My view of @HillaryClinton entering her finance meeting in Red Hook." Clinton was behind that drape somewhere, but the press — much less the public — could forget about having any sort of interaction with her.

It is literally impossible to imagine Clinton — besieged by questions about the Clinton Foundation, her secret email system, trade, and other hot issues — making herself available to voters and the press the way Bush has. The 13 questions Clinton has taken over the course of more than a month — one of which was "How are you liking Iowa?" — told the public nearly nothing about her, her campaign, or any issue of the moment. Before that, it has been more than two months since her brief "Guernica" news conference in which she took a few questions about the email system. Clinton is under increasing pressure from the press — journalists are suggesting questions they would ask if they only had the chance and others are calculating the time since Clinton last answered any question at all — but the fact is, she is getting away with it.

So yes, Bush had difficulties answering a straightforward question about Iraq. But voters, and journalists, too, should remember that it only happened because he is out there, making himself available every day. When is the Democratic frontrunner going to do the same?

Why Marco Rubio could beat Jeb Bush // CNN // Julian Zelizer - May 18, 2015

(CNN)Florida Sen. Marco Rubio poses a major threat to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in the 2016 Republican primaries. Rubio, the affable politician who has been steadily and quietly rising in the polls, has been making an impression these days as the parties are starting to sense that he could be a very viable presidential candidate.

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Rubio's emergence runs counter to the thinking of many observers that Jeb Bush would command a decisive and virtually insurmountable advantage in this campaign, as a result of his fundraising prowess and many endorsements from members of the party elite.

In many respects, Rubio is the perfect candidate for the party at this particular moment in history. Though the 43-year old has flaws, including very limited experience, he brings to the table a number of assets that can help him through the caucuses and primaries.

The most important of his strengths is that he contradicts the image that many Americans now have of the Republican Party: a party of older white males who are not happy about the direction of American society in the past few decades.

In part, Americans formed this opinion based on the way that Republicans have handled the issue of immigration. As the nation has become more pluralistic and diverse, with growing public support for liberalizing immigration policy, hardline conservatives in the GOP have stood in the way of progress.

Putting forth a candidate who comes from a family of immigrants will have tremendous appeal to many in the GOP, including conservatives, who want to show that their party is different than the image many have of it. This can have immense power at this crossroads moment when Republicans do have a chance to capture the White House after eight years of a Democrat in control.

Rubio's rags- to-riches story is the kind that campaign staffers love to tell.

Even one of Rubio's greatest failures, his effort to push a comprehensive immigration bill, can be interpreted as a virtue. Rubio backed a bill in the Senate that would have resolved the ongoing standoff on immigration. But he vastly underestimated the level of opposition among his House counterparts.

While the failure of the bill deprived him of a major victory, he can use his action as evidence of his commitment to resolving this key issue and his desire to govern, not just grandstand. In an era of gridlock and polarization, this will hold appeal, assuming he can get past opponents of immigration reform among GOP primary voters.

Rubio's effort to move forward on immigration can help him sell his candidacy to more moderate elements in the party at the same time that he can easily stress his credentials as a true conservative.

There is a reason that the Tea Party loved him in 2010. His opposition to Common Core standards, his deregulatory zeal, and his tough positions on Iran will allow primary voters in states like South Carolina to see that they would not be electing a moderate. He might be one of the few candidates who can sell himself in both ways, as a conservative, but also a leader who could govern.

Rubio also can project a hawkish vision of foreign policy, which still resonates in the Republican electorate, without being susceptible to the unfavorable connection people make between Jeb Bush and the controversial legacy of his brother, former President George W. Bush.

Balancing inexperience and energy

In recent weeks, the former Florida governor stumbled in response to questions about whether he would have

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invaded Iraq. Saying that he would have invaded, just like his brother, was definitely the wrong answer, and even Bush acknowledged as much in follow-up comments.

Bush's family connections assure that the Iraq War will continue to plague him as he contends with the more isolationist Rand Paul wing of the GOP on foreign policy.

In contrast, Rubio can more comfortably advance the three pillars of his foreign policy vision -- strong defense spending, moral clarity, and the protection of the world economy. He can do so because he doesn't stand in the shadow of the former Republican president.

Rubio is young. Born in 1971, Rubio would bring Generation X into the White House as a 45-year-old president -- younger than Obama was when he took office -- and this would be significant for both parties. The fact is that the leadership of the Republicans and Democrats is graying.

There is a need to infuse younger voices and the ideas of those born after the turbulent divisions of the 1960s into the political arena. Until now, Democrats have done a better job engaging younger voters than Republicans.

Nominating Rubio would send a strong message that the party is moving in a new direction. The senator could speak to generational questions in way that his competitors could not.

The flip side of youth, is that opponents could tag Rubio as inexperienced, suggesting he would make some of the kinds of mistakes that people have argued took place with Obama. Yet in caucuses and primaries, as Obama learned, the energy of youth can go a long way in campaigns.

This a nation that thirsts for what is around the corner, not always what's been around for a long time. In a general campaign, Democrats would be hesitant to go too far in making an issue of Rubio's age given the age of our most recent president when he was elected.

A maverick, but not an outsider

Besides being young, the fact that Rubio did slip in recent years outside of the "frontrunner" status for the party will end up generating even more excitement about him. Even though he is in Congress, the bastion of establishment politics, he can present himself as something of an upstart and a maverick. The media loves a come-from-behind story, and so do voters.

While he can present himself in certain respects as anti-establishment, he is not. And this matters, too. Rubio has demonstrated that he can attract serious money from Super Pacs which are the new power brokers of American politics.

While he has not reached the point of Bush in terms of a network of donors he has demonstrated some pretty serious legs when it comes to campaign finance. This will be essential in the contest against the war chest that Bush is amassing. Ironically, the very positive words and support that Jeb Bush has given Rubio in the past will be extraordinarily helpful in his credibility with donors.

None of this is to diminish the weaknesses that Rubio has, including the lack of experience, or to overstate the chances that he would have of defeating Hillary Clinton. His friendship with former Rep. David Rivera, who has been under investigation, could be an issue on the campaign trail. The fact that he and Bush are both from Florida might divide the primary electorate and open the door for another Republican to win.

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But in many respects, for Jeb Bush, and for the Democrats, Rubio is the most dangerous man in the room.

Marco Rubio has listed himself as 'white' instead of 'Hispanic.' News flash: He's both. // Miami Herald // Patricia Mazzei - May 18, 2015

Marco Rubio has listed himself as "white" instead of "Hispanic" in applications to renew his Florida driver's license, according to records obtained by the Miami Herald.

That might sound a little like Rubio made a mistake akin to when Jeb Bush incorrectly checked off "Hispanic" in his Miami-Dade County voter registration. But it's not.

Here's why: Rubio is white. He's also Hispanic. And being forced to pick between the two is a false choice.

"White" refers to Rubio's race. "Hispanic" refers to his ethnicity. There are, for example, white Hispanics, black Hispanics, Asian Hispanics and Hispanics of indigenous descent. Rubio is a white Hispanic.

Most government forms, however, are not enlightened enough to discern between a person's race and their ethnicity. When the Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Department asks license applicants to fill out an optional race field, the choices are Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, Other and White -- as if a person couldn't be more than one of those things at the same time.

The information isn't mandatory -- it doesn't appear on a driver's license card -- and some of Rubio's transactions with the HSMV over the years don't list any race. His 1998 and 2004 renewal applications list "white," as shown in the partial 1998 application above (the Miami Herald redacted Rubio's license number as a courtesy; other information was redacted by the HSMV). His latest renewal, from 2014, shows a blank space under "race."

Of course, there's no confusion as to Rubio's lineage. His name gives away his Hispanic roots, and he has made it part of his political narrative to tell the story of how his parents left Cuba seeking a better life for their children.

A Rubio spokesman said the Florida senator "doesn't recall" how he renewed his license.

"But this looks like a glitch since he considers himself an American of Hispanic descent," Alex Conant said in an email. "The fact that he is of Hispanic descent has been hard to miss since his first campaign given the fact that he's made his family's story a centerpiece of his public life."

The race-versus-ethnicity question is far from unusual in Rubio's diverse hometown of Miami. Some Hispanics have a personal policy of listing their race rather than their ethnicity, since that's really what is being asked. Others choose without giving it much thought, depending on the form and their mood on any given day. Since the options show a lack of understanding about what makes a person Hispanic, why bother taking it too seriously?

The U.S. Census has separated race and ethnicity, specifically over the question of Hispanic origin, since 1997. Perhaps it's time for all government agencies to do the same.

Supreme Court Won't Block Probe of Scott Walker's Recall Campaign ' // Bloomberg // Greg Stohr - May 18

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2015

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to end a state investigation into Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's 2012 recall campaign, rejecting an appeal from a conservative group that says its constitutional rights are being violated.

The rebuff leaves the future of the investigation in the hands of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which is considering a separate bid to stop the probe. The criminal investigation, on hold during the court fight, might complicate Walker's potential campaign for the Republican presidential nomination.

A court-appointed special prosecutor, Francis Schmitz, is tasked with investigating whether Walker and his operatives violated state campaign-finance laws by coordinating their efforts with Club for Growth, an advocacy group.

The Wisconsin chapter of Club for Growth and its director, Eric O'Keefe, are fighting subpoenas they received from Schmitz seeking financial records. The group and O'Keefe sued in federal court to block the probe, and a federal trial judge said the First Amendment bars the state from trying to learn whether the organization coordinated with the Walker campaign.

A U.S. appeals court overturned that ruling, saying federal judges shouldn't entangle themselves in state criminal proceedings.

Walker survived the recall vote, which was sparked by his efforts to curb the power of public employee unions, and then won re-election last year. Walker and his campaign aren't directly involved in the Club for Growth case.

The case is O'Keefe v. Chisholm, 14-872.

Scott Walker's Long History of Dirty Tricks // The Daily Beast // David Freedlander – May 18, 2015

It has been more than a decade, but when David Riemer talks about Scott Walker, his voice still shakes with anger and exasperation.

"He thinks that God is on his side and so that gives him the right to lie, to dodge, to make promises and not keep them," said Riemer, now a senior fellow a the Community Advocates Public Policy Institute, a think tank dedicated to reducing poverty in Wisconsin.

Back in 2004, Riemer ran against Walker, then a first-term county executive of Milwaukee who had ridden into office on the back of a pension scandal, pledging that any of his office's hires would sign a waiver forgoing recently enacted lavish benefits and sweeteners.

Riemer, an adviser to two Wisconsin governors and a former budget director of the city of Milwaukee, filed an open records request in an effort find out if that promise had been kept. Turns out, it hadn't; in response to the open records request, a handful of top staffers hastily added their name to a list stating that they had signed the waiver. The list didn't have a date on it, though, and wasn't an official waiver anyway, merely a piece of paper indicating that signatories had signed a wavier previously.

In a letter to the attorney general's office after the election, and after Walker's office had eventually complied with

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the open records request, Riemer wrote that Walker's intention had been "to fool me, as Mr. Walker's primary opponent in the political campaign for County Executive; to fool the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel; and to fool the voters and the public. The deception worked. We were all fooled."

The attorney general declined to prosecute but accused Walker of "chicanery."

And that was not all.

In the course of the campaign, Walker's team ran a radio ad accusing Riemer of engineering a pension settlement to a series of lawsuits that cost the county millions of dollars. In fact, the lawsuits predated Riemer's tenure with the county, and his reforms helped save the city up to $25 million a year. When pressed, according to the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Walker conceded that "the ad's assertion is not correct as stated," but he refused to stop running it.

"I have never in my life seen anything like it," Riemer, who ended up losing the election by nearly 15 percentage points, said. "What kind of person admits that what they are doing is wrong but won't change it? There is a fundamental character flaw here."

"I couldn't believe what a jerk he was. I was new to politics. I didn't think it was fair game for them to say anything about you whether it was provable or not."

Walker is now on the cusp of announcing a run for president, and early polls show him as a front-runner to become the Republican nominee. And part of his appeal to the Republican faithful is his record of success in political campaigns and in public office. This is someone, after all, won four consecutive terms in the state legislature before winning three county executive races in the Democratic-leaning Milwaukee County and three races for governor in blue-hued Wisconsin. He also became the first governor in American history to survive a recall. And unlike some Republicans in Democratic territory who hew to the center after Election Day, Walker tacked sharply to the right while in office, winning him plaudits from conservative leaders as a true believer.

But longtime Walker-watchers in Wisconsin say that behind Walker's success is a long record of bending campaign laws just to their breaking point.

"Scott Walker is politics incarnate, with an unslakable thirst for political power and an eye on the next election," said Mike Browne, the deputy director of One Wisconsin Now, a liberal advocacy group. "Throughout his nearly quarter-century career running for office, he's shown he'll do whatever he thinks he needs to do to win, letter or spirit of the laws be damned."

Most notably, Walker has been ensnared in a pair of so-called John Doe investigations. In the first, while looking into missing funds from a veterans' charity run out of Walker's county executive office, investigators discovered that his staff had set up a secretive Internet system in his government office to allow them to do political work on the taxpayer's dime. Investigators also found that a railroad executive with business before the state had set up a straw donor scheme enabling his employees to donate to the future governor.

The investigation didn't touch Walker, but a deputy chief of staff was sentenced to six months in jail. Another was convicted of embezzlement after it was discovered that he used funds stolen from the veterans' charity to set up Walker for Governor campaign websites. Another top staffer received one year of probation and a $1,000 fine after cooperating with investigators.

The second John Doe investigation is ongoing and focuses on whether Walker's campaign illegally coordinated with the Club for Growth during his 2012 recall campaign. According to heavily redacted documents released this

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week, Walker's defense argues that such coordination was not illegal because Walker was not an official candidate until April of that year—a mere two months before voters went to the polls and while Walker was raising and spending millions of dollars to ward off his Democratic opponent.

Walker's trouble with campaign rules began even before he embarked on a political career in earnest. As a sophomore at Marquette University in Milwaukee, he lost a bid for student body president in a race that was marred by allegations that Walker improperly campaigned before officially registering his campaign, that he failed to properly register his campaign workers, and that he went door-to-door to hand out fliers in violation of campus policy. More seriously, after the school paper endorsed Walker's opponent, stacks of newspapers went missing, and the Walker operation was accused of engineering the theft.

Walker dropped out of Marquette just before he was set to graduate and promptly mounted a campaign against Gwen Moore, a one-term state assemblywoman. In an interview, Moore, now a member of Congress, said her Republican colleagues at the time told her that the reason Walker was running was that even though the district was majority Democratic, "the majority voting-age population was white.

"He would say his hero was Ronald Reagan. Lee Atwater, Ronald Reagan, that was the regime he looked up to, and he ran a perfect racial dog whistle campaign," Moore said.

The campaign literature, she recalled, featured "guns, gangs, drugs, and urban unrest."

"I cried," she said. "I thought I was being associated with the worst elements of the community. I couldn't believe what a jerk he was. I was new to politics. I didn't think it was fair game for them to say anything about you whether it was provable or not."

Walker lost decisively, moved to a new district, and served nearly a decade in the legislature before running for county executive. While in office, he was repeatedly dogged by failures to properly file campaign finance reports, including leaving off the occupation of more than 50 donors who gave more than $100 in violation of state laws.

Failure to list a donor's occupation is a problem that Walker's numerous campaigns have encountered frequently. When he first explored a run for governor in 2006, the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a nonpartisan watchdog group that pushes for clean elections, found that 114 donations totaling more than $75,000 failed to list the occupation or employer. In 2008, Walker's office stopped filing its campaign finance reports electronically, which made life harder for watchdogs, but still in 2009, One Wisconsin Now found that $170,000 worth of contributions were not listed properly, including two contributions of $10,000, the maximum amount allowed by law. The next year, the group found that more than $500,000 in contributions was improperly reported.

In 2005, two Democratic county supervisors filed an ethics complaint with the elections board against Walker for using his campaign arm, Friends of Scott Walker, to robo-call against them on behalf of his budget without disclosing who was beyond the calls.

The elections board ended up fining Walker $5,000, then the second largest such fine in state history.

But it was not the first time Walker's name would appear before the state elections board. Since 2010, when he first began exploring a gubernatorial run in earnest, the state Democratic Party has filed seven ethics complaints against him.

The earliest cites a series of motorcycle rides Walker would take around the state while county executive, ostensibly to promote tourism to Milwaukee but which critics said was little more than a way for Walker to introduce himself to voters around the state (or beyond—Walker twice traveled to Minnesota on his annual

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Harley ride and once to the early caucus state of Iowa).

Twice the ride was sponsored by AirTran Airways, a low-cost air carrier that at the time had a request pending before the county commission for concourse space at the Milwaukee airport. The sponsorship led critics to accuse the candidate of extracting an in-kind donation from a corporation. According to the complaint, “It was not Milwaukee County logos…that lavished and marked everyone of the three dozen stops on the tour. It was signs, flags and standards of Air Tran that dominated every single venue on Walker’s tour.”

The claim that the trip was just for Walker to promote Walker and not Milwaukee County was given credence, the complaint alleges, when in 2010 it was rescheduled to coincide with the date and location of the state Republican convention, allowing Walker to roar in to the convention on the back of his Harley. Plus, the complaint notes that Walker was accompanied by Tim Russell, a longtime Walker insider—and the one who ended up going to prison for stealing from the veterans’ charity—who frequently moved between campaign and governmental positions. At the time of the 2010 ride, Russell was the administrator of the county’s housing department.

“Any reasonable person would conclude that Housing has nothing to do with tourism—Russell’s presence indicates that the ride was in fact illegal campaign activity,” the complaint states.

Another complaint alleges that right-wing outside groups like the Koch brothers-backed Americans for Prosperity were illegally coordinating with Walker’s recall campaign. The CEO of one such group, the Bradley Foundation, was Walker’s campaign chairman, and the chairman of the board of the MacIver Institute for Public Policy, a conservative think tank, had given $16,500 to Walker’s various campaigns.

A third complaint asks the Government Accountability Board to look into Walker’s legal defense fund, one that he has poured $60,000 of his campaign money into, though state law says such funds can be used only for a candidate or public official who is being investigated or who has an agent who is being investigated. Walker has denied repeatedly that he is a target of the John Doe investigation.

A fourth complaint alleges that in the spring of his recall campaign, in the wake of a federal Bureau of Labor Statistics release that showed that Wisconsin was the only state to post “statistically significant” job losses in the previous 12 months, the Walker administration expedited the release of its own jobs figures, which used a different metric from the widely used BLS metric. Walker’s numbers showed that the state added jobs, and moments after releasing the numbers, his recall campaign launched a blitz of television and radio ads touting them—proof, the complaint alleges, of coordination between the government and political side of Walker’s office.

A fifth complaint, filed just this year, accuses Walker of dissembling when he claimed that his recent trip to the United Kingdom was for official business and used public funds to promote trade between Wisconsin and the U.K. The visit was widely seen as a chance for Walker to bolster his foreign policy credentials, and Walker refused to answer media questions while in the United Kingdom.

According to a Democratic Party official, five of the complaints are still pending. Two more were dismissed. One alleged that Walker brought Republican super pollster Frank Luntz into the state capitol during the protests against the governor’s efforts to end collective bargaining for public employees in the state. Another alleged that Walker tried to coordinate with the Koch brothers directly by discussing by phone how he was handling the protesters, including planting “troublemakers” within their midst. (That call turned out to be a prank.)

“The blatant disregard for campaign finance and ethics laws we’ve seen from Scott Walker over the entirety of his career in elected office is unprecedented in Wisconsin politics,” said Melissa Baldauff, communications director for the Wisconsin Democratic Party. “Never before has a Wisconsin governor required a criminal defense fund, the donors to which still haven’t been disclosed, or been alleged by prosecutors to be at the center of a nationwide ‘criminal scheme.’"

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In a statement, Kirsten Kukowski, a spokeswoman for the governor, said, “Governor Walker has championed big, bold reforms that the left clearly doesn’t like, but he’s won three times in four years because of his results for the people of Wisconsin.”

Few in Wisconsin think Walker will somehow be brought down by any of the complaints. To the exasperation of state Democrats, none of these allegations seem to have much slowed his steady ascent through the political ranks. Now that he is running for president, Walker finds himself facing a new set of campaign finance regulations.

In a presidential campaign, many would-be candidates who are exploring a run take great pains not to admit that they are candidates for office. To do so would mean that they could run afoul of fundraising laws that forbid coordination between candidates and the outside groups supporting them. Jeb Bush, for example, has dismissed questions about what he would do as president by noting that he is not yet a candidate and wouldn’t want to suddenly trigger a campaign. When he did acknowledge that he was running, Bush promptly backtracked.

Walker has no such apparent qualms, referring to himself several times as “a candidate” and talking about how his sons may take time off from college to campaign with him, even though no such campaign officially exists.

Democrats have filed complaints to the Federal Election Commission. They are unlikely to go anywhere.

Records indicate Scott Walker was copied on letter promising loan to donor // Journal Sentinel // Jason Stein and Patrick Marley – May 18, 2015

State records say that Gov. Scott Walker received a copy of a 2011 letter pledging a $500,000 taxpayer loan to a now-defunct Milwaukee construction company headed by a Walker donor, seemingly contradicting statements by the governor and his aides that he was not aware of the award.

A spokeswoman for Walker said that, in spite of the records, a copy of the letter from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. was never delivered to the governor's office.

The Sept. 9, 2011, letter from Paul Jadin, WEDC's chief executive officer at the time, was sent to William Minahan, owner of Building Committee Inc., a company that is now being sued by WEDC for defaulting on the unsecured loan without delivering the promised project and the jobs it was supposed to create.

Jadin said in his letter of intent that he was writing "on behalf of Governor Scott Walker" and noted "cc: Scott Walker, Governor" at the bottom.

Walker's top cabinet appointee, then Administration Secretary Mike Huebsch, urged WEDC officials to provide the loan, and Walker's then-chief of staff Keith Gilkes attended an initial meeting on it, according to records provided to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel by the Walker administration.

"In closing Governor Walker and I are firmly committed to doing everything possible to expedite the processing and awarding of this incentive award," Jadin wrote in the letter.

Walker, who with lawmakers created WEDC in July 2011, serves as the chairman of the agency's board.

While in New Orleans Monday to speak to a school voucher lobbying group, Walker said he played no direct role

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in the loan to foster energy efficiency projects for bank and credit union buildings and that Democrats are on a "partisan witch hunt."

Spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said the GOP governor and likely 2016 White House candidate didn't know about the loan and that Walker did not receive a copy of Jadin's letter even though it stated that he did.

"As we said, Governor Walker was not involved in or aware of any part of the loan process concerning The Building Committee Inc.," Patrick said. "That was template language WEDC used initially for award letters. A review of our files from that time indicates that we were not receiving copies of those letters."

Patrick said Walker would hold an "open, thorough, and transparent discussion" of the loan at WEDC's next board meeting.

Democrats seek probe

Also Monday, two Democratic lawmakers on the WEDC board called for a federal criminal investigation of WEDC and the loan to the Building Committee, which is headed by a donor who made the maximum $10,000 donations to the campaigns of both Walker and former Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle. There is no evidence so far that the loan led to the promised construction projects or jobs.

It's the latest in a string of troubles facing the state's main jobs agency, which earlier this month faced a tough audit saying it had failed to follow state law and its own procedures in its work.

"The problems at Gov. Walker's WEDC appear to go beyond simple mismanagement," said Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha), who appeared alongside a fellow WEDC board member, Sen. Julie Lassa (D-Steven Point). "As board members we are deeply concerned and call for immediate action."

The offices of John Vaudreuil, the U.S. attorney in Madison, and James Santelle, the U.S. attorney in Milwaukee, had no comment.

Patrick responded that an October 2014 report to the WEDC board, which includes Barca, Lassa and Walker, included the Building Committee in a list of past due loans. She said the Democratic lawmakers should have asked for more details on the bad loan at the time, while Barca said it was never specifically flagged to board members in their meetings.

Walker asked lawmakers on Friday to scrap WEDC's loan programs, which in 2014 ended up deferring payments on 42 out of 220 active loans — or nearly one in five.

Barca said he was skeptical of a statement by Patrick that the governor didn't know about the last-minute $10,000 donation that Building Committee owner Minahan made to Walker's 2010 gubernatorial campaign on election day.

The 2011 loan, which was first reported on by the Wisconsin State Journal, was among several WEDC loans noted by state auditors in their recent report on the agency.

The documents provided to the Journal Sentinel show that in June 2011, Minahan and Eric Petersen, a lobbyist

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who represented the business, met to discuss the loan with Gilkes and Huebsch. At the time, Huebsch also served on the WEDC board.

Jadin did not respond to a phone message seeking comment.

Patrick said the project was presented to Huebsch by Building Committee as a way to create 150 jobs, draw in larger private investment and help many businesses in the state save money on energy.

In a statement made through Administration spokesman Cullen Werwie, Huebsch said he was approached for help on the project because of several energy programs run out of the Department of Administration, but none of them could help Building Committee. Huebsch, who has since been appointed to a $129,000-a-year job at the Public Service Commission, then looked to WEDC as another way to help the construction firm, he said in a statement.

"As the secretary of DOA, I often worked to connect small businesses with resources that could lead to job creation," Huebsch said.

WEDC awarded the unsecured loan only after Huebsch and other agency officials were unable to find funding from state or federal energy programs, the records show.

El Sellers, who worked as a salesman for Building Committee in the Southwest, said years before the company faced its financial problems, it was having difficulty getting a building permit in a suburb of Phoenix.

He said Monday that company official David Jaeckels told him to make a political donation to a local elected official and then have the company reimburse him for it on his expense report.

Matt Roberts, a spokesman for Arizona Secretary of State Michele Reagan, a Republican, said that under Arizona law individuals cannot make political donations in the name of another person and that corporations cannot make political contributions. Violating these laws can constitute a felony, according to lawscited by Roberts.

Sellers said the donation was $600 to $800, but he could not remember who received it.

"I didn't think about it twice. I'm not a child. It's money that makes the world go round," Sellers said, adding the company got its building permit soon afterward.

Jaeckels categorically denied the allegation and called Sellers a "disgruntled employee."

"I knew we were involved in talking to a variety of people, but I don't know anything about anything like that," he said of having the company reimburse Sellers for a donation. "That's ludicrous."

Scott Walker touts charters, vouchers in charter-heavy New Orleans Monday // NOLA // Jessica Williams - May 18, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's two sons attend public and private universities. Matt Walker is a rising senior at the Roman Catholic, Jesuit Marquette University. And Alex Walker is a rising junior the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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The young men made different decisions, based on what best suited their needs. That's typical for many high school graduates heading to college.

But introduce choice in public and secondary schools, and you start to shock people, the Republican governor told a room of school choice advocates Monday (May 18) in New Orleans.

Walker, a likely 2016 presidential candidate, has been championing choice and his other Wisconsin initiatives a lot lately. He's spoken at dinners, conferences and summits all across the nation in recent months, and the American Federation for Children's Policy Summit in New Orleans Monday was no exception. In his 20-minute keynote speech at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, Walker praised charters, vouchers and Wisconsin's efforts to promote the same. The federation is a strong supporter of both, and -- like Walker -- has been no friend to labor unions.

"School choice" typically encompasses a liberation from public school attendance zones. Advocates tend to argue that public money should finance additional options, both public and private. It was perhaps fitting, then, for the federation's gathering be in New Orleans, where the vast majority of public schools are boundary-free charters, and where still other students attend private voucher schools.

Choice is controversial: critics say it affords private entities autonomy with little accountability and can lead to the demise of traditional public education systems, while advocates say innovators need room to do what must be done and public education needs a facelift, anyway.

For Walker, however, choice is both a moral and economic imperative. Moral, he said, because every child deserves a great education. Economic, because on one Wisconsin public agency's website alone, there are more than 84,000 job openings, he noted.

"That means we can't afford to have anybody on the sidelines," he said. "That means we need to have people, young people, with access to a great education, in a traditional public school, charter school, choice school with a voucher, private school with a tax benefit, in a virtual school, or even a home school."

Importantly, advocates should remember that strong traditional public schools are important, Walker continued. If those systems aren't given the proper tools -- which he deems are freedom from "big government labor union bosses" -- then you risk cases such as Wisconsin teacher Megan Sampson, who was received an outstanding first year teaching award from the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English, but who was laid off because of budget cuts and the union contract's "last-in, first-out" policy.

He's frequently touted the Sampson story in speeches around the country. She's been the face of his signature bill, Act 10, that restricted collective bargaining for most Wisconsin labor unions. "You open the door to say... seniority and tenure is gone," he said, to applause from the crowd. "Schools can hire and fire based on merit."

Walker also has pushed to lift the enrollment cap for vouchers while keeping budgets flat for public schools, moves that have sparked ire in his home state. Still, choice supporters tout his work.

While Walker was the first governor and possible GOP candidate to address the crowd Monday, he wasn't the only one. In what appeared to be a late addition to the agenda, Gov. Bobby Jindal also was slated to give remarks at 5 p.m. Jindal is eyeing the presidency, and announced the creation of an exploratory campaign committee Monday.

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Chris Christie Now Opposes Creating a Pathway to Citizenship for Undocumented Workers // Bloomberg // Terrence Dopp – May 18, 2015

The New Jersey governor says he has changed his mind on the question.

By his own admission, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has changed his tune.

On Monday, Christie said that he now opposes providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, something he supported as recently as 2010.

"I think that's an extreme way to go," Christie said in an interview on FOX News Channel's The Kelly File scheduled to air Monday night. "And I think that, quite frankly, what Hillary Clinton's doing right now is pandering. That's pandering. We need to have an intelligent conversation about this and bring the American people along to where we can find consensus."

"Well, I think I've learned over time about this issue and done a lot more work on it."

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie

Christie, who opted not to run four years ago, is traveling as honorary chairman of his political action committee, Leadership Matters for America, even though he's said he won't make a formal announcement on a White House run until later this month or in June.

He had a packed day in New Hampshire, starting with a noon speech on foreign policy in the waterfront Prescott Park, where John McCain announced in 2008. He next held his fifth town hall meeting in three weeks at a VFW hall in Hudson.

The former federal prosecutor conceded during the interview that the stance on a pathway to citizenship is a shift from his previous position on the matter. In recent weeks, he has stated that immigrants won't "self-deport," adding that there aren't enough law enforcement resources to force an estimated 11 million people here to leave.

During the interview Christie also knocked President Barack Obama for his executive action on immigration and said his own shift on the question of providing a pathway to citizenship is an evolution.

"Well, I think I've learned over time about this issue and done a lot more work on it," he said. "And I think everyone has to do what you need to be able to get educated on these issues and learn, and back in 2010 I was in my first couple of months as Governor, I've now learned some of the ramifications of some of these things and what I am saying now is we've got to come up with a solution for it. "

Gov. Christie: American exceptionalism isn't a punchline — it's a set of principles. // Medium // Chris Christie – May 18, 2015

Thanks Renee and thanks Paul for that kind introduction. It's great to be here.

Today I'm going to talk about America's place in the world and how we can create a new American

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century — and I couldn't think of a better place for us to have that conversation. Right across this park is the house of John Paul Jones, a proud Irishman and father of the US Navy. And across the water, and over the decades, so many ships have sailed from the great Portsmouth Naval Yard in the service of freedom — and continue to do so. This is a place of history and one that has shaped history at so many pivotal moments.

With that, I want to tell you about another story from history — a story about a proud son of New Hampshire with a New Jersey connection.

John Winant was a Republican governor of this great state back in the 1930s. His New Jersey connection? He attended one of New Jersey's great schools, Princeton University. He was the first man to serve more than one term as Governor here. And since he was tough enough to survive the politics of Concord, in 1941 the President asked him to take on another difficult job — US ambassador to Great Britain.

As Ambassador Winant, he arrived in London at Britain's darkest moment. London was being pounded round the clock by Hitler's Luftwaffe. German U-boats were strangling the country's food supply. Many people thought that a German invasion was weeks away.

Faced with those circumstances, a lesser man might have asked for another assignment. Talk about a bad promotion, right? In fact, there were plenty of people who thought this was a fool's errand. The outgoing ambassador, Joseph Kennedy — — thought Britain's days were numbered and flew home as soon as he could. He declared that appeasement was the right course of action for America. A lot of opinion polls agreed with him.

Well the new ambassador took a different approach.

He flew to England. And the first thing he said when he got off that plane was "I'm very glad to be here. There's no place I'd rather be at this time."

And he meant it. He rallied the morale of the British people, and promised them that America would stand by them. He went out on the streets of London and asked people what he could do to help. He counseled President Roosevelt not to give in to appeasement, but to prepare to confront the German menace.

So why am I telling you this story? For two reasons.

First, this is a story of New Hampshire's impact on the course of history, at the moments when our country faced choices that would determine the course of our future. In this election season, as our country faces new choices and new challenges, you're going to be asked to play that role again.

But the other reason? For me, this is a story that embodies the qualities that make our country exceptional.

Now, American exceptionalism is something that politicians love to talk about. It's a punch line in a speech that makes you feel all warm and fuzzy.

But American exceptionalism isn't a punch line — it's a set of principles.

When the world faces its darkest moments, we use our strength and resolve to light a fire.

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When our allies stand up to fight the darkness, we find a way to stand with them.

When a threat appears from over the horizon, our country gets ready — not when that threat arrives on our doorstep or when it's popular.

America has never been a member of the league of ordinary nations. We have never ignored the crises in the world around us. Because throughout history, leaders in both parties have based our foreign policy on these principles — strength, leadership and partnership with the people and nations who share our values. And it's served the world and us pretty well. That's what saved the world 70 years ago. That's what defeated Soviet tyranny. That's what kept the peace.

Now, fast forward to today.

For the first time since World War Two, Russian troops march across the lands of a sovereign European state.

In the streets of Baghdad and Damascus, Aden and Tripoli, terror has become a permanent way of life — and the sinister black flag of ISIS looms larger every day.

In the South China Sea, Chinese vessels raise islands and military bases from the sea, in disputed waters where they have no right to do so — seizing strategic footholds across the region.

And in the holy land, Israeli citizens live their lives in the shadow of the Iranian menace — while our diplomats toast the promises of the ayatollahs.

So how did this happen? How did it come to this?

All these things are happening because American power is in retreat — and we've backed away from the principles that made us a source of strength and stability.

No one understands any longer whom America stands with or against.

No one understands exactly what we stand for and what we are willing to sacrifice to stand up for it.

No one understands if we're prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow — while we lurch from crisis to crisis today.

Instead of consistent, principled policies that made our country respected by our allies and feared by our adversaries, we have an intellectual and strategic mess. Once, America sought to lead the world. Now, our President leads from behind.

Well if we want to lead from behind, we're going to be left behind.

We give up our claim to be the leader of the free world. We give up the partnerships for peace that defined the

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American century. And we give up the chance of another American century. The world will be more dangerous and less prosperous.

For six years, a lot of people in our country have been worried about the path we're on. And I don't want to feel like that anymore, and I bet you don't either.

So I think we ought to take a different approach.

We need to change course as a country and embrace a foreign policy based on the timeless principles that helped America to lead the world.

Let's talk about what a policy agenda looks like for a truly exceptional nation, at a time of extraordinary global challenges — and how we get the strength, tools and partnerships to lead the world

Stronger defense

Under our Constitution, the first and most important job of our government is to protect every American and our way of life. That means keeping our military strong must be at the heart of any global agenda.

A strong military doesn't just help us to deal with the threats we face. It helps eliminate them before we even see them.

Over the last 70 years, our world has entered an unprecedented era of peace and prosperity. Nations have risen from the ashes of war; new industries have reshaped the world. Europe became free and united, and democracies multiplied across Latin America, Asia and Africa. And all of this took place only because a strong America served as the anchor and organizer of global stability. We didn't have to be a global policeman who solved every problem, but it was enough for our allies to know we had their back — to give them a zone for peace in which to choose a future for themselves.

Now, our country reaped the rewards of this strategy for decades because we had responsible leaders in both parties who ensured that the military never become a partisan plaything. Partisanship is a fact of life in our political system, and a price worth paying to keep our democracy accountable, strong and vibrant. But our armed services were beyond this — because keeping our country safe should never be up for debate.

But lately, things have changed.

Over the last few years, Washington has grown more and more dysfunctional. And instead of reaching sensible compromises over spending, the President and Congress have made decisions that have compromised our military.

Last year, the National Defense Panel, a bipartisan commission chartered by Congress, concluded that cuts in defense spending imposed by sequestration have been a "serious strategic misstep." By forcing deep, across-the-board cuts in military spending since 2011, Congress and the President have tied the hands of our commanders and created a readiness crisis in our armed services. Now we have fighter pilots who can't get enough hours in the skies to train, ships that can't patrol the routes we need to, and only a handful of Army brigades ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

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If we want to effectively deliver on our entire national defense strategy, then we need to fix this.

We need ground forces that can respond to crises on multiple fronts, without compromising our capacity for deterrence. The Army and Marines should not be reduced below their pre-9/11 strength, and our active duty forces should be at 500,000 Army soldiers and 185,000 Marines.

Our Navy should have more ships. In this century, to secure our global interests our Navy will be called upon to assume even greater challenges and responsibilities. But even as our maritime needs grow, we're cutting back and right now are on a budgetary path to 260 ships or less. That's just wrong. Our Navy bears the greatest burden of our forward-presence missions, and shouldn't be equipped to do the bare minimum. We should have at least 350 ships — and our Navy should be an armada without equal.

And we need a larger Air Force. Our Air Force now has the oldest and smallest combat force in its history, and we're on track to reduce our inventory of bomber, fighter and surveillance forces by 50% over the next 4 years. Well, when it comes to maintaining our air supremacy, winging it won't do. We should modernize the Air Force and build up to 2,500 combat coded aircraft as part of a total force of 6,000 aircraft capable of carrying out all the missions we know our pilots will face in the years ahead. Americans were the first to conquer the skies — let's not concede them.

So we need to give our men and women in uniform the resources they need to get the job done — and we owe it to them. That's why Congress and the President should repeal the 2011 Budget Control Act as soon as humanly possible, get back to regular order in budgeting and restore funding levels to what Secretary Gates proposed in his fiscal 2012 budget — modest increases in defense spending through the end of the decade that will make a massive difference to our troops. It's the right thing to do — and we should do it now.

But that's just the start. We also need to innovate to fight the battles of the future.

For a long time our military has led the world not just through the skill and the courage of our troops, but the ingenuity of our scientists and engineers. Our forces are the envy of the world because they're also the best equipped in the world.

But the world is catching up — and our rivals are working hard to copy and steal our best-kept secrets. Today, Russia has stealth fighters, a new generation of battle tanks, and a growing military presence in the Arctic. China has its first aircraft carrier, with more on the way, double digit increases in military spending every year, and cutting-edge cyber warriors always, seemingly, one step ahead of our own. And in just the last few months, we've seen North Korean hackers targeting Hollywood and the Russians reading President Obama's email. That's just embarrassing.

So we need to work harder to keep our edge. We need to invest in building the military of the future. We need to build a new generation of weapon systems to protect our interests on every front — on the ground, on the seas, in the air or new frontiers even further out. We need to invest in unmanned aviation, directed energy weapons and space. We should continue to be leaders in undersea warfare, and that's why we should speed up the build rate of our Virginia-class attack submarines and support the replacement of the Ohio class. And when it comes to cyber warfare, we need to be ready not just to defend against threats to our vital national systems, we need the offensive capabilities to deter our enemies — or strike back if they don't take the hint. To keep our country safe in this century, we need to maintain the digital balance of power.

And if we want our armed forces to get the right tools at the right time, in a way that doesn't waste taxpayer money, we need to fundamentally reform our entire DoD procurement process.

Between 2001 and 2011, the DoD spent around $44 billion dollars on weapon programs that were eventually

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cancelled. Weapons that have overrun their budgets by hundreds of billions of dollars and failed to live up to expectations. And across the board, military officials spend millions of dollars every year dealing with red tape and byzantine reporting requirements just to get the weapons we need.

Clearly, something isn't right here in our procurement process. Business-as-usual bureaucrats in Washington aren't taking care of business. So we need to adopt real world, private sector practices across our procurement system, and remove wasteful, overlapping functions. Bureaucracy shouldn't burden our troops, and we should attack it with the same energy as any other threat to our defense.

Stronger intelligence

So a strong defense needs to be the first cornerstone of our foreign policy.

The second is strengthening our intelligence efforts.

This is something very close to my heart. Because I've seen up close just how important our intelligence community is to defending our way of life.

On the morning of September 11, my wife Mary Pat was working just two blocks from the World Trade Center. She got evacuated from Manhattan by ferry, and I was so unbelievably grateful and relieved that she was all right. But like many of you, there were other people in our lives — friends, colleagues, loved ones — who didn't make it. A friend from our church. The brother of one of Andrew's teachers. Parents of their classmates. And for New Jersey as a whole, we lost so many people on that terrible day — the second most deaths of any state other than the State of New York.

Those weeks after the attacks were such a scary and unpredictable time for everyone. But it was also in that time that President Bush nominated me to be US Attorney for the District of New Jersey. I was informed by the White House on September 10, 2001 that I would be nominated for US Attorney for the District of New Jersey, and I was confirmed to that post on December 10, three months later. And by then it was clear what I was going to be working on for the next few years.

In early 2002, John Ashcroft called all the US Attorneys into the Justice Department. And he gave us a message from the President. What happened on 9/11 must never happen again — and it was up to all of us to prevent it. We had a responsibility to go after the terrorists with every legal instrument at our disposal.

Well I took that to heart. Because I remembered what it felt like to be waiting for a phone call from Mary Pat, hoping and praying that she was safe. I know what it feels like to lose people when they should be safe — at work, on our streets. This is not theoretical to me. I lived it in my home. Everything changed that morning in September.

So for the next seven years of my life, my office focused on fighting terrorism every day.

We started by bringing the first post-9/11 terrorism case in the country. This was a case against a man called Hemant Lekhani, an Indian-born British citizen who tried to buy and sell shoulder-fired missiles on the black market, that could take down a plane. He thought he was dealing with a terror organization, but he was actually dealing with a joint operation between the FBI and the Russians. We investigated that case using tools including the Patriot Act — and we ended up getting him convicted and sent to jail for the rest of his life.

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Another case was the Fort Dix Six. These were six radical Islamists who were conspiring to attack soldiers at Fort Dix in New Jersey. They tried to buy weapons and explosives from an underground weapons dealer who was actually an FBI informant — the result of a 16-month operation with the FBI and Justice Department to infiltrate the group. It was incredible coordination, and we got the entire group behind bars.

So I've used all the tools we had to go after terror. I've used the Patriot Act myself and personally reviewed the applications. I've prosecuted terrorists, and sent terrorists to jail. And I've seen what happens when our intelligence community, legal system and law enforcement work together. We can use information to save lives.

That's why intelligence matters. At the simplest level, intelligence helps us prevent the next attack. But at its best, intelligence is a force multiplier for all our national capabilities. If we want to manage events — and not have events manage us — then we need superior knowledge of the world around us.

Strength and knowledge go hand in hand — and should always be at the core of our strategy.

Now, we've seen some good successes over the last few years. The way Bin Laden was caught shows exactly how our intelligence efforts should work. That took ten years of investment in building our human intelligence capabilities. It took an immense effort to track individual cell phones across Pakistan and Afghanistan. And it was the payoff for years of training and equipping our SEAL teams to get the job done. President Obama and President Bush deserve credit for laying the foundations for that operation, and most of all, the brave troops and operatives on the ground who made this happen.

But we need more efforts like that. We need to be constantly building those foundations for the threats over the horizon, and the next set of challenges we need to solve.

Today, we're not seeing that progress. Instead, Washington is debating the wrong question entirely — which intelligence capabilities should we get rid of?

Too often, the loudest voices in the debate about how to keep our country safe are driven by some purist, theoretical vision of how we should manage our intelligence efforts.

When Edward Snowden revealed our intelligence secrets to the world in 2013, civil liberties extremists seized that moment to advance their own narrow agenda. They want you to think that there's a government spook listening in every time you pick up the phone or Skype with your grandkids. They want you to think of our intelligence community as the bad guys, straight out of the Bourne Identity or a Hollywood thriller. And they want you to think that if we weakened our capabilities, the rest of the world would love us more.

Let me be clear — all these fears are exaggerated and ridiculous. When it comes to fighting terrorism, our government is not the enemy. And we shouldn't listen to people like Edward Snowden, a criminal who hurt our country and now enjoys the hospitality of President Putin — while sending us messages about the dangers of authoritarian government. And, frankly, we don't need advice from Hollywood, the guys who made our intelligence agencies the villains in practically every movie from the last twenty-five years.

But instead of taking on the ideologues, the Obama administration and the Democrats have taken the path of least resistance. They've apologized for our intelligence collection, promised that we will collect it only in ways that protect the privacy of foreign citizens, and cut back on vital funding for our intelligence services.

They've politicized intelligence oversight and demoralized our intelligence community. Last year, Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee released a one-sided and inaccurate attack on our intelligence services. Democrats behind that report should be ashamed for putting partisanship above genuine oversight in the way they

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released this. And it's just disgraceful the way there are folks on the Hill who want American intelligence weaker and less informed just to drive their own personal political agendas.

So instead of support, our intelligence services get condemnations. Instead of resources, they get regulations. Instead of building a community that's trusted and equipped to go after the hard targets, we have a risk-averse intelligence service. The watchword from this administration isn't, "Collect all the information you can about a dangerous world," but "collect only what you have to have."

The next time there's a phone call to a terrorist safe house in Yemen from San Diego or New Jersey, would our agents dare to listen in?

Well, we've never had a risk-averse military. And I don't think we want a risk-averse intelligence service. So we need to fix this.

We need to treat intelligence as a practical issue, not a theoretical one. We need to be practical about preventing real civil liberties abuses wherever they occur. That's what a vigilant, responsible Congress, not a partisan one, would accomplish with vigorous oversight. That's what a truly apolitical Justice Department would do by pursuing real legal violations by any member of our intelligence community who steps over the line. Protecting our homeland must be an uncompromising priority.

The vast majority of Americans aren't worried about the government listening in on them, because it hasn't happened. But they are worried about what happens if we don't catch the bad people who want to harm our country.

Here's how we catch them.

We need to toughen our anti-terror and surveillance laws to give our intelligence services the legal mechanisms to do their job.

Over the last couple of years, most of our allies including the UK, France, Canada and Australia, have announced plans to toughen their laws to better detect and prevent terrorism and extremism. Now we're the only major country talking about going in the opposite direction.

We should begin by passing a clean extension of the Patriot Act. At the end of May, vital pieces of that legislation are going to expire, including Section 215 — essential for our intelligence agencies to access the data they need to stop suspected terrorists. I used this tool extensively, aggressively and legally as US Attorney and I can tell you this: it works. This is a big debate in Congress right now, and different courts have expressed their views on the program too. But right now, that debate is dominated by the intellectual purists worried about theoretical abuses that haven't occurred — instead of the real threats that we've already seen from Garland, Texas, to Ft. Dix, New Jersey.

If you're an ordinary, law-abiding American, this legislation has absolutely no effect on you — except it could prevent the next attack from taking place in our country, killing our fellow citizens. Absolutely no one has a single real example of our intelligence services misusing this program for political or other nefarious purposes. And we have incredibly stringent oversight of these provisions. I wish I could say the same about the Internal Revenue Service in this administration. The critics have chosen the wrong target. But if they had a leg to stand on, they would ask for greater oversight of Section 215. But they don't want to because that would mean more responsibility and accountability for them. Simply put, they're on the wrong side of this debate.

So let's move beyond this. Let's give our people the tools they need to get the job done.

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Part of that also means properly funding our intelligence services and allowing them to keep innovating and improving their capabilities. We need to invest in new technologies and infrastructure to support our signals intelligence, so that we can actually interpret all the data we're gathering. Today's problem isn't having too little information; it's having too much. So we need to invest in turning noise into understanding.

One of the ways we can do that is by building a stronger and more productive relationship with Silicon Valley. Our entrepreneurs and innovators are some of our strongest assets as a country, and the work they're doing to connect the world helps to improve all our lives. So we should be clear that we have no interest in reading the Facebook messages and tweets of ordinary Americans. We want a strong and secure internet. But we need the tools to find the people who would hurt our country so that people can carry on enjoying the benefits of Facebook and Twitter and Google. Our government should treat our tech community as our partners, not our enemies. And when foreign governments try to use the Snowden leaks to justify protectionism and attacks on our companies, we need to fight for them — and with something more than apologies.

At the same time, we need to strengthen our human intelligence capabilities in the parts of the world where they're weakest. Our country has reacted too slowly to the return of Moscow's aggression and the rise of ISIS partly because of our lack of investment in human intelligence. America should never be caught napping because we chose not to invest in dealing with the hard targets — Russia, Iran, North Korea.

And closer to home, we can do more to strengthen our cooperation and intelligence sharing with our neighbors, as well as our allies in Europe. We face common challenges and enemies, so we ought to have common solutions. With Canada and Mexico we should be sharing more information about overseas travelers to both countries, and greater cooperation with Mexico to police their side of the border. And with Europe, in particular the countries in the visa waiver program, we should be doing more to encourage the sharing of digital data and information about extremist threats. Ensuring the collective security of our allies should be something they welcome, and it's the price for all our partnerships.

Stronger alliances

With that in mind, let's talk about the final pillar of our stronger foreign policy — building stronger alliances.

As Governor, I've had the chance to meet with a lot of foreign leaders and partners from overseas. Over the last couple of years I've met with the leaders of our closest allies, from Canada and Mexico, to Israel and Great Britain.

Everywhere I go, I hear the same thing from our allies — we want America to be a strong global leader. We want you to step up and lead.

Because that's who we are. It's not just our strength and intelligence that defines us as a country; it's our willingness to stand with those who share our values and interests. We became the leader of the free world because we also chose to become the arsenal of democracy. And when we make a commitment to stand with our allies, our word is our bond. Or at least it used to be.

Throughout history, our leaders and diplomats have lived their lives to extend that bond. Our soldiers have died to defend it.

But right now, we have a government that doesn't seem to care about all the blood and sweat and treasure that it took to build those alliances. Because we've broken our word.

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In 2013, President Obama talked about defending a red line for our nation if the Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons against his own people. Well, he used chemical weapons on his people. President Obama's response? Never mind. His unwillingness to stand behind his own words has made America weaker and less reliable in the world. He damaged the credibility of the Presidency.

And when the world saw that our word was not our bond, are we surprised at what happened next?

Are we surprised that Vladimir Putin chose to annex Crimea and invade eastern Ukraine?

Are we surprised that Iranian-backed militias are rampaging across Yemen?

Are we surprised that Bashar al-Assad continues to butcher thousands of men, women, using barrel bombs and conventional munitions dropped out of Russian helicopters? Or that with Iranian support, the moderate Syrian opposition has been sidelined by extremists and ISIS?

So whoever is going to be our next Commander-in-Chief is going to make restoring America's word a priority. We need to make it clear to our friends and allies that we stand with them in the cause of freedom, and against all the gathering threats. We will stand together, because we cannot stand alone. And we must return America to the leadership role the world needs and expects.

In Europe, our first task is to defend the Western alliance against Russian aggression.

We have spent 70 years of blood and treasure, first to defeat Nazism and then to defeat Soviet totalitarianism to establish and maintain a free and united Europe. Now President Obama and Secretary Clinton are giving this sacred investment away for nothing with their inane reset button.

In March, the Polish government started offering military training to any civilians between the ages of 18 and 50 who wanted it. On the very first day they opened up that program, 1,000 people signed up. And then they kept coming.

When Polish civilians are drilling to defend the streets of Warsaw once again, you know our Europe policy is a scary failure to our allies. And we need to have our allies' backs. And we need to do it now.

We need to stand up to Russian aggression together, and make clear that our commitment to our NATO allies in Eastern Europe is absolute. And if Putin's Russia wants to rejoin the community of civilized nations, then they're going to have to behave like one.

We need to bolster our allies by helping them get access to the weapons systems and training they need to defend themselves. We should strengthen NATO's military presence in the Baltic states, and make clear to all our Eastern European allies that we will not allow the freedoms they've won since the Cold War to be reversed. We should give Ukraine the weapons it needs to defend itself.

We should also put the pressure on all our NATO allies to invest more in their own defense. After the Cold War, too many of our European allies rushed to cut their military spending and enjoy the dividend of peace. Well now they need to invest, and fulfill their NATO commitments to spend at least 2% of GDP on defense annually. It's not because we're not going to have their backs — Europe just needs to watch their front as well, and close the big and increasing capabilities gap that we saw between our forces and theirs at moments like Kosovo in 1999 and

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Libya in 2011. And even as Europe increases spending, we should work with them to avoid duplication in capabilities across the alliance. They don't all need to rush out and buy tanks, but they might benefit from investing more in cyber warfare, missile defense, precision weapons and artillery — the things we need more of.

And as for Russia — until Putin chooses the path of peace, we should keep applying pressure.

Just a couple of months ago, the head of Russia's FSB — the old KGB — was invited to the White House for a summit on "countering extremism." We didn't just invite the fox into the hen house, we let in the bear. That just seems crazy to me. Instead, we should immediately put travel bans and asset freezes on every member of the Russian parliament and Putin's entire circle — including Putin himself. We know who holds the leash on the dogs of war. So let's not mess around on this. And if that still isn't enough, we should look at tougher sanctions on Russia's energy and financial sectors — and hit them where it really hurts.

How we deal with Russia is a test for how we stand with all our allies everywhere. We cannot back down, and we need a leader who won't back down.

But there are other places we're going to be tested too, and other allies we need to defend.

At the top of the list is Israel. I'm going to be short and sweet here. Our commitment to Israel must be absolute.

Israel is a beacon of freedom in a sea of autocracy, and our friendship should be unshakable. Over the last few years, the Obama administration has taken our Israeli partners for granted and it's just shameful the way the President has treated them. When the President is barely on speaking terms with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and waited two days to call and congratulate him after his election, that's just immature. If we can't be respectful to our best friends in the world, then we're not going to get very far with anyone else — and it's no surprise this administration has such an abysmal record on diplomacy.

Finally, Israel and its people must be supported by the United States and the American President. Its existence and security is non-negotiable. The Iranians and others who think otherwise must be reminded of that simple fact.

Also damaging to our partnership with Israel, is just the staggering strategic incompetence and disinterest in countering the rising threats across the Middle East and North Africa — threats that if left unchecked, will compromise Israel's security and future. If we truly care about defending Israel, then we need to consider what the region will look like tomorrow — and then take action today. President Obama seems unwilling to stand up to anyone in the Middle East — except for Prime Minister Netanyahu. It is embarrassing and dangerous.

We have a lot of work to do.

With Iran, the President's eagerness for a deal on their nuclear program has him ready to accept a bad deal. The framework we've negotiated here seems pretty flimsy, and I have grave concerns over how we're going to make the Iranians live up to their end of the bargain and how we can ensure proper, verifiable compliance. So until we get that, we should have the strength to keep our guard up and keep our sanctions up. The deal as structured will lead to a nuclear Iran and, then, a nuclearized Middle East. That not only threatens Israel. It threatens the United States and turns 70 years of nuclear policy on its head.

Iran has also been pretty busy across the region, and almost everywhere Iran opposes US goals. In Yemen, they've launched a proxy war that has devastated our ally and represents a clear and present danger to world. And while Iran has supported Iraq in fighting back against ISIS, their motives are hardly benign, and we know they have a long-term interest in building a power base in Iraq.

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Iran might not have the bomb right now — but their influence is absolutely radioactive to the world. So we need to contain it with our moderate Sunni Arab allies, while at the same time rolling back the shadow of ISIS. We need to do more to organize our allies into a strong coalition on the ground in Yemen, and to train and equip the moderate opposition to Assad in Syria and the tribal elements in Iraq that are a threat to peace. We should develop new tools to blunt Iran's regional influence, including ways to fight the flow of cash to their puppets: Hezbollah, the Houthis, Syria and Iraqi militants. We should link our sanctions regime to the threat Iran poses to the region, and treat all these threats as connected, which the Obama Administration doesn't — and come up with a real coherent strategy with our Sunni partners.

The price of inaction is steadily rising. Just last week we saw the embarrassment of almost all the Gulf leaders, including the Saudi King, pulling out of President Obama's summit at Camp David. Our allies want policies, not photo ops, and we're not listening to them. And as we fail to confront Iran's shadowy nuclear program and undisguised quest for regional power, we raise the likelihood of states taking unilateral actions or seeking extreme solutions. If we're not going to stop Iran getting a nuclear capability, then why would the Saudis or Egyptians or Emiratis choose not to follow? If we don't have a plan to stop Bashar al-Assad in Syria, or Iraq in Yemen, what's to stop governments lending support to proxy forces like Al Qaeda and ISIS?

In August the President announced a campaign to degrade and destroy ISIS. But right now they seem to be getting stronger every day, and we've just witnessed ISIS taking full control of Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's largest province. So right now our piecemeal strategy to deal with ISIS doesn't inspire confidence.

When allies lose confidence in us, they take matters into their own hands. I think it's better for America to extend a helping hand — and help manage events.

And that's why we also need to strengthen our alliances across the Asia-Pacific region.

This century, more than any other, will be defined by the Pacific. So I think it's important we work to build on our relationships with our core allies in the region, Australia, Japan, the Philippines and Korea, as well as newer partners, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma and Vietnam.

Now, the President has talked about leading a pivot to Asia in our foreign and security policy. We've taken some of the right steps, like working to strengthen our economic ties with our Asian partners through the Trans-Pacific Partnership. But generally, we haven't matched strategy with capabilities, particularly in terms of our defensive deployments. 2,500 marines in Australia, a couple of Littoral Combat Ships in Singapore, and exercises in Philippines are a start. But compare that to China's double digit growth in military spending every year, with thousands of missiles pointed across the Taiwan Straits, next generation fighter jets and soon, likely a full blue water capable fleet with aircraft carriers. And we still face an unpredictable and dangerous regime in North Korea, and extremist threats across the region.

If we don't upgrade our presence in the region, then we won't be able to keep our commitments to our allies. The President's pivot to Asia might just be a pendulum to Asia. So I think we should match words with deeds, and alliances with strength. We need to reposition more of our fleet and our forces across the region, and give our allies the capabilities they need to respond to the threats of the future. We don't want to fuel a regional arms race, but there's no reason we can't help our allies upgrade their capabilities with stronger coastal defenses, submarines, maritime reconnaissance equipment and other defensive equipment.

Nothing about these policies is about treating China like a foe. China is a great nation, and we want them to be a partner. Our countries have so much to learn and to offer one another, and if we can work together, we can create a century of greater prosperity and security. But we must never shy away from demanding that China live up to the rules of the global community, and respect the human rights of its own people and the sovereignty of our allies — and we should make clear that the United States will always stand by its allies, no matter what.

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Let me be clear. Strengthening America's defenses and our intelligence community, and sending clear and resolute signals to allies and adversaries alike will not lead to war. It will build the foundations of peace. It will lead to fair negotiations, not one-sided ones. It will lead us towards stability and away from indecision and chaos. It will strengthen existing alliances and build new ones. It will reestablish American credibility in the world — with everyone.

America's word will once again be our bond — as it always should have been.

A great generation

So that's how I see an American foreign policy designed for the times we live in — and for an exceptional country. We need a stronger defense, stronger intelligence and stronger alliances. When we add strength to knowledge, and work with partners who share our interests and values, we can create a world that is safer, stronger and more prosperous.

But there's one more thing we need to do. We need to banish cynicism.

Today there are plenty of voices that say that America's time as a global leader has passed. We can't change the world. We shouldn't change the world. The challenges we face are too great — and our power too small.

That might be true of an ordinary nation. But that's not us.

President Reagan once said that "above all, we must realize that no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have."

He was right. And that will and courage will lead us forward.

Today, we live in cynical times with cynical politics. If we're going to keep making progress as a country, we're going to have to fix that and get our domestic house in order. That's a longer discussion — and one that I'm looking forward to having with all of you in the weeks and months ahead.

But none of us should doubt our ability to lead in this new century. This can be the second American century. It must be. We shouldn't fear that challenge.

Our forefathers' generation was called "the greatest generation" because they put their lives on the line to protect our way of life — and because they overcame the greatest challenges. They didn't achieve greatness because the challenges were too few. It was because they faced many, and they dared to confront them.

It's only when we dare to face the big challenges that we can achieve greatness. Courage is not the absence of fear — it is the presence of fear, but with the will to go on fighting.

Well we have a chance today to face big challenges and to overcome them. We have a chance to follow in the footsteps of giants like our grandparents' generation, and leaders like New Hampshire's John Winant. He went to London in the service of his country. Now, we've been blessed with the strength and resources to go out and

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defend our way of life once again. And if we dare to do that, then we have a chance to be a great generation too.

It's time for us to get to work, and to find our greatness again. Let's go do the big things that lead America to another century of exceptionalism, and not a century of settling for second place. The world is waiting, and together we can lead it forward. Thank you.

Christie to Call for Larger Military, More US Intervention // ABC News // Jim Colvin, Associated Press - May 18, 2015

Making the case for a more active U.S. presence overseas, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie will call for a larger military and a boost in defense spending while defending the government's intelligence-collection efforts, in a speech Monday setting forth his foreign policy approach.

The likely Republican presidential contender will also use an appearance in New Hampshire to criticize President Barack Obama's handling of the surging Islamic State group and the emerging nuclear deal with Iran.

"Iran might not have the bomb right now — but their influence is absolutely radioactive to the world," the New Jersey governor says in prepared remarks released by his political action committee. "So we need to contain it with our moderate Sunni Arab allies, while at the same time rolling back the shadow of ISIS," he said, using another acronym for Islamic State.

Christie, who served as a U.S. attorney before he was elected governor, will also seek to distance himself from the crowded Republican field by offering an unapologetic defense of the U.S.'s intelligence-collection efforts.

He will specifically take aim at former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, who in 2013 leaked thousands of documents to journalists. Among Snowden's revelations: NSA had for years been secretly collecting millions of Americans' phone records. Christie has previously said that program should continue.

"When Edward Snowden revealed our intelligence secrets to the world in 2013, civil liberties extremists seized that moment to advance their own narrow agenda," he will say, according to the excerpts. "They want you to think that there's a government spook listening in every time you pick up the phone or Skype with your grandkids. They want you to think of our intelligence community as the bad guys, straight out of the Bourne Identity or a Hollywood thriller. And they want you to think that if we weakened our capabilities, the rest of the world would love us more."

"Let me be clear — all these fears are baloney," he said.

"When it comes to fighting terrorism, our government is not the enemy," Christie says in his prepared remarks.

The House voted last week to end the bulk phone records collection program and replace it with a system to search the data held by telephone companies on a case-by-case basis

The speech will be the third that Christie has delivered in recent weeks in the early-voting state as he lays the groundwork for an expected campaign. His previous speeches focused on overhauling Social Security and lowering taxes on individuals and corporations.

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Christie has been working to try to re-establish his place in the top tier of likely candidates after the fallout from the George Washington Bridge scandal.

Chris Christie, Rand Paul Bring Patriot Act Debate to Campaign Trail // WSJ // Heather Haddon and Janet Hook - May 18, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie faulted Washington lawmakers for debating the merits of the Patriot Act and said there were no substantiated examples that the post-Sept. 11 security law has abused the civil liberties of American citizens.

In a foreign-policy speech delivered in New Hampshire Monday, the potential 2016 presidential candidate called for a reauthorization of the Patriot Act as it currently stands and criticized any attempts to scale back the bulk collection of American phone records by the National Security Agency.

“The next time there’s a phone call to a terrorist safe house in Yemen from San Diego or New Jersey, would our agents dare to listen in?” said Mr. Christie, during the 45-minute speech in Portsmouth, N.H. “I don’t think we want a risk-averse intelligence service.”

Mr. Christie’s defense of the NSA phone-data collection program puts him squarely at odds with Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a presidential candidate who Monday reiterated his threat to mount a Senate filibuster over the issue.

“We will do everything possible, including filibustering the Patriot Act, to stop them,” Mr. Paul said, according to the Associated Press, acknowledging that he might not have enough allies to succeed in blocking the program. “They have the votes inside the Beltway. But we have the votes outside the Beltway, and we’ll have that fight.”

Mr. Paul has made the issue a centerpiece of his campaign, where one of his signature applause lines is to slam the NSA by telling audiences, “What you do on your cellphone is none of their damn business.”

The issue is being joined on the presidential campaign trail just as Congress is debating reauthorizing key provisions of the Patriot Act, with sections of the far-reaching law set to expire at the end of May.

Lawmakers are considering scaling back the bulk collection of phone records authorized under Section 215 of the act, with the House of Representatives voting last week to allow monitoring on a case-by-case basis.

The prospects for action by the June 1 deadline are uncertain because of differences between the House and Senate and the prospects of a filibuster. Asked if the White House supported a two-month extension of the Patriot Act, spokesman Eric Schultz said that Congress should act now.

“Our strategy on these important security matters is to not kick the can down the road,” said Mr. Schultz before the president’s afternoon visit to New Jersey on Monday. “Congress has known of this impending deadline for months and months.”

Mr. Christie directed most of his fire at Washington Democrats, but also said that there were leaders from parties “who want American intelligence weaker and less informed just to drive their own personal political agendas.” He called those criticisms “disgraceful.”

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Other presidential candidates who have weighed in on the issue are Sen. Ted Cruz, who has criticized the blanket metadata collection, while Sen. Marco Rubio has defended it.

Mr. Paul said, speaking at a round table in Philadelphia Monday, that he didn't want to abolish the NSA or domestic surveillance entirely, but that he wanted the government to seek individual warrants not just authorize bulk phone monitoring.

He took a swipe at "some Republicans running for office," who suggested not seeking a warrant from a judge, but instead "just drone them." That was an apparent reference to Sen. Lindsey Graham, who at a candidate forum in Iowa Saturday said if there was someone was thinking of joining al Qaeda or Islamic State, "I'm not going to call a judge, I'm going to call a drone and we will kill you."

Mr. Christie, who is a former U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, spoke Monday about specific instances when he used Section 215, and his prosecutions of suspected terrorists who attempted to buy weapons on the black market.

"I've prosecuted terrorists, and sent terrorists to jail," said Mr. Christie, who was appointed to the role by former President George W. Bush. "I've seen what happens when our intelligence community, legal system and law enforcement work together."

He also criticized civil liberty advocates criticisms of the bulk phone surveillance programs as "exaggerated and ridiculous."

He said that the current debate over the act in Washington was "dominated by the intellectual purists worried about theoretical abuses."

"Absolutely no one has a single real example of our intelligence services misusing this program for political or other nefarious purposes," Mr. Christie said.

In his first major foreign-policy address this year, Mr. Christie also called for more investment in the U.S. military, including research to prevent cyberattacks and funding for unmanned aircraft commonly known as drones.

Mr. Christie said the Obama administration wasn't fully supporting Israel and America's allies in the Middle East, and faulted the president for not taking a firmer stance on Syria.

"He has damaged the credibility of the American presidency," Mr. Christie said.

Mr. Christie also said that the U.S. should ramp up pressure on Russia until it stops acts of military aggression in the region, and called for an asset ban on President Vladimir Putin, members of the country's parliament and the president's inner circle of advisers.

Chris Christie Now Opposes Creating a Pathway to Citizenship for Undocumented Workers // Bloomberg // Terrence Dopp - May 18, 2015

By his own admission, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has changed his tune.

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On Monday, Christie said that he now opposes providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, something he supported as recently as 2010.

"I think that's an extreme way to go," Christie said in an interview on FOX News Channel's The Kelly File scheduled to air Monday night. "And I think that, quite frankly, what Hillary Clinton's doing right now is pandering. That's pandering. We need to have an intelligent conversation about this and bring the American people along to where we can find consensus."

Christie, who opted not to run four years ago, is traveling as honorary chairman of his political action committee, Leadership Matters for America, even though he's said he won't make a formal announcement on a White House run until later this month or in June.

He had a packed day in New Hampshire, starting with a noon speech on foreign policy in the waterfront Prescott Park, where John McCain announced in 2008. He next held his fifth town hall meeting in three weeks at a VFW hall in Hudson.

The former federal prosecutor conceded during the interview that the stance on a pathway to citizenship is a shift from his previous position on the matter. In recent weeks, he has stated that immigrants won't "self-deport," adding that there aren't enough law enforcement resources to force an estimated 11 million people here to leave.

During the interview Christie also knocked President Barack Obama for his executive action on immigration and said his own shift on the question of providing a pathway to citizenship is an evolution.

"Well, I think I've learned over time about this issue and done a lot more work on it," he said. "And I think everyone has to do what you need to be able to get educated on these issues and learn, and back in 2010 I was in my first couple of months as Governor, I've now learned some of the ramifications of some of these things and what I am saying now is we've got to come up with a solution for it. "

Christie cites experience running against female opponent // Philly // The Associated Press - May 18, 2015

HUDSON, N.H. (AP) - New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says his 2013 race against a female opponent has helped prepare him for a potential campaign against Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The likely Republican presidential contender was asked during a town hall event in New Hampshire Monday evening why he believed he would be well-suited to run against the favorite for the Democratic nomination if he chooses to run and wins his party's nomination.

Among his reasons, Christie cited his commanding victory over Democrat Barbara Buono during his re-election campaign.

"Everybody thought, 'Oh no, no ... look at this ... this is going to be bad. Christie's gonna lose his cool. This woman's yelling at him all the time. He's going to yell back at her. It's going to ugly really fast and he's going to lose,'" Christie recalled.

"I think that experience of campaigning under that kind of stress, in that atmosphere, against that type of opponent, prepares you extraordinarily well to be able to run against Secretary Clinton, if that's what I chose to do," he said.

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Christie, who has been working to move past the George Washington Bridge scandal, also suggested that he'd been held to a different standard that Clinton, who has come under scrutiny for using a private email server when she was secretary of state. He said that, as a Republican, he believes he would have faced far greater scrutiny had he done the same thing.

Chris Christie will be in New Hampshire when Obama visits NJ: Chris Christie in the news // Cleveland // Sabrina Eaton - May 18, 2015

Today's Chris Christie news: When President Barack Obama visits Camden, N.J,, today to applaud the city's police reforms, New Jersey GOP Gov. Chris Christie will be out of state, campaigning to be Obama's successor. Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno is scheduled to be in Camden to welcome the president: Cherry Hill Courier Post

Christie will be in New Hampshire to deliver a major foreign policy speech on "America's Role in the World" at noon at Prescott Park in Portsmouth. He will also hold a town hall at 5 p.m. at the Hudson VFW: WMUR

On Friday, Christie appeared in Georgia along with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. Christie told told about 350 people at a GOP breakfast, "You'll be seeing a lot of people." He lingered afterward for hugs and photos, including from delegates wearing stickers for other candidates: Associated Press

At the Victory Breakfast for the Georgia Republican Party State Convention in Athens, Christie talked himself up as someone who can work across political lines. "In a state like mine, I don't have the luxury of having a Republican legislature," he said. "You don't have the option to stand in the corner ... You've got to make the world turn:" Athens Banner-Herald

He also told the Georgia event that entitlements — which, he said, now consume 71 percent of federal spending, compared to 26 percent under JFK — prevent the federal government from making other choices, from cutting taxes to investing in infrastructure or defense: Atlanta Journal Constitution

Sen. Lindsey Graham on White House bid: 'I'm running' // Politico // Katie Glueck - May 18, 2015

Sen. Lindsey Graham said Monday that he will announce his decision about whether to run for president on June 1 in his hometown of Central, S.C., but left little doubt about his intentions by saying “I’m running.”

“I’m running because of what you see on television, I’m running because I think the world is falling apart, I’ve been more right than wrong on foreign policy,” he said on “CBS This Morning,” when asked if he was running because he was unimpressed with the rest of the field (and appearing to dispense with the pretense that he hasn’t decided whether to jump in). “It’s not the fault of others, or their lack of this or that that makes me want to run, it’s my ability in my own mind to be a good commander-in-chief and to make Washington work.”

Graham, who is one of the Senate’s leading national security hawks, would be a longshot in the crowded Republican presidential field but could be influential in pressuring the other contenders on foreign policy issues. In recent weeks, the chances of his running, according to Graham, have gone from 91 percent to “98.6 percent” to 99.9 percent. He has also staffed up his exploratory committee.

“You’re all invited to come, spend money when you do, and I will tell you what I’m going to do about running for president,” he said about the June 1 event.

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Graham was also asked whether he would have gone into Iraq if he had known of the intelligence failures that are widely known now. It's a question that has tripped up several other 2016 contenders, including Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

"Going into Iraq, if I'd known...then what I know now, would I have launched a ground invasion? Probably not," he said, adding that if he knew the "intelligence was faulty," he would have "reconfigured" his approach to taking on Saddam Hussein, who "needed to go."

"But at the end of the day, he is gone," Graham said. "And I'm worried about an attack on our homeland."

Graham, a media fixture, is well-known for his assertive national security posture and for working with Democrats on issues like immigration reform. But hosting the June 1 event in the town where he grew up allows Graham to highlight his personal story, which isn't widely known. He was raised in the back of a pool hall and bar owned by his family, and when his parents died young, he brought up his sister while in college and in the military (Graham is trained as an Air Force lawyer). That tough background, his team believes, better positions him to connect in a compassionate way with voters.

The senator added that he was also weighing a run both because he wanted to take on "radical Islam" and because he wanted to promote more bipartisanship.

"In my view, Democrats and Republicans work together too little," he said. "And I would try to change that if I got to be president."

Sen. Lindsey Graham Is 'Having A Blast' As He Preps Presidential Run // NPR // Jessica Taylor and Don Gonyea - May 18, 2015

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., is ready to join the crowded 2016 presidential race — and he's having a blast in doing it.

The defense hawk and pragmatic Republican said Monday morning on CBS's This Morning that he would make an announcement on June 1 about his plans, but he went on to dispense with all pretense of what that decision would be.

"I'm running because I think the world is falling apart," Graham said.

His 10-minute address at the Iowa Republican Party's annual Lincoln Day Dinner on Saturday was heavy on foreign policy, promising to be a tough hand on national security if elected.

He took an implicit shot at libertarian-leaning Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, an already-announced presidential candidate with whom he's often sparred. In his speech, Paul decried the NSA wiretapping programs designed to stop terrorist attacks.

But in his folksy manner, Graham took a firm shot while also mixing humor.

"If I'm president of the United States and you're thinking about joining al-Qaida or ISIL — anybody thinking about that?" he asked to laughs. "I'm not gonna call a judge. I'm gonna call a drone and we're gonna kill you."

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It was Graham's largest appearance before Iowans so far, and he told NPR in an interview ahead of his speech that he knows he'll have to work to introduce himself to voters, despite his long tenure in politics. He was elected to the House in the 1994 GOP revolution and succeeded GOP Sen. Strom Thurmond to the Senate in 2002.

He also acknowledged that he'll have some work to do with some GOP voters, who know him as an ally of 2008 Republican presidential nominee, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and one of the principal architects of the Senate's bipartisan immigration reform bill.

"I've got people who are fans ... I've got people who are critics ... and I've got people who say 'I think I know him but I really don't know him,' " he told NPR.

Graham says he worries that the debate in the GOP primaries will pull the party too far to the right. He says he wants a real debate on immigration, saying reforms are necessary for the economy and for national security. He added that GOP hard-liners on the issue hurt the party's chances of ever winning Hispanic votes.

"I worry that we'll marginalize ourselves once again with the fastest growing community in America, the Hispanic community," he said.

Graham also defended both former President George W. Bush and Jeb Bush — a likely opponent of his in the 2016 GOP race. Last week the former Florida governor gave a series of sometimes conflicting answers as to whether he supported his brother's decision to launch the war.

"When it comes to blaming people about Iraq, the person I blame is Barack Obama and not George W. Bush," Graham thundered.

The South Carolina senator is taking lessons from McCain, his closest friend in the Senate, in his own all-but-certain bid, and he told NPR he learned from McCain's primary victory eight years ago that anything can happen in a White House race, particularly one that's shaping up to be as large as this year's field.

"Because you're the front-runner doesn't mean you're gonna stay the front-runner. Because you're fifth in a four-person race, doesn't mean you're out of it," he said. "I've learned never give up. Have a message. Stick to it, and be yourself."

Part of that authenticity is telling voters about the hard road that brought him to the Senate. He touched on his back story in his Lincoln dinner speech — how his mother died when he was 21 from Hodgkin's disease, his father passed just months later, and he was left to care for his younger sister.

"The bills wiped us out because we were underinsured. So I don't need a lecture from Democrats about health care. Fifteen months later my dad died. I'm 22, my sister is 14. My world came to an end upside down. If it wasn't for family, friends and faith I wouldn't be standing here today," said Graham.

Graham alternated between serious and humorous throughout his speech, which was one of the best received of the evening. Barely a minute into it, he told the crowd that he's an attorney — including for the military where he still serves in the Air Force Reserve. Then he joked about his first client as a young lawyer in a divorce case.

"He asked me a question I didn't know the answer to. He said, if we get divorced are my wife and I still cousins," he

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said, laughing as the crowd howled. "The answer is yes in South Carolina ... I don't know about Iowa."

The off-beat humor went over well with the crowd, though. His hospitality suite after the event was one of the most-trafficked of the night, with Iowans who knew little about Graham previously lining up to meet the senator. He gladly stood by for photos and to chat, pushing cookies and drinks on visitors.

Iowa Clinic CEO Ed Brown was one of the Republicans who knew only about Graham from his frequent TV appearances, but walked away heavily impressed.

"He brought a little bit of levity at the right time, in the course of the evening, and frankly he hit a lot of issues right on point," said Brown.

John Chesser, a lawyer in Des Moines, also said he was blown away, and given Graham's experience in the Senate and the military, he would make a good president.

"He seems like a real human being, He was very natural ,and he had a grasp of issues. He went from being funny, but at the same time when it was time to be serious, he was serious."

Graham is fine with being serious on the trail, but he's also going to enjoy the ride.

"I'm having a blast," he said, laughing at the end of his interview with NPR.

Bobby Jindal forming exploratory committee for White House run // Politico // Jonathan Topaz - May 18, 2015

Bobby Jindal announced Monday that he’s forming a presidential exploratory committee for a potential run for the 2016 Republican nomination.

The Louisiana governor, a fierce social conservative who has been active in the early nominating states, will make a decision after the state’s legislative session ends on June 11.

“For some time now, my wife Supriya and I have been thinking and praying about whether to run for the presidency of our great nation. We’ll make a final decision in June,” Jindal said in a statement sent to reporters.

“While other Republican leaders are talking about change, I’ve published detailed plans to repeal and replace Obamacare, rebuild America’s defenses, make America energy independent, and reform education for our nation’s children,” Jindal added, in a jab at his potential opponents in a crowded GOP field.

Jindal was one of eleven candidates to visit Iowa this weekend for the state Republican Party’s Lincoln dinner. The governor, dealing with low approval numbers back home, would be a long shot to win the nomination, but is popular among social conservatives and evangelical voters in Iowa.

Connecting the Dots Behind the 2016 Candidates // NYT // Gregor Aisch and Karen Yourish - May 17, 2015

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Presidential candidates change, but the people who run the campaigns often remain the same. Here is how the teams behind some likely and announced candidates are connected to previous campaigns, administrations and organizations close to the possible nominees.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Mrs. Clinton is relying on a mix of Clinton loyalists, seasoned Obama operatives and other key strategists to modernize and force discipline on her campaign (in other words, to avoid many of the mistakes of her 2008 primary race). At the top are John D. Podesta, a Clintonite with strong ties to President Obama; Robby Mook, known for his no-drama approach to managing Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's 2013 campaign; and Huma Abedin, Mrs. Clinton's longtime aide. Campaign veterans loyal to Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton are running Priorities USA Action, the super PAC supporting Mrs. Clinton, which operates outside the official campaign.

Jeb Bush

The former Florida governor is building a sizable political operation in anticipation of a likely campaign announcement. His team includes longtime advisers, key operatives from Mitt Romney's presidential races, and a few veterans of George W. Bush's campaigns. Sally Bradshaw and Mike Murphy form the core of Jeb Bush's inner circle. Ms. Bradshaw and David Kochel are expected to head the campaign, and Mr. Murphy will oversee Right to Rise, the pro-Bush super PAC.

Ted Cruz

The Texas freshman firebrand senator has recruited several operatives with ties to conservative politicians and former presidential contenders, as well as a handful of Senate aides. Jason Johnson, the architect of Mr. Cruz's 2012 Senate victory; Jeff Roe, a strategist known for his aggressive tactics; and Chad Sweet, a former investment banker, are in charge of Mr. Cruz's campaign effort. Dathan Voelter, an Austin lawyer and friend of Mr. Cruz, is treasurer of three of the four super PACs supporting the senator.

Rand Paul

The libertarian-leaning junior senator from Kentucky is trying to shape his own political identity. Most of the influential members of his team have little or no connection to his father, Ron Paul, a former Texas congressman who twice sought the Republican presidential nomination. Doug Stafford is the senator's closest political adviser. The campaign manager, Chip Englander, ran Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's 2014 campaign. Vincent Harris, a GOP digital star, was poached from Ted Cruz's camp. And strategists Mike Biundo and John Yob learned the arcane world of delegate math while working for Rick Santorum in 2012. Advisers with connections to both Pauls are running America's Liberty PAC, the super PAC supporting Rand's campaign.

Marco Rubio

Mr. Rubio's inner circle includes several strategists with strong ties to early primary states and the Bush family. Terry Sullivan headed Mitt Romney's 2008 primary in South Carolina, and Heath Thompson and J. Warren Tompkins helped George W. Bush win the state's 2000 primary. Jim Merrill directed both of Mr. Romney's New Hampshire primaries. And Todd Harris, who was the chief spokesman for the 2002 re-election campaign of Jeb Bush, is familiar with Iowa after serving as a news media consultant for Joni Ernst, the state's newly elected senator.

Scott Walker

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Mr. Walker, the governor of Wisconsin, who has not officially announced his candidacy, is supported by people who helped him win three statewide elections, as well as a crew of national strategists. His campaign-in-waiting is housed in Our American Revival, a 527 group that can accept unlimited donations. Rick Wiley, the executive director of the group, is expected to be Mr. Walker's campaign manager. Two advisers who have been with the governor since his first gubernatorial bid are running Unintimidated, the super PAC supporting Mr. Walker.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Obama to Limit Military-Style Equipment for Police Forces // NYT // Julie Hirschfeld Davis - May 18, 2015

WASHINGTON — President Obama on Monday will ban the federal provision of some types of military-style equipment to local police departments and sharply restrict the availability of others, administration officials said.

The ban is part of Mr. Obama's push to ease tensions between law enforcement and minority communities in reaction to the crises in Baltimore; Ferguson, Mo.; and other cities.

He is taking the action after a task force he created in January decided that police departments should be barred from using federal funds to acquire items that include tracked armored vehicles, the highest-caliber firearms and ammunition, and camouflage uniforms. The ban is part of a series of steps the president has made to try to build trust between law enforcement organizations and the citizens they are charged with protecting.

Mr. Obama planned to promote the effort on Monday during a visit to Camden, N.J. The city, racked by poverty and crime, has become a national model for better relations between the police and citizens after replacing its beleaguered police force with a county-run system that prioritizes community ties.

Mr. Obama is expected to hold up Camden as a counterpoint to places like Ferguson, where the killing of a young black man by a white police officer last summer and the violent protests that followed exposed long-simmering hostility between law enforcement agencies and minorities in cities around the country.

The trip and the action on military-style equipment are to coincide with the release on Monday of a report from a policing task force that Mr. Obama formed late last year in response to the crisis in Ferguson. The 116-page report calls for law enforcement agencies to "embrace a guardian — rather than a warrior — mind-set to build trust and legitimacy both within agencies and with the public." It contains dozens of recommendations for agencies throughout the country.

"We are, without a doubt, sitting at a defining moment in American policing," Ronald L. Davis, the director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at the Department of Justice, told reporters in a conference call organized by the White House. "We have a unique opportunity to redefine policing in our democracy, to ensure that public safety becomes more than the absence of crime, but it must also include a presence for justice."

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the federal government sharply expanded its efforts to provide police departments with automatic weapons, armored vehicles and other military-style gear through grant programs at the Homeland Security and Justice Departments and transfers from the Defense Department. The programs have enjoyed widespread popularity among lawmakers eager to take steps to protect their communities and constantly in search of ways to steer federal money to their districts and states.

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The report from the task force on military equipment cited the police response to the Ferguson unrest as an example of how the "militarization" of police departments can lead to fear and mistrust. In addition to prohibiting some equipment outright, officials said, Mr. Obama accepted the group's recommendation to impose new restrictions on other military-style items, such as wheeled armored vehicles, pyrotechnics, battering rams and riot gear, and more stringent requirements for training and information collection for departments that acquire them.

"The idea is to make sure that we strike a balance in providing the equipment, which is appropriate and useful and important for local law enforcement agencies to keep the community safe, while at the same time putting standards in place," said Cecilia Muñoz, the director of Mr. Obama's Domestic Policy Council.

The report to be released on Monday represents a two-pronged response to a problem that has emerged as a central predicament for Mr. Obama in recent months. He has struggled to acknowledge the sense of fear, grievance and victimization by the police that dominates many minority communities without seeming to forgive violence or condemn law enforcement with a broad brush.

In doing so, he is grappling with the limits of his power to force changes in police departments around the country, where practices and procedures are varied and the federal government's ability to influence change can be minimal. The equipment task force stems from an executive order, and its conclusions affect only the material supplied by the federal government, while the policing recommendations are merely a blueprint for what Mr. Obama would like to see happen in jurisdictions throughout the country.

Mr. Obama on Monday will announce $163 million in grants to encourage police departments to adopt the suggestions. The administration also will launch a "tool kit" for the use of body-worn cameras; the Justice Department created a grant program for law enforcement agencies to purchase them.

Ms. Muñoz said the task force's report was "not just a blueprint for us and for local law enforcement agencies, but also for community leaders and others and stakeholders," giving them "some very specific things to be asking for and, frankly, insisting on in order to improve policing practices."

That is why Mr. Obama made plans to visit Camden, where he wants to highlight a policing model that emphasizes a collaborative approach. Camden is also one of 20 cities participating in a new White House initiative to enhance the use of police data, by releasing detailed information on such things as traffic stops, officer-involved shootings and the use of force.

Obama foundation brings in $5.4 million // Politico // Josh Gerstein - May 18, 2015

The foundation set up to raise money for President Barack Obama's presidential library in Chicago brought in $5.4 million in donations and pledges during its first year in operation, according to a tax form made public Monday.

Obama's foundation has not announced a specific fundraising goal, but it is expected to seek to raise in excess of $500 million to build the library. They money will funding an endowment to be turned over to the federal government along with the facility, and money for the foundation's educational and charitable work.

The foundation's largest donor in its first year was Chicago publisher Fred Eychaner, who ponied up $1 million. The next largest was a $666,666 donation from Chicago hedge fund operator Michael Sacks and his wife Cari.

The Joyce Foundation was listed as contributing $1 million, but a detailed accountant's report and a statement from a foundation official said that amount was a pledge disclosed for tax purposes and only one-third of the money was actually transferred in 2014.

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The exact donation amounts were reported in a portion of the tax form the foundation is not required to make public, but posted on its website Monday afternoon.

The foundation's largest expenses in its first year in operation were lease payments to Jones Lang Lasalle Midwest for $615,523 and veteran Obama fundraiser Julianna Smoot's firm Smoot Tewes Group for $476,551.

Documents obtained separately by POLITICO Monday show the foundation agreed to pay Smoot's firm an escalating monthly fee over the next six years — ranging from $18,000 a month in the last half of 2014 to $30,000 a month in 2020.

The foundation also handed over to Smoot's firm a "lump sum engagement bonus" of $144,000 and agreed to consider bonuses of up to $100,000 last year and this year, with a possibility of up to $250,000 a year by 2020, the agreement shows.

The agreement doesn't detail a fundraising target overall or year-by-year but says the organization is seeking to raise $6 million per year from sources in Illinois.

Last week, Obama and his wife library announced that the library will be built in Chicago, although two separate sites on the Windy City's south side remain in play for the facility.

"All the strands of my life came together, and I really became a man, when I moved to Chicago," Barack Obama said in a web video. "We'll be able to now give something back and bring the world back home after this incredible journey."

The library will operate in cooperation with the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois, foundation officials said.

The foundation turned down bids from Hawaii and New York City to build the library, but announced plans for a presence in both places, including a partnership with Columbia University — Obama's undergraduate alma mater.

By comparison, the Clinton Foundation - the charity linked to former president Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary - took in just over $3 million in donations in 1998, its first year of operations. It also brought in $3.1 million the following year.

The Obama Foundation voluntarily discloses its donors each quarter, providing broad ranges in which each donor contributed. As a result, it was known in January that the foundation raised between about $3 million and $6.2 million in 2014, although a precise total was not released at that time.

Obama served on the board of the Joyce Foundation from the summer of 1994 through 2002, earning more than $70,000 in directors fees. He remained on the board as he served in the Illinois State Senate, and at one point he considered leaving politics to become the group's full-time president, he later acknowledged. Instead, he stepped down from the board as he was gearing up for his 2004 U.S. Senate bid.

Feds Project Lake Mead Below Drought Trigger Point in 2017 // ABC News // Ken Ritter, Associated Press - May 18, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Federal water managers released a report Monday projecting that Lake Mead's water levels will fall below a point in January 2017 that would force supply cuts to Arizona and Nevada.

The effects could be serious. Arizona's allocation of Colorado River water could be cut 11.4 percent, or by an amount normally used by more than 600,000 homes. Nevada's share could be reduced 4.3 percent. Think 26,000 homes.

But officials heading water agencies in the two states and California took a wait-and-see approach to the projections posted by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

They pointed to fluctuations in precipitation levels just since January. They added that more will be known in August when the bureau knows how much runoff in the upper-basin states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming reaches the Lake Powell reservoir.

That will determine how much water the agency controlling a Colorado River water system crucial to about 40 million residents in seven Southwest U.S. states will release from Lake Powell through the Grand Canyon to Lake Mead near Las Vegas.

"A lot is going to depend on precipitation and flows from the tributaries," said David Modeer, general manager of the Central Arizona Project, the main water agency in the lower-basin state that would be affected the most.

"We don't think it means a whole lot right now because we have another couple of months to determine the release out of Lake Powell," he said.

The so-called interim guidelines issued Monday by the Bureau of Reclamation predict water levels will be just 2 feet above a key trigger point next January on Lake Mead, the reservoir behind Hoover Dam.

The lake was 37 percent full on Monday, said Dan Bunk, the Bureau of Reclamation's water operations manager. Its water surface level of 1,077 above sea level was 2 feet above the crucial 1,075-foot line.

The so-called interim guidelines chart a wobbly series of historically low water levels at Lake Mead — dropping to as much as 1,054 feet next summer and 1,052 feet in April 2017. But it would be about 1,077 this coming January, the point in time when a declaration of water shortage for 2016 would be made.

Lake Powell, behind the Glen Canyon Dam straddling the Utah-Arizona border, was 45 percent full on Monday. Bunk said that if Powell remains above its own trigger point, water releases to Lake Mead could remain robust and Lake Mead could remain above 1,070 feet through 2016.

"We haven't made any shortage projection. That would be done in August 2016," Bunk said.

Lake Mead reached its high-water capacity in 1983 at 1,225 feet. It reaches so-called "dead pool" at just under 900 feet, meaning nothing would flow downstream from Hoover Dam.

Las Vegas and its 2 million residents and 40 million tourists a year get almost all their drinking water from Lake Mead.

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John Entsminger, general manager of the regional Southern Nevada Water Authority, said he believed conservation efforts like those now being adopted in California have put Las Vegas in a position to handle any initial shortage reductions "without significant impact."

"There is no doubt that this drought is serious," he said, "and the projections from the Bureau of Reclamation continue to reaffirm that reality."

William Hasencamp, Colorado River resources chief for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said he saw reason to prepare, not panic.

Drought-stricken California will continue to be able to draw its 4.4 million acre-foot allocation of Colorado River water even if Arizona and Nevada are affected.

"But we lose flexibility, which is a pretty big deal because we serve just under 19 million people," Hasencamp said. "We know a shortage is coming at some point."

INTERNATIONAL

Kerry, in Seoul, slams North Korea // WaPo // Carol Morello - May 18, 2015

SEOUL — Secretary of State John F. Kerry on Monday accused North Korea's government of committing crimes worthy of referral to the International Criminal Court and urged it to end its isolation by dismantling its arsenal of nuclear weapons.

Using strong language, Kerry said during a stop in Seoul that the Pyongyang government led by Kim Jong Un had shown a "flagrant disregard for international law while denying its people fundamental freedom and rights."

"The world is hearing increasingly more and more stories of grotesque, grisly, horrendous public displays of executions on a whim and a fancy by the leader against people who were close to him and sometimes for the most flimsy of excuses," he said, referring to a report from South Korea's spy agency that the North Korean defense minister was publicly executed with an antiaircraft gun after he fell asleep during a meeting led by Kim.

Kerry vowed to speak out against "North Korea's atrocities against its own people" and warned that Kim's mercurial behavior is likely to lead other nations to press for charges against North Korea and its leader at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Kerry's visit, though planned weeks ago, comes in the wake of fresh concern about Pyongyang's behavior.

Earlier this month, North Korea fired what it claimed was a ballistic missile from a submarine, though some analysts doubt that anything more lethal than a balloon was shot into the air.

Kerry's Seoul stop was designed to underline the United States' "ironclad" commitment to South Korea's security and to ramp up pressure on Pyongyang to return to denuclearization talks it abandoned three years ago.

Since then, Kerry said, North Korea had rebuffed overtures from the United States, Russia, Japan and China to return to the negotiating table and instead is showing greater belligerence.

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“They have grown the threat of their program and have acted with a kind of reckless abandon,” he said at a news conference alongside South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se.

Kerry said he hoped the negotiations over curbing Iran’s nuclear program, now entering their final stretch, could serve as a model for North Korea to follow if the hermit kingdom wanted to end its isolation.

“We are more determined than ever to find ways to convince Kim Jong Un and North Korea that all they are doing now is isolating themselves further and creating greater risks to the region and to their own country,” he said.

He, however, added a caveat: “We have to have some indication from the leader of North Korea that they’re serious about engaging on the subject of their nuclear program.”

At the news conference, Kerry also expressed gratitude to South Korea for the care and concern shown to U.S. Ambassador Mark Lippert recently when he was attacked in central Seoul by a suspected North Korea sympathizer and required hospitalization. Lippert, with bandages still on his cheek and left hand from injuries he suffered in the attack, has accompanied Kerry to the meetings and joined him for lunch at a Seoul taco place run by Koreans who had lived in the United States.

“I want to take the opportunity to thank all the people of South Korea for the remarkable outpouring of concern about his health and their affection for him and for our country,” Kerry said.

He also said that the Islamic State militant group’s capture of Ramadi in Iraq, although a setback, would prove temporary.

“Notice what they’ve done,” he said. “Huge numbers of vehicle-born IEDs, big trucks, massive explosions. They’ve destroyed the place. That’s hardly a future. I’m convinced, as forces are redeployed and days flow in weeks ahead, that’s going to change.”

Kerry blamed the end of a five-day cease-fire in Yemen, where Saudi-led airstrikes resumed after the truce expired Sunday night, on Shiite Houthi rebels. He said that they had taken advantage of the pause in fighting to move missile launchers to the border with Saudi Arabia and that the Saudis acted to take them out.

“Under the rules of engagement, it was always understood if there were proactive moves by one side or another, it would be in violation of the cease-fire agreement,” he said. “Saudi Arabia, under the rules of engagement, took action to take out the missile launchers.”

In a speech later in the day at Korea University, an elite school with a cyber law center, Kerry said everyone in the world should have the right to Internet access. He condemned repressive governments that silence critics by restricting Web access and singled out North Korea as the polar opposite of South Korea, one of the most wired countries on the planet.

“It is no coincidence many governments that have a poor record on Internet freedom also have a questionable commitment to human rights,” he said.

Bombing and clashes resume as Yemen heads for ‘catastrophe’ // WaPo // Ali al-Mujahed and Erin Cunningham - May 18, 2015

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ANAA, Yemen — Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition struck targets in Yemen on Monday and ground clashes resumed, bringing a sharp end to a five-day cease-fire in the conflict and raising fears that a humanitarian disaster would deepen.

More than 1,600 people have been killed in the war between the Houthi rebels and supporters of the country's ousted president, who are backed by the Saudi-led military alliance. The five-day "pause" was intended to allow aid to reach Yemenis suffering from dangerous shortages of medicine, fuel and food. But many Yemenis complained Monday that supplies had not reached their areas.

"Now we are at the edge of a big catastrophe" in the humanitarian situation, said Cédric Schweizer, who headed the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Yemen until last week.

The temporary cease-fire was "a good first step, but it will not solve the humanitarian crisis," Schweizer said in an interview with Washington Post reporters in Washington.

"All hospitals are lacking basic medicines now," he added. Yemenis are running out of money to buy ever-more-expensive food, he said.

U.N. and U.S. officials had hoped the cease-fire would be extended. But on Monday, airstrikes hit several locations in the southern city of Aden, as well as in the Houthi-dominated Saada province near the Saudi border, local media reported. Houthis and their opponents clashed in the city of Taiz and other areas.

Saudi Arabia launched the airstrikes in March in a bid to push Houthi fighters, who are Shiite, from territory that they seized in recent months. Saudi officials have said they want to restore to power Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who has fled the country. They have accused Iran of backing the Houthi militias.

Local media reported multiple raids Monday on the airport in Aden, which would jeopardize plans to bring in aid on humanitarian flights to the city.

The Saudi-led coalition has imposed an air, land and sea blockade on Yemen, according to aid groups. International aid agencies scrambled to move assistance into Yemen during the five-day cease-fire that took hold May 12.

"Everything you can imagine is needed: drinking water, shelter, food, medicine," said Mohammed Abu Asaker, a communications officer with the U.N. refugee agency who is based in the United Arab Emirates. "The situation there is extremely dire."

Purnima Kashyap, the World Food Program's Yemen country director, said that the agency's first goal was to get fuel to trucks to transport aid to the agency's warehouses, scattered across the country and which would be hubs of further distribution.

In Sanaa, Yemen's capital, a small amount of gasoline became available, but residents had to wait in lengthy lines to get it.

Ridwan Mohammed, a 40-year-old employee at a pharmaceutical company, said he had waited in line for two days for gas.

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“Now that the cease-fire is over, I feel more tense,” he said. “I am worried that an airstrike could happen at any time. And I am out here waiting.”

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Christine Quinn on Hillary Clinton & Marriage Equality // Out // Christine Quinn - May 18, 2015

Today, we have a woman running for President of the United States who fully supports marriage equality. She is also likely to be the only nominee running for president that does. That is something all Americans should be thrilled about. Her position is clear and rock solid, and they way she came to that conclusion is the same way most people do, including some of my own family members. Like most Americans, her position is one that evolved and developed from personal interactions with LGBT Americans and their families, and through a long and deep soul searching. I know a little bit about this process: It's how my father came to support my right to marry and then eventually walk me down the aisle when I married my wife.

I first met Hillary when she was running for U.S. Senate. At that time, same-sex marriage didn't have nearly the public support it has today. As a community, we still had a great deal of work to do. Like it was yesterday, I remember a small meeting of LGBT leaders in Jeff Soreff's apartment with the then-First Lady. The goal of the meeting was for the leaders to better understand her positions on LGBT issues and to push her to take up more pro LGBT positions and champion more LGBT issues. The meeting was noteworthy and remarkable for a number of reasons. It was not a large meeting. It was intimate and informal and people were very frank in their dialogue — as was Hillary. She spoke in a deeply personal way about a gay couple that profoundly opened her eyes and her mind regarding LGBT families. There were two men who moved into the house next to her parents' home in Arkansas and became surrogate sons, helping care for her father when he was dying.

Of course, Hillary has written about this couple in her book. But to hear it in her owns words so long ago and to see the look in her eyes as she described her love and respect for this couple spoke volumes about what she had learned — that families were defined by love and selflessness not sexual orientation. As I have seen Hillary’s work with the LGBT community grow, I have often seen her go back to what she learned from that couple as a guide.

Much has been made of Hillary’s support of marriage with some claiming it is a poll-driven position. The fact is she came to this position the same way most Americans did, through conversations with those of us in the community, by getting to know people who were deeply committed and in love with one another, and by recognizing that every couple in American has just as much right to happiness as the next person, regardless of sexual orientation.

While the movement toward equality in the LGBT community has moved rapidly over these last few years, we have never had a major party candidate on the ballot for president of the United States who was willing to state so unequivocally her support for marriage equality, long before any votes were cast or elections were won. When Hillary Clinton receives the Democratic nomination, she will not only be the first woman to receive a major party nomination for president of the United States, she will be the first major party nominee to publicly articulate that position before she assumes office. And as a gay American, who has fought for women’s rights and LGBT rights my entire life, I couldn’t be more proud.

Why is Hillary Clinton Tacking Left? // National Journal // Ron Fournier - May 18, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton 2.0 is far more liberal than the centrist who ran in 2008 because: a) her views have evolved with time; b) she's long been a closet liberal and this is her authentic self; c) she's an opportunistic phony.

As somebody who has known and observed this complex public figure for nearly 30 years, I am open to being

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convinced that any one of those rationales are true.

But not all three.

For some inexplicable reason, her advisers are talking openly with reporters about the political rational behind her policy shift (aka: flip-flops), giving credence to the most cynical interpretation of her motives. "Advisers do not dispute that Clinton has a finger to the wind of the national mood," writes my former colleague Anne Gearan in the Washington Post, "but they insist her positions are not driven by polling."

Gearan could have put a period after "mood." The rest of the sentence is patently false. How do I know? I read the rest of her story, which had the full cooperation of Clinton's political network and included this extraordinary paragraph:

Clinton's advisers want us to believe that her liberal shift is equally the result of politics and principle – that deep inside their crosstabs resides, conveniently, "the real Hillary."

"Her approach to this really is not trying to take a ruler out and measure where she wants to be on some ideological scale," Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta told Gearan. "It's to dive deeply into the problems facing the American people and American families. She's a proud wonk, and she looks at policy from that perspective."

I can attest to the fact that Clinton is a wonk. She loves the nitty-gritty of policy, particularly those policies that influence the lives of women and children.

I can also confirm that the former first lady is ideologically more liberal than her husband. Bill Clinton's advisers in Arkansas and at the White House constantly complained about the friction between his triangulation and her absolutism.

And, like most voters, I'm willing to give any politician some leeway to "evolve" on issues, particularly one like gay marriage that has rapidly gained acceptance in the public square.

But is she really this progressive?

"Clinton's full embrace of same-sex marriage in the first days of her campaign was followed by clear statements in favor of scrapping get-tough immigration and incarceration policies — many of which took root during her husband's administration," Gearan writes.

She has also weighed in with liberal takes on climate change, abortion rights and disparities in income and opportunity between rich and poor.

All are issues that have been divisive in the past for both Democrats and Republicans. But none are now judged to be radioactive for Democrats, which gives Clinton more elbow room.

By taking such positions, aides and advisers hope Clinton will not only inoculate herself against a serious challenge from the left in the primaries, but that she also will be able to push on through the general election. Her campaign believes American public opinion has moved left not only since Bill Clinton won election in 1992 on a centrist

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platform, but also since Barack Obama won on a more liberal one.

Indeed, polls show that while the United States remains a center-right country, liberals are on the ascent. Whether or not Clinton strategists are betting too heavily on this trend won't be known until November 2016.

Even after all these years, I don't know whether her full-throated liberalism is a genuine reflection of her views or an echo of the polls. I guess the answer could be "both," but I doubt it. That just seems to be too neat of a coincidence.

I suspect she'll try to explain herself, but when? She's refuses to talk to the media in any great detail.

I suppose voters could take her at her word, but why? Trust is an issue. Legitimate questions about her government email and family foundation were met with disingenuous responses.

I imagine she can get over the authenticity hurdle, but how?

If you don't want to deal with reporters, don't run for president.

You won't believe Hillary Clinton's spin on avoiding the press // WaPo // Chris Cillizza – May 18, 2015

With Hillary Clinton rapidly approaching a month since she answered a question from a reporter, her allies are working to push back on the idea that she is ducking the press.

"PUTTING THE VOTERS FIRST, HILLARY ASKS THE QUESTIONS THAT REALLY MATTER," read the subject line of an e-mail -- ALL CAPS in the original! -- that arrived in my inbox this morning courtesy of Correct The Record, a pro-Clinton super PAC directly coordinating with the presidential campaign on rapid response.

The missive lays out the facts aimed at putting lie to the "she won't answer questions" narrative.

First, Correct The Record notes that Clinton has answered 20 questions from "everyday Americans": seven during her first trip to Iowa (she's back in the state today), five during her New Hampshire excursion and a whopping eight when she visited Nevada.

Then the group notes that Clinton has ASKED 117 questions of "everyday Americans." And, yes, it lists every one of those questions -- from "Give me a sense of your experience with that?" (Iowa) to "Do you want to share your story?" (Nevada).

I mean, where to start with this?

1. The vast majority of the people who have asked Clinton questions in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada were part of a pre-selected group who sat with her around a roundtable. That's not exactly like hosting a town hall event in which none of the questions are pre-screened. And if you look at the questions "regular" people are asking Clinton, they are not exactly the most probing of queries. A sampling: "I'm just wondering, what can you do to bring that heart back to education in the United States?" (Iowa), "What are your plans to help my community and help us not live in fear anymore?" (Nevada) and "I would like you to elaborate on what you think you might do for childcare in the future if you're elected?" (New Hampshire) None of those questions are bad, per se, but they also aren't pushing Clinton in any way, shape or form on any issue.

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2. It makes zero difference how many questions Clinton has asked average Americans. Like, none. If those people were running for president, then I would be super-interested to know how they responded to some (or maybe all) of Clinton's 117 questions. But, they aren't. She is. Citing the number of questions Clinton has asked of people to rebut the idea that she isn't taking enough (or any) questions from reporters is sort of like saying you aced a job interview because you answered every question asked of you with another question. That wouldn't make sense, would it?

3. At issue here is that Clinton is avoiding taking questions from reporters. And nowhere in the Correct The Record memo does it have anything to dispute that fact. In total as a candidate, Clinton has answered 13 total questions from reporters. It's been 39,000 minutes since she last answered a reporter's question. And, while I think it is absolutely of value for Clinton to hear from regular folks about their concerns and hopes, it's hard to argue from the list put together by Correct The Record that the questions those people have asked Clinton are the same as the one reporters would have if given the chance.

No, they're better, you say! They're about policy and not dumb reporters' obsessions, you say!

To all of which, I respond: Do you not think it is of value to know how Hillary Clinton spent her time since leaving the State Department? And how the Clinton Foundation handled its business with various donors who would, undoubtedly, still be in the picture if she was elected president? Or what she thinks of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the fight currently happening in Congress? Or Iran? Or the Middle East?

You get the idea. The role of the media in this process is to show voters who these people are, really, and to explain how these people would govern the country if elected. Like the media or not, that's a very important role -- and one that is essential to a functioning democracy.

So, no matter how many Iowans' questions Hillary answers or how many questions she asks them, it doesn't justify her current unwillingness to stand before reporters (or even a single reporter) and take their questions. Not even a little.

--
Alexandria Phillips
Communications | Press Assistant
Hillary for America
https://www.hillaryclinton.com

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 1/27/2015 1:29:39 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday January 27, 2015 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday January 27, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Articles:

MSNBC: "In Iowa, GOP women take aim at Hillary"

"For their part, Clinton allies say the attacks are a sign Republicans may feel threatened. 'Republicans are rattled by the energy and excitement shown by Americans across the country for Hillary Clinton's potential candidacy and her vision for our future,' communications director Adrienne Elrod of Correct The Record said in statement. 'It is clear Republicans have nothing of substance to say and that they'd like nothing more than to distract from the GOP's disunity.'"

The Hill: "Pelosi: With Hillary Clinton, Democrats can win the House"

"Rep. Nancy Pelosi says Democrats can recapture control of the House in 2016 by riding Hillary Clinton's coattails."

Politico: "Democrats criticize GOP handling of Benghazi committee"

"The issue is expected to come to a head on Tuesday during a hearing reviewing the committee's outstanding document requests where Neal Higgins, the CIA's director of congressional affairs, and Joel Rubin, deputy assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs, will testify."

Mother Jones: "Democrats Accuse Republicans of a Benghazi Cover-Up"

[Subtitle:] "And they say GOPers on the Benghazi committee are holding secret meetings with witnesses."

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Politico: IT'S ON! Hillary Clinton rival ramps up in Iowa

"And Jake Oeth, who until recently served as political director to former Rep. Bruce Braley's failed Iowa Senate campaign, was brought on board as a consultant to O'Malley's O'Say Can You See PAC after the November midterm elections."

New York Times: "Koch Brothers' Budget of $889 Million for 2016 Is on Par With Both Parties' Spending"

"Allies of Hillary Rodham Clinton, who appears to be preparing for a likely presidential campaign in 2016, expect that she will need to bring in more money than President Obama, the most successful fund-raiser in presidential history, and a 'super PAC' supporting her is seeking to raise as much as $300 million in the coming months."

Los Angeles Times column: Robin Abcarian: "Hey, GOP: Using Carly Fiorina to attack Hillary Clinton could backfire"

"If Fiorina plans to use her business record to bash Clinton, let alone as a rationale for a presidential campaign, expect to hear more about her stormy tenure at Hewlett-Packard."

The Hill: "Sanders heading to Iowa, NH"

"Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is heading to a pair of key early-primary states as he ramps up consideration of a potential presidential run."

Articles:

MSNBC: "In Iowa, GOP women take aim at Hillary"

By Anna Brand

January 26, 2015, 12:10 p.m. EST

At Saturday's Iowa Freedom Summit, the men in the ever-widening pool of potential 2016 GOP presidential candidates used their speeches to call for the best ways to crush Obamacare and immigration reform. But the women focused on one target: the likely 2016 Democratic standard bearer, Hillary Clinton.

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, though relatively unknown in a field of thunderous voices, is actively exploring a 2016 run – and in Iowa she made it clear she'd be running as the anti-Hillary.

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"Like Hillary Clinton, I too, have traveled hundreds of thousands of miles around the globe," Fiorina said of the former secretary of state, drawing cheers. "But unlike her, I have actually accomplished something. Mrs. Clinton, flying is an activity not an accomplishment."

Only six of 24 speakers at the event were women – and none of them have made waves as big as their male counterparts like Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. (Missing from the event were notable 2016ers former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former presidential candidate Mitt Romney.)

Fiorina lost the only political campaign she's run so far when she challenged Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer of California in 2010. But she made headlines last summer when she launched a Super PAC, Unlocking Potential Project, aimed at teaching her male Republican counterparts how best to speak to women.

But in her speech at Iowa's crowded Hoyt Sherman Place, it wasn't about raising women, it was about tearing one woman down.

Sneaking Benghazi into her address (another topic glazed over by the male candidates who took the stage) Fiorina said: "Unlike Hillary Clinton, I know what difference it makes that our ambassador to Libya and three other brave Americans were killed in a deliberate terrorist attack on the anniversary of 9/11."

Sarah Palin joined Fiorina in the Hillary-hating. The 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate, who recently said that she's "seriously interested" in running for president in 2016, delivered a bizarre and often incoherent speech, but one aspect was clear: she's got her sights on Hillary.

"I'm ready for Hillary, are you? Are you coming?" Palin said, raising a Time magazine from last year with a headline "Can Anyone Stop Hillary."

Palin said she doesn't feel there's a rush to make a decision about 2016. Fiorina might have an opinion about whether Palin runs too, whether they compete for the party's 2016 nomination or not. Back in 2008 as one of John McCain's economic advisers, Fiorina said that Palin, McCain's VP pick, would not be qualified to be CEO of a corporation like Hewlett-Packard. She tried to salvage her comments on msnbc.

Longtime Republican pollster Kellyanne Conway also dug into Hillary Clinton at the Freedom Summit. "Don't worry about being called mean. Let's talk about Hillary Clinton," she said. "Hillary Clinton is the second most influential person in her own household. I would say Hillary Clinton has the wrong vision for America, but I don't know what it is."

Tennessee GOP Rep. Marsha Blackburn also jumped on the bandwagon, mocking several TV networks for their coverage of Clinton. "ABC: All About Clinton network; NBC: Nothing But Clinton; CNN: Clinton News Network; CBS - - just think about it!" Translation: Clinton b.s.," she said.

For their part, Clinton allies say the attacks are a sign Republicans may feel threatened. "Republicans are rattled by the energy and excitement shown by Americans across the country for Hillary Clinton's potential candidacy and her vision for our future," communications director Adrienne Elrod of Correct The Record said in statement. "It is clear Republicans have nothing of substance to say and that they'd like nothing more than to distract from the GOP's disunity."

The Hill: "Pelosi: With Hillary Clinton, Democrats can win the House"

By Mike Lillis

January 27, 2015, 6:00 a.m. EST

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Rep. Nancy Pelosi says Democrats can recapture control of the House in 2016 by riding Hillary Clinton's coattails.

"Yes, we can win the House," the California Democrat said during a sit-down interview in her Capitol office.

"If she runs, she will win the nomination. And if she's our nominee, she clearly — I mean, the campaign, the joint effort — would be one that could not only take her into office but would [pull Democrats to victory]," Pelosi said.

"There's opportunity, all kinds of statistics now about if the Democrats have a presidential candidate who … wins by 52 percent — that's over 20 [House] seats," Pelosi added. "And so 53 [percent] is a victory [for House Democrats]."

The minority leader acknowledged the headwinds facing House Democrats, who would need to pick up a whopping 30 seats to win the chamber, and she emphasized that the party's presidential nominee is a long way from being decided.

Bold predictions are nothing new for Pelosi, who, among many other duties, has a responsibility to appear unwavering about the party's election odds in order not to dissuade donors.

In 2010, Pelosi predicted the Democrats would keep the House, only to see the Republicans pick up 63 seats and seize the chamber. She also made rosy forecasts in 2012 and 2014 that proved inaccurate — a dynamic that hasn't been overlooked by GOP operatives, who are scoffing at Pelosi's latest prophesies.

"Needless to say, we get the distinct feeling that Nancy Pelosi literally has no idea what it actually takes to win back the House and is living in Fantasyland," Ian Prior, spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee, said Monday in an email.

Pelosi pointed out that Democratic turnout tends to spike in presidential years and has repeatedly said the GOP's refusal to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill will doom its chances of winning the White House next year and beyond.

The 2016 posturing arrives just a few days before the Democrats will huddle in Philadelphia for their annual issues retreat, where the party's messaging strategy — and its failure to excite voters in recent cycles — will surely be discussed in depth.

Pelosi is in the middle of that storm.

The San Francisco liberal has led House Democrats since 2003, the longest run since Sam Rayburn's tenure more than 50 years ago. After Republicans picked up 13 seats in the 2014 midterm election cycle, there was open grumbling within the caucus that it might be time for some new faces atop the leadership ranks.

"This party has to look internally as to where the hell it's going," Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.) said in the aftermath of the elections.

Since then, however, Pelosi has attracted praise from her colleagues for taking on both Republicans and President Obama in her staunch opposition to December's government spending package. She's been hailed for launching several new Democratic panels designed to get the party's message to voters. And she's been buoyed by the struggles of Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Republicans, whose start to the 114th Congress has been plagued by highly public infighting on issues like deportations, abortion and border security — issues that have largely united the Democrats.

"Bless their hearts, they act upon their beliefs," Pelosi tells reporters, almost weekly.

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The Hill's interview touched on a wide range of topics. Other highlights include:

Gay marriage

Pelosi said she is "very confident" the Supreme Court will uphold the constitutionality of state laws allowing same-sex couples to wed. The court may lean to the right, she acknowledged, but its 2013 decision striking down key portions of the Defense of Marriage Act foreshadows a similar ruling this summer on state-passed gay marriage laws.

"Why would they take this up? In order to reverse the decisions in the states and stop … that progress toward equality?" she asked. "I don't see that happening."

Trade

Pelosi downplayed long-standing Democratic divisions over whether to grant the administration "fast-track" authority to approve trade pacts, as Obama has requested. She emphasized that liberals' concerns about food safety, currency manipulation and worker protections must be addressed, but said those hurdles are not insurmountable.

"I'm trying to say to the members, 'Let's turn a page on trade; let's try to find a path to yes,' " she said.

Pelosi said she was recently asked if 50 Democrats would support Obama on trade and responded it could be as high as 150 — if handled the right and "transparent" way.

The debt limit

In the wake of large Republican gains in the Senate and House, Pelosi is once again pushing for a "clean" hike to the debt ceiling later this year. In 2014, only 28 House Republicans voted for such a measure.

Immigration

Pelosi hammered Republicans for including "juvenile" language undoing Obama's executive actions halting deportations as part of legislation funding the Homeland Security Department. But she also suggested GOP leaders, having made a statement to their base, would cave before the department is threatened with a shutdown.

"The Speaker probably figured, 'Let them do their stuff; the Senate's going to reject it; and then we'll come to some place that the president will sign,' " Pelosi said.

The 74-year-old is notoriously evasive about her future. But she did open up a bit to suggest that the number of retiring liberal Californians — including former Reps. George Miller and Henry Waxman, who retired this year, and Sen. Barbara Boxer, who won't run for reelection in 2016 — have made it more important that she stay.

"When George was leaving and Henry was leaving, people were saying, 'Oh, now you're going to leave.' But actually, their supporters and our supporters for the agendas that we care about were saying, 'Now you can't leave,' " Pelosi said, laughing at the thought. "And now with Barbara Boxer, and our community is like, 'Oh my gosh, Barbara Boxer.' "

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The congresswoman, who is serving her 15th term, says she comes to work with as much energy as ever. As Speaker, she said she slept about four hours a night. Now, it's more like five-and-a-half hours, but no more than that.

"I don't know how my family or staff would cope if I ever got eight hours," Pelosi said with a laugh.

Pelosi stopped short of committing to another term if Clinton were to win the White House in 2016, saying she takes life "one day at a time." But the first female Speaker didn't disguise her marvel at the thought of serving in Congress alongside the nation's first female president.

"It would be a wonderful thing," she said.

Politico: "Democrats criticize GOP handling of Benghazi committee"

By Lauren French

January 26, 2015, 8:09 p.m. EST

Democrats on the House committee tasked with investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya, are harshly criticizing the panel's chairman, South Carolina Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy, accusing the GOP lawmaker of locking them out of interviews with witnesses.

The discord is unusual for the select committee. Gowdy and Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, have enjoyed a cordial relationship since the committee was created last May, with the two often meeting off the House floor to discuss the investigation.

The issue is expected to come to a head on Tuesday during a hearing reviewing the committee's outstanding document requests where Neal Higgins, the CIA's director of congressional affairs, and Joel Rubin, deputy assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs, will testify.

Ahead of the hearing, Cummings released three letters complaining about Gowdy's handling of the committee, including a December letter signed by all five Democrats investigating the attacks. The lawmakers are charging that Republicans have interviewed at least five witnesses without a Democrat in attendance, including Ray Maxwell, a former State Department deputy who alleged he was told to scrub documents relating to the 2012 attacks.

"You have had different standards for Republicans and Democrats participating in this investigation, secret meetings with witnesses, and — perhaps most importantly — withheld or downplayed information when it undermines the allegations we are investigating," Cummings wrote.

Gowdy's office dismissed the Democrats' concern in a statement late Monday as an attempt to politicize the investigation. Select Committee on Benghazi Communications Director Jamal Ware said Democrats are allowed to interview witnesses without Republican staffers present.

"Chairman Gowdy will talk to Benghazi sources with or without the Democrats present just as they are welcome to talk to sources with or without Republicans present," Ware said. "[N]o congressional select committee has ever had a requirement that sources meet with both sides at the same time, and the Benghazi Committee is no exception."

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Ware added, “[T]he Democrats have released correspondence that attempts to politically characterize sources’ private discussions with the committee without proper context goes to the exact heart of why the chairman will not require sources to talk to both sides.”

When he was tapped to lead the probe, however, Gowdy repeatedly stressed that the bulk of the committee’s work would be done privately, as he questioned the effectiveness of public hearings on controversial topics.

Cummings first wrote to Gowdy in November, with another letter sent earlier this month, but the private correspondence between the two lawmakers was first released Monday.

In the letters, Cummings accuses Gowdy’s staff of barring Democrats from key interviews with witnesses and deemphasizing information that disproved some of the lingering theories on Benghazi, including the allegation that the State Department purposefully destroyed documents to protect then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Maxwell, according to Cummings’ letters, repeated the claims about State Department documents during interviews with Republican staff and offered up a second witnesses to corroborate his allegation. But that unnamed witness refuted Maxwell’s story, Cummings wrote. Democrats were left out of both interviews, despite willingness ny Maxwell and the second source to be interviewed by representatives from both parties, according to Cummings.

“In some of our conversations in the past, you have suggested that whistleblowers might be willing to come forward to provide information only to you. That was simply not the case here,” Cummings wrote. “When my staff spoke with Mr. Maxwell and the additional witness he identified, both were willing to talk to Democrats, but your staff excluded them nonetheless.”

The criticism is notable as Gowdy and Cummings have worked hard to be respectful of one another in public. Cummings gave Gowdy high praise late last year for running a thorough investigation, and Gowdy even help convinced Democrats to participate in the committee after taking the Maryland Democrat to dinner shortly after the committee was first announced.

But that relationship has soured in the months since, with Democrats accusing Republicans of not agreeing to subpoena rules that would allow for a public vote if there is disagreement.

“We have spent months trying to resolve these problems privately, but they’ve exhausted our patience and we can no longer remain silent,” said California Rep. Linda Sanchez. “This isn’t the fact-based or fair investigation that Gowdy promised it would be and that the American people deserve.”

Now Democrats are complaining that the investigation has devolved into a partisan fight reminiscent of how Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) probed the terrorist attacks when he was chairman of the House Oversight Committee.

The five Democrats on the committee are also complaining that despite a multimillion budget, the panel is moving slowly, with only a handful of public hearings.

Staff for the South Carolina Republican said earlier this month that the committee has met with officials from the State and Justice departments on embassy security and document production.

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[Mother Jones: "Democrats Accuse Republicans of a Benghazi Cover-Up"]

By David Corn

January 26, 2015, 8:02 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] And they say GOPers on the Benghazi committee are holding secret meetings with witnesses.

It's back. Actually, it never left. Benghazi. That is, the GOP's never-ending Benghazi crusade. Last year, after Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) was tapped by House Speaker John Boehner to lead yet another Benghazi probe, he promised to helm an inquiry that would "transcend politics." But now, eight months into this latest investigation, Democrats on the House Select Committee on Benghazi have hit Gowdy with a sharp charge: that he and his Republican investigators have conducted secret meetings with witnesses without informing their Democratic colleagues on the committee. And they say that some of these interviews have yielded information that undercuts anti-Obama Benghazi allegations promoted by conservatives. In other words, the Democrats are suggesting that Gowdy has been mounting a Benghazi cover-up of his own.

In November, Rep. Elijah Cummings, the senior Democrat on the Benghazi committee, sent Gowdy a private letter noting that though Gowdy had assured him that the committee's work would be conducted in a bipartisan manner, the five Democratic members of the panel and their staffer had been excluded from at least five witness interviews. Moreover, Cummings said these interviews had produced testimony that failed to corroborate key allegations.

Cummings' letter pointed out that in September conservative media outlets had promoted the supposed revelation that Hillary Clinton loyalists at the State Department had vetted documents to prevent material damaging to senior State Department officials from being handed to an independent investigation of the Benghazi tragedy. According to Cummings, Gowdy's Republican staff interviewed the source of this allegation, a former State Department official named Raymond Maxwell, without notifying the Democrats on the committee or inviting them to be part of the interview, and Maxwell identified a person who could confirm his account. In Cummings' telling, Gowdy's GOP gumshoes interviewed this person, again without telling the Dems, and this supposed witness did not back up Maxwell's story. This second witness said he was not aware of an effort to hide or destroy Benghazi-related documents. "I did not discover any of this information from you or your staff but from the witnesses themselves," Cummings wrote Gowdy.

Cummings accused Gowdy and his staff of essentially smothering information that undermined an allegation aimed at Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton:

"Although your staff stated [to the Democrats] that they learned nothing 'of note,' in fact they learned that this claim was not substantiated by a key witness. If our goal is the truth and not a preconceived political narrative, these interviews should have been conducted jointly, with both Democrats and Republicans present."

In his letter to Gowdy, Cummings contended this Republican effort to keep the Dems in the dark was part of a pattern. He noted that when he shared his concerns with Gowdy, the chairman informed him that he had spoken to at least three other witnesses without the participation of Democrats and that two of them had provided information that helped debunk other allegations of Benghazi wrongdoing. As a remedy, Cummings proposed in his letter that the committee adopt rules ensuring that all members of the panel are allowed to participate in witness meetings and interviews.

According to a subsequent letter all five Democratic members on the Benghazi committee sent Gowdy in December, Gowdy rejected Cummings' demand for Democratic participation in all witness interviews and meetings. In that missive, the Democrats also dissed the committee's work, noting that it was proceeding at a snail's pace and was plowing over much of the same territory previously examined by other congressional committees.

Last week, Cummings sent Gowdy another letter reiterating his complaints: "Democrats have repeatedly been excluded from core components of the investigation, and we have been proceeding with no rules to prevent this from occurring in the future. You have…withheld or downplayed information when it undermines the allegations we are investigating." And Cummings provided another example: The GOP staff interviewed a witness who confirmed there was no illegal transfer of weapons from Libya to Syria (one of the many Benghazi conspiracy theories). Cummings

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wrote, "Instead of crediting her testimony to help put this previously investigated and debunked allegation to rest, you followed up your private, Republican-only interview of this witness by requesting a broad set of documents from the State Department on this debunked allegation. In addition, your staff has now informed us that they do not intend to use this individual as a factual witness in the Committee's investigation."

A spokesman for the Benghazi committee did not respond to a request for comment.

When Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) was overseeing the main Benghazi investigation in the House as chair of the House government oversight committee, his inquiry became as politicized as it could be, with Issa often acting unilaterally and frequently making claims and charges unsupported by the information the committee had gathered. Meanwhile, other House committees led by Republicans conducted and completed serious investigations—without any internal partisan discord—and discredited the wild theories of the right. But to undo the damage done by Issa and to placate the party's conservative base, Boehner set up a special committee on Benghazi and appointed Gowdy, a more temperate fellow, to take another stab at it. Yet the newest Benghazi inquiry now appears to be heading down a similar path, as the GOP appears no closer to giving the right's Benghazi truthers what they seek: proof that Obama or Clinton can be blamed for the horrible murders that happened that night.

UPDATE: After Republicans on the committee learned that reporters had obtained copies of the letters sent by Cummings and the Democrats to Gowdy, Gowdy on Monday evening released a statement noting he was "disappointed by the minority's decision to release their letters." His statement also noted:

“Chairman Gowdy will talk to Benghazi sources with or without the Democrats present just as they are welcome to talk to sources with or without Republicans present…Further, that the Democrats have released correspondence that attempts to politically characterize sources’ private discussions with the committee without proper context goes to the exact heart of why the Chairman will not require sources to talk to both sides.

“Chairman Gowdy has operated the Benghazi Committee in a more-than-fair and fact-based manner, going so far as to allow Democrats absent due to personal matters to participate in Committee hearings via conference call and allowing the minority to claim time not utilized by their absent Members.

“The Chairman has worked over the last several months to accommodate the minority with regard to their concerns, including offering a rules package that is much more generous than current standing committee rules and that of rules adopted by previous select committees.”

After Gowdy's statement was issued, a Democratic staffer on the committee countered:

“[Gowdy’s] response confirms that he has in the past and will continue to exclude Democrats from discussions with material witnesses.

“We have never asked the Chairman to ‘require’ witnesses to meet with Democrats. Our request was that when witnesses are willing to meet with Democrats that the Republicans include us. They have not done that—even with witnesses who were willing all along to speak with Democrats.

“Chairman Gowdy claims that our letters ‘politically characterize sources private discussions with the Committee without proper context.’ This is incorrect. Democratic members tried to resolve these issues privately for months before we were forced to go public. None of the witnesses told us that they wanted their information to be confidential or private, and we only released the portions of their statements that were necessary to explain our concerns…..

“Chairman Gowdy’s rules package does not fix the problems we have identified with excluding Democrats from witness interviews. He has also refused to permit a Committee vote on any rules unless Democrats agree to vote for his language – thereby denying Democrats a public debate and vote on the issue.”

This bitter and partisan back-and-forth suggests that this committee could go the full Issa.

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Politico: IT'S ON! Hillary Clinton rival ramps up in Iowa

By Ben Schreckinger
January 27, 2015, 5:39 AM EST

The first rustlings of a Martin O'Malley presidential campaign can be heard faintly in Iowa.

Surrogates for the former Maryland governor, who is publicly mulling a presidential run, have begun talking up O'Malley and scheduling meetings with officials and activists, according to several Iowa Democrats. And Jake Oeth, who until recently served as political director to former Rep. Bruce Braley's failed Iowa Senate campaign, was brought on board as a consultant to O'Malley's O'Say Can You See PAC after the November midterm elections. He is doing political outreach for the former governor in the state, according to the PAC's spokeswoman, Lis Smith.

"Obviously [Braley's] wasn't a successful campaign, but they're people who've been traveling around the state for two years," said one Iowa state Democratic official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, adding that multiple former Braley campaign staffers were maneuvering on O'Malley's behalf.

"They are doing some organizing and contacting," said Jack Hatch, the 2014 Democratic nominee for governor. "I will be meeting with them [this] week. It's all under the radar."

O'Malley is considered one of the most credible potential opponents to former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, the presumed frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic nomination. But the low-key tone of early efforts on his behalf marks a contrast with previous presidential cycles, when numerous Iowa Democrats said there was significantly more activity a year out from the Iowa caucuses.

Ready for Hillary, the super PAC laying the groundwork for a Clinton run, has two staffers in Iowa and says it has begun organizing in every county. The liberal group MoveOn.org, has hired five staffers in Iowa and is planning to open an office in Des Moines as part of its campaign to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren to enter the race, though Warren has said repeatedly that she is not running.

Last year, O'Malley devoted significant resources to the campaigns of Iowa Democrats and visited the state several times. His PAC sent Hatch's unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign $10,000 and three staffers. O'Malley campaigned for Braley last year in the former congressman's failed bid for Iowa's open Senate seat, and his PAC gave Braley's campaign $7,500.

O'Malley also attended more than 20 fundraisers and political events in the state in 2014, according to information provided by his PAC, which sent a total of 14 staffers to aid Iowa Democrats during the midterms.

O'Malley left office Jan. 21 and said recently that he would spend the next couple months resettling his family in Baltimore as he contemplates a presidential run, making any announcement of a run before early spring unlikely.

In November, the Washington Post reported that O'Malley's PAC had hired Sarah Miller, a veteran of Clinton's 2008 campaign, as policy director, and Megan Adams, formerly of the Center for American Progress, as a communications staffer. The PAC also hired Bill DeBlasio's campaign manager Bill Hyers late last year. Many observers believe O'Malley is hoping to use a presidential run to raise his profile and secure a spot as Clinton's running mate or a cabinet secretary.

"He's seriously considering running for president, and that's his only focus," said Smith.

The former governor currently has no plans to travel to Iowa, according to Smith, who said he will appear March 7 at a Democratic event in Topeka, Kanasas. She said no one is working on his behalf in New Hampshire.

New York Times: "Koch Brothers' Budget of $889 Million for 2016 Is on Par With Both Parties' Spending"

By Nicholas Confessore

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January 26, 2015

The political network overseen by the conservative billionaires Charles G. and David H. Koch plans to spend close to $900 million on the 2016 campaign, an unparalleled effort by coordinated outside groups to shape a presidential election that is already on track to be the most expensive in history.

The spending goal, revealed Monday at the Kochs' annual winter donor retreat near Palm Springs, Calif., would allow their political organization to operate at the same financial scale as the Democratic and Republican Parties. It would require a significant financial commitment from the Kochs and roughly 300 other donors they have recruited over the years, and covers both the presidential and congressional races. In the last presidential election, the Republican National Committee and the party's two congressional campaign committees spent a total of $657 million.

Hundreds of conservative donors recruited by the Kochs gathered over the weekend for three days of issue seminars, strategy sessions and mingling with rising elected officials. These donors represent the largest concentration of political money outside the party establishment, one that has achieved enormous power in Republican circles in recent years.

Now the Kochs' network will embark on its largest drive ever to influence legislation and campaigns across the country, leveraging Republican control of Congress and the party's dominance of state capitols to push for deregulation, tax cuts and smaller government. In 2012, the Kochs' network spent just under $400 million, an astonishing sum at the time. The $889 million spending goal for 2016 would put it on track to spend nearly as much as the campaigns of each party's presidential nominee.

The Kochs' efforts will put enormous fund-raising pressure on Democrats and liberal outside groups. Allies of Hillary Rodham Clinton, who appears to be preparing for a likely presidential campaign in 2016, expect that she will need to bring in more money than President Obama, the most successful fund-raiser in presidential history, and a "super PAC" supporting her is seeking to raise as much as $300 million in the coming months.

"It's no wonder the candidates show up when the Koch brothers call," said David Axelrod, a former senior adviser to Mr. Obama. "That's exponentially more money than any party organization will spend. In many ways, they have superseded the party."

The group's budget, disclosed by a conference attendee, reflects the rising ambition and expanded reach of the Koch operation, which has sought to distinguish itself from other outside groups by emphasizing the role of donors over consultants and political operatives.

While the Koch's expansive network houses groups with discretely political functions — a data and analytics firm, a state-focused issue-advocacy group and affinity groups aimed at young voters and Hispanics — it also includes groups like Freedom Partners, a trade organization overseen by Koch advisers that plans the retreat and helps corral contributions; Americans for Prosperity, a national grass-roots group; and Concerned Veterans for America, which organizes conservative veterans

While almost no Republican Party leaders were invited to the Koch event, it has become a coveted invitation for the party's rising stars, for whom the gathered billionaires and multimillionaires are a potential source of financing for campaigns and super PACs. Officials said this year's conference was the largest ever.

At least five potential presidential candidates were invited this year, and four attended, including Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin. On Sunday evening, three of them — Senators Marco Rubio of Florida, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Ted Cruz of Texas — took part in a candidate forum on economic issues.

The Kochs are longtime opponents of campaign disclosure laws. Unlike the parties, their network is constructed chiefly of nonprofit groups that are not required to reveal donors. That makes it almost impossible to tell how much of the money is provided by the Kochs — among the wealthiest men in the country — and how much by other donors.

The two brothers and their aides have begun to take steps to relax the strict secrecy that has long surrounded much of their political efforts. After

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spending the 2012 campaign as the Democrats' favored punching bags, Charles and David Koch have each granted a series of interviews to explain their views and philosophy. Their privately held firm, Koch Industries, has mounted a soft-focus advertising campaign called "We Are Koch," featuring the company's employees.

Last summer, Freedom Partners established the network's first super PAC, allowing it to run more openly political advertising in the run-up to the 2014 midterm election. The move also required disclosing some of the network's other donors. Trusts controlled by the Kochs provided about $4 million of the super PAC's $25 million budget.

This year, Koch aides also provided — for the first time — limited access to the winter conference events and allowed reporters to view live video of the candidate forum on Sunday night.

As the three senators addressed the audience of rich donors — effectively an audition for the 2016 primary — they dismissed a question about whether the wealthy had too much influence in politics. At times they seemed to be addressing an audience of two: the Kochs themselves, now among the country's most influential conservative power brokers.

Mr. Cruz gave an impassioned defense of his hosts as job creators and the victims of unfair attacks by Democrats, while Mr. Rubio suggested that only liberals supported campaign finance restrictions, so as to empower what he said were their allies in Hollywood and the news media.

Los Angeles Times column: Robin Abcarian: "Hey, GOP: Using Carly Fiorina to attack Hillary Clinton could backfire"

By Robin Abcarian

January 26, 2015, 5:57 p.m. EST

After watching some of the speeches delivered by would-be Republican presidential contenders over the weekend at Iowa Rep. Steve King's conservative confab in Des Moines, I got to wondering how long it will take Republicans to field a female presidential candidate who actually has a shot at winning.

Women seem to be tokens in the GOP presidential stakes, serving the party's strategic needs more than anything else. For 2016, it's become an article of faith that the GOP needs a woman to immunize the party against charges that attacks on presumed Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton are sexist. ("The most effective way to criticize a woman is to have another woman do it," a California GOP strategist told Time's Jay Newton-Small in November.)

So who can help?

Not Sarah Palin.

The former Alaska governor and 2008 vice presidential candidate trekked to King's inaugural Freedom Summit to deliver a disjointed speech that focused mainly on settling scores with people who have attacked her for, among other things, letting her son step on his service dog. Her rambling remarks were entertaining -- she is always that -- but hardly presidential. (Even her longtime fans were turned off. One conservative columnist called her speech "barely coherent.")

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It seems that the job is falling to Carly Fiorina, who gave a well-received speech noteworthy mainly for its broadsides against Clinton.

Fiorina has never held political office, but the former Hewlett-Packard chief has been toiling away in Republican political trenches ever since she lost the U.S. Senate campaign against Barbara Boxer in 2010. Despite Fiorina's lack of name recognition, Iowa conservatives liked what she had to say.

"She came across as a highly intelligent woman and a strong leader," one GOP party official told the Washington Times. "She did herself the most good."

Her biggest applause lines were the whacks she took at Clinton.

"Like Hillary Clinton," she said, "I too have traveled hundreds of thousands of miles around the globe. But unlike her, I have actually accomplished something…. Having done business in over 80 countries and having served as the chairman of the external advisory board at the CIA for several years, I know that China and Russia are state sponsors of cyberwarfare and have a strategy to steal our intellectual property. I know Bibi Netanyahu and know that when he warns us that Iran is a danger to this nation as well as his own, that we must listen."

Leaving aside the issue of what Clinton accomplished as secretary of state in the first Obama term, the problem for Fiorina, should she become a serious candidate, or even a high-profile surrogate, is the business record she accumulated while visiting all those countries.

Her six-year tenure at Hewlett-Packard was marred by extensive domestic layoffs. She insisted that sending jobs to other countries was not offshoring but what she dubbed "right shoring." ("There is no job that is America's God-given right anymore," she once told a congressional committee.)

Also, she was forced to defend charges that Hewlett-Packard violated the spirit of a trade embargo against Iran on her watch.

In 2010, I wrote about Fiorina's business record during her campaign against Boxer.

She was rightfully heralded as a pioneer when she became the first woman to lead a Fortune 20 company in 1999. But a couple of years after she took the reins at HP, she engineered a controversial merger with Compaq Computer Corp. that sparked a corrosive fight with the families of HP's founders, who accused her of ruining Hewlett-Packard's famously collegial culture.

"To be fair to Carly," David Woodley Packard told me in 2010, "the HP board should have known better when it hired her. If you have a pet bunny and get a pet ferret, you can't really blame the ferret for eating the bunny. That's what ferrets do."

Fiorina has insisted that she created more jobs than she eliminated while running HP, a claim that is almost impossible to verify as the company merged with Compaq, acquired many smaller firms but laid off tens of thousands of workers.

"I would say she has created a lot of jobs," a Hewlett-Packard engineer named Dan Dove told me in 2010. "But they are not in the United States."

As for the trade embargo, Fiorina was accused during her Senate race of allowing Hewlett-Packard to sell hundreds of millions of dollars in printers to Iran at a time when American companies were forbidden to engage in such trade. Fiorina said the company did nothing illegal, which was technically true, as the sales were made by a Dutch subsidiary of the company, which HP owned but did not control.

Trade experts said that HP did not break the law, but rather circumvented it using a loophole that other companies also exploited. Two years after Fiorina was fired by HP's board of directors, however, the company amended its policy and announced it would prohibit its distributors from selling

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products in Iran.

"Having recently examined the situation," the company announced, "we believe it's important to go beyond the letter of the law."

If Fiorina plans to use her business record to bash Clinton, let alone as a rationale for a presidential campaign, expect to hear more about her stormy tenure at Hewlett-Packard.

The Hill: "Sanders heading to Iowa, NH"

By Cameron Joseph

January 26, 2015, 6:17 p.m. EST

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is heading to a pair of key early-primary states as he ramps up consideration of a potential presidential run.

Sanders is heading to New Hampshire on Saturday for a house party, and has a three-day swing planned through Iowa in late February.

He's also heading to Pennsylvania to keynote a local progressive event and meet with liberal activists in the state.

Sanders has said he's giving a serious look to running for president as a Democrat and could emerge as the liberal alternative to challenge Hillary Clinton, though Clinton would start out as a heavy favorite against any of the candidates considering a run against her.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/9/2015 7:30:44 AM
Subject: Latest News from the American Security Project

ASP Newsletter: Chuck Hagel on climate change; DoD action on climate change; Hill briefing

View this email in your browser



December 09, 2015

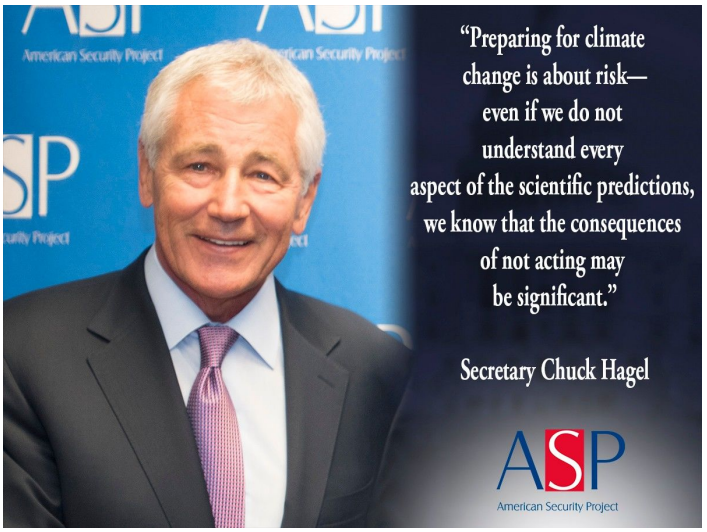
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ASP in the News

Christine Todd Whitman Quoted in Politico Article
Christine Todd Whitman, Politico

Top Stories

Chuck Hagel: Climate Change is a National Security Problem



ASP Board Member Secretary Chuck Hagel, writes in an Op-Ed in Time Magazine about the the UNFCCC climate negotiations in Paris. He emphasized that "Climate change is a national security problem."

Click here for more.

Andrew Holland and Ricky Gandhi Featured in The Hill

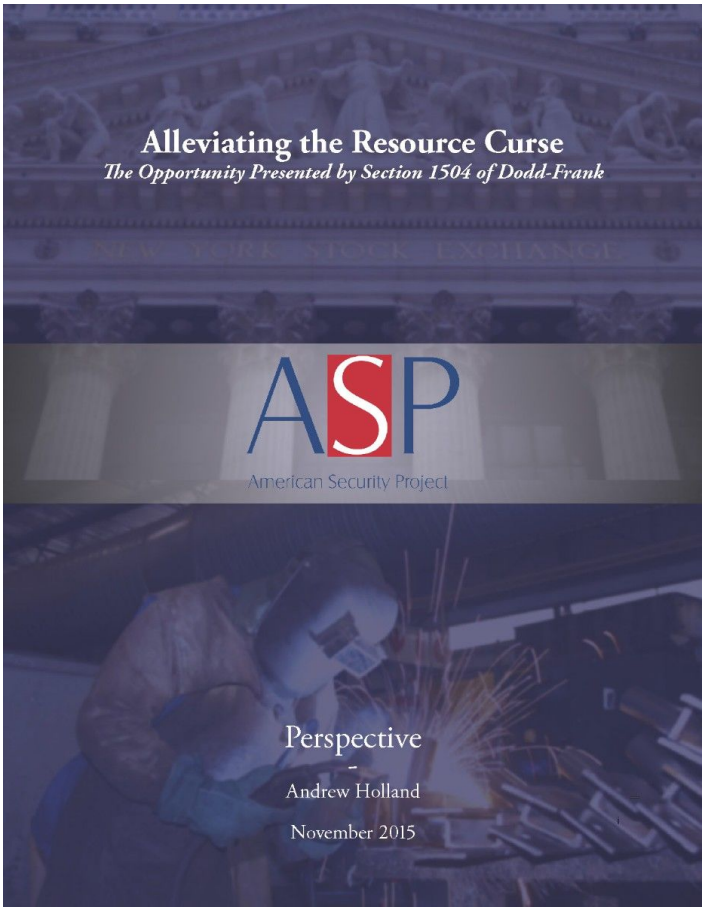
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ASP's Andrew Holland and Ricky Gandhi recently published an op-ed editorial in The Hill in support of the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act. In it, they discuss the various provisions of the bill, as well as their implications on the nuclear energy sector.

Click here for more.

Perspective - Alleviating the Resource Curse



The goal is to increase transparency and provide the public with greater access to information related to the payments that U.S.-listed companies make to foreign governments to extract oil, gas, and mineral resources. The rulemaking has been delayed by lawsuits and SEC inaction. But now the SEC has an opportunity to put in place a policy for disclosure that is accessible and effective.

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Upcoming Events

Department of Defense Action on Climate Change



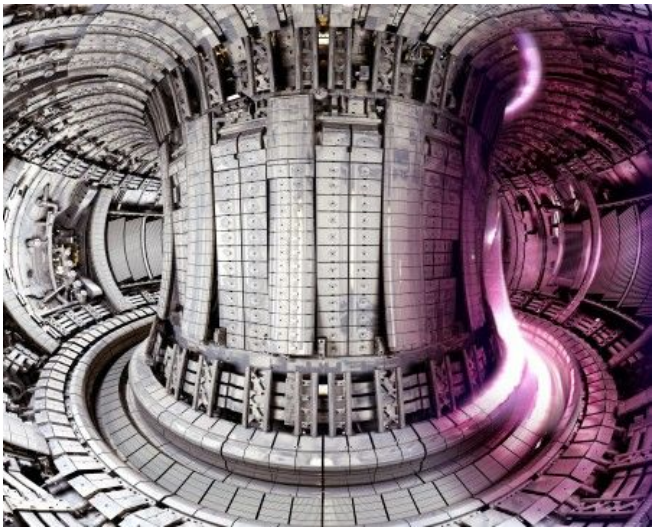
On Friday, December 11, ASP will host Maureen Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety & Occupational Health, responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Department's climate change adaptation efforts. She will give an update on DoD efforts around Climate Change.

Friday, December 11, 12:00 pm - 01:30 pm

1100 New York Avenue, NW - 7th floor - West Tower
Washington, D.C

Click here to RSVP

Hill Briefing: Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy



This event will be an opportunity for leaders in fusion energy from the private sector and research labs to discuss the significant progress made in advancing fusion and what this clean, safe, and abundant energy source means for America's national security and energy future. Leading experts in fusion from the public and private sector will discuss the new developments that have been featured over the last several months in major media outlets.

Tuesday, December 15, 12:00 pm - 01:30 pm

385 Russell Senate Office Building

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Washington, D.C 20515

Click here to RSVP

On Our Blog

Climate, Energy, and National Security

BCAS Member Fortinet: Fast and Secure Tour 2015

Anil Powers

Join Business Council for American Security member Fortinet at their Reston, VA offices December 7 – 11 for their 2015 “Fast and Secure Tour 2015,” lead by the 18-wheeled FortiExpress.

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Christine Todd Whitman Quoted in Politico Article

Anil Powers

The article discussed the challenge the president faces in leading the fight on climate change as well as terrorism, as well as the obstacles posed by congressional and partisan pushback. Christine Todd Whitman, a chairperson for the American Security Project and former administrator of the EPA under the George W. Bush administration, was quoted in the article.

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American Security Project’s most recent Perspective Paper on Resource Extraction Cited by E&E News and Bloomberg BNA

Spencer Shweky

Both E&E News and Bloomberg BNA recently published articles on an American Security Project Perspective Paper entitled Alleviating the Resource Curse. The Paper is principally concerned with how best to design new Dodd-Frank regulations on transparency in resource extraction.

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What's Wrong with Venezuela

John Bugnacki

The roots of Venezuela’s economic misfortunes are rooted in five factors: corruption and authoritarianism, the resource curse, the decline of Venezuela’s state oil company, state control over the economy, and drug gangs and violence.

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The Relationship Between Climate Change and Terrorism: Reigniting the Debate

Anil Powers

E&E published an article about the relationship between climate change and terrorism. In it, E&E reporter Jean Chemnick discussed the “rekindling of an old feud” regarding the dangers of climate change, renewed partisan pushback, and policy strategies. Andrew Holland, senior fellow for energy and climate at the American Security Project, contributed to this article.

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Climate Change, Paris, the Rise of ISIS, and What "Causes" Terrorism

Andrew Holland

Over the past few days, there have been a number of discussion in the press around the country and around the world on the links between climate change and terrorism. Let us be clear – no act of terror is due to climate change, but climate change has helped to create the conditions from which terrorist groups can plot and plan.

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Nuclear Security

Nuclear Pakistan
Sam Hickey
Pakistani officials have maintained that their nuclear program's only utility is countering the nuclear and conventional military threat posed by India, but Pakistan's nuclear program is not lagging dangerously behind India.
Click here for more...

Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran with Ambassador Thomas Pickering
Sam Hickey
On Monday November 2, 2015, Ambassador Thomas Pickering visited American University to address Improving the Relationship Between the U.S. and Iran.
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American Competitiveness

Business Council for American Security President and CEO of Risk Cooperative Dante Disparte on Understanding Social Risk Insurance
Steffen Westerburger
Traditional insurance coverage acts as a passive mechanism to protect against an unlikely but extreme financial loss. Particularly in emerging markets where historical loss information is limited, insurance underwriting requires multinational corporations to view risk through a different lens.
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National Security Strategy

Turkey Shoots Down Russian Warplane: Possible Consequences for the Turkey – Russia Relationship
Steffen Westerburger
Subsequently, the plane was downed with an air-to-air-missile. The two pilots successfully ejected from their plane, and one of them was then killed by Turkmen rebels while still parachuting down. These actions can have serious consequences in the relationship between Moscow and Ankara, and can further complicate the broader conflict in Syria and the Middle East.
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Low Turnout at Polls Challenges Legitimacy of Egyptian Government
Anil Powers
In spite of the government's insistence that these elections were part of Egypt's democratic transition, the low turnout indicates an erosion of political participation that has challenged the legitimacy of the nascent government.
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Asymmetric Operations

Global Security Forum 2015
Sam Hickey
On Monday, November 16th, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted the Global Security Forum 2015 in Washington, DC. The event featured panels of government officials, think tank fellows, and business professionals to discuss the major national security issues facing the nation and the possible solutions to these bedeviling quandaries.
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Paris Terrorist Attacks Aftermath: The EU Mutual Defense Clause

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Steffen Westerburger

An unexpected move followed, the French President announced that his country for the first time in history intended to invoke article 42.7 of the EU Lisbon Treaty – the EU Common Defense and Security Policy. This move gives us an interesting insight into France's foreign policy strategy.

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About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jroberts@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/11/2008 3:05:05 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/11/08

Main Topics: McCentury (troop withdrawal isn't 'too important'), McCan't rally the base, Oldy McOlderson

Summary of Shift: Cable news programs covered Obama vetter, Jim Johnson heavily with little to no mention of McCain's lobbyist ties. Amidst escalating Mexican drug violence, fears spread that the US could soon become involved in violent conflict at its southern border, CNN reports. All television news outlets report the democrats are likely to try to pass the failed unemployment bill (over which McCain and Bush are split, Wolf Blitzer says) tomorrow. Reporters say Chinese espionage raised alarm amongst government officials across the board. Severe weather in Iowa and Nebraska took up a significant amount of airtime.

Highlights

1. Troop withdrawal 'not too important'
    a. McCain surrogates hit the airwaves in defense of *Today Show* turmoil
        i. Mitt Romney: oil companies don't make the big money
        ii. Ridge invokes McCain's family in defense of 'not too important'
    b. VoteVets' Friedman: McCain's remarks crush morale
    c. Democrats respond
        i. Reid reminds Americans of McCain's explosive temper
        ii. Kerry says McCain is out of touch
    d. Reporters respond
        i. Embedded Iraq reporter finds McCain's remarks out of step with troop sentiment
        ii. Slater reminds viewers this statement is symptomatic of larger problem
2. McCain's troubles with the GOP base persist
3. Leno reminds viewers that McCain is comically old
4. Lou Dobbs airs the Obama response to McCain's Jim Johnson attacks and includes this 2004 Fiorina quote: 'There is no job that is America's God-given right anymore.' [no clip]
5. Cavuto asks Tancredo if he'll endorse McCain, Tancredo responds, 'Nice talkin' to you.' [no clip]
6. John Kerry on McCain's Today Show Appearance: John McCain Doesn't Have a Strategy For Victory, Doesn't Have a Strategy For Ending the War, He Just Has a Plan on Staying in the War. [No Clip]
7. Dan Tarullo, Obama Senior Economic Advisor, on McCain's Economic Plan: "It Will Blow an Enormous Hole in the Budget" [No Clip]
8. On *Election Center* Rowland suggests NV Jim Gibbons' controversy may hurt McCain [no clip]
9. Senator Dick Durbin: McCain is an extension of Bush policies on economy and Iraq, on CNN [no clip]
10. Iraqis want America out of their country, CNN reports [no clip]
11. Al-Qaeda material leaked to CNN reveals that al-Qaeda in Iraq infiltrated Iraqi bases and American bases in Iraq [no clip]
12. As part of farewell portion of Bush's Europe trip, he admits regrets that he did not sell the war in Iraq better [no clip]
13. Bill O'Reilly reports that David Bossie plans to release a documentary critical of Obama [no clip]

Clips

Highlight #1

Romney Tells Blitzer McCain's Plans Won't Benefit Exxon-Mobil and They Don't Make Big Money (CNN 06/11/08 4:22pm)

WOLF BLITZER: A little commotion over Iraq today. Senator McCain was on The Today Show early this morning. He had this exchange with Matt Lauer. I'm going to play the whole thing and we'll talk about it.

[Clip]

BLITZER: All right, governor. The democrats, including Senator Obama's campaign and a lot of the democratic leadership in congress, they're really irate. They're saying—they're saying McCain is certainly out of touch when

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he says—quote—'that's not too important' when U.S. troops, 150,000 or so, still in Iraq, would be coming home. I wonder if you'd want to go to bat for senator McCain right now.

MITT ROMNEY: Pretty straightforward. He's pointing out the exact date when all of our troops come home is a lot less critical than whether we can stop casualties and whether we can stabilize the government in Iraq and make sure Al Qaeda doesn't have a safe haven from which they can launch attacks.

He's already indicated he'd like to have most of our troops home by the end of his first term. That's the goal that he has in mind. It's a goal he's pursuing. Clearly the key here is as John McCain predicted that the surge would work and Barack Obama said, 'No, it wouldn't. The surge is working.

That's the benefit of experience. Barack Obama's lack of experience is, I'm afraid, showing here. By the way, any time we're talking about Iraq and the fact John McCain was right and Barack Obama was wrong, that's helping the McCain story.

BLITZER: They're also pointing out—Senator Obama and other democrats, critics of the war, the Iranians seem to be the big winner in all this. They look at the most recent pictures of the Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki going once again to Tehran, kissing the Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as he's done before.

They say, 'What's going on?' the democrats accusing bush and McCain, for that matter, of allowing Iran to be the big strategic winner in that region as a result of the U.S. invasion. You want to respond to that charge?

ROMNEY: Once again you point out the peril of Barack Obama's inexperience. If we were to withdraw our troops in a precipitous manner we would leave the Iraqis no choice but to cozy up to Iran because Iran would become the superpower in the region. By stabilizing Iraq, making sure it's government and now it's 500,000 strong military, is independent and capable of protecting their own borders, that Iraq is able to follow its own course.

Of course they'll talk to their neighbors as they're doing now and have diplomatic outreach and see if they can't keep Iran from interfering with what's going on in Iraq but there's nothing more dangerous in the region than our withdrawing and having Iraq have nowhere to turn but to Ahmadinejad.

BLITZER: The U.S. is negotiating with the Iraqi government right now, the Bush administration, before the end of the this year, what's called a Status of Forces Agreement for a permanent or a long-term—let me say just a long-term, not necessarily a permanent, a long-term U.S. military presence in Iraq and apparently the Iraqi government, Nouri al-Maliki not very happy with what the U.S. is seeking. A close aide, if you will, to the prime minister saying this in the *Washington Post* today, 'The Americans are making demands that would lead to the colonization of Iraq. If we can't reach a fair agreement, many people think we should say, 'Good-bye, U.S. troops. We don't need you here anymore.'

If that's what the position of the Iraqi government, why should the U.S. force itself on them if they say better—we're better off, get out of here?

ROMNEY: There's no question we won't be forcing ourselves on them and the individual quoted does not speak for the prime minister or for the government. We will obviously work out an agreement as to what role we'll have on an ongoing basis and this is a, if you will, a post-conflict basis in that country to help secure their stability long term and to make clear to their neighbors that you don't come into Iraq and try and destabilize matter.

What the requirements are and what the final agreement will be is something that'll be worked out between both parties and I wouldn't add a lot of energy at this stage to what some people who are part of the negotiation are trying to leak for their benefit.

BLITZER: Let's make the turn to the economy, which is issue number one right now for American voters. Obama makes the point that, under the new tax cuts, that senator McCain is proposing, cut corporate tax rates out there, Exxon-Mobil and some of the other big oil companies, they'd reap a bonanza of additional tax breaks right now. Explain why it's appropriate at this time of rising gas prices for Exxon-Mobil, for example, to get additional

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tux cuts.

ROMNEY: No one is interested in giving additional tax cuts to Exxon-Mobil. Everybody's interested in giving additional tax cuts to people who are beginning businesses, particularly small business, and one thing we've learned by watching a nation like Ireland that was an economic basket-case is that when they lowered corporate tax rates it meant more corporations moved to their country or corporations grew and added jobs in their country. They're now the shining star of the European Union.

Lowering tax rates helps create jobs. I know the democrats fundamentally don't believe that but I think almost every economist will tell you that taxes slow down an economy and kill jobs. Lowering taxes adds jobs, adds businesses, adds employment. Right now, again, Barack Obama's inexperience is showing when he says let's raise taxes right now. That's the last thing you do in an economic slow down. Even he said maybe we ought to wait a while until the economy is stronger to raise taxes. I think he's pointing out, he knows raising taxes hurts growth, hurts jobs and that's the wrong way to go.

BLITZER: He says there should be a windfall profits tax on Exxon-Mobil and some of the other big oil companies. Would it be appropriate, do you think, that Senator McCain should have an exemption for Exxon-Mobil and other oil companies so they won't benefit from a reduction in overall corporate tax rates?

ROMNEY: I guess there is the politics of blackballing and scape-goating and trying to go after one company. Look, in the oil world, the people that are making the big money are not the oil companies. There's some of them out there, I'm sure, making a lot of money. The people making the big money are Russia, Iran and Venezuela. The people who have the oil. That's where the big oil is.

BLITZER: Exxon-Mobil had huge record profits.

ROMNEY: I'm not going to defend their profit other than it's the same as their profit in the past. it's a percentage of their sales. They're a bigger and bigger company. They have more profit.

If we're going to build our whole tax policy for the hundreds of thousands of corporations in America based on one company's tax posture, that's a little silly. We want to create jobs in this country. By the way, in the energy sector I want to see those guys investing in new refineries, new drilling.

I'd like to see Barack Obama say, 'You know what? We need more drilling in this country. We need more natural gas.' He said yesterday he wants to tax natural gas and coal in this country. Those are our sources of energy; other than the oil that we have to buy from other people. Let's have economic policies here that help America as opposed to try to scapegoat one or two companies.

Ridge Defends McCain, Invokes Family (FNC 06/11/08 5:10pm)
MEGYN KELLY: A firestorm is brewing tonight over John McCain's comments about our troops in Iraq. McCain was asked today if he could estimate when our troops can come home from Iraq saying in part quote 'that's not too important, what's important is the casualties' meaning how many casualties take place. Now democrats are blasting John McCain calling him quote 'confused, and unbelievably out of touch'

[...]

TOM RIDGE: It is totally out of context, totally unfair but in the existing political climate probably predictable. There is no other presidential candidate that has a personal experience in terms of understanding appreciating and experiencing the burden on military families. John McCain's grandfather, his father John, and his two sons all get it, and John gets it.

Perhaps even more importantly and I happen to agree whole heartedly with John the democrats want to talk about time tables for withdrawal Johns interested in a success of the surge and doing whatever we need to bring stability to that government so that it doesn't become a heaven for terrorist he said very clearly very distinctly. Again showing a lack of understanding from the Obama campaign you have to see what the situation is before you make any determination with regard to any withdraw schedule and you do rely on your commanders in the field to help you with that assessment so again predictable understandable out of context but

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we are going to see a lot more of this distortion in the days and months ahead in the campaign.

VoteVets's Brandon Friedman: McCain's Statements Are a Troop Moral Crusher, Doesn't Get a Free Pass (MSNBC 06/11/08 8:02pm)
KEITH OLBERMAN: How do veterans, how do veterans families feel when they hear that the man who wants to be the next commander in chief does not think it's too important when they come home?

BRANDON FRIEDMAN: Keith, this is a moral crusher. If you can imagine, say a sergeant, who's on his third tour and he's in the 13th month of that tour, and he hears the potential president saying something like this. It kills moral. The troops are over there, and you know, I've been there, I've had to deal with this. But the troops over there hang on every word they hear from a leader, especially the commander in chief, but also someone who could be the commander in chief. And when they hear something like this, it really kills them on the inside, because their families want them home, they want to come home, or focus on the real global war on terror elsewhere. But this is really killer when you hear something like this.

OLBERMAN: When I hear from servicemen or when I talk to vets, more than anything else, is their astonishment when generals or veterans like McCain, or the brass to use the general term there, don't get it. That of all people, these were the ones they naively thought would understand their risk and sacrifice. Does it matter more that they are abandoned by a John McCain who did serve, as opposed to a George Bush who did not?

FRIEDMAN: Absolutely Keith. We've come to not expect a whole lot from George W. Bush. But when you have a veteran like John McCain, who has gone through so much in Vietnam, you really expect a lot more out of him, because the way you see it as a soldier, or an airman, or a marine, or whatever, is that John McCain should know better. You know, he's been in our shoes, he's had it worse than most of us. But he should know better. For those of us that have been there, that have lived through this, we just would expect a lot more and it really saddens us to see this happen. Because there are thousands and thousands of veterans who just disagree with him on this.

OLBERMAN: And the Lieberman reaction, or the reaction to his reaction, where basically he referenced McCain's status as a veteran, as POW, as war hero as carte blanche for an excuse for this. McCain is immune to military criticism simply because he was a POW. That the merits can't even be discussed. Then that reminds me of every bit of army red tape I've ever heard of. Of every bit of censorship that the military sometimes invokes in times of war relative to its own personnel.

FRIEDMAN: Absolutely. We all respect John McCain's service. But he's not the only person who's suffered in war. We have troops coming home from this war who are quadriplegics, who've been maimed, who've have to go through so much. It doesn't give him a carte blanche reason to say something like that. He doesn't get a free pass. We've been over there too, we've been in war too, and we know what it's like. And he doesn't get a free pass, especially from us, because we hold him to a higher standard. All I can say is we respect John McCain's service, all we ask in return is that he respect ours. And for many of the people that I talk to, who are on active duty or have just come back from active duty but who have served over there, we don't feel like we are getting that a lot of the time.

Reid Responds to McCain's Today Show Comments, Says McCain is "Explosive" (MSNBC 06/11/08 3:39pm)
(clip of McCain on 'Today Show')

HARRY REID: This is in keeping with his prior statement that troops should be there and likely will be there for the next 50 or 100 years. I am sure he is not really concerned about when the troops are going to come home. We are. And that's a promise that Barack Obama has made to bring the troops home. He will bring them home soon.
[…]
NORAH O'DONNELL: You said about Sen McCain that his "temperament" is wrong.
[…]
REID: Anyone that's worked with John McCain knows about his temperament. I don't think we need to go any further than that. John McCain doesn't have the proper temperament to be President of the United States. He is wrong on the war, he's wrong on the economy

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O'DONNELL: When you say temperament, do you mean that he gets angry?

REID: Everyone that has worked with John McCain knows of his temper. He gets upset and is explosive, to say the least.

Andrea Mitchell Leads with 'Not Too Important,' Finds It Reminiscent of '100 Years' (MSNBC 06/11/08 1:03pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: […] the McCain and Obama camps are dueling today over what exactly John McCain meant when he answered a question about a timetable for troops to come home from Iraq […]. His answer—quote—that it wasn't 'too important' compared with casualties. It's what's fueling the uproar over [at] the Obama campaign today. […]

['That's not too important' clip]

MITCHELL: Of course John McCain had said something similar, not even this precise back in the New Hampshire primary and got himself into some difficulty. It's clear from that entire clip what the context was. He does talk about withdrawal. He does talk about his claim that the surge is working and the evidence on the ground that the surge is working […]. [H]ere's what Senator John Kerry said on a conference call with the Obama camp earlier today.

JOHN KERRY: It is unbelievably out of touch and inconsistent with the needs and concerns of Americans and particularly the families of the troops who are over there. To them it's the most important thing in the world when they come home and it's the most important thing in the world that we have a commander-in-chief who understands how you can bring them home.

ANDREA MITCHELL: […] Isn't it clear, though, though, the politics aside, but isn't it clear from what John McCain said that he was speaking more completely in the context of, yes, the troops will come home, but we got to get the casualties down?

LEE COWAN: I think you're right. I mean, the issue here isn't really all that different, as you said, than what McCain has said in the past. He's long said that what really matters to the country is reducing the number of casualties that are in Iraq, and its not so much the deployment of those troops that people are so worried about. It's the number of casualties, the level of violence. That's what he seemed to be indicating. It was sort of an awkward choice of phrase, i think would be fair to say at best, that it's not too important when they come home. You know, I think he said in the past obviously he wants to get as many people home as he can. Certainly he knows better than most what coming home means. So, it's one of these things -- and i think what's interesting, Andrea, at a time when both campaigns are trying so hard to focus on the economy, because they really think that's what's going to resonate with voters the most, something like this comes up and takes all the energy away from the economy and puts it right back on Iraq again.

MITCHELL: And, in fact, the Obama people clearly felt it was too good an opportunity to miss up, because it was as you most kindly put it, not as artful as it could have been. He could have not used the term "it's not too important." This is what helps them say he's out of touch, right?

COWAN: Right. And I think it's just those three words that got him into trouble today. And I think, you know, this -- this may be what we see for the next, you know, five months, Andrea. We're talking about a flurry of e-mails and conference calls and press avails later on about essentially half a sentence of something that might have been as you said not particularly artfully said, but it's going to be this sort of tit for tat, because these are the clear distinctions, it just emphasizes again just how different both sides are, and what the choices are that voters have. When it comes to Iraq, when it's something like this, when it's something that the Obama camp thinks is clear-cut, when it's something that the McCain campaign thinks is clear-cut, they're going to pounce on it. I think we'll see a lot more of this in the coming months.

MITCHELL: And as we've been talking, Joe Lieberman on a conference call, the McCain campaign has been saying that Barack Obama has been wrong on Iraq all along, that this is an attempt by the democrats to distract Americans from the fact that John McCain was courageous about the surge. This is what Joe Lieberman is

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saying, in having advocated the surge long before the Bush White House took his advice and did put more troops in, and that this is just partisan politics. And so the contest goes on. As you point out Lee, they are talking about Iraq, they aren't talking about the economy right now, despite the attempts by Democrats to keep all the focus on the economy.

Embedded Iraq Reporter Richard Engel Says McCain Isn't Speaking For The Troops Correctly (MSNBC 06/11/08 5:35pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Well reconcile, or put together, what John McCain just said on the Today Show with Matt Lauer about really having an indefinite commitment to staying there, with their concern that we have an indefinite commitment to staying there. Isn't John McCain saying the very thing their afraid of, that we're never going to leave?

RICHARD ENGEL: What John McCain said about the troops, uh, it isn't always, it's not what I'm always hearing from the troops themselves. He said that the most important thing for them is when they come back. Obviously it's very important for the troops and their families to know how long this commitment is.

McCain's Statements on Iraq Are Part of Bigger Issue Concerning Ideas For War With Iran (MSNBC 06/11/08 5:46pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Let me ask you a question, it seems to be that if we can elect a general Eisenhower who had won World War II, that we could have some confidence that he could end this war and end the casualties. But there's John McCain talking about becoming president, and basically reducing to almost none the casualties we face over there. How do you do that with a war still going on?

WAYNE SLATER: Well look, there's no way that any Democrat is going to seriously challenge John McCain and make people think that he doesn't care about the troops. There was something about the tone in what he said that suggested that that won't fly. But American's do care about when the troops come back. The rest of the statement about the casualties I think most Americans agree with. It's that business about how long are we going to be there, Americans do think it's important. I think the way it works against McCain is if Democrats are successful between now and November in tying that idea about staying there 100 years, 8 years, or it's not important, to the bigger idea, are we going to get mired down in something in Iran. We're going to hear a lot about Iran between now and November, to the extent that the people, on the Democratic side, can say McCain has these neo-cons around him who are likely to move us aggressively and bullishly in Iran. That's when it hurts.

MATTHEWS: Well in that point, George Woo was just in that chair, Tucker, the other night. And he said, if you vote for McCain you're voting for war. Because there's going to be a war with Iran. Because Iran wants a nuclear program, if they try to get one, we'll blow them up. We're going to war.

Highlight #2
Lack of Enthusiasm for Campaign and Lack of Support Among Conservatives Still a Major Issue for McCain (MSNBC 06/11/08 6:34pm)
STEPHEN HAYES: There are a lot of Republican, I think if you talk to Republicans out in the country today, there's a general lack of enthusiasm among conservatives for John McCain. This is not a secret, this is something the McCain campaign has been dealing with since actually in the primaries. And I think that question, the anticipated victor, reflects that concern.

DAVID GREGORY: Is this still grassroots support? Because, you know, if you look within, not particularly this poll, but in some other polls I've seen, he's still polling very high. I think about 95% of republicans with him. But that doesn't necessarily reflect enthusiasm to get out and vote.

HAYES: Yeah, I think that's right. What I think, basically, what you're talking about, what this question measures, is enthusiasm. And look, conservatives have said, some conservatives have said quite publicly that they're not enthusiastic about McCain, that they don't even intend to vote for him. So I think this is one issue that the McCain campaign is going to have to really focus in the coming weeks and months if they hope to turn out conservatives in the way that Rachel pointed out, in the way the Bush campaign did so successfully in 2004.

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Highlight #3
Leno Lampoons the GOP, Pokes Fun at McCain's Age (NBC 06/11/08 11:39pm)
JAY LENO: […] and you know John McCain, you know what a competitive guy he is.

KEVIN EUBANKS: Oh, yeah.

LENO: Well, yeah. Well, he wanted to show he could still ride. He pulled his old bike out of the cellar to prove he—here, show McCain.

[footage of man on giant, out-dated bicycle]

LENO: Here's McCain. There he is coming down.

[laughter]

LENO: Coming down the road.

[Man crashes]
LENO: Oh, oh, oh! oh, that's—[applause] and over the weekend, Barack Obama spoke with John McCain on the phone. I don't want to say McCain is getting old, but halfway through the conversation, McCain said to Barack, "Can you put your mommy on?"

So I think—[light laughter] and in his new blog—you know, he's got a blog. McCain has a blog now. He announced he is a huge Abba fan. Abba! Well, that will bring in the young voters, huh? [laughter] Come on, who isn't Abba-crazy these days? "Dancing queen!" Thank you.

EUBANKS: Oh, Jay—Jay, don't do that again. Don't—[laughter] don't do that.

LENO: And John McCain has a new slogan, "A leader we can believe in." That's a good slogan. Don't confuse that with President Bush's slogan, "We can't believe he is our leader." That's a totally different—[laughter] that's a totally different slogan. I don't want to go there.

And you may have heard, former republican presidential candidate, Mike Huckabee [is] being called a hero. He saved a man's life over the weekend, really, by performing the Heimlich maneuver. Saved a man from choking and, in a related story, senator Larry Craig performed the Heimlich maneuver on three men, none of whom were choking. [laughter]

EUBANKS: Oh, yeah?

LENO: And they were very surprised.

EUBANKS: Oh, really? [laughter]

LENO: You don't want to leave that stall door open. That's what can happen.

--
Jacob Roberts
Media Analyst
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From: "Ryan Anderson" <ryaneanderson@gmail.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/8/2009 5:30:58 AM
Subject: [big campaign] NO EXIT: Congressman Seeks to Fill Gap in Afghanistan War Funding Bill

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-andrews/no-exit-congressman-seeks_b_200028.html

NO EXIT: Congressman Seeks to Fill Gap in Afghanistan War Funding Bill

Tom Andrews
May 08, 2009

Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) is bothered by what's missing in the Supplemental Appropriation for Iraq and Afghanistan: an exit.

His modest proposal to fill that gap? Include a provision that requires the administration to develop an exit strategy for its military escalation in Afghanistan and report that strategy to Congress by the end of the year.

But this sensible requirement did not see the light of day when the House Appropriations Committee passed the war supplemental yesterday. The next stop for the bill–before the full House of Representatives can vote on it–is the Rules Committee. And, as a member of that Committee, Congressman McGovern is asking his colleagues to allow him the chance to offer this proposal as an amendment to the war supplemental on the floor of the House next week. The Committee will consider this request next Wednesday.

Congressman McGovern and this proposal deserve the support of his Committee and the House Democratic Caucus. To get that support, he needs us. Call your Member of Congress at (202) 224-3121 and urge them to support Rep. Jim McGovern's Afghanistan Exit Amendment.

Congressman McGovern is as worried as many of us are that the $94.2 billion war supplemental is going to fuel our nation's descent into a disastrous quagmire. He, like us, agreed with President Obama when he told the nation on *60 Minutes* that when it comes to the war in Afghanistan: "There's got to be an exit strategy".

Many of our NATO allies agree as well. The leader of Canada's Liberal Party told me last week that the only way Canada citizens would support sending *any* troops was if there was a clear exit strategy with a date certain for their withdrawal. As a result, all Canadian soldiers will be on their way home by 2011.

And we've already seen how the lack of an exit strategy is making things worse in Afghanistan . Not only does the presence of foreign troops unite our opponents , but our seemingly endless presence also hurts our ability to elicit the support of key regional players like Russia and China . Maybe that's why over 80% of Afghans oppose an escalation of American troops in their country.

The good news from yesterday is that the Appropriations' Committee voted in an amendment from Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA) that pushes back on mission creep in Iraq. The amendment put Congress on record in support of President Obama's policy to withdraw all US combat forces from Iraq by August 2010 and *all* of the remaining US forces by the end of 2011. It also orders the Pentagon to provide Congress with a detailed month-by-month report on how the troops, contractors and equipment are being removed.

But we still need an exit strategy for US military action in Afghanistan. Luckily, there is still time to fill this dangerous gap. We must let Members of Congress know that Congressman McGovern should be allowed to offer his Afghanistan Exit Amendment on the floor of the House. And, once it's there, it should be passed overwhelmingly.

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The Rules Committee takes up Congressman McGovern's modest proposal next Wednesday. Call your Member of Congress at (202) 224-3121 and urge them to support Rep. Jim McGovern's Afghanistan Exit Amendment. Let's help Congress take this modest step forward to prevent "Obama's War" from becoming *Endless War* in Afghanistan.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 7/2/2015 12:08:01 PM
Subject: Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer--NOT FOR CIRCULATION

Dear Jake,

I met with Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer just now to brief him on our JPPI meeting with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet this past Sunday in Jerusalem, and on another matter.

Let me premise this summary by telling you that we are so personally close to him that my late wife Fran and I went to his Bar Mitzvah in Miami (tragically, his father, the Mayor of Miami Beach died of a heart attack two weeks before the event). We have been close ever since, although our politics are far apart. Also, I am fully and painfully aware of his role in the Romney-Obama election. That having been said, what he said to me after I briefed him on the report Dennis Ross and I gave to the Prime Minister and Cabinet on the JPPI Annual Assessment of the State of the Jewish People, is worth considering.

1. IRAN

He told me the following:

(1) He understands that Hillary will have to support the Iran nuclear deal. He is concerned that for the balance of Obama's term, Iran could "blackmail" the Administration by threatening to withdraw from the agreement if the U.S. contends they have violated some provision of the agreement.

(2) It is important that even as Hillary endorses the agreement, and says she would vote for it if she was in the Senate, she "should not get too invested in it".

(3) She should "list the concerns "she has with it, while saying that "it is better than no deal".

(4) In addition, she should commit:

(a) That as President she will confront Iran's challenges in other areas (terrorism, Syria, Iraq);
(b) That she will maintain all the non-nuclear sanctions on Iran (human rights, terrorism, etc.);
(c) Join her support for the nuclear deal with a "strong statement that as President she would strengthen all of the US allies in the region, starting with Israel", and will "redouble efforts to work closely with Israel".
(d) Oppose the UN Resolution.

(5) He is "worried that things will get off the rails" when an agreement is reached. He noted with greater concern, saying "it was embarrassing" that Jack Lew was booed during a recent speech at a Jerusalem Post forum, when he was defending a nuclear deal. Hillary should avoid being put in that position. He is concerned the coming Iran battle will "shift downward the American-Israel" relationship.

(6) The Administration is "tone deaf" about the "existential threat" to Israel from Iran. Hillary should recognize and empathize with Israel's concerns with the Iran deal.

(7) He thought three weeks ago that there was only a 10% chance of a congressional veto override; now he feels there is a 30% chance, as opposition is building and the gaps in the agreement are becoming clearer.

2. BDS

(1) They will shortly expose the funding base for the main BDS group on campus, Students for Justice in Palestine, which tie it with terrorist funding.

(2) He agrees there should be a "big tent" to combat BDS of all pro-Israel, anti-BDS groups. But he distinguishes between liberal groups like Peace Now, which he supports, and JStreet, which he does not. The reason, he said, is that although they are officially anti-BDS, they actively lobby against Israeli positions supported by a democratically elected government in Israel, and are constantly critical of Israel, rather than the Palestinians. By lobbying Congress and the Administration against Israeli positions they are "denying Israel's right to self-determination." They are lobbying to change what the popularly elected government of Israel supports.

(3) He is doubtful the position Dennis and I took before the Cabinet, that not expanding settlements outside the established blocs would have much effect on BDS followers.

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(4) The key is to expose BDS as anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. There is no other country where there is a BDS campaign to change their policy. Israel is being held to a double standard. If those who supported BDS also supported against other countries (Saudi Arabia, China, et al) then at least there is some consistent principle. But by singling out Israel, it exposes an anti-Semitic basis for their efforts.

Perhaps some of this will be helpful. Please do not circulate this beyond the immediate people I have copied.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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From:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	4/23/2015 8:50:30 AM
Subject:	FW: Quick roundup of media tweets about the Medium post

H/t Jesse L for compiling

Gabriel Debenedetti, POLITICO @gdebenedetti
Team Clinton's aggressive response, in 3 @brianefallon notes:
1. http://politi.co/1zK4vyk
2. http://politi.co/1I0F1nk
3. http://bit.ly/1I0EYrH

Dan Merica, CNN @danmericaCNN
Brian Fallon, the Clinton campaign's spokesman, uses @Medium to push back against today's NYT/Clinton Cash story. https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Alex Seitz-Wald, MSNBC @aseitzwald
Clinton spox @brianefallon gives lengthy rebuttal to NYT uranium story on @Medium. https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Liz Kreutz, ABC News @ABCLiz
Clinton team fights back on NYT story & "Clinton Cash" (on Medium)
[Retweeted Brian Fallon]

Zeke Miller, TIME @ZekeJMiller
.@brianefallon takes to Medium to challenge NYT reporting on anti-Clinton book https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Emily Schultheis, National Journal @emilyrs
Clinton camp responds to NYT story, via spokesman @brianefallon on Medium: https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Mark Murray, NBC News @mmurraypolitics
Clinton campaign issues rebuttal to NYT article, arguing there was no quid-pro-quo in Russia uranium deal https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Jose DelReal, Washington Post @jdelreal
Summary of Clinton statement on NYT story:
1) HRC wasn't direclty involved in review
2) one donor actually had no stake in the company 1/3
…
Jose DelReal, Washington Post @jdelreal
3) another key donor says he didn't speak to the clintons about it,
4) the state dept was just 1 of 9 agencies involved in review (2/3)
…
Jose DelReal, Washington Post @jdelreal
5) and Clinton was no longer sec state when the deal was finalized (3/3) https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Katherine Miller, BuzzFeed @katherinemiller
Brian Fallon push back on NYT
https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Phil Mattingly, Bloomberg @Phil_Mattingly
.@brianefallon gets into the @Medium game, launches Clinton campaign pushback on Foundation story https://

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medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Paul Lewis, The Guardian **@PaulLewis**
Hillary Clinton's spokesman's five-punch retaliation against the New York Times over its foundation reporting: https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Justin Sink, The Hill **@justinsink**
Clinton campaign spox @brianefallon is pulling a @danpfeiffer and using @Medium to push back on NYT story https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 5:15:22 AM
Subject: Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

Do we need to push it harder over the next few days? Get something written? I feel like we're going to want something to point to. Or maybe even just content on the website?

On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:12 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

That's basically the goal of the BDS letter.

On Fri, Jul 3, 2015 at 12:11 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I was just thinking: has she made a clear statement on Israel yet? I get this question from donors all the time. Does she need to state her principles on Israel before Iran? Or do both at the same time?

On Jul 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html

Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama

But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran deal.

By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT

Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.

But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have

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emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.

Story Continued Below

Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test; donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

"That's just smart politics," said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. "Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was?"

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Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was “very supportive of the negotiating process,” the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. “So it seemed like she was supporting it,” recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a “perception” problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

“Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I’ve got my own relationships,” she said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal. “I know Michael well, but I haven’t read the book,” she said.

At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel’s security. “She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel,” recalled Jacobs. “And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer.”

Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. “She said ‘I’m going to do what’s in the best interest of the U.S.,’ and that was the end of it,” Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, “although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it’s got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people.” He urged Jewish donors “to take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits,” adding: “I’d hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support.”

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton’s senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

“It’s a tricky issue for her,” said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran “are going to put her

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in a box."

Clinton's allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. "I know where she stands, but I can't talk about it," Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, "She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don't need to worry about this."

He soon backtracked, saying "I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal."

And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn't hold as much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

"Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount of love for the Clintons, but I don't think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is," said the donor.

Saban's representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban's financial support will not be conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn't going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

"Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No," he said. "Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3."

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. "Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It's broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate," he said. "So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama's support who will at

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least give her view a more open-minded assessment."

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

"If there's a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her," said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group's members regard her as too hawkish for their tastes.

"For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy," said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street's PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his support for a deal to the candidate.

"She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community."

Authors:

View Comments

--
Ian Sams
(423) 915-6592

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From: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 1:26:41 PM
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: Statement for NYT story on Clinton Cash

Can people weigh in quickly? To make this into the paper we need to respond right away.

On Sun, Apr 19, 2015 at 8:23 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Thanks Brian - looks good

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2015, at 8:09 PM, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

All,

As you are all aware, Jo Becker from the NYT's investigative unit is one of several reporters at work on stories based on material provided by the publisher of the upcoming Clinton Cash book. Jo's story is scheduled to run in as soon as one week.

Separately, this afternoon, Amy Chozick from the NYT called us to indicate she had obtained a copy of the book on her own and intends to file a separate story tomorrow. Her story will not unpack all of the book's claims -- she will leave that to Jo. Instead, she will do a more process-y story about the book's existence, the fact that the publisher has approached multiple media outlets in advance of the book's publication to spoon-feed them some of the book's research, and also remark on the fact that Rand Paul continues to drop hints about the book's contents such that it appears they may be some coordination with individual Republican campaigns.

We think this story, though it was not originated by us, could end up being somewhat helpful in casting the book's author as having a conservative agenda. Moreover, we think Amy is suspicious of the arrangements that the book's publisher has reached with the various media outlets (including her own paper). In fact, Jo Becker is apparently trying to get this story killed because she thinks it will undermine her investigative piece later this month. But so far it is running in tomorrow's paper.

Amy is seeking a response from us on what our approach is to the looming publication of the book and the apparently well coordinated rollout. We have drafted the below response, and wanted you all to see it and provide feedback before we sent it off. Please note, however, that in order to get the statement into the story, we probably need to provide it by about 8:30 tonight. So apologies for the tight turnaround, but here it is:

> "We always expected that while Hillary Clinton was focused on how to help everyday Americans get ahead, the Republicans would focus their efforts on attacks rather than ideas. It appears that this book is being used to aid this coordinated attack strategy, twisting previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories. It will not be the first work of partisan-fueled fiction about the Clintons' record, and we know it will not be the last."

Thank you,
Brian

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From:	"Emily Klein" <emily@flextimeglobal.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	4/6/2015 3:47:41 AM
Subject:	Met at Kafe Leopold in Georgetown

John,

We met the week before last at Kafe Leopold in Georgetown as I was en route back to Boston. I was sitting with two colleagues next to your table when I noticed you were there having lunch with Donna Shalala. Thank you for your willingness to connect and share your email address with me.

I've long held an interest in politics, spent a decade living and working in DC after graduate study at GW, as I had mentioned, in public policy and public administration. I am a registered Independent voter, voted for Obama in the last two elections, and also have voted for Republicans in Gubernatorial races here in Massachusetts.

I am excited about the prospect of Hillary running for the presidency again, yet as a middle-aged (47) professional, I'm not yet convinced she is my candidate. For the first time in my voting history, I know that my vote cast will not be based on gender or social issues alone. Yet at the same time, when my 8 year old daughter turned to me last year to say it would be great to see Hillary the first woman president, I had to agree if for no other reason than seeing in her young eyes the hope and possibility that a statement like that could reveal.

In preparation for a campaign announcement and the months ahead, what I wanted to share with you are a few perspectives on things I believe the Hillary campaign strategy should address:

Congruence:

Hillary is a historical figure, a woman with phenomenal accomplishments, but presents in public with a lot of incongruity. For example, in terms of income inequality, how can Hillary project empathy and humility when the majority of her life, at least the last 25+ years of it, was spent in the 1%? Given campaign finance her relationships with Wall St is understood. Yet what does it mean to have these relationships and campaign for closing the income inequality gap? In what ways will Hillary's goals about addressing income inequality be innovative, realistic and actionable? In what ways can they include Wall St. banks?

How can Hillary's campaign platform focus on advancing women and children's issues when the Clinton Foundation receives donations from countries with blatant disregard for women's rights? In what ways can she explain this publicly and authentically without political spin?

Purple:

The ability to reach across party lines and strive for bipartisanship is a worthy ideal despite the polarizing environment that occupies Washington. Emphasizing how Hillary will work with the Republican congress going forward is as essential as showcasing ways she has done this in the past. What are her views on defense, immigration and healthcare that are not entirely in lock step with President Obama's, for example? How can that appeal to the Independent voter that does not vote party line?

Foreign Policy

Foreign policy is a top campaign issue for 2016. Many Americans have been disturbed about Obama's foreign policy

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missteps, and have not felt safer in an increasingly dangerous world rife with radical Islamic extremists. The general sentiment about President Obama's earlier statements on ISIS (J.V team, not having a strategy to combat it, not using the verbiage radical Islamists) left the American voting public uneasy about the ability of the Democratic party to execute a muscular approach to military and diplomatic affairs. While I thought the NYT article yesterday on the Obama Doctrine was excellent, many Americans remain skeptical about a successful Iranian deal that cuts off pathways to nuclear weapons with a country unlikely to loosen its grip on extreme religious ideology, the form that teaches hate and destruction to its youngest citizens and sponsors terrorism.

Hillary's depth of knowledge related to world affairs and foreign policy should include a strategy for communicating a forward thinking geopolitical vision in ways that present her unique strengths. This foreign policy strategy needs to convince the voting public why Hillary, why now, (in part, by compare to Obama) and to her Republican challengers who will do everything to associate her with past missteps and perceived party weaknesses.

Engagement

Thriving companies in the private sector are focused on increasing transparency, flattening hierarchies and encouraging employee engagement.

How can Hillary create a digital campaign to engage US citizens in a large-scale dialogue that's unique: social media, video, crowd-sourcing ideas, online events? Engaging the hearts and minds of the American voters in 2015-2016 should be an exercise in transparency, collaboration and one that goes beyond party platform, beyond label and beyond gender alone.

John, thank you for taking the time to read this (long!) note. If there's a chance for us to meet, either here in the Boston/ New England region or in Washington DC, I'd be excited by the opportunity to discuss campaign strategy with you further, especially around ways that will appeal to voters beyond the base.

Sincerely,

Emily

--
Emily Klein
Flextime Global
emily@flextimeglobal.com
Mobile: 617.599.9550
LinkedIn | @flextimeglobal

Co-Author of Workshift: Future-Proof Your Organization for the 21st Century (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)
Transforming Organizations From The Inside Out

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From:	"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "David Binder" <David@db-research.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/27/2015 8:22:10 AM
Subject:	RE: NH Primary Toplines and Memo

Couple additional things here. First, a reminder that we'll have Iowa top-lines on Monday.

second, while Brodnitz will walk us through these numbers on Tuesday, flagging this chart that highlights the ideological and gender gaps on the head-to-heads in NH.

PrimB, LeanB, CertB2 Ranked by All	All	Gender		Party Reg		Ideology	
		M	F	Dem	Ind	Lib	Mod/ Con
Difference (HRC-Sanders)	***+17***	***-1***	***+29***	***+17***	***+18***	***-1***	***+34***
Clinton w/leaners	*53*	*44*	*59*	*53*	*53*	*46*	*60*
Sanders w/leaners	*36*	*45*	*30*	*36*	*35*	*47*	*26*
O'Malley w/leaners	*2*	*4*	*1*	*2*	*2*	*2*	*3*
Chafee w/leaners	*1*	*1*	*1*	*1*	*2*	*1*	*2*
Other w/leaners	*3*	*3*	*4*	*4*	*3*	*3*	*3*
Don't know w/leaners	*4*	*3*	*5*	*4*	*5*	*2*	*7*

From: Oren Shur [mailto:oshur@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 8:39 AM
To: 'Joel Benenson'; 'Mandy Grunwald'; 'Jim Margolis'; Robby Mook (re47@hillaryclinton.com); 'David Binder'; 'John Anzalone'; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; Tony Carrk; Christina Reynolds; 'John Podesta'; Mike Vlacich
Cc: 'Peter Brodnitz'; 'Melissa Bell'
Subject: FW: NH Primary Toplines and Memo

Team –

Attached are the toplines from the NH primary survey and a cover letter from Brodnitz (also pasted below). We're working with your assistants to schedule a call to review these results, likely on Tuesday morning.

Thanks.

To: Hillary Clinton for President Consultant Team
From: Pete Brodnitz
Date: June 27, 2015
Re: Topline Results

Horse-race

The last survey was conducted in February. Now that the race has become more engaged, the ballot in New Hamphsire has tightened considerably, but Secretary Clinton maintains a double digit lead over Sanders (48% support for Secretary Clinton, 34% for Bernie Sanders, 2% for Martin O'Malley, 1% for Lincoln Chafee, 2% "other" and 13% undecided).

Ballot Tracking

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	Feb 2015	June 2015	Δ
Difference (HRC-Sanders)	***+61***	***+14***	***-47***
Hillary Clinton	73	48	***-25***
Bernie Sanders	12	34	***+22***
Martin O'Malley	2	2	***n/c***
Lincoln Chafee		1	
Jim Webb	3		
Other	2	2	***n/c***
Don't Know	9	13	***+4***

**Note: In February Jim Webb was asked. In June, Lincoln Chafee was asked.*

When undecided voters are pushed to make a choice, Clinton's lead breaks the 50% threshold while Sanders' vote share sees little movement (53% Clinton and 36% Sanders).

Sanders has raised his name identification and favorables considerably since we last polled. His name ID has increased from 52% to 77% and his favorability increased from 44% to 70%. Secretary Clinton's overal favorabilitiy is 85% with 12% unfavorable. Currently Sanders' very favorable is 46% while that for Secretary Clinton's is 39%.

The Sanders vote does not appear to be an anti-Clinton vote. Clinton is the second choice of most Sanders voters. Almost seven in ten (66%) of Sanders voters say Secretary Clinton is their second choice preference.

As of now, only about three in ten voters are familiar enough to have an opinion of Martin O'Malley or Lincoln Chafee, respectively.

As shown in the ballot progression below, after voters hear a positive profile of both Sanders and O'Malley, Sanders gains 3% and O'Malley gains 4% support. Once voters subsequently heard a positive profile of Secretary Clinton the ballot reverts to close to initial ballot support. Providing voters negative information about both Clinton and Sanders did not significantly change ballot support. In fact, the final ballot (which comes after negative information about both Clinton and Sanders) is almost identical to the initial ballot – a 13% HRC advantage, compared with an initial 14% advantage.

Ballot Progression

I know it's a long way off, but if the **Democratic primary** for **President** were held today, would you vote for…?

Ranked by PrimB	Initial Ballot (PrimB)	Ballot After Sanders/ O'Malley Profile (Q28)	Ballot After HRC Profiles (Q32)			Ballot After HRC Negatives (Q45)	Ballot After Sanders Negatives (Q54)
			All	Heard Values	Heard Policy		
Difference (HRC-Sanders)	***+14***	***+7***	***+12***	***+11***	***+15***	***+8***	***+13***
Hillary Clinton	48	44	48	48	50	46	48
Bernie Sanders	34	37	36	37	35	38	35
Martin O'Malley	2	7	5	5	6	6	6
Lincoln Chafee	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Other	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know	13	9	8	8	7	8	8

The Candidates

When asked what words they associate with Clinton, the responses were generally positive and describe Clinton as strong, intelligent and capable. They described Sanders as honest/trustworthy, a liberal/progressive and other generally positive characteristics.

However, when asked about recent coverage of Clinton, we see that the negative coverage has cut through. When asked what they've recently heard, most voters report hearing about the email scandal (32%), contributions to the Clinton Foundation (14%) or stories surronding Benghazi (10%).

When presented with a series of attributes and asked how well it applies to Clinton, voters were most likely to ascribe strength, ability to make tough choices and fights for people like you to Clinton. Clinton performed the worst on holding Wall Street accountable, being in touch with the lives of ordinary Americans and being genuine.

Half of all likely voters (51%) describe Clinton as moderate whereas close to half (46%) describe Sanders as very liberal. Notably, most primary voters describe themslves as liberal (50%) and only 38% describe themselves as moderate.

Message/Policy

While a majority of likely voters (50%) do not hold a position on TPP, among those who do the intensity of opposition is higher than the intensity of support (10% strongly support vs. 19% strongly oppose).

Meanwhile, a majority of voters prefer Clinton's approach to the banking industry of holding top executives accountable compared to Sanders' approach of breaking up the banks (regardless of whether we reference the recovering economy or not). It should be noted that neither candidate's name was associated with the position tested and that Clinton's weakest attribute is her abiilty to hold Wall Street accountable.

After voters hear a positive profile on both Sanders and O'Malley, Clinton's lead dops to a seven point margin (44% Clinton, 37% Sanders, 7% O'Malley, 1% Chafee, 2% other and 9% don't know). However, once voters hear a positive profile on Clinton she re-gains her double-digit lead (+12 points).

- On a topline basis the two paragraphs about Hillary Clinton tested, one focusing on values and the other policy, are comparable. Further analysis will be needed to see if they perform differently among sub-groups.

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Secretary Clinton's top vulnerability tested in this poll is the attack that claims as Secretary of State she signed off on a deal that gave the Russian government control over twenty percent of America's uranium production, after investors in the deal donated over one hundred and forty million dollars to the Clinton Foundation. Half of all likely voters (53%) are less likely to support Clinton after hearing that statement and 17% are much less likely to support her after that statement.

After voters heard a battery of negatives on Secretary Clinton, their top concern was that she does not seem honest (16%).

Sanders' chief vulnerability tested is his record on guns. Almost a quarter of all voters (23%) are much less likely and more than six in ten (63%) are less likely to support Sanders after hearing that the NRA helped Sanders win a seat in Congress, that he opposed the Brady Gun Bill, supports allowing guns on passenger trains and supported a bill designed to protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits filed by families of victims of gun crimes like the Sandy Hook parents. As we heard in the recent focus groups, the issue of gun control is particularly salient given the recent shootings in Charleston, South Carolina.

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From: Tikkun <magazine@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 10/23/2015 7:09:34 AM
Subject: Uri Avnery on Israeli Racism, with a preface from Rabbi Lerner

Tikkun { tē-kün } to heal, repair, and transform the world

You can read this article online at http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/25311 and circulate it to others!

Uri Avnery on Israeli Racism

with a prefatory note from Rabbi Michael Lerner

October 23, 2015

Editor's Note: The sad reality of racism in Israel (the latest incident discussed by Uri Avnery below) has been known to many of us for decades–a tragedy for a people which has suffered so much from the racism directed against us. Its first manifestation was in the early Zionist claim that its attempt to build a Jewish society in Palestine was merely directing Jewish refugees to a "land without people for a people without a land"--making invisible the hundreds of thousands of Arabs who lived there by the early part of the 20th century. Next manifestation was in the scorn and discrimination with which Sepahrdic/Mizrachi Jews escaping from Arab countries were treated by Ashkenazi Jews who shaped the Yishuv (the pre-1948 Jewish settlements in Palestine). It has reached monumental proportions against Palestinians in contemporary Israel, yet most Israelis pretend that their discriminatory treatment of Palestinians is only a reaction to the the insecurity that Jewish Israelis feel in relationship to the Palestinians, denying the other element that is a major part of the psychodynamics of the conflict, namely the guilt that Israelis feel at being oppressors which is then denied, repressed, split off, and manifests in racist portrayals of those they are dominating and hurting. Yet finally in the last few years that racism became harder to deny as it manifested toward African refugees seeking asylum in Israel and the many other non-Jews who Israel imported to fill the menial jobs that would no longer be filled by Palestinians once Israel decided to cut off the Gaza- or West Bank-located Palestinians from working in Israel. Now this latest incident which Avnery discusses below demonstrates the racism ever more clearly, and tragically. For those of us who care deeply about the Jewish people and worry about the tendency in much of the Jewish world to blindly worship the State of Israel (the latest manifestation of the idolatry that has often undermined true Jewish commitment to God), this racism is particularly distressing.

Yet it is a bit problematic for us in the U.S. to get too self-righteous about Israeli racism, without also acknowledging that racism is deep within almost every form of nationalism on the planet (certainly there in Russia, China, the Arab states, the European states turning away Syrian refugees, and the list goes on and on). Most obvious is the racism that continues to shape American society, from its beginnings in the genocide of Native Americans and the enslavement of Africans, but carrying right through to this moment when so much of the appeal of the Republican Party is based on its (sometimes covert signals, but just as often overt policies) racism against African Americans, Latinos, and the list grows. So much of what resonates in the Republican's call for reduced size of government is the covert message that "those people" (the non-white minorities) are getting too much from the government, and "our money" is being given to "them." The huge shift in American politics in the 1970s and 80s came when the Democrats were perceived as having become champions of an anti-racist agenda (a huge exaggeration, to be sure, since Democrats barely touched the economic foundations of contemporary racism), and so the former racists of the South and MidWest who had aligned with the Democratic Party jumped to a Republican Party no

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longer connected with the legacy of its first president Abraham Lincoln and by the 70s and 80s clearly willing to assault all those who cared for the most oppressed minorities. Their base, ironically, was often white middle income and working class people whose economic interests were better served by the Democrats but who could not withstand the allure of racist hatred offered through the code language of the Republicans (not the whole story, to be sure, as I demonstrate in my 2006 book *The Left Hand of God: Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right,*in which I offer a strategy to change these dynamics). So we in the West must approach the racism in Israeli society with a bit of humility about our own failure to deal with racism in our own societies. But for those of us who love Israel, it is nevertheless appropriate to express sadness at the way our own people have shut their hearts to "the stranger/the Other/ha'ger" even at the expense of ignoring one of the Torah's most frequently repeated commands: to love and not oppress the stranger/theOther (in Hebrew: *ha'ger*), reminding us some 2,500 years ago *kee gerim hayeetem be'eretz Mitzrahyim* (because YOU were the Other, the stranger in the land of Egypt). It is with this sadness that we read (below) Uri Avnery, the leader of Israel's widely respected peace movement Gush Shalom.

– Rabbi Michael Lerner RabbiLerner.tikkun@gmail.com

****

Uri Avnery

October 24, 2015 Tel Aviv, Israel

Weep, Beloved Country

SOMETIMES, A small incident can pierce the darkness and reveal a frightening picture.

This happened last Sunday in Beersheba, the capital of the Negev.

The picture was frightening indeed.

THE INCIDENT started as a routine attack, one of many we have become used to in recent weeks. Some call it "the Third Intifada", some speak of a "Terror Wave", some are satisfied with "Escalation".

It is a new stage in the old conflict. Its symbol is the knife-wielding lone Palestinian individual – either from East Jerusalem, the West Bank or Israel proper.

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It is not connected with any of the Palestinian parties. Before the deed, the attacker had no known connection with any militant group. He or she is completely unknown to the Israeli Security Service. Hence it is impossible to prevent such actions.

One morning the future shahid wakes up, feels that the time has come, takes a large kitchen knife, goes to a Jewish neighborhood and stabs the nearest Israeli Jew, preferably a soldier, but when there are no soldiers around – any Jewish civilian, man, woman or even child.

The attacker knows well that they will probably be killed on the spot. They want to become a shahid – a martyr, literally "witness to the faith".

In earlier intifadas, the attackers were generally members of organizations or cells. These cells were invariably infiltrated by paid traitors, and almost all perpetrators were caught, sooner or later. Many such acts were prevented.

The present outbreak is different. Since they are carried out by lone individuals, no spies are aware of them. The acts cannot be stopped in advance. They can occur anywhere, anyplace – In Jerusalem, in the other occupied territories, in the heart of Israel proper. Any Israeli, anywhere, can be knifed.

To get the whole picture, one must add to this the stone-throwing groups of Palestinian youngsters and children along the highways. The groups form suddenly, spontaneously, generally composed of local teenagers, and throw stones and firebombs at passing cars – first making sure that they are Jewish Israeli. Often they are joined by mere children, who are eager to prove their courage and devotion to Allah. One caught was 13 years old.

Stone-throwing incidents sometimes lead to the death of drivers, who lose control of their cars. The army responds with teargas, rubber-coated steel bullets (which cause acute pain but rarely kill) and live ammunition.

THE OUTBREAK – which does not yet have a definite name – started several weeks ago in East Jerusalem. As usual, one may add.

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The center of the Arab Old City is the holy place called by the Jews "the Temple Mount" and by the Arabs "Haram al-Sharif" – the Holy Shrine. It is where the ancient Jewish temples once stood.

After the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans some 1945 years ago, the place was desecrated by the Christians who turned it into a dunghill. When it was conquered by the Muslims in 635, the humane Khalif Omar ordered it cleaned. Two holy Muslim buildings were erected – the beautiful Dome of the Rock, with its conspicuous golden dome, and the even holier al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest mosque in Islam.

If one wants to cause trouble, this is the place to start. The cry that al- Aqsa is in danger arouses every Palestinian, and every Muslim around the world. It excites moderately religious Muslims (as most Arabs are) as well as religious fanatics. It is a call to arms, to self-sacrifice.

This has happened several times in the past. The terrible "events" of 1929, in which the ancient Jewish community in Hebron was massacred, were started by a Jewish provocation at the Western Wall, part of the wall that encloses the Mount. The second intifada broke out because Ariel Sharon led a provocative demonstration on the Mount, with the express permission of the then Labor Party Prime Minister, Ehud Barak.

The present trouble started with visits by Jewish extreme right-wing leaders, including a minister and members of the Knesset, to the Temple Mount. This in itself is not forbidden. (Except by Orthodox Jewish law, because ordinary Jews are not allowed to tread were once the Holy of Holies was located.) The mount is a paramount tourist attraction.

To regulate things, something called the Status Quo is in place. When the Israeli army occupied East Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-day war, it was decided that the Temple Mount enclosure, though now under Israeli rule, would be run by Muslims under Jordanian jurisdiction. (Why Jordanian? Because Israel did not agree to Palestinian jurisdiction.) Jews were allowed to enter the enclosure, but not to pray there.

Binyamin Netanyahu maintains that the Status Quo was not broken. But lately groups of fanatical right-wing Israelis have entered the enclosure, protected by the Israeli police, and prayed. For the Muslims, that was a breach of the status.

Moreover, much publicity has been given to Jewish groups who are preparing to rebuild the Jewish Temple after destroying the Muslim shrines. The clothes and instruments prescribed by the Bible are being prepared by fanatics.

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In normal times, at a normal place, this could be settled peacefully. But not on the Temple Mount, and not now, with Jewish settlers starting to secure footholds in the Arab villages surrounding the Shrines. All over the occupied territories and among the Arab citizens of Israel the cry went up: the Holy Places are in danger. The Israeli leaders shouted back that this was all a pack of lies.

Young Palestinians took up the knives and started stabbing Israelis, knowing full well that they would probably be shot dead on the spot. Israeli leaders called upon Jewish citizens to bear arms at all times and shoot at once when they see an attack. There are now several such incidents every day. Altogether, this month eight Jews have been killed, together with 18 suspects and 20 other Palestinians.

This, then, is the background of the Beersheba outrage.

IT HAPPENED in the central bus station of the desert capital, a town of about 250,000 Jews, mostly of Oriental background, surrounded by numerous Bedouin townships and encampments.

Three persons figure in the incident.

The first was a 19 year old soldier, Omri Levi. He got down from a bus and entered the large station building, when he was killed by an Arab attacker, who grabbed his weapon. We know very little about the soldier, just a nice-looking 19 year-old.

The second person was the attacker, 21 year old Muhammad al-Okbi. Surprisingly, he was a Bedouin from the surroundings with no security-risk past. Surprising, because many Bedouins volunteer for the Israeli army, serve in the Police or study at Beersheba University. This does not prevent the Israeli government trying to grab the land of the tribes and re-settle them in crowded little townships.

Nobody knows why this boy of the desert decided, on waking up that day, to become a Shahid and go on a rampage. His extended family seems as perplexed as everyone else. It seems that he had become very religious and and was reacting to the al- Aqsa incidents. Also, like all Bedouins in the Negev, has was certainly upset by the government's efforts to dispossess them.

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So he shot at the bystanders – either with a pistol in his possession or with the weapon he had grabbed from the soldier. After reading tens of thousands of words, I am still not quite sure.

BUT THE person who drew the most attention was neither the soldier nor the assailant, but the third victim.

His name was Haftom Zarhim, a 29 year old refugee from Eritrea – one of 50,000 or so Africans who illegally crossed the border into the Negev. He was completely innocent. He just happened to enter the building behind the assailant, and some bystanders mistook him for an accomplice. He did not look Jewish.

He was shot and wounded. While lying on the floor, bleeding and helpless, the mob surrounded him, kicking him from all sides, several kicking his head. He arrived dead at the hospital. The entire scene was gleefully photographed by a bystander with his smartphone and shown on all TV news programs.

There is no way around it: this was an incident of vicious racism, pure and simple. The barbaric treatment of wounded Palestinian assailants by an excited mob can somehow be understood – not excused, not condoned, but at least understood. We have a conflict that has already lasted more than 130 years, on both sides several generations have been brought up in mutual hatred.

But asylum seekers? They are almost universally hated. Why? Only because they are foreigners, non-Jews. Even the color of their skins cannot provide a full explanation – after all we now have quite a number of dark-skinned Ethiopian Jews, who are accepted as "ours".

The gruesome lynching of the dying Haftom was totally ugly, totally detestable. It could lead one to despair of Israel – If it were not for one anonymous middle-aged bystander, who returned to the scene two days later, retelling the story on TV, admitting that he could not sleep since then – and weeping.

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510-644-1200
Fax 510-644-1255

empowered by salsa

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/7/2015 1:20:30 PM
Subject: Important Briefing on the War on Terror in Syria

The Common Good

You are cordially invited to

luncheon and discussion

on

Reckoning after Paris and San Bernardino:

Understanding the Terrorist Threat and Options in Syria

with

Malcolm Nance

ISIS Terror Expert

and

Ribal al-Assad

Syrian Opposition Leader

Thursday, December 17th

12:15-1:45pm
Amali Restaurant
RSVP : Members, $60. Non-Members, $75.

To RSVP, please call **(212) 599-7040** or visit the event page **online.**

A new chapter has opened in the battle against terrorism. The ISIS-inspired attack in San Bernardino on US ground and the staggering deadly attacks in Paris now threaten daily life in the homeland, for our closest allies, and beyond, following strikes against Russia, Africa, the Middle East, and recent threats against Belgium and Italy. The threat of terrorism feels closer to home than it has at any time since 9/11.



There are many battlefronts for this war on terrorism and **Malcolm Nance**, a career intelligence officer and expert on international terrorism, intelligence, insurgency and torture, has deep knowledge about these

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opponents. **Mr. Nance** will discuss the goals and motivations of ISIS and similar groups, and how best to fight them here and abroad. He is internationally recognized for his expertise in the history, personalities, and organization of al Qaeda and its affiliates, including the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS); jihadi radicalization, Islamic extremism in Middle East, Southwest Asian and African terror groups, as well as counterinsurgency and asymmetric warfare.

The rise of ISIS is currently tied in large measure to its grounding in parts of Syria and Iraq. To discuss the options in these areas, we will present **Ribal al-Assad**, an important Syrian opposition leader in exile, who has been leading a global campaign for democracy, human rights, and freedom for Syria. **Mr. al-Assad** will offer his insights about possible outcomes for the Syrian conflict; what the military, diplomatic and political options might be; how likely they are to come to pass; and what role the US and its allies should play to help end the conflict.

Malcolm Nance and Ribal al-Assad
Thursday, December 17th: 12:15-1:45pm
Amali Restaurant
RSVP **:** Members, $60. Non-Members, $75.

Note: Only confirmed and paid attendees will be admitted to this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband

Fallout: Ramifications of the Great Refugee Crisis
Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm
RSVP

The Rt. Honorable Lord Christopher Patten

Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm
RSVP

THE COMMON GOOD
115 East 57th Street, Suite 1010
New York, NY 10022
(212) 599-7040

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From:	"Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	8/28/2008 3:25:48 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] MCCAIN VP SCORECARDS
Attachments:	VP Scorecard.docx
	8-28-08 TPs VP Records.docx

With news that McCain is expected to announce his VP tomorrow we have produced a scorecard showing how the top VP choices offer more of the same failed Bush and McCain policies.

We will be working hard on framing these choices as more of the same. This is our general research on each candidate. As your organizations work on push back please contact us if you need any more information on any of he choices or any of the issues.

VP SCORECARD

All VP candidates get an A+ on being the same as Bush and McCain

	John McCain	Mitt Romney	Tim Pawlenty	Eric Cantor	Rob Portman	John Thune
Supports Bush War in Iraq	X	X	X	X	X	X
Supports Bush Tax Cuts for Millionaires	X	X	X	X	X	X
Supports Bush Fight Against Children's Healthcare	X	X	X	X	X	X
Supports Bush Outsourcing, Anti-Worker Policies	X	X	X	X	X	X
Supports Bush Anti-Choice Policies	X	X	X	X	X	X

MCCAIN VP CHOICES ALL HAVE "PERFECT RECORDS" SUPPORTING BUSH POLICIES

No matter who John McCain picks as his Vice Presidential running mate they will offer more of the same failed Bush policies of the last eight years. Across all issues from health care to the economy to the war in Iraq, McCain's VP choices, "measure for measure," have perfect records supporting same failed policies as Bush.

John Thune A+ Record on Supporting Failed Bush Policies

Thune, Like McCain, Backed Bush's Iraq Policy

Thune on Iraq:

"I Think We Do Need To Stay The Course." [CBS, "Face the Nation," 12/26/04, emphasis added]

Mitt Romney A+ Record on Supporting Failed Bush Policies

"I wouldn't presume to present a plan different than that of the president."
--Mitt Romney [Fox News, 9/19/06]

Like Bush, Romney Vowed To Veto Health Care For Children

"I'd veto it out of my belief that we should have every citizen insured. I put forward a plan in my state that gets every citizen insured….The right pathway to get everybody insured is to help people get private insurance. The SCHIP pathway is simply the wrong way." [Kansas City Star, 10/01/07]

Rob Portman A+ Record, "Real Commitment" on Supporting Failed Bush Policies

"I have a loyalty and allegiance to making [The Bush Administration] successful. I have a real commitment to that."
-- Rob Portman [The Cincinnati Enquirer, 3/18/05]

Portman Supported Bush An Average Of 94 Percent Per Year. During the four years he served in the House of Representatives during Bush's presidency, Portman almost always voted with the president. On average, he supported Bush 94.25 percent of the time during a given year. [CQ Voting Studies, accessed 7/29/08]

Portman, Like Bush and McCain, Wants To Privatize Social Security

Portman on His Vote to Privatize Social Security:

- "What We're Talking About Is Letting Individuals Save A Little Bit Of Their Hard Earned Money For Themselves." [Fox News, "The O'Reilly Factor," 6/18/01]

Portman, Like McCain, Repeated The Bush Administration's False Justifications For War.

Portman Claimed Iraq Was "Seeking Yellow Cake, Seeking Enriched Uranium For A Nuclear Weapons Program." [MSNBC, "Hardball," 7/24/03]

- Bush: "Saddam Hussein Recently Sought Significant Quantities Of Uranium From Africa." [2003 State of the Union, 1/28/03]
- The White House Retracted Uranium Claims More Than Two Weeks Before Portman Repeated Them. [Associated Press, 7/8/03]

Tim Pawlenty A+ Record on Supporting Failed Bush Policies

Toeing The (Bush) Republican Line In Iraq

Pawlenty: "Saddam Hussein Himself Was A Weapon Of Mass Destruction." [Star Tribune, 2/14/04]
Pawlenty Said "It's Important That We Stay The Course." [CNN International, 2/13/04]
Pawlenty Said The Wars In Iraq And Afghanistan "Will Be Reflected Positively In History." [MSNBC, "Hardball," 7/14/04]

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Eric Cantor A+ Record on Supporting Failed Bush Policies

Cantor Supports Bush An Average Of 93 Percent Per Year. Portman almost always votes with the president. On average, he supported Bush 93.4 percent of the time during a given year. [CQ Voting Studies, accessed 7/29/08]

Cantor: NAFTA Has Helped America Create "Over 25 Million Jobs." [National Review, 3/11/08]

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/5/2015 2:00:39 AM
Subject: Re: [MATERIALS] Launch Materials Follow Up Call

All - some options for the SOS blank:

When the Chinese were resisting joining in the sanctions against Iran, I went to Beijing and laid it on the line with their top leadership. They joined us and the result was the most effective sanctions coalition in history, which paved the way for the current diplomacy.

When the Chinese, Indians, and Brazilians were working together to avoid responsibility for helping to fight climate change, President Obama and I crashed a meeting of their leaders and didn't leave until they agreed to share the burden.

Before the Arab Spring, when others were tiptoeing around, I went straight into the Arab capitals and told the leaders that their countries were sinking into the sand.

When Putin and his cronies interfered in the Russian elections, I stood up and called him out. He blamed me for starting the protests that rocked Moscow - I was proud to stand with everyday Russians calling for democracy.

If these don't work can try more.

On Apr 4, 2015, at 11:02 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Easter Mass calls. I'll catch up later in the day.
>
> On Apr 4, 2015 10:44 PM, "Marissa Astor" <marissa.astor@icloud.com > wrote:
>
> > Attached for your review ahead of tomorrow's 9 AM call are:
> >
> > · Latest candidate talking points
> > · Video script and shoot plan
> >
> > Please note that we will also discuss the longer campaign rationale—that document will be circulated later tonight or first thing tomorrow morning ahead of the call.
> >
> > Thank you!
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** marissa.astor@icloud.com
> > **When:** 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM April 5, 2015
> > **Subject:** Launch Materials Follow Up Call
> > **Location:** Dial-In Number: (202) 794-7025 // No PIN needed
> >
> > **Dial-In Number: (202) 794-7025 // No PIN needed**
> >
> > **Agenda**
> >
> > · Candidate talking points
> > · Longer campaign rationale

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	7/11/2014 6:46:16 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Friday July 11, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Friday July 11, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Douglas A. Smith in @ConMonitorNews: Foreign tourism (and American jobs) got boost from @HillaryClinton: http://www.concordmonitor.com/home/12709485-95/my-turn-foreign-tourism-got-boost-from-clinton … [7/11/14, 10:53 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton worked to reform the public education system in Arkansas #HRC365 http://nyti.ms/1dLeWwb [7/10/14, 5:03 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: #HardChoices spent more time at #1 in its opening weeks than most other recent political memoirs: http://correctrecord.org/hard-choices-a-success/ … [7/10/14, 4:35 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: $225k donation to @ClintonFdn for HRC speech already brought in $353k for UNLV Foundation: http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/unlv-foundation-clinton-fee-pencils-out … [7/10/14, 3:30 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Le Monde [accessed with Google Translate from French]: "Hillary Clinton: 'The Americans are open to the idea of a woman president'"

"What is your greatest achievement? This is undoubtedly the work I have done to restore the image of America after eight years of the Bush administration."

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Politico: "Sen. Martin Heinrich backs Hillary Clinton"

"Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) is adding his name to the roster of Senate supporters backing Hillary Clinton, serving as a draw for a New Mexico event for the super PAC 'Ready for Hillary.'"

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Washington Post: "Christine Lagarde: 'Don't let the bastards get you'"

"Words that seem to regularly come up in describing you are 'charismatic,' 'presence,' 'ability to command a room.' Do you have any advice on how to cultivate those traits? It's a question of feeling confident about yourself, being reconciled with your own identity — and your own body, actually. I remember Hillary Clinton not long ago addressing the IMF staff and saying, 'Stop being obsessed about losing weight. Be okay with yourself.' I thought about what she'd said, and she's right."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Ed Klein's book is out-selling Hillary Clinton. He will not beat her with the critics or fact-checkers."

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Wall Street Journal: "For the Wealthy, Silence May Be Golden"

"Those who coach the rich on what to say--and leave unsaid--about their money see Hillary Clinton's controversial 'dead broke' comment as a big mistake. And a common one."

Nonprofit Quarterly: "The Philanthropic Problem with Hillary Clinton's Huge Speaking Fees"

"The Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation may be doing extraordinarily wonderful things for communities around the world, but additional transparency is needed, especially now that Hillary Clinton is just about guaranteed the Democratic nod for the presidency; her speaking fees from nonprofit and public universities raise questions about what the universities (or some of their well-healed donors) might want from the Clintons."

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Articles:

Le Monde [accessed with Google Translate from French]: "Hillary Clinton: 'The Americans are open to the idea of a woman president'"

By Christophe Ayad

July 11, 2014, 11:58

What is your greatest achievement?

This is undoubtedly the work I have done to restore the image of America after eight years of the Bush administration. When we took office, President Obama and I, the country was facing a serious economic crisis, we were engaged in two wars, we lost the support of our European friends and we had ignored our allies in Asia. There was a lot of concern about the intention of the United States: we would pursue a policy unilaterally or work with others?

President appointed me Secretary of State because he wanted to stay focused on the economy. I worked hard to put out the concept of power informed [smart power] in order to finish in finish with brute force [hard power] and unilaterally that the Bush team had applied. I merged the development and diplomacy to send the message that we would work otherwise.

And if we go into detail records?

The establishment of an international coalition to enforce sanctions on Iran was hard work. There was no will the Russians, Chinese and even some Europeans were against. I spent a year and a half to build a consensus, which eventually bring the Iran to the negotiating table. I also negotiated a cease-fire in Gaza which lasted from 20 November 2012 until recent days.

I created an opening with Burma , which has led to major reforms. I deepened our relationship with China across different instances of dialogue. And I drove the "reset" with Russia , which gave very good results, including sanctions against Iran and a new disarmament treaty nuclear , as Medvedev was president.

Finally, I reformed the State Department to make more agile, more flexible, more responsive, even if it is less visible. I introduced new technologies in an administration that had remained in the telegrams of the nineteenth century. I promoted women in my department not to make pretty but because where there are women, there is more stability, more democracy and less conflict. It was a lot in four years.

What are your regrets?

The Syria of course. What is happening now is what we feared and Assad, Iran and Russia wanted to see happen . From the beginning of the Syrian uprising, Assad has not fought the terrorists, but terrorists called peaceful demonstrators calling for more freedom legitimately. And now, Assad is still in power , jihadists hold portions of territory, and the moderate opposition, it was forgotten. She did not receive the help and support she deserved.

My other regret is Benghazi, where Christopher Stevens was killed [11 September 2012]. This is a great personal loss. It was I who had sent in Benghazi during the Libyan revolution. I suggested as ambassador after the revolution. We were intensely engaged with Libyans to help to overcome forty-two years of bad governance. There was nothing left after Gaddafi. And yet, good elections were held. And then there was this huge problem posed by militias. Our ambassador, another diplomat and two other Americans were killed, alas.

After the chemical bombing on the outskirts of Damascus, August 21, 2013, President Obama has given up commit military action in Syria as Bashar Al-Assad had crossed the "red line" that he had drawn. This has he undermined the credit of America in the world?

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I was no longer in office but I supported President Obama's decision to consult Congress. What was the problem? The use of chemical weapons in 2013 in violation of the rules set by the international community since the First World War.

If the president had launched a military operation, it is likely that some sites of chemical weapons have been destroyed, but not all. He would then have had to face the consequences. When the Russians have proposed a plan to dismantle the Syrian chemical arsenal, I spoke with the president and I argued. Finally, the desired result was obtained chemical weapons have been dismantled in Syria. But it is true that this sequence was not clearly enough explained, people have not always understood the reasoning.

About the Iraq , you voted for the war in 2003. In 2011, it is you who have implemented the withdrawal of U.S. troops. Did you not correct a mistake with another mistake?

I have said and written that give the green light to President Bush's war in Iraq was a mistake. I tried later to correct this error. During his campaign, President Obama made a promise: all troops should have left Iraq in late 2011, unless the Iraqi government demanded that they remain.

We worked for two years (2009-2011) to find a solution to a number of soldiers remain in Iraq. But Maliki did not want an American presence. He wanted to oppress the Sunnis and the Kurds, purge the army and deny its promises without being held accountable. The United States does not stationed military force without an agreement of the host country. This was not the case in Iraq.

What is the greatest threat to the United States? The emergence of the Islamic state, the aggressiveness of Vladimir Putin or the ambitions of China?

The most immediate threat is posed by terrorists seeking to obtain a nuclear or radioactive device. They never abandoned the desire to inflict the greatest possible losses to Westerners. At this very moment, a credible threat is the airlines operating to the United States.

Then all "rogue state" that accesses nuclear weapons, as North Korea is a threat. If Iran or any other country managed to acquire the atomic bomb, it would destabilize the world and lead to an arms race. It would be a tragic mistake. The Pakistan is a perfect example: nuclear warheads are pointed towards the India and it is at war with terrorist groups seeking to s' possession of these weapons.

Finally, there are long-term threats such as hazardous Putin's desire to go up over time, dominate its neighbors and create a sphere of influence in which it can intimidate other countries. China shows its muscles by investing heavily in its arm ed and claims sovereignty over the South and East China Sea, causing potential conflicts with Japan , the Vietnam and the Philippines . This instability can affect eventual global growth. Against Russia and China, we have put in place long-term strategies with our partners in Europe and Asia.

You doubted you that Putin was going to be as aggressive after his reelection in 2012?

Yes, I thought so. I sent two reports to President Obama about it. He had already invaded and annexed part of Georgia in 2008. It was increasingly clear that the experience of "democracy in the margins," he was allowed to develop , would not last . When tens of thousands of Russians took to the streets in late 2011 to protest against fraud in parliamentary elections, he was shocked. He could not believe that the Russians could demonstrate against him. He held me responsible, probably to forget his unpopularity.

Once elected, or rather crowned president, he asked a lot of problem. I will not say that I expected to destabilize the Ukraine and invade the Crimea. But I knew he would hate it because it could make oil stain in Russia.

Obama is often accused of being weak, indecisive, without leadership. What is your opinion?

This is not fair. The president was very clear he was elected to end the war in Iraq, and win more successful Afghanistan . The two are not of his making. In his recent speech at West Point, he made it clear he wanted other approaches to treat problems that pointing the finger tap on the table and speak harsh language. This is a thoughtful project. It may be that it takes time for it to be done, but that's not to say he is wrong. Maybe he has

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need to explain his method more than the rest of the world understands it better.

How to explain this paradox: you are very popular in the United States when you deal with foreign policy, but as soon as you think you are going to present to the presidential criticism rained?

American politics is like football , a sports battle. I'm not surprised: the political debate is so polarized in our country that we achieve nothing Congress. This is unfortunate because we face two crises. The first is economic: our economy is not creating enough jobs, growth is inadequate, excessive inequality.

We also have a crisis of democracy: we can not take some difficult decisions because, among Republicans, think that compromise is a dirty word. They do not want to cooperate . I am a woman who is honest, who has his opinions, which expresses. This raises comments.

The United States is prepared to have a president?

I hope, be it me or another. Now, more Americans are open to the idea of a female president. They are aware that we have not yet definitively broken the glass ceiling while 49 countries have already done.

Who inspires you in politics?

This is Nelson Mandela . I learned well know , he was a friend. I am amazed by the way, to his release from prison he was put at the service of forgiveness, reconciliation and unity. It was not easy. It is my polar star.

Politico: "Sen. Martin Heinrich backs Hillary Clinton"

By Maggie Haberman

July 11, 2014, 12:09 p.m. EDT

Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) is adding his name to the roster of Senate supporters backing Hillary Clinton, serving as a draw for a New Mexico event for the super PAC "Ready for Hillary."

According to an invitation obtained by POLITICO, Heinrich and Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM) are headlining an event this Saturday evening Albuquerque.

Clinton has gotten a number of endorsements from her former Senate colleagues, primarily through "Ready for Hillary," a low-dollar super PAC.

New York Times: Sunday Book Review: "Editors' Choice"

["A version of this list appears in print on July 13, 2014"]

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July 11, 2014

FOURTH OF JULY CREEK, by Smith Henderson. (Ecco/HarperCollins, $26.99.) In Henderson's deeply impressive novel, an overburdened social worker becomes involved with a near-feral boy and his survivalist father in 1980 Montana.

HARD CHOICES, by Hillary Rodham Clinton. (Simon & Schuster, $35.) Clinton's memoir of her time as secretary of state may not be personally revealing, but it is sober and substantive.

FRIDAYS AT ENRICO'S, by Don Carpenter. Finished by Jonathan Lethem. (Counterpoint, $25.) Carpenter's eccentric posthumous novel follows four aspiring writers in the heady days of the Beats.

OUR DECLARATION: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality, by Danielle Allen. (Liveright, $27.95.) Scrutinizing our founding document, a political theorist sees it as a clarion call for equality.

UNCERTAIN JUSTICE: The Roberts Court and the Constitution, by Laurence Tribe and Joshua Matz. (Holt, $32.) A portrait of the current Supreme Court in its surprisingly messy complexity.

SCALIA: A Court of One, by Bruce Allen Murphy. (Simon & Schuster, $35.) Murphy's book is skeptical, often critical, of its subject, but it takes his ideas seriously and is free of snark.

A MOST IMPERFECT UNION: A Contrarian History of the United States, by Ilan Stavans. Illustrated by Lalo Alcaraz. (Basic Books, $26.99.) Even the ugly side is delivered with comics-style humor.

THE BOOK OF UNKNOWN AMERICANS, by Cristina Henríquez. (Knopf, $24.95.) Latino immigrant characters face the challenges of assimilation.

ELIZABETH IS MISSING, by Emma Healey. (Harper, $25.99.) A woman slipping into dementia turns detective in this spellbinding first novel.

Washington Post: "Christine Lagarde: 'Don't let the bastards get you'"

By Lillian Cunningham

July 11, 2014, 10:12 a.m. EDT

This July marks Christine Lagarde's third anniversary as head of the International Monetary Fund. When she took the post, she faced a collapsing euro zone and an institution that itself was in something of a free fall following the resignation of its previous leader, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, over allegations of a sexual assault. It was, to put it simply, an interesting time to be the first woman and the first non-economist to lead the organization.

In the three years since, Largarde has helped cool the financial flames in such countries as Greece and Ireland. She has also, though perhaps with less notice, begun to reposition the IMF's work. Climate change, income inequality and gender participation in the workforce — issues that only a decade ago would have hardly surfaced at the fund — have now become a focus of its analysis.

Yet while the organization has started to loosen its necktie in regard to its areas of research and the rigid internal hierarchy of economists, it still wrestles with a number of management challenges. Among them, Lagarde says, are difficulties in getting Congress to ratify a reform measure that would give emerging countries better representation and in getting more women — any women, in fact — onto the IMF's board.

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In this interview, which has been edited lightly for length and clarity, Lagarde speaks about these management hurdles. She also reflects on the leadership lessons she's learned over a career in which she has headed international law firm Baker & McKenzie and France's Finance Ministry.

Her final words of advice: "Don't let the bastards get you."

How do you define leadership?

To me, leadership is about encouraging people. It's about stimulating them. It's about enabling them to achieve what they can achieve — and to do that with a purpose. Others would call it "a vision," but I'd rather use "purpose" because I think that everybody has a purpose in life, and that when collectively people work together, or practice sport together, they have a joint purpose.

What do you want to be your main achievement at the IMF?

I really want the institution to continue to be relevant, and to be regarded by its members — also its clients — as a place where they can receive the best possible advice, the most honest assessment of the situation, and where they can seek support and technical assistance. I sort of gather that under the word "relevance," because I think that's the most important service we can provide to the membership.

When you took over, your job was basically one of crisis management. Now perhaps there's more time to think about your vision of how to make the fund relevant into the future. How have you transitioned between managing short-term and long-term challenges? Do you think you're better at one or the other?

When I started, which was exactly three years ago, there were two crises. One was the internal situation at the IMF, because my predecessor had left under very dramatic circumstances, which had created anxiety, concern and complete lack of motivation on the part of many of the staff. The other crisis was outside, because many countries of the euro area were in great difficulties. Greece was one, but Ireland was another, Portugal was another, and soon Cyprus, and so on and so forth — and that was only in that part of the world. There were other countries elsewhere that were suffering and were seeking advice and financial support.

On both accounts, it was a question of making sure that everybody was on deck, prepared to deal with the issues, and completely motivated by the mission of the fund — which is to make sure that we put all our expertise, our money, our technical assistance and our ability to advise together, to fight the crisis and to procure some stability for the membership.

I have a theory that women are generally given space and appointed to jobs when the situation is tough. I've observed that in many instances. In times of crisis, women eventually are called upon to sort out the mess, face the difficult issues and be completely focused on restoring the situation.

Has the crisis abated, are the flames down? I wish that was the case. Obviously there is recovery in the air, but it is neither very strong nor very balanced, and there are still many countries that need support and advice. While it's not as burning and obvious as it was three years ago, we're not just doing maintenance at the moment. We are also doing some crisis management as well. It's in a way the vocation of the IMF to face crises, whether they are very high on the world agenda or rather low on the radar screen.

Have you learned anything about your own leadership skills, or weaknesses, from leading during a time of crisis?

I learned that you can constantly improve, and that you should not be shy about your views, and about the direction that you believe is right. I also learn constantly about how much people can achieve; how much they can give; how much they can go beyond themselves, step out of their comfort zone and give a lot more than they ever thought they would, or that you ever expected them to do. And it's a constant process to learn how much you should step in after having listened, and how much the team you work with can exceed your expectations.

I know your father passed away when you were young. I wonder in what ways that has shaped your character and your leadership development.

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My father passed away after three years of debilitating disease, which transformed a very strong and bright man into a real wreck. And that is hard. You have to get out of that stronger, if you can, which I was lucky to be able to. I was the eldest of the family, and I had to support my mother and help my brothers. So there was an element of empowerment that resulted from his passing away, and an element of terrible sorrow and grief, which never goes away.

Words that seem to regularly come up in describing you are "charismatic," "presence," "ability to command a room." Do you have any advice on how to cultivate those traits?

It's a question of feeling confident about yourself, being reconciled with your own identity — and your own body, actually. I remember Hillary Clinton not long ago addressing the IMF staff and saying, "Stop being obsessed about losing weight. Be okay with yourself." I thought about what she'd said, and she's right. You have to first of all be okay with yourself, accept who you are, and not fight against yourself all the time. It's hard, but I think being reconciled with your body and your identity is step one. The second step is about being honest and telling the truth, not covering up and pretending you are somebody that you are not deep down inside.

What's the one thing that you would like to see change the most about the internal culture of the IMF?

I would very much like it if there were more women on the board. At the moment I have a board where all the executive directors are male, and I think that is wrong. There's not much I can do about it other than say it loudly and clearly. Member states of the IMF designate the executive directors, and I happen to have 24 male executive directors and not a single woman.

As a second change, I would very much appreciate if the United States of America would ratify the reform that they themselves engineered about four years ago, which would give better representation to the emerging and developing countries, which are gaining ground, which are expanding and which must be given a bigger say at the international table of the IMF. Those are really two key components that would help the culture of the institution.

Other than that, I would like the culture to be as focused on quality and excellence as it is, but maybe a little less rigid in terms of attitude and willingness to let diverging views and dissenting opinions be expressed. That's something that we're working on. It's not always obvious.

Let's talk more about the quota reform. From a leadership perspective, what do you do when your biggest shareholder, the United States, is not supporting the reform you think you need?

Well, first of all, the IMF has to continue doing its job. Second, we have to acknowledge and deliver on the changes taking place in the world, by having a more diverse staff, by having a more diverse management, by welcoming representatives from China and other emerging markets, and making sure that we have more women, of course. That's what we have to continue doing no matter what.

We are making collectively all the efforts we can to convince members of Congress that it is worth it to reform the institution, as was intended in the first place by all authorities but with a strong leadership from the United States of America. It's a big letdown not to actually deliver on it, given that pretty much all members have now delivered and have ratified the reform.

The fund hasn't really grown in the past five years or so, and it's a place without high turnover. The result seems to be that a lot of good people can't move up the ladder quickly, and that you can't get women into senior positions at fast as you would like. As their leader, how are you wrestling with these personnel issues?

We have two major constraints: our demographics, which we can't deal with except by natural departure over time, and the limited territory. When you lead a corporate institution, you can expand. And whether you grow the bottom line or the top line, you have incentives at both ends and you can manage those.

At an institution like the IMF, our vocation is not to grow. Our vocation is to continue to provide the best possible services within the parameters of the mandate. So in the leadership position I'm in, I have to identify what makes people click, what motivates them. And it's not necessarily going to be promotion, as you said, so there have to be other ways to incentivize people.

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I soon realized that people are motivated by the pride they take in the intellectual work they produce, and that's an important driver. A second important driver is the pride they take in serving the public good. That's another very strong engine to actually lead the institution and motivate people.

How long do you want to be there? What would you like to do after?

I know people doubt me when I say it, but I have never, never had a career plan. And maybe that was the wrong idea, but I never had a career plan. My career, which I know is successful and regarded as such, has been the result of circumstances, of meeting people, of being called, of being drafted, of taking on the job and rising to the circumstances when it was needed. So I have no idea, honestly, what I will do in two years' time, which is the end of my term. What I know is that I will do my term, because you have to finish what you started. But after that, I don't have a clue. I might be still here, I might be somewhere else. I might be doing something that I have no idea about.

What's the best piece of leadership advice anyone's given you?

Well there's one encouragement that I was given once by my American father, in the family I stayed with when I was 17. Whenever I had tough times, he would send me a little note or give me a call and he would say, "Don't let the bastards get you." And I know this is not very polite. This is not very proper language. "Don't let the bastards get you" means: "Hang on with the work that you are doing, and just don't give up. Stand up."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Ed Klein's book is out-selling Hillary Clinton. He will not beat her with the critics or fact-checkers."

By Jaime Fuller

July 11, 2014, 11:13 a.m. EDT

News broke late Thursday that Ed Klein's book about the Obamas and the Clintons, "Blood Feud," is actually out-selling Hillary Clinton's own memoir, "Hard Choices." Given that surprising turn of events, we figured we would re-surface this post from a couple weeks ago looking at just who Klein is and what literary critics think of his work (hint: there is no love lost -- if it ever existed).

Ed Klein's new book, "Blood Feud: The Clintons v. the Obamas" is going to sell many copies. That is one fact about the book that will be hard to dispute. Klein's last book on President Obama, "The Amateur," displaced the latest volume in Robert Caro's Lyndon B. Johnson series in the number one slot on the New York Times bestseller list. His book, "The Truth about Hillary," sold about 200,000 copies.

You should probably fact-check anything else you hear about the book. The other defining characteristic of Klein's biographies, besides their popularity with people who despise the subjects unpacked within, is that the salacious details revealed often have a tenuous relationship with reality -- as commentators of all ideological stripes have pointed out time and time again.

The reviews of Klein's work, filled with contempt and adventurous adjectives, often mirror the gossipy edges of the books they describe. The reviewers may not believe all of Klein's reporting, but they are more than happy to borrow his skillful hatchet job techniques, if only to use it against him.

In anticipation of the reviews that are bound to follow the tabloid-y book excerpts featuring Michelle Obama's supposed nickname for Hillary ("Hildebeest") and new (and questionable) "revelations" about Hillary's response to the Benghazi attacks, here is a retrospective of Ed Klein book reviews. Only one features a septic tank metaphor.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

“The Amateur” by Edward Klein is a book about an inept, arrogant ideologue who maintains an absurdly high opinion of his own talents even as he blatantly fails to achieve his goals. Oh, and President Obama is in this book too.

Of course Mr. Klein does not see himself as the amateur of his title. As he announces in the very first sentence, “This is a reporter’s book.” It is based on “dozens of four-inch-thick three-ring notebooks” that detail interviews with “nearly 200 people,” some of whom even allowed Mr. Klein to mention their names in print.

-- Janet Maslin, The New York Times

“It’s an excellent read and very insightful.”

-- Donald Trump, The New York Post

“Ed Klein has a proven history of reckless fabrication in order to sell books. Nobody in their right mind would believe the nonsense in this one.”

-- White House spokesperson Eric Schultz

The Truth About Hillary

The book is poorly written, poorly thought, poorly sourced and full of the kind of loaded language that is appropriate to a polemic but not an investigative work.

-- Peggy Noonan, The Wall Street Journal

This is one of the most sordid volumes I’ve ever waded through. Thirty pages into it, I wanted to take a shower. Sixty pages into it, I wanted to be decontaminated. And 200 pages into it, I wanted someone to drive stakes through my eyes so I wouldn’t have to suffer through another word.

-- John Podhoretz, The New York Post

The book is so far out there with lurid allegations that I'm beginning to suspect that Mr. Klein is a double agent, pretending to be objective but in reality hoping to drum up visions of a vast right-wing conspiracy to do in poor Mrs. Clinton.

-- Alicia Colon, The New York Sun

Consider the arrival, last month, of an aggressively unflattering biography, "The Truth About Hillary: What She Knew, When She Knew It, and How Far She'll Go to Become President," by Ed Klein, which climbed the best-seller lists despite condemnatory reviews. Senator Clinton didn't read it, but Mr. Reines did.

He had to. It was up to him to provide the news media with an informed -- if uppity -- response from the Clinton camp: "This is a book full of blatant and vicious fabrications contrived by someone who writes trash for cash." Catchy. Mr. Reines now adds this: "His 15 minutes of fame are up. I'm looking forward to his biography: 'The Truth About Ed Klein: He Writes Trash for Cash.' "

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-- Robin Finn, The New York Times

But Senator Clinton cannot become President of the United States. The reason, as her latest pornographer, Edward Klein, makes plain, is the lesbian situation. It is entirely possible, Klein allows, that the junior senator from New York is not herself a Sapphic practitioner. But she imbibed the “culture of lesbianism” as an undergraduate at Wellesley College in the nineteen-sixties; she has certainly known a few lesbians in her time (many names are unearthed); she definitely read a Methodist magazine called motive that published, among others, Rita Mae Brown, the author of a “lesbian novel”; and once, at a White House reunion of her Wellesley classmates, she rubbed the “butch cut” hairdo of one Nancy Wanderer, remarking, lesbianically, “Maybe I’ll get a haircut like this and really shock everyone.”

Reading “The Truth About Hillary,” one can easily envision Klein’s well-appointed desk in mid-composition, an antique lamp casting a lambent beam on his files of political smut.

-- David Remnick, The New Yorker

There are lots of reasons to distrust or even dislike Mrs Clinton. She exudes an overpowering whiff of entitlement. She seems to believe that successful career women like herself are morally superior to women who stay at home and bake cookies. She was responsible, with Hillarycare, for one of the greatest political debacles of recent years. And, most infuriating of all, she tries to play both the victim and the strong woman. But Mr. Klein has succeeded in doing the near impossible: he has written a book that will make all but fire-breathing conservatives sympathetic to her cause.

-- The Economist

Unfortunately, The Truth About Hillary fails even as pornography. It's about as arousing as footage from a hidden camera in the bathroom of a highway truck stop.

-- John F. Harris, The New York Observer

Christians should repudiate this book and determine to take no pleasure in it.

-- Albert Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

If I were a right-winger, I would be offended by both Klein and[Karl] Rove. But I am not a conservative, and so I can only wonder at their gullibility. Right-wingers are the useful idiots of our times and while they have their occasional left-wing counterparts, the lefties will not buy essentially the same book over and over again -- if only because they lack the funds. Maybe Klein has taken this as far as it will go. I hope not. My book on Hillary's romp with Paris Hilton will be out soon. It's hot.

-- Richard Cohen, The Washington Post

It's hard to believe that these voices on the right are part of a vast left-wing conspiracy to protect Hillary Clinton. Here is a far more believable explanation for the treatment of the anti-Hillary book: The networks decided -- correctly in my opinion -- that this piece of junk journalism did not deserve free publicity.

-- Paul Janensch, The Hartford Courant

He focuses overmuch on Hillary's alleged lesbianism, for instance (she didn't shave her legs and underarms at Wellesley!), and even writes that Chelsea was conceived one night when Bill raped Hillary. Only the fringiest Clinton-haters could find pleasure with that level of prurient tabloiding of a former U.S. president and a present-day U.S. senator. After a few paragraphs, you find yourself reaching for the Brillo.

-- Kathleen Parker, The Chicago Tribune

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

There's a danger when you throw together rumor, innuendo, mind reading, and unsubstantiated blind quotes from sources who overtly hate your subject. And it's not just the risk of looking (as Edward Klein does) like an author devoid of credibility.

-- Nina J. Easton, The Boston Globe

The latest assault is by Edward Klein, whose name commonly appears in print these days in close proximity to words like smarmy and sleazy.

-- Clyde Haberman, The New York Times

This book is the literary equivalent of a backed-up septic tank.

-- Larry Cox, The Tuscon Citizen

What I am saying is that if Klein purposely set out to write the sleaziest, most derivative, most despicable political biography ever, he has failed both himself and his readers miserably. "The Truth About Hillary" is only about the 16th sleaziest book I have ever read. Though, in fairness to the author, reading creepy, cut-and-paste books is my hobby.

-- Joe Queenan, The New York Times

Katie: The Real Story

Well, by now, you get the general flavor of Edward Klein's unauthorized biography, which seeks to portray its subject as a little bullet fired into the heart of the fourth estate. You may wonder why making that point was worth a book. You may also wonder if the same book would have been written about a male broadcaster. Finally, you may wonder why you should expect anything very serious from the author of "The Kennedy Curse," which describes the late Carolyn Bessette Kennedy as "sprawled on the floor in front of a sofa, disheveled and hollow-eyed, snorting cocaine with a gaggle of gay fashionistas."

It takes a tough man to write a phrase like "gaggle of gay fashionistas," and, in fact, Klein has made a second career of leaving knuckle prints on famous women.

-- Louis Bayard, The Washington Post

All Too Human: The Love Story of Jack and Jackie Kennedy

Ed Klein as every legal right to author a book like this one. St. Martin's Press has every right to publish it.

But neither one of them should feel especially proud today.

-- Ellis Henican, Newsday

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Wall Street Journal: "For the Wealthy, Silence May Be Golden"

By Daisy Maxey

July 11, 2014, 12:58 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Those who've risen from humble beginnings may not see themselves as wealthy

Those who coach the rich on what to say--and leave unsaid--about their money see Hillary Clinton's controversial "dead broke" comment as a big mistake. And a common one.

"She doesn't feel she's defined by her financial wealth," notes Katherine Lintz, founder of Matter Family Office.

Her firm, with offices in Clayton, Mo., and in Denver, handles about 150 families with fortunes that range from $3 million to $1 billion. Many built their own businesses and came from humble beginnings, and they "don't think of themselves as one of the 1%," she says.

"They're head-down, working," she says. "Their vision of themselves is no different than it was when they were 25 years old hiring their first employee."

Nonetheless, Mrs. Clinton's much-criticized reference to her and her husband's indebtedness in 2001, which she made in an ABC interview in June, broke a cardinal rule that Ms. Lintz and other advisers to the wealthy often stress: Be circumspect.

"The smartest thing for the wealthy person to do is not to say anything about their wealth," says Robert Dilenschneider, who leads Dilenschneider Group Inc., a New York public-relations firm that does coaching work for some family offices and also works directly with many executives.

Comments about financial status that are incorrect, misunderstood or too revealing can prove troublesome for anyone. But for the very wealthy, these can harm their public image or career, attract Internal Revenue Service scrutiny or--in a worst-case scenario--put them in danger.

Of course, politicians with lots of money can't avoid discussing their finances, which are often a matter of record. Athletes and celebrities, whose big-money contracts also often become public knowledge, face the issue, too, as do a lot of moneyed individuals who go through headline-making divorces, Mr. Dilenschneider notes.

At that point, "it stretches credibility" to play down one's financial status too much, he says. And "to say, 'I'm poor' is a big mistake. It offends poor people." Mrs. Clinton herself, in retrospect, called her word choice "inartful."

Like Ms. Lintz, Mr. Dilenschneider deals with some clients who are very rich but don't feel it. He recalls one who was worth $13 billion--and complained about the cost of an English muffin at a Times Square breakfast spot.

On the other hand, some wealthy people make a very different kind of mistake when discussing their money: They brag about it.

Ms. Lintz has counseled some clients who, after making a big charitable donation, "may have boasted too much about it." Even if their philanthropic urge was genuine, this can set them up for criticism--and also make them a target for con-men or other criminals.

She asks clients to ponder this question: "Who's going to pick up the paper today that you really want to know your financial business, and then

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act on it?" She adds, "I don't know really what the upside is of that."

She encourages her clients, when speaking publicly, to focus on their experiences--the mistakes they've made in life, the lessons they've learned--rather than their finances.

"All communication in the public eye just needs to be real and honest," Ms. Lintz says. Being too boastful or overly humble "is just not attractive."

Nonprofit Quarterly: "The Philanthropic Problem with Hillary Clinton's Huge Speaking Fees"

By Rick Cohen

July 11, 2014, 14:16

If you have spent any time with Bill or Hillary Clinton in person, as this writer has, you'll get this point: Whether you like or hate their politics, you cannot deny their brilliance. The former president is a phenomenal, freewheeling thinker, able to integrate knowledge from multiple sources with insight that puts him a level above the crowd. His spouse, the former senator and Secretary of State and probable presidential candidate, possesses a steely, directed brilliance that is in sharp contrast with her more extemporaneous husband. Even on their individual merits, were they not the most powerful political couple in the United States, you would want to hear them talk—and maybe even pay them to do so.

But speaking fees for Bill and Hillary Clinton—and now their daughter Chelsea as well—are a cause for nonprofit and philanthropic concern, particularly with nonprofit entities that pay huge sums, six- and seven-figure fees to bring the Clintons to the dais. The news reports about the speaking fees and related political blowback regarding the Clintons have been increasing geometrically:

Between January 2001, when he left office, and January 2013, when Hillary Clinton left her position as Secretary of State, the former president has received $104.9 million in fees for delivering 542 speeches. The largest source of his speaking gigs? Wall Street banks and other financial services firms, which recruited the former president for 102 speeches and paid him $19.6 million.

In some cases, the former president's speaking fees have been astronomical. Last year, the Jewish National Fund, the Israeli organization that owns or controls a significant part of that nation's actual real estate, offered to pay President Clinton $500,000 in return for the president's speaking at Israeli President Shimon Peres's 90th birthday celebration. After an outcry in Israel and in the U.S., the JNF withdrew its half-million-dollar offer. That sum, though, is a quarter-million lower than the highest fee reportedly paid to President Clinton: $750,000 for an address to the telecom company Ericsson in Hong Kong.

The Washington Post's Philip Rucker reports that Hillary Clinton's average speaking fee tops $200,000, with the former Secretary of State accepting lower fees or waiving them on occasion for black-tie society gigs.

For a speech earlier this year to students and faculty at the University of California at Los Angeles, Hillary Clinton was paid $300,000, the money coming from a private trust established by Scope Industries CEO Meyer Luskin to fund a lecture series at the school. Two years ago, the UCLA paid Bill Clinton $250,000 for a speech.

The Post further reported that Hillary Clinton has scored at least $1 million this year in speaking fees for speeches at the University at Buffalo, Colgate University, and Hamilton College in New York, as well as Simmons College in Boston and the University of Miami in Florida—each declining to reveal how much they paid the former Secretary of State-- plus $251,250 from a donor fund for a speech the University of Connecticut and the $300,000 for the UCLA gig.

At the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the UNLV is paying Hillary Clinton $225,000 for speaking at its annual fundraising dinner, scheduled for October 13th. The foundation is charging people to hear the former Secretary of State as much as $20,000 for some tables ($18,000 of that cost tax deductible) and has sold $353,000 in "high dollar seats." This would give UNLV a profit from Clinton's speech notwithstanding the high fee, though lower than the $250,000 it paid the former President in 2012 to speak to 992 guests. UNLV student government leaders have split on this issue, with some calling for Hillary Clinton to donate her fee to the university as a charitable gesture.

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In the wake of questions regarding Hillary Clinton's self-acknowledged less than artful contention that she and Bill left the White House "dead broke," family spokespersons revealed that daughter Chelsea Clinton, in addition to earning $600,000 a year as a special correspondent for NBC News, where she is rarely ever seen on camera, takes in as much as $75,000 for her speeches.

The Clintons are able to command speaking fees that are close to unparalleled among politicians and celebrities. After leaving office, former Vice President Al Gore got $156,000 for a half-hour lecture in London. Former President George W. Bush's typical speaking fee is apparently $110,000. Dick Cheney's fee per address is about $75,000 and his daughter Liz's around $20,000. Former presidential candidate Mitt Romney makes between $40,000 and $60,000 for his appearances. In general, the Clinton fees on the political celebrity speaking circuit are like "max contracts" for players in the NBA; everyone else can only hope someday to see those numbers.

The criticism of the Clinton speeches, particularly Hillary Clinton's, is that she is taking in huge sums as she marches toward her all but inevitable presidential campaign, and that many of these huge fees are coming from colleges and universities which generate their income through charitable donations and tax revenues. Because Clinton is not yet an official candidate, her income from these speeches and her use of the fees does not have to be declared in the financial disclosure reports that are required of candidates.

Hillary Clinton defended her fees in an interview with ABC's Ann Compton. All of her speaking fees (and apparently Chelsea's as well) are turned over to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, the public charity that the family controls and operates. The high-profile foundation has a laudable mission: "to improve global health, strengthen economies, promote health and wellness, and protect the environment by fostering partnerships among governments, businesses, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private citizens to turn good intentions into measurable results." Among its programs are the Clinton Global Initiative; the Clinton Guistra Enterprise Partnership, geared to creating, scaling, and replicating social enterprises in the developing world—a special interest of Canadian financier Frank Giustra, who very controversially used his connection to President Clinton (helped by a $100 million donation to the CGI) to land face time with Kazakhstan's brutal dictator, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to negotiate a lucrative uranium mining deal; the Clinton Foundation in Haiti; many international health initiatives; the Clinton Climate Initiative "to create and advance solutions to root causes of climate change"; and the Clinton Presidential Center.

ABC reports, however, that it has been unable to get Hillary Clinton to provide documentation attesting to the donation of her speaking fees to the foundation. A review of the Clinton Foundation's Form 990s for several of the past years reveals no disclosure of the names of major donors and therefore no information as to whether Hillary Clinton (or Bill Clinton, for that matter) has been donating speaking fees to their philanthropy. However, Hillary Clinton's commitment to donate the speaking fees may be a decision of somewhat recent vintage, to be revealed in future 990s. (The most recent Clinton Foundation 990 available to the public on GuideStar or the Foundation Center's online directory is from tax year 2012.)

Because the foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity, however, it is not required to reveal the names of its donors and the amount they are giving the Clinton Foundation. For Hillary Clinton to fulfill her pledge of transparency, the foundation would have to take a step that it is typically not required to do. In light of the political backdrop of the Clinton Foundation, this additional voluntary transparency is very important. Disclosure of donations to charities and foundations controlled by powerful political figures should be done as a matter of course, whether they are the Clintons' speaking fees or the six- and seven-figure contributions of corporate and other donors who might have expectations of something in the future.

One issue may be the ultimate sources of the payments for the Clinton speaking fees, who might be anticipating a good word, a positive reaction, or a business-world endorsement from the most powerful political couple in the nation. But there is another issue: These donations to Hillary Clinton's income that are then transferred to her family foundation are not simply private contributions. In many cases, and particularly the most recent, these mammoth speaking fees are not from individual (or corporate) charitable donors, but from universities. Hillary Clinton defended the dynamic:

"I have been very excited to speak to many universities during the last year and a half, and all of the fees have been donated to the Clinton Foundation for it to continue its life-changing and lifesaving work," Clinton told ABC. "So it goes from a Foundation at a university to another foundation."

In other words, through her speeches, Hillary Clinton is in a way "repurposing" the donations others are making—or taxpayers are making—to these colleges and universities. The universities, like UNLV, take pains to suggest that, according to Michael Wixom, a member of the Nevada Board of Regents, "no student funds, no tuition funds, no state dollars are being used in any way to pay her fee," but that only works in cases like UNLV's where the venue is a fundraiser at which moneyed interests pay big sums, partially tax-deductible, for the honor of hearing Clinton's speech. In other instances, the universities point to privately funded endowments or trusts that pay for Clinton and perhaps other speakers as well—or in many cases, they don't even reveal how much they are paying or where the money for the speaking fees comes from.

Nonetheless, the optics aren't good. Money is largely fungible. Students and their parents are hard-pressed by tuition increases—a four-year increase of 17 percent in the Nevada higher education system, a 6.5 percent increase announced this year for the University of Connecticut, the imposition of "student success fees" at many University of California system campuses as substitutes for formal tuition increases—making the

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Clintons' speaking fees look problematic. Universities have squirmed under Congressional scrutiny but largely left unchanged such policies as amazingly high salaries for university presidents (41 of whom had compensation packages of more than $1 million as of 2011) and very low spending rates despite huge growth in their endowments in many cases, an issue constantly raised by Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa, pressing universities, much like foundations, to spend more from their endowments.

The Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation may be doing extraordinarily wonderful things for communities around the world, but additional transparency is needed, especially now that Hillary Clinton is just about guaranteed the Democratic nod for the presidency; her speaking fees from nonprofit and public universities raise questions about what the universities (or some of their well-healed donors) might want from the Clintons.

In the case of Bill and Hillary Clinton, their intersection with nonprofits and foundations is hardly superficial. In her pre-candidacy days, Hillary Clinton co-founded the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. She was the first woman chairperson of the board of the national Legal Services Corporation and also chaired the Children's Defense Fund, founded and run by civil rights activist Marion Wright Edelman. In philanthropy, she was a board member and one-time chair of the New World Foundation, a prominent funder of politically progressive of left-wing causes, and served on the board of the Wal-Mart corporation, whose corporate practices and philanthropic giving, generally the largest year upon year among all corporations, have been subjected to sometimes sharp criticism from political liberals.

In 1999, as First Lady, Hillary Clinton co-hosted the first-ever White House conference on philanthropy, with an accompanying report that called on foundations to do more for poor people and on wealthy people to give more, particularly in comparison to the charitable generosity of American's poor and working classes. It was notable—and not just a bit humorous—when President Clinton called for the wealthy classes, as a result of a huge run-up in the stock market, to increase their charitable giving by at least one percent of their income:

"As we've had this phenomenal increase in wealth in our country, I would feel even better if the percentage of our national income devoted to charitable giving had gone up just a little bit. You heard Hillary say what we could do if we could just increase it by 1 percent," the President said at the program. "But going from 2 to 3 percent is a huge increase. We've been sort of stuck at 2 percent. Now, when the stock market triples, 2 percent is a lot more than it used to be. That's not real pocket change; it's real money."

We doubt that the irony of the president calling for a one-percent increase in charitable giving with the backdrop of progressive foundations—like New World—campaigning in conjunction with the National Network of Grantmakers was due to a simple slip of the tongue on his part. He might have seemed to be simply riffing, but having watched him before and after, we would suggest that he knew exactly what he was doing. Ten years later, when Clinton spoke at a Council of Foundations-sponsored program on rural philanthropy and called out "foundation activity in rural America has been woefully inadequate," he knew exactly what he was saying then as well. In both instances, the uncomfortable reactions of foundation CEOs in the room were fun to watch, even if private foundations haven't budged on their defense of a five percent foundation payout (including related administrative expenses) or appreciably increased their grantmaking to rural America.

Now in charge of a very large foundation that is able to convene rich people from around the world and tally up their commitments to Clinton Foundation initiatives, both for international aid and for their domestic and presidential library program priorities, Bill and Hillary Clinton know their way around nonprofits and foundations to a degree probably unlike any other White House occupants. Probably only the Obamas, given President Obama's past service on the board of the Woods Fund of Chicago and First Lady Michelle Obama's numerous nonprofit connections, from the Chicago office of Public Allies to her work as a vice president for the University of Chicago hospital, compare in their personal nonprofit and philanthropic engagements prior to Barack Obama's election as president.

Bill and Hillary Clinton know nonprofits and foundations better than almost any politician you will encounter. Their political advisors are dealing with the controversial political optics of the massive speaking fees by emphasizing the deposit of the fees to the Clinton's family foundation as opposed to the Clintons' own pockets. But the concern about the Clintons' speaking fees isn't one of political image. It is more than, as some in the press have intimated, a concern that the Clintons have become well ensconced in the top one percent of the nation's socio-economic elite, aided and abetted by income from speaking fees.

The issue is that the philanthropic beneficiary of the speeches is a foundation, structured as a public foundation but clearly synonymous with and controlled by the Clinton family. Bill Clinton is arguably the most powerful and influential political figure in the nation, in or out of office. Unless her campaign tanks as it did in 2008, Hillary Clinton has an awfully good shot of becoming President of the United States. Donors and institutions that are paying them and their daughter huge sums for their speeches may very well be buying recognition and face time with powerful political leaders who they hope will be able to deliver political favors in the future.

It is troubling when corporate donors give to political charities with a more or less obvious expectation that softer and gentler treatment will ensue in the future. It is also troubling when some of the payers are public or nonprofit entities themselves such as colleges and universities, converting taxpayer funds and tax-exempt donations into signals that could end up in positive treatment when these institutions are themselves seeking access and favors, even if it is only a good word put in by one of the Clintons to a federal agency providing funding or to a regulator who might be taking a critical look at university tuitions and endowment payouts. It would be terribly disappointing to imagine that the colleges and universities paying the Clintons these sums might be fronting, hopefully unknowingly, for individual donors supporting these colleges' lecture series, but

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individually have personal or political agendas that would benefit from being associated with an institution of higher education that pays Bill or Hillary Clinton a couple of hundred thousand for a speech—even if the money ends up in the Clintons' family foundation.

In her 2008 Democratic primary campaign against Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton was resistant to calls to release the names of donors to the Clinton Foundation. Obama got a leg up against her as the "transparency candidate," even go so far as to reveal, unlike Clinton, his senatorial earmarks, including two that went to Public Allies and one that was a request for $1 million for the University of Chicago hospital. In the presidential arena, transparency and disclosure always helps. In 2014—and as the presidential campaign for 2016 looms—Hillary Clinton should be doing the same and, given some of the legitimate criticisms, thinking seriously about the practice of taking large speaking fees from colleges and universities and repurposing them for her family foundation.

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http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/what-next-for-ukraine/2014/03/21/dab50db8-b131-11e3-a49e-76adc9210f19_story.html?wpmk=MK0000205

Madeleine Albright: A strategic vision for Ukraine
Madeleine Albright, Jim O'Brien
20:11
Madeleine Albright was secretary of state from 1997 to 2001. Jim O'Brien was presidential envoy for the Balkans in the Clinton administration. She is chairman and he is vice chairman of the Albright Stonebridge Group.

When President Obama and European allies meet next week , they can begin forming a meaningful response to Vladimir Putin's adventurism. This new strategy should note that Putin's view of the world is rooted in dangerous fictions.

Churchill said Russia was a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. Under Putin, Russia's rhetoric can be described as a fantasy inside a delusion wrapped in a tissue of lies. He may believe that Ukrainians are fascists intending to attack Russians, but it is not true. Ukraine's interim government is widely representative, and no outside observer has found evidence of a campaign of violence against Russians.

The greatest disaster of the 20th century was not, as Putin has said, the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The greatest disasters of that century were one world war that came about as a result of uncertain leadership and unclear priorities; another world war that began when ethnic jealousies were used as a pretext for domination; and a half a century during which a totalitarian power oppressed its own people and its neighbors. The first was a result of misunderstandings, the second a result of outright lies and the third a result of brute force.

After the Soviet empire collapsed, the hope was to have a Europe whole and free and for Russia to be a part of it. But to Putin, the ultimate revisionist, Russia has spent more than 20 years being insulted, unable to project its power, to persuade others or to stop others from projecting their power. He tells Russians not of their potential to join the world but that they are victims and have enemies. In reality, Russia is more prosperous today than during the Soviet era, and its citizens benefit more from international involvement.

Given that Putin's aggression has broken international law, it is interesting that he is trying to justify his actions with precedents — which also are not based on facts. Putin says that he is doing what other states did in Kosovo , but that is simply not true. In the 1990s, international interventions in the Balkans were approved, contributed to and governed by large numbers of states in many institutions and informal arrangements, including the U.N. Security Council. Steps were taken over many years, with force used only after diplomacy was exhausted.

Drawing on this package of fictions, Putin has resorted to military power and propaganda — his available tools — and has acted in a place where a majority of the population is Russian and where he thinks manipulating ethnic tensions might work. His lies cannot be allowed to stand. If his doctrine of "helping" minorities that are not in danger were endorsed, the world would become much more dangerous. Only a firm response has a chance of preventing this scenario from being repeated. Putin's Russia may not listen, but states around the world are looking to see how the United States and its allies answer.

To that end, we have made a good beginning. The European Union has signed an association agreement with Ukraine . The United States and others have supported international observers, reinforced our allies in Central and Eastern Europe, and pledged financial and security support for the interim Ukrainian government. Sanctions are in place against those who have violated international law, and more are coming.

But these steps, and those that follow, must be in service of a wider strategic vision. The best principles to draw from are those that have guided the West since World War II: that each country may decide its own relationships, and that Europe should be democratic, free and undivided.

The strategy should have three parts.

First, the status of the territories Putin claims should remain disputed. No aid should flow to Crimea, and its officials should not have international standing. Europeans, Americans and the International Monetary Fund must help Ukraine with funds, a plan and advisers.

Second, the president and U.S. allies should let Russia's leaders and its people know that Russia would be welcome if it

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chooses to be a responsible member of the international order. We welcome those who would measure their country's greatness by its wealth, engagement with the world and stability of relationships with neighbors, and not only by military power on its borders.

It is not for us to say who governs Russia. But Putin's authority lies in his role as arbiter among 400 so-called men of power who benefit from state-controlled banks and companies. They and he should be made to feel the price of his actions. Their assets should be subject to scrutiny and interdiction when they cross international boundaries.

Third, and most important, President Obama's trip to Europe for the Group of Seven and the U.S.-E.U. Summit should produce a strategy for the states bordering Russia. The crux of any strategy must be to create durable economic and social ties for Ukraine and the West.

Here we can draw a lesson from the Balkans. As the Kosovo War ended in 1999, President Bill Clinton concluded that the weak states of the region, torn by ethnic divisions, could not thrive. He immediately pledged at a summit in Sarajevo to bring those states into a Europe whole, democratic and free.

Obama and our allies can make a similar pledge next week and immediately take steps to support the macroeconomic stability of Ukraine and key countries, to integrate their companies into trading relationships and to allow the people of the region opportunities to pursue education and employment, in a manageable fashion. A stronger transatlantic community embodied in the proposed transatlantic trade agreement would provide a magnet for countries looking to reject the Eurasian Union.

We must recognize, however, that Ukrainians have to be able to defend themselves. While we are beginning to provide some non-lethal assistance, the president needs to reverse a previous proposal to cut funding for a program to modernize the Ukrainian military. The Ukrainian government also needs help defending against cyberattacks and help with policing, especially riot control.

As Ukrainians prepare for presidential elections in May, they will be seeking leaders who can deliver and help them live as they want. Since the Orange Revolution, the Ukrainian people have made clear that they want to participate in Europe. Then, they were failed by their leaders but also by the international community, which did not pay enough attention.

It does not happen often that a country is given a second chance. Ukrainians have one, and so do international leaders. World War I was followed by World War II and the Cold War. History will not forgive those responsible if another Cold War occurs.

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Subject: [big campaign] Experts React, Fact-Check McCain Speech on Nuclear Proliferation

National Security Network

For Immediate Release

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Experts React, Fact-Check McCain Speech on Nuclear Proliferation

~ All agree that his unrealistic rhetoric and confrontational stances are unproductive to keeping America and the world safe and secure ~

Washington, D.C. - In reaction to John McCain's speech this morning on his views on nuclear proliferation and greater strategy for Asia, National Security Network compiled the following reactions from experts who agree that the speech and his overall outlook are misguided and return to the failed policies of the past:

> "John McCain says we should not undermine our allies by talking to North Korea, but in fact our allies in East Asia want us to talk to and engage North Korea. We lost their confidence under the Bush administration by holding to ideological positions that did not work instead of listening to our friends and working the problem to a realistic solution. Returning to the isolationist days of the first Bush term will only weaken our alliance and give North Korea a justification to resume their nuclear efforts."
> ***-Jon Wolfsthal, Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies***

> "Senator McCain's speech conveniently glosses over the largest factor undermining American ability to stem the flow of nuclear weapons in Asia and around the world: our strategic preoccupation in Iraq. For a Senator campaigning on reasserting America's diplomatic leverage to decrease the proliferation of these deadly weapons, his "100 year" Iraq plan further hinders our power to do just that."
> ***-Price Floyd, Director of External Relations, Center for a New American Security***

> "John McCain has made a major effort to reach for the votes of the of the arms control community with a broad speech on non-proliferation. Unfortunately, cooperation with Russia, the basic premise of the speech, is undermined by his earlier promise to throw Russia out of the G-8 and his continued support for ballistic missile defense in eastern Europe. An odd slip-up for a purported national security expert."
> ***-Rand Beers, President of the National Security Network***

Also, John Wolfsthal wrote the following longer reaction piece to McCain's speech:

> McCain's Nonproliferation Policy-It's a Wolf in Sheep's Clothing
>
> John McCain's speech on nuclear weapons seems to adopt the narrowest of lenses in dealing with nuclear weapons. Moreover, his proposals - many of which might sound good - don't

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match up with other things he has said on nuclear weapons, on Russia, on Iran and suggests he doesn't really get the complexity of these issues. Lastly, the tone may be better, but many of the proposals-not to mention his language choices-are right out of George W. Bush's play book. This may be a wolf in sheep's clothing, but it is still a wolf.

1) He wants to work with Russia on arms control and tactical nuclear weapons, but he also wants to kick Russia out of the G-8. Not sure how you get them to play nice on nukes after you kick them in the teeth. Also, Bush adopted a loose standard on counting nuclear weapons and verification. Will McCain (who is now working with John Bolton - father of Bush arms control dogma) be any better?

2) I applaud his desire to get tactical nuclear weapons out of Europe, but if we pull nuclear weapons out of Turkey as Iran advances its nuclear program, they are not going to have increased confidence in NATO and the US. This speech, and the references to it, will send shock waves through Europe and and a McCain Administration would start in a hole.

3) He does not walk away from the new "reliable replacement warhead" being pitched by the Bush administration. Lots of wiggle room for him, left there on purpose, I would guess.

4) Why is only the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) going to review nuclear policy? Where are the experts on nonproliferation, diplomacy, history, etc? This is the same line the Bush administration gave. In May of 2000, standing in front of Secretary Kissinger and other republican heavy-weights, then-candidate Bush said he would reduce nuclear weapons to the lowest number consistent with U.S. security. Sound familiar? McCain's statement is almost an exact quote. The JCS has set the current floor on reductions. The President sets the war guidance for the level of nuclear weapons, and leaving it to the JCS is a recipe for the status quo.

5) Did anyone else notice that McCain did not repudiate the policy of regime change? I know why Iran and North Korea want nuclear weapons. Reducing ours will not get them to change their course. Of course, singing "bomb bomb Iran" to the tune of "Barbara Ann" won't do it either. Is McCain really suggesting cutting our nukes will lead others to reduce theirs? It's the broader policy that needs changing, not just the number of nukes.

6) Coming out of left field (or from pander-ville) is the remark about international nuclear storage. It is possible that Russia might build a storage facility for countries in East Asia, but McCain seems to be suggesting some other country is going to accept our huge (the world's largest) stock of spent fuel and that this might be a way to avoid opening the spent fuel repository in Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Talk about pandering. Who does he think is going to take our nuclear waste? Even if someone would take it off our hands, the stuff contains about 100,000 weapons worth of plutonium that must be dealt with. Does McCain really want to export that to a country poor enough to want into the nuclear waste storage business?

7) Either you are for the ban on nuclear testing or you are not. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is the most studied arms control agreement in history. It has been verifiable since the 1960s. McCain voted against it. To play the "let's study it again" dance is too cute by half. If the President does not support it, it is not going to happen. Also, McCain seems to be suggesting we should re-open the agreement for new modifications. That is the fastest way to kill it. He also talks about limiting testing. We want to ban testing. We have more nuclear expertise than anyone - why we would want to make the world safe for others to test nuclear weapons is unclear. Obama and Clinton have said they are for the CTBT and plan to fight for its ratification. McCain has not. The rest of the world - including the states we need on our side to deal with Iran and North Korea - are embarrassed that we have not ratified it.

McCain's speech is a feeble attempt to try to tie all Republicans and Democrats into the failures of the Bush administration nuclear policies. Before 2000, the US was on the right track. The regime needed work, but was sound - more states had given up nuclear weapons and weapon programs in the 1980s and 90s than had begun them. Now that track record lies in ashes - because of the Bush Administration approach, backed by a Republican Congress that killed the CTBT and sought to restrict funding for nuclear security efforts during 2000-2004. McCain is promising more of the same.

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NSN's policy team produced the following posts below on DemocracyArsenal further scrutinizing the speech and McCain's Wall Street Journal Op-Ed :

McCain's Disjointed Russia Policy
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

OK, so John McCain is back to wishful thinking today laying out his bold new plan for stemming proliferation. Obviously, reducing the stockpiles of nuclear weapons is critical to American and world security. But his plan misses one slightly important detail. The critical players in this field are obviously Russia and the United States - by far the two largest nuclear powers in the world. McCain proposes a close working relationship with the Russians on these issues, and yet just two months ago in Los Angeles when he laid out his view of the world, he suggested tossing Russia out of the G8 - a needlessly provocative act that would essentially mark the start of a new Cold War in Europe. On top of that he continues to support a regional missile defense system for Europe, which a crucial nuclear security concern for the Russians. Does he really think that he can alienate the Russians and at the same time get their cooperation on critical nuclear issues? Is he that divorced from reality? Or is he just ignoring what he said two months ago? Either way, it doesn't make much sense.

Here is what he said at the Los Angeles Council on World Affairs:

> We should start by ensuring that the G-8, the group of eight highly industrialized states, becomes again a club of leading market democracies: it should include Brazil and India but exclude Russia. Rather than tolerate Russia's nuclear blackmail or cyber attacks, Western nations should make clear that the solidarity of NATO, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, is indivisible and that the organization's doors remain open to all democracies committed to the defense of freedom.

And here is what he is saying today:

> As our two countries possess the overwhelming majority of the world's nuclear weapons, we have a special responsibility to reduce their number. I believe we should reduce our nuclear forces to the lowest level we judge necessary, and we should be prepared to enter into a new arms control agreement with Russia reflecting the nuclear reductions I will seek. Further, we should be able to agree with Russia on binding verification measures based on those currently in effect under the START Agreement, to enhance confidence and transparency.

McCain's basic plan is to slap the Russians smack across the face and then ask them for a favor. Somehow I don't think that will work.

May 27, 2008 at 09:34 AM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

McCain apparently does not understand US policy toward Iran
Posted by Max Bergmann

In John McCain's speech today he says something very very puzzling:

> Many believe all we need to do to end the nuclear programs of hostile governments is have our president talk with leaders in Pyongyang and Tehran, **as if we haven't tried talking to these governments repeatedly over the past two decades.**

So McCain thinks that the President of the United States has been negotiating with the Iranians for the past two decades? Huh? Does McCain not understand that the stated policy of the U.S. government since April 7, 1980 has been to NOT TALK TO THE IRANIANS. And that we have not negotiated with Iran over their nuclear weapons program.

May 27, 2008 at 09:51 AM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

McCain More Extreme Than Bush on North Korea
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

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So on top of North Korea McCain decides that on North Korea it's actually better to be more extreme than George Bush. From 2000-2006 the Administration pursued a failed policy that got us no closer to eliminating the nuclear threat and actually ended with the detonation of a North Korean nuclear bomb. Now McCain says he wants to return to that policy:

> American leadership is also needed on North Korea. We must use the leverage available from the U.N. Security Council resolution passed after Pyongyang's 2006 nuclear test to ensure the full and complete declaration, disablement and irreversible dismantlement of its nuclear facilities, in a verifiable manner, which we agreed to with the other members of the six-party talks.

Seems innocent enough, except it didn't work for six years and has now been dismissed by all but the hardest line Bush Administration officials. Glen Kessler has more .

May 27, 2008 at 09:31 AM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

What is John McCain talking about?
Posted by Max Bergmann
I mean really - what is he talking about?

In the Wall Street Journal today, McCain and Lieberman write?

> Top leaders in Asia have warned that a precipitous American retreat from Iraq would empower al Qaeda in its global terror campaign and badly undermine America's position in Asia. We should listen to them.

Which top leaders? Who are they talking about? Do McCain and Lieberman realize that John Howard is no longer Prime Minister of Australia?

May 27, 2008 at 09:21 AM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

The National Security Network (NSN) mission is to revitalize America's national security policy, and bring cohesion and strategic focus to the progressive national security community. NSN works with a broad network of experts to identify, develop and communicate progressive national security policy solutions.

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From: "Jon Soltz" <info@votevets.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/7/2013 5:23:50 AM
Subject: Our Next Secretary of Defense Is….

votevets.org

About VoteVets.org

Dear John,

What a way to kick off 2013! Today, after over 13,000 of you (including over 8000 Veterans and Military Families) signed a petition in support of Chuck Hagel, President Obama will announce him as the nominee to be Secretary of Defense.

Be sure to tune into the announcement at 1pm EST today.

This is a huge victory for us – but the fight is not over yet. Neocons will be doing their absolute worst to try to derail the nomination. The reason is simple – they're wrong on defense, and Chuck Hagel is not only right, but is willing to call them out.

Here's why Chuck Hagel will make a tremendous Secretary of Defense.

- First, and foremost, as an enlisted soldier, who fought in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart twice, Chuck Hagel's heart is still with the fighting men and women in uniform. When it comes to military action, Chuck Hagel will ask two questions: Is this good for American security, and is this good for our troops? That is something that is desperately needed.
- Second, when it comes to American security, Chuck Hagel bravely broke with his party and his party's President, to stand up against the war in Iraq, which will go down in history as one of our most misguided military ventures. Chuck Hagel has no fear when it comes to standing up to neoconservatives, and their preemptive war, nation building dreams.
- Third, and equally as important, Chuck Hagel is a vociferous advocate for cutting Pentagon waste - from outdated weapons to our over-bloated nuclear arsenal, both of which eat up billions and billions of dollars. In these tough economic times, Chuck Hagel will have no problem identifying waste at the Department of Defense, and cutting it.

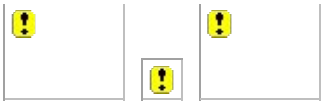
So, this is a great moment for you, for the nation, and for VoteVets.org. If you have a moment, take to Twitter, and voice your support for Chuck Hagel! Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,
Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran
Chairman, VoteVets.org
@jonsoltz

PAID FOR BY VOTEVETS ACTION FUND

VoteVets.org

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/3/2015 4:49:57 AM
Subject:	Fwd: Grassley letter
Attachments:	270203826-Senator-Demands-Lynch-Look-Into-Clinton-Ties-to-Shady-Uranium-...[2].pdf

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Maura Pally <maura.pally@gmail.com >
Date: Friday, July 3, 2015
Subject: Grassley letter
To: Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Heather Samuelson <heather.samuelson@gmail.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >

Putting on all of your radars that Grassley sent a letter to AG Lynch (dated June 30th though we just saw it) asking questions about contributions to the Clinton Foundation and the Uranium One deal. Letter is attached. Craig is connecting with comms team to be sure they are aware as well.

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From:	"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "Jeff Liszt" <jeff@algpolling.com> "Pete Brodnitz" <pbrodnitz@bsgco.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com> "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com> "Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com> "Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com> "Philippe Reines" <pir@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	2/5/2015 10:01:17 AM
Subject:	Bush Detroit Econ speech

If you haven't read Jeb's Detroit speech, take a look.
He's in a fertile zone, GOP primary electorate notwithstanding.

For those of you who've had to put up with my interest exploring 'opportunity' framing, he has some of the elements here.

Here's the full text of Jeb Bush's "right to rise" speech in Detroit

Updated by Vox Staff on February 5, 2015, 9:20 a.m. ET

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Thank you. I am delighted to be here. You are part of a great story - the revival of a city that means so much to all Americans. In these past few years, when confronted with grave challenges, you have seized the opportunity to reform the city you love.

And you have begun to repair the damage done by decades of mismanagement and empty promises.

I want to congratulate Governor Rick Snyder for his leadership. I want to acknowledge Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, and Attorney General Bill Schuette. And Mayor Mike Duggan for his determination to serve the city of his birth.

I want to recognize as well the hard work of Kevyn Orr, who I am proud to say is a son of Florida.

And finally, I want to recognize all those who were involved in making difficult and often painful decisions. Your work is not complete. But your efforts have captured the attention of our nation. Because across the U.S., we are asking ourselves the same questions:

How do we recapture the prosperity and opportunity that once defined cities like Detroit?

How do we restore America's faith in the moral promise of our great nation that any child born today can reach further than their parents?

This is an urgent issue: Far too many Americans live on the edge of economic ruin.And many more feel like they're struck in place, working longer and harder, even as they're losing ground.

Tens of millions of Americans no longer see a clear path to rise above their challenges. Something is holding them back. Not a lack of ambition. Not a lack of hope. Not because they are lazy or see themselves as victims.

Something else. Something is an artificial weight on their shoulders.

Today and in the coming weeks, I will address this critical issue.

And I will offer a new vision. A plan of action that is different than what we have been hearing in

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Washington D.C. It is a vision rooted in conservative principles and tethered to our shared belief in opportunity and the unknown possibilities of a nation given the freedom to act, to create, to dream and to rise.

We see that belief every day in action.

In oil and gas fields once given up for dry we are now assuring America's energy security. In hospitals, we are extending life and beating back once untreatable diseases. In charter schools, we are connecting students to their potential. In labs and hacker spaces, invention comes from every corner of society and the world still comes to America to learn how to create and innovate.

People know this country can be more than it is today. And that each one of us can, and must, be a part of it.

But they know this as well: We have a lot of work to do.

Today, Americans across the country are frustrated. They see only a small portion of the population riding the economy's up escalator... It's true enough that we've seen some recent and welcome good news on the economy.

But it's very little, and it's come very late.

Six years after the recession ended, median incomes are down, households are, on average, poorer ... and millions of people have given up looking for a job altogether. Roughly two out of three American households live paycheck to paycheck. Any unexpected expense can push them into financial ruin. We have a record number of Americans on food stamps and living in poverty.

The recovery has been everywhere but in the family paychecks. The American Dream has become a mirage for far too many. So the central question we face here in Detroit and across America is this: Can we restore that dream -- that moral promise -- that each generation can do better?

If we can't answer that question, no tax, no new welfare program, will save our system or our way of life. Because America's moral promise isn't broken when someone is wealthy. It's broken when achieving success is far beyond our imagination.

America is a place where, as Lincoln dreamed, any person may look forward and hope to be a hired laborer this year...and the next, work for himself... and finally, to hire men to work for him!

America, though discouraged, has not given up on the dream of Lincoln.

The dream of Lincoln is alive at 5 a.m. at a bus depot in a distant suburb or in an inner city as workers get to jobs in hotels and restaurants and hospitals. The dream is alive in the breath of a construction worker running cable under a city street in the bitter night air.

The dream is alive in the college student driving an Uber car part-time to graduate debt-free.

Lincoln's dream is alive every day nand at every moment when people choose to buy a home, start a business, enroll in school, save for the future. They know such commitments aren't easy and don't pay off right away. But they're worth doing. If Americans are working harder than ever earning less than they once did, our government and our leaders should step up, offer a plan, fix what's wrong - or they should step aside.

Let's ask how we got to this point. Let's start in Detroit.

Because in a sense, the troubles Detroit faces are an echo of the troubles facing Washington, D.C.

Decades of big government policies, petty politics, impossible-to-meet pension promises, chronic mismanagement and broken services — combined with a massive loss of jobs and competitiveness in the auto industry — drove tens of thousands of people from this city and this region.

For example: Detroit under the previous administration was so proud of shutting down businesses that hadn't paid their licenses and fees, they bragged about it in press releases. The city threatened nearly 900 businesses with closure and followed through on nearly 400 businesses, shutting them down.

Many of these were small businesses run out of homes and alley-facing garages, run by people who just wanted to take that first step up the economic ladder.

One of those business owners, Derek Little, had a simple way to describe his frustration: I'm running a legit business... They could be doing something better.

And while the city was shutting down people who were trying to build a business ...it couldn't even do its job correctly: The city was losing money writing parking tickets.

Of course, on Amtrak they lose money on the snack car. They literally have a captive audience.

But government inefficiency isn't just irritating. It's instructive. If the government can't collect parking fines, or sell snacks on a train, why would government know how to enable every citizen to move up in life?

That's why I launched the Right to Rise PAC. So that someone would speak for people who don't want to wait for the government to deliver prosperity. They want to earn it themselves. Government isn't the only issue here. There is far more at work. But in a sense, fixing government policy is the easiest problem to solve. And it's the one most responsive to the demands of voters.

So, I am getting involved in politics again, because that's where the work has to begin. The opportunity gap is the defining issue of our time.

More Americans are stuck at their income levels than ever before. It's very hard for people to go from the bottom rungs of the economy to the top. Or even to the middle.

This should alarm you. It alarmed me. The problem starts when we fear the one thing that can help unlock the economic status quo: The freedom to compete and work as a team to build great things.

Competition is messy. But it's essential. We've all seen the battles: The taxicab companies fight against web-enabled car services. The restaurants fight against the food trucks. The brick-and-mortar retailers fight against the Internet companies.

I'm not here to take sides. And I don't think government should either. Because when government protects one business against another, or tilts the field of competition, there is a clear loser: Anyone who wants to create something as a team. Anyone who wants to innovate and shake things up. Anyone who wants more choices and better service. And we know that in the end, standing against competition and dynamism is a losing battle.

In 1955, 60 years ago, the Fortune 500 list first appeared. Of the companies on that list, fully 88% don't even exist today or have fallen away. Today's Fortune 500 will be replaced by new companies that are just starting today.

This is hard for some people to accept. Because entrenched interests do not like giving up what they have. That's why they fear small competitors who have nothing to lose. You know the stories: The president of Michigan Savings Bank imparted some wisdom to the young lawyer for a small start-up company: The horse, the bank president said,'is here to stay, but the automobile is only a fad.'

The small start-up that lawyer represented... was the Ford Motor Company.We can laugh about it now because Ford and the other innovators of Detroit had the economic freedom to compete and to prove the doubters wrong.

Our nation has always valued such economic freedom because in economic freedom, each citizen has the power to propel themselves forward and upward.

This really isn't understood in Washington D.C. And you can see why: It's a company town.

And the company is government. It's all they know.

For several years now, they have been recklessly degrading the value of work, the incentive to work, and the rewards of work.

We have seen them cut the definition of a full-time job from 40 to 30 hours, slashing the ability of paycheck earners to make ends meet. We have seen them create welfare programs and tax rules that punish people with lost benefits and higher taxes for moving up those first few rungs of the economic ladder.

Instead of a safety net to cushion our occasional falls, they have built a spider web that traps people in perpetual dependence. We have seen them waive the rules that helped so many people escape welfare.

The progressive and liberal mindset believes that to every problem there is a Washington D.C. solution. But that instinct doesn't solve any problem, other than the problem of how to keep

Washington's regional economy well-lubricated.

And the cost is enormous!

Let's say you're a hard-working middle-class family. You work hard. You pay your mortgage on time. As President Obama likes to say: You play by the rules.

But for President Obama, one of the rules is this: He reserves the right to change the rules.

Just last month, he thought it was a good idea to tax 529 college savings plans. Remember: 529s were created to be tax-free ways to save for college. Millions of people started them for their kids and grandkids. So it's no surprise people hated the president's idea. And he dropped it. But it was an instructive lesson in the liberal and progressive mindset. Saving for college is the responsible thing to

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do. But instead of embracing 529s, the liberals moved to tax them.

It's frustrating. But it shows you how they think.

And if you want to know how they act, ask Sharon DeLay. Sharon founded a recruiting company in Westerville, Ohio. Here's what she said: It's as if the politicians and regulators in Washington want me to fail - and spend all their time thinking up new ways to ensure that I do ...You either want me to be the engine of the economy or you don't!

Here's a message for Sharon and millions like her: There's a better way.Let'sine this path first by the core principles of a Right to Rise society because once we do that, the policies, the laws and the way forward will be much clearer.

Let's start with the first principle: When it comes to ensuring opportunity and a chance at success, the most important factor isn't government. It's a committed family.

Social scientists across the ideological spectrum agree on this: If you want to predict whether someone will graduate from school, go to college and move forward in life, just find out one thing: Were they raised in a loving household by two parents? If you didn't, you can overcome it, but it's very hard. If you did, you have a built-in advantage in life.

The evidence is overwhelming. Every child has a greater chance at opportunity when they are raised by loving, caring and supportive parents and a committed family. That isn't the work of government. But it's critical that governmental leaders recognize that and support it.

A second principle: Growth above all. A growing economy, whether here in Detroit or throughout this country is the difference between poverty and prosperity for millions. If you want to close the opportunity gap, grow the economy. This is a principle that concentrates the mind.

If a law or a rule doesn't contribute to growth, why do it? If a law subtracts from growth, why are we discussing it? And for what it's worth, I don't think the US should settle for anything less than 4% growth a year — which is about twice our current average. At that rate, the middle class will thrive again.

And in the coming months, I intend to detail how we can get there, with a mix of smart policies and reforms to tap our resources and capacity to innovate, whether in energy, manufacturing, health care or technology.

Third: The right to rise depends on a government that makes it easier to work than not work.

That means fewer laws restricting the labor market and reducing the penalties that come with moving up from the lowest rungs of the ladder.

Fourth: To address the income gap, let's close the opportunity gap, and that starts with doing everything we can to give every child, from every neighborhood, a great education. This won't happen overnight — trust me, I know. But I also know it works. And it takes every tool we have.

Accountability for teachers and school administrators, assessment of student learning, high standards, and choices. These key elements of school reform work and we have the results to prove it.

Finally, let's embrace reform everywhere, especially in our government. Let's start with the simple principle of who holds the power. I say give Washington less and give states and local governments more.

We make multi-billion dollar infrastructure decisions based on a labor law written in 1921. President Obama proposes making rules on the Internet using laws written in the 1930s. We regulate global airlines using laws written for railroads. Our immigration laws were written a half-century ago.

Governmental policy seems frozen, incapable and fearful of change. It is in the way. And we deserve better than this.

If we don't transform ourselves to meet new challenges and seize new opportunities, we know what happens next. Look around this city. In its history there is a warning to all of us.

A century ago, Detroit was America's great innovation hub. The Silicon Valley of its age.

It was bigger than Chicago. It was the nation's wealthiest city in 1960.

Detroit put the world on wheels and created the jobs that lifted millions of Americans into the middle class.

This city was the arsenal of Democracy and delivered the arms needed to defend freedom across two oceans.

Detroit promised prosperity and it delivered.

Sons of sharecroppers coming up from the South, farmhands from the Upper Midwest, immigrants who spoke Polish, Yiddish, Greek and Arabic.

Their children settled. They prospered. And some of their grandchildren are in this room today.

And now, you are rebuilding this city. I know you will be that great city again. Because Americans by nature work and strive to succeed.

It is already happening.

In the Madison Building, not far from here, new companies are rising. One of them, iRule, is led by two young men, one born in Russia, the other in Israel. They left secure jobs as automotive engineers to start their business in 2009. At the very bottom of the recession. Here's what one of them, Itai ben Gal said: 'We know Detroit has its baggage, but we believe we're part of the solution.'

Three years later, they have 21 employees, including Itai's father, who is the CFO.

And this activity is happening downtown, in an area once ignored.

Another Detroit entrepreneur grew up in the suburbs. He rarely came downtown as a child. But today, he works here. He lives here. This is what he said: 'We see the city for what it can be... not for what it was.'

That's how we should see everything. Not just Detroit.But in all of America.

I know some in the media think conservatives don't care about the cities.

But they are wrong. We believe that every American and in every community has a right to pursue happiness. They have a right to rise.

So I say: Let's go where our ideas can matter most. Where the failures of liberal government are most obvious. Let's deliver real conservative success.

And you know what will happen?

We'll create a whole lot of new conservatives.

I know, because I've lived it.

I come from Miami, another city that faced the same struggles as Detroit.

In my city, the schools were failing, opportunity was scarce and for too many, simply being born in the wrong neighborhood meant the American Dream was cruelly out of reach.

I joined with my friend, Willard Fair, a courageous leader in the civil rights movement.

We decided that the right to rise, was also a civil right. So we went to work to change education in Florida.

While there's much more to do, we saw lives changed and hope restored.

You can do it, here in Detroit. We can do it, across America.

Because this morning, 320 million Americans got up ... and they are on 320 million different paths of life.

It's our goal to see them succeed.

And it's our responsibility to do everything possible to help them.

Because by their success, they will not only build prosperity for themselves. They will renew the promise of this nation when everyone, has the right to rise.

Those are the stakes. That's why we're here. Please join me in this great cause.

Thank you and may God bless you, and may God bless America.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 4:23:23 AM
Subject: Re: TWEETS 5/1

Ok to go.

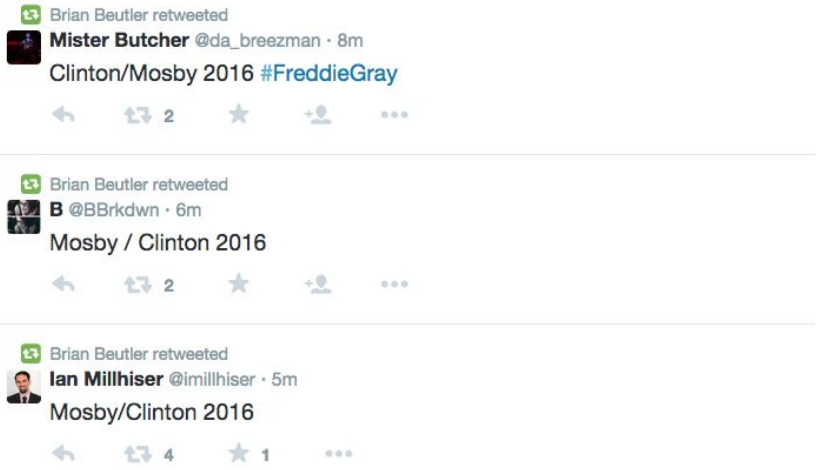
On May 1, 2015 8:15 AM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

BREAKING: "The state attorney of Baltimore, in a unexpected announcement, said Friday that she had probable cause to file homicide, manslaughter and misconduct charges against the police officers in the death of Freddie Gray, who died after sustaining a spinal cord injury while in police custody.

In a news conference Friday, the state attorney, Marilyn J. Mosby, said that the death of Mr. Gray had been ruled a homicide and the police had been negligent in his death.

“We have probable cause to file criminal charges,” Ms. Mosby said. As Ms. Mosby spoke outside the War Memorial here, dozens of police officers dressed in riot gear stood nearby."- NYT

Her statement has been met with an outpouring of support on Twitter. Including:



TWEET:

Commend efforts of @MarilynMosbyEsq to seek justice for Freddie Gray and for the youth of Baltimore.

Note: "justice for the youth of Baltimore" echoes a line from her press statement. Could wait until HRC makes a statement if you're worried about getting out ahead of her.

On Fri, May 1, 2015 at 10:25 AM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Note: my new goal is to send a second round of Tweets in the PM to respond to campaign developments throughout the day.

TWEETS 5/1

New study: ice-loss in Antarctica increased 6 bil tons/year each year from 2003 to 2014. Cap melting faster than ever. tp://bit.ly/1JegM3y (140)

If you can't keep track of Schweizer's fabrications, distortions in "Clinton Cash" @MediaMatters can help: http://bit.ly/1GCbj3A (137)

RETWEETS 5/1

Suggestion from KLC:

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US Dept of Interior @Interior · 22h

Check out the Share the Experience photo contest winner: Polar bears at Arctic #WildlifeRefuge by Gregory Teller



193 226 View more photos and videos

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

--
Milia Fisher
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From: seizenstat@gmail.com
To: "Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 10/9/2015 12:28:47 PM
Subject: Re: Zarif/Iran

Thanks. Let me know if I can help on the debate.
Stu
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 9 Oct 2015 11:45:05 -0400
To: Stuart Eizenstat<seizenstat@gmail.com>
Cc: <John.Podesta@gmail.com><John.Podesta@gmail.com>; <huma@hrcoffice.com><huma@hrcoffice.com>; Stu Eizenstat<seizenstat@cov.com>
Subject: Re: Zarif/Iran

Thanks Stu. Sounds like a fascinating discussion.

On Oct 8, 2015, at 12:06 AM, Stuart Eizenstat <seizenstat@gmail.com > wrote:

From: Eizenstat, Stuart [mailto:seizenstat@cov.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:21 PM
To: 'seizenstat@gmail.com '
Cc: Holte, Laurina
Subject: TPP and Iran

Dear Jake,

I attended a meeting on Monday, October 5, in New York with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif, hosted by the Atlantic Council (whose Iran Task Force I chair) and the New America Foundation (with Bill Leurs and Tom Pickering). This is the third meeting I have had with Zarif.

He made the following points in a 20 minute speech and answers to questions:

1. The nuclear agreement was a victory for diplomacy and dialogue. What was a success for Iran is not a defeat for the U.S. This is not a zero sum game. The agreement is the best insurance against an Iranian breakout. The “fabricated nuclear material cannot be used for making a bomb.” We are willing to take “your nuclear fuel, so we will not need to make any of our own.”

2. Implementation of the agreement requires transparency and a commitment to abide by its terms, and Iran will do so.

3. The US seems intent in terms of sanctions relief to do the “least it can do”. He is “concerned with the tough interpretation of sanctions relief by OFAC. Moreover, the New York banking authorities are complicating things even more with financial sanctions, making it difficult for European companies to get the funds to invest in Iran.
This sends negative signals Treasury and DOJ should give a reasonable interpretation to the lifting of sanctions. Otherwise, it will make it difficult for even European companies to do business in Iran. Here again, the U.S. seems to view sanctions relief as a zero sum game, in which whatever helps Iran is bad for the U.S. It is in everyone’s interest if Iran’s economy recovers, and gets out of a “siege mentality”.

4. Iran does not expect American companies to do business with Iran because of continuing U.S. sanctions. But under existing rules, many U.S. companies can do business with Iran. For example, Iran needs 400 new aircraft, and can purchase them from either Boeing or Airbus. There is no legal bar to Boeing selling its aircraft to Iran, with an OFAC license. Likewise, humanitarian goods can be sold to Iran from the U.S. now, including pharmaceuticals and medical devices made by GE. Iran can be a “huge market” for U.S. goods and services.

5. Even if the lifting of sanctions will not help U.S. companies that much, compared to European companies, eventually this will happen.

6. Just as politics in the U.S. are difficult, they are also “difficult” in Iran .A member of the Iranian parliament said that Zarif’s hands should be cut-off for shaking hands with President Obama at the United Nations this week. It is wrong to think that all decisions in Iran are made by one man.

7. Iran and the U.S. have negative views of each other. The U.S. sees Iran as determined to get a nuclear weapon, while Iran sees the U.S. as trying do dominate the Middle East.

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8. He spent a good deal of time discussing Saudi Arabia. He said since his first days in office he has sought a dialogue, but Iranian overtures have been rebuffed. He was told by the Saudis, "leave the Arabs to ourselves". He recounted that he left the World Economic Forum immediately and made the long trip to Saudi Arabia for the funeral of King Abdullah. But he received barely a handshake for his efforts. Saudi Arabia also sees relations with Iran as a zero sum game. The Saudis think ISIS can help them against Iran. Iran has sent a new Ambassador to Saudi Arabia who they trust, and he hopes this will help the relationship.

9. I asked him about the use of the unfrozen assets, and I said that people here will be looking to see if Iran spends its new-found funds on its people and investments, of if substantial amounts go to Hezbollah. He gave a tough response. "The money is our money and it was illegally blocked by the U.S., and what we do with our money is purely our business." He further said, "You spend 10 times more in the Middle East than we do, and what has it gotten you?" He contended Iran would only get $40 billion and we will spend it for our people.

10. If we give funds to Hezbollah, they are a positive force in Lebanon, and have kept ISIS out of Lebanon.

11. Regarding Syria, he said the presence if Russian military equipment and personnel was a good thing for Syria. He contented that "four months ago ISIS was close to Damascus, and this necessitated Russian help to beat them back. Iran "does not intend to send troops to Syria, but we will play a greater role in training and supporting the Syrian Army. He asked rhetorically, "what good has the U.S. and its allies done in combating ISIS?" He said flatly, "We are cooperating with Russia in Syria." The U.S., he asserted, has a dilemma in Syria. If you stick with the rebels, your support is not likely to be effective; if you support Assad you are changing your policy. He asserted that

12. Regarding the 1994 AMIA bombing and the recent controversy over the death of the prosecutor Nisman, shortly before he was to deliver a report to the Argentine Congress, the person who alleged Iran blew up AMIA has been proven a fraud and liar. He did saw shortly after Nisman's death that it was a suicide, but he was simply following the statement made by Argentina's democratically elected leader. "It is a mistake to allege Iran blew up AMIA." The Saudis are behind all of this with their incorrect allegations.

13. Robin Wright of the Post, asked him about the release of the prisoners, including Jason, their journalist. Zarif said he knows Jason and would like to see him released, but he is an Iranian citizen, and an Iranian court found him guilty of passing along intelligence to a foreign power He is subject to Iranian law. "It will be hard to justify their release to our public." However, he added, "I am ready for a negotiation, but it will have to involve the release of Iranian prisoners in the U.S." The US "says we should be flexible", but you are not flexible with our prisoners". But he would like to see them back in the U.S. and their prisoners back in Iran.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

P.S. On the unrelated issue of TPP, I am disappointed with the position Hillary took. Of course, I am fully aware of the politics of the issue, but she could have stressed the geo-political advantage of passing it, in terms of combating Chinese influence in Asia. Also, the environmental groups seem positive. She might have dealt with the deficiencies in the trade area by bilateral side agreements, as with NAFTA. Her position will complicate an already difficult fight to pass TPP; its defeat would be a gift to China.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Anthony "Tony" Podesta <podesta@podesta.com>
Date: 8/3/2015 10:50:16 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: EPA's nuclear shift eases climate goals for South Carolina, Georgia

I'm for keeping exsisting fleet on line.

On Aug 3, 2015 2:48 PM, "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com > wrote:

> Are you pronuke?
> Happy with how this turned out?
> I am in Tasmania
> Snowing here
> Let me know how it's going
> Tony
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard <politicoemail@politicopro.com >
> Date: August 4, 2015 at 7:44:08 AM GMT+10
> To: <podesta@podesta.com >
> Subject: EPA's nuclear shift eases climate goals for South Carolina, Georgia
> Reply-To: <proservices@politicopro.com >
>
> 8/3/15 5:43 PM EDT
>
> EPA's decision to not include nuclear reactors that are under construction in its state emissions goals under its new climate rule has significantly eased the burden on South Carolina and Georgia .
>
> There are currently five reactors under construction in South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee, and last year's draft version of EPA's emissions rule included them in the target for the states, which would have forced those states to make even deeper pollution cuts. The final rule says that those reactors may now be used to meet state emissions goals in part because unlike the growing investment and ever-shrinking costs of building out renewable energy, such trends "are not as clearly evidenced in nuclear generation."
>
> Nuclear plants that increase their power output may also be used to meet a state's goals.
>
> The final rule trimmed South Carolina's emissions rate goal from 51 percent to 36 percent, while Georgia's was reduced from 44 percent to 34 percent. Both states have two reactors under construction. Part of their lower targets was from an increase in their 2012 baseline emissions calculated by EPA.
>
> The goal set out for Tennessee , where one reactor is under construction, rose by about a percentage point from the draft.
>
> Today's final rule also axes a proposal aimed at factoring in the preservation of existing nuclear generation. "Existing nuclear generation helps make existing CO2 emissions lower than they would otherwise be, but will not further lower CO2 emissions below current levels," the rule states.
>
> — *Darius Dixon*
>
> *To view online:*
> https://www.politicopro.com/go/?wbid=58583
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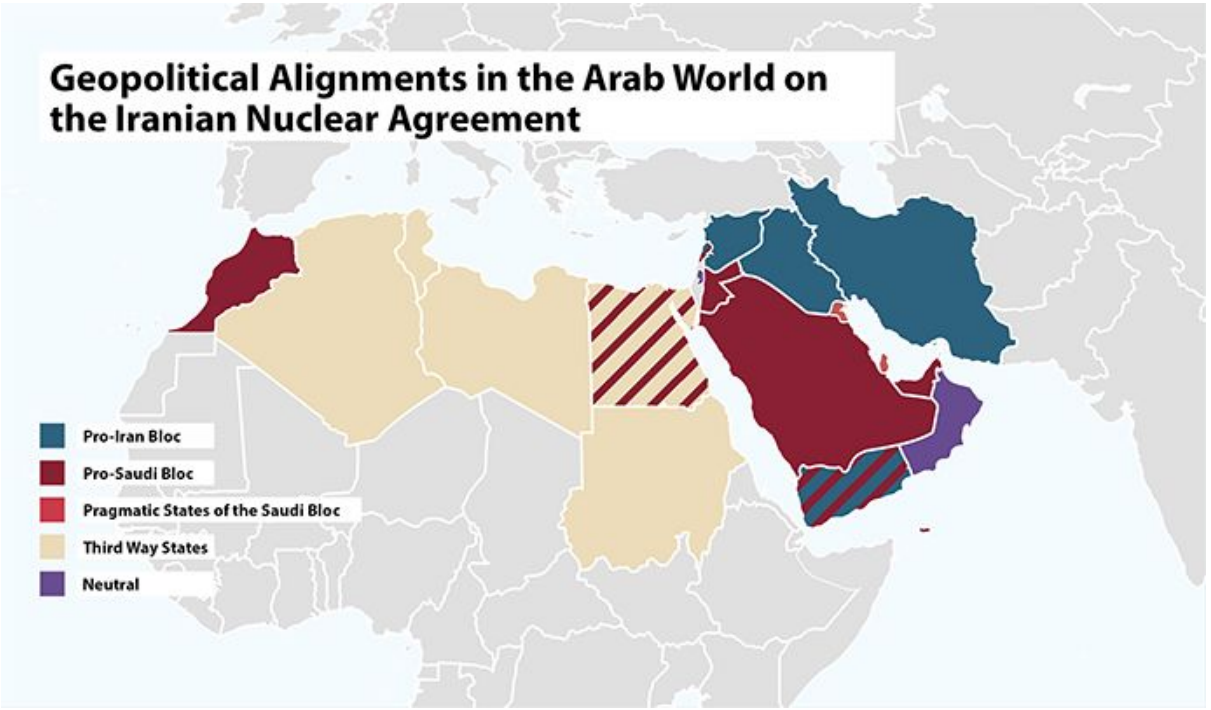
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From: "Payam Mohseni" <info@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/13/2015 1:08:53 PM
Subject: Iran and the Arab World after the Nuclear Deal: Rivalry and Engagement in a New Era

Dear Colleagues,

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between Iran and the P5+1 presents significant implications for the future order of the Middle East. But how it will do so remains uncertain.

Will it shift Iranian foreign policy toward greater cooperation and reconciliation or will it produce greater Iranian regional empowerment and aggressiveness instead? How do Iran's Arab neighbors assess the nuclear agreement and envision the future role of Iran in the region?



To help us understand this debate and answer these and related questions, the Belfer Center's Iran Project is publishing *Iran and the Arab World after the Nuclear Deal: Rivalry and Engagement in a New Era*. Our report has gathered a range of opinions and views from 15 leading experts based in the Arab world to assess the impact of the nuclear agreement on Iran-Arab security relations.

Download the full report [pdf] »

View the introduction »

We hope you find this report valuable. I welcome your feedback.

Payam Mohseni
Director, The Iran Project
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
Harvard Kennedy School of Government

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Also: See the Belfer Center's comprehensive description and assessment of the agreement:
The Iran Deal: A Definitive Guide

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/3/2014 7:27:06 AM
Subject: Noam Chomsky | Nightmare in Gaza

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Noam Chomsky | Nightmare in Gaza

Noam Chomsky, Truthout: Amid all the horrors unfolding in the latest Israeli offensive in Gaza, Israel's goal is simple: quiet-for-quiet, a return to the norm. For Gaza, the norm is a miserable existence under a cruel and destructive siege that Israel administers to permit bare survival but nothing more.

Read the Article

Guns in the Mental Health Clinic: Not Therapeutic

Anne Skomorkowsky, Truthout: The tragic case of a psychiatrist firing a gun to protect himself and others from a patient who had just shot a caseworker to death illuminates the unrealistic expectation that psychiatric care can prevent violent crime.

Read the Article

On Roboethics and the Robotic Human

Fred Guerin, Truthout: Instead of trying to come up with an algorithm that captures the essence of independent thought, wisdom or ethical judgment in robots, let's preserve and encourage such thinking in ourselves.

Read the Article

Fracking the Farm: Scientists Worry About Chemical Exposure to Livestock and Agriculture

Roger Drouin, Truthout: Recent early studies by public health and veterinarian scientists are confirming there is cause for concern when it comes to fracking's potential impact on farm crops and animals.

Read the Article

The United States Has Excelled in Illegal Goods and Smuggling People Since Its Founding

Peter Andreas, Oxford University Press: The history of the United States is a battle over smuggling, from evading tariffs and embargoes to violating

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

In Rural Villages, Little Protection for Alaska Natives

Read the Article at the Washington Post

Toledo Water Issues Prompt Chicago to Re-Test Lake Water Supply

Read the Article at the Chicago Tribune

Israel Spied On John Kerry During Peace Effort - Report

Read the Article at the Guardian

Photos: Saying Goodbye at an ICE Deportation Facility

View the Photos at Al Jazeera America

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prohibitions and immigration controls.
Read the Excerpt

Truthout Interviews Featuring Bethania Palma Markus on Migrants and Corporate Exploitation

Ted Asregadoo, Truthout: Bethania Palma Markus talks with Ted Asregadoo about the spike in borderland deaths among migrants and corporate exploitation of migrant groups in detention centers.
Watch the Video

A Promising but Precarious New Normal for the Young and Undocumented

Diana Anahi Torres-Valverde, Foreign Policy In Focus: A two-year-old executive order has helped thousands of undocumented young people plan for their future, but their plans could be erased with the stroke of a pen.
Read the Article

Paid Sick Day Campaigns Gain Traction as ALEC Allies Push Back

Brendan Fischer, PRWatch: As the paid sick day movement has gained momentum, its opponents - particularly those in the restaurant industry - have tried to thwart it. The paid sick day obstruction effort can largely be traced back to ALEC.
Read the Article

The Great Colorado Weed Experiment
Read the Article at The New York Times

No-Debt College Not Real Option Anymore
Read the Article at the Miami Herald

John Boehner's Monster: How Irrational Racist Hatred for Obama Will Destroy the GOP
Read the Article at Crooks and Liars

US Loses Track of Weapons Shipped to Afghanistan

James Arkin, Center for Public Integrity: Three separate systems are used to track the arms sent to Afghanistan, but they are riddled with errors and not linked.
Read the Article

Why the US and Britain Lost Russia in 2014

John A. Taylor, Truthout: Unscrupulous politicians play on the fearful anger of white males in the US and Britain and use arguments about democracy and human rights to make political theater. Russia provides them with their current opportunity for political theater in Ukraine.
Read the Article

This week in Speakout:

Marah Alwadia provides eyewitness testimony to the Shujaia massacre in Gaza; **David Palumbo-Liu** discusses the massive global protest against Israel's military assault on Gaza; undocumented immigrant **José Ángel N.** makes a passionate plea for immigration reform in an open letter to President Obama; **David Krause** deconstructs San Francisco Mayor Scott Wiener's so-called "Clean, Green and Safe" initiative; **Mike LaSusa** analyzes Argentina's default at the hands of "vulture funds"; **Patricia W. Hall** "follows the money" to see who is really benefiting from charter schools; the **Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity** write an open letter urging Obama to be transparent on information from the shoot-down of the Malaysian airliner over Ukraine; **Susan Sered** criticizes the US for failing to sign on to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities; **Dr. Marc Gopin** suggests we can change our reality by breaking nasty neural habits; economists urge Congress to mitigate the fallout from the Argentinian default in an open letter from the **Center for Economic Policy Research**; and more.
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/29/2014 1:11:46 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday October 29, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday October 29, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Politico: "2016: It's on"

"The committees that form the core of the Clinton machine – the super PACs Ready for Hillary, American Bridge and Priorities USA – combined with the idling Senate committee that houses her once-coveted (and still profitable) email list brought in $3.8 million in the third quarter alone. The groups spent $1.4 million in those three months reaching out to existing and potential supporters and donors."

National Journal: "Kirsten Gillibrand: It's 'Vital' That a Woman Becomes President in 2016"

"Gillibrand has made it clear that as long as Clinton runs, she won't be–she told National Journal after the event that she'll support Clinton '110 percent.'"

Fox News column: Media Buzz: Howard Kurtz: "Media pounce on Hillary's jobs gaffe, float Jeb's trial balloon"

"Never mind that Warren has said again and again she's fine with Hillary and isn't running in 2016, the pundits can't stand a vacuum. Hillary cruising to the nomination is kind of a dull story line. So what she says, especially on economic issues, has to be measured against a hypothetical Warren candidacy."

The Week: "This is how the GOP should respond to Hillary Clinton's trumpeting of a minimum wage hike"

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“So why am I suggesting that any of this might be good for Clinton? Because if she is the Democratic nominee, as we all assume she will be, her GOP opponents will surely be tempted to repeatedly cite her words as proof of fuzzy, liberal thinking on economic policy. And she might kind of like that, actually.”

BuzzFeed: “Rand Paul Is Already Campaigning Against Hillary Clinton”

“Hillary Clinton has become the target of ire from Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul as he stumps for Republican candidates here [in Kansas] after Clinton said at a recent campaign stop that businesses and corporations do not create jobs.”

Wall Street Journal blog: Metropolis: “Bill Clinton Will Stump for Cuomo Thursday”

“Former President Bill Clinton, who has been stumping for Democrats across the country , is expected to campaign for Mr. Cuomo on Thursday at a rally in New York City, according to people familiar with the matter.”

USA Today: “Democrats, hoping to save Colorado, send Clinton”

“Democrats are pulling out all the stops, including back-to-back appearances by former president Bill Clinton, in their suddenly uphill battle to retain the state's governor's mansion and one of its two Senate seats.”

Las Vegas Review-Journal: “Bill Clinton rallies Dems in Vegas”

“On a mission to save Nevada Democrats, former President Bill Clinton on Tuesday urged supporters at a rally to vote or suffer the consequences: a GOP-led Congress that would favor the rich over workers, try to repeal Obamacare and shut down the government ‘over and over and over.’”

Washington Post column: Ruth Marcus: “Why Jeb Bush should run for president”

“As a general matter — sure, Barbara Bush is right. The more expansive our political roster, the better. But in the context of 2016 — well, this gets to my ‘run, Jeb, run’ argument. He and Clinton are two of the best-qualified candidates.”

Reuters: “Kerry wants Keystone pipeline decision 'sooner rather than later'”

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"U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday during a visit to Canada that he would like to make a decision soon on TransCanada Corp's Keystone XL crude oil pipeline."

The Hill opinion: Lanny Davis: "To Republicans: Watch out for traps after midterms"

"[Pres.] Clinton's economic and social policies were progressive by any definition…"

Bloomberg: "Why is Hillary Clinton Not Cutting Television Ads?"

"So, while Democrats at campaign rallies may love Clinton, she remains a nationally divisive figure, one that's perhaps too divisive for state-wide television."

New York Times: "How Women Use Fashion to Assert Their Power"

"… it [the museum exhibition] is laid out over almost 6,500 square feet in three parts: There is an analytic 'corridor of power' that identifies 16 of the most influential dressers in history, starting with Hatshepsut, the Egyptian queen who used elements of male dress to establish authority after her husband's death; culminating with Hillary Clinton…"

Articles:

Politico: "2016: It's on"

By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti

October 29, 2014, 5:05 a.m. EDT

Prospective presidential candidates and their supporters are spending money like it's 2016.

Groups allied with 15 of the top presidential prospects have raised $89 million and spent $87 million this election cycle as they gear up for 2016, with a focus on building campaign infrastructure and making inroads in key primary states, according to a POLITICO analysis of reports filed this month with the Federal Election Commission and Internal Revenue Service.

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The groups connected to Hillary Clinton alone have brought in $25 million.

POLITICO's analysis included committees allied with prospective 2016 Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, Deval Patrick, Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren and possible 2016 Republicans Paul Ryan, John Bolton, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Mike Huckabee, Bobby Jindal, Rand Paul, Rick Perry, Marco Rubio and Rick Santorum.

The affiliated groups run the gamut from campaign committees to leadership PACs to technically independent super PACs to non-profits, and mostly have stated purposes separate from 2016, including helping allies in their 2014 races. They have ramped up activity this summer, raising $16 million between July 1 and the end of September, and spending $5.4 million collecting data on donors, voters and grassroots supporters.

Not long ago, that level of campaign finance activity would have been expected during the campaign itself, but the break-neck pace before the 2014 midterms hints at just how expensive it will be to build a top-tier presidential campaign operation in 2016.

Anyone hoping to be competitive likely will have to bring in between $100 million and $150 million next year before the first voters even go to the polls, said Michael Toner, a former FEC Commissioner who served as a top lawyer on the presidential campaigns of Republicans George W. Bush in 2000, Fred Thompson in 2008 and Tim Pawlenty in 2012.

"That's just the entry fee," Toner said. "It's what you're likely going to need to raise to organize on the ground simultaneously in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and other early states, while also getting on the ballot in those states, which is extremely onerous and expensive."

Only one of the possible White House aspirants included in the analysis — Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin — is actually on the ballot Tuesday, and he faces only token opposition. But major swaths of the spending reflected in his finance reports — like that of the other groups analyzed — could unquestionably help form the foundation of a presidential campaign apparatus.

"The keys to being treated as a viable candidate are raising your national profile, building a network of donors and building a grassroots network, and it takes money to do all those things," said GOP lawyer and fundraiser Charlie Spies. In 2008 and 2012, Spies helped Mitt Romney build political operations that elevated presidential campaign preparation into a political sub-industry unto itself.

The 2014 activity reflected in recent finance reports – likely the last full round of disclosures before candidates begin declaring for the presidency – offers a glimpse at how various politicians might approach their White House bids.

The strategies are as varied as the prospective candidates' ideologies – from Florida Sen. Rubio's flashy $400,000 in reported ad spending boosting 2014 candidates to the $1-million-plus think tank Louisiana Gov. Jindal's allies created to promote his policy ideas to the populist barnstorming of Sens. Sanders of Vermont and Paul of Kentucky. In the third quarter, as they hopscotched the country rallying voters in targeted races (many of which just happened to be in key 2016 states), they racked up travel costs totaling $27,000 and $118,000, respectively, ranging from charter airfare ($11,000 for Sanders and $59,000 for Paul) to rental cars ($700 for Sanders and $3,000 for Paul).

Paul's PAC even purchased $337.03 in "apparel" at the Men's Wearhouse in Omaha, Neb., around the time the

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senator, whose offbeat wardrobe has been the subject of curiosity, swung through town en route to adjacent Iowa to campaign for Senate candidate Ben Sasse.

Yet none of this is close to the money and activity behind Clinton.

If the former Secretary of State and New York senator wins the Democratic nomination, the committees supporting her could raise $1.7 billion or more – far eclipsing the record-breaking $1.2 billion raised by those supporting President Barack Obama's 2012 reelection, Toner predicted. In his estimation, Clinton's campaign committee alone would have the potential to raise $1 billion, with an additional $500 million that could come into the Democratic Party committees, plus $200 million or more going to outside groups devoted to putting her in the White House.

"She is the 10,000-pound gorilla," Toner said. Her mere presence in the primary "would likely have a ripple effect on how much money other candidates are going to have to raise in 2015 just to be in the ballgame."

Allies of the putative Democratic frontrunner have already built a shadow campaign operation unlike anything in modern American political history.

The committees that form the core of the Clinton machine – the super PACs Ready for Hillary, American Bridge and Priorities USA – combined with the idling Senate committee that houses her once-coveted (and still profitable) email list brought in $3.8 million in the third quarter alone. The groups spent $1.4 million in those three months reaching out to existing and potential supporters and donors.

Priorities USA, which was created to support Obama's reelection, after 2012 morphed into the advertising arm of the Clinton apparatus, quietly building analytical models for an on-air assault to nuke any rival who challenges the former secretary of state. Last month, it spent $41,000 for research from NCEC Services, Inc., which specializes in creating voter outreach strategies. It's part of an effort "laying the groundwork to run the most data-driven, targeted independent expenditure in presidential campaign history," boasted Priorities spokesman Peter Kauffmann.

Ready for Hillary, which set out to mobilize grassroots support around a potential Clinton campaign, has the biggest overhead of any of the groups in this analysis. It has 35 staffers spread across 14 states and owns a bus that has been crisscrossing the country holding rallies. In the last three months, it paid nearly $650,000 in salary and human resource-related expenses and $227,000 in travel costs.

It's building a voter file it hopes to use to benefit a potential Clinton campaign, and it paid $45,000 for data from the Democratic parties that host the first two primary contests – Iowa and New Hampshire. The group's spokesman Seth Bringman said that data "enables us to develop an even more robust database of supporters who can be activated the moment Hillary makes a decision."

The group has highlighted its small donor network — an area where Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign lagged behind Obama's — but it has also worked to line up affluent Democrats to support Clinton. In the third quarter, it spent $160,000 on 10 different finance consultants, plus $596,000 on direct mail-related costs. Among the new donors from whom it received maximum $25,000 donations were private space travel entrepreneur Laetitia Garriott de Cayeux, ESPN executive Marie Donoghue (who oversees Nate Silver's fivethirtyeight.com) and CarMax co-founder Austin Ligon.

O'Malley, the Maryland governor who is the Democrat most aggressively laying the groundwork for a potential

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challenge to Clinton, has been working assiduously to boost his national profile among donors and activists alike.

His O'Say Can You See PAC paid $45,000 in the third quarter to a firm called Revolution Messaging that created slick movie-trailer-style videos touting O'Malley's record. In one gauzy biographical short, a narrator praises the "assault on hopelessness" O'Malley launched when he ran for mayor of Baltimore by "walking its mean streets … assaulted by batteries and bottles hurled by drug dealers angered at having their business interrupted."

O'Malley's PAC also spent $32,000 on a pair of finance consultants who specialize in part on high-dollar fundraising, with one receiving a $3,000 bonus at the end of last month. The arm of the PAC that can accept unlimited checks scored sizable contributions from Washington Capitals owner Ted Leonsis ($10,000), Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, a wealthy businessman, ($25,000) and trial lawyer John P. Coale, a longtime O'Malley friend and the husband of Fox News host Greta van Susteren ($21,715 – mostly in-kind contributions for transportation).

The possible rival Clinton's backers fear most — Massachusetts Sen. Warren — has shown little appetite to challenge Clinton, but her political committees' reports show why she could be formidable. She has the potential to raise huge sums from a wide small donor base. Her campaign committee and PAC in the third quarter raised more than $955,000 — about two thirds of which came from small donors. While a super PAC formed to coax her into the race raised only $58,000, it did make its first payment – $6,000 last month – to a fundraising firm called Bulldog Finance Group focusing partly on drumming up big-donor support.

The GOP pre-presidential field is much wider open — and more competitive. Operatives for some of the prospective candidates were reluctant to detail their fundraising or infrastructure-building strategies for fear of tipping off competitors to their ideas.

Sens. Paul, Cruz of Texas and Rubio of Florida, along with Rep. Ryan seem to be in almost a race of sorts to campaign for – and contribute to – as many GOP candidates as possible in the run-up to the midterms. They all rushed to embrace a new wrinkle in fundraising – setting up a joint committee connecting their campaign committees and leadership PACs that can accept bigger checks than either component committee alone. And many of them are competing for the attention of the same big donors.

Huckabee – the Fox News host and former Arkansas governor who mounted a scrappy but under-funded campaign for the 2008 GOP presidential nomination, has suggested he might run again in 2016 if he had support from rich super PAC backers. But his Huck PAC committee in the third quarter dropped $511,000 — three quarters of its total spending — on direct mail fundraising. While that's a high burn rate for a PAC that raised less than $1 million in the less three months, direct mail is considered the most effective way to cultivate the older voters who seem to form the core of Huckabee's fan base and donor network.

Cruz's three committees spent $119,000 on printing and postage costs often associated with direct mail and $60,000 on fundraising phone calls (another go-to technique for reaching older supporters). But Cruz's groups also spent $81,000 on database management and digital consulting costs typically associated with targeting a younger audience.

Likewise, a pair of PACs affiliated with former United Nations Ambassador John Bolton, who has signaled interest in a run for the GOP presidential nomination, in the third quarter paid $100,000 to top GOP online fundraising firm Campaign Solutions and $15,000 to Nova List Company for lists to prospect. Bolton also scored big checks from Zionist philanthropist Cherna Moskowitz (who has given $300,000 to his super PAC) and beer baron Pete Coors ($25,000).

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Govs. Jindal and Perry of Texas have created leadership PACs to fund their political travels and donations, but their supporters also started non-profit groups registered under a section of the tax code – 501(c)4 – that allows them to accept unlimited and anonymous checks to promote their policy platforms and records.

The Jindal-linked 501(c)4, America Next, has raised more than $1 million since it was founded late last year, according to Timmy Teepell, a former Jindal chief and staff who is a partner at OnMessage, Jindal's consulting firm.

America Next is run by Romney Iowa and New Hampshire alumna Jill Neunaber, who also runs Jindal's leadership PAC, which has footed the bill for him to travel the country and donate to candidates, largely in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Teepell described the nonprofit as "open source coding for policy proposals," such as Jindal's early support for over-the-counter contraception. It has recently been championed by Republicans in high-profile Senate races including Colorado's Cory Gardner and North Carolina's Thom Tillis — both of whom also happen to be OnMessage clients.

Perry's close confidants last year created Americans for Economic Freedom with $200,000 of left-over cash transferred from the coffers of a super PAC that supported his presidential bid in 2012. The nonprofit has run ads around the country praising Perry's job creation record.

Perry's leadership PAC also spent more than $17,000 on fundraising and digital targeting, including $13,000 to Targeted Victory, the influential firm that ran Romney's digital operation, and $4,300 apparently for tee-shirts featuring his mug-shot from a booking on public corruption charges that critics contend are politically motivated. The shirts were offered for sale by the PAC at an event featuring Perry in August in New Hampshire.

Since July, it's donated more than $60,000 to Republican candidates in New Hampshire and more than $30,000 to those in Iowa.

Such donations are the ostensible purpose of the leadership PACs like those maintained by many would-be 2016 candidates. And while the total sums donated often pale into the comparison to the amounts spent on fundraising, travel and overhead, donations can help would-be White House aspirants collect chits in key states.

Ryan's committees have given the most in federal campaign contributions – $826,000 – through the end of last month, followed by Warren's ($458,000), Cruz's ($344,000), Bolton's ($342,000), Rubio's ($288,000), Ready for Hillary ($200,000) and Sanders' ($179,000).

A committee set up by former Florida Gov. Bush solely to raise money for GOP Senate candidates had passed through a total of more than $760,000 at the end of last month to Tom Cotton of Arkansas, Cory Gardner of Colorado, Joni Ernst of Iowa, Dan Sullivan of Alaska and Monica Wehby of Oregon. And, while Bush mostly lacks a campaign finance infrastructure to support his own presidential exploration, Toner asserted Bush could quickly fix that, and suggested he ultimately may be the only Republican who could keep up with Clinton in the money race. "He has a wide and deep donor network," Toner said.

Likewise, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie lacks an active political committee of his own, but he has used his work on behalf of the Republican Governors Association to further cultivate his already strong connections to major donors. He's expected to be able to quickly parlay that into an independent political operation.

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It could be trickier for Vice President Joe Biden, who has been privately suggesting to donors that he's going to run and that he would be a better candidate than Clinton. Never a stellar fundraiser in his own right, Biden resisted calls by his inner circle to establish a leadership PAC last year, and there's no evidence that he or his inner circle have taken any steps towards establishing a campaign vehicle in waiting.

Sources say former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, who's more openly considering a 2016 run, is expected to established some sort of political committee after the midterms to pay for a bare-bones staff and travels around the country to gauge interest in a potential campaign.

But one operative who has worked with Webb on previous campaigns suggested he wouldn't try to catch-up to Clinton or even O'Malley in the pre-campaign arms race, both because that's not how he operates, and because it's not practical.

"Part of the appeal of Jim Webb is that any call to political service he has fulfilled has been because he sees a need for leadership and direction at a specific time, not as part of a lifelong plan," said the operative.

Plus, the operative added, the rapidly changing campaign finance landscape makes it difficult to predict what types of preparations will be most useful for 2016.

"There has been a significant shift in the past four years alone on who is motivated to give and how, as well as the size and frequency of contributions," said the operative. "I can only imagine that evolution will continue into 2016, especially after campaigns and voters see the outcome of the midterms and all the analysis is done."

National Journal: "Kirsten Gillibrand: It's 'Vital' That a Woman Becomes President in 2016"

By Rebecca Nelson

October 28, 2014

[Subtitle:] The junior senator from New York hopes it's Hillary Clinton, but she's positioning herself well if that doesn't happen.

Speaking to an intimate audience of almost exclusively women on Tuesday, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand asserted that it was critical not only for Democrats to nominate a woman in 2016, but also for that woman to become president.

At a recording of the SiriusXM radio show "The Agenda" put on by the liberal women's group EMILY's List, where the New York Democrat appeared on a panel to discuss women's increasing influence in politics, Gillibrand didn't play coy about who the next woman president should be.

"I am very hopeful that Secretary Clinton will decide to run," she said. "I think she's the strongest candidate the

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Democrats could field."

Gillibrand painted herself as one of Clinton's biggest supporters, emphasizing that she would pledge her full support to a Clinton run. But she also made sure to highlight her own legislative efforts to help women. Combatting sexual assault in the military, universal pre-kindergarten, and paid leave are all central to creating a better country for women, she said.

Less than ten minutes into the discussion, Democratic strategist Bill Burton, who was on the panel with the senator, made a veiled reference to the possibility of Gillibrand running. Smiling and angling toward the senator, Burton said he hopes his three-year-old son will see a woman president, "whether that's Hillary Clinton or somebody else."

Gillibrand has made it clear that as long as Clinton runs, she won't be–she told National Journal after the event that she'll support Clinton "110 percent." But her efforts to engage women voters point to a savvy politician playing the long game. Aligning herself with powerful women's groups sets her up to be Clinton's heir apparent as the voice for women in the Democratic party. After Clinton likely takes her turn in 2016, Gillibrand will be well-prepared to assume that role.

Fox News column: Media Buzz: Howard Kurtz: “Media pounce on Hillary’s jobs gaffe, float Jeb’s trial balloon”

By Howard Kurtz

October 29, 2014

Hillary Clinton’s gaffe about jobs is resonating for several reasons—not least because the media have decided she’s no Elizabeth Warren.

The media narrative du jour is that Hillary is out of step with the populist mood of the Democratic Party—as embodied by the Wall Street-bashing Massachusetts senator who many pundits are still hoping will challenge her. So they are guaranteed to pounce on any mistake that feeds Hillary’s image as an establishment figure who is struggling to be more like Liz.

It’s hard to believe that the former first lady managed to echo Barack Obama’s “you didn’t build that” blunder, given how long that bedeviled the president.

“Don’t let anybody tell you that corporations and businesses create jobs,” Hillary told a Boston rally. “You know that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried, that has failed. It has failed rather spectacularly.” Perhaps it was no coincidence that Warren was also there, stumping for struggling gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley.

So the overwhelming Democratic front-runner wants it known that she doesn’t believe American businesses,

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whatever their faults, generate jobs?

That led to followup stories like this one in Politico:

“Hillary Clinton on Monday mopped up her botched statement from a rally in Massachusetts last week, making it clear she’d misspoken and hadn’t intended to deliver a fresh economic policy message.”

At another campaign stop, Clinton said: “Trickle-down economics has failed. I short-handed this point the other day, so let me be absolutely clear about what I’ve been saying for a couple of decades. Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in America and workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out — not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas.”

The earlier comment—the one she now says was shorthand—was jarring coming from an establishment figure who is viewed, fairly or unfairly, as too cozy with the banking establishment. Hillary has also been collecting six-figure speaking fees from her appearances before corporate groups.

But the media really love this story because of the contrast with Warren. The pundits have turned this freshman lawmaker into the purest distillation of the liberal id, the crusader who wants to whack Wall Street on behalf of the little people.

Never mind that Warren has said again and again she’s fine with Hillary and isn’t running in 2016, the pundits can’t stand a vacuum. Hillary cruising to the nomination is kind of a dull story line. So what she says, especially on economic issues, has to be measured against a hypothetical Warren candidacy.

In National Review, Victor Davis Hanson took a swipe at her “plutocrat populism,” saying she had bemoaned the crushing costs of higher education in a speech at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas:

“One reason tuition and student indebtedness have soared — UNLV’s tuition is set to go up by 17 percent next year — is that universities pay exorbitant fees to multimillionaire speakers like Hillary Clinton. College foundations sprout up to raise money for perks that might not pass transparent university budgeting. Clinton — or her own foundation — reportedly charged a university foundation $225,000 for a talk lasting less than an hour. For that sum, she could have paid the tuition of over 320 cash-strapped UNLV students…

“Why do so many self-interested plutocrats indulge in populist rhetoric that is completely at odds with the way they live?”

But the New Republic says the GOP’s “obsession” with Obama’s you-didn’t-build-that mistake “revealed more damaging truths about the Republican Party than the gaffe itself revealed about Obama.” Rick Santorum is quoted as saying the Republican convention showcased all kinds of business owners but not a single factory worker.

“None of the Republicans pushing the ‘corporations and businesses’ line actually thinks Hillary Clinton meant to say that investment isn’t a component of economic growth, just as they know from their perches in congressional offices and at donor-dependent non-profits that the entrepreneur isn’t the solitary engine of job creation. But it’s clear they all still believe that riling up business elites by selectively quoting Democrats is a key to political success.”

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Of course, Hillary may simply have made a verbal error having nothing to do with Elizabeth Warren. But after that "dead broke" book tour, she needs to avoid developing a reputation as gaffe-prone.

Meanwhile, Hillary's possible 2016 opponent showed a deft use of the press. I have no idea whether Jeb Bush will run, but he certainly sent a signal, via the New York Times, that he's leaning that way.

Was this some shadowy source that a reporter met in the Florida Everglades? Nope, it was the former governor's son who spoke to Peter Baker.

"'No question,' Jeb Jr. said in an interview, 'people are getting fired up about it — donors and people who have been around the political process for a while, people he's known in Tallahassee when he was governor. The family, we're geared up either way.'"

The piece says the two former presidents, George W. and George H.W., very much want Jeb to run. More important, Jeb's wife, Columba, who is most wary of the political pressure-cooker, has given the nod, says Jeb Jr.

To be sure, the Times has a to-be-sure paragraph:

"None of that means Jeb Bush will run. He has said he will decide by the end of the year, and could simply be keeping the possibility open to enhance his influence on the political stage. To some who have spoken with him in recent months, he has not exhibited the same fire that his father and brother did at this stage."

But consider this: Jeb Bush's other son, George P., told ABC's "This Week" he thinks it is "more than likely" that his father will run.

You don't have to be a brilliant political analyst to believe that both sons aren't shooting off their mouths without dad's permission. Jeb is revving his engines.

The Week: "This is how the GOP should respond to Hillary Clinton's trumpeting of a minimum wage hike"

By James Pethokoukis

October 29, 2014, 6:09 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Instead of blasting her as a leftist Obamacrat, maybe Republicans ought to rethink their own economic message

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Kudos to Hillary Clinton for this clever bit of political jujitsu: At a rally last week for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley, the presumed 2016 Democratic favorite said it was a higher minimum wage, not private enterprise, that really creates American jobs.

“Don't let anybody tell you that raising the minimum wage will kill jobs. They always say that. I've been through this. My husband gave working families a raise in the 1990s. I voted to raise the minimum wage and guess what? Millions of jobs were created or paid better and more families were more secure. … And don't let anybody tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs. You know, that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried. That has failed. It has failed rather spectacularly.” [Hillary Clinton]

Predictably, Republicans freaked out en masse, from Fox News to the conservative blogosphere. The consensus opinion: Clinton finally revealed her true leftist colors, not to mention her profound economic ignorance. Forget all her talk about hubby Bill's third-way centrism. Hillary Clinton clearly isn't a Clinton Democrat ready to drag her party back to the center. She's just another wealth-redistributing Obamacrat.

Clinton has since clarified her remarks to acknowledge that businesses and "empowered" families have a key role to play in a healthy U.S. economy. But it makes little political difference. Recall that President Obama also clarified his "You didn't build that" gaffe during the 2012 election season. The GOP still flogged the original remark to death, especially during the Republican National Convention, with both Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan making reference to Obama's line long after its expiration date.

So why am I suggesting that any of this might be good for Clinton? Because if she is the Democratic nominee, as we all assume she will be, her GOP opponents will surely be tempted to repeatedly cite her words as proof of fuzzy, liberal thinking on economic policy. And she might kind of like that, actually.

Indeed, maybe the whole point of the original comment was to goad Republicans into attacking her. Think about it. What did Romney and Ryan get for all their focus on society's builders and makers? Well, the ticket lost 81-18 to Obama-Biden among voters seeking a president who "cares about people like me." Most American aren't CEOs or running tech startups. And most saw little in Romney-nomics that would directly benefit them or address their worries about stagnant take-home pay or financing college.

A 2016 GOP campaign centered around "heroic entrepreneurs" rather than everyday middle-class concerns would probably fail badly again today. Voters care about economic growth, but they also think redistributionist policies — like raising the minimum wage and guaranteeing a minimum income — are better for economic growth than business tax cuts or reducing high-end personal tax rates. Attacking Clinton for trumpeting a minimum wage hike would probably backfire on the GOP — at least if all the party has is criticism.

So how should Republicans react? Surely not by rabidly attacking Clinton — but also not by reflexively mimicking the Democratic agenda. Instead, there is an opportunity for a positive, conservative reform message.

As far as the minimum wage goes, its impact on jobs is hardly settled science, despite Clinton's claim. A study out this week finds "the best evidence still points to job loss from minimum wages for very low-skilled workers — in particular, for teens." The U.S. economy generated 41 million private-sector jobs from 1980 through 2007 even as the minimum wage declinedby nearly a third in real terms. Clinton may have actually reversed the linkage between jobs and the minimum wage.

Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit or some other wage subsidy would better target low-income workers while also less likely to cost jobs. Such a plan could be a key element of a new GOP middle-class agenda, along with tax breaks for parents, making college more affordable, and, yes, business tax cuts, since research suggests such reforms would raise worker wages.

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If a renewed effort to support the beleaguered American middle class is how the GOP responds to Hillary, then her clever trolling may turn out to be too clever by half.

BuzzFeed: "Rand Paul Is Already Campaigning Against Hillary Clinton"

By Rosie Gray

October 28, 2014, 9:51 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] "Hillary Clinton says, 'Well, businesses don't create jobs.' Anybody believe that?"

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas — A certain likely Democratic presidential candidate has appeared, rhetorically, on the campaign trail in Kansas.

Hillary Clinton has become the target of ire from Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul as he stumps for Republican candidates here after Clinton said at a recent campaign stop that businesses and corporations do not create jobs.

Stumping for Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts and Gov. Sam Brownback on Tuesday, Paul criticized Clinton for the remark at more than one campaign stop. He's one of the most sought-after surrogates for Republicans in the midterms this year, and is a likely 2016 candidate himself. He told BuzzFeed News last week that he would be deciding about a potential presidential run in the spring.

"The president says, you didn't build that, it just sort of happened," Paul said in Wichita in an airport hangar rally at midday. "The plane just sort of came into being because it was a public road and a public library."

"Hillary Clinton comes up and she says, 'Businesses don't create jobs.' Anybody here think businesses don't create jobs?" Paul said. "I'm here today to endorse Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback, because you know what? They know that businesses do create jobs, and I hope you know that too."

Later in the day, in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, Paul offered the line again as he stood next to the podium, sort of in the style of Sen. Ted Cruz.

"Hillary Clinton says, 'Well, businesses don't create jobs.' Anybody believe that?" he said. The crowd roared.

At an event for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley last week, Clinton said, "Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs. You know that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried, that has failed. It has failed rather spectacularly."

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Clinton later walked back the remark, arguing that corporate tax breaks are not the source of economic growth. The former secretary of state has often been criticized from the left for being too corporate.

Obama and Clinton “are on another page, they’re on another planet, reading another book,” Paul said.

Wall Street Journal blog: Metropolis: “Bill Clinton Will Stump for Cuomo Thursday”

By Erica Orden

October 28, 2014, 1:59 p.m. EDT

On Thursday, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo will get his second Clinton bump within the span of a week.

Former President Bill Clinton, who has been stumping for Democrats across the country , is expected to campaign for Mr. Cuomo on Thursday at a rally in New York City, according to people familiar with the matter.

A spokesman for Mr. Clinton declined to comment.

Mr. Cuomo, a Democrat facing reelection next week, rallied last Thursday with Hillary Clinton at a campaign event in Midtown, where Mrs. Clinton endorsed the governor and where Mr. Cuomo played coy about endorsing Mrs. Clinton for “something really, really, really big.”

Mr. Cuomo often touts his work in the Clinton administration, when he served as U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, on the campaign trail, even as in recent weeks he published a memoir that describes his resentment in 2002 over the Clintons’ reluctance to assist his failed first gubernatorial bid.

But he has been eager to trumpet their support this time around, and the Clintons have appeared ready to lend it.

While Mr. Clinton has recently stumped for more embattled Democrats, and in recent polls Mr. Cuomo maintains a roughly 20-point lead over his Republican opponent, Rob Astorino, the governor appears to be taking the advice Mrs. Clinton doled out during the rally last week.

“They think, ‘OK, the election’s over. We know who’s going to be the next governor,’” she said. “You can’t take anything for granted in an election. I know that from firsthand experience.”

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USA Today: “Democrats, hoping to save Colorado, send Clinton”

By Trevor Hughes

October 28, 2014, 5:08 p.m. EDT

LAKEWOOD, Colo. — Democrats are pulling out all the stops, including back-to-back appearances by former president Bill Clinton, in their suddenly uphill battle to retain the state's governor's mansion and one of its two Senate seats.

President Obama won this state in both his presidential races, but now his unpopularity is weighing down Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Mark Udall. Their challengers have repeatedly attacked them for being too close to a president who won this state twice but has seen his popularity plummet following a string of crises from the botched roll-out of his signature health care law to a renewed explosion of violence in Iraq.

Udall this summer skipped a rally Obama held on his behalf in Denver, and Republicans attacked the president for playing pool with Hickenlooper during a border crisis.

Recent polls show Udall losing to GOP challenger Rep. Cory Gardner, and Hickenlooper lagging slightly behind Republican Bob Beauprez after an early campaign in which both Democrats enjoyed broad name recognition and long-established fundraising systems. Outside groups have poured tens of millions of dollars into advertising that's been blanketing television, newspapers, radio and the Internet.

Clinton, the dean of the country's Democrats, appeared at Denver-area rallies Monday night and Tuesday morning, calling on voters to reject Republicans and keep the Democrats in office. He said Gardner and Beauprez are running on platforms that amount to "pop the president one more time."

"In a grown-up country... we join hands and work together. That's what Washington needs," Obama said Tuesday at a rally in suburban Denver.

Clinton sounded themes he's used for years, and which have proven popular with voters: community, bipartisanship and shared prosperity, while attacking trickle-down economics.

Udall's campaign argues that his extensive ground game will push him ahead of Gardner when the ballots are actually cast and counted, pointing out that polls in 2010 showed Democrat Michael Bennet losing his race right up until he won the state's junior senate seat. Bennet won by the equivalent of one vote in every Colorado precinct.

"In Colorado, like nowhere else, every single vote matters," Udall said. "We're going to show those outside groups you can't buy an election here. We are surging. We have momentum.

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Michelle Obama have also both visited Colorado in the closing weeks of the election.

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Last week, a USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll showed Gardner leading Udall by 46%-39%, a troubling finding for Democrats scrambling to hold control of the Senate. Five weeks ago, Udall held a 1- percentage-point lead in the same poll.

The poll also showed momentum for Beauprez: While he trailed Hickenlooper by 2 percentage points in September, he now leads the governor by 2 percentage points — movement in his direction, although the race is still well within the survey's 4.4-percentage-point margin of error.

The Udall-Gardner race is important because Colorado, Iowa and North Carolina have Democratic-held seats at the center of the battle over which party will control the Senate in January. Republicans, who are likely to keep control of the House, need to score a net gain of six seats to claim a majority in the Senate as well.

Republicans have also called in their party's big guns to build on their momentum: former Florida governor Jeb Bush is coming to the GOP stronghold of Douglas County on Wednesday, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is set to appear with Beauprez Thursday in the traditionally Republican area of Colorado Springs.

In a statement, Colorado GOP chairman Ryan Call said Clinton may have appeared with Udall on Tuesday but it's his ties with Obama that voters truly care about.

"President Clinton can attempt to bail out senator Udall with lofty clichés and sound bites, but his record speaks louder than words. The fact remains that senator Udall has forgotten the priorities of Colorado and chosen to align his votes with the failed policies of President Obama," Call said.

Las Vegas Review-Journal: “Bill Clinton rallies Dems in Vegas”

By Laura Myers

October 28, 2014, 8:55 p.m.

On a mission to save Nevada Democrats, former President Bill Clinton on Tuesday urged supporters at a rally to vote or suffer the consequences: a GOP-led Congress that would favor the rich over workers, try to repeal Obamacare and shut down the government “over and over and over.”

Clinton also said voters need to back Democratic candidates at the state and local levels because the policies they oversee affect Nevadans’ everyday lives and Republicans don’t support a minimum-wage hike or equal pay for women and want to roll back voter rights.

He said just because there’s no presidential election at stake is no excuse for Democrats to stay away from the polls, which would open the door to GOP victories on Nov. 4.

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“A bunch of your life is shaped by people who aren’t on the ballot when we’re voting for presidents,” Clinton said, from governor to state treasurer to legislator. “This is a big deal.”

Laying out the high stakes, Clinton said the election will determine where Nevada and the nation go from here after recovering from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression.

“What’s really on the ballot is whether we go back to a trickle-down economy and whether only the rich get the benefits or whether we have shared opportunity and shared responsibility and the same rules apply to one another,” Clinton said.

The Clinton rally was aimed at boosting lackluster Democratic voter turnout during early voting as the GOP builds a healthy lead that could sweep Republicans into the state’s five top offices and boot freshman U.S. Rep. Steven Horsford, D-Nev.

The 4:30 p.m. rally at the Springs Preserve came a week before the Nov. 4 election. Democrats said about 700 people attended the open-air event.

It was scheduled at the last minute after Republicans shocked Democrats by beating them every day in early voting so far and in every key race. That’s a reversal of recent trends in the battleground state, which President Barack Obama won twice.

Statewide, Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than 62,000 registered voters. But during early voting, Republicans have built a 17,166-ballot lead over Democrats as of Tuesday morning thanks to an aggressive registration drive and get-out-the-vote effort.

The GOP is even ahead in Clark County by 2,094 ballots. The Democratic stronghold, where three quarters of the Nevada population lives, is normally where the party dominates, building an election firewall, while the GOP is far stronger in rural Nevada, with Washoe County serving as the swing county in the swing state.

In Horsford’s district, Republicans had cast 2,094 more ballots than Democrats so far, although there are some 33,156 more registered Democrats than Republicans in the 4th Congressional District, which covers northern Clark County and all or part of six rural counties. Horsford’s GOP opponent is Assemblyman Cresent Hardy of Mesquite.

The two-week early voting period ends Friday, a few days ahead of Election Day.

Clinton, in his remarks, defended Obama’s Affordable Care Act. He said 230,000 more people in Nevada have health insurance under Obamacare. He said premiums are expected to rise 1 percent next year, a far cry from runaway costs in the past.

“This thing is working, and we need to make it better,” Clinton said, adding that a GOP-led Congress “will go up there and vote another 50 times” to kill it.

“They’ll just shut the government down, over and over and over again,” he added. “They want you to believe it (the election) is about Ebola and ISIS. If something happens in the paper, it’s the president’s fault and you ought

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to vote against Democrats.”

“I don’t like it when these politicians play blame games,” Clinton added.

Clinton said voters shouldn’t think they can’t make a difference.

“It does matter,” he said of the midterm election. “It matters as much as the next presidential election.”

Clinton’s wife, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, is likely to run for president in 2016, and Nevada would be key to her hopes of winning the White House.

Clinton’s appearance came after Democratic candidates urged the crowd to vote early and to each get 10 people they know to vote to make up for lost ground against the GOP.

Horsford attended the rally as well as U.S. Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., attorney general candidate Ross Miller, secretary of state candidate Kate Marshall, lieutenant governor candidate Lucy Flores, and Erin Bilbray, the Democrat challenging U.S. Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., who is expected to win a third term in the 3rd Congressional District.

This year, Democratic voters haven’t been excited by the midterm election when there’s no presidential or U.S. Senate contest at stake.

Also, the governor’s race is a sleeper after the Democrats failed to recruit a top-tier candidate.

As a result, the popular GOP Gov. Brian Sandoval has spent his time promoting Republican candidates, raising millions of dollars to help GOP contenders and, behind the scenes, rebuilding the GOP ground game into an electoral force.

State Sen. Mark Hutchison, R-Las Vegas, who is Sandoval’s pick to become lieutenant governor, is expected to defeat his Democratic opponent, Flores, a Latina whose campaign never took off as she was outspent and outgunned.

The other high-profile race on the ballot, between Miller and Republican Adam Laxalt, has suddenly become one to watch. Miller, the better-known and better-funded secretary of state, was considered the front-runner, but now Laxalt, an attorney who moved to Nevada a few years ago, could score an upset if GOP turnout continues to dominate.

Miller could survive if he gains enough crossover support from Republicans, something his father and adviser, former Nevada Gov. Bob Miller, enjoyed as the state’s longest-serving governor from 1989 to 1999. Laxalt is the grandson of former U.S. Sen. and Gov. Paul Laxalt, who dominated Nevada politics in the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s.

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Washington Post column: Ruth Marcus: “Why Jeb Bush should run for president”

By Ruth Marcus

October 28, 2014, 7:52 p.m. EDT

Run, Jeb, run.

I mean it, despite two powerful arguments against a presidential run by Jeb Bush — one specific to the former Florida governor, one more generic.

Generic first, because it is the more compelling: The thought of a Republican president makes me shudder, largely because of the irreparable harm to the Supreme Court. Legislative and regulatory mistakes can be fixed, albeit at enormous cost and difficulty. (Think George W. Bush’s tax cuts.) Foreign policy blunders are harder to repair. (Think George W. Bush’s war in Iraq.)

But the real risk is the judicial legacy a Republican president would leave behind. By the time the next president takes office, three of the justices (Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy) will be in their 80s.

With the exception of Scalia, a Republican replacement of any of them would likely tip the balance of the court firmly into the hands of its conservative justices, to the peril of the court and the country. The impact would be felt when George P. Bush — or Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky — is running for president.

The Bush-specific objection is obvious from the previous sentence, and stated best by the prospective candidate’s own mother: America is not, or should not be, a dynastic nation.

“If we can’t find more than two or three families to run for high office, that’s silly,” Barbara Bush told C-SPAN this year. “I refuse to accept that this great country isn’t raising other wonderful people.”

The weakness of this argument is that it ignores the fact that Jeb Bush happens to be well-qualified to run for president. And it arises in the looming shadow of a presidential run by Hillary Clinton, another candidate whose qualifications extend far beyond her surname.

As a general matter — sure, Barbara Bush is right. The more expansive our political roster, the better. But in the context of 2016 — well, this gets to my “run, Jeb, run” argument. He and Clinton are two of the best-qualified candidates.

My argument for a Jeb Bush candidacy is also twofold: It would be good for Bush’s party and good for the country.

Good for Republicans not just because it would give them a better shot at the White House but because the

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GOP has veered off the ideological rails.

Even the notion that Bush is seriously considering running — his son told ABC's Jonathan Karl that it is "more than likely" — is a comforting sign. Jeb Bush is not naive about the GOP's loony tendencies and the distorted ideological landscape of its nominating process. For him to be weighing the race indicates that he believes those extremist instincts can be tamed.

A Bush candidacy would deviate from party orthodoxy on numerous issues, most notably immigration and education reform; a Bush nomination would usefully yank the party toward the center.

On immigration, Bush favors granting undocumented immigrants the opportunity for legalized status, although not necessarily a path to full citizenship. "Yes, they broke the law, but it's not a felony," he said in April. "It's an act of love, it's an act of commitment to your family."

He has also been a champion of education reform efforts, including the new GOP heresy of backing national education standards known as Common Core.

And speaking of heresy: In 2012, when none of the party's presidential contenders would back a hypothetical budget deal of $1 in tax increases for $10 in spending cuts, Bush told the House Budget Committee he'd snap it up. "Put me in, coach," he said, adding, "This will prove I'm not running for anything."

Make no mistake: Bush is a conservative. But he is a conservative who believes in the role and capacity of government and in the imperative of bipartisan cooperation.

"Back to my dad's time and Ronald Reagan's time — they got a lot of stuff done with a lot of bipartisan support," Bush told Bloomberg View in 2012. Contrast that with Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz: "I don't think what Washington needs is more compromise."

And this is why a Bush candidacy would be good for the country as well. A saner Republican Party would produce saner, more productive politics.

A more extreme nominee might be easier for Democrats to beat. But what if they don't? I'd rather see the more reasonable Republican candidate, because I'd rather see the more reasonable Republican president.

Run, Jeb, run.

Reuters: "Kerry wants Keystone pipeline decision 'sooner rather than later'"

[No Writer Mentioned]

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October 28, 2014, 3:43 p.m. EDT

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday during a visit to Canada that he would like to make a decision soon on TransCanada Corp's Keystone XL crude oil pipeline.

TransCanada has waited more than six years for the Obama administration to make a decision on the line, which would take as much as 830,000 barrels per day of Alberta tar sands crude to refineries on Texas' Gulf Coast.

The State Department is now awaiting the results of a court challenge on the line's routing through Nebraska and completing its own study on the need for the line before it makes a final recommendation to President Barack Obama on whether to grant the project a presidential permit. The permit would allow the line, which faces criticism from environmentalists, to cross from Canada into the United States.

While Kerry said he would like a quick decision on the project, he gave no hint as to when that would come.

"I certainly want to do it sooner rather than later but I can't tell you the precise date," Kerry told a joint news conference with Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird.

The delay has pushed up the cost of the line, which would run from Hardisty, Alberta, to near Houston. The company said last month that Keystone XL's original $5.4 billion estimate is likely half of what it will now cost to build the pipeline.

The Hill opinion: Lanny Davis: “To Republicans: Watch out for traps after midterms”

By Lanny Davis

October 28, 2014, 6:53 p.m. EDT

Most pundits are predicting a Republican takeover of the U.S. Senate next Tuesday. I am ready to go on record against the conventional wisdom: I predict Democrats will surprise the pundits on election night and hold the Senate, if only by a 50-50 margin, with Vice President Biden breaking the tie.

My slight-underdog picks of the night: Mark Pryor and Michelle Nunn, because their message of decency and bipartisanship are perfectly aligned with what voters want not only in their states of Arkansas and Georgia, respectively, but across the nation.

However, if Republicans win the Senate, I respectfully suggest they avoid premature celebration, for there are three traps looming for them if they misread the election results.

First, they could misinterpret their victory as a mandate to implement a hard-right agenda. Remember the

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aftermath of Newt Gingrich's House takeover in the 1994 midterms. The conservative revolutionaries attempted to pass draconian budget cuts, including in Medicare and Medicaid, caused two government shutdowns and attempted to impeach then-President Clinton on an entirely partisan basis — all contrary to public opinion. As a result, just four years later in the 1998 midterms, Democrats picked up five seats. This was the first time in 176 years (since 1822, under President James Monroe) that the non-presidential party had failed to gain seats in the midterm elections with a president in his second term.

The second mistake could be that the Republicans who now control both houses of Congress will be unable to resist the Tea Party base to roll back Democratic programs on an entirely partisan basis. If they do so, they will be ignoring all the current polling data showing voters opposing such partisan power plays. And they will own the results. For example, if Republicans repeal ObamaCare on party-line votes, they will have to explain why people with pre-existing conditions will no longer have health insurance if they attempt to find new insurance after losing their jobs.

Third, once the GOP is the majority party in both houses of Congress, Republicans will find it more difficult to suppress three powerful ideological groups within the party whose positions on key issues are way out of touch with most voters', according to national polls. These are 1) Tea Party extremists, who favor dismantling much of the federal government, including Social Security and Medicare as we know it; 2) Christian right true-believers, who believe in criminalizing all abortions, including involving rape and incest; and 3) the New Isolationists, whose positions at times seem reminiscent of the America First movement of the late 1930s. As the majority party in both houses, the GOP will have lost its excuses not to enact legislation consistent with these extreme views, even though doing so will likely alienate many thoughtful Republican conservatives.

Which leads me to my warning for my fellow Democrats: If we lose the Senate next Tuesday night, we have to resist the advice of those pundits and strategists who will misinterpret the results as proof the party needs to be more strident in demonizing those who disagree with us.

Here it is important to remember the lessons of Bill Clinton's two presidential campaigns and two terms as president.

Clinton's economic and social policies were progressive by any definition: increasing taxes on the wealthy, pro-choice, pro-environment regulation, pro-minimum wages, etc. But he also focused during his two presidential campaigns on unifying themes addressed to the middle class and individual responsibility. In doing so, he won states now deemed irretrievably "red" by many, such as West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Arizona, Arkansas and Montana. Barack Obama's historic campaigns and brilliant grassroots organization carried on this broad electoral college base to the advantage of future Democratic presidential candidates.

It appears that most Democrats are happy with watching the Republicans head over the cliff trying to prove who has the purest ideology of all and don't wish to join them in such an exercise. Of course they want vigorous competition for the nomination. But unlike Republicans, they prefer candidates who can civilly debate fact-based solutions and can effectuate bipartisan compromises to break the gridlock in Washington.

Such Democrats (this writer included) believe, as President Obama has said frequently, that elections matter.

Bloomberg: "Why is Hillary Clinton Not Cutting Television Ads?"

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By Lisa Lerer

October 28, 2014, 11:20 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The prospective 2016 presidential candidate is the Democrats star attraction. So why don't they want her in their television ads?

Hundreds of thousands of ads have run millions of times during the 2014 campaign. Amid that flood of endorsements and attacks, slogans and statistics, it was easy to overlook the web ad put out on Tuesday by Kentucky Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes. The web-only spot features former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at a rally in Louisville, delivering a impassioned argument for the Democratic challenger.

It's a very standard spot that stands out for one very significant reason: It's the only ad that Clinton has cut for a candidate this election cycle.

Though she's traveled the country for Democrats, headlining rallies from Colorado to North Carolina, Clinton has not lent any of her star power to any televised campaign ads. It's a strange discrepancy: While Clinton is one of—if not the most—requested surrogates for Democratic congressional campaigns, many seem far less seem eager to put her in their television ads.

Even the spot for Grimes, a long-time family friend of the Clintons, was online-only—a far less expensive proposition for a campaign than actually buying time to place an ad on television. And it used footage captured two weeks ago at a rally Clinton held for Grimes in Louisville, rather than any new video.

Old footage of Clinton was also heavily featured in a House Majority PAC spot, where the Democratic Super PAC slammed Virginia Republican Barbara Comstock for her work as a congressional staffer in the 1990s focused on investigating the Clinton administration.

But mostly, Clinton has kept to fundraising appeals and energizing voters. She's hosted a series of high-dollar fundraisers, including one for female senate candidates at her home in Washington. Democrats need "all hands on deck," she wrote in an e-mail sent last month by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

While Hillary stays off TV, her husband has been burning up the airways. He's appeared in at least five ads for candidates.

"Sean Maloney’s got a better jobs plan. He’s got a better budget plan. He’s got a better education plan. He’s got a better plan for the future," says the former president in a spot for the New York congressional candidate, a former Clinton administration staffer.

In Maryland, he urges voters to back gubernatorial candidate Anthony Brown in a spot featuring a shot of Clinton walking besides the Democrat.

And he also lent his support for Grimes, who's father was a former state Democratic party chairman. (As a teenager, Grimes famously handed Clinton a bouquet of flowers during his inauguration celebration.)

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"I chose Alison," Clinton says in a spot for, the Kentucky Democrat running for Senate.

"I'm honored to approve this message," says Grimes.

Hillary Clinton's spokespeople refused to comment on her ad appearances, or lack of them. But the answer may be found in her approval rating, which trails her husband's and has fallen since she left the State Department early last year.

In the recent Bloomberg News/Des Moines Register poll almost half—49 percent—of likely Iowa voters in the upcoming midterm elections say they have an unfavorable view of Clinton, while 47 percent rate her favorably. Fifty-seven percent of likely voters have a positive opinion of her husband, former president Bill Clinton, and 39 percent view him negatively.

So, while Democrats at campaign rallies may love Clinton, she remains a nationally divisive figure, one that's perhaps too divisive for state-wide television. She's in high-demand as a base motivator but faces a steeper climb with the general public—an issue that will certainly come back up in any Democratic presidential bid. Especially her own.

New York Times: "How Women Use Fashion to Assert Their Power"

By Vanessa Friedman

October 28, 2014

Of all the candidates running in next Tuesday's American midterm elections, only one, it seems to me, really has Halloween potential — which is to say, only one has succeeded in identifying herself closely enough with a specific sartorial semiology that a Pavlovian association is created in a viewer's mind. See the garment, think the person.

I am speaking, of course, of Wendy Davis, the Texas state senator and beleaguered gubernatorial candidate, as well as famed Mizuno sneaker wearer. A blond wig, a bright suit and those sneakers doth a costume create. Who needs masks when you have fashion?

Clothes have the power to define a person and a position, and though they are often seen as handicapping women in positions of authority, acting as a distraction from their achievements and substance, they can also be a strategic communication tool. One that is, ironically, more accessible to women than to men, who are stuck in a never-ending generic suit loop, forced to rely on the distinguishing characteristics of hair and tie color.

If in doubt, simply consider an exhibition that opened Wednesday in London at the Design Museum, entitled "Women Fashion Power." It has little to do with fashion as trend-driven designer vision, makes no aesthetic judgments and shies away from "power dressing" in the 1980s-Joan Collins-"Working Girl"-big-shouldered sense of the word. Rather, it focuses on image and authority in the public eye.

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“It felt like it was the right time to look at the rise of women in contemporary power roles, and how they view and use fashion to facilitate their place in the world,” said the co-curator, Donna Loveday, describing the show as one of the most ambitious the museum has done.

She and her fellow curator, the fashion historian and journalist Colin McDowell, began work on the exhibition 10 months ago. Designed by Zaha Hadid, the first woman to win the Pritzker Prize, it is laid out over almost 6,500 square feet in three parts: There is an analytic “corridor of power” that identifies 16 of the most influential dressers in history, starting with Hatshepsut, the Egyptian queen who used elements of male dress to establish authority after her husband’s death; culminating with Hillary Clinton; a 150-year timeline highlighting moments of public sartorial change (the “freedom from constraints” of the turn of the 20th century, the suffragist movement of the 1920s); and, most significant, a gallery of current power players who contributed a Q. and A. and favorite garments that reflect their words.

And since, as Ms. Loveday pointed out, “I don’t think there has really been an exhibit in a museum on the subject before,” it makes me wonder if this marks a turning point in our own relationship with fashion.

Just consider the fact that the show includes 25 high-profile women happy to go public with their thoughts on clothing. This includes the usual suspects: fashion professionals like Natalie Massenet, executive chairwoman of Net-a-Porter; the designer Vivienne Westwood; and the model Naomi Campbell. But it also includes Wei Sun Christianson, co-chief executive of Morgan Stanley Asia Pacific; Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris (who also opened the exhibition); Alfiya Kuanysheva, chief executive of the Kazakhstan finance group BATT; and Kirsty Wark, the British broadcaster.

That, it seems to me, is an enormous and meaningful change in the conversation about achievement and gender. The idea that women whose power is undeniable and exists in traditionally male sectors like banking and politics might stand up and say, for the record and posterity, that clothes matter and require (and deserve) thought is, in my experience, unprecedented.

Even just three years ago, Michelle Obama, featured in the corridor of power, was denying giving any real consideration to clothing, announcing on “Good Morning America”: “Look, women, wear what you love. That’s all I can say. That’s my motto.”

(It just so happened that she loved wearing dresses from small American brands made by designers with notably diverse backgrounds, hence raising their profile on the international stage — but, hey, guess that was a coincidence.)

Fashion, like money — if not more than money — has been the off-limits topic, the subject whispered about and obsessed over, but rarely acknowledged in any nonpejorative way. It’s the invisible elephant in the room; like disinformation, it’s the tool everyone uses — and has used, as the exhibition makes clear, since Joan of Arc threw on some male armor — but refuses to admit they use.

“For a very long period, as women began entering the workplace and taking up roles traditionally occupied by men, the subject of dress was really put to one side, and treated as a frivolous distraction,” Ms. Loveday said.

Indeed, in a Daily Beast article last year about Ms. Davis and her sneakers, the liberal pundit Sally Kohn wrote that noting what women wear “undercuts the leadership of women and quashes their voice.” It seems to me, however, and this exhibition shows, that the situation is the opposite: What women wear is an embodiment of their voice, and identifying it helps identify their agenda (as it does with men, for that matter).

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Granted, there were still women, and some very big names, that chose not to take part in the Q. and A. section of the Design Museum show. Ms. Loveday had Angela Merkel, Hillary Clinton and Queen Elizabeth II on her wish list, and all begged off from participating in the interactive, though they are referenced in the show. But, Ms. Loveday said, the reason she was given for their demurrals was not “I don’t want to be seen talking about that subject,” but rather “time.”

Before you say “Well, isn’t that the same thing and weren’t they just being polite,” consider the fact that a few years ago when I was trying to convene a panel of power women to do some image analysis for a different newspaper, the answer I heard over and over again from chief executives I approached was a straightforward: “Thanks for thinking of me, but I can’t be involved in any overt discussion of fashion. It would undermine my hard-won seriousness.” (I’m paraphrasing, but not that much.)

I’m not saying the time excuse should be taken at face value or is anything but an excuse (though it could be true), but the sheer fact that the women involved bothered to make it, as opposed to taking umbrage at the very idea they might think about clothing is, in my book, a step forward.

Besides, even without the active participation of such pivotal figures, it is meaningful to think that for six months visitors to the Design Museum will be able to read the property developer Morwenna Wilson’s words — “Jackets are very important to me because I am petite and a woman, yet one with responsibility and authority working in a male dominated industry, often with a team of people older than me” — and Ms. Christianson of Morgan Stanley attesting that “I decided that while I was working in a man’s world, I was not going to suppress my femininity in an attempt to blend in.”

“It’s an incredibly positive message,” said Ms. Loveday, referring not just to Ms. Christianson’s words, but her willingness to contribute. I would have to agree.

Even more pointedly, the fact that this is now a public subject of conversation, blessed by a major institution, suggests that perhaps during the coming British elections, which will take place in May but with campaigning beginning in January, image analysis may be discussed in formerly unheard-of ways — and vis-à-vis candidates of any gender. And given that after “Women Fashion Power” closes in London, it may travel to the United States, Asia and Europe, it could potentially play a part in the presidential election here,if Hillary Clinton is a candidate.

And that in turn means that it is possible that this political cycle, instead of the usual disingenuous disavowals and fights about whether or not clothes are a legitimate part of spin and manipulation and the fight for higher office, we might actually be able to have a meaningful conversation about how exactly our candidates are attempting to communicate through cloth, and what exactly the subtext is.

Trick or treat?

Calendar:

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Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· October 29 – IA: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Iowa Senate candidate Bruce Braley (Quad-City Times)

· October 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by The Executive Leadership Foundation (CNN)

· October 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton will speak on 'The Power of Women's Economic Participation' at Georgetown (Georgetown)

· October 30 – College Park, MD: Sec. Clinton appears at a rally for Maryland gubernatorial candidate Anthony Brown (WaPo)

· November 1 – New Orleans, LA: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Sen. Mary Landrieu (AP)

· November 1 – KY: Sec. Clinton campaigns in Northern Kentucky and Lexington with Alison Lundergan Grimes (BuzzFeed)

· November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From:	frances <oezxmzbsd@blackindians.com>
To:	grannyangela@gmail.com
Date:	7/3/2008 2:51:15 PM
Subject:	hello from frances

hello, I am pretty russian girl, bored tonight.
would you like to chat with me and see my pics?
if so then email me at efrances384@yourdre.info

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From: orca100 <orca100@upcmail.nl>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/20/2016 7:51:16 PM
Subject: Multikultistan: A house of horrors for ordinary Germans

Britain is something of the odd man out in immigration-devastated Europe, having also received large numbers of successful non-Western immigrants such as Hindus/Sikhs and Chinese. By sharp contrast, the UK's Muslims, blacks, Roma and other problem immigrant groups do no better than those on the Continent, as I will show with statistics at a later date.

Muslim Immigration and Multicultural Madness have left a trail of misery and mayhem across Germany – with far worse to come because of demographics

Muslims make up only 9% of Berlin's population, yet account for 70% of young repeat criminals, revealed Berlin public prosecutor Roman Reusch http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/print/d-51448987.html. To be more precise, 46% of Berlin's juvenile serial criminals are of Arab descent, while 33% of them have Turkish ancestry http://www.bz-berlin.de/archiv/jugendkriminalitaet-article961342.html. In an un-German display of harsh-truth telling, Reusch said in *Der Spiegel* that "in parts [of Berlin], the population consist almost exclusively of problem cases." As he tells it, immigrant children as young as six or seven years old turn to crime and grow up to see honest hard-working people as targets – walking sources of easy money. German society is completely powerless in the face of growing ruthless violence and crime. To describe the German police and criminal-justice system as a big joke would be unfair to big jokes. You won't be surprised to hear that the outspoken public prosecutor has meanwhile been sacked from his job and banned from talking to the media.

The German police admits that large immigrant areas of Berlin, Hamburg, the Ruhr Area, etc. have become police no-go areas, where criminals and extremists have free reign. Within no time at all, a lone police patrol car making a foray into Germany's ethnic war zones finds itself surrounded by a baying lynch mob, much like US soldiers in Baghdad at the height of the troubles, added Roman Reusch.

Check out footage of Berlin's Wedding district, which has become too dangerous for a single police officer to work in, as told by a policeman dressed in civilian clothes for his own safety http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4ZLv84i3Gw&feature=related. A ZDF report http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBgsqPgEcEk&feature=related explains that rapidly growing immigrant violence against police officers is not confined to Berlin and Hamburg. The Ruhr Area, to mention another example, has also seen the emergence of ghettoized police no-go areas. That is confirmed by a *Westen* interview http://www.derwesten.de/politik/in-problemvierteln-fuerchtet-sich-sogar-die-polizei-id4926287.html with Bernhard Witthaut, the tightlipped chairman of Germany's largest police union, who knows *so* much more than he is prepared to let on.

A police spokesman points out Berlin's ever-worsening ultraviolent ghettos on a map http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CbXjKCJLAg&feature=player_embedded. In a few decades, he won't need to be so precise and can just wave in the general direction of Berlin. The operative word is *demographics* – a concept alien to German Leftists, who suffer from a severe case of innumeracy.

Whites are fleeing West Berlin to escape immigrant violence specifically targeting native Germans. So says juvenile court judge Kirsten Heisig in a ZDF report http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sCxZZLWeUU&feature=related. Groups of heavily armed young Turks and Arabs routinely beat white youngsters into pulp, especially their faces and teeth, while filming the whole episode for distribution among their mates. The juvenile court judge provides the grisly details http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DHJouSioDU&feature=player_embedded.

Anti-white racism of the most virulent kind has become a fact of life across Europe, but perhaps nowhere more so than in Germany. Kirsten Heisig's book *When Patience Comes to an End* details

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the visceral hatred many Muslims feel toward native Germans, who are subjected to a daily torrent of abuse and ethnic slurs in their own country. Even young Turkish women think nothing of calling native girls "German whores" and chanting that "Germans should be gassed," she writes. Here young Muslim women shout "*So sieht Deutscher Inzest aus*" at police officers http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqeXMFrfVg8&feature=related.

Lone native students at Muslim immigrant-dominated vocational high schools quite often won't last a week and are lucky to escape their bullies physically unhurt. In this footage, four immigrants mug a German man in a Berlin subway station, beating him into a coma and leaving him permanently brain-damaged http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h33KeFIOk7A . The four perpetrators were teenagers from Albania, Kosovo, Iraq and Nigeria, who had earlier shouted "*Scheiß-Nazis*" and "*wir hassen Deutsche*" at the victim and his colleagues. The fact that, in all likelihood, most or all of them are refugees granted asylum by Goody-Goody Germany further adds to the heinous nature of the crime. I can give similar examples until the cows come home, and these are only the ones that somehow slipped past the censors. Clearly, Germany is now well beyond the banana republic phase and has entered the realm of patsydom. Always lurching from one form of extremism to the next, Germans have now decided that the role of an über-schlemiel is a perfect fit. The New CorrectThink is: *Deutschland unter alles!*

As Green Party Co-Leader Cem Özdemir acknowledges, anti-Semitism is rife and rampant among German Turks and other Muslims. Matters are no better in Turkey itself, if a Dutch English-language article is anything to go by http://www.investigativeproject.org/2075/resurgence-of-anti-semitism-in-turkey. This footage with English subtitles of two anti-Semitic incidents http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9nbKp1KJ1Y&feature=related was recorded in the Netherlands, but could just as easily have been filmed anywhere else in Western Europe. Multicultural Europe is ringing to the sound of *Judenbeschimpfungen*, and we ain't heard nothing yet. Even pre-Toulouse, various in-the-loop sources said that many if not most Jews in Continental Europe were ready to flee to Israel or America at a moment's notice. The German Left always hears echoes of the 1930s and 40s, and they don't know how right they are.

43% of gays in Berlin have experienced hate crimes perpetrated by Muslims in particular, while two thirds of Turkish high school students in Berlin display homophobia http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,562638,00.html. The same picture can be seen in the rest of Multicultural Europe. To quote the *Toronto Sun* http://www.torontosun.com/comment/columnists/ezra_levant/2010/10/08/15630946.html, "If you think Amsterdam is the gay capital of Europe, you're half-right, but 10 years out of date. Today it's the gay-bashing capital of Europe." Although I can quibble over one or two remarks made in the article, its main thrust is spot on.

Yet another target group for young Muslim males consists of German girls. I am not only referring to the large number of white sex slaves once or still held by German Muslim pimps http://www.zdf.de/ZDFmediathek/beitrag/video/1507644/Mit-Liebe-in-die-Falle-gelockt#/beitrag/video/1507644/Mit-Liebe-in-die-Falle-gelockt (the most conservative estimate for the Netherlands is 6,000), but also German girls and women in general. About 2.5 minutes into this clip http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDoOxBppK0U&NR=1&feature=endscreen, Muslim feminist Seyran Ateş explains that young Muslim men use the word *Hure* as an abusive term for German girls as a matter of course. Another favorite is *Deutsche Schlampe*.

Unlike the Multikultis, the German working class cannot block out or distort awful reality and needs to live in the real world. For example, I have a hunch that there are precious few Multikulti converts to be found among German bus drivers http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21PUr8NBjBo&feature=related. In another clip, a German bus company spokesman explains that even immigrant *pensioners* beat up bus drivers. Let me also show you images of a 78-year-old German female shopkeeper hit 50 times in her face by a 14-year-old Bosnian http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crWXxpjEbNg&list=UU6G0I-JHFGh94Sr7GRji3Ew&index=2&feature=plcp. The young robber belongs to a family granted *asylum* by Germany. Heart-warming, don't you think?

Der Spiegel http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,654921,00.html reports that a staggering 50% of Berlin's Turks live on the dole. But if you include stay-at-home Turkish women

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living indirectly off benefits, the unemployment figure rises to about 70%! Everything I've read about Berlin's Arabs suggests to me that subsidized slothfulness among them is even worse. A humorous sign in America's Rocky Mountain National Park sums up what is wrong with Welfarized Europe, "Please do not feed the squirrels. If you feed the squirrels, they'll become overweight, and prone to disease. Their population will grow, and they'll lose their ability to forage for food on their own. They will expect you to feed them and will attack you if you don't. They'll become like little welfare recipients, and you wouldn't want to do this to them."

A mind-mashing 63% of preschool immigrant children (often 4th generation!) in Berlin's Kreuzberg district speak little or no German and are theoretically inadmissible to an elementary school, reveals Professor of Pedagogy Ali Ucar in *Time* magazine. That's what Muslim parents call "giving your child a head start in life." The wider problem is that these kids bring along zilch educational and character-building baggage, courtesy of can't-be-bothered parents. The poverty of aspiration among welfarized Muslim immigrants is a far greater impediment to progress than the poverty of wealth experienced by newcomers in the distant past.

At one Berlin vocational high school visited by *Spiegel TV Magazin* reporters http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sagPdsof1Hc&feature=player_embedded, up to 50% of immigrant students in some classes are unteachable, which may well be representative for Berlin. Not that the rest is Nobel Prize material, to use the understatement of the past millennium. It's worth your while to view the whole report, which will leave even the most jaded observers shocked and depressed. Ordinary Germans will pick up the tab in the form of astronomic welfare costs and an extremely violent crime wave.

Young Turkish criminals have a vocabulary of 500 German words largely devoid of any grammar. As a matter of fact, *Time* writes that *most* third-generation Turks speak insufficient German (read: Mickey Mouse German) and that almost three-quarters of German Turks live in Turkish-speaking enclaves. You will be straining to follow *any* of the Turks in the featured clips, whose German is so dreadful as to be almost comical.

The language skills of Arab criminals (in Germany, *Arab* is catchall tag for anyone from that region) do not seem to be any better than those of Turkish street goons. Here you've got a young Arab street thug in a TV studio http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy9HCYs1V14 telling a German audience that he routinely beats up Germans for money and for "giving him a wrong look." However, his Street German is so bad that even Germans can hardly make out what he is saying. He could well be a member of the untouchable Kurdish-Lebanese 2,600-member Miri clan – one of many Arab clans and extended families who plunder and terrorize Germany with total impunity. The PC-straightjacketed German police strikes me as being no more effective than the two bungling detectives in *The Adventures of Tintin*.

The cataclysmic language situation among *Deutschtürken* does not stop Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Prime Minister of Greater Turkey, from making the beyond-bizarre demand that German Turks learn Turkish as a first language and continue speaking Turkish in a foreign land. Pushing the envelope like a bulldozer, he is now even clamoring for Turkish-only high schools in Germany. Well, why not? He is already in full control of all Turkish mosques in Germany and might just as well go the whole hog. During a 2001 speech before German Turks in the city of Düsseldorf, he even had the gall to tell them, "You're my citizens!" When will Germany, which is beginning to look like a Turkish colony, come to its senses?

With a rapidly graying population of 82 million, Germany is now playing host to 5 million Muslims. They divide into 4 million Turks (including 400,000 Turkish Kurds), 500,000 Arabs (a label used for just about anyone from that part of the world), 300,000 Ethnic Albanians (originate in Albania, Kosovo and the Republic of Macedonia) and smaller groups. That figure of 4 million Turks – which includes second-, third- and fourth-generation Turks – comes from Wikipedia, *The Globe and Mail* and other sources. Not factored in are the large numbers of illegal Turkish immigrants living in Little Istanbuls across Germany and working in the black-market economy.

Predictably, I could not readily find reliable info on the *future* ethnic face of Germany. So for demographic clues, let's look at France, which is home to 62 million people, including 6 million Muslims. A *Jerusalem Post* article http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Columnists/Article.aspx?

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id=170731 and other sources expect France's Muslim community to be the majority within 50 years. "If the low birth rate of indigenous French citizens and the prolific demographic expansion of the existing 6 million Muslims continue," writes the newspaper, "there is every likelihood that in 50 years France would become a predominantly Muslim nation." In actual fact, *The Jerusalem Post* is being wildly overoptimistic, having completely overlooked a game-changing event: Turkey's probable entry into the EU, which is the herd of pink elephants in the immigration debate.

Locally and *regionally*, Muslim dominance will make itself felt much sooner in Europe. For example, overwhelmingly Muslim immigrants already account for about half of the population in the Netherlands' four biggest cities, even forming a small majority in Amsterdam. An even more striking example is Brussels, Europe's Capital. Predominantly Muslim non-Western immigrants represent 70% of the Brussels population and will reach 85% within a decade, according to sociologist Jan Hertogen, whose delight at this development knows no bounds. To put it vividly, Brussels has turned into one Big Banlieue, except for the EU & NATO Gravy Train, whose official religion of PCness could not contrast more sharply with dire reality across Western Europe. Belgium's second-largest city, Antwerp, will have a majority-immigrant population within less than a decade, while other major Belgian cities are not that far behind.

A Turk with a sense of humor or realism has marked out future "Turkish Europe" on a map http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSb6BNRly5Q&feature=related . Actually, he is being modest! Indulging in a bit of wild-eyed speculation, I suspect that Turkey's PM envisages the creation a "Greater Turkey sphere of influence" along the lines of what is shown 40 seconds into this clip http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_Dzq_mKhok&feature=fvwrel . Among so much else, this includes the Great Seljuq Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Mogul Empire, all regions speaking a Turkic language (200 million people have a Turkic language as their native or second tongue), the whole Muslim world, plus rapidly growing "Satellite Dish Europe," which may well double in number or much more on Turkey's likely admission into the EU. Once the influx of Turks picks up momentum, the whole of Western Europe will frantically wave them on in the direction of Germany, shouting at the top of their lungs, "*Deutschland gut, Deutschland multikulti!*"

While women's shelters are overflowing with terrified immigrant women, nutty-as-a-fruitcake German judges tell abused Muslim women that their inhumane treatment at the hands of their menfolk is all in the game for Muslim females. "In Germany today," *The Independent* http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/johann-hari/johann-hari-how-multiculturalism-is-betraying-women-446806.html writes, "Muslim women have been reduced to third-class citizens stripped of core legal protections – because of the doctrine of Multiculturalism, which says a society should be divided into separate cultures with different norms according to ethnic origin." Also bear in mind that most abused Muslim women are too terrified to ask for outside help in the first place and for good reason. Germany, too, has seen its fair share of *reported* honor attacks, which probably only form the top of the tip of the iceberg. It is much more difficult but not impossible to hide honor murders. Given the shocking attitudes of young German Muslims toward honor crimes http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaBj0SSmXvo&feature=related , Germany must brace itself for much more of the same.

The German Multikulti Terror State is an extremely dangerous place for the Politically Incorrect. To mention just four immigration critics, Kirsten Heisig killed herself; Seyran Ateş went into hiding after an attack in which no one lifted a finger to help her; Thilo Sarrazin will require body guards for the rest of his life; while Roman Reusch has been demoted and media-muzzled. In the blink of an eye, I could Google together half a dozen prominent activists who have suffered similar fates. On top of that, thousands of second-tier dissidents have probably been ostracized and harassed out of existence. Hey, who needs the Stasi, when you've got the Multikultis?!

Perhaps mentally exhausted from her lone uphill battle against the Mighty Multikulti Mafia, juvenile court judge Kirsten Heisig committed suicide in 2010. What will not have helped matters were the growing number of unbearably grisly cases she was facing on a daily basis, as well as the death threats and unimaginable invective directed at anyone foolish enough to speak out on the Immigration Disaster. This clip http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOQda5kOTUo displays an English-language text saying that many believe that the judge was murdered and goes on to show German news footage of her with English subtitles. Her book *When Patience Comes to an End*

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became a No. 1 bestseller in Germany and will spawn a movie.

At the same time, ghastly tidings from the rest of Western Europe keep coming in thick and fast. A tiny selection from my bulging mailbag: 100,000 girls and women mutilated by FGM practitioners in the UK; an immigrant rape epidemic in Scandinavia; four Jews and three soldiers murdered in France; predominantly black gangs have parceled up and terrorize London; Pakistani lover boys ply their awful trade in Britain almost without let or hindrance; plus public-transportation workers, hospital staff, ambulance employees, firemen and police officers across the Continent suffer from unbelievable levels of violence, threats and verbal abuse from immigrants, with some of the most appalling scenes witnessed in Sweden, rated as having the worst immigration record in the whole of Western Europe by *Elsevier* magazine.

Almost all Turks in Germany and Turkey are in complete denial about *Deutschtürken*'s atrocious behavior across the board and even bask in utterly risible victimhood. What strikes me the most about a Turkish culture so obsessed with "honor" is the total absence of any shame over bringing so much hatred, aggression, crime, misery, urban decay, welfare costs and dysfunctionality in all areas of life to Germany and other European host countries. In a brief window of opportunity – which was slammed shut in the wake of the media coverage surrounding the Far-Right Murders – German public television made a few halfhearted attempts to debate catastrophic immigration in Germany. If I heard this correctly while listening with half an ear, at the beginning of one program, a Turkish interviewee unblinkingly described immigration in Germany as "*ein Erfolgsmodel*" (a success model), without eliciting roars of Homeric laughter from the studio audience. I could almost hear the WDR journalist thinking, "Oh my God, we've got a live one here," before he went into full career-protection mode and managed his best bullshit smile ever. One of the few exceptions in the Turkish community is feminist-social scientist Necla Kelek, who has defended Thilo Sarrazin, the *bête noire* of German politics, explaining that he addresses "bitter truths" in his much-talked-about book.

The Multikulti Mullahs still have Germany in a chokehold, but for how much longer?

Multiculturalism – the human variant of mad cow disease – seems to have run its course in much of Europe, but is still going strong in Germany. Tune into German television or visit German news websites, and it's like going back in time to much darker days. Most (but definitely not all!) German media coverage of Turkish and other Muslim immigrants is just one big blur of Multikulti twaddle. In fact, the reporting is so delightfully deceitful that it becomes entertaining in a demented freaky sort of way. In strident denial of staring-them-in-the-face immigration calamities, the vast majority of German journalists continue to preach the multicultural gospel with all the religious fervor of snake-oil televangelists, threatening the growing number of apostates with fire and brimstone.

For example, the Hezbollah faction within the ZDF sees the subject of *Deutschenhaß* (hatred of Germans) as one big joke and uses its well-honed rapier wit to maximum effect http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MLzDMtmxmQ&feature=related. The phrase *cringe television* does not even begin to do justice to Germany's Multikulti TV. Even worse than many journalists are German Leftwing politicians, who are to *lying* what Holland is to *cheese*. Baron Münchhausen cannot hold a candle to, say, SPD and Green politicians waxing lyrical about immigration and rejecting the crushing facts of life with deadpan delivery. To quote Canada's *Globe and Mail* newspaper http://m.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/angela-merkel-says-the-unsayable-on-multikulti/article1381180/?service=mobile, "Like Canadians, Germans have been swamped by official propaganda celebrating the joys of ethnic diversity. In both countries, expressing doubts over immigration policy has been socially *verboten*."

Although Germany is now surrounded by smaller nations that are beginning to see the light (the Netherlands, Flanders, Denmark, Switzerland and Austria), Germany remains trapped in the PC Dark Ages. Why is this so? Under Hitler's looming shadow – which obliterates any well-informed and rational discussion of snowballing immigration problems – German Polite Society has long had an easy task of ruthlessly imposing its particular brand of PC Nastiness on the German masses. The frequent invocation of Hitler still serves as a nuclear weapon in the immigration debate, as infantile as

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that may sound to more mature and developed nations. German society is like a dog that has never outgrown its puppy phase, and the Left is hell-bent to keep it that way. Say anything deviating one syllable from Loopy Lefty orthodoxy, and you are accused of being a Nazi (quite often by folks with strong Leftwing Nazi credentials), put your career at risk, face ostracization and become an easy target for violence and intimidation from Muslim Supremacists and Black Blockers. The German national character also comes into play. Most Germans are docile, group-oriented and fearful of authority to a degree that their naturally rebellious and big-mouthed Dutch neighbors – the New Yorkers of Europe, if you will – would find side-splittingly hilarious.

But as Johan Cruyff famously observed, "Every disadvantage has its advantage." The rapidly escalating immigration mess created by Germany's *Multikulti-Narren* has now become so horrendous that reality can no longer be hidden from view. Quite a few über-shocking media reports had slipped past the PC censors, before the Far-Right Murders put a halt to that blast of glasnost. In three years' time, a select group of German journalists with balls and brains will probably pick up where they left off and will once again tell the unvarnished truth on immigration. Equally important, more than half of Germans are now in revolt against the Leftwing Establishment, and their number will only increase in the face of the demographics-driven banlieue-ization of their country. Germany has also produced a dozen immigration critics of note, including those mentioned in my previous email. Even Angela Merkel, normally as cautious as a snail braking hard for a curve in the road, felt compelled to talk to the nation like a Dutch uncle http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKG76HF24_k . What is further working against the Multikultis' still-iron grip on power is that Germany is becoming the odd man out in its own neck of the woods. Thankfully, the sort of PC Wackoism that is pretty much prevalent among Germany's Ruling Classes is getting rarer by the day in Western Europe and is being steadily pushed out to the fringes of Western Europe (Britain and Sweden/Norway).

The *demasqué* of the Multikulti Horror State is complete, but that news has not yet reached the German powers that be

Polish-born Henryk Broder is well aware that neighboring countries – left reeling from their own immigration experience – are beginning to regard Germany as *la risée de l'Europe*. In a TV appearance http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkvlT2dLSMs&feature=related , Broder makes a scathing assessment of German Polite Society, which is incapable of accepting even the most basic home truths and having a productive public debate about an issue that, because of unrelenting demographics, will loom ever larger in Germany. The *enfant terrible* of German journalism takes the whole Multicultural Cabal to task and cuts through all the crap: Almost all immigrant problems in Germany are *Muslim*-connected. No number of red herrings fished up by the multi-billion Diversity Industry will ever change that Mother of All Facts. And no amount of starry-eyed rhetoric on the part of Green Party Co-Leader Cem Özdemir, who locks horns with Broder in the TV program, will ever make the slightest bit of difference. You might just as well try to wish gravity away.

Tragically, the immigration situation is so much worse than even Broder thinks in his lily-white innocence. Just take a load of the litany of human disasters in Germany detailed above. Alternatively, examine the state of affairs in equally blighted neighboring countries. Let me quote a few facts and figures from the Netherlands – the only country in the world where oft-devastating immigration statistics are fairly freely available. Shockingly, 55% of all young Moroccan males in the Netherlands have been the subject of a police investigation http://www.nieuwsblad.be/article/detail.aspx?articleid=GIE2B2Q4K. Indeed, the unofficial, yet reliable figure for Amsterdam is 70%! As if all of that weren't deeply troubling enough, psychologist Indra Boedjarath http://www.trouw.nl/tr/nl/4324/nieuws/article/detail/1394009/2007/10/27/Dubbelleven-Marokkanen-fnuikt-psyche.dhtml explains that many Moroccan youngsters suffer from psychological problems, adding that numerous Moroccan criminals are "slightly mentally handicapped." On and on it goes.

Although I have only built up a very rough impression of the Dutch equivalent of the BBC's *Crimewatch* program (cannot bear to watch it for more than a few seconds at a time), the common thread running through all episodes seems to be that almost all of the thugs are non-Western immigrants and that almost all the victims are whites. The victims are often on the bottom rungs of society – from supermarket staff to frail senior citizens, who have been intimidated, humiliated, robbed, beaten silly or stabbed with blood-curdling brutality in their own country. The crime-program makers have even developed their own PC language to identify the never-ending immigrant rogues'

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gallery paraded on Dutch TV screens, week after deeply depressing week. Moroccan suspects have a "North African appearance," while blacks have a "negroid appearance." Not that long ago, one Dutch black comedian joked that he watched this crime show to see what his mates had been up to, but few Dutch people were laughing.

The newly published book *The Immigration Taboo* by Joost Niemöller discloses that 50% of the Netherlands' non-Western immigrants are unemployed, adding that this percentage is seven times worse than that among natives. Presumably, he confines himself to those actually drawing unemployment benefits. Throw in the little-discussed fact that almost all immigrant women in the Netherlands are unemployable according to the *NRC* newspaper, and *real unemployment* (all working-age people without jobs) among immigrants in Holland may well come out at 70% or thereabouts. Could it even be worse? Has Niemöller also counted all those immigrants who are jobless, yet have been falsely declared "disabled"? Bear in mind that the tiny Netherlands holds the per-capita world record for the number of people on various forms of "disability" benefits, aka the Scam of the Century, namely 715,000. Everything I write needs to be carefully fact-checked; I've worked with great haste not only due to time restraints, but also because I find non-Western immigration an excruciatingly depressing subject.

More broadly speaking, there is *not* even a single Western European country with a successful Muslim community, as I've shown with granite-hard facts and figures and will further substantiate with more of the same. Instead, in only slightly varying degrees, Muslim immigration is just one long tale of woe and misery for the long-suffering host countries, which are in for far worse to come in the decades ahead because of barely understood demographic realities. Incidentally, the same sad observation can be made of the Black Diaspora in Western Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean (see previous statistics-packed emails and upcoming info – you have yet to receive these!).

Germany's Immigration Disaster Deniers have as much credibility as alien abductees spirited away in a UFO with Bigfoot at the controls

Immigration Disaster Denial has deep roots in German society and goes way beyond the usual suspects – aging Communists in their last hurrah (so left-over '60s rabble and relics of the GDR dictatorship). Almost as fanatic and myopic are the folks called *das liberale Bildungsbürgertum*, to use Roman Reusch's caustic epithet for Germany's Class of Educated Ignoramuses, who live in a whites-only cocooned fantasy world and indulge in *Gutmenscherei* at the expense of the vulnerable in society, slandered as "racists" when they have the chutzpah to complain about their awful lot. Suffer in silence, will you, and let us dream on! For example, I was aghast to learn that the flat-earthist book *The Scaremongers: The German Fear of Islam* had been penned by a journalist in the employ of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* and not some fringe Trot rag. Who would have thought? It's almost as if Germany's Babbling Classes wish to make up for their lack of humor and humanity with nonstop misguided moralizing and grotesque grandstanding. In my experience, those who holler the loudest about morality possess the least amount of it.

History will render a devastating verdict on the *FAZ* journalist and all other flat earthers, lampooning the PC Era as a period of moral and mind meltdown of the sort Europe has seen so often in recent times. However, that is cold comfort to the many long-suffering victim groups described in my messages, including white elderly people who are imprisoned in their own homes in ethnic hellholes and are forced to live out their final days amid horrific levels of vandalism, theft, vitriolic threats and violence from even very young immigrant children, backed up by bigger siblings and parents, as I heard in distressing accounts. I also witnessed some of these blood-boiling scenes in South Rotterdam. The *very least* that white senior citizens across the multiculturally afflicted parts of Western Europe can expect is name-calling and intimidation, as exemplified by footage with English subtitles http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYqzy-QrQZM&feature=related of a white elderly woman in a city train in Copenhagen who is being bullied by a North African man (probably a Moroccan). One highly unusual comment to the Danish train clip reads, "My Muslim brothers are such pigs, I understand why everyone hates them."

In various interviews, ex-public prosecutor Roman Reusch reserved special scorn for Germany's Clueless Cultural Classes, who sit pretty in their affluent whites-only enclaves far removed from all the

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ethnic misery and engage in exalted *Multikulti-Moralreiterei* to the severe detriment of the working hoi polloi. He sharply contrasts the Multikultis' lofty position in society with that of a lowly sales assistant who has already been robbed three times by hordes of armed immigrants and needs to pop tranquilizers every morning, so that she can get through another day in the multicultural war zone http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aqc7mxcfJbI&feature=related . In the words of German journalist Sabine Beppler-Spahl, "Being 'pro-immigration' and 'pro-multiculturalism' in Germany today is like a lifestyle choice, a way of proving that you are culturally refined and cosmopolitan, unlike the supposedly uncultured, racist working classes." Every German pays a hefty price for botched immigration through higher taxes, but it is bottom-of-the-heap whites in the "war trenches of society," who figuratively and literally bleed for the ignorance, idiocy and callousness of the Yapping Classes. Sadly, the working class is only one of various segments of German society increasingly hurting and suffering at the hands of Muslim immigrants. Other hard-hit victim groups include Jews, gays, the old and frail, plus native young people. And matters are set to get so much worse for them, owing to dramatic demographics, including Turkey's likely admission into the EU.

The info contained in my emails shatters this cozy image of a Multicultural Utopia, long flogged by Germany's Diversity Mongers. In one or two follow-ups, I'll be presenting more details on the issues raised here plus new material. In examining German immigration, you need to make a sharp distinction between the country's Muslims (Turks, Arabs, etc.) and its non-Muslim immigrants (Poles, Greeks, Italians, Vietnamese, etc.). By and large, the second group appears to be faring well. As part of a thick smokescreen created around the Muslim Immigration Debacle, the German Left likes to lump all immigrants together.

My Internet Blitz across Germany confirmed my very worst fears. All my writings require thorough checking, investigation and consideration, though. Truth be told, I am no expert on Germany at all and only follow developments there with a hundredth of an eye and ear, if that. There must have been a point in my life when I simply gave up on a country whose Yapping Classes appear to have all the acuity of mind seen in a special-needs schoolyard and all the moral courage found in a weasel farm. To paraphrase that old JFK quip, when I digitally rampaged through Germany, the thing that surprised me the most was that matters were as God-awful as I'd been saying they were.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/19/2008 1:43:52 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/19

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 19th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10am McCain: Tour of oil rig in New Orleans, LA

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Candidates Hone Messages in Convention Run-Up (WSJ 8/19/08)
By AMY CHOZICK AND ELIZABETH HOLMES
Playing to perceived strengths as the conventions loom, John McCain polished his military credentials before an audience of veterans, while Barack Obama empathized with the economic cares of female supporters.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121911075272051943.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain, Obama Duel on Russia (WSJ 8/19/08)
By Gerald F. Seib
In the wake of Russia's march into Georgia, ...Discussions with top foreign-policy advisers to both candidates suggest that the more intriguing question is what the two candidates would have done before the Russians moved. Whose approach toward Russia -- indeed, toward diplomacy in general -- might have prevented the Georgia move in the first place?
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121909365007350805.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Candidates Got Advance Look at Questions (Washington Post 8/19/08)
By Perry Bacon Jr. and Michael D. Shear; A04
Responding to questions about whether Sen. John McCain had an unfair advantage over Sen. Barack Obama at Saturday's forum on faith at the Saddleback Church in California, a spokesman for the Rev. Rick Warren said both candidates had an advance look at a few questions.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/18/AR2008081802434_pf.html

If I Were the Boss . . . (Washington Post 8/19/08)
By Joe Davidson; D01
Like other federal workers not content with their current jobs, Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama seek a higher government position with better pay, a bigger office and more responsibility. A major part of that responsibility is being the boss of the federal workplace and its employees. To get an idea of what kind of boss they would be as president, we asked for their views on a series of issues.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/18/AR2008081802287_pf.html

McCain's 'Judeo-Christian values' reference puzzles (Boston Globe 8/19/08)
By Peter S. Canellos
On a frozen winter evening at a Town Hall meeting in a school in the Manchester, N.H., suburbs, John McCain expressed surprise and irritation with an intelligence report downplaying the threat of Iran's nuclear program. At the end of a long list of reasons to be suspicious of the Iranians, McCain declared: "And they sure don't share our Judeo-Christian values." It seemed at the time to be an odd thing to say about a Muslim country.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/08/19/
mccains_judeo_christian_values_reference_puzzles?mode=PF

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Analysis: Is McCain finding his way on faith? (CNN 8/18/08)
By Peter Hamby
* At faith forum, John McCain spoke openly about his Christian beliefs
* The presumptive Republican candidate has shied away from topic in the past
* Barack Obama has addressed his faith more frequently on the campaign trail
* McCain might be approaching his comfort zone on faith
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/18/mccain.faith/index.html?eref=rss_politics

Who's rich? McCain and Obama have very different definitions (LA Times 8/18/08)
By Greg Miller
To Pastor Rick Warren's question, Obama says someone making more than $250,000. McCain gives a figure of $5 million per year. His campaign says he was joking.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-rich18-2008aug18,0,3413584.story?track=rss
See ThinkProgress's "McCain's definition of 'rich' illustrated": http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/18/mccain-definition-rich-graph/

DNC Hits McCain For $5 Million Remark, Day After Obama (Huffington Post 8/19/08)
By Sam Stein
Democratic operatives were quick to jump on the one major McCain slip up from Saturday's Saddleback forum: the off-the-cuff remark that $5 million was the line of demarcation for distinguishing the rich.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/18/dnc-hits-mccain-for-5-mil_n_119729.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mP-0pedQeGw

Candidates Soft On Medicare On The Trail (NPR 8/19/08)
by Julie Rovner
Morning Edition - Medicare is almost always a big issue in presidential campaigns because the huge federal health care program is important to seniors, who vote in disproportionately high numbers. But this year, the candidates are playing down Medicare compared to past campaigns, in part because the federal program is close to broke.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93719631&ft=1&f=1102

What's On The Table? McCain Adviser Pledges To Trim Health Benefits (Wonk Room 8/18/08)
In an exchange with the Dallas Morning News, McCain health policy adviser John Goodman admitted that McCain's plan to give families $5,000 to buy health insurance would drive Americans into scantier coverage:
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/08/18/mccain-table-benefits/

McCain to visit Gulf oil rig as Fay's winds keep to east (The Times-Picayune 8/19/08)
by Richard Rainey
Bad weather haunts John McCain. In July, thunderstorms kept the Republican presidential nominee from visiting an oil rig off the Louisiana coast. As he arrived at Louis Armstrong International Airport on Monday for a second try, Tropical Storm Fay churned in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, threatening to force a cancellation again. But it seemed the storm would remain far to the east, allowing the visit to the rig.
http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/08/mccain_to_visit_gulf_oil_rig_a.html

Exclusive: McCain to name VP on Aug. 29 (Politico 8/18/08)
By: Mike Allen
Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) plans to celebrate his 72nd birthday on Aug. 29 by naming his running mate at a huge rally in the battleground state of Ohio, Republican sources said.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=D7D7CFC0-18FE-70B2-A8B2BE218CF25D91
See Ambinder's "McCain Pre-Announces The Announcement": http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/08/mccain_preannounces_the_announ.php

In V.F.W. Speech, McCain Attacks Obama on War (NYT 8/19/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER and JOHN M. BRODER
Senator John McCain began a hard-hitting political attack on Senator Barack Obama's national security credentials on Monday and stepped up his rhetoric against the Russian presence in Georgia in remarks intended to showcase his ability to be commander in chief.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/19/us/politics/19campaign.html?pagewanted=print
LINK TO PREPARED REMARKS: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/08/mccains_speech_to_the_vfw_conv.html
See LA Times's "McCain says he's prepared to be president and Obama isn't": http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign19-2008aug19,0,7521777.story?track=rss
See CNN's " McCain questions Obama's ability to be commander in chief": http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/18/campaign.wrap/index.html
See AP's "Obama takes McCain to task on withdrawal timetable": http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PRESIDENTIAL_CAMPAIGN?SITE=FLTAM&SECTION=US

McCain Embraces Government-Run Health Care... But Only For Veterans (Wonk Room 8/18/08)
After bitterly deriding so-called government-run health care on the campaign trail, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) today vehemently defended the concept in a speech before the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention:
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/08/18/mccain-government-care/

McCain Gets a Warm Reception From Vets (WSJ blog 8/18/08)
Elizabeth Holmes
John McCain received a hero's welcome Monday when he appeared before a convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. A sea of roughly 3,000 attendees, many wearing the traditional hats signaling the war in which they served, filled the Orlando Convention Center and enthusiastically clapped when McCain took the stage.
http://feeds.wsjonline.com/~r/wsj/washwire/feed/~3/368370285/

McCain Steals Credit For GI Bill By Heralding His Own Proposal That VFW Called 'Very Partisan' (ThinkProgress 8/18/08)
Speaking to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) today, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) once again tried to steal credit for the 21st Century G.I. Bill, which McCain had vigorously opposed, even submitting his own proposal to undermine the chances of success for the main bill. Today, McCain told the audience of veterans that he "sought a better bill" and declared the final passage of the GI bill "the result" of his efforts:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/18/mccain-vfw-response/

McCain Actually Supports Cutting NASA Funding By $370 Million (Wonk Room 8/18/08)
By B. Furnas
Today, speaking in Florida, John McCain attacked his opponent for potentially reducing funding for certain NASA programs ... The only trouble is, he actually supports such cuts. McCain supports a discretionary spending freeze for his first year in office, which would allow inflation to erode the funding
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/08/18/mccain-nasa/

McCain nets $1.75 million at Reed-linked event (AP 8/18/08)
By PHILIP ELLIOTT
John McCain raised more than $1.75 million for Republicans Monday at a fundraiser that became high profile after a political operative connected to disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff promoted it.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080819/ap_on_el_pr/mccain_fundraiser
See Atlanta Journal-Constitution's "McCain's Atlanta fund-raiser takes in $1.75 million": http://www.ajc.com/services/content/news/stories/2008/08/18/john_mccain_atlanta.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=15
See WSJ blog's "A No-Show Looms Over McCain Fund-Raiser": http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/08/18/a-no-show-looms-over-mccain-fund-raiser/
See WaPo's "Reed Doesn't Show at McCain Benefit He'd Help Publicize": http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/18/reed_doesnt_show_at_mccain_ben.html
See UPI's "Ralph Reed skips McCain fundraiser": http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/08/18/Ralph_Reed_skips_McCain_fundraiser/UPI-92551219113579/

Protesters mark McCain's visit to Atlanta for fund-raiser (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 8/18/08)
By AARON GOULD SHEININ
More than 50 protesters marched in front of the Marriott Marquis on Monday, shouting "Bush, McCain, same thing!" But John McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, was safely inside for a high-dollar

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campaign fund-raiser.
http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/08/18/mccain_protest_fundraiser.html
See NY Daily News's "Democrats Highlight McCain Fundraiser": http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dc/2008/08/democrats-highlight-mccain-fun.html

McCain still says 'No' to national Cat Fund (Orlando Sentinel blog 8/19/08)
by Aaron Deslatte
With Florida bracing for a potential hurricane, Republican presidential candidate John McCain said Monday that he sympathizes with homeowners battered by soaring insurance costs, but he was not prepared to endorse a national risk pool as a way to bring those prices down.
http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news_politics/2008/08/mccain-still-sa.html
See Palm Beach Post's "McCain still opposes disaster fund, suggests regional alternative": http://www.palmbeachpost.com/politics/content/local_news/epaper/2008/08/18/0818mccaincatfund.html

Bipartisan Praise From Bill Clinton (NYT blog 8/18/08)
By Steve Friess
Former President Bill Clinton on Monday praised Senator Barack Obama's energy policy at the opening of the National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas. But Mr. Clinton also lauded Mr. Obama's rival, Senator John McCain, and said that either candidate would be progressive on the issue of climate change.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/19/bipartisan-praise-from-bill-clinton/
See AP's "Pawlenty: Obama 'slams door shut' on energy": http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/president/27100304.html?elr=KArksi8cyaiUjc7YUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU

UAW blasts McCain for stand on auto loan (Detroit Free Press 8/19/08)
BY JUSTIN HYDE
UAW President Ron Gettelfinger criticized Republican presidential candidate John McCain on Monday for opposing government loans for Detroit automakers, saying McCain "has slammed the door on any real support for the domestic auto industry."
http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080819/BUSINESS01/808190360
See AP's "AP: UAW endorses Obama as expected; says McCain would follow 'failed policies of President Bush'": http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/politics/wire/sns-ap-uaw-obama,1,2305740.story

The night that changed McCain's life (CNN 8/18/08)
* Friend: Before his capture in Vietnam, John McCain considered leaving the Navy
* Vietnamese witness describes McCain's capture after 1967 plane crash
* Friend who was POW with McCain says the senator was "an archconservative"
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/18/revealed.mccain.vietnam/index.html

Cindy McCain's Half Sister 'Angry' She's Hidden (NPR 8/18/08)
by Ted Robbins
All Things Considered - Last Tuesday, NPR broadcast a story about Cindy McCain's business and charity work. In it, Ted Robbins described McCain as the only child of Jim Hensley, a wealthy Arizona businessman. The next morning, NPR received an e-mail from Nicholas Portalski of Phoenix, who heard the story with his mother. ... His mother, Kathleen Hensley Portalski, is also Hensley's daughter.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93708729

Anyone care about pics of John McCain's former house? (Politico blog 8/18/08)
By Anne Schroeder Mullins
Inside Edition has the "tour." Video, too:
http://www.politico.com/blogs/anneschroeder/0808/Anyone_care_about_pics_of_John_McCains_former_house.html?showall
Link to "Inside Edition" video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_NuzDmfnJQ

Flashback: McCain Was "Outspoken" Musharraf Supporter (Huffington Post, 8/18/08)
By Nico Pitney
Reacting to news of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's resignation on Monday, John McCain put out a

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statement that described the breaking news development as "a step toward moving Pakistan onto a more stable political footing." The tepid-sounding nature of those comments stems from the fact that McCain was never eager to see Musharraf fall.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/18/flashback-mccain-an-outsp_n_119626.html

Did It Happen To Another Guy? (Atlantic Online 8/18/08)
By Andrew Sullivan
Here's McCain, in his now-famous "agents of intolerance" speech, recounting the Good Samaritan story as if it happened to an anonymous American POW
http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2008/08/did-it-happen-t.html

McCain Responds (Atlantic Online 8/18/08)
By Andrew Sullivan
Michael Goldfarb calls any questions about the cross-in-the-dirt story desperate smears:
Those desperate to discredit Senator McCain's record will have to impugn his fellow prisoners as well. Orson Swindle, who was held as a prisoner of war along with McCain, tells the McCain Report that he heard this particular story from McCain "when we first moved in together." ...Convinced?
http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2008/08/mccain-responds.html

Labor, Film Co. Paint McCain as the 'Real Elitist' (NYT blog 8/18/08)
By Steven Greenhouse
Updated The A.F.L.-C.I.O. and the Service Employees International Union have feuded plenty in recent years, but they have banded together to help distribute and publicize a new online video that characterizes Senator John McCain as elitist and out of touch.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/18/labor-film-co-paint-mccain-as-the-real-elitist/
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ek3jAkx9m10

EXCLUSIVE: McCain's Olive Garden Dinner (CBS blog 8/18/08)
By Ryan Corsaro:
When Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., gets hungry, he goes to his "favorite" restaurant. And last night, he dragged along his pal, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, John McCain...to an Olive Garden. While members of the press were not allowed to be inside, CBS News bumped into McCain's server later on.
...The campaign treated Secret Service, and the bill came out to approximately $450.00. They gave a $90 tip -- twenty percent.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/18/politics/fromtheroad/entry4357485.shtml

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

The Education of McCain (NYT 8/19/08)
By DAVID BROOKS
John McCain and his advisers are running a much more conventional race, the kind he used to ridicule. The inescapable fact is: It is working.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/19/opinion/19brooks.html

A World of Difference (NYT 8/19/08)
By BOB HERBERT
Senator John McCain will tell you outright: "I am a Teddy Roosevelt Republican." That's about as elastic as the facts can get. In June, Mr. McCain ("We're gonna drill here! We're gonna drill now!") got a big boost in donations from oil industry executives after he reversed course and came out strongly in favor of offshore drilling. ... To put it mildly, that was not very Rooseveltian.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/19/opinion/19herbert.html

Drilling for snake oil (Boston Globe 8/19/08)
HOUSE SPEAKER Nancy Pelosi has joined presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama in a flip-flop on the issue of drilling for oil on the Outer Continental Shelf. Until recently, all three had supported Congress's longtime moratorium on the drilling, lest it endanger marine wildlife in productive fishing areas like New England's Georges Bank. But polls showing heavy popular support for exploiting the shelf in the face of

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rising fuel prices seem to have caused the politicians to reconsider.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2008/08/19/drilling_for_snake_oil?mode=PF

Saddleback a comfy fit for McCain (Boston Globe 8/19/08)
By Alan Schroeder
WHAT DOES the joint appearance of Barack Obama and John McCain at Saddleback Church in California Saturday portend for the fall election debates? Although the candidates shared the stage for only a fleeting 36-second photo op, their back-to-back interviews with the Rev. Rick Warren provided a preview of what voters can expect when the traditional presidential debates begin next month. Neither Obama nor McCain is a natural debater.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/08/19/saddleback_a_comfy_fit_for_mccain?mode=PF

Unequivocal ambiguity (Washington Times 8/19/08)
By Tara Wall
Watching the two presidential candidates court "evangelicals" by way of the Saddleback Church Civil Forum Saturday night was an exercise of perplexing proportions. While both senators clearly have very distinct delivery styles and vastly different approaches to addressing the issues of our day, John McCain undoubtedly restored faith among the faithful.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/19/unequivocal-ambiguity/

Don't know much about math (Washington Times 8/19/08)
To bolster the country's K-12 teacher corps, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama promises "teacher service scholarships," residency programs and "new and innovative ways to pay teachers" - a hedge for merit pay. Republican counterpart John McCain promises bonuses, new teacher certification methods and greater school choice. Both candidates, and both of their political parties at all levels, could stand a fresh proposal on mathematical literacy. By this, we're sorry to say, we mean the literacy of teachers.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/19/dont-know-much-about-math/

A maverick on the Colo. River (Denver Post 8/19/08)
John McCain proved to be a uniter not a divider with his suggestion that the 1922 Colorado River com- pact be renegotiated to allocate more water to his home state of Arizona as well as Nevada and California. McCain's comments in an interview with Charles Ashby of the Pueblo Chieftain united practically every political figure in Colorado, regardless of party, to denounce the GOP presidential candidate's proposal.
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_10239045

BUSH NEWS

White House: U.S. had nothing to do with resignation (CNN 8/18/08)
The United States and Britain praised Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's contribution to the war on terror while the Bush administration claimed no role in the leader's resignation Monday.http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/08/18/musharraf.resignation.reaction/index.html

Rice praises Musharraf for role fighting terrorism (AP 8/18/08)
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice offered "deep gratitude" Monday for resigning Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's decision to join the U.S.-led fight against extremists, but also signaled strong U.S. support for the civilian government that pushed him out.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-18-rice-musharraf_N.htm?csp=34

Anti-Regulation Aide to Cheney Is Up for Energy Post (Washington Post 8/19/08)
By Juliet Eilperin; A02
A senior aide to Vice President Cheney is the leading contender to become a top official at the Energy Department, according to several current and former administration officials, a promotion that would put one of the administration's most ardent opponents of environmental regulation in charge of forming department policies on climate change.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/18/AR2008081801994_pf.html

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OTHER TOP NEWS

Oil's Washington juggernaut (CNNMoney 8/19/08)
By Steve Hargreaves
As angry voters spark a barrage of energy bills in Congress, the oil industry is spending record amounts of money protecting its interests. In what may be surprising to some, the most recent figures from the Center for Responsive Politics show that the oil industry gives a relatively small sum to individual political campaigns - it's 16th on a list of top 50 industries.http://money.cnn.com/2008/08/19/news/economy/oil_money/index.htm?cnn=yes&eref=rss_politics

Amid Divisions, NATO Weighs Response to Russia's Incursion (WSJ 8/19/08)
By JOHN W. MILLER, NEIL KING JR. and MARCUS WALKER; Page A5
The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is hoping to craft a unified response to Russia's incursion into Georgia in an emergency meeting Tuesday -- one of the group's weightiest sessions in years -- despite significant divisions within the 26-nation alliance.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121907041920549641.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Georgia, Russia exchange war prisoners (AP 8/19/08)
Russia and Georgia exchanged 20 prisoners of war Tuesday, a move that could bring a substantial reduction in tensions and that Georgia hopes will expedite a Russian troop withdrawal from its territory.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-19-georgia-russia_N.htm?csp=34
See AP's "Report: Russia to allow 20 more military monitors in Georgia" http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-19-georgia-russia-monitors_N.htm?csp=34

Six suicide bombers attack U.S. base in Afghanistan (AP 8/19/08)
A team of suicide bombers tried to storm a U.S. military base near the border with Pakistan in a daring insurgent attack on a major American installation, officials said Tuesday. Six suicide bombers attacked and three detonated their vests, NATO officials said.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-19-afgahanistan-violence_N.htm?csp=34
See AP's "Troops find stash of advanced rocket grenades in Afghanistan": http://rssfeeds.usatoday.com/~r/usatoday-NewsTopStories/~3/368497363/2008-08-18-rpgs_N.htm

Iraqis buy billions in U.S. arms (USA Today 8/19/08)
By Charles Levinson,
...Iraq is fast becoming one of the United States' top customers for military sales. Since January 2007, Iraq has spent $3.1 billion on U.S. weapons. That number looks likely to grow exponentially as Iraq uses its vast unspent reserves of petrodollars to develop its army into a force capable of defending its borders against hostile neighbors.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2008-08-18-iraqtanks_N.htm?csp=34

U.S. Tightens Rules For Security Contractors in Iraq (WSJ 8/19/08)
By August Cole
The Defense Department has further tightened the rules for its almost 6,000 armed security contractors in Iraq, a move that appears to shift more risk to hired guards and is intended to avoid shooting incidents that could jeopardize U.S.-Iraqi relations.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121911330418751841.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Blackwater defends team in Baghdad shootings (CNN 8/18/08)
Security contractor Blackwater said any guards who acted improperly in a deadly 2007 shooting in Baghdad should be held accountable, but believes its team acted in self-defense, a company spokeswoman said.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/08/18/blackwater.guards/index.html

Bob Woodward to reveal 'The War Within' (Politico 8/19/08)
By: Mike Allen
Bob Woodward's new book is shrouded in such mystery that even the title was a secret until now. Publishing sources say the book, completed just three weeks ago and out Sept. 8, is titled "The War Within: A Secret White House History 2006-2008." The book's revelations are likely to propel a re-examination of the Iraq war into the headlines just as the fall presidential campaign is taking off.

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http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=D8B414F9-18FE-70B2-A8523E71DA75D446

Early Sales of a Book on Obama Anger Stores (NYT 8/19/08)
By JULIE BOSMAN
Barnes & Noble has substantially reduced its 10,000-copy order of "Obama's Challenge," by Robert Kuttner, after Chelsea Green, the book's publisher, announced it would initially be sold exclusively on Amazon.com.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/19/business/19book.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&ref=todayspaper&adxnnlx=1219143764-ftZ4Ja6ZDIPvTBYZtTLvhg&pagewanted=print

POLLS

Latest National Numbers (ThePage 8/19/08)
From Quinnipiac University poll:
Obama 47, McCain 42
Dates conducted: August 12-17; Error margin: 2.5 points.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/19/new-quinnipiac-numbers-out-tuesday/

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 1:50:23 PM
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

Do we think Cummings would do that? Certainly worth an ask.

On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 8:48 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

Who is the right person to raise a simple question of the audacity of members of congress asking others to release their emails when they don't ?

Do we have some D who can squarely at Gowdy and demand he release all his emails for that last two years so people can see for themselves how politically motivated his investigations are?

From: Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:13 PM
To: Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com ; Mandy Grunwald
Cc: Robby Mook; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Earned Media Update

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.

2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: "This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

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This isn't about emails, it's about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they'd hold themselves.

Washington Post : "Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records." [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : " But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. "He did exactly what Hillary did," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff "went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn't. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: "When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio's spokeswoman said they had been deleted." (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press , "Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival." [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , "But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever." [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/18/2014 8:40:25 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday December 18, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday December 18, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton said by investing in children's education, "we are saying that the future is worthwhile"#HRC365 http://www.nytimes.com/1995/03/27/world/a-clinton-and-a-bhutto-share-a-joke-in-pakistan.html … [12/18/14, 12:06 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton implored that we shouldn't "condone & practice torture anywhere in the world" #HRC365 http://www.politico.com/story/2014/12/hillary-clinton-pass-laws-forbidding-torture-113631.html#ixzz3MAMHyc9G … [12/17/14, 3:51 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

Washington Post blog: Plum Line: "Morning Plum: Obama, unbound, puts his stamp on 2016"

"When you step back and look at the degree to which these actions are beginning to frame that contest [the 2016 election], it's striking."

New York Times Magazine: "Can Liberal Zionists Count On Hillary Clinton?"

"The political quandary for liberal Zionists is that, as part of the Jewish majority that will vote for Clinton regardless, they aren't in a great position to make demands and are reduced to hoping that Clinton secretly agonizes over the issue as much as they do."

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BuzzFeed: “Ted Cruz: ‘I Can Only Laugh’ When Obama, Clinton Discuss Income Inequality”

“Ted Cruz is attacking President Obama and Hillary Clinton on income inequality.”

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: “Rand Paul supports opening up relations with Cuba”

“On the Democratic side, presumed frontrunner Hillary Clinton said she supports Obama's decision.”

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Dems blame 2014 drubbing on failed economic message”

"The analysis found that Democrats focused too much on 'piecemeal policy proposals' like the minimum wage and equal pay for women, which 'struck voters as falling well short of the level of change necessary to set our country and our economy back on track.'"

NBC News: “Why 2016 Will Be a Battle Between the Grassroots and the Donors”

“Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, has the long-standing support of wealthy Democrats, gathered between her and Bill Clinton over more than two decades in politics.”

New York Times: “As 2016 Nears, Hillary Clinton Keeps in Mind Mistakes of 2008 Campaign”

“Little by little, Mrs. Clinton is taking steps that suggest she has learned from the mistakes, both tactical and personal, of her failed candidacy.”

Washington Post blog: The Fix: “The Associated Press just did something very smart”

“Given how drastically over-covered Hillary Clinton's expected presidential campaign will be -- particularly given the small chance she will face a genuinely competitive primary -- having more people in these state capitols to mine the records of the various governors running for the big office is a smart investment.”

Politico: “Clinton aide met with Warren-aligned liberal group”

“On Thursday, PCCC founder Adam Green confirmed that he had met with a Clinton aide in the last few weeks, but declined to identify the aide or describe what was discussed.”

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Articles:

Washington Post blog: Plum Line: "Morning Plum: Obama, unbound, puts his stamp on 2016"

By Greg Sargent

December 18, 2014, 9:22 a.m. EST

For years, progressives have sharply criticized President Obama for shaping major decisions around the idea that scaling back his ambitions would ultimately secure the GOP cooperation he had long sought. But the GOP takeover of Congress has effectively freed Obama from that illusion, leaving him little choice other than to be as aggressive and ambitious as possible in unilaterally pursuing his agenda wherever he can.

This is now setting in motion a series of arguments that will shape the next race for the presidency.

In a very good piece, the New York Times' Michael Shear reports that Obama's decision to pursue normalized relations with Cuba is only the latest in a pattern that may characterize his last two years in office:

"The announcement…follows similar decisions by Mr. Obama in recent weeks to defy Republicans on immigration, climate change policy, the regulation of the Internet and negotiations with Iran…

"Mr. Obama's unilateral action on Cuba is part of a pattern that will define the end of his presidency. Frustrated by congressional inaction and Republican efforts to block legislation, the president has increasingly pushed the limits of his executive authority in domestic and international policy making — an approach that anticipates, and largely dismisses, angry responses from his critics…

"Mr. Obama is returning to the original case he made as a presidential candidate, casting himself as a transformational leader who is eager to discard old conventions of politics and policy in ways that appeal to the sensibilities of younger people. Although the midterm elections last month were a victory for Republicans, who took control of the Senate and added to their House majority, the results seem to have only accelerated the president's use of regulatory, diplomatic and executive authority."

Republicans like to say all of this unilateral action defies the will of the people as expressed in the last election. If that is so, then Republicans will surely be glad to hear that much of what Obama is setting in motion may be litigated in another electoral contest — the 2016 presidential race.

When you step back and look at the degree to which these actions are beginning to frame that contest, it's striking. Hillary Clinton has now endorsed Obama's move on Cuba. GOP presidential hopefuls are lining up against it. She has vowed to protect Obama's actions on climate "at all costs," a stance that could take on added significance if a global climate treaty is negotiated next year. Potential GOP presidential candidates will likely vow to undo those actions and line up against U.S. participation in such a treaty.

Clinton has come out in support of Obama's action to shield millions from deportation. GOP presidential hopefuls have lined up against it, effectively reaffirming the party's commitment to deporting as many low-level offenders and longtime residents as possible. And so on.

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As Shear's piece notes, all these actions appear geared to "the sensibilities of younger people." But it goes beyond this. They are geared to the priorities of many of the voter groups that are increasingly key to Democratic victories in national elections: millennials, nonwhite voters, and college educated whites, especially women. The Cuba shift may appeal to young voters, particularly younger Cubans in the key swing state of Florida. The move on deportations could sharpen the contrast between the parties in ways that enhance the Democratic advantage among Latinos. The moves on climate could appeal to millennials and socially liberal upscale whites.

The common thread uniting all of these is a Democratic gamble that such groups will be swayed by an agenda that is forward-looking and more accepting of evolving demographic, international and scientific realities, and will see the GOP as increasingly trapped in the past.

One big unknown is whether the next Democratic nominee can get out the Obama coalition in the numbers he did. But it increasingly looks like a good deal more of the Obama agenda than expected — in the form of all these unilateral actions — may be on the ballot in 2016 to appeal to these voter groups. Republicans delighted in arguing that Obama's policies were soundly rejected in the last election. But we're now playing on a presidential year field, and Obama's new approach appears to be only getting started.

New York Times Magazine: "Can Liberal Zionists Count On Hillary Clinton?"

By Jason Horowitz

December 17, 2014

Daniel Zemel first visited Israel fresh off his bar mitzvah, in 1966. A bookish Jewish kid from Chicago, Zemel had a love for Israel inherited from his grandfather, Rabbi Solomon Goldman, a friend of Albert Einstein's who was president from 1938 to 1940 of the then left-leaning Zionist Organization of America. With the other members of his Jewish education group, the 13-year-old Zemel spent two weeks in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. He lunched in cafeterias with the kibbutzniks he idolized, ate frozen treats on the beach and climbed a lookout tower, peering into Jerusalem's still forbidden Old City. A year later, Zemel was ecstatic when Israeli forces captured everything he had surveyed and beyond, including the Temple Mount, the West Bank and Gaza, in the Six-Day War with Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Over the decades, as Israel matured and began to wrestle with the occupation, Zemel did, too. He visited Israel again and again, as a college student, a rabbinical student and an assistant rabbi in Minnesota.

In 1983, Zemel became the head rabbi of Temple Micah, in the Northwest section of Washington. In the constellation of liberal American synagogues, there are a handful that stand out for their political engagement and the influence of their members — Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles, Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope, Brooklyn, and KAM Isaiah Israel on Barack Obama's old block in Chicago. But none have more connections to Capitol Hill.

In the fall, Zemel, a contemplative 62-year-old with horn-rimmed glasses, a bushy mustache and a bald dome from which his skullcap incessantly slips, stood before his congregation in a state of unrest. It was the start of the Jewish New Year, and he had decided to express his anguish over Israel in the form of a sermon about the direction his beloved country had taken. All summer, during the war in Gaza, Zemel and many of the members of his progressive congregation had been racked with worry. In his book-lined office, decorated with an Israeli flag and a poster of Yoda holding a Hebrew bible, emails from congregants had been regularly popping up on Zemel's computer screen, railing about Israelis "killing children." Zemel sat with congregants as they wept on his couch.

The entire year 5774, in fact, was a trying one for Zemel and other liberal Zionists, who increasingly find themselves torn between their liberalism and Zionism and stranded in the disappearing middle between the extremes of a polarized American Jewish community. Micah's liberal Zionists remained wedded to a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians and estranged from the policies of a right-wing Israeli government, along with the reflexively Israel-can-do-no-wrong sentiment on Capitol Hill. But they also felt alienated by Jewish groups to their left, some of which chanted, "Stop the murder, stop the hate, Israel is a racist state."

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Zemel, fighting a nagging cold, looked out at the robust crowd on Rosh Hashana. He knew that the people gathered before him — and the people they knew — could help determine United States policy toward Israel. Some of them even had a direct line to Hillary Clinton, the early favorite to be the Democrats' nominee for president in 2016. Sara Ehrman, who is 95 and a veteran of Jewish-American politics, was a mentor to Clinton; she sat next to Maria Echaveste, a former official in Bill Clinton's administration and a convert to Judaism whom President Obama nominated to become ambassador to Mexico. Al From, an architect of the Democratic resurgence of the 1990s and adviser to Bill Clinton, sat across the aisle. Arrayed around them sat newspaper, magazine and television journalists in a congregation that included David Gregory, a former host of "Meet the Press"; Jake Tapper, a CNN anchor; and Dana Bash, a Washington correspondent for CNN and the former wife of Jeremy Bash, who was a national-security official in the Obama administration. Another member of the congregation is Alan Cooperman, director of religion research at the Pew Research Center, which a year before published a landmark portrait of Jewish Americans that showed, among other things, that less than a third of young Jews said "caring about Israel" was essential to their Jewish identity.

Zemel adjusted his skullcap. "Tonight we celebrate the creation of the world," he said. "But in this season we also take a look at ourselves: We acknowledge our past, our errors, who we are. What better time to look in the same way at the only Jewish country in the world? The events of this summer actually only strengthened my decision to speak about Israel and American Jewry's ongoing and evolving relationship with that mystifying, infuriating yet enchanting place."

As the sermon progressed, Zemel became more impassioned. He recounted the story of the reprisal murder in July of a Palestinian teenager from East Jerusalem by Israeli extremists. "I am so ashamed," he shouted. He bemoaned the growing ultranationalism in Israel by saying it had "dragged through the mud" what he called "the greatest ethical tradition in history." Heads nodded in the pews. "In many segments of American Jewry," Zemel said, "one is free to disagree with the president of the United States, but the prime minister of Israel is sacrosanct. How patently absurd!" Zemel's criticism of the current Israeli government pivoted to a discussion of how the Holocaust and that summer's flare-ups of anti-Semitism in Europe reminded them all that Israel was existentially necessary. "We must love Israel even harder," he concluded, quoting from the Israeli national anthem. "Od lo avda tikvateinu. We have not yet lost our hope."

For Zemel and his faithfully Democratic congregation, that hope and anxiety has come to rest most squarely on Hillary Clinton. This has happened at the same time that Clinton has staked out a firmly hawkish, pro-Israel position on Gaza and Israeli security. In August, many liberals were discouraged after reading a Clinton interview with Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic. In it, she struck a tone on Israel that was markedly more hard-line than that of the Obama administration, generally avoiding empathy with Palestinian losses and asserting, "If I were the prime minister of Israel, you're damn right I would expect to have control over security" on the West Bank.

Asked about her tough talk, liberal Zionists tend to blame the requirements of American presidential-campaign politics. A vast majority of Jews care far more about social issues and the economy than they do about the issue of Israel and will always vote for the Democratic candidate. "Democrats who are Jewish will turn out in droves in support of her," Haim Saban, a media mogul and major Clinton-campaign financier told me. And the Jewish donors? "Without a doubt."

But Clinton knows that there is a wealthy and influential sliver of more-moderate Democratic Jews for whom Israel is a priority. They are less conservative than the G.O.P.'s top Jewish donors, like Sheldon Adelson, the billionaire casino owner, but feel protective enough of Israel that they could plausibly support a Republican if they sensed anything less than complete support from a Democrat. The political arithmetic for Clinton is easy — knowing you can take the larger liberal Jewish vote for granted, you support Israel's right-wing government to keep moderates from bolting.

The political quandary for liberal Zionists is that, as part of the Jewish majority that will vote for Clinton regardless, they aren't in a great position to make demands and are reduced to hoping that Clinton secretly agonizes over the issue as much as they do. Saban, the major Clinton-campaign financier, told me that Clinton was pained by the consequences of Israel's actions, just not publicly. "I can tell you that privately she has expressed empathy for the Palestinians," he told me. "She has." Victor Kovner, a Democratic bundler who has a Chuck Close painting of Hillary Clinton hanging in his New York office, assures fellow liberal Jews that Clinton is on their side. "She is running for president, this isn't true-self time," he said. He suggested that Bill Clinton had demonstrated a much more nuanced view.

But other Clinton supporters have no patience for hand-wringing liberal Zionists, especially because there is little daylight between them and Clinton on actual policy. "What do they want her to do?" said Ann Lewis, a senior adviser on Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign who is involved with Jewish issues.

The standard line for Hillary Clinton, who declined to be interviewed for this article, is that she has been a consistent voice for Israel and for peace over the last quarter-century. But other Clinton intimates, including those in Temple Micah, say they have watched her position shift by degrees

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over the decades. Ehrman, for one, recalled an early iteration of Hillary Clinton as a promising liberal voice on Israel. Ehrman first met Clinton during George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign in Texas. Back in Washington, Ehrman hosted Clinton, who had landed a job on the Watergate committee, in her apartment for a year, and the two became close. Ehrman later drove Clinton to Fayetteville, Ark., telling her all the way that she was making a mistake by giving up a promising career to marry the "country lawyer" Bill Clinton.

In the early 1980s, Ehrman became political-education director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee — or Aipac — the country's most potent pro-Israel lobbying group. When the Clintons came to Washington as president and first lady, Ehrman became deputy political director of the Democratic National Committee. "I did all the Jewish stuff around the White House," Ehrman said. That work culminated in organizing the Oslo Accords ceremony, at which Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shook hands with the Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat on the south lawn of the White House, sealing an agreement between Jews and Palestinians to end their conflict. On the morning of the signing ceremony, Hillary Clinton called Ehrman with a special reward. "'I want you to stand at the front door of the diplomatic entrance, the main entrance, and I want you to see them coming in,'" Ehrman recalled her saying.

The event was a high point of liberal Zionism's harmony with Washington politics. "It was totally, totally amazing," said Zemel, who also attended the event. Clinton's interest in the issue did not end there. In May 1998, speaking via satellite to young Arabs and Israelis gathered in Switzerland for a conference, she became one of the first people associated with the Clinton administration to call for a two-state solution. "I think that it will be in the long-term interest of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state," she said, adding that "the territory that the Palestinians currently inhabit, and whatever additional territory they will obtain through the peace negotiations," should be considered "a functioning modern state."

The White House, seemingly uncomfortable with her statement, clarified that she was expressing a personal view. Her willingness to embrace the Palestinians soon caused another problem. In 1999, Ehrman accompanied Hillary Clinton on a trip to Ramallah, during which Clinton listened to Suha Arafat, the wife of the Palestinian Authority leader Yasir Arafat, deliver a speech in Arabic accusing the Israeli government of gassing Palestinian women and children. At the conclusion of the remarks, Clinton embraced Suha Arafat and offered a customary peck on the cheek. The moment news of the kiss hit the wires, a high-ranking Clinton administration official placed an angry call to the cellphone of Rob Malley, a Middle East adviser to the president, who was traveling with the first lady, demanding that he fix the problem. But the damage to Hillary Clinton was done.

The next day, some New York Jewish leaders seized on the incident to discredit Hillary Clinton's candidacy for the United States Senate, which was unofficially well underway. The New York Post ran a front-page headline reading "Shame on Hillary." It was around this time that she enrolled in political Hebrew School. Under the tutelage of the senior New York senator, Chuck Schumer, she became extremely adept at winning the trust of audiences who held an absolute pro-Israel position. Schumer did, however, need to assure attendees at one campaign fund-raiser that "she will look to me to see how to vote" on Jewish issues.

Clinton was elected to the Senate in 2000 and struck a tone that was in sync with the Bush administration, which had aligned itself with the Israeli right. In 2007, she went further than the administration when she released a position paper calling for "an undivided Jerusalem" as the capital of Israel. In 2008, as a presidential candidate, she warned Tehran that America would "totally obliterate" Iran if it attacked Israel.

By this time, Clinton was an Aipac favorite, and Aipac had changed from the time that Ehrman had worked there. Founded in 1954 to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship regardless of political ideology, the lobby has become increasingly conservative in its politics and Orthodox in its membership, while developing an unparalleled network of donors around the country. Its financial power, demonstrated at annual megaconferences that bring together presidential candidates and congressional power brokers, has translated into legislative might. Aipac-backed bills — on, for example, support for the Israeli military or sanctions against Iran — usually pass unanimously in Congress.

Many liberal Jews, alienated by Aipac over the years, were encouraged when Barack Obama ran against Clinton in the 2008 presidential primary. They appreciated that he took a more nuanced position when it came to supporting Israel, one that better reflected the political debate within Israel and among American Jews. They saw him as the rare presidential candidate who spoke their language and who seemed willing to push Israel toward peace. They expressed relief when he said that you could be committed to Israel while criticizing the policies of the right-wing government. "I think there is a strain within the pro-Israel community that says unless you adopt an unwavering pro-Likud approach to Israel that you're opposed to Israel, that you're anti-Israel," he said. "And that can't be the measure of our friendship with Israel."

Once elected, Obama seemed to understand that he needed someone to lend him credibility with the Israeli government and its American defenders, a tough friend of Israel who could muscle the country away from settlements and toward a peace agreement. An aide to Obama called Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations, and asked him to call Hillary Clinton to see if she would be "agreeable" to being named secretary of state.

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Early in her tenure as secretary, she was harshly critical of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the country's increasingly conservative culture, surprising and appalling Aipac and many of her supporters in New York. She excoriated Israel's settlement growth and the "antidemocratic" tendencies of its right wing and also the practice, in the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, of gender discrimination "reminiscent of Rosa Parks."

As Clinton pressured Israel to make peace from the State Department, the Obama administration looked to J Street, a new and progressive Jewish lobby, to give members of Congress financial backing and credibility on Israel so that they could support the president without fear of being cash-starved by Aipac or called anti-Israel. J Street boasts of helping Obama defeat an Aipac-backed bill that would have scuttled the administration's Iran nuclear talks. For the most part, though, unquestioning support for Israel has remained dominant in Washington. Even before she left the administration, Clinton essentially shed any pretense that she was still playing the role of impartial arbiter. As Israel flouted her own government's demand that it not build more settlements in East Jerusalem, Clinton spoke so effusively about Netanyahu at a December 2012 conference that political observers considered the speech tantamount to a presidential announcement. Since then, Clinton has further distanced herself from her job as secretary of state, making light of her role as Netanyahu's disciplinarian for Obama and calling herself the president's "designated yeller."

This explanation of Clinton's earlier rebukes of Israel is already gospel among her pro-Israel supporters. Lewis, a backer of the independent super PAC Ready for Hillary, told me that Clinton "was not in the lead on making policy."

Clinton's return to campaign form has left liberal Zionists with little choice other than rationalization. "I sense that the people who advise Hillary Clinton on Jewish politics came of age in an era when the rules of the game were different," Jeremy Ben-Ami, the founder and president of J Street, told me, suggesting that the time of reflexive support for Israel, regardless of their government's policies, had ended. When I asked if he could persuade Clinton that such a position was no longer tenable, he answered, not so convincingly, "We definitely need to try."

Other liberal Zionists are hoping that Bill Clinton could be a more sympathetic voice within a Clinton White House. After Zemel's Rosh Hashana sermon, in which he talked about the need for "Jewish genius" to solve the problem in Israel, Al From told me, "Bill Clinton has this little bit of genius."

Zemel concurred. "I want Hillary," he said. "So I can get a second round with Bill."

Over the summer and fall, many of Micah's congregants and other influential liberal Zionists around Washington aired their discomfort with Clinton on Facebook and in op-ed pages and journals. But they were made even more uneasy by the specter of an increasingly loud Jewish left wing that is openly hostile to Israel and advocates punishing it economically.

At a Shabbat service in August, Zemel's 22-year-old daughter, Ronit, a senior at Macalester College in St. Paul, sat in the front row of Micah's sanctuary. She listened to her father say, "What is needed to make peace between the peoples of these two lands is probably more than humans can summon," which is from "My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel," a history of the country's ethical struggle since its independence, by Ari Shavit, a columnist for the left-leaning Israeli paper Haaretz.

In a few days Zemel's daughter would head back to school, where she had served as co-chairwoman of the student wing of J Street, known as J Street U. The idea of going back to campus, she told me, gave her "the worst feeling ever." She felt besieged by pro-Palestinian groups advocating boycott, divestment and sanctions, or B.D.S., modeled after the boycott movement that helped end South African apartheid policies. "I'm more ashamed of Israel now," she said. "But I am viewing it from a place of love and caring, and I know that they are not. So I'm very scared." Shavit expressed a similar concern. In November, he visited Temple Micah, and speaking as a "liberal to liberals" he worried about young American Jews losing their Jewish identity and drifting away from Israel.

Chief among the fears of liberal Zionists were groups like Jewish Voice for Peace, which in June helped provide a Jewish seal of approval for the Presbyterian Church to divest from companies seen as profiting from Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Rebecca Vilkomerson, the executive director of Jewish Voice for Peace, said that as a result of the war, 60,000 new supporters signed the group's online petitions or open letters in liberal Jewish publications.

Vilkomerson (whose sister, an entertainment writer, is a friend of mine) said she felt no sympathy for the concerns of the liberal Zionist agonistes, whom she considered toothless and intellectually dishonest in their attempts to reconcile their liberal values with Israel's right-wing government. She

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reserved special indignation for what she referred to as “PEPs,” or politicians who were “progressive except for Palestine.”

Vilkomerson pointed to a Pew poll taken during the summer, which showed that the core constituencies of the Democratic electorate, people under 30, African-Americans and Hispanics, blamed Israel more than Hamas for the war. She was also encouraged by the angry response of some delegates at the 2012 Democratic National Convention who booed an amendment to the party platform that would recognize Jerusalem as the present and future capital of Israel. If the left wing makes the case to Clinton and her Democratic successors that the political calculus on Israel is changing, then, Vilkomerson predicted, they will be forced to recalibrate their position. Hillary Clinton, she said, “is totally politically calculating.”

While Lewis says that Clinton should “take seriously” the increasingly intense conversation about the appropriate support for Israel, Clinton, at least for now, is not budging. After all, Elizabeth Warren, the Massachusetts senator often mentioned as a more liberal alternative to Clinton, has taken much the same position. “I would not argue that this is something to worry about,” Lewis told me.

In November, Zemel took 30 of his congregants on the synagogue’s annual trip to Israel. It’s exactly the sort of pilgrimage that Zionists consider the most effective means of strengthening a connection to Judaism and, as a result, of increasing American Jewish support for Israel. But Zemel and his delegation saw signs in the region that troubled them. A third Intifada seemed possible in East Jerusalem, where Muslims and Jews clashed over holy places. Palestinian extremists ran over Israeli commuters and stabbed worshiping rabbis. Right-wing Israeli government ministers promoted the spread of settlements and proclaimed the death of the two-state solution. In November, they also proposed a bill that seemed to dilute Israel’s commitment to democracy by explicitly declaring the country a Jewish state. Netanyahu forced the justice minister, Tzipi Livni, a favorite of American liberal Zionists, out of his government.

“One is torn,” Zemel told me from Tel Aviv. “I can’t imagine not wanting to come to Israel every chance I get. But what would happen if an Israeli government were to decide, ‘O.K., we’re going to declare the entire West Bank to be part of Greater Israel and we’re not going to grant the Palestinians full citizenship.’ How could I then come to visit this country? But how could I not come? I just can’t imagine it.”

Zemel always felt Israel should be able to chart its own course, without the United States or any other nation forcing its hand. But as the tour progressed and the group encountered stun grenades and concrete blocks in Jerusalem, Zemel said he began to believe that Israel needed an emergency intervention from the United States.

“If a person is killing themselves,” he told me. “You save them from themselves.”

But there is a sinking feeling among many liberal Zionists that Washington’s opportunity for intervention has passed. The Obama administration’s efforts to broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace have collapsed and its attention has turned to terrorist groups like ISIS and the curbing of Iran’s nuclear program. European nations, frustrated with what they consider America’s unwillingness to force Israel to get out of the West Bank and embrace the two-state solution, have begun to recognize Palestine. Clinton has shown little inclination to risk political damage by reprising her old role as a friend and a critic of Israel.

At a Brookings Institution forum in Washington on Dec. 5, Clinton addressed an audience of American Jews and Israeli officials, including Livni. She offered platitudes about the two-state solution and studiously avoided any of her past criticism of Israel. On her way out, as she shook hands and gave hugs, I asked Livni, who is trying to oust Netanyahu in elections in March, if America’s liberal Jews should have any expectation that a new, more progressive Israeli government could form. “It’s not only their hope,” she said. “It’s our hope.”

Zemel was discouraged by Clinton’s remarks. “She didn’t say anything,” he complained. But he, too, clung to the idea that she had a private view that coincided with his own. “I hope,” he said. It’s a theme that Zemel often returns to when talking about Israel. On Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism, he told a Micah congregant who was depressed about Israel’s rightward lurch that Jews were “a people of endless patience” who “view things in the long term.” At the breaking of the fast at his home that evening, he showed off a 19th century text that belonged to his grandfather, when he led the (at the time) liberal Zionist Organization of America — which is now a right-wing group financed in part by Adelson. Despite everything, Zemel remained optimistic, telling me that the song “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” was a Zionist anthem. “There’s no place like home? What could be more Jewish?”

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BuzzFeed: "Ted Cruz: 'I Can Only Laugh' When Obama, Clinton Discuss Income Inequality"

By Andrew Kaczynski

December 18, 2014, 1:31 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] "And income inequality — you know, I have to admit, I can only laugh any time President Obama or Hillary Clinton talk about income inequality, because it's increased dramatically under their administration."

Ted Cruz is attacking President Obama and Hillary Clinton on income inequality.

"Over the last six years of the Obama presidency, the rich have gotten richer," Cruz said Thursday on the Laura Ingraham Show. "The top one percent today earn a higher share of our income than any year since 1928. And income inequality — you know, I have to admit, I can only laugh any time President Obama or Hillary Clinton talk about income inequality, because it's increased dramatically under their administration. And the working men and women are getting hammered. There are 92 million Americans right now not working — we have the lowest labor force participation since 1978."

President Obama has often discussed closing the gap between the rich and the poor in the United States, making inequality the theme of a December 2013 speech on economic mobility.

"The combined trends of increased inequality and decreasing mobility pose a fundamental threat to the American Dream, our way of life, and what we stand for around the globe. And it is not simply a moral claim that I'm making here. There are practical consequences to rising inequality and reduced mobility."

Clinton likewise made income inequality the theme of a speech at the New America Foundation in May of this year.

"Now, these are the kinds of daily struggles of millions and millions of Americans. Those fighting to get into the middle class and those fighting to stay there. And it was something of a wakeup call when it was recently reported that Canadian middle-class incomes are now higher than in the United States. They are working fewer hours for more pay than Americans are, enjoying a stronger safety net, living longer on average, and facing less income inequality."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Rand Paul supports opening up relations with Cuba"

By Sean Sullivan

December 18, 2014, 1:20 p.m. EST

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) says he supports opening up relations with Cuba, a position that that puts him at odds with much of the would-be Republican presidential field.

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“The 50-year embargo just hasn’t worked,” Paul told Tom Roten of WVHU in Huntington, West Virginia on Thursday, according to the Associated Press. "If the goal is regime change, it sure doesn’t seem to be working and probably it punishes the people more than the regime because the regime can blame the embargo for hardship."

He added: “In the end, I think opening up Cuba is probably a good idea."

President Obama announced Wednesday that the United States would reopen its embassy in Havana and ease restrictions on travel and commerce with Cuba.

Other potential White House hopefuls have spoken out against Obama's decision. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) took issue with it. So did former Florida governor Jeb Bush (R).

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) has not weighed in.

On the Democratic side, presumed frontrunner Hillary Clinton said she supports Obama's decision.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Dems blame 2014 drubbing on failed economic message”

By Jonathan Easley

December 18, 2014, 10:13 a.m. EST

The economy is far and away the most important issue to voters, and Democrats’ failure to make a compelling argument on that front sunk them in the midterms, the party's analysis of the 2014 election cycle found.

“This data underscores a deeper problem and is an admonishment to Democrats to use the coming months to fashion, hone, and then campaign on an economic plan,” the analysis, authored by Democratic pollster Celinda Lake, reads in part.

“If Democrats fail on this front – even in 2016 with a broader, more diverse, and more progressive electorate – they could well face an election outcome not altogether different from what they just experienced last month.”

The George Washington University Battleground Poll, which served as a basis for the Democratic analysis, found that a plurality, 29 percent, believe the economy is the most important issue facing the new Congress. That’s a nearly two-to-one advantage over immigration, the next closest issue.

A strong majority, 77 percent, said they’re at least somewhat worried about current economic conditions. Voters in the Middle Class are the most pessimistic than other groups on the direction of the economy.

“Two years into Obama’s second term, the American public is worried and highly pessimistic about the state of the economy and the prospects of improvement for the next generation,” said Christopher Arterton, the director of the GW poll. “When the new Congress convenes in January, voters want the politicians in Washington to address this issue above all else.”

The analysis found that Democrats’ focused too much on “piecemeal policy proposals” like the minimum wage and equal pay for women, which “struck voters as falling well short of the level of change necessary to set our country and our economy back on track.”

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Some Democrats are already taking this message to heart.

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said last month that Democrats blew it when they came into power in 2008 by spending all of their political capital on healthcare instead of measures to help the Middle Class.

And this week, groups on the left launched an effort to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) for president, believing her message of economic populism is what's missing in the Democratic Party.

"Tell me who is ahead on the economy in 2016 and I'll tell you who is going to be president," Lake said at a Christian Science Monitor event on Thursday.

Some political watchers are doubtful that Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton, with her close ties to Wall Street and lucrative public speaking gigs, is well-suited to be the party's standard bearer on that front.

But Lake argued that if Democrats can fashion the right message, polling shows voters are on board with the core tenet of liberalism: that the government exists "to help Americans overcome challenges that would otherwise be insurmountable."

"The error of the Democratic Party may not be in standing for an active federal government, but instead failing to articulate that role with specificity and in ways that relate directly to both the country's and individual voters' needs and priorities," Lake wrote.

Fifty-two percent of voters in the GW poll said the government should do more to solve problems and meet the needs of people, against 48 percent who said the best thing the government can do for the economy is to not meddle in the markets.

"Far from running away from their vision of government, Democrats should embrace it and –without getting lost in abstract discussions of process – make their case for a government that is active, engaged, and accountable in its efforts to put ordinary people first and to restore the promise of the American Dream," the analysis said.

"Once Republicans take control of both Houses of Congress in the New Year, the pressure on Democrats to unify and offer a bold economic plan for the country will only increase."

Republicans swept into power in the midterm elections, picking up 13 seats in the House and gaining their largest majority since World War II, while picking up a solid majority in the Senate.

NBC News: "Why 2016 Will Be a Battle Between the Grassroots and the Donors"

By Leigh Ann Caldwell

December 18, 2014, 10:36 a.m. EST

While the majority of Americans aren't yet paying attention to a presidential race, the chase for precious financial support is already well underway. Donors -- that active subset of the American citizenship -- are watching developments closely and actively working to ensure that their candidate, or cause, comes out on top.

The problem is that major disagreement exists between the moneyed class that is critical to give a candidate the resources needed for a national campaign and the activists that are more far more numerous and active in each party's primary process. And it's a bridge that candidates are going to have to work hard to close.

On the Democratic side, the grassroots has been energized by the populist message of Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who insists she has no plans to jump in the race. Candidate or not, the liberal group MoveOn.org Political Action has pledged to spend $1 million to begin organizing activists in the first two critical nominating states in Warren's name. Another progressive group, Democracy For America, has also pledged $250,000 to the effort.

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On Wednesday the group held a high-profile meeting, recruiting volunteers to open offices and put the infrastructure in place for a potential Warren race. They plan to do the same in New Hampshire in early January.

Warren has sparked the excitement of a critical component of the Democratic Party's activists with her anti-Wall Street crusade and support for the working class. But $1.2 million is far from the tens of millions Warren would need to run a presidential primary campaign. And her distaste for Wall Street has bought her few friends among the high-dollar moneyed class who could fund a presidential run. In addition, her supporters might be rabid, but they still have a lot of work to do to convince casual Democratic voters. In a new NBC News poll, only 37 percent of Democrats back Warren. Even though Democracy For America's members support a Warren run, it's leader, former Vermont Governor and presidential candidate Howard Dean, said he would like to see a Hillary Clinton presidency.

Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, has the long-standing support of wealthy Democrats, gathered between her and Bill Clinton over more than two decades in politics. This would be the fourth presidential campaign for a Clinton, giving them a deep rolodex of donors and tremendous name recognition, evident in the NBC poll that found 82 percent of Democrats approve of Clinton. And her more moderate stance on regulation and the economy doesn't scare the financial industry.

"If it turns out to be Jeb versus Hillary we would love that and either outcome would be fine," a Republican-leaning Wall Street lawyer told Politico in April. "It's Rand Paul or Ted Cruz versus someone like Elizabeth Warren that would be everybody's worst nightmare."

Victoria Kaplan, field director for Run Warren Run, which is part of MoveOn Action, said that Warren has proven to be a prolific fundraiser and that if she decided to jump in, she'd have "significant support."

"Washington DC insiders like to think they know what it takes to be president," Kaplan added.

Warren has raised a significant amount of money, bringing in more than $42 million for her inaugural Senate race in 2012. But she was running against a Republican in one of the most high profile races in the country. The competition for funds against Clinton would be much different. One of Warren's biggest contributors was EMILY's List, whose president has been mentioned for the role of Clinton's campaign manager.

The gap between the donors and the grassroots is just as exposed on the Republican side, too. Now that former Florida Governor Jeb Bush has inched closer to a presidential run by "exploring" the presidency, donors are thrilled.

David Beightol called Bush talented and said he's the only one - other than Mitt Romney - who knows what it takes to run a presidential campaign as both his brother and father have done it.

"He's the guy with the talent … and I think he'll win," Beightol said.

Donors want electability and they think a moderate candidate has a better chance of winning the general election. Numerous articles have been written about donors hoping to "clear the field" here and here.

Meanwhile, the grassroots of the party is not so excited about a potential Bush candidacy. Outspoken syndicated radio host based in Iowa, Steve Deace, put out an advisory saying Bush will "never" be president because of conservatives' dissatisfaction with the former governor. According to a new NBC News poll released Wednesday, only 31 percent of Republicans could support a Bush presidency.

Putting the Bush name aside, which receives mixed reviews in Republican circles, activists are skeptical of his support of comprehensive immigration reform and education standards known as Common Core. Bush himself even said he wouldn't move to the right just to obtain the nomination.

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Unlike donors, conservative activists don't buy the notion of electability.

"We have been sold a bill of goods about electability and moderation. The last time I checked with President Romney and President McCain, that didn't work," Iowa leader of social conservatives Bob Van der Plaats said.

The grassroots are more pumped about a potential run by a social conservative like former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee or former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum. Some in the base are charged over the possibility of a bid by Kentucky Senator Rand Paul or tea party favorite Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas. Then there's neurosurgeon Ben Carson whose direct and sometimes brazen remarks electrify the base.

Can a candidate with the support of donors and not the base win a primary? Or vice versa?

Republican donor and bundler Beightol insists that conservative activists will grow to like Bush when they let him explain his positions.

"Once they hear him speak about those two things (Common Core and immigration), he'll be fine," Beightol predicted.

A Republican strategist challenged the idea "that big money interest is trying to marshal all the support." He pointed to grassroots candidate Rick Santorum's unexpected win in the Iowa caucuses in 2012 over the well-financed establishment favorite Mitt Romney.

While Santorum gave Romney a solid run, igniting social conservatives and outperforming most political watchers, in the end, Romney won that nomination. While Santorum had the support of one sugar daddy, entrepreneur Foster Friess who financed most of his campaign, Romney raised $60 million more than Santorum during the primary.

Candice Nelson, director of the Campaign Management Institute at American University, said the role of money is significant.

"If you have a donor base, you have the resources to get your message out and to build a grassroots campaign," Nelson added. "You need money to do everything else."

Romney's primary win, despite luke-warm feelings from the Republican base about the candidate, was not an anomaly. In presidential primaries dating back to at least 1992, the candidate with the most money won. For instance, in 2008, Republican nominee John McCain, another moderate that conservatives were not thrilled about - who even ran out of money at one point in the primary - had raised $36 million by the time his closest competitor, Huckabee, who dropped out of the race in early March. Huckabee amassed only about $16 million, according the Center for Responsive Politics.

On the Democratic side, then-candidate Barack Obama outraised Hillary Clinton in the long-drawn out primary that didn't end until June. Notably, Obama was extremely successful at turning his grassroots support into a donor base while also, eventually, appealing to the high-donor class.

In 2004, John Kerry outraised Howard Dean, mostly by giving himself loans from his vast fortune. And in 2000, Al Gore had more money than Bill Bradley and George Bush far outraised John McCain. The pattern continues: Republican Bob Dole outraised Pat Buchanan in 1996 and Bill Clinton outraised Jerry Brown and Paul Tsongas in 1992.

In most presidential races since 1972, however, the era of unlimited donations to third party political groups didn't exist. Kathy Kiely, managing director of the Sunlight Foundation said, that now with the advent of unlimited spending, big donors are able to deepen the divide between what the grassroots wants and what the donors want.

"Prior to the emergence of super PACs, you had to have the ability to raise a lot of money in small amounts. You had to be able to get a very broad

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base of support and mobilize that support over the long haul," Kiely said.

With unlimited spending, the gap between donors and voters might be more difficult to close.

New York Times: “As 2016 Nears, Hillary Clinton Keeps in Mind Mistakes of 2008 Campaign”

By Amy Chozick

December 18, 2014

During the 2008 Democratic presidential primaries, Hillary Rodham Clinton emphasized her strength and experience over her softer, more relatable side. Today, she gushes about having “that grandmother glow.”

As she lost the nomination to President Obama, Mrs. Clinton was accused of being wooden and overly shielded by staff members. Last month, she mingled casually at an Upper West Side apartment, greeting donors and shunning a podium and rope line.

And in 2008, Mrs. Clinton’s best asset, her husband, Bill Clinton, became an albatross. Today, the former president has a tough-minded chief of staff from Mrs. Clinton’s world who tries to keep close control over his events — and his occasional off-script remarks.

Little by little, Mrs. Clinton is taking steps that suggest she has learned from the mistakes, both tactical and personal, of her failed candidacy. After more than six years of pundits dissecting what went wrong in 2008, her circle of advisers is beginning to draft a blueprint for a different kind of campaign. And although Mrs. Clinton has since bolstered her public image while serving as secretary of state, her next campaign will in part be assessed by her ability to avoid the errors of the last one.

“Was it the best managed campaign? Of course not, they lost,” the Democratic strategist Donna Brazile said of 2008. “But what lessons will they apply to the future if she decides to run?”

Some things have clearly changed: Those close to Mrs. Clinton now embrace a view that her gender can be more of an asset than a liability. But familiar hazards remain, especially the air of inevitability that seems to surround the Clinton camp, along with the lack of a broader rationale for her candidacy.

“Inevitability is not a message,” said Terry Shumaker, a prominent New Hampshire Democrat and former United States ambassador. “It’s not something you can run on,” he added.

These topics are being quietly discussed at private dinners with donors, at strategy talks hosted by an outside “super PAC” and in casual conversation as Mrs. Clinton greets friends at holiday parties and a Clinton Foundation fund-raiser in New York.

“If she runs, it will be different,” said Mrs. Clinton’s spokesman, Nick Merrill.

Last month, at a gathering hosted by Ready for Hillary, a super PAC intended to build grass-roots support for a Clinton candidacy, strategists

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explained to donors over lunch and in presentations that Mrs. Clinton would need to run in 2016 the way she did after she began to struggle in the 2008 primary season.

By the time the delegate tallies favored Mr. Obama, Mrs. Clinton began to show a vulnerable, less scripted and entitled side. She adopted a message focused on lifting the middle class, and she connected with women and white working-class voters over kitchen table issues. She won primaries in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

“I always found it remarkable that working-class women could connect to her life despite the fact that this is somebody who operated in the highest circles in America,” said Geoff Garin, a pollster who succeeded Mark Penn as the campaign’s chief strategist in 2008.

Mrs. Clinton is keeping a quiet schedule over the next several weeks. She is holding frequent meetings to listen directly to the type of strategic advice that during her last campaign was filtered through a tiny cadre of loyal but sparring advisers.

Most of those advisers, including Mr. Penn, still have ties to the Clintons, which makes some of the more than a dozen supporters interviewed for this article wonder whether the personnel problems and infighting that plagued the last campaign could really be resolved in another one.

Ready for Hillary, which since its inception has tried to signal that things must be done differently in 2016, counts former White House aides like Harold M. Ickes, Craig T. Smith and Ann Lewis as advisers. But it also includes Jeremy Bird and Mitch Stewart, Obama organizers whose presence Mr. Ickes called “Exhibit A of new ways of doing things.”

Obama operatives like Buffy Wicks and Jim Messina have been brought on to run another pro-Clinton super PAC, Priorities USA Action.

“Inner circles change over time depending on the nature of the enterprise,” Mr. Ickes said. “There are always people with their noses out of joint,” he added, but the Clintons “are good at picking people.”

Super PACs are ostensibly banned from collaboration with candidates, and Ready for Hillary does not constitute Mrs. Clinton’s innermost circle. The group, run by a mix of young devotees and older loyalists, will dissolve if she declares her candidacy. But its efforts in the long pre-campaign period, particularly in the approach to data and outreach to young college students, are likely to influence how the official campaign would function.

The group has also helped Mrs. Clinton keep well-meaning, but distracting, supporters at bay. It is a strategy that Mr. Obama adopted in 2007 to make sure that supporters felt useful and included without allowing the candidate to become overwhelmed with advice, as Mrs. Clinton did in 2008.

Mr. Bird called the approach “respect, empower, include” and said, “It’s a consistent challenge all campaigns have.”

This is perhaps a bigger challenge for Mrs. Clinton, given that she and her husband have built an extraordinary network of friends, donors and advisers over their decades in public life, all of whom will be invested in trying to get them back to the White House.

“She will be very careful to make sure there are clear lines of authority and that the people in charge are not in charge because they are old cronies, but because they’re the smartest people to run the campaign,” said Richard Socarides, a former White House aide.

In 2008, the smartest person on Mrs. Clinton’s campaign, her husband, became a liability. Mr. Clinton enraged black voters by comparing Mr. Obama’s victory in the South Carolina primary to the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson’s 1984 and 1988 victories in the state and called Mr. Obama’s antiwar position “the biggest fairy tale I’ve ever seen.”

Since then, Mr. Clinton has regained his status as the party’s most powerful surrogate, as demonstrated in a blockbuster speech at the 2012

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Democratic National Convention. But the former president is also famously defensive, especially when his legacy and his wife are under attack, both of which would happen in a 2016 campaign.

Mr. Clinton's chief of staff, Tina Flournoy, who is close to Mrs. Clinton, is trying to keep a careful watch on the former president's events while closely collaborating with his wife's office, said several people with knowledge of Ms. Flournoy's approach who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preserve their relationships with Mr. Clinton.

Ultimately, though, topics that his office would like to avoid, namely 2016 and any criticism of the current administration, come up.

For example, last month in Little Rock, Ark., a Politico reporter, Mike Allen, lobbed a couple of unexpected questions at Mr. Clinton after he delivered prepared remarks at the "Playbook Cocktails with Bill Clinton" event.

Mr. Clinton made news by questioning whether Mr. Obama's delay on an immigration overhaul affected the weak turnout of Latinos in the midterm elections. Mr. Clinton's team appeared livid with the organizers about the unanticipated questions.

"I had misunderstood the parameters, and I'm very sorry about that," Mr. Allen said. A spokesman for Mr. Clinton declined to comment.

People close to Mrs. Clinton say she smartly adjusts and moves forward after making errors — whether her heavy-handed approach to overhauling health care as first lady or her remark to ABC News in June that she and her husband were "dead broke" when they left the White House.

Or, as Mrs. Clinton liked to say in the 2008 campaign, when she warned voters not to be swept up by Mr. Obama's promise to bring hope and change to Washington: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "The Associated Press just did something very smart"

By Chris Cillizza

December 18, 2014, 1:17 p.m. EST

Here's an announcement from the AP that you probably missed today:

"Building on The Associated Press' unmatched presence in all 50 U.S. statehouses, we are adding to our competitive advantage by creating a team of state government specialists.

"As announced today to the AP staff, the specialists will collaborate with statehouse reporters, as well as on their own projects and stories focused on government accountability and strong explanatory reporting. Their over-arching goal will be 'to show how state government is impacting the lives of people across the country,' said Brian Carovillano, managing editor for U.S. news."

This is a very, very good idea.

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As I have written many times in this space, one of the undertold-but-massively-important stories of the shrinkage of mainstream media organizations over the last decade is the disappearance of really good state capitol coverage. Many state and regional newspapers who took as their prime mission covering the machinations -- politically and from a policy perspective -- of each of the state capitols have been forced to make deep cuts in their budgets for that sort of reporting. And, for the most part -- and the WaPo may well be an exception in the Jeff Bezos era -- major national news organizations haven't been able to adequately fill that void.

The result? Not surprisingly, less coverage -- and, as importantly, fewer reporters with deep institutional knowledge -- of state capitols. That's particularly bad given how much is happening -- particularly when it comes to policy incubation -- at the state level of late, and how much it affects the national policy debate.

The AP never really left state capitol coverage. (They were all over Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's problems in the state -- and with his state legislature -- over the last few years.) But, adding an entirely new team to elevate to do deeper explanatory and investigative work in state capitols shows that the AP understands just how much they matter not only to states but to the federal government.

And that's not even mentioning the fact that at least eight governors (or former governors) -- Mike Huckabee, Rick Perry, Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Chris Christie, John Kasich and Bobby Jindal for Republicans, Martin O'Malley for Democrats -- are in some stage of considering a run for president in 2016. Given how drastically over-covered Hillary Clinton's expected presidential campaign will be -- particularly given the small chance she will face a genuinely competitive primary -- having more people in these state capitols to mine the records of the various governors running for the big office is a smart investment.

Then there is the intangible value of having reporting tentacles in a state. The Post provides a great example in its Virginia coverage. Roz Helderman's time spent in Richmond was absolutely in integral to her series of stories that led to the conviction of Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell on 11 counts of corruption. The Post's commitment to Virginia also meant that T. Rees Shapiro was perfectly positioned to raise questions about Rolling Stone's story of a sexual assault at the University of Virginia or scramble dozens of reporters to the mass shooting at Virginia Tech in the middle of the last decade. Or that the Post can be all over the absolutely remarkable/appalling story of state Del. Joe Morrissey.

In our own small way, we here at The Fix have done what we can to preserve the importance of state capitol reporting with our annual list of the best state-based political reporters. (We last did this in 2013 and plan to update our list next year.) And the Post announced just today a partnership with the Texas Tribune, one of the best state-reporting models -- ok, the best model -- in the country.

State-level political journalism has taken a huge hit over the last 10 years. Let's hope the AP's move is the leading edge of a journalistic reinvestment in the states.

Politico: “Clinton aide met with Warren-aligned liberal group”

By Maggie Haberman

December 18, 2014, 11:42 a.m. EST

A Hillary Clinton adviser recently met with the head of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, the liberal issues group most closely affiliated with Sen. Elizabeth Warren, both sides confirmed.

The meeting is the first sign that Clinton’s team is trying to build a bridge with those who are actively supporting Warren, whom many on the left want

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to see challenge Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016.

MSNBC first reported that the meeting might take place. On Thursday, PCCC founder Adam Green confirmed that he had met with a Clinton aide in the last few weeks, but declined to identify the aide or describe what was discussed.

Although Green's group has been tied to Warren, whose progressive stands have earned her adulation but who insists she's not running for president, the PCCC has not joined the "Draft Warren" efforts being led by MoveOn.org.

MoveOn, which has a wide membership that began during the Bill Clinton impeachment days and morphed into anti-war activism during George W. Bush's presidency, has stepped up with a $1 million down payment for the draft effort.

Another group, Ready for Warren, has struggled mightily with fundraising after being disavowed by the Massachusetts senator. The Howard Dean-founded Democracy for America also is spending $250,000 on the draft effort, which had an Iowa kick-off on Wednesday evening.

Although it has stayed out of the draft effort, Green's group is pushing forward with a focus on Warren's message of economic populism. Her stances gained new potency last week as she fought against congressional approval of the "cromnibus" bill and a provision that benefited big banks.

"Our unique role is, we're trying to impact the playing field," Green said.

A Clinton spokesman acknowledged the meeting but declined comment and would not provide details.

Clinton, a former secretary of state and former senator, has not commented in-depth about the cromnibus bill. But earlier this week, she gave a very liberal-leaning speech on police relations with the black community.

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From: "Andres Moreno" <amoreno@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/26/2008 7:32:33 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Cincinnati, OH

Hello All,

I was not able to get into today's event due to it being a closed ticketed event for pre-screened "undecideds." However, I was able to track the event via online streaming video. Below are the notes from that viewing.

Cincinnati, OH - McCain Town Hall at Xavier University - 06/26/8

Background Details:

- Closed Event - ticketed audience members of "undecideds"
- Overflow room also ticketed.
- Family Members of Campaign Staff allowed to attend and sit in main room, while other ticketed audience members were seated in overflow
- Tight Security
- A dozen protesters were outside of entrance with signs, Local Press were filming them

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Opening Remarks

Sub Prime problem in Ohio and America – time for Washington to act. Every homeowner should be able to go down and make an application for a FEC guarantee for the current cost of their home. One of the fundamentals of the American Dream is for an individual to own a home

I always but my country first – example: given chance to go home early as POW but chose not to b/c I put my country first

Reform the way we do business in Washington DC – stop out of control corrupt spending – earmark is a corrupting process. Promises to veto all big spending bills

Straight Talk – Social Security won't be there for today's generation unless we fix it

We have to sit down together like Tip O'Neil and Ronald Regan

Health Care was main issue, still important, but transcendent issue is energy

Lexington Project – Americans have never met a challenge we could not win - We can't have business as usual, automobiles with battery power, flex fuels hybrids. We need to have automobiles that are independent of oil.

Spread of technology – like cell phones price will go down

We need all alternatives; one of them is Nuclear Power. French and European countries use Nuclear power. Clean Coal can be used as a primary energy source.

Sending money to countries that don't like us very much, and it's a fact that some of the money is going to terrorist

I have traveled often times on your money, and I have seen it I believe Climate Change is real.

Off shore drilling: We should allow the states to decide. It can have a beneficial effect. It would send a signal to the Middle East, that we will have less dependency on theirs. Is it an immediate solution? Look I'll give you straight talk we did not get into this yesterday, we will not get out of it tomorrow

Things are tough in Afghanistan. Progress in Iraq is fragile, but we are winning. Iraq was mishandled for 4 years, but with Gen P and the great men and woman of the military we are winning.

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My Opinion is we would have had a larger war if we withdrew, with Iranian influence and stronghold of Al Qaeda

This is going to be a hard struggle, we will meet this challenge. We are a shinning city upon a hill. I can motivate young people to serve a cause greater then their self-interest.

Question 1: Has company that is converting cars to totally electric.

John McCain: What challenges are you facing? What you are doing is a key factor to take us from dependence of foreign oil

John McCain: What can we do for you? I would invest in pure R&D, this technology, Tesla, Volt. BTW volt represents new automobile jobs. Flex Fuel is important too – E85 in all vehicles and gas stations, no more tariffs

Q1 Follow up: Lexington Project? How can we a small group get into this game?

John McCain: Examples of historical figures who can do it as a small group – i.e. Wright brothers, Bill Gates – small groups will most likely play a major role in this new technology

Question 2: We tell people that they can not spend more money then they have – gov't does not follow this rule. What can I tell my children?

John McCain: Your concern is the major reason why Congress's approval ratings is so low – we have got to stop the spending spree… stop bridges to no where… stop middle of the night projects being added in. I have never asked for nor received a pork barrel project… Obama has asked for 10's of m(b)illions. He has become entangled in the process. As long as we are borrowing money from somewhere else we are going to have a hurting economy. We have to stop excessive sending and put on a path to a balanced budget –

Q2 followup: How do we fix the process w/o raising taxes?

John McCain: we can do it trough spending cuts – farm bill example

Question 3: Took a trip to El Savador – I learned more then our US representatives there. There economy is based on our money and our economy – my question is about migration. They come here to make money; a large part of their GDP is from remittances. Migration shouldn't start at the border, we should look at the reason as to why people come to the US, and our policy doesn't do well to address that.

John McCain: I hope other students get a chance to go out and see these issues

Economy in South Am is bad, El Salvador hasn't totally recovered from their civil war. Corruption is a problem; we need to make sure our aid goes to the right people. Immigration continues to be a large problem and it is a federal problem. There are all kinds of disjointedness in policy because Federal government has failed. As you know I tried, we reach across the aisle, but we failed. We failed b/c we couldn't assure the American people that we have a secured boarder. It can be done with technology. Any part of any immigration reform has to include a tamper proof id card for temporary workers. If they know that they cannot get a job without going through the proper system then they will not come. Free Trade will help for us to have their services. Mexico is in a tough situation with drug cartels. Mexico is trying to stop the flow of drugs into America. We need to work closely with Mexico to help them stop these drug cartels.

Question 4: Id like to give my support to Condi Rice for VP. How is your foreign policy and education policy different then Bush's?

John McCain: We will never torture again, close Guantanamo Bay – move them to federal prisons. It has become a symbol throughout the world. Tells story of how he and Lindsey Graham met with a former high level AQ member. They asked him how they were able to do it… not enough troops and lawlessness and Abu Ghraib was used as a recruiting tool. There are some differences b/w me and the president. I said that the original

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strategy was failing.

Education wise, NCLB was a good start, but we need to improve it. But we should not scrape it. NYC and New Orleans is seeing an improvement due to NCLB… competition is vital to better education

Question 5: Health care – we need bipartisan work. How will you get congress to work in a bipartisan method?

John McCain: American people know this system is broken, and we need to get those who don't realize it to know it. There are a lot of solutions and we must address them in a bipartisan manner. Health care needs to be in the hands of the people. Government approved plans and pools for those with chronic problems.

Question 6: I am a Sophomore College student…. What will you do to improve airline industry?

John McCain: Price of oil is a major problem – they pass on the price to travelers…. Lexington project will improve this problem. There is no real good short-term solution. I wanted to give people a summer gas tax holiday. It would have helped the lowest income Americans. We have an air traffic control system that is not much different now then it was in the far past. We are basically in the Stone Age. We have a backward, middle 20th cent. ATC system. ATC and security procedures need to be fixed and efficient.

Question 7: We went into Iraq for many reasons, now it is for stability, you say we are winning. Are we really winning the real war, in Afghanistan? Why are we doing this, what are we accomplishing.

John McCain: We are winning the classic counter-insurgency. Iraq is taking control. In Afghanistan, Taliban is resurging. For many reasons one of the reasons is that the Pakistan military is giving sanctuary to Taliban. Afghanistan is much better off then it was under the Taliban. That is a fact. We went in b/c of 9-11. Our problem probably lends itself to that fact that we need more troops there. We need better government in Afghanistan. Need to make the Pakistanis know that if they allow safe haven to Taliban it will spread into their country. We could not just focus on Afghanistan. We had a significant long-term threat from Iraq. We could not ignore it. Iran poses a threat to the region. I am glad to see that we can get together to put sanctions on Iran. We have to meet this challenge with our Allies.

Q7 follow up: I have been told we spend more per population on each Iraqi then on each American – there are more Taliban - extremist there now then before we went in.

John McCain: I reject your view, I don't agree with the idea that people were better off before we went off then they are now. We can argue about it, but we are there now. The choices are we withdraw too early and have to go back or we win

Question 8: What is your stance on the Kucinich articles of impeachment? Did you agree to meet with the hunger strike professor who has been outside your office?

John McCain:I do not agree w/ impeachment – he is satisfied…. Asked if he met with him… McCain said no, I do not take well to threats

Question 9: I wish Obama was here, I am a democrat looking for a candidate. What would you as president do for women rights, how would you address world women rights, I am also concerned about women here in the US, and your views on Supreme Court justices concern me I wish they were more moderate… Equal rights amendment – when will women be added in the constitution?

John McCain: I see that you're a HRC supporter… I have worked with HRC on military issues…. I have asked Obama to have joint town hall meetings, we could have had spirited arguments. I hope that he will agree to do those. This is not a new idea. Barry Goldwater and JFK planned on doing this. I believe that women have become, there are some great women in the senate. Women are getting high positions in elected office, Nancy

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Pelosi is an example. But there is still sexism. Women in Afghanistan are better off now then under Taliban. I am prepared to work for equal rights for women throughout the world. Equal Rights amendment is behind us, I did not support it. I have two outstanding women as major members of my campaign.

Closing Remarks:

John McCain: Thanks for being here, I want to hear from everybody. We have to restore America's trust that we will work on their behalf. We will have a respectful debate in America. I have not put partisan politics ahead of America.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 7/13/2008 8:42:59 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 07/13/08

Main Topics: Carly Fiorina, Nancy Pfotenhauer, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gov. Mark Sanford interviewed. McCain's economic policies issue number 1

Summary of Shift: The economy was the number 1 McCain issue today. All the major Sunday shows had surrogates speaking on behalf of McCain and pushing out his economic message. This includes Carly Fiorina and Nancy Pfotenhauer who spoke on the Bush tax cuts, the budget deficit, alternative fuels, and the gas tax holiday. One highlight, South Carolina Governor, and possible vice-president candidate, Mark Sanford was asked to give one example of when McCain was in difference to the economic policies of the Bush administration. After a lot of uh's, and um's, Sanford admitted to being stumped, then provided the issue of NAFTA, which Blitzer properly called out as being the same as Bush. The controversial comments by Phil Gramm were also a major issue of discussion among these surrogates. Chris Matthews examined whether McCain would make a good president and administrator when he can't even run his own campaign. Arnold Schwarzenegger talked about his support for timelines in Iraq as well as dismissing McCain's energy plans and offshore drilling as just "pulling wool over your eyes". The Iraqi National Security Advisor, Mowaffak Al-Rubaie was also interviewed and he re-emphasized the Iraqi call for troop removal timelines. The other non-McCain headlines included the Veep-Stakes, the death of Tony Snow, Iraqi troop pullouts and Iraq's desire for timelines, and there was a new poll out that shows that Obama's numbers are down.

Highlights:
1. CNN: Iraqi National Security Advisor Supports Timelines, Disagrees with McCain's Opposition
2. CNN: Gov. Mark Sanford Awkwardly Cannot Identify A Single Example Where McCain Has A Different Economic Position Than Bush
3. Nancy Pfotenhauer on "Late Edition" with Wolf Blitzer
a. CNN: Pfotenhauer Talks McCain's Economic Policies
b. CNN: Pfotenhauer Discusses Phil Gramm Comments, Says His Status on Campaign Has Not Changed
4. Arnold Schwarzenegger on "This Week" with George Stephanopoulos
a. ABC: Schwarzenegger Admits to Not Believing McCain's Rhetoric on Campaign Trail and Aligning Often With Obama's Positions Over McCain's
b. ABC: Schwarzenegger Dismisses Offshore Drilling and McCain's Energy Policies as Unhelpful and a Farce
5. MSNBC: Contessa Brewer Discusses McCain Economic Week and the Effect Gramm had on it
6. NBC: Panel Discusses what McCain's Mismanagement of his Campaign says about a Future McCain Administration
7. NBC: Gramm's role as "Architect" of McCain's Economic Plan Highlighted
8. NBC: Carly Fiorina on Meet the Press
9. Sen. Carl Levin and Sen Richard Lugar discuss Troop levels, withdrawal and Iran on Face the Nation (No Clip)
10. Reports that President Bush may have told the Israeli government that he would support Israeli strikes on Iraq (No Clip)

Clips:

Headline #1
Iraqi National Security Advisor Supports Timelines, Disagrees with McCain's Opposition (CNN, 07/13/08, 11:10am)
MOWAFFAK AL-RUBAIE: yeah. I certainly agree with the prime minister, and I think it's the right time now to start talking about planning a time line horizon. When are we going to see the end of the combat operation? When are we going to see the end of the combat battalion?

WOLF BLITZER: what I hear you saying and certainly what I hear Prime Minister Nouriki Al-Maliki saying is that you certainly could live with a timetable along the lines of what, of what Senator Barack Obama is suggesting, he's been calling for a timetable for some time as opposed to what senator john McCain is saying that there

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should be no artificial time line, no artificial timetable whatsoever. It should strictly be what's happening on the ground should determine. Are you now moving closer to Senator Obama as opposed to Senator McCain?

AL-RUBAIE: see, I don't think we are negotiating here with adversaries. We're only negotiating with allies and friends and strategic allies. We have said this time and again that Iraq is flying west, is heading west and there's no doubt about it and we would like to have a comprehensive, diplomatic, political, educational, scientific and other fields. These are the important issues. The security issue is probably a small part of this deal.

Headline #2
Gov. Mark Sanford Awkwardly Cannot Identify A Single Example Where McCain Has A Different Economic Position Than Bush (CNN, 07/13/08, 11:13am)
WOLF BLITZER: He's got a new ad, Barack Obama, that's been running this week in some of the battleground states saying if you like the economic policies, what's happened over the past almost eight years under George W. Bush, you're going to love John McCain's economic policies. I'll play a little clip for you.

[Obama's McSame Ad Clip Shown]

BLITZER: Are there any significant economic differences between what the Bush administration has put forward over these many years as opposed to now what John McCain supports?

GOV. MARK SANFORD: Yeah. I mean, for instance, take. You know, uh, uh. Take, for instance, the issue of. Of, um. I'm drawing a blank, and I hate it when I do that, particularly on television. Take, for instance the contrast on NAFTA. I mean, I think that the bigger issue is credibility in where one is coming from, on are they consistent where they come from. John McCain has consistently stood against earmarks throughout his tenure in the United States Senate. Regrettably the President has not been exactly busy with the veto pen on earmarks. I mean, there is just one contrast alone.

BLITZER: But let me get back to, you raised the issue of NAFTA. I don't see, he's a huge supporter of free trade, John McCain, the Bush administration supports free trade. I don't see a big difference between the two of them on NAFTA.

SANFORD: No, I was going to go to a point which is what you would want is consistency with regard to that position. What I think is more relevant is Obama had said during the primary process we've got to go ahead and redraw NAFTA and now his comments have been much more tepid post-primary.

BLITZER: Right, that's a major difference between Obama and the President, but as far as NAFTA is concerned, McCain and Bush are on the same page.

SANFORD: They are, for free trade, and if you think it will help our economy given the troubled economic times that we live in lining up a bunch of trade barriers I think it's at odds with reality that has brought about job growth and a lot of economic job creation.

BLITZER: But beyond the issue of what's called pork barrel spending or the earmarks, is there any other issue on the economic issues, whether tax issues, energy issues, that you see a significant difference between what we've seen in recent years by the Bush administration and what John McCain would do if president?

SANFORD: Yeah, you could go down a number of different bills. If you look at the steel bill that went through way back when, you know, Bush and McCain were on opposite sides on that one.

BLITZER: Well, they were opposite sides early on in 2001 and 2003 on the Bush tax cuts, which John McCain, along with Lincoln Chafee, the only other republican, voted against, but since then John McCain says he endorses making those tax cuts permanent.

SANFORD: Which I agree with, and a lot of folks across South Carolina and across the nation agree with. The issue there is can we get the economic prosperity by raising taxes? I think it's also relevant, again, if you look at the whole issue, you know policy, look at the farm bill. The farm bill was a very modest approach where McCain

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was to try and say we've got to rein in some of this stuff, you know. Obama talks about change that we can believe in and yet his approach was not to curtail the benefit packages to people who might get as much as, might be making as much as $2 million dollars in a family household or $750,000 household in an individual sense, as an individual farmer, bush and McCain had wanted to lower that to about $200,000, I don't think that you're going to get out of the mess that we're in if you won't even take small approaches to saying we ought to limit subsidies to someone getting $2 million in income.

Headline #3
Pfotenhauer Talks McCain's Economic Policies (CNN, 7/13/08, 11:45am)
NANCY PFOTENHAUER: I do agree that the economy is in very soft shape. Obviously the definition of recession is a technical term but it doesn't feel technical. We all know the economy is struggling right now and what that requires is not just a stimulus package, although senator McCain has been supportive of past efforts along those lines.

WOLF BLITZER: Does he support a new one?

PFOTENHAUER: I think he's open to it but he's more focused on making sure that we embrace the economic policies that are going to bring us economic growth. That is the only way, it's not a band-aid approach. It's a tract change.

BLITZER: And from your perspective it means keeping the tax cuts that the Bush administration passed and making them permanent?

PFOTENHAUER: It means more than that. It means dramatically ratcheting down the growth rate in federal spending. We've had an explosion in spending in the last eight to ten years and, for example, just in the last four since Barack Obama has been here it's gone up about 20 percent and he supported the energy bill, the highway bill, the farm bill. Hundreds of billions of dollars in park barrel spending. So there's a huge problem in spending, we have to slow the growth in spending and we have to slow that down to about 2.4 percent and we have to make sure to pursue free trade. So low taxes, low spending and free trade.

JASON FURMAN: [...] and John McCain was talking about tax cuts for corporations, tax cuts for the most affluent and hoping a bit of that would trickle down to middle class families.

[...]

PFOTENHAUER: But he's also very focused on extending the gas tax moratorium because that is very focused on helping people where the energy costs are rising and also would affect grocery prices but it's much more important to focus on the overall economic plan. Senator Obama, the big difference here, Senator Obama is proposing about $1.5 trillion in more spending over the next five years. He is proposing to increase income tax

FURMAN: First of all, the gas tax holiday is a perfect example of the difference between their economic philosophies. John McCain wants to give a tax cut to oil companies and in addition he has another $1.2 billion in his corporate tax cuts and then hope that they pass that savings on. Most economists say they won't actually pass that savings on to families.

PFOTENHAUER: Jason, before you became Barack Obama's top economic advisor you supported a cut in the corporate tax rate because we had the second worst in the world and it's absolutely essential to lower that to at least the average rate from an international competitiveness standpoint. Your boss is the first protectionist president we've -- or nominee we've had in my lifetime, why, because it's lousy economic policy. You are raising some taxes. You have to admit that, and you're raising it on the job creators. You're also slamming small business with a healthcare mandate that could cost $12,000 per employee with a family.

BLITZER: All right. He says this is a standard republican line. The democrats, if they are elected to the white house, will simply raise your taxes. Go ahead.

FURMAN: I couldn't really see your clip there, but if he was speaking to an audience of CEO's, he was telling the truth. If he was speaking to an audience of middle class American families, he should have been telling them that

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his tax plan leaves out 101 million, this is John McCain. The ones lucky enough to get a tax cut would get $125. Barack Obama, 95 percent of workers and their families, tax cut, $1,000. The dispute in this race is not over whether you want to cut taxes. The dispute is who you want to cut them for.

Pfotenhauer Discusses Phil Gramm Comments, Says His Status on Campaign Has Not Changed (CNN, 11:50am)
WOLF BLITZER: Phil Gramm, the former senator from Texas, caused a huge stir this week, saying you've heard of mental depression, this is a mental recession. He went on to say that we have sort of become a nation of whiners. Senator McCain distanced himself and repudiated those words quickly. Is he still a top economic adviser to Senator McCain?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: I have heard about no change in status, but you certainly heard very loudly and clearly Senator McCain say that Phil Gramm does not speak for me in this regard. I've always said that Senator McCain has, in his own inimitable way, has always made it clear how he feels about something. And he said the person in Michigan who's lost their job because their plant closed down or he was laid off, this isn't psychological, this is real. So he went through the whole litany of examples of people he's met who are suffering.

[…]

BLITZER: What about for Senator McCain?

PFOTENHAUER: I don't think there's much disagreement here among the candidates. I think that certainly Senator McCain has said that we will not allow Fannie and Freddie to fail. That is just not an option. That you have millions of homeowners who are in their homes because of Fannie and Freddie. And that looking forward, that the dislocation to the economic markets here would just be too severe.

Headline #4
Schwarzenegger Admits to Not Believing McCain's Rhetoric on Campaign Trail and Aligning Often With Obama's Positions Over McCain's (ABC, 07/13/08, 10:15am)
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER: Well this is why I love this guy. Because he has over and over shown that he can reach across the aisle. See, that is the important thing, John McCain, every time I talk to him, he's never stuck on just, I am a republican, and I'm going to force republican ideas. He wants to get things done. I have seen him do it. He just doesn't talk about it, he does it.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Senator McCain is saying he wants to extend President Bush's economic policies, extend his tax cuts, expand his positions on health care. Extend free trade. Democrats are in very different positions on those issues.

SCHWARZENEGGER: Let me tell you something, what is being said on those presidential campaigns is one thing. But what people have done in the past is something else. So judge people of what have they done. Senator McCain has been in that office for long enough time to look at his record. And I think his record shows that he maybe has his ideas, but he sees also the democrats have their ideas. And he's interested in molding his ideas together with the democratic ideas in order to come up with a compromise.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Sounds like you're saying, don't listen to what he says on the campaign trail.

SCHWARZENEGGER: No, I said in general, you have to judge people more by what they have done in the past. I always say that, you know, better, well done is better than well said.

[…]

STEPHANOPOULOS: I have been looking through the issues. Look at issues on energy, on drilling. Senator Obama has basically taken your emissions plan as his model. On gay marriage, both you and senator Obama are against this initiative here in California, senator McCain is on the other side. Both you and Senator Obama, pro choice. Senator McCain on the other side. On Iraq,

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you're both for time lines, senator McCain on the other side. Health care, you're much more in line with senator Obama. It seems like, on so many issues you have more in common with Obama than McCain.

SCHWARZENEGGER: It appears like that maybe to you. For instance when you said the time line. I always made it very clear that I believe in the time line. But I said, also at the same time, we should never leave and just walk out the door.

STEPHANOPOULOS: You always thought there should be a time line.

SCHWARZENEGGER: And it could take years and time line means that we say ok, 20,000 come home at this time, 15,000 come home at this time. But I think that Senator McCain is absolutely correct, to be honest with the people, and to look at them in the eye and say, I cannot promise you that we will not have some troops in there in Iraq in many more years from now. it could be 100 years, he said that. And then he also said to people, he said look at what happened with Japan. How many years the war is over, 1945, Second World War is over, we still have troops in Japan. Germany the war has been over since 1945. We still have troops there. we have troops all over the world. it would be a lie to say we have no more troops there. He's just saying it the way it is. It's reality.

STEPHANOPOULOS: You're more with in line with McCain on Iraq than Obama?

SCHWARZENEGGER: I think we have to win over there, I think it's very important to stabilize the Middle East. I think that we also have to find a strategy to get out of there as quickly as possible. There's no two ways about it. Because I think that the Iraqis feel proud. They feel they can take care of themselves eventually and they can run their country by themselves.

STEPHANOPOULOS: their prime minister wants a time line now.

SCHWARZENEGGER: I think you can't let those things happen just from one minute to the next and with wars, I think it will be easy if we can be so on the dime with, you know, how we calculate those things and how we predict but there is no such thing. with wars, unexpected things that happen and so on. So I think America has done as a whole a great job over there. I think there were a lot of mistakes obviously made. But I think but now we have to do the follow-through.

Schwarzenegger Dismisses Offshore Drilling and McCain's Energy Policies as Unhelpful and a Farce (ABC, 7/13/08, 10:17am)
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER: I have no interest in offshore drilling off the state of California. People can do it wherever they want. I think that's what McCain made clear, when he talked about it, that he will give the rights to the states. And he can give the rights to the states but we in California say thank you for giving us the rights, but, no, we have no interest in doing offshore drilling. Because we want to protect our coast.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: And that's more important than bringing down the price of gas, bringing down the price of oil.

SCHWARZENEGGER: First of all, let me just make it clear, anyone that tells you drilling, nuclear power, alternative fuels, fuel cells, solar, all of those things will bring down the price right now, I think is pulling wool over your eyes, because we know that all of those will take at least ten years. But that should not mean that we should not do those things, because here's the important thing. What's the biggest problem in America? It's not that we don't have any ideas; it's just that we are not consistent. That we have jimmy carter in the late '70s that came in with a great energy policy. Talking about shale oil explorations, giving tax credits for people starting to invest in windmills, solar and all of those things. Then president Reagan came in and scrapped the whole thing, because the oil price came down.

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Headline #5

Contessa Brewer Discusses McCain Economic Week and the Effect Gramm had on it (MSNBC 07/13/08 10:15am)

JONATHAN ALLEN: ... John McCain wants voters to see a narrative where the Iraq war was a good idea, the Bush administration botched it, McCain came in with the surge strategy, the surge strategy worked and now US forces are being withdrawn. That is a lot of things to try and explain to voters in a short period of time ...

CONTESSA BREWER: The number one issue now is no longer Iraq, the number one issue to voters is the economy. It was a tough week for Senator McCain last week because his economic adviser Senator Phil Gramm had said to the Washington Times that the US is a nation of whiners and that we are in a mental recession

[...]

BREWER: Last week McCain had said something to the effect that we may be in a recession or we are moving toward a recession. Why all the emphasis on rather we are in a recession or not?

ALLEN: ... John McCain tried to roll out his economic proposals this week and Phil Gramm jumped all over those economic proposals preventing them from being rolled out...

BREWER: We know that Senator McCain is stumping in New Mexico and California in the next few days and he is going to speak before this big group in San Diego. Hes got this big ad out, this new ad in some key battleground states that basically says hey look lets not forget that these immigrants are gods children that even though we want them to get here legally, that immigrants have brought with them a lot of strength and character to the United States do you think that thats an issue that is going to necessarily secure the votes of Latino people who go to the polls in November?

ALLEN: I think it is imperative for Senator McCain if he wants to compete with Latino voters. It is unlikely that he will win a majority of them but he wants to do at least as well as President Bush did with Latino voters and maybe even better. It is imperative for him if he wants to do that...

Headline #6

Panel Discusses what McCain's Mismanagement of his Campaign says about a Future McCain Administration (NBC 07/13/08 10:20am)

CHRIS MATTHEWS: Its Déjà-vu last year at this time John McCain's campaign was in total disarray directionless and penniless but then he announced a big shakeup he kept on working and by February he had triumphed. Now McCain again finds his campaign described as stalled by constant infighting. His solution? Another staff shakeup and a new guy at the top. The New York Times reporter Adam Nagourney wrote this week quote "Even former McCain associates think voters now might be getting an early glimpse of the messy, unstructured way in which a McCain White House might be managed." Howard, is this a fair problem for people to worry about? Staff shake ups, firing people, layering people bringing in new bosses to run the campaign?

HOWARD FINEMAN: Well John McCain is not a systems thinker. He is a leader by personal will and by force of personality. And he has gathered a sort of constellation of people around him. Nobody ever actually leaves the orbit. It is just different planets fly closer at different times.

MATTHEWS: Who are these former staffers that keep dumping on him in the New York Times.

FINEMAN: There are a couple who had escaped gravitational pull. But they are still there. When he was a squadron commander, when McCain was a squadron commander down in Florida, he led by shear force of personality. When he left the whole thing fell apart again.

Highlight #7

Gramm's role as "Architect" of McCain's Economic Plan Highlighted (NBC 07/13/08 11:45am)

HAROLD FORD: But to Mike's point, there's a difference between what Jackson did and what Gramm did. Gramm came back the following day and stood by his remarks calling us a nation of whiners and

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that we're in a mental recession. To Jackson's credit, he at least apologized. Barack accepted his apology and he went on to say it was silly what he said.

ANDREA MITCHELL: The difference Harold is that Gramm was the architect and adviser of the economic plan for John McCain. Jesse Jackson was a surrogate, you know an endorser, but never at all close.

FORD: I'm agreeing with you. I'm just making a point. Mike was making a point it probably was not as bad as for McCain.
[...]

Highlight #8
Carly Fiorina on Meet the Press (NBC, 07/13/08, 10:30am)
TOM BROKAW: Welcome to the both of you as I don't need to tell you as this campaign is running at full octane seven days a week twenty four hours a day, the most explosive comments I think its fair to say Ms. Fiorina came this past week from Phil Gramm, a principle economic adviser to Senator McCain when he had this to say about what he says was the real state of the American economy.

GRAMM: "You've heard of mental depression; this is a mental recession. We may have a recession; we haven't had one yet. You just hear this constant whining, complaining about a loss of our competitiveness, America in decline. We've never been in a more dominant position; we've never had more natural advantages than we have today. We've sort of become a nation of whiners." Not surprisingly, Senator Obama had an immediate response to that and this is what he had to say to Senator Gramm's characterization.

OBAMA: "This economic downturn is not in your head. When people are out there losing their homes, and property values are declining, that's not a figment of your imagination." And at the same time, Senator McCain had this response to his friend Phil Gramm and economic adviser. MCCAIN: "I don't agree with Senator Gramm. I believe that the person here in Michigan that just lost his job isn't suffering from a mental recession. Phil Gramm does not speak for me. I speak for me. So, I strongly disagree." Ms. Fiorina, what is the status of Mr. Gramm in the campaign of Senator John McCain this morning?

CARLY FIORINA: Well, John McCain, after making the statement that you just played was asked directly whether Senator Gramm would have a position in his cabinet and his response was well perhaps he would make a good ambassador to Belarus but I'm not sure the citizens of Minsk would welcome him. I think John McCain's been real clear that Phil Gramm wasn't speaking for him. In fact Senator McCain has said now for many months that he believes the economy is in a recession. Its clear Americans are hurting. They're hurting when they fill up their car with gas. They're hurting when they go to the grocery store.

BROKAW: But the question is will Senator Gramm continue to have a role in the campaign. Will he be listed on the letterhead and will he be in which you discuss the economy?

FIORINA: I don't think Senator Gramm will be any longer speaking for John McCain and I think John McCain was crystal clear about that this week. And I think by the way, outside Washington where this is an interesting parlor game, I think most Americans are not really focused on what a bunch of surrogates are saying. They are focused on what the candidates are saying. I was on town hall meetings with John McCain all week. Not one question about Phil Gramm. Not one question.

BROKAW: Well, with all due respect, we have you here as surrogates and we hope that America is paying attention and what you have to say because the campaign is on a broad front. Let me just play for you what Senator McCain had to say on this broadcast earlier this year in January about the economy vis-à-vis terrorism when he was questioned by my dear friend the late Tim Russert.

MCCAIN: "I believe the that most Republicans' first priority is the threat of radical Islamic extremism. Now I know the concerns about the-"

RUSSERT: "More than the economy?"

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MCCAIN: "More than the economy at the end of the day. We'll get through this, the economy. We're going to restore the economy and many of the measures we're taking right now- although it's very difficult now- this transcendent challenge of radical Islamic extremism will be with us for the 21st century." So have the priorities changed in the McCain campaign from radical Islamic terrorism to the economy as the number one issue?

FIORINA: I think John McCain has also been very clear that the economy is struggling. That people are hurting and that he as President has a plan to get the economy growing again and to create jobs.

BROKAW: More important to him now?

FIORINA: But he believes as I think all Democrats believe as well that the first and most important priority of the Federal government is to protect its citizens. I think that's what he was talking about. It's also clear that government has a role in helping to create jobs and get the economy growing again and that's why John McCain spent all week talking about the economy. This week and-

BROKAW: But in January of this year he did not anticipate the economy would worsen as quickly as it has.

FIORINA: I don't think anybody expected it would worsen as quickly as it has. And in fact if you go back and look at the surveys of economists and what they predicted in terms of a recession, you would see the number of economists who thought we would be in a recession in January was materially lower than the number of economists that think we will have a recession today. So no one predicted the economy would worsen as quickly as it has. The facts are however that in April, John McCain also came out and said Americans are hurting and that's why he proposed relief from gas taxes which would create instant relief in Americans' pockets. That was way back in April. I think he's understood the economy as an important issue for some time now.

BROKAW: We're going to get you in a second Senator McCaskill. Both campaigns have had difficulty this past week with accusations of flip flopping. Let me begin with Ms. Fiorina, you said that your candidate, John McCain, is a man the American people understand that he walks the talk. But let me just share with you what I think could be a Democratic ad come this fall. The ad will begin: Oh really, after quoting you, here's a man who voted against the Bush tax cuts, now he wants to make them permanent. Here's a man that is worried about global warming, now he wants to give American motorists a gas tax holiday so they can drive even more during the summer months. Here's a man who called Phil Gramm a trusted economic adviser, had him on the bus and in pictures with him, now, he disowns him. Here is a man who said he wasn't really up to speed on the issue of whether birth control should be covered by health control policies and in fact he voted against it.

FIORINA: Well lets me start by saying, uh, Senator McCain at the time of the Bush tax cuts, proposed his own tax cuts, which would provide even more relief to the middle class. The principle reason that he voted against the Bush tax cuts is because they were not accompanied by fiscal restraint. And he said at the time that we would be growing our national deficit, which in fact, we did. Federal spending has increased by 60% over the last seven years. And, he believes government has to get his house in order. He also has said he would double the exemption for dependents from 3,500 to 7,000 dollars, that he would phase out the Alternative Minimum Tax. With all due respect to advisers, it was also Senator Barack Obama who disowned his own pastor of twenty years. So there are times when people must make clear their own positions vs. the positions of others. And Senator McCain did so in respect to Senator Gramm.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From:	"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	8/5/2015 11:33:02 AM
Subject:	Re: AFP-IK; Unintimidated PAC (Walker PAC); J Street (pro-Iran nuclear deal) placing this week

Have they been up at all against other potential senate candidates?

On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:28 PM, Mike Vlacich <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I have checked in with Hassan to see what they know.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:26 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

AFP is only NH and not IA?

On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:09 PM, Demastrie, Jesse <Jesse.Demastrie@gmmb.com > wrote:

No update on American for Prosperity-IK yet. Stations have not been told what "IK" means nor have spots been received yet. Spending looks to be very large over 3 weeks 8/10-8/30. WMUR alone took $800k, with total for state over $1.1 million over the 3 weeks.

Unintimidated PAC (Walker PAC) has placed in Iowa to run 9/8-9/21 – a :60 – and 10/6-2/1 (30s).

J Street (pro Iran nuclear deal) – new spending
8/5 – 8/10
Total $432K

8/6
Total $4K
Washington, DC, ~5 GRPs, $4K – cable only

8/5 – 8/10
Total $428K – broadcast and cable
Portland, OR, ~165 GRPs, $32K
Philadelphia, ~190 GRPs, $83K
Detroit, ~540 GRPs, $138K
Baltimore, ~510 GRPs, $90K
Denver, ~250 GRPs, $85K

Ad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDZClQADEsA

From: Demastrie, Jesse
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2015 3:41 PM
To: Andrew Bleeker; Brian Fallon; Christina Reynolds; David Binder; Demastrie, Jesse; Elan Kriegel; Huma Abedin; Jason Rosenbaum; Jen Palmieri; Jesse Ferguson (HRC); Jester, Daniel; Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; John Podesta; Kaye, Anson; Kristina Schake; Lenar, AJ; Mandy Grunwald; Margolis, Jim; Marlon Marshall (HRC); Matt Dover; Matt Paul; Michael Halle; Michael Vlacich; Nick Merrill; Oren Shur (HRC); Oxhorn, Liz; Pinelo, Greg; Rimel, John; Robby Mook (HRC); Teddy Goff; Tony Carrk
Subject: Americans for Prosperity-IK; Hispanic Democrats for Trump

Americans for Prosperity-IK is starting to place for 8/10-8/30 in New Hampshire (Boston, Manchester,

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Portland, and Burlington). We don't yet know what "IK" stands for or what the spot is but will let you know if/ when we hear.

Hispanic Democrats for Trump
8/6
Total $1,340 – cable only

Ad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmiwXBeO8U4
Spot applauds Trump for being such so offensive that he ends up helping Democrats.

Denver, ~10 GRPs, $1K

Jesse Demastrie Vice President, Associate Media Director
202.338.8700 | office
202.813.4983 | direct

+**gmmb** cause the effect

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
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H4A News Clips
June 8, 2015

LAST NIGHT'S EVENING NEWS

ABC reported on Hillary Clinton's CNN interview, specifically her comments about Donald Trump's recent remarks about Mexican immigrants. NBC had a segment about the PGA canceling a golf tournament that was to be held at one of Trump's courses in response to his immigration comments. Trump officials claimed that contractors require documentation from workers. Serta, Macy's, Farouk, NBC, ESPN, PGA, Televisa, Univision, and NASCAR have withdrawn from Trump's business. Trump remains confident that these companies and industries pulling from him will not affect his businesses. CBS reported on Hillary Clinton's trip to Iowa, and stated that Bernie Sanders is closing in on Hillary Clinton, by doubling his support in Iowa since May. Sanders claims that he is surprised by how many supporters he is getting and has raised $15 million, but not nearly as much as Hillary Clinton.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Courts Bigger Crowds in Return to Iowa // NYT // Amy Chozick – July 7, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton returned to one of the most liberal pockets of the state that shunned her in 2008, to speak at a public library packed with Iowans who ranged from those curious to see the former first lady to those committed to caucusing for her in next February's contest.

"I want people's lives to be better when I finish as your president than when I started," Mrs. Clinton told a crowd of roughly 350 people in remarks that ranged from foreign policy and economic issues to the drug epidemic and mental health.

The event marked the start of another phase in Mrs. Clinton's 2016 campaign in which she intends to speak to larger crowds and take more questions from voters in the early nominating states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

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On Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton also sat down for an interview with CNN, her first with a national television outlet since she announced her candidacy official in April.

This liberal college town, home to the University of Iowa, that overwhelmingly favored Barack Obama and John Edwards in 2008 (she came in third statewide) could serve as a test of whether Mrs. Clinton's message resonates with the Democratic Party's base. Senator Bernie Sanders, a socialist who is also seeking the party's nomination, drew a crowd of 300 people at an event here in May.

In her speech, an animated Mrs. Clinton seemed to try to hit all the liberal notes, including combating climate change, giving women access to reproductive health care and celebrating the Supreme Court's recent decisions to legalize same sex marriage nationwide and uphold a key provision of Mr. Obama's health care overhaul.

"If a Republican is elected president, that will be the end of the Affordable Care Act," Mrs. Clinton said.

Her calls to make college more affordable played well in the almost all-white and largely female crowd. "How many of you had loans to go to higher education? I did, I did, so did Bill," Mrs. Clinton said. "I had like two jobs. He had like five. We were just working around the clock."

Despite pleas from liberal groups, Mrs. Clinton has not gone as far as Mr. Sanders, who said he would eliminate tuition at public colleges to reduce student debt.

Mrs. Clinton pushed for greater gun control measures, which contrasts her to Mr. Sanders, who has been one of the Democratic Party's most ardent defenders of Second Amendment rights. "Let's not be afraid of the gun lobby, which does not even really represent the majority of gun owners," she said.

After the event, Mrs. Clinton took questions from reporters. She called the collapse of the Greek economy a "tragedy" and called on European leaders to reach an agreement. And she declined to comment on a controversial provision of a nuclear agreement with Iran that would require the nation to disclose its previous nuclear experimentation, an issue that has divided the Obama Administration.

When asked about Mr. Sanders's surge in the polls, Mrs. Clinton said she always expected the race to be competitive. "It should be competitive. It's only the presidency of the United States we're talking about, so the more the better," she said.

After Iowa City, Mrs. Clinton headed to Ottumwa, Iowa, where she would talk to Iowans at a grassroots-organizing event. The campaign said it has already directly reached 16,000 Iowans and recruited at least one committed caucusgoer in each of the state's 1,682 precincts.

But Mrs. Clinton still has much to do in this state where voters expect to personally meet their candidates before participating in the famous caucuses, which take place Feb 1, 2016. Her lead over Mr. Sanders has narrowed in a recent poll — she still leads by double digits — and Iowans are clearly checking their options.

"I think I'm here out of curiosity more than anything else at this point," said Ashley Heffernen, 22, a recent graduate who waited in line with her boyfriend to hear Mrs. Clinton and hopefully ask a question about immigration. "I want t see all the candidates," Ms. Heffernen said.

Colleen Russo also waited in line outside the library. She supported Mr. Obama in 2008, but said she wanted to show her five-year-old granddaughter Viviana, who wore a pink dress and purple tiara, that a woman could be president. "She couldn't be more experienced," Ms. Russo said of Mrs. Clinton.

Jorge Guerra, 26, who stood next to the Ms. Russo and her grandchild, interjected: "Well, I'm glad you didn't bring her to see Michele Bachmann."

Mr. Guerra said part of what is holding him back from being all-in for Mrs. Clinton was her relationship to Wall Street and corporations. "It unnerves me," he said. "I want her to be as honest about and be as open as possible about a lot of these questions."

Ms. Russo agreed and said there were still things about Mrs. Clinton that gave her pause, but said Mrs. Clinton was most likely to win a general election. "I think she needs to be more exposed and talk to bigger groups, like Bernie does," she said, referring to Mr. Sanders. Mr. Guerra nodded. "She can't hide. Not someone like her."

Mrs. Clinton seemed acutely aware of how tough things may be for her in Iowa. After her remarks, she took questions from the audience. Dozens of hands went up.

"I'm gonna let you pick," she told the crowd. "Because I don't want to lose any potential caucusgoers."

Clinton steps up attacks on GOP presidential candidates in Iowa — but steers clear of knocking

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her Democratic rivals // WaPo // Jose Del Real – July 7, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton escalated her criticism of her GOP presidential rivals during a campaign stop here in Iowa City on Tuesday, knocking the field of candidates on immigration reform, health care and LGBT issues while steering clear of directly attacking her Democratic primary rivals.

"How many people running on the Republican side try to demean immigrants, insult immigrants, cast aspersions on immigrants? They know as well as we know, we are not going to deport 11 or 12 million people living here," she told a crowd of about 250 attendees in a packed room at the Iowa City Public Library. "I hear the Republican candidates — and it's not even the most vitriolic — none of them any longer support a path to citizenship. All of them would basically consign immigrants to second-class status."

Clinton echoed those sentiments in an interview with CNN after the campaign event, in which she said the Republican field is on "a spectrum of hostility." During that interview she denounced controversial comments by GOP presidential candidate and real estate mogul Donald Trump about Mexican immigrants. She specifically criticized former Florida governor Jeb Bush for not supporting an immigration reform plan that would give immigrants a path to citizenship, a position he once said he favored.

The former secretary of state paired those comments with warnings that a Republican president in 2016 would roll back the Affordable Care Act and would continue fighting for same-sex marriage bans, which the Supreme Court recently ruled were unconstitutional. She told supporters at the event that those issues highlight why she believes the country needs a Democrat in the White House after President Obama leaves office.

"The Republicans want to turn the clock back. They are going to look for every way they can," she said. "Instead of saying marriage equality is the law of the land and now let's move on to the next part of the agenda, which is ending discrimination against LGBT folks, they are going to try to fight a rearguard action."

But even while she spoke critically and aggressively about the GOP presidential hopefuls, the presumed Democratic frontrunner avoided making swipes at her primary challengers — mostly pointedly, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who has received outsize attention from the left flank of the party and is drawing crowds at campaign events that reach into the thousands.

"This is going to be competitive. It should be competitive — it's only the presidency of the United States we're talking about," she joked during a question-and-answer session with reporters after the campaign event. She did not, however, directly answer the question: what she thought about Sanders's recent surge on the left.

Meanwhile, the campaign's months-long ramp-up in the four early voting states hit a new peak Tuesday when 20 additional field organizers joined the Clinton campaign's Iowa operation, where the campaign has already invested a large amount of resources in hopes of capturing a decisive win in the first-in-the-nation caucuses. That addition, as the Des Moines Register first reported and the Washington Post confirmed, means her team now includes an imposing 47 paid organizers — in Iowa alone.

"This continues from our assumption that this is a competitive caucus that needs a significant organization to earn every vote," said Clinton spokesperson Jesse Ferguson. "[W]e'll have to work for every vote."

Hillary Clinton: On immigration, the GOP is just like Donald Trump // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti – July 7, 2015

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Hillary Clinton believes Donald Trump should be thrown in the doghouse for his comments on immigration. And that the rest of the Republican party should be tossed in there with him.

In her first national TV interview since she launched her campaign, the Democratic front-runner seized on the real estate mogul's controversial comments on immigration (calling many Mexican immigrants "rapists" and "criminals") to shame the rest of the Republican presidential field.

"I'm very disappointed in those comments and I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying, enough, stop it," Clinton said to CNN after headlining an organizing meeting in a local public library.

"But they are all in the — you know, in the same general area on immigration. They don't want to provide a path to citizenship. They range across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile toward immigrants."

Clinton has already publicly bashed Trump for his comments, through not by name, after having previously accepted campaign contributions from him and even attending one of his weddings.

But on Tuesday, she played into fears the Republican establishment has about Trump dragging down the rest of the party with his inflammatory comments.

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She also took aim at former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has been more supportive of immigration reform than his rivals.

“He doesn’t believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time, he no longer does,” Clinton said. “And so pretty much they’re — as I said, they’re on a spectrum of, you know, hostility, which I think is really regrettable in a nation of immigrants like ours.”

Clinton touched on the email controversy that has bogged down the early days of her campaign, as well, saying she did not violate any rules by using a private email server while serving as secretary of state.

“Let’s take a deep breath here. Everything I did was permitted by law and regulation,” she said.

And, she added, there’s an upshot — the public now gets a glimpse into her daily life, from telling aide John Podesta to wear socks, to her struggles with operating a fax machine.

“Now I think it’s kind of fun. People get a real-time behind-the-scenes look at what I was emailing about and what I was communicating about,” she said.

The interview, with Brianna Keilar, touched on a broad range of topics — from Clinton’s doppelganger on “Saturday Night Live” to her plans for an economic policy speech in Kansas City on Monday to Democratic rival and surging candidate Bernie Sanders (“I always thought this would be a competitive race.”)

Clinton also answered a question about the brouhaha around a woman possibly bumping Alexander Hamilton off the $10 bill. Clinton’s not crazy about a compromise in which a woman might share the bill with Hamilton.

“That sounds pretty second class to me. So I think a woman should have her own bill,” she said.

The airing of the interview followed a full day in Iowa, during which the front-runner appeared looser-than-usual on the campaign trail.

Nearly three months into what could be the political fight of her life, Clinton noted on Tuesday that her time to ride off into the sunset is not all that far away.

“This is my last rodeo,” Clinton said during a campaign stop in the first-in-the-nation voting state on Tuesday afternoon before taking questions from reporters. Clinton said she wants to play a role in setting the country on the right path before hanging up her hat — but hopefully, she said, not until 2025, after eight years in the Oval Office.

“I believe that we can leave not just the country in good shape for the future, but we can get a deep bench of young people to decide they want to go into politics to continue the fights that we’re going to be waging,” she said.

The rodeo characterization may have been more apt than she intended. Her campaign has been criticized in recent days for using a rope to corral reporters who were following Clinton during a parade over the July 4th weekend. Greeting reporters after an organizing meeting at the Iowa City Public Library, Clinton nodded to the minicontroversy, looking at the barrier between her and the press and asking if it was the equivalent of a rope holding them back.

“I think it should come down,” she deadpanned.

She also glanced upon a range of issues in the news.

“Let’s not be afraid of the gun lobby, which does not even really represent the majority of gun owners in America,” Clinton told the crowd of more than 350 locals. While she refused to take the bait and attack Sanders when prompted, she has recently been speaking more about gun control — an issue on which she differs from Sanders, who hails from gun-friendly Vermont.

Clinton also focused on the dangers of climate change more than she usually does, calling it “one of the most existential threats to our country and our world.” And she again said that “if a Republican is elected president, that will be the end of the Affordable Care Act.”

Hillary Clinton 'disappointed' in Donald Trump

At times musing on her career as secretary of state, Clinton at one point said that she jokes with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger about the difficulties of conducting diplomacy in the modern era.

But she refused to weigh in forcefully on the ongoing negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program, telling reporters,

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"I don't think it's useful for me to publicly comment right now on what the negotiations are attempting to resolve.

"There needs to be full transparency, disclosure and verifiable inspections going forward, and certainly any part of the Iranian nuclear or military establishment that has anything to do with the program past, present and future needs to be subject to that," she added.

Nonetheless, the former top diplomat did call the economic situation in Greece a "tragedy," insisting that it is important "that we can see an outcome here that will actually help Greece recover and keep them in the eurozone, and keep Europe united."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Zeke Miller (7/7/15, 4:53 pm) - Inbox: Tomorrow in NH, @MartinOMalley will unveil his plan to make college debt-free for every student in America.

Philip Rucker (7/7/15, 5:25 pm) - Very good @brikeilarcnn interview of Hillary. Tough questions, serious issues. But also served up dessert like woman on $10 bill and SNL.

David Drucker (7/7/15, 5:25 pm) - .@HillaryClinton survives @CNN intvw unscathed; looks at ease. But there's plenty there to mine that HRC still hasn't put to rest.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton Opens a Previously Guarded Door // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 7, 2015

Mrs. Clinton is about to give her first national close-up in her second presidential campaign.

She has been a candidate for almost three months. In that time, she's done a few news conferences and a smattering of local interviews in early states, but no national sit-downs.

But this afternoon, she will sit with the CNN reporter Brianna Keilar in Iowa. The interview comes as Mrs. Clinton has faced increasing criticism for avoiding questions on policy (the trade deal supported by President Obama but opposed by many Democrats) and on personal issues (her use of a private email account at the State Department and the fund-raising practices of her family's foundation).

Mrs. Clinton's aides said that her early focus was on interacting with as many voters as possible in small settings and that this national interview would be the first of several.

Much of the early campaign was about allowing Mrs. Clinton to exist in a safe political space, bringing one of the world's most famous political faces back down to earth from her days as secretary of state so that voters could forge a bond with her. But over the weekend, a half-dozen protesters created an unpredictable environment for Mrs. Clinton as she marched in a parade in northern New Hampshire. At the same time, her aides sought to give her a buffer so that voters could see her, separating journalists with a rope, creating a series of viral photos that ricocheted through Twitter.

The challenges that the Clinton campaign, and the candidate, face are unique. But while her political problems may be complex, the solution that her team seems to have settled on, at this point, is fairly simple: Open the doors to the news media a bit wider.

Hillary Clinton relied heavily on white voters in 2008. In 2016, it's reversed. // WaPo // Philip Bump – July 7, 2015

There are a lot of reasons that Hillary Clinton lost in 2008. One of the most prominent was that she was running against one of the most dynamic candidates in recent memory at a time when people were eager for something new. Another was that the dynamic candidate she was running against was black.

The latter became more of a problem over the long term, as Obama racked up primary victories in states with large black populations in the Deep South and cut into Clinton's dominance elsewhere. In Iowa and New Hampshire, two of the whitest states in the union, it played less of a role.

But now, weirdly, the whiteness of those early states might be something of a problem for her. And she's actually doing better among non-whites.

The CNN/ORC poll released last week reinforced that Clinton is doing much better in 2016 than any of her opponents -- especially among non-white voters.

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She leads among white voters, too, of course -- and handily. But her lead over Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) among white voters is 34 points and appears to be narrowing. Among non-white voters -- which we will emphasize also includes Latinos -- it's 52 points.

If Sanders keeps closing the gap with white voters, that could be a problem in Iowa and New Hampshire. Clinton's big lead among non-white voters won't be much of an advantage until South Carolina -- which, incidentally, she lost by a wide margin in 2008.
One question mark: What becomes of the support for Joe Biden if he finally decides not to run? In CNN's polling, Biden ate up one-fifth of the non-white support. If that support goes to Clinton, the dynamic above becomes even more stark.

Remember, there is no reason at this point to think that Hillary Clinton will not be the Democratic nominee. There is not much of a reason to think that she will lose Iowa, and there's only a speculative idea that she might lose New Hampshire.

But those two states might end up being much closer than we might once have expected in part because they are awfully white -- a fact that might have been one reason Clinton won New Hampshire in 2008 and was able to stay in the race.

Hillary Clinton: Republican candidates 'on a spectrum of hostility' toward immigrants // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton says that Republican presidential candidates "range across a spectrum of hostility" when it comes to immigration and that her campaign will advocate for comprehensive reforms.

Sitting on Tuesday for her first national television interview as a declared presidential candidate, the Democratic frontrunner lumped together all GOP candidates when asked by CNN about Donald Trump's recent comments about Mexican immigrants. Interviewer Briana Keilar asked Clinton what she made of Trump's comments, noting that he had been a donor to some of her previous campaigns.

"I'm very disappointed in those comments and I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying 'Enough, stop it,' " she said. "But they are all in the same general area on immigration. They don't want to provide a path to citizenship. They range across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile toward immigrants. And I'm going to talk about comprehensive immigration reform. I'm going to talk about all the good, law-abiding, productive members of the immigrant community that I personally know, that I've met over the course of my life. That I would like to see have a path to citizenship."

Clinton added that no Republican candidate supports establishing a system that would allow eligible illegal immigrants to eventually apply for citizenship. But Keilar noted that Bush has previously supported such a system.

Clinton shot back: "He doesn't believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time, he no longer does."

She added that Republicans are "on a spectrum of hostility, which I think is really regrettable in a nation of immigrants like ours. All the way to kind of grudging acceptance but refusal to go with a pathway to citizenship. I think that's a mistake."

In his 2013 book "Immigration Wars," Bush laid out a specific set of criteria that illegal immigrants — adults and children — would need to meet to apply for legal status and in limited circumstances, perhaps citizenship. He has more recently suggested that citizenship could be extended only as part of a bipartisan agreement that included changes in U.S.-Mexico border security, a reduction in immigrants allowed to enter the country due to family ties and an increase in the number allowed to enter the United States for economic purposes.

Bush's campaign responded to Clinton's comments just moments after they aired, noting that she voted for amendments that stopped immigration reform when she was a senator and that she said last year that unaccompanied minors crossing the U.S.-Mexico border "should be sent back."

"She is now running further to the left on immigration policy than even President Obama's White House believes is legally feasible," Bush spokeswoman Emily Benavides said in a statement. "Hillary Clinton will say anything to get elected and her numerous flip-flops on immigration prove it."

Benavides added that as he wrote in his book, Bush "believes in a conservative legislative solution to fix our broken immigration system that includes earned legal status for those currently in the country after they pay fines and taxes, learn English, and commit no substantial crimes while securing our border."

In the CNN interview, Clinton sounded similar to Bush when expressing general views on immigration — that the

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United States will never be able to deport the 11 million to 12 million people believed to be in the country illegally, and that a revamped immigration system would spur economic growth and increase tax revenues.

"We know we're not going to deport 11 or 12 million people. We shouldn't be breaking up families," she said. "We shouldn't be stopping people from having the opportunity to be fully integrated legally within our country. It's good for us, it's good economically, it's good for the taxes that will be legally collected. It's good for the children so that they can go as far as their hard work and talent will take them. So I am 100 percent behind comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship."

Another GOP presidential candidate, Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.), co-authored the bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that passed the Senate in 2013, and remains an advocate for allowing eligible immigrants to apply for citizenship.

Clinton made similar charges against GOP candidates to a wider group of reporters just before taping the CNN interview in Iowa City.

"How many people running on the Republican side try to demean immigrants, insult immigrants, cast aspersions on immigrants? They know as well as we know, we are not going to deport 11 or 12 million people living here," she told reporters.

"I hear the Republican candidates — and it's not even the most vitriolic — none of them any longer support a path to citizenship. All of them would basically consign immigrants to second-class status."

Keilar also asked Clinton about the possibility that she might face Bush in the general election.

"Well, we'll see, that's up to first the Republicans on his side and the Democrats on my side," she said. "What's great about America is anyone can run for president. That's literally true. And you have to go out and do what everybody else does ... you have to work really hard. So whoever is nominated by their respective parties will be the nominee, and then we'll see who's on the other side."

Hillary Clinton Blames 'Constant Barrage of Attacks' by GOP for Polls Questioning Her Honesty // WSJ // Laura Meckler – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Tuesday blamed voter perceptions that she is untrustworthy on a "constant barrage of attacks" by Republicans over many years, and said she's confident she will overcome them during the course of the 2016 presidential campaign.

Some of those attacks have focused on her exclusive use of a private email account for official business as secretary of state. In an interview with CNN, Clinton repeated her assertion that she had complied with rules in place at the time. Mrs. Clinton added that said she went "above and beyond" those standards by submitting her emails to the State Department, though rules in place did require her to preserve the records.

In her first national television interview, and before that in a brief news conference with reporters in Iowa, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination hedged as much as she revealed. She declined to say whether she supports raising taxes on the wealthy, said it was best for her to withhold comment on the Iran nuclear negotiations, and dodged a question about which woman's image should be on the $10 bill. She also declined to discuss the rise of the long-shot campaign of rival Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

She said she is "very disappointed" by the disparaging remarks Republican candidate and entrepreneur Donald Trump uttered last month about Mexican immigrants, calling them "rapists," and denounced the GOP presidential field for opposing a path to citizenship for people in the U.S. illegally.

"They are all in the same general area on immigration," she said. "They don't want to provide a path to citizenship. They range across the spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile toward immigrants."

Mrs. Clinton also criticized the city of San Francisco for failing to facilitate the deportation of a repeat felon who had been kicked out of the U.S. five times before and who earlier this month killed a woman walking on a city pier. "The city made a mistake not to deport someone that the federal government thought should be deported," she said.

Some recent polls have found a drop in the number of voters who see Mrs. Clinton as honest and trustworthy. Asked about that by CNN, Mrs. Clinton said that was to be expected "when you are subjected to the kind of constant barrage of attacks that are largely fomented by and coming from the right."

"This has been a theme that has been used against me and my husband for many, many years," she said. She said that entire books were filled with "unsubstantiated allegations" so "of course that's going to raise questions in people's minds."

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A recent book suggested conflicts of interest between foreign donations to the Clinton family foundation and her work as secretary of state, though it failed to reveal evidence of a quid pro quo.

“I have every confidence during the course of this campaign people are going to know who will fight for them and be there for them,” she said. “At the end of the day, I think voters sort it out.”

On the question of her email practices, she said that everything she did was permitted by law in place at the time. “There was no law. There was no regulation. There was nothing that did not give me the full authority to decide how I was going to communicate,” she said.

She dismissed concerns expressed by Republicans about her decision to delete emails that she and her aides determined to be unrelated to government work. “I turned over everything I was obligated to turn over and then I moved on,” she said. “People delete on a regular basis.”

She said that her decision to turn over the government-related emails to the State Department, which requested them last year, was “above and beyond” what was required. In fact, in 2009, the National Archives and Records Administration issued regulations that said agencies allowing employees to do official business on unofficial email accounts had to ensure that any records sent on private email systems are preserved “in the appropriate agency record-keeping system.”

The making of a Hillary Clinton echo chamber // WaPo // Philip Rucker – July 7, 2015

One day in May, operatives from a Washington-based super PAC gathered New Hampshire mayors, state representatives and local politicos at St. Anselm College for a day of training.

They rehearsed their personal tales of how they met Hillary Rodham Clinton and why they support her for president. They sharpened their defenses of her record as secretary of state. They scripted their arguments for why the Democratic front-runner has been “a lifetime champion of income opportunity.” And they polished their on-camera presentations in a series of mock interviews.

The objective of the sessions: to nurture a seemingly grass roots echo chamber of Clinton supporters reading from the same script across the communities that dot New Hampshire, a critical state that hosts the nation’s first presidential primary.

The super PAC, called Correct the Record, convened similar talking-point tutorials and media-training classes in May and June in three other early voting states — Iowa, South Carolina and Nevada — as well as sessions earlier this spring in California.

Presidential campaigns have for decades fed talking points to surrogates who appear on national television or introduce candidates on the stump. But the effort to script and train local supporters is unusually ambitious and illustrates the extent to which the Clinton campaign and its web of sanctioned, allied super PACs are leaving nothing to chance.

When, say, a Londonderry Times reporter calls a Rockingham County Democratic Committee member for comment on Clinton, he or she will parrot Correct the Record’s talking points about Clinton having been a fighter for the middle class — from improving rural health care as first lady of Arkansas to raising the minimum wage as a senator from New York.

“We are holding sessions with top communicators across the country where we talk about the best ways to discuss Secretary Clinton’s strong record of accomplishments, how to articulate Secretary Clinton’s positions most effectively and how to correct Republican operatives’ distortions of the facts,” said Adrienne Watson, communications director at Correct the Record.

But asking local supporters to use talking points could undermine the organic nature of grass-roots political interactions. No longer can a journalist call up a state representative in Iowa and expect to hear his or her personal, unvarnished take on Clinton — nor can a Rotary Club member watch a fellow small-business owner talk about Clinton at their monthly luncheon — without suspecting he or she is reading from a script.

The super PAC’s effort also comes as Clinton struggles on the campaign trail to appear accessible and genuine. Some Democrats have long believed Clinton sounds too scripted on the stump, especially compared to Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), her insurgent primary rival whose authenticity and liberal message are drawing thousands of Democrats to his rallies.

New Hampshire state Sen. Lou D’Allesandro, a local elected official for decades and a longtime Clinton supporter, said he did not attend Correct the Record’s session, which was held May 18 at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm.

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“I’ve known Hillary for a long time,” D’Allesandro said. “I’ve known her husband for a long time. She’s been at our home. I’ve visited her in Washington. I believe that I can articulate where she is on issues and I really don’t need anybody to tell me what to say. I believe that you stand for people because you believe what they stand for and you articulate it.”

Correct the Record — one of several super PACs run by Clinton ally David Brock — coordinates some of its activities with Clinton’s campaign, but officials said the campaign played no role in the training sessions.

The Clinton campaign has its own surrogate operation that distributes talking points to supporters to ensure that their messages in local and national media are consistent.

The super PAC’s on-camera media training was conducted by the Franklin Forum and led by the group’s president, John Neffinger, a Democratic strategist who specializes in coaching people for television interviews.

Correct the Record held a series of similar media sessions in the spring of 2014 to prepare Clinton backers for interviews surrounding her national book tour for “Hard Choices,” the memoir from her State Department years.

Watson said the super PAC plans to hold additional campaign-oriented training sessions later this year.

To supporters like Eleni Kounalakis, who served as ambassador to Hungary in Clinton’s State Department, the program is welcome news. In March, she participated along with about 20 other supporters in a Correct the Record session in San Francisco and said she thought it helped her and other Clinton fans refine the case they make for Clinton’s candidacy in public.

“Many people who are very vocal in supporting Secretary Clinton are very comfortable taking about why among their friends and in small groups — but when it comes to talking to the media, that can be very intimidating,” Kounalakis said. “Some people feel like, I know Hillary has been there for the working person in her life, in her career, but I want someone to help me prepare those arguments so that I have that confidence to speak in a broader context.”

Nick Sottile, 21, president of the College Democrats of South Carolina, said he felt “lucky” to attend a May 7 Correct the Record session in Columbia, S.C.

“It got right to the heart of things — how to cut through the noise and talk about Secretary Clinton’s record,” Sottile said. “And not just what to say, but how to talk about her as a young person in South Carolina. It was good training in how to be an effective talker.”

Lawmakers: Feds Should Have Deported Undocumented Immigrant Before SF Pier Shooting // AP – July 7, 2015

Lawmakers and politicians are criticizing the failure to deport an immigrant with multiple felony convictions and an outstanding drug warrant who allegedly went on to murder a woman in San Francisco.

Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, in an interview with CNN, said that the City of San Francisco's law enforcement officials were wrong to release from jail Mexican national Francisco Sanchez, who is now at the center of a national immigration controversy.

"The city made a mistake, not to deport someone that the federal government strongly felt should be deported," Clinton said. "So I have absolutely no support for a city that ignores the strong evidence that should be acted on."

The Sheriff's Department ignored "strong evidence" that Sanchez should have been turned over to immigration officials and deported, according to Clinton.

In a similar vein, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) issued a statement Tuesday saying that she has personally been investigating the circumstances surrounding Kathryn Steinle's fatal shooting July 1.

“I strongly believe that an undocumented individual, convicted of multiple felonies and with a detainer request from ICE, should not have been released," she said. "We should focus on deporting convicted criminals, not setting them loose on our streets."

Feinstein also wrote to San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee to express her "deep concern" about Sanchez's release, adding that it "led to last week’s tragic death." Her letter "urged" Lee to "prevent such a tragedy" from reoccurring by joining the Department of Homeland Security's Priority Enforcement Program, which would enable local law enforcement agencies to "provide notice to ICE before releasing aliens with long criminal records."
The San Francisco mayor's office said it has reached out to Department of Homeland Security officials to determine if there's a way to cooperate with federal immigration officials while still maintaining the sanctuary

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policy.

"Mayor Lee shares the senator's concerns surrounding the nature of Mr. Sanchez' transfer to San Francisco and release," said Christine Falvey, a spokeswoman for the mayor. "As the mayor has stated, we need to gather all of the facts as we develop potential solutions."

Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer, also from Northern California, said she asked Gov. Jerry Brown if state law was followed in the release of Sanchez.

"For decades, I have supported deporting violent criminals, and I have always believed that sanctuary should not be given to felons," Boxer said.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis) echoed the same sentiment.

"He had a criminal warrant but was released into the general society to commit a murder. Does that make any sense to you?" Johnson, who chairs the Senate's homeland security committee, demanded to know at a hearing. "Because I'll tell you it doesn't make any sense to the American public."

Philip Miller, an official with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, blamed San Francisco, saying officials there did not honor a federal request, known as a "detainer," to keep Francisco Sanchez in custody.

Sanchez, who is from Mexico and is in the United States illegally, allegedly shot and killed 32-year-old Kathryn Steinle last week as she was sightseeing with her father along a popular local pier.

"In that particular case our detainer was not honored," Miller said. "San Francisco sheriff's department did not honor our detainer."

San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi has defended his office's decision, saying ICE should have issued an arrest warrant earlier. Miller declined after the hearing to comment on that assertion. But Virginia Kice, a spokeswoman for ICE told NBC Bay Area this week that "obtaining judicial warrants is not only unnecessary, it would place an immense burden on both ICE and the federal courts." She added that last year, ICE deported more than 177,000 immigrants with criminal convictions.

Steinle's death has offered ammunition to GOP critics of Obama administration policies, including presidential candidate Donald Trump, who's cited it to justify his claims that many immigrants are criminals. Sanchez has a long criminal history, but mostly for drug use, dating back to the 1990s, federal records show.

At the same time it plays into a larger, politically charged immigration debate between federal authorities and local jurisdictions.

Hundreds of local jurisdictions have refused to participate in a disputed federal program, Secure Communities, that allows local authorities to turn over information on immigrants they pick up to the federal government. San Francisco takes it farther than many, even boasting of itself as a ``sanctuary city'' that protects immigrants.

President Barack Obama announced last fall he was ending the Secure Communities program and replacing it with a new approach meant to address concerns about immigrants being targeted.

But that has sparked more criticism from Republicans who embraced Secure Communities as an effective law enforcement tool and oppose Obama's attempts to change immigration law through executive actions without Congress' consent.

House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., announced Tuesday he would bring Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson before his committee next week to answer questions on the matter.

"Just recently, we were reminded that the Obama administration's reckless actions, such as permitting sanctuary city policies, lead to tragic and deadly consequences," Goodlatte said.

Hillary Clinton Hands Jeb Bush A Present On Immigration // HuffPo // Igor Bobic – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton denounced Donald Trump's controversial comments about immigrants in her first national interview as a 2016 presidential candidate. But in the process, she inadvertently handed Republican rival Jeb Bush a present on a silver platter.

The Democratic front-runner told CNN's Brianna Keilar Tuesday that she was "very disappointed" with the celebrity hotelier for calling some Mexican migrants rapists and criminals. She criticized the rest of the 2016 Republican presidential candidates for not moving quickly enough to distance themselves from Trump and noted their opposition to comprehensive immigration reform.

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"He doesn't believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time, he no longer does," she said of Bush, the former governor of Florida.

The broadside could hurt Bush among Hispanic voters if Clinton succeeds in portraying him as opposed to immigration reform. It's a smart, long-term play against a well-funded Republican with a decent chance of winning the nomination.

For the moment, however, Bush faces more immediate challenges as he traverses early primary states. Chief among them is his effort to win over conservatives who believe that he supports granting undocumented immigrants "amnesty." In fact, Bush says that undocumented workers should be able to earn legal status, “not necessarily citizenship.” Clinton, however, says that anything short of a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants is "code for second-class status."

Immigration remains one of the most divisive topics among Republicans in the early caucus state of Iowa, but there are still far more who oppose a path to citizenship than support it. According to a Quinnipiac University poll released Monday, 46 percent of likely Republican caucus goers in Iowa said undocumented immigrants should be required to leave the country, while 34 percent said they should be allowed to stay with some sort of path to citizenship.

Any reminder that Bush opposes "amnesty" is good news in Iowa -- regardless of whether it comes from the candidate or his potential Democratic rival.

Hillary Clinton Piles On San Francisco Officials, Putting Sanctuary Cities Under Even More Heat / / HuffPo // Elise Foley – July 7, 2015

After a deadly shooting in San Francisco, allegedly by a man who had been deported five times, lawmakers are calling on the county to drop its policy against cooperating with immigration enforcement.

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton became the most high-profile Democrat to wade into the debate on Tuesday, telling CNN that San Francisco should have worked with agents at Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"The city made a mistake, not to deport someone that the federal government strongly felt should be deported," she said in an interview. "So I have absolutely no support for a city that ignores the strong evidence that should be acted on."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), meanwhile, sent a letter on Tuesday to San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee urging him to cooperate with ICE, implying the county's failure to do so allowed for the shooting of 32-year-old Kathryn Steinle, allegedly at the hands of a previously deported undocumented immigrant named Francisco Sanchez.

GOP lawmakers, who are more prone to support a greater federal thumbprint on detention policy, have decried San Francisco leaders for acting irresponsibly. One of them, Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), said he plans to introduce a bill penalizing cities that do not cooperate with ICE.

With the debate around immigration already red hot due to the charged rhetoric of the 2016 campaign, the incident in San Francisco could end up prompting a shift in recent trends in detention policy. For years, local communities have been limiting their collaboration with immigration enforcement officials, with more than 300 cities and counties adopting policies against fully complying with ICE's requests. Some, like San Francisco, barely deal with the agency at all, while others limit interactions except in cases of more serious crimes.

The widespread resistance led the Obama administration to announce in November that it would drop the Secure Communities program, which asked police to hold individuals for ICE so they could be picked up for deportation purposes.

The immediate fallout from the shooting in San Francisco appears to be a change in those particular political winds.

But the debate remains a sensitive one, with activists and even local officials warning that a greater federal role could harm other law enforcement activities, drain resources and spark court challenges.

At issue is whether local law enforcement, at the request of ICE, should -- or even legally could -- hold individuals who it otherwise would have released. Immigration advocates have warned that doing so creates fear in the undocumented community and sweeps up people for deportation because of low-level crimes or arrests they are never convicted for.

To accommodate those concerns, the administration is pushing a new policy called the Priority Enforcement

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Program, which was announced last November. Under PEP, according to the administration, ICE would target individuals at higher priority for deportation, such as convicted criminals. The program also will ask local law enforcement to notify the agency when it plans to release a suspected deportable immigrant, rather than for holds.

That program hasn't been rolled out nationwide, and an ICE official said their appeals to San Francisco officials to work with them haven't gone anywhere. But critics are charging that had ICE implemented PEP in San Francisco sooner, Sanchez, who said he shot Steinle last Wednesday before saying on Tuesday that he was not guilty, would not have been released into the community.

Prior to the shooting, Sanchez had been deported five times and had seven felony convictions, according to authorities. Twice, ICE put in detainer requests for him. The first was with the Bureau of Prisons, where he was serving a sentence for the federal crime of illegally re-entering the U.S. as a felon. Sanchez was transferred by the Bureau of Prisons to the San Francisco sheriff's office because he had an arrest warrant for a 20-year-old marijuana case. ICE then put in a request to the sheriff's office to detain him. After the district attorney declined to prosecute that charge, he was released in April.

Officials at the San Francisco County Sheriff's Office and ICE have since blamed each other for that release, with the local authorities saying ICE should have gotten a judicial warrant if they wanted Sanchez to be held, and ICE claiming it was never notified that the man was about to be let go.

With the debate expanding beyond the particulars of what happened and into the realm of public policy, critics of Secure Communities worry the tragedy in San Francisco will be used as a cudgel against cities that have tried to move their police departments out of the immigration enforcement business. They warn there are not just humanitarian and budget constraints to consider, but constitutional complications as well.

"I've seen this happen over and over again where anti-immigrant groups try to use these types of horrible cases to change policies but there are constitutional protections, and people cannot be held for immigration without a judge signing a warrant," said Angela Chan, a policy director at the Asian Law Caucus.

Police chiefs could be an ally in pushing back against greater federal involvement in local immigration matters. Many have contended that they need to strike a balance between acting as enforcement agents and performing their duties to protect the public. Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, also the president of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, said doing too much of the former risks hurting the relationship law enforcement has with the broader community.

Montgomery County officials announced last year that immigrants would no longer be held for ICE without demonstration that the individual likely committed a crime. Manger approves of PEP and said his office notifies ICE when individuals are being released upon request. But the fact that individuals are released and go on to commit crime is a risk in all law enforcement, he insisted, and not just specific to immigration.

"I've been a cop for 38 years," he said. "And for longer than I've been a cop, [criminals] have been getting out of jail and doing bad things again. The fact is that the law allows you to hold someone for a certain amount of time and when the law says you've got to release them, you've got to release them.

Clinton says GOP field ranges from 'grudgingly welcome' to 'hostile' toward immigrants **// AP //**
Catherine Lucey & Ken Thomas – July 7, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton said a Republican in the White House would mark a "big U-turn" for the nation and assailed the GOP presidential field's stance on an immigration overhaul.

Asked about Jeb Bush, the Democratic presidential candidate said: "He doesn't believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time, he no longer does."

In an interview Tuesday with CNN, Clinton said the Republican presidential contenders range "across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile toward immigrants."

Campaigning in one of the most liberal pockets of Iowa, Clinton offered herself up as a Democratic standard-bearer at a time when her main Democratic rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has generated big crowds and stoked interest among progressives. Clinton also addressed criticism that she has avoided scrutiny, taking questions from reporters and then sitting down for her first national television interview since starting her campaign.

Clinton cited her husband's eight years in office as a time of strong economic growth that helped not only the wealthy but the poor as well. She said Republicans afterward left President Barack Obama to tend to an economic crisis.

"Right now our country deserves to keep moving forward, not to do a big U-turn going back to where we came

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from," Clinton said at the Iowa City Public Library. "That didn't work before. It won't work again."

She told CNN she planned to outline some of her economic policies Monday.

Clinton has said any immigration legislation needs to include a path to "full and equal citizenship." She has defended Obama's use of executive actions to shield millions of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally from deportation.

In the interview, Clinton said she was "disappointed" in Republican candidate Donald Trump for his disparaging comments about Mexican immigrants along "with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying, 'Enough, stop it.'"

Clinton demurred in discussing the possibility of another Bush-Clinton campaign — Bill Clinton defeated President George H.W. Bush in 1992 — but lumped former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in with other Republicans who have opposed immigration overhauls in Congress.

Bush, in his 2013 book "Immigration Wars," called for a process that would allow people living in the U.S. illegally to remain, as long as they take a series of steps. He wrote that withholding citizenship is a suitable penalty for those who have broken the law. Bush's co-author, Clint Bolick, said the former Florida governor would probably bend to support citizenship, if that was necessary to strike a deal on immigration.

Bush spokeswoman Emily Benavides said in a statement that Bush "believes in a conservative legislative solution to fix our broken immigration system that includes earned legal status for those currently in the country after they pay fines and taxes, learn English and commit no substantial crimes while securing our border."

During the CNN interview, Clinton defended her decision to delete some of her emails as secretary of state from her private email server, saying, "Everything I did was permitted by law and regulation." She said she used one device for email, although an email message obtained by The Associated Press earlier this year showed Clinton used an iPad for email, in addition to her BlackBerry, while she was secretary of state.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, responded Tuesday, saying "the committee does not know why or when she chose to wipe clean her personal server, but we do know her way of doing things provided an incomplete public record." The committee sought Clinton's emails as part of its investigation into the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya.

At her Iowa event, Clinton made no mention of Sanders but drew an implicit contrast with his record on gun control. Sanders, a favorite of liberal Democrats, has opposed some gun control measures in the Senate and drew criticism from some Democrats for voting in 2005 to protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits filed by victims of gun violence.

Clinton said she would speak out "about the uncontrollable use of guns in our country" and believes most Americans and gun owners support universal background checks. "Let's not be afraid of the gun lobby, which does not even really represent the majority of gun owners in America," she said.

Sanders says most gun owners in the country obey the law, and he makes a distinction on the gun-control question between rural states like Vermont, where hunting is common and gun-ownership traditions go deep, and big cities.

"I want to see real, serious debate and action on guns, but it is not going to take place if we simply have extreme positions on both sides," he told CNN on Sunday. "I think I can bring us to the middle."

Asked about Sanders, Clinton said she welcomed a contested race. "This is going to be competitive — it should be competitive," Clinton said.

Hillary confronts the enemy // Politico // Annie Karni & Gabrielle Debenedetti – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign, unlike those of her rivals, has provided the media with information about the fundraisers attended by the former secretary of state, down to the names of the donors who hosted and the head count for each event. Its communications shop has so far maintained a constructive working relationship with the press corps — senior staffers last month mingled with reporters over beers after a background briefing at the Brooklyn campaign headquarters.

That new spirit of openness may have neutralized the famously toxic relationship between the press and the Clinton operation, but with Bernie Sanders turning out huge crowds and the Republicans about to steal the spotlight next month with their first debate, Clinton operatives have realized it's time to cross the final, harrowing frontier: providing access to the candidate herself.

For the first three months of her campaign, Clinton remained virtually off-limits to the national press. She did not

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sit down for a national television interview (her most recent occurred during her book tour for “Hard Choices” in 2014), nor did she grant any interviews to national newspapers or websites. With questions surrounding her use of private email during her years at the State Department, and surrounding the Clinton Foundation, the candidate herself remained as distant from the national media as ever — and it shows in the press coverage of her second presidential bid.

On Tuesday, after a campaign stop in New Hampshire, the campaign sought to enter a new phase of its relations with the press — Clinton sat with CNN’s Brianna Keilar (notably a beat reporter, not one of the network’s anchors who are household names) for her first nationally broadcast interview.

More interviews will follow, communications director Jennifer Palmieri has promised.

Clinton insiders said July makes sense for Hillary’s moment to finally embrace national television — enough time has passed since the height of the controversies surrounding the Clinton Foundation and her use of a private email address at the State Department that she will have space to talk about her own campaign message.

But the campaign doesn’t have the luxury of waiting much longer: In August, Clinton is scheduled to go on vacation, and then the crowded Republican field will be chewing up news cycles with the first debate — possibly defining Clinton on a national stage.

“Now is a good time for the campaign to take back control of the story of who Hillary Clinton is,” said longtime donor Jay Jacobs. “She can now use [national television] to accomplish that.” In terms of the controversies she will have to respond to, he said, “The tide has been turned.” Beginning Monday, Clinton will also start rolling out more detailed policy proposals to discuss.

Until now, Clinton has favored the confines of local media outlets. Since her Roosevelt Island rally in early June, she has participated in interviews only in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

For a candidate with effectively 100 percent name recognition in the country, national media interviews have been low on the priority list. During the “ramp-up” period of her campaign, which lasted two months, Clinton answered only a handful of questions from reporters, mostly yelled at her from a large gaggle. Instead, she spent time asking the questions at roundtable events in the early voting states.

Some of that is par for the course in a primary. “It’s important to do some national press, but your time should be heavily weighed towards the places where people vote first,” said Tommy Vietor, a former Obama campaign spokesman.

But even the favored local press has begun to note — and chafe at — the lack of access. “High-horse Hillary corrals a wimpy news media,” blared the headline of a front-page editorial in Manchester, New Hampshire’s influential Union-Leader newspaper, after reporters were corralled with a rope during a July 4 parade in Gorham, New Hampshire.

Ironically, it was the “high-horse” image that the campaign has tried to avoid by steering clear of the national news networks and focusing instead on “everyday Americans.”

But on Sunday, Palmieri conceded to Fox News’ Howard Kurtz that “we’re paying a price” for not participating in sit-down interviews on national television and that the inevitable pivot to more engagement would start now.

The tipping point may have come over the weekend in New Hampshire, where the awkwardness of the situation came to a head. Clinton answered four questions from a group of pool reporters while waiting for a scoop at the Daily Twirl ice cream stand. The following day, reporters were awkwardly corralled away from Clinton by a rope line as she marched in a small July 4 parade in Gorham. Afterward, while speaking to locals at a diner, she refused to answer any questions, even a softball about Donald Trump.

“You know, I’m gonna sit down and have some pie,” she smiled, before the gaggle of press was ushered out, leaving the rope-line incident to take on greater significance because there was no other news to report on.

The next phase of the campaign’s media strategy, as unveiled Tuesday, seems designed to avoid a similar situation. “The more media interviews you do,” Palmieri explained to Kurtz, “the less any one interaction matters.”

Yet judging from Clinton’s CNN interview, it’s not quite clear the candidate has bought in — while she sat down for questions, she didn’t really open up. Asked by CNN why she decided to sit for an interview, and whether anything has changed when it comes to her approach to the media, the famously press-averse candidate had a ready answer.

“Well, nothing’s really changed,” she said. “I just have a different rhythm to my campaign. I’m not running my campaign for the press. I’m running it for voters. I totally respect the press and what the press has to do. But I

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wanted and was determined to have the time that I needed to actually meet and listen to people."

Hillary Clinton plans meeting with black lawmakers // Politico // Lauren French – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton will meet with members of the Congressional Black Caucus next week.
The 2016 front-runner for the Democratic nomination will travel to Capitol Hill to hold a members-only meeting Tuesday with the nearly 50 lawmakers in the black caucus. The meeting is expected to focus on policy issues, according to sources familiar with the agenda.

"Members of the Congressional Black Caucus are invited to a policy meeting with Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The meeting will be an overview on pressing foreign and domestic policy issues impacting the African American Community," according to an email sent by the Clinton campaign.

The black vote will be critical for Clinton in 2016. Democrats will need strong support from African-Americans to push their party over the finish line in key congressional races and during the general election. Meanwhile, the GOP is also actively courting black voters.

The Tuesday meeting will be one of the first that Clinton has held with the CBC since declaring her candidacy earlier this year. Earlier, top officials with the former secretary of state's campaign traveled to D.C. shortly after she announced her presidential bid as a way to introduce Clinton's campaign team to Democrats on the Hill.

Hillary Clinton not amused by fax machine mockery // Politico // Adam Lerner – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton may not be the world's most "technically capable person," she admitted in an interview with CNN that aired Tuesday.

But she won't stand for media mockery suggesting she can't work a simple fax machine.

In the interview, CNN's Brianna Keilar mentioned that recently released emails show that Clinton's longtime aide Huma Abedin had to instruct her boss on how to work her fax machine.

"Can you hang up the fax line, they will call again and try fax," Abedin wrote in one widely shared email exchange.

"I thought it was supposed to be off hook to work?" Clinton responded.

Abedin told her: "Just pick up phone and hang it up. And leave it hung up."

"I've done it twice now," Clinton responded, before giving up. "Still nothing."

In Tuesday's interview, Clinton interrupted Keilar before she could formulate a question.

"Yes, a secure fax machine, which is harder to work than the regular," the Democratic 2016 front-runner said.

She then went on to say that the issue of her email server "is being blown up with no basis in law or in fact. That's fine. I get it. This is being, in effect, used by the Republicans in the Congress, OK."

"But I want people to understand what the truth is," she continued. "And the truth is everything I did was permitted and I went above and beyond what anybody could have expected in making sure that if the State Department didn't capture something, I made a real effort to get it to them. And I had no obligation to do any of that."

The interview touched on another subject relevant to the political theater surrounding the nascent 2016 presidential campaign: Saturday Night Live impressions.

Asked whether Kate McKinnon or Amy Poehler did a better impression of her, Clinton gave the political answer.

"Amy's a friend of mine. And Kate's doing a great job. You're not going to get me to pick one or the other," she said, adding, "I think I'm the best Hillary Clinton, to be honest."

A defensive Clinton promises 'more press' // Politico // Dylan Byers – July 7, 2015

The first national interview of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign did not go well. She dodged questions about Bernie Sanders' appeal, refused to say whether she would seek to raise taxes, dismissed data showing that the majority of Americans' don't trust her, and was repeatedly forced to defend her lack of transparency at both the State Department and the Clinton Foundation.

And yet, toward the interview's conclusion, the long-evasive Democratic front-runner pledged to do more

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uncomfortable sit-downs like the one she had just, painstakingly, endured.

"Obviously 'll be doing a lot more press," Clinton told CNN's Brianna Keilar.

The only reason Clinton hadn't been doing national interviews, she said, was because she had been busy listening to American voters.

"I just have a different rhythm to my campaign. I'm not running my campaign for the press, I'm running it for the voters," she explained. "I totally respect the press and what the press has to do. I wanted and was determined to have the time that I needed to actually meet and listen to people. I had not been involved in domestic politics while I was Secretary of State, and I just wanted to get my own feel, my own time, face to face with people."

"Everything has its own time and I'm on my own rhythm," she said.

While that may be true, avoiding the press had become a dominant theme of Clinton's early days on the campaign trail. Clinton said she'd always planned "to spend the first 90 days... getting my feel of what was going on in the country," but her refusal to answer questions from reporters on the trail was so frequent that it made headlines.

As Clinton told Keiler, "it'll be 90 days [since the launch of her campaign] on Sunday," and the time to open up to the media has come. But if Americans are expecting more transparency from Clinton, they may be sorely disappointed.

"I didn't hear a more open or transparent Hillary Clinton," Keilar said after her interview. "I heard her not engaging on the issue of Bernie Sanders. He's a self-described Democratic socialist. I asked her why is he garnering this support, this enthusiasm, that you don't seem to among Democrats. She wouldn't engage on that. Even on this concern of if she were to face off against Jeb Bush, and there would be this dynastic race between a Bush and a Clinton... she wouldn't engage on that. She was very quick to move on."

Keilar bears some responsibility for that, of course. She hardly pressed Clinton to answer the questions she was dodging and rushed from topic to topic. If an interviewer is hoping to pin Clinton down on anything, she or he will probably have to take a more Terry Gross-like approach.

More likely, however, is that Clinton herself will decide to be more transparent. There are almost 500 days left till election day; if she is serious about "doing a lot more press," she'll need to come up with a better strategy than "dodge and defend."

Clinton says Puerto Rico should have access to U.S. bankruptcy laws // Reuters // Amanda Becker – June 30, 2015

U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said Tuesday that Puerto Rico's public entities should be able to use U.S. bankruptcy laws to restructure some $72 billion in debt.

Like U.S. states, Puerto Rico, a commonwealth, cannot file for bankruptcy protection. Unlike U.S. states, Puerto Rico's public entities, including municipalities, are not covered by U.S. Chapter 9 bankruptcy laws.

Puerto Rico's non-voting delegate in the U.S. Congress has called for legislation that would allow Puerto Rico to access the same bankruptcy laws available to other municipalities, as has Puerto Rico's Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit late Monday affirmed a lower court decision to strike down Puerto Rican legislation aimed at granting local municipalities the right to enter bankruptcy, but said excluding the U.S. territory's public entities from federal bankruptcy law was unconstitutional.

"Congress and the Obama administration need to partner with Puerto Rico by providing real support and tools so that Puerto Rico can do the hard work it will take to get on a path toward stability and prosperity," Clinton said in a statement provided to Reuters.

"As a first step, Congress should provide Puerto Rico the same authority that states already have to enable severely distressed government entities, including municipalities and public corporations, to restructure their debts under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code," Clinton added.

The White House said last week that there is "no one in the administration" that is "contemplating a federal bailout of Puerto Rico" but that the U.S. Congress should "take a look at" whether Puerto Rico's government-owned corporations should be able to access Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection.

Congressional Republicans largely oppose such a step. Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush said in April that he thinks Puerto Rico's public agencies should have the ability to use U.S. bankruptcy laws.

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"We're not talking about a bailout, we're talking about a fair shot at success," Clinton said Tuesday.

Clinton said in the statement that the "inconsistent and incoherent" application of U.S. federal law to Puerto Rico contributed to its economic situation, noting high utility rates and unemployment have led to an economy that has shrunk for eight of the last nine years.

"One troubling example of this treatment is the lack of equity in federal funding for Puerto Rico under Medicaid and Medicare," Clinton said of health insurance programs sponsored by the U.S. government.

Clinton, also a former first lady, is the front runner for the Democratic nomination ahead of the general election in November 2016.

Meme says Hillary Clinton's top donors are banks and corporations, Bernie Sanders' are labor unions // Politifact // Louis Jacobson – July 7, 2015

As Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders gains ground on Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton, the two candidates' supporters have been sparring, including over campaign donations.

Recently, a reader sent us a social media meme that paints Clinton's list of donors as dominated by corporate interests, whereas Sanders' top 10 donors come largely from labor unions -- a dichotomy that, to Democratic primary voters, puts Sanders in a more favorable light.

"Hillary: Top ten donor list. Representing banks, corporations and media," the meme reads, providing a top-10 list with dollar amounts. "Bernie: Top ten donor list. Representing people." The meme is topped by each candidate's presidential campaign logo. (See the meme below.)

We can't tell who produced this meme, but we thought it was worth a closer look.

We'll start by noting that reasonable people can disagree about whether labor unions represent "people," as the meme says, as opposed to just unionized workers, who are a relatively small subset of the entire population. We'll also note that while this meme may appeal to union supporters and critics of Wall Street and big corporations, it also could be used as evidence that Sanders is just as reliant on one type of donor -- labor unions -- as Clinton is on big corporations.

We found that the data cited in the meme refers to cumulative donations over the course of each candidate's political career as calculated by the Center for Responsive Politics, not just fundraising from the current presidential cycle. (Clinton and Sanders have announced their fundraising hauls for the second quarter of 2015, but have not yet released the full data that is due at the Federal Election Commission by July 15; a more complete analysis of the data will be compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics after that.)

For Clinton, we found a high degree of similarity with the meme when we checked the database on July 6.

Clinton's top 10 cumulative donors between between 1999 and 2016 were, in descending order, Citigroup ($782,327), Goldman Sachs ($711,490), DLA Piper ($628,030), JPMorgan Chase ($620,919), EMILY's List ($605,174) Morgan Stanley ($543,065), Time Warner ($411,296), Skadden Arps ($406,640), Lehman Brothers ($362,853) and Cablevision Systems ($336,288).

That list is quite close to what the meme says. It includes five financial-services companies, two law firms that do a lot of corporate work, two media conglomerates and one group, EMILY's list, that supports abortion-rights Democratic candidates. It's worth noting that Clinton was a senator from New York, meaning that some of the donors on her list were not simply Wall Street and corporate behemoths, but also constituents, based in New York.

The database results for Sanders are also quite close to what's in the meme. The data for Sanders goes back to 1989.

His top 10 are, in descending order, Machinists/Aerospace Workers union ($105,000), Teamsters union ($93,700), National Education Association ($84,350), United Auto Workers ($79,650), United Food & Commercial Workers union ($72,500), Communications Workers of America ($68,000), Laborers Union ($64,000), Carpenters & Joiners Union ($62,000), National Association of Letter Carriers ($61,000), and the American Association for Justice ($60,500).

In the meme, the letter carriers' union makes the list, but the Center for Responsive Politics has the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees cracking the top 10 instead. Either way, nine of the 10 are unions, and the tenth is the national association representing plaintiffs' attorneys. During his career, Sanders has received strong support from progressive Democrats, so this pattern of financial backing is not surprising.

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So the meme is pretty accurate for both candidates. However, we see a few things worth pointing out.

As we noted, this data refers to their entire political careers back to the 1990s. Once the full presidential data is released, those figures may show different patterns. "That is not made clear" in the meme, said Anthony J. Corrado, a campaign-finance expert at Colby College. "Most people would assume that this is money raised so far in the 2016 presidential campaign."

Also, the "donors" listed are not the ones who gave the money, since that would be against the law. Rather, it was their PACs, employees and those employees' families. In fact, due to how the forms are filled out, the data is less likely to capture individual donations from union members than from employers of companies. Most individual donations are listed by employer, and if, say, a union carpenter lists his affiliation as his company, the fact that he's a union member wouldn't be recorded.

Finally, lists such as this ignore that both candidates are collecting many small donations, too. According to the Clinton campaign, she raised roughly $50 million in contributions under $200 during her '08 campaign. Data for the 2016 cycle is not available yet.

All told, it's possible to look at the top donors on the two lists and say both candidates are captive to a particular set of interest groups, said Kyle Kondik, managing editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. However, he added, "labor is a Democratic constituency whose beliefs generally line up with Democratic policies, and we're talking about a Democratic primary here. So all things being equal, Sanders' donor list probably looks better, politically, than Clinton's."

Kondik added that, as the meme indicates, Clinton has a much larger reservoir of money than Sanders has. "The value of having a large financial advantage over your competitors in a primary setting seems to be worth occasional questions about how the financial advantage was built," he said.

Our ruling

Social media memes say that Clinton's top 10 donors are mainly "banks, corporations and media," while Bernie Sanders' top 10 donors are labor unions. This contention fits quite closely with campaign data from the Center for Responsive Politics. However, it's worth noting that this data refers to cumulative donations as far back as the 1980s, rather than just donations to their current presidential bids. The statement is accurate but needs clarification, so we rate it Mostly True.

Clinton vows to make 'comprehensive' im migration reform cornerstone issue // Radio Iowa // Kay Henderson – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton spoke to a packed room in the Iowa City Public Library this afternoon, accusing Republicans of proposing a "U-turn" for the country and promising as president she would push for "comprehensive" immigration reform.

"A lot of our people who are working hard here are people who have earned the right to stay and we have to change our system to take advantage of their contributions," Clinton said.

Clinton said there's no way to deport up to 12 million undocumented immigrants and Clinton used the word "sad" to describe how Republican presidential candidates are addressing the issue.

"We've always prided ourselves on being a nation of immigrants…and then I hear, you know, the Republican candidates — and it's not only, you know, the ones that are most vitriolic — none of them support a path to citizenship," Clinton said. "All of them would basically consign immigrants to second-class status."

Clinton did not directly mention Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's remarks about Mexicans which have caused controversy, but Clinton, in general, accused Republicans of engaging in a "destructive" debate on immigration.

"And let's face the fact we need comprehensive immigration reform," Clinton said. "I don't care how many people running for president on the Republican side try to demean immigrants, insult immigrants, cast aspersions on immigrants."

During her speech to the crowd, Clinton mentioned the case of a popular Iowa City pastor who was recently deported and someone in the crowd asked her about the case, too. Clinton pledged as president she would deport criminals, but she'd urge prosecutors to use discretion in similar cases.

About 350 people made it into the library to see and hear Clinton, while about 100 more gathered on the sidewalk outside waiting for the chance to shake Clinton's hand as she left. Clinton held a news conference inside the library

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after the event, joking with her staff that they should remove the "rope" behind which reporters and photographers were assembled. It was a reference to the image of Clinton's press team using a rope to corral reporters following Clinton in a New Hampshire parade. Clinton's staff removed the barrier and the questioning began.

Clinton emails may revive environmental group's lawsuit // The Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood – July 7, 2015

An environmental group whose request for records related to the Keystone Pipeline was reportedly hampered while Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state is considering taking the case to court for the second time.

Ben Schreiber, climate and energy program director at Friends of the Earth, said his group has weighed the option of relitigation in the weeks since learning that Clinton's chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, had interfered in the agency's handling of Freedom of Information Act requests for Keystone documents.

While Schreiber said Friends of the Earth received a number of emails involving Clinton's top aides when the original case settled during Clinton's tenure, he noted the State Department did not then have any of the secretary's emails to produce.

"For us, this is very much a good governance thing," Schreiber said. "It's pretty clear that at the highest levels of the State Department while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state, the agency did everything in their power to undermine the integrity of the Freedom of Information Act, and that for us is troubling."

The discovery that Clinton has now submitted thousands of emails to the agency that could prove responsive to Friends of the Earth's 2010 request means the group could potentially force a different outcome if it sued the State Department a second time.

The request sought any communications between State Department staff and Paul Elliott, a lobbyist for TransCanada and former Clinton campaign aide. TransCanada is the company that would build the Keystone Pipeline if the project received the necessary government approval.

Schreiber pointed to a Wall Street Journal article published in May that suggested Mills began screening documents set for release under FOIA after Friends of the Earth obtained an email that illustrated the cozy relationship between Elliott and State staffers.

"The Keystone documents Ms. Mills objected to were all either held back or redacted," the Journal report said. "After Ms. Mills began scrutinizing documents, the State Department's disclosure of records related to Keystone fell off sharply, documents that include a court filing show."

Friends of the Earth did obtain hundreds of emails sent between top State Department officials and Elliott in 2011 through the lawsuit, however.

Those emails reveal Clinton's staff was indeed concerned about how the agency responded to FOIA requests.

For example Alexander Yuan, a State Department official, forwarded a news article to staff that reported the agency's decision to comply with the Friends of the Earth FOIA request for records concerning Elliott.

"Interesting how we at State learn about these decisions," Yuan wrote of the Feb. 18, 2011 article. Yuan also suggested sending a state official to speak with the FOIA office in person.

The exchange suggests State Department staff may have felt they had sway over how the agency responded to FOIA requests.

In another email exchange from May 2011, a different State official raised concerns that the agency had received more inquiries about "the Secretary's relationship with TransCanada lobbyist Paul Elliott and the FOIA."

Aides circulated "press guidance" about how to deal with questions about Elliott's ties to Clinton and the high-profile project he was advocating.

Schreiber noted the decision to revisit the lawsuit was still a matter of discussion, citing the cost of litigation as a concern, but said the new information about Mills' meddling with FOIA requests prompted Friends of the Earth to begin considering reopening the case.

Hillary On San Francisco Illegal Immigrant Murder: 'The City Made A Mistake' // The Daily Caller // Al Weaver – July 7, 2015

In her first national television interview, Hillary Clinton said that San Francisco "made a mistake" by not

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deporting Francisco Sanchez, the illegal immigrant that murdered Kate Steinle last week and had been deported five times.

Clinton told CNN's Brianna Keilar that she has "absolutely no support for a city" that does not act when they disregard evidence "that should be acted upon," though she did not respond to Keilar's point that she supported sanctuary cities during her initial presidential run in 2008.

BRIANNA KEILAR: Last week an undocumented immigrant who had been deported five times killed a 32-year-old, Kate Steinle, in San Francisco — a sanctuary city where local law enforcement does not enforce federal immigration laws. When you last ran for president, you supported sanctuary cities. In light of this terrible incident, does that change anything about your view on this?

HILLARY CLINTON: Well, what should be done is any city should listen to the Department of Homeland Security, which as I understand it, urged them to deport this man again after he got out of prison another time. Here's a case where we've deported, we've deported, we've deported, he ends back up in our country, and I think the city made a mistake. The city made a mistake not to deport someone that the federal government strongly felt should be deported. So I have absolutely no support for a city that ignores the strong evidence that should be acted on. However, there are — if it were the first time traffic citation many, if it were something minor — a misdemeanor, that's entirely different. This man had already been deported five times, and he should have been deported at the request of the federal government.

Three questions for Hillary Clinton // The Washington Examiner // Byron York – July 7, 2015

After months of refusing to answer questions, avoiding situations in which she might be questioned, and literally roping off the press, Hillary Clinton has granted an interview to a news organization. CNN's Brianna Keilar, who will do the interview, has asked for suggestions on what she might ask. Here are three questions for the former secretary of state:

1) In March, you said, 'I ... provided all my emails that could possibly be work-related' to the State Department. Now, State says there are some emails you didn't turn over. Did you tell the truth in March?

2) After turning over some of your emails to the State Department, you destroyed everything: all emails, all backups. Why?

3) On Aug. 16, 2012, Ambassador Chris Stevens warned State of dangerous security problems in Benghazi, Libya, saying U.S. facilities there could not survive a 'coordinated attack.' Top administration officials Leon Panetta and Martin Dempsey testified that they knew about the Stevens warning. You said you were too busy to see it. Why?

Committed, undecided line up to see Clinton in Iowa City // The Gazette // James Lynch – July 7, 2015

She's a former first lady, U.S. senator, secretary of state and now a formidable candidate for president.

But Hillary Clinton's visit to the Iowa City Public Library was news to many people hurrying to work or simply taking a walk through the downtown Ped Mall Tuesday morning.

"What are all these people doing?" Joe Daringer of Iowa City asked, pointing to a line of people waiting to get into the library nearly two hours before what the Clinton campaign described as a "organizing event,"

"Here?" Daringer said when told the people — a couple of hundred strong at that point — were waiting to see the leading candidate for the 2016 Democratic nomination for president. "At the library? Of all places. How are they going to get them in there?"

The Clinton campaign squeezed about 250 of her supporters into the library's meeting rooms and with more in an overflow area.

Daringer, who said he leans toward Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, wasn't impressed.

"When Obama was here he was over on the Pentacrest, and there were thousands of people," he said.

The Koepnick family of Iowa City wasn't concerned about the size of the venue. Tina Koepnick said she backed Clinton eight years ago and she's committed to backing her this time.

"I'm looking for someone who is smart, articulate and a good leader — and that's Hillary," Tina Koepnick said as she waited in line with her husband Keven, and their daughter, Emily, around the corner from the library.

"I've been ready to vote for Hillary for a while," Kevin added.

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Emily, a University of Iowa student, is eager to cast her first vote in a presidential election for Clinton, who she has admired for a long time.

“She’s a strong female who’s done great things for the country,” Emily Koepnick said.

Clinton has a “great track record” and “talks about the right things in the right way,” added Sue Zaleski of Solon who could see the library from her spot in the line that wound down the Ped Mall.

Change could reduce time Iowa patients wait for prescriptions

Iowa labor leaders call for unions to endorse Sanders

However, first-time voter Bruce James, who was just in front of Zaleski, wasn’t so sure.

“I’m keeping my ears open,” James said. That includes listening to Sanders. He likes what Sanders has to say about the economy and taxing the rich.

“I need to hear her speak,” he said about Clinton, “and then I’ll make up my mind.”

Loretta Ross drove in from Topeka because she has “great respect” for Clinton, but like James, she’s listening to Sanders, too.

“I’m weighing the established foundation Hillary brings — her experience and the breadth of her experience — with Sanders’ very clear goals in areas that are important to me,” Ross said.

At the moment, Ross added, she thinks Clinton has more general election appeal.

Hillary Clinton rips GOP on immigration: She says their problem is much bigger than Trump // Salon // Sophia Tesfaye – July 7, 2015

During her first nationally televised interview of her 2016 campaign, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said the possibility of another a Bush v. Clinton election a quarter century after her husband’s first presidential election is a coincidence in an America in which “anybody can run for president.”

CNN’s Brianna Keilar also asked Clinton about Republican candidate Donald Trump’s recent comments equating Mexican immigrants to “rapists.” Keilar noted that Trump had previously donated to the Clinton Foundation but that didn’t stop Clinton from railing against Trump, saying “I’m very disappointed in those comments and I feel very bad and very disappointed with him.”

But Clinton was quick to pivot from Trump to the entire Republican field, telling Keilar that she was also disappointed “with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying enough, stop it. But they are all in the, you know, in the same general area on immigration,” she said. “They range across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile towards immigrants.”

Clinton singled out Jeb Bush specifically, noting, “He doesn’t believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time, he no longer does.” And distinguishing herself from the GOP field, Clinton said, ““I am 100% behind comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship.”

But not all Republican candidates oppose comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship. South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, a long shot hopeful, was quick to remind CNN’s Maeve Reston that he, in fact, has been a long time supporter of a pathway to citizenship.

And as for those pesky emails? Clinton dismissed the affair as the latest in a long saga of Republican investigations into the Clintons. “This is being blown up with no basis in law or in fact. That’s fine, I get it — this is being, in effect, used by the Republicans in the Congress. OK,” Clinton said. “But I want people to understand what the truth is, and the truth is, everything I did was permitted and I went above and beyond what was expected.”

Keilar delved into other areas of controversy for Clinton, asking if she would consider shutting down the Clinton Foundation if she were to win the White House. Clinton defended the nonprofit’s work as “critical,” saying, “I have no plans to say or do anything about the Clinton foundation other than to say I am proud of it and I think for the good of the world, its work should continue.”

Clinton surmised much of the foundation’s success stemmed from the work of her husband, saying, “maybe it’s because it’s because my husband knows so many people in the world and he is so creative and he is so smart but he was able to put together solutions to problems wether it was HIV/AIDS or childhood obesity in our country or expanding farm productivity in Africa that was hard for other to do.”

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And Clinton, who supported so-called “sanctuary cities” during her last presidential run, was forceful in her criticism of San Francisco for ignoring immigration detention requests from the federal government. An undocumented immigrant who had been deported multiple times was arrested in the recent killing of a young woman, and Donald Trump has used the murder to bolster his argument that Mexican immigrants are criminals. “The city made a mistake not to deport someone that the federal government thought should be deported ... I have absolutely no support for a city that ignores the strong evidence that should be acted on,” Clinton said, but she made clear that such scrutiny would not be required for minor or misdemeanor charges.

Clinton also weighed in on the debate over adding a woman to the 10 dollar bill, saying “it may be more appropriate to look at the 20 than the 10.”

Hillary Clinton: GOP on 'Spectrum of Hostility' Towards Immigrants // NBC News // Carrie Dann – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Tuesday said that the GOP 2016 field is on "a spectrum of hostility" towards immigrants, accusing Republicans of failing to condemn Donald Trump immediately for his controversial comments about Mexicans.

Clinton told CNN in an interview that she is "very disappointed" in Trump's remarks, adding that the Republicans seeking the White House are "all in the same general area on immigration."

"They range across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile towards immigrants," she said, adding that none - including Jeb Bush - back a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented population.

"If he did at one time, he no longer does," she said of the former Florida governor's stance on creating such a pathway.

The 2016 Democratic frontrunner emphasized that she is "100% behind comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship."

"I think that we know we're not going to deport 11 or 12 million people," she added. "We shouldn't be breaking up families. We shouldn't be stopping people from having the opportunity to be fully integrated legally within our country."

The interview was Clinton's first sit-down with a national television network since declaring her candidacy. More of the interview is slated to air this afternoon on CNN.

Hillary Clinton on Her 'Last Rodeo' // The National Journal // Emma Roller – July 7, 2015

Before Hillary Clinton spoke to a crowd of roughly 250 supporters in the Iowa City Public Library on Tuesday, a young female campaign staffer had a few requests for the attendees. First, she asked those in attendance to pull out their smartphones and "like" Clinton's local Facebook page for Iowa and Johnson County. Then, she rattled off a phone number for the supporters to text in exchange for "updates" (aka donation pleas) from the campaign, which announced that it added 20 field organizers to its already large Iowa staff Tuesday.

But the actual content of Clinton's speech was refreshingly free of campaign artifice. Yes, she began with her routine spiel about income inequality, health care, and her excitement at becoming a grandmother, but her remarks felt more off-the-cuff than usual. Perhaps in an attempt to embrace her inner nerd, Clinton recalled spending hours in her local library during summer vacations while growing up.

One anecdote from her career as secretary of State in particular stood out as something new not only to the attendees, but to the reporters who obsessively cover the Clinton campaign as well. She told a story about the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Clinton and President Obama were trying to negotiate terms with India and China—two of the fastest-developing countries in the world—for a climate change agreement.

The problem: China and India's leaders were nowhere to be found. Clinton said she and Obama "sent out scouts," who found that the leaders were meeting in a clandestine conference room. Clinton and Obama marched to the room, she said, and pushed past Chinese security guards to confront the heads of state. As a result, the assembled countries signed an accord outlining emissions pledges and other goals for energy use, though much of the text was nonbinding.

"We would not be in as strong a position if the president had not pursued everything from auto emissions to utility controls," Clinton added on Tuesday.

Aside from climate change, Clinton gradually began filling in some of the details of her economic and social

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agenda. And she opened up a little more on Democratic politics and her own future.

The economy and immigration:

Clinton blamed Republican presidents for the recent economic crises in the U.S., and said that trickle-down economics needs to be "buried six feet under."

"There seems to be a pattern here, and we cannot afford to go back to the failed economic policies of the past," she said. "We have to be committed to electing a Democrat who will build on what works with actual evidence ... so that we build shared prosperity that everybody benefits from."

On income inequality and immigration reform, there is a yawning chasm between Republicans and Democrats, especially in Iowa. A recent Quinnipiac University poll found that 70 percent of likely Republican caucus voters say the government should not pursue policies to reduce income inequality, while 91 percent of their Democratic counterparts said the government should pursue such policies.

The same poll found that 46 percent of Iowa Republicans say undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. should be required to leave, while 83 percent of Democrats said the immigrants should be given a path to citizenship.

Clinton called the Republican discourse on immigration a "very stale, destructive debate."

"I don't care how many people running for president on the Republican side try to demean immigrants, insult immigrants, cast aspersions on immigrants," Clinton said. "We are not going to deport 11 or 12 million people."

After calling out her Republican opponents for opposing a path to citizenship—some of them in fits and starts—Clinton said some illegal immigrants "have earned the right to stay." She mentioned one such immigrant by name: Max Villatoro, an Iowa pastor who was deported in March.

Clinton said that, if elected president, she would start by returning to the bipartisan immigration bill that passed the Senate in 2010 but stalled out in the House.

"That would be my starting point. You voted for it once. Let's vote for it again."

Education:

Clinton stressed public education, especially the need to improve the government's Head Start early childhood program and to implement universal pre-kindergarten.

"If we do not have early childhood education, we will never get the results for the vast majority of our children as we could," she said. "If we don't tackle 0 to 5, we're going to lose out."

Health care:

She asked the crowd if they were "thrilled" about the Supreme Court upholding the Affordable Care Act, but warned that the liberal success could easily unravel come 2017.

"If a Republican is elected president, that will be the end of the Affordable Care Act," she said. "We have to succeed President Obama with a Democrat, to protect, defend, and fix the Affordable Care Act."

Contraception:

"If we provide family planning services, more young women have a chance to finish their education before they become parents," she said.

Abortion:

"I will always defend a woman's right to choose," she said. "That is something that should no longer be debatable."

Campaign finance:

Clinton called the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision "one of the worst ever made," adding, "we've got to get dark, unaccountable money out of politics once and for all."

Gun control:

"I think it's pretty clear that a majority of Americans and a majority of gun owners agree with universal background checks" to keep guns away from domestic abusers, the mentally unstable, "and even terrorists,"

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Clinton said.

"Let's not be afraid of the gun lobby, which does not represent the real majority of gun owners in America," she added.

On Democratic losses in the 2014 midterm elections, and what she hopes to leave behind:

Republicans, Clinton said, have shown an advantage during midterm elections that Democrats need to reckon with. "They know the importance of midterm elections because they show up, and we don't," she said.

Clinton stressed that she wants more young people getting involved in government. "This is my last rodeo. And I believe that we can leave not just the country in good shape for the future, but we can get a deep bench of young people to decide they want to go into politics to continue the fights that we're going to be waging," she said, later adding, "when I ride off into the sunset" in 2025, if she manages to win in 2016 and then an eventual second term, she hopes to leave "a very strong, committed group" behind in Iowa and the country at large.

Clinton backs 'pathway to citizenship,' criticizes GOP // USA Today // David Jackson – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton stressed Tuesday that she backs a “pathway to citizenship” for immigrants who are currently in the United States illegally, and she criticized potential Republican opponents over the immigration issue.

“We know we’re not going to deport 11, 12 million people,” Clinton told CNN in an interview, and providing a pathway that includes stiff requirements for new citizenship is the “right thing to do.”

The long list of Republican presidential candidates oppose such a pathway, Clinton said, and exhibit “a spectrum” of attitudes toward immigrants that ranges from “hostility” to grudging acceptance.

Immigration and the rising Hispanic vote figure to be major factors in the 2016, and Clinton served notice that she will be highlighting them.

In terms of specific candidates, Clinton criticized businessman Donald Trump for saying that most immigrants from Mexico are criminals, telling CNN she was “very disappointed” and that other Republicans should have criticized Trump sooner.

Trump said he was describing illegal immigration and that he is the only candidate willing to tackle the issue.

Clinton also challenged Jeb Bush’s immigration credentials, saying that if he backed a pathway to citizenship at one time, “he no longer does.”

Bush spokeswoman Emily Benavides disputed Clinton’s analysis, saying that the former Florida governor “believes in a conservative legislative solution to fix our broken immigration system that includes earned legal status for those currently in the country after they pay fines and taxes, learn English, and commit no substantial crimes while securing our border.”

In her CNN interview, Clinton declined to speculate on the prospect of another Clinton-Bush presidential race, more than two decades after Bill Clinton defeated President George H.W. Bush.

It depends on who the parties nominate, she said, noting that the Republicans have “a big crew” running in addition to Bush.

“What’s great about America is that anybody can run for president,” Clinton told CNN.

Clinton says 'very disappointed' in Trump's immigration comments // Reuters – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton said on Tuesday she was "very disappointed" in Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump for his comments that described immigrants from Mexico as drug-runners and rapists.

"I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying: 'Enough. Stop it,'" Clinton said in an interview with CNN.

Trump's remarks, delivered during a speech on June 16 in which he announced his plans to seek the Republican nomination for president, have sparked a backlash that has soured a number of his business relationships.
In the latest fallout, Trump's organization said earlier on Tuesday the Republican candidate and PGA of America had agreed to move a professional golfing event that had been scheduled for October at a Trump course.

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Clinton told CNN her disappointment extended to the entire Republican field for not being open to a path toward U.S. citizenship for Mexicans in the United States illegally.

"They're on a spectrum of hostility ... all the way to grudging acceptance but refusal to go with a pathway to citizenship. I think that's a mistake," she said.

Hillary Clinton slams Trump, Bush on immigration // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton bashed her potential Republican rivals on immigration reform Tuesday in the first national television interview of her second presidential campaign.

“They range across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile towards immigrants,” she told CNN of the vast – and still growing – field of 2016 GOP presidential candidates during a break between campaign events in Iowa.

But Clinton spoke in more specific detail about Donald Trump, whose incendiary recent comments on Mexican immigrants have led to almost a dozen companies to cut ties to the businessman. “I’m very disappointed in those comments and I feel very bad and very disappointed with him,” said Clinton of Trump, who has donated to her past campaigns. And in 2005, Clinton even attended Trump’s wedding to his current wife Melania Knauss.

Clinton added that she was disappointed “with the Republican Party for not responding immediately [to Trump] and saying enough, stop it. But they are all in the, you know, in the same general area on immigration,” she said.

Trump has been ranking in the top tier of recent polls of the 2016 Republican presidential field and is poised to potentially make the cutoff for the party’s first debates later this summer.

She wasn’t much kinder towards former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the GOP frontrunner who has been more amendable to immigration in the past. “He doesn’t believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time he no longer does,” she said.

Bush’s campaign spokesperson Emily Benavides responded to Clinton’s criticism in a statement released on Tuesday. ”Hillary Clinton has once again changed her position on an issue for politically expedient purposes,” Benavides said before faulting her in part for failing to pass immigration reform as a senator. “Hillary Clinton will say anything to get elected and her numerous flip-flops on immigration prove it,” she added.

As for herself, Clinton reiterated: “I am 100% behind comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship.”

Hillary Clinton just used Donald Trump to attack the entire GOP field // Business Insider // Colin Campbell – July 7, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is trying to connect all of her potential GOP rivals to real-estate developer Donald Trump.

Clinton responded to the ongoing Trump controversy in a Tuesday appearance on CNN, her first national media interview since launching her campaign in April.

The Democratic front-runner said she was "very disappointed" by Trump's heated remarks about illegal immigration. And she added that the entire Republican Party should have rushed to condemn them.

"I've very disappointed in those comments. And I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying, 'Enough. Stop it,'" she said.

Clinton was referring to Trump's controversial campaign launch in June, when he slammed the Mexican government for supposedly sending "rapists" and drug runners to the US. A number of companies have since severed ties with Trump, indicating they found his comments offensive.

Clinton sought to group together all of the Republican candidates, including Trump, because they aren't supporters of comprehensive immigration reform like she is. That included former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), who she pointed out does not support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants living in the US.

"But they are all in the same general area on immigration," she said. "They don't want to provide a path to citizenship. They range across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile towards immigrants. And I'm going to talk about comprehensive immigration reform. I'm going to talk about all of the good, law-abiding, productive members of the immigrant community that I personally know."

Although most Republicans did not "immediately" slam Trump, as Clinton said, many of the GOP candidates have

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described his immigration remarks as inappropriate — including Bush, former New York Gov. George Pataki (R), former Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R), Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida), and businesswoman Carly Fiorina.

Other contenders like Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson have dismissed the controversy as political correctness run amok.

Hillary Clinton Says She Is "Very Disappointed" in Donald Trump // Mother Jones // Inae Oh – July 7, 2015

In a new interview with CNN, Hillary Clinton weighed in on the continuing controversy over Donald Trump's presidential announcement speech in which he characterized Mexican immigrants crossing the border as criminals and "rapists."

"I am very disappointed in those comments," Clinton said. "I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and the Republican party for not responding immediately and saying 'enough stop it.'"

Trump's remarks have sparked national outrage over their racist descriptions, even prompting several businesses and television networks long associated with the real estate mogul to sever business ties with him. While most of the GOP presidential field have distanced themselves from Trump's comments, some including Sen. Ted Cruz have applauded him "on the need to address illegal immigration."

Trump has donated to Clinton's past campaigns on a number of occasions. He also contributed at least $100,000 to the Clinton Foundation.

Hillary Clinton Ties Jeb Bush to GOP Field on Immigration // TIME // Sam Frizell – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton attempted to link her Republican counterpart, Jeb Bush, with other GOP presidential candidates who have staked out positions against immigration reform.

In her first sit-down television interview since as a candidate, Clinton told CNN that the 2016 Republican field ranges “across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile toward immigrants.”

She also took aim at Bush, arguing that the former Florida governor’s position on immigration is “regrettable.”

“He doesn’t believe in a path to citizenship,” she said. “If he did at one time, he no longer does.”

Bush has walked a fine line on immigration. In a 2013 book he called for allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain permanent residency but not citizenship, though he later supported a bipartisan Senate bill that included a path to citizenship. In recent remarks, he’s backed a legal status short of citizenship.

Clinton, meantime, has made immigration reform a central part of her platform, saying that she supports a full path to citizenship for undocumented workers and that she would go farther than President Obama in using executive actions to protect illegal immigrants from deportation.

Bush spokeswoman Emily Benavides criticized Clinton for the comments, noting that as a U.S. Senator in 2007 she voted for a so-called “poison pill” amendment that helped derail immigration reform under President George W. Bush.

“Hillary Clinton has once again changed her position on an issue for politically expedient purposes. After voting for the poison pill amendment that stopped immigration reform in its tracks as a Senator and saying she believed the unaccompanied minors ‘should be sent back’ to their home countries last year, she is now running further to the left on immigration policy than even President Obama’s White House believes is legally feasible,” she said in a statement.

During the interview, Clinton also denounced GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has faced fire since he called Mexican immigrants “rapists” and “criminals” during his campaign launch last month. She said she was “very disappointed” with the business mogul, who previously donated to her Senate campaign and the Clinton Foundation.

But Clinton turned just as much fire on the Republican field overall, arguing it was not welcoming enough toward immigrants.

In the CNN interview, Clinton also denounced Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump’s comments about Mexican immigrants, whom the real estate mogul last month called “rapists” and “criminals.” Clinton said she was “very disappointed” with Trump, who donated to her Senate campaign and the Clinton Foundation.

“I think that’s a mistake,” she said. “I think that we know we’re not going to deport 11 million or 12 million people.

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We shouldn't be breaking up families. We shouldn't be stopping people from having the opportunity to be fully integrated legally within our country."

Hillary Clinton: Jeb Bush 'doesn't believe in a path to citizenship' // Miami Herald // Patricia Mezzai – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton declared herself "very disappointed" at Donald Trump -- a past supporter of her U.S. Senate campaign -- over his now-infamous remarks in which he claimed Mexican immigrants who cross the U.S. border are often criminals and rapists.

"I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying, 'Enough. Stop it,'" Clinton told CNN in an interview Tuesday. "But they are all in the same general area on immigration: They don't want to provide a path to citizenship. They range across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile toward immigrants."

Pressed about Republican Jeb Bush, who has called parents bringing children illegally into the U.S. an "act of love," Clinton maintained that the former Florida governor doesn't want to give people already in the country full-fledged legal status.

"He doesn't believe in a path to citizenship -- if he did at one time, he no longer does," she said. "As I said, they're on a spectrum of hostility which I think is really regrettable in a nation of immigrants like ours."

Bush has favored citizenship in the past. But in his book Immigration Wars, and recently on the campaign trail, he has instead backed legal status without citizenship, suggesting that might be a more achievable goal given contentious immigration politics.

Bush's camp countered by pointing to "flip-flops" by Clinton on immigration.

"Hillary Clinton has once again changed her position on an issue for politically expedient purposes. After voting for the poison pill amendment that stopped immigration reform in its tracks as a Senator and saying she believed the unaccompanied minors 'should be sent back' to their home countries last year, she is now running further to the left on immigration policy than even President Obama's White House believes is legally feasible," Bush spokeswoman Emily Benavides said in a statement.

"Hillary Clinton will say anything to get elected and her numerous flip-flops on immigration prove it."

Though Clinton didn't mention him, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio is one of the GOP contenders who says he's open to granting citizenship to many of the people in the country illegally. Bush, Rubio and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who shares a similar view, have all been criticized by some conservatives over their immigration support.

Hillary: All GOP candidates on a 'spectrum of hostility' toward im migrants // Breitbart // Pam Key – July 7, 2015

Tuesday on CNN's "The Lead With Jake Tapper," during a preview clip of their exclusive interview, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton accused everyone in the Republican presidential field of being on a "spectrum of hostility," towards immigrants.

When asked about Donald Trump's recent controversial comments on immigrants Clinton said, "I'm very disappointed in those comments. I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican party for not responding immediately and saying enough, stop it. But they are all in the same general area on immigration. You know, they don't want to provide a path to citizenship. They range across a spectrum of being begrudgingly welcoming or hostile toward immigrants. I'm going to talk about comprehensive immigration reform. I'm going to talk about the good law abiding, productive members of the immigrant community that I personally know. That I've met over the course of my life. That I would like to see have a path to citizenship."

When asked about Jeb Bush, Clinton said, "He doesn't believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time he no longer does. Pretty much as I said, they're on a spectrum of hostility, which I think is regrettable in a nation of immigrants like ours, all the way to grudging acceptance, but refusal to go with a pathway to citizenship. I think that's a mistake. We know we're not going to deport 11 or 12 million people. We shouldn't be breaking up families, we shouldn't be stopping people from having the opportunity to be fully integrated legally within our country. It's good for us. It's good economically, It's good for the taxes that will be legally collected. It's good for the children. So that they can go as far as their hard work and talent will take them. So I am 100 percent behind comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship citizenship."

Hillary Clinton 'very disappointed' in T rump, GOP on immigration // The Hill // Niall Stanage & Jonathan Easley – July 7, 2015

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Hillary Clinton slammed Donald Trump for his comments on Mexican immigrants in the first national interview of her presidential campaign.

“I'm very disappointed in those comments, and I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying, 'Enough, stop," Clinton said in the interview with CNN's Brianna Keilar.

Clinton was referring to Trump's comments attributing rampant crime to illegal immigrants from Mexico, which sparked a firestorm.

Clinton sought to link Trump, a GOP White House hopeful, to the Republican Party as a whole on immigration, saying "They are all in the same general area on immigration."

At a public event attended by several hundred supporters at the Iowa City Public Library earlier in the day, Clinton blasted Republicans for opposing a pathway to citizenship for those in the country illegally.

"I don't care how many people running for president on the Republican side try to demean immigrants, insult immigrants, cast aspersions on immigrants," Clinton said. “We are not going to deport 11 or 12 million people. … The Republican candidates, and it’s not just the ones who are most vitriolic, none of them support a path to citizenship. All of them would basically resign them to a life as second-class citizens.”

Clinton said that if elected president, she would return to the immigration bill passed by the Senate in 2010 that died in the House.

“That would be my starting point,” Clinton said. “You voted for it once. Let's vote for it again."

In her CNN interview, Clinton was asked about former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a leading candidate for the GOP nomination.

"He doesn't believe in a path to citizenship," she responded. "If he did at one time, he no longer does."

Clinton also pushed back on suggestions, backed by polling, that a significant segment of the public distrusts her.

She described such attacks as "a theme that has been used against me, and my husband, for many, many years." She added that she trusted the electorate to make up its own mind.

Clinton took a question about the rise of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders (I) in stride, saying she “always thought this would be a competitive race.”

Sanders has been pulling crowds of thousands of supporters and has cut into Clinton’s previously huge leads in the early-voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire. On Monday, Clinton Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri called Sanders “a serious force” her team is worried about.

But on Tuesday, Clinton touted the strength of her organization in Iowa, where she continues to lead Sanders by more than 20 points, according to the RealClearPolitics average of polls.

“I feel very good about where we are in Iowa we are signing up thousands of volunteers, people committed to caucus for us, a committed supporter in every one of the 1,600 precincts, and one of lessons I learned last time is organize, organize, organize,” Clinton said. “You’ve got to get people committed and then you bring more people. So I feel very good about where my campaign is."

Hillary to meet with black lawmakers **// The Hill // Christina Marcos – July 7, 2015**

Hillary Clinton will take a break from the presidential campaign trail July 14 to meet with lawmakers, including the Congressional Black Caucus, on Capitol Hill.

According to a Clinton official, the Democratic presidential front-runner will also meet with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

The meetings with each of the caucuses come as Clinton seeks to rebuild the diverse coalition that propelled President Obama into the White House.

Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) spokeswoman Candace Randle said lawmakers and the Democratic presidential front-runner will "discuss the CBC’s agenda and policy issues impacting the African-American community." Clinton’s closed-press meetings with lawmakers will be her first visit to Capitol Hill since formally announcing her presidential campaign in April. However, her campaign team has been in contact with members of each of the caucuses since the start of her candidacy.

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The 46-member CBC is made up almost entirely of House Democrats, with the exceptions of Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Rep. Mia Love (R-Utah). Two nonvoting delegates, Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and Stacey Plaskett (D-Virgin Islands), are also part of the caucus.

A total of 106 Democrats have already endorsed Clinton for president, including many members of the CBC.

CBC members who have declared support for Clinton include Booker and Reps. Karen Bass (Calif.), Joyce Beatty (Ohio), Eddie Bernice Johnson (Texas), Emanuel Cleaver (Mo.), Danny Davis (Ill.), Alcee Hastings (Fla.), Sheila Jackson Lee (Texas), Hank Johnson (Ga.), John Lewis (Ga.), Gregory Meeks (N.Y.), Charles Rangel (N.Y.), Cedric Richmond (La.), David Scott (Ga.), Terri Sewell (Ala.), Marc Veasey (Texas) and Frederica Wilson (Fla.).

Clinton has frequently waded into national discussions about race in recent months, including an April speech where she called for criminal justice reform and blasted racially charged police shootings.

“From Ferguson to Staten Island to Baltimore, the patterns have become unmistakable and undeniable,” Clinton said.

The former secretary of State said last month at a black church outside of St. Louis — not far from where the shooting in Ferguson, Mo., unfolded last summer — that the recent shooting in Charleston, S.C., shows the nation has more work to do in addressing race relations.

“I know it’s tempting to dismiss this tragedy as an isolated incident, to believe in today’s America that bigotry is largely behind us, that institutional racism no longer exists,” Clinton said. “But despite our best efforts and highest hopes, America’s long struggle with race is far from finished.”

Clinton has further sought to highlight her position on immigration reform compared to the GOP field. She told CNN in her first nationally televised interview on Tuesday that she was "very disappointed" with Donald Trump for his controversial comments about Mexicans, as well as with the rest of the Republican field for not thoroughly condemning them.

The Clinton Campaign Corralled Reporters, But Don't Expect Them To Skip The Next Parade // HuffPo // Michael Calderone – July 7, 2015

When a top-tier presidential candidate strides down Main Street, smiling and waving at parade-goers, political reporters and photographers are sure to follow. And follow they did on Saturday in Gorham, New Hampshire.

But run-of-the-mill campaigning quickly turned into media outrage as aides to Hillary Clinton reined in journalists with rope. The literal corralling spurred heaps of criticism, both of Clinton's campaign for being too controlling and the press corps for being too subservient.

The incident also prompted a larger question for newsrooms grappling with so many candidates to cover and so much information to sift through this election cycle: Is sending a reporter to a typical Fourth of July parade worth the hassle?

Daily Beast executive editor Noah Shachtman, who criticized the Clinton campaign’s heavy-handed tactics, said the incident affirmed his site’s tactical approach to the crowded field. "We have a small staff, so we’re not going to cover every burp and gaffe of all 900 people running for president," said Shachtman, who did not send a reporter to the parade.

He suggested reporters' time is better spent digging through documents and speaking to people impacted by political leaders' decisions, rather than flocking to stage-managed events. “We don’t want to do chock-a-block commodity news," he added, "and so, frankly, these events like parades are most of the time so newsless they’re not even worth covering.”

But it's the possibility of news being made that helps other editors justify dispatching reporters to the front lines of flag-strewn parade routes or meet-and-greets at the local diner. A candidate sticking to talking points at one event may open up at the next to a voter, or critic, thus offering a unique glimpse into his or her candidacy.

“We travel with candidates to see them in action, to see them interact with voters, to see who (and how many people) turn out for their events and to gather voters' impressions,” Carolyn Ryan, Washington bureau chief for The New York Times, said in an email.

“All these moments are revealing, in their own way: You never know when a college student is going to press Jeb Bush about Iraq or when Martin O'Malley is going to have to talk directly to people upset about the violence in Baltimore,” said Ryan. She also singled out Okie Howe, a 98-year-old Army veteran quoted in the paper’s round-up of July 4 campaign events around New Hampshire, who spoke about being a Democrat who was "sick of Hillary

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Clinton" but would likely vote for her anyway.

The goal, in essence, is to ensure that you're present when a non-manufactured campaign event takes place, even if it means suffering the occasional humiliation of a human corralling.

BuzzFeed political editor Katherine Miller said that while covering 2016 candidates, especially Clinton, “you don’t have a lot of unpredictable moments or situations where you see them interact with a lot of unknowns.” Clinton, she noted, was only at the July 4 parade “for 20 minutes and a ton of stuff happened.”

The resulting dispatch, from reporter Ruby Cramer, “showed what it looks like in a controlled environment when Clinton is speaking versus a very uncontrolled environment and what it says about her, what it says about the campaign," Miller said.

That report doesn't focus on policy. But for the past three months, much of the story surrounding Clinton has been process-themed -- from her handling of emails while secretary of State and the company she keeps to the combustible relationship she has with the press corps.

Clinton, the Democratic front-runner long before she officially jumped in the race in April, essentially has a mini-White House press corps along for the ride. Candidates trying to bolster their name recognition would kill for such attention, but the Clinton team, managing the movements of one of the most famous people in the world, is more likely to bristle at reporters’ desire for increased access to the candidate.

But so far, disputes over access haven’t led news organizations to stop covering Clinton's every move. And neither The New York Times nor BuzzFeed, part of a 14-member traveling press pool covering Clinton, is altering their game plan for dispatching reporters in light of Saturday’s debacle.

“I think the rope line was bad optics but a bit overblown on Twitter,” Ryan said. “I do wish Mrs. Clinton had taken some time to answer more reporters' questions before or after the parade.”

Hillary Clinton: ‘People Should and Do Trust Me’ // CNN // Eric Bradner – July 7, 2015

In Hillary Clinton's first national interview of the 2016 race, she attacked her Republican rivals on immigration and dismissed the suggestion that the American people have a problem trusting her.

"People should and do trust me," she told CNN's Brianna Keilar.

She blamed the "barrage of attacks that are largely fomented by and coming from the right" for fueling a perception that trust is an area of vulnerability for her.

Clinton displayed little hesitation about attacking Republicans herself, saying that she is "very disappointed" in Donald Trump for his comments about immigrants and in the Republican Party for not condemning his remarks more quickly.

She then pivoted to skewering the entire GOP field for their immigration stance, saying, "They're on a spectrum of hostility, which I think is really regrettable in a nation of immigrants like ours."

The interview foreshadowed the Clinton that will hit the campaign trail in the coming months as election season heats up. She was occasionally defensive, especially when pressed on whether she has any responsibility for the public's mistrust in her. But she had no problem with going on the offense against her Republican challengers.

Clinton took direct aim at GOP rival Jeb Bush.

"He doesn't believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time, he no longer does," she said.

The Bush campaign rebuffed Clinton's criticism and instead accused her of flip-flopping on immigration.

"Hillary Clinton will say anything to get elected and her numerous flip-flops on immigration prove it," said Emily Benavides, a Bush campaign spokeswoman, in a statement.

"As he outlined in his book on this issue, Gov. Bush believes in a conservative legislative solution to fix our broken immigration system that includes earned legal status for those currently in the country after they pay fines and taxes, learn English and commit no substantial crimes while securing our border," she said.

Clinton also blamed the city of San Francisco for mishandling the case of an undocumented immigrant who had been deported five times before killing a woman there -- in a sanctuary city where local law enforcement do not enforce federal immigration laws.

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"The city made a mistake, not to deport someone that the federal government strongly felt should be deported," she said. "I have absolutely no support for a city that ignores the strong evidence that should be acted on."

The full interview aired Tuesday on "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer" and will re-air at 8 p.m. on "Anderson Cooper 360."

Pressed on why the public has a hard time trusting her, Clinton maintained she faced "the same kind of onslaught" in her two New York Senate campaigns and her confirmation as secretary of state, and said Republicans have sought to turn controversies like her use of a private email address and the Clinton Foundation's actions against her.

And that, Clinton said, is why national polls and swing-state surveys have found that a majority of voters say they don't see her as honest and trustworthy.

A Quinnipiac University Swing State poll found that by margins of 8 to 14 percentage points voters in Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania are skeptical of Clinton's trustworthiness.

In Florida, 51% of voters hold the negative view of Clinton, compared to 43% who feel she is trustworthy. In Ohio, 53% of voters find Clinton not trustworthy, compared to 40% who do. And in Pennsylvania, 54% of voters don't find her honest, while 40% do.

"I think it's understandable that when questions are raised, people maybe are thinking about them and wondering about them," Clinton said.

"But I have every confidence that during the course of this campaign, people are going to know who will fight for them, who will be there when they need them, and that's the kind of person I am and that's what I will do, not only in a campaign but as president," she said.

Asked whether she played a role in the sentiment reflected in polls that she's not trustworthy, Clinton said: "This has been a theme that has been used against me and my husband for many, many years. And at the end of the day, I think voters sort it all out."

She similarly dismissed questions about her use of a personal email address on a private server while serving as secretary of state.

Clinton said she turned over all the emails -- including some which show her using a secured fax machine, or asking for iced tea during meetings -- that had anything to do with public business, and that she broke no laws in sticking with one device because she's not technically savvy.

"This is being blown up with no basis in law or in fact. That's fine, I get it -- this is being, in effect, used by the Republicans in the Congress. OK," Clinton said. "But I want people to understand what the truth is, and the truth is, everything I did was permitted and I went above and beyond what was expected."

If elected president, Clinton said she doesn't have any plans to push for the closure of the Clinton Foundation -- which has faced criticism for accepting foreign contributions during her tenure as America's top diplomat -- if she's elected president.

"I have no plans to say or do anything about the Clinton foundation other than to say I am proud of it and I think for the good of the world, its work should continue," she said.

The interview spanned a broad range of topics -- among them a discussion of adding a woman to the $10 bill. Clinton declined to select a favorite woman for the honor, but suggested a woman should instead go on a $20.

"I don't like the idea that as a compromise you would basically have two people on the same bill. One would be a woman. That sounds pretty second class to me," Clinton said. "So I think a woman should have her own bill."

Nor would she pick which Saturday Night Live actress, Amy Poehler or Kate McKinnon, plays the best Hillary Clinton.

"Amy's a friend of mine and Kate's doing a great job. You're not going to get me to pick one or the other," she said. "I think I'm the best Hillary Clinton."

Top 8 takeaways from Hillary Clinton's first big interview // CNN // Eric Bradner - July 7, 2015

Iowa City, Iowa - Hillary Clinton was keenly aware of how long she'd gone as a presidential candidate without sitting down for a nationally televised interview.

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"Ninety days on Sunday," she told CNN's Brianna Keilar on Tuesday in the first of what will be a series of national interviews.

As Bernie Sanders rises in the polls among liberals and Republicans continue to make Clinton the subject of a barrage of attacks, her answers offered some insight into the Democratic frontrunner's thinking at this stage of the campaign.

Here are eight of Clinton's key statements -- and why they matter for 2016:

1. "This has been a theme that has been used against me and my husband for many, many years."

Three decades in the limelight have meant both Bill and Hillary Clinton have weathered intense scrutiny and criticism. Clinton acknowledged that polls show a majority of Americans don't view her as honest and trustworthy -- but true to her long-standing posture declined to take any responsibility for the sentiment.

The latest round of public incredulity focuses on her use of a private email address while serving as secretary of state, and her family foundation's acceptance of foreign contributions during that tenure.

Clinton sees those as the latest in a long line of unfair attacks from Republicans, rather than legitimate lines of inquiry. And she claims she's not sweating the "trust" problem.

"At the end of the day, I think voters sort it all out," Clinton said.

2. "They're on a spectrum of hostility, which I think it's really regrettable in a nation of immigrants like ours."

It was a direct assault on the entire Republican presidential field -- and Jeb Bush, in particular.

Clinton used a question about Donald Trump's controversial remarks about Mexican immigrants to hammer her GOP opponents, saying that they don't support providing undocumented immigrants with pathways to gaining U.S. citizenship. By painting Bush, Trump and the rest of the Republican field with the same brush, Clinton hopes to hurt the entire party in a general election with Latino voters.

"I'm very disappointed in those comments and I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying, 'Enough, stop it,'" Clinton said.

Bush -- and other Republicans -- eventually criticized Trump's comments, but only after several days had passed.

3. "The city made a mistake not to deport someone that the federal government strongly felt should be deported."

Clinton still senses some danger on the issue of illegal immigration, criticizing San Francisco for failing to deport a man who'd been sent back to Mexico five times before -- and has admitted killing a woman after returning again.

The man was released from police custody in April after drug charges were dropped, and he wasn't deported because San Francisco is a "sanctuary city" for undocumented immigrants, despite the Department of Homeland Security weighing in.

She's said she supports going further than President Barack Obama has on undocumented immigrants -- but only for those who obey the law.

"I have absolutely no support for a city that ignores the strong evidence that should be acted on," she said.

4. "I am happy to have a chance to get out and run my campaign as I see fit and let other candidates do exactly the same."

In other words: I'm not going to talk about Bernie Sanders.

Recent polls show Sanders climbing closer to Clinton in New Hampshire and Iowa, two key early voting states. But Clinton isn't yet ready to directly engage Sanders, training her fire instead on Republicans.

That's in part because her campaign wants to see whether Sanders has staying power, and in part because by attacking him, she risks elevating his already growing stature.

5. "One of the things I learned last time is organize, organize, organize."

Clinton is trying to atone for the sins of her 2008 campaign among Iowa Democratic caucus voters by taking the process seriously.

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It's why she was in Iowa City -- in the heart of eastern Iowa, which went heavily for Barack Obama in the 2008 caucuses.

Clinton has shown she's able to learn from her mistakes: Those who followed her 2008 Iowa campaign say they see a looser, more comfortable candidate; and she's ejected many of the most divisive figures from that previous bid.

Now, she's touting having signed up a volunteer to work the caucus process for her in all of Iowa's more than 1,600 precincts.

"You've got to get people committed, and then they will bring more people through," Clinton said.

6. "I'm not running my campaign for the press. I'm running it for the voters."

Throughout her nascent campaign, Clinton has been criticized for rarely taking questions from the press. That criticism was thrust to the forefront again over the Fourth of July holiday when photos of reporters being held back by a moving rope line at a parade were published.

Instead, Clinton said she's preferred small group events that have allowed her to reconnect with average Americans after more than six years out of domestic politics. She's also been a tireless fundraiser, attending house party after house party to raise $45 million in the campaign's first three months.

Still, Clinton said she's ready to shift gears: The CNN interview, she said, was the first of what will be a number of sit-downs with national outlets.

7. "A secure fax machine, which is harder to work than the regular."

A tense exchange about Clinton's use of a personal email address on a private server while at the State Department turned light, when Clinton cracked jokes and once again sought to send the message: Nothing to see here, let's move along.

"Now, I didn't have to turn over anything," Clinton said. "I chose to turn over 55,000 pages because I wanted to go above and beyond what was expected of me because I knew the vast majority of everything that was official already was in the State Department system."

Then, she added: "Now I think it's kind of fun. People get to see a real-time, behind-the-scenes look at what I was emailing about and what I was communicating about."

Keilar highlighted the emails that showed Clinton messaging now-top aide John Podesta about wearing socks to bed, and an exchange depicting an epic struggle by Clinton to operate a fax machine.

On the latter, Clinton couldn't help but offer a defense.

"Yes, a secure fax machine, which is harder to work than the regular," she said.

8. "I think I'm the best Hillary Clinton."

Asked by Keilar which "Saturday Night Live" actress best satirizes her on the NBC program, Clinton demurred, but offered praise for both Amy Poehler, who impersonated her in 2008, and Kate McKinnon, who has done the job so far in this campaign cycle.

"Amy's a friend of mine and Kate's doing a great job. You're not going to get me to pick one or the other," she said. "I think I'm the best Hillary Clinton, to be honest."

Hillary Clinton Tweets & Deletes This Photo Of Her Shaking Hands With A White Man With A "White" Tattoo // Bustle // Melissah Yang – July 8, 2015

Hillary Clinton is making the rounds in every corner of the good ol' U.S. of A., and one of her most recent stops was at Lebanon, New Hampshire, where she encountered all sorts of characters during her campaign trip. One unidentified fellow stirred up some deep rumblings online after her official Twitter account on Tuesday tweeted and then deleted a photo of Clinton shaking hands with a white man whose forearm sported a very visible "white" tattoo. Now, we don't necessarily know what the "white" tattoo actually stands for, but I mean, I'm pretty sure the guy's tat doesn't have to do with his undying love for Breaking Bad's Walter White.

The now deleted photo was captioned with, "I think we are a nation that really believes in a helping hand, in the generosity of connecting with friends, neighbors, and strangers to give them chance they might not otherwise have." The Hillary quote came from a speech Clinton gave at Dartmouth College over the Fourth of July weekend,

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during which the presidential candidate detailed her mother's struggles growing up.

But let's not take the photo at face value. Clinton was shaking lots of hands that day, and this unfortunately became the snapshot her campaign chose to represent the "every American" candidate meeting with normal folks outside a Dairy Twirl. According to BuzzFeed, the Clinton camp said the tweet and photo were "removed out of caution after people pointed out the tattoo."

OK, so let's acknowledge that Clinton's Twitter isn't solo-managed by her. She obviously has a team of people running the Twitter machine on her behalf. But that's what makes the mistake that much more ridiculous. You can bet someone got fired for this. Or at least, a fierce tongue lashing.

Once again hawk-eyed Twittizens, thank you for capturing and saving every "oops" moment coming out of this election circuit circus.

How Hillary Clinton's campaign fakes grassroots love // NY Post // Philip Rucker - July 8, 2015

One day in May, operatives from a Washington-based super PAC gathered New Hampshire mayors, state representatives and local politicos at St. Anselm College for a day of training.

They rehearsed their personal tales of how they met Hillary Rodham Clinton and why they support her for president. They sharpened their defenses of her record as secretary of state.

They scripted their arguments for why the Democratic front-runner has been "a lifetime champion of income opportunity." And they polished their on-camera presentations in a series of mock interviews.

The objective of the sessions: To nurture a seemingly grass-roots echo chamber of Clinton supporters reading from the same script in communities across New Hampshire, a critical state that hosts the nation's first presidential primary.

The super PAC, called Correct the Record, convened similar talking-point tutorials and media-training classes in May and June in three other early voting states — Iowa, South Carolina and Nevada — as well as sessions earlier this spring in California.

Presidential campaigns have for decades fed talking points to surrogates who appear on national TV or introduce candidates on the stump.

But the effort to script and train local supporters is unusually ambitious and illustrates the extent to which the Clinton campaign and its web of sanctioned, allied super PACs are leaving nothing to chance.

When, say, a Londonderry Times reporter calls a Rockingham County Democratic Committee member for comment on Clinton, he or she will parrot Correct the Record's talking points about Clinton having been a fighter for the middle class — from improving rural health care as first lady of Arkansas to raising the minimum wage as a New York senator.

"We are holding sessions with top communicators across the country where we talk about the best ways to discuss Secretary Clinton's strong record of accomplishments, how to articulate Secretary Clinton's positions most effectively and how to correct Republican operatives' distortions of the facts," said Adrienne Watson, communications director at Correct the Record.

Correct the Record — one of several super PACs run by Clinton ally David Brock — coordinates some of its activities with Clinton's campaign, but officials said the campaign played no role in the training sessions.

Clinton's campaign has its own surrogate operation that distributes talking points to supporters to ensure their messages in local and national media are consistent.

The super PAC's on-camera media training was conducted by the Franklin Forum and led by the group's president, John Neffinger, a Democratic strategist who specializes in coaching people for television interviews.

Correct the Record held a series of similar media sessions in the spring of 2014 to prepare Clinton backers for interviews surrounding her national book tour for "Hard Choices," the memoir from her State Department years.

To supporters like Eleni Kounalakis, who served as ambassador to Hungary in Clinton's State Department, the program is welcome news.

In March, she participated with about 20 other supporters in a Correct the Record session in San Francisco and said it helped her and other Clinton fans refine the case they make for Clinton's candidacy in public.

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"Many people who are very vocal in supporting Secretary Clinton are very comfortable talking about why among their friends and in small groups — but when it comes to talking to the media, that can be very intimidating," Kounalakis said. "Some people feel like, I know Hillary has been there for the working person in her life, in her career, but I want someone to help me prepare those arguments so that I have that confidence to speak in a broader context."

Nick Sottile, 21, president of the College Democrats of South Carolina, said he felt "lucky" to attend a May 7 Correct the Record session in Columbia, SC.

"It got right to the heart of things — how to cut through the noise and talk about Secretary Clinton's record," Sottile said. "And not just what to say, but how to talk about her as a young person in South Carolina. It was good training in how to be an effective talker."

Hillary Clinton Thinks Email Scandal Is Annoying, Says Everything She Did Was Legal, So Back Off // Bustle // Chris Tognotti – July 7, 2015

Tuesday was a huge day for Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton, owing to the occasion of her first major press interview — she sat down to speak with CNN's Briana Keilar, and the pair covered a number of topics. Including one area of conversation that's been dogging her for months now, one which she hasn't offered much comment on since a press conference in March — that's right, I'm talking about that private email controversy. Hillary Clinton talked about the emails in her CNN interview, and her response was that everything was legal and proper.

While the email story had somewhat faded from the headlines since March, it was stirred up again last week when the State Department released a selection of 3,000 messages sent from her private email account — that she had a private account at all has raised criticism, thanks to the ever-present threat of hacking and cyber-warfare in this day and age.

It probably shouldn't come as much surprise that Clinton didn't dive into the issue with so much scrutiny as to reinflame any criticism — from her perch as the frontrunner in the Democratic field, outpacing the still-distant second-place challenger Bernie Sanders of Vermont, it could be a conscious political strategy to not dive into certain sensitive topics when she can avoid it. But to Keilar's credit, the issue was raised in the high-profile interview, giving us all a chance to see how Clinton responded in an on-the-record setting.

As Keilar asked her to explain her mindset in deleting tens of thousands of emails from her private server after her tenure as Secretary of State, Clinton made her disdain for the issue obvious.

Everything i did was permitted. There was no law, there was no regulation, there was nothing that did not give me full authority to decide how to communicate. Previous Secretaries of State have said they did the same thing, and people across the government knew that I used one device. Maybe it was because I'm not the most technically capable person, and wanted to make it as simple as possible.

Keilar didn't let the issue lie, however — she pressed further, invoking a subpoena over Clinton's emails, something the former Secretary disputed immediately.

You're starting with so many assumptions, I've never had a subpoena. Let's take a deep breath here. Everything i did was permitted by law and regulation. ... I chose to turn over 55,000 pages because I wanted to go above and beyond what was expected of me, because i knew everything that was official was already in the state department system.
Obviously, this was but one small, isolated part of a far rangier interview, and to be fair to Clinton, the email criticism has always been less about her qualifications and viability as a candidate and a potential president than her transparency.

But considering how the full scope of the interview, transparency issues seem like they could get pretty crucial for her. Keilar also questioned Clinton about her flagging trustworthiness ratings, asking whether she bore any responsibility for the situation, and Clinton didn't cede much ground — she instead blamed Republican narratives and attacks.

Clinton has drawn some fire over the last week for her campaign's treatment of the press, and while it's still too early to say whether the more controlled, reserved approach will help or hurt her, this much seems clear: she's trying not to extend herself unnecessarily, unless a real threat were to emerge from the Democratic field. The more you have to duke it out in the primaries, laying out concrete policy positions (Sanders will surely challenge Clinton from the left), the harder it can be to recalibrate your image for a general election's national audience.

And all candidates do attempt that kind of recalibration, even if they never say it. That was essentially what Romney campaign adviser Eric Fehrnstrom meant with his infamous "etch-a-sketch" remark in 2012, which brought a lot of derision and criticism on the campaign.

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This could potentially be a risky strategy, sure, although there aren't any Senator Barack Obamas out there anymore. Whatever you think of Bernie Sanders, who's well-loved by many in the party's left-wing, he's not quite the charismatic rhetorical force that Obama was in 2008.

But obviously, Clinton has to submit to questions from the press every now and then, and Keilar was first-up to secure that opportunity. Clinton's explanation on the email controversy will surely not be enough for her critics, and maybe even some of her supporters, but it remains to be seen whether this is something that voters will truly care about when the early primaries roll around.

Hillary Clinton on Bernie Sanders: It's going to be 'competitive' **// MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – July 7, 2015**

Hillary Clinton said Tuesday that she was not surprised by Democratic challenger Bernie Sanders' recent surge in polls, adding that running for president should not easy.

"This is going to be competitive. It should be competitive," she told reporters in Iowa ahead of the first national television interview of her second presidential campaign. "The more the better."

Sanders, a senator from Vermont, has been attracting large crowds as he travels to early voting states and liberal cities across the country. Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, has so far declined to engage directly with her challenger, saying she'll leave it up to the voters.

Clinton spoke at the Iowa City Public Library in Iowa City, a Democratic stronghold that she hopes to win in the state's critical caucuses in February 2016. She also took questions from the audience after facing criticism in recent days for limiting public and press access to her.

After facing criticism for keeping reporters behind a rope line during a July 4 parade, Clinton cracked a joke about the incident. "Is that the equivalent of a rope we have up there? I think it should come down. I don't want anybody to stress," she said, instructing an aide to take down the barrier between her and the press.

Getting a bit reflective, Clinton called the 2016 campaign "my last rodeo" and vowed to work to build the Democratic Party in Washington and across the country to outlive her time in public office. Clinton marveled when she realized that, if her presidential run were successful and she won re-election, she would not retire until 2025. "Golly," she said as she worked the math out in her head.

Clinton seemed to acknowledge that Democrats lack a deep pool of national talent, a fact some have blamed on her freezing out competition in the Democratic primary. "I believe that we can leave the country in good shape for the future and we can get a deep bench," she said.

And she vowed to whip Democrats into shape for midterm elections, which tend to favor the GOP thanks to higher Republican voter turnout. "They know the importance of midterm elections because they show up, and we don't," she said of Democrats.

During her remarks, Clinton took the opportunity to discuss immigration reform, an issue that she has so far discussed mainly in front of Latino audiences. "I'm going to make this a big issue in the campaign. I'm going to talk about it like I talked about it here, and I'll talk about it everywhere, because I want people who vote for me to know they're voting for comprehensive immigration reform," she said.

Many of Clinton's Republican opponents, she continued, are trying to "demean immigrants, insult immigrants, cast aspersion on immigrants." And their plans for immigration reform would relegate migrants to "second-class status," Clinton added.

Clinton also weighed in on the debt crisis in Greece, calling the issue "a tragedy." Clinton said she hoped for a resolution that "keeps Greece in the eurozone and keeps Europe united."

She declined to take a stance on the marathon negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, however, saying it would be inappropriate to comment while the talks continue. She reiterated that any deal "needs to be full transparency, disclosure and verifiable inspections going forward."

Clinton also warned that the fight over Obamacare is not over, despite the recent Supreme Court ruling upholding a key pillar of the law. "If a Republican is elected president, that will be the end of the Affordable Care Act," she said.

Grassley Probing Clinton Aide's Dual Role at State, Clinton Foundation **// Free Beacon // Alana Goodman – July 7, 2015**

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Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R., Iowa) called on the State Department to turn over documents related to Hillary Clinton's top aide Cheryl Mills' special employment status at the agency in a letter to Secretary John Kerry on Monday.
Grassley also demanded to know why the State Department omitted Mills from a list of "special government employees," or "SGEs," for 2009 that it turned over to the Senate Judiciary Committee last year.

The State Department told the Washington Free Beacon last month that Mills was an "SGE" in 2009, which freed her from some ethics rules restrictions and allowed her to hold outside employment and serve on the Clinton Foundation board.

Grassley said this disclosure "directly contradicts the information that the State Department provided to this Committee."

Grassley's letter was prompted by a Free Beacon article last month that reported long-time Clinton aide Cheryl Mills had simultaneously worked as State Department chief of staff and as New York University's general counsel from January to May 2009.

Mills also continued to serve on the board of the Clinton Foundation for over a month after joining the State Department. During this time she was involved in discussions about vetting Bill Clinton's paid speeches for potential conflicts of interest, according to internal agency emails.

Grassley said in the letter that Mills' "simultaneous relationship with the State Department, Clinton Foundation and her actions on behalf of President Clinton's paid speaking engagements raise important questions."

He also noted that "federal law prohibits SGEs and full time employees from participating personally and substantially in matters that have a direct and predictable effect on their financial interests or financial interests of others with whom they have certain relationships."

Grassley called on Kerry to explain why Mills' special employment status was not disclosed to the committee, whether any steps were taken to prevent ethics law violations, and whether she was recused from any matters while working as an SGE.
The senator also asked why she was designated as an SGE, whether it had an impact on her security clearance, and whether she disclosed her relationship with the Clinton Foundation to the State Department. He called on Kerry to respond by July 20.

Grassley has also made inquiries into Clinton aide Huma Abedin's prior SGE status at the State Department.

Dem Millenials In Iowa Not Ready To Fully Support Clinton **// CBS – July 7, 2015**

Democratic millenials in Iowa aren't ready to fully throw their support behind Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

CBS News spoke to several young Democrats for their take on the former secretary of state.

"I talk to some of my friends and they're already on the Hillary Clinton bandwagon and they're going to do whatever it takes to make sure she's elected and then I have some other friends who maybe aren't quite as excited or maybe really just want to hear more about what people have to say about the issues before they make their decision," Nathan Erickson told CBS News. "I think that Democrats and the American public as a whole would benefit from a good, strong primary on both sides and then a good general election."

Erickson added that he's interested in hearing more from two other candidates: former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb.

Ryan Crane, who caucused for John Edwards in 2008, says he's kicking the tires on all the Democratic candidates.

"Hillary Clinton of course has a certain air of inevitability… but you know she didn't do great in Iowa, as we all remember in 2008, so it is beneficial to keep an open mind and look at all the candidates," Crane explained to CBS News.

Democratic political consultant Sam Roecker tells CBS News that Clinton needs to spend time in the state to win Iowans over.

"There's a lot of support for Hillary in Iowa but Iowans do take the caucuses very seriously; they know that this isn't a coronation of any candidate, they know that they will take the time to meet with these candidates, go to events with them, listen to what they have to say, listen to their vision for the country, and then make a decision. This isn't something where they have their minds set from the start," he said.

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Clinton plans to give CNN her first one-on-one national television interview since launching her 2016 presidential campaign.

The network said on Monday the Clinton interview with CNN's Brianna Keilar will air Tuesday at 5 p.m. and again at 8 p.m. EDT. CNN said Clinton will be interviewed during a campaign stop in Iowa City, Iowa.

The Democratic presidential front-runner has conducted local interviews in the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada but has yet to sit for a one-on-one interview with national media.Clinton has emphasized smaller events and house parties since launching her campaign.

Clinton has a solid lead in polls but Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, her main Democratic challenger, has recently drawn large crowds.

Hillary Clinton Deletes Photo Of Herself And Man With "White" Tattoo // Buzzfeed // Claudia Koerner – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign removed a photo Tuesday showing Clinton shaking hands with a man with a tattoo that said "white" on his arm.

The tweet was removed from Clinton's account, but not before it had been retweeted by others.

The photo was taken outside Dairy Twirl in Lebanon, New Hampshire, where Clinton stopped on July 3.

The town is in New Hampshire's White Mountains region, where Clinton spent the Independence Day weekend walking in a parade and speaking with voters.

Clinton shook many hands over the weekend. The identity of the man — or the significance of his tattoo — was not immediately clear.

According to Clinton's campaign, she was meeting people along the street when the man came up to her and asked to shake her hand.

The tweet and photo were removed out of caution after people pointed out the tattoo, the campaign said.

Hillary Clinton's guide to throwing a house party // Political Party Time // Nicko Margolies – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton may be raising more than half a million dollars a day, but in a guide written by her campaign intended for grassroots event hosts the emphasis is on the collection of data about attendees. The document, obtained by the Sunlight Foundation's Political Party Time and embedded below, tells hosts that sharing the sign-up data of the guests is "the single most important thing you can do for the campaign and for Hillary."

The "House Party Host Guide" runs through the logistical process, legal hurdles and effective tactics for an event to transform potential voters into active campaign participants and donors. There is extensive sample language for every correspondence and design templates, like the invitation seen above to the right, to ensure grassroots communications match the tone of the general campaign.

The campaign encourages hosts in the guide to "Enter your information in at www.hilllaryclinton.com/data ." That link goes to a form to enter attendees and offers an alternative if that is too burdensome: "Remember, if you don't want to enter folks 1 by 1, you can email your guest list to grassrootsdata@hillaryclinton.com ."

While the guide does tell hosts, "If it makes sense for your party, feel free to ask for donations," the downplay of money is markedly different than the dozens of large donor fundraising invitations collected by Political Party Time. An invitation to a series of "Conversations with Hillary" events in early June includes the dollar amount to attend (up to $2,700) and an event on July 2 requires a donation and RSVP to get the address.

Read the entire guide below, and help us follow the 2016 money by anonymously uploading any invitation you receive here.

Hillary Clinton: hacking problem not limited to China // Reuters – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton on Tuesday said hacking is a broad threat to U.S. security and business that often comes from other countries such as China and Iran, and the federal government has not done enough to protect U.S. information.

"It's not only the Chinese. We know that other governments - Russia, North Korea, Iran - have either directly or indirectly sponsored hacking," said the former Secretary of State during a campaign stop in Iowa, a key state in

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deciding Democrats' nominee for the 2016 presidential election. "And we worry about terrorist organizations getting access to the capacity."

Hillary Clinton: Cyber Legislation in Congress Is 'Not Enough' to Stop Foreign Hackers // National Journal // Dustin Volz – July 7, 2015

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Tuesday said that stalled cybersecurity legislation in Congress "doesn't go far enough" to protect the U.S. from debilitating hacks sponsored by a cadre of foreign countries.

During a brief question-and-answer session with the press in Iowa, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination expanded to four the list of countries she has publicly charged with waging cyberwarfare that represents a serious commercial and national security threat

"It's not only the Chinese. We know that other governments—Russia, North Korea, Iran—have either directly or indirectly sponsored hacking," the former secretary of State said. "And we worry about terrorist organizations getting access to the capacity."

Clinton—who grabbed headlines over the weekend by assailing China for "trying to hack into everything that doesn't move"—added that legislation to expand the sharing of "cyberthreat data" alone between the government and private sector is not enough to thwart malicious activity.

"We've been trying to get a good plan going forward; we're making a little bit of progress on that in the Congress. It is, for me, not enough," Clinton said. "It doesn't go far enough to try to have better coordination between the public and private sector."

Clinton listed "cumbersome procurement and bureaucratic obstacles within the federal government" as other obstacles inhibiting cybersecurity, referencing the rocky roll-out of HealthCare.gov in 2013 as evidence that government is in need of a technological overhaul that includes a more streamlined process for working with IT contractors.

Clinton did not clarify which specific info-sharing legislation she was referring to, however—or whether it alone would be a useful step forward. Two similar info-sharing bills easily passed the House earlier this year, and a Senate version, known as the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, has stalled after clearing the Senate Intelligence Committee on a 14-1 vote. A plan by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to attach CISA as an amendment to a defensive authorization bill backfired last month because Democrats refused to support it due to procedural concerns.

Privacy advocates and many computer experts have warned that expanding information-sharing would not do much to prevent or minimize cyberattacks, and that such legislation could actually embolden government surveillance by handing more data over to the National Security Agency.

Government officials have privately pointed to China as the culprit behind a massive data breach of personnel files at the Office of Personnel Management, a hack that has affected millions of current and former federal employees. Some lawmakers have also said China is to blame, although the Obama administration continues to resist accusing Beijing publicly.

Clinton's comments are her most detailed about cybersecurity since officially declaring her White House bid nearly three months ago. She said Tuesday that her concerns about foreign nations hacking the U.S. date back to her tenure as secretary of State.

"It started with the grave concerns that a lot of American businesses had, that their most confidential information was being vacuumed up through intrusive hacking," Clinton said. "It's a serious threat to our commercial interests, to our intelligence interests, to our strategic interests."

Hillary Clinton calls for bankruptcy law change so Puerto Rico can tackle debt // Reuters – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton has joined calls for changes in US bankruptcy laws that would enable Puerto Rico's public entities to restructure some $72bn in debt.

Puerto Rico's 'unpayable' debt: is this the Greece of the western hemisphere?

In Washington, two Democratic senators hope to move forward within weeks with legislation in Congress that would allow the US territory to restructure debts in bankruptcy court, instead of risking chaos.

Governor Alejandro García Padilla of Puerto Rico dropped a bombshell on debt holders a week ago by saying he wanted to restructure debt and postpone bond payments. He urged changes to US bankruptcy laws that currently

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exclude Puerto Rico.

Like US states, Puerto Rico cannot file for bankruptcy protection. But Puerto Rico's public entities do not have the ability of US municipalities to enlist Chapter 9 of the US bankruptcy code to restructure their debt.

"As a first step, Congress should provide Puerto Rico the same authority that states already have to enable severely distressed government entities, including municipalities and public corporations, to restructure their debts under Chapter 9," Clinton said in a statement given to Reuters.

Puerto Rico has been in a recession for nearly a decade and has an unemployment rate of more than 12% while some 40% of the population lives below the US poverty line, according to government data.

Clinton, a former secretary of state, US senator and first lady, is the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination in the November 2016 presidential election.

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, both Clinton rivals for the Democratic nomination, have also endorsed easing the bankruptcy laws also for Puerto Rico.

Analysis Colony, state or independence: Puerto Rico's status anxiety adds to debt crisis
The island's classification as a US territory complicates something as simple as bankruptcy filings, prompting many to wonder if statehood is the best option

Residents of Puerto Rico are not entitled to electoral votes for president, but Puerto Ricans make up the second-largest Hispanic origin group in the United States after Mexicans.

A bill proposed by Puerto Rico's non-voting representative in Congress to allow access to Chapter 9 bankruptcy laws stalled in the Republican-run House of Representatives after a hearing in February.

Now Democratic senators Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Chuck Schumer of New York are readying a similar bill.

"It's much broader than just Puerto Rico's problem because the bondholders and creditors are on the American mainland and perhaps even throughout the world," Blumenthal told Reuters in an interview.

"A lot of Americans hold these bonds … they are entitled to an orderly and rational process so that they receive the most possible payment as quickly as possible," he said.

A significant number of American mom and pop investors have exposure to Puerto Rico. About 52% of muni open-ended funds are invested in Puerto Rico bonds according to data from Morningstar.

The White House said last week that it did not contemplate a federal bailout but that Congress should examine whether Puerto Rico's government-owned corporations should be able to access Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection.

Blumenthal and Schumer are searching for Republican co-sponsors in the Senate, which like the House has a Republican majority. But some key Republicans seem unimpressed.

"Bankruptcy alone isn't going to solve all of the financial problems Puerto Rico has gotten itself into," said Beth Levine, a spokeswoman for the Senate judiciary committee chairman, Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican.

Some creditors are opposed to Chapter 9, fearful that it will weaken their negotiating position and reduce their chances of recovering their money.

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush said in April that he thinks Puerto Rico's public agencies should have the ability to use US bankruptcy laws.

Clinton said "inconsistent and incoherent" application of US federal law had contributed to Puerto Rico's economic situation, and its economy had shrunk in eight of the last nine years.

"One troubling example of this treatment is the lack of equity in federal funding for Puerto Rico under Medicaid and Medicare," Clinton said of the US government healthcare programs.

Clinton Blames 'The Right' For Trust Attacks **// NPR // Jessica Taylor – July 7, 2015**

Hillary Clinton worked to paint herself as honest and trustworthy in her first national television interview of the 2016 campaign, blaming Republicans for damaging questions about her time at the State Department and her family's charitable foundation.

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"This has been a theme that has been used against me and my husband for many, many years," the Democratic presidential hopeful told CNN's Brianna Keilar in Iowa, noting that she's been "subjected to the kind of constant barrage of attacks that are largely fomented by and coming from the right."

She added, "[A]t the end of the day, I think voters sort it all out. I have great confidence. I trust the American voter. So I trust the American voter 100 percent, because I think the American voter will weigh these kinds of accusations."

Clinton's honest and trustworthy ratings have taken a hit in recent months. In the most recent CNN poll, nearly 6 in 10 Americans said they didn't believe she was honest and trustworthy. Democrats still maintain a positive view of her, but Republicans believe it will weaken her in a general election.

Some of that skepticism has been fueled by her use of a private email server while at the State Department. Clinton defended that decision, saying she has been transparent in calling for over thousands of emails to be released, the first of which came out last week.

"Let's take a deep breath here," Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, said in the interview. "Everything I did was permitted by law and regulation. I had one device. When I mailed anybody in the government, it would go into the government system. Now, I didn't have to turn over anything. I chose to turn over 55,000 pages, because I wanted to go above and beyond what was expected of me because I knew the vast majority of everything that was official already was in the State Department system."

That echoed much of what Clinton said earlier this year before she got into the presidential campaign.

"This is being blown up with no basis in law or in fact," Clinton continued. "That's fine. I get it. This is being, in effect, used by the Republicans in the Congress."

Clinton also defended the Clinton foundation, which has faced questions about foreign donations accepted while she was secretary of state. Clinton said the work of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and daughter, Chelsea, should keep going if she wins the presidency.

"I have no plans to say or do anything about the Clinton foundation," she said, "other than to say how proud I am of it and that I think for the good of the world, its work should continue."

Of her chief rival, Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, Clinton downplayed concern about his rising position in the polls and the record crowds he's been drawing.

On Monday, her communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, acknowledged that the campaign was somewhat "worried" about Sanders.

"First of all, I always thought this would be a competitive race," Clinton said. "So I am happy to have a chance to get out and run my campaign as I see fit and let other candidates do exactly the same."

For those who see shades of her 2008 collapse, Clinton said she's learned a thing or two from that campaign.

"I feel very good about where we are in Iowa," she said of the state where she placed a disappointing third in 2008. "And one of the things that I learned last time is, it's, 'Organize, organize, organize.' And you've got to get people committed. And then they will follow through and then you bring more people."

Clinton also declined to answer whether her economic plan would raise taxes, like Sanders has proposed.

"I'm going to put out my policies, and I'll let other people speak to their policies," she said, "because I think we have to both grow the economy faster and fairer so we have to do what will actually work in the short term, the medium term and the long term. I will be making a speech about my economic proposals on Monday. And then I look forward to the debate about them."

Of her potential Republican rivals — and the possibility of another Bush versus Clinton contest — Clinton demurred, emphasizing that the field is wide open.

"Well, we'll see," she said when asked about running against former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. "That's up to, first, the Republicans on his side, the Democrats on my side. What's great about America is anybody can run for president. That is literally true. And you have to go out and you have to do what everybody else does. You have to make your case. You have to have your agenda. You have to raise the money. You have to work really hard."

She did take a swipe at Bush over immigration, even though he has been hit within the GOP over his openness to reform.

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"Well, he doesn't believe in a path to citizenship," Clinton noted. "If he did at one time, he no longer does. And so pretty much they're — as I said, they're on a spectrum of, you know, hostility, which I think is really regrettable in a nation of immigrants like ours, all the way to kind of grudging acceptance but refusal to go with a pathway to citizenship."

And of businessman Donald Trump — who has gotten considerable blowback for his derogatory comments about Mexicans — Clinton criticized her onetime donor.

"I'm very disappointed in those comments," Clinton said, "and I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying, 'Enough. Stop it.' "

She continued, trying to paint the GOP with a broad brush against immigrants.

"They are all in the same general area on immigration," Clinton charged. "They don't want to provide a path to citizenship. They range across a spectrum of being either grudgingly welcome or hostile toward immigrants. And I'm going to talk about comprehensive immigration reform. I'm going to talk about all of the good, law-abiding, productive members of the immigrant community that I personally know, that I've met over the course of my life, that I would like to see have a path to citizenship."

Of her own dust-up with the press this weekend after her campaign roped off reporters trying to cover her in a July 4 parade, Clinton defended the decision.

"I just have a different rhythm to my campaign," Clinton said. "I'm not running my campaign for the press. I'm running it for voters. I totally respect the press and what the press has to do. But I wanted — and was determined — to have the time that I needed to actually meet and listen to people."

Hillary Blames GOP for Negative Press, Insists People 'Can and Do' Trust Her **// NY Mag //**
Margaret Hartmann – July 7, 2015

Since launching her campaign in April, Hillary Clinton has mostly ignored the national press, and her campaign's decision to keep reporters in a rope pen last weekend did not improve their historically dicey relationship. On Tuesday night she tried to smooth things over in her first televised interview as a 2016 candidate. As New York's Annie Lowrey explained when Emailgate first broke, the controversy is likely the result of Clinton trying to avoid bad press: "You loathe the idea of your personal correspondence getting out to a press you consider pathological, so you jury-rig a private email account and end up in the midst of a massive media cluster anyway." But in her interview with CNN's Brianna Keilar, Clinton tried to shift the blame from the media (and herself), pointing instead to her old foe "the vast right-wing conspiracy."

When asked to clarify why she decided to conduct State Department business using her private emails, and delete the emails her staff deemed personal, Clinton said she actually "went above and beyond what anybody could have expected" by turning over more than 55,000 pages to the State Department. "Everything I did was permitted, there was no law, there was no regulation, there was nothing that did not give me the full authority to decide how I was going to communicate," Clinton said. She also alluded to her previous claim that she only wanted to carry one device, saying, "Maybe it was because I am not the most technically capable person and wanted to make it as simple as possible."

Clinton also defended her family's charity, while claiming she played "only a small role" during the "year and a half" she was there (though the name was changed to the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation). "It produced results," Clinton said. "I have no plans to say or do anything about the Clinton foundation other than to say how proud I am of it. I think for the good of the world its work should continue."

It's true, as Clinton noted, that congressional Republicans are running with the scandal accusations, but she painted questions about her trustworthiness as a total fabrication by the right. "I think when you are subjected to the kind of constant barrage of attacks that are largely fomented by and coming from the right ... I think it's understandable that when questions are raised, people maybe are thinking about them and wondering about them," Clinton said. "This has been a theme that has been used against me and my husband for many, many years."

Throughout the interview she was careful to point out that while questions about her credibility are "unfounded," she knows journalists are just doing their job. Recent polls have shown that a majority of Americans do not consider Clinton trustworthy, but when pressed on the issue she said, "Well, people should and do trust me and I have every confidence that that will be the outcome of this election."

Clinton dodged on a question about Senator Bernie Sanders' rising popularity among Democrats. "First of all, I always thought this would be a competitive race," Clinton said. "So I am happy to have a chance to get out and run my campaign as I see fit and let other candidates do exactly the same." However, she was willing to call out some of her potential GOP rivals. She said she was "very disappointed" by Donald Trump's remarks on Mexican

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immigrants, adding, "I feel very bad and very disappointed with him — and with the Republican party for not responding immediately and saying, 'Enough, stop it.'"

Then she pivoted to attacking the entire GOP field on immigration reform, saying, "They're on a spectrum of hostility, which I think is really regrettable in a nation of immigrants like ours." When asked about Jeb Bush specifically, she said, "He doesn't believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time, he no longer does."

"Hillary Clinton will say anything to get elected and her numerous flip-flops on immigration prove it," Bush campaign spokeswoman Emily Benavides responded. "As he outlined in his book on this issue, Gov. Bush believes in a conservative legislative solution to fix our broken immigration system that includes earned legal status for those currently in the country after they pay fines and taxes, learn English and commit no substantial crimes while securing our border."

But as the Miami Herald explains, "citizenship" and "earned legal status" are not the same thing:

Bush has favored citizenship in the past. But in his book Immigration Wars, and recently on the campaign trail, he has instead backed legal status without citizenship, suggesting that might be a more achievable goal given contentious immigration politics.
So Clinton was actually correct, despite what the Bush camp says. Obviously, the GOP isn't solely responsible for persistent questions about the Clintons' ethics, but Hillary does have a point.

Hillary Clinton blames trust issues on GOP // Boston Herald // Hillary Chabot – July 8, 2015

Hillary Clinton blamed Republicans last night for the trustworthiness problem plaguing her, blasting the GOP's "constant barrage of attacks" for negative poll numbers and sidestepping questions about underdog U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders' growing popularity.

"This has been a theme that has been used against me and my husband for many, many years," Clinton said on CNN during her first national interview, adding that the attacks are "largely fomented and coming from the right."

Clinton, who was asked about polling showing Americans question her honesty, said she followed the rules when it came to using a private Internet server at her home during her time as secretary of state.

"Everything I did was permitted," she said, pointing again to the fact that she handed over 55,000 pages of emails. Clinton wiped her server clean, however, and even Democrats have voiced concern about the lax cyber security.

"This is being blown up with no basis in law or in fact," she said, adding, "people should and do trust me."

The veteran pol also brushed aside the surprise success of Democratic rival Sanders, who has been attracting huge crowds while fellow Democrats have attacked Clinton's "excitement problem."

"I always thought this would be a competitive race," was all Clinton would say about Sanders' unexpected popularity. She ducked questions about whether she would raise taxes, saying she plans to release an economic plan on
Monday.

Clinton did pounce on recent comments from GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump that illegal immigrants from Mexico are "rapists." "I'm very disappointed in those comments and I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying, 'Enough, stop it,' " she said, adding that Republican candidates Jeb Bush and others are "in the same general area on immigration."

Bush immediately struck back.

"Hillary Clinton will say anything to get elected and her numerous flip-flops on immigration prove it," said Bush spokeswoman Emily Benavides.

Clinton also brushed off recent concerns that she has kept the media — and the public — at arm's length. Her comments come after she kept reporters trying to cover her in New Hampshire in a roped-off pen.

"I'm not running my campaign for the press. I'm running it for the voters," she said. "I spent the first 90 days getting my feel for what was going on in the country ... obviously I'll be doing a lot more press."

'People should and do trust me,' says Hillary Clinton // The Hill // Nial Stanage & Jonathan Easley – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton slammed the GOP field on immigration, defended her use of a private email server while secretary

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of State and pushed back at suggestions she is distrusted by large portions of the public in her inaugural national TV interview as a 2016 presidential candidate.

Clinton moved back and forth from offense to defense during the approximately 20-minute interview, saving her strongest comments for GOP candidate Donald Trump, whose assertions that illegal immigrants from Mexico were “rapists” bringing drugs and crime to the U.S. have created a political firestorm.

“I’m very disappointed in those comments, and I feel very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding immediately and saying, ‘Enough, stop it,’ ” the Democratic front-runner told CNN’s Brianna Keilar, who scored the interview.

Clinton also criticized former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush’s approach to immigration, linking him and the rest of the GOP field to Trump.

“Well, he doesn’t believe in a path to citizenship. If he did at one time, he no longer does. And so pretty much they’re … on a spectrum of, you know, hostility … all the way to kind of grudging acceptance but refusal to go with a pathway to citizenship.”

The remarks were clearly a play for the support of Hispanic voters, with whom the Democratic Party has enjoyed a considerable advantage in recent presidential elections.

The most tense moments of the interview — and Clinton’s most defensive tone — came when Keilar asked her about her use of a private email server during her time at the State Department.

Clinton insisted that that “everything I did was permitted” and that “I didn’t have to turn over anything.”

Under further challenge from Keilar, Clinton shot back: “You know, you’re starting with so many assumptions. … Again, let’s take a deep breath here. Everything I did was permitted by law and regulation. I had one device. When I mailed anybody in the government, it would go into the government system.”

On the broader issue of her trustworthiness, Clinton sought to dismiss recent polls that show a large number of voters saying she’s dishonest. She blamed the “constant barrage of attacks,” which she said had “largely been fomented by, and coming from, the right,” for dragging her numbers down.

“I have every confidence that during the course of this campaign, people will know who will fight for them when they need them, and that’s the person who I am and what I will do if I am president,” she said.

At another point she insisted starkly: “People should and do trust me.”

Clinton repeatedly alluded to “unfounded” attacks against her, but didn’t specify which attacks she believed were unfair. She did appear to allude at one point to the book Clinton Cash, which alleges her family’s foundation took millions of dollars from foreign entities that could have benefited from decisions she made at the State Department.

“People write books filled with these kinds of unsubstantiated attacks and even admit they have no evidence, but of course it’s your job to cover it so of course it’s going to raise questions in people’s minds,” Clinton said to Keilar. “But during the course of this campaign, just as in my two prior campaigns, I have a lot of confidence that the American people can sort it all out.”

Clinton fiercely defended the Clinton Foundation but sought to diminish the time she spent there, saying she played a “very small role” over the course of about “a year and a half.”

“It produced results,” Clinton said. “I have no plans to say or do anything about the Clinton Foundation other than to say how proud I am of it and that I think for the good of the world its work should continue.”

Clinton took a question about the rise of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders (I) in stride, saying she “always thought this would be a competitive race.”

Sanders, her closest rival for the Democratic nomination, has been attracting huge crowds to his events and eroding Clinton’s massive leads in the early-voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire. On Monday, Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri called Sanders “a serious force” that her team is worried about.

But on Tuesday, Clinton touted the strength of her organization in Iowa, where she continues to lead Sanders by more than 20 points, according to the RealClearPolitics average of polls.

“I feel very good about where we are in Iowa. We are signing up thousands of volunteers, people committed to caucus for us. We have a committed supporter in every one of the 1,600 precincts, and one of things that I learned

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last time is ... organize, organize, organize," Clinton said. "You've got to get people committed and then you bring more people. So I feel very good about where my campaign is."

Clinton's 2008 bid for the presidency went into a tailspin from which it never really recovered after she finished third in the Iowa caucuses behind then-rivals Barack Obama and John Edwards.

Clinton voices support for deported Iowa im migrant // The Des Moines Register // T ony Leys – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Tuesday took up the cause of an Iowa City immigrant who was deported over a 16-year-old misdemeanor conviction.

During a campaign stop here, Clinton referred to the controversial case of Max Villatoro, a Mennonite pastor-in-training who was arrested at his home on March 3 and wound up being deported to his native Honduras. The case has gained widespread attention from immigration-reform advocates, who say Villatoro, 41, was an upstanding member of the community unjustly ripped away from his family.

Clinton agreed with a Villatoro supporter, who said federal authorities should have used their discretion not to deport him. She noted that the deportation was based on a misdemeanor charge from the 1990s. "He was from all accounts, everything I've read and heard, a contributing member of the community. And for the life of me, I don't understand why he was deported," she said. "And I would think we would have to take a hard look at cases like that and exercise more discretion."

She credited the Obama administration with making progress on the issue, but said she would push for more movement toward reforming the country's broken immigration system. "I still think we should deport dangerous people, dangerous criminals — they should be gone," she said. "But for people who have maybe one small blemish on their record, and they've proven over the years since that they are contributing citizens, I think we should show them understanding and permit them and their families to stay together."

Federal authorities have defended Villatoro's deportation, saying it was a legitimate part of a sweep of unauthorized immigrants who'd committed crimes. His lawyer has said the charge stemmed from an attempt to gain a driver's license.

Clinton's remarks on the case came in response to a question from Aliese Gingerich, 22, of Iowa City. Gingerich said afterward that she has been working on immigration advocacy in Iowa and when she went to college in Pennsylvania.

She was glad to hear Clinton address the issue. "I think it's heartening that she is saying that she wants to pass comprehensive immigration reform and work hard with bipartisan efforts that she cited, and things she's done in the past. I would really like to hear a little bit more specifically what she wants to pass exactly."

The Iowa City stop was one of two Clinton scheduled in Iowa Tuesday on her fourth trip to the state since she announced her candidacy in April. It was only the second event so far that was open to the general public, and it was the first one at which she took questions from unscreened voters.

The audience questions focused on issues such as the use of military force, how to expand and protect the Affordable Care Act and how to improve education. On the education question, Clinton stressed that she wants the country to get away from over-reliance on standardized tests and uniform instruction methods. "We have a broad range of kids. We can't teach them all the same way," she said.

More than 350 people got into Clinton's event Tuesday at the Iowa City public library, but scores more failed to get in because of a lack of space.

Iowa City is known as the most liberal spot in Iowa. That could make it prime territory for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a populist who is mounting a surprisingly strong Democratic challenge on Clinton's left flank. He has been rising in the polls and drawing crowds in the thousands in Iowa and other states.

Clinton told reporters after her event Tuesday that she was not surprised to see Sanders have some success.

"This is going to be competitive, and it should be competitive," she said. "It's only the presidency of the United States we're talking about. So, you know, the more the better. Let's get everybody out there, let's get everybody working hard, running their own campaigns and then we'll leave it up to Iowa to decide what happens."

Several voters who came to Clinton's Iowa City event said they like what Sanders says, especially on the issue of income inequality. But they also are skeptical of his ability to win the general election.

"In a perfect world, yes, I would support him, but I'm not going to throw my vote away," said Tom Braverman, 51,

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of Iowa City, who is a special-education teacher. He said that if Democrats nominated Sanders, they would be making the same kind of mistake Republicans will make if they nominate a far-right candidate.

The library meeting room the campaign chose for the event only held a few hundred people. Far more than that came to the library Tuesday morning, hoping to see Clinton. At one point, the line outside stretched more than two blocks.

Undecided voter Shawn Harmsen, 42, of Iowa City, said he had hoped to ask Clinton a question in person. He stood about two hours in line, but was more than a third of the way back. "For the people who get in, it'll be great," he said of the relatively small venue. "But for those who don't get in — will they come back next time?"

Peg Voelker, 53, of Iowa City, stood about two-thirds of the way back in line. About a half hour before the event started, she said she realized she probably wouldn't get in to see Clinton. "But we're glad to stand in line to show our support," she said. Even if she didn't get in this time, she said, she would be back for future Clinton events and would volunteer for the candidate.

Voelker, who is self-employed, said she supported Democratic rival John Edwards when Clinton ran for the nomination in 2008. She was afraid then that Clinton would be unable to withstand relentless personal attacks by opponents. But she now believes the attacks have allowed Clinton to show her true colors. "She has a proven track record of standing up and being productive no matter what they throw at her," said Voelker.

After the Iowa City event, Clinton headed to Ottumwa for a private "house party" with supporters.

Clinton campaign adds 20 paid Iowa staffers // The Des Moines Reigister // Jennifer Jacobs – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton has hired 20 more field organizers to campaign for her in Iowa, and they started work Tuesday, a spokeswoman told the Des Moines Register.

"A top flight organizing staff is critical to winning the caucus and we're excited to add to the team that has been on the ground for nearly three months," Clinton's Iowa director, Matt Paul, told the Register in a statement.

Clinton, a former U.S. secretary of state, is in Iowa Tuesday for her fourth visit to the first-in-the-nation voting state since she formally announced her candidacy April 12. She was scheduled to do events in Iowa City and Ottumwa.

Lily Adams, the campaign's Iowa spokeswoman, declined to reveal the total number of Iowa staff, which includes a team of strategists based in Des Moines, but said the 20 hires join the existing team of 21 field organizers and six regional organizing directors on the ground since April.

All 47 are paid, Adams said.

The field staffers are focused on organizing down to the precinct level, doing one-on-one meetings with activists, county chairs and Iowans who have never caucused before, as well as organize house parties and attend local Democratic events. They use commitment cards to secure pledges to caucus for Clinton on Feb. 1.

The Clinton campaign also has more than 100 unpaid "organizing fellows." Aides said they got more than 1,000 applications for the summertime Iowa Organizing Fellowship program, meant to teach the full-time volunteers organizing strategies and help Clinton bring voters into the fold.

Late last month, a woman chosen to be a fellow in the state of Nevada publicly criticized Clinton for not paying her interns.

"Forget arguments about raising the minimum wage. I can't even get a wage," Carolyn Osorio wrote in an opinion piece published by USA Today.

"Finding out that Hillary perpetuates the exploitation known as unpaid internships was like discovering that Santa wasn't real," Osorio wrote. In response, the Clinton team said campaigns in both parties have used volunteer interns in the past.

Eight of the 20 additional Iowa hires already had unpaid jobs with the campaign, Adams said Tuesday.

The Clinton team has been completing the process of hiring the 20 organizers since early June, Adams said. Their first day on the job was Tuesday, when they began two days of training in Des Moines. They will then be deployed across Iowa this weekend, she said.

Paul said the the campaign has been preparing for competition in the Iowa caucuses since Clinton announced her

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candidacy in April.

"As we've said from the beginning," Paul said, "we are taking nothing for granted in the caucus and these organizers will increase our campaign's ability to work with supporters in every neighborhood and precinct to get the word out about Hillary Clinton's campaign to fight for everyday Americans."

The Clintons' headache is back: First brother Roger was paid $100,000 to influence Bill and ex-president bought him house despite IRS demand for his property // The Daily Mail // Francesca Chambers – July 7, 2015

Bill Clinton's half brother Roger, nicknamed 'headache' by the Secret Service during Clinton's presidency, has tried to keep a low-profile as his sister-in-law Hillary positions her family to move back into the White House.

But now it is revealed today that he used his brother-in-law's name to win a $100,000 consulting contract with a company looking to build houses in Haiti.
And it is also disclosed that he is living in a home that was partly - if not fully - paid for by Bill through a limited liability company registered to the Clintons' family home in Chappaqua, New York.

The use of such a device was described as having the potential to 'raise eyebrows' with the IRS. It was never disclosed by Hillary during her time in office that address was linked to the limited liability company.

Now it is revealed today that Roger, pictured here in 2013, used his brother-in-law's name to win a $100,000 consulting contract with a company looking to build houses in Haiti

Roger Clinton's antics in the '90s were a constant source of embarrassment for the first family, culminating in a 2001 congressional investigation over his attempts to 'cash in' on his connections to the White House.

The wannabee rock star, who went to prison in 1985 for cocaine abuse and for a time played in a band called Politics, was found to have engaged in 'serious and reckless misconduct' the review panel.

He has resurfaced just as Hillary tries to put a troubled start to her campaign for presidency behind her with her first television interview of her candidacy.

Roger currently lives in Los Angeles, California, on an $857,000 property he told the New York Times that he co-owns '50-50' with Bill, whom he calls 'Big Brother.'Roger
'I put 50 percent of the money into it,' Roger, 58, told the publication during an interview, conducted at his home.

As the Times points out, if true, that could prove legally problematic for the younger Clinton because he owed the California and federal governments more than $100,000 in unpaid taxes and the IRS was to acquire any 'property now owned or later acquired' by him.

The house was purchased in 2009. It says the liens were removed in 2010 and 2011. If Roger did help purchase the property, that would constitute tax evasion.

'If I was still working at the I.R.S. and someone came to me with this, it would raise eyebrows and trigger me to dig further to find out what exactly was going on,' David Holtz, a former IRS litigator who lives in Los Angeles, told the Times.

A source familiar with the situation told the publication, however, that Bill Clinton purchased the property through a LLC so that his brother and his teenage nephew would have a place to live but he would not be personally responsible for the home as he would not be living in it.

It's possible that Roger Clinton could have contributed to the purchase of the home but it is not clear how he would have done that given that the Times found no sustained record of income for him since, other than the $5,000-a-month deal with Living Modular, the company seeking to build low-cost homes in Haiti.

That deal itself raised questions as the man behind it suggested Roger Clinton promised to deliver a contract with his brother's foundation.

'I paid Roger $100,000,' businessman Wayne Coleman said. 'Basically, he promised to get us a contract through the Clinton Foundation for a project over there. What he was really trying to do was sell the influence of his brother.'

Roger was successful in getting the companies' model included in an expo that Bill Clinton attended on behalf of The Clinton Foundation.

His brother did not choose to invest in the company's product, though - a decision Roger talked up to 'lawyers and

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advisers' rather than his brother, whom he said 'loved' the effort.

'You had all this government grant money, and all this money Bill was raising from around the world for reconstruction,' he told the Times. 'But we just couldn't make it happen. It's like, come on, man, can't you just throw me a bone?'

Roger Clinton said that 'seven out of 10 times' being related to Bill and Hillary worked against him when trying to win major contracts because it would be interpreted as nepotism.

'I don't have a choice of being first brother,' Clinton lamented. 'It's not like I've been given the option of doing it and I could turn it down. There are times when it's hard.'

Sources who spoke to the Times said that Roger and his family have long benefited from his big brother's monetary success in other ways, though.

Bill Clinton reportedly paid for Roger's grown-up daughter to attend cosmetology school.

And, after leaving the White House, when he worked at investment firm Yucaipa, Bill Clinton is said by a former employee to have regularly written his brother checks.
On another occasion, Roger's lawyer floated paying out a settlement over a domestic dispute involving two women on Clinton's property with Bill's money.

Bill and Hillary Clinton's siblings have been accused on numerous occasions of trying to profit off of their relationships with the political power couple, and usually inappropriately.

Hillary's older brother Hugh pocketed $400,000 from a Democratic Party donor - that he was later forced to give back - after he successfully lobbied Bill to commute the federal prison sentence of the donor's drug-dealing son.

Her younger brother, Tony Rodham, also convinced Bill to grant a presidential pardon that he said he wasn't paid to lobby for but a congressional investigation later found that he was.

He's continued to ride the coattails of his brother-in-law, using The Clinton Foundation as a means to an ends of his own contracts in Haiti.

Hillary Clinton to pay 'summer fellows' after reports of interns working for free // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton has hired eight "summer fellows" as full-time paid staffers, just weeks after the Guardian revealed that the presidential frontrunner's campaign was using experienced political operatives as unpaid interns.

The Clinton campaign is adding 20 full-time field organizers in Iowa, seeking to increase her presence and rally Democrats in the crucial caucus state, which she visited on Tuesday as her team acknowledged fears of a better-than-expected showing from the independent challenger Bernie Sanders.

As first reported by the Des Moines Register, eight of those new hires had previously served as full-time "organizing fellows". In that capacity, fellows performed almost identical duties to field organizers, who do the most basic work on a campaign: recruiting volunteers and endorsements, going door-to-door and calling voters, often outside the confines of a 9-to-5 day job.

Now, those people will be paid, the Clinton campaign confirmed to the Guardian on Tuesday.

Clinton already had a sizeable footprint on the ground in Iowa and launched her campaign with roughly 40 staffers in the state, but the new wave of hires represents a decisive step by Clinton to build up her organizing efforts in the state.

The former secretary of state returned to Iowa on Tuesday for the first time since the opening week of her campaign, speaking to supporters and organizers in Iowa City ahead of her first sit-down interview since announcing her second run for the White House.

The push to woo ardent Iowa Democrats comes amid a surge of progressive appeal from Sanders, the Vermont senator who has been surging in recent polls and more than doubled his support among Democrats in the state between May and June, according to a Quinnipiac University's survey.

"We are worried about him," the Clinton communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, said of Sanders on MSNBC on Monday. "He will be a serious force for the campaign, and I don't think that will diminish."

The Iowa hires, however, represent the continuation of a trend in Clintonland that new staffers – no matter how

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much political experience they may bring from previous campaigns – initially must work for free before getting on the Clinton payroll.

Many high-ranking staffers worked for free as "volunteers" on the Clinton campaign in the weeks before she formally launched her campaign in early April. Political watchers told the Guardian last month it represented an attempt to wiggle around federal campaign-finance rules that ban an undeclared campaign from paying staff.

When Federal Election Commission reports are released next week, Clinton's donations are expected to far exceed any other Democratic candidate.

Clinton's competitors have already taken jabs at her use of the unpaid fellows: Lis Smith, the deputy campaign manager for former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, tweeted over the Independence Day weekend that "we all know she doesn't pay young staff".

Still, Clinton has been polling well above 50% in the state where she finished third in the 2008 Democratic caucus.

Clinton Still Far Outpaces Her Democratic Rivals // Rasmussen Reports – July 7, 2015

Despite the increasing media coverage going to some of her rivals for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, Hillary Clinton remains hugely ahead as far as the party's voters are concerned.

Ninety-three percent (93%) of Likely Democratic Voters believe Clinton is likely to end up being their party's nominee next year, according to a new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey. That includes 60% who say it is Very Likely. Just five percent (5%) disagree, with only one percent (1%) who think a Clinton nomination is Not At All Likely. (To see survey question wording, click here.)

(Want a free daily e-mail update? If it's in the news, it's in our polls). Rasmussen Reports updates are also available on Twitter or Facebook.

The survey of 1,000 Likely Voters was conducted on July 2 and 5, 2015 by Rasmussen Reports. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence. Field work for all Rasmussen Reports surveys is conducted by Pulse Opinion Research, LLC. See methodology.

Hillary Clinton: People who dis the government are 'dissing our democracy' // The Washington Times // Jessica Chasmar – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday that while skepticism of government is "part of our DNA" as Americans, people who openly "dis" the government are effectively "dissing our democracy."

"When people dis the government — we're really dissing ourselves and dissing our democracy," she told supporters in Iowa City, The Hill reported. "This is my last rodeo, and I believe that we can leave not just the country in good shape for the future, but we can get a deep bench of young people to decide that they want to go into politics."

Mrs. Clinton explained, however, that it's "perfectly fine" to be skeptical of the government, and that it's "part of our DNA," The Hill reported.

"I want people's lives to be better when I finish as your president than when I started," she added.

Clinton hits on local issues in Iowa City campaign stop // KCRG // Mark Carlson – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton made a campaign stop at the Iowa City Public Library Tuesday afternoon in which she touched on meth use in Iowa, the Coral Ridge Mall shooting and several other local issues.

Clinton brought up the recent shooting at the mall before making brief comments on gun control.

She also brought up meth use and the recent closing of the Mount Pleasant Mental Health Institute while discussing her concerns about mental health and drug use in America.

Clinton said she is fully invested in her run for President.

"I've been called many things," Clinton said. "Quitter is not one of them. I will not quit on you, I will fight for you."

A couple hundred people packed into a library meeting room to hear from the former Secretary of State and First Lady.

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The crowd included both special invitees and members of the general public. Among the crowd was Johnson County Sheriff Lonny Pulkrabek, County Attorney Janet Lyness, Iowa City Mayor Matt Hayek and several state and local lawmakers.

Will Hillary Clinton swear off fossil-fuel money? Bernie Sanders already has // Grist // John Light – July 7, 2015

The Nation magazine and 350 Action are challenging presidential candidates to "neither solicit nor accept campaign contributions" from fossil fuel companies — and that's putting the heat on Hillary Clinton in particular.

"Back in the 1990s, politicians on both sides of the aisle swore off campaign contributions from big tobacco because the industry lied to the American people about the damage it was causing to public health," writes 350 Action spokesperson Jamie Henn in an email. Oil, coal, and gas companies, Henn continues, "have consistently misled the public about the dangers associated with their product, and this time it's the whole planet that's at stake. You can't be serious about addressing climate change and still accept checks from ExxonMobil."

Fossil fuel companies, of course, exercise quite a bit of influence over politics through their ability to lob money into campaigns. Though coal companies' profits have been suffering, oil companies are going strong, and both still put a lot of money into politics. The oil and gas industry poured $76 million into federal campaigns in 2012, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Of the amount that was donated to individual candidates' campaigns, 89 percent went to Republicans and 11 percent to Democrats. The coal mining industry gave another $15 million in 2012, and most of the candidates it supported were Republicans too.

So The Nation's editors issued a challenge to candidates in an editorial yesterday:

To break the carbon barons' grip over America's response to this crisis, The Nation calls upon all 2016 presidential and congressional candidates to make and honor the following pledge: In the name of protecting our country and the world from the growing dangers of climate change, I will neither solicit nor accept campaign contributions from any oil, gas, or coal company.

It's an interesting experiment, and how candidates choose to respond to it says a lot about their priorities. "Some candidates for president are already signing up," writes Henn, "and we expect more to do so as campaigns like divestment continue to stigmatize the fossil fuel industry."

Democrat Bernie Sanders and the Green Party's Jill Stein have said they're in — they'll take the pledge. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island governor and U.S. senator Lincoln Chafee — also both running as Democrats — "said they supported strong climate action but would not sign the pledge," write the magazine's editors in the editorial. [UPDATE, 7/7/15: O'Malley now tells The Nation that he will take the pledge.] Nation Executive Editor Richard Kim told Grist that they're reaching out to Jim Webb, former senator from Virginia, who jumped into the race as a Democrat last week.

On the other side, not one of the 14 Republican candidates The Nation contacted has responded to the challenge. All but one of the Republicans deny that human-made climate change is a real threat that should be taken seriously by our next president. The one outlier, Sen. Lindsey Graham (S.C.), has said he's in favor of addressing "climate change [and] CO_2 emissions in a business-friendly way," but he's a long-shot candidate. And, well, it honestly doesn't seem too likely that Republicans, whose party has embraced the "money is speech"-type decisions from the Supreme Court that paved the way for the current explosion in campaign spending, would say no on principle to money from a big industry — especially when the donor industry in question so clearly favors Republicans over their Democratic opponents.

That puts the pressure from The Nation and 350 Action's challenge on Hillary Clinton.

Clinton, who has yet to respond to the challenge, has acknowledged that climate change is a potent threat. Were she to win, she'd be following another Democratic president who, at least on the demand side of things, has pushed to green America's energy economy, and who has worked internationally to encourage other large polluting countries to do the same. Climate change is an issue she'll have to engage with continually through the election cycle, and oil and coal companies' objectives are, presumably, at odds with those of a candidate who has called for "decisive" action to "head off the most catastrophic consequences" of climate change.

So will Clinton heed this latest effort to push her to the left? Her campaign has started to see Sanders as a real threat, and it's attempting to emulate his campaign by courting small donors. Choosing to turn down money from companies with a vested interest in stopping climate action is one easy way Clinton could show her commitment to the liberal base.

The Nation and 350 Action plan to keep up the pressure, on Clinton and the other candidates who haven't pledged yet. "After all, candidates can change their minds," the Nation editors write, "especially when enough public

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pressure is brought to bear."

Judicial Watch: Federal Judge Orders State Department to Release Documents Regarding Hillary Clinton's iPhone and iPad Use // Judicial Watch – July 7, 2015

Judicial Watch announced today that a federal judge has ordered the State Department to begin releasing documents by August 2015 regarding former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's requests for use of an iPad and iPhone. The order comes in response to a Judicial Watch lawsuit (Judicial Watch, Inc. v. U.S. Department of State (No. 1:15-cv-00646)) seeking documents related to Clinton's use of an iPhone and iPad to conduct official business while secretary of state.

In her ruling, Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly required the State Department to produce the first round of relevant documents by August 20, 2015, and held that Judicial Watch and the State Department will be responsible for filing a joint status report by September 1, 2015, "…proposing a schedule for further productions and indicating the volume and scope of responsive documents." Beginning August 20, the State Department will also be required to release new documents every six weeks.

Though the State Department did not object to producing records beginning in August, Judge Kollar-Kotelly denied the State Department's request to set January 2016 as the final document production date, holding:

The Court will not set a final deadline for all productions until after it has had an opportunity to consider that Joint Status Report—in order to leave open the possibility that the production of documents can be completed more expeditiously than the January 2016 deadline proposed by the Defendant.

In the most recent report to the court, Judicial Watch opposed the State Department's request to extend final production through January 2016.

Judicial Watch filed the lawsuit after the Department of State failed to comply with Judicial Watch's March 10, 2015, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking release of the following:

Any and all records of requests by former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton or her staff to the State Department Office Security Technology seeking approval for the use of an iPad or iPhone for official government business; and

Any and all communications within or between the Office of the Secretary of State, the Executive Secretariat, and the Office of the Secretary and the Office of Security Technology concerning, regarding, or related to the use of unauthorized electronic devices for official government business.

On March 31, 2015, The Associated Press reported that Clinton, while secretary of state, had used an iPad to email members of her staff, contradicting her statements that she had used a secret email account so that she could conveniently conduct official business on one electronic device alone. Reports of Clinton's use of both a secret email server based at her residence and of an iPad to conduct government business have also raised concerns about the security of Clinton's communications.

"The federal courts are doing a significant service to the American people by ordering the State Department to release documents regarding Mrs. Clinton's iPhone and iPad use," said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. "Rather than admitting that it unlawfully, obstructed the public's right to know for years and start producing records, the Obama administration has stonewalled and fought Judicial Watch in court. Can there be any other explanation for these violations of transparency and other laws, some which may include criminal liability, than Hillary Clinton and the Obama administration don't want the American people to learn embarrassing truths?"

Hillary Clinton to visit Michigan July 21 // The Detroit News // David Shepardson – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton is making her first trip to Michigan since announcing she is running for president.

The former secretary of state and first lady will headline a fundraiser July 21 at the Grosse Pointe home of David Katz and Jill Alper, according to a copy of the invitation obtained by The Detroit News on Tuesday.

The fundraiser will cost $2,700. To be an "event co-host," a person must raise $27,000 — "includes host reception with Hillary and membership in Hillstarters program."

To be an event host, a person must raise $50,000 and that "includes host reception with Hillary and membership in Hillraisers program."

Last month, a group of women in Michigan met to tout Clinton's candidacy.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, Rep. Brenda Lawrence, D-Southfield, and Janet Blanchard, a former associate

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director of presidential personnel under President Bill Clinton and the wife of former Michigan Gov. Jim Blanchard, are behind "Michigan Women for Hillary."

Clinton's last visited Michigan last fall to campaign for Gary Peters and other Democrats.

Many announced and expected Republican presidential candidates have made repeated visits to Michigan this year, including Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Rand Paul, Ben Carson, Scott Walker, John Kasich and Ted Cruz.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

O'Malley expresses distaste for super PACs after one backing him attacks Sanders // WaPo // John Wagner – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley said that he would prefer there were no super PACs when asked in a radio interview Tuesday about one backing him that recently produced Web ads attacking rival Bernie Sanders.

"Once you're a candidate, you're in a bit of a straight jacket," O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, said during an interview with New Hampshire Public Radio's Morning Edition. "I would hope that we would keep this debate a debate about the issues, and I would prefer, not that I'm able to tell a super PAC what to do, I would prefer that we didn't have any super PACs, frankly."

The ads in question, produced by the group Generation Forward, attacked Sanders, a Vermont senator, for his mixed record on gun control, asserting that he is "no progressive" on that issue. The ads were targeted to Web viewers in Iowa, the nation's first presidential caucus state.

Generation Forward is run by allies of O'Malley, including a family friend and a former press aide. Federal law limits coordination between declared candidates and independent groups set up to work for their election. Super PACs, which can take unlimited contributions, have flourished in the wake of the 2010 Supreme Court decision known as Citizens United.

Sanders has urged his allies not to form a super PAC and is one of the few 2016 presidential candidates without one.

In recent weeks, Sanders has jumped in the polls in both Iowa and New Hampshire, emerging as the leading alternative to Democratic frontrunner Hillary Rodham Clinton, while O'Malley's campaign has remained stalled in the low single digits.

During the radio interview that aired Tuesday, O'Malley also elaborated on his characterization of Sanders last week as a "protest candidate" in an interview with The Washington Post.

"History has shown usually the candidates that are surging in the summer are not the candidates who are surging in the primary," O'Malley said.

He made his comments in advance of a planned trip Wednesday and Thursday to New Hampshire, the nation's first presidential primary state. O'Malley has appearances scheduled in Manchester, Derry, Concord and Wolfeboro.

Martin O'Malley racked up $339,200 in loans putting two kids through college. He wants to lighten the load for others. // WaPo // John Wagner – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley plans Wednesday to put forward an ambitious five-year goal of allowing students to graduate debt-free from public colleges and universities across the country.

The proposition is deeply personal for O'Malley: Aides say he and his wife have already incurred $339,200 in loans to put the two eldest of their four children through private universities. And college affordability was a leading priority for O'Malley during his tenure as Maryland's governor.

The issue is one being talked about a lot these days by Democrats, including the party's other White House

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candidates, as more and more students enter the workforce with hefty debt loads.

O'Malley, who plans to detail his plan during a morning event in New Hampshire, will call on states to freeze tuition rates at public colleges and universities -- as Maryland did for four years -- and propose other measures that would help those carrying debt.

Under O'Malley's plan, a copy of which was shared with The Washington Post, students and parents would be able to refinance their debt at lower interest rates. And O'Malley would base the repayment terms for student borrowers on their income upon graduation.

For the long term, O'Malley says he would set a goal of limiting college tuition to 10 percent of a state's median income at four-year institutions and 5 percent at two-year institutions. Federal matching grants would help states that participate in reaching the goal.

Under his plan, O'Malley would also increase Pell Grants and revamp federal work-study programs to help cover non-tuition costs, such as room and board.

Aides declined to spell out the cost of O'Malley's initiatives but suggested they could be paid for by measures such as closing corporate tax loopholes and taxing capital gains at the same rate as earned income.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who's emerged as the leading alternative for the Democratic nomination to Hillary Rodham Clinton, has proposed a grander idea: making four-year public colleges and universities free. His plan, which he estimates would cost $70 billion a year, would be paid for in part by a tax on Wall Street transactions by investments houses, hedge funds and other speculators.

Clinton is also expected to detail college affordability plans in coming months.

In recent years, O'Malley's daughter Grace, 24, graduated from Georgetown University, and another daughter, Tara, 23, graduated from College of Charleston. Aides said O'Malley and his wife, a district court judge in Baltimore, have taken out nine loans totaling $339,200 to help pay for the education of their oldest two children. The interest rates range from just over 6 percent to 8.5 percent, an aide said.

While some provisions in O'Malley's plan would not affect private universities, O'Malley aides said those schools would have an incentive to keep costs down as public colleges and universities become more affordable.

In an e-mail sent to O'Malley supporters on Tuesday, Grace O'Malley, now a public school teacher in Baltimore, relayed her college-tuition story and urged others to do so on a Web page set up by her father's campaign.

"I had to make a tough choice: do I go to the college we can afford or do I take out loans to go to the college of my dreams?" she wrote. "At the age of 18, I made the decision to follow my dreams. My family and I now face years of debt -- and we know we're not the only ones."

Martin O'Malley Calls For Debt-Free College Within 5 Years // HuffPo // Tyler Kingkade – July 7, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley on Wednesday will lay out a plan providing debt-free access to a college degree for all students within five years. The former Maryland governor also will propose income-based repayment options for borrowers who have private student loans.

O'Malley will unveil his higher education plans during an event Wednesday morning in Manchester, New Hampshire. He will seek to cut tuition "to no more than 10 percent of state median income at four-year public universities," and encourage "competency-based education strategies" that allow students to graduate quicker, according to campaign briefing documents. To cut non-tuition costs, O'Malley will propose expanding Pell grants and tripling the work-study program so that at least 2 million students can participate.

Debt-free college has already become a major issue in the Democratic presidential race, with endorsements of the idea from Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The issue has snowballed, thanks in part to a push by progressive activists, as student debt tops $1.2 trillion.

The idea was outlined in a white paper by the left-leaning think tank Progressive Change Campaign Committee, and has steadily gained steam among Democrats.

Debt-free college "should be one of the top issues talked about on the campaign trail, in debates, in TV ads, and at the doors with voters of all ages," said Adam Green, Progressive Change Campaign Committee co-founder, insisting that such a plan would be a boon for the economy.

O'Malley's plan builds on his previous statements and follows Sen. Elizabeth Warren's (D-Mass.) framework for debt-free college.

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O'Malley's daughter, Grace O'Malley, sent an email to campaign supporters Tuesday mentioning that her family chose to take out student loans to finance college. O'Malley's family has $339,200 worth of Parent Plus loans for their two daughters' college educations, campaign aides said.

New Hampshire has consistently ranked near the top for states with the most student debt.

To address current debt, O'Malley will propose allowing borrowers with private student loans to enroll in income-based repayment plans. Details aren't yet being released, but aides said borrowers would enroll in a program that would essentially have them paying the government rather than banks.

The Obama administration has rolled out programs for federal student loans that tie payments to borrowers' income. But no similar benefit exists for private loans. As a result, private student loan borrowers' monthly paymentscan top $1,000, and there's no loan forgiveness programs. Private student loans make up about one-eighth of all national education debt.

O'Malley will call on states to freeze tuition at state colleges and universities and to restore funding to higher education, which has been slashed for decades. He wants to encourage higher education funding with federal grants in a process still being worked out.

"The cost would vary depending on states' levels of funding, but we have to take the burden off students and their families and go back to historical levels of investment in our public institutions of higher ed," campaign spokesman Sean Savett said Tuesday. "Governor O'Malley is considering a number of possible ways to cover the cost including closing the trust fund and carried interest loopholes, taxing capital gains at the same rate as earned income, and closing tax loopholes for corporations that ship jobs overseas."

O'Malley to Lay Out Plan for Debt-Free College // AP // July 8, 2015

CONCORD, N.H. — Democrat Martin O'Malley is calling the high cost of college a "crisis" as he lays out a goal of debt-free tuition for all students at public colleges and universities within five years if elected president.

O'Malley, a former governor of Maryland, will outline his plan Wednesday at an event in the early-voting state of New Hampshire. O'Malley is struggling to catch fire with Democratic voters who are preoccupied with rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Focusing on college costs could help him make inroads with younger voters in New Hampshire, where the average student loan debt burden is the highest in the nation. But he's not alone in addressing the problem. Sanders is calling for free college tuition and has introduced legislation in the Senate to tax financial transactions to pay for it. Clinton has emphasized the need to lower college costs but has yet to be specific on policy.

Roughly a dozen voters will share their struggles with student debt in a discussion with O'Malley before he outlines his debt-free college plan.

O'Malley's plan relies in part on using federal matching dollars to encourage states to pursue some of his more ambitious goals, such as freezing tuition rates and eventually reducing tuition at four-year public schools to 10 percent of states' median incomes.

The plan calls on states to invest more money in higher education and maintain those levels even as tuition goes down. New Hampshire invests minimally in its public colleges and universities, and state aid for higher education is often on the chopping block in tight state budgets.

O'Malley's plan includes familiar policy ideas, such as allowing students to refinance their loans and automatically enrolling people in income-based repayment plans.

He is also proposing an increase in Pell Grants and a tripling of the number of work-study jobs to help students cover college costs beyond tuition, such as room and board.

Martin O'Malley Has the Right Solution for Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis // The Nation // John Nichols – July 7, 2015

Puerto Rico is not Greece.

But the United States commonwealth is confronted with a debt crisis. It faces the threat of a brutal round of austerity cuts, which could make a bad circumstance dramatically worse. If ever there was a moment that called for enlightened leadership that recognizes both the economic and social challenges facing the Puerto Rico, this is it.

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Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley heard that call as the crisis began to come into focus last month and declared, "As a nation we must help our fellow US citizens not only because it's the right thing to do, but because our region's economic stability depends on it."

Urging the Obama administration and Congress to act "to avoid Puerto Rico's economic collapse," O'Malley said:

First, Puerto Rico should be able to negotiate with its creditors just as states can under the U.S. Bankruptcy code. Congress should approve Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi's legislation that would allow for this to happen.

Second, as I've stated before, the Department of Health and Human Services must end the inequitable treatment of Puerto Rico under Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. High costs and low reimbursement rates are a huge burden to Puerto Rico's budget and millions of U.S. citizens are at risk of losing care.

These are two steps we can take today, but I urge the Administration and Congress to work with Puerto Rico on a path forward that both provides immediate relief, and builds a foundation for sustainable, long-term economic stability.

Republican Jeb Bush, a longtime advocate for Puerto Rican statehood, has spoken out for some time about the need to provide the commonwealth with greater flexibility. Give Bush credit for that, especially as it is likely to put him at odds with many in his own party.

What distinguishes O'Malley's early and steady focus on Puerto Rico—and more broadly on the Caribbean—has been the precision he has brought to it as a former mayor and governor. That's earned him significant attention from Puerto Rican media and media in the United States that bothered to pay attention to the crisis.

"As a nation we must help our fellow U.S. citizens not only because it's the right thing to do, but because our region's economic stability depends on it." — Martin O'Malley

Now, the crisis is back in the news.

After lawyers for Puerto Rico failed on Tuesday to get the US Court of Appeals in Boston to reinstate a local law to help the commonwealth restructure a crushing $72 billion debt burden, other candidates picked up on the call, and they deserve credit for this.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "The people of Puerto Rico are hurting right now under a weak economy that has been struggling for years."

Clinton, who had expressed concern about Puerto Rico's circumstance earlier, provided more details, saying, "As a first step, Congress should provide Puerto Rico the same authority that states already have to enable severely distressed government entities, including municipalities and public corporations, to restructure their debts under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code."

Later in the day, Senator Bernie Sanders said, "I strongly believe Puerto Rico should be afforded the same bankruptcy protections that exist for municipalities across the United States. We need to do everything we can to allow Puerto Rico to restructure its debt in a rational way that does not harm its people, ordinary investors or pension funds in the United States. Chapter 9 protections would be a good first step."

Sanders added that "we also should recognize that the reason Puerto Rico has such unsustainable debt has everything to do with the policies of austerity and the greed of large financial institutions. Puerto Rico has been in a severe recession for almost a decade. Today, more than 45 percent of the people in Puerto Rico are living in poverty, the childhood poverty rate is greater than 56 percent and real unemployment is much too high. Our goal must be not only to give Puerto Rico the flexibility it needs to restructure its debt, but to make sure that it can rebuild its economy, create good-paying jobs and expand its tax base."

The right things are being said now. The volume is being amplified.

When the call for a reasonable response was faint, however, O'Malley was the one who stepped up. And he framed a message that was humane and responsible.

This is worth noting, because Puerto Rico's challenge is both fiscal and political. Political players in Washington have to be pushed to pay more attention to the island that is part of the United States but not a state. As a commonwealth, Puerto Rico has a unique relationship with the United States that creates both benefits and challenges. This has been especially evident as Puerto Rican officials have looked for options to restructure a debt-repayment burden so overwhelming that it threatens to empty the commonwealth's treasury, to cause profound hardship for island residents, and to leave officials with few options for renewing a battered economy.

While states and mainland cities have the varying degrees of flexibility to restructure debt burdens of the sort that Puerto Rico is facing, the island lacks them. At virtually every turn, Puerto Rican officials are prevented from

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taking steps that have the potential to stabilize its fiscal affairs while maintaining basic services—the only rational and humane response to the crisis caused by its inability to cover payments to bondholders who delighted in speculating on financial instruments issued by the commonwealth because the bonds had "triple-tax-free" status that exempted them from federal, state, and local income taxes.

There will be much resistance in Washington to doing right by Puerto Rico. It is going to take consistent leadership to get the attention and the action that is necessary to get an equitable restructuring of debts. This political pressure is going to require both economic common sense and a sense of morality that recognizes that helping our fellow citizens is "the right thing to do."

O'Malley has been out front on this one, applying the pressure. He deserves credit for that, and encouragement to keep it up.

Martin O'Malley: A Strong Foreign Policy Starts With a Global Middle Class // TIME // Martin O'Malley – July 7, 2015

I believe America's role in the world is to advance the cause of a global middle class.

After more than 12 years on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, and after a global financial crisis that decimated our middle class, it is understandable that many Americans would like to disengage from the world. But our country's security and prosperity demand that we be more engaged in the world, not less.

The first and foremost responsibility of the next Commander in Chief will be to keep America safe from 21st-century threats: violent extremism; nuclear proliferation; pandemics; cyberattacks; rising inequality; failed states; the mega-droughts, famines and floods caused by climate change; and more refugees than at any time since World War II.

We may have the most sophisticated military in history, but we do not have a silver bullet for these problems. So we must pursue a more collaborative, proactive, and farsighted foreign policy. We need new international partnerships to confront climate change and regional challenges, from the South China Sea to the sea lanes of the Middle East. We must create a new National Security Act to develop a broader framework for our national-security strategy. We must continue to adapt our military's force structure and spending to meet today's threats. And we must establish a cybersecurity unit in every state's National Guard to better protect Americans' personal data and critical infrastructure.

My vision for U.S. foreign policy focuses on the rise of a global middle class, which is a moral, economic, and national-security imperative. Eliminating the scourge of extreme poverty is a reflection of our most deeply held values. Supporting economic development will help us build the next generation of American political and economic partnerships. And protecting the dignity of human lives in fragile states will reduce the threat of being drawn into costly future conflicts.

We must also understand that comprehensive immigration reform is an economic and national-security interest. And we must forge a New Alliance for Progress based on shared interests in our own hemisphere, which we have neglected for too long. An early task should be to address the root causes of violence and instability in places like El Salvador and Honduras, heading off growing crises before they reach our borders.

We must listen to U.S. military leaders who have long recognized that climate change is a national security threat. Tackling the climate challenge will provide our nation the greatest business opportunity in 100 years. I strongly support an American Green Jobs Agenda. If we can put a man on the moon in a decade, we can power America with 100% renewable energy by 2050. It's not the technology that's lacking. It's the political will.

All of this is within our reach. But it will require new leadership. Twitter and Facebook are no substitute for personal relationships and human intelligence. We must recruit a new generation of Americans to exercise our global economic, diplomatic, military, and healing power in ways consistent with our values. And we must give them the tools to engage a new generation of leaders abroad, often in hostile environments where we lack historic ties.

The cornerstone of American strength in the world is economic strength at home. Maintaining our security in the long run will require an economy that works for all Americans. No fighter jet or troop battalion will protect us as much as a vibrant economy. A stronger middle class is the first garrison against any threat we might face.

The greatest power we possess as Americans is not military might, but the power of our own example. We must lead the world by strengthening the American middle class and supporting the rise of a global middle class — free from want, and free from fear.

That will make us more prosperous and secure. That will give our children a better future with more opportunity. And that will make our planet healthier, more peaceful, and more just.

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These are the foreign policy and national security goals worthy of a truly great people.

O'Malley Denounces Super PACs As One Supporting Him Goes After Sanders // NHPR // Rachael Brindley – July 7, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley says he'd prefer there were no super PACs, but stopped short of calling on one supporting him to stop airing negative attack ads against Democratic rival Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"I would hope that we would keep this debate a debate about the issues and I would prefer, not that I'm able to tell a super PAC what to do, I would prefer that we didn't have any super PACs, frankly," he said.

In an interview with NHPR's Morning Edition, O'Malley was responding to attack ads being aired by the Generation Forward PAC, which has been critical of Sanders for not being progressive enough when it comes to gun control.

O'Malley didn't say whether he supported or denounced the ads, only that he disagreed with the Citizens United decision, saying that once you're a candidate, "you're in a bit of a straight jacket. There are all sorts of rules and limitations, but super PACs have none."

O'Malley is scheduled to return to New Hampshire this week, as polls show he's got a lot of ground to make up to catch Sanders and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. A recent poll showed O'Malley with just 2 percent of support among Democratic voters.

O'Malley has acknowledged Sanders' recent surge in the polls, but attributes that to him being a "protest candidate." When asked what he meant by that, O'Malley said," History has shown usually the candidates that are surging in the summer are not the candidates who are surging in the primary."

"I'm running for President of the United States, and I have 15 years of executive experience, getting things done," he said. "I have to offer progressive values as well as an ability to actually deliver on the goals set, whether it's affordable college, reducing violent crime, increasing job creation, or defending the highest median income in the country through a recession."

SANDERS

Can Bernie Sanders Beat Hillary Clinton? Reporter's Notebook // NYT // Pat Leary – July 7, 2015

Deep down, does Bernie Sanders actually believe he can beat Hillary Rodham Clinton for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination?

After watching and interviewing him over the last several weeks, it's clear that the Vermont senator thinks he could win, yet also knows that it will take the political equivalent of lightning in a bottle.

"It's one thing for people to say that the country is going in the wrong direction, that we need to change directions," Mr. Sanders told me recently. "But is there the energy to get seriously involved in the campaign? Can the thousands of people coming to our events be turned into a real political organization? Will the people showing up this summer also show up to vote for our message next winter in the primaries?"

People may be surprised to learn that Mr. Sanders isn't some starry-eyed political fantasist, despite his socialist leanings and visions of moving America closer to a welfare-state system like those of Denmark and Sweden, which he praises as models of fair-minded government on the campaign trail.

After more than 30 years as an elected official, he is shrewd enough to know that the huge crowds he is drawing (including 7,000 people in Portland, Me., on Monday night) won't mean much if they don't support his candidacy in the way that matters, by rallying support from friends and acquaintances, and, of course, voting for him when the time comes.

One of the problems for Mr. Sanders is that his political organization is still relatively tiny (a few dozen paid staff members at this point, compared to hundreds for Mrs. Clinton) and can only grow so fast. And it is not growing as fast as the crowds showing up at his campaign events.

Why does that matter? Like another presidential candidate from Vermont, Howard Dean, in 2003, Mr. Sanders is using the summer before the primaries to build political momentum by holding events in reliably liberal enclaves where thousands of voters are flocking to his message, and the news media is spotlighting the big turnout.

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But Mr. Sanders doesn't have big teams of campaign staff on the ground in Portland, Madison, Wis., Minneapolis and elsewhere who can perform labor-intensive follow-up with virtually every voter who attended his rallies. That kind of outreach is a specialty of Mrs. Clinton's army of organizers and volunteers.

Give us time, say Sanders advisers, who are at this point focusing manpower and money on the two early-voting states, Iowa and New Hampshire.

"We have an incredibly great message, and a messenger that people are excited about," said Pete D'Alessandro, who is overseeing the Sanders campaign in Iowa. "But the key is the extent to which we can turn a grass-roots campaign into a winning campaign."

For Mr. Sanders to win the Iowa caucuses, which some Clinton allies and advisers now see as a real possibility, his organization and the savvy, experienced operatives running it will have to scale up substantially.

In the end, of course, there remains the threshold question: Do Americans hunger for radical change intensely enough, and in big enough numbers, to defeat a popular, well-financed Democrat who is widely considered more mainstream and electable than Mr. Sanders?

Why we shouldn't just call Bernie Sanders a 'liberal' **// WaPo // Hunter Schwartz – July 7, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders is some progressives' great hope to defeat Hillary Clinton in 2016. But to say he's a down-the-line liberal would be to misread a political career the includes plenty of nuance.

Over the weekend, Sanders spoke on gun control and the tax-exempt status of churches, and if you were hearing him for the first time, you might think he was a Republican. He defended gun owners on CNN's "State of the Union," saying 99.9 percent of them obey the law and that gun manufacturers shouldn't be held responsible for murderers "any more than you would hold a hammer company responsible if somebody beats somebody over the head with a hammer."

On removing the tax-exempt status for churches that don't recognize same-sex marriage, he said he didn't know that he'd "go there" and that he respected "people who have different points of view."

Of course, neither of these positions necessarily run counter to the Democratic Party's principles -- Hillary Clinton isn't going after law-abiding gun owners, and Martin O'Malley isn't campaigning on taking away churches' tax-exempt status -- and Sanders's comments came in the context of his liberal bona fides, which he also mentioned. For example, he has voted to ban semiautomatic assault weapons and create instant background checks, and he voted against the Defense of Marriage Act, which was signed into law in 1996 by Democratic President Bill Clinton.

But there are certain things that might complicate Sanders for those on the left -- and it wasn't just this weekend, either. In 1993, as a member of the House, he voted against the Brady bill, which required federal background checks for most gun purchases. He also voted to allow people to transport guns on Amtrak, and he previously said he didn't think stricter gun control would end mass shootings. (Sanders's home state of Vermont, while generally quite liberal, is also very pro-gun rights.)

His history with immigration reform is similar, with a mixed record of supporting things like the Dream Act and the 2013 bill, but in 2007 helping to kill that comprehensive immigration reform deal by teaming with conservative Republican Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa) on so-called "poison pill" amendments. Other Democrats opposed the final bill, as Sanders did, but almost all who did so came from the more moderate wing of the party.

Sanders might just become some GOP-leaning voters' favorite 2016 Democrat -- and not just because he's giving Hillary Clinton a tough time. It's not hard to see some of his positions appealing to more libertarian voters like former Ron Paul fans who prefer Sanders over Rand Paul. His arguments for a middle ground on some of our most controversial social issues also could appeal to voters frustrated by hyper-partisan politics.

He has surprised even himself with the turnout he's getting at some early campaign events. The more than 2,500 people who showed up to a Friday rally in Iowa were part of the largest crowd for any candidate in Iowa this cycle. But he's not just spending all his time in Iowa or New Hampshire. Sanders has had rallies in Colorado and Wisconsin, and he told The Nation that he believes candidates should have a 50-state campaign strategy, rattling off red states he thinks Democrats, as "the party of working people," should campaign in, including Mississippi, South Carolina and Alabama. On Monday, he drew 7,500 people closer to home in Portland, Maine.

Sanders is a socialist who championed progressive issues before they became more mainstream, but it's also clear that he's an independent and not a Democrat for a reason. He's beloved by liberal Democrats who feel Clinton is too moderate, but as his vision for a 50-state campaign and gun and tax-exempt comments show, he's making a play for people who might not describe themselves as "very liberal."

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The issue on which Bernie Sanders aims for 'the middle' // **MSNBC** // **Steve Benen – July 7, 2015**

One of the biggest political stories of the summer is the reception Sen. Bernie Sanders is receiving on the presidential campaign trail. In a 2016 field filled with high-profile candidates, it's the Vermont Independent who's drawing the largest crowds.
This was evident yesterday in Maine, which came on the heels of similarly successful events in Iowa and Wisconsin last week. As Rachel noted on the show last night, Sanders is "having way more retail success on the campaign trail than anyone else in either party – anyone."
Sanders' early success seems baffling to much of the political world, but let this be a lesson to observers: there are plenty of unapologetic liberals out there who are eager to celebrate Sanders and his vision.
But just away from the spotlight, there's still just one potential trouble area for the Vermonter. A few readers flagged this Facebook item yesterday from the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, which wasn't pleased with comments Sanders made in an interview on Sunday with CNN's Jake Tapper:

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders' characterization here of the National Rifle Association-drafted "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act" that he voted for in 2005 is an utter fabrication. The bill has nothing to do with protecting upstanding gun manufacturers and dealers. Instead, it gives NEGLIGENT manufacturers and dealers blanket immunity from civil lawsuits. This law is THE REASON why two parents who lost their daughter in the Aurora shooting had their suit thrown out and are now being ordered to pay more than $200,000 in legal fees to gun companies that armed James Holmes.
It is an immoral law that denies victims and survivors their day in court – a fundamental democratic right – and Sanders' position is totally unacceptable. A big thanks to Jake Tapper for holding him accountable.

Sanders hasn't taken much heat from the left since launching his campaign, so it's worth pausing to appreciate what this is all about.
In the CNN interview, Tapper asked Sanders, "Earlier this year, the parents of one of the 12 innocent people killed during the Aurora movie theater shooting, they saw their lawsuit to hold ammunition sellers liable for the attack, they saw that dismissed. And one of the reasons was a law that you voted for which protects manufacturers of firearms and ammunition from being sued. Why did you vote that way?"
Sanders stressed that the NRA is not a fan of his – he's voted, for example, to close the gun-show loophole and in support of instant background checks – before explaining:
"Now, the issues that you're talking about is, if somebody has a gun and it falls into the hands of a murderer, and that murderer kills somebody with the gun, do you hold the gun manufacturer responsible? Not anymore than you would hold a hammer company responsible if somebody beat somebody over the head with a hammer. That is not what a lawsuit should be about.
"And this is part, by the way, I may say, of – you know, folks who do not like guns is fine, but we have millions of people who are gun owners in this country; 99.9 percent of those people obey the law. I want to see real serious debate and action on guns. But it is not going to take place if we simply have extreme positions on both sides. I think I can bring us to the middle."

It was this response that did not go over well with the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. The litigation strategy against gun manufacturers is an important idea for many gun-safety advocates, and Sanders seemed to dismiss the idea as ridiculous.
Overall, I'm generally skeptical that gun policy represents a real threat to Sanders' support from the left. The senator's platform largely focuses on economics, not social issues, and my hunch is that if someone were to tell the thousands of voters showing up for Sanders' events that he's a moderate on guns, the vast majority wouldn't care.
But it's nevertheless a rare instance in which Sanders breaks with progressive orthodoxy, and it's an issue on which Hillary Clinton is squarely to the senator's left – a detail that Democratic voters may be hearing more about in the coming months.
* Update: In the statement from the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, the group notes that two parents who lost their daughter in the Aurora shooting "are now being ordered to pay more than $200,000 in legal fees to gun companies."
A colleague reminds me, however, that this is not entirely correct – the parents have been ordered to pay "reasonable" damages, and the $200,000 figure is the one the company has requested. The judge, however, has not yet set the actual amount, and as of now, the parents in the case haven't been ordered to pay anything.

Bernie Sanders is no Ron Paul: What the press gets all wrong about the Vermont senator
He'll always be an underdog, but Sanders is a more viable candidate than even the left-wing media will acknowledge // **Salon** // **Zaid Jilani – July 8, 2015**

AlterNet Monday night, Bernie Sanders drew 7,500 people in the town of Portland, Maine, a locale that only has a population of 66,000. The Portland rally was the latest in a series of high turnouts, as Sanders is drawing more Americans to his events than any other candidate in either party.

In response to the high turnouts at Sanders's events, many in the media have sought to downplay his momentum by comparing him to former GOP presidential candidate Ron Paul, who also inspired an enthusiastic following:

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The message these outlets are promoting is that Sanders, like Paul, will be able to get an enthusiastic base but will ultimately fail in his quest for the presidency and will only make only a minor impact on the debate. The implication seems to be that Sanders' views are on the fringe, like Ron Paul's. But are they? Or is it just that he is the only one articulating the need to address extreme inequality and expanding social security, which millions of Americans support?

The media message seems to rely on the idea that the two men are similar because they spark genuine enthusiasm among their supporters – which is perhaps a sad commentary on American politics that there are so few candidates who can do this that when they do they are instantly compared.

But the analogy doesn't really hold beyond that. In 2008, when Paul first ran for the presidency, he had 130,000 donors through the fourth quarter (January 2008). Recall that this was a campaign that began very early, with Paul entering the race on an official basis in March 2007 after forming his presidential exploration committee in January of that year.

Sanders, on the other hand, has already collected 250,000 donors after around two months of campaigning. This means that the Vermont Senator is collecting donors at nearly 8 times the rate that Paul did in his first run for the presidency.

The biggest difference between the two is the ceiling of support they were able to hit. Paul, despite his enthusiastic and genuinely creative volunteer and donor base, has advocated ideas like completely eliminating Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. Even among the GOP base, these ideas are extremely unpopular.

Sanders, on the other hand, has since his time as Burlington, Vermont's mayor, promoted ideas that are mainstream and popular. Even in the House of Representatives between 1994 and 2006, one of the most right-wing legislative bodies in American history, it was Sanders who passed the most amendments of any member of Congress.

There is no doubt that he's an underdog, but Sanders's ideas are popular and he is gaining traction at a far quicker rate than Ron Paul did. It's true that both Paul and Sanders were insurgent candidates who drew enthusiastic supporters. The similarities end there.

Bernie Sanders' Plan T o Make Solar Power More Accessible // Think Progress // Ari Phillips – July 7, 2015

On Tuesday, Vermont Senator and 2016 Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders introduced legislation aimed at making it easier for low-income families to take advantage of solar power. The bill, called the "Low Income Solar Act," came the same day that the Obama Administration announced a similar program aimed at installing 300 megawatts of renewable energy in federally subsidized housing by 2020.

The Sanders bill would aid in this effort by providing $200 million in Department of Energy loans and grants to help offset the upfront costs associated with installing solar panels on community facilities, public housing and low-income family homes, according to a press release. The projects would also have to prioritize loans for female- and minority-owned businesses, as well as target specific regions including Appalachia, Indian tribal lands, and Alaskan native communities.

"The scientific community tells us very clearly if we're going to reverse climate change and the great dangers it poses for the planet we must move aggressively to transform our energy system away from fossil fuels to sustainable energy," Sanders said in a statement. "We can achieve this goal, save families money and protect the planet for future generations."

According to the bill summary, homeowners with suitable roofs would receive grants to help them afford solar panel installation while renters or others without appropriate siting options would get connected through alternative means such as community solar gardens. Solar gardens are designed for those without rooftop access as a way to connect to a shared solar system that guarantees their electricity comes from solar power. Usually these community solar gardens are one or two megawatts in size and operated by third-party solar providers and local utilities.

Environmentalists are pleased that Sanders is running for president, as he is one of the climate change action leaders in the Senate.

Environmental activist and founder of 350.org Bill McKibben recently praised Sanders as "the ultimate what-you-see-is-what-you-get politician."

"Bernie's been in the forefront of all the crucial environmental fights of recent years, always willing to knuckle down and do the hard work of fighting the big corporations," McKibben told the Burlington Free Press.

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As ThinkProgress previously reported, after the 2014 election that put the GOP in charge of the Senate, Sanders pushed the chamber to go on the record as to whether climate change is happening, caused by human activity, and resulting in "devastating problems in the United States and around the world."

In 2015 he attended the People's Climate March in New York City and told Democracy Now! that climate change is "a huge issue. It's a planetary crisis. We've got to act, and we have to act boldly."

He has also consistently opposed the Keystone XL pipeline and has talked publicly about the potentially disastrous environmental effects.

While Sanders entered the race an extreme long shot, his popularity has swelled in the early days of the campaign. On a recent visit to Iowa, one of the early caucus states, Sanders drew big crowds as well as the attention of Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton's campaign. Sanders is gaining major traction in Iowa polling, and has surpassed Clinton among very liberal voters.

Jimmy Carter: Bernie Sanders Is A 'Surprising' Democratic Competitor // HuffPo // Paige Lavender – July 7, 2015

Former President Jimmy Carter spoke with HuffPost Live about Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and his chances in the Democratic presidential primary, saying Sanders is a "surprising" contender.

While Carter said he thinks it's "almost inevitable" former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will be the Democratic nominee, he thinks Sanders' success has probably been a shock to her campaign.

Carter said he thinks Sanders may be getting support from those who are seeking something different than a Bush or a Clinton in the White House.

"I would presume there's kind of an aversion to inheritance of the mantel of the presidency," Carter said.

HuffPost Pollster shows Clinton leading the Democratic presidential primary, with Sanders in a faraway second:

The Clinton Campaign Is Afraid of Bernie Sanders // The Atlantic // Peter Beinart – July 7, 2015

Obscured by the recent avalanche of momentous news is this intriguing development from the campaign trail: The Hillary Clinton campaign now considers Bernie Sanders threatening enough to attack. Fresh off news that Sanders is now virtually tied with Hillary in New Hampshire, Claire McCaskill went on Morning Joe on June 25 to declare that "the media is giving Bernie a pass … they're not giving the same scrutiny to Bernie that they're certainly giving to Hillary."

The irony here is thick. In 2006, McCaskill said on Meet the Press that while Bill Clinton was a great president, "I don't want my daughter near him." Upon hearing the news, according to John Heilemann and Mark Halperin's book Game Change, Hillary exclaimed, "Fuck her," and cancelled a fundraiser for the Missouri senator. McCaskill later apologized to Bill Clinton, and was wooed intensely by Hillary during the 2008 primaries. But she infuriated the Clintons again by endorsing Barack Obama. In their book HRC, Aimee Parnes and Jonathan Allen write that, "'Hate' is too weak a word to describe the feelings that Hillary's core loyalists still have for McCaskill."

McCaskill, in other words, is a great surrogate: someone eager enough to regain the Clintons' affection that she'll not only praise Hillary, but also slam their opponents. On Morning Joe, she had two talking points. First, journalists are giving Sanders a pass. Second, Sanders is a socialist, and thus can't win. Asked about Sanders' large crowds, McCaskill compared him to Ron Paul and Pat Buchanan, other candidates who sparked enthusiasm among their supporters but couldn't win a general election because of their "extreme message."

On point number one, McCaskill is undeniably correct: Media coverage of Sanders has been fawning, partly because many journalists harbor sympathy for his anti-corporate message but mostly because they're desperate for a contested primary. Given Sanders's strong poll numbers, the media would eventually have gotten around to tearing down the man they pumped up. But Team Clinton clearly wants to accelerate this process before Sanders gets any more momentum.

More intriguing is point number two. Sanders probably would be a problematic general-election candidate. But the liberals flocking to his side don't much care. Nor are the Clintonites likely to scare off many liberals by reminding them that Sanders is a socialist. Most of them already know. And far from hiding it, Sanders is quite effective when challenged on this point. Right after he jumped in the race, George Stephanopoulos gave Sanders exactly the treatment McCaskill is calling for now. First, he reminded Sanders he was a socialist. Then, when Sanders pointed to Scandinavia as his socialist model, Stephanopoulos snarked that, "I can hear the Republican attack ad right now: He wants America to be look more like Scandinavia." But Sanders was not cowed. "That's right. That's right," he replied. "And what's wrong with that? What's wrong when you have more income and wealth equality? What's wrong when they have a stronger middle class in many ways than we do?" It was the kind

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of performance more likely to leave liberals inspired than alienated.

McCaskill grew even less effective when Mark Halperin did something TV interviewers too rarely do: He demanded substance. Give “three specific positions” of Sanders that “are too far left,” he insisted. “I am not here to be critical of my colleague Senator Sanders,” McCaskill responded, absurdly. But Halperin caught her, noting that, “With all due respect, you already were: You said he was socialist and not electable.”

Then things got interesting. The specifics McCaskill offered were that Sanders “would like to see Medicare for all in this country, have everybody have a government-insurance policy,” that “he would like to see expansion of entitlement,” and that “he is someone who is frankly against trade.”

If Hillary actually goes after Sanders on these specifics, the Democratic race will get very interesting very fast. A debate about Obamacare versus single-payer health insurance, about expanding Social Security versus restraining its growth, and about the merits of free trade would be fascinating. But I doubt it’s a debate Hillary wants to have. She is, after all, running a campaign based on generating enthusiasm among the party’s liberal core. By taking bold, left-leaning positions on immigration, criminal justice, and campaign-finance reform, she’s trying (and so far succeeding) to erase her reputation from 2008 as a timid triangulator unwilling to offer big change. Yet the more Hillary emphasizes her opposition to single-payer health care, her opposition to expanding Social Security, and her support for free trade, the more she undermines her own strategy. By taking on Sanders on these issues, Hillary also implicitly takes on Elizabeth Warren, who has made expanding Social Security and opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership two of her recent crusades.

The irony is that in 2008, when Hillary was trying to distinguish herself from her party’s left base in order to appeal to general-election moderates, an opponent like Bernie Sanders might have seemed like a blessing. In 2016, by contrast, when Hillary is running to the left, attacking him as too far left is dangerous.

No wonder McCaskill wants journalists to bury the curmudgeonly Vermonter. The Hillary campaign knows how tricky it will be to bury him themselves.

This Could Be Bernie Sanders' Biggest General Election Challenge // NBC News // Mark Murray – July 7, 2015

It's been the Summer of Bernie Sanders.

Thousands are turning out at his campaign events, his poll numbers are skyrocketing and the New York Times is now raising the question: What if Bernie Sanders wins Iowa?

But here's a different question: Can he win a general election?

While no national poll has yet to test Sanders in a trial heat against the Republican field, a June 2015 Gallup poll found that being a self-described socialist -- as Sanders is -- is more unpopular for a presidential candidate than being an evangelical Christian, Muslim or atheist.

According to the poll, 50 percent said they wouldn't vote for a socialist, compared with 40 percent who wouldn't vote for an atheist, 38 percent for a Muslim and 25 percent for an evangelical Christian.

"Bernie is too liberal to gather enough votes in this country to become president," Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said last month on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

When CNN asked Sanders about McCaskill's remarks, he responded that what voters truly care about are the issues. "I think people are coming out to our meetings because they want to hear some straight talk. They want to hear some truth about what's going on in America today."

There is one other factor to consider: Iowa Democratic caucus-goers have been much more pragmatic than their GOP counterparts have been in recent years.

While the last two Republican winners in Iowa (Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum) ultimately didn't win the GOP presidential nomination, the last three Democratic winners of Iowa (Al Gore, John Kerry and Barack Obama) did win their party's nomination.

Rep. Barbara Lee: Bernie Sanders’ Message “Resonating,” “Galvanizing Progressives” // Buzzfeed // Andrew Kaczynski – July 7, 2015

California Rep. Barbara Lee, a key leader of progressive House Democrats, says she believes Bernie Sanders’ candidacy is “galvanizing progressives” and the progressive agenda.

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"I know Bernie first as a colleague and as a friend. I did serve with him on the then-Banking Committee and we actually came up with, initially, with the National Housing Trust Fund, worked together on that, and so I've worked with him on many, many issues and he's a friend," Lee said on the Jeff Santos Show.

"And I think what he is doing really is galvanizing progressives to really develop a strong progressive agenda that deals with all of the issues, that the majority of Americans want to deal with," she added. "And I think by the turnout and by what the response of the people around the country, we see that his message is resonating and so I think it's a good thing that he's out there," she said.

Last week Sanders supporters filled the 10,000 seat Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Madison, Wisconsin.

"I'm supporting the progressive agenda, Mayor DeBlasio, myself, and probably 8 to 10 members of Congress signed on to a progressive agenda that we are putting forward, that addresses many of the issues that Senator Clinton and Bernie Sanders are raising—excuse me Secretary of State Clinton and Senator Sanders are raising."

"And so income inequality, when you look at a living wage, when you look at climate change, there are many, many issues on that that progressive agenda that both Mrs. Clinton and Senator Bernie are really addressing and I think it's a very exciting time that he is doing this."

Bernie Sanders Hits a Triumphant Note As His Crowds Grow // TIME // Sam Frizell – July 7, 2015

Bernie Sanders, tan and slightly hoarse after six weeks of campaigning for president, began a stump speech on Monday night with a humble brag of epic proportions. "Sometimes, media people ask me, 'Well, Bernie, why are so many people coming out to your events?'" Sanders said to a crowd of 7,500 people in Portland, Maine.

"Well the answer is, I think, pretty obvious," Sanders continued, flashing a grin to cheers before getting stern again. "From Maine to California—we have friends in Alaska and Hawaii as well—the American people understand that establishment politics and establishment economics is not working for the middle class!"

The audiences are growing, he says, mostly because things in America are so bad. It's a note of encouragement in the midst of Sanders' famously jaundiced speeches, a nod to the tide of hope and discontent that his campaign is riding. "All over America, people are becoming involved in this campaign because they want change," Sanders said. "Real change! And that is what this campaign is about."

In a campaign by numbers, Sanders has taken a surprisingly strong grasp of the Democratic base. He drew crowds of thousands at several rallies in the last week, a notable feat 16 months before a general election. His poll numbers in the key early states of Iowa and New Hampshire show he is just a few paces behind Hillary Clinton, climbing within ten points of the presumptive Democratic nominee in one recent poll. And more than 250,000 people have donated to his campaign.

They are surprising metrics of success for a politician who for decades has seen himself as an outsider.

Sanders, who calls himself a democratic socialist, has done it armed with the promise of revolution. "The only way that change takes place is when we develop that strong grassroots movement, make that political revolution, stand together," Sanders said on Monday. "And then we bring about change."

Sanders had originally planned his Monday night rally in this seaside city of 66,000 people at a small venue on the water, but after thousands of RSVPs came back online, he was forced to reschedule the speech in a large arena usually reserved for big musical acts and hockey games. Nearly 8,000 people showed up, flooding the standing room with Mainers touting an eclectic mix of tribal tattoos, floral prints, polo shirts and New Balance sneakers.

Sanders' supporters found in Portland a candidate invigorated by the last months of success. With his left hand gripping the podium and his right hand dancing in the air as if holding a marionette, Sanders framed the recent liberal groundswell as part of a long legacy of activism. He pointed to the labor movement of the early 20th century, the women's suffrage activists and the civil rights movement as models for changing the country. He called for equal pay, paid family leave, a higher minimum wage, breaking up the big banks, and a massive infrastructure rebuilding program, a la the New Deal.

"There is nothing, nothing, nothing that we cannot accomplish!" said Sanders.

The crowds have taken note of Bernie's sanguine outlook and call to action.
"He's telling us that the people's movements—the grassroots movements—have succeeded when people got off their asses and they went out and marched," said James Murdoch, a self-employed designer and builder who attended the rally. "We're now getting to the point where people are getting involved and getting active again."

Portland was just one leg on Sanders' packed schedule: after a Madison, Wisconsin rally on Wednesday that drew some 9,500 people, Sanders spent three days in western Iowa corn country, where in Council Bluffs, 2,500 people

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attended a rally, according to the campaign—more than any other Iowa rally so far. (In Iowa he is trailing Clinton by 52-33.) He flew back to Burlington, and then drove with his wife and an aide the 250-odd miles to Portland.

Despite some of the change in tone, Sanders' speeches are still largely jeremiads on the perennial problems. Wall Street and the greed of the 1% are destroying America, Sanders says, climate change is wreaking drought and deadly heat waves, and misguided trade agreements are sending millions of jobs overseas to countries like China. There's only a short window of opportunity to stop global warming, and the middle class is in grave danger.

Among his fans, there's a new hint of faith that the gravity of the campaign may have jolted something awake. People in the audience said afterward that Sanders had struck a chord, particularly for those disappointed by the Obama years and cautious of the hope brand that dominated the 2008 campaign. "He's saying the things that need to be said," said Fran Falcone, a mental health counselor, of Sanders. "We need to start really looking at what's going in our country that's turned it into a place a lot of us don't recognize."

After the speech, Sanders dined at a Spanish-inspired restaurant a few blocks away on Portland's Congress Street. Word got around town he was there, and a small crowd gathered to seem him before he went to bed and made for Washington D.C. the next day for Senate duties.

Meanwhile, two buddies drank beers on the upstairs terrace of an Irish pub one block from the rally arena. They discussed the reality-check-and-momentum phenomenon. "Campaigns have cycles," said Portland resident Doug Hall about Sanders, speaking over the house music. "This is the wake-the-f***-up cycle."

Paul Drinan, who runs a non-profit and also lives in town, agreed. "At this point in the game that's the appeal: there's no fluff in the message. He's telling it like it is," said Drinan. "Bernie's riding the wave."

As Labor Grapples With Candidate Endorsements, Transit Union Head Applauds Bernie Sanders
// IB Times // Cole Stangler –July 7, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., says he wants to fight the "billionaire class," the signature phrase of a presidential campaign that's thrived by pitting beleaguered American workers against the rich and powerful. And as the self-described socialist continues his steady rise in the polls against Democratic primary opponent and presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, he's winning support from the American underdogs par excellence: trade unionists.

No major unions have made White House endorsements, and the national AFL-CIO has yet to formally back a candidate. Still, a couple of state labor federations have passed resolutions backing Sanders' bid (even though they were rebuked in an AFL-CIO memo for breaching the federation's endorsement process); thousands of rank-and-file union members have signed up with the grassroots Labor for Bernie network; and last week, the recently retired head of one of the nation's largest unions joined Bernie's campaign team as a volunteer.

In a recent interview with International Business Times -- before the AFL-CIO fired off its warning memo last week -- the head of the nation's largest transit union cheered Sanders' "willingness to get outside the bubble." The Amalgamated Transit Union's Larry Hanley did not endorse the senator, and the union, which represents some 200,000 people, hasn't decided whom to back yet. But the ATU's Hanley credited Sanders for raising the sorts of problems, beyond bread-and-butter labor ones, that he says hurt American workers: things like unnecessary military spending, environmental degradation and prohibitively costly college tuition. Hanley becomes the first president of a major union to weigh in publicly -- and candidly -- about the Democratic primary matchup.

"This model doesn't work," said the outspoken labor leader in a wide-ranging conversation about national politics and the 2016 campaign. "It's not working for our unions, it's not working for our members, it's not working for our people and we have to change the model. It's not enough for us to just put our logo up on some candidate who's gonna stand up for the status quo."

"We are at a critical point in our history because our economy is inevitably going to be crippled by this ridiculous war spending, and our environment is teetering on the brink of disaster every day, and these are issues that have been neglected or made worse by the policies of the neocons, which obviously, includes people on both sides of the political aisle."

In particular, Hanley praised Sanders' support for free education at four-year public universities -- a plan that Clinton has not endorsed.

"Everybody running for president should just check that box; it shouldn't be a hard one, but I'm waiting to see if they will," he said. "Certainly anybody who's running in the party that claims to represent average working people ought to be saying, 'Yeah, you know what? There's no reason why we have to burden our kids with debt, why we have to make them come out of college with something comparable to a mortgage to pay before they get a job.' I mean, come on, this stuff is obvious."

"We live in a bubble of false discussion, and both sides, Democrats and Republicans, refuse to break out of that

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bubble," Hanley continued. "I think Bernie has shown more of a willingness to get outside the bubble, outside the box and have those discussions. As a consequence of that, I think he's a very good addition to the race. I think hopefully that he will encourage people in the Democratic Party to remember where they came from and remember their roots."

At the same time, Hanley offered some praise for Clinton. A former bus driver from the New York City borough of Staten Island, Hanley rose through the ranks of the transit union before his election to the top office in 2010. As he was serving as president of his New York City local, in 2000, he supported the then-first lady's successful Senate campaign. "I have a long history of fond affection for Hillary Clinton -- she has stood up and done many things in her lifetime of a historic nature," he said. Nevertheless, Hanley added -- with a flair of ambiguity -- "the truth as I know it is much more frequently expressed by Bernie, and even more than Bernie, by Elizabeth Warren."

But unions are in a pickle: Is it worth getting behind the underdog or does it make more sense to accept conventional wisdom and plan accordingly? After all, "if the election's between Hillary and just about any one of the Republicans that have come forward," Hanley said, "it's gonna look like heaven and hell."

"I'm going to confess to being conflicted, and I think as a matter of fact, the whole labor movement is conflicted over this," Hanley said. "While we see Bernie being a champion for many of our issues, we're anguished waiting on Hillary to take the lead on that, too."

In the ATU at least, Hanley said, leaders are expressing more frustration with the general political climate than during the last open Democratic presidential primary. (Exasperation, in general, jibes more with Sanders' calls for "political revolution" than Clinton's mild-mannered liberalism.) In 2007, a few years before Hanley took over the reins, the union endorsed Hillary Clinton for president, eventually spending more than $70,000 on her failed primary campaign.

"People are united in the notion that we can't accept the status quo, that the Democratic Party no longer is the party of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, it's more like the party of Nelson Rockefeller and the Republicans are more like the party of the Ku Klux Klan. That's kinda the way America's shifted," he said. "There is a boil going on right under the surface in America and the advantage Bernie has, by being willing to talk about this kind of stuff, is that he may just make that pot boil over."

Coons: "Not Confident" In Bernie Sanders' Qualifications // Bloomberg // Kendall Breitman – July 7, 2015

Senator Chris Coons is "not confident" that his colleague Senator Bernie Sanders is presidential material.

"I am not confident that he's got all the qualifications that the American public will look for in its next commander-in-chief," Coons said Tuesday on Bloomberg Politics' "With All Due Respect," adding that the ultimate judgment will be left up to the electorate.

Coons comments came after the Democrat was pressed on previous remarks from Senator Claire McCaskill - a Clinton ally - who on June 25 told MSNBC that Sanders is a "socialist" who "is too liberal to gather enough votes in this country to become president."

"I, quite frankly, am hoping for someone with more seasoning."

Coons, who has a close relationship with his fellow Delaware politician and potential 2016 candidate Vice President Joe Biden, has yet to endorse any specific candidate so far. Although he said believes Sanders has a "terrific record" on advocating for issues involving veterans, middle class economics and social and economic justice, Coons made it plain that the independent from Vermont, who caucuses with Senate Democrats, is not a contender for his nod.

"I, quite frankly, am hoping for someone with more seasoning, more experience, who served both in the executive branch and the legislative branch," Coons said. "I do think that the sort of experience that I think we will see in the likely Democratic nominee - whether that ends up being Joe Biden or Hillary Clinton - would span both the congressional and executive branches and I think that's the sort of experience we should look for in our commander in chief."

Fox News' big Bernie Sanders lie: The right's laughably lame effort to link Donald Trump and Sanders // Salon // Sean Illing – July 7, 2015

The media cannot help comparing Donald Trump to Bernie Sanders. And the comparison is not altogether wrong. Both candidates appeal to their respective bases. Both are challenging their party's establishment choices. And both are drawing massive crowds while surging in national polls.

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The left (understandably) cringes at such comparisons. Bernie Sanders, whatever you think of him, is a serious person with real ideas. He's been a public servant since 1981, when he was elected mayor of Burlington, Vermont. He's now the longest-serving independent in the history of Congress. And his bid for the presidency, while a long shot, is clearly earnest.

Donald Trump, on the other hand, is a clown – a pompous, spray-tanned clown. More important, he's not actually running for president. His candidacy is a piece of performance art, a self-promoting circus. No one paying attention believes he wants to be president – I suspect he wouldn't run at all if this were a real possibility. Trump is campaigning because he can, because it bolsters his brand, and because people are dumb enough to listen to him talk about things he doesn't understand. If anything, Trump's campaign, much like Sarah Palin's, is a reminder of just how broken and stupid our political system has become.

However wrong it feels, Democrats ought to embrace the juxtaposition of Trump and Sanders for at least two reasons. First, it's accurate. Both candidates are indeed authentic representations of their party's base. Trump is a near-perfect distillation of the modern American right: The bravado, the bigotry, the raging idiocy, the false confidence, and the lack of ideas – it's all there in one gloriously manicured body.

It's not simply that Trump has bad ideas; it's that he doesn't have any ideas at all. And he's quite explicit about this. His announcement speech was essentially a stream-of-consciousness rant, totally bereft of anything resembling a policy proposal. His entire platform consists of him telling you a) how rich and smart he is and b) how stupid and broke everyone else is. That's it. If Trump were laughed out of conservative town halls, that'd be one thing. But he's not. He's embraced. According to this recent CNN poll, Trump is second only to Jeb Bush among national conservatives. This means Trump's fevered ramblings are resonating with the Republican base, even if Trump himself doesn't actually believe anything he says.

Bernie Sanders may well represent the "extreme" left of the Democratic Party, but he has real ideas; arguments can be made against them, of course, but the point is that he offers something substantive against which to argue. Unlike Trump, he has an actual platform, spelling out what he wants to do and how he intends to do it. From infrastructural decay to climate change to tax reform to higher education, Sanders is proposing solutions. Conservatives may not like those solutions, but they at least have to be reckoned with. This is a fundamental distinction between Trump and Sanders, one the GOP would prefer to ignore. Which leads me to the second reason why liberals should embrace Trump-Sanders comparisons.

To the extent that Trump and Sanders reflect the views of the right and left wings of their parties, they vividly clarify just how different the two parties are. It says something significant about the Republican Party that there's space for someone like Trump or Sarah Palin or even Herman Cain in it. These people aren't credible candidates; they're product-pushing brands looking to capitalize on conservative credulity. I don't believe the same can be said of Democratic candidates, no matter how wrong-headed you find their policy ideas.

Republican operatives know all of this to be true, which is why they'll do everything they can to equate Sanders and Trump. But they'll spin a false narrative. They'll argue, as John Gibson on FoxNews.com does, that Democrats should be "embarrassed" by Sanders for the same reasons Republicans should be embarrassed by Trump. Nobody, especially Democrats, should fall for this.

There are crucial differences between Trump and Sanders, some of which are cited above. But the most important difference here is between the two parties. Trump's circus act isn't possible in the Democratic Party. There are no celebrity candidates on the left – and certainly none capable of polling at the level Trump does. Democrats have had their share of bad candidates over the years, but they're bad for different (and less offensive) reasons than GOP candidates. They're bad for reasons related to their ideas or campaign platform or something politically relevant.

Only in the Republican Party do unserious candidates emerge as contenders. Only in the Republican Party are half-baked celebrities allowed to hijack the process to promote their private careers. Only among conservative Republicans are hucksters like Trump embraced. Democrats can't point these truths out enough.

The Republican Party created the Frankenstein that is Donald Trump. They've cultivated the idiocy he represents in their ranks for years. If Trump appeals to their base – and he obviously does – that tells you everything you need to know about who they are and what they stand for.

It also tells you how little respect the GOP has for the political process. There ought to be no place for Trump at this level of politics – in either party. But there is, and it's telling that it's permitted only in one party.

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OTHER

How durable is the Democratic advantage among Latinos? **// WaPo // Greg Sargent – July 7, 2015**

Is the overwhelming advantage that Democrats appear to be building among Latinos durable? Or could it prove far more ephemeral than it appears?

Put another way, can Democrats count on the 2016 GOP presidential ticket re-running Mitt Romney's historically bad performance among Latino voters? Or could a Jeb Bush (or, less likely in my view, Marco Rubio) general election candidacy whittle away at the Dem edge among those voters and reverse gains that had seemed to be hardening? Folks with long memories will recall that George W. Bush successfully pulled that reversal off in 2000. Couldn't that happen again?

This is one of the big questions of 2016, and its answer could be key to the campaign's outcome. Right now, there are plenty of reasons for Democrats to be optimistic about it. But it's worth entertaining the alternate scenario.

The case for Dem optimism has been fortified by Donald Trump, who in recent days has been spraying inflammatory quotes about immigrants around like a garden sprinkler. It's true that a number of GOP candidates have condemned his remarks. But as Michael Gerson details, Republicans still appear locked in a debate over the fundamental underlying question of whether their route to the White House lies in pumping up the white vote in the Rust Belt (a strategy perhaps foreshadowed by Scott Walker's move to the right on immigration) or in broadening their appeal beyond their demographic comfort zone (a strategy that Jeb Bush has urged on the party).

An additional reason for Dem optimism: Some Republicans are reportedly skeptical that the party should bother focusing its energy on nominating a candidate who might appeal to Latinos, on the grounds that those voters agree with Democrats on many issues, so being pro-immigration reform (as Jeb is) won't be enough anyway.

But some Democrats think their party should devote more time to worrying about the possibility that someone like Bush could win over enough Latino voters to make a decisive difference.

Simon Rosenberg, the president of the NDN think tank, floats the possibility of a GOP ticket that includes Bush and Nevada governor Brian Sandoval as vice president. Sandoval won a third of the Latino vote in his 2010 race, despite striking a hard-ish line on immigration, from which he has since backed off. Sandoval is relatively young. A Bush-Sandoval ticket would be led by a man with a Mexican wife and Latino-American children, and backed up by a man of Mexican descent — representing a bet that the GOP can contest Florida and western states with large Latino populations by improving its cultural appeal among those voters. Remember, Republicans only need to marginally reduce their historically large 2012 deficit among Latinos to improve their chances in such states.

So Rosenberg thinks Dems should invest more now in using the Trump outbursts to do more damage to the GOP brand among Latinos, as a kind of insurance policy against outcomes such as a Bush-Sandoval ticket. Rosenberg emails me:

"While the Democratic advantage today is significant, what we don't know is what happens with an historically Hispanic and Spanish friendly GOP ticket of, let's say, Bush and Sandoval. One Bush already used a smart Hispanic strategy to get to the White House. Given that, Democrats should be anything but confident and complacent right now. They need to be doing more, now, to make it harder for any GOP ticket to dig out of the hole Trump and others have dug for the GOP."

To be sure, there are big differences between the current moment and the run-up to the 2000 election. Dems are far more united behind immigration reform today than in the late 1990s, reflecting a changing Democratic Party increasingly reliant on Latinos. Buzzfeed reports that the Hillary Clinton campaign is developing a very comprehensive and aggressive plan for national Latino outreach. She has already pledged to go farther than Obama did on his executive actions on deportations. And today she renewed her support for comprehensive reform and attacked the GOP as backward on the issue. All of these things are signs of Clinton's commitment to the party's new demographic realities.

Meanwhile, House Republicans have steadily moved rightward on immigration, passing on a historic chance to act on the Senate reform bill and voting repeatedly to roll back Obama's deportation actions. That has many Dems confident — to a point.

"The damage may be too great to the GOP brand," one senior aide to a prominent Latino House Democrat says. "It may take more than Bush-Sandoval to rehabilitate this huge mistake Republicans have been making. But we don't know that. Personality, charisma, language, and the individual candidates mean a lot."

So, yes, perhaps Republicans have moved so far to the right on immigration that the party can't conceivably re-run the 2000 Bush immigration strategy, or perhaps even reconstituting that strategy wouldn't be enough to

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reverse GOP losses among Latinos at this point. But Democrats can't count on those outcomes.

Here's what Clinton, O'Malley and Sanders told America's biggest teachers union // The Washington Examiner // Jason Russell – July 7, 2015

Democratic candidates for president didn't miss their chance to address over 7,000 members of the National Education Association, which will be a powerful player in the Democratic primary process. Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders all sent video messages to the teachers, who were gathered at the NEA's Representative Assembly.

In her address, Clinton used a theme of teachers unlocking potential in students. She talked about how teachers had encouraged her and her mother at a young age. "Every semester, in schools across the country, you multiply my mother's story by millions," Clinton told the teachers. "When we invest in our children, we do invest in our country's future, and we need to do more of that." Clinton promised high quality preschool, a doubling of spending on the federal Head Start program, and making college affordable for every single person.

Sanders struck a more ideological tone. "We need some fundamental changes in our national priorities," Sanders said. "Instead of giving tax breaks to billionaires, maybe we invest in our children, maybe we invest in education." He promised to make progress on fixing No Child Left Behind, on universal pre-K and on free college tuition. He also called teachers the real heroes and heroines of the country.

O'Malley tried to strike an optimistic note. "I believe, like you, that America's best days can still be in front of us," O'Malley said. He didn't make any specific promises about what he would do as president, but O'Malley touted the pro-union reforms he implemented in Maryland while serving as governor. For example, spending more on public education and making college more affordable. "This is what we do as Americans, to do more in every generation, to give our children a future with more opportunity, rather than less."

NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia was glad the three candidates took the time to address the union's members. "Recommending a candidate for president of the United States is a civic responsibility that educators take very seriously," said Eskelsen Garcia. "Going through the process to pick the right candidate that represents our values and sets the right priorities is critically important." Eskelsen Garcia has met privately with Clinton, O'Malley and Sanders as part of the NEA's endorsement process for the 2016 presidential election.

The NEA is the nation's largest teachers union, with 3 million members.

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

Florida's Economic Leap Under Jeb Bush Helped By Housing Bubble, Economists Say // WSJ // Bob Davis – July 7, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush says he can deliver 4% annual economic growth as president – about twice as fast as the U.S. has been growing recently. Why is he so confident? During his 1999-2007 tenure as governor, Florida grew 4.4%, his campaign boasts.

Today it even unveiled a cute graphic illustrating the claim.

The trouble is, say some economists, Gov. Bush's Florida growth record was based in large part on a housing bubble – national in scope but particularly frothy in Florida — that exploded the year he left office in 2007. Wells Fargo economist Mark Vitner, who has studied the Florida economy since the 1980s, estimates that the housing bubble accounted for about one-fourth of Florida's growth during Mr. Bush's tenure.

Subtract that out and you are left with 3.3% annual growth, somewhat faster than the 3% at which the U.S. economy grew annually during that period. (To be sure, the U.S. growth record overall back then was also affected by the housing bubble, though not as severely as Florida was.)

Mr. Vitner said that Mr. Bush deserves credit as governor for trying to diversify the state's economy, particularly by luring biotech companies to the state. He also says the U.S. could grow faster and maybe even at the 4% level that Mr. Bush has set as his target. But his Florida growth record isn't proof of that.

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"Four percent growth was helped along by the housing boom," he said.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Bush said that 18% of Florida's job growth during Gov. Bush's two terms was in the housing or construction fields. "His overall economic record is impressive," spokeswoman Kristy Campbell said in an emailed response. That record includes balancing the state's budget, cutting taxes and fast job growth, she said.

Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi, a housing expert, says Florida's economy in the early 2000s isn't a model for U.S. growth over the coming years.

"The growth in Florida wasn't sustainable," he said. "It was something temporary" due to the housing bubble.

Moreover, Florida isn't representative of the U.S., he said, because its population grows more rapidly than the U.S. as a whole, giving it an expanding pool of workers. That in itself can add to growth.

"Florida isn't a useful analogy because of its unique demographic situation," he said. "It's important for leaders to be aggressive [on the economy] and set a higher bar," Mr. Zandi said. "But 4% is a stretch."

In an article in the Wall Street Journal last month, Mr. Bush's top economic advisers, Columbia University Business School Dean Glenn Hubbard and former Federal Reserve Governor Kevin Warsh, argued that 4% growth was attainable with the right set of policies.

"Setting a goal of 4% growth invites meaningful policy contributions from those who would be our leaders," they wrote.

Did Jeb Bush cut taxes each year as Florida governor? // Politifact – July 7, 2015

On the campaign trail, a recurring theme among Republican candidates is how they have cut taxes and reduced the size of government. For former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, that message is a core part of his presentation.

On June 2 at Gov. Rick Scott's Economic Growth Summit in Orlando, Bush noted how he cut taxes for Floridians. Bush said the following:

"In Florida, for eight years we cut taxes every year, totaling $19 billion."

PolitiFact Florida looked into Bush's record to see if his claim was accurate and reporter Joshua Gillin says Bush gets a HALF TRUE rating. Gillin says there are tax cuts that Bush can take credit for and others where he cannot.

"We took the detailed analysis provided by his campaign and showed it to several economists," Gillin said. "They responded that the methodology that they used to get to the $19 billion figure was pretty clear. We do have to point out that the $19 billion is in 2007, and it has been adjusted up to cover the time he was in office. The $19 billion includes tax cuts, but that's not the only thing in there. Adjustments to fees are in there, as well, as well as appropriations and the way that things were appropriated."

Gillin said, though, that some things included in the analysis were items that Bush had no control over.

"There were two big items in Bush's list," Gillin said. "One was the intangibles tax. This is the amount that you pay on investments and stocks. The other was the federal estate tax. This one is the amount that your estate pays in taxes to the government when you die. In both of those cases, Bush didn't have any control over those, so our experts questioned whether or not he could take credit for those."

Because Bush provided the detailed analysis to back up his claim, it gave PolitiFact a good overview of his claim. However, the analysis showed that there were things included that were outside of Bush's control while he was Florida governor, earning this claim a HALF TRUE.

Jeb Bush's Aggressive July Fundraising Schedule // Bloomberg // Michael Bender – July 7, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush, who says he's never taken more than a week of vacation at a time, is going to be hitting a couple of resorts next week. But it's not about fun. It's about funds.

The two-day event for top donors at the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine, on Thursday and Friday, followed by a luncheon on Saturday at Martha's Vineyard, are part of the aggressive fundraising effort that's been a hallmark of the former Florida governor's campaign so far. He held 14 fundraisers in the first 18 days after kicking off his campaign. Another dozen are on tap for the rest of July, according to a schedule obtained by Bloomberg.

Next week, Bush heads west next week for four fundraisers in California:

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July 14: Los Angeles.
July 15: breakfast Pasadena, followed by lunch in Santa Barbara.
July 16: event in Silicon Valley.

Bush then returns to the East Coast to raise money in the backyard of rival Republican presidential candidate Chris Christie, New Jersey's governor. Bush will headline two fundraisers on July 23 in New Jersey (Middleton and Short Hills) and an evening event on July 25 in East Hampton, New York.

The final two finance events right now on Bush's July schedule: a July 26 reception in Philadelphia and a July 31 fundraiser in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The fundraising push for his presidential campaign comes after Bush spent the first six months tapping the family's donor network and his own in Florida to raise money for the Right to Rise super PAC. Bush's team was aiming to raise $100 million in the first three months of the year. Bush has sought to spread some cash around to fellow Republicans, and told donors that he'd raised record-breaking amounts of early money. Top Bush ally Mike Murphy told super PAC donors that fundraising totals were going to give opponents "heart attacks," according to a BuzzFeed report.

The group's fundraising total will be public for the first time on July 30.

Jeb Bush: No Leniency for Edward Snowden // CBS News // Rebecca Kaplan – July 7, 2015

If Jeb Bush becomes president, his administration will not be making any deals that allows Edward Snowden to avoid punishment for leaking classified information from the National Security Agency (NSA) in 2013.

Snowden broke the law, recklessly endangered nat'l security, & fled to China/Russia. He should be given no leniency https://t.co/9RHNGsHZnx

— Jeb Bush (@JebBush) July 7, 2015
Bush was responding to an interview with Yahoo News in which Eric Holder, the former Attorney General who retired earlier this year, suggested a deal was possible.

Holder told Yahoo that Snowden's actions "spurred a necessary debate" about the bulk collection of phone records and that the U.S. was "in a different place" as a result. As to whether that meant it was possible Snowden might return to the U.S. from Russia, where he was granted asylum after fleeing the U.S., Holder said, "I certainly think there could be a basis for a resolution that everybody could ultimately be satisfied with. I think the possibility exists."

So far that's not the position of new Attorney General Loretta Lynch. Her spokesman Melanie Newman told Yahoo that the Justice Department wasn't changing its position on Snowden.

"This is an ongoing case so I am not going to get into specific details but I can say our position regarding bringing Edward Snowden back to the United States to face charges has not changed," she said in an email.

Snowden faces three felony charges if he returns to the U.S. His asylum in Russia has been a source of tension in U.S.-Russia relations, with President Obama canceling a planned meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G20 Summit in 2013 after Russia agreed to harbor Snowden.

Jeb Bush plans first Sioux City campaign stop // Sioux City Journal // Bret Hayworth – July 7, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will hold his first Sioux City event since officially joining the broad field of 2016 candidates.

A former Florida governor, Bush has set the event for 2:45 p.m. Monday in UPS Auditorium at Morningside College, 3627 Peters Ave.

The event is open to the public, but those who want to attend should obtain a ticket by visiting the Eventbrite web site.

Bush is a brother and son of two former presidents, George W. Bush and George H.W. Bush. Jeb Bush won two gubernatorial terms, in 1998 and 2002, serving eight years as Florida's chief executive.

Bush hired campaign staff in Iowa earlier this year but did not officially become a candidate until June 15. In his campaign launch announcement from Miami-Dade (Florida) College last month, Bush said he should win because of his own experience, not because his family ties.

"I will take nothing and no one for granted -- I will run with heart, and I will run to win," he said.

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Bush campaigned in Iowa in June but did not visit Sioux City.

The Morningside auditorium venue has been used by other Republican presidential candidates this year, including U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and Carly Fiorina. There are more than a dozen Republicans running for president, so most are polling with single-digit percentage totals.

In a July 1 Quinnipiac University Poll of likely Iowa Republican caucus participants, Bush placed sixth, with 8 percent support. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker continues to lead in recent Iowa polls, topping the Quinnipiac poll at 18 percent.

In a prior Quinnipiac poll in May, Bush had 5 percent.

Bush also will speak on Tuesday in Council Bluffs.

The Feb. 1 Iowa caucuses are the first event in the presidential nominee-selection process.

Jeb Bush: 'No leniency' toward Snowden // The Washington Examiner // Elizabeth Potter – July 7, 2015

Republican presidential nominee Jeb Bush says he's outraged at the idea of Edward Snowden receiving a plea deal and being allowed back into the United States.

Bush tweeted that Snowden "should be given no leniency" for his actions.

Snowden has been charged with three felonies under the Espionage Act for distributing tens of thousands of government documents to the press. Those leaks, however, made Snowden a hero to many because they revealed the vast surveillance program involving the collection of bulk phone data, which Congress scaled back just weeks ago.

Former Attorney General Eric Holder said on Monday that the U.S. may have benefitted from Snowden stealing approximately 1.7 million documents from the National Security Agency Net and the Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communication System.

"We are in a different place as a result of the Snowden disclosures," Holder said. "His actions spurred a necessary debate. I certainly think there could be a basis for a resolution that everybody could ultimately be satisfied with — I think the possibility exists."

However, some, such as former NSA and CIA director Michael Hayden, oppose the idea of a plea deal.

Snowden's act "was the greatest hemorrhaging of legitimate American secrets in the history of the republic, no question about it," Hayden said, according to the Free Beacon. "I'm quite stunned that we would be considering any return of Snowden to this country other than to meet a jury of his peers, period."

Snowden's attorney, Ben Wizner, said Holder's comments were the closest things to acknowledging that Snowden's actions may have had a positive impact on the U.S., Yahoo Politics reported.

"The former attorney general's recognition that Snowden's actions led to meaningful changes is welcome," said Wizner. "This is significant ... I don't think we've seen this kind of respect from anybody at a Cabinet level before."

RUBIO

Marco Rubio's Education Plans Echo Some Obama Ideas // NYT // Alan Rappeport – July 7, 2015

Senator Marco Rubio's economic speech in Chicago on Tuesday criticized the failed Democratic policies of the past and called for the need to unleash American innovation. But when it came to education policy, some of presidential candidate's proposals had a familiar ring to them.

Mr. Rubio, the Republican from Florida, called for overhauling the college accreditation system, creating a pay scale for student loan repayment and expanding investment in vocational training.

Many of the details from those ideas sounded strikingly similar to policies that President Obama has called for during his time in office.

Mr. Rubio called for creating "a new accreditation process that welcomes low-cost, innovative providers" that

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would allow new competitors into the education marketplace. In 2013, Mr. Obama proposed establishing "a new, alternative system of accreditation that would provide pathways for higher education models and colleges to receive federal student aid based on performance and results."

On Tuesday, Mr. Rubio proposed a progressive scale for student loan repayments to ease burdens on people who take lower wage jobs when they graduate. "The more they make, the faster they pay back their loans; and the less they make, the less strain their loans cause," he said.

Last summer, Mr. Obama made a similar appeal, devising a "pay as you earn" plan that give Americans who were repaying loans the chance to cap those payments at 10 percent of their incomes.

The senator also said that if he is elected president he would expand apprenticeship programs and make vocational training more easily accessible. While the idea came without specifics of how this would be achieved, it did echo a proposal that Mr. Obama put forward at the end of his first term that to ramp up spending on vocational training at the high school and college level.

While Mr. Rubio has worked with Democrats on education legislation in the past, not all of his ideas are popular with the opposing party. Critics argue that his plan to create "student investment plans" could make college more expensive for some people, and the suggestion that he might eliminate the Department of Education is likely a non-starter with liberals.

Holly Shulman, a spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee, also noted that Mr. Rubio blocked a bill that would allow students to refinance their student loans, and opposed the president's plan to make community college debt-free to anyone who works.

"Marco Rubio has yet to articulate any new ideas," Ms. Shulman said.

Marco Rubio Attacks Higher Education 'Cartel' and Jabs Rivals // NYT // Jeremy Peters – July 7, 2015

Senator Marco Rubio, laying out an economic blueprint that will be central to his campaign for president, called Tuesday for dismantling the "cartel of existing colleges and universities" that he said left too many students without viable career paths and burdened by tens of thousands of dollars in debt.

In a speech that was part history lesson, part policy prescription, and punctuated with barbs at Hillary Rodham Clinton, Mr. Rubio spoke to a crowd of several dozen people at a technology center and put forward his vision for the American economy if it is to thrive into the next century. He also took veiled swipes at the Bush family.

Mr. Rubio, a Florida Republican, dismissed the idea of a minimum-wage increase as "thinking small." He said that big government had rigged taxes and regulations in favor of powerful interests. And he proposed an overhaul of higher education that would change the way colleges are accredited and student loans are repaid.

"We do not need timid tweaks to the old system; we need a holistic overhaul," Mr. Rubio said. "We need to change how we provide degrees, how those degrees are accessed, how much that access costs, how those costs are paid and even how those payments are determined."

As part of his higher education plan, Mr. Rubio has proposed two innovations that are aimed at making student loans more affordable. First, he said, he would put in effect an income-based payment system to allow graduates earning lower salaries to repay creditors on a timetable that he said would cause "less strain." Those who earn more would have to repay their loans at a faster rate.

A form of income-based repayment plans for student loans already exists.

Mr. Rubio would also allow students to partner with investors who would cover the students' tuition in exchange for a percentage of their earnings for a few years after graduation.

The speech mostly contained ideas that he had put forward before. But it was a return to the campaign trail after almost two full months in which he was on a coast-to-coast fund-raising tour.

He used his time in Chicago to take swipes at his opponents, some overt and others more subtle. He referred three times to Mrs. Clinton, who is running her second campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. "The race for the future will never be won by going backward," he said. "It will never be won by hopping in Hillary Clinton's time machine to yesterday."

Other slights appeared aimed just as much at some of Mr. Rubio's Republican opponents, like former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. Mr. Rubio said the ideas offered by Mrs. Clinton "and other outdated leaders are narrow and shortsighted."

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"We have learned, painfully, that the old ways no longer work," he said, "that Washington cannot pretend the world is the same as it was in the '80s, it cannot raise taxes like it did in the '90s, and it cannot grow government like it did in the 2000s."

Those last two references — to raising taxes in the 1990s and expanding government in the 2000s — were not coincidental. Mr. Bush's father, President George Bush, famously approved a tax increase in 1990 after promising to block any. And his older brother, President George W. Bush, oversaw a significant expansion of the federal government after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Five takeaways from Marco Rubio's speech on the innovation economy // WaPo // Steven Overly – July 7, 2015

Marco Rubio is pushing a series of changes to the nation's tax, immigration and education systems that the Republican presidential candidate contends will better prepare Americans for an economy driven by rapid technological innovation.

The ideas outlined by the Florida senator in a speech on Tuesday, which was delivered at a co-working space for tech start-ups in Chicago, come as other presidential candidates are also trying to court the tech community's vote. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton have all met with technology executives and enthusiasts in Silicon Valley in recent months, hoping to mine the wealthy sector for potential donors and voices of support.

With that audience in mind, Rubio's speech focused largely on policy issues that are front of mind in tech circles, such as finding ways to get more highly skilled immigrants into the country and overhauling the tax code.

"Today's Technological Revolution carries extraordinary opportunities – even more, I believe, than the Industrial Revolution ever did. But we have not yet seized these opportunities, nor is it guaranteed that we will," Rubio said. "Whether we do or do not will depend on the actions we take, the leaders we choose, and the reforms we adopt."

What follows are five takeaways from the policy pitch Rubio delivered on Tuesday.

Immigration

Rubio did not outline a comprehensive plan to address existing undocumented immigrants, but said the system should prioritize those immigrants who possess the skills and education that many American employers desire.

"This requires reforming our legal immigration system to make it skill- and merit-based rather than family-based, which will protect American workers and attract more talent to grow our economy and create jobs," Rubio said.

That position should be well received among technology companies, which have long pushed for visas to be made more readily available to immigrants with science, technology, engineering and math degrees. Companies contend there aren't enough American workers who possess those skills, and existing laws make it expensive and difficult to recruit talent from overseas.

Education

Rubio also set his political sights on the U.S. higher education system, which he said is "controlled by what amounts to a cartel of existing colleges and universities, which use their power over the accreditation process to block innovative, low-cost competitors from entering the market."

He vowed to establish a new accreditation process within his first 100 days in office that would be more welcoming to new players. Rubio also reiterated support for the "Student Right to Know Before You Go Act," which would inform students how much money they can expect to earn from a given degree prior taking out student loans.

Student Loans

The cloud of debt that follows many students after college prevents many from pursuing a higher education, Rubio told the audience. That's especially true for low-income individuals and single parents, who most stand to benefit from a degree.

Rubio said he plans to implement income-based repayment of student loans, meaning those who earn more money are expected to repay their loans faster. He also called for the creation of Student Investment Plans that would allow wealthy individuals to invest in a young person's education in exchange for a cut of their future salary.

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Finally, he called for an expansion of vocational training and apprenticeship programs so that students who don't pursue a college education at least graduate from high school with certifications for technical jobs, such as as mechanics, electricians or welders.

Taxes

Rubio criticized the country's current tax system for being unfavorable to large corporations and small businesses alike, a factor that he said contributes to companies shifting their employees and headquarters overseas.

He pledged, if elected president, to make the corporate tax rate "competitive" with the 25 percent average found in other developed countries. He also proposed eliminating tax rules that allow the United States to levy taxes on money that companies earned overseas.

"We have a tax code that punishes American companies for competing in the global economy, and a regulatory system that prevents small businesses – the primary engines of innovation and job creation – from competing against established players," he said.

Hillary Clinton

Rubio's speech wasn't devoid of politics. Amid the policy proposals were several jabs at Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton, whom Rubio repeatedly referred to as a sort of political relic who is too entrenched in the old ways of Washington.

"The race for the future will never be won by going backward. It will never be won by hopping in Hillary Clinton's time machine to yesterday," Rubio said. "She seems to believe pumping more of today's money into yesterday's programs will bring prosperity tomorrow. It will not."

Marco Rubio Outlines Economic Initiatives // WSJ // Patrick O'Connor – July 7, 2015

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio cast himself Tuesday as "a new president for a new age," laying out a series of economic initiatives to boost growth and give lower- and middle-income Americans access to the training and education needed to gain a foothold in the 21st-century economy.

The Republican candidate outlined the proposals in an economic speech in which he urged policy makers to help workers overcome challenges presented by globalization, the technology revolution that spawned the Internet, and the automation displacing workers in all segments of the economy.

"The path to the middle class is narrower today than it has been for generations, and the American dream so many achieved in the last century is in peril," Mr. Rubio said, at a technology hub in Chicago's Merchandise Mart where entrepreneurs congregate to work on new ventures. "It is not the result of a cyclical economic downturn that will naturally correct itself. It is borne of a fundamental transformation."

Mr. Rubio and several of his GOP rivals have made the economy, particularly wage stagnation and the sense that working-class Americans are falling behind, a central theme of their campaigns. Mr. Rubio is using his background as the son of a bartender and hotel maid to align himself with people who haven't enjoyed the benefits of the economic recovery.

Some candidates and their advisers believe the eventual nominee will be the candidate who offers the best recipe to address these concerns.

Capital Journal is WSJ.com's home for politics, policy and national security news.

Most of the remedies Mr. Rubio proposed are staples of his economic-policy platform, including plans to reduce corporate tax rates to 25%, curb federal regulations by putting a cap on how much they cost, and allow companies to bring overseas revenue back to the U.S. without an additional tax hit. He also would cut taxes on business investments and give the public more access to the digital spectrum controlled by the federal government.

Mr. Rubio, who authored a tax plan with Sen. Mike Lee (R., Utah), would leave the top individual tax rate at 35%, unlike some of his GOP rivals. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's top tax rate would be 28%. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has called for scrapping the current tax code and replacing it with a 14.5% flat tax on all income, regardless of how much money a person makes.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, meanwhile, has pledged to abolish the Internal Revenue Service entirely.

Many candidates haven't yet offered detailed plans, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the clear favorite for the Democratic nomination.

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A number of prominent conservatives have criticized Mr. Rubio's tax proposals, saying they would add to the deficit unless they were paired with other policy changes to cut federal spending. Others disagree with his calls to expand the child-tax credit, expressing doubt about whether his $2,500 credit would spur economic growth.

One cornerstone of the speech—and Mr. Rubio's campaign—was his vow to revamp the higher-education system by expanding access to trade schools and for-profit colleges and making it easier for students to secure federally protected loans.

On Tuesday, he promised to "bust" the higher-education "cartel" dominated by "existing colleges and universities."

The Florida senator also wants to let companies pay for employees' education, invest more in vocational training starting in high school, and require schools to tell prospective students how much they can expect to earn after graduation, depending on the degrees they pursue.

Mr. Rubio took shots at Mrs. Clinton and made veiled swipes at Mr. Bush's father and brother. The government shouldn't raise taxes as it did under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, he said, or "grow government" like it did under Jeb Bush's brother, President George W. Bush.

"The race for the future will never be won by going backward," Mr. Rubio said.

On Tuesday, Jeb Bush's campaign unveiled a new video calling him an executive who made "tough decisions" that spurred job growth and balanced the state's budget—a not-too-subtle contrast with Mr. Rubio and other current and former senators in the race.

Rubio rips GOP, Clinton // AP // Steve Peoples – July 8, 2015

The country's future can't thrive "by hopping in Hillary Clinton's time machine to yesterday," Sen. Marco Rubio said Tuesday in Chicago.

CHICAGO -- Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a Republican presidential candidate, called for lower corporate tax rates, looser Internet regulation and broader college accreditation in an economic policy speech Tuesday.

Rubio jabbed at fellow Republicans, primarily for letting government grow so much in the 2000s, and Democrats, for policies that he said stifle job growth and "snuff out innovation" -- namely, their push for a higher minimum wage and for tax increases on the wealthy.

"We need in this country a new president for a new age," the Florida senator said from the downtown Chicago offices of a digital startup. The nation would be better served, Rubio said, by embracing the "technological revolution."

The forward-looking theme of Rubio's address mirrors his campaign, which aims to distinguish him from leading competitors in both parties -- including Republican Jeb Bush and Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose families have been mainstays in American politics for decades.

He repeatedly criticized Clinton, the former secretary of state who is seeking the Democratic nomination.

"The race for the future will never be won by going backward," Rubio said. "It will never be won by hopping in Hillary Clinton's time machine to yesterday."

And while not naming Bush, a former Florida governor, Rubio lashed out at the policies enacted when Bush's father and brother served in the White House.

"We have learned, painfully, that the old ways no longer work -- that Washington cannot pretend the world is the same as it was in the 1980s, it cannot raise taxes like it did in the '90s, and it cannot grow government like it did in the 2000s," he said.

While his campaign billed the Chicago speech as a major address, most of the "innovation agenda" he outlined represents policies he has proposed previously.

Rubio called for changes to the tax code that would lower the corporate tax rate, establish a "territorial tax system" and allow "immediate, 100 percent expensing," which would permit businesses to take deductions on capital investments all at once.

He previously released a detailed tax plan that would reduce all corporate taxes to 25 percent and cut taxes on business investment.

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Rubio also promoted a plan to modernize the national laboratory system in line with a proposal he introduced with Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., earlier in the year. And he reiterated his opposition to so-called Net neutrality, which aims to prevent Internet service providers from setting different download speeds for different types of content.

And as he often does, Rubio said an immigration overhaul is necessary "to protect American workers and attract more talent to grow our economy and create jobs."

On higher education, Rubio vowed to "bust the cartel" of existing colleges and universities by creating a new accreditation process. His campaign said Rubio would allow lower-cost alternative education providers, such as online academies, to earn accreditation.

Democratic National Committee spokesman Holly Shulman said Rubio "continues to peddle the same failed Republican policies that cripple the economy and squeeze the middle class."

Rubio, 44, is among more than a dozen candidates seeking the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. He is also one of the youngest candidates in the race.

He appeared in Chicago hours before he was to begin his first extended campaign swing through an early voting state. He was scheduled to campaign in Iowa, the first-in-the-nation caucus state, through Thursday.

Marco Rubio Economy: 'The old ways no longer work' **// AP // Steve Peoples – July 7, 2015**

With an eye on the future, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio is laying out his plans for an "innovative economy" and "revolutionized higher education system" in his first major domestic policy speech as a presidential candidate.

The Republican White House hopeful will outline his policies at a Tuesday morning speech in Chicago before an extended campaign swing through Iowa.

"We need a new president for a new age — one with original ideas to unlock the two great doors to the future: the doors of innovation and education," Rubio says in prepared remarks. "I come before you today to discuss my ideas to spur American innovation onward, to ensure the rise of the machines will not be the fall of the worker, and to create a new American Century."

The forward-looking theme of Rubio's address mirrors that of his entire campaign, which helps distinguish himself from leading competitors in both parties whose families have been mainstays in American politics for decades. The 44-year-old Rubio does not name Republican former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush or Democrat Hillary Clinton in excerpts of his remarks released to The Associated Press, yet he cites the years that the Bushes and Clintons governed.

"We have learned, painfully, that the old ways no longer work — that Washington cannot pretend the world is the same as it was in the '80s, it cannot raise taxes like it did in the '90s, and it cannot grow government like it did in the 2000s," Rubio says.

While he has yet to release specifics, an aide said Rubio would detail an "innovation agenda" focused on tax reform that includes a lower corporate tax rate, the establishment of a "territorial tax system" and allowing "immediate 100 percent expensing for businesses," which allows businesses to take deductions for capital investments all at once.

He will also promote a plan to modernize the national lab system.

The aide spoke on the condition of anonymity so as not to publicly pre-empt Rubio's address.

Rubio will also address his opposition to so-called "net neutrality," which would prevent Internet service providers from setting different download speeds for different types of content.

On higher education, the aide said Rubio would call for an overhaul of the accreditation process, among other reforms.

"Today's Technological Revolution carries extraordinary opportunities - even more, I believe, than the Industrial Revolution ever did," Rubio says. "The race for the future will never be won by going backward."

Marco Rubio slams Hillary Clinton, higher ed 'cartel' in policy speech **// Politico // Eli Stokols – July 7, 2015**

Picking up on the generational themes of his announcement speech three months ago, Marco Rubio laid out an economic plan Tuesday that sought to distinguish himself as "a new president for a new age."

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Promising to usher in a “new American century” — his campaign’s forward-looking slogan — Rubio painted a picture of himself as a candidate in step with a new era and a fast-changing economy, promising to reform the Tax Code and modernize higher education to better align with how the 21st-century economy now works.

The much-publicized policy speech, before an audience of more than 200 local entrepreneurs, included direct attacks on Hillary Clinton as an “outdated” representative and implicitly dismissed one of his main GOP rivals, Jeb Bush, as a candidate of the past.

“New opportunities cannot be seized by old ideas, and the future must be embraced with enthusiasm and vision,” Rubio said.

By framing himself as the more youthful, future-oriented candidate against the 60-somethings, the first-term Florida senator sought to define Clinton and Bush as his main rivals while laying out his case against them — that, at 44 years old, he’s the one armed with new ideas and a deeper understanding of the challenges of modern college students and young entrepreneurs.

“For the first 15 ½ years of this century, Washington has looked to the past,” Rubio said. “Our economy has changed, but our economic policies have not. And we have learned, painfully, that the old ways no longer work.”

Balancing a gloomy characterization of an uncertain future with his own optimistic promise to help lay “the cornerstone for a new American century,” Rubio packaged a modest mix of policy proposals in lofty, sometimes forceful rhetoric.

But the ideas outlined in the speech weren’t new for Rubio, who has already laid out some of the proposals outlined Tuesday, including a proposal to dramatically lower the U.S. tax on companies’ foreign earnings.

Rubio used the speech as an opportunity to criticize Clinton’s economic policies, offering to bust regulations that “are the result of an alliance between Big Business and Big Government” in order to jump-start the economy.

“Hillary Clinton argues the economy is rigged in favor of wealthy interests — but what she won’t tell you is that Big Government is doing the rigging,” Rubio said. “A massive regulatory apparatus inevitably becomes the instrument of those with the lawyers and lobbyists necessary to influence it.”

At almost every point in his speech, Rubio sought to contrast his vision against Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee.

“The race for the future will never be won by going backward,” he said. “It will never be won by hopping in Hillary Clinton’s time machine to yesterday. She seems to believe pumping more of today’s money into yesterday’s programs will bring prosperity tomorrow. It will not. Nor will thinking small. Hiking the minimum wage by a few dollars will not save the American Dream; it will accelerate automation and outsourcing. Increasing taxes and regulations will not promote fairness or opportunity; it will snuff out innovation and crush small business.”

When he turned to higher education, Rubio again slammed Clinton and her ideas as “outdated” and “shortsighted,” and he called for breaking up the higher ed “cartel” — he promised a “holistic overhaul” of how colleges and universities control tuition and financial aid, offer instruction and provide degrees.

“Our higher education system is controlled by what amounts to a cartel of existing colleges and universities, which use their power over the accreditation process to block innovative, low-cost competitors from entering the market,” Rubio said.

“Within my first 100 days, I will bust this cartel by establishing a new accreditation process that welcomes low-cost, innovative providers. This would expose higher education to the market forces of choice and competition, which would prompt a revolution driven by the needs of students — just as the needs of consumers drive the progress of every other industry in our economy.”

Rubio, however, has come under fire for supporting a segment of the higher education system that some see as predatory — for-profit colleges. Last year, Rubio asked the Department of Education to show leniency to Corinthian Colleges, a for-profit college company that was forced to close down its campuses after the Obama administration accused it of lying about job placement rates.

In a question and answer session following the speech, which took place at 1871, a digital startup incubator inside the city’s old Merchandise Mart, Rubio explained that the old measures of economic stability such as the unemployment rate are no longer as indicative of the true state of the workforce because so many people are underemployed and others who have jobs continue to struggle with the skyrocketing cost of child care.

He also lamented that so many young people have graduated from college with student loan debt only to find that their degrees are misaligned with the kinds of jobs a rapidly changing economy is creating.

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"All the things we once told people they needed to do to succeed no longer work," Rubio said. "No one has explained why the old ways no longer work and what the new ways should be."

Marco Rubio is about to give a major economic speech that he hopes will kick-start his campaign // Reuters // James Oliphant – July 7, 2015

Presidential candidate Marco Rubio will deliver an economic speech in Chicago on Tuesday with the goal of separating himself from the packed field of Republican candidates and kick-starting his campaign into a more active, visible phase.

Rubio, a senator from Florida, has spent much of the last several weeks either bogged down in a U.S. Senate preoccupied with a Pacific Rim trade deal or out of the public eye raising money.

But after his Chicago speech, Rubio will visit Iowa and then Nevada, both of which hold key nominating contests early next year. His campaign says to expect further travel, likely to New Hampshire.

With his Cuban-American background, youth and compelling biography, Rubio, 44, has long been viewed by campaign analysts as one candidate in the ever-growing field of 14 who could break out from the pack.

As yet, however, there is little sign of that. State polls in early primary states, save for his home state of Florida, have typically shown Rubio struggling to crack double-digits. A Reuters Ipsos poll showed Rubio drawing support from 9.6 percent of likely Republican primary voters nationally - behind former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, the nominal front-runner, and reality show star Donald Trump.

Rubio is expected to use his speech in Chicago to defend his tax-reform plan, which has been criticized in conservative circles, and touch upon themes that some economists say sound unusual coming from a Republican presidential hopeful.

Rubio has used previous campaign events to discuss the plight of working mothers, middle-class families and college students, wading into topics that Democrats often emphasize. He has questioned whether a traditional college education provides a good bargain for some students who he says would benefit more from skills-based training.

"Only through an innovative economy can we translate new technologies into new middle-class jobs," Rubio will say Tuesday, according to excerpts of his speech released ahead of time, "and only through a revolutionized higher education system can we equip all our people to fill those jobs."

James Pethokoukis, a scholar at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute, said Rubio deserved credit for trying to develop an agenda that goes beyond criticizing President Barack Obama and the leading Democratic contender, Hillary Clinton.

But Pethokoukis, like several conservatives, was critical of Rubio's tax plan, which would simplify the federal tax code and offer new tax credits to families with children. Unlike some plans floated by Rubio's rivals, his plan would not significantly lower the top-tier income tax rates, though it would cut the corporate tax rate.

Rubio: College 'cartels' need busting in new economy // CNN // Tom LoBianco – July 7, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio says that Americans need to train for a new economy with new skills and that one of the first steps on that path requires busting the university "cartel" that trains students for outdated jobs.

"Our higher education system is controlled by what amounts to a cartel of existing colleges and universities, which use their power over the accreditation process to block innovative, low-cost competitors from entering the market," Rubio said. He made his conservative populist pitch to technology leaders in Chicago on Tuesday morning, shortly before he heads off to Iowa for a three-day campaign swing.

The Florida Republican has crafted an image as a younger alternative to Hillary Clinton -- which he continued Tuesday with jabs at "Clinton's time machine to yesterday" -- but also implicitly contrasts himself with another frontrunner, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Rubio promised that he would change student-lending rules to allow private investors to pay for individual students to attend college and overhaul how colleges are accredited.

The concept of having individual donors fund students is being pushed by former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels. Daniels was appointed Purdue University president in 2012 by his appointees to the college's board of trustees, following an eight-year run in office.

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Since then he has lobbied for sweeping conservative changes in higher education.

Daniels told Congress in March that students would have to repay the private loan through a portion of their income, but said that federal legislation would be needed.

Rubio co-sponsored the measure earlier this year which would establish the framework for the private donor concept and referenced it again Tuesday during his 20-minute speech.

Candidates from both parties have been highlighting student debt (and college costs) as a major problem, but have very different ideas for tackling the problem.

Rubio has had his own struggles with student debt, detailed at length in a New York Times investigation of his finances. Rubio started his political career, after graduating law school, with $150,000 in student loan debt, though he's since wiped that out.

Marco Rubio's 'New' Plan For Creating Jobs Is Actually Old And Borrowed // HuffPo // Igor Bobic – July 7, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) is casting himself as the youthful, forward-thinking presidential candidate of the future, a bold reformer awash with new ideas on how best to usher in a new American century.

The message is an overt criticism of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who Rubio says offers nothing more than a "time machine to yesterday" with a vision he calls "narrow and shortsighted."

Yet many of the Florida Republican's own proposals, outlined in a speech he delivered in Chicago on Tuesday, include ideas that Rubio and others have put forth before. That's not to say that the senator isn't bringing anything new to the table, but he is also touting his old proposals to draw a contrast with Clinton and, more implicitly, Republican rival Jeb Bush, another member of a political dynasty.

Right off the bat, Rubio proposed to "cut our corporate tax rate to be competitive with the average of 25 percent for developed nations." He promised to "establish a territorial tax system," and to "allow immediate, 100 percent expensing for businesses." And he said he would "put a ceiling on the amount U.S. regulations" cost the economy through regulatory reform.

The proposals are standard fare among lawmakers who have been calling for tax reform for years. In 2012, GOP presidential candidates Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum both supported the expensing of business capital. However, Rubio's tax plan, which he introduced with Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) earlier this year, ran into opposition from an unexpected quarter -- other Republicans. As New York Magazine's Jonathan Chait wrote in April, the tax cut Rubio proposed is "so gargantuan that nobody in the party actually believes it."

The senator also promised to reallocate more of the government's wireless spectrum for commercial use by forcing federal agencies to sell their frequencies to the highest bidder. He introduced a bill to do this in the Senate last year, attracting some bipartisan support. Congress has debated how to make more of the spectrum more widely available through incentives, but Rubio does appear to be one of the only lawmakers who supports doing so forcibly.

Meanwhile, Rubio said he would reform the nation's legal immigration system "to make it skill- and merit-based rather than family-based." Immigration activists worry such a focus would break up immigrant families. But the idea has roots in the sweeping, bipartisan immigration reform bill passed by the Senate that Rubio helped draft in 2013 -- and later renounced after taking heat from conservatives who opposed the bill's proposed path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. The legislation would have created a merit-based visa program that would score each applicant on criteria such as employment status, geographic location and family considerations. It would have also increased the number of merit-based visas and green cards issued to keep the highest-skilled workers in the U.S.

The second half of Rubio's speech on job creation centered on ways to reform the country's education system. But most of the proposals rehashed his 2014 plan for higher education. The senator promised to bust the higher education "cartel" within his first 100 days in office by introducing "choice and competition" into the accreditation process. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), a former Republican vice presidential nominee, proposed a similar overhaul in 2014. Like President Barack Obama, Rubio is also in favor of allowing students to get credentials outside of traditional universities and colleges.

Rubio said he would "make student loans more manageable by making Income-Based Repayment automatic for all graduates, so the more they make, the faster they pay back their loans; and the less they make, the less strain their loans cause." Former Rep. Tom Petri (R-Wis.) advocated the idea of automatic income-based loan repayment as far back as 1983.

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The Florida senator also said he would expand apprenticeship programs to "provide on-the-job training and help standardize skills by allowing students to learn methods from experienced workers and spread them throughout the industry." Rubio already spoke about expanding apprentice programs last year, and Hillary Clinton called for a tax credit to benefit companies that hire people as apprentices last month. In his State of the Union address last year, Obama called for similar incentives to expand apprenticeship programs, and there is currently a bipartisan effort in Congress to do so.

Similarly, Rubio's proposal to require lending institutions to "tell students how much they can expect to earn with a given degree before they take out the loans to pay for it" already made headlines when he introduced a bill to do so alongside Sens. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) in 2013. Ditto for Rubio's "Student Investment Plan," which he unveiled last year and which would allow students to partner with corporate investors for tuition relief.

The new sheen fooled some news outlets, generating a wave of positive coverage for the candidate on Tuesday. "Marco Rubio has a wild plan to have investors pay for college and make money off students' future earnings," read a headline on Business Insider. Such a tactic, if it continues to be rewarded, may be just what the candidate needs in order to distinguish himself among a very crowded -- and more experienced -- Republican presidential field.

Rubio: Don't expect a Romney endorsem ent soon // The Hill // Jesse Byrnes – July 7, 2015

While Mitt Romney may have become the de facto standard bearer of the Republican Party following his 2012 White House nomination, an endorsement for any 2016 candidate is not on the horizon, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) said Tuesday.
“No, I don't think that's fair to say," Rubio said in interview Tuesday on Fox Business Network when pressed whether Romney could be expected to endorse him.

"I don't suspect Governor Romney will endorse anyone in this race. He's someone I admire. He's someone that I like very much," Rubio added.
Host Neil Cavuto questioned Rubio about staying, along with his family, at Romney's New Hampshire home over the weekend. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, another 2016 GOP candidate, also stayed there with his family.
When Romney ended a brief public flirtation with his own 2016 bid early this year, he suggested that "one of our next generation of Republican leaders" would become the nominee, which many interpreted to be an implicit nod toward Rubio, now 44, the youngest candidate in the crowded GOP field led by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, 62.
Romney and Bush reportedly met for lunch Monday with several members of their families in Maine, though Romney said last month he would likely not endorse a 2016 candidate until the Republican nominee is selected.
Rubio described conversations at the weekend sleepover as "pretty much non-political" Tuesday, saying of Romney's clan, "I wouldn't read too much into it. They're meeting with other people, and they've been very gracious with others as well."
Romney, after helping many Republicans secure midterm victories last year, has lately turned his attention to helping his party prepare for the lengthy 2016 presidential primary process and eventual general election.
During an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press" last month, Romney mentioned Rubio, Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Ohio Gov. John Kasich by name, saying about a half-dozen candidates could be president.

Walker and Kasich have not entered the race officially yet, but both are expected to do so soon.
Romney also hosted Rubio, Walker and Kasich at a retreat in Park City, Utah, in June.

Marco Rubio 2016 Campaign: Nonprofit Backing GOP Candidate Rubio Raises Almost $16 Million // Latin Post // Andre Puglie – July 7, 2015

A nonprofit backing Marco Rubio has raised almost $16 million, parts of which the group plans to invest in television advertisements for the Republican Florida senator's 2016 White House bid,

According to Politico, The Conservative Solutions Project, which operates separately from Rubio's political-action committee, disclosed that it was on track to reaching its overall fundraising goal of $25 million.

"With more than $15.8 million raised already, Conservative Solutions Project is nearly two-thirds of the way to our overall fundraising goal," the nonprofit's president, Pat Shortridge, said in a statement.
He added, "These funds will allow us to continue the fight to restore our military and our nation's role in the world, and given the recent news about the nation's stagnant economy, advocate for conservative solutions to an inefficient tax code and education reform so all Americans have a chance to pursue their dreams."

Conservative Solutions, which has already spent $1 million on television commercials, said on Monday it would boost its advertising campaign to a total of $3.3 million, according to CNN. Some of the group's early spots, the advertisements focused on Rubio's attacks on the Obama administration's proposed nuclear deal with Iran, an issue The New York Times called "critical" for some of the most generous GOP donors.
The group's announcement reveals that Rubio is "the biggest beneficiary so far of a new and largely untested

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means for moving unlimited cash into presidential primary campaigns," The New York Times noted.

Meanwhile, the Conservative Solutions Project is taking care of many activities typically carried out by a formal presidential campaign, and that includes what the paper called "extensive research on the Republican primary electorate."

Supporters of other contenders in the increasingly crowded field for the Republican nomination -- including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee -- have set up similar groups and used them as "de facto campaigns prior to their kickoff events," CNN noted.

Nonprofit with secret donors, linked to Rubio super PAC, raises millions // CBS News // Stephanie Condon – July 7, 2015

A relatively new nonprofit -- with the same name as a pro-Marco Rubio super PAC -- has raised nearly $16 million to spend on issue-related ads in the 2016 election, the New York Times reports.

The robust fundraising haul illustrates how 2016 presidential candidates like Rubio may benefit from the new crop of secretive nonprofits that are playing a growing role in elections, thanks to a series of relatively recent court rulings.

The organization Conservative Solutions Project has already spent $3.3 million on television and radio advertising, the Times reports, focusing on Rubio's attacks of the Obama administration's Iran nuclear negotiations. However, the group told the Times that it's not devoted to any particular candidate.

As a tax-exempt "social welfare" organization -- in the 501(c)(4) category -- the group is allowed to spend unlimited sums of money on politics as long as politics isn't its main focus. That's why its advertising will be largely "issue based."

In most cases, these "social welfare" nonprofits aren't required to name their donors. A spokesman for Conservative Solutions Project told the Times it is unlikely to publicly name its donors.

The secretive nature of these groups has created the potential for corruption, several public advocacy groups and politicians have argued. While Congress hasn't done much about the rise of these "dark money" groups, leaders at the state level -- both Democrats and Republicans -- are trying to rein them in.

Marco Rubio: "We need a new president for a new age" // CBS News // Sopan Deb – July 7, 2015

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio pitched himself as the presidential candidate of the future in a speech Tuesday, arguing he's better equipped than his rivals to govern a rapidly transforming and innovating America.

Rubio's choice of venue for the speech - his first major domestic policy address since he announced his presidential campaign - was no accident. He spoke at 1871, an incubator for digital start-ups in Chicago.

187s is a hub of "digital innovation," Rubio said -- an organization at the forefront of what the senator referred to as today's "technological revolution." Among the apps that have sprung from 1871: Spot Hero - an app that helps you find parking right away and Options Away, which allows passengers to hold a flight at a certain price without actually booking it. One of Rubio's GOP primary rivals, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, spoke at the organization in the spring.

In his speech, Rubio, the second-youngest candidate in the GOP field at 43 years old, framed himself as the human embodiment of 1871 -- the only presidential candidate in the field with the perspective needed to lead the country in the 21st century. Even the title of the speech -- "Jobs For A New American Century" -- hinted at Rubio's forward-looking message.

"For the first fifteen and a half years of this century, Washington has looked to the past," Rubio said. "Our economy has changed, but our economic policies have not. And we have learned, painfully, that the old ways no longer work - that Washington cannot pretend the world is the same as it was in the '80s, it cannot raise taxes like it did in the '90s, and it cannot grow government like it did in the 2000s."

"We need a new president for a new age," he added. "One with original ideas to unlock the two great doors to the future: the doors of innovation and education."

Much of the speech laid out his platform on the economy and education.

Rubio proposed cutting the corporate tax rate to make the U.S. "competitive with the average of 25 percent for developed nations." He called for establishing a "territorial tax system," which he said would bring money back to

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the economy held overseas by companies not wanting to be taxed on foreign income. Critics allege that territorial taxing would encourage companies to increase capital abroad, which would then lower wages back home.

Rubio cited several specific technologies on the horizon - self-driving cars, virtual reality, robotics - but said that we have "quite nearly the exact opposite" of a business-friendly economy. He noted that U.S. corporate taxes are the highest in the developed world -- a claim that fact-checking organization Politifact has rated mostly true. The U.S. has the highest statutory tax rate and the second highest effective rate, among advanced industrialized nations.

At one point, Rubio managed to get a laugh from the 100 or so attendees in the audience (some sporting Marco Rubio t-shirts) by joking that self-driving cars would be great for him, considering recent news reports. It was a clear nod to a recent New York Times piece that explored his family's checkered driving history.

In his single reference to immigration policy, Rubio called for a shift to a system based on merit - designed to attract the world's best and brightest workers - rather than a system based on familial relations. He did not mention his past support for a comprehensive immigration bill that includes a path to citizenship -- a stance that has earned plaudits from immigrant and Latino groups but one that has put him at odds with most of the rest of the Republican primary field.

On the subject of education, Rubio proposed tackling the growing problem of higher education debt by making income-based repayment automatic for all graduates. He wasn't clear on whether this would include only federal loans. He also raised the idea of Student Investment Plans, which would allow investors to pay the cost of tuition for students and then take a cut of the students' salary after college.

He didn't target any of his Republican primary opponents by name, but focused his criticism on Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton.

"The race for the future will never be won by going backward," Rubio said. "It will never be won by hopping in Hillary Clinton's time machine to yesterday. She seems to believe pumping more of today's money into yesterday's programs will bring prosperity tomorrow."

Rubio called for expanding access to vocational schools as early as high school -- a proposal on which he and Clinton might be able to find common ground. Last year, at Arizona State University, Clinton called for the country to "get back to really respecting vocational and technical work."

The Senator raced off to Iowa after the speech for a busy couple days of campaigning. The trip marks Rubio's third visit to Iowa, site of the nation's first presidential nominating contest, in 2015.

Of his previous two trips, one occurred after he announced his candidacy and one came in February on a book tour. Rubio's first event in Iowa this time will occur in Des Moines at the Exile Brewing Company. He'll hold a happy hour with the Bull Moose Club, a forum for Iowa Republicans under the age of 40, and he's hoping he'll find a receptive audience for his message about the generational divide.

Of the GOP's 2016 candidates, only retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum have addressed the group thus far this cycle.

Marco Rubio's Economic Plan Calls For Students T o Sell T hemselves To Private Investors // Think Progress // Alice Ollstein – July 7, 2015

Florida Senator and Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio described his economic platform in a speech Tuesday in Chicago, touching on well-worn GOP priorities including slashing corporate taxes from 35 to 25 percent, further deregulating the private sector, restricting family immigration, and resisting calls to raise the minimum wage. Taking several specific shots at Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton, Rubio said his plan would avoid "pumping more of today's money into yesterday's programs," and bring the U.S. into the future.

In the speech, Rubio also called for a "revolutionized" higher education system. If elected president, he promised to "bust…the cartel of existing colleges and universities" by loosening the rules for accreditation so that "innovative, low-cost competitors" can court students. But critics say the government accreditation process is already far too loose, allowing predatory for-profit chains like Corinthian Colleges to win federal approval and funding even as they mislead students into paying for essentially worthless degrees.

He also touted the "Student Right to Know Before You Go Act" he co-sponsored with Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden — a plan extremely similar to one President Obama pushed for last year that ranks colleges by how much their tuition costs and how much money their graduates make.

Lamenting the "shadow of debt hovering over millions of graduates," Rubio then proposed a model already suggested by his rival Governor Chris Christie (R-NJ): allowing rich individuals or hedge funds to pay a students

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tuition and collect their investment back post-graduation.

“It may result in a profit for the investor or it may not – but unlike with loans, none of the risk lies with the student,” Rubio said.

He expanded on this idea in a speech last year:

Let’s say you are a student who needs $10,000 to pay for your last year of school. Instead of taking this money out in the form of a loan, you could apply for a “Student Investment Plan” from an approved and certified private investment group. In short, these investors would pay your $10,000 tuition in return for a percentage of your income for a set period of time after graduation – let’s say, for example, 4% a year for 10 years.

This group would look at factors such as your major, the institution you’re attending, your record in school – and use this to make a determination about the likelihood of you finding a good job and paying them back.

Unlike with loans, you would be under no legal obligation to pay back that entire $10,000. Your only obligation would be to pay that 4% of your income per year for 10 years, regardless of whether that ends up amounting to more or less than $10,000.
But these “Student Investment Plans,” which also have the Orwellian name “human capital contracts,” raise many serious concerns. For one, investors may refuse to cover entire fields of students not likely to bring in the big bucks after graduation, or would charge them a staggeringly high percentage of their income. For those backing this plan, such as the conservative think tank American Enterprise Institute (AEI), this poses no problem.

“Isn’t this ‘unfair’ to those wanting to be librarians, teachers, social workers, etc., since they would have to forego more of their incomes to satisfy the human capital contract? Not really,” writes AEI Adjunct Scholar Richard Vedder. “Society puts a relatively low value on those jobs.”

Additionally, following Rubio’s math of 4 percent over 10 years, a graduate would have to earn an extremely low salary for the investor not to make a profit. Vedder and other advocates of the plan are less cautious, and have voiced support for plans that take as high as 25 percent of a graduates salary for multiple decades after they enter the workforce.

The National College Access Network and other groups have warned that such a plan could cost students even more than high-interest federal loan programs, diverting away money those graduates could have used to save for retirement or buy a house.

Rubio’s proposal is similar to the “Pay It Forward, Pay It Back” model currently being explored by the state of Oregon — with one crucial difference. In Oregon’s plan, the investor is the democratically-elected state government, so when graduates repay their loans that money can go back into public education. Under Rubio’s version, the money would go into the pockets of investors.

Marco Rubio Out lines Domestic Policy Agenda, Jabs Clinton // NBC News // Alex Jaffe – July 7, 2015

In his first domestic policy-focused speech since announcing his bid for president, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio on Tuesday outlined his vision for tax and higher education reform to usher in a "New American Century" marked by innovation and prosperity.

The GOP presidential candidate told the audience at a digital startup co-working space in Chicago that while the future may look bleak today, his proposals would ensure America remains competitive globally.

And he took direct aim at Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, framing her as a backward-looking foil to his forward-focused agenda.

"The race for the future will never be won by going backward. It will never be won by hopping in Hillary Clinton's time machine to yesterday," Rubio told the crowd. "She seems to believe pumping more of today's money into yesterday's programs will bring prosperity tomorrow."

The Florida senator said technological innovation and globalization has created a situation in which "the path to the middle class is narrower today than it has been for generations, and the American Dream so many achieved in the last century is in peril."

Higher-education "cartels" are a key inhibitor of upward mobility, he said, pledging to overhaul the system in the first 100 days of his presidency by "establishing a new accreditation process that welcomes low-cost, innovative providers."

A President Rubio would also require schools to tell students how much they can expect to earn from their

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degrees, and expand access to career and vocational schools as well as apprenticeship programs for training on the job.

In his remarks, he outlined a broad array of domestic reforms, from an overhaul of the business tax code to reforming the legal immigration system to bring in more high-skilled workers.

He argued in particular against raising the minimum wage, which he said "will accelerate automation and outsourcing" rather than improve the quality of life for Americans.

Instead, Rubio proposes cutting the corporate tax rate to be competitive with the average 25 percent rate for developed countries, creating a "territorial tax system" to prevent businesses from being taxed twice on profits, and allowing businesses to take deductions on 100 percent of the funds they invest back into business development and employee wages.

He also called for "reforming our legal immigration system to make it skill- and merit-based rather than family-based, which will protect American workers and attract more talent to grow our economy and create jobs."

The speech marked Rubio's reemergence on the campaign trail after weeks spent bogged down in Senate business on Capitol Hill and fundraising jaunts across the nation. Rubio's campaign has yet to announce how much the aggressive fundraising schedule earned his campaign, although a key outside group backing him announced Monday that it has raised $15.8 million to date. In the latest NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, 14 percent of Republican primary voters identified him as their first choice for the nomination, placing him behind rivals Jeb Bush and Scott Walker.

But the speech, along with his campaign swing through Iowa and Nevada in the coming days, is meant to catapult him back into the race and again highlight what Rubio's aides and allies see as his greatest asset -- his youthful appeal and unique personal narrative, in a field of older GOP candidates.

PAUL

Rand Paul, dorm room philosopher: Why his "slavery" nonsense is so outrageous // Salon // Simon Maloy – July 7, 2015

Presidential candidate Sen. Rand Paul has a tax plan he'd like to sell you on. The plan, which would put in place a 14.5 percent flat tax, was crafted with the input of some of the wrongest people in the conservative economic policy world, and it would redistribute wealth up the economic ladder while tossing a bone or two to the people at the bottom. But Rand is proud of it nonetheless, mainly because he thinks it's less slavery-like than your average tax scheme.

Here's what Paul said last week about taxation and "freedom," as reported by BuzzFeed:

"Now you can have some government, we all need government," the Kentucky senator said while discussing Thomas Paine and the role of government at the local public library. "Thomas Paine said that government is a necessary evil. What did he mean by that?"

Paul said he believes that "you have to give up some of your liberty to have government," saying he was "for some government."

"I'm for paying some taxes," continued Paul. "But if we tax you at 100% then you've got zero percent liberty. If we tax you at 50% you are half slave, half free. I frankly would like to see you a little freer and a little more money remaining in your communities so you can create jobs. It's a debate we need to have."

That was his big pitch – The Rand Paul tax plan: Only 14.5 percent slavery!

This is a dumb argument. And it's upsetting to hear this dumb argument coming from someone who is trying to be president, but will go back to writing and approving legislation if/when that doesn't work out. Taxation is not tantamount to slavery. The only thing that's comparable to slavery is actual slavery. You might not like it that a portion of your paycheck is sent to the feds and your state government, and you may disagree with how your tax dollars are spent, but that is in no way comparable to being kept in bondage and having the fruits of your labor stolen from you.

Any way you look at this argument, it's bad. When you've staked out the position that your effective tax rate is how you measure one's slave status, then you're arguing that a progressive tax structure means rich people are less free than the lucky poor folks who would see a smaller percentage of their income go to the government. By this reading, a hedge fund billionaire who moves his assets offshore to avoid paying taxes is basically Frederick

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Douglass. And when you refer to something as slavery, how can you then make the case that there is an acceptable threshold for it? Why should 14.5 percent slavery be any more tolerable than 100 percent slavery?

It gets even worse when you remember that Rand Paul is trying to make inroads with black voters and repair his party's abysmally bad reputation with African-Americans. Rand obviously understands at a certain level that slavery was a uniquely horrific crime, the memory of which still haunts our politics. After the shootings in Charleston last month, Paul called for the Confederate flag to be removed from grounds of the South Carolina Capitol because "to every African-American in the country it's a symbolism of slavery to them and now it's a symbol of murder to this young man." Here we are, just a couple of weeks later, and he's comparing the grotesque human rights violations represented by that flag to the banal act of filing your annual tax return.

And this isn't Rand Paul's first foray into comparing policies he disagrees with to slavery. In 2011, during a Senate hearing, he said that a "right to healthcare" would, in effect, make slaves out of doctors such as himself:

With regard to the idea whether or not you have a right to health care you have to realize what that implies. I am a physician. You have a right to come to my house and conscript me. It means you believe in slavery. You are going to enslave not only me but the janitor at my hospital, the person who cleans my office, the assistants, the nurses. … You are basically saying you believe in slavery.

On the flip side of the "slavery" argument, Paul argued earlier this year that the vaccination of children was "an issue of freedom," essentially saying that parents should be free to have their kids be vectors for the communication of dangerous disease. (Before he was elected to the Senate, Paul went on Alex Jones' radio show and warned that mandatory vaccinations were a precursor to martial law.)

Rand's been espousing this strain of dorm-room libertarianism for quite some time, reducing complex policy issues to black-and-white questions of "freedom" and "slavery." He and others like him who carp on the slavery of taxes and the tyranny of public health promotion are an obvious source of frustration to other libertarians who would very much prefer that the public faces of the "Libertarian Moment" stop making asses of themselves by cheapening the horror of America's slave past.

CRUZ

Blogging Federal Judge Says Ted Cruz 'Not Fit to be President' // WSJ // Jacob Gershman – July 7, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz raised eyebrows with his idea of giving voters the power to oust Supreme Court justices from the bench.

One federal judge says he's so offended by the Texas senator's proposal that he thinks it should disqualify him from the White House.

That's the opinion of U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf of Nebraska, a part-time blogger who has attracted his own share of controversy.

"Mr. Cruz seeks to sacrifice the Supreme Court upon the altar of an extreme right-wing ideology. That makes him unsuited to become President," wrote Judge Kopf on his personal blog, "Hercules and the Umpire." He titled his post, "Senator Ted Cruz is not fit to be President."

He was responding to Mr. Cruz's proposal for a constitutional amendment that would end life tenure for Supreme Court justices and force the justices to face periodic judicial-retention elections to keep their jobs. The Harvard-educated Texas senator, who once clerked for Chief Justice William Rehnquist, said the court's recent rulings on Obamacare and gay marriage rulings were examples of lawless judicial activism that retention elections would help to cure.

Rick Tyler, a spokesman for Mr. Cruz's campaign, took issue with Judge Kopf's characterization of the senator's ideology. In a statement emailed to Law Blog on Tuesday, he said:

Senator Cruz cares deeply about The Supreme Court…He respects and admires many of the Justices, some are his friends. He did not come to his conclusion about retention elections lightly. Quite the opposite. He wrote a thoughtful essay on why he believed it was necessary. He understands and respects why some would disagree. But what evidence does the judge offer to back up his assertion of "extreme right-wing ideology"? Or is he accustomed to render his verdicts without substantiation.

Over at Volokh Conspiracy, attorney and law professor Orin Kerr wonders whether Judge Kopf crossed a line:

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Whatever one thinks of the substance of Kopf's argument — both as to the proposal and the candidate — I'm more interested in the ethical questions it raises. Canon 5 of the Code of Conduct for Federal Judges states:

A judge should not . . . publicly endorse or oppose a candidate for public office[.]

Does calling a candidate for public office "unfit" and "demonstrably unsuited" for that office amount to "oppos[ing] a candidate for public office"?

Judge Kopf responded to Mr. Kerr, saying he had a legal right to express that opinion:

For me, it is enough to state that I did not label Senator Cruz unfit to serve in order to oppose his candidacy for political or partisan purposes but rather to demolish and protect us all from his intemperate legal attacks on the Supreme Court. I remind you that I am not registered to vote, and I have not been registered to vote since I became a judge in 1987. My comment on his legal fitness was inextricably intertwined with my right to speak publicy on legal matters and the administration of justice. That said you are correct that I skated close to thin ice.

Blogging judge calls political candidate "unfit" for office // WSJ // Orin Kerr – July 7, 2015

U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf is no stranger to controversy. At his personal blog, Hercules and the Umpire, Judge Kopf has over time shared his somewhat intemperate criticism of the Supreme Court, other judges, Congress, and lawyers practicing before him. His posts have generated no shortage of national press attention.

In a recent post, Kopf may have added another controversial notch to his blogging belt by proclaiming a political candidate "not fit" for office. In response to recent Supreme Court decisions, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) has proposed a constitutional amendment that would require Supreme Court justices to face periodic retention elections. Judge Kopf argues that Cruz's attack on lifetime tenure reveals Cruz as "a right-wing ideologue" who "is demonstrably unfit to become President." In Kopf's view, it's obvious that lifetime tenure for federal judges is better than a system of retention elections. To argue otherwise would "sacrifice the Supreme Court upon the altar of an extreme right-wing ideology." "[A]s a federal judge," Kopf writes, that gives him "the right . . . and dare I say the duty, to respond to the proposal." Cruz's proposal is so bad, Kopf reasons, that it makes Cruz "unsuited to become President."

Whatever one thinks of the substance of Kopf's argument — both as to the proposal and the candidate — I'm more interested in the ethical questions it raises. Canon 5 of the Code of Conduct for Federal Judges states:

A judge should not . . . publicly endorse or oppose a candidate for public office[.]

Does calling a candidate for public office "unfit" and "demonstrably unsuited" for that office amount to "oppos[ing] a candidate for public office"?

In response to commenter who raises this concern, Judge Kopf argues that he did not violate Canon 5 because he was merely exercising his right to comment on public matters:

For me, it is enough to state that I did not label Senator Cruz unfit to serve in order to oppose his candidacy for political or partisan purposes but rather to demolish and protect us all from his intemperate legal attacks on the Supreme Court. I remind you that I am not registered to vote, and I have not been registered to vote since I became a judge in 1987. My comment on his legal fitness was inextricably intertwined with my right to speak publicy on legal matters and the administration of justice. That said you are correct that I skated close to thin ice.

He adds:

If Senator's Cruz's legal proposition was beyond the pale, and I have the right under the Code of Conduct to write on legal subjects, why is that I am prohibited from concluding that his legal assertions disqualify him from public office? It seems to me that the two things are inextricably linked. I find it impossible to honestly separate the speaker from the speech in this instance.

And further:

I might add that I stand by views after serving six years on the Judicial Conference's Codes of Conduct Committee. That hardly makes me right, but it does reflect a serious study of the Code of the Conduct for United States Judges.

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Has Kopf skated close to thin ice, as he says, or has he skated over it and fallen through? Kopf was of course free to comment on the merits of Cruz's proposal. (For what it's worth, I agree that Cruz's proposal is a bad idea; I personally favor 18-year terms for Justices.) But I would think that the ethical line is actually pretty clear. The ethics canons allow judges to publicly oppose a reform proposal but do not allow them to publicly oppose a candidate for public office. The two may be related from the perspective of voters, as presumably they would want to vote against a candidate with bad ideas. Or at least they would weigh a bad idea against a candidate when they decide who among the candidates in the race they should support. But I don't think the two are intertwined for the judges who have to follow the ethics canons.

Or so it seems to me. I'd be interested to know whether others agree or disagree.

UPDATE: Judge Kopf elaborates a bit on his position in the comment thread to his post:

[W]hen a man of Senator Cruz's education and experience calls for a radical and fundamental attack on the Supreme Court he is not acting in political terms. If he is really serious about the amendment he is a threat to the judiciary that I love and respect and have devoted much of my life to serving. Therefore, his unfitness is a function of his threat to our Constitutional form of government–it is in that sense that he is acting in an extra-political manner and that extra-political action entitles me to take the public position that I have taken about his unfitness.

This reads like an explanation of why it's worth it to violate Canon 5 rather than why it's not a violation in the first place.

ANOTHER UPDATE: In a new comment thread, Judge Kopf argues that he did not violate Canon 5 at all. He writes, with emphasis in the original:

I neither publicly endorsed nor publicly opposed Mr. Cruz for a public office. Rather, I wrote that Senator Cruz "was unfit." "Oppose" is a verb. "Unfit" is an adjective. While the words are similar, they are not in any sense the same.

I appreciate the response, but I don't get this as an argument. First, I don't think it takes a specific verb to oppose someone. Second, when you say someone is "unfit for public office," I have always understood that to mean "should not be in public office." I don't see how you can say someone should not be in public office without opposing them for that office. Third, in defending his position Kopf also wrote:

If Senator's Cruz's legal proposition was beyond the pale, and I have the right under the Code of Conduct to write on legal subjects, why is that I am prohibited from concluding that his legal assertions disqualify him from public office? It seems to me that the two things are inextricably linked. I find it impossible to honestly separate the speaker from the speech in this instance.

I read that as Judge Kopf saying that Cruz's views "disqualify him from public office." I don't see how you can argue that a politician's views "disqualify him from public office" without also opposing that politician's bid to the office.

Ted Cruz's angry allies // Politico // Katie Glueck – July 7, 2015

Ted Cruz has methodically built a roster of state leaders to help him fire up social conservatives in the South. He may have gotten more than he bargained for.

In the last month alone, three of his state co-chairs have drawn fire over comments related to everything from Sharia law to the victims of the African-American church shooting in Charleston, S.C. That dynamic was thrown into sharp relief in recent weeks, as the debate in South Carolina unfolded over whether to take down the Confederate flag from the statehouse grounds.

One state co-chair said the victims of the Charleston shooting "waited their turn to be shot." Another has emerged as the voice of the opposition to removing the rebel flag from the statehouse, likening that effort to a "Stalinist purge." Separately, in Tennessee, his state chairman had once accused a Muslim state appointee of being a "Shariah compliant finance expert," a comment that sparked outrage in some corners when he was tapped for the position with Cruz in early June.

When asked about his surrogates' inflammatory comments, the Cruz campaign had their backs.

Pro-confederate flag demonstrators Alice Horky (R) wears confederate flag cowboy boots as she protests atop the South Carolina State House steps in Columbia, South Carolina, June 27, 2015. There has been a growing clamor for the flag — branded 'a reminder of systemic oppression and racist subjugation' by President Barack Obama on

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Friday — to be removed from the grounds of the state house in Columbia. Once flown by the rebel army of the slave-owning South, the confederate flag is seen by some as a symbol of regional heritage, but by many more as an ugly reminder of racism's cruel legacy.

“They are respected in their states, they are terrific organizers, they are working hard to help win the nomination and we have every confidence they have the ability to do that,” said Cruz spokesman Rick Tyler.

Their ability to hold their tongues is more in doubt.

On Monday, South Carolina state Sen. Lee Bright, the co-chair who is a leading opponent of taking down the flag, generated headlines and raised eyebrows in South Carolina and beyond when he gave a vehement floor speech opposing the flag removal. In the address, he warned that “the devil is taking control of this land” and went on an anti-gay rights tangent, calling the pro-gay rainbow symbol the “abomination colors.”
(Cruz’s campaign has said he believes the flag is a state issue.)

“I don’t know how that helps,” said Chip Felkel, a prominent longtime Republican operative who lives in Bright’s district, of the implications of the state senator’s remarks for Cruz. “It’s guilt by association.”

Despite Bright’s efforts, the Senate voted this week, 36-3, to take the flag down. The state House of Representatives takes the bill up next. State Rep. Bill Chumley, another Cruz co-chair who will be voting in the House, has also indicated opposition to removing the flag. He was the one to comment on the Charleston victims, a remark for which he has since apologized.

“These gentlemen — a term I’d use loosely at this point — maybe they feel they represent their constituents, but the train has left the station, it’s time to turn the page and they are not doing themselves or Sen. Cruz any favors,” continued Felkel, who worked for George W. Bush but is currently unaffiliated in the presidential race. “The longer this is drawn out, the uglier it gets, [with] national implications. Every one of these guys are looking at who’s on their team, who their supporters are and that’s going to carry over to other states. I think it cannot be a positive based on how this is playing out in the media.”

The backlash was made more clear this week in the early-voting state of Iowa. On Monday, GOP Chairman Jeff Kaufmann told Radio Iowa, while speaking about a local incident involving the flag, that he “will not tolerate” having it connected to the GOP.

“There are 17,000 young Iowa men that are laying in graves that fought against that very flag and everything it stood for,” Kaufmann said. “There’s really not a lot of conversation to have about that.”

But Cruz’s spokesman said that “of course” the campaign stands behind Chumley and Bright, in addition to Kevin Kookogey, the Tennessee state chair.

Regarding Bright, Tyler said, “He’s an elected official, a state senator, you have to garner a certain amount of support to be an elected state senator…he has agreed to do this on behalf of the senator and we are grateful for it.”

Bright, who represents the conservative Upstate region, mounted an unsuccessful primary challenge to Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) last cycle. In 2012, he was former Rep. Michele Bachmann’s South Carolina chair (Chumley also worked for her), and then switched his allegiances to Ron Paul after she dropped out.

“I would encourage presidential candidates to let us deal with this,” Bright said of the flag issue in an interview with POLITICO last month. “It’s deeply rooted history for a lot of us. I’m not going to stand by and let our ancestors’ memories be besmirched. It’s one thing to just take down the flag. They want us to concede that the soldiers that fell for the Confederacy were a bunch of racists, and I’m not going to concede that.”

When South Carolina’s Republican leadership first called for the flag to come down late last month, following the Charleston shooting, Cruz’s campaign said the senator would leave the flag issue to the state. His campaign maintained that position Tuesday following the Senate vote. That position stands out in a GOP field where many other presidential contenders lauded the state officials’ efforts to take it down.

“It’s a state issue, let them resolve it,” Tyler said. Bright “is a South Carolinian…it’s completely appropriate he argues the point of view he has. I don’t think it prevailed, but he argued it.”

Cruz is used to being out of step with the Republican establishment — his 2013 spearheading of a government shutdown, and his support for a group that primaried GOP incumbents in 2014, cemented that dynamic. And his position on the Confederate flag in South Carolina, along with his alliance with Bright, ensures that he’s at odds with the GOP leadership of South Carolina, too, note some Palmetto State operatives.

“A lot of people Cruz has associated himself with are extraordinarily wrong on the flag,” said a senior South Carolina Republican official. “…There’s no depth he won’t stoop to to pander. He’s not well-liked by the

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Republican establishment, and this is more confirmation of that."

Of course, Cruz isn't trying to win over the establishment. Plenty of his deeply conservative supporters are energized by people, like Cruz's Tennessee chair, who promise to take on Sharia law. And in South Carolina, there remains a pocket of Republican voters who do not want to see the Confederate flag come down, though it's not clear how large that group is. Other Republican presidential candidates, who supported Gov. Nikki Haley in her call for the flag to come down, may have alienated those voters — but Cruz hasn't.

"From his standpoint, it's not bad politics," said someone working for a rival campaign. "...If you look at, how do you distinguish yourself in a crowded field, in a state as important as South Carolina, that would be one way of doing it. As a long-term strategy, it may be short-sighted, but they are playing the short game."

It's not just the establishment calling for the flag to come down, though. Prominent Christian conservatives, including leading Southern Baptists, have also taken that position.

Glenn McCall, South Carolina's Republican National Committeeman and a supporter of bringing the flag down, said he thinks that at on the national stage, the flag issue may blow over by the time of the primary. But at least at a state level, he said, those who don't back bringing down the flag are losing a chance to embrace Christian unity. "Those supporting him will support him, those supporting other folks are not going to change their opinion one way or another," he said of Cruz. But at a state level, among those who oppose taking the flag down, "I just hate that they're missing an opportunity — they're all missing an opportunity — to stand with their brothers and sisters in the faith."

Ted Cruz partners with donor's 'psychographic' firm // Politico // Kenneth Vogel & Tarini Parti – July 7, 2015

Ted Cruz's presidential effort is working closely with a little-known company owned by one of his biggest donors that uses non-traditional "psychographic" analyses of voters to try to win them over with narrowly targeted micro-messages, POLITICO has learned.

The company, Cambridge Analytica, has sent staff to Cruz's campaign headquarters in Houston to help set up an intensive data analysis operation.

Cambridge Analytica is connected to a British firm called SCL Group that provides governments, political groups and companies around the world with services ranging from military disinformation campaigns to social media branding and voter targeting.

So far, SCL's political work has been mostly in the developing world – where it has boasted of its ability to help foment coups. Cambridge Analytica only entered the competitive U.S. political data market last year.

Cambridge Analytica is owned at least in part by the family of the press shy New York hedge fund manager Robert Mercer, multiple sources confirmed to POLITICO. The Mercers this year provided the lion's share of the $37 million raised by a quartet of unlimited money super PACs supporting Cruz's campaign for the GOP presidential nomination. Cruz's presidential campaign has contracted with Cambridge Analytica to provide data services, and the company has had talks with at least one of those super PACs, according to sources.

It's not uncommon for political campaigns, parties and PACs to pay huge contracts for data and other services to companies affiliated with their consultants. But it's less common for such contracts to go to firms affiliated with the donors funding the whole enterprise.

Cruz spokesman Rick Tyler said the campaign's Director of Research and Analytics Chris Wilson is using Cambridge Analytica to build models that identify and sort persuadable voters in early primary states by six-key personality types, which will be used to target the campaign's outreach.

"I've seen their product and its better than anything I've ever seen," said Tyler. "We know what a Cruz supporter looks like demographically ... and this allows us to go into Iowa and match those traits with likely caucus goers."

The group of super PACs supporting Cruz, Keep the Promise, did not respond to questions about their arrangements with Cambridge Analytica. The company did not respond to interview requests, while a spokesman for the Mercer family declined to comment.

In recent years, the Mercer family – Robert Mercer, his wife Diana Mercer and their daughter Rebekah Mercer – have emerged as among the leading financiers of conservative causes and candidates.

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Their quiet involvement in Cambridge Analytica – which is known in elite conservative finance circles but has yet to be reported – seems to mark a transition from purely financing political campaigns to running their own political operation. It's a model that's been pursued to varying degrees by billionaires ranging from the liberal hedge funder Tom Steyer to the conservative industrialists Charles and David Koch. It was made possible partly by the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision that opened new avenues for unlimited political spending.

With their investment in Cambridge Analytica – and the Cruz campaign's embrace of their product – the Mercers also have become competitors in an increasingly cut-throat conservative political data race. Some of the right's most influential and well-funded players — including the Koch brothers' operation and the Republican National Committee — are jockeying for market share and 2016 prospects in a political sub-industry expected to consume a huge portion of the billions spent in the campaign. The result of the competition could go a long way towards determining the winner of the White House and the Republican Party's direction after the election.

So far, most of Cambridge Analytica's work appears to have come from campaigns and committees funded in large part by the Mercers. And sources familiar with the Mercer's political efforts said that Rebekah Mercer, who has steered the family's political expansion, has made introductions between Cambridge Analytica and the political committees the family supports.

Federal Election Commission filings show that nearly 93 percent of the $2.6 million Cambridge Analytica has received in traceable federal payments have come from committees to which the Mercers donated generously. The payments – which all came last year and were for polling, micro-targeting, advertising and other services – came from Cruz's leadership PAC and a handful of GOP-aligned big-money organizations, including Ending Spending Action Fund, former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton's super PAC and a pop-up super PAC created to boost 2014 Republican Senate candidates.

Other Cambridge Analytica clients included the campaigns of GOP Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Thom Tillis of North Carolina, as well as unsuccessful GOP House candidate Art Robinson of Oregon. The Mercers combined to donate nearly $3.3 million to those groups in 2014, according to FEC filings.

Representatives from most of the groups and campaigns did not respond to questions about whether there was any connection between their support from the Mercers and their payments to Cambridge Analytica.

Garrett Marquis, a spokesman for Bolton's super PAC, said the $340,000 his group paid to Cambridge Analytica in 2014 was money well spent.

"It's something that no one has done in politics. Period," said Marquis. "It was the most cost-effective, efficient way to reach voters. We were very pleased."

Marquis said the firm created five categories of potential voters, including "soccer mom" and "working dads," by layering responses to surveys atop voter data, and then targeted voters based on which category they fell in. The firm's "core offering," according to its website, "combines advanced data analytics and the creation of a psychographic framework to help you gain increased insight into your target voter groups."

Bolton's super PAC spent $5 million on digital ads in 2014 on key Senate races, and Cambridge Analytica boasts on its website that the online and Direct TV ad campaign it ran for Bolton's super PAC appealed "directly to the personality traits, priority issues and demographics of specific groups" that "had a real impact in sending Thom Tillis to the US Senate."

It's not clear precisely which services Cruz's campaign or its supportive super PACs will purchase from Cambridge Analytica, or how much the work will cost. Those committees won't be required to publicly detail their finances until later this month.

Some of Cambridge Analytica's employees already appear to be have been dispatched to work on Cruz's campaign. One described himself on a social media page as a systems administrator for SCL Elections who was working in Houston "Providing Infrastructure Administration for The Honourable Republican Senator Ted Cruz in the 2016 Presidential Campaign."

SCL Group's director, a Brit named Alexander Nix, has worked to expand Cambridge Analytica's market share in the deep-pocketed world of Washington-based conservative outside groups, offering a data service that targets individual voters based on a "psychographic score" of personality traits.

"It sounds ridiculous and it probably is," said one GOP operative who has worked closely with organizations using the service.

The company is one of 10 startups set to participate this month in the Reboot Conference – a major political technology event – in San Francisco. Conference organizers included Cambridge Analytica among participants

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they consider "up and coming companies with technology not to be missed".

Ted Cruz To Chris Christie: Your "Oppo Research Guys" Got The Facts Wrong When You Attacked Me // Buzzfeed // Andrew Kaczynski – July 7, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz said Tuesday that fellow candidate Chris Christie's "oppo research guys" got their facts wrong when the New Jersey governor attacked Cruz during a Fox News appearance.

Christie, addressing comments Cruz made about not believing in "Republican-on Republican violence," said on Fox News Monday that he didn't "need to be lectured by Ted Cruz." Cruz made those comments when asked to comment on Donald Trump's controversial remarks on Mexican immigrants.

"I find it ironic that Ted Cruz is giving lectures on Republican-on-Republican violence," the New Jersey governor said on Fox News Monday. "The guy who put together a group that was sponsoring primary ads against Sen. Lamar Alexander is giving us – the rest of us lectures on Republican on Republican violence. With all due respect, I don't need to be lectured by Ted Cruz."

Cruz hit back at Christie Tuesday, saying his comments were factually wrong and adding that he "disagreed" with Christie's choice to attack other Republicans.

"Well listen, I like Chris Christie, I have repeatedly praised Chris Christie — indeed, I've repeatedly and vocally defended Chris Christie from what I think are unfair and ridiculous attacks and charges on the whole Bridgegate thing, which I've said is water under the bridge," Cruz said on the Mike Gallagher Radio.

"You know, he can choose to say what he wants to say, you know — I do appreciate his kind efforts to highlight that I have consistently worked hard to elect conservatives to Congress," said Cruz. "It is interesting his oppo research guys got the facts wrong, because I did not actually get involved in Lamar Alexander's race."

Christie was citing Cruz's connections to the Senate Conservatives Fund (SCF), a group known for supporting primary challenges to Republican incumbent senator when he made the comments. SCF never actually endorsed Alexander's primary opponent and Cruz did not endorse in the race.

"But, you know, at the end of the day, if he or anyone else wants to attack their opponents, they can choose to do that," concluded Cruz. "I disagree with that choice. I am going to sing Chris Christie's praises, I'm gonna sing Donald Trump's praises, and I'm going to focus on the issues that matter, which is turning this country around, which is fighting to restore the Constitution, to defend our liberties, to bring back jobs, and growth, and opportunity, and to restore America's leadership in the world. That's what the American people want, not a bunch of self-centered politicians bickering like children in Washington."

Ted Cruz's 2016 campaign says it s raised $14.2M since launch // Bell Jar – July 8, 2015

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz and groups supporting his presidential campaign have raised more than $51 million since launching his bid for the White House three months ago.

The campaign brought in more than $14.2 million from 175,000 contributions with an average donation of $81, according to the statement.

Ben Carson, the only other presidential candidate to unveil his numbers, has said his campaign raised $8.3 million in the second quarter.

Cruz has "one of the strongest war chests among those running for president", the release said, boasting a $51 million fundraising total since March that includes campaign and super PAC fundraising hauls.

Cruz's campaign has until July 15 to file its second-quarter report, which will includes the names of and amounts given by donors.

Cruz, the firebrand first-term senator from Texas, has 4 percent support in an average of polls on realclearpolitcs.com .

"Millions of courageous conservatives here in Georgia, all across the Southeast, all across the country are waking up and saying this doesn't make any sense". But Cruz's campaign made the totals public Sunday, shortly after Cruz shared them in an interview that aired on NBC's "Meet the Press". "We're reassembling the Reagan coalition – from conservatives to libertarians to people of Faith – and with the help of so many supporters, we will be able to deliver our optimistic message all across the country".

Huckabee and Cruz, along with Bobby Jindal and Rick Santorum, have been the most vocal in opposing the Supreme Court's opinion, with Cruz going as far as calling for retention elections of judges.

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The Texas senator noted that his father was a legal immigrant from Cuba.

Cruz praised Trump for drawing attention to illegal immigration and said he refuses to commit "Republican-on-Republican violence".

"I've said very clearly that Donald Trump doesn't represent the Republican Party", Perry said on ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos.

Ted Cruz's unique spin on the 11th Commandment // CBS News // Steven Benen – July 7, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) has been one of Donald Trump's most vocal defenders in recent weeks, at least among the Republican presidential candidates, but of particular interest is how the Texas senator has made his argument. Consider, for example, what Cruz told NBC's Chuck Todd the other day on "Meet the Press."

"I like Donald Trump. He's bold, he's brash. And I get it that it seems the favorite sport of the Washington media is to encourage some Republicans to attack other Republicans. I'm not going to do it. I'm not interested in Republican-on-Republican violence. [...]
"He has a colorful way of speaking. It is not the way I speak. But I'm not going to engage in the media game of throwing rocks and attacking other Republicans. I'm just not going to do it."

During a Fox News interview yesterday, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) made clear how unimpressed he was with Cruz's rhetoric. "I find it ironic that Ted Cruz is giving lectures on Republican-on-Republican violence," the governor said. "The guy who put together a group that was sponsoring primary ads against Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) is giving us – the rest of us lectures on Republican on Republican violence. With all due respect, I don't need to be lectured by Ted Cruz."
He added, "Let's just not be hypocritical. Don't lecture as to Donald Trump but then attack Lamar Alexander. All I want is a little consistency."
Christie raises a fair point. The Senate Conservatives Fund, which Cruz has supported, is committed to electing the most far-right candidates possible to the Senate, and in some cases, that's meant backing primary challenges to incumbent GOP senators.
In fact, Christie's comments cast an important light on Cruz's posture. If the Texas Republican simply had a blanket, no-exceptions policy against criticizing all Republicans in all instances – deferring to Reagan's "11th Commandment" – his reluctance to criticize Trump's anti-Mexican rhetoric would at least hold true to some kind of principle.
But Cruz's aversion to "Republican-on-Republican violence" is surprisingly selective.
Cruz, for example, has been willing to criticize Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) on more than one occasion. What's more, literally just last week, we learned that Cruz has written a new book in which he blasts Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and the rest of his own party's leadership on Capitol Hill in a direct and unapologetic way.
What we have, in other words, is a GOP presidential candidate who's more than happy to make use of "Republican-on-Republican violence," so long as it suits his purposes.
And criticizing Donald Trump's racially charged rhetoric does not, evidently, suit Cruz's purposes.
If there's a pattern to Cruz's decision making, it seems to be in the ideological direction – he will criticize Republicans for not being conservative enough, but he won't criticize Republicans for being too conservative. Those he finds to his left deserve his scorn, but he'll refuse to "throw rocks" at those he finds to his right.
* Update: I heard this afternoon from the Senate Conservatives Fund, which took issue with some of Christie's specific claims. The governor said Cruz "put together" the SCF, which isn't true – the group existed before Cruz was elected – though Cruz has offered support to the group.
The Senate Conservatives Fund also disputes Christie's assertion that the group "attacked" Lamar Alexander during his primary. Rather, the SCF claims, it ran ads about Alexander and the Affordable Care Act that the senator probably didn't like, and which happened to coincide with the senator's primary. Good to know.

Top GOP lawyer absolutely scorches Ted Cruz: "Most graduates of Harvard Law School know" better // Salon // Sophia Tesfaye – July 7, 2015

Conservative attorney and prominent gay rights activist Ted Olson took a swipe Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz , saying the freshman senator had abandoned a fundamental understanding of the constitution when he suggested a constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage in the wake of the recent Supreme Court decision in favor of marriage equality.

Immediately following the Court's decision, Cruz promised to keep the issue "front and center" in his campaign. "That is very much front and center something I intend to campaign on," he said. "And marriage and religious liberty are going to be integral, I believe, to motivating the American people to come out and vote for what's, ultimately, restoring our constitutional system."

Cruz subsequently proposed altering the Constitution to require Supreme Court justices to face judicial retention

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elections.

Olson, a former United States Solicitor General under George W. Bush, ridiculed Cruz's plan as politically unachievable: "A constitutional amendment to change Article III of the Constitution in this fashion has virtually no chance of succeeding ... I would think that most graduates of the Harvard Law School know that," he said in an email to the Washington Post.

After arguing against him in Bush v. Gore, Olson famously joined progressive David Boies in Hollingsworth v. Perry, the case affirming the overturning of California's ban on same-sex marriage.

For his part, Cruz, who as Olson points out is a graduate of Harvard Law School, served as a law clerk for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist from 1996 to 1997 before eventually going on to become solicitor general of Texas.

Despite his Ivy League education, the freshmen senator also revealed a basic lack of understanding of world religions when he recently predicted that the Supreme Court ruling would result in the Justice Department targeting "Jewish churches" that refuse to perform same-sex marriages.

CHRISTIE

NJ Voters Tepid on Chris Christie's Handling of State Pension System // WSJ // Heather Haddon – July 7, 2015

Nearly half of New Jersey voters have an unfavorable view of one of Gov. Chris Christie's signature policy achievements, the overhaul of the state's underfunded pension system, a new poll shows.

The survey by the Monmouth University Polling Institute found 47% of the 503 New Jersey residents polled didn't believe the governor had made a meaningful fix to the pension system. Of those polled, 11% viewed his handling of the issue as a major success and 31% found it minor.

The poll, conducted June 30 and July 1 and released Tuesday, also found growing support for the Affordable Care Act, one of President Barack Obama's biggest policy initiatives. Forty-nine percent had a favorable opinion of the health-insurance law, the highest level in nearly two years. Support split along party lines.

"The past couple of weeks have been good for the president, and that is reflected both in his job approval rating and an uptick in support for his signature health-care policy," said Patrick Murray, the institute's director.

Majority of N.J. Voters Think Chris Christie Should Step Down: Pol l (July 2, 2015)
The survey is one of the first to gauge public opinion on pensions since the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in June that Mr. Christie's moves to trim contributions to the retirement system for state workers were legally valid.

Forty-two percent of those polled disapproved of Mr. Christie's decision to scale back on a scheduled payment into the system, while 12% approved. Nearly half had no opinion.

Mr. Christie has spoken about his administration's 2011 pension overhaul in political events leading up to his declaration last week that he is running for president. He began cutting scheduled payments into the pension system due to a budget shortfall last year.

When asked, Mr. Christie has said he would put more money into the pension system if New Jersey could afford to do so. The Republican has refused to raise taxes in the state, arguing that would stymie job creation.

The governor has called for unions to return to the bargaining table to negotiate additional cuts to make the pension system sustainable. Talks have progressed little, people involved in the negotiations said.

The administration did score a victory on Monday in a vote by a state health panel that will enable savings on health benefits to workers. The state expects about $100 million in savings.

The survey also weighed opinions on New Jersey's state senators. Thirty-seven percent of those surveyed said they approved of the work of U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez and 36% disapproved, a dip from earlier surveys before the Democrat was indicted on corruption charges in April. He has pleaded not guilty.

Meanwhile, 44% approved of fellow Democrat U.S. Sen. Cory Booker's work, while 22% disapproved, down from a 51% approval rating in a May survey.

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The telephone poll of registered voters had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

New Jersey Democrats troll Chris Christie // Politico // Daniel Strauss – July 7, 2015

New Jersey Democrats are planning to throw a monkey wrench into New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's plans to run for president.

A pair of Democratic lawmakers, state Sens. Raymond Lesniak and Loretta Weinberg, are likely to cosponsor legislation that would require Christie and future New Jersey governors to resign from office if they want to run for president, according to NJ.com.

"He's not doing the state any good by spending the bulk of his time out of state," Lesniak said. "And even when he's in-state, he's focusing on what he has to do to get elected president — which often runs contrary to what he ought to do for the state."

The plan comes in the wake of a Monmouth University poll released a week ago that said that 76 percent of New Jersey voters think Christie is more focused on his political future than he is on New Jersey. The poll also found that 57 percent want him to resign since he's decided to run for president.

Still, the proposal isn't likely to become law. It would need to be signed by Christie or have the support of enough Republicans in the Legislature to join with Democrats in overriding a veto by the governor. Lesniak acknowledged that a major step is getting Republicans on board.

"We could do this in July," Lesniak said. "But the bigger problem is getting the handful of GOP senators that we'd probably need to override him, although I think it would send a good statement regardless. And who knows? Maybe some Republicans would vote for it."

If Christie were to resign, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno would replace him and there would be a special election in 2016.

Christie's office brushed off the Democrats' move.

"It's impossible to respond to every bit of silly nonsense that comes from this legislature," Christie spokesman Brian Murray said in a statement to POLITICO. "The Governor has been clear that he is never disconnected from doing his job as governor."

N.J. Dems Prod a Defiant Chris Christie to Resign // NBC News // Kelly O'Donnell – July 7, 2015

New Jersey Democrats are mounting a plan to push Chris Christie out of the governor's office, but Christie aides say it has "zero chance" of being successful.

Advisers to the 2016 presidential candidate say that the governor will keep on doing "hands on" work with the state government even as his political foes mull legislation that would require any New Jersey governor seeking the presidency - including Christie - to resign.

If that legislation passed, Christie would veto it. A veto override would require that enough Republicans in the legislature join with Democrats, something that has never happened during Christie's tenure.

"It's impossible to respond to every bit of silly nonsense that comes from this legislature," Christie deputy press secretary Brian Murray said in a statement. "The Governor has been clear that he is never disconnected from doing his job as governor."

Christie's team also pointed on Tuesday to his work with Democrats in the state House to provide a tax break for working families, suggesting that the success of his earned income tax credit proposal shows that he's remained engaged with his home state -- and with the same Democrats prodding him to resign -- despite his frequent out-of-state travel.

Asked by NBC's Matt Lauer last week if he would consider resigning his office during his run for president, Christie replied "I can't imagine I would, no."

Christie is struggling with poor approval ratings at home. A Monmouth University poll last week showed a majority - 57 percent - of New Jersey voters say that he should resign now that he's made his White House bid official.

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Webb: The real deal about Chris Christie // The Hill // David Webb – July 7, 2015

He's announced. I'm telling it like it is.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie officially made his bid for the GOP nomination — and eventually the White House — in his hometown of Livingston, N.J., and then he went straight to New Hampshire.

The instant pundit debate over whether Christie can win primaries and win over the Republican base is interesting, but no different from the debate over other GOP candidates. They all have their challenges, their pros and cons.

The town hall format is a strength, and that matters to Christie's campaign in a state like New Hampshire, where retail politics and grassroots engagement — or lack of it — can make or break a candidate. Christie had crisscrossed the state prior to his announcement and will likely spend half of his time or more initially there. New Hampshire, unlike many of the Southern states, has a broader representation of the general electorate across the country.

The debate over the spouse of a candidate aside, clearly his wife, Mary Pat, is an asset on the campaign trail as well. She is intelligent, warm and approachable. To some extent she puts a softer side on display for the often-brash Christie.

But the governor has a New Jersey problem. There will be a attacks based on the state's credit downgrades, and issues over the Second Amendment, even about immigration in the growth of the illegal alien population. Christie will have to mount a vigorous defense and explanation based on being a Republican governor in a Democrat-controlled state. The bad legacy left by former governors Jim McGreevey and Jon Corzine will only matter to the voters who know this legacy. The more conservative base of the Republican Party has questioned before and will continue to question the governor's conservative credentials.

I won't discount a win or top-three placement in the primary for Christie in South Carolina, however. Sen. Lindsey Graham is not really a factor even in his own home state, and straight-talking politicians have appeal in the Palmetto State. By the time the primary arrives, if Christie is in the top five, he will make a serious effort to win South Carolina.

Iowa has a staunch Republican base, which will be tough for Christie to win over, and Iowa is not as red as it's often portrayed, especially in the
general election. The big-money donors and political action committees know this. A decent placement in third, or at least in the top five, in the Iowa primary would keep the New Jersey governor in contention.

The money matters. Money not only allows for media campaigns and travel — it also grants the ability to put teams in place in key primary states. After all, politics, once the shouting has subsided and the differences are highlighted, is about the ability to mount a consistent and effective ground game. It's not a question of whether someone like businessman Ken Langone can bundle money for Christie. He is a well-known fundraiser with a significant network. Christie has raised a lot of money, the most of any head of the Republican Governors Association. That gives him access to monetary and political capital. Count on him calling in these favors.

Who has to attack Christie? First, those who need to draw a stark contrast. The more socially conservative candidates will do this. They will attack on the basis of Christie being a Northern, moderate Republican. The pushback from Christie will be that he is a pro-life Catholic. So this may be a wash.

The second group includes the candidates whose position he threatens. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) and Donald Trump will have to contend for some of the same voting block: moderate Republican and independent voters. One of the defenses Christie will have against this will be the fact that he worked with a Democrat-controlled legislature that has a union man as president of the state Senate. Constitutional conservatives like myself understand that a governor has to sign what he or she cannot veto.

The dread and often dead winter months will be hard for every candidate. Political fatigue will set in for even the hard-core base and many Americans will turn instead to Thanksgiving, Christmas and the new year ahead. Politicians may want to hibernate and prepare for the 2016 relaunch.

Super Tuesday is a long way away, but if Christie survives the winter political doldrums, it will become a much more exciting day. It's a political pundits dream, and for journalists a feeding frenzy.

The cynic in me still believes that presidential elections should begin on Jan. 1 of the election year. But then again, like politicians, I am allowed to dream.

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Chris Christie Administration Whistleblower To Justice Department: Bridgegate Prosecutor May Be Compromised // IB Times // David Sirota & Andrew Perez – July 7, 2015

When Chris Christie's administration quashed a grand jury's 43 indictments against the Republican governor's supporters in 2010, local prosecutor Bennett Barlyn objected. He was soon fired. Barlyn says the move to throw out the Hunterdon County indictments may have violated federal law -- and that ties between New Jersey U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman's office and Gov. Christie may have improperly prevented a probe from moving forward.

Barlyn sent a letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch on Monday, expressing concern that "apparent conflicts between Governor Christie's administration and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey ... may be compromising the latter's independent role relating to the enforcement of federal criminal law."

In February, International Business Times reported that investigators from Fishman's office interviewed Barlyn about the events surrounding the quashed grand jury indictments. ABC News confirmed the IBTimes report. But Fishman's office abruptly issued a statement appearing to clear Christie and declaring that no investigation was underway. Former U.S. attorneys interviewed by IBTimes said such a statement pre-emptively exonerating a public official is extremely unusual.

Barlyn says in the letter to Lynch that this public backtracking "immediately confirmed my suspicion that the interview was not conducted as part of a genuine inquiry, but was instead intended to placate me and forestall my efforts" to have the quashed indictments investigated.

The Justice Department and Fishman's office declined to answer IBTimes' questions about Barlyn's letter. Christie's office did not respond to IBTimes' requests for comment.

Barlyn first contacted Fishman's office last year with allegations -- made in the past by other former employees in the Hunterdon County prosecutor's office -- that the Christie administration had illegally thrown out grand jury indictments against supporters, including the local county Sheriff Deborah Trout and Undersheriff Mike Russo. Barlyn has maintained he was fired after raising objections and has filed a wrongful termination lawsuit.

Barlyn's case was assigned to investigator Thomas Mahoney, who was hired by Christie in 2006 when Christie was New Jersey's U.S. attorney.

Despite his ties to Christie, Mahoney was permitted to not only be the point person on Barlyn's case but also be a "supervisory criminal investigator" on the probe of lane closures at the George Washington Bridge by officials at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The "Bridgegate" investigation generated a guilty plea and two indictments of former top Christie allies, but the governor was not implicated.

During a Bridgegate press conference in May, Fishman was asked if his office faced any challenges in remaining independent. "There's nobody who was working on this case in my office -- no lawyers working on this case in my office -- who was hired by Gov. Christie," Fishman said.

A representative for Fishman later clarified that Mahoney had worked on the case but said that "he is not a lawyer."

In fact, according to records obtained by IBTimes, roughly 40 percent of the current U.S. attorney's office is made up of personnel hired by Christie.

Barlyn's letter to Lynch is the latest incident to raise questions about Fishman's independence from the governor.

In diaries released in early 2014, Hoboken's Democratic mayor Dawn Zimmer said she feared bringing allegations of Christie administration misdeeds to Fishman because "Christie has friends throughout [the U.S.] attorney's office."

In June, Fishman's office requested that a federal court bar the public release of 1.5 million pages of documents obtained from the Christie administration in the Bridgegate investigation.

Lawyers for one defendant in the case, former Port Authority official Bill Baroni, said Fishman's move to conceal the documents was designed to prevent the release of information they say could absolve their client and potentially incriminate others in the Christie administration.

The attempt to bar disclosure of evidence, Baroni's lawyers said, in part illustrates that "something is afoot besides a paternalistic desire to protect members of the governor's inner circle, alumni of this U.S. attorney's office, high-ranking Port Authority employees and others."

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Governor Chris Christie: Media Should Apologize to Me for Bridgegate // Newsbusters // Randy hall – July 7, 2015

During a Monday morning appearance on the MSNBC's Morning Joe program, New Jersey governor Chris Christie was asked by panelist Katty Kay about his role in the possible "creation of a culture" in his administration that led to the Bridgegate lane closure incident, which took place in early September of 2013.

The 2016 GOP presidential candidate responded to the obnoxious question by instead calling the incident "an exception, not the rule," and stating that people in the media should have stood up and said: "We're sorry, governor, for having jumped to conclusions;" and "not only have accused you, but convicted you."

The segment began with Kay asking Christie a question she undoubtedly wouldn't put to Democratic presidential front-runner and scandal-plagued Hillary Clinton:

If you were running against yourself, wouldn't you say: "This is somebody who surrounds himself with people to whom the subliminal message is: 'We will do whatever it takes to make sure that we are in the right position politically, even if that means shutting down bridges?'

"I don't necessarily want to know about it. I'm not going to talk about it, but that you allowed a culture in your office that would allow that kind of thing to happen?"

Christie replied: "That's where the people who accuse you of doing something wrong, when they're disappointed and find out that you didn't, that's their refuge.

"Remember in the beginning," he continued, "it was: 'He did this. He directed it. He's this kind of guy.' Then all of a sudden, you're not. Then they say: 'OK, now what do we do?'

"So instead of just standing up and saying what they should say, which is 'We're sorry, governor, for having jumped to conclusions; we're sorry for having prejudged this; we're sorry for having not only accused you, but convicted you,' they say: 'Oh, well, all right; now it's a culture.'"

The governor continued:

It wasn't a culture because if it was, Katty, there would have been a lot of these incidents. There wouldn't have been 100 Democrats, elected Democrats, supporting me for re-election.

I wouldn't have gotten over a third of the Republican vote and 51 percent of the Hispanic vote if this was a pattern. It's not.

"Exceptions happen; accidents, mistakes happen," he stated. "You still have to be accountable for them, but it does not mean there was a culture because if there was, there would be more than just one person in the governor's office. That's called an exception, not the rule."

The problems began on Monday, Sept. 9, 2013, when two of three eastbound toll lanes on the George Washington Bridge were closed to morning rush hour traffic, which was forced to use crowded state and interstate expressways until the road was re-opened the following Friday.

As NewsBusters previously reported, NBC's evening newscast devoted four minutes and 55 seconds to the "scandal" when it broke on January 8.

According to Scott Whitlock, a senior news analyst for the Media Research Center (the parent company of the NewsBusters website):

In less than 48 hours, ABC, CBS and NBC deluged viewers with coverage of Chris Christie's traffic jam scandal, devoting a staggering 88 minutes to the story.

In comparison, these same news outlets over the last six months have allowed a scant two minutes for the latest on Barack Obama's Internal Revenue Service scandal. The disparity in less than two days is 44 to one.

"From Wednesday through Friday morning, the latest on Christie's Traffic-Gate led 11 out of 13 news programs," Whitlock noted. "NBC produced the heaviest coverage, over 34 minutes. CBS followed close behind with more than 30 minutes. ABC came in third with just under 23 minutes."

However, when the Republican governor was cleared of any wrongdoing in the matter, "ABC and CBS punted on the story and didn't cover it in their Thursday night newscasts," MRC news analyst Curtis Houck reported.

"NBC Nightly News did cover the story, however, but only in the form of a news brief that lasted for 38 seconds,"

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he added, in which then-anchor Brian Williams stated:

A major headline this evening in the federal investigation into New Jersey governor Chris Christie and his administration.

Federal officials tell NBC News that, after nine months, investigators have concluded there is no evidence that governor Christie had advance knowledge of any politically motivated scheme to shut down lanes on the George Washington Bridge, which is the world's busiest span.

It wouldn't be wise for Christie to hold his breath while waiting for an apology from the people who used the incident to attack his popularity or hoping the press would pose a similar question to Hillary Clinton. There isn't a shade of purple deep enough to match the color of his face if he tried.

Why Chris Christie may have an edge in GOP race **// CNBC // Mark Macias – July 7, 2015**

Donald Trump just might be the second best thing that happened to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Christie recently announced he's running for president in 2016. Much of America might not know it yet, but if you live in New York or New Jersey and watch the local news, you know that Christie has an explosive temperament. You either love his brutal honesty or hate his bullying nature, but regardless of where you sit on the political couch, Christie's mouth can make any ear blush.

For the past 6 years, Christie has owned the local political show as the only governor in the Tri-State area to speak his mind without reverence for diplomacy or political correctness. He called a Navy Seal an "idiot" when he challenged the governor publicly. When a teacher asked him why he said their schools and teachers were failing, Christie responded: "Because they are... I am tired of you people." And when another teacher questioned why she wasn't paid fairly, Christie was brutally honest: "Well you know what? Then you don't have to do it."

But now, there is a new controversial presidential candidate who is already overshadowing Christie. With Trump in the race, Christie suddenly seems more palatable.

Even the "Bridgegate" scandal, which accused Christie's administration of closing the George Washington Bridge in retaliation to a local mayor, seems like a school yard tussle compared to Trump and his fight with Macy's, Univision, NBC, Mexico, China, etc.

But will that palatable perception last? Or better yet, will voters in Iowa buy it?

If I were consulting Christie, I would say, as long as he can bite his tongue and control his temper between now and New Hampshire, he just might have the political chops and finesse to charm his way with voters. Christie knows that deep, down inside, he can't be constantly combative if he's going to convince voters he should be in control of the nuclear button. He's also smart enough to know he has to be good and liked if he is going to win the nomination.

Christie is off to a great start by surrounding himself with smart strategists who understand how the media works. Immediately after his presidential announcement, Christie did an interview with NBC's Matt Lauer, where he repositioned his temper as passion.

"I'm angry about the fact that taxpayers were being ripped off in New Jersey," Christie told Lauer. "I'm angry about the fact that our urban kids can't get a good education. I'm angry about those things — you're darn right I am. And I think America wants someone who's willing to fight for that."

Brilliant PR move: The sooner you address your point of weakness, the less persuasive your opponents sound. The person who tells the story first is in better control of the narrative. Christie didn't avoid the tough accusations like other presidential candidates have done. Instead, he addressed it straight on and unabashedly.

Now, whether conservative voters buy into Christie's more moderate positions is another issue. He faces the same challenge that Rudy Giuliani had when he ran for president in 2008: He's a moderate on social issues that are crucial to the conservative base.

So, if Trump is the second-best thing to happen to Christie, what's the first? All of the other 13 GOP contenders combined.

Publicity is difficult in any crowded field because it's harder to stand out from the pack. When smart phones first

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hit the market, it was easy to get publicity for mobile apps because they were rare. Today, the market for mobile apps is saturated, making it more difficult to get your story told. It's the same for the GOP candidates. Fiorina, Carson, Graham, Pataki, Paul, Perry — for the typical voter, those names run together like a Jindal, I mean jingle. This is where Christie will shine.

He understands, like Trump, how to move the media needle. He has governed a big state, like Jeb Bush and Rick Perry. He has big donors behind him, like Marco Rubio. But unlike those other candidates — Trump, Bush, Perry and Rubio - Christie doesn't have their baggage. No one will question Christie's bravado and experience against Rubio. Christie seems less volatile than Trump, who seems to threaten a new company every day on the campaign trail. Sure, Perry was the longest-running governor of Texas and Bush was governor of a swing state, but Christie was elected governor twice in a blue state.

But much of the minutiae will be lost in the crowded presidential debates. When you have 10 candidates on one stage trying to explain a position in under 90 seconds, the only thing voters will remember is how the candidates came across. And who can forget how Christie comes across.

As long as Christie can be direct and respectful, he just might have a winning edge to the nomination, assuming he can win over the conservative base.

GRAHAM

Lindsey Graham Protests 'Brad Pitt' Debate // Bloomberg // Ben Brody – July 7, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Lindsey Graham is launching a protest of the "Brad Pitt" debate.

In an e-mail Tuesday, the South Carolina senator urged supporters to sign a petition protesting the terms of an Aug. 6 debate, the first scheduled faceoff among the Republican presidential contenders. Fox News, the debate sponsor, has said it will allow 10 candidates, based on their standing in the polls.

Graham, at distinct risk of being left out, suggesting Brad Pitt, the A-list star of movies like Fight Club and The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, "would have a better shot of being on the debate stage than real candidates for president" because the current "criterion favors celebrities and candidates who have run previously with high name recognition."

Another celebrity-turned-presidential candidate, real estate mogul and reality TV star Donald Trump, has polling numbers that give him a virtual lock on an onstage seat.

Fox News has said it will rely on candidates' standing in national polls to decide who will head to the stage but hasn't yet specific which polls it will use.

Graham receives support from about one percent of registered Republicans in swing states, according to a recent poll from Quinnipiac University, meaning he'd be unlikely to make the cutoff for the first Republican primary debate.

"Republican primary voters deserve to hear from all the candidates, not just the ones network executives pick to be on stage," Graham wrote in his email.

Fox News has said it will rely on candidates' standing in national polls to decide who will head to the stage but hasn't yet specific which polls it will use.

Lindsey Graham On Trump: GOP "Must Speak Up," He's "Not Part Of The Party I Want To Have" // Buzzfeed // Andrew Jaczynski – July 7, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Lindsey Graham said it's important for members of his party to "speak up" in opposition to Donald Trump's controversial remarks on immigrants, adding that Trump's comments are not part of "the party I want to have."
"I'm not embarrassed I just think that everybody's got to speak up," the senator from South Carolina said on Boston Herald Radio.

"At the end of the day this is not the party I want to have. You have people in the party who say things sometimes that are against what I think the party stands for, so it's incumbent upon the rest to say, 'hey no, that's not the Republican Party that I want.'"
At his presidential campaign announcement event, Trump described the immigrants that come to the United States from Mexico as "rapists."

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"They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us," Trump said. "They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."
Graham added in the interview that he thought Trump was a "very successful man" and that the Republican Party "would get through" Trump.

He also said he believes the Republican Party had a lot to offer the African-American and Hispanic community.

"The Hispanic community, I think Republicans can do well in 2016. African-American and Hispanic families have not done very well in terms of Obama economics. What do we offer, it's got to be about what we offer and I think the middle class is never gonna get better in this country until you have a growing economy where people compete for labor."

Graham said the way some Republicans speak about immigration has hurt his party.
"The immigration issue has hurt us," said Graham. "I've said this for a long time. The way the Republican Party — some elements — have dealt with immigration, the way we've talk about immigrants, has hurt us. I just believe we've gone from 44% to 27% among Hispanics because of rhetoric like this."

Graham Questions Obama's Commitment to Removing Assad From Power // Free Beacon // Blake Seitz – July 7, 2015

On Tuesday, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) pressed Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter to admit that the Obama administration is not committed to deposing Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

"As to Assad, what's more likely?" Graham mused. "President Obama leaves office in 2017, or Assad goes first?"

"Uh, well, it's certain that President Obama will leave then, so that's an easy question," Carter said. "It ends up turning on whether Assad will be in power then."

"Yes, well I know that," Graham chuckled.

The senator repeated his question: "Who leaves first, Obama or Assad?"

"Well, I certainly hope it's Assad," Carter answered.

"Yeah I do, but I don't think so," Graham said.

The exchange occurred during Tuesday's hearing on U.S. involvement in the Middle East before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Obama administration officials insisted as early as 2011 that Assad must go, but have since done very little to effect a change of power in Damascus, even after the Syrian regime murdered thousands of its citizens with weapons of mass destruction in 2013.

President Obama repeated Monday that the Syrian civil war would only end if there is "a new government without Bashar Assad," but so far he has forbidden the U.S. military from targeting Syrian government forces in airstrikes as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Carter told Graham that the United States is committed to finding "a political exit for Assad."

The Syrian Civil War has killed more than 310,000 people in four years, according to the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights.

Lindsey Graham campaign joins Fiorina in attacking Clinton's CNN Interview: Clinton has 'selective hearing and memory' // Breitbart // Alex Swoyer – July 7, 2015

GOP presidential candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) campaign joined fellow GOP candidate Carly Fiorina in response to Hillary Clinton's long awaited formal sit down interview, which the Democratic frontrunner gave to CNN.

This was the first national broadcast interview Clinton has given since formally announcing her campaign.

Christian Ferry, Graham's campaign manager, told Breitbart News, "Hillary Clinton clearly has selective hearing and memory."

Ferry continued, "She doesn't seem to recall that Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)47%
has been fighting to secure our border and fix our broken immigration system for the last decade. This is no surprise considering that she still believes the national security policy she helped implement with Barack Obama

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has made the world and our country safer."

Ferry's statement mirrors the criticism Fiorina made when she posted on Facebook that CNN didn't question Clinton on her track record as Secretary of State.

HUCKABEE

Huckabee blasts Obama, 'Still in denial about the threats we face' // Breitbart // Alex Swoyer – July 7, 2015

GOP presidential candidate Gov. Mike Huckabee says President Obama is in denial about ISIS following his statements on the terrorist organization.

"President Obama is still in denial about the threat we face from ISIS. The President admitted that ISIS is filling a 'void' in the region, but failed to mention why the void exists in the first place: The Obama Administration refused to leave a residual force in Iraq and then dismissed ISIS as a 'jayvee team,'" Huckabee stated.

The presidential candidate added Obama continues to call the terrorists "violent extremists" and not identify them by their ideology – radical Islam.

"This is about as intellectually dishonest as it gets from Washington. Jihadists are slaughtering civilians by the tens of thousands and would kill millions if they could," Huckabee added.

He concluded:

There was nothing new in President Obama's glorified photo-op at the Pentagon. The Obama Administration promised to train 5,400 moderate rebels per year to fight ISIS. Yet less than 100 are being trained. What will it take for President Obama to abandon his weak, incremental escalation in the Middle East and finally take the fight to ISIS?

CARSON

Ben Carson's godly riches // Politico // Tarini Parti – July 7, 2015

Before Ben Carson was vying for votes from members of Christian organizations, he was charging them tens of thousands of dollars — in some cases even more than he charged groups with no religious ties — for speeches.

Carson, now a GOP presidential candidate, brought in nearly $2 million delivering inspirational speeches to faith-based groups like Christian high schools and pregnancy centers in 2014. Of his five most expensive speeches, four of them were for Christian entities, a POLITICO analysis of his financial disclosure form shows.

Billed by the Washington Speaker's Bureau as an "inspiring storyteller" who is "soft-spoken yet charismatic" and capable of "commanding the stage," Carson's speaking fees varied widely, from $12,320 to $48,500.

Last August, Hope Pregnancy Center in College Station, Texas, was one of the organizations that doled out $40,500 — close to Carson's highest speaking fee — for the neurosurgeon-turned-author to speak at a fundraiser and attend a private, 45-minute reception with donors beforehand. The faith-based, pro-life organization works with women with unplanned pregnancies.

"We called the speaker's bureau and we were told that number," explained Tracy Frank, executive director of the center. "Washington Speakers Bureau dictated the terms … We're not that sophisticated and stuff. I'm going to cry if you're telling me he did others for a lot less."

Carson gave 115 speeches for lower amounts in 2014 alone.

Frank said she didn't negotiate with the Washington Speakers Bureau because of Carson's popularity. The fundraiser brought in a net profit of $150,000. Frank — along with other organizers of several other events — said Carson was paid more than past speakers, but they were able to make a significant net profit because they drew a bigger audience or were able to charge more for tickets.

"It was probably higher than we've paid before," she continued, "but then again, we wanted Phil Robertson from 'Duck Dynasty,' and he was far more expensive."

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Ron Wade, executive director of HopeWorks Inc. – a Tennessee-based Christian group that seeks to help the poor and homeless and paid Carson $24,500 for a fundraiser last year — said he didn't know if he was being charged more or less than other organizations. But he said he was willing to pay the speaking fees without much negotiation because it's hard to find appropriate speakers who can draw a crowd.

"It is so difficult to be popular and also meet the mission," Wade said. "We just go with what we can get. He did a really good job for us in bringing in people who may not have known about HopeWorks. It would be great if he and other speakers would say, 'HopeWorks is great, and we'll do it for free.' But most people don't say that."

Overall, Carson reported earning $4 million in speaking fees in 2014. In addition to the fees, he earned between $1 million and $6 million in book royalties in the same year, his disclosures show.

The Washington's Speaker's Bureau did not respond to requests for comment on how the fees were determined. The bureau has taken down Carson's bio — which said, "Ben Carson's remarkable journey from tough, inner-city youth to history-making neurosurgeon celebrates and illustrates the power we all have to excel and influence others" — now that Carson is on the campaign trail.

Carson's campaign also declined to comment, saying that it had included everything that was legally required in the financial disclosures.

Carson has written six best-selling books, including "America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great"; "One Nation: What We Can All Do to Save America's Future"; and "One Vote: Make Your Voice Heard." In speeches, he often draws from his books along with the TNT movie "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story," which chronicles his life and stars Oscar winner Cuba Gooding Jr.

Carson's popularity among Christian crowds is part of how a doctor with no political experience has been able to gain more traction in Iowa than many better-credentialed contenders, such as former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, who are vying for the same evangelical supporters.

Although there was already a movement underway to draft Carson to run for president, nonprofit leaders who hired him for speeches last year said he wasn't overtly political and focused more on his life story and the "moral climate" of the country.

"It was a call for our people to pray more and seek God's guidance for leadership for our country," said Gary Moore, senior associate pastor for the Second Baptist Church, of Carson's speech at the Houston church's "If My People" conference.

But occasionally, based on some video clips and media reports of the speeches, Carson commented on how conservatives have been silenced for their views on social issues. "I think political correctness is one of the worst things that we ever brought to America," he said in a speech for the Family Foundation of Virginia. "And here we are allowing it to be reintroduced through the back door as a good thing. It's not a good thing. It's an evil thing."

"If you believe in traditional marriage, then you're a homophobe," he said in the same speech, for which he was paid $32,000. "If you believe in life, then you're anti-woman. If you're white and you oppose a progressive black person, you're a racist. If you're black and you oppose a progressive agenda, you're crazy."

During another speech at the University of Cumberlands last April, Carson more directly discussed his potential White House bid, according to a video: "I do realize that our country is in a lot of trouble. One of the biggest challenges that our country faces is our national debt, which is $17.5 trillion. Most people cannot comprehend this amount. Hopefully someone will come along who really catches fire and really understands the Constitution and understands freedom … If that doesn't happen, I would have to give serious consideration to it."

But more than expressing his views on social and political issues, the paid speeches were a chance for Carson to share his life story with large audiences ahead of his announcement, and pick up supporters who could easily connect to it, like HopeWorks' Wade, who brought Carson to Cordova, Tennessee, for an event titled, "A Morning of Hope with Ben Carson." The event cost $60 per ticket.

"He's so authentic," Wade said. "He impressed me. If he is still in the Republican primary when Tennessee votes, I would vote for him."

A Movie Was Once Made About Ben Carson (And It May Be Helping Him) // The Daily Caller // Alex Pappas – July 8, 2015

"There's too much God in it," Ben Carson remembers someone telling him.

Filming had already started on the TNT movie about his life, "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story," when one of the major sponsors suggested toning down some parts about his Christian faith. There were concerns about

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alienating a general audience.

“I just said, ‘No problem, you can take it out,’” Carson recalled in a recent interview with The Daily Caller. “‘But take me out too, because it won’t be about me.’”

“And then they backed off.”

Based on his 1996 autobiography with the same title, the uplifting TV movie tells the story of Carson’s path from inner-city Detroit to the Johns Hopkins operating table, where he first successfully separated twins conjoined at the head.

The 2009 movie has helped make Carson, now running as an outsider for the Republican nomination for president, famous: it has played in schools, churches and on the Black Entertainment Television network (BET). Hundreds of thousands of DVDs have been sold. It streams on Netflix.

It could also help explain in part why Carson, who has never run for office, is polling in second-place in evangelical-heavy Iowa and in third place nationally, according to the Real Clear Politics polling average.

Before the movie deal was inked, Carson said he talked with as many as 15 different production companies. He wanted to make sure the film stayed true to life and didn’t take artistic liberties.

Carson was finally satisfied: “TNT and Sony said they would do it accurately, and that they would consult with me in the process.”

“It turned out to be a two-edged sword, because they were always calling me,” Carson said with a laugh.

In an interview with TheDC, Dan Angel, the executive producer of Gifted Hands, said he made a promise to Carson. “I am going to tell your story from beginning to end and tell the truth. I’m not going to add anything.”

Carson was active during production: Angel said he visited the set in Detroit, spending time with actor Cuba Gooding Jr., who played him.

“He would be there every step of the way whenever we needed to talk to him about reality checks,” Angel said of Carson. “We would have Cuba Gooding Jr. on the phone with him. And he gave complete access to his life, which is really important.”

Gooding, through agent Adam Schweitzer, declined to be interviewed.

But in a 2009 appearance on CBS, the actor praised Carson. “I always say about men like this: they’re like God’s tool,” Gooding said. “He’s really given him a gift and he’s touched so many people.”

Carson says he was satisfied with the finished product. “I thought they did a spectacular job. Cuba came and spent a couple days with me. He got a chance to sort of see how I talk and how I act.”

“I mean the idea that this amazing mom growing up in Detroit could raise two boys in the worst of conditions of poverty — you can imagine what the conditions were in the poorest town in America — and you would have any shot at coming out successful,” said Angel, the executive producer. “It’s the ultimate beating the odds story.”

Carson said his mother, Sonya Carson, also spoke with the filmmakers. “She had a number of conversations on the phone with Kimberly Elise, who plays her,” he said.

His mother remains in his life today, but her health has been declining.

Hours before Carson announced his entry into the presidential race this summer, he got a call that his mom, who has Alzheimer’s, was no longer eating or drinking.

“They basically just said, ‘this is the end,’” a soft-spoken Carson said. “Take her home. And let her die there. That’s news I got the day before the announcement.”

In what Carson thought might be their final goodbye, his family rushed to her bedside. His wife, Candy, played the violin while his kids were singing and reading verses from the Bible. Carson said supporters told him they were praying for her.

And to everyone’s surprise, she got better.

“She just all of a sudden bloomed,” he said. “She blossomed. And she was back, and she was better than she was before.”

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As for the film, Carson said his mother was satisfied with how it turned out, even as it showed difficult times for her, including her bouts with depression.

“I’ll tell you, it takes a lot to make her happy,” Carson said with a laugh. “It says a lot for Kimberly.”

The film won a $100,000 Epiphany Prize for “most inspiring movie of 2009,” but not all the reviews were pretty.

[en Carson signs ‘no new tax’ pledge, visits New Hampshire] // The Washington Times // Seth McLaughlin – July 7, 2015

Vowing to crack down on the free-spending ways of Washington, Ben Carson signed a “no new tax” pledge here Tuesday as part a two-day swing through the first-in-the-nation primary state of New Hampshire.

Buoyed by solid fundraising and strong poll numbers, Mr. Carson is working to broaden his appeal beyond the grassroots activists that helped to compel the retired neurosurgeon to run for the 2016 GOP presidential nomination.

“The tax pledge is the least I can do,” Mr. Carson told The Washington Times. “I would go much further than saying I am not going to raise taxes. I think we need to reform the system completely — make it truly fair, with liberty and justice for everybody.”

Mr. Carson called for a “proportional tax” of somewhere between 10 percent and 15 percent on individual and corporate income, and for the elimination of all tax deductions, including the cherished mortgage-interest and charity-donation deductions.

The 63-year-old also came out against “sanctuary cities” that refuse to cooperate with federal deportation efforts on immigration, following the slaying of a San Francisco woman, with which an illegal immigrant who had been deported five times has been charged.

Voters in the early primary states are being pulled in various directions because of the sheer size of the GOP field.

That was a clear reminder of that Tuesday after Mr. Carson and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina crossed paths on the streets of downtown Portsmouth. Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana also traveled through the state on Tuesday.

Polls show Mr. Carson, who has never held political office, is running third nationally behind former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin. He is tied for second in Iowa, which kicks off the nomination race, and is running in the middle of the pack in New Hampshire.

The Carson campaign announced earlier this month that it had pulled in $8.3 million in its opening quarter and more than $10 million since he launched his exploratory committee in early March.

“We have easily what we need to run our campaign,” Mr. Carson said. “The pundits early on said it would be impossible for us to mount a national campaign since we weren’t connected to the big money and we are doing just fine because they forgot about one very important thing — the people.”

Mr. Carson and his wife, Candy, celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary in nearby Nashua on Monday and followed that up Tuesday with five separate stops across the state.

Mr. Carson cast himself as an Washington outsider and drove home the idea that he is taking the same fact-based approach to policy as he did in the operating room, where he became renowned for separating conjoined twins.

“There are a lot of people who have been in Washington for decades,” he said “I don’t think you would really want them to tie your shoe.”

Mr. Carson said he opposed Obamacare, and said that he would push for health savings accounts, as well as the ability for people to purchase insurance across state lines.

Asked about Social Security, he advocated for gradually raising the retirement age over time and said that he would offer a tax credit in exchange for people choosing to opt out of the program.

On immigration, he said he would seal the border and provide guest-worker permits to illegal immigrants, as long as the paid back taxes.

He said Congress should pass laws protecting religious freedom in the wake of the Supreme Court’s ruling in favor of same-sex marriage.

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Ginny Hooker, 60, of Pittsfield, said she is open to voting for Mr. Carson.

“I would consider. It is still too early, but I think he will do well,” Ms. Hooker said, adding that she likes how he comes across as a genuine person. “People can relate to him. He feels like he is someone who is easy to approach.”

Barry Heller, 66, of Merrimack, said Mr. Carson has good ideas, but comes off flat on the stump.

“His biggest shortcoming is he is not as dynamic a speaker as a lot of the others,” Mr. Heller said. “He needs to be a better speaker to get the message across.”

Ben Carson Has Sold More Copies Of His Book Than Every Other 2016 Republican Combined — By A Lot // Buzzfeed // McKay Coppins – July 7, 2015

The Iowa caucuses are still months away, but one presidential hopeful has already pulled far ahead in the 2016 conservative book sales primary: Dr. Ben Carson.
Carson’s book, One Nation: What We Can All Do To Save America’s Future, has sold a whopping 362,813 hardcover copies to date, according to Nielsen BookScan, a service that tracks most bookstore sales.

To compare: If you take the combined hardcover sales of every other book written by a current Republican presidential contender since 2010 and add them together, you only get 252,177.

Carson’s dominance as an author has not necessarily translated to frontrunner status in the GOP presidential primaries, where he generally polls among the top cluster of candidates — at around 10% — but has not pulled away from the pack.

The book’s success does, however, illustrate how Carson’s specialized brand of charisma, emphasis on personal biography, and proud defiance of political correctness appeals to the book-buying masses of the Republican base.

It also comes at a moment when the conservative publishing industry has grown so large, and competitive, that many on the right fear it’s unsustainable. BuzzFeed News explored this phenomenon last year, in part, by examining the quadrennial rush to put out campaign manifestos by prospective presidential candidates. Publishing sources described bidding wars among the proliferation of conservative imprints, which have led to soaring advances that couldn’t be economically justified. Often, campaigns and political action committees end up spending thousands of dollars to inflate the books’ sales numbers.

So far, Carson’s book is shaping up to be a rare runaway bestseller in the sub-genre of candidate lit.

From BookScan, here are the total hardcover sales for each book released since 2010 by one of the current Republican presidential contenders:

American Dreams, by Marco Rubio: 7,807 hardcover copies sold
Unintimidated, by Scott Walker: 19,096
Taking a Stand, by Rand Paul: 7,795
Rising to the Challenge, by Carly Fiorina: 2,620
Immigration Wars, by Jeb Bush: 4,905
God, Guns, Grits, and Gravy, by Mike Huckabee: 65,939
Leadership and Crisis, by Bobby Jindal: 20,080
Midas Touch, by Donald Trump: 21,424
Fed Up!, by Rick Perry: 27,264
An American Son, by Marco Rubio: 36,786
Bella’s Gift, by Rick Santorum: 6,112
American Patriots, by Rick Santorum: 6,831
Government Bullies, by Rand Paul: 10,818
The Tea Party Goes To Washington, by Rand Paul: 10,778
Blue Collar Conservatives, by Rick Santorum: 3,919
TOTAL: 252,177
One Nation, by Ben Carson: 362,813

Ben Carson calls for banning sanctuary cities // Boston Herald // Chris Cassidy – July 7, 2015

Republican hopeful Ben Carson today offered a solution to prevent a similar murder like the shooting death in San Francisco allegedly committed by an illegal immigrant who had been previously deported five times.

“No sanctuary cities,” said Carson in response to an attendee’s question during a Politics & Eggs event at the Bedford Village Inn this afternoon. “I think that’s ridiculous.”

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Carson's comments came as Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez admitted in a TV interview he shot and killed 32-year-old Kathryn Steinle in a tourist-friendly section of San Francisco.

The shooting has sparked a nation-wide controversy because Lopez-Sanchez had been deported five times and San Francisco's status as a "Sanctuary City" for illegal immigrants prevented city officials from cooperating with the feds when he was released on drug charges the week before.

"You have to turn off the spigot that dispenses the goodies," said Carson. "If there's nothing for them to come here for, they're not going to risk coming in here."

Carson also said Donald Trump's message about stopping illegal immigration is being overshadowed by the language he's using, which was "perhaps a little inflammatory."

"I learned that a few months ago, to tone down the rhetoric," said Carson. "That's why you haven't heard me do that much lately because I want people to hear what I'm saying."

Later, he told reporters he doesn't think Trump is hurting the party.

"He is who he is," said Carson. "Could you imagine a Donald Trump who's, like, nice, mild-mannered and says everything in a very peaceful -- it wouldn't be Donald Trump."

He also believes he is a "shoo-in" to qualify among the top 10 candidates to appear on the stage for next month's first Republican primary debate.

FIORINA

Carly Fiorina Condemns Donald Trump for Comments on Mexicans // TIME // Sam Frizell – July 7, 2015

Carly Fiorina on Tuesday denounced Donald Trump's recent comments on Mexican immigrants, saying her fellow Republican presidential candidate "doesn't represent my party."

"Donald Trump has said many outrageous things in his career, and I suspect he's going to continue to say outrageous things," Fiorina said after touring a factor here. "He doesn't represent me, and he doesn't represent my party."

Macy's, NBC and other businesses have cut business ties with Trump, the reality television star and real estate mogul, after said during his campaign launch that the immigrants coming into the U.S. from Mexico are "rapists."

Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard chief executive, is seeking a place on the Republican debate stage this summer, a key step in gaining recognition in the race for the presidential nomination. She'll need to do well enough in national polls to debate her competitors on stage, a feat that could be complicated by Trump's entry into the race.

Trump has rocketed into second place in the race, according to a CNN poll released last week.

"I do think the media is sort of obsessed with him in a way that's bizarre to me," Fiorina said. "There's a lot going on in the world and everybody keeps asking about Donald Trump."

Fiorina is in the first-in-the-nation primary state of New Hampshire this week, meeting voters and touring local businesses.

Fiorina Responds: I've Done 24 TIMES As Many National TV Interviews As Hillary // The Daily Caller // Al Weaver – July 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton may have sat down for her first national television interview Tuesday, but the number pale in comparison to the only other female in the presidential contest thus far.

According to Carly Fiorina's campaign, the former Hewlett-Packard CEO has sat down for 24 national television interviews since her announcement May 4. The Fiorina camp also tweeted out a fun fact about the number of interviews she has done on a certain network that is not usually kind to Republicans.

Fiorina has done four such interviews on the "Lean Forward" network — two with "Morning Joe," one with "Mitchell Reports" host Andrea Mitchell, and another with "The Cycle" host Abby Huntsman.

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In a statement following the interview, which took place with CNN's Brianna Keilar, Fiorina took aim at the questions Clinton did not end up facing, adding that the GOP nominee will need to "hold Hillary accountable."

Stunning…and yet completely unsurprising. Hillary Clinton managed not to answer any substantive questions during that interview. And she wasn't even asked about her track record as Secretary of State. If we want to win back the White House in 2016, we need a Republican nominee who won't be afraid to hold Hillary accountable–who will ask her about Benghazi, who will ask her about her conflicts of interest while her family accepted money from countries with business before her, who will ask her why she thought a gimmicky red reset button would dissuade the ambitions of someone like Vladimir Putin.

'Rope line' jokes aplenty as Fiorina knocks Clinton // The Union Leader // Dan Tuohy – July 7, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina casts herself as the anti-Hillary candidate. An audience in Portsmouth was happy to compare and contrast.

"Where's your rope line?" a man asked her Tuesday morning.

The grinning questioner was inspired by Democrat Hillary Clinton's use of a rope line to literally hold reporters back from covering her while she walked in the Fourth of July parade Saturday in Gorham. Others in the crowd at Geno's Chowder & Sandwich Shop in Portsmouth cracked the same joke.

Fiorina also teed up on it. "Ladies and gentlemen," she began her remarks, "I don't want to rope off the press."

Clinton's campaign says the rope was necessary in order to allow people along the route to meet and chat with the candidate.

Fiorina, who regularly criticizes Clinton and presents herself as the ideal Republican to take Clinton on in the general election, said she remains accessible to the press and has answered more than 600 questions since her failed bid for U.S. Senate in California in 2010.

Fiorina, the former chief executive officer of Hewlett-Packard, is running as a Washington outsider. She is on a week-long campaign swing through New Hampshire.

"Hillary Clinton cannot be President of these United States because she's not trustworthy," Fiorina said in Portsmouth. "She's not transparent. Despite her many titles, she lacks a track record of leadership, and the policies she is pursuing are doubling down on every failed policy of the Obama administration from the last seven years."

Fiorina continued to take aim at the "professional political class." She also dismissed billionaire businessman Donald J. Trump for his comments on Mexican illegal immigrants.

"Donald Trump is what he has always been -- a tireless self-promoter," she said in response to a reporter's question. "So he's going to say lots of outrageous things as he always has. He doesn't represent me and he doesn't represent my party."

In speaking to the audience at Geno's, which opened early for the occasion, said immigration reform takes money, manpower and political will power. She supports strengthening the nation's borders, but also said America must prioritize some basic steps, like fixing a broken employer verification system to ensure workers are legal.

Fiorina proposed cutting back on federal bureaucracy, rebuilding America's military, and repealing the Affordable Care Act and replacing it with a free-market, states-based solution, in which states manage high-risk pools.

One man asked her how she was answer the press when questioned on how she was "separated" from Hewlett-Packard. "I wasn't 'separated' from HP, ok, I was fired," Fiorina responded. She said she's proud of her record, and that she was challenging the status quo at her former company during a time of great upheaval in the tech world. She said other leaders -- citing Steve Jobs -- were fired for taking similar stands.

Fiorina said she has more endorsements in New Hampshire than any other candidate and is working a grassroots campaign to boost her standing in the first-in-the-nation primary state. She said that her name recognition was less than 4 percent when she started the campaign. And since that "standing start" on May 4, she has raised $1.4 million toward the presidential primary election.

Asked if she is now a top-tier candidate, Fiorina said it depends on how one defines it. But, she quickly added, she will be on the debate stage when Fox News and Facebook host the first televised GOP presidential debate Aug. 6. In a critical move, Fox News will limit the entry criteria to the top 10 candidates, based on five recent national public opinion polls.

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JINDAL

Bobby Jindal mocked for posing with gun at campaign stop // The Economic Times – July 8, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Bobby Jindal has been mocked on Twitter for posting a photo of himself holding and admiring a weapon while at a campaign stop in Iowa last week.

"My kind of campaign stop; Capital Armament in Sibley," read the photo caption of Louisiana's Indian-American governor, inviting mocking comments, according to Atlanta Journal Constitution newspaper.

The company's Facebook page describes CapArms as a veteran-owned company that manufactures ammunition firearms and smokeless gunpowder.

A commentator accused Jindal, a strong supporter of gun ownership rights who has signed several pro-gun rights bills into law in his state, of pandering to constituents and calling him a poser.

Another called it Jindal's Dukakis moment, referencing the 1988 campaign photo of Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis riding in a tank.

Politico, an influential Washington newssite, referred to that image as one of the "worst campaign backfires in history."

Bobby Jindal: Sanders and Clinton Would Both Turn Us Into Greece // TIME // Bobby Jindal – July 7, 2015

Greece created democracy, and now the Greeks are showing us how to kill it.

It's simple math to understand what is happening in Greece right now. When Greece joined the euro, it benefited from the financial support of its more fiscally responsible neighbors in the euro zone. Rather than taking the opportunity to enact the structural reforms that could have increased growth — reforms that it still has not undertaken — Greece instead went on a spending spree funded by other people's money.

Greece has been cooking the books with complicated financial instruments for years. But the problems don't stop there. Greece's Rubik's Cube tax code and rampant corruption make tax evasion widespread. Golden parachute public pensions that allow public sector workers to retire as early as 45 drain dollars out of the government coffers while incentivizing a still healthy and work-age workforce to live on the public dime. It's hard to have sufficient tax paying workers when about 75% of Greek public-sector employees retire by the age 61.

After taking office in January, the Alexis Tsipras administration reversed promised privatization of state-owned assets like the Port of Piraeus. In 2011, the IMF predicted Greece could bring in 50 billion euros ($56 billion) from the sale of state assets, not to mention the savings from moving those employees off the public wage and benefit system. To date, it has raised about 3 billion euros.

Business has no interest in creating jobs when crushed by government regulation. Tspiras promised to raise the minimum wage, despite the economy spiraling out of control. It's not surprising the March unemployment rate stood at 25.6%.

This is the European nightmare. The way of Greece is where Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders will take us. It's simple math: You can't spend more than you take in. You can't make it impossible for business to thrive and expect the economy to grow. No wonder the U.S. has had a disappointing about 2% "recovery" growth. That's not an accident—it's the result of failed policies.

Clinton and Sanders are math deniers, like most of the Democrats in D.C. They want to grow the government economy instead of the real American economy. Rather than pursuing tax reform to improve growth or entitlement changes to reduce future expenditures, Clinton and Sanders are focused on spending trillions on Obamacare, giving free college to everyone, and raising the federal minimum wage.

This was all on plain view in New Hampshire this past weekend, where Clinton spent the weekend promoting a third term of President Barack Obama's failed policies. The irony is that her dishonesty and lack of transparency is a windfall for Sanders.

Sanders is rising in the polls. Why? Because he's honest. He freely admits that he believes in socialism, and Democrats are flocking to the only honest candidate running on their side. Sanders should write Clinton a thank

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you note.

Sanders may be saying what Clinton will not say, but the reality is they're both socialists. And if you want a peek into our future with Clinton or Sanders, then look at what's happening in Greece today. Sanders proudly said on Sunday that he wants to raise taxes.

Sanders and Clinton seem to believe prosperity lies in the hands of government. We know it lies in the hands of our people.

We have to stop pretending. Greece pretended that debt didn't matter for years. It pretended it could spend money it didn't have. It pretended that there was some mythical pot of money in Athens that didn't exist. It pretended that 1+1 didn't equal 2.

The politicians in Puerto Rico are no different. They are demanding that we change U.S. laws so that they can file for bankruptcy. They are even threatening to sway the presidential election in order to force candidates to agree with them. These are the same politicians that led the country to bankruptcy. Everyone knows exactly what is going on here — they are asking the U.S. taxpayers to pay for a bailout. That's where this leads, and we should be honest about it. I oppose this.

Unfortunately, we better admit that our politicians in Washington are taking us down the exact same road that Puerto Rico is on, and that Greece has gone down. The federal minimum wage has strangled economic growth in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican government tried to throw money at the problem with incentive programs to lure business — but that just cost money and didn't fix the structural problem, so the economy continued to stall.

I know because in Louisiana we reversed decades of outmigration, and we created more than 90,000 jobs by reducing regulations and cutting taxes. Louisiana's economy boomed. We can do the same for America's economy. If you want more borrowing and spending, then vote for the Democrats. We know where that leads — Greece and Puerto Rico have shown us how quickly irresponsible spending can kill a democracy.

Jindal back to Iowa, will fundraise with Grassley // Des Moines Register // Linh Ta – July 7, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal will make a campaign stop with Sen. Chuck Grassley in Marion Saturday.

Jindal, who is running for the Republican nomination for president, will make several other stops in Iowa including Cedar Rapids and Davenport.

Both Grassley and Jindal will visit the Foot and Ankle Specialists of Iowa in Marion for a meeting with press, along with a private fundraiser and roundtable. Jindal has spent 14 days in the state this year, with his most recent visits to July 4th parades in Urbandale and Windsor Heights.

The rest of the stops include:

Dubuque: 9 a.m., Saturday, breakfast stop at Courtside Grill, 2095 Holliday Drive

Cedar Rapids: 1 p.m., Saturday, town hall meeting at Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 410 Third Ave.

Marion: 5 p.m. Saturday, fundraiser and roundtable with Sen. Chuck Grassley at Foot and Ankle Specialists of Iowa, 1215 Blairsferry Road

Davenport: 5 p.m., Sunday, town hall meeting at American Legion Post #26, 702 West 35th St.

Bobby Jindal super PAC drops $700k on Iowa commercials, website reports // Bayoubuzz – July 7, 2015

Gov. Bobby Jindal's Super PAC, Believe Again, is spending more than $700,000 on round of commercials that will keep Jindal for president ads on the air through August, the Washington Post reported.

The ads will air between July 13 and August 2, mostly in the major media markets of Des Moines, Sioux City and Cedar Rapids, the Post report said. The buy includes commercials running online and on some cable networks in the state.

of the TV ads that have been running in Iowa have been a spot that uses a speech where Jindal talks about how he doesn't like the use of terms he calls "hyphenated Americans" such as Indian-American. He goes on to talk about his views on immigration. The ad is titled "We Are All Americans."

Before that, an ad that aired in Iowa touted Jindal's support for religious freedom.

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Jindal: No break for Puerto Rico in debt crisis // The Union Leader // Dave Solom on – July 7, 2015

Louisiana governor and presidential candidate Bobby Jindal said on Tuesday that he would oppose any legislation giving the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico a way out of its debt crisis that would leave lenders holding the bag.

He criticized Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton and fellow Republican Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida, for endorsing changes in U.S. bankruptcy laws that would enable Puerto Rico's public entities to restructure some $72 billion in debt.

Legislation has been introduced in Congress that would give the U.S. territory the same options the 50 states have when it comes to restructuring the debt of government-owned entities or municipalities.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, both Clinton rivals for the Democratic nomination, have also endorsed easing the bankruptcy laws for Puerto Rico.

Bush is so far the only Republican candidate to do so. "I think that Puerto Rico ought to be treated as other states are treated as it relates to restructuring," he said during a visit to the island in late April.

"We all know what's next," Jindal said in an interview with New Hampshire Union Leader editors and reporters. "There will be appeals for U.S. tax dollars for a bailout. We can't do that. We shouldn't do that. I don't know why Jeb Bush is calling for that change in the law. I hope he will reconsider his position."

Jindal linked Puerto Rico and Greece, both on the verge of a massive default, as examples of poor economic policies run amok, and said the United States has been heading in the same direction under President Obama.

"The most important domestic issue we have is to rescue the American Dream from becoming the European nightmare — more taxes, more spending, more regulation," he said. "Greece will be our future if we aren't careful."

More than a ribbon-cutter

The 44-year-old Louisiana native, whose parents immigrated from India, is considered a long-shot for the GOP nomination. His approval rating in Louisiana has plummeted to around 30 percent, as the state Legislature in June closed a $1.6 billion projected budget deficit, ending the state's biggest budget crisis since the late 1980s.

Jindal pointed out that he was elected governor by wide margins, "and then we actually did something after getting elected,"

"You want to be popular, cut ribbons and kiss babies," he said. "We've done some things in our state and the state is better for it." Those initiatives included a school-choice program and privatization of the state-run hospitals.

"We were coming out of Katrina," he said. "People were worried about 25 years of out-migration. Now we've had seven years of in-migration, credit upgrades and per-capita income is up."

The son of immigrants, Jindal said the current immigration system is broken. "We have low walls and a narrow gate," he said, "when we need high walls and a broader gate, meaning we need to secure the border and after that's done, make it easier to get here legally."

Once through the gate, he said, immigrants need to assimilate.

"They need to learn English, adopt our values, role up their shirtsleeves and learn to live here," he said. "I'm tired of hyphenated Americans. My parents love India, but they came here because they wanted their kids to become Americans."

Jindal opposes subsidies for solar energy, popular in New Hampshire, and for ethanol, popular in Iowa — both critical primary states.

"As Republicans, we say we don't want to be the party of big government, but we can't be the party of big business either. We can't say we don't want to pick winners and losers, so you can't give special treatment to solar, but we want to give special treatment to oil, gas and the sources that we favor. I am an all-of-the-above guy."

A defining election

A fiscal and social conservative, Jindal sees himself as a populist.

"The left thinks we aren't smart enough to choose our own health insurance, to decide where our kids should go to school, how we exercise our Second Amendment rights, how many Big Gulps you should drink," he said. "I think this election is about populism versus elitism."

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Jindal said his Roman Catholic faith informs every aspect of his life, including his politics and decision-making. As a teenager, he at first hid his interest in Christianity from his Hindu parents.

"I came to the Christian faith at 16," he said. "It took me seven years. It wasn't easy and it wasn't immediate. I may have been the only teenager who told his parents he was going to a party so he could go to church instead."

In his second visit to the Granite State so far in the campaign, Jindal said he appreciates the civility of the New Hampshire electorate. "One of the great things about New Hampshire and Iowa is that voters are respectful, intelligent and considerate," he said. "There are a lot of people who come to town halls who disagree with me. They want to tell me how wrong I am. They wait their turn, stand up and give you their piece, but they are not rude."

As regards his standing in the crowded GOP field, Jindal has faith in the biblical admonition, "Many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first."

TRUMP

P.G.A. Moves Event From Donald Trump Golf Course **// NYT // Brendan Prunty – July 7, 2015**

About five years ago, when golf was going through an economic downswing, Donald Trump took the opportunity to buy in, scooping up failed properties. He already had courses emblazoned with his name around the world, but credibility? That eluded him.

Soon major golf tours came calling, bringing big-money, high-profile events to his courses. Major championships — the prized possessions of every club — came next. In short order, Trump had gone from outsider to having a seat in the club.

Now he is wondering if he will get to keep it.

"I've been very loyal to golf," Trump said Tuesday in a telephone interview. "I own 17 clubs. They all do great. We will see whether or not golf is loyal to me."

That is the question after the P.G.A. of America on Tuesday became the first major golf organization to pull an event from one of Trump's properties in response to Trump's racially insensitive remarks last month about Mexican immigrants during a speech in which he announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president.

The P.G.A. Grand Slam of Golf — a year-end exhibition among the winners of the four men's major championships — was scheduled for October at Trump National Golf Club in Los Angeles.

Instead, it will be moved to a yet-to-be-determined location.

Trump said it was a mutually agreed upon move to protect his friends in the organization from dealing with potential backlash over his remarks, in which he said, referring to Mexican immigrants: "They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists." He later added, "And some, I assume, are good people."

The P.G.A. and L.P.G.A. issued statements on Tuesday, with the P.G.A. saying "we understand and support" the decision. The L.P.G.A. said that the Women's British Open at Trump's Turnberry Resort later this month would be staged as scheduled, adding that "a change in venue for this prestigious major simply isn't feasible without significantly diminishing the event."

"I think those statements are unnecessary," Trump said. "The voters of this country agree with me. All you have to do is look at the polls."

Trump later told a Golf Channel reporter days after the June 16 speech that he had "tremendous support from the golf world, because they all know I'm right," referring to his remarks about Mexican immigrants.

That led the U.S.G.A., P.G.A. Tour, L.P.G.A. Tour and the P.G.A. of America to issue a joint statement disputing Trump's claims.

In addition to the Women's British Open at the Turnberry Resort, which Trump purchased last year, three other major championships will be held at his courses by 2022: the 2017 United States Women's Open (at Trump National in Bedminster, N.J.), the 2017 Senior P.G.A. Championship (at Trump National in Potomac Falls, Va.) and the 2022 P.G.A. Championship at his Bedminster course.

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And as part of that deal last year with the P.G.A. of America, it moved the Grand Slam of Golf from its traditional home in Bermuda to Trump's Los Angeles course in a multiyear deal that runs through 2018. The P.G.A. of America's statement about the move, however, noted that it was for this year.

"I think a lot of people are surprised that it wasn't all or nothing," said the former P.G.A. of America president Ted Bishop. "I don't know what kind of statement the P.G.A. of America makes by saying, 'We're not going to do this for one year, but we're going to go back for all these others.' "

Bishop, who was ousted from the organization last year after he made public comments that were widely seen as sexist, was part of the group that entered into a multi-event deal with Trump in 2014. He said that both he and the former P.G.A. of America chief executive Joe Steranka originally wanted nothing to do with Trump or his growing grip on the sport. But once Pete Bevacqua took over for Steranka, he said, he pushed for the two sides to do more business.

In addition to his own original-design golf properties, Trump had increasingly begun acquiring more pieces of the golf market. He purchased the financially struggling properties in Colts Neck and Pine Hill, N.J. He bought the Doral Resort & Spa — and its famous Blue Monster course, which hosts the W.G.C.-Cadillac Championship — out of bankruptcy in 2012. When the U.S.G.A. awarded him a United States Women's Open in 2012, the door had been opened for others to follow suit.

And if, at the end of the day, golf is not loyal back?

"I have wonderful alternatives," Trump said. "It's called — I'll make a fortune."

GOP donors call for sidelining Donald Trump // Politico // Nick Gass – July 7, 2015

At least one top Republican donor wants the party to keep Donald Trump from the debate stage.

"Someone in the party ought to start some sort of petition saying, 'If Trump's going to be on the stage, I'm not going to be on there with him,'" Republican donor John Jordan told The Associated Press on Monday, according to a report published Tuesday. "I'm toying with the idea of it."

"It's something I feel strongly about as somebody who not only cares about the Republican Party, but also Latinos," he added.

The comments come in the wake of a letter sent by Wyoming-based investor Foster Friess, another top GOP donor, calling for candidates to stay on the "civility reservation," according to AP.

"Our candidates will benefit if they all submit to Ronald Reagan's 11th Commandment, 'Thou shall not speak ill of a fellow Republican,'" Friess wrote in a letter late last week to Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, obtained by the AP.

Republican presidential candidates, from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie to Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, have routinely pointed out flaws in their fellow partisans.

Nearly all of the Republican candidates roundly rejected Trump's remarks last month that Mexico and other countries are sending rapists and murderers across the border, for example.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, however, declined to condemn Trump's comments, telling NBC's "Meet the Press" that he was not going to be a party to "Republican-on-Republican violence." Christie responded to those remarks on Fox News, calling it "ironic" that the senator is giving "lectures" on the issue after Christie accused Cruz of sponsoring ads against incumbent Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee in the 2014 election cycle.
According to a copy of Mike Huckabee's response to Friess obtained by the AP, the former Arkansas governor said he "hope[s] that we don't commit fratricide again as a party."

Workers Building Trump Hotel Present Different Immigrant Image // NBC News // Suzanne Gamboa – July 7, 2015

Against the political noise of Donald Trump's anti-Mexican, anti-immigrant declarations and the ensuing backlash, the clank of hammers, clunking of wood and the high-pitched whine of heavy machinery inside a Trump construction site in the nation's capital goes on.

Many of the workers, though not all, are immigrants or Latino, or both, and have been on site of the Old Post Office Pavilion on Pennsylvania Avenue — about midway between the Capitol and the White House — since early in the morning and for many days.

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On Tuesday, during breaks and while leaving at the end of their long day, they wore their work on their clothing and on their skin — splattered paint, dust, the exhaustion of their labor under a tough sun.

In his presidential bid, Trump told his audience of supporters that Mexico was sending to the U.S. people who weren't like them. Instead, Mexico was sending problems: rapists, criminals and drug runners, he said.

Few of the workers at the construction site wanted to discuss Trump's comments when asked about them a day after the Washington Post ran a front-page story about the workers on the hotel development billed as a $200 million project.

The Post reported that several of the workers were immigrants and many were citizens or working legally, but laborers also told the Post that many had first entered the U.S illegally.

Many of the workers interviewed were from El Salvador or Honduras, reflective of the Washington, D.C., Latino population. Larger Mexican immigrant populations are found in communities around the district.

Those that did talk to reporters Tuesday said Trump was crazy or that he clearly didn't know that the people who work on his projects are decent people.

"They've come here to work, to get ahead, not to do anything bad," one worker who would not divulge any personal information told NBC. "All the ones I know, at least, are workers, not rapists."

Their stories as reported by the Post give a different view of immigration, one that shows the complexity of the lives of people and their status in the U.S. — here illegally, once here legally but now a citizen, a legal resident, here with temporary protected status.

Although Trump has pegged them as problems, the workers' toil away making a luxury hotel out of a historic building complex that houses the official Bells of Congress gifted to the U.S. from Britain during the nation's bicentennial and a 315-foot clock tower dating to 1899.

There's no mistaking who is reaping at least some of the benefit of these laborers' work.

The blue banners atop fencing across the front of the construction site announce the developer in large white letters: TRUMP.

It's a brand that Trump himself acknowledged is becoming increasingly tarnished. Often associated with success, wealth and excess, Trump's brand is increasingly being connected to racism and xenophobia.

Businesses have been severing ties with Trump, including NBC, Univision, Macy's and Serta Mattresses.

"I didn't know it was going to be quite this severe," Trump said on "Fox & Friends" of the backlash since his statements.

On Tuesday, the Professional Golfers Association pulled this year's Grand Slam of Golf from Trump National course in Los Angeles.

"I think Donald Trump knew he was going to be provocative and knew he was going to get pushback, but I believe he didn't think the pushback would actually come in the form of being dropped by sponsorships and contracts," said political analyst Victoria Francesco de Soto.

"Trump is losing out real money and his brand is being harmed," she said. "We all know Trump has that outrageous provocative brand, but it's going a bit deeper."

Take on Trump? GOP senators opt against it // The Hill // Alexander Bolton – July 8, 2015

Donald Trump's recent comments on illegal immigrants from Mexico are giving Republicans heartburn, but GOP senators are leery of criticizing the billionaire real estate mogul.

Their reluctance to rip the presidential hopeful for claiming that many Mexicans crossing the U.S. border are drug dealers and rapists could be used by Democrats who are aiming to regain control of the upper chamber.

Hispanic voters make up a large portion of the electorate in three battlegrounds that could determine who wins the Senate majority next year: Colorado, Florida and Nevada.
Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) on Tuesday dodged a question about Trump's controversial remarks.

"I'm focused on fixing No Child Left Behind," he said, referring to the pending education bill. "There are plenty of candidates in the presidential race who can deal with each other on those issues. I'm not going to get into it."

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Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said he disagrees with Trump's characterization, but declined to condemn the remarks.

"My state has been enriched by the Hispanic influence. We're a much better place. We have a close and warm relationship across our southern border with our Mexican friends, so, frankly, I just disagree," said McCain, who is running for reelection in 2016.

When asked if Trump's comments would hurt the party, McCain said, "I'll leave that to others to decide."

"There are serious issues involved, and they need to be treated seriously, and foremost we need to treat all the people involved with the dignity and respect they deserve," said Senate Republican Whip John Cornyn (Texas).

He declined to characterize Trump's comments as a mistake.

"I'm not running for president. You'll have to ask [them]," Cornyn added.

Some of Trump's rivals on the campaign trail have criticized the TV personality's claims about immigrants. But Republican lawmakers aren't showing an interest in going toe-to-toe with Trump.

The 2016 candidate is surging in the polls, attracting a lot of media attention, and he's shown he likes to fire back at Washington insiders.

Establishment Republicans are growing increasingly concerned that Trump will be a huge distraction throughout the upcoming cycle.

One GOP donor floated the idea of barring Trump from presidential debates, and while some Republican strategists privately embrace the idea, lawmakers are keeping their distance.

Trump is famously litigious and not afraid to use scorched-earth tactics to respond to his critics. While his negative characterization of illegal Mexican immigrants has caused corporate partners to recoil, they have helped him gain traction with the Republican base.

Trump's nationwide support has increased to 12 percent, according to a recent CNN/ORC poll, putting him in second place, behind former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. He stood at 3 percent in the polls when he announced his candidacy in mid-June.

Some Republicans worry that if the party excludes Trump from the debates or attacks him personally, the strategy could backfire by provoking him to wage a third-party campaign in the general election.

"The Republican candidates who decide to take him on and attack him do so at their peril and the party's peril because the worst thing for Republicans is for Trump to go through the primaries and make a third-party run," said John Ullyot, a GOP strategist and former senior Senate aide.

They fear a replay of H. Ross Perot, who at the very least hampered former President George H.W. Bush's reelection chances in 1992. Perot won 19 percent of the national vote, and Bill Clinton was elected as the country's 42nd president.

Over the last several weeks, corporate giants including Macy's, NBC and Univision have cut ties with Trump. In Washington, prominent local restaurateur José Andrés has come under pressure to reconsider opening a new restaurant at the Old Post Office, which Trump is converting into a luxury hotel.

Trump has not backed down and pointed to the fatal shooting of a San Francisco woman last week. Kathryn Steinle was shot allegedly by a man who had a long criminal record and had been deported to Mexico five times.

A spokeswoman for Trump said she had no comment for this article.

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) said he thought Trump stumbled in his comments but defended his right to speak his mind.

"I just don't think he has a lot of experience with presidential politics even though he's been there a few times. He's undoubtedly going to make some mistakes, and I think that was one," Hatch said.

The Finance Committee chairman argues that Trump's remarks will give other GOP candidates a chance to portray themselves in a more favorable light by offering a clear contrast.

"I think it will give other Republicans a chance to shine," he said.

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"He could play a very good role if he will. He's a smart guy, he's a very successful guy. I know him personally. I like him personally, but he's a person who says what he believes and what he thinks. That's something to be admired, even if you disagree with him," Hatch added.

Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) said Trump could have expressed himself more deftly but that he did not necessarily say anything inaccurate.

"I believe the facts would show that some people, certainly not the majority, if they get in trouble with the law in foreign countries, if they can get to the United States, they can avoid going to jail," he said. "And we know a huge amount of our drugs are coming across our border.

GOP strategists acknowledge that Trump is hurting their party's effort to reach out to Hispanic voters.

"Undoubtedly it has hurt the Republican brand with Hispanics, but it will also give us an opportunity as Republicans to have a conversation with Hispanic voters about what it means to be an immigrant to this country and how we should do this in a safe and orderly fashion," said Patrick Davis, a GOP strategist and former political director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Democrats have pounced on Trump's words to paint the broader Republican Party as hostile to immigrants.

Hillary Clinton, the current Democratic presidential front-runner, told CNN in an interview Tuesday that she feels "very bad and very disappointed with him and with the Republican Party for not responding."

Unlike other GOP presidential contenders, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz has praised Trump for putting a national spotlight on the southwestern border.

"I salute Donald Trump for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration," Cruz told host Chuck Todd on NBC's "Meet The Press." "I like Donald Trump. He is bold, he is brash."

"He has a colorful way of speaking, and it's not my way of speaking, but I salute him," Cruz added.

Donald Trump Employees' 401(k) Plans Come With a Huge Catch // TIME // Susie Poppick – July 7, 2015

It turns out that Donald Trump—the real estate mogul and Republican presidential hopeful who has promised to be "the greatest jobs president that God ever created"—is a bit of a Scrooge when it comes to his employees' retirement plans.

Workers who are eligible for Trump's company 401(k) cannot actually open an account until they have been employed by the tycoon for a year, Bloomberg reports. And the employer match—a generous-enough 4.5% for employees who invest at least 6% of their earnings—doesn't kick in for six years. (That's the longest amount of time allowed by United States law).

While these policies may simply signal how much Trump values loyalty, one other important 401(k) feature is lacking in the plan: automatic enrollment. Studies have shown that by automatically signing employees up for savings, employers can greatly boost how much workers end up having for retirement.

"If the plan really wanted to facilitate employee savings, it would institute automatic enrollment, reduce or eliminate the eligibility requirement, and vest employees in the employer match more quickly," Harvard Kennedy School professor Brigitte Madrian told Bloomberg.

These GOP Candidates Are Standing Behind Donald Trump // Mother Jones // Allie Gross – July 7, 2015

Following Donald Trump's controversial comments suggesting that Mexican immigrants are "rapists" who bring drugs and crime to America, his fellow 2016 contenders have largely condemned his inflammatory remarks. But a handful of Republican hopefuls have either defended the real estate mogul or, in one case, fled a question on the subject to avoid going on the record.

Rick Santorum, Ted Cruz, and Ben Carson are standing behind Trump. They have defended (even applauded) the billionaire, in what might be attempts to appeal to conservatives opposed to immigration reform.

During an appearance on Meet the Press on Sunday, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) said, "I salute Donald Trump for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration." He chalked up Trump's divisive rhetoric as a "colorful way of speaking." According to Cruz, the controversy is merely an attempt by the media to get Republicans to criticize each other, but he is "not interested in Republican-on-Republican violence" and therefore "ain't gonna do it."

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Rick Santorum also came out on #teamtrump. The former senator told CBS' Face the Nation on Sunday that he did not like Trump's "verbiage," but said that Trump "focused on a very important issue for American workers, and particularly legal immigrants in this country."

Referring to the storm that followed Trump's remarks, Ben Carson contended that political correctness was overshadowing the debate about immigration reform. "It's the P.C. police out in force," Carson told the Daily Caller. "They want to make very clear that this is a topic you're not supposed to bring up." Carson, a former neurosurgeon, said that "our illegal immigration problem," not Trump, should be the focus of attention. His solution? "Secure all our borders—north, south, east and west," with electronic surveillance devices, drones, or people.

Rand Paul isn't exactly on #teamtrump, but he has been conspicuously silent on Trump's remarks. Last week, an Iowa voter posted a video to Twitter that showed her asking Paul for his opinion on Trump's statement and being met with no reply.

Donald Trump Taking Message To Hollywood For GOP Event Friday // Deadline // Liosa de Morales – July 7, 2015

Donald Trump's coming to town. Trump people confirm he is speaking to the group of Hollywood conservatives who go by the name Friends of Abe. The event is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Friday at the Luxe Sunset Blvd Hotel in Brentwood, the invite says.

The most controversial of the ever-expanding pack of GOP White House hopefuls is the latest paying a visit to the group. Other Republican contenders already have paid a call, but, of course, Carly Fiorina, Rand Paul and Mike Huckabee have not made headlines saying Mexico is sending its drug users and rapists across the border into the United States, so their visits to Abe's pals went largely unnoticed.

"We are delighted to hear from Donald Trump as we are from all 2016 Republican candidates," a member of the Tinseltown organization told Deadline. The invite sent to Friends of Abe members asks them to come for a "dinner and insightful discussion" with Trump. The ex-Celebrity Apprentice host is called "the very definition of American success" on the invite. Trump's camp confirmed he is scheduled to speak at the private event.

Friends of Abe was founded by the likes of Gary Sinise, Jon Voight and Kelsey Grammer several years ago as a discussion group for embattled Hollywooders with conservative tendencies. Having grown now to more than 2,200 members, the media-avoiding FoA has become a station on the notable GOP presidential and fundraising path as candidates and the Republican Party try to get their hands on Tinseltown cash via networking at the group's low-key events.

Word of Trump's visit came as Hillary Clinton was clobbering him on CNN over his comments about Mexican immigration. "I'm very disappointed in those comments and I feel very bad, and very disappointed with him and with the Republican party for not responding immediately and saying, 'Enough! Stop It!'," Clinton told CNN's senior political correspondent Brianna Keilar in Clinton's first nationally televised interview since officially announcing her candidacy three months ago.

Trump this week acknowledged the remark he made about illegal immigrants coming across the border with Mexico in announcing his White House bid in mid-June, has cost him more business than he expected. Most notably, he has sued Univision for dumping plans to broadcast the Miss USA and Miss Universe Pageants, which he co-owns with NBC, which also has bailed on the beauty pageant broadcasts, and said it is getting out of business with him. In LA today, pro golf's PGA backed out of October's PGA Grand Slam of Golf tourney that had been scheduled at Trump National golf course in Palos Verdes.

Clinton, however, said Trump is only in keeping with all of the GOP presidential candidates' immigration stances, which she described as a "spectrum" of "hostility" on immigration in which all of the Republican hopefuls are opposed to providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants — by way of seguing to her "talk about comprehensive immigration reform."

How much money will running for president cost Donald Trump? // CNN // MJ Lee – July 7, 2015

Donald Trump's foes want to hit him where it hurts: His wallet.

A slew of corporations from Macy's to NBC to ESPN to NASCAR have abandoned business deals with the Republican presidential candidate after he remarked that some immigrants crossing into the U.S. from Mexico were "rapists." The PGA was one of the latest organizations to dump the bombastic businessman, announcing on Tuesday that it would not hold its 2015 Grand Slam of Golf tournament at a Trump golf course in Los Angeles.

All told, the loss of income could add up to millions of dollars. But until Trump files detailed financial disclosure

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forms, it is difficult to estimate just how hard his profits may take a hit. Trump's assets tied to the Miss Universe, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants that he partially owns and were dropped by Univision and NBC are estimated to be around $15 million.

That's a large sum of money but to a self-claimed multi-billionaire like Trump, it's small change. Trump says his net worth is close to $9 billion. About a third of that -- $3.3 billion -- is tied up in "real estate licensing deals, brand and branded developments," according to a summary of Trump's net worth as of last year. The vast majority of the rest of Trump's assets are in residential and commercial properties, as well as real estate investments.

Some experts say these assets would be largely shielded from the corporate backlash. Dwight Hill, a retail expert, said he would expect any financial loss Trump experiences from the fallout of his comments to be just a "blip."

"At the end of the day, his real wealth and holdings is obviously real estate," Hill said. "I'm sure there will be some boycott of his hotels but I just don't see it as having a long term lasting affect on his brand."

A Trump spokeswoman declined to answer several questions about the details of Trump's finances.

In his typical brash style, Trump has dismissed the flood of business deals he's lost over the course of a few weeks.

"The disassociation of ESPN and NASCAR with the Trump Organization was covered by the press in headlines all over the world as though it was a major setback for me. Really? What were the losses?" Trump said in a statement Tuesday.

He went on to boast that he will now turn a bigger profit in part by keeping large portions of the deposits from ESPN and NASCAR.

But Trump's public statements seem to belie a recognition that the recent events have put a serious dent in his brand.

One person in Trump's inner circle, who spoke anonymously to share Trump's private thoughts, said the businessman was genuinely stung by NBC's decision to sever ties with him. Even after announcing his presidential campaign, Trump had always expected to return to being host of "The Apprentice" — a platform that has been central to creating an image of a tough boardroom CEO and experienced business leader.

"I don't think it has anything to do with money. It has everything to do with prestige," this person said.

Meanwhile, his critics say they are determined to make the depth of their anger known.

The Hispanic business community, for one, is galvanizing around a boycott of Trump brands and properties. Spearheading that effort, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce announced that it would no longer consider Trump hotels as potential venues for two of its upcoming conventions. The Chamber's president, Javier Palomarez, said Trump would have profited several million dollars if he had won the bid to host those gatherings.

And Palomarez added that the consequence for Trump will be far wider-ranging than just that: many of the Chamber's sister organizations are joining the boycott, he said, in what Palomarez expects will be a sustained and nationwide anti-Trump campaign.

"What you're seeing is the tip of the spear," Palomarez told CNN. "For every brand that you hear that's leaving him there's probably 20 or 30 more brands that have left him ... all the way down to families who were going to vacation at a Trump property -- it goes that far downstream."

New York's elected officials are also repudiating one of Manhattan's best-known celebrities.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced earlier this month that the city will "review" its existing contracts with Trump, calling the GOP candidate's comments about immigrants "disgusting" and "hateful." Trump's company operates the Trump Golf Links golf course in the Bronx that opened earlier this year, as well as an ice skating facility in Central Park.

Donald Trump defiant on business fallout amid fresh salvos on immigration // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – July 7, 2015

Donald Trump says “making America great is more important to me than my company”.

In a phone interview with Greta Van Susteren of Fox News, the controversial billionaire took shots at critics, suggested Jeb Bush’s policy ideas were “baby stuff” and accidentally pressed at least one button on his telephone while talking.

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Trump's business interests have suffered significant damage since his announcement speech when he suggested that undocumented immigrants crossing the border between the US and Mexico were "bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

He shot back at the latest round of companies to cancel contracts with his venues he owns. In recent days, ESPN and Nascar have cancelled events at Trump-owned properties.

Trump jibed that Nascar had simply rented a ballroom from him and lost a big deposit as a result. He gleefully proclaimed: "I'll rent it to somebody else." The former Celebrity Apprentice host also said ESPN was being forced to hold a golf tournament at "a course which isn't nearly as nice".

The real estate mogul also took a far more extreme stance on immigration than he had in the past. The Republican presidential hopeful claimed: "Mexico sends many criminals back in" to the US and went on to say that an illegal immigrant who allegedly killed a woman in San Francisco this week was "forced back in" to the US by Mexico.

The real estate mogul also engaged in plenty of hyperbole. Trump asserted that he has been the only candidate "who has brought up illegal immigration" despite the fact that issue has been a subject of ferocious debate in American politics for decades. He also cited an article in the "Huffington Post, which has me No 1." The article Trump cited, by associate editor Igor Bobic, was more than a little tongue-in-cheek.

In the meantime, Republican insiders worried about the rise of Trump in recent polls do have at least one silver lining from his interview. Trump insisted he wasn't planning on mounting a third party bid for the presidency and that "my thinking was to run as a Republican".

Obama's housing chief calls Trump 'de facto face' of GOP // The Boston Globe // Jim O'Sullivan – July 7, 2015

US Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro on Tuesday warned Republicans that permitting Donald Trump to serve as "the de facto face of the party" while he describes immigrants in inflammatory terms could cost them the presidential election.

Castro, a former San Antonio mayor widely considered a short-list candidate to be a 2016 running mate on the Democratic side, described his party's primary as "a real race."

Visiting Dorchester for a ribbon-cutting with Mayor Martin J. Walsh, President Obama's housing chief told reporters that Trump's comments last month that Mexican immigrants are "rapists" would plague the GOP if the real estate magnate continues to be seen as its representative.

"The Republican Party needs to do a much better job of reaching out, of creating a big tent, if they want to win in 2016," Castro said. "Donald Trump is now the de facto face of the Republican Party. He has one of the highest name ID, he's on TV all the time, and if this is the platform the Republican Party has for immigrants, then they can kiss the 2016 election goodbye."

Several Republican presidential candidates have sought to distance themselves from Trump and disassociate him from the party's mainstream. A string of business partners have ended their partnerships with Trump.

"They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists," Trump said at his June 16 campaign announcement. "And some, I assume, are good people."

Castro, 41, continued to shrug off questions about a potential bid for the vice presidency. He told the Globe he had not spoken with the Democratic front-runner, former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, since a Center for American Progress event in March. Joining her on the 2016 ticket, if she wins the nomination, did not come up, he said.

Asked about the Democratic field, where US Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont has picked up momentum against Clinton, Castro called it "a real race."

"It's good that we have an active field on both the Democratic side and the Republican side," Castro said. "That's good for democracy, and on the Democratic side and the Republican side, it gives voters the opportunity to hear a variety of perspectives. That's positive.

"I've stayed out of the presidential race so far," he said. "At the right time, later on down the road, I'll get involved."

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WALKER

Nearing launch, Walker team sees Bush, Rubio as 2016 competition // WaPo // Dan Balz – July 7, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is poised to become the 15th Republican to declare his presidential bid, with at least one more candidate expected to enter soon after. But at this point, his campaign advisers said this week that they see just two principal rivals for the GOP nomination: former Florida governor Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.).

Walker will make his intentions clear Monday with an announcement and rally in suburban Waukesha County, the heart of Republican territory in Wisconsin. The venue will be the same place where he celebrated his victory in a 2012 recall election, one more indication that he intends to make his battles with public employee unions in the state the centerpiece of his appeal to conservative activists.

Walker has weathered repeated controversies as governor and rocky periods during the past six months as he has prepared to formally join the race. He jumped into the top tier in January with a fiery speech at a GOP gathering in Iowa, but was hurt by a series of missteps and statements. He has faced questions about whether he has changed his positions or tone on immigration, abortion and same-sex marriage. Other Republicans say the momentum he once had has abated.

None of that appears to have unsettled Walker or his advisers. With a super PAC called “Unintimidated” — named for the biographical book Walker published about his battles in Wisconsin — the candidate and his advisers are confident as they look ahead to the campaign.

They consider Walker uniquely equipped among the candidates to appeal across the spectrum of the Republican Party. “There are three legs of the stool,” campaign manager Rick Wiley said in an interview. “We play in all three. Who else does?”

Some of Walker’s competitors will no doubt try to prove his team wrong in that.

Tea party activists, Wiley said, like Walker’s fighting style and that he won multiple elections while under siege. His roots as the son of a Baptist minister and his faith give him a reach into the GOP’s social conservative wing.

Beyond that, advisers argued that — as a second-term governor who has raised more than $80 million for his Wisconsin campaigns — Walker has appeal in establishment circles, even if he can’t match Bush’s fundraising prowess.

Walker’s path to victory, as outlined by his closest advisers, is not significantly different from that of his rivals, but his team says the calendar sets up well for him.

Iowa is the key: Walker is leading the polls there and, as a neighboring governor, he has easy access to the state. His advisers expect him to win the Iowa caucuses early next year, and they say he can follow that with top-three finishes in New Hampshire and South Carolina. They also think he can score an early victory in Nevada’s caucuses.

Walker’s advisers doubt that anyone who doesn’t win one of the four early states will move to the heavy schedule of contests in March. They also doubt that anyone will have enough delegates to clinch the nomination by the end of March, and they anticipate that the race will drag on into May before there is a winner.

The enthusiastic reaction to Walker’s speech at the January GOP forum in Iowa produced some obvious dividends. The sudden and positive attention helped with fundraising and grass-roots organizing. But the scrutiny that came with it, compounded by Walker’s wobbly handling of various issues, brought the team its first crisis.

At the time, Walker was just beginning to build his campaign. He lacked the infrastructure to deal with the self-inflicted wounds. “None of our senior staff had even been to Madison,” Wiley said. “It’s amazing we survived.”

The small team stepped up its recruiting and brought on policy advisers who could provide Walker with briefings to become more fluent in key issues. By the end of March, the campaign decided to scale back. For the next month or so, Walker made few public appearances, concentrating on policy briefings and fundraising meetings.

“We had to slow it down,” Wiley said.

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Walker formed his first committee last winter, a "527" that allowed him to raise money but did not advocate directly for him as a candidate. The super PAC was formed in April. Walker has held at least 30 meetings with prospective donors since then, said longtime adviser Keith Gilkes, who heads the super PAC.

The combined take for the two committees during the first six months of the year is expected to top $20 million when reports are issued later this month. The super PAC has commitments for an additional $5 million or so, Gilkes said, and hopes to raise at least $20 million by the end of the year, giving it $40 million to start with in 2016.

Walker advisers said his past battles in Wisconsin have given him the kind of grass-roots foundation that no other candidate can match. He has a list of 300,000 or so donors, and his super PAC had more than 200 donors as of a few weeks ago. Walker advisers said they think that is smaller than Bush's super PAC but larger than those of most of the other candidates.

Beyond that, advisers said, Walker has a list of e-mail addresses that numbers about 700,000. One adviser said that is substantially more than Mitt Romney had by the time he had wrapped up the 2012 GOP nomination.

Walker has come under fresh criticism recently for changing his position on immigration — he once supported a path to citizenship for those here illegally — and for changing his tone, if not his position, on same-sex marriage and abortion.

Gilkes said Walker has not changed his stance on those two issues, although he suggested that the governor's priorities are more fiscal and economic than social. "His beliefs never change," he said.

Another adviser said Walker's call for a constitutional amendment to give states the right to define marriage would end up being a plus, saying Rubio and Bush probably hurt themselves among social conservatives by not reacting more vigorously to last month's Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage.

Walker advisers discount possible threats from others in the establishment wing such as Ohio Gov. John Kasich and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Nor do they see a major threat yet in Iowa from those competing hardest for the social and religious conservatives.

"My feeling is every single one of the candidates is focused on Walker in Iowa," Gilkes said. "I don't think that's ever going to let up."

Walker's team has conducted two focus groups in Iowa. It has concluded that, although he is not well known, the governor has significant opportunities to expand his appeal. The focus group was shown various videos about Walker and were receptive to the portrayal of his record in Wisconsin. "We have so much to work with," Wiley said.

For months, Walker's team has been preparing for a race against Bush's money and Rubio's compelling personal story. Advisers said Walker's record as governor is more current than Bush's and draws a sharper contrast with President Obama. Rubio has attributes that Walker has spoken about favorably in private conversations, but the governor's campaign advisers consider the first-term senator far less tested.

Walker's announcement tour will take him from Wisconsin to Nevada, South Carolina, New Hampshire and then back to Iowa for several days of campaigning. In New Hampshire, he will hold one town hall meeting. He will return to that state later in the month for an event that includes a Harley-Davidson motorcycle ride.

His announcement speech will focus heavily on his record in Wisconsin, reprising his fights with unions. As for his promise to put forth "big and bold" ideas, one adviser said not to expect that in the announcement. Any such policies will be introduced later in the year.

Tea partiers and liberals tell Gov. Scott Walker: 'No more games on Common Core' **// WaPo // Valerie Strauss – July 7, 2015**

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who is expected soon to announce his bid for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, has been inconsistent at best on the Common Core State Standards, being for it before being against it. Now he is being called out on his Core position by an unusual coalition of groups and individuals — in an open letter titled "No More Games on Common Core" — that includes tea parties across Wisconsin as well as liberals and libertarians.

The group of signatories to the letter accuses the governor of pretending to be against Common Core but not taking the steps required to eliminate it in Wisconsin. A Walker spokesman says the governor is acting to give Wisconsin school districts the freedom to do what they want on the Core. (See full statement below.)

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Here's some Walker history regarding the Common Core:

In 2011, his first budget for Wisconsin called for creation of a test that was aligned to the Core standards, which were in place in the state before he became governor. A reading task force he chaired issued a report in January 2012 expressing support for the Core, and as the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported here, Walker was seen as being "on board" with the Core in the first half of 2013 by Alan J. Borsuk, an education fellow at Marquette University, in a Journal Sentinel commentary.

But things began to change in 2013, when his second budget, while not rescinding the standards, directed the state Department of Public Instruction to stop ordering districts to continue implementing the Core. In January 2014, the Journal Sentinel reported, he said he was creating a commission to take a new look at the standards, and in July of that year, he called for the Core to be rescinded in Wisconsin. That seems pretty concrete, but in early 2015, his message was that he didn't want Wisconsin districts required to use the Core if they didn't want to, which is less than an full-out repeal.

In his latest budget request, Walker has defunded the Common Core assessment developed by the multi-state, federally funded Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and now has the state looking for a new "accountability" test. But there are questions about what the state is looking for in a new test and whether it can still be aligned to the Common Core. If the new state accountability exam is aligned to the Core, districts would have little choice but to choose to implement the Common Core standards, even if they were permitted not to.

Opposition to the Common Core has been rising for years from across the political spectrum with concerns including problems with the content of the standards and the developmental inappropriateness of those for the earliest grades, the design of the new tests, how the new exams were written and by whom, and the federal government's funding of new standardized tests aligned to the Core. Some far-right wing conservatives have taken criticism of the Core to ridiculous extremes; Phyllis Schlafly, for example, says it actively promotes gay marriage and Glenn Beck has called the standards initiative "evil" and an attempt to impose "communism" on America. The Freedom Project, affiliated with the radical right John Birch Society, has said the Core is an "absolute appropriation of Soviet ideology and propaganda."

But a coalition of groups – mostly tea parties and other hard-right conservatives — have just issued the letter calling for Walker to take a definitive stand on Common Core and Core testing in language that was sensible enough for some liberals and libertarians to sign on. Here's the letter, and following it is the full comment from a Walker spokesperson in Madison.

Scott Walker hoping new bundlers help vault him over fundraising hurdles // CNN // Sara Murray – July 7, 2015

When you're up against a candidate who belongs to a political dynasty and has a fundraising network that spans decades, there is perhaps only one option: Bring in new blood.

As Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker readies his likely presidential campaign, one of his biggest near-term hurdles is building a war chest that will allow him to face off against well-funded opponents.

To do that his team said it is targeting a new generation of bundlers by tapping into the network of more than 350,000 potential donors who supported the governor in his recall election and turning to entrepreneurs who've launched new businesses in the last five to 10 years.

"Our donor is not the tried and true Republican donor in New York City that's given to everybody since Reagan," said Anthony Scaramucci, who is the founder of investment firm SkyBridge Capital and is raising money for Walker. "We don't have the mercenary donor that's paying for past political favors."

Jon Hammes, founder of a health care consulting company in Wisconsin, will serve a national finance co-chairman for the campaign, along with Todd Ricketts, co-owner of the Chicago Cubs, according to a source familiar with the plans. The move combines a veteran campaign fundraiser -- Hammes has raised money previous Republican nominees, including Mitt Romney and Arizona Sen. John McCain -- with a big dollar donor who is still relatively new to the political fundraising scene. This will be Ricketts' first role within a presidential campaign.

Their goal is to build an army of bundlers like Genevieve Hillis, a 34-year-old lobbyist in Chicago for a health care equipment company. Hillis helped Walker raise money for his gubernatorial campaign and grew that network of supporters during his recall election. Now she's preparing to take on her biggest role yet in a presidential campaign, helping to bring in new donors and introduce Walker to potential high-dollar supporters he might not otherwise meet.

"I haven't encountered anybody that was a supporter in the recall that isn't going to be a supporter in the presidential," Hillis said, although she acknowledged fundraising for a candidate in a crowded presidential field is a different battle than raising money for a recall race outside of the normal campaign cycle.

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Walker's team isn't above courting the moneyed donors other campaigns are chasing either. Hillis often speaks to potential donors who are drawn to Walker and might be inclined to give hundreds of thousands of dollars, but they are also being courted by the Bush campaign. Her pitch: Let me get you on the phone with the governor.

"Scott is willing to have very frank conversations," Hillis said. "He's willing to be educated on a subject and open to changing his mind. He's a reasonable person."

Walker's allies said they don't expect him to be among the most flush in the field this quarter. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is expected to raise a jaw-dropping sum for the quarter that ended June 30. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and the super PAC supporting him claim to have raise nearly $50 million combined.

While the first reporting period is significant, members of Walker's team said they are focused on building a team of bundlers who can steadily broaden his financial base by pitching the governor's message to an ever-widening circle of new donors.

"I'm looking for the people, men or women, that are focused on being involved in the process aggressively," said Michael Morgan, 44 years old, who is raising money for Walker. "If that means raising thousands of dollars at the start, I'm happy with it. Hopefully that will graduate to tens of thousands of dollars."

Morgan is no stranger to political fundraising. He organized the finance operations for Sen. Mark Kirk's House and Senate bids and remains a staunch supporter of the Illinois Republican. But Morgan's upcoming stint as one of Walker's finance co-chairs in Illinois will be his most prominent role in a president campaign.

Walker's "testing-the-waters committee," a precursor to his official campaign, is asking bundlers to raise $27,000 by July 12th. Morgan said it took him just four days to surpass that goal. All of the early contributor were under the age of 50.

"It's been a good pace I would say," Morgan said of his fundraising efforts so far. "Now that the announcement is imminent there's a lot more interest."

Scott Walker plans post-announcement blitz, NH stops // Union Leader // Dan Tuohy – July 7, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, following his announcement July 13 in his state, will travel to Manchester and Portsmouth later that week, the Union Leader has learned.

The New Hampshire visit is part of an early state blitz.

Walker is one of the few big names yet to announce a presidential campaign for the Republican nomination. The likely candidate has telegraphed some of his key focus, such as a pitch as a Republican reformer and fiscal and social conservative.

Walker, who in mid-June created a "testing the waters" committee as a precursor to a presidential campaign launch, visited New Hampshire in March and April. He addressed a GOP grassroots training session in Concord in March, and he was one of the potential presidential hopefuls addressing the state GOP's "First in the Nation Leadership Summit" in Nashua in April.

He would become the 15th Republican candidate in the race. The other Republican yet to announce is Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Scott Walker's Home Crowd Disadvantage // US News // Jamie Stiehm – July 7, 2015

Under the July sun, you may spot political squalls on the horizon of this green city's Lake Mendota. That's what you get when a Republican red governor runs for president in a state that usually breaks Democratic blue on the electoral map.

Whether that governor would actually carry his own state – with a fairly liberal, active electorate – in the general presidential election in 2016 is quite the parlor game.

Word's going door to door in this capital city that Gov. Scott Walker is officially running for president, with a launch planned on July 13. All the talk about him walking the walk to the White House is getting real now, here in the state where the Republican Party itself was founded in the 1850s: Wisconsin. This is also a state, by the way, where the Progressive Party has deep roots.

Walker plans to make political hay out of being the only Midwesterner in the Republican presidential field, now top-heavy with Southerners. "Midwest [is] key to Walker strategy," the Wisconsin State Journal noted. Riding his

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Harley-Davidson (the company is headquartered in Milwaukee) is part of the plain folks image. Of course, if Ohio Gov. John Kasich jumps into the pool of contenders, that could change the Walker formula that starts with a strong early victory in next-door Iowa come the frigid chill of February. (Only a Midwesterner knows how bad it can be.)

But feelings about Walker are decidedly mixed here in the state capital, with some bitter memories of a movement to recall him that failed. Walker survived the challenge to his approach on collective bargaining with public employees. The victory made him a conservative media darling in the national spotlight a few years back. It also attracted checks from the conservative Koch brothers. Walker was subsequently re-elected governor, but his support in Wisconsin has been "waning" recently, according to the Wisconsin State Journal.

Here's the irony: The harder Walker runs to the right to cement his position as a conservative front-runner for his party's primary nomination, the less popular he is at home, even with Republican state lawmakers. A move to clamp down on the state's open-records law just went awry.The academic community of the University of Wisconsin is warily anticipating yet another showdown: Walker may (or may not) declare war on the traditional tenure system. That's sure to win him debating points and votes, but might hurt him here at home. Another weakness Walker will likely be forced to face: His 2010 campaign promise to create a ton of new jobs is falling flat in Wisconsin's sluggish economy.

Walker is not a guy people feel neutral about, a stand-out even in a polarized era. Curiously, his political idol is Ronald Reagan, yet he has none of the genial charm that helped Reagan voters cross political lines. As my dad, a Wisconsinite, observed, most politicians like to be liked, but not Walker. Indeed the governor seems to relish his unpopularity with the other side, refusing to moderate harsh opposition to reproductive rights and to same-sex marriage. And he's enraged University of Wisconsin supporters by suggesting budget cuts for the renowned research institution, while proposing the Milwaukee Bucks receive millions of public funds for a new professional basketball arena.

Here in bookish Madison, anyway, it balances out well: Many in the liberal professoriate love to hate Walker, and, by some law of political physics, he loves to be hated by them. The governor's mansion in Maple Bluff is on the other side of Lake Mendota from the university's colorful Memorial Union Terrace.

Lucky. But watch for squalls.

The magical, disappearing Scott Walker conversation **// MSNBC // Steve Benen – July 7, 2015**

The chief economist at the Heritage Foundation is itself an awkward title – the Republican think tank has moved away from its pretense of rigorous policy analysis – but the job belongs to Stephen Moore. Earlier this year, after Moore published a bizarre piece criticizing the Affordable Care Act, Paul Krugman described the conservative as "a guy who has a troubled relationship with facts."
Krugman added at the time, "I don't mean that he's a slick dissembler; I mean that [Moore] seems more or less unable to publish an article without filling it with howlers … in a way that ends up doing his cause a disservice."
This assessment came to mind last night, reading this New York Times report on a bizarre incident involving Moore and a leading Republican presidential candidate.
Last Wednesday, Stephen Moore, a scholar at the Heritage Foundation who is an outspoken supporter of an immigration overhaul, described a recent telephone call with Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, in which he said Mr. Walker had assured him he had not completely renounced his earlier support for a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.
" 'I'm not going nativist, I'm pro-immigration,'" Mr. Walker said, according to Mr. Moore's account of the call to a reporter for The New York Times.
On Sunday, after three days of pressure from Mr. Walker's aides, Mr. Moore said that he had "misspoken" when recounting his call with Mr. Walker – and that the call had never actually taken place.
This one's a doozy, so let's back up for a moment and consider how we got to this point.
Scott Walker's position on immigration has been a garbled mess for months. The Republican governor used to be quite moderate on the issue, but as he moved closer to a national campaign, he quickly shifted to the far-right, even going so far as to attack legal immigration.
In private, however, Walker has hedged on his new-found posture, and in March, the Wisconsin governor reportedly told a New Hampshire audience – behind closed doors – that he supports a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already in the United States.
Walker and his team denied the reports, but added little clarity to his actual position.
With this in mind, Moore, a reform proponent, told the New York Times last week that he had a recent phone conversation with Walker, and heard directly from the unannounced candidate that he was "not going nativist" and does not oppose immigration.
This, of course, raised questions anew within the GOP – is Walker saying one thing in private and something else in public? Is the governor simply pandering, offering half-hearted promises to the right on a key issue? Moore's on-the-record comments naturally reinforced fears within the party.
Which led to yesterday, when Moore reversed course entirely. It's not that he misunderstood Walker's comments, the Heritage Foundation economist said, it's that Moore now says he never even spoke to the governor about

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immigration at all.
Which version of the story is true is now anyone's guess. It's possible Team Walker pressured Moore to take this new line; it's possible Moore didn't have the conversation he claimed to have.
The GOP governor could help clear things up, at least a little, by taking a firm position and sticking to it, but for now, that's apparently asking too much. From last night's New York Times report: "So, what exactly is Mr. Walker's current position on immigration? Asked if he supported any path to citizenship or legal status for illegal immigrants, Mr. Walker's spokeswoman, AshLee Strong, did not directly respond."

Busted!: Walker Admits Role in Failed Governm ent Secrecy Rule // TPM // T ierney Sneed – July 7, 2015

After days of dodging questions about whether Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) was involved in a failed proposal to dismantle the state's open records law, the governor's office confirmed Tuesday that his office was involved in the measure.

"Legislative leaders let us know that they were interested in making changes to the open records law. In response, our staff provided input regarding these proposed changes," Laurel Patrick, the press secretary for the governor, said in an email to TPM.

"Our intent with these changes was to encourage a deliberative process with state agencies in developing policy and legislation. This allows for robust debate with state agencies and public employees over the merit of policies and proposed initiatives as they are being formed, while ensuring materials related to final proposals, as well as information related to external stakeholders seeking to influence public policy, would remain fully transparent."

The admission came shortly after Republican legislative leaders said Walker aides had been involved in writing the proposal, which would have removed certain communications and other legislative documents from under the scope of the state's transparency laws and would have permitted lawmakers not to comply with other kinds of public records requests.

The language was initially approved by a party-line vote in the legislature's Joint Finance Committee late Thursday evening before the holiday weekend, as part of a larger budget package known as Motion 999. As backlash began to mount, Walker, joined by top GOP state lawmakers, announced Saturday that the provisions would be dropped from the package.

Scrutiny continued, however, as to whether Walker was behind the measure, as he faces a lawsuit for refusing to turn over certain documents in a public records request.

Some Republican lawmakers in the state have continued to defend the effort, and say they will try to move alterations to public records law forward as standalone legislation that would go through the typical public review process, instead of attaching it to a budget bill.

"Our focus remains on ensuring open and accountable government and we encourage public debate and discussion of any potential future changes to the state's open records law," Patrick, the governor's spokeswoman, said in the email

KASICH

Kasich: Obama administration 'in love' with Iran deal // Fox News – July 7, 2015

Gov. John Kasich, R-Ohio, said on "Special Report with Bret Baier" Tuesday that the Obama administration's push for a nuclear deal with Iran shows "it's very dangerous to fall in love with your own idea."

"I think the administration has probably fallen in love with the fact that they want to get an agreement, and when people are hyperventilating and unable to get one, sometimes they go and they sign something that they shouldn't," said Kasich, who is expected to announce his intention to run for president in the upcoming weeks.

Negotiators from Iran, Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States meeting in Vienna did not meet their self-imposed deadline on Tuesday for an agreement on a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program. Sticking points in reaching an agreement include Iranian demands for the lifting of a U.N. arms embargo and ballistic missiles sanctions, a timeframe for U.S. and EU sanctions relief, and future Iranian nuclear research and development.

Kasich said that the Obama administration should be prepared to walk away from a bad deal, and cited the example of President Reagan's negotiations with the Soviet Union.

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"Just remember Reagan in Reykjavik where Gorbachev said, look, get rid of all nuclear weapons, and I remember Reagan getting back in the car and saying 'no, we're not gonna do that,'" Kasich said.

"So, you have to have the strength to walk away. The problem, Bret, with all of this is just listen to our Arab friends who say, 'listen, if you give the Iranians all this cash by lifting the sanctions, they're going to fund Hamas. They're going to fund Hezbollah' who is the enemy to the Arab nations that we have things in common with," Kasich said.

"So, I don't think it's a good agreement, I would leave the sanctions in place until I saw a determined change in what Iran is all about, so I think, I'm very concerned about this."

John Kasich Tries To Gin Up Interest In Presidential Bid // The Daily Caller // Alex Pappas – July 7, 2015

"I didn't anticipate this," Ohio Gov. John Kasich said Tuesday afternoon to the several dozen reporters waiting for him in the lobby of the Republican National Committee headquarters. "I thought it'd be three people here."

"Well, as you probably know, I'm going to have a big announcement on the 21st," Kasich said, teasing his expected entrance into the presidential race in a few weeks. "Anybody coming?"

"It could be about my political career. Or it could be that I'm going to Hollywood," the former congressman cracked. "We'll see."

For now, Kasich's biggest task is getting his poll numbers up.

As of this week, Kasich is polling at just one and two percent in most national polls, putting him in 13th place, according to the Real Clear Politics polling average. That's a problem for someone trying to position himself as a top-tier alternative to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

The first nationally televised debate is set for next month in Ohio, but Fox News — Kasich's former employer — says only the Republicans who poll in the top 10 will be included in the showdown. (A b-team forum will be held for the Republicans who don't poll in the top 10 the same day as the debate).

Asked about whether's he concerned Donald Trump's recent popularity with voters will keep him off the debate stage, Kasich replied: "I'm not really thinking about it. I got other issues I got to think about."

"Let's not put carts before horses," he added. "I mean, we still have a month to go. We'll see what happens."

Pressed on whether he thinks he will get his poll numbers up and make it into the top-tier debate, he replied: "I don't make predictions. I left that to Muhammad Ali years ago."

Asked during the press conference by a reporter about Donald Trump's recent comments about illegal immigrants from Mexico, Kasich said: "Well, first of all, I don't really respond to anybody's comments."

But Kasich went on to say he doesn't agree with Trump's "characterization" because he's "a believer that the country needs to be unified, not divided."

"At least for the next couple weeks, I'd like to honor Reagan's 11th commandment about attacking fellow Republicans," he added.

Asked why he's getting in the race later than others, Kasich said he's been focused on Ohio.

"Ohio is a big state," he said. "It's a complicated state. It's a microcosm of the country. So I needed to take care of Ohio and continue to take care of Ohio before I worry about any national prominence or anything else."

A reporter asked Kasich about how he's been compared to Jon Huntsman, the former Republican governor who entered the 2012 race with much buzz only to perform poorly.

"I've never really studied his campaign, or frankly others," Kasich said. "It's not something I spend a lot of time on."

"I got John Weaver working with me," he said of Huntsman's former top campaign aide. "I just talked to him a few minutes ago. He was actually a big senior adviser to McCain. Last time I checked, he was the nominee a few election cycles ago."

Making his pitch, Kasich referenced his re-election in 2014. "I won 86 out of 88 counties, 63 percent of the women vote, 51 percent of union households in one of the largest victories in Ohio history. There must be something that

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I'm doing right there in order to do that in what's one of the most pivotal states."

Kasich also portrayed himself as someone who gets the struggles of regular people.

"I'm John Kasich," he said. "I'm not anybody else. I come from McKees Rocks. My father carried mail on his back. I've lived in a town where if the wind blew the wrong way, people found themselves out of work. And I think I understand the anxieties of people in this country, many of whom are middle class, who wonder if the American dream is over. And I don't believe that it is."

Added Kasich: "I've had a lot of blessings in my life. The Lord's been good to me. And I'm going to do my best to lead and to improve people's lives whether I sit in the White House or whether in the white house in Lanetta Avenue in Westerville Ohio in being governor."

Kasich said he is in town visiting former colleagues and for a meeting of his new steering committee of lawmakers and members of the business community this evening.

The governor said he brought his twin daughters along for the Washington trip too. "I've learned an awful lot about Snapchat."

OTHER

Candidates Start Showing Their Cards // Bloomberg // Joshua Gallu - July 8, 2015

Ka-CHING! Some candidates and super-PACs just can't wait for the filing deadlines to share their good new$.

The 2016 presidential money race is starting to take shape and early indications are that the road ahead will be lined with bullion.

Among the candidates who have shared fundraising numbers, ahead of filing deadlines later this month at the Federal Election Commission, Hillary Clinton, not surprisingly, leads the Democratic field with her campaign and allied groups reporting a combined war chest of nearly $70 million. Even Bernie Sanders, who describes himself as an independent socialist, says he has already lined up $15 million, from primarily smaller donations, to wage his campaign.

In typical form, candidates with good news have come out touting their numbers ahead of the official July 15 reporting date. Ted Cruz, who critics said would have trouble finding well-heeled backers, is boasting a $51.2 million arsenal, most of which in super-PACs, which can accept unlimited amounts of money but can't coordinate directly with the campaign. The chart below outlines numbers reported by the candidates themselves, super-PACs that are explicitly allied with and validated by presidential campaigns and other groups, such as 501(c)4 organizations that raise money to help a favored candidate.

Now, all eyes are on Jeb Bush. According to Buzzfeed, Bush's Right to Rise super-PAC says it has already pulled in enough money to give his opponents "heart attacks.'"

Inside the GOP's Effort to Close the Campaign-Science Gap With Democrats // Bloomberg // Sasha Issenberg - July 8, 2015

A Republican group aims to emulate President Obama's campaigns by bringing rigorous testing to campaign tactics. One problem: Not enough Republican scientists.

This spring, the Cato Institute identified 600 Americans who read more than 20 books per year and made arrangements to send them each one more. The libertarian think tank split these readers into three groups. One group received a free copy of Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged, one got longtime Cato executive David Boaz's The Libertarian Mind, and one a book that Cato scholars considered a useful placebo to free-market doctrine: the Bible. After three months, six months, and 12 months, members of all three groups would be surveyed to see if the unsolicited books they had received could explain differential response rates to one question: Do you consider yourself a libertarian?

The Cato researcher behind the project explained to other members of a below-the-radar Republican group known as the Center for Strategic Initiatives, or CSI, that the 600 books were just part of a pilot test. If the design appeared to work properly, the experiment would be replicated on a larger scale: 12,000 books this time. "Political books have never been tested," says David Kirby, now a vice president and senior fellow at Cato. "Think tanks think that books persuade people. Do they?"

Very few other members of the CSI circle had ever used books as tools for changing minds. A range of political

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consultants and vendors, they tended to trade in more ephemeral modes of communication: television ads and robocalls, direct mail, digital ads, and door knocks. But they were there for the same reason that Kirby had been willing to entertain the perfidy of using Cato resources to question whether reading Ayn Rand actually led people to libertarianism—a willingness to take everything they thought they knew about what works in politics and hold it up to empirical investigation.

“We were disappointed in 2012 with how much money we spent and how little we had to show for it.”

David Kirby, vice president and senior fellow, Cato Institute
The mere existence of the CSI field experiments seminar represents the right’s most constructive engagement with the continued traumas of its loss in the 2012 Presidential race—not just the fact that it had lost, but that it didn’t know at the time it was losing, and even afterward was at a further loss to understand how or why it had done so. While many Republicans responded by conceding catch-phrase-ready deficiencies—a need to do more and better with Big Data or the Ground Game—others were willing to acknowledge that the underlying problem was the lack of a culture within the GOP to encourage innovation. For a small but significant share of the party’s electioneering class, however, any true reckoning with 2012 invites a deeper epistemological crisis about how to run smarter campaigns in the 21st century.

“We should not assume anything. Absolutely every aspect of the campaign, from the best way to knock on doors to the best way to broadcast television, should be tested,” says Blaise Hazelwood, a Republican voter-contact specialist who founded CSI. “This is the way I did it on this campaign that won, so this is the way we should do it on all campaigns,” Hazelwood says, mocking the prevailing sentiment of entrenched political consultants. “The test for them is whether they win or lose on election day. That cannot be a valid test.”

The conservative establishment has a long tradition of organized gatherings. First there were Paul Weyrich’s weekly “coalitions” lunches, held on Wednesdays when Congress was in session. Anti-tax activist Grover Norquist later claimed the breakfast slot that day, his sessions focused more on economic policy than social issues. Donors and journalists in New York started meeting one Monday per month for an hour and a half; after relocating to South Carolina, Monday Meeting founder Mallory Factor took the concept south with him, launching the Charleston Meeting. All these were devoted to ideological cohesion and legislative strategy, the matching of like-minded donors and politicians. They tended to reaffirm certainties, rather than challenge them.

The CSI circle has yet to fall into a reliable schedule, and its gatherings—which now take place roughly every six weeks or so at Cato’s Washington headquarters—already mark a very different mode of collaboration. There is not a politician in sight, or many brand-name operatives; few attendees appear to be over the age of 40. This sphere of political operatives and party hacks angling to remake Republican campaigns includes strategists and tacticians for many of the party’s top presidential candidates, along with staffers from the Republican National Committee and consultants attached to various elements of the Koch political network.

“I sense it’s one of the few places where the warring factions of the conservative side of the aisle play together in the same sandbox,” says Columbia University political scientist Don Green, who has advised the group since its launch. “You have people who are close to the Tea Party and people who are antagonistic towards the Tea Party, and they’re all trying to learn from the same research method.”

About 50 people responded to Hazelwood’s invitation to gather at Cato in early June and, arrayed before her that Thursday afternoon, at long tables in lecture-hall formation, the schisms of the Republican Party in the early days of the presidential campaign were unmistakable. One of the people she had invited to present research that day came from Deep Root Analytics, which former Florida Governor Jeb Bush's presidential campaign has hired to help target its television ads. Another presenter represented FLC Connect, a phone vendor that has worked for Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and has close links to his campaign-in-waiting. A pair of analysts from Optimus consulting, now advising Florida Senator Marco Rubio, sat in the back of the room, not far from where the founders of Targeted Victory, the firm former Texas Governor Rick Perry has hired to handle digital advertising and media analytics, found seats after arriving a few minutes after the scheduled 3:30 start time. Hazelwood herself is a longtime advisor to Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, through her firm Grassroots Consulting, and has since joined his allied super-PAC as a consultant. She began by reminding those in attendance of CSI’s one rule: What they were about to hear was off the record. “Ask questions like you usually do,” she said. “Attack our speakers, like sometimes happens.”

Hazelwood has been asking and answering some of the toughest questions in Republican politics for years. Shortly after the 2012 elections, she faced one from Sally Bradshaw: What did Republicans need to do to improve their electoral mechanics? A longtime adviser to Bush, Bradshaw was one of five party eminences who had been tapped by Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus to oversee the Growth and Opportunity Project, the postmortem report its authors were repeatedly instructed not to describe publicly as an “autopsy.”

Twelve years earlier, Hazelwood had been in a similar position when, as the RNC’s political director, she had organized what was known as the 72-Hour Task Force to fine-tune field operations that Karl Rove and other top advisers to President George W. Bush blamed for his unexpectedly narrow victory. Starting in 2001, Hazelwood

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deployed dozens of controlled tests in low-profile elections, usually with the goal of convincing party officials and activists that it was worth investing in the infrastructure to support volunteer-based voter contact. (Many of those tests were modeled on the types of field experiments conducted by social scientists, although not conducted to academic standards.)

Many Republicans credited the findings of the 72-Hour Task Force with helping Bush in his re-election, but after his victory, the culture that had incubated them withered away. When one of Green's protégés approached an official on the Indiana Republican Party's 2006 coordinated campaign asking if he could integrate experiments into the party's efforts, there was only one question that mattered: Was the political scientist "in the family"? That described a very specific qualification—having worked on one of the two Bush-Cheney campaigns—and it was not on David Nickerson's CV. Soon, though, Nickerson had a Ph.D. from Yale, then an associate professorship at Notre Dame, and then, in 2012, a title that had never before existed in the history of presidential politics: director of experiments at Obama for America.

Nickerson's trajectory confirmed the extent to which Obama-era Democratic operatives have scientized the project of electioneering. The party's ascendant young operatives—notably Robby Mook, Hillary Clinton's campaign manager—nearly all had formative experience working on voter contact (rather than strategizing communications or managing political relationships) in a period of technical transformation. They were conditioned to see every aspect of citizen behavior as potentially predictable through statistical modeling, and everything a campaign did to shape it as a potentially testable hypothesis. Meanwhile, the fractured remnants of the Bush-era Republican Party did not indulge such curiosity within its ranks, and when it did emerge, did little to channel it productively. "After 2004 the drive just left. It was no longer there—we no longer did the testing and we ended up where we ended up in 2012. We just kind of stopped," Hazelwood says. "It was terribly frustrating after 2012 to see what happened, and know we needed to get back to testing, and having that housed in one place to help all conservatives."

Hazelwood made the case to Bradshaw that the party should take the initiative in spurring such a cultural shift, albeit with a different objective than the one that had inspired the 72-Hour Task Force tests. "Back then we framed it completely differently. It was, 'We're getting back to grassroots and showing why grassroots works,'" Hazelwood explains. "Now it's about tests, and getting to test return on investment and how you measure efficiency and effectiveness." Hazelwood helped Bradshaw rewrite the task force report's section on "campaign mechanics" to offer its imprimatur for what had become her pet project. Republicans should "identify a team of strategists and funders to build a data analytics institute that can capture and distill best practices for communication to and targeting of specific voters," as the report put it. "Using the GOP's data, the data analytics institute would work to develop a specific set of tests for 2013 and 2014—tests on voter registration, persuasion, Get-Out-The-Vote, and voter mobilization—that will then be adopted into future programs to ensure that our voter contact and targeting dollars are spent on proven performance."

The report cautiously avoided suggesting that the RNC incubate or host such an institute itself. The national party was a subject of more distrust among conservative activists than it had been during the early Bush years, and after Citizens United even more political spending was being driven by groups that were legally forbidden from coordinating with the party or its candidates. Hazelwood found a model for such a "data analytics institute" in the organization that had paved Nickerson's way into Democratic campaigns after he was turned away by Indiana's Republicans. In 2007, similarly driven to self-examination by their inability to dislodge an incumbent president they assumed was beatable, a group of lefty operatives launched the Analyst Institute, to serve as a "clearinghouse for evidence-based best practices in progressive voter contact." To do so, they formalized a series of "geek lunches," held at the AFL-CIO, at which individual operatives and researchers presented the scattered experiments they had been running on their own, into a stand-alone entity. Since then, the Analyst Institute's work has transformed the techniques of Democratic campaigners in the Obama era, and eventually contracted to embed its analysts in the president's re-election effort in 2012. Hazelwood decided to structure her project similarly, as a for-profit consulting firm that could operate with little concern for ever turning a profit, a status that allows it to work with parties and campaigns as clients without being subject to disclosure laws itself. Hazelwood was transparent in her debt to the Analyst Institute, down to the unhelpfully abstract name.

She pitched her new effort to collaborators across the right, eager to take advantage of the oddball calendar of off-year elections to begin running tests. There was one in Massachusetts, where the American Crossroads super-PAC agreed to randomly assign its robocalls on behalf of Gabriel Gomez, a first-time candidate challenging Representative Ed Markey to replace John Kerry in the Senate. In Minneapolis's mayoral campaign that same year, Hazelwood worked with the pro-business Minnesota Jobs Coalition to test what type of messaging works best to boost a conservative candidate in a officially non-partisan race with a large fragmented field.

In parallel, Kirby was also digging more deeply into experiments. He had spent 2012 working at FreedomWorks, the well-funded conservative grassroots organization that had invested heavily in field activity designed to help elect a Republican president and a more conservative Congress. Kirby emerged from the experience resentful of the the confidence political professionals brought to their decisions about tactical approaches. "We were disappointed in 2012 with how much money we spent and how little we had to show for it," Kirby says. "I felt integrity-bound to ask whether we could do any better."

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Kirby was drawn to the experimental method as a tool for resolving that curiosity. He signed up for a brief summer course on randomized trials taught by Green, the Columbia political scientist recognized as his discipline's most prominent evangelist for field experiments as the only tool capable of truly disentangling cause and effect in campaigns. (Green's work recently gained broader attention when he was forced to retract a paper he had published in the journal Science, about the effectiveness of sending gay canvassers to advocate for same-sex marriage, amid accusations that his co-author Michael LaCour had falsified survey data.) Green was inspired by Kirby's enthusiasm, and—after years of finding growing interest in his methods from from labor unions, environmental advocates, and ACORN —the opportunity to see if conservative targets responded differently to political communication than liberal ones. "Almost all the research to date has been on the left or center-left. Very little of it has been on the center-right or right," Green says. "There isn't a base of knowledge about the message, the messenger, and the audience they care about."

Kirby was interested in starting with lawn signs. "It is the most elemental political tactic," he says. "At FreedomWorks we spent probably at least a million dollars on that—hundreds and thousands of yard signs." Yard signs were often held up as an example of wasteful and pointless campaign spending ("yard signs don't vote" is a frequent refrain of the bien pensant political class), although there was little empirical evidence to sustain that skepticism. The limited research literature could be attributed partly to methodological complications—it is not easy to control for the spillover effects of, say, voters who drive past signs in a precinct other than the one in which they vote—but some stemmed from a lack of obvious incentive for political professionals to run an experiment. "In the case of lawn signs, what's odd is if you're dealing with a person who is deeply skeptical, they're not interested enough to do a test," says Green. "People working in low-salience races see them as their one and only affordable tactic and don't want to take out a control group."

Working with Green, Kirby ran an experiment in which Virginia precincts were isolated and then randomly assigned to have signs placed at a certain density in road medians, each of them photographed and geotagged so it would be possible to monitor whether they were removed by opponents or vandals. The signs had little impact on election results in those precincts, they believe—"maybe a glimmer of an effect" on both turnout and vote share, according to Green—but given how cheap signs are to print and place, the experimenters thought that they might have demonstrated that signs might not be a total waste after all.

Kirby became an enthusiastic booster of Hazelwood's project. After he went to work at the Cato Institute in early 2014, he offered one of the think tank's large conference rooms to host the right's version of the "geek lunch." The first CSI meeting, in late 2013, drew more than 100 people from across conservative politics. "It was the right moment," says Kirby. "People were curious." Green led a three-hour introduction to the experimental method, and encouraged attendees to think of it as a tool for assessing the effectiveness of their current tactics and auditioning new ones. Many of the experiments that attendees concocted in response—to test direct mail and phone calls in relation to turnout—addressed research questions that some lefty groups felt they had settled through replication as much as a decade earlier. "It wasn't breaking any new ground," Kirby says, "but at least it was getting the muscles flexing."

Within the CSI circle, there is resignation that one cultural problem Republicans face modernizing their campaigns remains beyond their immediate control: Academic social scientists capable of designing, administering, and analyzing field experiments are overwhelmingly on the Democratic side. For his part, Green—with his politically catholic view toward experimentation and promiscuous search for collaborators who will let him test scientific theories in the real world—remained something of a unicorn. "The left enjoys a lot of sympathetic academics and legions of ideologically aligned grad students that we on the right just won't have the same level of access to," says Brian Stobie, a former official at the Charles Koch Institute who attempted to recruit academic collaborators to test the Koch network's election-year operations before leaving to start his own firm. (One political scientist approached for this article did not want to acknowledge on the record any openness of graduate students to partner with conservative organizations on research projects, for fear of causing the graduate students reputational damage.)

The emergence of the CSI circle has also unmasked a generational divide more fundamental than the one between practitioners of online and offline politicking that defines most press coverage of the Republicans' technology predicament. There is a Web-savvy new guard that chafes against the old-line consultants who continue to profit from spending on television, phone, and mail. But these disputes—about the percentage of a campaign budget devoted to Web and mobile advertising, or whether a digital consultant has a proverbial "seat at the table" on strategic decisions—are lost on the CSI crowd, who have a scientific bent. Many there are eager to take on the digital consultants and the grandiose claims some of the digital people make, unchallenged, about their potential impact on elections. Those in the experimental set pronounce themselves agnostic about tactics, interested only in those whose worth have been proven, empirically. What can be measured to deliver votes—rather than just clicks or eyeballs—and at what cost?

Last May, strategist Dave Carney demonstrated for the CSI seminar what such skepticism could look like when put into practice. He and University of Texas political scientist Daron Shaw had come to present findings from a complicated series of experiments that Carney had invited Shaw to conduct within the gubernatorial campaign of

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Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott. (The two had worked together on Perry's 2006 re-election, when Shaw and Green served on a team of in-house experimenters that Carney named his "eggheads," a collaboration that has produced more peer-reviewed papers than any other campaign in history.) Shaw could have merely presented his findings in the form of charts and graphs, but that would not have fully satisfied Carney's preference for dramatic colloquy. He invited the consultants and vendors whose services he had audited to be part of the discussion—an equivalent of beauty-pageant contestants being forced to stand on stage while judges render a verdict on their presence and poise.

Shaw had randomized the delivery of $1.6 million worth of campaign communications—across broadcast and cable television, a variety of digital formats, radio, and direct mail—with effects measured at both individual and neighborhood units. Three entire media markets, including El Paso and Amarillo, were assigned to a control group that received no Abbott campaign communication over the course of that month. Unlike many studies, Carney had begun by asking Abbott's consultants to devise plans at a budget that would "allow them to do what they needed to in order to produce an impact." "One of the most common criticisms one hears from practitioners about political science experiments is that the treatment is 'not what we'd do in a real campaign,'" Shaw explained. "The obvious solution is to give the professionals the resources and discretion to design and implement their preferred outreach within the context of the experiment."

Comparing polls conducted before and after the experiment, Shaw explained to the CSI seminar that three weeks of campaigning increased Abbott's popularity by nearly eight points among the voters he was trying to persuade, with targeted broadcast television buys doing so with the greatest force. At the same time, voters in zip codes served Facebook and online pre-roll video ads were less likely to support Abbott afterward, and turned out at the same rate as those who lived in areas that never received the ads. (Shaw did find that, in some combinations, Internet advertising did have a modestly positive impact on turnout, according to voter-registration records updated after the primary.) Digital consultants "might argue that the relatively modest effects associated with online outreach in our tests still constitute a more cost-effective investment than broadcast television," Shaw acknowledged in an article, which, as part of his deal with Abbott's campaign, he has submitted to political-science journals for publication.

His presentation of "The Abbott Campaign Experiments: Persuasion and Turnout in Texas" wowed the CSI seminar, as much for its ambition and audacity as any specific finding. But to the disappointment of many attendees, few other consultants expressed an interest in mimicking Carney's adventurousness. "Testing, whether done on the right or left, tends to show that the majority of what you think 'works' doesn't," says Stobie, who after the 2012 election launched 0ptimus Consulting to conduct experiments with the promise of helping clients to constrain their spending. "To the majority of operatives and organizations, paying for the opportunity to find out much of what you are doing is ineffective is not an appealing investment."

A few weeks ago, Hazelwood met Priebus for lunch at the Capitol Hill Club and handed over the results of an experimental study he had commissioned from her firm. Hazelwood's reputation had impressed Priebus long before the two first met, in 2009, back when he was a lawyer who oversaw field offices near his Wisconsin home and had "done every yard-sign job in the party you can imagine." Sharing a ticket with Bush in 2004 during a failed state Senate run, Priebus saw how, by "dividing states into turf, and measuring outcomes and metrics," as he puts it, Hazelwood's internal reforms had modernized the party's approach to field organizing. "I've known her as the author of that concept," Priebus says. "I really do understand the ground game and what we need to do."

The 72-Hour Task Force had been established to convince local party activists like Priebus that the ground game was not merely something one did or didn't do—that some tactical approaches to it were superior to others. Hazelwood had isolated "precinct organizing" (assigning a full-time field staffer for a month), "GOP flushing" (indiscriminately turning out Republican voters in the last two days before an election), and "volunteer calling" (compared to paid call centers) as three distinct activities, and subjected each to separate tests. As a result of the impact—two to three percentage points increase in turnout for each, they found—the Task Force prescribed that Republican campaigns assign one person to be individually responsible for every 40 to 100 voters. "Back to People Power," an internal RNC presentation titled the recommendation at the time .

After Bush's re-election, the party let much of that field infrastructure wither, along with the ethos behind and intellectual justification for it. During the years since, experiments have revealed a cognitive logic for understanding what mobilizes voters. Basic interactions immediately became more potent when they were personalized in a way that introduced a sense of individual responsibility around voting. Campaigns now frequently remind citizens of their past history casting a ballot, and recruit them to sign pledges to do so again. (One of Green's most famous tests, conducted with his former Yale colleague Alan Gerber, sent voters a copy of their past registration records with a threat to publicize a set after an election, so others could see whether or not they voted. It proved the most effective get-out-the-vote technique ever measured.) The behavioral psychology behind such techniques gave new depth to campaigns' understanding of "people power."

Hazelwood developed a hypothesis that people power could learn something from stalking. Campaigns have long thought of voter contact as part of a narrative progression: a flight of six direct-mail pieces over which a candidate's argument unfurls, or a "layered" approach in which phone calls and door-knocks are delivered in a

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deliberately choreographed sequence. But campaigns rarely share these plans with voters, often preferring to let the interactions speak for themselves and not draw undue attention to their volume. Instead, Hazelwood thought it was time to mash up the various tactics that the 72-Hour Task Force had segregated into distinct programs. Just as the pledges and the vote-history techniques had, walking voters through the process as it was happening could produce a personal engagement with the election.

Hazelwood was anxious that the party not let a busy midterm election year pass without using every opportunity to hone tactics it could deploy in earnest in 2016. After San Diego announced a special mayoral election, scheduled for February 2014, Hazelwood convinced a friend managing Republican Kevin Faulconer's ultimately succesful campaign to let CSI get involved. Hazelwood took command of some of the party's field programs there, randomly assigning some areas to receive specialized attention from local precinct captains. When she was able to show that her tactics had increased turnout by 8.5 percent among the party's so-called "low-propensity voters," the party's chairman took notice.

That finding intersected neatly with what Priebus had identified as his party's strategic challenge, and one of the areas the Growth and Opportunity Project had blamed for the party's inability to win the presidency or the Senate in 2012. "We're a really good midterm party, but for some reason presidential-year-only voters have been trouble for us," Priebus says. "If we put people out in the field—and we have a limited amount of people and limited amount of time—what's the combination of things we can do that have the best effect of turning out people who vote only in presidential years?"

Over the summer, Priebus signed off on Hazelwood's proposal to have CSI help answer that question. He was insistent that Hazelwood's experiments not interfere with the party's plans to spend $105 million across key races in mitdterm battlegrounds. In three states, however, Hazelwood's firm was permitted to layer atop the party's extant organization an additional precinct program that would target the type of low-propensity voters that Republican strategists did not expect to necessarily vote in 2014, but knew they needed to mobilize in 2016. After working with Hazelwood on how to structure her study, Green directed her to enlist Oklahoma State University professor Brandon Lenoir, whom he had guided on another lawn-sign experiment, for help implementing it. (There is such entrenched skepticism about yard signs that Green has waited to publish until he has five experiments, each conducted in distinct geographical and political contexts, that can be assembled into a single paper with more comprehensive findings than Kirby's alone.)

In nine counties across Colorado, Iowa, and Arkansas, Hazelwood's team worked with the state parties and the Republican Senate candidate to hire dedicated local organizers it called "precinct captains." Each was given a list of voters who had cast a ballot in one or fewer of the past four major elections, with directions to visit each voter in mid-October for an introductory conversation. "I was designated your Precinct Captain for the Republican Party, for the duration of the election," the canvassing script instructed. Then, over the next few weeks, the precinct captain would make contact four more times, in a specific order: again at the door, then by phone, followed by a postcard, and a then final door visit. If the voter was home each time, it meant a recurring interaction with an increasingly familiar neighborhood figure.

If the voter didn't answer the door or phone, however, the precinct captain was instructed to make the missed encounter just as personally memorable. Each door hanger left behind should have a handwritten Post-it note attached to it, with a message that the "personalized note instructions" recommended should say: "Hi Mary, sorry I missed you today! … I will be back in the neighborhood again next week and try to catch you then." The postcard would pick up the theme: "I have stopped by your house a couple times and tried to call to make sure you have all the information you need to vote." For a voter who wasn't home after two door visits and a phone call, the next note would turn even more ominous: "I will keep checking the list to see if you have voted and if not will drop by your house again to follow up."

Over the course of three weeks, Hazelwood's "stalker test" deployed some of the most potent psychological tricks known to nudge a citizen into the act of voting—along with some new ones—all as part of a borderline-creepy courtship that would be difficult to ignore. After the election, in which Republicans won the Senate races in all three of those states, Green and Lenoir found that it had a considerable impact, increasing turnout among targets by between two and three percentage points. It had not been easy, though, as stalking demanded attention, resources, and planning that campaigns cannot always muster for their field programs (The report did not calculate the cost of such contact, and it is certainly conceivable that at a much lower price yard signs could prove more cost-effective—if less targetable—than the elaborate program that required the same field staffer to be available for every interaction with an assigned voter.)

When Hazelwood presented the analysis to Priebus at the Capitol Hill Club, she put the paper that Green and Lenoir had written into a thick, glossy brochure with far more elaborate graphics than are typically packaged with academic articles. Priebus says the findings confirm what he had assumed about the value of localized field programs that focus on sustained personal contact, but now "I can take that information and go sell it to the state parties, and go to into a boardroom to get people to cut a check."

The finding that most excited both Hazelwood and Priebus, however, grew out of an accident. In Colorado,

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canvassers were mistakenly assigned to go to some of the party's reliable voters, who had cast ballots in all four of the most recent elections. After being hounded by a precinct captain, they voted at a lower rate than those who received no contact at all. "We have a proven fact now that we should stop calling these people," Hazelwood says, with comic impatience. "Stop wasting time!"

Republicans have won the battle over money in politics. Should anyone celebrate? **// WaPo // Paul Waldman – July 7, 2015**

As the candidates for president have begun announcing their second-quarter fundraising hauls, a couple of things have become apparent. First, there is a huge amount of money flowing into the campaign, even to some second-tier candidates. And second, the campaign finance system is a joke.

As we now approach the anything-goes situation that Republicans have been advocating for years, it's time to ask: Is this how we want things to work?

Republicans in particular should be asked that question, because they're the ones who created this state of affairs and promised that it would be good for everyone. Here are some of its characteristics: There will almost certainly be more money spent in this election than ever before. A number of candidates have one billionaire benefactor promising to bankroll their campaigns. The Federal Election Commission, deadlocked between its Democratic and Republican members, has essentially stopped enforcing campaign finance laws. The Internal Revenue Service has also all but given up enforcing the laws that govern tax-exempt nonprofits and their political activities.

The campaigns are hauling in the cash. On Monday, Ted Cruz announced that his campaign had $51 million dollars behind it, which included $37 million raised by pro-Cruz super PACs — so they're not even pretending that the "independent" groups are anything but an arm of the Cruz campaign. Hillary Clinton has raised $45 million just since April, and we're waiting to hear whether the Jeb Bush super PAC Right to Rise met its $100 million goal.

This is all enabled by the fact that although campaigns and super PACs are prohibited from "coordinating" with each other, what counts as coordination has become so limited that it's little more than a speed bump for campaigns and super PACs that are working together. They have nothing to fear from the FEC, where Republicans always appoint commissioners who barely believe there ought to be any regulation of campaign finance at all, and have successfully ground enforcement to a halt. The agency has gone two years without anyone leading its legal office, and its own chairwoman says: "The likelihood of the laws being enforced is slim."

The situation at the IRS, which has jurisdiction over nonprofit groups and their involvement in politics, is virtually the same. Because of the "scandal" that came to light in 2013, which involved extra scrutiny given to political groups applying for tax-exempt status as 501(c)(4) "social welfare" organizations, the agency came under withering attack from Republicans and has shrunk back from enforcing the law. Despite a new wave of secret donations going to phony social welfare organizations established by candidates to boost their campaigns, the IRS has essentially surrendered, as the New York Times reports:

As presidential candidates find new ways to exploit secret donations from tax-exempt groups, hobbled regulators at the Internal Revenue Service appear certain to delay trying to curb widespread abuses at nonprofits until after the 2016 election.

We should take a moment to remember what the IRS scandal was actually about. It wasn't, as so many conservatives believe, a story of a nefarious White House-directed conspiracy to persecute Barack Obama's enemies. In reality, there were a bunch of inadequately trained IRS employees attempting to apply a vaguely-worded law in the face of a dramatic increase in the number of applications they had to process after the 2010 Citizens United decision threw open the doors of campaign finance.

And the groups that suffered the horrific injury of having their 501(c)(4) applications take longer to process than they should have? Let's not forget that they were, in fact, violating the spirit of the law. Without question. That's true of both the conservative and liberal groups who got extra scrutiny, which they absolutely deserved, because they were plainly political groups masquerading as social welfare organizations.

But now it's open season, and most of the presidential candidates have established 501(c)(4) organizations that are allowed to shield their donors' identity from public scrutiny while operating as an arm of the campaign. Marco Rubio's (c)(4), the Conservative Solutions Project, has already raised $15.8 million for him.

So that's where we are — limitless donations from the wealthy and corporations to super PACs and (c)(4)s that coordinate with campaigns, billionaires buying more influence than ever, and crippled government agencies unable to enforce the frayed laws that still exist. To which Republicans say, "That's great!"

Which isn't surprising, given that this was the system they engineered. They filed lawsuit after lawsuit in a (largely successful) attempt to get the Supreme Court to gut the campaign finance laws that had been in place for decades, opening up the system to more money — while they also files suits challenging every attempt at public financing in

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any form that might level the playing field. They threw sand in the FEC's gears and bludgeoned the IRS into submission. And they did it all on the assumption that the more money that pours into campaigns and the less accountability there is, the more partisan advantage they'll gain.

Which might or might not be true — after all, it isn't as though Democratic politicians like Obama and Clinton have had too much trouble exploiting the system and raising spectacular amounts of money themselves. But we've now just about reached the campaign finance nirvana Republicans had been working toward for so long.

So how's it working out? Is there anyone who could argue that this is the best of all possible systems? Is there someone who'll say that the American public benefits when billionaires summon presidential candidates to grovel before them in attempt to secure their patronage? Is there a single person who'll honestly say, "Yes, this is exactly how campaigns ought to work"? Can anybody make the case that this will produce a more democratic system that helps the government solve problems and secure progress for the public?

OTHER 2016 NEWS

'Super PACs' Take On New Role, Organizing Voters **// NYT // Trip Gabriel – July 7, 2015**

College students supporting Rand Paul for president were out in force going door to door in this university town recently, using their iPad Minis to help identify Republicans committed to voting for the Kentucky senator in next year's Iowa caucuses.

And when Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana visited the state the same week in June for town hall-style meetings in Waukee, Council Bluffs and Sioux City, his supporters collected voters' names and emails with an eye toward caucus day.

But the Paul and Jindal campaigns were not behind these time-honored grass-roots organizing efforts. Instead, in a twist that shows how even retail politics is being transformed by a flood of loosely regulated big money, the two candidates' courtship of voters is being carried out by "super PACs," which are using their abundant war chests to move into the nuts and bolts of campaign operations.

In previous election cycles, super PACs — which can raise unlimited donations from corporations and individuals alike — largely channeled money from wealthy donors into political advertising. But now they are branching out into what had seemed a fundamental function of a campaign committee: organizing voters one at a time.

The 2016 race could be the most expensive in history, in part because of spending by "super PACs." Legally, the groups cannot coordinate with candidates, but there is plenty of wiggle room. By Aaron Byrd and Emily B. Hager on Publish Date July 7, 2015.
Candidates "are pushing as much of the stuff as they can over to the super PACs because that's where the real money is," said Terry Giles, who recently quit as campaign manager for Ben Carson, the retired neurosurgeon, to start a new super PAC that will support him.

The practice of having super PACS, which can be entirely financed by a single billionaire, take over such operations allows campaigns, which may raise only $2,700 from any one donor, to outsource the costly, labor-intensive work of recruiting activists and building lists of supporters.

It could also allow second-tier candidates to be more competitive, prolonging the nominating process. And in the general election, a Republican nominee whose organizing is paid for by a super PAC might level the playing field with Democrats, whose allies in labor have traditionally given the party an edge in mustering volunteers to help turn out voters.

But there are risks to outsourcing a field campaign. Candidates, who are legally forbidden to coordinate with super PACs, are in danger of being cut off from their most ardent supporters as they head into caucus and primary elections.

"As a campaign, you have absolutely no idea" how you're doing, said Nick Ryan, president of a super PAC supporting Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor. "That would scare me to death. You'd be disconnected from the very base of your campaign, the people who are most passionate about you." (Still, Mr. Ryan hesitated to rule out any grass-roots campaign work aside from recruiting volunteers to support Mr. Huckabee.)

Tina Goff, who recruited leaders in all 99 Iowa counties on behalf of a super PAC supporting Ben Carson before he even declared his candidacy, turned down an offer of a job with his campaign. "It would have been great to travel around with Dr. Carson," she said, "but I felt like I had created an infrastructure here and I wanted to continue what I was doing." She said she was now hiring 25 people to knock on doors in Iowa after paying $40,000 for a list of Republican caucusgoers from the state party.

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Even for candidates who do not have fund-raising problems, relying on super PACs offers another way to manage expectations and perceptions.

In Iowa, where Jeb Bush faces stiff resistance from conservatives, a senior Republican strategist said that before Mr. Bush announced his candidacy, his team discussed leaving some of the field organizing to a super PAC established by his aides. That would spare Mr. Bush's campaign some embarrassment should he perform badly in Iowa during the caucuses by giving his campaign distance from the effort.

Several campaigns have welcomed outside organizing efforts in Iowa, which will hold the first nominating contest on Feb. 1. The farthest along are efforts for Mr. Paul, Carly Fiorina and Mr. Carson.

An outside group that supports Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who is expected to announce his candidacy next week, collected cards at a recent political forum in Des Moines from voters pledging to caucus for the candidate. A spokesman for the group, Our American Revival, said it would continue to organize on Mr. Walker's behalf in Iowa and other states.

So far, only super PACs supporting Republicans appear to be organizing the grass roots, although outside groups that back Democrats, including labor unions and nonprofits, have long performed tasks like registering voters and canvassing neighborhoods. (A super PAC aimed at generating grass-roots support for Hillary Rodham Clinton, Ready for Hillary, closed up shop once Mrs. Clinton formally entered the race.)

"It's no surprise that super PACs would at some point evolve into the organizational side of politics," said Chris LaCivita, a senior adviser to Mr. Paul. He called it a predictable outgrowth of an era that since 2002 has banned unlimited donations to party committees, and in which wealthy donors have rechanneled support to outside groups, which are less accountable.

Ms. Fiorina, the former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard, may have turned over more traditional campaign tasks to a super PAC than any other candidate: lining up endorsements, answering reporters' questions about her business career and opening field offices in early primary states like South Carolina. The primary reason is her difficulty raising money for a full-fledged campaign. She reported pulling in just $1.4 million in May and June.

The super PAC, Carly for America, which said Monday that it had raised $3.4 million, "is running a grass-roots organization focused on building support in early states," said Katie Hughes, a spokeswoman.

The group organizing for Mr. Paul, Concerned American Voters, has pledges of "multiple millions" from wealthy donors in Silicon Valley, said Jeff Frazee, its president. It has had 40 full-time field staffers in Iowa since June 1, knocking on doors during the day and making phone calls at night.

But that effort illustrates the potential for duplication and clashing agendas between super PACs and campaigns. Mr. Paul already had a network of activists in Iowa, many of whom supported campaigns by his father, Ron Paul. Asked about the super PAC, the campaign's state director, Steve Grubbs, said in a text message: "Not commenting on this. Wish I could."

That was because the donors were talking among themselves about shifting support from TV advertising, the focus of America's Liberty PAC, to a grass-roots campaign.

"I'm not convinced that TV ads are really as effective as they were," said Mr. Banister, an early investor in PayPal, adding that interactive communication with voters mattered more. "Grass roots is just kind of old-school interactive," he said.

Mr. Frazee, the Paul backer, said he was inspired by Barack Obama's upset victory over Mrs. Clinton in Iowa eight years ago. "He was able to win with a very organized ground game," he said. "That's been our strategy."

In Iowa City, Ani DeGroot, a college student on summer break working for Concerned American Voters, approached Timothy Anderson, who was mowing his lawn.

"Will you support Rand Paul?" she asked after he had shut down the mower.

"I probably will," he said.

"Fantastic," Ms. DeGroot said. "Are there any issues that are most important to you?"

"I wish we would just get out of all these wars and being policemen to the world," said Mr. Anderson, a human resources manager.

Ms. DeGroot entered his responses into her iPad Mini supplied by the super PAC. At a future date, another Paul supporter might call on Mr. Anderson to urge him to volunteer, or even to speak for Mr. Paul at his precinct

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caucus. The vote may be less than seven months away, but it is never too early to begin organizing.

Puerto Rican debt crisis forces its way onto presidential political agenda // WaPo // Steven Mufson - July 8, 2015

Q: Which place has as many Republican delegates as New Hampshire, plus enough native sons and daughters living in Florida to swing the outcome of that state's presidential primaries or even the general election?

A: Puerto Rico.

That political reality has put the financially ailing U.S. territory on the map of presidential hopefuls, who are being asked what, if anything, the federal government should do to help engineer a rescue plan for the debt-strapped island.

Politically, much is at stake. Puerto Rico has its own voice at nominating conventions, with more delegates at the Democratic Convention than 21 states. And 1 million Puerto Ricans live in Florida, enough to be the swing vote in one of the nation's most important swing states.

At the current pace of migration, triple the rate just a few years ago, the number of people of Puerto Rican origin in Florida could soon exceed the number of Cuban Americans in the state. Along Interstate 4 between Orlando and Tampa in central Florida, Puerto Rican Americans are everywhere, comprising more than a quarter of the population of Florida's Osceola County.

As a result, presidential candidates are being pressed to voice support for Puerto Rico in its hour of economic need and back the use of bankruptcy law to help the territory, which is teetering on the edge of default, to reduce and manage its $73 billion in debt. While the bankruptcy code can be used by states for the orderly court-supervised reorganization of cities, municipalities, municipal utilities or school districts, Congress in 1984 altered the law to bar the commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any of its utilities, towns or school districts from being able to turn to the bankruptcy code in a crisis.

"Those who want the support of Puerto Ricans must help Puerto Rico now. Not later." Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro García Padilla said in an interview Sunday on Telemundo. He added, "They need to act now, not in a few months during the elections."

García Padilla said "there are some people who have been a little passive, and they are the candidates for president of the United States. Both the Democrats and the Republicans, especially in Florida, because as you know, it's a battleground state and it's important."

And the Puerto Rican vote is up for grabs, both in Florida and the territory. Six Americans of Puerto Rican descent have been elected to the Florida state legislature — three Republicans and three Democrats. In Puerto Rico, the current governor, García Padilla, who narrowly won election, calls himself a friend of President Obama's. The previous governor, Luis G. Fortuño, resembled a Reagan Republican.

"During the last campaign, it was called the swing vote of the swing state," said Jeffrey Farrow, chairman of the Oliver Group, a public policy communications firm, and a former White House adviser on Puerto Rico under Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

A poll by Latino Decisions, a firm that does polling and analysis of Latino voters, showed that Puerto Rican voters in Florida went 72 percent to 28 percent for Obama over Mitt Romney in 2012, while Cuban American voters in the state chose Romney over Obama by 64 percent to 35 percent.

Yet Farrow said that while "there is a perception that Puerto Ricans are Democratic voters, that is not necessarily the case in Florida. The more recent poll data shows they identify more with Democrats than Republicans, but they are socially conservative. They voted for Jeb Bush for governor."

"During my race, I said I would slash government expenses," said Fortuño, now a partner at Steptoe & Johnson, a Washington-based law firm. "Often on radio talk shows, people would say they have a daughter who needs a job, and I'd say she would not have a job in government, and my advisers would go nuts. And I won. So it's very doable."

Jeb Bush has been courting the Puerto Rican vote for a long time. In 1980, he spent more than two months organizing the campaign of his father, George H.W. Bush, who handily won the primary that year. Jeb Bush delivered speeches in Spanish at more than 75 gatherings. When he campaigned to be governor of Florida, he went to Puerto Rican church fiestas.

"I think statehood is the best path, personally. I've believed that for a long, long while," Jeb Bush said during a visit to the territory in April, recalling his father's long-ago campaign. "Nothing makes me believe that that

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position should change. To get the full benefits and responsibilities of citizenship, being a state is the only path to make that happen." He said: "I think the next president, whoever that person is, should use their influence to make sure Congress acts on this and that this should be a question of self-determination. . . . That's just a question of principle and, you know, morality, I think. It's not a question of politics."

Bush, while campaigning in Puerto Rico in April and again in South Carolina last week, also came out in support of granting Puerto Rico the option of using Chapter 9 of the bankruptcy code to restructure its debts. "Puerto Rico should be given the same rights as the states," Bush said in Spanish before a small crowd at the Universidad Metropolitana in San Juan.

Bush's Republican rivals have been, by and large, more cautious for fear that extending Chapter 9 to Puerto Rico could look like a bailout of the island — even though bankruptcy extracts concessions from bondholders and requires no federal money.

"Senator [Marco] Rubio has been closely watching events in Puerto Rico and is concerned about the economic situation there," spokeswoman Brooke Sammon told The Washington Post by e-mail over the weekend. "He's in the process of reviewing the legislation to make sure it is the right approach to begin addressing Puerto Rico's debt crisis without having any negative impact on American taxpayers."

Donald Trump — whose heavily indebted corporate affiliates have used bankruptcy to reorganize four times — has a unique perspective on Puerto Rico. He is also a partner with local construction tycoons Arturo and Jorge L. Diaz in the Trump International Golf Club, a resort east of San Juan that boasts two 18-hole courses. The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

In a June 30 tweet, Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton did not address the bankruptcy issue but said that "Puerto Rico's debt crisis is not theirs alone. For PR's economy to grow & their people to thrive, they need real tools & real support."

But on Tuesday, Clinton said that Puerto Rican municipalities and state-owned enterprises should be allowed to use bankruptcy protections to overhaul their finances. "We're not talking about a bailout, we're talking about a fair shot at success," she said in a statement.

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley (D), by contrast, jumped on the issue last week. "I am very concerned about the impending financial collapse of Puerto Rico," said O'Malley, who backed the use of the bankruptcy code and an equalization of Medicaid and Medicare benefits for the island's residents. "We must help our fellow U.S. citizens, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because our region's economic stability depends on it," he said.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) joined the discussion on Tuesday, backing bankruptcy protections to enable Puerto Rico to "restructure its debt in a rational way that does not harm its people, ordinary investors or pension funds in the United States." He blamed the island's debt crisis on "the policies of austerity and the greed of large financial institutions."

The flow of Puerto Ricans to Florida has altered the calculus of politics there. Whereas politicians once catered to the conservative, anti-Castro Cuban opinion that dominated the Latino vote, now the Cuban American consensus on Cuba has fractured and the Puerto Rican population has swelled.

That Puerto Rican electorate has its own concerns.

According to polling data gathered last November by Latino Decisions, Puerto Ricans support expanding Medicaid and raising the minimum wage more strongly than Cuban Americans do, although Cuban Americans also strongly endorse those policy proposals. Education also ranks higher as a concern among Puerto Ricans.

Yet despite Jeb Bush's efforts, the Latino Decisions poll in November showed that among Puerto Ricans in Florida, he was then getting a 42 percent "very unfavorable" rating and only 10 percent "very favorable."

Now the territory's economic plight might become a factor. And people in Florida keep track through readily available media from the island as well as locally.

"The Puerto Ricans living here are very, very strongly connected to the island," said Betsy Franceschini, who is Florida regional director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, an arm of the Puerto Rican government. "They do care even though they're here."

Franceschini operates her agency in a modest house in Kissimmee with two flagpoles, one for the Puerto Rican flag and one for the American. The agency provides advice to Puerto Ricans moving from the island to the Orlando-Tampa area. The previous governor, Fortuño, had closed the office. García Padilla, fulfilling a campaign promise he made during a visit to Orlando, reopened it.

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Franceschini said the key public-policy issues of concern to people who come to the office for help are the island's fiscal crisis, its desire to use the bankruptcy code to restructure municipal debts and unequal Medicare payments by the federal government. "Folks here are very upset about that and are organizing and mobilizing," she said, "and they want to know where the candidates stand."

Christie, Paul and Perry Court the Black Vote **// WSJ // Jason Riley – July 7, 2015**

President Obama will be leaving the White House in 18 months, but where will that leave the minority voters who helped elect him? It's a question that Republican presidential hopefuls not named Donald Trump are pondering.

Between 1980 and 2004, black support for the Democratic presidential candidates ranged from 83% to 90%. But in 2008 Mr. Obama won 95% of the black vote and was re-elected four years later with 93%. In 2012 black voters turned out at higher rates than white voters for the first time on record. The likelihood of Hillary Clinton or another Democratic nominee drawing Obama levels of black support is small. Many blacks may simply stay home. Others, having observed the black economic retrogression that occurred even with a black Democrat in the Oval Office, might consider alternatives.

To that end, Republicans such as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul have been actively courting minorities. Mr. Christie has become a familiar presence in Camden, Newark and other economically depressed parts of the Garden State. In 2013 he was re-elected with the backing of 51% of Hispanics and 21% of blacks—an impressive 19-point and 12-point increase, respectively, from four years earlier.

Woody Allen once said that 80% of success is showing up, and Mr. Christie has been willing to campaign in communities and among voters that Republicans too often write off. The governor has bothered to introduce himself to black voters directly instead of letting Democratic opponents define him or only giving the occasional speech to the NAACP.

"How many Republicans are you going to see walking up and down these streets like this?" a black woman in Orange, N.J., told a Real Clear Politics reporter in 2013. "He's approachable. I really like that. And I think the people in Orange are really thrilled, whether they're Democrat or Republican, that he's here."

Mr. Paul, for his part, has courted younger blacks by visiting historically black college campuses, which is admirable. Less admirable is Mr. Paul's decision to mouth liberal positions on voter ID, drug laws and prison sentencing in order to win black support. "I'm trying to go out and say to African-Americans 'I want your vote, and the Republican Party wants your vote,' " he told a radio interviewer last year, explaining why he thinks the GOP should drop the voter ID issue. "We have to be aware that the perception is out there and be careful about not so overdoing something that we further alienate a block of people that we need to attract."

That's not black outreach—that's pandering. Moreover, it's off-base. A Fox News poll last year found majority support for voter ID laws among every demographic group, including 51% of blacks. A 2012 Pew survey put black support for voter ID at 62%. And law-abiding ghetto residents want the criminals who prey on them and their children locked up, not coddled. Don't confuse the agenda of civil-rights groups and other black elites with the desires of most blacks.

The better approach is the one taken by former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who launched his second bid for the White House last month and gave one of the campaign's most poignant speeches last week. Mr. Perry is less concerned with making race-based entreaties than he is with appealing to blacks as fellow Americans. Imagine that!

The governor acknowledged America's history of oppressing blacks—"and because slavery and segregation were sanctioned by government, there is a role for government policy in addressing their lasting effects"—but he also noted the tremendous progress that has been made.

"A half-century ago, Republicans and Democrats came together to finally enshrine in the law the principle that all of us—regardless of race, color or national origin—are created equal," said Mr. Perry. "When it comes to race, America is a better and more tolerant and more welcoming place than it has ever been." These may be plain truths, but such progress is regularly dismissed by many on the grievance-focused left, where there is money to be made by civil-rights groups, and votes to be had by Democratic politicians, who are willing to pretend that systemic racism still drives racial disparities in the U.S.

Mr. Perry believes that a more significant barrier to black progress is poor political representation. The Democratic Party has long operated with no fear of losing the black vote, and Republicans have been too quick to concede it. Mr. Perry's overarching theme, however, was a rebuke of identity politics, stressing instead what all Americans desire—safe neighborhoods, good schools, economic opportunity. And he urged black voters to compare the track records of liberal and conservative governance on those fronts and then hold politicians accountable.

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"In the cities where the left-wing solutions have been tried over and over again—places like Detroit and Chicago and Baltimore—African-Americans are moving out," said the governor. "In blue-state coastal cities, you have strict zoning laws and environmental regulations that have prevented builders from expanding the housing supply." San Francisco's black population today is half of what it was in 1970. That's obviously not because conservatives run the place.

If the GOP is getting serious about competing for black voters, it's a welcome development for our political system. And if Republican presidential candidates are looking for the right approach, they could do a lot worse than Mr. Perry's template.

2016ers tiptoe around Puerto Rico's debt bomb // Politico // Daniel Strauss – July 7, 2015

With Puerto Rico asking the U.S. federal government for a lifeline to rescue it from crushing debt, some 2016 candidates see an opportunity – Florida votes.

Jeb Bush was first out of the gates. Back in April, as the island territory started careening toward a breaking point, he said Puerto Rico's public agencies should be able to file for bankruptcy.

But late last month, Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro García Padilla announced that the commonwealth could not pay back its roughly $72 billion in debts, lending the question new urgency.

Democrats have urged Washington to help. On Tuesday, frontrunner Hillary Clinton called on Congress to allow Puerto Rico to restructure its debts under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code, the first step in what she called a "multifaceted" approach. Her top rival for the Democratic nomination, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, followed suit a few hours later. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley had previously pressed President Barack Obama and Congress "to act to ensure that Puerto Rico is able to negotiate with its creditors."

But the rest of the 2016 field, including the other four senators running for president, has been conspicuously slower to take a position. Sens. Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham, Rand Paul did not respond to questions on the issue. Sen. Marco Rubio's office said the Florida senator was still looking into it.

None were willing to throw their support behind a bill being offered up by Sens. Charles Schumer and Richard Blumenthal that would give Puerto Rico the same bankruptcy protection as municipalities across the rest of the United States.

Puerto Rico's debt crisis has the potential to affect the 2016 race — and nowhere more so than in Florida, with its growing Puerto Rican population of about 1 million people, a key constituency in a purple state with 29 electoral votes.

"This is a driver for their vote," said Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi, Puerto Rico's representative on Capitol Hill. "Our votes are swing votes."

In the last two presidential elections, Puerto Rican votes boosted Obama in Florida, but could easily help Republicans this time around, former Puerto Rican governor Luis Fortuno said.

"They can sway," Fortuno, a conservative, said. "I believe other Republicans that want to compete effectively ought to be thinking about this, and they probably have to say something about it."

"I don't see how you get through the Florida primary without being asked," said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former top economic adviser for Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential bid.

But calling for federal intervention is not without political risks: No Republican presidential candidate wants to be tarred as pro-bailout.

While bankruptcy protection would not provide the island territory with direct financial support, it could still raise the hackles of creditors eager to toss around the "b" word in a bid to sap congressional momentum.

The issue is especially perilous for Rubio, who rode to office in 2010 on a wave of support from tea party voters vehemently opposed to government rescues of big banks and underwater homeowners.

So even though Rubio is locked with Bush in a zero-sum struggle with Bush for Florida primary votes, especially among Hispanics, he has been hesitant to weigh in.

"Senator Rubio has been closely watching events in Puerto Rico and is concerned about the economic situation there," Rubio spokeswoman Brooke Sammon told POLITICO. "He's in the process of reviewing the legislation to make sure it is the right approach to begin addressing Puerto Rico's debt crisis without having any negative impact on American taxpayers."

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Pierluisi said it's understandable why Rubio and Ted Cruz, the other 2016 candidate of Cuban descent, have been so cautious.

"I know for a fact that both of them have been studying this issue and their staff have been getting their feet wet on this," Pierluisi said.

Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee has already previewed how the more conservative candidates might approach the issue.

"We've had enough bailouts. Puerto Rico is a commonwealth, not a state, and should not be allowed to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy," Huckabee told POLITICO.

Even among the candidates who support allowing Puerto Rico to file for bankruptcy, there was a visible cautiousness about using the dreaded term.

"We're not talking about a bailout, we're talking about a fair shot at success," Clinton said in Tuesday's statement.

Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton to share stage in Fort Lauderdale // Tampa Bay Times // Alex Leary – July 7, 2015

Jeb Bush will speak before the National Urban League Conference in Fort Lauderdale on July 31, illustrating his campaign's goal of broadening the GOP message.

Hillary Clinton is also addressing the group, as is Ben Carson and Martin O'Malley.

"The candidates will share their visions for saving our cities on Friday, July 31, during a session entitled 'Off To The Races: The 2016 Presidential Candidates' Plenary,' " according to a release.
"As we convene in Florida to deliberate solutions to the economic and social challenges our cities are facing, it's vital that those contending for the highest office in the land be part of that conversation," National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial said.

The candidates' plenary will take place on the second full day of the Conference themed "Save Our Cities: Education, Jobs + Justice."

"Our focus was inspired by a year that saw little accountability for law enforcement responsible for killing unarmed Black men, teenagers and children; a continual assault on voting rights; widening economic inequality gaps; and an increasingly partisan education debate far more rooted in political agendas than in putting our children first," Morial said.

Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton support bankruptcy rights for Puerto Rico // CNN – July 7, 2015

Puerto Rico has $73 billion in debt that it says it can't repay. Now it has two very powerful allies on its side: Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton.

Both 2016 presidential candidates support giving Puerto Rico the same legal bankruptcy rights that states have. Puerto Rico's governor has been lobbying hard for that right.
There's a bill in Congress to give Puerto Rico what it wants, but it has no co-sponsors. That's why Bush and Clinton's backing could be key.

"I think that Puerto Rico ought to be treated as other states are treated as it relates to restructuring," Bush said during a visit to the island in late April. Other Republican candidates have largely stayed silent on the issue thus far.

On Tuesday, Clinton jumped on board as well.

"Congress should provide Puerto Rico the same authority that states already have to enable severely distressed government entities, including municipalities and public corporations, to restructure their debts," she said in a statement on her campaign website.

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley has been a vocal supporter as well.

What it means: To be clear, no state can file for bankruptcy. But the 50 states do have the right to allow municipalities -- cities, towns and other local government entities -- within their states to file for bankruptcy.

Puerto Rican municipalities want to be able to file for what is known as Chapter 9 bankruptcy like Detroit and Vallejo, California did.

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The benefit of bankruptcy is that is allows a broke government to shed some of its debt -- if a judge approve a municipality's game plan.

Will Congress act? The bill in Congress would give Puerto Rico the same rights that states have under Chapter 9. So far, the bill's only supporter in Congress is Puerto Rico's representative, who get to vote.

It might seem like a small issue in Washington, but it's a big issue for financial markets.
Puerto Rico has a tiny population -- about the size of Connecticut -- but it has a debt the size of a big state like New York. Over 20% of U.S. bond funds hold Puerto Rican debt.
The island doesn't have enough money to pay back its creditors. Some have even taken to calling it "America's Greece." Governor Alejandro García Padilla says Puerto Rico is in a "death spiral."

A lot of the trouble stems from Puerto Rico's power company, known as PREPA. It alone has $9 billion. It would be a game changer if PREPA could declare bankruptcy.

Why bankruptcy? "Chapter 9 is really the only way to impose some sort of restructuring on all the bondholders," says David Tawil, a lawyer and president of Maglan Capital.
Bond holders don't want Puerto Rico to get that because it opens the possibility that they would be forced to take a loss on their bond investment if a bankruptcy judge sides with the island.

But the proposal has little currency in Washington.

"The bill that is in Congress has no co-sponsors and no support in Congress, although it does have a fair amount of support among bankruptcy experts," says Juliet Moringiello, a professor at Widener University School of Law and a former scholar of the American Bankruptcy Institute.

Moringiello notes that Chapter 9 bankruptcy is rare, although the majority of filings have been public hospitals and utilities like PREPA, not cities.

Where the candidates stand: Jeb Bush has been a vocal supporter of statehood for Puerto Rico -- if the island's citizens want that.

"I think statehood is the best path, personally," Bush said in April. Since then, he has clarified that he thinks the island needs to make a number of changes to deal with its debt beyond just declaring bankruptcy, including reducing some benefits for workers.
On the Democratic side, O'Malley was an early supporter of Puerto Rico getting Chapter 9 bankruptcy rights.
Senator Bernie Sanders has voiced his support for Greece, but has yet to say much on Puerto Rico.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

The non-Clinton alternative for Democrats **// WaPo // Eugene Robinson – July 7, 2015**

Is Bernie Sanders the political reincarnation of Eugene McCarthy? I doubt it, but let's hope he makes the Democratic presidential race interesting.

I don't know if front-runner Hillary Clinton shares my wish, but she ought to. I'm not of the school that believes competition for competition's sake is always a good thing. But Sanders has an appeal for younger, more liberal, more idealistic Democrats that Clinton presently lacks. If she competes for these voters — and learns to connect with them — she will have a much better chance of winning the White House.

Sanders, the Vermont independent and the only self-described socialist in the Senate, drew packed houses during a weekend barnstorming tour of Iowa. The 2,500 people who attended his rally in Council Bluffs were believed to be the largest crowd a candidate from either party has drawn in the state. This followed last week's triumph in Madison, Wis. , where Sanders packed a 10,000-seat arena with cheering supporters — the biggest event anywhere thus far in the campaign.

At the same time, Sanders is rising in the polls. The latest Quinnipiac survey showed Clinton with a 19-point lead in Iowa, 52 percent to 33 percent. As recently as May, Clinton had a 45-point advantage.

Comparisons have been made to McCarthy, the Minnesota senator whose opposition to the Vietnam War galvanized support on college campuses and stunned the Democratic Party establishment. McCarthy's showing in the 1968 New Hampshire primary — he received 42 percent of the vote — helped lead incumbent Lyndon Johnson to pull out of the race.

But let's not get carried away. A lead of 19 points is a problem any politician would love to have. Sanders's

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numbers had nowhere to go but up, and Clinton's nowhere but down. What's safe to say at present is that Sanders — not Martin O'Malley, Jim Webb or Lincoln Chafee — has become the non-Clinton alternative for Democrats who, for whatever reason, are suffering some Clinton fatigue.

One thing Sanders has going for himself is palpable authenticity. He is the antithesis of slick. To say there's nothing focus-grouped about the man is to understate; one doubts he knows what a focus group is. "Rumpled" is the word most often used to describe him, but that's not quite right; it's not as if his suits are unpressed or his shirttails untucked. He's just all substance and no style — which, to say the least, makes him stand out among politicians.

Clinton, by contrast, has always struggled to let voters see the "authentic" her rather than the carefully curated, every-hair-in-place version her campaigns have sought to project. Part of the problem, I believe, is that women in politics are held to an almost impossible standard; no male candidate's wardrobe choice or tone of voice receives such microscopic scrutiny. But she also distances herself by campaigning as if she's protecting a big lead — which she is — and wants to avoid offending anyone. Last, when asked her favorite ice cream flavor, she replied, "I like nearly everything." What, vanilla lovers were going to abandon her if she had said chocolate?

Sanders's main appeal, however, is that he speaks unabashedly for the party's activist left. He is witheringly critical of Wall Street, wants to break up the big banks, proposes single-payer health care and promises to raise taxes. He voted against the 2003 invasion of Iraq; Clinton, then a senator, voted for it but now says that she made a mistake.

Eight years ago, Barack Obama made opposition to the Iraq war his signature issue and rode it to victory in Iowa and beyond. Will lightning strike the Clinton machine twice?

Not the same kind of lightning, surely, and not in the same manner. Obama is a uniquely gifted politician whose appeal went beyond the issues. He was able to make voters believe not just in him but also in themselves and their power to reshape the world. And as the first African American with a legitimate chance to become president, he gave the nation a chance to make history.

This time, Clinton is the candidate with history on her side. The fact that she could be the first woman elected president is not enough, by itself, to win her the nomination. But it does matter. She, like Obama, offers voters the chance to feel a sense of accomplishment.

And nothing about Clinton's past remotely compares with the millstone of Vietnam that weighed LBJ down and ultimately caused him to give up. I just don't see a McCarthy scenario brewing — or an Obama scenario, either.

How Politico became a GOP stooge: Republicans want to destroy Hillary Clinton—and the media is helping them out // Salon // Heather Digby Parton – July 7, 2015

Aaron Blake at The Washington Post wrote a piece yesterday entitled, "The Clinton campaign is roping off reporters. But who will cry for us?" in which he lamented the treatment the press received over the weekend at the hands of Hillary Clinton. Again. If you were to read the twitter feeds of political reporters as it unfolded, it was a trauma they will not soon forget.

Here is Politico's Glenn Thrush, who saw the deeper meaning of the event immediately:

The weirdly obsessive Clinton twitter stalker Maggie Haberman of the New York Times brought all the strands of Clinton's various alleged crimes together:

Even three days later, everyone's still abuzz:

Aaron Blake recounted the event in all its chilling detail and then rather sheepishly admitted that nobody in America really gives a damn about how Hillary Clinton treats the press. (A point I made a month ago.) After all, the press is held in only slightly higher esteem by the public than loan sharks and puppy mill operators. The thinly veiled threat underneath all this outrage is that the media will react to being treated badly by giving the candidate bad press, but it's pretty clear that train left the station a long time ago when it comes to Clinton, so the cost-benefit analysis probably doesn't argue in favor of the campaign giving a damn either.

As it happens, another political reporter wrote a piece about the way the press covers Hillary Clinton yesterday and it was quite a blockbuster confessional. Jonathan Allen of Vox laid it all out:

The Clinton rules are driven by reporters' and editors' desire to score the ultimate prize in contemporary journalism: the scoop that brings down Hillary Clinton and her family's political empire. At least in that way, Republicans and the media have a common interest.

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I understand these dynamics well, having co-written a book that demonstrated how Bill and Hillary Clinton used Hillary's time at State to build the family political operation and set up for their fourth presidential campaign. That is to say, I've done a lot of research about the Clintons' relationship with the media, and experienced it firsthand. As an author, I felt that I owed it to myself and the reader to report, investigate, and write with the same mix of curiosity, skepticism, rigor, and compassion that I would use with any other subject. I wanted to sell books, of course. But the easier way to do that — proven over time — is to write as though the Clintons are the purest form of evil. The same holds for daily reporting. Want to drive traffic to a website? Write something nasty about a Clinton, particularly Hillary.

As a reporter, I get sucked into playing by the Clinton rules. This is what I've seen in my colleagues, and in myself.

This does not come as a surprise to many observers. It's been obvious for more than 20 years. But it's refreshing to see a journalist admit that the dynamic is driven by the media's Ahab-like obsession with bringing down Hillary Clinton — and that this means they have a common interest with Republicans. It's not ideological, it's professional.

Allen goes on to list the unofficial rules for covering the Clintons and elaborates on each one. (There are, by his reckoning, five.) He notes that the media must always assume that the Clintons are acting in bad faith until proven otherwise, that everything is newsworthy (even things that really are nobody's business) because the Clintons are like America's royal family, and because everything Hillary Clinton does is, so the thinking goes, "fake and calculated." These assumptions distort political coverage in a dozen different ways. But it's two rules in particular which should be of very serious concern to the public.

The first is, "everything, no matter how ludicrous-sounding, is worthy of a full investigation by federal agencies, Congress, the 'vast right-wing conspiracy,' and mainstream media outlets." Allen notes that the Clintons have been investigated for 25 years and have probably revealed more about their lives, some of it intensely personal, than any other people in American public life. This has made them protective of their privacy and, perhaps perversely, fatalistic about the media's hostility. But he also notes something that we should acknowledge is a big problem for our politics:

This is, for Republicans, a reasonable strategy. They know that if they keep investigating her, it will do two things: keep the media writing about scandals that might knock her out, and turn off voters who don't want a return to the bloodsport politics of the 1990s. They leak partial stories to reporters hungry for that one great scoop that will give them the biggest political scalp of them all.

He points out that the Republicans are never able to deliver, which often plays into Clinton's hands, but that's hardly a justification for the media's behavior. There is nothing new about this arrangement. This was exactly what happened back in the 1990s. It's embarrassing for the press that so many of their ranks are either unaware of this history, don't care about it, or are taking up the challenge to harpoon that big fish without having the slightest compunction about being used by political operatives for partisan purposes. It's tragic for our country that after the ridiculous spectacle of impeachment, a stolen election, the war in Iraq, and an epic economic meltdown that our political media is still this shallow. That they are willing to enable this three-ring circus that calls itself today's Republican Party in order to gain power is frightening.

Allen's other point is: "Every allegation, no matter how ludicrous, is believable until it can be proven completely and utterly false. And even then, it keeps a life of its own in the conservative media world." That correlates to another Clinton rule, which is the "Where there's smoke there's fire" tactic. The idea is for there to be so many accusations floating around that a reasonable person must conclude that there's something to it, even if nothing has been proven. That, after all, is what Benghazi is all about.

Allen writes:

Terrorists killed four Americans. The conservative echo chamber seems convinced Hillary Clinton is at fault. The reasonable argument to make is that we shouldn't have been in Libya in the first place and the murders were a down-the-chain result of bad policy. But the right wing wants to prove that they happened because of Clinton's actions — or inaction — on security matters.

They've talked about security requests denied for Libya (never mind that the stronger contingent would have been in Tripoli, not Benghazi, and that there's no evidence Clinton herself was aware of the requests), a stand-down order that prevented reinforcements from arriving in Benghazi (never mind that they wouldn't have gotten there until after the fighting was done, and that even a House Republican committee found that there was no such order) and, most of absurd of all, that Clinton knew the attack was coming. This is how Limbaugh put it in May.

"The fact is they knew about the Benghazi attack 10 days before it was to happen. They knew who did it."

The freedom of the conservative media to make wild allegations often acts as a bulldozer forcing reporters to check into the charges and, in doing so, repeat them. By the time they've been debunked, they're part of the American public's collective consciousness. Or, as it's been said, a lie gets around the world before the truth gets

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out of bed.

There's more to this, however, and it goes hand in hand with the previous rule. These investigations are little more than fishing expeditions in which Republicans demand more and more information and then selectively leak juicy bits to the press for partisan purposes. Trey Gowdy's Benghazi select committee has descended into farce already, but that hasn't stopped the New York Times from breathlessly reporting it like it's Watergate.

But it's not just The Times, although they've been among the worst. Eric Wemple of the Washington Post reported that Representative Elijah Cummings came out swinging at Politico yesterday for running with leaked Clinton emails which they didn't actually see, based on intel from unidentified "sources." The selectively presented, and allegedly undisclosed, emails gave the appearance that Clinton was working hand-in-glove with adviser Sidney Blumenthal to circulate Benghazi talking points from the Media Matters, where Blumenthal was then on payroll, inside the White House — an insinuation used by Clinton detractors to suggest some sort of Benghazi coverup.

However, as the Washington Post explains:

But as Cummings notes in his letter, it didn't go down like that. The [Hillary Clinton email cited by Politico] actually attaches to a different e-mail correspondence between Clinton and Blumenthal, from a week before Blumenthal's boast about those Benghazi links. As documents released by the State Department last week show, Clinton was actually intent on sending to the White House a Salon article claiming that the campaign of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney was planning a brand-new line of attack based on Benghazi.

Cummings rips away, "It appears that this source fed Politico an inaccurate characterization of these emails and that Politico accepted this mischaracterization without obtaining the emails themselves. The source apparently took an email that was produced to the Select Committee in February, isolated Secretary Clinton's statement about the White House, removed it from the original email exchange about the presidential debates, and then added it to a different email exchange involving Media Matters." Another point: The Politico story cites a source as saying that the e-mail wasn't among those turned over by the State Department. Cummings writes that State had passed it along in February.

Politico later issued a correction (which was clear as mud and clarified nothing).

Cummings is going to have his hands full trying to sort out these leaks. It's a dirty job, but apparently he's decided that somebody has to do it, so that somebody will be him. It remains to be seen if his work to correct the record of this Benghazi committee will have any effect. And who knows if Jonathan Allen's piece will be taken seriously by his fellow political reporters. It's clear they are using Clinton's lack of "accessibility" as a lame excuse for their sophomoric behavior, but it shouldn't take one of their own writing a Vox explainer on "the Clinton rules" for them to understand that they are being willing dupes for Republican partisans who are laughing behind their backs at their credulousness.

Hillary Clinton doesn't need to be handled with kid gloves. The presidency is a tough job. But neither does she deserve to be held to a different standard than anyone else or subject to a set of rules that are based upon lazy, false assumptions fed by partisans with an agenda they aren't even trying to hide. The fact that the press is falling so comfortably into that old groove is a testament to the fact that nobody ever paid a price for what they did the first time.

Stop the bed-wetting: Hillary Clinton's doing fine // CNN // Dan Pfeiffer – July 7, 2015

It's officially bed-wetting season in the political world when it comes to Hillary Clinton's campaign. With stories this week in Politico and The New York Times about the newly competitive Democratic primary, the whispers have begun about whether this is 2008 all over again. Back then, Clinton was defeated by Obama, an insurgent, progressive outsider.

Bed-wetting is a term of art in Obamaland. In 2008, Obama's then campaign manager David Plouffe made it famous in a New York Times article; it refers to the premature panic among pundits and party stalwarts alike during trying political times. While bed-wetting is not an affliction exclusive to a party, Democrats do seem to have a special affinity for it.

With Vermont Sen. (and presidential candidate) Bernie Sanders raising millions, exciting progressives, drawing crowds and surging in the polls, it's suddenly the Summer of Sanders. Cue the second-guessing and the handwringing over Clinton and her campaign strategy.

But while Clinton's campaign to date hasn't been perfect, she is doing exactly what she needs to do to ensure that she is the Democratic nominee and the 45th President of the United States.

A little perspective:

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First, despite Sanders' very impressive fundraising, Clinton outraised him by about $30 million. In the second quarter of 2007, Obama actually outraised Clinton. Sanders has surged in the polls, impressively consolidating the anti-Clinton vote, but the latest polls have him down 40 points nationally and 19 points in Iowa.

While Clinton had huge leads in national polls at this point in 2007, Obama was always in striking distance in the early states. This cycle, the party is much more united around Clinton; in 2008, some of the best fundraisers and strategists were looking for an alternative and found one in Obama.

Second, Sanders is a wonderful senator and a very important voice in the Democratic Party, but he is not Barack Obama.

President Obama is a once-in-a-generation political talent -- a phenomenal speechmaker and "retail politician" who is quick on his feet and possesses the ability to see around corners.

Obama also had natural inroads into two critical constituencies within the party: white college educated progressives and the African-American community, giving him broader appeal than any previous insurgent candidate.

Finally, Hillary Clinton circa 2015 is not Hillary Clinton circa 2008.

Her first campaign was beset by timidity, dissension and constant changes in strategy in reaction to the D.C conventional wisdom du jour. In Obama headquarters, we would shake our heads in bemusement at some of her campaign's decisions as we realized it was either using an outdated playbook or no playbook at all.
Her campaign this time has been disciplined, cohesive and bold. Sure there are tactical things they could have done differently, but they have a smart strategy and are executing it with a precision that reminds me of our campaign in 2008.

One of her biggest mistakes her 2008 campaign made was treating field organization as an afterthought. Our field organizers and volunteers were the heart of Obama's 2008 campaign; they were its most valued asset, were given speaking slots at campaign rallies and developed relationships with the candidate.

At her recent campaign rally in New Hampshire, one of Clinton's field organizers addressed the crowd. Reporters took mild notice, but on the various text chains, email threads and social media feeds that constitute the informal Obama alumni network, this was taken as a sign that this Hillary Campaign gets it.

There is a long road to travel before the Iowa caucuses with many potential pitfalls and a lot of work ahead for Clinton. Sanders is running a great race and the Democratic Party (and Clinton) are better for it. Clinton is not inevitable, and a Sanders win is far from impossible.

However, it's worth remembering with that with all of the Clinton campaign's mistakes and Obama's talents and advantages in 2008, we barely beat her. This time around, the environment is better and she is a better candidate, running a much better campaign against a less well-known opponent with fewer resources and a narrower coalition.

For all the contretemps about emails, speeches and roped-off reporters, elections are about fundamentals and the fundamentals point to a decisive if hard fought victory for Clinton.

A lot can change in the coming months, but at this point in the race, everyone should stop all the bed-wetting.

Donald Trump's Latino comments are just GOP orthodoxy in a cruder shell // The Guardian // Jeb Lund – July 7, 2015

alling Donald Trump an idiot is not one of those things you will find on a list of the world's most arduous tasks. But if you looked to the current field of viable Republican presidential candidates, you'd think it amounted to an impossibility on par with finding an error in the Bible. A party that desperately needs to win more Latino votes in the 2016 election evidently considers condemning Trump's depiction of Latin American immigrants as rapists and fiends something worth half-heartedly getting around to eventually.

"When Mexico (meaning the Mexican Government) send its people, they're not sending their best," he said last month, when announcing his candidacy. "They're not sending you (pointing to the audience). They're not sending you (pointing again). They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems to us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume are good people!"

A dozen heroic culture warriors ordinarily wouldn't take weeks to call out this sort of vitriol, especially coming from a TV personality who's spent 10 years sounding as tough as a cabbie who talks your ear off about the bar fight he broke up between "three different guys who knew karate." But there's an explanation for that lack of courage. You can't castigate Donald Trump for acting like a stereotyping, fear-mongering bully when he's just

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following your lead. The best you can do is accuse him of being loutish while doing it.

Here are some examples of this responsive leadership in action:

Rand Paul, 17 days later: "I don't know what he's been saying, but uh, he apparently is drawing a lot of attention." He apparently chuckled when saying this, so the thing he didn't know about was funny. Also, I suppose we should hope that "I didn't hear the thing you just said" works as well in the White House as it does as an excuse to avoid doing the dishes by pretending that you're unaware your spouse just asked you to.

Bobby Jindal, 19 days later: "I don't view people as members of ethnic groups or economic groups. This president has done too much to divide us, so obviously I disagree with [Trump's] comments. I think we need to look at people as individuals." Disagreed how? Also, Jindal's reply here is from the Baby's First Libertarian Argument Handbook, e.g. Racism and classism are forms of collectivism, which is a form of leftism, which is why leftists like Obama are the ones who create racism and class warfare.

Chris Christie, 20 days later: Trump's comments were wrong and "inappropriate," and "[I] won 51% of the Hispanic vote." Points for Christie, but after about 10 seconds on Trump, he immediately pivoted from Trump to call out Ted Cruz for being hypocritical about criticizing other Republicans. There's no indication how or why Trump is wrong or why Christie appeals to Latinos; instead, the next five minutes of the interview address Cruz, entitlement reform and tone-policing of Trump. Speaking of which:

Rick Santorum, 19 days later: "While I don't like the verbiage he's used, I like the fact that he is focused on a very important issue for American workers and particularly, legal immigrants in this country." Misuse of verbiage aside, this ducks the substance of Trump's comments, which weren't about American workers but about Mexican "felons" streaming over the border. Instead, Santorum implies that what Trump said was wrong because of how he said it, which probably isn't surprising coming from someone who, on the 2012 campaign trail, addressed "entitlements" with, "I don't want to make black people's lives better by giving them somebody else's money."

To be fair, some Republican candidates did condemn Trump. Former New York Governor George Pataki emphatically criticized The Donald, but that's the sort of thing you can do when you're polling about as well as write-in votes for Captain Kirk. Lindsey Graham, who is running for Secretary of Defense in someone else's administration, was likewise free to say something realistic.

Even a few viable candidates reluctantly stood up as slowly and vaguely as possible.

Rick Perry, 19 days later: "I will stand up and say that those [comments] are offensive, which they were." Again, Perry eventually tone-polices Trump, but what that means is anyone's guess. This is the same guy whose concerns about the appearance of offensiveness to minorities was low enough to see him vacation at N*****rhead Ranch. This is also the same guy who, in August 2014, told CNN's Candy Crowley, "Since September of '08, we have seen 203,000 individuals who have illegally come into the United States, into Texas, booked into Texas county jails. And, Candy, these individuals are responsible for over 3,000 homicides and almost 8,000 sexual assaults." Which is a bunch of BS.

Jeb Bush, 14 days later: Bush said that Trump does "not represent the values of the Republican Party," in Spanish. In English, he said, "I don't agree with him. I think he's wrong." Which, hey, fair play to Bush. Four days later, he added that he "absolutely" took personal offense to Trump's comments, in light of his own family. Bush's wife, Columba, is Mexican. One wonders, though, if Bush forgot about that for two weeks.

Marco Rubio, 17 days later: "Trump's comments are not just offensive and inaccurate, but also divisive," the candidate said, before immediately laying racial problems at Obama's feet and reassuring the base about his own policies. "Our next president needs to be someone who brings Americans together – not someone who continues to divide. Our broken immigration system is something that needs to be solved, and comments like this move us further from – not closer to – a solution. We need leaders who offer serious solutions to secure our border and fix our broken immigration system." Those serious solutions amount to "securing the border" in the same vague but absolutist way that Trump would, in addition to imposing immigration standards that would not have applied to either of his parents. In effect, what Donald Trump said about the border and immigration was wrong because he labeled immigrants as felons, rather than wanting to lock them out on general principle.

But if you want to take the temperature of the Republican response to Trump, look to Ted Cruz, who in his grandstanding way can't help but give away the game. Fifteen days after Trump's comments, Cruz defended Trump against the loss of relationship with NBC, stating, "I think he speaks the truth, and I think NBC is engaging in political correctness that is silly and that is wrong." Days later, on NBC, Cruz added, "I salute Donald Trump for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration. ...The Washington cartel supports amnesty, and I think amnesty's wrong."

Brand recognize Brand, and Cruz is happy to cross-promote one as insubstantial as his. As my colleague Simon Maloy points out, it's good long-term strategy. Whenever Trump fizzles out or realizes that campaigning is work,

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his voters have to go somewhere, and Ted Cruz wants them to have a home. And Trump is currently polling second in Iowa and New Hampshire. Ted Cruz's interest in those voters is no different than any other candidate's. But, like Homer Simpson, he keeps accidentally saying the innocuous things in his head and the Republican inner monologue out loud.

Look back at that list. Rand Paul ducked the question, while everyone else avoided it or criticized Trump for the way he said things, not for having bad ideas about immigration. The most principled statements come from dead-enders, wafflers or hypocrites. Jeb Bush's objection showed up two weeks late and came out of the mouth of a guy who spent a career being fairly positive about immigration before doing a 180 back in 2012 to appeal to hardline Tea Partiers and is now trying to walk that back. Rick Perry is basically Trump with better hair and focus. And Marco Rubio's immigration policy probably differs from Trump's only by one gaudy border fence.

The party has run so long on nativist anxiety about foreigners plundering lady liberty, stealing jobs and slowly strangling the republic to death that the next step is just calling immigrants rapists, thieves and murderers. And thanks to years of purity testing in Republican primaries, after trying to ignore the issue for weeks, the remaining candidates have only two options left: try to join or outflank Trump to the right or try to non-ignore ignore him by writing him off as "inappropriate."

The rest of the world can just call Trump an idiot, a man with few ambitions outside of being Trumpy, whose remaining strands of what one might call policy are wisps of spun sugar extruded by hot air, reminding everyone of the tacky coif that sits atop his blanched Smithfield Ham of a face. The Republican Party can't even luxuriate in ad hominem. Yeah, they could call him an empty suit and a bozo, but that stops working the moment anyone notices that he sounds like a slightly loaded version of themselves.

Why Hillary Clinton Is Revising Expectations Downward // Commentary Magazine // Noah Rothman – July 7, 2015

"I'm baaaack!" former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced as she took the stage in Iowa at former Senator Tom Harkin's annual steak fry event in September of last year. Presidential campaigns are replete with bizarre moments, but perhaps none were as curious as Clinton implicitly comparing herself to the poltergeist that torments little Carol Anne in the classic flick of the same name. For a campaign that is itself haunted by the ghosts of failure, it would have been in the best interests of the inevitable Democratic nominee to make the case for candidacy beyond her own prohibitive stature within her Party. If that pillar were to collapse, Clinton's viability as Barack Obama's successor would soon follow. Today, as the specter of a modestly competitive Democratic primary looms, Clinton's campaign is at work setting back expectations for how well she will perform in the early primary states and, in doing so, is chipping away at the central pillar holding her candidacy aloft.

In an appearance on MSNBC on Monday, Clinton campaign communications director and former White House communications official Jennifer Palmieri conceded that the former secretary's campaign had become formally "worried" about the insurgent challenge to her inevitability mounted by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. "He will be a serious force for the campaign, and I don't think that will diminish," Palmieri confessed.

When the New York Times investigated the thinking inside the Clinton campaign, reporters discovered that there was emerging consensus that the coronation had been abruptly called off. "I think we underestimated that Sanders would quickly attract so many Democrats in Iowa who weren't likely to support Hillary," an unnamed advisor told the Times. Apparently, that fear was confirmed by other similarly well-placed sources. Ultimately, the Times report suggested what former Democratic advisor Joe Trippi contended outright: "She could lose Iowa."

Clinton's support has ebbed in recent weeks, particularly in Iowa among likely Democratic caucus-goers. The most recent Quinnipiac survey of Democrats in the Hawkeye State showed Sanders support had more than doubled since May to 33 percent while Clinton's had ebbed some from 60 to 53 percent. In a caucus state, in which energy and enthusiasm are the central elements of victory, the candidate with the most animated supporters can engineer an upset – as Clinton, who came in third in Iowa in 2008 behind Barack Obama and John Edwards, would attest.

And if Clinton's support is ebbing, she only has herself to blame. Clinton's campaign has not substantially adapted to changing political circumstances in almost a year. "[H]er remarks were neither exceptional in what she said nor particularly passionate in how she delivered them," Washington Post columnist Dan Balz wrote after digesting Clinton's steak fry performance. "They were safe and largely predictable, a kind of Democratic Message 101 heading into the most important stretch of the fall campaign."

But the midterm campaign came and went and Clinton's tactics failed to evolve. Her campaign remains safe and predictable; she projects the air of a candidate who is allergic to unscripted events and substantial contact with unscreened voters. Clinton's aversion to exposing herself to press scrutiny neared cartoonish levels when she was photographed perambulating down a New Hampshire street amid a Fourth of July parade with the media gaggle almost literally in tow, straining at the ropes that held them at a safe distance from the lofty figure in their midst.

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So why would Clinton's campaign want to shed her formerly cultivated air of inevitability? Even Trippi concedes that Clinton would merely shrug off an unthinkable loss in Iowa and go on to win the nomination anyway. Why would the campaign that has spent so much energy and capital to stave off a reprise of what she described in her memoirs as an "excruciating" defeat in the Hawkeye State embrace the prospect that history might repeat itself? Perhaps because Sanders is the best challenger that Clinton could have hoped for.

A fringe politician with a small but fanatical following who once held radical and deeply impolitic social views poses about as much challenge to Clinton as former Texas Rep. Ron Paul posed to Mitt Romney. Clinton is in no danger of losing her party's nomination to Sanders in the same way she would, say, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren. But if Clinton appears soft in a primary and, ultimately, beatable in a general, those beads of sweat dotting the brows of Democratic Party elders will soon grow into a cascading torrent. Draft efforts that failed to draw Warren, or any other credible Democrat, into the race will be resurrected. Democratic careerists who dared not challenge their party's anointed heir will think twice about whether they made the right move, and a late entry into the race might spark a stampede among skittish and unenthusiastic grassroots Clinton supporters. It is in Clinton's interests to cast Sanders as the best that the anti-Clinton elements in her party can do.

Is Hillary Clinton truly vulnerable in Iowa? Perhaps. A narrow loss is easy to envision. Might Sanders rob her of her party's nomination? That's far harder to imagine; at least, harder than it would be to see another credible Democrat with broader appeal and proper left-wing bona fides pulling off a successful coup. That's probably the true nightmare scenario that Clinton hopes to stave off by feigning injury.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

'Complicated' Support for Confederate Flag in White South // NYT // Richard Fausset – July 7, 2015

Brandon Heath, Haralson County's chief magistrate judge, flies the Confederate battle flag on his property. A version of it adorns the front bumper of his cherry-red Chevrolet pickup. It is painted on the wall of the gymnasium of his alma mater, Haralson County High School, where the sports teams are called the Rebels and Rebelettes.

Like a number of people in this rural, working-class county — which is 92 percent white and just beyond the creep of Atlanta's western suburbs — Mr. Heath believes that efforts to remove the flag from public spaces across the South are "plumb ridiculous." And he insists that his reverence for the banner has nothing to do with race.

"It's just about where we come from, and locally here, we're just real proud of that," said Mr. Heath, 35, an auctioneer who, when not in court, favors camouflage ball caps and speaks with an unhurried country twang. "It's all about your school, and your upraising, and who you are."

Support for the Confederate flag may be waning among Southern lawmakers in the aftermath of the church shootings in Charleston, S.C. But here in this county of 29,000 people, as in many other stretches of the white, working-class South, the flag remains a revered symbol, not only of the Confederate dead, but of a unique regional identity.

At the Georgia Peach Oyster Bar, President Obama's campaign poster, altered to say "Nope," combined with a Confederate flag. Credit Kevin Liles for The New York Times
In Haralson County, a ragged patch of low hills and homesteads at the southern tip of Appalachia, it can seem like the battle flag is baked into the culture. One finds it displayed on the welcome sign in Buchanan, the county seat, as part of the seal of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, alongside that of the Lions Club.

And while support for the flag is widespread here, its supporters, and their justifications, vary drastically: There are overt racists and avowed antiracists; students of history and those who seem oblivious to it; ardent defenders of the Lost Cause and others who do not understand why the blue-spangled X on a red field — as ubiquitous here as deer stands, church steeples and biscuits with gravy — can be so controversial.

"I just don't get why people are getting all mad about it," said Corey Doyle, 19.

Mr. Doyle, who was recently hired as a car salesman, was standing the other day with five other white protesters on a grassy berm outside the local Walmart, whose corporate office decided to pull Confederate merchandise from its shelves after the Charleston massacre.

The protesters waved the battle flag and an old version of the Georgia state flag. That state flag, which

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prominently incorporated the battle flag's design, was introduced in 1956 by an arch-segregationist state Legislature as courts were ordering the South to integrate. It was replaced in 2001 by lawmakers more sensitive to Georgia's image to outsiders.

Passing cars and trucks honked in solidarity as they turned into the parking lot.

Earnest Fryer, 28, an ice cream truck driver, was waving the old state flag. Asked about its segregationist origins, he drew a blank. To him, it was the flag that his father had given him, and one that had long adorned the wall of his room, he said. Like Mr. Heath and Mr. Doyle, Mr. Fryer insisted that his stand on the flag had nothing to do with matters of race.

"We don't want to offend nobody," Mr. Fryer said, noting that he was part Cherokee. Later, he said slavery was the "one thing that makes all the rest of my heritage look bad."

"But there's a lot more about us than that one thing," he added.

And yet that one thing still looms disturbingly large.

At Kimball's General Store, a popular meeting place here, a man who declined to give his name blamed blacks for the new assault on the flag, and muttered a racial slur. Near Mr. Heath's office at the county courthouse, a pickup parked beside a weatherworn house sported a pair of Confederate flags, and a window sticker that read "American Nazi Party."

Just across the county line, the Georgia Peach Oyster Bar has operated as a scandalous open secret. Its website features two Confederate battle flags, the description, "The Original Klan, Klam & Oyster Bar," and a stunningly virulent collection of racist signs. Patrons are confronted with a selection of crude cartoons and graffiti, and a menu that declares, on the appetizer page, "We cater to hangins'."

Mr. Heath acknowledged the existence of such sentiments here. But he also noted that this overwhelmingly white place, so committed to the flag, also elected a black man, H. Allen Poole, as the chairman of its Board of Commissioners in 2004, and has re-elected him twice. Last year, voters elected the state's first Asian-American Superior Court judge, Meng Lim, a Cambodian refugee who grew up in the Haralson County city of Bremen.

"It's complicated," Mr. Heath said.

At Haralson County High School, where the sports teams are called the Rebels and Rebelettes, students once voted by a wide margin to repaint the battle flag at the gym when it was defaced. Credit Kevin Liles for The New York Times

For Mr. Heath, the flag helped get him elected in 2008, when he bounced around the county's rural back roads in his pickup, hunting for votes. The battle flag was affixed to the front bumper. A 12-gauge shotgun was in the gun rack, and an old bloodhound was in the back.

It was all part of a package that validated Mr. Heath's regular-guy credentials and bolstered his argument that the magistrate court would be better run by a self-proclaimed good old boy with a high school diploma than by the lawyer who was the incumbent at the time.

Mr. Heath saw it as an appeal to a common culture, not a racial gesture, a way to show voters that he was one of them: conservative, Republican (the county went 81 percent for Mitt Romney in the 2012 presidential election) and, as he said, "salt of the earth."

On a recent weekday morning, Mr. Heath gave a brief tour of Haralson County, starting with Hutcheson's Memorial Chapel and Crematory, where he introduced the owner, Danny Hutcheson, the county coroner.

Mr. Hutcheson sat in a back room that was decorated with political and historical memorabilia, including a picture of an ancestor who, according to family legend, was robbed of his cattle by Yankee soldiers during the Civil War.

He says he does not display the flag for fear of upsetting his black friends and clients. But he defends those who do.

A reproduction of the old Georgia flag, which incorporates the Confederate battle flag, on Mr. Heath's truck. "It's just about where we come from, and locally here, we're just real proud of that," he said. Credit Kevin Liles for The New York Times

Mr. Heath drove on to the high school where the trophy room of the gym features the battle flag painted on the wall.

Such displays have caused trouble here in the past. In September 2000, someone painted over a flag at the gym, and students were allowed to vote on whether to repaint it. Repainting won by a vote to 861 to 150, according to

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news reports at the time. A group of black football players threatened to boycott a game, but that never materialized. It all seemed perplexing to Cain Jackson, a 22-year-old graduate, who is white.

“I don’t see how it’s racist to anybody,” he said.

Later, Mr. Heath paid a visit to Mr. Poole, the chairman of the county commission.

Mr. Poole, a Republican, said Southern governors were wrong to take the battle flag down. He noted that he, too, had graduated from Haralson County High School in 1974, and had played safety and outside linebacker on the football team.

“I was a Rebel,” he said, “for four years.”

But not everyone is so comfortable. Angelica Griffin is also an African-American, and also played sports at the high school. She said she was “terrified” to criticize the flag while she was there.

Ms. Griffin, 28, recently completed law school at DePaul University in Chicago and is studying for the bar exam. After the Charleston shootings, she said, she posted her displeasure with the flag on social media, sparking debate and pushback from white friends back home.

“People were so apt to defend it, without even thinking about other people and how that flag makes them feel,” she said.

But Ms. Griffin also spoke about the time, in 2008, when her mother lost her job. White Haralson County neighbors showered her mother with money and gift cards so she could afford to drop her off at college.

“You know what? It doesn’t make sense,” Ms. Griffin said. “It’s the great conundrum of the South.”

Air Force jet collides with Cessna over South Carolina, killing two people // WaPo // Mark Berman – July 7, 2015

Two people were killed Tuesday morning when an Air Force fighter jet and a small civilian plane collided in the air over South Carolina, according to federal authorities.

Emergency responders rushed to a region north of Charleston, S.C., shortly after 11 a.m., as word emerged of the rare midair collision that sent debris raining down on the area below.

There were two people killed aboard the small plane, a Cessna 150, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The pilot of the F-16 Fighting Falcon ejected safely, according to a statement from Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, S.C., where the aircraft originated.

Air Force officials later identified the pilot as Maj. Aaron Johnson of the 55th Fighter Squadron at Shaw. After the crash, Johnson was taken to a clinic at Joint Base Charleston to be examined.

Johnson was conducting a routine instrument training mission when the crash occurred, Col. Stephen F. Jost, commander of the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw, said at a news conference on Tuesday afternoon.

It did not appear that Johnson had any injuries, Jost said, and the pilot was expected to return to Shaw on Tuesday evening.

“I can tell you in my experience, I haven’t had any close calls because the Air Force is very disciplined about how it operates its aircraft,” Jost said.

While Jost said that he knows about military planes colliding, he has never seen a military plane crash into a civilian one.

“It’s very rare, because of the procedures and the equipment we have in place,” he said. “It’s unfortunate.”

A spokesman for Berkeley County said the two planes collided over Lewisfield Plantation in Moncks Corner, a town about 45 minutes north of Charleston. The county government said it was setting up a command center in that town, which is near Lake Moultrie.

“From what I understand from a witness, the military plane struck the other, small aircraft broadside,” Bill Salisbury, the Berkeley County coroner and chief of the county’s rescue squad, said at an earlier news conference on Tuesday afternoon.

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Debris was seen on land as well as in the water, officials said Tuesday. In the hours after the crash, authorities found the F-16's wreckage and some parts of the Cessna on the ground and the water, but they were still looking for other parts of the Cessna.

The Cessna left the Berkeley County airport in Moncks Corner just before 11 a.m. and were likely heading for Myrtle Beach, Salisbury said. He said that a wallet was found after the collision.

"We have no reason to believe that anyone survived the crash," Salisbury said.

He declined to identify the people who were on the Cessna, saying only that they were believed to be from the area. Salisbury said that officials were still working to find the two people.

"Our thoughts are with the friends and family of anyone aboard the civilian aircraft," Shaw Air Force Base officials said in the statement.

There were no reports of any injuries on the ground or any damage on the ground, a spokesman for Berkeley County said on Tuesday afternoon, about six hours after the crash.

"I turned around, and I saw the jet," Wayne Ware, who lives in the area, told the Post and Courier. "Pieces started falling out of the sky. His engine is lying right there at the campground."

INTERNATIONAL

Afghans and Taliban end peace talks with plans to meet again // WaPo // Sudarsan Raghavan & Tim Craig – July 7, 2015

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that peace talks between representatives of the Taliban and an Afghan government delegation had concluded but would restart after the Islamic holy month of Ramadan ends in two weeks.

The talks were held Tuesday night in Murree, a mountain resort 90 minutes north of Islamabad, Pakistan's capital.

"The participants exchanged views and ways and means to bring peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan," the Pakistani statement said. "It was agreed that for lasting peace in the region, each side would approach the process in sincerity and with full commitment."

The two sides met Tuesday in what Afghan officials hoped would be a step toward negotiating a peace deal with the insurgent group and ending the country's protracted war, Afghan and Pakistani officials said.

The gathering near Islamabad, under discussion for several weeks, was not the first time the two sides have met to discuss a cease-fire. Meetings between Taliban representatives and Afghan officials have taken place in recent months in Qatar, China and Norway.

At least one dead in Taliban attack on Afghan intelligence agency(0:48)
The Taliban on Twitter claimed responsibility Tuesday for two attacks that rocked the Afghan capital that same day. (Reuters)
But this meeting carried more significance because of Pakistan's long-standing ties to the Taliban, as well as Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's efforts to persuade Pakistan to play a significant role in bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table. It was the first time such a senior-level Afghan delegation has met face-to-face with Taliban representatives.

"We have always had a pretty clear view of what Pakistan can and cannot do in terms of delivering the Afghan Taliban to the negotiating table," a U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to freely discuss the peace efforts, said in a recent interview. "But we see, at this point, a sustained effort by the Pakistanis to support President Ghani's effort."

On Tuesday, Ghani's office announced through its official Twitter account that "a delegation from the High Peace Council of Afghanistan has traveled to Pakistan for negotiations with the Taliban."

The council is a body that includes former Taliban members. It was created in 2010 by then-President Hamid Karzai to negotiate with elements of the Taliban. The delegation also includes Afghanistan's deputy foreign minister, Hekmat Karzai, a cousin of the former president.

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According to Pakistani officials, the Taliban sent four delegates representing “all top Taliban leaders.” A second U.S. official said the United States also sent representatives to the talks after being invited by the Afghan and Pakistani governments.

The meeting between the two sides took place after the end of the daily Ramadan fast, according to Pakistani officials. The talks continued past midnight.

It remains to be seen whether the talks will have any impact on the conflict, now nearing the 14-year mark. Even as meetings have taken place in various countries, the Taliban has mounted fierce offensives across Afghanistan and dispatched suicide bombers to attack government officials and symbols of official power in Kabul and elsewhere.

The second U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive negotiations, said the fact that legitimate representatives of the Taliban and the Afghan government were meeting was significant.

“That means something. . . . But how you get to a process where you start talking about substantive issues is a difficult question,” the official said.

Some analysts have suggested that the Taliban’s offensives are an attempt to strengthen its bargaining position ahead of potential peace negotiations. There is also growing concern in the Taliban about the emergence of the Islamic State, which has been wooing Taliban factions to defect and align with its cause. In Nangahar province, the Taliban is engaging in skirmishes with defectors operating under the Islamic State brand who have managed to seize control of several areas of the province. The specter of more fighters joining the Islamic State could prompt the Taliban’s leadership to agree to a political settlement with the government, some analysts say.

But there is also the question of which Taliban the Afghan government is negotiating with. The insurgency is far less cohesive today than it was in 1996, when it quickly seized power across Afghanistan. With its supreme leader, Mohammad Omar, not seen in years, many factions have become more independent from the Taliban’s core leadership. It remains unclear whether many Taliban commanders would even accept a peace agreement — or would instead continue fighting or would join the Islamic State.

Pakistan is viewed by some as a questionable intermediary. Many Afghans, including powerful political and military figures, remain suspicious of Islamabad and its motives. The Pakistani military and intelligence services have long been viewed in both Afghanistan and Pakistan as the godfathers of the Taliban, nurturing it as a proxy and providing haven to its leadership.

Pakistani officials on Tuesday said they are honest brokers.

“Pakistan, as a friend of Afghanistan, is trying to facilitate result-oriented talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban,” said a Pakistani security official who spoke on the condition of anonymity under government rules.

In a meeting Tuesday with local reporters and political analysts, Ghani said the meeting in Islamabad would focus on “confidence-building and preparing key points in the peace talks agenda,” and would set the stage for future discussions, according to a statement from his office.

Ghani said that peace talks would be led by the Afghans, suggesting that the Pakistanis would play a less visible role, and that the government was speaking with the insurgents from a position of strength, the statement said. He also said that women will continue to be part of the peace delegations.

“Our goal is reducing the violence level in the initial phase and then end it finally,” Ghani said, according to the statement.

Eurozone Sets Sunday Deadline for Greece Financing Deal // WSJ // Gabriele Steinhauser And Matthew Dalton – July 7, 2015

Eurozone leaders set Greece a Sunday deadline to come up with new and even-tougher economic measures if the country wants to avoid defaulting on the European Central Bank and crashing out of the currency union.

As a sweetener for such a deal, leaders raised the possibility of some short-term financing to help Athens make a July 20 payment and—most important for Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras—action down the road to relieve Greece’s crushing debt burden.

Obstacles to an agreement that keeps Greece in the eurozone remain high, however. Most notably, the policy overhauls and budget cuts demanded go beyond those that were resoundingly rejected by Greek voters in a referendum last weekend.

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German Chancellor Angela Merkel said after Tuesday's emergency summit of eurozone leaders that it is up to Greece to act. "Of course, at the very end, one will have to discuss how debt sustainability can be recreated but not by saying first 'How do we close the gap?' but "What can Greece do?' " she said.

She added that Mario Draghi, the ECB president, made clear to leaders at the summit that Sunday would be "the right moment to take decisions" for Greece to avoid a meltdown of its banking system.

Mr. Tsipras said that the negotiation process would be fast. "I believe there will be a solution by the end of the week at the latest," he said.

Leaders said that the broad outlines of such an agreement needed to be nailed down at a new summit on Sunday of the leaders from the entire European Union, including nine countries that aren't in the eurozone.

Without some new cash in the coming weeks, Greece won't be able to make the €3.5 billion ($3.8 billion) bond payment to the ECB, leading to the country's second default in less than a month.

Such a nonpayment could push the ECB to cut emergency lending to Greek banks—a move that would send the country's financial system into meltdown and force the government to print its own money to recapitalize them.

Greek banks have been shut for more than a week, after the ECB put a limit on the emergency loans they had been drawing to buffer growing deposit outflows. Cash withdrawals from ATMs have been limited to €60 a day and depositors are unable to transfer money abroad.

Some short-term funding and the prospect of a longer-term bailout deal from the rest of the eurozone could allow Greece—and the ECB—to let banks reopen and normal economic activity in the country to resume.

Getting there, however, would require a formidable turnaround by Mr. Tsipras and his government.

In addition to the pension cuts and tax increases, rejected in the referendum, a new rescue package to keep the government afloat for two to three years would require overhaul measures that had dropped out of negotiations in recent months.

These, Ms. Merkel said, include changes to labor laws to make it easier to fire workers, changes to product markets and the privatization of state assets.

"This isn't about a program from today, or from yesterday or from 10 days ago, for a program until November…this program is, according to the now-withdrawn Greek request, meant to be two years long, so it is a multiyear program," Ms. Merkel said.

"That such a multiyear program has to entail more commitments is in itself clear," she added.

Only once that is clear, leaders would look at ways to make Greece's debt sustainable again, Ms. Merkel said, adding that any debt relief wouldn't include cuts to the nominal value of rescue loans.

But talks on details of a final plan could drag on for weeks.

"The short-term deal is only possible in a longer-term deal," French President François Hollande said at his postsummit news conference. "And the short-term deal has conditionality."

A senior French official pushed the idea that Greece could get emergency financing by passing just the budget measures of a potential agreement through the Greek parliament, and passing non-budgetary, more structural changes later. But Germany may not accept that.

Emboldened by Sunday's referendum, Mr. Tsipras came to Brussels to present his eurozone counterparts a proposal for interim financing until the end of the month, a senior Greek government official said.

That would give Greece and its creditors time to work out a longer-term financing deal and avoid defaulting on the ECB.

Mr. Tsipras was hoping to use the leverage from his referendum victory to win enough of a political nudge from the summit that would allow the ECB to keep its lifeline in place.

He raised the idea of interim financing with Ms. Merkel, Mr. Hollande and Jean-Claude Juncker, head of the European Union's executive Commission, ahead of the summit, the Greek official said.

Whether the new reform commitments from Mr. Tsipras were credible, "I can't say today," Ms. Merkel said later.

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At a meeting of finance ministers earlier Tuesday, Greece's new finance chief, Euclid Tsakalotos, read out proposals the government had presented last week, three European officials said.

But the new finance minister's performance raised some hopes among ministers that things had changed. "The minister Tsakalotos came for the first time in this meeting and he adopted clearly a constructive, moderate listening mode, which I think was appreciated by all the colleagues," Pierre Moscovici, the EU's economics commissioner said.

The International Monetary Fund, which Greece technically defaulted on last month, has said "comprehensive" debt relief should be included in any further bailout. But divisions still run deep in Europe.

Leaders warned Tuesday that failure to strike a deal could catapult Greece outside the common currency.

"We have a Grexit scenario prepared in detail," said Mr. Juncker.

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From:	"Jesse Lehrich" <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	5/21/2015 11:49:00 AM
Subject:	May 21st Nightly Press Traffic Summary

May 21st Nightly Press Traffic Summary

- Hillary Clinton will be in New Hampshire tomorrow, continuing to discuss small business as she stops by Smuttynose brewery in Hampton and a house party in Exeter.
- Today, we unveiled a Hillary Clinton LinkedIn account and blog post to creatively amplify her small business emphasis this week, as well as turning over the Twitter account to a Portsmouth, NH, small business owner. This push generated a ton of coverage today -- here's one example: MSNBC: Hillary Clinton's small business push on Twitter, LinkedIn.
- There are a bunch of stories in the works about our June 13th kickoff rally, which we announced today. No further details have been made available yet, including location.
- With the help of the research team, we killed a Bloomberg story trying to link HRC's opposition to the Magnitsky bill to a $500,000 speech that WJC gave in Moscow.
- A new batch of Benghazi emails is reportedly scheduled to be released by the State Department sometime tonight or tomorrow.
- POLITICO (Anna Palmer) is working on a story about how Hillary's candidacy is inspiring a new wave of female donors and fundraisers.
- Amy Chozick's story on the roundtable format Hillary has been emphasizing in the campaign so far is supposed to pop tomorrow.
- AP (Jack Gillum) is trying to write a story based off old docs from the 1999 White House Conference on Philanthropy alleging that WJC pushed laws granting tax breaks for charitable donations to help with fundraising for his library. The campaign is not participating in the story.
- Annie Karni's story on the campaign acquiring the Ready For Hillary email list is likely to come out tomorrow.
- Washington Post (Karen Tumulty) is doing a story growing out of the Sid emails which says the situation shows how HRC has had too many people who have her ear, which was among the fatal flaws for her campaign in 2008, but that this time it's different.
- Michael Hirsh's deep dive on Libya is still in the works, and could come out either tomorrow or next week.

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Jesse Lehrich | Rapid Response Communications
Hillary For America
781-307-2254 | @JesseLehrich
gchat: JesseLehrich

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Claudia Konyen" <Claudia.Konyen@gaisberg.eu>
To: Undisclosedrecipients:
Date: 10/3/2014 8:25:45 AM
Subject: Webinar: The Economic Consequences of the Ukraine Conflict | Oct. 16, 2014

On behalf of the initiative 21st Austria we are pleased to invite you to a free webinar.
For further information please find the invitation below.
We are looking forward to having you join us.

Kind regards,
Claudia Konyen

21st Austria

Claudia Konyen
Lugeck 4 (Eingang Bäckerstraße 1)
A-1010 Vienna
T +43 (0)1 522 78 04-47, M 0664 88 44 64 26
mail to: claudia.konyen@gaisberg.eu

21st Austria

wiiw
The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

The Economic Consequences of the Ukraine Conflict
Join us for a webinar on Oct 16, 2014 at 4:00 PM CEST.
Register now!
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1554817555374460930

The Ukraine conflict is having serious consequences. The country is in a deep recession, Russian growth forecast was slashed down and the EU's frail recovery is threatened by a weakening demand in the eastern neighbourhood.

On behalf of 21st Austria and the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) researcher Peter Havlik will present the institute's current analyses and assess the economic impact on individual European countries.

After holding the position of Deputy Director at wiiw for more than 20 years Peter Havlik is senior economist at wiiw and guest research scholar at IIASA in Laxenburg, Austria. His current research is focusing on issues related to European and Euroasian integration, competitiveness, economic developments in the CESEE countries. Peter Havlik who studied economics, economic statistics, computer sciences and sociology also worked as a consultant to the OECD, The World Bank, European Commission, the Czech and Slovak governments and a number of private companies. He was visiting professor at the Hitotsubashi University Tokyo and the chief economist at the Russian-European Center for Economic Policy (RECEP, TACIS) in Moscow.

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) is one of the principle centres for research on Central, East and Southeast Europe with 40 years of experience.

21st Austria is an initiative founded in late 2011 by leading Austrian companies together with the Austrian Central Bank and the Vienna Stock Exchange in order to start a dialogue on economic growth in Europe, with a special focus on Austria and the CEE region. It is a unique effort to explain the current basis of the country's global competitive position and to share learnings and ideas for the future.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
View System Requirements

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From: "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/9/2015 12:57:23 PM
Subject: Fwd: USA Today: One year out: 5 big questions that could shape the 2016 election

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Varun Anand <vanand@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Mon, Nov 9, 2015 at 6:31 PM
Subject: USA Today: One year out: 5 big questions that could shape the 2016 election
To: Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >

usatoday.com http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2015/11/05/5-big-questions-2016-election-trump-clinton-obama/75056938/

One year out: 5 big questions that could shape the 2016 election

Susan Page

As we enter the final year of the 2016 presidential race, what are the key questions that will shape the elections and what should we be looking for

It's almost precisely one year until Election Day 2016. Between now and then, there will be no shortage of furors and fireworks, attack ads and polls. What's noise and what's noteworthy? Here's a look at five big questions with the power to shape, or reshape, who wins the White House on Nov. 8, 2016.





Hillary Clinton at a campaign event at Clark Atlanta University on Oct. 30. (Photo: David Goldman, AP)

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton has accused the House Republicans who are investigating her use of a private email server while secretary of State of waging partisan warfare. Last month, she emerged relatively unscathed from a congressional grilling about that and the

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2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans. But she continues to face an investigation by the FBI's Counterintelligence Division into classified information found in those emails. At issue is whether she or her aides failed to appropriately safeguard intelligence information.

A negative report or even a decision to prosecute — by the Justice Department of a Democratic administration she had served — would be hard to dismiss as just politics.

Peter Zeidenberg, a former federal prosecutor who has handled some celebrated cases against public officials, says given the information known publicly, he doubts it will go that far. "Using her own server — just for the obvious reasons everyone has identified, including her — is foolish, and maybe a breach of various protocols and policies," he said in an interview. "But to the extent people are excited about the possibility of her being charged criminally because of mishandling classified materials, that seems absolutely fanciful."

He says investigators may feel some pressure to resolve the inquiry as soon as possible. FBI Director James Comey told the House Oversight Committee last month that he was following the investigation "very closely" and promised the bureau would do its work "promptly, professionally and independently."

That said, Zeidenberg acknowledged that investigations sometimes take an unexpected course. "This whole business about having an email server in the first place came as a result of an investigation that grew out of the Benghazi thing," he noted.



Can Trump go the distance?



Donald Trump in Sparks, Nev., on Oct. 29, 2015. (Photo: Lance Iversen, AP)

Some in the Republican establishment seem to be going through the classic Five Stages of Grief when it comes to Donald Trump's candidacy. That started with denial that it was even possible the real-estate mogul and reality-TV star could end up as the GOP presidential nominee.

After leading in most polls through the summer and into the fall, though, Trump has gained credibility as a candidate. What's more, his biggest challenger hasn't been one of the governors or senators in the field. It's retired pediatric neurosurgeon Ben Carson, another outsider who has never run for office before. That's alarmed those Republicans — perhaps moving to intermediate stages of anger or depression — who note that it's been more than a half-century since Americans were willing to elect a newcomer to the nation's top political job.

"While I'm in the camp that eventually a mainstream 'establishment' Republican will carry the party's torch, it's clearly possible Donald could be the party's nominee," says GOP strategist Sara Taylor Fagen, a former White House political director for George W. Bush. She tempers predictions that a Trump ticket would doom the party in November. "While general-election prospects for the GOP look bad today with Mr. Trump at the helm, the electorate is very fickle right now. I'd be careful to read too much into polls now that say he can't win a general election. And we shouldn't underestimate his ability to adapt his message to new circumstances."

Just FYI: The final Kubler-Ross stage is acceptance.

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Does the economy implode?



U.S. $100 bills at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. (Photo: Mark Wilson, Getty Images)

While it hasn't felt much like a recovery for middle-class Americans, the economy has been growing for the past six years. Unemployment was down to 5.1% in August and September, the lowest in seven years. Now some economists see worrying signs that a soft patch in the economy just might turn into another recession. "The dangers facing the global economy are more severe than at any time since the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy in 2008," former Treasury secretary Larry Summers warned in a*Washington Post* op-ed last month.

Jared Bernstein, a former chief economist for Vice President Biden who is now at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, is skeptical. "Recent recessions have been generated by what I've come to call the economic shampoo cycle: bubble, bust, repeat, but I don't see any bubbles inflating right now, and the public and household sectors are not over-leveraged." That said, he adds, "One thing that could prove me wrong would be if an economic hiccup or self-inflicted wound were exacerbated by gridlocked politics and a Fed that's largely out of ammo." Interest rates already are near zero, and the Republican-controlled Congress would be unlikely to approve stimulus spending.

If there is a downturn, history says President Obama probably would bear most of the blame — and a president's approval rating is one of the most significant single indicators of how his party will fare in elections.

"Under the safe assumption that most people aren't running Keynesian models of the macro-economy, presidents get the credit for good times and blame for bad ones," Bernstein says, even though "they typically don't deserve either."

Does Syria explode?

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Syrian and other migrants after crossing the border between Austria and Germany in October. (Photo: Kerstin Joensson, AP)

The civil war in Syria has become not only a humanitarian catastrophe but also an international flashpoint, and a continuing test of President Obama's leadership.

Aaron David Miller, a former adviser on the Mideast to both Democratic and Republican secretaries of State, calls it "a kinetic situation" and "the most vulnerable place for this president and the Democratic nominee." That's because the confrontations involve not only Syrian President Bashar Assad — Obama has been demanding his resignation for the past four years, to little effect — but also leaders of Russia, Iran and the rising self-proclaimed Islamic State.

Obama's decision last month to send 50 U.S. special ops forces to Syria has increased the risks to his administration, and to his former secretary of State. Clinton has made a point in interviews and in her 2014 memoir, *Hard Choices*, that she advocated a more muscular response to bolster moderate Syrian rebels early in the civil war, a step Obama was loath to take. Now she supports enforcing a no-fly zone, a sort of buffer zone to protect civilians, something Obama also has rejected so far.

But there are limits to how far Clinton, who will need the support of Obama's most loyal supporters to win in 2016, can distance herself from her former boss, especially on foreign policy. "She's tried," says Miller, who is now a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center. But "I think she'd have a very hard time walking away from him."



Does a third-party candidate run?

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Bill Clinton, Ross Perot and George Bush following their third and final presidential debate at Michigan State University in 1992. (Photo: Doug Mills, AP)

Americans say they're ready for an alternative to the two major political parties. In a USA TODAY/Suffolk University this fall , just 30% of those surveyed said the Democrats and Republicans did a good job of representing the country's political views. A 53% majority said a third party or multiple parties were necessary.

The outsider candidates in both parties have generated the most energy — Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Democratic socialist challenging Clinton, and Donald Trump and Ben Carson in the GOP. If they don't win the nomination, what would their supporters do? Would Trump or someone else outside the party establishment mount an independent candidacy?

The possibilities of an independent bid seem higher on the right than the left because the insider-outsider divisions are deeper in the GOP than among the Democrats.

Indeed, even if an outsider won the Republican nomination, Sara Fagen speculations one of the insiders might choose to run.

"I believe there is a strong possibility that a third-party candidate would emerge if Mr. Trump were to win the nomination," Fagen says. "If you think about it, any of these Republican governors now running would be in the middle between Trump and Clinton. Given the increasing number of people who identify as Independent, this would be the right place to be politically. If Trump were leading the Party, why wouldn't they look at it?"

Remember this: Independent candidates don't have to win the race to affect the outcome. Just ask Democrat Al Gore about the impact Ralph Nader had in 2000, or Republican George H.W. Bush about Ross Perot's bid in 1992.

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From: "Burns Strider \(CTRFF\)" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/22/2014 6:39:51 AM
Subject: CTR Friday August 22, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

HAPPY WEEKEND!

Correct The Record Friday August 22, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

@CorrectRecord: .@GovHowardDean stopped by to visit with @HillaryClinton at a #HardChoices book signing: http://easthamptonstar.com/News/2014821/Hillary-Fever-Grips-Hamptons … [8/22/14, 12:09 p.m. EDT]

@CorrectRecord: A supporter at the signing: @HillaryClinton is "the most impressive person I've ever heard speak." http://easthamptonstar.com/News/2014821/Hillary-Fever-Grips-Hamptons … [8/22/14, 11:28 a.m. EDT]

@CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton fan at book signing: "I'll wait forever for her to be president...we need American women in power." http://easthamptonstar.com/News/2014821/Hillary-Fever-Grips-Hamptons … [8/22/14, 11:09 a.m. EDT]

@CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton strengthened the ties between U.S. businesses and African countries #HRC365 http://correctrecord.org/african-growth-american-business/ … [8/21/14, 3:48 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

CNN: "Romney: Clinton won't be able to distance herself from Obama"

"Not all Democrats, especially those tasked with defending Clinton, agree that the former secretary of state will need to distance herself from Obama. 'Hillary Clinton is one of the most admired and trusted public figures in America and should she run for President, she will run on her own record and implement her own vision for moving our country forward,' said Adrienne Elrod, spokeswoman of Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton communications group, in response to Ryan's critique."

Business Insider: "Mitt Romney Mocks Hillary Clinton's 'Most Embarrassing' Foreign Policy Mistake"

"Two-time Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney went out of his way to criticize expected 2016 Democratic White House contender Hillary Clinton in an interview with Fox News' Megyn Kelly on Thursday night."

Politico: "Where Mitt Romney agrees with Hillary Clinton"

"Former Massachusetts Governor and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney did something unexpected on Thursday night — he agreed with Hillary Clinton."

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CBS (DC): "'Third Time's The Charm': Ryan Would 'Love To See' Romney Run Again"

"Romney stated that Hillary Clinton won't be able to distance herself from Obama if she decides to run for president."

WMUR-TV (N.J.): "Man who held hostages at Clinton campaign office approved for parole"

"A man who took hostages at a Hillary Rodham Clinton presidential campaign office in 2007 has been approved for parole."

The State (S.C.): "Staff of US House Benghazi investigation committee coming together"

"The former top lawyer for the U.S. Army will be chief counsel for Republicans on the House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya."

Articles:

CNN: "Romney: Clinton won't be able to distance herself from Obama"

By Dan Merica

August 22, 2014, 10:25 a.m. EDT

Mitt Romney feels vindicated by Hillary Clinton.

At a book event for Rep. Paul Ryan, his former running mate, Romney said that Hillary Clinton distancing herself from some of President Barack Obama's foreign policy was reminiscent of the campaign he ran against the President.

"She was very critical of the president's foreign policy, and basically said 'he doesn't have one,'" Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, said, according to Bloomberg. "I used to say that during the campaign.

Romney was referring to Clinton's interview with the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, where the former secretary of state appeared to create space with the President on foreign policy and knock some of his guiding principles.

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"Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle,” Clinton said, referring to a view Obama has expressed to aides and reporters.

Clinton's split with Obama and the subsequent beltway kerfuffle – where Clinton was knocked by former Obama aides and forced to backtrack – was evidence of how difficult it would be for her to create any distance with the President.

"Hillary Clinton tries to distance herself from the foreign policy of the President," Romney said in Chicago. "That would work better were she not his secretary of state for four years."

Romney later added that if Clinton were to win in 2016 – she is the favorite for the Democratic nomination and is admittedly thinking about a run – she would just "keep these things going" like they have been under Obama.

Romney made similar statement in a Thursday night appearance with Ryan on Fox News.

"I can't begin to explain the President's foreign policy. I think Hillary Clinton tried to explain it by saying there wasn't a foreign policy, in effect," Romney said. "Rarely did I agree with what Hillary Clinton had to say but on that topic, I think we agreed. I think it's interesting that she tries to distance herself from the President's foreign policy, given the fact that she was his secretary of state for four years."

The former Massachusetts governor's critique echoes what Ryan and other Republicans have said: Clinton won't be able to shake the Obama record.

"I don't think people are going to want to have an Obama third term and no matter how she tries to shake that label, she won't be able to," Ryan said in an interview with USA Today earlier this week.

This line of questioning by Romney and Ryan has worried some Democrats.

Some Clinton associates have quietly expressed concern that one of the most effective critiques could be that her presidency, should she run and be elected, would be nothing more than Obama's third term.

"She was in his government, she was at his side," a Clinton friend and former aide told CNN. "That is, the way to go after her is four more years of the same old thing. The question they should ask her is 'Tell me 10 things that you disagree with him on.'"

Not all Democrats, especially those tasked with defending Clinton, agree that the former secretary of state will need to distance herself from Obama.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"Hillary Clinton is one of the most admired and trusted public figures in America and should she run for President, she will run on her own record and implement her own vision for moving our country forward," said Adrienne Elrod, spokeswoman of Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton communications group, in response to Ryan's critique.

Business Insider: "Mitt Romney Mocks Hillary Clinton's 'Most Embarrassing' Foreign Policy Mistake"

By Colin Campbell

August 22, 2014

Two-time Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney went out of his way to criticize expected 2016 Democratic White House contender Hillary Clinton in an interview with Fox News' Megyn Kelly on Thursday night.

Romney, asked about President Barack Obama's foreign policy towards Russia, pivoted to mock Clinton, Obama's former secretary of state, for presenting a literal "reset button" to Russia's foreign minister in 2009. Relations between the U.S. and Russia have since sharply deteriorated.

"I worry about the country," Romney said. "The president got those things wrong. Unfortunately he underestimated Russia. This whole 'reset policy' with Hillary Clinton — smiling ear from ear, pressing a red reset button — I think is one of the most embarrassing incidents in American foreign policy."

In July, Clinton defended the "reset" policy, insisting it worked at the time.

"The reset worked," Clinton said, according to CNN. "It was an effort to try to obtain Russian cooperation on some key objectives while Medvedev was president."

At another point in the Fox interview, Romney also went after Clinton for her recent statements separating herself from Obama's foreign policy. Among other things, Clinton appeared to dismiss Obama's "don't do stupid stuff" philosophy. But Romney argued Clinton can't separate herself from Obama's blunders overseas.

"I can't begin to explain the president's foreign policy. I think Hillary Clinton tried to explain it by saying there wasn't a foreign policy, in effect. Rarely did I agree with what Hillary Clinton had to say but on that topic, I think we agreed. I think it's interesting that she tries to distance herself from the president's foreign policy, given the fact that she was his secretary of state for four years," Romney said.

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There is speculation swirling that Romney is interested in taking another shot at the White House in 2016. However, Romney, appearing with his former vice presidential nominee, Congressman Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin), suggested Ryan should run instead.

"I had my turn. It's his turn now," Romney said.

"You should do it," Ryan replied.

Watch the full segment below.

[VIDEO]

Politico: "Where Mitt Romney agrees with Hillary Clinton"

By Kendall Breitman

August 22, 2014, 8:47 a.m. EDT

Former Massachusetts Governor and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney did something unexpected on Thursday night — he agreed with Hillary Clinton.

For the first time since their 2012 run for the White House, Romney and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) took part in a joint interview for Fox News. During the interview, Romney focused mainly on his criticisms of the Obama administration's foreign policy.

"I think Hillary Clinton tried to explain it by saying there wasn't a foreign policy in effect," Romney said to host Megyn Kelly. "And rarely did I agree with what Hillary Clinton has to say, but on that topic I think we agreed."

In an Aug. 11 interview with The Atlantic, the former secretary of state had critical words for President Barack Obama's foreign policy. During the interview, Clinton called Obama's decision not to get involved in Syria a "failure" and that "don't do stupid stuff" is "not an organizing principle."

Romney continued the criticism on "The Kelly File," saying that Obama has underestimated threats around the world.

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“The president has a foreign policy which has failed once again. He underestimated the extent of the threat represented by terror in the world, and specifically ISIS,” Romney said. “And as a result, now we find ourselves facing a series of severe and horrific scenes on the world stage.”

Kelly closed the interview by asking the duo who would make a better president. Ryan immediately pointed to Romney.

“He’s very generous,” Romney said. “But I had my turn. It’s his turn now.”

CBS (DC): “‘Third Time’s The Charm': Ryan Would ‘Love To See’ Romney Run Again”

[No Writer Mentioned]

August 22, 2014

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan said Thursday he would love to see Mitt Romney run again for president and teased the GOP’s former nominee at one point that the “third time’s the charm.”

Appearing with Ryan at a public event for the first time since their ticket lost two years ago, Romney offered his own good-humored praise by saying that Ryan “wouldn’t be a bad president” himself.

Ryan, R-Wis., has said he will wait until after the midterm elections to decide whether to pursue his own presidential campaign in 2016. Romney has repeatedly denied any plans for another campaign for president. He failed to win the nomination in 2008 and then lost the election to President Barack Obama in 2012.

Romney interviewed Ryan about his new book, “The Way Forward: Renewing the American Idea,” on the brink of the fall election season. Republicans are driving for the six-seat gain required to grab the Senate majority. Success would put the GOP in control of Congress and dramatically shape the final two years of Obama’s term.

They took turns criticizing Obama’s record on domestic issues, including the economy, health care and immigration, with Ryan warning that Obama will “poison the well” on immigration compromise if he takes any unilateral action. Romney said Obama sent a message to Russia when he did not act in Syria and that there has been “an explosion of very bad things in the world” since then.

Romney said Obama’s foreign policy is “based on his belief that everyone has the same interests” while he himself believes that some people “want to dominate and some are fundamentally evil.”

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They also blamed Obama and the Democratic-led Senate for doing too little to reach out to Republicans and to act on important issues.

“If people want to actually see action in this country and dealing with problems from education to health care, immigration to our fiscal needs … they’re going to have to vote for Republican senators and … a Republican president, as well,” Romney said.

Romney stated that Hillary Clinton won’t be able to distance herself from Obama if she decides to run for president.

“Hillary Clinton tries to distance herself from the foreign policy of the president,” Romney said, according to Bloomberg. “That would work better were she not his secretary of state for four years.”

Romney added: “She was very critical of the president’s foreign policy, and basically said he doesn’t have one. I used to say that during the campaign.”

Ryan told reporters after the question-and-answer session with Romney that he would “love to see Mitt Romney run for president again.”

Long before Romney and Ryan took the stage at the Union League Club of Chicago, Democrats said the pairing is a reminder of failure. In a statement, the Democratic National Committee listed what it called their memorable political gaffes, including Romney being caught on video telling donors that 47 percent of Americans would automatically vote for Obama because they don’t pay income taxes and are “dependent upon government.”

Romney has been campaigning for GOP candidates across the country, most recently for Rep. Tom Cotton this week in Arkansas, and Ryan has been promoting his book. Romney himself reviewed Ryan’s manuscript and offered notes. And Ryan even sought advice from former Romney speechwriters and advisers during the writing.

The conversation Thursday centered on policy issues and didn’t touch on the more personal parts of Ryan’s book, including the fullest account yet of how Ryan, at 15, found his alcoholic father dead in bed from an apparent heart attack. Ryan told The Associated Press recently that the event shaped him as a politician and family man, and figures heavily into whether he’ll seek the presidency in 2016.

Although writing a book often is seen as a prelude to a presidential campaign, Ryan has said he’s not sure he’s ready to spend more time away from Janesville, the small Wisconsin town where he grew up and where he and his wife, Janna, have raised their three children.

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WMUR-TV (N.J.): “Man who held hostages at Clinton campaign office approved for parole”

[No Writer Mentioned]

August 22, 2014, 8:11 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Judge grants Leeland Eiseberg parole for Oct. 20

A man who took hostages at a Hillary Rodham Clinton presidential campaign office in 2007 has been approved for parole.

A judge granted Leeland Eisenberg parole for Oct. 20.

Eisenberg, 53, spent about two years behind bars for the November 2007 siege at Clinton's Rochester campaign office in which he claimed to have a bomb. No one was hurt in a five-hour standoff and the bomb turned out to be road flares.

At his arraignment, his lawyer portrayed Eisenberg as a man at the end of his rope emotionally after being repeatedly turned down when he sought psychiatric help.

Eisenberg was later arrested two more times, once for violating parole and for walking away from a halfway house.

Once released, he would be sent to transitional housing.

The State (S.C.): “Staff of US House Benghazi investigation committee coming together”

By Mary Troyan

August 22, 2014

WASHINGTON — The former top lawyer for the U.S. Army will be chief counsel for Republicans on the House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

Retired Lt. Gen. Dana Chipman was judge advocate general for the Army from 2009-2013.

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The special committee, led by Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg, is preparing for its first public hearing in September.

Chipman “is a person of great character and integrity, with outstanding legal credentials, who dedicated his professional life to the apolitical service to our country and reached the highest levels of his profession,” Gowdy said Thursday through a spokeswoman.

“If you are serious about conducting a fair, thorough, fact-centric investigation devoid of gratuitous partisanship, it stands to reason you would select someone with those same characteristics to lead the investigation,” he said.

The committee, with seven Republicans and five Democrats, was created by the House in May to investigate the attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi that led to the deaths of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

Gowdy’s committee is consolidating the work of several prior congressional investigations into security lapses before the attacks, the military response during the attacks, and how President Barack Obama’s administration handled the aftermath.

Chipman will be chief counsel for the committee’s GOP majority.

Democrats, led by Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, are hiring their own staff. The committee’s budget is $3.3 million, and it is expected to continue its investigation well into 2015.

Chipman, who earned degrees from the U.S. Military Academy and Stanford Law School, was deployed during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 and 2002 as legal adviser to a joint special operations task force, according to his Army biography.

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From:	NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	8/18/2015 11:52:44 PM
Subject:	First Draft on Politics: Republicans Look to Turn Conversation to Education

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8/19/2015 nytimes.com/firstdraft »

The New York Times
FirstDraft
What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Republicans Look to Turn Conversation to Education



Jeb Bush at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines last week. Eric Thayer for The New York

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Times

By Maggie Haberman

Good Wednesday morning from Washington. Democrats are quietly counting their Iran votes, and ***President Obama*** *remains on vacation, hoping things stay as unexciting as possible.* ***Senator Marco Rubio*** *of Florida is getting some attention for his throwing arm, while several other Republicans are heading to New Hampshire to talk education.*

The Republican presidential contest will shift its debate from immigration to education policy on Wednesday, as several candidates gather in New Hampshire to discuss the future of schools.

The news site The Seventy Four, which was created by former television journalist **Campbell Brown**, will hold a first-of-its-kind public forum featuring about a third of the extensive Republican field: **Jeb Bush**, **Chris Christie**, **Bobby Jindal**, **Carly Fiorina**, **Scott Walker** and **John R. Kasich**. The event can be viewed live here.

Ms. Brown has become an advocate of overhauls to the education system, including changes to the teacher evaluation systems that are part of union contracts. For Mr. Bush, education policy has been a signature issue over the last decade, and the forum gives him a chance to highlight those credentials.

But within the Republican contest, education policy has become a fraught topic, particularly around the Common Core education standards. Mr. Bush favors those standards, which many conservative voters oppose.

Unlike in a debate format with a 60-second response time, Mr. Bush may have more of an opportunity to explain his views. As for Mr. Christie and Mr. Walker, who both had high-profile fights with the teachers' unions in their respective states, the format will most likely let them showcase their claims to the education battle.

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What We're Watching Today

- **Donald J. Trump** will hold a town-hall-style event in Derry, N.H., at 6:30 p.m.
- **Ben Carson** travels to Arizona, where he will take a helicopter tour to see smuggling routes and visit the border with local officials.
- **Former President Bill Clinton** celebrates his 69th birthday.
- The Federal Reserve releases minutes from its latest policy meeting.

Obama Looks to Avert the Vacation Curse

If there is a common sentiment among the White House staff members, journalists and Secret Service agents who have followed **Mr. Obama** and his family to Martha's Vineyard, it is this: Don't do anything to jinx things.

For the first time in years, Mr. Obama has so far dodged anything that might interrupt his family vacation. There has been no international crisis. No domestic upheaval. No budget standoff. No looming epidemic or storm.

For once, Mr. Obama has been free to golf, have long dinners with friends, take walks with his children and hang out at the beach. There have been no briefings by White House officials. There have been no on-camera presidential statements.

That's rarely been the case.

In 2009, during his first trip to Martha's Vineyard as president, Mr. Obama was forced to skip off the island to deliver a eulogy for **Senator Edward M. Kennedy** of Massachusetts, who passed away on Aug. 25 that year. Mr. Obama had already interrupted his vacation once that year to reappoint **Ben S. Bernanke** as the chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Last year, the first week of Mr. Obama's vacation was consumed by riots in Ferguson, Mo., and the escalation of fighting against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. Just days after he arrived here in 2014, Mr. Obama confirmed the beheading of **James Foley**, an American journalist, in a live statement from an elementary school here. The White House later announced that an earlier rescue operation had failed.

This time, Mr. Obama is past the halfway mark in his vacation without a crisis. He

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went to the beach with his family on Tuesday and is likely to watch the island's annual fireworks on Friday.

Unless something jinxes things.

– *Michael D. Shear*

Menendez Pans Iran Deal as Democrats Count Votes

Senator Robert Menendez on Tuesday delivered a blistering critique of the Iran nuclear deal negotiated by the Obama administration, saying in a speech at Seton Hall University in New Jersey that "if Iran is to acquire a nuclear bomb, it will not have my name on it."

His position on the agreement was no surprise since Mr. Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, has long since telegraphed his opposition. Neither was his tone since he has clashed harshly with **Mr. Obama** over foreign policy issues such as Iran and the thaw with Cuba.

Mr. Menendez pointedly took issue with the president's characterization of opponents of the deal as the same lawmakers who wrongly supported the war in Iraq, "I opposed it, unlike the vice president and the secretary of state, who both supported it."

That reference was, of course, to **Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.** and **Secretary of State John Kerry**, who both initially backed the Iraq war.

Mr. Menendez also disputed the president's claim that the alternative to the agreement was conflict with Iran, and he urged the president to reopen the talks. The question now for the administration is not how Mr. Menendez will vote, but how much he will influence the votes of other Democrats.

– *Carl Hulse*

Our Favorites From The Times

- **Mr. Trump** has put Republicans in a difficult position by taking such a hard line on immigration.

- **Hillary Rodham Clinton** broke ranks with **Mr. Obama** on the subject of drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic Ocean.

- Text messaging — an old thing — is proving to be the next big thing in campaign politics this election cycle.

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- In a call with donors, **Mr. Walker** acknowledged criticisms that he lacked passion in the first debate and said that he would spend more time taking on Washington to counter the rise of outsider candidates like **Mr. Trump**.

What We're Reading Elsewhere

- **Senator Lindsey Graham** of South Carolina told The Des Moines Register that there was nothing "behind the curtain" when it came to Mr. Trump, and he predicted the billionaire's political downfall.

- Slate looks at the Black Lives Matter movement's focus on **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont, and asks: "If Sanders is the most racially progressive candidate in the race," as his team and supporters say he is, "then why is he a target for Black Lives Matter activists, even after he addressed core concerns over police violence and criminal justice reform?"

- Philip Bump at The Washington Post argues that ending birthright citizenship, as **Mr. Trump** said he would do and as **Mr. Walker** suggested he wanted to do, would be "nearly impossible."

- Eli Stokols of Politico details **Mr. Rubio**'s slow and steady approach in Iowa.

- After her strong performance at the "kiddie table" debate this month, **Ms. Fiorina** is polling strongly enough to possibly earn a spot on the main debate stage next month, knocking off **Mr. Christie**, at least according to the latest surveys, Politico reports.

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Times JOURNEYS

Rubio's Errant Football Toss Starts Twitter Spiral

Mr. Rubio may have found a way to steal some of the attention that has been

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lavished on **Mr. Trump** in recent weeks: hit a child in the face with a football.

Mr. Rubio's throw was the talk of Twitter on Tuesday after a video emerged of him tossing spiral to a young Iowan this week. The boy overran the pass, and the ball collided with his nose.

The dropped ball unleashed a flurry of commentary about Mr. Rubio's throwing form, and even some suggestions that he send a Hail Mary pass in Mrs. Clinton's direction.

The child recovered from the incident, and the Rubio campaign, always happy to make lemonade from a lemon, managed to squeeze a fund-raising opportunity out of it. Team Marco T-shirts are now available at the online campaign store for $28.

– Alan Rappeport

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From:	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To:	oshur@hillaryclinton.com john@algpolling.com
Date:	1/23/2016 11:55:10 AM
Subject:	Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

I wonder if we should try a version of the DMR spot with our endorsement groups too. Planned Parenthood, HRC, Labor, LCV, Gabby Giffords etc -- something that gives a big sense of momentum

I think these groups actually have more impact on voters than the DMR (a lot of good they did us in 2008!)

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>
Cc: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; David Dixon <david@dixondavismedia.com>; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com>; John Rimel <john.rimel@gmmb.com>; jandrews <jandrews@jacompany.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Sent: Sat, Jan 23, 2016 6:40 pm
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

You're such a nice guy Anzo .... But yeah probably right

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:23 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

> I would let that part go. I think it is more insulting than helpful for our message contrast.
>
> John Anzalone
> Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
> 334-387-3121. Office
> @AnzaloneLiszt
>
> On Jan 23, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
> > Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
> > Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
> > My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > From: Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Date: January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
> > To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
> >
> > # DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
> >
> > If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president

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will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

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As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an

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honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

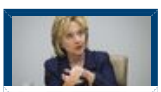


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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

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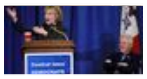








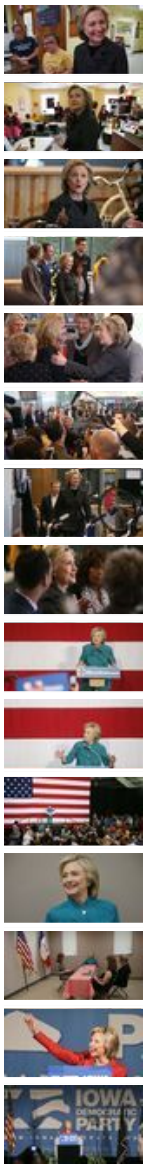
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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

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Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To:	"John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com)" <John.Podesta@gmail.com>
	"John D. Podesta \(JPodesta@who.eop.gov\)" <JPodesta@who.eop.gov>
Date:	2/12/2015 9:53:06 AM
Subject:	FW: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Dear John,

I hope I can help you on this great effort! Below are some areas in which I could be helpful.
Best wishes,
Stu

From: Eizenstat, Stuart
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 4:39 PM
To: Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)
Cc: Thomas (Tom) R. Nides (tom.nides@morganstanley.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonfoundation.org); Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonemail.com); Melanne Verveer (pverveer@aol.com)
Subject: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Dear Jake,

I hope you are well. I have talked with Melanne Verveer and Huma Abedin about helping in the potential presidential campaign. Most recently, I met with Tom Nides at the World Economic Forum in Davos to ask him the best way to plug-in to the policy side. He told me that you would be heading the policy and issues side of the campaign.

I have been privileged to work for all eight years of the Clinton Administration as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union; Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business & Agricultural Issues; and as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. During over six of those years, I also served as Special Adviser to the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust Issues, negotiating over $8 billion in recoveries in negotiations with the Swiss and French banks, German and Austrian corporations for slave and forced labor, European insurance companies for unpaid insurance policies, and with over 40 countries for the Washington Principles on Nazi-looted art, which has led to the restitution of thousands of stolen art works. In this work, I was strongly supported by both President Clinton and then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who frequently asked to be briefed.

My relationship with her continued when she (as President Clinton had done) graciously agreed to speak to my Eizenstat Family Memorial Lecture series in Atlanta at the Ahavath Achim Synagogue, before over 2500 people. In her term as Secretary of State, she appointed me as her Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues, and in that capacity, I negotiated a $50 million agreement with Lithuania, and headed the U.S. delegation to the 2009 Prague Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets (which produced the Terezin Declaration) and the 2010 Prague Conference on Best Practices and Guidelines for the Restitution and Compensation of Real Property Confiscated by the Nazis and their allies from 1933-45.

My late wife Fran and Hillary worked at the Children's Defense Fund, and Hillary was especially kind to her over the years. When Fran passed away in 2013, she and President sent moving, handwritten notes of condolence, which I cherish to this day.

Because every word she utters is put into a campaign context, permit me to suggest areas in which I could be helpful, even now, before any formal campaign may be announced, and thereafter, if there is a formal announcement.

1. IRAN

As President Carter's Chief White House Domestic Policy Adviser, I helped shape the original hostage-related sanctions against Iran.

As Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton Administration, I took the lead in imposing the first sanctions against Osama Ben Laden and al Qaeda. For the past three years I have chaired the Iran Task Force of the Atlantic Council (the first year as co-chair with Chuck Hagel, before he became Secretary of Defense) We have put out over a dozen published reports on all aspects of the Iranian situation, for the nuclear talks to their internal political and economic challenges, and have organized scores of conferences with leading experts. In this capacity, I have met with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif in small, private meetings at their UN Mission in New York in 2013 and 2014, on the margins of the UN General Assembly and have reported the results to senior people in the Administration.

Our Task Force has been generally supportive of the Obama Administration's negotiations. Needless to say, if and when an agreement is reached on a nuclear deal, which I anticipate, this will become a political "hot potato". I can be helpful in shaping a response.

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2. SANCTIONS AND GENERAL FOREIGN/DEFENSE POLICY

During the Clinton Administration, I was the "sanctions-meister", successfully negotiating sanctions issues with the European Union under the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, the Helms-Burton Act, and the Religious Freedom Act. As I mentioned, I was involved in Iran sanctions issues from the Carter through the Clinton Administration, and now with the Atlantic Council.

But I have also become very knowledgeable in my private practice with the Ukraine-Russia related sanctions.

I am on the Defense Policy Board (appointed by Secretary of Defense Hagel), and we have focused on issues like Russia/Ukraine, ISIS, Iraq, and Syria.

3. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

I was involved as President Carter's Domestic Policy Adviser and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Staff, with the completion of the Tokyo Round of the WTO in 1977, led by Special Trade Represented Bob Strauss, and then the Uruguay Round in 1994, as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, led by Special Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. I also served under Mickey as his Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, where I traveled around the world promoting American trade and investment, and then as Under Secretary of State, working on many of the same issues, but from a broader diplomatic perspective. I was involved in the China MFN issue.

As U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, I created, along with then Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD), which remains the officially recognized business voice on transatlantic trade issues by both the U.S. government and the European Union. To this day, I am the American chair of the Transatlantic Business Council (TABC), of which TABD is a part.

I chair the international trade and finance practice at Covington & Burling, LLP, and was selected recently as Trade Lawyer of the Year by the American Lawyer magazine. I have testified several times on international trade issues, particularly the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). President Obama's Trade Representative Mike Froman and I meet frequently, most recently at the TABD/TABC meeting in Davos. He asked me to provide advice on the regulatory reform part of TTIP, along with a few other trade experts.

The Transpacific Partnership (TPP) will come before TTIP, as will Trade Promotion Authority (fast-track). All of these to one degree or the other will be opposed by labor and consumer groups. I believe I can help you shape positions on these.

4. EUROPEAN UNION

Having been U.S. Ambassador to the European Union (1993-96), negotiating with them frequently during the Clinton Administration, co-chairing the TABC, and writing articles on the EU (e.g. with our current U.S. Ambassador to the EU Tony Gardner in the 2010 Foreign Affairs Magazine), I believe I understand the EU as well as almost anyone. The EU is an increasingly important economic and political partner (e.g. Iran and Russian sanctions). I am well known in Brussels and can be helpful as an informal emissary there.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE

I was the head of the U.S. delegation, as Under Secretary of State, to the Kyoto Protocol negotiations, and played a central role in its negotiations, including aligning the positions of the EU, Japan, and other major industrial democracies with that of the U.S. I worked closely with then Vice President Gore and senior people in the White House, including Gene Sperling. I have continued to stay engaged in climate change issues. With the December 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference coming up, this issue will receive a great deal of visibility going into the 2016 election year.

6. ISRAEL, MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, JEWISH ISSUES

During the 2008 campaign, I served as a frequent surrogate speaker for the Hillary Clinton campaign on Israel and Jewish issues.

As Under Secretary of State and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, I was responsible for dealing with the economic aspects of the peace process, while Dennis Ross led the political side. I negotiated some half dozen times with Yasir Arafat, worked on the QIZs in Gaza and Jordan (which I visited), the airport in Gaza, getting Palestinian workers and VIP Palestinian business leaders into Israel, and on other economic initiatives. Of course, this was done in close coordination with senior Israeli officials. As Under Secretary of State, I also negotiated with then Finance Minister Jacob Neeman, the phase-out of the economic assistance program for Israel, in return for increased levels of military assistance.

I also headed the U.S. government side of the joint U.S.-Israel Economic Dialogue during the Clinton Administration.

As a result of co-chairing with Dennis Ross, the Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem, a think tank created by the Jewish Agency and supported by major UJA Federation heads and major Jewish donors, Dennis and I meet for up to two hours annually with Prime Minister Netanyahu and his Cabinet to present our Assessment of the State of the Jewish People, for which Dennis and I do the Introduction. I have worked with the Prime Minister since his years as Finance Minister, and we have maintained a close

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relationship, despite our contrary views on settlements. I know most of the major figures in the Israeli political firmament. I travel to Israel two to three times a year, and have a vast array of friends and relatives there. Both my grandfather and great-grandfather are buried in the Petach Tikva cemetery.

For the past several decades, I participate in a small, off-the-record breakfast group, with the Israeli Ambassadors to the U.S., all of whom I know personally, most recently with Ron Dermer. Fran and I were so close to Ron and his family, that we went to his bar mitzvah in Miami, and remain a frequent guest at private events at his home. I have a close relationship with Howard Kohr of AIPAC, but at the same time, I am respected by the J Street group. Indeed, before he created J Street, Jeremy Ben-Ami came to seek my advice, and I urged then Ambassador Michael Oren to end the Israeli Embassy boycott of J Street, which they did, up to a point.

I could serve as a formal or informal emissary to Israeli government officials. I could also help with drafting and/or reviewing speeches on the Middle East peace process. I also know Palestinian officials. At Davos, for example, I participated in an off-the-record session "Breaking the Impasse" with the deputy prime minister and finance minister of the Palestinian Authority, and leading Palestinian and Israeli business people. I proposed to him the creation of QIZs in the West Bank, for example. Remarkably, while there was one in Gaza, that was very successful before the second intifada, and over a dozen in Jordan, there are none in the West Bank.

I have a great deal of visibility in the American and world Jewish community due to my ongoing Holocaust work; my co-chairmanship with Dennis of JPPI; two books ("Imperfect Justice; Looted Assets, Slave Labor and the Unfinished Business of World War II" on my Holocaust negotiations, in 2003 an later translated into four languages; and in 2012 and a new version in 2014, "The Future of the Jews: How Global Forces are Impacting on the Jewish People, Israel, and its Relationship with the United States"); frequent articles in Jewish publications, and speeches to Jewish audiences in the U.S. and around the world, from college campuses to federations to the General Assembly of the Jewish Agency to the upcoming AIPAC conference; my ongoing Holocaust negotiations; and my chairmanship of the Defiant Requiem Foundation, which has sponsored a concert-drama around the world (Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Jerusalem, Berlin, Prague, Budapest, etc.) called "Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin", which honors a Jewish prisoner chorus at Theresenstadt concentration camp and the documentary "Defiant Requiem", which likewise honors the broader courageous artistic and musical performances at Theresenstadt. Our documentary was nominated for two Emmy awards in 2014 (best full-length documentary and best script), has been shown on PBS on Yom Hashoah day in 2013, and has been purchased by Netflix and BBC.

I continue to serve as Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues to Secretary of State Kerry, as I did for then-Secretary of State Clinton. On December 8, 2014, I signed in the State Department's Treaty Room a $60 million agreement with the French government for those current non-French citizens in the U.S., Israel, and around the world, who were involved in the deportations from France to the death camps, their spouses, and heirs. It was a widely-heralded breakthrough 70 years after the end of World War II. I am also working on the Gurlitt looted art case in Munich, and have met with the German Minister of Culture on this matter, with signficant results.

In my private capacity, since 2009, I have headed the negotiating team of the Jewish Claims Conference in their annual negotiations with the German Finance Ministry. Since 1952, the Claims Conference the official body for negotiations with the German government on behalf of Holocaust survivors. During that time, I have negotiated over $1.5 billion in benefits, including a landmark 2013 agreement for $1 billion in home care through 2017.

7. BUSINESS COMMUNITY

As a result of my corporate boards (UPS, BlackRock Funds, Alcatel-Lucent, Globe Specialty Metals), advisory boards (Christie's, GML Holdings, and formerly chair of the Coca-Cola International Advisory Board), co-chairmanship of the Transatlantic Business Council (with some sixty U.S. and European companies), and joint projects with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, I could help the campaign as a liaison/spokesman with the U.S. business community.

8. GENERAL POLITICAL AND POLICY ADVICE

I have been involved in senior capacities in presidential campaigns since the 1968 Hubert Humphrey campaign, for which I served as his research director, and the 1976 Jimmy Carter campaign, for which I was policy director. I have helped with policy issues in the Dukakis campaign, and Bill Clinton's campaign. I have a keen sense of the combination of policy and political factors.

Due to my work in the Carter and Johnson White Houses (my first job after Harvard Law School in 1967-68), and as Deputy Treasury Secretary, I am knowledgeable on a wide range of domestic issues, including job training (I recently co-authored an article on an apprenticeship program for the U.S., modeled on the German and Swiss models) health care, tax policy, as well as international economic policy.

I am sorry to have gone on so long, but wanted to give you the fullest menu from which you can feel free to enlist my assistance. I practice law full-time, and serve on four corporate boards, as well as chairing the Defiant Requiem Foundation and co-chairing JPPI and TABC. But, I am prepared to give you considerable time. I am also prepared to contribute a substantial amount financially, and to help raise more, although I know this is not your jurisdiction.

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Thanks for your consideration, and good luck on your important work,

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

Stuart Eizenstat

Covington & Burling LLP
One CityCenter, 850 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 662 5519 (tel) | (202) 778-5519 (fax)
seizenstat@cov.com
www.cov.com

COVINGTON

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From:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To:	"Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date:	7/16/2015 3:34:26 AM
Subject:	Iran

Dear Jake,
It is clear the campaign and Hillary want to be seen as simply praising the Iran deal without any of the qualifications and assurances to our allies we have discussed for weeks. You had even strengthened the language I proposed on using all means to stop an Iranian nuclear weapon during or after the expiration of the term of the Agreement. Is this now all by the boards? I am very concerned about her loss of Jewish and moderate support, without the kind of statement I assumed would be forthcoming.

Best wishes,

Stu

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Matt Paul" <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 8:38:50 AM
Subject: RE: Call with HRC

Not ninnies.

We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com; sbay@hillaryclinton.com; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > That's because you love your own joke.
> >
> > But I think it is okay.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I don't think so.
> > >
> > > On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
> > > LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.
> > >
> > > Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.
> > >
> > > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > > **Grunwald Communications**
> > > **202 973-9400**
> > >
> > > -----Original Message-----
> > > From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> > > To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >;

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Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

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I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From:	"Stephen Paduano" <spaduano@hfaintern.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/5/2015 3:44:06 AM
Subject:	Summarized Clips (8.5.15)
Attachments:	Daily Clips (8.5.15).docx

Daily Clips

August 5, 2015

Hillary Clinton Slams Bush on Immigration, Women's Health

AP/Nicholas Riccardi

- "Hillary Clinton on Tuesday repeatedly slammed Jeb Bush and the rest of the Republican presidential field over immigration and women's health during a campaign stop in Denver."

Dems Hit Bush After Comments On Funding For Women's Health

AP/Sergio Bustos, Erik Schelzig

- "Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush vowed Tuesday to cut off federal funding for Planned Parenthood if elected to the White House, but drew immediate fire from Democrats for adding, 'I'm not sure we need half a billion dollars for women's health issues.'"
- HRC responded over Twitter, "@JebBush: You are absolutely, unequivocally wrong."

Tom Hamburger: FBI Looking Into The Security of Hillary Clinton's Private E-Mail Setup WaPo/Carol Leonnig, Rosalind Helderman

- "The FBI has begun looking into the security of Hillary Rodham Clinton's private e-mail setup, contacting in the past week a Denv er-based technology firm that helped manage the unusual system, according to two government officials."

Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders Remain in Dead Heat in New Hampshire, Poll Shows NYT/Alan Rappeport

- According to the WMUR Granite State poll, 42 percent of likely Democratic primary voters said they would vote for HRC and 36 percent said they would support Bernie Sanders.
- The surv ey considers this gap to be a statistical tie.

Hillary Clinton Loses Ground With White Women – WSJ/NBC Poll

WSJ/Peter Nicholas

- A new WSJ/NBC poll found that HRC's favorability rating among women has dropped from 44 percent in June to 34 percent in July. Women who see her in a negative light has risen from 43 percent in June to 53 percent in July.

Poll: Democratic Primary Voters See Hillary Clinton As Most Electable

CBS News/Sarah Dutton, Jennifer De Pinto, Anthony Salvanto, Fred Backus

- A new CBS News poll finds HRC to be leading the Democratic primary with 58 percent of likely Democratic primary voters say ing that she is their first choice. HRC is trailed Bernie Sanders with 17 percent and Joe Biden at 11 percent.
- Voters also ov erwhelmingly see HRC as having the best chance of winning the general election, with 78 percent of respondents believ ing she can beat the Republican nominee. In comparison, only 11 percent believe Joe Biden can, and only 5 percent believe Bernie Sanders can.

The Clinton Charity Case

WSJ/The Editorial Board

- The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board ran an aggressive rebuke of the Clintons' charitable donations, as revealed

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by last Friday's tax dump. The Clintons donated nearly $15 million to charity – however, all but$200,000 of their donations went to the Clinton Foundation.

- The Editorial Board writes, "While the foundation does contribute to charitable causes, it also doubles as a vehicle to promote the first family's political ambitions and public profile."

Sanders Wants Panel To Study Privacy In Digital Age

The Hill/Jordain Carney

- "Sen. Bernie Sanders is renewing his effort to create a panel to investigate the impact of technology on privacy as part of the Senate's cy ber bill."
- Sanders is attaching an amendment for a "Commission on Privacy Rights in the Digital Age" to the Cyber Information Sharing Act (CISA).

Bernie Sanders To Fight For Campaign Finance Reform

The Hill/Jordain Carney

- "Sen. Bernie Sanders said he will introduce legislation to prov ide public funding for elections, saying the current campaign finance sy stem 'amounts to legalized bribery .'"
- Sanders will introduce legislation once the Senate returns from recess in September.

O'Malley Says a Biden Presidential Bid Would Be Good For The Democratic Party

WaPo/John Wagner

- "One might think that the last thing Martin O'Malley needs is another Democratic alternative to Hillary Clinton in the presidential race... And yet O'Malley told reporters Tuesday that he would welcome Vice President Biden to the contest – and that his candidacy would be good for the party ."

How Jeb Bush Spent His Years on Wall Street

WSJ/Justin Baer

- "Mr. Bush signed on with Lehman after leaving the Florida governor's mansion, making it clear he wanted work as a hands-on investment banker rather than hold a ceremonial role typically given to ex-politicians."
- For more than 7 years, Jeb worked as an adv iser to Lehman, and then after its collapse, for Barclays. He earned $1.3 million a year at Lehman and $2 million from Barclays.

If Jeb Bush Wants to Win, He Should Play Chess

CNN/Dan Pfeiffer

- Former White House Communications Director and Senior Advisor to President Obama Dan Pfeiffer wrote an Op-Ed in CNN recommending that Jeb Bush pull out of the Iowa caucuses, and redirect his energies and resources on later contests.
- Pfeiffer notes that Bush's conserv ative credentials are being questioned in a state that supported Rick Santorum in 2012, ov er the eventual nominee Mitt Romney, and Mike Huckabee in 2008, over John McCain who had decided to move on to New Hampshire.

Fox News Announces Prime-Time GOP Debate Lineup; Rick Perry Out

WSJ/Janet Hook

- Fox News announced the lineup for Thursday's GOP debate moderated by Megyn Kelly, Brett Baier, and Chris Wallace. The 10-man line-up's stage placement was determined by the most recent polling of the GOP field.
- From central placement to the stage's outskirts, the debate will feature: Donald Trump, Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Ben Carson, Mike Huckabee, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Chris Christie, and John Kasich.

Obama Begins Campaign in Congress for Nuclear Deal

NYT/Julie Hirschfield Davis

- "President Obama is rolling out a campaign of private entreaties and public advocacy ov er the next several weeks to build support in Congress for the nuclear deal with Iran, an effort to counter a well-financed onslaught from critics who have promised to use a month-long congressional recess to pressure lawmakers to oppose the accord.

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
Date: 3/22/2015 4:12:50 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT Questions for HRC Media Prepare

Unclear exactly what 60 is doing, but Craig has had an initial meeting with them to see if we can finesse this from starting off in such a ridiculous place as to have its premise be that book. Let's also remember that the last time 60 went hard on a book that tried to scandalize something related to us it was the Benghazi telling by the former British commando, and the outcome was Lara Logan's suspension and the publisher having to pull the book off the shelves.

So the hope is that before we start having to push back on the story we have at least some hope of combatting the premise as ridiculous.

And of course, having the book would help that.

I'll keep everyone posted.

On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:33 PM, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com > wrote:

Yes, the foundation team heard that 60 minutes was looking into it. That's one of the reasons we desperately want to get the book ahead of time.

On Sun, Mar 22, 2015 at 6:27 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

> I heard the same. I think from nick or josh
>
> On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
>
> +nick and john
>
> I'm hearing rumors 60 minutes may be working on a Clinton cash story.
> Not sure how reliable info is.
>
> Jim Margolis
> Sent from my iPhone.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Adam Jentleson \(CAPAF\)" <ajentleson@americanprogressaction.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/17/2008 2:48:11 AM
Subject: [big campaign] WR: McCain Heads To Texas To Sell His Soul To Big Oil

McCain Heads To Texas To Sell His Soul To Big Oil

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) is heading to Texas today for a series of fundraisers with the Texas GOP elite in Dallas , San Antonio , and Houston . Wedged between the multiple money events will be a speech in Houston, which McCain has indicated will be on energy policy. Today, McCain told reporters that he will call for :

– Lifting the federal moratorium on off-shore drilling established by President George H.W. Bush,

– Providing incentives to states to commence off-shore drilling, and

– Suspending the gas tax .

This suite of proposals adds up to a big fat kiss to Big Oil and its conservative allies — at the expense of everyone else. Unrestrained fossil fuel use delivers obscene profits for Big Oil but is a threat to the planet . McCain's strong talk on global warming is proving unserious — much as candidate Bush's campaign pledge to regulate carbon dioxide in 2000 turned out to be false . At the very same press briefing, McCain backtracked from his vaunted mandatory system to reduce greenhouse gases.

Strapped for cash and surrounded by Big Oil lobbyists, McCain is now embracing Bush's Exxon-Halliburton energy policy . Although a "megabucks" fundraiser with Midland Texas oilmen was postponed , $1.5 million in donations have already been pledged. Midland County GOP Chair Sue Brannon told the Midland Reporter-Telegram what will happen at the fundraiser: "When the 15 oilmen giving big time money meet with McCain, all we'll ask is that he be fair." The millions McCain is raising in Texas will be added to his impressive haul of oil industry cash this campaign season — 74 percent of his lifetime receipts:

Big Oil Contributions To Sen. McCain
1990 to 2008 cycle (April), Center for Responsive Politics, compiled by Center for American Progress Action Fund.

According to a Campaign Money Watch analysis of campaign finance data provided by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics Center, John McCain and his leadership committee have accepted at least $1,069,854 from the oil and gas industry since 1989. Despite his mediagenic but inconstant opposition to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, McCain's voting record on energy policy has been consistently friendly to Big Oil — and since his campaign for president began last year, he's been steadfast:

McCAIN'S RECORD OF CODDLING BIG OIL.

– **McCain Voted Against Reducing Dependence on Foreign Oil.** In 2005, McCain voted against legislation calling on the President to submit a plan to reduce foreign petroleum imports by 40 percent. [Senate Roll Call Vote #140, 6/16/05 ; DNC 6/22/07]

– **Candidate McCain's "Zero" For Energy Future, Billions For Big Oil.** Since launching his campaign for president in 2007, Sen. McCain has skipped out on every key environmental vote the Senate has considered, earning him a zero on the League of Conservation Voters scorecard this session. In one such instance, his absence killed the rollback of billions of dollars in oil subsidies for renewable energy investment. [LCV 2008]

– **McCain's Absence Allows GOP to Filibuster Oil-For-Renewables.** By a roll call vote of 59-40 on December 13, 2007, Senate Democrats failed to muster the 60 votes needed to prevent a filibuster threatened by Republicans of compromise energy legislation with an oil-for-renewable tax package. The tax package rolled

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back $12.7 billion in tax breaks on the oil and gas industry to invest in renewable energy tax credits. Sen. John McCain, on the campaign trail, was the one senator not voting. [CQ 12/12/07] [Vote #425 12/13/07]

–**McCain's Tax Policies A Boon For Big Oil.** Sen. McCain's plan to cut the corporate tax rate to 25 percent is worth $1.2 billion a year to Exxon Mobil alone. In addition, his plan includes a massive new corporate tax shelter. His call for a gas tax suspension would funnel money — about $11 billion — to oil refiners and producers. [CAPAF 3/27/08 , 4/18/08]

http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/03/27/mccain-petroleum/

BIG OIL LOBBYISTS RUN McCAIN CAMPAIGN.

At least fourteen Big Oil lobbyists hold top positions in the McCain campaign, including his top adviser, Charlie Black.

– **McCain's Senior Adviser Lobbies For Foreign Oil Interests**. Charlie Black (lobbying firm: BKSH), McCain's senior campaign adviser, is a registered lobbyist for two Russian oil companies — Yukos Oil and Occidental International Corporation — and his lobbying firm was hired in 2005 by the China National Off-Shore Oil Corporation. [Roll Call 7/18/05, Senate Lobbying Disclosure Records]

– **McCain's Campaign Liaison to Congress a Million-Dollar Big-Oil Lobbyist.** John Green (Ogilvy Government Relations) — the "full-time liaison between McCain's presidential campaign and Republicans in the House and the Senate" — has made over $7.6 million dollars since 1999 lobbying for petro-industry giants such as Amerada-Hess, Chevron Texaco, the American Petroleum Institute, Reliant Energy, PJM Interconnection and First Energy. [Politico 3/4/08 , Senate Lobbying Disclosure Records]

– **Fossil Fuel Lobbyists Everywhere in the McCain Campaign.** Frank Donatelli, McCain's RNC liaison to the Republican Party, has lobbied for ExxonMobil, Dominion, and Eastman Chemical. Jerry Kilgore, co-chairman of McCain's Virginia campaign, has lobbied for Shell Oil and coal company Alpha Natural Resources. Nancy Pfotenhauer, a policy adviser and spokeswoman, has lobbied for Koch Industries. [Washington Post 3/12/08 , O'Dwyer's 8/9/06 , Media Matters 2/26/08 , Senate Lobbying Disclosure Records]

UPDATE: At Climate Progress , Joe Romm suggests questions for reporters to ask McCain. Confused, Marc Ambinder writes, "I am NOT an expert here; maybe I'm missing something, so feel free to read me in, as they say. But hasn't McCain already endorsed mandatory emissions caps?"

At Liberal Oasis Bill Scher explains: "He wants to tell moderates that he has a serious plan for our government to act against global warming. And he wants to tell conservatives that no government action will be involved. It can't be done."

According to the Politico 's Jonathan Martin:

> The McCain campaign called to clarify his remarks. "John McCain was correctly reflecting his position, he just inadvertently said the word 'cap' instead of 'target,'" said spokesman Tucker Bounds.
>
> Today's comment was a response to a question about mandatory "targets" for renewable energy — McCain believes that a cap-and-trade system provides enough market incentive for investment in renewables. If that's the case (and many environmentalists would disagree), then mandatory targets wouldn't

http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/06/16/mccain-texas-sellout/

Adam Jentleson
Communications and Outreach Director Action Fund
The Hyde Park Project, Center for American Progress
202-247-8614

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Erika Gudmundson" <egudmundson@hillaryclinton.com>
To:
Date: 12/4/2007 7:18:14 AM
Subject: State Clips, 12/4/07

State Clips
Tuesday, December 04, 2007

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http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2007/12/john-edwards-fo.html

Mormonism not focus of Romney speech *LA Times*
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Edwards' campaign gaining an edge *San Francisco Chronicle*
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Dillon County schools in crisis *The State*
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From: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Rich Davis" <rich@dixondavismedia.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 11:16:59 AM
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

Thanks guys. Great endorsement

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:16 PM, Rich Davis <rich@dixondavismedia.com > wrote:

> We'll work on a first draft...
>
> Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 6 edge, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone
>
> -------- Original message --------
> From: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: 1/23/2016 6:14 PM (GMT-05:00)
> To: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, David Dixon <david@dixondavismedia.com >, Rich Davis <rich@dixondavismedia.com >, John Rimel <John.Rimel@gmmb.com >, Jim Andrews <jandrews@jacompany.com >
> Cc: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
> Subject: Fwd: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
>
> This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
> Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
> Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
> My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> From: Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
> To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
>
> # DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
>
> If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.
>
> Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care,

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increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing

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government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.



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Rodney White/The Register









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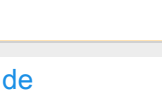
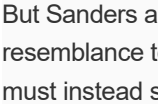
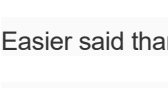
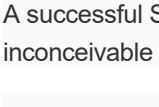
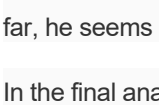
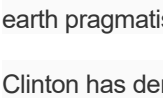
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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

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David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/11/2014 11:56:24 AM
Subject: Putin in Cuba, Groundhog Day in America

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July 11, 2014

Dear Friends:

As Russian President Vladimir Putin visits Havana, and builds closer ties with Cuba's senior leadership, it begs the question, "Haven't we seen this movie before?"

Our six-decade stalemate with Cuba started at the height of the Cold War. Cuba established formal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union on May 8, 1960. Washington, in turn, severed ties with Havana on January 3, 1961. By the time Vladimir Putin was a ten-year-old and Barack Obama was an infant, we had already lived through the Cuban Missile Crisis, the establishment of the Lourdes signals intelligence center near Havana, and more, which brought the heat of the Cold War within a hundred miles of our shores.

Back then, the Eisenhower and Kennedy Administrations decided it just would not do to have what was called a "Soviet puppet" in what some still call our "backyard." President Kennedy, as Cuba scholar Daniel Erikson wrote , reinterpreted the Monroe Doctrine "to support American efforts to contain the expansion of Soviet influence into the hemisphere."

From the Bay of Pigs invasion to diplomatic isolation to the tightest economic sanctions imposed on Cuba, driving the Soviets out and punishing the Cubans for inviting them in has been what U.S. policy was all about. This was matched, year after year, by Cuba's resolute resistance to whatever wallops Washington delivered, sustained for a decade by Soviet subsidies.

The fall of the Berlin Wall led, ultimately, to the collapse of Cuba's economy. When the Soviet Union broke-up in 1991, Cuba lost annual assistance estimated at approximately $4.5 billion. Its economy contracted by 35% more or less overnight. Public transport essentially ground to a halt. Calorie consumption in the average Cuban's diet fell 30%. Export earnings fell 80%. By January 1, 1992, when the Soviets cut off all military and economic assistance to Cuba, the allies had gone through a nasty break-up.

This was the moment to declare victory. With Russia dislodged from Cuba, the U.S. could have reinvigorated diplomacy and reached a *modus vivendi* with Cuba. The objectives of our Cold War era policy having been satisfied, we could have even brought some long overdue tranquility to our relationships in Latin America.

Instead, U.S. policymakers decided to try and finish the job, passing the Cuba Democracy Act, which tightened the embargo screws even further, with the expectation that Cuba's economic travails would do Cuba's government in. It could have been called "The Never Miss an Opportunity to Miss an Opportunity Act of 1992."

What happened? Well, Cuba's government didn't fall under the weight of the U.S. embargo. Raúl and Fidel Castro organized a peaceful transition of power. Our insistence

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on shutting Cuba out of regional forums like the OAS backfired on us. Now, a little more than two decades later, Russia is back.

Without apparent irony, Yuri Ushakov, a presidential aide, told a reporter that the Kremlin considers Cuba to be "one of Russia's ancient partners in Latin America." To advance that partnership, even before President Putin landed on Cuban soil, Russia agreed to write off about $32 billion in debt Cuba owed to the Soviet Union.

This is a big deal. The Voice of Russia news service references one analyst, Caroline Kennedy (no, we're not kidding), Head of the School of Politics, Philosophy, and International Studies at the University of Hull, as it observed, "the writing-off of the historic debt is about trying to reinvigorate a relationship that had fallen into abeyance in the 1990s - something Putin himself has said that he regrets in recent speeches."

In addition to writing off Cuba's debt, Russia has been written into Cuba's strategy for recovering oil from the vast offshore reserves it has sought to exploit in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico since the 1990s. As Bloomberg reports, during Putin's visit, two Russian state oil producers "plan to sign an agreement with Cuban company Cupet SA to carry out joint operations in Cuba's offshore areas."

It might interest you to know that on Putin's last trip to Cuba fourteen years ago, he pulled the plug on the Lourdes signal intelligence center as his personal affirmation that the Cold War was over, a gesture he believed was snubbed and, as Progreso Weekly reported, he also reviewed the status of Cuba's backlogged debt payments for previously acquired Soviet loans.

We *have* seen this movie before. It's called "Groundhog Day." In that film, history on February 2nd repeats itself day after day until our love-smitten, TV weatherman sets aside his self-destructive behavior and ends the tragic time loop by repairing his relationships and doing right in the world. The cold of winter gives way, finally, to spring.

"Keep in mind that when Castro came to power," President Obama said last year in Miami, "I was just born. So the notion that the same policies that we put in place in 1961 would somehow still be as effective as they are today in the age of the Internet and Google and world travel doesn't make sense."

Whether it's inviting Cuba to join the Summit of the Americas, engaging with Cuba directly to protect the coast of Florida from the potential risk posed by a Ruso-Cuban drilling accident, or using his ample executive authority to go bolder and deeper, surely President Obama can summon the imagination and courage, not to drive Russia out, but to get our country back in the game.

This week in Cuba news...

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Recommended Reading
- Cuba's New Labor Code and Foreign Investment Law: Implications for Workers , Geoff Thale, Washington Office on Latin America
- Democrats' Florida Push Calls for US Shift on Cuba , Michael Mishak, Associated Press
- Re-engaging Cuba: A visitor makes the case for a thaw in relations , Editorial Board, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
- Miami Stores Enjoy Thriving Business from Cuban Shoppers , Greg Allen, NPR
- Can the Internet spur economic growth in Cuba? , Ambassador Tim Cole, FCO Blogs
- The Forbidden Fruit , Jaime Hamre, The Center for Democracy in the Americas
- Cuba-United States -- Something Is Moving , Ignacio Ramonet, Inter Press Service
- Cuba Rediscovers Clara Porset , Mayra Pombo García, Cuban Art News
- On Cuba, we're stuck in a time warp , Paul Waldman, The Washington Post

Recommended Viewing
- Home to Havana , Carrie Seidman and Elaine Litherland, Sarasota Herald Tribune
- The end of a propaganda program aimed at Cuba , Lawrence O'Donnell, The Last Word

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

U.S. finally ends AeroMartí program

The AeroMartí program, an aircraft-based television broadcast system, which tried and failed to circumvent the jamming of TV Martí of by Cuba's government, was quietly ended in April after seven years of operation, reports Foreign Policy . The cost of the program exceeded $35 million.

The demise of the program was first noted in the July 2014 *Inspection of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting* report , released Monday by the U.S. Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG).

The work-around itself failed, because Cuba's government jammed the plane's transmissions. Even though the plane was grounded and stored in a warehouse in rural Georgia, hardliners in Congress such as Senator Robert Menendez (NJ), Senator Marco Rubio (FL), Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27), and Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart (FL-25) insisted that AeroMartí be maintained at an annual cost of $79,524, so the plane could be ready to return to the air in the unlikely event that Cuba's government were to reverse course and stop jamming the signal as it has done since the 1990s. According to the report, Congress finally heeded repeated requests by the BBG to end a costly program that had failed to achieve its goals.

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In other findings, the report documents:

- Staff complaints that the director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) holds town hall meetings, but engages in one-way communications, and that questions are not allowed;
- Staff complaints that the acting general manager disempowers employees, prevents them from making decisions, and has them simply follow orders;
- Deployment of an OCB product, Piramideo, discussed by Tracy Eaton here , "which is an SMS-based social network that makes it easier for people inside Cuba to share information and connect with one another" outside of the government's control; and,
- Normal procedures for contracting, purchasing equipment, and paying for travel were not followed, which allowed the acting general manager to run up excess costs for airfare between offices in Washington and Miami, his residence in Los Angeles and other West Coast locations.

The BBG continues to produce programming for Radio Martí and TV Martí, launched in 1985 and 1990 respectively. Collectively, the U.S. government has spent more than $500 million on Martí programming to date. The BBG plans to bring Martí programming to Cubans in new ways including through DVDs, flash drives, satellites, and smartphone applications.

To read the U.S. Department of State and the BBG's July 2014 *Inspection of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting* unclassified report, see here . For past CDA coverage of the AeroMartí program, see here .

U.S. and Cuba hold biannual migration talks, discuss Alan Gross

Cuban and U.S. officials met in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday for biannual discussions of the 1994 and 1995 U.S.-Cuba Migration Accords, reports the Associated Press . The accords require the governments of the United States and Cuba "to promote safe, legal, and orderly migration between Cuba and the United States."

Alex Lee, Deputy Assistant Secretary at the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, and Josefina Vidal, Director General for U.S. Affairs at Cuba's Foreign Ministry, co-led these most recent talks. The meetings halted in 2011, the year that USAID subcontractor Alan Gross was convicted in Cuba, and resumed in 2013.

According to a statement by Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX), the officials discussed "actions carried out by the parties, both individually and collectively, to combat illegal migration, human smuggling and the falsification of migration documents." As it has before, MINREX called on the United States to eliminate the Cuban Adjustment Act, which expedites citizenship for Cubans who arrive in the U.S. legally or illegally. The Latin American Herald Tribune reports that about 1.5 million of the 2 million Cubans living abroad reside in the United States.

The AP reports that, in addition to issues of migration, the countries' officials discussed Alan Gross, human rights violations on the island, U.S. fugitives who have fled to Cuba and the renewal of direct mail services between the two countries. The State Department emphasized in its statement that at the talks, the U.S. "reiterated its call for the release of Alan Gross."

The State Department reminded the public that the talks are "routine" and should not be considered any indication of a new outlook on relations with Cuba.

Senator Menendez accuses Cuba of smear plot against him

Senator Robert Menendez (NJ) has accused Cuba's government of spreading a 2012 story that he paid underage prostitutes for sex in the Dominican Republic and is asking the U.S. Justice Department to investigate the alleged plot to smear him, reports

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the Washington Post . The Associated Press reports that Senator Menendez believes Cuba's government may also have had a role in allegations that led to an ongoing federal investigation of the Senator's ties to Dr. Salomon Melgen, a Dominican ophthalmologist who is being investigated for Medicare fraud. However, MSNBC reports that after speaking to numerous intelligence officials, it has found no credible evidence linking Cuba's government to the story.

Senator Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and one of the strongest supporters of the U.S. embargo against Cuba, believes that the story, which broke right before the November 2012 elections, came from Cuba's plot to prevent his re-election. As Menendez said to the AP:

> ***"To the extent [Cuba would] like to see the United States engage them more on their terms, which is not to observe democracy and human rights, they probably feel that I'm the single most significant impediment to their goals."***

The federal government is still examining whether Menendez received donations in return for doing political favors for Dr. Melgen. In April 2014, Menendez's lawyer, Stephen M. Ryan, sent a letter to the Justice Department asking for an investigation. CNN calls this latest move by Menendez's legal team a "legal Hail Mary" meant to complicate the current federal probe of the Senator.

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping visit Cuba

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping will both visit Cuba as part of larger tours of Latin America scheduled around the 6th annual BRICS Summit in Brazil -- a meeting of the leaders of five emerging international economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa -- report RIA Novosti and Progreso Weekly .

Putin visits Cuba July 11 before attending the BRICS Summit and Xinping will visit Cuba -- as well as Venezuela and Argentina -- after the Summit. At the BRICS Summit, which will take place July 14-16, Putin will attend the BRICS-Latin American Leaders' Dialogue Forum. Jinping will meet with members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) while in Brazil.

In Cuba, Putin and President Raúl Castro will reportedly discuss "developing trade, economic and investment ties, and implementing joint projects in energy, transport, civil aviation, peaceful use of outer space, and healthcare," according to a Kremlin press release. The press release anticipates the two leaders will sign several bilateral accords. Putin will also meet with former President Fidel Castro. This will be his first visit to Cuba in 14 years, reports Progreso Weekly .

Putin's trip follows a strengthening of ties between Cuba and Russia in recent months. In May , the two countries signed a cooperation agreement on security. Later that month , Cuba and Russia signed cooperation agreements allowing two Russian oil companies to drill offshore in Cuban waters in exchange for Cuban students studying at a Russian university.

Xi Jinping's visit to Cuba was preceded by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Latin America tour in April, during which he met with Cuba's Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla. China is Cuba's second most important economic ally after Venezuela, reports AFP .

Russia to forgive 90% of Cuba's debt

On Wednesday, Russia's Federation Council cancelled 90% of Cuba's $35.2 billion debt to Russia for loans Cuba received when Russia was part of the Soviet Union, The Moscow Times reports. The agreement was passed by Russia's Duma last Friday, the same day

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that Putin's trip to Cuba was announced. Cuba will have to pay Russia back 10% of its loans, about $3.5 billion, over a period of ten years beginning on October 25, 2014, reports Progreso Weekly . Russia will reinvest the payments it receives from Cuba into Russian projects in Cuba.

While Russia historically has argued that Cuba owed this money since the Soviet era, Cuba's government has made the case that the Russian Federation should have compensated Cuba after breaking bilateral relations in the 1990s and the privation that followed during what became known as the "Special Period."

In an interview on Thursday with Prensa Latina and Itar-Tass , Cuban and Russian state news agencies respectively, Putin detailed the type of cooperation he would like to see between Russia and Cuba in the future. He said that Russian businesses that specialize in "manufacturing metal and plastic products, spare parts for cars, in tractor assembly and in assembly of heavy equipment for the rail industry" were interested in investing in the Special Economic Zone at Mariel, and added that the two countries hope to establish a transportation exchange through Mariel Port and by constructing an international airport at San Antonio de los Baños in Cuba.

Tourism continues to rise in Cuba: first six months of 2014 see 4.6% increase

The number of tourists traveling to Cuba in the first six months of 2014 was up by 4.6% over the same period last year, the Latin American Herald Tribune reports. This increase amounts to a total of 1.67 million foreign tourists traveling to Cuba during the first half of the year. In May , Cuba's National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) found that 60,000 more tourists traveled to Cuba from January-April 2014 than during those months in 2013.

Container terminal at Mariel Port handles 57 ships

Fifty-seven ships have used the container terminal at Mariel Port in the six months since it opened , amounting to a total of 15,000 containers, reports EFE . According to the report, the terminal has the capacity to handle up to 822,000 containers per year.

President Raúl Castro signed legislation authorizing the creation of the Special Economic Development Zone at Mariel Port in September 2013 . The Special Zone is meant to connect Cuba internationally, encourage foreign investment to boost Cuba's lagging economy, and provide employment opportunities for local Cubans. The project at Mariel Port, along with the Foreign Investment Law passed in March 2014 , is part of Cuba's recent effort to attract foreign investment. Cuba is currently considering 23 proposals for foreign investment in the Port.

IN CUBA

President Raúl Castro assesses Cuba's economy

Last weekend, President Raúl Castro addressed the National Assembly in Havana and discussed the slow pace of economic progress in Cuba, reports the Associated Press .

As we reported two weeks ago, the government slashed its initial estimates for GDP growth in 2014 from 2.2% to 1.4%.

President Castro recognized in his 25-minute speech to the National Assembly that Cuba's economy was not improving as desired, but also insisted that the country is, in fact, taking the necessary precautions and 'appropriate gradualness' to ensure future economic stability and growth:

> ***"Gradualness is not a whim, much less a desire to delay the changes that we must make. On the contrary, it is about a need to ensure order and avoid gaps that would lead us directly to mistakes that distort the proposed objectives."***

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In acknowledging the "modest" improvement of Cuba's economy, President Castro cited the absence of "foreign revenue," "climatic conditions" and the "internal shortcomings" in the way Cuba's government regulates the economy, reports Havana Times . His speech also emphasized the need for a national "fighting spirit" and "optimism" in order to "reverse the situation and recover the rhythms of progress to ensure a socialist development on sustainable and irreversible foundations," reports Granma .

Cuba to increase customs restrictions in September

Starting in September 2014, Cuba's government will impose new restrictions on the goods it allows through customs, as well as a new customs tax, reports Café Fuerte . This policy is part of an effort to reduce the trafficking of goods sent by third parties into the country. The Resolution published by Cuba's customs office details regulations for 381 categories of items that those entering the country can declare for personal use.

Electronic and information goods will experience the most drastic limitations; in addition to cutting down the number of items allowed into the country, the new regulations say that in order to bring certain electronic technology into the country, travelers will need to obtain a letter from the Ministry of Communications. Goods that require explicit permission include wireless fax machines, switchboards, wireless microphones, routers, and walkie-talkies.

A reduced number of other goods, including food and clothing items, will be allowed into the country, though no letter will be required for them. In addition to these new regulations, travelers will have to pay an increased customs tariff in an unspecified amount and currency (Cuban pesos or CUC).

Official in charge of currency unification says it won't cause price increases

Marino Murillo, Vice President of Cuba's Council of Ministers and the man responsible for spearheading Cuba's economic reforms, stated on Saturday that the unification of the dual currency system will not have an adverse effect on the Cuban people's purchasing power, reports Havana Times . Though currently the exchange rate between the two currencies is 24 Cuban Pesos (CUP) to 1 Convertible Peso (CUC), the currency reform will eventually eliminate the CUC so that only the CUP remains in circulation.

Some Cubans who have savings in CUC are concerned about possible ramifications of currency reform, but Vice President Murillo insists that the end of dual currency "will have no effect" and will not cause prices to increase. While Vice President Murillo expressed support for this economic reform, he also recognized that unifying the two currencies will not solve all of Cuba's economic problems.

Minister of Agriculture announces reforms to boost agricultural productivity

At the National Assembly on July 4, Gustavo Rodríguez Rollero, Cuba's Minister of Agriculture, announced new reforms aimed at increasing the agricultural sector's productivity, reports EFE . The reforms will go into effect in three stages between now and the end of 2015. Changes include the elimination of 6,441 mostly administrative state jobs in the agricultural sector and the relaxation of some restrictions on cooperatives that "slow down agricultural development." These changes represent a 41% personnel reduction and are expected to save the government 15,067,007 Cuban pesos (CUP), reports El Mundo .

EFE reports that the government is also likely to eliminate UNA, a distributor of agricultural goods that acts as an intermediary between farmers and the agricultural market, which currently manages 378 markets. El Mundo reports that UNA is "inefficient and corrupt."

Days before the reforms were announced, Ulises Guilarte, Secretary General of the Workers' Central Union of Cuba, announced that Cuba was spending $2 billion annually on

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importing food, Cartas Desde Cuba reports. These reforms will try to make production within Cuba more efficient.

Rodríguez Rollero acknowledged in his presentation to the National Assembly that agricultural cooperatives, which employ 66% of agricultural workers, have the highest production levels in the agricultural sector. Marino Murillo, Vice President of Cuba's Council of Ministers, said that while almost a third of the land owned by the state lies fallow, 90% of the land owned by the private sector and the cooperatives is productive.

Schools to become more individualized under education reforms

In the coming school year, Cuba's Ministry of Education will implement reforms that will give individual schools more autonomy and better prepare teachers, the Latin American Herald Tribune reports. Minister of Education Ena Elsa Velázquez announced the reforms, adding that they were created with input from students, teachers, and officials.

According to the report, principals will now be able to structure the curricula and activities within their specific schools to best serve their particular communities. Velázquez said that while the education system will become more personalized under the reforms, schools still have to meet standards:

> ***"Flexibility does not mean that each school will do what it wants. The study plan must be respected and carried out with more rigor, and professors must ... prepare themselves better [so] that no class is left out."***

The reforms also give teachers more time to prepare class material, add more vocational training classes for students, and emphasize increased communication between school councils and students' families. The Ministry of Education is also working on a long-term project to improve curricula and textbooks.

The status and quality of Cuba's educational system, a hallmark of the Cuban Revolution, has recently become a subject of debate on the island. In June, a scandal over exam cheating that led to eight arrests was reported by the Associated Press .

***Cuba Posible* co-founders discuss their new publication**

Roberto Veiga, the former editor of *Espacio Laical*, says that the purpose of his new publication, *Cuba Posible*, is to provide a space for debate, inclusive of many perspectives, that will help affect moderate change, reports El Toque . Last week , Veiga and his former co-editor Lenier González, who left *Espacio Laical* in May, announced that they would embark on a new project --*Cuba Posible* -- which is currently in very early stages.

El Toque reports that Veiga provided more details about their vision for the publication:

> ***"We will try not to make our project considered subversive, because it does not intend to dismantle anything, but rather complete a work. ... Many of the achievements of the Revolution are just but must be developed, because they are affected by the social and economic crisis. Additionally, there are other demands of society that have not been achieved, but pursuing them does not mean dismantling [the Revolution] but rather completing it."***

In an interview with Global Voices , González discussed the project's goal of balance, saying that it will be a space for "channeling all opinions and proposals, for facilitating greater economic and social stability in the country."

Veiga described to Reuters why it is so important to him and González that the project remain moderate:

> ***"Cubans want a change, a big change, but generally they yearn for a change***

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without disruption, change without confrontation, without annihilation. ... They want peaceful change within a process of inclusion."

El Toque reports that *Cuba Posible* currently remains unfunded and notes that this project, unlike *Espacio Laical*, will not be protected by the large Church institution. González strongly rejects rumors that he and Veiga are trying to form a political party. Rather, Veiga said they are responding to the needs of the Cuban people:

"A friend always tells us: if [José] Martí had to declare a 'Necessary War,' today we have to establish a Necessary Peace. The people of Cuba are tired of fighting and need progress and balance."

Recommended Reading

Cuba's New Labor Code and Foreign Investment Law: Implications for Workers , Geoff Thale, Washington Office on Latin America

Geoff Thale, Program Director at WOLA, breaks down these two recently passed laws, analyzing what they will mean for Cuban workers.

Democrats' Florida Push Calls for US Shift on Cuba , Michael Mishak, Associated Press

Mishak reports on broadening support for ending the embargo, especially among prominent Democrats, such as Charlie Crist and Hillary Clinton. He emphasizes that the changing political climate surrounding Cuba has made this support possible.

Re-engaging Cuba: A visitor makes the case for a thaw in relations , Editorial Board, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

After a visit by José Ramón Cabañas, Chief of Mission at the Cuban Interests Section, to Pittsburgh last week, the Post-Gazette looks at points he made during his visit about opportunities for improved relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

Miami Stores Enjoy Thriving Business From Cuban Shoppers , Greg Allen, NPR

NPR reports on the successes of businesses dedicated to providing affordable products for Cuban Americans and Cubans to sell upon arrival on the island.

Can the Internet spur economic growth in Cuba? , Ambassador Tim Cole, FCO Blogs

Tim Cole, the British Ambassador to Cuba, writes about the benefits that increased Internet access for Cubans could bring.

The Forbidden Fruit , Jaime Hamre, The Center for Democracy in the Americas

Jaime, CDA's Stephen M. Rivers Memorial Intern, reflects on her most recent trip to Cuba co-leading a people-to-people delegation.

Cuba-United States - Something Is Moving , Ignacio Ramonet, Inter Press Service

Ramonet writes about shifting views on Cuba and compares Hillary Clinton's recently-announced opposition to the embargo to the "limited, largely symbolic, gestures" that President Barack Obama has made toward engaging with Cuba.

Cuba Rediscovers Clara Porset , Mayra Pombo García, Cuban Art News

Mayra Pombo García interviews Jorge R. Bermúdez, author of "Clara Porset, Diseño y Cultura," about the life of Cuban furniture and interior designer Clara Porset (1895-1981),

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whose design career took her to the United States, Mexico, and back to Cuba.

On Cuba, we're stuck in a time warp , Paul Waldman, The Washington Post

Waldman argues that the U.S. government can't seem to ditch its Cold War mentality toward Cuba. He writes, "Perhaps it was less than crazy to believe that the embargo would bring Castro down in 1964, or 1974, or 1984. But it's 2014, and it hasn't worked yet. Acknowledging that doesn't make you 'soft' on the commies. It makes you sane."

Recommended Viewing

Home to Havana , Carrie Seidman and Elaine Litherland, Sarasota Herald Tribune

This feature by Carrie Seidman with video and photography by Elaine Litherland follows Ariel Serrano, a Cuban ballet performer who defected with his wife. Now, he and his wife are back in Cuba with their son Francisco Serrano and other students from their ballet school to participate in a 10-day workshop on the island. The feature includes video, photographs, and written materials, as well as reflections by the reporters on their travel experience.

The end of a propaganda program aimed at Cuba , Lawrence O'Donnell, The Last Word

MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell weighs in on the termination of the U.S. sponsored AeroMartí program in Cuba.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: sewallconroy@comcast.net
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/1/2008 4:52:42 AM
Subject: Re: Agency Leads

thanks; will report back.

---------- Original message ----------
From: john.podesta@gmail.com
Re #1 I'd ask Michele if she would feel comfortable with a hamre lead; if yes let's ask him; if no let's just go with michele and bill.
Re #2 they are all good. Be good to have some diversity so I'm partial to making Clark or Ron co-leads, but can live with any resolution presented.

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: sewallconroy@comcast.net
Date: Sat, 01 Nov 2008 02:38:30 +0000
To: <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Subject: Agency Leads

John,

We'd like your feedback on two leadership roles in Agency teams.

1) A replacement (if any) for Sam Nunn on DOD. John Hamre was one of the names we'd discussed before in considering a more senior face to put on the DOD team as you desired. Do you want us to ask him or to develop other candidates, or have Bill Lynn and Michele Flournoy stay as co-leads?

2) James Loy cannot serve (conflict of interest) as co-lead of DHS with Randy Beers. Randy has proposed two candidates: John Gannon and John Gordon. While Susan and I would be fine with either, we do not know if either would do it.

John Gannon was to have led the pre-Nov 4 Intel/DHS transition but had a conflict of interest and time that led him to step away from the lead. John Gordon's business interests may similarly impede him from playing a role. We'd like your guidance regarding whether to proceed with seeking a co-lead for Randy and if so whether you have preferences.

An alternative model would be to have Randy lead and appoint a deputy -- perhaps Clark Kent Ervin (african american, former DHS counsel) or Ron Lee from NSA since he'd rather be on DHS. Please let us know your thoughts.

Thanks. -Sarah

John Gordon

Gordon was at the WH as HS Advisor til 2004. He is highly respected for his professionalism. Gordon will do it for the country as a committed career officer.

> General John A. Gordon earned a B.S. degree from the University of Missouri in 1968, an M.S. degree at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1970, and an M.A. degree from Highlands University in 1972.
>
> General Gordon served in the White House as the Presidentâ€™s Homeland Security Advisor from June 2003 until June 2004 and as the Deputy National Security Advisor for Counter Terrorism and the National

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Director for Counter Terrorism from June 2002 to June 2003. Prior to joining the White House team, General Gordon was the first administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration and Under Secretary of Energy, responsible for the entirety of the nationâ€™s nuclear weapons program, serving from June 2000 until June 2002. As an Air Force four-star general, he was the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence from October 1997 until June 2000. General Gordonâ€™s 32-year Air Force career included significant concentration on research and development, strategic planning, missile and space operations, intergovernmental operations, and international negotiations.

General Gordon is now a private consultant and serves on the boards of several corporations and nonprofit organizations.

John Gannon

BAE Systems has named Dr. John Gannon as vice president for Global Analysis, a new line of business formed within BAE Systems Information Technology.

Gannon joins BAE Systems after serving as Staff Director of the House Homeland Security Committee, the first new committee established by Congress in more than thirty years. In 2002-2003, he was a team leader in the White House's Transitional Planning Office for the Department of Homeland Security. He served previously in the senior-most analytic positions in the Intelligence Community, including CIA's Director of European Analysis, Deputy Director for Intelligence, Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, and Assistant Director of Central Intelligence for Analysis and Production. In the private sector, he developed the analytic workforce for Intellibridge Corporation, a web-based provider of outsourced analysis for government and corporate clients.

Gannon served as a naval officer in Southeast Asia and later in several Naval Reserve commands; retiring as a Captain. He was also elected to the Falls Church, Va., City Council and was subsequently appointed to the city's Planning Commission and later to the city's Economic Development Commission and Charter Review Commission.

Gannon holds a bachelor's degree from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., and master's and doctorate degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. He is an adjunct professor in the National Security Studies Program at Georgetown University.

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/11/2014 6:18:44 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Saturday October 11, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday October 11, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

Washington Post Opinion: Hillary Clinton's increasing comfort with being a female almost-candidate

"Clinton, like her party, is prepared to put issues of gender equality front and center; the preponderance of female voters and the Democrats' edge with them make that focus a no-brainer for candidates of both genders. 'We talk about a glass ceiling,' Clinton said at a forum on women's economic security at the Center for American Progress last month. 'These women don't even have a secure floor under them.'"

Politico: "Final document dump spills Clinton White House secrets"

"The records released over eight months did little to fulfill the fevered imaginations of Clinton critics who pined for some revelation that would torpedo Hillary Clinton's chances to attempt a return to the White House through a presidential campaign of her own."

Time: "Hillary Clinton's Burden of History"

"Clinton will benefit some, too. The documents are proof of her intimate involvement in nearly every aspect of professional Washington for more than two decades."

New York Times: "National Archives Releases More Clinton-Era Documents"

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“The National Archives released 10,000 more pages of previously undisclosed documents from the Clinton White House on Friday...”

Wall Street Journal: “Clinton Documents Show White House Scrambling to Do Damage Control”

“New records released from former President Bill Clinton’s administration depict a White House scrambling to defuse a series of scandals, with aides preparing detailed strategies to protect Bill and Hillary Clinton in the face of outside investigations that dogged them over two terms.”

MSNBC: “11 things we learned from today’s massive Clinton document dump”

"Here are the eleven most interesting revelations from the document dump, in no particular order:"

Washington Post: “Clinton presidential documents show White House amid setbacks, scandals”

“White House aides raised questions about how to structure and describe then-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton’s role in the 1993 attempt to overhaul the health-care system, including whether she would be considered a government employee and whether the group’s work could be kept secret, documents released Friday show.”

Bloomberg: “How Bill Clinton’s White House Handled Political Threats”

“The Clinton White House operated with a siege mentality for eight years, fashioning political strategies designed to preserve the first family and neutralize enemies both real and perceived, according to presidential documents released yesterday for the first time.”

Bloomberg: “Clinton Advisers Urged White House to ‘Defend HRC’”

“President Bill Clinton’s White House staff worked for years to keep Hillary Clinton from becoming a ‘political liability’ during investigations into the couple’s Arkansas land deal known as Whitewater.”

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: “Clinton Docs: Health-Overhaul Postmortem Identified ‘Disloyal’ Officials”

“A White House memo suggests that when Hillary Clinton was first lady in the early 1990s, she was unhappy about leaks that painted her husband’s White House in an unflattering light and wanted to know who was behind

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the disclosures."

The Hill opinion: A. B. Stoddard: "Clinton's calculus"

"For such a calculating and calculated politician, the volatility of the next three months will challenge Clinton's best-laid plans."

Articles:

Washington Post Opinion: Hillary Clinton's increasing comfort with being a female almost-candidate

By Ruth Marcus

October 10, 2014 7:19 p.m. EDT

The 2008 campaign was the first with a woman as a serious presidential contender, so it was not surprising that gender was an uncomfortable, tiptoe-y subject. The male candidates weren't sure-footed in dealing with it — recall Barack Obama's "you're likable enough, Hillary" and the debate discussion about the color of her jacket.

Neither, actually, was Clinton herself. Her campaign was never certain how, or even whether, to talk about gender. Often, it put the issue at arm's length. "I am very proud to be making history running as a woman for president of the United States," Clinton would say on the campaign trail, "but I'm not running because I am a woman."

Sometimes, under pressure, her campaign unnecessarily turned the gender card face up, as when, after a bruising debate in November 2007, her allies complained of six guys "piling on" the candidate— as if anyone ever thought of Clinton as a defenseless victim.

If the pre-campaign season is any indication — and, yes, I do think we are in pre-campaign season — this time could be interestingly different.

Clinton, like her party, is prepared to put issues of gender equality front and center; the preponderance of female voters and the Democrats' edge with them make that focus a no-brainer for candidates of both genders. "We talk about a glass ceiling," Clinton said at a forum on women's economic security at the Center for American Progress last month. "These women don't even have a secure floor under them."

More notable than the new focus on gender substance, though, may be Clinton's newfound comfort — or new

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degree of comfort — with being the female almost-candidate.

Witness Clinton's full-on embrace of grandma-hood, tweeting out pictures of her new granddaughter despite the twin potential pitfalls of gender andage. No one remarked on whether Mitt Romney's passel of grandkids made him seem old. (By the way, Clinton is seven months younger.) And no one questioned whether being a grandpa would diminish his zeal for the presidency.

You might call it sexist — except that Clinton herself has raised that possibility. "I know I have a decision to make," she told People magazine in June. "But part of what I've been thinking about, is everything I'm interested in and everything I enjoy doing — and with the extra added joy of 'I'm about to become a grandmother,' I want to live in the moment."

Just last week, though, baby Charlotte made her first appearance — in name, not in fact — on the campaign trail. Touting her "grandmother glow," Clinton, campaigning for Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Tom Wolf, noted that "there's a lot of Philadelphia and a lot of Pennsylvania in Charlotte. . . . Her father's already held her while watching the Eagles play."

And Charlotte is not just a cute prop — she serves a substantive point: That "you should not have to be the grandchild of a president" — or perhaps two presidents — "to get a good education, to get good health care. Let's make sure we give every child in Pennsylvania the same chance that I'm determined to give my granddaughter." Get ready to hear that line on the presidential campaign trail.

At the same time, Clinton seems looser, almost playful about gender in recent appearances. There she was at the Economic Club of Chicago earlier in the week describing how she tried to turn down Obama when he asked her to be secretary of state.

"In my discussions with him, after he offered me the job here in Chicago and I said no, and I said no again, and I said no again, and finally I just gave in," Clinton said. "And as I said to somebody the other day, I told my husband no and I wouldn't get married, and no, and just gave in. So . . . I have a history with charismatic, attractive men. They just wear me out."

Pretty edgy, with its coy, no-sometimes-means-yes connotations. Except that everybody understands that Clinton knows her mind; this girl is swept off her feet only when she's so inclined. No one hearing it would think, "Gee, if she can't say no to Barack Obama, how will she stand up to Vladimir Putin?" Clinton knows: Whatever criticisms she might encounter, not being tough enough won't be among them.

We saw some glimmerings of this Clinton in 2008, but her comfort level with gender, her willingness to engage in a bit of post-feminist flirtatiousness, seems greater now. The 2016 campaign could be the one that lets Hillary enjoy being a girl.

Politico: "Final document dump spills Clinton White House secrets"

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By Josh Gerstein

October 10, 2014, 1:04 p.m. EDT

It was the document dump to end all document dumps.

Tens of thousands of pages of previously-secret files detailing the inner workings of the President Bill Clinton's White House as it struggled with then-first lady Hillary Clinton's high-profile failure on health care reform, as aides sought to manage a slew of actual or perceived scandals, and as the White House staff reeled from disclosure of the Monica Lewinsky affair.

However, the records released over eight months did little to fulfill the fevered imaginations of Clinton critics who pined for some revelation that would torpedo Hillary Clinton's chances to attempt a return to the White House through a presidential campaign of her own.

The papers show a White House unabashed in its desires to manipulate the media through selective leaks and carefully-chosen interviews. But they're also a reminder that many of the techniques the Clinton team innovated are now commonplace in the political arena.

The set of files posted Friday spilled secrets on the creation of the "don't ask, don't tell policy," heated controversies involving Whitewater and the White House Travel Office, and how White House aides encouraged the president to use a State of the Union address to defend his wife against Republican criticism.

Among the most notable disclosures Friday:

Gays in the military

A fly-on-the-wall view of an early meeting Bill Clinton held with the joint chiefs of staff over his pledge to reverse the ban on gays in the military. The closed-door session, held just five days after Clinton took office, featured a spirited back-and-forth about the policy.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Colin Powell and Vice President Al Gore faced off over whether the issue of gay rights was parallel to that of African Americans, the detailed notes show.

Powell declared that the comparison with blacks was "off-base" because race is a "benign" characteristic and "sexuality is" different.

Gore responded that he saw "some parallels" between discrimination against gays and African Americans and that a gay person kicked out of the military just for being gay "is discriminated against in a way similar to black[s,]" the notes show.

Marine Corps Commandant Carl Mundy, who died earlier this year, equated announcing "I'm gay" with declaring "I'm KKK, Nazi, rapist," the notes indicate.

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Clinton suggested he was open to kicking some gays out of the military, even if they were identified through their advocacy. “People I would like to keep [in the military] wouldn’t show up at a Queer Nation parade,” the president said.

It’s unclear who took the 34-pages of richly-detailed notes, but National Archives notations indicated they came from the files of National Security Council staffer Richard Beardsworth.

Whitewater independent counsel

Notes detail opposition by both Bill and Hillary Clinton to the naming of an independent counsel to investigate their Whitewater investment.

One in a series of files pertaining to Whitewater contains a series of handwritten notes that appear to be minutes or a meeting or a survey of opinion. One entry, that appears to say “Mack” next to it, as in Chief of Staff Mack McLarty, reads, “Let’s get off whether we’ll have spcl pros or counsel, HRC + BC don’t want it.”

Militia group regulations

In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, the Clinton administration considered the possibility of aggressive new regulation of domestic militia groups, including publishing membership lists of such organization, requiring them to register with the federal government or to get permission before offering “paramilitary” training.

Some of the ideas were championed by Clinton adviser Dick Morris, who was known for advancing policy proposals that resonated well in polls.

“The public overwhelmingly supports a significant expansion in the FBI’s ability to investigate militia groups. If you and the Justice Department believe such an expansion would be in the public interest, I would recommend that we go ahead with it with a high profile announcement,” Morris wrote in an Oct. 6, 1995, memo to Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, as well as Deputy Chiefs of Staff Erskine Bowles and Harold Ickes.

The proposals seem to have produced widespread alarm in the administration, among Justice Department officials, White House lawyers and even other political advisers. Some worried that even reducing the proposals to writing could provoke a backlash from conservatives already wary of the federal government following high-profile showdowns at Ruby Ridge, Idaho and Waco, Texas.

“The Justice Department has stopped working on the terrorism question. They say this is because [White House Counsel Ab Mikva] instructed them that this is not information that should be on paper,” wrote Clinton White House aide Jennifer O’Connor. She’s now back at the White House, working in President Barack Obama’s counsel’s office after serving as a crisis-response lawyer handling problems at the Internal Revenue Service and with the roll-out of Obamacare.

O’Connor wrote that Mikva concluded “politically, the ideas we talked about are really bad ideas.”

“All of the lawyers analyzing these proposals (in this office and at DOJ) strongly believe it is a serious mistake—as a policy but especially as a political matter to impose militia controls of the type now being

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discussed, even if they would be constitutional," Mikva and others wrote, warning that measures already announced had prompted "an unprecedented alliance" between the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Rifle Association.

"We worry that further proposals of the type being discussed could be depicted in very menacing terms to average citizens and could tip the political balance against the President," Mikva added.

Behind closed doors

The records also offer colorful, behind-the-scenes glimpses of Bill Clinton's candor with aides. One document shows a side of Clinton rarely seen in public as he spoke frankly about what could and could not be in his 1999 State of the Union speech.

"We can't go around and bash the s*** out of all these people using child labor to produce all these cheap manufacturing projects and say, but we can't sign this convention because we want to keep the Mexican children working on our farms," he said during a discussion of child labor.

His remarks, peppered with profanity, sounded notes of humor and impatience, and underscored his desire to make the speech accessible.

"If I were listening to this pension thing, I wouldn't know what in the living hell we were talking about," Clinton said.

He also said one draft of the speech spent too much time on Saddam Hussein.

"It looks like we are obsessed with Saddam Hussein," he said. "I mean, it looks like, Jesus, he's the only guy we ever think about. There's a whole world out there."

An affair to remember

One former Clinton aide, speechwriter Lowell Weiss, sent a colleague a magazine article he wrote summing up the love-hate relationship many White House staffers have with their jobs.

"It has been said, accurately I think, that working in the White House is like dating the hottest woman (or man) you've ever seen," Weiss observed. "You know the relationship can't last. You know it's not healthy for you. But man, it's hard to give up."

Previously secret documents

The legal authority relied on to withhold the Clinton Library records made public on Friday and earlier this year expired in January 2013, 12 years after Clinton left office. However, none of the records were released until February of this year, after POLITICO reported that the long-secret files were in limbo.

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The records releases have been closely watched by political operatives and journalists alike since the files could shed light on Hillary Clinton's White House activities and fuel questions she faces about aspects of her record as she prepares for a possible bid for the presidency.

Three days after POLITICO inquired with President Barack Obama's White House in February about why none of the so-called previously withheld records had been released, White House lawyer David Sandler emailed the Archives, approving the release of thousands of pages of documents, records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act show.

The very next day, Clinton representative Bruce Lindsey signed off on disclosing the same batch of records — a trove so large that it has taken the library months to organize and post online.

Either Obama or Clinton could have moved to prevent disclosure of some of the records. Despite the lengthy review process, neither did, according to an Archives spokeswoman.

However, the release Friday of the final set of previously restricted records does not mean all the Clinton-era White House records are now available for public view. Far from it.

Tens of millions of pages and millions of emails have yet to be processed by archivists. In addition, some of the records that have been processed remain off-limits to the public on national security or privacy grounds. It also appears that some legal advice given to the Clintons has been deemed to be personal records, not covered by the Presidential Records Act. Records related solely to political matters have also been put off-limits under the same rationale.

Time: "Hillary Clinton's Burden of History"

By Zeke J. Miller

October 10, 2014

[Subtitle:] Everything old is new again for the Clintons, as documents reveal White House secrets.

Buried in the 10,000 pages of documents released by the Clinton Presidential Library Friday is one bearing the customized stamp "Document Produced To Independent Counsel."

Created to help track the untold number of documents produced for independent counsel Ken Starr's investigations of the Clintons, the stamp is a totem of the problem that has dogged Hillary Clinton since she ran for the U.S. Senate in 2000: her history.

The Library made the documents available Friday, completing the release of 30,000 pages of previously restricted White House records on everything from the failed HillaryCare push to the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

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Those controversies generated internal debates and gotcha-moments now bearing out 14 years after the former First Lady and her husband vacated the White House, complicating her bid to be a repeat occupant.

Deliberations over Supreme Court appointments, controversial pardons, and meetings with foreign leaders are bared for the world to see. Even personal feuds, like that between the former president and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, are on display in the margins of official documents and notes to staff. To read the document trove is to reenter a White House at the center of political and personal maelstroms.

The stamped memo captures the mid-1990s Clinton White House at a peak of high drama. Written by Deputy White House Counsel Bruce Lindsay to prepare President Bill Clinton for an interview on the Whitewater scandals, it strikes a familiar chord for those who view the former president as deceptive and those who view him as unfairly besieged by enemies. “NOTE: Of course, it is strongly recommended that you not answer specific factual questions about Whitewater, using the appointment of a special counsel as a legitimate way to deflect questions.”

Other documents reveal Hillary Clinton’s distaste for the press, her staff’s attempts to crack down on internal leaks, and the influence of donors in the White House. Ultimately, the documents, with an audience of Washington politicos, appear neither good nor bad for Clinton as she moves towards a run for the White House in 2016. Many simply reveal another perspective of issues well-covered twenty years ago. As much as anything else does, they simply define who she is and where she’s come from, even as she contemplates a new chapter in her life.

Conventional wisdom holds that longtime Senators with equally long voting records have a harder time running for the White House than governors do, a problem that Clinton has on steroids. Unending media interest in her and her husband, a sped-up news cycle, and the country’s increasingly short attention span have made even old news of interest as Clinton looks to 2016. Republicans will try to use these documents to revive the “Clinton Fatigue” that plagued the couple’s last years in office and cast a tall shadow over her failed 2008 presidential bid.

But Clinton will benefit some, too. The documents are proof of her intimate involvement in nearly every aspect of professional Washington for more than two decades. They show the Clintons and their aides tangling with complicated policy challenges, and reveal them slowly developing skills to manage the national media amid scandal.

Ultimately, the greatest challenge Clinton faces in the documents may not be answering for past political maneuvers or the snide remarks of aides, but finding a way to simply leave the past behind.

New York Times: “National Archives Releases More Clinton-Era Documents”

By The New York Times

October 10, 2014

The National Archives released 10,000 more pages of previously undisclosed documents from the Clinton White

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House on Friday, with topics including Hillary Rodham Clinton's ill-fated attempt as first lady to overhaul the health care system.

Previous disclosures often shed new light on elements of the Clinton presidency, including the administration's scrambles after the Republicans won control of the House in 1994 and after the Monica Lewinsky scandal began to envelop the White House in 1998.

The latest disclosures are posted on the website of the William J. Clinton Library.

A First Lady Plots Her Own Political Path

In the fall of 1999, Mrs. Clinton's staff faced a unique challenge: Figuring out how a sitting first lady could explore a run for the United States Senate. Should Mrs. Clinton's exploratory campaign committee or taxpayers pay for her trips to New York? What if she meets with United Nations officials and attends a fund-raiser?

The conclusion: The government would pay travel costs of Secret Service agents, the White House photographer, doctors and personal aides when Mrs. Clinton traveled to New York; the campaign would pay for travel of any aides related to her run for Senate.

The math over how to split these costs was broken down in excruciating detail in these memos. A trip to Binghamton, N.Y., and New York City included "43 percent official; 22 percent exploratory committee; 36 percent political," read one memo from the first lady's office.

The memos highlight the untraditional tenure of Mrs. Clinton, whose political ambition and policy involvement often overshadowed the traditional role of a first lady.

Continue reading the main story

Clinton Documents

Mrs. Clinton's role in overseeing the secretive Health Care Task Force prompted a lawsuit over whether the first lady was a private citizen or a public official. (A United States Court of Appeals declared the first lady to be a government official exempt from some disclosure requirements.)

The attempt at a health care overhaul represented a trial by fire for Mrs. Clinton, who was accused of overseeing a secretive and dysfunctional task force led by an aide, Ira Magaziner.

In a memo dated April 1995, Mr. Magaziner explains in detail his efforts to persuade the news media to report more positively on the failed task force, including a list of names of Clinton aides whom he believed to be sources on articles critical of the president and first lady's efforts at a health care overhaul.

"I seethe inside when I think of how disloyal some administration officials have been to you and the president and how hurtful they have been to me in their private discussions with the press," Mr. Magaziner wrote to Mrs. Clinton.

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— Amy Chozick

After a Suicide, a Cryptic Note From the President

One of the most intriguing documents released on Friday is an otherwise blank sheet of paper with a cryptic note in President Clinton's familiar left-hand scrawl.

The paper is dated June 14, 1994. "H.R.C.," it says, using the initials for Hillary Rodham Clinton. "What did we ever decide to do on this?" And then it is signed, "B.C."

Whatever "this" was is not mentioned. The paper was in a file marked "Vince Foster," referring to the longtime friend of Mrs. Clinton who came from Arkansas to serve as White House deputy counsel but then committed suicide. The day before the date marked on the document, both Mr. and Mrs. Clinton were interviewed by Robert Fiske, the independent counsel then looking into Mr. Foster's death.

— Peter Baker

Managing a Sex Scandal

On March 26, 1996, a young White House aide sent an email message up the chain of command. "This is an official request to hang the picture of President Clinton signing the telecomm bill in our office," the aide wrote. It was signed, "Thank you. Monica Lewinsky."

A month later, the young Ms. Lewinsky would be banished from the White House, dispatched to the nether regions of the administration by presidential advisers trying to protect the president. "Our direction is to make sure she has a job in an agency," Patsy Thomasson, the deputy White House personnel director, wrote in a message. "We are working toward that end."

The ultimately tragicomic White House tenure of Ms. Lewinsky echoes through some of the documents released on Friday. In hundreds of pages related to the scandal that would, to her everlasting chagrin, forever bear her name, Ms. Lewinsky is largely an off-screen character discussed endlessly by all the other players, with her own voice coming through in just that single banal, one-sentence request.

Also missing from the file are the voices of two other protagonists, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton. But the papers pull back the curtain a bit on the frenzied efforts by the people around them to deal with the burgeoning political furor touched off by the president's sexual liaison with Ms. Lewinsky that would lead to his impeachment by the House and acquittal by the Senate.

According to the papers, Mr. Clinton received a letter from Keith Olbermann, who had left sportscasting to become a political broadcaster, apologizing for "whatever part I may have played in perpetuating this ceaseless coverage" and promising to leave the news business and head "back to my previous career in sports as quickly as possible."

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A note drafted for Mr. Clinton to send in reply had the president saying, “I’m grateful you got in touch with me, and I send you my very best wishes.”

White House aides debated whether to forgive others they deemed complicit in fanning the flames. Mickey Ibarra, a White House aide, wrote about speaking with Gov. Parris Glendening of Maryland after he criticized Mr. Clinton. “I delivered our message (it does not help any of us to pile on),” Mr. Ibarra wrote.

When the radio host Tom Joyner made comments on his show that irritated Clinton aides, one sent a message saying they should remember that the next time he asked for an interview. Another countered that Mr. Joyner was mostly on the president’s side and besides they would need him in the future. “Politics baby!!!!!” the aide wrote.

Sidney Blumenthal, a White House adviser close to Mrs. Clinton, wrote a series of messages aimed at undercutting key players in the episode. He referred to “the plotters” who were promoting the scandal and called the journalist Michael Isikoff, then of Newsweek, a “coconspirator.”

He suggested that Linda Tripp, who taped Ms. Lewinsky talking about her relationship with the president and then turned over the recordings to the independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr, may have falsified talking points she said Ms. Lewinsky had given her. If so, Mr. Blumenthal wrote, “Tripp would be a liar, a worthless witness and open to prosecution herself for lying to F.B.I. investigators.”

As for Lucianne Goldberg, the literary agent who helped Ms. Tripp bring the original accusations to Mr. Isikoff at Newsweek, Mr. Blumenthal sent a message to the reporter David Corn questioning her integrity. In the message, Mr. Blumenthal wrote that Ms. Goldberg had been sued by the author Kitty Kelley “for stealing a lot of money from her” and suggested Mr. Corn call Ms. Kelley. “Do you want Kitty’s phone number?” he asked. “I think she’d talk on background.”

Also evident in the files is a certain resignation by Clinton aides mystified by the whole episode. Paul Begala, the longtime Clinton strategist, wrote to a White House aide in 1999 looking for help in coming up with lines for an event to be presided over by the NBC journalist Tim Russert. Mr. Begala wanted to be prepared for what he presumed would be the line of questioning.

“Russert asked me 13 times in one interview what the president’s relationship with Monica Lewinsky was,” Mr. Begala wrote, trying out a line. “Hell, I don’t even know what his relationship with Al Gore is.”

— Peter Baker

Damage Control Over Whitewater Deal

More than 1,000 pages of the documents released on Friday concern the Whitewater investigation in the mid-1990s of an Arkansas real estate deal involving the first couple. Among the legal opinions, talking points and chronologies in the documents are many memos focused on how to portray the Clintons in the most favorable light.

• An unsigned memo for the president from March 1994, titled “Key Points on Whitewater for Press Conference,” said, “You and Hillary have done nothing wrong. This whole affair involves an unsuccessful investment in a minor real estate deal nearly 16 years ago. Defend H.R.C. Stress her ethics and accomplishments as a lawyer and in

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doing public service work. A person whose life and career have exemplified highest ethical standards and integrity.

• In another memo written that same month, a political adviser, Paul Begala, urged the Clintons to do a joint interview on primetime television. “They must be relaxed, open and forthcoming. Any sense of bitterness, anger or righteous indignation will not work,” he wrote. “A word about interaction: Mandy observes that in many joint interviews, the president defers to the first lady. This may or may not be real, and it might be as simple as Southern manners, but it’s important that the president take the lead on this issue.”

• A January 1995 memo suggests that a “Whitewater Team” be formed, the purpose of which would be to “develop and implement a coherent offensive and defensive White House strategy for responding to inquiries directed at the character of the president or Mrs. Clinton.” The proposed team was to include more than a dozen people, including lawyers, press assistants and a researcher. “The team’s central focus will be issues that involve direct challenges to the character of the president or Mrs. Clinton,” the memo said.

— Kitty Bennett

Last-Minute Pleas for Clemency

In his final days in office, President Bill Clinton and his staff were being lobbied by a host of friends arguing for pardons or other executive clemency, including one of his former lawyers, a former president and a future adviser to the current president.

But none of the documents released on Friday warned him of the firestorm that would erupt with his last-minute acts of clemency.

The most controversial of the pardons eventually issued went to the financier Marc Rich, and the documents include a letter from Dec. 19, 2000, about Mr. Rich that was sent to a Clinton aide, Bruce Lindsey, by a former White House counsel, Jack Quinn. In the letter, Mr. Quinn cited a conversation with Mr. Lindsey while in Belfast about the pardon request for Mr. Rich, his client.

“You expressed a concern that they are fugitives; and I told you they are not,” Mr. Quinn wrote, referring to Mr. Rich and Pincus Green, his partner. Mr. Quinn went on to explain that Mr. Rich and Mr. Green were living in Switzerland when they were indicted in 1983. So rather than fleeing the indictments they simply “chose not to return to the U.S. for a trial.”

“Their failure to return to New York was not a crime, and no one has ever accused them of a crime for failing to come to the U.S. for a trial,” Mr. Quinn wrote.

The letter came just a few days after Mr. Quinn sent a handwritten note to Mr. Lindsey. “I am told that Barak also raised the Marc Rich matter with the president, as has at least one other person who was told that you and I should discuss it,” Mr. Quinn wrote in that note, referring to Ehud Barak, then the Israeli prime minister.

In another plea, former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, weighed in on behalf of two inmates on death row, Juan Raul Garza and David Paul Hammer, arguing that Mr. Clinton should spare them because of problems with the application of capital punishment in America.

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“Renewing federal executions under these circumstances would undermine your lifelong commitment to equal justice at home,” they wrote.

And Harold Hongju Koh, then the assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor who would go on to become President Obama’s top State Department legal adviser for a time, also wrote the White House about Mr. Garza, who was then scheduled to be the first federal inmate executed in nearly 40 years.

Mr. Koh advocated a moratorium on federal executions because of evidence of racial disparity in the justice system. “One of President Clinton’s greatest legacies will be his commitment to racial justice and equality,” Mr. Koh wrote. A moratorium “would reaffirm that legacy.”

In the end, Mr. Clinton pardoned Mr. Rich and Mr. Green. He postponed Mr. Garza’s execution, but the convict was put to death in June 2001 after President George W. Bush refused to grant clemency.

Mr. Hammer’s execution was postponed and his death sentence was later overturned by a judge because the prosecution had withheld statements that might have helped him. He was resentenced to life in prison, a sentence reaffirmed this summer.

— Peter Baker

Was Bill Clinton a Trekkie?

The revelation of presidential affair with a young aide would be a public relations nightmare for any White House, but some aides kept a sense of humor about it in their correspondence.

Mr. Clinton was preparing for a news conference in 1999 a week before an interview Ms. Lewinsky gave to Barbara Walters was set to air. Anticipating that reporters would ask the president whether he planned to watch the interview, James Kennedy, a White House spokesman, passed along a suggested response to his colleague, Amy Weiss.

Mr. Kennedy wrote that Mr. Clinton should say, “I have already expressed my regret for what she and others have had to go through because of things I have said and done. I wish her well in whatever she does.”

But that was not Mr. Kennedy’s original idea. He first thought about letting Mr. Clinton say bluntly that he would not be watching television that day. Frustrated that a lawyer struck that line from the proposed response, Mr. Kennedy suggested that Joe Lockhart, the White House press secretary, offer an intergalactic response.

“Perhaps Joe, if asked, can say he usually watches ‘Star Trek: Voyager’ at that hour,” Mr. Kennedy wrote. Here’s the interview Mr. Clinton might have missed while he was possibly watching the prequel to the original “Star Trek” series:

— Alan Rappeport

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Hollywood Strikes Back

Mr. Clinton found some of his strongest financial support among Hollywood moguls who were not too happy when the White House introduced a Summit on Violence in the Media in the wake of the 1999 high school shooting in Columbine, Colo. In one memo, a senior adviser, Minyon Moore, writes that Andy Spahn, an adviser to several megadonors in the entertainment industry, had expressed concern about the summit meeting.

“He indicated that if this was another attempt by the White House and Congress to attack the entertainment industry and not to talk specifically about guns, that this would greatly affect” a fund-raiser scheduled with Mr. Clinton in Los Angeles, Ms. Moore wrote.

In another memo, a White House aide informs Mr. Clinton’s office that David Geffen, the producer and prominent Democratic donor, wanted his foundation mentioned at the summit meeting. “Andy Spahn from his office will try to roll us on this,” the aide wrote. “How do you want me to handle their pressure?”

— Amy Chozick

Wall Street Journal: “Clinton Documents Show White House Scrambling to Do Damage Control”

By Peter Nicholas and Colleen McCain Nelson

October 10, 2014, 7:08 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Whitewater, Lewinsky Affair, Vince Foster Suicide Among Scandals Detailed in Newly Released Pages

New records released from former President Bill Clinton’s administration depict a White House scrambling to defuse a series of scandals, with aides preparing detailed strategies to protect Bill and Hillary Clinton in the face of outside investigations that dogged them over two terms.

The nearly 10,000 pages of material made public Friday by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library show White House advisers who were sometimes as suspicious of each other as of the prosecutors examining the first family’s financial dealing and use of power in the 1990s.

Files made public covered some of the lowest points of the Clinton presidency: the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal, the death of former White House Deputy Counsel Vince Foster, and the series of Arkansas and White House dealings known collectively as Whitewater.

In a five-page memo written in 1995, then-White House adviser Ira Magaziner tells Hillary Clinton of how “disloyal” administration officials had “hurt” her and her husband.

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“You asked who in the administration was responsible for the harmful accounts" that had appeared in books about the White House, Mr. Magaziner wrote, suggesting who might have might have been behind the leaks.

“I seethe inside when I think of how disloyal some administration officials have been to you and the president,” he added.

The documents are part of a cache of 30,000 pages of material that had been previously withheld under laws exempting certain presidential records from disclosure. Those exemptions have expired and the library has been putting out the material on a rolling basis since February. With the release Friday, the library said it has made public all the material that had been previously held back.

Many of the records lay out intricate plans to guard the Clintons ’ public image as outside investigations ramped up.

In June 1994, White House aide David Dreyer laid out a draft communications plan for responding to Whitewater allegations. Congressional hearings on Whitewater were set to begin, and Mr. Dreyer wrote, “This is going to be a bad story. The hearings are a forum for our opponents.”

In a lengthy memo, he laid out an all-hands-on-deck approach to controlling the story line, suggesting that members of Congress should be recruited to give brief speeches saying nothing happened.

Mr. Dreyer wrote that Republicans “will stop at nothing, including torment the family of Vince Foster to advance their narrow political interests, to stop progress on health care or to hurt the president and Mrs. Clinton.”

The following month, Mr. Dreyer wrote another memo outlining the White House’s strategy for dealing with congressional hearings into Whitewater.

Among the plans: The Democratic National Committee created a video of Republican speeches during the hearings on the Iran-Contra scandal that occurred on GOP President Ronald Reagan ’s watch—to “show members what it means to be on message in support of the administration.”

Also that year, Clinton adviser Paul Begala wrote a memo to Lisa Caputo, the first lady’s press secretary, outlining a strategy for Bill and Hillary Clinton to do a joint television interview.

“In this situation, the Clintons’ attitude is their message,” he wrote in the memo, dated March 1994.

“They must be relaxed, open and forthcoming. Any sense of bitterness, anger, or righteous indignation will not work.”

One word of caution he offered, referencing campaign adviser Mandy Grunwald : “Mandy observes that in many joint interviews, the president defers to the first lady. This may or may not be real, and it might be as simple as Southern manners, but it’s important that the president take the lead on this issue.”

The trove of documents includes 229 pages related to the Lewinsky scandal—a PG-rated collection of emails

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and talking points that show a White House scrambling to protect Bill Clinton.

As details of the president's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky emerge and as the threat of impeachment looms, the White House correspondence often focuses on coordinated talking points emphasizing that "a private mistake does not amount to an impeachable action." Several emails from White House aides discuss whether someone in the West Wing was the source of stories calling Ms. Lewinsky "a stalker."

The documents also include the White House's response to an email from journalist Keith Olbermann, who wrote to apologize for "whatever part I may have played in perpetuating this ceaseless coverage" of the Lewinsky story.

"I'll be heading back to my previous career in sports as quickly as possible," Mr. Olbermann wrote.

MSNBC: "11 things we learned from today's massive Clinton document dump"

By Alex Seitz-Wald and Aliyah Frumin

October 10, 2014, 7:37 p.m. EDT

The Clinton presidential library on Friday released almost 10,000 pages of never-before-seen documents that shed new light on the inner workings of the Clinton White House, from the salacious (Monica Lewinsky) to the political (Mike Huckabee hates Bill Clinton) to the comical (a future Supreme Court justice's profane apology to her boss).

Here are the eleven most interesting revelations from the document dump, in no particular order:

Before she was a Supreme Court justice, Elena Kagan "really f—ked up:" While working as a lawyer in the Clinton White House in 1996, Kagan apologized to him for not keeping him informed about a television segment on the Paula Jones lawsuit. "I realize now that I may·have really f–ked up in not mentioning to you," Kagan wrote to then-White House Counsel Jack Quinn. "God, do I feel like an idiot." Fortunately, her career seems to have survived.

Mike Huckabee "hates" Bill Clinton: After the Columbine school shooting, Bill Clinton's successor as governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee, urged the president to issue a national proclamation to promote "positive television programing." Clinton aide appended a handwritten note to the Republican's letter urging a "quick/warm response," because Huckabee "hates BC [Bill Clinton]" and "is planning a Senate race against [Sen. Blanche] Lincoln."

Pressure from Hollywood: As the White House was preparing an event that would highlight the problem with violence in the media for young people, a key Democratic money man warned of a backlash in Hollywood. Andy Spahn, an advisor to some of Hollywood's biggest political donors, warned White House political aide Minyon Moore that the "attack [on] the entertainment industry … would greatly effect the [fundraising] event that this community will be hosting with the POTUS on May 15th in LA," as Moore summarized it to Gore advisor Bruce

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Reed. “I would appreciate being kept up to date on these activities to I avoid a backlash.”

Tensions with Jimmy Carter: After Clinton launched missile strikes against a factory in Sudan thought to be used by al-Qaida in retaliation for the U.S. Embassies bombing, his Democratic predecessor called for an investigation into whether the factory actually had been producing chemical weapons. “Oh yeah, Carter’s on the case,” a national security aide commented sarcastically. ”Carter is not persuadable. His comments are over the top, no?”

An apology on Monica Lewinsky: In 1998, then-MSNBC host Keith Olbermann wrote to Clinton apologizing for “whatever part I may have played in perpetuating this ceaseless coverage” of the Lewinsky affair story. In a reply, Clinton thanked Olbermann for his “kind message,” adding “I’m grateful you got in touch with me, and I send you my very best wishes.” Another document shows Lewinsky performing normal White House intern duties, requesting that a portrait of Clinton be hung.

Internal concern over Marc Rich pardon: Clinton’s eleventh hour pardon of billionaire would leave a black mark on his legacy, something longtime Clinton aide Bruce Lindsey foresaw before the pardon, the new documents show. Lindsey was alarmed that Rich and his wife were fugitives, but White House counsel Jack Quinn dismissed the concern. “They (understandably in my mind) chose not to return to the U.S. for a trial in light of all that had happened to them; particularly the enormous and overwhelming adverse and prejudicial publicity generated, I am sure, by the U.S. Attorney [Rudy] Guiliani.” He also criticizes Giuliani for refusing to hear “highly respected independent legal scholars” on the matter.

“A terrific backlash:” A coming back Top Health and Human Services official Peter Edelman, who would later resign in protest from the administration, expressed concern over the confirmation process for Lani Guinier, Clinton’s nominee for assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division. Clinton eventually – and controversially – pulled the nomination following negative press from the right attacking Guinier’s views on voting and democracy. “I am hearing that there will be terrific backlash in the black community if Lani’s nomination is pulled now … She has to have the chance to make her case,” Edelman warned the White House’s top lawyer on June 2, 1993.

“Riding a roller coaster in a hurricane:” As Hillary Clinton’s health care reform task force was getting under way, its leader Ira Magaziner warned the Clintons it would not be easy. “The health care effort is going to be like riding a roller coaster in a hurricane,” he wrote in a memo to the first couple. “If we are well organized, persistent and ‘fight like hell’ every day for the next nine months, we will succeed.”

A health care autopsy: The effort failed and Magaziner conducted an autopsy of sort in 1995, while providing extensive help to journalist David Broder on a book about the process. “I see the inside when I think of how disloyal some administration officials have been to you,” he wrote to Hillary Clinton, “and how hurtful they have been to me in their private discussions with the press.” In addition to disloyal officials and the press, Magaziner also said the delayed process was “fatal.” He added that the delay was not the task force’s fault, but the result of external events.

Keeping the committee secret: The documents show the great lengths the administration went to keep the members of the health care task force and its proceedings secret. Top officials in various parts of the government strategized from the outset how to keep records private, and individual Freedom of Information Act Requests were elevated for discussion about senior White House lawyers. The administration was eventually sued to make the documents public, but a court sided with the White house.

Two president-elects at once? In 2000, weeks after Election Day, with no clear winner, the White House asked the Department of Justice if it could start helping both Al Gore and George W. Bush in their transition efforts. Nope, the department ruled, “since there cannot be more than one ‘President-elect’ and one ‘’Vice-President-elect’ under the Act.”

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Washington Post: “Clinton presidential documents show White House amid setbacks, scandals”

By Anne Gearan

October 10, 2014, 11:57 p.m. EDT

White House aides raised questions about how to structure and describe then-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton’s role in the 1993 attempt to overhaul the health-care system, including whether she would be considered a government employee and whether the group’s work could be kept secret, documents released Friday show.

The lawyerly exchanges among aides in the Clinton White House include suggested talking points to back up the administration’s position that Hillary Clinton could head up a task force on health-care reform without triggering a federal open-meetings requirement.

Scores of documents about the failed health-care effort were among about 10,000 pages of documents released Friday by the Clinton Presidential Library — the last batch in a series released over the past eight months. The trove of unclassified memos, correspondence, phone logs and other papers initially withheld by Clinton charts his administration’s responses to a series of scandals and setbacks.

There is a communications plan for answering questions about the Whitewater affair and the suicide of deputy White House counsel Vince Foster, and discussions about Monica Lewinsky, the Kenneth Starr report on her dalliance with Clinton, the White House travel office debacle and more.

There is also a one-line handwritten note from “BC” to “HRC” asking how one internal strategy discussion turned out.

On health care, which was the new president’s signature first-year effort, the documents show initial qualms within the administration about Hillary Clinton’s role and the plan to do much of the initial work in secret.

A Feb. 3, 1993, legal memo to Hillary Clinton offers several possible ways to structure her participation and notes potential pitfalls. Calling her a consultant, for example, could be seen as a “gimmick.”

On Feb. 17, 1993, a few weeks after Bill Clinton had announced that his wife would lead the work to draft a new federal health-care mandate, a senior lawyer at the agency then known as the General Accounting Office wrote to White House counsel Bernard W. Nussbaum.

Noting that the White House position was that the presence of Hillary Clinton on the panel did not constitute “outside influence” under a 1972 public disclosure law, lawyer Henry R. Wray asked for “further elaboration of your analysis.”

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If the White House position that the task force would not be covered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act was based on a finding that its membership was made up of federal employees, “on what basis does the first lady qualify under this exemption?” Wray asked. “Are there other reasons why you believe the task force is not subject to FACA? What are the Supreme Court cases on which you are relying, and how do they apply to your analysis of the status of the task force?”

The makeup and operations of the task force quickly became the subject of a federal lawsuit, which the White House ultimately won years later. An initial procedural ruling could have slowed the task force or impeded its work, however, leading to an internal debate about whether to appeal.

Appealing might open the White House to questions about why spokespeople had initially said they were unconcerned or even pleased with the initial decision.

Proposed talking points would have had the press secretary explain it this way:

“As we told you last week, the president was pleased with the district court’s decision because the court held that everything that has happened to date is legal . . . however our lawyers at the Justice Department felt strongly that the court had made substantial errors,” that could negatively affect future cases.

The health-care effort fell apart in 1994. It remains the largest federal policy initiative closely associated with Hillary Clinton, a potential 2016 Democratic candidate for president.

She has since said that the proposed overhaul was too large and too complicated and that the Clinton administration made mistakes.

Bloomberg: “How Bill Clinton’s White House Handled Political Threats”

By Jonathan Allen, Angela Greiling Keane and Toluse Olorunnipa

October 11, 2014

The Clinton White House operated with a siege mentality for eight years, fashioning political strategies designed to preserve the first family and neutralize enemies both real and perceived, according to presidential documents released yesterday for the first time.

Those files shed new light on the approach President Bill Clinton, First lady Hillary Clinton and their aides took to dealing with political threats, including never-give-an-inch aggressiveness, detailed preparation and efforts to get favorable stories in the media.

Clinton White House aides kept track of administration officials who spoke ill of Hillary Clinton’s health-care push. The communications team asked “Sophie’s Choice” author William Styron to write an op-ed noting the 1994

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anniversary of deputy White House counsel Vince Foster's suicide to discredit a congressional investigation into an Arkansas land deal known as Whitewater.

"The one-year anniversary of Vince Foster's suicide on July 20th in conjunction with the beginning of congressional Whitewater hearings presents an appropriate opportunity to rebut conspiracy theories over his suicide, and to directly address the political motivations of those who continue to exploit the issue," White House officials David Dreyer and Julia Moffett wrote in a June 1994 memo.

Clinton Culture

It all added up to a fight club culture that permeated the White House and remains a part of the ethos of two-headed Clinton political operation, which would be put to work should Hillary Clinton run for president in 2016.

The documents were published online yesterday by the William J. Clinton Library in Little Rock, Arkansas, as part of a regular release of documents from his presidency.

Two of President Barack Obama's top legal picks -- Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan and White House Counsel W. Neil Eggleston -- appear throughout the documents due to their work as Clinton associate counsels, and both were involved in seeking to limit congressional access to White House information.

A particular focus of White House aides was protecting Hillary Clinton during the Whitewater investigations.

After Bill Clinton became president in 1993, the couple endured scrutiny over a 1978 Arkansas real-estate deal they had taken part in. While several Clinton associates were convicted of fraud in the failed venture, the Clintons were eventually cleared of wrongdoing.

'Defend HRC'

The investigations included inquiries into Hillary Clinton's legal work for a savings and loan that failed.

For a March 24, 1994, presidential news conference, the second bullet point on a draft of talking points reads: "Defend HRC," using the acronym for Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"Stress her ethics and accomplishments as a lawyer and in doing public-service work," it reads. "No distance between you and HRC regarding Whitewater."

As Bill and Hillary Clinton prepared to do a joint television interview in March of 1994, a memo from Democratic strategist Paul Begala urged the president to "take the lead."

"In many joint interviews, the president defers to the first lady," the memo reads. "This may or may not be real, and it might be as simple as Southern manners, but it's important that the president take the lead on this issue."

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Other points in the Begala memo relate to defending the first lady from the public perception that she had become a “political liability” and wielded too much power in the White House.

Op-Ed Response

“Every first lady has had her share of controversy,” the memo reads. It goes on to cite high approval ratings for her in polls.

In January 1996, at least six White House aides -- including Bill Clinton’s campaign strategist Dick Morris -- helped Hillary Clinton craft an op-ed column giving her side of the story, according to the documents.

In the piece, which ran in newspapers including the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Washington, Clinton defended herself against what she called “outrageous accusations.”

“Close to $30 million in taxpayer money has been spent investigating Whitewater,” she wrote. “But none of these exhaustive inquiries has turned up evidence that we did anything illegal, unethical or wrong.”

The current-day Obama picks -- Kagan and Eggleston -- were among Clinton aides who sought to limit how many documents were released to congressional and Government Accountability Office investigators probing Whitewater and the 1993 firings of seven employees in the White House travel office.

“The committee’s attempt to push its investigation to invade the relationship between the president and his private counsel, however, goes too far,” Kagan wrote Dec. 13, 1995 about the special Senate committee investigating Whitewater. “We cannot responsibly accede to this flagrant abuse of Congress’s investigative powers.”

Lawmaker’s Pursuit

William Clinger, Jr., a Pennsylvania Republican who served two terms in Congress, pursued the Clinton White House as chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee with his investigation of the travel office firings and subsequent response.

White House staff wrote memos detailing efforts to keep documents relating to the travel office and Whitewater investigations confidential and out of the hands of U.S. lawmakers and the GAO.

Losing Control

“We need to treat all of these investigations with the utmost seriousness,” Eggleston wrote in a June 7, 1994, memo to Lloyd Cutler, working as a special counsel to Clinton. “We will lose all control,” he wrote, if the GAO “is permitted to wander the halls and conduct interviews and review documents at its whim.”

Kagan in May 1996 apologized in a memo to Jack Quinn, then White House counsel, for not informing him of a conversation about an appearance on the “Crossfire” political TV show, using an expletive to express how much she thought she’d erred.

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“God, do I feel like an idiot,” Kagan concluded in the explanation to Quinn about an appearance scheduled for “Ab” on the show. Abner Mikva was White House counsel before Quinn. The show was about a lawsuit filed by Paula Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, against Bill Clinton for sexual harassment, alleging it occurred when he was governor of the state.

Kagan spent time defending Clinton in the Jones case, which settled before going to trial. Kagan worked on it with lawyers from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. The team was afraid the Supreme Court would agree to hear the case, which it never did.

While most of her work related to Clinton damage control, Kagan in 1996 had to help smooth the fallout when an Olympic kayaker was arrested while paddling on the flooded Potomac River. Kagan refrained from offering a recommendation on that issue, ending her e-mail with, “What next?”

Bloomberg: “Clinton Advisers Urged White House to ‘Defend HRC’”

By Toluse Olorunnipa

October 10, 2014

President Bill Clinton’s White House staff worked for years to keep Hillary Clinton from becoming a “political liability” during investigations into the couple’s Arkansas land deal known as Whitewater.

After Bill Clinton became president in 1993, the couple endured scrutiny over a 1978 Arkansas real estate deal they had taken part in. While several Clinton associates were convicted of fraud in the failed venture, the Clintons were eventually cleared of wrongdoing.

The investigations included inquiries into Hillary Clinton’s legal work for a savings and loan that failed.

For a March 24, 1994, press conference president Bill Clinton was giving, the second bullet point on a draft of talking points reads: “Defend HRC,” using the acronym for Hillary Rodham Clinton. The memo was among the papers published online today by the William J. Clinton Library in Little Rock, Arkansas, as part of a regular release of documents from his presidency.

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Career Controversy

Other points in the Begala memo relate to defending the first lady from the public perception that she had become a “political liability” and wielded too much power in the White House.

“Every First Lady has had her share of controversy,” the memo reads. It goes on to cite poll numbers that showed high approval ratings for the first lady.

“Hillary is the first First Lady to come to the job from a distinguished career of her own, independent of her husband’s,” Begala wrote. “Like many two-career couples, the Clintons have had to find their own way in uncharted waters, juggling career and family.”

In an undated document laying out questions President Clinton might receive about his wife at a news conference, he was told to tell reporters who asked when Hillary learned about a criminal referral on Whitewater to say it was “in the newspapers.” The memo recommends running that answer by lawyers before using it.

Strategic Deflect

Bill Clinton’s prepared answer, if questioned about whether he and Hillary Clinton talked about their work when he was Arkansas governor and she worked at Rose Law Firm, redirected the conversation to the issue of working women.

“Working mothers should be able to have successful careers,” Bill Clinton was told to say. “We should not be making rules that limit the career of one spouse because of the career of the other.”

In January 1996, at least six White House aides -- including Bill Clinton’s campaign strategist Dick Morris -- helped Hillary Clinton craft an op-ed column giving her side of the story, according to the documents.

In the piece, which ran in newspapers such as the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Washington, Clinton defended herself against from what she called “outrageous accusations.”

“Close to $30 million in taxpayer money has been spent investigating Whitewater,” she wrote. “But none of these exhaustive inquiries has turned up evidence that we did anything illegal, unethical or wrong.”

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: “Clinton Docs: Health-Overhaul Postmortem Identified ‘Disloyal’ Officials”

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By Peter Nicholas

October 10, 2014, 3:28 p.m. EDT

A White House memo suggests that when Hillary Clinton was first lady in the early 1990s, she was unhappy about leaks that painted her husband's White House in an unflattering light and wanted to know who was behind the disclosures.

Ira Magaziner, then a senior adviser who helped lead Mrs. Clinton's effort to overhaul the health-care system, sent a private memo to her in 1995 that served as a postmortem on the project's collapse.

In the memo, Mr. Magaziner discussed his frustrations with White House colleagues who had been talking to the press and passing information he believed to be damaging.

He told her he wouldn't retaliate in his own discussions with journalists, in part because he worried that could backfire in the 1996 reelection campaign.

He mentioned that he had been meeting with authors of a book chronicling the health-care fight, "The System" by David Broder and Haynes Johnson.

"Although I see the inside when I think of how disloyal some administration officials have been to you and the president and how hurtful they have been to me in their private discussions with the press, I decided to stick to the principle of not being critical of other administration officials and I withheld materials that would cast our colleagues in a bad light," Mr. Magaziner wrote. "Although it is tempting, I just don't feel it's right to do and it could sew discord in 1996 when the book appears, which would not be helpful to the campaign."

The memo was part of a batch of about 10,000 pages of material released Friday by the Clinton Presidential Library. Since February, the library has been releasing archival records that were previously withheld under various exemptions to public records law. Those exemptions have expired, prompting the library to put forward the records on a rolling basis. (See more coverage here.)

Mr. Magaziner's memo goes on to discuss two other books that had come out in 1994: Bob Woodward's "The Agenda" and Elizabeth Drew's "On the Edge."

"You asked who in the administration was responsible for the harmful accounts in their books," Mr. Magaziner wrote. "The Drew book has been especially harmful."

He went on to list various senior Clinton administration officials he said were responsible for unflattering information in the books.

He mentioned Donna Shalala, the former Clinton Health and Human Services secretary and now president of the University of Miami.

Ms. Drew's accounts "are mainly derived from extensive discussions she had with Donna Shalala, which were

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very damaging to you, me and the president," Mr. Magaziner wrote.

He advised there was not much they could do in response.

"Unless we are prepared to show Woodward or Drew documents and respond in kind to other administration officials who trashed us, there is little we can do to make their accounts more accurate," he wrote.

There doesn't seem to be any lingering ill will. In February, Mrs. Clinton, a potential presidential candidate in 2016, gave a paid speech at the University of Miami. Ms. Shalala later said she negotiated a discount in which Mrs. Clinton lowered her standard price.

One who provided information for the Woodward book was Gene Sperling, Mr. Magaziner wrote.

Mr. Sperling served as an economic adviser in both the Clinton and Obama White Houses.

But he, too, appears to be on good terms with the Clintons, taking part in various panel discussions hosted by the family's charitable foundation.

Mr. Magaziner told Mrs. Clinton that he wanted to ensure the Broder-Johnson book – which would be published two years later — wouldn't be overly influenced by the Woodward and Drew books.

"I have shared my responses to Woodward and Drew with Broder and Johnson so they will not accept as uncontested the gossip, false descriptions and false accusations in those books," he wrote.

The Hill opinion: A. B. Stoddard: "Clinton's calculus"

By A. B. Stoddard

October 10, 2014, 5:30 p.m. EDT

It must be hectic at Clinton Inc. these days, what with the excitement of a newborn granddaughter, a busy speaking schedule, that yoga she's doing and now the need to game out multiple scenarios for a coming political storm.

Sure, there is a national election in a few weeks, but commenting on the results will be the easy part for Hillary Clinton. It is what will happen after the election, and all the unknowns, that will confound a candidate so fond of painstaking planning.

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Republicans, eyeing a Senate majority, are already making plans of their own for the weeks between the election and the new Congress being sworn in on Jan. 3, 2015. During the lame-duck session, some GOP senators are already vowing a showdown over ObamaCare in the vote to pass additional operating funds for the government.

The “risk-corridor” provision in the Affordable Care Act, which would compensate losses by insurance companies from inadequate enrollment, must be added to the new spending bill for 2015. Dubbed the “taxpayer-funded bailout,” critics are vowing to block it, which could lead to another government shutdown. Clinton will find it hard to dodge legislative battles the way she waited nearly three weeks this summer to comment on the chaos in Ferguson, Mo., following the shooting death of unarmed teenager by a policeman.

And should President Obama announce executive action on immigration — which Republicans will characterize as an unconstitutional amnesty — Clinton must prepare to weigh in on what promises to be an explosive political fight.

As it stands, either party could control the upper chamber in the 114th Congress, as there are likely to be runoff elections in both Louisiana and Georgia — and Clinton could be pressed to help save the Democratic Senate majority. The national parties have already reserved resources for what promise to be intense battles should the races continue past election night. Yet it’s not clear that sticking her neck out to save Sen. Mary Landrieu and/or Michelle Nunn will help Clinton much. Should Democrats hold on to a one- or two-seat majority, the former secretary of State would have to spend the next two years defending Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. It would be far better for her campaign to run against a crazy, obstructionist, overreaching GOP Congress.

And should she win the White House in 2016, she is likely to have a Democratic Senate anyway. Even if the GOP retakes the Senate this year, there’s a great chance it could flip back to Democratic control in two years, when only 10 Democrats are running but 24 Republicans are up for reelection, several in blue states Obama won in 2008 and 2012.

In addition to domestic policy debates, the war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) will continue throughout 2015 and likely Clinton’s entire campaign. Soon Obama is expected to shake up his national security team, according to David Ignatius of The Washington Post. After the makeover, when new personnel are grappling with the ISIS threat and the nuclear ambitions of Iran, how supportive must Hillary Clinton be, particularly if conditions in the Middle East continue to deteriorate? As a presidential candidate she will likely have to contrast what is being done with what must be done better.

Finally, all of these developments will also impact her big debut. Of utmost concern will be the timing of the announcement of her now-old 2016 presidential campaign — just what dramatic lame-duck development could end up stepping on her newsless declaration?

For such a calculating and calculated politician, the volatility of the next three months will challenge Clinton’s best-laid plans. Of course it’s exactly what she will need to expect, should she ever become president. The unexpected gives you the presidency you get, and never the one you want. Just ask Obama.

Calendar:

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Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

- October 12 – San Diego, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes the American Academy of Pediatrics annual conference (Twitter)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton and Sen. Reid fundraise for the Reid Nevada Fund (Ralston Reports)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- October 15 – Louisville, KY: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Alison Lundergan Grimes (Politico)
- October 16 – MI: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Rep. Gary Peters and Mark Schauer in Michigan (AP)
- October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)
- October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Senate Democrats (AP)
- October 24 – RI: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Rhode Island gubernatorial nominee Gina Raimondo (Politico)
- November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)
- December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
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	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Tina Flournoy" <Tina@presidentclinton.com>
Date:	2/22/2013 9:24:55 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 2.22.13.docx

Hannah,
Attached and below is President Clinton's latest biweekly report. Please let me know if he has any questions or feedback.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
February 22, 2013

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

[**NOTE: This information is embargoed until next Thursday, 2/28]** The Alliance will be prominently engaged in a new Let's Move initiative, "Let's Move at Schools," that will be announced by First Lady Michelle Obama on Thursday, February 28th in Chicago. Specifically, the Alliance will serve as one of three managing partners that will oversee the implementation of Let's Move Active Schools. The other managing partners are the President's Council for Fitness, Sport, and Nutrition and the American Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. As a managing partner of the Let's Move at Schools (LMAS) effort, the Alliance will:

- Leverage the Healthy Schools Program six-step process to help school leaders increase physical activity opportunities. The process includes: building support with students, administrators and staff; completing a self-assessment; creating an action plan; finding resources to support efforts; taking action based on the plan; and celebrating success upon completion of the program.

- Host the LMAS self-assessment tool to determine the school baseline of physical activity within the five Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program, or CSPAP, areas. The self-assessment tool will reside on the Alliance server and website, and the landing page within the Alliance site will indicate its distinct relationship with LMAS. The existing Healthy Schools Program Physical Education and Student Wellness modules will serve as the basis of the LMAS self-assessment (aka the HSP Inventory).

- Provide phone, email and in-person expert technical assistance to school champions and participating schools/ districts to implement system change in Physical Education and Student Wellness. Support will be provided through the following outlets:

  - Provide HSP Ambassadors—physical activity champions—to support the in-person professional development trainings
  - Support Let's Move! Active Schools in the transition to the Healthy Schools Program

These activities will be supported by an initial grant provided by Nike and over time, by other partner corporations. We expect that this effort will accelerate our progress towards meeting our goal of reaching 30,000 schools across the country and helping to deepen our impact on kids' levels of physical activities.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative

CHMI will be featured prominently at the 2013 HIMMS Conference, at which YOU will be making remarks. Verizon has invited CHMI to serve as a panelist during a session on secure exchange of medical information and to have a presence at its exhibit.

CHMI released the Coachella Valley Blueprint for Action this week, which outlines the steps the community will take

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over the next five years to improve overall health and to close health disparity gaps.

CHMI had a successful meeting with Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown about the launch of its community initiative in the Greater Jacksonville region.

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative

- Inc. magazine is meeting with Bank of America this week to discuss the possibility of securing its sponsorship for a Women's Summit. Depending on the outcome of these discussions, Inc. may be ready to move forward with discussions around the Clinton Foundation's possible involvement in specific aspects of the Summit (e.g., keynote/ panel speaker, mentoring-related tie-ins, panel topics) as part of a new partnership.

- A six-month post-mentoring program check-in was performed on key pairings from the Philadelphia EMP program. A small handful of these mentee-mentor pairs were only beginning to see the impact of their work together at the conclusion of the program last August, and had noted they believed they would see the greater part of the program's impact in future months.

- For one mentee-mentor pairing, what had already proven to be an impactful mentoring relationship has gone on to become an even larger success:

  Angelo Salandra is the President and CEO of Quality Management Services, a records management, administrative support and onsite management services company. Angelo recognized the need to diversify his customer base and sought out a mentor to help him expand his business into the government sector. Working closely with Hubin Jiang, President & CEO of ECOMPEX, Inc., a significant provider of similar services to the government, Angelo was able to quickly learn the ropes to government procurement resulting in a new government contract. By the program's completion in August 2012, the new government work Angelo was able to garner as a result of his collaboration with Hubin through the Entrepreneur Mentoring Program had helped him to hire an additional five full time employees to his firm (18% increase in workforce) and had driven a 9% increase in the company's annual revenue. Six months later, with Hubin's continued support, Angelo has been able to secure four additional contracts, resulting in an overall increase in annual revenue of over 30%.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

CDI is moving forward quickly to develop its plan for building the new Anchor Farm in Tanzania. Walker Morris is working to schedule a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture on his trip to Tanzania in March to discuss an MOU and to look at options for the location of the first commercial farm.

AGRA has asked CDI to host a field day at Mpherero Farm in Malawi to show representatives from a number of organizations working in agriculture, including USAID and IITA, the work of the Anchor Farm Project.

Rwanda (CHDI)

Construction on the Mt. Meru Soyco site is 75% complete, and the production of edible oil is expected to begin in July 2013. The government has promised CHDI full support, particularly in terms of production of raw materials. This week, the Prime Minister visited the factory and was very pleased with its progress.

CHDI has been participating in various exhibitions organized at the District level to demonstrate our work and help farmers understand the difference between varieties of maize and soybean.

Construction of the coffee roasting factory has been on hold for the last three weeks due to a construction permit issue. However, approval has been obtained by the city council and the official construction permit will be signed by the city's mayor next week.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

Peru

On February 15th, the Peru Cataracts project achieved its 50,000 surgery commitment. The goal was reached within 80% of the original budget and ahead of the four year schedule.

In Apurimac, Peru, CGSGI's remote distribution pilot is entering its sixth week of operations. The program provides low-income women, many of whom are single heads of household, with the opportunity to become entrepreneurs

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and sell hard to access products to their remote communities. The product offering is being designed to include fast moving consumer goods such as soaps, cooking oil, yarn and clothing, and extends to over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and multivitamins as well as pro-poor products such as solar lamps and clean cook stoves. The first twelve entrepreneurs have completed their training and have sold approximately 2,000 products under consignment over the last five weeks. The venture provides life-changing income opportunities for these women and has the dual benefit of providing last mile distribution to the poor communities where they reside. Another six women have recently been recruited and are undergoing product sales training including the selling of low-cost VisionSpring reading glasses. If successful in Apurimac, CGSGI intends to scale this venture throughout Peru and possibly to other developing nations.

Clinton Global Initiative

Annual Meeting

CGI currently has 160 paying members registered for the 2013 Annual Meeting, which represents an increase of 33 members since the last bi-weekly report and a reduction of the year-over-year variance from -52 to -22. Of the total number of registrants, 133 are renewals, 35 fewer than last year at this time, and 27 are new, 13 more than last year at this time.

Winter Meeting

370 individuals attended the Winter Meeting. Of that total, 40% had not previously attended a CGI event. This includes representatives from organizations that have never been CGI members as well as representatives from current members who have never attended a prior CGI event. Outreach to recruit potential paying members from this pool is underway.

The plenary session, four of five breakout sessions, the CGI Orientation and the Girls and Women special session were standing room only.

CGI is still tabulating the results of a survey distributed to participants and will report back any notable findings in the next bi-weekly report.

CGI University

Confirmed program participants for CGI U 2013 include: Sal Khan, Jack Dorsey, Stephen Colbert, and Muhammad Yunus.

The acceptance rate for applicants is 35% this year. Applicants will be notified of their status by the end of the day today.

CGI America

CGI America has 95 paying participants, including 8 Annual Meeting members and 87 non-Annual Meeting members. There were two paying participants at this time last year.

Recent and Upcoming Convenings

Arts & Development in Post-Conflict Communities: Why the Arts Matter for Resilient Societies (2/19/2013)

Women Leading Women in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT): A Commitment Workshop (2/19/2013)

Integrating Women-Owned Businesses in Supply Chains: A Commitment Workshop (2/21/2013)

Sustainable Agricultural Training for Rural Farmers (2/21/2013)

Haiti Action Network (2/27/2013)

Coastal Resilience (3/5/2013)

Best Practices for Delivering Health Solutions at the Base of the Pyramid (3/15/2013)

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Skills-Based Volunteering to Mentor Young Entrepreneurs (3/8/2013)

Democratic Republic of Congo Action Network (3/19/2013)

The Early Years (3/20/2013)

Oceans: Economic Development for Coastal Communities (3/21/2013)

Oceans: Protecting Ecosystems (3/28/2013)

Oceans: Catalyzing the Fishing Industry (4/4/2013)

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/24/2015 10:50:03 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Gobble, gobble

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.



Skimm for November 25th

Skimm'd on an airplane home.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Hi, what's your name?" – UFC fighter Holly Holm meeting Jay Z's wife.

SKIMM THIS

COLD TURKEY

THE STORY

Yesterday, things got a lot more complicated in Syria.

GIMME SOME BACKGROUND.

The Syrian civil war has been going on for over four years. Russia has been trying to help Syrian President Assad stay in power; the US and friends (like Turkey) have been trying to get Assad out of power and help the rebels trying to oust him. Meanwhile, ISIS has had a great time flourishing in the war torn country. No one likes ISIS, which is why Russia has recently joined the fight to try and get rid of the group. Which it does some of the time; other times, it's also targeting the plain ol' rebels going after Assad. After this month's Paris attacks, the world was hoping everyone would put their differences aside and work together to defeat ISIS in the region once and for all.

WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY?

Turkey shot down a Russian warplane near the Turkish-Syrian border. One of the pilots is dead, and Russia says the other was rescued. And according to Russia, a marine was also shot and killed by rebel groups as he tried to rescue the pilots. Officially, Turkey says this was about Russia violating its airspace. But Russia says its plane never crossed into Turkey's airspace. Unofficially, it's much more complicated.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY TURKEY?

You'll eat it tomorrow. Things between Russia and Turkey have been pretty strained. In their spare time, Assad's forces — supported by Russia — have also been fighting a rebel group that's good friends with Turkey. According to Turkey, ISIS doesn't even operate in the region where the plane was downed yesterday, and they think this rebel group was Russia's real target and it was just hiding behind the ISIS excuse.

NOW WHAT?

Well, Putin called the incident a "stab in the back," and said Turkey's actions will have "serious consequences."

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But President Obama said Turkey's allowed to defend its territory. Turkey called for an emergency NATO meeting.

heSKIMM

Right now there are a lot of cooks in the Syrian kitchen bumping into each other on the ground and in the air. Making an already complicated global crisis that much more difficult. Meanwhile, yesterday was believed to be the first time a NATO country took down a Russian plane in 50 years. Happy holidays.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR DAD SAYS HE DROPPED ONE OF THE PIES...

Well, sh*t. Chicago hears you. The city is on edge after yesterday, a white police officer there was charged with first-degree murder in the death of a black teen last year. The charges came just hours before a graphic police video of the incident was released. It shows 17-year-old Laquan McDonald , who officials say was on a hallucinogenic drug, ignoring officers pursuing him and jogging in the street while carrying a small knife. Then, an officer shoots him...16 times. According to the state attorney, many of those shots happened after McDonald was already on the ground. Officials announced the charges and released the video at the same time, to try to avoid the kind of unrest that hit Ferguson, MO last year. Last night, hundreds of peaceful protesters were out in the streets of Chicago – saying the investigation shouldn't have taken over a year to complete.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR MOM SAYS THE TURKEY'S ALMOST READY...

'll take mine well done. Yesterday, the CDC announced that at least 19 people in seven states are sick with E. coli. The culprit? Costco chicken salad. The CDC says that so far, at least five people have been hospitalized and two have kidney failure. E. coli: a bacteria that can cause food poisoning and sometimes lead to a serious infection. For most people, that means some QT in the bathroom – but it can get particularly bad for little kids and grandparents. This comes after everyone's favorite food sample destination was linked to a recent salmonella outbreak - again having to do with its chicken. Costco says it's stopped selling the chicken salad while the feds investigate. Good idea.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU ANNOUNCE TO THE FAM THAT YOU GOT A NEW JOB, AND THEN YOUR COUSIN SAYS SHE'S PREGNANT...

Who are you, Elon Musk? Yesterday, the Space X founder and CEO got a liiiiittle competitive with fellow billionaire, Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos. Bezos also has his own space company, Blue Origin. And yesterday, Blue Origin sent a rocket to the edge of space and back with a controlled landing. BFD, since Blue Origin is hoping to eventually use he tech to send people to space and back. Yesterday, Bezos celebrated, calling the rocket landing the "rarest of beasts." Which Musk said, 'hi, remember me?' He responded by pointing out that the landing wasn't so rare – his company did the same thing three years ago. So no, it seems not all is gravy.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY TO WHEN YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW ASKS YOU TO TRY HER NEW STUFFING RECIPE...

'll skip it. Along with Tunisia . Yesterday, the country declared it's at "war" with terrorism after at least 12 people were killed when there was an explosion on a bus carrying member's of the president's entourage.

WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR AUNT WHO USED TO RECORD 'ALL MY CHILDREN" ON THE VCR...

Very sorry about David Canary .

WHAT TO SAY WHEN THERE ARE EXTRA MARSHMALLOWS ON THE SWEET POTATOES...

n other life changing news, this is what the guy who voiced "Hey Arnold!" looks like now.

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SKIMM'R OF THE WEEK

Skimm'bassador Lesley Chilcott (Los Angeles, CA): She's all about getting girls into coding early. Her documentary "Codegirl" is about a technology competition for high-school girls around the world. The aim? They have three months to design an app that solves a problem in their community. No pressure.

SKIMM THIS

SKIMM READS

"Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline

Sounds really depressing, but it's a page-turner that highlights a part of US history you had no idea existed, and it's worth the read. It flashbacks between the backstory of a 91-year-old woman's life as an orphan and the modern story of a teen in foster care. When all else fails, recommend it to your annoying family friend after Thursday's dessert.

SKIMM THIS

SKIMM WINE

Skimm'ologist says: this red blend pairs well with this heavy and addicting read.

PROGRAMMING NOTE

Happy almost Turkey Day, Skimm'rs! Skimm HQ is getting its stretchy pants ready, and mentally preparing for a turkey hangover. There will be no Skimm tomorrow and Friday. We will see you back in your inbox on Monday.

SKIMM SHARE

Don't share your pumpkin pie. Share theSkimm.



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SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

*indicates Skimm'bassador. You had me at cake.

*Paige Olivetti (Boise, ID); *Mae Ledva (Saint James, NY); *Mary Dowling (Chicago, IL); *Bill O'Connor (San Francisco, CA); *Mallory Pierpoint (Panama City, Panama); *Sahil Shah (San Francisco, CA); *Marybeth O'Connor (East Norriton, PA); *Ann Blessman (Royal Oak, MI); *Jen Migonis (Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA); *Korinne Barta (Chicago, IL); *Jaclyn Jansen (Toledo, OH); *Karen Barlow (Dallas, TX); *Meghan Clarke (Gibraltar, Gibraltar); *Kristin Schweisthal (Columbus, OH); *Jessica Reece Fagan (Atlanta, GA); *Kristin Magette (Eudora, KS); *Samantha Faragalli (Toms River, NJ); *Anna Mahon (Fredericksburg, VA); *Maura McQuade (Avon, CT); *Kelly Kraus (Rocky River, OH); *Kelsey Gilmartin (New York, NY); *Paiton Florey (Morton, IL)*Ashton Hoselton (Gurnee, IL); *Kayla Alexander (Columbia, SC); *Molly Harris (Toronto, Canada); *Nadine Carter (Boise, ID); *Kat Hulst (Jacksonville Beach, FL); *Jess Sienkowski (Eden Prairie, MN); *Kristina Sperline (Seattle, WA); *Julie Rodriguez (Tinton Falls, NJ); *Erika Chapin (Madison, CT); Allison Pataki (Chicago, IL); Jana Raskopf (New York, NY); Ryan Schimel (Los Angeles, CA); Graydon Gordian (Atlanta, GA); Layne Thompson-Payne (Huntersville, NC); Binta Brown (New York, NY); Alyse Chandler (Charleston, SC); Carolyn Cameron (Washington DC); Chelsea Leonard (New York, NY); Debbie Borman (Chicago, IL) Leah Maieski; Jane Rosenfeld (New York, NY); Jessica Jeffress (Murray, KY); Julia Neppl (Charleston, SC); Julieta Hinojosa (Austin, TX); Kathryn Vinson (Knoxville, TN); Lauren Skrobacz (Richmond, VA); Lina Galindo (North Miami Beach, FL); Liz Walker (Washington, DC); Madison Stinson (Minneapolis, MN); Melanna Marcellot (Vail, CO); Meredith Harris (Livingston, NJ; Natalie Moceri (East Lansing, MI); Ruthie Burrus (Austin, TX); Vasantham Annadurai (Madison, WI); Donna Jo Fitzpatrick (Lexington, KY); Allyssa Rose (Derry, NH); Dana Fischetti (Monroe, CT); Melanie Sillman (West Hartford, CT); Howard Woodard (Brookings, SD); Kevin Freeman (New York, NY); Colin McCourt Bueche (Chicago, IL); Lauren Polakoff (Chicago, IL); Christine Courtwright (Denver, CO); Ginny Deffendall (Fayetteville, NC); Jane Toskovich (Glen Rock, NJ); Jillian Chiappisi (New York, NY); Kelley Chan (Atlanta, GA); Kerry Roman (Hoboken, NJ); Laura McPherson (Washington, DC); Leisa Kean (Duxbury, MA); Mai Silvius (Atlanta, GA); Mary Ann Dujardin (Sandbanks, UK); Meredith Westerlund (Washington, DC); Sylvia Delk (Lake Geneva, WI); Julia Tedesco (Greenwich, CT); Caitlin Heinkel (Medford, NJ); Kim Price (Baton Rouge, LA); Mariam Yara Elkadiki (Oxford, MS); Kayla Pappas (Chicago, IL); Nadine Nandi (Kitchener, ON); Cindy Renee (Ocala, Florida); Leisa Nissi (Duxbury, MA); Amanda Dunn (Atlanta, GA); Becca Elman (Chicago, IL); Jess Ordeñana-Papa (Ridgewood, NY); Cathy Cate (Nashville, TN); Daniel Dunkelberger (New York, NY); Maria McNeely (Washington, DC); Hadley Schneider (Albany, GA); Judy Rossano (Greenville, SC); Kaitlyn Ulu (Kyle, TX); Katherine Morrison (Los Angeles, CA); Lauren Woo (Boston, MA); Lauren Zelek; Shelia Dixon (Lexington, KY); Sivani Reddy (Tuscaloosa, AL); Cherry Lahar (Wichita, KS); Deb Grossman (Germantown, MD); Esther Hobbs (Monterey, CA); Amy Lee (Clemson, SC); Savon Sampson (Richmond, VA); Cathy Cate (Nashville, TN); Rebecca Pollick (Chicago, IL); Taylor Morgan (Galveston, TX); Hans Sahni (Los Angeles, CA); Carrie Fichtel (New Hyde Park, NY); Melissa Principe (Cary, NC); Ann Blessman (Indianapolis, IN); Cathy Cate (Nashville, TN); Starr Coughlin (Ridgefield, CT); Lauren Apple; Matt Russell (Ashville, NC); Jill Leiderman (Los Angeles, CA)

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From: "Clean Water Action" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/8/2011 8:07:34 AM
Subject: Clean Water Progress for the Chesapeake

Clean Water Action logo with wave background

Dear Mary,

The assault on our water being cranked up by polluters and their allies across our Chesapeake Bay Region and in Washington, DC is unprecedented – and alarming. With your help, Clean Water Action has been able to hold the line against the polluters, stopping the worst of the rollbacks, so far. But the attacks aren't over yet.

Winter Creek

Will you keep standing with us now? Your gift today will help Clean Water Action stop these Dirty Water attacks. Together, we can protect our water and health.

Stand with us to continue our clean water progress!

The nation's worst polluters, including Big Coal, want to weaken fundamental clean water protections. And so far this year, the U.S. House has voted 170 times to weaken clean air and clean water laws or to block the U.S. EPA from doing its job protecting people's health. Now, the U.S. Senate is poised to vote on the polluters' Dirty Water agenda.

Action by Clean Water Action members over the past several days has strengthened our chances for success in the Senate. But this will still be very close, and the attacks on our water aren't over yet.

Now is also the time to go on the offensive. Those elected officials with records stained by their Dirty Water votes must be held accountable when they seek reelection in 2012, if not sooner. With your continued support , we can make that happen.

What's happening in Washington is not separate from what's happening locally across our region. At stake is the future of the Chesapeake Bay, and all the rivers and streams that feed it. Our continued progress on tackling impacts on our water from fracking for natural gas, mining for uranium or reckless, poorly planned development will also help shift the momentum back in favor of Clean Water in Congress.

With your help , we've made significant clean water progress over the past 40 years. With your help, we'll continue that progress toward a future with fishable, swimmable, drinkable water for ALL Americans. Now is the time when your financial support and active involvement will make all the difference. Please give generously today to help Clean Water Action continue fighting in Congress and all across the U.S. to protect our clean water future.

Yours for Clean Water,

Robert Wendelgass, President & CEO
Clean Water Action

P.S. I know that you receive many donation requests at this time of year. I do, too. I hope that continuing our clean water progress remains as near and dear

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to you as it does to me and all the rest of us here at Clean Water Action. We're counting on you to keep Clean Water Action on your list for year-end giving so we can continue our clean water progress.

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From: "Jesse Ferguson" <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/26/2015 3:31:37 AM
Subject: Re: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

great work everyone. this interview is perfect. he lands nothing and everything is refuted (mostly based on our work)

On Sun, Apr 26, 2015 at 9:49 AM, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

Apr 26, 2015, 9:34 AM ET

This is a rush transcript for April 26, 2015. It will be updated and may contain errors.

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-clinton-cash-author-peter-schweizer/story?id=30568766&singlePage=true

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, HOST: And the author of "Clinton Clash," Peter Schweizer, joins us now.

Thank you for joining us this morning, Peter.

You know, I was looking at the book jacket right here and you say that, here in the book jacket that your reporting raises serious and alarming questions about judgment of possible indebtedness to an array of foreign interests and ultimately, a fitness for high public office.

So how does your reporting show that **Hillary Clinton** may be unfit for the presidency?

PETER SCHWEIZER, AUTHOR, "CLINTON CLASH": Well, I think the real question here, George, is when you ever have an issue of the flow of funds to political candidates, whether that's to their campaigns, whether that's to private foundations, whether that's to their spouse, is there evidence of a pattern of -- of favorable decisions being made for those individuals?

And I think the -- the point that we make in the book is that there is a troubling pattern.

There are dozens of examples of that occurring.

Some people, I think particularly the Clinton camp, would say that these are all coincidence. I don't think, when you're talking about 12 instances, you're talking coincidence. I think you're talking trend.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But you take it pretty far. You write that, "The pattern of behavior is troubling enough to warrant further investigation by law enforcement (INAUDIBLE)."..

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that a crime may have been committed?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it's -- if you look at a couple of recent examples. For example, Governor McConnell down in Virginia, or you look at **Senator Menendez** , in these cases, you didn't have evidence of a quid pro quo. What you had was funds flowing to elected officials, some of them gifts, some of them campaign contributions and actions that were being taken by those public officials that seemed to benefit the contributors.

Certainly, I think it warrants investigation. What that investigation will reveal, we'll see.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But a criminal investigation?

SCHWEIZER: Well, we'll see. I mean that's what the Governor McConnell has faced and that's what Menendez has faced.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the...

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SCHWEIZER: And I think the evidence here is far more widespread in terms of repeated action than there were in those two instances.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Clinton campaign says you haven't produced a shred of evidence that there was any official action as secretary that -- that supported the interests of donors.

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action. And an independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison, of the Sunline Foundation (ph), wrote this. He said, "There's no smoking gun, no evidence that she changed the policy based on donations to the foundation."

No smoking gun.

Is there a smoking gun?

SCHWEIZER: Yes. The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior. And here's the analogy I would give you. It's a little bit like **insider trading** . I wrote a book on Congressional insider trading a couple of years ago and talked with prosecutors.

Most people that engage in criminal insider trading don't send an e-mail that says I've got inside information, buy this stock.

The way they look at it, they look at a pattern of stock trades. If the person has access to that information and then they do a series of well-timed trades. That warrants investigation.

I think the same thing applies here.

By the way, what's important to note is it was confirmed on Thursday, both by "The New York Times" and "The **Wall Street Journal**," that there are multi-million dollar, non-disclosed donations that were made to the **Clinton Foundation** that were never disclosed by the Clintons.

This is a direct breach of an agreement they suggested with the White House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That -- that is an issue for them, but it's not a criminal -- it's nothing that would warrant a cmii.

So let's look at some of the specifics behind your pattern.

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of focus on the sale of a company, Uranium One, to a -- to a **Russian** company. Of course, Frank Drisdra (ph), who had committed, what, a $130 million, a pledge to the Clinton Foundation back in 2006, had had an interest in this company.

But he actually sold it.

SCHWEIZER: Well, he sold his stock, but his firm, Endeavor Financial, continued to do finance deals well after that. And the individuals involved in the book, as you probably read, there are nine -- count them, nine major contributors to the Clinton Foundation who were involved in that nuclear deal.

The two individuals who were the financial advisers on the deal of the sale to the Russians, they're both major Clinton Foundation supporters. The chairman of that Foundation, Ian Telfer, whose donations were not disclosed, campaign -- and sorry, Clinton Foundation contributor. And there are others.

So this is not just about Frank Giustra. This is multiple layers (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: OK, but you didn't disclose in your book that he had sold the interest.

SCHWEIZER: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Beyond that, this deal was approved by a -- a board of the government called the CFIUS Board.

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: This actually chaired by the secretary of the Treasury...

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- not the secretary of State.

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Eight other agencies on board, the secretary of State, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- signed off on it. And even though the State Department was one of nine agencies to sign off on it, there's no evidence at all that Hillary Clinton got directly involved in this decision.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it warrants further investigation. And there's a couple of things that need to be clarified.

Number one, she was one vote -- or the State Department was one vote on CFIUS. But any agency has veto power. So it needs to be unanimous. So they had to support this agreement.

The second thing that I would say is that in the midst of all of this, Hillary Clinton was in charge of the Russian reset. She was in charge of -- in -- of the A123 nuclear agreements with the Russians. She was the one that was meeting with Lavrov. There were four senior congressmen on national security issues that raised concerns about this issue...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But wait a second. There were nine different agencies...

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- who approved it.

Doesn't that suggest that that was because there was no national security concern, not because of some nefarious influence by Hillary Clinton?

SCHWEIZER: But -- but look at the nine individuals that were on the CFIUS committee, the nine agencies represented.

Who was, by far, the most hawkish on CFIUS issues in the past?

Hillary Clinton. She was big on rejecting the Dubai ports deal. She was big on other issues. She sponsored legislation when she was in the Senate to straighten CFIUS.

This was a signature issue for her and this is totally out of character...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the assistant secretary who sat -- the assistant secretary of State who sat on the committee said she never intervened on any CFIUS issue at all.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think that deserves further scrutiny. I would question that.

To argue that (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But based on what?

Based on what?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think based on her (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that she actually intervened in this issue?

SCHWEIZER: No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, George, this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is

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afoot.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And that -- that is that -- the Clintons do say it's a coincidence. As they say, you have produced no evidence. And I still haven't heard any direct evidence and you just said you had no evidence that she intervened here.

But I do want to ask a broader question.

It's been reported that you -- you briefed several Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the chairman, Bob Corker.

Did you offer any briefings for Democrats?

SCHWEIZER: No, but I'd be glad to give them before the book is released. This was a -- a friend that asked me. He thought it would be a good idea to talk to these individuals. This was the committee that confirmed her.

And I was glad to meet with them. They did not get copies of the book. They did not get any material. It was simply a verbal briefing.

And I'd be glad to brief any Democrats before May 5th, when the book comes out.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Democrats have said this is -- this is an indication of your partisan interest. They say...

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- you used to work for President -- President Bush as a speechwriter. You're funded by the Koch brothers.

How do you respond to that?

SCHWEIZER: Well, George, what did I do when this book was completed?

I went to the investigative unit at "The New York Times," the investigative unit here at ABC. I went to the investigative unit at "The Washington Post." And I shared with them my findings, OK. These are not cupcakes. These are serious researchers and investigators.

And they are confirming what I've reported. So people can look at the facts and...

STEPHANOPOULOS: They haven't come -- they haven't confirmed any evidence of any crime.

SCHWEIZER: Well, but -- but it's not up to an author to prove crime. I mean do you think that when people first started looking at Governor McConnell or they started looking at Menendez, that they immediately had evidence?

You need subpoena power. You need access to records and information. You need access to e-mails.

There's all sorts of things that you can do. You can't leave it up to an author to say that an author has to prove a criminal case.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally, Bloomberg News is reporting that you're going to be looking into Jeb Bush's business dealings, as well.

Is that true?

What have you found?

Where and when will you publish?

SCHWEIZER: We've been working on it for about four months. We've been looking at land deals. We've been looking at an airport deal. We've been looking at some financial transactions involving hedge funds based out of the UK.

We have already reached out to several media outlets and we're going to adopt a similar model that we have here, which is to share that information with investigative journalists at established news outlets, share with them that information.

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And I think that people will find it very, very interesting and compelling.

Peter Schweizer, thanks very much.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks for having me, George.

Up next, the roundtable on this Hillary book and augways (ph) from the campaign trail.

Plus, same-sex marriage coming to the Supreme Court this week.

Bruce Jenner's big announcement puts transgender issues in the spotlight. We debate the next frontier in civil rights.

And we're back in just two minutes.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

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From:	"Halifax International Security Forum" <Communications@halifaxtheforum.org>
To:	John <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	11/16/2015 3:07:37 PM
Subject:	NEWS RELEASE: 7th Annual Halifax International Security Forum Gathers in Wake of Terrorist Attacks on Paris

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7th Annual Halifax International Security Forum Gathers in Wake of Terrorist Attacks on Paris

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
16 November 2014

WASHINGTON, DC – Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris will be front-and-center as international defense and security leaders from around the world meet this weekend for the Halifax International Security Forum.

Canada's new Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Harjit Singh Sajjan, will be hosting high-ranking delegates from 60 countries to this year's Forum. Participants include The Honourable Kent Hehr, Canada's Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence; Robert Work, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense; General John Vance, Canadian Chief of Defence Staff; and, Admiral Michael Rogers, Director of the U.S. National Security Agency.

"Canada's new Defence Minister will play an active and important role at this year's Forum," said Peter Van Praagh, President of the Halifax International Security Forum. "Minister Sajjan's tours of duty in Bosnia and Afghanistan give him an important perspective of the issues we will be discussing in Halifax, and participants from around the world are anxious to hear from him."

"As the world reels from last week's attacks in Paris, those events, as well as the downed Russian Metrojet over Sinai and recent bombings in Beirut, underline the importance of meeting annually to learn from each other," added Van Praagh. "Halifax is where defense and security experts, together with democratic leaders meet to assess the challenges of the past year and set the agenda for dealing with the challenges for the year ahead."

U.S. Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and John Barrasso (R-WY) will lead a bipartisan congressional delegation at the Forum.

Now in its seventh year, the Halifax International Security Forum is recognized as the world's most

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significant gathering of democratic defense leaders committed to global security and prosperity. The three-day event in Halifax, Nova Scotia, begins on November 20th against the backdrop of many serious global security issues.

A full list of Halifax International Security Forum participants is available here.

The Halifax International Security Forum is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, DC. The Forum is made possible by the generous support from its partners, including the Government of Canada, and the Halifax Canada Club.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Robin MacLachlan, Communications Team Lead, Halifax International Security Forum - (613) 294-6128.

For media inquiries or to register for accreditation to the Forum please contact communications@halifaxtheforum.org . Please direct other inquiries to info@halifaxtheforum.org .



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From:	"German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	12/1/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject:	GMF's World Wire: Migration Insights for Europe | Turkey-Russia Conflict | TTIP's Geopolitical Impact

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

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GMF's World Wire

December 2, 2015

20 Years After Dayton Agreement: Dinner Discussion with U.S. Congressman Michael Turner



GMF's Balkan Trust for Democracy hosted a dinner reception to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Dayton Agreement and honor U.S. Congressman Michael Turner for his continued commitment to peace and security in the Balkans.

READ MORE

The Humanitarian Crisis in the United States and Policy Insights for Europe

How the Turkey-Russia Conflict Complicates Anti-Islamic State Efforts

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Astrid Ziebarth
Both the United States and Europe are grappling with reforming migration systems. They must balance humanitarian protection with border control requirements. | *European View*

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On November 24, Transatlantic Academy Senior Fellow Angela Stent discussed Turkey's shooting down of a Russian fighter jet on PBS NewsHour with Judy Woodruff and Nicholas Burns of Harvard University.

WATCH HERE

Tweet of the Week

@TheresaAFallon :
Jamie Shea: Joining NATO is very complicated, serious process but it does happen. Georgia needs to keep expectations realistic @gmfus #GMFGeorgia

RETWEET

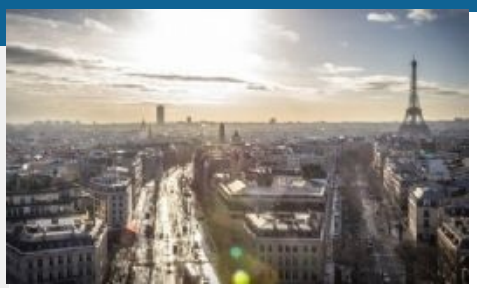
TTIP's Geopolitical Impact in a Multipolar World



Erik Brattberg
As EU and U.S. leaders discuss how to move forward on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, it is essential that they not lose sight of the bigger picture.

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Cities and Regions at COP21



On December 5 in Paris, GMF will facilitate a session for subnational leaders to share the opportunities and challenges of leading equitable and inclusive climate and clean energy policies.

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/29/2008 4:19:00 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/29/08

Main Topics: McCain's *Larry King* Interview, "Troops" Ad

Summary: In light of Obama's reduced lead in today's poll, pundits on all channels discussed the efficacy of polling this early. Other foci were the influence of big money, McCain's position on affirmative action and McCain's anti-Obama ad; the last being generally regarded as a bad move. Spreading wildfires in Yosemite threaten thousands. US-Iraqi forces begin a new offensive targeting al-Qaeda strongholds.

Highlights:

1. McCain interviewed on *Larry King*
   a. CNN: McCain reflects on skin problems, again attacks Obama for not visiting troops stationed in Germany
   b. CNN: McCain reiterates support for drilling, says he would support Maliki call for withdrawal
   c. CNN: McCain says he supports affirmative action ban, school vouchers
2. CNN: Bounds waffles on Social Security, refutes McCain statement that "all options are on the table"
3. MSNBC: Davis defends "Troops" ad
4. Not the president yet
   a. COMEDY: Colbert chides McCain for acting too presidential
   b. MSNBC: Discussion on the perils of acting overly presidential [no clip]
5. MSNBC: Chuck Todd: The reason McCain is up in the polls now is that the only people paying attention in July are old, white people [no clip]
6. CBS-KPIX-CA: San Francisco: Protesters surround Fairmont Hotel, site of McCain fundraiser [no clip]
7. NBC-KNTV-CA: Bay Area: Protesters at McCain fundraiser push McSame [no clip]
8. NBC-KSEE-CA: Fresno: McCain in Bakersfield, both candidates will have to deal with record deficit [no clip]
9. CNN: Conservative radio personality Michael Reagan defends McCain "Troops" ad

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Reflects On Skin Problems, Again Attacks Obama For Not Visiting Troops Stationed In Germany (CNN 07/28/08 11:05pm)
KING: We begin tonight with Senator John McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. He is in Bakersfield, California.

Good to have you with us, Senator.

You had a mole-like growth removed earlier today. What's the story?

MCCAIN: Actually, it was just a little spot on my face. I go to a routine check-up every three months, Larry. And as you can see, it is just a routine thing we do quite frequently for those of us that, when we were young, we had great exposure to the sun. As you know, my dad was in the Navy and we lived in places where I was at the beach a lot and that's -- I'm paying a price for that. But it's fine. It's a routine thing and I get it done every three months or so.

But I want to, again, urge our viewers -- if you remember anything I say, then I'd careful of the sun, especially with children because this melanoma is an increasing threat to the lives of Americans and people all over the world.

KING: Senator, do they biopsy something like that?

MCCAIN: Oh, yes. Every once in a while, yes they do. They take a little, tiny piece and biopsy it,

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just to be on the safe side. And that's the thing about melanoma, as opposed to sometimes other forms of cancer, as you know, Larry. If you just have a discoloration, if you have anything, go ahead and see your dermatologist and let the dermatologist check it out.

KING: When do you get the results of this biopsy?

MCCAIN: I think tomorrow. I've had -- I've had many in the intervening years. And by the way, also, that's -- those of us who have very fair skin it's, doctors will tell you, even a greater risk. But it's a risk to everyone. It's a risk to everyone. And don't think that it isn't, no matter what your background is or your ancestry. Be very careful.

KING: Is it fair that voters should be concerned about your health though? You've had four melanomas surgically removed. It's, if not an issue, it's certainly a concern isn't it?

MCCAIN: I don't think so, Larry. As I say, melanoma is something if you look at it, and you be careful, it's fine. I had one serious bout with it and that was, frankly, due to my own neglect because I let it go and go and go. In fact, I was running for president at the time. I'm not making that mistake again.

Look, there's a lot of things going on but that certainly isn't one of them.

KING: And the rest of your health is OK?

MCCAIN: It's great. It's -- very invigorated, feeling great, having a lot of fun. And, as I have told you before on this show, a guy that stood fifth from the bottom of his class at the Naval Academy in America -- anything is possible.

KING: Senator Obama has taken flack for a recent overseas trip. Your campaign called it a premature victory lap. He was asked about such criticisms yesterday at a Unity of Journalists of Color Conference in Chicago. Here's what he said.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SEN. BARACK OBAMA (D-IL), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I was puzzled by this notion that somehow what we were doing was in any way different from what Senator McCain or a lot of presidential candidates have done in the past. Now, I admit, we did it really well --

(APPLAUSE)

OBAMA: -- and that -- but that shouldn't be a strike against me.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: Senator, you criticized him for the trip, a trip that you told him to make. MCCAIN: Actually, I was glad that he went to Iraq. I was puzzled and befuddled by the fact that he announced his policy towards Iraq and Afghanistan before he went. I had hoped that he would go, and for the first time, sit down and get a briefing from General Petraeus. You know he never had before?

I had wished, in a way, that he had a hearing in the subcommittee that he chairs on Afghanistan since he has the responsibility oversight of NATO. But incredibly to me, still, is that he does not acknowledge that the surge succeeded. No rational person could go to Iraq in the last few days and compare it to two years ago and not acknowledge that the surge has succeeded. And that's why I question very much why he would continue to fail to acknowledge that a strategy -- admittedly -- he condemned it, he said it wouldn't work, he said that it would make things worse, et cetera.

But at least he ought to acknowledge -- after getting briefed by General Petraeus and meeting these brave young Americans who have sacrificed so much in making sure that this strategy succeeded -- that he should acknowledge their success. How do you welcome this last brigade home that's coming home and say, hey, great

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job, but by the way, you didn't succeed? I don't know how you do that.

KING: But was he right in saying that a lot more emphasis should have been put on Afghanistan?

MCCAIN: Well, listen, this is -- if we had failed in Iraq, our complications in Afghanistan would have been far, far more complicated.

What Senator Obama doesn't understand is that they are all connected. If we had lost the war in Iraq, we would have had much greater problems in Afghanistan. And also, the strategy that he said wouldn't work in Iraq is the same strategy we have to employ in Afghanistan. It's not just to increase the number of troops; it's secure and hold, it's a government that functions more effectively, it's taking on the narco-traffickers, it's the issue of Pakistan, which is of course the border area -- it's uncontrolled. So it's got to be an overall strategy. And Senator Obama does not understand that, just like he didn't understand the situation in Iraq.

KING: So you're not criticizing him for the trip, which you told him to make, you're criticizing him for what you say is a lack of awareness?

MCCAIN: Lack of understanding -- complete lack of understanding of what America's national security threats are.

But the other thing is that, of course -- the fact that in Germany he did not go to Landstuhl. And I can assure you that the troops welcome, especially those who are the gravely wounded ones, welcome American senators. And if he had wanted to go with just a staffer, I am confident that he could have gone, rather than cancel his trip to see those brave young Americans.

But it's also about bringing back prosperity. KING: He must have understood that. Why do you think he didn't go?

MCCAIN: I have no idea except that I know that according to reports that he wanted to bring media people and cameras and his campaign staffers and I want to guarantee you, if I had gone to Landstuhl, which I have and met with the troops there and met with the wounded but if I had gone there and the military had said, you can't see these wounded people. I guarantee I'd have been on the phone with the secretary of defense immediately. I'd have seen them.

KING: We'll be right back with Senator McCain with what everyone wants to know. Who might his running mate going to be? That's ahead.

McCain Reiterates Support For Drilling, Says He Would Support Maliki Call For Withdrawal (CNN 07/28/08 11:15pm)
MCCAIN: I said I would rather lose a campaign than see America lose a war.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: We're back with Senator John McCain. We have an e-mail question from Scott in Chappaqua, New York. We haven't heard that city mentioned in a while: "I have noticed particularly in the past few days that you've increased your use of negative ads and personal statements about Senator Obama. Whatever happened to your assurances you would not engage in such negativity? What about your calls for a civil and respectful campaign?"

MCCAIN: Well, first of all, I admire and respect Senator Obama. He has done a great job securing the nomination to his party. He also used his opposition to the war in Iraq as a way to secure that. Look, there are just start differences between us and those differences need to be drawn, whether it be health care or he wants basically government to run the health care program. Whether it wants taxes where he wants to raise taxes whereas I want to keep them low.

To our national security requirements and including offshore drilling. He's opposed to offshore drilling. He is

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opposed to nuclear power. Right now the American people are hurting very badly as you know, Larry. They are sitting around the kitchen table trying to figure out how they can do all these things and these are stark differences and the American people in my view need to hear about them.

KING: So you're saying it's not negative, it's differences of opinion?

MCCAIN: Oh yes. I mean, they are clearly differences. Senator Obama is against storing spent nuclear fuel or reprocessing it. I favor it. He is against offshore drilling. I favor it. Those are strong differences.

KING: You opposed offshore ... MCCAIN: And Americans care a great deal.

KING: You opposed offshore drilling ...

MCCAIN: Yes, when oil was a buck. When oil was $1.80 a gallon or $1.20 or whatever it is. Now it is right around $4.00 and so of course. But I also believe states should be making those decisions as well but I'd love to give them some more incentives to do so.

KING: In 2004, you were asked what the United States would do if the sovereign government of Iraq - of Iraq asked you to pull out, even if the United States wasn't happy about the security situation. Do you stand by that? If Iraq said "pull out," would you say OK?

MCCAIN: Sure, but the fact is that even Prime Minister Maliki has stated that it was condition-based and more importantly, or as importantly, Senator Obama's dates for withdrawal proposal, which, by the way, his original proposal they would have been out of there last March but the present proposal, our highest ranking military officer, Admiral Mullen, said would be very dangerous.

General Petraeus said that it would be very dangerous for us to pursue that strategy. I also would listen very carefully, particularly to General Petraeus, who has carried this incredible surge which many political pundits on your show said that had no chance and that the war was lost.

Harry Reid announced the war was lost. General Petraeus should be listened to. And he shouldn't drive all decisions. But at the same time, the fact is that the Iraqis are interested in their security as well and we will negotiate with them on a conditions-based basis and we'll withdraw because we've succeeded and we're coming home in victory.

Senator Obama said he might have to go back. I guarantee you, when they come home under my plan, they won't have to go back.

KING: In that regard, you said Friday on CNN that you thought 16 months might be a pretty good timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. And that sounds a lot like what Senator Obama has been saying. So what's the difference there?

MCCAIN: I love these days of the sound bite. I said it has to be based on conditions on the ground. Senator Obama said it's a hard and firm date. That's why the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said it had to be conditions based and said that his approach would be very, very dangerous. The way the question was asked, why not 16 months? The fact is we have to be conditioned based and we are withdrawing. The last brigade from the surge is coming home at the end of this month or early next month and we will be having further withdrawals based on conditions.

Now whether that fits into 16 months or not, or one month, or whatever, the point is it's got to be conditions-based and that's the point General Petraeus is trying to get over as we go into this political season.

KING: If you were president and knew that bin Laden was in Pakistan, you know where, would you have U.S. forces go in after him?

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MCCAIN: Larry, I'm not going to go there and here's why, because Pakistan is a sovereign nation. I think the Pakistanis would want bin Laden out of their hair and out of their country and it's causing great difficulties in Pakistan itself.

But I want to assure you I will get Osama bin Laden as president of the United States and I will bring him to justice no matter what it takes.

KING: You have said quite a bit lately in all of your speeches practically that you will never do anything just for politics. You will stand on your own philosophy and not go the political route. Can't we say that Senator Obama did that when he opposed the war in Iraq and 80 percent of America favored it? Wasn't he standing on a principle?

MCCAIN: Well, first of all, he was in the Illinois State Senate.

KING: Right. But he still vocally expressed it.

MCCAIN: Well, the fact is we achieved significant victory initially and it was the failed strategy afterwards by Rumsfeld that I stood up against and was called disloyal by Republicans for saying we had to have this new strategy and we had to win. I am glad Saddam Hussein is not in power anymore. He used weapons of mass destruction twice, once on his own people and there's no doubt he would be trying to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction again.

I think the world is better off with a stable ally in the Middle East in the form of an Iraqi government that is an ally and friend.

KING: If this would go back, start all over again, would you go into Iraq if you could go back?

MCCAIN: I think the world is better off knowing what I know at the time and the fact that Saddam Hussein was bent on acquiring weapons of mass destruction, $12 billion Oil for Food scandal. American airplanes were being shot at. Sanctions were breaking down. It's clear that he wanted to go back and acquire weapons of mass destruction and use them. I don't think there is any doubt. I think we did the right thing. I think that it was a colossal intelligence failure on the part of the United States and every other county as to whether he had them or not. But again, I would remind you, I said we would have an easy victory. We did.

And then we employed the wrong strategy which doomed us to failure and we were losing this war when I said we had to have this new strategy all along and stoop up for it when most political pundits said that my career was finished.

KING: Some more moments with the Senator, the vice presidential question and answer, maybe, next.

You're watching LARRY KING LIVE.

McCain Says he Supports AZ Affirmative Action Ban, School Vouchers (CNN 07/28/08 11:25pm)
MCCAIN: I will always, always put my country first and I look you in the eye and tell you I will never let you down.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KING: We have a history on this program that whenever the vice presidential nominee is announced, he or she appears on this show the next night. It's been going on for quite a while. We hope that Senator McCain follows that tradition since I have a hunch he will not announce tonight who that candidate is.

But how close are we?

MCCAIN: I want to say that that vice presidential candidate will be on your show. I will not risk the wrath of Larry King. I want to assure you.

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KING: How close are we?

MCCAIN: We're in the process. As you know, if I comment on it in any more detail then it causes a flurry of speculation. We are blessed with a large number of people who I think would serve not only as vice president but as president and so I really can't comment much more.

KING: OK.

MCCAIN: On the process, Larry.

KING: A recent poll ...

MCCAIN: I know you understand that.

KING: I understand. But a recent poll says 60 percent of registered voters think you should definitely pick a running mate with strong economic credentials. Is that fair?

MCCAIN: I think whatever the American people think is fine. I do want to emphasize again my economic credentials including being chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, Science and Transportation, every part of our nation's economy, which I have extensive experience in and I have five Nobel Prize winners and over 300 economists who think my economic plan is a good one.

So we'll be talking a lot about the economy, about keeping people in their jobs, about energy independence. Right now as you know, Americans are hurting very badly and I've got to show them and am showing them a positive plan for a strong economic recovery and I want to emphasize to you again. I believe America's best days are ahead of us but we've got to make tough decisions like nuclear power. We've got to drill offshore. We've got to do a lot of things that will maximize the ingenuity and entrepreneurship of America, including keeping people in their homes.

KING: Senator, this is a fair question, I think. You don't have to tell us.

MCCAIN: Any question you give - any question you ask is fair, Larry.

KING: We go back a long way. I rode the bus with you.

Do you know who it is?

MCCAIN: Oh, no, no, of course not, really.

KING: OK. Will you announce it before the Olympics? Isn't this a timing, strategic question?

MCCAIN: I don't know because again if I assume that, then where we are in the process, I can tell you that I will announce it just as soon as the process is completed but it won't be driven by any other factors, the Olympics, or any other. It will be strictly on when we can arrive at a conclusion and obviously it's tough because we have so many highly qualified individuals.

KING: Men and women?

MCCAIN: Yes, sir, men and women. And if I start running down the list, I'll get in real serious trouble.

KING: Concerning the Olympics, if you were president, would you attend the Opening Ceremonies?

MCCAIN: You know, I don't think I would particularly in light of the Tibetan situation. I want good relations with China. I recognize China is an emerging superpower but frankly I don't question the president's decision and it's a decision only a president can take. As a private citizen I think that the television coverage of it is going to be very excellent.

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KING: Well said.

All right. The next president will apparently, according to all announcements, will inherit a budget deficit of more than $480 billion. And I know we can't answer that in a short time. How are you going to deal with that?

MCCAIN: First cut spending. We let spending get completely out of control. Everybody talks about raising taxes. I want to keep them low but the point is, it wasn't taxes, it was spending. We presided over the largest increase in the size of government since the Great Society and we mortgaged our children's futures, to the great disgrace of the Republican Party. We let earmarking and corrupt spending get to the point where we mortgaged our kids' futures.

And it's going to stop and we have to scrub every agency of government. We have to bring those troops home from Iraq, which we'll be saving money as the conditions permit them to do so with victory and we have to reform defense procurement and we have to do a whole lot of things but spending being out of control and entitlements being very much out of control, in my view, have caused the majority of our deficit problems along with it being the cause of much of our economic difficulties we're in today.

KING: Yes.

MCCAIN: Including greedy Wall Street people, including Congress that didn't do a better job.

KING: You said yesterday that you endorse an Arizona ballot referendum to eliminate affirmative action. Ten years ago, you described a similar effort as "divisive." What changed?

MCCAIN: You know, I don't know what we're talking about. About 10 years ago and I'm going to look it up. But I have a clear record of saying that I approve of helping people progress in America and in the world and I have always opposed a quote "quota" system.

The best, in my view, equal opportunity employer in America is the United States military where we take people who join our military and we give everybody an opportunity and we give them the best training and make them eligible for great educational opportunities.

The problem in America today in my view is we're condemning people who live in poorer communities in America, whether they be inner cities or rural areas, to a terrible education which then limits their opportunities. We've got to have choice and competition. We've got to have charter schools. We've got to have vouchers. We've got to have home schooling. We've got to give people a choice and an opportunity. The same one that Senator Obama had for his children and the same opportunity that Cindy and I had to send our children to the school of our choice and that's what we're condemning so many Americans to today is education which will never give them any the upward mobility and the equal opportunity that they deserve.

So I've always opposed quotas no matter where that quota is taken from.

KING: We're at the end of our agreed-upon time. One quick thing, are you going to campaign a lot with the president? Will you campaign with him a lot?

MCCAIN: I am always glad to be in his company but the fact is it's my campaign as you know and the American people didn't get to know me yesterday and even though I've differed on spending, on climate change, on a long range of issues, campaign finance reform. Other reforms that I have tried to implement on government. Opposition to earmark spending. All of those things. The American people will know me and my agenda for the future and I am very happy with where we are right now, Larry. And I always enjoy being on your show.

KING: Same here.

So you're saying you don't need a partner?

MCCAIN: I'm going to need a partner and I'll name that partner as soon as possible.

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KING: Good seeing you, Senator, stay well.

MCCAIN: Thanks again, Larry. Thank you.

Highlight #2
Bounds Waffles On Social Security, Refutes McCain Statement That 'All Options Are On The Table' (CNN 07/29/08 9:35am)
MEGYN KELLY: So that comment has struck fear into the hearts of anti-tax conservatives. Has your guy reversed himself?

TUCKER BOUNDS: Well he hasn't reversed himself because he's always been in support of lower taxes. He's never voted in favor of a higher tax. He said again and again that he's not going to raise taxes. But when you're talking about the Social Security debate, you are really talking about a different type of debate, Megyn. You're talking about brining people together to form a compromise. We've seen in this last administration and we've seen time and time again, throughout history of this issue, that if you want to make an honest effort to try to fix Social Security, you're going to have to put everything on the table, have an honest debate, and come together with a real conclusion and a real solution. John McCain is absolutely for maintaining Social Security benefits and that is the number one priority for him. And working forward, we're going to do what we can to fix the problem.

KELLY: Alright but McCain's top economic adviser Douglas Holtz-Eakin says, said before 'McCain will not consider a payroll tax increase' that's what we're talking about quote 'under and imaginable circumstance.' Isnt he not reversing that?

BOUNDS: Well Doug's a much smarter guy than I am and I completely agree with him. And I agree-

KELLY: But your guy doesn't agree with him.

BOUNDS: No well we all agree here that John McCain has never voted in support of higher taxes. Contrary, Barack Obama has voted 94 times in support of higher taxes jus three years in the Senate. That's a stark contrast here.

KELLY: You're off point. We're talking on a go-forward basis. McCain gets in the White House, is he going to raise the payroll tax? Might the Social Security tax go up? Is that on the table?

BOUNDS: No Megyn there is no imaginable circumstance where John McCain would raise payroll taxes. It's absolutely out of the question. Here' s what he said time and time again, he will keep taxes low, he will cut taxes, he will grow jobs and he will try and work to balance the budget. These are the three important things Americans need to know and I may be getting off point here, but it is in stark contrast to Barack Obama who has voted time and time again for higher taxes. And has proposed a slew of new taxes, higher taxes, on the American people.

KELLY: So when McCain said, 'I don't want tax increases but that doesn't mean anything is off the table,' you say in fact what he did mean is new taxes, higher taxes, are off the table.

BOUNDS: What he means is we need to maintain the integrity of the Social Security debate. In order to really take this challenge on, we're going to have to be honest. We're going to have to come to the table, members of Congress are going to have together with the administration, everybody's going to have to work through this and fix Social Security.

KELLY: Tucker, you're waffling again. We need to come together to fix Social Security, is he going to raise the payroll tax to fix Social Security or isn't he? Is that on the table or isn't it?

BOUNDS: Megyn there's no imaginable circumstance where he'd raise taxes. It's not even in his record, it's not in any proposal that he's put forward, I can tell you that with 100% certainty.

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Highlight #3
Davis Defends "Troops" Ad (MSNBC 07/29/08 7:49am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Rick, the quote is that you and senator McCain are running a very dishonorable campaign. Respond.

RICK DAVIS: Well, I think that he sounds like he's stunned by the truth and I think that after this eight-day photo-op tour of Europe and the Middle East, the Obama campaign was very unhappy with the fact that they finished the entire tour with a huge mistake, which was blowing off the troops before coming home.

SCARBOROUGH: You say that he is stunned by the truth. What is the truth as you see it? Are you suggesting that Barack Obama does not value the service of our men and women in uniform?

DAVIS: No, I'm sure he does. And I'm sure that our men and women in uniform would have valued the visit that he had indicated early on that he was going to make when he, uh, [coughs] when he arrived . . . I don't know what the truth is because out of the Obama campaign . . . there have been probably eleven separate excuses . . .

SCARBOROUGH: But what do you think at the McCain campaign and what John McCain thinks this signifies? What are you all suggesting this means about Barack Obama, his values and what kind of commander in chief he's going to be?

DAVIS: I think people are going to make their own judgment. This the kind of issue I think will stick around for a while. I think it's up to people who hear the various excuses and evaluate the news reports that you all put out to come to a judgment of their own—

SCARBOROUGH: What judgment?

DAVIS: I'm sure the troops were disappointed the fact he didn't go. There's no clear reason why. Blaming the defense department didn't seem to work, so now they are jumping through various other hoops to try to come up with a good reason . . . I don't think anybody would defend his actions. I mean, you'll notice that's not what they are doing . . .

SCARBOROUGH: Do you think Barack Obama loves his country?

DAVIS: I'm sure Obama loves his country.

[. . .]

DAVIS: . . . John McCain said, if anybody told him he couldn't visit troops in the field, there would be a seismic event, and I believe that.

[. . .]

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: I want to get a sense of why you guys did that ad that some consider -- there is some backlash to it. I mean, there are some who would think that the McCain campaign, you and the McCain campaign are trying to deflect in any desperate way you can from what was a very good trip of Barack Obama, where he was seen on the international stage with world leaders making it work for him.

DAVIS: I'll be the first one to admit Barack Obama has become a global celebrity. I mean, Barack Obama has more fans across the world than Paris Hilton does . . . but I think when he had an opportunity to make a decision based on, you know, his own experience, or lack thereof, you know, he made the wrong choice. Mika, the only backlash I'm noticing on this issue are from people like you and other Obama supporters who are upset that we would actually point out that there was a flaw in an otherwise perfect trip.

BRZEZINSKI: I take issue with that, rick. Hold on one second. I am not "me and other Obama supporters." I'm

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telling you that this trip went well, it appears that it went well and that was a bad call. I said it on the air yesterday. I thought it was a bad call and it looks bad. In the grand scheme of things—

SCARBOROUGH: Let me step in here. Let me ask you this question: Is it not a good thing that, after seven years of many people in Europe not holding us to the height of esteem, that you have an American politician going to Berlin, a country openly hostile to us in 2002 and 2003 and you saw thousands of American flags waving in the crowd. Isn't that good for America?

DAVIS: Look, believe me, again, I don't know how many times I would have to repeat myself. I think it was great for America's image abroad. I think it shows what kind of popular celebrity that Barack Obama has become. Look, he's not the first politician to go over there. He's just the first politician with fans. John McCain goes to Berlin every year to talk to a series of defense ministers . . . he talks about substance, he pushes back on the Russians, he talks about NATO, he talks about Afghanistan. He doesn't go there and give a flowery speech that has no real substance to it and have 200,000 people. Does that make him any less important to our American fabric abroad?

SCARBOROUGH: Hey, Rick, thank you so much for being with us. We appreciate your insights.

Highlight #4
Colbert Chides Candidates for Acting Too Presidential (MSNBC 07/28/08 11:32pm)
STEPHEN COLBERT: And I'm not the only one who noticed the press's bias against John McCain. So has John McCain. Last week his campaign sent an e-mail to reporters saying it's pretty obvious that the media has a bizarre fascination with Barack Obama. Some may even say it's a love affair. This has got to be hard on McCain. It is tough seeing your old flame with someone new. John McCain and the media had a very hot fling back in the summer of 2000. They even had cute little nickname force each other. The press called McCain "maverick" and McCain called the press any time he wanted favorable coverage. [laughter] But John McCain isn't holding a grudge here. No, he's just trying to protect the press, warning them that the new man in their life is not what he appears to be. Because what he appears to be is the president. [laughter, cheers and applause] Obama is giving speeches behind a sort of presidential seal, his new airplane nicknamed "O-Force One". He is even talking like the president.

BARACK OBAMA: Israel is a strong friend of Israel's – [laughter, cheers and applause]

[. . .]

COLBERT: No one has pointed this out more clearly than John McCain.

JOHN MCCAIN: I would love to give a speech in Germany but I much prefer to do it as president of the United States rather than as a candidate for the office of the presidency.

COLBERT: Exactly. When are you just a candidate it is wrong to act like are you the president. Something McCain never does. Just look at this ad.

[ad with "President John McCain" written on side plays]

JOHN MCCAIN: I'm John McCain. and i approve this message.

COLBERT: See? [applause] He's not acting like he's president. He's just saying he's the president. Big difference. By the way, if are you wondering why President McCain is written vertically it so it can be read by his supporters who are mostly bed ridden. [cheers and applause]

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/29/2014 7:36:03 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday July 29, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday July 29, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "But a conservative author could call the Clintons 'broke.' Hillary Clinton could not."http://www.slate.com/blogs/weigel/2014/07/29/the_long_tail_of_dead_broke.html … [7/29/14, 1:30 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Crowds round the corner waiting for @HillaryClinton's arrival http://www.troyrecord.com/general-news/20140729/crowds-round-the-corner-in-wait-for-hillary-clinton-arrival-at-northshire-bookstore … [7/29/14, 11:34 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "Of any potential presidential contender, none could match Clinton's experience overseas." http://www.cnn.com/2014/07/29/politics/clinton-foreign-policy-liability/ … [7/29/14, 11:29 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "This is big!" A bookstore owner on @hillaryclinton's upcoming book signing at his store. http://www.bizjournals.com/albany/morning_call/2014/07/what-northshire-bookstore-owner-says-about-hillary.html?page=all … [7/29/14, 9:53 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Really? @AmericaRising, attacking Clintons' success again? Bold for the former Romney folks http://correctrecord.org/the-right-wing-just-doesnt-get-it-attacking-clinton-success/ … //http://correctrecord.org/the-points/attack-hillary-clinton-is-out-of-touch/ … [7/29/14, 11:26 a.m. EDT]

Headlines:

CNN: "Is foreign policy a liability for Hillary Clinton?"

"The group Correct the Record, which was created by Clinton supporters to defend her, lists 11 foreign policy-related accomplishments on its

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website, including helping ‘restore America's leadership and standing in the world,’ building a coalition to enact ‘the toughest sanctions in Iran's history,’ playing ‘an integral role’ in the missile reduction START treaty with Russia, and supporting the raid to kill Osama bin Laden.”

Slate blog: Weigel: “The Long Tail of ‘Dead Broke’”

“A conservative author could call the Clintons ‘broke.’ Hillary Clinton could not. In the sprawling world of Clinton defenders (who I spent some time with, for a story going up later) this is deeply annoying.”

Washington Post blog: The Fix: “Hillary Clinton still hasn’t found a good answer to questions about her wealth”

“Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct The Record, an outside group designed to counter attacks on Clinton, described the America Rising clip as ‘another desperate, ineffective attempt by the right wing to distract from the fact that Hillary Clinton has spent her lifetime in public service lifting up the lives of middle-class families.’”

Fusion: “Hillary Clinton regrets saying she was 'dead broke,' feels blessed by success”

“In an interview with Fusion's Jorge Ramos, Hillary Clinton said that she regrets the comment.”

CNN: “Hillary Clinton on her 'dead broke' misstep: 'I regret it'”

“Nearly two months later, Clinton is still being asked about it and tells Fusion that she regrets telling ABC's Diane Sawyer that her family was 'dead broke' when they left the White House in 2001.”

Huffington Post: “Hillary Clinton: 'I Regret' Saying We Were 'Dead Broke'”

“Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she regrets saying she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, were ‘dead broke’ upon leaving the White House.”

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: “Hillary Clinton on ‘dead broke’ comment: ‘I regret it’”

“Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton says she regrets saying that she and husband Bill Clinton left the White House ‘dead broke’ in 2001.”

New York Daily News: “Hillary Clinton says she knows her net worth ‘within a range’”

[Subtitle:] The former secretary of state — who has already landed herself in trouble over comments about her wealth — says she owns 'two very nice houses' but doesn’t elaborate further.

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The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Clinton declines to detail net worth"

"Hillary Clinton declined to specify her net worth in an interview, sidestepping questions about her family's wealth ahead of a possible 2016 presidential run."

Fusion: "Hillary Clinton on 2016: 'I think there will probably be many candidates'"

"Leaving aside her coyness on whether she will actually run, Fusion's Jorge Ramos asked Clinton whether she thinks her party would benefit from a competitive primary."

Fusion: "Hillary Clinton disses Cheney, says 'Iraq was a mistake'"

"In her new book, Hillary Clinton writes that she got Iraq wrong."

Mediaite: "Hillary Hits Cheney for Obama Criticism: 'Should've Been Talking About Himself'"

"In another preview from her interview with Jorge Ramos, set to air tonight on Fusion, Hillary Clinton offered up a strong defense of President Barack Obama in the face of criticism from former Vice President Dick Cheney."

Troy Record (N.Y.): "Crowds round the corner in wait for Hillary Clinton arrival at Northshire Bookstore"

"Hundreds of people formed a long line around the block, from Northshire Bookstore where Clinton is signing her book, 'Hard Choices,' all the way down Caroline Street to Maple Avenue."

Washington Free Beacon: "Allen West: 'Allow Israel To Crush Hamas'"

"'A person like Hillary Clinton should not be in the White House because she does not want to take leadership role,' West said when speaking about the former secretary of state's presidential ambitions. 'Maybe she wants to give Vladimir Putin another little toy box with a red button on top of it and say 'hey, let's play reset again.'"

Articles:

CNN: "Is foreign policy a liability for Hillary Clinton?"

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By Leigh Ann Caldwell

July 29, 2014, 7:56 a.m. EDT

Presidential candidates often lack experience in one critical area: foreign policy.

But should she run for president in 2016, Hillary Clinton would have more experience on that front than any other potential presidential competitor.

With experience, however, comes risk. Growing global crises, some of which have festered since Clinton's time as secretary of state, could turn what is seen as one of her assets into a liability.

Unparalleled experience

Of any potential presidential contender, none could match Clinton's experience overseas.

Governors are the most disconnected to foreign policy. Those aspiring for higher office often take international trips to learn about issues. Senators and members of Congress, meanwhile, can beef up their foreign policy cred by serving on committees dealing with international affairs, formulating policies and voting on matters of war, peace and which government to support. But none of that compares to the experience of being directly engaged in global events.

If Clinton does run -- and win -- it would be quite a departure from modern-day political ascension. She would be the first president since James Buchanan, the 15th president, to previously serve as the country's top diplomat. (Although it was almost a requirement closer to the founding of the country, with five of the first eight presidents being previous secretaries of state.)

But Buchanan, who preceded Abraham Lincoln, is considered one of the worst presidents in U.S. history. His failings, however, had nothing to do with his dealings with foreign policy, but with trouble at home over slavery and his reluctance to engage on the issue.

An opening

But Clinton's opponents are sure to make her resume a liability, especially if unrest around the world continues.

Sometimes excessive experience is a liability, especially in political campaigns. It's easier to talk about what you will do with no record to show than it is to explain what you've done.

As unrest around the world unfolds, Republicans will help tell Clinton's story, pointing out contradictions and inconsistencies at every turn.

"It creates an opening for the Republicans," said Alex Wong, former director of foreign policy for Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential run. Wong said candidates won't win an election on foreign policy but they sure could lose one on it.

Before Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Gaza, ISIS gaining ground in Iraq and Syria, Republicans had been homing in on the issue of Benghazi -- the 2012 attack on the U.S. compound that killed four Americans including Ambassador Chris Stevens -- insisting that Clinton knows more than she is willing to admit and that it was her negligence as secretary of state that led to a dangerous environment for Americans working in Libya.

But since international hot spots are flaring, Republicans have more material to work with and more crises at which to point blame.

For instance, after an interview with CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS" on Sunday in which Clinton said she was "among the most skeptical of Putin during the time" in the Obama administration, a Republican research organization, America Rising PAC, noted that it's "too late to hit the 'reset' button

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on your record with Russia."

During her first months at State, Clinton spearheaded an awkward media event in which she and then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev hit a gimmicky reset button to signal a new start to the U.S.-Russia relationship.

"The dilemma she faces is a failed foreign policy, and she was not influential enough in the administration to right the ship," Wong said.

But Clinton's supporters are anticipating the onslaught of foreign policy-related attacks.

The group Correct the Record, which was created by Clinton supporters to defend her, lists 11 foreign policy-related accomplishments on its website, including helping "restore America's leadership and standing in the world," building a coalition to enact "the toughest sanctions in Iran's history," playing "an integral role" in the missile reduction START treaty with Russia, and supporting the raid to kill Osama bin Laden.

Correct the Record also says Clinton "helped avert all-out war in Gaza" with a cease-fire in 2012.

A tricky paradox

But responding to Republican attacks is only one part of Clinton's challenge to protect and defend her record. She is also undertaking the difficult dance of distancing herself from President Barack Obama's policies while promoting her own, especially as Republicans continue to tie Clinton to what they say is Obama's failed foreign policy.

Clinton is more hawkish than Obama, but working for a President includes having to put your policy positions aside if they don't agree. With possibly higher political aspirations, Clinton must distinguish her positions from those of her former boss.

She wrote a 596-page book to do just that. She used the opportunity to frame the narrative after the events happened, when context and the outcome of her decisions were apparent.

Regarding Russia, in her memoir "Hard Choices," she placed herself in a category within the administration that had more modest expectations, which included progress on some priorities "the reset delivered."

Clinton portrayed her role in negotiations between Israel and Palestinians as a constant broker able to maintain an honest relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as his and Obama's relationship "continued to deteriorate."

Clinton wrote about phone calls she had with Netanyahu in which they "argued frequently" for more than an hour, "sometimes two."

After failing to extend the freeze on settlement expansion, Clinton wrote, "I spent much of the rest of 2011 trying to keep the situation from deteriorating from deadlock into disaster. That wasn't easy."

Now that Israel and the Palestinians are engaged in intense fighting, Clinton promoted her role as secretary of state while defending the President in her interview on CNN.

"I think the President is doing what he can do to try to get a cease-fire and then see whether we can sort out some, you know, longer-term resolution," she said.

But Aaron David Miller, with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, said Clinton's role at State is not necessarily an asset but definitely not a liability.

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If the world is relatively quiet by the time 2016 rolls around, foreign policy will be at the bottom of most Americans' priority list.

Miller said he admires Clinton for her work in difficult circumstances under a president who didn't give her a lot of latitude. He said she was a good secretary of state who improved America's image around the world but that she isn't "in the category of slam dunk secretaries of state."

"There is not a foreign policy crisis that is currently ongoing that you can directly blame Hillary Clinton for," he said.

That doesn't mean her opponents won't try, though.

Slate blog: Weigel: "The Long Tail of 'Dead Broke'"

By David Weigel

July 29, 2014, 11:58 a.m. EDT

Yesterday, Fusion ran Jorge Ramos's interview with Hillary Clinton about her book, her wealth, and the pre-presidential campaign. Ramos took two hard swings at the wealth issue, and Republican tracking groups popped bottles when she stammered to talk about her "net worth." (She would only allow that her family was worth "millions.") And Ramos also asked if Clinton regretted telling Diane Sawyer that her family was "dead broke" upon leaving the White House.

"I regret it," she said. "It was inartful. It was accurate, but we are so successful and so blessed by the success we had."

Clinton has spent a whole month apologizing for that quote. Right after she gave it, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel gave her a chance to walk it back, and she did so: "That may have not been the most artful way of saying that, you know, Bill and I have gone through a lot of different phases in our lives." Weeks later, Bill Clinton attacked the "fabricated" narrative around "dead broke," reminding a CNN reporter that the Clintons were piled up with debt in January 2001.

They've got to be sick of this by now. Maggie Haberman had it nailed three weeks ago: Hillary Clinton was "still raw over the partisan wars that hindered her husband's legacy and left the couple with millions of dollars in legal debt." Her answer, as she told Ramos, was accurate, and it's baffling to her that this became a "gaffe." As she continued her tour, HarperCollins was printing up copies of Clinton, Inc, a tell-all by The Weekly Standard's Daniel Halper. On page 18, Halper recalls that in 2001 "the Clintons were broke, owing a fortune in legal fees from the many investigations into their personal lives," and that they had to be loaned $1.3 by Terry McAuliffe. Until just a month ago, that was how even conservatives remembered the Clintons' departure from the White House.

But a conservative author could call the Clintons "broke." Hillary Clinton could not. In the sprawling world of Clinton defenders (who I spent some time with, for a story going up later) this is deeply annoying.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Hillary Clinton still hasn't found a good answer to questions about her wealth"

By Chris Cillizza

July 29, 2014, 11:57 a.m. EDT

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America Rising, a Republican-aligned opposition research group, blasted out a clip this morning of Hillary Clinton being asked about her wealth for the bajillionth time (NOTE: This is a rough estimate). This time the interviewer was Jorge Ramos, an anchor for Fusion, in an interview set to air Tuesday night.

And, yet again, she seemed caught somewhat off guard in her answer. Here's the clip.

And, here's the transcript of that exchange -- courtesy of David Ford at Fusion.

Ramos: Do you know your net worth? Do you know how much money you have?

Clinton: You know, within a range, yeah. I mean, we have two very nice houses which we're very proud of and not selling anytime soon so...

Ramos: But millions…

Clinton: Yeah. Yes, yes, indeed.

Um, ok. Again, it just seems hard for me to believe that Clinton, who has been repeatedly battered in the media -- and by conservative critics -- about her comments about her wealth doesn't have a clearer answer to questions like the one posed by Ramos. Clinton, in response to Ramos' question about how much money she had exactly, could have easily said some version of this: "I don't have an exact number at the tip of my tongue, Jorge. It's plenty. We've been very blessed in our lives. But, I've also spent my entire life fighting for those less fortunate than Bill and I."

In fact, Clinton said many of those things in response to Ramos' previous question about whether she regretted telling ABC's Diane Sawyer that she and her husband were "dead broke" when they left the White House. Here's how Clinton, effectively, handled that question:

“I regret it. It was inartful. It was accurate but we are so successful and we're so blessed by the success we've had and my husband has worked incredibly hard. What I worry about is not my family. I worry about other families in our country who feel like they're running in place. They're not getting ahead or maybe they're falling backwards. And what I want to do and this is what Bill has always done from the very beginning of his public life is to try to create more ladders of opportunity for more Americans so that they can have the same opportunities that Bill and I have had.”

While Clinton could have probably done without the "it was accurate" line, this answer is MUCH better than the one she went on to give Ramos in response to how rich she actually is. Politicians repeat themselves all the time. If Clinton had basically rephrased this first answer when responding to the second question, she would have been in great shape.

It's more than just Clinton's words that aren't great in that second answer though. She seems visibly uncomfortable when asked directly about how much money she and her husband have. I'm not sure it merits the "Clinton stutters, still unwilling to own up to her wealth" description that America Rising uses in their blog post on the clip, but it's certainly a moment where you can tell Clinton is not entirely comfortable. (Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct The Record, an outside group designed to counter attacks on Clinton, described the America Rising clip as "another desperate, ineffective attempt by the right wing to distract from the fact that Hillary Clinton has spent her lifetime in public service lifting up the lives of middle-class families.")

Being wealthy is not the problem for politicians. (The vast majority of people who run for president are millionaires, and many are far wealthier than that.) It's how comfortable (or not) they are talking about their wealth that gets them into trouble (or not). Mitt Romney is the ur-example of a politician who could just never talk about his wealth in a way that worked for him rather than against him. Every time someone asked about his affluence, he looked like he was undergoing a painful medical procedure as he answered. His awkwardness when talking about his money led to more questions about it. Which led to more awkwardness. And so on and so forth. It was a vicious cycle.

To be clear, Clinton is not Mitt Romney. Romney's wealth -- and his inability to put to rest the idea that it was representative of a mindset in which he looked out for his wealthy friends first and foremost -- became the defining issue of the 2012 presidential campaign. Unlike Romney, Clinton's wealth largely comes from speeches and book sales not the venture capital business from which Romney made his fortune. And, Clinton can

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effectively make the case that she has spent the vast majority of the last two decades -- from her time as First Lady to her time in the Senate to her tenure as Secretary of State -- serving the American public first and foremost.

Still, Clinton's struggles to answer what seem like pretty basic questions about her wealth remain baffling -- particularly for a politician as practiced in the art as she is. Until she finds three sentences (or so) to button up any/all questions about her wealth, those questions will keep coming. And that's not the way Clinton wants to run-up to her now all-but-certain presidential bid.

Fusion: "Hillary Clinton regrets saying she was 'dead broke,' feels blessed by success"

By America With Jorge Ramos

July 28, 2014, 6:38 p.m. EDT

It was the answer that spawned a wave of new questions.

When Hillary Clinton told Diane Sawyer that she and Bill Clinton were "dead broke" when they left the White House, a debate began over whether the statement was really accurate and if the potential presidential candidacy of Hillary Clinton would be able to connect with the problems of average Americans -- given the hefty Clinton bank account today.

In an interview with Fusion's Jorge Ramos, Hillary Clinton said that she regrets the comment.

"It was accurate but we are so successful and we're so blessed by the success we've had and my husband has worked incredibly hard," Clinton said. "What I worry about is not my family. I worry about other families in our country who feel like they're running in place."

Polls taken after the controversy have shown that most Americans still believe that Clinton can relate with everyday Americans and their problems. Clinton is sure to face continued inquiries about her wealth and taxes. Ramos asked Clinton if she knows her net worth.

"You know, within a range, yeah," Clinton said. "I mean, we have two very nice houses which we're very proud of and not selling anytime soon."

As the Washington Post's Dan Balz noted, the most important takeaway from the uproar may be that Hillary Clinton's political instincts look rusty, and she faces a broader challenge of turning her years of experience into a campaign that energizes voters. That's all if she announces that she's running in the first place, of course.

CNN: "Hillary Clinton on her 'dead broke' misstep: 'I regret it'"

By Dan Merica

July 29, 2014, 11:40 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton first opened the can of worms on her sizable wealth during the first interview of her book tour on June 9.

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Nearly two months later, Clinton is still being asked about it and tells Fusion that she regrets telling ABC's Diane Sawyer that her family was 'dead broke' when they left the White House in 2001.

"Well, I regret it. It was in-artful," she told Fusion's Jorge Ramos in a portion of an interview posted Monday night. "It was accurate but we are so successful and we're so blessed by the success we've had and my husband has worked incredibly hard."

Clinton then pivoted from her personal wealth and previous comments to what she hopes to do in the future for people struggling to get out of debt.

"What I worry about is not my family. I worry about other families in our country who feel like they're running in place, they're not getting ahead or maybe they are falling backwards," Clinton said. "What I want to do–and this is what Bill has always done since the very beginning of his public life–is to try to create more ladders of opportunity for more Americans so that they can have the same opportunities that Bill and I have had."

Clinton's comments about being “dead broke” and in debt in 2001 rang hollow to many given the fact the family had two massive book advances in the works, a sizable government pension, and the prospect of making millions on the speaking circuit in their future.

Clinton has called her comments in-artful a number of times, including the day after her first interview.

"That may have not been the most artful way of saying that you know Bill and I have gone through a lot of different phases in your lives," Clinton said at an event with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Both Bill and Hillary Clinton, however, have accurately stood by the fact that their family was in debt after leaving the White House. According to financial disclosure forms, the Clintons had between $2.28 million to $10.6 million in debt in 2001.

Former President Bill Clinton recently told an audience that that amount of debt "would qualify as being dead broke."

But the Clintons didn't stay in debt for long.

A CNN analysis of the family's financial records in early 2013 showed that Bill Clinton had earned $106 million from paid speeches since leaving the presidency behind. Bloomberg reported earlier this month that Hillary Clinton has earned $12 million speaking and writing since leaving the state department in 2013.

Questions about Clinton's wealth have persisted for the last two months. Republicans seized on the talking point in an effort to paint the former secretary of state and possible 2016 presidential hopeful as out of touch with everyday Americans, and reporters have continued to press to see how much money the Clintons have made since leaving public service.

Ramos, whose full interview with Clinton will air Tuesday night, also asked Clinton if she knew her net worth.

"Within a range," Clinton said. "We have two very nice houses which we are very proud of."

When asked if the figure was in the millions, Clinton responded, "Yes, indeed."

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Huffington Post: "Hillary Clinton: 'I Regret' Saying We Were 'Dead Broke'"

By Paige Lavender

July 29, 2014, 11:31 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she regrets saying she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, were "dead broke" upon leaving the White House.

"I regret it. It was inartful," Clinton said in an interview on Fusion's "AMERICA with Jorge Ramos." "It was accurate but we are so successful and we're so blessed by the success we've had and my husband has worked incredibly hard."

Clinton, who noted she and her husband are "indeed" worth millions, said she doesn't worry about her financial situation like she worries about families across the United States.

"What I worry about is not my family. I worry about other families in our country who feel like they're running in place. They're not getting ahead or maybe they're falling backwards," Clinton said. "And what I want to do, and this is what Bill has always done from the very beginning of his public life, is to try to create more ladders of opportunity for more Americans so that they can have the same opportunities that Bill and I have had."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton on 'dead broke' comment: 'I regret it'"

By Sean Sullivan

July 29, 2014, 11:46 a.m. EDT

Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton says she regrets saying that she and husband Bill Clinton left the White House "dead broke" in 2001.

"I regret it. It was inartful. It was accurate. But, we are so successful and we are so blessed by the success we've had. And my husband has worked incredibly hard," Hillary Clinton told Fusion TV's Jorge Ramos in an interview Monday.

Clinton told ABC's Diane Sawyer in a June interview, "We came out of the White House not only dead broke, but in debt." The former first lady cited legal fees that she and her husband had to pay during his White House tenure.

Clinton said she worries about the economic outlook of "other families in our country who feel like they are running in place," not her own family.

The former secretary of state said she knows her net worth "within a range" but declined to offer a specific estimate.

"But millions?" Ramos asked her.

Clinton responded: "Yes, indeed."

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New York Daily News: "Hillary Clinton says she knows her net worth 'within a range'"

By Leslie Larson

July 29, 2014, 11:35 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The former secretary of state — who has already landed herself in trouble over comments about her wealth — says she owns 'two very nice houses' but doesn't elaborate further.

Hillary Clinton stopped short of asking "what difference does it make?" when asked Monday if she knew her exact net worth.

"You know, within a range, yeah," she told Fusion TV's Jorge Ramos when he inquired if the former secretary of state knew the sum of her assets.

"I mean, we have two very nice houses which we're very proud of and not selling anytime soon," a slightly annoyed Clinton added.

Clinton discussed her new book "Hard Choices" and also heaped scorn on former Vice President Dick Cheney - who co-authored a Wall Street Journal op-ed in June criticizing President Obama's policy in Iraq.

"He should've been talking about himself, shouldn't he?" Clinton said of George W. Bush's chief cheerleader for the 2003 invasion.

"I don't know why he's saying what he's saying, and clearly we don't need that kind of vitriol and finger pointing."

Then Sen. Clinton (D-N.Y.) supported W. Bush's Iraq invasion in 2003 but upon reflection calls her support "a mistake."

"I gave (President Bush) the benefit of the doubt in area where I should not have, and then the initial decision was wrong, and then the follow-up that they did inside Iraq made it even worse."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Clinton declines to detail net worth"

By Rebecca Shabad

July 29, 2014, 10:53 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton declined to specify her net worth in an interview, sidestepping questions about her family's wealth ahead of a possible 2016 presidential run.

In the interview with Fusion posted Monday evening, Clinton, considered the Democratic frontrunner if she decides to run, was asked how much money she has.

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“Ummm, you know within a range,” Clinton said. “You know we have two very nice houses that we’re very proud of, which we’re not selling anytime soon.”

“But millions?” the interviewer pressed.

“Yeah, yes, indeed,” confirmed Clinton.

Clinton came under fire in early June, as she launched a national book tour for her memoir Hard Choices, for claiming that she and former President Bill Clinton left the White House “dead broke” and “in debt.”

She told Fusion she regrets making those statements.

“I regret it, it was inartful,” she said. “It was accurate but we are so successful and we're so blessed by the success we've had and my husband has worked incredibly hard.

“What I worry about is not my family,” she continued. “I worry about other families in our country who feel like they're running in place. They’re not getting ahead.”

Clinton told ABC News’s Diane Sawyer last month that her family left the White House in 2001 “dead broke.”

"We came out of the White House not only dead broke, but in debt," Clinton said. "We had no money when we got there, and we struggled to, you know, piece together the resources for mortgages, for houses, for Chelsea's education. You know, it was not easy."

The day after the interview aired, she clarified and also defended her remarks, claiming she and Bill are “obviously blessed.”

The former president later came to his wife’s defense, saying that she was not “out of touch.”

Fusion: “Hillary Clinton on 2016: 'I think there will probably be many candidates'”

By America With Jorge Ramos

July 29, 2014, 12:21 a.m. EDT

Many observers think it's a foregone conclusion that Hillary Clinton will get the nod in the 2016 Democratic primary. Leaving aside her coyness on whether she will actually run, Fusion's Jorge Ramos asked Clinton whether she thinks her party would benefit from a competitive primary.

"Well, I think there will probably be many candidates," Clinton said. "I mean, I'm somebody who believes anybody can run."

Clinton certainly remembers President Obama's sudden rise from one-term senator to Democratic front-runner during in 2008, but she still sees the value of the primary gauntlet. Competitive primaries can often help energize a party's base around a candidate and steel their campaign for the general election, provided the primary winner avoids gaffes and extreme positions won't sit well with crucial swing voters. Such a political trial would be a welcome part of her potential campaign, Clinton told Ramos.

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"I'm not sure I'm going to run but if I do, I think competition is healthy and if people want to get in and want to be in a primary, more power to them," Clinton said.

Fusion: "Hillary Clinton disses Cheney, says 'Iraq was a mistake'"

By America With Jorge Ramos

July 28, 2014, 6:46 p.m. EDT

In her new book, Hillary Clinton writes that she got Iraq wrong. Her 2008 supporters may wonder what took her so long.

"Iraq was a mistake," Clinton said. "I gave [President Bush] the benefit of the doubt in area where I should not have, and then the initial decision was wrong, and then the follow-up that they did inside Iraq made it even worse."

Ramos also asked Clinton about Dick Cheney's Wall Street Journal op-ed, written with his daughter Liz, criticizing President Obama's policies in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the wider Middle East, saying that "rarely has a U.S. president been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many."

"He should've been talking about himself, shouldn't he?" Clinton said. "I don't know why he's saying what he's saying, and clearly we don't need that kind of vitriol and finger pointing."

"One of the things we've lost over the last few years is that idea where we're going to have our differences but when we face problems, whether they're humanitarian problems, terrorist problems, whatever they might be, we need to come together and work together and we need to have a nonpartisan approach," Clinton continued. "And he keeps trying to inject a personal and partisan approach where it doesn't belong."

Mediaite: "Hillary Hits Cheney for Obama Criticism: 'Should've Been Talking About Himself'"

By Matt Wilstein

July 29, 2014, 9:59 a.m. EDT

In another preview from her interview with Jorge Ramos, set to air tonight on Fusion, Hillary Clinton offered up a strong defense of President Barack Obama in the face of criticism from former Vice President Dick Cheney. In response to Cheney's assertion about Obama that "rarely has a U.S. president been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many," Clinton said, "He should've been talking about himself, shouldn't he?"

"I don't know why he's saying what he's saying, and clearly we don't need that kind of vitriol and finger pointing," Clinton continued. "One of the things we've lost over the last few years is that idea where we're going to have our differences but when we face problems, whether they're humanitarian problems, terrorist problems, whatever they might be, we need to come together and work together and we need to have a nonpartisan approach. And he keeps trying to inject a personal and partisan approach where it doesn't belong."

On the issue of Iraq, Clinton reiterated the regret she expresses in her book Hard Choices. "I made a mistake," she said, adding that she gave President George W. Bush "the benefit of the doubt in area where I should not have, and then the initial decision was wrong, and then the follow-up that they did inside Iraq made it even worse."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Watch video below, via Fusion:

[VIDEO]

Troy Record (N.Y.): "Crowds round the corner in wait for Hillary Clinton arrival at Northshire Bookstore"

By Paul Post

July 29, 2014, 10:42 a.m. EDT

People from Albany to Manchester, Vt. got up early and drove more than an hour Tuesday for a chance to meet former First Lady, U.S. Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Hundreds of people formed a long line around the block, from Northshire Bookstore where Clinton is signing her book, "Hard Choices," all the way down Caroline Street to Maple Avenue.

For most people, making time to meet the possible next president of the United States wasn't a hard choice at all.

"I think she's wonderful; she'd be an awesome president," said Molly Zeif, of Manchester, who is currently studying political science and international relations.

Mary Browne, of Berne, said she left home at 7 a.m. to meet Clinton.

"I'm 75," she said. "Let's not waste time. If she's going to be our next president I'd like to say hi. I've met every one of them, starting with Jimmy Carter. I worked on a Habitat for Humanity project with him in South Dakota."

Browne said she believes Clinton would make an exceptional president.

"She'll have a balanced outlook on things," she said. "It's exciting to think of a woman in the presidency."

However, not everyone agrees. Two protestors marched down the opposite side Caroline Street, from the book-signing line, holding posters that read: "Benghazi: We will not forget" and "Hillary: Whitewater Witch."

"She's going to be our next president," a Clinton supporter yelled back.

Saratoga Springs police and Saratoga County Sheriff's Office deputies patrolled the area on foot and in cars. Of course, Clinton has her own security, too.

"Mrs. Clinton and Secret Service come as a package deal," city police Lt. Sean Briscoe said.

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Only people who purchased books – $29.95 apiece – were allowed to enter the store for Clinton's signing. First they had to stand in line for a wrist band; then wait to get their book signed. Clinton did not hold a press conference and visitors were not permitted to engage her in conversation or ask questions.

Josh Vellozzi, of Albany, made a special trip to Saratoga Springs a few weeks ago to buy "Hard Choices" and came back again Tuesday to meet its author.

"She's going to be the next president; that's a good enough reason," he said. "And to be around a powerful woman, too."

"I'm hoping she runs," said Jeff McLellan, of Saratoga Springs. "It's really an opportunity to meet with a political person of national prominence."

Teachers Laura Lewis and Danielle Lambert said they can't wait to share their experience with students this fall.

"Its' really exciting," said Lewis, who teaches ninth grade world history at Schuylerville.

Lambert, of Saratoga Springs, teaches social studies in Gloversville.

"It's a huge opportunity to go back to our classes and say, 'You, too, could meet a world leader,' " she said.

Washington Free Beacon: "Allen West: 'Allow Israel To Crush Hamas'"

By Larry O'Connor

July 29, 2014, 10:27 a.m. EDT

Former congressman Lt. Col. Allen West says the United States "should allow Israel to crush Hamas."

Appearing on WMAL radio in Washington, D.C., West told co-host Brian Wilson and Larry O'Connor, "We should sit down with … all those who understand that this move of radical Islamism in the Middle East has to be crushed."

Leveling harsh criticism on President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, West questioned whether the world knows whose side we are on in the Middle East.

"He has been an absolute catastrophe," West said with regard to Kerry. "President Obama, I don't understand who he sides with. We have fled Libya because the 'militia and rebels' who we supported have now caused us to get out of Libya because they are Islamists," West continued. "He supported the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and now that General el-Sisi has gotten rid of the Muslim Brotherhood, he does not want to support Egypt."

"We are on the wrong side in the Middle East," he concluded. "Israel sees it."

West's criticism of the Obama administration didn't stop at their policies toward Israel. He turned his focus on our crumbling influence in Europe and Russia's continued aggression in that region.

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“A person like Hillary Clinton should not be in the White House because she does not want to take leadership role,” West said when speaking about the former secretary of state’s presidential ambitions. “Maybe she wants to give Vladimir Putin another little toy box with a red button on top of it and say ‘hey, let’s play reset again.”

“We need to have someone like a Ronald Reagan to stand up at a Brandenburg Gate and say ‘Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall’ because right now Vladimir Putin is attempting to rebuild it.”

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From:	Nancybk@aol.com
To:	letters@nytimes.com oped@nytimes.com
Date:	3/30/2013 10:22:36 AM
Subject:	attn Andrew Rosenthal & New York Times Op Ed--"Homecare Rules in the Homestretch

Dear Editor;

In your editorial, "Homecare Rules in the Homestretch," you fail to understand the reality of living on government funded Medicaid, and the Russian Roulette pistol aimed at the heads of the Seniors, People with Disabilities and our Home Care Workers who depend on it, every year when budgets are cut. Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS (In Home Supportive Services) are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 159 hours a month for any one provider. There is a big move to push through these Department of Labor rules as written right now with no consideration of how they'll really play out in the homes of Seniors and People with Disabilities and their Caregivers in New York and California where people have over 159 hours of IHSS a month.
I know of a proud union member, a mother over 60, who has multiple disabilities of her own and takes care of her adult son with athetoid cerebral palsy who will see her household income of about $2520 a month in California drop to $1431, as her hours are cut from 280 hours a month to 159 hours. She doesn't have the stamina to supplement her income with more jobs and she has trouble finding other caregivers because her son cannot be understood very well by others. The union has taken over $40 a month from her for check each month to lobby for what will cut her income by a pretty big fraction. Jerry Brown just got done settling a lawsuit trying to cut the IHSS program in California by 20% and settled for cutting it by about 8 percent. Do you really think he's going to take time and a half for over 50,000 providers? His representative on an Olmsted conference said they wouldn't.

When I was in the Young Socialist Alliance in college, before I had my accident, I believed in theories in a vacuum. Then I became disabled and saw how these things work out on a real-life level. In California, we have the most highly advanced In-Home Supportive Services program, and the reason it was so good is that the disabled person received money to find somebody and all of that money went directly to the caregiver. The attendant got all the bang for the buck. And while ADAPT American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today was fighting to get In Home Care, this wonderful program to all the states, they came up with things like "Money Follows the Person" and "Community First Choice Option" where that money continued to go to the disabled person to pay directly to their caregiver with no middleman.

But suddenly all kinds of profiteering is going on as big bad corporations and yes even sometimes big bad unions behaviors are immerging as monied interests smell a beautiful dollar to be made in the graying of the baby boomers. On a good day the union is our greatest blessing on a bad day they are our greatest curse. The only way to come up with a reasonable solution that takes everyone's welfare into account is to sit down and work it out. I think what's been most frightening to me in all of this is the ease with which able-bodied regard People with Disabilities as invisible. The SEIU would not even sit down at the table with People with Disabilities to work out a compromise. Would this happen to a person of color? Are we the last population to be seen as a fraction of a person -- or a person who is really there at all?

People have been making industries of people with disabilities for decades, in the nursing home industry, the charity industry, and now the medical industrial complex and the unions too on a bad day. People from ADAPT clawed our ways out of nursing homes that were profiteering off of us and now we have to fight against the nursing agency industry, managed care corporations, and even at times a union that is so out of touch with its rank and file providers needs that it would create three crappy jobs from one not so good one in order to collect two or three union dues on a one house. It is the people disabilities and rank-and-file providers, who are in a symbiotic relationship, huddled together to keep industries and unions from objectifying us "furniture" in their business plans. You can choose to be naïve and come up with lovely little fairy lands in your own mind, but make no mistake, your naïveté will be paid for by the rank-and-file workers whose pay will be cut badly and people with disabilities who will go back to nursing homes.

The ADAPT-NCIL compromise would simply eliminate the exemption for third party employers, treating Medicaid consumers in consumer directed programs (including public authorities, fiscal intermediaries and agencies with choice) the same as private employers so they can still use the existing exemption. According to the DOL analysis, this change - alone - would eliminate the companionship exemption for 70% of home care workers. It covers all of the "bad players" and concerns raised in the DOL analysis that exist in traditional home care while minimizing the negative impact on people with disabilities and preventing the unexpected consequences such changes would have on real live people in Medicaid funded programs.

Where were our points of view in this newspaper? In the DOL discussions? Why include us? It's only our bodies and freedom. If anyone had any respect for people with disabilities we would've included us in the discussion.

Nancy Becker Kennedy

Join the IHSS Consumers Union on Facebook at

http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

"**Nothing About Us Without Us!**" (**Latin: "Nihil de nobis, sine nobis**") is a slogan used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members the group(s) affected by that policy. This involves national, ethnic, disability based or other groups that are often thought to be marginalized from political, social, and economic opportunities.

In a message dated 3/30/2013 1:25:50 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, Nancybk@aol.com writes:

> Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 159 hours a month for any one provider. There is a big move to push through these Department of Labor rules as written right now with no consideration of how they'll really play out in the homes of Seniors and

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People with Disabilities and their Caregivers in New York and California where people have over 160 hours of IHSS a month.

In California where 70% of caregivers are family providers, IHSS makes it possible for families to stay intact when they have a senior family member or a family members with a disability, who needs in-home care. These families could see their household income drop dramatically. Significantly disabled people with over 160 hours could lose loyal live-in and live out caregivers they've had for decades, because their work hours will be cut below the money they need to live. Or people with severe disabilities may not be able to get providers to help them when one of the providers needs to leave, because the remaining providers will be in danger working overtime. The unintended consequences of this unbalanced approach to the way private and public in-home supportive services are paid could lead to widespread misery in publicly funded In-Home Supportive Services.

Senior and Disability Rights Advocates were not included in discussions where these Department of Labor rules were developed. Now, the National Council on Disability is trying to explain this to those who can make a difference. Their letter is printed below. The NCIL/ADAPT compromise could be a win-win solution for everyone, where privately funded agencies would have different rules than in publicly funded Medicaid In-Home Supportive Services in states where finite revenues determine what can be paid. "Our compromise creates a win-win solution, covers 70% of attendants and allows us all to be at the table for further discussion," says Bruce Darling of CDR ADAPT.

Below see the Letter from the National Council on Disability about these possible negative unintended consequences. http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2013/03192013/ The Disability and Senior communities and the rank-and-file IHSS providers in New York and California do not seem to of been fully informed or permitted to give input about the impact of this law as written. If after reading this letter, you feel the Office of Management and Budget should delay changing these rules until they consult with Disability And Senior Communities and make sure it won't cut the number of hours providers are permitted to work in publicly funded programs,

Nancy Becker Kennedy

Join the IHSS Consumers Union on Facebook at

http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

"**Nothing About Us Without Us!**" (**Latin: "Nihil de nobis, sine nobis**") is a slogan used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members the group(s) affected by that policy. This involves national, ethnic, disability based or other groups that are often thought to be marginalized from political, social, and economic opportunities.

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From: "Stephen Hadley" <stephenjhadley@me.com>
To: "Brewington, Autumn A" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com>
Date: 1/14/2014 3:54:29 AM
Subject: Re: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it

Autumn --

Great. Standing by and will turn to it promptly.

Steve

Stephen J. Hadley
(202) 220-5061

> On Jan 14, 2014, at 10:30 AM, "Brewington, Autumn A" <autumn.brewington@washpost.com> wrote:
>
> I will have an edited draft back to you in the next hour; and thanks for e-mailing all of us. The e-mail was somehow delayed in getting to my inbox, so I'm glad Fred saw it right away.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Autumn
>
> _____
> Autumn Brewington
> Op-Ed Page Editor
> Autumn.Brewington@washpost.com
> 202-334-5120
>
> _____
> From: Stephen Hadley <stephenjhadley@me.com>
> Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 10:37 PM
> To: Hiatt, Fred; Hiatt, Fred; Diehl, Jackson K; Diehl, Jackson K; Brewington, Autumn A; Brewington, Autumn A
> Cc: Aysha Chowdhry; Catherine Eng
> Subject: An Op Ed on Afghanistan if you want it
>
> All --
>
> The purpose is to help the Administration out of the box on the signature of the BSA. The op ed reflects a lot of input from U.S. experts on the subject, some key Afghan leaders, and from some Administration officials. I believe that the Administration would find it helpful -- and this is a problem that certainly needs solving.
>
> Let me know what you think.
>
>
> "U.S. officials are struggling again with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. After painful and prolonged negotiations, they reached agreement on a draft "bilateral security agreement" or BSA. The draft BSA lays the foundation for leaving U.S military forces in Afghanistan after the end of 2014. It is expected to involve 8,000 to 10,000 U.S. troops with counterterrorism, training, and other responsibilities in support of Afghan forces.
>
> Most U.S. Afghanistan experts believe such a residual force is critical if Afghan forces are to continue to improve and professionalize. Only with such help will they have a reasonable chance of containing the Taliban and giving Afghan authorities the space to negotiate an inclusive political settlement including the Taliban. Some of our NATO allies will also leave forces but only if we do.
>
> Most experts also believe that without such residual forces, the billions of dollars in financial support promised

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for the Afghan security forces and for Afghanistan's economic development simply will not materialize. Without this assistance, few believe any Afghan government can survive for very long. So the stakes are high -- for Afghanistan, and for preserving the investment of lives and treasure that the United States and its coalition allies have made over the last twelve years.

>

> Initially President Karzai said he would sign the BSA after its approval by a traditional convocation of Afghan leaders called a Loya Jirga. The BSA received overwhelming approval, But Karzai nonetheless declined to sign. He has required further concessions: an end to counterterrorism raids into Afghan homes at night, active U.S. support for the peace process with the Taliban, and non-interference in the April election to choose President Karzai's successor. Lately he has threatened not to sign at all and to leave it to his successor.

>

> U.S. officials have responded by pressuring President Karzai directly and indirectly and setting a succession of missed deadlines, most recently saying that the BSA must be signed in "weeks, not months." So far, nothing has worked. U.S. officials need an alternative approach.

>

> One option would be for President Obama to make a public statement along the following lines.

>

> First, he would praise Afghanistan's progress in assuming greater responsibility for its security, in improving the education, health, and well-being of its citizens, and in preparing for the upcoming Presidential election. He would state that, to support that progress, he has directed U.S. forces to curtail all but essential night raids, he is committed to facilitating the peace process, and pledges full support for an April election free from all outside influences.

>

> These statements would not represent a major U.S. policy change, but together they would offer President Karzai a face saver if in fact he wishes to sign the BSA.

>

> Second, President Obama would announce the specific number of troops that he is prepared to leave in Afghanistan post-2014 and direct the Pentagon to develop plans on that basis. He would call on our NATO allies to announce similar force commitments.

>

> This step would go a long way to reassuring the candidates for the Afghan Presidency and the Afghan people of America's post-2014 presence. The lack of such reassurance has become a source of serious instability, threatening the success of the Afghan election and the morale of the Afghan security forces. For similar reasons, President Obama should resist any pressure to set at this point a date for the termination of the U.S. post-2014 deployment.

>

> Third, President Obama would state that while he is willing to sign the BSA with President Karzai, he is also willing to sign it post-April with a new Afghan President. U.S. officials should then stop pressuring President Karzai -- or anyone else -- for a signature before the April election. Such pressure only strengthens President Karzai's hand, encourages further delay, and makes the United States look weak and desperate.

>

> President Obama should make clear in his statement that his troop commitment is dependent upon the ultimate signature of the BSA. But a post-election April or May signing by a new Afghan president would give more than enough time to complete the necessary U.S. military planning before the end of the year. Indeed, informed experts say that even without the BSA, U.S. forces could remain in Afghanistan after 2014 under the existing Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) (although our allies would have to negotiate a new SOFA for their forces with the new Afghan government).

>

> Recent polling suggests that over 60% of the American people believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting. But the same poll suggests that 55% support leaving some U.S. forces for training and "anti-insurgency" operations. And public statements by members suggest that a post-2014 deployment would have bipartisan Congressional support.

>

> President Obama should avoid any suggestion that he might embrace a "zero option" and leave no U.S. troops post-2014. Almost every Afghan expert believes it would destabilize Afghanistan, place the Presidential election in doubt, and ultimately risk the collapse of the Afghan security forces. It would profoundly affect U.S. security interests. Afghanistan would become once again a safe haven for terrorists -- who, history shows, would

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ultimately attack U.S. interests and territory. Afghanistan would contribute to destabilizing a nuclear-armed Pakistan. And the Afghan people would forfeit all the progress they have made (with our help) in building a more tolerant, inclusive, secure, and prosperous society.
>
> There are less than three months to go before elections to replace President Karzai. U.S. policy must not be based on frustration with Karzai's mercurial behavior. It must be based on ensuring the election of a legitimate successor to President Karzai with whom the United States can sign a BSA that is overwhelmingly in the interests of both countries."
>
>
> All -- That's it. May be a little long for you but Autumn has shown great skill in helping to shrink my stuff without losing the substance. And I will help. At the same time, the subject is important enough to warrant an extended treatment.
>
> Thank you for your consideration.
>
> Steve
>
>
>
> Stephen J. Hadley
> (202) 431-9797

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From: "Maggie Feldman-Piltch" <mfeldmanpiltch@americansecurityproject.org>
To: John <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/12/2015 1:59:15 PM
Subject: ASP Event: TPP- Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership on Global and Regional Stability

Friends of ASP: Upcoming TPP Event and ASP Business Council for American Security Launch Celebration

View this email in your browser

American Security Project

Special Event Announcement

Friends of ASP,

I am writing to share final information regarding our upcoming event TPP- Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership for Global and Regional Stability on November 19th. Should your schedule allow for you to join us please let me know so I may reserve seating and time with the featured speaker(s) on your behalf.

Thank you again for your continued support of ASP's work. We look forward to celebrating another year- and the official launch of the Business Council for American Security, with you on December 15th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at 1776 Crystal City.

Very respectfully,
Maggie Feldman-Piltch

Upcoming Events

Recent Publications

What Constitutes Credibility in US Public Diplomacy
As discussion ensues over how to combat ISIS online or counter Russian propaganda, it's worth taking a look at the elements that lend to credible messaging. The importance of credibility cannot be underestimated, as it provides the initial basis by which members of a target audience decide to listen to one's message in the first place.
Click here for more .

A Conversation on Climate Diplomacy with FM Tony de Brum of Marshall Islands – Event Summary
On Wednesday, October 28, 2015, the American Security Project hosted an event featuring Minister Tony de Brum, Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands. He discussed the devastating effects climate change is already having on the islands, as well as the international cooperation needed to tackle this problem quickly and effectively.
Click here for more .

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TPP: Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership for Global and Regional Stability: November 19 from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM with lunch availability from 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM. This event will include a panel discussion including Minister Kanji Yamanouchi, Minister of Economic Affairs, Japanese Embassy; Dr. Ron Shapiro, former Under Secretary of Commerce; Mr. Nelson Cunningham, President, McLary Associates and conclude with a keynote address from Representative Don Beyer (D, VA-8), former Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein and ASP Board Member. If you are interested in attending this event, please let me know and I would be happy to reserve seats on your behalf. Contact.

ASP Holiday Party: *Save the date for this year's ASP Holiday Party on December 15th at 1776's brand new Crystal City location.* ASP will host a private end-of-year gathering for Business Council for American Security members, members of our Consensus for American Security, Board of Trustees, our adjunct fellow network, and other friends of the organization. Join us for drinks and hors d'oevours from 5:30 PM to 7:30PM. Formal invitation to follow.

BGen. Cheney and Gov. Whitman on Why We Should Export Nuclear Energy

ASP CEO BGen. Stephen Cheney, USMC (Ret.) and ASP Board Chairperson and Board member of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition (CASE) Gov. Christine Whitman discussed the importance of exporting nuclear power in Fortune.
Click here for more .

Cyber Security: Risk, Resilience, Recovery – Event Summary

Keynote Address: The Keynote Speech | Cyber Security: Risk, Recovery, and Resilience
Panel One: Lessons from OPM Hack
Panel Two: Cyber Security & Consequences for the Military
Panel Three: Defense, Diplomacy, and Deterrence

The Arctic at the Center of World Affairs

America is an Arctic nation, and has been since the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 for $7.2 million dollars in gold, about two cents an acre. Then called "Seward's Folly," that decision would prove to be one of the most consequential for America, the people of Alaska, and the world.
Click here for more .

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/24/2015 8:58:06 AM
Subject: News Update - December 24

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, December 24

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **PM Blasts 'Shocking Tape' of Wedding Feting Duma Murders**
- **Shin Bet on Torture Allegations: Interrogations Prevent Attacks**
- **Three Israelis Wounded in Two West Bank Attacks**
- **Two Israelis Killed Outside Old City Walls, One Seriously Injured**
- **Israeli Arabs Charged with Planning Terror Attacks at Golani Junction**
- **Senior Israeli Official Calls Out PA for Honoring Samir Kuntar**
- **Violent Clashes Between IDF and Palestinians in West Bank**
- **Syrian Government Ready to Join UN Talks to End Conflict**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "A Nation Put to the Test"**
  - By Yoaz Hendel, Journalist and Head of Institute for Zionist Strategy
- **Now Lebanon: "Hezbollah Fears Beyond the Killing of Samir Kuntar"**
  - By Hanin Ghaddar, Editor, Now Lebanon; Nonresident Fellow, Atlantic Council

---

Times of Israel

PM Blasts 'Shocking' Tape of Wedding Feting Duma Murders

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday night denounced a "shocking" video clip showing far-right extremists celebrating the killings of the Dawabsheh family, joining dozens of other politicians and public figures coming out against the taped incident. Politicians from both sides of the political aisle strongly condemned the clip showing revelers at the Jerusalem celebration waving knives, rifles, pistols and a Molotov cocktail during the wedding. Amid the festivities, a photo of the Dawabsheh baby who was burned to death in the firebombing is shown being repeatedly stabbed.

See also, "Video Celebrating Palestinian Baby's Death Inflames Israel Debate on Jewish Violence" (Reuters)

See also, "Radical Jews at Wedding Stabbing Photo of Dawabsheh Baby" (Ha'aretz)

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Ha'aretz

Shin Bet on Torture Allegations: Interrogations Prevent Attacks

Shin Bet alluded to the use of violent interrogation methods on the Jewish youths suspected of the Duma arson-murder in a rare statement issued on Thursday. At the same time, Shin Bet denied allegations of sexually harassing or degrading the detainees. The current investigation involves "uncovering plans for future attacks," the Shin Bet said. "With that in mind and in coordination with the judicial system, the group has been investigated according to established and professional judicial criteria for forestalling dangerous attacks in the future."
See also, "Police Open Probe into Wedding Video Cheering Duma Murders" (Times of Israel)

Ha'aretz

Three Israelis Wounded in Two West Bank Attacks

Two Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded in an apparent car-ramming attack north of the Ofra settlement in the West Bank on Friday afternoon. The driver was shot and killed. The soldiers were treated at the scene and then evacuated to Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. An hour earlier, 20-year-old Israeli soldier was stabbed during clashes between security forces and Palestinians in the West Bank village of Kfar Abboud, near the settlement of Halamish. He was rushed to Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer with moderate to serious wounds.

Ma'ariv

Two Israelis Killed Outside Old City Walls, One Seriously Injured

Two Israeli civilians were killed and a third was seriously injured yesterday in a stabbing attack outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. Two assailants from East Jerusalem reportedly drew knives on the promenade outside Jaffa Gate and began to stab passers-by. Two border policewomen who were stationed nearby rushed to the scene and shot the assailants with pistols. One of the assailants died immediately and the other died a short time afterwards in hospital. One of the victims, Ofer Ben-Ari, who saw the attack and tried to ward off the assailants, was struck by one of the bullets fired by the Border Policewomen. He died a few hours later from his injuries.
See also, "By the Numbers: Death Toll in Terror Wave Rises to 24" (Arutz Sheva)

Ynet News

Israeli Arabs Charged w/ Planning Attack at Golani Junction

Two relatives, Mohammed Hassan and Ahmad Saida, were charged Thursday morning with supporting the Islamic State and planning a terror attack at the Golani Junction in the Galilee. Hassan, 20, is a resident of the village Reineh, while Saida, 23, is a resident of the town Shibli–Umm al-Ghanam, both in the Galilee region. The two defendants traveled to Turkey last May where they met with an ISIS operative and tried to enter Syria. When they arrived at the border and met refugees who told them of the horrors happening in Syria, they changed their minds and returned to Israel.

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Algemeiner

Senior Israeli Official Calls Out PA for Honoring Samir Kuntar

A senior Israeli government official blasted the Palestinian Authority for honoring assassinated Hezbollah arch-terrorist Samir Kuntar in Ramallah on Tuesday. "When leading members of the PA put a cold-blooded killer of children on a pedestal and portray him as a hero, they are demonstrating before the world that they have yet to exorcise terrorism from within," the official told *The Algemeiner* on Wednesday evening, mere hours after a stabbing attack left two Israelis dead and another critically wounded. "We see this also in their justification for the ongoing terror attacks against Israeli civilians, which today alone exacted a heavy price."

Times of Israel

Violent Clashes Between IDF and Palestinians in West Bank

During IDF activity in the Qalandiya refugee camp, in which soldiers came to arrest suspects in a shooting attack, the forces were assaulted by a violent mob, the army says. The troops were shot at and had an explosive device, Molotov cocktails, and rocks thrown at them, the IDF says. "In response to the immediate danger, the force fired toward the gunmen. Hits were confirmed," an IDF spokeswoman says. During the scuffle, one soldier, approximately 20 years old, was lightly injured when he was struck in the head by rocks thrown at the troops, the Magen David Adom rescue service says.

Reuters

Syrian Government Ready to Join UN Talks to End Conflict

A close adviser to Syrian President Bashar al Assad said on Wednesday Damascus was ready to join U.N.-sponsored peace talks with its position bolstered by both Russian backing and the West's retreat from a hardline anti-Assad approach. Bouthaina Shaaban said her government approved of U.N. resolutions passed last week endorsing an international road map for a Syria peace process, a rare display of unity among global powers on a conflict that has killed more than 250,000 people. "We accept these resolutions," she told Beirut-based al Mayadeen television in the first official Syrian remarks on the matter.
See also, "Syrian FM Says Damascus Ready to Enter Geneva Peace Talks" (Times of Israel)
See also, "Syria Says Ready to Participate in Geneva Peace" (Ynet News)

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Yedioth Ahronoth – December 24, 2015

A Nation Put to the Test

By Yoaz Hendel

Anyone who wants to see what insanity looks like and has a strong stomach ought to watch the video from the wedding. Young Jewish men who look like members of Hamas screaming and stabbing the picture of a murdered baby. There is no difference between them and the Muslim lunatics around us. The only difference is us—Israel's ability to fight those phenomena without balking.

The war on Palestinian terrorism has been part of our lives for the past 100 years. There isn't anyone here who hasn't paid a personal price; there isn't anyone who isn't troubled by that terrorism. Two Israelis were murdered yesterday. Tomorrow they'll try again. This is a tenacious war. The last thing the security forces need is to have to deal with Jewish terrorism on top of that.

Regrettably, there isn't any other choice. The damage that is caused by Jewish terrorism and its supporters is enormous, not only to the morality but to the very foundations of our commonwealth. The problematic part of this story is that the defense minister actually needed to play a recording in order to persuade the public leaders in Judea and Samaria that the extreme right wing poses a risk to them and the State of Israel. For far too long the right wing has played down its own problems. It preferred not to deal with them. That was a fateful error. They have become the fire that is now threatening to burn everything down.

It isn't soul-searching that is needed over every Jewish Ku Klux Klan video nor do we need to engage in political sparring. What is needed is a tenacious fight against the post-Zionist right wing, and for a clear line to be drawn between it and all the rest. I write that without hesitation. It no longer pains me to do so. They have no part in the things I believe in. That is not what any Judaism I know looks like; that is not what the Zionist movement that brought my family here looks like. They aren't my partners in either the standing army or the reserves; they aren't going to defend me in the next war and they aren't going to be happy along with me when the Israeli team wins a game.

Several positive processes have nevertheless begun in the midst of all that chaos. Clear lines now separate between the stately [i.e., those who are committed to the political Zionist agenda] and those who pose a danger. Political leaders have begun to take responsibility. The first person on the right to dare to open his mouth was Naftali Bennett.

It is my impression that Bennett has recently undergone a change. He recognizes the strategic damage posed by the zealots, the damage that they are doing to the religious Zionist camp. Perhaps he has built up enough courage to show the responsibility that goes hand in hand with leadership. Bennett spoke out in support of the GSS without stammering. Two hours later the prime minister mustered the courage to follow in his footsteps.

One need only look at the comments on Bennett's Facebook page to realize that the celebrants at that crazed wedding are representatives of a broader phenomenon. Phenomena of that kind exist everyplace in the world. Regrettably, in that sense, we are a people like every other people. The test of a nation is its ability to combat that.

Dr. Yoaz Hendel is head of the Institute for Zionist Strategy, a journalist for Yedioth Ahronoth, and military commentator for several major media stations.

Now Lebanon – December 23, 2015

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Hezbollah's Fears Beyond the Killing of Samir Kuntar

By Hanin Ghaddar

The assassination of Samir Kuntar earlier this week was a major slap on the face for Hezbollah and Iran — not because Kuntar is dead but because their support base in Lebanon and the region now understand their complicated alliance with Russia. Accordingly, Iran's increasing vulnerability in Syria will be gradually exposed and this will further shake any remaining trust Shiites in the region have for Iran and Hezbollah.

This week, Shiites — mainly in Lebanon — face the bitter fact that Russia allowed Israel to assassinate Kuntar. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's speech following Kuntar's funeral was beyond lame. He spoke about Kuntar for four cold minutes before proceeding to lash out for over 20 minutes about Shiites in Nigeria and the US sanctions against the Party of God. Nasrallah is actually more concerned about three issues.

First, U.S. sanctions against Hezbollah were recently increased. Some economic analysts in Lebanon say that the purpose of these sanctions is to make sure Hezbollah does not receive much-needed money after the sanctions against Iran are lifted, and Hezbollah's Sayyed is certainly concerned about that prospect. Without money to pay for social services, fighters and their families, he and his party are doomed. Today, pro-Hezbollah papers and media leaked news that entailed a clear threat to the banks in Lebanon.

Second, Hezbollah is more crippled than ever with the new and complicated alliances over Syria and Iraq. Nasrallah already knows that retaliation against Israel that could start another war is out of the question, yet some kind of retaliation is needed — something like the one following Jihad Mughniyeh's assassination last year. But the Iran deal, followed by the new alliance between Russia and Iran on Syria, and the ongoing coordination between Russia and Israel, of which Kuntar's assassination is an example, makes any Hezbollah retaliation far more complicated.

The third issue is Russia's role in Syria. The Iranian and Hezbollah leaderships know that Russia cannot be trusted: its priority is to save Assad's regime, not to protect Iran's interests. In fact, what Iran wants in Syria differs substantially from what Russia wants, but the support base wasn't aware of these discrepancies. Kuntar's death has exposed the ugly truth about Russia's coordination with Israel and how serious it is when it comes to targeting Hezbollah's commanders and assets. Hezbollah cannot retaliate and now the support base understands this ugly truth. For these supporters, Iran is supposed to stand above all. Iran is not in Syria to make compromises over its authority and control, and it is certainly not supposed to accept an ally coordinating with an enemy.

The assassination of Samir Kuntar revealed two things to the Shiite support base: that Iran is actually weak and is compromising in Syria, and that the region has moved beyond the Israeli/Arab conflict, and Hezbollah now has different priorities. For Hezbollah, the most unsettling part of this military coordination between Russia and Israel is that it allows Israel to fly freely over Syria as long as it coordinates with Russia. Also, Russia knows the logistic and military details of Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Syria.

It's extremely worrying to Hezbollah that Russia is sharing these details with Israel under this arrangement. Meanwhile, Iran is not benefiting from the Russian intervention. Rather, it is jeopardizing its plans both on military and diplomatic levels, which will eventually jeopardize its ambitions in the region.

As far as Russia is concerned, Iran, its interests, and its commanders can go to

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hell. Russia is in Syria for Russia, not for Iran. When Iran and the US signed the deal earlier this year, it was sold to the Shiite support base as a victory. 'We brought the US to the table,' they said. 'We still have our nuclear program,' they stated. 'We will never be America's allies.' It wasn't easy to satisfy everybody, but at least Iran didn't lose in this deal. With the Russian intervention in Syria, however, Iran is actually losing territory, control and future prospects.

It will be extremely hard to sell this one.

Hanin Ghaddar is the managing editor of NOW and a nonresident fellow at the Atlantic Council.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
For comments, please contact us at info@centerpeace.org .
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From:	"Gene Karpinski, League of Conservation Voters" <feedback@lcv.org>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	7/27/2011 2:28:07 AM
Subject:	Fw: Worst. Bill. Ever.

John-- The House Interior and Environment spending bill represents the single worst attack we've ever seen on our air, lands, water and wildlife. **Please urge your representative to oppose this unprecedented assault on our environment.**

-- Gene

Tell Congress to reject the biggest assault ever on our air, water, lands and wildlife.

Friend,

The House Republican leadership has just upped the ante on their already unprecedented assault on our nation's bedrock environmental laws.



Tell Congress to reject the biggest assault ever on our air, water, lands & wildlife.

This week, as part of the Interior and Environment spending bill, House Republican leaders and other pro-polluter lawmakers are pushing a series of amendments that represent the most egregious attack ever on our air, land, water and wildlife.

The spending bill contains more than three dozen anti-environment policy measures that have absolutely no place in a budget measure, won't save the country a penny and are nothing more than giveaways to various special interest polluters.

Click here to e-mail your member of Congress. Tell them to reject this extreme assault on vital environmental safeguards that protect the air our children breathe and the water they drink.

The egregious policy provisions include measures that -- if enacted into law -- would threaten Americans' lives and well-being by blocking limits on harmful air pollution, increase pollution in sources of drinking water for 117 million Americans, cause animal and plant species to become extinct by denying them Endangered Species Act protections, and threaten the iconic Grand Canyon with toxic pollution from uranium mining. And these are just a handful of the dirty and dangerous provisions included in this legislation!

While we recognize that some spending cuts are necessary to reduce our federal deficit, the cuts in this particular legislation would have a devastating impact on Americans' health and environment. Those cuts include budget reductions of 18 percent for the EPA, 80 percent for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and 21 percent for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Click here to e-mail your member of Congress. Tell them to reject this extreme legislation that is nothing more than a giveaway to Big Oil, Dirty Coal and other corporate polluters.

As if the underlying bill weren't harmful enough, we expect members of Congress to offer anti-environmental amendments on the floor that would wreak even greater havoc on Americans' health and environment and keep us dependent on expensive and dangerous energy sources.

Fortunately, President Obama has threatened to veto this harmful legislation, noting that a number of the measures in the bill are "ideological and political provisions that are beyond the scope of funding legislation." However, we cannot afford to let House Republican leaders push this legislation without a fight. We must expose their extreme anti-environment efforts. **Click here to e-mail your representative.**

Thank you,

Gene Karpinski
President
League of Conservation Voters

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From:	"Jessica Church" <jchurch@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	8/25/2014 9:11:18 AM
Subject:	FYI, Correct the Record Responds to Rand Paul Media Tour

Washington Post: Rand Paul says he scares Democrats. Should he?

"It's pretty funny to see Rand Paul trying to direct Democrats on policy and politics alike," said Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct The Record, a Clinton-aligned super PAC. "He's too cute by half, and as a whole, he is too dangerous for our nation."

Washington Post: Rand Paul says he scares Democrats. Should he?

By Chris Cillizza

August 25 at 2:42 p.m. EDT

Here's Rand Paul on what a 2016 matchup between himself and de facto Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton might look like: "If you wanna see a transformational election in our country, let the Democrats put forward a war hawk like Hillary Clinton, and you'll see a transformation like you've never seen."

While I'm not sure Clinton would describe herself as a "war hawk" she has tended -- as Secretary of State and in the Senate -- to favor more aggressive approaches to international conflicts then those advocated by President Obama or, for that matter, Paul.

Consider:

* Clinton, while in the Senate, voted for the use of force resolution against Iraq in 2002. Obama, spoke out in opposition to it. Paul, who, like Obama, wasn't in the Senate at the time of the vote, has worked to repeal the use of force resolution.

* Clinton supported a larger troop surge in Afghanistan in 2009. Obama chose a smaller one. Paul penned an op-ed -- along with two Democratic Senators -- advocating for a faster withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan than Obama proposed.

* Clinton was a strong voice advocating military intervention in Libya. President Obama eventually sided with her. Paul opposed military intervention.

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* Clinton favored more directly and broadly arming Syrian rebels early in the civil war, a move Obama resisted. Paul opposed arming the rebels.

Given that record, if Clinton and Paul were their party's respective nominees, it seems certain that she would be more hawkish in her approach to nearly every major international conflict than he would be. And that fact alone would be a remarkable turnabout -- given that Republicans have built much of their electoral success over the past three-plus decades around a muscular foreign policy. (It remains to be seen whether Paul's non-interventionist views will be disqualifying for him in the Republican primary fight.)

"It's pretty funny to see Rand Paul trying to direct Democrats on policy and politics alike," said Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct The Record, a Clinton-aligned super PAC. "He's too cute by half, and as a whole, he is too dangerous for our nation."

The more intriguing question is whether Paul or Clinton would be closer to where the American public stands on what role the U.S. should play in foreign conflicts.

While there is a natural tendency to assume Clinton's hawkish views would be preferred, there's reason to believe that the cumulative effect of a decade's worth of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq -- wars strong majorities don't believe were worth fighting -- has fundamentally altered how people view the U.S.'s place in the world community.

Take this amazing chart via Wall Street Journal politics editor Aaron Zitner from an April NBC-WSJ poll:

And, the NBC-WSJ poll is far from an outlier. In a January Pew poll, six in ten people said "we should pay less attention to problems overseas and concentrate on problems here at home" while just 35 percent said "it's best for the future of our country to be active in world affairs." A June CBS-New York Times survey showed 58 percent saying that the U.S. should not take a leading role "among all other countries in the world in trying to solve international conflicts" while just 37 percent said America should play a leading role. An August NBC-WSJ poll found that just 35 percent of people were either "very" or "somewhat" satisfied with the U.S.'s role in the world while 62 percent were very or somewhat dissatisfied. Back in late 1995, 52 percent said they were satisfied with the U.S. role while 43 percent said they were not.

Support for the U.S. playing a more narrow role in world affairs tends to run higher among Democrats and independents than it does among Republicans. (See my point above about Paul's challenge in selling his views to Republican primary voters.) Whether the difference between Clinton and Paul on that set of issues would be enough to convince some Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents to vote for him, however, remains to be seen. It's simply too far away to begin predicting what the key issues of the 2016 presidential election will be.

"How things have always been" only holds true until those things change. Remember how America would never elect a black president named Barack Obama? Or how the Senate would never invoke the nuclear option? One day the current prevailing conventional wisdom about what the public wants the U.S. to do -- and be -- internationally may find its way onto that list.

--
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202.652.2417 (office)

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540.588.1743 (cell)

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From:	"Lori Lodes" <lori@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	7/29/2008 4:43:16 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] John McCain Out of Touch on Energy
Attachments:	John McCain And Yucca.doc

JOHN MCCAIN, LIKE BUSH, OUT OF TOUCH ON ENERGY

Yesterday, McCain stood in front of an oil derrick to promote off-shore drilling despite it offering no short term relief for American families. And today, McCain visits Nevada where he'll once again promote storing nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain. Instead of providing real energy solutions, McCain offers more of the same. See attached research.

Even though McCain does not want nuclear waste in his backyard, yours is fine.

- McCain Not Comfortable With Nuclear Waste Being Transported Through Arizona. In an interview in Las Vegas, Senator McCain advocated for the storage of nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain. When asked "What about the transportation? Would you be comfortable with nuclear waste coming through Arizona, you know, going through Phoenix on its way to Yucca Mountain?" McCain: "No I would not." *WATCH THE VIDEO* .
- McCain Supports Storing Nuclear waste in Yucca. The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported, "[McCain] says 'I think we have to have a place to store the waste. I think that nuclear power has got to be a vital part of our effort to be independent of foreign oil, and I think it's (Yucca Mountain) a suitable place for storage.' McCain said he had not been convinced that the site isn't safe or that transporting the waste to the site was unduly dangerous." [Las Vegas Review-Journal, 5/7/07]
- McCain Has Been Consistent In His Support For Storing Nuclear Waste Within Yucca Mountain. The Las Vegas Sun reported, "John McCain has been consistent in his support for storing nuclear waste within Yucca Mountain. He has said publicly that tough decisions regarding nuclear waste have to be made and that storing nuclear waste over many different states is a larger national threat than storing all the waste at Yucca Mountain. He supports going forward with building more nuclear power plants and believes storing waste inside Yucca Mountain will streamline that cause." [Las Vegas Sun Voters Guide, Accessed 7/28/08]

On energy issues, McCain and Bush share an agenda aimed at helping Big Oil.

- Like Bush, McCain wants to open up American shores to offshore drilling.
- Oil company profits skyrocket while families get left behind. Oil companies' profits continue to rise as the price of gasoline hovers at $4.00 a gallon. BP noted 28 percent increase in their second quarter net profits, bringing in $
- After McCain adopted Bush's drilling policy, donations from the oil and gas industry flowed to McCain's campaign. According to the Washington Post , McCain received more than $1 million from the oil & gas industry last month – more than three fourths coming after he reversed his position on drilling.
- Like Bush, McCain is surrounded by Big Oil lobbyists. At least 29 top advisers or fundraisers for McCain's campaign have lobbied for Big Oil. They have represented 4 of the 9 oil companies in the 2008 Fortune 200.
- Like Bush, McCain offers billions in tax cuts for Big Oil, but no relief for families. According to the Center for American Progress Action Fund, McCain's tax plan gives nearly $4 billion in tax breaks to the top five American oil companies, but gives families very little. Economists have panned McCain's gas tax holiday, saying it won't help families with gas prices.

--
Lori Lodes
o: 202.609.7685
m: 202.351.1147
ProgressiveAccountability.org

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/14/2015 11:28:05 PM
Subject: News Update - July 15, 2015



S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, July 15

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Israel Warns of Problems in Iran Deal**
- **Diplomat: US to Circulate UN Resolution on Iran Agreement**
- **Netanyahu: My Relationship with Obama had no Bearing on Deal**
- **Clinton: This Agreement can Make Israel Safer**
- **Kerry: Netanyahu 'Way Over the Top' on Iran Nuclear Deal**
- **Pro-Israel Groups in US Line Up to Slam Iran Deal**
- **Netanyahu and Herzog Meet to Discuss a 'Unified Stance'**

Commentary:

- **Ynet News: "Iran Deal Puts Military Option Back on Table"**
  - By Ron Ben Yishai
- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "A Deal over Our Heads"**
  - By Nahum Barnea

Ynet News

Israel Warns of Problems in Iran Deal

Many Iranians rushed onto the streets of Tehran on Tuesday night to celebrate what they see as a great victory - an agreement on the country's nuclear program that would leave Iran a significant portion of its capabilities and remove the sanctions that are choking its economy. 1,500 km away, officials in Jerusalem are warning that the agreement will preserve Iran's nuclear capabilities, while making effective supervision very difficult. An Israeli government official said Tuesday evening that "According to the agreement, Iran can be warned up to 24 days before being visited by inspectors. It's as if police who want to raid a drug lab would give the criminals 24 days warning – it is inconceivable."

See also, "Keeping Iran's Feet to the Fire" (Foreign Policy)

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Associated Press

Diplomat: US to Circulate UN Res on Iran Agreement

A UN Security Council diplomat says the United States will circulate a draft resolution Wednesday that will authorize the agreement between six major powers and Iran to rein in its nuclear program. The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. informed council members Tuesday evening that it would introduce the resolution at the end of closed consultations on Libya scheduled for Wednesday morning. The diplomat says US Ambassador Samantha Power will outline the main points in the agreement to council members.

Times of Israel

PM: Relationship with Obama had no Bearing on Deal

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday evening said it was “absurd” to suggest that his relationship with US President Barack Obama had any bearing on the nuclear deal. In his third statement to the press in a single day, the prime minister said that without Israel’s efforts to thwart Iran’s nuclear ambitions, Tehran would have already broken out to the bomb. Israel will continue to work to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, he vowed. Netanyahu made a brief statement after exiting a security cabinet meeting, during which the ministers voted unanimously to reject the Iran deal “and determined that Israel is not bound by it,” according to a press release.

Ynet News

Kerry: Netanyahu 'Way Over the Top' on Iran Deal

US Secretary of State John Kerry lashed out at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday night, saying the Israeli leader's claims about the nuclear deal signed with Iran were "way over the top." "This is under attack by people who really don't know the terms of the agreement," Kerry told NBC News. "What the critics of this plan never offer... is a realistic alternative," he said, displaying evident frustration. "It's wrong for people to think this doesn't have long-term accountability." Netanyahu dubbed the agreement a "stunning historic mistake," saying the world was now a "much more dangerous place" as a result. Kerry rejected these comments, saying, Netanyahu "said the same thing about the interim agreement, and he was wrong. The fact is that he's been practically making comments that are way over the top.”

Jerusalem Post

Pro-Israel Groups in US Line Up to Slam Iran Deal

Within hours of the unveiling on Tuesday of a nuclear pact between Iran and six world powers, the loudest pro-Israel voice in Washington was warning the US Congress of problems, marking the onset of what promises to be a furious lobbying campaign. AIPAC said in a statement it was "deeply concerned" that the deal "would fail to block Iran's path to a nuclear weapon and further entrench and empower the leading state sponsor of terror." The considerable clout of pro-Israel interests on Capitol Hill will play an important role in deciding the fate of the pact, hammered out in Vienna. Some of the lobbying will be aimed at Jewish members of Congress, who will be influential voices in the upcoming debate. Besides lobbying, 2016 political campaign contributions to members of the US Congress are expected to be dangled.

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Ha'aretz

Clinton: This Agreement can Make Israel Safer

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton voiced her support of the nuclear pact between Iran and six world powers, unveiled in Vienna on Tuesday, and also vowed to strengthen ties with Israel in view of Jerusalem's concerns over the deal. The deal "can help us prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon," Clinton said in a statement, adding that "with vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this agreement can make the United States, Israel, and our Arab partners safer." Against the background of severe Israeli criticism of the agreement, Clinton also stressed that "Israel has to be confident that the United States will always ensure its Qualitative Military Edge in the region and its capacity to defend itself by itself."

Ha'aretz

PM and Herzog Meet to Discuss a 'Unified Stance'

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Opposition Leader Isaac Herzog met on Tuesday to discuss the nuclear deal signed between world powers and Iran. In their meeting, the prime minister updated the opposition leader on the briefs given to cabinet ministers regarding the implications of the deal to Israel's security. Netanyahu told Herzog that the agreement between the coalition and the opposition regarding the danger the deal entails for Israel's security is especially important at this time, and added that "on this issue, relating to the most significant national interest, it's important to present the world with a unified stance." Herzog reiterated his statements from earlier on Tuesday, saying that the deal is bad and that he is "enlisting to do everything for the security of the State of Israel in the new situation that has been created."

Ynet News– July 15, 2015

Iran Deal Puts Military Option Back on Table

The Vienna agreement does delay Iran's construction of a bomb by a year or more, but if Iran chooses to violate the deal, it could get the bomb within a few weeks; Israel must prepare for a potential pre-emptive strike on Iran's nuclear facilities and on Hezbollah.

By Ron Ben Yishai

At the end of the day, the success of the agreement signed on Tuesday in Vienna depends on the goodwill of the Iranian leadership, which is notoriously untrustworthy. Israel should therefore take the necessary precautions and prepare for an Iranian violation of the agreement.

The historic agreement signed in Vienna Tuesday is a diplomatic masterpiece. In its essence, the text doesn't prevent Iran from going nuclear, but does insure that it won't achieve such abilities in the immediate future – that is, not during the tenure of President Barack Obama and the other world leaders involved in the agreement.

Obama faces two difficult months ahead during which time he will need to convince the members of both houses of Congress to approve the agreement, including the lifting of sanctions on Iran. He may have to veto an opposition decision by the Republican majority in the House and find ways to please the many Democrats who do not support the deal.

But the American president will have his way in the end. This will be his greatest legacy in the realm of foreign policy, an agreement that turns the page on US-Iran relations and postpones a nuclear Middle East for a few years.

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From Israel's point of view, the agreement puts the military option back on the table and increases its urgency. The Israeli government will now have to decide whether or not to attack Iran if and when the ayatollahs decide to make a break for a nuclear weapon.

But Obama can comfortably say, without fear of being disproved, that the Vienna agreement does realistically delay Iran's construction of the bomb by a year or more - just as promised. Obama and the other world powers can also brag that means of inspection agreed upon allow for strict oversight of uranium production and if Iran breaks the rules, they will be able to renew sanctions.

Similarly, it can also be said that before the agreement expires and while sanctions are lifted, Iran will open up to the West and maybe the regime will change its nature and give up its desire to command a nuclear arsenal. Obama repeatedly made concessions, but at least he got something in return

World champions of fraud

On the other hand, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is completely correct in saying that the Vienna agreement doesn't prevent Iran from developing and producing a nuclear weapon. The deal only delays the process, in the best of circumstances for 10 years or more, in the worst of circumstance for one or two years.

The date that will determine everything is the day sanctions on Iran will be lifted in their entirety (in 2016) plus another two years. After a period of time, it probably won't be realistic or possible to consolidate an international consensus to renew the sanctions or for the Americans to act militarily if Iran breaks the rules. Iran's leadership will be free to either stick to the agreement or break it either openly or secretly. Rouhani and the Revolutionary Guards will decide which path to take.

It should be remembered that the Iranians are world champions of fraud. They acquired invaluable experience in the field over the last decade. Until the West deliberates and decides what to do, the ayatollahs will already have the knowledge and quick, modern infrastructure to enrich uranium as well as an ability to produce a minimized war head to be mounted on a rocket. Under these conditions, the road to a nuclear weapon is only a matter of a few months.

Even if the next US presidents remained determined and united with other world powers to limit Iran's nuclear capabilities in 10-15 years' time, they will have a difficult time doing so in practice. Until everyone recognizes that Iran definitely decided to make a break for the weapon, and until they decide what to do, even a US military strike will be too little too late. And that's in the best case scenario that Iran follows the rules they signed off on in the agreement.

Only one year to a bomb

Already today, Iran is a threshold state, capable of enriching uranium to the level required for developing a warhead two-three months down the line. But its military program is not as advanced – nobody in the West is able to say with certainty how long Iran would need to develop an operational nuclear warhead; the estimate is that they would need another few months. So, realistically, Iran is a year away from the bomb.

The agreement's greatest achievement is that it keeps the breakout time at that. In terms of uranium enrichment, it even puts further obstacles, because it requires Iran to dismantle most of the centrifuges in its possession and drastically reduce the reserve of enriched uranium it currently holds (which is sufficient for six-eight bombs). Also, Iran will be prevented altogether from enriching plutonium to levels required for military use.

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This is Obama's main achievement. No less important, Secretary of State John Kerry conditioned the removal of the sanctions upon the reduction of Iran's enrichment capabilities. In other words, the sanctions will not be fully removed until Tehran proves, upfront, that the conditions were fully met.

But what if Iran violates the deal?

But there remains a huge loophole that beckons the Iranians to cheat. Even though it would be a violation of the agreement, Iran is perfectly able to develop new models of centrifuges that could enrich uranium at a pace that is three to eight times greater than the old ones. Essentially, were Iran to choose not to abide by the deal, it would be able to get the bomb within a few weeks.

But the biggest loophole of all is IAEA's limited ability to monitor and inspect violations of the restrictions on manufacturing the weapons themselves. Even though the inspection clauses are draconian, Iran can engage in foot-dragging that would simply stymie them.

As to ballistics, the Vienna agreement leaves many loose ends. In practice, Iran can continue to develop ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and multiple re-entry missiles that, further down the line, will be able to carry nuclear warheads.

Free to buy and sell weapons

Other clauses that aren't directly connected to Iran's nuclear capability are also hardly encouraging, like its renewed ability to sponsor terror and insurgency across the Middle East. The powers conceded to Iran's demand to alleviate the UN Security Council prohibition on buying and selling conventional weapons. It will be only two years down the line but, eventually, Iran will be able not only to arm Syrian President Bashar Assad, but also to purchase air defense systems to protect their nuclear facilities.

In addition, the removal of the sanctions will bring Iran billions of dollars in revenue as early as 2016 – a sum big enough not only to stabilize its failing economy, keep the Revolutionary Guards at bay and perpetuate the Islamic regime (against the wishes of the West), but also to fund terror and press on with their aspirations for regional hegemony. This is a grave concern not only for Israel, but for Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan, too.

A gentlemen's agreement?

Could a better agreement have been achieved? Possibly. But the problem with the Vienna accord, just like other treaties to curb nuclear proliferation, is that it depends, at the end of the day, on the goodwill of the Iranian leadership and, even more so, on the deterrence power of the West.

The agreement is based on trust. The Western powers believe that if Iran signed the deal it will either abide by it or openly declare it void. That's not the way of the Middle East. It proved ineffectual vis-à-vis North Korea as well. True, the Iranian regime is more sensitive to sanctions, but once they've been removed it will be ten times more difficult to renew them.

Would no deal have been better? It wouldn't have worked either. The sanctions would have remained in place, but Iran would have still been able to accumulate uranium, develop new centrifuges and build warheads, and break out the minute Khamenei had put his mind to it. The agreement, thus, is the lesser of two evils: At the very least, it delays Iran's nuclear armament by a few years – and that, it should be noted, is exactly what Israel wanted to achieve a few years ago by launching a military strike.

Therefore, there's no use crying over spilled milk and pointing fingers. What we need now is a clear operative plan that takes into account the possibility that Iran

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hasn't given up on trying to get the bomb. That's why we need to keep the pressure on Iran, and opt for a military strike if Iran goes nuclear; and if one day it comes to pass that Iran has a nuclear arsenal, Israel would have to create an effective deterrence and abandon its long-held nuclear ambiguity policy. To this end, Israel will need to do the following:

- **Improve the relationships with the Obama administration and other Western governments. Netanyahu's rallying with the Republicans in Congress won't hinder the implementation of the agreement, and will only abet the hostility of the White House. Israel has no time to wait until Obama stands down;**
- **Reach understandings with the American administration about what counts as violations of the deal, and what sanctions it would entail;**
- **Beef up intelligence gathering on Iran to minimize the risk of a strategic surprise;**
- **Improve Israel's defense against missiles, as well as aerial and naval attacks;**
- **Prepare for a potential pre-emptive strike on Iran's nuclear facilities and on Hezbollah and save it for when it is clear without a shadow of a doubt that Iran is moving towards getting the bomb. Hezbollah will need to be attacked at the same time because it's clear that it will take a proactive role in any conflict between Israel and Iran.**

Yedioth Ahronoth – July 15, 2015

A Deal over Our Heads

By Nahum Barnea

I did not find a single mention of Israel in all 159 pages of the agreement with Iran—not even a hint. On the one hand, this is good: If the world powers were to apply to Israel the same demands that they are posing to the Iranian nuclear project we would be in great trouble; on the other hand, this is outrageous: an agreement that has fateful significance for anyone who lives here was signed over our heads, as if there were nothing between Tehran and Vienna save the good intentions of the ayatollah regime. Israel is nowhere to be found.

The disregard of Israel is not only offensive, it is dangerous. It may pose more dangers to Israel than the Iranian nuclear threshold. In a certain sense it returns us to 1956, when then-US president Eisenhower and the Soviet prime minister, Bulganin, sent threatening letters to the Israeli government and forced it to withdraw from Sinai. Our prime minister was cheered in the US Congress; he was disregarded in the talks in Vienna. The bottom line is that it would have been best had he been cheered less and his country been given more consideration.

The articles of the agreement deal solely with two issues: the nuclear program and sanctions. But their ramifications are much broader. It is no accident that the world media hurried to call the agreement "historic": Far beyond the nuclear issue, it marks a possible shift in the balance of power in the Middle East, in Iran's diplomatic and economic status, perhaps its military status as well, and in its relations with the international community, first and foremost with the United States. The ayatollah regime has received international legitimacy without having undertaken to change its agenda one bit, apart from a freeze of the nuclear project for 10 or 15 years.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, whose life's dream was to formulate an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement that would bring him a Nobel Prize, will receive his Nobel thanks to the agreement with Iran. It is not Netanyahu and Abu Mazen who

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will stand next to him at the ceremony in the Oslo municipality, but rather Mohammad Javad Zarif, the foreign minister of the ayatollahs. Kerry will accept the change gladly; a Nobel Prize is a Nobel Prize. The agreement with Iran is what Kerry will take home with him when he ends his term. This achievement will be his pride; this achievement will be his disgrace.

After the interim agreement was signed, I wrote that the agreement was the lesser evil; that we should judge it not only by what it has and what it lacks, but also by what might have happened had the agreement not been signed. Scrutiny of the full document reinforces this feeling. It enables Iran to exist as a nuclear threshold state, a year's distance from a bomb. But the alternative—a bellicose Iran, armed with nuclear bombs, free of supervision—is more disheartening.

Netanyahu would prefer an American military operation that would destroy the nuclear facilities along with large parts of Iran. The Americans had no intention of doing this. When President Obama said that all options were on the table, he was bluffing, just as Netanyahu was bluffing when he threatened an Israeli military strike. Netanyahu and Barak invested billions in military preparations that were designed to convince the world that Israel intended to act. For a certain period the bluff worked; it made a contribution to intensifying the sanctions. The problem is that the sanctions did not work—they caused great damage to the Iranian economy, but did not stop the nuclear project.

In the absence of a military operation, Netanyahu would prefer the continuation of the sanctions. In the past few weeks, the aspiration to have the sanctions continue became a matter no less important than the battle against the nuclear program. When the sanctions are removed, Netanyahu says, Iran will be flooded with money; the money will flow to Hizbullah and Hamas, and will be translated into terrorism against Israel.

His battle against the agreement was based on a gamble—that despite the continuation of the sanctions, Iran would be wary of producing a nuclear weapon. It would remain on the threshold. It is with this gamble that he is now going to the US Senate. But the Iranians are now the smaller part of his gamble. The pot has grown; the odds have become worse.

In the coming two months the Senate will be the arena of a violent struggle between Netanyahu and the Obama administration. Based on the initial reactions to the agreement, all the Republican senators will vote against it. Obama will cast a veto. To break the veto, Netanyahu needs 13 Democratic senators. He will get some of them—mainly those who depend on Jewish voters and Jewish funding. His chances of reaching 13 are not high.

The chances are not high because in his confrontational speech in Congress and in all his statements, he pushed the Democrats into Obama's arms; they are not high because US public opinion likes historic agreements, and likes even better agreements that diminish the chance of another war in the Middle East. They have not broken free of Iraq and Afghanistan yet. They have no interest in another front; the chances are not high because all the Democratic candidates for presidency, headed by Hillary Clinton, support the agreement; and the chances are not high because Obama is enjoying a good period, perhaps the best period in all the years of his presidency. Suddenly things are falling in place for him. It is difficult to defeat a president in such a situation.

The price of the battle against Obama is troubling: It pertains to the compensation package that the security establishment justifiably expects to receive from the United States. Doesn't this battle relieve the White House of the obligation to compensate Israel? Netanyahu tells his ministers that he is not impressed by the compensation. This is empty talk. Security officials think otherwise.

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Isn't Israel pushing Obama to settle the score with it on another front, the Palestinian front? If Obama comes out with his own plan, or instructs [US diplomats] to stop protecting Israel in international organizations, the diplomatic price, perhaps the economic and morale price, will be high. And the main thing is, with the services that Israel provides the Republican billionaires, it is weakening the Jewish lobby and losing the support of most of the Jews. It is selling its birthright for a mess of pottage.

Netanyahu is behaving like a person who is convinced that this is a battle over Israel's very existence. He is wrong: Israel will exist. The Holocaust is not on our doorstep.

The fact that Israel did not succeed in thwarting the agreement and did not even succeed in influencing its content is a stinging failure. But Netanyahu is failure-proof: in his world there are only two possibilities—either he is a winner, or he is a victim. In the elections, he won; in the agreement with Iran, he is a victim. Instead of giving the Israelis a sober accounting about what happened, he informs them that the Holocaust is on the way. What will the Israelis do with the doses of scare tactics that he is administering to them? Ehud Barak came last night to the television studio to infuse a bit of sanity into the Israelis, a bit of sobriety. This was like a refreshing breeze on a humid day.

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Date:	7/27/2015 2:10:43 PM
Subject:	Fwd: Climate Change Rollout Clips as of 7 p.m.
Attachments:	Climate Change Rollout Clips 7.27.15.docx

Round two official Clips from Comms team below and attached.

Thanks!

H4A Climate Change Rollout Clips

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HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Clinton Unveils Far-Reaching Climate Change Plan // NYT // Trip Gabriel and Coral Denport - July 26, 2015

Promising more than a half-billion solar panels by the end of a first term and an ambitious target of clean energy for every home in America in a decade, Hillary Rodham Clinton unveiled goals on Sunday evening to reduce the threat of climate change.

She said she would continue President Obama's sweeping plan to limit carbon emissions from power plants, and announced targets that even push beyond current goal's for greenhouse gases.

Mr. Obama's proposed regulations are expected to be finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency in August, and the real work of making the changes — shutting down coal plans and increasing the number of renewable electricity sources — would fall to the next administration.

The Clinton campaign said the goals, set out on its website in a video, were the first of a six-plank plan to address climate change that Mrs. Clinton would continue to unveil in coming weeks and months.

Other areas of focus will be improving the efficiency of buildings, ensuring that fossil fuel production is "safe and responsible," and protecting financial markets from climate-related risks.

In the video and at an earlier event, Mrs. Clinton said that critics of taking strong action, who include most of the Republican presidential candidates, were ignoring the seriousness of the threat.

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“Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying, ‘I’m not a scientist,’” Mrs. Clinton said in Ames, Iowa on Sunday. “Well I’m not a scientist either. I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain.”

Mrs. Clinton also promised to help any workers who lose their jobs as coal plants respond to Mr. Obama’s plan to limit carbon emissions. Appalachia, once a bastion of Democratic support, has been hostile to Mr. Obama for what officials like Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican majority leader, call a “war on coal.”

“I will be very clear, I want to do more to help in coal country,” Mrs. Clinton said at the event. She expressed gratitude to men “who mined the coal that created industrial revolution that turned on the lights that fueled the factories, who lost their lives, who were grievously injured, who developed black lung disease.”

Mrs. Clinton’s pledge to produce “enough renewable energy to power every American home within 10 years of taking office” — that is, by 2027 — is even more ambitious than Mr. Obama’s plan.

The president has pledged to get the United States to produce 20 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 — essentially tripling renewable power from today.

Mrs. Clinton’s plan would arrive at 33 percent, said Heather Zichal, who served as Mr. Obama’s senior climate change adviser until last year.

“I think this initial statement from her is a strong signal that she’s committed to a thoughtful policy that pushes the envelope,” she said.

Mrs. Clinton’s rollout of a climate plan, the latest in a series of policy agendas, was in part intended to counter the threat on her left from Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator who draws thunderous cheers at rallies when he calls for the immediate action on the warming climate. And unlike Mr. Sanders, Mrs. Clinton has not clearly stated whether she opposes building the Keystone XL pipeline, which has become the leading rallying cry of grass-roots environmentalists.

On Friday, Tom Steyer, the billionaire climate activist, said that in order to receive his backing and financial support, a candidate would have to pledge to enact an energy policy that would lead to the generation of half the nation’s electricity from renewable or zero-carbon sources by 2030, and 100 percent by 2050.

Martin O’Malley, the former governor of Maryland who is also seeking the Democratic nomination, has already put forth such a plan.

In a statment, Mr. Steyer praised Mrs. Clinton’s proposal without offering explicit financial support. “Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country’s economic security,” he said.

Hillary Clinton lays out climate change initiative // WaPo // Vanessa Williams - July 26, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton called for harnessing the power of the sun to generate enough renewable energy to run every home in the country within the next decade, as part of a climate change initiative announced Sunday.

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"Future generations will look back and wonder, 'What were we thinking? How could we possibly be so irresponsible?' " the Democratic presidential candidate says in a video that accompanied the plan, which was posted on her Web site Sunday night.

"I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain and I know what's happening in the world will affect my daughter and especially my granddaughter," she said.

In addition to touting her plan, which would include installing more than half a billion solar panels nationwide during the first term of her presidency, Clinton criticized the Republican presidential candidates, who generally dismiss the notion of climate change.

"It's hard to believe that people running for president refuse to believe the settled science of climate change," she says in the video as quotes attributed to GOP hopefuls fill the screen. One such quote, attributed to former Florida governor Jeb Bush, reads: "I'm a skeptic. I'm not a scientist."

Earlier Sunday, while campaigning in Iowa, she used the "grandmother with two eyes and a brain" quip, receiving chuckles and applause. She praised Iowa's efforts to embrace renewable energy, noting that the state produces 30 percent of its energy from wind. Windmills are a common sight on the horizon across the state.

A fact sheet on the plan presented on her Web site said that Clinton will fight efforts to roll back the Clean Power Plan. And she proposes a Clean Power Challenge, including competitions for grants for renewal energy products, as well as more assistance to states and cities and more choices for consumers.

Clinton is scheduled to discuss the plan during a speech Monday in Des Moines.

Clinton talks climate change in Iowa — but still won't talk Keystone // WaPo // Vanessa Williams – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton said Monday that if she's elected president, she could use executive orders and work through federal agencies if Congress tried to block her proposals to combat climate change. But she still wouldn't say where she stood on the Keystone XL project that's drawn the ire of environmentalists.

Speaking at the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority's Central Station, which is partly powered by renewable energy sources, the Democratic presidential candidate said climate change would be a major issue in her campaign going forward.

"I refuse to turn my back on what is one of the greatest threats and greatest opportunities America faces," Clinton said. "I refuse to let those who are deniers, who disagree with what we need to do to rip away all the progress that we've made and leave our country exposed to the most severe consequences of climate change."

Although her plan was praised by some activists, including clean energy evangelist Tom Steyer, others have said it doesn't go far enough. Clinton, who has faced criticism for her continued silence on Keystone, on Monday again cited her involvement in the evaluating the project when she was secretary of state, noting that the final decision has yet to be made by her successor, John Kerry. "I will refrain from commenting because I had a leading role in getting that process started and we have to let it run its course," she said.

Clinton's remarks followed a social media rollout of her plans to combat climate change, which call for the installation of more than 500 million solar panels across the country within her first term and powering every

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home in the United States with renewable energy within 10 years.

In a video presentation of her plan, Clinton took swipes at several Republican presidential candidates, displaying some of their past comments questioning whether climate change is real. One attributed to Jeb Bush read: "I'm a skeptic. I'm not a scientist." Another, attributed to Rand Paul: "It's absolutely and utterly untrue."

Beyond resistance from Republican members of Congress, Clinton said, "our big problem will be the corporate interests that are promoting fossil fuels and still have too much of a grip on our political process and too many advantages in our tax code. I'm well aware I'm going up against powerful interests but there are a number of ways to get to where we need to go."

Clinton said she would make the case that renewable energy is not only good for the environment, but also for the economy because it would create "millions of new jobs and new businesses." She made a point of giving a nod to workers in the fossil fuels industry.

"Even as we face the threat of climate change head on we cannot close our eyes to the challenges facing hard working families in coal country, who kept our lights on and our factories running for more than a century," she said. "We should guarantee that coal miners and their families get the benefits they've earned and the respect they deserve."

Clinton she would flesh out her proposal, including how to pay for it, during the coming months.

Two reasons why Hillary Clinton's first climate change proposal is much more modest than it sounds // WaPo / / Philip Bump – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton announced the first "pillar" of her energy and climate agenda on Sunday, outlining a proposal to increase the number of solar panels to 500 million by the end of her first term -- and to have enough renewable power generation to provide electricity to every home in America by 2027.

The proposals, particularly the latter, are striking. The main challenge of climate change is that the world (and the United States morseo than many places) is dependent on burning fossil fuels for electricity. Burning those fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which traps heat. So moving the country to renewable energy sources, like wind and solar, can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted and therefore stop exacerbating the problem.

So why is this not as impressive a proposal as it might at first seem?

1. Residential electricity usage is only part of the problem.

Data from the Energy Information Administration suggests that residences consume less than half of the electricity sold in the country. Clinton's proposal doesn't suggest that every house will use renewable power; just that the capacity exists.

So a lot of electricity will still be generated the old-fashioned way. And while the fracking boom has helped increase the amount of natural gas that's used in production -- better once burned than coal, but potentially problematic when extracted -- we still rely heavily on coal for our power.

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2. Hitting that solar growth target is hard -- but not as hard as you might think.

Here's how much solar energy the residential sector has added over the past few years, thanks to improvements in generation, decreases in panel pricing, and a robust private sector push for installation.

That's helped boost the amount of renewable electricity used in the residential sector overall.

Can we increase solar usage 700 percent? Vox's Brad Plumer figures that the spike in solar usage puts the figure "within the realm of possibility." Solar has the benefit of being scalable on an individual level, which means that some organizing can help. And studies have found that solar power adoption is contagious.

But despite the recent growth, as the chart above shows, solar is still a tiny part of the overall energy mix. In recent years, far larger growth in renewable power generation has been in wind.

The new proposal is only the first pillar, we'll note, so we'll set aside the fact that this doesn't address other large sources of greenhouse gas emissions, like gasoline and diesel fuels.

For those eager to hail Clinton as a champion of the environment, a third note of caution from a press conference today. On one of the top issues for environmental activists, Clinton doesn't have any proposals at all.

Hillary Clinton Sidesteps Keystone in Climate Plan Rollout // WSJ // Colleen McCain Nelson – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton pledged to make combating climate change a central focus of the 2016 presidential campaign, saying Monday that she would not allow “deniers” to thwart progress or prevent the U.S. from leading on the issue.

While Mrs. Clinton cast herself as a crusader for clean energy, she declined to weigh in on a key environmental debate, taking no position on whether to build the Keystone XL pipeline. At an event in Iowa touting her climate plan, Mrs. Clinton said that as secretary of state, she set in motion the review evaluating the pipeline and now would allow her successor, John Kerry, and President Barack Obama to make the final decision.

Donald Trump Tops GOP Field in New Hampshire, Second in Iowa: Poll

“I will refrain from commenting because I had a leading role in getting that process started,” Mrs. Clinton said. “And I think that we have to let it run its course.”

Many Republicans have expressed skepticism about the science of climate change, with some questioning whether it’s real and others doubting that human activity plays a role in global warming — or could play a role in reversing it.

The Keystone XL pipeline, which would move oil from Canada’s oil sands to refineries along the U.S. Gulf Coast, has emerged as a touchstone issue for environmentalists, as well as the energy industry.

Democratic presidential candidates Martin O’Malley and Bernie Sanders have been vocal opponents of the project. Mrs. Clinton said her Democratic rivals never served as secretary of state and added that she is confident Keystone’s impact on greenhouse gas emissions would be a major factor in the administration’s determination of whether to build the pipeline.

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Lis Smith, Mr. O'Malley's deputy campaign manager, said Monday: "Every Democrat should follow [Mr. O'Malley's] lead and take a stand to commit to ending our reliance on fossil fuels."

Mrs. Clinton said she's committed to making the U.S. a "clean-energy superpower" and that on day one of her presidency, she would begin work on two key goals: installing more than half a billion solar panels by the end of her first term and generating enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within a decade. Mr. Obama put the county on a path to a clean-energy future, she said, but more needs to be done.

"The reality of climate change is unforgiving no matter what the deniers say," Mrs. Clinton said. "This is one of the most urgent threats of our time, and we have no choice but to rise and meet it."

The Republican National Committee on Monday deemed Mrs. Clinton's climate policy vague and costly.

"Hillary Clinton's energy 'plan' is to raise more taxes and double down on President Obama's EPA overreach, which held down wages and cost American jobs," RNC spokesman Michael Short said. "Clinton avoided specifics and refused to take a position on important job-creating energy projects like the Keystone Pipeline, reminding voters why they think she's untrustworthy."

Mrs. Clinton did not detail how, exactly, she would pay for her clean-energy proposals. She said she would offer more specifics in the future and that some of these initiatives would pay for themselves.

Mr. Obama has faced strong resistance in Congress to his climate agenda and largely has relied on executive actions to rein in carbon emissions. Mrs. Clinton said she may pursue a similar strategy but added that addressing climate change should be a nonpartisan issue.

"We still have a lot that we can do without getting congressional support," Mrs. Clinton said. "However, it is in everybody's interest. This is not a Republican or Democratic problem."

Hillary Clinton Previews Plans to Combat Climate Change // WSJ // Colleen McCain Nelson - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Sunday offered a preview of her plans to combat climate change, pledging to set high goals and build a clean-energy economy.

At an organizing event in Iowa, Mrs. Clinton swiped at Republicans who question the threat posed by climate change and said she was serious about addressing the issue.

"Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying I'm not a scientist," she said. "I'm not a scientist either—I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain…I know that if we start addressing it, we're going to actually be creating jobs and new businesses."

The Clinton campaign is expected to release more details about her climate policy Sunday evening, and she will deliver a speech about her plan Monday morning in Des Moines.

Mrs. Clinton has previously characterized climate change as an urgent threat and has voiced support for President

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Barack Obama's executive actions to limit carbon pollution.

She has stayed silent, though, on the question of whether the Keystone XL pipeline should be built, declining to weigh in on what has been a contentious yearslong debate. Mrs. Clinton oversaw the Obama administration's review of the project during her tenure as secretary of state.

She made no mention of Keystone on Sunday but called for an emphasis on generating more wind and solar energy. Mrs. Clinton called for a rebalancing of tax incentives, which she said are too heavily weighted toward fossil fuels.

"Our politics are imprisoned by the past," she said.

Democratic presidential candidates Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders have been unequivocal in their opposition to Keystone and have made climate policy a central component of their campaigns.

Mr. O'Malley has laid out an aggressive plan for combating climate change, calling for the U.S. to transition to 100% clean energy by 2050. Mr. O'Malley, the former governor of Maryland, has called for federal legislation capping carbon emissions and has pledged to reject the Keystone XL pipeline and deny new permits for drilling in Alaska and Antarctica.

Mr. Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont who is running in the Democratic primary, has been a vocal opponent of the pipeline, which has been under review by the Obama administration for more than six years. He has urged "bold action" and has said the U.S. needs to accelerate technological progress to generate more solar and wind energy.

Mrs. Clinton's rollout of a plan to address climate change comes on the heels of billionaire climate-change activist Tom Steyer calling for 2016 candidates to develop concrete plans to increase the share of clean energy in the U.S.'s power generation mix to 50% by 2030.

Mr. Steyer, who spent $73 million during the 2014 midterm elections, has set a high bar for winning his support in 2016. A spokesperson for his advocacy group, NextGen Climate, on Friday said candidates who don't embrace Mr. Steyer's goal aren't likely to be backed by the organization.

In Iowa, Clinton says climate plan will promote renewables // AP // Thomas Beaumont - July 26, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton unveiled Sunday a plan aimed at combating climate change that includes proposed revisions in the tax code to promote renewable energy and goals for renewable sources for consumer electricity.

In Iowa, the nation's second-leading wind energy producer, Clinton said people are "just not paying attention" if they don't acknowledge climate change.

"This is not complicated folks," the former secretary of state told more than 200 people at Iowa State University. "I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain. And I know we're facing huge problem."

Climate change has become a key issue in the Democratic presidential primary, where Clinton is the heavy

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favorite.

Billionaire Tom Steyer has led an effort to promote the issue. The California-based Steyer hosted a fundraiser for Clinton in May.

Clinton proposes, through tax incentives, to increase the amount of power derived from renewable sources to support every home in the United States within 10 years.

For instance, Clinton said she supports renewing the wind energy tax credit as part of over time shifting the U.S. energy system from one based on fossil fuels.

"We need to get the incentives fixed in our tax system which as you know are too heavily weighted toward fossil fuels," Clinton said during a day of campaigning in central Iowa.

Clinton also hinted that her plans would impose changes on the coal industry, though she also pledged the government's help for workers to make the transition.

"We can make a transition over time from a fossil fuel economy, predominantly, to a clean renewable energy economy, predominantly," Clinton said later during an event at a central Iowa rural home.

Weaning the country off of coal is a tricky political position in key places on the political battleground map. Southeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania are regions of states that have been pivotal in recent elections. And they remain the home of key coal-producing areas.

Crediting coal-miners for having "created an industrial revolution," Clinton said "it is important that we help them transition to a new economy."

Clinton's plan also includes the goal of installing 500 million solar panels within four years.

It would also increase capacity to the nation's power grid with a combination of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydroelectric and geothermal.

Clinton did not include a price tag for the plan or describe how it would be financed.

Clinton was scheduled to discuss the plan in detail during a public event in Des Moines Monday morning.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, also seeking the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, noted Sunday that he unveiled a climate change plan in Iowa that addresses not just consumer energy use, but industrial and transportation, as well.

As governor, O'Malley doubled Maryland's renewable fuel production, and reduced greenhouse gases in the state by 10 percent during his two terms.

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Clinton offers energy plans, declines comment on pipeline // AP // Catherine Lucey – July 27, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton is detailing new energy proposals in Iowa to address climate change. She calls global warming one of the "most urgent threats of our time."

But she's still not taking a position on the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

The Democratic presidential contender is proposing that every home in the United States be powered by renewable sources by 2027. Her plan calls for installation of 500 million solar panels over four years.

Clinton laid out clean-energy ideas during a tour of a regional bus station in Des Moines, Iowa, on Monday.

When asked about the Keystone XL oil pipeline opposed by environmental activists, she would not comment except to say she wants a State Department review of the project to run its course.

Hillary Clinton steers clear of Keystone // Politico // Hadas Gold – July 27, 2015

Despite rolling out a set of climate change goals Sunday night, Hillary Clinton declined once again to take a position on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline on Monday, deferring to the State Department.

After touring a green-certified transit station in Des Moines, Clinton told reporters that she wouldn't comment on the pipeline because she had played a leading role in starting the process to review the project while she was secretary of state.

"No other presidential candidate was secretary of state when this process started, and I put together a very thorough deliberative evidence-based process to evaluate the environmental impact and other considerations of Keystone," Clinton said.

"As such, I know there is a very careful evaluation continuing and that the final decision is pending to be made by Secretary Kerry and President Obama. Very simply, the evaluation determines whether this pipeline is in our nation's interest and I'm confident that the pipeline impacts on global greenhouse gas emissions will be a major factor in that decisions, as the president has said. So I will refrain from commenting because I had a leading role in getting that process started and I think we have to let it run its course," she said.

On Sunday evening, Clinton rolled out the first elements of her climate change platform, calling for moving the economy on "a path towards deep decarbonization by 2050" and "enough clean renewable energy to power every home in America" by 2027.

On Monday, Clinton said she will soon lay out a plan for how to pay for her goals but that she intends to be a "good fiscal steward" for investments that will pay off in the future.

"A lot of these changes will pay for themselves. So there will be front-end money needed," Clinton said. "But there are ways of making those investments and getting a return on those investments that will redound to the benefits of the American taxpayer. So I will be talking about energy and climate security, modernizing North American infrastructure, about safe and responsible production, especially making sure tax payers get a fair deal for development on public lands and areas that I think are too sensitive for production that should be taken off the

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table."

Clinton also said she would stop the "giveaways to big oil companies" and extend tax incentives to clean energy.

As for convincing a possible Republican-controlled Congress to join on the climate change bandwagon, Clinton said she hopes to be able to call for a "ceasefire" on climate change.

"Making this a central issue in my campaign, I hope, will give me the momentum to be able to go to the congress and say, 'Look, cease fire.' We need to make the transition and we can do it and save money at the same time and create millions of new jobs and businesses that will be to the benefit of our country, so stay tuned," Clinton said.

The holes in Hillary Clinton's climate plan // Politico // Elana Schor – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton's newly unveiled climate vision sounds ambitious on its face: 500 million new solar panels from coast to coast, eco-minded energy tax breaks and enough green power to keep the lights on in every U.S. home.

But just as glaring were the details she left out.

Does Clinton support or oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline? Or Arctic offshore drilling? Or tougher restrictions on fracking? Or the oil industry's push to lift the 1970s ban on exporting U.S. crude oil? Clinton avoided all those questions in the solar-heavy climate plan she outlined Sunday night, and in her speech promoting it Monday in Iowa — and she declined yet again Monday to say where she stands on Keystone.

That means that liberals longing for Clinton to erase what they see as the dirtiest spot on President Barack Obama's environmental record — his support for an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that includes domestic oil and gas drilling — have to keep waiting. Greens want to cheer for Clinton, but Democratic rivals Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley are already trying to outflank her with even more ambitious climate plans, while the GOP attacks her from the right.

"Clinton's climate plan is remarkable for what it doesn't say, yet," California-based environmental activist R.L. Miller, who founded the Climate Hawks Vote PAC, said in a statement. Specifically, she added, Clinton offered "no effort to keep fossil fuels in the ground, no price on carbon; no word on Keystone XL, Arctic oil or other carbon bombs; no word on fracking."

Climate activists are also looking for the Democratic front-runner to put some distance between herself and her record at the State Department, which issued a series of studies finding no significant environmental obstacles to approving Keystone.

"We're expecting a reset" of the former secretary's platform, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said in an interview, "and a completely different climate and energy policy than the last time she ran for president."

While Clinton's pitch to boost renewables to a 33-percent share of the nation's power supply is "a positive first step," Brune added, "we're looking for her to reconcile her climate and energy policies, which is something Obama has not yet been able to do effectively."

Even a largely glowing response from billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer made a point of noting that "in the

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coming months we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals."

At the core of the tension is climate activists' insistence that the next president go beyond defending Obama's main approach to global warming — a series of EPA regulations that will throttle carbon emissions from major pollution sources such as power plants. Instead, they want Obama's successor to commit to reining in an oil and gas industry that has turned the U.S. into one of the world's top fuel exporters.

Anti-fossil fuel campaign group Oil Change International's campaigns director, David Turnbull, warned that greens are looking for a candidate with a plan to keep oil and gas locked up, not just expand wind and solar projects.

"Any coherent climate policy needs to address not just our urgent need to continue scaling up renewable energy but also the reality that fossil fuel production needs to be swiftly curtailed as well," he said.

Clinton's campaign described Monday's speech as "just the beginning" of a broader energy plan, promising future proposals to cut U.S. oil use — without mention of natural gas consumption — and ensure "safe and responsible" drilling by putting some lands off-limits. But the former first lady has already declined to endorse a ban on fossil-fuel development on public lands, which O'Malley has backed, and she hewed to a years-long pattern in declining to take a position on Keystone.

O'Malley's deputy campaign manager, Lis Smith, slammed Clinton again Monday for avoiding Keystone, and for failing to publicly oppose drilling off the Alaska coast.

"Real leadership is about forging public opinion on issues like Keystone — not following it," Smith said in a statement that touted O'Malley's goal of 100-percent clean power by 2050. "Every Democrat should follow his lead and take a stand to commit to ending our reliance on fossil fuels."

Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short also hit Clinton over her Keystone silence, but the GOP took the criticism a step further by trashing her renewable-power plan as lacking detail yet loaded with inevitable tax hikes. "Hillary Clinton's energy 'plan' is to raise more taxes and double down on President Obama's EPA overreach," Short said in a statement.

The Clinton camp estimates that its proposal, which calls for installing 500 million solar panels across the U.S. by the end of her term, would cost about $60 billion over 10 years — money that would come from rolling back tax benefits for the oil and gas industry. But it's unclear where at least $20 billion of that money would come from.

Democrats have unsuccessfully targeted an array of oil and gas breaks for repeal over the past four years, with estimates of the money raised in the process going as high as $4 billion per year, or $40 billion over 10 years, leaving Clinton short by one-third at best. A failed 2012 Democratic bill ending oil and gas subsidies would have raised $24 billion over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The Clinton campaign did not return a request for comment on how it would close the gap in paying for its renewable-energy plan, and on its future oil and gas agenda.

Still, environmentalists welcomed Clinton's announcement as a promising start.

Heather Taylor-Miesle, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund, said her group is "excited about" the opening bid from Clinton, while acknowledging that "we have to deal with oil and gas" and that environmentalists won't know how to judge the candidate's plan in that department until she reveals it.

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Even 350.org co-founder Bill McKibben, who aimed a torrent of anti-Keystone activism at Clinton's State Department and warned her in June that "many serious environmentalists currently distrust you," said her first crack at a climate plan got "half the way there."

"Now, we need Clinton to show she understands the other half of the climate change equation — and prove she has the courage to stand up against fossil fuel projects like offshore and Arctic drilling, coal leasing in [Wyoming's] Powder River basin and the Keystone XL pipeline," he added in a statement.

After Clinton said Monday that she couldn't speak on Keystone "because I had a leading role in" the pipeline's administration review, McKibben said by email that her rationale was "silly" because "she's rightly full of insights about Iran, about Benghazi, about Korea, about a thousand other ongoing issues the State [Department] processes daily."

Hillary Clinton rolls out climate agenda // Politico // Darren Goode and Hadas Gold - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton unveiled her most detailed proposals on climate change since becoming a presidential candidate, calling for moving the economy on "a path towards deep decarbonization by 2050" and "enough clean renewable energy to power every home in America" by 2027.

Progressives have been badgering Clinton to take a strong stance on climate change. Earlier this month in New Hampshire a group of activists disrupted her first town hall in the state, demanding she pledge to end extraction of fossil fuels on public lands.

The plan is the most specific that Clinton's made yet as a candidate on how she would combat climate change, she and though she has often been outflanked on the left by her Democratic challengers, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

But on Sunday evening she won praise from billionaire climate-change activist Tom Steyer, who last week called on presidential candidates to embrace a goal of generating 50 percent of the nation's power from carbon-free sources by 2030 with an eye toward "a completely clean energy economy" by 2050.

Clinton spokesperson Brian Fallon said that the plan Clinton laid out is the equivalent of 33 percent of power coming from green energy sources like solar, wind and geothermal by 2027, which when coupled with nuclear power, exceeds Steyer's 2030 goal.

In a statement after Clinton's plan emerged, Steyer said the Democratic front runner had "emerged as a strong leader" in addressing climate change.

"Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs—and in the coming months we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change," he said.

Clinton's plan calls for having 500 million solar panels installed by the end her term if she's elected president. That would be part of the effort to hike solar capacity to 140 gigawatts by the end of 2020, the equivalent of about 140 nuclear reactors and an increase of 700 percent from current levels.

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She also wants to add more power generation from other renewable sources, like wind and geothermal.

Clinton called for extending federal clean energy tax incentives, and she pledged to defend the Obama Clean Power Plan, which would cut greenhouse gases from power plants. She also would launch a "Clean Energy Challenge" that would award competitive grants and other incentives for states.

Her campaign will roll out out a more detailed energy and climate strategy in the coming months that will call for reducing oil consumption, modernize the nation's energy infrastructure, improve building efficiency and "protect the health and retirement security" of coal miners.

In a speech on Sunday in a ballroom at the Iowa State University alumni center, Clinton was bullish on her climate change goals.

"I am setting some really high goals that we are going to meet when I am president," Clinton said, noting that just as many people work in the solar power sector as do in the coal industry.

"Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying 'I'm not a scientist,'" she continued. "I'm not a scientist either. I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain."

Clinton also unveiled a new video on Sunday hitting Republicans for denying climate change.

"Future generations will look back and say 'what were we thinking? How could we be so irresponsible,'" Clinton says in the video.

In one clip, quotes from Republican candidates such as Jeb Bush, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Donald Trump denying climate change appear on the screen as Clinton says "It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change."

On Monday, Clinton will speak about her climate change plan at a Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority station.

Two of Clinton's primary challengers, O'Malley and Sanders, have sought to outflank her on the left on climate change.

Sanders has noted his views on climate and staunch opposition to building of the Keystone XL oil pipeline as two areas his record is distinguishable from Clinton's.

O'Malley's campaign released a preemptive strike via email Sunday afternoon, touting his signing into law as governor a statewide target of reducing total greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020.

O'Malley, who is running a distant third in the Democratic race, is also pushing for electricity to be solely derived from renewable sources by 2050. That's the exact same pledge Steyer is seeking from 2016 presidential candidates, but Steyer has also already held a fundraiser for Clinton at his San Francisco home.

Hillary Clinton Vows to Defend, Extend Obama Climate Policy // Bloomberg // Mark Drajem - July 26, 2015

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Hillary Clinton said she would both defend and go beyond the efforts by President Barack Obama to address climate change in the first detailed description of her potential environmental polices if elected president.

Clinton released what her campaign said was the opening salvo of the Democrat's energy and climate change agenda Sunday, while she was campaigning in Iowa.

Among other things, Clinton pledged to defend from legal or political attack the Obama administration's rule to cut carbon pollution from the nation's fleet of power plants.

A Clinton administration would go further, rewarding communities that speed rooftop solar panel installation, backing a contest for states to go beyond the minimums called for in the environmental rules, and boosting solar and wind production on federal lands.

A four-page campaign fact sheet said the goal was to increase the share of U.S. power generation from renewable sources to 33 percent by 2027, compared to 25 percent under Obama's carbon plan.

The announcement "makes it more clear than ever that she cares deeply about climate change and will make it a top priority throughout her campaign," Tiernan Sittenfeld, senior vice president of the League of Conservation Voters Action Fund, said in a statement.

State Mandates

The majority of U.S. states had already established their own renewable power goals by 2012, according to the federal Energy Information Administration.

California has a goal of buying 33 percent of its power from renewable energy resources by 2020. The state describes this renewables portfolio standard on its website as "one of the most ambitious" in the country.

The early announcement of Clinton's climate plan contrasts with the last presidential election cycle, in which neither major-party nominee highlighted the issue. Environmental advocates started a social media effort to try to get both campaigns to at least talk about the the climate.

Since winning re-election, Obama has made fighting climate a top priority and introduced a series of measures. He said this month that getting a global deal on cutting greenhouse-gas emissions is the remaining top priority of his tenure.

The mix of policies laid out by Clinton include a pledge to produce enough renewable energy in a decade to power every U.S. home, and to curb gasoline demand, neither an easy task. U.S. gasoline usage is up this year, as lower prices boost driving. The campaign's plans don't include any actions aimed specifically at helping oil, natural gas or coal producers.

Clinton said she would help coal-dependent communities, such as those in West Virginia or eastern Kentucky, cope with the transition away from the carbon-heavy fuel. Obama had made a similar pledge in his most recent budget.

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Hillary Clinton on Sunday set two "bold national goals" to combat climate change, promising that if she's elected president, she would set the United States on a path toward producing enough clean renewable to power every home in America within a decade.

She would also initiate a process that would bring the total number of solar panels installed nationwide to more than half a billion before the end of her first term, her campaign said in a fact sheet released Sunday as it also posted a video in which Clinton lays out her ambitions.

"We cannot wait any longer" to act on climate change, the Democratic front-runner says in the video. "It's time we stand for a healthier climate, stand for cleaner air, for science, for innovation, for our children, for reality, for the future."

Sunday's announcement and an accompanying speech set for Monday at the LEED Platinum-certified Des Moines Area Regional Transit Central Station are intended as a first step in framing Clinton's views on climate and energy issues. More details about her specific positions and policy areas not discussed will be unveiled in the coming months, the campaign said.

Clinton's unveiling of her big-picture views on renewable energy while visiting Iowa is no accident. The state produces nearly a quarter of the nation's ethanol and is building a growing number of wind farms. Twenty-eight percent of Iowa's power comes from wind, and the state trails only Texas in wind power production. The dominance of renewable energy industries in the state makes it a key political issue, one on which Clinton believes her views align not only with Democrats but with most voters.

In the video, Clinton hints at Republicans who, to varying degrees, deny the existence of climate change while the screen populates with quotes from former Florida Governor Jeb Bush ("I'm a skeptic. I'm not a scientist."), Kentucky Senator Rand Paul ("It's absolutely and utterly untrue.") and Donald Trump ("Hoax"), among others.

“Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying, 'I’m not a scientist,'" Clinton said Sunday while speaking at Iowa State University in Ames, before adding a laugh-line that she also uses in the video. "Well, I’m not a scientist either. I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain."

If elected, Clinton would fight back against Republican efforts to demolish the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, a set of regulations on greenhouse gas emissions expected to be finalized in the coming days or weeks. Those rules and others "set the floor, not the ceiling," the campaign said in its fact sheet, and Clinton would aim to encourage innovation with a Clean Energy Challenge for states, cities and rural communities to get federal support for clean energy programs.

Clinton supports extending and adding to existing tax credits to encourage the production and use of energy from renewable sources, as well as the expansion of the production and use of renewable energy on public lands and in federal buildings.

One concern that contributes to opposition—from Republicans and from some Democrats who represent coal country—to the expansion of the clean energy and the phasing out of the use of coal is what happens to all the people who work in the industry. But, Clinton said Sunday in Ames, she would focus resources on aiding regions already in decline because of the diminishing role of coal. “I will be very clear: I want to do more to help in coal country," she said.

About a dozen orange-shirted members of NextGen Climate Iowa, the state branch of the super-PAC founded and funded by billionaire investor and climate activist Tom Steyer, watched Clinton speak on Sunday and then waited

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in line to pose for a group photo with Clinton. Steyer is using his wealth to support candidates and groups that back his approach to climate change, and has already given the primary maximum $2,700 to Clinton and hosted a fundraiser for her at his San Francisco home.

On Friday, he said that candidates who he supports must have concrete plans for making clean energy at least half the overall power supply generated in the United States by 2030. Steyer is also opposed to the construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Clinton has repeatedly avoided taking a position on whether Keystone should be approved by the Obama administration, saying she wants to let the State Department-led process run its course without her interference. Others running for the Democratic presidential nomination, though, have been more clear, going right for the liberal activist base that has rallied against the project in what's become a symbolic fight for both sides. Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley both say they're opposed to the pipeline and have attacked Clinton for not doing the same.

“I have helped lead the opposition against the Keystone pipeline,” Sanders told reporters earlier this month as Clinton visited Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill. “I don’t believe we should be excavating or transporting some of the dirtiest fuel on this planet. I think Secretary Clinton has not been clear on her views on that issue.”

O'Malley's campaign, meanwhile, prebutted Clinton's Sunday announcement with a memo on "what real climate leadership looks like" that recaps his opposition to Keystone and to offshore and Arctic drilling, as well as his proposals to create millions of jobs by boosting the clean energy industry.

The initial reaction from climate groups to Clinton's framework was positive. "“Secretary Clinton’s spot-on video makes it more clear than ever that she cares deeply about climate change and will make it a top priority throughout her campaign," League of Conservation Voters senior vice president for government affairs Tiernan Sittenfeld said in a statement. "Her goals of getting to 500 million solar panels by 2020 and ensuring that we are producing enough renewable energy to power every home in America in ten years display the kind of leadership we need to ensure that our nation leads the world in building a clean energy economy."

Hillary Clinton Declines to Say Where She Stands on Keystone XL // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton declined Monday to weigh in on the Obama administration’s ongoing deliberations over the Keystone XL oil pipeline, avoiding an issue that has become a litmus test for climate activists.

After launching the first part of her agenda aimed at combating climate change, the former secretary of state told reporters in Iowa she “will refrain from commenting [on Keystone] because I had a leading role in getting that process started and we have to let it run its course.”

Clinton said that during her time as President Barack Obama's top diplomat, she “put together a very thorough, deliberative, evidence-based process to evaluate the environmental impact” of the proposed pipeline, which would run from Alberta, Canada, to Nebraska.

Before launching her presidential campaign, Clinton refused to comment on the pipeline permit approval process, saying she didn't want to preempt or influence the process. Monday was the first time she’d been asked since entering the race in April.

Other candidates running for the Democratic nomination have seized on Clinton’s caution and attacked her for refusing to take a definitive stance.

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“I have helped lead the opposition against the Keystone pipeline,” Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders said earlier this month as Clinton visited Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill. “I don’t believe we should be excavating or transporting some of the dirtiest fuel on this planet. I think Secretary Clinton has not been clear on her views on that issue.”

Minutes after Clinton spoke Monday, Democratic presidential candidate and former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's campaign criticized Clinton for what it described as a lack of leadership. “Governor O'Malley is opposed to the Keystone XL pipeline because we can't move to a clean energy future if we continue to rely on dirty, short-term fossil fuel fixes,” deputy campaign manager Lis Smith said in a statement. “Real leadership is about forging public opinion on issues like Keystone—not following it. Every Democrat should follow his lead and take a stand to commit to ending our reliance on fossil fuels.”

Clinton acknowledged that the pipeline is a politicized issue and stressed that she is in a unique position.

“No other presidential candidate was secretary of state when this process started,” she said.

Hillary Clinton sets renewable energy goals to spur more wind, solar power // Reuters // Alana Wise - July 26, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called on Sunday for a dramatic national shift to energy sources such as solar and wind, setting a goal of generating enough clean renewable energy to power every U.S. home within a decade after she takes office.

Clinton, the front-runner for her party's 2016 presidential nomination, also pledged to have more than half a billion solar panels installed nationwide within four years of taking office.

"I want more wind, more solar, more advanced biofuels, more energy efficiency," Clinton said at a rally on Sunday in Ames, Iowa. "And I’ve got to tell you, people who argue against this are just not paying attention."

The two goals, announced in a video on Sunday night, were the first elements of what Clinton said would be a comprehensive climate-change agenda to be released over the next few months.

Clinton has been under pressure from Democratic presidential rival Senator Bernie Sanders, a self-styled socialist who has called for swift action on climate change, and environmental activists anxious to see her spell out details of a climate plan.

Her campaign said the goals would lead to a 700 percent increase in the nation's installed solar capacity from current levels, and eventually could lead to the generation of at least one third of all electricity from renewable sources.

Clinton also called for extending federal clean energy tax incentives and making them more cost effective. In Ames, Clinton said she would continue the wind production tax credit and recalibrate other tax incentives that are "too heavily weighted ... toward fossil fuels."

Clinton also said she would fight efforts to roll back President Barack Obama's executive actions to curb carbon

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emissions from power plants. She said the actions could build a "clean energy economy" that would bolster growth.

"If we start addressing it, we're going to actually be creating jobs and new businesses," she said.

Clinton will discuss the proposals on Monday at an energy-efficient transit station in Iowa, the state that kicks off the 2016 presidential nominating race and is a leading wind energy producer.

Clinton praised Iowa for promoting wind energy and advanced biofuels, and for establishing state tax rebates for installing solar panels in homes and businesses.

She criticized Republicans who are reluctant to say climate change is a man-made phenomenon.

"They will answer any question about climate change by saying: 'I'm not a scientist.' Well, I'm not a scientist either. I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain and I know we're facing a huge problem," Clinton said.

Clinton vows to boost U.S. clean energy use in response to climate change // Reuters // Alana Wise – July 27, 2015

U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Monday described climate change as "one of most urgent threats of our time" and vowed to meet the challenge with a plan to generate enough clean energy to power every U.S. home by 2027.

The Democratic front-runner compared fighting climate change to the race to put an American on the moon by the end of the 1960s.

"The next decade will be as decisive for climate change as the decade for getting to the moon was for space exploration," Clinton said at a campaign stop in Iowa, which will hold the first presidential nominating contest in February.

"Sea levels are rising, ice caps are melting, storms, wildfires and extreme weather are wreaking havoc. This is one of most urgent threats of our time and we have no choice but to rise and meet it," said Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in the November 2016 election.

Clinton promised to have more than half a billion solar panels installed nationwide within four years if she makes it to the White House.

The former secretary of state has been under pressure from Democratic presidential rival Senator Bernie Sanders, a self-described socialist who has called for swift action on climate change, and environmental activists anxious to see her spell out details of a climate plan.

She vowed to "stop the giveaways to big oil companies" and to defend President Barack Obama's plan to reduce emissions from power plants, which is hitting the coal industry.

More details of Clinton's climate change agenda will be released over the next few months.

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The Republican National Committee said Clinton's energy policies were vague and aimed at distracting attention from the controversy of her use of a private email account while she ran the State Department.

"Hillary Clinton's energy 'plan' is to raise more taxes and double down on President Obama's EPA overreach, which held down wages and cost American jobs. Clinton avoided specifics and refused to take a position on important job-creating energy projects like the Keystone pipeline, reminding voters why they think she's untrustworthy," said RNC spokesman Michael Short.

Hillary Clinton pushes renewable energy with focus on solar // CNN // Dan Merica – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton pledged Sunday that as president she would put the United States on a path toward generating enough renewable energy to power every home in the country by 2027 - ten years after she would hypothetically take office.

In a video posted to her campaign website, Clinton knocked Republicans for refusing "to accept the settled science of climate change" and cast her push as a fight for children and grandchildren.

"I am just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain and I know what is happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially my granddaughters," Clinton said, using a line she often delivers at campaign events. "You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all. You just have to be willing to act."

The video - titled "Stand for Reality" - featured a slate of quotes from Republicans on climate change, including when former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush told Esquire Magazine in 2009, "I'm a skeptic. I'm not a scientist." The slate also included quotes from Sens. Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and Rand Paul.

"You don't have to be a scientist to accept scientific evidence," Clinton tweeted. "Climate change is real and we must act. -H."

Clinton's plan focuses largely on residential power usage and is buoyed by a focus on solar. By the end of her hypothetical first term as president, Clinton promised that the United States would have more than 500 million solar panels installed across the country.

The presidential candidate also stressed building an energy grid more focused on renewable energy, particularly solar, by the end of the decade. According to a fact sheet circulated by Clinton's campaign, a Clinton presidency would hope to increase output of solar energy by 700% by the end of the decade.

On Monday, Clinton will expand on her clean energy push in Iowa when she tours that LEED Platinum certified Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) Central Station.

Clinton's said he plan would incentivize investment in renewables by increasing the number of government grants for clean energy, extending federal clean energy tax incentives and expanding renewable energy on public lands.

"The decisions we make in the next decade can make all of this possible. Or, they can keep us trapped in the past," Clinton says in the video. "We cannot wait any longer. It is time we stand for healthier climate, stand for cleaner air, for science, for innovation, for our children. For reality, for the future."

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The former secretary of state's clean energy pitch comes at a time where many Democrats are focused on climate change, particularly the need to decrease the use of fossil fuels. According to the World Bank, over 85% of U.S. energy consumption came from fossil fuels.

Clinton was confronted by climate change protestors at a town hall earlier this month in New Hampshire. The former secretary of state was first asked a "yes or no" question about banning the extraction of fossil fuels from public grounds. Clinton did not give the protestors the answer they wanted, telling them she would not ban the practice until alternatives were in place.

According to the fact sheet, Clinton does not rule out using federal land for fossil fuel development, but says that she would ensure "taxpayers get a fair deal for development on public lands, and that areas that are too sensitive for energy production are taken off the table."

Some of Clinton's top supporters have also been outspoken on the need for 2016 Democrats to tackle climate change.

Tom Steyer, a hedge fund billionaire and the head of NextGen Climate, a non-profit focused on climate change, issued an open letter on Friday that called for all 2016 Democrats to "lay out a clear and concrete plan to achieve at least 50 percent clean or carbon-free energy by 2030."

"Whether or not candidates make this commitment will be a critical factor for Americans who are deciding what candidates to support at polls," wrote Steyer, who has already hosted a fundraiser for Clinton at his home in California.

An aide to Steyer tells CNN that Clinton's energy proposal meets the standard the environmentalist outlined last week.

Clinton's campaign claimed Sunday that their plan matches the Steyer pledge, but a supportive statement from the environmentalist did not outright say Clinton's plan met his standards.

He did call the plan "an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy," adding that Clinton "emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country's economic security" due to the proposal.

Campaign aides stressed that Sunday's announcement was their opening salvo, not their entire clean energy platform, and Clinton herself said in the video that she will lay out her entire platform "over the next few months."

But other 2016 Democrats were quick to pounce on Clinton's proposal.

In a memo titled, "What Real Climate Leadership Looks Like," Lis Smith, Martin O'Malley's deputy campaign manager, stressed that the former Maryland governor outlined his clean energy plan last month and has backed up his plan with "action, not just words."

"Eschewing the piecemeal, poll-tested 'all of the above' energy strategies of the past, O'Malley has made clear that he will use the full force of his executive power to make the transition to a clean energy future the number one priority of our federal government," Smith wrote.

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Despite the critics, Clinton's plans was met with warm regard from environmental groups.

Tiernan Sittenfeld, an executive for the League of Conservation Voters Action Fund, called Clinton's video "spot on" and said it proved Clinton "will make it a top priority throughout her campaign."

"This," Sittenfeld sad, "underscores Secretary Clinton's longtime commitment to confronting the climate crisis."

Here is Hillary Clinton's climate plan // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton will roll out a comprehensive climate and energy policy proposal Monday that would dramatically increase the country's use of renewable energy.

Clinton's plan, which she will unveil at an energy efficient transit hub in Iowa, will promise to create enough clean renewable energy to power every home in the U.S. within 10 years of Clinton taking office.

That includes a 700% increase in solar panel installation by the end of her hypothetical first term, for a total of half a billion installed solar panels. Clinton will also call for a rapid expansion of power generation capacity from wind, hydro, geothermal, and other renewable sources.

The former secretary of state will also propose incentives for the technological development of solar and other sources through a number of partnerships and competitions. For instance, she would create a "Solar x-prize" for communities that make it easier to install roof-top panels. And she would create new tax incentives and competitive grants to encourage states and the private sector to invest in clean energy.

She will also call for improvements to the electrical grid, expanding renewable energy production on public lands and increase federal R&D funding.

"I am setting some really high goals that we are going to meet when I am president," Clinton said in Ames, Iowa Sunday.

Clinton's plan would also adopt a proposal known as "Deep Decarbonization Pathways," an international partnership of high-emitting countries that works to find ways to transition industrial countries to low-carbon economies.

"The decisions we make in the next decade can make all of this possible or they can keep us trapped in the past," Clinton said in a video posted to her website previewing the plan. "We cannot wait any longer."

In the video, Clinton also goes after Republicans, listing quotes from top GOP presidential candidates casting doubt on the science of climate change.

Billionaire Clinton donor Tom Steyer, who funds his own climate group and is pushing Democrats to be more aggressive on global warming, called Clinton's plan an "ambitious framework" and said it made her "a strong leader in solving the climate crisis."

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Democratic rival Martin O'Malley has already rolled out a plan that he promise would transition the country 100% renewable energy, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders often says climate change is a top priority.

Hillary Clinton Calls Out GOP Climate Change Deniers in New 'Stand With Reality' Video // ABC // Liz Kreutz - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton today attacked the Republican presidential contenders who deny "the settled science of climate change" and laid out two renewable power goals in a new video that outlines part of her plan to tackle global warming.

"It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change, who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are," Clinton narrates over a graphic that shows quotes from Republican presidential candidates, including Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, and Donald Trump.

"You don't have to be scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all. You just have to be willing to act," she continues.

By contrast, in the video -- titled "Stand with Reality" -- Clinton calls herself "just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain" who knows that "what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially on my granddaughter."

Clinton then lays out two national goals that she would implement "on day one as president."

The first pledge: to have more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of her first term. And the second: to have the U.S. generate enough clean renewable energy to power every home in America within 10 years.

"The decisions we make in the next decade can make all of this possible, or they can keep us trapped in the past," Clinton says. "We cannot wait any longer."

On the campaign trail, Clinton repeatedly calls for a "global fight against climate change," which she says is "one of the defining threats of our time." The video, which was posted to her campaign website Sunday night, however, is the first time the Democratic presidential candidate has laid out specific policy proposals on how she would plan to tackle the issue should she become president.

While Revealing Climate Plan, Clinton Mum on Keystone // ABC // Andrew Rafferty – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton pledged Monday to make America "the world's clean energy superpower," but said her former role as secretary of state prevents her from weighing in on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, even as her Democratic opponents stand in firm opposition to it.

"No other presidential candidate was secretary of state when this process started," Clinton told reporters in Iowa after laying out her plans to combat climate change.

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"I'm confident that the pipeline's impact on global greenhouse gas emissions will be a major factor in that decision, as the president has said," Clinton added. "So I will refrain from commenting because I had a leading role in getting that process started."

Clinton has refrained from commenting on the pipeline's construction in the past, and her remarks Monday seemed to be a definitive indication that she will not weigh in until the final Obama administration review is complete.

Democratic presidential candidates Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders have been open about their opposition to the pipeline that would bring oil from Canadian tar sands to the Gulf Coast.

"Real leadership is about forging public opinion on issues like Keystone -- not following it," O'Malley deputy campaign manager Lis Smith said.

Republicans presidential candidates have called for its construction, saying the pipeline will help create jobs and promote energy independence.

In her speech, Clinton laid out two goals she would begin working on her first day as president -- install more than half a billion solar panels across the country by the end of her first term and have the U.S. generate enough clean energy to power every home in America in the next ten years.

Clinton's attempts to elevate the issue of climate change in the 2016 election allow her to create a clear distinction with her GOP opponents who have denied or questioned the threat of climate change. A video released by her campaign ahead of the speech featured quotes from a number of her top Republican White House hopefuls expressing skepticism or denial about the existence of global warming.

"I refuse to let those who are deniers, who disagree with what we need to do, to rip away all the progress we have made and leave our country exposed to the most severe consequences of climate change," Clinton said. "America needs to lead this fight, not go MIA."

Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short said Clinton's energy agenda is "to raise more taxes and double down on President Obama's EPA overreach," and slammed her for not taking a stance on Keystone.

Hillary Clinton Says Climate Plan Will Promote Renewables // NBC // July 26, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton planned to unveil a plan Sunday aimed at combating climate change that includes revisions in the tax code to promote renewable energy.

In Iowa, the nation's second-leading wind energy producer, Clinton said people are "just not paying attention" if they don't acknowledge climate change.

Clinton said she supported renewing the wind energy tax credit and getting other tax incentives "fixed" to promote renewable fuel.

Though Clinton hinted that under her plan the coal industry would face changes, she said the federal government would help the industry.

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Climate change has become a key issue in the Democratic presidential primary, where Clinton is the heavy favorite. Billionaire Tom Steyer has led an effort to promote the issue. Steyer hosted a fundraiser for Clinton in May.

"We can make a transition over time from a fossil fuel economy, predominantly, to a clean renewable energy economy, predominantly," Clinton said later during an event at a central Iowa rural home.

Changes in the tax code aimed at promoting renewable energy and transitioning away from coal is a tricky political position in key places in the country. Southeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania, states that have been pivotal in recent elections, remain the home of key coal-producing areas.

Clinton was making her comments at Iowa State University in Ames and later in Carroll.

Clinton said she planned to post the plan on her campaign website at 7 p.m. EDT, and explain it in more detail during an event Monday in Des Moines.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, also seeking the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, noted Sunday that he unveiled a climate change plan in Iowa. Campaign aides to O'Malley said that as governor, he made climate change a top priority, doubled Maryland's renewable fuel production, and reduced greenhouse gases by 10 percent during his two terms.

Clinton sets goals for solar panels, clean energy // CBS // Rebecca Kaplan and Hannah Fraser-Chanpong – July 27, 2015

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton announced Sunday that her plans to combat climate change as president include installing more than half a billion solar panels across the U.S. by the end of her first term and generating enough clean renewable energy to power every home in America within 10 years of taking office.

Clinton, the frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic nomination, announced the goals in a video released by her campaign Sunday evening. Her campaign said the two initiatives were part of a comprehensive energy and climate agenda she'll lay out over the next several months.

"Future generations will look back and think 'what were we thinking, how could we possibly be so irresponsible?' " Clinton says as the narrator of a video that features images of children, wildlife, and images associated with energy production. "I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and brain and I know what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially on my granddaughter."

The video also takes direct aim at the Republican presidential candidates for statements skeptical of climate change. Clinton speaks, the video shows quotes from candidates including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush ("I'm a skeptic. I'm not a scientist"), Florida Sen. Marco Rubio ("I'm not a scientist") and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz ("There's been no warming whatsoever") and other candidates.

"It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are," Clinton says. "You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all, you just have to be wiling to act."

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Clinton argues that increasing the use of wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and other renewable energy will help prevent as many as 3,000 premature deaths and 700,000 asthma attacks each year.

Expanding the installation of solar panels across the U.S. would increase the current capacity to 140 gigawatts by the end of 2020, a 700 percent increase her campaign said. It would be like having rooftop solar systems on 25 million houses across the country.

A fact sheet released by the campaign offered a number of federal government initiatives Clinton would implement to help reach the goals, including partnerships with states, cities and rural communities that are leading on clean energy, competitive grants to states that exceed federal carbon pollution standards, awards for communities that make it easier and cheaper to install rooftop solar systems, strengthening grid reliability and resilience, and making it easier to get low-cost renewable energy to market.

She is also promising to talk about plans to reduce oil consumption in the U.S. and around the world, improve the safety and security of the existing energy infrastructure, make fossil fuel production safer, and protect the health and retirement security of former coal workers and their families.

At an event in Iowa Sunday, Clinton said those who don't acknowledge the existence of climate change are "just not paying attention." Iowa is the second-largest producer of wind-generated electricity in the nation, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Clinton's plan follows one laid out by another Democratic candidate, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, which promises to end the country's reliance on fossil fuels entirely by 2050 and to double American energy efficiency within 15 years. O'Malley promises an entire nation powered by renewable energy within the 35 years, as opposed to Clinton's pledge to power every home with renewable energy in 10 years.

Though Clinton has not revealed the full extent of her policies to address climate change, O'Malley said he would deny permits for drilling off the coasts of Alaska and Antarctic and promises not to build the Keystone XL pipeline. Clinton has not yet said what she would do about the pipeline.

Clinton's biggest challenger for the Democratic nomination, Independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, regularly talks about climate change in his stump speech, describing dire weather conditions created by the warming of the planet. He has not yet laid out a formal plan to combat climate change, although last month he introduced legislation which would provide $200 million in loans and grants for solar panels on public housing and low-income family homes.

Hillary Clinton Focuses On Renewable Energy In Climate Change Plan // HuffPo // Marina Fang - July 26, 2015

In an ambitious climate change plan, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton pledged to make sure every American home is powered by renewable energy by 2027 if elected president and install half a billion solar panels around the country before the end of her first term.

Her campaign released a copy of the plan Sunday evening. Clinton spoke about climate change at two campaign events in Iowa earlier in the day, telling supporters that climate change deniers are “just not paying attention.”

"Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying, 'I’m not a scientist.' Well, I’m not a scientist either. I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain," she said.

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Clinton's proposal also calls for promoting tax credits to incentivize a push toward renewable energy and away from coal.

"We can make a transition over time from a fossil fuel economy, predominantly, to a clean renewable energy economy, predominantly," she said on Sunday.

Clinton plans to address these proposals in more detail at an event on Monday, according to her campaign. The plan is a preview of more specific policy positions that she will announce in the coming months, which will include a Clean Energy Challenge involving competitive grants for states and municipalities to develop and implement renewable energy solutions.

On Sunday evening, environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters quickly issued statements applauding Clinton's plan.

Climate change activist Tom Steyer endorsed Clinton's plan in a statement, calling her "a strong leader in solving the climate crisis."

"I look forward to other candidates laying out aggressive plans to tackle climate change head-on. It's time for all leaders to acknowledge the problem our country faces and engage in a robust debate about the best way to tackle climate change and build a clean energy economy," he said.

The billionaire founder of NextGen Climate, who hosted a Clinton fundraiser at his San Francisco home in May, called for all of the presidential candidates to develop concrete plans to increase clean energy usage. Steyer said last Friday that he would not support candidates without such proposals.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D), one of Clinton's challengers in the race, unveiled a climate change plan last month. Responding to Clinton, his campaign noted Sunday that as governor of Maryland, he doubled the state's renewable fuel production and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent.

O'Malley and fellow Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) have also been outspoken against the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, while Clinton has largely avoided the issue.

Hillary Clinton Pledges to Install 500 Million Solar Panels If Voted President // TIME // Helen Regan - July 26, 2015

"We are on the cusp of a new era"

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Sunday made tackling climate change one of her key goals were she to enter the White House, pledging to have more than half a billion solar panels installed nationwide by the end of her first term in office.

Clinton also called for a major increase in other renewable energy sources, saying she wants every U.S. home to be powered by clean energy within a decade, reports Reuters.

"I want more wind, more solar, more advanced biofuels, more energy efficiency," she said at a weekend rally in Iowa. "And I've got to tell you, people who argue against this are just not paying attention."

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The two goals were unveiled in a video posted to Clinton's campaign website Sunday, and are part of a comprehensive agenda on climate change that will be laid out over the next few months.

"We are on the cusp of a new era," she said in the campaign video. "We can have more choice in the energy we consume and produce."

According to the former Secretary of State's campaign, her climate change agenda will increase output of solar energy by 700% by the end of the decade.

On Monday, the presidential candidate will explain her clean energy plan in more detail at a tour of an energy-efficient transit station in Des Moines, Iowa.

Hillary Clinton sticks to safe ground on climate // Vox // Jonathan Allen – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton unveiled a proposal to combat climate change last night, and it appears to be in the pragmatic Clintonian space of sticking to safe ground. Rather than trying to outdo her Democratic rivals, Clinton's plan seems designed to allow her to contrast with Republicans who either don't acknowledge the reality of climate change or aren't really ready to do anything about it. As Seema Mehta and Evan Halper of the LA Times report, Clinton says her approach would put the US on a path to have all homes and businesses powered by renewable energy by 2027 — a goal her campaign frames as both light on details and far short of where environmentalists would like her to be.

The Clinton package is incomplete, however. Unlike her rivals in the Democratic presidential contest, Clinton has yet to take a position on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which would transport oil from the Canadian tar sands to Gulf Coast ports. She also has yet to weigh in on a campaign to ban hydraulic fracturing nationwide, or to take a firm position on offshore oil drilling.

The proposal Clinton released Sunday for boosting solar installations by 700% is vague on details about how it would be funded.

Clinton continues to enjoy a commanding lead among Democratic primary voters. She seems unconcerned by the more detailed and aggressive proposals offered by challengers within her party.

Vox's Brad Plumer writes that Clinton's goal involves a 700 percent increase in solar power between now and 2020 — and concludes that it's possible to achieve that level.

US solar capacity grew 418 percent between 2010 and 2014 (it was starting from a small base). So 700 percent growth between 2014 and 2020 is at least within the realm of possibility. But it would require additional policy changes — and clean energy prices would have to keep dropping.

Hillary Clinton is calling for a 700% increase in solar power. Is that realistic? // Vox // Brad Plumer - July 26, 2015

In the coming months, Hillary Clinton's campaign is planning to release a series of proposals for dealing with global warming. Her first installment is out Sunday evening, and it calls for a major increase in renewable power.

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Specifically, she's proposing to boost the amount of wind, solar, and other renewables so that they provide 33 percent of America's electricity by 2027 — enough to power every home in the country:

Let's put this in perspective. Renewable energy currently supplies just 13 percent of America's electricity, with hydropower providing 6 percent, wind power providing 4.4 percent, and the rest coming from biomass, geothermal, and solar.

Without new policies, the government expects that fraction to rise to 16 percent by 2027. If you add on President Obama's forthcoming Clean Power Plan — an EPA program to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions from power plants — then renewables are projected to grow to 25 percent of US electricity by 2027.

Clinton is proposing to bump that up even further, to 33 percent. One key question is how.

Clinton's plan calls for a 700% increase in solar power

Part of her plan would involve continuing the rapid growth of solar panel installations nationwide. In her proposal, Clinton calls for US solar power to grow 700 percent from current levels:

That sounds like a big number, but it's not implausible. After all, US solar capacity grew 418 percent between 2010 and 2014, so 700 percent growth by 2027 is at least within the realm of possibility. It would require the right policies in place (and for solar prices to keep dropping).

On that score, Clinton's campaign offered a number of policy proposals for boosting renewables:

-- First, if elected president, Clinton would veto any attempts by Republicans in Congress to scrap Obama's Clean Power Plan. This is mostly a defensive maneuver.

-- Second, she'd push to extend the federal tax credits for wind and solar that are scheduled to expire soon. (The 30 percent tax credit for residential solar systems is set to disappear in 2016.) This is a key step, but it would depend entirely on Congress. It's not something Clinton could ever do on her own. And note many lawmakers would prefer to let these tax credits sunset, so this proposal is hardly guaranteed.

-- Third, Clinton wants to set up a "Clean Energy Challenge" that would gives states and localities incentives to go even further than the carbon standards the EPA is putting out. The campaign says it will offer more details on this in the coming weeks and months. One component? A "Solar X-prize" that would reward communities that figured out how to cut red tape and speed up solar installation times.

-- Clinton also has a smattering of proposals to boost public investment in clean energy R&D, in transmission lines, and in renewable installation on public lands.

-- Finally, Clinton calls for aid to coal communities that will inevitably suffer if coal continues to decline in favor of cleaner energy sources. No details on this yet, but her campaign notes that the government should "provide economic opportunities for those that kept the lights on and factories running for more than a century." (Note that the Obama administration has proposed a $3 billion aid package for coal communities, but few members of Congress seem interested for now.)

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How ambitious is Clinton's renewables goal? It depends how you look at it.

If the US actually managed to get 33 percent of its electricity from renewables in 2027 and we kept most of our nuclear plants running (which currently supply another 19 percent), then the country would be getting roughly half its electricity from zero-carbon sources.

That would obviously be a major shift from where we are today. It's also in line with the "50% clean energy by 2030" goal that green activist and billionaire Tom Steyer is demanding candidates get behind.

On the other hand, this isn't, by itself, a comprehensive climate plan. Electricity only accounts for 38 percent of US carbon-dioxide emissions. Other major sources include transportation (i.e., cars, trucks, and planes that burn oil), industrial processes (i.e., cement plants or chemical plants that use coal or gas), homes and buildings that use natural gas for heating, and so on:

So boosting renewable electricity is only one part of the picture here. We'll see what else Clinton ends up proposing.

Could the US electric grid handle that much wind and solar?

This is another big question about Clinton's proposal. As wind and solar expand, US grid operators will face challenges integrating all these intermittent sources of electricity. After all, the sun isn't always blowing and the wind isn't always shining.

This is a little hard to answer, just because it would depend on the precise mix of renewables, where the growth in wind and solar occurred, whether utility regulators made certain policy changes, and so forth.

But for context, my colleague David Roberts has written an excellent series on the challenges that wind and solar pose to the grid. Part one looks at the hassles of dealing with intermittent renewables. Part two looks at how solar and wind start to face severe economic limitations past a certain point (and Clinton's stated goals would put wind and solar within striking distance of those levels). And part three looks at potential market reforms that could ease these constraints. Definitely read that series if you haven't already.

Hillary Clinton's Climate-Change Plan Is Anything But Comprehensive // TNR // Rebecca Leber – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton has unveiled a plan for tackling climate change—or, more accurately, part of a plan, with the promise of additional announcements in the coming months. The Democratic presidential frontrunner detailed a plank of her environmental platform on her website Sunday night, for making the United States "the world's clean energy superpower." But on fossil fuels, where environmentalists have remained the most skeptical of her intentions, Clinton's plans remain vague.

Clinton announced two ambitious goals:

"Have more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of Hillary's first term"—a 700 percent increase in solar capacity that would power 25 million homes.

"Generate enough renewable energy to power every home in America within 10 years of Hillary taking office," which would require expanding renewables (wind, solar, geothermal, and hydropower) enough to power 33

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percent of the U.S. electricity sector by 2027, up from just 13 percent today.

Campaign chair John Podesta, a former White House senior adviser on climate change, characterized the plan as historic. "Her proposals provide incentives for businesses and individuals to gain access to renewable energy and lower their monthly bills," he wrote Monday. "It pairs national action with a commitment to provide more resources to the groundswell of states and cities that are taking innovative actions above and beyond federal policies."

The League of Conservation Voters and Democratic billionaire donor Tom Steyer both praised Clinton's announcement, but she hasn't satisfied all environmentalists' demands for a comprehensive climate action plan. Clinton hasn't said where she stands on the Keystone XL pipeline, tar sands oil extraction, natural gas, fracking, and Arctic drilling. Surely, Clinton's position on these areas will be more controversial than her targets for clean energy. Climate Hawks Vote said in a statement that "Clinton's climate plan is remarkable for what it does't say, yet: no effort to keep fossil fuels in the ground, no price on carbon; no word on Keystone XL, Arctic oil, or other carbon bombs; no word on fracking; no call for adaptation."

But by releasing a plan for clean energy, Clinton has achieved two things.

First, it helps to blunt environmentalists' criticism of Clinton for her relative silence on the issue. Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley has a plan to achieve 100 percent renewable electricity by 2050—what "real climate leadership looks like," his campaign declared in a memo to reporters before Clinton's announcement. Senator Bernie Sanders hasn't announced a climate change plan yet, but has supported bills for rooftop solar, opposes Keystone, and overall has (by at least one count) the best environmental record of any senator.

Second, Clinton has answered Steyer's challenge. On Friday, the green donor set his first expectation for candidates wanting his support in the 2016 election, requiring that they first lay out a plan to reach at least 50 percent renewables in the electricity sector by 2030. The Clinton campaign noted on Twitter that it passed Steyer's test, if you count existing nuclear energy, at 19 percent. Steyer's campaign arm NextGen Climate counts nuclear in its 50 percent tally:

And Steyer is satisfied with Clinton's answer, for now. 'Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country's economic security," he said in a statement. "Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs—and in the coming months we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change."

But Clinton's climate plan can't ignore more difficult questions on how much to rely on fossil fuels during the transition to cleaner power. As Vox's Brad Plumer notes, electricity accounts for 38 percent of U.S. carbon emissions—transportation, buildings powered by gas, industry, and more make up the rest. There's also methane, a particularly potent emission that is on the rise in agriculture, landfills, and the oil and gas sectors.

Until she rolls out the rest of her climate platform, Clinton's still vulnerable to criticism from progressive environmentalists. Friends of the Earth spokesperson Ben Schreiber said that "while it is great that Secretary Clinton has recognized the importance of renewable energy, the reality is that her plan will not lead to the transformation that we desperately need. If we are going to avoid the worst impacts of climate change we are going to need an Apollo program for renewable energy, not just the corporate stimulus that Secretary Clinton has offered."

Hillary Clinton unveils climate change policy // LA Times // Evan Halper and Seema Mehta – July 27, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton sought to position herself as a crusader against climate change Sunday by unveiling some

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robust goals, even as she continued to avoid some of the more contentious battles around global warming.

Clinton announced that she will push to vastly expand the number of solar panels installed in the United States, as well as to boost overall renewable energy to the point that it will be able to fuel all homes and businesses by 2027.

The proposals reflect Clinton's commitment to continuing the path on climate change set by President Obama, who champions numerous policies that bolster renewables and push a reduction in fossil fuel consumption.

The Clinton package is incomplete, however. Unlike her rivals in the Democratic presidential contest, Clinton has yet to take a position on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which would transport oil from the Canadian tar sands to Gulf Coast ports. She also has yet to weigh in on a campaign to ban hydraulic fracturing nationwide, or to take a firm position on offshore oil drilling.

The proposal Clinton released Sunday for boosting solar installations by 700% is vague on details about how it would be funded.

Clinton continues to enjoy a commanding lead among Democratic primary voters. She seems unconcerned by the more detailed and aggressive proposals offered by challengers within her party.

Clinton's plan, which campaign officials said is just the first part of a larger platform that will be rolled out gradually, appeared to be aimed squarely at distinguishing her from Republicans.

In a campaign video detailing her plan, Clinton said, "It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change, who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are."

As Clinton speaks in the video, quotes from GOP candidates expressing skepticism that global warming is a real threat appear on the screen. Climate change has proved a challenging issue for Republican politicians, many of whom are critical of energy policies aimed at curbing it.

Polls show that most voters believe climate change is a real threat and they want action taken. But voters also rarely cite it as their top concern.

Hillary Clinton draws contrast with Republicans as she lays out economic plan

Hillary Clinton draws contrast with Republicans as she lays out economic plan

Regardless, the issue works well for Clinton as she campaigns in Iowa, a leader in wind production. The industry's rapid expansion here has been made possible in large part because of federal tax credits.

At a rally before about 400 people in Ames, Clinton cited the wind turbines sprouting on farms across the state.

She voiced her support for continuing the wind production credit, saying the nation's tax code is weighted too heavily in favor of fossil fuels rather than renewable energy.

Continuation of such incentives is cited in the brief fact sheet the Clinton campaign distributed Sunday night. It also included programs to award states that are the most aggressive on renewable energy with more federal

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funding, a reduction in red tape that inhibits the expansion of solar energy and policy changes that would make solar power affordable for low-income households.

At the center of this part of Clinton's energy agenda is a policy recently implemented by Obama. Clinton vows to be a protector of the Clean Power Plan, which puts strict limits on the amount of greenhouse gases power plants can release. Several states have gone to court seeking to block enforcement of the new rules.

Clinton also praised coal miners' contributions to economic growth, a tacit acknowledgment that the shift toward clean energy is viewed skeptically by communities reliant on coal for their livelihoods. Many of those areas, including in battleground states like Ohio, are home to conservative white Democrats crucial to Clinton's White House hopes.

"It's important that we help them transition to a new economy," she said. "I want to do more to help people in coal country and other parts of our nation that are not enjoying the kind of growth and development and prosperity we're seeing in a place like Story County," where the rally was taking place.

Some environmentalists are uneasy with Clinton's approach so far to climate change. They would like to have seen her work as secretary of State to scuttle the Keystone project. Her relationships with donors and advisors connected to large fossil fuel companies make them anxious. And her support during her 2008 presidential run for "clean coal" as a viable, green alternative has not been forgotten.

At a town hall event in New Hampshire this month, an activist with 350.org pushed her to commit to banning fossil fuel extraction on public land. Clinton declined to do so, saying such energy production is necessary to keep the economy moving until there are enough alternatives in place.

Hillary Clinton Refuses to Take a Position on the Keystone Pipeline // Mother Jones // Tim McDonnell – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton took a strong stance on clean energy Monday, telling a crowd in Des Moines, Iowa, that her efforts to tackle climate change would parallel President John F. Kennedy's call to action during the space race in the 1960s.

"I want to get the country back to setting big ambitious goals," Clinton said. "I want us to get back into the future business, and one of the best ways we can do that is to be absolutely ready to address the challenge of climate change and make it work to our advantage economically."

Her remarks tracked closely with an ambitious plan her campaign released Sunday night, which set a target of producing enough renewable energy to power all the nation's homes and businesses by 2027.

"America's ability to lead the world on this issue hinges on our ability to act ourselves," she said. "I refuse to turn my back on what is one of the greatest threats and greatest opportunities America faces."

"I think it's bogus," said Bill McKibben. "The more she tries to duck the question, the more the whole thing smells."

Still, the Democractic front-runner refused—as she has several times before—to say whether or not she supports construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. That project, which would carry crude oil from Canada's tar sands to refineries and ports in the United States, is seen by many environmentalists as a blemish on President Barack

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Obama's climate record. It has been stalled for years in a lengthy State Department review that began when Clinton was still Secretary of State. The Obama administration has resisted several recent attempts by Congress to force Keystone's approval, but it has yet to make a final decision on the project—although one is expected sometime this year.

"I will refrain from commenting [on Keystone XL], because I had a leading role in getting that process started, and we have to let it run its course," Clinton said, in response to a question from an audience member.

Her non-position on Keystone earned derision from environmentalist Bill McKibben, whose organization 350.org has been at the forefront of opposition to the pipeline.

"I think it's bogus," he said in an email. "Look, the notion that she can't talk about it because the State Dept. is still working on it makes no sense. By that test, she shouldn't be talking about Benghazi or Iran or anything else either. The more she tries to duck the question, the more the whole thing smells."

Clinton also punted on an audience request to reveal further details of how exactly she would finance the renewable energy targets she announced yesterday, which aim even higher than those already put in place by Obama. She reiterated that one key step would be to ensure the extension of federal tax credits for wind and solar energy that have expired or are set to expire over the next few years. And she said that she would continue Obama's practice of pursuing aggressive climate policies from within the White House, saying that "we still have a lot we can do" without waiting for a recalcitrant Congress to act.

Clinton acknowledged that the clean energy boom would come at a cost for the US coal industry, which is already in steep decline. She said she would "guarantee that coal miners and their families get the benefits they've earned," but didn't elaborate on what she meant or how specifically she would achieve that.

Environmental groups offered a generally positive reaction to Clinton's policy announcement Sunday. In a statement, League of Conservation Voters vice president Tiernan Sittenfield commended her for "calling out climate change deniers and effectively illustrating the urgent need to act on a defining issue of our time." She also earned praise from billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer, who has set a high bar on climate action for any candidate who wants to tap his millions.

"I refuse to let those who are deniers to rip away all the progress we've made and leave our country exposed to climate change," Clinton said.

Hillary Clinton Just Went Big on Clean Energy. That Was the Easy Part. // Slate // Josh Voorhees – July 27, 2015

At long last, Hillary Clinton has finally given the climate crowd something to get excited about. On Sunday the Democratic hopeful unveiled the first specific plank of what she is promising will be a comprehensive plan to address global warming. Clinton's bold-faced goals are something to behold: Installing more than half a billion solar panels in the United States by the end of her first term, and generating enough clean energy to power every home in the country within a decade of taking office.

Her energy proposal won't be enough to completely win over climate hawks, who have been skeptical of her environmental bona fides—but it's a solid start. Climate activists have long demanded that the next president go further than President Obama, and Clinton's proposal would do just that. In addition to protecting the historic climate rules being implemented by Obama's Environmental Protection Agency, Clinton is pledging to boost solar, wind, and other renewables to the point where they provide 33 percent of the country's electricity by 2027. Obama, meanwhile, has put the country on the path to reach about 25 percent by that same year.

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Exactly how Clinton would get us to her goal remains unclear. But the broad brushstrokes suggest she'd rely heavily on tax incentives to spur the growth of renewables—particularly solar, which she says would see a 700 percent increase in U.S. capacity under her plan. At the center of her proposal is what her campaign has dubbed the Clean Energy Challenge, which would include: grants and "other market-based incentives" to encourage states to go above and beyond the actions required by federal law; a boost to federal investment in clean energy R&D; and an expansion of renewable production on public lands. She's also expected to push to extend current federal tax credits for solar and wind that are set to expire soon. Clinton's campaign pegs the estimated cost of the entire plan at about $60 billion over 10 years, which would be offset by eliminating tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

"We need to get the incentives fixed in our tax system, which as you know are too heavily weighted toward fossil fuels," Clinton said Sunday while campaigning in central Iowa ahead of her more formal climate rollout on Monday in Des Moines.

My colleague Eric Holthaus will have much more on the policy specifics and how they stack up against the plans already put forth by Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley in a bit. But on the strictly political side of the equation, it's clear that Clinton's proposal is clever. She's telling Americans what she'll add—rooftop solar for more than 25 million homes!—without having to address the more politically fraught conversation of what she's willing to subtract. Notably missing from the policy rollout was any mention of blocking Keystone XL, the controversial pipeline that has become a high-profile litmus test for the climate crowd, or a pledge to curb fossil fuel extraction on public lands.

Clinton's got a ways to go before fully captivating the climate hawks. The four-page fact sheet released by her campaign offered only vague promises that her climate policy planks will ensure "that fossil fuel production taking place today is safe and responsible, that taxpayers get a fair deal for development on public lands, and that areas that are too sensitive for energy production are taken off the table." Until Clinton fills in the blanks on just what is "safe and responsible" and what isn't, the issue will remain a red flag for Team Green, particularly given Clinton's previous comments suggesting a much more moderate, let's-not-move-too-fast approach to issues of drilling and mining. "Hillary Clinton is half the way there," climate activist Bill McKibben said in a statement Monday that made it clear he and his allies will be watching for Clinton to weigh in on offshore drilling in the Arctic and coal mining in the Powder River Basin.

For now, though, Clinton has seized some much-needed momentum on an issue she's had problems with in the past. Not incidentally: Her clean energy proposal appears to pass the clean energy litmus test unveiled late last week by Tom Steyer, the billionaire environmentalist who is expected to spend tens of millions of dollars through his super PAC in the 2016 election.

How does Hillary's climate change plan compare to Martin O'Malley's? // CS Monitor // Gretel Kauffman – July 27, 2015

Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton revealed her initial plan for addressing climate change while campaigning in Iowa on Sunday, saying that those who don't acknowledge the issue are "just not paying attention."

"This is not complicated, folks," Ms. Clinton said, speaking to a crowd of more than 200 people at Iowa State University. "I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain. And I know we're facing a huge problem."

To tackle the problem, Clinton proposes, through tax incentives, to increase the amount of power derived from renewable sources such as wind and solar.

Recommended: Climate change: Is your opinion informed by science? Take our quiz!

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"We need to get the incentives fixed in our tax system which as you know are too heavily weighted toward fossil fuels," Clinton said.

The former Secretary of State also implied that her plans would impose changes on the coal industry. She credited coal mine workers for having "created an industrial revolution" and stated that "it is important that we help them transition to a new economy."

In a video released Sunday night, Clinton named two national goals that she will set if elected president. The first is to have more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of her first term. The second is that, within a decade, the United States will generate enough clean, renewable energy to power every home in within its borders.

"The decisions we make in the next decade can make all of this possible, or they can keep us trapped in the past," Clinton says in the video. "We cannot wait any longer."

Clinton plans to outline her plan in greater detail on Monday.

In response to Clinton's proposals, fellow 2016 Democratic contender Martin O'Malley called attention to his plan, which he says addresses not only consumer energy use, but also industry and transportation.

In Mr. O'Malley's plan, announced just over a month ago, the former Maryland governor said that "a moral obligation to future generations to act immediately and aggressively" required us to transition to a fully clean energy economy by 2050.

In his white paper, O'Malley argued that the transition to 100 percent clean energy is the biggest job-creation opportunity the country has seen in a century. He proposes creating a "Clean Energy Jobs Corps" which will work with local communities on energy-saving projects.

He criticized the "all-of-the-above" energy policy used by the White House, stating: "We can't meet the climate challenge with an all-of-the above energy strategy, or from drilling off our coasts, or from building pipelines that bring oil from tar sands in Canada."

O'Malley plans to seek a cap on carbon emissions from all fossil fuel sources, and use proceeds from federal permits to help lower- and middle-class families with job transition assistance. He also said that he would reject projects such as the Keystone XL pipeline.

During his two terms as governor of Maryland, O'Malley doubled Maryland's renewable fuel production, and reduced the state's greenhouse gases by 10 percent.

"The fact is, there is no either/or choice between our prosperity and protecting our planet — we can create a future where there are more jobs, and a future with a livable climate," O'Malley wrote in an op-ed for USA Today. "And there is no future for humankind without a livable climate."

Hillary Clinton has big plans for solar power. Are they achievable? // CS Monitor // David J. Unger – July 27, 2015

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Hillary Clinton sees your plans for a clean-energy future and raises you a few hundred-million solar panels.

The Democratic presidential frontrunner rolled out an ambitious plan late Sunday to decarbonize the US power sector, the first of what her campaign says will be a series of energy and climate policy announcements.

Although light on details, Mrs. Clinton's plan sets high targets for renewable energy deployment and goes further than energy policies put in place by President Obama – the first occupant of the Oval Office to take direct executive action on climate change. The plan is an attempt to fend off critics from the left who say the former secretary of state has been slow make climate a part of her campaign. It also puts Clinton in stark contrast to Republican candidates, the majority of whom either avoid discussing mainstream climate science or dismiss it outright.

Recommended: Climate change: Is your opinion informed by science? Take our quiz!

"I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I know what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter, and especially on my granddaughter," Clinton says in a video unveiling the climate plan. "It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change – who would rather remind us 'they're not scientists' than listen to those who are."

The US will install more than a billion solar panels by 2020, according to Clinton's plan, raising total installed capacity from today's 21 gigawatts to 140 gigawatts. That represents a 700 percent increase over four years. As Vox's Brad Plumer points out, that's a big number, but not entirely implausible. Between 2010 and 2014, solar capacity grew by 418 percent, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

The plan also calls for the US to generate enough renewables to power every US home by 2027. That equates roughly to generating a third of US electricity from wind, solar, and other renewable sources – up from 13 percent today. It also goes beyond the 25 percent of electricity generation from renewables that is projected to come with President Obama's proposed Clean Power Plan. That plan, which would regulate carbon emissions from US power plants for the first time in the nation's history, is being challenged in Congress and in court. If elected president, Clinton says she will defend the plan from its critics.

"The Clean Power Plan is a crucial tool in our national strategy to reduce carbon pollution, level the playing field for and increase the deployment of renewable energy, and build a clean energy future," the campaign's fact sheet reads. "But smart federal standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further."

Deep-pocketed environmentalist donors are expected to play a large role in this election cycle. Billionaire investor and climate activist Tom Steyer has urged presidential candidates to adopt a target of generating half of US power from carbon-free sources by 2030. Clinton's plan would bring her platform in line with that target or potentially exceed it, assuming nuclear generation remains flat or even grows.

The plan is expected to cost around $60 billion, according to a campaign spokesman, to be offset by eliminating tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

The question, then, is whether or not Clinton's vision is both technically feasible and politically viable. Most analysts suggest that a significant decarbonization of US energy supply over the coming decades would be challenging, but certainly within the realm of possibility. The technology for carbon-free power generation already exists – it's a matter of deploying those technologies and ensuring they work in harmony to create a stable grid.

Indeed, "it is technically feasible to achieve an 80% greenhouse gas reduction below 1990 levels by 2050 in the United States," according to a joint study released last fall by the consultancy Energy and Environmental

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Economics, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The study outlines several different pathways to meet that target that rely on different generation mixes and estimates the incremental cost of such an endeavor to be less than 1 percent of US GDP.

It's harder to say whether or not such a plan is politically viable. Cap-and-trade bills that would put a price on carbon have been largely a non-starter in Congress, and executive actions are vulnerable to legal and Congressional challenges. But there are some signs that public support for climate policies is growing, which could shift how presidential candidates view the issue. Forty-six percent of Americans say that global warming is a serious problem, according to a June survey by Pew Research Center. That's an increase of 13 percentage points from spring of 2013.

Hillary Clinton Still Won't Talk About Keystone // National Journal // Clare Foran – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton has started to roll out what her campaign calls an ambitious agenda to tackle the threat of global warming.

But she still refuses to take a stand on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

The pipeline, which has been under review by the administration for more than six years, has become a flashpoint in a contentious national debate over global warming and the future of American energy security. Environmentalists oppose the project and view Clinton's silence as frustrating and alarming.

At an event in Iowa on Monday, Clinton was asked by a reporter if she would take a position on the pipeline now that she has officially entered the race as a 2016 White House contender.

Clinton sidestepped the question by saying that the State Department review of the pipeline should be allowed to play out, suggesting that her tenure as secretary of State when the review began disqualified her from weighing in.

"I will refrain from commenting because I had a leading role in getting that process started and I think that we have to let it run its course," Clinton said, adding that she is confident that Keystone's impact on global warming will be "a major factor" in the administration's determination of whether or not the pipeline is in the national interest.

Since leaving the State Department, Clinton has repeatedly declined to say if she thinks the pipeline should be built. But now that her campaign has started to outline an official climate agenda, environmentalists are hoping that the 2016 Democratic front-runner will break her silence.

Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, Clinton's Democratic opponents on the Left, both vocally oppose the construction of the pipeline. But weighing in on Keystone would put Clinton in a tough spot. Environmentalists protest the project but labor unions, a major source of Democratic backing, say that its construction would create jobs. For now, Clinton looks intent on keeping quiet.

The Clinton campaign outlined a series of first steps to ramp up renewable energy on Sunday evening and rolled out a video in which Clinton warned that action must be taken now to fight back against the problem of Earth's rapidly rising temperatures.

That announcement avoided any mention of the pipeline as well as other controversial issues, such as whether Clinton would support drilling off the Arctic coast.

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Bill McKibben, the founder of grassroots environmental group 350.org , called on Clinton to say what she thinks about Keystone on Monday before her remarks in Iowa.

"Now, we need Clinton to show she understands the other half of the climate-change equation—and prove she has the courage to stand up against fossil fuel projects like offshore and Arctic drilling, coal leasing in the Powder River basin, and the Keystone XL pipeline."

Clinton indicated that she would build on President Obama's use of executive action to fight climate change, but added that she believes she may also be able to convince Congress to work with her.

"We still have a lot [that we can do] without getting congressional support," Clinton said, adding: "Making this a central issue in my campaign, I hope, will give me the momentum to be able to go to the Congress and say look, cease fire. We need to make the transition, and we can do it and save money at the same time, and create millions of new jobs and businesses that will be to the benefit of our country.

"As president, I'll do everything I can to lead us toward that clean-energy future," Clinton said.

Here's How Hillary Clinton Wants to Fight Global Warming // National Journal // Ben Beman and Clare Foran - July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton began the closely watched rollout of her energy-and-climate platform Sunday evening by announcing goals that would greatly expand the deployment of renewable power in the coming years.

However, the announcement does not address a suite of controversial topics, including whether Clinton supports the Keystone XL pipeline and whether she would allow oil drilling in Arctic waters.

But the Clinton campaign emphasized that Sunday's proposal is just part of a broader climate-and-energy agenda that will unfold in the coming months.

Clinton's plan calls for more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of her first term, and having the U.S. generate enough renewable energy to power every home within a decade of the start of a Clinton presidency.

Achieving the goals would mean expanding the amount of installed solar-energy generating capacity by 700 percent from current levels by the end of 2020, and adding more green-power generation capacity to the electric grid than any other decade in U.S. history, according to a summary of the plan.

According to the Clinton campaign, the clean energy agenda outlined on Sunday would meet the test that environmental mega donor Tom Steyer laid out last week when he called on all candidates to put forward a plan to ramp up renewable and carbon-free energy so that it accounts for more than half of all power generation by 2030.

Brian Fallon, a Clinton campaign spokesman, said on Twitter: "Clinton's goal translates to 33% of electricity by 2027. Counting nuclear, as Steyer does, she exceeds his 50% goal."

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Steyer was quick to praise Clinton while making clear that he hopes to see the 2016 Democratic frontrunner outline additional actions she will take to fight global warming.

"Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis," Steyer said in a statement, adding: "we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change."

The campaign unveiled the clean-energy pledge by releasing a video and outline of the plan Sunday evening.

"Future generations will look back and wonder: What were we thinking? How could we possibly be so irresponsible?" Clinton's voice intones during the video. "I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I know what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially on my granddaughter."

"You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all; you just have to be willing to act," Clinton adds.

“Exactly what I need as a busy college student."Samantha, StudentSign up form for the newsletter

Sunday's rollout is a pivotal political moment in Clinton's relationship to environmentalists, including the more-progressive wing of the movement that has questioned her green bona fides.

Some environmentalists are dubious about Clinton's commitment to powerfully confronting global warming and fossil fuels. The more lefty and aggressive sectors of the green movement, such as Vermont activist Bill McKibben, note her lack of a Keystone position.

And Clinton has applauded the economic benefits of the nation's fracking-fueled oil and natural-gas boom, and the lower carbon emissions of gas compared to coal, while calling for "smart" regulations.

The summary of her plan does not touch on where she may seek to allow or bar development, promising only future information on the topic.

There will be a major initiative, the campaign said, on ways to "ensure that fossil fuel production taking place today is safe and responsible, that taxpayers get a fair deal for development on public lands, and that areas that are too sensitive for energy production are taken off the table."

Steps to achieve the renewable power goals announced on Sunday include protecting the Obama administration's carbon-emissions standards for power plants, according to the Clinton campaign, as well as new initiatives. That means, a "new partnership with states, cities, and rural communities that are ready to lead on clean energy." This work would include grants and "market-based" incentives to help states cut carbon beyond the standards Obama is imposing and accelerate green-energy deployment.

The campaign says Clinton, if elected, would pursue a wide-ranging set of initiatives to expand deployment of renewable energy, such as removing barriers to transmission and fighting to extend green energy tax credits on Capitol Hill, and expanding renewables development on federal lands and buildings, among other steps.

Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, has vowed that Clinton would make climate change and clean energy

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major themes of her race for the White House.

Subsequent announcements will address issues such as reducing oil consumption in the U.S. and around the world, guarding against supply disruptions, and modernizing energy infrastructure, the campaign said.

On the heels of Sunday night's announcement, Clinton will tour and give a speech on energy and climate Monday at the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Central Station, which has a "platinum" certification in the U.S. Green Building Council's rating system.

Two other contenders for the Democratic nod are appealing to progressive voters with aggressive climate proposals and records of their own.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has been gaining in the polls and attracting large crowds, has sponsored legislation to impose a tax on carbon emissions.

Sanders also is a longtime opponent of the Keystone XL pipeline and has endorsed the movement among some universities, churches, foundations, and other institutional investors to dump their holdings in coal and oil-and-gas companies.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, another Keystone foe, unveiled a broad plan in June. It proposes a mandate to require that all of the nation's electricity come from renewable sources by 2050, while expanding EPA's carbon emissions rules for power plants to cover other large pollution sources and rejecting any expansion of offshore drilling, among other measures.

O'Malley, saddled with very low polling numbers, sought to promote his plan ahead of Clinton's announcement Sunday.

"Eschewing the piecemeal, poll-tested, 'all of the above' energy strategies of the past, O'Malley has made clear that he will use the full force of his executive power to make the transition to a clean energy future the Number 1 priority of our federal government," his campaign said.

Clinton, in her Senate career before becoming secretary of State, drew high marks from the League of Conservation Voters, which carefully tracks lawmakers' votes on a suite of environmental and energy matters.

She scored an 82 percent record for her career, though her numbers were dragged down somewhat by missing a number of votes while running for president eight years ago.

Coal group slams Clinton energy plan as a 'dog and pony climate show' // The Hill // Devin Henry – July 27, 2015

A coal industry group slammed Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s climate change plan as a “dog and pony climate show” on Monday, indicating she could find as little support among fossil fuel interests as President Obama has during his term.

“We are disappointed Mrs. Clinton would continue the dog and pony climate show of the current administration instead of protecting the best interests of consumers and our economy,” said American Coalition for Clean Coal

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Electricity spokeswoman Laura Sheehan.

“As a purported advocate of everyday Americans, Mrs. Clinton must look beyond political ideology and pursue an energy platform acknowledging the fundamental role coal-based electricity has and will play in keeping the lights on and allowing consumers to reach their full potential.”

Clinton released the first plank of her climate change platform on Sunday night, saying she would look to install 500 million solar panels by the end of her first term and ensure there is enough renewable energy to power all American homes within 10 years of taking office.

Her campaign said she will look to use tax incentives to expand renewable energy and preserve the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan, a proposed rule that will look to cut carbon emissions at power plants.

Coal interests deeply oppose the rule, which could lead to fewer coal-fired power plants around the United States. Industry executives and labor groups alike have opposed the Obama administration’s climate agenda, worrying it will hurt the industry and raise energy prices.

“If Mrs. Clinton is serious about keeping Americans out of poverty and protecting our economy, she’ll pursue a commonsense energy platform that includes the role of affordable and reliable coal-based electricity,” Sheehan said.

In a fact sheet about her climate plan, the Clinton campaign said she would look to provide economic support to coal workers displaced by declining demand.

“Even as we face the threat of climate change head on, we cannot close our eyes to the challenges facing hard-working families in coal country, who kept our lights on and our factories running for more than a century,” she said at a Monday speech in Iowa.

“We should guarantee that coal miners and their families get the benefits they’ve earned and the respect they deserve.”

Clinton dodges Keystone question // The Hill // Timothy Cama – July 27, 2015

Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton still won’t take a position on the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline.

During an Iowa speech on climate change Monday, Clinton refused to weigh in on the project. She argued that because she served as President Obama's secretary of State when the pipeline was under consideration, it would be inappropriate for her to comment.

“No other presidential candidate was secretary of state when this process started, and I put together a very thorough, deliberative, evidence-based process to evaluate the environmental impact and other considerations of Keystone,” Clinton said at the Des Moines event.

“So I will refrain from commenting, because I had a leading role in getting that process started, and I think that we have to let it run its course,” she continued.

Clinton's comments are likely to further infuriate environmentalists, who have criticized her for years for avoiding the project’s controversy and declining to weigh in on oil drilling, hydraulic fracturing or other

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environmental measures.

Late Sunday, Clinton released the first piece of her climate platform, setting goals for solar power and renewable energy installation if she takes the White House.

Environmentalists applauded the goals as a good first step, but also say she should provide more detail on what she would do to tackle climate change.

For nearly seven years, the Obama administration has been taking various steps to evaluate TransCanada Corp.'s application to build the Keystone pipeline, which would run from Alberta, Canada to the Gulf Coast.

Since the pipeline would cross the Canadian border, Clinton took a leading role in the evaluation up until 2013, a role Secretary of State John Kerry is now responsible for.

She used the Monday speech to talk further about her climate plan, saying, "America needs to lead this fight, not go MIA."

Clinton also said she would roll back tax incentives that help the oil industry and use them to help clean energy industries.

But she dodged a question on whether she would seek to impose a tax on carbon dioxide emissions, saying she would outline later how she'd propose to pay for the expansion of renewable energy sources.

Clinton sets climate, renewable power goals // The Hill // Timothy Cama – July 26, 2015

Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton late Sunday unveiled a set of goals to expand the use of renewable energy and solar power specifically as part of an effort to fight climate change.

As president, Clinton would try to reach a level of 500 million solar panels installed throughout the country, an eightfold increase over the current capacity, by the end of her first term in January 2021.

She would also aim to expand renewable power sources to the level that they could provide enough electricity for every United States home by 2027, 10 years after she would take office.

Clinton pledged to outline more about her energy and climate platform in the coming months.

Those goals, along with a video posted late Sunday, should start to answer frustrated environmentalists, who have been calling for Clinton to take a stand on various green issues since long before she declared her candidacy for president in April.

In the video, Clinton called the goals "ambitious" and took an opportunity to criticize her Republican opponents.

"Future generations will look back and wonder 'what were we thinking? How could we possibly be so irresponsible,' " Clinton says in the video.

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“It’s hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change, who would rather remind us they’re not scientists than listen to those who are,” she says, referring indirectly to presidential hopefuls, such as Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), who have declared themselves not to be scientists.

“You don’t have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all,” Clinton says. “You just have to be willing to act.”

Clinton also promised Sunday to defend President Obama’s landmark carbon dioxide limits for power plants, along with other smaller actions.

Greens have started to rally around Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) as the Democratic nominee, citing his leadership role on many of their priorities, such as opposing the Keystone XL pipeline, a project on which Clinton has still not taken a position.

In addition to Keystone, Sunday’s announcement doesn’t confront Clinton’s past positions on oil drilling or hydraulic fracturing, which have been among greens’ top gripes with her.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley (D) has also been in front of Clinton on climate, saying in June that he would push for all of the country’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2050.

It’s unclear if Clinton’s goals would align with the demands of billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer, who has pledged to donate only to candidates whose climate platforms would lead to half of the country’s electricity coming from renewables by 2030.

Hillary Clinton outlines climate change plan // Washington Examiner // Zack Colman – July 17, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton laid out a climate plan Sunday that aim to get half of all electricity generated in the United States from zero-carbon sources within 10 years.

Under the plan, Clinton said one-third of power a decade after taking the White House — were she to win the presidency — would come from renewable sources, enough to power every U.S. home. Once combined with existing nuclear power, which doesn't emit carbon, more than half of the nation's electricity would come from zero-emitting sources.

The strategy comes on the heels of pressure from Democratic rivals seeking the White House bid who have darted to the ex-secretary of state's left on climate change. It also comes after billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer prodded candidates Friday to offer detailed plans to get at least half of the nation's power from energy sources that don't emit greenhouse gases.

Shooting for that 50 percent mark underscores the Steyer's rising profile in the Democratic politics along with how central climate change has become for the party as a potential wedge issue with Republicans — only one GOP candidate so far has endorsed scientists' findings that humans are largely the cause of a warming planet.

"Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country's economic security. Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy

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economy that will create millions of jobs — and in the coming months we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change," Steyer said in a statement through his super PAC, NextGen Climate Action.

Steyer already has hosted a fundraiser for Clinton. He hasn't yet said publicly how much he wants to spend in 2016, though it's expected to surpass the $57 million Steyer spent on the 2014 election. Meanwhile, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and ex-Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley have competed for a slice of the liberal environmental base that was a key voting bloc for President Obama in part by touting climate and energy policies sought by the Democratic Party's progressive wing.

Progressives have continued to press Clinton for more details about her climate strategy and have been wary of her credentials, citing her resistance to comment on whether she'd OK the Keystone XL oil sands pipeline. Clinton has said she doesn't think it would be proper to comment on the Canada-to-Texas project because she presided over its application while at Foggy Bottom.

Clinton's team said she would "make it a top priority to fight efforts to roll back the Clean Power Plan," the signature Obama administration climate regulation that's due to be finalized this summer. A growing number of states have signaled they won't comply with the regulation, which seeks to limit carbon emissions from power plants, and it's been in congressional Republican crosshairs for months.

The Clinton campaign also said it would prioritize investment in electric transmission infrastructure, push to extend clean energy tax credits while making them "more cost effective," and try to link up half a billion homes with solar power by the end of a prospective first term, increasing total solar capacity by 700 percent, up to 140 gigawatts.

The strategy also calls for increasing renewable energy production on federal land and expanding clean energy investment in rural communities.

Clinton also looked to shore up support from the Democratic Party's centrists by saying any climate push should include a plan for ensuring coal communities don't fall by the wayside — a plan for which the campaign said would come at a later date. Much of the opposition to Obama's climate agenda comes from coal-heavy states, as they say regulations will put people out of business.

Other parts of Clinton's energy platform will be coming in the ensuing month, her team said. Plans for updating energy infrastructure, reducing global oil consumption and for pursuing "safe and responsible production" of fossil fuels are on the docket.

Hillary Clinton talks big on climate change but silent on Keystone XL // Washington Times // S.A. Miller – July 27, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton’s move to cozy up to the party’s environmentalists came up short Monday when she again refused to take a position on the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Mrs. Clinton said that she couldn’t offer an opinion because she helped establish the approval process for the controversial cross-country pipeline when she was President Obama’s secretary of state.

“No other presidential candidate was secretary of state when this process started, and I put together a very thorough, deliberative, evidence-based process to evaluate the environmental impact and other considerations of Keystone,” Mrs. Clinton said at an event in Des Moines, Iowa, where she outlined her plan to fight climate change.

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“I will refrain from commenting, because I had a leading role in getting that process started, and I think that we have to let it run its course,” she said.

U.S. approval of the pipeline has been stymied since Mr. Obama took office.

Environmentalists fiercely oppose the Keystone XL pipeline, which would run from Canada to Nebraska and hook up with existing pipelines to the Gulf Coast, and have made opposition to it a litmus test for Democratic presidential candidates.

Mrs. Clinton had already come under fire for rolling out a climate change agenda that featured ambitious goals to “decarbonize” America but lacked details about how she would accomplish it.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, who is waging a long-shot bid for Democratic presidential nomination, pounced on Mrs. Clinton.

“Governor O’Malley is opposed to the Keystone XL pipeline because we can’t move to a clean energy future if we continue to rely on dirty, short-term fossil fuel fixes,” said O’Malley campaign manager Lis Smith. “Real leadership is about forging public opinion on issues like Keystone — not following it. Every Democrat should follow his lead and take a stand to commit to ending our reliance on fossil fuels.”

Hillary Clinton’s climate change goals include plan to ‘decarbonize’ America // Washington Times // S.A. Miller - July 26, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton entered the climate change debate Sunday, setting ambitious goals to “decarbonize” America and blasting her Republican rivals for ignoring scientists who warn of a looming disaster from global warming.

Mrs. Clinton announced what she described as the first pillars of a comprehensive energy and climate agenda with a three-minute Web video that presented a montage of scenes of children on playgrounds, farmland and windmills juxtaposed with footage of wildfires, a blazing sun and flood damage.

“I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I know what’s happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter and especially on my granddaughter,” Mrs. Clinton said in her narration for the video.

Mrs. Clinton promised that, if elected president, she would set two goals to fight climate change: increase the number of solar panels by more than 500 million across the country by the end of her first term and set a 10-year goal of generating enough renewable energy to power every single home in America.

Mrs. Clinton’s goals served as her opening bid to satisfy the Democratic Party’s liberal base, which wants a more aggressive effort on climate change and environmentalism than President Obama has been able to muster.

Mrs. Clinton’s liberal opponents for the nomination, most significantly Sen. Bernard Sanders of Vermont, already have staked out tough stances and made the issue a centerpiece of their campaigns.

The campaign manager for Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley responded with a memorandum that did not name Mrs. Clinton but highlighted the former Maryland governor’s long-standing plan to combat

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climate change and make the country 100 percent powered by renewable energy by 2050.

The memo stressed that the climate change issue needed “actions, not just words,” and referenced Mr. O'Malley’s longtime opposition to the Keystone XL cross-country oil pipeline, which is the bane of environmentalists. Mrs. Clinton has not taken a public stand on the pipeline.

Mr. O'Malley has forcefully challenged Mrs. Clinton from the left on a host of issues but has failed to gain traction in the polls, slipping further into the single digits as Mr. Sanders, a self-identified socialist, has gained steam with his own agenda.

The Clinton campaign said the former first lady, senator and secretary of state would discuss more of her plan to increase renewable energy sources and address climate change Monday after a tour at the green-energy certified Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) Central Station in Iowa.

To achieve her goals on climate change, Mrs. Clinton would launch a “clean energy challenge” that forms a partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead on clean energy, according to the campaign.

The challenge will include:

• Competitive grants and other market-based incentives to empower states to enact carbon pollution standards tougher than the federal government’s and accelerate clean energy deployment.

• Awards for communities that successfully cut the red tape that slows rooftop solar installation times and increases costs for businesses and consumers.

• Work with states, cities and rural communities to strengthen grid reliability and resilience, increase consumer choice and improve customer value.

• Expand the Rural Utilities Service and other successful USDA programs to help provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy, not just to rural Americans but to the rest of the country as well.

The campaign said Mrs. Clinton also would fight efforts to roll back the Clean Power Plan, a proposed rule by the Environmental Protection Agency that would cut carbon emissions from power plants and is being challenged in court.

In the video, Mrs. Clinton called out eight Republican presidential candidates for either denying climate change or claiming they couldn’t judge whether climate change exists because they are not scientists.

The screen was filled with the text of quotes from former Sen. Rick Santorum, Sen. Rand Paul, Sen. Marco Rubio, real estate mogul Donald Trump, former Gov. Jeb Bush, former Gov. Rick Perry, Sen. Ted Cruz and Gov. John Kasich.

“It’s hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change. Who would rather remind us they’re not scientists than listen to those who are,” Mrs. Clinton said. “You don’t have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all; you just have to be willing to act.”

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Mrs. Clinton said Republicans were stuck in the past and she was offering leadership for the future and the opportunity to make America a “clean energy superpower,” which is a phrase she has used repeatedly on the campaign trail.

“We’re on the cusp of a new era. We can have more choice in the energy we consume and produce. We can create a more open, efficient and resilient grid that connects us, empowers us — improves our health and benefits us all,” she said in the video. “The decisions we make in the next decade can make all of this possible, or they can keep us trapped in the past. We cannot wait any longer. It’s time we stand for a healthier climate, stand for cleaner air, for science, innovation, for our children, for reality, for the future.”

Hillary Clinton's climate change policy pitch: install half a billion solar panels // Guardian // Suzanne Goldenberg – July 27, 2015

Barack Obama ran for president promising to save the planet. Hillary Clinton is promising to help people save money on their electricity bills.

In the first big reveal of her climate change policy, Clinton said she would install half a billion new solar panels by the end of her first term in the White House, and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country 10 years after her inauguration.

“Not some homes. Not most homes. Every home in America,” she said in a speech on Monday at the main bus terminal in Des Moines.

The Democratic frontrunner for the 2016 presidential nomination cast climate change as one of the most urgent threats of our time – but she was also careful to raise the prospect of freeing Americans from their monthly utility bills as part of the solution.

“I personally believe climate change is a challenge of such magnitude and urgency that we need a president who will set ambitious goals,” Clinton told reporters.

The first such goal articulated by Clinton, set out in a video posted on her campaign website on Sunday night, called for installing half a billion new solar panels in her first term. Clinton set a target of generating 33% of America’s electricity from renewable sources, a more ambitious target than Obama.

But Clinton declined to stake out her position on the big decisions confronting the next president on climate change: Arctic drilling, fracking, oil and gas exports, and the hot button issue for Obama and Clinton, during her time as secretary of state: the future of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

Clinton’s earlier position on Keystone – she said five years ago she was inclined to approve the project – has made her a target of environmental campaigners. She was heckled at an event in New Hampshire earlier this month when she refused to endorse a ban on oil and gas drilling on public lands “until we get alternatives in place”.

She managed to win over some campaigners on Monday, but only somewhat, and she was rebuked by the country’s main coal lobby.

Michael Brune, the Sierra Club’s executive director, said he was “thrilled” with Clinton’s renewable electricity

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goal, and her promise to defend Obama's clean power plan.

But Bill McKibeen, the founder of the 350.org campaign group, said: "Hillary Clinton is half the way there." McKibben said Clinton had made a "credible commitment" to renewable energy, but she could not dodge the difficult decisions ahead on Arctic drilling and coal extraction – let alone the Keystone pipeline . "At the end of the day, growth in renewables doesn't mean enough if we're simultaneously kicking the decarbonization can down the road with more pipelines and more extraction on public lands," McKibben said.

Clinton's reticence did not spare her criticism from the main coal lobby, Americans for Clean Coal Electricity, which said it was disappointed she "would continue the dog and pony climate show of the current administration".

Other campaigners noted Clinton's failure to spell out how she would defend Obama's clean power plant rules – the pillar of his climate change plan – from attacks by Congress and the courts.

She was unclear about how she would would pay for her ambitious climate plan – given a Republican-controlled Congress that has been hostile to funding requests for energy and research.

"A lot of these changes will pay for themselves. There will be front end money needed," she told reporters. "But there are ways of making those investments and getting a big return on those investment that will be to the benefit of the American taxpayer."

But Clinton's first big moment on the environment showed a candidate determined to couch climate change in the populist economic rhetoric of her campaign.

Obama, on the campaign trail, promised to save a "planet in peril", and in the White House proposed climate measures that would save the equivalent in carbon pollution of shuttering multiple coal plants or taking millions of cars off the road.

Clinton in contrast said her plan would result in the equivalent of rooftop solar on 25 million American homes – which was a more populist approach, said Paul Bledsoe, who headed the White House climate change taskforce under Bill Clinton.

"There is a subtle message in here that her renewable energy plan will help consumers break free of utilities while helping to deal with climate change," said Bledsoe. "It is explicitly framed in populist language."

Rooftop solar grew by 76% last year a wave propelled by the plummeting prices of panels and government policy.

However, those pricing policies are under a sustained attack by some two dozen front groups and utility companies operating in 27 states, according to the Energy and Policy Institute.

Hillary Clinton's Solar Pledge: 'Ambitious but Realistic' // US News // Alan Neuhauser – July 27, 2015

A potential center of the U.S. political solar system plans to harness the sun.

Hillary Clinton, former secretary of state and 2016 Democratic presidential hopeful, pledged Sunday to install

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more than 500 million solar panels by the end of her first term and to generate enough renewable energy to power every American home within 10 years of taking office.

The plan, which experts call “ambitious but realistic,” would increase the country’s solar capacity by 700 percent by 2020, potentially allowing the nation to draw a third of its electricity from renewable sources by 2027.

It is the first in a series of expected announcements on energy and climate change this week, according to the Clinton campaign.

"We’re on the cusp of a new era,” Clinton said in a statement on her campaign website announcing the pledge. “We can create a more open, efficient, and resilient grid that connects us, empowers us, improves our health, and benefits us all."

Solar provided less than 1 percent of the electricity generated in the U.S. last year, but its growth has been nothing short of explosive, powered both by falling prices and federal tax incentives. Since 2013, solar markets have expanded by about 36 percent a year. Clinton’s plan would push that up to about 42 percent.

“It’s a lot: The U.S. would have to install about 2.5 times as much solar during her first term as it has in all of its history before that. So that’s a ton of growth,” says Shayle Kann, senior vice president at GTM Research. “That said, the growth rate is more or less in line with what we’re seeing now.”

While solar has dropped in price, and financing vehicles from companies like Solar City allow homeowners to install panels without spending any money upfront, Clinton’s plan ultimately hinges on tax credits and subsidies – one of which, an investment credit for buying and installing solar panels, is set to expire in 2016.

“That’s the biggest challenge,” Kann says. “In Congress, getting anything passed is hard these days. Because the default scenario is expiration, that’s a big lift.”

Republicans, meanwhile, were quick to criticize the approach.

“Hillary Clinton’s energy ‘plan’ is to raise more taxes and double down on President Obama’s EPA overreach, which held down wages and cost American jobs,” Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short said in a statement.

Trade and advocacy groups representing the coal, oil and natural gas sectors – some of the biggest donors in U.S. politics, and traditionally larger contributors to Republican candidates – have rejected or even undermined climate change research. Only one GOP candidate, for example, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, has acknowledged the existence of human-induced global warming, a fact overwhelmingly supported by science.

Clinton’s Sunday announcement, however, likely will not alienate potential industry donors, experts say – at least during the primary as she faces challenges from more liberal candidates such as former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley and Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders.

“This is clearly not going to hurt her with those groups in securing the Democratic nomination, because anything she might say is going to be outflanked by a Sanders or an O’Malley,” says Barry Rabe, a professor at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. “I don’t know that there’s going to be a huge outcry over this.”

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The announcement doesn't exactly rival in ambition President John F. Kennedy's pledge in 1961 to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade. But, Kann, says, "it's a good campaign target. It's ambitious, but it's not outside the realm of possibility."

Why Hillary Clinton could be the solar industry's new best friend // Fortune // Katie Fehrenbacher – July 27, 2015

The presidential candidate is calling for huge growth in the solar sector, and that would require some big federal help.

Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton released an ambitious plan to boost U.S. clean energy and fight climate change. The vision, which also lacked details, called for more than a half billion solar panels, or about 140 gigawatts of solar, to be installed in the U.S. by 2020, and enough clean energy to power all homes by 2027.

But to deliver on her big goals, a federal government under her watch would have to maintain and implement a variety of clean power initiatives that are far from certain. She'd have to extend an important solar tax incentive that is set to shrink the year she would take office, and she'd have to aggressively fight for Obama's highly controversial Clean Power Plan that would cut carbon emissions from power plants.

If she accomplishes these goals she could end up being a massive ally to the solar industry in the U.S. Without these federal policies, the solar sector faces closer growth because the government incentives that have helped to fuel a portion of its rapid growth in recent years are starting to be phased out.

Let's look at the numbers behind Clinton's clean energy plan.

Clinton calls for 140 gigawatts worth of solar panels in the U.S. by 2020, which is a seven-fold increase from the current 21.12 gigawatts, according to data from GTM Research. A gigawatt is about the equivalent energy of a large natural gas plant.

GTM Research analysts predict that with current U.S. policies, there would be just over a three-fold increase to 70 gigawatts of solar panels installed by 2020. That's about half of what Clinton is calling for.

What makes up the difference? One of the main ones is uncertainty around what will happen with the investment tax credit, or the ITC, which delivers a 30% federal tax credit to solar project developers. Bloomberg analyst Jacqueline Lilinshtein describes federal policies like solar tax credits as "the single most important drivers of growth over the past few years."

But the problem is that the federal tax credit is set to decline at the end of 2016, and Clinton would take office at the beginning of 2017. At that point the tax credit is supposed to ramp down to a 10% tax credit.

Many in the solar industry assume that the tax credit will not be renewed, although it has been in the past. The industry's increasing maturity makes congress less likely to intervene with a gradual reduction that has been planned for years.

Will Clinton make it a priority to extend the solar tax break? Well, because she would only take office after it's already expired, she would have to rally congress to re-instate it. In her release she says part of her clean energy

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plan includes:

"Tax Incentives: Fight to extend federal clean energy incentives and make them more cost effective both for taxpayers and clean energy producers."

The CEO of big home solar installer SolarCity, Lyndon Rive, said in an interview that Hillary Clinton is "a leader that understands we have to change." While he's operating his business on the assumption that the tax break will not be extended, he said "it'll be a shame," and "bad policy" if it's phased out.

Rive argued that the fossil fuel industry should be taxed rather than getting a number of breaks, as is the current reality. Polluters should be taxed, he said, while industries that aren't should get benefits.

Beyond the solar tax incentives, there's the Clean Power Plan, the Obama administration's proposal to use the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from the power industry under the Clean Air Act. In essence the EPA, which will be finalizing the rules for the plan later this summer, would regulate carbon emissions the way it does air pollution.

Electric power generation from coal and natural gas plants is responsible for 40% of U.S. carbon emissions. Under the Clean Power Plan, states would have flexibility in how they meet carbon reduction goals. States with large coal industries might want to focus on capturing carbon emissions from the plants. Meanwhile, states with ample sunshine might want to encourage solar industries to set up shop and grow.

But the Clean Power Plan is highly controversial. Critics say it unfairly targets coal industry states and will mean higher energy bills for consumers.

Clinton says in a release that she will make it "a top priority" to fight the efforts to roll back the Clean Power Plan. She calls it a "crucial tool" in the nation's strategy to curb carbon emissions.

While the federal government is a primary driver of clean energy in the U.S., solar is a highly regional industry. California and the U.S. Southwest are the biggest markets in part because of strong state and local incentives.

To help state and local clean energy plans, Clinton says she will establish a "Clean Energy Challenge," which will create better partnerships between the federal governments and states and cities.

Beyond any policies, the U.S. solar industry has grown rapidly in recent years thanks to the dropping costs of solar panels and installation. Bloomberg's Lilinshtein describes solar as having "moved from a niche product to the mainstream" and says that federal subsidies won't necessarily be required in the industry to maintain strong growth.

But delivering the huge growth that Clinton is calling for will likely need these federal subsidies.

Analysts and solar industry execs agree, though, Clinton's numbers aren't all that crazy if helped by strong federal support. SolarCity's Rive says that the plan is "is absolutely achievable." Lilinshtein describes it as "an aggressive target but certainly in the realm of possibility." GTM Research analyst Shayle Kann explains it as "a perfect target: ambitious but possible."

Hillary Clinton just released this bizarre video bashing 'mad scientist' GOP candidates on climate change // Business Insider // Colin Campbell – July 27, 2015

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Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign found a creative way to highlight how her position on climate change contrasts with the GOP field.

Clinton's team released a video on Monday that is reminiscent of old movies like "Frankenstein," featuring clips of Republican candidates questioning the science of climate change.

The video pokes fun at Republicans who, in response to questions about global warming, say that they're not scientists.

"REPUBLICANS REPEAT ONE CHILLING PHRASE," the video declares amid faux-scary music. "FEEL THE TERROR AS THEY DENY ESTABLISHED SCIENCE. ... AND THE SCARIEST PART? ONE OF THESE MAD (NOT A) SCIENTISTS COULD BE PRESIDENT!"

The Republicans included in the ad were former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida), former Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R), Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R), former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania), Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), former Hewlett Packard Carly Fiorina, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R), and real-estate mogul Donald Trump.

In the video, some of the GOP candidates directly expressed doubt that global warming is a human-caused crisis, while others simply said the US alone can't solve the problem.

Clinton gave a speech earlier in the day declaring that climate change is one of the most "urgent threats of our time." She also pledged have more than half a billion solar panels across the country installed by the end of her first term as president.

View her campaign's video below:

Enough renewables to power “every home in America”: Hillary Clinton goes big on green energy // Salon // Lindsay Abrams – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton is not a scientist. She is, as she explains in a new campaign video, “a grandmother with two eyes and a brain” — and, we could add, a need to prove she’s able to lead on climate change.

Sunday evening, the Democratic presidential candidate offered an early indication of how she intends to do that: with a major, ten-year push to boost renewable energy.

On her first day as President, Clinton promised, she’d set two ambitious goals for the U.S.: one, to install more than half a billion solar panels, across the country, by the end of her first term; and two, to be generating enough renewable energy to power every home in America in just ten years’ time.

The goals, as stated, can certainly be characterized as ambitious. Clinton’s vision for solar panels, according to the campaign, would represent a 700 percent increase in solar capacity from its current levels, or the equivalent of adding solar panels to 25 million American homes. And the renewables push she describes, involving a combination of wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and “other forms of renewable energy” would require adding more power capacity to the grid by 2027 than has been accomplished in any previous decade — and would represent a big leap forward from President Obama’s plan of tripling renewable energy production, to 20 percent, by 2030.

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Clinton's yet to come forward with many details for what she's calling her "Clean Energy Challenge." But to begin with, she's doubling down on her support for the EPA's power plant rule, the final version of which is expected to be released soon, and says she's committed to protecting it from "attacks from climate change deniers." She also intends to bolster the green energy industry through the expansion of tax incentives.

The unveiled plan did go relatively easy on the fossil fuel industry: Clinton pledged to "ensure that fossil fuel production taking place today is safe and responsible" and that "areas that are too sensitive for energy production are taken off the table," although she didn't comment specifically on hot button issues like offshore and Arctic drilling, both of which Obama has permitted, and which Democratic primary contenders Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley have vocally opposed. And she's — still — yet to take a stance on the Keystone XL pipeline, which more than anything else would stand as a symbolic indicator of her intent to go all-in on climate action.

But on the climate denial front, she's got the rhetoric down pat. "It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change, who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are," she says in the video. "You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all. You just have to be willing to act."

Hillary Clinton Just Released Her First Major Climate Change Proposals // Mic // Zeeshan Aleem – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton has released the first two major policy proposals for her vision for tackling climate change and ensuring the United States' primacy as the "world's clean energy superpower."

The plan, which she announced through a video released on Sunday, sets forth two enterprising goals. Her first commitment is a pledge to have more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of her first term in office. Her second objective is to power every home in the U.S. with clean renewable energy within a decade of her arrival in the White House.

The Clinton campaign also outlines her plan to form a "Clean Energy Challenge" that would create a network of partnerships between the federal government and states, cities and smaller communities to incentivize investment in renewable energy with grants.

The proposals are only the first of a number of climate policy commitments expected to emerge from Clinton's campaign in the coming months, but already some progressive outfits have responded with cautious optimism to her opening rhetoric.

The plan: Clinton's solar panel agenda would boost the amount of installed solar capacity by 700% by 2020 — the same as "rooftop solar systems on over 25 million homes," according to the campaign.

Her commitment to increasing the amount of renewable energy in the U.S. would double the share of renewables in overall power generation. Currently, renewable energy accounts for about 16% of total power generation in the country; Clinton's 10-year plan would increase that to 33% by 2027. Clinton's camp points out that that's eight percentage points higher than called for under the Obama administration's forthcoming "Clean Power Plan."

In her video announcing the proposals, Clinton takes aim at Republicans who deny climate change and singles out Jeb Bush's comment saying "I'm not a scientist" before describing himself a "skeptic" of global warming.

"It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate

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change — who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are," Clinton says in the video. "You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all, you just have to be willing to act."

The reaction: Clinton's message was received fairly well by a number of players in the climate policy field.

Tom Steyer, the head of NextGen Climate, offered vague but warm encouragement on Clinton's ideas in a statement issued by the Clinton campaign: "Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country's economic security. Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs."

Steyer's opinion carries weight for Democratic candidates: His support is accompanied by vast amounts of cash. Steyer is a former hedge fund manager and was the single biggest public spender in the 2014 elections. According to the New York Times, in order to win the backing of his super PAC, a candidate "must pledge to enact an energy policy that would lead to the generation of half the nation's electricity from renewable or zero-carbon sources by 2030... and 100% from clean sources by 2050." When combined with nuclear energy, Clinton's 10-year plan for growing renewable energy more than meets Steyer's 2030 benchmark, as Clinton press secretary Brian Fallon pointed out on Twitter:

Some other climate policy groups praised Clinton's stance on renewable energy, but emphasized that she has yet to prove her mettle on combating fossil fuels.

"Clinton is half the way there — this is a credible commitment to renewable energy, and a recognition that the economics of electricity are changing fast," 350.org co-founder and climate change activist Bill McKibben said in a statement emailed to Mic. "Now, we need Clinton to show she understands the other half of the climate change equation — and prove she has the courage to stand up against fossil fuel projects like offshore and Arctic drilling, coal leasing in the Powder River basin, and the Keystone XL pipeline. Because at the end of the day, growth in renewables doesn't mean enough if we're simultaneously kicking the decarbonization can down the road with more pipelines and more extraction on public lands."

In the past, Clinton has angered green activists with her work on a variety of climate-related issues. But this time around, it seems like her campaign is off to a decent start on the issue.

In climate change plan, Hillary Clinton makes big bet on solar power // Mashable // Andrew Freedman – July 27, 2015

In a speech in Iowa on Monday, Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton began laying out what she says will be a forward-thinking, "ambitious" set of policy proposals and goals to address the threat of manmade global warming.

She does so as she faces a primary challenge from Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, who both have progressive records on global warming.

Clinton declared two goals, both of which involve a significant ramp up of renewable energy use in the U.S. The first goal is for the country to have "more than half a billion solar panels" installed in the U.S. by the end of Clinton's first term in office, which would be in 2020.

The second goal also centers on solar power, which has been expanding rapidly in recent years as the cost of manufacturing and installing solar panels has plummeted.

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Clinton said she wants the U.S. to generate enough renewable electricity to power every single home in the country within a decade.

These goals, which were first announced on Clinton's campaign website on Sunday night, would involve a 700% increase in installed solar capacity, which is equal to having rooftop solar systems on more than 25 million homes, the Clinton campaign stated in a fact sheet.

The policy proposals, the campaign stated, would put the country on a "deep emission reduction" pathway by the year 2050.

“The reality of climate change is unforgiving no matter what the deniers say,” Clinton said during an appearance at an environmentally-friendly transit station in Des Moines.

Since declaring their candidacy, none of the Republican presidential candidates have voiced support for the scientific consensus on climate change, which is that the world's climate is warming mainly due to manmade emissions of greenhouse gases. Scientists say that this year, in fact, is likely to be the warmest on record.

Clinton pledged to defend President Obama's EPA climate regulations, known as the Clean Power Plan, which is the central component of the current administration's goal of cutting global warming pollutants, such as carbon dioxide, to 26 to 28% below 2005 levels by 2025.

That regulations are under attack in the courts and on Capitol Hill.

“I will defend President Obama’s Clean Power Plan,” she said. “I refuse to let those who are deniers ... to rip away all that we’ve managed to do,” she said.

Clinton also said she would reduce economic incentives, such as tax breaks, for oil production and "extend incentives instead for clean energy."

As secretary of state, Clinton helped lead America's climate negotiations at the Copenhagen Summit in 2009, which failed to produce an ambitious agreement that contained binding emissions reductions worldwide. Many climate activists considered that summit to be a bitter disappointment.

Still, Clinton touts the non-binding Copenhagen Accord as a diplomatic accomplishment on her website.

The Accord, which was the first time that developing nations such as China agreed to take action to reduce their emissions, paved the way for a new climate treaty to be negotiated in Paris this year.

Clinton's record at those climate talks may come back to haunt the U.S. in Paris, however.

In Copenhagen, it was Clinton who rolled out a $100 billion per year Green Climate Fund to help fund emissions reduction efforts and climate adaptation work in developing countries.

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That fund has not yet been fully capitalized, however, and this is a major sticking point as the international community approaches the next crucial round of U.N. climate talks, set for Paris in early December. Many developing countries say that without a working Green Climate Fund, they cannot take potentially painful emissions cuts at home.

In Iowa on Monday, Clinton said the U.S. must lead by example in order to secure climate agreements with other nations. “No country will fall in line just because we tell them to,” she said.

“America needs to lead this fight, not go M.I.A.,” Clinton said.

Clinton has earned the backing of billionaire Tom Steyer, whose group, NextGen Climate Action and a related political action committee, supports candidates who seek to address global warming. Steyer sent an email to reporters lauding Clinton's proposal on Sunday night.

"Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis and ensuring our country’s economic security," Steyer said in a statement. "Clinton laid out an ambitious framework to put our nation on a path to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs — and in the coming months we look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change."

Clinton dodges Keystone question

On the question of whether or not to approve the Keystone-XL Pipeline from Canada to the U.S., however, Clinton refused to take a position when asked about her stance by a reporter on Monday.

The pipeline would move oil from Canada's oil sands region in Alberta south to refineries along the Gulf Coast, where it would be prepared for export.

In dodging the Keystone issue, Clinton cited her involvement in the review process for the pipeline during her time at the State Department. Secretary of State John Kerry and President Obama have yet to make a decision on whether to approve the pipeline, which falls under the State Department's purview since it would cross an international border.

Clinton said she is confident that “The pipeline’s impacts on global greenhouse gas emissions will be a major factor in that decision."

Bill McKibben, the founder of the environmental group 350.org , lauded Clinton's policy proposals on Monday, but criticized her position on Keystone.

"Now, we need Clinton to show she understands the other half of the climate change equation — and prove she has the courage to stand up against fossil fuel projects like offshore and Arctic drilling, coal leasing in the Powder River basin, and the Keystone XL pipeline," he said in a statement.

"... At the end of the day, growth in renewables doesn’t mean enough if we’re simultaneously kicking the decarbonization can down the road with more pipelines and more extraction on public lands,” McKibben said.

Hillary Clinton's Climate Change Video Finally Calls Out Republicans' Bogus "I'm Not A Scientist" Platform //

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Bustle // Lauren Barbato – July 27, 2015

For the next leg of her campaign, Hillary Clinton is taking on climate change. In a video released by her campaign Sunday night, Clinton unveiled her official climate-change position, as well as the policies she intends to put in place if she reaches the White House. So, what is her position on this major 2016 talking point? Well, let's just say Clinton's stance on the validity of science places her more in line with Pope Francis than Jeb Bush.

"I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain," Clinton says in the opening lines of the video. "I know what's happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter, and especially on my granddaughter."

Clinton goes on to attack her Republican foes, including frontrunners like Bush, Donald Trump, Rick Perry and Sen. Marco Rubio, for rejecting climate-change science — or, just science in general — in 2015. More and more, taking a stance against climate change has become a hallmark of the Republican Party, and Clinton wants to make sure none of us forgets it.

"It's hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change," Clinton says. "Who would rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are."

"You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all," Clinton continues."You just have to be willing to act."

So, what is HRC going to do about this climate-change threat? First, she praised the renewable energy industry for preventing premature deaths and asthma attacks, while also creating new jobs for Americans.

But Clinton also put forth a much stronger call to action in her latest video. "On day one as president, I will set two ambitious national goals that will test our capacities," Clinton said.

And her two goals are (drumroll, please):

- ensuring America has more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of 2020
- set a 10-year goal of generating renewable energy that can power "every single home" in the United States

Clinton promised that a "comprehensive agenda" will be released within the next few months, but she did give a few hints while addressing a crowd of supporters in Ames, Iowa, on Sunday. For instance, Clinton said she plans to use tax incentives, including a possible renewable of the wind energy tax credit, to reach her 10-year goal of powering homes in America with renewable energy.

The former secretary of state also talked about transitioning America from fossil fuels to new sources of energy. "We need to get the incentives fixed in our tax system which as you know are too heavily weighted toward fossil fuels," Clinton said Sunday in Iowa.

So far, Clinton's video is a welcome change from much of the climate-change talk we've been hearing this campaign season. While we await Clinton's full agenda, we can at least take comfort in knowing that Clinton has more in common with Pope Francis than Rick "The Pope Is Not A Scientist" Santorum et al.

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Strategies In The Entire Race // Bustle // Kendyl Kearly – July 27, 2015

It's still 2015, but candidates in the 2016 presidential race have already begun to claim the most important issues to their platforms, and hash out large-scale plans for dealing with them. Environmentalism is a huge cause for the major candidates on the left, and two of them have been the first to share large environmental protection agendas. On Sunday evening, Hillary Clinton joined Martin O'Malley in providing climate change plans.

O'Malley shared his ideas for a green presidency back in June, winning Democratic praise for being the first major candidate to do so. The proposal is aggressive and came right after Pope Francis' encyclical that expressed the need to protect the Earth from climate change. Although Clinton and O'Malley have the same goal in mind, their plans to accomplish it have some notable differences.

One of Clinton's largest goals centers around solar energy. She says she will expand the amount of installed solar capacity by 700 percent by 2020. According to her website, she wants more than half a billion panels installed by the end of her first term.

O'Malley also wants clean energy to be a part of his presidency. He advocates for the extension of tax credits that fuel the wind and solar panel industries. He would launch an organization that centers around financing community wind and solar programs. He supports loans and grants for farmers and small business owners that encourage them to adopt clean energy.

Unlike Clinton, O'Malley mentioned the use of biofuels. As president, he would use tax credits and EPA volume targets to build a thriving biofuel industry. Although Clinton has not yet said whether biofuels would be a part of her plan, she supported their use during her 2008 campaign.

O'Malley believes that the way to make his plan sustainable is through training workers to embrace environmentally friendly practices. He wants to create an organization that focuses on clean energy jobs. This organization would theoretically partner with communities, build clean energy infrastructures, make buildings more energy efficient, and expand fields and forests. Clinton mentioned a "Clean Energy Challenge" that would partner with states, cities, and rural communities, but it's unclear now what exactly such a challenge would do for those communities.

Whereas Clinton keeps her agenda related to clean energy, O'Malley addresses job creation and economic issues with his ideas. He has also expressed his disapproval of off-shore drilling and tar sand oil energy, while Clinton has been less clear on such controversial environmental issues.

Their timelines differ as well. O'Malley believes that in 35 years, the country could be 100 percent powered by clean energy. Clinton says that by 2020, renewable energy could be a third of all energy generated. Her other goal is for every American home to be powered by clean energy within 10 years of taking office.

At this point, O'Malley's plan is a lot more specific than Clinton's when it comes to implementation and funding. However, Clinton says she will give more details in the coming months. Though she's given more concrete ideas than most other Democratic candidates, she might face pressure to add more specifics if she wants to compare favorably to O'Malley.

Hillary Clinton's Plan to Combat Climate Change With Half-A-Billion Solar Panels //ThinkProgress // Emily Atkin – July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton is going all in on renewable energy.

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On Sunday evening, the Democratic presidential candidate released a fact sheet detailing her plan to fight climate change, and it focuses heavily on promoting clean energy generation across the country.

Among other things, the plan includes a promise to install half a billion solar panels by 2021, or the end of Clinton's first term. That would represent a 700 percent increase from current installations, she said. Clinton also promised that, if elected, enough renewable energy would be produced to power every home in the country within 10 years.

"We can make a transition over time from a fossil fuel economy, predominantly, to a clean renewable energy economy, predominantly," Clinton said in Iowa on Sunday, Yahoo reported.

The aggressive transition to renewables proposed by Clinton would be achieved partially through extending and strengthening tax breaks those industries, Clinton said. Last week, the Senate proposed renewing two tax incentives for the wind industry, which are currently expired.

Clinton is expected to explain more details of the plan during a Monday event in Des Moines, according to Yahoo's report.

Though Clinton has been outspoken about the need to address climate change, many environmentalists have expressed doubt that her policies would be as strong as they may like. They often point to her historic "inclination" to approve the controversial Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, and her support for domestic fossil fuel production, specifically natural gas.

But tackling climate change has been central to Clinton's campaign so far. In her campaign kick-off speech, she promised to make America "the clean energy superpower of the 21st century" and condemned Republican politicians for willfully ignoring the science behind human-caused warming. Her campaign chairman John Podesta was the architect of President Obama's plan to tackle carbon emissions through regulations, and Clinton has promised to keep those regulations in place "at all costs." As ThinkProgress pointed out in April, Clinton's is the first major presidential campaign ever to make combating climate change a central issue.

That certainly does not mean that Clinton's is the only presidential campaign that's put a hard focus on tackling global warming. Indeed, Democratic contender Martin O'Malley arguably has an even more aggressive climate agenda. His plan is to make the country powered completely by renewable energy by 2050 — meaning no fossil fuel use at all. He has condemned President Obama for approving offshore drilling, supporting domestic oil production, and shying away from bold stances on high-carbon tar sands oil from Canada, which would be transported by the Keystone XL pipeline if it were approved.

"We cannot meet the climate challenge with an all-of-the-above energy strategy, or by drilling off our coasts, or by building pipelines that bring oil from tar sands in Canada," O'Malley wrote in an op-ed published last month.

Clinton's other Democratic rival, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) hasn't released an official climate plan yet. But in an interview with the Washington Post in May, he said he would go further than President Obama has in tackling the problem.

Sanders' plan, he said, "would look like a tax on carbon; a massive investment in solar, wind, geothermal; it would be making sure that every home and building in this country is properly winterized; it would be putting substantial money into rail, both passenger and cargo, so we can move towards breaking our dependency on automobiles. And it would be leading other countries around the world."

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Hillary Clinton proposes installing half a billion solar panels across America by 2020 // Fusion // Rob Wile – July 26, 2015

Hillary Clinton released Sunday the outlines of how she would tackle climate change if elected president, proposing two ambitious goals.

First, she would install half a billion solar panels across America by the end of her first term.

It would represent an approximately 546%-increase from current production levels. The average solar panel produces 200 watts, and current U.S. solar photovoltaic output was 18.3 gigawatts as of January 2015 according to GTM Research.

This would be part of a larger plan to allow every home in the U.S. to be powered by renewable energy within a decade of her taking office. Currently the residential sector consumes 40% of total electricity output in the U.S, and electricity accounts for 40% of all U.S. energy consumption.

She's calling it the "Clean Energy Challenge," and published this chart to show how much renewable energy would be generated compared with proposals set forth in President Obama's Clean Power Plan:

"Through these goals," the campaign says on its website, "we will increase the amount of installed solar capacity by 700% by 2020, expand renewable energy to at least a third of all electricity generation, prevent thousands of premature deaths and tens of thousands of asthma attacks each year, and put our country on a path to achieve deep emission reductions by 2050."

However, she does not propose ending fossil fuel consumption. Instead, she says she wants to, "reduce the amount of oil consumed in the United States and around the world," and to make sure it is being produced in a "safe and responsible."

No further details were provided on these points.

Many GOPers including Marco Rubio have responded to questions about how they'd address climate change with variations on "I'm not a scientist" (that group also includes Jeb Bush, though he also acknowledged that climate change was occurring but that a balance had to be struck between addressing it without incurring major economic costs).

At an Iowa campaign event Sunday, the Wall Street Journal's Colleen McCain Nelson reported, Hillary mocked the "scientist" remarks.

"I'm not a scientist either—I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain…I know that if we start addressing it, we're going to actually be creating jobs and new businesses."

Last week, renowned climate scientist James Hansen issued one of the most dire climate warnings in years, finding that glaciers at both poles are melting 10-times faster than previously believed, the result of a feedback loop of cold water from already-melting glaciers forcing warmer saltwater underneath remaining glaciers.

As a result, the seas are going to rise way faster, and sooner, than anyone is prepared for.

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"We conclude that continued high emissions will make multi-meter sea level rise practically unavoidable and likely to occur this century," he wrote. "Social disruption and economic consequences of such large sea level rise could be devastating. It is not difficult to imagine that conflicts arising from forced migrations and economic collapse might make the planet ungovernable, threatening the fabric of civilization."

We are now just four months away from the Paris Climate Conference, at which countries are supposed to come up with a sweeping agreement to address climate change.

But as Slate climate correspondent Eric Holthaus reports, the policies being floated in advance of the summit would actually lead to 3.1 degrees Celsius-temperature-rise this century, according to Climate Action Tracker, a group of independent climate research organizations, with both the U.S.'s and China's CO2 reduction plans rated as inadequate.

In New Climate Change Plan, Hillary Attacks Republicans For Refusing To Accept 'Settled Science' // Daily Caller // Chuck Ross – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton attacked the Republican presidential field on Sunday for refusing "to accept the settled science of climate change" in a new campaign video that she released along with an outline for "two bold national goals" to increase the use of renewable energy in the U.S.

Clinton's plan calls for a 700 percent increase in the number of solar panels in the U.S. by the year 2020. That would create an output of 140 gigabytes — the equivalent of having solar panel systems installed on the rooftops of 25 million U.S. homes. Along with solar energy, Clinton says she plans to increase the use of hydro, wind, and geothermal all with a goal of creating enough renewable energy to power every U.S. home within ten years.

In a 3-minute video, Clinton criticized Republican candidates for their stances on climate change.

"I'm a skeptic. Not a scientist," reads a quote from Jeb Bush. "I'm not a scientist," reads another from Marco Rubio.

"I may not be a scientist, but I'm a grandmother with two eyes and a brain," Clinton said in an email announcing the video, repeating a line she's used frequently on the campaign trail this week.

According to the outline of Clinton's plan, she will propose a "climate action competition" which will provide competitive grants and provide incentives to "empower states to exceed federal carbon pollution standards." She also plans to set up what she's calling a Solar X-Prize. That will provide awards to communities that find ways to "cut the red tape that slows rooftop installation times and increases costs for businesses and consumers."

In addition to the competitions, Clinton said she will work to extend clean energy tax incentives and to expand the use of renewable energy on federal lands and property. She also called for reducing "the amount of oil consumed in the United States and around the world."

Clinton also stated that she would "protect the health and retirement security" of coalfield workers. The proposed shift toward renewable and clean energy is expected to displace many of those workers.

The plan will "prevent thousands of premature deaths and tens of thousands of asthma attacks each year" while

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helping the U.S. “meet our national and international climate targets,” Clinton claimed.

Glaringly absent from Clinton’s plan is any mention of Keystone XL, the Canadian oil pipeline being blocked by the Obama administration. Clinton has declined to weigh in on whether she thinks that the pipeline should be approved, saying that she is waiting for the State Department to decide whether it will approve. The State Department’s stonewalling has not stopped Clinton’s Democratic competitors from weighing in on the issue, however. Both Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley have said that they oppose the pipeline.

Clinton Announces Energy Plan, Wants to Install A Half-Billion Solar Panels By End Of First Term // IB Times // Sarah Berger – July 27, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said Sunday she doesn't want future generations looking back and us and wondering how we could "possibly be so irresponsible" when it comes to climate change. Clinton, in announcing her climate and energy agenda, made her first goal having more than a half-billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of her first term. Her second goal is to generate enough renewable energy to power every home in America within 10 years of taking office.

“Future generations will look back and wonder what were we thinking. How could we possibly be so irresponsible? ” Clinton said in the opening seconds of a video posted to her website. “I’m just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I know what’s happening in the world is going to have a big effect on my daughter, and especially on my granddaughter.”

In the video, Clinton said the renewable energy industry prevents as many as 70,000 asthma attacks and 3,000 premature deaths each year. Last year, the industry created 50,000 jobs and drove more than $35 billion in investments, according to the video.

“It’s hard to believe there are people running for president who still refuse to accept the settled science of climate change, who’d rather remind us they're not scientists than listen to those who are,” Clinton said in the video. “You don’t have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all. You just have to be willing to act.”

Clinton reinforced her energy plan at a campaign stop in Ames, Iowa, calling for an extension of federal clean energy tax incentives and to make them more cost effective, Reuters reported.

She also has plans to fight back against efforts that attempt to push back President Barack Obama’s executive actions to curb carbon emissions from power plants. Clinton will be talking about her proposals Monday at an energy-efficient transit station Iowa.

Clinton: We can protect planet and add jobs // Des Moines Register // Tony Leys – July 27, 2015

America can combat climate change while expanding its economy, Hillary Clinton told Iowans Sunday.

"I know if we start addressing it, we will actually be creating jobs and new businesses," the Democratic frontrunner for president told about 450 voters gathered at Iowa State University.

Too many people believe steps to protect the planet from global warming would cripple the economy, she said. In fact, she said, clean-energy industries have some of the strongest potential to add jobs. She cited a report that the solar-energy industry now has nearly twice as many workers as the coal industry. The report was based on an

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industry survey that said 174,000 Americans worked in the solar-energy businesses in 2013, compared with 93,000 in coal.

Later Sunday, Clinton released a video on her website in which she pledged to have 500 million solar panels installed within four years and to set a 10-year goal of having enough renewable energy to power every American home.

"This is not complicated, folks," she told her Ames audience, adding a critique of Republicans that has become a stock laugh generator in her campaign appearances: "Those people on the other side, they will answer any question about climate change by saying, 'I'm not a scientist.' Well, I'm not a scientist either. I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain."

She lauded Iowa for obtaining 30 percent of its electricity from wind energy, second only to Texas. That energy comes from the huge turbines that dot the landscape, including many built in Iowa, she noted, to cheers and applause. She also noted that Iowa is growing crops that can be used for fuel, and it has started getting involved in solar businesses.

"The people who argue against this are just not paying attention," she said.

She said the U.S. should use its tax code and other methods to encourage the new industries. At the same time, she said, the country should not turn its back on the people who made their living in older energy industries, especially coal.

"I am grateful, as we all should be, to those men who mined the coal, that created the industrial revolution that turned on the lights that fueled our factories — who lost their lives, who were grievously injured, who developed black lung disease," she said. "They helped build our economy, so it is important that we help them transition to a new economy. I don't want to walk away from anybody that contributed to America."

Later Sunday, at a smaller event at a private home near Carroll, Clinton urged supporters to talk about the possibility of new energy jobs with the same enthusiasm as those looking to stick to sources such as coal.

"People who want to protect the jobs of the past have very loud voices," she said. "We need to elevate our decibel level a little bit, to talk about the jobs in solar, in wind, in advanced biofuels and in energy efficiency."

Global warming tends to be a much bigger concern among Democrats than among Republicans. Other Democratic presidential contenders also are offering plans. For example, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has called for America to be completely powered by renewable energy by 2050.

Clinton's stances drew strong applause in her Sunday appearances. In Ames, Iowa State University graduate student Mathew Bradley, 21, was among several people who wore orange T-shirts touting their membership in the NextGen Climate group. Bradley, who is studying electrical engineering, hopes to gain a job in a new-energy industry.

He was mildly surprised to hear Clinton's claim that nearly twice as many Americans work in the solar industry as work in the coal industry. But he said it's possible, given how mechanized the coal industry has become and how fast the solar industry is growing. "It's such an up-and-coming industry. It makes sense" there would be so many jobs in making and installing solar equipment, he said.

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He said he was undecided on a presidential candidate but was heartened to hear Clinton's words about climate change. "It's nice to hear politicians are interested in what I'm passionate about."

Hillary Clinton touts solar energy plan to court environmentalists in presidential run // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – July 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton unveiled some big goals to slow climate change while seeking to “make America the world's clean energy super-power” on Monday, looking to lock down environmentalists' support. But she continued to dodge on some hot-button issues.

“The reality of climate change is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers say,” she said Monday in Des Moines, Iowa, after touring an environmentally friendly train station.

Clinton set goals for a half-billion solar panels to be installed by the end of her first term, 2020, and a 10-year goal of generating enough renewable energy “to power every single home in America.” That would mark a sevenfold increase of solar energy production in five years.

“America needs to lead this fight, not go MIA,” she said.

The speech followed a video released Sunday night in which the Democratic front-runner outlined the plans.

"Future generations will look back and wonder, what were we thinking? How could we possibly be so irresponsible?" she says as the video begins, before quotes of GOP presidential candidates questioning the science of climate change appear onscreen.

"You don't have to be a scientist to take on this urgent challenge that threatens us all; you just have to be willing to act," she says.

The plan, according to Clinton's campaign, would leave the U.S. generating at least one-third of all electricity from renewable resources by 2027.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks to supporters July 25 in Iowa, where she's expected to expand on her green energy plan Tuesday.

But Clinton didn’t mention a number of issues key to environmental activists.

She didn’t state her positions on the Keystone XL oil pipeline, implementing a carbon tax, fracking and drilling in the Arctic Ocean.

Both of her main primary opponents, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, have already unveiled ambitious green energy plans, and both oppose Keystone.

Clinton once again refused to weigh in on Keystone in Des Moines, arguing that because she was secretary of state when the government began the cost-benefit analysis of the plan she shouldn’t publicly comment on it until the Obama administration releases its findings.

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“I know that there is a very careful evaluation pending,” she said before noting she was “confident” the study into the proposed trans-national oil pipeline would take into account its environmental impacts.

“I will refrain from commenting because I had a leading role in getting that process started and I think we have to let it run its course,” she said.

She also sidestepped a question about a carbon tax.

Clinton's plan quickly drew praise from some, but not all, major green groups.

Billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer has called for half of all energy production to come from renewables by 2030 — a goal Clinton's campaign says her plan would achieve, counting nuclear energy.

"Today, Hillary Clinton emerged as a strong leader in solving the climate crisis," Steyer, who already has held a fund-raiser for Clinton, said in a statement. "We look forward to hearing more details about her proposals to tackle climate change."

Bill McKibben of the environmental group 350.org wasn’t as sold, saying she was “half way there” and praising her commitment to renewable energy.

“Now, we need Clinton to show she understands the other half of the climate change equation — and prove she has the courage to stand up against fossil fuel projects,” he said.

Clinton was light on specifics - she promised to flesh out her green energy plan "over the coming months."

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Eryn Sepp" <esepp@equitablegrowth.org>
Date:	3/4/2015 8:04:39 AM
Subject:	Re: FW: Pakistan-Afghanistan Update: Indian Foreign Secretary Concludes Visit; SIGAR Releases ANSF Attrition Figures

Leave on amprog.

On Mar 4, 2015 2:10 PM, "Eryn Sepp" <esepp@equitablegrowth.org > wrote:

> Hi John—going through your old AmProg, as I do every couple of days, to make sure no one is writing anything urgent or timely to it.
>
> Colin Cookman's updates have been going here for a long time now. Would you like me to update it to your gmail address, if you still want to get these?
>
> Thanks,
>
> Eryn
>
> **From:** Colin Cookman [mailto:ccookman =gmail.com@mail18.wdc01.mcdlv.net] **On Behalf Of** Colin Cookman
> **Sent:** Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:23 AM
> **To:** John Podesta
> **Subject:** Pakistan-Afghanistan Update: Indian Foreign Secretary Concludes Visit; SIGAR Releases ANSF Attrition Figures
>
> **Topline**
>
> - *India's foreign secretary met with Prime Minister Sharif on Tuesday; no joint communiqué has been issued from his visit, which Indian officials portrayed as part of broader outreach to SAARC countries, although Pakistan's foreign ministry said that "all issues of concern" were discussed. New figures on Afghan National Security Forces personnel released by SIGAR and the Department of Defense on Tuesday indicated that the number of ANA soldiers had fallen roughly 15,000 between the falls of 2013 and 2014. The main suspect in the Karachi Baldia factory fire has "mysteriously disappeared", according to Rangers officials who met on Tuesday; investigators and victims' families are also reportedly facing threats from unspecified sources. The Afghan attorney general's office announced Tuesday that it had arrested the former deputy head of the Afghan Central Bank in connection to a verdict in the Kabul Bank case last year, although he is reported to have turned himself in in December. The Supreme Court has pressed the Election Commission of Pakistan to issue a local elections schedule today; ECP officials say that the vote in Khyber Paktunkhwa will take place June 8. Pres. Ghani has ordered a review of all Afghan military logistics contracts, Reuters reports, ahead of his visit to the U.S. later this month.*
>
> **Pakistan — Security**
>
> - **Banned Organizations:** Speaking at a press roundtable on Tuesday, Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S., Jalil Abbas Jilani, said that a formal announcement of a ban on the Haqqani network was "the kind of issues that are in the works". Separately on Wednesday, Punjab police officials told a senate committee that they had sealed a seminary in the Rajhan tehsil of Rajanpur district that was linked with Islamabad's Lal Masjid and with the spread of hate material.
>
> **Pakistan — Politics and Diplomacy**
>
> - **Indian Foreign Secretary Visit:** Visiting Indian foreign secretary S. Jaishankar met with Prime Minister Sharif on Tuesday, discussing regional and bilateral relations; in a statement, Sharif said that India and Pakistan "must think

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together, act together and move forward with the spirit of bringing the two nations closer to each other." Indian diplomatic sources described the visit as part of a regional tour of SAARC countries and not a resumption of bilateral composite dialogue talks, although some Pakistani analysts interpreted it as having been undertaken at the insistence of the United States following Pres. Obama's visit to India last month. No joint communiqué was issued following Jaishankar's meetings with his Pakistani counterpart Aizaz Chaudhry, although Chaudhry said that "all issues of concern" were discussed, including alleged Indian support for separatist groups in FATA and Balochistan. Lawyers for accused Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Zakiur Rehman Lakvhi told the Express Tribune that Jaishankar's visit was intended to "put further pressure on Pakistan"; responded to earlier questions about whether Lakhvi's case was discussed Chaudhry suggested that "there wasn't enough time to go into detail on every issue." [Pakistani Foreign Ministry Statement] [Indian Foreign Ministry Statement] [ET] [Dawn]

- **Senate Elections:** The Lahore High Court gave the federal government until March 17 to respond to a petition seeking a constitutional amendment to hold senate elections under open ballot; the Senate vote is scheduled for March 5. Meanwhile, former Pres. Zardari met with party members in the Punjab assembly on Tuesday to discuss strategy for the upcoming election; the party hopes to win support for its sole candidate from Punjab from disaffected PML-N assembly members, in part through the help of former Punjab governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar , who joined the PTI after quitting the PML-N last month. In Khyber Paktunkhwa, the Awami Jamhoor Ittehad Pakistan party has yet to merge with the PTI ahead of the election, despite the party's grant of a senate candidacy ticket to Liaqat Khan Taraki, the father of the party's leader. [ET] [ET] [Dawn]
- **Baldia Fire Investigation:** A meeting of senior officials of the paramilitary Sindh Rangers in Karachi on Tuesday "expressed concern over attempts by some elements to interfere in the Baldia Town factory fire case investigation", Dawn reports. Rizwan Quraishi, an MQM activist who linked the fire to extortion attempts and who has been disowned by the party, is now reported to have disappeared as a second investigation commission has begun a review the causes of the fire; the investigating officers and family members of the victims have reportedly been subjected to threats.
- **Local Elections:** Election Commission officials told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that they would announce a schedule for local elections by April 6 and that polls will be held June 8 in Khyber Paktunkhwa, January 10, 2016 in Punjab, and February 22, 2016, in Sindh — the court ordered the formal announcement to be made by 8:00 PM today. The attorney general sought to deflect a contempt of court petition against the federal government for failing to hold the elections in military cantonment areas, where it has direct responsibility, by laying blame on the senate for not taking up the issue. [Dawn]
- **Election Complaints:** The Supreme Court issued its detailed verdict from December of its judgment clearing Prime Minister Sharif from PTI challenges seeking his disqualification on the grounds that he had lied before parliament and thus violated Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution, which requires candidates be "righteous, sagacious, and ameen", a qualification the court noted was vague and ill-defined. Separately, the election tribunal hearing complaints into the NA-122 Lahore constituency accepted a PTI petition seeking thumbprint verification on all ballot counterfoils.
- **Regulator Service:** The government is reportedly considering the creation of a new civil service branch for the main government regulatory bodies — including the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, Pakistan Telecommunications Authority, and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority. Current appointments to these bodies are made by independent panels; Dawn suggests the measure is under consideration part due to clashes between the government and the nominally independent regulators.

Pakistan — Economics and Development

- **Vaccination Efforts:** Two health officials have been suspended in connection to reports yesterday that $3.7 million worth of child vaccines had degraded under improper storage conditions, the national manager of the Expanded Program on Immunization told the AFP on Tuesday. Separately, Gates Foundation chairman Bill Gates spoke by phone with PTI leader Imran Khan on Tuesday, welcoming the efforts of Khyber Paktunkhwa's ongoing 'Sehat Ka Ittehad' anti-polio vaccination campaign. [ET]

Pakistan — Remainders

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- Sharif Departs for Saudi Arabia [Dawn] [ET]
- MQM Lawyer, Former PPP Union Councilor Killed in Karachi Shootings [ET] [ET]
- TTP Commander Detained in Hangu [Dawn]
- Death Row Sentence Halted After Family Pardon [ET]
- Opposition Senators Continue Protest Over Economic Corridor Route [Dawn]
- Prime Minister Reviews Nuclear Power Projects [Dawn]
- Senate Committee Approves Amendments to Securities and Exchange Commission Powers [ET]
- Senate Committee Proposes Bar on Dual National Civil Servants [ET]
- Senate Seeks Detail on Perks for Retired Chief Justices [ET] [Dawn]
- **Commentary: Pakistan's Terrorism Accusations Against India: Bizarre But Calculated** – "Pakistan's leaders, whether civilian or military, have a history of leveling accusations on India's alleged involvement in everything from sectarian violence in Pakistan to terrorism perpetrated via proxies from Afghanistan." [Rohan Joshi, The Diplomat]

Afghanistan — Security

- **ANSF Attrition:** Figures released by the Special Inspector for Afghan Reconstruction on Tuesday — following their declassification after top U.S. commander Gen. John Campbell reversed a previous classification order in January — indicated that the number of Afghan National Army soldiers had declined from roughly 184,000 to roughly 169,000 between the falls of 2013 and 2014. SIGAR questioned figures offered for Afghan police, suggesting that the actual number might be roughly 151,000 instead of roughly 156,000 as reported. [SIGAR Report (pdf)]
- **Zabul Operations:** The provincial police chief of Zabul province, Ghulam Sakhi Rogh Lewanai, told RFE/RL on Wednesday that at least 32 militants had been killed in operations in the Khak-e-Afghan district that began the day prior; he said that all were associated with Daesh, or the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Local accounts of the identity of gunmen responsible for the kidnapping of 30 Hazara men from the district last week have conflicted over their affiliations; an anonymous caller to RFE/RL reporters claimed affiliation with Daesh but said that only seven fighters had been killed.

Afghanistan — Politics and Diplomacy

- **Kabul Bank Arrests:** On Tuesday, the Afghan attorney general's office announced that it had imprisoned Mohibullah Safi, the former deputy head of the Afghan Central Bank, in connection to the 2010 Kabul Bank crisis. Safi received a one-year sentence in connection to the case last fall, but fled the country. Although not announced at the time, he is reported to have turned himself in back in December, and anonymous sources in the attorney general's office say that $52 million in assets had been seized from him; a spokesman for the attorney general's office was unable to confirm the latter figure.
- **Taliban Talks:** TOLO news notes remarks by Pakistani Ulema Council chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Ashrafi, who expressed support for a resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan through peace talks.

Afghanistan — Economics and Development

- **Military Contract Review:** Following the suspension of an Afghan National Army fuel supply contract earlier this year, Pres. Ghani has reportedly ordered a review of all military logistics contracts , Reuters reports. An economist leading the review, Hamidullah Farooqi, says that "we expect to have the first stage done in the next week or two", coinciding with Ghani's visit to the United States later this month.
- **TAPI Pipeline:** The Express Tribune reports that a Pakistani cabinet committee on energy meeting on February 12 raised concerns over the "complex structure" of the TAPI gas pipeline project, and the pricing of gas, at $6.9 per million British thermal units, or $1 cheaper than LNG import agreements. A meeting of TAPI members in February in Islamabad failed to reach an agreement on a consortium leader for the financing and construction of the pipeline, which Turkmenistan reportedly aims to do by October.

Afghanistan — Remainders

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- **Report: 'Today We Shall All Die'** – "The impunity enjoyed by powerful figures raises serious concerns about Afghan government and international efforts to arm, train, vet, and hold accountable Afghan National Police units, National Directorate of Security officials, and Afghan Local Police forces." [Human Rights Watch]
- **Commentary: A Step Forward for Afghan Women?** – "For months, Mahbouba Seraj traveled across Afghanistan to drum up support for an ambitious new policy framework to ensure women's equal rights and participation in governmental decision-making, protection from violence, and human development." [Elizabeth Weingarten and Leilal Hilal, Foreign Policy]

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	11/6/2014 1:50:36 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Thursday November 6, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday November 6, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

USA Today opinion: David Brock: "David Brock: GOP extremists riding to Democrats' rescue"

"The Clintons stood up for an inclusive national party, tirelessly campaigning across the Midwest and South. And Democratic donors and outside groups stood up, ensuring our candidates were financially competitive to the end."

USA Today: "Clinton backers, Democrats gear up for 2016"

"Groups backing Hillary Rodham Clinton's likely candidacy, for instance, plan major gatherings with donors in the weeks ahead. On Nov. 20, a super PAC called Correct the Record will hold a lunch with current and prospective donors in New York City."

Bloomberg: "Republicans Tie Hillary Clinton to Democratic Losses"

"'Hillary Clinton worked for Democrats across the country because she believes in an all–inclusive Democratic Party,' said Adrienne Elrod, communications director for the pro-Clinton super-PAC Correct the Record. 'Hillary Clinton's commitment to support, strengthen and grow our Democratic Party was clear as she made 45 midterm-related political stops where she stood with Democrats and shared her vision of what our nation needs for the future.'"

New York Times: "Swamped in a Red Surge, Southern Democrats Contemplate Their Rebuilding Plans"

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“Burns Strider, a native Mississippian who has advised the Democratic Party on faith issues, spent Tuesday night watching the election returns with a couple of other Democratic consultants and a bottle of small-batch bourbon. It was that kind of night.”

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: “Day after the elections, pro-Clinton super PAC Priorities USA kicks into gear”

“The super PAC Ready for Hillary spent the last two years mobilizing a grassroots network of activists on her behalf, while the opposition research group American Bridge has developed a team focused on rapid response on her behalf.”

Washington Post: “Why the Senate GOP takeover might actually help Hillary Clinton”

"'These two are the most popular Democrats in America, and they put that popularity on the line for folks in trouble in a bad year,' Begala said."

New Republic: “It's Up to You Now, Hillary”

“The GOP’s big showing yesterday ought to in some ways excite Clinton. An emboldened Republican Party is likelier than a one-vote majority to overreach, as it did in 2011, and set itself up for an unflattering contrast two years from now.”

Forbes senior political contributor Rick Unger: “Hillary Clinton Wins Big In 2014 Midterm Elections”

“Standing, metaphysically speaking, just out of view on the many stages where Republican winners gave victory speeches and inside the hotel ballrooms where happy Republican supporters ate, drank and were merry, was the one person who may have been the biggest winner of the night— Hillary Rodham Clinton.”

Reuters: “Election results could boost Republican governors, Clinton campaign for 2016”

“The sweeping Republican triumph in the midterm elections boosted the 2016 presidential prospects of three of the party's highest-profile governors, but Democrats on Wednesday said there also could be a silver lining for Hillary Clinton's White House hopes.”

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The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Ryan: Midterms show Clinton 'not inevitable'"

"Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) said Wednesday that the election results mean Hillary Clinton is 'not inevitable.'"

National Journal: "Elizabeth Warren's Supporters See Vindication in Dems' 2014 Debacle"

"Warren's supporters say the party fell short because it failed to emphasize the Massachusetts senator's message of economic populism—and that pushing that message is the road back to congressional control."

Daily Caller: "With Eyes On Rand And Hillary, John Bolton Says He Is Mulling Presidential Bid"

"John Bolton, the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, tells The Daily Caller he is considering a run for president in 2016 as a Republican."

Articles:

USA Today opinion: David Brock: "David Brock: GOP extremists riding to Democrats' rescue"

By David Brock

November 5, 2014, 6:39 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] With the Republican Tea Party Caucus on the loose, the public will not like what it sees.

At the risk of being seen as happiest in war, in the wake of the midterms I believe Democrats should avoid intramural recriminations, hew to the old adage that there's a silver lining in every cloud and focus now on the tremendous -- and potentially historic -- political opportunities before us in two years.

I won't dwell on what is already known: The 2014 midterms were fought on unpromising grounds for Democrats, to say the least. It was the second midterm of a presidency, when losses in Congress are almost inevitable. The Senate seats up this time were mostly in the South and border states. It was impossible for our candidates to articulate the case for President Obama's achievements in the face of Republican negativity and scare tactics.

So onto the good news: With few exceptions, our candidates ran strong races in this adverse climate and ably

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stood up for Democratic values. The Clintons stood up for an inclusive national party, tirelessly campaigning across the Midwest and South. And Democratic donors and outside groups stood up, ensuring our candidates were financially competitive to the end.

Republican candidates ran a wolf in sheep's clothing strategy, misrepresenting themselves as moderates to get power. Republicans like Cory Gardner, Scott Walker and Joni Ernst all disavowed their long history of opposing abortion in all circumstances. Republicans not only have no economic agenda, they claimed to support popular parts of the Democrats' agenda that they have long opposed. Republican candidates across the country shifted leftward on Medicare, Social Security, reproductive rights, energy policy, poverty and the minimum wage.

We have seen this movie before: In 2010, Republicans said they would stick to economics if they won the House, but among the first bills they passed were three that restricted women's rights.

Republicans had planned to run against Obamacare this year, but in recent weeks, their attacks lessened. Republicans struggled to articulate their opposition because they know Obamacare is here to stay. Americans want to keep it.

When the clock struck twelve Tuesday night, the Republican presidential contest began, and the 2016 Democrats had something to run against: the Republican Congress. Played right, both can be a gift that keeps on giving to Democrats. We are not in charge anymore, and the truth is that the recalcitrant Republican House frequently made being in charge an exercise in futility.

The Tea Party caucus in the House is now stronger. The Republican presidential primaries are weighted to the right – and Senators Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, and Marco Rubio will invariably tack in that direction, exercising a gravitational pull over the internal processes of Congress. They will set off vicious rivalries, both among themselves and with the Republican older guard, which itself may fracture over which establishment horse to back in blocking a Tea Partier from the nomination. Mitch McConnell may run the Senate, but it often won't seem that way.

The setup for Democrats is: Will Republicans reject extremism? On issue after issue – rolling back health care, women's reproductive rights, voting rights, immigrant rights and opposing nominations – the GOP can either be discredited or they can be split in this cycle.

The same dynamic will unfold with respect to all of the pseudo-scandals the Republicans will gin up and investigate; already, loose talk of impeachment permeates the outer reaches of the conservative movement.

First, extremism. Then, corruption. The special interests that paid for this victory know that in all likelihood it will be short-lived, and thus they will behave like pigs at the trough. Their real agenda will be revealed when they seek to undo and rewrite regulations for their own benefit, such as undermining environmental protections and seek all manner of goodies from Senate appropriators.

Once established, the extremism and corruption of the Republican majority can be used to define the Republican presidential field. Meanwhile the internal Republican turmoil can be pointed to as a constant lesson of Republican incapacity for governance across the board.

As a first order of business, Democrats can begin to come back by highlighting the GOP's extremism at every turn, exposing their subservience to special-interest masters, debunking their scandal hoaxes and exploiting their conflicts and divisions.

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USA Today: “Clinton backers, Democrats gear up for 2016”

By Fredreka Schouten

November 5, 2014, 7:05 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Pro-Clinton super PACs plan major donor outreach this month

WASHINGTON — Democratic strategists and donors Wednesday sought to quickly pivot away from their coast-to-coast midterm defeats, and prepare for the 2016 political battleground that includes the high-stakes presidential fight and more than two-dozen Senate races.

Groups backing Hillary Rodham Clinton's likely candidacy, for instance, plan major gatherings with donors in the weeks ahead. On Nov. 20, a super PAC called Correct the Record will hold a lunch with current and prospective donors in New York City. A day later, top donors to another pro-Clinton group, Ready for Hillary, will meet for a strategy session.

"When the clock struck 12, the Republican and Democratic presidential races sort of started, even though we don't know what the field looks like," said David Brock, the founder of pro-Democratic American Bridge, an opposition-research group. Correct the Record is an American Bridge arm focused on defending Clinton's record.

Another pro-Clinton super PAC, Priorities USA Action, is starting outreach to contributors "to begin building for the 2016 cycle," said Peter Kauffman, the group's spokesman. The group had avoided fundraising until after the midterms.

The rapid buildup among Democrats comes after Republicans swept control of the Senate and captured their biggest House majority in more than 80 years.

The GOP takeover may provide a boost to Clinton, who could use Capitol Hill as an election foil, observers say. "With both houses of Congress now controlled by the GOP, there will be a clear contrast between the parties that Priorities USA Action will help define during the 2016 presidential campaign," Kauffman said.

Both parties already have set their sights on the 2016 Senate battleground.

Of the 32 seats up that year, Republicans are defending 19. The list includes six first-term Republican senators from states President Obama won in 2012 : Sens. Ron Johnson in Wisconsin, Mark Kirk in Illinois, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, Marco Rubio in Florida, Rob Portman in Ohio and Kelly Ayotte in New Hampshire.

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A seventh, North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr, is competing in a swing state Obama captured in 2008.

Top Republicans and the leaders of outside groups that helped bankroll their victory said they were acutely aware that the GOP legislators only had a two-year window to prove themselves to voters, and were eager to avoid the kinds of confrontations that led to the 2013 government shutdown

Republicans "now have the opportunity to earn the trust of the American people by putting pro-growth legislation on the president's desk," said Steve Law, the president and CEO of American Crossroads, one of the leading Republican super PACs.

Republicans also have made it clear that they are ready for the White House fight, too. Early Wednesday, the RNC blasted a 10-page memo to reporters with the subject line: "Hillary's Policies Were on The Ballot."

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a likely Republican president contender, taunted Clinton on Twitter, posting pictures of her stumping for an array of failed Senate candidates with the hashtag #HillaryLosers.

Bloomberg: “Republicans Tie Hillary Clinton to Democratic Losses”

By Jonathan Allen

November 6, 2014

Republican Senator Rand Paul yesterday tied Hillary Clinton to Democratic losses in the midterm elections, tweeting with the hashtag “HILLARYSLOSERS” as an opening shot in the 2016 presidential contest.

The Republican National Committee and the Republican super-political action committee America Rising echoed the Kentucky senator’s line of attack, which centered on blaming Clinton for the defeat of Democratic senators for whom she campaigned. The message: Voters rejected Clinton.

The sharpened focus on Clinton raises the question of whether her stock went up or down after the Nov. 4 elections. And it’s a sign that Republicans want to draw her out so they can test her reflexes at a time when Democrats are divided over whether she should jump into the race now or wait until next year.

“Early shots across the bow test whether she really has improved as a candidate,” Republican strategist Mary Matalin said. They also allow Republicans to “assess her response mechanism” if she responds, see what role former President Bill Clinton takes on in defending her, invigorate potential primary challengers and tie her to President Barack Obama, “for whom distancing herself for a 2016 run is mandatory,” Matalin said.

Nick Merrill, a Clinton spokesman, declined to comment.

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Campaign Stops

Clinton appeared on behalf of five losing Democratic Senate candidates, in Colorado, Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia and Iowa, and at least three victors, in New Hampshire, Michigan and Minnesota. Several Democratic operatives said Clinton's stops for Democratic candidates in the final weeks of the campaign showcased her loyalty and will help her unify the party behind her for 2016.

"Hillary Clinton worked for Democrats across the country because she believes in an all–inclusive Democratic Party," said Adrienne Elrod, communications director for the pro-Clinton super-PAC Correct the Record. "Hillary Clinton's commitment to support, strengthen and grow our Democratic Party was clear as she made 45 midterm-related political stops where she stood with Democrats and shared her vision of what our nation needs for the future."

Democrats lost at least seven seats in the midterm elections, including contested races in the presidential battlegrounds of Iowa and Colorado.

Clinton Conclusions

Clinton should draw two main conclusions from the results, according to a Democratic strategist who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid angering the former secretary of state at a time when she is laying low.

First, this strategist said, Democrats were defending tough turf that they might not need to win the 2016 election. Outside of Iowa and Colorado, Democratic Senate candidates lost in Republican-heavy states, places like South Dakota and Montana that Clinton wouldn't need to win the White House.

Second, Clinton has to find a way to persuade the American public she's a tougher leader than Obama without distancing herself from him so much that she alienates a Democratic base that remains very loyal to him.

There are more warning signs for Clinton in both voter surveys and the final results of the races, said a Democratic pollster who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid criticizing the woman who is expected to be the party's presidential nominee in 2016.

Campaigns matter, this pollster said, comparing the dysfunctional operations run by some of this year's losers to the drama-wracked outfit Clinton presided over when she ran for president in 2008. Clinton will also have to find a way to energize and motivate a Democratic base that showed underlying weaknesses over the last year.

Also, Clinton has to talk more about the economy than Democratic candidates did in this election cycle, the pollster said. Exit polls showed that the economy was the No. 1 concern of people who voted in the midterm elections, and she needs to win those people over with a cogent economic message, this pollster said.

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Plans”

By Campbell Robertson and Richard Fausset

November 5, 2014

NEW ORLEANS — Burns Strider, a native Mississippian who has advised the Democratic Party on faith issues, spent Tuesday night watching the election returns with a couple of other Democratic consultants and a bottle of small-batch bourbon. It was that kind of night.

The Republican wave on Tuesday washed over the whole country, including Massachusetts and Maryland, but it was in the South that the swamping of statewide Democratic prospects appeared most complete.

The rout went well beyond the Senate races — Republicans won all of those in the South except for a squeaker in Virginia and one in Louisiana that has gone to a runoff that Republicans are favored to win — and down to the state level, smothering hopes for strong Democratic farm teams.

Republicans won all seven governor’s races in the South, nearly all by double-digit margins. They expanded majorities in five Southern state legislatures; in the Tennessee Senate, the Republicans now outnumber Democrats 28 to five.

In the foggy hangover of Wednesday morning, Democrats in the South maintained in interviews that such Republican gains should not be considered permanent. But neither were they kidding themselves about the length and difficulty of the road ahead.

“You don’t rebuild Atlanta in a day,” Mr. Strider said.

After decades of decline from once-total control of the South, Democrats already had little left to lose before the election. Names of successful candidates past, like Carter, Nunn and Pryor, showed up in the loss column on Tuesday; Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina came close but was defeated as well.

In perhaps the most emblematic victory, a Republican, Rick Allen, beat John Barrow of Georgia, the last white Democrat in the House from a Deep South state. His defeat was a testament to just how rare white Democrats have become in the region, a rarity that cuts across categories. In Georgia, according to exit polls by Edison Research, 80 percent of whites who did not graduate from college voted for David Perdue, the Republican Senate candidate. Among white college graduates, that number was not much lower, at 70 percent.

For Democrats and Republicans alike, there was a common culprit.

“It’s Obama,” Mike Beebe, a Democrat and the departing governor of Arkansas, said in his office at the State Capitol on Wednesday. “It wasn’t just Arkansas. It was all over the country. There’s only one common denominator.”

Still, the series of Democratic defeats that Mr. Beebe attributed to President Obama have been particularly overwhelming in his state. Four years ago, Arkansas had a congressional delegation that was five-sixths Democratic, a Democratic governor, a Democratic-controlled legislature and an all-Democratic slate of statewide

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officials. It will now be Republican from top to bottom.

While Democrats in the South may agree that this election was a rejection of Mr. Obama, there is less agreement on how or where to build back here. The conservative Deep South was never going to be the heart of Mr. Obama's culturally liberal coalition. But many Democrats saw this next-generational appeal making inroads in New South states with increasingly diverse populations, like Georgia and North Carolina.

Kasim Reed, the mayor of Atlanta, said he still believed that this was the way forward for Democrats in Georgia.

"We needed to change the electorate," Mr. Reed said. He faulted the campaigns of Michelle Nunn, who was following in her father's footsteps in running for the Senate, and Jason Carter, a grandson of Jimmy Carter who was running for governor, for not spending more time and resources to register and turn out what he said were roughly 600,000 unregistered black voters in Georgia, and 200,000 unregistered Latinos.

Democrats like Mr. Reed remain adamant that Georgia is a state that could be in play, in spite of the decisive Republican victories on Tuesday. Many also believe that the older, rural, white working-class voters who were once the bedrock of the Democratic Party in the South are now permanently out of reach, and that attempts to attract them are a waste of time.

But others contend Democrats are doomed if they cannot appeal to a broad swath of Southern whites.

"In order to have even a chance to compete, something's got to change for the Democrats in the South," said Geoff Garin, a Democratic consultant and pollster. "Even with increased African-American and Hispanic participation, it's simply not a viable situation to struggle to get above the mid-20s with white voters." Bill Fletcher, a Democratic consultant who was raised in rural Tennessee, agreed that this year's race was mainly a rejection of Mr. Obama, adding that his presidency had given rise to "a nasty strain of racism that many of us thought and hoped had gone away."

But he said socially moderate, fiscally conservative candidates could still win in the rural South, with the right candidate and a strong economic message. After all, Ms. Nunn and Ms. Hagan both led among voters whose household incomes were less than $50,000 a year.

"I don't think we have to go all in with a one-size-fits-all strategy," Mr. Fletcher said. "A strategy that works in San Francisco is going to be by necessity different than the strategy that we need in rural Tennessee, rural Georgia or, for that matter, rural Florida."

But Democrats were not the only ones considering the way forward. Some Republicans, while flush with victory, were fully aware that the whiter and older electorate that gave Republicans such a resounding victory on Tuesday could not be counted on forever, and are already planning to secure and even expand on their gains in the South.

"If we just assume we're safe, we're wrong," said Henry Barbour, a Mississippi-based lobbyist and a member of the Republican National Committee. "Mississippi, like the rest of the country, is changing. If Republicans don't do a genuinely good job of engaging African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians, women and young voters, it becomes much more plausible for a statewide Democrat from Mississippi to win."

Mr. Barbour pointed to several lessons in this year's bizarre Senate primary in Mississippi. He held up State

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Senator Chris McDaniel, a Tea Party candidate who nearly won the primary runoff, as the kind of divisive Republican who could threaten the party's general appeal. On the other hand, Mr. Barbour pointed to the runoff victory of the incumbent, Senator Thad Cochran, which was due in part to a high turnout among black voters, as a potential model for an expanded Republican base.

The Election Day victory of Tim Scott, a Republican in South Carolina and the first black senator to be popularly elected from a Southern state, is another sign that the South's most solid political fact — the strict correlation between race and partisanship — may yet be malleable.

For now, Mr. Strider is patiently enduring another round of obituaries for the Southern Democrat. They have become rather common these days. But whether out of shock or denial or fortitude, he insisted that such reports were greatly exaggerated.

"I've probably heard more eulogies during the time I've lived in D.C., about the death of this party or the death of this cause, than a choir at a First Baptist Church," he said. "They always rise from the dead."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Day after the elections, pro-Clinton super PAC Priorities USA kicks into gear"

By Matea Gold

November 5, 2014, 3:28 p.m. EST

In the aftermath of Tuesday's crushing defeats, the Democratic donor class is already turning its attention to the 2016 presidential contest and ramping up what is expected to be a massive outside flanking operation to back an expected White House bid by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The work started first thing Wednesday morning, when Hollywood mogul Jeffrey Katzenberg's team began making calls to secure donations for Priorities USA Action, the super PAC that will serve as the big-money advertising vehicle for Clinton.

Andy Spahn, a political strategist who advises Katzenberg and other clients, said that he has started reviewing donor lists and calling wealthy Democratic backers to get their commitments. He and the DreamWorks Animation chief plan to travel around the country to meet with potential contributors in person.

"We will reaching out in the weeks ahead to set up one-on-ones and meet-and-greets to talk about the urgency of the task ahead," Spahn told The Washington Post.

"Priorities will start today," he added.

Along with Katzenberg and Spahn, a slew of other Priorities USA officials are beginning the early donor outreach,

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including board co-chair and former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, executive director Buffy Wicks and senior advisers Sean Sweeney and Paul Begala.

As part of their pitch, Priorities officials plan to walk through the impact the group had in 2012, when the super PAC supported President Obama's reelection and played a key role in shaping early perceptions of GOP challenger Mitt Romney. The message: it will be essential in 2016 to have ample resources available early in the cycle.

The super PAC will not begin collecting contributions unless and until Clinton announces her candidacy.

"Priorities USA Action officials will be engaging supporters over the next few months to discuss the critical role we played in helping reelect a Democratic president in 2012 and to begin building for the 2016 cycle," said Peter Kauffmann, a spokesman for the super PAC.

The group's rapid kick-off illustrates how Democrats have come to embrace independent groups such as super PACs -- a turn-about from the disdain many had for such vehicles during the last two elections. This year, one of the top-spending groups was Senate Majority PAC, a super PAC run by top advisers to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, which poured more than $60 million into trying to protect Democratic incumbents.

Despite Tuesday's losses, Spahn said he does not believe Democratic patrons will be reluctant to give to Priorities.

"I think our donors will double down," he said, adding that they will be driven not only by the presidential contest, but "by the ambition to retake the Senate."

Katzenberg, in particular, is intensely focused on using the super PAC to bolster Clinton. After 2012, he drove the effort to refashion Priorities into the premiere pro-Clinton vehicle for 2016.

The group now has a board stocked with powerful party figures, co-chaired by Granholm and former Obama campaign manager Jim Messina.

Priorities USA, which was largely dormant during 2014, is part of a constellation of independent groups already working to support her bid. The super PAC Ready for Hillary spent the last two years mobilizing a grassroots network of activists on her behalf, while the opposition research group American Bridge has developed a team focused on rapid response on her behalf.

Washington Post: "Why the Senate GOP takeover might actually help Hillary Clinton"

By Anne Gearan

November 5, 2014, 3:28 p.m. EST

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The Republican takeover of the Senate could be good news for at least one Democrat: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Clinton campaigned hard this fall for Democrats, working to boost the party's effort to preserve its Senate majority — an effort that failed dramatically in Tuesday's GOP midterm rout.

But many Democratic strategists said the switch to Republican control may have a silver lining for Clinton, helping her better define herself as she shapes a potential 2016 presidential campaign. By providing a convenient foil for her and other Democrats, a GOP-run Congress would make it less imperative for Clinton to highlight her differences with President Obama, these strategists said.

Obama's damaged, lame-duck condition also makes Clinton the strongest Democrat left standing.

A Republican Senate is likely to "spend a lot of time trying to repeal some of the progress made in the Obama administration," Democratic strategist Erik Smith said. "That would be a great situation for her, because she could both make the case against the Republicans while currying favor with the Obama base."

But GOP adviser Stuart Stevens, the chief strategist for Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign, said the notion that an all-Republican Congress is good for Clinton will not bear out.

"I don't buy it," he said, because Congress will pass legislation that Obama will then veto, and that will not leave Clinton much running room. "What's she going to say? 'I would have vetoed it, too, so I'm going to be the third term of Barack Obama'?"

Two years before the 2016 presidential election, Clinton is in the enviable but precarious position of being the most popular, most famous and most scrutinized contender for a race that everyone assumes she is already running.

The shadow campaign began in earnest Wednesday, when Hollywood mogul Jeffrey Katzenberg's team began making calls to secure donations for the Priorities USA Action super PAC, which aims to serve as Clinton's big-money advertising vehicle.

Andy Spahn, a political strategist who advises Katzenberg and other clients, said he has started reviewing donor lists and calling wealthy Democratic backers to get their commitments. "We will be reaching out in the weeks ahead to set up one-on-ones and meet-and-greets to talk about the urgency of the task ahead," Spahn said.

First, however, Clinton will have to overcome the short-term damage from Tuesday's Democratic losses. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), a likely presidential candidate in 2016, said Wednesday on CNN that the election result was "not only a repudiation of the president but, I think, really a repudiation of Hillary Clinton."

The midterm vote holds lessons for Clinton about which issues most resonate with the grumpy 2014 electorate and which are likely to matter in an election that is still far off, according to political advisers and analysts who are close to the former secretary of state or are watching her. Most agreed that she must fashion a way to run against Washington — a task that will be easier with a GOP Congress.

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The losses also raise doubts about whether the “Obama coalition” of youths and minorities will turn out for anyone but Obama. No candidate, including Clinton, is likely to win as large a share of the black and Hispanic vote as Obama did in 2008 or 2012. But Clinton probably would do better among whites in many states, while possibly expanding Democratic margins among women.

Democrats are hoping the new Republican Senate majority will quickly annoy voters by overreaching or contributing to Washington’s political paralysis. That environment could benefit other potential Democratic 2016 candidates, but perhaps Clinton most of all, strategists and backers said.

“The likelihood that a Republican Congress does either nothing or does the wrong thing I think is an opportunity for her,” said Tracy Sefl, a Democratic campaign veteran who is advising the independent pro-Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary.

In the week before the election, Clinton stumped for Senate candidates in states including Iowa and New Hampshire, which will hold the first nominating contests in 2016. The Democratic Senate candidate in Iowa lost, but the reelection of Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D) in New Hampshire was one of the few bright spots for the party Tuesday.

Clinton spent her final day of campaigning with Shaheen in the state, which she won in the 2008 presidential primary after losing badly to Obama in Iowa. Then, as now, Clinton was considered the heir apparent to the Democratic mantle — a whiff of coronation that did not serve her well.

“There’s a lot to be learned from failure. She wasn’t elected, as we all know,” said Madison Waters, 22, who came to a rally in Nashua, N.H., on Sunday to see Clinton. “I think she was great then, but she’s even better now. She’s sharper and more focused.”

As she did throughout her energetic speaking schedule on behalf of Democrats this year, Clinton sprinkled her Nashua stump speech with personal asides and a long view to the future.

“When you look 20, 25 years out and you think — ‘What’s the country going to be like when she’s starting her adult life? What’s the world going to be like?’ — it really does focus your mind on what’s important,” Clinton said, referring to Charlotte, her newborn granddaughter.

She added that she and Bill Clinton “were raised to believe that if you work hard, the American dream was in your reach. You should not have to be the grandchild of a governor, or a senator, or a former secretary of state, or a former president, to believe that the American dream is in your reach.”

Those themes of in-this-together populism and middle-class promise seem sure to be a central part of Hillary Clinton’s platform if she runs. “When she talks about her grandchild, that makes her very personable,” Kevin Smith, 51, said at the Nashua rally. He said he supported Obama in 2008 but is likely to support Clinton now.

The most recent pre-election polling puts Clinton far ahead of potential Republican opponents. The numbers in the latest Washington Post-ABC News survey also show that Clinton remains a polarizing, if nearly universally recognizable, political figure.

When asked whether she would make a good president, 51 percent said yes and 41 percent said no. Just 8 percent said they had no opinion.

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Republicans fare less well. For former Florida governor Jeb Bush, the numbers were 26 percent favorable, 51 percent unfavorable and 23 percent with no opinion. For Paul, 21 percent said he would be a good president, 44 percent said he would not and 34 percent had no opinion.

Bill Burton, a former Obama campaign strategist, said that with little room to run as an “outsider,” Clinton probably would tune her message to those of her Republican rivals.

“Her foil has really got to be the Republicans running against her,” he said. “It’s going to be really easy to run against what Rand Paul and [Sen. Marco] Rubio and those other guys are saying.”

Paul is already working hard to contrast himself with Clinton. As the scope of the Republican wave became clear late Tuesday, he posted pictures of her and losing Democratic candidates on Twitter with the hashtag #HillarysLosers.

Also damaged Tuesday was Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley (D), a long-shot presidential aspirant whose handpicked successor, Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown (D), was trounced by Republican businessman Larry Hogan.

Many Democrats want Clinton to put off any head-to-head combat for several months. A few advisers, however, have urged her to defy convention with a fast announcement after the midterm elections.

Clinton appears unhurried. She has said she will decide on a candidacy after Jan. 1.

Democratic strategist Steve Elmendorf, who is not advising Clinton, said she can afford to wait.

“There’s plenty of time,” he said, adding. “The reasons that some people accelerate the timetable is that they want the money” available to official candidates.

Clinton headlined Democratic events that raked in millions of dollars for others this year, and she would be expected to break fundraising records for a general election. Paul Begala, a Clinton White House adviser who remains close to both Clintons, said the couple put “money in the bank” politically with heavy schedules promoting Democrats nationwide this year.

“These two are the most popular Democrats in America, and they put that popularity on the line for folks in trouble in a bad year,” Begala said. “I am quite sure all this campaigning will put a sizable dent in Hillary’s post-State Department stratospheric poll numbers.”

Clinton said almost nothing about her four years as secretary of state while campaigning for Democrats this fall, perhaps in part because it might remind liberal voters of her hawkish foreign-policy leanings.

The post-election season will allow Clinton to address national-security issues more directly and probably to draw sharper contrasts with Obama. Clinton has gone public with her disagreement with Obama over his first-term reluctance to arm Syrian rebels and is expected to air other criticisms if she runs.

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That sets up a potential candidacy very much in the centrist Democratic mode that Clinton naturally inhabits, several strategists said — family checkbook issues, job and worker security, women's pay and health-care equality, plus a muscular projection of American strength abroad.

"The issues terrain in this election looks like it's going to be a very good fit for a Clinton candidacy," Burton said. "Given her experience with foreign policy and national security, and the economic issues, I think that she is particularly well suited for this moment."

But Stevens, the former Romney adviser, cast doubt on that thesis. Democrats, particularly the motivated and more liberal base voters Clinton would need in a primary season, are likely to take a bitter lesson from 2014 that would not benefit her centrist persona, he said.

"I don't think they'll look at this and say, 'These candidates didn't win because they were too liberal,' " Stevens said. "That inherent caution that Hillary Clinton has will be seen as more of the same."

New Republic: "It's Up to You Now, Hillary"

By Brian Beutler

November 5, 2014

[Subtitle:] The Republican wave puts all the pressure on Clinton to win in 2016

Tuesday night we saw what happens when polls are uniformly biased against a party that's favored to win nonetheless. Those polls get aggregated, aggregators project the likeliest outcome, and the winning party beats that projection. Before the returns came in, the overwhelming consensus was that Republicans would win the Senate, but with a one- or two-seat majority. In the end, it looks like their margin will be four.

This says less about the merits of poll aggregating than narrative-driving pundits would have you believe. But the error was nevertheless profound. The practical differences between a 51-seat GOP majority and a 54-seat GOP majority are tremendous. And the person who should be most concerned about the difference is Hillary Clinton.

The most conventional, but also most well-grounded, assumption before Tuesday night was that Republicans would win a narrow, and thus short-lived, majority. As late as 9:36 p.m. last night, conservative writer Tim Carney wrote a short article headlined "Tonight's darker omen for the GOP: Losing the Senate in 2016."

At the time, the logic was unimpeachable. Republicans would enter the presidential election cycle with a paper-thin majority, and too many vulnerable incumbents to defend.

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With 54 (likely) members, Republicans don't by any means have an unbeatable majority. But for Democrats to make Mitch McConnell a one-term majority leader, they can no longer count on the 2016 map to do it for them. They'll need the turnout pattern of the last six years to repeat itself one more time, and propel Democrats to victory basically everywhere.

That presents Clinton with an immense burden. Yesterday the best bet in politics was on a Clinton presidency, a Democratic Senate and a Republican House. Today, it might be on a Clinton presidency and a Republican Congress. Whereas one day ago, Democrats had decent reasons to believe they could recapture the Senate even if Republicans won the White House in 2016, today, they must know that if a Republican wins the presidency, his party will control the entire government.

The practical differences between Clinton presiding over a divided Congress and a fully Republican Congress aren't great. The possibility that she'll be negotiating with two Republican houses instead of one shouldn't deter her or discourage any Democratic presidential hopeful.

To the contrary, the GOP's big showing yesterday ought to in some ways excite Clinton. An emboldened Republican Party is likelier than a one-vote majority to overreach, as it did in 2011, and set itself up for an unflattering contrast two years from now.

Likelier, but not guaranteed. Republicans could just as easily figure out to behave. If they do, Clinton's margin for error will be vanishingly small. No Democrat wants to lose the election that returns to power a Republican Party that has grown significantly more reactionary since they last controlled the government under George W. Bush. But those are now the stakes.

Forbes senior political contributor Rick Unger: "Hillary Clinton Wins Big In 2014 Midterm Elections"

By Rick Unger

November 5, 2014, 4:18 p.m. EST

There is certainly no getting around the fact that the 2014 midterm election was, indeed, a wave victory for the Republican Party.

How else can we possibly explain gubernatorial victories for candidates like Governor Rick Scott in Florida, Larry Hogan in Maryland and Gov. LaPage in Maine—candidates who could only have reached the winner's circle by being swept up in the GOP wave that lifted all Republican boats.

But Republicans around the nation were not the only big winners last night.

Standing, metaphysically speaking, just out of view on the many stages where Republican winners gave victory speeches and inside the hotel ballrooms where happy Republican supporters ate, drank and were merry, was the one person who may have been the biggest winner of the night—

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Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Yes, I am all too aware that a few candidates who were given the Clinton stamp of approval—complete with multiple campaign appearances by Bill and Hilary—went down in flames.

However, anyone who would imagine that these loses were somehow predictive of how Secretary Clinton might fare in a presidential primary race for the nomination of her party or the 2016 general election is truly deluding themselves.

It was not the Clintons who were on trial last night—it was the current occupant of the White House who was sent a message of disapproval in no uncertain terms. It was Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid who was rejected by voters throughout the nation, including a great many whom have likely never even heard of Harry Reid.

So, how does Hillary benefit from the Democrat's "Shellacking II- The Sequel"?

In case you haven't noticed, Hillary Clinton has felt the inevitable pull of moving to her left over the past few weeks. This should surprise absolutely nobody given the time-honored tradition in both parties of candidates racing to the far sides of their political party so as to please the base that shows up to vote during primaries. Once the nomination is secured, each then furiously races back toward the center where one has the best chance to win the general election and the big prize—unless, of course, you are Mitt Romney who appeared to never get the memo on this.

As a part of Clinton's commencing operation "please the liberals", she found herself saying things—such as suggesting that businesses don't create jobs—that were no doubt extremely uncomfortable for her to utter and now rest among the stack of Clinton comments she would like the opportunity to take back.

Still, such a pronouncement is not completely surprising as Clinton looks over her shoulder to see progressives who support alternative candidates, like Senator Elizabeth Warren, breathing hard down the one-time Secretary of State's neck—even as Senator Warren continues to suggest that being president is not an ambition that interests her.

But how does the hard left wing of the Democratic Party—a real concern for Mrs. Clinton two days ago–look and feel today?

If anyone out there woke up on election day believing that an Elizabeth Warren—someone whom I greatly admire—candidacy could succeed in a 2016 general election for the presidency in a country that skews right of center, it would seem sheer folly to hold onto such a belief in the more sobering light of today.

If we learned anything yesterday, it is that—while anything is possible in life—this nation is just not likely to be of a frame of mind to put a Democrat in the Oval Office in 2016 if that Democrat is perceived as coming from the far left wing of the party.

And unlike a Republican Party that fields potential presidential nominees who are more likely to be ideological purist (I refer you to the 2008 and 2012 Republican 'Caravan of Clown Candidates'), leading the party to ultimate defeat, Democrats tend to me more pragmatic in that department, understanding that it is far better to put a

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Democrat in the White House that may be a little too conservative for their tastes than it is to put a Republican in the big chair who is way too conservative for their taste.

As a result, last night's election results should go a long way toward taking the pressure off Mrs. Clinton to move to uncomfortable positions as more progressive Democrats realize that a challenge from Clinton's left will only force her into a losing posture.

Relieving that pressure and letting Hillary be Hillary is precisely what makes her one of the big winners of the 2014 midterm elections.

While the left-wing of the Democratic Party likes to point to the surprising nomination of a challenger to Clinton from the left in the guise of Barack Obama in 2008, and his eventual success at winning the presidency, I would caution that comparing the midterm results in 2006 to the midterm results of 2014 provides an extremely instructive lesson and sounds an important caution that Democrats should hear loud and clear.

The 2006 midterms brought a huge Democratic wave wherein the Democrats captured control of the Senate and the House of Representatives while, at the same time, taking a majority of the governorships and states legislatures away from the GOP. This was the wave, with an assist from some disasters that befell the Bush Administration, that made Barack Obama possible.

Clearly, this was not the result of last night's election where the GOP gained control of the Senate, added to their majority in the House, managed a net gain of four Republican governors where they were expected to lose a few and, yes, turned a number of state legislatures red.

The times are different and the Democratic response must be different than it was in 2008.

Last night's GOP sweep will make it easier for Hillary Clinton to remind potential challengers of this very different environment and…let me say it again…make it easier to let Hillary be Hillary.

As my friend Lanny Davis notes in his column today over at The Hill, the Bill Clinton presidency "proved there is nothing liberal about running up debt for our children and grandchildren to pay, who gave the Democratic Party the historic legacy that a progressive government can turn hundreds of billions of dollars of deficits into a surplus of nearly $1 trillion, which strengthened Social Security for this and future generations while also creating 23 million jobs that uplifted and empowered the poor and the middle class."

If that isn't a prescription for a successful Democratic candidacy in 2016, I don't know what is. And if Hillary Clinton is not the most likely person to follow in those footsteps and fill that prescription, I don't know who is.

Meanwhile, Andrew Romano of Yahoo News provides an excellent analysis of why some of the bigger wins by the Republicans last night, including some where the Clintons campaigned actively for a losing candidate, will not cause Mrs. Clinton any real harm should she be the nominee of her party in 2016.

"Let's start with the map. Sure, the GOP won a remarkable number of races last night. But take another look. How many purple states did Republicans actually pick up? There was Cory Gardner's victory in Colorado…There was Joni Ernst's victory in Iowa. And there was Thom Tillis's victory in North Carolina. The rest of the GOP's Senate flips (Montana, South Dakota, Arkansas, West Virginia) and gubernatorial flips (Arkansas, Maryland, Illinois, Massachusetts) were in states that won't really be contested in 2016. The Democrats flipped the

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governorship of Pennsylvania as well.'

Romano goes on to do a little math as it pertains to the 2016 presidential election:

"The math is just as bad for Republicans — and just as good for Clinton. In 2012, Mitt Romney won 59 percent of white voters, a higher share than Ronald Reagan's in 1980 and George W. Bush's in 2004. But Romney still lost to Obama. Why? Because America's minority electorate is growing every year. To hit 50.1 percent in 2016, the Republican nominee will have to win a whopping 64 percent of the white vote on Election Day — or significantly improve the party's standing among nonwhite voters, especially Hispanics. Otherwise, he or she will lose just like Romney."

Consider just how hard it will be for a Republican presidential candidate to hit a number like 64 percent of all white voters when women, with the opportunity to elect the first female president of the United States and with a history of being supportive of Democratic presidential candidates, will be among those white voters.

Frankly, the only think that would seem to be able to derail Hillary Clinton's march to the White House would be the kind of inter-party challenge from the left that would leave Clinton beaten and broken as she heads into the general election saddled with a wealth of sound bites that make her appear to be to the left of the departing President.

Last night's election results should go a long way toward warning potential Democratic opponents of Mrs. Clinton, and their supporters, of the perils of mounting a challenge more likely to make a point than produce an alternative candidate. This is particularly true given that the midterm results make clear that a New Democrat like Clinton is very much in tune with where the heart of the country can be found—liberal on social issues while conservative on fiscal matters.

And while left-wing challenges to Hillary Clinton may feel good to some Democrats, and even work to make the eventual party nominee a tougher candidate, those willing to launch such a challenge might wish to first take a look at the list of potential people who will be vying for the Republican nomination who would stand to benefit from any such challenge. I suggest this because we now know that there are lots of persuadable voters out there who have shown their willingness to do exactly that.

Inside the Clinton camp, the results of the 2014 midterms no doubt feel like a large steam valve has been turned, allowing all that left-wing pressure to release and dissipate—something that should serve the Democrats well when we arrive at the next November contest in 2016.

And while it may not quite feel like it today, make no mistake—it is Hillary Clinton who emerged from a brutal election cycle for her fellow Democrats as the big winner in the larger picture.

Reuters: "Election results could boost Republican governors, Clinton campaign for 2016"

By Gabriel Debenedetti

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

November 5, 2014, 8:36 p.m. EST

The sweeping Republican triumph in the midterm elections boosted the 2016 presidential prospects of three of the party's highest-profile governors, but Democrats on Wednesday said there also could be a silver lining for Hillary Clinton's White House hopes.

The broad Democratic losses could give the former secretary of state a chance to take over the role of party leader from a wounded President Barack Obama and sharpen her image as the Democrats' 2016 savior. The results were widely seen as more of a referendum on questions about Obama's leadership rather than a sweeping rejection of Democratic policies.

But the Republican successes also could help launch presidential campaigns for Governors John Kasich of Ohio and Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who won tough re-election battles, and Chris Christie of New Jersey, who campaigned nationally for the party as head of the Republican Governors Association.

With Tuesday's elections out of the way, the political spotlight quickly turns to the 2016 race. Clinton is the clear Democratic frontrunner, while at least a dozen possible Republican contenders are pondering a run.

Clinton's allies said Republican control of both chambers of Congress for the first time since 2006 would give her an opportunity to draw distinctions with Republicans while distancing herself from Obama.

The task of creating some distance from Obama was simplified by the resounding nature of the Republican victory on Tuesday, said Democratic consultant Hank Sheinkopf.

"People are not in love with the president today, nor should they be," he said. "It's going to be easier now."

And if Tea Party-backed conservative lawmakers like Texas Senator Ted Cruz, another potential 2016 contender, clash with the new Republican Senate leadership, Clinton could capitalize on any political fallout, allies said.

"Given the challenges of a Republican Congress and the president finding common ground, there is likely to be continued paralysis and frustration at the lack of activity in Washington to address pressing needs," said Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist who worked in Bill Clinton's White House. "By being out of office, (she) will have the ability to make clear she is not only someone with a big idea - but someone with a track record of getting things done."

CAMPAIGN-TRAIL SETBACKS

But while Clinton is a popular draw with Democrats on the campaign trail, the candidates she supported did not necessarily fare that well.

Of the 26 candidates Clinton either raised money for or appeared in public with, 12 won and 13 lost. Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu, with whom Clinton campaigned in early November, is headed to a runoff.

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Among the unsuccessful Senate candidates Clinton appeared with in the closing days of the campaign were Kay Hagan in North Carolina, Michelle Nunn in Georgia, Bruce Braley in Iowa and Alison Lundergan Grimes in Kentucky.

Also having served as Obama's secretary of state, Clinton won't always find it easy to distance herself from his image and policies.

Gleeful Republicans were quick to point out Clinton's failures and tie her to the Democratic losses.

"Today voters sent a message to Pres. Obama & Hillary Clinton, rejecting their policies & often, their candidates," tweeted Kentucky Senator Rand Paul, another likely 2016 contender.

The Republican National Committee issued a memo titled “Hillary’s Policies Were On The Ballot.”

For Republicans, victories in tough re-election races in the swing states of Wisconsin and Ohio boded well for Walker and Kasich, while Christie's RGA played a big role in several races that broke for Republicans.

“What was unexpected was how so many Republican governors won. The return of the blue state Republican governor is a story that came out of last night,” said Republican strategist Kevin Madden, in reference to the color associated with Democrats. Madden worked on the campaign of 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney, who lost to Obama.

Christie has used his RGA position to prove he is still politically viable after January’s Bridgegate scandal in New Jersey, during which officials close to Christie were accused of shutting lanes leading to the George Washington Bridge, causing big traffic jams, to punish a local mayor who had not endorsed Christie in the state election.

Christie's large fundraising hauls for the RGA's election campaign were complemented on Tuesday by high-profile victories in Democratic and swing states like Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Maryland, and Massachusetts.

Appearing on five morning television shows on Wednesday, a happy Christie swatted away questions about what the wins might mean for his national ambitions.

“It’s way off, and my view on all this is that my job this year was to elect Republican governors and re-elect Republican governors,” he said on CBS. He has raised $106 million for the group since taking over in November 2013, the RGA said.

Madden said the victories would be useful for Christie in proving his political value, if not necessarily in appealing to Republican primary voters.

Walker, meanwhile, won his third consecutive expensive and high-profile race in a Democrat-leaning state, while Kasich won by a 31-point margin in a state often considered the most important in presidential contests.

No senator who is considering a White House bid was up for re-election on Tuesday, and Representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the lone House of Representatives member seen as a likely candidate in 2016, easily kept

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his seat.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Ryan: Midterms show Clinton 'not inevitable'”

By Peter Sullivan

November 5, 2014, 5:38 p.m. EST

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) said Wednesday that the election results mean Hillary Clinton is "not inevitable."

Radio host Hugh Hewitt asked Ryan about Clinton's heavy campaigning for Democratic Senate candidates who went on to lose.

"It just tells you that she’s not inevitable," replied Ryan, a possible 2016 opponent of Clinton's. "I think she’s very beatable. I really do."

He went on to point to Clinton's record as secretary of State. "She’s the architect of the Obama foreign policy for the first four years, and look at how awful that is," Ryan said.

He also reached back to Bill Clinton's presidency. "When she was a policymaker, when her husband was president, her signature issue was single-payer healthcare, I mean to the left of ObamaCare," he said.

The Clintons' proposal to Congress was for an employer mandate to provide health insurance to employees, not a single-payer system. Their plan died in Congress.

Ryan is not the only potential presidential contender to use the midterms to go after Clinton. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said Tuesday night that the results meant Clinton was "soundly rejected."

"If we can focus in the next two years on unifying, and bringing people into the fold, into the tent, winning converts, instead of focusing on shooting at each other, than I really think we can become a majority movement in this country," Ryan said.

Hewitt then asked if Ryan was basically announcing a run for president.

"No, I’m just announcing what we have to do as conservatives," Ryan replied.

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National Journal: “Elizabeth Warren's Supporters See Vindication in Dems' 2014 Debacle”

By Emily Schultheis

November 5, 2014

Don't blame Elizabeth Warren for the Democrats' midterm defeat. Follow her back to victory.

That's the message progressives have for their fellow Democrats after Tuesday's widespread losses. Warren's supporters say the party fell short because it failed to emphasize the Massachusetts senator's message of economic populism—and that pushing that message is the road back to congressional control.

"Elizabeth Warren was the most popular Democrat on the campaign trail this cycle—in red states, purple states, and blue states," said Adam Green, cofounder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "And that's because her economic populist message ... resonates everywhere."

It's just an initial shot, but it's a sign of things to come. As the party autopsies its 2014 loss, factions promise to further fracture as they debate what went wrong, who's to blame, and where to go next. And for progressives, that means a concerted effort to pull the party to the left.

But for the movement to gain traction, it needs a high-profile candidate for the 2016 presidential contest, someone who would run to the left of Hillary Clinton. Warren is the obvious choice, but she has repeatedly said she won't run.

With Democrats on the outs in Congress, however, those calls promise to get louder.

Warren's allies point to Tuesday night's results as proof that their preferred candidate has national appeal.

Warren hit the trail for Democratic candidates across the map this year, in deep-blue states like Oregon and red ones like West Virginia and Kentucky. She spoke about economic populism issues such as the minimum wage, fixing student-debt problems, and expanding Social Security, a message that worked in states across the ideological spectrum.

While Republicans immediately jumped on both President Obama and Hillary Clinton as the major losers of the night, Warren appeared to have a better track record in the races where she personally campaigned for candidates.

Plenty of candidates whom Warren campaigned for, including Martha Coakley in Warren's home state of Massachusetts, lost their races Tuesday: Warren backed many of the same Democrats in tight races that other top party surrogates did, and Democratic hopefuls Alison Lundergan Grimes in Kentucky and Natalie Tennant in West Virginia, for example, lost by huge margins.

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But progressives tout the easy victories for other Warren-endorsed Democrats, including Sens. Al Franken of Minnesota, Jeff Merkley of Oregon, and Brian Schatz of Hawaii, as proof that Warren's policies are successful on the ballot. (Those candidates were all heavy favorites anyway, so it's a stretch to assign Warren responsibility for their victories, but the correlation—at least—is there.)

Democracy for America, another progressive group that's among Warren's biggest cheerleaders, sent an email to its supporters touting Warren-esque candidates like Merkley and Schatz.

"The bright spots in this election come from candidates who understood that the path to victory is to run hard on a populist progressive economic vision—Elizabeth Warren's vision for fighting and winning across America," the email said.

On the issues, allies note that Warren's positions won out in some red states even if Democratic candidates there didn't. Minimum-wage measures passed in four states—Alaska, Arkansas, South Dakota, and Nebraska—even as voters there favored Republican Senate candidates (in Alaska, Democratic Sen. Mark Begich is trailing his GOP opponent, though the race hasn't been called yet).

Charles Chamberlain, DFA's executive director, said the fact that minimum-wage measures passed even as Democratic candidates fell in some states shows that Warren's messaging and stand on issues could have helped Democrats who ultimately lost on Tuesday.

"Look, the same voters [who] voted to raise minimum wage in South Dakota voted to elect [Republican] Mike Rounds," he said. "The problem isn't what we stand for, it's who stands for us. Those Democrats [who lost] were not strong enough on our issues."

So are the results of the midterms enough to make Warren reconsider a presidential run? It was a rough night for Clinton—and as Republicans jump on her midterm record ahead of 2016, there could be an opening for a Democrat who's seen as more of an outsider. And for Warren, who will soon be in the minority in the Senate, seeking national office would certainly give her a bigger platform to compensate for her diminished clout in the upper chamber.

"If I were Sen. Warren I'd be thinking about, what is the strongest way for me to advocate for the change I believe we need to see in America?" Chamberlain said. "When you think about it—languishing in the minority versus leading the entire country—I think that's a real strong calculation she's going to have to make."

Erica Sagrans, the treasurer for the draft-Warren group Ready for Warren, which is ramping up its activities on behalf of the senator (and with which Warren has denied all involvement), said Tuesday's result "does change the calculation" for Warren because a presidential bid could "give more of a voice to her ideas and values."

Regardless, supporters say she'll have a role in shaping the overall Democratic message in 2016 no matter what her decision is—and that her influence on Clinton, for example, is already clear.

"Honestly, I don't know," Green said. "I do believe her current intent is not to run—but that's not to say that she has no role in the 2016 election."

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Daily Caller: “With Eyes On Rand And Hillary, John Bolton Says He Is Mulling Presidential Bid”

By Alex Pappas

November 5, 2014, 4:23 p.m. EST

John Bolton, the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, tells The Daily Caller he is considering a run for president in 2016 as a Republican.

“I have not decided,” Bolton said in an interview. “And I don’t have a timetable on that.”

But Bolton, who flirted with running in 2012, expressed a desire for a Republican presidential candidate who is capable of taking on likely Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on national security issues.

“Obviously, if the Democrats nominate Hillary,” he said, “her principle ‘qualification’ is her time as secretary of state. So being able to dissect and explain to the voters why she fails as a leader, I think is going to be critical for whomever is interested in the Republican nomination.”

He also suggested he’s partly driven to consider a run because of the rising influence of “isolationism” in the party.

“I don’t think I have to make a decision as early as some others do,” Bolton said, “but I do think the threat of isolationism is still there in the party. And I think that’s something that is of very much concern to me.”

Asked if he was referring to the libertarian-leaning Sen. Rand Paul, who is also expected to run for president, Bolton said: “I don’t personalize it so much.”

But Bolton went on to question whether Paul shares the same views on foreign policy as his father, former Texas Ron Paul. He was expressed incredulity about how Ron Paul recently gave an interview to “Russian state television” and said America doesn’t have “true democracy.”

“It’s just unbelievable,” Bolton said.

(In that interview, Ron Paul said: “Here at home, we don’t have true democracy. We have a monopoly of ideas that is controlled by the leaders of two parties. And they call it two parties, but it’s really one philosophy.”)

Bolton suggested Rand Paul will have to answer for statements like that made by his father.

“Ok, so does Rand Paul agree with that?” Bolton said. “We don’t really have true democracy here? I’d like to know the answer to that. This is the threat of isolationism. I think what you hear from Ron Paul is what the

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isolationist think, and so just asking his son what he thinks of everything his father says could be a full time business."

Bolton said he plans to observe who gets in the presidential race, but for now, he's not very satisfied with those often mentioned as likely candidates.

"Honestly," he said, "I don't see yet in the field — or of the people the great mentioner in the sky mentions — anybody who is really prepared to address the national security issues in the comprehensive way I hope they will be. Now, we don't know who is in and who is out yet, so I want to see a little bit of what happens."

More immediately, Bolton said he plans to continue ramping up his activities in the John Bolton PAC and SuperPAC. For the midterms, his PACs raised a combined $7.5 million. He endorsed 87 Republican candidates, contributed $470,000 directly to campaigns and spent $5 million on advertising.

Speaking of the midterm election results, which gave Republicans a majority in the Senate, Bolton said: "I think it was an overwhelming rejection of the president's policies, but I think what was particularly interesting was the role that national security played in both in several specific elections but more broadly across the country."

He specifically mentioned three GOP Senate candidates — Tom Cotton of Arkansas, Joni Ernst of Iowa and Thom Tillis of North Carolina — who he supported and won.

"I think where candidates — either because of their own backgrounds or their beliefs — stressed national security, they tended to do very well," Bolton said.

"I think the general concern across the country that the Obama administration was not protecting America — whether it is from international terrorism or border security or Ebola or just in general the impression the world was getting more disorderly and therefore more threatening — it was a very powerful theme across the country," Bolton said.

Part of Bolton's efforts are aimed at showing candidates that people do care about national security.

"Political operative have been wrong for so long," he said. "You know, they say, 'oh foreign affairs are so distant from people's everyday lives and doesn't affect them.' I give American voters more credit."

"I just think they're practical people," he said. "They know they're not going to get involved in the intricacies of some foreign crisis — that's what they expect the people they send to Washington to do — but what they expect from the people they send to Washington, the president especially, is to be able to resolve these problems in a way that protects America and its people and its interest. And so when they see that not happening, or fear that it's not happening, they equate it with a failure of leadership, and they respond accordingly."

Calendar:

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Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· November 14 – Little Rock, AR: Sec. Clinton attends picnic for 10th Anniversary of the Clinton Center (NYT)

· November 15 – Little Rock, AR: Sec. Clinton hosts No Ceilings event (NYT)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton presides over meeting of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Bloomberg)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton is honored by the New York Historical Society (Bloomberg)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

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Do You, Married Person, Take These Unearned Privileges, for Better or for Better?

Bella DePaulo and Rachel Buddeberg, Truthout: Despite the heightened awareness in contemporary life of many "isms" and privileges, singlism and marital privilege - which disadvantage nearly half of the US population - have gone largely unrecognized.

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Greece, Europe and the Neoliberal Nightmare: Is There a Way Out?

C.J. Polychroniou, Truthout: Under the bailout terms imposed by global neoliberalism, the European Union and the International Monetary Fund, the Greek economy and society are experiencing a traumatic situation comparable to wartime conditions. Any way out is fraught with peril.

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New York Police Slowdown and the Classic Challenges of Alternatives to Capitalism

Gar Alperovitz, Truthout: The NYPD's slowdown helps us focus on some of the genuinely challenging issues any system must grapple with at various levels if we are ever to create a genuinely humane and democratic next system.

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How the Great Food War Will Be Won

Jonathan Latham, Independent Science News: As in most wars, the crucial struggle in the food war is the one inside people's heads. It's perfectly possible that a lie that took several powerful industries many decades to build up could be dismantled in months.

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Hotel Lobby Sues Los Angeles to Block "Extreme" Wages

Mary Bottari and Jonas Persson, PR Watch: Two

BuzzFlash

Harvard Betrays Planet's Future by Increasing Investment in Fossil Fuel Stocks

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Harvard's refusal to drop its fossil fuel endowment holdings symbolizes a destructive neoliberal elitism.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Obama Moves to Cut US Methane Emissions by Nearly 50 Percent Over the Next Decade

Read the Article at The Guardian

France Cracks Down on "Hate Speech,"

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ALEC-affiliated trade organizations filed suit against Los Angeles to block an ordinance passed last September to raise the wages for hotel employees.

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Israeli Military Officers: Don't Punish Palestine for Joining the ICC

Robert Naiman, Truthout: Opponents of Rand Paul's boneheaded proposal to punish Palestinians for embracing the rule of law by applying to join the International Criminal Court just got some powerful reinforcements: Israeli military officers.

Read the Article

Limits to Freedom of Speech? When Legalism Replaces Humanism

Nejm Benessaiah, Truthout: Maximizing lawful but anti-social behavior minimizes ethical care and respect for fellow human beings. To claim that everything should be subject to ridicule, including another community's religion, is to state that nothing is sacred, which is like saying that existence has no meaning.

Read the Article

What Do the New Immigration Rules Mean?

Julia Kann, Labor Notes: After years of pressure from activists, President Obama took executive action in November to allow millions of immigrants to remain in the country legally. Two immigrant rights activists discuss the executive order and what's next for the movement.

Read the Interview

Crime and CIA Embarrassments

Ray McGovern, Consortium News: Ex-CIA official Jeffrey Sterling is going on trial for espionage because he allegedly told a reporter about a botched covert operation that sent flawed nuclear designs to Iran, but powerful people want to spare former CIA Director David Petraeus an indictment for leaking secrets to a mistress.

Read the Article

The Top 10 Insights From the "Science of a Meaningful Life" in 2014

Jeremy Adam Smith, Bianca Lorenz, Kira M. Newman, Lauren Klein, Lisa Bennett, Jason Marsh and Jill Suttie, Greater Good Science Center: UC Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center publishes the top scientific findings produced by studying happiness, altruism, mindfulness and gratitude, which include learning that mindfulness can reduce racial prejudice and gratitude causes us to spend smarter.

Read the Article

Free Community College Could Be a Game Changer for Our Economic Future

Robin Marty, Care2: The two years of free tuition proposed by President Obama could be enough to help some students finish their half-fulfilled degrees, acquire skills training or transfer to a public college with basic credits in order

Sends Aircraft Carrier to Mideast to Fight ISIS
Read the Article at the Associated Press

Obama Cites Sony Hack to Push for More Information Sharing With Government
Read the Article at The Huffington Post

Sen. Bernie Sanders Asks, Does Congress Believe Climate Change Is Real?
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

New York Jail Guards Used Force Against Prisoners More Than 4,000 Times in 2014
Read the Article at The Guardian

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Attack on Charlie Hebdo Was God's Divine Retribution for Mocking Christianity, Says Religious Right Broadcaster
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to cut down massive costs by allowing a student to graduate more quickly and incur less debt.

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/28/2008 3:35:50 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/28/08

Main Topics: McCain's health, McEconomics, McHypocrite, McLobbyists, media bias, horse race

Summary of Shift: This evening's major McCain coverage rotated around the growth the senator had removed today, with some pundits pointing out that's bad news for McCain. Department of Homeland Security officials 'amp up' anti-terror vigilance after a little-known jihadist group produces a video threat on the Olympics. $40 million American dollars went to an unnecessary prison in Iraq that contractors never finished. Scott McClellan's admission that the White House gave talking points to FNC pundits remains a source of discussion and controversy. A new report states that the next president will inherit a $482B budget deficit.

Highlights
1) CNN: McCain speaks to the press about energy and his health
2) Surrogates hit the airwaves to tout McCain's economic plan
   a. CNN: Pfotenhauer talks deficit reduction opposite Obama adviser
   b. MSNBC: She insists, McCain is telling Americans the truth
   c. MSNBC: Donatelli highlights differences on candidate tax plans
   d. CBS: Fiorina on McCain and small business
3) McHypocrisy
   a. CNN: 'Will the real John McCain please stand up?' CNN compares McCain's anti-lobbyist rhetoric with the candidate's lobbyist ties
   b. MSNBC: McCain's rhetoric on supporting the troops does not match his record
4) Horse race
   a. MSNBC: New poll shows McCain ahead, importance questionable
   b. MSNBC: Press is more critical of Obama
   c. MSNBC: Veep search continues

No clips
1) CNN: Dana Bash says McCain is still trying to deduce how heavily he is scrutinized, the recent PR around his skin removal suggests
2) CNN: Carol Costello compares Barack Obama's and John McCain's stance on affirmative action
3) CNN: Dr. Sanjay Gupta reminds viewers that McCain is more likely to contract melanoma again than someone who has not had it previously
4) FNC: Bill O'Reilly compares John McCain's and Barack Obama's last week as part of his 'Reality Check' segment, with McCain looking the fool
5) CNN: Gloria Borger says anytime you raise the health issue, you raise the age issue
6) CNN: Dana Bash points out the irony that McCain addressed reporters from an oil derrick in CA, where the governor opposes drilling
7) FNC: Patricia Murphy says that McCain won't actually decrease the deficit

Clips
Highlight #1
McCain Speaks on Impending Biopsy, Energy and Drilling (CNN 07/28/08 3:05pm)
JOHN MCCAIN: ... oil production at a high level, including off-shore drilling. Now, in briefings that I've had with the oil producers, there are some instances within a matter of months they could be getting additional oil. In some cases, it would be a matter of a year.

In some cases, it could take longer than that, depending on the location and whether you use existing rigs or you have to install new rigs. But there's abundant resources in the view of the people who are in the business that could be exploited within a period of months.

So off-shore drilling is something we have to do. I'm sorry that Senator Obama opposes it.

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Nuclear power is not only vital, I think, to clean energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, but nuclear power also is a way to employ hundreds of thousands of Americans. We can build 45 new nuclear power plants by the year 2030. It would employ some 700,000 people.

So Senator Obama opposes off-shore drilling. He opposes reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. He opposes storage of spent nuclear fuel. And so he is the Dr. No of the America's energy future. And he also opposes a gas tax holiday as a gimmick.

So I'm very pleased to be here. Again, we'll be talking about energy and the economy and continue to do so.

And, by the way, I -- as I do every three months, visited my dermatologist this morning. She said that I was doing fine, took a small little nick from my cheek, as she does regularly, and that will be and will be biopsied, just to make sure that everything is fine.

But I want to, again, urge all Americans to wear sunscreen, particularly this summer. Stay out of the sun as much as possible. Wear sunscreen. And if you ever have any slight discoloration, please go to your dermatologist or your doctor and get it checked up on.

Melanoma is a preventable occurrence. It really is. It's one of the most preventable occurrences. But, remember, a lot of the damage that people receive from the sun when they're young sometimes comes back later in life. And that's the end of my lecture from the American Dermatology Association today.

Thank you all very much. Thank you.

QUESTION: Senator, your doctor was confident that there was nothing major?

MCCAIN: Absolutely.

Highlight #2
Nancy Pfotenhauer's Responses on Deficit Questions Leave Wolf Blitzer Unsatisfied (CNN 07/28/ 08 4:30pm)
WOLF BLITZER: […] among other things that the Obama campaign, Nancy, said today, Senator McCain is proposing to continue the same Bush economic policies that put our economy on this dangerous path and that will drive America even deeper into debt. What is he going to do differently than President Bush has done all these years to reduce this enormous deficit?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Well, spending, spending, spending. Senator McCain has been a leader in the U.S. senate and Laura knows this, trying to hold the line on federal spending. What wasn't discussed earlier is the fact that Barack Obama has midwifed this as much as anyone else.

BLITZER: I want to hear what McCain is going to do to cut the deficit.

PFOTENHAUER: Certainly, Senator McCain has proposed do a top to bottom review of the federal government and all spending programs. There will be consolidation and elimination. He's proposed to eliminate pork barrel spending and Senator Obama proposed about $900 million of that in a brief period of time that he's been in the U.S. Senate, that's I mean by he's part of the problem—

BLITZER: You know, Nancy that, pork barrel spending is something significant but a relatively tiny percentage of the federal budget.

PFOTENHAUER: It's important to stop that, though, Wolf. In addition to that, Senator McCain is going to put in place spending disciplines like a constitutionally viable line item veto, enhanced ability to stop this tremendous spending growth by forcing congress to enroll each provision separately so he could veto each provision. Keep in mind how we got here, an energy bill, a farm bill, a highway bill that is worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

[cross-talk]

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BLITZER: You're neglecting to mention about $700 billion spent on the war in Iraq, money that could have been spent here at home.

PFOTENHAUER: Well, and it's important to focus on why where that money would go in the future, since both candidates are agreeing there's going to be a troop drawdown, if you will, one important distinction between Senator McCain and Senator Obama, Senator McCain said since this war has been financed with deficit spending, as the troop drawdown occurs every penny of that needs to go to deficit reduction. Senator Obama has done nothing but lip service on deficit reduction. Senator McCain has said, "I will balance this budget by the end of my first term."

[...]

BLITZER: Let me let Nancy respond to the one serious accusation you made against Senator McCain. He opposed the bush tax cuts in 2001, opposed them in 2003, and now says they have to be made permanent, forever. That's going to increase the budget deficit, if you were to eliminate some of those tax cuts that presumably would reduce the budget deficit, right, Nancy?

PFOTENHAUER: Keep in mind; keep in mind he opposed the tax cuts because he said they needed to be accompanied with spending reductions. If they had been accompanied by spending reductions, we would not be in the situation that we're in right now. Also, keep in mind that, for most of the last eight years, revenues have been running at about 18.8% of GDP. That is slightly above historic historical averages.

I will agree with Laura on one thing, that the economic downturn has now become part of, if you will, this equation and therefore, revenues are sliding but I would argue that that's because the market has recognized a couple of things. One, Senator Obama, who is a potential president of the United States, he's not going to get there, but he's a potential president of the United States, is actively promising tax increases on income, on cap gains, on increasing the amount of wages subject to the payroll taxes, lower corporate tax rates, won't lower the corporate tax rate.

BLITZER: Unfortunately we have to leave it there. I will add one thing, Nancy, when he opposed the tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, he also said they were skewed toward the wealthy. He didn't like that and also said at the time of war you don't start cutting taxes, that's what he said at the time but he's got a different sense right now. We have to leave it right there, a good discussion, serious discussion. I'm still not hearing a lot from either one of you about how this budget deficit is about to be cut, but we'll leave that for the next occasion, Nancy, and Laura, thanks to you.

Pfotenhauer Supports McCain's New Attack Ad and Touts His Econ Platform (MSNBC, 07/28/08, 12:20pm)
CONTESSA BREWER: The Obama campaign points out Nancy, that Barack Obama went to visit the wounded troops in Iraq and he didn't bring cameras, do you think that ad reflects well on your candidate?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: I think it showcases the differences between these two gentlemen. Senator McCain, for his whole life, not just his time in the senate, but obviously his time in the military has shown that he loves his country and puts it first at the cost of political or personal well being. And with Senator Obama, I think his actions in canceling a scheduled visit with wounded troops just calls into question kind of his judgment and his priorities, frankly. And that carries over, not just from when he has had to say about foreign policy and you almost have to check your watch to see what he's saying today, because most of his statements have an expiration date. But if you translate it over into the domestic policy front, things like energy where he refuses to embrace easy answers to increasing our domestic production in order to ease the pain for Americans who are facing higher energy prices, he won't embrace drilling, he won't embrace natural gas.

BREWER: Because the experts say that even if we open up all the offshore drilling it really won't do anything to wean us off our foreign dependence. And that is why Barack Obama says he doesn't support a Federal gas tax holiday. That being said, when you have John McCain in another ad, basically blaming Barack Obama for high gas prices, again, McCain wants to be the straight shooter. Do you think these kind of campaign ads line up with a straight shooter?

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PFOTENHAUER: He's telling the American people the truth. When you look at Senator Obama's energy plan, let's just talk about that for right now, he has no plan to increase domestic production. That is reckless and irresponsible given the situation that we're facing. He doesn't endorse drilling, he doesn't endorse natural gas, he wants to tax coal, he doesn't even have a real role for nuclear power which is embraced by at least 8 other countries. It's safe and it's clean. so, he has this real piecemeal, pie in the sky plan on energy that does nothing to help people now or in five years.

BREWER: I know American families want to hear what the candidates have to say about their economic future, what they're going to do. […] So taxes aren't off the table, but Frank Donatelli says, no, no, never taxes. Which is it?

PFOTENHAUER: What Senator McCain's plan shows is that he's going to reduce taxes and keep them low on capital formation or the job producing sector of the economy and lower federal spending. And that's really one of the key difference. Senator Obama's plan calls for dramatically increasing taxes in income, raising the cap on wages subject to the payroll tax. He's going to let the cap gains tax bump back up and he's going to do nothing for our corporate tax rate, and that really hinders our international competitiveness at the same time he's increasing taxes, and he's increasing spending by about a trillion dollars. So higher taxes and higher spending, recipe for a recession.

Frank Donatelli Supports McCain's New Attack Ad and His Economic Strategies (MSNBC, 07/28/08, 10:30am)
CONTESSA BREWER: What's your response to what Obama's campaign says, that this new ad is inappropriate and dishonorable?

FRANK DONATELLI: You know, it's funny. This is about the fifth different reason that you just heard from the gentleman as to why he canceled his trip. This is first that we've heard that there's an individual that wanted to come along that they wanted to bring and the defense department wouldn't let them. They never mentioned that before. And they're also trying the defense department under the bus, for heaven's sakes. It comes back to a question of judgment, Contessa. They didn't have time to do this, but they had time to visit a couple hundred thousand citizens of the world.

[…]

BREWER: Let's talk about the judgment on the economy. It now appears that Barack Obama is ready to focus on the economy, of course, McCain last week at the time when Barack Obama was overseas he was -- McCain was in grocery stores, looking at the prices of eggs and that now very famous photo-op. do you think that he has settled on an economic message that resonates with voters?

DONATELLI: Yes, absolutely. In a time of economic weakness, no higher taxes. You never, ever raise taxes when the economy is weak. Senator Obama has promised to raise every single tax. Senator McCain is going to keep taxes low. Secondly, energy prices. Senator Obama does not have a plan. All he favors is having energy prices go higher and higher. Senator McCain believes in more domestic oil and gas supplies, which will eventually moderate the price. Very clear difference between the two candidates.

CBS Evening News Examines McCain's Economic and Energy Plans (NBC, 07/28/08, 6:55pm)
CHIP REID: John McCain has also surrounded himself with some of the best minds in business, including Carly Fiorina, former CEO of HewlettPackard, and Meg Whitman, former head of Ebay. Today they briefed reporters on the importance of cutting taxes on business to create jobs.

CARLY FIORINA: Small business is the engine of growth in this economy.

REID: McCain says he'll balance the budget by the end of his first term, but critics wonder how that's possible givin his support for extending all of the Bush tax cuts. As important as jobs and taxes are, polls show it's the price of gas that really gets voters mad. That's where McCain kept his focus today as he toured an oil field in California.

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MCCAIN: So offshore drilling is something we have to do.

REID: McCain says he now supports increased offshore drilling, as do 73 percent of Americans, because he says more oil supplies will bring prices down. He says it's time for Obama to get on board.

MCCAIN: He is the doctor no of America's energy future.

REID: But Obama says offshore drilling harms the environment, and looks to the past not the future. […] There are now so many economic challenges confronting the nation that as one key senator put it today, whoever is the next president will have a very, very sobering first week.

Highlight #3
John McCain's Lobbyists Under Scrutiny (CNN 07/28/08 8:46pm)
JOE JOHNS: John McCain and the lobbyists is a story that won't go way. That is partly because the democrats like to talk about it so much. When you're following the lobbying game, it's all about money and who gets access to power. To hear John McCain tell it, he's your guy in Washington fighting against the unchecked influence of big businesses and their lobbyists.

JOHN MCCAIN: The workers and entrepreneurs of America are taken for granted by their government while the lobbyists and special pleaders are seldom turned away.

JOHNS: Those lobbyists often kick in top dollar to gain top access to the highest corridors of power, right? Sure. How does that McCain rhetoric square with this: a fancy 2006 soiree of the little known, but well-respected International Republican Institute in Washington, the video from the group's own website shows the chairman of AT&T, which had just donated $200,000 to the institute introducing none other than John McCain, who was still chairman of the institute's board. Remember, at the time, McCain was fresh off of the term as the chairman of the senate committee that regulates telephone companies like AT&T. AT&T says there were no strings attached to the donation but that's not always the point.

LARRY SABATO: Access this is name of the game. It's getting in the door to see your candidate so you can make your case. Sometimes you don't even need to see the candidate, just talk to staff members, the people who influence the candidate's decision.

JOHNS: Okay, so which is it? Will the real John McCain please stand up? Is he the scourge of a system in Washington that rewards lobbyists and their wealthy bosses or is he the guy who hob-knobs with and therefore might somehow be influenced by the very interest he says he's trying to root out? Answer: both.

Smart politicians know tough talk on lobbyists sounds good to the public. The reality is players at this level can't live without them.

SABATO: They know they work with lobbyists, they have staffers who have been lobbyists, they are going to depend on lobbyists for a lot of information for the decisions they make if they get elected. So absolutely, there's a lot of hypocrisy involved.

JOHNS: The group, IRI that held the event McCain attended gets just about all its money from the federal government to do things like promote democracy around the world and help governments run more efficiently. It's a cause McCain believes in.

A former IRI staffer who also worked for the last McCain presidential campaign says that while the IRI event may have brought McCain and the lobbyist together, there was never any kind of a quid pro quo.

TODD HARRIS: The important question is are those lobbyists getting anything, any special favors or privileges for their donations? In the case of Senator McCain in general and IRI specifically, there's never been a single time someone gave money and said, 'This is what I want in exchange.'

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CAMPBELL BROWN: […] I have to ask, with all this talk about clearing out the lobbyist, McCain has also gotten a lot of criticism over his campaign manager, Rick Davis who was a former lobbyist.

JOHNS: That's right and there are some other former lobbyists as well, you know; a variety of people. You might even need a scorecard to keep up with all of them. The democrats say McCain is tainted by this. The republicans say he's completely above it. He's put in—actually—a conflicts policy to try to tell people who are actually paid by the campaign that they can't work actively as a lobbyist but this story tends to dog him […].

[…]

CAMPBELL BROWN: […] McCain, after he became the Republican nominee, said he was gonna take this dramatic step, purging his campaign staff of anyone with lobbyist ties. Several staffers did leave, but […] Rick Davis, his campaign manager: former lobbyist, still there; Charlie Black: former lobbyist now, still in a senior advisor position. I mean, a lot of parsing. You're either okay with lobbyists, or you're not, right?

McCain Voting Hypocrisy: Record Shows Lack of Support in Voting for Veterans and Troops (MSNBC 07/28/08 8:20pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: […] The latest McCain campaign ad made an even more outlandish claim quote, "John McCain is always there for our troops." Except when he isn't. As Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid noted in mid 2007, McCain only showed up for four of the past 14 Senate votes on Iraq. So far this year he's shown for none. Not even the resolution honoring the sacrifice made by the fallen.

In looking at just part of McCain's record of supporting the troops since the war in Iraq began, in April 2003 he tabled a motion to provide over a billion dollars of national guard and reserve equipment. October 2003, he tabled then an amendment to provide an additional 322 million dollars for safety equipment for U.S. troops in Iraq. March 2004, he voted against eliminating abusive tax loopholes that would have increased veteran's medical care by 1.8 billion dollars. March 20006, he voted against closing corporate tax loopholes that would have increased veteran's medical services by 1.5 billion dollars. April 2006, he voted against providing an extra 430 million dollars for veteran outpatient care. May, 2006 he voted against 20 million dollars for veteran healthcare facilities. March 2007, he didn't bother to vote on a resolution to start redeploying troops from Iraq by March 2008. September 2007, he voted against Senator Webb's amendment that would specify minimum rest periods for troops in between deployments. And in May 2008 he first spoke out against Senator Webb's GI bill and then didn't bother to show up to vote on it. But none of that stopped him from accepting President Bush's praise when the bill ultimately passed.

[…]

If you go after your opponent for not supporting the troops, when your own record is pretty clearly indicative that you do not support the troops, do you not provoke people to look at your own record like we just did?

RACHEL MADDOW: I've long said, and you've been saying this too, that there is a fascinating candidacy for the presidency happening right now, if people could just pay attention to it for a hot minute. John McCain can't hold the press's interest for long enough to get this kind of scrutiny in very many media venues. His campaign is counting on, and I think they've been right to count on so far, the idea that if you kind of squint and don't focus too much, the fact that he is a veteran can sort of substitute for the idea that he has done right by veterans as a politician, that he's done right by veterans and by the troops as a Senator. But the fact is, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans of America they gave John McCain a D for his voting record, they gave Barack Obama a B+. Disabled American Veterans gave John McCain just a 20 percent voting record, they gave Barack Obama an 80 percent voting record. There's a difference between being a veteran and supporting veterans as a politician, he's just counting on people not being able to tell the difference.

Highlight #4
New Poll Shows McCain Ahead of Obama, But Does It Count? (MSNBC 07/28/08 5:40pm)

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MIKE BARNACLE: Whenever these polls are released, and they're released almost on an hourly basis now, there are always two things that are pointed out. One is, Barack Obama seems unable, thus far, to crack 50 percent in the polls. And yet John McCain seems unable, thus far, to crack 45 in the polls. What do you make of that?

WAYNE SLATER: Let me say something that may be a little counterintuitive, and that's that we got a poll that shows John McCain ahead. As Michelle said, it's the first time in any poll we've seen in this campaign. But I really think it's not good news for John McCain. It's not bad news to be ahead, but it's not good news. Basically, people know who John McCain is, he hasn't made the sale. He can't go above 45 at least so far. Barack Obama is still largely unknown, in the larger sense of things, and he hasn't completely made the sale, but I think the opportunity for growth is there with Barack Obama. To go back to the cliché we've heard again and again, this is Barack Obama's race to lose. A referendum on his race. If he stays ahead, as in other polls, then I think he wins.

Media Bias Investigated: More Negative Obama Coverage, Press Takes It Easy on McCain (MSNBC 07/28/08 6:07pm)
RACHEL MADDOW: There is such thing as bad press. Much has been made in the past couple of weeks about the disproportionate media coverage that Obama is getting as compared to John McCain. Indeed, Andrew Tindle's online Tindle report found that Obama was getting almost twice as much network news coverage as McCain. But now George Mason University has looked into not just how much the networks are saying about each candidate, but what they're saying, and it turns out that 72 percent of the opinionated statements on Obama on network coverage were negative. The networks were 15 points kinder, more favorable to John McCain then they were to Obama. It's not just the quantity of coverage, it's the quality. And that means, I think, I'm not sure that John McCain's campaign has much to complain about in terms of their press coverage right now.

DAVID GREGORY: Are you surprised that McCain's still getting the buzz, the glow from 2000?

MADDOW: He's just not getting very much attention at all. And the coverage that he is getting is sort of rounding him up in sort of a nice, hazy, soft focused way based on his 2000 impression. People just aren't taking a hard look at him and they're not being tough on him.

McCain's Vice Presidential Candidate Options Down to a Shortlist (NBC Nightly News, 07/28/08, 7:11pm)
BRIAN WILLIAMS: And back home, the U.S. political clock is ticking down towards this summer's party conventions. By the time they take to the stage, Obama and McCain will have running mates selected. We're getting awfully close to selection time for both of them, you can tell that from the amount of speculation that's flying around Washington.

DAVID GREGORY: For Obama and McCain it's the most presidential decision of the race, and by all accounts they are closing in on a number two.

[…]

Republican sources close to McCain say he appears to be down to a shortlist of three. Mitt Romney, former Congressman and Bush administration official Rob Portman, and Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty with whom McCain is said to have good chemistry. But might McCain try someone more unconventional, like the pro-abortion rights former governor of Pennsylvania Tom Ridge?

The base wouldn't like it but those swing voters, those white independent women, those Hillary supporters who may decide this election, I think they'd like Tom Ridge and I think the two of them would play really strong.

A lot of the buzz now is not just who but when. This is a decision that can change the dynamic of a campaign.

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/27/2008 12:18:04 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Pottsville, PA 10/27/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Jacob, on the ground in Pottsville. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights

- Says Obama is running to be Redistributionist in Chief. I'm running to be Commander in Chief.
- Repeats (slimmed-down) attack on Obama for saying in a radio interview that one of the "tragedies" of the civil rights movement is that it didn't bring about "redistributive change."
    - Says Obama said that even though lower taxes on investment help our economy, he favors higher taxes on investment for "fairness" -- "There's nothing "fair" about driving our economy into the ground."
    - Repeats that Obama's more interested in controlling wealth than in creating it
- Scoffs at Obama for saying we should look at environmental concerns, etc. when considering nuclear power

Pottsville, PA: McCain Rally 10/27/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- about 4000 ppl, VERY enthusiastic crowd
- Tracker saw about 30 demonstrators outside pre-event yelling 'Tell Your Mama Vote Obama!'
- State Reps. Gary Hornberger and Dave Argall give brief intro remarks: Obama will tax and spend
- Cindy intros mccain
    - you make my heart so warm
    - when we started on this 18mo. ago it was a family affair [someone yells cindy's hot?]
    - we had a vested interest in iraq - our son was there
    - leadership and character to be pres - he has always put his country first
    - lived his life by code of conduct - duty honor - what a wonderful pres. he'll make

Speech Highlights

TY. wont cindy make a great FLOTUS? and wont palin make a great VP? shes smart, tough, reformer, wonderful family person and she'll take on old boy netwrk of DC. ty for your enthusiastic support of her. Todd is 4x snow mobile champ. think anyone in DC coudl scare him or her?

lets start out with a msg tonight: we need to win PA. i need your help over next 8 days so we can bring real change to DC.

some ST: we cant spend next 4 yrs as weve spent last 8. we have to act, we need a new direction and we have to fight for it. ive been fighting ofr this country since i was 17 and i ahve the scars to prove it.

I have a plan to hold the line on taxes and cut them to make America more competitive and create jobs here at home. no one knows better than you in PA how badly we need to create jobs and get our econ. going again. We're going to double the child deduction for working families. We will cut the capital gains tax. And we will cut business taxes to help create jobs, and keep American businesses in America. [john mccain! john mccain!]

Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse. Keeping taxes low creates jobs, keeps money in your hands

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and strengthens our economy.

If I'm elected President, I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money. Senator Obama will. And he can't do that without raising your taxes or digging us further into debt. I'm going to make government live on a budget just like you do.

I will freeze government spending on all but the most important programs like defense, veterans care, Social Security and health care until we scrub every single government program and get rid of the ones that aren't working for the American people. And I will veto every single pork barrel bill Congresses passes. DNA of bears or whatever - you will know their names, i will make them famous.

I'm not going to spend $750 billion dollars of your money just bailing out the Wall Street bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. I'm going to make sure we take care of the working people who were devastated by the excesses of Wall Street and Washington.

I have a plan to fix our housing market, so that your home value doesn't go down when your neighbor defaults, and so that people in danger of defaulting have a path to pay off their loan. so that ppl can achieve american dream of owning a home.

If I'm elected-- when im elected President, we're going to stop spending $700 billion to buy oil from countries that don't like us very much.

in the debate the other night, i talked about how much i admired obama's rhetoric. but you listen to whats behind his words. he said he would "consider" offshore drilling. we talked about nucl, and he said well you have to consider the enviro, and -- that's right, drill baby drill. We will invest in all energy alternatives -- nuclear, wind, solar, and tide. We will encourage the manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric automobiles. We will invest in clean coal technology. let me remind you: the USA sits on worlds largest coal reserves - we can do clean coal and create millions of jbos. i see a few old navy vets - there's 1 from my old ship - we've sailed navy ships around the world w/ nucl plants on them. the french, the japanese, the british. they store and reprocess. 80% of french energy comes from nuclear. We will lower the cost of energy within months, and we will create millions of new jobs. millions

you know, We've learned more about Senator Obama's real goals for our country over the last two weeks than we learned over the past two years, and that only because Joe the plumber asked him a question in Ohio. That's when Senator Obama revealed -- but not for the first time -- he wants to quote "spread the wealth around."

Now, Joe didn't ask for Senator Obama to come to his house, and he didn't ask to be famous. He certainly didn't ask for the political attacks on him from the Obama campaign. Joe's dream is your dream -- to own a small business that will create jobs, and the attacks on him are an attack on small businesses all over the country. Small businesses employ 84 percent of Americans, and we need to support small businesses, not tax them.

After months of campaign trail eloquence, we've finally learned what Senator Obama's economic goal is: to spread the wealth. In a radio interview revealed today, he said the same thing -- that one of the "tragedies" of the civil rights movement is that it didn't bring about "redistributive change."

You see, Senator Obama believes in redistributing wealth, not in policies that grow our economy and create jobs. He said that even though lower taxes on investment help our economy, he favors higher taxes on investment for quote "fairness." There's nothing "fair" about driving our economy into the ground. We all suffer when that happens, and that is the problem with Senator Obama's approach to our economy. He is more interested in controlling wealth than in creating it ... in redistributing money instead of spreading opportunity. I am going to create wealth for all Americans, by creating opportunity for all Americans.

Senator Obama is running to be Redistributionist in Chief. I'm running to be Commander in Chief. Senator Obama is running to spread the wealth. I'm running to create more wealth. Senator Obama is running to punish the successful. I'm running to make everyone successful.

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My opponent's massive new tax increase is exactly the wrong approach in an economic slowdown. The answer to a slowing economy is not higher taxes, but that is exactly what is going to happen when the Democrats have total control of Washington. [boos, someone yells something about "spending!"] We can't let that happen. We need pro-growth and pro-jobs economic policies, not pro-government spending programs paid for with higher taxes.

This is the fundamental difference between Senator Obama and me. We both disagree with President Bush on economic policy. The difference is that he thinks taxes have been too low, and I think that spending has been too high.

If we are going to change Washington, we need a President who has actually fought for change and male it happen. The next President won't have time to get used to the office. We face many challenges here at home, and many enemies abroad in this dangerous world. i will bring our troops home in victory and honor and not in defeat.

just the other day, a couple days ago, Senator Biden warned a group of fatcat contributors out on the W. Coast -- he warned us that Senator Obama would be tested with an international crisis. I have been tested. Senator Obama hasn't. i know how to work with our friends and i know how to treat our enemies. biden is the gift that keeps on giving.

Senator Biden referred to how Jack Kennedy was tested in the Cuban Missile Crisis and I have a little personal experience in that. I was on board the U.S.S. Enterprise, and I sat in a cockpit on the flight deck waiting to take off. We had a target. I know how close we came to a nuclear war and I will not be a president that needs to be tested.

We know Senator Obama won't have the right response to that test, because we've seen the wrong response from him over and over during this campaign. He opposed the surge strategy that is bringing us victory in Iraq and will bring us victory in Afghanistan. He said he would sit down unconditionally with the world's worst dictators. [boos] When Russia invaded Georgia, Sen. Obama said the invaded country should show restraint. He's been wrong on all of these. When I am president, we are going to win in Iraq and win in Afghanistan, and our troops will come home in victory and honor.

Let me give you a little straight talk. Let me give you the state of the race today. There's eight days to go. We're a few points down. The pundits have written us off, just like they've done before. My opponent is working out the details with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid of their plans [boos] to raise your taxes, increase spending, and concede defeat in Iraq. He's measuring the drapes, and he's planned his first address to the nation for before the election. [yelling, incl. "let the ppl have a vote!"] I guess I'm old fashioned about these things -- I prefer to let the voters weigh in before presuming the outcome.

What America needs now is someone who will finish the race before the starting the victory lap, someone who will fight to the end, and not for himself but for his country.

I have fought for you most of my life, and in places where defeat meant more than returning to the Senate. [yelling] There are other ways to love this country, but I've never been the kind to back down when the stakes are high.

let me just say to you, I know you're worried. [yelling] America is a great country, but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future.

Let me ask you a few questions real quickly. Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

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I'm an American. You are Americans, and we choose to fight. Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight. [usa! usa!]

Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our country and our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for your children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Now, let's go out win this election in PA and get this country moving again.

God bless you, god bless you all, and god bless the USA.

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Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 8:31:48 AM
Subject: RE: Call with HRC

I thought Podesta was joking about using that line!!

I wouldn't use a Gowdy line.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:31 AM
To: John Podesta
Cc: Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com; Jim Margolis; mpaul@hillaryclinton.com; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com; sbay@hillaryclinton.com; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

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A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

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I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From:	"Stephen Paduano" <spaduano@hfaintern.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	7/21/2015 3:37:49 AM
Subject:	Summarized Clips (7.21.15)
Attachments:	Daily Clips (7.21.15).docx

Daily Clips

July 21, 2015

In Facebook Chat, Hillary Clinton Tells of Her Love of Pantsuits, and Jabs Her Rivals

NYT/Alan Rappeport

- "[HRC] dished out some news on her philosophy of financial regulation, proclaimed her love of pantsuits and threw some jabs at her Republican riv als in her inaugural Facebook chat as a presidential candidate on Monday."
- HRC also drew attention and praise for a notable answer on #BlackLivesMatter.

Clinton: Companies Fined for Wrongdoing Should Cut Executive Bonuses

WSJ/Laura Meckler

- "[HRC] said Monday that when corporations pay government fines for wrongdoing, the companies should reduce the bonuses of executives who 'should have been accountable or should have caught the problem.'"
- "In a wide-ranging question-and-answer session on Facebook, Mrs. Clinton also proposed increasing rewards for whistleblowers at financial firms, and she explained why she thinks the capital gains rate should go up for short term inv estments."

Judge Slams State Department over Hillary Clinton-related Records

Politico/Josh Gerstein

- A federal judge has "lashed out" at the State Department for a four-y ear delay in responding to the AP's Freedom of Information Act request concerning Huma's role at State. The judge called on the State Department to turn over the withheld documents.

New RNC Video Hits Hillary Clinton's 'Failed Leadership'

IJ Review/Joe Perticone

- The RNC released a v ideo titled 'Failed Leadership' on Monday , attacking HRC's tenure as secretary of state and highlighting several scandals during her time there.

Sanders to Push $15 Minimum Wage Bill

The Hill/Tim Devaney

- Bernie Sanders will introduce legislation Monday to increase the minimum wage of all works to $15 an hour. He will be joined by Reps. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and Raul Grijalv a (D-Ariz.).

Jeb Bush Promises to Curb Lobbying and Cut Size of Government

NYT/Michael Barbaro

- "Jeb Bush outlined on Monday a sweeping and detailed plan to rein in the size of the federal government and to curb the influence of the lobbyists who live off it, calling for a 10 percent reduction in workers, an immediate hiring freeze, a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget and a six-y ear waiting period before members of Congress can become lobbyists."

In a Swipe at Rivals, Jeb Bush Proposes to Dock Pay for Absentee Lawmakers

Bloomberg/Sahil Kapur

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- Bush said in a speech in Tallahasse that took aim at Washington: “Consider a pattern in Congress of members who sometimes seem to regard attendance and voting as optional, something to do as time permits. And if it’s an incentive they need, how about the one that pretty much every worker in America has in their job? If you don’t show up, you don’t get paid for the time that you miss.”

Scott Walker: We Might Have to Take Military Action on Day One

WaPo/Greg Sargent

- “Walker is saying that it’s ‘very possible’ the next president will have to take military action on Day One of his presidency – though it’s unclear whether he means against Iran in particular, or more generally.”
- Jeb Bush has charged that Walker’s stance on the issue suggests a “lack of maturity.”

GOP Presidential Hopeful Scott Walker Signs Abortion Ban Bill (AP)

- Gov. Walker signed a bill Monday outlawing non-emergency abortions at or beyond 20 weeks of pregnancy. Performing an abortion in violation of the law is a felony punishable by up to three and a half years in prison and $10,000 in fines.

Poll: Walker Leads in Iowa, Followed by Trump

Politico/Nick Gass

- A Monmouth University poll released Monday shows Scott Walker in the lead in Iowa with 22 percent, followed by Trump at 13 percent, and Ben Carson at 8 percent.

Rand Paul Readying Hill Push for Guns on Military Bases and in Recruiting Stations

WaPo/David Weigel

- Rand Paul is expected to introduce legislation this week allowing soldiers to carry guns on military bases.

Cruz: Iran Deal Likely to Force Next President To Take ‘Direct Military Action’

Buzzfeed/Christopher Massie

- “Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz said on Saturday that the deal to restrict Iran’s nuclear program and lift economic sanctions on the country would likely force the next president to take ‘direct military action’ to prevent a nuclear catastrophe.”

Cruz and Vitter to Target Congressional Health Care

Roll Call/Bridget Bowman

- David Vitter and Ted Cruz are expected this week to introduce “No Exemptions” legislation to combat congressional health care benefits.

Lindsey Graham and his Two Amigos Kick Off ‘No Nukes for Iran’ Tour

Bloomberg/Emily Greenhouse

- Lindsey Graham – joined by “amigos” Sens. John McCain and Joe Lieberman – railed against the Iran deal and declared a “No Nukes for Iran’ multi-state tour.

Rush Limbaugh Rallies Listeners to Donald Trump’s Defense

NYT/Maggie Haberman

- Rush Limbaugh came to the defense of Donald Trump on Monday, praising Trump’s move after his controversial comments on John McCain’s war record to “double down and tell everybody to go to hell.”

U.S. Embassy in Cuba Reopens After More Than 50 Years

NYT/Azam Ahmed

- “After more than a half-century defined by mistrust and rancor, the United States officially reopened its six-story embassy in the Cuban capital on Monday.”

Banks Reopen, First Repayments Start as Greece Aims for Return to Normal

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Reuters/Lefteris Papadimas

- “Greece reopened its banks and started the process of paying off billions of euros owed to international creditors on Monday in the first signs of a return to normal after a deal was reached for a new package of bailout reforms.”

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From: "Karen Dunn" <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com>
To: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/17/2016 3:13:53 AM
Subject: Re: CLIP | NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

Need to know how many people get guns through Charleston loophole broken down by timeframe. The last thing he said he would look at something it took a very long time.

On Jan 17, 2016, at 10:06 AM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Baer <nbaer@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: January 17, 2016 at 9:47:53 AM EST
To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: CLIP | NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=95f60a8d-a842-40b1-bcea-b1a96e194209

Rough Transcript

CHUCK TODD: let me start with one of the issues that's likely to come up tonight at the debate, that's the issue of gun safety. last night in what the clinton campaign is referring to as a debate-eve conversion you came out in favor of essentially repealing immunity for gun manufacturers when it comes to being held liable for gun deaths. that's a switch of your positions. what brought you to this conclusion?

BERNIE SANDERS: well, not really. you know, i understand that secretary clinton and her campaign understand that, you know, they're losing ground. we've started this campaign off 359% in the poll at 3% in the polls, we're closing in in iowa and we're ahead in new hampshire. so i sense in the next few weeks you'll see more --

CHUCK TODD: but you did change your position on this.

BERNIE SANDERS: what i said several months ago, having a d-minus voting record from the nra, voting to ban assault weapons in 1988, yeah, that was a piece of legislation i wanted to relook at. but what that legislation had is a prohibition on armor-piercing bullets, it had language for a child lock safety for our kids, important provision. there were things i do not like and i was willing to rethink. we have rethought it. there's a bill apparently being introduced, i like that bill, it makes good changes and we will be supportive of it.

CHUCK TODD: another thing that will come up on the issue of gun safety is the issue of a waiting period. the clinton campaign is hitting you on not being supportive of something longer like a five day or seven day window and the reason this is being brought up is if dylann roof, the man who killed those nine folks in charleston last year, if there had been a longer waiting period he might have been prevented from buying a gun.

BERNIE SANDERS: look, what we saw in charleston is a tragedy of unspeakable dimensions. i did some pray a guy did prayer with people then takes out a gun and shoots nine people. i believe very strongly in instant background checks. i think we have to expand it and make sure 100% that we keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have that, people with criminal backgrounds, people who are mentally unstable. that has been my view from day one. but you know, chuck, i think the reason the clinton campaign is getting defense sieve they see that we have the momentum. they see the issues we are talking about, a disappearing middle-class and new income and going to the top 1%, a corrupt campaign finance system where people like secretary clinton can raise millions of dollars through super pacs. those are the issues they don't want to discuss so tonight we're going to be

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discussing a lot of issues and the main issues is why the rich get richer, almost everybody else gets poorer and the fact that we have got to stand up to the billionaire class and change those dynamics.

CHUCK TODD: so you're in in favor of a longer background check? a five, seven-day background check?

BERNIE SANDERS: we are willing to look at anything that makes sense, that keeps guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. but i'm not going to be defensive on that issue. i lost an election in 1988, probably lost an election because i had the courage back then to say assault weapons should not be sold in america.

CHUCK TODD: let me ask you quickly about the iran deal. is iran still an enemy of the united states given what's going on? the improved diplomatic relations?

BERNIE SANDERS: it's funny. if you think back to 2007 during the campaign in which secretary clinton ran against barack obama she was critical of him, a question was asked to obama and said "would you sit down and talk to the iranians?" and he said "yeah, i would." point bag in you talk to your adversaries, you don't run away from that. secretary clinton i think called him naive. turns out that obama was right so clearly we have many, many issues and many concerns with iran but clearly also we want to improve our relationship with this very powerful country. i think the agreement to make certain iran does not get a nuclear weapon was a huge step forward. the fact we have the prisoner release was a good important step forward. so i hope we can continue to go forward to improve relations with iran.

CHUCK TODD: senator sanders, i'll leave it there. we'll look forward to seeing you, secretary clinton and martin o'malley on stage on nbc thank you, sir. it's going to be a humdinger of a debate. you heard senator sanders there mentioned hillary clinton in almost every single answer.

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Attachments:	7.21.15 H4A News Clips.docx

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July 21, 2015

LAST NIGHT'S EVENING NEWS

All three networks reported Donald Trump's controversial comments about whether John McCain is a war hero. NBC noted that Trump leads the latest Republican poll. Trump refused to apologize for his comments regarding McCain. Reporters claimed that John McCain served in the military while Trump avoided the draft. CBS interviewed Trump and he clarified that he doesn't want to run as an independent because running as a GOP candidate is the best way to win the presidency.

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In Facebook Chat, Hillary Clinton Tells of Her Love of Pantsuits, and Jabs Her Rivals // NYT // Alan Rappeport – July 20, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton dished out some news on her philosophy of financial regulation, proclaimed her love of pantsuits and threw some jabs at her Republican rivals in her inaugural Facebook chat as a presidential candidate on Monday.

Showing her social media savvy, Mrs. Clinton expanded on her plans for holding Wall Street accountable and called for paying whistle-blowers more to come forward and speak out against corporate wrongdoing.

Mrs. Clinton also used the format to set the record straight on racial inequality, declaring unequivocally that "black lives matter." Her Democrat rivals, Senator Bernie Sanders and former Gov. Martin O'Malley, drew criticism after they seemed to hedge on the issue, but Mrs. Clinton said, "Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that."

The former secretary of state also took the opportunity to bring up Donald J. Trump and try to make him the face of the Republican Party on immigration.

"Donald Trump in particular is getting a lot of attention for some hateful rhetoric, but Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio actually agree with him on denying a pathway to citizenship and consigning hardworking immigrants to second-class status," Mrs. Clinton said.

Mrs. Clinton's chat drew thousands of readers and while she was peppered with questions from reporters — "Do you feel responsible for the situation in Libya?" — she tended to mix policy answers with personal touches about subjects such as the plight of being a female road warrior and her wardrobe.

"I never met a pantsuit I didn't love," Mrs. Clinton said, pointing a fan to her online campaign store.

Clinton: Companies Fined for Wrongdoing Should Cut Executive Bonuses // WSJ // Laura Meckler – July 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner for president, said Monday that when corporations pay government fines for wrongdoing, the companies should reduce the bonuses of executives who "should have been accountable or should have caught the problem."

In a wide-ranging question-and-answer session on Facebook, Mrs. Clinton also proposed increasing rewards for whistleblowers at financial firms, and she explained why she thinks the capital gains rate should go up for short-term investments.

Her ideas come at a time when her challengers for the Democratic presidential nomination are promising big changes to Wall Street regulation, including reinstating rules that require that commercial and investment banking be separated. Mrs. Clinton doesn't plan to go that far, and is under pressure from the left to offer her own proposals.

Previewing a speech on Wall Street regulation slated for the coming weeks, Mrs. Clinton vowed to defend and expand the 2010 Dodd-Frank legislation regulating financial firms, and she repeated her promise to prosecute individuals as well as corporations for wrongdoing. Her remarks came ahead of Dodd-Frank's fifth anniversary Tuesday.

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"We have work to do to enhance accountability," she wrote. "Even though some institutions have paid fines and even admitted guilt, too often it seems like the people responsible get off with limited consequences (or none at all)."

She said she also would "appoint and empower tough, independent-minded regulators" and give them resources to do their jobs.

In addition, Mrs. Clinton said award amounts for whistleblowers should be increased, to provide a greater incentive for employees to come forward amid high Wall Street pay levels. An aide said that the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act caps at $1.6 million the amount that an individual can receive for coming forward to the Justice Department to report wrongdoing. The aide said Mrs. Clinton is considering various approaches to requiring companies that are fined to cut executive bonuses and would offer details in the coming weeks.

On the capital gains tax, Mrs. Clinton confirmed a Journal report that later this week she will announce a proposal to revamp the tax so it hits short-term investors with higher rates. It is part of a package of measures designed to prod companies to put more emphasis on long-term growth.

She cited changes in corporate attitudes in explaining why she supports increasing the capital gains tax to rates higher than the 20% she backed in 2008. "The increase in short-termism has grown in urgency since 2008, and the urgency of our solutions has to match it," she wrote.

For investments held by top earners for a short time—perhaps two or three years—the rate would increase to more than 28% from 23.8%. When she ran for president in 2008, she said that the tax should not go above 20%, a point that some Republicans seized on Monday.

"Hillary Clinton's backtrack on her previous capital gains position is a blatant attempt to appease the liberal wing of her party that she is so desperate to win over," said Jeff Bechdel, communications director for the America's Rising PAC, a Republican group.

In her Facebook session, Mrs. Clinton also:

–Promised to offer policies aimed at making college more affordable. She said her ideas include allowing students to refinance debt so it is more affordable and encouraging more people to use a system that sets debt repayments as a percentage of income.

–Addressed a question that tripped up her rivals at the liberal Netroots Nation convention over the weekend. Asked what she would do to begin dismantling "structural racism" in the nation, she began her response by writing, "Black lives matter," a saying that's been adopted by activists. At a session earlier this year, she upset some when she said, "All lives matter," a phrase seen as diminishing the particular problems facing African-Americans.

She also repeated her calls for an overhaul of the criminal justice system, as well as for increasing money spent on early childhood education and for automatic voter registration.

–Repeated that an increase in people working in the "gig economy"—for companies such as Uber, though she didn't mention it by name—offers challenges and opportunities. She has come under some scrutiny for suggesting that the business models of these popular companies may diminish worker protections.

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“We have to resolve these questions while embracing the promise and potential of these new technologies and without stifling innovation or limiting the ability of working moms and veterans and young people to get ahead,” she said. She added that the Affordable Care Act has shown the importance of making sure workers have access to benefits.

–Praised the late South African leader Nelson Mandela as the “greatest person I’ve had the privilege of meeting.” She said he taught her the power of overcoming bitterness and hatred that “as he said, can keep you imprisoned even after you are let out.”

–Responded to a woman who said women suffer a “hair and makeup tax” because it takes them so much longer to get ready in the morning, and who asked how Mrs. Clinton manages to prepare for the day. “Amen, sister—you’re preaching to the choir,” she wrote. “It’s a daily challenge. I do the best I can —and as you may have noticed, some days are better than others!”

Here's How Hillary Clinton Says She Would Have Answered The 'Black Lives Matter' Protesters **// HuffPo //**
Amanda Terkel – July 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton attempted on Monday to distinguish her views on racial inequality from those of her Democratic presidential rivals, who drew boos from "Black Lives Matter" activists at a progressive conference over the weekend.

"Racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality," Clinton said when asked during a Facebook question-and-answer session how she would have responded to the protesters at Netroots Nation, an annual gathering of progressive activists.

While Clinton skipped the conference, her two main challengers for the Democratic nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, participated in a candidate forum on Saturday that was interrupted by protesters calling for criminal justice reform.

O'Malley was booed by the crowd when he said, "Black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter," and later apologized for seeming "insensitive" about police brutality toward the black community.

Sanders grew frustrated with the protesters and attempted to stick to his message of fighting economic injustice.

"Black lives of course matter. But I've spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights. If you don't want me to be here, that's okay," Sanders told the protesters Saturday, who chanted, "I want Bernie Sanders to say my name."

In Monday's Q&A, Clinton responded to a question about how she would have handled the protesters. Her response:

Of course, responding in a Facebook chat is much easier than actually facing down protesters in the moment. In 2009, former President Bill Clinton's appearance at Netroots Nation was also interrupted by a protester, who wanted him to account for his record on gay rights.

In late June, the former secretary of state similarly faced criticism for saying "all lives matter" while speaking at a black church, even though she had said "black lives matter" the previous year.

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The phrase "all lives matter" has been interpreted as pushback against "black lives matter," which became a rallying cry after the high-profile police killings of black men in places like Ferguson, Missouri.

Speaking about lessons she learned from her mother, Clinton said, "Her own parents abandoned her. By 14 she was out on her own, working as a housemaid. Years later, when I was old enough to understand, I asked her, 'What kept you going?' Her answer was very simple: Kindness along the way from someone who believed she mattered. All lives matter."

Around the same time, Sanders also said, "Black lives matter. White lives matter. Hispanic lives matter. But these are also not only police matters. They're not only gun control matters. They are significantly economic matters."

"Saying 'all lives matter' causes erasure of the differing disparities each group faces," The Huffington Post's Julia Craven explained last year, noting that police brutality disproportionately affects the black community. "Saying 'all lives matter' is nothing more than you centering and inserting yourself within a very emotional and personal situation without any empathy or respect."

Clinton didn't mention either O'Malley or Sanders in her response, although her line about racial inequality going beyond economic inequality seemed to be a dig at Sanders and his reaction to the protesters.

This story has been updated to include further information about Clinton's and Sanders' remarks in June.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Theo Keith (7/20/15, 12:45 pm) - Tough talk from @SenateMajLdr about Hillary Clinton: "The gender card alone isn't enough."

Dan Pfeiffer (7/20/15, 3:36 pm) - Progressive politicians are making a major error by positioning against the sharing economy.We need to be shaping the future not opposing it

The Des Moines Register (7/20/15, 9:05 pm) - The Des Moines Register, Iowa's largest newspaper, calls on Trump to withdraw from race & end "bloviating side show" http://t.co/2MjNd3ST9R ...

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton bashes Wall Street, but only a little // WaPo // Anne Gearan – July 20, 2015

Government penalties for corporate wrongdoing should cut into the bonuses paid to executives who should have been accountable, and no one is "too big to jail," Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday.

During a lengthy question and answer session on Facebook, Clinton entered the political controversy over the protest phrase "black lives matter," which ensnared her closest competitor for the Democratic nomination over the weekend. She also cracked wise about her love of pantsuits and agreed with a woman questioner that professional women are held to different expectations for physical appearance than men that the questioner called a "hair and makeup tax."

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“Amen, sister,” Clinton responded. As with others in the Facebook back and forth, the message was signed “H,” to signify that she wrote it herself. Clinton’s Facebook page and Twitter account are managed by her campaign.

She managed to plug some campaign merchandise, too.

HRCchat1

Striking a note of outrage over Wall Street abuses that is keyed to appeal to liberal voters, Clinton pledged to go beyond current regulations if she is elected president, to prosecute individuals as well as financial firms. Whistleblowers should win higher awards for calling out malfeasance, she said.

“We've all heard the shocking stories of misconduct by individuals and institutions in the financial industry,” Clinton wrote. “And even though some institutions have paid fines and even admitted guilt, too often it seems like the people responsible get off with limited consequences (or none at all). Even when they’ve already pocketed the gains. That's wrong and it has to change.”

Clinton added that she will defend and seek to expand the 5-year-old set of financial industry controls known as Dodd-Frank, and accused Republicans of trying to undo the protection the legislation affords.

Her campaign said the whistleblower proposal refers to a $1.6 million federal cap on individual awards for exposing wrongdoing.

“While this represents a large sum in real dollars, it pales in comparison to pay levels within the financial sector and in comparison to whistleblower rewards offered under comparable anti-fraud statutes,” a campaign press release said. Clinton wants to “sharply” increase the amount that could go to whistleblowers, the campaign said, but there was no mention of a precise figure.

The proposals begin to fill in details of Clinton’s carefully calibrated economic platform. She is trying to place herself as a watchdog against corporate wrongdoing and what her allies claim is a dangerous hands-off approach advanced by Republicans. At the same time she is distancing herself from the Wall Street bashing that is buoying the underdog candidacy of challenger Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)

"I pledged to prosecute individuals as well as firms when they commit fraud or other criminal wrongdoing - because no one is 'too big to jail,'" Clinton wrote. "I’ll be laying out my Wall Street agenda in more detail soon."

None of the proposals she has put forward so far appear close to the major crackdown on banking practices, financial loopholes and astronomical salaries favored by many liberals. Clinton is expected to fill in some details in a speech about corporate responsibility this week. Eventually she will have to address issues of income inequality more directly, and to answer liberal demands for a specific proposal to raise then minimum wage.

Clinton’s own longstanding ties to Wall Street, both as a New York senator and two-time Democratic presidential contender, have made her suspect in the eyes of some of the Democratic Party’s most liberal voters. Those voters wield particular influence now, when they can point up the shortcomings of the Democratic front-runner by backing a competitor or withholding support.

Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley were interrupted Saturday by protesters demanding to know what they would do about racial injustice. The heckling at the progressive political gathering Netroots Nation highlighted the divide between the vocal support for Sanders on issues surrounding economic opportunity and

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inequality and the Democrats' black and Hispanic voter bases.

Clinton skipped the gathering, which draws just the sort of progressive activists she's had trouble winning over, but weighed in on the hecklers' question in the Facebook exchange.

"Black lives matter," Clinton wrote. "Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that. We need to acknowledge some hard truths about race and justice in this country, and one of those hard truths is that that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality. Black people across America still experience racism every day."

O'Malley was nearly shouted down at the Netroots event for saying that "all lives matter," black and otherwise. He also addressed many of the protesters' concerns, but his choice of words angered many who saw it as dismissive.

Clinton had also been criticized for saying "all lives matter" during a political event in South Carolina last month.

Hillary Clinton's top goal as president could be effectively impossible to achieve // WaPo // Max Ehrenfreund – July 20, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton says the "defining economic challenge of our time" is raising incomes for working Americans, specifically for the middle class. It is no mystery why: Middle-class incomes have been stagnant for a generation and a half. Many Americans have not really benefited from an economic recovery that is now in its sixth year.

This week and the last, Clinton, a Democratic presidential candidate, has been outlining policies to address the challenge: setting a higher minimum wage, helping workers unionize, allowing new parents to take paid time off, among others.

But even if she wins the opportunity to try out these ideas during four or even eight years as president, factors beyond her control could make a meaningful increase in wages impossible for many Americans.

Some economists argue that forces, such as technological automation and globalization, have devalued moderately skilled labor and held down wages, particularly in manufacturing. Better education would mean more employment opportunities for Americans in the coming decades, but that would take, well, decades. So might reversing the long decline of organized labor. Some have even argued that the era of rapid technological advancement might be ending, meaning growth in incomes will be slower overall.

These are among the reasons that real, lasting middle-class wage growth -- the type experienced in the years after World War II and in the 1990s -- could be difficult or impossible to achieve over the next eight years.

Clinton's advisers say they recognize the challenge, but that it can be overcome.

Her campaign is "developing evidence-based policies that, taken together, would boost incomes, create a stronger and fairer economy, and set us on a path to sustainable long-term growth," Ian Sams, a spokesman, wrote in a statement, citing research by economists Alan Krueger, Raj Chetty, Heather Boushey and others.

Falling incomes are an urgent question for Clinton and other candidates for president. They've declined for the typical American household over the past 15 years, and they haven't kept pace with growth in the economy for

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decades.

Rich and poor shared the benefits of economic growth until about 40 years ago. That's about when American workers' wages suddenly stopped increasing, even though they were producing more and more, creating more revenue for their employers. There is debate among economists about why a rising tide no longer seems to lift all the boats.

Some argue that employers aren't hiring because they are relying more and more on machines to get things done. Others contend that on the contrary, meaningful technological progress has basically stopped, and that's why living standards are improving more gradually. And still others point to trade with China, which has created new competition for American labor.

Larry Mishel, president of the liberal Economic Policy Institute, dismisses these explanations as a way of avoiding what he says is the real problem. Workers have lost leverage over their bosses, and they're being paid less a result. "It's bargaining power," he said.

A stronger hand for workers was a theme of Clinton's proposals. She denounced past policies that had eroded the bargaining power of labor.

"The choices we make as a nation matter," Clinton said last Monday, "and the choices we make in the years ahead will set the stage for what American life in the middle class in our economy will be like in this century."

As president, though, Clinton's choices would be limited.

Clinton talked about rules to guarantee workers are paid for overtime and to prevent employers from misclassifying them as contractors. The Obama administration has already taken action on these issues, though.

She again proposed raising the federal minimum wage, but policymakers in many states and cities are a step ahead of Congress on the question.

Roughly three out of five workers are living in a jurisdiction with a minimum wage above the federal level. Last year, about 3 million workers received the federal minimum wage or less. That's a lot of people, but it's a small fraction of the national labor force.

Proponents predict that higher minimums would increase wages even for workers who are already earning more. Giving a minimum-wage worker a promotion and a raise could mean paying a wage above the minimum, and an increase could cascade up the scale this way. The Congressional Budget Office has predicted that an increase in the minimum wage would raise incomes slightly for the poor and the middle class, although the estimates were uncertain.

Clinton said the decline in union membership is another reason wages have improved little over the past four decades. The research shows that membership in a union increases a worker's income. And according to one estimate by Mishel and his colleagues, the decline in unions explains roughly a third of the increase in income inequality among American men between 1973 and 2007.

As president, though, Clinton would confront a major obstacle to restoring unions: the right-to-work laws that conservative governors such as Wisconsin's Scott Walker, another presidential candidate, have enacted in half the states.

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Clinton also wants to require employers to offer new parents paid leave. Only about 12 percent of U.S. workers enjoy paid family leave, according to federal statistics.

Clinton hasn't yet detailed her ideas about paid leave, but the main proposal in Congress to establish paid leave would implement it with a 0.2 percent tax on payrolls, taking money from workers and returning it to them when they have children.

Paid leave funded this way could increase household incomes on the whole if it helped more mothers go back to work after having children. Yet in the developed world, more generous paid leave is associated with a larger gap between men's and women's earnings. That could be because mothers take advantage of paid leave more frequently than fathers in those countries, and the time off puts those women at an even greater disadvantage when they go back to work.

To be sure, one way to maximize wages is to have very low unemployment, and one way to do that would be looser monetary policy at the Federal Reserve. It's unclear how much more Clinton could achieve at the Fed, since the central bank is already led by an aggressive advocate for reducing unemployment, Janet Yellen.

And in any event, the fact that unemployment is already at 5.3 percent and wages have hardly increased at all raises questions about the future trajectory of incomes.

In practice, Congress is the most important limit on a president's economic influence. As Republicans are likely to remain in control of the House no matter what the outcome of the presidential election, Clinton would have to win their cooperation if she wanted to enact paid leave for parents or a higher minimum wage, or if she wanted to repeal state right-to-work laws through federal legislation.

There are a couple of areas in which Clinton and Republicans might be able to find common ground. Politicians in both parties have been calling for comprehensive tax reform, but the last major revision to the tax code -- in 1986 -- had very little aggregate effect on the economy, research suggests. And Congress started undoing it just a couple of years after it was passed.

The next Congress could also reform the immigration system and make new investments in public infrastructure. Clinton's aides argued that both would increase the incomes of ordinary Americans.

Still, some commentators have suggested that Clinton's agenda doesn't go far enough, and the only way to meaningfully increase incomes for the working class is to redistribute money to them by raising taxes on the wealthy.

For example, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), one of Clinton's competitors for the Democratic nomination, has suggested raising marginal tax rates on the highest incomes to 50 percent or more and expanding Social Security to help prepare workers for retirement.

Clinton has endorsed the idea of a minimum effective tax rate, but it seems unlikely that she'd propose major increases in taxes on the rich.

Any suggestion that some people might have to pay more taxes to support incomes for others can make Democrats uncomfortable, as Obama and his advisers discovered when the president began talking about inequality a couple of years ago. He soon abandoned the subject.

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"The appetite for tax-and-transfer strategies, even among Democrats, much less among independents or Republicans, is probably somewhat limited," Obama recently told The New Yorker. The president explained that people worry that the burden of new taxes could fall on them and that the government would not use the money effectively, and stagnant incomes have made them even more skeptical of proposals for new revenue.

Obama's experience with how Democrats see the issue will be instructive for Clinton and her advisers if she wins the presidency and Republicans lose control of the House.

Hillary Clinton said it. Black lives matter. No hedge. **// WaPo // Janell Ross – July 20, 2015**

She said it. She really did. Actually she typed it. But still, there was no hedge.

In a live Facebook Q&A set up primarily for average people interested in asking Hillary Clinton questions, some reporters popped in too. Ok, a lot of reporters popped in, since Clinton hasn't exactly been too open about taking questions from reporters. Among the online attendees was the Post's own, Wesley Lowery. Lowery asked Clinton this question and got this response:

"Black lives matter." With those three little words, Clinton acknowledged that there are myriad ways that race continues to shape life in America that have almost no relationship to pocketbooks, educational credentials or class. There's ample evidence that income, education and the like do not deliver the same results in black lives that they do in others.

After three successive summers filled with news about the nation's rocky racial landscape, it's probably fair to say that at least some of the people running for office in 2016 expect questions about the way the police do their work and how the country responds when something goes wrong.

But for a group of activists who first organized loosely online under the hashtag #blacklivesmatter in the hours after a jury acquitted George Zimmerman on all charges in the death of unarmed, black teen, Trayvon Martin, just getting someone in the 2016 field -- especially the heavy favorite to be the Democratic nominee -- to acknowledge that black lives are in particular peril is pretty huge.

Of course, the journey from point A to point B has not been anything close to easy.

In June, Clinton went to a Missouri forum, held in a church not far from the place where another unarmed black teen was shot and killed by a police officer whom a grand jury later opted not to indict. At the time, she said this: "All lives matter."

It was, whether intentional or not, the phrase to which opponents of the Black Lives Matter movement have most often turned.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, has offered up his own assessment of the singular way that race shapes policing in the United States and the relationship between economic isolation and continued racial inequality.

But Sanders has also used that same phrase, "All lives matter," when pressed. And, this weekend, when activists in Phoenix deeply concerned with the way that police do their work in communities of color stormed into a liberal

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gathering, Sanders wasn't as forceful on the issue as Clinton.

"Black lives of course matter," he said. "But I've spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights. If you don't want me to be here, that's okay."

His I'll-just-take-my-ball-and-go-home comment, his irritated body language and decision to speak over protesters didn't do him any favors. There was no pivoting to his ideas around police or criminal justice reforms.

Apparently, all that wasn't enough to encourage former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley to shift course. In fact, O'Malley said this at the same gathering: "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter." He later apologized.

So, Hillary Clinton, habitual avoider of direct contact with reporters has said on the record: "Black lives matter." She didn't add qualifiers. She didn't hedge. That is indeed a moment worth noting.

And, perhaps a moment that came in the nick of time. Black Lives Matter groups from around the country are set to convene in Cleveland this weekend to talk tactics, platform and strategy.

Could the economy boost Hillary's presidential hopes? **// WaPo // Greg Sargent – July 20, 2015**

So what's going to happen in the 2016 election? Will the economy help or hurt the incumbent party? Will this campaign be about the economy or national security?

For purposes of gaming this out, the most important piece of the weekend is this one from the New York Times' Neil Irwin, in which he talks to a range of economists about what the economy will look like on Election Day 2016:

They said they believed that unemployment would be the lowest it has been during an election since George W. Bush and Al Gore faced off in 2000, when it stood at 3.9 percent. The median forecast for the unemployment rate when voters go to the polls in November 2016 was 4.8 percent (which would be down from 5.3 percent last month). They saw only a 15 percent chance of a recession starting by next Election Day. Interest rates, inflation and gasoline prices should all be a bit higher than they are now, they said, while staying quite low by historical standards...

On its face, all of that points to an election with dynamics similar to 1988 or 2000, when the nominee of the incumbent party (George H. W. Bush in 1988 and Mr. Gore in 2000) could promise continued prosperity. That bodes well for the Democratic nominee, though as Mr. Gore's loss despite winning the popular vote shows, even a favorable economy doesn't assure victory, given the workings of the Electoral College.

But here's one key caveat:

Their consensus was 2.8 percent growth in average hourly wages in the 12 months before the election, slightly higher than the 2 percent rise in prices. That implies that the weak spot of the Obama economy, in compensation for ordinary workers, will remain that way heading into 2016.

Thus, even if unemployment is low, wages could continue to stagnate. Yet this, too, could favor Clinton — though that's anything but assured — and this gets at why this projection has direct relevance to the present political moment.

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We now know that both major party nominees will agree that stagnant wages and stalled economic mobility are among the major problems facing the country. But we also know that the two parties will differ dramatically on what to do in response. Hillary Clinton has already telegraphed an ambitious agenda premised on the idea that these problems are defining challenges, and that we have the choice of doing something about them, via a robust, interventionist governmental response. As Paul Krugman has noted, Clinton's public statements signal that "there's now an effective consensus among Democrats" that "workers need more help, in the form of guaranteed health insurance, higher minimum wages, enhanced bargaining power, and more."

By contrast, all signs are that the GOP nominee will remain generally wedded to the idea that the solution to those problems is generating more growth, and that the way to do that, and to ensure wider distribution of the fruits of that growth, is by getting government out of the way and cutting taxes for everyone, including top earners.

This may not prove a winning contrast for Republicans. And so, if the economic argument in 2016 is fought around a general public sense that the economy is improving but that the gains of the recovery are not achieving widespread enough distribution, I'd say that probably favors Clinton. But that's hardly guaranteed — after all, Republicans might succeed in blaming stagnant wages on Dem policies while campaigning for "change." And, of course, even if this argument does end up favoring Clinton, it still might not be enough for her to win.

* CLINTON TO ROLL OUT NEW TAX PROPOSAL: Here's an example of the above, courtesy of the Wall Street Journal:

Clinton will propose a revamp of capital-gains taxes that would hit some short-term investors with higher rates, part of a package of measures designed to prod companies to put more emphasis on long-term growth, a campaign official said. The proposal, to be laid out in a speech later this week, is one of a number of ideas designed to tackle what Mrs. Clinton, some economists and some on Wall Street consider the overly short-term focus of corporate strategy.

It's still unlikely that Clinton will embrace inequality proposals as ambitious as Elizabeth Warren and/or Bernie Sanders, but this signals a robust agenda that includes combating the impact of "short-termism" on the economy.

* NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICIALS GIVE IRAN DEAL A BOOST: Dozens of former national security officials from previous administrations have signed a joint statement, coordinated by the Iran Project, that endorses the Iran deal. One key bit:

We acknowledge that the JCPOA does not achieve all of the goals its current detractors have set for it. But it does meet all of the key objectives. Most importantly, should Iran violate the agreement and move toward building nuclear weapons, it will be discovered early and in sufficient time for strong countermeasures to be taken to stop Iran. No agreement between multiple parties can be a perfect agreement without risks. We believe without this agreement, the risks to the security of the U.S. and its friends would be far greater.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State John Kerry went on all the Sunday shows to make the point that if Congress blocks the deal, that, too, will have all kinds of unpleasant consequences.

* INTRA-GOP WAR LOOMS IN CONGRESS: Politico reports that conservatives in Congress are preparing for war over an expected push by GOP leaders to link re-authorization of the Ex-Im Bank (which conservatives opposes as "crony capitalism") and a short-term replenishment of the Highway Trust Fund:

The majority of these hard-line members are opposed to any highway deal that would reauthorize the bank's charter and have indicated to GOP leadership not to count on their votes — which could force Speaker John

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Boehner, who has praised the bank as essential to job growth, to turn to House Democrats for votes on a final highway package.

Sound familiar? It's another reminder that things will get very contentious in Congress again, particularly with spending bills and the votes on the Iran deal looming.

* GOP DONORS HOLDING BACK: The New York Times analyzes GOP fundraising and finds that many of the party's top donors are taking a wait-and-see approach:

Only about a fifth of the 1,000 or so fund-raisers and their spouses who rallied around Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee in 2012, have given money to any of the 2016 candidates....Some of the bundlers and donors said they had held back, in part, because the field was the strongest they had seen in years, with several viable contenders representing the party's different generational and ideological segments.

This boosts the stakes for coming GOP debates, where donors will get to see candidates perform under pressure, and is a reminder that we may not get a GOP frontrunner for many months.

* JEB BUSH TO PROPOSE LOBBYING BAN: The Washington Examiner reports that Jeb Bush will propose a six-year ban on lobbying by former elected officials, saying this in a speech today:

"If I am elected president, I will use all of my influence to enact into law an immediate, unequivocal six-year ban on lobbying — a full Senate term — for ex-members of the House and Senate."

Bush will likely root this proposal in a broader critique of government-as-the-problem, but the "revolving door" between the Capitol and K-Street is often attacked by liberals, too. Hillary Clinton will also probably offer a set of reforms designed to make Washington work better.

* U.S. AND CUBA RESTORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: The Associated Press reports that Secretary of State John Kerry will appear at a news conference today with his Cuban counterpart to mark the formal beginning of restored diplomatic relations, after a half century of Cold War hostility.

The GOP presidential candidates will likely condemn what they are seeing, making this another area in which 2016 will be fought around the proper extent of U.S. international engagement under the next president, along with Iran and climate change.

* AND KASICH-MENTUM RAGES ACROSS THE LAND: John Kasich will announce his presidential candidacy this week, and E.J. Dionne takes stock of the Ohio governor, noting that he is very conservative on a range of issues, from the estate tax to his failed effort to roll back public employee bargaining rights.

But as Dionne also notes, Kasich expanded Medicaid, outrageously suggesting he has a moral obligation to help poor people. This could prove just as problematic among conservative voters as has Jeb Bush's suggestion that the plight of undocumented immigrants is a morally complex one. How Kasich explains this will be worth watching.

Silicon Valley prefers Hillary **// WaPo // Elise Viebeck – July 20, 2015**

Despite bursts of Republican outreach to the tech world, Silicon Valley still prefers Hillary Clinton to GOPers like Jeb Bush or Rand Paul. "Clinton's campaign in the second quarter counted big checks from a variety of tech

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executives, including Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, Google Chief Internet Evangelist Vint Cerf, YouTube leader Susan Wojcicki and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, according to a fundraising report filed this week. Sandberg, Cerf and Wojcicki each gave $2,700, while Musk gave $5,000," Politico reported.

"Bush, Marco Rubio and Rand Paul collected just a handful of donations from Valley elite. The Republicans did receive support from many lower-level Silicon Valley employees, particularly Paul, who attracted a large number of small dollar donations."

Hillary Clinton Cites Corporate 'Short-Termism' in Call for Capital Gains Tax Overhaul // WSJ // Laura Meckler – July 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton cited changes in corporate attitudes Monday in explaining why she supports increasing the capital gains tax to rates higher than those she backed in 2008.

In a Facebook question and answer session, Mrs. Clinton confirmed that later this week she will announce a proposal to revamp capital-gains taxes to promote long-term investment, as The Wall Street Journal reported Monday. Aides said the proposal would mean that short-term investors would face higher rates. It is part of a package of measures designed to prod companies to put more emphasis on long-term growth.

She wrote that her goal will be to "promote long-term investment that will strengthen companies, workers, and communities."

"Both business leaders and labor leaders have been speaking out about this in recent years," she said. "The increase in short-termism has grown in urgency since 2008, and the urgency of our solutions has to match it."

For investments held by top earners for a short time—perhaps two or three years—the rate would increase to more than 28% from 23.8%. When she ran for president in 2008, she said that the tax should not go above 20%, a point that some Republicans seized on Monday.

"Hillary Clinton's backtrack on her previous capital gains position is a blatant attempt to appease the liberal wing of her party that she is so desperate to win over," said Jeff Bechdel, communications director for the Republican America's Rising PAC.

Hillary Clinton to propose increasing capital gains taxes as part of 2016 campaign plans // AP // Lisa Lerer – July 20, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton plans later this week to propose raising capital gains taxes for some investors, part of a larger campaign effort to encourage greater focus on longer-term economic growth rather than more immediate gains for investors.

The new rates would be pegged to the duration of the investment, with short-term holdings taxed at a higher percentage.

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama proposed raising the 23.8 percent capital gains rate to 28 percent for the highest earners. While Clinton's proposal is still being finalized, her rate would likely be higher than Obama's for the shortest-held investments, according to a campaign official who spoke anonymously to discuss plans still being developed. Currently, gains on securities held for more than a year are taxed at the same rate as those held for decades.

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Clinton's proposal marks a shift from her 2008 campaign, when she promised not to raise capital gains rates higher than the 20 percent bracket established during her husband's administration. At the time, the rate was 15 percent — a result of the tax cuts championed by then-President George W. Bush.

"I wouldn't raise it above the 20 percent, if I raised it at all," Clinton said in an April 2008 debate.

Over his time in the White House, Obama has raised the rate 8.8 percentage points — fulfilling a campaign promise to increase capital gains taxes.

Many Democrats would like to see the rate go even higher, as part of a larger push by the party to crack down on what they see as Wall Street excess and tackle income inequality.

Last month, Neera Tanden, the head of the liberal Center for American Progress and a prominent Clinton adviser, proposed a "sliding-scale" capital gains tax that would drop the rate charged the longer the security is held.

"Once an investor holds a share past the one-year mark, the tax code provides no incentives to maintain the position any longer," Tanden wrote, in a report co-authored by investment banker Blair Effron, co-founder of Centerview Partners. "A more flexible capital gains tax system could be a tool to incentivize more prudent behavior in equities markets."

Clinton's plan is part of a larger package aimed at tackling what she argues is too heavy an emphasis on quick corporate gains at the expense of workers and broader economic growth. In an economic address last week, Clinton decried what she termed the problem of "quarterly capitalism," saying businesses are paying too little attention to research and development, improving factories and cultivating talent.

"Now it's easy to try to cut costs by holding down or decreasing pay and other investments to inflate quarterly stock prices, but I would argue that's bad for business in the long run," she said. "Workers are assets. Investing in them pays off. Higher wages pay off. And training pays off."

Why China Wants a Jeb-vs.-Hillary Race **// Politico // Aaron Mak – July 20, 2015**

Perhaps no one in the world would relish a general election campaign between Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush—apart from the two candidates themselves—more than the mandarins in Beijing.

Already, official Chinese news coverage of the 2016 primary season is highlighting the back-and-forth baton exchange between the Clinton and Bush families. Other U.S. presidential candidates are often brushed off as long shots; many Chinese writers seem to have bypassed the primaries, already nominating the front-runners in order to fit the narrative.

Chinese journalists, often eager to take the party line, are framing the U.S. election—sometimes smugly, sometimes incredulously—as a battle between hereditary family clans.

The reason for this long-lens look at 2016 from Beijing seems clear. The ruling Chinese Communist Party is deeply sensitive to charges that it is non-democratic and the playground of “princelings”— a pejorative term for the class of Chinese business tycoons and political power players who trace their lineages to Communist veterans. Nothing helps to blunt that charge as much as the idea that American democracy is similarly corrupt. “The Chinese media,

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especially the Party media, has been using American elections as a way to discredit democracy," says Kecheng Fang, a former reporter for the Southern Weekly in Guangzhou who now researches Chinese media at the University of Pennsylvania. "I think much of Chinese media has been referring to this election as Clinton 2.0 versus Bush 3.0, so it's a very trendy topic." As Weihua Chen, chief Washington correspondent for the China Daily, the government's largest English-language newspaper, put it to me in an interview: "You guys always talk about being the greatest democracy, but now you have a democracy run by two families for more than a decade?"

A litany of articles from China's government-run print news outlets illustrates this trend. When Xinhua, China's official news agency, reported on Jeb's presidential announcement, the article focused entirely on the sorry state of familial politics in America. Xinhua also published a story tracing the history of political pedigrees in the United States, identifying the Kennedy, Roosevelt, Harrison and Adams families as examples of this nepotistic strain. Yet another article in the Global Times, a conservative CCP tabloid, opined that a second Bush-Clinton election "may lead to a compromised form of democracy that the U.S. has brandished."

Of course, Chinese newspaper writers are hardly the first or only journalists to point out the uncomfortably dynastic tenor of this election. The Washington Post, New York Times and many others have written disparagingly about the topic. RT, a Kremlin-funded TV network often accused of being a pro-Russia mouthpiece, published an op-ed on its website gibing that Chelsea Clinton should marry George P. Bush, thus establishing a "single line of monarchy."

The daily machinations of Chinese propaganda officials are murky, and the level of editorial control they exert can vary from paper to paper, so it's impossible to tell for sure whether this overall focus on the family dynamics of the 2016 race is a directive from the higher-ups or a narrative being pushed by the journalists themselves. Fang elaborated in a later email, "For the Clinton vs. Bush dynasty case, I don't have any evidence available to prove that it's coordinated by propaganda officials. But I think it's safe to say that the propaganda officials are guiding the direction in general."

Bill Bishop, who runs the popular website Sinocism China Newsletter, sees the dynasty coverage as part of an attempt to legitimize the CCP's authoritarian ideology. Official media is an effective instrument to that end, allowing the government to point out flaws in democracy while defending the Chinese political system. "It's very easy for the propaganda guys if it's a Bush-Clinton election," Bishop says.

Among those likely eager to make this anti-democratic narrative stick is China's President Xi Jinping, who would no doubt like to divert attention from the troubling fact that he, himself, is the product of a political dynasty. His father, Xi Zhongxun, was a vice premier and is regarded as one of the founders of the CCP; thus the younger Xi is often labeled a princeling. Still, charges of nepotism in American politics could only come back to haunt Xi. "It's a tricky question for the party media because Xi Jinping is also Xi 2.0," says Kecheng Fang, who said he has seen comments from netizens to this effect when such articles are posted on Weibo, China's social media giant.

At the same time, though, Xi has waged a massive anti-graft campaign against his own party, cleaning up the corruption and nepotism that runs rampant in the upper echelons of Chinese society. Although many see it as a cynical tactic to get rid of Xi's political foes, the CCP has been crowing about its results. One can't help but notice the potential juxtaposition that state media could be setting up: As U.S. leaders are becoming more nepotistic and sullied by money through campaign finance, Chinese leaders are making efforts to become less so. When asked about nepotism in China, Chen of the China Daily said, "China has always been in an evolutionary process. [...] You could still say there are many problems, but it's actually becoming better."

This isn't the first time that the Chinese media has taken issue with the U.S. electoral system.

In the past two elections, state media pounced on campaign finance and the candidates' moneyed patrons, especially the Koch brothers, and sniped about Barack Obama's skimpy managerial C.V. Many in China were puzzled that voters had selected the politically adolescent Obama and twice passed over Mitt Romney, who, given the Chinese concept of selecting leaders, appeared to be the obvious choice. He had a Harvard MBA and J.D., had run the Salt Lake City Olympics, founded the prestigious Bain Capital and was the former governor of

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Massachusetts. Meanwhile, Obama seemed to lack executive experience as a junior senator.

In some ways, says Evan Osnos, the former China correspondent for the New Yorker, the Chinese may have seen a bit of their own president in Romney. “In Chinese terms, Mitt Romney’s résumé wasn’t all that different from Xi Jinping’s résumé,” Osnos says. Xi served as the party chief in Shanghai, the governor of Fujian, the governor of Zhejiang, the vice president of China—and the list of managerial achievements goes on. But more than that, even though he’s considered a princeling, there is a sense that he still started at the bottom and climbed his way up. In his first CCP position, he served as the deputy party secretary of a county in Hebei—a modest posting—after the party rejected his application to join roughly nine times due to controversies that swirled around his father.

After Romney’s unsuccessful runs and the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision, mainstream Chinese news media seemed to double down on the argument—using Xi’s career as evidence—that China’s anti-democratic system ends up selecting experienced leaders in a more meritocratic process than U.S. elections. The China Daily’s chief Washington correspondent, Weihua Chen, praised Xi’s determined trudge to the top. He claimed, “You have to have a proven track record. You don’t take a helicopter—you have to build step by step to be promoted.” This is why he and others from official media believe that Xi is a more qualified leader than Obama, lobbing the same accusations of lack of experience that Republicans have used since 2008. In fact, the way that Obama skyrocketed to political prominence, assisted in no small part by his charisma, seems to unsettle Chen. He recalled the 2008 Democratic convention and said: “You guys always complain about Mao’s personal cult. I feel the same way about President Obama. You have the Obama badge, the portrait radiating out—almost like you’re looking at the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.”

Now China’s negative-tinted coverage of Western politics is extending into new areas. A viral video titled “How Leaders are Made” was uploaded in 2013 to China’s YouTube counterpart, Youku, and made a similar point of comparing the meritocratic selection of Xi to the baffling paths that Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron took to the executive office. The animated short, which has garnered more than 3 million views, is an excoriating takedown of campaign finance and the election season circus—all in the jaunty, colorful style of a PBS Kids cartoon. The producers of the 5-minute video are unknown; there is only one enigmatic credit at the end: “A studio on Fuxing Road.” But Time magazine suggested that it’s likely Chinese media officials who are behind the curtain. Beijing’s Fuxing Road is widely known for being home to many government departments, such as the General Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, and Television. In addition, fuxing in Chinese means revival, a word that, at the time, was the centerpiece of the CCP’s propaganda campaign calling for the restoration of China’s glory.

Kecheng Fang believes this video will usher in a new era of CCP messaging. Apart from viral videos, official media has co-opted bloggers. Zhou Xiaoping, who privately ran a popular conservative blog slamming the United States, received plaudits from Xi and now gets his rants printed in official newspapers.

“I think patriotic bloggers, and new types of videos using multimedia technologies, and social media will be the new trend in the coverage of next year’s presidential election,” Fang says. For the CCP, the advantages of such a strategy are two-pronged. Anti-democratic sentiment that is ostensibly organic won’t smack of a government clutching onto its authoritarian rule, but rather of citizens who prefer the Chinese political system. Also, the producers of such media can play fast and loose with the facts without serious repercussions. On the other hand, the party would be lambasted if it made errors in the official newspapers.

If Clinton and Bush are nominated in 2016, you can bet that the floodgates will open for a series of vitriolic articles from CCP gazettes.

In addition, if the Youku video is any indication for what may be in store for the future, the tricky part about tracing official Chinese media narratives in 2016 is that their messaging is increasingly shrouded in subterfuge. We may soon see a cartoon of murky provenance featuring Jeb and Hillary perched atop royal thrones with bejeweled scepters in hand. Election cycles are a ripe time to point out flaws in the American brand of democracy, and China is becoming a pro at peddling oppo.

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Clinton skips same-sex wedding of couple in launch video // Politico // Nick Gass – July 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton was a no-show at the Sunday wedding of the same-sex couple featured in her April launch video, but there appear to be no hard feelings.

Jared Milrad and Nathan Johnson, the couple that appeared in Clinton's campaign announcement, got married on Sunday at Montrose Harbor in Chicago, according to the local CBS affiliate.

"I'm getting married this summer to someone I really care about," Milrad said in Clinton's video.

In a tweet sent the same day, Clinton announced her presidential run in April, Milrad publicly invited her to their wedding.

"BTW @HillaryClinton, feel free to bring a +1. #wedding #LGBT," he added.

According to the same CBS report, they said Clinton's staff returned their invitation with a "we'll see."

"She rightfully pointed out that if she came to the wedding, it might distract from our special day so we understand she supports us," Milrad said, according to the report.

Clinton did sent the couple a note congratulating them on their nuptials, which Milrad posted on Twitter last week.

Judge slams State Department over Hillary Clinton-related records // Politico // Josh Gerstein – July 20, 2015

A federal judge is lashing out at the State Department for delaying for years in providing responses to Associated Press Freedom of Information Act requests seeking records about former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's schedules and her top staffers.

At a contentious hearing last week, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Leon demanded explanations for why some of the AP's requests received no reply for four years or more before the wire service filed suit in March.

Leon said he was determined to establish "what has been going on in the State Department for four years dragging their feet, not addressing these issues for four years."

"I want to find out what's been going on over there. I should say, what's not been going on over there," the judge added. "The State Department, for reasons known only to itself ... has been, to say the least, recalcitrant in responding."

Justice Department lawyers representing State said a surge in FOIA requests caused large backlogs at the agency. They also said State is struggling with a wave of lawsuits since the disclosure in March that Clinton exclusively used a private email server during her service as secretary. In December, she returned 55,000 pages of emails at her former agency's request.

DOJ lawyers Lisa Ann Olson and Marcia Berman said the agency was prioritizing the public release of the 55,000

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pages of emails in response to another judge's order requiring monthly releases of those records.

However, Leon accused Olson of responding with "convoluted gobbledygook" when she insisted that the State Department's processing of those emails would satisfy the AP's request for records about Clinton Deputy Chief of Staff Huma Abedin's transition to a special part-time position at State.

"The State Department ... can't say it has done a thorough search until it reviews all 55,000 pages of documents," Olson said.

"What you just said, Ms. Olson, made no sense," the judge replied. "You're failing to distinguish between documents created by the State Department independently of Hillary Clinton's emails — with Hillary Clinton's emails. And you're giving me some kind of convoluted gobbledygook. about how the emails contain within them the independently created documents relating to Huma Abedin's appointment as a special government counsel. ...That is nonsensical."

Olson noted that the AP request about Abedin did seek Clinton's emails on that topic. However, the request also sought all other records or correspondence as well.

A transcript of the hearing suggests Leon grew angry when Olson said she had no estimate of how many State Department documents were responsive to the request about Abedin's employment.

"Have it by next week. Have it by next week when we have our hearing. Do you hear me?" the judge snapped. He also ordered the State official responsible for FOIA handling to appear at the planned hearing.

Olson said State hadn't produced such an estimate previously because it was tied up with the production of records in the suit filed by Vice News reporter Jason Leopold seeking all the Clinton emails.

"In order to come up with an estimate, the State Department will have to divert resources from the other Leopold search. It has limited resources, an amazingly limited number of people," Olson said.

Leon, an often-irascible George W. Bush appointee, said he saw no reason the AP should have to wait because of the more recent request from Leopold.

"The State Department's not going to have the luxury of saying, because we're focusing on Hillary's emails, we're doing so at the cost and expense of four-year-old requests. So, that's not going to be an excuse," the judge said. "In my judgment, a four-year-old request gets a priority over a recent request."

Both the State Department and the Justice Department declined to comment on the hearing or the pending lawsuit.

A lawyer for the AP, Jay Ward Brown, told Leon that the wire service was trying to find out what Abedin did during her time as a "special government employee." However, the judge was also curious about what Abedin does currently.

"Where is she now, this Huma person? ... Did you Google her? ... Have you done LinkedIn?" asked Leon. "You've got to check out on the social-media scene to see what she's doing."

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Brown said that the press reports "extensively on her personal life" and that she has "some involvement" in politics but said he wasn't clear exactly what.

Abedin is currently vice chairman of Clinton's presidential campaign.

Leon has been at odds with the Obama administration in several notable cases recently. He declared the National Security Agency's collection of U.S. phone records likely unconstitutional. He blocked the administration's issuance of a rule to expand overtime pay for household workers and health care aides. And he ordered Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to sit for a deposition in a libel lawsuit brought by fired Ag official Shirley Sherrod.

The order to Vilsack was overturned by a federal appeals court. The other two rulings remain on appeal.

Despite Leon's amazement at the four-year delay in the AP's FOIA requests to State, the wire service is not alone. A request POLITICO filed in November 2009 about State's approval process for former President Bill Clinton's paid speeches and business deals didn't produce any records until February 2014. The agency began to release records only after a conservative group, Judicial Watch, filed suit over a similar request.

Clinton taps digital firm led by ex-strategist for Obama, Eric Schmidt // Politico // Nancy Scola – July 20, 2015

Despite all the attention being paid to Hillary Clinton’s bid to emulate Barack Obama’s digital campaign juggernaut, one political tech shop high up on the Clinton payroll has managed to fly below the radar.

The Groundwork is headed by Michael Slaby — Obama’s 2008 chief technology officer and a former strategist for Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt’s private venture capital firm.

In an interview, Slaby said his year-old, Brooklyn-based firm is building tech infrastructure being used by Clinton, a set of tools that includes everything from online fundraising to volunteering to figuring out how supporters can communicate across social media.

“We learned a lot of lessons over two presidential election cycles about building a digital engagement platform for bringing about a deeper level of participation,” Slaby said. “We’re thinking about relationships instead of transactions.”

He declined to go much deeper in describing the technology, saying, “We’re still just building things and working with our early partners,” and he referred further questions to the Clinton campaign. A Clinton spokesperson called The Groundwork “one of five or six” firms it is using to provide technology services. (Slaby says The Groundwork has clients beyond Clinton, including nonprofits and NGOs that work on issues ranging from refugees to early childhood development, but he said he couldn’t name any before consulting with them.)

This week’s Federal Election Commission filings gave a hint of The Groundwork’s prominent role, showing the Clinton campaign has already paid out some $177,000 to the firm. But it’s keeping a low profile; its website is just a gray screen with a dark logo that consists of a triangle hovering over roots that look like a circuit board.

Slaby served as the Obama 2008 chief technology officer and, on the reelection bid, as chief integration and

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innovation officer. Between elections, he spent two years as the chief technology strategist for Schmidt's TomorrowVentures.

Schmidt has been an adviser and donor to Obama. While there has been chatter among campaign tech specialists that The Groundwork may be financially backed by Schmidt, it's not known whether he's involved. Schmidt's investment firm, TomorrowVentures, didn't respond to an inquiry, and Slaby said, "We're not talking about our investors."

The Groundwork had until recently been located in the same shared office space as the social commerce site cir.cl , which is led by Obama alum Carol Davidsen and names Schmidt as an investor. That office space is just a six-minute walk from the Clinton campaign's Brooklyn Heights headquarters. Slaby says his team is looking for a new home.

Slaby won't say how much The Groundwork has grown in its first year of life. Scouring LinkedIn, though, finds about a dozen engineers and others with experience at places like Netflix, Meetup and Google who note it as their current gig. One talent scout with a role at the company describes The Groundwork as "changing the political technology landscape." Adds a software engineer: "working on something special."

Hillary Clinton meets the press, on Facebook // Politico // Hadas Gold – July 20, 2015

It wasn't necessarily planned this way, but Hillary Clinton took questions from reporters on Monday.

During a Facebook chat the kind normally meant for questions from ordinary voters, four reporters managed to pose questions to -- and receive an answer from -- the Democratic front-runner. Clinton received thousands of questions and answered just 12, including questions about pant suits and karaoke.

The Washington Post's Wesley Lowery, CNN's Dan Merica and the Huffington Post's Laura Bassett and Alexander Howard were among those who had their questions answered. A Facebook employee who is working on something related to the news, the Instant Articles experiment, got a question answered as well.

Lowery asked a question about the "Black Lives Matter" movement, referencing the Netroots Nation event over the weekend that saw Clinton's challengers, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, heckled by protesters. Clinton avoided the conference, and as a result got to answer the questions the protesters were asking Sanders and O'Malley from the safety and security of the Facebook chat.

"Black lives matter. Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that," Clinton wrote before mentioning specific actions like body cameras for police and early childhood education.

Merica, who follows Clinton on the trail, even got a shout-out from Clinton in response to his question about altering the capital gains tax. "Hi Dan, good to see you in Arkansas on Saturday," Clinton wrote, making it clear she knew exactly whose questions she was answering.

Facebook chats are an extremely safe venue for politicians, of course, as they lack the live aspect of a gaggle. Candidates choose the questions, and questioners, they want to answer. There's no back and forth. Follow-up questions can be ignored.

Still, Clinton's campaign is making an effort to improve on the candidate's prickly relationship with the media. In the last few weeks, Clinton has sat down to one major TV interview, let reporters (and a full show) into her

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campaign headquarters, and held a press gaggle after a recent town hall event in New Hampshire, where Clinton answered nine questions.

To be sure, that's a far cry from the access being provided by many of the other candidates who probably need the media more than Clinton does, but it's an improvement from the days of dodging all media inquiries and blocking off the press with a rope, as her campaign did to reporters at a July 4 parade.

“Hillary Clinton enjoys taking questions from reporters and voters alike and wants to answer them in any of number of venues – from local town halls and press gaggles to this Facebook Q&A that reaches people all over the country. She’s going to continue taking a blend of questions from different people to lay out her agenda in the weeks and months ahead," Clinton spokesperson Jesse Ferguson said in an email.

Clinton’s Capital Gains Tax Plan Focuses on Long-Term Growth **// Reuters // Susan Heavey – July 20, 2015**

Presidential contender Hillary Clinton’s proposed plan to overhaul capital gains taxes aims to foster long-term growth by taxing some short-term investments at higher rates, an aide for her campaign said on Monday.

Although details of the plan have yet to be finalized, it would create a sliding rate scale based on the length of an investment, an aide with the Democratic candidate’s campaign said.

Under her proposal, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, the maximum capital gains tax rate on investments held at least a year, currently 23.8%, would rise to at least the 28% proposed by President Barack Obama, the aide said.

The campaign has not ruled out raising it as high as the regular income tax rate, which can be as high as 39.6% for top earners, the Journal reported.

Details of the plan will be outlined in a speech later this week, the WSJ said.

Investments held for less than a year would still be taxed at regular income tax rates as they are now, the WSJ said. The proposal will also include other rate changes, with the lowest rates given for investments held the longest, it reported.

Clinton’s proposal comes as part of her plan to fight an excessive focus on quick profits in capital markets, including capital gains, which are the profits made on selling capital assets such as shares or real estate.

In a speech last week in New York, the Democratic front-runner blasted Wall Street and took aim at financial institutions, vowing tougher oversight in her first major economic speech of the 2016 election campaign.

Clinton’s plan to revamp such rates appears to be a shift from her position in 2008, when she last sought the party’s nomination and vowed not to raise capital gains tax rates above 20%, if at all.

In 1997, her husband, President Bill Clinton, lowered the maximum taxation rate on capital gains from 28% to 20%. In 2003, it fell to 15 percent under President George W. Bush.

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In 2012, the top capital gains taxation rate rose to 20% for the highest earners. In the 1970s, the maximum taxation rate for long-term capital gains reached nearly 40%.

Although Clinton, who along with her husband have deep ties to Wall Street, is the party's leading presidential candidate, she still faces some pressure from liberal Democrats, such as fellow candidate U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who want tougher regulations on the financial industry.

Hillary Clinton pledges bigger rewards for corporate whistleblowers // Reuters – July 20, 2015

U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton would increase the incentives for corporate whistleblowers to come forward to report financial misconduct, she said on Monday.

Answering questions from voters in an online chat, Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner, said she would increase the maximum amount of money a whistleblower can be rewarded so such incentives "are actually effective."

Whistleblowers who expose wrongdoing under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act cannot be rewarded more than $1.6 million, an amount Clinton should be "sharply increased," her campaign staff said soon after in an email to reporters.

"While this represents a large sum in real dollars, it pales in comparison to pay levels within the financial sector," the campaign's statement said, and so the cap was not a big enough incentive for finance workers to risk lucrative careers by reporting wrongdoing.

Whistleblowers in sectors governed by other laws can potentially receive much larger rewards, measured as a percentage of a settlement or an amount recovered, and Clinton said this disparity needs to be resolved.

Clinton also said fines for companies caught engaging in financial misconduct should "cut into" the bonuses of the executives responsible, but did not provide details as to how this would work.

Hillary Clinton Previews Plans to Get Tough on Wall Street, Raise Capital Gains Taxes // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – July 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton previewed her ideas Monday for punishing financial misconduct by Wall Street firms and other corporations, and for incentivizing long-term corporate decision-making over "quarterly capitalism," including an overhaul of capital gains taxation.

Following up on a broader economic- and financial-policy speech delivered last week in New York, the Democratic presidential front-runner has plans to unveil proposals later this week aimed at boosting corporate responsibility and accountability, and began the rollout of those ideas during a question-and-answer session on Facebook.

On the eve of Tuesday's fifth anniversary of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Clinton again vowed to protect and expand upon the law to "enhance accountability," including by boosting the financial rewards for whistleblowers and by creating a mechanism to cut into executives' compensation when their companies are fined for running afoul of financial regulations.

Clinton said she wants to "make sure that good people have real incentives to come forward and report illegal

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activity by raising the whistleblower caps so they're actually effective." The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act caps rewards at $1.6 million, which may not be a sufficient incentive for someone to risk a high-paying job on Wall Street, and Clinton—like former Attorney General Eric Holder—wants to see the amount increased.

Clinton will also propose policies aimed at making "sure that when corporations pay fines to the government for wrongdoing, those fines cut into the bonuses of the executives who should have been accountable or should have caught the problem. Give people a reason to improve the culture of their firms." A campaign official said Clinton is still formulating the details of this proposal and will put them forward in the weeks ahead.

This week, Clinton will unveil a proposal to tax capital gains using a sliding rate scale based on the length of an investment, something at which she hinted during last week's speech.

Her aim is "to promote long term investment that will strengthen companies, workers, and communities," she wrote on Facebook, responding to a reporter's question about the apparent shift from her position in 2008.

During her first presidential campaign, Clinton she said she would keep the capital gains rate below 20 percent, much lower than her new proposal. "Both business leaders and labor leaders have been speaking out about this in recent years," she said. "The increase in short-termism has grown in urgency since 2008, and the urgency of our solutions has to match it."

Hillary Clinton Makes Speech On Women's Issues Which Could Teach Mail On Sunday A Thing Or Two // **HuffPo // Eve Hartley – July 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton is teaching the Mail On Sunday a thing or two about women's issues.

A long standing advocate for women's rights, she passionately declared her commitment at the Arkansas Democrats dinner and said: "I'm going to keep going... I'm going to keep fighting for equal pay for equal work."

The Sunday tabloid was branded sexist when Labour leadership candidate Liz Kendall was asked how much she weighed by journalist Simon Walters. She responded by telling him to "f**k off".

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at the Democratic Party of Arkansas Jefferson Jackson dinner in North Little Rock, Ark., Saturday, July 18, 2015.

The presidential candidate's speech began: "I know that when I talk about this, some people are going to think 'there she goes again with the women's issues'... well I am going to keep going, I believe it's so important for all of us"

"When women get ahead families get ahead and then America gets ahead...

"You know, paid leave, earned sick days, child care, these aren't women's issues, they're family issues, they're economic issues, they're American issues."

Clinton, returning to Arkansas where she began her political ascent, also drew critique of Republican policies denouncing them as "the party of the past".

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She also hit out at the businessman and reality TV star, Donald Trump. Last week Clinton attacked the millionaire's stance on immigration.

The 67-year-old democratic candidate continues to hold a comfortable lead over rival Bernie Sanders. Among likely voters in the primary, CNN reports that 59% picked Clinton and 19% backed Sanders.

Clinton has also been vocal on women's rights on Twitter, supporting the 167th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, a milestone for equality:

Hillary Clinton Responds To 'Gender Card' Dig: 'Mitch McConnell Really Doesn't Get It' **// HuffPo // Laura Bassett – July 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton fired back at Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) on Monday after he accused her of playing the "gender card" during her presidential campaign.

"Wow," Clinton told HuffPost during a Facebook question-and-answer session. "If that's what he said, Mitch McConnell really doesn't get it. There is a gender card being played in this campaign. It's played every time Republicans vote against giving women equal pay, deny families access to affordable child care or family leave, refuse to let women make decisions about their health or have access to free contraception."

McConnell criticized Clinton at an event at the Bullitt County Chamber of Commerce in Shepherdsville, Kentucky, Monday morning, quipping that "the gender card alone isn't enough," according to Theo Keith, a Louisville-based political reporter. Keith said the remark was a blanket criticism of Clinton as well as of McConnell's recent Democratic Senate opponent, Alison Lundergan Grimes. HuffPost asked McConnell's office to elaborate on his remarks and has yet to hear back.

When HuffPost asked Clinton about the comment on Facebook, she responded that equal pay and family leave affect both genders.

"These aren't just women's issues, they are economic issues that drive growth and affect all Americans," Clinton said. "Anyone who doesn't get that doesn't understand what our lives are like."

Hillary Clinton Hints She'd Support Flexible Benefits For Gig Economy Workers **// HuffPo // Alexander Howard – July 20, 2015**

If America's economic future includes on-demand labor in a "gig economy," then American policymakers will need to build modern safety nets to protect and support tens of millions of people seeking income on mobile platforms like Uber.

In a Facebook question-and-answer forum on Monday, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton signaled support when The Huffington Post asked whether workers' compensation or unemployment insurance should be independent of any given employer:

I had a feeling this might come up! You are asking exactly the kinds of questions that we all need to be asking about the future of work in an age of accelerating technological change. I certainly don't have all the answers. But we have to resolve these questions while embracing the promise and potential of these new technologies and without stifling innovation or limiting the ability of working moms and veterans and young people to get ahead. On

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the issue of benefits, the experience of the Affordable Care act shows that we need to make sure people have access to benefits and that they are portable as they move from job to job. –H

The former secretary of state's comment is not binding, nor, frankly, does it specifically address the question. "I certainly don't have all the answers" would not be a satisfying or sufficient response to a direct question from a debate moderator.

At a time when Republican politicians are seeking credibility on tech issues by praising Uber, Clinton is stepping carefully around the labor issues raised by the emerging "sharing economy." She didn't answer a related question posed by journalist Kevin Roose at all.

Given the increasing politicization of Uber in New York City, Clinton's decision to include a caveat about "embracing the promise and potential of these new technologies without stifling innovation" certainly suggests that she and her strategists are wary of being portrayed as opposed to technological progress.

Elizabeth Warren Fires Warning Shot Over Clinton's Bow **// HuffPo // Liam Miller – July 20, 2015**

On Friday, Elizabeth Warren gave the morning keynote speech at Netroots Nation. Held in Phoenix, Arizona this year to highlight immigration reform, Warren also spoke at length about financial reform -- and what she feels any presidential candidate must be prepared to do about it. She said, "anyone"; but it seemed pretty clear she was talking to Hillary Clinton. Here's Warren:

We have a presidential election coming up. I think anyone running for that job - anyone who wants the power to make every key economic appointment and nomination across the federal government -- should say loud and clear that they agree: we don't run this country for Wall Street and mega corporations. We run it for people. Anyone who wants to be President should appoint only people who have already demonstrated they are independent, who have already demonstrated that they can hold giant banks accountable, who have already demonstrated that they embrace the kind of ambitious economic policies that we need to rebuild opportunity and a strong middle class in this country.

To put this in context: a few days earlier, Clinton gave a major speech, and talked about financial reform. It did not have the teeth of Warren's orations on that subject. For example, Clinton said "too big to fail is too big a problem", which is about as weaksauce a parroting of Bernie Sanders' "too big to fail is too big to exist" as you could imagine.

Really, though, what Clinton's toothless statements do is give her the ever-important out with her rich, banker donors. She didn't say anything that she couldn't pass off later as necessary campaign rhetoric. Sanders, of course, is all-in. He neither wants nor expects to get the banks' support. Clinton already has taken their money, and a lot of it -- which puts her in the awkward position of needing to seem like a reformer, without alienating the people she'd ostensibly be reforming.

Which brings us to the heart to of the issue.

Warren has yet to endorse a candidate. Financial reform is one of Warren's most important issues; and whoever she endorses will have to be seriously strong on Wall Street. Oh, and by the way, whoever she does endorse will quite probably seal up the nomination. For Clinton in particular, given progressives' skepticism about her ties to Wall Street, Warren's endorsement would be huge, and would also serve to deflate Sanders' campaign. For Sanders, it would hasten the tipping point moment he's likely already approaching.

There's still a lot that could happen, of course. But there's no mistaking how impactful Warren's support will be.

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With her remarks, Warren made it pretty clear that she's not buying Clinton's lukewarm financial-reform rhetoric, and that Clinton better shape up if she wants to have a hope of getting Warren's endorsement and the help of the powerful progressive movement Warren helped grow. Boom! The cannonball is, as it were, resoundingly in Clinton's court.

Of course, in reality it's hard to imagine Warren not endorsing Sanders. Their positions match up almost one for one. Just listen to Warren's list of progressive values at Netroots Nation '14; and compare that to Sanders' speech Friday at the Iowa Democratic party Hall of Fame Dinner, or in Madison, Wisconsin on July 1.

He and Warren are of one mind, and Warren has already spoken of Sanders in glowing terms: "I love what Bernie is talking about. I think all the presidential candidates should be out talking about the big issues." By contrast, progressives, and Warren chief among them, aren't sold on Clinton. Like a politician of the pre-internet age, Clinton knows how to say things that sound good. But she does not take the substantive positions she needs to, that modern information access requires. Sanders emphatically does. Here he is at length, from June 19 in Las Vegas:

Let me tell you, that when we use words like 'fraud', when we use words like 'irresponsibility', when we use terms like 'illegal activity', these are just other words for Wall Street. The greed, the insatiable greed on Wall Street, their recklessness, their irresponsible behavior, their illegal behavior, drove this country into the worst recession since the great depression. And let me tell you what very few other people will tell you. There are some candidates, and some folks who say, well, you know, we have to re-regulate Wall Street. The truth of the matter is that given the current politics of America, it is not Congress that regulates Wall Street, it is Wall Street that regulates Congress. If we are concerned about the power and destructive activities of Wall Street, the only solution is to break up these huge financial institutions. If a bank is too big to fail, that bank is too big to exist, we're gonna break 'em up.

If you watched the clip of Warren on Citigroup from the start of this article, that will all sound very familiar; and it makes it abundantly clear that she and Sanders are like two bank-busting peas in a financial reforming pod.

Clinton didn't show at this year's Netroots. Frankly, her campaign might not have survived the spectacle of her inevitable lukewarm reception. But her decision not to attend speaks volumes about what she knows about how progressives feel about her. She knows, and she is running scared.

Warren had said we needed to give Clinton a chance to prove herself, to demonstrate that she could be a progressive champion. Not so much, so far. And on Friday, Warren called Clinton out for falling short, and told her (and the rest of us) unequivocally that that chance is running out.

Clinton on Facebook: 'Black lives matter' and other takeaways // CNN // Eric Bradner & Dan Merica – July 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton declared Monday that "black lives matter," using the benefit of time to avoid the bitter responses her Democratic foes faced at a liberal conference over the weekend for their answers on racial justice.

In a Facebook chat, Clinton was asked what she would have said to the protesters had she attended Netroots Nation in Phoenix, Arizona.

"Black lives matter. Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that," she said.

With two days to gauge the reaction to former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley's on-stage declaration that "all lives matter" -- which protesters perceived as a slight to the issues they wanted candidates to address -- and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' frustration with the protesters, Clinton took advantage of that hindsight and the more cautious medium.

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"We need to acknowledge some hard truths about race and justice in this country, and one of those hard truths is that that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality," Clinton wrote. "Black people across America still experience racism every day."

She said police officers everywhere should wear body cameras and called for alternatives to jail time for "low-level offenders," more money for early childhood education and automatic, universal voter registration.

In the question-and-answer session, Clinton revealed clues about her forthcoming Wall Street reform, student debt restructuring and capital gains tax policy proposals. She also offered glimpses of what it's like to get ready each morning and where she likes to go in Arkansas, and took shots at some of her Republican rivals on immigration.

1. "Short-termism has grown in urgency."

Clinton's campaign is evaluating a proposal to incentivize more long-term investing by raising the capital gains tax, an aide said Monday.

In particular, Clinton is expected to raise the tax rate for the shortest term investments -- currently 24% -- to above 28%, her aides said. During a 2008 debate, however, Clinton said that she would only raise the rate "above the 20% if I raised it at all. I would not raise it above what it was during the Clinton administration."

Clinton responded to a CNN question during the chat about the change, stating that "the increase in short-termism has grown in urgency since 2008, and the urgency of our solutions has to match it."

She pointed to an economic speech at The New School, a university in New York City, last week, during which she decried the short-term thinking of some corporations.

"Later this week, I will be outlining a number of proposals, including capital gains reform, to promote long term investment that will strengthen companies, workers, and communities," she wrote on Facebook Monday. "Both business leaders and labor leaders have been speaking out about this in recent years."

President Barack Obama proposed raising the investment tax rate for high-income households in his 2015 State of the Union speech to 28%. Clinton's aides said she would go higher.

2. "Give people a reason to improve the culture of their firms."

Asked about how she'd curtail Wall Street misconduct, Clinton offered a few specific policy proposals -- noting that Tuesday is the fifth anniversary of the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory reform law, and saying she wants to go further.

She said she would prosecute individuals responsible for fraud and other misdeeds, rather than just taking on their firms. She also called for an increase to whistleblower caps, which are currently limited to $1.6 million or less -- far less than the bonuses many Wall Street executives earn.

And she said that when firms are forced to pay fines for wrongdoing, those amounts should come out of the bonus

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checks that go to their executives.

3. "Amen, sister."

It wasn't all serious, as Clinton -- whose three decades in the limelight have hardened many Americans' views of her -- sought to show a more human side.

She said she loves Dickson Street in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She said she's "never met a pantsuit I didn't love." And she posted an image of Saturday Night Live's Kate McKinnon playing Clinton.

She also took a question about how she handles the daily task of getting ready in the morning -- which, the questioner said, generally takes women longer than men.

"Amen, sister -- you're preaching to the choir," Clinton wrote. "It's a daily challenge. I do the best I can -- and as you may have noticed, some days are better than others!"

4. "Good to see you in Arkansas on Saturday."

One of the biggest takeaways to the chat was the fact Clinton did it at all.

Since leaving the State Department in 2013, Clinton spent most of her time keeping the press -- and questions in general -- at arm's length. She did paid events where moderators asked her questions and she almost never spoke with reporters.

Since launching her campaign in April, though, Clinton has slowly grown more to the media. She held her first press conference in New Hampshire last month and conducted her first national interview with CNN earlier this month.

Monday's Facebook chat, her first as a candidate, is part of that evolution, particularly with the press. Clinton took four questions from reporters on Monday, including one from CNN. While the format is admittedly safe for politicians, the fact she answered questions from reporters is notable.

Hillary Clinton Criticizes 'Hair and Makeup Tax' on Women's Time **// TIME // Ryan Beckwith – July 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton said that women have to work extra to get ready in the morning.

In an online question-and-answer session on Facebook, the former Secretary of State was asked about her morning routine by a female Facebook staffer who noted that she has to spend more than 30 minutes getting ready while her boyfriend "zips out the door."

"I wonder about how the 'hair and makeup tax' affects other women — especially ones I admire in high-pressure, public-facing jobs," asked Libby Brittain, who added that as a "young professional woman" she'd like to know how Clinton handles it while "staying focused on the 'real' work ahead."

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Clinton agreed that it's a problem.

"Amen, sister — you're preaching to the choir," she wrote. "It's a daily challenge. I do the best I can — and as you may have noticed, some days are better than others!"

Though lighthearted the exchange touched on a serious issue that has bothered Clinton for a while. During a town-hall meeting with students in Kyrgyzstan in 2010, Clinton was asked by a moderator if she had any favorite clothing designers. She responded by asking pointedly, "Would you ever ask a man that question?"

Though she makes lighthearted jokes about her love of pantsuits (later in the Q&A she noted she "never met a pantsuit I didn't love") , Clinton's decision to eschew major fashion choices puts her in line with President Obama, who told Vanity Fair in 2012 that he limits his clothing options to reduce the number of decisions he has to make in the morning.

"You'll see I wear only gray or blue suits," he said. "I'm trying to pare down decisions. I don't want to make decisions about what I'm eating or wearing. Because I have too many other decisions to make."

Clinton's response earned an enthusiastic response from Brittain.

Why Hillary's New Plan to Tax Investors Could Win Some Fans on Wall Street // Slate // Jordan Weissmann – July 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton is getting ready to unveil the next big plank of her economic platform this week, and it's all about taxing investors. Specifically, short-term investors—the sort who buy up stock in a company, push it to shower money on shareholders, then sell off their holdings. And believe it or not, some powerful figures in finance might actually support the idea.

While Clinton isn't spelling out her full plan until later this week, the Wall Street Journal revealed its broad strokes today. In short, the proposal would change how the government taxes capital gains by creating "a sliding scale" in which those who hold onto their assets the longest pay the lowest rates to the IRS.

Currently, when Americans sell investments such as stocks or bonds that they have owned for less than a year, the government taxes the profits like any other income, at a top rate of 39.6 percent. If they own their investments for more than a year before cashing in, however, they pay the long-term capital gains rate, which maxes out at 23.8 percent.

If you stop and think about this for a second, it's a little weird. According to our government, owning shares in a company for 364 days make you a short-term investor. But owning them for 366 days makes you a long-term investor. The divide is more or less arbitrary. Worse yet, a year isn't really a very lengthy time to hold stock. So while the tax code penalizes day traders and high-speed hedge funds, for instance, it treats everybody else pretty the same.

In some people's eyes, this has created a crisis of short-term thinking in corporate America, as CEOs focus on hitting their quarterly profit goals in order to appease equity owners who don't plan on hanging around for particularly long. Many single out activist investors who have prodded companies to spend lavishly returning cash to shareholders through stock buybacks and dividends, rather than devote money to new factories or product lines, which might be better for their future prospects, as well as the economy's. One especially prominent critic has been Larry Fink, the CEO of BlackRock, the world's largest money manager, with more than $4 trillion in assets. This spring, he wrote an open letter to the CEOs of the companies included in the S&P 500, urging them to resist demands from activists to simply hand back money at the expense of long-term growth.

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In his missive, Fink suggested that the government should reform the tax code so that the long-term capital gains rate only kicks in after three years, "then to decrease the tax rate for each year of ownership beyond that, potentially dropping to zero after 10 years. This would create a profound incentive for more long-term holdings and could be designed to be revenue neutral."

Clinton's plan is apparently somewhat similar, though not as dramatic. She reportedly wants to add at least one extra capital gains rate, so that people who sell their Apple stock or Treasury bonds after just two or three years would pay somewhere north of 28 percent on their returns. That way, the tax code would have a short-term, mid-term, and long-term rate. The plan hasn't been finalized yet, however, and could include more than three tiers.

As for how much money this would bring in for Washington, well, it's not clear. Unless Clinton plans to lower the long-term rate below its current level, the proposal would almost certainly create some new revenue, largely from wealthy taxpayers, since they earn a disproportionate share of the nation's capital income. But “the campaign didn’t estimate how much in additional taxes the proposal would raise,” the Journal reports. “The official said the primary goal is to change behavior, not increase revenue.”

But even though the details are still pending, the plan is of a piece with an emerging theme in Clinton's economic philosophy, which I've been calling feel-good capitalism—the idea that the free market just needs a little nudge to work better for everybody. Last week, she unveiled her tax plan meant to encourage companies to share profits with their workers (underlying message: profits are good, but spread them around a bit, Mr. CEO). This week, it's giving us a plan to hike capital gains taxes that, theoretically, one of the world's most powerful investors might even like.

But if Larry Fink ends up feeling good about it, alas, progressives might be another matter.

5 key takeaways from Hillary Clinton’s Facebook Q&A **// MSNBC // Nisha Chittal – July 20, 2015**

On Monday afternoon, Hillary Clinton held her first Facebook Q&A of her campaign, answering questions from voters and journalists on a post on her official Facebook page. Clinton’s responses were signed with an “-H” at the end to signal that Clinton herself had personally written the message, rather than a staffer managing the page.

Clinton’s post received thousands of questions, of which she answered a handful, addressing racial inequality, responding to recent comments from Republican leaders, addressing student loan debt and more. Here are some of the key takeaways from the chat:

1. She addressed the Black Lives Matter questions raised at Netroots Nation. When asked how she would have responded to the Black Lives Matter protesters who interrupted her opponents Martin O’Malley and Bernie Sanders on Saturday, Clinton responded: “Black lives matter. Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that. We need to acknowledge some hard truths about race and justice in this country, and one of those hard truths is that that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality. Black people across America still experience racism every day.

Since this campaign started, I’ve been talking about the work we must do to address the systemic inequities that persist in education, in economic opportunity, in our justice system. But we have to do more than talk - we have to take action. For example - we should make sure every police department in the U.S. has body cameras. We should provide alternatives to incarceration for low-level offenders. We should invest in early childhood education for every child. We should fight for voting rights and universal voter registration. You will continue to hear me talking about these issues throughout this campaign and pushing for real solutions.”

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2. She responded to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who said of Clinton that "The gender card alone isn't enough." When asked what her response to McConnell's comments would be, Clinton said: "Wow. If that's what he said, Mitch McConnell really doesn't get it. There is a gender card being played in this campaign. It's played every time Republicans vote against giving women equal pay, deny families access to affordable child care or family leave, refuse to let women make decisions about their health or have access to free contraception. These aren't just women's issues, they are economic issues that drive growth and affect all Americans. Anyone who doesn't get that doesn't understand what our lives are like."

3. She took shots at Republican presidential candidates Donald Trump, Jeb Bush, and Marco Rubio on immigration. Commenter Jasmine Perez asked if Clinton would make it easier for undocumented immigrants to have a pathway to citizenship. Clinton responded: "Yes. This is a big difference I have with most of the Republican candidates. Donald Trump in particular is getting a lot of attention for some hateful rhetoric, but Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio actually agree with him on denying a pathway to citizenship and consigning hardworking immigrants to second class status. I will fight for comprehensive immigration reform that includes that pathway to citizenship."

4. She promised to make the student loan debt crisis a priority from "the first day I become president"." A commenter who is a student told of chipping away at his student loan debt and asked what Hillary Clinton would do as president to curb the burden that many students are facing. Clinton responded: "I'll be putting forward specific proposals to refinance debt so it becomes more affordable, encourage more people to use income contingency repayment program so you are paying back as a percentage of what you actually earn, to try to make college more affordable to start with so that students today and tomorrow don't end up with the amount of debt you and 40 million other Americans currently have. This is one of my biggest economic and educational priorities and I will be addressing it from the first day I become president."

5. And finally: she's still making pantsuit jokes a part of her carefully crafted communications strategy. When asked a question about her favorite pantsuit, she responded: "I never met a pantsuit I didn't like." Previously, she launched her Instagram account with a photo of red, white, and blue pantsuits and the caption "Hard choices." She also has "pantsuit aficionado" in her Twitter bio. (We get it, you like pantsuits!)

Sanders putting pressure on Clinton in Democratic contest **// McClatchy // Anita Kumar – July 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton never utters his name.

But Bernie Sanders is always there. Garnering the largest crowds of the presidential race. Raising millions of dollars, more than nearly every other candidate of either party. And boasting a following that can only be described as intense.

Over the weekend, he received a raucous reception in the early nominating state of Iowa at the first joint appearance of the Democratic candidates, with supporters banging their fists on the table, clinking silverware against glasses and interrupting him with their enthusiasm. "Preach!" shouted one woman.

Clinton still boasts the highest poll numbers and a record amount of money raised. Now the surprising popularity of Sanders, the 73-year-old self-described socialist who relishes being a champion of the underpaid, overworked American worker, means Clinton will have to spend money and effort for a nomination many assumed was hers for the taking.

"Bernie is authentic," said Kurt Meyer, Democratic chairman of a trio of rural counties in north-central Iowa, who has not endorsed a candidate. "He has a fervor in his message that connects with people."

In late May, the senator from Vermont appeared at a community center in the tiny town of Kensett in Meyer's part

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of the state. The campaign had hoped to lure 100 people, more than a third of the town's population, but 300 showed up. Meyer said the supporters were so enthusiastic organizers decided to pass a bucket to raise money. They collected $1,200.

On Saturday, Sanders drew more than 11,000 people to a rally in downtown Phoenix, his largest crowd yet, to hear him blast this nation's income inequality, "billionaire class" and big, unaccountable money in politics.

Sanders' strengths – rallies attracting thousands, more money from small donors reflecting support from everyday Americans, an enthusiastic Twitter following that uses the hashtag #FeeltheBern – have taken some Clinton supporters by surprise even as they insist they always knew she'd have to work for the nomination.

"It concerns me," said Donald Fowler, a former Democratic National Committee chairman who is close to the Clintons. He does not think it will cause Clinton to lose the nomination. "She'll be fine," he said.

Still, Fowler said he hopes she learns some lessons from Sanders about the importance of holding larger events and speaking matter-of-factly about working Americans. "I think she needs to create an emotional link to average Democrats," he said.

Clinton delivered one of her most aggressive speeches at a party dinner Friday in Cedar Rapids, earning sustained applause and chants of "Hill-a-ree!" She did so by blasting the Republican candidates for president, not mentioning her closest Democratic rival.

Sanders gave his own passionate speech, which began with his voice raised right from the start, as he referred to a "political revolution" and said over and over "enough is enough!"

Nicholas Johnson, a former Federal Communications Commission commissioner who teaches at the University of Iowa, said he is more enthusiastic about Sanders than any other candidate he has supported since the 1940s.

Johnson, clad in a light blue "Bernie for President" T-shirt, described Clinton as the establishment candidate. "I think the establishment is the problem," he said.

Oftentimes, Sanders' supporters appeared to be more enthusiastic than Clinton's, though the cheers were only coming from parts of the room, a sign his progressive views do not appeal to all Democrats.

"I don't think he can unite the party," said Joni Gillispie, 58, of Burlington, who wore one Hillary Clinton button, one Bill Clinton button and one of the couple. "He's going to take the moderates and drive then over to the other side."

Several Democratic activists said they prefer Sanders, but are conflicted because they think Clinton is the one who could beat a Republican candidate.

"We want someone who can win," said Dallas Knapp, 20, a student at Loras College in Dubuque who grew up in Bloomington, Ill.

Clinton maintains a big lead in polls nationally. She leads in early primary states as well, though Sanders is gaining there.

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Andrew Smith, the director of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center, cautioned not to read too much into Sanders' numbers. He said historically that 35 to 45 percent of the Democrat electorate in New Hampshire usually favors a non-establishment candidate, such as Howard Dean, Bill Bradley or Gary Hart, but that doesn't mean they will win. "What you are seeing with Bernie Sanders is not unusual," he said.

And Sanders' enthusiasm does not necessarily translate into having the infrastructure to run a nationwide campaign.

Clinton has dispatched more than 100 paid staffers across the nation to recruit volunteers. Sanders is still ramping up in early states and non-existent in other states.

In North Carolina, state party chairwoman Patsy Keever said many liberals are excited about Sanders though he does not have a presence there.

In Florida, another key swing state, the party's executive director, Scott Arceneaux, said he has seen a lot of activity from Clinton's campaign, including the arrival of a paid organizer, a visit by campaign manager Robby Mook and an appearance by Clinton herself. Other candidates have been there for fundraising, but not much else.

Arceneaux said Sanders' campaign just contacted him last week to tell him the campaign had hired a Southern regional staffer and are starting to build up. But Arceneaux said it will be hard to compete with Clinton.

"The Clintons are very popular in Florida," he said.

Given 2 days to think, Hillary Clinton outdoes her opponents in responding to #BlackLivesMatter // VOX //
Dara Lind – July 20, 2015

Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders went to the progressive conference Netroots Nation over the weekend to try to establish themselves as the progressive alternative to Hillary Clinton. They ended up performing poorly in their confrontations with #BlackLivesMatter activists. Monday, in a Facebook Q&A, Clinton seized the opportunity to come off as more progressive than her would-be progressive challengers:

The two Democratic presidential candidates who appeared at the conference, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, got confronted by progressive activists affiliated with the #BlackLivesMatter movement. And neither of them responded terribly well: O'Malley accidentally echoed the opponents of #BlackLivesMatter, while Sanders's crankiness didn't exactly ease frustrations with him or his supporters.

RelatedWhy O'Malley had to apologize after his confrontation with protesters……and why Sanders's reaction led to his supporters getting mocked on Twitter

Hillary Clinton got to skip out on all of that drama. And when she finally got asked how she would have responded, during a Facebook Q&A on Monday afternoon, she didn't just have the benefit of the extra 48 hours and a polite questioner — she (and her campaign) had the advantage of being able to think through the response as it was typed. So it's hardly surprising that Hillary's typed response was more respectful to the #BlackLivesMatter movement than O'Malley or Sanders's attempts to respond to the protesters:

Of course, it's impossible to know whether Clinton would have been as calm and respectful if she'd been on stage instead of O'Malley when protesters took the microphone Saturday for an impromptu presentation on the deaths of black women in police custody. But her response is consistent with her campaign so far: Clinton has a "tough on

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crime" history, but her 2016 campaign has made a visible effort to embrace reforms in criminal justice and policing, and to talk about racial disparities in doing so.

This doesn't mean that #BlackLivesMatter protesters will never come after Hillary Clinton at some future event. But what happened over the weekend doesn't appear to have been a wake-up call for her campaign; rather, it was the culmination of something they appear to have been preparing for.

Hillary Clinton's capital gains tax reform, explained **// VOX // Matthew Yglesias – July 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's next big policy idea is going to be a revamp of how investment income is taxed in the United States — aimed at creating a new system that raises more revenue while maintaining and even enhancing the tax incentive for patient investors who care about the long-term future of the companies they are invested in. According to Laura Meckler and John McKinnon, a more detailed proposal along these lines will come out in a speech this week, though the exact nuances either haven't been finalized or aren't yet ready to be leaked.

The basic shape of the proposal, however, is looking pretty clear. It will raise tax revenue, mostly from rich people, and maybe undercut some of the emphasis on short-term financial results on Wall Street and in corporate America.

What's a capital gain? How is it taxed?

A capital gain is income that a person makes from investment. If you buy a house for $200,000 and sell it 10 years later for $250,000, you have scored a $50,000 capital gain. The current tax code largely exempts capital gains earned buying and selling owner-occupied houses, so the debate over capital gains taxation generally focuses on capital gains secured by buying and selling stocks, bonds, and other financial assets.

Right now the tax code distinguishes between short-term capital gains and long-term capital gains. A short-term capital gain is defined as a gain on an asset that you owned for less than a year, while a long-term capital gain is defined as a gain on an asset that you owned for longer than a year. Short-term capital gains are taxed at the same rate as wage or salary income, but long-term capital gains are taxed at a lower rate.

In other words, the current tax code already features lower tax rates for income derived from long-term capital gains than for income derived from other sources. Clinton is proposing, essentially, to extend the logic of the current system, not to replace it with a whole new logic.

Why is capital gains income taxed at a lower rate?

There are three big explanations for the current system — a cynical one, one grounded in political rhetoric, and an economics-y one:

The cynical take is that capital gains income receives a tax preference because the vast majority of capital gains income is earned by rich people. And not just any old kind of rich person. A movie star or LeBron James is still mostly working for a living. It takes a classy kind of rich person to have big stock market earnings.

The rhetorical reason typically offered is that, as the American Enterprise Institute's James Pethokoukis says, capital gains taxes are a "double tax." The idea is that first Mr. Richpants gets paid a salary and pays taxes on it. Then he takes some of his after-tax dollars and invests them in the stock market. Then when he sells his stock, he is "taxed again" on his earnings in a way that would not have happened had he spent the money on a boat rather

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than invested it in the stock market.

The economics-y reason is a result in theoretical macroeconomics stemming from work by Christophe Chamley and Kenneth Judd that shows that under appropriate assumptions, the socially optimal level of investment taxation is zero. The result involves a lot of math, but the intuitive idea is that the less you tax investments in capital goods, the more capital goods you get. And the more capital goods you have, the higher your wages will be. Consequently, even people who derive all their income from wages benefit in the long run from not taxing capital income. Garrett Jones has a slightly longer explanation featuring light math if you are interested.

What is Hillary Clinton proposing to do?

We don't yet know exactly what her campaign will do. But the basic idea is to make it harder to qualify for "long-term" capital gains status. The simplest way to do this would be to push the threshold out and say that instead of holding an investment for at least one year, you need to hold it for three years or five years. After all, 18 months is not especially "long-term" in the scheme of things.

But based on the Wall Street Journal's reporting, it seems as if Clinton's team is leaning toward a more complicated solution in which there will be three or many levels of long-termness, each with its own rate.

Is the case for low capital taxation correct?

Needless to say, people disagree. In practice, there appears to be very strong political consensus around preferential treatment for investment income. Even very liberal members of Congress, for example, do not propose ending the exemption of capital gains income from the payroll tax that finances Social Security. Nor do liberal members of Congress propose to end the exemption of profits made by selling owner-occupied homes from capital gains taxation. Countries all around the world feature some form of preferential treatment of investment income, and despite the partisan controversies around the capital gains tax rate nobody in American politics is actually proposing to do away entirely with our own preferential treatment.

That said, as is typical with highly theoretical results in macroeconomics, there are massive challenges in saying whether the Chamley-Judd construct applies in a meaningful way to the actual policy choice at hand. As economist Matthew Martin writes, "Any graduate macro text will show you some of the ways in which Chamley-Judd assumptions are violated in reality, producing a non-zero optimal tax rate."

Empirical studies also struggle to confirm the idea that tax rates on investment income are an important driver of real investment activity. A recent, statistically sophisticated study of the 2003 dividend tax cut by Danny Yagan, for example, finds that "the tax cut caused zero change in corporate investment."

Note, however, that even if the optimal tax rate for capital gains isn't zero it might still be optimal to have a lower rate on investment income than on wage income.

Why is Hillary Clinton proposing this?

Rather typically for Clinton as a political actor, what she seems to be zeroing in on is a clever way to build consensus between competing factions of wonks.

By raising tax rates on medium-term capital gains, Clinton will raise a bunch of tax revenue, and she will raise it overwhelmingly from high-income individuals. These are key demands of liberals, who are hungry for social

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spending and redistribution.

At the same time, by maintaining the low rate on longer-term capital gains, Clinton avoids a root-and-branch challenge to the principle of a tax preference for investment.

Clinton has been critical lately of what she calls "quarterly capitalism" and the idea that real world investment activity is being excessively influenced by short-term stock market fluctuations and earnings targets. Her altered tax system would make it more lucrative to be a patient investor than an impatient one, which might help generate an overall more patient climate on Wall Street — boosting corporate investment and fostering more long-term thinking.

A serious venture capitalist, for example, would almost certainly find himself still qualifying for the preferential rate. But a corporate raider looking to buy a company, strip assets, improve quarterly results, and then exit as quickly as possible would not.

Expect the campaign to front-load this short-term versus long-term issue, since it's emerging as a key theme for Clinton overall. But also note that in theory one could accomplish the same thing with a tax cut. Take today's rate for investments held over one year and apply it to investments held for one to three years. Take longer-term investments and apply a new lower rate to them. This would address the short-termism concern, while also addressing the GOP's opposition to higher taxes.

Clinton won't offer a proposal along those lines because for her, tax revenue and tax system progressivity are at least as important as the short-term versus long-term issue.

Hillary Clinton: Take away executives' bonuses when their companies break the rules // VOX // Jonathan Allen – July 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton wants executives to forfeit bonus money when their companies are fined for misconduct.

The frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination unveiled the proposal in a Facebook Q&A session Monday.

"Too often it seems like the people responsible get off with limited consequences (or none at all). Even when they've already pocketed the gains," Clinton said. "That's wrong and it has to change."

She laid out a three-part plan to do that.

1) Appoint and empower tough, independent-minded regulators and give them the resources they need to do their jobs.

2) Make sure that good people have real incentives to come forward and report illegal activity by raising the whistleblower caps so they're actually effective.

3) Make sure that when corporations pay fines to the government for wrongdoing, those fines cut into the bonuses of the executives who should have been accountable or should have caught the problem.

The proposals are part of Clinton's larger economic platform, which she has been constructing in piecemeal fashion in recent days. The Wall Street Journal reported Monday that she wants to raise certain capital gains taxes in part to encourage long-term investment over short-term profits.

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Under current law, whistleblower awards are capped at $1.6 million. Former Attorney General Eric Holder, who settled a slew of cases against banks, suggested increasing awards late last year.

Clinton did not get into the specific mechanisms she would use to empower regulators, boost compensation for whistleblowers, and penalize executives for corporate misbehavior. Congress would have to act in all three areas, as the Senate confirms regulators and both chambers write laws governing the finance industry.

Hillary Clinton gives support for racial justice by saying 'black lives matter' **// NY Daily News // Dan Friedman – July 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton said Monday that "black lives matter," in a nod to activists pressing Democrats to adopt tough rhetoric on racial justice.

The former secretary of state was responding to a reporter's question during a Facebook chat. He asked what she would have told progressive activists at Netroots Nation, a progressive conference that Clinton declined to attend.

"Black lives matter. Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that," Clinton wrote. "We need to acknowledge some hard truths about race and justice in this country, and one of those hard truths is that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality. Black people across America still experience racism every day."

Clinton called for body cameras on all police officers, prison reform, universal early childhood education and expansion of voting rights as steps for countering the effects of racism.

Clinton is among the Democrats who have taken flak in recent weeks for saying "all lives matter" — a response that some activists say is inadequate.

Former Gov. Martin O'Malley (R) had to apologize when he told demonstrators: 'Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter.'

Former Maryland governor and presidential candidate Martin O'Malley drew boos recently for telling demonstrators: "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter."

O'Malley later apologized.

Clinton used the Facebook chat to rip Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) after he was quoted saying that "the gender card isn't alone enough" for her to become President.

"Wow," Clinton wrote. "If that's what he said, Mitch McConnell really doesn't get it. There is a gender card being played in this campaign. It's played every time Republicans vote against giving women equal pay, deny families access to affordable child care or family leave, refuse to let women make decisions about their health or have access to free contraception."

Hillary Clinton zeroes in on capital gains: About-face? **// Christian Science Monitor // Jessica Mendoza –**

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July 20, 2015

The Democratic presidential contender will propose an overhaul to capital gains taxes that would tax some short-term investments at a higher rate in a bid to emphasize long-term growth, a campaign official said Monday.

The proposal, which Mrs. Clinton is set to lay out in a speech later this week, is part of the former secretary of State's effort to distinguish herself when it comes to economic policy from her rivals in both the Republican and Democratic parties. Her approach, she said in a recent address, will be focused on "growth and fairness" in order to get the economy moving again full-speed.

Recommended: How much do you know about Hillary Rodham Clinton? Take our quiz.

The new proposal, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, is one of a number of measures designed to address what some experts see as corporate strategy's excessive focus on quick profits, including capital gains – the profits made on selling capital assets such as shares or real estate.

Though still being finalized, the plan would create a sliding rate scale that would depend on the length of time an investment is held, according to the Journal.

Investments held for two to three years would be taxed higher than the 28 percent President Obama proposed earlier this year for top earners, who at present have a 23.8 percent capital-gains tax rate. Rates for investments held less than a year, which currently top out at 39.6 percent for the highest earners, would remain the same, the Journal reported.

The plan would also include other rate changes, with the lowest rates provided for investments held the longest.

The proposal appears to be a shift from Clinton's stance when she last sought the party's nomination in 2008. Then, she vowed not to raise capital gains tax rates above 20 percent, if at all.

The plan, however, is in line with Clinton's attempt at setting herself and her policies apart from her rivals. During last week's speech in New York, Clinton talked about the need to support workers, particularly women in the workforce, and reform financial institutions.

Her speech met a lukewarm response from both Wall Street and its reformers, and some see her upcoming address on capital gains to be more of the same.

"My gut instinct is this is going to sound good but it's not going to change very much," Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a Republican economist, told the Journal. "It's just not that powerful." He noted that the tax code already requires investments to be held for a year and is skeptical about how much difference increasing the time period would make.

But some say there's potential in Clinton's approach.

Heather Boushey, executive director and chief economist at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, told CNN that Clinton is "laying out an agenda that looks at what inequality means for families up and down the income distribution, what we can do to fix it, and it's really exciting to see a politician take up a very serious set of research ideas and bring them into the public debate."

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Bush and Clinton highlight sharp contrast in dueling policy speeches // LA Times // David Lauter – July 20, 2015

Jeb Bush pledged to cut government spending by reforming the "culture in our nation's capital" in a speech Monday that hit themes long popular with conservative voters, including a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution and a freeze in pay for many government workers.

The speech drew a sharp contrast in tone and content with Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, who has begun rolling out a series of policy proposals, many of which would involve expanding government's role.

Clinton, in a speech a week ago outlining her economic ideas, called for what she termed a "growth and fairness economy," one in which she would harness the power of the federal government in an effort to "raise incomes for hardworking Americans so they can afford a middle-class life." She criticized "arbitrary growth targets untethered to people's lives and livelihoods," an implicit censure of Bush's pledge that the economy would grow at a rate of 4% under his presidency.

Bush, by contrast, made clear that he sees government as the problem and economic growth as the measure of success.

"We've learned by now that you can have a fast-expanding economy or you can have a fast-expanding government, but you can't have both," he said in his speech in Tallahassee, where he served as Florida's governor for eight years. "You have to choose.

"For anyone who wants to see a federal government even bigger, even farther removed from those it is supposed to serve, the other party will be offering that option," Bush said. "It will not be my intention to preside over the establishment, but in every way I know to disrupt that establishment and make it accountable to the people."

Bush's call to change the nature of Washington seemed designed to reassert his conservative credentials in a GOP primary race in which he faces several candidates to his right. But it also struck a potentially discordant note, given that the government he criticized for its "habitual practice of deficit spending" was headed by his brother President George W. Bush for eight years during which deficits sharply worsened.

Jeb Bush's pledge to "turn off the automatic switch on discretionary spending increases" also struck an odd note. That category of spending, which covers federal spending governed by annual appropriations bills, has been shrinking as a share of the budget. Bush said that he would propose ideas later for the entitlement programs, such as Social Security and Medicare, that account for most of the long-term growth in federal spending.

Many of Bush's ideas were longtime conservative staples, including the balanced-budget amendment, a line-item veto that would allow a president to strike specific items from spending bills, a 10% reduction in the size of the federal workforce over the first five years of his presidency, and moves to freeze the pay of many government workers and make them easier to fire.

But he included a new idea likely to meet strong resistance from many Republicans and Democrats in Congress: He would push for a six-year ban on any member of Congress becoming a lobbyist.

Under Bush's plan, the definition of "lobbying" would be expanded to cover "the ambiguous class of consultants who lobby but call it something else." His plan, if Congress were to adopt it, would cut off a lucrative path that

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many senior members from both parties have followed into the private sector.

Bush also proposed cutting off the pay of members of Congress who don't show up for votes. The idea came with an unspoken, but unmistakable, subtext: His rivals for the nomination include four sitting senators who, as a group, have missed dozens of roll calls while out campaigning.

In Facebook Chat, Hillary Clinton Says 'Black Lives Matter' **// NBC News // Carrie Dann – July 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton said Monday that "everyone in this country should stand firmly behind" the idea that "black lives matter," just days after two of her Democratic rivals faced protests about racial justice at a liberal conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

In a Facebook chat, Clinton was asked by a Washington Post reporter what she would have said to the activists at Netroots Nation, which the former Secretary of State declined to attend.

"Black lives matter. Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that," she replied. "We need to acknowledge some hard truths about race and justice in this country, and one of those hard truths is that that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality. Black people across America still experience racism every day."

In her response, Clinton also cited body cameras for police, reforms to the nation's prison system, a push for expanded voting rights and universal early childhood education as issues that she will tackle in order to address structural racism.

The comments by Clinton Monday represent something a do-over for the 2016 presidential contender. Last month, she was criticized for saying the phrase "all lives matter" at a historic black church in Missouri.

Her remarks in the Facebook chat appeared to be a contrast to responses from Democratic presidential candidates Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, who both faced jeers from the protesters at the conference on Saturday.

O'Malley was booed for telling demonstrators "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter."

Activists in the protest movement say that statements like "all lives matter" take away from a specific focus on the violence that African Americans have faced at the hands of police.

O'Malley later apologized for his statement, saying "I did not understand the tremendous passion, commitment and feeling and depth of feeling that all of us should be attaching to this issue."

Sanders, who is generally viewed as a favorite of the Netroots Nation community, also faced complaints and shouting from protesters as he tried to deliver a speech largely focused on economic inequality.

"Black lives, of course, matter. I spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights and for dignity," he said.

Does Hillary Clinton have a small donor problem? **// The Week // Paul Waldman – July 20, 2015**

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The presidential candidates this week released their fundraising numbers for the second quarter, and while this kind of thing is usually only of interest to the most strung-out political junkie, there are some revealing tidbits within the tidal wave of cash.

A lot of people like to focus on the number of small donors a candidates gets, the presumption being that small donors are better indicators of grassroots support than big donors. For instance, The New York Times on Thursday noted that Hillary Clinton got a smaller portion of her funds from small donors than the likes of Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders, and presented it as evidence of a troubling weakness. The relative dearth of such donors "could represent a financial and strategic liability for Mrs. Clinton if she were to win the nomination," the paper wrote.

But here's a question: Is there a serious political analyst out there who thinks that Hillary Clinton's problem is that her campaign won't have enough money?

If you ask a campaign why small donors are important, you quickly notice that the answers all emphasize not the donation itself, but what it represents or what it might lead to in the future. The first thing campaign operatives always say is, "It shows the incredible enthusiasm thousand of Americans have for this candidacy." Then they'll tell you how donors will turn into volunteers who can turn out other people to vote. Then they'll talk about the potential of a small donor who hasn't "maxed out" by giving the $2,700 limit, meaning the campaign can keep coming back to ask the donor for more money.

In other words, you might be able to turn the small donor into a big donor (the kind of donor you're supposed to pretend you don't like in the first place). But other than the symbolism of getting more donations from reg'lar folks, there's no reason the campaign wouldn't rather just have all the money up front.

And symbolism is what it is. Barack Obama's 2008 campaign is thought of as the most people-powered in recent history, with an unprecedented amount of citizen engagement. Which in many ways it was. But more people actually gave to Obama in 2012, when he was an incumbent running a somewhat less inspirational campaign. The Obama campaign reported that it received donations from 4.4 million people in 2012, up from 3.95 million in 2008.

That's a lot of people, without question. But if we divide that into the number of votes Obama got, we see that in 2008, one out of every 17.6 people who voted for Obama gave him a donation, which rose to one out of every 15 in 2012. Every candidate has many more supporters than donors, and it's the votes that count in the end.

The truth is that Obama raised huge amounts of money from everywhere — small donors, big donors, ordinary people, Wall Street, and every other source you could imagine. But the candidate powered by small donors is a certain type, and it isn't the type that usually wins. The candidates getting the highest proportion of their funds from small donors so far in this election are Bernie Sanders, Ben Carson, and Rand Paul. They all have a committed yet finite group of supporters, and a limited appeal to the big-money donors because of their less than overwhelming chances of winning.

So if you were a Republican running for president, which candidate would you rather be: Rand Paul, who got 65 percent of his funds from small donors, or Jeb Bush, who got a paltry 3 percent? Well, when you learn that Paul raised $6.9 million, while Bush raised $114 million, mostly through his super PAC, the answer seems pretty clear.

As for Hillary Clinton, I wouldn't worry too much about her. I have a feeling that she's going to have no trouble finding lots of donors, big and small. Consider that we really haven't yet seen much of a discussion about the possibility of electing the first woman president in American history. But presuming she's the nominee, as Election Day approaches and that possibility becomes real and urgent, don't be surprised if millions of women decide to write her a check for $50 or $100 — especially when eruptions of misogynistic bile come spewing from all manner

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of conservatives, which they most certainly will.

Hillary Clinton is going to have many challenges in her quest for the White House, but having enough money is probably not going to be one of them.

Hillary Clinton's Capital Gains Changes Won't Make A Blind Bit Of Difference To Short-Termism // Forbes // Tim Worstall – July 20, 2015

Hillary Clinton is to suggest higher taxes on short term capital gains it seems. The aim being to make people invest for the longer term, and counter what is seen as the dreadfully short term nature of most decision making in the marketplace. It's not going to make a blind bit of difference of course for the suggestion itself ignores a very basic economic fact about investment markets: they are forward looking. That is, the value of whatever is going to happen into the future is already priced in, with some appropriate risk taking, to the price today. Thus absolutely no shareholder can be investing on a short term basis: the value of that investment reflects the effects of whatever is being done out into the far future. Thus there's no actual problem with short termism: it's simply not logically possible.

Not that that's going to stop our Hillary of course:

Hillary Clinton will propose a revamp of capital-gains taxes that would hit some short-term investors with higher rates, part of a package of measures designed to prod companies to put more emphasis on long-term growth, a campaign official said.

The proposal, to be laid out in a speech later this week, is one of a number of ideas designed to tackle what Mrs. Clinton, some economists and some on Wall Street consider the overly short-term focus of corporate strategy. Other topics will include the risks and benefits of shareholder activism and the role of executive compensation.

Whether the corporation is investing short or long term is an interesting and important question. But the proposal isn't to change the amount that corporations are taxed. Rather, the proposal is to change the rates at which investors are taxed, based not on how long the company invests for, but how long the investor holds the stock for. And there's simply no connection between those two things. For the value of a stock reflects the general opinion of what is the net present value of all future income from holding that stock. Whether stockholders hold it for one month or 5 years doesn't change that basic determinant of the price. Thus changing how they're taxed based on the length of their holding makes no difference.

There's a quick test that can be done on this too. Capital gains tax rates in my native UK have always been different from those in the US. Currently in the US you must hold for a year to get that capital rate: profits from holdings held for less than that pay normal income tax rates (so this is nothing at all to do with HFT). In the UK there have always been lower rates for capital gains and there's been no minimum holding period for them either. What's happened?

Based on the NYSE index data, the mean duration of holding period by US investors was around 7 years in 1940. This stayed the same for the next 35 years.Â The average holding period had fallen to under 2 years by the time of the 1987 crash. By the turn of the century it had fallen to below one year. It was around 7 months by 2007.

Similar pattern exists in the UK also as shown in the chart above. There the average duration has fallen from around 5 years in the mid-1960s to less than 7.5 months in 2007.

If very different tax laws produce the same outcome then it's probably not the tax law influencing the outcome, is it?

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What we've really got here is something that has become the conventional wisdom among Very Serious People (as Paul Krugman calls them), that people holding stocks for short periods of time is a bad idea and something must be done. Here is something, let's do it: without anyone actually thinking through the details of either the supposed problem or the proposed solution.

It is the companies that we're interested in investing for the long term. How long their investors hold a stock for makes no difference to that. And no, the hunger for more dividends or stock buybacks now also makes no difference to the level of the stock price if they don't arrive. For those markets are indeed forward looking. A company that (credibly) promises $1 billion in profits in 5 years' time is worth more than one which is paying out $100 million a year for the next five years. Because we discount those two different profit streams down to the net present value and that's what determines what the stock price is. That is, appropriately adjusted for the risk that the world won't turn out like we think it will, the value of those long term decisions at the company level is already incorporated into the current prices at which the short term holders of the stock are trading.

Changing how things are taxed at the investor level will make no difference at all to that: nor will they make any difference at all to the time horizons over which the corporations invest.

This is a non-solution based on an ignorance how the markets work. How unusual that Hillary should fall for it...

Jeb Bush And Hillary Clinton Love The Rich Without Knowing It **// Forbes // John Tamny – July 20, 2015**

An urban myth that survives to this day is the one about Henry Ford and the high wages he paid his employees. We learn in history class and out in the wider world that Ford compensated his employees well so that they would buy his cars. Who cares that Ford sold exponentially more cars than he had employees, the myth lives on.

In truth, and as Mark Spitznagel writes about Ford Motor Company in his spectacular 2013 book The Dao of Capital, "When profits swelled, he paid well for labor, creating an uproar when he doubled the basic wage to $5.00 a day, which triggered a virtual stampede of job seekers." Was Ford simply feeling generous, or better yet, "altruistic"? No, he was actually feeling profit motivated. Thanks to annual employee turnover of 370% in 1913, it was too expensive for Ford to do anything but overpay his employees. As Spitznagel put it, Ford "effectively lowered his costs because higher wages reduced turnover and the need for constant training of new hires."

A century-old story of a great American businessman rises in importance thanks to the presidential candidacies of Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton. While they're not terribly similar in terms of policies, each has chosen to pander to an apparently easy to gull middle class. Bush has talked about "growth that lifts up the middle class" as opposed to just the rich, while Clinton has called for tax increases on the rich given her view that boosting incomes for all Americans is "the defining economic challenge of our time." Just last week, and in the rollout of her economic plan, Clinton said to boisterous applause that "Hard working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they help produce."

Were both Clinton and Bush more economically literate, and perhaps a bit more honest, they would correctly say that the best and only way to achieve their goals would be to substantially reduce the tax burden foisted on the rich and big corporations alike. Nothing could be simpler, yet each candidate seems rather eager to not be seen as too cozy with the successful. That's odd, and not just when we consider the net worth of Clinton and Bush, along with those donating to Clinton and Bush.

To see why, we need only return to Ford. Lest we forget, it was rising profits that made it possible for him to initially offer raises to his employees. It's expensive for companies to lose workers, it's also expensive for them to pay taxes, so why not substantially reduce the tax burden levied on corporations so that they have more in the way of funds to actively bid up the wages of workers?

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If Clinton remains skeptical, she need only ask her many very well-to-do supporters in Hollywood about how they respond to taxes. They'll tell her that they actively shop their movies to all 50 state film offices with an eye on securing the best tax deal ahead of uncapping the camera lens. This matters to middle class workers because as the increasingly libertarian actor Rob Lowe recalled in his 2011 book Stories I Only Tell My Friends:

"It takes an army to make a movie. Camera crews, lighting crews, wardrobe crews, makeup crews, hair crews, painters, builders (called grips), a crew to provide the props, a crew to provide the furnishings (the art department), electricians, special-effects people, stunt performers…."

Readers surely get the picture, as should Clinton and Bush. As Lowe's quote makes quite clear, there are a lot of well-paid middle class jobs created when movie moguls and studios get to keep more of their money. And as the Ford example yet again makes plain, this is true for all industries.

Back to Bush, and judging by some of his stop staffers, it's apparent that his middle class rhetoric is rooted in the naïve notion promoted by self-styled "Reform Conservatives" that tax cuts for the rich are yesterday's news. The "Reformicons," ever eager to buy middle class votes, think Bush should focus on lifting the middle class boat. With the failed presidency of Bush's brother George oddly in mind, the political idea seems to be to "put money in their [middle class] pockets." Its failings are quickly obvious.

What Bush and Clinton must understand, and this is an ironclad tautology, is that there are quite simply no companies and no jobs without investment first. There's no debating the latter. Those who think they can should move on. It's a debate they'll lose.

Applied to middle class pandering, precisely because their pockets aren't as deep as those of rich individuals and corporations, tax cuts for middle earners have nowhere near the positive impact of tax reductions geared toward individuals and businesses in possession of wealth that is exponentially more abundant. With the pockets of the truly rich so deep that they generally can't get anywhere close to the bottom of same, tax reductions meant to allow them to hold onto their wealth boosts the economic chances of those not rich rather quickly.

Why is this? Since they almost by definition can't spend it all, the wealth of the superrich doesn't lay untouched; rather it's deposited in banks, invested in the stock market, or placed in private equity or venture capital funds. In short, the wealth of the rich, when left in the hands of the rich, is quickly redistributed through loans and investment to those who aren't rich.

When we wisely decide to not tax away the wealth of the rich, it doesn't sit idle as much as its abundance is geared toward bidding up the wages of the non-rich in concert with investments that boost their productivity. Put as plainly as possible, Bush and Clinton's shared goal of "growth that lifts up the middle class" is only possible insofar as the tax burden on corporations and the superrich is lifted first.

Clinton eyes flexible benefits for 'on-demand economy' workers **// The Hill // David McCabe – July 20, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton suggested on Monday that she favors making benefits more portable for workers in the "on-demand economy" — such as those with Uber or Airbnb.

Workers for many of the companies are contractors, not employees. Their status means they do not get benefits like Social Security contributions or unemployment.

"I certainly don't have all the answers," Clinton said on a Facebook thread set up by her campaign in response to a

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question from a Huffington Post reporter. “But we have to resolve these questions while embracing the promise and potential of these new technologies and without stifling innovation or limiting the ability of working moms and veterans and young people to get ahead."

“On the issue of benefits, the experience of the Affordable Care act shows that we need to make sure people have access to benefits and that they are portable as they move from job to job.”

Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) suggested separating benefits from on-demand economy employers during a speech earlier this year. Among other proposals, he floated the idea of a third-party organization that would administer benefits for workers who were earning money from different on-demand economy companies at the same time.

Warner is expected to introduce legislation on the topic.

On-demand economy companies have implied that portable benefits can be good for their businesses. Uber founder Travis Kalanick, known for generally harboring libertarian political tendencies, said last fall the ObamaCare was “huge” for the company.

Clinton did not weigh in on whether workers in the sharing economy are currently misclassified as contractors or present a more detailed model for how portable benefits might work. Her campaign did not immediately respond to a question about when a more detailed policy proposal might be offered by the candidate.

In her answer, Clinton exhibited the cautiousness that marked her first remarks on the topic, when she said only that the “on-demand, or so-called 'gig economy,' is creating exciting opportunities and unleashing innovation, but it's also raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future."

The former secretary of state and other Democrats have said they believe the misclassification is a problem, but have not tied it explicitly to the on-demand economy.

Clinton may be trying to avoid alienating the companies and those who believe they represent the innovative spirit of America’s tech sector.

The on-demand economy is also currently one of the most closely watched areas in tech. Uber and Airbnb are currently the two most valuable U.S.-based startups, and both have significant global presences.

Republicans have endorsed the companies has they look to gain credibility with the tech sector and young people, with some attacking Clinton for her initial remarks.

Hillary jokes about 'daily challenge' of hair, makeup **// The Hill // Judy Kurtz – July 20, 2015**

Hillary Clinton says her hair and makeup routine is “a daily challenge.”

The Democratic presidential frontrunner and former secretary of State participated in a Facebook Q&A on Monday, answering a handful of wide-ranging questions from users.

“Every morning, as my boyfriend zips out the door and I spent 30+ minutes getting ready, I wonder about how the ‘hair and makeup’ tax affects other women,” one Facebook user, Libby Britain, said in a message to Clinton. Britain added, “as a young professional woman, I’d genuinely love to hear about how you manage getting ready each

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morning."

Clinton replied, "Amen sister — you're preaching to the choir. It's a daily challenge. I do the best I can — and as you may have noticed, some days are better than others!"

The former first lady has made a habit in recent months of using self-deprecating humor when mentioning her appearance. She told a crowd in May, "I've been coloring my hair for years."

"So you're not going to see me turn white in the White House," Clinton said to applause.

The 2016 hopeful — who dubs herself a "pantsuit aficionado" in her Twitter profile — also weighed in on her signature style.

Asked if she had a favorite pantsuit, Clinton, 67, responded, "I never met a pantsuit I didn't love." She then plugged her campaign website's store, which is selling a $30 Clinton-inspired "Everyday Pantsuit Tee."

Jeb and Hillary: Flawed front-runners generating little excitement // Fox News // Howard Kurtz – July 20, 2015

America may well get another Bush-Clinton race once this whole presidential thing shakes out, with predictable groans about royal families and political retreads.

But in looking at the coverage this past week, I was struck by this thought: This is one weak pair of front-runners.

Jeb is losing to a guy who's never run for public office and is in hot water over comments about Mexican immigrants. In short, he's been Trumped. (Though maybe The Donald has trumped himself by making light of John McCain's Vietnam captivity, not that the media were in love with him before.)

Hillary is way ahead in her race, but a socialist senator is generating most of the excitement. A majority of voters have doubts about her honesty. And she's long been at odds with the press.

As the New York Times has noted, Hillary may have raised $47.5 million, but less than one-fifth has come in contributions of $200 or less. That means big-money donors, many of whom have maxed out at $2,700, are powering her campaign. Bernie Sanders, by contrast, has gotten four-fifths of his $15 million in small donations. (Hillary has also spent a chunk of her haul, stirring concerns about another bloated, consultant-heavy campaign.)

Equally worrisome, the latest Fox News poll confirms the findings of several other surveys that Hillary has a trust problem. Some 58 percent of respondents say Clinton's natural instincts lean more toward "hiding the truth" than "telling the truth."

It's hardly shocking that Hillary isn't firing up the grass roots. She's been in public life for a quarter century, as first lady, senator, presidential candidate, secretary of State and global celebrity. She's a Democrat running to succeed another Democrat. And the lack of a major opponent is draining much of the drama from her race. That's why Elizabeth Warren, not HRC, is on the cover of Time.

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At the same time, even Hillary's team is said to be concerned that Sanders, a 73-year-old who isn't even a Democrat and who's been a bit player in the Senate, could knock her off in Iowa. Or worse.

Yet in a New York Times Magazine piece that's in part about the press staff micromanaging Mark Leibovich (no tweeting from her headquarters!), campaign manager Robby Mook said: "I take issue with the excitement question."'

Jeb has problems that go beyond Donald Trump. He's at odds with conservative Republican voters over illegal immigration and Common Core education standards. He's raised $114 million, but he's had to talk repeatedly about his brother and why his last name isn't a liability.

And while Bush has been solid and substantive in his campaign, aside from his initial Iraq stumble, he has not been a dominating presence. He regularly talks to the press, in stark contrast to Hillary, but makes little news.

And Trump is looming as an obstacle for Bush, particularly with the Fox debate coming up next month.

"During one recent phone call with a political ally," Politico says, "Bush pointedly asked about the surging real estate mogul. What, the friend recalled the former governor wondering out loud, was behind Trump's antics, and what was he trying to accomplish?"

Jeb is trying to be the grownup in the room. He told the Los Angeles Times: "I think candidates ought to lay out proposals to solve problems rather than basically prey on legitimate fears and concerns."

The Donald, meanwhile, speaks of Jeb with open disdain. "He raises 100 million, so what does 100 million mean?" Trump asked. "100 million means he's doing favors for so many people, it means lobbyists, it means special interests, it means donors," said Trump. "Who knows it better than me?"

The eventual nominees often seem lackluster during the preseason. I remember lots of political and media grumbling over Mitt Romney, John McCain, John Kerry and Al Gore, whereas the likes of Howard Dean and Newt Gingrich generated more excitement. Those who win their party's nod have to be acceptable to a broad coalition, which usually means they can't be fire-breathing insurgents.

Maybe even Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush aren't immune from premature boredom.

Here's the Amy Schumer joke that Hillary Clinton 'really liked' // Business Insider // Aly Weisman – July 20, 2015

Amy Schumer is known for joking about her sex life, but the comedian says that with the upcoming election she will soon tackle politics as well — whether people like it or not.

"I think people only want women to speak for so long. They build you up, and then they're just ready to tear you down. Like Hillary — when it's really go time for her, I'll definitely be active, and that'll make people hate me," Schumer tells GQ in a new cover interview. "I know inevitably I'll get more political, just as an adult with changing interests, which is good — no one wants to hear me talk about who I f----d or whatever for another twenty years. And I hope I'm wrong, but I just think there's this 'Don't disappoint me in any way.' If you say one joke that offends, it feels like, 'Oh, wait, I thought you were my everything, and now you're dead to me.'"

But Schumer doesn't care what people think about her outspoken political views, telling GQ she's "always been a

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fan" of Hillary Clinton.

In November, the comedian met Clinton for the first time at the Glamour Women of the Year awards.

"It was very cool. She was a good audience member," Schumer said of the meeting. "She commented on a couple of the jokes I told."

One joke in particular that Clinton told Schumer she resonated with: "I said that in L.A. my arms register as legs, and she really liked that. She was like, 'I can relate.'"

But not everyone was as kind to Clinton during the Women of the Year awards.

"One of the acts that had gone up before me did some stuff that was very disrespectful to her, and I definitely didn't think it was funny," said Schumer. "I said to her, like, 'What the f--- was that?' She just goes, 'Par for the course.... I'm so used to it.'"

New RNC Video Hits Hillary Clinton's 'Failed Leadership' // IJ Review // Joe Perticone – July 20, 2015

The Republican National Committee released a new video taking aim at Hillary Clinton's foreign policy record on Monday.

In the video, titled "Failed Leadership," Clinton's tenure as Secretary of State is heavily scrutinized, noting several scandals while she helmed the State Department.

One of the policy failures highlighted in the video is the 2014 Inspector General report, which revealed nearly $6 billion lost by Clinton's State Department. The original report read:

"The failure to maintain contract files adequately creates significant financial risk and demonstrates a lack of internal control over the Department's contract actions."

In addition, the video also focuses on Clinton's connections to no-bid contracts, as well as the security failures that led to the terrorist attacks that left four Americans dead in Benghazi, Libya.

Hillary Clinton's Nigeria record once again in the spotlight // The Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood – July 20, 2015

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari's visit to Washington, D.C., Monday to discuss the fight against Boko Haram has prompted critics to again question why Hillary Clinton refused to label the West African insurgents as terrorists during her State Department tenure.

Buhari and President Obama discussed U.S. support of Nigerian counterterrorism efforts, which was made possible by Secretary of State John Kerry's decision to place Boko Haram on the terrorist watch list in late 2013, just months after Clinton left office.

The State Department under Clinton resisted congressional calls to designate Boko Haram as a terrorist

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organization.

Robert Jackson, acting assistant secretary of state for African affairs, testified before Congress in May of last year that the agency could have acted sooner on Boko Haram.

Clinton's ties to Gilbert Chagoury, a prominent Nigerian businessman and Clinton Foundation supporter, have prompted at least one member of Congress to question the motives behind her decision not to slap Boko Haram with a Foreign Terrorist Organization classification.

Sen. David Vitter, R-La., wrote a letter to Kerry in March asking the State Department to turn over emails in which Clinton discussed Boko Haram.

"[G]iven the drastic foothold Boko Haram was allowed to gain prior to being designated an FTO, the nexus between the Department's decision against designating Boko Haram as an FTO and connections to outside groups should be brought forward," Vitter wrote.

Vitter questioned whether the Clinton's relationship with Chagoury influenced her decision against labeling Boko Haram a terrorist group.

He noted Bill Clinton had participated in events with Chagoury while his wife was secretary of state, and that the Nigerian land developer had "previously agreed to a $66 million plea deal during international investigation into corruption charges against him."

The Clinton Foundation's acceptance of donations from Nigerian companies has raised red flags in the past.

For example, the First Bank of Nigeria, one of the country's largest financial institutions, gave as much as $25,000 to the Clinton Foundation.

The son of the former chairman of the First Bank of Nigeria was sentenced to life in prison after attempting to blow up a Detroit-bound passenger flight on Christmas Day 2009.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, Alhaji Mutallab's son, was dubbed the "underwear bomber" after authorities discovered explosives hidden in his underwear.

Bill Clinton accepted between $500,000 and $1 million from a Nigerian newspaper publisher in 2012 to speak at an event in Lagos.

The money went straight into the Clinton Foundation, donor records show.

Procter & Gamble's Nigeria operation won a prestigious State Department award in 2011. The company donated between $1 million and $5 million to the Clinton Foundation.

Hillary Clinton personally presented the company with the award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

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Nestle Nigeria, a food manufacturing company, also donated to the Clinton Foundation.

Hillary Clinton reportedly invited Buhari to meet with her in 2009, years before the Nigerian president assumed office.

Powerful oil corporations have played a role in shaping Nigeria's policy. Many of the energy conglomerates have also enjoyed close ties to the Clintons.

Royal Dutch Shell, a major oil company and Clinton Foundation donor, reportedly infiltrated the Nigerian government in its efforts to dominate the energy sector there.

Leaked diplomatic cables suggest State Department officials received intelligence updates from Shell executives in Nigeria and were concerned about the effects of the deteriorating security situation on the country's oil industry.

The Nigerian ambassador under Hillary Clinton met with executives from Shell and other corporations — including fellow foundation donors Chevron, Schlumberger and ExxonMobil — in 2009 and advised them on ways to lobby the Nigerian government in their favor.

One of the reasons Hillary Clinton's officials cited for refusing to label the group as terrorists was "the possibility that doing so might heighten threats against U.S. and Western interests," according to CNN.

In One Quote, Hillary Clinton Just Outpaced All of Her Opponents on #BlackLivesMatter // Mic // Zak Rice – July 20, 2015

Ever since they announced their candidacies, the 2016 presidential hopefuls have been either wildly off-base or deafeningly silent on issues pertaining to #BlackLivesMatter.

Hillary Clinton changed that on Monday. In a Q&A conducted via her Facebook page, Clinton responded to a question from Washington Post reporter Wesley Lowery about what she, as president, would do to "begin to dismantle structural racism in the United States."

Here's how she answered:

"Black lives matter. Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that. We need to acknowledge some hard truths about race and justice in this country, and one of those hard truths is that that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality. Black people across America still experience racism every day. Since this campaign started, I've been talking about the work we must do to address the systemic inequities that persist in education, in economic opportunity, in our justice system. But we have to do more than talk - we have to take action. For example - we should make sure every police department in the US has body cameras. We should provide alternatives to incarceration for low-level offenders. We should invest in early childhood education for every child. We should fight for voting rights and universal voter registration. You will continue to hear me talking about these issues throughout this campaign and pushing for real solutions. -H"

Clinton's response demonstrates at least a basic understanding of the role structural racism plays in daily American life. She acknowledges that access to quality education, economic opportunity, voting resources and an equitable criminal justice system all have a distinctly racial tinge, with black people disproportionately affected. And she implies that she's committed to concrete, if far from encompassing, solutions: measurable goals to which her administration can be held long-term, if elected.

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She also suggests these are issues we can expect her to address "throughout this campaign," which is encouraging for those hoping racial inequality will be a centerpiece of this election.

The question was designed partly as a follow-up to the events of this past weekend. Democratic presidential hopefuls Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley both attended the Netroots Nation organizing conference in Phoenix, Arizona, where protesters disrupted their onstage Q&A with calls to "say her name" — a nod to Sandra Bland, whom authorities say was found dead by suicide in a Texas jail cell on July 13, even as advocates and family members suggest she died by foul play.

To be fair, Clinton was able to provide her answer through a written post instead of an in-person confrontation. Nonetheless, Sanders threatened to walk offstage in response to the interruption. O'Malley responded with the tepid and widely criticized concession "All lives matter." Both have faced backlash on social media as a result, even as they've tried to make up ground for these missteps.

This came at a time when anti-black violence at the hands of both police and private citizens alike has prompted protests and political action from Ferguson, Missouri, to Baltimore to Texas and back.

Clinton's answer seems thus far to be the only unequivocal endorsement of the phrase "black lives matter" in the Democratic field, free of the implicit dismissal of "all lives matter," and Sanders' suspiciously "I have plenty of black friends"-reminiscent retort, "I've spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights."

Whether she follows through on this initial commitment is yet to be seen. But one thing is clear: The #BlackLivesMatter movement officially has the ear of the presidential candidates field.

Hillary Clinton shuts down Mitch McConnell on women's rights: He "doesn't understand what our lives are like" // Salon // Sophia Tesfaye – July 20, 2015

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell reportedly suggested that Hillary Clinton's presidential candidacy lacked a sufficient rationale, warning that "the gender card alone isn't enough."

According to local reporters, McConnell made the remarks today while he was speaking before the Bullitt County Chamber of Commerce where he claimed there's not "a dime's worth of difference" between Clinton and President Barack Obama:

During a Facebook Q&A today, Huffington Post political reporter Laura Bassett asked Clinton about McConnell's comments. Clinton, apparently unaware of McConnell's remarks, took the opportunity to castigate the entire Republican party as she has grown fond of doing in recent weeks:

Wow. If that's what he said, Mitch McConnell really doesn't get it. There is a gender card being played in this campaign. It's played every time Republicans vote against giving women equal pay, deny families access to affordable child care or family leave, refuse to let women make decisions about their health or have access to free contraception. These aren't just women's issues, they are economic issues that drive growth and affect all Americans. Anyone who doesn't get that doesn't understand what our lives are like.

The only other woman running for president, former Hewlett-Packard executive Carly Fiorna, has also brought up the tired "gender card" phrase to dismiss Clinton's candidacy as rooted in the appeal of a first woman president while holding herself out as uniquely qualified to challenge Clinton as a woman:

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I think that if Hillary Clinton were to face a female nominee, there are a whole set of things that she won't be able to talk about. She won't be able to talk about being the first woman president. She won't be able to talk about a war on women without being challenged. She won't be able to play the gender card.

Hillary Clinton Takes To Facebook To Let The Gop Know: Women's Issues Are Economic Issues // Elle // Mattie Kahn – July 20, 2015

Like you, Hillary Clinton logged on to Facebook this afternoon in the middle of her workday.

The presidential candidate hosted her first virtual Q&A of this election season on the platform, answering questions from supporters all over the country and trumpeting her devotion to at least these two forms of expression: pantsuits and karaoke.

When a supporter invited her to join him on Dickson Street in Fayetteville, Arkansas, for an evening of performance, she offered: "I love Dickson Street." Asked to recall her favorite two-piece ensemble, Clinton claimed she could not choose between them. "I have never met a pantsuit I didn't love," she said.

She had less affection, however, for Republican values, which she denounced over and over again throughout the live session. Clinton restated her positions on immigration and student debt and promised to continue to address "hard truths about race and justice in this country." When a user wanted to know whether Clinton had a retort for Mitch McConnell, who suggested this morning that the "gender card" would not secure the election for her, Clinton was vehement:

"There is a gender card being played in this campaign," she wrote. "It's played every time Republicans vote against giving women equal pay, deny families access to affordable child care or family leave, refuse to let women make decisions about their health or have access to free contraception. These aren't just women's issues, they are economic issues that drive growth and affect all Americans. Anyone who doesn't get that doesn't understand what our lives are like."

Indeed, Clinton offered her woman-to-woman support to a comrade—a "young professional" who told the former secretary of state that her "boyfriend zips out the door and I spent 30+ minutes getting ready."

"I wonder about how the 'hair and makeup tax' affects other women," she wrote, "especially ones I admire in high-pressure, public-facing jobs."

Clinton gets it.

"Amen, sister," she declared. "[Y]ou're preaching to the choir. It's a daily challenge. I do the best I can—and as you may have noticed, some days are better than others!"

Hillary Clinton Admits Her Morning Beauty Routine Is a 'Daily Challenge' // People // Tierney Mcaffe – July 20, 2015

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton is one of the most powerful women in politics, but her appearance – from her haircuts to her affinity for pantsuits – has always been a hot topic. So much so that at this year's White House Correspondents' dinner, comedian Cecily Strong asked the media to promise "not to talk about Hillary's appearance" this election season.

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But when the inevitable question crept up during a Facebook Q&A session on Monday, Clinton made a surprising confession about the "hair and makeup tax" that even women like herself in "high-pressure" positions often have to pay.

"I know these questions can seem fluffy," Facebook user Libby Brittain wrote, "but as a young professional woman, I'd genuinely love to hear about how you manage getting ready each morning (especially during your time traveling as Secretary of State and now on the campaign trail) while staying focused on the 'real' work ahead of you that day."

"Amen, sister – you're preaching to the choir," Clinton responded. "It's a daily challenge. I do the best I can – and as you may have noticed, some days are better than others!"

During the Facebook Q&A session, the first of her 2016 campaign, Clinton also vowed to make the student loan debt crisis a priority from "the first day I become president," and addressed how she would have responded to Black Lives Matter protestors who confronted her opponents Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders at a Netroots Nation convention on Saturday.

"Black lives matter," she said. "Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that. We need to acknowledge some hard truths about race and justice in this country, and one of those hard truths is that that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality."

Clinton also fired back at Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who reportedly accused her of playing "the gender card" in her campaign.

"Wow," she replied. "If that's what he said, Mitch McConnell really doesn't get it."

"There is a gender card being played in this campaign," she continued. "It's played every time Republicans vote against giving women equal pay, deny families access to affordable child care or family leave, refuse to let women make decisions about their health or have access to free contraception. These aren't just women's issues, they are economic issues that drive growth and affect all Americans. Anyone who doesn't get that doesn't understand what our lives are like."

For her part, Clinton seems to be using humor to take charge of the narrative about her appearance.

When asked whether she has a favorite pantsuit, she quipped: "I never met a pantsuit I didn't love."

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

<u>DECLARED</u>

O'MALLEY

Why Martin O'Malley had to apologize for saying "all lives matter" **// VOX // Dara Lind – July 20, 2015**

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When on earth did saying that "all lives matter" become something you need to apologize for?

That's a question a lot of people have after a confrontation this past weekend between Democratic presidential candidates Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders and black activists at the major progressive conference Netroots Nation. The activists were affiliated with the #BlackLivesMatter movement, which has sprung up in the past year to protest and respond to the deaths of young black men and women at the hands of police and while in police custody. During his attempt to respond, O'Malley said, "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter." The protesters, as well as other attendees and progressives watching the events unfold, were deeply offended — and O'Malley was forced to apologize the next day.

RelatedWhy #BlackLivesMatter activists are fighting with Bernie Sanders supporters

Do activists really believe that only black lives matter? No, of course they don't. But as the phrase "black lives matter" has moved into the mainstream of progressive politics over the last year, the response that "all lives matter" has been used to try to shut it down — or to obscure the real racial disparities in police/community relations. So while O'Malley almost certainly wasn't trying to diminish the movement, he touched a nerve — and set off another round of argument about what the slogan really means.

Activists feel police often act like black lives don't matter

The hashtag #BlackLivesMatter, and the campaign that's organized around it for the past year, isn't about the general improvement of the well-being of African Americans. It's a protest against police killings of young black men and women and the deaths of young black men and women in police custody. To the activists in the #BlackLivesMatter movement, the frequency with which black Americans die at the hands of police — and the circumstances of those deaths — are powerful evidence that law enforcement doesn't care as much about black lives as white lives. And they point to the media reaction to those deaths, which often focuses on the criminal records of the victims, as evidence that American society doesn't care as much about black lives either.

police shooting by race

Joe Posner/Vox

In April, after the shooting of Walter Scott by a police officer in South Carolina, Tavis Smiley put it this way:

Now how do you know [the officer who killed Scott] didn't care about his humanity? Because he shot him, like a coward, 8 times in the back as he's running away. How do you know he doesn't care about his life? Because as he's dead on the ground, you're so afraid of a black man that as you shoot him 8 times in the back and he's face down he's dead and you still handcuff him. What does that say about how you regard or disregard the humanity of that particular human being?

All lives matter, but not all lives are equally under threat

#BlackLivesMatter is a specific cause. And it's pretty well accepted that if someone supports one cause, it doesn't mean they don't care about other ones.

And because "black lives matter" does refer to the specific threats that activists feel law enforcement poses to black Americans, countering with "all lives matter" can sound like an attempt to deny that those racial disparities exist. No one disagrees that all lives ought to matter — but one of the difficulties with talking about race in America is that even when race ought not to matter, for many people, it does.

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Here's an analogy from Reddit user GeekAesthete, in a thread in which another user asked redditors to explain why #AllLivesMatter was offensive, that gets at this:

Imagine that you're sitting down to dinner with your family, and while everyone else gets a serving of the meal, you don't get any. So you say "I should get my fair share." And as a direct response to this, your dad corrects you, saying, "everyone should get their fair share." Now, that's a wonderful sentiment -- indeed, everyone should, and that was kinda your point in the first place: that you should be a part of everyone, and you should get your fair share also. However, dad's smart-ass comment just dismissed you and didn't solve the problem that you still haven't gotten any!

#AllLivesMatter has often been used to attack #BlackLivesMatter

After O'Malley said "All lives matter" on Saturday, he told MSNBC that he hadn't been aware of the connotations of the phrase. To activists, though, that's hardly an excuse — in fact, it almost makes the problem worse. Because for nearly as long as "black lives matter" has been a slogan of activism against police violence, the phrase "all lives matter" has been used by its opponents.

The Facebook page ALL Lives Matter features complaints about how there's no such thing as "police brutality" and photos of white people allegedly killed by African Americans. And the hashtag #AllLivesMatter on Twitter is a decent mix of earnest entreaties to stop being divided by race, blaming Obama for racial divisions, and articles about black-on-black or black-on-white crime.

Just as he told MSNBC, O'Malley probably wasn't aware before this weekend that "all lives matter" is often used to attack "black lives matter." He may have reflexively answered thinking he was accepting their point and reiterating it. But the honest mistake itself illustrated that he hasn't been paying very close attention to how the #BlackLivesMatter movement has developed over the past year, and how it's been attacked — both by people simply trying to deny the continued relevance of race, and by people trying to paint African Americans as the real thugs.

And it means O'Malley hasn't been paying attention to the conversation some #BlackLivesMatter activists have been trying to start within the progressive movement — to ensure that their issues are seen as progressive issues. O'Malley was at Netroots Nation to appeal to progressives looking for an alternative to Hillary Clinton. The protesters who challenged him took the stance that for a candidate to label himself progressive in the year 2015, he should have a well-considered position on the biggest progressive movement of the past year.

Maybe not everyone would be forced to apologize for saying that "all lives matter" — although, like many other things, the real question is whether you keep saying it after it's explained why people could take offense. But Martin O'Malley isn't all people. And the broader lesson of what happened over the weekend is that black progressives don't feel they're currently part of the progressive agenda — and they're fighting to change that.

O'Malley apologizes after saying 'all lives matter' at liberal conference // Washington Times // David Sherfinski – July 20, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley apologized after he was interrupted by protesters when the 2016 Democratic presidential candidate said "all lives matter" at the Netroots Nation conference in Phoenix over the weekend.

"That was a mistake on my part, and I meant no disrespect," Mr. O'Malley said in an interview on "This Week in Blackness," a digital show. "I did not mean to be insensitive in any way or to communicate that I did not understand the tremendous passion, commitment and feeling and depth of feeling that all of us should be attaching to this issue."

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Several dozen demonstrators interrupted Mr. O'Malley by shouting “Black lives matter!” — which has become a rallying cry in the wake of recent shootings of black men by police officers — and Mr. O'Malley responded: “Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter,” according to CNN.

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, one of Mr. O'Malley’s rivals on the Democratic side, was shouted down as well when he tried to speak, according to Yahoo! News.

“Black lives, of course, matter. I spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights and for dignity,” Mr. Sanders said. “But if you don’t want me to be here, that’s OK. I don’t want to outscream people.”

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the 2016 Democratic front-runner, was not at the conference, but received some pushback for using the phrase when she recently spoke at a church near Ferguson, Missouri, the site of rioting and protests last summer in the wake of the shooting death of Michael Brown.

In response to a question about the protesters at the event, Mrs. Clinton said during a Facebook question and answer session Monday that “black lives matter.”

“Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that,” she said. “We need to acknowledge some hard truths about race and justice in this country, and one of those hard truths is that that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality. Black people across America still experience racism every day.”

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders hazed on Twitter for civil rights comment **// Politico // Daniel Strauss – July 20, 2015**

Sen. Bernie Sanders is getting some blowback for saying he spent five decades fighting for civil rights when protesters confronted him at a presidential candidate forum over the weekend.

At the forum on Saturday, at the annual conference of the left-leaning Netroots Nation, protesters affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement stormed the stage. A defensive Sanders said, “Black lives matter. But I’ve spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights. If you don’t want me to be here, that’s OK.”

In the 1960s, Sanders was a civil rights activist who helped organize anti-segregation sit-ins. In 1988, he helped Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson win in Vermont.

But Saturday’s comments sparked a minor backlash nonetheless. On Twitter, the hashtag #berniesoblack was born and directed, with mockery, at the independent Vermont senator and liberal presidential candidate. There were multiple kinds of trolling, including from prominent black Twitter users.

And from political Twitter users as well:

Maryland governor Martin O’Malley, who awkwardly said at one point during the same forum, “black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter,” faced some criticism of his own. O’Malley later apologized for the remark.

On Sunday, Sanders offered an olive branch of sorts:

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Trumka: I'm not trying to slow the Sanders surge // **Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti – July 20, 2015**

Labor chief Richard Trumka on Monday defended the memo he sent last month to AFL-CIO leaders telling them to stop trying to endorse Bernie Sanders, saying it was more a helpful reminder than an effort to slow the Sanders surge.

“They’re not going rogue, it’s really exciting,” said Trumka, the country’s most influential organized union chief, in an interview with POLITICO.

“The memo just said, before they got out of hand, you know, debate back and forth, talk up a storm. But remember: There’s only one endorsement in a presidential election, and it comes from the national.”

Trumka’s attempt to calm the waters comes as Sanders has picked up significant momentum among local and state labor groups with his fiery rhetoric and unabashed support of progressive initiatives such as a 15 minimum wage, equal health care for all and steeper taxes on the wealthy.

He’s drawn a contrast with Hillary Clinton, the dominant front-runner and a longtime labor stalwart who has met with some skepticism because of her unwillingness to condemn President Barack Obama’s trans-Pacific trade negotiations.

Sanders, however, has been feeling the labor love.

The South Carolina AFL-CIO put out a statement supporting Sanders’ candidacy, for example, before Trumka’s national group forced it to walk back the pseudo-endorsement.

Still, it’s early in the race, Clinton is widely regarded as the leading contender for the eventual backing of major elements of organized labor and the endorsement process is ongoing.

She, Sanders, Martin O’Malley and Republican Mike Huckabee will all meet AFL-CIO leaders on July 29 as part of the procedure, after filling out the group’s questionnaire.

Trumka said on Monday he isn’t sure whether the group would offer a primary endorsement anytime soon (or at all) — a declaration that comes just days after the American Federation of Teachers stirred up some grumbling in the organized labor community by endorsing Clinton.

“No one was surprised that they would endorse Hillary,” said Trumka. Randi Weingarten, AFT’s leader, is a longtime Clinton ally who sits on the board of her supportive super PAC, Priorities USA Action.

Nonetheless, Trumka reiterated the same line his union has promoted from the start: that all potential candidates would be judged by their plans to support a minimum wage increase, protect and bolster overtime laws, lessen mass incarceration, push comprehensive immigration reform and promote equal pay for women.

He also said the trade debate that divided labor and the White House would, naturally, be factored into the process — but that Clinton’s reluctance to weigh in strongly early on was hardly disqualifying: Still, “it was duly noted, by voters.” He similarly noted union leaders had taken note of Sanders’ and O’Malley’s strong stances against the deal early on.

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Answering questions from a panel of POLITICO reporters and editors, Trumka also used the opportunity to rail against Republican presidential hopeful Scott Walker, whom Trumka called a “national disgrace” when the Wisconsin governor declared his intention to run for president last week.

“He is the most openly and notoriously anti-worker, anti-union candidate that we have seen in my lifetime,” Trumka said, still insisting that the AFL-CIO has no specific plan to take on Walker, despite leaving its options open to attack his record using “all the venues, from paper, to air, to electronic.”

“Why would any sane human being, knowing his background and who pulls the strings, vote for Scott Walker?” he added. “If you cut the two strings behind him that go to the Koch brothers, he’s like putty. He falls down.”

Bernie Sanders Spent $0 On Polling, Because Really, Would It Change His Mind Anyway? // HuffPo // Sam Stein – July 20, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has raised $15 million since April 30, when he announced his candidacy for president on the Democratic ticket. From that impressive haul, he devoted exactly $0 to polling.

This is not exactly normal operating procedure for a serious presidential candidate, which Sanders has become in his short time on the trail. Even real estate mogul Donald Trump spent $28,000 on polling services, though he says he doesn’t “want a pollster” (since if the pollster were “so good,” he'd be running for office himself). Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) spent $69,000 on polling out of the $2.1 million he raised, and has nary a bump in the polls to show for it.

But why is Sanders flying blind when it comes to testing public attitudes?

His top aide, Tad Devine, said it’s not because the campaign doesn’t see the utility in those numbers. In fact, the decision could end up being reversed -- for example, when or if they decide it’s in their interest to better target a media purchase.

So far, though, the notoriously frugal Sanders isn’t convinced.

“Bernie doesn’t spend a lot of money on the campaign, OK,” said Devine. “And research can be expensive.”

“If left to his own devices, he would not like to spend a dime on polling. I don’t think, as of this moment, we have convinced him of the merits of doing that,” Devine added. “I personally would like to, but I haven’t convinced him yet that we should. I’m hopeful I will.”

This actually isn’t the way Sanders has always operated. During his House and Senate campaigns, which Devine also worked for, he did pay for polling. But by the time the 2016 campaign started, a few factors persuaded him to forgo the cost. His extensive travel through New Hampshire and Iowa even prior to announcing a run provided Sanders and aides with a kind of on-the-ground focus group operation for their message. And when he started running, there was no indication he’d be working with the amount of money he has since raised. Polling was considered an outlandish expense for a campaign designed to be bare bones. They were planning a reverse "Moneyball" -- a small-market operation that forgoes the use of data instead of seeing it as an equalizer.

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Devine's life, by his own admission, is more difficult because of that. If he had his druthers, he would pay for more research -- well, any research really.

"I think we will probably have another discussion," he told The Huffington Post. "Thus far the discussion has been no."

Till then, he's relying on public data. It isn't as detailed or micro-targeted as polling, but it also doesn't cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. As a point of comparison, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's campaign spent more than $900,000 on polling in the second quarter of this year.

"I don't think we've lost any ground because we didn't spend money on research," said Devine. "We'll see if that remains the same in the time ahead."

Bernie Sanders Is Against Keystone XL. Hillary Clinton Was 'Inclined' to Approve It. Why the Difference? // **HuffPo // H.A. Goodman – July 20, 2015**

The Sierra Club calls Keystone XL a "climate disaster." Therefore, when a presidential candidate once "inclined" to green-light the pipeline hires someone who was also a "major Keystone lobbyist," Democrats should inquire as to the reasoning of such a curious decision. In addition, while Republicans focus solely on jobs and energy independence, questions should be asked regarding the long-term economic cost of spills. An article earlier this year titled Yellowstone Pipeline Spills Fuel Arguments Over Keystone XL Line highlights the long term economic consequences of ignoring oil spills:

The Montana pipeline breach temporarily fouled a city's water supply and emerged as the latest in a string of spills to highlight ongoing problems with maintenance of the nation's 61,000 miles of crude oil pipelines.

An Associated Press review of government records shows accident numbers growing steadily since 2009, reversing a decade-long decline...

Keystone would move up to 830,000 barrels of oil a day. A break in the line could dwarf the recent Montana accident, on a line with a capacity of just 42,000 barrels daily.

Therefore, if a Keystone oil spill "could dwarf the recent Montana incident" and ruin water supplies, then why are Republicans and some Democrats supporting Keystone?

It's important to note as well that the Keystone pipeline will go from Alberta, Canada, and then through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, all the way to refineries along the Gulf Coast. The Wall Street Journal states that for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, "Settlement of all federal and state claims brings total costs to nearly $54 billion." Because of its size, there's a real possible that a spill from Keystone could easily exceed such costs; communities from Montana to Texas would be affected for decades, both economically and environmentally from a devastating oil spill.

While the debate rages, some people have taken a firm and bold stance on the environmental disaster in the making. Perhaps the biggest opponent of Keystone XL in Congress is Senator Bernie Sanders, who says, "The idea that we would give a green light for the transportation of 800,000 barrels of some of the dirtiest oils all over the world makes no sense to me." In addition, Bernie Sanders has openly questioned the sanity of Congress, declaring that "it is totally crazy" to think Keystone won't adversely affect the planet and states the following:

With the scientific community telling us loudly and clearly that we must transform our energy system away from fossil fuels if we are to combat climate change, it is totally crazy for the Congress to support the production and

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transportation of some of the dirtiest oil on the planet.

Clear and direct, Sanders isn't ambiguous on his stance pertaining to Keystone.

Others, however, are more nuanced in their views.

One big question for Democrats in 2016 will be Hillary Clinton's 'inclination' to support Keystone. In an article by The Christian Science Monitor titled Hillary Clinton has a Keystone XL problem, Clinton's ambiguous position on the biggest environmental controversy of recent years is analyzed:

As Secretary of State, Clinton said she was 'inclined' to sign-off on the pipeline, which would carry emissions-heavy oil sands from Alberta to US Gulf Coast refineries. Since then, Clinton has remained silent on Keystone XL...

'We all remember when Clinton said she was 'inclined' to approve Keystone XL. If the pipeline goes through, she'll shoulder part of the blame, and this protest today will be just a small taste of actions to come,' Jamie Henn, spokesperson for 350 Action, told the Monitor in an email Monday. 'Clinton is saying many of the right things on climate - Keystone XL is an easy way to start doing the right thing.'

'That unwillingness to take a position on something, it's significantly more indefensible when you're a declared presidential candidate,' 350.org spokesperson Karthik Ganapathy told Business Insider last week. 'It's even more indefensible when Ted Cruz and Rand Paul have taken a position on it when you, as the Democratic front-runner, have not.'

Therefore, a statement like, "If the pipeline goes through, she'll shoulder part of the blame," doesn't bode well for a Democrat who is supposed to counter Republicans on this emotional debate. Being "inclined" to support Keystone at one point only strengthens the GOP's hand in the Congressional battle.

In February, President Obama sided with progressives like Bernie Sanders and took a direct and unwavering stand on the Keystone XL pipeline, vetoing the Keystone XL bill and blocking what 350.org describes as a "pipeline that would connect Alberta, Canada with Gulf Coast refineries that would carry 800,000 barrels per day of tar sands oil across the United States to be refined, exported and burned." Like Bernie Sanders, who vehemently opposes the pipeline and believes it will lead to a "significantly less inhabitable" planet, Obama listened to the concerns of Greenpeace and others regarding "how disastrous the tar sands oil industry is to the climate."

However, the debate will still continue with the next president, and a POLITICO piece titled Greens divided over Hillary Clinton and Keystone explains one presidential candidate's silence and the impact of this communication style:

Hillary Clinton is maintaining her years of silence on the Keystone XL pipeline -- and environmental groups are increasingly divided on how hard they should push her to take a stand.

It's a further sign that the never-ending pipeline drama will remain one of the biggest policy minefields facing Clinton's White House campaign...

'Activists who are the ones that will turn out for her events and donate money are the ones who will also see the gap of her talking about climate change and yet (if she does) supporting tar sands and fracking,' said Jane Kleeb, founder of the anti-Keystone group Bold Nebraska. She added that Clinton 'needs to visit with us and hopefully not listen to some of the DC lobbyists who I just know are saying 'they will vote for you anyway, what other option do they have?"

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Similar to Clinton's silence on the Trans Pacific Partnership and other controversial topics, where ambiguity is favored over a clear-cut stance that could lead to political backlash, Clinton's viewpoint on Keystone seems to still be mired in "years of silence." One telling observation from the POLITOCO piece is the quote referencing the mentality of many voters: "They will vote for you anyway, what other option do they have?"

From Keystone, to Iraq and gay marriage (up until 2013), it seems that many progressives are resigned to simply accept silence, or overt flip flopping on controversial topics. In lieu of principled and straightforward dialogue, some people favor a reverence for the $2.5 billion campaign machine that's expected to win the White House simply because it's received the most donor money. Like Eric Zuesse writes in Hillary Clinton's Bought-And-Paid-For Favors for Keystone XL Deal, "But of course, this isn't to say that she's any worse than other Republicans; it's merely to note that, like with Obama, her calling herself a 'Democrat' doesn't make any difference, other than to fool a different group of suckers."

However, there is a person in 2016 who embodies the Democratic and progressive principles (like gay rights, when he voted against President Clinton's Defense of Marriage Act) that Democrats were supposed to always uphold; even when polls went in a different direction. His name is Bernie Sanders and he is vehemently against Keystone XL, while others have been "inclined" to support it. In 2016, Democrats can accept silence on the future of a "climate disaster" in the making, or vote for Bernie Sanders, a candidate who clearly states "it is totally crazy for the Congress to support the production and transportation of some of the dirtiest oil on the planet."

Finally, the word "why" will be an important issue of its own in the upcoming election. If the GOP supports Keystone, and Clinton was "inclined" to support it, then why does there exist a difference on Keystone between Sanders and Clinton? Why is one person overtly against it while the other is silent? The answer to this question, and to several others, could dictate who wins the 2016 Democratic nomination. It's also an answer that might enable Bernie Sanders to win the presidency.

#BernieSoBlack: why progressives are fighting about Bernie Sanders and race // VOX // Dara Lind – July 20, 2015

You might expect that Netroots Nation, the progressive conference whose 2015 edition was held in Phoenix last weekend, would be natural Sen. Bernie Sanders territory. And you could point to his speech on Saturday night, which turned out 11,000 people, as proof that you were right. But there's more than one kind of progressive.

Sanders' Netroots Nation appearance at a town hall Saturday afternoon turned into a confrontation with #BlackLivesMatter activists — and brought a conflict between Sanders-loving economic progressives on one side, and organizers for racial justice on the other, out into the open. But while Sanders is the catalyst, the conflict — at least as Sanders' critics see it — isn't really about whether to support Sanders or Hillary Clinton for the 2016 nomination. It's about who gets to call themselves a progressive champion, and when politicians should heed activists' demands to pay more explicit attention to certain issues.

What happened at Netroots Nation

Two Democratic candidates appeared at Netroots Nation on Saturday: Sanders and Martin O'Malley. (Hillary Clinton was invited, but declined the invitation.) O'Malley and Sanders made back-to-back appearances in a town hall-style session, moderated by journalist and immigration activist Jose Antonio Vargas.

Both Sanders and O'Malley are trying to win progressive support in the Democratic primary to become the alternative to Hillary Clinton. But only one of them has really succeeded: Sanders' candidacy has gained a lot of momentum, with huge events and the second-most money raised directly of any candidate (driven largely by small donations). O'Malley, on the other hand, hasn't been able to capture as much attention. In fact, he's faced something of an uphill battle with many progressives: O'Malley's political career started in Baltimore, where he

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was closely associated with the aggressive police tactics that were under protest after the death of Freddie Gray in police custody this spring.

Shortly after O'Malley took the stage, a group of protesters affiliated with the #BlackLivesMatter movement (which has been organizing for the last year or so to call attention to deaths of black men and women at the hands of police) marched into the room chanting "Which Side Are You On?" (a reference to an old-school labor song). Two women (Tia Oso and Patrice Cullors) took the stage and the microphone and spoke about deaths of black men and women in police custody — specifically the recent suspicious death of Sandra Bland in Texas.

Ending the presentation, Cullors asked O'Malley to offer "concrete actions": "What will you do to stop police unions from battering our names after law enforcement kills us?" "And," she added, "we want to hear it from Bernie Sanders, too."

The activists stayed in the room for the rest of the town hall, chanting the names of people killed in police custody (the hashtag #SayHerName has become a locus for activism and grief after women have been killed in police custody). Neither candidate was exactly graceful in responding to the interruption.

O'Malley, attempting to respond to the protesters, said "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter" — a phrase that's been used by critics of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, and which activists see as an attempt to dismiss racial disparities in police shootings. O'Malley later told MSNBC that he wasn't aware of the connotations of "all lives matter," which is itself pretty illustrative of the disconnect between O'Malley and the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

But because O'Malley doesn't have a strong support base among progressives at the moment, he hasn't had supporters step up in his defense. Instead, most people have focused on the response that Sanders — the ostensible progressive champion — gave the protesters.

Why Sanders and his supporters frustrate some racial-justice activists

Sanders was defensive and cranky toward the protesters, saying "Black lives of course matter. But I've spent 50 years of my life fighting for civil rights. If you don't want me to be here, that's okay." At other times, he didn't acknowledge the protesters at all and raised his voice to be heard over them (which some attendees saw as Sanders "shouting down" the protesters).

Sanders didn't ignore the issue entirely. But to some observers, it felt like Sanders "stuck to his script" about economic injustice without giving racial injustice its due.

There is a legitimate disconnect between the way Sanders (and many of the economic progressives who support him) see the world, and the way many racial-justice progressives see the world. To Bernie Sanders, as I've written, racial inequality is a symptom — but economic inequality is the disease. That's why his responses to unrest in Ferguson and Baltimore have included specific calls for police accountability, but have focused on improving economic opportunity for young African Americans. Sanders presents fixing unemployment as the systemic solution to the problem.

Many racial-justice advocates don't see it that way. They see racism as its own systemic problem that has to be addressed on its own terms. They feel that it's important to acknowledge the effects of economic inequality on people of color, but that racial inequality isn't merely a symptom of economic inequality. And most importantly, they feel that "pivoting" to economic issues can be a way for white progressives to present their agenda as the progressive agenda and shove black progressives, and the issues that matter most to them, to the sidelines.

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So Sanders' performance at Netroots confirmed the frustrations that his critics felt. And Sanders' supporters' reaction to the criticism was just as predictable.

Yes, Sanders marched with MLK. But his critics know that already.

Whether you agree with Sanders' claim that he's been "fighting for civil rights for 50 years" depends on whether you think he's doing enough in his Senate career to put civil rights on the agenda. But the "50 years" part is true: he has admirable civil-rights-movement cred. Sanders was a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which helped coordinate much of the nonviolent action of the early 1960s, and he participated in the famous March for Jobs and Freedom in 1964, where Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered the famous "I Have A Dream" speech.

Today, Sanders' supporters bring up his record in the civil-rights movement in response to basically any criticism of Sanders' actions on racial equality. And when Sanders started catching criticism for his Netroots performance, the supporters were ready with their history. As comedy podcaster Roderick Morrow — who started the satirical #BernieSoBlack Twitter hashtag on Sunday — told Vox: "It seems like any time black people bring this up on Twitter, there's just all these people who, I don't know if they're just sitting around searching his name on Twitter or something, they just come and get in your mentions and start harassing you, saying the same things over and over to you."

But the civil rights movement references aren't actually an answer to his critics. No one is arguing that Sanders literally doesn't see race, they're saying that Sanders sees racial inequality as less important than economic inequality and shouldn't. And as Vox's Andrew Prokop has written, even in the 1960s, Sanders didn't view race as the fundamental problem many of his fellow student-activists did:

Even as a student at the University of Chicago in the 1960s, influenced by the hours he spent in the library stacks reading famous philosophers, he became frustrated with his fellow student activists, who were more interested in race or imperialism than the class struggle. They couldn't see that everything they protested, he later said, was rooted in "an economic system in which the rich controls, to a large degree, the political and economic life of the country."

To Sanders' critics, the "but the civil rights movement!" response isn't just irrelevant, it's insulting. "It's like they're almost trying to outblack us," says Morrow. "'Oh, you're a black person, what could you possibly understand about our candidate? He was marching before you were even born!' That's cool, but you gotta stay on top of it."

So Morrow made a joke:

Morrow wrote a few more tweets and then went off to record his podcast. When he returned, he saw the hashtag was trending nationwide. "I thought this [harassment from Sanders supporters] was only happening to a few people," he says. "Apparently it was happening to a lot of us."

This isn't about the presidential campaign, it's about the progressive movement

Of course, as always happens on Twitter, some progressive defenders of Sanders — both white and black — used the hashtag to point out that Sanders marched with MLK (thus making critics' point for them); to argue that Sanders' economic agenda would help black Americans; or to contrast Sanders with Clinton. (Others endorsed the #BernieSoBlack jokes but urged people to go after Clinton next.) The latter is a reflection of one of the two main reasons Sanders' supporters are so frustrated by the criticism.

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To their minds, Sanders is clearly a more progressive candidate for president than Clinton — so they don't understand why anyone would direct their criticism at the better candidate. After all, Clinton didn't even show up to Netroots.

That isn't how Sanders' critics see it, though. It's worth noting that #BlackLivesMatter organizers haven't been primarily focused on the presidential primary, even as other progressives have turned in that direction. To them, this is about the progressive movement. Bernie Sanders — and more importantly, the pressure they feel to embrace Bernie Sanders as a progressive champion — is just the latest illustration that some white progressives aren't listening to black progressives when deciding what the "progressive agenda" really is, and who its champions are. If Sanders were polling at 0 percent (like O'Malley) instead of polling in the mid- to high teens, it's unlikely that #BernieSoBlack would have become a popular hashtag.. It's exactly because Sanders is being treated as a progressive champion that the activists who challenged him Saturday, and made jokes about his blackness Sunday, feel that, yet again, they're being asked to put their own concerns aside and fall in line with what white progressives want.

And this is why it's not clear whether Sanders can appease his critics. He has spoken about mass incarceration and police violence already. And he does, in fact, have specific policies he's suggested to improve police accountability.

His campaign has even tried to respond to the demands protesters were making Saturday — though there's still something of a learning curve. Morrow told Vox that the campaign had used the #SayHerName hashtag, but named one woman and two men who died in police custody — when the point of the hashtag is to focus on women. (The campaign deleted the tweet.) In a speech in Dallas Sunday, he mentioned Sandra Bland by name. "Thank you for saying her name!" shouted one attendee.

"Maybe I'm being foolish, but, hey, they're hearing. They're receptive," Morrow said of the Sanders campaign. On the other hand, he said, "I'm more hopeful for the campaign than I am for his defenders."

This is a demand on white progressives that goes far beyond Bernie: that they treat racial inequality with the same seriousness that they treat economic inequality. That's not a demand that Bernie Sanders, himself, could fulfill even if he tried. It's a demand on his supporters. And as Morrow points out, it's up against "hundreds of years of history" of people ignoring "a lot of voices, if they don't like what folks are saying. There will always be a struggle, even in progressive spaces. How can you support each other without turning on each other?"

What does Bernie Sanders need to do to beat Hillary? **// CNBC // Mark Macias – July 20, 2015**

Bernie Sanders is close to a statistical tie with Hillary Clinton in the latest New Hampshire poll, but as Al Gore learned in 2000, one state doesn't make you president.

For Sanders to seriously challenge Clinton, he needs money and a national network to motivate voters and volunteers. He must persuade minorities to leave Clinton — a challenge since she had 72 percent of the nonwhite Democratic vote, according to a June Washington Post/ABC News poll. Sanders had only 5 percent in that poll. But his biggest obstacle of all: Clinton's expected $2.5 billion war chest.

Unfortunately for Sanders, money drives campaigns.

The national media is starting to show video of his campaign rallies. More impressive, reporters are describing these crowds as larger than Clinton rallies — and with more passionate followers.

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"He's connecting in a way that Hillary Clinton is not," a New Hampshire state Senator told the Washington Post recently. "He's talking about things people want to hear. People are used to candidates who are calculated, produced and measured, and they see through that. Bernie's different."

Read MoreMacias: Why Chris Christie may have an edge in the GOP race

During my time as a producer with NBC in Miami, I learned you can't predict hurricanes in February, and that goes for calling election results, as well. I won't predict whether Sanders can beat Clinton six months from now. But I will tell you how Sanders can move his message beyond New Hampshire and into a national campaign by leveraging the media.

The Sanders media strategy begins with three words: visuals, perception and commonality.

Visuals

If an alien lands in Times Square but no one takes video of it, did it really visit earth? If I didn't see that video, I would assume the radio station was exaggerating or the photo was doctored. This is why the Sanders campaign needs to harness the power of video and start creating social media videos with the purpose of going viral. It doesn't take a $2.5 billion war chest to accomplish this. It takes a few passionate college interns with an eye for video. The Sanders campaign should be creating multiple videos, targeting the different key demos and documenting the crowds so the rest of America can become intrigued.

In New York, tourists flock to Broadway shows even though they frequently know nothing about the plot. You know why? Because they are seduced by the intrigue of seeing something that everyone else is experiencing. Sanders needs to create that same intrigue, so future states will want to see his "Broadway show" when it comes to town.

I volunteered for my first Congressional campaign for a little known challenger when I was in college. I didn't realize it then, but I volunteered because of my perception that he could beat the incumbent. I was also lured in by a message that spoke to me. Perception drives reality in politics — and fortunately for Sanders, the public knows little about him. He's not a national candidate with a long history, like Clinton, so he is in the enviable position of building a perception from scratch. Sprinkle a little perception that the public is catching onto his message and everyone will start to believe it on the news.

Commonality

The 99 percent relates to the Sanders message. He wants to provide free college, guarantee sick and family leave, and raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour. In the few speeches I heard, Sanders went after large corporations in a way that felt authentic. Have you heard Clinton criticize corporations? She sounds like she is reading a script. Sanders sounds like that uncle at Thanksgiving who speaks passionately about how he can make a better turkey. When you combine authenticity, passion and commonality, it's like turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy on Thanksgiving.

Read MoreCongressman screams at Yellen: 'You did nothing!'

Listen to Sanders speak and you get the feeling that he wants to help the middle class so much that he just might have a heart attack in the process. That's a passion that moves people. The Clinton campaign is trying to own the "champion of everyday Americans" theme. If Sanders can stick with his common message that he is the authentic "champion of every day Americans," he can go beyond New Hampshire.

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But I saved the worst for last.

There is one more word that should be added to the Bernie Sanders media strategy. This word will become his biggest weakness in this campaign. It hasn't gained too much traction with the media, but if the rest of America starts taking interest in Sanders, mark my word that you will start to hear more about "socialist Bernie."

That will be a hard label to overcome because the majority of Americans associate socialism with communism. We defeated communism. Capitalism won. Does anyone really believe that America will now elect a socialist? And there is really no way Sanders can distance himself from this label because he openly embraces it.

I'd not only predict that happens six months out, I'd put money on it.

Sanders to push $15 minimum wage bill **// The Hill // Tim Devaney – July 20, 2105**

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is pushing new legislation to raise the minimum wage for all workers to $15 an hour.

The Democratic presidential candidate, who has made addressing income inequality a centerpiece of his campaign, will introduce the minimum wage bill Wednesday. Sanders has long called for a $15 minimum wage, but this is the first bill he is introducing to do so.

Reps. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) will join Sanders at the press conference Wednesday, and are also expected to introduce identical legislation in the House.

It’s believed to be the highest minimum wage that has ever been proposed by legislation in Congress.

“The simple truth is that working people cannot survive on the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour, or $8 an hour or $9 an hour,” Sanders said recently. "If people work 40 hours a week, they deserve not to live in dire poverty.”

Sanders' bill comes as low-wage food service workers and janitors at the U.S. Capitol plan to strike on Wednesday.

The legislation would raise the minimum wage in increments until it reaches $15 an hour by 2020.

Democratic 2016 frontrunner Hillary Clinton backs raising the minimum wage and spoke at a rally with groups who back $15-an-hour, but has yet to officially endorse that figure. Former Gov. Martin O'Malley (D-Md.), another contender, backs a $15 minimum wage.

Sanders' minimum wage bill would go a step further than one proposed earlier this year by fellow Democrat Sen. Patty Murray (Wash.), who suggested raising it to $12 an hour.

Murray’s Raise the Wage Act quickly garnered support from the Obama administration and top Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.).

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It's unclear whether they will back the even higher $15 minimum wage proposed by Sanders.

Sanders' bill is unlikely to get a vote in the GOP-controlled Senate.

Bernie Sanders: structural racism needs to end for economic justice to succeed // The Guardian // Sabrina Issa – July 20, 2015

It is time for the progressive movement to reckon with structural racism: its role in enabling it and its moral responsibility to actively dismantle it. It's not a request: it's a requirement for all presidential candidates that seek progressive votes, and for a political movement that seeks any hope for relevance in a diverse America.

It's long past time for Democratic candidates to stop taking black voters for granted, as was made clear this weekend at Netroots Nation, the largest annual gathering of progressive activists in America. At the Presidential Town Hall on Saturday morning, two Democratic Presidential candidates – former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders – publicly floundered when faced with activists from #BlackLivesMatter.

Sanders' and O'Malley's public interviews with journalist, documentarian and activist Jose Antonio Vargas was essentially taken over by racial justice activists who drastically changed the conversation of what was designed to be a typical, stale campaign appearance by shouting "Black lives matter!" in unison from the audience. Then Tia Oso of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration took to the stage to demand that the candidates answer one question: "As leader of this country will you advance an agenda that will dismantle structural racism in this country?"

Governor O'Malley's tone-deaf response – "Black lives matter, white lives matter, all lives matter" – earned him boos from the crowd; he left the stage shortly after and later clarified his remarks with the news site This Week in Blackness. Bernie Sanders, with the presidential gravitas of a toddler, first attempted to shout his usual stump speech over the protestors, and then scolded them for interrupting him and held what one could only describe as a mini public tantrum.

Netroots Nation is no stranger to public protest: demonstrators have interrupted politicians from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi to former President Bill Clinton. And shutting things down is business as usual in progressive politics writ large: progressive activists regularly heckle political leaders and organize demonstrations to protest going to war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, government surveillance, climate change, Keystone pipeline, reproductive rights, marriage equality and many other issues.

Yet when #BlackLivesMatters demonstrators demanded that candidates explain what they will do for racial justice, Netroots organizers surreptitiously flashed an apology for Governor O'Malley on the teleprompter for the disruption. Sanders supporters, meanwhile, flooded Twitter to dismiss critiques, criticize demonstrators for interrupting the economic stump speech and to attempt to civil-rights-splain to racial justice organizers about the Senator's actions during the civil rights movement.

If Netroots is, as Sam Drizell wrote in TIME, "a Shangri-La for progressive idealism", then why is there such discomfort within the movement when some attempt to demand specifics from politicians on how to dismantle structural racism? Or more alarmingly, why is there such discomfort among candidates seeking public office with discussing America's racial reality? The civil rights blind spot in the progressive movement cannot be fixed without addressing the truth that there cannot be economic progress for all without racial justice.

In previous races, Sanders has not had to build a diverse coalition of support to win elections; his past campaigns have made little or no reference to issues of deep importance in black communities, such as voting rights protection, housing discrimination and mass incarceration. He speaks almost exclusively among issues which

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thrill white liberals: campaign finance reform and economic justice.

There is a political cost to creating silos within movements: politicians and citizens end up speaking of the same issues with different languages, with a lack of empathy and connection. Though Sanders's policy proposals likely align with number of black voters, his ability to address race is limited to the scope of wealth and the economy. But black voters and organizers need to know why they should fight for Bernie Sanders' vision of our economic future when our humanity is in constant peril.

True political inclusion of black voters in the progressive movement will reveal racial justice and economic progress as inextricably linked, and that there is no need to forsake one for the other (or to solve one first and fix the other later).

But, as #BlackLivesMatter supporters continue to drive change in the political conversation, it becomes more obvious that racial justice is a siloed issue operating within a largely-white progressive movement. The clash between what progressives declare their values to be and the issues on which they're willing to take action will continue as the progressive movement and candidates alike seek to engage an increasingly diverse rising electorate.

We do not need talking points. We need government to help save our lives, and we need to elect leaders who will champion our humanity.

Berniemania spreads to Texas as Sanders' speech draws crowd of 5,000 // The Guardian // Tom Dart – July 20, 2015

Ninety minutes before the scheduled start of Bernie Sanders' speech on Sunday night, a 500-person-long line snaked around the arena, in 100F heat – and in Texas.

The Democratic presidential hopeful's fans showed up long before the doors opened and bellowed their approval once inside, as he spoke for more than an hour in front of 5,000 people, concluding a weekend in which he addressed about 25,000 in Arizona and Texas and showed that Republican-dominated states are not immune to Berniemania.

The independent Vermont senator and self-described democratic socialist attracted more than 8,000 people to a rally in Dallas earlier in the day and 11,000 in Phoenix on Saturday, the highest turnout of his campaign.

Like his speech at the Phoenix Convention Center, the Houston rally was moved to a larger venue: an 8,000-capacity basketball arena at the University of Houston. A speech by Hillary Clinton last month at Texas Southern University, less than a mile away, drew an attendance of around 1,000 on a weekday afternoon.

Other important numbers – the polls – are less favourable to Sanders. A Real Clear Politics poll average shows him in second with 16.3%, and Clinton the frontrunner with 56.8%. Still, his support is growing as he is biting into Clinton's commanding lead, and his campaign said earlier this month that it has raised $15m.

Some in the audience on Sunday waved posters with slogans such as "Bernie Sanders 2016, Not For Sale", "Feel The Bern". While it was a young crowd overall – especially the two hundred or so in the mosh pit in front of the stage – there was a wide range of ages.

"I came to hear what he has to say in person. I like a lot of his issues," said Ken Dietrich, a 77-year-old

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businessman.

“I didn’t figure he would spend much time here in Texas, this bastion of of right-wing insanity,” said Eugene Hayman, 61. “I don’t know if Bernie has a chance of winning or not but he’s pulling the debate back from the extreme right, so I would love to see him win.”

Hayman said his “dream match-up” would be Donald Trump versus Sanders – but “I like Hillary OK”.

Texas’ largest urban areas are bluer than the state’s reputation suggests. Houston’s mayor, Annise Parker, is a Democrat. While Mitt Romney won 57% of the vote statewide in 2012, and Barack Obama 41%, the president carried Harris County, which includes Houston, by 0.1%. He also beat Romney in Dallas, San Antonio and Austin.

Kenny Jones, of Houstonians for Bernie Sanders 2016, said the group started with 10 people and now has a hundred.

“Something is happening out here. This is blowing me away, quite frankly. Houston is such a conservative town,” the 58-year-old schoolteacher said as he handed out fliers urging voters to “Join the Revolution”. Jones said he has “done left-progressive organising in Houston before, it’s very difficult. This is not difficult”.

He believed Sanders was resonating because he is addressing core but often overshadowed issues such as jobs, healthcare, education and climate change.

“There’s something about him. He doesn’t seem to be doing a political dance,” Jones said, arguing that Sanders is backed by unions while Clinton is compromised because her campaign is funded by big corporations and so is in thrall to their interests.

“I like Secretary Clinton, I respect her a great deal, but she’s dancing the wrong dance. There’s an old Texas saying: you dance with the one that brung ya.”

Initially sounding hoarse, the 73-year-old started his speech saying that he has often been asked “Why in God’s name would you come to Texas?”

He added: “I do know that this is a conservative Republican state and that is exactly why I am here today. Today it is a conservative Republican state, but that doesn’t mean it will be conservative Republican tomorrow.

“The reason I am here and the reason next month I’m going to be going to Alabama, Mississippi, to some very conservative states, is for a couple of reasons. First of all it is wrong for the Democratic party in my view to surrender half of the states in America. The national Democratic party must establish a 50-state strategy including the state of Texas and start running the Republicans on the defensive.”

He said that given the endemic poverty and other social problems in the south, it would be wrong for the Democratic party to “turn your back on some of the poorest states in America … We are not going to abandon those people.”

Another Sanders appearance in Phoenix on Saturday, at the Netroots Nation conference with fellow Democratic candidate Martin O’Malley, was interrupted by Black Lives Matter protesters, placing his response to the

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disruption under scrutiny.

In Houston, Sanders named African Americans who have died during encounters with police – “Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray and many others” – and said, to a deafening cheer, that officers should be held accountable if they break the law.

He also addressed many of his key themes: wealth and income inequality, incarceration rates, infrastructure, campaign finance reform, a route to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, free tuition in public colleges, the environment and the evils of Wall Street.

“This campaign is sending a message to the billionaire class, and that message is – you can’t have it all,” he said.

“The only way we bring about real change is to create a political revolution where millions of people stand together and say loudly and clearly that this country belongs to all of us.”

If that remains a longshot, on Sunday night the chant from thousands in the stands was certainly loud, clear and heartfelt: “Bernie, Bernie, Bernie!”

Does Bernie Sanders surge threaten Hillary? **// BBC // Anthony Zurcher – July 20, 2015**

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton may be the prohibitive favourite to win the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, but that doesn't mean the political ground beneath her feet is solid.

In 2008 and again in 2012 a liberal coalition of minorities, college-educated whites and single women gave Barack Obama more than enough votes to comfortably win the presidency. Can it hold fast after he exits the stage next year?

A two-term presidency can paper over a host of fissures within a political movement. The longer a party stays in power, the more competing interests are liable to grow dissatisfied with their share of the governing pie.

Sometimes the centre holds. In 1988, for instance, George HW Bush rode to power on the strength of the Ronald Reagan governing coalition. By 1992, however, the foundation had given way, as fiscal and social conservatives revolted, ushering in eight years of Democratic rule and pushing the Republican Party farther to the right.

At the Netroots Nation conference of left-wing activists in Phoenix, Arizona, last week, the fault lines within today's Democratic Party were on full display. And while Mrs Clinton was more than a thousand miles away, honouring "prior commitments" in Iowa and Arkansas, the events that transpired in the desert this weekend should give her pause.

There's no question, for instance, that the enthusiasm and support for Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders' insurgent presidential campaign is real. He's climbed in polls over the past few weeks, and on Saturday night 11,000 turned out to hear the firebrand socialist give one of his 60-minute stem-winders.

On the menu was a heavy dose of liberal red meat - including condemnation of the "billionaire class" and calls for higher taxes on the wealthy, expanding government-run healthcare programmes, raising the minimum wage and tuition-free college education.

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"Bernie Sanders stands up for what's just and right," says conference attendee Jean Devine of Phoenix. "He's for the Democratic ideals of equality for all people and for the rich not being able to buy elections."

While in Arizona, campaign supporters hoisted banners and toasted their man at a local nightclub with cleverly named cocktails like "Weekend at Bernie's" and "Vermont Treehugger" (with maple syrup-infused whiskey).

There was a point in time when Mrs Clinton was the cool Democrat. She had her own internet meme. She was near universally beloved by party faithful. Now, however - at least among the rank and file at Netroots Nation - Mr Sanders is the candidate of the hour.

The Vermont senator has given voice to the frustration and anger that some on the left feel over the current state of US politics. They helped elect Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012, but their goal of enacting a full progressive agenda seems to them far from realised.

"Bernie's looking pretty good," says Hanna Roditi of Connecticut. "He's the only one who doesn't cater to corporations. The policies that he supports have more to do with people's needs."

The most common adjectives used to describe Mrs Clinton in Phoenix, on the other hand, were "calculating," "cautious" and "corporate".

"I won't vote for her," Roditi says, adding that if Mr Sanders doesn't win the Democratic nomination she'll write in his name on the general election ballot.

The establishment - whether in the government or the Democratic Party - was a source of anger time and again at the conference. During a Thursday afternoon panel discussion, EJ Juarez, director of Progress Majority Washington - singled out Democratic campaign managers in particular for betraying their party's progressive ideals.

"We ceded a lot of the soul of our values off to contractors who don't often adopt the equity principles we talk about," he said. "They aren't talking the same language."

On Friday morning Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, a champion of the left, used her keynote address to rail against an "insider Washington" that ignores the liberal priorities of the nation at large - on issues like gun control, income inequality and tighter Wall Street controls.

"The American people are progressive, and our day is coming," she said.

After calling out the financial behemoth Citigroup by name, she said the US government - even during the Obama administration - has been dominated by Wall Street insiders. She then offered some advice for candidates seeking the presidency.

"I think that anyone running for that job - anyone who wants the power to make every key economic appointment and every key nomination - should say loud and clear we don't run this country for Wall Street and mega-corporations, we run it for people," she said to cheers.

It was likely a barb aimed at Mrs Clinton - who has been criticised by some on the left for being in the thrall of big-

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money donors - and set the stage for the Saturday's presidential town hall forum featuring Mr Sanders and fellow candidate Martin O'Malley.

A funny thing happened on the way to the forum, however - evidence of yet another frayed fibre in the Democratic electoral quilt.

Mr O'Malley took the stage first, and about 20 minutes into his question-and-answer session a group of several dozen protesters from the group Black Lives Matter interrupted the proceedings with chants, songs and shouts.

Tia Oso, leader of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, commandeered a microphone and asked the former Baltimore mayor what he would do to "begin to dismantle structural racism in the United States".

Mr O'Malley was met by boos when he said: "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter." (He would later apologise, saying he did not want to "disrespect" the passion and commitment of the protesters.)

The demonstrations continued for Mr Sanders. At one point the senator snapped: "If you don't want me to be here, that's OK. I don't want to outscream people". He would later cancel previously scheduled afternoon meetings with conference attendees, including one with the Black Lives Matter group.

By evening, however, the Bernie show was back. The Phoenix conference centre was packed with the campaign loyalists in a display of grass-roots support outpacing even the 10,000 who turned out just weeks earlier in Madison, Wisconsin.

Bernie Sanders supporters rally last week at a Phoenix nightclub

Unlike that Mid-west liberal bastion, however, Arizona is decidedly conservative - an indication that the senator is drawing power across the country.

The true-believing left does have a history of rallying behind unvarnished candidates like Mr Sanders, however, and they have met with limited success. Paul Tsongas in 1992, Bill Bradley in 2000 and Howard Dean in 2004 are but a few of the men who failed to translate big crowds and energetic support into primary victories.

Mrs Clinton must hope that the Sanders campaign meets with a similar fate - and when it does, that progressive loyalists like conference attendee Pam Miles of Huntsville, Alabama return to the fold.

"Bernie Sanders says everything that I feel," Miles says. "He's a dynamo, he is a truth-teller, he speaks truth to power. I love Bernie."

She adds, however, that she'll be happy to back Mrs Clinton if she gets the nomination. She says she's keen to avoid the kind of intra-party discord that marred the Clinton-Obama battles of 2008.

"In '08 it was absolutely horrible," she says. "It broke friendships, it hurt feelings. I'm not going to do that this time."

As for the Black Lives Matters activists who became the surprise story of Phoenix, Wesley Lowery of the Washington Post asked Mrs Clinton how she would have responded to the protesters during a Facebook question-and-answer session on Monday.

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"Black lives matter. Everyone in this country should stand firmly behind that," she replied. "We need to acknowledge some hard truths about race and justice in this country, and one of those hard truths is that that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality. Black people across America still experience racism every day."

She went on to recommend body cameras for US police officers, sentencing reform, voting rights and early childhood education.

Unlike her Democratic competitors, Mrs Clinton had the luxury of time to respond to this latest challenge. Whether it will be enough to weather what could be a coming storm, however, remains to be seen.

Why are Arizona liberals, Twitter protesting Bernie Sanders? // Christian Science Monitor // Sarah Caspari – July 20, 2015

Progressive Democratic candidates Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley faced unrest in Phoenix, Ariz., Saturday from "Black Lives Matter" protesters.

The Vermont senator and the former Maryland governor were in Phoenix for what was supposed to be a forum led by interviewer and immigrants rights activist Jose Antonio Vargas at the Netroots Nation progressive convention. Instead, the crowd did most of the talking, demanding as a group that the candidates address police brutality and racism, The Associated Press reported.

For Sen. Sanders, the harsh reception was at odds with his reputation among progressives as a champion of advocacy for the marginalized. CNN reported that "excited supporters" began lining up to secure good seats for the event hours early, but by the end, protesters were walking out on him.

"I've been fighting civil rights for 50 years," Sanders said during the protest, reminding the audience that he had participated in the 1964 march where Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

But in the eyes of many of the protesters and much of black America, that oft-cited fact is seen less as evidence of dedication to racial justice and more as an attempt at a catch-all shut-down for criticism, comedy podcaster and creator of the hashtag #BernieSoBlack Roderick Morrow told Vox.

"Bernie Sanders, while he does have a good track record on race in the past, he's kind of been avoiding talking about certain racial issues now," Mr. Morrow said. "Whenever he's asked a question, he goes into a spiel on economics – which is fine, obviously, people do want wage and class equality. But certain issues are race issues, and they do need to be talked about, at least from a candidate that I would like to vote for."

Morrow said he started the hashtag #BernieSoBlack because he felt supporters used Sanders' previous civil rights activism to "outblack" black critics.

"I made a joke that's like, 'Bernie's blacker than us! Bernie's SO BLACK!'" he said. "That's how it feels when they come into our mentions [on Twitter] and tell us that we don't know what we're talking about, and even though [Sanders] doesn't talk about #BlackLivesMatter right now, we should just kind of shut up."

#BernieSoBlack HE teaches you how to Cha Cha Slide! https://t.co/3CJorwWn9b — Rod TBGWT

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(@rodimusprime) July 19, 2015

At the Netroots Nation convention Saturday, Sanders tried giving prepared remarks on economic inequality, but the protesters continued shouting over him. After agreeing that “black lives matter” and referencing his past contributions to civil rights, Sanders threatened to leave, according to CNN.

"If you don't want me to be here, that's okay. I don't want to outscream people,” he said.

Later that night, Sanders addressed police brutality at an 11,000-person rally. "When a police officer breaks the law, that officer must be held accountable," Sanders said, according to AP.

He also quoted Civil War-era abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass, who said, "Freedom doesn't come without struggle."

Bernie Sanders And Allies In Congress To Propose $15 Federal Minimum Wage // IB Times // Cole Stangler – July 20, 2015

The Fight For 15 is heading to Washington. On Wednesday, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Reps. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), co-chairs of the 70-member Congressional Progressive Caucus, will unveil legislation that would set the federal minimum wage at $15 an hour--a figure that’s more than double the current rate of $7.25.

The proposal is unlikely to pass, but marks an ongoing leftward shift in the goalposts of minimum wage politics. By raising the pay floor to $15 by 2020, it outshines another Democratic proposal, backed by the White House, that sets a $12 rate by 2020. (That legislation, in turn, was a step up from another, previous Democratic proposal to raise the floor to $10.10 an hour.) In so doing, the bill ramps up pressure on liberal politicians looking to establish their low-wage worker bonafides. That development is especially relevant as Sanders and frontrunner Hillary Clinton, who recently declined to endorse the $15 figure, vye for the Democratic nomination for 2016.

The forthcoming legislation is, in part, a response to the so-called Fight for 15, a series of labor-backed protests calling for “$15 and a union,” says a Democratic staffer close to the Progressive Caucus. The high-visibility string of demonstrations and walk-outs, first organized by groups tied to the Service Employees International Union in late 2012, has driven the demand for $15 an hour into the political mainstream.

The staffer also pointed to growing momentum for a $15 minimum on the state level. On the same day that members of Congress will publicly announce their legislation, a New York wage panel is expected to formally endorse a $15 hourly minimum for fast food workers statewide. Gov. Andrew Cuomo impaneled the board earlier this year in response to ongoing protests. Meanwhile, activists in Oregon are moving closer to putting a $15 minimum wage initiative on the ballot in 2016.

According to the staffer, economists will also endorse the legislation on Wednesday. It is unlikely to gather much support, if any, from Republicans, but a majority of the Progressive Caucus is expected to support the bill.

Presidential politics play a role in the bill’s formation too. Sanders has already endorsed a $15 federal minimum, though not in legislative form. Last week, Clinton declined to back a national minimum of $15.

Bernie Sanders Gains Support In Republican States As Arizona & Texas Begin To Feel The Bern // Bustle // Greta Jochem – July 20, 2015

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Bernie Sanders has long been regarded as an underdog to long-time favorite Hillary Clinton in the race for Democratic presidential nominee. But is that changing? Maybe.

According to The Hill, Monmouth University released a poll last Wednesday finding that since April, Clinton has dropped 10 points, while Sanders has gained nine. His jump is greatest in Iowa and New Hampshire — the first states to hold primaries in the 2016 election. Sanders has been on the road campaigning, and all poll numbers aside, over the weekend his support in historically Republican voting states was strong.

The socialist Democrat has some relativity radical stances on education, raising the minimum wage, and the environment. At the center of his campaign is the increasing economic inequality that plagues the United States. "What I'm doing in this campaign is trying to tell the people the truth," he said at a recent event in Iowa. "So let me lay it out on the table for you. You're living in a country today which has more wealth and income inequality than any major industrialized nation on earth."

His supporters have truly been feelin' the Bern. Over the weekend, Sanders headed to two major red states, Arizona and Texas, for a successful weekend.

Rihanna found love in a hopeless place, and Sanders is finding support in an unlikely place. In the past 10 elections, Arizona has voted for the Republican candidate. But on Saturday night, according to his campaign, Sanders greeted the largest crowd of the 2016 presidential race in Phoenix, Arizona. Sanders addressed the cheering crowd saying, "Somebody told me people are giving up on the political process… Not what I see here tonight." He touched on income inequality, climate change, and raising the minimum wage. Sanders also talked about jobs saying:

My Republican friends think that the CEOs of large corporations are the job-creators. You know who the job creators are? You are the job creators. When working people have money in their pocket, they go out and they buy goods and they buy services, and when they do that, they create jobs. But when millions of people have nothing to spend, we're not creating the jobs that we need.

Hitting the environment, he urged action, and said, "We have the moral obligation to lead the world in transforming our energy system." Sanders announced his single payer health care plans, saying, "health care must be seen as a right, not a privilege," and was greeted by overwhelming cheers.

On Sunday night, Sanders spoke in Texas — also a largely Republican state — to an excited crowd of 5,200 at the University of Houston. Mirroring his speech in Phoenix, he discussed topics like income inequality, unemployment, and education. He also took a strong stance on the United States' mass incarceration. Sanders said:

When we have so many of our young people in jail, to me it makes sense that we invest more in jobs and education rather than jails and incarceration.

He also spoke out against police brutality, citing Eric Gardner and Freddie Gray.

These are the cases that you have heard about recently but anyone who thinks this has not been going on decade after decade would be very wrong. It is unacceptable that police officers beat up people or kill people. If they do that, they have got to be held accountable.

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20, 2015

rnie Sanders, the septuagenarian senator who's exciting crowds with his outspoken liberal agenda, has been added to the list of presidential candidates appearing at the National Urban League's convention in Fort Lauderdale.

Like the big names, Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Jeb Bush, Sanders is slated to appear July 31 at a session at which the candidates "will share their visions for saving our cities."

UNDECLARED

BIDEN

Waiting on Biden // Roll Call // Matt Fleming – July 20, 2015

While most Senate Democrats are #ReadyForHillary, a few are waiting on Joe.

After both buzzed through the Capitol last week — Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. made the trip as the White House's emissary on an Iran nuclear disarmament deal and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was there to shore up support for her White House bid — Clinton has already locked up the bulk of the Democrats and time seems to be running short for anyone else.

The reasons vary, but some holdouts are waiting to support a candidate out of deference to Biden — who represented Delaware in the Senate for 36 years and hasn't ruled out a third run for the Oval Office.

A couple of members sound ready to endorse him, but no one told CQ Roll Call they're urging him to get in the ring.

"I'm waiting to see about what the vice president is going to decide," Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., said. "He's been my friend for a long time."

Carper has held elected office in Delaware since 1976, as state treasurer, congressman, governor and finally senator. He spoke highly of Clinton, but his ties with Biden are understandably strong.

Carper did not call for Biden to enter the race, instead saying Biden should decide in his own time. "I don't think there's a need for a rush to judgement on this, people throughout this country have huge admiration and affection for him," he said.

Following a closed-door meeting in the Capitol between Biden and Foreign Relations Committee Democrats, Delaware's junior senator, Chris Coons, said Biden "showed today the remarkable, the impressive depth he has in foreign policy and national security; his thorough grasp of the underlying issues, his energy and his engagement."

"It was an impressive and compelling conversation, so I have no doubts that he would be a very strong candidate if that's what he chooses," Coons said, though he also declined to call on Biden to run. "But I really hope folks will let him reach a decision on a timeline that is appropriate for him and his family."

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Rep. John Carney, the state's lone representative in the House, is another longtime Delaware politician, having served as lieutenant governor, secretary of Finance, chief of staff under then-Gov. Carper, and even as a Senate staffer for Biden.

In a statement, Carney spokeswoman Francesca Amodeo noted her boss hasn't made any statements on the race, but said, "If the Vice President throws his hat in the ring, Rep. Carney will absolutely be supporting him."

Biden's support is slimmer outside of the First State's delegation. Last week, Minority Leader Harry Reid reiterated he had not endorsed Clinton. The Nevada Democrat is waiting to make a decision, possibly out of deference to Biden.

Others are holding off on endorsing for other reasons. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, stayed neutral through the 2008 Democratic primary and remains neutral this time around. But Brown was complimentary of Clinton following her trip to the Capitol last week.

Oregon's delegation — Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley — is also declining to endorse at the moment, with both addressing their concerns recently to The Oregonian.

Wyden said he supports Clinton, but didn't think it was "time for a formal endorsement," while Merkley said Clinton wasn't strong enough yet on campaign finance, income inequality and trade.

Sen. Jon Tester of Montana chairs the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and is choosing to stay neutral. Sen. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., is running for the nomination. Sen. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., declined to say why he hasn't endorsed.

And Sen. Angus King, the Maine independent who caucuses with Democrats, told MSNBC in April he'll let the parties decide who the candidates will be.

"I'm the only guy in Washington who can get away with not answering that question," King said.

It's not that Biden doesn't have supporters in the Senate — he is generally well-liked and highly regarded in the body where he spent so many years. It's more because of personal preference mixed with a too-little-too-late vibe.

Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., said he is a "huge Joe Biden fan" — but he ultimately endorsed Clinton. Cardin predicted Clinton would be the nominee with a "relatively" easy time.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., who endorsed Clinton before she even announced her candidacy, said she shouldn't "take anything for granted" because "people love [Biden]," but Kaine didn't believe Biden would run with Clinton in the race.

Sen. Christopher S. Murphy, D-Conn., another Clinton endorser, said Biden would be a "fantastic candidate," but pointed out he is running out of time to get into the race.

Clinton's campaign has been running both officially and unofficially for some time now, spending time messaging and on the ground with supporters. While Biden is a sitting vice president, she has global name ID. As of June 30,

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Hillary for America had raised more than $47 million during its first quarter.

So, endorsements aren't the only thing Biden is behind on. Perhaps that's why no senators are saying they think Biden could beat Clinton, while others are convinced of the inevitability of a Clinton nomination.

Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., said he thought Clinton would win both the primary and general elections, while Sen. Richard Blumenthal was blunt on whether Biden could beat her.

"No," said the Connecticut Democrat.

Joe Biden to talk college during upcoming Denver visit // Denver Post // Mark Matthews – July 20, 2015

During Joe Biden's planned trip to Denver on Tuesday, the vice president plans to highlight the importance of community colleges and their impact on the broader U.S. economy.

Here's the full rundown from the administration, released Monday afternoon.

"On Tuesday, July 21st, the Vice President will travel to Denver, Colorado to deliver remarks on the Administration's economic policies, and participate in a roundtable discussion at the Community College of Denver's New Manufacturing Center.

"This roundtable will focus on the importance of helping more Americans go to college and the critical role that partnerships between community colleges and employers can play in helping Americans obtain the skills they need to succeed in the workforce."

OTHER

What that Netroots Nation disaster can tell us about Democrats in 2016 // WaPo // Janell Ross – July 20, 2015

The chaos that broke out at the presidential forum at Netroots Nation over the weekend in Arizona courtesy of the Black Lives Matter movement has sparked a debate about just how united the longtime Democratic coalition -- a pillar of which is almost-uniform support from black voters --really is heading into the 2016 election.

The shock and umbrage that protest generated has been pretty well covered -- as has Martin O'Malley's apology. But, there's something bigger here than a momentary spectacle. Can any Democrat win the presidential nomination, much less the general election without those protesters and people outside the hall who have been essential to President Obama's victories? And if not, what will candidates have to do, say, support and ultimately propose to get those voters to show up to the polls?

Netroots Nation is an interesting window into the Democratic coalition; the annual gathering tends to attract political nerds, staffers and political obsessives. It also tends be run by and supported mostly by whites. (Yes, we know that voting rights was on the agenda this year and that there was at least one session featuring black female bloggers, political commentators and the like. But, still.)

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This year, the activists who seized control of the presidential candidate forum didn't think the talk about expanding economic opportunity and creating citizen panels to review police complaints was enough. Or even close. There may be corners of the Democratic and Republican electorate who insist that the worst of black America's current problems stem from the prevalence of inter-group violence, joblessness and the shape of many black families. But, for these protesters and people who support them, the reality that by June nearly 400 unarmed people had been killed by police this year, and that a staggering and disproportionate share of them were black, is not a concern. It is the concern.

Their logic boils down to this: Black life in America and the pivotal conversations between families, between friends, between parents and kids has always included some element of physical danger. Today, for reasonable and relatively informed black people, the discussion about that danger has to include what can happen when in proximity to violent criminals, armed and frightened private citizens and police. One of those groups enjoys state sanction, making them the most threatening of all. Unlike those other groups, even when there are legitimate questions about police wrongdoing, excessive use of force or unlawful shootings, the odds of indictment and conviction remain shockingly low, as The Washington Post reported in April.

And, of course, if the way that police sometimes do their work has enhanced the odds that you may wind up dead, maimed or in jail, paying attention to police makes a certain amount of sense. Reasonable people don't have to agree with that read on America or what imperils black life in this country. But that's where the activists who stormed into Netroots are at. And there's evidence that others are there with them.

Now, in complete fairness to O'Malley, Bernie Sanders and all the politicians who weren't there, the spectacle at Netroots this weekend could also certainly be described as just that -- an obvious ploy for publicity. The Black Lives Matter movement has, so far, made clear its ability to galvanize public interest, to draw press attention and to disrupt events as well as the flow of traffic in major American cities. And in the time since that Netroots showdown this weekend the movement and its supporters flexed some serious satirical muscle in Sanders' direction in the form of the hashtag #BernieSoBlack. (Prepare to laugh. Prepare to gasp. Prepare to understand that, at least on line, these folks are a force with which 2016 candidates must reckon.)

A demonstrator protests recent grand jury decisions not to indict police officers in the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner at Boston Common in Boston on Thursday. (Brian Snyder/Reuters)

But what else has Black Lives Matter got? And to what extent is the Black Lives Matter movement prepared to work in or with the existing political system to transform their goals into policy?On Saturday night, at a film festival in Washington, D.C, where organizers screened, "Vanguard of the Revolution," a new documentary about the rise and fall of the Black Panther Party, there were plenty of sobering reminders that the answers to those questions will matter. A lot.

Perhaps the most pointed came from former Black Panther Eddie Conway. Conway spent 44 years in a Maryland prison after a jury convicted him in the murder of a police officer. Conway has long claimed that he is innocent. Others have referred to him as a political prisoner. And in March 2014, Maryland prosecutors struck a deal with Conway. Conway was released. His conviction stands.

When an inevitable question about the Black Lives Matter movement came from the audience at that film screening, Conway offered this: "At some point, these young people, the Black Lives Matter movement, will have to something more than lay down in the street. Spectacle, believe me, is only a start."

Democratic Party Machinery Shows Rust **// WSJ // Peter Nicholas & Colleen McCain Nelson – July 20, 2015**

Democrat Chris Redfern was confident of his re-election chances, and with good reason. Voters in his state House district had elected Democrats for decades, and he was Ohio’s Democratic Party chairman.

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Yet on election day, Mr. Redfern lost to a tea-party Republican, a defeat that drove him from politics into a new line of work, running an inn and winery.

Mr. Redfern's political exit came amid a string of midterm-election losses by Democrats in Ohio and nationwide that reflected a deeper problem: As the party seeks its next generation of candidates, the bench has thinned.

A tepid economy and President Barack Obama's sinking approval ratings contributed to some of the Democratic losses last fall. The setbacks also revealed a withering of the campaign machinery built by Mr. Obama's team more than seven years ago. While Democrats held the White House, Republicans have strengthened their hand in statehouses across the U.S.

Democrats maintain a significant electoral college advantage as shifting U.S. demographics tilt their way. This spring, a Pew Research Center analysis found that 48% of Americans either identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, compared with 39% who identify with Republicans or lean Republican.

But many Democrats worry that GOP success capturing state and local offices will erode that advantage before they have a chance to rebuild.

"If you don't have a well-funded state party, if you don't have state infrastructure, then you're just whistling past the graveyard," Mr. Redfern said. From his new perch in the hospitality industry, he described leading the state party as the "worst job in politics."

After two presidential victories, Mr. Obama presides over a Democratic Party that has lost 13 seats in the U.S. Senate and 69 in the House during his tenure, a net loss unmatched by any modern U.S. president.

Democrats have also lost 11 governorships, four state attorneys general, 910 legislative seats, as well as the majorities in 30 state legislative chambers. In 23 states, Republicans control the governor's office and the legislature; Democrats, only seven.

Such losses help shape the future: An ousted state lawmaker doesn't run for Congress; a failed attorney general candidate loses a shot at the governor's office. As a result, the flow of fresh political talent rising to statewide and national prominence in the years ahead won't be as robust as Democrats hope.

The party's failure to elect more governors, for example, has shrunk the pool of potential Democratic presidential candidates, one reason few have challenged Hillary Clinton for the 2016 nomination.

For now, the two parties wield their influence in competing branches of government: Republicans in control of Congress, using state-level dominance to draw congressional districts friendly to GOP candidates; and Democrats in the White House, using their demographic advantage nationwide.

In few places are the Democrats' troubles more apparent than in Ohio, the perennial presidential battleground state twice won by Mr. Obama. Ohio Democrats lost every statewide contest in the November midterms, allowing the GOP to build supermajorities in both legislative chambers. Democrats won just a quarter of races last year for county commissioner—the local masters of land-use rules, as well as county roads, jails and a host of other government services.

The losses in Ohio are the consequences of failing to develop a strong corps of local officeholders and the campaign machinery to support them, Democrats in the state say.

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One reason Democrats have struggled to recruit candidates for higher office is that the pipeline has been choked off by a redistricting process dominated by the GOP. In Ohio, a five-member state committee made up of elected officials draws the district lines for state legislative seats that serve as a springboard to higher office.

The Ohio League of Women Voters, which has been studying redistricting for decades, says district boundaries now favor Republican candidates—just as in the past, Democrats drew lines that benefited their party, according to Carrie Davis, executive director.

An independent study of Ohio's redistricting process in 2011 concluded: "The party in power used the process to gain maximum political advantage." Today, Republicans outnumber Democrats in the state Legislature 2 to 1.

With a shallow bench, Ohio's Democratic candidate for governor, Ed FitzGerald, a former mayor and county executive, faced little opposition in the party primary. Once nominated, bad news undermined his candidacy, including the revelation that he drove for years without a valid driver's license. He lost by 30 percentage points in November to incumbent Gov. John Kasich.

Mike Zickar, chairman of the Wood County Democratic Party, said members of his executive board confided to him that even they didn't vote for Mr. FitzGerald, instead leaving the top of the ballot blank.

Without an inspiring candidate at the top of the ticket, Democrats in the 2014 midterm elections couldn't rely on a broad network of volunteers, the kind of force that boosted Mr. Obama to wins in Ohio in 2008 and 2012. The state party mustered three paid field staff members; two years earlier, with Mr. Obama's re-election bid in full swing, the number was 600.

"I offered to do more, work-wise, but nobody ever contacted me," said Loree Resnik, a neighborhood team leader during Mr. Obama's re-election campaign.

Nina Turner, a former Ohio state senator who lost her bid for secretary of state last year, said Democrats asked for a visit by Mr. Obama or first lady Michelle Obama, an invitation the White House said was never received.

"We would have loved to have the president come into Ohio," Ms. Turner said. "They didn't come…I'm not going to mince words about it. We needed help in 2014, and we did not get it."

White House officials said the president did all he could to boost fellow Democrats, headlining dozens of fundraisers and appearing at a handful of campaign events during the midterm campaign. They said he was willing to do more but few candidates wanted to share a stage with the president, whose popularity was slipping at the time.

Obama campaign officials said the president's campaign staff shared voter files, data and volunteer lists with Ohio Democrats. But they acknowledged that the energy and manpower that boosted Mr. Obama's White House bids in 2008 and 2012 couldn't be easily replicated in last year's midterm elections.

"People have a false expectation that because Obama was able to create all this enthusiasm that it was directly transferrable to the next campaign," Aaron Pickrell, a top Obama campaign official in Ohio, said of Democrats' struggles in 2014. "It doesn't mean that Obama can just flip a switch and say, 'Now go work for these people.'"

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Ohio's Democrats are trying to regroup. This spring in Columbus, party officials began training candidates for local office on everything from how to ask their friends for money to when to put up yard signs.

During a Saturday morning session, candidates for city councils, mayor and the state Legislature watched PowerPoint presentations and lobbed questions at Democratic officials about the nuts and bolts of campaigning.

Ms. Turner, the former candidate for secretary of state, told the few dozen Democratic hopefuls that "the glitz and the glamour seem to be on the federal level…but this is where the rubber meets the road."

In nearby Union County, Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper, who succeeded Mr. Redfern, joined a statewide listening tour aimed at re-energizing the party. One conclusion, detailed in a report by state Democratic leaders: We need better candidates.

Written in the aftermath of Mr. FitzGerald's defeat, the report said: "A strong bench of effective public servants at all levels comprises the heart of a strong state party." A priority for the state party will be "recruiting and cultivating candidates who connect with voters, win elections at all levels, and once they enter office, make a difference on the issues that matter most in the lives of their constituents."

Democrats are quick to say they will rebound, just as the GOP bounced back from setbacks in 2006 and 2008. At the same time, some Democrats say the party can't ignore its state-level defeats.

"We have a little bit of blue in the West Coast. A little bit of blue in the Northeast, and occasional blue elsewhere. But, boy, it's a bright red map in all of those big, square states," said former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle. "That's where I do worry about recruiting and building a bench and finding ways to connect with real voters. We're not doing a very good job of that."

On the campaign trail, Mrs. Clinton has assured local Democrats that she is aware of past setbacks and is committed to making the party more competitive at all levels. More states need a "permanent Democratic Party," she has said.

Earlier this month in Iowa City, Mrs. Clinton mentioned Iowa Republican Joni Ernst's victory over the Democratic candidate in the 2014 race to succeed longtime Democratic senator Tom Harkin. "I want to help rebuild the Democratic Party in Iowa because you can't have a loss like having Tom Harkin retire and not be really motivated to get other Democrats in there," she said.

Some Democrats blame Mr. Obama, saying his political machine, Organizing for Action, was good at electing him president but has done little for other candidates.

"That did hurt the Democratic Party, because a lot of money went into OFA that might have ordinarily gone into the Democratic National Committee," said Howard Dean, a former DNC chairman.

The Obama team "basically ignored" the party, said Ed Rendell, former governor of Pennsylvania and former chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Mr. Obama's defenders said he has left a lasting legacy by modernizing campaigns with data and technology.

"The tools and the tech culture that defined the Obama operation are now ingrained here at the party," Mo Elleithee, the former communications director for the Democratic National Committee, said before leaving the job last month.

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Mr. Pepper, Ohio's party chairman, meanwhile told Democratic activists during his state tour: "Every volunteer who gets excited about Hillary Clinton, we can't let them leave a year later. Every piece of information we enter into the voter file, we keep and learn from not just to win in '16, but to win in '18."

Kenya is set to welcome Obama 'home' to a continent that feels ignored // **Reuters – July 20, 2015**

When Barack Obama visits Africa this month, he will be welcomed by a continent that had expected closer attention from a man they claim as their son, a sentiment felt acutely in the Kenyan village where the 44th U.S. president's father is buried.

"We thought the American government could at least bring some assistance to the area," said Stephen Okumu Obewa, a teacher in Kogelo village who works at Senator Barack Obama Primary School, named before Obama reached the White House.

"Maybe he is interested somehow but we are not aware," he said in a scruffy school with many broken chairs and desks.

Obama wrote about a visit to Kogelo in his 1995 book "Dreams from My Father", which helped launch his swift political ascent.

Some of the fame rubbed off on the village. Tourists turned up and visitors often knock on the door of Mama Sarah, as Obama's step-grandmother is known.

Nearby is the grave of his father, the senior Barack Obama, a Kenyan government economist who died in a car accident in 1982, 21 years after fathering the future U.S. president while living in Hawaii as a visiting student.

Many Africans wonder why Obama has not made development on their continent more a priority in his two terms in office.

"With his election, there was this huge euphoria and high hopes that the U.S.-Africa relationship would see substantive improvements and the U.S. would give more attention to Africa," said David Zounmenou, a research fellow at the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa. "But the record is very weak."

Obama visits Kenya and Ethiopia later in July, his third major trip to Sub-Saharan Africa after traveling to Ghana in 2009 and to Tanzania, Senegal and South Africa in 2011. He has also visited Egypt, and South Africa for Nelson Mandela's funeral.

Obama africaLarry Downing/ReutersPresident Barack Obama holds a news conference at the conclusion of the the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit at the State Department in Washington on August 6, 2014

"NOT LIKE AN AFRICAN MAN"

"My hope is that we can deliver a message that the U.S. is a strong partner not just for Kenya, but for Sub-Saharan Africa generally," Obama said last week. He said he hoped to build on progress made in health, education and

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counterterrorism, and to encourage democracy and reducing corruption.

U.S. officials say the perception Obama has ignored Africa is unfair. They point to U.S. efforts to contain the Ebola virus in West Africa and a $7 billion continent-wide initiative to expand electricity supply that was launched in 2013.

But that is a tiny sum compared to the many billions that China has been spending on infrastructure in Africa, bringing roads, airports and railways to a continent with almost 1 billion people and an emerging middle class.

The year Obama took office, 2009, was also the year China overtook the United States as Africa's biggest trade partner.

Nor does Obama have a signature African achievement, unlike his two predecessors.

George W. Bush was lauded for funding HIV/AIDS treatment across the continent. Bill Clinton signed a law which sharply reduced trade restrictions on imports from 35 African states. Obama, who leaves office in January 2017, has carried on both initiatives, but cannot claim them as his own.

"To me, he's not like an African man. He doesn't even have a building or a business here," said Calvine Rachuonyo, 28, who drives a motorcycle taxi in Kisumu, the nearest big city to Obama's father's western Kenyan home village.

In Kenya, his visit could attract some protests, most likely small. Members of one fringe anti-gay group are planning to protest naked in the capital on the eve of Obama's visit because of his support for gay rights. A student group says it will defile a tree that Obama planted before he became president at Nairobi University, unless he returns there for another visit.

Still, the upcoming arrival has meant an uptick in business for Victor Agwa, who sells Obama trinkets and t-shirts, some emblazoned with the words "Son of Africa", in Kisumu.

Agwa sold a thousand T-shirts before Obama's first election in 2008. Since then, business has steadily declined.

"People have a feeling that maybe he got too busy to come here," he said, hoping for more visits when Obama leaves office.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Godec has said Obama would not visit Kogelo, and that he will instead address the Kenyan people at a Nairobi stadium on July 26.

But Kogelo residents are still preparing just in case Obama does turn up, including sprucing up the grave site of the president's father.

"The gate is always open for Barack, day and night," said Mashart Onyango, who lives on the family compound and said she was one of Obama's aunts. "He is our relative."

GOP

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DECLARED

BUSH

Jeb Bush Promises to Curb Lobbying and Cut Size of Government **// NYT // Michael Barbaro – July 20, 2015**

Jeb Bush outlined on Monday a sweeping and detailed plan to rein in the size of the federal government and to curb the influence of the lobbyists who live off it, calling for a 10 percent reduction in workers, an immediate hiring freeze, a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget and a six-year waiting period before members of Congress can become lobbyists.

Invoking his record as a budget watchdog during his time as Florida's governor, Mr. Bush vowed to replicate that approach during his first term as president if the 2016 election sends him to Washington, which he held up as a model of unyielding dysfunction.

"The overspending, the overreaching, the arrogance, and the sheer incompetence in that city – these problems have been with us so long that they are sometimes accepted as facts of life," Mr. Bush said in Tallahassee, not far from Florida's Capitol. "But a president should never accept them, and I will not."

Mr. Bush also vowed to "challenge the whole culture in our nation's capital."

His speech amounted to a pointed rebuttal to his Republican rivals in the presidential campaign who have questioned the depth of his conservatism. It also appeared to be an attempt to portray Mr. Bush as he defines himself: a serious leader prepared to govern, rather than a clever speaker without a meaningful record, as he depicts many of his opponents.

Much of his agenda would face stiff resistance in Washington, where a divided Congress could present a set of obstacles Mr. Bush rarely faced as governor, when the Republican Party dominated the state's government.

Mr. Bush said his policies could reduce the size of the federal work force by 10 percent in four years. Much of that, he said, would be accomplished through attrition and a strict system of replacing every three departing federal workers with one new employee.

In a proposal likely to be greeted with deep opposition from federal workers and the unions that represent them, Mr. Bush demanded changes to the Civil Service system that would make it far easier to punish and replace employees.

"There are a lot of exemplary employees in the federal government, but they're treated no better than the bad ones," Mr. Bush said. "And the bad ones are almost impossible to effectively discipline or remove."

But he held out a carrot along with the stick: merit pay and bigger raises for high-performing workers and managers who save money for the government.

Mr. Bush took direct aim at K Street, Washington's collection of lobbying firms that have long employed former

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lawmakers to do the bidding of major corporations.

He proposed heightened levels of disclosure that would require members of Congress to report every meeting with a lobbyist on a weekly basis. The information would be posted on congressional websites.

Mr. Bush has been critical of the lobbying culture, regularly repeating an anti-Washington message during his fledgling presidential campaign. But he also has tapped the fund-raising potential of the K Street crowd, bringing in millions of dollars for his “super PAC” from Washington lobbyists, political operatives, lawyers and business leaders.

His most eyebrow-raising plan: requiring an inflexible six-year ban on lobbying for departing members of Congress. Currently, departing House members must observe a “cooling-off period” of a year before lobbying on Capitol Hill, and departing senators must wait two years.

“We need to help politicians to rediscover life outside of Washington,” Mr. Bush said. “Which — who knows? — might even be a pleasant surprise for them.”

He said he was not interested in making friends with Washington’s power brokers, a fact that seemed clear from his proposal to encourage members of Congress to show up for votes.

Mr. Bush wants Congress to introduce a bill that would dock members pay for days when they are absent from work.

“The reality,” he said, “is that Congress is in session for three days in a typical week anyway, so it’s not asking too much that every member be there and work on those days.”

How Jeb Bush would revamp Washington and the federal government **// WaPo // Ed O’Keefe – July 20, 2015**

In Jeb Bush's Washington, the federal workforce would shrink, a president would earn back line-item veto powers and former lawmakers wouldn't be able to lobby old colleagues for at least six years.

The former Florida governor and Republican presidential candidate on Monday embraced a series of fix-it plans that congressional Republicans and watchdog groups have tried failed to enact for decades. Democrats noted that many of Bush's wealthy supporters would be directly affected by the changes.

"Should I win this election, you will not find me deferring to the settled ways of 'Mount Washington,'" he said during a speech at Florida State University. "The overspending, the overreaching, the arrogance, and the sheer incompetence in that city -- these problems have been with us so long that they are sometimes accepted as facts of life. But a president should never accept them, and I will not."

As a gubernatorial candidate in the 1990s, Bush derided what he called "Mount Tallahassee," a city where lawmakers and lobbyists grew too cozy. Now, as a presidential candidate, he tells voters how he slashed $2 billion in spending and helped cut the state payroll by roughly 13,000 public sector workers, all while Florida's economy grew at roughly 4 percent annually -- thanks partly to a housing boom that later fizzled.

Bush, a professed policy wonk, sometimes sounded on Monday like a White House budget director or lawmaker pining to be Speaker of the House as he ticked off a series of potential reforms.

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He endorsed a federal worker attrition plan Republicans have unsuccessfully pursued for years that would replace every three departing federal workers with just one new hire. He backed a GOP plan to partially restore the line-item veto by letting the White House demand a separate up-or-down vote on spending items a president dislikes. And he said he likes military contracting reforms unveiled in March that would strip away many of the mundane hurdles faced by Pentagon contracting officers.

Most boldly, Bush proposed a six-year "cooling off" period for former lawmakers who want to be lobbyists -- an aggressive expansion of current law. Once a House lawmaker leaves office, they must wait one year before actively lobbying former colleagues; senators must wait two years.

"We need to help politicians to rediscover life outside of Washington, which -- who knows? -- might even be a pleasant surprise for them," he said.

Bush said he wanted lawmakers to publish on their official Web site any time they meet with lobbyists -- including people who work in "government relations" or "government affairs." And he would also expand President Obama's current policy of banning departing executive branch officials from lobbying the administration.

The changes would have an adverse affect on Washington's $3.2 billion lobbying industry, and several former lawmakers-turned-lobbyists dismissed Bush's ideas as unworkable.

"It's over the top," said former Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.), who works for Deloitte, the consulting giant. He suggested that online reporting requirements would violate the constitutional right to petition the government.

"Shouldn’t a congressman be able to meet with some expert without the world knowing about it?" he said. "Why would Congress want to give that authority up?"

Davis said he likes Bush as a candidate, but suggested the former governor might have other motives: "If you’re a Bush, running against Washington is a lot harder than if you’re other people."

Former Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), who once chaired the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee, called Bush's plan "far-reaching."

"It sounds good – just like President Obama’s proposals sounded good not to hire former lobbyists – but then he ended up depriving his administration of some very good talent," he said.

Obama banned lobbyists from serving in his administration except in limited circumstances. Since the ban began in 2009, at least 61 executive branch employees have received waivers from parts of the ethics pledge.

Waxman retired this year after 40 years in Congress and now works for a public relations and consulting shop established by his son. A vocal supporter of environmental protections and health-care reform, Waxman said he works "only for those clients and those causes that I advocated for in Congress. ... I have no apologies to make for that."

Two former lawmakers-turned-lobbyists who are active Bush supporters, Republicans Tom Loeffler (Tex.) and Vin Weber (Minn.), didn't return requests for comment.

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Bush's campaign and allied groups raised an unprecedented $119 million for his presidential bid in the last quarter. The campaign raised $11.4 million, with the rest raised by an allied super PAC and another leadership PAC. Given the size of the haul, Bush has faced criticism from some of his GOP rivals -- including business magnate Donald Trump -- that the large sums mean he might one day reward top donors representing interest groups or corporations.

Eight lobbyists raised a collective $228,400 for Bush during the second quarter, according to Federal Election Commission filings submitted by the campaign Wednesday. The top bundlers including William P. Killmer of the Mortgage Banking Association, who raised $36,200; Ignacio Sanchez, co-chair of the lobbying practice at DLA Piper, who raised $32,400; and Al Cardenas, former chairman of the Republican Party of Florida and now a lobbyist at Squire Patton Boggs, who helped bring in $18,900.

A number of lobbyists, though not bundlers, also contributed the individual limit of $2,700 to Bush's campaign. They include Kirk Blalock of Fierce Government Relations, David Beightol and Brian Sailer of Flywheel Government Solutions and Josh Holly of Podesta Group. And Bush drew support from top lobbyists within major corporations including Maria Cino of Hewlett-Packard, Matt Niemeyer of Goldman Sachs and Woody Simmons Jr. of Verizon Communications.

Bush also said Monday that he would push Congress to pass legislation that would withhold pay from lawmakers who miss votes.

"A bill to dock the pay of absentee members might not pass the House or Senate, but at least it would get them all there for a vote," he said.

Jeb Bush wants to dock members of Congress for missing votes. What would that look like? // WaPo // Philip Bump – July 20, 2015

Jeb Bush has a crazy idea: Maybe members of Congress should get paid for how much they actually work.

In a speech on Monday, the former governor of Florida proposed creating a way to get members of Congress to show up for votes. "If it's an incentive they need," he said, "how about the one that pretty much every worker in America has in their job: you don't show up, you don't get paid for that time."

Bush was targeting the habit of some members of the House and Senate to miss the (relatively few) votes that each chamber actually takes. Like his primary opponents in the presidential race, for example.

Since January, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Lindsey Graham have each missed at least a fifth of the votes the Senate has taken, according to data from GovTrack. Since getting to the Senate, Cruz and Rubio have each missed at least one in ten votes -- which is in part a function of their having been running for president for much of their tenures as senators. (And, yes, the figure pales next to the votes missed by President Obama when he was a senator.)

Bush didn't really articulate how the plan would work. But let's say that the senators only got the same percentage of their $174,000 salaries as the percentage of votes they made. That would result in Graham and Cruz losing $40,000 a year -- and Rubio losing $50,000.

That's only looking at votes, though. As Bush pointed out, Congress is "in session for three days in a typical week anyway." Since 1978, Congress has been in session for a full five-day week about once every two months, thanks

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in part to the vacation schedule members enjoy. Members of Congress will point out that they are doing work even when they are not in session, but of course that's harder to gauge.

For kicks, let's apply the Bush formula more broadly. The government's Office of Personnel Management says a full-time year is 2,087 hours of work -- 261 days, or thereabouts.

Here's how Congress' number of days in session has compared to that standard since 1985.

It was only toward the end of 2014 that Congress had been in session for enough days since January 1, 2013 to match the government annual standard of workdays.

In 2014, the Senate was in session for 136 days and the House for 135. That's about 52 percent of the OPM standard for work days. Let's -- generously! -- give them another 60 days that they worked doing other things, having meetings in districts, etc. That means that each branch worked about 75 percent of a full year -- and that each should get about $130,000 of their $174,000 salaries.

Bush also made another point: That a bill like this would never be passed by Congress. He probably meant that legislators wouldn't vote against their own economic self-interest. But he also might have meant that Congress simply doesn't hold that many votes.

Jeb Bush says he would make it harder for lawmakers to become lobbyists // WaPo // Catherine Ho – July 20, 2015

Jeb Bush on Monday said that former House and Senate members should be banned from lobbying their former colleagues for six-years after leaving office as the Republican candidate outlined how he would push to limit the lobbying industry's influence if he becomes president.

The proposed change would significantly lengthen the "cooling off period" for members of Congress who later lobby lawmakers on behalf of paying clients, such as corporations and foreign governments. House members currently have a one-year ban on lobbying and Senate members have a two-year ban. Changing the current system would require congressional action.

Bush said he would put in place similar restrictions for officials who leave the White House for lobbying jobs, but did not specify an exact length of time. Currently, executive branch officials who become lobbyists have either a one or a two-year ban, depending on their seniority level.

"I will strengthen existing prohibitions that prevent departing executive branch employees from lobbying members of my administration," Bush said in a speech in Tallahassee.

Bush also proposed stricter lobbying disclosure rules that would require lobbyists and members of Congress to report every meeting they have with each other.

"Every time a lobbyist meets with any member of Congress, that should be reported online — every week, and on the member's official Web site," Bush said.

It is not the first time Bush voiced criticism of the lobbying industry. In a speech announcing his candidacy last month, he said "swarms of lobbyists" have complicated the U.S. tax code by advocating for special provisions and

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carve-outs for the industries they represent.

On Monday, he continued to take aim at K Street.

"It's the relentless expansion of government that made lobbying Washington's premier growth industry," he said. "Spending on lobbying has risen by more than 45 percent over the past decade, translating to $12.5 million per member of Congress. Restrain federal spending and bureaucratic meddling, and we'll disrupt the culture that thrives on big government."

Despite his tough rhetoric, Bush enjoys support, financial and otherwise, from many lobbyists, including several former members of Congress. This group includes retired Reps. Tom Loeffler (R-Texas) and Bill Paxon (R-N.Y.), who are now lobbyists at Akin Gump. Both declined to comment on the lobbying proposal Bush discussed on Monday. Loeffler, a longtime supporter and adviser to the Bush family, was one of eight lobbyists who bundled a collective $228,400 for Bush during the second quarter of 2015. Loeffler raised $31,500 for Bush's campaign during that period.

Bush also has the support of retired Reps. Vin Weber (R-Minn.) and Denny Rehberg (R-Mont.), both of whom are now lobbyists at the lobby and public affairs firm Mercury. Neither immediately returned a request for comment Monday. Weber has spoken at an event for Bush's super PAC about economic mobility and has said he is interested in advising on policy. Rehberg has been gathering support for Bush in Montana and Washington.

Jeb Bush Takes Aim at Lobbyists **// WSJ // Beth Reinhard & Chris Stewart – July 20, 2015**

Vowing to rattle the political establishment in Washington, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush on Monday said members of Congress should disclose their meetings with lobbyists and refrain from lobbying former colleagues for six years after leaving office.

Senators are now barred from lobbying their former colleagues for two years after stepping down, though House members can advocate on issues in that chamber after a year. Critics say the rules are regularly flouted because ex-lawmakers and administration officials, who also face restrictions, have begun calling themselves "strategic advisers" or other titles that don't require them to register as lobbyists.

"We need a president willing to challenge the whole culture in our nation's capital," Mr. Bush, the former governor of Florida, said in Tallahassee, the state capital.

Mr. Bush's proposed lobbying overhauls were part of a sweeping speech promising to shrink the federal workforce and budget, goals that have long been advocated by Republicans in Washington.

His attack on lobbyists and special interests also is a familiar theme on the campaign trail, usually espoused by Democrats.

In his first term, President Barack Obama signed an executive order barring his appointees who later become lobbyists from advocating on the issues they had worked on at the White House. He also banned gifts from lobbyists. Almost all of those rules have been loosened or abandoned since then for legal, political and practical reasons.

The anti-lobbying agenda runs counter to what happened in Florida after Mr. Bush as governor passed legislation aimed at cracking down on the advocacy class. He delivered his remarks at Florida State University, whose

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president, John Thrasher, served in the Florida House during Mr. Bush's first term before becoming a lobbyist at one of the highest-grossing firms in the state. He later returned to the state Senate.

In December 2005, one year before he left office, Mr. Bush signed a law requiring lobbyists to disclose their compensation and banning them from plying lawmakers with meals and gifts. On Monday, Mr. Bush called the measure "the strictest lobbying reforms in the country."

However, state disclosure reports show that the lobbying community saw robust growth after the law was passed. Lobbyists reported fees ranging from about $145 million to $219 million in 2007, according to filings with the state. Those dollar figures have risen gradually since Mr. Bush left office to a range of $178 million to $264 million in 2013. The range of the reported payments dipped in 2014 to $150 million to $240 million.

In addition, lobbyists found ways around the Florida law by contributing to lawmakers' political committees, which could then use the funds to pay for meals, travel and more. "It stopped us from getting coffee and a muffin but allowed us to get wheelbarrows of cash," said former Democratic House Majority Leader Dan Gelber. The new committees were banned in 2013 in another effort to curb special interests.

Another sign that the Florida law failed to mitigate the sector's influence: The number of registrations for legislative lobbyists increased from 7,915 in 2004 to 10,507 today, including lobbyists representing multiple clients.

"I think Gov. Bush helped usher in and encourage the rise of the super lobbying firms we see today," said Ben Wilcox, research director at Integrity Florida, a nonpartisan government watchdog group.

Mr. Bush's proposal could draw attacks from his Republican rivals, as lawyers and lobbyists donated $1.2 million to his 1998 and 2002 campaigns, according to the National Institute on Money in State Politics, and they are emerging as major backers of his presidential bid.

The campaign disclosed last week that eight lobbyists bundled a total of $228,400 of the $11.4 million raised in the first 15 days of Mr. Bush's campaign—more money from the industry than any other Republican candidate. The only other GOP contender who reported bundlers was Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who said three lobbyists raised $113,450 for his bid.

Mr. Bush's disclosures didn't include the $103 million raised by his super PAC as of June 30, which won't detail its donors until July 31. The super PAC held about half a dozen events in Washington and many of the co-hosts were lobbyists. It also organized a $1,000-per-person February fundraiser in Tallahassee that was co-hosted by 55 industry groups and individuals, mostly registered lobbyists.

In 1991, Mr. Bush registered as a lobbyist in Miami-Dade County on behalf of his real estate company with developer Armando Codina before he was elected to office, according to records. The documents show Mr. Bush also listed that he was representing the Deering Bay residential development, which he and Mr. Codina sold after it was battered by Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

"Governor Bush was not working as a lobbyist," said a spokeswoman, Kristy Campbell. "This was specific to the Derring Bay project where Governor Bush was a partner and the project required the Commission weigh in on permitting approval issues to move forward with work."

Jeb Bush Vows to Shake Up 'Mount Washington' Establishment // WSJ // Beth Reinhard – July 20, 2015

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Boasting of reforms to “Mount Tallahassee” during his two terms as Florida governor, Republican candidate Jeb Bush on Monday vowed to shake up the status quo in Washington, D.C. if he is elected president.

“I was a governor who refused to go along with that establishment. I wasn’t a member of the club, and that made all the difference,” Mr. Bush said, according to his prepared remarks given at Florida State University in Tallahassee. “Should I win this election, you will not find me deferring to the settled ways of ‘Mount Washington,’ either.”

What Donald Trump Has Said -- About McCain, Obama, Immigrants, His Hair

Vowing to reform Washington, D.C. is a common talking point for presidential candidates, and it’s an especially tough case to make by a candidate who is the son and brother of past presidents.

Mr. Bush touted the state’s average annual economic growth of 4.4% on his watch, his vetoes of $2 billion in spending projects, and the state’s upgraded bond rating. He was considered one of the most aggressive conservative governors when he served from 1999 to 2007.

As president, Mr. Bush said he would support a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, line-item veto power, an overhaul of the defense procurement process, more detailed vetting of budget requests from federal agencies, and a freeze on federal hiring.

As governor, Mr. Bush stripped civil service protections from more than 16,000 state jobs, making workers easier to fire, a move that presaged fights Republican governors later waged in other states. Mr. Bush said Monday that federal employees should retain civil rights and whistleblower protections but that it should be easier to remove unproductive employees. He also backed merit pay and financial incentives for managers who reduce spending.

Mr. Bush also proposed that members of Congress should report their meetings with lobbyists online, and that the definition of lobbyists should be expanded “to address the cadre of ‘government relations’ and ‘government affairs’ specialists now populating the Capitol.” Ex-House and Senate members should be banned from lobbying for six years, he said.

Bush's speech is the first in a series to lay out his domestic priorities and he is expected later this year to release proposals dealing with entitlement programs and his plan to replace President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. He'll also hold town hall-style meetings in South Carolina and New Hampshire later this week.

Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush vows to cut spending, rein in lobbying // AP // Gary Fineout – July 20, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush on Monday vowed to rein in federal spending and combat the "arrogance," "sheer incompetence" and size of government if he's elected.

In a speech aimed at President Barack Obama's administration as well as his rivals for the GOP nomination, Bush called for limiting new hires in government and extending the ban on former members of Congress from lobbying their colleagues to six years.

Bush also called for amending the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced budget and to give the president line-item veto power to challenge what he called "Mount Washington," a quip echoing his time as governor when he called the state capital "Mount Tallahassee."

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"The overspending, the overreaching, the arrogance, the sheer incompetence of the city are sometimes treated as though it's a fact of life," Bush said during a speech at Florida State University. "But a president should never accept it and I will not. We need a president willing to challenge the whole culture in our nation's capital - and I mean to do it."

Bush gave his speech less than a mile from where he spent eight years as Florida's governor and he pointed repeatedly to his achievements during two terms in office as proof he would fulfill his promises even though he was aided by a solid GOP majority in the Legislature.

Some of his remarks were aimed at fellow Republicans, including Sen. Marco Rubio, who is also running for president. Bush scolded members of Congress who miss votes and said they should forfeit their pay if they are absent. Rubio's missed votes have come under scrutiny recently.

"The reality is that Congress is in session for typically three days a week when they are up there, so it's not asking too much that every member be there and work on those days," Bush said.

A Democratic National Committee spokeswoman called Bush's "talk of government reform nothing but thin air."

"What we have seen from Jeb Bush before, we will see again - greater income inequality, sky high debt, allegiances to lobbyists and a failed economic agenda that benefits the wealthy," said Christina Freundlich. "Bush may have an elevated sense of his record here - but those who are paying attention know better. "

When Bush became governor in 1999, Republicans controlled both houses of the Legislature and the governor's mansion for the first time in more than a century. Many GOP leaders, including current FSU President John Thrasher, were eager to work with him many initiatives, including an overhaul of the state's public school system. That effort remains contentious 15 years after it was put in place.

Bush noted that as governor he pushed through tax cuts and overhauled the state's civil service system. He cut taxes consistently while the state's economy tracked upward, in part due to a supercharged real estate market that collapsed after he left office. But overall state spending also rose during his administration.

If he's elected Bush said he would save money by implementing a freeze on new hiring and to replace only one person for every three federal workers that retire. He said his goal was to eliminate 10 percent of the federal workforce within five years.

He also promised to crack down on the influence of lobbyists, noting that as governor he enacted a strict ban on gifts from lobbyists to legislators. He made his comments before an audience filled with many of his supporters and former aides who are now registered lobbyists. One of Bush's top advisers, Sally Bradshaw, is married to the founder of one of Tallahassee's most successful lobbying firms.

Jeb Bush says that 'arrogance and sheer incompetence' have been accepted in DC for too long // AP // Gary Fineout – July 20, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush, who pursued an aggressive agenda when he was Florida's governor for eight years, returns to the state capital on Monday where he plans to outline his top domestic priorities if elected.

The speech on the campus of Florida State University could include some of Bush's most forceful statements to

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date. In a preview on his campaign website Bush said it's time to challenge what he calls "Mount Washington." When he was governor Bush referred to state government as "Mount Tallahassee."

"We need a president who will not defer to the settled ways of 'Mount Washington,'" states Bush's campaign website. "The overspending, the overreaching, the arrogance and sheer incompetence has been accepted for too long."

It's not surprising that Bush would begin rolling out a series of policies even as the field for president continues to grow. Before he ran for president he constantly urged other Republicans to offer up alternatives to Democratic-backed ideas like President Barack Obama's health care overhaul instead of just opposing them.

The speech also reinforces Bush's attempts to distance himself from the other Washington politicians in the race, including U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, who is also from Florida.

When Bush became governor in 1999 it marked the first time that Republicans had complete control of Florida state government in more than a century. Many GOP leaders, including current FSU President John Thrasher, were eager to work with him on a long line of substantial initiatives, including an overhaul of the state's public school system that remains contentious 15 years after it was first put in place.

Bush, who has been an infrequent visitor to Tallahassee since he left office in 2007, is expected to tout that record as proof of his ability to push forward changes on taxes and spending. His website includes a video mentioning that Bush balanced budgets for eight years and built up billions in reserves while slashing state worker jobs.

The video, however, does not note that Florida requires the state to pass a balanced budget. The reserves cited by Bush also include money that the state won in a landmark settlement reached with the nation's tobacco companies prior to his election.

Bush was able to cut taxes consistently while he was governor because the state's economy tracked upward, part of which was due to a supercharged real estate market that collapsed after he left office.

Jeb Bush vows to shrink Washington's bloat **// Politico // Matt Dixon – July 20, 2015**

Jeb Bush kicked off a series of policy speeches in his old political stomping ground on Monday, rolling out a reform agenda for “Mount Washington,” a spinoff of the nickname he gave Tallahassee during his eight years as governor.

“We used to call this city 'Mount Tallahassee' because it was so remote from the people, caught up in the settled ways of a comfortable establishment,” Bush said to an audience of political supporters.

The former governor, who served from 1999 through 2007, used the speech to push for a handful of policy proposals he said will clean up Washington, outlining a plan to to blunt elected officials' ability to get rich by leaving office and quickly turning around to lobby their former colleagues, add transparency to lobbying meetings and expand the president’s veto power.

Bush delivered the roughly 30-minute speech to a room stocked with more than 200 allies, many of whom worked in his administration before transitioning to the lobbying firms that line Tallahassee’s downtown streets.

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Bush highlighted lobbying reforms he signed while he was in office, including a “gift ban” that prohibited lobbyists or any entity that employed a registered lobbyists from buying meals or gifts for lawmakers.

“Over time, lobbyists and legislators grew too comfortable in each other’s company,” Bush said, calling the gift ban one of the “strictest lobbying reforms in the county.”

He called for federal lobbying reforms, including forcing members of Congress to post any meetings with lobbyists online, and extending to six years a ban on members leaving office and becoming lobbyists.

“If I am elected president, I will use all of my influence to enact into law an immediate, unequivocal six-year ban on lobbying — a full Senate term — for ex-members of the House and Senate,” Bush said, to loud applause.

Bush's remarks also criticized members of Congress who miss votes, a category that includes Marco Rubio, a Miami Republican who is also running for president. (In February, POLITICO reported on a Vocativ analysis that showed Rubio had missed the most votes of any senator—a total off 99 votes, or about 8 percent, of the total 1,198 cast since he joined the Senate in 2011.)

Bush joked legislation blocking pay for members who miss votes might not pass, but at least “it would get them there for a vote.”

He also highlighted parts of his record that he said helped shrink the size of government in Tallahassee, a city he likened to Washington for its bloated special interests.

Bush slashed the state workforce by 13,000 workers — or about 11 percent — in his eight years in office, an accomplishment that has already been touted by Right to Rise, a pro-Bush super PAC. A video released by Bush’s campaign prior to his visit boasted of 13,000 “fewer bureaucrats” after the governor’s eight years in office.

Bush said he would call for a federal hiring freeze, as part of his efforts to slim “federal bureaucracy.”

“It is a fairly safe bet that not everyone who leaves needs to be replaced,” he said.

Bush also boasted of his heavy veto pen as governor, having vetoed over $2 billion in state spending, which earned him the nickname “Veto Corleone.”

He said the president has to act in the “national interest,” which requires the ability to line-item veto specific spending items, a power he enjoyed as governor of Florida.

“It’s time to revive Veto Corleone,” he said.

Democrats who served during Bush’s administration decried his cuts.

“Most of those cuts had been employees that were in critical services,” said Democrat Dan Gelber, who served in the House from 2001 to 2008, in an interview before the speech. “Florida has always been austere. We did not have a lot of staff before the cuts.”

Though he racked up large numbers of vetoes, the size of the Florida’s overall budget did grow from roughly $50 billion during Bush’s first year in office to $71 billion when he left in 2007.

Bush said as president he would push for a balanced budget amendment, saying he had “balanced Florida’s budget” for eight consecutive years. (Florida politicians regularly tout a balanced budget on the stump, without mentioning that the state constitution requires a balanced budget.)

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Bush also cited improvements to the state's child welfare system while he was in office, including changes spurred by the death of 4-year-old Rilya Wilson, was a foster child in the care of the Department of Children and Families.

She disappeared in 2000, but DCF did not notice she was missing until 2002. Her death prompted the "Rilya Wilson Act," a 2003 law that required children in state custody enrolled in an early learning program to attend that program five days per week. An unreported absence now prompts a DCF home visit.

"Working with the Florida legislature we stepped up our commitment to community-based care and made the system much more responsive," Bush said.

But Gelber, who served as the House's top Democrat just after Bush's tenure, said the deep cuts across state government had contributed to a dangerous lack of oversight at the agency. (A Miami Herald investigation in 2014 found that 477 children whose cases had some contact with the department had died since 2008, the year after Bush left office.)

"I don't know how anyone can point to hundreds, maybe thousands, dying without regretting not having that oversight," said Gelber.

Bush did not meet with reporters after the speech. Aides said they were "crunched for time," but would not elaborate on the candidate's schedule.

Jeb Bush Takes Aim at Revolving Door in Washington **// Bloomberg // Michael Bender – July 20, 2015**

U.S. lawmakers leaving Congress should be banned for six years from lobbying, tripling the current prohibition, and prevented from influencing government as consultants, said Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush.

In what his campaign billed as a major address about government reform, Bush also vowed to reduce the federal workforce by 10 percent over five years by hiring only one new employee for every three who leave. He said he supports a line item veto, giving the president the authority to cut spending, and a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Lawmakers should have their pay docked for missing legislative days, Bush said, something his Senate rivals for the Republican nomination occasionally have been known to do.

"It will not be my intention to preside over the establishment, but in every way I know to disrupt that establishment and make it accountable to the people," said Bush, the son and brother of former presidents and the grandson of a former senator, adding that his record in Florida shows he can be a government reformer.

Bush's speech in Tallahassee, the Florida capital where he spent eight years as governor, is the first in a series of policy addresses from the presidential contender. Already a favorite of establishment Republicans, Bush is appealing to the party's grassroots small-government movement with tough talk on Washington.

Saying the federal system of acquiring military equipment is broken, Bush encouraged competition among defense contractors and called for a simplified chain of command in military's procurement process. A document provided the Bush campaign took aim at the F-22 Raptor, the Comanche Helicopter and the Zumwalt Destroyer, saying the federal government could increase efficiency by upgrading defense systems over time, instead of

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"waiting decades to launch a new ship or plan with every conceivable bell and whistle."

"The Pentagon's acquisition system is so swamped with regulations, only a handful of giant defense companies can compete for big contracts," Bush said, endorsing reforms from Senator John McCain and Representative Mac Thornberry, the Republican chairmen of the Armed Services committees in their respective chambers.

Targeting a lobbying industry that he said has spent $12.5 million per member of Congress at last count, Bush designed his six-year lobbying ban would ensure than senators serve at least one full term without being influenced by a former colleague. Current restrictions prevent senators from lobbying for two years, and House members for just one.

Miles Rapoport, president of Common Cause, a Washington-based group that advocates for tougher lobbying restrictions, praised Bush's proposals, saying a six-year ban would be "at the top end of what we would have wished or hoped for."

"It's a strong statement," Rapoport, a former Democratic Connecticut secretary of state. "It reflects the fact that voters are really turning into the idea that there are real problems in how Washington's campaign finance and lobbying industries are operating."

The Republican presidential candidate also proposed weekly, online disclosure of lobbyists' meetings with members of Congress, and an expansion of the definition of lobbying to capture the growing class of what has come to be known as "unlobbyists," which Bush defined as an "ambiguous class" of individuals who don't register to lobby but belong to "the cadre of 'government relations' and 'government affairs' specialists now populating the Capitol."

Lax regulations defining lobbyists have allowed many former congressional staffers and even former members of Congress to hire on with organizations that do lobbying but not register as lobbyists.

"We need to help politicians to rediscover life outside of Washington, which—who knows—might even be a pleasant surprise for them," Bush said.

Without naming names, Bush took a aim at some current members who already have been spending time outside Washington. Some of the former governor's top rivals for the Republican nomination are U.S. senators, including Marco Rubio of Florida and Ted Cruz of Texas, who have missed votes in recent months while campaigning and raising money.

"A bill to dock the pay of absentee members might not pass the House or Senate, but at least it would get them all there for a vote," Bush said. "If we can't always get them on the job, let's at least get them on the record."

Bush said his first reform would be the partial freeze on hiring for the federal government, whose civilian workforce includes about 2 million employees. His plan, which would make an exception for security and safety workers, would save the government "tens of billions of dollars" without adding to unemployment, Bush said. A document provided by the campaign showed that 31 percent of the federal workforce will be eligible for retirement by September 2017.

Bush also suggested that federal workers are collecting too much compensation without enough oversight, and said it should be easier to fire an "unproductive employee." Bush criticized the federal government for firing just 0.18 percent of its workforce for cause in 2013, but didn't suggest an appropriate alternative.

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In a Swipe at Rivals, Jeb Bush Proposes to Dock Pay for Absentee Lawmakers // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – July 20, 2015

Jeb Bush proposal Monday "to dock pay of absentee members" of Congress amounted to a crafty swipe at his Republican presidential rivals, most notably his "good friend," Senator Marco Rubio.

"Consider a pattern in Congress of members who sometimes seem to regard attendance and voting as optional, something to do as time permits," the former Florida governor said during a speech in Tallahassee taking aim at institutional Washington. "And if it's an incentive they need, how about the one that pretty much every worker in America has in their job? If you don't show up, you don't get paid for the time that you miss."

Not-so-coincidentally, some of the biggest truants in the current Congress include several of Bush's presidential rivals, whose White House bids have caused them to miss many votes this year. Topping it is none other than Bush's home-state ally turned rival: Rubio has recently faced criticism for being the most absentee member of the Senate. So far in the 114th Congress, the first-term Floridian has missed 72 out of 249 votes, an absentee rate of 29 percent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Government.

Others aren't much better: Texas Senator Ted Cruz has missed 24 percent of votes so far this year; South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham has missed 23 percent of votes. Of the Senate presidential hopefuls, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul, stands out for having made 99.9 percent of the Senate roll call votes this year. He missed just three this year.

Balancing the demands of a presidential campaign with the Senate's often unpredictable schedule sometimes gets awkward: In April, Cruz gave an impassioned speech urging senators to reject the nomination of Loretta Lynch for U.S. attorney general, whom he warned had "embraced the lawlessness" of the Obama administration. By the time the Senate held a final vote on the nomination, he had skipped town, apparently for a fundraiser in Texas.

It's a convenient swipe for Bush, who hasn't held elected office since 2007 and, given his disclosed earnings, doesn't need a full-time job as he runs for president. While roll call votes provide an easy metric to measure lawmakers' performance, other officeholders, such as governors, aren't as vulnerable. But Bush's proposal also highlights a real problem: Members of Congress can skip votes whenever they want, without having to explain why, and the only accountability they face is reelection. For senators, that's just once every six years.

This year's crop of senators running for president aren't the first to rack up jarring absentee rates as they barnstorm the country courting votes and raising money. During the 2008 election cycle, Republican nominee John McCain missed 64 percent of votes; Democratic nominee Barack Obama missed 46 percent, according to GovTrack.us.

For now, Paul isn't the only one bucking the trend: Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who's running for the Democratic presidential nomination, has missed just six votes this year, marking an attendance rate of 99.8 percent.

'Constitutional questions'

Though Bush's proposal could win him points with good-government advocates, members of Congress are about as likely to pass a bill cutting their own pay as they are to dance naked en masse in Statuary Hall. And there is another hurdle: the 27th Amendment to the Constitution. "No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened," it states.

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That means there's no way lawmakers can be prevented from receiving full pay during a given Congress. The last clause of the amendment, however, may leave room to enact a law tying pay to attendance, as long as it takes effect after the following election.

"Bush's play-to-pay law raises some important constitutional questions," said Adam Winkler, a constitutional law professor at UC Irvine School of Law. He said Article I, Section 6 gives Congress authority to establish compensation for members, although there are "questions of timing" due to the 27th Amendment. "No law changing the terms of compensation can go into immediate effect, but it could be delayed."

Asked about the constitutional barrier, a Bush campaign spokesperson said Congress seems to have the power to link pay to attendance, pointing to a passage in Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution that authorizes Congress to "compel the attendance of absent members" and "under such penalties as each House may provide."

Jeb Bush vows Washington culture shake-up **// Reuters – July 20, 2015**

U.S. Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush will vow on Monday to shake up Washington's culture if he reaches the White House, saying an "era of excuses" in the nation's capital must end.

Bush plans to say in a speech in Tallahassee, Florida, that he wants to reduce U.S. government debt, spark higher economic growth, cut spending and tackle other problems, such as the number of people on the federal payroll.

"It will not be my intention to preside over the establishment, but in every way I know to disrupt that establishment and make it accountable to the people," the former Florida governor said in excerpts released by his campaign.

Bush, whose father and brother both served as U.S. president, has been eager to avoid appearing as if he is a creature of Washington or part of a political dynasty.

He has pointed to his record in Florida to cast himself as a reformer and to separate himself from the pack of Republicans seeking the party's nomination for president in the November 2016 election.

On Monday, Bush will say Floridians called their capital "Mount Tallahassee," before he took over as governor, because its leaders held themselves apart from their constituents. He said the problems in Washington were similar and would be unacceptable if he were president.

Jeb Bush on John McCain: 'A real hero' **// CNN // Ashley Killough – July 20, 2015**

Bipartisan elected officials from the White House all the way to the wide open Republican primary field are using incendiary comments from Donald Trump to praise former prisoner-of-war Sen. John McCain.

Jeb Bush broke from his prepared remarks of a policy speech Monday to declare that McCain is a "real hero," as Donald Trump insists that he owes no apology to McCain for questioning the Arizona senator's military heroism.

Trump, who's experienced a bump in the polls since announcing his presidential bid last month, is known for his unfiltered rhetoric, but the comments made at an Iowa voter forum from over the weekend drew immediate and near universal rebuke from other elected officials and candidates.

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Making his pitch for reforming Washington, Bush said Monday in Tallahassee that he supports a proposal by McCain, who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, to change the defense procurement process.

When Bush mentioned McCain's name, he interjected to describe the former GOP presidential nominee as "a real hero, by the way." The audience, largely comprised of his former associates from his days as governor, broke out into huge applause.

Shortly after Bush's comments, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said that despite the difference between President Barack Obama and his former campaign rival McCain, "have not reduced (Obama's) appreciation for Sen. McCain's remarkable service to the country," adding Obama had "deep respect for Sen. McCain's heroism."

Responding for the first time himself, McCain said Monday morning that he didn't feel Trump owed him an apology, suggesting instead the billionaire real estate developer apologize to American veterans.

"... I think he may owe an apology to the families of those who have sacrificed in conflict and those who have undergone the prison experience in serving our country," McCain told MSNBC's "Morning Joe".

Bush was quick to defend McCain on Twitter on Saturday, when Trump stirred controversy by saying McCain wasn't a war hero because he was captured.

"Enough with the slanderous attacks. @SenJohnMcCain and all our veterans - particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration," he tweeted.

And Bush was by no means the only 2016 candidate condemning Trump's comments. Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, as well as Republican Sens. Marco Rubio and Lindsey Graham condemned the remarks.

"It's not just absurd, it's offensive" Rubio said in an interview Sunday with CNN's Jake Tapper on "State of the Union." "It's ridiculous. And I do think it's a disqualifier as commander-in-chief."

Jeb Bush defends McCain, but supported Swift Boat attacks against Kerry // CNN // Jeremy Diamond – July 20, 2015

After Donald Trump questioned Republican Sen. John McCain's status as a war hero, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush quickly jumped to McCain's defense.

"Enough with the slanderous attacks. @SenJohnMcCain and all our veterans - particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration," he tweeted on Saturday.

But that outrage was missing ten years ago, when a political group attacked another Vietnam veteran -- then-Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic nominee who sought to unseat Bush's brother, the incumbent president, during the 2004 election.

Instead, Bush praised Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, the group that lobbed attacks questioning Kerry's service record in Vietnam -- attacks McCain unequivocally criticized in 2004 as "dishonest and dishonorable."

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When his campaign was asked if Jeb Bush saw a double standard, a spokesman rejected the premise.

"A thank you letter to Col. Bud Day, Medal of Honor recipient and Air Force Cross recipient, twice captured as a POW, is not in any way analogous to condemning Donald Trump's slanderous attack on John McCain," said Bush campaign spokesman Tim Miller.

In a letter to the head of that group obtained by CNN, Bush thanked Col. George Day for his "unwavering support" and thanked the group for "their willingness to stand up against John Kerry."

"As someone who truly understands the risk of standing up for something, I simply cannot express in words how much I value their willingness to stand up against John Kerry," Bush wrote in a letter dated January 19, 2005.

Of the group's members, Bush added: "Their efforts, like their service to their country, speak volumes about what matters most."

All of the charges were contradicted by official military records and almost all of the men who served with Kerry came out in defense of their former crewmate, praising his courage. Only one of the swift boat critics served with Kerry.

Kerry received several medals for his service in Vietnam, including several Purple Heart medals for injuries he sustained in combat.

The Swift Boat attacks have since been widely discredited and the term swiftboating is now synonymous with lobbing unfair political attacks.

Jeb Bush Wants Military Recruiters Armed...Overturning His Dad's Policy // HuffPo // John Tures – July 20, 2015

Presidential candidate Jeb Bush says he wants to overturn the ban on arming military recruiters, a response to the killing of five servicemen in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In doing so, he'll undo a policy enacted under his dad's administration, back in 1992.

In a campaign stop in Nevada, Bush said "it seems to me that if you have military bases or recruiting offices, these are symbols of American might, they're targets." He also called upon Congress to act to overturn the ban.

Ironically, Jeb Bush would be overturning a policy from his father's presidential administration, adopted when President George H. W. Bush was in the last year of his term in office.

Oliver Darcy with The Blaze, a site founded by conservative talk show host Glen Beck, reported that the having recruiting stations become "gun free zones" came from Department of Defense Directive 5210.56, signed by Donald J. Atwood, Deputy Defense Secretary under George H. W. Bush.

Fox News guest Chad Jenkins said:

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"Well, and look at the Fort Hood shootings. We had two shootings now that were mass casualty situations and now the recruiting station. Unfortunately, the executive order put in place by President Bill Clinton back in the nineties took away the rights for service members to carry, conceal, and to protect themselves here in the homeland."

The conservative "Patriot Post" makes a similar claim.

In researching all of President Bill Clinton's Executive Orders (you can look for yourself here) from 1993, none of them covered this issue.

I did find this military regulation, Army Regulation 190-14, signed in March of 1993. But all it does is implement the Bush Administration policy from 1992.

Army Chief of Staff Ray Odierno, who served as the military commander in charge of forces in Iraq during the George W. Bush Administration, said he'll review the policy, but noted that such a policy could cause more problems than it solves. Sure enough, in Gainesville, Georgia, a recruiter accidentally shot himself while on duty.

A lot of the debate after shootings at Ft. Hood (and the less documented shooting at an Arkansas military recruiting station) was about whether the act was terrorism or workplace violence, missing the point about whether the military should protect itself better against either event.

I'm inclined to agree with Republican candidates (others like Scott Walker and Donald Trump agree with Jeb Bush) and like Bobby Jindal's plan for providing armed guards for these stations. But I don't agree with attempts to blame the incident on Bill Clinton. Evidence shows the policy was developed before Clinton became president.

And Republicans who want to lift the gun ban should be prepared to explain it to a small group of constituents, the ones who have conspiracy theories about the military concerning exercises like "Jade Helm 15" and the belief that our military is about to put us all in Wal-Mart concentration camps.

Jeb Bush releases new web ad accusing Trump and Obama of divisiveness **// CBS News – July 20, 2015**

Jeb Bush's campaign released a new web ad during the height of the Trump dustup over the weekend, called "Come join us," and it goes after Donald Trump and Barack Obama for their "divisiveness."

The ad, a compilation of Bush moments on the campaign trail, says, "We need to focus on the things that tie us together, and whether it's Donald Trump or Barack Obama, their rhetoric of divisiveness is wrong."

Bush presents himself as a contrast, saying, "I campaign embracing diversity. Come join us - come join the team that is creating hope and opportunity."

And, he continues, "A Republican will never win by striking fear into people's hearts."

Bush has criticized Trump on the campaign trail, notably over Trump's remarks about Mexican immigrants, which he called "extraordinarily ugly." Trump, for his part, has claimed he doesn't see Bush as "a factor" in the race.

Jeb Bush Pledges to 'Challenge the Whole Culture' of D.C. **// NBC News // Carrie Dann – July 20, 2015**

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Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush pledged on Monday to stir up the "settled culture" of Washington D.C. by shrinking government, overhauling lobbying rules and granting the White House line-item veto power.

"The overspending, the overreaching, the arrogance, and the sheer incompetence in that city - these problems have been with us so long that they are sometimes accepted as facts of life. But a president should never accept them, and I will not. We need a president willing to challenge the whole culture in our nation's capital - and I mean to do it," he said in remarks in Tallahassee, Florida.

Bush, who served two terms as the governor of Florida, pointed to his experience in the state, saying that his record as a reformer makes him well equipped to cut government spending and waste in Washington.

"It will not be my intention to preside over the establishment, but in every way I know to disrupt that establishment and make it accountable to the people," he said.

He pledged to push Congress to submit a balanced budget amendment to the states, and he praised proposals to reform outdated government procurement protocols.

He also proposed a hiring freeze on federal workers and a six year ban on lobbying for former members of the House and Senate.

"We need to help politicians to rediscover life outside of Washington, which - who knows? - might even be a pleasant surprise for them," he joked.

Jeb Bush ahead of Marco Rubio among Cuban-Am erican GOP voters in Miami, poll finds // Fox News // Serafin Gomez – July 20, 2015

A new poll published Monday by the Miami Herald shows that former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush leads fellow Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio among Cuban-Americans in Miami-Dade County — which both candidates call home.

Rubio, whose parents were born in Cuba, trails Bush 31 percent to 43 percent among GOP registered voters. The other Cuban-American presidential hopeful, Sen. Ted Cruz from Texas, only registered 7 percent in the county, according to the survey conducted by Bendixen & Amandi International.

Among all Miami-Dade GOP registered voters, Bush also led 35 to 25 percent over Rubio.

Miami-Dade is the most populous county of the Sunshine state.

Bush endeared himself to the Cuban-American community during his two terms, with a pro-business, anti-Castro rhetoric that resonated among Latino voters in Florida.

“In spite of the fact that Jeb enjoys honorary Cuban status, he does that much better than the person who would be the first potential Cuban-American president of the United States,” pollster Fernand Amandi told the Miami Herald.

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“It could be a very difficult number for Marco,” he added. “When he can’t win over the heart of his base, what does that mean for his prospects of winning the primary in Florida?”

Being fluent in Spanish may also help him in the Cuban-heavy county. In a separate article back in June, the Herald noted that the former governor is the only one of the three who speaks Spanish at home — and with a slight Cuban-American accent.

“He speaks Spanish better than some of us,” a young Cuban-American lawmaker named Marco Rubio said of Bush in 2002, the Herald said.

“He’s practically Cuban, just taller,” Rubio added.

Bush has lived in Venezuela and Mexico, where he not only taught English as a second language but also met his wife, Columba.

The Bendixen survey polled 600 registered voters in English and Spanish between July 8-14. It has an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

'We'll all become conservatives': Jeb Bush pledges budget reform in Florida // The Guardian // Tom McCarthy – July 20, 2015

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush returned on Monday to the state capitol to accuse the federal government of broad incompetence and present himself as the person to fix it.

Touting his record as a steward of the Florida economy and scourge of do-nothing bureaucrats, Bush sought to create sparks in the damp caverns where people go to discuss deficit spending, federal procurements and civil service contracts.

The presidential candidate mixed in some politics. He railed against absenteeism in Congress, without mentioning by name the member with the worst attendance record, according to a February study – Florida senator Marco Rubio, Bush’s former ally and Republican presidential rival.

Bush also went out of his way to praise Senator John McCain – “a real hero, by the way” – after a weekend in which a remarkable amount of political oxygen was consumed by another White House pretender, Donald Trump, and his attack on McCain’s war record.

The bulk of Bush’s speech, however, was given to workmanlike promises to reshape the federal budget, founded on boasts, some of which have attracted robust skepticism, about his record in two terms as Florida governor.

Bush said, as he did last month in announcing his candidacy, that he would lead the country to 4% economic growth, pointing to Florida’s 4.4% growth and 1.3m jobs added during his tenure, from 1999–2007.

Much of Florida’s nominal success, however, was driven by the real estate speculation that made the state ground zero for the national housing bubble that burst just as Bush left office. In the next four years, the state shed 900,000 of those 1.3m jobs.

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In his return to Tallahassee on Monday, Bush called for a balanced budget amendment, line-item veto power for the president, an overhaul of defense department procurements, a federal hiring freeze and an end to automatic "baseline" funding increases.

"It doesn't matter who's the cause of all this," Bush said. "It's time to reform all these things to make government smaller so that we can rise up again."

Looking past the numbers, Bush cast the promise of smaller government in terms of political enlightenment, with capital-R Republicanism as an end. "A self-governing society doesn't need the kind of government we have," he said. "By our very nature we'll all become conservatives, because demands on government will subside."

Jeb Bush Wants Every Single Lobbyist-Lawmaker Meeting Made Public // The Daily Caller // Alex Pappas – July 20, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush said Monday he would like to see a new law requiring lawmakers to disclose all meetings with lobbyists.

"We need to reform disclosure rules in Washington," Bush said in a speech Monday morning in Tallahassee. "Here is what I propose: every time a lobbyist meets with any member of Congress, that should be reported online – every week, and on the member's official website."

Bush said the "definition of the term 'lobbyist' should be expanded to address the cadre of 'government relations' and 'government affairs' specialists now populating the Capitol."

The Republican also said he wants a law that would increase the amount of time between lawmakers leaving the House and Senate and becoming lobbyists.

"I will use all of my influence to enact into law an immediate, unequivocal six-year ban on lobbying – a full Senate term – for ex-members of the House and Senate," he said.

As for the executive branch, Bush said, "We will take similar measures at the White House. I will strengthen existing prohibitions that prevent departing executive branch employees from lobbying members of my administration."

During his speech at Florida State University, Bush presented his plan for reducing the federal workforce by implementing a freeze on hiring.

"We will go by a simple three-out, one-in rule across the federal workforce, with exceptions for critical positions related to our security and safety," he said. "Only one new hire for every three who leave."

Added Bush: "This policy can, on its own, reduce the size of the federal bureaucracy by 10 percent within 5 years."

Jeb Bush Wants to Cut Automatic Raises for Federal Employees // National Journal // Eric Katz – July 20, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Jeb Bush on Monday outlined how he would overhaul the federal civil service if he is elected president, including a proposal to transform the pay-raise system for federal employees.

Speaking at Florida State University in Tallahassee, the former Florida governor said the practice of awarding the approximately 2.1 million federal employees an across-the-board pay raise each year should be done away with. Billed as a policy address to spell out his economic agenda, Bush detailed the importance of modernizing what he called an outdated federal personnel system.

Bush said the civil service, like much of federal government, operates problematically without anyone "stopping to ask why."

He added: "It's a system in the old ways, rule by inertia and unaccountable to the people. With more than 2 million people on the federal payroll, these programs and these problems carry a heavy cost, and a few serious reforms will go a long way."

The first reform of a Bush administration would be to institute a federal hiring freeze. Over the next five years, Bush said with a smile on his face, it is a "fairly safe bet" that not everyone who retires would need to be replaced. Therefore, he explained, his administration would fill just one out of every three vacancies created by departing federal workers. The plan echoes one lined out in the budgets of Wisconsin GOP Rep. Paul Ryan, which were twice approved by House Republicans.

Like the Ryan budget, Bush would make exceptions for national-security positions. He said the strategy would allow for a 10 percent reduction in the size of the federal workforce within five years. Coupled with other reforms, however, Bush said he would slash more than 10 percent of the workforce within his first term and save "tens of billions of dollars without adding to unemployment."

Bush called the personnel system a "relic of the 1970s" under the Carter administration, which "didn't have the taxpayers' interest foremost in mind."

"The whole idea of management is to reward good performance and make the best the standard," Bush said. "And that's not the system we have in Washington, D.C. right now."

The next significant reform would be to undo rewarding "longevity instead of performance." He said federal employees earn, on average, $1,500 more in annual salary than their private sector counterparts, and $16,000 more in benefits.

The private-federal pay gap has long been disputed, with conservative groups finding that feds earn more than their private-sector peers, federal-employee groups finding that nonpublic employees earn more, and the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office concluding that there was no clear way to make the determination.

Regardless of that debate, Bush said the pay system does not provide the proper incentives to "bring out the best" in public servants or to improve the morale of the federal workforce.

"Just like in the real world, compensation should depend on the type of work, and the quality of the work," Bush said.

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To fix that issue, Congress and the White House should no longer approve across-the-board pay raises, he said. Instead, Bush said the government should move to a merit-based pay system. Bush's brother, former President George W. Bush, oversaw moving the Senior Executive Service to a pay-for-performance system.

"If we respect and recognize skill and dedication when we see them," Bush said, "then I promise you we'll see a lot more excellence in the ranks of civil service and we'll attract new talent as well."

Additionally, Bush proposed giving bonuses to managers who identify ways to cut spending at their agencies, similar to a proposal put forward by another 2016 Republican presidential contender—Sen. Rand Paul—earlier this year.

"When federal employees are found squandering money, we should call them out on it," Bush said. "And when they find ways to save money, we should reward them." Bush noted that as governor, he instituted the Davis productivity awards. Employees that find ways to "shrink government" deserve bonuses, he said.

The third tenant of Bush's civil-service reforms, which he called "long overdue," would make it easier to fire federal workers. Bush did not lay out specifics of which civil-service laws he would attempt to change, but did promise to maintain "civil rights and whistleblower protections." Otherwise, he said, the time it takes to "remove an unproductive employee should be weeks, rather than years."

"There are a lot of exemplary employees in the federal workforce, but they're treated no better than the bad ones," Bush said. "And the bad ones are nearly impossible to effectively discipline or remove." He added that "job security is one thing; job entitlement is another." Every removal of a federal employee should not be a "federal case," Bush said.

The son and brother of former presidents hailed his ability to transform the personnel system in Florida during his eight years as governor.

In his first term, Bush introduced his "Service First" reforms to remake much of the state's workforce. Bush successfully stripped Florida's 16,000 career managers and supervisors of due-process protections by turning them into at-will employees. Bush also changed the policy for "cause" from a specific list of fireable items to the much broader "sound discretion of an agency head." He coupled those policies with a directive to all state agencies requiring them to issue blueprints for reducing their workforces by 25 percent.

Florida already ranked 50th among states in spending on government salaries per citizen, but Bush successfully trimmed the number of state employees by 25 percent within five years.

Bush placed his federal civil-service reforms in the broader context of cutting agency spending and reducing the size of government.

"We're going to turn off the automatic switch of discretionary-spending increases and weigh budgets only on its merits," Bush said. "Too much of federal government runs on automatic."

Jeb Bush unveils his plan for 'disrupting' America's government // Business Insider // Maxwell Tani – July 20, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) on Monday laid out his plan for how he'll overhaul federal-government spending if he's elected president.

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In a speech on Monday in Florida, the Republican presidential candidate unveiled his plan for "disrupting" Washington by downsizing the federal government.

Bush's plan takes aim at the federal budget. He proposes cutting the number of federal employees by at least 10% and radically overhauling the budget process to require a balanced budget, a controversial prescription popular with the conservative base.

"It will not be my intention to preside over the establishment, but in every way I know to disrupt that establishment and make it accountable to the people," Bush said.

Bush is calling his reform effort "Mount Washington," a reference to "Mount Tallahassee," the disparaging nickname given to Florida's state government for being far removed and inaccessible to the people.

Here are the reforms that Bush outlined in his speech:

Balanced budget amendment. Bush says that he will push for a constitutional amendment that would require the federal government to balance its budget every year. The idea has been gaining steam in conservative circles for some time, though it seems difficult to achieve considering opposition in blue states.

Line-item veto. Bush supports a line-item veto like the one sponsored by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin). According to The Washington Post, Ryan's 2012 line-item veto bill proposed granting the president the ability to send budget items that he or she dislikes back to Congress for an amendment-free up or down vote. Proponents believe that this will allow the president to cut wasteful spending, while critics note that Ryan's plan reduces the deficit, instead of allowing the money saved to go back into the pot. President Bill Clinton briefly enjoyed a line-item budget veto, but it was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Federal employee hiring freeze. Bush says that he will institute a policy of hiring one employee for every three who leave when it comes to federal hiring, with the exception of national-security related jobs. Bush suggested that federal agencies shouldn't replace many workers who retire — according to the governor, 10% of the federal workforce will retire within the next five years, and "not everyone who leaves has to be replaced."

Merit pay. Bush claims too many mediocre federal employees are being paid the same as exemplary employees. Though he didn't delve too far into specifics on this point, the former Florida governor said that he'll make it easier to fire bad federal employees.

Dock congressional pay. Bush suggests that members of Congress who don't show up for votes or committee hearings should have their pay docked. This could be seen as a slight dig at some of his primary rivals — Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) has missed more votes than any other senator. Many members have to juggle intense fundraising schedules in addition to their official congressional duties. The Huffington Post reported in 2013 that Democratic freshmen members were advised to spend four hours a day fundraising.

Budget procurement reform. Bush says that he supports a procurement reform plan by Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona). It would reduce the Secretary of Defense's power to dictate military acquisitions, and would change defense contracts to reduce incentives for contractors to not meet deadlines, which results in cost overruns.

Get rid of "baseline budgeting." Bush would no longer measure spending cuts based on last year's budget.

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RUBIO

Rubio: We're in 'the most dangerous phase of the Obama presidency' // The Hill // Jordain Carney – July 20, 2015

Presidential hopeful Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) slammed President Obama for allowing the United Nations Security Council to vote on the Iran nuclear agreement.

“President Obama’s nuclear deal with Iran is a dangerous and destabilizing failure, and it is telling that he is seeking Russia and China’s seal of approval of his deal before administration officials have even briefed Congress," Rubio said in a statement. "The stakes are too far high for America’s security to be outsourced to the United Nations."

Rubio's comments came after the U.N. Security Council unanimously endorsed the deal in a 15-0 vote.

The Iran vote at the U.N. also took place on the same day that the United States and Cuba reopened their embassies as part of the restoration of diplomatic ties.

Rubio, a vocal critical of the president's Cuba policy, linked the two events, suggesting that July 20, 2015, will be remembered as "Obama's capitulation Monday."

"Monday’s events at the U.N., Washington and Havana leave no doubt that we have entered the most dangerous phase of the Obama presidency in which the president is flat-out abandoning America’s vital national security interests to cozy up to the world’s most reprehensible regimes," he added.

“July 20 will be a powerfully symbolic day for the Obama-Clinton foreign policy legacy, which will be remembered as a dark time in American history when the mullahs in Iran and the thugs in Havana celebrated at America’s expense.”

The Florida senator is part of a growing number of Republicans, as well as key Democrats, who pressed the administration to block action at the U.N. until after Congress had 60 days to review the Iran agreement.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), another 2016 presidential candidate, said allowing the U.N. to vote before Congress "is an affront to the American people and further evidence of a weak president trying to sell a bad deal."

The State Department handed over the final parts of the Iran deal to Congress over the weekend, which means the review period officially started Monday.

The pushback over the U.N. Security Council vote is threatening to complicate the administration's sales pitch to Congress, where Republicans have largely disavowed the deal and many Democrats remain skeptical.

Marco Rubio’s Close Relationship With For-Profit Corinthian Colleges // Think Progress // Casey Quinlan – July 20, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), who is running for president in 2016, has a strong record of supporting for-profit colleges, namely Corinthian Colleges, which shut down all of its remaining campuses in April. Rubio has accepted contributions to the tune of $27,600 throughout the past five years. The last donation filed with the Federal Election Commission was for $2,700 on April 30, Bloomberg reported.

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Last year, Rubio also sent a letter requesting that the U.S. Department of Education would exercise "leniency" on Corinthian Colleges by not halting federal aid while it was being investigated. The letter was obtained by Bloomberg Politics and reads, in part:

While I commend the Department's desire to protect our nation's students from fraudulent and malicious activity by any institution of higher education, regardless of tax status, I believe the Department can and should demonstrate leniency as long as Corinthian Colleges, Inc. continues to expeditiously and earnestly cooperate by providing the documents requested.

The U.S. Department of Education stated it would fine Corinthian Colleges for misleading students before the campus shutdowns, citing problems such as falsifying post-graduation data. A 2012 Senate report accounted for several trends in the for-profit college industry, such as poor graduation rates, high tuition, even though students with modest financial resources are targeted, and that they often fail to provide adequate student support services.

Rubio has supported the idea of for-profit colleges in general, not only Corinthian Colleges. In a speech this month in Chicago, he said the rules for colleges' accreditation needed to be loosened for "innovative, low-cost competitors" to succeed. That reference to low-cost competitors is likely shorthand for for-profit colleges. Rubio worked with Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) on a budget amendment earlier this year that would create an alternative accreditation process. However, some would argue that the process of accreditation is already too loose, as the accreditation agencies are paid by the very institutions they oversee through fees.

Rubio is not the only Republican presidential candidate to support for-profit colleges. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker are among those who have spoken in support of or have received money from for-profit colleges.

WALKER

Scott Walker: We might have to take military action on Day One **// WaPo // Greg Sargent – July 20, 2015**

A dispute has erupted between Scott Walker and Jeb Bush over how to handle the task of undoing Obama's Iran deal as president, with Bush hinting that Walker is approaching the issue with a lack of maturity, and Walker suggesting that Bush is not zealous enough about confronting the enemy.

Walker is also saying that it's "very possible" the next president will have to take military action on Day One of his presidency — though it's unclear whether he means against Iran in particular, or more generally.

The argument says a lot about the two candidates' differing calculations with regard to the level of nuance GOP primary voters are prepared to entertain about the Iran deal, and more broadly, about foreign policy in general.

But I think the dispute also underscores the point made by David Axelrod last week: That for all the professed GOP confidence about the domestic politics of the agreement, it could prove to be more of a political problem for the GOP presidential candidates than for Hillary Clinton.

The Weekly Standard reports that Bush said this to a voter in Nevada:

"One thing that I won't do is just say, as a candidate, 'I'm going to tear up the agreement on the first day.' That's great, that sounds great but maybe you ought to check in with your allies first, maybe you ought to appoint a secretary of state, maybe secretary of defense, you might want to have your team in place, before you take an act like that."

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That was a shot at Walker, who has said he would undo an Iran deal on Day One of his presidency, regardless of what our allies have to say about it. Bush subsequently stood by his remarks, noting that on Day One, he would not yet have had the intelligence briefings required to make an informed decision. Bush added: “If you’re running for president, you know, I think it’s important to be mature and thoughtful about this.”

The Weekly Standard report continues thusly:

At a press conference after his appearance at the Family Leader Summit here Saturday, Walker was asked if he thinks Bush is wrong. “He may have his opinion. I believe that a president shouldn’t wait to act until they put a cabinet together or an extended period of time,” Walker said.

“I believe they should be prepared to act on the very first day they take office. It’s very possible – God forbid, but it’s very possible – that the next president could be called to take aggressive actions, including military action, on the first day in office. And I don’t want a president who is not prepared to act on day one. So, as far as me, as far as my position, I’m going to be prepared to be president on day one.”

In a subsequent statement to the Standard, Bush clarified that he thinks the Iran deal is “terrible” and called on Congress to “reject it,” and added:

“Should it be upheld, as President I would begin immediately to responsibly get us out of this deal, with a comprehensive strategy that is responsive to the conditions at the time and confronts Iran’s continued pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability, its support for terrorism and instability, its ballistic missile proliferation, and its horrific human rights record.”

The basic difference here appears to be that Walker believes the next president should start the process of undoing the deal on Day One, while Bush is stopping just short of that and hinting that he would go about this more “responsibly,” and with more solicitude towards changing international conditions. Bush apparently believes he can win the GOP primary while offering a (somewhat) more nuanced and “mature” (his word) approach than Walker. The Wisconsin Governor is apparently trying to appeal to GOP primary voters by portraying Bush’s comments as a sign he’d be more resolved towards Iran (and towards undoing Obama’s deal), and more “prepared” as president.

Obviously, if Congress fails to block the deal, and things go wrong, that could rebound badly on Hillary Clinton, who has already signaled she’ll embrace it. But the dispute between Bush and Walker raises another possibility: That the eventual GOP nominee’s position on the Iran deal could prove a lot harder to explain than Republicans think.

Jeb’s suggestion that he will approach the situation based on the conditions of the moment (that’s crazy talk!!!) suggests an awareness of something that Walker may or may not share: Undoing the deal in 2017 could have all sorts of unpleasant consequences that haven’t been sufficiently gamed out yet. As one expert put it recently, it could undermine our relationships with allies in ways that could have “a lot of ripple effects around wherever the U.S. and Europe have security cooperation.”

What’s more, vowing to undo the agreement would put pressure on the GOP nominee to articulate his alternative. As Axelrod argues, if Democrats can successfully make the case that the only alternative to the Iran deal is likely to be war, then supporting the agreement may well end up being the majority position in this country. (A new Washington Post/ABC News poll finds that 56 percent of Americans support the deal, though a large majority is skeptical that it will work, suggesting Americans want to give it a try even if success is far from assured.)

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Obviously the eventual GOP nominee may not think the consequences that could flow from undoing the deal are all that worrisome, or he may believe that the agreement is so awful that risking those consequences is worth it. But that might prove a tough position to explain, and general election voters might not find it all that persuasive.

UPDATE: A Walker adviser sends over a full transcript of his remarks. It's not entirely clear whether Walker is referring to the possibility of military action on day one against Iran in particular, or more generally. So I've edited the above, just in case he meant the latter.

Still, whatever he meant, the broader point is the same: This dispute between Walker and Bush, over how aggressively to go about undoing the Iran deal, shows that it could create political problems for the GOP nominee, and not necessarily for Hillary Clinton. Here's the transcript:

Walker: "[...] I believe that this deal with Iran is so bad not just because of its implications regarding Iran's illicit nuclear infrastructure, but because we have the premier state sponsor of terrorism now being empowered in that region and by lifting sanctions using economic capacity, as well as the president in terms of his credibility in the world – I think that it's a bad enough deal that it needs to be terminated right off the bat and I will work with the congress not only to reinstate the already previously authorized sanctions but to work with them to put in place even more crippling sanctions and to convince our allies to do the same. To me I just think it's a different opinion, and he may have his opinion.

"I believe that a president shouldn't wait to act until they put a cabinet together or for a certain period of time. I believe that they should be prepared to act on the very first day they take office. It's very possible, God forbid that this would happen, but it's very possible that the next president could be called on to take aggressive actions, including military actions, on their very first day in office, and I don't want a president who is not prepared to act on day one. So as far as me, as far as my position, I'm going to be prepared to be president on day one."

Scott Walker, Confronted by Immigrant in Iowa, Blames Obama for Family's Uncertainty // WSJ // Reid Epstein – July 20, 2015

Some politicians get energized when challenged by protesters. Scott Walker appears calm.

While union protesters are a regular presence outside the Wisconsin governor's 2016 presidential campaign stops, Sunday afternoon marked a rare occasion of his being directly challenged by someone inside of one of his events.

Here, in a no-stoplight town of 450 where Mr. Walker lived as a boy, he'd just concluded an abbreviated version of his stump speech when a 13-year-old girl from Waukesha, Wis., approached him. Mr. Walker put his arm around her shoulder and posed for a photograph. The girl, Leslie Flores, then asked, "Governor Walker, why are you trying to break my family apart?"

What Donald Trump Has Said -- About McCain, Obama, Immigrants, His Hair

Mr. Walker didn't flinch. Within seconds he mentioned he didn't have time for a discussion and turned to walk toward a Fox News crew waiting to record a live interview.

Mr. Walker described his style as a regional affect during a stop earlier in the day in Cedar Falls.

"In the Midwest we just take care of problems. We don't make a lot of fuss, we just go out and get the job done and we go back to work," he said. "Sometimes I think people don't understand that. That's why we didn't lash out [during the 2011 protests against his legislation to strip public-sector unions of collective-bargaining rights]. We just got the job done and moved forward."

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Meanwhile, the Flores family – Leslie was with her father, José, an undocumented immigrant who works as a painter, and 7-year-old brother Luis – told the dozen or so reporters traveling with the Walker campaign their plight. José Flores, 38 years old, came to the U.S. illegally from Mexico 19 years ago. He said he is eligible for President Barack Obama's deferred action program for parents of U.S. citizens. (A federal court has ruled the Mr. Obama doesn't have the authority to implement the program.) Organizers from Voces de la Frontera, the Wisconsin immigrants' rights organization that brought the Flores family here, recorded the exchanges on their smartphones.

"My family is at risk of being separated by being deported," Leslie Flores told the reporters

The immigration issue is a delicate one for Mr. Walker, especially in Iowa where would-be 2016 Republican caucus-goers are steadfastly opposed to Mr. Obama's executive actions on immigration and any path to citizenship for the undocumented. For a decade until earlier this year, Mr. Walker was in favor of a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S. In 2013, when the Senate was weighing an overhaul to the nation's immigration laws, Mr. Walker said increasing border security was unnecessary.

Once he began building a profile as a presidential candidate, Mr. Walker offered a different view. Now, as part of his regular stump speech, he says he is opposed to a path to citizenship (though he has offered a slightly different view in some private conversations), decries "amnesty" and pledges to secure the border. At his direction, Wisconsin joined 25 other states in a lawsuit to block Mr. Obama's DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents) program, for which Mr. Flores said he qualifies.

After his Fox News interview and a tour of the Dietz family farm – Janice Dietz was his childhood babysitter – that included a photo-op with a line of a half-dozen cows, Mr. Walker returned to the Flores family. Leslie had tears welling in her left eye and streaming down her cheek. Both sides were prepared for the second confrontation, and Mr. Walker didn't miss the opportunity to blame Mr. Obama for the family's uncertainty.

"The president had years to deal with this throughout the legitimate legislative process. He even had his own party in charge for the first two years," Mr. Walker told Mr. Flores in a calm, emotionless tone that embodied a father gently scolding his children. "I'm not blocking anything. The president has made this issue. I sympathize with it. But I want to make sure that going forward we follow the law in a way that is responsible."

The answer wasn't satisfactory to Mr. Flores, but it made a ready-made soundbite for Iowa's Republican electorate. Mr. Flores asked if he would be deported should Mr. Walker be in charge of fixing the immigration system.

Young Luis asked Mr. Walker: "Do you want me to come home from school and my dad got deported?"

Mr. Walker said that's not his plan. "That's not what I'm talking about," he said. "My point is that, in America, no one person is above the law. The president can't make the law just because he says it."

One of the camera-wielding activists traveling with the Flores family asked Mr. Walker if he would deport undocumented immigrants before new immigration laws could be enacted. Mr. Walker said he wouldn't. With that, the governor ended the conversation and walked into the crowd of awaiting townsfolk.

GOP presidential hopeful Scott Walker signs abortion ban bill // AP – July 20, 2015

Republican Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, one week after launching his bid for the 2016 presidential nomination,

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signed a bill Monday that outlaws non-emergency abortions at or beyond 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Abortion is a core issue for the conservative Republican base whose support Walker will seek as he tries to stand out in a crowded presidential field that also includes former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and billionaire Donald Trump.

While Walker has a long history of opposing abortions, it's an issue where he could be targeted by rivals: Just nine months ago he ran a television ad during his gubernatorial re-election campaign where he said whether to obtain an abortion is an agonizing decision between a woman and her doctor.

Walker's record includes defunding Planned Parenthood, requiring abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals, a law currently blocked by a federal court judge, and requiring women to have ultrasounds and be shown images of the fetus before having an abortion.

Walker last year, during his re-election campaign, refused to say last year whether he would support a 20-week abortion ban.

But in the face of questions from anti-abortion conservatives over his commitment to the issue in the light of the campaign ad,Walker in March came out in support of the 20-week abortion ban.

"The truth is that Scott Walker lied to Wisconsin voters when he was elected governor after saying that abortion is between a woman and her doctor," said Sasha Bruce with NARAL Pro-Choice America, a leading abortion rights advocacy group. "Now, in an effort to win the votes of the extreme base of the Republican Party, Walker has traded the health and well-being of women and families to score cheap political points."

The governor's signature makes Wisconsin the 15th state to pass similar bans. There is no exception for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

The new law — which cleared the Legislature without any Democratic support — is expected to be challenged in court. Walker, speaking with reporters after the bill signing, said he was confident it would survive any legal challenge, calling the five-month ban a "reasonable standard."

"For people, regardless of where they might stand, when an unborn child can feel pain I think most people feel it's appropriate to protect that child," Walker said.

But Kaylie Hanson, speaking for the Democratic National Committee, said the new law was nothing more than a "timely favor" for the Republican base days after Walker joined the presidential race.

"The harsh reality is that this law will hurt women, as it puts up barriers to care for rape and incest survivors - no exceptions - and threatens the health of the mother," Hanson said in a statement. "This law doesn't only undermine the most basic women's health services. It's radical, dangerous, and lacks respect for half the population of Wisconsin."

Bans on abortion after 20 weeks are popular, at least on the surface. A Quinnipiac University poll conducted in November of 2014 found that 6 in 10 Americans support banning abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except in cases of rape or incest.

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On the other hand, a 2012 CNN/ORC poll found the vast majority of Americans — more than 8 in 10 — said abortion should be legal in cases of rape or incest.

An Associated Press-GfK poll conducted in January and February found that 51 percent of Americans think abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 45 percent think it should be illegal in most or all cases.

Under the new Wisconsin law, doctors who perform an abortion at or after 20 weeks in non-emergency situations could be charged with a felony punishable by up to $10,000 in fines and 3½ years in prison. Doctors could also be sued for damages.

Doctors would be allowed to perform abortions beyond 20 weeks only if the mother is likely to die or suffer irreversible injuries within 24 hours.

The law's supporters say fetuses can feel pain after 20 weeks. They say the ban will spare those unborn children an excruciatingly painful death. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, however, says fetuses can't feel pain until the third trimester starts at 27 weeks. Minority Democrats have complained that Republicans should leave women alone and let them decide how to handle their own bodies.

Abortions after 20 weeks are rare in Wisconsin. According to the most recent state Department of Health Services information, 89 of nearly 6,500 abortions performed in Wisconsin in 2013, or roughly 1 percent, occurred after the 20-week mark.

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision established a nationwide right to abortion but allowed states to restrict the procedures after the fetus reaches viability, the point where it could survive outside the womb. The ruling offered no legal definition of viability but said it could range from the 24th to 28th week of pregnancy.

Courts have blocked bans in Georgia, Idaho and Arizona. Litigation in other states is ongoing. A federal appellate court in May struck down Arkansas' ban on abortions after the 12th week of pregnancy if a doctor can detect a fetal heartbeat, finding that prohibition unconstitutionally burdens women.

Scott Walker signs Wisconsin abortion bill **// Politico // Eliza Collins – July 20, 2015**

Abortion after 20 weeks is now illegal in Wisconsin — with no exceptions for rape or incest.

On Monday, Gov. Scott Walker signed a bill that bans all non-emergency abortion after 20 weeks.

The legislation makes performing an abortion a felony punishable by up to three and a half years in prison and $10,000 in fines.

The only way abortions after 20 weeks are allowed is if the mother is likely to die or be severely injured.

Anti-abortion activists have coalesced around 20 weeks because, they say, that’s when fetuses begin to feel pain. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, however, says that pain doesn’t occur until 27 weeks.

Walker is running for the Republican nomination for president and is leading in some polls.

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Wisconsin legislators approved the abortion measure earlier this month, just days before Walker officially announced his bid for the White House.

GOP lawmakers said that the ban had nothing to do with the governor's ambitions, but the bill benefited from a few legislative shortcuts, including an expedited hearing process and an "extraordinary" July session, to land on his desk at a convenient political time for Walker.

The legislation comes less than a year after Walker, who was stuck in a tight reelection campaign, released an ad that called a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy "agonizing," saying he supported legislation that would make the decision between a woman and her doctor.

"I said I'm pro-life but I can only imagine how difficult a decision must be for someone who's thinking about ending their pregnancy. That's why I support a law that provides more information to someone to make that decision," Walker said in the ad. "The law still leaves the decision to the woman and her doctor. As for me, I want to look out for the health and safety of all citizens in my state."

On Monday, Walker tweeted: "Just signed pain capable bill into law to protect unborn at 5 months when they can feel pain.- SW #Walker16"

Poll: Walker leads in Iowa, followed by Trump // Politico // Nick Gass – July 20, 0215

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is still out in front of all Republican contenders in a new Monmouth University poll out Monday surveying likely Iowa GOP caucus-goers.

But in second place is Donald Trump, whose remarks on Arizona Sen. John McCain's military service do not appear to have had a material effect on his standing in the Hawkeye State, or at least not yet. In fact, a plurality of those surveyed (47 percent) said they have a favorable view of the multibillionaire candidate, while 35 percent said they do not.

Walker grabbed 22 percent, compared to Trump's 13 percent. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson received 8 percent, with former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz with 7 percent each. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who won the 2008 caucus, follows with 6 percent, with Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul at 5 percent, and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal at 4 percent.

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, who won the 2012 caucuses, grabbed 3 percent, as did former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and retired Hewlett-Packard executive Carly Fiorina.

It should be noted that polling for this survey began last Thursday, two days before Trump's statement that McCain "was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

Trump stood by and intensified his remarks against the senator over the weekend and on Monday.

The poll was conducted July 16-19 via landlines and cellphones, surveying 452 likely Republican caucus-goers. The overall margin of error is plus or minus 4.6 percentage points.

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Scott Walker Steps Down as Head of Wisconsin's Job-Creation Agency // Bloomberg // Tim Jones – July 20, 2015

Saying his presence had become a distraction, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker stepped down as chairman of an embattled commission charged with job creation.

Walker, a Republican who announced his candidacy for the White House on July 13, signed a budget provision Monday removing himself as head of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., a panel he created after taking office in 2011.

The agency came under attack after a May report from Wisconsin's Legislative Audit Bureau showing the authority failed to follow the law and its own policies in awarding taxpayer-funded incentives. Walker began distancing himself from the operation before his presidential announcement.

"I thought it was important to put the focus on the job creators," Walker said in Oshkosh on Monday, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

WEDC is a quasi-public authority that Walker created to replace the state's Department of Commerce. He promoted it as a more efficient means to create jobs. Documents made public in June showed more than two dozen awards valued at more than $124 million were made to two companies without a formal staff review.

Wisconsin Democrats quickly pounced on Walker's exit.

"Rather than digging in and solving the problems with his jobs agency, Governor Walker is choosing to escape the bad headlines and instead campaign for president," said House Minority Leader Peter Barca in a statement released from his office.

Walker campaigned in 2010 on a promise to created 250,000 private-sector jobs during his first term. About half of that amount was created during his first four years in office. He was re-elected last November, defeating Democrat Mary Burke, 52 percent to 47 percent.

Scott Walker Signs 20-Week Abortion Ban Into Law // HuffPo // Laura Bassett – July 20, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) signed a bill into law on Monday that bans abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger. The legislation, which passed the GOP-controlled state legislature earlier this month, makes no exceptions for severe fetal anomalies or for victims of rape and incest.

Walker, a 2016 presidential candidate, said he supports the legislation because fetuses can feel pain at 20 weeks -- an assertion that has been disputed by the mainstream medical community.

"At five months, that's the time when that unborn child can feel pain," Walker said Monday. "When an unborn child can feel pain, we should be protecting that child."

Abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy are very rare, making up less than 1 percent of all abortions. Often, women who seek abortion care after that point have discovered a severe fetal anomaly that could not be detected earlier on in the pregnancy.

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Several major medical groups in Wisconsin oppose the 20-week abortion ban, including the Wisconsin chapter of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Wisconsin Medical Society, the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians and the Wisconsin chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. A group of 100 gynecologists in the state wrote a letter to Walker and members of the state legislature earlier this month urging them to oppose the bill because they say it "tie[s] the hands of doctors seeking to help women."

"This is bad medicine, based on the thoroughly debunked fallacy that a 20-week fetus – which is not viable – can feel pain," the doctors wrote. "SB 179/AB 237 would block Wisconsin ob-gyns from being able to treat our patients in a medically appropriate and humane manner. These bills would undoubtedly place us in the unconscionable position of having to watch our patients and their loved ones undergo additional emotional trauma, illness and suffering during what is already a difficult time."

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) vowed to bring a federal version of the 20-week abortion ban to a vote this year, and nearly every GOP presidential candidate has endorsed it.

Anti-abortion activists hope the federal 20-week ban, which has been enacted in 11 states and passed the U.S. House of Representatives this year, will be a vehicle through which to challenge Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. The court ruled in Roe that women have a constitutional right to an abortion up until the point that the fetus would be viable outside the womb, which does not occur until around 22 to 24 weeks of gestation.

Walker And Bush Clash Over When To Go After Iran -- Day One Or Two **// HuffPo // Igor Bobic – July 20, 2015**

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) said over the weekend that the next president of the United States needed to be prepared to take aggressive military action on their very first day in office, including against Iran.

The presidential contender, who had promised to "terminate" the nuclear agreement with Iran upon his inauguration, made the remark while speaking with reporters at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa, on Saturday. Walker was asked about a criticism from former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), who asserted during a town hall last week that unwinding the agreement on day one was an unrealistic promise.

“One thing that I won’t do is just say, as a candidate, ‘I’m going to tear up the agreement on the first day,’” Bush said in Nevada on Thursday. First, said Bush, he needs to have his team in place. "That’s great, that sounds great but maybe you ought to check in with your allies first, maybe you ought to appoint a secretary of state, maybe secretary of defense, you might want to have your team in place, before you take an act like that.”

Asked about Bush's remarks on Saturday, Walker argued -- without mentioning Iran directly -- that a president ought to be ready to take action from the moment they step foot into the Oval Office.

"He may have his opinion. I believe that a president shouldn't wait to act until they put a cabinet together or an extended period of time, I believe they should be prepared to act on the very first day they take office," he said. "It's very possible, God forbid that this would happen, but very possible, that the next president could be called to take aggressive actions, including military actions, on their very first day in office."

After Walker aides accused Bush of softening on his opposition to the agreement, the former Florida governor issued a statement to The Weekly Standard assuring that he “would begin immediately to responsibly get us out of this deal.”

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The dispute between the two early GOP frontrunners comes just weeks before the first debate, hosted by Fox News in August. It also follows Walker's efforts to bone up on foreign policy, positioning himself as one of the most hawkish candidates in the 2016 Republican presidential field. Addressing conservatives at the Family Leadership Summit on Saturday, Walker said the U.S. needed "a foreign policy that puts steel in the face of our enemies," and one that unapologetically asserted power across the globe.

Scott Walker signs 20-week abortion ban // MSNBC // Irin Carmon – July 20, 2015

Just in time for his nascent presidential campaign, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker signed a bill Monday banning abortion at 20 weeks — without an exception for rape and incest and with only a narrow emergency exception. In doing so, he reasserts his anti-abortion bonafides after a midterm election where he soft-pedaled his position on the issue, irritating a key portion of the Republican base.

“At five months, that’s the time when that unborn child can feel pain,” Walker said. “When an unborn child can feel pain, we should be protecting that child.”

But Walker’s assertions are disputed by the medical evidence, which has overwhelmingly found that pain receptions come weeks later in gestation. “This is bad medicine, based on the thoroughly debunked fallacy that a 20-week fetus — which is not viable — can feel pain,” wrote 99 physicians, all members of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, in a letter. They said the law “would block Wisconsin ob-gyns from being able to treat our patients in a medically appropriate and humane manner.”

About 1% of abortions take place after the 20-week mark, which also happens to be around the time that many fetal anomalies, some of which are incompatible with life, are detected. Such bans have proliferated in states thanks to a nationwide anti-abortion strategy to undermine the Supreme Court’s repeated holding that women have the right to terminate a pregnancy until the fetus is viable, about four to six weeks after the 20 week mark. In most of the states where these bans have become law, supporters of abortion rights have declined to challenge them, reluctant to test the Supreme Court on this slice of the issue.

The exceptions are Idaho and Arizona, two states with 20-week bans that fell when the more liberal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals found them to be unconstitutional. Wisconsin, which is covered by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, previously struck down on a preliminary basis another Walker anti-abortion law requiring hospital admitting privileges for abortion providers. That law threatened to shut down some of the state’s abortion providers.

It was that law, as well as a forced-ultrasound law, that Walker alluded to in a now-infamous television commercial during his 2014 re-election fight. Accused of being anti-woman, Walker described the two laws as “legislation to increase safety and to provide more information for a woman considering her options,” respectively. But, he said, mimicking pro-choice rhetoric, “The bill leaves the final decision to a woman and her doctor.”

That irked his supporters. Penny Nance, president of Concerned Women for America, told Politico, “I didn’t like the ad. You’re using the other side’s garbage and it’s not helpful.”

Seemingly to placate his base, Walker asked for the 20-week ban bill to contain no exceptions for rape and incest, which many opponents of abortion consider unacceptable compromises. He got his wish with unusual speed. Walker also offered assurances on conservative media. On her radio show last week, Laura Ingraham asked Walker about the ad, saying, “You don’t believe the final decision should be between a woman and her doctor? You believe –” Walker cut in, “No.”

Kaylie Hanson, a press secretary for the Democratic National Committee, responded, “If it wasn’t clear before, it is now .... Maybe he doesn’t think we’re capable, maybe he doesn’t trust us, or maybe he wants to make the

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decision for us. Whatever it is, this statement is just another line from Scott Walker that proves what we've known all along: he's wrong for women."

A similar 20-week ban is expected to be introduced in the U.S. Senate soon after the August recess ends. The House of Representatives passed a similar ban in May. President Obama has promised to veto the bill if it comes to his desk.

Walker first, Trump second in Iowa Poll // The Hill // Jesse Byrnes – July 20, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker leads a crowded field of Republican presidential contenders in the early voting state of Iowa, according to a new Monmouth University poll of likely caucusgoers.

Walker takes 22 percent in the poll released Monday, a double digit lead against all other GOP candidates with the exception of businessman Donald Trump, who has 13 percent support.

Neurosurgeon Ben Carson (8 percent), former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (7 percent), Texas Sen. Ted Cruz (7 percent) and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (6 percent) follow behind.

The poll was conducted amid Trump's controversial comments Saturday in Iowa, in which he said that Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) was not a war hero because he was captured during Vietnam.

Republicans seized on the remark to condemn Trump, a celebrity real estate developer who has taken top spots in polls since launching his White House bid in mid-June.

Walker has led a slew of Iowa polls in recent weeks by similar margins to those in the most recent Monmouth poll, leading in favorability especially among tea party and very conservative voters.

The survey of 452 Iowa voters was conducted July 16-19 via landlines and cellphones with a margin of error of 4.6 points.

Scott Walker: Donald Trump 'Needs t o Apologize' for McCain Com ments // NBC News // Kelly O'Donnell – July 20, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has tried to ignore Donald Trump's bluster by leaning on the old "Reagan commandment" that discourages attacks against fellow Republicans. That ended Sunday after the tycoon's comments about Sen. John McCain's military record.

In an exclusive and wide-ranging interview with NBC News, Walker had a message for Trump and the real-estate mogul's supporters.

"At a minimum, he needs to apologize," Walker said. "I think more people need to push him. Not just candidates or elected officials, I think more people across America including some of those who, maybe up until now, have been supporters of him."

At the Family Leadership Summit on Saturday, Trump said McCain is "not a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured." Under fire, Trump later acknowledged that McCain's sacrifice was heroic.

Walker was careful not to mention Trump by name but said his insulting rant against McCain went too far, "when

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it came to personal attack like this against the military, an American hero, I'm gonna call it like I see it."

Instead of an apology, Trump has shown only more defiance. He refused Sunday to take back his slam against McCain's service as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

Walker said he was not avoiding conflict with Trump to avoid becoming one of his targets. "No, from my standpoint, I just stayed out of it," he said. "We don't want to be a circular firing squad."

The Wisconsin governor is a rarity in presidential politics when it comes to resume. He didn't finish college. Instead, a job offer came during his senior year.

"Unlike some of my friends who were a year or two older than me, they had degrees but they didn't have jobs," Walker said.

He had considered going back to finish school but life's responsibilities intervened. "Next thing you know, all your time and your money is spent on your family," he said.

Walker said his career success despite the lack of a college degree makes him qualified to speak to and for much of the country who choose to do an associate degree or an apprenticeship instead of the traditional four year bachelor's degree.

"I'm not unlike about two-thirds of America who're in a very similar circumstance," he said.

However, Walker wasn't keen for his sons Matt and Alex, a junior and senior in college, to follow in his footsteps. "I think college is great for my sons. It's right for the careers they want to pursue," he said. "They know, not just from my standpoint, but from their mother. She wants them to finish just like I do."

Wisconsin's first family may be on the same page about finishing college, but they do not agree about the right for same-sex couples to marry.

Walker disagrees with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that marriage is a Constitutional right for same-sex couples. His sons support gay marriage.

He said his sons' positions won't change his own mind. "I've had this position for more than two decades. I believe that marriage is between one man and one woman," he said. Walker added the family's public disagreement reveals that "we're very transparent."

He said: "Both my sons' generation has different views than some folks do, but that doesn't change who I am or what I believe in."

Walker's 22-year marriage to wife Tonette brings another personal dimension to the GOP race for the White House that is seldom seen in presidential-level politics. Walker, at age 47, is 12 years younger than his wife.

Asked whether he has ever felt judged by society's double-standard on marital age differences, Walker replied: "No, Tonette was a widow before we married. In some ways, I think it actually makes her tough for the job."

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Walker described her life experiences as a political asset. Her first husband lost a battle with a terminal illness at almost the same time her brother died of bone marrow cancer. Her mother also died from brain cancer and her father from lung disease, he said.

"She's dealt with some pretty tough things in her life. And I think looking ahead, when people ask, 'Is she up to the challenge?' Boy, I think anybody who's gone through that personally is more than prepared for anything crazy that could be thrown on his plate."

Scott Walker first, Donald Trump second in Iowa: poll // Washington Times // David Sherfinski – July 20, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has a nine-point lead over businessman Donald Trump, his nearest Republican rival, in a new poll on the 2016 GOP field in Iowa.

Mr. Walker was the first choice of 22 percent of Iowa Republicans, followed by Mr. Trump at 13 percent in the Monmouth University poll released Monday.

“Walker has been a favorite of Iowa voters ever since his well-received appearance at the Iowa Freedom summit in January. More recently, Trump has outmaneuvered the rest of the field to earn the second spot despite his controversial statements over the weekend,” said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

Many Republicans have hammered Mr. Trump for saying Saturday in Iowa that Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a prisoner of war in Vietnam, is a war hero “because he was captured; I like people that weren’t captured, OK?”

Mr. Trump says the remarks have been misrepresented and said that Mr. McCain is a war hero but he has failed on veterans’ issues.

According to the poll, Mr. Trump got 13 percent of the vote to Mr. Walker’s 19 percent Thursday and Friday — a slight difference from Saturday and Sunday, when Mr. Trump got 13 percent to Mr. Walker’s 25 percent.

Behind those two men were retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 8 percent, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas at 7 percent apiece, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee — who won Iowa in 2008 — at 6 percent, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky at 5 percent apiece, and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal at 4 percent.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, the 2012 Iowa caucus winner, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina were tied for tenth at 3 percent apiece.

Mr. Walker, Mr. Trump, and Mr. Cruz ran 1-2-3 among voters who aligned themselves with the tea party, voters who described themselves as “very conservative,” and voters who said they were evangelicals.

Mr. Murray also took note of Mr. Jindal’s position in the poll.

“It’s worth noting that Bobby Jindal enjoys more support in Iowa than he does nationally,” he said. “He is among the top 10 candidates in Iowa, but his showing in the national polls makes it unlikely he will gain entry to the first debate.”

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The survey of 452 likely Republican caucus-goers was conducted July 16-19 and has a margin of error of plus/ minus 4.6 percent.

This Is How Scott Walker Responded When A 13-Year-Old Girl Asked Why He Was Trying To Deport Her Dad // Think Progress // Esther Lee – July 20, 2015

A 13-year-old U.S. citizen of undocumented parents living in Wisconsin twice confronted Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a 2016 Republican presidential candidate, in Iowa on Sunday to ask why their state was part of a lawsuit challenging President Obama's executive action on deportation relief for upwards of five million immigrants.

During the five-minute exchange obtained by Voces de la Frontera, Walker told 13-year-old Leslie Flores, "I completely sympathize with the situation you're all in and others are in," but said that he wouldn't drop Wisconsin from the lawsuit because "the president of the United States can't make law without going through the Congress."

Turning to address Leslie's family, Walker accused Obama of having the chance to fix immigration in his first two years in office, but failing to do so. Walker added that as president, he would make sure to secure the borders and put "in place a system that enforces the laws, and then, then the next president and Congress can deal with these issues going forward. But right now, I'm not blocking anything."

Leslie was in Iowa with her seven-year-old brother Louis and her undocumented father Jose.

Before breaking out into tears, Louis asked Walker, "Do you want me to like come home and come from school and my dad get deported?" Walker sidestepped, stating that he had two nieces who go to school in Waukesha, but that his point was "in America nobody's above the law." Instead of addressing the topic of deportation, Walker stated that he hoped kids like Louis would learn in school that "the President and the Congress have to work together."

When Jose jumped in later, asking if Wisconsin could be dropped from the lawsuit, Walker stated, "I agree with it, I support the lawsuit because the President can't be above the law."

Watch the extended confrontation here:

Walker has a long history of flip-flopping on immigration reform, reportedly telling people privately that he would support some sort of legal status for undocumented immigrants, but soon after the comments were made public, his spokeswoman said "we strongly dispute this account." He's since maintained that he rejected so-called "amnesty," or the ability for some undocumented immigrants to stay in the country and perhaps earn legal status of some kind.

And a well-known conservative Heritage Foundation scholar who supports an immigration overhaul recently recanted his account of a private phone call with the Wisconsin governor in which Walker allegedly said, "I'm not going nativist, I'm pro-immigration."

During his time as governor, Walker repealed in-state tuition for undocumented students, mandated immigration background checks in all 72 Wisconsin counties, and supported a lawsuit to rollback on President Obama's executive action on immigration that would have provided deportation relief and work authorization for upwards of five millions of immigrants.

Obama's executive actions are currently halted from moving forward after a Texas judge issued an injunction in

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February. Jose would have likely qualified for the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) program, which would have shielded parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents from deportation. In the meantime, even undocumented immigrants without serious offenses are still at risk of deportation and separation from their families.

Last December, Walker requested Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen join the multi-state lawsuit led by Texas. At the time, Walker condemned the president's executive actions for exceeding "the limits of his administrative powers."

But in the past, Walker twice signed resolutions backing programs that would have granted legal status to undocumented immigrants as a county executive in Milwaukee County. And in 2013, Walker endorsed legal status for undocumented immigrants.

Jose Flores is one of about 85,000 undocumented immigrants living in Wisconsin, a 2012 Pew Hispanic Center report found. But he is also one of 25,000 undocumented immigrants in Wisconsin who are potentially eligible for the president's expanded deferred action program.

A Center for American Progress report estimated that if undocumented immigrants, like Jose, "are able to receive a temporary work permit, it would lead to a $19 million increase in tax revenues for Wisconsin, over five years."

PAUL

Rand Paul readying Hill push for guns on military bases and in recruiting stations // WaPo // David Weigel – July 20, 2015

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is working on legislation to allow soldiers to carry guns on military bases, and could introduce it as soon as this week. That could establish him as a leader among conservatives who say last week's massacre at a Chattanooga, Tennessee recruiting station should change how the military looks at the issue.

"After Major [Nidal] Hasan did the shooting at Fort Hood, we did legislation on arming military on bases," said Paul, in a roundtable with reporters at his Washington, D.C campaign office. "This was a recruiting station, right? Well, I would include recruiting stations. One of the weird things is that we have 15-20 states where you can open carry. So everybody can carry, except for the military? I think that's crazy. The rules that apply to everybody should at least apply to the military."

Paul, who was elected to the Senate a year after Hasan's 2009 killing spree on the Texas military base, has long favored a policy shift that would allow guns on bases. His new bill may go even further than the versions that followed Fort Hood. In 2013, former Rep. Steve Stockman (R-Tex.) sponsored a Safe Military Bases Act, written to allow guns. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), one of Paul's rivals for the Republican Party's presidential nomination, has used his perch on the Armed Services Committee to ask for hearings on the gun policy.

The killings in Chattanooga have pushed the issue into overdrive. On Monday afternoon, the National Rifle Association called for military recruiters to be armed. In recent days, Republican frontrunners Donald Trump, Jeb Bush, and Scott Walker have all questioned the logic of the gun ban.

"These [members of the military] are people who could have handled guns very easily," said Trump at a Republican fundraiser in Arkansas. "They would have had a good chance if they had a gun."

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Paul's commitment to gun rights has a stronger pedigree than Trump's. He is closely tied to the National Association for Gun Rights, a group that positions itself to the right of the NRA.

"I think guns are a great deterrent anyway," Paul said on Monday. "I've also had bills, for a couple of years now, making it easier to arm pilots. "

In the wake of Chattanooga, Paul has also criticized immigration laws, asking whether they are letting anti-American elements into the country. "I'm very concerned about immigration to this country from countries that have hotbeds of jihadism and hotbeds of this Islamism," he told Breitbart News reporter Matthew Boyle last week. Paul expanded on those comments Monday, recalling how he had wanted "Rubio's legislation" – i.e., the stillborn 2013 immigration reform bill – to add screening for potential terrorists.

"We wrote a letter to Harry Reid, saying we should slow the bill down, and have a discussion about putting the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System in," said Paul. "It gave extra scrutiny to countries that had radical elements that were professing a desire to harm Americans or America. I don't think it has to say one religion or not, but I think you find out that most of the anti-American movements around the country do seem to be coming from predominately Islamic countries."

Paul's call for reform of NSEERS put the PATRIOT Act's biggest Republican critic in the rare position of endorsing an anti-terror policy enacted by George W. Bush.

"This program was in existence for a decade, and I think we should have more scrutiny," he said. "If a third of [a country's] population is in civil war, and saying 'death to America,' maybe we should ask them a few more questions before they visit. Same goes for student visas."

CRUZ

Claire McCaskill: 'Cruz following Trump around like a lost puppy' // Politico // Eliza Collins – July 20, 2015

Sen. Claire McCaskill thinks Sen. Ted Cruz is behaving like a lost puppy in his dealings with fellow Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump — and not in a cute way.

"There's something unseemly about Cruz following Trump around like a lost puppy, hoping to get his leftovers when he finally flames out," the Missouri Democrat tweeted Monday.

Cruz is one of the only 2016 candidates to avoid criticizing Trump's often inflammatory comments, and some argue that's hurting his chances of getting the GOP nomination.

After Trump said that Mexico was sending "rapists" and other criminals to the U.S., Cruz said he saluted Trump for bringing immigration into the conversation and said that the real estate magnate "has a colorful way of speaking."

The two also met last week at Trump Tower in Manhattan. After the meeting, Cruz called it "a good visit."

"We had a conversation about the race," Cruz said. "He's running, I'm running and we both agreed that we started out as friends and will end as friends."

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On Saturday, Trump escalated his feud with John McCain by saying the Arizona senator's time as a prisoner in Vietnam does not make him a war hero.

"He's not a war hero," said Trump. "He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

Republicans swiftly condemned the remarks, with most GOP candidates calling Trump's comments unacceptable.

But the Texas senator has remained supportive, and has declined to criticize Trump.

"You know, I recognize that folks in the press love to see Republican-on-Republican violence, and so you want me to say something bad about Donald Trump, or bad about John McCain or bad about anyone else," Cruz said Saturday. "I'm not going to do it."

Cruz: Iran Deal Likely To Force Next President To Take "Direct Military Action" // Buzzfeed // Christopher Massie – July 20, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz said on Saturday that the deal to restrict Iran's nuclear program and lift economic sanctions on the country would likely force the next president to take "direct military action" to prevent a nuclear catastrophe that "could cost the lives of tens of millions of Americans."

The Texas senator said in an interview with the Trail Talk podcast over the weekend that it was "very likely that a new president" would be told, in January 2017, that Iran was "on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons." Cruz said the deal rendered economic sanctions "no longer an effective tool," and therefore the new president would be presented with two choices: "acquiesce" or attack.

He said that the "unacceptably high" odds of Iran using a nuclear weapon if it acquired one made it so that President Obama had essentially forced his successor into taking the military option.

"I think it is likely the next president will be advised in January '17, you have two and only two choices," Cruz said. "Either you acquiesce to Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon or direct military action must be used to take it out. I think that's unfortunate but that's what President Obama is forcing."

Cruz added that Iran could launch a nuclear warhead from a ship off the Atlantic Coast, setting off an "electromagnetic pulse," which would "take down the electrical grid for the entire Eastern seaboard." Such a disaster, he said, could leave tens of millions of people "unable to get food and water."

"The projections are that tens of millions of Americans would die, as they were unable to get food and water and the basic foodstuffs of life," Cruz said. "That's the threat President Obama's nuclear deal provides and anyone who is remotely qualified to be commander in chief needs to be prepared to do whatever is necessary prevent a threat that could cost the lives of tens of millions of Americans."

CRUZ: "If Congress does not stop this deal, I think it will be the single greatest challenge a new president in January '17 will confront because it is very likely that a new president when he or she sits down in the Oval Office for the first security briefing, will be told that Iran is on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons and because President Obama unraveled the international consensus on sanctions, sanctions will no longer be an effective tool.

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Because even if you wanted to reimpose sanctions, it would take months, even years, if ever, to bring foreign countries back together in an effective sanctions regime, which means that tool, President Obama's effectively taken away from the next president. I think it is likely the next president will be advised in January '17, you have two and only two choices: either you acquiesce to Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon or direct military action must be used to take it out. I think that's unfortunate but that's what President Obama is forcing."

QUESTION: "And President Cruz would entertain a direct military?"

CRUZ: "Under no circumstances would I allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons. And I believe any responsible commander in chief should be prepared to do whatever is necessary to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons because if they acquired those weapons, the odds are unacceptably high that they would use them in the skies of Tel Aviv or New York or Los Angeles. That getting this decision wrong could result in the deaths of millions of Americans and in fact it's even worse than that. One of the greatest threats of an Iranian nuke is if they had one nuclear warhead and they put it on a ship anywhere off the Atlantic seaboard and they fired it on a missile straight up in the air into the atmosphere and detonated a nuclear weapon, it would set off what's known as an electromagnetic pulse—an EMP, which would take down the electrical grid for the entire Eastern seaboard. The projections are that tens of millions of Americans would die, as they were unable to get food and water and the basic foodstuffs of life. That's the threat President Obama's nuclear deal provides and anyone who is remotely qualified to be Commander in Chief needs to be prepared to do whatever is necessary prevent a threat that could cost the lives of tens of millions of Americans."

Ted Cruz takes aim at Congress' Obamacare 'exemption' // Washington Times // Tom Howell – July 20, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz, a vocal conservative running for president, will push to expose fellow members of Congress for "exempting" themselves from Obamacare this week, adding sparks to an already-fraught debate over a highway bill that needs to pass by July 31.

Mr. Cruz, Texas Republican, will try to force votes on an amendment that would cancel the subsidy lawmakers collect to help cover their insurance costs when they buy plans on an Obamacare exchange.

It's a thorny issue for his colleagues, many of whom defend the subsidy as the equivalent of the arrangements most businesses have with their employees. But Mr. Cruz and a cadre of fellow senators argue that Obamacare is different, and lawmakers have given themselves a sweetheart deal no other exchange customers enjoy.

"Members of Congress retain their illegal exemptions from Obamacare, and it's time to end the Washington favors that have gone on for far too long," Mr. Cruz said.

The wrinkle is that the fight would happen on an unrelated bill to renew the federal highway fund, which would otherwise expire at the end of the month, shutting down road projects across the country.

Considered a must-pass bill, the highway legislation is already attracting the interest of lawmakers who want to tack their own priorities onto it.

In addition to Mr. Cruz's Obamacare fight, some senators have said they'll force a vote to revive the Export-Import bank. Still others, including Mr. Cruz, want to have a fight over federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

His Obamacare exemption push may be one of the thorniest, though.

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Under Obamacare, members of Congress and their official staffers lost their generous federal health plans and are instead required to buy insurance on the exchanges. But the administration's Office of Personnel Management decided in 2013 that lawmakers and staffers who use the D.C. small-business exchange can still get their employer subsidies to cover premiums.

Regular Americans who buy plans through the exchange are restricted from having employers contribute to their premiums.

The disconnect plays into Mr. Cruz's claims there is a "Washington cartel" of lawmakers and lobbyists who put their own interests first. It's also the type of elbow-throwing that's won him support from conservative quarters and scorn from centrist GOP colleagues who said his anti-Obamacare strategy led them into a 16-day shutdown in fall 2013.

"He never is going to win the most popular legislator award so it makes more sense for him to play to outside constituencies and go after unpopular perks," said Darrell West, director of governance studies at the Brookings Institution. "Anything that challenges special privileges is going to be popular with voters."

Earlier this year, Mr. Cruz signaled he might actually buy an Obamacare plan because his wife, Heidi, decided to take an unpaid leave of absence from Goldman Sachs Group Inc. in Houston, as the senator runs for president. But instead, his family decided to purchase an off-exchange plan on the open market from Texas Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Other lawmakers have bought coverage in exchanges in their home states, shunning the subsidy. And still others have insurance unrelated to their jobs.

The issue is a sensitive one, since it involves lawmakers' personal finances and health decisions.

For years Sen. David Vitter, Louisiana Republican, led a one-man crusade to expose lawmakers who take the employer subsidy.

But Mr. Vitter is a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee that wrote the highway bill, and is reluctant to see it slowed by unrelated fights. Instead, he will reintroduce standalone legislation Tuesday that prohibits lawmakers from getting the employer subsidy.

"The Washington Obamacare exemption represents a level of arrogance from Congress and D.C.'s elite that fundamentally undermines our nation's government of the people, by the people, and for the people," Mr. Vitter said.

Each of the GOP senators running for president — Mr. Cruz, Marco Rubio of Florida, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina — voted earlier this year for a non-binding amendment to the budget to stop the subsidy.

"Members of Congress shouldn't get a benefit while hardworking Americans have to pay full freight for their health insurance," Cruz campaign spokesman Brian Phillip said. "It's an issue of fundamental fairness and Americans deserve to know where the candidates for any federal office, Congress or the presidency, stand on it."

Congress needs to pass a highway funding bill before the end of the month, when the federal government will no longer be able reimburse states for their road projects. The House passed a short-term extension of the highway

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trust fund through Dec. 18 to buy time to negotiate a six-year deal this fall.

Democratic senator: Cruz scrounging for Trump's 'leftovers' // The Hill // Jordain Carney – July 20, 2015

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) gave Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) a Twitter smack-down on Monday after he refused to disavow fellow presidential candidate Donald Trump's criticism of Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) time spent as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

"There's something unseemly about Cruz following Trump around like a lost puppy, hoping to get his leftovers when he finally flames out," the Missouri Democrat tweeted on Monday.

She made her remarks after Trump sparked a firestorm among Republicans when he mocked McCain, saying that "he was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

But Cruz refused to weigh in on the rhetorical battle between Trump and the Arizona Republican, saying that "folks in the press love to see Republican-on-Republican violence."

"You want me to say something about Donald Trump or bad about John McCain or bad about anyone else," he added, according to The Washington Post. "I'm not going to do it."

Trump has recently surged in the polls, including leading a national Fox News poll released late last week. Cruz, meanwhile, has struggled to gain momentum after launching his presidential bid weeks ahead of his competitors.

Monday's tweet isn't the first time McCaskill has commented on Trump's remarks. The Missouri senator weighed in over the weekend, calling his comments on McCain, and prisoners of war more generally, "disgusting."

In a separate tweet she pressured the Republican National Committee, which released a statement on Saturday afternoon, to disavow Trump's remarks, adding "will Cruz agree with Trump on this one too?"

Cruz and Vitter to Target Congressional Health Care // Roll Call // Bridget Bowman – July 20, 2015

Sen. David Vitter's crusade against congressional health care benefits will continue this week, this time with help from a presidential hopeful.

The Lousisiana Republican is expected to introduce "No Exemptions" legislation to combat the employer contribution for lawmakers, and Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, is expected to copy the language and try to insert it as an amendment into the highway funding bill the Senate is set to consider this week.

Cruz and Vitter have vigorously opposed the government contribution to congressional health care under the Affordable Care Act, calling it a "Washington exemption." Lawmakers and their staffs were able to maintain that contribution as the result of a 2013 Office of Personnel Management ruling that House and Senate employees could participate in the D.C. Small Business Health Option Program, rather than enroll on the individual exchanges.

"The very people who wrote the law — Harry Reid and the Senate Democrats — wanted out of it. And this Administration was only too happy to oblige," Cruz said in a statement Monday. "Today, the taxpayers subsidize their platinum plans while millions of Americans across this country have lost their jobs, have been forced into part-time work, have lost their health insurance, have lost their doctors, and are facing skyrocketing premiums," Cruz continued. "Yet members of Congress retain their illegal exemptions from Obamacare, and it's time to end

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the Washington favors that have gone on for far too long."

Cruz offering the amendment to the long-term transportation bill would be a move sure to bring more contention to the process.

Another GOP presidential hopeful, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, has already signaled he wants an amendment vote this week to block federal dollars from flowing to Planned Parenthood, and the must-pass measure is also lining up as the vehicle for reviving the Export-Import Bank.

Aside from presidential politics, there may be a good reason for Cruz to take charge this time.

Unlike the many times Vitter sought to get votes on amendments related to what he calls the "Washington exemption" from the reach of the Affordable Care Act, the highway bill is a measure on which the Louisiana Republican has played a significant role. He's a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee and chairman of the subpanel with federal-aid highways in its jurisdiction.

But Vitter made no reference to potentially complicating the highway bill in a statement Monday. Instead, he touted a 73-page report on his investigation into "Congress' fraudulent Obamacare subsidy."

Vitter contends Congress should not have been allowed to enroll in the small business exchange, since it is, by definition, not a small business under D.C. law since Congress employs more than 50 people. The question of Congress' characterization as a small business in the exchange was the subject of a recent taxpayer lawsuit, but the suit was dismissed when a D.C. Superior Court judge ruled congressional staff could enroll in the exchange.

Still, Vitter is looking for answers, even after a failed attempt to subpoena the D.C. government over the issue. He listed a series of questions at the end of his report, including which members of Congress met with the White House to discuss the OPM rule.

Cruz Plans Slew of Highway Bill Amendments **// Free Beacon // Lachlan Markay – July 20, 2015**

Sen. Ted Cruz (R., Texas) plans to offer numerous amendments to a federal highway funding bill reauthorizing an export finance agency that the GOP presidential hopeful has pledged to kill, his staff confirmed on Monday.

The seven amendments are vast in scope. Two deal with Obamacare (one would repeal the law entirely). Two pertain to illegal immigration. Others focus on the recently negotiated nuclear deal with Iran, an Internet access tax, national firearm laws, and federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

The amendments threaten to roil an already contentious debate over funding for the national highway system, which is expected to include provisions reauthorizing funding for the U.S. Export-Import Bank, an agency that finances the purchase of U.S. exports by foreign governments and corporations.

Authorization for Ex-Im funding expired at the end of June, though the agency will continue disbursing approved commitments through September. Proponents of the agency are hoping to reauthorize it before then, and are eyeing the highway bill as the means to do so.

Opponents hope that funding for national infrastructure is too important for Ex-Im critics to oppose. But Cruz said last week that he is "willing to use any and all procedural tools to stop" Ex-Im reauthorization.

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Cruz's amendments all hit on popular conservative issues. In addition to repealing Obamacare, they would remove federal funding for Planned Parenthood, prohibit illegal immigrants granted deportation relief under an executive order from working on federally funded highway projects, place a permanent moratorium on federal internet access taxes, and block a nuclear deal with Iran unless the Islamic Republic recognizes the state of Israel and releases American hostages currently imprisoned there.

Cruz will also sign onto an amendment introduced by Sen. Tom Cotton (R., Okla.) that would bar cities that refuse to enforce U.S. immigration laws—so-called "sanctuary cities"—from receiving federal law enforcement grants.

If passed by the Senate, those measures could test Democratic support for the highway bill. But Cruz says the amendments are standalone policy efforts, not simply an attempt to impede legislation containing Ex-Im reauthorization.

"Each of these amendments addresses a critical policy issue that deserves Congress' full attention," Cruz said in an emailed statement on Monday. "I fully intend to take this opportunity to stand against the Washington Cartel and to stand for liberty and our Constitutional rights."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) has signaled that he will allow amendments on the highway bill when it is considered in the Senate this week. That will likely give Cruz an opportunity to offer his proposals.

However, that is also the avenue that Ex-Im supporters will use to link the legislation to the agency's reauthorization—a fact that drew conservative criticism of McConnell on Monday.

Some of Cruz's conservative colleagues have joined him in pledging procedural efforts to block the bill if Ex-Im funding is attached.

"I think those of us who oppose it will continue to use any and all procedural tools at our disposal in order to oppose it," Sen. Mike Lee (R., Utah) said at a press conference last week.

It is not clear that a filibuster would prevent the bill's passage. A symbolic procedural vote on the agency's funding last month received 65 votes in the Senate, including 22 from Republicans, suggesting that a highway bill could muster the 60 votes necessary to end debate on the measure even with Ex-Im reauthorization attached.

That would bring the Senate's version of the legislation back to the House, which last week approved a stopgap highway funding measure with no accompanying Ex-Im provision.

Rep. Paul Ryan (R., Wis.), the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, urged the Senate to pass that version of the legislation "without any unrelated measures." Instead, the upper chamber will vote on a multi-year authorization bill that could contain significant language outside of the scope of highway funding.

Dan Holler, the communications director of the conservative group Heritage Action for America, praised House leaders for urging consideration of a bill free of Ex-Im language, though he noted that his group opposed the House measure.

"It is incumbent upon [Republican leaders]—and anybody who opposes Washington's corrupt practice of

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favoritism—to ensure Ex-Im remains dead," Holler said in a statement last week.

Update: A previous version of this story stated that Cruz's amendment would place a moratorium on Internet sales taxes, not access taxes as is the case.

Claire McCaskill savages Ted Cruz in one brutal tweet: "A lost puppy hoping to get his leftovers" // **Salon** // **Sophia Tesfaye – July 20, 2015**

"I'm not going to do it."

Republican Presidential candidate Ted Cruz refuses to join the rest of the GOP field in condemning Donald Trump's recent remarks making light of Sen. McCain's time as a prisoner of war and now the Texas senator's weak-kneed approach to the GOP frontrunner is drawing scrutiny.

"You know I recognize that folks in the press love to see Republican-on-Republican violence" Cruz lamented this weekend, blaming the media for manufacturing a controversy. "So you want me to say something bad about Donald Trump, or bad about John McCain or bad about anyone else," he said before adding, "I'm not going to do it."

Speaking with Iowa voters over the weekend, Trump said of John McCain's service during the Vietnam War, "He's a war hero because he was captured … I like people that weren't captured."

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Sen. Lindsey Graham joined with the Republican National Committee in rebuking Trump, some calling from his exit from the presidential race and declaring no room for such comments in the GOP. But instead of denouncing Trump's attack, Cruz simply tweeted his belief that McCain is "an American hero":

Well, Missouri Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill found Cruz's refusal to lay an easy jab against a rival peculiar, tweeting that Cruz's behavior towards Trump was "unseemly" and comparing their relationship to that of a "lost puppy" following a man "hoping to get his leftovers when he finally flames out":

McCaskill's observation may be on point. Last week, Trump confirmed a meeting between the two rivals, a move clearly orchestrated by the Cruz campaign:

TRUMP: Ted Cruz called me, and – I don't know why I'm meeting him, to be honest. But I do have respect for him. I respect the fact that, along with a couple of others, he came out and he came out very strongly and agreed with what I said on illegal immigration. And he came out very strongly and he came out early. And I respect that. I like him. He called me, he wanted to meet, and we are going to meet. What it's about, I have absolutely no idea.

It is apparent that Trump is a fan of Trump fans and for now, Cruz looks to be a Trump fan but Cruz's willingness to embrace Trump is even more curious given that earlier this year, Trump said Cruz faced a particular "hurdle that nobody else seems to have at this moment":

He was born in Canada, if you know, and when we all studied our history lessons, you're supposed to be born in this country, so I just don't know how the courts would rule on it. But it's an additional hurdle that he has that no one else seems to have.

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CHRISTIE

First look: Debut ad from pro-Chris Christie super PAC highlights opposition to Iran deal // WaPo // James Hohmann – July 20, 2015

The first ad from the super PAC supporting Chris Christie focuses on the New Jersey governor's opposition to the Iran deal.

America Leads will put $1.1 million behind the spot in New Hampshire between Tuesday and Aug. 6, including an ad buy on Boston TV and a strong digital component.

The 30-second commercial shows Christie at a town hall meeting in Sandown, New Hampshire.

"This president is allowing Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, to have a glide path towards a nuclear weapon," the Republican tells the crowd. "A strong American military is not built to wage war; it is built to prevent war. I am the only candidate who has actually been responsible for fighting terrorism and has prosecuted terrorists and put them in jail. And if I become president, we're going to protect the homeland, not lower our defenses against them."

The group, led by former Republican Governors Association executive director Phil Cox, reported raising $11 million last week.

America Leads has also reserved $2.8 million worth of airtime during the three months leading up to next February's New Hampshire primary.

This is part of a broader strategy to "let Christie be Christie" and go positive from the start. With a cameraman at every town hall, the super PAC is developing a library of footage of the governor taking on every issue out there so that when an issue moves to the forefront, like Iran, they can quickly get up on the air with Christie in his own voice saying where he stands.

"Christie's persona and authenticity lend itself to this kind of approach," a strategist for the group explained.

Super PAC backing Christie launches first ad // Politico // Adam Lerner – July 20, 2015

The super PAC supporting Chris Christie's presidential bid has launched a new television ad and its message is clear: The New Jersey governor is the GOP field's strongest opponent of the Iranian nuclear deal.

In the ad, dubbed "Glide Path," a pro-Christie sign emblazoned with the phrase "Telling It Like It Is" appears on screen, and the New Jersey Republican begins warning a town hall audience, "This is a dangerous, dangerous world right now."

"This president is allowing Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, to have a glide path towards a nuclear weapon," Christie says.

Christie continues to assert that he is "the only candidate who has actually been responsible for fighting terrorism

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and has prosecuted terrorists and put them in jail," referring to his six years as U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

America Leads, the super PAC that created the ad and plans to run more in the future, has already reserved $2.8 million in air time from November to February in New Hampshire, according to the Bergen County Record, which says the group raised $11 million through June 30 and has $10.7 million in cash on hand. The ad's footage comes from a June 30 town hall event in Sandown, New Hampshire, after the preliminary outlines of the deal were announced, but before the Obama administration released the final agreement's language.

Last week the White House announced that it had reached a deal with Iran and five other world powers to severely restrict the country's nuclear program, although a portion of the country's nuclear infrastructure will remain intact. Hillary Clinton quickly came out in support of the deal, while every single prominent Republican presidential candidate has joined with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in denouncing it.

N.J. union chief says he won't negotiate pension reforms with Chris Christie // Politico // Ryan Hutchins – July 20, 2015

The head of New Jersey largest public employee union said Monday he will not negotiate any pension reforms with Governor Chris Christie, a Republican who rose to national prominence on claims he had "fixed" the state's pension system.

Four years later, Christie finds himself unable to make scheduled payments into the retirement system and saying, as a spokeswoman put it on Monday, that the system remains "broken and unaffordable." But Wendell Steinhauer, president of the New Jersey Education Association, said he and his members "will not concede one inch to this governor."

"He's dishonest, unreliable and hopelessly incapable of good-faith negotiations," Steinhauer said in a fiery, six-paragraph statement. "He's consistently lied about his pension funding intentions, and he's yet to live up to the promises he's already made. The ball is in his court to fund the pensions according to the law he signed. We will not negotiate against ourselves."

After a lengthy and bitter battle with unions, Christie signed a reform package into law in 2011 that boosted contributions from public employees and slashed cost-of-living adjustments, but said the state would start making annual contributions to the fund. Christie hailed the deal for years, even talking about it in his 2012 keynote speech at the Republican National Convention.

But the fiscal situation in New Jersey did not turn out as expected, and this year, Christie found himself unable to keep up with the payments. As he prepared to launch his presidential campaign, the governor won a state Supreme Court case last month that allowed him to skip a $1.57 billion pension payment and balance the budget.

Spokeswoman Nicole Sizemore said Monday the teacher's union needs to recognize the reality the state is facing.

"The simple fact is this: the average NJEA member contributes $186,000 to their pension and health benefit costs over 30 years and takes out $2.5 million in benefits," Sizemore said. "The math does not work and all the name calling in the world by NJEA leadership won't change that fact."

The union said it will continue to talk to State Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, as well as other Democratic leaders in the Legislature, on potential changes. Prieto met with the heads of several public workers unions last week to discuss potential changes that would increase payments into the plan over five years, according to one source, but wasn't ready to discuss the issue publicly yet.

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Christie said last week that he wouldn't accept any changes to the system that don't include concession from the unions, saying, "if all it does is to stretch out the time requirement to make the same payment for the same bloated system, then it's no solution."

Chris Christie's Defining Mistake: Winning in a Landslide // HuffPo // Nicholas Sheppard – July 20, 2015

For an ambitious, surging politician, Chris Christie's desire to run for a second term as Governor, and to win in a landslide, would have been irresistible -- but in retrospect it may have been a defining mistake. He would be positioning himself far more viably as a presidential hopeful now if he had taken the counter-intuitive, but ultimately more shrewd decision to step down after a single, successful term.

New Jersey elections for Governor are on odd years. Christie's re-election was in November of 2013. If he hadn't run, the timing would have been perfect: a two-year intermission between standing down, in January of 2014, and the general election of 2016, a period not long enough out of circulation to be thought of as losing relevance, especially relative to Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush; yet a period long enough for him to have occupied a political medium of bi-partisan goodwill, not on the same scale, but still evocative of Rudy Giuliani in the mid 2000s after he stepped down as mayor at the end of 2001 having shown strong and competent leadership during a massive crisis, and transcending partisanship as a tough moderate from a blue state.

Christie's single term would have encapsulated everything he needed: a first half boldly and brazenly conservative, to the extent he was contemplated as a possible Republican Vice-presidential nominee in 2012; and a second half defined by transcendent bi-partisanship, visibly summed up by a fulsome welcome of the president in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. In retrospect, he had all the necessary credentials and the compelling story he needed by the end of a single term, burnished further by a brash, no-nonsense career as a prosecutor. Given this context, in terms of risk vs reward, a second term was undoubtedly inviting, but not strictly necessary. It may well turn out to be his undoing.

Straightaway, when he chose to run for re-election, there were problems: he was criticized for spending an additional $12-25 million of state money to hold a special election for the Senate three weeks earlier, instead of simply holding the special election on the general election day, when popular mayor Cory Booker might have attracted more votes for Barbara Buono, his opponent in the Governor's race.

The Fort Lee lane closures occurred before the 2013 election; but they were motivated by it: as retribution against Fort Lee's Mayor for not endorsing Christie in the Governor's race. Media outlets began reporting on the incriminating exchanges, between Christie's aides, in January of 2014, just days after his inauguration for a second term. The issue has lingered: In May of this year, a Monmouth University poll found that 50 percent of New Jersey's adults believed Chris Christie was personally involved in the scandal. According to a recent Business Insider poll of polls, Christie's net favorability peaked in January 2013 - the moment he would have stepped down had he chosen not to run. 51% of Americans had a favorable opinion, and just 23% had an unfavorable opinion at that time.

During Hurricane Sandy, he projected strong leadership, and by the time of the re-election, he was able to argue that his administration had managed the recovery and overseen much of the relief effort. Not long after his re-election, however, allegations were already starting to emerge that much of the federal house aid money allocated to Hurricane Sandy victims were going to areas of New Jersey that weren't particularly impacted by the storm. By March of this year, pockets of hecklers from New Jersey were starting to dog Christie on the trail in Iowa. Had he not stood for re-election, he would not be having to answer for a year and a half of impatience and disaffection.

In November of 2014 he vetoed a bill that would have banned the use of gestation crates in New Jersey. It passed both houses easily, and 9 out of 10 New Jersey voters wanted Christie to sign it. The implication was that Christie wanted to be seen as supporting the status quo on agriculture in Iowa, where the hog industry is worth $7 billion. Had he stepped down as Governor a year earlier, he would not have had to give the impression he was putting his

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national ambitions before his constituents.

Then there was the settlement, in March this year, with Exxon. The state Senate passed a resolution condemning the deal, which settled Exxon's liability for pollution at two refinery sites for $225 million. The figure caused an uproar because the state's lawyers had been seeking as much as $8.9 billion at trial. If Christie had left this to a successor, he would not have taken flak for it.

Christie had already endured several credit downgrades under his watch. Nearly a year after his re-election, however, things got far worse, with a cumulative effect that has impacted severely on his image of competence. New Jersey was downgraded by Fitch, then a month later by Standard and Poor's, then again, in April this year, by Moody's. If he hadn't run for re-election, his fiscal reputation - a key factor in a presidential run - would not be severely compromised.

His high polling numbers from early 2013, the moment he would have stepped down from office had he not run for re-election, have since flipped upside-down, with polling this month showing him 27% favorable and 55% unfavorable. A Fairleigh-Dickinson Public Mind poll released last month had him with an approval rating of 30%.

In terms of his presidential ambitions, Christie has gained almost nothing from his second term. Rather, it has left him compromised, it has lowered his stocks, and forced him into a difficult and often unsuccessful balancing act, trying to make an impression in Iowa and New Hampshire, without giving his constituents the impression his attention is divided. Had he not run, he could be dictating the degree of public exposure, working full time on donors and organization, be relatively scandal free, and be positioning himself as a nominee with the vigor and effectiveness of Kasich or Walker, but with the national profile and mainstream appeal of Bush. Instead, he is languishing, both as a Governor, and in early Republican presidential polling.

Christie: No special way illegal immigrants to get US citizenship // Breitbart // Charlie Sperling – July 20, 2015

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie denounced the idea of special treatment for illegal immigrants who are currently living in the United States, accusing Hillary Clinton of “pandering” to them just to get votes.

“There should be no special way for anybody to be able to get citizenship any different than any other foreigner,” he said during an interview on CNN’s New Day this morning.

Christie suggested that Clinton was going out of her way to promise citizenship for illegal immigrants to win the support of more American Hispanics.

“I think, you know, Secretary Clinton talks about path to citizenship for people who are here illegally – she’s just pandering,” he said.

Christie distanced himself from comments he made in 2010 encouraging members of Congress and President Obama to find a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

He explained in the years since his comments, he understood as Governor of New Jersey that the first priority for illegal immigrants was work, not citizenship.

He argued that there should be stiffer prosecution for businesses who were profiting by exploiting illegal laborers.

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"Those people need to be penalized for that," he said. "And that will be the way to stop the flow from wherever they're coming from – south of the border or elsewhere, into this country illegally."

PERRY

On Military Service and on Border Security, Trump Offers Only Hot Air // National Review // Rick Perry – July 20, 2015

Being president of the United States is serious business, not a reality TV show.

This is especially true for the next president, who will have a big job ahead after the failures of the Obama administration. Our challenges are too complex — and the future of our country too important — to let egos, inflated rhetoric, and emotion take the place of thoughtful discussion.

I made the case recently for why GOP policies are the best to create opportunity across the country for families of all backgrounds. I've held up my home state's reforms in economic, education, and sentencing policies as examples of conservative governance that have made life better for minorities in Texas compared with other places around the country. And I've been honest about our party's shortcomings — including my own — in engaging all Americans in our conversations about the future of this nation.

But we can't do that if we're pitting black against white against brown; rich against poor; women against men. Playing identity politics takes a page right out of the Democrats' playbook, and we Republicans are better than that.

That's why rhetoric such as the kind employed by Donald Trump is damaging — it's damaging to our party, and most important, damaging to the United States of America. I believe strongly that Mr. Trump's philosophy is not conservatism, but rather a toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense.

Mr. Trump's absurdity reached a new low over the weekend, when he spit in the eye of every American prisoner of war, particularly Senator John McCain. But frankly, we should expect no better from a man who couldn't be bothered to answer the call to serve his nation when it needed him most.

Mr. Trump's absurdity reached a new low over the weekend, when he spit in the eye of every American prisoner of war, particularly Senator John McCain.

As a veteran and the son of a veteran, I find Mr. Trump's brand of vitriol particularly offensive, and I have no confidence that he could adeptly lead our nation's armed forces. His comments over the weekend should completely and immediately disqualify him from seeking our nation's highest office.

Our nation's warriors have been let down and left behind by the bureaucratic bungling of the Veterans Administration. They deserve a leader who will stand up for them, not one who ridicules the deadly circumstances they willingly put themselves in when they volunteer to protect our nation.

Then there is the issue of border security — a challenge Mr. Trump claims to have single-handedly identified and suddenly become expert in. But Mr. Trump's ridiculous and irresponsible assertion that Texas has not done enough to secure the border betrays his fundamental misunderstanding of this issue.

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And even though Mr. Trump may spend a lot of time talking about border security today, his interest doesn't predate his entrance in the presidential field. We heard no outcry from Mr. Trump when Jocelyn Johnson's husband, Rodney, was gunned down in 2006 in a sanctuary city by an individual who had previously been deported. Mr. Trump was similarly silent last summer, when we saw an unprecedented flood of unaccompanied children crossing the border because of President Obama's dangerous amnesty policies. Likewise last year, not a word from Mr. Trump when Border Patrol agent Javier Vega Jr. was shot and killed in front of his wife, two children, and parents by — again — individuals who had been arrested and deported multiple times.

If Mr. Trump plans to "tell it like it is," then he should tell the facts. Border security is a federal responsibility. Period. But when it became clear that Washington, D.C., wouldn't act, I told President Obama that if he didn't secure the border, Texas would.

As the former governor of Texas, a state with a 1,200-mile border with Mexico, I had to live and govern under the shadow of the federal government's decades-long failure to secure our borders. And rather than sit idly by while Washington, D.C., left our communities vulnerable to a porous border, I acted.

During my time in office, I oversaw the dedication of nearly $1 billion to border-security efforts. I've overseen surge operations with our state law enforcement, the creation of Texas Ranger Recon teams, and I even deployed the Texas National Guard to the border region last summer. I signed a bill strengthening penalties for those who engage in human trafficking — a bipartisan effort to put an end to the scourge of a modern-day slave trade that is enabled by our unsecured border.

I also signed an executive order mandating the use of E-Verify for all state employees and contractors. By doing this, we ensured that people like Mr. Trump — who has a history of using illegal-immigrant labor for his construction projects (including his new hotel currently under construction in Washington, D.C.) — do not use taxpayer resources on illegal-immigrant labor.

That is real, tangible action. Make no mistake: Contrary to what Mr. Trump seems to believe, Texas never should have had to do any of this, but we stepped in when the federal government failed.

When it comes down to it, Mr. Trump and President Obama have similar records on border security. Neither seems to understand that it's the federal government's responsibility to secure our borders. Neither has taken the time to visit the border. Neither has paid any attention to the issue until it's become politically convenient. And most significantly, neither has put forward any thoughtful solutions to secure the border.

Rather than thanking Texas for stepping into a gap it shouldn't have to fill, Mr. Trump has made clear that he believes the states should fend for themselves on border security. Rather than praising the men and women of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas National Guard, and Texas game wardens, Mr. Trump ridicules their tireless work to protect our communities. Not only is this wrong, but it perpetuates the same failed policies that have left our southern border porous and vulnerable.

As I've said before, this will be a "show me, don't tell me" election. Our nation needs a thoughtful, experienced leader with the character, resolve, and will to rebuild what this nation has lost over the past six years.

Mr. Trump has done nothing to prove that he is the man for the job.

GRAHAM

Lindsey Graham and Friends Join to Denounce Iran Deal // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 20, 2015

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Surrounded by two of the “three amigos” — as former Gen. David H. Petraeus called them — Senator Lindsey Graham appeared with Senator John McCain and former Senator Joseph I. Lieberman in New York on Monday to denounce the deal to contain Iran’s nuclear program.

Mr. Graham, a Republican presidential hopeful from South Carolina who is one of the most hawkish voices in his party, repeatedly invoked the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, just over three miles from the Women’s National Republican Club in Midtown Manhattan, where the “No Nukes for Iran” forum was held.

“My friends, what we will see is a nuclearized Middle East,” said Mr. Graham of the deal’s implications, arguing it would extend well beyond Iran. “They view New York as a symbol of America. This is the place they would choose to hit us again if they could.”

He mentioned Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic presidential contender and former senator from New York, and used a well-worn line that she “could have gotten a better deal than this.” The crowd of mostly older voters greeted the line with silence.

“To the American people, I will do everything I can to make sure that there is never another 9/11,” Mr. Graham said of the attacks that killed more than 3,000 people. Referring to the terrorists who carried out that attack, he said: “They could not get the weapons to kill three million of us. If they could, they would.”

Lindsey Graham: Donald Trump is a ‘jackass’ // Politico // Eliza Collins – July 20, 2015

Sen. Lindsey Graham thinks real-estate mogul Donald Trump is a “jackass” and his comments about Sen. John McCain were the beginning of the end of his candidacy.

“He’s bringing his name down and he’s not helping the process and he shouldn’t be commander in chief,” Graham said.

The South Carolina senator was speaking on CNN’s “Out Front” on Monday, responding to Trump’s Saturday comment that McCain was not an American hero because he was taken prisoner by North Vietnamese forces.

“He’s not a war hero,” said Trump. “He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren’t captured.”

Graham called Trump’s comments out of sync with the Republican Party, which he called “the party of the military.”

He also bemoaned the media’s focus on Trump instead of national security issues, which Graham has made the main focus of his long-shot presidential run.

“The world is literally falling apart … and all we're talking about is Donald Trump,” Graham said.

A spokesman for Trump said on CNN that Graham’s comments were a political move by someone who is floundering in the polls.

Lindsey Graham and his Two Amigos Kick Off 'No Nukes for Iran' Tour // Bloomberg // Emily Greenhouse –

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July 20, 2015

The amigos are back for a sequel.

For more than ten years, Senators Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, John McCain of Arizona, and Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut traveled together —from Iraq to Afghanistan, Germany to Bhutan. Dubbed the "three amigos" by General David Patreaus, together they helped shape American foreign policy, and on Monday they reunited to try and do so again.

Graham, who now is running for president, brought along Lieberman (who is no longer in Congress), and McCain, two hawkish confrères who both have had their time on national tickets, to help bolster his own bid and quash President Obama's deal with Iran.

“Do you think these four hostages would still be in Iran if Ronald Reagan we're president?”

Sitting between his two old friends beneath gold curtains and crystal chandeliers, a sign behind the amigos declared "No Nukes for Iran," the name of a multi-state tour headlined by the Republican candidate.

Graham articulated his strong objection to the deal made by world leaders last week in Vienna that would grant Tehran relief from international sanctions in exchange for Iran’s curbing its nuclear program. “I believe with all my heart and soul that Iran wants a nuclear weapon—a nuclear power plant—and that they’ll get them if somebody doesn’t stop them,” the South Carolina senator said. “The last line of defense is the United States Congress and the power of the next president to protect us and the world at large.”

He was speaking in the ballroom of Manhattan’s Women’s National Republican Club, whose grand staircase features a vaguely seductive portrait of woman labeled only “Mrs. Ronald Reagan.”

The stated aim of Graham’s tour, which will last for sixty days, is to urge members of Congress to vote against a “bad deal” by a president he has called “incompetent.” (Congress has a 60-day period to review the deal before it comes to a vote.) Of course, the national exposure can’t hurt his long-shot quest to win his party's presidential nomination.

The tour will take him to states including Minnesota, Massachusetts, Indiana, Colorado, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Nevada. But Graham launched it in New York, he told his enthusiastic audience, because it is “the most diverse city on the planet,” a city that “represents America.” Graham also conjured the terrorist attacks on 9/11, saying, “this is the place they would choose to hit us if they could.”

Graham stressed that he did not want to see war, and he reiterated a belief that he has stated before, that, were she president, Hillary Rodham Clinton could have struck up a better deal. (“I want to say something bipartisan,” he prefaced.) He also spoke positively of the strength and vigor of Senator Chuck Schumer, a Democrat of New York.

But also Graham reminded the audience that this year marked the anniversary of the end of World War II, and portrayed Obama's deal as a threat to the Jewish state of Israel. “Seventy years ago this year we liberated the camps,” he said, adding, “To our friends in Israel, I join you in saying never again. To the American people I say, I will make sure that there is never another 9/11.” Later, he warned, “Don't put Israel in this box. Don't make it feel that she—that Israel—has to go it alone.”

An observant Jew, Lieberman is himself a major proponent of Israel, and called the vote on whether to approve

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the Iran deal “the most important opinion that any member of congress will ever cast.”

“This is a mortal threat to our values,” Lieberman argued.

Both Graham and Lieberman also took jabs at real estate magnate Donald Trump over his ongoing feud with McCain over the question of the latter's heroism as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. “Anybody that suggests that John McCain and his fellow prisoners of war are somehow lacking in the title of being called ‘American hero,’ you shouldn’t be our commander-in-chief because you don’t know our military,” Graham said.

Referring to Trump by name, Lieberman called his remarks “un-American,” as McCain looked down modestly as the crowd clapped.

This was a way to defend their friend, but also for one candidate to criticize a rival. The campaigning continued when both Lieberman and McCain articulated what a good president Graham might be, and then both exited and left the stage to their friend to answer questions.

During the Q & A, Graham repeatedly spoke of the need for a president who could “leverage to get a better deal.”

“Do you think these four hostages would still be in Iran if Ronald Reagan we're president?” Graham asked.

And then, with barely a pause, he answered, “I don't think so either.”

Lindsey Graham wages war against Iran deal **// MSNBC // Amanda Sakuma – July 20, 2015**

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham is building on his long-shot Republican presidential campaign to pressure Congress to reject the historic nuclear deal between world leaders and Iran.

Appearing alongside Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona and former Independent Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut during a town hall event in New York, the Graham said he hopes to see the American public voice opposition to the agreement.

“I believe with all my heart and soul that Iran wants a nuclear weapon – a nuclear power plant – and that they’ll get them if somebody doesn’t stop them,” Graham said. “The last line of defense is the United States Congress and the power of the next president to protect us and the world at large.”

World leaders struck the historic deal in Vienna last week, culminating years of negotiations that will ultimately require Iran to scale its nuclear program in exchange for harsh economic sanctions on the country being lifted.

The event was a part of a national tour — spanning Indiana, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Minnesota, and others — for Graham to campaign on his reputation as a foreign policy hawk and gin up public support against the deal.

Americans broadly approve a nuclear deal with Iran by a 2-to-1 margin, according to the latest poll conducted last month by NBC News/Wall Street Journal.

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A number of Republicans in Congress, however, remain skeptical of the deal's details and question whether Iran will hold up its end of the bargain. Congress has a 60-day period to review the agreement and ultimately vote on whether to accept the terms.

"How this debate ends and how this vote goes is very much in the air," Graham said. "I would say there is a better than 50-50 chance that we can reject the deal with the understanding that the next president will have power to negotiate a better deal."

In a rare show of bipartisan praise in the midst of a presidential election season, Graham tipped his hat to Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, saying the former secretary of state could have negotiated better than her successor. "I think Hillary Clinton could have gotten a better deal than this," Graham said.

Despite his prominent national profile in Congress, Graham has fallen behind the pack in a several national polls. But he opened the event by taking aim at the unlikely Republican leading the pack: billionaire and real estate mogul Donald Trump.

Trump made personal attacks against McCain during a Republican cattle call event in Iowa over the weekend, saying repeatedly that the Arizona senator was "not a war hero" despite being captured and tortured during the Vietnam War. McCain responded during an exclusive interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" by saying the real estate mogul owes an apology to military families affected by captivity during conflict. At Monday's event, Graham defended his friend and Senate colleague, declining to name names. "If anybody that suggests that John McCain and his fellow POWs are somehow lacking in the title of being called 'American hero,' you shouldn't be our commander-in-chief because you don't know our military," Graham said.

GOP presidential candidate warns of another attack on New York City if the Iran deal goes through //
Business Insider // Maxwell Tani – July 20, 2015

US Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) is warning that world powers' nuclear deal with Iran could lead to another attack on the United States.

Speaking at an event in New York City on Monday, Graham cautioned of the dangers of the recently announced nuclear deal with Iran. Graham, a GOP presidential candidate, ended his remarks with a stark alert for New Yorkers.

"Where do you think they'd like to come most outside of Washington? Right where we're sitting," Graham said.

"New York City represents America. This is the place that they'd choose to hit us again if they could," Graham added.

Flanked by Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) and former Sen Joe Lieberman (D-Connecticut), Graham struck an almost-apocalyptic tone when discussing the deal. He frequently drew parallels between Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and Adolf Hitler, claiming that the deal posed an enormous threat to Israel and to the US and that it would lead to a nuclear-arms race in the Middle East.

"A yes vote takes all the leverage off the table, locks in the deal, and makes a conflict in the Middle East much more likely," Graham said. "... The Sunni Arabs are not going to sit on the sidelines and wait for the Iranian Shiite Persians to get a nuclear weapon."

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Lindsey GrahamBrendan McDermidU.S. Republican presidential candidate Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) speaks during a campaign event

Though the Republican presidential field is universally opposed to the deal, Graham — who is currently one of the lowest candidates in the polls — is making his opposition to the Iranian deal a bigger part of his campaign. He is planning a slew of stops over the next 60 days — or until Congress votes on the deal — on a "no nukes for Iran" tour.

Speaking to reporters after the town hall on Monday, Graham said that he agreed with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's (R) comments that it is "very possible" that a new president would be forced to take military action against Iran on the first day of his or her presidency.

"The military option should be on the table for any president, at any time because the consequences of a nuclear breakout for Iran are just enormous to our national security," Graham told Business Insider in response to questions about Walker's comments.

Both Graham and Walker are taking much more hard-line stances than Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), who said over the weekend that it would be naive not to consult with allies and key Cabinet members appointed and confirmed before proceeding to possible military options on Iran.

At the even on Monday, Graham took a dig at one of his rivals: Sen. Rand Paul (R-Kentucky).

"I'm going to say something bipartisan: Hillary Clinton could've done a better deal than this," Graham said, who later repeated the phrase and added that "almost anybody could have, except maybe Rand Paul."

Graham rattled off numerous provisions in the deal that he found dangerous, including the eventual end of an arms embargo on Iran and the need for inspectors to give Iran 24 days' notice before inspecting at certain nuclear cites.

"Do you mind if we come by in three weeks?" Graham asked sarcastically.

Graham said that his goal for now is to rally support for Democratic members of Congress who appear to be hesitant to endorse the deal, at least for now. The South Carolina senator pleaded with traditional Israeli allies in the Democratic caucus — including Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-New York) and Sen. Bob Menendez (D-New Jersey) — to rally Democrats to oppose the deal.

Opponents need to meet at key 67-senator threshold to overcome a likely presidential veto if they vote down the deal. If they cannot get two-thirds of the House and the Senate to overturn the president's veto, the deal will automatically go through.

“The last line of defense is the United States Congress and the power of the next president to protect us and the world at large,” Graham said.

Though he admitted that Republicans do not have the votes yet, Graham remained optimistic that he could convince his Senate colleagues.

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"I think we could get there," Graham said.

The South Carolina senator said that his solution would be to start over on a new deal, without ending the arms embargo and with an "anytime, anywhere" mandate for inspection. Graham said he'd punish any Russian, French, and German company that sold arms to Iran.

"A better deal could be easily had only with leverage," Graham said. "If you vote no to this deal, you're giving the next president leverage to get a better deal."

SANTORUM

'They Are So Afraid': Santorum Says GOP Leadership Botching Planned Parenthood Response // Daily Caller // Alex Pappas – July 20, 2015

Rick Santorum is accusing the Republican congressional leadership of failing to adequately respond to the video of a Planned Parenthood employee discussing how fetal body parts are sold after abortions.

“This is why I sort of scratch my head at our leadership,” the Republican presidential candidate said Monday during a conversation with several reporters at a Capitol Hill restaurant. “Because they are so afraid of these issues.”

Speaker of the House John Boehner called for congressional hearings into the matter last week, but Santorum argues Congress should be moving faster to go after Planned Parenthood. Legislation targeting the organization should have already been voted on, he said.

“I would have had a vote on the floor of the Senate, if I was the Senate leader, to defund Planned Parenthood and have a debate on it,” he said. “As well as have hearings to see if there’s any criminal activity or criminal investigation that should pursued.”

Santorum, a former senator from Pennsylvania, suggested Republican leaders are pressured by some in the party not to emphasize pro-life issues, worried about the politics of it.

“You have a group of members and a group of donors who will climb down your throat if they do,” he said. “They just want to avoid these issues at all cost.”

“I don’t understand it,” Santorum added. “I don’t understand why we can’t point out the dehumanization that’s going on in this country. Because that’s what it is. It’s dehumanization.”

Santorum said Republicans are missing a big opportunity to go on offense against the pro-abortion lobby.

“For me, it’s an opportunity to expose the cruelty of abortion, as well as the hypocrisy of the people who are denying the reality of what occurs during abortion,” he said.

Also during Monday’s discussion, Santorum was asked about rival presidential candidate Donald Trump and the situation he finds himself in over his negative comments about Arizona Sen. John McCain’s service during

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Vietnam.

But Santorum said it was actually something else Trump said in Iowa over the weekend that has evangelicals suspicious of the businessman.

While discussing his Christian faith Saturday, Trump said he is religious but gave an awkward answer when asked if he's ever asked for forgiveness from God. "I am not sure I have. I just go on and try to do a better job from there," Trump said.

Santorum, who was also in Iowa last weekend, said he went to a church the next day in Oskaloosa, where a pastor expressed concern over Trump's comments.

The senator didn't directly criticize Trump directly over his statements on his faith.

"People have their own relationship with the Lord…I'm not judging anybody on their own faith walk," he said.

But Santorum contrasted himself with Trump. "My faith walk is very different," he said. "I apologize continually throughout the day — ask forgiveness for some of the things I think and occasionally some of the things I say and do."

With all the attention on Trump, Santorum said he tries not to take the bait from the media to dump all over him. When he disagrees with a rival, Santorum says he tries to be "critical of what they say" but not be "critical of the person."

"It provides fodder to the other side, and you're playing to the press….The media wants blood out of Republicans," he said.

Santorum considers breaking up big banks **// Washington Examiner // Ariel Cohen – July 20, 2015**

A presidential candidate criticized big banks and Wall Street Monday, but it wasn't Bernie Sanders or any of the other Democrats.

Republican White House hopeful Rick Santorum said that he has "real concerns about too big to fail," while speaking with reporters in Washington, D.C.

"I have real concerns about the size of the banks and think that while I've looked at various ideas as how to break up these financial institutions, I would certainly be open to ideas that would reduce systemic risk," Santorum said.

In contrast with what he sees as a the big-government solutions of Sanders, Hillary Clinton and Martin O'Malley, Santorum proposed that the federal government could create regulations and laws that would lead to banks deciding on their own terms to break up.

O'Malley has made reforming Wall Street a key component of his platform, often stating that those responsible for the 2008 fiscal crash on Wall Street are "criminals." Sanders has repeatedly called for the re-installation of Glass-Steagall. Clinton has said "too big to fail is too big."

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Santorum is one conservative Republican who hasn't ducked these issues, though he doesn't agree with everything Washington has done in the name of regulating Wall Street.

"I would be more oriented towards clearly Dodd Frank is a disaster and needs to be redone," Santorum said. "The institutionalization of too big to fail is something that has to be unwound, including unwinding some of these large institutions."

Santorum: Repeal Obamacare, Defund Planned Parenthood // Weekly Standard // Michael Warren – July 20, 2015

Rick Santorum is keeping expectations low for his second presidential campaign. Asked if he would need to win the Iowa caucuses to stay in the race, the former senator said it “depends.”

“If I finish third and half a percent behind first, I think I feel pretty good. If I finish third and I’m ten points out, well, that’s a different story,” he told a small group of reporters in a Washington restaurant Monday afternoon.

That’s quite an admission from Santorum, who actually won the 2012 Iowa caucuses by a razor-thin margin over Mitt Romney. Initial media reports were that Romney had won, and it took 18 days before the state of Iowa confirmed Santorum’s victory, and the bounce he might have received from winning on caucus day didn’t quite materialize. Even so, he would go on to win ten more states to place second to Romney. On paper, that record might suggest Santorum would have been an obvious “next in line” candidate for 2016.

But so far, the Pennsylvania Republican’s been more of an afterthought. According to the Real Clear Politics average of national polls, he’s at two percent support. It’s nowhere close to a sure thing Santorum will make it into the top-ten pool for the first Fox News debate August 6. (He called the Republican National Committee’s debate requirements “arbitrary.”) And in Iowa, the state that kept Santorum alive for the long haul in 2012, he’s polling at an average of 4.3 points, putting him in ninth place.

Meanwhile, Santorum, who served two terms in the U.S. House and two in the Senate before losing his seat in 2006, is resolute about his chances in 2016. “We’re in this thing to win it. If I didn’t think I could win it I wouldn’t run,” he said.

For the Iowa voters he’s met this time around, Santorum says there are some differences in what issues these Republicans are concerned about. They’re more interested in talking about national security and immigration than they were in 2012. There’s less anxiety, too, about health care, and he said many Republicans are “convinced that they’re stuck with Obamacare.”

“They’re not,” Santorum said. “You give me 50 United States senators and a Republican House, and we can de facto repeal Obamacare through reconciliation. Take all the money out and make it impotent. And then replace it with a plan that provides federal support for everybody to be able to go out and get the plan they want. And then put patients and doctors back in charge of the health-care system. That’s the answer.”

A staunch opponent of abortion—he was the chief Senate sponsor of the partial-birth abortion ban—Santorum was critical of the response from congressional leadership of a recent video showing a high-ranking Planned Parenthood official casually discussing the selling of body parts from aborted infants. House speaker John Boehner has called for committee-led investigations into the organization, but Santorum says the Republican Congress should have already voted to strip Planned Parenthood of its federal funding.

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"This is why I sort of scratch my head at our leadership. They are so afraid about these issues that even when you have an issue that is probably an 80 to 90 percent issue in America, they won't talk about that, because you have a group of members, a group of donors, who will climb down your throat if you do. And they just want to avoid these issues at all costs. They don't recognize that these issues don't go away. They don't go away, and they're important to people," he said.

Santorum has called on the GOP to adopt a more populist agenda on economics, even writing a book in 2013 called Blue Collar Conservatives. I asked him how healthy blue-collar conservatism is in the party. "I think you see more Republicans sound like me," Santorum said. "Four years ago, if you think about it, was there anyone else in the race that really had a focus on a populist economic message, on workers, and being more critical of corporate America?"

There wasn't. This time there are, with candidates like Scott Walker, Mike Huckabee, Carly Fiorina, Ted Cruz, and Donald Trump all sounding a populist tone on some or many issues: trade, immigration, corporate welfare, entitlements, and government bureaucracy. Santorum's 2012 run may have helped give populism a new lease on life within the Republican party. But so far, that lease hasn't been extended to Santorum himself.

HUCKABEE

Huckabee campaign video comments on racial tension, America has a 'sin not skin' problem // Breitbart // Alex Swoler – July 20, 2015

GOP presidential candidate Gov. Mike Huckabee released a new online ad titled "Sin Not Skin,making its first debut with Breitbart News.

The paid online campaign ad began running in Iowa and South Carolina. It features Huckabee's remarks on racial tension while he spoke at the Family Leader Summit in Ames, Iowa on Saturday.

The transcript of the ad is as follows:

We don't have a skin problem in America, we have a sin problem in America. That is the root and the heart and the cause of racial strife and it cannot be reconciled by the government stepping in and making pronouncements. There is a prescription…2nd Chronicles 7:14….'If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways' – those are the conditions – then He says 'He will hear from Heaven, He will forgive our sins, and He will heal our land.' I think people forget God will heal this land, but He won't do it if we don't meet the conditions for Him to heal it.

Huckabee gave similar remarks when he appeared at an Africa American Church in South Carolina on Sunday.

The video is part of push by the Huckabee campaign to engage African American voters. Huckabee won roughly 48 percent of the black vote in Arkansas, a CNN exit poll suggests.

JINDAL

Jindal: Obama quick to push gun control after Charleston massacre, silent on radical Islam after Tennessee terror attack // Breitbart – July 20, 2015

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On Breitbart News Saturday, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal slammed President Barack Obama for reflexively politicizing the tragic Charleston massacre to push for more gun control while remaining silent about radical Islamic terrorism after Muhammad Youssuf Abdulazeez murdered five servicemen in Tennessee last week.

“You remember after the horrific shooting in Charleston, this president had no problems going out quickly and saying, well here’s an opportunity to talk about gun control… within 24 hours,” Jindal told host and Breitbart News Editor-in-Chief Alex Marlow on Sirius XM Patriot channel 125. “When we see these attacks in Fort Hood, when we see these attacks in Garland, Texas, when we see these attacks in Tennessee, where’s the same clarity in going after radical Islamic terrorism?”

The 2016 GOP presidential candidate said Obama’s reaction to “this terrorist attack” was “disheartening,” especially because “everyday Americans get it–we’re at war with radical Islamic terrorism.’

“I wish we had a Commander-in-Chief who was honest enough to tell us that,” Jindal said, adding that “you have to be deaf, blind, and dumb to ignore what everything that we know is telling us.”

Jindal noted that the Obama administration is “still calling Fort Hood” an act of “workplace violence,” which he said was “nonsense.” He said if you “look at what happened in Garland, Texas… it is clear that Islam has a problem, and that problem is radical Islam.”

“It is clear these terrorists want to bring this fight to us. They’re not content to stay in Syria and Iraq. It’s clear that leading from behind has not worked,” Jindal said. “The reality is that we are at war with them, they are at war with us… whether our president wants to admit it or not.”

Jindal, who issued an executive order on Friday to arm National Guardsmen at military facilities in his state, said “it is ridiculous” that military personnel are not armed because “it’s like sending a fireman without a hose.”

“Why are we creating a gun-free zone where the terrorists are armed?” he asked. “I am glad law enforcement did have a gun–they were able to kill this terrorist.”

Jindal challenged Obama to have the moral clarity to demand from Muslim critics to say that those committing heinous acts of terror are going “straight to hell” instead of being martyrs who are rewarded in the afterlife. As he has been doing on the campaign trail, Jindal pressed Islamic leaders to also “explicitly embrace the same freedoms for others with different religious and political beliefs from themselves that they demand if they want those freedoms for themselves.” Jindal stressed that Americans cannot allow radical Islamists to “use our freedoms to undermine the freedoms of other people.” Jindal said he may be labelled a “racist” or “anti-Muslim” for his views by the left, but insisted that Americans are just getting “sick and tired” of having to be politically correct on terrorism.

He criticized Obama for not having a clear strategy to defeat Islamic terrorism and pointed out that Obama first said Al Qaeda had been defeated, then said ISIS was a “JV team,” then said he did not have a long-term strategy to confront radical Islam before finally saying that “it’s a generational conflict.” Jindal said the Obama administration needs “to take the political handcuffs off the military” in the fight against radical Islam.

“I don’t want our military in a fair fight,” he said. “I want our military to dominate any potential fight.”

After the Tennessee massacre, Jindal led a nearly two-minute prayer before a campaign event in Iowa, and Jindal reflected on that moment, saying it was “a tough day for every American” and he was praying for the “resilience and resolve to take on evil.”

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"It was like a member of our own family had died. Without praying for their families," Jindal said. "I want God to comfort and bring the peace and the love and grace that only He can bring to the parents, siblings, children, spouses that lost a loved one. These are amazing men and women that put on the nation's uniform and run towards danger not away from it so we can be safe".

Bobby Jindal: An abortion "patient" is the "unborn baby," not the woman having the abortion // Salon // Jenny Krutner – July 20, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful and Lousiana Gov. Bobby Jindal quickly outed himself last week as someone who buys into the claims of a heavily edited anti-Planned Parenthood video that began circulating last week, which accuses the organization of illegally selling donated fetal tissue (known to some conservatives as "baby parts").

Speaking with talk radio host Steve Deace on Friday, Jindal — who launched an investigation of his state's Planned Parenthood affiliates after the video was released — called once again for Congress to defund the healthcare provider (which, don't you worry, it's already tried/trying to do). He also tossed in a very bizarre conception of how abortion (a medical procedure involving a patient) goes down.

"They try to defend themselves by saying this is health care and patient-centered," Jindal said. "Abortions are not health care, and this is not about the patient. The patient in this case is that unborn baby. They've got no concern for the unborn baby, and you can see that in the video."

The GOP presidential candidate went on to say there is "no reason" for taxpayers to continue to fund or support Planned Parenthood — because surely all those other services the organization provides, such as cancer screenings and contraception, aren't worth keeping around.

indal talks family, religion, government at Madison County Fair // The Des Moines Register // Katherine Klingseis – July 20, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal used a few family stories to illustrate his plans for America at a presidential campaign stop at the Madison County Fair on Sunday.

"My parents, they have chased, they have caught, they have lived the American dream," Jindal said. "I want my children and one day my grandchildren to be able to live the American dream. That's really what this election is about."

Jindal and his wife, Supriya Jolly, mingled with fairgoers at the event's GOP booth. Jindal gave a brief speech and had a question-and-answer session with the crowd.

During his speech, Jindal hit on his campaign's four objectives: securing America's borders, replacing Obamacare, rebuilding America's defenses and restoring the country's standing in the world, and shrinking the government. The crowd of about 30 people clapped after each talking point Jindal listed.

"We're going to shrink the size of the government and actually grow the private sector for our economy so our kids can join the middle class by getting an education, by getting a good-paying job," Jindal said.

Jindal told attendees stories about his wife and their three children. In one of these stories, Jindal used his son's frustration with some math homework to illustrate what he says are the flaws of the Common Core State Standards

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Initiative.

Jindal also discussed his support of religious freedom. He told the crowd he is against abortion and he believes marriage should be between one man and one woman.

The Madison County Fair stop came a day after Jindal received multiple standing ovations while speaking at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames. Jindal told The Register that the crowd's reaction echoed the response his campaign has received at town hall meetings.

"I think the reason our message resonates is people see I've got a proven track record in Louisiana of shrinking the government, fighting for religious liberty and we are unafraid to stand up to save the American dream for our children and grandchildren," Jindal said Sunday.

TRUMP

Veterans' Groups Take Their Shots at Donald Trump as He Backs Off a Bit on McCain // NYT // Jeremy Peters – July 20, 2015

Of the many offenses Senator John McCain has committed in the eyes of his most ardent conservative critics — supporting an immigration overhaul, for example, or more recently calling some of them "crazies" — a poor record on veterans' issues is not one that has ever come up.

That left Donald J. Trump with few defenders after the attacks he leveled at Mr. McCain over the weekend, and facing a barrage of condemnation himself on Monday over his own commitment to veterans' causes as well as the propriety of attacking a former prisoner of war who is honored as a hero.

Mr. Trump, a businessman who is running an outsider's campaign for the Republican nomination for president, first said that Mr. McCain was "not a war hero" because he was captured after bailing out of his Navy jet during the Vietnam War. Then he said that as a senator Mr. McCain had failed to lead on military and veterans' issues, while he has championed their cause.

Mr. Trump did soften his words somewhat late on Monday when he told Bill O'Reilly of Fox News that he has respect for Mr. McCain and said, "Certainly if there was a misunderstanding, I would totally take that back."

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What Donald Trump Would Need to Do to Win

But veterans' groups said Mr. Trump was in no position to criticize anyone, and denied that he is the longtime ally he claims to be.

"Donald Trump is not a leader in veterans' philanthropy, unless he's donated a lot of money that nobody knows about," said Paul Rieckhoff, founder and chief executive of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "We were founded in New York. We are headquartered in New York. I've been here 10 years, and I don't think I've ever even seen Donald Trump."

Mr. Trump's attacks were all the more misguided, veterans' advocates said, because Mr. McCain has an extensive

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record of being helpful and involved. He has played a leading role in passing numerous pieces of legislation that aim to improve veterans' health care.

In just the last year, Mr. McCain was a key player in negotiations with Senator Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent who was then chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, to pass a broad-based overhaul of the Department of Veterans Affairs after the disclosure that staff members had been manipulating wait times to make it appear that patients were receiving care faster than they were.

Mr. McCain was also a lead sponsor of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act — one of the first pieces of legislation that became law after Republicans took over Congress this year.

Mr. McCain's office said Monday that it was currently processing 600 veterans-related cases and had dedicated five of its 10 case workers to working on Veterans Affairs complaints full time.

For his part, Mr. McCain, who is now chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, demurred on Monday when asked if Mr. Trump should apologize to him. Rather, he said, Mr. Trump should apologize to the men and women who have been captured in war and whose service Mr. Trump appeared to belittle.

"I think he may owe an apology to the families and those that have sacrificed in conflict and those who have undergone the prison experience in serving their country," a reserved Mr. McCain said in his first comments on the matter on the MSNBC program "Morning Joe."

"There are so many men and some women who have served and sacrificed who happened to have been held prisoner — to denigrate that service I think is offensive to most of our veterans," Mr. McCain added.

Mr. McCain's friend Senator Lindsey Graham, who is also seeking the Republican presidential nomination, was more direct. "To anybody who suggests that John and his fellow P.O.W.s are somehow lacking in the title of being called American hero, you shouldn't be our commander in chief because you don't know our military," he said without mentioning Mr. Trump's name.

Why Mr. Trump would single out veterans' issues and Vietnam as a line of attack — when his own record on the subject is not extensively documented, and he avoided serving in Vietnam by receiving a medical deferment — is unclear. Mr. Trump and his campaign advisers have pointed to a few examples of Mr. Trump's advocacy decades ago, including his donation of over $1 million to build a Vietnam veterans memorial in New York in the 1980s and his underwriting of a parade honoring veterans in 1995.

Writing in USA Today, Mr. Trump said on Monday, "It was one of the biggest parades in the history of New York City, and I was very proud to have made it possible."

His campaign also noted that he had put on various benefits for organizations like the Wounded Warriors Project and had hosted active-duty soldiers and veterans at his golf courses.

But a review of publicly available records of Mr. Trump's charitable contributions shows that relatively little of his money has gone to programs that support veterans. While he has donated millions of dollars to charities like the United Way and the American Heart Association, records show that he gave at least $20,000 and possibly as much as $50,000 to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund in 2003 and 2004. He donated in later years for unspecified amounts.

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Even some of Mr. Trump's allies said that they would not quibble with Mr. McCain's record. "Don't get me wrong, I think John McCain is strong on veterans' issues," said Joel Arends, chairman of Veterans for a Strong America, which defended Mr. Trump over the weekend in a statement that his campaign issued in a news release.

"The problem is not John McCain's record. The problem is how do we run government and is government going to be responsive to men and women who've laid their lives on the line for this country," Mr. Arends said, adding that he believed Mr. Trump had hit a nerve by identifying the inefficiencies and breakdowns in veterans' services.

Some advocates said they were hoping that the glare of media attention that Mr. Trump has turned on them would be of benefit. "I've gotten more media calls today than I probably have in the last 11 years," Mr. Rieckhoff said. "But this is a bigger conversation than whether or not Trump said something stupid."

Donald Trump Continues to Have Strong Support in Iowa // NYT // Alan Rappeport – July 20, 2015

Donald J. Trump has caused a big stir by criticizing Senator John McCain's war record, but so far his polling strength appears to be intact.

A new survey of likely Republican caucusgoers in Iowa by Monmouth University found that Mr. Trump's support has been holding steady in the state despite attacks from his rivals. Mr. Trump drew nearly universal backlash from the Republican Party establishment for suggesting that Mr. McCain is not a war hero.

In Iowa, however, he retained support of 13 percent of the state's Republicans. That trails only Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who leads the pack with 22 percent. Ben Carson, former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida and Senator Ted Cruz of Texas round out the top five in the poll, which was conducted from Thursday to Sunday.

"Trump has outmaneuvered the rest of the field to earn the second spot despite his controversial statements over the weekend," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute in New Jersey.

Mr. Trump often points to his strong performance in national and state polls as evidence of his credibility as a candidate. But the true impact of his comments will likely not be known for several days, as voters fully digest them and assess their significance.

The survey found little difference in reaction to Mr. Trump before and after his remarks on Saturday. His support was strong among those who consider themselves members of the Tea Party, voters who are very conservative, and evangelical Christians.

While some skeptics about Mr. Trump's candidacy point out that his lifestyle and inconsistent views on social issues make him out of step with the party, Monmouth's poll indicates that social issues appear to be less important among Iowa Republicans this year. Former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, who have traditionally performed well in Iowa, are failing to gain traction this time around.

Monmouth's poll of 425 likely Republican voters has a margin of error of 4.5 percent.

Rush Limbaugh Rallies Listeners to Donald Trump's Defense // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 20, 2015

The conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh, who has a substantial following among grass-roots Republicans,

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came to the defense of Donald J. Trump on Monday as prominent leaders in the party stepped up their criticism of Mr. Trump's pointed comments about Senator John McCain.

Such a defense is not entirely surprising, since Mr. Limbaugh's distaste for the Republican establishment is deep and well documented. But the supportive words from Mr. Limbaugh may provide Mr. Trump with the inoculation he needs to survive the scorn of the party's elders long enough to be included in the presidential debates.

Mr. Trump is not following the typical protocol for public figures who are scorned by the establishment, Mr. Limbaugh said.

"The American people haven't seen something like this in a long time," the radio host said, speaking to the unique nature of the emerging 2016 Republican presidential contest, in which harnessing anger and money may be crucial ingredients for success. "They have not seen an embattled public figure stand up for himself, double down and tell everybody to go to hell."

"Trump can survive this, Trump is surviving this," Mr. Limbaugh said at the start of his three-hour program on Monday, two days after Mr. Trump took issue with the description of Mr. McCain, a former Vietnam prisoner-of-war, as a "war hero." "This is a great, great teachable moment here, this whole thing with Trump and McCain."

Last week, Mr. Limbaugh expressed aggravation with Mr. McCain, who has never been a favorite of the Republican base, for saying that Mr. Trump was riling up "the crazies" in the party with his comments about illegal immigrants from Mexico.

Mr. Limbaugh described the dust-up as an over-hyped effort from "the drive-by media." He returned to the topic in the show's second hour, pointing out that Democrats have taken shots at Mr. McCain's service — including Senator Al Franken of Minnesota, years before he was elected to the Senate.

"When leftists attack McCain, they're perfectly warranted, because they're nice people," Mr. Limbaugh said. "Here comes Trump, and you would think that nobody has ever said anything like this before about the revered and respected John McCain."

Pointing out how many people are calling now for Mr. Trump to exit the race for president, Mr. Limbaugh said: "There's just one problem — Trump is not following the rules that targets are supposed to follow. Targets are supposed to immediately grovel, apologize."

"Guiding all of this," Mr. Limbaugh said, "is the guiding presumption that the majority of the American people are as outraged as the media are."

Why is Trump surging? Blame the media. **// WaPo // John Sides – July 20, 2015**

Donald Trump's surge to the front of the GOP presidential polls has occasioned not a little media attention and endless speculation as to why. You can disregard most of that speculation. The answer is simple: Trump is surging in the polls because the news media has consistently focused on him since he announced his candidacy on June 16.

Below is a graph that I made with UCLA political scientist Lynn Vavreck using social analytic tools provided by Crimson Hexagon. These tools are devised to gather and reveal the volume and tone of media coverage on major news sites. Vavreck and I are analyzing the news coverage of presidential candidates as part of our joint work on the 2016 election.

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The graph shows you how much coverage Trump got in the week before he announced his candidacy, and in the 30 days after. For comparison, there is a line for the other Republican candidates who have announced their candidacy in the past 2 months: Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Rick Perry, Rick Santorum, and Scott Walker.

The graph shows two important things. First, Trump's announcement generated a much larger spike in media coverage than these other candidates received. The day before he announced his candidacy, Trump received 4 percent of the media coverage devoted to these candidates. The day after, he received 31 percent.

Second, the news media's attention to Trump hasn't faded away, as is typical. He has consistently attracted 20-30 percent of the news coverage of these candidates. Only Jeb Bush comes close. In the month since Trump's announcement, Trump has received 21 percent of the news coverage. Bush has received 20 percent.

Has this attention to Trump driven his poll numbers? Almost certainly. Think about it this way: voters don't change their minds without new information. No one wakes up on June 17 and randomly decides on their own that Donald Trump should be the Republican nominee for president. People's minds change because they are hearing information that they haven't heard before.

In this case, people are being bombarded with news stories about Trump. When the news media suddenly focuses on a candidate that hasn't previously received much coverage, Vavreck and I refer to this as the "discovery" phase of that candidate's campaign. The resulting spike in news coverage then drives the poll numbers.

In our book on the 2012 presidential election, "The Gamble," Vavreck and I documented this pattern over and over in 2011—for Perry, Herman Cain, and Newt Gingrich. In 2015, we've already seen similar, smaller surges for Cruz and Rubio after they announced their candidacies.

You can see the same pattern by closely examining Trump's news coverage and the national polls:

Trump's poll numbers increase only after the first spike in news coverage. Here is an apples-to-apples comparison. In a YouGov/Economist poll conducted from June 13-15—right before Trump's announcement—Trump polled at 2 percent. In a YouGov poll from June 20-22, he polled at 11 percent.

His numbers have only increased since then. This is completely expected: Trump has received a larger-than-usual spate of media coverage and so, as Nate Cohn showed Sunday, his polling bump is larger and more durable too.

Now, it's tempting to think that each surge is somehow the result of each candidate's idiosyncratic appeal to Republican voters. This is what commentators often assume about Trump.

But a simpler explanation is this: when a pollster interrupts people's lives and asks them about a presidential primary that doesn't formally begin for months, a significant number of people will mention whichever candidate happens to be in the news these days. It's basically a version of what's called the "availability heuristic." And for any causal consumer of news, Trump is very available these days.

But, as Cohn noted (and see also Andrew Prokop), this discovery phase doesn't last. It's followed by what Vavreck and I call "scrutiny"—in particular, scrutiny from the news media, aided and abetted by the competing candidates. (Hillary Clinton knows all about this.) This scrutiny tends to produce much less favorable coverage and, for many candidates, a permanent decline in the candidate's poll numbers. In the primary, this is often fatal for that candidate's campaign.

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In Trump's case, his remarks about John McCain have finally elicited strong criticisms from the other GOP contenders. Now the question is whether Trump will feel the full scrutiny of the press—which, as political scientist Matthew Dickinson argues, necessitates more than simply enabling Trump to traffic in controversy. Dickinson suggests this:

Instead, journalists should take his candidacy seriously by pressing him on the details of his policy pronouncements, and helping the public understand the differences between the public and private sector. The sooner the media begins evaluating The Donald on the details of his policies and his governing expertise, rather than on his deliberately provocative comments designed to mobilize a disaffected public, the sooner The Donald's political bubble is likely to burst.

In other words, the media giveth, and the media can taketh away. This is what underlies the seemingly unpredictable Republican presidential primary of 2015.

Poll: Trump surges to big lead in GOP presidential race // WaPo // Dan Balz – July 20, 2015

Businessman Donald Trump surged into the lead for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, with almost twice the support of his closest rival, just as he ignited a new controversy after making disparaging remarks about Sen. John McCain's Vietnam War service, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.

Support for Trump fell sharply on the one night that voters were surveyed following those comments. Telephone interviewing for the poll began Thursday, and most calls were completed before the news about the remarks was widely reported.

Although the sample size for the final day was small, the decline was statistically significant. Still, it is difficult to predict what could happen to Trump's support in the coming days and weeks as the controversy plays out.

Even with the drop in support on the final night of the survey, Trump was the favorite of 24 percent of registered Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. That is the highest percentage and biggest lead recorded by any GOP candidate this year in Post-ABC News polls and marks a sixfold increase in his support since late May, shortly before he formally joined the race.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who announced his candidacy a week ago, is in second place, at 13 percent, followed by former Florida governor Jeb Bush, at 12 percent. Walker's support is strongest among those who describe themselves as "very conservative."

The next seven, ranging in support from 8 percent to 3 percent, are: former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.), retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.), Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.), former Texas governor Rick Perry and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

The rankings are more important than early national surveys in previous campaigns because only the top 10 candidates, based on an average of the most recent national polls, will qualify for the first Republican debates. The first debate will be held Aug. 6 in Cleveland. Fox News Channel is the sponsor of that event and established the rules for qualification.

The bottom six candidates in the Post-ABC News survey are Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who plans to announce his candidacy Tuesday, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former New York governor George Pataki, former senator Rick Santorum (Pa.), businesswoman Carly Fiorina and Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.). Their support ranges from 2 percent to less than 1 percent.

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The Republican race remains highly fluid and continues to change with each survey. Four months ago, Bush was at 21 percent, and that support has dropped significantly. Others who have faced erosion include Cruz, who was at 12 percent shortly after he announced his candidacy this spring and is at 4 percent now. Paul was at 11 percent two months ago and is at 6 percent in the new survey. Christie also has dropped steadily, from 14 percent in January to 3 percent.

In the contest for the Democratic nomination, former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton maintains a wide lead, with 68 percent of registered Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents saying they would vote for her today in a caucus or primary. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who is drawing big and enthusiastic crowds in many states, is in second, at 16 percent. Support for Sanders has grown with each Post-ABC News poll this year.

Trailing the top two candidates are former senator Jim Webb (Va.), at 5 percent, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, at 2 percent, and former Rhode Island governor Lincoln D. Chafee, at 1 percent.

When Vice President Biden is included as a choice, Clinton is at 63 percent, Sanders at 14 percent and Biden is at 12 percent. Biden is not a declared candidate but has not said definitively that he will not run.

Clinton, who has highlighted the possibility of becoming the first female president in U.S. history, is far more popular among Democratic women than men, by almost 20 points. About 9 in 10 of her supporters say they are enthusiastic about her candidacy.

Part of Clinton's strength is that she is considered ideologically acceptable to a broad swath of the Democratic Party. Nearly 7 in 10 say she is "about right" ideologically. Only 40 percent say the same about Sanders, in part because nearly as many say they don't know enough about him to have an opinion.

Sanders is more popular among liberal Democrats than those who are moderate or conservative. He is significantly more popular among college graduates than those without a college degree. Although his message attacks what he calls the "billionaire class" and focuses on wealth and income inequality, he has more support among Democrats earning more than $50,000 than among those who make less than that.

The poll also tested attitudes about President Obama, who has recorded a series of victories over the past six weeks. They include Supreme Court decisions legalizing same-sex marriage and upholding the Affordable Care Act, a hard-fought win in Congress on trade policy (with significant GOP support) and last week's agreement with Iran designed to check that country's path to developing a nuclear weapon.

Those successes have not changed Obama's overall approval rating, however. The new survey shows that 45 percent approve of the way he is handling his job and 50 percent disapprove, almost identical to the poll in late May.

Just 35 percent say they approve of how he is handling the situation with Iran, while 52 percent disapprove. He receives better marks on the economy, with 47 percent saying they approve and 48 percent saying they disapprove. His ratings on the economy are unchanged from the last poll.

Trump has dominated campaign news since he announced his candidacy. His comments about illegal immigrants have drawn strong responses, pro and con. He said that the Mexican government is sending across the U.S.-Mexican border criminals, drug dealers and rapists, but that some of them are "nice" people.

Through nonstop media interviews and some high-profile appearances, including a big rally in Phoenix on July 11,

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he has drowned out his opponents. His rivals were tentative in taking issue with his immigration comments but pounced over the weekend when he went after McCain (R-Ariz.), a former prisoner of war, who drew the ire of Trump when he said the Phoenix rally had drawn out the “crazies” in the GOP.

Trump has struck a chord with at least a part of the Republican electorate. He does far better among those who are not college graduates than among those who are.

His support among men and women is about the same, and he performs somewhat better among GOP moderates than among those who say they are “very conservative.”

His views on immigration are not widely shared. Just 16 percent of Americans say that undocumented immigrants from Mexico are mainly “undesirable people like criminals,” while 74 percent say they are mainly “honest people trying to get ahead.”

Even in the Republican Party, Trump’s characterizations reflect a minority view. Among Republicans, 66 percent say undocumented immigrants from Mexico are mainly honest, while 19 percent say they are mainly undesirable.

There is clear resistance to his candidacy within the party. A majority (54 percent) say his views do not reflect the core values of the Republican Party.

If Trump were to receive the GOP nomination, 62 percent of Americans say they definitely would not consider voting for him. In contrast, just over 4 in 10 say they would definitely not consider voting for Clinton, Bush or Sanders.

Trump, however, could become a factor if he were to leave the GOP race and run for president as an independent. The survey shows that in a hypothetical three-way race, Clinton is at 46 percent, Bush is at 30 percent and Trump is at 20 percent among registered voters.

Trump takes more support away from Bush than Clinton in such a contest. In a head-to-head matchup, Clinton tops Bush by 50 percent to 44 percent among registered voters.

At this point, big majorities in each party say they are satisfied with their choices in the presidential race, with Democrats slightly more so. But compared to this time four years ago, Republicans are noticeably more satisfied with their field of candidates today.

The Post-ABC News poll was conducted July 16-19 among a random national sample of 1,002 adults, including landline and cellphone respondents. Overall results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Full results of the poll and detailed methodology are available here.

Breaking Down the GOP Silence on Trump’s Immigration Rhetoric **// WSJ // Dan Schnur – July 20, 2015**

John McCain is a war hero. The overwhelming majority of immigrants from Mexico are not rapists. And it’s time for Donald Trump to go home.

None of these sentences should be particularly difficult for a Republican presidential candidate to say out loud. But while the contenders for the GOP nomination (appropriately) rushed to Sen. McCain’s defense this weekend, the question remains: Why did they hesitate to forcefully criticize Mr. Trump during the weeks he was attacking

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immigrants rather than war veterans?

Hillary Clinton noted this disparity, albeit before inaccurately conflating Mr. Trump's statements on immigration policy with the rest of the Republican field. But Mrs. Clinton's misrepresentation of Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, and others on this issue was made easier by the lack of strength, speed, and clarity of their rejections of Mr. Trump's message.

It was Rick Perry who finally denounced Mr. Trump with force and anger: He called the real estate mogul's statements "a toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense." But even Mr. Perry's condemnation came weeks after Mr. Trump joined the race, a stark contrast with the speed with which Republican candidates rejected Mr. Trump's insult of Sen. McCain.

There is no question that veterans are a much more integral part of the GOP coalition than Latinos. But the Republican Party is struggling to gain support among minority voters, and the frail and faint nature of GOP candidates' repudiation of Mr. Trump's rhetoric was an important missed opportunity. For the other immigration hard-liners in the 2016 field, Mr. Trump has merely expressed their position in harsher and more inflammatory language. For those candidates who support a path to citizenship or other legal status, simply differentiating themselves from Mr. Trump without excoriating him was insufficient.

A sizable portion of the Republican base virulently opposes immigration reform, so Mr. Bush and Mr. Rubio have been forced to tread carefully on this issue (much as Mrs. Clinton has tried to tiptoe through the ongoing debate over trade). And for Mr. Bush, the prospect of a Trump independent candidacy next fall is likely to bring back memories of the damage that Ross Perot did to his father's candidacy in the 1992 campaign.

Armchair quarterbacks and romantics like myself yearn for candidates to stand up to the most extreme elements in their party, the way Bill Clinton and George W. Bush did in their first presidential campaigns. Mr. Clinton's denunciation of rap singer Sister Souljah, who had publicly speculated about the mass murder of white Americans, is regarded as a particularly evocative moment in political history.

But Sister Souljah was not a billionaire running for president. And Mr. Clinton's goal of separating himself from Jesse Jackson was not nearly as risky as it will be for Mr. Bush and Mr. Rubio to state their positions in the face of much more formidable opposition from their party's base.

This challenge is about to get even harder. In two weeks, Mr. Bush and Mr. Rubio could be on a debate stage with Mr. Trump. Navigating around him to the GOP nomination requires an approach that lies somewhere between accommodation and self-immolation.

Trump's self-paid presidential run means he's not going away // AP // Julie Bykowicz – July 20, 2015

Donald Trump faced an avalanche of fresh criticism Monday for questioning Sen. John McCain's heroism. But he's getting no pressure at all from the one community that could push a candidate out of the 2016 presidential race: political donors.

The billionaire businessman is paying for his own campaign, and that means Republicans may have him around far longer than some party leaders would like.

"Nobody leaves a race because they get tired, or because they think they don't have the votes. They leave the race because they run out of money," said Frank Luntz, a GOP pollster. "Donald Trump will never run out of money, and that makes him incredibly powerful."

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Indeed, Republican operatives suggest that Trump enjoys a rare freedom.

Because he doesn't need tens of millions of dollars from wealthy donors — a notoriously risk-averse crowd — the standard rules of politics simply don't apply. He can afford, literally, to continue dropping the verbal bombs that have defined his presidential campaign since the day he joined the 2016 contest in June.

At his formal announcement last month, Trump said illegal immigrants from Mexico are prisoners and rapists. Then, at a conservative summit in Iowa last weekend, he dismissed McCain's reputation as a war hero, saying of the Arizona senator who was once a prisoner in Vietnam, "I like people who weren't captured."

Critics began piling on Trump immediately, and new voices emerged on Monday, from veterans groups, Republican colleagues and President Barack Obama's spokesman, who defended McCain and called on Trump to apologize.

Paul Rieckhoff, founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said Monday that Trump's "asinine comments" were "an insult to everyone who has ever worn the uniform — and to all Americans."

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said veterans "are entitled to an apology."

A candidate reliant on campaign contributions probably would be feeling the pain by now.

Yet the self-funded Trump has shown little sign of backing down. He leveled new criticism against the McCain on Monday, saying the senator had made America "less safe" through his votes in Congress. The real estate executive also lashed out at fellow GOP presidential aspirants who have criticized his remarks, calling them "failed politicians."

Trump said he did not need "to be lectured by any of them."

"If he were dependent on donors for his campaign, he would find the vast majority of donors would be looking for other candidates at this point," said Fred Malek, who has raised money for Republican presidential hopefuls for four decades.

Presidential competitors in both parties, and the outside groups supporting them, have already raised about $400 million for the 2016 White House contest, the majority of the money coming from donors who face no limits on their contributions.

Trump hasn't solicited a dime. Reports filed last week with federal regulators show he loaned his campaign $1.8 million. His campaign has never held a fundraising dinner where attendees pay the legal maximum of $2,700 to attend, and he has never sent email asking for others to chip in $25. Both are hallmarks of a traditional presidential candidate.

"I don't need anybody's money. It's nice," Trump proclaimed during his presidential announcement June 16 in New York City. "I'm using my own money. I'm not using the lobbyists. I'm not using donors. I don't care. I'm really rich."

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Trump filed details of his personal wealth with federal regulators last week that declare a net worth in excess of $10 billion.

"Being a billionaire means you're the master of your own domain," Luntz said.

He would know: Luntz once worked for Texas businessman H. Ross Perot, perhaps the best-known presidential candidate who paid his own way. In 1992, Perot ran as an independent candidate, using almost $64 million of his fortune to get his name on ballots across the country.

This year, with Republican Party pressure building, Luntz wonders if Trump will break off and go the Perot third-party route.

"You may be able to look back on this day as the beginning" of that campaign, he said. "You make up your own rules."

On the other hand, a self-financed candidate can also be his or her own worst enemy, said Ed Rollins, Perot's onetime campaign manager.

Rollins predicted Trump would follow the same path as his former boss: off a cliff.

Perot was polling ahead of the major-party candidates in June before the election but ended up not winning a single state in November.

"He first promised to spend whatever it took to win, and we presented him with a budget of about $450 million," Rollins said. "He balked at that. He argued over every item. The Ross Perots, the Donald Trumps, they don't want to be told what to do."

No, media, Donald Trump isn't done **// Politico // Dylan Byers – July 20, 2015**

Did you read the news this weekend? Donald Trump's candidacy is done. Over. Dead. Kaput.

“DON VOYAGE! Trump is toast after insult," the New York Post announced on Sunday's front page, one day after Trump told Iowa voters that Sen. John McCain wasn't a war hero. The conservative journal Commentary declared the same.

In the more august pages of The New York Times, Nate Cohn declared the event "a turning point," and "a shift that will probably mark the moment when Trump’s candidacy went from boom to bust."

Boom to Bust! Trump, who had rocketed to the top of a crowded Republican field, besting Jeb Bush in the most recent Fox News and USA Today/Suffolk University polls, had just rung his campaign's death knell, the articles suggested.

On Monday, the Times' political team took a more measured tone: "It remains to be seen whether Mr. Trump’s standing in public opinion surveys will suffer from the episode with Mr. McCain," one article stated.

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With good reason: Later the same day, Monmouth University released a survey showing that Trump's standing with Iowa voters -- second only to Scott Walker -- remained unchanged: "The poll did not find any significant change in support for Trump in interviews conducted after his comments about John McCain's military service," Monmouth said.

Public opinion can be slow to change, and it is certainly possible that days of negative headlines could influence voter sentiment heavily. But the rush to declare Trump's candidacy dead -- especially when journalists on the ground were reporting that many attendees "were not nearly as offended" as party officials -- is premature at best.

The next national survey for the Republican field is set to be released early Monday evening. Like the Monmouth poll, it will likely include data from both before and after Trump's remarks about McCain. A strong showing from Trump won't be proof that he's weathered the storm, any more than the media's gut reaction was proof that he wouldn't. But it should serve as a reminder to exercise caution before acting as coroner.

UPDATE (5:17 p.m.): An ABC News/Washington Post poll published at 5 p.m. ET on Monday had Trump leading the Republican field with a whopping 24 percent, far ahead of Scott Walker (13%) and Jeb Bush (12%).

However, the poll was conducted between Thursday and Sunday, and the poll notes that "Trump's support was conspicuously lower Sunday than in the three previous days." Specifically: "Trump's support was 28 percent in this survey's first three nights of polling. While the sample size of registered leaned Republicans on Sunday is quite small, he dropped to the single digits that day."

The Sunday sample size was indeed quite small: Just 82 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, only 65 of whom who reported being registered to vote. So, once again: Caution.

Trump's Waterloo? Don't count on it // Politico // Ben Schreckinger & Danile Strauss – July 20, 2015

When Donald Trump derided John McCain's war hero status on Saturday and set off a media firestorm, many in the Republican establishment thought he had finally self-destructed. They can keep dreaming.

Trump's partisans are disappointed. But they're disappointed in McCain, the media and the party establishment, not Trump.

Interviews with his supporters in New Hampshire and the first drips of polling data suggest the mogul's core constituency has no intention of abandoning him over the dust-up.

"I don't like McCain anyways, to be perfectly frank with you," said Jerry DeLemus, a Marine Corps veteran and Republican activist in New Hampshire. DeLemus said he was a supporter of Texas Sen. Ted Cruz before formally signing on to support Trump on Sunday.

He said Trump's comments the day before — "He's not a war hero," said Trump of McCain at a gathering of religious conservatives in Iowa, adding, "He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured" — do nothing to shake his support and that it's McCain who should have to answer for his treatment of veterans.

"You think about [McCain] calling all the supporters of Trump 'crazies,'" said DeLemus. "How many of those guys

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are veterans? Trump didn't insult veterans. He went after McCain."

DeLemus called the party establishment's outrage "disingenuous," given its support for the dubious claims made by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, a group that claimed Kerry did not deserve his military accolades, which include the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and three Purple Heart medals, when he ran for president against George W. Bush in 2004.

"For the mainstream media to take Mr. Trump's comments out of context are very unfortunate and clearly in an effort to try to torpedo his candidacy," said Lou Gargiulo, Trump's Rockingham County, New Hampshire, co-chairman, who served in the Army. "He has spoken about the plight of veterans and as a veteran myself, I find people taking those comments out of context very unfortunate."

"People are out there looking for an opening to try to rip Donald Trump down, and we don't want to lose sight of what's most important," said New Hampshire state Rep. Steve Stepanek, who has endorsed Trump.

Early indications from Iowa polling are also showing that for Trump's supporters, his comments only burnish the brash, blunt image that drew them to the businessman in the first place.

In a Monmouth poll conducted from Thursday through Sunday, Trump registered 13 percent support among likely Republican caucus-goers surveyed on Thursday and Friday, before Trump derided McCain on Saturday morning. His support among likely caucus-goers surveyed on Saturday and Sunday was also 13 percent, putting him second only to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and 5 points ahead of the third-place candidate, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

While two days of Iowa polling represent a limited sample size, and many respondents may not have processed Trump's remarks by the time they registered their preference, the poll gives no indication that Trump's supporters are peeling away.

That doesn't mean there isn't any fallout.

A national ABC News/Washington Post poll conducted during the same period did show Trump's support dropping off significantly on Sunday night, though that sample consisted of fewer than 200 voters and the poll's overall results still showed Trump surging to a commanding national lead with 24 percent support, 11 points ahead of his nearest rival, Scott Walker.

"It doesn't have me worried at all," said Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, of the Sunday night drop-off. Nor does a call from former Texas Gov. Rick Perry for Trump to drop out of the race because of the comments. "We don't respond to Rick Perry," he said.

Trump has also caught the scorn of veterans groups, including the Military Officers Association of America, which have called on Trump to apologize. Richard Weidman, executive director for policy and government affairs of Vietnam Veterans for America, said the mogul's comments were especially "outrageous" because he received five deferments that allowed him to avoid serving in the war.

For his part, McCain on Monday morning said that while he doesn't need an apology from Trump, other veterans deserve one.

But even Trump's detractors who are also veterans are skeptical he has done himself any harm.

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"I think Donald Trump is way off-base here and he's a bit of an embarrassment to the political process," said Brandon Friedman, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran and CEO of the McPherson Square Group, a strategic communications firm that often works on veterans affairs.

"For normal politicians, this would obviously be very damaging," said Friedman, a Democrat who also served in the Obama administration as a deputy assistant secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. "But Donald Trump is kind of a force."

He added, "Under normal circumstances, if veterans groups mobilized and really rallied their constituents, you would see Trump's poll numbers drop. … But I think it's very hard to predict right now how this is going to go."

Jonathan Freeman, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran from Iowa who served as the deputy veterans outreach coordinator for Obama's 2008 campaign, said Trump's attack on McCain's service "befuddles the mind." But he also said that Trump's follow-up attack, during which he refused to apologize for his comments in a press availability on Saturday and instead went after McCain's record on veterans issues, resonates with many former service members. "As of 2008, [McCain] had not actually done that much for veterans."

And Democrats are taking Republicans' fast-and-furious condemnation of Trump as an opportunity to remind voters of the party's support — in particular, Jeb Bush's support — for the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth.

"Enough with the slanderous attacks," Bush tweeted in response to Trump on Saturday. "@SenJohnMcCain and all our veterans - particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration."

But in January 2005, Democrats quickly pointed out, the former Florida governor praised the campaign to impugn Kerry's record of service.

"Thank you for your personal support of my brother in his re-election," Bush wrote to the late George Day, who worked on behalf of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and also shared a prison cell with McCain in Vietnam. "I know you will be joining other Swifties — POWs in Orlando soon. Please let them know that I am personally appreciative of their service to our nation. As someone who truly understands the risk of standing up for something, I simply cannot express in words how much I value their willingness to stand up against John Kerry."

Trump, who remains unapologetic, appears to believe he can shift the focus of the debate rather than retract his comments. "This story is no longer about John McCain, it's about our horribly treated vets. Illegals are treated better than our wonderful veterans," he tweeted on Monday.

Trump has also touted his contributions to veterans' causes, saying he gave over $1 million for the building of a Vietnam veterans memorial in New York and another $1 million for a parade to honor veterans in New York in 1995. "A Trump administration will provide premium universal access health care for our veterans," he said in a statement. "They will be able to get the best care anytime and anywhere."

Donald Trump's no-apology tour **// Politico // Nick Gass – July 20, 2015**

For all the words coming out of Donald Trump's mouth since he declared his run for the White House, there have been two words missing: I'm sorry.

He's even doubling down on his comments about Sen. John McCain's time as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, comments that had many saying this is it, now he's crossed the line.

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“He’s not a war hero. He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren’t captured,” Trump said during his appearance at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa.

In the past 24 hours, Trump again tried to flip the script, telling NBC’s Matt Lauer that the media is distorting his words and saying in a USA Today op-ed that his critics should be the ones feeling shame for their willingness to lecture him.

The outrage has been swift. Jeb Bush called on him to stop the “slanderous attacks.” Rick Perry said he should withdraw from the race. Marco Rubio said the comments should disqualify him for the presidency.

Even Secretary of State John Kerry, focused on the landmark Iran deal and the warming ties with Cuba, was moved to issue a statement: “If anyone doesn’t know that John McCain is a war hero, it only proves they know nothing about war and even less about heroism.”

McCain is showing self-restraint. Appearing on MSNBC’s Morning Joe on Monday morning, the five-term senator who spent more than five years in the “Hanoi Hilton” as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, said Trump does not owe him those two words.

But he said others deserve an apology.

“I think he may owe an apology to the families of those who have sacrificed in conflict and those who have undergone the prison experience of serving their country,” McCain said.

“I’m not a hero, but those who were my senior ranking officers, people like Col. Bud Day, a congressional Medal of Honor winner, and those that have inspired us to do things that we otherwise wouldn’t have been capable of doing. Those are the people that I think he owes an apology to,” McCain said.

Trump doesn’t appear close to offering one, and in general, apologies don’t seem to come easily for Trump. When asked at the Iowa summit over the weekend about whether he has ever asked God for forgiveness for his actions, Trump replied, “I am not sure I have. I just go on and try to do a better job from there. I don’t think so,” he said.

And in the Monday morning interview with Lauer, Trump again blasted McCain for what he called the “terrible job” he has done for veterans, and continued his double-speak style of explaining himself.

“We talk about John McCain, and I think it’s great. He is a very brave man and all of that, but we don’t talk about the people who weren’t captured, and that’s what I was trying to refer to, and I think I did. And by the way, if you see the news conference right afterwards, a few minutes afterwards, everything was perfect,” Trump said, referring to a press availability after the event in Iowa.

“I never even thought this would be an issue,” Trump added. “My opponents have brought it up. These are guys who have zeros in the polls.”

Trump’s comments about McCain poured gallons of gasoline on an already raging fire within the Republican party on what do about the real estate mogul and the collateral damage he’s creating.

The fire started on Day One. In his announcement speech on June 16, during the rambling hour-long discourse, Trump made big and lasting headlines by saying the U.S. has become a dumping ground for Mexican immigrants who are rapists and drug peddlers.

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As Trump doubled down, and tripled down, and quadrupled down, and so forth, on the comments, Republicans have failed to find a unified response.

Some third-tier candidates, desperate for a bump in the polls that could help get them in the first debate on Aug. 6, have exploited the comments with shame-on-you smackdowns to grab some of the spotlight for themselves.

Others have held their tongue. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who is arguably being hurt most by Trump's recent ownership of uncompromising, anti-establishment rhetoric, has declined to criticize him, and even met up with Trump while in New York on Friday.

The Republican National Committee, meanwhile, has deployed a combination of direct engagement and public condemnations to rein in Trump, with little success.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus reportedly called Trump a couple weeks ago to tell him to "tone it down" — a phone call that Trump later spun into an atta-boy.

On Saturday RNC spokesman Sean Spicer issued a written statement, denouncing Trump's latest remarks.

"Senator McCain is an American hero because he served his country and sacrificed more than most can imagine. Period. There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably," Spicer said.

But Trump's not ready to back down.

"He's terrible," Trump said on Monday morning about McCain. "And he's doing a horrible job with the vets."

Palin calls both McCain and Trump heroes **// CNN // Jake Tapper – July 20, 2015**

Asked about the dispute between Donald Trump and Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona -- the candidate at the top of the ticket when she was 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee -- former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin Monday afternoon called both men heroes.

"I have the good fortune of knowing both John McCain and Donald Trump well," Palin told CNN in an email. "Both men have more in common than the today's media hype would have you believe. Both blazed trails in their careers and love our great nation."

Palin, who attached a photograph of McCain returning from Vietnam to her email, wrote, "Sen. McCain dedicated his life to serving our country, and in my humble opinion the sacrifices made by all ethical service members are heroic -- putting it all on the line to defend freedom IS heroic -- and Donald Trump is a hero in another arena."

"Trump is the candidate giving voice to untold millions of fed-up Americans witnessing a purposeful destruction of our economy and the equal opportunity for success that made America exceptional," Palin said. "We're watching career politicians throw away our kids' future through bankrupting public budgets and ripping open our porous borders which, obvious to all us non-politicians, puts us at great risk."

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Seeming to take issue with some of the language used by McCain in the past to describe attendees at Trump rallies and some of the Senate tea party members, Palin added, "Everywhere I go, hard-working patriotic Americans -- not 'crazies' or 'wacko birds' -- ask me to pass on to Mr. Trump encouragement to keep educating the masses about true ramifications of illegal immigration, and in general the real state of our union."

Palin concluded by recommending both Trump and McCain "resolve the media driven wedge between them."

"We can keep the debate focused on significant issues at hand," she said. "I leave politics of personal destruction to those on the Left and lazy media lapdogs who's only take away from any debate is any salacious slip-up, as if they've never wanted to restate something they've publicly uttered."

"I'll fight the exhausting, divisive strategy that's taken hold under the current crop of politicians who refuse to allow our United States to unite. Both Mr. Trump and Sen. McCain can contribute their gifts and talents to join that fight to work together, because the Left is headed the other direction and under that desired division we will fall," she said.

Donald Trump writes op-ed slamming McCain, Sanders **// CNN // Deena Zaru – July 20, 2015**

After a weekend full of backlash for his comments saying former POW Sen. John McCain is "not a war hero," Donald Trump put his defiance in writing.

In an op-ed for USA Today published Sunday, Trump writes that the Arizona Republican "has failed the state of Arizona and the country."

Trump renewed his attacks on McCain and writes "The reality is that John McCain the politician has made America less safe, sent our brave soldiers into wrong-headed foreign adventures, covered up for President Obama with the VA scandal and has spent most of his time in the Senate pushing amnesty."

Trump also wants Republican presidential candidates who blasted him for his comments on McCain to know that he doesn't care.

"A number of my competitors for the Republican nomination have no business running for president. I do not need to be lectured by any of them," Trump writes. "Many are failed politicians or people who would be unable to succeed in the private sector. Some, however, I have great respect for."

Trump could be referring to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who recently met with Trump and has declined to denounce his comments on McCain.

Trump criticizes Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, who is a former Chairman of the Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee. Sanders was the head of the committee during the Veteran's Affairs scandal last year which led to the resignation of Secretary Eric Shinseki.

"Thanks to McCain and his Senate colleague Bernie Sanders, their legislation to cover up the VA scandal, in which 1,000+ veterans died waiting for medical care, made sure no one has been punished, charged, jailed, fined or held responsible," Trump writes.

Donald Trump Hits New High in Poll of Republicans **// TIME // Sarah Begley – jUly 20, 2015**

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Republican voters favor Donald Trump over any other GOP contender for the 2016 presidential race, according to a new poll by the Washington Post and ABC News.

The poll shows a new high of 24% of registered Republicans and Republican-leaning registered voters saying they would vote for Trump if their state primary were being held today. That is nearly twice as much support in the poll as his runner up, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, whom 13% support.

(Trump's previous high was 18 percent in a Fox News poll conducted July 13-15.)

The last day of the poll coincided with Trump's controversial statement that Sen. John McCain is "not a war hero," so it's not clear yet if those remarks have hurt his standing with voters, although many Republicans have criticized Trump over them. There was some statistically significant drop-off in support for him on that day, however.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush placed third in the poll, with 12% saying they would vote for him, followed by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee with 8%.

On the left, Hillary Clinton is completely dominant with 63% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning registered voters saying they would choose her; Sen. Bernie Sanders comes in second place at 14%, closely trailed by Vice President Joe Biden (who has not declared himself as a candidate) at 12%.

The poll of 1,002 adults was conducted with cell phone and landline respondents from July 16-19. It has a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

Donald Trump Is The World's Greatest Troll **// FiveThirtyEight // Nate Silver – July 20, 2015**

"A troll," according to one definition, "is a person who sows discord ... by starting arguments or upsetting people ... with the deliberate intent of provoking readers into an emotional response or of otherwise disrupting normal on-topic discussion."

The goal of the troll is to provoke a reaction by any means necessary. Trolls thrive in communities that are open and democratic (they wouldn't be invited into a discussion otherwise) and which operate in presumed good faith (there need to be some standards of decorum to offend). Presidential nomination contests are highly susceptible to trolling, therefore. Access is fairly open: There's no longer much of a filter between the campaigns, the media and the public. And it's comically easy to provoke a reaction. How many times between now and next November will we hear that a candidate's statement is "offensive," whether or not it really is?

Trolls operate on the principle that negative attention is better than none. In fact, the troll may feed off the negative attention, claiming it makes him a victim and proves that everyone is out to get him.

Sound like any presidential candidates you know?

There's a notion that Donald Trump's recent rise in Republican polls is a media-driven creation. That explanation isn't entirely wrong, but it's incomplete. It skims over the complex interactions between the media, the public and the candidates, which can produce booms and busts of attention. And it ignores how skilled trolls like Trump can exploit the process to their benefit.

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Let's look at some data. In the chart below, I've tracked how media coverage has been divided among the Republican candidates over roughly the past month (the data covers June 14 through July 12), according to article counts on Google News. In turn, I've shown the share of Google searches for each candidate over the same period. The data was provided to FiveThirtyEight by Google but should closely match what you'll get by searching on Google Trends or Google News yourself.

Even before his imbecilic comments about Sen. John McCain this weekend, which came too recently to be included in this data, Trump was receiving far more media attention than any other Republican. Based on Google News, 46 percent of the media coverage of the GOP campaign over the past month was directed toward Trump, more than for Jeb Bush (13 percent), Chris Christie (9 percent), Scott Walker (8 percent), Bobby Jindal (6 percent), Ted Cruz (4 percent) and Marco Rubio (4 percent) combined.

And yet, the public is perhaps even more obsessed with Trump. Among the GOP candidates, he represented 62 percent of the Google search traffic over the past month, having been searched for more than six times as often as second-place Bush.

So if the press were going purely by public demand, there might be even more Trump coverage. Instead, the amount of press coverage that each candidate has received has been modulated by the media's perception of how likely each is to win the nomination.

The chart I showed you above contained data on each GOP candidate's chances of winning the nomination, according to the prediction market Betfair.1 Candidates who are perceived as having a credible chance to win the nomination — like Bush, Walker and Rubio — receive proportionally more media attention than public attention. The reverse is true for candidates who are seen by the press as long shots, such as Rand Paul and Ben Carson.2

As is usually the case, however, life gets more complicated when we go from identifying correlations to trying to understand their causes. As we've seen, press coverage is highly correlated with the level of public interest in a candidate and the candidate's perceived chances of winning the nomination. It could be, however, that public attention to a candidate is triggered by media coverage rather than the other way around. Likewise, while the media might be fairly sophisticated at identifying which candidates are more likely to win and provide correspondingly more coverage of them, the media can also produce a self-fulfilling prophecy. Being ignored by the media or labeled as a loser can make it hard for a candidate to attract money, endorsements and other resources that might allow them to make a comeback.

We can aspire to determine causality by comparing the timing of Google News and Google search hits for a candidate. If the press drives public interest in the candidates, spikes in Google News should precede spikes in Google searches. If instead the press is reacting to the public, Google News hits will lag search.

Unfortunately, this isn't so easy to determine. Shifts in public and media attention tend to occur at about the same time — as you can see, for example, in the graphic below, which compares Trump's Google News and Google search traffic from week to week.

But a regression analysis — you can read the gory details in the footnotes3 — suggests that press attention both leads and lags public attention to the candidates. This makes a lot of sense. The public can take cues from the media about which candidates to pay attention to. But the media also gets a lot of feedback from the public. Or to put it more cynically: If Trump-related stories are piling up lots of pageviews and Trump-related TV segments get good ratings, then guess what? You're probably going to see more of them.4

This creates the possibility of a feedback loop. Some event sparks a news story about a candidate, which triggers more public attention, which encourages yet more media attention — and so on. It may help to explain why we've repeatedly seen the so-called "discovery, scrutiny and decline" cycle in the past two primary campaigns for

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candidates like Trump, Newt Gingrich and Herman Cain — bursts of attention that coincide with spikes in the polls but then fade or even burst after several weeks.

These "bounces" aren't entirely new. Presidential candidates usually get a temporary bounce in support following their party's convention, for example. But the polls in the 2012 Republican campaign were far more volatile than those in any previous nomination race. We're really just getting started in 2016, but it's been pretty wild as well. Bounces that might have happened once in a cycle now seem to occur all the time.

So if these spikes are media-driven, they seem to be driven by some particularly modern features of the media landscape. Social media allows candidates to make news without the filter of the press. It may also encourage groupthink among and between reporters and readers, however. And access to real-time traffic statistics can mean that everyone is writing the same "takes" and chasing the same eyeballs at once. Is the tyranny of the Twitter mob better or worse than the "Boys on the Bus" model of a group of (mostly white, male, upper-middle-class, left-of-center) reporters deigning to determine what's news and what isn't? I don't know, but it's certainly different. And it seems to be producing a higher velocity of movement in the polls and in the tenor of media coverage.

Trolls are skilled at taking advantage of this landscape and making the news cycle feed on its own tail, accelerating the feedback loop and producing particularly large bounces and busts in the polls. In 2012, Gingrich's whole strategy seemed to involve trolling the media, and he went through a couple of boom-and-bust cycles in polls. In 2008, Sarah Palin, though beloved by Republicans, was brilliant at trolling Democrats and the media. She was extremely popular at first, although her popularity was ultimately short-lived.

Trump has taken trolling to the next level by being willing to offend members of his own party. Ordinarily, this would be a counterproductive strategy. In a 16-candidate field, however, you can be in first place with 15 or 20 percent of the vote — even if the other 80 or 85 percent of voters hate your guts.

In the long run — as our experience with past trolls shows — Trump's support will probably fade. Or at least, given his high unfavorable ratings, it will plateau, and other candidates will surpass him as the rest of the field consolidates.

It's much harder to say what will happen to Trump's polling in the near term, however. That's in part because it's hard to say exactly what was driving his support in the first place. Trump wasn't doing especially well with tea party voters or with any other identifiable group of Republicans. My guess is that his support reflected a combination of (i) low-information voters who recognized his name and (ii) voters who share Trump's disdain for the trappings of the political establishment and (iii) voters who were treating him as an inside joke or a protest vote, making him vaguely like an American equivalent of Beppe Grillo. None of them will necessarily be deterred from declaring their support for him because of his comments about McCain. Some of them might even be encouraged.

But what if you want Trump to go away now?

The media isn't going to stop paying attention to Trump. Nor should it, really: His candidacy is a political story and not just "entertainment."5

Republicans are another matter, however. They might rightly be concerned that Trump is tarnishing their brand image or at least meddling with their already-challenging task of choosing a candidate. Other Republicans should resist the temptation to extend the news cycle by firing back at him, however — even when what he says is genuinely offensive.6

After 12 years of writing on the Internet, I've learned that the old adage is true. Don't feed the troll. The only way to kill a troll like Trump is to deprive him of attention.

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Has Trump gone too far? **// VOX // Jonathan Allen – July 20, 2015**

Donald Trump continues to test the tenets of Politics 101. The rule he's breaking this time: Don't get in a scrap with someone who has less to lose than you do.

When the real estate mogul and former TV star vaulted to the top of Republican presidential primary polls, his rivals for the nomination tried to handle him with kid gloves. No one wanted to kindle his already ignited base or risk the optics of getting in a public fight with a character they hoped would buckle under the weight of his own inexperience. That didn't work so well — at least not at first. The Donald kept rising in the polls and is now the leader.

But he's been baited into a fight with 2008 Republican nominee John McCain, and many political analysts — particularly GOP strategists who hope it's true — think this is the beginning of the end of the Trump phenomenon.

McCain, an Arizona senator playing the role of elder statesman, has taken umbrage at Trump's hard-line rhetoric and positioning on unauthorized immigrants, specifically at a recent rally in Phoenix. Trump "fired up the crazies," McCain told the New Yorker's Ryan Lizza last week. He also noted that Hillary Clinton had attended a Trump wedding — "I don't know which wedding it was," he said, pointing to the fact that Trump has been married repeatedly.

When Trump responded, he touched an electrified political third rail of politics by challenging McCain's war record. "He's not a war hero," Trump said in Iowa Saturday. "He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

That set off a backlash among Republicans, many of whom were looking for a reason to go after Trump. "America's POWs deserve much better than to have their service questioned by the offensive rantings of Donald Trump," Marco Rubio tweeted.

Trump fell into a traditional political trap by getting in a fight with McCain, overstepping what some considered a line of decency in attacking a war veteran and letting his rivals come to McCain's defense while he refused to apologize. But traditional political rules don't always seem to apply to Trump.

Kevin Madden, a top adviser to 2008 and 2012 presidential candidate Mitt Romney, said Trump's not playing at a strategic level.

"We're overthinking it," he told Vox. "Trump doesn't have any strategy other than to be the ringleader of his own media circus. So when we try to assess his moves tactically, we're overlooking the fact that he's only interested in one thing, which is putting Donald Trump in the middle of the conversation."

But given that Trump's anti-immigration base hates McCain, it's not clear how much he loses by going after the Arizona senator. It will be interesting to see whether this is the tipping point at which Trump starts to fade or another data point in the case that the basic rules of politics don't apply to him.

Donald Trump has his biggest poll lead yet (but he's still not going to win) **// VOX // Andrew Prokop – July 20, 2015**

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

In a new national poll, Donald Trump just got his best result yet — he's surged to an 11-point lead, leaving the rest of his Republican rivals in the dust.

Most of the new Washington Post/ABC News poll was taken before Trump's controversial remarks on John McCain's military service, so any impact those may have on the race aren't yet clear. But the celebrity mogul has now led three of the past four national polls, and his lead in this one is the largest any GOP presidential candidate has held in any national poll tracked by RealClearPolitics this year:

Again, it's important not to get carried away by this result. Trump is not going to win the nomination. Winning 24 percent of Republicans is impressive in a crowded field, but it's still very far away from a majority of the party. Additionally, Trump's polling surge resembles those of past "outsider" candidates known for saying provocative things, like Michele Bachmann, Newt Gingrich, and Herman Cain — candidates who all eventually collapsed. GOP elites will go to the mattresses to stop Trump, who looks toxic in a general election, from being their nominee. Trump's candidacy may collapse well before the first ballots are cast, and even if it survives until then, the party will eventually find a non-Trump alternative to unify around.

Yet one risk inherent to that is that Trump could fund his own third-party candidacy — and this new poll finds that in a three-way race, Hillary Clinton would get 46 percent, Jeb Bush 30 percent, and Trump 20 percent.

Trump's decline could occur sooner, though, and some pundits are speculating that his statement that John McCain isn't really a war hero could repel GOP voters. "Support for Trump fell sharply on the one night that voters were surveyed following those comments," according to the Post's Dan Balz and Peyton Craighill, who added: "Although the sample size for the final day was small, the decline was statistically significant."

And even if Trump does somehow, in some way, defy the odds and end up the GOP nominee, this same poll shows that a clear majority of general election voters — 62 percent — "definitely would not" vote for Trump:

As for Trump's rivals, Scott Walker, with a post-announcement bump, comes in second here with 13 percent support, while Jeb Bush is just behind him with 12 percent. These aren't particularly strong results for the two candidates generally considered to be the most plausible GOP nominees.

But as I wrote last week, the real losers from Trumpmentum are all the other candidates in the race, who are less known and desperately need media attention. From Marco Rubio to Ted Cruz to Chris Christie, the GOP field is so crowded right now, with 15 candidates and two more expected to jump in soon, that the key challenge most contenders face is simply getting anyone to pay attention to them. And that's extremely difficult with Trump in the race, being covered obsessively by the media — and partially justifying that coverage by polling so strongly.

Donald Trump Gains Yet Shows Vulnerability in a Crowded, Contentious GOP Race // ABC News // Gary Langer – July 20, 2015

Controversial Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump leads the GOP primary field in a new ABC News/ Washington Post poll, while also garnering enough support as a hypothetical independent candidate in the general election to potentially damage his party's chances.

That's even though a majority of Americans, including most Republicans, say Trump does not represent the Republican Party's core values, and six in 10 overall – including three in 10 in his own party– say they wouldn't consider supporting him for president were he the GOP nominee.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

See PDF with full results, charts and tables.

How long the Trump surge lasts is an open question; this poll was conducted Thursday through Sunday, mostly before his controversial criticism Saturday of Sen. John McCain's status as a war hero. And Trump's support was conspicuously lower Sunday than in the three previous days.

Trump's frontrunner status, moreover, reflects the crowded GOP race. He leads the 16-candidate field with 24 percent support among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who are registered to vote, up sharply from 4 percent in May. While enough for a lead, that also means 76 percent prefer someone else, or none of them.

Scott Walker has 13 percent support, Jeb Bush 12 percent, with the rest in single digits.

Trump's support was 28 percent in this survey's first three nights of polling. While the sample size of registered leaned Republicans on Sunday is quite small, he dropped to the single digits that day.

His improvement overall, compared with an ABC/Post poll in May, occurred largely across the board. Support for Rand Paul dropped by 5 percentage points, for Ted Cruz by 4 and for several other candidates by generally non-significant 1- to 3-point margins.

Among groups, Trump's advanced since May by 7 points among college graduates, but just to 8 percent, underscoring his weakness in this group. But – at least until Sunday – his gains otherwise were broad, up, for example, by 16 points among Republicans, 23 points among GOP-leaning independents and 20 points among moderates and conservatives alike.

He's at least numerically ahead, as a result, across many key groups.

Nativists

There's a nativist element to Trump's support: He's backed by 38 percent of Republicans and GOP-leaning independents who feel that immigrants, overall, mainly weaken U.S. society. That drops to 12 percent among those who say immigrants strengthen this country.

Another, related result underscores a disconnect for Trump with the public overall, one that may pose a challenge for him in the future. Seventy-four percent of Americans see undocumented immigrants from Mexico as "mainly honest people trying to get ahead" as opposed to "mainly undesirable people like criminals." Trump, again controversially, has said such immigrants include drug dealers and rapists, while "some, I assume, are good people."

The question of core values is a potentially difficult one for Trump. Republicans and Republican-leaning independents by a 24-point margin, 56-32 percent, say his views do not reflect the core values of the Republican Party (leaned Democrats agree, by a similar 61-32 percent). And 31 percent of Republicans say they wouldn't consider voting for Trump were he the party's nominee – a large group to lose on his own side. (Just 11 percent of Democrats, by contrast, rule out supporting Hillary Clinton.)

General

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In a general election trial heat, Clinton leads Bush, the GOP fundraising leader, by a slight 50-44 percent among registered voters. But with Trump as an independent candidate that goes to 46-30-20 percent, Clinton-Bush-Trump – with Trump drawing support disproportionately from Bush, turning a 6-point Clinton advantage into 16 points.

Trump's support in this three-way matchup was 21 percent from Thursday to Saturday, vs. 13 percent in Sunday interviews.

These are early days, of course; leaders came and went like flashcards in the 2012 Republican primary contest, and, as noted, potential fallout from Trump's comments on McCain – or his next pronouncements – remains to be seen. But the results underscore the GOP's conundrum in responding to Trump, a billionaire businessman and television celebrity who hasn't ruled out an independent run for the presidency.

Among other results in this poll, produced for ABC by Langer Research Associates:

The Dems

Clinton retains very broad backing for the Democratic nomination, 63 percent, vs. 14 percent for Bernie Sanders and 12 percent for Joe Biden. With Biden out (he hasn't announced a candidacy), most of his support goes to Clinton, boosting her to 68 percent.

That said, Clinton's support is less enthusiastic than it might be – 42 percent of her supporters are very enthusiastic about her candidacy. And while 72 percent of leaned Democrats are satisfied with their choice of candidates, that compares with 83 percent at this point in 2007.

Sixty-nine percent of Democrats and Democratic leaning independents call Clinton "about right" ideologically, as opposed to too liberal or too conservative. That falls to 40 percent for Sanders – not because he's seen as too liberal, but because nearly four in 10 don't know enough about him to say. Also, despite Sanders' more liberal image, Clinton wins 64 percent support from liberals.

She also does 19 points better among women than men in support for the nomination, and 15 points better among nonwhites than whites.

More GOP

Republican candidates do less well in their base than Clinton in hers on being seen as "about right" ideologically – 46 percent for Bush, 45 percent for Marco Rubio, 44 percent for Trump, 38 percent for Walker and 35 percent for Ted Cruz.

Twenty-two percent call Bush "too liberal" and 17 percent say the same about Trump. Walker, Cruz and Rubio, like Sanders, have high undecided numbers on the question.

As shown in the table above (online readers, see the pdf), Bush is notably weak among very conservative leaned Republicans, with just 6 percent support – a persistent difficulty for him.

General

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

A general election match-up between Clinton and Bush is a bit better for her now (50-44 percent, as noted) than in May, 47-44 percent. That relies, in part, on a 19-point advantage for Clinton among moderates. (She has 21 percent support among conservatives; Barack Obama won 17 percent of that group in 2012). Clinton also does 10 points better among women than men (as did Obama) and far better among under-30s (71 percent support) than their elders, especially seniors (40 percent). And she has 78 percent support among nonwhites vs. Bush, compared with 39 percent of whites – margins again similar to Obama's in 2012.

Bringing Trump into the mix as an independent reduces Bush's support in his better groups, including Republicans (-27 points for Bush with Trump added), conservatives (-23) and whites (-19).

Another result marks the mood confronting both political parties: Asked which better represents their own values, a substantial 23 percent of Americans volunteer that neither does (of the rest, 38 percent pick the Democrats, 31 percent the Republicans). And in a challenging finding for candidates trying to find a lever, the public fractures on what attributes matter most to them – a strong leader (24 percent, peaking among Republicans), one who's honest and trustworthy (also 24 percent), one who shares their values (20 percent) or who understands their problems (17 percent, peaking among Democrats). Two other items finish lower on the list – having the best experience (10 percent) or the best chance to win (3 percent).

And the pres

As to the president (not the chief focus of this survey, clearly), Obama continues to encounter difficulties in his popularity overall. While 45 percent of Americans approve of his job performance, more, 50 percent, disapprove, essentially unchanged from 45-49 percent in May. Despite recent economic gains he manages just an even split on handling the economy, also unchanged. Views of the president remain highly polarized.

Methodology

This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone July 16-19, 2015, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults, including 815 registered voters. Results have a margin of sampling error of 3.5 points for the full sample, and 4.0 for registered voters, including design effect. Partisan divisions are 30-21-39 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

Interviews were conducted Sunday among 200 respondents overall, including 82 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents and 65 leaned Republicans who reported being registered to vote. ABC customarily reports results for groups at or near 100 respondents, but may make characterizations of results in smaller groups. Sunday results on Trump support characterized in this analysis were essentially identical regardless of registration.

The survey was produced for ABC News by Langer Research Associates of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Des Moines Register calls on Donald Trump to drop out **// MSNBC // Adam Howard – July 20, 2015**

The Des Moines Register, arguably the most influential publication in the early primary state of Iowa, called on Donald Trump to drop out of the 2016 presidential race in an op-ed published on their website late Monday.

The op-ed comes amid a firestorm of controversy generated by Trump's comments about Sen. John McCain's war record at the Family Leadership Summit on Saturday. Trump initially said McCain was "not a war hero" during a

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Q&A. Although he later clarified that McCain, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for over five years, was "perhaps" a hero, Trump has stubbornly refused to apologize for his statements.

In the scathing piece penned by the Register's editorial board, Trump is accused of being more "focused on promoting himself, and his brand, than in addressing the problems facing the nation."

"If he were merely a self-absorbed, B-list celebrity, his unchecked ego could be tolerated as a source of mild amusement. But he now wants to become president, which means that he aspires to be the leader of the free world and the keeper of our nuclear launch codes," the op-ed reads. "That is problematic, because Trump, by every indication, seems wholly unqualified to sit in the White House. If he had not already disqualified himself through his attempts to demonize immigrants as rapists and drug dealers, he certainly did so by questioning the war record of John McCain, the Republican senator from Arizona."

The piece goes on to commend McCain's service in Vietnam and to call Trump's critique of the senator "disgraceful."

"The best way Donald Trump can serve his country is by apologizing to McCain and terminating this ill-conceived campaign," the op-ed concludes. Previously, Trump's GOP rival, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry called on Trump to quit the race. And he has been criticized by nearly every other 2016 candidate for his attacks on McCain.

Still, the real estate mogul appears to be unmoved, claiming that "nobody" at the summit was insulted by his comments and that the entire story has been promoted by his Republican peers who trail him in the polls. He has also faulted McCain personally for starting the feud. The Arizona senator had dismissed Trump supporters as "crazies" in the past.

In his own op-ed published Sunday, Trump defended his record on veterans and said he will not be lectured by "failed politicians." During an appearance Monday night on Fox News' "The O'Reilly Factor," Trump said "I have respect for Sen. McCain, I used to like him a lot. I supported him. I raised a lot of money for his campaign against President Obama. And certainly if there was a misunderstanding I would totally take that back, but hopefully I said it correctly and certainly, shortly thereafter I said it correctly ... I would like him however to do something with the 15,000 people that were in Phoenix about illegal immigration."

Several polls have shown Trump emerging as a frontrunner among GOP voters nationwide, and he has ranked second to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker in some recent polls out of Iowa.

On several talk show appearances since Saturday, Trump has repeatedly claimed that he is not a "fan" of McCain because he has done "nothing" to help U.S. veterans. McCain said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" Monday that he doesn't need an apology from the polarizing candidate but that he does "owe" a mea culpa to the families of other prisoners or war.

"There are so many men, and some women, who served and sacrificed and happened to be held prisoner and somehow to denigrate that, in any way, their service I think is offensive," McCain said.

"A great honor of my life was to serve in the company of heroes. I'm not a hero," he added.

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KASICH

Long Before His Candidacy, John Kasich Made It to the White House **// NYT // Sheryl Stolberg – July 20, 2015**

Like the 15 other Republicans running for president, Gov. John R. Kasich of Ohio – who is expected to announce his candidacy on Tuesday – knows it takes guts, and even a little chutzpah, to make it to the White House. It's a lesson he learned 45 years ago when, as an 18-year-old freshman at Ohio State University, he begged President Richard M. Nixon to let him visit.

"I think that you, as far as I can judge, are not only a great president but an even greater person," Mr. Kasich wrote, in neat cursive, in a letter dated Dec. 2, 1970. The letter, on file with Mr. Kasich's papers at the Westerville Public Library in Ohio, was hand-delivered by the president of Ohio State, Novice Fawcett.

"Would it be possible," the young Mr. Kasich continued, "for me to come to the White House to talk and see you sometime in the future? I would immediately pass up a Rose Bowl trip to see you. My parents would permit me to fly down anytime, and I know my grades wouldn't suffer."

Mr. Kasich went on to predict, correctly, "a big Nixon victory in '72."

Flattery worked; Mr. Nixon wrote back and on Dec. 22, 1970, the young Mr. Kasich spent 20 minutes with Mr. Nixon in the Oval Office, according to a White House schedule.

"I don't really remember that visit," Mr. Kasich said Friday when asked in an interview what they talked about.

But the governor (and aspiring White House occupant) does recall one thing about his time in the Oval Office: "I remember them telling me I was going to get, like five minutes," he said. "And I thought that was a ridiculously short time."

What Ohio Gov. John Kasich is doing to public education in his state **// WaPo // Valerie Strauss – July 20, 2015**

With two-term Ohio Gov. John Kasich joining the crowd of candidates for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, it's a good time to look at the public education mess that has developed in his state under his leadership.

Kasich has pushed key tenets of corporate school reform:

*expanding charter schools — even though the state's charter sector is the most troubled in the country

*increasing the number of school vouchers that use public money to pay for tuition at private schools, the vast majority of them religious — even though state officials say that fewer than one-third of those available were used by families this past school year)

*performance pay for teachers — even though such schemes have been shown over many years not to be useful in education

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*evaluating educators by student standardized test scores in math and reading — even though assessment experts have warned that using test scores in this way is not reliable or valid.

Meanwhile, the Ohio Education Department in Kasich's administration is in turmoil. David Hansen, his administration's chief for school choice and charter schools resigned over this past weekend after admitting that he had unilaterally withheld failing scores of charter schools in state evaluations of the schools' sponsor organizations so they wouldn't look so bad. (Hansen's wife, incidentally, is Kasich's chief of staff, who is taking a leave from that post to work on his campaign.) There are growing calls now for the resignation of the Kasich-backed state superintendent of education, Richard Ross.

Under his watch, funding for traditional public schools — which enroll 90 percent of Ohio's students — declined by some half a billion dollars, while funding for charter schools has increased at least 27 percent, with charters now receiving more public funds from the state per student than traditional public schools, according to the advocacy group Innovation Ohio. This despite the fact that many charters are rated lower than traditional public schools. Meanwhile, local governments have been forced to pass levies to raise millions of dollars in operating money for traditional public schools because of state budget cuts.

If Kasich's goal for his reform efforts was to close the achievement gap, it hasn't worked. The achievement gap in Ohio — when calculated by the Kasich-approved assessment method of using student standardized test scores in math and reading — is bigger than the national average, according to a new White House report. According to the report, Ohio has the country's ninth-largest reading gap between its highest- and lowest-performing schools, as well as the second-largest achievement gap in math, and the fourth largest gap in high school graduation rates.

If the goal of his reform efforts has been to expand "school choice" then he has succeeded — but not in any way that he would want to trumpet on his upcoming campaign. Ohio charters, which in 2013-14 educated more than 120,000 students, or 7 percent of the total public school enrollment in the state, as, according to this recent story in the Akron Beacon Journal, misspends tax dollars more than any other public sector in Ohio.

The newspaper reviewed 4,263 audits released last year by the state, and said that Ohio charter schools appear to have misspent public money "nearly four times more often than any other type of taxpayer-funded agency." It says that "since 2001, state auditors have uncovered $27.3 million improperly spent by charter schools, many run by for-profit companies, enrolling thousands of children and producing academic results that rival the worst in the nation."

The amount of misspending could be far higher, it says. Though Kasich promised in December 2014 to overhaul the charter sector and require more oversight, strong legislative efforts have gone pretty much nowhere so far.

Meanwhile, school vouchers — the vast majority of them for religious schools — have at least doubled in number under Kasich's administration; Ohio spent $99 million in public funds to pay for private school tuition in 2010, a year before Kasich became governor, and it was more than $200 million in the last school year. As Innovation Ohio noted, Kasich initially said he supported vouchers to help children from poor families escape awful schools, but now, middle-class students from great districts can get vouchers too. The advocacy groups says, "And since voucher money is deducted from the amount public school districts would otherwise receive, the end result is that taxpayers are now subsidizing religious and private school educations at the direct expense of the traditional public schools attended by their own children."

If Kasich's goal was to curb union power and reduce public oversight of public schools, then he has succeeded. Last week, he signed a controversial bill that "drastically changes how the state can step in to run 'failing' school districts," according to the Plain Dealer, "by creating a new CEO position, allowing mayors to appoint school board members and giving the CEO power to override parts of union contracts." The measure, the newspaper wrote, was introduced in the House and Senate, which held hearings on it, and approved it — all in one day. Aside from what can only be called a secretive process to get the bill approved, critics say it strips power away from

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voter-elected school boards.

The Plain Dealer is now reporting that Ross helped push that plan — which was hatched to allow official intervention in the troubled Youngstown district but will also affect others — without telling members of the state school board, which hired him … "even as the board planned, took and discussed a trip to Youngstown to review how an existing improvement plan was working."

And if Kasich's goal is to work deliberately with people in the education world, he needs some lessons in how to get along. Earlier this year, he said he would "take an ax" and slash funding of Ohio's public universities and colleges if they didn't cut costs themselves. The Columbus Dispatch quoted him as saying:

"I reserve the right … to say that within the course of the next year, if they do not enact these changes … I think you just start cutting funding and tell them to deal with it," Kasich said after meeting privately for an hour with presidents of two- and four-year colleges and universities in his cabinet room.

Kasich, incidentally, supports the Common Core State Standards and has criticized Republicans who turned against it, saying they were playing politics. He did support the Ohio legislature's recent decision to dump the federally funded Common Core test known as PARCC, after schools administered it in the 2014-15 school year and faced numerous problems with the online exams.

That is Kasich's public education record. In some crowds, it may be a great record to run on. To public school advocates, not so much.

John Kasich's anger management **// Politico // Alex Isenstadt – July 20, 2015**

John Kasich has a résumé seemingly tailor-made for a serious run for the Republican nomination: blue-collar upbringing, congressional budget hawk, Fox News commentator, investment banker, successful two-term governor of Ohio.

But there's just one problem, according to interviews with dozens of those who've worked in politics alongside him at various points over the past several decades: his short fuse.

There was the friend who excitedly called Kasich to tell him he was about to announce a campaign for statewide office, only to get a letdown of a reply: "How stupid are you?"

There was the wealthy conservative donor he raised his voice to during a Koch brothers-sponsored conference, prompting a walkout.

There was the BP employee who, in the middle of a meeting, found himself the target of Kasich's derision. "You know why oil and gas companies have a bad reputation?" the governor barked at him. "Because they deserve it."

There was the professor who wrote Kasich, then a young state senator, a letter of complaint about his education policies. "When you learn to write a civil letter," the brash lawmaker fired back, "I will respond accordingly."

Kasich, 63, is far from the only politician to face questions about his temperament. During his presidency, Bill Clinton was known to have lashed out at those who worked in the White House. Chris Christie's outbursts have become a trademark of sorts, proudly displayed in clips on the New Jersey governor's YouTube channel.

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But the tales of angry tantrums have dogged Kasich throughout his long career, from the state Legislature, to the halls of Congress, to the governorship. So much so that even the famously volatile Sen. John McCain once said of Kasich: “He has a hair-trigger temper.”

And as the governor — who will formally declare his presidential bid during a Tuesday appearance at The Ohio State University — steps into the glare of the national spotlight, it seems certain that the questions about his bedside manner will only intensify.

Kasich’s advisers say his bluntness will appeal to frustrated voters looking for a tell-it-like-it-is candidate who has sharp elbows and authenticity.

“Even when voters disagree with him, they respect his willingness to speak truthfully about his views,” said Chris Schrimpf, a Kasich spokesman. “Many wind up thanking him for being so refreshing.”

Those who know Kasich insist that he doesn’t really have anger problems but is, rather, deeply intense — a pol who spurns the polished style that most of his colleagues embrace. He’s an acquired taste, they contend — the kind of person who gives a better second impression than a first. Yet as the primary season takes on a greater intensity, and as every word a candidate utters is put under a microscope, his temperament also presents a danger.

“There’s no question that John is very direct. He doesn’t waste anyone’s time. I find it refreshing. For other people, they can’t deal with that kind of directness,” said former Rep. Doug Ose, a California Republican who served with Kasich. “It depends on what your cup of tea is.”

Kasich’s “directness” dates back to the earliest days of his political career, when he demonstrated a willingness to confront constituents who criticized him.

“I received your curt, one-sentence letter,” Kasich wrote in an August 1981 missive to Larry Reutzel, a Boardman, Ohio, resident who’d promised to oppose the state senator’s reelection if he voted for a piece of legislation dealing with the state’s medical board. “I suggest you learn a little diplomacy before writing any more letters to members of the Legislature.”

“Letters like yours,” Kasich added, “will do nothing to promote your cause.”

The stories have kept coming since Kasich was first elected governor in 2010.

Matt Mayer, a conservative activist in Ohio, can recall an incident from 2011. He was walking down the street with a friend when they ran into Kasich and his entourage. Only months earlier, Mayer, who was working at a think tank called The Buckeye Institute, had released a report calling the state’s government bloated and inefficient.

Spotting the two, the governor ignored Mayer but pulled aside his friend, telling him something out of earshot. The friend walked back over. “I’m supposed to tell you the report’s wrong,” the friend said.

To the governor’s detractors, run-ins like those underscore his inability to accommodate the views of others. “When you criticize Kasich, you’re sort of dead to him,” said Mayer. “That’s the way it works.”

His defenders, though, highlight his direct style and willingness to engage with those who disagree. “If you’re not prepared to go head to head with him, it can be tough,” said former Rep. Pete Hoekstra, a Michigan Republican

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who served alongside Kasich.

Powerful interests aren't immune to the fire. In May 2013, the governor found himself clashing with the petroleum industry, which was battling his proposal for a tax hike on oil and gas. At a gathering of business professionals near Youngstown, his anger boiled over.

"Oil companies are liars and they are going to be screwed," he told a BP public relations staffer named Curtis Thomas, according to one person who'd obtained a transcript of the meeting. Kasich warned that an even higher tax than the one he proposed could go before voters. "Then you'll be crying to me."

"You said you wanted to be a good partner, but what do you do?" the governor asked. "You fight me. Do you think I want to work with people like that?"

Even Republican Party donors, a class that is accustomed to being courted and stroked by presidential hopefuls, have felt the venom. Last year, while appearing at a conference sponsored by the billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch, Kasich collided with Randy Kendrick, the wife of Arizona Diamondbacks owner Ken Kendrick, who questioned him about why he'd said that his push for Medicaid expansion was what God wanted. "I don't know about you, lady," Kasich said as he pointed at Kendrick, his voice rising. "But when I get to the pearly gates, I'm going to have an answer for what I've done for the poor."

The exchange took many in the audience aback; about 20 people sitting in the crowd walked out. Two governors also on stage with Kasich, Nikki Haley of South Carolina and Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, told him they disagreed with his remarks.

Earlier this year, he clashed with another powerful donor, who during a private meeting pressed Kasich on whether he was entering the race too late. "You don't know what you're talking about," Kasich snapped at the donor, who wished to remain anonymous.

His blowups have not simply been behind the scenes. In January 2011, while speaking at at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Kasich told a story about a police officer pulling him over on a highway for driving too close to an emergency vehicle. The police officer, the governor said several times, was an "idiot." Kasich would later meet with the officer to apologize.

Kasich's style, his friends say, is the product of his blue-collar upbringing in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, a hard-luck industrial town just outside of Pittsburgh where Kasich's father worked as a mailman.

"I never knew Kasich to have anger issues," said former Speaker Newt Gingrich, who spent more than a decade with Kasich in the House. "He has intensity, urgency and passion issues."

The Ohio Republican is particularly driven, the former speaker said, by a desire to correct the government's failures. "He doesn't see public policy as some abstract intellectual thing, but rather as an emotional, right and wrong process that can help or hurt people."

During a news conference in Washington, D.C., earlier this month, Kasich brushed aside a question about whether his temperament would hamper his presidential bid by pointing to his record of electoral success. Last year, he won a second term as governor by a landslide.

"I think people want someone is who direct," he said. "That's where I think they are on this."

While Kasich can be combative and prone to challenging the views of those around him, he can be equally

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reflective. Dave Hobson, a former Ohio congressman, recalled one flare-up at the Monocle, a popular Capitol Hill bar, during the 1990s. Kasich was in a heated argument with a fellow lawmaker about a policy issue. “He’d really gone at it. It was loud,” Hobson said. “I moved away from the table.”

A short while later, Kasich approached Hobson. It had occurred to him that he’d been on the wrong side of the argument.

“He got me, didn’t he?” the congressman asked.

Others talk about a caring side. A few years ago, Hoekstra called his former colleague to tell him that he was about leave the private sector to embark on a 2012 Senate bid.

“Hoekstra, how stupid are you?” Kasich snapped. “Why would you want to do that?” It was the kind of conversation, Hoekstra recalled, “that made you want to hold the phone 3 or 4 inches away from your head.” The governor spent “3 or 4 minutes” telling the former congressman why he was making a mistake.

The next time they spoke, though, Kasich was of a very different mindset. What, he wanted to know, could he do to help?

“He can be intimidating, but he’s always there to support the people that he’s dealing with,” said Hoekstra. “I have never seen an ounce of meanness.”

At times of great stress, and when political stakes are particularly high, Kasich can exhibit a surprising coolness. At one point during his tenure on the House Committee, Kasich found himself in an office with Floyd Spence, the longtime South Carolina congressman. Kasich was leading the charge to terminate funding for the B-2 bomber, an expensive aircraft that had been found to have design flaws. Spence, a member of the Armed Services Committee, was none too happy about it.

At one point in the meeting, according to one staffer present, Spence called Kasich a traitor.

Rather than lash out — as many were expecting him to do — the Ohio congressman was placid.

“Floyd,” he said calmly. “I’m sorry you feel that way.”

For all his fire, Kasich’s friends say, he doesn’t lack self-awareness.

Hobson said he recently ran into his former colleague, who made him a promise about his temper.

Does John Kasich have a shot? **// CNN // Julian Zelizer – July 20, 2015**

Just when it seemed as if every possible Republican was already in the primary contest for the 2016 party nomination, the field is getting even bigger.

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This week, Ohio Gov. John Kasich will announce his candidacy. He is a pretty serious contestant. Unlike some of the others in the GOP cast of characters, his resume is impressive and he can boast of a record that seems rather formidable on paper.

Kasich has extensive experience in many levels of government as well as the private sector (though this will be a controversial part of his record, given that he worked for Lehman Brothers before its collapse).

Kasich has long-standing ties to the conservative movement that produced the historic Republican takeover of Congress in 1994. He is a budget hawk who has taken on the unions that so many in the GOP dislike.

Yet, as the governor of one of the most important swing states in the nation, Kasich has displayed a streak of pragmatism on issues such as the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, which can appeal to independents who are seeking someone who can move Washington beyond the partisan gridlock.

He has offered tough responses to conservatives who have criticized his work for the poor, grounding his decisions in his devotion to religion. The governor has an affable and straightforward personality, saying what he thinks, which can be appealing in an age of scripted politics. He is the kind of "blue collar" Republican who could avoid the "one percenter" attacks that dragged down Mitt Romney in 2012.

Nor does Gov. Kasich face the kind of scandals, at least thus far, that have bogged down candidates like New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

But Kasich enters the race with a number of pretty big obstacles working against him. The most important is money. One of the big reasons that former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is so difficult to knock down is the extensive network of campaign donors that he and his family have nurtured over the years.

A few days ago, the media reported that Bush and his Super PAC had raised a stunning $114 million, more than all the other Republican candidates put together. Like it or not, money matters when it comes to campaigns.

While individual Super PACs do have the ability to propel lesser voices into the media spotlight, the fact is that to win the nomination, vast amounts of money will be necessary for the kind of advertising blitz that it takes to blanket major primary states, especially when primaries are bundled together.

While Kasich will be able to raise some serious money and make a run for it in Iowa and New Hampshire, he will need to make some dramatic gains if he wants to catch up to Bush and some of the other candidates, such as Marco Rubio and Scott Walker, in the money competition.

Bush has done very well in rounding up support from party leaders who by all indications are still tilting his way. Last month, Bush announced the names of an impressive roster of Republican leaders in Iowa who pledged their support.

Appealing and talented candidates have often suffered in the presidential nomination process. Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, who many people thought had all the right stuff, did horribly in 2012 as he faced the formidable campaign infrastructure of Mitt Romney.

The number of candidates who are in play poses a big problem for Kasich and all the other second- and third-tier candidates -- regardless of their skill. The large number of people the media has to cover diminishes the air time for any individual candidate.

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The complexity of the pragmatic agenda Kasich seeks to pursue might quickly be lost in the sound bites that now last for a few seconds.

In the immediate future, he might not even be able to participate in the Republican debates. The large number of candidates who are running has resulted in the decision to limit the spots in the debate to those candidates who are ahead in the national polls. This will squeeze lesser known candidates, and those who have entered late, such as Gov. Kasich.

The reality is that someone like real estate mogul Donald Trump, willing to say or do almost anything to get on the air, has a better chance of participating in the debate even if he is far less impressive as a presidential candidate than Kasich.

Kasich's virtue, his unwillingness to bend to the expedient political incentives, will be a liability in the primary process. He will be tempted to abandon the political style he has practiced in recent years.

As we have seen, many of the candidates, including the so-called moderates, are already playing to the primary voters who tend to lean to the right of the political spectrum. In early April, Jeb Bush praised Indiana Gov. Mike Pence's controversial religious freedom bill, though he backed off after being criticized.

Gov. Scott Walker shifted to the right on immigration and gay marriage. If Kasich sticks to his guns and refuses to play their game, he will certainly run into problems in states like South Carolina, where primary voters have little appetite for the center. In a less crowded field, this might be fine. But given all the other challenges he faces, this will create difficulties.

It is true that, as Jeff Greenfield argued in Politico, there have been a number of cases in primaries, such as Reagan's challenge to Gerald Ford in 1976 or Ted Kennedy's challenge to Jimmy Carter in 1980, and more recently Howard Dean's strong showing in 2004 or Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum's showing early in 2012, to remind us that primaries can be open-ended. Yet in all of those instances the "mainstream" candidate ultimately did win.

The irony is that Kasich might be one of the strongest candidates that the Republicans have on the ticket. But this primary season will leave little oxygen for him to move his way up to the top. It's probably time for both parties to start thinking through the fundamentals of their primary process to make sure that the strongest candidates are able to get the kind of hearing that they deserve from primary voters.

John Kasich is the most interesting GOP presidential contender **// VOX // Andrew Prokop – July 20, 2015**

n April 2013, Gov. John Kasich of Ohio spoke at a gathering of wealthy conservative donors hosted by the Koch brothers in Palm Springs. Around 20 people in the audience stood up and walked out on him.

At the time, Kasich was battling his own party over whether to accept Obamacare's Medicaid expansion. Since the federal government had promised to shoulder the vast majority of its cost, a few Republican governors in other states had started to sign on, for pragmatic reasons.

But none had done so quite like Kasich. Again and again, the Ohioan made an argument rarely heard from a Republican politician — that Medicaid had to be expanded to help the poor. Not only was it the smart and right thing to do, Kasich said, it was the Christian thing to do. And then he went further, suggesting that supporters of limited government had to do more to help the less fortunate.

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So as Kasich spoke on a panel during the Palm Springs conference, a donor — Randy Kendrick, wife of the wealthy owner of the Arizona Diamondbacks — pushed back. "A lady was yelling at me, saying, 'You're using God against your people,'" Kasich later recounted.

Irritated, the governor refused to backpedal. "I don't know about you, lady. But when I get to the pearly gates, I'm going to have an answer for what I've done for the poor," he said, according to Politico's Alex Isenstadt.

That's when audience members started walking out, while the other governors on the panel — Bobby Jindal and Nikki Haley — rushed to emphasize their disagreement with Kasich. The governor later told the Wall Street Journal's Neil King Jr. that the incident was "unforgettable," adding, "I really shouldn't speak about it, other than to say, 'God bless people who go to those events.'"

Kasich told the New York Times that his own party was waging a "war on the poor"

The consensus of the modern GOP is that trying to help the poor through government spending is ineffective or even counterproductive. Republicans simply don't argue that more government spending is a good way to help people — that's viewed as something liberals say. "It's the sort of straw man that I think President Obama would be impressed by," says Jason Hart, an Ohioan reporter for the conservative site Watchdog.org.

So Kasich's enthusiastic adoption of moral and religious rhetoric to promote a key plank of Obamacare was extremely unusual — and he took it quite seriously. He said that year that his "most important mission" was to convince conservatives that "when some of us are doing better, it is essential that we begin to figure out how to help people who are not doing better." His own party, he told the New York Times, was waging a "war on the poor."

As he's prepared for a presidential campaign — which he'll officially announce Tuesday — he hasn't backed off, instead arguing that his views are the truly conservative ones. "Read Matthew 25," Kasich said on Fox News a few months back. "Did you feed the hungry? Did you clothe the naked? If we're doing things like that, to me that is conservatism." He then bristled: "And you know what? I have a right to define conservatism as much as somebody sitting up in the stands down in Washington trying to tell us what we ought to do."

It's an agenda that's made Kasich — whose team didn't respond to requests for comment for this article — quite popular in Ohio. And his landslide reelection last year in one of the most important presidential swing states has made some think he could be a strong GOP presidential nominee.

But to supporters of government spending reductions, from the Koch brothers to Tea Party activists, rhetoric like Kasich's is quite dangerous. Because if you argue so passionately that federal spending programs really help people, those programs become quite hard to cut.

As a congressman, John Kasich was a lot like Paul Ryan

There was little about Kasich's decades-long political career that suggested he'd boast such fervor for expanding Medicaid. Instead, he's only slowly transformed himself from the very face of Republican budget cutting — the Paul Ryan of his day — to someone who argues that supporters of limited government aren't doing enough to help the poor.

Kasich first rose to national prominence because he produced detailed spending reform plans that Washington

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deemed serious. When he joined the House Budget Committee in 1989 as a junior member, he immediately began drafting and releasing his own budget each year, complete with far more dramatic spending cuts than those proposed by the Bush White House budget. He built up so much credibility that, like the similarly young and energetic Paul Ryan, he leapfrogged several more senior colleagues to become the Budget Committee chair after the GOP retook the House in 1994. He was 42 years old — the youngest committee chair in the chamber.

Kasich named his dog after a budget-cutting bill he had co-written

By all accounts, Kasich was obsessively committed to the task of slashing government spending. The Associated Press called him "a divorced workaholic" who "subsists mostly on pizza and instant noodle soup," and Cox News Service wrote that he had "little personal life." When a spending cut bill he authored with Democratic Rep. Timothy Penny became famous in DC as the "Penny-Kasich" proposal, Kasich named his dog after it. But unlike Paul Ryan, whose political persona is unfailingly cheerful and polite, Kasich has always had a harsher edge. Words like "headstrong," "brash," and "argumentative," fill profiles of him. (He hasn't softened up as governor, where his prickliness has become the stuff of legend.)

As part of Kasich's effort to cut spending, he challenged some of Washington's entrenched interest groups — from defense hawks to protectors of farm subsidies and corporate tax breaks. He achieved only mixed success on those fronts, and his proposals for ambitious reforms of entitlements — like block-granting Medicaid — didn't get off the ground at all. But eventually, he helped broker the 1997 balanced budget agreement between President Clinton and congressional Republicans. The budget didn't stay balanced long, but it's an achievement Kasich still touts today.

Still, the ambitious young congressman wanted to rise even further. He announced in 1999 that he'd explore a presidential campaign, and spent months on the trail in early primary states. Once there, however, he concluded that his obsessive focus on budget cutting was misplaced, and that a Republican candidate needed a message with broader appeal to get elected. "The public is not yelling for spending cuts," he told the Associated Press. He tried to mention his faith and religious convictions more often, so he wouldn't be viewed as only a stingy accountant.

It didn't work. George W. Bush raised far more money, and firmly entrenched himself as the frontrunner in the polls. Kasich concluded he couldn't win, and quit the race that July. Term-limited out of his budget chairmanship, he also decided not to run for another term in the House. Recently remarried and expecting his first child, Kasich was ready for a break from politics. He said, modestly, "I accomplished everything I ever set out to accomplish in the House of Representatives."

But as he endorsed Bush, Kasich couldn't resist expressing some envy in response to Bush's campaign message. "This business of compassionate conservative," he said. "I wish I'd thought it up."

In March 2011, his third month as governor, Kasich signed a major bill to roll back public sector workers' collective bargaining rights.

But by the time Kasich finally returned to politics in 2010 — after an interim working at Lehman Brothers, as well as hosting a Fox News show — the Tea Party was in ascendance, and far-right economic policies were back in vogue. Since Ohio's economy was badly damaged by the recession, Kasich decided to take on the incumbent Gov. Ted Strickland. During the campaign, Kasich pointed to his own anti-tax, anti-spending record, saying, "I think I was in the Tea Party before there was a Tea Party."

He won, and when he was sworn in the next January, it looked like he was ready to govern from the right. Near the top of his agenda was a bill to roll back collective bargaining for public employees, like Scott Walker's platform in Wisconsin. "We're not going after anybody's rights," Kasich said at a press conference. "What we're doing is we're balancing, restoring some power with taxpayers." As hundreds of protesters flooded into the statehouse, Kasich lobbied reluctant state senators to back the bill and helped it pass, as reported by Henry Gomez of the Northeast Ohio Media Group in "Kasich 5.0," the definitive profile series on the governor.

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"No one has tried this level of reform, that I'm aware of in the country, including Wisconsin," Kasich bragged

On March 31, 2011, Kasich signed the reforms into law — and in many ways, the final package went further than Walker's. While Ohio public employees could still bargain over wages, they could no longer bargain over health care or pensions. "Ohio's law also gives city councils and school boards a free hand to unilaterally impose their side's final contract offer when management and union fail to reach a settlement," the New York Times's Steven Greenhouse wrote. And the bill applied to police and firefighters, who were exempted from Walker's law. "No one has tried this level of reform, that I'm aware of in the country, including Wisconsin," Kasich bragged.

The backlash was swift and severe. Kasich's approval-disapproval rating plummeted to 30-46. And unlike in Wisconsin, the union countermobilization in Ohio was actually successful. In the Badger State, there was no way unions could get the law itself put up for a statewide vote of approval or disapproval. But Ohio's constitution allowed them to do so, if enough signatures were gathered — a task they soon accomplished. Though Kasich campaigned in favor of the law, when the state's voters cast their ballots in November 2011 he lost overwhelmingly, 61 to 38.

Kasich's signature first-year achievement had been wiped out. "It's time to pause," he said at a news conference. "The people have spoken clearly." Asked what they said, the governor responded: "They might have said it was too much too soon."

Kasich embraced Medicaid expansion with a convert's zeal

Over a year later, when Kasich announced that he'd expand Medicaid, he sounded like a new man. "I'm not a supporter of Obamacare," the governor said when he announced his decision during his 2013 State of the State address. But, he continued, "my personal faith in the lessons I learned from the Good Book" is "very important to me — not just on Sunday, but just about every day."

During his speech, delivered at the Veterans Memorial Civic Center in Lima, Ohio, the governor argued that the working poor, the mentally ill, and the addicted — the people who need help most — would benefit from his decision. "They can't afford health care. What are we going to do, leave them out in the street? Walk away from them, when we have a chance to help them?" He continued: "For those that live in the shadows of life, those who are the least among us, I will not accept the fact that the most vulnerable in our state should be ignored. We can help them."

When the US Supreme Court had effectively made the Medicaid expansion optional for states in 2012, governors across the country were faced with a choice about whether to accept federal dollars to expand Medicaid to everyone whose income was lower than 138 percent of the federal poverty line. In Kasich's case, this number was estimated to include 366,000 Ohioans.

Supporters of the Medicaid expansion argued that it would be the only affordable way for many low-income people to obtain health insurance. That's because Obamacare's design creates a coverage gap — people with incomes below the federal poverty level made too little money to qualify for subsidized private insurance from the exchanges, but didn't qualify for traditional Medicaid.

It was the percentage of the expansion that would be paid for by the feds, though, that was most relevant to many governors concerned with their bottom line. For three years, states would pay nothing at all — and the federal government would pay 90 percent or more of the expansion's cost afterward. Furthermore, states seemed to get nothing out of saying no — if a state refused to participate, its residents' federal tax dollars would still go toward funding the expansion elsewhere.

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To many governors and policy wonks across the country — including Kasich — the expansion seemed to be a no-brainer. And the governor believed he could implement it in a free market way. He proposed to apply for a special waiver from the federal government, so Ohio could give the new beneficiaries private — not government — insurance. To him, the right thing to do also appeared to be the smart thing to do.

When his own party resisted, Kasich rammed through the expansion

But within days of Kasich's announcement, Ohio Republicans and Tea Party groups started lining up to oppose his plan. "There is no free money," Josh Mandel, the Republican state treasurer and a conservative favorite, wrote in a letter urging state legislators to vote against the expansion. "In the long term Ohioans will have to repay the debt." Soon, two dozen Tea Party groups in the state wrote a similar missive. "Borrowing taxpayer dollars to pay for an expanded entitlement program does not solve the long term problem of affordable health care," Marianne Gasiecki of the Ohio Tea Party Patriots told the Associated Press.

"People who believe we shouldn’t spend more money than we have were opposed to it"

Nationally, many conservatives had turned against the Medicaid expansion too. Some critics objected that the federal government couldn't be trusted to deliver on its generous funding promises, and that states might be stuck footing more of the bills in future years. Others argued that Medicaid provided inferior insurance that should be reformed rather than expanded — or that federal spending simply shouldn't be expanded at all.

"The Medicaid expansion was supported by all the business groups and the unions," says Hart, the Watchdog.org reporter who has frequently criticized the governor. "So Kasich and his supporters describe the opposition as just ideological — and to an extent, that's true. People who believe in limited government, people who believe we shouldn’t spend more money than we have, were opposed to it. Because we saw it as a bad policy that would increase the spending problem we had at the national level."

Ohio Rising, a Tea Party group, soon launched an ad campaign with "TV, radio, direct mail and online advertising to urge Republican primary voters in key legislative districts to press lawmakers to oppose the expansion plan," as reported by Jackie Borchardt of the Dayton Daily News. "We sincerely believe this is really bad for Ohio and really bad for the long-term financial stability of Ohio," Chris Littleton, the group's head, told her.

The result? By April, House Speaker William Batchelder (R) said 20 members of his caucus "might shoot themselves" rather than vote for Medicaid expansion. He ended up dropping Kasich's Medicaid plan from the budget entirely, and the state Senate decided not to include it either.

But when faced with this opposition, Kasich only grew more obstinate and determined. "I will not give up this fight till we get this done. Period. Exclamation point," he told reporters. "I'm not gonna give this up. I will not. I don’t care how long it takes."

"Reagan was fiscally responsible, but he was also pragmatic and compassionate"

So the governor soon launched a remarkable public pressure campaign aimed at the recalcitrant legislators. At one rally, he said, "You must rally your friends and family to go and see them, and to make it clear that saying ‘no’ is not an option." At another: "Kick them in the shins if they're not going to vote for this." To reporters: "Because people are poor doesn't mean they don't work hard. ... The most important thing for this legislature to think about: Put yourself in somebody else’s shoes. Put yourself in the shoes of a mother and a father with an adult child that's struggling. Walk in somebody else’s moccasins. Understand that poverty is real."

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All this was to no avail — by the fall, it was clear that the legislature wouldn't budge. So Kasich simply moved ahead without them.

In October 2013, the governor announced that he would bypass the full legislature and expand Medicaid through a highly unusual maneuver. He'd go to a state body called the "Controlling Board," which was created to handle adjustments to the state's budgetary flow, and ask them to simply decide to let the federal Medicaid money come in. (This tactic forced him to drop his attempt to use private insurance to cover the new beneficiaries, which would have required legislative approval.)

In an op-ed explaining his decision, Kasich wrapped himself in the banner of a conservative hero: "Reagan was fiscally responsible, but he was also pragmatic and compassionate," he wrote. "When we consider what Reagan would do, let's also remember what he did do — expand Medicaid."

But activists like Tim Phillips — the head of Americans for Prosperity, a free market group founded by and closely tied to the Koch brothers — pushed back hard. "We think it’s pretty outrageous that a governor would then go around the elected representatives of the people and go to an unelected board," Phillips told the Los Angeles Times.

"I am so excited about the fact that we have been able to reach out to many people who had been forgotten"

The Controlling Board, staffed by one appointee from the governor and six others appointed by the legislative leadership (four Republicans and two Democrats), was a convenient — if legally questionable — vehicle for ramming the expansion through. It was typically used for much more minor projects. Yet the votes of Kasich's appointee and the two appointees from Democratic leaders were never in doubt. And when the two appointees from Speaker Batchelder looked like they'd vote no, Batchelder simply replaced them. The final count was 5-2 in favor.

As with many things related to Obamacare, the new policy soon became entangled in legal wrangling. Two conservative groups and six Republican legislators filed a suit arguing that Kasich's maneuver was illegal and overstretched the Controlling Board's authority. But though the case went to Ohio's Supreme Court, the governor's move was upheld. "Obviously, we're pleased with the court's ruling," Kasich's spokesperson Rob Nichols said at the time, "and glad that Ohio can now move forward."

Kasich had won. The expansion was implemented, and by the end of 2014, it had let hundreds of thousands more Ohioans get Medicaid. At the same time, Kasich's popularity rebounded — in one poll, 55 percent of Ohioans approved of his job performance, and only 30 percent disapproved. And while campaigning for reelection in 2014, he was also fortunate enough to have his Democratic challenger implode in scandal. It was a landslide year for Republicans everywhere, but especially for Kasich — he ended up with a massive 31-point victory.

"I am so excited about the fact that we have been able to reach out to many people who had been forgotten," Kasich said in his victory speech. "Whether they're the mentally ill, or whether they're the drug addicted, or whether they're the working poor."

"Nothing good is ever lost," Kasich continued. "Anything you ever do to lift someone else, to give them a chance, to improve their lives, to give them some hope — if it's just one person — it will be recorded in the book of life. And will follow you through eternity."

What Kasich did will certainly follow him through the Republican primaries, where he'll begin his campaign as a serious underdog. This week, he'll be the 16th GOP candidate to enter the race. He's currently ranked around 12th place in national polls, and hasn't yet topped 3 percent in a single one. As a result, he may well fail to qualify for

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the first debates.

On paper, Kasich appears to present an appealing profile for any Republicans seeking an accomplished but less polarizing alternative to Jeb Bush and Scott Walker. Ohio is a key swing state, and Kasich remains quite popular there, fresh off his landslide win. He also has some financial support: An outside group supporting him has raised $11.5 million so far — not Bush money, but enough for a healthily funded pro-Kasich ad campaign to start airing in New Hampshire, aimed at driving up his numbers in the early primary state that's most crucial to his chances.

"[St. Peter] is going to ask you what you did for the poor. You better have a good answer."

Additionally, Kasich would be one of the only candidates seriously suggesting that the GOP moderate on economic issues. After the 2012 elections, party elites quickly concluded that their problems could be solved by moderating on immigration policy — but commentators like Ross Douthat and David Frum pointed to the GOP economic agenda instead, arguing it was too oriented toward the wealthy. Kasich's approach may not be quite what they had in mind, but if his success in Ohio is any indication, swing voters might like it.

The risk for a candidate like Kasich is that he could end up like Jon Huntsman, the former Utah governor and 2012 presidential candidate who couldn't restrain himself from repeatedly pointing out how wrong he thought the Republican base was about everything. Huntsman's campaign, unsurprisingly, went nowhere. (Two key consultants for the infamously dysfunctional effort have now joined Kasich's team.)

The danger is real, because there's already some serious resentment for Kasich and his tactics among conservatives. If Kasich runs for president, the Washington Examiner's Philip Klein wrote earlier this year, "it will be important for conservative voters to punish him for his expansion of President Obama's healthcare law." Klein continued: "Just like a liberal demagogue, he portrayed those with principled objections to spending more taxpayer money on a failing program as being heartless."

Conservative health wonk Avik Roy concurred. "He’s really calling into question the character and the motivation of those who disagree with him on the Medicaid expansion, pretty much literally saying that you’re going to rot in hell if you didn’t agree," Roy told the Columbus Dispatch in March. "I would say that it’s highly probable that many conservative Christians will be offended [to hear] that they’re not good Christians if they don’t support a massive expansion of government health care." (Roy later took a job with Rick Perry.)

"I think it's pretty offensive, frankly," says Hart, the Watchdog.org reporter. "He's expanding this federal welfare program, taking more money from taxpayers, funneling it through the government, and running it through this pretty ineffective Medicaid program. And he's treating it as if it’s morally and practically the same thing as taking your own money and choosing to give it out in your community where you see a need."

These critics are correct that there's an element of incoherence to Kasich's argument, when viewed in philosophical terms. It seems to not really gel with his overall, decades-long project of slashing government and taxes — and, of course, with his continued advocacy for the repeal of Obamacare. It's also not entirely clear, for instance, whether the moral imperative to help the least fortunate only kicks in if the federal government happens to be footing the bill for your state.

But by acknowledging that Obamacare's Medicaid expansion really does help a great many people, Kasich sees himself as recognizing an obvious fact that other conservatives contort themselves to deny. And he's also contradicting the widely held belief on the right that government can't do anything good.

The pointed sales pitch he described himself making to a legislator in 2013 doubles as his challenge to the GOP as a whole:

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I said, "I respect the fact that you believe in small government. I do, too. I also happen to know that you're a person of faith. Now, when you die and get to the meeting with St. Peter, he's probably not going to ask you much about what you did about keeping government small. But he is going to ask you what you did for the poor. You better have a good answer. "

Yet not everyone appears to be buying what Kasich is selling. Charles Koch announced in April that he'd winnowed the burgeoning GOP field to five main contenders. Kasich, unsurprisingly, wasn't among them.

And as for wealthy Koch donor network events like the one Kasich caused such a stir at? He hasn't been invited back.

John Kasich keeps it real, maybe too real **// Yahoo // Matt Bai – July 20, 2015**

The last time I'd hung out with John Kasich, on a plane ride across Ohio three years earlier, he had offered me life advice from Gandalf the wizard. ("You're a very fine fellow, Mr. Hobbit, but this is a wide world, and you don't think all these things happen by accident.") So it didn't really surprise me when, within two minutes of sliding into our booth at the Frisch's Big Boy diner in Columbus last Friday, he started pressing me to revisit Judaism.

"Do you go to synagogue?" Ohio's governor asked me, while his press aide was off on an ill-advised break to get water for the boss. "Do you read the Torah? Maybe you should. Do you realize how much wisdom there is there for life?"

Feeling oddly shamed, I mumbled something about being busy.

"I just find that it kind of tells us the best way to live our lives, and we get to learn from the mistakes of others and the strengths of others," Kasich went on. He was wearing a light blue golf shirt and had just come from a haircut. "So I don't know why we wouldn't be reading that. What's more important than that book? So you don't read it. So maybe you'll think about it."

Kasich, who will announce his entry into the presidential race Tuesday, offered that he himself had been "slipping away" lately, unable to find the time to read Scripture. (Born Catholic, he converted to an evangelical brand of Protestantism after a drunk driver killed his parents 28 years ago.) Then he paused, and all at once he seemed to relent, as if catching himself in an old and irritating habit.

"Hey, look, man, I'm lost, OK?" he said, gently throwing up his hands. "So that's just the way it goes."

Lost?

"I don't have things figured out. I'm not that great a guy. So who am I to — I'm acting like, 'Well, listen to me, I can tell you.' Well, you know, it's an easy thing to say but harder to do."

I wondered aloud if calling yourself lost, even in the nonsecular sense, was an odd way to embark on a presidential campaign.

"What I'm saying is I'm a flawed man," Kasich told me. "When I say I'm lost, it's because I look and I say — first of

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all, I'm not running yet, and second, when I say that, I mean that I don't always know the way, in terms of the depths of my life, my heart and my conscience. I try to work on these things and study these things."

He shook his head.

"You know. I was lost, and I guess now I'm found. But it's not an easy road."

Kasich seemed to be enjoying this conversation about his spiritual self-doubt, and I was too. But having talked to some of his friends and advisers, I could almost hear their collective groan. Why does the guy have to do this kind of thing?

If you were going to sit down and sketch, on paper, the ideal Republican candidate for 2016, you might come up with a résumé a lot like Kasich's. The son of a mailman, he was elected to Congress when he was 30 and went on to become the forceful and reform-minded chairman of the powerful House Budget Committee, where he helped negotiate balanced budgets in the 1990s.

After a decade working for Lehman Brothers and hosting his own show on Fox News, Kasich got himself elected to the governorship in 2010 and reelected with 64 percent of the vote last year, having presided over an impressive economic turnaround. As governors like Scott Walker and Chris Christie struggle to explain their unpopularity at home, Kasich, who closed a $6 billion budget gap even while slashing taxes and trying to eliminate the income tax altogether, boasts an approval rating of over 60 percent.

And yet, when the fantasy-baseball crowd of presidential politics shows up on cable TV, the 63-year-old Kasich is never in what they call the top tier. And that's because the popular narrative holds that he may just be too impetuous and too self-involved to be president — in other words, that he's the kind of guy who shows up to an interview and starts proselytizing, just because it's on his mind.

When at last I changed the subject and raised this unflattering narrative with Kasich, he brushed it aside as the stuff of Beltway arrogance.

"A lot of people used to say that I was undisciplined, OK?" he told me. "I mean, come on. How do you balance the budget or fix Ohio or do what I did for the 10 years I was out and be undisciplined? But I'm not real good at being programmed. I don't like to be programmed. I like to be able to be real.

"Keeping it real — who said that?" Kasich asked me. "Whoever said that, I like it."

I've written before that in politics, as in life, your greatest strengths always turn out to be your greatest weaknesses. Just look at the 2016 Republican field.

Jeb Bush is a known quantity with a famous name, but his biggest vulnerability is that all that history links him too firmly to the past. Scott Walker has a black-and-white way of framing issues, but that also means he may struggle to demonstrate much depth. Marco Rubio has the advantage of being young and culturally different. The problem there is that he's young and culturally different.

So it is with Kasich. No one's ever said the guy isn't extraordinarily bright and dynamic, with a working-class authenticity and probing intellect that have always made him politically unpredictable.

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As one of Newt Gingrich's chief lieutenants in the '90s, Kasich went after corporate welfare and the B-2 bomber program. As a conservative governor eyeing the presidency, he accepted the president's expansion of Medicaid and has been a vocal champion of set-asides for minority contractors.

Kasich has an instinctive aversion to anything that sounds like talking points or triteness. Curt Steiner, a longtime adviser to Ohio Republicans, described this quality to me as "dissonance," by which he means that Kasich, like a jazz musician, will riff in a way that seems discordant but somehow resonates on a deeper level.

But presidential politics isn't improv. It is thought to require a fair amount of rote repetitiveness and diplomacy (which is why Donald Trump, for all his P.T. Barnum-like panache, will likely flame out before the snow falls in Manchester).

It also requires a good deal of grace, which is something Kasich, with all that working-class authenticity and the latent resentment that sometimes comes with it, often has a hard time holding on to. One of his worst moments as governor came when a video surfaced showing a belligerent Kasich, in a lecture to government employees, referring to a state cop who once pulled him over as an "idiot."

A few weeks ago, the website of the Cleveland Plain Dealer ran this headline over an op-ed by Brent Larkin, its former editorial page editor: "Ohio Gov. John Kasich runs the risk of being perceived as a jerk." You'd have to think they were going for subtlety.

As we sat in Frisch's, a diner Kasich finds so uplifting that he once felt moved to call the owner and leave him a complimentary voicemail, Kasich insisted that the rest of the country was about to meet a politician who had grown more measured with age.

"Initially I was a ball of fire in this job," he said, recalling his early years in the Statehouse. "You just mature. There's no question I'm different than I was. I would hope that, look, when I'm 80 I'm going to be better than I am now."

Kasich said he had learned to be more like the father of his state. It was a telling analogy; Gingrich had suggested to me that having raised twin daughters (they're now 15) had mellowed Kasich considerably over the years, as fatherhood often does.

"My wife told me that one time," Kasich said. "She said, 'You're the father of Ohio. Would you act like it?'"

So would Kasich need to rein himself in during the long slog ahead?

"Look, the people of this state rewarded me unlike they've rewarded anybody," he said. "We can all get better. But you know, you also don't want to take the starch out of John Kasich either, do you? My closest friends, my wife, they will tell me where they think I can improve, and I will listen to them.

"But I'm not going to read a column in a newspaper written by somebody that I don't know, or nobody that's ever spent any real time with me. What do they know? They don't know me!"

Neither did I, or not really. A few minutes later, Kasich abruptly cut me off in the middle of a question. "You know what it is about you?" he said, staring across the table.

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I braced myself, expecting some kind of anti-Washington tirade.

“I think you get me,” Kasich declared. “You don’t get all of me. But you get more.”

I started to say I might. Then he leaned forward and cut me off again.

“You know, in Washington, if you’re a congressman down there, do you know how much energy it takes to move that system?” Kasich asked, his voice rising. “Do you know how amazing it is to limit the production of a major defense program? Do you know how hard it is to move the system and balance the frickin’ budget? Do you know what that takes?

“So when people say, ‘He has too much energy’ or ‘He’s too strong’ or whatever — you can’t get anything done otherwise! I was in Congress! President is a little different. Governor is a little different. You call the tune.”

The strange thing here is that whatever impressions linger of Kasich’s temperament are almost certainly lost on actual voters. Most of them won’t remember him from Congress 20 years ago, and in any event they’re going to get an up-close look at the man in the weeks ahead. They can decide for themselves.

But Kasich is getting into the race late (he’s No. 16, if anyone’s bothering to keep track anymore), and the battle for activists and money is intense. Whether the popular governor of Ohio can position himself as a serious contender among party insiders will depend, in part, on whether they believe he’s truly evolved.

Kasich’s team clearly understands the importance of dispelling the old image. Earlier this month, his PAC released what amounts to his first campaign ad, produced by Fred Davis, the renegade adman best known for creating the infamous “demon sheep” spot for Carly Fiorina’s doomed Senate run in California.

The ad opens with a cacophonous mash-up of all the other candidates’ clichéd rhetoric, followed by a female voice asking: “Hey, what about us?” Then there’s Kasich, in a sober dark suit and white shirt and graying noticeably, telling his story in a relaxed, fatherly tone.

It’s easily the best ad of the early presidential season so far — not just because it feels fresher and more authentic than anything else but because it goes right to the heart of Kasich’s challenge. Talking to the camera, he seems calm, confident, in control.

He seems undeniably presidential.

Kasich, as you may recall, ran for president once before, in the run-up to the 2000 election. Although he was 47 at the time, he describes himself then as a “kid,” and that’s probably an accurate summation of what Republican voters thought, too. The party establishment closed ranks around a governor named George W. Bush and blocked off the avenues for just about everyone else, and Kasich ran out of cash.

“I just kept running into the wall and couldn’t crack anything,” Kasich told me. “It was unusual. It was unusual for me in that no matter how hard I worked at it, I didn’t feel like I was making progress.”

I pointed out that he had never waged a losing campaign before then (and hasn’t since). He shook his head impatiently.

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“No, I’m talking about life,” he said. “When I keep struggling and keep working at something, I can usually get somewhere. I have to say, and I guess I never really thought about it this way, Matt, but I think it was just the frustration of feeling like I didn’t make any progress.”

You would think the memory of this might give Kasich pause as he surveys the terrain for 2016. Here again, his party’s establishment is enamored of a guy named Bush, with all the fundraising and organizing muscle the name brings with it. To this point, Kasich barely registers in national polls and is very much in danger of being cut out of the first debate next month, while Donald Trump and Ben Carson command the stage. Worse yet, the debate happens to be in Cleveland.

When I raised the specter of this humiliation with Kasich, he tried to sound Zen. “Well, you’re not a fortune teller, are you?” he asked me. “I don’t control that. I worry about things that I can have some impact on. And things I can’t — what am I going to do? Whine?”

In fact, 2015 really isn’t much like 1999. This time, the Bush in the field is leading polls with only a small plurality, and according to an exhaustive analysis by Nicholas Confessore and Sarah Cohen in the New York Times last weekend, the “vast majority” of Republican fundraisers and contributors have thus far been sitting this one out, waiting for the field to take shape.

Kasich may be the last major entrant into the race (Jim Gilmore, the former Virginia governor, is apparently still planning to get in, for some reason), but that also means he won’t feel as played out as some of the contenders who have been hanging around for months already. You could see how voters in Iowa might already be tired of Walker, who’s been up and down so much by now that the media actually billed his announcement speech as a comeback.

And Kasich has not only a strong case to make, in terms of his success in Ohio, but also a style that suits the moment. The most successful candidates of the modern era — Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama — have managed not only to capture the bases of their parties but also to co-opt the reform ethos that seems to resurface with every election. Even as they’re pushed into ideological camps, voters, and especially younger voters, feel less connected to the artifice and predictability of party politics and yearn for something real.

Kasich is probably better situated to exploit that impulse than any other candidate. The trick for him is to somehow walk the line of candor without crossing the boundary into provocation — to come across as the grownup alternative who defies convention and orthodoxy, rather than another quick-tongued challenger starved for attention.

Near the end of our conversation at Frisch’s, I asked Kasich about Hillary Clinton. Republicans — like just about everyone else right now — assume she’ll be the Democratic nominee, and one of the central questions for candidates this fall will be how they intend to beat her after losing two consecutive elections.

“I’ve known her a long time,” Kasich told me. “I think it’s all about a big vision. That’s what it’s all about. Who’s got the bigger vision. Who can connect best and give people the sense that they’re going to be treated fairly, that we’re going to be unified. I mean, I have my views of Hillary, which at some point I will express.”

He started in on a preview of what the Kasich vision will sound like.

“There’s a concern in this country that the American dream is being eroded, that maybe my kids won’t have it as good as I got it from my parents,” Kasich began. For a moment, I assumed he was going to sound like every other Republican candidate who prattles on about the American dream, but then came one of those Kasich riffs.

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“Does the system work? Is the system fair? Is the system crooked? Is anybody looking out for me? Am I all alone? ‘Bowling Alone.’ I never read the book, but I should.

“And I think it’s a person that has the credibility to say, ‘No. Stop it. We can do it. This can work. This is a great country! We’re going to be OK! And here’s some things we’re going to do, and you’re not going to get shafted, and if we have to do some things where we have to sacrifice, no one’s going to be left out. If you know somebody, you’re not going to get special treatment. If you’re the underdog, we love you.’”

I sat there for a moment, trying to imagine the power this message could have, if he could keep from getting sidetracked or petulant. That’s the thing about dissonance: When it’s not jarring to the ear, it can grab you by the throat.

Kasich joins GOP race on Tuesday **// The Hill // Jonathan Easley – July 20, 2015**

John Kasich on Tuesday will enter the Republican race for the White House needing a burst of momentum to claim a spot in the first GOP debate scheduled on Aug. 6 in the Ohio governor's home state.

Kasich joins the fight with the respect of establishment Republicans and conservative media pundits, who have long seen him as a potential rival to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

But he's little known nationally, and polls have him falling outside the GOP's top 10 — which would keep him off the debate stage in Cleveland next month.

“His central problem is that he has all of Jeb’s weaknesses and lacks some of his strengths,” said Republican strategist Matt Mackowiak.

To do well, Kasich needs to jumpstart his campaign with a successful launch from Ohio State University.

Kasich plans to pitch himself to primary voters as the only candidate in the field with experience on Capitol Hill, in the private sector and as governor. He's putting most of his chips on a solid showing in New Hampshire, where he'll be running in the same mainstream conservative lane as Chris Christie and Bush —who has so far outraised Kasich by about a 10-to-1 margin.

Kasich’s late launch date could be perfectly timed to help propel him into debate contention.

The polling difference between Kasich and the candidates currently in 9th and 10th place are negligible, and his entrance into the race in late July could give him the bump he needs.

“It’s critical for him to get into that debate, just like it’s critical for everyone, so he’ll be looking for a short-term boost from his announcement,” said Republican pollster David Winston, a veteran of Newt Gingrich’s 2012 campaign. “It could come down to how compelling an argument he makes during his launch.”

Fox News is capping the number of participants at 10 based on national polling numbers. Kasich is currently in 12th place, according to the RealClearPolitics average of polls, taking only 1.5 percent support.

So far this year, GOP candidates have seen varying degrees of bounces in the wake of their announcements. Sens.

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Ted Cruz (Texas) and Marco Rubio (Fla.), as well as Ben Carson, got sizeable bounces in the immediate aftermath of their announcements. Others, like Christie and Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.), got almost no bounce at all.

Kasich's team is downplaying the importance of the debate, arguing that their focus is squarely on the early voting states, and New Hampshire in particular. Spending by New Day for America, the nonprofit group supporting Kasich's presidential bid, backs up that claim.

Rather than pumping money into national television ads, as some candidates are doing to raise their profiles ahead of the debates, New Day for America launched a second round of ads this week that will run in the Granite State.

"That's a much sounder investment of our resources," New Day for America spokesman Chris Schrimpf told The Hill.

Kasich could face some of the same troubles with the base that have dogged Bush. He unapologetically supports Common Core education standards, has said he would be open to supporting a pathway to citizenship for those in the country illegally, and he expanded Medicaid in Ohio under ObamaCare.

At his alma mater, Kasich is expected to hammer home the argument that he's the most experienced candidate in the field, highlighting a decades-long record that has taken him from Washington, to Wall Street to Columbus.

Kasich spent 18 years representing Ohio's 12th district. He rose to chairman of the Budget Committee and points frequently to his role in achieving a balanced federal budget under former President Bill Clinton.

Kasich also spent time on the Armed Services Committee, making him the rare governor running for president who can boast of having substantial foreign policy experience.

Following his time in Congress, Kasich worked for Lehman Brothers, before returning to politics and unseating former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland (D-Ohio) in 2010. In 2014, Kasich won reelection in a landslide, carrying 86 of the 88 counties in a state that will be critical in determining the outcome of the 2016 election.

"He is uniquely qualified to lead the country," Schrimpf said. "Nobody else can say they balanced the federal budget, have executive experience running a major state, and have the kind of foreign policy experience he has. He's the total package."

Republicans say that Kasich is a natural fit for the Independent and mainstream conservatives primary voters in New Hampshire, and his political team appears poised to all-in there.

New Day for America, which hauled in an impressive $11.5 million in the second quarter, put $1.7 million behind a first round of ads introducing Kasich to New Hampshire voters. The group declined to say how much it put behind a second round of ads launched Tuesday, but called the investment "significant."

Kasich will have the support of former Sen. John E. Sununu, whose family has a towering political presence in New Hampshire.

And following his launch, Kasich will conduct five townhall-style events in New Hampshire over a three-day period. It's a forum Republicans say will showcase Kasich's strength as a charismatic, no-nonsense straight-

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shooter.

“It’s a style that plays well up here,” said Tom Rath, a GOP strategist in New Hampshire and senior adviser to Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign. “The more I talk to people out here, the more his name comes up. He’s going to get a look.”

But even if Kasich can get out of New Hampshire with a win or a high finish, some in the party remain skeptical that he has broader appeal to Republican primary voters. Like Bush, Kasich has said he won’t back away from positions on education, immigration or healthcare.

“I think he has bigger problems with the conservative base than he realizes,” said Mackowiak.

Team Kasich is betting that his unapologetic and unconventional style will win over skeptical Republicans and bring new Independent voters into the fold.

Rath noted that about one-third of New Hampshire primary voters could be self-described independent voters, giving the electorate a more moderate flavor.

“I think what’s going to appeal to folks, and independents in particular, is that he’s not someone who plays politics,” Schrimpf said. “He’s going to do what’s best for his state or best for the country, not just give you the political answers you want to hear. He’s going to tell the truth, and people respond to someone who doesn’t change with the political winds.”

OTHER

GOP blasts President Obama’s ‘capitulation’ to U.N. on Iran **// Politico // Burgess Everett – July 20, 2015**

Influential Republicans and a handful of Democrats howled in protest Monday over President Barack Obama’s decision to seek the United Nations’ blessing for the Iran nuclear deal before Congress has had a chance to weigh in. The move, critics said, appeared designed to box Congress in by signaling that international sanctions on Iran are going away regardless of whether Congress accepts or rejects the deal.

But there were few signs that that bipartisan frustration will translate into new opposition in Congress to the Iran deal as its 60-day review period officially kicked off.

Influential Republicans called it “inappropriate” and an “affront” to Americans that the U.N. Security Council unanimously backed the agreement to scale back Iran’s nuclear ambitions and begin loosening some sanctions before Congress voted; Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) went so far as to dub July 20 “Obama’s Capitulation Monday.” But though top-ranking Democrats had expressed concern leading up to the vote about an end run around Congress, members of the president’s party were mostly quiet following the U.N.’s action.

Though Congress still has the ability to block lifting congressional sanctions on Iran that are a key portion of the deal even after the U.N. resolution, it won’t be in concert with international leaders who signed off on the agreement with Iran. That gives the administration a powerful talking point as its representatives fan out across the Hill this week to soothe jittery lawmakers, particularly undecided Democrats, who are frustrated that the vote for international economic relief for Iran comes two months before a pivotal congressional vote.

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Still, “This doesn’t substantively cause any real problems,” said an aide to one undecided Democratic lawmaker, who added that, while criticism from those in charge of the review process is understandable, the timing of the U.N. vote was expected and mostly perfunctory. Indeed, on Monday afternoon House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said she is “pleased that the response thus far from House Democrats has been so positive” to the Iran deal.

But for the most vocal GOP critics, the U.N. action amounted to fresh ammunition to aim back at the White House. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) called the move to present the plan to the council “further evidence of a weak president trying to sell a bad deal,” while Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas) charged that the decision is an “affront to the American people.” The Senate’s No. 2 Republican threatened that lawmakers will vote down any deal that “jeopardizes American security and paves the way for a nuclear-armed Iran.”

“The administration is more concerned about jamming this deal through than allowing the scrutiny it deserves,” Cornyn said.

Asked Sunday on “Meet the Press” if this move corners Congress, Kerry responded: “Absolutely not.”

“We specifically, to protect the Congress, put in a 90-day period before [the U.N. resolution] takes effect. So nothing will change,” Kerry said.

House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) joined the criticism and vowed that Congress’ review would be just as vigorous. “This is a bad start for a bad deal,” he said in a statement. “The American people expect their representatives to review this potential agreement and stop Iran’s push for a nuclear weapon, and we will continue our critical work to do just that.”

Congress will need two-thirds of both chambers to block the lifting of sanctions, which Obama has promised to veto.

But moving the agreement through the U.N. before a congressional review has piqued concerns not just of hawkish Republican critics but critical swing Democrats as well, including Senate Foreign Relations Committee ranking member Ben Cardin and House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, both of Maryland.

“We had urged the administration not to take any definitive action in the 60 days,” Cardin said in an interview last week, referring to a letter to the president in which Cardin and Chairman Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) urged Obama not to go to the U.N. before Congress. A delay, Cardin said, would have been “trying to keep this in the spirit of the review.”

But Cardin did not join Corker’s latest critique on Monday, in which the chairman called the U.N. resolution “contrary to the spirit” of the review law, which was overwhelmingly supported in Congress and signed in to law by Obama this spring.

“It is inappropriate to commit the United States to meet certain international obligations without even knowing if Congress and the American people approve or disapprove” of the agreement, Corker said.

House Foreign Affairs Committee ranking member Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) issued a joint statement with Chairman Ed Royce (R-Calif.) Monday that also knocked the maneuver.

“We are disappointed that the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution on Iran this morning before Congress was

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able to fully review and act on this agreement. We are also greatly concerned that the resolution lifts restrictions on Iran's ballistic missiles in eight years and conventional arms in five years," the duo said in their statement.

Still, in a sign that the political fallout is likely to be minimal, the most vocal criticism was from Republicans, like Rubio, who already were staunchly opposed to the Iran deal.

"History will remember July 20, 2015 as Obama's Capitulation Monday," said Rubio, who has vowed he would undo the deal if he were to be elected as president. "President Obama's nuclear deal with Iran is a dangerous and destabilizing failure, and it is telling that he is seeking Russia and China's seal of approval of his deal before administration officials have even briefed Congress."

Republicans Weren't Always Above Attacking A Veteran's War Record **// HuffPo // Igor Bobic – July 20, 2015**

Republican Party officials and presidential hopefuls have stood in near universal opposition against Donald Trump's comment that Sen. John McCain, a former prisoner of war in Vietnam, was no hero. But many in the GOP had no trouble questioning the military record of another Vietnam War veteran, Secretary of State John Kerry.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush was one of several 2016 GOP presidential candidates to condemn Trump's "slanderous attacks." He tweeted on Saturday that "all our veterans - particularly POWs have earned our respect and admiration." But Bush didn't object to such attacks in 2005, when he praised Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, a group of veterans that had helped torpedo Kerry's 2004 presidential bid by running television ads slurring his service record in Vietnam.

"As someone who truly understands the risk of standing up for something, I simply cannot express in words how much I value their willingness to stand up against John Kerry," Bush wrote in a January 2005 letter to Col. George Day, one of the group's members.

Bush also rejected the notion that the attacks were unfair during a 2004 interview. "I don't think [their allegations] are a smear," he told radio host Sean Hannity. "In fact, what ought to happen is, there ought to be fact checks. Every ad that goes out ought to be looked at by the press in an objective way, and people can make their own determination whether they're accurate or not."

Kerry's opponent in the 2004 White House race was, of course, Jeb's brother George.

A Jeb Bush spokesman told CNN this week that his letter to Day was "not in any way analogous" to Trump's comments regarding McCain.

Kerry earned several awards for his service in Vietnam, including a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with Combat V, and three Purple Hearts. Critics charged that Kerry lied about his war wounds, but such allegations were contradicted by official military records.

The effort to tarnish Kerry's service reached such a feeding frenzy in the weeks before the 2004 election that even the GOP's 1996 presidential nominee, former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, joined in the fray. Dole, a World War II veteran, went on CNN and directly called into question Kerry's record:

"With three Purple Hearts, he never bled that I know of. And they're all superficial wounds."

Dole apologized for the remark the next day after a personal call from Kerry, saying that before taping the

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interview, "maybe I should have stayed longer for brunch somewhere."

But the apology came perhaps too little, too late, as then-Texas governor and current presidential candidate Rick Perry picked up the baton. Perry, who over the weekend called on Trump to withdraw from the race, said in 2004 that Kerry ought to release his military records because "a lot of questions" remained unanswered.

"When a person like Bob Dole asks the question ... lay your records out. It's pretty hard to argue that about Bob Dole's Purple Heart," Perry said.

A week later, at the Republican National Convention in New York, party delegates mocked Kerry by applying bandages on their faces and various other body parts with Purple Hearts drawn on them. The bandages also read, "It was just a self-inflicted scratch, but you see I got a Purple Heart for it."

At the time, leading GOP officials, including the George W. Bush campaign, sought to distance themselves from the bandage mockery. But they resisted disassociating themselves from the Swift Boat ads entirely, arguing instead that Kerry's anti-war activism after he came home from Vietnam reflected negatively on American troops.

Republicans learn to love community organizing **// Washington Examiner // David Drucker – July 20, 2015**

When the Republican Party crowns a presidential nominee one year from now, he (or she) will be handed a campaign organization that is fully staffed and operational in every electoral battleground.

That might be the most important component of the top-to-bottom overhaul of the Republican National Committee's voter turnout program undertaken since the 2012 presidential election, as detailed in an interview with the Washington Examiner.

Four years ago, GOP nominee Mitt Romney was outgunned and outclassed by President Obama in the trenches of door-to-door combat for votes in swing states. Obama's advantage was multifold — better data, better manipulation of that data, a better candidate. But the RNC concluded that Obama's advantage stemmed, as well, from fielding a more competent organization that never packed up and went home after he won the presidency in 2008.

The president's campaign stayed in the field and prepared for his 2012 re-election almost from the minute his first race ended, deepening ties to the community. Romney, meanwhile, secured the nomination after a protracted primary fight, and was forced to rush a team with varying experience into the competitive states with barely months to go before voting started — as had every non-incumbent GOP nominee before him.

The party determined not to get caught flat-footed again. So, the RNC took a page from Obama for America's playbook and decided to build an operation that would be permanently deployed and available for the Republican presidential nominee to lease every four years.

"In 2007-08, we're laughing about this community organizing model, saying: 'You're going into presidential politics and you're going to bring community organizing into it?' Of course, they had the last laugh," said Chris Carr, the RNC's political director and its senior field strategist.

Soon after Obama's re-election, the RNC commissioned an autopsy report on its antiquated voter turnout program. Chairman Reince Priebus and party leaders concluded that wholesale reforms were required for the party to be competitive. The RNC invested more than $100 million in 2013 and 2014 to improve the collection and quality of voter data and the methods and technology used to target and push voters to the polls.

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The party saw measurable results in the midterm elections with its new digital and data analytics program and ground game strategy that focused on targeting low-propensity voters who were highly likely to support Republicans if only they would pull the lever. But there have been complaints about the technology the RNC created to work with its improved voter file, and committee officials said coming digital products will change that.

The deficiencies the party suffered four years ago weren't just in data and technology. Nor was Obama's more prepared campaign the Republicans' only problem in the states. How the party organized its ground forces, and how it deployed them, was outdated. After studying how Obama for America structured its field team and volunteer army, Carr threw out the RNC's decades-old flow chart and redesigned the party's command and control.

"We started a very in-depth look at what OFA had been doing the last eight years," said Carr, a Louisiana native who spent several years as a GOP operative in Nevada before joining the RNC in February. "This is going to be a big change."

That change began by jettisoning the voting precinct and the precinct captain.

For decades, the RNC had organized teams of volunteer door-knockers who pounded the pavement hustling votes for the GOP presidential nominee based on precincts, the geographical regions for collecting and counting votes drawn by state and local governments. Precinct captains managed those teams. But under the RNC's new system, states are divided into "turfs" of 8,000-10,000 people that the party's voter file classifies as swing voters, persuadable voters and low-propensity Republican voters.

Each turf is led by a "field organizer" who oversees a group of "neighborhood team leaders," who in turn run organized teams of volunteers.

The new approach lets the party maximize outreach to voters who matter in competitive races, and avoids wasting resources in areas with little to gain — either because they're overwhelmingly Democratic or because support for Republicans is reliable. During next July's Cleveland convention, the Republican who accepts the presidential nomination will take possession of a campaign that has roughly 2,000 trained staff and volunteers working in about 1,500 turfs in about a dozen battleground states.

The RNC this year opened the Republican Leadership Institute to train the volunteers who will man the turfs. More than 2,000 applied for the program since June. The six-week training, held in cities across the country, was modeled on an Obama for America fellowship to learn how to become an effective community organizer. Incidentally, when the RNC compared how its 2016 "turfs" compared with the locations of Obama's 2012 campaign offices, they discovered remarkable symmetry.

The RNC aims to return to what worked for the party so well during President George W. Bush's 2004 re-election and what Obama emulated and improved on: the value of personal contact. Three years ago, Republicans were perplexed by the proliferation of Obama's empty campaign offices, compared to their fewer but larger regional headquarters that were teaming with people manning phone banks. The Obama folks were out talking to voters one-on-one.

Republicans rediscovered this simple secret belatedly, and at its core, this approach is the driver of its "new" 2016 strategy.

"We want to hire more people from within these states who actually know these communities," Carr said. "We want our field organizers to reflect that particular community that they're working in."

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OTHER 2016 NEWS

Forecasters Expect a Strong Economy for the 2016 Presidential Election **// NYT // Neil Irwin – July 20, 2015**

When it comes to elections, fundamentals matter. A lot.

A wide range of political science research suggests that if you want to know who will win the presidency, the state of the economy — and especially how economic conditions are changing — matters a great deal, perhaps even more than how charismatic the candidates are or how much money they raise.

The election is 16 months away, but knowing what we know now, what should we expect the economic backdrop to be when Americans choose their next president?

To answer that question, The Times asked leading forecasters from economic consultancies, financial firms and universities for their predictions on where key economic variables will stand on Nov. 8, 2016 — Election Day. The 17 who participated replied with a relatively strong consensus.

They said they believed that unemployment would be the lowest it has been during an election since George W. Bush and Al Gore faced off in 2000, when it stood at 3.9 percent. The median forecast for the unemployment rate when voters go to the polls in November 2016 was 4.8 percent (which would be down from 5.3 percent last month). They saw only a 15 percent chance of a recession starting by next Election Day. Interest rates, inflation and gasoline prices should all be a bit higher than they are now, they said, while staying quite low by historical standards.

“All in all, I’d guess it should be as close to a feel-good time as any we’ve seen in the past several years,” said Michael Feroli, chief United States economist at JPMorgan Chase.

On its face, all of that points to an election with dynamics similar to 1988 or 2000, when the nominee of the incumbent party (George H. W. Bush in 1988 and Mr. Gore in 2000) could promise continued prosperity. That bodes well for the Democratic nominee, though as Mr. Gore’s loss despite winning the popular vote shows, even a favorable economy doesn’t assure victory, given the workings of the Electoral College.

“On Election Day November 2016, voters should be feeling quite a bit better about where they stand economically and looking at their economic future a bit more optimistically,” said Scott Anderson, chief economist of Bank of the West.

In the voluminous research on the connection between economic performance and election outcomes, one important finding is that what matters is less an absolute level of economic activity or the unemployment rate, and more the speed and direction of economic change. That might explain, for example, why President Obama was re-elected in 2012 despite a 7.8 percent unemployment rate on Election Day. That is a poor number historically, but it was down from 8.6 percent a year earlier.

Some research has found that the economy matters less when the race for the presidency is wide open, as it will be in 2016, than when there is an incumbent on the ballot for whom the vote can be viewed as a referendum. In other words, if Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Democratic nominee, she probably won’t own President Obama’s economic successes and failures to the degree the president himself did in 2012.

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The forecasters' projections also point to a soft underbelly in the economy that the Republican nominee could exploit.

Their consensus was 2.8 percent growth in average hourly wages in the 12 months before the election, slightly higher than the 2 percent rise in prices. That implies that the weak spot of the Obama economy, in compensation for ordinary workers, will remain that way heading into 2016.

The forecasters saw only a 25 percent chance of an economic boom — defined as G.D.P. growth greater than 3 percent maintained for a year — happening between now and Election Day. This slow-moving expansion generally hasn't resulted in the kind of explosive growth that was seen in the late Reagan or late Clinton administrations, and there's a slim chance of that changing soon.

It's against that backdrop that Jeb Bush and other Republican contenders have pledged to attain 4 percent annual economic growth; if they can pull it off, that would be a step up from the roughly 2.5 percent that has been typical of the Obama years.

Sustained growth of 4 percent or greater has been seen only rarely in American history, most recently from 1997-2000 and 1983-5. And those years had more favorable demographic trends driving that growth than the coming presidential administration is likely to encounter.

We asked 17 economists for their forecast of the nation's economy in November 2016.

That helps explain why forecasters' consensus was 2.8 percent G.D.P. growth in the year before the election, and why they were skeptical that 4 percent growth would prove attainable.

"The 4 percent G.D.P. goal of some candidates is unrealistic with the baby boom generational wave retiring and spending less," said Christopher Rupkey, chief financial economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ.

The forecasters could be wrong, of course. Surveys of economic prognosticators in the past have shown plenty of mistakes, including failing to predict the severity of the 2008-9 recession and offering overly optimistic projections during the sluggish recovery.

On the side of pessimism, forecasters failed to predict the economic acceleration of the late 1990s.

In elections that have been dominated by shifts in the economic winds, there tended to be evidence of what was to come by this point in the cycle. The subprime mortgage crisis that would spiral into a recession that characterized the 2008 election was well underway by July 2007, with foreclosures mounting. Though a recession in July 1991 had technically ended by Election Day 1992, the rebound was not swift enough to secure re-election for the first President Bush.

The forecasters, who were surveyed in early July, identified a number of threats that might undermine their forecasts of sunny economic skies in late 2016.

The Greek debt crisis was mentioned often, though the potential ripple effects for the United States economy appear much weaker than they did a few years ago when Greece's position in the eurozone was first at risk. They mentioned the possibility of a Middle East crisis causing an oil shock, and a Chinese economic slowdown that seemed plausible given a recent sharp sell-off in its stock market. But the economic threat that the forecasters

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mentioned most often — the Federal Reserve raising interest rates — would be driven by domestic policy.

If the Fed moves too quickly to raise interest rates, it could have any number of adverse effects: potentially stomping on the housing recovery, undermining exports by strengthening the dollar or causing dangerous volatility in financial markets.

The consensus of the forecasters was that the Fed's target interest rate would be 1.37 percent on Election Day 2016; the consensus of Fed officials themselves was that the rate would be 1.625 percent at the end of 2016. (Those views aren't mutually inconsistent, as there could be a rate increase in December after the election.) In effect, rates have been so low for so long that forecasters lacked confidence about exactly how robust an economic expansion would be in the face of tighter money.

Still, the forecasters said that they thought the Fed would move cautiously enough that incumbents could breathe easier than they have in years.

"Odds are good that by Election Day the economy will be at full employment, growing strongly," said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics. "The economic winds will be at the back of incumbents."

The Only Realistic Way to Fix Campaign Finance **// NYT Lawrence Lessig – July 21, 2015**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — FOR the first time in modern history, the leading issue concerning voters in the upcoming presidential election, according to a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, is that "wealthy individuals and corporations will have too much influence over who wins." Five years after the Supreme Court gave corporations and unions the right to spend unlimited amounts in political campaigns, voters have had enough.

Republican candidates, including Chris Christie, Ted Cruz and Lindsey Graham, and the main Democratic candidates, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, all acknowledge the problem, with some tying it to the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United, which unleashed virtually unlimited "independent" political spending.

The solution proposed by some, notably Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Graham and Mr. Sanders, is amending the Constitution.

It sounds appealing, but anyone who's serious about reform should not buy it. For a presidential candidate, constitutional reform is fake reform. And no candidate who talks exclusively about amending the Constitution can be considered a credible reformer.

This is not because we don't need constitutional reform. Of course we do. No sane constitutional designer would have picked the mix of restrictions and rights that our Constitution has been read to embrace. And with due respect to the Supreme Court, neither did our framers. Amendments will be essential to restoring this democracy, just as a healthy diet is essential to the recovery of a patient who has suffered a heart attack.

Nor is this because a constitutional amendment is impossible. No doubt it is ridiculously difficult to amend our Constitution. The veto of one house in just 13 states — representing as little as 5 percent of the American public — could block an amendment. But in the last hundred years we've added 10 amendments to our Constitution, with an average ratification time (excepting the most recent, which took 202 years) of less than 16 months. We've done it before; we can do it again.

Nor does this mean that the many reform organizations pushing for a constitutional amendment are not

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themselves true reformers. Of course they are, and their work is the most important force building the essential political movement that real reform will require.

But even if we could pass amendment to reverse Citizens United soon (and not since the Civil War has an amendment been adopted with support from just one party), it would not solve the problem of money's influence in American politics.

If the core problem is politicians beholden to their funders, then giving Congress the power to limit the amount spent or the amount would not resolve it. Regardless of how much was spent, the private funding of public campaigns, even with limits, would inevitably reproduce the world we have now.

Real reform will require changing the way campaigns are funded — moving from large-dollar private funding to small-dollar public funding.

Democrats, for example, have pushed for small-dollar public funding through matching systems, like New York City's. Under a plan by Representative John Sarbanes, Democrat of Maryland, contributions could be matched up to nine to one, for candidates who agree to accept only small donations.

Republicans, too, are increasingly calling for small-dollar funding systems. The legal scholar Richard W. Painter, a former "ethics czar" for President George W. Bush, has proposed a $200 tax rebate to fund small-dollar campaigns. Likewise, Jim Rubens, a candidate in the Republican primary for Senate in New Hampshire last year, proposed a $50 tax rebate to fund congressional campaigns.

Either approach would radically increase the number of funders in campaigns, in that way reducing the concentration of large funders that especially typifies congressional and senatorial campaigns right now.

Some 13 states already offer two kinds of public campaign funding: In Arizona, Connecticut and Maine, "clean elections" laws offer full subsidies to candidates who agree to limit their spending and private fund-raising, while Florida and Hawaii match small donations up to a certain amount. The Brennan Center for Justice wants to expand New York City's matching-contributing law to the rest of the state, saying it would increase transparency, accountability and voter turnout.

Most Americans are deeply skeptical of reform, and especially reform that costs money. So it's much easier to call for a constitutional amendment than to propose public financing.

But solving the crisis in our democracy will not be cheap or easy. We won't end the corruption of a system beholden to the funders until we, the citizens, are the funders. That truth takes courage to utter. This election needs that courage.

The Uber Election: 2016 Candidates Are Finally Talking About the New American Underclass // VICE // George Pearkes – July 20, 2015

Every week, it seems, Uber opens a new and previously unimaginable battlegrounds in its war for global ride-sharing dominance. Last month, the company was turning French cabbies into a new Parisian mob, hunting down anyone they suspected of being a cake-eating Uber driver. Just a few weeks later, it was launching a full-scale PR assault against the Mayor of New York, adding a "De Blasio" tab to show riders how long they would have to wait for a car if the city's taxi-loving despot gets his way.

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Meanwhile, for most of us, Uber is the $50 billion-with-a-b ride-sharing juggernaut we hate on principle, but don't know how to get home from the bar without. Given this ubiquity as the world's most combative car-hailing company, it perhaps makes sense that Uber now finds itself in the middle of the country's biggest political battlefield, used as a rhetorical football in the 2016 presidential debate.

...many Americans are making extra money renting out a small room, designing websites, selling products they design themselves at home, or even driving their own car. This on-demand, or so-called gig economy is creating exciting economies and unleashing innovation. But it is also raising hard questions about work-place protections and what a good job will look like in the future.

She went on to pledge that she would "crack down on bosses who exploit employees" by classifying them as contractors, "or even stealing their wages."

To many, it seemed like a direct shot at Uber and the rest of the so-called "gig" or "sharing" economy—the Uber drivers, AirBnB hosts, Etsy sellers, and Postmates messengers who can be beckoned at the tap of a smartphone, but who also aren't on any employer's payroll.

The GOP saw its opening for an attack. As Clinton's remarks settled, the Republican National Committee went into action, blasting out a "Petition in Support of Innovative Companies Like Uber" with ominous warnings about the "taxi unions and government bureaucrats who would stifle innovation." Jeb Bush's campaign gleefully alerted reporters that the 2016 presidential candidate would be hailing an Uberon his visit to San Francisco Thursday.

Other GOP White House hopefuls have also heaped praise upon the sharing economy. Marco Rubio dedicated a whole chapter of his book to "Making America Safe for Uber." Ted Cruz has even gone so far as to claim that he is Uber—"the Uber of Washington."

So far, though, there hasn't been much effort on either side to come up with specific policies or solutions to adapt public policy around the realities of this new workplace—both to protect and foster innovation, and also to ensure fair wages and treatment for independent contractors working in this new landscape.

Independent contractors get paid on an ad hoc basis instead of an hourly wage. While the practice isn't new by any means, it has become controversial for app-based companies whose business model relies on the idea that they are third-party facilitator, connecting service and customer, but not the employer of those providing the services.

A recent decision by California's Labor CommissionCalifornia's Labor Commission foundthat a former Uber driver who had filed a complaint had actually been an Uber employee—something the company has been fighting against in several courts. While the decision applies only to one driver, its implications are big: If Uber drivers are employees, they are eligible for things like overtime, workers comp, and minimum wage. Similar class-action suits are moving down the pipeline in the state, and in other jurisdictions as well.

To make matters worse for Uber, a San Francisco judge recommended last Wednesday that the company be suspended from operations in California for refusing to hand over data on who their drivers pick up and where, to show that the company is providing equal access to its services.

So what does all this mean for 2016? Clinton's speech was made in the context of concerns independent contractors are exposed to more risk than traditional employees. Some costs are also shifted from employers to contractors. Payroll tax accrual, insurance, health care and other basic benefits businesses are required to provide for employees can be avoided. This is arguably a huge benefit for profit margins of businesses in the sharing economy. Firms can generate higher profits because drivers are less costly to "employ".

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Ironically, the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, actually makes it easier for firms to employ contractors. The ACA's exchanges are designed to make it easier and cheaper for individuals to purchase health insurance, making independent contracting for sharing economy companies more attractive than prior to its passage when employer-provided health care was the only option for many Americans. Jeb Bush acknowledged that in a scrum with reporters after his campaign appearance in San Francisco last week.

Employees even provide the tools of their trade themselves, driving their own cars to pick up riders or deliver food, or renting own their own houses. Economically speaking, they're providing labor and capital, and being charged for it via the tech company's cut of their revenue. Clinton's logic is that this cost shifting is emblematic of a broader decline in labor's "bargaining power" or share of economic output. If workers are seeking flexibility, the sharing economy can be a liberating experience with no set hours or boss. But for members of society who turn to the sharing economy as a last resort, that liberation can feel more like desperation and a race to the bottom; these are the Americans that Clinton was trying to address.

From an economic perspective, there's some truth to the idea that workers aren't getting as much pay as they have in the past. It's certainly not the exclusive fault of the sharing economy though. Labor's share of economic output has fallenfrom a peak of about 59 percent in 1970 to about 53 percent today—a difference of about $1 trillion in wages, salaries and benefits for workers, or enough to boost the average family's pre-tax income from $64,432 to $72,656. In that context, the emergence of the gig economy is relatively recent—most app-based sharing companies, including Airbnb, Uber, Lyft, Spinlister, among others, were founded after the 2008 crisis.

Whether these gig companies are actually hurting labor income—or are treating workers unfairly—is a much more open question. Clinton's remarks assume that they are: Her concerns about the costs of the sharing economy are targeted at the Taskrabbits among us who feel forced to work at the instruction of apps because of a lack of options or opportunity in the traditional workforce—not workers who actively opt-in to the sharing economy for its benefits.

On the other hand, Bush and other Republicans have good reason to believe that support for Uber will score political points. The company has, after all, grown from nothing to a valuation that's about the same as General Motorsin the span of six years—regardless of how you feel about Uber and its Objectivist founders, it's hard to deny theirs is a bonafide American entrepreneurial success story. Bush is also on the record saying that he believesAmericans need to work more hours, and the flexible hours offered by sharing economy companies are a reasonable way to get people working more, offering more choice, lower prices for consumers, and less regulatory burden than traditional businesses.

Republicans have fetishized Uber and other tech "disrupters," whose business models they see as shining examples of a free-market, anti-regulatory ideology, challenging government-sanctioned monopolies—on, say, taxis or hotels—that keep consumer prices higher they would otherwise be. That was the source of the riots in France: French taxi drivers, angry that Uber was taking their fares, protested, and things got out of control, giving Courtney Love an unfortunate scare; the French government responded by cracking down on Uber's UberPOP service, effectively protecting the country's licensed cab driver monopoly. AirBnB has faced similar issues in numerous jurisdictions, including New York City.

In short, the sharing economy has all the ingredients of a punchy campaign issue: It's a metaphor for a big shift that's been under way for over thirty years, neatly encapsulating a lot of complicated economics and policy into one symbol. And it's a jumping off point for an important election-year debate over what that "normal" American economy should look like after years of slow recovery from a massive recession. Plus, all the kids are doing it.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Martin O'Malley Apologized for Saying "All Lives Matter." Should Hillary Clinton? // The New Republic // Rebecca Leber – July 20, 2015

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Martin O'Malley was booed at a liberal conference on Saturday when, after being interrupted by Black Lives Matter demonstrators, he said, "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter." Within hours, the former Maryland governor apologized, saying on the digital show "This Week in Blackness," "I meant no disrespect. That was a mistake on my part and I meant no disrespect. I did not mean to be insensitive in any way or communicate that I did not understand the tremendous passion, commitment and feeling and depth of feeling that all of us should be attaching to this issue."

But O'Malley isn't the only Democratic presidential candidate who has said "all lives matter." Frontrunner Hillary Clinton, who didn't attend Netroots, used the phrase in a speech last month at a historic black church five miles from Ferguson, Missouri. Describing her mother's life, Clinton said, "Her own parents abandoned her. By 14 she was out on her own, working as a housemaid. Years later, when I was old enough to understand, I asked her, 'What kept you going?' Her answer was very simple: Kindness along the way from someone who believed she mattered. All lives matter."

There was some debate over whether she ever needed to clarify her remarks. Democratic strategist Donna Brazile didn't see the need for it.

Clinton has never explicitly apologized for saying "all lives matter." Asked Monday if she regretted using the phrase and plans to apologize for it, her campaign sent a link to a Facebook comment by Clinton in response to a question by the Washington Post's Wesley Lowery.

"All lives matter" has become a common conservative retort to #blacklivesmatter, and activists (among others) object to the phrase because it obscures how black lives in particular are treated as less valuable in America. As Berkeley professor Judith Berkeley put it earlier this year:

Claiming that "all lives matter" does not immediately mark or enable black lives only because they have not been fully recognized as having lives that matter. I do not mean this as an obscure riddle. I mean only to say that we cannot have a race-blind approach to the questions: which lives matter? Or, which lives are worth valuing? If we jump too quickly to the universal formulation, "all lives matter," then we miss the fact that black people have not yet been included in the idea of "all lives."

Update: Another Democratic presidential candidate, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, has made remarks not unlike "all lives matter." In June, he told NPR's David Greene, "Black lives matter. White lives matter. Hispanic lives matter. But these are also not only police matters. They're not only gun control matters. They are significantly economic matters."

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

The Unarmed Forces: Will the Pentagon let troops carry weapons after Chattanooga? // WaPo // Dan Lamothe – July 20, 2015

Three weeks ago, the U.S. Army awarded Purple Hearts to two soldiers who were wounded in an attack by a gunman on a military recruiting center. One of them, Pvt. William Long, received the award posthumously after being killed in the attack. The other, Pvt. Quinton Ezeagwula, was wounded numerous times but survived.

The June 1, 2009, attack in Little Rock, Ark., was recalled by many following the shootings last week at a military recruiting center and naval reserve installation in Chattanooga, Tenn., that killed four Marines and a sailor:

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Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, 40; Staff Sgt. David Wyatt, 35; Sgt. Carson A. Holmquist; Lance Cpl. Squire D. “Skip” Wells, 21; and Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Smith, 26.

All five were at the naval reserve center, one of two locations targeted by the shooter, Mohammad Youssef Abdulazeez, 24, who was also killed.

The attacks are evidence, some say, that the Pentagon should end its long-held restrictions on U.S. service members arming themselves while at military facilities. Law enforcement officials said Monday that they had recovered a privately-owned pistol at the reserve center following the shootout that may have been carried by one of the deceased Marines, but they would not have been allowed to do so.

Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter called on Friday for “immediate steps” to be taken to enhance force protection following the Chattanooga shooting, but arming troops was not one of them. Mark Wright, a spokesman at the Pentagon, said that the Marine Corps chose to close all recruiting offices within 40 miles temporarily, instruct recruiters across the country not to wear uniforms and to boost security at recruiting stations to force protection level Charlie, indicating an increased terrorist threat exists.

The Army also increased its security at recruiting centers to force protection level Charlie, and the Navy opted to have more random searches at facilities and coordinate more closely with law enforcement.

Pentagon officials said that Carter also called for a review by the services to determine how security can be improved, with recommendations due back to him within a few days.

Carter, asked about the review Sunday while flying from Washington to Israel, did not say whether he is considering arming U.S. troops while on base Stateside.

“We took some steps on Friday that seemed immediately advisable,” the secretary told reporters, without elaborating. “I’ve asked the services to quickly, but in a comprehensive way, assess additional things that they might recommend.”

Pressure is mounting to arm troops. Sen. Ron Johnson (R.-Wis.) said Friday he would introduce legislation that would get rid of rules preventing service members from being armed at military installations. Sen. John McCain (R.-Ariz.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Rep. Mac Thornberry (R.-Tex.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, also called Friday for the Pentagon to do more to protect troops.

“Long before the Chattanooga attack, we had been working to clarify a post commander’s authority to allow carrying of personal firearms,” McCain and Thornberry said in a joint statement. “This year’s National Defense Authorization Act will reflect that work. Together, we will direct the Pentagon to end the disconnect between the threats our war fighters and their families face and the tools they have to defend themselves.”

The independent Marine Corps Times captured the sentiment among many rank-and-file Marines on the cover of its newspaper on Monday. The headline: “The call to arm all Marines — now.” It was greeted by readers on Facebook with widespread agreement.

In the 1990s, the Pentagon restricted who can carry weapons at military facilities, ostensibly to make them safer by allowing only military police to carry weapons in most situations.

There is some disagreement over where the policy originated. Some have blamed former President Clinton, citing

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a 1993 Army directive that limited the use of firearms on military bases. But it actually traces back a little farther. A 1992 Defense Department directive issued during President George H.W. Bush's administration addressed the issue and provided the Pentagon's rationale for limiting who carried firearms in the United States.

"The authorization to carry firearms shall be issued only to qualified personnel when there is a reasonable expectation that life or DoD assets will be jeopardized if firearms are not carried," the directive said. "Evaluation of the necessity to carry a firearm shall be made considering this expectation weighed against the possible consequences of accidental or indiscriminate use of firearms. DoD personnel regularly engaged in law enforcement or security duties shall be armed."

The issue has come up after numerous shootings on military bases, including the 2009 and 2014 attacks at Fort Hood, Tex., and the 2013 mass shooting at the Washington Navy Yard.

Bill That Lets Bosses Fire Single Women For Getting Pregnant Gains Steam // HuffPo // Dana Liebelson – July 20, 2015

In wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in favor of same-sex marriage, Republicans are pushing legislation that aims to protect Americans who oppose these unions on religious grounds. But critics say the language is so broad, the bill creates a license to discriminate that would let employers fire women for getting pregnant outside of wedlock.

The First Amendment Defense Act prohibits the federal government from taking discriminatory action against a person -- which is defined to include for-profit corporations -- acting in accordance with a religious belief that favors so-called traditional marriage. This means the feds can't revoke a nonprofit's tax-exempt status or end a company's federal contract over this issue.

The bill specifically protects those who believe that marriage is between "one man and one woman" or that "sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage." Ian Thompson, a legislative representative at the American Civil Liberties Union, said that in addition to targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, the bill "clearly encompasses discrimination against single mothers" and would hobble the ability of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the federal body that protects women from sex-based discrimination, to act.

This scenario isn't merely hypothetical. There are a number of recent cases where religious schools have fired unwed teachers for becoming pregnant. A Montana Catholic school teacher who was fired for having a baby out of wedlock, for example, filed a discrimination charge last year with the EEOC. While the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized a ministerial exception to employment discrimination laws, that exception is somewhat limited, not necessarily covering educators employed by Catholic schools who teach about exclusively secular subjects.

James Ryan, a spokesman for the EEOC, said the commission could not comment on pending legislation in Congress.

At a press conference on Thursday, Rep. Raul Labrador (R-Idaho), who authored the House bill, strongly denied that it could be used this way. "It's just allowing people to continue to believe the way they do," he told The Huffington Post.

His colleague, Rep. Bill Flores (R-Texas) said, "We're not going to try to dance on the head of a pin here. This legislation protects an institution based on its sincerely held religious beliefs from persecution."

When NPR asked Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), who introduced the companion Senate bill, about a hypothetical

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university firing an unmarried woman for having sex out of wedlock, he said, "There are colleges and universities that have a religious belief that sexual relations are to be reserved for marriage" and they "ought to be protected in their religious freedom."

The legislation is picking up steam, with pressure reportedly mounting on GOP leaders to call a vote this month on the bill. When House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) was asked on Thursday what he thinks of the bill and whether he'll bring it to the floor, he said, "The Supreme Court's decision on marriage raises a lot of other questions and a number of members have concerns about the issues it raises." He added, "No decision has been made on how best to address these."

Thompson said that this isn't the only problem with the bill. He said it would eviscerate anti-discrimination protections for LGBT federal contractors signed into law by President Barack Obama last year and allow federal grantees to turn away LGBT people from homeless shelter services or drug treatment programs. Comparing it to a religious freedom bill in Indiana that faced national backlash, he said, "This bill is Indiana on steroids."

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Embassy in Cuba Reopens After More Than 50 Years **// NYT // Azam Ahmed – July 20, 2015**

After more than a half-century defined by mistrust and rancor, the United States officially reopened its six-story embassy in the Cuban capital on Monday, the culmination of many months of negotiations to overcome decades of historical enmity and to restore diplomatic relations between the two nations.

More than two years of effort went into restoring relations between Cuba and the United States, both public and private, yet most observers say they believe it will be many more years before mutual wariness fades.

A litany of questions have yet to be answered, including: Will the American trade embargo that has crippled Cuba's economy be lifted, and if so, when? Will the Cuban government improve its human rights record and incorporate outsiders into the political spectrum? How much, and how fast, will the lives of ordinary Cubans, who earn $20 a month on average, improve?

But for now, the reopening of the embassy on the Malecón waterfront in Havana, previously used as an interests section, a limited diplomatic outpost, stands as the most concrete symbol yet of the thaw set in motion last year when President Obama ordered the full restoration of diplomatic ties between the countries.

"It is sort of like a wedding," said James Williams, the president of an advocacy group, Engage Cuba, which has been lobbying for improved relations. "You've spent all this time planning your wedding day, and finally you're getting to see someone walk down the aisle."

"Now," he added, "you have the rest of your life together."

If Cubans are expecting bells and canapés to celebrate the nuptials, they will be sorely disappointed. The official celebration to inaugurate the American Embassy will not take place until later in the summer, when Secretary of State John Kerry plans to visit, to formally raise the flag and install the new signage.

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For now, the change is imperceptible from the outside, arguably a metaphor for the state of Cuba itself.

Technically, there will be differences. Diplomats will be formally registered, and, for the first time since the American Embassy was closed, they will be allowed to travel freely in the country. They will be invited to functions, too, like members of other diplomatic corps.

The American government is supposed to ease access for Cubans entering the embassy and for the American Foreign Service officers inside, a State Department official said.

Mr. Obama, when announcing an end to the diplomatic freeze, eased travel restrictions, opened the door for more remittances to Cuba, and expanded the amount of goods that visiting Americans could take home, like Cuban cigars and rum. In May, he removed the country from the list of nations that sponsor terrorism.

President Raúl Castro has spent the past five years, before the thaw began with the Obama administration, trying to jump-start the nation's economy, ordering that hundreds of thousands of government employees be laid off, encouraging Cubans into self-employment and entrepreneurship, and creating a special economic zone in the coastal city of Mariel to attract foreign investment.

But many of these changes have been confronted with bracing realities. A farm program to encourage crop cultivation struggled because of regulations and a lack of reliable transportation, and the mass public-sector layoffs Mr. Castro promised never really materialized. Real estate overhauls that now allow Cubans to sell their homes have run into a problem that vexes just about every segment of Cuban life: a lack of supplies.

Often, these initiatives have been ensnared by the mentality that has both preserved and ossified Cuban life, one forged through years of anti-American sentiment that has defined the social, political and economic lives of Cubans. Letting go of that is not easy.

Mr. Castro has said that change will be slow, and that it will not come at the cost of stability or values. Again and again, what emerges is this: Cuba will change, yes, but at its own pace and with no apologies.

For many Cubans, that is reason enough for hope.

"The genie is out of the bottle," said Carlos Alzugaray Treto, a former Cuban diplomat who is close to Mr. Castro and his brother Fidel, the country's longtime president. "And once it's out, you're not going to be able to put it back in."

Out of the bottle or not, life continues as usual in Havana. A number of Cubans know about the opening of the American Embassy and have formulated opinions about what it will mean for them.

Some fear that Cuban culture could be lost, devoured by American consumerism. But just as many, if not more, are fine with change if it means that they can earn enough to live on.

"For me, inequality is not a problem," said Lázaro Borrero, 39, a journeyman worker who does a bit of construction, cooking and tobacco rolling to make ends meet. "If you earn $1 million a year, and I earn $1 a year, good for you."

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Oswaldo Alamo, 66, in the government-owned shop in Havana where he sells rationed food items. Mr. Alamo said he supported the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States. Credit Meridith Kohut for The New York Times

Change that will have an effect on the wallets of normal Cubans is, by some estimates, many years away. It will require the lifting of the American embargo as well as what many Cubans refer to as the "internal embargo," or the state impediments that exist in everyday life, from communications to buying groceries.

It will require change from within the Cuban system and adapting to economic norms that might require letting go of some of their control, experts say.

"Cuba has more of a challenge to change than does the United States," said Ricardo Pascoe, a former Mexican ambassador to Cuba. "They're going to have to open up one way or another."

But it will not be only the Cubans who change. American tourists are expected to come in waves to discover a nation so long forbidden, and there will also be families who can reunite without having to cross political minefields.

Consider Lucía Nuñez, the director of the Civil Rights Department for the government of Madison, Wis. Her parents, born in Cuba, left the country a year before America severed diplomatic ties with it under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in 1961.

Ms. Nuñez drifted emotionally from Cuba over the years, growing up in the Virgin Islands and eventually moving to New England for high school and college. She was ashamed, she said, of having parents with accents and a cuisine that differed from her friends'.

She raised her children in the United States and has lived in Wisconsin for the past 17 years. Her mother, who has been back to Cuba only once since leaving, missed the deaths of her brothers on the island.

"I spent a lot of years denying I was Cuban," Lucía Nuñez said from the home of a Cuban entrepreneur who has been licensed to rent to foreign visitors. "But there's no denying it: I am Cuban. I am as much frijoles negros as I am Bruce Springsteen."

So this summer, she, her 81-year-old mother and her 19-year-old daughter decided to take a trip to Havana and to the small town near Guantánamo where the family is from. They recently arrived in Cuba and plan to stay for about a month, and Ms. Nuñez's mother will see her sister for the first time in years.

"I hope the normalcy of the relations — or whatever it is they are calling them — I hope it brings us closer to the family I used to have," she said.

Banks reopen, first repayments start as Greece aims for return to normal // Reuters // Lefteris Papadimas – July 20, 2015

Greece reopened its banks and started the process of paying off billions of euros owed to international creditors on Monday in the first signs of a return to normal after a deal to agree a new package of bailout reforms.

Customers were queued up outside bank branches open for the first time in three weeks on Monday after they were closed to save the system from collapsing under a flood of withdrawals.

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Increases in value added tax agreed under the bailout terms also took effect, with VAT on food and public transport jumping to 23 percent from 13 percent. The stock market remained closed until further notice. The bank closures were the most visible sign of the crisis that took Greece to the brink of leaving the euro earlier this month, potentially undermining the foundations of the single European currency.

Their reopening followed Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' reluctant acceptance of a tough package of bailout demands from European partners, but a revolt in the ruling Syriza party now threatens the stability of his government and officials say new elections may be held as early as September or October.

"Things are better than the last few weeks. Thank God we didn't end up with the drachma!" said 62-year-old pensioner Maria Papadopoulou. "I came to pay bills and my taxes today. Last week I couldn't and all of this is very tiring for the older people like me."

Limits on withdrawals will remain, however -- at 420 euros ($455) per week instead of 60 euros per day previously -- and payments and wire transfers abroad will still not be possible, a situation German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Sunday was "not a normal life" and warranted swift negotiations on a new bailout, expected to be worth up to 86 billion euros.

"Capital controls and restrictions on withdrawals will remain in place but we are entering a new stage which we all hope will be one of normality," said Louka Katseli, head of the Greek bank association.

Greeks will be able to deposit cheques but not cash, pay bills as well as have access to safety deposit boxes and withdraw money without an ATM card.

Bankers said there may be minor disruptions after the extended interruption to services but said they expected services to resume largely as normal.

"I don't expect major problems, our network and the network of our competitors are ready to serve our clients," said a senior official at Piraeus Bank, one of the big four lenders. "There might be lines because many people will want to withdraw money from their deposit boxes," the official said.

Athens initiated procedures to pay 4.2 billion euros in principal and interest to the European Central Bank due on Monday after European authorities agreed last week to provide emergency funding assistance,

It is also paying 2.05 billion euros to the International Monetary Fund in arrears since June 30, when Greece became the first advanced economy to default on a loan to the IMF, along with 500 million euros owed to the Bank of Greece.

Tsipras is eyeing a fresh start and swift talks on the bailout aimed at keeping Greece afloat but faces hurdles with factions in his party.

Although the Greek parliament approved the bailout package on Thursday, the 40-year-old prime minister was forced to rely on votes from the opposition after 39 rebels from Syriza refused to back the government by voting against or abstaining.

A second vote will be held on Wednesday on measures including justice and banking reforms and a similar

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outcome is expected. The voting arithmetic is finely poised, however.

Together with his coalition partners from the right-wing Independent Greeks party Tsipras has 162 seats in the 300-seat parliament. But Thursday's rebellion cut his support to just 123 votes, meaning he is likely to need opposition votes again.

Some officials in the government have suggested that if support from lawmakers from within the coalition dropped below 120 votes, early snap elections would have to be called while the bailout was still being negotiated.

Their argument is that under Greek law, the lowest number of votes a government can have to win a confidence motion is 120 out of 240, the minimum quorum in parliament for a vote to be valid.

Dropping below 120 would be a symbolic blow but whether it would actually push Tsipras to step down is unclear given that he would have the support of the pro-European opposition parties if a confidence vote were called.

"What worries me is that some people still think that there would be no austerity if we were out of the euro. This argument is absolutely false," State Minister Nikos Pappas, one of Tsipras' closest aides told the leftist Efimerida Ton Syntakton newspaper.

Acceptance of the bailout terms and reopening of the banks have marked a new stage for Tsipras after months of difficult talks.

The bailout terms, which are tougher than those rejected in a referendum earlier in July, include tax hikes, pension cuts, strict curbs on public spending, an overhaul of collective bargaining rules and a transfer of 50 billion euros of state assets into a special privatization fund.

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 12/8/2015 10:21:10 AM
Subject: Israeli Official--Close Hold

Dear Dan, Jake and Laura,

I had a breakfast meeting with a senior Israeli official who is very close to the Prime Minister, and knows his thinking. He had the following insights:

1. The Prime Minister always had a "surprising good relationship" with Hillary; she is "easy to work with", and that she is more instinctively sympathetic to Israel than the White House. Even during their "famous 43 minute phone call, when he felt like slamming down the phone, he felt she was simply heavily scripted and reading from points prepared by the White House.

2. While the Prime Minister favors a two state solution, neither a majority of the Likud Party nor Bennett's party does. Indeed, a two state solution has never been in the government guidelines in any Likud-led government.

3. The Prime Minister hoped during his most recent meeting with the President that the new MOU would be announced, but the White House only wanted to announce the intention to negotiate it. He hopes it will be concluded in the next few months. When I asked if Bunker Busting Bombs or the new deep ordinance bomb was on the Israeli request list, he only indicated that "there is no dispute on platforms" between the Administration and Israel. He said the biggest issue is the amount of money, in a lean budget situation. The Israeli Embassy is not going around the Administration to lobby for a higher figure, although they could probably get it. But if the figure is too low, they will wait until the next President.

4. Missile defense funds are also critical, but they come out of the Pentagon budget, while many of the items on the MOU list are in the FMF/Foreign Ops budget.

5. He attended part of the Saban Forum and felt that most of the emphasis was on the Palestinian issue, and wonders if a Clinton Administration "will be a Saban Forum for four years", due to "the people around her, but not her". Her own speech was "95% good, although there was some moral equivalence language."

6. We discussed possible economic initiatives to help the Palestinians, like more Palestinian investment in Zone C, and/or an agreement to limit settlement expansion to the established blocs that under the Clinton parameters would be in Israel after any negotiation. He said the Prime Minister is genuinely interested in doing positive things on the ground. He said that they know it would have to be unilateral, and that they can expect nothing from the Palestinian Authority. But, he said there are the following complications:

(1) It is difficult to do while the knifings are occurring, and while Abu Mazan is fomenting violence;

(2) So that it does not appear they are bending to violence they need the "support" of the USG. This could include:

(a) Opposition to a new UN Resolution, which Secretary Kerry continues to seek;

(b) Support for settlement activity in the established blocs. But the Obama Administration will not agree to any settlement activity, even in areas like Gilo.

(c) It is little appreciated that despite great pressure to stop any Palestinians from the West Bank from coming into Israel to work, the Prime Minister had kept the flow of tens of thousands coming in every day, recognizing how important this is to the economy of the West Bank and to stability.

(d) The Prime Minister has also kept the VAT refund money flowing to the PA, despite the provocative statements.

But he reiterated there is a deal to be made with the next Administration, looking for positive steps at the outset; "it would be easy to do".

7. American Jews are focused on issues like BDS and Israeli legitimacy, while Israelis are focused only on security, with the stabbings.

8. There are some in the Israeli coalition that want to dismantle the Palestinian Authority and take over full control. But the Prime Minister and the Defense Minster, and "certainly the military and intelligence community", want to keep the PA. There is still intelligence sharing on radicals, but when Israel asks them to arrest the radicals they identify, they refuse, and ask the Israelis to do it, and then protest the arrests. But this is all part of a scenario of cooperation. However, if the PA takes Israel to the International Criminal Court, this would be a "huge problem" and a potential game changer in terms of their relationship with the PA.

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9. Abu Mazan continues to talk about retiring, as he has done for years, but seems more serious now. There is no obvious successor if he leaves, “other than the guy in jail”.

10. Only about 2% to 4% of Israeli civilians have guns, and certainly not the kind of assault rifles used in the US.

11. Israel Arabs are a “real problem.” The government had to dismantle the northern branch of the Islamic Association because they were radicalizing the Israeli Arabs, who are 20% of the population.

Best wishes,
Stu Eizenstat

From: Eizenstat, Stuart
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 12:37 PM
To: 'Dan Schwerin'
Cc: Jake Sullivan; Laura Rosenberger
Subject: RE: In Speech, Clinton Discusses Threat from ISIS and Reiterates Her Plan to Defeat Global Terror

Dan,
Any thoughts on my points for future use?
Stu

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 11:56 AM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: Jake Sullivan; Laura Rosenberger
Subject: Fwd: In Speech, Clinton Discusses Threat from ISIS and Reiterates Her Plan to Defeat Global Terror

Stu, thanks for your kind note. Here's the transcript so you can see where we ended up...

---------- Forwarded message ----------

In Speech, Clinton Discusses Threat from ISIS and Reiterates Her Plan to Defeat Global Terror

At a speech today on the alliance between the United States and Israel, Hillary Clinton reiterated her plan to combat terrorism and defeat the Islamic State.

In her remarks to the Brookings Institution’s Saban Forum 2015, Clinton stressed the importance of cracking down on the ability of ISIS and other terrorist groups to communicate and spread propaganda online.

“Resolve means depriving jihadists of virtual territory just as we work to deprive them of actual territory," Clinton said. "They are using websites, social media, chat rooms, and other platforms to celebrate beheadings, recruit future terrorists, and call for attacks. We should work with host companies to shut them down.”

Clinton also observed that a series of trends in the region make the U.S. alliance with Israel "more indispensable than ever."

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Please see below for a full transcript of the remarks:

"Thank you very much, thank you, Haim, for those kind words. Thanks to you and Sheryl and your family for important initiative and for once again gathering us here, together. It's wonderful being back with so many friends and colleagues, including many from the diplomatic corps and of course many from Israel. I want to thank Martin, Tammy, everyone at Brookings.

"We look to you to help us understand a world that seems more complex and confounding than ever. And we are grateful for your insights and for always helping us reach for statesmanship over partisanship.

"Before I begin, I want to acknowledge the loss of a beloved member of our foreign policy family, Sandy Berger. A friend and counselor to me and to many of us. Sandy was a wise and brilliant man. Although I was not able to be at the service on Friday, I know many of you were, and my husband told me how extraordinary it was to see generations of policymakers that Sandy had inspired and mentored, and to hear his children talk with such love and respect as the father they knew.

"Sandy was an enthusiastic participant in this Forum, a steadfast friend to Israel, and the recipient of an honorary degree from Tel Aviv University. Martin wrote a lovely tribute to Sandy called "The man who never gave up hope for Arab-Israeli peace." And he's right, Sandy never gave up on peace. He ever gave up on the potential for diplomacy to end even the most intractable of conflicts. Before I turn to this challenge and how we can and must take the U.S.-Israel relationship to the next level, let me say a few words about events in our own country.

"These past few days, all of us have tried to make sense of yet another senseless terrorist attack. I know that Americans are anxious and fearful. We have reason to be, the threat is real. The need for action is urgent. Our intelligence and law enforcement agencies will continue learning about what led to the massacre in San Bernardino, just as French and Belgian authorities are doing in Paris and Brussels. But this much we do know: the threat from radical jihadism has metastasized and become more complex and challenging. We're seeing the results of radicalism not just in far-off lands but right here at home, fueled by the Internet. It's the nexus of terrorism and technology and we have a lot of work to do to end it. As hard as this is, Americans now have to move from fear to resolve. America has beaten bigger threats before, and we will defeat this one as well.

"Resolve means depriving jihadists of virtual territory just as we work to deprive them of actual territory. They are using websites, social media, chat rooms, and other platforms to celebrate beheadings, recruit future terrorists, and call for attacks. We should work with host companies to shut them down. It's time for an urgent dialogue between the government and not just our government, but government and the high-tech community to confront this problem together. I heard from some of you that you had a great session about technology yesterday. And about how politics and society kind of go on in a linear way and there's an upward movement, but how technology is a disruptive force, that leads to a real exponential increase in activity and I think one of the experts on a panel said ISIS is an exponential force right now. Unfortunately, I agree with that. And that's why it requires us to bring together governments and high-tech experts to figure out how we disrupt them. Resolve means supporting also our first responders, like the officer in San Bernardino who said he would take a bullet for the civilians he was rescuing. We owe them our support and gratitude and whatever help they need.

"Local law enforcement should get the support, training, and coordination they need in their communities from counterterrorism experts in Washington. It also means taking a close look at the safeguards in visa programs and working more effectively with our European allies on intelligence and information sharing. And, yes, Congress must act to ensure that no one who is a suspected terrorist can buy guns anywhere in America.

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"Resolve also means cutting off the finances that fuel the global jihadist network and demanding that our partners in the Gulf do so as well. Resolve means going after the threat at its source in Iraq and Syria and beyond, and I'll have more to say about that in a minute. So we must act with courage and clarity. And I think it's important to remind ourselves that Islam itself is not our adversary. This is not, and we should not let it become a "clash of civilizations." It is a clash between hate and hope. And the vast majority of Muslims are on our side of the battle unless we drive them away. We can't buy into the very narrative that radical jihadists use to recruit new followers or alienate partners we want and need at home and abroad with reckless rhetoric. Declaring war on Islam or demonizing the Muslim-American community is not only counter to our values, it plays right into the hands of terrorists.

"Muslim-Americans are our neighbors, co-workers, loved ones, friends. Many are working every day all over our country to prevent radicalization. We should be supporting them, not scapegoating them. But at the same time, none of us can close our eyes to the fact that we do face enemies who use Islam to justify slaughtering innocent people. We have to stop them and we will. Radical jihadists, like so many adversaries in our history, underestimate the strength of our national character. Americans will not cower or cave. And we will not turn on each other or turn on our principles. We will defeat those who threaten us.

"We will keep our country safe and strong, free and tolerant. And we will always defend our friends and allies. Today with stand with France, Nigeria, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, everywhere radical jihadists threaten. And, yes, we stand with our ally and true friend Israel now and forever. And of course Israel is no stranger to terrorism. I've sat in Israeli hospital rooms and held the hands of victims wounded by terrorist attacks, listening to doctors as they sometimes even showed me x-rays, describe how much shrapnel was left in a leg, arm, or a head. Today Israel faces growing threats in its own neighborhood. An ISIS affiliate across Israel's border in the Sinai is becoming more aggressive and sophisticated. It is responsible for the destruction of a Russian airliner with 224 passengers.

And Israeli media reported last week that an ISIS commander from the Sinai visited Gaza, raising the stakes even higher. There's also a new wave of violence inside Israel itself. Brutal stabbings, shootings, and vehicle attacks that seek to sow fear among the innocent. Israeli children have been killed as have Palestinian children. Just two weeks ago, terrorists murdered an American yeshiva student named Ezra Schwartz in a drive-by shooting. These knifings and other attacks are terrorism and they must be stopped immediately. So also must irresponsible rhetoric used to stoke tensions or spur violence. Palestinian leaders should condemn and combat incitement in all its forms. The right to be safe is not just the right of Americans but the right of Israelis and Palestinians alike.

"In this period of peril, Israel needs a strong America by its side. And America needs a strong and secure Israel by our side. It's in our national interest to have an Israel that remains a bastion of stability and a core ally in a region in chaos. We need a brave democracy whose perseverance and pluralism are a rebuke to every extremist and tyrant. We need "a light unto the nations" as darkness threatens.Today, three trends in the region and the world are converging and making our alliance with Israel more indispensable than ever. The first is a rising tide of extremism across a wide arc of instability from North Africa to South Asia. The second is Iran's continued aggression. And the third is the growing effort to delegitimize Israel on the world stage. America and Israel need to address these threats together. And we must take an already strong relationship to the next level.

"We have to develop a common strategic vision and pursue a coordinated approach. Deepen our cooperation and consultation across the board. Remind our peoples how much they have in common. And keep our relationship always above partisan politics. So we need to see how our challenges intersect and see the whole chessboard. I want to say a few words about each of the converging trends. First, the rise of ISIS and the struggle against radical jihadism. Our security and the security of free people everywhere depends on waging and winning this fight. Our goal must not to deter or contain ISIS. Our goal must be to defeat ISIS. I have put forth a three-prong plan to do that. One: Deny ISIS territory in Iraq and Syria by leading an intensified air campaign and working with local and regional forces on the ground.

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"Second, dismantle the global infrastructure of terror, the networks that supply radical jihadists with money, weapons, and fighters, and stop them from recruiting and inspiring. And third: Toughen our defenses at home -- and those of our partners -- against external and homegrown threats. As part of our ongoing war against terrorist organizations, we've been operating under an authorization to use military force since 9/11.

"I think the time has come to update that authorization to ensure that we have the tools we need not only to fight ISIS but all international networks of terrorists. That effort has stalled, and I hope that the President and Congress will pick it back up. There is no alternative to American leadership. But the entire world must be part of this fight, and I welcome the new commitments from the United Kingdom, Germany, and others in recent days.

"Now, an effective fight on the ground against ISIS is essential, but that does not mean deploying tens of thousands of American combat troops. It does means stepping up efforts to get more Arab and Kurdish fighters into the fight against ISIS on both sides of the Iraq Syrian border. Supporting the Iraqi security forces while pressuring Baghdad to pursue a more inclusive and effective approach is essential. And immediately deploying the Special Operations forces that President Obama has already authorized with more to follow as more Syrians get into the fight.

We also have to demand that our Arab and Turkish partners carry their share of the burden, with military, financial, and diplomatic contributions. We will do our part, but it's their fight, too, and they need to act.

"Now I'm glad Turkey in particular has pledged to step up, now it needs to follow through, including by sealing its border. Dealing with the conflict in Syria with respect to Assad is central to this whole effort. We need to continue Secretary Kerry's efforts to move toward a diplomatic solution to the civil war in Syria that paves the way for new leadership, and enables Syrians from every community to take on ISIS. Investing the Russians in this outcome, and getting them to step up and do their part, will be difficult but essential.

"We have to pursue a transition away from Assad and an intensified fight ISIS simultaneously. We're not going to get Syrian opposition forces to fight ISIS in earnest without the credible prospect of a transition. And that's going to take more pressure and leverage. That's one of the reasons why I've proposed creating a no fly zone and safe havens, as well as more robust support for opposition forces. We also have to do more to support Syria's neighbors, especially Jordan and Lebanon, as they take in massive numbers of refugees fleeing both ISIS and Assad, so instability doesn't spread. And finally, it's crucial that we embed our mission to defeat ISIS within a broader struggle against radical jihadism.

"Extremist groups like ISIS feed off instability and conflict, and there is no shortage of that in the Middle East today. Decades of repression, poverty corruption, a lack of pluralism and tolerance, turned the region into a powder keg. Now we have long faced hard choices in the Middle East about how to balance our interest in working with any reliable partner, even those who don't share our values, with our commitment to democratic principles and human rights. Those dilemmas aren't going away, and we can't forget that lasting security and stability will only come with real reform that provides more space in both the economy and the political system for more people. That's why we have to work with our friends and partners to support economic and political modernization and train effective and accountable local intelligence, law enforcement, and counterterrorism services. And, once and for all, the Saudis, the Qataris, the Kuwaitis and others must stop their citizens from funding extremist organizations, and stop supporting radical schools and mosques around the world that have set too many young people on a path toward extremism. The second trend that makes a strengthened U.S-Israeli relationship essential is Iran's increasingly aggressive regional ambitions.

"Tehran's fingerprints are on nearly every conflict across the Middle East. Iran supports bad actors from Syria to Lebanon to Yemen and beyond. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard and its proxies are attempting to establish a beachhead on the Golan from which to threaten Israel.

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"In Southern Lebanon, Hezbollah is amassing an arsenal of rockets and artillery. And the Ayatollahs continue to threaten Israel's destruction at every opportunity. We all agree that Iran can never be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon. Now, as you know, I support the nuclear agreement negotiated by the world's great powers. Is it perfect? No, no agreement like that ever is. But I believe that if it is aggressively implemented and enforced, this deal will help us prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

"That said, it is not enough to say yes to this deal. We have to say yes and we will vigorously enforce it.Yes and we will embed it in a larger effort to counter Iran across the region. How we handle enforcement in these early months will set the tone for years to come, so we have to get it right. Our message to Iran must be unequivocal. There will be consequences for even small violations and we are ready to snap back sanctions into place. Our approach must be distrust and verify. There can be no doubt in Tehran that if we see any indication that Iran's leaders are violating their commitment in the deal not to seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons we will stop them. And we will make sure the Iranians and the world understand that the United States will act decisively if necessary, including taking military action. And we should also should hold Iran and its Revolutionary Guard Corps accountable for their sponsorship of terrorism, ballistic missile development, human rights violations, detention of Americans, and other illicit behavior like cybercrime.

"Now make no mistake, Iran will test our resolve. They have already started to do so, with a ballistic missile test and other provocative behavior. We have to respond to these provocations, including with further sanctions designations as necessary. The third trend is the growing effort around the world to isolate and delegitimize Israel.

"This is not a new challenge. As Secretary of State, I called out systemic, structural anti-Israel bias at the UN and fought to block the one-sided Goldstone Report. Particularly at a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise across the world, especially in Europe, we need to repudiate efforts to malign and undermine Israel and the Jewish people. The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, known as BDS, is the latest front in this battle. Demonizing Israeli scientists and intellectuals, even young students. Comparing Israel to South African apartheid. Now no nation, no nation, is above criticism, but this is wrong and it should stop immediately. Some proponents of BDS may hope that pressuring Israel will lead to peace. Well that's wrong too. No outside force is going to resolve the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians.

"Only a two-state solution can provide Palestinians independence, sovereignty and dignity, and provide Israelis the secure and recognized borders of a democratic, Jewish state. Now, it's no secret that the most recent efforts to advance direct negotiations didn't yield much tangible progress. But I remain convinced and I think it's important we all remain convinced, that peace is possible. So I refuse to give up on the goal of two states for two people. And no matter how unattainable it may seem at the moment, Israelis and Palestinians shouldn't give up on it either.

"Instead, they should demand that their leaders seek every opportunity to demonstrate their commitment. Inaction is not an option. And a "one-state solution" is no solution. It is a prescription for endless conflict. Israelis deserve security, recognition, and a normal life free from terror. And Palestinians should be able to govern themselves in their own state, in peace and dignity. Now for most Americans, it is hard to imagine the reality that exists for many Palestinians and recently for Israelis. So as difficult as this is, we need to look for opportunities to move forward together. Everyone has to do their part to create the conditions for progress by taking positive actions that can rebuild trust and by avoiding damaging actions, including with respect to settlements. And at the same time we should also oppose any unilateral action at the United Nations.

"Now I know that sometimes this process can start to feel like that famous definition of insanity, doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. But circumstances do change. And most importantly, demographics change. Technology changes. Geopolitics changes. Today, in the Middle East, Israel and its Arab neighbors find that many of their strategic interests are increasingly aligned. That creates room for greater coordination. Neither Israel nor its Arab neighbors want to see Iran increase its influence in the region or violent jihadists gain footholds. So we should encourage more intelligence sharing and security cooperation like the quiet partnership

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between Israel and Egypt to stabilize the Sinai. And you may have seen that Israel plans to open a diplomatic mission in the UAE to participate in the International Renewable Energy Agency, which I was proud to support locating in Abu Dhabi. Imagine how that kind of step could be followed by broader diplomatic engagement.

"Converging interests between Israel and key Arab states may make it possible to promote progress on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, and clearly progress between Israelis and Palestinians could contribute toward greater cooperation between Israel and Arabs. Right now, Arab leaders could send a powerful message by reviving and updating the Arab Peace Initiative and laying out a process for normalizing relations with Israel and accepting it as a Jewish state alongside an independent Palestine. And Israel could seize the opportunity to directly respond to such an initiative. This is no magic wand, but there's a real strategic opportunity worth exploring.

"That said, it's also time to stop pretending that solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will solve all of the Middle East's problems. For too long Arab states have used the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as an excuse to avoid facing their own challenges at home. The people of the region have shown that they will no longer accept this. Their leaders should drop the excuses and pick up the pace of getting their own houses in order.

"And as they do, the United States will support them. We should reaffirm that the Gulf is a region of vital interest to America and commit to sustaining a robust military relationship with our partners there to defend against radical jihadism and Iranian aggression in any form. So if you add it all up, radical jihadism on the rise, Iran seeking to extend its reach, efforts to delegitimize Israel, we can see how crucial it is for the United States and Israel to stand together closer than ever.

"And we can see how Israel's search for security, stability, and peace goes hand-in-hand with the broader effort the United States must lead to secure and stabilize the Middle East. Now, we know our governments have had their share of disagreements in recent years. But the relationship has always been stronger and deeper than the headlines might lead you to believe. Under President Obama, we achieved unprecedented defense and intelligence collaboration and supported the development of the Iron Dome air defense system, which saved many Israeli lives when Hamas rockets began to fly from Gaza. As Secretary of State, I worked with the Israeli government to negotiate a cease-fire that ended those rocket attacks in 2012 and vigorously defended Israel at the UN and in other international bodies. Now, as I've said, it's time, it's the time to take our alliance to the next level.

"A centerpiece of that effort must be ensuring that Israel continues to maintain its qualitative military edge. The United States should help further bolster Israeli air defenses, including to cover Israel's north, and make it a top priority to develop better tunnel detection technology to prevent arms smuggling and kidnapping. And we need to ensure that a new 10-year defense memorandum of understanding sends a clear message to Israel's enemies that they will never prevail. But we all know that our common security commitments are about more than lists of weapons or dollars and cents. They are about understanding each other. Acting together. Being on the same page. So let's expand high-level U.S.-Israel strategic consultations. Bring our best minds together for deeper discussions about enforcing the nuclear deal, countering Iran's regional ambitions, and developing new defense technologies for the future.

"If Israel and the United States stand shoulder-to-shoulder and present a united front to the region and the world, I am confident we can meet the threats and challenges we face today.

"I was born just a few months before the State of Israel and my generation came of age admiring the talent and tenacity of the Israeli people. We marveled as they coaxed a dream into reality out of the harsh desert soil, and built a thriving, raucous democracy in a region full of adversaries and autocrats determined to push Israel into the sea. We watched a small nation fight fearlessly for its right to exist. And Israel's pursuit of peace was as inspiring as its prowess in war. It was one of the great honors of my life to call Yitzhak Rabin a friend and to witness that historic handshake on the White House lawn. Many Americans feel a deep emotional connection with Israel. In its story we see

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some of our own, and the story of all people who struggle for freedom and self-determination. We see a homeland for people long oppressed, and a thriving economy that is a model for how innovation, entrepreneurship, and freedom can deliver prosperity even in unforgiving circumstances. So we are two nations woven together. Lands built by immigrants and exiles seeking to live and worship in freedom, given life by democratic principles, and sustained by the service and sacrifice of generations of patriots.

"Yet even with all this history, even with all our common interests and shared values, none of us can or should take this relationship for granted. With every passing year, we must tie the bonds tighter. Reach out to the next generation, we can bring them with us and do the hard necessary work of friendship. Because there is a new generation in both countries today that does not remember that shared past. Young Americans who didn't see Israel in a fight for survival again and again. Young Israelis who didn't see the United States broker peace at Camp David or kindle hope at Oslo or stand behind Israel when it was attacked. They are growing up in a different world. And the future of our relationship depends on building new ties for a new time. Ben Gurion once said, "In Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in

miracles." Well, tonight is the first night of Chanukah, when the Jewish people in Israel and all over the world praise the Almighty for the miracles for the redemption, for the mighty deeds, for the saving acts.

"This season and this moment in history is a time once again for mighty deeds and saving acts. For us to rededicate and renew our great alliance. For us once again to light candles of hope that will shine through the darkness for our peoples and all peoples, if we do it together. Thank you all very much."

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For Immediate Release, December 6, 2015

Contact: press@hillaryclinton.com

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "NationalPress2016" group.
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/10/2014 7:06:00 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday September 10, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday September 10, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton worked to simplify the info provided by lenders, so students could easily understand their loans:http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-on-college-affordability/ … [9/10/14, 1:19 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton worked with the Mexican President to successfully expand renewable energy #HRC365 http://www.state.gov/secretary/20092013clinton/rm/2012/02/184236.htm … [9/9/14, 5:30 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton successfully pushed for income-based student loan repayments, helping make college more affordable: http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-on-college-affordability/ … [9/10/14, 12:21 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: NEW RECORD ANALYSIS: Hillary Clinton on College Affordability: http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-on-college-affordability/ … [9/10/14, 11:44 a.m. EDT]

Headlines:

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton's poll numbers come back down to earth"

"Clinton allies say the former secretary of state is still strong, despite the drop in favorability rating. 'Despite the fact that Republicans are resorting to misinformed and blatantly false attacks on Hillary Clinton's record, poll after poll demonstrates that she continues to be one of the most admired leaders not only in America, but across the globe,' said Adrienne Elrod of the pro-Clinton group rapid response group Correct the Record."

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Mother Jones: "How Hillary Clinton's State Department Sold Fracking to the World"

"The episode sheds light on a crucial but little-known dimension of Clinton's diplomatic legacy. Under her leadership, the State Department worked closely with energy companies to spread fracking around the globe—part of a broader push to fight climate change, boost global energy supply, and undercut the power of adversaries such as Russia that use their energy resources as a cudgel."

MSNBC blog: The Maddow Blog: "Benghazi creeps back into spotlight"

"Here's a handpicked member of Gowdy's panel, using the Benghazi investigation to help a local Republican Party, at an event in which that member referred to the president as an 'enemy.'"

Huffington Post blog: Bill Schneider, senior fellow and resident scholar at Third Way: "Will the 2016 Presidential Race Be the 'We Told You So' Election?"

"While Romney would easily defeat Obama if there were a rematch right now, he would not do so well against Clinton."

Brookings: "Obama, ISIS, and What a New War Means for 2016"

"If Secretary Clinton presents herself as a candidate for her party's nomination, she will be able to run as the heir of a foreign policy that has moved sharply in her direction, and as the leader of a party whose major factions are in alignment."

Bloomberg View: Francis Berry: "Hillary's Biggest Foe Is History"

"If Hillary Clinton runs for the White House and wins, she would make history -- not only as the first female president, but also as the first Democratic candidate since before the Civil War to win the presidency after a failed first run for the office."

Huffington Post opinion: Peter Rosenstein: "The Inevitability of Hillary"

"There is an overwhelming feeling one gets from people in all walks of life and all political stripes that her time has arrived."

Talking Points Memo: "No Fan Of Hillary, Bill Maher Says He Could Vote GOP In 2016"

"Because of his lukewarm feelings toward Clinton, a huge favorite to claim the Democratic nomination in 2016, the HBO host said he's open to 'considering the Republican product.'"

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Articles:

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton's poll numbers come back down to earth"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

September 9, 2014 11:47 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton's favorability ratings continue to tumble as she renters the political fray, with 43% of respondents now saying they view her positively, according to a new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, down from a high of 60% in 2009.

But Clinton remains one of only two politicians polled whose favorability rating tops their unfavorable numbers (the other being her husband, former president Bill Clinton). Forty-one percent of respondents hold a negative view of the former first lady and potential 2016 presidential candidate, slightly fewer than those who hold positive views.

Clinton's numbers were likely destined to fall back to earth as she reentered domestic partisan politics. In recent months, she's increasingly weighed in on hot-button issues like gun control, which is likely to blunt her support among non-Democrats who may have liked her as secretary of state or as a private citizen, but would never support her as a presidential candidate.

George W. Bush's ratings, for instance, have climbed since he left office.

Her husband remains the most popular political figure surveyed, with 56% of respondents holding positive views of the former president and just 21% expressing a negative opinion.

Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, who is also eyeing a presidential bid, breaks even with the same number holding favorable and unfavorable views. Among other potential GOP presidential contenders, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has a net negative four point rating, Mitt Romney is down seven points, and Jeb Bush is down 11 points.

There is somewhat more intensity against Clinton than for her, with 26% saying they hold "very negative" views of Clinton and 21% holding "very positive" views of the former first lady.

Clinton allies say the former secretary of state is still strong, despite the drop in favorability rating. "Despite the fact that Republicans are resorting to misinformed and blatantly false attacks on Hillary Clinton's record, poll after poll demonstrates that she continues to be one of the most admired leaders not only in America, but across the globe," said Adrienne Elrod of the pro-Clinton group rapid response group Correct the Record.

Mother Jones: "How Hillary Clinton's State Department Sold Fracking to the World"

By Mariah Blake

September/ October 2014

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ONE ICY MORNING in February 2012, Hillary Clinton's plane touched down in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, which was just digging out from a fierce blizzard. Wrapped in a thick coat, the secretary of state descended the stairs to the snow-covered tarmac, where she and her aides piled into a motorcade bound for the presidential palace. That afternoon, they huddled with Bulgarian leaders, including Prime Minister Boyko Borissov, discussing everything from Syria's bloody civil war to their joint search for loose nukes. But the focus of the talks was fracking. The previous year, Bulgaria had signed a five-year, $68 million deal, granting US oil giant Chevron millions of acres in shale gas concessions. Bulgarians were outraged. Shortly before Clinton arrived, tens of thousands of protesters poured into the streets carrying placards that read "Stop fracking with our water" and "Chevron go home." Bulgaria's parliament responded by voting overwhelmingly for a fracking moratorium.

Clinton urged Bulgarian officials to give fracking another chance. According to Borissov, she agreed to help fly in the "best specialists on these new technologies to present the benefits to the Bulgarian people." But resistance only grew. The following month in neighboring Romania, thousands of people gathered to protest another Chevron fracking project, and Romania's parliament began weighing its own shale gas moratorium. Again Clinton intervened, dispatching her special envoy for energy in Eurasia, Richard Morningstar, to push back against the fracking bans. The State Department's lobbying effort culminated in late May 2012, when Morningstar held a series of meetings on fracking with top Bulgarian and Romanian officials. He also touted the technology in an interview on Bulgarian national radio, saying it could lead to a fivefold drop in the price of natural gas. A few weeks later, Romania's parliament voted down its proposed fracking ban and Bulgaria's eased its moratorium.

The episode sheds light on a crucial but little-known dimension of Clinton's diplomatic legacy. Under her leadership, the State Department worked closely with energy companies to spread fracking around the globe—part of a broader push to fight climate change, boost global energy supply, and undercut the power of adversaries such as Russia that use their energy resources as a cudgel. But environmental groups fear that exporting fracking, which has been linked to drinking-water contamination and earthquakes at home, could wreak havoc in countries with scant environmental regulation. And according to interviews, diplomatic cables, and other documents obtained by Mother Jones, American officials—some with deep ties to industry—also helped US firms clinch potentially lucrative shale concessions overseas, raising troubling questions about whose interests the program actually serves.

GEOLOGISTS HAVE LONG KNOWN that there were huge quantities of natural gas locked in shale rock. But tapping it wasn't economically viable until the late 1990s, when a Texas wildcatter named George Mitchell hit on a novel extraction method that involved drilling wells sideways from the initial borehole, then blasting them full of water, chemicals, and sand to break up the shale—a variation of a technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Besides dislodging a bounty of natural gas, Mitchell's breakthrough ignited an energy revolution. Between 2006 and 2008, domestic gas reserves jumped 35 percent. The United States later vaulted past Russia to become the world's largest natural gas producer. As a result, prices dropped to record lows, and America began to wean itself from coal, along with oil and gas imports, which lessened its dependence on the Middle East. The surging global gas supply also helped shrink Russia's economic clout: Profits for Russia's state-owned gas company, Gazprom, plummeted by more than 60 percent between 2008 and 2009 alone.

Clinton, who was sworn in as secretary of state in early 2009, believed that shale gas could help rewrite global energy politics. "This is a moment of profound change," she later told a crowd at Georgetown University. "Countries that used to depend on others for their energy are now producers. How will this shape world events? Who will benefit, and who will not?…The answers to these questions are being written right now, and we intend to play a major role." Clinton tapped a lawyer named David Goldwyn as her special envoy for international energy affairs; his charge was "to elevate energy diplomacy as a key function of US foreign policy."

Goldwyn had a long history of promoting drilling overseas—both as a Department of Energy official under Bill Clinton and as a representative of the oil industry. From 2005 to 2009 he directed the US-Libya Business Association, an organization funded primarily by US oil companies—including Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and Marathon—clamoring to tap Libya's abundant supply. Goldwyn lobbied Congress for pro-Libyan policies and even battled legislation that would have allowed families of the Lockerbie bombing victims to sue the Libyan government for its alleged role in the attack.

According to diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks, one of Goldwyn's first acts at the State Department was gathering oil and gas industry executives "to discuss the potential international impact of shale gas." Clinton then sent a cable to US diplomats, asking them to collect information on the potential for fracking in their host countries. These efforts eventually gave rise to the Global Shale Gas Initiative, which aimed to help other nations develop their shale potential. Clinton promised it would do so "in a way that is as environmentally respectful as possible."

But environmental groups were barely consulted, while industry played a crucial role. When Goldwyn unveiled the initiative in April 2010, it was at a meeting of the United States Energy Association, a trade organization representing Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and ConocoPhillips, all of which were pursuing fracking overseas. Among their top targets was Poland, which preliminary studies suggested had abundant shale gas. The day after Goldwyn's announcement, the US Embassy in Warsaw helped organize a shale gas conference, underwritten by these same companies (plus the oil field services company Halliburton) and attended by officials from the departments of State and Energy.

In some cases, Clinton personally promoted shale gas. During a 2010 gathering of foreign ministers in Washington, DC, she spoke about America's plans to help spread fracking abroad. "I know that in some places [it] is controversial," she said, "but natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel available for power generation today." She later traveled to Poland for a series of meetings with officials, after which she announced that the country had joined the Global Shale Gas Initiative.

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That August, delegates from 17 countries descended on Washington for the State Department's first shale gas conference. The media was barred from attending, and officials refused to reveal basic information, including which countries took part. When Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) inquired about industry involvement, the department would say only that there had been "a limited industry presence." (State Department officials have since been more forthcoming with Mother Jones: In addition to a number of US government agencies, they say attendees heard from energy firms, including Devon, Chesapeake, and Halliburton.)

During the cursory press conference that followed, Goldwyn, a short, bespectacled man with a shock of dark hair, argued that other nations could avoid the environmental damage sometimes associated with fracking by following America's lead and adopting "an umbrella of laws and regulations." A reporter suggested that US production had actually "outpaced the ability to effectively oversee the safety" and asked how we could be sure the same wouldn't happen elsewhere. Goldwyn replied that attendees had heard about safety issues from energy companies and the Groundwater Protection Council, a nonprofit organization that receives industry funding and opposes federal regulation of fracking wastewater disposal.

Goldwyn and the delegates then boarded a bus to Pennsylvania for an industry-sponsored luncheon and tour of some shale fields. Paul Hueper, director of energy programs at the State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources, says the tour was organized independently and that energy firms were only invited to the conference itself to share best practices. "We are very firm on this," he insisted. "We do not shill for industry."

WHILE THE MEETING helped stir up interest, it wasn't until 2011 that global fracking fever set in for real. That spring, the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) released its initial estimate of global shale gas, which found that 32 countries had viable shale basins and put global recoverable shale gas at 6,600 trillion cubic feet—enough to supply the world for more than 50 years at current rates of consumption. This was a rich opportunity for big oil and gas companies, which had largely missed out on the US fracking boom and were under pressure from Wall Street to shore up their dwindling reserves. "They're desperate," says Antoine Simon, who coordinates the shale gas campaign at Friends of the Earth Europe. "It's the last push to continue their fossil fuel development."

The industry began fighting hard for access to shale fields abroad, and promoting gas as the fuel of choice for slashing carbon emissions. In Europe, lobbyists circulated a report claiming that the European Union could save 900 billion euros if it invested in gas rather than renewable energy to meet its 2050 climate targets. This rankled environmentalists, who argue fracking may do little to ease global warming, given that wells and pipelines leak large quantities of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. They also fear it could crowd out investment in renewables.

By early 2011, the State Department was laying plans to launch a new bureau to integrate energy into every aspect of foreign policy—an idea Goldwyn had long been advocating. In 2005, he and a Chevron executive named Jan Kalicki had published a book called Energy and Security: Toward a New Foreign Policy Strategy, which argued that energy independence was unattainable in the near term and urged Washington to shift its focus to energy security—by boosting global fossil fuel production and stifling unrest that might upset energy markets. Goldwyn and his ideas had played a key role in shaping the bureau, so some observers were surprised when he quietly stepped down just before its launch.

When I approached Goldwyn following a recent speaking engagement in Washington, DC, to ask about his time at the State Department and why he left, he ducked out a side door, and Kalicki blocked the corridor to keep me from following. Goldwyn later said via email that he had simply chosen "to return to the private sector."

Around the time of his departure, WikiLeaks released a slew of diplomatic cables, including one describing a 2009 meeting during which Goldwyn and Canadian officials discussed development of the Alberta oil sands—a project benefiting some of the same firms behind the US-Libya Business Association. The cable said that Goldwyn had coached his Canadian counterparts on improving "oil sands messaging" and helped alleviate their concerns about getting oil sands crude to US markets. This embarrassed the State Department, which is reviewing the controversial Keystone XL pipeline proposal to transport crude oil from Canada and is under fire from environmentalists.

After leaving State, Goldwyn took a job with Sutherland, a law and lobbying firm that touts his "deep understanding" of pipeline issues, and launched his own company, Goldwyn Global Strategies.

In late 2011, Clinton finally unveiled the new Bureau of Energy Resources, with 63 employees and a multimillion-dollar budget. She also promised to instruct US embassies around the globe to step up their work on energy issues and "pursue more outreach to private-sector energy" firms, some of which had generously supported both her and President Barack Obama's political campaigns. (One Chevron executive bundled large sums for Clinton's 2008 presidential bid, for example.)

As part of its expanded energy mandate, the State Department hosted conferences on fracking from Thailand to Botswana. It sent US experts to work alongside foreign officials as they developed shale gas programs. And it arranged for dozens of foreign delegations to visit the United States

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to attend workshops and meet with industry consultants—as well as with environmental groups, in some cases.

US oil giants, meanwhile, were snapping up natural gas leases in far-flung places. By 2012, Chevron had large shale concessions in Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, and South Africa, as well as in Eastern Europe, which was in the midst of a claim-staking spree; Poland alone had granted more than 100 shale concessions covering nearly a third of its territory. When the nation lit its first shale gas flare atop a Halliburton-drilled well that fall, the state-owned gas company ran full-page ads in the country's largest newspapers showing a spindly rig rising above the hills in the tiny village of Lubocino, alongside the tagline: "Don't put out the flame of hope." Politicians promised that Poland would soon break free of its nemesis, Russia, which supplies the lion's share of its gas. "After years of dependence on our large neighbor, today we can say that my generation will see the day when we will be independent in the area of natural gas," Prime Minister Donald Tusk declared. "And we will be setting terms."

But shale was not the godsend that industry leaders and foreign governments had hoped it would be. For one, new research from the US Geological Survey suggested that the EIA assessments had grossly overestimated shale deposits: The recoverable shale gas estimate for Poland shrank from 187 trillion cubic feet to 1.3 trillion cubic feet, a 99 percent drop. Geological conditions and other factors in Europe and Asia also made fracking more arduous and expensive; one industry study estimated that drilling shale gas in Poland would cost three times what it does in the United States.

By 2013, US oil giants were abandoning their Polish shale plays. "The expectations for global shale gas were extremely high," says the State Department's Hueper. "But the geological limitations and aboveground challenges are immense. A handful of countries have the potential for a boom, but there may never be a global shale gas revolution."

The politics of fracking overseas were also fraught. According to Susan Sakmar, a visiting law professor at the University of Houston who has studied fracking regulation, the United States is one of the only nations where individual landowners own the mineral rights. "In most, perhaps all, other countries of the world, the underground resources belong to the crown or the government," she explains. The fact that property owners didn't stand to profit from drilling on their land ignited public outrage in some parts of the world, especially Eastern Europe. US officials speculate that Russia also had a hand in fomenting protests there. "The perception among diplomats in the region was that Russia was protecting its interests," says Mark Gitenstein, the former US ambassador to Romania. "It didn't want shale gas for obvious reasons."

Faced with these obstacles, US and European energy companies launched a lobbying blitz targeting the European Union. They formed faux grassroots organizations, plied lawmakers with industry-funded studies, and hosted lavish dinners and conferences for regulators. The website for one industry confab—which, according to Friends of the Earth Europe, featured presentations from Exxon Mobil, Total, and Halliburton—warned that failure to develop shale gas "will have damaging consequences on European energy security and prosperity" and urged European governments to "allow shale gas exploration to advance" so they could "fully understand the scale of the opportunity."

US lobbying shops also jumped into the fray. Covington & Burling, a major Washington firm, hired several former senior EU policymakers—including a top energy official who, according to the New York Times, arrived with a not-yet-public draft of the European Commission's fracking regulations.

In June 2013, Covington staffer Jean De Ruyt, a former Belgian diplomat and adviser to the European Commission, hosted an event at the firm's Brussels office. Executives from Chevron and other oil and gas behemoths attended, as did Kurt Vandenberghe, then one of the commission's top environmental regulators. These strategies appeared to pay off: The commission's recently released framework for regulating fracking includes recommendations for governments but not firm requirements. "They chose the weakest option they had," says Simon of Friends of the Earth Europe. "People at the highest level of the commission are in the industry's pocket."

Goldwyn was also busy promoting fracking overseas—this time on behalf of industry. Between January and October 2012, his firm organized a series of workshops on fracking for officials in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine, all of them funded by Chevron. The events were closed to the public—when Romanian journalist Vlad Ursulean tried to attend the Romanian gathering, he says Goldwyn personally saw to it that he was escorted out.

Goldwyn told Mother Jones that the workshops featured presentations on technical aspects of fracking by academics from the Colorado School of Mines and Penn State University. Chevron, he maintains, had "no editorial input." But all of these countries—except Bulgaria, which was in the midst of anti-fracking protests—would later grant Chevron major shale concessions.

In some cases, the State Department had a direct hand in negotiating the deals. Gitenstein, then the ambassador to Romania, met with Chevron executives and Romanian officials and pressed them to hand over millions of acres of shale concessions. "The Romanians were just sitting on the leases, and Chevron was upset. So I intervened," says Gitenstein, whose State Department tenure has been bookended by stints at Mayer Brown, a law and lobbying firm that has represented Chevron. "This is traditionally what ambassadors do on behalf of American companies." In the end, Romania signed a 30-year deal with Chevron, which helped set off massive, nationwide protests.

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When the government began weighing a fracking ban, it didn't sit well with Gitenstein, who went on Romanian television and warned that, without fracking, the nation could be stuck paying five times what America does for natural gas. He added that US shale prospectors had "obtained great successes—without consequences for the environment, I dare say." The proposed moratorium soon died.

A FEW WEEKS LATER, Chevron was preparing to build its first fracking rig near Pungesti, a tiny farming village in northeastern Romania. According to a memo from the prime minister's office, a Romanian official met with Chevron executives and an embassy-based US Commerce Department employee to craft a PR strategy for the project. They agreed to organize a kickoff event at Victoria Palace in Bucharest. As a spokesman, they would tap Damian Draghici, a charismatic Romanian lawmaker who was a "recognized personality among the Roma minority," which had a "considerable presence" around Chevron's planned drilling sites. "It was really extraordinary—the level of collaboration between these players," says Ursulean, who has written extensively about Chevron's activities in Romania. "It was as if they were all branches of the same company."

The strategy did little to soothe the public's ire. When Chevron finally did attempt to install the rig in late 2013, residents—including elderly villagers who arrived in horse-drawn carts—blockaded the planned drilling sites. The Romanian Orthodox Church rallied behind them, with one local priest likening Chevron to enemy "invaders." Soon, anti-fracking protests were cropping up from Poland to the United Kingdom. But Chevron didn't back down. Along with other American energy firms, it lobbied to insert language in a proposed US-EU trade agreement allowing US companies to haul European governments before international arbitration panels for any actions threatening their investments. Chevron argued this was necessary to protect shareholders against "arbitrary" and "unfair" treatment by local authorities. But environmental groups say it would stymie fracking regulation and point to a $250 million lawsuit Delaware-based Lone Pine Resources has filed against the Canadian province of Quebec for temporarily banning fracking near a key source of drinking water. The case hinges on a similar trade provision.

Despite the public outcry in Europe, the State Department has stayed the course. Clinton's successor as secretary of state, John Kerry, views natural gas as a key part of his push against climate change. Under Kerry, State has ramped up investment in its shale gas initiative and is planning to expand it to 30 more countries, from Cambodia to Papua New Guinea.

Following the Crimea crisis, the Obama administration has also been pressing Eastern European countries to fast-track their fracking initiatives so as to be less dependent on Russia. During an April visit to Ukraine, which has granted concessions to Chevron and Royal Dutch Shell, Vice President Joe Biden announced that the United States would bring in technical experts to speed up its shale gas development. "We stand ready to assist you," promised Biden, whose son Hunter has since joined the board of a Ukrainian energy company. "Imagine where you'd be today if you were able to tell Russia: 'Keep your gas.' It would be a very different world."

MSNBC blog: The Maddow Blog: "Benghazi creeps back into spotlight"

By Steve Benen

September 10, 2014, 10:30 a.m. EDT

The deadly attack on a U.S. outpost in Benghazi two years ago has been investigated by seven congressional committees, each of which concluded that the conspiracy theorists are wrong. House Republicans nevertheless concluded that it's time for an eighth committee to launch a probe, which its chairman, Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), insists won't be the least bit political.

And yet, consider what Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-Ga.) said over the weekend.

"U.S. Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-Grantville) addressed the Benghazi investigation and terrorist organization ISIS among other topics Saturday morning at the Cobb County GOP breakfast at its headquarters. […]

"'I'm not going to stand here and confirm or deny anything,' Westmoreland told the crowd. 'Our job is to figure out the truth.'

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"Westmoreland spent much of his speech criticizing Democrats. 'I think our enemy stands on 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.,' Westmoreland said to loud applause."

Oh good, we're reached the point at which elected lawmakers publicly describe the president of the United States as an enemy."

According to the report in the Marietta Daily Journal, Westmoreland went on to say that "it's hard" for congressional Democrats "to be bipartisan."

Said the guy who considers the president his "enemy."

Remember, Westmoreland isn't just some random conservative – the Georgia Republican was one of only seven House Republicans to be named to the new GOP Benghazi committee. In May, Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) said Westmoreland has "no business" joining the select committee, calling it "inappropriate" for the far-right lawmaker to serve on the panel while also overseeing political strategy for the National Republican Campaign Committee.

With the benefit of hindsight, Lewis' concerns appear well grounded.

Igor Bobic added, "Admission for the Marietta, Georgia, event was $10. The Cobb County GOP touted the event as a 'very unusual breakfast' where its supporters would receive an 'update on the Benghazi investigation.'"

Trey Gowdy recently said he hopes to avoid a media "circus" with his investigation. "If you take the approach 'Are we doing this to learn more and better ourselves as a people? And be respectful of their sacrifice?' then you won't let it become a circus," he said.

And yet, here's a handpicked member of Gowdy's panel, using the Benghazi investigation to help a local Republican Party, at an event in which that member referred to the president as an "enemy."

As for the larger context, with Gowdy's committee poised to hold its first hearing next week, msnbc's Alex Seitz-Wald noted last week, "After several mercifully Benghazi-free months, the 2012 attack on the diplomatic compound in Libya is about to be thrust back into the spotlight around its September 11 anniversary."

Fox News, naturally, is getting increasingly invested, repackaging old news as new fodder, while again pushing discredited theories.

Huffington Post blog: Bill Schneider, senior fellow and resident scholar at Third Way: "Will the 2016 Presidential Race Be the 'We Told You So' Election?"

By Bill Schneider

September 9, 2014, 10:50 a.m. EDT

It would be the "We told you so" election: Mitt Romney versus Hillary Clinton in 2016. The campaign would look like an effort to roll back the calendar and say, "Let's get it right this time."

There's plenty of buyers' remorse in the electorate right now. At a time when the world is beset by crises, President Obama's legendary coolness makes him seem weak and detached. The president's careless statements have only amplified that impression, including remarks that "we don't have a strategy yet" for dealing with ISIS and our goal is to reduce Islamic extremism to "a manageable problem." A recent CNN poll offered voters

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a redo of the 2012 election. The result: Romney would now beat Obama by a decisive margin (53 percent to 44 percent).

Romney encouraged the speculation in a backhanded way when he told a radio talk show host there's "one in a million" chance he will run in 2016: "Let's say all the guys that were running [for the Republican nomination] came together and said, 'Hey, we've decided we can't do it, you must do it.' That's the one in a million we're thinking about."

Romney's comment stirred some excitement among Republicans. They are keenly aware of the country's buyers' remorse. A USA Today poll of Iowa Republican caucus participants raised a lot of eyebrows last month when it showed Romney, at 35 percent, far ahead of all the other contenders. That's partly name recognition and partly Republicans' desire for a do-over. It also reflects the fact that no other Republican contender has caught fire. In three different national polls of Republicans this summer, no potential contender got more than 13 percent support (Romney's name was not offered).

The Republican Party establishment is worried. All their potential standard-bearers -- Chris Christie, Scott Walker, Paul Ryan, Rick Perry -- have significant problems. That's why the party elite is fantasizing about either Romney or Jeb Bush. At the same time, Tea Party activists and evangelicals are warning the party not to nominate another establishment candidate like John McCain or Mitt Romney.

"The Republican base will not tolerate another candidate foisted upon us as a guy who can win," said Gary Bauer, a leading figure in the religious right.

It has become rare for a party to renominate the candidate who lost the previous election. It didn't work for Democrats with Adlai Stevenson (1952 and 1956) or for Republicans with Thomas Dewey (1944 and 1948). Both got a smaller share of the vote the second time. Democrats nominated William Jennings Bryan three times (1896, 1900, and 1908). Bryan's share of the vote went down each time. Bryan was a populist. So in 1904, Democrats took a different tack and nominated a conservative, Alton B. Parker. That didn't work either. Parker did worse than Bryan.

It did work when Republicans nominated Richard Nixon a second time in 1968. But Nixon had to wait eight years. In between, Republicans suffered the catastrophe of Barry Goldwater's candidacy in 1964. Given the fact that Nixon lost in 1960 by what is still the closest vote in U.S. history (a popular vote margin of 0.2 percent), renominating Nixon did not look like such a big risk.

Romney seems aware of the risk the party would take by renominating him. "I have looked at what happens to anybody in this country who loses as the nominee of their party," Romney has said. "They become a loser for life." But he lost to Obama, and widespread dissatisfaction with President Obama is causing Republicans to fantasize about bringing Romney back to life.

"In many ways, it looks like 2016 will be a referendum on Obama in the same way 2008 was a referendum on [George W.] Bush," Romney's former chief strategist told Politico.

That would certainly be the case if Vice President Joe Biden were the Democratic nominee. But Hillary Clinton? She also lost to Obama. Democrats, too, are longing to go back to the future and redo the 2008 primaries.

Clinton loyally served in the Obama administration for four years. That leads many Republicans to believe she would represent a third term for Obama. But the fierce 2008 primary campaign established Clinton's identity. She has her own distinctive record, plus that of her husband, to run on. President Clinton's economic record stands in sharp contrast to Obama's.

While Romney would easily defeat Obama if there were a rematch right now, he would not do so well against Clinton. The CNN poll shows Clinton leading Romney by an even larger margin, 55 percent to 42 percent. That's pretty good evidence that voters do not see the prospect of a Clinton presidency as a "third term for Obama."

Brookings: "Obama, ISIS, and What a New War Means for 2016"

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By William A Galston

September 10, 2014, 12:00 p.m. EDT

As President Obama prepares to address the nation this evening, Americans with some grey in their hair have seen this movie before.

In May 1977, President Jimmy Carter gave a speech at Notre Dame rejecting what he termed the “inordinate fear of communism.” Less than three years later, he confessed that the invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 had taught him more about the Soviet Union than he had learned previously in his entire presidency, and he initiated tough new anti-Soviet policies, including a covert campaign to arm the Afghan resistance.

In October 2011, President Barack Obama announced the full withdrawal of American troops from Iraq by year’s end. “The tide of war is receding,” he declared, and “America’s war in Iraq is over.” Tonight, Mr. Obama will announce his strategy for defeating a fanatical army that has seized a large swath of Iraqi territory.

The rise of ISIS is to the Obama presidency what the invasion of Afghanistan was to the Carter presidency: the refutation of a central premise of the administration’s foreign policy.

Mr. Obama’s pivot back to the Middle East has domestic political consequences as well. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), an undeclared candidate for his party’s presidential nomination, has had the wind in his sails as he has advocated a libertarian-tinged policy of restraint abroad. ISIS’ beheading of two Americans has moved Republican sentiment back toward its longstanding hawkishness, boosting the prospects of neo-Reaganites such as Florida’s Sen. Marco Rubio and complicating Sen. Paul’s path.

As for the Democrats, there was restive grumbling among liberals as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton became more open about her disagreements with Mr. Obama’s foreign policy, notably on Syria. But now, as the president toughens his stance in the Middle East, the breach is narrowing. If Secretary Clinton presents herself as a candidate for her party’s nomination, she will be able to run as the heir of a foreign policy that has moved sharply in her direction, and as the leader of a party whose major factions are in alignment.

It is likely that the 2016 presidential election will focus on the economy rather than foreign policy. Still, Americans know that presidents have the power to place their sons and daughters in harm’s way. That is why the reverberations from tonight’s speech are likely to be long-lasting.

Bloomberg View: Francis Berry: “Hillary's Biggest Foe Is History”

By Francis Barry

September 10, 2014, 11:07 a.m. EDT

If Hillary Clinton runs for the White House and wins, she would make history -- not only as the first female president, but also as the first Democratic candidate since before the Civil War to win the presidency after a failed first run for the office.

Hubert Humphrey (1968), George McGovern (1972) and Al Gore (2000) all ran for president at least once before securing the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination -- and all lost in general elections.

Lyndon Johnson won the presidency in 1964 after losing out on the party’s nomination at the 1960 convention, but he was a sitting president in 1964, not an aspirant. The last non-incumbent Democrat to come back from a losing bid to win the presidency was James Buchanan (the bachelor president) in 1856, four years after a divided convention denied him the nomination, settling instead on a compromise candidate, Franklin Pierce.

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Does this bit of trivia doom Clinton's chances in 2016? Of course not. But it does tell us something about Democratic presidential voters in general: They tend to like fresh faces. Six of the last seven non-incumbent Democrats to be nominated for president (Barack Obama, John Kerry, Bill Clinton, Michael Dukakis, Walter Mondale and Jimmy Carter) have been first-time candidates, as were John Kennedy, Adlai Stevenson and Franklin Roosevelt.

On the Republican side, the situation is reversed: Since 1944, only four Republicans have won the party's nomination without having previously sought it, and each either held national office (Richard Nixon in 1960 and Gerald Ford in 1976) or had national name recognition (war hero Dwight Eisenhower in 1952 and presidential scion George W. Bush in 2000). All other Republican nominees -- Thomas Dewey, Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bob Dole, John McCain and Mitt Romney -- won the party's nomination on their second or third try.

Republican voters, it would seem, aren't as eager as Democrats to take chances on newcomers. That makes sense: They're more conservative. In 2016, however, there will be no Republican candidate holding national office. Only one rumored candidate, Jeb Bush, is a national name, and he will not have as clear a path to the nomination as his brother did in 2000, given his vulnerabilities with the party's base.

At least two possible contenders have previously sought the White House (Mike Huckabee and Rick Perry), but both have real weaknesses and could join the list of Republicans who have run multiple times (Steve Forbes, Pat Buchanan, Ron Paul and others) without winning the nomination.

If Bush runs, some first-time aspirants may take a pass on the race. They should think twice. Republican and Democratic primary voters could flip roles in the 2016 primaries, with Republicans voting for fresh blood. If they do, it would be the first time since Wendell Willkie in 1940 that Republicans nominate a first-time candidate who is not a national figure.

No matter who wins the nomination, first-time Republican candidates will have an opportunity to introduce themselves to voters, gaining a familiarity that -- if history is any guide -- will be helpful to them in 2020 or 2024. As with the Democrats, there is no reason to think that Republican voters won't return to their usual modus operandi in future elections.

So a word of advice to the increasingly long list of potential first-time Republican presidential candidates: Run. And to those eyeing a primary run against Clinton: In the Democratic Party, patience can sometimes be a virtue.

Huffington Post opinion: Peter Rosenstein: "The Inevitability of Hillary"

By Peter Rosenstein

September 10, 2014, 12:40 p.m. EDT

One can only imagine the sound, something like air being let out of a helium balloon, should Hillary Rodham Clinton announce in the beginning of 2015 that she isn't running for President. Most can't for a moment fathom that scenario playing out.

One who can't is the new host of Meet the Press, Chuck Todd, who said on his inaugural show, "She's running". Maybe he's connected to her by a soup can like in the Progresso commercial. The only luminary on the Meet the Press panel who thought she wouldn't run was Joe Scarborough and he often likes to be obstinate.

The press has had a love-hate relationship with Hillary since she first appeared on the scene giving the graduation speech at Wellesley in 1969. But love her or hate her, they can't get enough of her. Whether on TV or in print they know that talking about her will get them airtime or a front page story. Since she was a young woman what Hillary says gets attention.

There is an overwhelming feeling one gets from people in all walks of life and all political stripes that her time has arrived. She will finally overcome

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the haters and doubters because enough people recognize she is the real thing. Her in-depth understanding of both the United States and the world will leave no one questioning that she is the right person, as a TV ad once claimed, "to answer that 3am phone call".

Hillary wrote a sobering piece on the state of the world in her Washington Post review of Henry Kissinger's new book, World Order. While complimenting Kissinger she made clear it was on his understanding of the world as it is today, very different from when he was Secretary of State. She wrote, "It's no wonder so many Americans express uncertainty and even fear about our role and our future in the world. In his new book, "World Order," Henry Kissinger explains the historic scope of this challenge". She continued, "His analysis, despite some differences over specific policies, largely fits with the broad strategy behind the Obama administration's effort over the past six years to build a global architecture of security and cooperation for the 21st century." Hillary presents herself as one who won't back away from the challenges the United States faces and understands that as the only remaining superpower in the world we can't allow the new isolationists in our country to keep the United States from acting to protect our homeland and make the world a safer place. She clearly defines what she means by acting when she describes her view of 'Smart Power". She makes clear it is not always rushing in with troops but using all the levers a President has at her disposal with military action being the last resort. But one understands she wouldn't shy away from using military force when necessary.

A few days before the review appeared in the Washington Post Hillary keynoted Senator Harry Reid's (D-NV) energy conference in Las Vegas. One can often judge the correctness of her ideas by those who attack them. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) chastised her for correctly saying, "Climate Change is the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and world and the data is unforgiving no matter what the deniers try to assert." Paul, who shows a lack of understanding of global and world issues, attacked her for this on Fox news saying, "I don't think we really want a Commander in Chief that's battling climate change instead of terrorism." Paul, one of the leading lights of today's Republican Party doesn't understand what the role of President is which may be because he can't actually see himself in the role. One in which as the saying goes, 'you must be able to walk and chew gum at the same time'.

All we need do is read the headlines of the past few weeks from ISIS, to Israel, to Syria, to the drought in California, to Ferguson, MO, to the Ebola epidemic; to understand that our next President will have to focus on a myriad of issues at the same time, all of them usually presenting as a crisis. We need someone who not only understands that but is up to the challenge. Hillary Clinton has demonstrated she is ready on both counts.

Over the next few months Hillary will do what she has said all along she needs to do before announcing and that is bring into focus her vision for the future which she will do in a series of speeches and appearances across the nation.

She will stand side-by-side with Democratic candidates who are running in 2014 and will shine a light on them. The pundits must be careful not to judge the result of the vote for a candidate she stands with purely based on her having been there. Hillary will help to draw attention to them but we know in the end people vote for the person they trust and trust has always been difficult to transfer. Bill Clinton managed to make a difference for President Obama in 2012 with his brilliant Convention speech but in the end it was Barack Obama who had to make the case for himself.

The Republican Party already understands when Hillary is the candidate in 2016 she will make that winning case for herself. She will share her vision for a better future for America and show that she has the wealth of knowledge and experience to make it a reality. There isn't anyone in the Republican Party that has even been hinted at as a potential nominee that can match her in the scope of her experience or brain power.

As we move toward early 2015 it appears that a Hillary Rodham Clinton candidacy for President is becoming inevitable.

Talking Points Memo: "No Fan Of Hillary, Bill Maher Says He Could Vote GOP In 2016"

By Tom Kludt

September 10, 2014 9:51 a.m. EDT

Bill Maher made a hefty donation to bolster President Obama's re-election bid in 2012, but the liberal comedian says he's open to going the other way the next time around. And there's one Republican in particular who intrigues him.

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“Rand Paul is an interesting candidate to me. Rand Paul could possibly get my vote,” Maher told The Hill.

Maher has never hidden his affinity for the Paul clan. He told The Hill that he admired the Kentucky senator's father, former Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), for having "the guts to say we should end the American empire, pull the troops home, stop getting involved in every foreign entanglement."

Earlier this month, Maher told Syracuse.com that he has admiration for Rand Paul for occasionally going "against his own tribe."

Maher donated $1 million to a pro-Obama super PAC in 2012, but he told The Hill that he won't do the same for Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"First of all, I’m not as big a fan of Hillary as I am of Obama," he said. "So we’ll see who’s running. I’m not even committing to being for Hillary.”

Because of his lukewarm feelings toward Clinton, a huge favorite to claim the Democratic nomination in 2016, the HBO host said he's open to "considering the Republican product."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/13/2015 7:41:56 AM
Subject: News Update - November 13



S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, November 13

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Indyk: Settlement Freeze Makes Abbas a Peace Partner 'Tomorrow'**
- **Saudi Prince: Peace Unsustainable without Two-State Solution**
- **US: EU's Labeling of West Bank Products Not a Boycott**
- **IDF Begins Broad Reserve Call Up for West Bank Deployment in 2016**
- **With Woman-in-Labor Disguise, Police Raid Hospital in Hebron**
- **How a Year of War and Terror Changed Arab Israelis' Views**
- **High Court Approves Terror Home Demolitions**
- **Israel to Build Underground Barrier Around Gaza Strip**

Commentary:

- **The Economist: "Stick a Label On It"**
  - By The Economist Staff
- **Al-Monitor: "Why Israelis Weren't Interested in Bibi-Obama Meeting"**
  - By Mazal Mualem, Israel Pulse Columnist, Al-Monitor

Times of Israel

Indyk: Settlement Freeze Makes Abbas Peace Partner Tomorrow

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas could be a partner for peace "tomorrow" if Israel were to impose a freeze on settlement construction, former U.S. special envoy Martin Indyk said Thursday. Speaking at Ha'aretz newspaper's peace conference in Tel Aviv, the former envoy also conceded that the previous round of negotiations in 2014, in which he played a role, were a "magnificent failure." Abbas "could become a partner tomorrow for the deal you'd like to make if there was a settlement freeze…Why not freeze the settlements? Does it affect your security?"

See also, "Indyk: Israel Offered Palestinians Portion of Area C in West Bank and Settlement Freeze" (Jerusalem Post)

See also, "Martin Indyk to Israel Conference on Peace: Must Stop Playing the Victim" (Ha'aretz)

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Jerusalem Post

Saudi Prince: Peace Unsustainable without Two-State Solution

Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal called on Thursday for the revival of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative in which Israel would withdraw to the pre-1967 lines and there would be an "agreed upon" solution for Palestinian refugees. He was speaking in an unusual 10 minute pre-recorded interview that aired at the Israel Peace Conference sponsored by Ha'aretz. The "relative peace that Israel is now enjoying" cannot last unless the conflict is resolved through a two-state solution, the prince said.

See also, "Saudi Prince al-Faisal Tells Ha'aretz: Desire for Peace Exists in Both Gaza and Ramallah" (Ha'aretz)

Ynet News

US: EU's Labeling of West Bank Products Not a Boycott

The Obama administration said Thursday it doesn't consider a new European Union rule outlawing "Made in Israel" tags on West Bank goods as a boycott of the Jewish state, only a technical guideline for consumers. The long-awaited EU rule has triggered a fierce backlash from the Israeli government. The US clarified its position a day after the decision by the EU, which applies to goods produced in Israeli settlements on the West Bank. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blasted the 28-nation bloc as "hypocritical" and accused the EU of double standards. One of his Cabinet members called the rule "disguised anti-Semitism." Even Israeli opposition figures chimed in with criticism.

See also, "Obama Approves of EU Labeling of Jewish Products" (Arutz Sheva)

Ha'aretz

IDF Begins Reserve Call Up for West Bank Deployment in 2016

The army is preparing for the possibility of deploying as many as 70 reserve battalions on unplanned operational activity in the West Bank next year, at a cost of some 300 million shekels ($77 million). The first call-up orders for operational duty in the West Bank in January were received this week by four reserve battalions. But the 2016 plans drawn up by the Israel Defense Forces call for many other such battalions. The General Staff doesn't know how long the current clashes with the Palestinians will last. But its working assumption is that many months will pass before the violence ebbs. If so, it will need many reservists, in part to replace regular troops so they can train as scheduled.

Jerusalem Post

With Woman-in-Labor Disguise, Police Raid Hospital in Hebron

A veiled "pregnant woman" in a wheelchair and a group of what looked like Palestinian men made their way down a corridor in the al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron early on Thursday, blending into their surroundings, until the men suddenly pulled out assault rifles and handguns, and began moving quickly, in search of their target. Dramatic CCTV footage released by the hospital revealed how the Border Police's elite counterterrorism unit snuck into the hospital to arrest Azzam Shalalda, 20, on suspicion of stabbing and seriously injuring an Israeli civilian on October 25.

See also, "Palestinian Dies as Undercover Israelis Raid a Hospital" (New York Times)

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Times of Israel

How a Year of War and Terror Changed Arab Israelis' Views

In April 2014, nearly 60% of Israel's 1.7 million Arab citizens said they felt "part of the state and its problems." The 11 months that followed saw the nationalistically motivated murders of four teenagers—three Jewish and one Arab—a two-month war in the Gaza Strip, a wave of terror in Jerusalem and a tense election campaign. By March 2015, the month of the election, only 28 percent of Arab-Israelis felt part of the country and its problems. That's the starkest of several indications of Arab-Israeli alienation from the state in the latest Israel Democracy Index, a comprehensive annual survey of Israeli attitudes conducted by the Israel Democracy Institute think tank.

Arutz Sheva

High Court Approves Terror Home Demolitions

The High Court for Justice approved Thursday the demolition of the homes of six terrorists. It rejected a motion filed against the demolitions by a leftist "civil rights" group against the demolition orders issued by IDF Central Command Head, Major General Roni Numa. The homes of the murderers of the Eitam and Naama Henkin, Danny Gonen and Malachi Rosenfeld will be razed. The court rejected the demolition of one of the homes scheduled to be razed, since it is inside a multi-story residential building. Supreme Court Judge Uzi Fogelman issued temporary orders last month to prevent the demolition orders issued against the homes of seven Arab terrorists' families, after the families petitioned the IDF demolition orders.
See also, "Supreme Court Approves Demolition of 5 Attackers Homes" (Ynet News)

Middle East Eye

Israel to Build Underground Barrier Around Gaza Strip

Israel plans to build an underground barrier around the besieged Gaza Strip, officials announced on Wednesday. Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said that the Israeli army would start the project soon. The barrier will "prevent terrorists from using deep tunnels to try and penetrate the wall," Israeli Army Radio reported. Last month, the Israeli Ministry of Defense announced that it had completed construction of a "smart" security fence around 12 Israeli communities located near the border with Gaza.
See also, "Defense Minister to Discuss 'Smart' Barrier on Gaza Border" (Israel Hayom)

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The Economist – November 12, 2015

Stick a Label On It

Europe steps up pressure on Israel over its settlements.

By The Economist Staff

The prize-winning Psagot Winery in a West Bank settlement north of Jerusalem has become a favorite destination in recent years for right-wing Israeli and American politicians, eager not just to quaff Cabernet but also to score political points by highlighting the return of the Jews to their biblical homeland. Sixty-five per cent of the 250,000 bottles produced here each year are exported. Under new European Union rules adopted this week those bottles sold in Europe will no longer be labeled "Produce of Israel" but "Produce of the West Bank (Israeli settlement)".

Yaakov Berg, the winery owner, is not concerned for his own business. "People who buy our wines know where we are and want to buy them," he says. "This will probably only make them more popular." He is already planning a line of Christmas gift-boxes with additional settlement products, which he believes will be a hit in evangelical communities in America. Some of his fellow producers may see sales fall as European retailers refuse to stock their products.

Labeling produce from the Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem has been a subject of diplomatic disagreement between the EU and Israel for more than seven years. The Europeans, like the rest of the world, do not recognize Israel's sovereignty in the lands captured in the six-day war in 1967 and regard Israeli settlements there as illegal. Although Israel enjoys preferential access to Europe's market and gets grants for research programs inside the "green line", it has refused to abide by the EU's previous labeling regulations. These new guidelines put the onus on EU members to ensure that imports from the settlements declare the correct provenance.

Israel's response has been to accuse Europe of discrimination. Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, questioned why such guidelines do not exist for other cases where there are contested borders, such as Northern Cyprus, accusing the EU of a "double standard" and said the move "brings back dark memories", alluding to the Holocaust.

The new measure represents a diplomatic blow for Israel as well as a victory for the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement, which calls for a boycott of all Israeli produce. However, as European diplomats were at pains to point out, the new guideline is not intended to constitute a boycott of Israel in any sense. It is, they said, to ensure consumers are not misinformed.

Whatever the moral justification of this step, it is unlikely to amount to more than an exercise in gesture politics. Israel's Economics Ministry reckons that it could cause no more than $50m-worth of damage to Israeli producers a year, out of some $300m exported from the settlements (and some $18.9 billion that Israel exports to Europe). It will not help to restart the moribund peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, and may only entrench an Israeli government that believes that it is unfairly singled out by a hostile and, in its view, anti-Semitic international community.

Al-Monitor – November 12, 2015

Why Israelis Weren't Interested in Netanyahu-Obama Meeting

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Mazal Mualem

"Starting Over" — that was the headline that Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth gave to the meeting between US President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House on Nov. 9. It was accompanied by a photo of a formal handshake between the two men. Daily Ma'ariv chose "Reconciliation Meeting" as its headline and featured a picture of the two leaders smiling. The other media, both print and digital, also described the summit meeting in terms that seemed overly positive . Channels 2 and 10 reported that the meeting had been conciliatory. Also, all media outlets stressed that the meeting went 45 minutes over its allotted time, indicating that the mood in the Oval Office was good.

In the end, however, the meeting between the two men — after over a year in which they did not see each other, and with their tense and fragile relationship hovering in the background — did not create any real headlines, or any interest at all for that matter. The only interesting thing was that it took place, which is in itself important.

Their past meetings took place as part of Netanyahu's efforts to stop the Iran nuclear deal, and even involved him intervening in US politics. This created enormous interest and huge headlines about the crisis surrounding his relationship with Obama. This time, however, the visit was anti-climactic. The agreement with Iran is now a fait accompli and seen as something of a failure for Netanyahu and a victory for Obama. Given all of that, the Israeli prime minister was the last person in the world who wanted to bring up the issue, which he focused on so intently for two terms and which caused an unprecedented fissure in Israel-US relations.

Over the years, the Israeli media and public have gotten used to Netanyahu stoking the drama and making intimidating speeches about the Iranian nuclear program during all of his previous meetings with the president. These resulted in dramatic headlines and ongoing coverage of very tense and volatile meetings. This time, the press had to make do with a relaxed meeting without any surprises or any blaring headlines. Obama announced to the cameras that he was committed to Israel's security , and Netanyahu kept reiterating his respect and appreciation for the American president. Nothing was out of the ordinary, apart from the fact that everything was said after a lengthy hiatus during which the two men did not meet.

When Netanyahu announced to the cameras that he is committed to a vision of peace with the Palestinians in the spirit of the two-state solution, his very words evaporated almost as soon as he said them, despite their professed significance. The reason for this is clear. It has been almost 6½ years since he delivered his "Bar Ilan speech " in June 2009, in which he expressed for the first time his commitment to the two-state vision, raising the hope for a diplomatic solution . Now, the Israeli public, including politicians on the right, see these statements as nothing more than lip service, intended to appease Obama.

Even reports about the US compensation package to Israel following the nuclear agreement did not evoke much interest. Nor did Netanyahu's declaring his commitment to take steps to reduce Palestinian terror by easing economic restrictions.

Unlike the meeting between Obama and Netanyahu that, as we have noted, provided only limited headlines, the European Union's dramatic decision to label Israeli products manufactured in the settlements became the main story on the diplomatic front. The decision was made on Nov. 11, during Netanyahu's visit to Washington. With this development in the background, it was, according to media reports, quite obvious that Netanyahu was back in his element, when he

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launched a focused attack on the EU's hypocrisy. This development immediately became the focus, effectively removing the Obama-Netanyahu meeting from the agenda.

The truth is that interest in Netanyahu's meeting with Obama subsided as soon as the meeting was over. It was barely mentioned in the main newscasts in Israel the following day, and it could hardly be found in the newspapers either. The best indication that the meeting between Netanyahu and Obama was not considered too important or interesting is the fact that politicians, especially Netanyahu's rivals, did not bother to respond to it. For the most part, Netanyahu's previous meetings with Obama were regularly accompanied by critical attacks from the opposition, claiming that Netanyahu is destroying the US-Israel relationship. But this time, however, the mood at the meeting was conciliatory. Neither Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid nor Zionist Camp leader Isaac Herzog had very much to say. In that sense, Netanyahu was the winner again. It was impossible to claim that he destroyed the relationship with the United States.

It is reasonable to assume that this lack of interest in the Obama-Netanyahu meeting among the political classes also contributed to the limited volume and scope of its coverage.

A glimpse at the Israeli social networks shows that interest in the visit and meeting was even more limited there than it was in the established media, and was restricted to journalists who covered the event. Online accounts of flash flooding in the city of Ashkelon because of the torrential rains, the passing of Israel's fifth president, Yitzhak Navon , Nov. 7 and the wave of terrorist knifings by Palestinian youth were of greater interest to Israelis than the meeting between Obama and Netanyahu.

In the end, with no innovations, surprises or drama, along the lines of Obama planning to launch a new peace initiative , the overall impression is that the media regarded the visit as the end of an era and nothing more. Maybe that was because Obama is at the end of his second term, and this week's meeting was, apparently, the last time that these two men will meet.

Mazal Mualem is a columnist for Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse and formerly the senior political correspondent for Maariv and Haaretz. She also presents a weekly TV show covering social issues on the Knesset channel.

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For comments, please contact us at info@centerpeace.org .
www.centerpeace.org

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From: "Adam Jentleson" <Ajentleson@americanprogress.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/15/2009 8:14:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Birther... rappers?

They're off the hook.

Republican 'birther' rappers perform at 9/12 rally.

Self-professed "Republican rapper" Hi-Caliber made an appearance at the anti-Obama 9/12 march on Saturday. Demonstrating his imperfect understanding of Russian history, Hi-Caliber railed against the "communist czars" he perceived to be operating in President Obama's administration. Not only that, the crowd cheered at a line questioning Obama's birth certificate:

> We need tanks and hummers, not hybrid cars!
> We need honest politicians, **not communist czars!**
> USA, not the USSR.
> We need more Ann Coulter and less Bill Maher.
> […]
> I don't need another lecture from the Socialistic hypocrite.
> **Tuesday was your birthday, but where's your birth certificate?**

Watch it:
http://thinkprogress.org/2009/09/15/birther-hip-ho/

Hi-Caliber has said his conservative views were formed by right-wing talker Michael Savage . "Here was this guy Michael Savage screaming and ranting and raving about illegal immigration Islamofascism and you know it all started to click and make sense," explained Hi-Caliber to the Daily Beast's Max Blumenthal earlier this year.

Adam Jentleson
Communications Director, Progressive Media
Center for American Progress Action Fund
ajentleson@americanprogress action .org
ajentleson (AIM)
202-247-8614 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Berning, Nick" <NBerning@foe.org>
To:	"Berning, Nick" <NBerning@foe.org> bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	7/22/2008 4:15:28 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] RE: Full House GOP to push drilling at 1 p.m. rally tomorrow on Capitol steps

P.S. If you're in D.C. and can send folks, please do.

From: Berning, Nick
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 11:15 AM
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Subject: Full House GOP to push drilling at 1 p.m. rally tomorrow on Capitol steps

FYI … Various environmental groups are going to send people with signs to show up and counter this.

· **On Wednesday, all House Republicans assemble on the West Front Steps at approximately 1pm to unveil our legislation and publicly demand the up-or-down vote the American people deserve.**

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Republicans

FR: Republican Leader John Boehner
Republican Whip Roy Blunt
Conference Chairman Adam Putnam
Chief Deputy Whip Eric Cantor

DA: July 22, 2008

RE: House Republicans demand a vote on American-made energy now

American families continue to be crushed by high gas prices, and they are looking for leadership from Washington. House Republicans have stepped forward with meaningful solutions that will increase the supply of American-made energy, lower gas prices and promote energy independence. For their part, all Democratic leaders have offered is the same empty rhetoric and failed policies that have resulted in $4 gas.

Over the last two months, House Republicans have proposed solution after legislative solution to America¹s energy crisis, including expanded deep water and Arctic coastal plain exploration, and increased investment in next-generation alternative and renewable energies. It is truly an ³all-of-the-above² energy strategy. House Republicans have aggressively carried this national dialogue forward and offered meaningful solutions that will lower gas prices. The American people are listening, and the plan is attracting bipartisan support in Congress.

Democrats in charge of Congress, however, are charting a very different course. While gas prices soar and Americans cry out for action, this Democratic Congress has refused to take meaningful action to help lower gas prices and promote energy independence, and it¹s on track to become the least productive Congress in 25 years. The American people are demanding action, and time is running short.

This week, House Republicans will introduce our ³all-of-the-above² energy plan in a single piece of legislation that increases the supply of American-made energy, improves conservation and efficiency, and promotes new and expanding technologies.

To increase the supply American-made energy in environmentally sound ways, the legislation will:

* Open our deep water ocean resources, which will provide an additional 3 million barrels of oil per day;
* Open the Arctic coastal plain, which will provide an additional 1 million barrels of oil per day; and
* Allow development of our nation¹s shale oil resources, which could provide an additional 2.5 million barrels of oil per day

To improve energy conservation and efficiency, the legislation will:

* Provide tax incentives for businesses and families that purchase more fuel efficient vehicles;

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* Provide a monetary prize for being the first to develop an economically feasible, super-fuel-efficient vehicle (reaching 100 miles-per-gallon); and
* Provide tax incentives for businesses and homeowners who improve their energy efficiency.

To promote new and expanding energy technologies, the legislation will:

* Spur the development of alternative fuels, including through government contracting, the repeal of the "Section 526" prohibition on government purchasing of alternative energy and promoting coal-to-liquids technology.
* Establishes a renewable energy trust fund using revenues generated by exploration in the deep ocean and in the Arctic coastal plain.
* Permanently extends the tax credit for alternative energy production, including wind, solar and hydrogen; and
* Eliminate barriers to the expansion of carbon-free nuclear power production.

This legislation will demonstrate to the world that America will no longer keep its rich energy resources under lock-and-key. It will be a landmark step toward energy independence, and it will make needed investments in the alternative fuels that will power our lives and our economy in the future.

Numerous independent polls show the American people strongly support this approach to our energy crisis. It would clearly garner the support of a bipartisan majority of Democrats and Republicans in Congress, and it is legislation that the President would sign into law. Yet House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) continues to stand in the way of lower gas prices for struggling families and small businesses. When asked last week whether she would schedule a vote on meaningful legislation to increase American energy production, the Speaker told CNN, ³I have no plans to do so.²

The Democratic leadership in Congress is defying the will of the American people and a bipartisan majority in Congress. American families are suffering. Time is running short, and further inaction can no longer be tolerated.

House Republicans will stand together beginning today and demand that the Democratic leadership hold a vote on this legislation to increase American-made energy before Congress adjourns for the month of August. On Wednesday, all House Republicans assemble on the West Front Steps at approximately 1pm to unveil our legislation and publicly demand the up-or-down vote the American people deserve. You will be contacted shortly to become an original co-sponsor of this vital legislation.

We will use every option at our disposal to force a vote on the ³all of the above² energy plan. America¹s energy future should not be held hostage to the whims of radical special-interest groups that support higher gas prices.
If Speaker Pelosi and her liberal colleagues in the Democratic leadership continue to defy the will of the American people, they do so at their own peril.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: joseph.zernik@hra-ngo.org
To: 123456xyz@gmail.com
Date: 9/7/2014 10:37:44 AM
Subject: Robbing Argentina in the US court in Manhattan - fraud of medieval style and proportions ...

2014-09-07 Robbing Argentina in the US court in Manhattan - fraud of medieval style and proportions
==========
No summons, invalid Notice of Assignment for US Judge Thomas Griesa, and denial of public access to the authentication records in a court that is notorious for fraud in banking matters... Conduct of the US courts over the past decade should be deemed an unannounced regime change in the United States. It is also central to abuse of the people of the United States and failing banking regulation. In the case of NML v Republic of Argentina the US courts reach beyond the territorial US, to rob the people of Argentina through fraud of medieval style and proportions.

View on blog:
http://inproperinla.blogspot.co.il/2014/09/2014-09-07-robbing-argentina-in-us.html
Paper published by OpEdNews.com:
http://www.opednews.com/articles/Robbing-Argentina-in-the-U-by-Joseph-Zernik-Argentina_Banking-Crisis_Banking-Fraud_Judicial-Corruption-140907-285.html

[pics]
Inline image 1 Inline image 2
US Judge Thomas Griesa; Street scene from the Argentinian economic collapse of 2001.

_____
OccupyTLV, September 7 - Joseph Zernik, PhD, filed with the government of Argentina his opinion regarding the litigation of NML Capital v The Republic of Argentina (1:08-cv-06978) in the US District court, Southern District of New York. [1]

The judgment in the case is likely to cause the collapse of the Argentinian economy for the scond time in 15 years and cause poverty and misery for millions in Argentina.

Regarding the collapse of the Argentinian economy in 2001, Nobel prize winner Joseph Stieglitz raised the suspicion in his book "Globalization and Its Discontent" that the collapse was the handiwork of Stanley Fischer in his capacity as a senior officer of the International Monetary Fund (later Governor of Bank of Israel, today No 2 in the US Federal Reserve), at the service of US agencies.

The opinion, filed today, in part says:
Joseph Zernik, PhD, herein opines that fraud is being committed on the people and the Republic of Argentina by the US government and its agencies, the US District Court, Southern District of New York, the US Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit, and the US Supreme Court in the litigation of NML Capital v The Republic of Argentina (1:08-cv-06978) in the US District Court, Southern District of New York. US Judge Thomas Griesa, Clerk of the Court Ruby Krajick, and all attorneys, who filed papers in the case, including the law-firm, which filed on behalf of the Republic of Argentina, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, LLP, should be deemed part of the conspiracy to defraud.

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Attached to the opinion is a paper, which provides detailed analysis of the litigation records in the case, and which shows missing Summons, invalid Notice of Assignment for US Judge Thomas Griesa, and denial of public access to the authentication records.

The opinion is also based on other cases of fraud in the same court, which is notorious for fraud in banking matters. The most notable among these cases is SEC v Bank of America Corporation (1:09-cv-06829), where Judge Jed Rakoff appeared as presiding Judge. The PACER docket in SEC v Bank of America Corporation included no copy of the summons in disregard of US law, as is the case in NML Capital v The Republic of Argentina. The summons in SEC v Bank of America Corporation was eventually discovered through a Freedom of Information request on SEC. As seen here, the summons is unsigned, and fails to bear the seal of the court, i.e., invalid summons. SEC v Bank of America Corporation was a landmark court case, relative to banking supervision under the current financial crisis. It originated in the unlawful taking of $5.8 billions by banking executives. US Judge Jed Rakoff colluded with Clerk of the Court Ruby Krajick and attorneys for SEC and Bank of America Corporation and conducted Simulated Litigation in the US District Court, Southern District of New York, which ended with no executive being held accountable and none of the ill-gotten funds returned by the offending executives.

The paper concludes that conduct of the US courts over the past decade should be deemed organized state-corporate crime and an unannounced regime change in the United States. It is also central to abuse of the people of the United States and failing banking regulation. In the case of NML v Republic of Argentina the US courts reach beyond the territorial US, to rob the people of Argentina through fraud of medieval style and proportions.

Copies of the opinion were filed with the governments of the German Federal Republic, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and the United States.

The paper, detailing the evidence for the fraud in the US District Court, Southern District of New York, was separately published today by OpEdNews.com. [2]

LINKS:
[1] 2014-09-07 NML Capital v The Republic of Argentina (1:08-cv-06978): Robbing Argentina in the US court in Manhattan - fraud of medieval style and proportions - opinion filed with the government of Argentina
http://www.scribd.com/doc/238956988/
[2] Robbing Argentina in the US court in Manhattan - fraud of medieval style and proportions By Joseph Zernik
http://www.opednews.com/articles/Robbing-Argentina-in-the-U-by-Joseph-Zernik-Argentina_Banking-Crisis_Banking-Fraud_Judicial-Corruption-140907-285.html#comment510093

___
Joseph Zernik, PhD
Human Rights Alert (NGO)
OccupyTLV

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* The Human Rights Alert (NGO) submission to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations was incorporated into the 2010 Periodic Review Report regarding Human Rights in the United States, with the note: "corruption of the courts and the legal profession and discrimination by law enforcement

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in California".
* The Human Rights Alert (NGO) submission to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations was incorporated into the 2013 Periodic Review Report regarding Human Rights in Israel, with the note: "lack of integrity of the electronic records of the Supreme Court, the district courts and the detainees courts in Israel."

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From:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/28/2015 8:10:39 AM
Subject:	Re: NYC Finance Day | 4.28.15

Grazie

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 28, 2015, at 2:57 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>
> Just leaving the first fundraiser of three today.
>
> Did the photo line and straight up to a balcony for remarks and Q&A.
>
> She did well with the points.
>
> Questions were an even balance between foreign policy and campaign
> machinations stuff for the most part. What's the deal with Russia?
> Cyber security. How do we get young people excited?
>
> She did well. Had people laughing. Did the Eleanor Roosevelt/skin
> like a rhino bit.
>
> ABC on the way in and out. On the way out, they shouted a Baltimore
> question but she didn't engage.
>
> Just got to # 2. No press.

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From: "Amitabh Desai" <adesai@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Hannah Richert" <hrichert@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 1/11/2012 5:48:48 AM
Subject: For WJC: Bumper 2011 Grain Harvest Fails to Rebuild Global Stocks

From: Earth Policy Release <earthpolicynews@earthpolicy.org>
To: Amitabh Desai
Sent: Wed Jan 11 10:59:37 2012
Subject: Earth Policy Release -- Bumper 2011 Grain Harvest Fails to Rebuild Global Stocks

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Eco-Economy Indicator: Grain
January 11, 2012

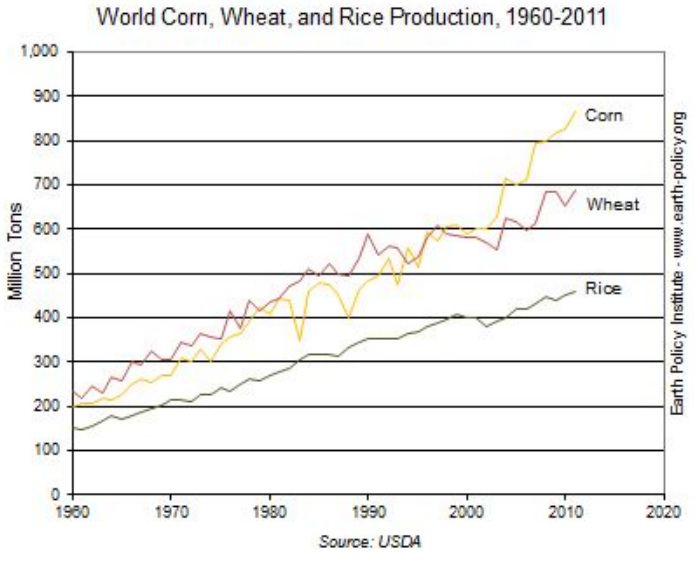
Bumper 2011 Grain Harvest Fails to Rebuild Global Stocks

Janet Larsen

www.earth-policy.org/indicators/C54/grain_2012

The world's farmers produced more grain in 2011 than ever before. Estimates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture show the global grain harvest coming in at 2,295 million tons, up 53 million tons from the previous record in 2009. Consumption grew by 90 million tons over the same period to 2,280 million tons. Yet with global grain production actually falling short of consumption in 7 of the past 12 years, stocks remain worryingly low, leaving the world vulnerable to food price shocks.

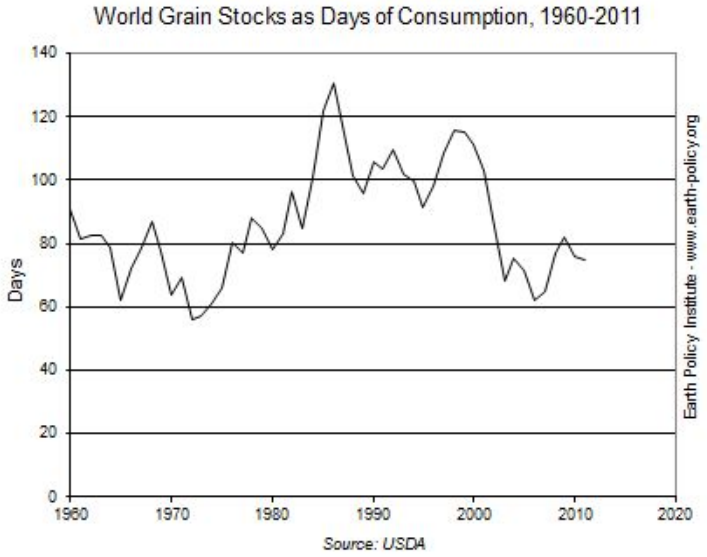
Nearly half the calories consumed around the world come directly from grain, with grain-fed animal products making up part of the remainder. Three grains dominate the world harvest: wheat and rice, which are primarily eaten directly as food, and corn, which is largely used as a feedgrain for livestock. Wheat was the largest of the world's grain harvests until the mid-1990s. Then corn production surged ahead in response to growing demand for grain-fed animal products and, more recently, for fuel ethanol. Despite a drop in the important U.S. harvest due mostly to high summer temperatures, global corn production hit 868 million tons in 2011, an all-time high. The harvests of wheat (689 million tons) and rice (461 million tons) were also records. (See data at www.earth-policy.org .)



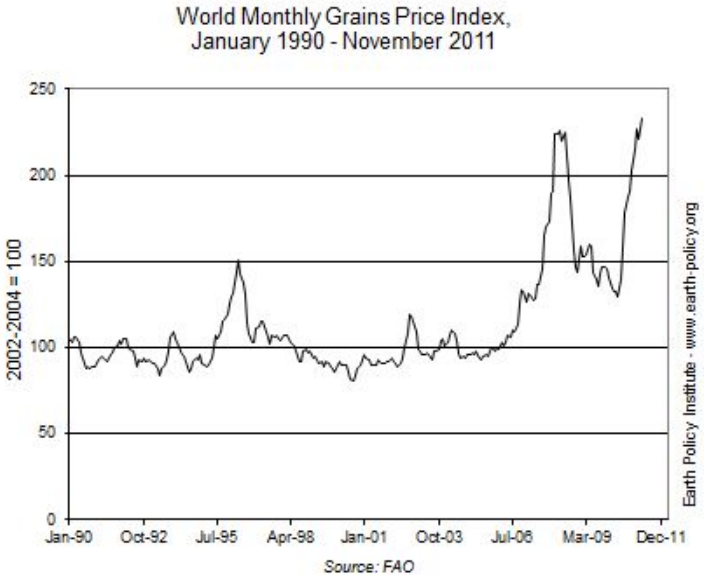
Carryover grain stocks—the amount left in the world's grain elevators when the new harvest begins—now stand at 469 million tons, enough to cover 75 days of consumption at current levels. Between 1984 and 2001 grain stocks hovered around the more comfortable level of 100 days. In

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2002, however, grain production fell 88 million tons short of demand, and since then annual carryover stocks have averaged 72 days of use, close to the bare minimum for basic food security. In 2006, stocks bottomed out at 62 days, setting the stage for the 2007–08 food price spike when international grain prices doubled or tripled in a short amount of time. For poor families in developing countries who spend half or more of their incomes on food, often grain staples, this led to empty plates and frustration. Protests erupted in some 35 countries as the number of hungry people in the world climbed above 1 billion.

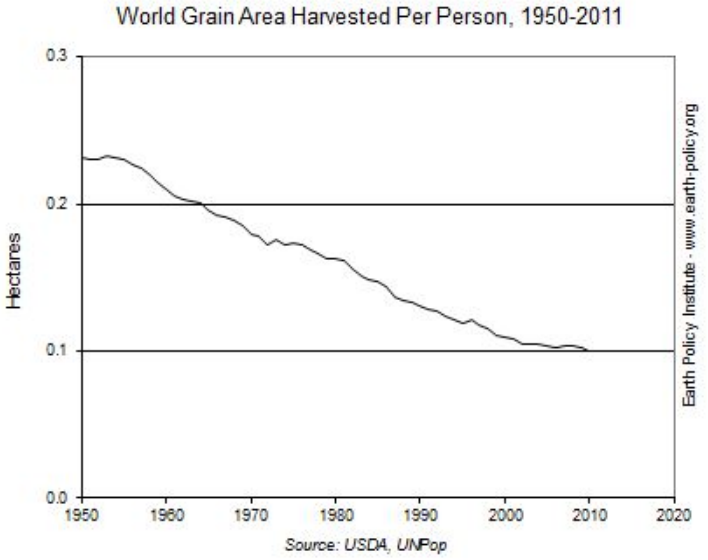


Following several strong harvests, global stocks were again pushed downward in 2010 when drought, wildfires, and a scorching heat wave decimated wheat crops in Russia and neighboring countries. Exports were banned. Food prices again started to rise, prompting warnings of a second food price crisis in three years. Ultimately the higher food prices between June 2010 and December 2010 pushed an additional 44 million people down the economic ladder into extreme poverty, according to the World Bank. The prospects for the world's poorest remain grim, as even the record production in 2011 failed to outpace consumption enough to rebuild stocks sufficiently.



The tight stocks and food price volatility are occurring against a backdrop of a shrinking area available to feed each person and of slowing crop yield growth. Worldwide, grain is grown on close to 700 million hectares (1.7 billion acres). With the global population hitting the 7 billion milestone in 2011, this leaves 0.1 hectare (a quarter of an acre) planted in grain per person, half as much as in the early 1960s.

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While the total grain area is down from the peak of 732 million hectares in 1981, largely from the retiring of marginal and eroded land, production is more than 50 percent higher thanks to improved yields. In 1950, farmers could expect to harvest on average 1 ton of grain per hectare. Now yields are three times as high. The problem for world food prospects is that the proverbial “low-hanging fruit” have been picked, with much of the world (notably excepting sub-Saharan Africa) having already adopted higher yielding crop varieties and yield-boosting fertilizer and irrigation practices. Furthermore, yields may be leveling off or even shrinking in some countries. Global grain yields increased by an average 2.2 percent each year from 1970 to 1990. But between 1990 and 2010, the annual gains were just half as large.

Three countries produced nearly half the world’s grain in 2011: China at 456 million tons, the United States at 384 million tons, and India at 226 million tons. Together the 27 European Union countries harvested 286 million tons of grain.

A growing number of countries are relying on imported grain to meet their needs, pushing the share of the world grain harvest entering international trade to 12 percent. The United States is far and away the world’s top grain exporter, sending 73 million tons abroad in 2011. This is a quarter of all grain trade. It is followed by Argentina exporting 32 million tons of grain; Australia and the Ukraine, each at 24 million tons; and Russia and Canada, each topping 20 million tons. For corn in particular, the United States dominates the world market, with U.S. corn accounting for over 40 percent of all international corn movement. For this reason, importing countries are concerned about the growing share of the U.S. crop—40 percent in 2011—being turned into fuel ethanol.

Japan continues to be the world’s largest grain importer, buying more than 25 million tons of grain from abroad in 2011, much of it to be used as animal feed. Egypt, Mexico, South Korea and Saudi Arabia round out the list of countries importing more than 10 million tons of grain. International grain market dependence is high across the arid Middle East; for instance, Saudi Arabia now relies on imports for 90 percent of its grain consumption. As the country has nearly pumped dry its underground water stores, it is abandoning its desert wheat farms.

China imported a net 5 million tons of grain in 2011, the most significant inflow since the country declared a national grain self-sufficiency policy in the mid-1990s. Though still a tiny fraction of the country’s 451-million-ton consumption, the potential for China to import increasing amounts of grain is a concern to those who watch grain markets and prices. China’s grain imports would be far higher had it not ratcheted up imports of another key field crop, the soybean. Climbing from almost nothing through the mid-1990s, China’s soybean imports hit 56 million tons in 2011, close to 80 percent of the country’s total soybean consumption and nearly 60 percent of all the soy traded internationally. Most of the high-protein soy is used in livestock and poultry feed.

As more people in China are moving up the food chain and eating more meat, milk, and eggs, the country’s feedgrain use has risen dramatically, surpassing that of the United States (where use is falling) for the first time in 2010. China now leads the world in the amount of grain fed to animals, standing at 149 million tons in 2011. Still, as the average meat intake in China is less than half that of the United States, the total grain consumption per person is far lower.

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With little arable land around the world left unfarmed and with ever more mouths to feed, farmers face an uphill climb in their efforts to feed the world's people. The animal protein and food-based biofuel production systems are two areas where fields could be re-appropriated to grow food directly for people instead of for livestock or cars. But as water shortages spread and rising global temperatures bring more unpredictable weather—replete with heat waves, droughts, floods, and other crop-damaging extreme events—a higher level of grain reserves is needed to help cushion against harvest failures. Otherwise, preventing major food price shocks will require bumper harvests year after year, something that is far from guaranteed.

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Data and additional resources at www.earth-policy.org .

Feel free to pass this information along to friends, family members, and colleagues!

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 12/30/2015 1:54:59 AM
Subject: Items from Michelle Patron

Podcast: Podcast she did for Platts on the week and year that was energy and climate, including some tough Qs on Obama and fossil fuels.
http://www.platts.com/podcasts-detail/crude/2015/december/capitol-crude-122115

Column:

http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/12/01/patron-oil-idUSL1N13Q2ER20151201#7ztSe7GYWMfRbBz7.97

COLUMN-Michelle Patron: What a climate deal means for oil markets

Tue Dec 1, 2015 8:15pm GMT Print | Single Page[-] Text [+]
(Michelle Patron writer is a former energy and climate advisor to President Barack Obama. The opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

By Michelle Patron

Dec 1 (Reuters) - Over the next two weeks countries from around the world are convening in Paris to develop a global plan to address climate change. A successful deal in Paris could have significant impacts for energy and equity markets.

In many ways, the heavy lifting for Paris has already occurred. Learning from failed past attempts to impose global rules, governments have developed a more flexible bottom up approach. Under the new system, each country puts forward its own nationally determined plan based on what it believes it can achieve over the next 10-15 years. More than 150 countries -- developed and developing, energy exporters and importers -- have already submitted these plans, covering over 90 percent of global emissions.

Plans include policy proposals in the electricity, transportation, industrial and forestry sectors. Some of these plans are quite ambitious. China and Mexico have set timelines to permanently halt the growth of their emissions. India and Brazil have plans to drastically expand the use of non-fossil fuels. While the first round of plans may not deliver enough action to limit global warming to two degrees centigrade, it signals a fundamental shift in how countries produce and consume energy. Scientists have set two degrees as a benchmark for "safe" levels of warming.

A successful deal in Paris would tie these plans together and create a process for countries to report and update their targets at regular intervals. This would enable the public to track the status of each country's progress and prompt governments to tighten existing and future targets. This process would boost confidence in implementation despite the absence of penalties for underperformance. Of course, the risk remains that domestic politics in the United States or other key emitters can impede progress down the road.

Agreement is by no means assured and could be derailed by disagreements over financing, namely demands by some developing countries for richer countries to underwrite climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Progress has already been made with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development calculating current climate capital flows from rich to poor countries at $62 billion per year, almost two-thirds of the $100 billion goal by 2020 set in Copenhagen.

The most immediate market impact is in the power sector where a strong agreement will extend and accelerate the shift from coal to alternative power sources including renewables, nuclear and in some cases natural gas. The International Energy Agency estimates that renewable energy will become the largest single power source by 2040 and the share of coal will decline from 41 to 31 percent. This trend is already underway. Last year, more new power plants were built that produce electricity from renewable sources than from all fossil fuel sources combined. As a result, green technology stocks will likely get a boost from Paris.

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The impact on oil markets is more nuanced and depends on the pace at which governments ratchet up policies to constrain oil demand and limit the environmental impacts of production Oil prices are unlikely to move significantly on news from Paris since there is no instantaneous lever to reduce demand and current oversupply is drowning out other market signals.

Nevertheless, there are long-term effects with policies in place and more on the way that directly target the transportation sector, which consumes half the world's oil. Continued improvements in vehicle efficiency and removal of fossil fuel subsidies can moderately reduce demand with the impact growing over time as the vehicle fleet changes. Success in Paris can also inject momentum into global negotiations underway on aviation and marine fuel controls.

Perhaps the most critical variable for oil is how a deal impacts alternative fuels in road transportation. A strong political signal from Paris can boost public and private investment in transportation. A breakthrough on electric vehicle batteries or hydrogen can dramatically disrupt future demand. Consensus forecasts calling for $100 oil after 2020 do not factor in such a breakthrough. That may prove shortsighted. Weaker oil demand as a result of vehicle innovation has the potential to cap long-term oil prices well below these forecasts.

There are also supply side impacts. Regulations that tighten controls on methane, a gas produced alongside oil and flared into the environment, may increase production costs. Meanwhile, growing pressure by environmentalists for companies to strand or abandon risky environmental investments, such as oil sands, deep water and Arctic drilling, can limit supply options and force companies back to onshore assets in politically unstable countries. The recent success of these "stranded asset" campaigns in blocking the Keystone pipeline and contributing to the withdrawal of Shell and Statoil from the Alaskan Arctic has emboldened environmental groups. The portfolios of major international oil companies are the most exposed to stranded asset risk whereby public and legal pressure prevents completion of these projects after significant capital investment has been sunk. Meanwhile, smaller independent companies with tighter budgets are more vulnerable to methane regulations. Both segments would be hurt by lower oil prices.

The bottom line is that global climate action widens the range of risks in the energy sector. Ten years ago, German utilities were seen as stable investments, now they are struggling under the weight of policies pushing renewables and reductions in technology costs. Prudent companies and investors should begin factoring these risks into their oil portfolios now. (Michelle Patron)

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	aphillips@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	6/2/2015 12:29:55 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.2.15
Attachments:	H4A 6.2.15 News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

June 2, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Yesterday Hillary for America announced that the location of her official campaign launch speech will be in New York City on Roosevelt Island. On June 13, she is expected to lay out her vision for the future of the country and explain to voters why she is the right person to lead it there. The speech will be followed by an organizing meeting in Iowa with volunteers that will be simulcast with volunteers in every Congressional district. And, the meeting will be followed by HRC travel through the early primary states.

Hillary Clinton said Monday that past advances made by the LGBT community should be recognized during Pride celebrations this month, but noted that more work remains. In a statement to the Washington Blade, she recognized June as Pride month, calling for a rededication to complete the work of improving the lives of people everywhere. Tuesday the Hillary for America merchandise store will launch the new limited edition Hillary for America Pride shop.

There is a new national CNN poll Tuesday morning which shows an increase in HRC's unfavorable rating but the polling just puts in it line with other previously released national polls.

On Monday, South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham announce his candidacy for President. He is the ninth GOP candidate to announce.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

ABC and CBS both reported on Lindsey Graham entering the presidential race, noting that he said he has more national security and foreign policy experience than any other contender in the race, including HRC. NBC had a brief report on NSA telephone surveillance, noting that Rand Paul is insisting that the government should be required to have a warrant when monitoring private phones.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary sets venue for first big rally: Roosevelt Island // Politico // Annie Karni – June 1, 2015

The solemn memorial park at the southern tip of Roosevelt Island, Four Freedoms Park, will serve as the backdrop for Hillary Clinton's first significant speech as a presidential candidate on June 13, when she is expected to lay out her vision for the future of the country and explain to voters why she is the right person to lead it there.

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The park, designed by architect Louis Kahn and dedicated in 2012, honors the "four freedoms" Franklin D. Roosevelt outlined in his 1941 State of the Union address — freedom of speech, religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear. The symbolic backdrop won out over other potential sites for Clinton's "vision" speech that were floated to the campaign by supporters, such as Seneca Falls, N.Y., the site of the first women's rights convention in 1848.

In announcing the venue for the much-anticipated speech, the campaign emphasized Clinton's long admiration of both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Clinton is expected to be joined at the kick-off speech by her family, Chelsea and Bill Clinton. It won't mark their first time there: Bill Clinton was one of the speakers at the 2012 dedication ceremony of the park.

Clinton's New York speech will be open to the public and tickets will be free, according to the campaign website. But that message came with a big disclaimer: tickets do not guarantee admission and the rally will fill up on a first-come, first-served basis. A spokesman said it was not clear yet how many supporters the venue would accommodate.

The big rally will mark a break from the intimate roundtables Clinton has participated in during the first two months of her campaign. The speech comes almost two months to the day after Clinton formally announced her presidential bid, and will be followed up by her busiest week on the trail yet: Clinton will fly directly to Iowa Saturday night, marking her third visit there since announcing, followed by stops in New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada — all early states she has already visited at least once during the ramp up phase of her campaign.

The Iowa organizing meeting that Clinton will participate in on Saturday evening will be simulcast at organizing meetings planned for nearly all of the country's 435 congressional districts, campaign officials said.

Clinton's campaign is already lowering expectations as they explain how the former secretary of state will fight for every vote and not take the primary for granted — even while her challengers so far remain side players in the 2016 drama. In Iowa, the campaign pointed out, no Democratic presidential candidate has ever received more than 50 percent of the caucus vote, unless they were a sitting president, vice-president, or Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, who ran in 1992. In New Hampshire, the campaign underscored, no Democrat in a contested primary in the last 25 years has won by more than 27,000 votes, or received more than 50 percent of the vote.

But the campaign is building up the rally as a dramatic beginning of a new phase of the campaign. "Thousands of Americans coming together to hear Hillary lay out her vision for the future of our country," is how campaign chairman John Podesta described it in an email. "All at one of the most spectacular locations you'll ever see."

EXCLUSIVE: Clinton looks to the future in Pride statement // Washington Blade // Chris Johnson – June 1, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said Monday past advances made by the LGBT community should be recognized during Pride celebrations this month, but noted that more work remains.

In an exclusive statement to the Washington Blade, the former secretary of state recognized June as Pride month, calling for a rededication to complete the work of improving the lives of people everywhere.

"Each June, we honor the contributions of the LGBTQ community and proudly reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that every member of the American family can live, work, and marry the person they love without enduring discrimination or prejudice," Clinton said. "As we celebrate the hard-fought progress that has been made toward advancing the rights of LGBTQ Americans, we must also recognize that this work is far from finished. I hope that each and every one of us will dedicate ourselves to building a future in which every person can live in

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dignity, free from violence or fear, free to be themselves, free to live up to their God-given potential no matter where they live or who they are — this month and every month."

Clinton made the statement on the same day she issued a message via Twitter hinting that, like many LGBT Americans, she's awaiting good news from the Supreme Court on same-sex marriage. This month, justices are expected to issue a decision on whether same-sex couples have a right to marry nationwide.

As of the time of this posting, neither former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley nor U.S. Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.) — other Democratic candidates in the race — had issued statements this year recognizing June as Pride month, nor had any of the Republican presidential candidates.

Clinton, who enjoys considerable support in the LGBT community, issued the statement shortly after calling on the Supreme Court to issue a nationwide ruling in favor of same-sex marriage. She's also spoken out against religious freedom measures in Indiana and Arkansas seen to enable discrimination against LGBT people.

Among her achievements on behalf of the LGBT community as a U.S. senator are advocating for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and twice voting against a U.S. constitutional amendment that would have barred same-sex marriage throughout the country.

During her tenure as secretary of state, Clinton coined the phrase "gay rights are human rights" during a Pride celebration at the State Department and delivered a high-profile speech in Geneva in favor of LGBT human rights across the globe.

But Clinton didn't articulate support for same-sex marriage until 2013 and before that time said her position was that she opposed gay nuptials. In a later interview with National Public Radio, she advocated a state-by-state approach to advancing marriage rights for same-sex couples. Two weeks before oral arguments at the Supreme Court, Clinton made clear she believes same-sex couples should have a constitutional right to marry.

According to a Clinton aide, staff and volunteers are set to participate in a number of Pride events and parades throughout the country during the month of June.

Poll: New speed bumps for Clinton // CNN // Jennifer Agiesta – June 2, 2015

More people have an unfavorable view of Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton now than at any time since 2001, according to a new CNN/ORC poll on the 2016 race.

While Clinton remains strikingly dominant in the Democratic field, the poll shows that her numbers have dropped significantly across several key indicators since she launched her campaign in April.

A growing number of people say she is not honest and trustworthy (57%, up from 49% in March), less than half feel she cares about people like them (47%, down from 53% last July) and more now feel she does not inspire confidence (50%, up from 42% last March).

In head-to-head match-ups against top Republicans, her margin is tighter than it has been at any point in CNN/ORC's polling on the contest.

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On the Republican side, though, no candidate has successfully broken out of the pack.

The group of seven that have come to dominate most polling on the race hold the top of the charts in this poll, Sen. Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush leading the pack with Mike Huckabee, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Sen. Ted Cruz, Ben Carson and Sen. Rand Paul all in the hunt.

Much of Clinton's fade is attributable to shifts among independents, but she's also losing some ground among her own partisans. Her support in the Democratic nomination contest has dropped 9 points since April, and though more than 8-in-10 Democrats said they thought she was honest and trustworthy earlier this year; now, just 73% say so.

The new CNN/ORC poll looking at the shape of the race for the presidency in 2016 finds these warning signs for Clinton, alongside some concerns for the Republican Party's best-known contender, Jeb Bush.

Jeb Bush's family ties

Bush's efforts to separate himself from his brother have worked to some extent. Only about half of Americans say Bush is "a lot like his brother."

But most -- 56% -- say his connection to two former presidents would make them less likely to back him for the presidency. Just 27% say that connection would make them more likely to back the former Florida governor.

That's virtually the opposite situation of what his brother faced when George W. Bush made his initial run for the presidency in 1999. Back then, 42% said Bush's connection to his father made them more likely to back him, while only 24% said it was a deterrent.

Bush's family ties are slightly more of a draw for Republicans, but not by much. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 42% say they're more likely to back Jeb Bush because of his connections, while 38% say they are less likely to vote for him because of that.

No leader emerges in the GOP pack

For the bulk of the GOP field, however, the race for the Republican nomination remains an effort to distinguish themselves from the pack and no one has yet succeeded at that.

Though there has been some shuffling at the top of the GOP order since the last CNN/ORC poll in April, no individual candidate's movement lies outside of the margin of sampling error.

Rubio tops the field with 14%, with Bush near even at 13%. Huckabee and Walker follow at 10% each, with Cruz (8%), Paul (8%) and Carson (7%) all within striking distance of double-digit support.

Paul prompts the largest gender gap on the GOP side, drawing 13% and tying for first among men while garnering just 2% support among women.

The top of the field is similar among conservative Republicans to the overall horse race numbers, but among those who consider themselves tea party supporters, there's a clear leader: Scott Walker with 19% support. His closest competitor is Ted Cruz with 12%.

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Overall, about half of Republicans (49%) would like to see the field resolve early, saying it would be best for the party if one strong candidate emerged early as a clear frontrunner. But 46% say they would prefer a longer campaign, with a number of strong contenders competing over the next year.

One possible differentiator emerges: The poll finds a distinct difference in which candidates Republicans view as representing the future rather than the past.

Three-quarters of Republicans describe Marco Rubio (77%) or Scott Walker (75%) as representing the future, nearly 7-in-10 say so about Rand Paul (68%), but Bush (51%) and Christie (51%) are far less likely to be seen as representative of the future.

The growing Democratic field

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they would like a competitive primary (53% say that would be best for the party), but their preferences so far don't portend a close contest.

Clinton continues to hold a massive lead in that race, with 60% of Democrats saying she would be their top choice for the nomination. Behind her, 14% would favor Vice President Joe Biden, and 10% prefer Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor who announced his candidacy on Saturday, barely registers with 1% support.

Sanders does fare better among liberals than overall, carrying 18% support among that group, but Clinton still notches 61% among the liberals in her party.

Getting closer to the general

In general election match-ups, Clinton now runs about even with Rand Paul, Scott Walker and Marco Rubio, while she continues to top Bush and Ted Cruz by a significant margin.

As noted above, those shifts stem largely from a change among independents, though Republicans appear to be solidifying their support for GOP candidates while Democrats are slightly less certain about Clinton.

One feature of the race that has held even as the numbers shifted: These match-ups prompt enormous gender gaps. According to the poll, the gender gaps remain over 20 points in each of the five match-ups tested, including a whopping 34-point gender gap in Clinton's match-up with Scott Walker.

Her declining support in those general election match-ups, alongside falling favorability ratings and worsening impressions of her, suggests recent news about her actions as secretary of state may have taken a toll.

Though most -- 61% -- think the release of Clinton's emails over the next months from her time as secretary of state will not reveal any previously hidden wrongdoing, the poll also finds 58% are dissatisfied with the way she handled the attack in Benghazi in 2012.

A narrow majority feel the Republican-led congressional hearings on the attack have been handled appropriately, just 41% say the GOP has gone too far with them.

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Clinton's family ties to a president are more of a wash than Bush's. While 39% say her marriage to Bill Clinton makes them more likely to vote for her, the same share say it's a turn-off. And most Americans say Clinton is not like her husband at all (54%).

The CNN/ORC Poll was conducted by telephone May 29-31, among a random national sample of 1,025 adults. The margin of sampling error for results among the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. It is 4.5 points for results among the 433 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents and the 483 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

Republican Lindsey Graham Announces 2016 Presidential Campaign // Bloomberg // David Weigel – June 1, 2015

Senator Lindsey Graham announced his campaign for president on Monday, emphasizing his centrist challenge to the Republican Party's base.

"I intend to be president not of a single party, but of a nation," Graham said in a speech in his hometown of Central, S.C. "I want to do more than make big government smaller. I want to help make a great nation greater."

Graham's speech finishes a months-long exploratory process, one that found the Republican bantering with town hall audiences and baiting rivals into fights on foreign policy and immigration. Polling in single digits, joking about his chances, Graham combines the candor of a dark-horse candidate with the media profile of a front-runner.

He left little doubt as to his intentions during a May interview on CBS This Morning: "I'm running because I think the world is falling apart. I've been more right than wrong on foreign policy," he said.

Graham, 59, joins three younger Senate colleagues—Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, and Marco Rubio of Florida—in the Republican nomination fight. (Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders is seeking the Democratic nomination.) Elected in 2002 to replace the retiring Strom Thurmond, and previously elected to four terms in the House of Representatives, he is likely to have the longest Washington resume of anyone on the Republican stage.

He's also the only declared candidate with a military record, having been a judge advocate in the United States Air Force since 1982. Last week he announced he would leave the reserves as he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 60 this summer.

Since the January launch of his exploratory committee, Security Through Strength, the possibility of a Graham bid has been a puzzle. His is a resume not calculated to appeal to Republican primary voters. Graham's early Washington career was defined by the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, a case on which he served as a prosecutor, which quickly came to look like a debacle for Republicans. In the Senate, he's advocated for an aggressive foreign policy and strong security state even as his party's libertarian tendency has grown. And every time legislation to change immigration policy moved in the Senate, Graham was a co-sponsor.

"We are going to solve this problem," he told the National Council of La Raza in a 2007 speech. We're not going to run people down. We're not going to scapegoat people. We're going to tell the bigots to shut up."

Talk like that infuriated conservatives. In 2008 and 2014, Graham's enemies searched for credible primary challengers. Both times, they came up far short, and convinced Graham that the fringe could bark but not bite. In 2010, he predicted that the Tea Party would "die out." After securing his 2014 victory, he seemed to be proven right.

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"There's a growing element in our party that would like me to speak up," Graham said earlier this year in an interview. "Where is the Republican Party on problem solving? Is there a rational way forward on immigration? Do you deport 11 million people? I don't think so."

Wry and affable, Graham's approach to presidential politicking owes much to his friend and mentor John McCain. In 2000 and 2008, Graham campaigned hard for the Arizona senator, who was running for president. In the Capitol, both men share an open-door approach to the media and a hunger for deals with Democrats. Graham shares McCain's readiness with a joke and talent for TV debate.

"In debates, he'll shred 'em," McCain said when Graham announced his exploratory committee. "He has my all-out complete support."

Graham may be kept out of the first Fox News debate, in August, which the network intends to limit to the top 10 candidates according to national public polling. Despite his steady presence in green rooms, Graham's focusing more on the New Hampshire primary than any "national" race. Like McCain, Graham is looking to prove that he can reason with the Republican primary electorate one room at a time. Alone among the candidates, he favors laws that would limit campaign spending–an issue that boosted McCain in 2000.

When challenged on immigration, he enters into a Socratic dialogue with audiences, to convince them that reform and pathways to citizenship are sensible but not amnesty.

And like McCain, Graham is a hawk whose confidence is not dimmed by events. "I think the world is falling apart," he often says, "and I've been right more than wrong." Graham supported the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the 2007 military surge, and has insisted that the conflict was won, a victory squandered by Barack Obama. He favored a more muscular intervention in Libya than the no-fly zone favored by the Obama administration, and favored an early military intervention on the side of Syria's rebels.

Graham's foreign policy contrasts completely with that of Rand Paul, and the two men have sparred across the primary states. Paul tends to avoid using Graham's name when he refers to "a senator" who favors NSA surveillance and treating captured terrorists as enemy combatants. Graham has no such filter, and has said that Paul "would have the worst chance of anybody to make a case against Barack Obama’s foreign policy."

That confidence grows out of a personal story that Graham has become more comfortable telling on the trail. Born in Central, near Greenville, he worked at a pool hall and was compelled at an early age to take care of his younger sister. "My mom's disease, Hodgkin's disease, wiped us out financially," Graham told Fox News in April. "We eventually lost our businesses. I understand we're all one car wreck from needing help. But what it told Lindsey Graham, above all else, is that family, friends and faith really do matter."

In politics, since winning a state legislative seat in 1992, Graham has defended the existence of the welfare state while arguing for reform. Raising the Social Security retirement age, like an immigration overhaul and foreign policy, has been a focus of Graham's early pitch. He starts with less support than McCain–but unlike the Arizonan, he hails from one of the GOP's vital early primary states.

"Get ready," Graham told a dinner audience in his native South Carolina last month. "Get ready for a debate that's been long overdue within the party. Get ready for a voice that understands you can't save America without someone willing to sacrifice and die for America."

Graham holds undergraduate and law degrees from the University of South Carolina. On Sunday, while the Senate debated the Patriot Act, he officially retired from the Air Force reserves, which he joined while attending school

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and caring for his sister in the absence of his late parents.

"There are a lot of so-called 'self-made' people in this world," Graham planned to say in Central. "I'm not one of them. My family, friends, neighbors, and my faith picked me up when I was down, believed in me when I had doubts. You made me the man I am today."

SOCIAL MEDIA

David Axelrod (5/31/15, 8:23 AM) - O'Malley is a dynamic, accomplished guy. But he was all in for HRC in '08, so isn't it a bit awkward to rail against "royal families" now?

America Rising PAC (6/1/15, 8:14 AM) - Watch what happens when a @HillaryClinton supporter asks her to sign something

Philip Rucker (6/1/15, 9:24 AM) - Clinton to show organizational force by simulcasting its meeting in nearly all 435 cong districts. What other camp can pull that off?

Alexis Levinson (6/1/15, 2:28) - Kathleen Matthews, wife of Hardball's Chris Matthews, will make Wednesday anncmt about House bid for #MD08, per release.

Paul Steinhauser (6/1/15, 6:48 PM) – 2016 News: @HillaryClinton to headline Manchester #NH Democrats Flag Day Dinner on n June 15 #nhpolitics #fitn #nh1news

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Clinton Lawyer Accuses Wisconsin of Trying to Suppress the Vote // NYT // Maggie Haberman – June 1, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's top campaign lawyer has filed a second voter-access lawsuit accusing a Republican-led state of trying to suppress the vote — this time in Wisconsin, home to Scott Walker, the governor and likely Republican 2016 presidential candidate.

Marc Elias, the general counsel for the Clinton campaign and an election law expert, filed the suit in federal court on Friday. It was reported in the blog of Rick Hasen, an election law expert who works at the University of California, Irvine.

"This lawsuit concerns the most fundamental of rights guaranteed citizens in our representative democracy — the right to vote," the complaint states, then refers to a curtailing of early voting in the state, among other changes that affect minority voters and other groups. "That right has been under attack in Wisconsin since Republicans gained control of the governor's office and both houses of the State Legislature in the 2010 election."

Mrs. Clinton's aides said the suit was not filed on behalf of the campaign, but they offered their support for it.

"We are aware of it and strongly support its goal of ensuring the right to vote is not unduly burdened," Brian

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Fallon, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, said in a statement.

Mr. Elias filed a similar lawsuit in Ohio recently, accusing the state of trying to suppress the votes of traditional Democratic constituencies like blacks, Hispanics and young people.

Mr. Walker, as he travels around the country, often talks about his efforts to push through changes in the voting rights laws to require people to bring identification to the polls.

Journalists Meet To Discuss Frustration With Clinton Campaign's Control Over Access And Information // HuffPo // Michael Calderone – June 1, 2015

NEW YORK -- Journalists covering Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign met for nearly two hours in Washington on Monday to discuss concerns about what they believe is inadequate access to cover the Democratic front-runner, according to people who attended.

The grievances discussed at the private gathering, which was held at the Los Angeles Times/Tribune Washington offices, go beyond Clinton's unwillingness so far to substantively engage with the press, a topic that has already been discussed publicly on cable news and social media. Attendees of the meeting, who were not authorized by their news organizations to speak on the record, charge the Clinton campaign with keeping an excessively tight grip on information, even when it comes to logistical details that don't seem particularly sensitive or revelatory.

Among the problems discussed were the campaign's failure to provide adequate notice prior to events, the lack of a clear standard for whether fundraisers are open or closed press and the reflexive tendency to opt to speak anonymously. The complaints mirror concerns that a number of political journalists have also raised in recent conversations with The Huffington Post.

While the White House Correspondents' Association has worked for greater media access for over a century and elects representatives to present the group's concerns to the administration, there isn't any comparable, established body working on behalf of the campaign press. Monday's meeting, which included about 17 journalists from outlets such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, Politico, Time and McClatchy, was an attempt not only to discuss such concerns, but eventually to present them to the campaign in a unified way.

Attendees discussed the feeling that the campaign hasn't provided enough notice for events, resulting in logistical difficulties for those trying to cover them. It's still too early in the election cycle for the campaign to be chartering the flights and buses that news organizations, at the cost of thousands of dollars, can sign up for to follow the candidate from stop to stop. For now, reporters are booking commercial flights to reach Clinton's events, and networks need to make sure satellite trucks and camera equipment make it there on time. The group discussed urging the Clinton campaign to provide information outlining the upcoming week so they can plan accordingly.

Another concern raised, according to attendees, was that the campaign had initially said that fundraisers of more than 100 people would be open to the press through a pool system. Under this arrangement, certain reporters are designated to cover events that cannot accommodate large numbers of journalists, and those reporters then provide information to the larger press corps. But recent Clinton fundraisers have been closed press.

Meeting attendees also expressed dissatisfaction with the ground rules established for a Thursday briefing at the campaign's Brooklyn headquarters that was attended by dozens of news outlets, including The Huffington Post.

CNBC's John Harwood wrote Friday that reporters who attended the briefing were not allowed to quote top campaign officials directly, even when it came to information that appeared to be basic talking points. Harwood noted that he could not show readers what campaign staffers' desks looked like because "the post-briefing tour

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was deemed off-the-record." (A week earlier, the Nashua Telegraph, a New Hampshire newspaper, similarly mocked the Clinton campaign for holding a conference call in which mundane information was provided under ground rules that those speaking should not be quoted.)

Coincidentally, Monday's meeting wrapped up just before the campaign sent a mass email to journalists with details of an upcoming event. The campaign said the details could only be attributed to a "campaign official," which prompted New York Times reporter Adam Nagourney to out the sender on Twitter. Such rules for anonymity, Nagourney noted, are not done unilaterally but established between two parties. He also pointed out that the information itself didn't "rise to [the] level" of requiring anonymity.

There was a general consensus at Monday's meeting that the ground rules for the Thursday headquarters briefing were unacceptable. Attendees say they expected that the group will urge the campaign to agree that similar briefings need to be on the record in the future.

When asked about the reporters' complaints and how the campaign is reacting, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill responded in an email to HuffPost.

"I'd say two things," he wrote. "First, we want a happy press corps as much as the press corps does. Not in an effort to obtain favorable coverage, but because we're decent humans who want people to be able to plan their lives. It's a long campaign, and we are going to do our best to find equilibrium. Griping on background is not a constructive solution though, and I can't help but point out the irony here."

The group also discussed its system for disseminating pool reports, which The Washington Post criticized Friday for turning some reporters "into second-class journalists in the hunt for Clinton info."

The pool system, established at the urging of the Clinton campaign but run by campaign reporters, places journalists on a rotation and disseminates reports in real-time to fourteen news organizations. Those organizations, which do not bear the costs of being in the pool, receive the reports at the end of the day.

Though the Post put forth the idea of the system creating two classes of reporters, attendees at Monday's meeting stressed that the system allows for wider dissemination of traveling pool reports than was possible during Mitt Romney's campaign four years ago. At that time, only reporters physically present for Romney campaign trips received pool reports, and there was no wider dissemination to news organizations not in the rotation.

Hillary Clinton Focuses on Drug Addiction After Learning Scale of Problem // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 1, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's carefully choreographed round-table discussions with voters don't lead to many moments of surprise. But Mrs. Clinton has seemed to have had some legitimate jolts when conversations in Iowa and New Hampshire repeatedly drifted back to drug abuse.

Mrs. Clinton called heroin and methamphetamine addiction in rural America a "quiet epidemic" and told her policy advisers in Brooklyn to put it on the list of priorities as her campaign inched closer toward presenting a specific policy platform.

As part of that effort, last week senior campaign policy advisers held Google Hangout discussions with local officials and substance abuse activists in Iowa and New Hampshire to see how the campaign could best address the problem, the first of such discussions that will take place in the early nominating states, according to the campaign.

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In the six years Mrs. Clinton has been mostly out of the discussion on domestic policies, heroin use has swept rural communities, and although aides say she was aware of problem in an abstract way, from reading policy briefings and talking to academics and advisers, her discussions with voters on the issue were particularly eye opening.

She instructed her policy team "to go beyond standard policies and really take a hard look at some of the more creative or forward-looking policy positions," said Jake Sullivan, the campaign's senior policy director.

The Google Hangouts, led by the senior policy advisers Ann O'Leary and Maya Harris, are part of that effort. Moving forward, drug addiction, according to aides, will be a central part of the "four fights" that Mrs. Clinton routinely references in her prepared remarks.

Participants in the hangouts included Candace Accord, of the Community Based Correctional Facility in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Abigail Shockley, executive director of the New Hampshire Alcohol and Other Drug Service Provider Association, among other local community leaders and elected officials.

Based on their suggestions, Mrs. Clinton is likely to propose better-financed prevention and treatment options before criminalization and better access to mental health services (an area that aides and voters have said is lacking under the Affordable Care Act). She has already called for reform to the criminal justice system and a prison system overflowing with low-level drug offenders.

Drug abuse has not been a central campaign issue since the 1980s and early 1990s, when crime was on the rise and the crack cocaine epidemic threatened American cities. Candidates, particularly Republicans, and the more centrist-minded Bill Clinton were elected by vowing to be tough on drugs. Under President Bill Clinton's administration, drug offenders received stiffer penalties under federal law.

In the 2016 election, Mrs. Clinton enters a very different situation, in which rural areas, like the ones she has visited in Iowa and New Hampshire, are seeing an increase in addiction. She is expected to present more specific policy proposals after her campaign's official kickoff event on June 13.

"We have an increasing problem that is only beginning to break through the surface so that people – I think a lot of people are thinking, well, that's somebody else's problem, that's not my problem," Mrs. Clinton has said.

It's time for the media to admit that Hillary Clinton is popular // Vox // Matthew Yglesias – June 1, 2015

Quinnipiac is out with a new poll that confirms something the national media is loathe to admit and essentially never surfaces in their coverage of one of the most-covered people in the world today: Hillary Clinton is the most popular politician in America.

It would be genuinely silly to think that her early leads in general election polling tell us anything interesting about what will happen in November 2016. But they tell us a lot about how people feel in May 2015, and the way they feel is pretty good about Hillary Clinton.

According to Gallup, for example, she is the most admired woman in the world. What's more, she has been the most admired woman in the world for 17 out of the past 18 years.

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Journalists don't like Hillary Clinton

But the press hates to admit this. For Clinton, good news is never just good news. Instead it's an opportunity to remind the public about the media's negative narratives about Clinton and then to muse on the fact that her ratings somehow manage to hold up despite these narratives.

Here's how the Wall Street Journal wrote up an earlier poll showing Clinton beating all opponents:

> Hillary Clinton's stature has been battered after more than a month of controversy over her fundraising and email practices, but support for her among Democrats remains strong and unshaken, a new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll finds.

And here's how the New York Times wrote up yet another poll showing Clinton beating all opponents:

> Hillary Rodham Clinton appears to have initially weathered a barrage of news about her use of a private email account when she was secretary of state and the practices of her family's foundation, an indication that she is starting her second presidential bid with an unusual durability among Democratic voters.

This framing is not surprising, since, among journalists, Clinton is one of the least popular politicians. She is not forthcoming or entertaining with the press. She doesn't offer good quotes. She doesn't like journalists, respect what we do, or care to hide her disdain for the media. She feels that the right-wing press has tried to destroy her for decades, that the mainstream press got played like a cheap fiddle by the conservative press, and that even the liberal press was overwhelmingly hostile to her during her 2008 campaign.

The public also hates journalists

Journalists are obviously free to dislike politicians who are uncooperative with the press, and to celebrate those who embrace a more freewheeling media-friendly style. But reporters all-too-often confused the conventional wisdom of the journo-pack with the opinions of actual voters.

The reality is that Clinton's disdain for the press is largely shared by the public, which does not think journalists are credible or contribute to society's well-being.

At the same time, most of the "bad" narratives about both Clintons that exist in the media are essentially self-centered. From an impeachment grounded in Bill's effort to keep an extra-marital affair out of the newspapers to a scandal about an email server designed to keep the contents of Hillary's messages out of the newspapers, the Clintons have continually run afoul of the press' fervent desire to know everything.

But few regular people evaluate public figures on the basis of their level of cooperation with media inquiries. Clinton's brand of cautious center-left politics and her genuine passion for trying to bring people together and make deals more-or-less reflects what the public wants from a politician.

Hillary Clinton Still Strong in Iowa Poll, Though Negative News Is a Concern // NYT // Trip Gabriel – June 1, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton continues to command a sizable lead in a poll released on Monday of Iowa Democrats,

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who will cast the first votes of the presidential nominating race early next year. At the same time, Democrats are worried that revelations about Mrs. Clinton could hurt her in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the choice of 57 percent of likely Democratic Iowa caucusgoers, followed by 16 percent for Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont and 2 percent for former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland. Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., who has shown little interest in running, received 8 percent.

The poll was conducted for The Des Moines Register and Bloomberg Politics from May 25 to 29. Mr. Sanders, who drew large crowds in the state during the end of that period, was up from 5 percent in a January survey by the same pollsters. He has inherited the support of his party's most liberal wing that once favored Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who was not included in the poll after repeatedly saying she was not a candidate.

Mr. Sanders or Mr. O'Malley, who officially entered the race on Saturday and is also carving out a lane to the left of Mrs. Clinton, seem to have room to grow: 37 percent of likely Democratic caucusgoers said their political beliefs were closer to Ms. Warren's than Mrs. Clinton's.

Support for Mrs. Clinton stayed steady since the earlier Iowa poll in January. It showed no softening despite the continuing spate of negative news accounts of foreign donations to her family foundation while she was secretary of state, her use of a private email account in office, and a Republican-led investigation of her handling of the attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

But 66 percent of Democrats said that at least one of those issues will hurt Mrs. Clinton in the general election if she is the nominee.

Here's the best news for Hillary Clinton in that new Iowa poll // WaPo// Chris Cillizza – June 1, 2015

It's not been a very good last month for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. She's been dogged by questions regarding donations made to the Clinton Foundation, bad publicity surrounding the release of her State Department e-mails and a continued unwillingness to engage the media.

Doesn't matter! That's according to a new Des Moines Register/Bloomberg poll of Iowa Democratic caucus-goers, who in large majorities believe the Clintons are getting a raw deal in all of this. Seven in ten respondents (71 percent) said that regarding the "controversies surrounding Bill and Hillary Clinton," the couple is getting a "bad rap." Just 14 percent said the controversies were indicative of a "pattern of unethical behavior" by the former first couple.

Yes, these are Democrats. And Iowa Democrats, as we've learned over the past decade or so, are on the liberal side of the ledger. So if anyone was going to rally to Clinton's side against the perceived attacks of Republicans and the mainstream media, it's true believers like the ones tested in the DMR poll.

Still, the fact that there is a widespread belief that things like the private e-mail server or the donors to the Clinton Foundation are trumped up is extremely good news for Clinton.

The key for Clinton — in both the primary and, to a certain extent, the general election — is to rally Democrats, especially liberal Democrats, to her cause. In the early days of her presidential campaign, she has staked out decidedly liberal positions on hot-button issues like immigration and income inequality. But oftentimes, the best way to convince people you are one of them is to come under attack from enemies of those people. (Enemy of my enemy and all that.) And Republicans and, increasingly, the media, are very much enemies in the eyes of dyed-in-the-wool liberals.

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If liberals — like those in Iowa — continue to see stories about the e-mail server and the Clinton Foundation as part of a broader witch hunt against Clinton being organized by her political enemies and reporters with an ax to grind, that's a best-case scenario for the former secretary of state. Why? Because with every report on her e-mails or her donors, it affirms the sense within her liberal base that she's being unfairly maligned. The more the merrier, from Clinton's point of view.

The alternate reality is that these scads of stories raise doubts about Clinton's ability to win next November and, as a result, people begin to shop for a different candidate. While there is some evidence that Democratic voters are slightly worried about that possibility (four in ten Democrats in the DMR poll say that keeping a private e-mail server will hurt Clinton in the general election), they remain largely united behind her.

The more Clinton can turn the negative storylines around her into an "us versus them" (no matter who the "them" really entails) conversation, the better for her chances.

Meet the woman behind Hillary Clinton's Twitter account // Fortune // Nina Easton – June 1, 2015

Katie Dowd is the campaign's digital director, in charge of putting the swagger in Clinton's Twitter–not to mention Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr and all the rest.

With many of the power players from Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential run are sitting this one out, the big question is: Who's in?

What follows is the latest installment of a Fortune series looking at the the most influential women on Clinton's 2016 team. When this series wraps, we'll turn our attention to the most powerful women on the GOP side of the race.

Katie Dowd may be in charge of the Clinton campaign's digital strategy, but she's not all about pixels. Indeed, Dowd is a self-described "people geek"—a sociology major drawn to politics because she's interested in understanding what makes people tick. After graduating from Illinois' Wittenberg University, she headed to D.C. and wound up working for a direct mail firm, learning old-style political persuasion that would later become useful in the exploding universe of social media. She worked at the two organizations charged with electing Democratic members of Congress—the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Most recently, Dowd worked on a State Department project called TechCamp, which helped civil society groups around the globe harness web tools for social action. A prime example: The Lithuanian activist who wanted to make the buildings in his town wheelchair accessible. Through TechCamp, he was able to use Google Maps to "tag" buildings and prove to authorities that physically disabled residents were being excluded. Before this project, Dowd worked on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) issues as senior adviser to the chief technology officer at the White House.

When Dowd started out in political campaigns a decade ago, early engagement with voters was mostly an exercise in fund-raising; operatives viewed the Internet as an ATM machine. That has changed dramatically. Now, engaging voters online means a lot more than asking them to write checks. On the Democratic side, the presidential campaigns of Howard Dean and John Kerry set the bar for using the web to create a grassroots network of passionate voters–a trend that Obama all but perfected in 2008. When Dowd was part of the 2008 Clinton campaign, the team experimented with new digital techniques, like enabling volunteers to make internet calls to fellow voters from their own homes.

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This time around it's a far bigger, more complicated ball game. Dowd and her staff (likely to grow to 150) will have to manage a range platforms, from Twitter and FaceBook to Instagram, Tumblr, Pintrest—and likely other emerging networks we haven't even heard of yet. "We have to think about where the audiences are," says Dowd. Real-time video platforms like Meerkat and Periscope will change how campaigns operate. In the 2016 race, says Dowd, the focus will be on "letting people feel like they are part of the real-time movement of a campaign."

And of course, there is the low-tech, but essential challenge: How to give voters a lasting personal connection to Hillary connection. Already, Dowd has helped craft the candidate's famous Twitter bio: Wife, mom, grandma, women+kids advocate, FLOTUS, Senator, SecState, hair icon, pantsuit aficionado, 2016 presidential candidate.

What's her next move? Keep an eye on your screens.

Hillary Clinton camp seeks to both raise and lower expectations // WaPo // Anne Gearan – June 1, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign spokesman on Monday sought to raise and lower expectations at the same time, announcing a New York City venue for her first big rally while also suggesting that she does not expect to break 50 percent in the early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

The dueling messages reflect the Democratic front-runner's desire not to be seen as an inevitable nominee — a posture that hurt her during her failed run in 2008 — while also ramping up excitement at the prospect of the nation's first female president.

At her first major rally, to be held June 13 on New York's Roosevelt Island, Clinton will lay out the main principles of her campaign. The rally will be followed in the subsequent week by a blitz of the four first primary states, according to spokesman Jesse Ferguson.

"Her speech will lay out her view of the challenges facing this country and her vision and ideas for moving the country forward," Ferguson said.

The rally on Roosevelt Island marks a shift away from a deliberately low-key rollout intended to take the edge off what both Democrats and Republicans had regarded as a steamroller to the 2016 nomination. The event will also include the first campaign appearances by her husband, former president Bill Clinton, and their daughter, Chelsea Clinton.

The choice of Roosevelt Island is a nod both to Hillary Clinton's adopted home state of New York and her longtime admiration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt-style government and ideals. She has often invoked the Depression-era president in speeches, and she cites Eleanor Roosevelt as a role model for her own public service.

In a memo Monday, Ferguson noted that no Democratic candidates have surpassed 50 percent in the Iowa caucuses unless they were a sitting president, vice president or Iowa senator; similarly, he wrote, no Democrat has received more than half the vote in a contested primary in New Hampshire.

Clinton will travel to Iowa immediately after the New York rally for a meeting with organizers that night. Her address to that meeting will be simulcast to similar meetings across the country, the campaign said.

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Clinton will campaign in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada that week.

She is expected to do her first media interviews about the same time. Clinton has briefly responded to some questions from reporters traveling with her since the campaign's launch but has held no formal news conference.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement that Clinton should answer questions about foreign donations to her family's foundation and her use of a private e-mail server while she was secretary of state.

"After dodging questions for months, she should take this opportunity to finally come clean and discuss the issues important to everyday Americans," Priebus said.

Clinton campaign emails Ready for Hillary list // Capital NY – June 1, 2015

The Clinton campaign has sent its first email to the Ready for Hillary supporter list after obtaining access to it last week.

Politico reported Saturday that the campaign obtained the list of almost four million contacts through a swap with another independent group a Democratic source would not identify.

Capital reported in April that Emily's List, which took over Ready for Hillary's social media accounts, had begun emailing the Ready for Hillary list in March. It has continued to do so through May.

Politico reported Saturday that the campaign has not had access to the Ready for Hillary list in the first six weeks of its campaign as lawyers were working out what the best option would be for the campaign to receive access to the independent super PAC's list. Until now, Politico reported, in addition to signing up its own supporters, campaign staffers were working with a list of old 2008-era supporters that was often unproductive.

As Politico noted, Ready for Hillary had also sent out several e-mails after the Clinton campaign's official launch urging supporters to sign up.

In the email Sunday, with the subject line"Ready for your free sticker?," Robby Mook, campaign manager for the Clinton campaign, writes that "You and I have something in common: We've both been ready for Hillary for a long time." The email urges recipients to provide a mailing address to receive a bumper sticker.

Watchdog accuses Clinton campaign of illegally obtaining email list from super PAC // Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood – June 1, 2015

A watchdog group is asking the Federal Election Commission to review whether Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign legally obtained a massive email list from a political action committee associated with the candidate.

The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust pressed the FEC Monday on how the Clinton campaign was able to "swap" unknown items for a collection of nearly 4 million supporters' email addresses that had been compiled by the Ready for Hillary super PAC.

"Federal law explicitly prohibits a candidate from coordinating with and accepting donations, including an in-kind donation of a mailing list, from a super PAC," wrote Matthew Whitaker, FACT's executive director, in a letter

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Monday supplementing a complaint filed in April.

The original FEC complaint alleged Clinton had used Ready for Hillary to vacuum up supporter information and contributions in a manner befitting a full-fledge campaign long before announcing her candidacy.

Whitaker cited a Saturday report from Politico that suggested the Clinton campaign had "gained entry to the independent super PAC's list through a swap with another independent group," although Politico did not name the third group involved in the transfer.

A spokesman for the Clinton campaign declined to comment on the swap.

Larry Noble, senior counsel at the Campaign Legal Center, said the debate over whether the transaction was legal boils down to the "fair market value" of Ready for Hillary's email list.

"It would be considered an illegal in-kind contribution to the campaign if the campaign did not pay, in monetary or list-swap terms, what the fair market value is for the list that it's getting," Noble said.

The FEC would be the ultimate arbiter of the fair market value if a question was raised, he noted.

"I think we're going to run into an issue here because, as far as I know, the campaign hasn't identified the groups involved and until we know more about that, there are going to be a lot of serious questions raised," Noble said. "The concern is that the Clinton campaign is getting a list of tremendous value and paying little or nothing for it."

Whitaker said his group had long suspected Ready for Hillary was preparing to transfer the email list to Clinton's campaign.

"If the campaign swapped lists with the super PAC, what value would a list have to a closing super PAC?" Whitaker said. "Right now, we do not know who the Clinton campaign swapped lists with or how, if not the super PAC, that group got the lists."

Ready for Hillary reportedly began to shutter its operations in April.

The super PAC survived an FEC review earlier this year after an anti-Clinton group complained about Ready for Hillary's decision to rent an email list from the candidate-in-waiting's prior Senate race.

The commission had an "insufficient number of votes" to find the super PAC in violation of a number of campaign laws and dismissed outright several other allegations, including that Ready for Hillary had sent an email to supporters in January 2014 that was authorized by Clinton herself.

Hillary Clinton to Rally in New York, Then Tour Early Voting States // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 1, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton will hold the first major rally of her presidential campaign on June 13 on Roosevelt Island in New York City, before embarking on a five-day swing through the four states with the earliest Democratic nominating contests, her campaign said on Monday.

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In a midday speech at Four Freedoms Park — a memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt, for whom the East River island is named — Mrs. Clinton will sketch out her view of the problems facing the nation and her "vision and ideas" for how to move the country forward, a top spokesman, Jesse Ferguson, said in an email to reporters that also noted Mrs. Clinton's admiration for both F.D.R. and Eleanor Roosevelt.

From New York, she will travel to Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

In the email, Mr. Ferguson also sought to lower expectations for Mrs. Clinton in Iowa and New Hampshire. He noted that no Democratic candidate had won more than 50 percent of the Iowa caucus who was not a sitting president, vice president or Iowa senator; and that no Democrat had received more than 50 percent of the vote in a contested New Hampshire primary in the last 25 years.

For Clinton, a big rally on a small island // Reuters // Jonathan Allen – June 1, 2015

NEW YORK – Hillary Clinton will hold her first large rally of her campaign this month on Roosevelt Island, the little slip of land in New York's East River best known as the site of the former New York City Lunatic Asylum. According to an email from her campaign, the June 13 rally will be held in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, which belatedly opened in 2012, four decades after architect Louis Kahn first began designing the memorial to the former president.

Clinton can count on an impressive backdrop of the skyscrapers of Midtown Manhattan as she gives what her campaign says will be her fullest explanation yet of why she should be elected president next year. How a crowd of thousands might reach the island is less clear at this point – it has a single subway station that rarely deals with large crowds, and a tram car system, memorably featured in the climactic battle scene in the 2002 "Spider-Man" film, that can deliver about 100 people to the island at a time. There is also a small bridge connecting the mostly car-free island to the borough of Queens.

Clinton, who moved to New York in 1999 ahead of a successful run to become a Democratic U.S. senator for the state, picked the park in part because she said she was inspired by Roosevelt's presidency and considered his wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, a role model, according to the announcement email. When she last ran for president in 2007, she held her first rally at school gym in Des Moines, Iowa, a few days after her initial announcement. This time around, Clinton has been an announced candidate for about seven weeks, but has only held small events with little or no access for the general public.

The hospitals and prisons that once made the island infamous have long been replaced by small clusters of middle-class housing, popular with people who work at the United Nations headquarters just across the water. Although Clinton is yet to discuss much in the way of specific policies, she has said she is concerned both about reducing the number of people the U.S. sends to prison and making it easier for people with mental health problems to get treatment. Given the setting of her rally, Clinton may be tempted to invoke the work of Nellie Bly, the celebrated journalist whose 1887 book "Ten Days in a Mad-House", written after she feigned insanity and got herself committed, caused outrage for exposing the abusive treatment of mentally ill inmates on the island.

Hillary Clinton: First stop is New York City's Welfare Island // Washington Times // S. A. Miller – June 1, 2015

Attempting to draw a connection with a liberal hero, Hillary Rodham Clinton arranged for her first big campaign rally to take place this month in New York City's Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park — a landmark previously known as Welfare Island.

The Clinton campaign stressed the Roosevelt connection rather than the welfare moniker that until 1973 was the name for the narrow island in New York's East River, campaign officials said.

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They said the location will showcase her ties to the city as a former senator from New York, who also put her campaign headquarters in Brooklyn, and reflect how her life's work was inspired by former President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Memories of Welfare Island, which was named after the City Hospital located there, are not the location's only drawbacks. It also put Mrs. Clinton conspicuously close to the Wall Street banks with which liberal activist already say she is too cozy.

Still, the June 13 rally will mark the official kickoff of Mrs. Clinton's campaign and will be followed by a six-day whirlwind tour through the first four early voting states: Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

The former first lady, senator and secretary of state announced her White House bid in April, but she limited her campaign stops to small events and roundtable discussions, a sort of listening tour to ease her into the campaign and help her get to know the voters that she referred to as "everyday Americans."

The campaign announced the date of the big rally Friday but kept the location secret until Monday.

In her speech, Mrs. Clinton will lay out her view of the challenges facing this country and her vision and ideas for moving the country forward, the official said.

She'll also describe how her lifelong commitment to working on behalf of children and families took her from Illinois, where she grew up, through Arkansas and Washington, D.C., to New York were she was elected as the state's first female senator.

With a nod to the city, the park and the island named after her hero, Mrs. Clinton will tell the crowd how her work championing the needy followed in the tradition of Mr. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt, the campaign official said.

Hillary Clinton to launch campaign from one of New York's least-accessible public places // Washington Post //Philip Bump – June 1, 2015

There is only one island in New York City harder to get to than Roosevelt Island, where Hillary Clinton will hold her campaign kickoff later this month. That island is Riker's Island.

I'm not the type to go looking for metaphors in things! I am not that type! I am merely here to offer insights as a New Yorker-American into the ins and outs of New York life. Including the details of Roosevelt Island.

First of all: Roosevelt Island is a cool place to visit. It use to house a smallpox quarantine center at its southern end, which is still in the process of being restored (after partially collapsing a few years back). It's got a bunch of new housing and a spectacularly painted public pool. But it is about as inconvenient a place to get to in New York as is conceivable.

There are three ways onto the island.

By car: The red line shows the one route onto the island by car. You have to get to Queens and make your way

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through back streets in an industrial area to do so. The Queensboro Bridge (or whatever it is called now that New Yorkers ignore) passes over the island, but has no outlets onto it. (It would be hard to do so, given how high the bridge is.)

What's left, then, is that little scroungy two-lane bridge from Queens, limiting how many people can get across it. But most people don't.

By train: Instead, they usually use the subway (the black line). Now, here is a secret about taking the subway to Roosevelt Island: It is terrible.

In order to get under the East River, the train tunnel is very deep underground, meaning you have to take about six escalators up to get to the surface. Maybe more, I haven't counted. I tried to take the stairs once, instead, and actually almost passed out. I'm not an athlete. But still.

By tram: The cool way to get to the island, the way that's mentioned inHollywood Movies, is to take the newly refurbished tram, seen here in blue.

It holds maybe 20 people at a time and takes probably 10 minutes. It's beautiful! I recommend it to visitors. However, it is not mass transit in the sense of accommodating masses of people for rapid transit.

I am not the type to find metaphors in things, as I said. I am just reporting that the Hillary Clinton campaign is launching from one of the least accessible parts of New York City. That is all I am doing here in this article. Nothing

Hillary Clinton's "Grassroots Campaign" Sets $1,000 Minimum for a Conversation // Firstlook // Lee Fang – June 1, 2015

An Intercept reader forwarded me the following invitation from Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, asking him to join the candidate for a series of events in Massachusetts. To take part in a "Conversation with Hillary" at a home in Chestnut Hill on June 10th, three days before the Clinton campaign's official launch in New York, attendees are asked to pay $2,700 per person. For the "Conversation with Hillary" earlier that day in Boston, a "Friend" of the campaign can attend for as little s $1,000.

The private events are described in the invitation as part of Clinton's "grassroots campaign."

The Clinton campaign website lists other upcoming fundraisers, including one on June 17th with McGuireWoods, a lobbying firm that represents ExxonMobil, the Washington Redskins, and America's Natural Gas Alliance, a trade group for fracking companies.

Hedge Fund Giant Tells Hillary Clinton to Cut the 'Crap' // Bloomberg // David Knowles – June 1, 2015

In the early days of Hillary Clinton's latest presidential campaign, hedge fund managers have taken it on the chin.

"There's something wrong when hedge fund managers pay lower tax rates than nurses or the truckers that I saw on

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I-80 as I was driving here over the last two days," Clinton declared in mid-April as she campaigned in Iowa.

"People aren't getting a fair shake. Something is wrong when CEOs earn more than 300 times than what the typical American worker earns and when hedge fund managers pay a lower tax rate than truck drivers or nurses," she repeated a month later when she returned to the state.

"I don't need anybody crapping all over what I do for a living."

Leon Cooperman

Now, one such manager is firing back.

"I don't need anybody crapping all over what I do for a living," Leon Cooperman, the billionaire founder of the Omega Advisors hedge fund told CNN on Monday, adding that she 'hangs out with all these people in Martha's Vineyard and in the Hamptons and then the very first thing she has to say is to criticize hedge funds."

Cooperman says he and other maligned hedge fund managers have given millions of dollars back to society in the form of donations to universities, charitable organizations, and cultural institutions.

"I have nothing to apologize for. I've made a lot of money. I'm giving it all back to society," he said.

Clinton's populist critique of hedge fund manager tax rates has also come under scrutiny for its accuracy.

"Her broad-brush assertion does not hold up to scrutiny, even when the talking point is uttered correctly," the Washington Post's Glenn Kessler wrote in May. "Overall, even hedge fund managers pay higher taxes—and tax rates—than middle-class Americans."

The Tampa Bay Times' Politifact concurred.

"She is certainly wrong for dollar amounts, which is what her statement was about. If she meant to say tax rates, that's more complicated, and the data doesn't clearly back up the point. Here, we're looking at just taxes paid, so we rate her claim False," Louis Jacobson wrote.

Clinton's own son-in-law, Marc Mezvinsky is a founding hedge fund manager for Eaglevale Partners, LP, and her ties to Wall Street have provided ammunition to rivals like Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley. On Sunday, O'Malley renewed that criticism by noting that Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein allegedly said that he would be happy if either Clinton or Jeb Bush was elected president in 2016.

Blankfein is an investor with Eaglevale Partners, which Mezvinsky started with his former Goldman Sachs colleagues Bennett Grau and Mark Mallon.

Journalists Meet To Discuss Frustration With Clinton Campaign's Control Over Access And Information // HuffPo // Michael Calderone – June 1, 2015

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NEW YORK -- Journalists covering Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign met for nearly two hours in Washington on Monday to discuss concerns about what they believe is inadequate access to cover the Democratic front-runner, according to people who attended.

The grievances discussed at the private gathering, which was held at the Los Angeles Times/Tribune Washington offices, go beyond Clinton's unwillingness so far to substantively engage with the press, a topic that has already been discussed publicly on cable news and social media. Attendees of the meeting, who were not authorized by their news organizations to speak on the record, charge the Clinton campaign with keeping an excessively tight grip on information, even when it comes to logistical details that don't seem particularly sensitive or revelatory.

Among the problems discussed were the campaign's failure to provide adequate notice prior to events, the lack of a clear standard for whether fundraisers are open or closed press and the reflexive tendency to opt to speak anonymously. The complaints mirror concerns that a number of political journalists have also raised in recent conversations with The Huffington Post.

While the White House Correspondents' Association has worked for greater media access for over a century and elects representatives to present the group's concerns to the administration, there isn't any comparable, established body working on behalf of the campaign press. Monday's meeting, which included about 17 journalists from outlets such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, Politico, Time and McClatchy, was an attempt not only to discuss such concerns, but eventually to present them to the campaign in a unified way.

Attendees discussed the feeling that the campaign hasn't provided enough notice for events, resulting in logistical difficulties for those trying to cover them. It's still too early in the election cycle for the campaign to be chartering the flights and buses that news organizations, at the cost of thousands of dollars, can sign up for to follow the candidate from stop to stop. For now, reporters are booking commercial flights to reach Clinton's events, and networks need to make sure satellite trucks and camera equipment make it there on time. The group discussed urging the Clinton campaign to provide information outlining the upcoming week so they can plan accordingly.

Another concern raised, according to attendees, was that the campaign had initially said that fundraisers of more than 100 people would be open to the press through a pool system. Under this arrangement, certain reporters are designated to cover events that cannot accommodate large numbers of journalists, and those reporters then provide information to the larger press corps. But recent Clinton fundraisers have been closed press.

Meeting attendees also expressed dissatisfaction with the ground rules established for a Thursday briefing at the campaign's Brooklyn headquarters that was attended by dozens of news outlets, including The Huffington Post.

CNBC's John Harwood wrote Friday that reporters who attended the briefing were not allowed to quote top campaign officials directly, even when it came to information that appeared to be basic talking points. Harwood noted that he could not show readers what campaign staffers' desks looked like because "the post-briefing tour was deemed off-the-record." (A week earlier, the Nashua Telegraph, a New Hampshire newspaper, similarly mocked the Clinton campaign for holding a conference call in which mundane information was provided under ground rules that those speaking should not be quoted.)

Coincidentally, Monday's meeting wrapped up just before the campaign sent a mass email to journalists with details of an upcoming event. The campaign said the details could only be attributed to a "campaign official," which prompted New York Times reporter Adam Nagourney to out the sender on Twitter. Such rules for anonymity, Nagourney noted, are not done unilaterally but established between two parties. He also pointed out that the information itself didn't "rise to [the] level" of requiring anonymity.

There was a general consensus at Monday's meeting that the ground rules for the Thursday headquarters briefing were unacceptable. Attendees say they expected that the group will urge the campaign to agree that similar briefings need to be on the record in the future.

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When asked about the reporters' complaints and how the campaign is reacting, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill responded in an email to HuffPost.

“I’d say two things,” he wrote. “First, we want a happy press corps as much as the press corps does. Not in an effort to obtain favorable coverage, but because we're decent humans who want people to be able to plan their lives. It's a long campaign, and we are going to do our best to find equilibrium. Griping on background is not a constructive solution though, and I can't help but point out the irony here."

The group also discussed its system for disseminating pool reports, which The Washington Post criticized Friday for turning some reporters "into second-class journalists in the hunt for Clinton info.”

The pool system, established at the urging of the Clinton campaign but run by campaign reporters, places journalists on a rotation and disseminates reports in real-time to fourteen news organizations. Those organizations, which do not bear the costs of being in the pool, receive the reports at the end of the day.

Though the Post put forth the idea of the system creating two classes of reporters, attendees at Monday’s meeting stressed that the system allows for wider dissemination of traveling pool reports than was possible during Mitt Romney's campaign four years ago. At that time, only reporters physically present for Romney campaign trips received pool reports, and there was no wider dissemination to news organizations not in the rotation.

New York Times reporter blows up Clinton campaign’s ‘background’ e-mail // WaPo // Erik Wemple –June 1, 2015

Adam Nagourney is the Los Angeles bureau chief for the New York Times. Though he’s the paper’s former chief political reporter, he’s not currently assigned to cover the campaign of Democratic 2016 hopeful Hillary Rodham Clinton. But he receives the campaign’s e-mails.

And tweets about them:

That tweet was an apparent reference to a June 1 e-mail from the Clinton campaign that included this data point: “In Iowa, no Democratic candidate for president has ever received more than 50% of the caucus vote unless they were a sitting President or Vice-President, or incumbent Iowa Senator.” More Nagourney:

As Nagourney noted, the e-mail addressed Clinton’s June 13 campaign kickoff speech at Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park in New York City. The e-mail instructed recipients to attribute its contents to a “Clinton campaign official.” Those contents were pedestrian and, in some cases, Wikipedia-style pedestrian. For example:

> Hillary Clinton grew up in Illinois, and her career spent working on behalf of children and families has taken her from Massachusetts to Washington, D.C., Arkansas to New York. But it was the voters of New York who elected her to serve as their first female senator.

Now let’s attribute that snippet in accordance with the rules of the e-mail:

> Hillary Clinton grew up in Illinois, said a Clinton campaign official in an e-mail sent to reporters, and her career spent working on behalf of children and families has taken her from Massachusetts to Washington, D.C., Arkansas to New York. But it was the voters of New York who elected her to serve as their first female

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senator, noted the campaign official.

In a chat with the Erik Wemple Blog, Nagourney said, “Reporters negotiate the terms of information with sources….you can’t go preemptively.” He called the information in the e-mail “anodyne stuff.” “It’s like give me a break,” he says. Nagourney isn’t writing a piece on Clinton’s campaign launch, nor has he heard any complaint from the Clinton people about his tweets. The Twitter commentary from Nagourney, furthermore, lands on a heap of other backlash pieces against the Clinton campaign team for generally worthless press briefings.

And Nagourney has some experience torpedoing background e-mails. Way back in December 2003, Nagourney did a story on how the capture of Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein would affect the then-incipient race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Around that time, Howard Dean was viewed as a threat to vanquish his rivals, who included eventual nominee Sen. John Kerry. Nagourney wrote:

> The strains this created were evident on Sunday. Mr. Kerry’s press secretary, Stephanie Cutter, sent an e-mail message to news organizations listing remarks Dr. Dean had made over the past six months that she said demonstrated that his opposition to the war was ”politically driven.”
>
> But Ms. Cutter, reflecting the concern among the campaigns that they not be viewed as turning a foreign policy victory to political advantage, put a note on the top of the statement demanding that it be reported as ”background” and attributed only to a Democratic campaign.

“She was upset,” Nagourney recalls, when asked how Cutter reacted to the outing. Cutter told the Erik Wemple Blog via e-mail, “[B]ackground has to be agreed to, not assumed.”

Of course, there’s a problem when reporters gripe about the “background” tendencies of campaigns and Cabinet officials and White House officials and so on. That problem is that media execs also run away from on-the-record accountability whenever possible.

Hillary Clinton coming back to S.C. // The State – June 1, 2015

Hillary Clinton will return to South Carolina on June 17 in what will be the 2016 Democratic presidential frontrunner’s second trip to the Palmetto State in three weeks.

Details were not announced.

Her latest trip will come after Clinton formally launches her campaign in New York on June 13. She also will visit other early-primary states: Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada .

The former Secretary of State visited Columbia on Wednesday in her first visit to South Carolina since she ran for president in 2008.

Clinton’s South Carolina campaign is holding an open house with community leaders at its Columbia office on Tuesday.

Secret effort to sell Hillary Clinton to rich liberals // Politico // KENNETH P. VOGEL – June 2, 2015

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Winning over such donors is seen as critical to Clinton's White House

prospects.

Hillary Clinton's allies are working to win over unenthusiastic rich liberals by pitting her against the Koch brothers and prospective GOP rivals rather than more progressive Democrats, according to a draft of a secret memo obtained by POLITICO.

The memo was prepared for Clinton enforcer David Brock ahead of an April major donor meeting in San Francisco. But the concerns it reveals about liberal donors' coolness toward her presidential candidacy – with some even holding out hope for a robust primary challenge from the left – are just as acute today, Clinton allies say.

Winning over such donors is seen as critical to Clinton's White House prospects.

The Clinton forces are counting on a constellation of allied outside groups to raise as much as $500 million to take on a Republican big-money machine that has been raking in cash from dozens of super-rich and highly engaged partisans. By contrast, the main super PAC supporting Clinton, Priorities USA Action, has struggled to collect million-dollar checks.

Part of the reticence stems from liberal queasiness about the expanding role of big money in politics since the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision. But there's also some discomfort with Hillary Clinton, the former New York Senator and Secretary of State, who is seen as too hawkish on foreign policy and insufficiently progressive on key issues like fighting climate change, income inequality and the role of big money in politics. Additionally, Democratic finance operatives say, efforts to rustle up seven-figure checks are suffering from a lack of a single, unifying enemy on the right.

All those concerns are addressed in the Brock memo, which appears to have been drafted in preparation for his appearance at the annual spring meeting of the Democracy Alliance major liberal donor club in April in San Francisco. The memo is written as a question-and-answer exchange between Brock and Democracy Alliance donors .

The memo suggests that Brock, who has built a fleet of deep-pocketed groups aligned with Clinton, is taking a conciliatory approach to assuage donors' concerns – conceding she's not as liberal as some donors wish, but emphasizing her progessiveness in public service and minimizing the prospects of a vigorous Democratic primary.

"You say the Kochs represent all that is bad in this broken system, yet our presumptive nominee is in the pocket of big Wall Street banks," begins one of the memo's hypothetical donor questions. "Aren't we going to have a hard time going after the Kochs' big money when some could argue that Sec. Clinton is bank rolled by Wall Street and therefore there is a pox on both our houses?"

The answer Brock should give, according to the memo: "It is no secret that Sec. Clinton is fair-left and not far-left. I think it is safe to say that there will be a dramatic difference between Sec. Clinton and whoever is the Republican opponent. She has spent a lifetime advocating for women and children and fighting for the middle class and there is not one GOP candidate who has that record."

Brock did not dispute the authenticity of the memo, which leaves a pair of questions about the internal politics of the Clinton big-money effort unanswered. But he declined to comment on the memo, or whether it reflected his fundraising approach or his presentation at the Democracy Alliance, which was closed to the press.

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The three-day meeting of the Democracy Alliance — a group that includes more than 100 individual and institutional donors and various unions — took place at San Francisco's Four Seasons Hotel just as Clinton officially launched her campaign.

While some of the group's major donors — including billionaires George Soros and Tom Steyer — have displayed varying levels of support for Clinton, others have grumbled mostly privately that she doesn't reflect their worldviews. Many Democracy Alliance members supported then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama over Clinton in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary and urged Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run in 2016.

The group's importance to Democratic big-money efforts was underscored by the attendance of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, who held a briefing on the sidelines of the San Francisco meeting. Podesta founded the Center for American Progress think tank, which has benefited from Democracy Alliance support, and he has close relationships with many club members. At least one – CREDO Mobile co-founder Michael Kieschnick – told Podesta during the side session that his campaign role made Kieschnick more supportive of Clinton.

Another donor who attended, Utah-based investor Art Lipson, told POLITICO that Podesta didn't overtly seek support for Clinton's campaign. "First of all, that would have gone over badly. And he is much too smart to say it and doesn't need to say it," said Lipson, who has donated about $2.5 million over the years to Democratic candidates and committees.

Lipson said he recently donated to a super PAC trying to draft Warren into the Democratic presidential primary. In an assessment that could apply to many Democracy Alliance members, he said "her message is exactly my message, so I am 100 percent behind her. But there is no chance she is going to run." Lipson plans to attend a fundraiser this month in Salt Lake City for Martin O'Malley's Democratic presidential campaign and said the former Maryland governor "comes across as being highly intelligent."

Lipson said he's "fine with Hillary" given "that it would take some sort of a national disaster to have some other Democratic candidate" win the nomination. But he said that, while he'll vote for her over prospective Republican rivals, he does not plan to donate to her campaign, let alone any supportive super PAC..

Brock has sought to rally donors who might not otherwise give to Clinton by highlighting expected attacks against her from the most reviled of liberal bogeymen – the billionaire industrialist mega-donors Charles and David Koch and their conservative political and policy network.

"They have their sights on Sec. Clinton," reads the memo prepared for Brock ahead of the meeting.

He spoke on a panel called "The Electoral Arms Race," focused on the unprecedented $889-million spending spree planned by the Koch network in the 2016 run-up, according to an agenda obtained by POLITICO.

At the meeting, sources say, Brock detailed a new initiative of his American Bridge political outfit to highlight key 2016 states in which Koch Industries, the brothers' multinational manufacturing conglomerate, could be used against GOP candidates. The model for this project, the sources said, were the attacks that Democrat Gary Peters and his allies leveled against the Kochs and Republican Terri Lynn Land in his successful 2014 Michigan Senate race.

"This is a brand new project and we project it will cost around $3 million," reads Brock's memo. "We think it is critical to start the project early and we are looking for support to get staffed up very soon. We are hoping to get immediate support coming in at the $250,000 level."

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The memo also includes responses to questions about how liberals could justify their criticism of the Koch groups for not disclosing their donors when some of Brock's groups – including Media Matters and American Bridge 21st Century Foundation – also do not disclose the identities of their donors.

"How can we stand up here and expect to be taken seriously talking about what they are doing when we are doing the same thing?" reads one question. In the suggested answer, Brock expresses disapproval for the proliferation of so-called "dark money," which Clinton herself has criticized, but adds, "We will play by the existing rules in this election because we cannot unilaterally disarm – too much of what we care about is at stake." And he asserts: "There is a major difference here – the Kochs are flooding the political system with money for pure self interest and self gain," alleging Koch-backed groups back policies and candidates committed to "slash(ing) government regulations so they can pollute with abandon and increase their bottom line. People in this room are not motivated by personal gain, and often work against their own self-interest."

The Kochs' allies reject this argument on its face, contending that their activism is motivated by a belief that society as a whole stands to benefit from small-government policies that allow the free market to thrive.

Told of the characterization in the memo, James Davis, a spokesman for the Koch network umbrella group Freedom Partners, said its members are focused on "advancing a future with more economic opportunities for every American."

Davis accused the Kochs' liberal critics of "launching personal attacks and taking away those freedoms." And, alluding to support by Democrats including Clinton for reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank, which Freedom Partners opposes, Davis said "many of them are rigging the system to fatten their wallets with taxpayer-funded corporate welfare. This is the culture of corruption in Washington that we're fighting against."

Hillary Clinton Returning to L.A. for June 19 Fundraising Swing // Variety // Ted Johnson – June 1, 2015

Hillary Clinton is returning to Los Angeles on June 19 for a fundraising swing that includes an event at the home of HBO's Michael Lombardo and husband Sonny Ward, sources said.

The event will be a day after President Obama treks to L.A. for a fundraiser at the home of Tyler Perry. That event will raise money for the Democratic National Committee.

Other events are expected on her L.A. schedule.

Clinton's visit to L.A. will be her second since announcing her presidential bid in April. In May, she raised money at three different events, including one at the home of Steven Bochco and another at the home of Haim Saban.

The $2,500-per-person event at the home of Lombardo and Ward is aimed in part at LGBT donors. The couple hosted a DNC fundraiser at their home last year with guest First Lady Michelle Obama.

Clinton will officially announce her campaign on June 13, with a speech in New York at Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, followed by treks to Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

Tobey Maguire among Hollywood players hosting Hillary Clinton in June L.A. swing // WaPo // Matea Gold – June 2, 2015

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LOS ANGELES — Actor Tobey Maguire is among the Hollywood players who will host Democratic presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton later this month when she makes her second fundraising swing through Los Angeles.

Maguire, star of the “Spiderman” franchise, and his wife Jennifer are opening their home for one of two “conversations” with Clinton on June 19 that benefit her presidential campaign, according to an invitation obtained by The Washington Post. A similar event earlier in the evening is being held at the home of HBO executive Michael Lombardo and his husband Sonny Ward, who were top fundraisers for President Obama.

Tickets for both events cost $2,700, the maximum allowed donation to Clinton’s campaign. Co-hosts are asked to raise $27,000 and hosts are asked to bring in $50,000.

Clinton was just in Los Angeles May 7, when she headlined three fundraisers hosted by figures such as “NYPD Blue” producer Steven Bocho, “Homeland’s” Howard Gordon and billionaire media mogul Haim Saban. Those events together drew more than 800 people, generating at least $2.2 million for her campaign.

Clinton supporters target Vermont // Burlington Free Press // April Burbank – June 1, 2015

Presidential candidate and former Hillary Clinton's campaign surely can woo Vermonters away from their independent senator in a Democratic primary, supporters of the former U.S. secretary of state agreed at a campaign gathering in Burlington.

A group of several dozen people brainstormed ideas Monday: Emphasize her gender and the historic nature of a potential presidency. Underscore her experience. Appeal to Vermonters' pragmatic side. Stock house parties with Vermont beer.

And, perhaps above all, stay on friendly but noncommittal terms with a rival, Vermont's "almost native son," Bernie Sanders, the independent senator seeking the Democratic nomination.

Nearly everyone at the organizing event mentioned Sanders as a point of comparison.

"The slogan should be, 'Cheer for Bernie. Vote for Hillary,' " said Beach Conger of Burlington.

To the extent the strategy works in Vermont, Democrats suggested they'd drive across the river to stump for Clinton in the more influential New Hampshire primary.

"We all know that Vermont's primary somehow seems never to make or break presidential politics," said Gov. Peter Shumlin, who spoke at the organizing meeting at Main Street Landing on a rainy Monday evening. "Let's be honest about this. But let's also remember that to our east is a state with great people where they seem to have a great impact on the outcome of presidential primaries."

Vermont is among the 12 states holding a primary on Super Tuesday, March 1.

The state's Democratic establishment has lined up largely behind Clinton. In addition to Shumlin, former Gov. Madeleine Kunin spoke in Clinton's favor Monday.

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"I've known Hillary through the years both personally as a very bright, competent and compassionate woman," said Kunin, who was Vermont's first female governor, "and in her public presence, the issues she's fought for all of her life."

Hillary Clinton back in Bay Area on June 20 // San Jose Mercury News // Josh Richman – June 1, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton will be back in the Bay Area to raise campaign money in a few weeks, just a little more than a month since her last sweep through the region.

Clinton will attend a brunch reception on Saturday, June 20 in San Francisco's Mission District, hosted by real estate broker, former planning commissioner, and attorney Rick Hills. Tickets start at $2,700 per person; co-hosts who raise $27,000 or more and hosts who raise $50,000 or more will be invited to a pre-reception and photo line with Clinton.

An email sent Monday to announce the event noted that Clinton's campaign recently unveiled a finance committee structure in which someone who raises $27,000 in 30 days will be a "Hillstarter" with a seat on the Northern California finance committee; someone who raises $50,000 by Dec. 31 will be a "Hillraiser" with a seat on the Northwest regional finance committee; and someone who raises $100,000 by Dec. 31 will be a "Hillblazer" with a seat on the national finance committee.

"We hope you will use this opportunity to help reach your goals and take part in the wonderful benefits (soon to be revealed) associated with each committee," the email said.

The former U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Senator and First Lady held two fundraisers in San Francisco on Wednesday, May 6, one hosted by hedge fund billionaire turned environmentalist Tom Steyer and the other by longtime friend and support Susie Tompkins Buell, cofounder of Esprit and the North Face. She held three fundraisers on May 7 in Los Angeles before returning to the Bay Area on Friday, May 8 for a luncheon at the Portola Valley home of eBay President and CEO John Donahoe and Eileen Donahoe, global affairs director for Human Rights Watch and former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Clinton declared her candidacy April 12 and has been busily visiting early-primary states since, but her campaign announced Monday that she'll give her "official campaign launch speech" on Saturday, June 13 at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park on New York City's Roosevelt Island. The event is open to the public, and members of the public can register for tickets online. She has yet to hold any public campaign events in California.

Marco Rubio And Rand Paul Pose Greatest Threat To Hillary Clinton // The Federalist // Emily Ekins – June 1, 2015

A recent CNN/ORC poll finds 75 percent of Republican partisans prefer that their party nominate a "presidential candidate who can beat the Democratic candidate," while only 25 percent prefer a nominee who agrees with them on issues that matter most to them. This clashes with partisans' reported preferred candidates for the Republican nomination. Numerous polls find disproportionate support among partisans for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker; however, U.S. senators Rand Paul and Marco Rubio perform better in general election matchups against likely Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

Despite this, 2016 election coverage has tended to pay more attention to Bush and Walker over Rubio and Paul. In fact, a May Fox News poll even excluded Paul from its general-election matchups with Hillary Clinton.

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One reason less attention is being paid to these candidates is that only a quarter of Republican voters believe either Rubio or Paul have the “best chance of beating the Democratic nominee in the general election,” according to another recent CNN/ORC poll. But the matchup data say differently.

To be sure, Clinton enjoys a sizable lead against all Republican contenders. That being said, Quinnipiac’s latest poll shows that in a hypothetical general-election matchup, Paul and Rubio come the closest to beating Clinton. Paul would garner 42 percent of the vote to Clinton’s 46 percent and Rubio would capture 41 percent to Clinton’s 45 percent.

Higher Heights, Lower Lows for Paul and Rubio

This poll is not an anomaly. In fact, an analysis of major polls conducted in 2015 shows that Paul has fared best against Clinton from January-March of this year, with Rubio pulling ahead in April. Quinnipiac found that Paul and Rubio are the only widely known candidates whose favorables are not “under water.”

If Republicans care about nominating a candidate who can beat the Democratic nominee in 2016, they might want to pay more attention to Rubio and Paul.

Why might Paul and Rubio lead other Republicans in match-ups with Hillary Clinton? There are a number of possible explanations. One likely explanation is that Paul and Rubio beat Clinton on empathy.

Perception of candidate empathy matters. Readers may recall going into the 2012 presidential election that Mitt Romney and Barack Obama were tied on several candidate qualities, including being honest and trustworthy and being strong leaders. But Obama trounced Romney on “cares about the needs and problems of people like you” 60 to 48 percent. In fact, a slim majority (51 percent) of Americans thought Romney did not care about the needs of people like themselves.

How could anyone honestly expect to win if a majority of the people doesn’t think he or she cares about them?

Hillary Clinton is not Barack Obama. The Quinnipiac Poll finds that only 48 percent of Americans think Hillary cares about the needs and problems of people like themselves and 47 percent think she does not care about them.

Republicans Who Care

But Paul and Rubio are the only GOP contenders who Americans are more likely to believe “cares about the needs and problems of people like [them]” than don’t. In this, Paul has a +6 point advantage and Rubio has a +3 point advantage. In fact, Paul and Rubio are the only Republican candidates in the poll who Americans believe care about their needs. For instance, Jeb Bush has a -7 point deficit, Walker has a -5 point deficit, and Donald Trump has a -53 point deficit on empathy.

Why might Americans think Paul and Rubio care about people like them? Perhaps because they have taken stands on issues most Republicans avoid. For instance, Paul has actively sought reform of the criminal-justice system and is an outspoken critic of police misconduct and the justice system’s disparate impact on African-American and Hispanic communities. Further, Paul has twice filibustered (or quasi-filibustered) over drone assassinations of citizens in the United States and renewal of the Patriot Act.

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Republicans have lost the popular vote in five of the six presidential elections since 1992. However, candidates like Rubio and Paul who expand their scope of issue ownership beyond conventional Republican issues may be expanding their base of support. It's worth noting that what Rubio and Paul's unique stances share in common is expanding freedom and choice, and this may be attractive to new GOP voters.

Pickups Among Independent Voters

Independent voters seem to largely drive these results. Paul (+5) and Rubio (+1) are the only Republicans who lead Clinton among independent voters. Instead, Walker trails Clinton by 2 points, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie by 3 points, Bush by 5 points, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee by 7 points, Sen. Ted Cruz by 8 points, and Trump by 15 points.

Who are these voters that would not vote for any other Republican candidate besides Paul or Rubio in a matchup with Clinton? Unfortunately, little raw data are publicly available, besides a December 2014 CNN/ORC poll available via the Roper Center that included Paul, but not Rubio. Furthermore, sample sizes are small so data should be interpreted with caution.

However, data from this survey suggest that national-security issues, such as the U.S. government's use of torture, may attract new voters into the Paul camp. Indeed, civil liberties are precisely the issues on which Paul has distinguished himself from the Republican pack. More publicly available data are needed to investigate Rubio's voters.

Examining respondents from a Gallup March 2015 survey who are not favorable of Republican presidential candidates besides Paul or Rubio provides further insight into these non-traditionally Republican voters. Paul seems to attract younger, white, male liberals who are non-religious, and Rubio seems to attract middle-age, Hispanic moderates, and particularly women. (Once again, sample sizes are small, so data should be interpreted with caution.)

Right-Wing, or Leftist?

Some might find it ironic that Rubio and Paul, who were catapulted to high elected office via what many call the "far right-wing" Tea Party movement, are also the very candidates posing the most formidable challenge to the potential Democratic nominee. In fact, Dana Milbank from the Washington Post even argued that Paul had taken a "left turn," and that his positions would work well if he were challenging Hillary for the Democratic nomination. How can one come from the "far right" and compete for the Democratic nomination at the same time?

While many Republican lawmakers are known by their stances on gay marriage, taxes, and spending, these issues are simply not a high priority for many outside of the GOP base. Instead, many Americans are more worried about being unnecessarily (and unjustly) hassled by the police than by the Internal Revenue Service. Many fear being profiled by law enforcement, worry their grandmother may be deported, and wonder if they will eventually be accepted by their communities.

Americans gravitate to politics of inclusivity, of empathy. This is not the same as handing out "gifts," as Romney suggested. Americans do not need to be bought—they want to be asked for their vote (well in advance of Election Day).

Dan Pfeiffer: Hillary Is 'Going To Have To Engage The Press' // Daily Caller // Al Weaver – June 1, 2015

On his first day as a CNN contributor, former Obama adviser Dan Pfeiffer argued that Hillary Clinton is "going to

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have to engage the press" if she wants to have a success in her presidential campaign.

Appearing on "The Lead" with host Jake Tapper, Pfeiffer said that her dealings with the press will be "critical to her success" as the campaign drags on.

JAKE TAPPER: Let's talk about Hillary Clinton who is obviously way favored on the Democratic side of the aisle. You said that the political world had lost its mind about the Hillary Clinton e-mails. You don't think that this is something the American people should care about? She wiped her server cleaned, she used a private server for official business?

DAN PFEIFFER: No. I don't mean that it's not something that should be looked at. I think it is. My point was when this all happened, every, you know, political prognosticator and pundit was saying that this is going to be an existential threat to her campaign, some said. We have a poll for out in Iowa last night, or the other night that said she's still doing quite well there. So I think it's a legitimate issue that people should look at, but not the threat to her long-term political viability and some say it is.

TAPPER: One could argue that reason that she's been able to avoid any harm from this is that she has avoided any questions about it. She has really kept the press at arms length during all of her various trips. She hasn't given any significant interviews. Is this a smart strategy or do you think it will ultimately backfire?

PFEIFFER: Over the course of time..she hasn't even done the official announcement of her campaign yet. Over the course of time, she's going to have to engage the press. I think it will be critical to her success. I think that whenever you're in a situation like this...you want to make sure you run your campaign strategy, and don't do it on the schedule the press sets. But what you can't do is go so long without talking to the press that it bubbles over into a world where every single little interaction you have becomes carried on live television. So you have to find the balance. As the campaign goes on I think they'll be able to do that.

20 things for Hillary Clinton to worry about **// WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – June 1, 2015**

For a presidential candidate who is so "inevitable," Hillary Clinton is in an odd position. She's far ahead of any challenger but seems more vulnerable than ever. Here are 20 reasons for her to worry:

1. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is being taken seriously in the media and is drawing big crowds in Iowa.

2. Once Sanders breaks 25 to 30 percent, other, stronger candidates may consider getting into the race.

3. The war against the Islamic State is going poorly, making her decision to tie herself to President Obama's mast on foreign policy more problematic by the day.

4. Ditto for the Iran negotiations.

5. She has to re-launch her campaign, suggesting that it didn't get off the ground the first time.

6. The appearance of so many quality candidates on the GOP side who have interesting things to say highlights how little she offers in the way of new or interesting ideas.

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7. The media buy that the Clinton Foundation scandals — with her greed and lack of candor front and center — are real scandals. Media discussion of her antics remains vicious. Not even her allies seem inclined to defend her. And to top it off, the monthly release of e-mails will give the media new fodder for months to come.

8. The premise of her campaign — working for everyday Americans — has been swamped by scandal and her own fear of freely interacting with everyday Americans.

9. Neither Sanders nor former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley has anything to lose, so they might as well go after her biggest liabilities — her character and staleness. They've begun already.

10. She still can't manage a one-on-one news anchor interview. Will she ever?

11. Other candidates are improving, but she shows no sign of doing so.

12. Bill Clinton continues to sound off and sound out of touch.

13. A listless economy does not offer impetus for a "third term."

14. The GOP not only has a lot of quality candidates, but also a lot of young ones. Whether it is age, longevity or simply cultural cluelessness, it's hard to see how Clinton generates excitement, particularly among young voters.

15. Republican operatives can still focus their fire almost exclusively on her, while Democrats can't yet single out one or even a couple of GOP targets. The general election campaign against Clinton is well underway.

16. There does not appear to be anyone in her inner circle willing to tell her hard truths about her campaign skills, strategy and unethical behavior.

17. She has reminded us that with the Clintons come a retinue of unsavory characters.

18. With 100 percent name identification, it is hard to imagine there are many persuadable voters out there. By contrast, many GOP contenders are largely unknown to the electorate and can gain followers. Clinton's plunging favorable ratings suggest she may have peaked already.

19. She doesn't have to lose the Iowa caucuses to get rotten headlines. She's flunking the expectations game.

20. She is charmless.

The Presidential Candidates' 404 Pages, Ranked // Yahoo // Daniel Bean – June 1, 2015

Career politicians are acutely sensitive to taking wrong turns. So it's no surprise that many of the 2016 U.S. presidential candidates are paying attention to where their campaign website visitors land when they veer off-course.

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Instead of a simple error message, the 404 pages for the online headquarters of Marco Rubio, Hillary Clinton, Mike Huckabee, and others offer family photos, personal videos, and, of course, plenty of puns.

Below, we've ranked all of these novelty 404 pages with respect to creativity, technical prowess, and also arbitrariness. You probably should not base your vote in the upcoming election on this.

LAST PLACE: Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Ben Carson, Lindsey Graham, and Carly Fiorina

If you don't put any effort into making your 404 page fun at all, you make last place on our list. The candidates listed above feature standard "page not found" or "error" messages when visitors get lost on their campaign sites. In the case of Ted Cruz's website, trying to access a page that doesn't exist will simply spit you back out to the home page.

Thanks for not playing along, guys and gals!

6. Rick Santorum

We like 404s that are fun and lighthearted. So since former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum decided to use his as a nasty poke at the Hillary Clinton email scandal, we've pushed him down on our list. More demerits were calculated in for the Republican since his site ostensibly lifted the "mean Hillary Clinton joke 404" idea from his party's official website. (Also, the GOP's Hillary 404 is way funnier.)

5. Marco Rubio

Nothing is more American than throwing a little pigskin, right Marco? The Florida Senator's 404 page wants you to know that he's a big fan of family and football. It's a nice-looking and technically savvy landing page with an embedded video, but the charm of it all might be lost on its alignment with a sport that's under fire for safety concerns.

FUMBLE!

4. Martin O'Malley

Martin O'Malley's horse-mounted general 404 gives us too much of a Dukakis-on-a-tank feel to rank highly on our list. We get the joke, and it's good to see that the Maryland governor knows how to poke a little fun at himself. But if the Democrat wants to upend favorite Hillary Clinton for the 2016 party nomination, he'll want to bring something a little more relatable than looking regal on a horse.

3. Bernie Sanders

Senator Bernie Sanders' 404 redirection video message is no-frills personified. (Go watch it.) And it's helpful, even! We can appreciate those traits in and of themselves, but imagining the conversation Bernie had with some web designer intern just before filming the vid, that's the part that makes us smile the most.

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“What’s that?! You want me to point at the bottom of the screen?!”

2. Mike Huckabee

The fishing Mike shown in Governor Huckabee’s 404 page cleverly reinforces the Republican’s good ol’ boy persona. The bonus points added for incorporating a dog bring him to second on our list. Simple and appealing. And a dog!

1. Hillary Clinton

Right now, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s cute and punny 404 gets our vote for number one. Hers, featuring a family picture at Disney with Bill and Chelsea, was the first we came across this election cycle and none of the other candidates have been able to dethrone the queen yet.

*

Of course, the party primaries leading up to the 2016 election are still a long way away, and plenty of candidates have yet to officially launch their campaign websites. (We hold high hopes for Donald Trump’s 404, for example.) So between now and then, we’ll be updating our ranking as other hopefuls launch their respective Internet campaign home pages.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

The race is on to become Hillary Clinton alternative // CNN // Eric Bradner - June 2, 2015

Washington – The race to become the liberal alternative to Hillary Clinton is on.

Thanks to a new poll, which shows Clinton has some serious vulnerabilities when it comes to trustworthiness and likeability, contenders like Vermont's Bernie Sanders and Maryland's Martin O'Malley may have more room to make their case than previously thought.

A more alarming sign for Clinton: Prospective Republican opponents have closed on her in head-to-head matchups, with Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker all now polling within the margin of error.

Clinton's favorability rating is now 46% -- down from 53% in March. And just 42% said they view Clinton as honest and trustworthy, compared to 50% in March, according to a new CNN/ORC poll.

The greatest threat to her chances of securing the Democratic nomination -- the potential for a Sen. Elizabeth Warren candidacy -- is apparently over. But the polling shows she'll still have to come to play against the likes of liberal folk hero Sanders and the willing-to-throw-a-punch O'Malley.

Clinton's share of Democrats' support has slipped from 69% in April to 60% six weeks later. Second, though, is Vice President Joe Biden, at 14%. Sanders is at 10%, double his support from March, while O'Malley still barely

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registers at 1%.

The former Maryland governor officially launched his campaign over the weekend, and Sanders made news by attracting crowds of hundreds to events on his first swing through Iowa.

"That was an indication of the fact that Iowa voters definitely want to get engaged," said Tom Henderson, the Democratic chairman in Polk County, Iowa's most populous county.

Though there are apparent cracks in the armor, top Democratic hands say Clinton is still on safe territory.

"If either one of them were to win, it would be the greatest upset in the history of politics," said Dan Pfeiffer, a CNN political commentator and former senior White House aide to President Barack Obama.

And Clinton's campaign is making as clear as it can that the former secretary of state is preparing for a real primary battle -- particularly in early-voting states like Iowa.

On June 13 -- the same day Clinton holds her first major speech and rally of the campaign in New York City -- she'll meet with key supporters and volunteers in the Hawkeye State, and simulcast that meeting to similar ones in nearly all 435 congressional districts across the country.

In the 2008 campaign, Clinton was stunned by a third-place finish behind Barack Obama and Sen. John Edwards. It's a lesson that seems to have been taken to heart for her 2012 campaign.

Team Clinton already employs 21 field organizers and six regional organizing directors in Iowa, and those organizers are working down to the precinct level. The staff includes state director Matt Paul and deputy state director Molly Schermann, who both worked for former Iowa governor and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, as well as political director Troy Price, the former executive director of the Iowa Democratic Party.

That said, her advisers know Iowa has always been a game of expectations, and they are doing their best to temper them.

Clinton campaign spokesman Jesse Ferguson on Monday highlighted a number many Clinton allies have cited: No Democrat who wasn't a sitting president, vice president or Iowa senator has ever topped 50% of the state's caucus vote.

Still, Clinton is far from a typical candidate.

Henderson, the Polk County Democratic chair, said it's unfair to compare low-profile candidates like Sanders and O'Malley with Clinton.

"We keep comparing these candidates to Hillary Clinton, who may be the most famous women in the world, and a lot of them are still emerging -- people are getting to know them," he said. "It's still early in the campaign."

The biggest danger to Clinton's candidacy is the emergence of a damaging narrative -- that she acts like she's above reproach when it comes to questions over her use of private email while heading the State Department or the

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controversial donations accepted by the Clinton Foundation. Or that she's completely untrustworthy.

Martin O'Malley's first challenge: Bernie Sanders // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – 6/1/15

Martin O'Malley was supposed to be the main liberal alternative to Hillary Clinton. But when he announced his candidacy Saturday in Baltimore, he found that spot already taken by someone else.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is now Clinton's top rival in early polls, beat the former Maryland governor to a presidential announcement by exactly a month, and to a outdoor kickoff rally by five days.

Both men served two terms as mayor in the largest city in their states. Both were then elected statewide. And both returned to those cities this week to announce their underdog presidential campaigns. But the scenes were very different.

O'Malley had several hundred, perhaps a thousand, supporters to cheer him on Saturday at a park overlooking Baltimore's skyline. There were also about a dozen protesters, who heckled O'Malley over his policing policies as mayor.

Sanders, on the other hand, drew more than 5,000 supporters in Burlington, a city of 40,000. A sea of fans overflowed the lakefront park Sanders helped build as mayor, and packed in behind portapotties and platforms, where they had no hope of a view.

And it was just the kickoffs. Both candidates this week visited Iowa where Sanders drew 700 in Davenport for the biggest rally any candidate of either party has seen in the state this election season, according to the New York Times. In a tiny town of Kensett, population 240, Sanders drew 300.

O'Malley visited Davenport three days later and spoke to 50 supporters. He met another 200 in Des Moines later that night, according to the Des Moines Register.

Meanwhile, Sanders headed to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he fired up an overflow crowd of more than 3,000 in a basketball gym, according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Hundreds more listed from outside, unable to get in.

On the Internet, 84,000 Facebook users generated 120,000 interactions about O'Malley in the 24 hours after his launch, according to the social networking company. In the same period after Sanders' announcement, Facebook record 10 times the interactions – 1.2 million – from 592,000 different users. (Hillary Clinton blew both of them out of the water with 10.1 million interactions from almost 5 million users.)

Craig Varoga, who served as O'Malley's chief strategist on his 2010 reelection campaign, but is not involved with the candidate today, said O'Malley needs to find a way to deal with Sanders soon.

"His first real challenge is dealing with Bernie Sanders' campaign, rather than directly going after Hillary Clinton," said Varoga.

Only perhaps 30-40% of Democrats are currently not supporting Clinton. If O'Malley and Sanders split that bloc, neither will be seen as credible, Varoga said.

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“They have to find a way to talk about Sanders without talking about him. The worst thing is for one longshot to get in a fight with another longshot,” Varoga said.

O’Malley’s camp, however, insists they’re not concerned about Sanders – in fact they welcome his success.

As they see it, O’Malley’s more immediate challenge is breaking through the psychological barrier of Hillary Clinton’s inevitability. No candidate will be taken seriously until the idea that Clinton can lose is taken seriously. So the more any progressive alternative to Clinton rises in the polls, the better for everyone running to her left.

“I think it’s an encouragement to my candidacy,” O’Malley said of Sanders on ABC’s “This Week” Sunday. Why should progressive support O’Malley over Sanders? “Because I have a track record of actually getting things done, not just talking about things,” O’Malley added.

The former governor’s allies view Sanders as essentially a protest candidate, while O’Malley is presidential. If they can convince voters there’s a chance for an alternative to actually win against Clinton, they think Sanders’ supporters will flock to the more electable O’Malley.

Team O’Malley looks to the 2012 Republican presidential primary, in which nearly every candidate had a moment in the sun, and sees Sanders’ fling with Democratic primary voters as fleeting.

And O’Malley’s allies are pointing to another historical parallel as well. “Bernie Sanders is in some ways like Sen. McCarthy was in 1968,” said former Maryland governor Parris Glendening, who is supporting O’Malley.

The 1968 Democratic primary featured a thought-to-be-inevitable frontrunner in Lyndon Johnson, the incumbent president. None of the party’s top prospects dared challenge Johnson. But the Vietnam War created an opening for an anti-war progressive, exploited by underfunded longshot candidate Sen. Eugene McCarthy.

After McCarthy came shockingly close to winning the New Hampshire primary, Robert F. Kennedy sensed Johnson’s weakness and jumped into the race. That prompted the once-inevitable president to throw in the towel on his reelection bid entirely and quit. Kennedy won a string of contests, but tragically did not make it to the Democratic Convention when he was assassinated after winning the California primary in June.

In O’Malleyland’s eyes, Sanders is McCarthy and O’Malley is Kennedy, the young, handsome Catholic pol.

While they agree on most issues, Sanders is an anti-politician at a time when politicians are liked, while O’Malley looks like a central casting candidate. And without a critical issue like the Vietnam War where the candidates differ, it’s unclear if O’Malley can draw a clear contrast with his rivals and distinguish himself.

“O’Malley’s advantage is that he’s not just out there on these issues, but he’s been very effective on these issues,” Glendening said, pointing to O’Malley’s track record in Maryland. “His other big advantage is organization,” Glendening added, pointing to the former governor’s years as a political organizer and operative before he sought elected office himself.

“Sanders’ support is just a representation of the explosiveness of these issues,” he added.

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Indeed, even many of Sanders supporters don't necessarily see him as presidential. And a danger for the self-proclaimed democratic socialist was on display this weekend, when he had to answer questions about a controversial 1972 essay, in which he wrote that women fantasize about being raped. Sanders called it "stupid" and said he was imitating the voice of the male chauvinist he was criticizing.

For the meantime, though, both candidates will be focused squarely on Clinton, not each other.

Martin O'Malley misses his chance: How Hillary Clinton closed off his biggest 2016 opening // Salon // Simon Maloy – June 1, 2015

After months and months of hemming, hawing, and dithering, Martin O'Malley is finally an official candidate for the presidency. He's entered the race with literally nowhere to go but up – his RealClearPolitics national polling average is, as of this writing, a clinically dead 0.8 percent. That puts him at the very bottom of the Democratic primary barrel. He's being badly outpolled by Elizabeth Warren and Joe Biden, neither of whom have taken any steps towards 2016 bids, and he's even behind bored vanity candidates Lincoln Chafee and Jim Webb. It's a weird position for an accomplished two-term governor of a reliably blue state to find himself in.

So what hope does O'Malley have of snatching the nomination away from runaway favorite Hillary Clinton? At the moment, not much, but he's at least going to try and make things interesting. Both O'Malley and Clinton's current chief rival, Bernie Sanders, have indicated that they're going to come at Hillary from the left and appeal to the slice of the Democratic base that is maybe a little uneasy over her perceived centrist tendencies. Unfortunately for O'Malley, Clinton has already moved to cut him off at the knees on one issue he clearly hopes to challenger her on: immigration.

Remember last summer's border crisis? Thousands and thousands of undocumented immigrant children were pouring over the southern border, straining the resources of immigration agencies and causing a major political controversy. The crisis had the weird effect of dividing Democrats on immigration, an issue that typically unites the party in the face of Republican fractiousness. At the time, the White House moved to accelerate deportation proceedings for the undocumented minors to send a message to Central American countries that there was no benefit in making the dangerous journey through Mexico.

O'Malley, who was still governor of Maryland, very publicly broke with President Obama and condemned the White House for pursuing a cruel and immoral policy. "It is contrary to everything we stand for as a people to try to summarily send children back to death," he said, "in a place where drug gangs are the greatest threat to stability, rule of law and democratic institutions in this hemisphere." It was smart politics for O'Malley, as he simultaneously galvanized liberals on a contentious issue, put daylight between himself and a president whose popularity wasn't so hot at the time, and directly challenged Hillary Clinton, who had said the undocumented minors "should be sent back as soon as it can be determined who responsible adults in their families are."

Picking a fight with Clinton on immigration made sense. She'd stumbled badly on the issue in 2007 when she refused to directly answer whether or not she'd back driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants. That experience, combined with her support for Obama's policy towards the border crisis, seemed to indicate that there'd be at least some space to attack her from the left on the issue. As for O'Malley's own record, he could point to legislation he signed allowing undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses and his support for a state-level version of the DREAM Act.

But O'Malley waited too long, and while he sat on the sidelines, Clinton seized the initiative. Last month she laid out her own vision for immigration reform that preserves and expands upon the policies Obama has put in place through executive action. She spoke to the urgency liberals and Latino voters feel about passing immigration reform, and aggressively challenged the Republican presidential candidates, attacking them for not "clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship." At the very least, O'Malley could have used the issue to be perceived as the person who was forcing Hillary to the left. Instead, she went there on her own.

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O'Malley still has a strong record on immigration issues, and he's hired Obama's former director of Hispanic media to help craft policy and conduct outreach. And all indications are that he's still going to make an issue of Hillary's response to the border crisis as part of a broader critique of her immigration stance. He's absolutely right to do that, but Hillary's already making moves to align herself more closely with the portion of the electorate that he'll be targeting. There wasn't a whole lot of room on Hillary's left to begin with, and if this keeps up, O'Malley could soon find himself with nowhere left to go.

O'Malley's Bad Timing // Washington Monthly // Ed Kilgore – June 1, 2015

When I was first in the vicinity of Martin O'Malley, right after he was first elected mayor of Baltimore (in 1999), the prevailing question wasn't if but when he'd run for president. In the New Democrat circles I ran in back then, he was a pretty hot property, interested in policy innovations on a wide range of issues that transcended his current position on the political career ladder. Even then, there was a sort of ambivalent feeling about him: he had a bit of the Bobby Kennedy aura about him—a prized quality for Democrats regardless of their ideological tendencies—but there were also questions about his depth and vision. And then there was the personal image: the wonky Irish rocker whom a lot of women found very attractive (I don't get the sense this last credential has survived the intervening decade-and-a-half, though I could be wrong).

So now after two ostensibly successful terms as mayor and then as Governor, the appointed time for the O'Malley presidential run has arrived, and you get the sense his timing is just completely off. His earlier time served in Hillary Clinton's orbit makes him an unlikely and very long-shot challenger to her nomination. His sudden emergence as a would-be "true progressive" champion is singularly undermined by the prior presence in the presidential field of Bernie Sanders, who has a few decades on O'Malley in rousing crowds with attacks on Wall Street and centrist "sell-outs." And he's definitely been wrong-footed by recent events in Baltimore, where fairly or unfairly the suspicion has been sowed that his supposedly wonky policing strategies fed a old-school habit of harassing young black men for who they were, and created a poisonous atmosphere that is now boiling over in violence and mistrust of government. It doesn't help O'Malley that his chief accuser on this front is television writer and producer David Simon, whose depiction of Baltimore in the HBO series The Wire probably represents 99% of what political and journalistic elites in the rest of the country know about that city.

Add in the disillusionment with O'Malley among Democrats in his home state after his tax policies helped sink his designated successor in 2014, Anthony Brown, and you have a guy who at the age of 52 should probably think about deferring his presidential ambitions until 2020 or 2024. For all I know, of course, this campaign is mostly strategic, aimed at positioning O'Malley to become HRC's running-mate or a lively prospect for the future. But right now he's in a position where if he doesn't get some attention by going after both Sanders and Clinton, his candidacy could sink like a stone.

At FiveThirtyEight Harry Enten put up a rather deadly post about O'Malley over the weekend that suggested the lack of support for his candidacy in Maryland made him a really unusual presidential aspirant compared to, well, just about everybody else past or present. He'll have a brief window of interest in his candidacy before it closes for the cycle (barring some calamity hitting Clinton). If he can reverse all the indicators pointing downward in that time, then the promise a lot of people saw in him back in the day can yet be redeemed.

O'Malley on changing his mind about Clinton: 'Times change' // Politico // Nick Gass – June 1, 2015

Martin O'Malley supported Hillary Clinton in 2008 and 2012, but "times change," the Democratic presidential candidate and former governor of Maryland said Monday in an interview with ABC News' George Stephanopoulos.

"I believe that the presidency is a sacred trust," O'Malley said, echoing remarks from his weekend campaign announcement in which he railed against Wall Street's preference for Clinton and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

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The Democratic Party has not “delivered” on its promise to “make the American dream real again for more families,” O’Malley said in the interview aired on “Good Morning America.”

On Sunday, former top White House adviser David Axelrod tweeted that O’Malley’s support of Clinton in 2008 might make it “a bit awkward” to slam political “royal families” during his campaign. O’Malley responded, saying that while people don’t change, the times do, noting that his support of Clinton preceded the financial collapse.

“Well I was for Secretary Clinton in 2008. She and I both worked hard to elect the president and to re-elect the president. But times change, and different challenges require new leadership,” he said, noting that he keeps hearing from people that new leadership is necessary.

He also fired back at a Wall Street Journal editorial published Sunday that went after his gubernatorial record.

“Mr. O’Malley may attract some Democrats as an alternative to Clintonian inevitability and cynicism, but he has little chance at the nomination unless Mrs. Clinton unexpectedly washes out, and then other Democrats would join the race. Republicans would be only too happy to run against the Maryland progressive model,” the editorial said.

O’Malley touted his leadership of the state, mentioning the state’s Triple-A bond rating, the best public schools in America, the highest median income of any state, and a better rate of job creation than neighboring states.

O'Malley, stumping in N.H., sells himself as alternative to Clinton // Baltimore Sun // John Fritze – May 31, 2015

Attempting to push back on the idea that his presidential campaign is a nearly insurmountable long shot, Martin O'Malley arrived in New Hampshire on Sunday to sell himself as a fresh voice and progressive alternative to front-runner Hillary Clinton.

Visiting the key presidential primary state a day after announcing his long-expected candidacy in Baltimore, the former two-term Maryland governor used phrases like "new leadership" and "trying different things" almost immediately upon hitting the ground here — and it was a theme he repeatedly returned to throughout the day.

As he spoke with voters at a diner, addressed a small house party and delivered pizza to Dartmouth College students on the eve of their finals, O'Malley engaged in exactly the kind of retail politicking analysts say he needs to perfect in order to climb out of the single-digits in polls.

"I've always been drawn to the toughest of fights," O'Malley told a group gathered in Gilford, N.H., recounting his first run for mayor in 1999.

"The people I've met in New Hampshire refuse to be intimidated by big money, pundits, or the concentration of power [and] insisted on meeting every candidate, looking them in the eye, asking them questions and making up their own mind," he said.

O'Malley is far less well known than either Clinton or Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist who has carved out space on Clinton's left since announcing his own campaign in April. Perhaps because of that, O'Malley made himself perpetually available as he traveled the state — to voters, to elected officials and to reporters.

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The informal, less scripted interactions stood in contrast to the view of O'Malley many have seen in national television appearances and the sometimes stilted speeches he has delivered during his career.

After eating a few spoonfuls of a cup of Milky Way ice cream, O'Malley worked a small crowd gathered inside the Goldenrod Drive-In Restaurant in Manchester. He walked from table to table, fielding questions on college affordability, the economy and the country's nuclear posture.

His message appeared to resonate with several people in the room.

"I don't think Hillary's a lock," said Peter Morin, a 55-year-old Manchester resident after speaking briefly with O'Malley. "I don't like to see anyone anointed."

But whether O'Malley's focus on his past executive leadership or his increasingly strong admonishments of Wall Street will be enough to build momentum for his campaign is an open question. More than 60 percent of Democrats in New Hampshire identified Clinton as their first choice in a Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm poll in early May.

O'Malley was the first choice for 3 percent.

The former governor spoke with several dozen Democrats gathered at the home of Jerry Slagle, a Maryland native who worked with O'Malley on Gary Hart's 1984 presidential campaign. He stuck mainly to lines from his announcement speech, but also took questions from attendees.

As he spoke from atop a piano bench —- so he could be heard in the back of the room — O'Malley did not mention Clinton or Sanders directly. But he addressed both of his declared rivals with subtle political code.

To draw a distinction with Clinton — a former secretary of state, senator and first lady — O'Malley repeatedly described himself as a next-generation leader and argued that elections should not be coronations for political royalty. To distance himself from Sanders, he notes he hasn't "just talked about" liberal ideals, but has achieved them.

O'Malley announced his presidential campaign in Federal Hill Park on Saturday, entering a race many believe he has been considering for years. During his address, O'Malley cast the election in broad economic terms, suggesting middle class families have not benefited from the recovery as much as they should have.

He reiterated that point in an interview on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday, while also suggesting he is no friend of Wall Street.

"I don't know what Secretary Clinton's approach to Wall Street might be. She will run her own campaign and I will run mine," O'Malley said. "I can tell you this. I am not beholden to Wall Street interests. There are no Wall Street CEOs banging down my door and trying to participate or help my campaign."

Another presidential candidate with Maryland ties, former Johns Hopkins neurosurgeon Ben Carson, also spoke on the program. The Republican was asked about a national poll that showed him tied for first place for his party's nomination with former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

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"Whether I'm a front-runner or not doesn't matter," Carson said. "What matters is that the people themselves are starting to listen and evaluate for themselves rather than listening to what people say I said and what people say that I meant."

O'Malley will spend significant time in early primary states such as Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. That's partly because the Iowa caucuses dramatically shifted the course of the race for the Democratic nomination in 2008, when then-Sen. Barack Obama upset Clinton there by running as a change candidate.

The trip Sunday was O'Malley's fourth to New Hampshire this year.

Patrick Gosselin, a Hooksett, N.H., resident, wondered whether O'Malley couldn't do the same next year. Gosselin spoke with the former governor at the diner for several minutes before revealing that he had come to hear him speak despite never before voting for a Democrat.

"I'm tired of the old politics, tired of the Democrats and Republicans getting entrenched with their old ideas," Gosselin said as O'Malley walked away. "It just seems like he has the right personality to challenge the status quo, to challenge Hillary."

Martin O'Malley is targeting Latino voters // WaPo // Arelis H. Hernández – June 1, 2015

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley is making a special effort to target Latino voters during the first week of his presidential campaign, appearing on the Spanish-language television channel Univision, offering interviews on immigration policy to major news outlets and speaking to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"I believe Latino Americans, like all Americans, want the American Dream to be truthful and real," O'Malley (D) told The Washington Post on Monday. "I believe my record speaks to my heart."

Immigration is among the issues where O'Malley has sought to draw distinctions between himself and Hillary Rodham Clinton, the overwhelming front-runner in the Democratic primary race. While he was governor, Maryland passed its version of the Dream Act, which extended in-state tuition benefits to undocumented immigrants at public universities and colleges provided their families meet certain conditions. The state also adopted a two-tiered system that allows undocumented immigrants to get limited driver's licenses that can't be used for other purposes, such as boarding an airplane.

During the battle over the state's adoption of the Dream Act, "we met every week with O'Malley," said Gustavo Torres, executive director of the advocacy group CASA of Maryland.

In April, after Clinton announced her support for providing immigrants with limited driver's licenses, O'Malley said he was "glad she's come around to that position now, too." He declined on Monday to name specific differences between himself and other Democratic presidential candidates, saying only that "the distinctions will be made clear."

O'Malley said that as president he would "forge a new consensus" and revisit the criteria used by law enforcement to lock-up and deport immigrants — a sticking point for immigrant advocacy groups who have criticized the Obama administration's record number of deportations.

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In a brief interview with Maria Elena Salinas -- the well-known anchor on Univision, the nation's largest Spanish-language news network -- O'Malley said he doesn't think any candidate can win the White House "without the Latino vote." Asked what he would want to say to Spanish-speaking voters, O'Malley replied: "Por favor," or please. The rest of the interview with Salinas will air on Univision on Sunday.

On Wednesday, O'Malley is scheduled to participate in a question-and-answer session with Hispanic Chamber of Commerce president Javier Palomarez at the Newseum in Washington. The event is the latest in a series of forums with presidential candidates hosted by the organization, which says it represents 3.2 million Hispanic business owners.

O'Malley recently hired Gabriela Domenzain, director of Hispanic media for Obama's 2012 campaign, as his director of public engagement. His campaign launch on Saturday included remarks from Jonathan Jayes-Green, who worked on the governor's Hispanic affairs commission and is the son of undocumented immigrants.

Jayes-Green said his family came to the United States from Panama in 2005 and, after receiving erroneous legal advice, overstayed their visas and became undocumented. O'Malley, he added, "understands we are Americans, we just don't have documentation yet."

Last summer, O'Malley clashed with the White House last summer over what to do with migrant children streaming over the border from Central America, accusing the Obama administration — in which Clinton had served — of being too eager to return the children.

"When refugee children arrive on our doorstep, fleeing starvation and death gangs, we don't turn them away," O'Malley said in South Carolina in April. "We act like the generous, compassionate people we have always been."

At his launch on Saturday, he said "the enduring symbol of our nation is not a barbed wire fence, it is the Statue of Liberty."

When he talks about immigration, O'Malley recalls his own family history of coming to this country from Ireland. As governor, he kept an old sign in his office that says, "No Irish Need Apply."

"I have always seen, in the eyes of my Latino neighbors, the eyes of the great grandparents I never met," he said on Monday.

Martin O'Malley's ritzy taste can be off-putting // Page Six // Richard Johnson – June 1, 2015

Martin O'Malley's minions need a primer on populism.

When the Democratic presidential candidate's team tried to woo Allen Roskoff, president of the powerful Jim Owles Democratic Club, they invited the gay activist to breakfast at Norma's at Le Parker Meridien, where only the 1 percent of tourists can afford to nosh.

Oatmeal is $19, French toast goes for $25 and "The Zillion Dollar Lobster Frittata" — with 10 oz. of Sevruga caviar — costs $1,000. The menu notes: "Norma dares you to expense this."

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Roskoff told me, “Trying to woo a ’60s lefty with a breakfast that could feed a homeless shelter was extremely dumb.” He’s leaning toward socialist Bernie Sanders.

Martin O'Malley: 2016 Democratic Candidate Says, 'We Need to Get Things Done Again' // ABC News // Maryalice Parks – June 1, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who announced Saturday that he will officially seek the Democratic Party's nomination for president, continued trying to separate himself from frontrunner Hillary Clinton, telling ABC News Chief Anchor George Stephanopoulos during an exclusive interview Monday morning that the "times have changed" and pointing to the 2008 crash on Wall Street as evidence for the country needing a new generation of leadership.

On the campaign trail, O'Malley has attacked Clinton for what he says is a close relationship to Wall Street.

O'Malley told Stephanopoulos that the "people of the United States, not Wall Street," should to decide the next president, and leaders on Wall Street allegedly seeming OK with a Clinton or a Bush in the White House should be "wake-up call for all of us."

In 2008, O'Malley supported Clinton's first run for president, a fact that former Obama adviser and campaign strategist David Axelrod noted this week on Twitter, saying, "O'Malley is a dynamic, accomplished guy. But he was all in for HRC [Hillary Rodham Clinton] in '08, so isn't it a bit awkward to rail against 'royal families' now."

O'Malley responded by saying the country faces "different challenges now." He told Stephanopoulos the most notable difference between then and now was the 2008 economic crash, adding that since then the country had failed to reign in the "excess of Wall Street."

"I believe we need new leadership," he said. "We need to get things done again."

He said that he called Clinton this week and said he told her he was looking forward to "a robust conversation about the issues that face our country."

O'Malley emphasized his experience as an executive, having served two terms as mayor of Baltimore and two terms as governor of Maryland. In response to criticism in the Wall Street Journal today that he raised taxes, O'Malley argued that the state enjoyed its highest median income while he was governor and had a AAA bond rating. He added that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which "hardly ever says nice things about Democratic elected officials anywhere," named Maryland No. 1 in innovation and entrepreneurship three years in a row.

For fans of his other talents -- singing and playing guitar -- O'Malley said stay tuned.

"When I go through Iowa and New Hampshire, guitars seem to fall out of the rafters," he joked, saying that supporters can expect to see him strumming again soon.

Martin O'Malley's Hometown Challenge // ABC News // Maryalice Parks – May 31, 2015

Martin O'Malley faces an uphill battle. The former Maryland governor and Baltimore mayor who officially announced his run for the Democratic presidential nomination Saturday is relatively unknown nationwide, polling

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around 1 percent among Democratic voters across the country, according to a new poll from Quinnipiac University this week. But perhaps his greatest challenge comes from his own backyard.

During his campaign kickoff event Saturday in downtown Baltimore, a small group of protesters made a scene, speaking out against police brutality and blaming O'Malley for what they see as the negative consequences of his tough stance on crime.

"If he wants to be president, if he wants to come home, he must atone," said Tawanda Jones, one of the protesters. "Our streets are not even safe no more, because of all of the anger in our city."

Gov. Martin O’Malley Announces Run for President

O’Malley Cites Executive Experience in Comparison to Obama

When he first ran for mayor of Baltimore in 1999, O'Malley promised to cut crime, and when he came into office he instituted a zero-tolerance policing policy. Supporters say that while arrests went up, even for minor offenses, crime came down.

But critics say his methods harmed the relationship between the city's residents and law enforcement.

In an exclusive interview with ABC News' Chief Anchor George Stephanopoulos, O'Malley defended his reputation. "I would not have been elected with 91 percent of the vote first time, or re-elected four years later with 88 percent of the vote, if we were not making substantial progress," he said.

"When I was elected in 1999, our city had become the most violent, and addicted, and abandoned city in America. It was a huge challenge. But we went on in the next ten years to achieve the biggest reduction of part one [or serious] crime of any city in America," he continued. "For all of the progress that we make, there's always so much more that needs to be done."

Last month the violent protests in Baltimore after the death of an African-American man at the hands of police reignited criticism of O'Malley's policies. And in a front page article in the Baltimore Sun the day of O'Malley's campaign kickoff event, a former head of the city's NAACP chapter hit the former mayor hard, saying, "He's going around now like [Baltimore] is his claim to fame. I think this should be his greatest embarrassment."

O'Malley called the unrest in Baltimore last month "heartbreaking" and said the country should learn from Baltimore and focus on issues like unemployment and poverty to rebuild American cities.

"What took place here was not only about race, not only about policing in America. It's about everything it is supposed to mean to be an American," he said during Saturday's rally. "The scourge of hopelessness that happened to ignite here that evening transcends race or geography. The hard truth of our shared reality is this: Unemployment in many American cities and in many small towns across the United States is higher now than it was eight years ago.”

He told Stephanopoulos, "A poet once wrote that the unemployment in our bones erupts in our hands and stones. We can do better as a country.”

Prior to leaving office as governor in October, O'Malley's approval ratings in Maryland were at an eight-year low (41 percent, according to a Washington Post poll), though his presidential announcement rally was full of energetic elected officials and supporters from across the state.

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One fan, Baltimore City Councilwoman Rikki Spector, brought a rock with the word "Believe" etched in it as a gift for the governor.

Despite all the controversy she said this was their – Baltimore's – presidential race.

Martin O'Malley, mild-mannered man: Why the media are yawning // Fox News // Howard Kurtz – June 1, 2015

On paper, Martin O'Malley should be a serious contender for the Democratic presidential nomination.

But on paper, the Washington Nationals should have won last year's World Series. And campaigns, like sporting contests, have to be fought in the real world.

And in that world, O'Malley is basically an asterisk—or at least being treated that way by the media. His official announcement on Saturday didn't make much of a pop.

The man was a two-term governor of Maryland and spent seven years as Baltimore mayor, but hardly anyone knows who he is. I've interviewed him and gone to his events and he's very fluent in policy, but the few outside politics who are familiar with him know him mainly as the model for a character in "The Wire."

His announcement in Baltimore on Saturday, delivered in shirtsleeves, hit all the liberal talking points, but O'Malley has a way of just reading his speeches and there were few emotional high points.

His media drought is partly because Hillary Clinton is a million miles ahead. It's partly because Bernie Sanders—who might be viewed as more of a gadfly candidate—has stolen the spotlight. And it's partly his own fault.

O'Malley is a careful and cautious guy, and that doesn't make him an inspiring figure. He has been highly reticent about attacking Hillary, limiting himself to some veiled jabs. And when you do that, you forfeit the coverage you might otherwise get for taking on the front-runner. And you fuel suspicions that you're just running to raise your profile and maybe land a job in the next administration.

Here's how the liberal New Republic puts it:

"Martin O'Malley has checked enough boxes as a prominent Democrat—big city mayor, mostly successful governor, chairman of the Democratic Governors Association—that he probably didn't expect to be trailing in presidential polls to a Vermont senator who serves as an independent and identifies as a democratic socialist. But for now he does trail, and pretty badly. O'Malley is more dependably liberal than Hillary Clinton has been, but the emergence of a crusading progressive like Bernie Sanders has convinced some analysts that O'Malley miscalculated, and let Sanders steal his thunder."

Sanders may be a socialist, but he feels like the leader of a crusade. O'Malley feels like the head of a good-government association.

And with Sanders polling as high as 15 percent and O'Malley stuck around 1 percent, it's all too easy for the press

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to write him off as a loser—especially since his lieutenant governor lost the race last fall to Republican Larry Hogan.

"Why do some progressives tend to dismiss him as a mere technocrat who doesn't inspire?" Politico asks. It's in part because he's a policy wonk and not a great speaker, as those watching the 2012 Democratic convention may remember.

The ex-mayor has the additional burden of being closely identified with Baltimore just as Baltimore has become identified with Freddie Gray, rioting and surging crime—and questions about O'Malley's zero-tolerance police strategy are being revived. He went to the city after the riots but didn't make much of an imprint on the national conversation. Even some of his longtime allies in the state aren't backing him.

One Baltimore Sun columnist is a big booster:

"Mr. O'Malley, unlike Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush, isn't linked to perpetual scandal and criticism, nor is he beholden to foreign donors, investment banks or a family surname."

Perhaps O'Malley, who worked for Gary Hart in 1984, envisions catching fire if Hillary stumbles. But he's going to have to raise the temperature for that to happen.

What are Martin O'Malley's chances of being Mr. Liberal 2016? // Yahoo News // Peter Grier – June 1, 2015

Elizabeth Warren isn't running. The left has tried and tried, but the anti-Wall Street firebrand senator from Massachusetts just isn't going to challenge Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Party presidential nomination. Progressives have moved on, for the most part. They're looking for another standard-bearer. So who's going to end up as Mr. (or Ms.) Liberal 2016?

Bill de Blasio seems to be auditioning for the role. The New York City mayor has lately had an active national travel schedule. But his quest seems quixotic – he's only been in office 16 months. Plus, he's got troubles back home.

Martin O'Malley might be more likely. He announced his run Saturday, and he's going to try and position himself to Mrs. Clinton's left. The former Maryland governor had a quiet meeting with a group of key progressives in New York City in May and promoted himself as Warren-like, but actually in the race. He said he opposes President Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. That's a litmus test for liberals.

But as far as the left is concerned Mr. O'Malley might be a Martin-come-lately. His ideology seemed more moderate when he served as governor, which is unsurprising since state chief executives have to be pragmatic, even in a blue state. Then there's O'Malley's charisma gap. When you hear him speak, "firebrand" isn't a word that comes to mind, as it does with Ms. Warren.

So we'll go with the safe choice here: Bernie Sanders. The white-haired, articulate Vermont senator seems the favorite to win liberals' hearts. He's already declared his presidential intentions, and he's long resided at the left edge of the Democratic Party – or just beyond it. He's the only sitting US lawmaker who uses the word "socialist" to describe himself.

Mr. Sanders's liberal bent was on full display in a recent Reddit Q-and-A. He wants public college education to be

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tuition-free. He said National Security Agency surveillance was “Orwellian” and that the country needs a constitutional amendment to limit political campaign contributions. He advocated a guaranteed basic income and said climate change “is the most significant planetary crisis we face.”

Sanders is running at nearly 9 percent in HuffPost Pollster’s rolling average of Democratic nomination surveys. O’Malley gets about 2 percent. It’s early, but we’d say that’s indicative.

New Evidence That Bernie Sanders Is Gaining Ground in One Key State // Policy.Mic // Zeeshan Aleem – June 1, 2015

Presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is conventionally considered to be a long-shot candidate for the Democratic nomination. But there are new signs that his message has been resonating in the crucial state of Iowa since kicking off his campaign in Burlington, Vermont, last week.

According to the New York Times, the hard-charging populist from Vermont can already claim a noteworthy achievement. Last week, he attracted a crowd of 700 people in Davenport, Iowa, in what the New York Times notes is the "the largest rally in the state for any single candidate this campaign season, and far more than the 50 people who attended a rally there on Saturday with former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland."

Sanders also generated other lively turnouts in the state on his first visit to Iowa since declaring his candidacy. In Ames, he drew a crowd that spilled out of a brewery, and held an event in Kensett where the size of the crowd exceeded the population of the town itself, according to the New York Times.

The spike in attention is reflected in recent polling. According to a new Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register poll of Iowa voters, Sanders has more than tripled his support among likely Democratic caucus-goers than he was in January, with 16% of likely caucus-goers saying Sanders is their first choice.

As you can see in the chart below, courtesy of Bloomberg Politics, Clinton is dominant among likely Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa — she's the first choice for 57% (one percentage point more than in January). Sanders ranks second at 16% — still far from Clinton, but notable for the leap from 5% in January. Vice President Joe Biden, who has not made any overt signals that he's considering a bid for the White House, came in next at 8%. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley was the first choice for 2%, as was former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb.

The Iowa caucuses, which are scheduled to be held in February, are the first contest of the presidential race, and mark a critical juncture for determining momentum in the early stages of the nomination race. Given that the voting is several months away, the specific numbers right now aren't as important as their changes.

Sanders' big bump in recent months reflects a hunger among the Democratic electorate for a candidate who can serve as an alternative to the Clinton dynasty. The self-avowed democratic socialist doesn't have a history in the national spotlight, but he is the king of Reddit, and he has quickly taken the anti-establishment mantle from Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who shows no signs of interest in running for president.

Sanders still has his work cut out for him. While Clinton's campaign already has 30 paid staffers devoted to mobilizing caucus-goers in Iowa, Sanders only has two, according to the New York Times. If Sanders is to evolve into a formidable player, his organizing apparatus will have to match the size of his ambitions.

Toward that end, Sanders has called for additional early presidential debates this year, which would include both Democrats and Republicans. The debates would provide him with a major (and free) opportunity to make his case to the public in direct contrast to Clinton, and facilitate his ability to shed the label of outsider nipping at the heels of an inevitable heir to the throne. According to the Huffington Post, any such debates might be in violation of

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debate rules for Democratic candidates. Clinton is unlikely to benefit from such an arrangement, and her strategy so far has largely been to ignore Sanders' criticism. But as she knows all too well from 2008, she can never take her lead for granted.

Bernie Sanders pleads for more debates // Politico // Dylan Byers – June 1, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders has sent a letter to the Democratic National Committee requesting more primary debates, including inter-party debates among candidates from both parties.

In a letter to DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the Vermont socialist argued that the candidates "should engage in a series of debates beginning this summer," in order to increase voter turnout. Inter-party debates could also be used to convince registered Republican voters that they would be better off voting for a Democrat, Sanders said.

"I am extremely concerned by the fact that many working-class Americans are voting against their best economic interests by supporting right-wing Republicans whose agenda represents the interests of the billionaire class, and not the needs of working Americans," Sanders wrote. "I believe that these inter-party debates would put in dramatic focus the shallow and at times ridiculous policies and proposals being advocated by the Republican candidates and by their party's platform."

For Sanders, a relatively little-known candidate with limited resources, more debates would mean more free air time and publicity. Sanders is currently polling 54.8 points behind Hillary Clinton in the latest RealClearPolitics aggregate.

In an email to the On Media blog, DNC spokesperson Holly Shulman effectively put the kibosh on Sanders' request: "We're thrilled to see the Senator is eager to participate in our debates," she wrote. "We've already released our primary debate framework, and we believe that six debates will give plenty of opportunity for the candidates to be seen side-by-side. We'll have more details in the coming weeks, and we look forward to Senator Sanders and other candidates participating. I'm sure there will be plenty of other forums for the candidates to make their case to voters, and that they will make the most out of every opportunity."

The DNC has sanctioned six primary debates for the 2016 cycle, which are scheduled to begin this fall. Host states will include the early caucus and primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina, though the committee has yet to announce which national broadcast media and local media outlets will sponsor and moderate these debates.

Both the Hillary Clinton and Martin O'Malley campaigns have confirmed that their candidates will participate in all six of the debates.

In his plea for more debates, Sanders argued that low voter turnout "has hurt progressive candidates all across our nation" and that "a larger number of debates beginning in the weeks ahead would encourage such voter participation."

Sanders also said inter-party debates between Democrats and Republicans would "serve to engage large numbers of voters who typically do not pay attention to the process until much later when the general election begins to come into focus. By engaging these voters early and raising the stakes around the election I believe we can get people to participate at higher levels which will undoubtedly benefit Democrats up and down the ticket."

GOP

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Lindsey Graham on the Issues // NYT // Gerry Mullany- June 1, 2015

Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina announced Monday that he plans to seek the Republican nomination for president. In his three terms, he has focused on military and foreign affairs and developed a reputation for working together with Senate Democrats. Here are some of Mr. Graham's stands on important issues.

Foreign Policy

Mr. Graham has been skeptical of President Obama's efforts to reach a deal with Iran over its nuclear program, saying Congress should reject any agreement that does not include inspections of Iran's military facilities. He sees the group calling itself the Islamic State as a threat to the mainland United States, saying "the likelihood of an attack against our nation is growing by the day" and calling it a "fantasy" to think that it can be defeated without American ground forces. Describing Israel as the "best friend" of the United States, Mr. Graham has vowed that if the United Nations takes actions against Israel's interest he will use his powers in Congress to cut Washington's financial support of the organization. He has said the United States should provide lethal weaponry to the Ukrainian military to battle Russian-backed separatists, a step the Obama administration has resisted.

Environment

Unlike other Republican presidential contenders, Mr. Graham believes that climate change is a problem and that it is caused by human activity. But he is concerned about using federal laws to curb greenhouse-gas emissions, saying he wants to make an issue of whether "you have to destroy the economy to solve the problem" of global warming.

Same-Sex Marriage

He has supported a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Mr. Graham has spoken out against the possibility that the Supreme Court could strike down same-sex marriage bans, saying: "What's the legal difference between a ban on same-sex marriage being unconstitutional but a ban on polygamy being constitutional?"

Immigration

Mr. Graham differs from many of his fellow Republican contenders in that he is a strong proponent of making it possible for immigrants who are in the country illegally to become citizens. "If I were president of the United States, I would veto any bill that did not have a pathway to citizenship," he told USA Today, adding: "You would have a long, hard path to citizenship." He says Republicans have been losing Hispanic support because of hostility toward immigrants.

Economy and Budget Issues

Mr. Graham supported giving Mr. Obama "fast track" authority to negotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. He opposed the president's $789 billion stimulus package in 2009. He believes the federal government's debt limit should be increased only when that is accompanied by spending cuts, but he has not ruled out tax increases, as many other Republicans have.

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Lindsey Graham, in announcing White House run, gets personal // Politico // Katie Glueck – June 1, 2015

CENTRAL, S.C. — He's spent a third of his life in Congress and is a fixture on the Sunday morning news-show circuit, making nearly 70 appearances in the past five years.

But as he announced his presidential bid Monday here in the tiny town where he grew up, Lindsey Graham sought to knock down the idea that he's a creature of Washington and instead told a personal story that's largely been overlooked over the course of his two decades in the House and Senate.

It's the tale of a son of pool-hall owners, who grew up near-impoverished in the back room of his parents' bar. As a college student, he raised, and eventually adopted, his little sister after their parents died, before going on to have a career as an Air Force lawyer and then rising to become South Carolina's senior senator.

"Those of you who've known me a long time know I had some ups and downs as a young man," he said. "I lost my parents, and had to struggle financially and emotionally … There are a lot of so-called 'self-made' people in this world. I'm not one of them. My family, friends, neighbors and my faith picked me up when I was down, believed in me when I had doubts. You made me the man I am today."

Graham's sister, Darline Graham Nordone, spoke proudly of her brother and late parents during a brief interview Sunday night before Graham's walk-through.

"Our parents were small-business owners here in the town of Central," she said. "As any other small-business owners, they understood the long hard hours that go into running a small business, and just the strong work ethic that we got from that and the values … It's just amazing that we come from this and went on to bigger and better things, but our roots are here."

The humble-origins narrative is a staple of presidential campaigning, but it's a fairly new device for Graham, who has only started to employ it in recent years. It wasn't until his 2014 Senate race, when he squared off with six primary challengers, that he slowly and sometimes reluctantly began to use that part of his biography in part to fight back against criticism that he had been in Washington too long.

Now, as a long-shot presidential candidate, Graham once again told that story in this sleepy speck of a town located about 45 minutes from Greenville, where Main Street consists of a thrift shop, a hair salon, and a restaurant or two — including the remnants of the Graham family's bar.

"I think it's a good idea for people to realize, he's certainly a self-educated, self-made guy," said Hank Scott, a major donor who is very close to Graham. "He worked hard to get where he is, he's not a person that grew up with privilege, like, say, [Jeb] Bush."

David Woodard, an operative and professor who managed Graham's first two House races in the 1990s, said he never heard Graham talk about his family's troubles, even when those issues were fresher for him.

"Did he talk about it? No, he never talked about it," Woodard said, adding later, "He's kind of a self-made story, but he didn't talk about it."

During his reelection last year, after some reluctance about getting too personal, Graham allowed his team to run an ad featuring his sister, Darline, who grew emotional in the spot when she reflected on how Graham helped raise

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her.

“It was hard when we lost my mom and my dad,” she said in the ad. “Lindsey assured me that he was going to take care of me, he was going to be there for me. He never let me down. Never. I don’t see how he did it, to take on the responsibility of raising a little sister. That came from within for Lindsey.”

Graham won that race just as he’s won every congressional contest in which he’s run, starting in 1994, many of them with the help of South Carolina’s top political talent. Yet as he begins his run for president, many of them are not on board. When he indicated he was serious about running for president, many of the state’s most well-respected operatives were caught off guard —and had already agreed to help other candidates.

“I’ve been involved in all of his Senate campaigns, and it was tough, but my ship has sailed,” said J. Warren Tompkins, a veteran South Carolina operative who is committed to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. “I had committed long before I had any inkling he had any interest in running for president.”

In some state political circles, even where Graham is popular, there’s a sense of bewilderment about why he’s running — and some donors and operatives say privately that they wish he’d stick to the Senate. In a very crowded Republican field, Graham barely registers in the national polls; he has low name identification and his record on issues like immigration reform is still anathema to the grassroots conservative voters who are so critical in early-voting states like Iowa.

“I’ll always be supporting Lindsey any and every way I can,” said Scott, the donor, whose own divided loyalty is revealing — he says he’s supporting both his friend and Rubio. Noting how crowded the field is, “I tried to encourage him to play the Strom Thurmond role and stay in the Senate,” Scott added.

In his announcement speech Monday, Graham highlighted his national security credentials, another reminder that pushing a more assertive foreign policy is the core rationale for his run.

“I want to be president to defeat the enemies trying to kill us, not just penalize them or criticize them or contain them, but defeat them,” he said.

It’s unclear how well Graham is polling in South Carolina presidential surveys —an NBC News poll from February found him leading the pack but an April poll from local Winthrop University reported that more than half of his home state GOP voters would not considering voting for him for the nomination.

His South Carolina political colleagues aren’t lined up behind him either: GOP Gov. Nikki Haley has said she won’t be making any early endorsements and several of the state’s House members appeared at a presidential launch event for Rand Paul — Graham’s nemesis on foreign policy matters — though they stopped short of endorsing.

Graham’s supporters believe he will play a key role in pushing national security issues to the forefront, and that the senator — who at Republican cattle calls so far this year has impressed with his sense of humor and command of foreign policy — will expand his base as more people get to know him. He’s a natural, folksy campaigner and his hawkish foreign policy message plays well with a Republican base that’s grown increasingly anxious about instability in the Middle East and the rise of ISIS.

Despite the seemingly impossible path to the GOP nomination, Graham’s allies insist he is seriously interested in pursuing a White House bid and wouldn’t run if he didn’t see a path to victory, even as speculation abounds in South Carolina about whether he’s positioning for another job, like secretary of defense, or to be a kingmaker during the first-in-the-South South Carolina primary.

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In the meantime, a super PAC supporting Graham, Security is Strength, is also gearing up and announced its staff over the weekend. It is largely driven by former Graham campaign and Senate staffers, and also includes former Minnesota Sen. Norm Coleman. Graham is a favorite of hawkish donors — mega-donor Sheldon Adelson co-hosted a fundraiser on Capitol Hill for him several months ago, and plenty of people aligned with other candidates showed up and even served on the host committee.

For Graham, the uphill climb ahead was obvious on Sunday night: a handful of interested bystanders who appeared in Central before Graham's walk-through said they supported him in his Senate bid — but none was ready to commit to him for president yet.

Graham Begins Foreign Policy-Focused Bid // Bloomberg // Mark Halperin – June 1, 2015

Style: Played the self-effacing hometown boy, keeping up his colloquial style even when talking about fearsome international threats. Quite low-energy for an announcement speech, although the typical Southern crowd whooped, cheered, and applauded throughout, allowing Graham to piggyback on their liveliness. Kept unscripted asides to a minimum (for him).

Substance: Heavy rhetorical emphasis on signature issues such as fighting terror, building alliances around the world, and enacting entitlement reform, but not much specifics there or anywhere else.

Best moment: Jazzed the audience by declaring he has more foreign policy experience than everyone else in the race, including Hillary Clinton.

Worst moment: Lapsed into reading his text for several minutes in the middle of his remarks, further sapping momentum.

Overall: The national security candidate chose to make national security the center of his announcement by starting with it, seeding it throughout, and ending with it. While he talked about working with Democrats, he didn't emphasize his past efforts on immigration reform and climate change, which have put him out of step with the party base. Instead, he focused on his long-time fidelity to the three-legged Reagan stool of national security, social issues, and the economy. The whole event felt more like a personal moment for Graham than the launching of a national movement, and he did not summon the determined air of someone who thinks he can actually win. Still, it was a well-written speech, and he can move on to life as an official candidate, where fundraising and poll challenges await.

Style: B- Substance: B- Overall: B-

Note: The overall grade is not an average of the style and substance grades, but takes into account other aspects of the announcement, such as staging and crowd reaction. In addition, a candidate's overall grade reflects the degree to which the candidate's standing in the race is improved by the event and performance.

Lindsey Graham has a plan to win the GOP nomination. If it works, it'd be a first. // WaPo // Jose A. DelReal – June 1, 2015

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., gives a thumbs up after being re-elected, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014, in Columbia, S.C. Graham beat Democratic state Sen. Brad Hutto of Orangeburg. (AP Photo/Rainier Ehrhardt)

As a native South Carolinian, GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham's candidacy could shake up that early-voting state's

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primary.

But that's not the same thing as shaking up the presidential race.

Graham certainly carries an advantage in The Palmetto State, where his name recognition is nearly universal after having serving the state as U.S. senator for more than 12 years. And a February NBC News/Marist poll of South Carolina voters showed Graham leading the GOP pack with 17 percent support. Former Florida governor Jeb Bush (R) followed Graham with 15 percent, while Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) placed third with 12 percent.*

“For a guy like me, it’s pretty simple,” Graham recently told Time Magazine. “I do well in Iowa and finish in the top tier in New Hampshire, I’ll win South Carolina. By the end of South Carolina there are three or four people left at the most.”

In other words, the strategy is: 1) Don't tank in Iowa or New Hampshire. 2) Come in strong in the home state. 3) ???

As of now, Graham is barely registering in polls anywhere else, including states he would need to compete in in the later stages of the Republican primary process. But let's start with Step 1.

A WMUR Granite State poll of likely New Hampshire voters has him far behind most of his would-be rivals, carrying the support of just around 1 percent of primary voters. For context, former Florida governor Jeb Bush leads the pack with 15 percent. Meanwhile, even longshot candidate Donald Trump has 5 percent.**

And in Iowa, Graham is the first-choice candidate for just 1 percent of likely GOP voters, according to a May Des Moines Register poll.*** He completely fails to register in another poll by Quinnipiac.

History doesn't seem to be on Graham's side either. Presidential candidates who hail from early voting states have frequently failed to make a splash nationwide and have also occasionally been met with resistance from in-state allies who fear their state's primary could be rendered irrelevant by a home grown contender.

Put another way: in the modern era, there has never been a presidential nominee who hailed from Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, or Nevada.

Consider former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack, who made a short-lived run for the 2008 Democratic nomination but quickly dropped out of the race – ending his campaign in February of 2007. Though Vilsack stood a strong chance of winning the caucuses if he had stayed in the race, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama’s fundraising strength proved to be an intractable challenge nationwide. For what it's worth, The Iowa Democratic Party responded to Vilsack's candidacy by promising to remain neutral for fear that Vilsack’s candidacy would discourage candidates from competing in the state.

When former New Hampshire senator Bob Smith ran for the 2000 GOP nomination – also as a longshot – New Hampshire Republicans balked at the thought of the Granite State losing its sacred status as a must-compete contest. He too dropped out before the primaries actually began.

Iowa's Tom Harkin, who retired from the Senate last year, ran for the Democratic nomination in 1992 and swept the Iowa contest, receiving the support of nearly 80 percent of caucusgoers. But in New Hampshire the next week, Harkin took just 10 percent of the vote.

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Of course, Graham's candidacy will largely rest on his clearly-defined, hawkish foreign policy positions in an election where foreign affairs have already taken center stage. That could bode well for him, particularly as Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul's strong critique of GOP hawks presents a headline-grabbing foil for Graham to pit himself against.

*The NBC News/Marist survey of 450 likely South Carolina GOP voters has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.6 percentage points.

**The WMUR survey of 293 likely GOP primary voters has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.7 percent.

***That survey of 402 likely caucusgoers was conducted between May 25 to May 29 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham is a Republican contender for the White House in 2016. Here's his take on Obamacare, guns and more, in his own words. (Julie Percha/The Washington Post)

Lindsey Graham joins crowded 2016 presidential field // MSNBC // Benjy Sarlin – June 1, 2015

CENTRAL, South Carolina – Warning that "the world is exploding in terror and violence," Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) announced a long-shot presidential campaign in his small home town on Monday predicated on aggressively confronting threats from the Islamic State and Iran abroad.

"I'm pretty sure no one here, including me, ever expected to hear me say, 'I'm Lindsey Graham, and I'm running for president of the United States,'" he told a cheering crowd of dozens of flag-waving supporters gathered just steps from the former pool hall on Main Street that he grew up in.

It's hard to talk about Graham's candidacy without mentioning his ideological archrival, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), whose libertarian approach to civil liberties, dovish take on military conflict and deep skepticism of an active foreign policy runs directly counter to the South Carolina lawmaker's own stance.

"I want to be president to defeat the enemies that are trying to kill us," Graham said in his announcement.

Both candidates seem eager to play the mongoose to the other's snake as the 2016 presidential campaign heats up. Their conflict reached its peak in recent days after Paul successfully forced the temporary expiration of PATRIOT Act provisions that govern, among other things, the phone record spy program revealed by Edward Snowden. Graham favors a maximalist approach to counterterrorism.

Paul frequently fires up supporters by quoting Graham's latest jingoisms on the trail – this week he criticized Graham's boast that he would drone strike an American citizen suspected of terrorism rather than "call a judge." During Paul's PATRIOT Act filibuster, Graham gave an eye roll worthy of the surliest teenager and a clip of it from a live C-Span broadcast went viral. Paul went on to lambast the "eye roll caucus" in an e-mail to supporters last week and a pro-Paul super PAC responded with a web ad going after Graham.

Graham didn't mention Paul directly in his announcement Monday, but he alluded to conflicts with rival lawmakers back in Washington.

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“We’ve made some dangerous mistakes in recent years,” Graham said. “The Obama administration and some of my colleagues in Congress have substituted wishful thinking for sound national security strategy.”

Graham boasted that he has “more experience with our national security then any other candidate in this race – that includes you, Hillary.”

The tension put USC senior Anna Chapman, 21, in an awkward spot. A devoted Paul supporter, she volunteered at the event as a favor to her fellow College Republicans.

“I’m here to support Graham … kind of,” she said. “He is from South Carolina, it’s cool that he’s running. I’m not going to bash him, but I don’t think he’s going to win the nomination.”

Foreign affairs may be Graham’s calling card, but it’s hardly all he’s known for. At times he has split from GOP conservatives to broker bipartisan deals, most notably as co-author of the immigration reform bill that passed the Senate in 2013 but never came up for a vote in the House amid intense conservative opposition. Graham’s speech included a message for fellow Democrats, whom he pledged to work with the to make progress on areas of agreement should he win the White House.

“Our differences are real and we’ll debate them, but you’re not my enemy, you’re my fellow countrymen,” he said.

Language like this appealed to attendees like Jim Eshelman, an engineer in Greenville, who is interested in Graham but still not committed to backing him.

“I love his spirit of bipartisanship – the gridlock has been awful,” he said.

Graham’s advisers also see potential in showcasing his humble roots, which 2016 candidates like Scott Walker and Marco Rubio have used to great effect in campaign speeches to connect with voters. The senator grew up in the back of a bar owned by his parents, who died within 15 months of each other while he was in his early 20s, leaving him to raise his younger sister himself. Graham put himself through law school and took officer training in the Air Force, where he ended up serving as a judge advocate.

Graham, who was introduced by his sister, mentioned the Social Security benefits he received after his parents’ death in pledging to reform the program to sustain it in the long term.

“As president I will gladly do what it takes to save the program that once saved my family,” he said.

A fixture on Sunday political talk shows, Graham is among the most prominent and frequently quoted lawmakers in the national media on a variety of issues. Despite his high visibility, he’s considered well short of the top tier in the presidential race, and polls show he may have a tough time qualifying for primary debates, which will choose participants based on their support in national surveys.

He may have a bigger impact in South Carolina, however, a crucial early primary state that helped galvanize conservative opposition to Mitt Romney in 2012 by going for Newt Gingrich and sealed John McCain’s nomination in 2008 against Mike Huckabee.

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Many of the supporters who gathered here on Monday knew Graham personally or mentioned his dedicated constituent work. He once threatened to shut down the Senate to fast track a project deepening a major port. This attention to detail back home helped keep him safe from primary threats in his easy 2014 re-election despite major tea party opposition.

Vendors at the rally sold "Lindsey Graham: Native Son" buttons. If he takes even a sizable minority of votes, it's possible he could peel votes from other candidates in a way that affects the race. In 2008, for example, former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson was widely credited with pushing McCain past the finish line by splitting southern conservative support with Huckabee.

The Lindsey Graham record: A lot like John McCain, who also ran for president // Yahoo News // Meredith Shiner – June 1, 2015

On Monday, Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina will become the fifth sitting senator to formally announce a presidential bid, but his biggest challenge to prove he's a viable candidate likely won't come directly from the crowded field of colleagues he's currently running against. It will be from the one senator who already has waged (and lost) multiple bids for the White House: John McCain of Arizona.

For those who follow congressional politics, Graham and McCain have been inseparable — and practically indistinguishable — from each other for more than a decade, since Graham arrived to the Senate in 2003. Graham is often spotted just feet from the Senate floor, barking into a flip phone to a staffer about coordinating press strategy with McCain, meaning that "Statement by Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham on [foreign policy issue X]" is a frequent refrain in reporters' mailboxes. A search of McCain's Senate website, for example , found 239 press releases mentioning "Lindsey Graham" since 2005, many of which are from the past two years.

Graham and McCain also make up the core two-thirds of a group known colloquially in Washington as the "Three Amigos," which basically is a small nucleus of senators who have consistently advocated for more U.S. military intervention in the Middle East and have been searching for a permanent third "amigo" since "friend" Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., left the Senate in 2013. A Graham bid now completes an unofficial fraternity pledging ritual for the original group's triumvirate: a presidential run.

With a 2016 Graham campaign, four of the last five presidential elections have featured an "amigo" vying for a place at the top of the ticket (Lieberman, 2004; McCain, 2000, 2008). But there's no requirement for success in this political hazing process. Only once has a major party selected an amigo as its nominee — McCain in 2008 — and America has never elected one as president.

Little Sister Lauds Lindsey Graham, the Bachelor, for Raising Her // NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 1, 2015

CENTRAL, S.C. — If elected, Senator Lindsey Graham would be the first bachelor to win the White House since Grover Cleveland. But that does not mean he will be on the campaign trail without any family members in tow.

Mr. Graham, 59, a Republican who is a hawk on foreign policy, featured his relatives prominently at his announcement here on Monday — none more so than his sister, Darline Graham Nordone, who introduced him. Ms. Nordone did her best to show Mr. Graham's softer side by sharing stories of how he taught her to ride a bicycle and recalling the pain of losing both their parents, one after the other, at young ages.

"Lindsey was always my parent," Ms. Nordone said in an interview in the bar on Main Street that their family once owned. "There was no doubt in my mind or anyone else's mind that Lindsey was my guardian."

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Mr. Graham and his sister grew up in a small room behind the bar, which was then known as the Sanitary Cafe. They eventually moved into a trailer and then into a house next door. In 1976, when he was 20 and his sister was 11, their mother died of Hodgkin's lymphoma; 15 months later, their father died of a heart attack.

Ms. Nordone said she had kept a low profile during her brother's previous campaigns, but that she would be willing to attend events with him now and do anything she could to help him win the White House.

A mother of two whose occupation is helping people with disabilities find jobs, Ms. Nordone said that her brother's sense of responsibility, in caring for her, was why he had never married.

"He was a young man taking on a young girl and teenager to raise," she said. "He was just dedicating all of that time to raising me and going to school and trying to get an education. There's just only so much time in a day."

Mr. Graham later became his sister's legal guardian while he was in the Air Force, allowing her to qualify for his military benefits.

Mr. Graham's bachelorhood has been seized upon by his political opponents before, most recently last year, when a little-known conservative primary challenger called him "ambiguously gay."

Ms. Nordone said that such personal attacks were hard for her to take, but that she tried to tune out criticism of her brother — while showing people that Mr. Graham was much more than a politician.

"He's kind of like a brother, a father and a mother rolled into one," she said.

Paul: I was exaggerating on my terror attack claim // MSNBC //Aliyah Frumin and Anthony Terrell – June 1, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul is backtracking on a controversial suggestion he made over the weekend: that his opponents secretly want a terrorist attack on the U.S. so they can pin the blame on the Kentucky lawmaker and Republican presidential candidate.

When Paul was asked during a Monday morning appearance on Fox News who he was referring to when he made the comment on the Senate floor Sunday, the senator said, "Sometimes in the heat of a battle, hyperbole can get the better of anyone, and that may be the problem there." He added, "The point I was trying to make is that I think people do use fear to try to get us to give up our liberty."

The National Security Agency's controversial surveillance program allowing the government to collect Americans' phone data in bulk expired on Monday after Senate GOPers failed to reach an agreement to extend it.

Paul – an outspoken critic of the program – previously insisted "People here in town think I'm making a huge mistake. Some of them—I think—secretly want there to be an attack on the United States so they can blame it on me."

During the Fox interview, Paul called the expiration of key proponents of the Patriot Act a "big victory for privacy." Critics like Paul have spent years condemning the Patriot Act—which was instituted after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and allows the government to obtain telecommunication, financial and credit records without a

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court order—arguing it tramples on civil liberties and allows the government to spy on innocent people.

Meanwhile, some conservative critics have argued Paul sounds more like a Democrat on national security. Paul insisted on Monday, however, that may be the case among "Beltway pundits" but not when he's on the road talking to Americans.

"I think the American people are actually with me," said Paul on Fox News.

Paul's team recently highlighted a survey to msnbc that shows 60% of Americans want to change the Patriot Act. They further point out that 65% of millennials and 75% of Independent men are pushing for a modification of the Patriot Act.

Separately, Mallory Factor, a conservative political analyst who has helped Sen. Paul raise money, told msnbc that the GOP is "doing some soul searching" on national security and that the rift on the issue is causing some shifts in both parties.

"I see a whole realignment in the electorate if the general election is Rand Paul versus Hillary Clinton," Factor said, suggesting national security is changing allegiances in both the Democratic and GOP parties.

It's an issue that has divided the emerging Republican field.

Some like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie—who have not officially declared their 2016 intentions but are expected to run—have defended the programs, arguing they are vital to national security. Similarly, declared candidate, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida recently argued on the Senate floor that a perception has been created "that the United States government is listening to your phone calls or going through your bills as a matter of course," said Rubio. "That is absolutely and categorically false."

On the other side are candidates like Paul, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Cruz said a recent federal appeals court ruling the NSA's collection of millions of Americans' phone records is illegal confirmed what many Americans already know—that the NSA "went to far in collecting the phone records." Huckabee has gone as far to suggest authorities should get a warrant if they want to listen in on Americans' phone calls.

The national security debate has also highlighted a bitter divide between Paul and fellow Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, who wanted to extend the Patriot Act. On Sunday, Paul objected to the senate majority leader's proposal to extend less controversial aspects of the surveillance programs – but allow discussions on the telephone program continue. After Paul's objection, McConnell took to the Senate floor and in apparent aim at Paul, accused critics of a "campaign of demagoguery and disinformation."

Paul campaign video appears to run afoul of Senate rules // Politico // Burgess Everett – May 31, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul may have taken his stand against government surveillance a little too far in his presidential campaign.

In a campaign video released on Friday that includes explicit links to a campaign donation page, Paul (R-Ky.) extensively uses footage from his lengthy speech on the Senate floor on May 20 against bulk data collection and surveillance in the PATRIOT Act. The Senate "strictly" prohibits any use of its proceedings for campaign activities.

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The video, published under the "Official YouTube Channel of Rand Paul for President," says it is paid for by "Rand Paul for President" and includes a hyperlink to a secure donation page. According to the standing rules of the Senate, "The use of any tape duplication of radio or television coverage of the proceedings of the Senate for political campaign purposes is strictly prohibited."

The campaign video begins with a clip of Ronald Reagan, quoting him from a 1964 speech on individual liberty saying that "those who would trade our freedom for security have embarked on this downward course." The video then pivots to Paul's 10-hour speech earlier this month against the PATRIOT Act, three key provisions of which are set to expire on Sunday at midnight if Paul refuses to allow quick Senate votes.

"There comes a time in the history of nations when fear and complacency allow power to accumulate and liberty and privacy to suffer. That time is now," Paul says on the Senate floor in the video. "We should be in open rebellion saying, 'Enough's enough, we're not going to take it anymore.' We should be in rebellion saying to our government that the Constitution that protects our freedoms must be obeyed."

Paul has come close to running afoul of Senate rules before, using a Fox News clip of his 2013 filibuster in his campaign launch video, first reported by Time. But that video clearly showed a Fox News chyron in it, putting it in a grey area ethically. The most recent video includes no such indication that it is from news footage.

Campaign and Senate aides to Paul did not respond to a request for comment.

Rand Paul's "sugar daddy" problem: Billionaires don't love him — but that could be a blessing in disguise // Salon // Jim Newell – June 1, 2015

Citizens United and subsequent court decisions loosening campaign finance restrictions have made running for president easy-peasy: you can find one billionaire to give you tens of millions of dollars and then you just do whatever they tell you to do. It's a great country. There are billionaires all over the place nowadays looking to purchase politicians for themselves.

And yet Rand Paul, who has a slender but not-nil chance of winning the Republican presidential nomination can't find himself a single willing billionaire into whose pockets he can dive deep. Tragically, this might mean that he'll have to raise money in the boring, old-timey horse-and-buggy fashion: by soliciting donations from a lot of people instead of one. Who wants this?

Politico reports that Paul's inability to secure a "sugar daddy" or two, so to speak, has "led to considerable frustration in his campaign, which, amid rising concerns that it will not be able to compete financially, finds itself leaning heavily on the network of small donors who powered his father's insurgent White House bids." The obvious first choice was billionaire tech libertarian Peter Thiel, who gave Rand Paul's father a bunch of cash in 2012. Thiel is hesitant to play a similar role again for Ron's considerably more viable spawn, and staffers don't know why. Some suggest he's "become tired of political giving," which is understandable, because politics is bullshit and he could buy all other sorts of cool stuff with that money like boats and cars and things.

Sean Parker, the Napster cofounder who also made a bunch of money off of Facebook, was also solicited but may give his money to Hillary Clinton instead because his politics make no sense.

GOP senators tear into Pau l // Politico // Manu Raju and Burgess Everett – May 31, 2015

The Rand Paul pile-on session began a few hours before sunset Sunday evening.

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Behind closed doors in the Senate's Strom Thurmond Room, Republican senators lashed out at the junior Kentucky Republican's defiant stance to force the expiration of key sections of the PATRIOT Act, a law virtually all of them support. Indiana Sen. Dan Coats' criticism was perhaps the most biting: He accused the senator of "lying" about the matter in order to raise money for his presidential campaign, according to three people who attended the meeting.

The message may have gotten through to Paul except for one thing: The libertarian-minded senator skipped the hour-long meeting. That only infuriated his colleagues more.

"Anything that goes against anything he believes, he never comes," Coats said in an interview. "It's always helpful if you're in there working to have your position understood, and we all learn a lot and we all try to come to a much better understanding of what we're trying to do."

"He needed to be there," said Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.). "He really needed to be there."

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) noted that Paul has missed "a number of meetings" Republicans have held on the PATRIOT Act in recent weeks. He contended there was an obvious political reason for Paul's stance, pointing out how his colleague was tweeting supporters taking "selfies" of themselves next to Paul speaking on TV.

"I know what this is about — I think it's very clear – this is, to some degree, a fundraising exercise," McCain said Sunday. "He obviously has a higher priority for his fundraising and political ambitions than for the security of the nation."

The stinging personal criticism of Paul showed just how unpopular the Kentucky Republican's demands to kill the surveillance law is among party elders — and portended how this battle is likely to continue to hover over his presidential campaign, for better or worse. It marked the first time in Paul's brief tenure in Washington where he's become the scourge of much of his party — not unlike how the party establishment turned on Ted Cruz over his role in the 2013 government shutdown.

Like Cruz, Paul is clearly relishing it.

"Tonight begins the process of ending bulk collection," Paul said proudly on the Senate floor, just hours before the expiration of key provisions in the law. And in a sign of the ill will between him and his colleagues, Paul took a personal whack of his own.

"People here in town think I'm making a huge mistake," he said. "Some of them, I think, secretly want there to be an attack on the United States so they can blame it on me."

Since becoming a senator, Paul has long railed against the PATRIOT Act, arguing it's a blatant violation of Americans' constitutional privacy rights. His position gained steam among many civil libertarians after Edward Snowden exposed the National Security Agency's bulk data collection program of Americans' phone records.

Buoyed by Snowden's leaks, a bipartisan majority in the House moved to overhaul the bulk data program through the USA Freedom Act by proposing that phone companies — not the federal government — maintain those records, though the NSA could access them via a secret court order.

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But Paul contends that the USA Freedom Act would be an expansion of the PATRIOT Act and could torpedo a lawsuit aimed at ending the bulk data program. The phone companies, he said, “may do the same thing” as the NSA.

Republican leaders in the Senate, after initially resisting the USA Freedom Act because of concerns it would hamper intelligence gathering, on Sunday reluctantly accepted it. They did so with a midnight deadline to extend the surveillance law hours away, their backs against the wall.

That made Paul even more isolated than he was already.

“I think there are some legitimate debates going on in the country over who should hold the documents,” said Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), a member of GOP leadership and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. “I think there aren’t very many people in Sen. Paul’s place that believe that none of these provisions need to be extended or held onto in some way.”

After skipping the GOP meeting, Paul appeared for a tense floor debate between him and his colleagues, including the man who has endorsed him for president: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a fellow Kentuckian. The GOP leader was incensed at Paul’s refusal to allow a two-week renewal of far-less controversial provisions of the PATRIOT Act: The use of roving wiretaps for terrorism suspects that change phone numbers quickly and “lone wolf” provisions that allow tracking of suspects who are not affiliated with known terrorist groups.

Just as McConnell attempted to pass a short-term extension, Paul launched into his own impassioned speech—only to be shouted down by his colleagues.

“One of the promises that was given when the PATRIOT Act was originally passed was that in exchange for allowing a less than constitutional standard, we would only use the actions against …” Paul said before he was interrupted by Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), who pounded his desk while presiding over the Senate.

“Is there objection?” Wicker asked as Paul tried to continue on. A number of Republican senators began yelling over Paul to restore order in the chamber and prevent another lengthy speech.

“Regular order!” shouted Sens. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), among others.

“I object,” Paul responded. That prompted McConnell to launch his own speech. At times glaring at Paul, the Senate leader blasted what he called “a campaign of demagoguery and disinformation launched in the wake of unlawful actions of Edward Snowden, who was last seen in Russia.” Paul sat at his desk quietly, holding his glasses in his hand.

McConnell never named Paul in his passionate speech, but it was clearly aimed at the man who had been a close political ally — until now.

Other colleagues did criticize Paul by name.

“I don’t stand with Rand on this,” said Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.). “I want to make sure the ability to monitor terrorists continues uninterrupted.”

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"I think he's nestled in with a very large bunch of very radical people – from the left to the right," said Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, the president pro tempore. "I don't know if he feels comfortable being with all those leftists who hate the PATRIOT Act. But he has a right to do what he's doing."

Paul ended up delaying a final Senate vote on the USA Freedom Act until later this week. After blocking that bill before the Memorial Day recess, McConnell and GOP leaders agreed to move the House's measure, saying they had no other choice. By a 77-17 vote Sunday, the Senate broke a filibuster and moved to begin debate on the bill.

To overcome Paul's delay tactics, McConnell was forced to employ a rarely used prerogative to force senators to debate after a filibuster has been broken, allowing him to move to final passage as early as Tuesday.

As that vote was occurring, Paul was sitting at his desk. He huddled with two libertarian-minded House members: GOP Reps. Justin Amash of Michigan and Thomas Massie of Kentucky. His fellow 2016 rivals, Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida, were yukking it up nearby with a small group of senators. (Rubio voted against proceeding to the House bill, while Cruz supported it.)

In an interview, Amash said Paul's positions are supported "overwhelmingly" by voters of "all political affiliations."

"It's not politically risky to stand with the vast majority of Americans," Amash said. "I'm astonished when I hear Republican candidates in particular speak as though people want the PATRIOT Act. They don't."

"He's exposing the country to the Constitution," Massie added. "And the senators that think that's dangerous are saying the Constitution's dangerous."

Several dozen Paul supporters sat in the Senate gallery on Sunday night clad in red "Rand" T-shirts.

But Paul didn't have many other defenders in the halls of the Senate.

Rubio called the expiration of the PATRIOT Act's provisions the result of "political posturing."

"There are other ways this could have been done," said Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.).

One way Paul could have handled the matter would have been to simply object to short-term extensions of current law, rather than giving a nearly 11-hour floor speech on the floor before the Memorial Day recess, Heller said.

"It accomplished just the same, but he couldn't raise money objecting," Heller said. "He could only raise money filibustering."

Mike Huckabee to Rand Paul: Decide what job you want // CNN // Gregory Wallace – June 1, 2015

(CNN)Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee wants Rand Paul to make a choice: Protest the Patriot Act either on the Senate floor or on the campaign trail.

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He joined a chorus of Republican presidential hopefuls weighing in on the Kentucky Republican senator's protest of the Patriot Act, key provisions of which lapsed Sunday.

Paul claimed credit for blocking parts of the renewal of the controversial law, and his protests included an 11-hour speech on the eve of the chamber's Memorial Day break, as well as objections to several short-term extensions of the Act.

In response to a question about Paul, Huckabee said on Fox News Monday morning that 2016 contenders must "decide what they want to be when they grow up."

"If you want to be a governor, be a governor. If you want to be a senator, be a senator," Huckabee said. "If you want to be president, then let go of what you're doing, because it's a full time pursuit to run for the presidency."

Those in government positions owe a responsibility to the taxpayer, he continued.

"If you want a different job, then say I don't want this one anymore. I'm bored with it," he said. "But be honest about it and go out and give the taxpayers a break, and let them have someone on the job full time."

Huckabee added in a follow-up question that he did not mean to "impugn his (Paul's) motives" because "this is not something he just took up because it's a political cause."

Many of those running for president are out of office, though two of Paul's Senate colleagues -- Marco Rubio of Florida and Ted Cruz of Texas -- are in the race, and Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina is expected to announce a bid on Monday. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont is running for the Democratic nomination. Several sitting governors -- including Chris Christie of New Jersey, John Kasich of Ohio, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Scott Walker of Wisconsin -- are considering joining the GOP field.

Unlike several other Republicans who have hammered Paul for blocking the Patriot Act renewal, Huckabee believes the original law went too far.

He said the original law was "hastily passed" in the wake of 9/11 without extensive debate. Public opinion has shifted now, he said.

"Fourteen years ago, we were worried about terrorists. Now we're worried about our government," Huckabee said, singling out controversies around the IRS and Justice Departments.

Rand Paul's Stand Against the Patriot Act Is About More Than Mass Surveillance // Policy.Mic // Mark Kogan – June 1, 2015

On Sunday night, controversial elements of the Patriot Act were allowed to expire for the first time since its passage following the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), whose procedural maneuvers prevented the Senate from renewing the bill in its entirety, declared in a press release that "tonight begins the process of ending bulk collection" of data for mass surveillance.

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Paul's efforts, whether motivated by personal beliefs, presidential aspirations or a healthy mix of both, mark an important moment in American politics, not just for the debate over mass surveillance, but for congressional gridlock in general.

In recent decades, as congressional politics became increasingly polarized and meaningful compromise became less common, the practical challenge for legislators was the sheer impossibility of moving legislation through the system without some sort of forcing function.

Legislators began pushing fewer individual bills, instead packing their projects and policies into "omnibus" bills that addressed entire sectors of government rather than individual pieces. These amalgamated bills were often funding bills and therefore "must-pass" legislation. Voting against omnibus bills became too risky because failing to pass the larger bill over disagreements with one or two relatively minor provisions carried the threat of tremendous collateral damage (both real and political).

As this process of smashing through "must-pass" bills became standard operating procedure, the political leadership made another cynical discovery. By waiting until the last second and using the subsequent fear of imminent expiration to force passage, politicians were able to avoid debating elements of the bill that put them at risk while simultaneously ensuring passage.

The lead-up to this year's renewal of the Patriot Act played out similarly: Everyone from President Barack Obama to Senate Republicans warned of the dangers of failing to pass the bill wholesale.

Urging the Senate to act this week, Obama warned of the dangers of letting surveillance authorities expire.

"I don't want us to be in a situation in which for a certain period of time those authorities go away and suddenly we are dark," he said. "And heaven forbid we've got a problem where we could have prevented a terrorist attack or apprehended someone who is engaged in dangerous activity but we didn't do so simply because of inaction in the Senate."

Others in the administration pushed the same message. In an interview with CBS, newly minted Attorney General Loretta Lynch declared that failing to renew the Patriot Act would make us "less safe" and cause us to "lose important eyes on people who have made it clear ... that their mission is to harm American people here and abroad."

Republicans also joined in on the fear-mongering as the vote deadline approached. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said on the Senate floor that failure to pass or extend the act "would mean disarming completely and arbitrarily."

Others were even more direct. "To go dark on this," said Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.), NPR reported, "is a risk on Americans' lives."

Historically, this was a tried and true formula that would have ensured immediate passage or at least temporary extension while the requisite arm-twisting was done to secure passage. But for the first time in a long time, it didn't work.

"The people who argue that the world will end and we will be overrun by jihadists tonight are trying to use fear... They want you to fear and give up your liberty," said Paul in his statement. "They tell you if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear. That's a far cry from the standard we were founded upon."

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Now, with two more days of mandatory debate forced by Paul, the contentious issue of mass surveillance will be brought to the forefront of civic discourse. This will almost certainly result in meaningful reforms as the Senate takes up the House-passed USA Freedom Act, which curtails contentious mass data collection powers while leaving other elements of the Patriot Act in place.

When Paul rose to speak on Sunday, he knew that his opposition was a beginning, rather than an end. "The Patriot Act will expire tonight," Paul said, but, "It will only be temporary. They will ultimately get their way."

Yet even if they do get their way, this shock is good for the system and will serve as a reminder that the politics of fear and pressure are not necessary and are in fact anathema to good governance, doing far more harm than good.

By forcing expiration and debate, the public has been given an opportunity to nudge public dialogue away from partisan grandstanding toward more meaningful discussion of serious issues. Hopefully, we take advantage of it.

Rand Paul is getting way too much credit for killing 3 Patriot Act powers // Vox // Timothy B. Lee – June 1, 2015

When three controversial provisions of the Patriot Act expired at midnight on Sunday, May 31, 2015, news organizations put Rand Paul (R-KY) front and center. We at Vox did that ourselves, with a story titled "Rand Paul has forced three Patriot Act powers to expire."

This isn't wrong — it's true that Paul's obstructionist tactics helped ensure that the Patriot Act powers would lapse before the Senate had time to pass a replacement. And Paul's dramatic 10-hour speech two weeks ago made for a good story, which is why it got so much media attention. But the media's focus on Paul has led to the Kentucky Republican getting way too much credit for the ultimate outcome of this week's surveillance fight.

The fight is likely to result in the passage of the USA Freedom Act — which seeks to place stricter limits on NSA surveillance but which some privacy advocates say doesn't go far enough — later this week. Paul has opposed this legislation. And if Paul hadn't engaged in his theatrics, the most likely outcome would have been exactly the same. The only difference is that the USA Freedom Act might have passed a few days earlier.

If the USA Freedom Act passes in the Senate, credit (or blame) should go to the 57 senators — mostly Democrats — who supported the legislation a week ago, and to the 54 senators — again mostly Democrats — who voted down a straight renewal of the Patriot Act during the same Friday-night session. Rand Paul's filibuster was wildly successful at getting Rand Paul's name in headlines. But it ultimately had little effect on the outcome of the legislative fight.

The Republican leadership of the House also deserves a lot of credit for reining in the NSA. If the lower House had not passed the USA Freedom Act several weeks ago, Mitch McConnell might have convinced a majority of the Senate that renewing the Patriot Act was the only realistic option.

The Patriot Act powers died because 54 senators wanted them to die

Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) wrote the original version of the USA Freedom Act in 2013 and played a key role in shepherding the legislation through the House of Representatives. (Douglas Graham/Roll Call/Getty Images)

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The crucial moment in the Patriot Act fight wasn't Rand Paul's filibuster on Wednesday, May 20. It was a series of votes taken two days later, on Friday, May 22. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) wanted to force the Senate to renew the Patriot Act without changes. His plan was to bring the USA Freedom Act up for a vote, let it fail, and then tell senators their only alternative was a short-term renewal of the Patriot Act with no changes.

The first part of this plan worked. The USA Freedom Act got 57 votes, just short of the 60 votes required to overcome a filibuster. But when McConnell then called a vote on extending the Patriot Act for two months, the senators didn't flinch — 54 of them voted no.

At this point the question was who would blink first. Would pro-privacy senators agree to extend the Patriot Act without changes? Or would pro-surveillance senators agree to support the USA Freedom Act? On Sunday night, it was McConnell himself who blinked, concluding that the USA Freedom Act he had opposed a week earlier was now "the only realistic way forward." This time 77 senators voted for the USA Freedom Act.

"The Senate will pass a reform that just got 77 votes," says Julian Sanchez a privacy advocate at the Cato Institute (where I worked from 2003 to 2005). He notes that Paul joined "16 of the most hardcore NSA cheerleaders in the Senate" in opposing the legislation.

McConnell's capitulation was a real victory for pro-privacy senators. But Paul deserves little, if any, credit for it. After all, if Paul had backed the USA Freedom Act and convinced two of his fellow Republicans to join him, the legislation could have moved forward sooner. Paul's decision to break with the overwhelming majority of pro-privacy senators and oppose the USA Freedom Act delayed the legislation's passage and created a risk that McConnell would be able to stampede the Senate into renewing the Patriot Act.

Even if Paul's defiant tactics didn't change the outcome of the debate, Sanchez says they helped illustrate that "scaremongering" by surveillance hawks no longer works. "Americans aren't afraid of the dark anymore," he says. "A sunset can't be used to coerce legislators into capitulation with unchecked surveillance powers."

Other members of Congress deserve more credit than Rand Paul

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) provided key Republican support for the USA Freedom Act in the Senate. (Alex Wong/ Getty Images)

Rand Paul's tactics have gotten him a lot of press attention — and, therefore, a lot of undeserved credit — for the outcome of the legislative fight. But a larger share of the credit should go to other senators. Sanchez points to Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Mike Lee (R-UT) as three examples of senators who did the hard work of building a consensus for the USA Freedom Act in the Senate.

And even more credit should go to House leaders such as Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) who passed the USA Freedom Act in a lopsided, bipartisan vote several weeks ago. The fact that the House had already passed the USA Freedom Act made it a lot easier for pro-privacy senators to position it as a reasonable alternative to renewing the Patriot Act.

"It is valuable that Paul is using his platform as a presidential candidate to drive attention to this issue," Sanchez says. But "Paul hasn't ultimately done much to drive the substantive policy outcome."

Dick Cheney and Daughter Push Hawkish Stances for G.O.P. Hopefuls // NYT // Jonathan Martin – June 1, 2015

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The rise of the Islamic State in the Middle East has pushed Republicans toward embracing a more interventionist foreign policy, and now one prominent Republican family wants to be sure the party stays that way.

Former Vice President Dick Cheney and his daughter Liz Cheney are planning to make their presence felt in the 2016 presidential campaign through their advocacy group, Alliance for a Strong America.

The organization is planning online and perhaps television ads pushing a muscular line on national security, according to a Republican strategist familiar with the group's planning. The initiative may also pay for polling to help nudge Republican candidates toward hawkish stances in the primary season.

What is not clear, though, is whether the Cheneys intend to train their fire on Hillary Rodham Clinton or whether they plan to target Senator Rand Paul, the libertarian-leaning Kentuckian who has recently sought to bolster his White House campaign by trying to block a renewal of parts of the Patriot Act.

Mr. Cheney criticized Mr. Paul as "an isolationist" in an interview published online Sunday in The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the Alliance for a Strong America's plans.

Asked about the assessment, Mr. Paul's top political adviser questioned Mr. Cheney's conservative credentials.

"Anyone who defends warrantless spying on innocent U.S. citizens, like President Obama, has no right to call themselves a freedom-loving conservative," said Doug Stafford, the adviser to Mr. Paul. "Worse is these people are defending and supporting a program that the courts have said is illegal and the F.B.I. reports hasn't led to a single terrorist arrest or thwarted terror plot. It has only resulted in the trampling of Americans' rights."

The harsh back-and-forth between the Cheneys and Mr. Paul's orbit illustrates not only the tension in the party over how to balance defense and civil liberties, but also, as Mr. Stafford notes, basic questions about what it means to be a conservative on matters of national security.

The resurgence of radical Islamic terrorism in the Middle East may have pushed many primary voters toward a more hawkish orientation, but Mr. Paul's success in at least temporarily stopping the N.S.A.'s use of metadata suggests that Republicans are uneasy with some of the intelligence policies put into effect during Mr. Cheney's time as vice president.

Republicans who have spoken with Mr. Cheney, who represented Wyoming in the House for 10 years and who maintains an intense interest in both policy and political intrigue, say he is plainly concerned about the party backing away from intelligence programs.

Selective about his public appearances, Mr. Cheney is engaged in the 2016 presidential race behind the scenes. When aides to many of the leading Republican candidates descended on Wyoming this year to make their pitch to a group of wealthy donors, some of the staff members were surprised to find Mr. Cheney in the audience.

How Bobby Jindal lost everything: A one-time GOP hope, gutted by Grover Norquist worship and his own ambition // Salon // Stephanie Grace – June 1, 2015

These are not happy times in Baton Rouge, where government officials are desperately trying to plug a $1.6 billion budget shortfall. But even by that standard, Wednesday, April 22, was particularly fraught.

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In the imposing state capitol that Huey Long built, the Senate Finance Committee was wrestling with a complicated cost-cutting scheme to repeal an inventory tax that businesses pay to local governments and that the state rebates to the businesses, all while promising to somehow make stressed-out local leaders whole.

Just down the road, Louisiana State University President and Chancellor F. King Alexander said that the state's flagship university, which could lose 80 percent of state funding after years of already deep cuts, was developing a worst-case scenario plan for financial exigency—basically the academic equivalent of bankruptcy.

In the midst of it all came a message from Republican Governor Bobby Jindal, whose policies and priorities have contributed mightily to the state's fiscal mess.

"Help wish my friends Willie, Phil and Si a happy birthday," said the tweet, which was accompanied by a photo of Willie Robertson, whose family is featured on the popular homegrown reality TV show Duck Dynasty. It then directed readers to the website for the American Future Project, a 527 issue advocacy group that Jindal has set up in advance of his anticipated presidential run.

If the tweet suggests a stunning disconnect from the dire budget situation that's unfolding on his watch, well, that's how it is these days.

A Pure Record on Taxes

Jindal, a hard-charging former Rhodes Scholar, has always nursed grander ambitions, and voters generally gave him a pass. That was when things were going well.

These days they're not, and Jindal's focus on the upcoming presidential primaries has taken a toll back home. While he was popular and powerful enough to avoid a reelection fight in 2011, by 2015 his approval rating had sunk to 27 percent, according to one poll; a friendly survey by his own consulting firm pegged the number at 46 percent, hardly a resounding vote of confidence.

It's not just his frequent trips to places like Iowa, New Hampshire, and Washington, D.C., that have angered his constituents. (He spent 165 days out of state in 2014, according to The Advocate newspaper.) Nor is it only his odd forays into international and national affairs, from the tall tales in London about Muslim no-go zones, to his op-ed in The New York Times accusing companies that oppose religious freedom laws inspired by the spread of gay marriage of forming an unholy alliance with the "radical liberals." It's not even his need to bask in the Robertsons' reflected glory.

More than any of that, his constituents are frustrated that their governor can't be bothered to do his day job—and when he does, that his actions are often transparently designed to build a national profile rather than meet Louisiana's needs.

That's clear in his refusal to take federal money to expand Medicaid—which, of course, would mean acknowledging there are benefits to Obama's health care law. But nowhere is it more obvious, or more damaging, than in Jindal's stewardship of fiscal affairs.

Jindal chalks up the current budget shortfall to the drop in oil prices, and that's definitely contributed. A larger piece of the puzzle has been his determination to maintain a pure record on taxes.

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Jindal hasn't always been reckless about taxation. In the midst of a budget surplus early in his first term, Jindal tried to quietly head off the Legislature's move to roll back a big income tax increase that had been enacted several years earlier. It was only after lawmakers seemed like they might eliminate the income tax entirely that he got on board with the rollback, and he soon was boasting that he'd signed the biggest tax cut in state history.

The first real glimpse of the future came in 2011 when Jindal fought tooth and nail against extending a temporary four-cent levy on the state's cigarette tax—at 36 cents, including the levy, the third lowest in the nation. His reasoning? If the tax rate is scheduled to automatically drop and the state acts to prevent that from happening, it amounts to an effective tax increase.

The stance left his constituents cold, but impressed Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), who would endorse Jindal as Mitt Romney's running mate the following year.

Even Republicans Are Bristling

These days it's hard to think of anyone who has as much influence over what Jindal's willing to do than Norquist, whose rigid rules for what constitutes a tax increase line up perfectly with Jindal's. In practice, that means the governor has insisted that the budget be balanced without tax increases, despite the prospect of devastating cuts to higher education and health care, the two main areas that don't enjoy constitutional or statutory protection.

And it means some revenue-enhancing ideas the Republican-dominated Legislature might support, specifically a reexamination of giveaways to specific industries, are off limits—because eliminating a tax exemption without an offset that reduces another tax or cuts spending, according to ATR, is raising a tax.

That's how the inventory tax wound up in everyone's crosshairs, despite the fact that eliminating the rebate but not the underlying tax would hurt businesses, and getting rid of the tax would devastate some parishes (that's Louisiana for county). Many companies, it turns out, receive rebate checks that exceed their state tax liability, and in Jindal's view that makes eliminating the payouts a spending cut, not a tax increase. "Corporate welfare," he labeled it in his opening address to the Legislature, prompting chuckles from those who've watched him promote business incentives for years.

In fact, perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the frustration with Jindal is that it transcends partisanship.

It's not just the Democrats who are bristling. It's many a Republican.

Nothing Left to Cut

Republicans who belong to an informal group dubbed the "fiscal hawks" have been sharply critical of Jindal's reliance over the years on one-time money transfers and accounting gimmicks to balance the budget without making even deeper cuts.

One reason everything's hitting the fan is there's not much left. Gone are $800 million from the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly and $450 million for providing development incentives, and the rainy day fund has dropped from $730 million to $460 million on his watch.

Republicans like state Rep. Jay Morris, who, after hearing Jindal's vow to veto any measure that didn't have

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Grover Norquist's blessing, declared the approach "insane." And like state Sen. Jack Donahue, who chairs the Finance Committee and who passed a bill last year seeking to determine how much the state spends on tax exemptions, only to watch Jindal veto it.

And perhaps most tellingly, the Republicans running to replace Jindal in this fall's election. All three—Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne, U.S. Senator David Vitter and Public Service Commissioner (and former Jindal aide) Scott Angelle—say they will look for a way to accept the Medicaid money and take a open-minded approach to examining tax exemptions.

"What this state needs right now is a leader solely focused on Louisiana," Dardenne said in a recent speech. And in a clear swipe at Norquist, he added that, "I represent the people of Louisiana; I don't represent someone who lives in D.C."

And Vitter said he'd take a good, hard look at tax incentives and other giveaways, even if it means raising revenue.

"Gov. Jindal should be doing this now," he pointedly said. "I'll do it the minute I'm sworn in."

UPDATE: Walker backs 20-week abortion ban with or without exemption // NBC 15 – June 1, 2015

UPDATED Monday, June 1, 2015---10:35 a.m.

DELAVAN, Wis. (AP) -- Gov. Scott Walker says he will sign a 20-week abortion ban whether or not it includes an exemption for cases of rape or incest.

Walker was asked Monday about the bill following a speech at a Boys and Girls Club event in Delavan.

Walker says a ban on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy is "rational and reasonable" because he believes after that point the unborn child can feel pain.

A bill banning abortions after 20 weeks is slated for a joint public hearing Tuesday in the Legislature. It does not include an exemption for rape or incest.

Walker says he will sign the bill with or without an exemption, saying "it's an unborn child, that's why we feel strongly about it."

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UPDATED: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 --- 2:52 p.m.

MADISON, Wis. (AP) -- A public hearing has been set on a fast-tracked Republican proposal in the Wisconsin

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Legislature that would ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

The joint hearing announced Wednesday is scheduled for Tuesday before Assembly and Senate health committees.

The bill was introduced last week and its sponsors have said they want to pass it before debate on the state budget begins later in June. Gov. Scott Walker has said he will sign it into law.

Under the bill, doctors who perform an abortion after 20 weeks in non-emergency situations could be charged with a felony and subject to up to a $10,000 in fines or 3 1/2 years in prison. The bill doesn't provide an exception for pregnancies conceived from rape or incest.

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UPDATED Wednesday, May 20, 2015---3:27 p.m.

MADISON, Wis. (AP) -- Republican state lawmakers say they hope to pass a bill to ban abortions after 20 weeks of gestation before the budget is debated in June.

Sen. Mary Lazich and Rep. Jesse Kremer told public affairs network WisconsinEye they introduced the measure Wednesday with more than 30 co-sponsors. The Republicans say they plan to hold a joint public hearing on the measure and pass it in both the Senate and Assembly before budget debate.

Under the bill, doctors who perform an abortion after 20 weeks in non-emergency situations could be charged with a felony and subject to up to a $10,000 in fines or 3 1/2 years in prison. The bill doesn't provide an exception for pregnancies conceived from rape or incest.

Gov. Scott Walker has said he would sign it.

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Posted Thursday, May 7, 2015---12:53 p.m.

MADISON, Wis. (AP) -- Wisconsin Republicans have introduced a bill that would ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Rep. Jesse Kremer, a Kewaskum Republican, and Sen. Mary Lazich, a New Berlin Republican, co-authored the bill introduced Thursday.

Kremer says the purpose of the bill is to prevent unborn children from feeling pain.

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Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling in a statement said the bill would jeopardize women's health.

Physicians who perform an abortion after 20 weeks in non-emergency situations could be charged with a felony and subject to up to $10,000 fines or 3 1/2 years in prison.

Gov. Scott Walker on Thursday said he supports the bill and hopes the Legislature could move forward with the abortion ban while it works on the budget.

Jeb Bush Faces Challenge in Winning Over Brother's Team // NYT // Peter Baker – June 1, 2015

WASHINGTON — When George W. Bush first ran for president, he liked to say he had inherited half of his father's friends and all of his enemies. For Jeb Bush, now preparing his own bid for the White House, that may ring familiar.

His brother's enemies have made themselves known in recent weeks as Jeb Bush has struggled to formulate his own take on the decisions made during the last Bush presidency. But perhaps just as important for the fledgling candidate has been the challenge in winning over his brother's friends.

While George W. Bush himself and many in his circle, especially those closest to the family, are enthusiastic about the prospect of a third Bush presidency, many of the Republican foot soldiers who worked for the former president in his campaigns and his administration have not rushed to back his brother's emerging operation.

A sampling conducted largely by email of about 120 people who worked for George W. Bush — from cabinet secretaries to foreign policy advisers to advance aides — found about 25 who said they were supporting his younger brother. Fifty others said they were neutral or supporting another candidate, while the rest did not respond, passing up a chance to declare allegiance to the next Bush candidacy.

Some harbor the same reservations that other Republicans do about the notion of a dynastic presidency passed from one member of a family to another. Some simply want a fresh start, concluding that the party would make a stronger case against Hillary Rodham Clinton, the likely Democratic candidate, by nominating a new figure like Senator Marco Rubio of Florida or Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin. Some nurse doubts about Jeb Bush specifically, even on policies he shares with his brother.

"I'm neutral," said Matt Latimer, a former White House speechwriter. "If pressed, I'm inclined to adopt the Barbara Bush philosophy — enough Bushes." (Mrs. Bush, the mother of the two brothers, who initially did say that, has since taken it back. "I've changed my mind," she said.)

Another former White House official who worked closely with former President Bush said it would be a mistake for the country for his brother to become president. "I happen to believe the U.S. is Bushed and Clintoned out," said this official, who like many others asked not to be named to avoid offending his former boss. "It is time for others to lead."

A spokesman for Jeb Bush, a former governor of Florida, said he did not take any support for granted. "Governor Bush realizes that should he decide to move forward, he's going to have to work to earn support across the party — just as the other prospective candidates will," said Tim Miller, the spokesman.

Many of the Bush veterans unwilling to back him cited work reasons, explaining that their current employers

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would not want them to take sides publicly. Some are now working as academics, party officials or television pundits, and said they wanted to retain a professional detachment from any one candidate. Some said they hoped to be able to advise several of the Republican candidates, and there was no consensus for any of Mr. Bush's opponents.

Others held back not because they oppose Mr. Bush, but because they worried that publicly supporting him would only hurt his chances by reinforcing his ties to his brother. They were acutely aware of the criticism he received when he released a list of foreign policy advisers that included many who had worked for his brother, like Paul D. Wolfowitz, the former deputy defense secretary.

Whatever the reason, the mixed emotions in the 43rd president's team underscore a vicious quandary for Jeb Bush. Much as he wants to present himself as his own man, he cannot assume that his brother's supporters will automatically transfer to him. So he must make the case for their support, and for that of the broader electorate, even as he labors to avoid being branded a copy of his brother.

"It is fair to say that those who are inclined to support Jeb out of loyalty to 41 or 43 have already jumped in," said Stephen Yates, who worked on national security in the George W. Bush White House and is now chairman of the Idaho Republican Party. "Everyone else is up for grabs. He'll be able to get some of the remainder, but no advantage over others."

Neil Patel, a Bush White House official and publisher of The Daily Caller, a conservative news site, said the Republican field had many good choices.

"I don't think anyone, including Jeb Bush, should expect to automatically pick up support to become president — especially by virtue of being related to a past president. And I doubt he would disagree with that," he said. "Lots of former colleagues are lined up behind Jeb but many are also with Rubio, Walker and others."

The distance kept by some from the 43rd president's team reflects the reality that the two brothers have long traveled in separate political orbits, with the elder based in Texas and the younger based in Florida. There has been relatively little overlap over the years beyond family retainers.

And so some of George W. Bush's former aides were willing to publicly criticize Jeb Bush a few weeks ago when he stumbled over the question of whether he would have invaded Iraq had he known there were no unconventional weapons there.

Karl Rove, the former president's longtime political strategist; Andrew H. Card Jr., the former White House chief of staff; and Ari Fleischer, the former press secretary, all expressed concern at the handling of the issue.

"I don't think it would have taken his brother that long to clean it up," Mr. Card said on MSNBC. But Mr. Card was among those who offered unstinting support for Jeb Bush. "I am proudly for Jeb," he said by email.

Others offering their backing were some of the Republicans who were closest to his brother, including Margaret Spellings, the former education secretary, who runs the George W. Bush Presidential Center, and Donald L. Evans, the former president's longtime Texas friend and commerce secretary.

"I very much support Jeb and he would be a great president if he decides to run," Mr. Evans said.

Ms. Spellings said she was "enthusiastically supporting" him. "As you might imagine, Jeb and I have a relationship

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independent of his brother given our shared interest in education reform, and we have worked together for many years," she said.

For some, though, it seemed as much obligation as fervor. "Yes," a longtime friend and financial donor to George W. Bush said when asked if he was supporting the former president's brother. "Do I have a choice?"

One who decided he did have a choice was Wayne Berman, an official in the administration of the first President George Bush, and a friend and fund-raiser for George W. Bush and whose wife worked in the 43rd president's White House. This time around, Mr. Berman is a senior adviser to Mr. Rubio.

Among those declaring neutrality rather than publicly embracing Jeb Bush's candidacy is former Vice President Dick Cheney, who with his daughter Liz Cheney has started the Alliance for a Strong America to advocate tough national security positions among various candidates.

Others include former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, although she is leading Mr. Bush's education foundation; Mr. Rove, who comments on Fox News and in The Wall Street Journal; Mr. Fleischer; Michael Gerson, a former senior White House adviser now writing for The Washington Post; Ed Gillespie, a former presidential counselor; Mark McKinnon, a campaign strategist for the former president; and cabinet secretaries like former Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Paul J. McNulty, who served as George W. Bush's deputy attorney general and is now president of Grove City College in Pennsylvania, said he was torn between Jeb Bush and former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas. "I've always been a big fan of Jeb," he said, "but I worry about his electability."

Ryan Streeter, a former domestic policy aide to George W. Bush, said the issues had changed since his former boss left office. Fiscal concerns are greater, and Republicans are more skeptical of enlarging the federal role in setting education standards for schools or expanding Medicare to cover prescription drugs, as the former president did.

As a result, said Mr. Streeter, who now directs the Center for Politics and Governance at the University of Texas at Austin, "lots of 43 staffers' views reflect those changes since many of them have stayed engaged in policy and politics."

"These issues, more than anything," he said, "will affect who they get behind in 2016."

Huckabee: Two-State Solution Is "Irrational, Unworkable" — Room For Palestinian State Elsewhere // Buzzfeed // Andrew Kaczynski – June 1, 2015

Former Arkansas Gov. and Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee argued over the weekend a two-state solution is "irrational and unworkable" and that if a Palestinian state is created, it must exist outside of Israel. Huckabee said there's plenty of land elsewhere in the world for a Palestinian state.

"The two state solution, if we mean two governments holding the same piece of real estate is irrational and unworkable," Huckabee told Arutz Sheva TV on Sunday during an appearance at the Israel Day Concert in Central Park, New York.

Huckabee, who refers to the area commonly called the West Bank as Judea and Samaria, called arguing for the two-state solution a "pretentious game."

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“And I think it’s time for us to quit playing this pretentious game that there’s gonna be a two-state solution where both sides share the same country and real estate and streets ‘cause they’re not,” said Huckabee. “One of the sides the Palestinians continue to say that Israel doesn’t have a right to exist. You can’t forge an alliance with that.”

Huckabee cited there being “plenty of land in the world” to find a place for a Palestinian state outside of Israel.

“If there’s a two-state solution, the Palestinians state needs to be outside the boundaries of the nation of Israel. There’s plenty of land in the world where we can find a place and say, ‘Okay, let’s create a Palestinian state.’ But not within the confides of a secure Israel.”

Speaking at the event, Huckabee said “we never can accept the notion that Israel will be divided,” citing the boundaries of Israel being given “not by the United Nations but by almighty God.”

In his interview, Huckabee added he could not “explain why there is a harsh anti-Israel sentiment that exists in the administration.”

Huckabee said if Israel was attacked he doesn’t know what the Obama administration would do.

“I think if the Israelis were under attack right now, I’m not sure what this president would do,” said Huckabee when asked about Israel taking military action against Iran.

Marco Rubio's appealing ambiguity // The Week // Michael Brendan Dougherty – June 1, 2015

Marco Rubio is an older Republican's idea of a younger Republican, we've been told.

In a fun bit of racial and generational essentialism, Ana Marie Cox went through the senator's positions and claimed that "the only demographic Rubio can plausibly claim to represent is old white guys." This is not a surprise. It isn't new. People jostle over these questions of identity all the time: Sarah Palin isn't a real woman; Barack Obama isn't really black.

But a very diverse democracy makes ambiguous, line-crossing identities an asset. And Rubio presents the most intriguing kind of biography to the race.

In fact, Rubio is running on his biography more than he is running on position papers, which is a good move. The heart of his campaign announcement speech wasn't a list of policy proposals, it was a story about being an immigrant, about being working class, about rising to a position of prestige and power. Most of Rubio's big speeches are variations on themes drawn from his biography.

The multiplicity of Rubio's identities doesn't make him illegible, it makes him intriguing. And it gives different groups of voters different ways of relating to him.

Rubio traverses a wide range of experience in his economic background. "My father became a bartender. My mother a cashier, a maid, and a Kmart stock clerk. They never made it big. But they were successful. Two immigrants with little money or education found stable jobs, owned a home, retired with security, and gave all four of their children a life far better than their own," he says.

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In American Son and some speeches, he talks about the burden of student loan debt that crushed his monthly budget as a young father and that seemed to be leading him away from his dream of pursuing a life in public service. And yet, Rubio proved more than successful at rising.

This diversity of experience extends to his religion, where Rubio manages to present himself almost simultaneously as a lifelong ethnic Catholic, an Evangelical convert, and a Catholic convert. And that's because basically, he is those things. He was raised Catholic. But he and his wife eventually began attending an Evangelical church where she grew spiritually, and they heard the Biblical preaching they hungered for. And then he can talk about his attachment to the liturgical life and sacraments of the Roman Church.

A few listeners will find this all a bit too exotic, or even confused. But when he conveys these stories he can touch on little details that ring in a very personal way with different groups of voters. They hear something of their own story in his, and then they hear something more.

This is what presidents do. John F. Kennedy managed to be the first electable Catholic candidate for president, and could connect to the massive pool of voters who descended from the Great Wave of Immigration in the late 19th century. But the Kennedys lived in a style and fashion that was far removed from the hardscrabble roots of Al Smith, the former New York governor and unsuccessful presidential candidate. Smith seemed to stink of New York's fish markets. Kennedy lived like a WASP scion.

Barack Obama's identity was similarly mixed by the circumstances of his birth. He was black and white. He was raised in Hawaii, where racial politics were entirely different from those of America's South or cities. But he had adopted Chicago as his home, and put himself at the center of urban organizing.

Like Obama and Kennedy, Rubio seems to have sensed at an early age how his personal identity could make for an attractive political persona, and then shaped his resume, his policy-profile, and experiences to emphasize the point. Politics at this level is almost like a casting call. The life of a nation is a kind of drama and voters are the audience. Politicians put themselves forward as a stage-character, a protagonist who can meet the moment.

As a protagonist in America's drama, Rubio's role is to represent the rise of the last great wave of immigration to this country, and his role is to reconcile the Republican Party with the future that includes these immigrants and their descendants not just as beneficiaries of America's generous immigration policy and dynamic economy, but as full Americans with a full say in the nation's future.

That older white Republican voters like Marco Rubio is only going to help Marco Rubio. He gives them hope that their ideals will outlive the Nixon-Reagan coalition. And the voters that matter in battleground states are not always so ideological as journalists think.

There is no chance that, like Ana Marie Cox, voters will quickly roll through a known rolodex of Rubio's political positions and then re-classify him as old, rich, and white. People in a diverse democracy want "one of us" to represent them; sympathetic voters will find the part of Rubio that matches their own self-conception.

Of course there is an element of fakery to political personas at this level. Rubio's own biography is sometimes messier than presented. But fakers have a way of becoming what they present, at least in America.

In Marco Rubio vs. Jeb Bush fight, will other GOP candidates compete in Florida's March 15 primary? // Miami Herald // Adam C. Smith – May 31, 2015

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Leave it to Florida to host the best political soap opera of the presidential campaign.

The mega-state that all but delivered the Republican nomination to Mitt Romney in 2012 and John McCain in 2008, likely won't reprise that role again because as many as two dozen states will weigh in before Florida. But the March 15 Sunshine State primary is shaping up as potentially spectacular theater nonetheless.

Jeb Bush versus Marco Rubio.

Two Florida favorite sons, longtime friends, mentor and protege, near neighbors in Miami-Dade facing off in America's most important battleground state. What many viewed as almost unthinkable a few months ago — Rubio beating Bush among Florida Republicans — no longer seems far-fetched.

Other leading candidates already are pondering whether even to compete in Florida's primary.

"I don't think there's a state out there we wouldn't play in — other than maybe Florida, where Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio are in some of the polls essentially tied, and they are going to eat up a good amount of that financial advantage that Gov. Bush is going to have," Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said on Laura Ingraham's radio show last week.

We may see a preview of that Bush/Rubio campaign contrast Tuesday at Disney World when Gov. Rick Scott hosts an "economic summit" that will include speeches by presidential prospects Bush, Rubio, Govs. Walker, Chris Christie of New Jersey, Rick Perry of Texas and Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who now lives in Florida's Panhandle.

That so many candidates would commit to a forum hundreds of miles away from early voting states like Iowa and New Hampshire is testament to Florida's lofty status as a critical battleground and fundraising mecca. But Florida is treading on new ground this election cycle in fielding two frontrunners for the GOP nomination and deciding for the first time in several cycles against holding one of the earliest primaries in the country.

In 2008 and 2012, state Republican leaders blatantly defied national party rules by holding earlier-than-allowed primaries, arguing that the country's biggest and most diverse battleground state deserved more say in picking the major party nominees. The Republican National Committee responded by cutting in half the number of delegates, but that didn't stop the leading candidates from campaigning ferociously in Florida.

This year, with Bush looking increasingly likely to run, Republican legislative leaders chose not to risk losing Sunshine State delegates. Ultimately it takes about 1,235 delegates to win the nomination.

Florida legislators earlier this year scheduled the primary for March 15, the earliest date in which a state can hold a "winner-take-all" primary. That means whoever wins the primary would win all 99 of Florida's delegates. Another candidate could spend millions, fall just behind the winner, and walk away with zero delegates.

At the time that was widely seen as a gift to Bush. Now, with Rubio off to a strong early start and Bush struggling to generate widespread excitement with the base of the party, it's not so clear.

"The winner-take-all primary was a very good thing for Jeb — before Marco got in," said Ana Navarro, a Bush supporter in Miami who is friendly with both. "When people, including me, were calling their legislators, telling them to make it winner-take-all, we were all still under the mistaken impression that Marco wasn't going to run."

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The cost of campaigning in winner-take-all Florida provides a significant incentive for candidates to focus their efforts elsewhere. But that's a risk, too.

"Tactically, looking past Florida could make sense to some of the other candidates not named Jeb or Marco," said Republican strategist Kevin Madden. "But Florida, as a major swing state, is still an important test for any candidacy looking to make an argument that you can win a general. It puts a lot of pressure on a campaign to really perform in Ohio and the other contests."

Eight months is an eternity in presidential politics, and the landscape is likely to look far different by the time any actual voting begins next year. Former 2012 Republican frontrunners Rick Perry, Herman Cain, Michele Bachmann and Newt Gingrich can attest to how quickly the ground can shift.

Making it even harder for 2016 candidates to decide whether or not to spend time and money in Florida is the prevalence of early voting. Florida's primary may be in mid-March, but half the votes will be cast by then. Overseas absentee ballots start going out by Jan. 30 — before Iowa voters cast a single vote — and in-state mail ballots are sent starting Feb. 9.

• • •

Not only should Florida's primary feel different from its recent contests, but so should the entire primary season.

Party leaders concluded that the protracted and contentious 2012 primary season put Mitt Romney at a disadvantage heading into the general election. The mandate for 2016 was fewer debates and a shorter primary season. Rather than a late August nominating convention like Tampa hosted, the 2016 convention will be July 18-21 in Cleveland.

The season is expected to kick off in February, rather than January. And after the initial four states cast their votes, the campaign for the nomination is likely to be defined by a series of election days featuring multiple states voting.

Come March 15, Florida probably will share the stage with Ohio, Missouri and Illinois.

"It's not going to be longer, it's going to be more intense," Sean Spicer, communications director for the RNC, said of the 2016 nominating season.

Florida won't be the first big prize after the earliest contests in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina, as it was in the last two presidential election. By March 15, at least 20 states will have voted and probably half of all the available delegates awarded. March 1 is expected to serve as a Southern primary with half a dozen or so states voting.

All those pre-Florida states, however, will allocate their delegates proportionally rather than winner-take-all, which means no candidate may have a big lead in delegates by March 15.

Another huge question for 2016? Money versus momentum. The advent of political committees accepting unlimited contributions and billionaires bankrolling campaigns has knocked aside some of the old assumptions about presidential campaigns and made it easier for candidates to keep pushing ahead into state after state.

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“In the past, if you couldn’t raise money, couldn’t raise enough donations of $2,500 or less, that told you something politically,” said Republican strategist John Weaver, another veteran of several presidential campaigns. “Now you only need one person to back you up and you can go deep into the calendar whether you deserve to or not politically.”

Bush is expected to have a vast fundraising advantage over the rest of the field, which means he likely would have the resources for a long slog of a campaign. Even an unlimited campaign account is not necessarily enough to overcome a string of losses, however.

Rubio has at least two billionaires, Oracle founder Larry Ellison of California and auto dealer and former Philadelphia Eagles owner Norman Braman of Miami, supporting his campaign.

The 2016 primary calendar is in constant flux and will remain so for months, but Republican campaign officials say the rough, tentative schedule leading to Florida is shaping up along these lines:

Feb. 1: Iowa

Feb. 9: New Hampshire

Feb. 20: South Carolina

Feb. 23: Nevada

March 1: Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Vermont, Minnesota, possibly Alabama, Wyoming, Virginia

March 5: Kansas, Louisiana, possibly Washington State

March 8: Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, possibly North Carolina and American Samoa

March 12: Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico

March 15: Florida, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, possibly Northern Mariana Islands

Trump: I won’t do straw poll if everyone backs out // The Des Moines Register // Josh Hafner – June 1, 2015

Donald Trump, the reality TV star, businessman and serial flirter with presidential campaigns, recently announced that he’ll declare his 2016 ambitions on June 16 in New York City.

Before he heads to Iowa this week with visits in Mason City and Coralville, Trump spoke with The Des Moines

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Register about the Iowa Straw Poll, his “beautiful” solution to the Islamic State, and discerning between celebrity and political appeal.

Are you going to announce that you’re running for president this month?

A lot of people think that now. Don’t forget they never did think it. I do well in the polls and nobody thinks I’m running. The theme of my campaign is “Make America Great Again.” We’re going to make America great again. That’s what people want.

When you’re Iowa testing the waters, how do you gauge whether these big crowds you draw are people wanting to see a reality TV star or wanting to see someone they think could run the country?

I don’t know the answer to that. You say to yourself: “Does it translate?” It may not translate, I don’t know. But I know one thing that translates: The politicians — and I know all of them — they’re never going to make this country great.

You’re doing well enough in polls now to nab a spot in the televised presidential debates. In our latest Iowa Poll, however, 85 percent of likely GOP caucusgoers said they would “never” support you for president.

That’s because they don’t think I’m running. When they think I’m running, they go through the roof. I see it even on Twitter. I have millions of people on Twitter and Facebook, like 6 million people on Twitter and Facebook. They say: “Please run, but if you don’t run, well, just leave me alone.” You know, it’s sort of interesting. But they want me to run.

You’re getting better numbers in some polls than several candida—

I’m the most successful person ever to run for the presidency, by far. Nobody’s ever been more successful than me. I’m the most successful person ever to run. Ross Perot isn’t successful like me. Romney — I have a Gucci store that’s worth more than Romney.

What’s your commitment to the Iowa Straw Poll, here?

If people got together and wanted the Iowa Straw Poll, I’m fine with it. But it looks to me like it’s not doing so well right now. If it’s good for Iowa and good for the poll itself, I think it’s an institution, I’d be in favor of it.

So you might not play in the Iowa Straw Poll if enough players don’t show up?

Well if everyone’s going to drop out? What’s the purpose? It loses its meaning, you understand that.

Specifically, what would you do to address the Islamic State (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria?

I have an absolute way of defeating ISIS, and it would be decisive and quick and it would be very beautiful. Very surgical.

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Military on the ground? Drone strikes?

If I tell you right now, everyone else is going to say: “Wow, what a great idea.” You’re going to have 10 candidates going to use it and they’re going to forget where it came from. Which is me.

Do you have advisers on issues like this?

With very successful people, we sort of have our own ideas. A lot of people hire consultants. Well, if the consultant's so smart, why aren’t they rich?

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Senate to Take Up Spy Bill as Parts of Patriot Act Expire // NYT // Jennifer Steinhauer – June 1, 2015

WASHINGTON — The Senate will reconvene at midday on Monday to consider changes to a House bill that would curtail the government’s authority to sweep up vast quantities of phone records after the program, which began after the 2001 terrorist attacks, expired at 12:01 a.m.

Senator Rand Paul, Republican of Kentucky, blocked an extension of it during an extraordinary and at times caustic Sunday session of the Senate.

Hamstrung by procedural rules that require the consent of all lawmakers, the Senate is unable to restore the lapsed authorities until at least Tuesday. The Senate was on recess last week.

After senators pass a procedural measure on Monday to consider the House bill, they will begin amending it, a process that could take one to three days.

Mr. Paul’s stand may have forced the temporary expiration of parts of the post-9/11 Patriot Act used by the National Security Agency to collect phone records, but he was helped by the miscalculation of Senator Mitch McConnell, the majority leader, who sent the Senate on a weeklong vacation after blocking the House bill before Memorial Day.

Mr. McConnell, also of Kentucky, relented on Sunday, setting up a final round of votes on Tuesday or Wednesday that will most likely send a compromised version of the House bill to President Obama for his signature. Even Mr. Paul, using the procedural weapon of an objection, conceded he could not stop that.

“Little by little, we’ve allowed our freedom to slip away,” Mr. Paul said during a lengthy floor soliloquy.

The expiration of surveillance authority demonstrates a profound shift in American attitudes since the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when national security was pre-eminent in both parties. Fourteen years after that attack, even as American conflicts continue abroad, a swell of privacy concerns stemming from both the vast expansion of communication systems and an increasing distrust of government’s use of data has turned those concerns on their head.

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While it would represent a retrenchment on the part of the government, it does not end the argument over the dual imperatives of security and individual liberty brought to light by Edward J. Snowden, the former contractor for the National Security Agency.

The expiration of three key provisions of the Patriot Act means that, for now, the N.S.A. will no longer collect newly created logs of Americans' phone calls in bulk. It also means that the F.B.I. cannot invoke the Patriot Act to obtain, for new investigations, wiretap orders that follow a suspect who changes phones, wiretap orders for a "lone wolf" terrorism suspect not linked to a group, or court orders to obtain business records relevant to an investigation.

However, the Justice Department may invoke a so-called grandfather clause to keep using those powers for investigations that had started before June 1, and there are additional workarounds investigators may use to overcome the lapse in the authorizations.

Mr. McConnell and other national security hawks who failed to continue the program badly underestimated the shift in the national mood, which has found its voice with Democrats and the libertarian wing of the Republican Party. The moment also put him at odds with Mr. Paul, whom he has endorsed for president.

"I remain determined to work toward the best outcome for the American people possible under the circumstances," Mr. McConnell said. "This is where we are, colleagues — a House-passed bill with some serious flaws, and an inability to get a short-term extension to improve the House bill."

Mr. Paul's effort clearly angered many of his Republican colleagues, who met without him an hour before the Senate began to vote Sunday night. Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, who sparred with Mr. Paul on the floor over procedure, said later that Mr. Paul was not fit for the White House job he seeks. "I've said on many occasions that I believe he would be the worst candidate we could put forward," he said.

Even as senators were trickling into the Capitol from the airport, Mr. McConnell attempted to extend some aspects of the law. He asked senators to consider a two-week continuation of the federal authority to track a "lone wolf" terrorism suspect not connected to a state sponsor and to conduct "roving" surveillance of a suspect, rather than of a phone number alone, to combat terrorists who frequently discard cellphones.

But Mr. Paul objected, and Mr. McConnell denounced from the Senate floor what he called "a campaign of demagoguery and disinformation" about the program.

Mr. McConnell then moved to a second option, a procedural move to take up the bill passed by the House, which he said the Senate would amend this week. It was unclear Sunday how many amendments, including any from Mr. Paul, would be considered and whether any could pass the Senate or be adopted by the House.

The House bill would overhaul the Patriot Act and scale back the bulk collection of phone records revealed by Mr. Snowden. Under the provisions of the House bill, sweeps that had operated under the guise of so-called national security letters issued by the F.B.I. would end. The data would instead be stored by the phone companies and could be retrieved by intelligence agencies only after approval of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court.

President Obama and his director of national intelligence, James R. Clapper Jr., have made dire warnings in recent days about the perils of letting the law expire and called for immediate approval of a surveillance bill passed by the House. The C.I.A. director, John O. Brennan, echoed the president on Sunday during an interview on the CBS show "Face the Nation," saying there had "been a little too much political grandstanding."

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In a statement issued Sunday night, the White House said: “We call on the Senate to ensure this irresponsible lapse in authorities is as short-lived as possible. On a matter as critical as our national security, individual senators must put aside their partisan motivations and act swiftly. The American people deserve nothing less.”

Speaker John A. Boehner, Republican of Ohio, also urged the Senate to act, citing the threat of groups like the Islamic State. “Al Qaeda, ISIL and other terrorists around the globe continue to plot attacks on America and our allies,” Mr. Boehner said in a statement. “Anyone who is satisfied with letting this critical intelligence capability go dark isn’t taking the terrorist threat seriously.”

Mr. McConnell had sought to get a series of short-term extensions passed so that Congress could continue to work on a compromise — like giving the phone companies more time to adapt to the new law — but that effort collapsed under the objections of Mr. Paul and two Democrats, Ron Wyden of Oregon and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico. Further, members of the House rejected extending the current law, given the support for their bill.

After a middle-of-the-night vote for a short-term extension failed on the Saturday before Memorial Day, senators left for a weeklong recess as the clock ticked. Senate Republican leaders sought a compromise that would make a new bill acceptable to both hawkish lawmakers and Mr. Paul. “I still have deep concerns,” said Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine.

Over the week, negotiators on the House and Senate Intelligence Committees had laid out a series of options to revise the bipartisan USA Freedom Act, including the addition of a certification process to ensure that the technology is ready to move metadata storage to the phone companies and allowing for a longer transition to phone company storage of the data. The House negotiators were skeptical of all efforts.

Democrats were critical of Mr. McConnell on Sunday. “The job of the leader is to have a plan,” Senator Harry Reid of Nevada said on the Senate floor. “In this case, it is clear the majority leader simply didn’t have a plan.”

Muslim Woman Denied Job Over Head Scarf Wins in Supreme Court // NYT // Adam Liptak - June 1, 2015

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday revived an employment discrimination lawsuit against Abercrombie & Fitch, which had refused to hire a Muslim woman because she wore a head scarf.

“This is really easy,” Justice Antonin Scalia said in announcing the decision from the bench.

The company at least suspected that the woman, Samantha Elauf, wore the head scarf for religious reasons, Justice Scalia said, and its decision not to hire her was motivated by a desire to avoid accommodating her religious practice. That was enough, he concluded, to allow her to sue under federal employment discrimination law.

The vote was 8-to-1, with Justice Clarence Thomas dissenting.

The case started in 2008, when Ms. Elauf, then 17, applied for a job in a children’s clothing store owned by Abercrombie & Fitch at the Woodland Hills Mall in Tulsa, Okla. She wore a black head scarf but did not say why.

The company declined to hire her, saying her scarf clashed with the company’s dress code, which called for a “classic East Coast collegiate style.” After the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sued on Ms. Elauf’s

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behalf, the company said it had no reason to know that Ms. Elauf's head scarf, a hijab, was required by her faith.

In its Supreme Court brief in the case, E.E.O.C. v. Abercrombie & Fitch Stores, No. 14-86, the company argued that job applicants should not be allowed "to remain silent and to assume that the employer recognizes the religious motivations behind their fashion decisions."

After the case was argued in February, an Abercrombie spokesman said the company "has a longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion, and consistent with the law has granted numerous religious accommodations when requested, including hijabs."

The Supreme Court ruled that Ms. Elauf did not have to make a specific request for a religious accommodation to obtain relief under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits religious discrimination in hiring.

At the trial, Ms. Elauf said she loved movies, shopping, sushi and the mall. "It's like my second home," she said. Her experience with Abercrombie, she said, made her feel "disrespected because of my religious beliefs."

"I was born in the United States," she said, "and I thought I was the same as everyone else."

A jury awarded Ms. Elauf $20,000.

But the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, in Denver, ruled for the company.

"Ms. Elauf never informed Abercrombie prior to its hiring decision that she wore her head scarf, or 'hijab,' for religious reasons," Judge Jerome A. Holmes wrote for the court.

Supreme Court Overturns Conviction in Online Threats Case // NYT // Adam Liptak – June 1, 2015

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday made it harder to prosecute people for threats made on Facebook and other social media, reversing the conviction of a Pennsylvania man who directed brutally violent language against his estranged wife.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., writing for the majority, said that prosecutors must do more than prove that reasonable people would view statements as threats. The defendant's state of mind matters, the chief justice wrote, though he declined to say just where the legal line is drawn.

Chief Justice Roberts wrote for seven justices. Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. voted with the majority, though he said that a defendant's recklessness should suffice. The majority opinion took no position on that possibility.

"Attorneys and judges are left to guess," Justice Alito wrote.

Justice Clarence Thomas issued a similar criticism in his dissent.

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"Our job is to decide questions, not create them," he wrote. "Given the majority's ostensible concern for protecting innocent actors, one would have expected it to announce a clear rule—any clear rule. Its failure to do so reveals the fractured foundation upon which today's decision rests."

The case concerned threatening rap lyrics that arose from domestic troubles. Anthony Elonis, a Pennsylvania man who had adopted the rap persona Tone Dougie, posted long tirades in the form of rap lyrics on Facebook.

Mr. Elonis wrote that he would like to see a Halloween costume that included his wife's "head on a stick." He talked about "making a name for myself" with a school shooting, saying, "Hell hath no fury like a crazy man in a kindergarten class." He fantasized about killing an F.B.I. agent.

Some of the posts contained disclaimers or indications that they aspired to be art or therapy. At Mr. Elonis's trial, his estranged wife testified that she understood the posts as threats.

"I felt like I was being stalked," she said. "I felt extremely afraid for mine and my children's and my family's lives."

Mr. Elonis was convicted under a federal law that makes it a crime to communicate "any threat to injure the person of another." He was sentenced to 44 months.

The Supreme Court has said that "true threats" are not protected by the First Amendment, but it has not been especially clear about what counts as such a threat.

The question for the justices in the case, Elonis v. United States, No. 13-983, was whether prosecutors had done enough to prove Mr. Elonis's intent. Prosecutors had argued that the words and their context were enough, saying that people should be held accountable "for the ordinary and natural meaning of the words that they say in context."

Mr. Elonis's lawyers said more was required. Ideally, they said, prosecutors should have to prove that the speaker's purpose was to threaten someone. Failing that, they said, prosecutors should at least have to prove that the speaker, whatever his or her purpose, knew that it was virtually certain that someone would feel threatened.

The lower courts sided with the government. All the prosecution had to prove, the trial judge ruled, was that a "reasonable person" would foresee that others would view statements "as a serious expression of an intention to inflict bodily injury or take the life of an individual."

"This is distinguished," the judge said, "from idle or careless talk, exaggeration, something said in a joking manner or an outburst of transitory anger."

Caitlyn Jenner, Formerly Bruce, Introduces Herself in Vanity Fair // NYT // Ravi Somaiya – June 1, 2015

In April, Bruce Jenner spoke about her transition to being a woman in a television special that drew nearly 17 million viewers.

On Monday, that woman revealed her new identity, appearing as Caitlyn Jenner on the cover of Vanity Fair. The photograph of Ms. Jenner in a corset, shot by Annie Leibovitz and accompanied by the headline "Call Me Caitlyn,"

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immediately became a sensation on social media when the magazine posted the article online.

Ms. Jenner, 65, who won an Olympic gold medal in the decathlon, has had a long public life. As Bruce Jenner, she had been on the cover of Playgirl, an author, an actor and most recently a part of the Kardashian family's reality television empire. Earlier this year, reports emerged that Bruce Jenner was in the process of becoming a woman.

The Vanity Fair article represents the latest in a carefully calibrated series of public steps by Ms. Jenner and her team, as she moves toward the debut of a new reality show on the E! network that will begin at the end of July, and a new public life as a woman. A Twitter account, in the name of Caitlyn Jenner, was started at the same time that the Vanity Fair article was published online. Within hours, the account had more than 1.1 million followers.

When asked about the perception from some that the article was part of an orchestrated campaign by Ms. Jenner, Vanity Fair's editor, Graydon Carter, said that "all stories are part of some coordinated rollout, all stories everywhere," citing movie releases and even presidential campaigns.

The article was written by Buzz Bissinger, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and the author of the acclaimed book "Friday Night Lights," about a high school football team in Texas. The magazine had first thought of running an article on Ms. Jenner last year, a spokeswoman said, but it began taking shape this year when a publicist for Ms. Jenner contacted an editor at Vanity Fair.

A truly news-making magazine cover story has become increasingly rare in the digital age, though Mr. Carter said that the covers of magazines remain cultural touchstones. (The online rollout of the article seemed to tacitly acknowledge that rarity; the physical copy of the magazine with Ms. Jenner on the cover won't be available at newsstands until June 9. The online version of the article could be purchased for $4.99, and the website had broken its traffic record in just a few hours, with more than 6 million unique visitors.)

Vanity Fair went to extraordinary lengths to keep its scoop a secret, a spokeswoman said.

Only a few people at the magazine knew about the article. It was held on a computer that was kept in a locked office and not connected to the magazine's server. There was security at the photo shoot and at the plant where the magazine is printed.

Mr. Bissinger said in a telephone interview that he was assigned to write the article because "of the sports connection, and my own journey into the world of cross-dressing," referring to a revealing article he wrote for GQ magazine in 2013 in which he detailed his fondness for designer clothing intended for both genders.

He first met with Ms. Jenner in February, he said, and was allowed "pretty much carte blanche to be there, to soak him up, to have access to other people in his life," he said. "It was the kind of journalism you don't see any more." Mr. Carter said the magazine was not forced to leave any details out.

Mr. Bissinger, who describes himself in the article as "a cross-dresser with a big-time fetish for women's leather," wrote that he spent hundreds of hours with Ms. Jenner over three months, and that it was an occasionally surreal experience.

Ms. Jenner had started to make the transition in the 1980s, the Vanity Fair article reveals, shortly after winning the gold medal at the Montreal Olympics in 1976. Even as she traveled the United States, making speeches and starring in commercials, she wore pantyhose and a bra underneath her suit. She stopped, fearful of the public reaction, but began again recently when her marriage to Kris Jenner, the matriarch of the Kardashians, ended.

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“If I was lying on my deathbed and I had kept this secret and never did anything about it, I would be lying there saying, ‘You just blew your entire life,’ ” she told Mr. Bissinger. Bruce Jenner was always lying, she said; Caitlyn can be honest.

“Is she doing a TV show? Sure,” Mr. Bissinger said. “Is she doing it for money personally? Sure. This is America. But I saw a person transformed into a woman, who is joyous and happy and free and living life in a way that Bruce Jenner never did.”

California Senate votes to raise state minimum wage to $13 in 2017 - LA Times // LA Times // Patrick McGreevy – June 1, 2015

The state Senate on Monday approved a bill that would raise the minimum wage in California from $9 to $11 an hour on Jan. 1 and boost it again to $13 in 2017, with supporters saying it is necessary to lift millions of workers out of poverty.

Sen. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) introduced the measure out of concern that a quarter of the state’s 38 million residents live in poverty, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

“It is time that we make it illegal to pay sub-poverty wages in California,” Leno told his colleagues during the heated floor debate.

He said the wage increase would boost the economy because working families would be able to spend more money at local businesses. “Its going to be spent immediately to meet daily needs in our community," he said.

The Senate approved the bill on a 23-15 party line vote.

Sen. Jeff Stone (R-Murrieta) predicted raising the minimum wage would force businesses to cut their number of workers. The proposal “hurts the economy by causing job losses," he said.

Added, Sen. Tom Berryhill (R-Modesto), “Minimum wage was never meant to be a living wage. It is a start-up wage for kids.”

An employee working full time and earning $9 per hour takes home $18,000 annually before taxes, Leno said, noting that is 75% of the federal poverty line for a family of four.

A bill approved two years ago has the minimum wage increasing to $10 on Jan. 1 in California. His new bill would have set raises and then increase wages with the rate of inflation starting in 2019.

Leno failed to win legislative approval last year of a bill similar to his new proposal. But since then, action has been taken by some California cities, including Los Angeles, where the City Council is scheduled this week to boost the city's minimum wage to $10.50 on July 1, 2016, and then gradually increase it to $15 in 2020. San Francisco recently approved a phased-in minimum wage increase that tops out at $15 in 2018

California’s bill also gained momentum after minimum wage ballot measures passed in Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska and South Dakota, which are more politically conservative states. Lower wages force the state to provide financial assistance to families, he said.

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"We taxpayers subsidize employers who pay sub-poverty wages," Leno said before the vote to approve his bill, SB 3, which now goes to the Assembly for consideration.

INTERNATIONAL

Islamic State Advances Further Into Syria's Aleppo Province // WSJ // Raja Abdulrahim – June 1, 2015

BEIRUT—Fierce battles raged between Islamic State and rebel fighters in Syria's Aleppo province on Monday, the day after the militant group seized villages close to the Turkish border and came within miles of the main highway connecting Syria's largest city to Turkey.

Fighting sprawled along a 35-mile front line as rebels worked to stop the advance of the extremist militant group, which is now just 7 miles from the main supply route for aid and weapons coming from Turkey.

In Aleppo villages seized by Islamic State, the group beheaded several rebel fighters and took some of their family members hostage, said Col. Abu Firas, a former Syrian air-force colonel who defected and now serves as spokesman for the Levant Front, a local coalition of rebel groups.

Turkish officials expressed concern Monday, as the group advanced within 30 miles of Bab es-Salam, one of the main border crossings between Syria and Turkey.

Also known as Oncupinar, Bab es-Salam is the gateway to the Turkish border city of Kilis, a way station for jihadists making their way in and out of Syria.

Turkey closed the crossing in early March, citing security concerns. It reopened in May to commercial trucks and humanitarian aid deliveries, but not to Syrian civilians wanting to cross into Turkey.

A Turkish official at the crossing said Turkey was preparing to receive an additional 60,000 Syrian refugees should the group manage to seize the Syrian cities of Mare and Tel Rifat, located about 13 miles from Kilis.

Rebels in northeast Aleppo have been fighting Islamic State for a year and a half in northeast Aleppo province. The battle has become a microcosm of Syria's increasingly complicated war, with rebels, Islamic State and the regime vying for territory on interconnected front lines.

In an increasingly partitioned country, areas controlled by Islamic State abut areas held by the regime and opposition, with civilians often caught in the middle of the warring sides' territorial gains and losses.

Islamic State's latest advance, in the wake of its May conquests of the strategic central Syrian city of Palmyra, and Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's largest province, showcases its growing strength against a fractious opposition and weakening Syrian regime forces.

Following the capture of Palmyra, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition monitoring group, said Islamic State now controls 50% of Syria.

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On the heels of its speedy capture of Palmyra, the group's advance into Aleppo has rebel fighters questioning the U.S.'s commitment to containing the group.

"The dependability and seriousness of the West is questionable," said Ahmad Qura Ali, spokesman for the Aleppo-based Ahrar Al Sham faction.

The timing of Islamic State's Aleppo offensive has also prompted rebels to allege that it has been coordinating with the Syrian regime.

Opposition fighters had been planning to launch an offensive against regime forces in the city of Aleppo, in an attempt to finally win a yearslong battle of attrition that has severely damaged Syria's onetime economic hub.

But the arrival of Islamic State delayed those plans, as rebels scrambled Monday to divert reinforcements from the city to the new front lines.

Rebels said plans to strike regime strongholds in central Syria and the western coast, President Bashar al-Assad's ancestral homeland, have also been put on hold as fighters focus on curbing Islamic State's gains in the north.

"The timing of this serves the interests of the regime completely," Mr. Ali said.

Residents said Monday that government planes have increased their shelling of opposition-held areas in Aleppo city and province since April, killing and wounding hundreds of civilians.

What's actually in Obama's secret trade deal? // Politico // Michael Grunwald – June 1, 2015

Vietnam slaps tariffs of 70 percent on U.S. cars and machinery, 35 percent on U.S. chemicals, 30 percent on U.S. biscuits and baked goods, and 25 percent on U.S. recording equipment. Japan marks up our oranges 16 percent from June through November and 32 percent from December through May; it marks up our beef exports 38.5 percent all year long. Cars made in America face a 30 percent tariff in Malaysia, which might not seem stiff compared to 50 percent on motorcycles or 35 percent on plywood, except that cars made in Japan and other Asian nations don't face any tariff in Malaysia.

These burdensome overseas tariffs, provided to POLITICO by US Trade Representative Michael Froman, are the kind of problems President Obama hopes to address with the free trade deal known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which has not yet been finalized but has recently erupted into one of the most contentious topics on Washington's agenda.

The public debate has focused on the adequacy of TPP's environmental and labor safeguards, its potential to feather the nests of well-connected pharmaceutical, software and finance interests, and the secrecy of its negotiations. But the heart of the deal is an effort by the twelve participating countries to phase out tariffs and other export barriers for more than 11,000 categories of commodities, and Froman is frustrated that isn't getting more attention. In an interview with POLITICO, he said export-supported U.S. jobs pay 13 to 18 percent more than the average job, and argued that freer trade along the Pacific Rim would create a lot more of them.

So I asked if Froman would give me a rundown of actual tariffs he's trying to remove, and he agreed. Global tariffs are not secret information—they're kept on file at the World Customs Organization, and Froman has mentioned a few in speeches—but they're rarely seen in large quantities outside technical reports, and Froman hopes that taking a bunch of examples public will help build support for TPP. The deal is not done yet, so Froman can't

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discuss how much the various import restrictions he cited will be reduced, but the point of the negotiations is to reduce them. There are plenty of legitimate concerns about free trade and TPP that have nothing to do with tariffs, some of them highlighted in a critique in POLITICO last week by a Democrat who read a draft, but Froman believes most Americans would at least back the administration's efforts to tear down these tariffs.

"It's been a lot easier for our critics to focus on this controversial element or that controversial element, rather than what we're trying to achieve," Froman told me.

Froman and I spoke last Friday in his office a block from the White House; I noticed the 1934 law repealing the notorious Smoot-Hawley tariffs, which helped drag America into the Great Depression, hanging on the wall of his anteroom. Critics like New York Times columnist Paul Krugman and MIT economist Simon Johnson have suggested that TPP isn't really about breaking down Smoot-Hawley-style barriers, because previous trade deals over the last three decades have already created a low-tariff world. But while that's mostly true of the U.S., which imposes no duties on 70 percent of our imports—80 percent from TPP nations—Froman offered a slew of data and examples suggesting that's not always true abroad.

Overall, the U.S. imposes an average tariff of 1.4 percent on foreign goods, less than half the average for the rest of the nations Froman is negotiating with, barely a fourth the average in Vietnam and Malaysia. And it can get much worse for specific industries and products. TPP nations have tariffs ranging up to 100 percent on textiles, 87 percent on corn, and 75 percent on consumer goods, not to mention selected Japanese tariffs that amount to 189 percent on U.S. shoes and a don't-even-think-about-it 778 percent on U.S. rice above a certain annual quota.

Even our friendly trading partner to the north has some brutal anti-American protectionism on its books. The North American Free Trade Agreement of 1994 broke down a slew of barriers between the U.S. and Canada, but it exempted the poultry and dairy industries, which is why U.S. eggs face tariffs of up to 163.5 percent—and not less than 79.9 cents per dozen—in the land of ice hockey and eh. U.S. yogurt, milk, cheese, and frozen chicken all face tariffs between 237.5 percent and 249 percent in Canada.

In some TPP countries, tariffs not only make U.S. exports more expensive, they make U.S. exports more expensive relative to goods from other countries. For example, America's construction equipment only faces a 5 percent tariff in New Zealand, but construction equipment from Southeast Asia faces no tariffs there. Vietnam slaps tariffs of 20 percent on beauty and skin products from the U.S. while importing similar products from its Asian neighbors duty-free. Vietnam's tariffs for U.S. poultry are also twice as high as for Australian poultry, and its tariffs for switches, relays and fuses made in America are four times as high as for the same products made in China. Our polymers and tree nuts face similar discrimination in Malaysia, as do our aluminum bars and frozen potatoes in Japan. American vineyards are among the biggest losers from Japanese protectionism, facing a 50 percent wine tariff while their Chilean and Australian rivals face none.

Froman provided a wide-ranging list of categories where TPP countries still maintain tariffs, from health products to communications technologies to high-tech instruments to fish. The biggest category was agriculture, where U.S. farmers and ranchers face tariffs on apples, cotton, wheat, soybeans, fresh and processed vegetables, pork, feeds, and just about everything else. Overall, American exporters shipped more than $700 billion worth of stuff to TPP nations last year, so better access to TPP markets could bring a lot of additional revenue into the United States.

While global tariffs clearly have not disappeared, it's true that they're generally much lower than they were decades ago, even where they're much higher than ours. The U.S. already has bilateral trade deals with many TPP nations. But Froman says the TPP will also tear down the kind of "non-tariff barriers" that countries have used to protect their industries without violating the earlier deals, like sudden declarations that U.S. turkey products are unsafe for Australian consumers, or selective laws restricting U.S. express delivery services from doing business in Malaysia. The TPP is also expected to prohibit laws requiring foreign businesses to locate their computer servers in the country, as well as excessively burdensome regulations on global e-commerce. These kinds of barriers can be particularly troublesome in finance, data processing, engineering and other service industries where U.S. firms tend to be prominent.

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It must be said that removing some non-tariff barriers—for example, forcing TPP nations to respect patents for expensive U.S. pharmaceuticals, or copyrights for U.S. software—would not necessarily be good for the world's consumers. But they would be good for the U.S. industries in question. It should also be mentioned that some U.S. industries—notably textiles, footwear, sugar, and dairy—still enjoy trade protections that would be reduced through TPP. But Froman said the administration is working hard to make sure their concerns are addressed, and the textile industry actually came out in favor of the Trade Promotion Authority "fast-track" bill that is considered a prerequisite for TPP's passage.

Froman made TPP sound so rosy for U.S. companies that I finally asked him: What's in it for the other countries? The answer, he said, is a combination of improved access to U.S. markets, greatly improved access to Japan, the opportunity to lure U.S. businesses away from a restrictive China, and a kind of Good Housekeeping seal of approval as a member of the free-trade club. I also suggested to Froman that if TPP will really do so much more to lower trade barriers abroad, it must seem weird to his negotiating partners that the deal is so hotly disputed in the U.S., especially among members of Obama's party. He said the fraught domestic debate actually bolsters the U.S. negotiating position, because those partners are savvy enough to understand that a deal without strong support from the U.S. agriculture and business communities and strong labor and environmental protections would have no chance of passing.

"They follow our politics. They read POLITICO Pro," Froman said. "They know we're not bluffing, and that has helped us strengthen this deal."

Froman refused to discuss what the final TPP will do to any of the specific tariffs and general tariff categories we discussed, but he hinted that just about all of them will be cut or eliminated. In any case, when the deal is done, the text will be published at ustr.gov —and POLITICO will do a follow-up comparing the before and after tariffs on U.S. products.

"I cannot wait," Froman said. "It's going to clear up a lot of misconceptions."

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

The more the merrier: Democratic candidates for 2016 // CNN // Dan Pfeiffer – June 1, 2015

(CNN)This is something I don't find myself saying very often: I agree with Karl Rove.

In a recent post on Medium, the former strategist for President George W. Bush made the case that the historically large size of the GOP primary wasn't a disadvantage, rebutting some conventional wisdom that a 20-candidate field would be a net negative for the Grand Ole Party. There are so many candidates running that some have compared it to a clown car and not just because Donald Trump is thinking of running.

While the Democratic primary doesn't resemble the clown car nature of the Republican field (in part because it's not filled with clowns), it did get a little bigger this weekend, with former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley joining Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont in the race. And what Rove wrote about the Republicans is even more true of the Democrats. A competitive primary is not just not a disadvantage as Rove writes; it will actually be an advantage. A fight for the Democratic nomination is good for the party and will help us, not hurt us, next year in November.

First, competitive primaries make better general election candidates. As divisive, heated and long as the 2008 Democratic primary was, there is no question that Barack Obama was a much stronger nominee because of Clinton. He honed his skills as a candidate, sharpened his message and became a stronger debater. He learned how

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to take a punch and throw one right back. Most importantly, he faced political adversity time and again and learned how to handle it.

If Clinton is our nominee, which is at this point the overwhelmingly most likely scenario, she will be better prepared to take on Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio or whoever else the Republicans nominate because Sanders and O'Malley made her that way.

Second, competitive primaries make better general election campaigns. In 2008, Obama won Indiana, North Carolina and Virginia in large part because we ran hard in those states in the primaries. The primary gave us the opportunity to build large grass-roots organizations with well-trained organizers and volunteers.

We were able to try out our get out the vote machinery in almost every state in the country months before the election. Iowa and New Hampshire may decide the presidency in 2016, and the Democratic nominee will be better positioned to win those states because of the organizations built and tested in the primaries.

Finally, competitive primaries make better political parties. Many of the issues that have driven the Democratic Party in recent decades -- health care, the Bush tax cuts, the Bush wars -- have been largely resolved during the Obama presidency. The party is grappling a bit with what comes next -- with which issues and solutions are going to animate us as Democrats.

Unlike the Republicans, Democrats are not a collection of competing and often contradictory interests. We are unified, we know what we stand for and are confident in our ideals, but how do we apply those ideals to a new set of evolving challenges?

Historically, these questions have been answered in robust primary debates. If O'Malley and Sanders run good, idea-driven campaigns, there will be a robust debate about the future of the Democratic Party that will make us better in the 2016 general election and in years to come.

It's clear that the Clinton campaign understands this. They are running very hard and building the sorts of campaigns in Iowa and New Hampshire that are designed to win tough races. They are running like an underdog, not the biggest favorite in history.

There is an important caveat -- one that Rove hints at in his column about the Republican side: Competitive, hard-fought primaries are good until they aren't. There is a moment where they can go from competitive to irreparably divisive. The Obama-Clinton race came close to crossing that line a couple of times, but never did because both candidates worked hard to repair the breach.

There should be robust debate about ideas and issues, about who would make a better president and leader of the party. But when Democrats use Republican talking points to describe other Democrats, that crosses a line. If that happens, it will be incumbent on the whole party -- from President Obama on down -- to call foul. Fortunately, the risk of this primary getting out of hand is very small, given the individuals involved and the shared sense that winning this election is critical for the future of the issues that matter to Democrats.

Reporters, pundits and people who own television stations in places such as Iowa are rooting for a fight for the Democratic nomination, and Democrats should be, too. A competition, not a coronation, is what's best for our chances in 2016.

Why Hillary should stop running as the incumbent // WaPo // Joel Achenbach – June 1, 2015

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Jack Shafer nailed it when he wrote recently in Politico that Hillary Clinton is not running for president, but running as president. She rarely takes a question from a reporter. News organizations spend a small fortune dispatching reporters and photographers and camera crews to follow her around, but they're treated like carry-on baggage.

One can understand why anyone in the Clinton camp would have a jaundiced view of the news media and might view news in general as something that should be planned and crafted in advance, protected against unsupervised nuances and unhelpful twists, and approved by at least four layers of management, including the candidate herself, Bill, the folks at the Foundation and their various foreign benefactors. I'm sympathetic, in other words. Still, the obvious downside is that it makes the candidacy uninteresting. As a citizen, you have to force yourself to pay attention. The Democrats don't have much of a contest, with all due respect to firing-on-both-cylinders candidates Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley.

Successful candidacies and successful presidencies have a point to them; inevitability isn't enough. Here's a question that I throw out in all sincerity: Why is Clinton running? No doubt she has explained her candidacy many times and in many ways, and I just missed those news reports (and I am not being sarcastic here, it's just, you know, I've been distracted by other stuff, like the destiny of the species and the fate of the universe and whatnot). She certainly has an impressive résumé and most folks who are not hard-core haters would view her as qualified to be president. But what's her candidacy about?

Those of us who have been around awhile remember the telling moment when Roger Mudd asked Teddy Kennedy why he wanted to be president. The senator fumbled the answer. The real answer was: Because he could. Because he might win. Because he was a Kennedy.

"Hillary: It's My Turn" is Clinton's campaign motto, my friend and colleague Marc Fisher joked the other day at a panel discussion at our alma mater.

Meanwhile, on the Republican side, there are 137 people running for president (including Lindsey Graham, who is announcing today). Do we have to pay attention to all these folks? No, not all of them. Not Donald Trump, for example. But the standard that should guide us is not how well a candidate is doing in the polls. Richard Just, another of the panelists, and the editor of National Journal, made a great point about news coverage of presidential candidacies: What they say matters, even if they have close to zero, or literally zero, chance of winning.

This is how political parties are shaped, Richard said. This is how a party defines itself and how ideas get into circulation even if they will take many years to gain traction. Goldwater was trounced in 1964, but his conservative ideals found their way to the White House when his acolyte Ronald Reagan won in 1980.

Dana Milbank correctly notes that many of Sen. Rand Paul's statements in recent months sound more like Democratic positions than Republican positions, and this will make it hard for Paul to capture his party's nomination. But I suspect he is playing a longer game. His people told me (when I did my profile on the senator) that they don't think the GOP can win a national presidential election unless they expand the coalition, bringing in more young people, minorities and people who are normally disaffected and don't go to the polls. The Republican candidate has won a popular-vote majority only once in the past six elections. That's likely a multi-election project. And it's why Paul is an interesting candidate — even if he's not likely to be the Republican nominee in 2016.

Populism Strains Both Parties; Can They Adapt? **// WSJ // Gerald F. Seib – June 1, 2015**

Is a third political party straining to break out in America?

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Listen to the early sounds of the 2016 presidential campaign, in which candidates of the left and the right sound almost identical populist, anti-Wall Street, antiestablishment themes, and the idea doesn't seem so crazy.

When you have Republican presidential contenders opposing free-trade agreements, and at least one backing an increase in the minimum wage; when Democratic firebrand Bernie Sanders (technically an independent to begin with) is speaking to overflow crowds; and when left and right come together to halt a prominent national-security program backed by the foreign-policy establishment—well, something is going on.

Let's stipulate up front that a serious third party isn't likely to emerge, at least not in this cycle. A viable third party requires money and an outsize personality (think Ross Perot), and it isn't clear those elements exist right now.

Still, it's possible to see the ideological foundations for one. Similar populist refrains are coming from a diverse cast of political characters with real followings: Mr. Sanders and Sen. Elizabeth Warren on the left, and Rick Santorum, Mike Huckabee and Sen. Rand Paul on the right. Listen to the remarks of declared 2016 contenders and you can almost hear a potential third-party platform emerging. Here would be its main elements:

Big banks and Wall Street have too much power in Washington. "We have come to take our country back from the special interests that use Washington as their personal piggy bank," Mr. Paul said in opening his presidential campaign. Said Mr. Sanders: "When we talk about power, we talk about Wall Street. In my view, it is time to break up the largest financial institutions in this country."

The economic system is stacked against the middle class, and government policies are making that worse. In his announcement, Mr. Santorum referred to "workers" and "working families" a dozen times, and said they have suffered because of the policies of "big government and big business." He has broken with GOP orthodoxy by supporting a "modest" minimum-wage increase and continuation of the Export-Import Bank to bolster manufacturing.

Free-trade deals are bad for America and U.S. workers. Speaking from the right, Mr. Huckabee declared: "We don't create good jobs for Americans by entering into unbalanced trade deals that forgo congressional scrutiny, and then looking the other way as the law is ignored so that we can import low-wage labor, undercut American workers, and drive wages lower than the Dead Sea." From the left, Mr. Sanders declared: "The bottom line of these trade agreements is to force American workers to compete against people in countries around the world who make pennies on the hour."

Big money is corrupting politics. "Working families don't need another president tied to big government or big money," Mr. Santorum said in announcing his candidacy. Said Mr. Huckabeein announcing his: "I never have been and I'm not going to be the favored candidate of those in the Washington-to-Wall Street corridor of power." He added that his campaign will be "funded and fueled not by billionaires but by working people."

The U.S. is overextended abroad. "I am vigorously opposed to an endless, perpetual war in the Middle East," said Mr. Sanders. Said Mr. Paul: "Let's quit building bridges in foreign countries and use that money to build some bridges here at home."

Big brother is dangerous. The effort to stop the National Security Agency's collection of cellphone bulk data has, of course, become a signature issue of Mr. Paul, who has tied the Senate in knots over the issue and finds himself aligned with many liberals as a result. But he isn't alone; Mr. Huckabee said on Fox News over the weekend that U.S. officials should get a warrant before collecting phone data: "If this is so effective, how come it hasn't resulted in the foiled terrorist plots?"

Obviously, there are many core issues on which the antiestablishment forces of left and right disagree, climate

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change and the virtues of Obamacare prominent among them. Still, it's worth noting that Mr. Sanders packed a hall with 3,000 enthusiastic supporters over the weekend in Minneapolis, with more waiting outside because there wasn't room for them. Meantime, Mr. Santorum's overtures to the working class help show that the Republican Party now includes a sizable blue-collar, Wal-Mart wing.

At a minimum, mainstream candidates in both parties will have to hew to some populist themes emerging from the antiestablishment crowd. "There are votes in both primaries to be found for the candidates that say, 'We want to change the system and level the playing field,' " says Democratic pollster Peter Hart, who helps conduct The Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll.

How to Kill the Background Briefing // National Journal // Ron Fournier – June 1, 2015

I've got a plan to bust the background briefing racket. Of the many ways that modern journalists cede power to authority, none is easier to fix than the notion that government officials are allowed to gather several reporters in a room or on a conference call, spew their clever lines of lies and spin, and declare it all "on background"—shielded from accountability "on condition of anonymity."

Reporters are increasingly allowing public relations teams to set the terms for coverage of politics, business, sports, and even entertainment. It's a troubling trend for an industry in flux. But the media in Washington are the most unnecessarily and dangerously cowed.

When reporters call the shots, anonymous sources are vital to uncovering government secrets and wrongdoing (Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein used Mark Felt and other whistleblowers to chase Richard Nixon out of office). When government officials call the shots, there is no incentive to tell the truth, no punishment for deception, and the journalism itself is diminished by canned news.

In rare cases, approved in advance by journalists, an anonymous source talking to a bunch of reporters might serve a public service. For instance, security details for a presidential trip to a war zone may need to be shared privately with the traveling media corps. Most editors would consider that a good case for a briefing that shields the identity of the government officials and embargoes news of the trip itself.

But in recent years, public relations officials have been allowed to assume that they get to decide the terms for briefing reporters, and what was one a unique courtesy is now a daily disservice to the public. Just last week, the Obama administration sought to to build public support for extending post-911 domestic spying programs it lied about until Edward Snowden blew the whistle.

The New York Times reported:

> "What you're doing, essentially, is you're playing national security Russian roulette," one senior administration official said of allowing the powers to lapse. That prospect appears increasingly likely with the measure, the USA Freedom Act, stalled and lawmakers in their home states and districts during a congressional recess.
>
> "We're in uncharted waters," another senior member of the administration said at a briefing organized by the White House, where three officials spoke with reporters about the consequences of inaction by Congress. "We have not had to confront addressing the terrorist threat without these authorities, and it's going to be fraught with unnecessary risk."

Now ask yourself: If these scare tactics are legitimate, why wouldn't administration officials allow their names to be public? (Josh Earnest had the chance today, and wouldn't.) When they refused, why would the Times and

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several other news organizations publish the quotes?

The standard rule for using anonymous sources, published in Associated Press stylebooks used in almost every newsroom, is: "Whenever possible, we pursue information on the record. When the source insists on background or off-the-record ground rules, we must adhere to a strict set of guidelines."

First, the material is information "and not opinion or speculation, and is vital to the news report." Second, the information is not available on the record. Third, the source is reliable.

The White House briefing was a total rule-breaker: 1) The material was opinion and speculation; 2) There is no shortage of on-the-record hyperbole about the National Security Agency program; 3) The Obama administration, like the Bush White House, routinely deceives the public about NSA's activities.

These are not credible sources.

Just last week, reporters wrote and broadcast material from a background briefing conducted by Hillary Clinton advisers who insisted they not be identified. This from Politico:

> At Clinton campaign headquarters, meanwhile, senior campaign officials told reporters Thursday at a background briefing that Hillary Clinton has not been damaged or distracted by the revelations about her family's foundation.

Again: If that paragraph is true (it's not), why wouldn't the Clinton advisers put their names behind it? Why did the media report anonymous, inaccurate spin? Google the Bush White House. Watch how the GOP presidential campaigns deal with the media. The background briefing is a bipartisan racket. So why do journalists let their sources get away with it?

Fear: Reporters and editors don't want to get beat by competitors who bow to the terms of a public relations team. They don't stop to realize very little news comes from these briefings, and none of it is worth ceding precious leverage to the government.

Habit: It's a lazy way out. I know, because it's a route I've taken. As a reporter and editor, I've also taken part in countless (and useless) protests against background briefings.

Vanity: There actually are some reporters who prefer anonymous sources over named ones, because they believe "on condition of anonymity" creates the perception that they're plugged into their beats. They're fooling themselves and, worse, their audiences.

Access: Reporters are increasingly kept apart from the people they cover. They don't recognize that the way to get access is by raising hell—by making yourself such a source of surprise and disruption that the people you cover realize they need to get to know you.

Jonathan Allen of Vox, one of the better reporters on the beat, explained why he accepted the Clinton ground rules last week. "These officials are people who could easily avoid interacting with reporters for the entire campaign if they chose," he wrote. "Given the option of talking to them or not, major news organizations chose the former."

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I get it. I used to think that way. But I've learned over the years that I don't need to talk to campaign people. They need to talk to me. Freeze me out? Fine—that's just more time to talk to rival campaigns, political scientists, and the best sources on any campaign: voters.

Even the dimmest public relations officials eventually learn that they can't put a good reporter on ice and, even if they could, they would be freezing themselves out of the reporter's stories.

Second, why would I let the Clinton campaign—or any entity I cover—give me "the option" to choose? On this and so many other ways the media has ceded power, I say flip the script. Make them choose. Put them on the sorry end of a devil's choice.

Which gets me to my plan to bust the briefing racket.

If you're a reporter who gets sucked into a "background briefing," don't let anonymous spin creep into your stories. Ignore it (National Journal attended the Clinton briefing but didn't write it up). Or call it out, as John Harwood did here: "How's Hillary Doing? Wish We Could Tell You"

> Wish I could tell you more. But they said very little.
>
> Notice that I typed very little and not "very little," because under the ground rules of Thursday's briefing reporters were not allowed to quote their words directly.
>
> You're not missing much.

For all its understated brilliance, Harwood's column won't put a dent in the background briefing racket. It was, after all, a retroactive hit directed at just one PR team on behalf of just one reporter.

The media should be more proactive, like Adam Nagourney of The New York Times, who tweeted today the details of Clinton's presidential announcement event and directly attributed them to spokesman Jesse Ferguson. The aide had emailed the information to reporters, presuming that he could deem the material "on background."

Wrong.

If you're a reporter, go to your email now and write to the director of communications for whatever beat you cover – a campaign, an agency, a business, a sports team, whatever.

"Dear ____," your note starts.

> "I just wanted to remind you of a long tradition in journalism: Everything a reporter sees and hears is on the record and attributable directly to the source unless the reporter and source mutually agree in advance to other terms."
>
> "That means, of course, that every briefing I attend, in person or on conference call, will be on the record unless you get my permission in advance. (Knowing my editor's commitment to transparency and accountability, I suspect permission will only be granted in extreme cases.)"

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Congratulations. You just forced the PR types to choose: Do we want a briefing bad enough to play by this person's rules? The answer will almost always be yes, and when it's not, you won't miss much. Hell, you're a good enough reporter to find out what's said at briefings you don't attend.

You might want to add to your note:

> "Same applies to every email you send me. Writing "OFF THE RECORD" at the top doesn't make it so.
>
> "I'm always open to using anonymous sources, but only when we're dealing with important information (not spin) and when my editor and I determine it's in the best interest of our audience."

If you're an editor, consider giving your reporters cover (these are your rules, after all). Email the communications director at every beat your newsroom covers, and tell them:

> "If the briefing material is important and true, there's no good reason to hide the source's identity. Unless you get prior permission from one of my reporters, all briefings are on the record. Same for your emails.

Remind them who's in charge.

NYT The Upshot: G.O.P. Women in Congress: Why So Few? // NYT // Derek Willis – June 1, 2015

The rising number of women in Congress can obscure another trend: The number of Republican women has remained roughly stagnant for more than a decade.

Although women in both parties have increased their numbers in Congress during the past 25 years, the share of Democratic women — now nearly 33 percent — has continued to climb, while the Republican female share has leveled off since hitting 10 percent during the mid-2000s. And political polarization seems to be a major reason.

Moderate Republican women — think of Olympia Snowe, the former Maine senator, or Connie Morella, the former Maryland congresswoman — were once common in the party, according to research by Danielle Thomsen, a political scientist at Duke. But moderate Republicans of both genders are nearly gone from Congress today. Some conservative women, like Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa, have been elected, but there are relatively few of them in a traditional pipeline to Congress: state legislatures. In other words, the gap is likely to persist for some time.

As one measure of the gap, 17 Republican women have served in the

Senate in its history, and 14 Democratic women currently serve in the

Senate.

The pattern is part of a larger gender disparity in American politics, of course. In 2012, 55 percent of women voted for President Obama, while 52 percent of men voted for Mitt Romney, according to exit polls. The gap figures to continue, if not widen, in 2016, with Democrats seeming likely to nominate a woman for president and Republicans likely to nominate a man.

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There is plenty of research that the presence of women in legislative bodies makes a difference, particularly on the policies that many female lawmakers prioritize, such as health care and children's issues. Interviews with women in Congress by the Center for American Women and Politics have found that many see themselves as "surrogate representatives" for women in general.

A root cause of the gap is that Democratic women who are potential congressional candidates tend to fit comfortably with the liberal ideology of their party's primary voters, while many potential female Republican candidates do not adhere to the conservative ideology of their primary voters.

But it's not just moderate Republican women who have been affected by the polarization of the parties. "If you look at the moderate men, they're not there, either," she said, and conservative Democrats in state legislatures also aren't running for Congress.

Ms. Thomsen found that one in five Republican state legislators of either sex could be described as moderate, based on their voting history and donors, but moderates were not nearly as eager as conservatives to run for Congress.

Isn't the real reason there are less females in Congress the fact that less of them aspire to go into politics?

"Conservative Republican men and women state legislators are equally likely to run for Congress, but women are outnumbered five to one," Ms. Thomsen said.

Separate research, by Shauna Shames, a political scientist at Rutgers University, suggests that women with fiscally conservative and socially liberal views particularly struggle to find a party home. "A whole lot of women who could run are not running, because they know they will not be supported and don't feel that they fit in the party anymore," Ms. Shames said.

The Republican women who have run in congressional primaries over the past 25 years have been as conservative as Republican men, according to a study produced this year by Political Parity, a program that pushes for more women in Congress. (Ms. Thomsen and Ms. Shames both worked on the study). There simply have not been very many highly conservative female candidates, compared with men.

On the Democratic side, the situation is different. Female candidates for Congress were more liberal on average than their male counterparts, the study found, helping them do well in party primaries, which emphasize ideological purity.

Ms. Thomsen's research does suggest that the number of conservative women in Congress will increase in coming years, because the number of conservative women in state legislatures has recently risen, albeit slowly. The three most recently elected female Republican senators —

Ms. Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia and Deb Fischer of

Nebraska — are all conservative and all served in their state legislatures.

Yet the share of congressional Democrats who are female may also continue rising, which could keep the current gap from shrinking.

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What is the logic behind state laws that deny the vote to people who have been convicted of a felony, even after they are released from prison? The short and easy answer is: there isn't any.

For a longer, nonsensical answer, ask Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland, who on May 22 thwarted strong majorities in both houses of the state legislature to veto a bill that would have restored voting rights to about 40,000 Maryland residents currently on probation or parole.

Some of these people never went to prison at all. Those who did are now in the process of reintegrating themselves into their communities. Restoring their ability to have a say in choosing their elected representatives — the most fundamental of all democratic rights — should be an obvious element of that reintegration. But to Mr. Hogan, a Republican, people on probation or parole are "still serving their time as a debt to society for their actions," and so it is appropriate to continue to bar them from the ballot box.

This is terrible reasoning. Voting bans "defy the principles — of accountability and rehabilitation — that guide our criminal justice policies," as former Attorney General Eric Holder said last year in calling for their repeal.

There has never been a whit of evidence that restoring voting rights has any negative impact on society, and yet disenfranchisement laws have a long and often racist pedigree in American history. States passed them in the 19th century to block African-Americans from voting. Today about six million people nationwide are disenfranchised because of a criminal record, with blacks disproportionately burdened. In Maryland, nearly two-thirds of people who can't vote because of a felony conviction are African-American.

The governor's veto was all the more vexing given what has been happening in Baltimore, where residents — mostly poor people of color — have erupted in outbursts of anger and frustration because they feel they have little say in the direction of their communities. Mr. Hogan could have supported the law and reaffirmed that Maryland values the voices of all its citizens. Instead his veto means that 40,000 of them will have to wait until the Legislature reconvenes next January for a veto override vote.

Mr. Hogan's action is out of step not just with common sense, but with a growing segment of his own party. In recent years both red and blue states — from Texas to Connecticut to Alabama to New Mexico — have reduced or eliminated barriers to voting for people coming out of prison. Maryland ended its own lifetime ban on voting for those with felony convictions in 2007.

This is a moment of great promise for new efforts to reform the nation's criminal-justice system. Disenfranchising people who are already back in their communities is nothing but punitive and counterproductive, and dismantling such laws should be an easy call.

Congress Should Extend PATRIOT Act Provisions to Keep Us Safe //Medium // Jeb Bush – June 1, 2015

The failure of President Obama and the U.S. Congress to preserve key counterterrorism authorities before they expired is an abdication of their responsibility to protect the United States.

Today we have lost the metadata program, authorized by Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, an important tool in helping law enforcement and the Intelligence Community connect the dots between known foreign terrorists and potential operatives in the United States.

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Congress still has the opportunity to remedy this mistake and extend these important tools that have kept us safe. They should do so.

It is incredible that we would weaken our ability to protect the Homeland as ISIL, Al Shabbab, Al Qaeda, and other affiliated terrorist groups expand their reach.

Even President Obama, who spoke often about protecting civil liberties, supported these authorities as Senator and preserved the program when he came into office. Backing down in the face of liberal interest group pressure is just another failure of presidential leadership.

In 2013 new safeguards were put in place—including requiring the government to seek an individual court order every time it queried the database—but maintained the essential structure of a database of call records that can be searched in the event we have intelligence warnings of plots to the homeland.

That was the right call. Because in total, the PATRIOT Act has kept us safe, plain and simple.

Despite the fear-mongering of some, there is no evidence the bulk metadata program has ever been used to violate civil liberties.

The terrorist threat to the United States is growing. It is incredible that we would weaken our ability to protect the homeland as ISIL, Al Shabbab, Al Qaeda, and other affiliated terrorist groups expand their reach.

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From: INSCT <insct@syr.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/8/2016 11:59:40 AM
Subject: TOMORROW! "What's Putin Up To? Russia's Assertive Foreign Policy," with Brian Taylor

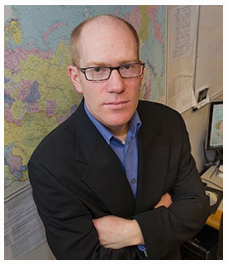
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INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND COUNTERTERRORISM PRESENTS

What's Putin Up To? Russia's Assertive Foreign Policy

With Professor Brian Taylor





Brian Taylor is Director of the Center for European Studies and a Professor of Political Science in the SU Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. His expertise is in Russia, Post-Soviet Politics, and Comparative Politics.

He is the author of *State Building in Putin's Russia: Policing and Coercion After Communism* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and *Politics and the Russian Army: Civil-Military Relations*, 1689-2000 (Cambridge University Press, 2003). Current projects include a book on Russia's power ministries, especially law enforcement structures and their role in state building in the post-Soviet period.

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From: "Burns Strider \(CTRAB\)" <bstrider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/22/2014 12:49:49 AM
Subject: CTR Friday August 22, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Friday August 22, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

East Hampton Star (N.Y.): "Hillary Fever Grips Hamptons"

"Though Hillary Clinton was not expected at BookHampton until 5 p.m. on Saturday, the line to see her began to form that morning. Edna Lanieri-Dewitt, who was first in line, arrived at 10 a.m."

Politico: "Bill Clinton library plans 10th anniversary event"

"The event is expected to fall on Nov. 14, according to emails circulating among potential attendees."

Politico: "Priorities USA cuts check to DGA"

"The pro-Hillary Clinton super PAC Priorities USA is sending a $250,000 donation on Thursday to the Democratic Governors Association, the latest round of giving to a committee engaged in battle in midterm races, an official with the group told POLITICO."

Bloomberg Businessweek: "Romney Says Clinton Can't Distance Herself From Obama"

"'Hillary Clinton tries to distance herself from the foreign policy of the president,' said Romney, 67, his party's presidential nominee two years ago. 'That would work better were she not his secretary of state for four years.'"

Wall Street Journal: "Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's Political Ambitions Tested"

"Mr. Nixon would be hard pressed to challenge Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton for the party's presidential nomination, but he might be better positioned as a potential running mate or cabinet official."

USA Today: "For Chloe Moretz, the best part was meeting Hillary"

"'I cried when I met her,' says Moretz, who calls Clinton an 'icon.'"

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Washington Post opinion: Michael Gerson: “The limits of leading from behindNo time to lead from behind”

“This has been a test of the doctrine of leading from behind. A U.S. leadership ‘vacuum’ (Hillary Clinton’s word) was not filled by the resolve of friends.”

New York Times blog: The Upshot: “Where Are the National Democrats on Ferguson?”

“Yet no national Democratic politician, nobody of the sort who is likely to mount a presidential run anytime soon, has risen to give voice to the anger we’re seeing in Ferguson.”

The Atlantic: “Hillary Clinton's 'Mission Impossible' Doctrine”

“Every course poses its own risks. But as Vietnam proved–and as Clinton ought to have learned in Iraq–a hubristic, ill-planned, failed American military intervention is, when it goes wrong, the very most damaging thing a U.S. president can order. We should not elect any commander-in-chief who doesn't understand that.”

Huffington Post blog: Bill Schneider, resident scholar at Third Way: “No One Likes a Frontrunner”

“But will she really coast to the nomination? It looks more and more likely that Clinton will be seriously challenged from the left, by a candidate TBD.”

Boston Globe: “Search for James Foley consumed family, colleagues”

“That same month New Hampshire’s two US senators, Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte, also began prodding the Obama administration, in a series of letters to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the FBI, urging them to ‘take all reasonable measures to secure Mr. Foley’s immediate release.’”

Articles:

East Hampton Star (N.Y.): “Hillary Fever Grips Hamptons”

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By Lucia Akard

August 21, 2014, 12:38 p.m. EDT

Though Hillary Clinton was not expected at BookHampton until 5 p.m. on Saturday, the line to see her began to form that morning. Edna Lanieri-Dewitt, who was first in line, arrived at 10 a.m.

“I’m excited about just meeting her,” Ms. Lanieri-Dewitt said. “It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I’m thrilled that she’s in this world.”

By 5 p.m., the line stretched down Main Street and wrapped around to John Papa’s Café on Park Place. The book signing was sold out by Friday, with all 1,000 tickets secured in advance by buying a copy of Mrs. Clinton’s book “Hard Choices” from BookHampton, said Charline Spektor, the store’s owner.

Mrs. Clinton began signing books a little after 5. Though she reportedly signs 400 books per hour, she still took the time to greet each person, even pausing to have conversations with some. She spoke to one woman about her injured leg, saying, “I broke my elbow a few years back and did physical therapy for it. Have you started physical therapy yet? I hope it goes well for you.” She also shared a moment with a friend, Patti Kenner, and the two posed for a photo.

The crowd was filled with admirers of Mrs. Clinton, many of whom were sporting “Ready for Hillary” stickers in reference to her presumed 2016 presidential campaign.

Barbara Macklowe, an East Hampton artist and author of the book “India In My Eyes,” said, “I never anticipated a line this long. . . . I think it’s because there are a lot of politically involved, liberal-minded people in this town.”

Ms. Macklowe met Mrs. Clinton previously at an event held by a women’s organization, and said she supports her because, “I think she’s the most impressive person I’ve ever heard speak.”

There were a few unexpected supporters waiting in line. Aubrey Peterson, who is 11, is already a big fan, and said that he was willing to wait all day to see Mrs. Clinton. “Meeting Hillary Clinton in like meeting the Queen of England,” he said.

A group of four British teenagers were also in line, unperturbed by the long wait. “We want to see her because she’s an inspirational woman. We really admire her success,” Bella Charlton said.

“I’ve been coming here for ages,” said Martha Meshoulam, “and Book?Hampton is the place to go. I want to support the bookstore and support printed books.”

Ms. Spektor was very pleased with the outcome of the event, and said “We are very honored that

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Secretary Clinton put us into her schedule. She came to a bookstore, and that says a lot."

Ms. Spektor was notified that Mrs. Clinton would be coming to the store about six weeks ago, but said that she and her employees had "been crossing their fingers for over a year." Preparations for the event went smoothly, in part because of help from the East Hampton Village police.

"Chief Larsen and Captain Tracey couldn't have been kinder, and were enormously helpful, so that everyone would be safe and comfortable," Ms. Spektor said.

Not everyone, though, was happy to see Mrs. Clinton in town. Ruth Vered, the owner of the Vered Gallery in the alley behind BookHampton, protested during the signing. Dressed in all black, she stood in front of Starbucks for the entirety of the event, holding a handmade sign that read "The Worst Sec of State." Vered is Israeli, and holds dual citizenship in the United States and Israel. She was an Israeli paratrooper during the 1960s.

"Every move she made was bad," Ms. Vered said. She is not someone I would want as a role model for my daughters." She cited Mrs. Clinton's involvement in Cairo and her relationship with her aide, Huma Abedin, as two of her biggest shortcomings. Ms. Abedin is married to Anthony Weiner, a former Democratic congressman. Ms. Vered was the only protester that day.

Howard Dean, a 2004 candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination and a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, was spotted at the event and posed with Mrs. Clinton for a picture. (His mother has a house in East Hampton, and he is a frequent visitor.)

"I'll wait forever for her to be president," said Linda Fuller, a former English teacher at the East Hampton Middle School. "We need American women in power."

Politico: "Bill Clinton library plans 10th anniversary event"

By Maggie Haberman

August 21, 2014, 9:53 p.m. EDT

The presidential library honoring Bill Clinton in Little Rock, Arkansas, is planning for a major event in November to honor its tenth anniversary, sources familiar with the planning said Thursday.

The event is expected to fall on Nov. 14, according to emails circulating among potential attendees. That's four days before the anniversary of the Nov. 18, 2004, unveiling. It was not immediately clear if the event would be limited to one day.

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It is also right after the midterm elections end, at a time when Hillary Clinton will be in the process of deciding whether to run for president in 2016.

Clinton aides did not comment on the anniversary plans.

The library is part of a network of Clinton-related projects in Arkansas, where the former president served as governor. There is also a Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas.

Politico: “Priorities USA cuts check to DGA”

By Maggie Haberman

August 21, 2014, 3:04 p.m. EDT

The pro-Hillary Clinton super PAC Priorities USA is sending a $250,000 donation on Thursday to the Democratic Governors Association, the latest round of giving to a committee engaged in battle in midterm races, an official with the group told POLITICO.

The group has also sent money in the past to House Majority PAC and Senate Majority PAC, the outside groups seeking to elect House and Senate Democratic candidates.

After a dust-up over whether it would get involved in the midterms, Priorities USA made clear earlier this year that it did not plan to raise money this year, other than in order to give to targeted committees. The decision was designed to avoid competing with fundraising efforts geared toward the 2014 elections. Priorities officials urged their donors to give to midterm-focused groups as well.

The group is not expected to raise funds for itself until after the midterms.

Clinton herself is set to host fundraisers for all four major Democratic campaign committees in the next two months, including the DGA, which Bill Clinton hosted an event for earlier this year as well.

Fundraising committees use big-name surrogates to help raise money, with the Clintons and President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden among the biggest draws. Biden has hosted two events for the DGA recently.

Obama hosted an event for the DGA earlier this year. He’s done dozens of events combined for the other

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three Democratic campaign committees.

Bloomberg Businessweek: “Romney Says Clinton Can’t Distance Herself From Obama”

By John McCormick

August 22, 2014

Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, on a public stage for the first time since their ticket lost the 2012 White House race, derided recent efforts by Hillary Clinton to differentiate herself from President Barack Obama.

“Hillary Clinton tries to distance herself from the foreign policy of the president,” said Romney, 67, his party’s presidential nominee two years ago. “That would work better were she not his secretary of state for four years.”

Ryan, 44, the Wisconsin U.S. representative who Romney picked as his vice presidential nominee, criticized the size of the federal government during the joint appearance yesterday in Chicago and said a Clinton administration would “keep these things going.”

Clinton, who polls show is the overwhelming favorite for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, took a step toward breaking with Obama in an interview published earlier this month that suggested he lacked a world view in his foreign policy.

“Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle,” she told the Atlantic’s Jeffrey Goldberg, referring to a phrase Obama has used to describe his foreign policy.

The comment triggered a fight between a White House eager to defend itself in the face of multiple foreign crises and a Clinton operation eager to separate the potential candidate from some of the administration’s actions. While such efforts may hurt her among Democratic primary voters should she run for president, it may help her win support in a general election campaign from independents and Republicans focused on national security.

Romney Vindication

Romney also claimed vindication for himself in Clinton’s comments to Goldberg.

“She was very critical of the president’s foreign policy, and basically said ’he doesn’t have one,’” Romney

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said. “I used to say that during the campaign.”

Romney’s appearance with his ex-running mate for a dinner-time conversation in front of about 350 people at the Union League Club of Chicago was part of Ryan’s national tour this week to promote his new book. The conversation focused heavily on government spending, although Romney was eager to talk about foreign policy.

In his book, “The Way Forward: Renewing the American Idea,” and at the Chicago event, Ryan avoided speculation about whether he’ll seek the White House.

Senate Races

Though some Republican leaders have suggested Romney might consider another run, he has denied any interest in such an effort.

He has been an active presence on the midterm campaign trail this year. His travels earlier this week included stops in West Virginia, North Carolina and Arkansas, all states with U.S. Senate races in which Republicans are vying to capture Democratic-held seats.

Democrats panned the Chicago appearance, saying the two men and their views were rejected by 2012 voters.

“In 2012, Americans rejected the Romney-Ryan plan that ended Medicare as we know it, shifted the tax burden onto American families or gut programs for the most vulnerable members of society,” Michael Czin, a spokesman for the Democratic National Committee said in a statement.

Wall Street Journal: “Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's Political Ambitions Tested”

By Janet Hook and Peter Nicholas

August 21, 2014, 9:28 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Ferguson Turmoil May Be a Hurdle on the National Stage

Just as Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon of Missouri was angling for attention as a potential national political leader, the turmoil in Ferguson has abruptly catapulted him from obscurity into a national spotlight of a more problematic sort.

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Mr. Nixon, who recently hinted of aspirations beyond Missouri with trips to Iowa and other dog whistles of ambition, has been criticized for moving too slowly and ineffectively to manage the crisis after a police officer shot an unarmed 18-year-old African-American on Aug 9.

The governor's office counters that Mr. Nixon has been "heavily engaged" in the situation in Ferguson, citing his call for an independent investigation, his meetings with local officials and clergy, and his order for the state highway patrol to handle security.

"He continues to work around the clock to bring peace to Ferguson so that justice can ultimately be achieved," said Nixon spokesman Scott Holste.

The situation is a fresh example of how disasters both natural and man-made have the potential to damage a political career.

"When these events occur, it is a test you can either pass or fail," said Tad Devine, a Democratic strategist who worked as a senior adviser to the Al Gore and John Kerry presidential campaigns. "The way you deal with it has long-term repercussions for political leaders."

One of the governor's most vocal critics has been fellow Democrat Maria Chappelle-Nadal, a state senator who tweeted profanities at the governor and complained that he hadn't showed up at "ground zero."

Hogan Gidley, who worked for Republican Rick Santorum's 2012 presidential campaign, said the violence in Ferguson would "blemish" Mr. Nixon's record should he run for higher office.

Voters measure candidates on the basis of whether they can be effective—and the unrest in Missouri won't help Mr. Nixon make his case, he said.

There have been a range of responses from state and local politicians, as well as national leaders.

Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill jumped in quickly with Twitter TWTR +0.11% messages of sympathy for Michael Brown, who was fatally shot by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, 28 years old. She went to church in the community and was photographed hugging a protester. She spoke to President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder about the case, and tweeted frequently about her outreach to state and federal officials.

Sen. Roy Blunt (R., Mo.) was more restrained in his response, deferring to state officials and emphasizing the importance of a thorough investigation rather than engaging on the emotional grievances that were surfacing on the streets.

"While the federal government can assist with that investigation, the federal government should not assume the state and local governments' responsibilities," he said after speaking to Mr. Obama by phone

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Monday.

As the state's chief executive, Mr. Nixon responded both with operational actions and efforts to address the emotions of the moment.

He asked the Justice Dept. on Aug. 11 to conduct an independent investigation and appeared with faith and civic leaders on Aug. 12, telling them, "We stand together tonight, reeling from what feels like an old wound that has been torn open afresh."

His office said he met Mr. Brown's mother on Aug. 15. And Thursday he rejected critics' calls to replace St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch who is turning to a 12-member grand jury to determine whether criminal charges should be filed in the fatal shooting.

Mr. Nixon also moved to shore up the law enforcement response.

On Aug. 14, after nights of looting, he ordered the state highway patrol to direct security under the supervision of Capt. Ronald Johnson, an African-American native of the Ferguson area.

Mr. Johnson initially was warmly greeted by protesters. But when looting resumed, Mr. Nixon on Aug. 16 ordered a midnight to 5 a.m. curfew. When that failed to quell violence, he dropped the curfew and called in the National Guard on Monday to help with security.

The community still saw regular protests and arrests, though those have diminished and the governor ordered the withdrawal of the National Guard on Thursday.

Mr. Nixon easily won re-election in 2012 in a state that Mr. Obama lost twice, suggesting that, should he look beyond Missouri, he might make inroads with independent and centrist voters coveted by both parties.

Last month, he toured an ethanol plant in Iowa, the first presidential caucus state, making the sort of visit politicians use to signal national aspirations. His office said the visit had nothing to do with electoral politics and was focused on expanding business opportunities in Missouri.

Mr. Nixon would be hard pressed to challenge Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton for the party's presidential nomination, but he might be better positioned as a potential running mate or cabinet official.

His handling of the Ferguson crisis is likely to shadow his political ambitions.

Chris Kofinis, a Democratic strategist and former chief of staff to Sen. Joe Manchin (D., W.Va.), said: "He was slow to respond, and then when he engaged he wasn't clear on what the right approach is. In fairness to him, there's not a playbook to deal with these things. But the public doesn't care about that…Crises sometimes make leaders and sometimes they break leaders."

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[USA Today: “For Chloe Moretz, the best part was meeting Hillary”]

By Jocelyn McClurg

August 20, 2014, 3:09 p.m. EDT

It's August, but Chloe Grace Moretz arrives for lunch at the Trump SoHo Hotel shivering and tightly wrapped in a baggy black sweater over a pleated white skirt and top.

"It's cold!," says the pretty blond star of If I Stay, which opens Friday.

Perhaps, but things are decidedly hot these days for the 17-year-old actress and fashionista, who has just wrapped a string of movies and is about to film The Fifth Wave, the latest dystopian teen novel to make it to the big screen. ("I'm super hyped about it," she says of starring as heroine Cassie Sullivan.)

But first she's talking up If I Stay, based on the young-adult novel by Gayle Forman, No. 1 on USA TODAY's Best-Selling Books list for the third straight week.

Forman, who lives in nearby Brooklyn, shares the sushi and marvels at the living embodiment of her narrator, Mia Hall. In the movie, which is quite faithful to the book, Mia is in a coma after a devastating car crash. Flashbacks tell the story of her happy family life (at first she doesn't know whether her parents and little brother have survived the accident) and romance with a young rocker, Adam (Jamie Blackley).

Moretz says she read the If I Stay script and was intrigued, but really fell in love when she read the book. She emailed Forman and the two struck up an online friendship long before they met last year. The two recently bonded on a multi-city tour, where they signed books and posters and screened the movie for fans.

For Forman, who visited the set in Vancouver, Moretz was a dream choice as Mia.

"I thought 'who else can handle this role,' because really it is two separate roles," says Forman, 44, mother of two young girls. "There's the vulnerability and the falling in love and then the Mia of the accident, who's in this ghost-like state but who also has such emotionally wrenching scenes."

Moretz, who kicked some you-know-what in Kick-Ass and its sequel, says tapping into her softer side was a challenge. "I think because I'm a young actress I have issues showing emotional vulnerability, being 17. I am OK with being fierce and cool and hard, I am killing people, whatever, but when I have to show love and

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happiness and elation, it's scary. You're opening up a side of yourself that no one sees."

And then there was the cello. Mia is a cello prodigy who auditions for Julliard, and Moretz felt it was central to the character to take lessons. While she's hardly ready for Carnegie Hall in real life (in the movie, she says, it's "Frankenstein with my head on another girl's body"), it was all about "learning the emotion of the cello."

Moretz, who takes her craft seriously (she's been at it for a decade), is ebullient, chatty and friendly. "I can be a super mature person when I need to be and I can talk about many different things, but ultimately, when I'm with my friends, I act like I'm 12. I'm a very goofy person."

Her conversational topics whip from school (she's a senior and is tutored on set) to being obsessed with Sylvia Plath's autobiographical 1963 novel The Bell Jar ("Oh my god, I want to make it into a movie") to enjoying exploring the "dark side of my psyche" as an actor.

"I always said if I wasn't an actor I don't know if I'd be like a serial killer or something. I get it out (on film), who knows what I'm expelling," she says with a laugh.

But what really gets this effusive talker going is…Hillary Clinton?

In June, Moretz was in Toronto for the Much Music Video Awards when her driver noticed that Clinton was doing a book signing for her memoir Hard Choices. Calls were made and the young star got a few minutes with the woman she so admires.

"I cried when I met her," says Moretz, who calls Clinton an "icon."

"I've never gotten starstruck by anyone in my entire life, ever, and I couldn't breathe. She was just sitting there in her little jacket. I thought she was just going to sign my book and tell me to go but she said, 'I know the book (If I Stay), I saw it on this reader's list, and I can't wait for your movie.' "

"Hillary Clinton talked about If I Stay?," an incredulous Forman asks.

"Yes! Yes, yes, she knew the book, I was freaking out!" says Moretz. The actress and author high-five.

Did Clinton, ahem, say anything else?

"Well, I said, 'I turn 18 on Feb. 10 and I will be 18 when you run for president.' And she was like, mmmmm."

Oh well.

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Washington Post opinion: Michael Gerson: “The limits of leading from behindNo time to lead from behind”

By Michael Gerson

August 21, 8:04 p.m. EDT

Responding to the horrifying murder of photojournalist James Foley, Secretary of State John Kerry declared the Islamic State “and the wickedness it represents must be destroyed.” President Obama said, “People like this ultimately fail.” The first is a pledge; the second an observation. Obama remains a rhetorical spectator to events in Iraq and Syria that he does not want to own and that he believes the United States has a limited ability to influence.

Obama called the Islamic State a “cancer.” But the actual pledge found in his remarks was consistent with earlier pledges: “The United States of America will continue to do what we must to protect our people.” Such a statement can be interpreted narrowly or broadly: protecting our people on the ground in Irbil against advancing Islamic State fighters, or protecting our people in New York or Washington against a terrorist threat amplified by new funding, a territorial haven and swelling morale. So far, Obama has given cause for the narrower interpretation.

The president wants to keep a strategic ambiguity at the center of U.S. policy. He seems to fear that firmness will tempt our partners and allies to become free riders on American resolve. In this view, a strong U.S. commitment actually weakens the incentives for responsible behavior closer to the problem. This is the strategic insight that underlies “leading from behind.”

But the current Islamic State threat — a stated desire to repeat the Foley murder on a global scale — has grown in the fertile soil of American ambiguity. The Islamic State took eastern Syria, and the United States did almost nothing. The Islamic State took Fallujah in January, and the United States did little. The group took Mosul in June, seized hard currency and American weapons, changed its name to the Islamic State and declared the caliphate, and the United States urged Iraqi political reform (while ramping up our intelligence capabilities). It took direct military threats against Irbil and Baghdad (and an imminent threat of genocide against Yazidis) for the United States to begin limited airstrikes.

This has been a test of the doctrine of leading from behind. A U.S. leadership “vacuum” (Hillary Clinton’s word) was not filled by the resolve of friends. It was filled by Iranian adventurism, by Russian meddling, by Bashar al-Assad’s mass atrocities, by Gulf state money flowing to disturbing places and by expansionist, ruthless, messianic Islamist radicalism. Recent history yields one interpretation: If the United States does not lead the global war on terrorism, the war will not be led.

Obama has been dragged by events toward engagement. But he still refuses to broaden his conception of the U.S. role in the Middle East. At every stage during the past three years, he has attempted to avoid the

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slippery slope of intervention by defining his goals as narrowly as possible: eliminate Assad's chemical weapons, defend Americans in Irbil, prevent a genocide on Mount Sinjar. But narrowing your objectives doesn't actually narrow your problems. And denial and delay may greatly complicate such problems.

Since assuming office, Obama has taken a technical or even technological approach to the terrorist threat. If it can be narrowly defined ("core al-Qaeda"), it can be surgically and antiseptically removed with drones and special operations. He is perfectly willing to take such measures: kill Osama bin Laden in his compound or strike a convoy in Yemen. But he has dismissed or downplayed the strategic and ideological aspects of the problem: Safe havens multiply threats. It is better to oppose threats aggressively and closer to their source, rather than waiting for them to arrive. Ideology and morale matter, as the Islamic State has developed momentum, attracted recruits (including from the West) and developed a reputation as the "strong horse" (bin Laden's words in 2001).

If the goal is the destruction of the Islamic State — a strategic, rather than technical, response to terror — allies need to be rallied to difficult, long-term tasks. Foes need to be put on notice. Americans need to be informed about the stakes and prepared for national exertions (which may eventually involve, by some estimates, 10,000 to 15,000 U.S. troops in supportive roles).

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel refers to the Islamic State as a threat of a "dimension that the world has never seen before." Eric Holder calls the Islamic State "more frightening than anything I think I've seen as attorney general." The central problem of U.S. foreign policy now lies in the gap between the world's dangers and the president's diffidence.

New York Times blog: The Upshot: "Where Are the National Democrats on Ferguson?"

By Josh Barro

August 21, 2014

There is something very strange about the national political reaction to the protests in Ferguson, Mo., (and nationally) over Michael Brown's shooting. The protesters are angry, and they're not aimlessly angry. They have a specific set of policy grievances about policing and criminal justice that are shared by a large slice of the electorate, particularly the Democratic primary electorate.

Yet no national Democratic politician, nobody of the sort who is likely to mount a presidential run anytime soon, has risen to give voice to the anger we're seeing in Ferguson. Nobody seems eager to make police abuses or racial injustice a key issue in a national campaign, even though an awful lot of Democratic voters could be activated on those issues.

Why not? African-Americans are a hugely important Democratic Party constituency. Gallup data suggests 22 percent of self-identified Democrats are black. Exit polls showed black voters made up one-third of North Carolina primary voters in 2008 and a majority in South Carolina. If there were an incident of similar

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salience to a group that made up such a large share of the Republican base, you can bet a number of Republican politicians would be lining up to associate themselves with the protesters.

There are answers to the “why not?” question, but I don’t think they make the quiet on this issue sustainable.

You can start with the fact that blacks and whites tend to view the situation in Ferguson very differently. According to a poll conducted this month by the Pew Charitable Trusts, 80 percent of black respondents say the shooting “raises important issues about race,” but just 37 percent of whites do. Whites are much more likely than blacks to have confidence in the police investigation. A New York Times/CBS poll on Ferguson released Thursday finds a similar divide.

Democrats win elections by building coalitions of white and nonwhite voters, and for decades, Democrats have used “tough on crime” stances as a way to build support with whites. The Missouri governor, Jay Nixon, spent 16 years as his state’s attorney general as a strong proponent of capital punishment.

Democrats have bad memories of the Willie Horton ad and other Republican campaign messages that used “law and order” issues to consolidate white voters. So faced with a policy issue that places a crowd of angry black people on one side and the police on the other, it’s not surprising that Democratic politicians would be wary of siding with the crowd.

Democrats also haven’t had to fear that not taking up this issue will cost them black votes. “Up until the last few months, there really hasn’t been any serious competition for the black vote on a policy level,” said Jeff Smith, a white Democrat who represented a racially mixed St. Louis district in the Missouri State Senate from 2006 to 2009. Even with Senator Rand Paul taking up the issues of over-incarceration and the drug war, Republicans remain too far from the median black voter on a swath of issues from economics to voter ID to make a serious general election play.

So there is a good general election logic for Democrats to give short shrift to the issues raised in Ferguson. But if the Tea Party has taught us anything, it’s that a base can force its party to take stances that won’t be popular in a general election. Black voters, and other Democratic voters who care about issues of policing and racial justice, don’t have to flex their political muscle by being willing to leave the party. If these issues are of importance to much of the electorate — and this month’s protests suggest they are — then a politician should be able to build a credible Democratic primary campaign by focusing on them.

Indeed, that’s roughly what Bill de Blasio did to win last year’s Democratic mayoral primary in New York. The fact that Democrats had lost the last five mayors’ races in part because of perceived weakness on policing issues did not stop Mr. de Blasio from winning the primary or the general elections easily while saying the New York Police Department’s policing tactics had gone too far. Mr. de Blasio was able to see that the sharp decline in violent crime in New York had changed the politics of policing, and made a softer touch more politically palatable.

The nationwide slump in violent crime should mean that trend isn’t limited to New York. The declining threat of crime and the cost of imprisoning so many people has created space for politicians, especially Republicans, to endorse policies aimed at reducing incarceration.

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The decline of crime should change the calculus with black voters, too: Reduced crime makes aggressive policing look less justifiable and more gratuitous. Combine the favorable crime trend with the declining share of the Democratic primary electorate that consists of white voters, and there should be room for a candidate who takes Mr. de Blasio's message on racial inequities in policing national.

Back in June, Matt Yglesias of Vox wrote that Democrats are "more unified than ever," and policy unity is what forestalls a serious primary challenge to Hillary Clinton. On the issue set he discussed, he's right. Democrats broadly agree on issues like taxes and spending, the safety net and bank regulation.

Mr. Yglesias's article didn't discuss policing and criminal justice issues, and didn't describe the Democratic coalition as divided over questions like whether the police have too much power and whether we imprison too many people. That lack of division may be only because no ambitious candidate has emerged to push the party leftward on criminal justice — yet.

The Atlantic: "Hillary Clinton's 'Mission Impossible' Doctrine"

By Conor Friedersdorf

August 21, 2014, 3:07 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] On foreign policy, the presumptive presidential candidate responds to hard choices by fake-punting.

America's foreign-policy hawks are once again circling high over their maps of the Middle East. They see several countries where they would like America to strike. Some of the hawks are neoconservatives. Others are liberal internationalists. Hillary Clinton's hawkish shrieks are an unusual blend of their styles. Her book Hard Choices, her remarks at the Aspen Ideas Festival, and her interview with Jeffrey Goldberg include calls for the U.S. to support the ouster of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, weaken the government of Iran, and destroy the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), a Sunni terrorist group being fought by both Assad and Iran.

This puts her in an awkward position: If the U.S. is determined to weaken or destroy ISIS, the regimes in Syria and Iran, and the Shiite Islamist militant group Hezbollah–if America is to pursue all these goals at once, as Clinton urges in her rhetoric–we're operating in such a way that our enemy's biggest enemies are our enemies.

There are several ways a country could respond to this situation. Non-intervention is one of them. Perhaps the fight among ISIS, Assad, Iran, and other actors besides is so dynamic and complicated that there's no way to foresee the consequences of our intervention. Inaction guarantees that the U.S. won't spend blood and treasure in a way that does not help or inadvertently harms us–though inaction has costs and risks too.

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Another way forward would be to choose which enemy poses the biggest threat, focus on defeating it, and understand that in doing so we'd be compromising other goals.

Then there's what we could call the "Mission Impossible" approach to geopolitics, where the seeming tradeoffs are so unappealing that one tries to avoid them. Hollywood screenwriters are the biggest proponents of this approach. Is the target too heavily armed to take by force and too well-guarded to sneak into? Don't call off the heist. Just devise a plan to steal a stealth helicopter during a lunar eclipse, repel down a ventilation shaft mere inches wider than the thinnest member of your team, and rely on his acrobatics–plus the piece of cinnamon gum that is his trademark in outlaw circles–to bypass the lasers.

That's the level of difficulty that comes to mind when I read Robert Ford, the career diplomat who resigned over the same objections to President Obama's Syria policy voiced by Clinton. "Some have argued that the easier course is to accept that Mr. Assad is entrenched in the capital and work with his regime to contain and eliminate the terrorist groups in Syria," he wrote in a June op-ed. "This would not benefit American security. ... [H]is record of relying on horrific brutality to maintain power is clear. Moreover, his regime has a history of implicit cooperation with Al Qaeda, as we saw in Iraq. This is not a man with whom the United States should align itself." Plus, "Mr. Assad now depends on Iran and Hezbollah for his survival, and Iran’s influence in Syria is likely to remain as long as Mr. Assad does." So what to do? "To be sure, there is no military solution, but it is possible to salvage something in Syria by preparing the conditions for a genuine negotiation toward a new government. And that requires empowering the moderate armed opposition. The Free Syrian Army needs far greater material support and training so that it can mount an effective guerrilla war."

This was presented as a realistic embrace of the least-bad option.

It's basically the same advice Clinton gave: identify the subset of rebels battling Assad who aren't Islamist radicals; give them money and weapons; hope that they topple the Syrian regime; and then, when Assad is gone, wager that the power vacuum won't be filled by ISIS or some radical Islamist force like it. Though Assad's forces have done their best to kill ISIS fighters, Clinton spoke as if funding the opposition to Assad would have preempted the rise of ISIS, and as if post-Assad Syria wouldn't likely turn into a lawless place where terrorists could plot.

But how was that a realistic plan?

Everything about Iraq, the scene of an earlier intervention that Clinton favored, ought to have given her pause. When that country's dictator fell, the resulting power vacuum empowered Islamist terrorist groups despite the presence of thousands of U.S. troops. Weapons and equipment that the U.S. gave its allies in Iraq now make up a major part of the weaponry that ISIS stole to seize territory there. But ISIS wouldn't have been able to seize weapons funneled to moderate Syrians? And a Syria without Assad wouldn't have turned into a more heavily contested power vacuum? The folks beheading journalists and seizing vast swaths of territory would've let the moderates do their thing or been suppressed by them?

Those seem like risky wagers.

There's no way to prove the Ford/Clinton approach to Syria wouldn't have worked, just as there's no way

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to prove I wouldn't have won if I'd gone to a Las Vegas sports book last year and wagered that I could pick the winner of every Dallas Cowboys game. An embrace of plans with long odds of success is nevertheless a worrisome approach to foreign policy. It's as if Obama is a football coach with an injured quarterback and no ground game, the tough choice is whether to run or pass, and Clinton is on the sidelines emphatically agitating for an insanely complicated trick play that the team has never practiced before, even though trick plays attempted in previous games unfolded unpredictably and failed.

Clinton presents this posture as evidence of her capacity to make "Hard Choices," which for her means something like forcefully urging intervention even when I have no idea if it will work. As she told Goldberg in their interview, "I can't sit here today and say that if we had done what I recommended, and what Robert Ford recommended, that we'd be in a demonstrably different place."

She sees the long odds, yet never considers, or at least never refutes, the notion that our involvement could make things worse, as has happened before. ISIS could have more of our guns. Our now-successful effort to destroy many of Syria's chemical weapons could've been derailed. What voters should seek out, as they decide whether Clinton is capable of being a good president, is any recognition from her that attempts by American experts to steer events abroad do often make things worse–and that simple, plausible plans ought to be favored for that reason, not elaborate interventionist schemes that can only succeed if lots of contested assumptions hold true and lots of contingencies we don't control go right.

Her inclination is to make risky bets on intervention "with conviction":

[VIDEO]

Every course poses its own risks. But as Vietnam proved–and as Clinton ought to have learned in Iraq–a hubristic, ill-planned, failed American military intervention is, when it goes wrong, the very most damaging thing a U.S. president can order. We should not elect any commander-in-chief who doesn't understand that.

Huffington Post blog: Bill Schneider, resident scholar at Third Way: "No One Likes a Frontrunner"

By Bill Schneider

August 21, 2014, 1:31 p.m. EDT

"No one likes a frontrunner, especially Democrats" a grassroots activist at Netroots Nation told Politico. That's certainly true. Remember John Glenn in 1984? Howard Dean in 2004? Hillary Clinton in 2008?

It's Republicans who have a tradition of nominating whoever is next in line. Every Republican presidential

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nominee since Barry Goldwater had run for President or vice president before. With one exception--George W. Bush. But his name was Bush, so he got a pass. Democrats have a tradition of plucking candidates out of obscurity: George McGovern, Jimmy Carter, Michael Dukakis, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama.

If Hillary Clinton runs in 2016, she may defy the Democratic tradition. She is the prohibitive frontrunner, at least in the polls. No one else comes close. But will she really coast to the nomination? It looks more and more likely that Clinton will be seriously challenged from the left, by a candidate TBD.

Almost every Democratic nominating contest ends up as a race between a progressive and a populist. It's a class split. The progressive wins educated, high-minded, upper-middle-class Democrats devoted to National Public Radio. Prius drivers. The populist wins wage-earners, disadvantaged minorities and the financially squeezed. Pick-up truck drivers.

	Progressive	Populist
1952	Adlai Stevenson	Estes Kefauver
1968	Eugene McCarthy	Robert F. Kennedy
1972	George McGovern	Hubert Humphrey
1984	Gary Hart	Walter Mondale
1988	Michael Dukakist	Dick Gephardt
1992	Paul Tsongas	Bill Clinton
2000	Bill Bradley	Al Gore
2008	Barack Obama	Hillary Clinton

Obama won the nomination in 2008 by putting together an unusual coalition of NPR Democrats and African-Americans. He beat Hillary Clinton. But only barely. When ABC News aggregated all the 2008 Democratic primary exit polls, it showed Clinton with a two-to-one lead over Obama among non-college white voters.

Last month, the Netroots Nation crowd swooned over keynote speaker Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). She was repeatedly interrupted by shouts of "Run, Liz, run!" There were "Ready for Warren" buttons everywhere--her enthusiasts' answer to "Ready for Hillary." The response from Warren's office? "No, Sen. Warren does not support this effort."

Liberal Democrats are exasperated by President Obama. He doesn't show enough fight. Warren calls herself a "fighter," but Hillary Clinton has the prior claim to that title. She earned points in 2008 by fighting to the very end. "One thing you know about me is that I am no shrinking violet," she told cheering supporters in Kentucky in May 2008. "If I tell you I will fight for you, that is exactly what I intend to do."

Clinton may be vulnerable to a challenge from the left on foreign policy. She brought up the issue herself in her recent interview with The Atlantic, where she put some distance between her views and those of

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President Obama. "You know," Clinton told her interviewer, "when you're down on yourself, and when you're hunkering down and pulling back, you're not going to make any better decisions than when you were aggressively, belligerently putting yourself forward." She earned cheers from neo-conservatives when she said, "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

Hillary Clinton's hawkish inclinations are well known. She favored sending more arms to relatively moderate Syrian rebels and endorsed air strikes against the Syrian government. She wanted to leave a larger U.S. residual force in Iraq. She urged a stronger show of resolve in Egypt and Libya. And, of course, she voted to authorize the war in Iraq in 2002.

Hillary Clinton appears to be placing herself squarely in the Democratic Party's long tradition of liberal interventionism. It's a tradition that goes back to President Harry Truman, who first committed the U.S. to a global leadership role after World War II. But military intervention has long been a source of friction inside the Democratic Party. Progressive Democrats were nurtured by a different Democratic tradition: antiwar. Anti-Vietnam war and anti-Iraq war.

Iowa Democratic caucus participants include a lot of antiwar activists. Clinton's hawkishness does not go over well with them. In fact, Iowa was a big stumbling block in her 2008 campaign. Clinton came in third in Iowa, behind both Obama and John Edwards.

One issue in particular may give her problems with the left: Israel. In her Atlantic interview, Clinton was unstinting in her support for Israel: "There's no doubt in my mind that Hamas initiated this conflict and wanted to do so in order to leverage its position." On criticism of Israel's actions in Gaza: "What you see is largely what Hamas invites and permits Western journalists to report on from Gaza. . .The PR battle is one that is historically tilted against Israel."

Last month's Gallup poll showed Americans divided over whether Israel's actions in the current conflict with Hamas are justified (42% "mostly justified," 39% "mostly unjustified"). Democrats, however, were more critical of Israel (47-31% "unjustified"). Criticism of Clinton's strong support for Israel is likely to surface in the campaign, particularly in Iowa. Iowa is only 0.2% Jewish. And while there are a lot of pro-Israel evangelical voters in Iowa, very few of them can be found at Democratic caucuses. It is not hard to imagine Iowa Democrats rallying behind an antiwar alternative to Clinton in 2016.

Boston Globe: “Search for James Foley consumed family, colleagues”

By Bryan Bender and Noah Bierman

August 22, 2014

[Subtitle:] In e-mails, captors sought $130 million

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It was the Saturday after Thanksgiving in 2012 when top executives at the Boston-based GlobalPost received an e-mail from one of the news service's freelance correspondents near the Syrian border.

"Hate to be writing this to you but Jim has gone missing in Syria," she wrote.

The prospect that James W. Foley had been taken hostage left GlobalPost co-founder Charles M. Sennott with "a terrible, sinking sense of deja vu" — a "here we go again" feeling.

Foley, the New Hampshire-born war correspondent beheaded by militants from the terrorist group calling itself the Islamic State, had previously been kidnapped in Libya in 2011 and released, with the considerable help of the news organization's intervention, 44 days later.

But this time, there was an even deeper feeling of dread. Indeed, his colleagues at GlobalPost weren't all that surprised.

"He always pushed it to the edge," Sennott said. "He always went as far as you could go to get the story."

What began that fall weekend nearly two years ago was a highly organized effort — led primarily by his family and GlobalPost executives and drawing in top US officials, private investigators, and refugee workers — in what ultimately proved to be an unsuccessful quest to free him.

"It's been an almost indescribable series of events, efforts, and mistakes and ups and downs, trying to — first of all find out where Jim was, who held him — and once we succeeded in that, find out how he might be freed," said Phil Balboni, chief executive officer of GlobalPost.

Foley's parents and brother this week said they were grateful for the effort but wished the United States had done more to win release of their son, including following the blueprint for winning release of hostages set by European countries. While the United States does not pay ransoms for hostages, European nations have made multimillion-dollar payments in exchange for the safe return of kidnapped citizens. The Foleys had begun raising money in an attempt to pay the ransom themselves. But they never got the chance.

The United States needs to put a premium on the safety of journalists who are doing their jobs, John Foley said of his slain son.

"He felt this was his job. It was his passion. So he was not crazy,'' John Foley said. "He was motivated by what he thought was doing the right thing, and gave him energy to continue, despite the risks.''

James Foley was respected by his peers. His foreign coverage was widely recognized as pioneering. His reporting from Libya, amid the Arab Spring, earned the prestigious Overseas Press Club award for breaking news. He was a regular freelance correspondent, or "stringer," for GlobalPost, although he also worked for other news outlets.

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GlobalPost had all too much experience with their correspondents going missing in the field. One was imprisoned in Iran for seven days. Others simply fell out of touch for extended periods in some of the most remote corners of the globe before popping back up on the grid.

“The first thing you do is immediately call the State Department,” said Sennott, who was previously a foreign correspondent for The Boston Globe in the Middle East and wrote a 2009 field manual for correspondents operating in war zones.

Foley’s colleagues initially believed that he had been detained by government forces loyal to the regime of Bashar Assad, who was cracking down mercilessly on an insurgency consisting of a mix of rebel groups and Islamic militants that later came to be known as the Islamic State.

Two days after Foley’s disappearance was discovered in late 2012, GlobalPost hired Kroll International, a security firm that specializes in kidnapping and ransom cases — the same one it had enlisted when Foley went missing in Libya. Within days, the investigators were on the Turkey-Syria border, where Foley was last seen, interviewing people and gathering information, Balboni said.

“We didn’t know who took Jim, if he was alive or dead,” he said.

It would take nearly a year to learn where Foley was being held and that it was Islamic State, the terrorist group, that was holding him, Balboni said. The details came in September 2013, from a Belgian captive who had been held with Foley and then released. The Belgian got word to Foley’s brother that Foley indeed was alive.

Weeks later, in late November, the kidnappers sent their first e-mail to Foley’s parents and Balboni. To verify that Foley was alive and that the captors were indeed holding him, Foley’s parents, John and Diane, sent detailed and obscure questions that only Jim Foley could answer.

When the correct answers came back, “that was a real signal moment when we knew that we were in direct communication with the people who we knew were holding Jim captive,” Balboni said.

Soon after that, the captors asked for money, he said, 100 million euros — or about $130 million — and the release of Muslim prisoners.

As bits and pieces of information flowed in over the next excruciating months, the Foleys enlisted help from the US government and began to engage the public in his plight. Foley had been missing for six weeks by the time it was revealed publicly that he was last seen about 12 kilometers from the border with Turkey on his way back from reporting in Aleppo, Syria.

That same month New Hampshire’s two US senators, Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte, also began prodding the Obama administration, in a series of letters to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the FBI, urging them to “take all reasonable measures to secure Mr. Foley’s immediate release.”

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Shaheen helped Diane Foley secure meetings with the Russian Embassy, high-level officials at the United Nations, National Security Advisor Susan Rice, and other world and national officials. As 2013 wore on, the Foleys also met with David Wade, Secretary of State John F. Kerry's chief of staff, FBI officials, and White House staff, "all of whom were very sympathetic and desirous of helping," Balboni said.

"Secretary Kerry personally discussed the hostages over two dozen times with over a dozen different foreign leaders. He implored his counterparts in other governments to use their contacts and leverage, but the tragic reality is that ISIS answers to no one anymore,'' a senior administration official said.

But unlike many other governments, the United States was unwilling to pay the terrorist group for the release of hostages. The White House declined to discuss the decision-making process that ensued after the ransom demands were received.

But National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden responded that "the United States government, as a matter of longstanding policy, does not grant concessions to hostage takers. Doing so would only put more Americans at risk of being taken captive.

GlobalPost, which over the months spent millions trying to help Foley, certainly had nowhere near the sum demanded by Foley's kidnappers.

"We never took the 100 million seriously," Balboni said. "It was such an incredible sum."

"The United States and Great Britain are different because we've both always opposed paying ransom for hostages, because we know it costs more lives and creates more hostages,'' a senior administration official told the Globe. "But the truth is, there was never a credible ransom offer on the table. Extremists made propaganda demands for hundreds of millions of dollars. The truth is, every real option was exhausted."

The Foley family would learn what European countries had paid for the release of at least nine prisoners held with Foley, Balboni said, and they believed that they might win his release if they could raise about $5 million privately.

Over the time of Foley's disappearance, his family received a handful of e-mails from his captors, according to Balboni, but "it was complete silence" from December 2013 until last week.

The family said it had recently been producing a video featuring Foley as part of a planned appeal to the public, to help raise the ransom. Family members refused to give up hope, with good reason.

A hostage released a few months ago memorized a letter from Foley "and within hours of his freedom he was good enough to call and voice that letter, and it just spoke of his yearning to see all of us again," recalled Diana Foley.

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“We had some eyewitness reports last fall that we knew he was alive,” she said.

It was not until Wednesday at noon, when President Obama called to offer condolences about Foley’s beheading, that the Foleys learned about a secret US rescue mission in Syria to save their son, Balboni said.

Earlier this summer, based on what was considered highly reliable intelligence, an elite US special forces team was secretly taken by helicopter into a rural area of Syria where intelligence officials believed Foley was being held. A deadly firefight ensued, said Pentagon officials, and several militants were killed. But Foley and other suspected hostages were not there. The exact timing and other details of the mission have not been made public.

“The operation “was focused on a particular captor network within” the Islamic State, according to Rear Admiral John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman. “Unfortunately, the mission was not successful because the hostages were not present at the targeted location.’’

The last time the Foley family heard from James Foley’s captors was on Aug. 12, according to GlobalPost, which released the full text Thursday of the final e-mail sent by someone claiming to represent the Islamic State.

“You were given many chances to negotiate the release of your people via cash transactions as other governments have accepted,’’ the e-mail stated. “You and your citizens will pay the price of your bombings! The first of which being the blood of the American citizen, James Foley! He will be executed as a DIRECT result of your transgressions towards us!’’

GlobalPost said the Foley family did not have “many chances’’ to negotiate for their son’s release, and had been presented only with the demand for the extraordinary sum of $132 million.

It was just days later that the video of an Islamic State militant showing that Foley was beheaded appeared on YouTube.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 24 – Westhampton, NY: Sec. Clinton signs “Hard Choices” at Books & Books (hillaryclintonmemoir.com)

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· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· October ? – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (The Hill)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/9/2014 6:39:08 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday July 9, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday July 9, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton worked to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, covering more kids #HRC365 http://1.usa.gov/1fEDOXf [7/8/14, 8:03 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "After 45 years in the public eye Hillary can still be the candidate of the future" http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-d-rosenstein/the-media-obsession-with_b_5564233.html … [7/8/14, 5:55 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Republicans seek $3M for Benghazi committee after 8 other committees held hearings. http://correctrecord.org/new-benghazi-house-select-committee-will-cost-taxpayers-3-million/ … [7/8/14, 3:07 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Salon: "Pat Buchanan: I don't see a single GOP candidate who could beat Hillary"

[Subtitle:] "A populist conservative might beat Hillary, he tells Salon -- while taking on MSNBC, McCain, the Tea Party and more"

Washington Examiner: "What the Hawaii Senate race tells us about the Democratic Party"

"Hanabusa endorsed Clinton in 2008 in Hawaii's Democratic primary, and she did so again — and heartily — when the topic was raised during the debate Monday."

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The Day of New London (Conn.): "Clinton supporters wait in line for tickets to upcoming Madison book-signing"

"R.J. Julia Booksellers sold hundreds of copies of Hillary Clinton's 'Hard Choices' — or actually tickets to the potential Democratic presidential candidate's July 19 book-signing here — over a three-hour span this morning."

The Day of New London (Conn.): "Madison bookstore to host Hillary Clinton"

"Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will appear at a book-signing here July 19, R.J. Julia, the independent bookstore, announced in an email Tuesday evening."

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton Plans St. Paul Stop On Book Tour"

"Clinton is due to appear July 20 at Common Good Books, a store launched by another prominent Democrat — Garrison Keillor."

ABC News: "Hillary Clinton Offers No Documents to Rebut Criticism of Hefty Speaker Fees"

"Hillary Clinton insists that she donates fees for giving speeches at colleges and universities but still has not released documents to back up her claims."

Democracy Now!: "WikiLeaks' Julian Assange Responds to Hillary Clinton: Fair U.S. Trial for Snowden 'Not Possible'"

"Assange responds to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent comments that National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden should return home to face trial."

Vanity Fair: VF Daily: Sally Kohn: "The One Thing Republicans Must Do to Have a Credible Shot at Defeating Hillary"

"Ayotte and Martinez in particular should be rolling off the tongues of the Republican chattering class as they name top contenders for the presidential ticket. But they aren't."

Politico: Morning Money: "Does Hillary want a tax cut? — Citi close to $7B settlement — Ex-Im could ride on CR" [PARTIAL]

"… It seems like Hillary Clinton is not too happy with the higher rate on income and lower rate on capital gains and other investment income…"

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Articles:

Salon: "Pat Buchanan: I don't see a single GOP candidate who could beat Hillary"

By Scott Porch

July 9, 2014, 8:30 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] A populist conservative might beat Hillary, he tells Salon -- while taking on MSNBC, McCain, the Tea Party and more

After losing the presidential election in 1960 and the California governor's race in 1962, Nixon famously told reporters: "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore." Soon after, he set up a law practice in New York, where he largely stayed out of the spotlight.

A few years later, Patrick J. Buchanan, a young editorial writer in St. Louis, told Nixon at a local Republican gathering that he wanted to work on what he felt certain would be Nixon's 1968 presidential campaign. When Buchanan joined Richard Nixon in early 1966, he wasn't so much joining Nixon's staff as he was Nixon's staff.

Nixon's improbable rise from the has-been heap to the White House is the subject of Buchanan's new memoir, "The Greatest Comeback: How Richard Nixon Rose From Defeat to Create the New Majority." Buchanan talked to Salon about the Republican Party's turnaround in the late 1960s, Hillary Clinton's presidential prospects in 2016, and what Eric Cantor's recent primary loss means for immigration policy.

When you started working for Nixon in 1966, you were not as lined up with him ideologically as you might have been. Were you conscious of that, or were you looking more for a winner than an ideological match?

I was a very strong conservative in journalism school and at the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and a very strong Goldwater supporter [in 1964]. I was glad he won the nomination. I was elated when he won the California primary over Rockefeller. My feeling at that time was that Goldwater was our candidate. Nixon had lost twice and I liked Nixon — always had, I had caddied for him. But I just thought that was over, so I was for Goldwater.

When Goldwater lost, I looked at the field and said I'd like to get involved in politics. There were only two credible candidates: I didn't think Rockefeller could get nominated, and the most credible candidate and the one who had been out there strongest fighting for Goldwater and the one who I agreed with most on foreign policy was Richard Nixon.

Were we in 100 percent agreement? No, not at all. I was known as the conservative in the Nixon camp.

Was Barry Goldwater too conservative to get elected president in 1964, or do you think there were other reasons why he lost that election?

I think there are several. First, the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the rise of Lyndon Johnson. Johnson was not like Kennedy and was sort of an ideal opponent for Barry Goldwater. I don't think Barry Goldwater, incidentally, would have beaten John F. Kennedy, but I don't think it would have been that tremendous loss that occurred. With Kennedy's assassination, the country didn't really want to change presidents three times in one year. Second, Johnson was bombing North Vietnam in 1964, taking a very hard line, and taking a very hard line on law and order. Goldwater

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was not as dramatic a contrast. Third, the senator made a lot of mistakes. Fourth, the Republican Party was split and torn apart in that ’64 convention at the Cow Palace [in San Francisco].

I think all of those reasons contributed, and I do agree with this: The country was not ready for Barry Goldwater conservatism in 1964.

Did you think a winning Republican in ’68 would either have to be less conservative or a conservative wolf in sheep’s clothing?

[Laughs.] What I felt was we couldn’t nominate and elect a man as visibly conservative as Barry Goldwater, and we had to go with the next best thing, which was Richard Nixon. I thought Nixon undeniably was more experienced and able and competent a campaigner and executive than Sen. Goldwater, and I thought looking at 1968, if you looked at the entire field, Richard Nixon was far and away the most conservative of the candidates.

I never really thought about 1968 as a less conservative field than ’64.

In 1968, Ronald Reagan was enormously attractive. He was attractive even before he was elected because of that 1964 speech [at the Republican Convention]. And then he won California [as governor in 1966] by a million votes, and a lot of conservatives I knew would have moved to him. I was far more fearful of a Reagan challenge than the Romney-Rockefeller wing of the party.

When you joined Nixon in 1966, did you think he would probably run for president?

When I went and talked to him, I said, “If you’re going to run for president in ’68, I would like to get aboard early.” That’s in December of 1965. And he said, “Before any decisions are made about ’68, we’re going to have to rebuild the base of this party in 1966 or the nomination isn’t going to be worth anything.” He only hired me for one year to work on his columns, handle his mail in his office, and the duties — as you find out in the book — expanded dramatically.

He had a tremendously successful year in 1966, and I think he was primarily responsible, if any individual was, for the tremendous showing of the Republican Party, and he put everything out there on the line. It’s one thing I admired about Nixon. Whatever you say about him, he was a fighter and he was a loyalist and he went out for every Republican running in 1966 except for members of the John Birch Society.

Your book has a bibliography, and you quote a number of great books. I feel like we don’t see this approach enough in political memoir.

I talked to Jules Witcover the other night. He wrote “The Resurrection of Richard Nixon.” I had contributed to that in interviews with him over the ’66 to ’69 period and afterwards. I got a lot out of his book and other books, and I figure you ought to credit the people who have refreshed your memory.

Have you heard or read much of the most recent batch of Nixon tapes?

If you know the history of it, you know that I recommended that Nixon destroy the tapes. After [Alexander] Butterfield testified that there were tapes, I wrote a memo to Nixon saying you have to maintain the tapes that [John] Dean described and you have to maintain the foreign policy tapes that are critical, but as for the rest, I would destroy them.

Historian Douglas Brinkley has said that the main reason Nixon made the tapes was for his foreign policy legacy. Do you see it that way?

I think that’s one thing. But let me tell you one other that has not been reported very much or hardly at all. When we started the administration, [William] Safire, [Ray] Price and Buchanan — the senior speechwriters — were assigned to various meetings to come in as a reporter would. Mine was congressional leadership. What we were instructed to do was write down anecdotes and stories and decisions just as a reporter would. We would write all those down; some of mine were 10 pages single-spaced. I just smoked through the typewriter, had them retyped, and then I’d edit them. And I would send them across to [H.R.] Haldeman for the files.

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My assumption was that they were for two purposes: one, if there was a dispute over what somebody said, they could go to those files, and two, that [Nixon] would have the record when it came time to write his memoirs. At some point, we were called and told to stop covering the meetings.

Because they were then being taped?

That is my conclusion, that at that point the tapes were put in, and they were voice-activated so everything said was being recorded.

Former presidents typically go through several seasons of historical assessment — memoirs by White House aides, then National Archives records, then seeing how their policies turn out. What do you think the arc of the history of the Nixon administration has been? Obviously, it started at a low point.

That's a very interesting question. When I was very young, my father was interested in politics. He was hard-line anti-FDR and anti-Truman, and I remember when Truman departed, he was below Nixon in approval. His presidency was considered a disaster, he had lost both houses of Congress in '52 and the presidency to Eisenhower. He was considered in his second term very much a failed president.

Truman has been resurrected to where many historians say he's in the top 10 and a near-great president. Ronald Reagan because of what followed with the collapse of the Soviet Empire, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the economy had been booming under Reagan, so he has really risen to the point where — of course, conservatives put him among the greats, but even liberals are not objecting to near-great.

What about Nixon?

With Nixon, there's only two things people think about: China and Watergate. My period working with him was almost nine years, and Watergate did not occur until almost the seventh year of that. I think there's going to be a dramatic reassessment of Nixon. In his first term, I think it's fair to call him a near-great president.

There was the historic opening to China, the greatest arms control agreement since the Washington Naval Agreement of 1921-22 with the Russians, the first president to go behind the Iron Curtain to countries there. In October '73, he saved Israel in the Yom Kippur War, and he brought Egypt out of the Soviet orbit and into the Western orbit. He ended the War in Vietnam, as he promised to do, with all provincial capitals in Saigon's hands. He brought the POWs home. He ended the draft. He enacted the 18-year-old vote. He created the EPA, whichwhen it started was a good agency with conservatives agreeing with much of what it was doing. He created the Cancer Institute. He created OSHA. He was the president who was there when we put men on the moon.

I saw in a review of my book by the Economist magazine, which said that if Nixon had not run for a second term, he would be a hugely successful president. I remember Hugh Sidey wrote in 1972, which was before Watergate broke, that Nixon had presided over the cooling of America after the horrendous decade since Kennedy was assassinated and the riots and the disorder and assassinations, and the social/cultural/moral revolution, the upheaval on campuses, and a violent, divisive war. And I think that was right. But then came Watergate, and I think that blots out in the public mind — because of the focus on it — almost everything that happened in the first term but China.

Are you planning to write a second book about the Nixon years?

I sat down to write and started going through my files. There were all these interesting things that had happened and that nobody knew about and nobody has written about. And I thought this was a book in and of itself: how Nixon came back and what he accomplished after his own crushing defeats in '60 and '62 and the [Republican] Party's crushing defeat in '64. When everybody is talking about the Republican Party going off the cliff and being dead for a generation, and he pulled it all back together.

He pulled the Rockefeller-Scranton-Romney wing back in under the tent, brought in the Goldwater wing and the Reagan wing, put it all together and sought to split off the Southern Protestants and Northern Catholics [from the Democrats]. While he succeed with that in '68, he did succeed by '72. It's an incredible achievement.

You could be accused of cherry-picking the good part of the Nixon story, but I don't hear you saying that's why you stopped where you did.

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It's the 40th anniversary [of Nixon's resignation]. People have asked me to go on TV to talk about the pardon and other things. I did it as sort of a natural breakpoint. It is a separate, unique story after two crushing defeats and giving up politics and moving to New York and then the crushing defeat of the Republican Party [in 1964] to the point where the Republicans were outnumbered more than 2-to-1 in the House, more than 2-to-1 in the Senate, more than 2-to-1 among the governorships, and 2-to-1 in the state legislatures. Nixon pulled the pieces together to bring himself to the presidency of the United States in that turbulent decade. That is a story itself.

MSNBC ended a long relationship with you in 2012. Have you been invited on MSNBC to talk about the book?

I have not been invited by MNSBC yet, but we have some things scheduled on CNN and Fox and Fox Business.

Do you feel like you're getting a rough treatment?

I don't know. I'm sure that our people will be talking to them, and there are some shows that I think might be interested, although they have a different point of view clearly than Fox and others, especially about Nixon.

If you were building a Republican challenger from scratch to take on Hillary Clinton in 2016, what would that person look like?

I thought she ran a great campaign [in 2008]. I don't think her record as secretary of state or the Obama record is something she can run on. I think she's had a very bad book tour; it's not a scintillating book, it's not done her much good, and all the comments about the money and how poor they were have approached the ridiculous and been damaging.

However, I think as of today she would probably win the nomination, and as of today I think she would win the presidential election. Do I see a single candidate who has many of the things I would like to see in a Republican presidential candidate who could really rally the country and win the election? No, I don't.

What kind of GOP candidate could beat her?

I would say a populist conservative who is going to bring jobs back home to the United States, who is going to seal and secure the border, who is not going to grant amnesty, and who is going to get the United States out of all these wars and all these commitments to protect everybody on earth against any and all attacks. It would be a very dramatic break of the policies of both national parties.

I believe a lot of the ideas I ran on [for president] in the '90s like nonintervention in foreign wars that are none of our business, securing the borders, which I argued for 25 years ago, and stopping the export of U.S. manufacturing jobs to China and Asia. All these things are now current and much stronger than they were then. I think you need a fighting, populist, conservative campaign aimed at the working and middle class where you tell some of the Fortune 500 folks that you guys are going to have to spend a little time in the back row.

By most accounts, Hillary Clinton was an aggressive proponent of military intervention as secretary of state.

Look, if she wants to go fight wars around the world I would say, "No, we're not going to do that anymore." We did it under Bush and look what happened.

Does Rand Paul look as much like an ideal challenger as anyone?

I think his reluctance to send troops to intervene in places like Syria and Ukraine and Georgia and where else the John McCain-Lindsey Graham coalition wants to send them — I think he's right on the mark there.

Eric Cantor's loss in light of some data points in the weeks since appears to be a fluke. Is that your assessment?

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No, I don't think so. My assessment is that Eric Cantor got hurt badly by the perception that he was for amnesty on the immigration issue. The Tea Party may have lost in Mississippi [in the Senate race], but the impact of these races is on policy in the House; immigration is off the table. I think that's [David] Brat's success.

"Amnesty" is a loaded word. Shouldn't we have an immigration policy that deals with the people who are here in a way that reflects the fact that they are here?

The first thing you do is secure the border. You enforce e-verify with businesses who are breaking the law as much as any illegal immigrant is breaking the law. When that is done, then you take a look at these other matters. Until that is done, I would have no amnesty. People say they are living in the shadows. They broke into the country; they're living outside the law. That's what they chose to do.

You haven't slowed down. Are you happy to continue working and writing and doing what you're doing for the indefinite future?

[Laughs heartily.] I don't know how long the indefinite future is going to be! I enjoy writing. I enjoy communicating in interviews and on TV. I'm not seeking a permanent TV slot where I have to go in every day. Doing what I'm doing right now, doing this book tour — I enjoy these things. I always have.

Washington Examiner: "What the Hawaii Senate race tells us about the Democratic Party"

By Rebecca Berg

July 9, 2014, 12:24 p.m. EDT

Unlike Republicans, Democrats have had few opportunities this year to see any ideological splits among their candidates first-hand.

The exception is Hawaii.

Incumbent Sen. Brian Schatz has faced a rigorous challenge from Rep. Colleen Hanabusa in the Democratic primary. When the candidates met for a debate Monday, their discussion laid bare the divisions -- and areas of agreement -- between progressives and centrists in the party.

Here's what we learned:

The party is ready for Hillary

Or, if it isn't, Democrats aren't ready to say otherwise.

Hanabusa endorsed Clinton in 2008 in Hawaii's Democratic primary, and she did so again — and heartily — when the topic was raised during the debate Monday.

"I felt then that she would be a great president, and I feel now that she would be a great president," Hanabusa said. "I think that Hillary Clinton has paid her dues like no one else."

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Schatz was positive, saying he hopes Clinton will run, but he nevertheless stopped short of any endorsement.

"I'm not going to get ahead of myself," he said. "The only election I'm thinking about is on Aug. 9."

Schatz added that his son said he hoped a woman would run for president -- but there are other Democratic women, such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who are thought to be potential contenders for the presidency. Warren has endorsed Schatz over Hanabusa.

President Obama's popularity is even flagging in Hawaii

With his approval rating in the low 40s, President Obama has so far this election been ducked by vulnerable Democratic candidates and only tacitly acknowledged by relatively strong ones. But, in Hawaii, the hometown hero still enjoys robust popularity -- for the most part.

When asked to rate the president's performance, Schatz, who led Obama's Hawaii campaign during the Democratic primary in 2008, called him a "very strong president."

"I'm proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with him," Schatz said. "I'm proud to have his endorsement. I'm proud to be one of his staunchest allies in the Senate."

But Hanabusa was less effusive in her praise, calling into question how Obama has handled crises abroad.

"There is no question President Obama is one of us," she said. However, she added: "Where I have parted with the president is the issue of Syria and Iraq. ... I believe that he has to explain to the people why he is potentially putting us into another war in Iraq, a sectarian civil war."

Democrats still aren't sure about marijuana

Medical marijuana is legal in Hawaii, and the Hawaii legislature recently considered decriminalizing small quantities of the drug, but fell short. Full legalization enjoys support from the majority of Hawaiians.

But even Hawaii Democrats aren't yet fully pro-pot.

Schatz and Hanabusa agreed that states should lead the way on crafting policies, a position that has been echoed by the party's leaders nationally.

"States are the laboratory of democracy, and democracy is occurring when it comes to this issue," Schatz said. "I don't think Hawaii is ready for it; I don't think we're ready for nationwide legislation."

The two candidates diverged, however, on the extent to which the federal government should get involved.

Hanabusa suggested the federal government should put in place "a law or a policy not to interfere with whatever the state and its legislature and its people determine is in their own best interest."

But Schatz proposed only a national "conversation" about the merits of jail time for offenders, calling the current system "rigged against young men and women for nonviolent drug possession."

The issue of student loans has staying power

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The growing burden of student loans has been invoked regularly by Democratic candidates in this election cycle, and might be an important theme moving forward for the party.

It's "the middle-class issue of our times," Schatz said.

"Higher education should be a ladder up economically," Schatz said. "Higher education is supposed to be part of the American Dream, and people are being priced out of it."

Schatz has worked with Warren in the Senate to promote student-loan forgiveness. The issue has been a signature of Warren's as part of a larger stump-speech theme of economic fairness.

Some of the starkest divisions are on less-buzzy issues

Whether to label genetically modified foods, for example.

GMO-labeling is a particularly hot-button issue in Hawaii, where seed crops comprise an industry worth hundreds of millions of dollars — but where some counties have sought to ban genetically manipulated agriculture.

Hanabusa played directly to the local-economic angle when asked for her stance.

“I do not believe GMOs are unhealthy and I stand with the farmers on that,” Hanabusa said. “And I also believe in the science that we have on GMOs.”

But Schatz, perhaps hewing to progressive support for organic produce, said states should lead the way in crafting policy.

The Day of New London (Conn.): “Clinton supporters wait in line for tickets to upcoming Madison book-signing”

By Brian Hallenbeck

July 9, 2014, 12:53 p.m. EDT

R.J. Julia Booksellers sold hundreds of copies of Hillary Clinton’s “Hard Choices” — or actually tickets to the potential Democratic presidential candidate’s July 19 book-signing here — over a three-hour span this morning.

Tickets to the signing, which entitled the buyer to a copy of the book at the signing, went for $35 apiece, plus tax.

Bookstore staff began taking orders by phone at 8 a.m., then began taking them in person when the downtown store opened at 10. By then, about 40 people had formed a line on the sidewalk outside the store. Women outnumbered men by a wide margin.

“Yes, I support Hillary. I hope she runs for president,” Vitty O’Toole of Madison said, while waiting in line. “She has the power and the experience.”

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O'Toole, a 1957 Wellesley graduate who shares Clinton's alma mater, described herself as an independent Democrat.

"This was always a pretty solid Republican town," O'Toole said of Madison. "I generally keep my mouth shut when the talk turns to politics."

The Day of New London (Conn.): "Madison bookstore to host Hillary Clinton"

By Brian Hallenbeck

July 8, 2014, 9:48 p.m. EDT

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will appear at a book-signing here July 19, R.J. Julia, the independent bookstore, announced in an email Tuesday evening.

Clinton, a presumptive candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, will sign copies of her book, "Hard Choices," at 4 p.m. at the bookstore, a Boston Post Road landmark in this shoreline town. A limited number of tickets will be available by phone on a first-come, first-served basis, starting at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Clinton will only sign copies of her book; she will not speak, Roxanne Coady, R.J. Julia's owner, said Tuesday night.

Tickets will be available in the store after 10 a.m. Wednesday, according to the email.

Tickets are $35 plus tax and include a copy of Clinton's book. Customers are limited to two tickets per purchase.

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton Plans St. Paul Stop On Book Tour"

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 8, 2014, 3:56 p.m. EDT

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will make a stop in St. Paul on her tour to promote her new memoir.

Clinton is due to appear July 20 at Common Good Books, a store launched by another prominent Democrat — Garrison Keillor.

Clinton's memoir, "Hard Choices," sits atop The New York Times' bestseller list for hardcover nonfiction.

The St. Paul appearance is a ticketed event.

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ABC News: "Hillary Clinton Offers No Documents to Rebut Criticism of Hefty Speaker Fees"

By Liz Kreutz

July 9, 2014, 11:06 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton insists that she donates fees for giving speeches at colleges and universities but still has not released documents to back up her claims.

In an interview with ABC News' Ann Compton Friday, Clinton defended the high-dollar fees she charges for speaking at universities by saying the money goes to charity through the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation she controls with her husband, former president Bill Clinton. But Clinton, in response to specific follow-up questions, has offered nothing but silence.

"I have been very excited to speak to many universities during the last year and a half, and all of the fees have been donated to the Clinton Foundation for it to continue its life-changing and lifesaving work," Clinton said. "So it goes from a Foundation at a university to another foundation."

After the interview, ABC News reached out repeatedly to representatives from both the Clinton Foundation and Hillary Clinton's office requesting documents to support Clinton's claim, but none were provided.

As a nonprofit, the Clinton Foundation is required by law to turn over detailed financial information to the IRS and release much of that to the public upon request. But the foundation has yet to file its annual IRS form No. 990, which would include donation and expenditure details, for the period since she left the State Department at the start of President Obama's second term. The deadline for filing is Nov. 15, 2014.

If Clinton does to decide to run for president, she would have to file detailed financial-disclosure reports that would shine a light on both her personal income and assets and those of her husband.

At least eight universities, including four public institutions, have individually paid Clinton six-figures to speak on their campuses over the past year, according to the Washington Post.

(Included in this group is the University of Connecticut, which reportedly paid $252,250 from a donor fund for Clinton to speak in April, and the University of California at Los Angeles, which reportedly paid $300,000 for Clinton to speak in March.)

By the Post's calculations, Clinton has earned at least $1.8 million in speaking income from universities in the past nine months.

Such revelations have sparked a backlash from students on some of these campuses, including at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, where Clinton is scheduled to speak at a fundraiser in October. Students at the school have asked the former secretary of state to refund her fee of $225,000. In her interview with ABC News last week, Clinton offered no indication that she would do so and justified taking the fee because she donates the money back to charity.

Prior to the interview, Clinton's spokesman, Nick Merrill, told the Post that both her UCLA and UNLV fees are dedicated to go to the family's Foundation, but said he did not know whether the other six payments were.

Representatives for Clinton and the Clinton Foundation have yet to provide any documents supporting her claim that all of them have. ABC News has also requested that Clinton's office provide a full list of every school where she has spoken in the past year and a half, but there has been no response.

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Hillary Clinton's speaking fees – roughly $200,000 per engagement — became a point of contention after she told ABC News' Diane Sawyer in an interview last month that she and her husband were "dead broke" after leaving the White House. Clinton's detractors seized on the comment as an indication that the potential presidential candidate is out of touch with average Americans.

The Republican opposition-research super PAC, America Rising, Tuesday called on the Clinton Foundation to disclose how it spends its money, in light of the comments Clinton made about donating her fees to the nonprofit.

"Secretary Clinton is using the foundation as a shield from scrutiny," the group's executive director, Tim Miller, told ABC News. "If she is going to cite donating speaking fees to the Clinton foundation as her defense for taking big speaking fees then she has a responsibility to be transparent about how that money is being spent."

The Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation was founded by former president Bill Clinton in 2001 and donates millions of dollars a year to improve global health, opportunities for women and girls, economic growth and the environment. According to its website, the group says its work has helped 430 million lives around the world.

Democracy Now!: "WikiLeaks' Julian Assange Responds to Hillary Clinton: Fair U.S. Trial for Snowden 'Not Possible'"

By Amy Goodman

July 9, 2014

In part two of our exclusive interview, Amy Goodman goes inside Ecuador's Embassy in London to speak with Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks. Assange has been living in the embassy for more than two years under political asylum. He faces investigations in both Sweden and the United States, where a secret grand jury is investigating WikiLeaks for its role in publishing a trove of leaked documents about the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as well as State Department cables. Assange responds to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent comments that National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden should return home to face trial. "It's the advice of all our lawyers that he should not return to the United States. He'd be extremely foolish to do so," Assange says. "It's not possible to have a fair trial, because the U.S. government has a precedent of applying state secret privilege to prevent the defense from using material that is classified in their favor."

TRANSCRIPT

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: We turn now to the second part of our Democracy Now! TV/radio broadcast exclusive. We went inside the Ecuadorean Embassy in London last weekend to interview WikiLeaks founder and publisher Julian Assange. He has just entered his third year inside the embassy, where he has political asylum. Assange faces investigations in both Sweden and the United States. Here in the U.S., a secret grand jury is investigating WikiLeaks for its role in publishing a trove of leaked documents about the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as well as State Department cables. In Sweden, he's wanted for questioning on allegations of sexual misconduct, though no charges have been filed. Let's go to that interview.

AMY GOODMAN: This is Democracy Now!, democracynow.org , The War and Peace Report. I'm Amy Goodman. We're in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London, where Julian Assange has actually lived for more than two years. He has political asylum in Ecuador but can't make it there because he is concerned if he steps outside to get on a plane to Ecuador, the British government will arrest him and extradite him to Sweden. And he's concerned, in Sweden, he would be extradited to the United States to face charges around his organization, WikiLeaks, which he publishes.

So, Julian, I'd like you to respond to Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state, could be running for president, her comments on Edward Snowden. She was interviewed by The Guardian, which first released the revelations based on the documents of Edward Snowden. And if you could just hit the first comment.

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HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I would say, first of all, that Edward Snowden broke our laws, and that cannot be ignored or brushed aside.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange, that first point of Hillary Clinton's?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, it's always interesting when someone proclaims to be a master of what is within the law and what is not within the law. We've seen a lot with Pentagon generals and other State Department figures, including Hillary. We've seen it in this case with General Alexander, talking about what is the law and what is not the law.

AMY GOODMAN: The former head of the NSA.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yes. But, actually, in the end, in the United States, it's the Supreme Court that determines what the law is and what the law isn't. And part of what goes into the Supreme Court is the U.S. Constitution and its First Amendment obligations. So, whether the Espionage Act is constitutional is a very interesting question and has not been properly tested before. In fact, the U.S. government has been quite careful to not go to a proper appeal in relation to a conviction under the Espionage Act, in order to keep the threat there and not find that it is unconstitutional in court. So, I think there is actually a question even as to whether Edward Snowden, through his activities, broke the law. But then you can even go, OK, well, if he did, was it in fact the correct thing to do? Maybe the law is out of date. Maybe the law is wrong.

AMY GOODMAN: Let's go to Hillary Clinton's next point.

HILLARY CLINTON: Secondly, I believe that if his primary concern was stirring a debate in our country over the tension between privacy and security, there were other ways of doing it, instead of stealing an enormous amount of information that had nothing to do with the U.S. or American citizens.

JULIAN ASSANGE: As a journalist, I have been working at various times in documenting what the National Security Agency has been doing in its burgeoning mass surveillance practice for more than 20 years. And other journalists, some of them very fine, have also been trying to expose the National Security Agency. And other whistleblowers have come forward—so, Thomas Drake, William Binney, both from the National Security Agency, for example. But what was the problem? While we could point to, based on a sophisticated analysis of what the National Security Agency is doing—say, look at this piece here, look at this little bit of congressional testimony, look at the subpoena record, look at the technology that they are buying from this company, look at the number of employees, look at the DOD budget as a whole—when you add everything else up, you can work out the National Security Agency's budget. That's a very complex picture, and that's not a picture that can generate political reform and debate. And what Edward Snowden did was, by bringing out classified documents, that were official documents, that were even some of them just last year, he was able to show, even to people that didn't understand, the complexity of what was actually going on. So, we have proof. People did try to start a debate, using all sorts of methods, including former National Security Agency whistleblowers, and it's only primary source documents in volume that are probably capable of starting a debate about a complex issue like mass surveillance.

AMY GOODMAN: Hillary Clinton again.

HILLARY CLINTON: I would say, thirdly, that there are many people in our history who have raised serious questions about government behavior. They've done it either with or without whistleblower protection, and they have stood and faced whatever the reaction was to make their case in public.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, Hillary Clinton is alluding to, without mentioning the name of Daniel Ellsberg, the famous Pentagon Papers whistleblower from the 1970s. There's a reason she doesn't mention his name, because Daniel Ellsberg has come forward again and again this year and said that, in fact, he couldn't do what he did in the 1970s today, that the situation has changed, as far as the courts—the use of the state secrets privilege, how things have been sewn up holding all national security cases in Alexandria, Virginia—there's not a neutral jury pool—that he couldn't do that. And the reality is, that's the case for all national security whistleblowers who have classified documents. You can't fight a normal case, as we would think about it in the public. You're swept into a very aggressive system that is set against you from the first instance.

AMY GOODMAN: Hillary Clinton again.

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HILLARY CLINTON: Mr. Snowden took all this material. He fled to Hong Kong. He spent time with the Russians in their consulate. Then he went to Moscow seeking the protection of Vladimir Putin, which is at the height of ironies, given the surveillance state that Russia is. If he wishes to return home, knowing that he would be held accountable, but also be able to present a defense, that is his decision to make. But I know that our intelligence forces are doing what they can to understand exactly what was taken.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Hillary Clinton. Julian Assange?

JULIAN ASSANGE: This is sadly typical of Hillary Clinton. We have facts about this matter. Not even the National Security Agency accuses him of working with the Russians. In fact, the National Security Agency, formally, in its investigation, has said that they don't think that he was working with the Russians, at least not before he left the agency. And Hillary Clinton, however, tries to reshape the chronology in order to smear Edward Snowden with being a Russian spy. The actual chronology is that Edward Snowden went to Hong Kong. He then saw that the situation was very difficult, reached out for us to help, and we were intimately involved from that point on. So I know precisely, myself, and our staff know, what happened. We submitted 20 asylum applications on behalf of Edward Snowden to a range of different countries, Latin America. It was Ed Snowden's intent to go to Latin America—Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ecuador was also looking favorable, and Bolivia offered him asylum. En route to Latin America, the U.S. State Department canceled his passport, leaving him marooned in Russia, unable to catch his next flight, which had already been booked from the very beginning. His whole path had been booked while he was in Hong Kong.

AMY GOODMAN: But she does say he went to the Russian Embassy in Hong Kong.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Hillary says that he went to the Russian Consulate in Hong Kong. I don't know about that, but I'm sure that perhaps he was looking for all different kinds of asylum options, and that would have made perfect sense for anyone to do that in such a severe situation. It is not a matter of irony that Edward Snowden was marooned by the U.S. State Department in Russia. Asylum is a serious business. It is something of a concern that the countries in western Europe, for example, that he asked for asylum—France, Germany, Spain—did not in fact come to the table. They were too scared about their geopolitical relationships. It's something of a concern that Edward Snowden, as an American citizen, felt that he could not speak freely in the United States. And he is right. It's the advice of all our lawyers that he should not return to the United States. He'd be extremely foolish to do so.

AMY GOODMAN: Let's go back to Hillary Clinton, who now goes on to talk about the debate in the United States.

HILLARY CLINTON: The debate about how to better balance security and liberty was already going on before he fled. The president had already given a speech. Members of the Senate were already talking about it. So I don't give him credit for the debate. I think he may have raised the visibility of the debate, but the debate had already begun.

JULIAN ASSANGE: A lot of people in the civil liberties community in the United States, in the privacy community in the rest of the world, and specialists, national security journalists like myself, had been following what the National Security Agency has been doing for a long time. We have been trying very hard to erect a debate. And there, yes, there were small debates, that really didn't proceed anywhere. The lawsuits filed by the EFF and ACLU to try and get somewhere went nowhere, because they didn't have the evidence. And what Edward Snowden revealed was documentary evidence, and it was that primary source evidence that has led to this debate. Everyone knows the difference—most people can't even remember hearing about the National Security Agency prior to last year. Now everyone knows about it. And that is almost entirely as a result of these disclosures.

AMY GOODMAN: Hillary Clinton makes other critical points.

HILLARY CLINTON: I don't know what he's been charged with; those are sealed indictments. I have no idea what he's been charged with. I'm not sure he knows what he's been charged with. But even in any case that I'm aware of, as a former lawyer, he has the right to mount a defense. And he certainly has the right to mount both a legal defense and a public defense, which of course can affect the legal defense.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange, your response?

JULIAN ASSANGE: As Daniel Ellsberg, the famous Pentagon Papers whistleblower, has said, it is not possible for a national security whistleblower now in the United States to have a fair trial. It's not possible to have a fair trial because all the trials are held in Alexandria, Virginia, where the jury pool is comprised of the highest density of military and government employees in all of the United States. It's not possible to have a fair trial, because the U.S. government has a precedent of applying state secret privilege to prevent the defense from using material that is classified in their favor. It's not possible to have a fair trial, because as a defendant in a national security case, you are held under special administrative measures,

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which makes it very hard to look at any of the material in your case, to meet with your lawyers, to speak to people, etc. So, this is—it's just simply not a fair system. And even if you do eventually win by the time you get up to the Supreme Court, you spend seven years or something in a very serious condition trying to defend yourself, instead of what has happened with Edward Snowden. As a result of him having asylum, we can talk about the issues, not talking about whether Snowden is guilty or not, and Edward Snowden himself can tell the world, "Well, look, this is what actually happened. This is what is going on."

AMY GOODMAN: Let's go back to what Hillary Clinton has to say.

HILLARY CLINTON: But the other issue that has never been satisfactorily answered to me is, if his main concern was what was happening inside the United States, then why did he take so much about what was happening with Russia, with China, with Iran, with al-Qaeda?

AMY GOODMAN: That's Hillary Clinton in her Guardian interview. This last point that she addresses, Julian Assange?

JULIAN ASSANGE: It's no surprise to me that Hillary Clinton thinks that human beings that are not formally U.S. citizens don't have any rights. But not everyone thinks like that. Other people in other countries have rights. Now, if we look at the practicalities of Edward Snowden acquiring documents while he was a contractor for Booz Allen Hamilton working for the National Security Agency and, prior to that, a contractor for Dell, the National Security Agency runs a mass surveillance program, a strategic surveillance program. The same technology, the same protocols are used to surveil people inside the United States, people outside the United States, etc. So if you're trying to collect information to expose mass surveillance, then, by its very nature, you're going to expose National Security Agency practices all over the world, because it's the same process that occurs, whether you're in England or whether you're in Germany or whether you're in the United States.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Julian Assange responding to The Guardian's interview with Hillary Clinton. It was The Guardian's Phoebe Greenwood who questioned the former secretary of state. You can see her full interview at TheGuardian.com. Back to my conversation with Julian Assange in a minute.

Vanity Fair: VF Daily: Sally Kohn: "The One Thing Republicans Must Do to Have a Credible Shot at Defeating Hillary"

By Sally Kohn

July 9, 2014, 8:00 a.m. EDT

Gosh, I bet Republicans are starting to regret their systematic alienation of women.

Not only have 99 percent of sexually active women ages 15 to 44 in America used birth control, but by a 2–1 margin, American women support the requirement under Obamacare that private health insurance plans cover the full cost of birth control. Three in five women support the requirement, even if it violates the personal religious beliefs of a company's owners. Among younger women, that support skyrockets.

The Republican war on women may already be making it difficult for conservatives to win women voters in 2016. Hillary Clinton makes it impossible: a strong 68 percent of independent women say they would vote for Clinton if she runs for president, as would 35 percent of Republican women. It's no wonder Republicans are in an all-out battle to attack every single thing Hillary Clinton says and does: if she runs for president, the Republicans are screwed.

Of course, they wouldn't be if there were a credible conservative woman to run against her. Let's examine the G.O.P. track record on this front. It begins and ends with Sarah Palin. Personally delightful. Politically colorful. But not exactly a credible candidate for a party needing to win credibility with women voters—or anyone else for that matter.

So who else is there? Well, most often the GOP2016 contenders mentioned are all men. But there are some women who could and should be considered. When pressed to come up with some XX- chromosome contenders, Republicans most frequently mention South Carolina Governor

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Nikki Haley, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, and New Hampshire Senator Kelly Ayotte. One could even add Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin to the list and point out that, generally, while Republicans are struggling to find support at the national level, the party is doing fairly well in those states. And it's worth noting that four of the nation's five female governors are Republicans.

As for the governors, Haley is charismatic but seems like a long shot; even within heavily Republican South Carolina, an equal percentage of voters disapprove of Haley as approve of her. But Fallin and Martinez are both more popular (64 percent of Oklahomans think Fallin is doing a good job, and 61 percent of New Mexicans rate Martinez favorably), plus Martinez hails from a coveted swing state. And yet the 2016 attention focuses on the likes of John Kasich (Ohio), Scott Walker (Wisconsin), Rick Snyder (Michigan), and Bobby Jindal (Louisiana). Yet Kasich and Walker are both far from popular, disliked by almost as many voters as they are liked. And polls show more voters actively disapprove of Snyder and Jindal than support them. That's in their home states!

When it comes to the Senate, Republican presidential pickers tend to focus not on Ayotte but on Ted Cruz (Texas), Marco Rubio (Florida), and Rand Paul (Kentucky). But bear this in mind: Ted Cruz won 56 percent of Texas votes in 2012, only one percentage point more than John McCain earned in the Lone Star State in the 2008 presidential election. In 2010, 56 percent of Kentucky voters backed Rand Paul, but 58 percent backed McCain in 2008. In 2010 in Florida, Marco Rubio carried 49 percent of all voters; McCain lost the state in 2012 with 48 percent of the vote. In other words, even in their home states, Cruz, Paul, and Rubio aren't uniquely, nor even widely popular; they're just Republicans—faring as well as other Republican candidates.

By comparison, in 2008 Obama won 54 percent of the New Hampshire vote, and McCain got 45 percent. But in 2010, Ayotte won statewide with 60 percent support. That makes Kelly Ayotte a uniquely popular Republican with broad bi-partisan appeal, especially compared with the other guys.

Of course, Jindal, Kasich, Walker, Snyder, Fallin, and Haley have all signed extremely draconian laws restricting abortions, so their appeal to moderate voters is questionable. And certainly Rubio, Paul, and Ayotte would face a significant hurdle with voters who are fed up with Republican obstructionism at the federal level and rate Republicans in Congress in general lower than dirt.

If Republicans want to have a fighting change with women voters in 2016 and with mainstream American voters in general, abandoning their extremist and extremely unpopular anti-women agenda would also help. But in the meantime, some rebranding couldn't hurt. Out with the Palin, in with the new.

Ayotte and Martinez, and even Haley and Fallin, have all kinds of political and demographic advantages, in addition to the obvious reality that they would stop Hillary Clinton from automatically winning the "vote for the first female president" vote. Ayotte and Martinez in particular should be rolling off the tongues of the Republican chattering class as they name top contenders for the presidential ticket. But they aren't.

Why is that, exactly? There couldn't possibly be sexism within the Republican Party. After all, these folks don't believe sexism exists.

Politico: Morning Money: "Does Hillary want a tax cut? — Citi close to $7B settlement — Ex-Im could ride on CR" [PARTIAL]

By Ben White

July 9, 2014, 7:52 a.m. EDT

DOES HILLARY CLINTON WANT A LOWER TOP TAX RATE? — Hillary Clinton gave an interesting interview to Germany's Der Spiegel in which she spoke of her general agreement with Thomas Piketty (even though she has not read his book) and expanded on her and her husband's extensive wealth. Clinton elaborated on her previous comment that she and her husband were "dead broke" upon leaving the White House in 2001. And she seemed to suggest that Bill Clinton needed to make as much as he did (around $104 million so far) because of their high marginal tax rate.

Clinton told the German weekly: "We are very grateful for where we are today. But if you were to go back and look at the amount of money that we owed, we couldn't even get a mortgage on a house by ourselves. In our system he had to make double what he needed in order just to pay off the debt, and then to finance a house and continue to pay for our daughter's education." …

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It seems like the “system” Clinton was referring to was the U.S. tax system, though we don’t know for sure. Ironically, it was Bill Clinton himself who signed a top rate increase to 39.6% into law in 1993. Taken together with her previous comment to The Guardian about how people don’t resent the Clintons because they pay ordinary taxes “unlike some other people,” it seems like Hillary Clinton is not too happy with the higher rate on income and lower rate on capital gains and other investment income. … Could we be seeing the early stirrings of an economic policy platform? Full interview: http://bit.ly/1mxbYNl

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/11/2015 12:29:55 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Cruz trying to poach Paul voters

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Cruz and Paul in 2013 (Photo by Drew Angerer/Getty Images)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

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THE BIG IDEA: Ted Cruz's operatives are quietly reaching out to Rand Paul's early supporters and endorsers, making the case that the Texas senator is their best bet if they want a Republican nominee who is friendly to libertarians.

Saul Anuzis, the former Michigan GOP chair who is working for Cruz, recently traveled to New Hampshire to meet with Paul backers and make that case, my colleague David Weigel scoops for the 202. The key to his pitch: Paul is floundering and Cruz is viable. Other sources tell me that Cruz is poised to roll out a few endorsements from 2012 supporters of Ron Paul who have held off on signing with Rand.

The Texas senator has a robust network of super PACs, with the hefty backing of hedge-fund magnate Robert Mercer, while the head of Rand's main super PAC got indicted by the feds last week on 2012-related campaign finance charges. Cruz allies are also circulating recent news reports that highlight organizational problems within Paul's orbit.

The Kentucky senator, who is simultaneously running for reelection and president in 2016, is struggling to expand his coalition while consolidating the libertarian purists. After spending 2013 as a media darling, he's drifted out of the conversation and slipped in the polls. A survey released yesterday by Public Policy Polling found Paul getting just 3 percent among likely Iowa caucusgoers, down from 10 percent in April. (Cruz is in sixth place at 9 percent.)

Cruz himself freely acknowledges that he wants to dip into the libertarian bracket. The Texan is on a bus tour this week across the South, with a focus on states with early March primaries. Katie Zezima, on the Cruz beat for The Post, relayed between stops in Tennessee that Cruz is invoking the Fourth Amendment, a Paul favorite, whenever possible.

On Sunday, during a rally in Huntsville, Ala., Cruz pivoted twice to libertarian-leaning answers. First, he bragged about being "an original co-sponsor" of Paul's "Audit the Fed" bill. "What the Fed is doing is dangerous," he said. "They are debasing the currency with QE1, QE2, QE infinity!" Then, asked about databases kept by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to track diversity, Cruz touted his unrelated work "to lead the effort to end the federal government's bulk collection of phone metadata."

In contrast to Paul, who brought the Senate to a standstill to force the Patriot Act's expiration, Cruz supported a compromise bill, which President Obama signed into law. In Iowa this spring, Cruz criticized Paul for making the perfect the enemy of the good. "If you're a terrorist, we need to track down everything you do and we need to go out and find you and kill you," Cruz said to cheers Sunday, per Katie. "But, if you're a law-abiding citizen, the federal government has no business seizing your phone calls or your emails."

Cruz got relatively short shrift from debate moderators last Thursday, but online polls suggest

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that he's since gotten a statistically significant bounce nationally. His campaign says it raised $1.1 million during the 100 hours after the debate from more than 10,000 contributors.

A year ago, it was widely assumed that Paul could count on the very base of support Cruz is now coming after. A spokesman for Rand did not respond to a request for comment about how they'll respond to Cruz's play.



Rand in N.H. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)

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— Preview – Jeb Bush is laying out his foreign policy strategy in a speech tonight at the Reagan library. President Obama's decision to withdraw U.S. military forces from Iraq was "premature" and a "fatal error," he will argue. "What we are facing in ISIS and its ideology is, to borrow a phrase, the focus of evil in the modern world," he plans to say, according to prepared remarks provided by the campaign. "And civilized nations everywhere, especially those with power, have a duty to oppose and defeat this enemy."

- "So why was the success of the surge followed by a withdrawal from Iraq, leaving not even the residual force that commanders and the joint chiefs knew was necessary?" Bush will ask. "That premature withdrawal was the fatal error, creating the void that ISIS moved in to fill – and that Iran has exploited to the full as well. … ISIS grew while the United States disengaged from the Middle East and ignored the threat."
- "And where was Secretary of State Clinton in all of this? Like the president himself, she had opposed the surge…then joined in claiming credit for its success … then stood by as that hard-won victory by American and allied forces was thrown away," he will say. "In all her record-setting travels, she stopped by Iraq exactly once." Watch the livestream of the Bush speech at 6 p.m. Pacific/9 p.m. Eastern here . *The campaign is also releasing a new 1-minute web video on national security this morning. Watch it here .*

— Marco Rubio will lay out his own strategy for dealing with anti-American regimes on Friday morning during a speech at the Foreign Policy Initiative in New York. The appearance is timed to bracket Secretary of State John Kerry's trip to Havana the same day; Florida's senator will speak about the Obama administration's "capitulation," an aide says. Rubio will take questions but focus on Cuba and Iran.

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

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Perry on Friday (AP Photo/David Goldman)

— Rick Perry, facing a cash crunch, has stopped paying his staff . "The former Texas governor, who has struggled to gain traction in his second presidential run, has stopped paying staff at the national headquarters in Austin as well as in the early caucus and primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina," the Post's Philip Rucker and Dan Balz, along with Texas Tribune's Abby Livingston, report. "Perry campaign manager Jeff Miller told staff last Friday, the day after the first Republican presidential debate, that they would no longer be paid and are free to look for other jobs — and, so far at least, most aides have stuck with Perry — according to this Republican."

— Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly came back from a beach weekend with her family, and tackled the controversy with Donald Trump — sort of. She said she had "decided" not to address the personal attacks against her by the businessman post-debate. "I certainly will not apologize for doing good journalism," she said, before decreeing it was time to move on.

— In Ferguson, things remained mostly calm overnight, despite a state of emergency declared by St. Louis County authorities. Police arrested dozens of prominent protestors on the anniversary of the shooting death of Michael Brown, and charged an 18-year black man who was critically wounded by police with assaulting law enforcement officers. Nonetheless, it was a mostly calm day, despite the fact that activists temporarily shut down a major freeway in the area.

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GET SMART FAST:

1. A White House staffer has been placed on leave after she was accused of taking the gun of an off-duty U.S. Capitol Police officer (her boyfriend) and firing it at him during a domestic dispute.
2. Colorado and New Mexico each declared disasters, and the EPA has stepped up its response to the mining disaster that has put toxins into the Animas River.
3. Japan switched on a nuclear reactor on the southern island of Kyushu, marking a first, tentative return to nuclear energy following the catastrophic meltdowns at Fukushima four years ago.
4. A 20-year-old New Jersey man who prosecutors said tried to organize support for the Islamic State was arrested on Monday in Jordan. He allegedly said he wanted to "form a small army."
5. The outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in the South Bronx is apparently on the wane. It's been eight days since the latest recorded case. Twelve have died, and 76 have been hospitalized and released, per USA Today.
6. "China's central bank devalued the Yuan, its tightly controlled currency, causing its biggest one-day loss in two decades, as the world's second-largest economy continues to sputter," the Wall Street Journal reports.
7. A spate of attacks across Turkey that targeted security forces and a U.S. consulate killed six people.
8. Russia's economy contracted by 4.6 percent in the second quarter, the latest sign of trouble for Vladimir Putin.
9. Google, one of the best-known brands on the planet, radically restructured itself under the corporate name Alphabet to reflect its far-reaching ambitions.
10. The Michigan House Speaker has ordered an investigation of two state representatives after The Detroit News reported that one of them sought the help of a state employee to distribute a fictitious email alleging that he had a homosexual affair in order to make allegations of an affair with the other lawmaker look tame by comparison.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Hillary Rodham Clinton signed a statement over the weekend declaring "under penalty of perjury" that she has turned over to the government all of the e-mails that were federal records. (Rosalind S. Helderman)

2. Lawrence Lessig, the Harvard professor and democratic theorist, will announced this morning that he will explore a protest bid for the Democratic nomination, the New York Times reports: "If he can raise $1 million in small donations by Labor Day, Mr. Lessig said, he will run."

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3. Democratic actress Melissa Gilbert, best known for her portrayal of Laura Ingalls Wilder on NBC's "Little House on the Prairie" in the 1970s and '80s, announced she'll run for Congress against freshman Republican Mike Bishop, who succeeded Mike Rogers this year. (Detroit Free-Press)
4. Bernie Sanders has hired a 25-year-old African-American press secretary, Symone Sanders, and she's now introducing him at events. The move comes after he's taken heat from Black Lives Matter activists. (David Weigel)
5. Bernie also officially secured the endorsement of National Nurses United, which represents 185,000 nurses.
6. "For the second time in 18 months, Chris Christie vetoed a bill in New Jersey that would allow transgendered people to amend their birth certificates without proof that they had undergone a sex-change operation," per the Bergen Record .
7. Bobby Jindal said he's going to start "randomly" mentioning Trump in his stump speech so the media covers him.
8. Martin O'Malley stepped up his attacks on the Democratic National Committee as being in the tank for Hillary and trying to stifle debate. "If we cut off debate, if we tell the people of New Hampshire that we've become such an impoverished party that we can only afford one debate before the New Hampshire primary, what the hell kind of Democratic Party is this?" he asked on Boston Herald radio.
9. 85 percent of New York City voters believe Mayor Bill de Blasio's ploy to dramatically limit Uber's expansion was motivated by the generous contributions he receives from the taxi industry, not concerns about congestion, a Quinnipiac poll finds.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

— "How Donald Trump abandoned his father's middle-class housing empire for luxury building," by Emily Badger: "Where the son spares no expense, the father counted pennies. Where Donald builds in glass and steel, his father built in brick. Donald has made the family name a synonym for luxury, but the origins of the Trump empire lie in Fred's decidedly less elite market: the lower-middle class, the outer boroughs, renters. The differences reflect not just the separate eras in which the two men built, but also their diverging ambitions. The younger Trump looked at what his father had created, he wrote in his 1987 book 'The Art of the Deal,' and decided he wanted to do something 'grander, more glamorous, and more exciting.'"

— "On the heels of the nuclear deal, the next Iran battle is closer than you think," by Karoun Demirjian: "Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) recently issued a threatening prediction, surmising that no matter how Congress ends up voting in September, lawmakers will try to pass an extension of existing

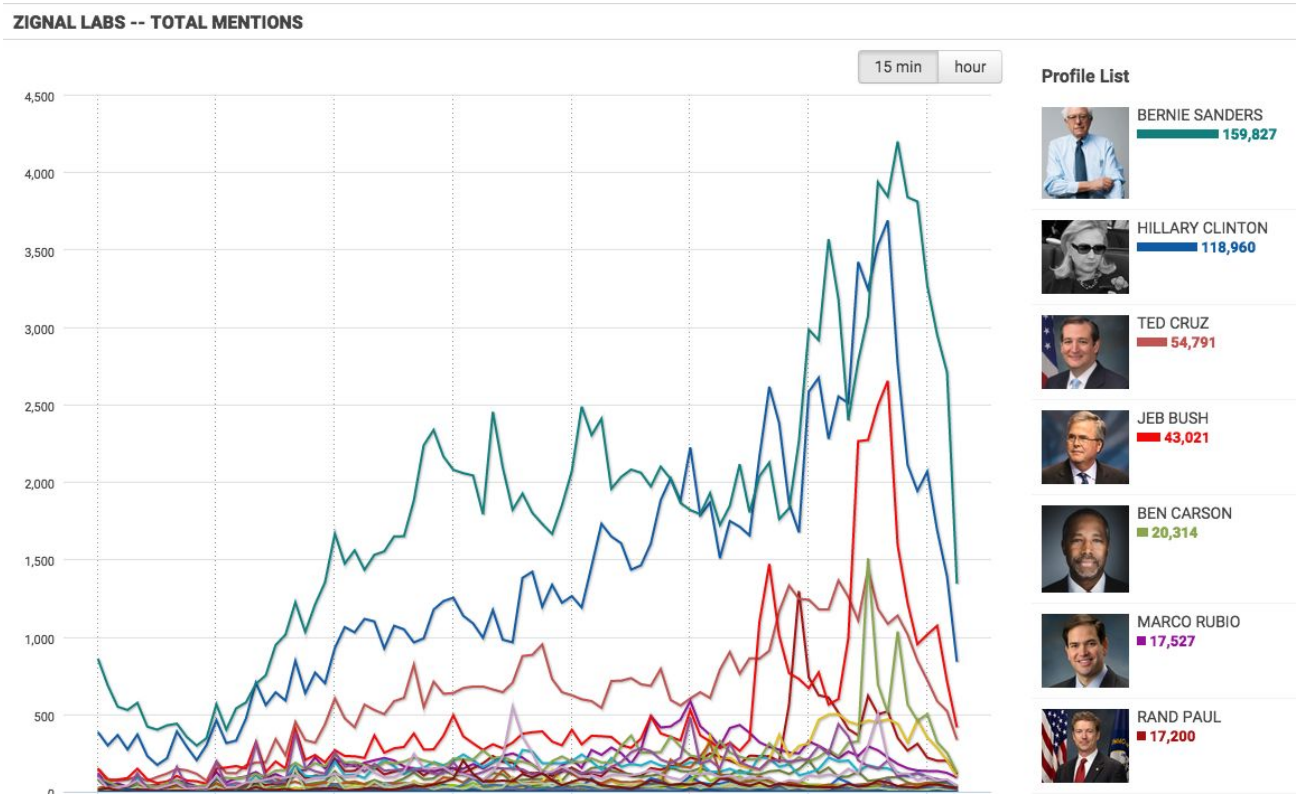
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Iran sanctions this fall – even if Iran might consider that a breach of the nuclear pact…extending [the Iran Sanctions Act] is no simple matter, as some of the sanctions within it are aimed at punishing Iran's nuclear aspirations — posing a problem for the entire nuclear deal."

— "A Republican consultant tries his hand at a different kind of political theater," by Maura Judkis: "Cal Chandler's candidacy is either a political consultant's greatest challenge or his worst nightmare. Chandler is coasting by on his family name but is clueless about governing. He lies and cheats and breaks the law. But top political consultant Russ Schriefer…decided to take him on anyway, crafting his media campaign, complete with patriotic ads and yard signs…Why haven't Chandler's antics vaulted him past Donald Trump as the political spectacle of the month? Because Chandler is the main character in "The Fix," a musical by John Dempsey and Dana P. Rowe opening Tuesday at Signature Theatre."

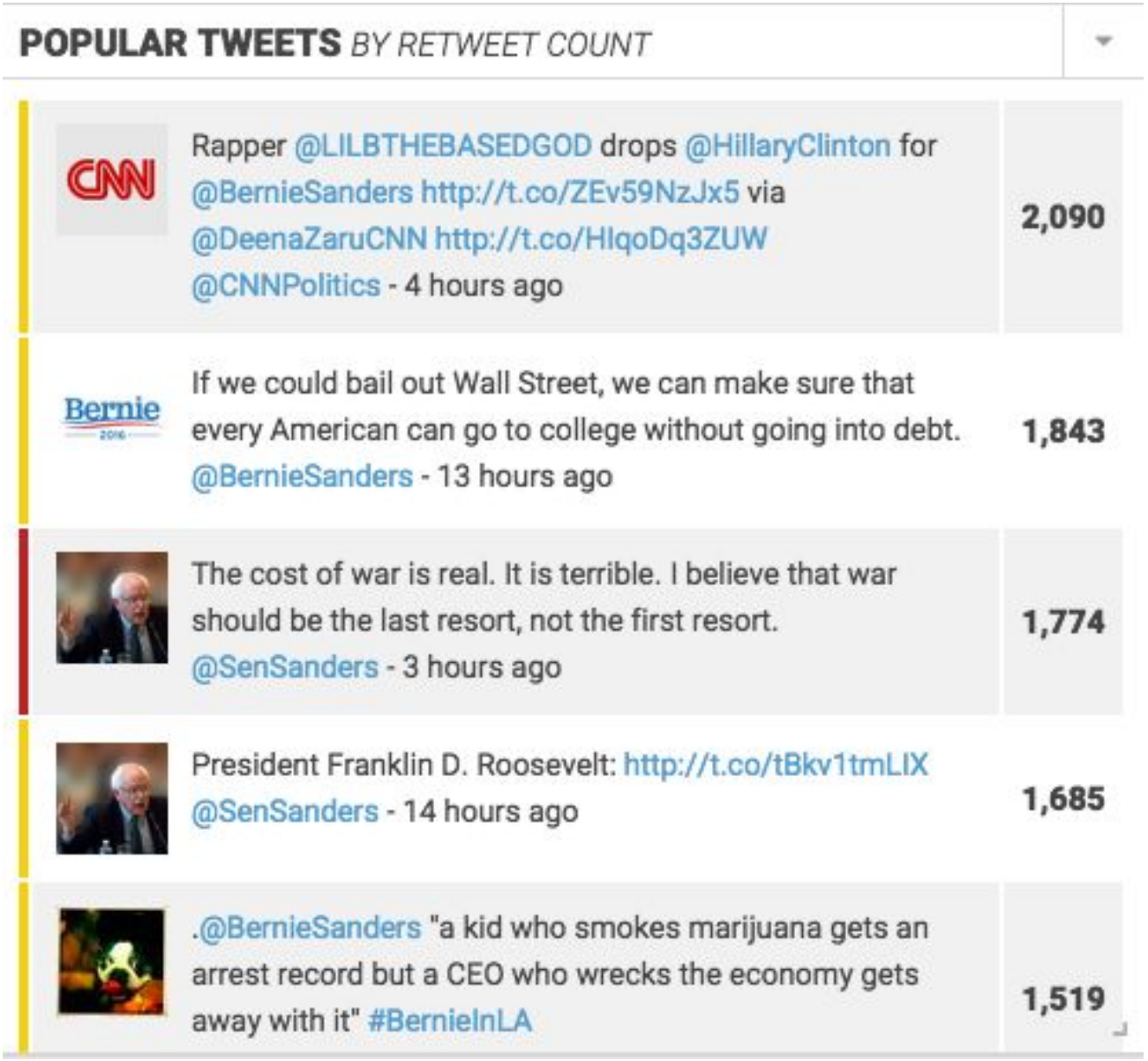
SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Bernie had a big day in Los Angeles. Sanders dominated the non-Trump mentions Monday, with a big rally in California (17,500 showed up in LA) , and locking up the all important Lil B endorsement. Here's a snapshot from our partners at Zignal Labs of what the day's media traffic looked like:



As for what they were saying about Bernie on Monday, here were they day's most popular Sanders tweets:

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–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Pictures of the day:

Roger Stone, who either quit or was fired by Donald Trump, depending on whose version of events you believe, posted this selfie:

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(rogerjstonejr)

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R) wore a “Free Brady” t-shirt while taking the ALS Ice Bucket challenge at the statehouse (a reference to Tom Brady’s suspension over Deflate-gate):

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(@7News)

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) was “thrilled to cross paths with Little Miss Dynamite Brenda Lee,” she tweeted. “She is FABULOUS!”:



(@MarshaBlackburn)

Tweets of the day:

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Trump suggested he's reconciled with Fox News:

> Roger Ailes just called. He is a great guy & assures me that "Trump" will be treated fairly on @FoxNews . His word is always good!
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) August 10, 2015

Then he went after Rand with several tweets:

> Truly weird Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky reminds me of a spoiled brat without a properly functioning brain. He was terrible at DEBATE! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) August 11, 2015

> Why is @RandPaul allowed to take advantage of the people of Kentucky by running for Senator and Pres. Why should Kentucky be back up plan?
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) August 11, 2015

Trump also remembered Frank Gifford, the former New York Giants player and husband of Kathie Lee Gifford, who died Sunday. "What a couple," he tweeted:

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(@realDonaldTrump)

Meanwhile, Jeb put himself firmly on the side of Megyn Kelly:

> .@JebBush : “Megyn Kelly is probably the most professional, talented journalist on cable television — on television, in America today” — Jake Tapper (@jaketapper) August 10, 2015

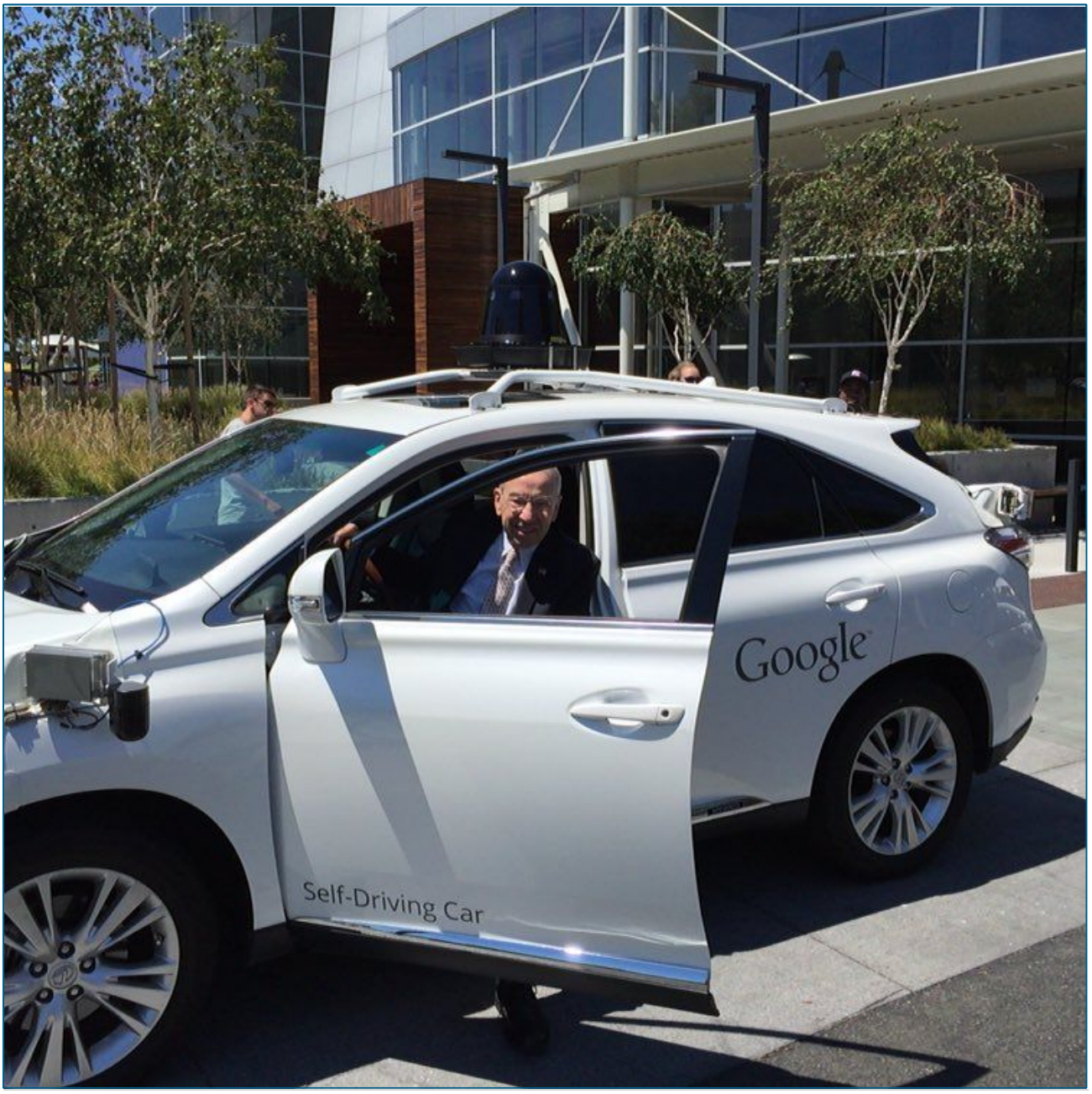
Former Obama adviser David Plouffe piled on Chuck Schumer for opposing the Iran deal:

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> Mitch McConnell will have a field day with this kind of naïveté. We will miss Harry Reid. http://t.co/9G3WezCVZl
>
> — David Plouffe (@davidplouffe) August 10, 2015

Instagrams of the day:

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) tried Google's self-driving car. "I was not a believer. But … now I know it works!" he wrote:



(senatorchuckgrassley)

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), the chair of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, is using the first part of August to work his fields. "Time to cut the winter wheat," he wrote:

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(senatorjontester)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— Reuters, "Hillary Clinton's shifting rhetoric on coal is a departure from her coal miner roots": In her 2008 bid for the White House, Hillary Clinton cast herself as a blue-collar Democrat who was unabashedly pro-coal, a stance that helped her beat opponent Barack Obama easily in primaries in states that produced or were reliant on coal…Eight years later, a Reuters review of her recent campaign speeches and policy announcements shows that the great-granddaughter of a Welsh coal miner is now talking about the coal industry in the past tense."

— BuzzFeed News, "The Battle over Warrantless Wiretapping Moves Closer to Supreme Court," by Hamza Shaban: "There's a legal battle brewing over your phone's location data, the private acts it captures, and who — besides you and your carrier — can use it and under what circumstances. And given a recent federal court decision, the

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Supreme Court may have to decide the victor. In a federal appeals court ruling filed last week, the 4th Circuit declared that phone location data is protected by the Fourth Amendment, which shields citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures…The ruling brings clarity and protection to residents of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the Carolinas, where police must now seek a warrant…In Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and Georgia, prosecutors don't need a warrant to secure that information."

— New York, "Donald Trump and Roger Ailes make up, sort of ," by Gabriel Sherman: "According to two high-level Fox sources, Ailes's diplomacy was the result of increasing concern inside Fox News that Trump could damage the network. Immediately following Thursday's debate, Fox was deluged with pro-Trump emails. The chatter on Twitter was equally in Trump's favor. 'In the beginning, virtually 100 percent of the emails were against Megyn Kelly,' one Fox source, who was briefed on the situation, told me. 'Roger was not happy. Most of the Fox viewers were taking Trump's side.' Things got worse for Ailes over the weekend. In a phone conversation, Trump told Sean Hannity that 'he was never doing Fox again,' according to one person with knowledge of the call. The anti-Kelly emails, and threat of a boycott by Trump, seem to have pushed Ailes to defuse the war. One Fox personality told me that Fox producers gave instructions to tell in-house talent not to bring up Trump's controversial comments that Kelly had 'blood coming out of her wherever' during the debate. According to one count, Fox only aired Trump's comment once since Friday, while CNN mentioned it at least 50 times."

— Politico, "Former Rep. Aaron Schock in legal battle with DOJ over records ," by John Bresnahan, Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman: "Former Illinois GOP Rep. Aaron Schock has been locked in a bitter five-month legal battle with the Justice Department over control of thousands of pages of records from his tenure in Congress, including threats to throw him in jail for contempt if he didn't comply, newly unsealed court documents show."

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HOT ON THE LEFT

Why Pope Francis's visit poses a challenge to Congress. From the Associated Press : "A political pope is sure to seize his opportunity when he addresses a political body. So both Democrats and Republicans are looking forward to Pope Francis' remarks to Congress next month – and bracing for them, too. The pope thrills Democrats with his teachings on climate change, social justice and immigration. At the same time, his message on life and the Catholic Church's traditional opposition to abortion comfort Republicans."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Russian warships dock in Iran for war training. From the Washington Free Beacon : "Two Russian warships have docked in northern Iran for a series of naval training exercises with the Islamic Republic, according to Persian-language reports translated by the CIA's Open Source Center. The two Russian ships docked in Iran's Anzali port on Sunday and will hold 'joint naval exercises during the three-day stay of the warships in Iran,' according to a Persian-language report in Iran's state-controlled Fars News Agency."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Donald Trump will appear on Fox and Friends around 7 a.m. to discuss his relationship with the network. Later, he will speak at the Genesee and Saginaw Republican Party Lincoln Day Event in Michigan. Ted Cruz, on his bus tour, will campaign in Tupelo and Olive Branch, Mississippi and Memphis, Tennessee. Hillary Clinton will attend a town hall in Claremont, New Hampshire, and then a community forum on substance abuse in Keene. Marco Rubio will hold a fundraiser in Long Beach, California. Jeb Bush will hold a fundraiser in Los Angeles before delivering his foreign policy speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley. Rand Paul will campaign in Manchester, Hooksett and Claremont, New Hampshire, on a five-county tour. John Kasich will hold a town hall meeting in Peterborough, New Hampshire. Mike Huckabee will hold events in Manchester, Maquoketa and DeWitt.

–On the Hill: Both chambers are in recess.

–At the White House: President Obama is on vacation in Martha's Vineyard.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY: "There will be actual babies born on Election Day 2016, whose parents haven't even met yet. So, everyone, pace yourselves." – Comedian John Oliver explains to his HBO audience why he's not aggressively covering the presidential race

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "Today will in all likelihood be our wettest of the week," the Capitol Weather Gang forecasts, "but this is a two-for-Tuesday sorta deal as we get 1. needed rain to fight the August-to-date deficit and 2. it brings another change toward more comfortable weather for middle to late week. After today's morning rain/showers and this afternoon's, possibly severe storms, we favor mostly sunny skies for Wednesday to Friday with low, low humidity and temperatures only in the 80s. Weather perfection is on the way."

— The Nationals started a West Coast swing by "clobbering" the Los Angeles Dodgers, 8-3.



Mei Xiang, the female giant panda at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, eats breakfast. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

— "Panda pregnancy watch is on at Washington's National Zoo," by Michael E. Ruane: "The zoo said it doesn't know if Mei Xiang is pregnant, because female pandas exhibit signs of pregnancy even when they are not pregnant … But zoo experts have

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detected the rise in Mei Xiang's hormone levels that marks the final part of her cycle."

VIDEO OF THE DAY:

Interns for Rep. Sean Duffy (R-Wis.) spoofed the Fresh Prince Of Bel Air theme song:



(RepSeanDuffy)

Donald Trump performed the "Green Acres" theme song at the Emmy Awards in 2006:

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(Television Academy)

Scott Walker took Facebook’s 60-second trivia challenge:

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(Scott Walker)

Ted Cruz led a singing of happy birthday for an 88-year-old veteran.

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) posted four pictures of herself shot-gunning a beer after Todd Akin won the Missouri Republican primary in 2012.

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The Washington Post

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From:	"Mitchell W. Berger" <MBerger@bergersingerman.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	7/15/2015 9:49:41 AM
Subject:	FW: JEB BUSH ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR DEA L WITH IRAN

Fyi, scroll all the way down for completeness

Told Ken the real reason Iran was able to start and build nuclear capability was it no longer had Sadam and Iraq to contend with and Jeb had to answer the question on how you could get a better deal without the threat on Iran's western border posed by Sadam unless you were willing to replace the threat of Sadam with an American presence in Iraq that was 300,000 plus similar to the cold war build up in West Germany .

Anything short of that and merely stating I can negotiate a better deal , without a buildup of significant American presence and the expenditure of significant American dollars on Iran's borders to replace the counter balance of Sadam is pure demagoguery .

The question for Jeb and others is not whether a better deal could be negotiated, but how can one be negotiated without a large expenditure of tax dollars and an American presence on the border of Iran .

The second question is can Russia and China be trusted, is it in their interest , to enforce this deal. If it is , then there can be no better deal without an American presence, if they cannot be trusted then the other option is do nothing and continue unilateral American sanctions or the American presence option.

Everyone knows merely strategically bombing Iran will not produce the result desired or create any stability in the region.

In summary Jeb should be forced to answer the q ,how can you negotiate a better deal if Iran is no longer threatened by its neighbor Iraq, and the corollary

Isn't it true the only reason Iran was able to accelerate its nuclear program was because of the American invasion of Iraq.

I understand we cannot ask these q's but someone should start asking Jeb and the others.

From: Thomas, Kenneth [mailto:kthomas@ap.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 12:21 PM
To: Mitchell W. Berger
Subject: RE: JEB BUSH ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

Indeed.

From: Mitchell W. Berger [mailto:MBerger@bergersingerman.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 12:20 PM
To: Thomas, Kenneth
Subject: RE: JEB BUSH ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

As I said without reading Jeb's statement….

From: Thomas, Kenneth [mailto:kthomas@ap.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 12:16 PM
To: Mitchell W. Berger
Subject: FW: JEB BUSH ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

Good to talk to you – this is what Jeb put out yesterday.

From: Jeb 2016 Press [mailto:Press@jeb2016.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 11:42 AM
To: Jeb 2016 Press
Subject: JEB BUSH ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 2015

CONTACT: Press Shop
press@jeb2016.com

JEB BUSH ON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

Miami, FL — Governor Jeb Bush released the following statement in response to President Obama's nuclear deal with Iran.

"The nuclear agreement announced by the Obama Administration today is a dangerous, deeply flawed, and short sighted deal.

"A comprehensive agreement should require Iran to verifiably abandon – not simply delay – its pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability.

"Based on initial reports and analysis, it appears this agreement does not 'cut off all of Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon' – in fact, over time it paves Iran's path to a bomb. Most of the key restrictions last for only 10 to 15 years. Even before the deal expires, it could allow Iran to develop an industrial-scale enrichment program and continue its R&D on advanced centrifuges and development of an ICBM.

"The deal does not require Iran to come completely clean up front about possible military dimensions of its nuclear program or include true anytime/anywhere inspections necessary for a nuclear program shrouded in deception and lies.

"President Obama has acknowledged the agreement would end the United Nations' conventional arms embargo, a critical tool to combat Iran's support for terrorism and destabilizing activities in the region.

"The deal would provide more than $100 billion in sanctions relief that will breathe new life into Iran's malevolent and corrupt regime, enabling its projection of terror and power as well as its repression of the Iranian people – who aspire for, and deserve, a more democratic future.

"The clerical leaders in Tehran routinely preach 'death to America' and 'death to Israel' – and through their acts of terror, they mean it. We must take these threats seriously and should not base any agreements on the hope their behavior will moderate over time.

"The people of Iran, the region, Israel, America, and the world deserve better than a deal that consolidates the grip on power of the violent revolutionary clerics who rule Tehran with an iron fist.

"This isn't diplomacy – it is appeasement."

###

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msk dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	2/2/2015 7:07:34 AM
Subject:	HRC Clips | 2.2.15
Attachments:	20150202 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
February 2, 2015

HRC

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch (WSJ)..... 2
Clinton advisers are split on when Hillary Clinton should launch her campaign (CNN)..... 4
A look at potential Democratic contenders in 2016 race (AP)..... 7
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Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch (WSJ)
By Peter Nicholas
February 1, 2015
Wall Street Journal

Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.

One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.

She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder, a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch, a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

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Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.

"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

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Clinton advisers are split on when Hillary Clinton should launch her campaign (CNN)
By Brianna Keilar
February 2, 2015
CNN

Washington (CNN) This time eight years ago, when she first ran for president, Hillary Clinton was already officially a candidate.

"I'm in it to win it," she said in a YouTube video posted on January 21, 2007.

But even though a second Hillary Clinton for president campaign is all but certain, she and those close to her are debating when she should jump in the race, potentially delaying her entry by months.

There is no waiting for Republicans, who are engaged in a furious behind-the-scenes scramble for advisers and donors. Mitt Romney, Republicans' nominee in 2012, announced Friday he would bow out after just three weeks on the presidential speculation treadmill. Three Republican senators, two current governors and one former governor have all made active moves toward campaigns.

There could be ten or more Republican candidates by this summer. That might be when Hillary Clinton gets around to officially moving toward a campaign, if she heeds some confidantes, who are privately arguing for an announcement in July to coincide with the start of the third fundraising quarter. Delaying until the summer is an idea that is said to be gaining momentum against those who want to stick to the plan for an April start date.

The possibility of the delay is very real but still unsettled.

"I would say it's 40 percent," in the direction of those arguing for a delay, said one Democrat who supports a spring debut for Clinton's presidential campaign. Another Democrat who saw merits in both time lines put the odds of a delay at 50 percent.

Democrats on both sides of the debate spoke to CNN on the condition of anonymity so they could make their case without upsetting Clinton or those close to her for talking openly about internal deliberations.

Some Clinton loyalists worry that as the increasingly crowded Republican race heats up, the attacks on her could begin to stick without an apparatus in place to answer them.

The liberal superPAC American Bridge has been countering Republican attacks on Clinton's behalf but many Democrats think it's no substitute for a campaign messaging operation.

"They're doing terrific research," said one, "but they don't know what her specific policy agenda is going to be. She should get in and start putting together a substantive policy agenda so the attacks that are going to begin to come from every single republican who is jumping in to the race can be answered."

The Democratic National Committee is beginning to take on a larger role in an effort to protect Clinton and the party brand but many Democrats are concerned even that won't be enough.

Other supporters want Clinton to lay low as the Republican field heats up, convinced Clinton will avoid some fire if she's undeclared and GOP candidates will take aim at each other instead.

"Never interrupt your opponent when it's destroying itself. That event in Iowa - nobody hated that more than [RNC chairman] Reince Priebus," said one Democrat, referring to the recent Iowa Freedom Summit, the first GOP cattle call for prospective candidates of many Republican presidential hopefuls (though noticeably neither Jeb Bush, Mitt Romney nor Rand Paul) attended. "Let's get Sarah Palin out there, let's get Donald Trump out there - the whole clown car."

Some Democrats believe it's also in Clinton's best interest to wait until President Obama, whose approval ratings have begun to rebound, becomes more popular, since a campaign by his former secretary of state will undoubtedly be seen as an extension of his presidency. It's a view shared by many at the White House who eye the entry of Clinton into the 2016 contest as the beginning of Obama's lame duck phase.

But if Clinton waits, could run the risk of looking like she's taking the Democratic nomination for granted.

"The American people don't like to see a candidate assume that something is theirs for the taking," warned one Clinton supporter.

"If [Hillary Clinton] is trying to avoid a coronation it really is a terrible way to go about it. It sends a message that we don't have to campaign in the primaries." said a Democratic operative in Iowa, who warned it leaves an opening. "It really does require another candidate to fill that void"

And so far, no one has.

Vice President Joe Biden, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Senator Jim Webb and Vermont

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Senator Bernie Sanders have all made the trek to Iowa in the last year, but none are being particularly agressive in recruiting staff or taking on Clinton.

"O'Malley hired one staff member the other day and that's all anyone is talking about," said the Iowa operative of the unusually quiet political scene in the early state. "It's kinda weird."

In 2008, Clinton's air of inevitability was off putting to many voters. Clinton and her advisers have been looking to avoid it this time around.

But without an insurgent, Obama-like candidate waiting in the wings (Clinton insiders are now pretty much convinced that populist darling and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren won't run, despite initial concerns she could mount a serious challenge from the left), many loyalists argue Clinton is safe to wait.

"If she's out there working hard, making her case, speaking to voters, that's what's going to matter," said a Washington-based Clinton backer who thinks a delayed campaign launch could benefit her.

It won't benefit her campaign coffers, however.

"Money will not flow until she's actually running," said one Democrat who cited powerful donor support for a Clinton run but acknowledged, "People don't give that kind of money on speculation."

The numerous Clinton loyalists interviewed for this piece admit there are arguments for both timelines. But perhaps the most important factor in deciding when to jump in the race is Hillary Clinton's personal inclination to put off campaigning.

The last time she ran for president, she entered the race in January 2006, almost two years before the election. The Democratic primary contest turned into a bruising slog that she is not eager to repeat.

"You can't dance in that spotlight for two years," a Clinton loyalist said. "She's not Rand Paul, she's the most famous woman on earth and every move is scrutinized."

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A look at potential Democratic contenders in 2016 race (AP)
By Ken Thomas
February 2, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unlike the active jockeying among Republicans thinking about running for president, there is little public action among the Democratic considering a White House bid. Here's a look at where they stand.

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HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

The leading contender, Clinton is widely expected to announce a campaign in the coming months. She has maintained a low profile since mid-December. She has been meeting with advisers to plan for a potential campaign and has limited the number of coming public appearances; her next scheduled address is this month in California.

—

JOE BIDEN

The vice president has said he will make a decision later in the spring or summer, but has taken few steps to build the foundation of a campaign structure.

—

JIM WEBB

The former Virginia senator and Navy secretary announced an exploratory committee last year, but has done little publicly in recent weeks as he recovers from knee replacement surgery. He expects to make a decision in the spring.

—

MARTIN O'MALLEY

The former Maryland governor has said he will need "a couple of months" to get his family settled after a move to a new home in Baltimore before deciding on a bid. O'Malley signed on with a speaking firm after leaving the governor's office and will be as a visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University. He plans to return to the early voting states of South Carolina in late February and New Hampshire in mid-March.

—

BERNIE SANDERS

The independent senator from Vermont is ramping up his activities as he decides whether to pursue a campaign. Sanders was returning to New Hampshire this weekend and has a four-day trip to Iowa planned for this month.

—

ELIZABETH WARREN

The Massachusetts senator remains the subject of a draft movement by liberal activists but has repeatedly declined interest in running for president. She remains an influential voice within the Democratic party and has made clear she hopes to influence the 2016 debate, arguing that the economic benefits from the recovery have helped Wall Street instead of boosting wages for middle-class families.

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For Clinton, deciding how to prepare for a low-key primary (AP)
By Ken Thomas
February 2, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The challenge ahead for Hillary Rodham Clinton is one faced by few White House hopefuls: running a primary campaign in which she faces little competition, if any at all.

Still not officially a candidate, the former New York senator, secretary of state and first lady sits far atop early polls against a small field of potential rivals for the Democratic nomination. None of them seems to be in any hurry to move into the race.

Few Democrats see an insurgent candidate in the mold of Barack Obama on the horizon. That raises the potential of a pedestrian Democratic primary season with few televised debates and little of the drama expected from a crowded and likely combative race on the Republican side.

"No one wants a complete coronation, but it's hard to see who a credible challenger will be," said Steve Westly, a California-based fundraiser for Obama's campaigns who is supporting Clinton.

Clinton has been meeting in New York with a group of advisers that includes longtime loyalists and veterans of Obama's races. But the work of campaign planning involves trying to figure out when to get into the race, how to avoid giving off a sense of inevitability and how to generate enthusiasm among the party's base for the general election without the benefit of a spirited fight for the nomination.

"All indications are that she's casting a wide net, talking to smart people, and being methodical about thinking through her next steps," said Donna Brazile, a Democratic strategist and Clinton ally. "And having run a presidential campaign, this is how you go about making this decision and next steps."

The first step? Deciding when to get into the race.

Clinton's timeline for announcing her candidacy remains a subject of debate inside her team, according to Democrats familiar with the discussions.

Some advisers are pushing the possibility of a springtime announcement. Others suggest she could wait until the summer, giving her team more time to get ready.

Some insiders note that her husband, Bill Clinton, did not launch his first presidential campaign until October 1991, a few months before the first primaries of the 1992 race.

In the already competitive Republican field, the aggressive moves of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush appear to have chased Mitt Romney into and out of the race.

But the potential Democratic competition is not putting any pressure on Clinton to move quickly.

Vice President Joe Biden has said he will not make a decision until the spring or the summer. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a liberal favorite, insists she's not running.

Others, such as ex-Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders are relatively unknown nationally and are not expected to decide until later in the spring.

Clinton appears in no rush. She has a limited number of public appearances in the coming months, leaving outside groups to fill the void.

Ready for Hillary, a pro-Clinton super political action committee, has a number of low-dollar fundraisers on the calendar, including an event in New York next month with former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

"The question is what advantage is the Clinton campaign giving up by not being active in Iowa as a candidate today? And I can't think of any," said Jerry Crawford, a Des Moines lawyer who served as Clinton's Midwest co-chairman in 2008.

Clinton has suggested one — the potential for voters to see her as entitled to the nomination. She was hurt by sky-high expectations in her last campaign and finished a disappointing third in Iowa's caucuses, sparking Obama's ascent.

"If I were to decide to pursue it, I would be working as hard as any underdog or any newcomer because I don't want to take anything for granted if I decide to do it," Clinton said in a June interview.

Clinton's main obstacles during a quiet primary campaign could come from Republicans and GOP-leaning outside groups, which already are trying to discredit her record at the State Department and tie her to Obama's policies.

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Several Republicans took swipes at Clinton at an Iowa forum last weekend, as did Romney in a speech in Mississippi this past week.

"Hillary Clinton clearly feels she's entitled to the presidency and is taking the race for granted like she did in 2008," said Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus, reflecting the GOP's intense focus on Clinton.

Such GOP criticism could rile her supporters. But a low-key primary could limit her campaign's ability to test its organizational strength and its opportunities to seize on important moments — a primary night, debate, major address — that often fuel online fundraising and list-building.

During the last contested Democratic campaign, the party's first presidential debate was held in South Carolina in April 2007 and the field went on to take part in more than two dozen such events. With no announced candidates, a springtime debate already appears unlikely.

Still, there are benefits to the lack of a challenge.

Even with Republicans as the main foil, a relatively uncontested primary would give Clinton a clear path to raise millions of dollars and build a campaign organization, a benefit normally bestowed to an incumbent president, and perhaps keep her above the political fray.

"I'm really excited for these next two years," said Neera Tanden, a former Clinton policy adviser who spoke at a Ready for Hillary event in Washington last week. "You know with any Clinton adventure, it's a roller coaster. It will be very exciting. And she's really going to need all of us to step up."

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Chris Cillizza
National-Politics

If Hillary Clinton decides not to run in 2016, how bad would it be for Democrats? (WAPO)
By Chris Cillizza
February 2, 2015
Washington Post
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Emily Bell, who runs the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University, tweeted this simple but provocative question a few days ago: "What are the odds on Hillary not running?"

I replied that it was about 10 percent. Others, such as Politico's Ben White, said it was more like 0.1 percent. The question, and the back-and-forth over it, got me thinking about what would happen in the unlikely event that Hillary Rodham Clinton decided not to run. After all, she has only hinted at her interest publicly and has yet to take the steps — leadership PAC, etc. — that would indicate clear interest. Virtually everything we know about Clinton's plans come from staff movements and quotes to reporters from "those in the know" who demand anonymity to share their knowledge.

I wrote about this possibility about a year ago and concluded that if Clinton stayed out, the result would be a crowded field with Vice President Biden as a nominal front-runner. Republicans' chances of winning the White House also would immediately improve.

There's a different dynamic at work now, particularly if Clinton waits a few more months to make clear exactly what she is going to do in 2016. We are rapidly approaching the point of no return for her and Democrats. That is, if she were suddenly to decide not to run in, say, two months, there would be an overwhelming sense of doom within the party. The shock would reverberate for weeks, or maybe much longer, making it hard for anyone looking to fill the void she left behind.

Now, that doom would eventually be followed by a wild scramble among the Bidens, Martin O'Malleys and, yes, even Elizabeth Warrens of the party for the donors, activists and staffers who had been assumed to be part of the Clinton machine. But doing things in a hurry with what would be regarded widely as Democrats' "B" or even "C" team would be deeply problematic.

Simply put, for Clinton to pass on the race — and especially if she waits until the summer to make her decision public — would be absolutely disastrous for her party's chances of holding on to the White House in 2016. She and her budding team have to know that, and it's hard for me to imagine that she would have let things go this far — there is an entire campaign and outside Clinton world in place for her — if she had any serious or lingering doubts about whether she was going to make the race.

And, as has been true since Day One, she is a heavy favorite to become the Democratic nominee. One data point to back that up: In a new Des Moines Register-Bloomberg poll, Clinton stood at 56 percent in a hypothetical Iowa caucus matchup, with 16 percent for Warren, the Massachusetts senator, and 9 percent for Biden.

Here, we've ranked Clinton and the six other people who either will or could conceivably run for president against her.

7. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). Sanders appears to be serious about running, which is why he's on this list. Although he will probably get real support from more liberal quarters of the party, his appeal is limited. Still, he'll mix it up, and in an interview with The Washington Post this week, he questioned whether Clinton would be "bold" enough as president.

6. Former Virginia senator Jim Webb. As CNN's Dan Merica pointed out recently, Webb is running his campaign — he has formed an exploratory committee — largely via Twitter. Given that Webb has fewer than 5,000 Twitter followers, this may not be the most sound political strategy.

5. California Gov. Jerry Brown. Bear with us for a second here. Brown is governor of a notoriously difficult state to run, he has run for president before, and he's not exactly friendly with the Clintons. And, he's super popular. He's also 76 (even though he doesn't look or act like it), and there's little indication he's seriously looking at running. But if he did . . .

4. Biden. The vice president assured us recently that he is serious about running for president in 2016 — probably because folks like us are increasingly dubious and he hasn't done much of the legwork to put a team in place. Even if he did run, we still have a hard time seeing him catch fire. He's entertaining, yes, but "entertaining" ain't "presidential."

3. O'Malley. If there's anybody who can conceivably beat Clinton by running to her left — and might actually run — it's O'Malley. He's got lots of liberal bona fides from his time as Maryland governor, and he checks lots of other boxes — even though he didn't really leave office on a high note. But we would stress that this is all on paper, and O'Malley would still face tough odds.

2. Warren. The drumbeat for Warren to reconsider her past refusals to consider running in 2016 has died down a bit in recent weeks. That said, Warren backers commissioned a poll released Friday that showed significant unhappiness with Clinton among Democratic voters. Warren has the liberal profile and fundraising ability to be a serious problem for Clinton if she decided she

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wanted to be.

1. Clinton. The former secretary of state is the biggest, non-incumbent favorite for a presidential nomination since at least World War II.

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Bush, Clinton Face Headwinds in 2016 Race (US News)
By Kenneth Walsh
February 2, 2015
US News and World Report

With the exit of Mitt Romney from the 2016 presidential race, the two best-positioned remaining potential candidates, Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton, face similar problems as establishment leaders during a time of political ferment.

If they run, as expected, they will be prime targets for everyone else in the campaign and for the news media. They will need to reassure zealous factions in their parties that prefer more ideologically pure nominees. For Clinton, the biggest threat to her winning the Democratic nomination probably comes from the left. For Bush, the threat for the Republican nomination probably comes from the right. Both of them also will be called upon to explain why their experience, their family ties and their connections to the political establishment should outweigh the desire of many voters for new blood and fresh faces.

For the immediate future, both are trying to lock up as many big donors as they can, which both Clinton and Bush are better positioned to do than their intra-party rivals.

Romney's exit means that Bush, son of a former president and brother of another, and former two-term governor of Florida, will have an easier time recruiting Romney's formidable array of financial contributors from the former Republican nominee's failed 2012 campaign.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is thought to have a chance to recruit some of Romney's donors, who helped Romney and allied groups raise $1 billion in the 2012 presidential cycle. But Christie hasn't caught on with the party's base and Bush is considered far ahead in amassing donors so far. This is partly because he can tap into the network of Republicans who earlier backed his father and brother.

However, Bush still has to prove himself to many conservative activists who play a big role in GOP politics in key states. Bush "becomes the target for everyone who is anti-establishment," Saul Anuzis, former chairman of the Michigan Republican party, told the Washington Post. "Before, you had Romney and Bush kind of splitting up that ire."

Many GOP voters are worried that Bush will be tarred with the unpopular policies of his father, George H.W. Bush, who broke his pledge not to raise taxes, and his brother George W. Bush, who began the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and who was president during an economic meltdown.

In Iowa, the first state to hold presidential nominating caucuses, Bush did poorly in a new poll of GOP voters who say they will vote in those caucuses a year from now. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker came in first with 15 percent, followed by Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky with 14 percent; Romney with 13 percent (the poll was conducted before he announced Friday that he wasn't running); former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas with 10 percent, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson with 9 percent, and Bush with 8 percent. All the other potential GOP candidates lagged behind, according to the poll, which was conducted by Bloomberg Politics and the Des Moines Register.

When Romney's supporters were re-distributed to their second choices, Walker, Paul, Huckabee and Carson remained the top four and Bush gained only one percentage point, moving from 8 percent to 9 percent. The situation in Iowa remains fluid and Bush still could surge into the lead, but he has a lot of work to do.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton had the support of 56 percent of likely Iowa caucus-goers, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts with 16 percent; Vice President Joe Biden with 9 percent, and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, an independent, with 5 percent. This means 21 percent of these Iowa Democrats -- the ones supporting vociferous liberals Warren and Sanders (neither of whom has declared a candidacy) -- prefer someone further to the left than Clinton. They haven't jumped on her bandwagon despite her lead in national polls and her credentials that include serving as first lady during her husband Bill Clinton's administration, U.S. senator from New York, and secretary of state under President Barack Obama.

This could be a danger sign. It's a reminder that even though Clinton also was the early front-runner in 2008 when she sought the Democratic nomination, Obama defeated her in Iowa and went on to win the nomination and the White House.

Although Bill Clinton is enjoying a surge in popularity, especially among Democrats, Republican strategists say voters are still troubled because he lied about his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, and Hillary Clinton may have to address that messy issue again.

Overall, a large majority of voters say the country is headed in the wrong direction. And some pollsters predict that Americans will want the next president to represent something new. This is not a strong point for either Bush or Clinton, who bear two of the most familiar names in American politics.

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GOP presidential contenders travel the globe in preparation to take on Clinton (WAPO)
By Philip Rucker and Anne Gearan
February 2, 2015
Washington Post
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LONDON — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is here in the United Kingdom, where he said he looks forward to getting re-acquainted with Prime Minister David Cameron on Monday. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal recently returned from a European tour during which he assailed Hillary Rodham Clinton for her "mindless naivete." And next week, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is due in London for an overseas trip of his own.

Republican presidential hopefuls are busy auditioning on the world stage ahead of the 2016 campaign, trying to bolster their résumés and develop expertise as their party seizes on foreign affairs as a key theme in its effort to reclaim the White House.

GOP leaders and strategists consider foreign policy a weakness of President Obama's tenure and therefore a potential vulnerability for Clinton, the likely Democratic candidate who helped carry out Obama's first-term foreign policy as secretary of state. Many contenders have been attacking Clinton. Before bowing out last week, Mitt Romney called the Obama administration "timid" and accused Clinton of acting "cluelessly."

Yet many of the Republican Party's rising stars — like Romney, its 2012 nominee — are governors with scant international exposure, so they are acting quickly to try to gain credibility.

Enter Christie, whose London visit is his fourth foreign trip as governor, following tours of Canada, Israel and Mexico. Ahead of official meetings that begin here Monday, Christie took in a soccer match Sunday afternoon. As he exited the gleaming Emirates Stadium, bundled up on a frigid afternoon with Arsenal's red-and-white team scarf, Christie said he was excited about nurturing relationships with British officials.

Michael E. O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said talking about foreign affairs reveals a presidential candidate's character, communications skills and decision-making style. While domestic issues "concern budgets, detailed lawmaking, cooperation with Congress and technical matters," he said, "foreign affairs are in some ways simpler. It's about how to handle bad guys, how to protect the country, and how to convey confidence and purpose."

Like Christie, most of the other Republican White House hopefuls have articulated hawkish views in line with their party's traditional orthodoxy, though a divergent and more isolationist view has emerged within the party's libertarian wing represented by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

Any Republican candidate would face an unusual challenge in drafting national security platforms in opposition to Clinton. As a senator and 2008 presidential candidate, Clinton developed a record and reputation as a foreign policy hawk that would complicate or head off the traditional GOP argument about Democratic weakness on security issues.

Nearly two years out from the next presidential election, the contenders have yet to present specifics beyond sketching out their worldviews. It also is unclear how much foreign affairs will shape the campaign. If the economy continues to improve, the public's attention could turn beyond the U.S.'s borders. And as always, world events that may not be foreseen, such as a terrorist attack, could set the agenda.

"Foreign policy could end up playing a minimal role on both sides, or it could end up playing a fairly large role, and I think the honest answer is nobody knows at this point," said Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, whom several presidential candidates have consulted.

Regardless, he said, it is important for candidates to "kick some tires around the world." He added: "You don't want to make a mistake which would raise questions about your readiness for the job."

So it is that would-be Republican candidates have been traveling the globe — many of them under the guise of trade missions to promote economic development for their states on trips paid with public funds.

The visits usually include meetings with foreign government and business officials as well as cultural stops. In England, Christie is sitting down with Cameron but also will see a rehearsal of William Shakespeare's "Henry V" at Shakespeare's historic Globe Theatre.

Former Texas governor Rick Perry has traveled overseas repeatedly since his failed 2012 presidential campaign, including visits last year to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and to China, Japan and several Eastern European nations.

Israel is a popular spot for many prospective candidates. Indiana Gov. Mike Pence spent Christmas in Jerusalem, where he met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee is leading a tour there later this month. For $5,250 a person, guests can join Huckabee for meetings with senior Israeli officials and tours of Holy Land sites, including swimming in the Dead Sea.

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Other presidential hopefuls have a more natural footing in such areas. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), through his service on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has made many trips abroad and has been at the center of U.S. foreign policy debates, recently over Obama's move to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Although many Republicans say their party should turn to a governor as its standard-bearer, Rubio argues that his national-security experience in the Senate is a more valuable commodity than an executive background.

"You can't have middle-class prosperity if your national security is threatened," Rubio told reporters in January. "So the next president needs to be someone that has a clear view of what's happening in the world, a clear strategic vision of America's role in it, and a clear tactical plan for how to engage America in global affairs."

It could be difficult for Republicans to cast Clinton as too weak on foreign policy, considering she earned the vocal admiration of many hawkish senators when she served alongside them.

As the county's top diplomat, Clinton carried out an Obama foreign policy that Republicans attacked as overly deliberative, but as a candidate to succeed him, she can show evidence that she would have taken tougher positions.

One example is Syria, where Clinton favored earlier and stronger military help for beleaguered rebels. She also holds a deeply skeptical view of Russian power, and despite the failure of the policy "reset" with Moscow, it will be difficult for Republicans to paint her as naive.

Clinton would have a harder time showing how she would have made different choices in other areas, including in the current struggle to counter Islamic State rebels. Harder still for Clinton may be the lingering taint of the deadly assaults on two U.S. compounds in Benghazi, Libya, in her final months at the State Department.

Clinton has said she bears ultimate responsibility for Benghazi and has called it the greatest regret of her tenure. But she has denied any knowledge of the circumstances leading up to the armed attacks by extremists or any direct role in responding to them.

Multiple investigations have revealed bureaucratic and safety problems but no high-level malfeasance. Still, the deaths of four Americans on her watch is a political vulnerability that undermines Clinton's image as an industrious and efficient executive.

With unrest across the world, Republicans believe foreign policy could be a winning campaign theme.

"Republicans want this to be an issue," said Kori Schake, a fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and an official in George W. Bush's administration. "If Hillary Clinton is a candidate, she will argue she's a steady set of hands — you know, the 3 a.m. phone call — so Republicans will need to be strong on foreign policy."

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Rupert Murdoch Says Joe Biden 'Actively Preparing' to Run Against Hillary Clinton (Bloomberg)
By David Knowles
February 1, 2015
Bloomberg

Newscorp executive chairman Rupert Murdoch knows a thing or two about breaking news, and causing a stir on Twitter, but does he also have an inside line on who is planning on challenging Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination?

On Sunday, Murdoch took to the social network to share his own insights on how the Democratic field may be shaping up.

@rupertmurdoch
Guess what! Joe Biden actively preparing to run against Hillary. Maybe others like Kerry.
11:00 AM - 1 Feb 2015

Murdoch gave no further details on how he had come upon the knowledge that Vice President Biden, and possibly Clinton's successor at the State Department, would challenge Clinton for the party's presidential nomination. A Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register poll of Iowa Democrats released over the weekend found Biden coming in a distant third place to Clinton and Senator Elizabeth Warren. Biden received just nine percent support in the poll, while Clinton was the first choice of 56 percent of those surveyed.

When asked last week by Good Morning America host George Stephanopolous whether he would seek the Democratic nomination, Biden left the possibility open.

"Yes, there is a chance," Biden said. "But I haven't made my mind up about that. We've got a lot of work to do between now and then. There's plenty of time."

Secretary of State John Kerry, who lost to George W. Bush in the 2004 presidential election, was much more resolute in a 2014 interview with CNN.

"I'm out of politics. I have no plans whatsoever, this is my last stop," Kerry told host Jake Tapper. "I'm going to serve the country in the extraordinarily privileged position the President has given me, the great challenges that I have, and move on.

Three days before Mitt Romney announced he would not seek the presidency, Murdoch weighed in on whether the former Massachusetts governor should attempt a third presidential campaign.

@rupertmurdoch
Let's be clear. Know and like Mitt Romney as a very nice person. But he had his chance and seemed to lack big vision for this country.
1:34 PM - 27 Jan 2015

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Obama on Hillary or Joe: 'I love them both' (CNN)
By Matthew Hoye
February 1, 2015
CNN

Washington (CNN)Ahead of the Super Bowl, President Barack Obama tackled weighty issues such as whether he would choose chips and guacamole over chicken wings -- and who he would choose to be his successor, Hillary Clinton or Joe Biden.

On the latter he said, "I love them both."

The President joined NBC's Savannah Guthrie in the White House kitchen ahead of the game, for a traditional five-minute pre-game interview.

They touched on more serious topics, like the State of the Union, and whether or not he walked in to the Capitol with too much swagger.

Obama defended the tone of his speech, saying he was telling the American people about, "the success that America has had in digging itself out of a really tough recession, and that is a celebration of the American people -- that's not about politics."

"My job is to present the right ideas, and if Republicans think they have a better idea than they should present them," he said. But my job is not to trim my sails and not tell the American people what we should be doing -- pretending somehow that we don't need better roads, or we don't need more affordable college."

The President said he has found over six years in office that, "When I tell the American people very clearly what direction I think the country should go in, sometimes people change their minds and even Republicans occasionally start agreeing with me."

Just not as quickly as he would like, Obama said.

At the end of the interview, the host gave the President a lightening roud of either/or questions.

When asked if he would pick football or basketball, the President was ever the politician saying, "I'm still a basketball guy, but I love football."

On offense or defense, "Always offense."

And, on buffalo wings or chips and guacamole, he said, "You know, that's tough -- but I'm gonna go with chips and guac."

And, again, on Hillary Clinton or Joe Biden, Obama didn't skip a beat saying, "Love them both. Good try."

But the most memorable moment of the interview may just be a photograph of Obama swilling some beer -- with his pinkie up.

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From:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To:	"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Robby Mook 2015 \(robbymook2015@gmail.com\)" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "Jennifer Palmieri - White House \(jennifer_m_palmieri@who.eop.gov\)" <jennifer_m_palmieri@who.eop.gov> "Kristina Schake?? \(kristinakschake@gmail.com\)" <kristinakschake@gmail.com> "John Podesta?? \(john.podesta@gmail.com\)" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Katie Connolly" <kconnolly@bsgco.com> "Anson Kaye" <anson.kaye@gmmb.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date:	3/18/2015 6:28:28 PM
Subject:	FW: 3.18.15 HRC Clips [Evening]
Attachments:	20150318 HRC Clips.docx

Notice the go to hit on Obama's speech was he trying to bolster HRC who's running to be a third term.

From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:26 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Subject: 3.18.15 HRC Clips [Evening]

HRC Clips
March 18, 2015
[Evening Update]

Evening Clips

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Obama Slams Republicans for 'Stale and Outmoded' Budget Debate (NYT)
The Invisible Primary Means No TV Ads, For Now. (NYT)
Hillary Clinton's personal BlackBerry less secure (Politico)
Brent Budowsky: Why Hillary can win big (The Hill)
Dick Morris: Clintons' UAE quid pro quo (The Hill)
Markos Moulitsas: Hillary is doomed? Hardly. (The Hill)
Hillary: House GOP budget 'fails' the American people (The Hill)
A plan for Kerry 2016? (The Hill)
New Hampshire pols plead for Warren to run (The Hill)
Greens want Clinton emails on Keystone (The Hill)
Clinton taps SC campaign head (WaPo)
Clinton wins primary — in Northern Virginia straw poll (WaPo)
Democrats: The GOP's 'war on women' is back (WaPo)
How to Be Misled by Polls, Hillary Clinton Email Edition (NYT)
Poll: Clinton tops GOP, Dem 2016 rivals (The Hill)
Poll: Hillary Clinton still tops in 2016 (CNN)
Archives wants explanation for Hillary Clinton email practices (Politico)
Hillary Clinton dominates in new 2016 presidential poll (Chicago-Sun Times)
I Sorted Hillary Clinton's Email (NY Magazine)
This is the best news Hillary Clinton has had in weeks (WaPo)

Morning Clips

Hillary Clinton Starts Tweeting Up a Political Storm, But Supporters Want More (Bloomberg)
Signs Hillary Clinton Is Amending Her Media Strategy (Wall Street Journal)
Clinton team picks Justice spokesman Brian Fallon as lead press secretary (Washington Post)
Hillary Clinton's Campaign Team Takes Shape (ABC News)
Clinton taps SC campaign head (Associated Press)
Has Hillary Really Helped the World's Women? (Politico)
Hillary Clinton Has Turned Tweets Into News Events (National Journal)
Hillary Clinton and Benjamin Netanyahu: It's 'complicated' (MSNBC)
Poll: Hillary Clinton still tops in 2016 (CNN)

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How to Be Misled by Polls, Hillary Clinton Email Edition (The New York Times)
A major LGBT group just gave Hillary Clinton her first big endorsement (Fusion)
Clinton controversy deja vu; Does Hillary Clinton love to hate the media so much that she can't avoid scandal? (The Washington Post)
Democrats in key states ask: Where is Hillary? (The Washington Post)
Beyond the primaries 'People want to see you' (The Washington Post)
Our Clinton madness (The Washington Post)
No Record That Hillary Clinton Signed That She Had No Documents (The New York Times)
Republicans Raise Pressure Over Hillary Clinton's Emails (The New York Times)
Hillary Clinton's Email Scandal Will Leave a Scar (U.S. News and World Report)
U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew Dodges Clinton Email Questions (Reuters)
Expanding safety nets to save them; Economic Scene (The New York Times)
Hillary Clinton Balked at Two Devices? Try Toting Four, Five, Six... (The Wall Street Journal)
State Dept.: 'No record' of signed document from Hillary Clinton affirming records turned over (The Washington Times)
John Boehner to Hillary Clinton: Turn over server (Politico)
Leon Panetta's advice to Hillary Clinton: Get on with it (Dallas-Morning News)
Hold the alarmism on Hillary (Al Jazeera America)
Why Joe Biden can't get no respect (Vox)
Will Hillary Clinton Invade GOP Primary? (Bloomberg)
Clinton criticizes House GOP budget plan (Associated Press)
Gerry Adams and Hillary Clinton in New York (The New Yorker)
Founder of company behind illegal human experiments that killed three is major Clinton Foundation donor (Washington Examiner)
"No Ceilings' Report Shows There's Still A Long Way To Go In Achieving Women's Equality (Huffington Post)
"No Ceilings" Report Shows Major Gains and Gaps in Women's Equality (Feminist Newswire)

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The Four Words Charles Krauthammer Used to Characterize Action Hillary Clinton Took With Her Emails (The Blaze)

By Oliver Darcy

March 18, 2015

The Blaze

"She burned the tapes."

That's how conservative political analyst Charles Krauthammer characterized Hillary Clinton's move to store her emails as secretary of state on a private home server.

"This is really an elaborate scheme, very obvious, not done for convenience, but done to conceal, and that's what this is all about," Krauthammer said Wednesday on Fox News. "George is right, she burned the tapes."

"And obviously, as her defender James Carville said, you don't want Louie Gohmert, meaning a Republican member of Congress, going through her emails," he continued. "That's the point. Not convenience."

The veteran political pundit then offered a reason as to why he thinks she took such actions.

"It was to prevent the Republicans or really the government, the Freedom of Information Act, the public from looking at her emails, which is required by State Department regulation, a departing official, I'll read you, must ensure that all record material that they possess is incorporated in the department's official files," he said. "And if you don't, if you willfully remove or destroy the records, the penalty can be fines, imprisonment, or both."

Challenged by Fox News host Bret Baier over why similar criticism hasn't been leveled against Collin Powell or Condoleezza Rice's lack of signed OF-109s, Krauthammer didn't give in.

"It's not the OF-109," he contended. "It's the entire scheme that she did to remove the files, to burn the files essentially, and it wasn't her job to decide what's private or not. Once you leave the government, it is clear that the regulations are that the department archivists are the ones who decide what is government and what is not, and she decided and then acted to destroy the files."

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Hillary Clinton starts running — against the Republican Congress (WaPo)

By Anne Gearan

March 18, 2015

Washington Post

Hillary Rodham Clinton is already running her presidential campaign — against the Republican Congress. And the GOP is only happy to oblige.

The presumptive Democratic nominee is seeking to use the priorities and record of congressional Republicans as a foil, highlighting GOP stumbles out of the gate this spring and attempting to change the subject after weeks of rough media coverage of her private e-mail system and of foreign donations to her family's foundation.

In blasts of rapid-fire Twitter messages just this week, Clinton accused Republicans of waging a war on women, playing politics with a black nominee, shortchanging students, endangering the economic recovery and trying to yank health-care coverage for 16 million Americans.

The invocation of divisive issues such as abortion, race and health care was less than subtle. She also weighed in last week on a controversial letter sent to Iran by 47 Senate Republicans — including several presidential hopefuls — in opposition to the Obama administration's negotiations over that country's nuclear program.

"No one considering running for commander-in-chief should be signing on," she wrote on Twitter.

Never mind that Clinton is not yet an announced candidate and currently holds no public office. With a huge lead over potential Democratic challengers, Clinton is attacking Republicans as though she were already her party's nominee.

Congressional Republicans, playing to their right flank, have forged ahead with inquiries into Clinton's e-mail scandal while reviving investigations into the deaths of four Americans in 2012 in Benghazi, Libya, when she was secretary of state. The House GOP also announced a budget outline this week that would repeal the Affordable Care Act and make large cuts in domestic programs — giving Clinton a chance to begin testing Democratic themes for a presidential run.

"They can't help themselves," said Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.). "They're forever doing this kind of stuff: Benghazi, the letter to the Iranians, no matter what it is, they seem hellbent on overkill. It's helping her so far."

Many Republicans disagree, arguing that they are obligated to seek answers to lingering questions over Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) said that many voters are troubled by Clinton's use of a private e-mail server while in office.

"When I talk to people, they are offended with the conduct and it feels like it's another 'there they go again' moment with the Clintons," Blackburn said. "They know the rules, but they have chosen to not play by the rules."

And Rory Cooper, a GOP consultant and former top adviser to former House majority leader Eric Cantor, said the attacks won't work for Clinton once Republicans have a candidate.

"She may want to run against Congress, but the party's nominee ends up taking the main role in setting the conservative agenda and the tone of the debate," Cooper said. "Congress will have a role to play in 2016, but it's the nominee who leads."

The week since Clinton reluctantly held a news conference defending her unorthodox e-mail arrangements has often felt like a revival of the epic feuds between Republicans and Clinton's husband in the 1990s: mounting investigations, conservative fury and bursts of indignation from the Clinton camp.

Even the parts seem similar: a GOP speaker facing pressure from his right, a defiant Hillary Clinton, and longtime Clinton family defender James Carville playing the role of James Carville.

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Clinton is focusing her fire on congressional Republicans, who have a generally lower approval rating, rather than individual GOP presidential hopefuls. Clinton's broad-brush assault is intended to tie all Republicans to what Democrats think are the unpopular policies and unappealing overreach of congressional leaders.

"Our nation's future — jobs & economic growth — depends on investments made today. The GOP budget fails Americans on these principles," Clinton tweeted Tuesday night.

Clinton's sharply partisan tone echoes arguments made by super PAC Emily's List and Clinton surrogates. Clinton's chosen topics and targets also provide a window on her preparation for a campaign likely to focus on which candidate can best connect with the middle class and the economically disenfranchised.

Clinton will stress her long record fighting on behalf of women, for example, and is sure to expand on her claim this week of a congressional Republican "trifecta against women." She is expected to enter the race next month.

Several Democrats supporting Clinton were buoyed by new poll numbers Wednesday that suggest the e-mail controversy did no serious damage. Clinton leads every potential Republican challenger by at least 11 points in the CNN/ORC poll, and she leads Vice President Biden by 47 points and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) by 52 points in hypothetical matchups.

Nearly 7 in 10 (68 percent) said that Democrats were better off with Clinton as their 2016 nominee, while just 30 percent said they'd be better with someone else.

Like his predecessor Newt Gingrich in the 1990s, House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) faces near-constant calls from his right flank to put the Clintons at the forefront of House oversight efforts.

Last year, Boehner spent months mulling whether to have a select committee on Benghazi and was wary about doing so. He wanted to emphasize economic issues ahead of the midterm elections, according to a Boehner confidant who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss his conversations with the speaker. Ultimately, though, Boehner relented and approved the investigation.

"It did take pressure," said Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-Kan.), a Boehner critic, at a Tuesday luncheon of conservatives on Capitol Hill. "Thank goodness we had enough pressure for that committee to be appointed. There was pushback for what, two years, before he did finally appoint the committee, and it looks like a better and better decision every day."

The committee is a main player in the drama over Clinton's e-mails; Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), the committee chair, is expected to call Clinton as a witness.

"Four Americans were killed," Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), a conservative hard-liner in the House, said when asked about whether the GOP risks overplaying its hand in inquiries of Clinton.

"I don't think tone is a question here," added Jordan, a member of the House Select Committee on Benghazi. "Mr. Gowdy has an appropriate tone. I think it's common sense, logical."

Gingrich agrees. "We are witnessing a classic Clinton counterattack," he said in an interview Wednesday. "Going after those so-called nasty Republicans may work for a week, but eventually she'll have to answer more questions."

The latest weekly Republican address, delivered by Rep. Susan Brooks (R-Ind.), reinforced the House GOP's approach. "It's unjust and simply wrong for anyone to withhold evidence," Brooks said, speaking directly to the camera. "We need to know why the security at our embassy was not adequate."

But Rep. Peter T. King (R-N.Y.) — a Long Island moderate who opposed former president Bill Clinton's impeachment in 1998 — said that House Republicans should be careful as they proceed and "not overdo it."

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"We shouldn't be salivating or piling on, even as we ask legitimate questions," King said. "In grudging admiration, you have to know that no one is better at making themselves victims than president and secretary Clinton. I know them, I consider them friends, but having said that, they are also masters at political jujitsu."

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A.B. Stoddard: Nothing new from Clinton (The Hill)

By A.B. Stoddard

March 18, 2015

The Hill

As Hillary Clinton hides behind lame tweets, furiously planning the launch of her new and different presidential campaign, Democrats wonder if they can find a 3-D printer that could produce a new Candidate Hillary. Hillary 2.0 would have the same resume, capability and fundraising prowess — and would definitely still be married to Bill Clinton, of course — but she would like voters, believe they deserved to know the truth through open records and a free press, and would at least be able to fake the appearance of enjoying answering the public's questions.

Democrats know what's coming, just weeks from now when Clinton announces her run, and it won't be new or different. They've got only one candidate, who already ran and lost, whose policy positions of key interest to Democrats are not yet known, whose candidacy is based on her gender, desire for the job and feeling that it is her turn, and who is launching as she's responding to a congressional subpoena.

Formidable and inevitable? Maybe not.

Her press conference last week, a repetition of lawyered talking points she even had to look down at while answering questions, was disappointing. It was, after all, an effort to calm a firestorm over her decision as secretary of State to hide her government-owned communications in a private server for the sole purpose of thwarting investigations. In her parsed answers, she admitted destroying emails she took the liberty of determining were private, indicated she surely did use personal email for classified information (by insisting she never "sent" classified material, which means she received it) and said no she would not turn over her private server to those trying to locate a trail of pertinent work-related communications related to Libya, or anyone else, for that matter.

Democrats didn't have to read between the lines, because it all meant one thing: You cannot teach a paranoid, secretive politician who makes her own rules new tricks.

A reformed Clinton, who transforms her standard operating procedure as president, is beyond the imagination — even for loyal Democrats. Meanwhile, where will she take the party next year? Hell if they know.

What we do know is she is consulting with 200 experts to find a message and a platform. Loyal progressives, including her dear old friend and former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, have wondered on the record what positions she will take on key policy questions factions of the party continue fighting over: financial regulation, the Keystone oil pipeline, trade and how to address income inequality. "If she were to become a candidate, she could go in either direction on these core questions," Reich told Bloomberg.

Despite the concerns of Democrats — about the email scandal, lack of agenda and her (un)willingness to be accessible to voters — Clinton is doing more of the same. She appears with friendly audiences, avoids the press and attacks Republicans in tweets.

Campaigning solely on Twitter can't begin to match what GOP candidates like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker are doing for themselves day in and day out. Democrats in primary states now well-trodden by the Republican field are hoping Clinton gets there soon. Her people assure them she will, just as they assure them she is going to hunker down with the public and chat and "earn every vote." Clinton has hired a new press staff of Democrats known to have strong relations with the media. That doesn't mean the campaign will be forthcoming with information, however, because staffers cannot override dictates from the top, particularly when they work for the Clintons.

Democrats hope things will improve when there is an official campaign apparatus in place. They will probably need to hope for more.

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Netanyahu Win Dashes Prospect for a Thaw With Obama (NYT)

By AP

March 18, 2015

New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration signaled on Wednesday it could take a tougher stance toward Benjamin Netanyahu following his decisive Israeli election victory and campaign tack to the right, saying there will be consequences for his sudden reversal on the idea of an independent Palestinian state.

While senior American officials said the administration was still evaluating options, they suggested the U.S. could ease its staunch opposition to Palestinians turning to the UN Security Council to create a state.

"There are policy ramifications for what he said," one official said of Netanyahu's campaign rhetoric rejecting the creation of a Palestinian state. "This is a position of record."

If Netanyahu holds firm to his opposition to a two-state resolution to the Mideast conflict, it could force whoever sits in the Oval Office — now and in the next administration — to choose between the prime minister and a longstanding U.S. policy with bipartisan support.

Hours after the Israeli election results were finalized, the White House quickly reaffirmed its support for the idea of two independent nations living side by side, a central tenet of peace negotiations led by presidents from both U.S. political parties. And the White House sharply chastised Netanyahu's party for using anti-Arab rhetoric in the lead-up to the election.

"Rhetoric that seeks to marginalize one segment of their population is deeply concerning and it is divisive," Obama spokesman Josh Earnest said.

Frustrated by both Israel and the U.S., Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has become increasingly aggressive in efforts to secure a Palestinian state through other means, including the UN Security Council. The U.S. has veto power on the council and has repeatedly warned Abbas it would block his efforts to use that avenue.

But on Wednesday, a senior administration official said only that the administration was evaluating its options on Security Council action and other possible responses, notably not repeating administration threats to block the Palestinians. A second official confirmed the U.S. could decide not to veto Security Council action.

The officials were not authorized to speak by name about internal deliberations and commented only on condition of anonymity.

Most Republican presidential hopefuls welcomed Netanyahu's victory, but they were notably silent about whether they backed Palestinian statehood. Only Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker weighed in, saying the U.S. goal "must remain a two-state solution."

Former Republican President George W. Bush made a two-state solution a cornerstone of his efforts to secure peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Obama also has pursued Palestinian statehood, most aggressively in a months-long push for peace that ultimately collapsed last year.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic front-runner if she enters the 2016 campaign, did not comment on the Israeli elections. As Obama's first secretary of state, she worked closely with Netanyahu and championed an independent Palestinian state.

Aaron David Miller, a longtime Middle East adviser to secretaries of state from both parties, said it was unlikely a U.S. president of either party would abandon support for Palestinian statehood in the near future.

"I suspect it is the fate of both Democratic and Republican presidents to be caught in a situation in which a two-state solution is too difficult to implement on the one hand and yet too difficult to abandon on the other," said Miller, now a scholar at the Wilson Center in Washington.

Netanyahu announced his support for Palestinian statehood in 2009, shortly after Obama became president. He continued to publicly back that

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position even as he approved new settlements in East Jerusalem, raising questions about his level of commitment.

Earlier this year, the Palestinians joined the International Criminal Court in pursuit of war crimes charges against Israel. Any decision on a possible investigation is now up to the ICC prosecutor.

Secretary of State John Kerry spoke with Netanyahu Wednesday. The White House said Obama would speak with the prime minister in the coming days.

The Likud Party's decisive victory in Tuesday's elections marked a stunning comeback in a tight race that put Netanyahu in political jeopardy. In the campaign's closing days, Netanyahu abandoned his public commitment to Palestinian statehood.

While the White House publicly avoided taking sides in the election, it was no secret that Obama and his advisers would have welcomed a change in Israeli leadership. Netanyahu is a fierce critic of Obama's nuclear negotiations with Iran, a country Netanyahu says poses a deadly threat to Israel. Netanyahu also deeply angered the White House by accepting a Republican invitation to address Congress earlier this month and make his case against the emerging outlines of an Iran deal.

Netanyahu's shift on Palestinian statehood now seems certain to deepen the rift with Obama. Despite his past assurances to the West, Netanyahu said this week that any talk of Israel withdrawing from lands it seized in 1967 to make room for a Palestinian state is irrelevant because, in his view, Islamic extremists would seize such territory.

Though the prospects of a peace accord in Obama's final 20 months in office were already slim, Netanyahu's stance slammed shut any hope for a breakthrough without a dramatic shift in the region.

"A push now to try to get to the table would run the risk that you produce negotiations that are bound to fail," said Dennis Ross, a former U.S. Middle East envoy. "What you can't afford now is more failure."

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Republican Rand Paul to Enter 2016 Presidential Race Next Month: Report (NYT)

By Reuters

March 18, 2015

New York Times

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Rand Paul will declare his candidacy for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination on April 7, MSNBC reported, citing multiple sources inside the Kentucky lawmaker's camp.

"This will be an official announcement, not an exploratory committee," MSNBC quoted an unnamed source close to Paul as saying. The network said the announcement would take place in Louisville, Kentucky.

Paul would be the first major candidate to formally jump into next year's White House race. Republican Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, has set up a committee to explore a possible 2016 candidacy.

Other potential Republican candidates include U.S. Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton, a former U.S. senator and secretary of state, is expected to enter the race in the next few months as a strong favorite.

Paul, the 52-year son of former U.S. Republican Representative Ron Paul of Texas, won a straw poll of conservative activists earlier this month. His libertarian views have gained backing from some conservatives but raised questions about his broader appeal within the Republican Party.

In the four days immediately after his announcement, the source told MSNBC, Paul will campaign in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada, the four states that kick off the presidential nominating battle.

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Webb Quietly Meeting Dems Looking for Clinton Alternative (NYT)

By AP

March 18, 2015

New York Times

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb says his decision whether to challenge Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination will rest on whether he can raise enough money to be viable in running against the heavy favorite.

"It's not worth it go through this process if you have to sell out what you believe," Webb, 69, a former Navy secretary, said Wednesday between private meetings with South Carolina party leaders. "The question is, can we get the right kind of support in order to get out and make our case to the American people rather than to the financial sector?"

Webb said he wants to be a voice for working-class Americans neglected in a political system dominated by money. He says he will decide this spring whether to run.

He said raising enough money to power a campaign of his own "will be a challenge after Citizens United," the Supreme Court ruling that has helped super PACs spend staggering sums of money from corporations, unions and wealthy people.

South Carolina hosts the South's first presidential primary, weeks after the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary. Of particular significance to Democrats nationally, South Carolina is the first primary state with a large African-American population.

Clinton is widely expected to announce a presidential candidacy. Her aides have promised an aggressive push in the state, where Clinton lost a bitter battle with Barack Obama in 2008 on his way to the presidency. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, another prospective challenger, has made several trips to the state.

Webb did not directly criticize Clinton on Wednesday, but he argued that voters want new faces.

"What I'm seeing is that there is a leadership fatigue in this country, an incumbent fatigue from both parties," he said.

Webb served in the Senate alongside Clinton for two years before she became secretary of state. He did not seek re-election in 2012, leaving the chamber after one term.

He said he wants Democrats to return to their roots as "the party that is assisting the objectives of the people who do the hard work in our country."

He also said the U.S. needs a "clear doctrine" for when and how to use military force in conflicts.

State Democratic Chairman Jaime Harrison described Webb as "thoughtful and serious" after the two met privately, and rejected the notion that Clinton's likely candidacy makes a competitive primary impossible. "People asked the same questions in 2007," Harrison said. "Nobody saw Barack Obama as having a chance."

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Obama Slams Republicans for 'Stale and Outmoded' Budget Debate (NYT)

By Reuters

March 18, 2015

New York Times

CLEVELAND — President Barack Obama slammed Republicans' latest budget proposals on Wednesday, saying funding for research, education and infrastructure would be better for economic growth than tax cuts.

In a speech at the City Club of Cleveland, Obama mocked Republicans for turning to tax cuts in a budget that "doubles down on trickle-down" economics..

"Republicans in Congress have put forward the same proposals year after year after year regardless of the realities of the economy," Obama said. "When the economy's in a slump? We needed tax cuts. When the economy's doing well? You know what – let's try some tax cuts," he said.

In another issue that has divided Washington, Obama said he wished he had closed the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on his first day in office. His efforts to close the controversial facility have since been thwarted largely because of Republican opposition.

Obama said the budget plan put forward this week by Republicans in the House of Representatives would cut funding to centers that help manufacturing, a sector critical to the economy of northeast Ohio, home to plants owned by Ford, GM, Goodyear and Sherwin-Williams Co.

Republicans dismissed his comments as an attempt to help his former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is expected to run for president in 2016.

"No matter how hard President Obama tries to set Hillary Clinton up to run for his third term, his tax and spend agenda continues to fail America's shrinking middle class," said Allison Moore, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee.

Before his speech, Obama toured an "incubator" at Cleveland State University where advisers work with small manufacturers, speaking with a local whiskey maker about a new technique for shortening the aging process for bourbon.

It is one of about 60 such centers across the country that the White House said have helped 30,000 small manufacturers in recent years. Obama would like to spend more than $30 million a year to help set up similar centers in 12 other states.

U.S. manufacturing has been a strong point for the country's recovery from the 2007-09 recession, although the recent appreciation of the dollar is fueling worries American factories will lose an edge in export markets.

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The Invisible Primary Means No TV Ads. For Now. (NYT)

By Derek Willis

March 18, 2015

New York Times

There's a reason the early part of the presidential nomination contest is called the invisible primary: There are no television ads yet. Voters in key states should enjoy the lull while it lasts, which could be until summer or maybe even longer.

Four years ago, the first Republican presidential campaign ad appeared on July 5. That's when Tim Pawlenty, the former Minnesota governor, aired his first commercial for Iowa voters, according to broadcast advertising data tracked by Kantar Media and compiled by Deep Root Analytics, a Republican television advertising targeting company.

Michele Bachmann and Ron Paul followed soon after, but most of the field waited much longer. Mitt Romney, who eventually won the nomination, didn't air his campaign's first television ad until Nov. 22, 2011, a good six weeks before the Iowa caucuses kicked off the formal primary season. (The data do not include cable or satellite TV advertising, which are not reported to the Federal Communications Commission.)

Political ads might not start running until later in this election cycle. The main reason the candidates may wait is simple: super PACs. Most of the early ads four years ago came from the campaigns, not from affiliated political action committees. Only a few of the 2012 candidates had affiliated super PACs; now most serious candidates will.

Because super PACs can raise any amount of money from donors while contributions to campaign committees are capped at $2,700 per person for the primary election, it can be easier to raise the money to pay for expensive television ads via the super PACs. A round of television advertising could be paid for by a few donors, leaving the candidate's campaign free to spend its money on other activities — or to bank as much of the money as possible until later in the year. That might mean earlier ads will come from super PACs, while candidate ads happen later.

This is a big change from the last fully open presidential contest eight years ago, before super PACs existed. By the end of March 2007, Barack Obama had raised more than $25 million for his campaign, while Mr. Romney had raised almost $21 million. (John McCain, the eventual nominee for the G.O.P., did not start raising money until April of that year.) This year, none of the higher-profile politicians have even filed a statement of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission, let alone formally created a campaign committee.

The timeline could still shrink. In the 2012 race, most super PAC spending financed negative messages about other candidates. A significant amount of money will be spent when there is a clear leader to attack, but the Republicans don't have that yet. The Democrats appear to have only one strong candidate so far, Hillary Clinton. It's more likely that some Republican super PACs will air ads opposing Mrs. Clinton. The lack of competition on the Democratic side could mean a longer wait for ads from Mrs. Clinton, too.

Raising enough money to respond on TV to attacks is part of what is driving money-raising for super PACs and other affiliated groups long before candidates actually register official committees. This part of the invisible primary — when candidates are as likely to appear before donors as voters — has two goals: gaining large donations and commitments to raise more.

Of course, you may never even see these ads. When the television commercials do begin, even well-funded operations are likely to concentrate their messages on the states that hold their nominating contests first, particularly Iowa and South Carolina. The Iowa media markets of Des Moines, Cedar Rapids and Sioux City were the top three during the Republican primary in 2012, followed by the South Carolina markets of Greenville, Charleston and Columbia.

The sheer number of advertisements devoted to those states dwarfed those of larger markets in Florida and other states that held nominating votes early in the process. There were nearly 8,000 broadcast television ads in the Des Moines market during the Republican primary; the Tampa market saw 5,400. (Owing to Mr. Romney's popularity in New Hampshire, that state's media markets were not among the top targets for the 2012 Republican primary, but that could change this time around.)

Although you may not see the ads on TV, you might well see the ads online. In this current period of television silence, campaign organizations are building an email list that can be used to raise money and target voters. A committee formed by Scott Walker, the Wisconsin governor, has placed display ads on the websites of Fox News, The Daily Caller and other conservative outlets directing users to a page that asks for their name, email and address, according to Adomic, a California company that tracks digital ads. The leadership PAC of Chris Christie, the New Jersey governor, has also been buying ads on sites such as the Drudge Report.

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Potential candidates like Rand Paul, the Kentucky Republican senator, and Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, are posting messages to social media to help increase their reach and to identify supporters.

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Hillary Clinton's personal BlackBerry less secure (Politico)

By Joseph Marks

March 18, 2015

Politico

The personal BlackBerry that Hillary Clinton used as secretary of state was likely much less secure than the State Department-issued devices used by her staff and subordinates, according to knowledgeable former officials and executives.

And the security risks were magnified because Clinton used her personal BlackBerry on travel in foreign countries where State Department employees are routinely cautioned about the use of mobile devices.

A POLITICO review of press pool photos turned up instances of Clinton using her Blackberry in Vietnam, Brazil and South Korea.

The risk of targeted theft of an official's data is greatest in nations with telecoms that are owned or largely controlled by the government, said Martin Libicki, a cybersecurity expert and senior scientist at the Rand Corporation. That's because state-aligned hackers could pull any unencrypted data, such as the metadata connected with a phone call, straight off the cell towers.

In Vietnam in particular, analysts say, there's a concern Chinese government hackers could pull information from the Vietnamese government-owned telecom — either through an intelligence-sharing agreement with Vietnam or because Vietnamese officials make little effort to keep Chinese spies out of their networks.

Some of the security deficit for Clinton's BlackBerry can be attributed to predictable differences between an enterprise security system managed by a staff of IT professionals and a homebrew system like Clinton's, administered by an individual or a small staff, people familiar with BlackBerry enterprise security told POLITICO.

A recent Verizon report, for example, found it takes companies roughly a month on average to discover they've been breached, even with complex security and a team of staffers. "For an individual, it could take them forever," Stephen Perciballi, a systems security engineer who previously worked for Softchoice, a major BlackBerry retailer for government and industry.

Beyond the advantages conferred on large organizations by their professional IT teams, 24-hour network monitoring and security operations centers, the security of an individually owned BlackBerry — and the emails and other information stored in it — comes down to basic questions of hardware and software, insiders said. Questions that Clinton and the State Department declined repeatedly to answer.

The security of BlackBerry systems, for instance, is dependent on roughly 600 "IT policies" — essentially security measures that can be switched on or off, according to a person with detailed knowledge about BlackBerry's federal operations. The more switches that are turned on, the more secure the device or network of devices will be. Individuals generally turn on far fewer of those security measures and take more security shortcuts than would IT professionals charged with keeping State Department information out of the hands of foreign hackers, the source said.

The most important component for BlackBerry security is the BlackBerry Enterprise Server, a piece of "middleware" that encrypts email and securely connects other applications with the BlackBerry handset, making it significantly more secure than the basic BlackBerry an average consumer might buy. These systems are typically bought by organizations but can also be bought — at great expense — by individuals or families with major security concerns.

A spokesman for Clinton declined several times to say whether the former secretary employed such an enterprise server during her tenure. In the past, her office has said making details of her email security public would aid hackers. "Robust protections were put in place," according to a statement earlier this month, and "third party experts" were consulted and employed.

Perciballi also cited the enterprise server as a key component to any fully secure system.

"My first question would be was she using a [BlackBerry Enterprise] Server," he said. "If so, that would be 80 percent better."

Clinton insisted in a press conference last week that her private email account and the server that housed the emails were never breached — a statement that drew raised eyebrows among security experts who noted that many breaches can go undetected for months, years or even forever — hiding even from people trained to root them out.

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Perciballi responded to the claim by paraphrasing a cybersecurity maxim: There are two kinds of people — those who have been breached and those who don't yet know they've been breached.

To be even mildly confident of the "no breaches" claim, Perciballi said, he'd want a team of specialized forensic analysts to personally inspect the network and emails.

Questions about the security of Clinton's BlackBerry are compounded by the added digital threats that come with foreign travel.

POLITICO did not find any evidence of Clinton using her BlackBerry in China or Russia while secretary — two nations that represent the greatest threat of online compromise. Yet, travel in other nations also poses hacking risks, though not as severe.

A spokesman for Clinton said that "the State Department took technical security for the entire traveling party very seriously." He referred more detailed questions to State, noting, "It is for them to address an understandably sensitive topic as they deem appropriate to do so."

A senior State Department official declined to discuss specific protocols for mobile phones abroad for security reasons, noting only that the "department provides guidance and briefings to its employees on best practices relating to the maintenance of secure communications around the globe, including mobile communications devices." The official referred specific questions about Clinton's security setup to her staff.

Clinton has also insisted she did not discuss any classified information on the personal email account that she accessed through her private BlackBerry. But even unclassified communications involving the secretary of state would be useful intelligence for another nation's spy service. Something as simple as the frequency with which Clinton emailed different state officials or other Cabinet secretaries could provide insight into how a particular policy is being developed, say former counter-intelligence officials.

Before and during any foreign travel, the State Department's Diplomatic Security Service briefs officials on both physical and digital threats, a former DSS official told POLITICO, including detailed instructions about when officials should and shouldn't carry digital devices and other precautions to take.

As a result, the former official said, there's no situation in which Clinton or her closest advisers would not have known exactly what was permitted and what was advisable.

"The Department does a really good job working with the intelligence community assessing risk," the former official said. "We go in with the capabilities and resources to mitigate risk irrespective of where we are … Occasionally there's time with the secretary to give a briefing, but we talk with staff as well. Staff are clearly briefed on what the threats are."

The former official stopped short of saying that top diplomats sometimes disregard digital security directives but acknowledged there's often a push and pull between officials who want to get as much work done as efficiently as possible while in country and security professionals who ask them to forego some modern conveniences.

The former official also said Clinton's communications would almost certainly have been more secure on a State Department-issued device.

"Unless you've provided your personal phone to the State Department to put all the appropriate levels of encryption on it, you'll be more vulnerable," the former official said. "The State Department is very adept at knowing the risks involved. They've been doing it for a long time now."

Even with the State Department's expertise, however, security experts said, there's no guarantee that adversaries couldn't worm their way into an official's unclassified email and officials are advised to presume that any unclassified system is insecure and could be compromised.

Indeed, the State Department's unclassified email system was compromised last year and, according to a Bloomberg report, the hackers, who may be Russian, have still not been totally shut out of the system.

The State Department shut down its systems over the weekend and through Tuesday for a series of security upgrades. State Spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the closure was only for upgrades and not because the department had been hacked again.

"The generic caution to anyone who is of high interest to a foreign intelligence service as Ms. Clinton would be is to just assume that any business you're conducting over non-secured networks — so a personal device or a government one — is something that's going to potentially be targeted by foreign intelligence service," said Michelle Van Cleave, former National Counterintelligence Executive during the George W. Bush administration.

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“When you’re on an unclassified network,” she said, “the advice is just to assume you’re not secure wherever you are.”

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Brent Budowsky: Why Hillary can win big (The Hill)

By Brent Budowsky

March 18, 2015

The Hill

The most popular former president since the Second World War is John Kennedy. The most popular living former president is Bill Clinton. The most popular public figure in America is Pope Francis, whose favorable rating was a towering 78 percent in a recent Pew poll.

These three data points reveal the qualities most Americans want in their next president. Along with demographic and electoral state advantages Democrats posses in presidential elections, they explain why Hillary Clinton will enter the 2016 campaign in a powerful position — and with the possibility of winning a mandate victory that would dramatically change the way Washington works.

In just 20 months, as Clinton concludes her conversation with America that she will soon begin, Americans will gather in their living rooms to discuss who they should choose to lead the nation. They will not be discussing emails and servers. They will be discussing wages and incomes, prosperity and jobs, and who is most qualified to lift the American economy and protect American security.

If Clinton is elected in 2016, around the time of the Democratic National Convention in 2020, our first female president will lead a national celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote on Aug. 18, 1920.

At lunchtime Thursday I will address the Women's National Democratic Club in Washington, D.C. The title of my remarks will be "Superwoman comes to the supermarket: America from John Kennedy to Hillary Clinton." It's borrowed from the brilliant essay by Norman Mailer about John Kennedy in 1960 titled "Superman comes to the supermarket," which was later included in The Presidential Papers, his book about JFK. Mailer's vision of Kennedy — which came true — was that JFK would lead America into a new decade that would unleash powerful forces of change and lift the politics, culture and spirit of the nation.

When I refer to Clinton as superwoman who comes to the supermarket, I mean that her conversation with America will take this woman of enormous achievement into the supermarket of the American heartland for a national discussion about how we can create an economy that brings higher wages, higher incomes, a higher standard of living and a rising tide that lifts all boats and leaves no American behind.

The Bill Clinton presidency, which embodied Democratic economics, is fondly remembered because he created a surge of prosperity, optimism and jobs, and a belief that government can work — even as Republicans tried to impeach him while he doggedly continued his good works in office.

By contrast, the last Republican presidency, which embodied Republican economics, sank America into the most punishing recession and devastating financial crash since the Great Depression, which brought the most massive bailout in human history.

In her conversation with America, Hillary Clinton will build on the launching pad of her legacy. And Republicans will disown the bottomless pit of theirs.

The Kennedy presidency, which embodied the ideals of Democratic progressivism, set loose forces for change that energized movements and advanced rights and opportunities for blacks and Hispanics. This expanded to the movements that advanced equality and justice for women and gays. And it expands to the ultimate movement, whose great champion is Francis, for an economy that is fair and just and creates prosperity and opportunity for all, regardless of race, color, gender, ethnicity or creed.

This will be the heart of Hillary Clinton's conversation with America: equal wages for women, a higher minimum wage for workers, a higher standard of living for all, a better education for students who want to learn, and affordable education for the moms and dads who must pay for it.

Republicans cannot compete with these American dreams with arcane discussions of emails and political wars to persuade voters that the teachings of the most popular pope in modern times are wrong when he denounces the trickle-down economics that guaranteed the last great Republican economic crash.

Watch out for my follow-up, "How Hillary can win big," in Thursday's edition of The Hill.

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Dick Morris: Clintons' UAE quid pro quo (The Hill)

By Dick Morris

March 18, 2015

The Hill

Bill and Hillary Clinton have carefully cloaked the foreign money they've accepted in the garb of charitable fundraising. But alongside the hundreds of millions donated to the Clinton Foundation were tens of millions in personal income from foreign sources, devoid of disguise, a naked example of using political power for personal enrichment. Nowhere has this transaction been as apparent as in the Clintons' relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In return for millions in speaking and consulting fees, which went right into their personal bank accounts, the former president and former secretary of State — and possible future president — showered favors on the rulers that run this repressive and anti-

Semitic government.

It's hard to grasp the distinction — if there is any — between fees Bill Clinton earned and outright payments to his wife for her influence. For example, during his wife's tenure as secretary, Bill Clinton collected $1,175,000 for three speeches in the UAE. One, for the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative, at a cost of $500,000, was OKed by the State Department ethics police.

That was the quid (along with the millions sent to the foundation by the UAE). The quo was an ongoing campaign to rehabilitate the image of a regime that ranks in Freedom House's second-lowest category in human rights. After the revelation that two of the 9/11 hijackers — and much of the money that financed them in the U.S. — came from the UAE, the Emirates needed a major image upgrade.

Enter Bill Clinton.

In 2002, he began speaking in the UAE and recognized the potential gravy train there. That's also when he joined billionaire Ron Burkle's Yucaipa Co. That was the Clintons' real gold mine, netting them more than $15 million from 2002 to 2007. His buyout in 2008 was estimated at up to $20 million.

The former president was indispensable: He delivered Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, prime minister of Dubai, to Yucaipa, and a three-way partnership among Burkle, Clinton and the sheik to create an offshore sovereign fund began.

In 2005, Clinton advised Dubai on the controversial Dubai port deal. Hillary Clinton publicly opposed the deal, but didn't oppose the $10 million that had already gone into their accounts from Yucaipa.

Clinton continuously raised the profile of the UAE by creating a Clinton scholarship program at the American University in Dubai and partnering with two other Dubai-based firms: GEMS schools and the Varkey Foundation. His take from them is unknown. He made introductions and brought in close associates as investors in the UAE like Teneo, NYU and McLarty Associates.

Bill Clinton's a real regular over there. On Monday, he was in Dubai, speaking alongside the sheik at the Hult International Business School, a partner of the Clinton Global Initiative.

But it was Hillary Clinton who did the heavy lifting in delivering to the UAE what it most craved: international respect. In September of 2012, the secretary of State hosted a Global Infrastructure Conference at the State Department for 90 CEOs or high-level American executives to learn about investment opportunities in the UAE and three other countries. Seven UAE officials joined Hillary Clinton herself in addressing the conference.

Several months later, the former first lady promoted the first Global Entrepreneurship Summit, also sponsored by the State Department, in Dubai, bringing investors and entrepreneurs from all over the world into the UAE. The UAE was publicly legitimized by the U.S. in Hillary Clinton's last days in office.

Bill and Hillary Clinton set up a gigantic money-making machine, trading on her power as secretary of State and her potential to be the next president. The question for us is: Are we willing to let them take it to the next level?

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Markos Moulitsas: Hillary is doomed? Hardly. (The Hill)

By Markos Moulitsas

March 18, 2015

The Hill

While the insipid media storm over Hillary Clinton's emails at the State Department might be a big yawn for voters, it certainly is giving some conservatives new hope about their 2016 chances.

Josh Kraushaar at National Journal led the irrational exuberance, with a piece titled "Why Republicans hold an early edge for 2016." You see, Republicans are now the favorites because "her least attractive political attributes — an imperial attitude, an inability to avoid scandal, and a penchant for secrecy — are now all taking center stage."

A Fox News headline blared, "Email flap puts field in play." The subhead: "The glitter is off Hillary Clinton's coronation as email controversy prompts new look at alternatives."

A report here at The Hill said, "Republican strategists say that Clinton's political abilities have long been exaggerated. They contend she displays an unusual capacity to make trouble for herself and, unlike her husband, has no great degree of nimbleness in getting out of it."

Oh, and my favorite, from Florida GOP strategist Rick Wilson in the same Hill report: "She's a terrible politician. She has never won a genuinely contested election. She is spectacularly bad. ... She is not a woman who has ever been able to win a hot race."

Ha ha, all so silly! The email story itself is barely registering with voters, with only 17 percent following the story closely, according to a Pew Research poll last week. Even among Republicans, the number was only one-third.

That lack of interest is not surprising, given that, one, she didn't break any laws and, two, pretty much every Republican officeholder running for president has had similar problems in the past. I'm all for laws outlawing such use of private email for official government business, but until those exist, all the hyperventilating is directed in the wrong direction. (The right direction would be Congress, which could pass such a law tomorrow if its Republican leadership genuinely cared about things like "openness in government," which it doesn't.)

But more relevant to the "Hillary is doomed!" narrative is the very simple fact that the American public still really, really likes Hillary! In fact, she is such a terrible politician, she isn't just lapping the potential Democratic primary field, unprecedented in modern political history, she is also crushing her potential Republican opponents.

On the Democratic side, polling has consistently shown Clinton with leads of 40-plus points against pretty much anyone. While some think this means the "Democratic bench" is weak, really, it means we have our slugger up to bat. So why sub her out? But this isn't even baseball. It's tennis. And we've got Serena Williams on the court while Republicans have a bunch of ball boys throwing balls at each others' heads. Call that a "bench" if you want, it's still a bunch of scrubs.

When you look at general election polling, Clinton is so doomed and terrible at being a politician that she sports laughably large leads against the best the GOP can throw at her. Jeb Bush? The Huffington Post polling composite (all polls averaged out together, an approach that has proven accurate the last several election cycles) has Clinton leading 52 percent to 41 percent. It's a 53 percent to 40 percent lead over Chris Christie; 53 percent to 39 percent over Ted Cruz; 54 percent to 40 percent over Mike Huckabee; 50 percent to 40 percent over Marco Rubio; and 52 percent to 40 over Rand Paul.

So if Clinton really is that bad a politician, and if her chances are really that doomed, then what does that say about her lagging competition?

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Hillary: House GOP budget 'fails' the American people (The Hill)

By Rebecca Shabad

March 18, 2015

The Hill

Hillary Clinton late Tuesday criticized the House GOP's budget blueprint released earlier in the day, asserting that it "fails" the American people.

Clinton, who's expected to launch her second presidential campaign as early as next month, posted a series of tweets on the Republicans' budget.

Budgets reflect our priorities. They should help families get ahead, educate our kids, and spark small business growth," her first tweet said.

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A plan for Kerry 2016? (The Hill)

By Former Rep. John LeBoutillier (R-N.Y.)

March 18, 2015

The Hill

The Kerry for P.O.T.U.S. '16 plan:

1. In 2004, John Kerry lost to President George W. Bush, but came close — if 50,000 votes had switched sides in Ohio, John Forbes Kerry — who, back at St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H., patterned himself after the first JFK all the way down to the hairstyle and extra-long shirt cuffs — would have been the 44th president of the United States.

2. As a competitive politician, Kerry has never given up the dream of living at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

3. Now, as secretary of State, he sees a path to the White House.

4. It looks like 2016 is going to be a "foreign policy" election.

5. Anticipating this — and in contrast to Hillary Clinton's empty, accomplishment-free four years as secretary of State — Kerry has been piling up agreements and treaties: 1) An emissions agreement with China; 2) normalization with Cuba; 3) and he's now on the verge of a nuke deal with Iran.

6. Kerry believes — and it may very well happen — that he and his Iranian counterpart will earn the Nobel Peace Prize, a la then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho in 1973 for the Paris Peace Accords that "ended" the Vietnam War.

7. Kerry and President Obama have seen their three biggest Iran nuclear deal opponents go down — or perhaps about to go down — in the last few days: 1) Netanyahu trails in the final rounds of Israeli polls in advance of Tuesday's crucial Israeli election; 2) the Justice Department leaked word of "possible" corruption charges against the administration's most influential Democratic critic, New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez; and 3) the 47 GOP Senators who wrote the letter to Iran have effectively discredited themselves.

8. In his mind, this is how Kerry sees the next 18 months: Armed with the Nobel and favorable press from the media, which have grown tired of the Clinton Act, he will be there to pick up the pieces after Hillary implodes.

9. According to the New York Post story on Sunday from best-selling author Ed Klein, the White House — directed by senior adviser Valerie Jarrett — has secretly launched six internal State Department investigations into Clinton's tenure there — clearly searching for information to discredit her. All done, of course, with fingerprints carefully concealed.

10. Why? Obama hates President Bill Clinton. The president and the White House staff want to see Bill "The Big Dog" Clinton fail in his attempt to return to the White House.

11. Bill Clinton and Obama are the two alpha males of the Democratic Party. They loathe each other. And Obama will do anything to prevent Bill Clinton from retaking control of the Democratic Party.

12. Obama owes Kerry — big time — for giving him the crucial keynote speech at the 2004 Boston convention. That appearance launched the Obama phenomenon and propelled him all the way to the presidency.

13. Now Kerry expects to collect on that debt by having Obama's tacit support in 2016 — including helping to puncture the Clinton Balloon.

14. For the immediate future, we can expect that — for their own legacy and political reasons — Obama and Kerry will force this Iran nuclear deal to happen, even if it is a lousy deal for the U.S. These two will do anything to make this deal happen — now.

15. Obama wants this to be his Nixon-goes-to-China moment, where he brings Iran back into the community of nations.

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16. And Kerry wants that Nobel to contrast it with Hillary Clinton's empty legacy.

17. The only thing left to do is the un-doing of Hillary Clinton. How does that come about? Who does it?

18. Does the administration find more damaging info that could come back to haunt her?

19. Is more to come on these shady foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation?

20. And, on the political front, whom else could the Democrats turn to if Clinton indeed implodes?

21. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is the insurgent who could — still — take down Clinton. And she should run. Now. It is all sitting there awaiting her.

22. But so far, she continues to refuse to run.

23. If Clinton implodes on her own — a growing possibility — then the party would not turn to Warren. Instead they would look for a less divisive candidate.

24. And JFK — John Forbes Kerry — is warming up in the bullpen. In his head, he sees a clear path to reverse his 2004 loss. Armed with his wife's unlimited Heinz family money, he could self-fund his campaign.

25. Most of all, he sees no viable opposition inside the Democratic Party. Vice President Biden is not a realistic option. The others — former Sen. Jim Webb (Va.), former Gov. Martin O'Malley (Md.) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) are minor leaguers.

26. No, Kerry can smell this thing. All he has to do is cave in enough to get the Iran nuclear deal. If Netanyahu loses on Tuesday, this "caving" becomes much easier. And Tehran will dig in its heels, knowing Iran's biggest critic is gone.

27. Meanwhile, watch the Hillary Clinton train wreck continue — until Democrats realize she is a political loser.

28. Then they will turn to Kerry to save them.

29. This is what is in John Kerry's head — all day and all night — every day and every night.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

New Hampshire pols plead for Warren to run (The Hill)

By Kevin Cirilli

March 18, 2015

The Hill

Some lawmakers in the early primary state of New Hampshire are urging Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to run for president.

Twenty-seven current and former members of New Hampshire's legislature sent an open letter to Warren on Wednesday asking her to reconsider her plans to sit out the 2016 race.

"We urge Elizabeth Warren to run for president in 2016," they wrote. "One thing New Hampshire voters value is the first-in-the-nation primary, and a chance for candidates to come into our homes and libraries and community centers to talk to real voters."

The lawmakers signing the letter represent just a fraction of the 400 seats in New Hampshire's House of Representatives and the 24 seats in the state Senate. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remains the clear front-runner for Democrats in New Hampshire, according to polls.

But the letter shows that some in New Hampshire — the first national primary of the election cycle after the Iowa caucuses — are hungry for a contested primary.

"We're urging Senator Elizabeth Warren to join the 2016 race for president, because we know first hand how important a robust primary debate of our progressive values is to New Hampshire voters," said Democratic New Hampshire state Rep. Renny Cushing in a statement.

The letter was organized by the Run Warren Run campaign, which is funded by liberal groups MoveOn.org and Democracy For America.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Greens want Clinton emails on Keystone (The Hill)

By Timothy Cama

March 18, 2015

The Hill

An environmental activist group is filing a request for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's private emails regarding the Keystone XL pipeline.

Following news that Clinton exclusively used a private email account during her tenure as secretary, Friends of the Earth said some of those communications might reveal important details about the State Department's consideration of Keystone.

The group had previously filed four requests with State under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), but never received any emails from Clinton.

"Obviously, we now know why," said Ben Schreiber, climate program director at Friends of the Earth.

"We are concerned that these records were not included as part of our prior FOIA requests surrounding the State Department's environmental review of Keystone XL," Schreiber said in a statement.

"Secretary Clinton's willful circumvention of this accountability mechanism goes against the spirit of transparent governance."

The records the group has received showed various conflicts of interest in State's process for determining whether Keystone would be in the country's national interest, Friends of the Earth said.

"It is clear that State Department staff had cozy relationships with lobbyists, the government of Canada and the contractors hired to conduct the supposedly independent review," Schreiber said.

Since Clinton's private emails were not part of State's email system, they were not included in FOIA responses.

Clinton has since agreed to send all of her business emails to State, where they will be filed for requests.

The Associated Press has filed its own FOIA lawsuit against State over the Clinton emails, citing multiple unfulfilled requests for her communications.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Clinton taps SC campaign head (WaPo)

By AP

March 18, 2015

Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton has chosen a former aide to Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina to lead her campaign in the South's first presidential primary.

Two Democrats familiar with the decision says Clay Middleton will serve as state director for Clinton's campaign in South Carolina. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal planning.

Middleton has worked as a special adviser in the Energy Department and previously served as an aide to Clyburn in South Carolina for eight years. He also worked on Obama's 2008 campaign in the state.

Middleton's selection was first reported by The Washington Post.

Clinton is expected to announce her presidential campaign in April and is building organizations in early voting states like Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

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Clinton wins primary — in Northern Virginia straw poll (WaPo)

By Rachel Weiner

March 18, 2015

Washington Post

Hillary Clinton scored a largely meaningless victory Tuesday night, coming out on top in a straw poll held by Northern Virginia Democrats at Rep. Gerry Connolly's annual St. Patrick's Day gathering.

But she failed to win a majority of the vote, a reminder that Virginia is one place where Clinton is not already dominating the 2016 race. The former secretary of state took 48 percent in the poll, followed by former Virginia senator Jim Webb with 15 percent, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren with 10 percent, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders with 7 percent, and Vice President Biden tied with former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley at 6 percent.

Warren was a write-in candidate, having asked not to be on the ballot.

While straw polls are not a reliable predictor, Connolly's yearly survey has had some resonance in the past. When Webb beat Harris Miller in the 2006 poll of the Democratic Senate primary, it was a surprise given Miller's strong support among that community of party activists. Webb went on to win the primary and the Senate seat.

Connolly's office said over 1,000 such party faithful showed up Tuesday for the event, along with about two dozen politicians ranging from Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam to members of the Fairfax County school board.

Northam joked that Gov. Terry McAuliffe, an Irish Catholic, could not attend because he had begun celebrating with his own in-office keg machine too early in the day.

In national (and scientific) polls, Clinton continues to hold an even more commanding lead, taking 62 percent of Democrats in a CNN poll released Wednesday. In that survey, O'Malley and Webb both get a mere 1 percent of the vote.

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Democrats: The GOP's 'war on women' is back (WaPo)

By Mike DeBonis

March 18, 2015

Washington Post

A Republican "war on women" has returned, Democratic senators and women's groups proclaimed Wednesday -- returning to a message that resonated for Democrats in 2012 but seemed to falter more recently.

The message, delivered by Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and others at a morning event at the Capitol, comes as the Senate continues to debate a bill that would stiffen penalties for the perpetrators of human trafficking and establish new resources for its victims. The bill is now stuck amid a heated debate over anti-abortion language embedded in the bill, and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has pledged not to hold a vote on attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch until the deadlock is resolved.

The combination of abortion politics and the stymied confirmation of the nation's second woman attorney general has Democrats gleefully re-embracing the narrative that helped keep the Senate in their hands back in 2012.

"It feels like every time we turn around and start making progress, whether it's on passing a budget a couple of years ago or whether it's today on trying to pass this trafficking bill, that women have to take a step backwards in order for the Republicans to accept us moving forward," Murray said. "I call that a war on women."

Terry O'Neill, president of the National Organization for Women, called the deadlock a "dramatic escalation of the Republican leadership's war on women."

After all but four Senate Democrats voted to filibuster the anti-trafficking bill over the abortion provision Tuesday, McConnell pledged to continue debate until the deadlock is broken -- thus pushing back the Lynch confirmation vote, perhaps until April. He invited two women senators, Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) and Shelly Moore Capito (R-W.V.), to an afternoon news conference to call on Democrats to move forward, noting that the abortion language in the anti-trafficking bill, which would restrict spending from a victims compensation fund, is identical to the long-standing Hyde Amendment that has been attached to appropriations measures since 1974 and has gotten Democratic support as recently as December.

As for Lynch, McConnell spokesman Don Stewart said Wednesday, "The only thing holding up that vote is the Democrats' filibuster of a bill that would help prevent kids from being sold into sex slavery. The sooner they allow the Senate to pass that bipartisan bill, the sooner the Senate can move to the Lynch nomination."

The women who gathered in the Capitol Wednesday were decidedly uninterested in explaining how the anti-trafficking bill managed to pass through the Judiciary Committee last month without a single Democratic senator objecting to the abortion provision, which had been embedded in the bill introduced by Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) since January, even if Republican staffers may not have alerted their Democratic colleagues to it.

They preferred to rail against McConnell and his new Republican majority.

"This egregious delay is all in the name of scoring political points by catering to the extreme right wing of the Republican party," Baldwin said. "We are not even three months into this new Congress, and the new majority has done nothing bur play partisan politics with some of our nation's most critical issues."

"Mitch McConnell needs to stop playing politics with women's health care and with women's advancement in this country," O'Neill added.

And, should there be any doubt that the "war on women" narrative, will play into the 2016 presidential race, consider these tweets from likely Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton:

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How to Be Misled by Polls, Hillary Clinton Email Edition (NYT)

By Brendan Nyhan

March 18, 2015

New York Times

Has the controversy over Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email account hurt her in the polls?

You might think so if you read a CNN article published Monday night, which reported that "unfavorable views of Hillary Clinton are on the rise" after disclosure of her use of the email account while serving as secretary of state. (The network's televised coverage of the poll made similar claims.)

This framing suggests that her standing with the public has declined considerably. In fact, the new poll actually seems to be good news for Mrs. Clinton, the Democratic presidential front-runner. CNN found that 53 percent of Americans have a favorable view of her, which is somewhat higher than in other recent polls, including those conducted before the controversy.

CNN's poll seemed to suggest a decline because the network ignored numerous polls conducted by other organizations in the intervening months and instead compared her current standing only with its most recent poll — an outlier from November showing Mrs. Clinton with a 59 percent favorable rating.

This approach is misleading for two reasons. First, CNN gives its own poll too much weight compared with polling averages, creating a perception of decline in Mrs. Clinton's ratings that could be a result of sampling error. (Polling averages are generally more accurate than any individual poll.)

It's even more problematic, however, to compare polls from November and March and attribute any changes that took place over a four-month period to the email controversy. In reality, this comparison cannot distinguish between the effects of the email controversy and the continuing decline in Mrs. Clinton's favorability ratings as she transitions back into what she was before her stint as secretary of state: an intensely polarizing political figure. (Similar problems plague McClatchy's comparison of Mrs. Clinton's standing in trial heats against possible Republican general election opponents with a previous poll in December.)

A broader look at Mrs. Clinton's ratings suggests that, as expected, her ratings have so far changed little even as views of the controversy have quickly polarized. As a matter of pure politics, this controversy is most important not for what it tells us about her standing with the public at large but with two other constituencies: Democratic Party elites, who remain overwhelmingly supportive, and members of the news media, who appear likely to continue their antagonistic relationship with Mrs. Clinton.

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Poll: Clinton tops GOP, Dem 2016 rivals (The Hill)

By Mark Hensch

March 18, 2015

The Hill

Hillary Clinton holds a strong lead over a slew of potential 2016 Democratic and Republican presidential rivals, according to a new poll released Wednesday.

The CNN/ORC poll reveals that most voters would pick the former secretary of State over five other likely Democratic candidates in head-to-head match-ups. Voters also prefer Clinton over seven potential Republican contenders in hypothetical races.

Clinton leads the pack of likely 2016 Democratic candidates with 62 percent support. Her nearest competitors are Vice President Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), each with 10 percent support.

Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders (Vt.), who is also weighing a bid, snagged 3 percent support. Former Gov. Martin O'Malley (Md.) and former Sen. Jim Webb (Va.) rounded out the field with 1 percent apiece.

Clinton's lead among Democrats grows notably if Warren is removed from the field. In that scenario, 67 percent of voters back Clinton, with Biden being her nearest rival with 16 percent.

Voters also favor Clinton in head-to-head contests with the GOP's likely 2016 candidates.

She beats former Gov. Jeb Bush (Fla.), her closest Republican competitor, 55 percent to 40 percent.

Clinton also tops Gov. Chris Christie (R-N.J.) 55 percent to 40 percent and Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) 55 percent to 42 percent.

Voters also prefer Clinton over former Gov. Mike Huckabee (Ark), 55percent 41 percent; over Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.), 54 percent to 43 percent; Gov. Scott Walker (Wis.) by 55 percent to 40 percent; and over retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson 56 percent to 40 percent.

The poll shows that Clinton is still in a commanding position despite the controversy over her use of a private email account and server while serving as secretary of State. Fifty-three percent of voters viewed Clinton favorably, while 44 percent viewed her unfavorably.

Clinton addressed the controversy, revealing that she had deleted messages but insisting all relevant emails had been shared with the State Department.

But Republicans are vowing to investigate the matter. Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) on Tuesday called on Clinton to give a "neutral third party" access to the email server. Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), chairman of the House panel investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, said Sunday the House could vote to subpoena Clinton's emails.

CNN/ORC interviewed 1,009 via telephone for the poll form March 13-15. It has 3-percentage-point margin of error.

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Poll: Hillary Clinton still tops in 2016 (CNN)

By Jennifer Agiesta

March 18, 2015

CNN

Washington (CNN) Hillary Clinton continues to be a dominant force heading into the 2016 presidential election, according to a new CNN/ORC poll. The former secretary of state maintains a broad lead over the field of potential Democratic challengers she could face in a nomination contest and sizable advantages over the leading contenders from the Republican side in general election match-ups.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush tops the possible field for the Republican Party's nomination race, followed by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former neurosurgeon Ben Carson all in a tight cluster.

But none of the top candidates in this field gets within 10 points of Hillary Clinton in a series of hypothetical general election matchups.

Rand Paul comes closest, with 43% saying they'd be more likely to back him while 54% choose Clinton. The two candidates who currently top the GOP field, Bush and Walker, match up equally against Clinton, with each carrying 40% to her 55%. Huckabee gets 41% to Clinton's 55% and Carson has 40% to Clinton's 56%.

In the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, Clinton holds a nearly 50-point lead over Vice President Joe Biden, her closest competitor in the field, 62% to 15%. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren rounds out the top three on the Democratic side with 10%. No other potential candidate tops 5%.

Should Warren decide not to get into the race, Clinton stands to benefit more than others, gaining 5 points and holding a 67% to 16% advantage over Biden when Warren's backers are re-allocated to their second-choice candidate. Notably, with Warren out of the race, Clinton surges from 67% support to 74% among Democratic women.

And Democrats broadly believe the party's chances to hold the White House in 2016 are strongest with Clinton; 68% say so, while 30% say the party would have a better shot with someone else leading the ticket.

Though Clinton's favorability rating has taken a hit recently, her prospects in 2016 appear largely unchanged compared to polls conducted before news broke about her use of a personal email address and home-based server while serving as secretary of state.

On the Republican side, Bush leads the pack with 16%, Walker follows at 13%, Paul nearly matches him at 12% and Huckabee holds 10% support. Huckabee's backing has dipped significantly since February, from 16% to 10%, while the others near the top have generally held steady. In single digits, Carson holds 9%, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has 7%, and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has 7%. The rest of the field lands below 5%, including 2012 candidates Rick Santorum at 1% and Rick Perry at 4%.

Some interesting demographic trends emerge in the GOP numbers: There is something of a gender gap in preferences, with both Walker (17% among men, 9% among women) and Paul (16% among men, 7% among women) doing significantly better with men than women. Younger Republicans are more likely to back Paul than older ones (he has 17% support among Republicans under 50, just 7% among older Republicans).

Bush's backing generally holds steady across demographic divides, but he fares better among self-identified Republicans (22%) than independents who lean toward the party (10%), while Paul outperforms among independents (17% compared with 7% among self-identified Republicans).

Yet many of the GOP's strongest contenders remain largely unknown. Majorities of Americans haven't yet formed opinions about Scott Walker (58%) or Ben Carson (64%), and about half haven't heard of or don't know about Marco Rubio (48%).

Even the best known Republican contender, Jeb Bush, prompts nearly a quarter of Americans to say they're not sure how they feel about him (23%). Republicans themselves have heard a bit more about their party's top potential candidates, but only one merits a majority favorable rating among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents: Mike Huckabee at 57% favorable.

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The CNN/ORC International poll was conducted by telephone March 13-15 and included interviews with 1,009 adult Americans. For results among the full sample, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results among the 450 Republicans or Republican-leaning independents, or among the 466 Democrats or Democratic-leaning independents, it is 4.5 points.

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Archives wants explanation for Hillary Clinton email practices (Politico)

By Josh Gerstein

March 18, 2015

Politico

The National Archives has formally asked the State Department to explain how Hillary Clinton's emails as secretary of state ended up on her private email server rather than a government system.

In a letter sent earlier this month and obtained Wednesday by POLITICO, National Archives and Records Administration official Paul Wester asked State to report on whether federal records had been "alienated" and what steps the agency is taking to address the situation.

"NARA is concerned that Federal records may have been alienated from the Department of State's official recordkeeping systems," Wester wrote to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Margaret Grafeld. "If federal records have been alienated, please describe all measures the Department has taken, or expects to take, to retrieve the alienated records. Please also include a description of all safeguards established to prevent records alienation incidents from happening in the future."

The letter from Wester, who serves as the chief records officer for the U.S. government, was sent the day after The New York Times published an article revealing Clinton's exclusive use of a personal email account while she was secretary of state. The letter cites that story and "other news reports" as triggering concerns at the Archives about the matter.

Wester's letter implies, but does not state outright, that State had not previously reported Clinton's use of the personal email system as a loss or removal of government records under federal law.

The Archives official gave State 30 days to respond to his letter, which also referred to "potential issues" with emails sent or received by prior secretaries of state dating back to Madeleine Albright.

In a statement earlier this month, the Archives said it had inquired with State about the issue, but did not refer to an official request.

"We have reached out to the State Department to ensure that all federal records are properly identified and managed in accordance with the Federal Records Act and that controls and procedures are in place to manage records effectively in the future," an Archive spokeswoman said.

A State Department spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Archives' letter.

Clinton has said she violated no law or regulation by using a personal email account. State Department spokespeople have made similar claims and have noted that former Secretary of State Colin Powell also regularly used a private email account.

In December, Clinton provided about 30,000 emails from her private account to her former agency at its request. She said last week she discarded about 32,000 other messages her lawyers deemed personal and private in nature.

Clinton said she believed most of the work-related messages were "preserved" in State Department systems at the time because they came from or were sent to officials using "state.gov" accounts.

However, the State Department disclosed Friday that it had not routinely archived official email accounts until recently. Archiving of current Secretary of State John Kerry's account began in 2013, soon after he was sworn in, and automated saving of emails for other senior officials began just last month, State spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

Psaki also provided a new explanation Wednesday for why Clinton and some of her predecessors apparently did not complete a standard State Department "separation statement" certifying that they had returned all of their official records to the agency.

"Secretaries of state often do not sign this form as it is a step to revoking their own security clearance," the State spokeswoman said. "There's a long tradition of secretaries of state making themselves available to future secretaries and presidents and secretaries are typically allowed to maintain their security clearance and access to their own records for use in writing their memoirs and the like. Hence, this is not a form that many would have signed."

Clinton critics had seized on the separation form, insisting that if she signed it when she left the agency in 2013, she lied since she had work-related emails in her personal account. If she didn't sign it, she was improperly exempted from department policies, prominent Republicans charged.

However, State officials have suggested that the exit procedures for secretaries have long been different from those for lower-ranking employees.

Psaki said she could not say Wednesday whether the exemption from the usual exit process was limited to departing secretaries or included other senior officials.

"I think this is specific to a certain category of individual. I don't have any more characterization of it than what I've offered," the spokeswoman said.

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Hillary Clinton dominates in new 2016 presidential poll (Chicago-Sun Times)

By Chad Merda

March 18, 2015

Chicago Sun-Times

Not even an email controversy can keep Hillary Clinton down, based on a new CNN/ORC poll.

The poll shows not only does she maintain a stranglehold on the Democratic nomination in the 2016 presidential race, but she also has a double-digit lead against her closest GOP contender in a head-to-head matchup.

It also backs up a poll from Pew Research Center showing few people, especially Democrats, care about the Clinton email scandal.

In a crowded GOP field, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is the preferred choice for 16 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, followed by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (13 percent). Twelve percent want Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

Of the Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, 62 percent give their nod to Clinton for their party's nomination. Vice President Joe Biden is a distant second at 15 percent.

And what happens if Bush faces off against Clinton for the White House? She'd win, in a landslide.

Fifty-five percent of those polled opted for Clinton, compared to 40 percent for Bush. And while Clinton has a double-digit lead against all potential GOP challengers, Bush doesn't give her the tightest battle, even though he's the early favorite among Republicans.

That honor goes to Paul, with Clinton getting 54 percent of the vote, compared to Paul's 43 percent in a head-to-head matchup.

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I Sorted Hillary Clinton's Email (NY Magazine)

By Michael Wolraich

March 18, 2015

New York Magazine

When Hillary Clinton released emails from her personal account last week, many assumed that her attorneys had personally reviewed the messages before sending them to the State Department, but that's not what happened. As detailed in her press statement, the review team used keyword searches to automatically filter over 60,000 messages, flagging about half as work related.

"I have absolute confidence that everything that could be in any way connected to work is now in the possession of the State Department," Clinton declared.

I'm afraid that I don't share her confidence, and I speak from experience. Twenty years ago, I used the same method to sort the Clinton administration's email communications, including those of First Lady Hillary Clinton. It failed miserably.

Email did not exist when Congress established the Freedom of Information Act in 1967, and government officials did not originally consider electronic communications to be public records that they had to preserve and disseminate. On the last day of Ronald Reagan's presidency, a group of organizations representing archivists and libraries sued the White House to prevent the administration from deleting email relating to the Iran-Contra scandal. A temporary injunction was issued, and the case wound its way through the courts until 1993, when a federal judge ordered President Bill Clinton to preserve all electronic communication under the Freedom of Information Act.

In 1994, I was 22 years old, fresh out of college and working as a computer programmer for a company called Information Management Consultants. IMC was one of many three-letter-acronym corporations that ring Washington's famous beltway and feed off government contracts. I dressed in a gray J.C. Penney suit and programmed three-letter-acronym computer languages (SQL, 4GL) for three-letter-acronym federal agencies (IRS, OPM, DOI, OMB, DOD). It was dull work, made duller by my company's decision to block employee access to the "World Wide Web" so that we would not be distracted from our work.

One day a colleague invited me to join a mysterious new project for the Executive Office of the President (EOP). The White House had hired IMC to archive its email after the court ordered it to preserve electronic records. Few people had multiple email accounts back then and many federal employees used their work accounts for personal communication, so we had to figure out some way to distinguish work email from personal correspondence.

Those were heady days for a young government IT contractor. We had a special office in Arlington, Virginia, where we were could dress casually while pursuing important, groundbreaking work for the President of the United States! We lounged around the conference table in our khakis and scrawled deep thoughts on the big whiteboard. Mostly, we wrote words: president, federal, treasury, treaty, China, Serbia, ambassador, military, classified, and so on. These were the keywords with which we hoped to flag all the work-related messages, or at least the vast majority. We included the names of federal officials, common misspellings, and, of course, numerous three-letter acronyms. Since I had a philosophy degree, the team leader asked me to design logic to make the search smarter, e.g., "white AND house."

To test our algorithm, the administration gave us a batch of sample messages. They included official business, such as a debate about a public scandal in which an official traveled by federal helicopter to play golf, and less official business, such as a private love note between two staff members. We ran our algorithm and crossed our fingers.

The results were abysmal. Even after significant tweaking, I don't recall achieving more than a 70 percent success rate, which is particularly poor when you consider that random sorting would yield 50 percent if the distribution were even. IMC ultimately scrapped our troubled sorting project in favor of a feature that allowed users to manually flag messages that should not be archived.

Our problem was that natural language — the way people ordinarily speak and write — is notoriously difficult to parse. To make sense of natural language, it's not sufficient to recognize the words; you also need to understand grammar, appreciate nuance, interpret metaphors, grasp allusions, infer from context, and even have a sense of humor. Right now, only humans can do that reliably.

Machine learning has made great strides in the past few years. With enough training, an advanced natural-language processor would be able to sort Hillary Clinton's emails much more effectively than the simple keyword approach that my colleagues and I devised. But Clinton's press statement offers no indication that her team employed such technology. On the contrary, her account of the process sounds remarkably like the name and keyword filters that we tried in the 1990s:

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To help identify any potential non-".gov "correspondence that should be included, a search of first and last names of more than 100 State Department and other US government officials was performed … Next, to account for non-obvious or non-recognizable email addresses or misspellings or other idiosyncrasies, the emails were sorted and reviewed both by sender and recipient. Lastly, a number of terms were specifically searched for, including: "Benghazi" and "Libya."

It's possible that Clinton's team used more advanced techniques than described in the statement. Or perhaps her team included technical wizards who designed a flawless keyword search. If so, she should release technical documentation of the search algorithm, the test procedure, and the test results — assuming they tested it. Without that information, we have no basis for sharing Hillary Clinton's "absolute confidence" that the State Department has received all her work-related email communication.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

This is the best news Hillary Clinton has had in weeks (WaPo)

By Chris Cilliza

March 18, 2015

Washington Post

It's been a rough few weeks for Hillary Clinton. E-mails, private servers and poor press conference performances led to a slew of stories about whether the former Secretary of State was really ready for the presidential race to come. But, a ray of light broke through those clouds -- bad metaphor alert! -- this morning when CNN released new poll numbers on Clinton and the 2016 presidential race.

Those numbers contained nothing but good news for Clinton.

Let's start with the primary matchup. Yes, Clinton led Vice President Joe Biden by 47 points and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren by 52 points. But, as important as those massive leads was the fact that Clinton's edge over Biden, Warren and, well, everyone else in the party hasn't taken much of a hit despite her run of bad press. Here's the trend line:

Yes, you math majors will note that Clinton's lead has shrunk since, say November 2014 when she led Warren by 55 points. But the rate of that shrinkage is very small. Biden has grown in support, marginally, while Warren has stayed between 9 and ten percent. The steadiness of the numbers, particularly in light of just how much negative attention Clinton has drawn during the time when this poll was in the field (March 13-15) suggests that Democratic voters are resolved that she is going to be the nominee -- no matter what. Clinton is their choice and external developments don't seem -- at least not yet -- to be leading people to jump off her bandwagon.

The general election numbers are equally rosy for Clinton. Her slimmest lead over a Republican is 11 points over Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul. She leads former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, the two men considered the party's most likely nominees, by 15 points. She has a 13 point edge over Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

And, horserace aside, there's considerable agreement among partisans that Clinton is, by far, the Democrats' best hope of holding the White House in 2016. Nearly seven in 10 (68 percent) said Democrats were better off with Clinton as their 2016 nominee while just 30 percent said they'd be better with someone else.

Now, Clinton's numbers are not what they once were. And, as the Republican primary and the subsequent general election engage, the general election match-ups between Clinton and the GOP candidates will narrow. It's simply not possible for a presidential nominee in this polarized climate to win by double digits -- much less 15 points.

Still, for a Clinton team that has taken a load of incoming over the past fortnight, the CNN numbers have to buoy them. The CNN data point suggests that minds -- especially on the Democratic side -- are made up for Clinton and that nothing will change that fact. That's something that any of the two dozen (or so) Republicans running or thinking about running for president in 2016 would kill for right about now.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Hillary Clinton Starts Tweeting Up a Political Storm, But Supporters Want More (Bloomberg)
By Jennifer Epstein
March 18, 2015
Bloomberg

Hillary Clinton is testing the waters on Twitter, increasingly turning to the social networking site to inject herself into the daily political conversation as she prepares to launch her all-but-certain presidential campaign in the coming weeks.

It's an easy way to distract—at least briefly—from the lingering questions about her reliance on a personal e-mail account during her time as secretary of state, and to test out her message with supporters, opponents and the media.

At the same time, it's an easily controlled medium where she can limit herself to a few words and have a big impact.

Her latest shots came Tuesday night, as she offered a critique on the House GOP budget unveiled earlier in the day, which proposes $5.5 trillion in cuts over the next decade and would repeal the Affordable Care Act.

"Budgets reflect our priorities. They should help families get ahead, educate our kids, and spark small business growth," she said in her first tweet of the night.

In another message, she added: "Our nation's future—jobs & economic growth—depends on investments made today. The GOP budget fails Americans on these principles."

In two subsequent tweets, she criticized Republicans' proposals to cut Pell Grants and to kill the health care law.

While they're by no means earth-shattering comments coming from a Democrat with clear presidential aspirations, Clinton's tweets are a means of signaling that she's engaged in the politics of the moment, even as she stays out of the early states and limits her interactions with the media. They're also a quick and clean way for her to go after some of the many Republicans who have been going after her.

"It's good that she and her team are beginning to engage more," said Jim Manley, the former top communications adviser to Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid. "But a couple of tweets does not make a policy agenda and is far from active engagement with the media."

But, he said, it's a logical medium for Clinton to turn to as she operates with a small full-time communications team with only one on-the-record spokesman.

Clinton has a bigger bullhorn on Twitter than any of her potential rivals, Democratic or Republican. She has just short of 3 million followers, while Vice President Joe Biden has 753,000 followers on his political account and the Republicans with the largest followings—Kentucky Senator Rand Paul and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie—barely break the half-million mark.

And it's her only social media platform for getting her message out there. There's no official Hillary Clinton Facebook page or Instagram account, at least not yet. (And, if she were to start Snapchatting or Meerkatting, that would itself be part of the story, about her expanding her presence ahead of her likely campaign.)

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill declined to comment on his boss' tweeting habits. At this point, he said in statement shared with several media outlets over the past day or so, Clinton "hasn't made a decision about running" and "is currently 'testing the waters,'" as the Federal Election Commission calls it.

As she tests the waters, she's also testing messages on Twitter.

On Monday, she lamented congressional Republicans' "trifecta against women"—including blocking a vote on attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch by insisting that a human trafficking bill include anti-abortion provisions.

While Clinton's Twitter presence has intensified as her likely campaign launch nears, she's occasionally before used the social media service in the same way.

After New Jersey Governor Chris Christie voiced some skepticism about vaccines in early February, she tweeted: "The science is clear: The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork. Let's protect all our kids. #GrandmothersKnowBest."

Not surprisingly, Republicans aren't impressed.

"With each partisan attack, Hillary Clinton is making clear she intends to run a divisive and negative campaign so that she can give President Obama's failed agenda a third term," Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short said.

Clinton also used Twitter earlier this month in an effort to push back on the questioning of her decision to use a private e-mail account and server while at the State Department, setting up an inconvenient juxtaposition with her iconic avatar photo, which shows her sitting on a military plane, sunglasses on and BlackBerry in hand.

Clinton's few public appearances in recent weeks have been carefully stage-managed and not particularly political. The one exception was her United Nations press conference last week, where she prefaced her defense of her e-mail practices with an attack on the 47 Senate Republicans who signed a letter to Iran aiming to undermine the Obama administration's nuclear talks.

Clinton spoke to an Irish-American group on Monday and will on Thursday travel to Atlantic City for what's expected to be her final paid speech before launching her campaign, to the American Camp Association of New York and New Jersey.

More tweets will be on the way, too, though Democrats hope she'll branch out beyond communicating 140-characters at a time.

"Folks are looking for a lot more than a handful of tweets," Manley said.

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Signs Hillary Clinton Is Amending Her Media Strategy (Wall Street Journal)
By Peter Nicholas
March 18, 2015
Wall Street Journal

Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential bid could rise or fall on one lingering question: Did she learn anything from her failed 2008 run?

The shortcomings back then were easy to spot. Aides quarreled among themselves in a campaign that lacked internal discipline. Staff complained they couldn't corral Bill Clinton as he sought to win the South Carolina Democratic primary for his wife. Mrs. Clinton fastened onto the wrong message, emphasizing her "strength" and "experience" at a moment when voters dearly wanted change.
Then there was her dyspeptic press operation.

Some of these problems may be tough to prevent. Mrs. Clinton's new campaign is shaping up to be a hybrid of longtime Clinton and Obama political operatives. Tensions are inevitable. But Mrs. Clinton seems to want some sort of rapprochement with the press.

Three of the people she has recently tapped for key spots in her media operation suggest as much. All have strong ties to the press corps; none is known for a combative approach to the media.

Assuming she runs – and who are we kidding; she's running — Mrs. Clinton would have as one of her lead press aides Jesse Ferguson, a 34-year-old veteran of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Heading her communications team would be Jennifer Palmieri, who has held a comparable spot in the White House since 2011. Ms. Palmieri maintained good relations with the White House press throughout her stint in the Obama administration, which never seemed to have much use for the press corps. (Ms. Palmieri's deputy is likely to be Kristina Schake, who handled communications for first lady Michelle Obama. Ms. Schake's appointment is a curious choice. Mrs. Obama has taken on an apolitical role in her six-year tenure, focusing on comparatively noncontroversial issues such as nutrition and fitness. Her favorability ratings have been high. Mrs. Clinton, by contrast, is all about deeply partisan matters of policy and politics. So, is Ms. Schake on board to help sand off Mrs. Clintons' sharp edges? That's unclear).

Perhaps the most important press person in Mrs. Clinton's shop would be Brian Fallon, a veteran of New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer's media team who enjoys the respect of the press corps. Mr. Fallon is poised to be Mrs. Clintons' primary press secretary.

Also expected to be part of the mix is Nick Merrill, who was largely a one-man band over the past couple of years as Mrs. Clinton dealt with questions about her paid speeches, email practices and fundraising. Through it all, Mr. Merrill kept his good humor – no small feat in such a high-pressured environment.

Unclear is the role that will be played by longtime Clinton confidante Philippe Reines, whose relations with the press have been tempestuous over the years.

Ultimately, the boss is the one who sets the tone. If Mrs. Clinton concludes she's the victim of a voracious press corps and unscrupulous Republicans, it may not matter who she taps for top roles in her press shop. A siege mentality might prevail, as has happened in the past.

But the early appointments are encouraging. Perhaps Mrs. Clinton is signaling she wants to turn the page.

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Clinton team picks Justice spokesman Brian Fallon as lead press secretary (Washington Post)
By Anne Gearan; Philip Rucker
March 18, 2015
Washington Post

Hillary Rodham Clinton's press shop is taking shape, with word Tuesday that longtime Democratic spokesman Brian Fallon will be the lead press secretary for the yet-to-be-announced campaign.

Fallon, currently the top spokesman for the Justice Department, told his staff Tuesday morning that he will leave at the end of the month.

Fallon's name has been circulating for weeks as a likely addition to the Clinton team, and two senior Democrats familiar with the campaign plan said Tuesday that he will hold the top spokesman's job.

Fallon is expected to begin work at the campaign in April. Clinton is expected to announce an exploratory committee early that month, followed by a formal start to daily campaigning later in the spring.

Fallon was formerly the top spokesman for Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and was considered one of the most skilled Democratic communicators on Capitol Hill. "Brian Fallon is one of the smartest and most talented people who has ever worked for me and will serve Hillary Clinton extremely well," Schumer said in a statement.

Generally well-regarded by reporters, Fallon joins an emerging Clinton press team known for good relations with the press. That stands in contrast to the sometimes toxic relations that developed between the 2008 Clinton campaign and reporters covering her.

Longtime Democratic strategist Jennifer Palmieri is leaving her post as White House communications director to hold the same title for Clinton. Her last day at the White House is March 20.

Former Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee communications director Jesse Ferguson will handle day-to-day press duties at the campaign headquarters in New York, the Democratic sources said. Both requested anonymity because Clinton has not yet announced her campaign or formally hired staff.

Ferguson has been traveling between Washington and New York to hire junior press team members, including for regional press desks and deployment to Iowa and New Hampshire.

Also in the Clinton press lineup will be Josh Schwerin, who was spokesman for the DCCC during the 2014 midterm elections. Current Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill is expected to remain in a prominent role. All bring established relationships with reporters.

Attorney General Eric Holder hired Fallon in 2013. He is married to White House legislative director Katie Beirne Fallon.

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Hillary Clinton's Campaign Team Takes Shape (ABC News)
By Jonathan Karl and Liz Kreutz
March 17, 2015
ABC News

Hillary Clinton has not yet officially announced her presidential campaign, but the wheels are ready to be swiftly in motion when she does. Over the past few months, Clinton's been steadily building out a team of advisers, strategists and staffers for her likely campaign, with most of the top spots already filled.

A major focus over the past few weeks has been to build up Clinton's communication team. The handling of the email controversy served as a signal to many in her inner-circle that a more robust communications team was much needed –and fast.

In the coming weeks the following people will be in place to manage communications for her campaign, sources familiar with the moves tell ABC News.

Jennifer Palmieri, the current director of communications at the White House, will take on the top role as communications Director. Palmieri's last day at the White House is Friday. She starts working for the Clinton team on Monday.

Kristina Schake will serve as the deputy communications director. Schake was formerly Michelle Obama's communications director. She has already started advising Clinton.

Brian Fallon will be Clinton's press secretary, with deputy Jesse Ferguson. Fallon is the current spokesperson for Attorney General Eric Holder. Ferguson goes to the Clinton team from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee where he was spokesperson.

Clinton's current spokesman Nick Merrill will remain on the Clinton team as a spokesman.

In addition, John Podesta, a longtime counselor to Obama, and Robby Mook, a top Democratic operative, have already been brought on board Team Clinton in senior roles: Podesta as campaign chairman and Mook as campaign manager. Former Obama operatives, Joel Benenson and Jim Margolis, have also been advising Clinton: Benenson as chief pollster and Margolis as media strategist.

The Clinton campaign, when it comes, will be based in Brooklyn, N.Y. And the official announcement is expected in April.

Despite all this, Clinton's spokesman, Nick Merrill, still insists Clinton has not yet made a decision about running.

"She is currently 'testing the waters' as the Federal Elections Commission calls it," Merrill said in a statement to ABC News. "Like anyone considering running for office, she has the support of many individuals who have agreed to volunteer their time to help her make this decision."

According to campaign finance experts, presumptive candidates are allowed to take in donations during the "testing the waters" phase. Clinton's spokesman would not comment on whether Clinton has started to do that yet.

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Clinton taps SC campaign head (Associated Press)
By Ken Thomas
March 18, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton has chosen a former aide to Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina to lead her campaign in the South's first presidential primary.

Two Democrats familiar with the decision says Clay Middleton will serve as state director for Clinton's campaign in South Carolina. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal planning.

Middleton has worked as a special adviser in the Energy Department and previously served as an aide to Clyburn in South Carolina for eight years. He also worked on Obama's 2008 campaign in the state.

Middleton's selection was first reported by The Washington Post.

Clinton is expected to announce her presidential campaign in April and is building organizations in early voting states like Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

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Has Hillary Really Helped the World's Women? (Politico)
By Valerie Hudson and Patricia Leidl
March 17, 2015
Politico

Many leaders have had doctrines named after them—from the Monroe Doctrine to the Truman Doctrine to the Bush Doctrine—but so far there's only that can be ascribed to a woman: the Hillary Doctrine. As Hillary Clinton herself defined it, "the subjugation of women [is] a threat to the common security of our world and to the national security of our country."

But for proponents of this doctrine, perhaps no irony was crueler than seeing its namesake, then Secretary of State Clinton, smiling broadly in her trademark pantsuit as she walked the red carpet from her plane in Riyadh with the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, in 2010. The moment brought to mind an incongruity no less extreme than if Frederick Douglass had been appointed ambassador to the Confederacy and found himself sipping tea and making small talk with Nathan Bedford Forrest. For, in Saudi Arabia, the subordination of women is as peculiar and pernicious an institution as was slavery in the antebellum South.

It wasn't the last time Hillary Clinton was accused of brushing aside her own self-declared commitment to women's rights, ostensibly in the name of the national interest. Most recently, as she prepares to launch her all-but-declared presidential campaign, reports have emerged concerning large donations to her family's foundation from countries including Algeria, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and, of course, Saudi Arabia—a rogues' gallery of governments with poor records on women's issues. How could Clinton—she of "women's rights are human rights" fame, who by all indications will soon try again to break the "highest, hardest glass ceiling" of the White House—still be so cozy with a regime so at odds with one of her core, lifelong causes?

On the one hand, the doctrine that Clinton made a central part of her time at Foggy Bottom was revolutionary; never before had the cause of women been elevated to a priority of American foreign policy and labeled a key national security concern. But talking the talk is not the same as walking the walk, and as Clinton prepares for a presidential candidacy in which she will likely tout both her tenure at State and her potentially history-making role as America's first woman president, it is only natural to examine whether the "Hillary Doctrine" really worked. Last week, amid the furor over her email server, Clinton was marking 20 years since her own groundbreaking 1995 speech in Beijing on women's rights. But the anniversary also raised an important question: Two decades later, are the world's women better off for Clinton's efforts on their behalf—or were those efforts mostly for show?

Perhaps no other country offers a better test case than Saudi Arabia, a regime that openly denies women so many rights and yet appears to be chummy with both Clinton and her foundation. Asked last week specifically about Saudi Arabia's donations to the Clinton Foundation, the former secretary of state, fresh off a speech about women's rights at the United Nations and the release of a 50-page report on the status of women and girls in the world, responded, "There can't be any mistake about my passion concerning women's rights here at home and around the world. So I think that people who want to support the foundation know full well what it is we stand for and what we're working on."

Should we take Clinton at face value?

Some context is worth considering first: Saudi Arabia ranks 145th of 158 countries in the U.N. Development Program's Gender Inequality Index, making it among the worst countries in which to be born female, despite its considerable oil wealth. Child marriage is not uncommon because there is no legal minimum age to wed. For the bride, consent isn't even required, and indeed, a woman (or girl) need not even be present for her own marriage, as long as her male guardian and her groom agree.

In the past few years, however, women in Saudi Arabia have made modest gains. In 2011, Saudi women finally gained the right to vote and to run in municipal elections (though not until this year). Today, 20 percent of the King's Consultative Council (Majlis as-Shura) is made up of women. In 2012, women were permitted to work as sales clerks in lingerie and cosmetics shops for the first time, and in October 2013, four Saudi women were licensed to become lawyers—a first in the history of the kingdom. Overall, the number of women in the workforce has increased nine-fold in the past five years, to 17.7 percent, compared to 74.1 percent of males.

Mobility is still one of the most vexing problems facing Saudi women. The government forbids them to drive (apparently in deference to their ovaries, which must not be harmed). The mutaween (religious police) enforce a strict dress code that stipulates that women be covered top to bottom in the stifling black abaya and accompanied by a male guardian (mahram) every time they stir outside the home. Women cannot wander about by themselves, ride a bike (unless in a park, in full abaya and with a male guardian present) or go on a picnic. They cannot travel outside the country nor marry a man of their choosing without the permission of the ubiquitous male guardian.

The watchful eyes of male relatives and the dreaded mutaween circumscribe women's every movement—so much so that in a 2009 cable to U.S. diplomats, Wajeha al-Huwaider—a Saudi women's rights activist who recently challenged the ban on female drivers—was quoted as calling the country as "the world's largest women's prison."

It wasn't always this way. Before extremist clerics, calling themselves the Ikhwan, or the Brotherhood, took control of the Grand Mosque at Mecca in 1979, women enjoyed a modest measure of autonomy. As one Saudi woman expressed it in Qanta Ahmed's 2008 In the Land of Invisible Women, "I used to be free in Riyadh, walking around [with my hair uncovered]. … Can you believe … I used to walk alone in Riyadh: no man, no maid, just relaxed like in Paris? ."

Many argue that it was only after the Saudi military ended up laying siege to one of Islam's holiest sites in order to oust the recalcitrant fanatics, resulting in three hundred deaths and hundreds of injuries during two tense weeks, that the status of Saudi women changed dramatically. The crisis convinced the monarchy that it needed the fundamentalist Wahhabi clergy more than ever to control the population and to subvert insurgency by playing to the most atavistic elements in Saudi society. Unfortunately, the price for appeasement was the increased subordination of women.

During this same time, the Saudis also embarked on an ambitious program of exporting their most extreme Wahhabi adherents through missionary work. In Yemen, Egypt and Libya and throughout the Middle East, North and West Africa, and Central and South Asia, increasingly virulent forms of Islam are severely curtailing the rights of women and, by extension, further destabilizing already fragile states. Lamentably, Islamic regions that previously espoused less draconian views about the role of women are turning toward the Saudi-inspired misogyny. As Kyrgyz academic Tcholpon Akhmatalieva asserted in an interview with us, the outward flow of Saudi money has not only produced "a mosque on every block" in Uzbekistan and south Kyrgyzstan, but "now even little schoolgirls are forced to wear the hijab, which had never ever happened in [our] history before. The [Saudi] missionaries tell the patriarchs that all their women must veil now."

All this means that those who argue that our national interests in Saudi Arabia are much more important than how women are treated there are suffering from a severe case of short-sightedness. The export of political volatility and violence—and misogyny—throughout the international system is not in the interests of the United States of America. Hillary Clinton herself said it best, declaring in a 2013 speech: "The next time you hear someone say that the fate of women and girls is not a core national security issue, it's not one of those hard issues that really smart people deal with, remind them: The extremists

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understand the stakes of this struggle. They know that when women are liberated, so are entire societies. We must understand this too. And not only understand it, but act on it."

Why, then, was Clinton not more outspoken against the Saudi regime while she was secretary of state? And why, to this day, does her family's foundation accept money from a government know to contradict her stated beliefs on women's rights? Certainly she was not ignorant of the facts: In a 2009 Wikileaks document, top officials at the U.S. State Department proclaimed bluntly to its embassies in the region, "It has been an ongoing challenge to persuade Saudi officials to treat terrorist financing emanating from Saudi Arabia as a strategic priority. … Donors in Saudi Arabia constitute the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide." Clinton knew then and knows now that the national interests of the United States and Saudi Arabia do not dovetail, whether on the issue of terrorist financing or on that of women's rights.

Critics have been scathing in their appraisal of Clinton's silence concerning Saudi Arabia's treatment of women. For example, Rothna Begum at Human Rights Watch, told us, "Saudi Arabia is incredibly obstructive to women's rights in their own kingdom, and that resonates around the world. The U.S. is a key ally of Saudi Arabia and that means the administration has said very little about its human rights record including women's rights." During the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, Begum says there was "a real double standard," as the United States was "very critical of the human rights records of some countries, but remained singularly silent about Saudi Arabia and its crackdown on human rights and its mistreatment of women." The activist group Saudi Women for Driving was also unhappy with Clinton's lack of public support for their cause, declaring in a 2011 statement: "For the United States' top diplomat to make no public statement about such developments sends exactly the wrong message to the Saudi government and, more importantly, to the women of Saudi Arabia."

One possible interpretation of Clinton's loud silence is that the Hillary Doctrine is in fact merely a rhetorical stance on the part of U.S. foreign policy makers, including, apparently, Clinton herself—a position that may be jettisoned if its tenets would undermine "real" American national interests in any particular case. Asked about the seeming incongruity in the Saudi case in 2011, Clinton attempted to explain her position in greater detail: "We will continue in private and in public to urge all governments to address issues of discrimination and to ensure that women have the equal opportunity to fulfill their own God-given potential. But I want to, again, underscore and emphasize that this is not about the United States. It's not about what any of us on the outside say. It is about the women themselves and their right to raise their concerns with their own government."

The idea that Hillary Clinton simply doesn't sincerely believe in her own doctrine just doesn't tally with her rhetorical and substantive support for women and women's rights across decades of public service. After all, this is the secretary of state who elevated the Office of Global Women's Issues to the seventh floor of the State Department with a special "ambassador at large," who mandated gender training for all new foreign-service officers and under whom USAID programming for women mushroomed. This is the secretary of state who traveled the world advocating for the use of cookstoves to improve women's health and oversaw the creation of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. There's very little, if any, personal political payoff for Clinton from these far-flung and outward-reaching initiatives; indeed, she was criticized for her attention to what some considered a "small-bore" issue.

Perhaps Clinton believes that pressing foreign leaders on their treatment of women should be left to private conversations undertaken at the highest level of diplomacy—to which the U.S. public is not privy. Perhaps she believes the Saudi monarchy is making steady progress for women—advances that would be imperiled by causing the House of Saud to lose face by through public chastisement. Before his death earlier this year, Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud was seen by some as a "reformer" (though it is unclear whether the new king, Salman, will follow in his elder brother's footsteps; some Saudi women fear the best they can hope for is no erosion of what Abdullah gave to them when he was alive).

It is surely a delicate balancing act for a figure like Clinton to encourage women activists while simultaneously offering a hand up—versus a slap down—for regimes that are progressing on women's rights but whose pace of progress is very slow due to concerns over internal stability. As Rania Ibrahim, dean of students at the all-female Effat University in Saudi Arabia, told the Chronicle of Higher Education, "Upsetting the norms the community is used to—it's a recipe for failure." It's probably also a formula for increasing agitation among anti-regime foes—enemies that have shown themselves even less favorably disposed to women than the monarchy.

Clinton might also calculate that regimes respond best to internal rather than external pressure, and there is a serious risk that high-profile foreign support for local groups will endanger the lives of activists. In a 2013 interview with us, former head of the Office of Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer noted, "There's a whole history of U.S.-supported groups being thrown out, controversies being created, etc. And I said, 'We don't want to—in our effort to support you—to cause you greater problems,' and that's when we discussed things like using multilateral organizations under the aegis of the U.N., for example, to bring support targeted to women [in] ways that wouldn't come back and provide those who were impeding their progress [with] additional ammunition."

There is one more interpretation of Clinton's silence that must also be considered: Perhaps Clinton wants the Saudi monarchy to fall. After all, from what research tells us about the link between the treatment of women and the fate of nations, the Saudis will never know peace or stability. Perhaps they deserve, as do all nations, to reap what they have sown regarding women.

It must be noted, though, that such a view ignores the consequences for women: Given the widespread nature of the Wahhabi belief system within the country, the fall of the Saudi monarchy would absolutely not result in an improved situation for women. On the contrary, what little gains Saudi women have made most certainly would be lost, as evidenced by the trajectory of the Islamic State-controlled Sunni "caliphate," and indeed, the Arab world more generally. Far from hearkening in a brave new era of human rights, dignity and greater enfranchisement, the uprisings of more than three years ago have yielded not a single Arab country that has become a better place for women (though we are crossing our fingers for Tunisia).

Indeed, women in many of these "newly democratized" nations—most notably Iraq—might with ample justification yearn for a return to the autocracies of yore, so stunning has been the regress for women. While long-term autocratic rule might have no impact on the subordinate status of women (think Equatorial Guinea), in other cases, such autocrats prove to be the only force powerful enough to improve the status of women. Saudi Arabia "is on a trajectory of modernization," James Smith, a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told Foreign Affairs last year, pointing to "an emerging critical mass of daughters—on campuses and in jobs—who will make a difference." Perhaps the Saudis should be given time, then, for Smith also noted, "The king issues decrees only when he can count on the agreement of two-thirds of the population."

Ryan Crocker, former U.S. ambassador to numerous Middle Eastern countries, is more skeptical. "We're not going to change [the Saudis]," he told us in an interview. "Besides, who would be their successors? 'You don't like us? Well, après moi, le deluge.' And we are seeing how right that is [in Syria, Egypt, etc.]." Can it be believed that those who have the will and are gaining the capability to overthrow the House of Saud would appoint women to the highest Shura? Or build the largest, best-funded women's university in the world? Or allow schoolgirls to play sports? These are questions worth pondering.

But before jumping on the autocracy-is-better-for-women bandwagon, those who seek to implement the Hillary Doctrine must contemplate one last troubling fact. Long-term autocracy is fertile ground for the growth of highly toxic, male-bonded nationalist opposition groups that would imperil every advance granted to women by the autocrat—as witnessed by the new Islamic State "caliphate." Indeed, such groups would explicitly target precisely those advances as their first order of business when in power. The Saudis have played midwife to the birth of groups that will one day prove to be their destruction—and these same groups will almost certainly bond over an intensified subjugation of women. Remember, for all its comparative progressivism vis-à-vis the clerics, it was the Saudi royal family that embraced the misogynistic Wahhabi viper in the first place.

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The case of Saudi Arabia, then, provides an important lesson about the tradeoffs involved with public advocacy of women's rights in the international arena—for Hillary Clinton, her successors at State and whomever the next president is. Too much public advocacy breeds defensiveness and even backlash among those one is trying to influence; too little public advocacy—too much silence—suggests to the world that these issues are not important after all and leads to despair among those one is trying to empower.

Clinton is silent apparently because she does not want the Saudi kingdom to stall or reverse ongoing, if slow-moving, progress for Saudi women. That in many ways is a justified stance, especially since the royals' fall would be a catastrophe for Saudi women. At the same time, the Saudis not only export terror; they also are spreading the message of misogyny wherever their money and influence go. Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Syria—Saudi preaching of misogyny is making the lives of women across the Sunni world much harder. Effectively implementing the Hillary Doctrine, then, involves morally fraught decisions and unavoidable paradoxes. In the case of Saudi women, Clinton has chosen a course that appears to be penny-foolish, but is surely pound-wise. The problem is that Saudi women are not the only women affected by this choice. If the Clinton Foundation accepts Saudi donations, let's hope they are used to offset that collateral damage.

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Hillary Clinton Has Turned Tweets Into News Events (National Journal)

By Matt Berman

March 17, 2015

National Journal

For most people, a couple of tweets knocking political opponents would not be news. But Clinton isn't most people, or most politicians even. And as she continues to map out a presidential campaign while rarely dipping into daily political or policy debates—or speaking with the media outside of last week's conference—her Twitter account has become a potent tool. The (presumably) carefully tailored, deliberate, short blasts have taken the place of news releases, and have been used for everything from spreading information about her personal initiatives to responding to controversy.

Judging by Twitter's metrics, the strategy is working. As The Washington Post recently reported, Clinton's account has far and away the most reach of likely 2016 presidential contenders. Between Jan. 25 and Feb. 21 of this year, the Post found, Clinton averaged 14,099 retweets per tweet. She had sent only three tweets in that time. Compare that to another potential presidential candidate, Ted Cruz, the owner of the second-best retweet per tweet average. The Texas senator sent out 52 tweets over that time period, averaging 260 retweets per tweet.

But the power of Twitter to spread a campaign platform only goes so far, and Clinton's Monday afternoon tweets coincided with some potentially troubling numbers. A new CNN/ORC poll found that while just 27 percent of Democrats think Clinton did something wrong by exclusively using personal email while at State, 53 percent of self-identifying independents feel that she did. Similar numbers in each group feel that Clinton has not yet done enough to explain her email decision. The poll, conducted from March 13 to March 15 with a margin of error of 3 percent, also found that Clinton's favorability has dropped by 6 percent since last November, with 44 percent of American adults now viewing her unfavorably, and 53 percent favorably.

Sticking to Twitter to dish out your message has clear benefits, and Clinton and her team have been uniquely able to make that work. But the time is almost definitely coming when Clinton will have to communicate to the public through more than the occasional tweet or quick, on-message speech. Soon, finally, we can stop trying to divine some kind of ultimate meaning from 140 characters.

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Hillary Clinton and Benjamin Netanyahu: It's 'complicated' (MSNBC)
By Alex Seitz-Wald
March 17, 2015
MSNBC

Israel's election Tuesday could have an outsize impact on U.S. politics, but for Hillary Clinton, it's difficult to know what outcome she might prefer.

The former secretary of state is close to announcing a second presidential run, which, if successful, would mean she'll have to work closely with whomever is prime minister come 2017.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared victory late Tuesday, but he still must form a coalition in order to continue leading the country. Clinton has known Netanyahu for years, through rises and falls in both of their careers, and negotiated high-stakes deals with him recently as secretary of state.

But while she speaks highly of him, it's not in the warmest of tones. "I've known Bibi a long time and I have a very good relationship with him, in part because we can yell at each other, and we do," she told CNN last year, using to a nickname for the prime minister. "And I was often the designated yeller."

In her 2014 memoir "Hard Choices," in which Clinton tends to portray others in the most flattering light possible, her description of Netanyahu as a "complicated figure" is decidedly more muted.

She had, by contrast a "close friendship" with Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli prime minister who was assassinated by a radical right-wing Israeli during Bill Clinton's first term in the White House.

After a short stint by Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres, Netanyahu took over the prime ministership in 1996 and served for most of the remainder of Clinton's term. Netanyahu "believes [he] lost him the prime ministership" in 1999, as Hillary Clinton said last year in an interview, because he signed a peace deal struck with Bill Clinton that included giving land to the Palestinians.

In 1998, Netanyahu and his wife took the Clintons to visit the Masada, a mountainous fort and one of the country's major landmarks, just days before Clinton would be impeached back in Washington.

More recently, Israel's 2009 election was one of Clinton's first tests as secretary of state. The Kadima Party and it's leader, Tzipi Livni, actually won more seats, but failed to form a government, and Netanyahu was able to retake his old job.

In her book, Clinton wrote that she called Livni to suggest she join a coalition government with Netanyahu's Likud party, which Clinton thought might have a better chance of striking a peace deal with the Palestinians than a government by Netanyahu. But Livni declined to share power with Netanyahu.

This year, longtime Clinton message guru Paul Begala went to Israel to help Netanyahu's rival, and several strategists who worked for Barack Obama and could potentially join a Clinton campaign – led by field organizer Jeremy Bird – are working with a nonprofit that opposes Netanyahu. Clinton's longtime pollster, Stan Greenberg, has worked for the opposition Labor Party in the past as well.

Netanyahu has grown increasingly conservative in the lead-up to Tuesday's tight election, saying this week that there will be no Palestinian state if he wins.

In a field in Iowa last summer, Bill Clinton gave perhaps his most candid thoughts on Netanyahu when a C-SPAN microphone caught him agreeing that Netanyahu is "not the guy" to bring peace to the region.

An American neoconservative group backing Netanyahu ran a commercial last month attacking Clinton for not speaking out against Democratic lawmakers' plans to boycott Netanyahu's recent speech to Congress. "Does she support the boycotters? Or is she too afraid to stand up to them?" the ad asked.

Clinton did not meet with Netanyahu while he was in town, though they were both in Washington on the same day.

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Poll: Hillary Clinton still tops in 2016 (CNN)
By Jennifer Agiesta
March 18, 2015
CNN

Hillary Clinton continues to be a dominant force heading into the 2016 presidential election, according to a new CNN/ORC poll. The former secretary of state maintains a broad lead over the field of potential Democratic challengers she could face in a nomination contest and sizable advantages over the leading contenders from the Republican side in general election match-ups.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush tops the possible field for the Republican Party's nomination race, followed by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former neurosurgeon Ben Carson all in a tight cluster.

But none of the top candidates in this field gets within 10 points of Hillary Clinton in a series of hypothetical general election matchups.

Rand Paul comes closest, with 43% saying they'd be more likely to back him while 54% choose Clinton.

The two candidates who currently top the GOP field, Bush and Walker, match up equally against Clinton, with each carrying 40% to her 55%. Huckabee gets 41% to Clinton's 55% and Carson has 40% to Clinton's 56%.

In the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, Clinton holds a nearly 50-point lead over Vice President Joe Biden, her closest competitor in the field, 62% to 15%. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren rounds out the top three on the Democratic side with 10%. No other potential candidate tops 5%.

Should Warren decide not to get into the race, Clinton stands to benefit more than others, gaining 5 points and holding a 67% to 16% advantage over Biden when Warren's backers are re-allocated to their second-choice candidate. Notably, with Warren out of the race, Clinton surges from 67% support to 74% among Democratic women.

And Democrats broadly believe the party's chances to hold the White House in 2016 are strongest with Clinton; 68% say so, while 30% say the party would have a better shot with someone else leading the ticket.

Though Clinton's favorability rating has taken a hit recently, her prospects in 2016 appear largely unchanged compared to polls conducted before news broke about her use of a personal email address and home-based server while serving as secretary of state.

On the Republican side, Bush leads the pack with 16%, Walker follows at 13%, Paul nearly matches him at 12% and Huckabee holds 10% support. Huckabee's backing has dipped significantly since February, from 16% to 10%, while the others near the top have generally held steady. In single digits, Carson holds 9%, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has 7%, and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has 7%. The rest of the field lands below 5%, including 2012 candidates Rick Santorum at 1% and Rick Perry at 4%.

Some interesting demographic trends emerge in the GOP numbers: There is something of a gender gap in preferences, with both Walker (17% among men, 9% among women) and Paul (16% among men, 7% among women) doing significantly better with men than women. Younger Republicans are more likely to back Paul than older ones (he has 17% support among Republicans under 50, just 7% among older Republicans).

Bush's backing generally holds steady across demographic divides, but he fares better among self-identified Republicans (22%) than independents who lean toward the party (10%), while Paul outperforms among independents (17% compared with 7% among self-identified Republicans).

Yet many of the GOP's strongest contenders remain largely unknown. Majorities of Americans haven't yet formed opinions about Scott Walker (58%) or Ben Carson (64%), and about half haven't heard of or don't know about Marco Rubio (48%).

Even the best known Republican contender, Jeb Bush, prompts nearly a quarter of Americans to say they're not sure how they feel about him (23%). Republicans themselves have heard a bit more about their party's top potential candidates, but only one merits a majority favorable rating among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents: Mike Huckabee at 57% favorable.

The CNN/ORC International poll was conducted by telephone March 13-15 and included interviews with 1,009 adult Americans. For results among the full sample, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results among the 450 Republicans or Republican-leaning independents, or among the 466 Democrats or Democratic-leaning independents, it is 4.5 points.

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How to Be Misled by Polls, Hillary Clinton Email Edition (The New York Times)
By Brendan Nyhan
March 18, 2015
The New York Times

Has the controversy over Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email account hurt her in the polls?

You might think so if you read a CNN article published Monday night, which reported that "unfavorable views of Hillary Clinton are on the rise" after disclosure of her use of the email account while serving as secretary of state. (The network's televised coverage of the poll made similar claims.)

This framing suggests that her standing with the public has declined considerably. In fact, the new poll actually seems to be good news for Mrs. Clinton, the Democratic presidential front-runner. CNN found that 53 percent of Americans have a favorable view of her, which is somewhat higher than in other recent polls, including those conducted before the controversy.

CNN's poll seemed to suggest a decline because the network ignored numerous polls conducted by other organizations in the intervening months and instead compared her current standing only with its most recent poll — an outlier from November showing Mrs. Clinton with a 59 percent favorable rating.

This approach is misleading for two reasons. First, CNN gives its own poll too much weight compared with polling averages, creating a perception of decline in Mrs. Clinton's ratings that could be a result of sampling error. (Polling averages are generally more accurate than any individual poll.)

It's even more problematic, however, to compare polls from November and March and attribute any changes that took place over a four-month period to the email controversy. In reality, this comparison cannot distinguish between the effects of the email controversy and the continuing decline in Mrs. Clinton's favorability ratings as she transitions back into what she was before her stint as secretary of state: an intensely polarizing political figure. (Similar problems plague McClatchy's comparison of Mrs. Clinton's standing in trial heats against possible Republican general election opponents with a previous poll in December.)

A broader look at Mrs. Clinton's ratings suggests that, as expected, her ratings have so far changed little even as views of the controversy have quickly polarized. As a matter of pure politics, this controversy is most important not for what it tells us about her standing with the public at large but with two other constituencies: Democratic Party elites, who remain overwhelmingly supportive, and members of the news media, who appear likely to continue their antagonistic relationship with Mrs. Clinton.

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A major LGBT group just gave Hillary Clinton her first big endorsement (Fusion)
By Brett LoGiurato
March 18, 2015
Fusion

LGBT is "ready for Hillary."

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's likely presidential campaign has gotten a big boost before it's even official, as a prominent LGBT group on Monday endorsed Clinton for president.

The group, Equality California, said it has determined that even though she has not entered the race, she would be the best candidate for LGBT issues.

"Although she has yet to formally announce her candidacy, we unequivocally believe that she is not only the most qualified candidate, but also the best candidate to advance LGBT rights," said Rick Zbur, the executive director of Equality California. "With this unequivocal support of her presidential bid, Equality California decided to take the unusual step to extend an early endorsement of Sec. Clinton to urge her to enter the presidential race."

Zbur said the group will begin a petition drive encouraging Clinton to run for president. If, as expected, she announces her candidacy, the group will look for ways to work with the campaign to mobilize support. Equality California is the second-largest LGBT organization in the country, boasting more than 800,000 grassroots members.

A Clinton spokesperson didn't respond to a request for comment. But the endorsement is a welcome sign at a time when she is facing fresh controversy ahead of an expected run — and will likely soon attempt to rally the Democratic base around her candidacy.

Clinton has been popular with the LGBT community, mostly because of her work in the State Department. But like many Democrats before her, including President Barack Obama, Clinton has been analyzed as too slowly "evolving" on many LGBT issues, and as putting political considerations above her held beliefs.

Clinton made LGBT issues a priority during her time at the State Department, something Equality California noted in its endorsement. At the United Nations in 2011, she declared that "gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights."

"She's really the strongest candidate on LGBT issues that we've ever had running," said Zbur, who noted her support of both marriage equality and full and comprehensive civil rights for the LGBT community. "That's the foundation. And beyond that, she just has a history of real accomplishment that is unparalleled for almost any candidate running for office."

Some Democrats, however, have wondered why it took Hillary Clinton so long to come around on LGBT rights, pointing to the policies of the administration of her husband, President Bill Clinton, and the fact that she did not officially come out in support of gay marriage until 2013.

As president, Bill Clinton signed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" — which barred open gays and lesbians from serving in the military — and the Defense of Marriage Act, which prevented the federal government from recognizing gay marriages. She came out in support of gay marriage in 2013, weeks after Bill Clinton wrote an op-ed in The Washington Post urging the Supreme Court to strike down the law he signed as president.

Hillary Clinton became combative when reliving those policies last year in an interview with NPR's Terry Gross. She took umbrage to the suggestion that political expediency was somehow involved in any of her decision making.

"I think that, as I said, just as the president has said, you know, just because you're a politician, doesn't mean you're not a thinking human being," Clinton said.

"And you gather information. You think through positions. You're not 100 percent set — thank goodness — you're constantly reevaluating where you stand. That was true for me. We talked earlier about Iraq, for goodness sakes. So, for me, marriage had always been a matter left to the states."

Asked whether she supported gay marriage while she was the nation's first lady, Clinton said only, "I'm an American. I think we have all evolved."

But Equality California pointed to Clinton's work at the State Department and even as a senator. It provided a two-page fact sheet listing her advocacy for the LGBT community. She co-sponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the group noted. She voted to add sexual orientation to the list of hate crimes. And she voted twice — in 2004 and 2006 — against a constitutional ban on gay marriage.

Zbur said that it's important to view the first Clinton administration within the context of the political environment at the time. He was working at an environmental law firm, and he said he was the only openly gay member of the firm.

"I think what he did in terms of bringing the LGBT community into his political coalition was really unique and courageous at the time," Zbur said. "I think a lot of what he did and his leadership allowed many of us to begin coming out in the early 90s."

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Clinton controversy deja vu; Does Hillary Clinton love to hate the media so much that she can't avoid scandal? (The Washington Post)
By Kathleen Parker
March 18, 2015
The Washington Post

Amid all the verbiage about Hillary Clinton's e-mail, one irrefutable fact emerges: Polls will drive us crazy before the Clintons do.

The latest CNN/ORC poll shows that a majority of Americans (51 percent) think the e-mail controversy is "serious," yet 57 percent would be "proud" to have Clinton as president. So what are we to conclude?

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Another apt quote springs to mind: "Follow me around. I don't care," said the 1988 Democratic presidential front-runner Gary Hart to then-New York Times reporter E.J. Dionne Jr. "I'm serious. If anybody wants to put a tail on me, go ahead."

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This was the beginning of the end of privacy for candidates and the laissez-faire attitude that the media historically had toward public figures' personal lives. For the record, Hart's taunt wasn't really what led to his exposure. The Miami Herald had already been stalking Hart before publication of Dionne's article, but the legendary quotes justified the Herald's foray into sensation and, perhaps, assuaged editors' guilt over going tabloid.

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Clinton, by using her personal e-mail account for business and then failing to turn over her records to the State Department long after she left office — and shortly after the House Select Committee on Benghazi asked for more e-mails than had been provided previously — may as well have said, "Catch me if you can."

Is Clinton hiding gold on her private server? Is there scandal lurking in those deleted e-mails? Why didn't she simply follow the protocol?

We are forced by her reticence, her avoidance, her skimpy responses — her unforced error — to assume that there must be something she doesn't want the world to know. But what?

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Even though the foundation largely stopped taking money from foreign governments while Hillary was secretary of state, donations were still accepted from individuals and companies. One was a $2 million pledge from Chinese billionaire-philanthropist Wang Wenliang, a delegate to China's parliament and owner of Rilin Enterprises, a construction conglomerate that has lobbied Congress and the State Department.

We may not see a viral video of Wang using Lincoln's bed as a trampoline should the Clintons reclaim the White House. But there can be little doubt that when individuals and institutions give money to the foundation, their motives aren't strictly altruistic. They're, of course, currying favor with an influential former president and quite possibly a future one.

The rub for anyone who had hoped for more from Hillary-the-Inevitable is that none of this would have happened had she simply used the government-issued phone (or server) for state business and used her personal account for everything else. No scandal, no media scramble, no congressional probes. The foundation and her personal life would have been off-limits. Case closed.

Instead, the media and Hillary are locked once again into a folie à deux (shared madness). It's a familiar template, which, though we pretend to loathe the reiteration, lends its own strange comfort. You almost wonder whether Hillary Clinton, ever the victim, couldn't resist placing herself in troubled waters yet again.

Hating the media — perhaps Clinton's fatal flaw — is the love affair she just can't quit.

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Democrats in key states ask: Where is Hillary? (The Washington Post)
By Philip Rucker
March 18, 2015
The Washington Post

In Iowa, Democrats want to see Hillary Rodham Clinton mingling in their neighborhood coffee shops, answering their questions and sharing laughs. In New Hampshire, they expect her on their living-room couches, listening to their tales of struggle. In South Carolina, they're eager to hold hands with her and pray together.

And in each of the early presidential primary and caucus states, Democratic activists are asking the same question: Where is Hillary?

As Clinton slow-walks her way into the 2016 presidential race, many of the Democratic front-runner's most active supporters are concerned that she's not yet doing the kind of face-to-face politicking that is well underway by a cast of a dozen or more likely Republican candidates.

Clinton's absence has stoked unease among her impatient supporters, who also worry about her reputation as someone uncomfortable with the nitty-gritty of retail campaigning.

"They're anxious because so many Republican candidates are coming here, they're flowing in, and it's like a parade on the other side," said New Hampshire state Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, a top Clinton backer in 2008. "Obviously she's going to run. They're hoping she's going to be here so they can actually see her and engage with her and reinvigorate the campaign."

While Election Day in November 2016 feels a long way off for most Americans, the caucuses and primaries begin in just 10 months. Voters in the states that hold them first have grown accustomed to their unique and personal access to the candidates. Democrats are fearful that without any serious primary opponent, Clinton may instead focus her energy on raising money and preparing for the general election.

Clinton's team is trying to reassure supporters by signaling that she will prioritize early-state visits and is committed to personal outreach.

For now, Clinton is not a candidate; she insists publicly that she has not made a decision about whether to run. But ahead of her expected campaign launch in April, Clinton has been on a hiring spree, assembling large political staffs in the four early-voting states — while also coping with controversies over her e-mail practices and over foreign donations to her family's foundation.

People familiar with her plans say she will not make the same errors as in her 2008 campaign, when she came across in Iowa in particular as aloof and presumptuous.

"Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill.

Clinton intends to invest considerable time on the ground in the early states and will give primary voters and caucus participants direct and personal access to her, said the people familiar with her plans, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss campaign strategy. As one of them described it, Clinton wants to show, and not just tell, voters who she is.

"If you've made the case with the American people that you're qualified and ready to be president, then your challenge is simply to give them an opportunity to know you and to develop a fondness to you," said Jerry Crawford, a Clinton friend and ally who chaired her 2008 Iowa campaign. "Our job as a campaign is to stay out of her way and let that contact be very direct between her and the people whose votes she's asking for."

Beyond the primaries

For Clinton, there is a benefit to campaigning hard in early-voting states, even with no primary opponent. Three of the first four states — Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada — are general-election battlegrounds, so any organizing and outreach she does in the early contests there could benefit her when she takes on the Republican nominee.

Clinton's campaign-manager-in-waiting, Robby Mook — who ran Sen. Jeanne Shaheen's 2008 campaign in New Hampshire — has been personally involved in preparing Clinton's early-state strategy. One of Mook's top deputies, Marlon Marshall, is focused on overseeing efforts in the four early states.

Together with Clinton's state campaign directors — Matt Paul in Iowa, Mike Vlacich in New Hampshire, Emmy Ruiz in Nevada and Clay Middleton in South Carolina — they are trying to build a data-driven strategy modeled after President Obama's successful 2008 and 2012 campaigns.

In Iowa, for instance, Paul is building a full-capacity staff of at least 40 people that sources said could grow to more than 100 by the caucuses. The team is likely to include aides overseeing field organizing in all regions of the state as well as communications, scheduling, surrogates, constituencies such as organized labor, event planning, data analytics, digital media and budget operations.

In addition, Ready for Hillary, an outside super PAC, has spent the past year and a half recruiting volunteers and holding house parties and other events to lay a foundation for Clinton's run in early-voting states.

No other Democrat is preparing a campaign on this scale. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, Sen. Bernard Sanders (Vt.) — an independent who caucuses with Democrats — and former senator James Webb (Va.) have made recent visits to the early states, but none has a robust political operation on the ground. Some organizers are trying to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) to enter the race, but she insists she is not running.

'People want to see you'

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South Carolina state Rep. Bakari Sellers, a prominent Obama supporter in 2008 who has taken on a leadership role with Ready for Hillary, said Clinton must run "a ground-up operation" in his state.

"People want to see you, people want to touch you, people want you to pray with them," Sellers said. "Those are things that have to be done. She doesn't have to live in South Carolina, but we expect her to run hard in South Carolina and be in position so that little girls can actually run up and say, 'Oh, my God, I met Hillary Clinton.' That is how the excitement builds."

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March 18, 2015
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Kathleen Parker
March 18, 2015
The Washington Post

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Read more from Kathleen Parker's archive, follow her on Twitter or find her on Facebook.

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No Record That Hillary Clinton Signed That She Had No Documents (The New York Times)
By Michael S. Schmidt
March 18, 2015
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The State Department said Tuesday that it had no record of Hillary Rodham Clinton, or the two secretaries of state before her, signing a form stating that they had no government records in their possession when they left office.

The form, known as a separation statement, requires employees leaving the State Department to attest that they have turned over all documents related to government business. Those who sign the form can be prosecuted under federal law if they have taken documents with them.

Mrs. Clinton has said she exclusively used a personal email account to conduct government business when she was secretary of state. In response to a request from the State Department in August — two years after she left office — she turned over 50,000 pages of emails that she said were government records from her time as secretary.

Starting last week, members of the news media began questioning the State Department about whether Mrs. Clinton had signed the separation statement, suggesting that such a move could land her in legal trouble given that she had retained possession of her emails.

But Jen Psaki, a spokeswoman for the State Department, said Tuesday that the department had "reviewed Secretary Clinton's official personnel file and administrative files and do not have any record of her signing" the separation statement.

"It's not clear that this form is used as part of a standard part of checkout across this whole of government, or even at the State Department," Ms. Psaki said.

The revelations about Mrs. Clinton and her private email account have brought scrutiny to the State Department and its policies regarding public records. The department has said it plans to provide additional details in the coming days about how often the form is signed.

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Republicans Raise Pressure Over Hillary Clinton's Emails (The New York Times)

By Alan Rappeport

March 17, 2015

The New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton might be hoping to turn the page on her email controversy, but Republicans are doing their best to keep the story in the spotlight.

The Republican National Committee said on Tuesday that it had filed two Freedom of Information Act requests to the State Department seeking more information about Mrs. Clinton's use of a private email account during her time as secretary of state.

The first request is intended to find out if Mrs. Clinton signed a "separation statement" when she left office. Signing the form is a requirement of State Department employees, who must declare that, when departing, they have turned over documents that are public records. The State Department has not said whether Mrs. Clinton fulfilled that requirement.

The committee is also seeking documents pertaining to the vetting and encryption that were used on Mrs. Clinton's BlackBerry and private server.

"We will exhaust all administrative options and will consider potential legal action if the State Department fails to comply with this request," said Reince Priebus, the committee's chairman.

Meanwhile, House Republicans are also watching the situation closely. Speaker John A. Boehner called for a "neutral third party" to examine Mrs. Clinton's email server and determine which emails were personal and which ones are public records.

"I think this is the fairest way to make sure we have all the documents that belong to the public, and ultimately all the facts," Mr. Boehner said at a news conference on Tuesday.

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Hillary Clinton's Email Scandal Will Leave a Scar (U.S. News and World Report)
By Cary Gibson
March 17, 2015
U.S. News and World Report

Hillary Clinton hasn't even formally started her campaign for president, but her candidacy has already been rocked by scandal. If you've watched the news at all lately, the recent dustup over Clinton's use of a personal e-mail account while serving as secretary of state has been hard to miss. The controversy caused the would-be candidate to hold a press conference last week to explain her actions, and pundits everywhere have been talking about the scandal's impact on her potential presidential run.

Despite the initial uproar, though, the scandal itself will likely fade into obscurity. However, that doesn't mean it won't have a lasting impact.

The immediate ramifications of the newest scandal have been playing themselves out. Speculation about the security of her e-mail correspondence and criticism for flaunting transparency rules led to Clinton's mea culpa press conference. Although it's not an ideal series of events, it looks as though the immediate impact will be minimal.

If Clinton had any formidable primary opponents, the damage could have been greater. Although there may be some other contenders for the nomination in the Democratic Party, none appear likely to mount a serious challenge at this point and none have come forward to capitalize on the former secretary of state's gaffe. For the moment, her nomination looks safe.

The scandal did give potential Republican nominee Jeb Bush a talking point, but also created scrutiny about his own use of a private e-mail account while governor of Florida. If there's any real short-term impact at all, it's the potential for the e-mail scandal to overshadow the Clinton campaign's official announcement. But even that will depend on the timing of the announcement, a factor which is largely within the Clinton operation's control. The longer the campaign can delay any official announcement, the more distance from this scandal it'll have.

The e-mail scandal is also unlikely to have a great effect on Clinton's candidacy in the long-term. It's still early in the election cycle, and most candidates have yet to declare. The Republican Party, the likely benefactors of such a scandal, may be distracted by an active primary season. If Clinton becomes her party's nominee, the e-mail scandal will be a distant memory by the time voters start focusing on the general election.

Further, Clinton's advocacy for the release of the e-mails in question is likely to reduce the staying power of the scandal. It's hard for accusations of secrecy to stick when the target is being transparent. The one thing that may cause the scandal to linger is the timing of the release of the e-mails. According to CNN, the State Department says the release of some of the e-mails could take "several months." If the content of the e-mails that are released is in any way inflammatory, the story could reignite when that information is made public.

But while the e-mail scandal itself may become a distant memory, there is some potential for it to leave a lasting scar. It serves as a reminder that any mistake made by the Clintons is magnified, and that after a lifetime in the public eye, there's still no shortage of mistakes to be revealed. That could result in a general wariness about another Clinton presidential run. In one sense, Clinton is a known quantity on the campaign trail – her entire life has been in the public eye, and it's hard to fathom that there's anything else about her that we don't know. But new scandals like this one create a sense of foreboding that maybe there could be more out there. And perhaps that's the real damage.

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U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew Dodges Clinton Email Questions (Reuters)

March 17, 2015

Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew on Tuesday would not say whether he knew that potential White House contender Hillary Clinton had sent him emails from a personal account while she was chief of the State Department.

“I don’t remember giving it a lot of thought at the time,” Lew said at a hearing of the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee, in response to a question from Representative Sean Duffy, a Wisconsin Republican.

Lew, who was a senior official at the State Department in 2009 and 2010, when Clinton was secretary of state, added: “It’s a long time ago.”

Lew said that he and Clinton ordinarily communicated by phone and in personal meetings but did occasionally exchange emails.

Tuesday’s hearing was largely focused on the state of the international financial system.

Clinton’s failure to use a government email address for official business has sparked a storm of criticism even as she lays the groundwork for an expected 2016 presidential bid.

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Expanding safety nets to save them; Economic Scene (The New York Times)
By Eduardo Porter
March 18, 2015
The New York Times

Few people played as critical a role in the construction of the American social safety net as Wilbur J. Cohen.

Mr. Cohen was among the founders of Social Security in 1935; a young aide on Franklin D. Roosevelt's Committee on Economic Security. Thirty years later, as an under secretary of health under President Lyndon B. Johnson, he was the chief architect of Medicare and Medicaid.

In 1973, Mr. Cohen sat down to a debate with the economist Milton Friedman, hero to the free-marketeers of the Chicago School of economics. Mr. Friedman wanted to privatize Social Security, and criticized the program for being regressive. The poor, he noted, paid taxes to cover their benefits. In fact, they worked longer and collected fewer benefits than the rich.

"You are right," conceded Mr. Cohen, the champion of the New Deal. "However, a program for poor people will be a poor program."

Here's what he meant: Only universal programs that served all Americans could achieve the broad political support needed to become embedded in society. Programs for the poor would be stigmatized as charity, underfunded and left to wither.

Looking back, Mr. Cohen's analysis looks spot on. Social Security and Medicare remain the most politically robust parts of the United States' social insurance apparatus — survivors of repeated attempts at privatization. Most everything else, from food stamps to child subsidies for the poor, is vulnerable.

Even Professor Friedman declared himself swayed by the argument. "Look at what has happened to public housing: It's a program designed for poor people — it's a poor program," he said in an interview years later. "Look at what happened to Aid to Families with Dependent Children: It was a program designed for poor people — it was a poor program."

Consider it this way. Bill Clinton, a Democratic president, gave us welfare reform — cutting the main program of assistance to the poor. After his Republican successor, George W. Bush, failed to privatize Social Security, he expanded prescription drug coverage to Medicare instead.

And yet today Mr. Cohen's maxim seems to have been relegated to the trash can of history. At best an irrelevant proposition. At worst an unfair one.

From the expansion of the food stamp program to the promise of universal preschool and free community college for all, every one of the Obama administration's initiatives have been carefully targeted at the needy. The Affordable Care Act, perhaps the largest expansion of the safety net since Medicaid, was tailored to benefit the near poor.

To finance some of the programs, the administration has turned to the rich. One of President Obama's biggest political victories was to raise the capital gains tax and increase the top tax rate on families earning more than $400,000.

And it's not just President Obama. "President Clinton did the same thing when he raised taxes in 1993," said Alan J. Auerbach, an expert on tax policy at the University of California, Berkeley. "The focus is to provide benefits for the poor and shift the burden to pay for them on the rich."

Perhaps this strategy suits the times. Universal programs are expensive and difficult to push through the objections of the Republican Party. It will get tougher as an aging population puts increasing strains on Social Security and Medicare, squeezing other priorities out of the budget.

There are appearances, too: Universal programs funded by broader taxes could appear fundamentally unfair in an era of rampant income inequality separating the very rich from the rest.

But the alternative also poses risks. Carefully targeted social insurance funded by progressive taxes is likely to be both stingy and politically weak. And even if some programs like the earned income tax credit can be hidden from view, as tax deductions rather than benefits, there is a point when such subterfuge may no longer work.

The Swedish sociologists Walter Korpi and Joakim Palme discussed it in their classic "The Paradox of Redistribution and Strategies of Equality."

"We can expect a trade-off between the degree of low-income targeting and the size of the redistributive budget," they wrote. "The greater the degree of low-income targeting, the smaller the redistributive budget."

Unsurprisingly, the United States has one of the most threadbare social insurance nets in the industrialized world. The question is, as we age and put more demands on Social Security and Medicare, will our dependence on narrowly focused, narrowly funded programs unravel what social insurance we have left?

In an essay published this year, Lane Kenworthy, a professor of sociology at the University of California, San Diego, evaluated the evidence across the world's industrialized nations as to whether universal programs were more effective at redistribution than targeted interventions.

As globalization put pressure on social policy across the world, he found, redistribution did not decline more in countries with targeted social programs than in those with universal systems of social insurance.

He points to research by Robert Greenstein, president of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which found that despite their supposed political weakness, targeted social welfare programs survived rather well through the Reagan administration.

Notably, whereas governments that offered universal public benefits did a better job at reducing income inequality in the 1980s and 1990s, by the 2000s the relationship had disappeared.

Still, Professor Kenworthy remains sympathetic to Mr. Cohen's maxim. "I still believe the fundamental logic of the argument that universalism has advantages," he told me.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the undeclared Democratic front-runner in the American presidential campaign, is apparently being pulled in opposing directions by a populist faction advocating aggressive redistribution and a more moderate wing arguing the merits of tackling inequity through education.

This is not the only way to frame Ms. Clinton's choices. The most critical goal of the next American government may be simply protecting the social insurance we have left.

In his new book, "We Are Better Than This," Edward D. Kleinbard, a law professor at the University of Southern California, suggests we might build a

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better, more effective government by raising top tax rates to where they were in the Clinton era and paring some personal tax deductions that benefit the better-off.

Politically, that would be momentous. And yet it would only raise federal tax revenues from roughly 20 to 22 percent of gross domestic product — still the smallest among advanced nations.

The incontrovertible fact, as research by Mr. Kenworthy and others has found, is that social insurance in the United States does a worse job at closing the income gap than in any of its peers across the industrial world. The way things are going, it could become worse.

As demands on Social Security and Medicare grow over time, there will be enormous pressure to cut benefits, mostly at the top. If Mr. Cohen was right, this will drain political support from the only universal programs we have left. They may become poor programs too.

The great irony, Professor Auerbach notes, is that "inequality is increasing yet our ability to do anything about it is weakening." The main job for any Democratic president might not be to bolster the nation's social insurance apparatus but simply to hold the line.

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Hillary Clinton Balked at Two Devices? Try Toting Four, Five, Six... (The Wall Street Journal)
By Elizabeth Williamson
March 17, 2015
The Wall Street Journal

When former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton last week said she conducted business on a single personal email account because it was "easier to carry just one device for my work and for my personal emails, " Richard Spencer was in Islamabad, wearing a backpack over his suit that contained two iPhones, an iPad Mini, and "a clever little black thing that gives you a mobile Wi-Fi hot spot." Also, his toothbrush.

"I'm scrupulous with keeping my work and personal emails separate," says Mr. Spencer, lead energy specialist for the World Bank, who lists six contact numbers at the bottom of every email. "But my backpack is jolly heavy."

Washington's political establishment is in a froth over the potential presidential candidate's reluctance to maintain two email accounts as Secretary of State, and what that says about her commitment to transparency. For legions of global device schleppers, toting just two devices would be a load off.

In the U.S., members of Congress use multiple phones to separate work, personal and campaign email accounts. In the rest of the world, where networks don't work or don't extend across borders, where officials use different phones for different countries or different people, or where governments sometimes listen in, officials routinely shoulder a cacophony of telephony.

In China, most officials use one phone for business, and others for "family, friends, lovers," says Fan He, a senior economist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, who has an iPhone, BlackBerry, iPad, MacBook and a Chinese-made hand-held called a Huawei Ascend Mate 7, though he doesn't use them all at one time. Government officials in China "are quite addicted to their mobiles," Mr. He says. Nonetheless, he adds, most people who want to reach them must call their assistants.

In February, Mrs. Clinton told the tech news website Re/code that she had a similar inventory of equipment. She owns an iPad, iPad Mini, iPhone and a BlackBerry, she said, because "I don't throw anything away. I'm like, two steps short of a hoarder."

"She faces the same wrenching dilemma that so many others do: the ease of typing on a BlackBerry vs. the style and fun of an iPhone," a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton said, adding, "So far the BlackBerry is winning." He didn't comment further on the email issue.

Jim Lewis, a former State Department arms control negotiator, traveled the world's trouble spots carrying a smartphone, iPad, iPod and a wireless router. When in China, he carried a phone that wasn't linked to his U.S. devices as a safeguard against government snooping (he says a colleague visiting Beijing discovered his phone had been probed seven times as he walked from the door of the airplane to the tarmac).

One night, unpacking his suitcase in yet another hotel room, Mr. Lewis hit the wall as he realized that "all this electronic junk I bring with me costs more than my clothes," he said. Now a senior fellow at Washington's Center for Strategic & International Studies, he has unburdened himself. "I've got one phone, I got rid of my laptop and I've got an iPad Mini," he says.

In the Middle East, government and local leaders often use "special purpose phones," Mr. Lewis says: separate devices, numbers and email addresses for work, for personal use, and for people and groups they want to keep separate from the others. The job of carrying all those devices goes to the assistant many Westerners call "the phone guy," an aide-de-camp who trails the entourage, his boss's phones ringing and pinging while hanging from his belt in holsters. "I always thought it was a status thing," Mr. Lewis adds.

In Nigeria, poor network service means "everyone who can afford it has a minimum of two mobile phones from different operators," journalist Sola Odunfa wrote in an essay for the BBC. "Some have as many as four. They use whichever is operational at any given time."

Mohua Mukherjee, another World Bank executive, says when she worked in Nigeria, senior government officials would carry a bag full of phones, and "at a lunch in a fancy restaurant they would take them all out and line them up on the tablecloth in case any of them rings."

Traveling the developing world for the bank, "I have SIM cards from 13 countries," she says, because it is impossible or too expensive for people in many nations that she needs to contact to call across borders.

Ms. Mukherjee, who lives in the U.S., is working temporarily in her native India, the third-largest smartphone market after China and the U.S., where sleek Indian-made devices--the more the better--are sought-after. She travels with an iPhone 6, an Indian-made MOTO E Android phone, a Kindle, laptop and an MP3 player.

But she also carries a 15-year-old Nokia, shaped like a candy bar, its hot pink cover shedding scraps of plastic like fingernail polish. It works on the local network and contains most of the numbers she needs, so she uses it to call Indian contacts, then hands the phone to a cabdriver so the person on the other end can give directions.

"Phones are such a status symbol in India that they don't want to be caught with this clunker," she laughs. "They hold it between their thumb and index finger and then they drop it 6 inches into my palm, take out their fancy phone and look at it lovingly...This happens every time, this silent dialogue between us."

Her battered vintage phone isn't out of character for the 50-year-old Ms. Mukherjee, "who looks like an auntie," in youthful India, she says.

What does look out of place is the rest of her arsenal. In the security line at the Delhi airport one recent day, Ms. Mukherjee, who was dressed traditionally and looked like a local, piled her latest-version phones, the computer, and the music player into a bin too small to accommodate it all. Jaws dropped at the stack of hardware, more typically carried by a Delhi trendsetter half her age. Young people smiled and nudged each other. A man pulled out his smartphone, and took a photograph.

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State Dept.: 'No record' of signed document from Hillary Clinton affirming records turned over (The Washington Times)
By Stephen Dinan and David Sherfinski
March 18, 2015
The Washington Times

The State Department said Tuesday that former Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton never signed the document affirming that she turned in all classified information when she left in 2013, as the legal jeopardy to the Obama administration continued to grow over her treatment of emails.

House Speaker John A. Boehner, the Ohio Republican overseeing several congressional investigations into Mrs. Clinton's emails, said an independent third party needs to take control of her email server in order to clear up remaining questions.

Judicial Watch went to court this week to ask for a hearing on whether the State Department broke the law in failing to search Mrs. Clinton's emails for records related to the administration's 2012 Benghazi talking points — part of a pattern that likely has spoiled dozens of open-records requests related to Mrs. Clinton's tenure.

"The way forward is for the secretary to turn over all of her emails that pertain to the public," Mr. Boehner said. "But some neutral third party is going to have to make some decision about what documents are, quote, 'personal' and which ones are public records. And thus far, she's been unwilling to do this."

Mrs. Clinton acknowledged this month that she did not use a State Department-issued email account to conduct her government business, but instead set up a server kept at her house in New York. Nearly two years after she left office, she turned over more than 30,000 emails to the State Department.

She said she believes she complied with the law and that she did not keep some 32,000 other emails she deemed private. She refused to turn over her server to a third party.

The White House, hoping to keep the issue at arm's length, has pushed questions about Mrs. Clinton's behavior to the State Department, which has in turn pushed reporters to ask Mrs. Clinton about her behavior.

After days of prodding, though, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki confirmed Tuesday that the department does not have any record of Mrs. Clinton's completion of a standard form, OF-109, certifying that she had turned over all classified information in her possession.

Ms. Psaki also said the State Department could not find the OF-109 forms for Mrs. Clinton's two predecessors under President George W. Bush: Colin L. Powell and Condoleezza Rice. Ms. Psaki said signing the form wasn't a legal requirement as much as a best practice.

She signaled that Mrs. Clinton and other secretaries are held to different standards than most other employees.

"There's a difference between also secretaries of state or former secretaries and staff at lower levels," she said.

Congress and the courts are likely to remain interested in Mrs. Clinton's emails for the foreseeable future, even as she finalizes plans to run for the White House.

Mr. Boehner said the special investigative committee looking into the Benghazi attack needs to see related emails, and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will continue to look at open-records laws and how they are working.

He said Mrs. Clinton's questionable email behavior would not have been spotted but for the Benghazi investigation. The committee requested communications about the 2012 terrorist attack on a diplomatic compound in Libya and discovered a deficit of emails from Mrs. Clinton — though committee members spotted several messages using an account that was not issued by the government.

The State Department then requested emails from all previous secretaries of state, and Mrs. Clinton turned over hers in December.

She has said she used a nongovernment account because it was more convenient but believed she was following the law because she generally tried to email others at their official accounts, thinking that would ensure the messages were retained as required by law.

Open-records advocates have poked holes her argument, saying requests seeking communications from Mrs. Clinton wouldn't necessarily include searches of lower-level employees' emails.

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said his group has 160 open-records requests that could have been at least partially spoiled by Mrs. Clinton's decision to keep her emails private.

He said the State Department for years has responded to requests for documents, including Mrs. Clinton's communications, by saying it has searched everything it has — but never mentioned that Mrs. Clinton's emails were not part of that.

Judicial Watch argued in federal court this week that the State Department has been misleading open-records advocates and federal courts by claiming it was performing searches for documents while knowing those searches didn't include Mrs. Clinton's emails.

"We're upset, and I think the courts ought to be upset, because they're wasting our time, they're wasting the court's time and they're defrauding us," Mr. Fitton said.

In a striking move last week, the State Department agreed with Judicial Watch on a request to reopen an open-records case that involved Mrs. Clinton's communications. Mr. Fitton said that amounted to an admission that the department realized it wasn't performing a valid search for her records.

The House Select Committee on Benghazi is giving Mrs. Clinton more time to comply with a subpoena sent this month for all of Mrs. Clinton's communications related to Libya.

The due date for the subpoena sent March 4 was originally March 13 but has been extended to March 27.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Trey Gowdy, South Carolina Republican, is investigating the circumstances surrounding the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attack on a U.S. compound in which four Americans were killed, including U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. Mrs. Clinton, the presumed front-runner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, was secretary of state at the time.

"Chairman Gowdy granted a reasonable extension because for him this is not about politics; it is about getting all relevant documents for the committee," said committee spokesman Jamal Ware. "He still believes the best option for Secretary Clinton is to turn over her server to a neutral arbiter to independently determine what should be in the public domain. The committee has no interest in her personal emails."

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In explaining her use of a private email system and server while serving in the Obama administration, Mrs. Clinton said March 10 that she turned over more than 30,000 emails she deemed work-related. The State Department is reviewing the emails to decide what can be released to the public.

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John Boehner to Hillary Clinton: Turn over server (Politico)

By Lauren French

March 17, 2015

Politico

Speaker John Boehner has joined a growing number of Republicans who are calling on Hillary Clinton to turn over her personal server to an independent arbitrator for investigation.

The Ohio Republican told reporters on Tuesday that the former secretary of state needs to give a "neutral third party" access to the server housed in her New York residence so Congress can gain access to a trove of emails from her tenure at the State Department.

"[I]t's very important for Secretary Clinton to turn over her personal servers to a neutral third party," Boehner said. "That's the fairest way to make sure that we have all the documents that belong to the public and, ultimately, all the facts."

Clinton has come under scrutiny since it was revealed that she used a personal email account while at the State Department and stored her communications on a server outside of the State Department. She has turned over the documents to State and asked it to make her official emails public.

But during a news conference last week, Clinton said she deleted thousands of personal emails before turning her communications over — an admission that has prompted Republicans to question if they will gain access to all the professional emails from her tenure at State.
Both the Oversight and Government Reform and Benghazi committees have said they will seek out those emails. The head of the Benghazi Committee, Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), has already issued a subpoena for the documents. Clinton has until March 27 to comply.

Boehner said the Benghazi probe will continue investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks and the Oversight panel, led by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), will investigate the server and Clinton's use of emails.

"The Benghazi Committee is the committee that found this personal email usage. The Benghazi Committee is focused on getting the facts on what happened with regard to Benghazi. The Government Reform Committee worked on the Federal Open Records Act and they will continue their work on that," Boehner said. "There is nothing, no changes that have been made about how we're approaching dealing with these documents."

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Leon Panetta's advice to Hillary Clinton: Get on with it (Dallas-Morning News)

By Mike Drago

March 17, 2015

Dalllas-Morning News

Part of our editorial board had 30 minutes on the phone today with former CIA Director Leon Panetta. He's headed to Dallas-Fort Worth this week for a pair of World Affairs Council appearances. (Get info on tickets here.)

Say what you want about Panetta's politics, but you have to admit he's a straight shooter with the relevant experience that makes him worth listening to. His memoir, released last fall, took some serious shots at his former boss, Barack Obama, and the president's foreign policy.

Panetta (also former defense secretary, Clinton White House chief of staff, director of OMB and California congressman) has worked in proximity to many of the most interesting political and geopolitical stories of the past 20 years, so there's plenty to ask him about.

With us, he assessed Washington gridlock and dysfunction ("In 50 years, I've never seen it as partisan and divided"), Republicans' letter to Iran ("What are we ultimately doing to this country?") and what keeps him up at night ("metastacized" terrorism and the threat of cyber-terrorism).

Then there was his analysis of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's latest flap — over her use of personal email accounts to manage government business.

Look for full Q&A excerpts in Wednesday's paper, but in short Panetta says can't exactly relate because he always made it a practice not to use email at all. He prefers phone calls, apparently: "a better way to do business."

As for Clinton's presidential aspirations, Panetta says she needs to get on with it. Otherwise, issues like emailgate are going to continue to divert the conversation:

"The longer it takes her to get into the discussion about what kind of future she wants for America, the more these bits and pieces that, obviously, reporters are going to grab onto, the more that's going to dominate the news."

Hear his full answer to the Clinton question at the link below, and check Wednesday's paper for the full report.

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Hold the alarmism on Hillary (Al Jazeera America)
By Jill Lawrence
March 18, 2015
Al Jazeera America

Hillary Clinton's graceless march toward a 2016 presidential campaign underscores a great paradox of her political standing at this juncture: She is a powerhouse contender with wide appeal, even as she inspires mistrust, investigations, negative press coverage and jitters among some Democrats.

The split between public opinion and what you might call political-class opinion is striking. Clinton has been the country's most admired woman for 19 of the last 22 years — a run interrupted only by Mother Teresa in 1995 and 1996 and Laura Bush in 2001. A Gallup poll in early March showed that 89 percent of Americans know enough about Clinton to have an opinion of her, and half of them viewed her favorably, compared with 39 percent who didn't. An even more recent CNN poll, conducted after her strained press conference about her exclusive use of a personal email address when she was secretary of state, has even better news for her: 57 percent said she's someone they would be proud to have as president.

It will be months before the full impact of Clinton's email troubles is apparent. She can expect to be called to testify more than once as congressional Republicans investigate the private email account, the fatal 2012 attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, and other aspects of her tenure. Republicans considering White House races are already using the new material on the campaign trail. But for Democrats trying to remain calm, there are several reasons to hold the alarmism.

Glass houses

For one, the GOP could attack too vigorously and trigger sympathy for Clinton. There's precedent: In November 1998, as the House prepared to impeach Bill Clinton in connection with the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal, Republicans managed to lose House seats in the sixth year of an opposing party's presidency — something that almost never happens. In December 1998, the month the House voted to impeach him, Bill Clinton notched a career-high 73 percent approval rating. He stayed in the enviable 60 percent vicinity for the rest of his presidency. Overreach regarding the Clinton family, in other words, is a known risk.

Furthermore, the email affair may yield less dramatic results than conservatives hope and expect. For now, it's certainly true that Hillary Clinton is taking heat over her private email server, her lack of an official State Department email account and her complete control over which emails she saved and which she deemed personal and appears to have deleted. In part that's because of the high level and delicate nature of her job. But some of the furor is rooted in generalized wariness about the Clintons. The email fiasco is another log on a fire fueled not just by old scandals and pseudo-scandals but also by current conflict-of-interest questions about foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation while and after she was secretary of state.

Yet Clinton is not the only presidential prospect to run afoul of evolving rules and laws on email. When he was the governor of Florida, Jeb Bush had a private server and controlled which emails were archived. The New York Times reported recently that thousands of his emails were not turned over to the state until last year, seven years after he left office. The Washington Post says he used his private account to discuss troop movements and nuclear protection after the 9/11 attacks. Emails and texts were central elements of investigations involving Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio used a private email account to correspond with reporters in 2008 when he was leader of the state House — and then, as The Wall Street Journal reported, deleted them.

Given all the glass-house implications, Eric Boehlert, a writer for the liberal watchdog group Media Matters for America, predicted that "zero" GOP hopefuls would be talking about email on the campaign trail. Howard Kurtz, a Fox News media analyst, wondered meanwhile about the relevance of the furor, asking on Twitter, "Has the Hillary email controversy become an important story or just a media obsession?"

Republican vulnerability

The other aspect of the landscape that could work in Clinton's favor is the relative lack of name recognition among the Republican hopefuls. Five of the 11 — Rubio, Walker, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and neurosurgeon Ben Carson — were familiar to fewer than half those polled. The best known were Bush and Christie, who polled in the 60s, followed by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Ted Cruz of Texas, all in the 50s.

The relative unfamiliarity of the prospective candidates, even those with the highest profiles, means they have room to grow more popular, but they also have the potential to turn some people off as they become better known. The rockiest part of the process has already started: a primary campaign season that will yield a valuable nomination. With no incumbent in the race and victory a real possibility after two terms of a Democratic president, expect to see a large, combative field trying mightily to impress a conservative electorate.

The results weren't pretty in 2012, when Republicans viewed President Barack Obama as vulnerable and the race as winnable. Eventual nominee Mitt Romney made right turns on issues such as gay rights, gun control and abortion, earning him a reputation as a flip-flopper. He sharpened his rhetoric on immigration and distanced himself from the Massachusetts health law he signed that became the template for "Obamacare." He also came under withering fire from fellow Republican Newt Gingrich and his allies, whose attacks on his business career foreshadowed those mounted later by Democrats.

Several 2016 prospects have already changed course and adopted more conservative positions in preparation for the primary electorate: Rubio and Walker on immigration, Jindal on the Common Core education standards and Paul on aid to Israel. The shifts may help these politicians navigate the primaries but are likely to increase their vulnerability later in the game.

Bush is the best-known among the GOP prospects, with 68 percent saying they are familiar with him. Of those, 35 percent viewed him favorably, 33 percent unfavorably. There are myriad reasons to wonder if he'll win the nomination, starting with his decision to continue his longtime support for Common Core and immigration reform that includes legal status for undocumented immigrants. Then there's his name and his age, 62. Walker is already drawing a contrast by talking about his humble roots as the small-town son of a pastor and his party's need to move beyond the past.

The race to come

If Bush and Clinton win their respective parties' nominations, that would immediately level the field on the past-versus-future argument, the dynasty issue and — to some extent — the pesky email question. Both would carry baggage, and neither would represent a fresh start.

Clinton's fate will rest in part on her campaign skills and platform — and to a degree on how many women feel strongly about electing a woman. The race will also turn on who is nominated to run against Clinton and what shape that person is in after what looks poised to be a brutal primary season. Clinton's rough start has, understandably, tempted some Democrats to break out the smelling salts. But with so many uncertainties ahead, it is far too soon for them to panic.

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Why Joe Biden can't get no respect (Vox)

By Ezra Klein

March 17, 2015

Vox

On Monday, I made the case that Al Gore should run for president. But there's another obvious contender out there, too: Joe Biden.

Over at Yahoo, Matt Bai makes the case for Biden. "Biden," he writes, "is a better candidate than most pundits have ever given him credit for. Yeah, he's sloppy and meandering and says some nutty stuff. But that's all part of being genuine and three-dimensional, which may be the most valuable trait in modern politics and not a bad contrast to Clinton's robotic discipline."

And Biden's certainly got the resume. When President Barack Obama wanted to make sure stimulus money didn't disappear to fraud, he turned to Biden — "nobody messes with Joe," he said — and Biden succeeded. When the White House wanted to avoid the fiscal cliff, it was Biden who closed the deal with Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. When Obama flubbed the first debate against Mitt Romney, it was Biden who restored the ticket's mojo by bullying his way past Rep. Paul Ryan. When the Democrats held their 2012 convention, it was Biden's speech that pulled the highest ratings — beating both Bill Clinton and Obama.

Biden's most off-the-reservation moment, meanwhile, is the kind of thing that should help him in 2016. He pushed the Obama administration to embrace gay marriage before it was quite ready. At the time, it looked like a gaffe. Now it looks prescient.

And yet, according to a recent Marist poll, Biden is running 47 points behind Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination in 2016 — and only one point ahead of Sen. Elizabeth Warren. A quick scan of RealClearPolitics' round-up of Democratic primary polls shows that's no outlier.

It's not like Biden has been out of the public eye for the last seven years. So why, if he's such a good politician, doesn't he command more support in the Democratic Party?

Here's my guess: there's a cultural gap between Biden and the party he seeks to represent. Biden is an old-school, white, male politician in a party that's increasingly young, multicultural, and female. Biden's gaffes matter because they tend to reinforce the perception among Democrats that he belongs to a different era.

When Biden calls shady lenders "Shylocks," or says Obama is "the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy," he ends up coming off as, in New York Magazine words, "your accidentally racist grandma." That leaves Biden facing something more toxic than opposition: condescension.

What I wrote of Biden in January 2013 is still true today, I think. "In the continuing drama that is the Obama presidency, Biden often appears as comic relief. He's the zany neighbor, the adorable uncle. As a result, his presidential ambitions, which burn brightly even today, have mostly been laughed off. Somehow, the sitting vice president of the United States, the former chairman of both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee, a man who's on a nickname basis with many of the world's most powerful leaders, is seen in many quarters as lacking the gravitas to be president."

There is much that's weird about this. Hillary Clinton is a powerful candidate, but there's nothing about the last few months that makes her look invulnerable. She's shown real rust in interviews, pissed off liberals, and found herself in an email scandal.

But while Biden isn't much older than Clinton, she's somehow been more adept at signaling cultural affinity with young Democrats than he's been (though she's occasionally struggled too, most notably in her interview with Terry Gross on gay marriage). She also has a connection to female voters he can't touch. Even her memes are better.

I don't know exactly how Biden fixes this or even if he can. Clinton isn't inevitable, and Biden should, by all rights, pose a real threat to her. But, though Biden's always been known as a great speaker, he needs to learn to talk to a different party than the one he grew up in.

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Will Hillary Clinton Invade GOP Primary? (Bloomberg)
By Francis Wilkinson
March 17, 2015
Bloomberg

Hillary Clinton won't have a truly competitive Democratic primary for president. So in her spare time, she might instead opt to meddle in the high-stakes Republican primary.

As the Republican contest takes shape over the coming months, candidates will stockpile money and negative research to unload on their rivals. It promises to be a fierce, internecine battle. At some point, someone in the sprawling Clinton world, or perhaps a wealthy liberal listening to an independent political consultant eager to play a role in the big game, will feel the pull of temptation. If Jeb Bush -- or Scott Walker -- is gaining momentum, why not slow him down, or even try to take him down, before he gets too close to the finish line?

The super-PAC era is perfectly designed for intervention in an opposing party's primary. A generically-named political committee funded by anonymous donors could begin running ads in Iowa and other early states, making a case, for example, that Bush can't be trusted by conservatives. Or that Walker tells voters whatever they want to hear. The Clinton gang will be able to assert in unison -- possibly even in truth -- that it has nothing to do with such ads.

Such meddling has worked on the state level. For example, in the 2002 California gubernatorial race, the state's unpopular Democratic Governor Gray Davis poured millions into attacking the front-runner in the Republican primary, Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, who had a huge lead. Davis preferred to face the much more conservative Republican candidate, Bill Simon.

As the Christian Science Monitor reported before the primary:

The strategy is working, pollsters say, because Davis's ploy to pick off Riordan early, in the latter candidate's own primary, hinges on the fact that the state's Republican primary voting bloc has long been far more conservative than the broader Republican electorate that turns out in the general election.

In the end, Riordan lost the primary and Davis beat Simon in the general. (I was a partner at a consulting firm advising Davis.) The Democrat was eventually recalled and replaced by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Bush is a more disciplined and formidable candidate than Riordan. But the parallels are obvious, and given a campaign finance regime that now blesses unrestricted anonymous donations, it can be harder to trace attacks to their source.

Many conservative voters will have trouble embracing Bush's views on immigration and more. His Republican rivals will be eager to educate such voters about Bush's apostasy. But their resources are not infinite.

Democrats, meanwhile, probably won't be spending a whole lot of money on their presidential primary. There is nothing to prevent them from funding a primary attack on Bush to highlight what some conservatives deem a dire paucity of conservatism.

Intervening in an opposing party's primary can be a dicey proposition. When Democrats intervened in a 2009 Republican primary in New Jersey to try to save another unpopular incumbent, Governor Jon Corzine, the effort failed. Given the enormous attention the news media lavishes on presidential campaigns, even identifying a target for attack could backfire. "Anybody with a checkbook can run a tactic like that," said Democratic media consultant Doc Sweitzer, via e-mail. But if it signals to the Republican base that Democrats especially fear a particular candidate, "It could do more harm than good. The first rule of an independent expenditure is do no harm."

Of course, if a Democratic attack on Bush for being insufficiently conservative fails, it will probably only strengthen his candidacy. His relative moderation, a weakness in the Republican primary, becomes a strength in the general election.

Yet Republican Party donors will almost certainly fund attack ads on Clinton in swing states before primary votes are cast. Democrats, eager to respond, will have itchy trigger fingers. Several Democratic consultants acknowledged to me that the temptation to intervene, either in hopes of shaping the Republican outcome or merely damaging the likely Republican nominee, will be difficult -- if not impossible -- to resist.

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Clinton criticizes House GOP budget plan (Associated Press)
By Ken Thomas
March 17, 2015
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton is taking on a tried and true foil — House Republicans — as she prepares for a likely 2016 Democratic presidential campaign.

Clinton blasted a budget proposal released by Republicans on Tuesday, saying on Twitter it "fails Americans" on investments in jobs and economic growth, would cut college aid for students and undermine President Barack Obama's health care law. It was the second straight day that the former secretary of state turned to social media to criticize Congress, a tactic used extensively by President Barack Obama during his 2012 re-election campaign.

"Budgets reflect our priorities. They should help families get ahead, educate our kids, and spark small business growth," Clinton said on Twitter. She said the "nation's future — jobs & economic growth — depends on investments made today. The GOP budget fails Americans on these principles."

Clinton's Twitter response came hours after Republicans released a $3.8 trillion budget plan in the House that would overhaul the tax code and aims to balance the budget in a decade in tandem with deep cuts in social programs and the repeal of Obama's health care law. The White House said the proposal failed to make investments in education, infrastructure and national defense, setting up a likely budget clash in the months before the next presidential campaign.

Clinton faulted the budget proposal's outlook for education, saying cuts to Pell Grants "hold our kids back." She also warned against another attempt to repeal the health care law, saying it would "let insurers write their own rules again, and wipe out coverage for 16 million Americans."

Clinton, who has faced criticism in recent weeks over revelations that she used a private email account at the State Department, has sought to present herself as an above-the-political-fray figure who would overcome Washington gridlock. But she has also ratcheted up criticism of Republicans in control of both chambers of Congress.

On Monday, she blasted Senate Republicans for holding up confirmation of Loretta Lynch, Obama's choice to be Attorney General, until the Senate completed a human trafficking bill that was complicated by a provision related to funding for abortions. Clinton called it a "Congressional trifecta against women."

Her approach offers parallels to Democrats' attempt to tarnish 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney with the budget plan that included sharp cuts to social programs developed by Rep. Paul Ryan, who later became Romney's running mate. It comes as Clinton is formulating policies that will form the foundation of her pitch to Americans, chief among them how to boost wages and create more economic opportunities for Americans.

"It's a very central part not just of 2015, but 2016: What are the ideas and investments we're going to make to give Americans more economic opportunity," said Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash.

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Gerry Adams and Hillary Clinton in New York (The New Yorker)
By Patrick Radden Keefe
March 17, 2015
The New Yorker

On the eve of St. Patrick's Day, two ascendant politicians—one from Ireland, one from the United States—met in a ballroom at the Essex House, in New York. Hillary Clinton was there to be inducted into the Irish America Hall of Fame, in recognition of her "outstanding leadership" in bringing peace to Northern Ireland during the nineteen-nineties, when her husband was President. Gerry Adams, the president of the Irish Republican political party Sinn Fein, was there because for many Americans he is a living symbol of that peace. One of the architects of the Good Friday Agreement, which brought an end to the decades-long conflict that is known as the Troubles, Adams is very popular in the United States and makes regular trips here to raise funds for his party. (According to a report in the Irish Times, Sinn Fein has raised twelve million dollars in the United States since 1995, from construction companies, labor unions, and movie stars like Angelica Huston and Martin Sheen.)

But as I documented in a report for the magazine last week, Adams remains a polarizing figure in Ireland. Though Adams is a longtime figurehead of the Republican movement, he insists that he was never a member of the I.R.A. and that he played no role in the violence of the Troubles. People in Ireland do not actually believe this story, and, in recent years, some of Adams's former compatriots in the Republican movement have said that he authorized a series of wartime atrocities, including the murder and secret burial of a mother of ten named Jean McConville. Adams has denied these claims, and generally derides those who ask questions about his past as political foes with an agenda or opponents of the peace process. (He and Sinn Fein have not responded to my article.)

"I remember very well when the request came, back in 1993, that my husband approve a visa for Gerry Adams," Clinton told the crowd at the Essex House. Bill Clinton granted the visa, which was a controversial move at the time, because of Adams's alleged association with the I.R.A., but also a crucial moment in the peace process, because it helped cement Adams's transformation from a revolutionary to a statesman. "Absent that first step, that first risk, we might not have had the momentum to move forward, to get to the Good Friday accords and all that has followed," Clinton said.

There is no way of knowing whether Clinton, dressed in Kelly green, felt any distaste at the prospect of sharing a table with Adams. There are some thirty-five million Irish Americans, a great many of whom regard Adams as a kind of Nelson Mandela, and no prospective Presidential candidate can decline a St. Patrick's Day invitation. And, to be sure, the I.R.A. is not alone in standing accused of atrocities during the Troubles: loyalist paramilitary groups and British government forces also perpetrated war crimes for which they have not been brought to account. But Clinton did indicate, obliquely, that the transition in Northern Ireland is not entirely complete. "There is still work to be done," Clinton acknowledged. "You cannot bring peace and security to people just by signing an agreement." The question for the people of Northern Ireland, and for Adams's supporters in the United States, is whether you can bring enduring peace and security without some reckoning—by all parties in the conflict—with the crimes of the past.

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Founder of company behind illegal human experiments that killed three is major Clinton Foundation donor (Washington Examiner)

By Luke Rosiak

March 17, 2015

Washington Examiner

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's family foundation received millions of dollars from a corporate magnate whose former company caused the death of three people by injecting a cement-like mix into their spines during illegal human drug trials.

The Wyss Foundation has given the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation between $1million to $5 million, including an unspecified amount in 2014. The donor was one of 168 that gave $1 million or more to the Clinton philanthropy, according to its website.

The Wyss Foundation is a charitable arm of Hansjorg Wyss, a reclusive Swiss billionaire and former chief executive officer of Synthes, Inc., which conducted the illegal clinical trials.

Justice Department attorneys negotiated a $24 million plea deal in 2011 with Synthes and Norian Corporation, its wholly owned subsidiary, that sent four of its U.S. executives to prison. Wyss, who was not jailed, sold the company in 2012 to Johnson & Johnson for a reported $21.3 billion. He was the major stockholder at the time of the sale.

U.S. District Judge Legrome D. Davis said Synthes conducted the illegal human drug trials without Food and Drug Administration approval for doing so, then "in search of profits, chose not to tell the FDA the truth" about what it was doing.

The company knew from its own research prior to the illegal trials in 2009 that the bone cement mixed with blood to cause blood clots, according to the federal indictment, and that in porcine tests the "blood clots became lodged in the lungs. Notwithstanding this knowledge, the company allegedly proceeded to market the product."

The Justice Department further charged that the Wyss firm "did not stop marketing the product until after a third patient had died on the operating table." Then, instead of recalling the product, they "compounded their crimes by carrying out a coverup in which they lied to the FDA."

The judge wrote that the company had tried to evade detection and accountability, and that its "pattern of deception is unparalleled."

The Clinton Foundation website merely gives the name of the organization. There is one other Wyss Foundation in the U.S., but it disburses less than a million dollars a year total, and its accountant said it had not donated to the Clinton philanthropy. The Swiss billionaire's D.C.-based foundation staff would not discuss the donation. It has not filed Internal Revenue Service disclosures for 2014.

The Washington Examiner first reported on Wyss' past, and his connection to liberal groups, in July 2014, finding that it had given millions to the Center for American Progress, a nonprofit run by John Podesta, Bill Clinton's former chief of staff and more recently a senior adviser to President Obama.

In January, the center provided a list of its donors to the Washington Post in an attempt to demonstrate that it was "transparent" since Podesta is expected to manage Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. Missing from the listing given to the Post was Wyss.

A center spokesman failed to respond to multiple requests from the Examiner for comment, including whether Wyss asked to be listed as "Anonymous" on the donor list given to the Post or if the center so designated him. The Examiner also asked center officials to explain the transparency value of disclosing anonymous donors.

Since a spokesman for the Clinton Foundation also failed to respond, it could not be determined why the once and possible future chief executives would allow the foundation bearing their name to be connected to Wyss.

"Global health" and "health and wellness" are two of the five major areas on which the Clinton Foundation focuses, touting, for example, that it saves the lives of poor children in Africa by giving them vaccines.

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Clinton's personal spokesperson Nick Merrill declined to comment for this story.

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"No Ceilings' Report Shows There's Still A Long Way To Go In Achieving Women's Equality (Huffington Post)
By Rahel Gebreyes
March 17, 2015
Huffington Post

The saying goes that a woman's work is never done, and new data about international women's rights proves that's definitely the case for global gender equality.

A report released this month by No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project contains both good and bad news for women's equality and health on a global level. The report is produced for No Ceilings by the Clinton Foundation in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Among the positives are meaningful gains in the areas of health, legal rights and education for women internationally. The global maternal mortality rate has fallen 42 percent in the last 20 years. The majority of constitutions worldwide (about four out of five) include language that attempts to guarantee gender equality. Girls and boys now enroll in primary school at almost even rates, virtually closing the gender gap in early education.

Equal rights and opportunities for women are still lagging when it comes to full economic participation, family planning, and leadership roles. Only about 55 percent of women are part of the global labor force, compared with 82 percent of men. More than 220 million women around the world want to prevent pregnancy but lack contraception. Just 5 percent of CEOs in Fortune 500 companies are women.

As TIME writer Charlotte Alter explained in a HuffPost Live conversation on March 12, the improvements show that real change is possible, even if it's slow-moving.

"When we commit to change, we can do it. We did it in health and education a lot. A 40 percent reduction in maternal mortality is huge," she told host Caroline Modarressy-Tehrani. "If we are really committed to doing this, it can happen. We just have to continue to commit and dedicate the funds and the resources and the energy to these issues."

For example, by restructuring the way girls are educated, women's advocate Cheryl Saban said we can position them to fill the countless jobs in growing fields like math and computer science.

"We're getting there. We're targeting STEM curriculum for girls. We're letting them know that they can do it, that they can do the math, that they can do the engineering, and we want them to learn to code," she said.

The main conclusion Saban drew from the No Ceilings report is that women are still not on an equal footing with men globally, from birth and throughout their lives.

"Women need to be counted. A lot of women are not registered as a human being in this world. … That's something that we see in this report," she said.

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"No Ceilings" Report Shows Major Gains and Gaps in Women's Equality (Feminist Newswire)
March 16, 2015
Feminist Newswire

The "No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project" report contains data collected over the past 20 years, following the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, where the 1995 Declaration and Platform for Action made women and girls a priority. The groundbreaking 14th plank of the platform declared "Women's rights are human rights," laying the groundwork for governments worldwide to implement action plans for the goal of full participation for women and girls.

Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation, called the report "encouraging" and "impressive" in an interview with C-Span this morning. Smeal emphasized the importance of data in effecting change. "You can't make progress unless you know exactly where you are," she said.

The "No Ceilings" data-driven approach to gender equality shows that significant gains have been made for women and girls, especially in the maternal mortality rate, which is down 42 percent globally since 1995. Other improvements include global enrollment rates for boys and girls in primary school, which is now almost equal.

There are, however, many areas that still need drastic improvement. The United States is the only developed country that does not offer paid maternity leave, and it is only 1 of 9 countries worldwide that does not provide for paid maternity leave. Equal representation in government worldwide is also lagging, and although the number of women in the United States Congress is at an all-time high, women still only make up around 20 percent of Congress. Furthermore, globally 1 in 4 girls are married before her 18th birthday, and in Niger that rate skyrockets to 3 in 4 girls. Progress is uneven, and women and girls still lag behind -specifically marginalized women.

As far as further progress goes, Smeal is optimistic. "You'd be surprised – just having a goal does help [equality] in many countries," Smeal said. "I'm very excited about what the new goals will be."

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Lauren Peterson" <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 8:42:39 AM
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I hope so! Can we get it going?

From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 3:40 PM
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Katie Dowd <kdowd@hillaryclinton.com >; Jenna Lowenstein <jlowenstein@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Is this happening?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 1:04 PM
To: Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Katie Dowd <kdowd@hillaryclinton.com >; Jenna Lowenstein <jlowenstein@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

ok by me

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 1:02 PM, Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> I vote for just replying directly with no period before the @ - people will see this and it will get pickup. We do need to shorten though - here's my attempt:
>
> @ marcorubio That's backwards—engagement's a threat to the Castros, not a gift. Embargo hasn't worked for 50 yrs. Cuban ppl deserve better -H
>
> On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:41 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > + Nick and Lauren.
> >
> > **From:** Brian Fallon [mailto:bfallon@hillaryclinton.com]
> > **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:39 PM
> > **To:** Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Cc:** Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> > **Subject:** Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> >
> > Like this (w the handle). Lets do it
> >
> > On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:35 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I like including his handle.
> > >
> > > .@marcorubio you've got it backwards: Engagement isn't a gift to the Castros -- it's a threat to the Castros. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Cuban people deserve better.
> > >
> > > On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.
> > > >
> > > > **From:** Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.

On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Here we go...

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

User Actions
Following

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Marco RubioVerified account @marcorubio

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--
Jeremy Massey
Research Department

847 736 9211
JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Clinton, Press Office \(Clinton\)" <Press_Office@clinton.senate.gov>
To:	
Date:	12/21/2007 6:29:37 AM
Subject:	RELEASE: Senator Clinton Calls on Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Address Continuing Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Problems at Indian Point

NEW YORK
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
PRESS RELEASE
Home | News | Contact | About | Services | Issues | New York

For Immediate Release
December 21, 2007

Contact: Press Office
202-224-2243

SENATOR CLINTON CALLS ON NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TO ADDRESS CONTINUING SAFETY, SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROBLEMS AT INDIAN POINT

Cites Concerns with Failure to Install Adequate Emergency Siren System and Coming Move to Dry Cask Storage

Washington, DC – Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today called on the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to address continuing problems at Indian Point with safety, security and emergency preparedness. In a letter to Chairman Klein, Senator Clinton highlighted in particular two issues that exemplify the concerns: the failure of Entergy to install an adequate new emergency siren system and the coming move to dry cask storage of spent fuel at Indian Point.

"The continuing drumbeat of problems at Indian Point has undermined public confidence in both Entergy and the NRC. How the siren and dry cask storage issues are handled in the coming months will send a signal to the public about whether there is a renewed commitment to public safety by federal regulators and the plant's owners. I urge the NRC to use this opportunity to demonstrate a new seriousness about getting it right at Indian Point," Senator Clinton wrote.

Senator Clinton has worked to push both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Entergy to improve safety, security and emergency preparedness at the plant, including the siren system. Senator Clinton added a provision to the energy bill in 2005 to require Entergy to install a new siren system with battery backup in response to repeated failures of the Indian Point siren system due to a lack of backup power. That provision was signed into law in August of 2005, and the NRC set a January 2007 deadline for having the system operational. Entergy applied for and received an extension of the deadline to April 15th, and subsequently missed the deadline. NRC fined Entergy $130,000 and Senator Clinton announced that she would sponsor Senate companion legislation to a bill to be sponsored in the U.S. House by Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-Westchester/Rockland) and Congressman John Hall (D-Hudson Valley), that would steer fines levied by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for safety violations to counties surrounding nuclear facilities in order to assist them with emergency planning (see - http://clinton.senate.gov/news/statements/details.cfm?id=274453&&)

Earlier this year, Senator Clinton announced that she would be asking the DHS inspector general to evaluate why Entergy has failed to meet established deadlines to achieve operability of a new alert and notification system for the Indian Point nuclear power plant (see - http://clinton.senate.gov/news/statements/details.cfm?id=281505&&). Senator Clinton has also continued to call for the NRC to conduct an Independent Safety Assessment (ISA) at Indian Point and has introduced legislation to require an ISA at the plant.

The following is the text of Senator Clinton's letter to NRC Chairman Klein:

Dr. Dale E. Klein
Chairman

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Klein:

I have worked hard over the last six years to push both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Entergy to improve safety, security and emergency preparedness at Indian Point. While improvements have been made, problems persist at the plant. At the same time, new issues and challenges continue to emerge. I write today regarding two issues that exemplify these two types of concerns: the failure of Entergy to install an adequate new emergency siren system; and the coming move to dry cask storage of spent fuel at Indian Point.

I am extremely dismayed about the continued failure of Entergy to put a siren system in place that meets the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the related Nuclear Regulatory Commission orders. We will soon reach the one year anniversary of the date by which the new siren system with backup power was supposed to be in place. When that original deadline approached, Entergy applied for and received an extension of the deadline to April 15th of 2007. Entergy subsequently missed that extended deadline, and was fined $130,000 by the NRC. Since that time, Entergy and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have been in talks to discuss how the new siren system can be modified to meet the applicable requirements. In my view, it is time for the NRC to become more involved in order to drive these talks to a conclusion, and then to use its enforcement tools to force Entergy to devote the resources that are required to achieve the long-delayed goal of having a new siren system in place that complies with the law and enhances public safety.

In addition, I note that Entergy will soon move spent fuel rods from pools at Indian Point to dry cask storage on site. This action will have benefits; in particular, it will enable Indian Point to empty the spent fuel pool that has been leaking water contaminated with strontium 90 into the environment. At the same time, any action involving spent fuel presents potential hazards and security risks. With these risks in mind, I urge you to take whatever measures are required to ensure that Entergy puts public safety and security first during this new phase of operations at Indian Point.

The continuing drumbeat of problems at Indian Point has undermined public confidence in both Entergy and the NRC. How the siren and dry cask storage issues are handled in the coming months will send a signal to the public about whether there is a renewed commitment to public safety by federal regulators and the plant's owners. I urge the NRC to use this opportunity to demonstrate a new seriousness about getting it right at Indian Point.

Sincerely yours,
Hillary Rodham Clinton

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/19/2014 2:10:08 AM
Subject: Fwd: Correct The Record Tuesday August 19, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday August 19, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Articles:

Politico: “GOP targets Clinton speech contracts”

...a spokeswoman for the pro-Hillary Clinton group Correct the Record pushed back on Republican criticism, noting that Clinton ‘has often said how blessed she felt by the success she’s had,’ and that gratitude has driven her policy positions. "That’s why the right wing is so obsessed with Hillary and Bill Clinton’s success,” spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said in an email. “Because unlike leading Republicans, the Clintons recognize that success is a blessing rather than an entitlement. For Hillary Clinton, that blessing is a reason to support and focus on policies that promote and share the opportunity with others, unlike leading Republicans who live beholden to special interests or abuse their power.”

Media Matters for America: “Fox Calls Hillary Clinton A "Rock Star Diva" Over Contract Requirements Typical Of High Profile Speakers”

“Fox News' Special Report characterized former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's speaking contract requirements as outrageous, in an attempt to paint Clinton as an out of touch ‘diva,’ but Clinton's requirements are typical of contracts made by high profile politicians.”

CNN: “Stepping up political game, Hillary Clinton agrees to help in midterms”

“Clinton, the former secretary of state and frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, has committed to play a sizable role in fundraising for the party ahead of the 2014 elections, according to sources and aides for different campaign groups.”

Los Angeles Times: “Tom Harkin on steak fry invitation: 'Iowans still love Hillary'”

“With that in mind, Harkin said he expects the former of secretary of state to focus on 2014, not 2016. ‘We've got to maintain control of the Senate for all kinds of reasons,’ Harkin said. ‘I assume that's going to be her message. But I don't know, like I said, I haven't talked to her about it.’”

MSNBC: Pressure builds on Clinton to speak out on Ferguson

“With the nation gripped by the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, seemingly every political leader has weighed in, from President Barack Obama to ideological leaders like Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Republican Sen. Ted Cruz. But there’s one conspicuous exception – Hillary Clinton.”

Women’s Wear Daily: Parties: “Lisa Perry Hosts Paddle & Party for Pink”

“If Clinton were to run for president tomorrow, she seems to have the East End of Long Island locked up.”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

New York Post blog: Page Six: “Clintons blow off charity softball game for book signing”

“Bill and Hillary Clinton were no-shows at the Artists & Writers softball game in East Hampton on Saturday.”

BuzzFeed: “Martin O’Malley Makes New Friends, Keeps Old Ties In New Hampshire”

“About an hour later, after a short speech and dozens of handshakes, O’Malley was greeted by a new familiar face, when Louise Korn, a 70-year-old Democrat from the nearby city of Rochester, approached his picnic table. ‘I met you in 2012, and we’re still working for you,’ she said. ‘I’ll see you when you’re president.’ ‘Hey, thank you,’ O’Malley replied. ‘I accept your nomination!’”

Articles:

Politico: “GOP targets Clinton speech contracts”

By Katie Glueck

August 18, 2014, 3:41 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton has a Las Vegas money problem — conservatives are betting on it.

Over the weekend, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported the details of Clinton’s typical speaking contract, stipulations that often include a chartered private jet “e.g., a Gulfstream 450 or larger jet”; a presidential suite at hotels; and business- or first-class seats for aides to the potential 2016 presidential candidate.

The eye-popping details, obtained through open records laws, broke ahead of Clinton’s scheduled speech at an Oct. 13 fundraiser for the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Foundation. Clinton is charging a discounted rate of $225,000 to speak at that gathering, according to the Review-Journal — down from the standard $300,000 — and her team has said the money will benefit her family’s foundation.

In recent months, the former secretary of state has struggled with how to talk about her family’s personal wealth, drawing across-the-board incredulous criticism when she said she and her husband were “dead broke” after leaving the White House at the end of President Bill Clinton’s second term.

At UNLV, Clinton’s speech already has been the subject of student complaints, with many urging her to donate the money back to the university foundation. Meantime, her speaking arrangements at other universities also have come under scrutiny.

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The Review-Journal report, citing a memo from 2013, found that on top of her fee, Clinton's speaking arrangements also usually include a $500 stipend for a traveling aide and funds for ground transportation and cellphone bills, among other pricey requirements.

The news was met with glee on the right, where conservatives see an opportunity to paint the likely 2016 Democratic front-runner as wealthy and out of touch — as Democrats successfully did to 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney. Several Republican officials were quick to seize on the report, which centered largely on emails between the UNLV Foundation and the Harry Walker Agency, which represents Clinton.

"How out of touch is @HillaryClinton?" tweeted Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus. "Private jets & presidential suites in addition to huge speaking fees."

RNC Communications Director Sean Spicer chimed in, "so very 1%."

The newspaper's report was published as Clinton mingled with political celebrities during a book signing for her new memoir in the luxurious Hamptons, where she vacations.

The report indicated that while Clinton typically charges $300,000, she will do the UNLV Foundation event for just $225,000. Beyond the expenses, the report also highlights other speaking requirements for the event, including that Clinton be the "only person onstage during her remarks" and have "final approval" of the moderator and the person doing the introduction.

The contract also emphasizes that the event should be closed to the press, "unless otherwise agreed to in writing," and that any journalists in attendance as guests need to be cleared by the agency.

A spokesman for Clinton did not reply to a request for comment about the reasoning behind the jet and other expenses. But a spokeswoman for the pro-Hillary Clinton group Correct the Record pushed back on Republican criticism, noting that Clinton "has often said how blessed she felt by the success she's had," and that gratitude has driven her policy positions.

It's an argument that echoes how many Democrats — including Clinton herself — have responded to the Romney comparisons: that ultimately, it's about policy, and she supports approaches that benefit "every child, regardless of their circumstances," as Correct the Record put it.

"That's why the right wing is so obsessed with Hillary and Bill Clinton's success," spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said in an email. "Because unlike leading Republicans, the Clintons recognize that success is a blessing rather than an entitlement. For Hillary Clinton, that blessing is a reason to support and focus on policies that promote and share the opportunity with others, unlike leading Republicans who live beholden to special interests or abuse their power."

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Tickets for the UNLV Foundation fundraiser start at $200 for individuals and go up to $20,000 for a table of 10 — with a “special menu” — though the latter category is sold out.

The details of the contract didn’t appear to spark much outrage on the left, with even many populist-inclined progressives — who view Clinton as too close to Wall Street and out of touch with working people’s needs — largely staying out of it. And such detailed requests in contracts for special appearances are hardly unheard of, especially among Hollywood celebrities and famous musicians.

Conservative blogs, however, were all over the report.

“The private-jet requirement should raise eyebrows on the Left,” wrote Ed Morrissey at the conservative blog Hot Air, gibing at the “carbon footprint” that would leave. “… They’d rally behind her in a general election, no doubt, but in a contested primary Clinton may find herself challenged on authenticity, too.”

RedState, an influential conservative blog, detailed the typical speaking requirements in list form, from the six-figure speaking fee to “Meals and incidentals for Hillary, her travel aides and advance staff, as well as all phone charges.”

“Nice work if you can get it,” the blog reads. “No, Hillary isn’t too out of touch with ordinary Americans, right?”

CNN: “Stepping up political game, Hillary Clinton agrees to help in midterms”

By Dan Merica

August 18th, 2014, 5:19 p.m. EDT

Washington (CNN) – Hillary Clinton has been able to exist slightly above politics for the last six years.

That will soon be coming to an end.

Clinton, the former secretary of state and frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, has committed to play a sizable role in fundraising for the party ahead of the 2014 elections, according to sources and aides for different campaign groups.

In addition to campaigning for specific candidates, aides to Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the Democratic Governors Association confirmed to CNN that Clinton will headline fundraisers for each respective group in 2014.

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Clinton is also slated to headline one of the most anticipated events of the year in Democratic politics in Iowa: Sen. Tom Harkin's Iowa Steak Fry on September 14.

Sen. Harkin's team announced Monday that Clinton – along with her husband former President Bill Clinton – will headline the fundraiser in the first-in-the-nation caucus state. The steak fry regularly draws big-name, national politicians and is seen as a required stop for any Democrat seeking the presidency.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill also told CNN that the former secretary of state will do more in Iowa than just attend the steak fry.

"She's looking forward to campaigning for her Democratic friends and colleagues and to helping the effort to move America forward, including a stop to see her old friend and colleague Senator Harkin to help raise money for important races in Iowa," Merrill said in a statement.

In addition, a DCCC source tells CNN that Clinton will fundraiser for the congressional campaign committee, including a women's event in San Francisco with Leader Nancy Pelosi.

"We're thrilled and grateful that she is lending her support to our shared goal of electing a Democratic House of Representatives that will put a stop to the endless cycle of dysfunction and shutdowns from this Republican Congress," Chairman Steve Israel said in a statement.

Since leaving the State Department in 2013, Clinton has largely tried to stay out of politics. Other than campaigning for candidates with whom she has a personal relationship – including Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and her daughters mother-in-law – Clinton hasn't done any political fundraising.

But as likelihood of Clinton running for president in 2016 rises, political committees and groups have stepped started to ask Clinton for help in the 2014 midterms.

In April, while at an American Jewish Committee forum, Israel spoke with Clinton about what she is willing to do around the midterms.

According to Israel, Clinton said, " I want to help," to which Israel said, "Not the minute, but the second you are ready to help, you let me know."

Democrats have an uphill climb to taking back the House, and recent polling show the fight to keep Democratic control of the Senate will be close.

In an interview with CNN, Israel said he saw Clinton as able to go into a number of different states, but especially Illinois, California, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania and Arkansas.

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"Her appeal is so broad. She excites our base. There are few people stronger than she is with swing voters," Israel said, listing Clinton attributes as a fundraiser and endorser.

It was widely assumed that Clinton would campaign for Democrats in 2014. The cadre of groups organizing around her possible 2016 bid – particularly Ready for Hillary – have tried to help midterm Democrats, and Priorities USA – a super PAC supporting her 2016 run – has told donors to focus on the midterms for now.

In July, Clinton told a Southern California public radio station that she is "committed" to helping midterms Democrats.

"I strongly am committed to doing what I can to keep the Senate in Democratic hands," she said.

Los Angeles Times: “Tom Harkin on steak fry invitation: 'Iowans still love Hillary'”

By Michael A. Memoli

August 18, 2014, 3:20 p.m. EDT

Accepting the invitation to headline Tom Harkin's steak fry fundraiser, Hillary Clinton made perhaps her most conspicuous move yet toward another presidential bid. But Iowa's longtime Democratic senator says he saw having both Clintons attend the event as simply a fitting way to cap a 37-year tradition.

Sometimes, Harkin said in an interview Monday, he approaches prominent Democrats to speak at his annual fundraiser. More often than not, there is no shortage of ambitious Democrats expressing an interest.

"But this is my last one. I really wanted both Bill and Hillary to come out," he said. "And they were both intrigued by it and supportive."

Harkin, who is retiring at the end of his fifth term in January, said this year's steak fry will "be a shot of adrenaline for Iowa Democrats" ahead of the November election. The election to replace Harkin is emerging as one of the most critical races in the nation in determining which party will control the Senate next year.

With that in mind, Harkin said he expects the former of secretary of state to focus on 2014, not 2016.

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"We've got to maintain control of the Senate for all kinds of reasons," Harkin said. "I assume that's going to be her message. But I don't know, like I said, I haven't talked to her about it."

It will be Hillary Clinton's second steak fry, having joined Barack Obama and other candidates for the presidential nomination in 2007. Bill Clinton will be making his fourth appearance. "But this will be the first time together," Harkin said. "So this will be very exciting."

Vice President Joe Biden, who has not ruled out his own 2016 bid, headlined the event last year. His praise then for current Secretary of State John Kerry as "one of the best secretaries of state" in U.S. history was seen as a subtle dig at his would-be rival before an audience of party activists.

Bill Clinton only won the 1996 Iowa caucuses, when he was seeking reelection. Harkin was himself a presidential candidate in 1992. Hillary Clinton finished third in the 2008 caucuses. But Harkin said both will have much to thank Iowans for on their visit.

"Even though Obama came through in that last one, that's OK," he said. "Iowans still love Hillary and Bill both."

This year's steak fry will be Sept. 14 in Indianola.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: “When It’s Barack vs. Hillary, Where Does Bill Fit In?”

By Stephen Sestanovich, a professor at Columbia University and senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, is the author of “Maximalist: America in the World From Truman to Obama.”

August 18, 2014, 3:14 p.m. EDT

One of the most interesting features of last week’s now-famous dust-up between President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton was the way Bill Clinton figured in the discussion. He’s become the Democrats’ Ronald Reagan, the former president all party members want on their side. Hillary’s boosters naturally claim Bill’s foreign-policy record for their own. But her detractors do the same thing. They say her interventionist talk amounts to “dissing” her own husband. Who’s right?

The case for seeing Hillary in apostolic succession to “Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, and Bill Clinton” was made last Friday for Politico by Will Marshall. A co-founder in the mid-80’s of the Clinton-backed Democratic Leadership Council, Mr. Marshall called Mr. Obama’s foreign policy a case of “risk-averse retrenchment”—an “over-correction” to the excesses of George W. Bush. For Marshall (and others too), Hillary offers Democrats a chance to “reclaim their party’s tradition of tough liberalism.”

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We'll hear more of this view. But others saw the story differently. Harvard professor Stephen Walt argued that Obama and Bill Clinton share a "highly risk-averse" approach to foreign policy. All that "indispensable nation" talk in the '90s, Mr. Walt wrote, was mere cover for doing things on the cheap. And columnist James Fallows claimed that Obama's "don't-do-stupid-stuff" formula (derided by Hillary as "not an operating principle") was one that Bill Clinton would have admired for its "breadth and depth."

In fact, the case for continuity between the Clinton and Obama presidencies is very weak. After a shaky start, Bill Clinton's foreign policy became steadily more activist. "Local conflicts," he warned, "can become world-wide headaches if we allow them to fester." His administration's mantra for success was "diplomacy backed by force." Military spending turned upward. White House staffers called their boss "the president of the world."

There's every reason to think Hillary would like to revive her husband's more ambitious foreign policy. But it's just as clear she knows it won't be easy. Her interview with Jeffrey Goldberg ended with sober reflections (not much noticed) on what today's voters want. Recovery at home, she said, before activism abroad. Americans want to be sure they can take care of their families. Then they'll be ready to worry about the world. This is an Obama-like theme, but even here Hillary may have been putting the president on notice. Unless the economy improves, foreign policy won't be the only area where she'll tell the voters she can do better. That's how Bill Clinton ran for president. So will she.

MSNBC: Pressure builds on Clinton to speak out on Ferguson

By Alex Seitz-Wald

August 18, 2014 5:19 p.m. EDT

With the nation gripped by the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, seemingly every political leader has weighed in, from President Barack Obama to ideological leaders like Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Republican Sen. Ted Cruz. But there's one conspicuous exception – Hillary Clinton.

In the week since a police officer shot and killed unarmed teenager Michael Brown, critics have noted that the former secretary of state and likely 2016 presidential contender has partied on Martha's Vineyard, signed books with celebrities in the Hamptons, and settled into a week of vacation on Long Island, but she has yet to say anything publicly about Ferguson.

A spokesperson for Clinton declined to comment again on Monday.

As a private citizen who holds no public office, nor is officially campaigning for one, Clinton is not obligated to say or do anything. But as she increasingly wades into politics ahead of a potential presidential run, it will be more and more difficult for her to stay mum on major issues.

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At a rally on Sunday, civil rights leader and MSNBC host Al Sharpton called the protests a “defining moment” for the country on criminal justice. “Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton, don’t get laryngitis on this issue,” Sharpton said. “Nobody can go to the White House unless they stop by our house and talk about policing.”

Both on the ground and on social media, many have wondered where Clinton is.

“Her party sees her as a public figure, not just another private citizen,” Kevin Madden, a former top adviser to Mitt Romney told msnbc. “They are increasingly looking to her as the next voice to emerge, beyond President Obama, since there is this recognition that Obama is being tuned out by the public. This is one of those issues and times where she’s going to need to say something, whether she wants to or not.”

On Friday, the Clinton Foundation released a “House of Cards” spoof starring Clinton and actor Kevin Spacey to celebrate Bill Clinton’s birthday.

Clinton should do more, said Rashad Robinson, the executive director of Color of Change, which has collected more than 100,000 signatures calling for accountability for the police officer who shot Brown.

“We’re seeing her on this book tour as America is having this deep conversation around race, and we want to know where Hillary is,” Robinson told msnbc. “She could be an incredibly important voice as someone who has walked the halls of power, understands the complications of these issues, and has championed a deep relationship with white working class people [and African Americans]… She could be a bridge.”

But a former Clinton aide, who asked not to be named as they are not authorized to speak on Clinton’s behalf, defended the former secretary of state. “It’s ludicrous to think that she should comment on every domestic issue,” the former aide said. “She’s a private citizen, and therefore is not obligated to comment.”

It’s certainly a different problem than the Missouri’s Democratic Gov. Nixon faces. Nixon, who was seen as too slow to intervene in the crisis before taking charge late last week, does not have the privilege of taking a pass. A popular two-term governor of a red state, Nixon is widely considered to be a promising national leader for the Democratic Party, and even a vice presidential option for Clinton, should she run and win the nomination. But the crisis has imperiled his future.

For most Americans who have likely never heard of Nixon before, the one thing he will be known for from now on is his handling of the turmoil in Ferguson. That outcome remains to be seen.

Ironically, many of those sympathetic to the protesters are finding that, among the potential 2016 presidential candidates, the person they most agree with right now is a Republican – Texas Sen. Rand Paul. In an op-ed for Time magazine, Paul said the county needs to combat the racial bias inherent in the criminal justice system and to demilitarize law enforcement.

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Women's Wear Daily: Parties: "Lisa Perry Hosts Paddle & Party for Pink"

By Erik Maza

August 19, 2014

Hillary Rodham Clinton loves the Hamptons and the Hamptons loves her right back. She has been welcomed with open arms ever since she took up residence for a few weeks in Amagansett earlier this month. There she was hosting a fund-raiser with Bill Clinton for their foundation at the home of the philanthropists Joan and George Hornig in Water Mill. Later, she turned up at the screening of the new Meryl Streep movie, "The Giver," at the Amagansett home of producer Harvey Weinstein, a longtime pal.

On Saturday afternoon, she held a book signing at Bookhampton in East Hampton. The store, owned by another supporter, Charline Spektor, had been advertising it was "honored" to welcome the author.

On the day of, security began setting up around noon for the 5 p.m. appearance. The line went around the block. A phalanx of supporters, famous — Martha Stewart, Howard Dean — and not came to pay their respects.

"I had to give her a kiss because I love her so much," Stewart recalled later.

If Clinton were to run for president tomorrow, she seems to have the East End of Long Island locked up.

"I'm the biggest fan," Lisa Perry said. "It's incredible, the support, so who knows…," she said optimistically.

On Saturday, the designer and Richard Perry opened up their home in North Haven for the Paddle & Party for Pink fund-raiser, which benefits the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Because the Perrys are Clinton supporters, there was, throughout the night, the hope that the former secretary of state herself would show up.

Donna Karan, a devoted supporter of various cancer research organizations, was there because she had designed, along with Perry, Stewart, Tory Burch, Kim Kardashian and others, a paddleboard to be auctioned off.

She was also unreserved about her enthusiasm for Clinton.

"Well, given the world situation right now, who else in the world could potentially fix our problems?" Karan said. "There's no question in my mind, never has been, we as a world need a woman, need a caregiver, need someone who really has the compassion and understanding, and has the experience, to deal with

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the world as it is today, which is in total chaos."

For her, the 2016 election cannot come soon enough.

"We need them now," the designer continued, referring to the Clintons. "They truly understand it. They've been everywhere. Where else can you have somebody who's that knowledgeable and aware of how to deal with the issues we're dealing with?" (Their admiration is mutual: The Clinton Foundation did, after all, give Karan its Global Citizen Award in 2012 for her work in Haiti, one of the former president's key causes.)

Paddle & Party has become a hot ticket in the three years the Perrys have hosted it, this year drawing Leonard and William Lauder; Ashley and Mary-Kate Olsen, who came with Olivier Sarkozy; Molly Sims; Hilary Rhoda and Sean Avery, and Danielle and Jodie Snyder of Dannijo. The Eighties singer Taylor Dayne was by the bar after a performance of some of her biggest hits, "Tell It to My Heart" among them. "I'm a vodka girl, usually a dirty martini. But tonight I couldn't really. I had to work, baby," she cooed of her drink of choice. "Tonight is very simple, vodka-soda splash."

The celebrity trainer Tracy Anderson was billed as a cohost of the benefit with Gwyneth Paltrow, but the actress did not show up. She has been recently dogged by tabloid reports that Chris Martin, from whom she's separated, has been dating Jennifer Lawrence.

"We're busy. She wasn't able to make it," Anderson said of Paltrow's absence. When pressed for a reason, her publicist intervened: "Next question."

The benefit wound up raising $1.5 million. As the night was wrapping up, it was clear Clinton would not be making an appearance — the New York Post later reported she was at an early birthday dinner for her husband. But Huma Abedin, Clinton's close aide, did materialize at the last minute, ensuring the prospective presidential candidate at least had a presence at a benefit hosted by important supporters. (Republicans were doing their own politicking last weekend — Gov. Chris Christie and Sen. John McCain were two of the marquee names at a fund-raiser at the East Hampton estate of billionaire Ronald O. Perelman.)

Abedin communed with the Perrys and posed for photos and, after a quick lap around the residence, headed over to check out the paddleboards. She declined interviews. "I'm not bidding on anything but all the boards are gorgeous," she said.

New York Post blog: Page Six: "Clintons blow off charity softball game for book signing"

By Richard Johnson

August 18, 2014, 5:02 p.m. EDT

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Bill and Hillary Clinton were no-shows at the Artists & Writers softball game in East Hampton on Saturday.

Bill participated as the umpire in 1988, before he became president, and came last year as a spectator.

One disappointed fan said he was told by several organizers, “He’ll be here any minute.” A group of people waited out by the entrance, some wearing Bill Clinton T-shirts, but he never showed.

At the table where the baseball jerseys with the players’ names were handed out, two “Clinton” jerseys sat unclaimed throughout the game.

“No celebs at all. No Alec Baldwin. No Bob Balaban,” my source complained. “Lori Singer turned a few heads in the on-deck circle in Nemo-orange gym shorts, but that was it.”

The real action was a block away on Main Street, where, by the seventh inning stretch, there were at least 300 people lined up for Hillary’s book signing of “Hard Choices.”

Media Matters for America: “Fox Calls Hillary Clinton A "Rock Star Diva" Over Contract Requirements Typical Of High Profile Speakers”

By Olivia Kittel

August 18, 2014, 9:53 p.m. EDT

Fox News' Special Report characterized former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's speaking contract requirements as outrageous, in an attempt to paint Clinton as an out of touch "diva," but Clinton's requirements are typical of contracts made by high profile politicians.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported the details of Hillary Clinton's speaking contract for her upcoming October fundraiser for the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, including Clinton's speaking fee as well as a number of stipulations ranging from private jet transportation, luxury hotel accommodations, and travel arrangements for aides.

On the August 18 edition of Fox News' Special Report, host Bret Baier and Fox correspondent James Rosen seized on the report to paint Hillary Clinton as a "rock star diva" with outrageous demands. Baier introduced the segment claiming "Hillary Clinton has a list of demands that critics say would make a rock star diva proud." Rosen detailed Clinton's "demands" which included a private jet, a luxury suite, and travel stipends for Clinton's aides:

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[VIDEO]

Rosen added that "the disclosure of a contract rider so extensive and luxurious, even by the notoriously diva-ish norms of the lecture circuit will likely not help with an existing image problem," highlighting Clinton's previous supposed gaffe about her family's wealth.

ABC News reported in June that Clinton's speaking fee would be donated to the Clinton Foundation "rather than directly into Clinton's own wallet."

Moreover Clinton's contract requirements are typical of contracts for high profile politicians, including former GOP lawmakers:

Former President George W. Bush required private jet travel as well as strict press limitations in his speaking contracts.

Former Alaska Governor and vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin required first class plane tickets or a private aircraft, as well as a luxury suite and two single rooms in a luxury hotel and required strict press limitations.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich required "payment of 'first class expenses,' including the hotel of Gingrich's choice, and 'first class airfare,'" as well as hotel suites with two bathrooms.

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani has required clients to pay for meals and lodging -- including a two-bedroom suite with a king-sized bed on an upper floor with a balcony -- as well as "first class travel expenses for up to 5 people to include a private plane."

Fox continues to fixate on Clinton's wealth in a campaign to misportray her as out of touch with the middle class.

Huffington Post blog: Ian Reifowitz: “Dear Hillary: 'Don't Do Stupid Stuff' Would've Kept Us Out of Iraq and Vietnam. Pretty Smart, No?”

By Ian Reifowitz, author of “Obama’s America: A Transformative Vision of Our National Identity”

August 18, 2014, 3:34 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama may (or may not) have hugged it out, but there is no mistaking that the former secretary of state is looking to create some distance between herself and the president she served.

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In her interview with The Atlantic, when Jeffrey Goldberg spoke of finding "harmony between muscular intervention" -- "We must do something" -- vs. let's just not do something stupid," clearly referring to the thinking of the current and most recent former presidents, Clinton characterized both approaches as "extremes." She instead advocated a middle path that, in essence, splits the difference between W. and O.

Going further, she criticized what has become a shorthand for the president's first principle of foreign policy, arguing that "great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle." What this great nation does not need, I would submit, is a president whose foreign policy is only going to be half as destructive as that of George W. Bush.

But first, let's clarify what "don't do stupid stuff" actually means. It means don't send our armed forces somewhere unless there would be serious consequences to our security if we didn't, and, additionally, unless there are no other alternatives. And, within those parameters, avoid a major commitment of ground forces unless no other military option would suffice. It's much more than a throwaway line. If you want a fuller description of President Obama's foreign policy that still fits in a sound bite, it's this: "Just because we have the best hammer does not mean that every problem is a nail."

That's what the president said in a West Point commencement address barely two months ago. He also said that he would not send troops into battle:

“... simply because I saw a problem somewhere in the world that needed to be fixed, or because I was worried about critics who think military intervention is the only way for America to avoid looking weak. ... America must always lead on the world stage ... but U.S. military action cannot be the only--or even primary--component of our leadership in every instance.”

That is an organizing principle worthy of a great nation, a nation that seeks peace and stability for the world, and security for its own people. That is the kind of nation we ought to be.

And whether it's "don't do stupid stuff" or "just because we have the best hammer does not mean that every problem is a nail," please think about how much stronger our country's security and overall health would have been in the past seven decades if our presidents had conducted foreign policy with the Obama Doctrine at the front of their minds. As Obama himself noted, "Since World War II, some of our most costly mistakes came not from our restraint but from our willingness to rush into military adventures without thinking through the consequences."

In 1953, an American- and British-backed coup overthrew the elected government in Iran led by Mohammed Mossadeq. Why? Because we thought he would move his country into the Soviet orbit. The result: Our puppet, the Shah, took power and suppressed the secular opposition. A quarter century later, the shah was overthrown by the theocratic, Islamic government that turned Iran into a bitter enemy of the U.S. The Soviets are gone, but the ayatollahs are still there. Count that as one for the Obama Doctrine.

That's not the only instance of covert U.S. interference in another country during the Cold War, many of them on behalf of, ahem, less than fully democratic regimes. Even more destructive than Iran or any of these was our disastrous war in Vietnam on behalf of a population that didn't want us there, and that rejected the government with whom we were allied. Imagine what our country would be like today if it hadn't been torn apart by Vietnam. And then, as David Axelrod reminded us, there was the stupidity that was

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invading Iraq.

In surveying the current landscape, Hillary Clinton expressed concern about "the breakout capacity of jihadist groups that can affect Europe, can affect the United States." Certainly, they are dangerous and should be a primary focus of our foreign policy. Then she added that jihadist groups ...

“... are driven to expand .... How do we try to contain that? I'm thinking a lot about containment, deterrence, and defeat. You know, we did a good job in containing the Soviet Union, but we made a lot of mistakes, we supported really nasty guys, we did some things that we are not particularly proud of, from Latin America to Southeast Asia, but we did have a kind of overarching framework about what we were trying to do that did lead to the defeat of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Communism. That was our objective. We achieved it.”

The idea that jihadi groups--brutal, aggressive, and, yes, as ISIL's mass murders have shown, evil as they are--represent a threat that requires us to muster a response similar to our containment of a nuclear-armed world power is, to use the word of the day, stupid. And remember what was said above about Iran and Vietnam. We overreacted during the Cold War as well. To her credit, Clinton recognizes those "mistakes," but what she fails to realize is that the "overarching framework" and the need for an "organizing principle" is exactly what led us into those mistakes.

During the Cold War, our policy of containment had a core strategic element: the domino theory, which led us into a war that we did not need to fight in Southeast Asia. The strategic model itself bears a significant share of the blame. It is very tempting to create a model of how the world works and to try and shoehorn events and trends into that model. But it's a bad idea.

In criticizing the Obama Doctrine, Clinton bemoaned its lack of an overarching vision, some kind of model. That is, however, its strength, in particular given our position as the Number 1 status quo country on the planet. We are, without question, the world's preeminent military power. We devote more funds to military forces than do the next eight countries combined

When I say we are, or at least ought to be, a status quo power, I mean that our main goal should be to make sure no other power threatens our security or the stability of the world. A successful foreign policy has to assess each threat according to the principles of the Obama Doctrine. Having an "overarching framework" (again, see Iran and Vietnam) can cause a president to inflate a situation beyond the threat it actually poses. The invasion of Iraq under George W. Bush is a separate case because, well, that country posed no threat to us at all.

During the Cold War, if we'd been more confident in the ultimate superiority of our political and economic system--despite its serious problems--compared to that of Soviet communism, we could have avoided those mistakes by recognizing that, in the long run, we were going to win. Just like Muhammad Ali, Barack Obama understands that when you are the smarter, more talented competitor in the ring, you can let the other guy swing wildly until he tires himself out, the old rope-a-dope strategy. The Soviet Union ultimately collapsed, unable to keep up with us in terms of the freedom or economic opportunities democratic capitalism offered. Our interventions on behalf of anti-communist thugs, whether they "succeeded" as in Iran, or abjectly failed as in Vietnam, had no effect on that collapse.

Hillary Clinton calls for us to embrace a more robust organizing principle for our foreign policy than "don't do stupid stuff." Her reference to the Cold War is telling, and at least suggests that she sees expansionist

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jihadist groups as a fundamental threat reminiscent to that posed by the USSR. Sounds to me like a new "Global War on Terror," the kind of thing that could potentially lead us into another unnecessary and destructive conflict. Talk about stupid.

BuzzFeed: “Martin O’Malley Makes New Friends, Keeps Old Ties In New Hampshire”

By Ruby Cramer

August 19, 2014, 11:05 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The governor is spending a lot of time in the early primary state these days.

When he arrived on Sunday afternoon at the small, shaded park in Somersworth, N.H., Martin O’Malley cut across the lawn, looking for an old friend. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, his boss three decades ago on the Gary Hart campaign, was about to leave the Democratic county picnic when O’Malley wrapped her in a hug.

About an hour later, after a short speech and dozens of handshakes, O’Malley was greeted by a new familiar face, when Louise Korn, a 70-year-old Democrat from the nearby city of Rochester, approached his picnic table. “I met you in 2012, and we’re still working for you,” she said. “I’ll see you when you’re president.”

“Hey, thank you,” O’Malley replied. “I accept your nomination!”

The stop in Somersworth, an annual picnic for the Strafford County Democratic Committee, marked the Maryland governor’s third trip in nine months to New Hampshire, home to the first presidential primary. Many attendees had met O’Malley before, underscoring his political and personal ties to the state.

Some relationships stretch back three decades, to the 1984 campaign, when a Hart staffer arranged for O’Malley to stay on a friend’s floor in Manchester. Others are still fresh. Democrats in the state remember the governor’s speech late last year at the party’s Jefferson-Jackson dinner, about fighting crime as mayor of Baltimore. Or they recall seeing him afterward, at the Puritan Backroom bar in Manchester, playing with Marty Quirk, the Irish musician about town.

After years of campaigning for Democrats in the state — and more recently, as he’s considered pursuing his own White House bid — O’Malley has become a somewhat familiar figure on the New Hampshire political scene.

“Now I’m starting to see people that remind me that we met,” O’Malley said in an interview at the picnic, before he left to headline a fundraiser for New Hampshire state senate candidates. “What I hadn’t fully

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appreciated until that Jefferson-Jackson dinner about a year ago was the number of people I had met in coming here almost every four years for somebody," he said, ticking off names like John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, and Maggie Hassan, the current governor.

"I've made other new friends in the course of things," O'Malley said. "People have been very kind to me here in the early going."

Kathleen Kelley Arnold, an active Democrat whose father hosted O'Malley in 1984, has watched the governor develop those relationships over the last 30 years. "He has some strong ties in New Hampshire," said Kelley Arnold, whose husband is running for Manchester mayor. "I probably didn't recognize it at the beginning, but he certainly has kept those strong connections going."

O'Malley has also gotten the attention of a new generation of activists in the state. After the Jefferson-Jackson dinner last fall, he was joined at the Puritan Backroom by a bevy of young aides and volunteers from Shaheen's ongoing Senate campaign — many of whom had never met or seen O'Malley until that night.

"They loved him," said Will Kanteres, a Manchester real estate executive who worked with O'Malley on the Hart campaign. "They could relate to him on a generational level."

The governor has barely registered on the early 2016 polls — some surveys show him at under 1% — and would face a very deep fundraising challenge to compete against Clinton. Hart, the U.S. senator from Colorado who went up Vice President Walter Mondale, was polling just as poorly before his upset in the primary. Friends from that campaign talk about the Hart experience often. Some say the memory drives O'Malley forward. Others cast Clinton as a Mondale.

"We say we don't believe in miracles," said Dan Calegari, a senior Hart aide who helped get the win in New Hampshire. "Martin and I and the others participated in one. After seeing it once, why can't it happen again?"

In Somersworth, O'Malley didn't dismiss the comparison. "Perhaps these things are cyclical, but I do sense a tremendous yearning out there that was also present in 1984 for a new generation of leadership and to hear a new perspective from a new generation of leaders that will help us solve our problems," he said. "That's very resonant now. Maybe that's part of what people are hearing or saying."

"Everywhere we go, Democratic activists will say phrases like, 'I'm glad we have new leaders,' 'It's good to hear from new leaders,'" O'Malley went on. "I hear that a lot. I heard that here. I heard it in Iowa. I heard it in Mississippi the other night."

"Maybe that's what they see."

Dan O'Neil, an alderman in Manchester and a friend of O'Malley's, said Democrats in the state are still waiting to see what Hillary Clinton does, but recognize that "she has not been here," he said. (Clinton has not returned to New Hampshire since the 2008 primary, but she is scheduled to appear in Iowa next month,

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at the state's premier Democratic Party event, the Iowa Steak Fry.)

"When they meet with O'Malley one-on-one, he's very personal. That's important," said O'Neil. "They expect politicians to reach out and touch you here."

A staffer for Ready for Hillary, the super PAC gathering an extensive list of Clinton supporters, also attended the picnic, a "Ready" button pinned to her lapel. The group maintains a Northeast headquarters, located in Manchester.

Lou D'Allesandro, a longtime state senator, referred to "the Hillary situation." Other candidates enjoy "pockets of support" in New Hampshire, he said, but Clinton's fanbase would be "hard to crack at this point in time" for anyone.

David Lang, the president of the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire, a powerful group in the state, said he's also heard from Joe Biden, another possible candidate. The vice president invited Lang to "come over and say hello" at the airport as he was traveling during a recent visit to the state, Lang said.

But still, O'Malley maintains a notable distinction in the state: He is the only Democrat openly acting like a presidential candidate. He is raising money for his PAC, visiting early voting states, and campaigning aggressively for Democratic candidates.

O'Malley's efforts have become more aggressive in recent months. After tens of thousands of immigrant minors flooded the U.S.-Mexico border — and as President Obama seemed open to expedite deportations — O'Malley called the children "refugees" and argued they be given due process. The White House called O'Malley to complain and then leaked the call to the press. ("I just focused on what we could do together," the governor said Sunday. "And I'm far more concerned about what happens to these kids than I am about whether somebody in the White House press office got their feelings hurt.")

In April, O'Malley convened more than 60 people at the Baltimore Hilton for lunch and a discussion about his record in Maryland, the 2014 midterm races, and his path forward. The group included friends, former advisers, and political supporters he's known for years from Maryland and other states.

After lunch, a group discussion veered into questions about O'Malley's decision-making process ahead of the 2016 race. One attendee described the meeting as a "brainstorming" session with the people he's close to. "The feeling was overwhelming, 'Martin, run. Go ahead and do it," the person said.

The scene was the same at a "young professionals" event late last month in Washington that helped raise money for O'Malley's PAC.

"There was palpable energy there," said one former aide who attended and still sounded surprised weeks later by the crowd. The two-floor venue, at a bar called Local 16, was filled with people. At one point, the person recalled, he turned to another former O'Malley staffer and said, "Oh my god, this is real."

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· October ? – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (The Hill)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/6/2015 11:47:52 PM
Subject: News Update - September 7, 2015



S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, September 7

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Abbas to Declare End of Oslo Peace Process – Report**
- **Israel Resists EU Proposal to Expand Arab Role in Peace Talks**
- **Saudis Satisfied With US Assurance Deal Will Bring Stability**
- **Netanyahu Rejects Calls for Israel to Accept Syrian Refugees**
- **Mother of Palestinian Baby Slain in Arson Attack Dies**
- **Hamas: Truce with Israel only After Gaza gets Airport, Seaport**
- **Netanyahu Faces Uphill Battle to Secure Majority in Gas Vote**
- **7 Police Commanders Disciplined over Stabbing at Pride Parade**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Refugee Crisis is Taking Place in Middle East, not in Europe"**
  - By Sever Plotsker
- **Foreign Policy Journal "Palestine's Crisis of Leadership: Did Abbas Destroy Palestinian Democracy?"**
  - By Ramzy Baroud

Times of Israel

Abbas to Declare End of Oslo Peace Process

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas may be planning to announce the cancelation of the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians, a senior Palestinian officials has said. Dr. Ahmed Majdalani, a senior PA official and member of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee, told the Palestinian news agency Ma'an in an interview published Sunday that Palestinian leaders were considering the drastic move in light of the failure of those agreements to bring about a Palestinian state. The Palestinian National Council is set to meet in mid-September to discuss the Palestinians' next move in the stalled peace talks.

See also, "Palestinians set to nullify Oslo Accords" (Jerusalem Post)

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Jerusalem Post

Israel Resists EU Proposal to Expand Arab Role in Peace Talks

An EU proposal to expand the Quartet as a way of jump-starting the stymied Israel-Palestinian diplomatic track elicited shrugs in Jerusalem on Sunday, with officials saying that what is needed is a Palestinian desire to hold talks, not "bureaucratic creativity." "From our perspective, the problem is that the Palestinians have no desire to conduct serious negotiations, and no amount of bureaucratic creativity can help that," one official said. The EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said at a meeting of EU foreign ministers on Friday that Jordanian, Saudi and Egyptian representatives would take part in an expanded meeting of the Quartet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly later this month in the hopes of jump-starting some sort of diplomatic process.

Reuters

Saudis Satisfied With US Assurance Deal Will Bring Stability

Saudi Arabia is satisfied with assurances from U.S. President Barack Obama about the Iran nuclear deal and believes the agreement will contribute to security and stability in the Middle East, a senior Saudi official said on Friday. Saudi King Salman met with Obama at the White House on Friday to seek more support in countering Iran, as the Obama administration aimed to use the visit to shore up relations after a period of tensions. The visit is the king's first to the United States since ascending to the throne in January 2015, and comes after the United States agreed to a nuclear deal with Iran in July.

See also, " Iran Nuclear Deal Tests Biden's Bond With Leading Jewish Democrat" (Ha'aretz)

New York Times

Netanyahu Rejects Calls for Israel to Accept Syrian Refugees

Prime Minister Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel was not indifferent to the tragedy of refugees from Syria and Africa, but added that the country was too small to absorb those fleeing from their homelands and that immediate steps would be taken to prevent infiltrators from entering its borders." Israel is a small country, and we do not have the geographic and demographic depths [to absorb them]," Netanyahu told ministers at the cabinet meeting in Jerusalem. "Therefore, we must control our borders and prevent migrant worker infiltrators or generators of terror."

Ynet News

Mother of Palestinian Baby Slain in Arson Attack Dies

Reham Dawabsheh, who was critically wounded in an arson attack on her home in the Palestinian village of Duma, succumbed to her wounds in the early hours of Monday, bringing the number of victims in the July 31 attack to three. Reham, 27, suffered from burns to 90 percent of her body and has been fighting for her life at the Tel HaShomer Medical Center in Ramat Gan for a little over five weeks. Her baby son Ali Dawabsheh was burned to death and killed instantly, while her husband Saed Dawabsheh, who suffered burns to 80 percent, fought for his life for a little over a week before succumbing to his wounds. Her elder son, four-year-old Ahmad, is suffering from burns to 60 percent of his body and still in serious condition.

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Jerusalem Post

Hamas: Truce with Israel only After Gaza gets Airport, Seaport

Hamas said on Sunday that any long-term truce agreement with Israel should include the reopening of the airport and the building of a seaport in the Gaza Strip. The airport, which is named after Yasser Arafat, is located in the southern Gaza Strip. It stopped operating at the beginning of the second intifada, when the IDF destroyed parts of its tarmac. Musa Abu Marzouk, a senior Hamas official, said that such an agreement should also include the reopening of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt and the lifting of the blockade on the Gaza Strip. Abu Marzouk's remarks came amid reports that Israel and Hamas are conducting indirect negotiations to reach an agreement over a long-term truce.

Times of Israel

Netanyahu Faces Uphill Battle to Secure Majority in Gas Vote

The Knesset on Monday was set to vote on a controversial reform of Israel's natural gas sector, but by Sunday night Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not appear to have clinched a parliamentary majority to approve the plan. As part of the special session called during the summer recess, the Knesset was slated to vote on whether to transfer the monopoly-approving authority of Economy Minister Aryeh Deri — who has refused to exercise his ministerial power to fast-track the new gas deal with energy companies — to the cabinet. According to reports Sunday, the prime minister was pinning his hopes on persuading members of the Joint (Arab) List to skip the vote in exchange for a significant increase to budgets for the Arab community. By late Sunday morning, the party had denied reaching an agreement with Netanyahu.

Ynet News

7 Police Commanders Disciplined over Stabbing at Pride Parade

Six police officers and a Border Policeman were reassigned and four other police officers were formally reprimanded for their responsibility in the Jerusalem police's failure to prevent the stabbing at the Jerusalem Pride Parade in July, it was cleared for publication on Sunday. The most senior officer to be reassigned is the commander of the Moriah sub-district, Brig.-Gen. Kobi Davidian. He will not serve in command positions in the future. It was in his area that the attack occurred, and the commission holds him responsible for the failings of the officers under his command. The head of the intelligence branch in the Jerusalem District Police, Chief Supt. Doron Moshe, was also reassigned and barred from promotion to any command positions in the next seven years.

Yedioth Ahronoth – September 6, 2015

Refugee Crisis is Taking Place in Middle East, not in Europe

By Sever Ploscker

I had a dream: I hear knocking on my door in the middle of the night. I peek through the eyehole and see behind the door a long line of people in tattered and worn out clothes from hardship on the roads, some carrying toddlers and children on their shoulders and in their hands, their faces full of exhaustion and anger, seeking compassion.

If I open the door, they will flood my apartment, fill the house with words in Arabic and a Muslim prayer. If I don't open the door, they will remain behind it, hungry and thirsty, their children crying bitterly. A raging sea of refugees.

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I woke up sweating. There was no one behind my door. Not yet.

Israel is watching what is known as "the refugee crisis in Europe" with a mixture of sharing in grief and malicious joy. Grief over the refugees, (restrained) joy over the exposure of the hypocritical Europeans' face.

Correspondents of television channels from Israel are reporting with shock on the heart of stone of the governments, which are locking their gates to prevent the poor refugees from entering, on merciless police officers and on the death raging on the escape routes from the Middle Eastern hell to the European heaven.

The descriptions and images tell the story of a human tragedy, but there are also dry numbers, and according to those numbers there is no refugee crisis in Europe. The European Union's population numbers 500 million people. If all 28 EU member countries meet their commitments this year without leaving a single refugee homeless, they will be taking in an average of 80,000 refugees a month: 0.015 percent of the EU's population. That's not a crisis, not a flood and not a demographic danger.

There is no real economic problem here either: The absorption of a million refugees in the EU countries will require an investment of €50 billion (about $55 billion) – only 1 percent of the EU's annual product (€19 trillion). That's pocket money, which pales into insignificance compared to the future economic contribution of a young working population to the aging Europe.

Europe is not being threatened by an economic or demographic refugee crisis, but by a political crisis reflecting the rise in power of the different populist movements. As usual, these movements are looking for scapegoats, looking for someone to blame for "the situation." Sometimes they blame the bankers, sometimes the rich people, sometimes the Jews (even if they are physically absent), sometimes the professional associations, sometimes the local Muslims, and recently they are blaming the refugees from the Middle East and Africa.

The loud populism has turned the not-so-big number of refugees, which the EU has no practical problem taking in, into an intimidating flood at Europe's gates. That's nonsense, but it creates efficient intimidation.

An unbearable refugee crisis is taking place exclusively in the Middle East, in our area. The civil war in Syria – with a death toll of about 300,000 people so far, at least 15,000 of them children – has driven millions out of the country. According to estimates, the small Jordan has already taken in some 700,000 refugees from Syria and hundreds of thousands from Iraq, and Lebanon has taken in at least 1.5 million. In these countries there is really no more room for a single asylum seeker.

And this is where my nightmare begins. What if tens of thousands of people arrive tomorrow from the battle and oppression areas in Syria and Iraq at border in the Golan Heights, seeking refuge in Israel? What if they knock on our gates, take the risk and climb the fences with their crying children in their hands? What if they prefer to live in an enemy country than die in a whirlpool of war and terror or on escape routes?

In the blink of an eye, a refugee crisis could arrive at Israel's doorstep. When that happens, it will be interesting to see how our ministers and commentators respond when CNN broadcasts heartbreaking images of an exhausted refugee family at the Golan border, begging confused IDF soldiers with cocked weapons to allow it to run for its life into the Jewish state.

Let's lower the rebuking moral tone towards Europe and prepare for the definitely

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not trivial possibility of lines of refugees at our doorstep.

Foreign Policy Journal– September 6, 2015

Palestine's Crisis of Leadership: Did Abbas Destroy Palestinian Democracy?

By Ramzy Baroud

The crisis of leadership throughout Palestinian history did not start with Mahmoud Abbas and will, regrettably, be unlikely to end with his departure. Although Abbas has, perhaps, done more damage to the credibility of the Palestinian leadership than any other leader in the past, he is also a by-product of a process of political fraud that started much earlier than his expired Presidency.

Abbas' unforeseen announcement on August 27 that he, along with a few others, will resign from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee and his call for an emergency session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) is a testament to his poor management. More, it shows his utter disregard for the minimally-required threshold of responsible leadership.

Abbas, like his predecessor Yasser Arafat, has used and discarded the PLO and its various, now near-defunct, institutions as his personal political playground: summoning PNC members to vote on pre-determined and decided agendas and to cast and re-cast roles within the PLO's Executive Committee as a way to punish and reward.

Now, at the age of 80, Abbas is obviously concerned about his legacy, the fate of the PLO and his Palestinian Authority (PA), once he is gone. Whatever political maneuvering he has planned for the future (including the selection of new Executive Committee members, which will be overseen by him and by his allies) is hardly encouraging. According to the Unity deal signed between Abbas' faction, Fatah and Hamas, the restructuring of the PLO as a pre-requisite to include both Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in one unifying and relatively representative Palestinian body was a top priority.

Well, not anymore. Hamas is furious with Abbas' call for reconvening the PNC, a two-day session scheduled to be held in Ramallah, West Bank next month. The Gaza-headquartered Movement is calling on Palestinian factions not to participate. Either way, further Palestinian disunity is assured.

Now that unity remains elusive, Hamas is seeking its own alternatives to breaking the Gaza siege by conducting what is being described as 'indirect talks' with Israel, via the notorious former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair. The latter has reportedly met Hamas leader, Khaled Meshaal, on more than one occasion. The discussions included a long-term ceasefire between Hamas and Israel in exchange for the permission of a safe sea passage where Palestinians in Gaza can enjoy a degree of freedom, bypassing Israeli and Egyptian siege and restrictions.

Needless to say, if the reports regarding Blair's role in the indirect negotiations and Hamas' intentions are accurate, it would indeed be a great folly. On the one hand, Blair's pro-Israel record disqualifies him from the role of any honest mediation. On the other, Resistance or truce is not a political decision to be determined by a single faction, no matter how great its sacrifices or how trustworthy its intentions.

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In addition, Abbas is in no position to criticize Hamas for its talks with Blair. It is particularly disingenuous that Abbas and his party are accusing Hamas of flouting Palestinian Unity and consensus, while both— Abbas and Fatah— have contributed to Palestine's political afflictions more than any other leader or faction in the past. In fact, while Gaza subsisted and suffered terribly under a protracted Israeli siege and successive wars, Abbas operated his PA outfit in Ramallah with the full consent of the Israeli Government. The so-called 'security coordination', chiefly aimed at crushing Palestinian Resistance in the West Bank, continued unabated.

This is what Israeli political commentator, Raviv Drucker, wrote in Haaretz in an article that reprimanded Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, for failing to appreciate the value of Abbas: "Our greatest high-tech geniuses working in the most sophisticated laboratories could not invent a more comfortable Palestinian partner. A leader with no one to the left of him in the Palestinian political arena and one who, when his enemy, Israel, bombs his people in Gaza, comes out with a statement criticizing those who kidnap Israeli soldiers."

Abbas has shown little compassion for Gaza. Neither has he demonstrated any respect for the Palestinian people nor has he invested sincere efforts aimed at making Palestinian unity his top priority. It is rather telling that he is activating the PNC, summoning its nearly 700 members, not to discuss the intensifying Palestinian crises— from Gaza to Jerusalem to Yarmouk—but rather to concoct another cozy arrangement for him and his cronies.

Yet, this crisis of leadership precedes Abbas.

The PNC's first meeting was held in Jerusalem in 1964. Since then and for years now, despite the Parliament's many flaws, it serves an important mission. It was a platform for Palestinian political dialogue; and, over the years, it helped define Palestinian national identity and priorities. But gradually, starting with Arafat's elections as the head of the PLO in February 1969, the PNC ceased being a Parliament, and became, more or less, a political rubber stamp that validated all decisions made by Arafat's PLO and, specifically, his Fatah faction.
This has been highlighted repeatedly throughout history with several prominent examples:

On November 12, 1988 the PNC convened in Algiers to approve of a political strategy based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, the habitual US condition for engaging the PLO. At the end of deliberation and, based on that approval, Arafat announced an independent Palestinian State, to be established in the Occupied Territories, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Despite this, the US still argued that the PNC statement did not qualify for an 'unconditional' acceptance of Resolution 242, hence pressing Arafat for more concessions. Arafat flew to Geneva and addressed the UN General Assembly on December 13, 1988, since the US refused to grant him an entry visa to speak at the UN Headquarters in New York. He labored to be even more specific.

However, the US maintained its position, compelling Arafat, on the next day, to reiterate the same previous statements, this time, explicitly renouncing "all forms of terrorism, including individual, group or state terrorism."

This was not the only time the PNC and its respected members were dragged into the political gambles of Palestinian leaders. In 1991, they voted in favor of direct negotiations in Madrid between Palestinians and Israel, only to be hoodwinked by Arafat, who negotiated a secret agreement in Oslo that paid little heed to Palestinian consensus. PNC was once more summoned to Gaza in 1996 to omit parts of the Palestinian Charter deemed unacceptable by Netanyahu and the then

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US President, Bill Clinton. As PNC members voted, Clinton, present at the meeting, nodded in agreement.

But unlike Arafat's misuse of democracy and manipulation of the PNC—which is no longer representative or, with its current factional makeup is, frankly, irrelevant—Abbas' game is even more dangerous.

Arafat used the Council to ratify or push his own agenda, which he mistakenly deemed suitable for Palestinian interests. Abbas' agenda, however, is entirely personal, entirely elitist and entirely corrupt. Worse, it comes at a time when Palestinian unity is not just a matter of smart strategy, but is critical in the face of the conceivable collapse of the entire Palestinian national project

There is no doubt that the moment when Abbas exits the scene has arrived. That could either become a transition into yet another sorry legacy of an undemocratic Palestinian leadership or it could serve as an opportunity for Palestinians, fed up with the endemic corruption, political tribalism and across-the-board failure, to step forward and challenge the moral collapse of the Palestinian Authority and the charade of self-serving 'democracy' of factions and individuals.

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From:	"Jon Soltz, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	9/11/2015 9:27:42 AM
Subject:	[Iran] Our visit to the White House yesterday

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John -

VoteVets supporter and Gold Star Mom Karen Meredith made a promise to her son when she buried him after he was killed in Iraq 11 years ago. Her promise was that she would do everything she could to ensure no other mother had to go through the pain she felt at that moment.

Yesterday afternoon she fulfilled that promise.

I was honored to join Karen, VoteVets supporter and Gold Star Mom Michelle DeFord, Major General (Ret.) Paul Eaton, Colonel (Ret.) Lawrence Wilkerson, Petty Officer (Ret.) Rick Hegdahl and a number of other veterans at the White House to meet in person with President Obama and Secretary Kerry in support of a diplomacy-first approach with Iran that will keep them from obtaining a nuclear weapon, and us out of another war in the Middle East.

And when I had my chance to talk to the President and Secretary Kerry -- the first thing I did was tell them about the hundreds of thousands of veterans, military family members, and VoteVets supporters who stood with them on this issue for the better part of two years.

It was an important week for VoteVets: not only did our work directly help to stop attempts to scuttle the historic agreement that will prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, but VoteVets led a delegation to the Capitol where we met with Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and thirty representatives supporting the agreement, and we also stopped by a number of congressional offices to carry your voices with us in conversations with other members who were still on the fence.

This victory for the safety and security of our nation, and members of our military, would not have been possible with the work and commitment of over 100,000 veterans, military family members, and VoteVets supporters who made their voices heard on this issue.

Help us continue our work on behalf of veterans and military family members with a $3 contribution to VoteVets today.



(President Obama embraces VoteVets supporter and Gold Star

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Mom Michelle DeFord in the White House)

President Obama said it best at our meeting:

"These veterans have come together in their defense of our national security. They believe in maintaining the strongest military the world has ever known. They are proud of our military capabilities and recognize that there are times when it is necessary that we take military action. But what they also understand is that American power relies as well on strong and principled diplomacy."

We were proud to support him in this effort -- even as outside groups poured millions of dollars into stopping the deal. By elevating the voices of veterans in this debate, we were able to successfully articulate a vision for America's role in the world that doesn't always rely on military power first, but recognizes diplomacy as a powerful tool as well.

We are the only progressive veterans group who could have stepped in to fill this much needed role. VoteVets' veterans from every state and congressional district in the country participated in our campaign to support this agreement. That's something we can ALL be proud of.

Help VoteVets continue our work with a $3 contribution today.

It's been an exciting few days in Washington, D.C. And I want you to know that every minute I was here, meeting with members of congress, and even in the White House, I was thinking of each and every one of you who made this important victory for the future of our country possible.

This moment belongs to all of us.

All my best,

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran and Chairman
VoteVets

Contribute

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Greg Rosalsky" <GRosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/23/2008 1:21:35 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/23

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 23rd, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time
12:30pm McCain: Town Hall in Fresno, CA
- Tracking scheduled for this event

2:30pm McCain: Fundraiser in Fresno, CA
....

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Sen. McCain offers $300 million prize for new auto battery (AP 6/23/08)
By Glen Johnson
John McCain hopes to solve the country's energy crisis with cold hard cash. The bounty would equate to $1 for every man, woman and child in the country, "a small price to pay for helping to break the back of our oil dependency," McCain said in remarks prepared for delivery Monday at Fresno State University in California.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/06/23/mccain_offers_300_million_for_new_auto_battery/
Link to Speech Excerpts: http://thepage.time.com/excerpts-from-mccains-remarks-in-fresno-california/

Shaped after Saigon's fall (Boston Globe 6/23/08)
By Sasha Issenberg
In November 1974, a year and a half after his release as a prisoner of war, John McCain traveled to Saigon to visit the South Vietnamese army war college, where he delivered a half-hearted pep talk to allies he knew were about to get routed. Six months later, Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese army, marking the war's end.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/06/23/shaped_after_saigons_fall/

Flip-Flops Are Looking Like a Hot Summer Trend (NYT 6/23/08)
By John Harwood
...Mr. McCain's embrace of the tax cuts he had opposed in the Senate, as he sought support from anti-tax conservatives in Republican primaries, first tested the limits of that market...
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/23/us/politics/23caucus.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

McCain Driving Debate, But Some Fear Swerving (Washington Post 6/22/08)
By Michael D. Shear and Juliet Eilperin
John McCain has demonstrated a knack for driving the daily political debate, forcing his opponent to respond to a challenge to meet in town hall debates, accusing him of being "delusional" about terrorism and saying he flip-flopped on public financing for his campaign. But even as McCain's strategists claim tactical victories, Republicans outside the campaign worry that underlying weaknesses in its organization and message are costing him valuable time to make the case for his own candidacy.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/21/AR2008062101570.html?hpid=topnews

Two Republican Contenders Whose Similarities Are Mostly Skin Deep (NYT 6/22/08)
By Adam Nagourney
They are war heroes with the injuries to show for it. They are known for hurricane tempers and caustic wit. They are among the oldest men to seek the presidency. And Democrats are hoping that the 1996 candidacy of Bob Dole will be a template for what will happen to Senator John McCain in his run for the White House this year.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/22/us/politics/22dole.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

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Getting personal with John McCain (St. Paul Pioneer Press 6/22/08)
By Bob Sansevere
McCain's campaign arranged for me to travel with him on his Straight Talk Express bus Wednesday for the ride from the airport to downtown Minneapolis. While other reporters tried to prod him about a vice-presidential choice and ANWR, we talked about everything from Muhammad Ali to Dick Tracy, from Pappy Boyington to Usher ... and even to a bowl-off with Barack Obama.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11254.html

McCain faces delicate balance of being GOP nominee, political maverick (Philadelphia Inquirer 6/22/08)
By Larry Eichel
It's not easy trying to be a major-party presidential nominee and a political maverick at the same time, or so John McCain is finding out. His prospects for defeating Democrat Barack Obama in November rely in large part on how well he handles the two roles and the inevitable tensions between them.
http://www.courant.com/news/nationworld/hc-mccain0622.artjun22,0,3408142.story

Court fuels national security debate (Baltimore Sun 6/22/08)
By Paul West
A fierce debate over national security, perhaps the clearest and widest difference between John McCain and Barack Obama, was triggered the other day by, of all people, five justices of the Supreme Court. How it plays out could determine who becomes the next president.
http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/ideas/bal-id.infocus22jun22,0,3730115.story

Too Smart To Vote For McCain (The Nation 6/22/08)
By Katha Pollitt
A Feminist Would Have To Be Insane To Vote For The Presumptive GOP Nominee...
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/20/opinion/main4198848.shtml

The real McCain (The Observer 6/22/08)
By Paul Harris
To his fans he's a lovable patriot with a maverick streak. But to his critics he's an anti-abortion Creationist who surrounds himself with religious extremists. Paul Harris uncovers the dark side of John McCain.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/22/johnmccain.uselections2008

McCain attends services at Phoenix church (AP 6/22/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain attended services Sunday at a Baptist church in his hometown.
http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/washington/AP-McCain.html?scp=3&sq=mccain&st=nyt

The more John McCain is right on Iraq, the more he loses (Times Online 6/22/08)
By Andrew Sullivan
Mesopotamia has proved treacherous for many western politicians, but few have as much right to be frustrated as John McCain...The overwhelming response among Americans to good news from Iraq is a simple question: can we come home now?
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/andrew_sullivan/article4186049.ece

It's hard out there for McCain (Politico 6/22/08)
By Jonathan Martin
The LA Times examines potential conflicts of interest McCain may face as it relates to his wife's inherited beer company, the Washington Post and AP each do an overview on McCain's organizational and message deficiences and The New York Times examines the ways he is and is not like Bob Dole...
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0608/Its_hard_out_there_for_McCain.html

Kristol: Bush Might Bomb Iran If He 'Thinks Senator Obama's Going To Win' (Think Progress 6/22/08)
On Fox News Sunday this morning, Weekly Standard editor Bill Kristol said that President Bush is more likely to attack Iran if he believes Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) is going to be elected. However, "if the president thought

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John McCain was going to be the next president, he would think it more appropriate to let the next president make that decision than do it on his way out," Kristol said, reinforcing the fact that McCain is offering a third Bush term on Iran.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/22/kristol-bush-iran/

Three women who might join the GOP ticket (Politico 6/22/08)
By David Paul Kuhn
While the vice presidential slot may be John McCain's best means of wooing those Hillary Rodham Clinton supporters who remain loathe to embrace Barack Obama, the Republican party is a thin source of politically viable women, leaving McCain with few top-tier options.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11258.html

How McCain's Public Financing Two-Step Helps Obama (ABC News Blog 6/22/08)
By Jake Tapper
...At the beginning of 2007, McCain suggested that he would be interested in entering into the public financing system for the general election. But for the primaries, he was planning on raising $100 million of private funds and opting out. That became a problem last summer, when his campaign all but disintegrated and had very little money...Democrats charged that McCain had used his ability to qualify for federal matching funds as collateral, but the bank and McCain's lawyers said that was not true.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/06/how-mccains-pub.html

Is McCain *still* working out the kinks? (The Carpetbagger Report 6/22/08)
If any presidential candidate's campaign should be a finely-tuned machine, it should be John McCain's. Not only has he been a political insider for decades, but this is his second presidential race, and he's effectively been running for two years.
http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/15954.html

Analysis: McCain Hampered By Missteps (AP 6/21/08)
By David Espo
Call it campaign growing pains. Or bad luck. Or a combination of the two. By any name, Sen. John McCain is hampered by missteps and self-generated controversy in the early days of the general election campaign for the White House.
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/21/politics/main4200185.shtml?source=RSSattr=Politics_4200185

Wife's beer company could cause headaches for McCain (LA Times 6/21/08)
By Ralph Vartabedian
In Congress, the Arizona senator has recused himself from alcohol issues, but as president that wouldn't be possible...Hensley, founded by Cindy McCain's late father, holds federal and state licenses to distribute beer and lobbies regulatory agencies on controversial alcohol issues that involve public health and safety...The company has argued against such groups as Mothers Against Drunk Driving in fighting proposed federal rules that would require alcohol content information on every package of beer, wine and liquor.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-hensley22-2008jun22,0,4794559.story

'Look, I Am My Husband's Best Friend' (Newsweek 6/21/08)
By Holly Bailey
Cindy McCain talks about long-distance marriage, dirty politics and calls from her son in Iraq. While her husband has been in Washington, Cindy McCain has been carving out a life of her own: last week she was in Vietnam to do charity work with Operation Smile. She paused to talk to NEWSWEEK's Holly Bailey.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/142651/output/print

McCain's Boeing Battle Boomerangs (Newsweek 6/21/08)
By Michael Isikoff
One of John McCain's most celebrated achievements in recent years was his crusade to block a Pentagon contract with Boeing for a new fleet of midair refueling tankers...But last week, McCain's subsequent effort to redo the tanker deal was dealt a setback...The auditors' ruling has also cast light on an overlooked aspect of McCain's crusade: five of his campaign's top advisers and fund-raisers—including Tom Loeffler, who resigned last month as his finance co-chairman, and Susan Nelson, his finance director—were registered lobbyists for

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EADS.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/142658/output/print

McCain, Obama each surpass $21 million in May fundraising (LA Times 6/21/08)
By Dan Morain
It marks the first time the GOP candidate has matched his powerhouse rival in monthly fundraising. But campaign experts are quick to offer caveats... McCain's fortunes have been helped by the Republican National Committee, which ended last month with 13 times more in the bank than its Democratic counterpart.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign21-2008jun21,0,6473203.story
See MSNBC's "McCain Sneaks Up on Obama in money race": http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25296564/

McCain Pushes Nafta in Visit to Canada as Obama, Again, Defends His View (NYT 6/21/08)
By Michael Cooper and John M. Broder
OTTAWA — Senator John McCain's campaign sent out an e-mail message on Friday highlighting what it called Senator Barack Obama's "completely mystifying shift" on the North American Free Trade Agreement.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/21/us/politics/21trade.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin
See WaPo's "McCain Defends Trade Pact": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/20/AR2008062002836.html
See WSJ's "McCain Champions Free Trade in Canada": http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121399193357792665.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Union: Respect, but don't vote for McCain (Chicago Tribune 6/21/08)
By Jill Zuckman
WASHINGTON — Jim Wasser, an electrician from Kankakee, Ill., stands defiantly, hands on hips, wearing a bright orange International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers T-shirt with a message from the AFL-CIO to 400,000 of its union members in key swing states. "John McCain? War hero? Absolutely," says Wasser, a Navy veteran who served in Vietnam with Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.). "Voice for working families? No way."
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-mccain21jun21,0,6855241,print.story

Asking John McCain 'The Question' (LA Times 6/21/08)
By Bob Drogin
As John McCain campaigns around the country, there's a topic that the self-described straight talker tries to dodge: choosing a running mate. Yet the issue is coming up almost everywhere he goes.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailmccain21-2008jun21,0,3674782.story

McCain stumps strategists by playing up his unpopular stance on free trade (LA Times 6/20/08)
By Maeve Reston
The candidate may be trying to show that his convictions about NAFTA are independent of public opinion or that rival Barack Obama is 'irresponsible' to oppose the policy...But some political analysts wondered why McCain would choose to highlight his position in attention-grabbing trips -- whether to Canada or to economically depressed areas like Youngstown, Ohio. The Arizona senator's campaign needs to win the support of independent voters, many of them blue-collar workers worried that the North American Free Trade Agreement will cost them their jobs.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trade20-2008jun20,0,5214136.story

Emanuel Asks McCain to 'Clarify' Stance on Great Lakes Oil Drilling (Washington Post 6/20/08)
By Michael D. Shear
Democrats are not about to let Sen. John McCain's support for offshore oil drilling go unnoticed. In a letter to McCain, Rep. Rahm Emanuel of Chicago asks McCain to "clarify" his position on drilling in the Great Lakes, which, Emanuel points out, are bordered by "Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin."
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/20/emanuel_asks_mccain_to_clarify.html

End The Media's Pro-McCain Bias! Now!! (Huffington Post 6/20/08)
By Chris Weigant
Anyone who thinks that the treatment Barack Obama has gotten from the media during this campaign is remotely

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the same as the treatment John McCain has received just has not been paying much attention.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/chris-weigant/friday-talking-points-36_b_108401.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

John McCain, drill seeker (Boston Globe 6/23/08)

JOHN MCCAIN has a reputation as a maverick and a conservationist, but neither was in evidence last week when the Republican presidential candidate endorsed more oil drilling off the US coast.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2008/06/23/john_mccain_drill_seeker/

Great Lakes drilling an idea to be delved (Chicago Tribune 6/23/08)

By Dennis Byrne

...Picture drilling rigs in the lake within sight of Chicago and North Shore towns. Imagine oil spills and near-dead, crude-oil-soaked birds flopping about on Oak Street Beach. Imagine the disappearance of smelt and salmon. Imagine poisoned water supplies. Imagine the end of the world...Well, at least that's the kind of exaggerated rhetoric we'll hear from the East, West and Gulf Coasts in response to proposals by President Bush and the Republican Party's presumptive presidential nominee, John McCain, to lift the federal ban on drilling on America's outer continental shelf...
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/chi-oped0623byrnejun23,0,320967.story

Drill Deeper (Washington Post 6/22/08)

IF THERE IS a silver lining in the price of gasoline shooting past $4 a gallon, it's that it has sparked an intense debate in the United States about its energy security -- or lack thereof. President Bush and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) have given the impression that relief for drivers lies in off-shore drilling and the construction of nuclear power plants. In fact, those solutions wouldn't produce results for years.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/21/AR2008062101425.html

Editorial: Offshore Drilling Opens Oil Pipeline to Nowhere (San Jose Mercury News 6/22/08)

The surge of gas prices above $4.50 a gallon is hammering consumers and the economy. It calls for dramatic action - but instead of looking to the future, President Bush and Republican presidential candidate John McCain grope for answers in the discredited past: They want to end a 27-year ban on offshore oil drilling.
http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci_9664518

Fiscal Medicine Man (Washington Post 6/23/08)

By Robert D. Novak

When John McCain met privately with Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin after a political event in the Milwaukee suburbs on May 29, the Republican presidential candidate might not have realized that he had just come face to face with an opportunity and a test. Ryan showed him his plan to reform the economy. McCain expressed interest and said he would turn it over to his campaign's economists.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/22/AR2008062201552.html

What Obama Should Say On Iraq (Newsweek 6/30/08)

Barack Obama needs to give a speech about Iraq...Iraq is fading in importance for the public and, to the extent that it matters as an electoral issue, most people agree with Obama's judgment that the war was not worth fighting.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/142642

Now That We've 'Won,' Let's Come Home (NYT 6/22/08)

By Frank Rich

...In America, the war has been a settled issue since early 2007. No matter what has happened in Iraq since then, no matter what anyone on any side of the Iraq debate has had to say about it, polls have consistently found that a majority of Americans judge the war a mistake and want out...The good news for Democrats — and the big opportunity for Barack Obama — is that John McCain and the war's last cheerleaders don't recognize that immutable reality. They're so barricaded in their own Vietnam bunker that they think the country is too.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/22/opinion/22rich.html?hp

Obama and McCain - flip-flop, flip-flop (Boston Globe 6/22/08)

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By Joan Vennochi
THERE IS no "straight talk." There isn't "a different kind of politics." There are just two men who really want to be president...As a presidential candidate, McCain now opposes his own immigration plan. He backs the Bush tax cuts he once opposed with contempt. While McCain presents himself as a maverick feared by lobbyists and special interests, his campaign has many ties to both and includes staffers who were once lobbyists.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/06/22/obama_and_mccain___flip_flop_flip_flop/

McCain and Bush, oil opportunists (LA Times 6/21/08)
President Bush and presumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain both recently proposed an end to the federal moratorium on offshore oil drilling. What's really needed, though, is a moratorium on worthless suggestions from politicians for lowering gas prices.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-oil21-2008jun21,0,2167184.story

Dear John: They're not that into you (Seattle Times 6/21/08)
By Froma Harrop
...Ever since the religious right slimed him and his family in the 2000 South Carolina Republican primary — thus reviving the candidacy of George W. Bush, whom McCain had just clobbered in New Hampshire — McCain has been courting the very people he then called "agents of intolerance."
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/opinion/2008009354_harrop21.html

Opposing view: The system is broken (USA Today 6/20/08)
By Barack Obama
I support public financing and will work to make it viable. The decision not to participate in the public financing system wasn't an easy one — especially because I support a robust system of public financing of elections. But the public financing of presidential elections, as it exists today, is broken — and the Republican Party apparatus has mastered the art of gaming this broken system.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/06/opposing-view-4.html#more

BUSH NEWS

The case for reversing the Bush tax cuts (Politico 6/23/08)
...The punch line for champions of President Bush's tax cuts, echoed often by Bush himself, was "Who knows how to spend your money better, you or the government?" The answer, of course, is that some of our money is better spent independently for our own personal needs, and some of it is better spent together for things we can't obtain by ourselves.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11260.html

Mr. Bush, Lead or Leave (NYT 6/22/08)
By Thomas Friedman
Two years ago, President Bush declared that America was "addicted to oil," and, by gosh, he was going to do something about it. Well, now he has. Now we have the new Bush energy plan: "Get more addicted to oil."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/22/opinion/22friedman.html?hp

White House Dismissed Legal Advice On Detainees (Washington Post 6/21/08)
By Michael Abramowitz
Senior lawyers inside and outside the Bush administration repeatedly warned the White House that it was risking judicial scrutiny of its detention policies in Guantanamo Bay if it did not pursue a more pragmatic legal strategy that considered the likely reaction of the Supreme Court.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/20/AR2008062002939.html?hpid=topnews

Bush to headline fundraising dinner in Michigan (AP 6/20/08)
President Bush will travel to Michigan next week to headline a Republican fundraising dinner in Livonia, outside of Detroit.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-20-bush-michigan_N.htm

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OTHER TOP NEWS

Karl Rove: New Rampart, Old Battles (NYT 6/23/08)

By Michael Abramowitz

He's been gone from the White House for nearly a year, but Karl Rove continues to provoke liberal ire and present a big bull's-eye on his back for congressional Democrats.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/22/AR2008062201863.html

First Obama attack book in the works (Politico 6/23/08)

By Jonathan Martin

The same publisher that distributed the 2004 best-seller that took aim at John Kerry's Vietnam service is planning a summer release of what's scheduled to be the first critical book on Barack Obama.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11263.html

The Case Against Tim Pawlenty (Washington Post Blog 6/23/08)

By Chris Cllizza

There's little dispute in Republican circles that Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is the leading candidate at the moment to be selected as John McCain's running mate. Yesterday we made the case for Pawlenty as the right pick; today we argue the opposite.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/06/the_case_against_tim_pawlenty.html?nav=rss_blog
See Huffington Post's "Andrew Sullivan Predicts Pawlenty as McCain Veep": http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/22/andrew-sullivan-predicts_n_108533.html

Lieberman's Costly Support for McCain (Time 6/22/08)

By Jay Newton-Small

Joe Lieberman is having a not-so-secret affair on his political spouse of the past four decades. The Connecticut Senator — now an independent, but until 2006 a staunch Democrat, married to the party — is not just campaigning for presumptive Republican nominee John McCain; he is, to even the most objective eye, in a deep state of rapture.
http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1817122,00.html

Arming Obama (WSJ 6/21/08)

By Monica Langley

Sen. Jim Webb - Vietnam Vet, 'Redneck' - Is Emerging As the Democrats' Military Point Man
With his two Purple Hearts, three tattoos and spoiling-for-a-fight attitude, Sen. Jim Webb is emerging as the Democrats' point man on two of the most profound matters facing the electorate this November: national defense and the military.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121400455088993487.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Just when you thought it was safe: Swift boats are back (LA Times 6/22/08)

By Don Frederick and Andrew Malcom

We're in the thick of a pretty intense presidential campaign, but that doesn't mean all the scores from the 2004 election have been settled. Veterans who served with John Kerry during the Vietnam War released a letter and documents last week that they hoped would put the lie to claims that his Navy service was anything less than exemplary.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-ticket22-2008jun22,0,6284602.story

National Push by Obama on Ads and Turnout (NYT 6/22/08)

By Jim Rutenberg and Christopher Drew

Senator Barack Obama is drawing up plans for extensive advertising and voter-turnout drives across the nation, hoping to capitalize on his expected fund-raising advantage over Senator John McCain to force Republicans to compete in states they have not had to defend in decades.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/22/us/politics/22obama.html?em&ex=1214193600&en=c0dfa3b5e6e55855&ei=5087%0A

Inside a 9/11 Mastermind's Interrogation (NYT 6/22/08)

By Scott Shane

In a makeshift prison in the north of Poland, Al Qaeda's engineer of mass murder faced off against his Central

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Intelligence Agency interrogator. It was 18 months after the 9/11 attacks, and the invasion of Iraq was giving Muslim extremists new motives for havoc. If anyone knew about the next plot, it was Khalid Shaikh Mohammed.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/22/washington/22ksm.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss

Bob Barr: GOP's Ralph Nader of '08? (Chicago Tribune Blog 06/22/08)
By Mark Silva
Could Bob Barr, once a leading nemesis of President Bill Clinton, become the spoiler whom Democrats learn to love?
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/06/bob_barr_gops_ralph_nader_of_0.html
See AP's "GOP frets Barr could play spoiler in prez race": http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/06/22/gop_frets_barr_could_play_spoiler_in_prez_race/

MoveOn demands a filibuster (Politico 6/22/08)
By Ben Smith
Insisting on a campaign promise that Obama would filibuster any wiretapping bill that included retroactive immunity for the telecommunications companies that let the government listen in, Obama's allies at MoveOn are asking supporters to "call Sen. Obama today and tell him you're counting on him to keep his word."
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0608/MoveOn_demands_a_filibuster.html

House Passes Bill Funding Wars Into 2009 (WSJ 6/21/08)
By Sarah Lueck
The House passed emergency war funding and a permanent expansion of veterans' education benefits, sending to the Senate one of the last major bills likely to become law this year.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121392051836690449.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Bloomberg Decries 'Whisper Campaign' Against Obama (Washington Post 6/21/08)
By Keith B. Richburg
In his effort to win over still skeptical Jewish voters, particularly in the critical swing state of Florida, Sen. Barack Obama today got an assist from a surprising source: New York's independent Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/20/bloomberg_decries_whisper_camp.html

POLLS

Poll: Obama has edge over McCain (USA Today 6/23/08)
By Susan Page
Democrat Barack Obama begins the presidential campaign with some overwhelming advantages over Republican John McCain, a USA TODAY/Gallup Poll finds, but voters also express doubts about the Illinois senator's experience and ability to handle the job of commander in chief.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-22-poll-edge_N.htm

3 in 10 Americans Admit to Race Bias (Washington Post 6/22/08)
By Jon Cohen and Jennifer Agiesta
S.As Sen. Barack Obama opens his campaign as the first African American on a major party presidential ticket, nearly half of all Americans say race relations in the country are in bad shape and three in 10 acknowledge feelings of racial prejudice, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll...In a Post-ABC News poll last month, nearly nine in 10 whites said they would be comfortable with a black president. While fewer whites, about two-thirds, said they would be "entirely comfortable" with it, that was more than double the percentage of all adults who said they would be so at ease with someone entering office for the first time at age 72, which McCain (R-Ariz.) would do should he prevail in November.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/21/AR2008062101825.html?hpid=topnews

Trust in Congress Scrapes the Bottom of the Barrel (Washington Post 6/20/08)
The summer solstice looms, but Congress could not be further from the sun. A new Gallup poll released this today shows the U.S. Congress at the bottom of a list of 16 "institutions" in terms of public trust.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/20/trust_in_congress_scrapes_the.html

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/5/2015 4:16:54 AM
Subject:	June 5 Cable News Roundup
Attachments:	6.5.15 Morning Cable News.docx

Document attached, 2016 highlights below:

Fox News' *Fox and Friends:* 10 minute segment with Rick Perry. Perry said private companies, the US government, and foreign allies should work together more closely on cyber-security; Perry said allies aren't sure if they can trust the US, particularly Israel, given US involvement in Iran nuclear talks; Perry said the US can eliminate ISIS with the help of Middle East allies, but they will have to learn they can trust us first; quoted Tony Blinken that our plan to eliminate ISIS is working; Perry said we had the opportunity to eliminate ISIS and Assad several years ago, but POTUS is more interested in making a deal with Iran than combating ISIS with regional allies; Perry said the government is allowing some veterans to fall through the cracks, as demonstrated by the VA scandal, and that's one of the reasons he's running for president; Perry deflected as to whether Bush made his announcement yesterday to draw attention away from Perry's announcement; quoted HRC, saying a Federal Court declared voting restrictions signed into law by Perry purposely discriminated against minority voters, and that Perry applauded the gutting of the Voting Rights Act; Perry said it makes sense to have to show an I.D. in order to vote; Perry and hosts mocked HRC about flying on a private plane, rather than commercial; Perry said HRC is taking on the people of Texas, and "dissed" the people of Texas with her remarks about their voting I.D. laws; Perry said he's empowered minorities across the state; Perry said Texas has the highest high school graduation rates for Blacks and Hispanics in America.

CNN's *New Day:* Segment on HRC's voting rights speech. CNN reporters claim that HRC is calling for drastic change to current voting laws. Reporters state that voting actions are done state by state, and that it may be difficult for HRC to actually act upon this. They claim that this proposal is very bold, but also common sense. The United States has needed laws to make voting easier and more continent for people. Reporters question whether or not she will be able to deliver upon her suggested proposals. Reporters state that during her speech she called out her Republican opponents, but this may have legitimatized them instead of hurting them. Reporters claim that HRC has had a switching political issues record with her changing her attitudes towards issues frequently. For example, reporters claimed that HRC went from not supporting driver's licenses for illegal immigrants to supporting drivers licenses for illegal immigrants. HRC has gone from believing that same sex marriage is a state by state issue to believing that it is a constitutional right. Rick Perry claims that he will be very different this time around. Reporters say that Rick Perry cannot be counted out. Reporters claim that he is a great retail politician. CNN reporters claim that Perry could do well in some of the early states. Rick Perry is maybe the only candidate who is leading with every type of voter in the Republican Party.

MSNBC's *Morning Joe:* Began show discussing Rick Perry's announcement and chances in the Republican primary. Noted Rubio's gaffe on Iraq again and discussed the contrast between Rubio and Bush. Moved on to Martin O'Malley and the article about a centrist Democratic Party and mentioned he is trying to run a campaign left of HRC but Sanders already occupies that position. Martin O'Malley hopes to win by running as a progressive alternative to HRC. Showed clip of his announcement speech. Talked about the 2007 WaPo op-ed that he wrote with Harold Ford entitled "Our Chance to Capture the Center." Read a quote from the article. This seems to be an indication that the party has moved left, you don't have voters in the primary interested in a centrist-Clinton type. Interesting contrast between what O'Malley was saying a few years ago and what he's saying now. It reflects the reality, where is he going to run against HRC if not to her left? She can move to the center more easily. Argued Sanders has more built-in support and "strikes a nerve with the Democratic left that O'Malley is still struggling to hit." Think neither is a huge threat to HRC but Sanders will get more traction.

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From:	"John Podesta" <jpodesta@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	jp66@hillaryclinton.com "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	4/23/2015 7:50:56 AM
Subject:	Fwd: NYT story and pushback
Attachments:	MEMO -- Clinton Cash Claims.pdf

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >
Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 1:08 AM
Subject: NYT story and pushback
To: H <hdr29@hrcoffice.com >, John Podesta <jpodesta@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >

Mme Secretary:

Below is the NYT story on the book. It is very long and convoluted. The story makes our fundamental claim that neither they nor the author has any evidence to support the book's charges, and includes the relevant State Department official saying you did not weigh in on the decision. It is still unfair and misleading.

OUR RESPONSE

We got a few stories placed today debunking claims in the book ahead of the NYT story,
Attached is the memo cataloging the debunking stories that we are sending tonight to our friends and allies. We are also leaking this response document to the press so it gets more circulation. We are also posting the memo on our Facebook page.

In a separate email, I will forward to this group the memo we sent to the NYT that outlines our case. We will also post this document on our Facebook page.

Because the stories broke late, morning shows did not ask for guests. But I have asked Jeremy Bash and Tommy Vietor to go on cable tomorrow for us to respond to the book. I think they will both be good at dismissing the charges as ridiculous. At this point, I think they are better surrogates than Senators, because they can do the political response better. But please let me know if any of you have other ideas for surrogates. Also - if you have other questions or concerns or ideas on the story overall.

Thanks, Jen

http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/04/24/us/cash-flowed-to-clinton-foundation-as-russians-pressed-for-control-of-uranium-company.html?referrer=

Cash Flowed to Clinton Foundation as Russians Pressed for Control of Uranium Company

The headline in Pravda trumpeted President Vladimir V. Putin’s latest coup, its nationalistic fervor recalling an era when the newspaper served as the official mouthpiece of the Kremlin: “Russian Nuclear Energy Conquers the World.”

The article, in January 2013, detailed how the Russian atomic energy agency, Rosatom, had taken over a

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Canadian company with uranium-mining stakes stretching from Central Asia to the American West. The deal made Rosatom one of the world's largest uranium producers and brought Mr. Putin closer to his goal of controlling much of the global uranium supply chain.

But the untold story behind that story is one that involves not just the Russian president, but also a former American president and a woman who would like to be the next one.

At the heart of the tale are several men, leaders of the Canadian mining industry, who have been major donors to the charitable endeavors of former President Bill Clinton and his family. Members of that group built, financed and eventually sold off to the Russians a company that would become known as Uranium One.

Frank Giustra, left, with former President Bill Clinton at a Clinton Foundation news conference in 2007.

Shannon Stapleton / Reuters

Beyond mines in Kazakhstan that are among the most lucrative in the world, the sale gave the Russians control of one-fifth of all uranium production capacity in the United States. Since uranium is considered a strategic asset, with implications for national security, the deal had to be approved by a committee composed of representatives from a number of United States government agencies. Among the agencies that eventually signed off was the State Department, then headed by Mr. Clinton's wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

As the Russians gradually assumed control of Uranium One in three separate transactions from 2009 to 2013, Canadian records show, a flow of cash made its way to the Clinton Foundation. Uranium One's chairman used his family foundation to make four donations totaling $2.35 million. Those contributions were not publicly disclosed by the Clintons, despite an agreement Mrs. Clinton had struck with the Obama White House to publicly identify all donors. Other people with ties to the company made donations as well.

And shortly after the Russians announced their intention to acquire a majority stake in Uranium One, Mr. Clinton received $500,000 for a Moscow speech from a Russian investment bank with links to the Kremlin that was promoting Uranium One stock.

At the time, both Rosatom and the United States government made promises intended to ease concerns about ceding control of the company's assets to the Russians. Those promises have been repeatedly broken, records show.

Graphic | Donations to the Clinton Foundation, and a Russian Uranium Takeover Uranium investors' efforts to buy mining assets in Kazakhstan and the United States led to a takeover bid by a Russian state-owned energy company. The investors gave millions to the Clinton Foundation over the same period, while Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's office was involved with approving the Russian bid.

The New York Times's examination of the Uranium One deal is based on dozens of interviews, as well as a review of public records and securities filings in Canada, Russia and the United States. Some of the connections between Uranium One and the Clinton Foundation were unearthed by Peter Schweizer, a former fellow at the right-leaning Hoover Institution and author of the forthcoming book "Clinton Cash." Mr. Schweitzer provided a preview of material in the book to The Times, which scrutinized his information and built upon it with its own reporting.

Whether the donations played any role in the approval of the uranium deal is unknown. But the episode underscores the special ethical challenges presented by the Clinton Foundation, headed by a former president who relied heavily on foreign cash to accumulate $250 million in assets even as his wife helped steer American foreign policy as secretary of state, presiding over decisions with the potential to benefit the foundation's donors.

In a statement, Brian Fallon, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign, said no one "has ever produced a shred of evidence supporting the theory that Hillary Clinton ever took action as secretary of state to support the interests of donors to the Clinton Foundation." He emphasized that multiple United States agencies, as well as the Canadian government, had signed off on the deal and that, in general,

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such matters were handled at a level below the secretary. “To suggest the State Department, under then-Secretary Clinton, exerted undue influence in the U.S. government’s review of the sale of Uranium One is utterly baseless,” he added.

American political campaigns are barred from accepting foreign donations. But foreigners may give to foundations in the United States. In the days since Mrs. Clinton announced her candidacy for president, the Clinton Foundation has announced changes meant to quell longstanding concerns about potential conflicts of interest in such donations; it has limited donations from foreign governments, with many, like Russia’s, barred from giving to all but its health care initiatives. That policy stops short of Mrs. Clinton’s agreement with the Obama administration, which prohibited all foreign government donations while she served as the nation’s top diplomat.

Either way, the Uranium One deal highlights the limits of such prohibitions. The foundation will continue to accept contributions from foreign individuals and businesses whose interests, like Uranium One’s, may overlap with those of foreign governments, some of which may be at odds with the United States.

When the Uranium One deal was approved, the geopolitical backdrop was far different from today’s. The Obama administration was seeking to “reset” strained relations with Russia. The deal was strategically important to Mr. Putin, who shortly after the Americans gave their blessing sat down for a staged interview with Rosatom’s chief executive, Sergei Kiriyenko. “Few could have imagined in the past that we would own 20 percent of U.S. reserves,” Mr. Kiriyenko told Mr. Putin.

Now, after Russia’s annexation of Crimea and aggression in Ukraine, the Moscow-Washington relationship is devolving toward Cold War levels, a point several experts made in evaluating a deal so beneficial to Mr. Putin, a man known to use energy resources to project power around the world.

“Should we be concerned? Absolutely,” said Michael McFaul, who served under Mrs. Clinton as the American ambassador to Russia but said he had been unaware of the Uranium One deal until asked about it. “Do we want Putin to have a monopoly on this? Of course we don’t. We don’t want to be dependent on Putin for anything in this climate.”

A Seat at the Table

The path to a Russian acquisition of American uranium deposits began in 2005 in Kazakhstan, where the Canadian mining financier Frank Giustra orchestrated his first big uranium deal, with Mr. Clinton at his side.

The two men had flown aboard Mr. Giustra’s private jet to Almaty, Kazakhstan, where they dined with the authoritarian president, Nursultan A. Nazarbayev. Mr. Clinton handed the Kazakh president a propaganda coup when he expressed support for Mr. Nazarbayev’s bid to head an international elections monitoring group, undercutting American foreign policy and criticism of Kazakhstan’s poor human rights record by, among others, his wife, then a senator.

Within days of the visit, Mr. Giustra’s fledgling company, UrAsia Energy Ltd., signed a preliminary deal giving it stakes in three uranium mines controlled by the state-run uranium agency Kazatomprom.

If the Kazakh deal was a major victory, UrAsia did not wait long before resuming the hunt. In 2007, it merged with Uranium One, a South African company with assets in Africa and Australia, in what was described as a $3.5 billion transaction. The new company, which kept the Uranium One name, was controlled by UrAsia investors including Ian Telfer, a Canadian who became chairman. Through a spokeswoman, Mr. Giustra, whose personal stake in the deal was estimated at about $45 million, said he sold his stake in 2007.

Soon, Uranium One began to snap up mining companies with assets in the United States. In April 2007, it announced the purchase of a uranium mill in Utah and more than 38,000 acres of uranium exploration properties in four Western states, followed quickly by the acquisition of the Energy Metals Corporation and its uranium holdings in Wyoming, Texas and Utah. That deal made clear that Uranium One was intent on becoming “a powerhouse in the United States uranium sector with the potential to become the domestic supplier of choice for U.S. utilities,” the company declared.

Still, the company’s story was hardly front-page news in the United States — until early 2008, in the midst of Mrs. Clinton’s failed presidential campaign, when The Times published an article revealing the 2005

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trip's link to Mr. Giustra's Kazakhstan mining deal. It also reported that several months later, Mr. Giustra had donated $31.3 million to Mr. Clinton's foundation.

Though the article quoted the former head of Kazatomprom, Moukhtar Dzhakishev, as saying that the deal required government approval and was discussed at a dinner with the president, Mr. Giustra insisted that it was a private transaction, with no need for Mr. Clinton's influence with Kazakh officials. He described his relationship with the former American president as motivated solely by a shared interest in philanthropy.

As if to underscore the point, five months later Mr. Giustra held a fund-raiser for the Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative, a project aimed at fostering progressive environmental and labor practices in the natural resources industry, to which he had pledged $100 million. The star-studded gala, at a conference center in Toronto, featured performances by Elton John and Shakira and celebrities like Tom Cruise, John Travolta and Robin Williams encouraging contributions from the many so-called F.O.F.s — Friends of Frank — in attendance, among them Mr. Telfer. In all, the evening generated $16 million in pledges, according to an article in The Globe and Mail.

"None of this would have been possible if Frank Giustra didn't have a remarkable combination of caring and modesty, of vision and energy and iron determination," Mr. Clinton told those gathered, adding: "I love this guy, and you should, too."

But what had been a string of successes was about to hit a speed bump.

Arrest and Progress

By June 2009, a little over a year after the star-studded evening in Toronto, Uranium One's stock was in free-fall, down 40 percent. Mr. Dzhakishev, the head of Kazatomprom, had just been arrested on charges that he illegally sold uranium deposits to foreign companies, including at least some of those won by Mr. Giustra's UrAsia and now owned by Uranium One.

Publicly, the company tried to reassure shareholders. Its chief executive, Jean Nortier, issued a confident statement calling the situation a "complete misunderstanding." He also publicly contradicted Mr. Giustra's contention that the uranium mining deal had not required government blessing. "When you do a transaction in Kazakhstan, you need the government's approval," he said, adding that UrAsia had indeed received that approval.

But privately, Uranium One officials were worried they could lose their joint mining ventures. American diplomatic cables made public by WikiLeaks also reflect concerns that Mr. Dzhakishev's arrest was part of a Russian power play for control of Kazakh uranium assets.

At the time, Russia was already eying a stake in Uranium One, Rosatom company documents show. Rosatom officials say they were seeking to acquire mines around the world because Russia lacks sufficient domestic reserves to meet its own industry needs.

It was against this backdrop that the Vancouver-based Uranium One pressed the American Embassy in Kazakhstan, as well as Canadian diplomats, to take up its cause with Kazakh officials, according to the American cables.

"We want more than a statement to the press," Paul Clarke, a Uranium One executive vice president, told the embassy's energy officer on June 10, the officer reported in a cable. "That is simply chitchat." What the company needed, Mr. Clarke said, was official written confirmation that the licenses were still valid.

The American Embassy ultimately reported to the secretary of state, Mrs. Clinton. Though the Clarke cable was copied to her, it was given wide circulation, and it is unclear if she would have read it; the Clinton campaign did not address questions about the cable. .

What is clear is that the embassy acted, with the cables showing that the unnamed energy officer met with Kazakh officials to discuss the issue on June 10 and 11.

Three days later, a wholly owned subsidiary of Rosatom completed a deal for 17 percent of Uranium One. And within a year, the Russian government would substantially up the ante, with a generous offer to shareholders that would give it a 51 percent controlling stake. But first, Uranium One had to get the American government to sign off on the deal.

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The Power to Say No

When a company controlled by the Chinese government sought a 51 percent stake in a tiny Nevada gold mining operation in 2009, it set off a secretive review process in Washington, where officials raised concerns primarily about the mine's proximity to a military installation, but also about the potential for minerals at the site, including uranium, to come under Chinese control. The officials killed the deal.

Such is the power of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. The committee comprises some of the most powerful members of the cabinet, including the attorney general, the secretaries of the Treasury, Defense, Homeland Security, Commerce and Energy, and the secretary of state. They are charged with reviewing any deal that could result in foreign control of an American business or asset deemed important to national security.

The national security issue at stake in the Uranium One deal was not primarily about nuclear weapons proliferation; the United States and Russia had for years cooperated on that front, with Russia sending enriched fuel from decommissioned warheads to be used in American nuclear power plants in return for raw uranium. Instead, it concerned American dependence on foreign uranium sources. While the United States gets one-fifth of its electrical power from nuclear plants, it produces only around 20 percent of the uranium it needs, and most plants have only 18 to 36 months of reserves, according to Marin Katusa, author of "The Colder War: How the Global Energy Trade Slipped From America's Grasp."

"The Russians are easily winning the uranium war, and nobody's talking about it," said Mr. Katusa, who explores the implications of the Uranium One deal in his book. "It's not just a domestic issue but a foreign policy issue, too."

When ARMZ, an arm of Rosatom, took its first 17 percent stake in Uranium One in 2009, the two parties signed an agreement, found in securities filings, to seek the foreign investment committee's review. But it was the 2010 deal, giving the Russians a controlling 51 percent stake, that set off alarm bells. Four members of the House of Representatives signed a letter expressing concern. Two more began pushing legislation to kill the deal.

Senator John Barrasso, a Republican from Wyoming, where Uranium One's largest American operation was, wrote to President Obama, saying the deal "would give the Russian government control over a sizable portion of America's uranium production capacity."

"Equally alarming," Mr. Barrasso added, "this sale gives ARMZ a significant stake in uranium mines in Kazakhstan."

Uranium One's shareholders were also alarmed, and were "afraid of Rosatom as a Russian state giant," Sergei Novikov, a company spokesman, recalled in an interview. He said Rosatom's chief, Mr. Kiriyenko, sought to reassure Uranium One investors, promising that Rosatom would not break up the company and would keep the same management, including Mr. Telfer, the chairman. Another Rosatom official said publicly that it did not intend to increase its investment beyond 51 percent, and that it envisioned keeping Uranium One a public company

American nuclear officials, too, seemed eager to assuage fears. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission wrote to Senator Barrasso assuring him that American uranium would be preserved for domestic use, regardless of who owned it.

"In order to export uranium from the United States, Uranium One Inc. or ARMZ would need to apply for and obtain a specific NRC license authorizing the export of uranium for use reactor fuel," the letter said.

Still, the ultimate authority to approve or reject the Russian acquisition rested with the cabinet officials on the foreign investment committee, including Mrs. Clinton — whose husband was collecting millions of dollars in donations from people associated with Uranium One.

Undisclosed Donations

Before Mrs. Clinton could assume her post as secretary of state, the White House demanded that she sign a memorandum of understanding placing limits on her husband's foundation's activities. To avoid the perception of conflicts of interest, beyond the ban on foreign government donations, the foundation was

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required to publicly disclose all contributors.

To judge from those disclosures — which list the contributions in ranges rather than precise amounts — the only Uranium One official to give to the Clinton Foundation was Mr. Telfer, the chairman, and the amount was relatively small: no more than $250,000, and that was in 2007, before talk of a Rosatom deal began percolating.

But a review of tax records in Canada, where Mr. Telfer has a family charity called the Fernwood Foundation, shows that he donated millions of dollars more, during and after the critical time when the foreign investment committee was reviewing his deal with the Russians. With the Russians offering a special dividend, shareholders like Mr. Telfer stood to profit.

His donations through the Fernwood Foundation included $1 million reported in 2009, the year his company appealed to the American Embassy to help it keep its mines in Kazakhstan; $250,000 in 2010, the year the Russians sought majority control; as well as $600,000 in 2011; and $500,000 in 2012. Mr. Telfer said that his donations had nothing to do with his business dealings, and that he had never discussed Uranium One with Mr. or Mrs. Clinton. He said he had given the money because he wanted to support Mr. Giustra's charitable endeavors with Mr. Clinton. "Frank and I have been friends and business partners for almost 20 years," he said.

The Clinton campaign left it to the foundation to reply to questions about the Fernwood donations; the foundation did not provide a response.

Mr. Telfer's undisclosed donations came in addition to between $1.3 million and $5.6 million in contributions, which were reported, from a constellation of people with ties to Uranium One or UrAsia, the company that originally acquired Uranium One's most valuable asset: the Kazakhstan mines. Without those assets, the Russians would have had no interest in the deal: "It wasn't the goal to buy the Wyoming mines. The goal was to acquire the Kazakh assets, which are very good," Mr. Novikov, the Rosatom spokesman, said in an interview.

Amid this influx of Uranium One-connected money, Mr. Clinton was invited to speak in Moscow in June 2010, the same month Rosatom struck its deal for a majority stake in Uranium One.

The $500,000 fee — among Mr. Clinton's highest — was paid by Renaissance Capital, a Russian investment bank with ties to the Kremlin that has invited world leaders, including Tony Blair, the former British prime minister, to speak at its annual investor conference.

Renaissance Capital analysts talked up Uranium One's stock, assigning it a "buy" rating and saying in a July 2010 research report that it was "the best play" in the uranium markets. In addition, Renaissance Capital turned up that same year as a major donor, along with Mr. Telfer and Mr. Giustra, to a small medical charity in Colorado run by a friend of Mr. Giustra's. In a newsletter to supporters, the friend credited Mr. Giustra with helping get donations from "businesses around the world."

A Renaissance Capital representative would not comment on the genesis of Mr. Clinton's speech to an audience that included leading Russian officials, or on whether it was connected to the Rosatom deal. According to a Russian government news service, Mr. Putin personally thanked Mr. Clinton for speaking.

A person with knowledge of the Clinton Foundation's fund-raising operation, who requested anonymity to speak candidly about it, said that for many people, the hope is that money will in fact buy influence: "Why do you think they are doing it — because they love them?" But whether it actually does is another question. And in this case, there were broader geopolitical pressures that likely came into play as the United States considered whether to approve the Rosatom-Uranium One deal.

Diplomatic Considerations

If doing business with Rosatom was good for those involved with the Uranium One deal, engaging with Russia was also a priority of the incoming Obama administration, which was hoping for a new era of cooperation as Mr. Putin relinquished the presidency — if only for a term — to Dmitri A. Medvedev.

"The assumption was we could engage Russia to further core U.S. national security interests," said Mr. McFaul, the former ambassador.

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It started out well. The two countries made progress on nuclear proliferation issues, and expanded use of Russian territory to resupply American forces in Afghanistan. Keeping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon was among the United States' top priorities, and in June 2010 Russia signed off on a United Nations resolution imposing tough new sanctions on that country.

Two months later, the deal giving ARMZ a controlling stake in Uranium One was submitted to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States for review. Because of the secrecy surrounding the process, it is hard to know whether the participants weighed the desire to improve bilateral relations against the potential risks of allowing the Russian government to control over the biggest uranium producer in the United States The deal was ultimately approved in October, following what two people involved in securing the approval said had been a relatively smooth process.

Not all of the committee's decisions are personally debated by the agency heads themselves; in less controversial cases, deputy or assistant secretaries may sign off. But experts and former committee members say Russia's interest in Uranium One and its American uranium reserves seemed to warrant attention at the highest levels.

"This deal had generated press, it had captured the attention of Congress and it was strategically important," said Richard Russell, who served on the committee during the George W. Bush administration. "When I was there invariably any one of those conditions would cause this to get pushed way up the chain, and here you had all three."

And Mrs. Clinton brought a reputation for hawkishness to the process; as a senator, she was a vocal critic of the committee's approval of a deal that would have transferred the management of major American seaports to a company based in the United Arab Emirates, and as a presidential candidate she had advocated legislation to strengthen the process.

The Clinton campaign spokesman, Mr. Fallon, said that in general, these matters did not rise to the secretary's level. He would not comment on whether Mrs. Clinton had been briefed on the matter, but he gave The Times a statement from the former assistant secretary assigned to the foreign investment committee at the time, Jose Fernandez. While not addressing the specifics of the Uranium One deal, Mr. Fernandez said, "Mrs. Clinton never intervened with me on any C.F.I.U.S. matter."

Mr. Fallon also noted that if any agency had raised national security concerns about the Uranium One deal, it could have taken them directly to the president.

Anne-Marie Slaughter, the State Department's director of policy planning at the time, said she was unaware of the transaction — or the extent to which it made Russia a dominant uranium supplier. But speaking generally, she urged caution in evaluating its wisdom in hindsight.

"Russia was not a country we took lightly at the time or thought was cuddly," she said. "But it wasn't the adversary it is today."

That renewed adversarial relationship has raised concerns about European dependency on Russian energy resources, including nuclear fuel. The unease reaches beyond diplomatic circles. In Wyoming, where Uranium One equipment is scattered across his 35,000-acre ranch, John Christensen is frustrated that repeated changes in corporate ownership over the years led to French, South African, Canadian and, finally, Russian control over mining rights on his property.

"I hate to see a foreign government own mining rights here in the United States," he said. "I don't think that should happen."

Mr. Christensen, 65, noted that despite assurances by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that uranium could not leave the country without Uranium One or ARMZ obtaining an export license — which they do not have — yellowcake from his property was routinely packed into drums and trucked off to a processing plant in Canada.

Asked about that, the commission confirmed that Uranium One has, in fact, shipped yellowcake to Canada even though it does not have an export license. Instead, the transport company doing the shipping, RSB Logistic Services, has the license. A commission spokesman said that "to the best of our knowledge" most of the uranium sent to Canada for processing was returned for use in the United States. A Uranium One

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spokeswoman, Donna Wichers, said 25 percent had gone to Western Europe and Japan. At the moment, with the uranium market in a downturn, nothing is being shipped from the Wyoming mines.

The “no export” assurance given at the time of the Rosatom deal is not the only one that turned out to be less than it seemed. Despite pledges to the contrary, Uranium One was eventually delisted from the Toronto Stock Exchange and taken private. As of 2013, Rosatom’s subsidiary, ARMZ, owned 100 percent of the company.

Sent from my iPhone

--
JP
jpodesta@hillaryclinton.com
For scheduling: mfisher@hillaryclinton.com

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <info@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	11/5/2015 8:45:03 AM
Subject:	News from Hudson: Biodefense, U.S. National Security Strategy, Speaker Ryan, Libya, and More

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From: LSHyman@aol.com
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 5/9/2015 1:43:48 AM
Subject: Fwd: HRC's record

John: Have you had a moment to read my 4/23 e-mail below and let me know whether we need to go further with this project? Thanks. Les
Hyman

From: LSHyman@aol.com
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Sent: 4/23/2015 6:07:09 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: HRC's record

John: Re our previous exchange of e-mails, I have taken the 25 pages of Chapter 3 of "Hard Choices" and boiled them down to 2 pages which surrogates hopefully could use when talking about HRC's record. Please be frank and let me know whether it would be useful to do the same with the rest of the book. If it is not useful, please say so...it will save me a lot of time doing the rest of the book. Warmest regards. Les Hyman

ASIA: THE PIVOT

Upon becoming Secretary of State, HRC broke precedent by focusing initially on the AsiaPacific region that is home to more than half the world's population, including several of our most trusted allies and valuable trading partners. She made her first trip as Secretary to Japan, then on to Indonesia, South Korea and finally China in order to send a message to Asia and the world that America was back.

HRC believed that the U.S. should be doing more to manage our increasingly complex relationship with China. Her goal was a sophisticated strategy that encouraged China to participate as a responsible member of the international community, while standing firm in defense of our values and interests.

Her initial task was to reassert America as a Pacific power without sparking an unnecessary confrontation with China. While previously American attention had focused on Northeast Asia because of our troop commitments in Japan and South Korea, countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam were growing in economic and strategic importance but were not receiving the attention of the U.S. so HRC went there.

HRC's unique methodology was to get out beyond Foreign Ministries and palaces and instead meet with citizens, especially community activists and volunteers; journalists; students and professors; business, labor and religious leaders, all part of the civil societies that help hold governments accountable and drive social change. HRC's many meetings with civil societies in the Asia-Pacific area, many of which previously had been ignored, made countless friends for the United States.

No previous U.S. Secretary of State ever had visited the headquarters of ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) located in Jakarta (Indonesia). HRC was the first. Previous American officials had skipped ASEAN conferences which some saw as a sign of America's flagging presence in the Asia-Pacific, even as China was seeking to expand its influence. After HRC went to the ASEAN headquarters, the Secretary-General of ASEAN said about HRC: "Your visit shows the seriousness of the United States to end its diplomatic absenteeism in the region".

In her visit to South Korea, a wealthy and advanced democracy, and in meetings with President Lee Myung-bak, HRC restated the commitment of the U.S. to that country which lived in the shadow of North Korea, a repressive and bellicose neighbor to the north.

In March of 2009, a crew of American TV journalists were reporting from the border between China and North Korea. Two of the women reporters were arrested and dragged back to North Korea where they were sentenced to 12 years of hard labor. HRS spent hours on the phone with leaders in Beijing, Moscow, Tokyo and other capitals drumming up support for a strong UN resolution imposing sanctions on the regime in Pyongyang. Her efforts paid off when all the members of the UN Security Council agreed to impose additional sanctions on North Korea (the toughest measure ever imposed on that country). They resulted in Kim Il -Sung saying that he would release the women journalists if he received a personal visit from Bill Clinton. Many in the White House opposed sending the former President, but HRC convinced President Obama to do what was necessary to rescue the two innocent American civilians. Clinton went, and In 20 hours the American journalists were released.

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Another part of HRC's strategy was to bring India more fully into the Asian-Pacific political scene. Having another large democracy with a full seat at the table in the region could help encourage more countries to move toward political and economic openness, rather than follow China's example of autocratic state capitalism.

As an example of her strategy, HRC traveled to the Indian port city of Chennai on the Bay of Bengal, a commercial hub that looks out toward the vibrant trade and energy routes of Southeast Asia. She wanted to show that the U.S. understood that India was more than Delhi and Mumbai. She spoke about India's role in the Asia-Pacific region, stating that the strategic fundamentals of our relationship with India -- shared democratic values, economic imperatives, and diplomatic priorities -- were pushing both countries' interests into closer convergence.

While China's rise and its mix of authoritarianism and state capitalism offered an attractive example to some Asian countries, HRC cited many counterexamples to disprove those theories, to wit: Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan were all democratic societies that delivered tremendous economic benefits to their people.

In July of 2012, HRC took an extended tour across the Asian-Pacific region to emphasize that democracy and prosperity go hand in hand. She started in Japan, one of the strongest and richest democracies in the world, and then visited Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos where she became the first Secretary of State to step foot in that country in fifty-seven years.

A major goal of U.S. strategy in Asia was to promote political reform as well as economic growth. Everywhere Secretary Clinton went she pledged that the United States would be a strong partner to all those across Asia and the world who were dedicated to human rights and fundamental freedoms. A Washington Post editorial declared that HRC's speech had offered "hope that the U.S. pivot to Asia will go beyond simple muscle-flexing and become a multi-layered approach to match the complexity of China's rise as a modern superpower."

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 6/25/2015 12:01:50 AM
Subject: News Update - June 25, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, June 25

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **After Rocket, Israel Revokes Entry Permits for 500 Gazans**
- **UN Chief Urges Israel to Restore Travel Permits to Gaza**
- **Israel: Abbas Preventing Easing Measures for Worshippers**
- **Former Obama aides: US Needs Tougher Iran Nuclear Deal**
- **Deputy Minister to Arab MKs: Thank Us for Your Citizenship**
- **Ex-U.S. Envoy Dan Kurtzer Blasts Oren's 'Astounding' Criticism**
- **PM Meets Leaders of Israel's Druze Public amid Tensions**

Commentary:

- **Wall Street Journal: "The U.N.'s Israel Inquisition"**
  - Editorial
- **Ynet News: "What war crimes did Israel commit in Gaza?"**
  - By Nahum Barnea

Ynet News

After Rocket, Israel Revokes Entry Permits for Gazans

Israel said Wednesday it was revoking permits for 500 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to enter Jerusalem ahead of Friday prayers because of rocket fire from the Palestinian enclave. A spokeswoman for COGAT, the Defense Ministry unit which coordinates with Gaza and the West Bank, told AFP the repealing of some measures that eased restrictions on Palestinians during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan applied to this week only and was "because of the rocket" which hit southern Israel on Tuesday night, causing no injuries. Defense Minister Ya'alon said Israel had destroyed the rocket launcher and canceled "some of the Ramadan reliefs to Gazas."

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Aritz 7 News

UN Chief Urges Israel to Restore Travel Permits

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Israel on Wednesday to ease restrictions on travel for Palestinian Arabs during the month of Ramadan, hours after Israel announced it was revoking permits for 500 Gazans to enter Jerusalem for prayers because of the latest rocket attacks. Ban "welcomes Israel's measures to ease some restrictions on Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza," Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman told the Security Council, according to AFP. The cancellations of travel permits announced on Wednesday only applied to this week, Israel said, and it should resume next week allowing up to 800 Gazans to travel for prayers to the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

See also, "UN chief says Gaza blockade-busting flotilla not helpful" (Times of Israel)

Ynet News

Israel: Abbas Preventing Easing Measures

Jerusalem police are ready to implement easing measures to thousands of Muslim worshipers expected to arrive during the month of Ramadan to pray on the Temple Mount. The measures include allowing for the entry of hundreds of buses from the Palestinian Authority without waiting or checking at the entrance points to the capital, thus preventing long lines at the entrance to the Temple Mount. The Ministry of Public Security said that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas chose to prevent of exemptions. Coordinator of Govt' Activities in the Territories, Yoav Mordechai, said to Palestinian news agency "Ma'an" and stated the Authority is not helping advance the process.

Jerusalem Post

Former Obama aides: US Needs Tougher Iran Deal

A group of prominent American security advisers, including five with ties to President Barack Obama's first term, warned on Wednesday that a deal on curbing Iran's nuclear program was at risk of failing to provide adequate safeguards. In an open letter, the group of former US officials and foreign policy experts cautioned that an Iran nuclear deal would "fall short of meeting the administration's own standard of a 'good' agreement" unless it included a tougher line on United Nations nuclear inspections and conditions for sanctions relief.

See also, "Public Statement on U.S. Policy Toward the Iran Nuclear Negotiations" (The Washington Institute)

Ynet News

Mazuz to Arab MKs: Thank Us for Your Citizenship

Deputy Interior Minister Yaron Mazuz (Likud) caused an uproar in the Knesset on Wednesday when told Arab MK Hanin Zoabi that the State of Israel was "doing you a favor in giving you ID cards" during a discussion on the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law. Mayhem broke out following the controversial remarks, with MK Michal Rozin (Meretz) walking up to the podium with her ID card, while others demanded Mazuz to apologize. Mazuz's refused to apologize for his remarks and said: "Anyone who supports terrorism won't be here." Prime Minister Netanyahu then took to the podium, saying: "I am talking about the issue of hypocrisy. You have the right to be elected or say these things, and the right is given, and we will protect that right. But we don't have to agree with the hypocrisy. I didn't hear condemnations from the MKs here on the real war crimes happening in Syria, and Yemen. I didn't hear a word on these issues, all I hear is false preaching against IDF soldiers."

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Ha'aretz

Ex-U.S. Envoy Dan Kurtzer Blasts Oren's Criticism

Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer published a scathing rebuttal on his Facebook page to the criticism recently directed at the Obama administration by MK Michael Oren, and suggested Israel's former ambassador to the U.S. was blatantly ignoring the facts to further his political career. "Oren is a well-trained historian," wrote Kurtzer, "but his op-eds are replete with factual errors; and the judgments he derives from what he purports to be "facts" seem strange. Did he form judgments and then jerry-rig the facts to fit his case? It appears so, but that is what is so sad." Kurtzer argued that Oren's "astounding and confounding" statements show he failed to understand and carry out his responsibilities. "If Oren had been a politician during these years," wrote Kurtzer, "then his views, however mistaken, would matter little. But part of his job was to help his own government understand us and our government, and we now see that he failed miserably on both counts."

Ha'aretz

PM Meets Leaders of Druze Public amid Tensions

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with leaders of Israel's Druze community on Wednesday, to discuss the tensions surrounding the recent events in the Golan Heights. Also present at the meeting were Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon, IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eizenkot, Interior Minister Gilad Erdan, and Police Commissioner Yohanan Danino. Addressing the gathering, Netanyahu stressed the need to prevent the recurrence of events such as happened on Monday, when a mob of Druze protesters attacked an IDF ambulance that was transporting two Syrian war casualties to an Israeli hospital, killing one and critically injuring the other - as well as lightly wounding several IDF soldiers. "Your sons, all of our sons, serve and fight in the IDF and defend the nation" Netanyahu said. "All of us obey the law and all of us are loyal citizens, butit is our duty of course to condemn that and to make sure these lawbreakers will not turn such things to a norm."

Wall Street Journal– June 24, 2015

The U.N.'s Israel Inquisition

Another skewed report that blames the Jewish state for war crimes.

Editorial

U.N. reports on Israel sometimes remind us of the classic Monty Python sketch "Nobody Expects the Spanish Inquisition!" with its screwball combination of comic ineptitude and malignant predictability. So it is with Monday's inquisi—er, "Inquiry"—by the U.N. Human Rights Council on last summer's war between Israel and its terrorist enemies in Gaza.

The 183-page report, from former New York State Justice Mary McGowan Davis and Senegalese lawyer Doudou Diene, purports to be even-handed by citing both Israel and Hamas for possible war crimes and violations of international law. That's something of an achievement for the Council, which has a lopsided record of condemning Israel and whose current members include Qatar, Russia and Venezuela.

Yet the report is fundamentally an anti-Israel document. The bias begins with a preposterous claim that Israel continues to "occupy" Gaza, despite its 2005 withdrawal, on the theory that Israel has the capacity "to send troops within a reasonable time to make its power felt." By that standard, the U.S. occupies Canada and the Bahamas.

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The report accuses Israel of using "disproportionate" force and targeting residential buildings, while playing down that Hamas made a point of operating from civilian areas as a shield against Israeli retaliation and to flaunt civilian casualties. It also indicts Israel by way of unconfirmed assumptions submitted as evidence of guilt, as in this gem: "Given the absence of information suggesting in each case that the anticipated military advantage at the time of the [Israeli] attack was such that the expected civilian casualties and damage to the targeted and surrounding buildings were not excessive, there are strong indications that these attacks could be disproportionate, and therefore amount to a war crime."

Israel refused to cooperate with the inquiry, since there was little question what its conclusions would be. A similar inquiry into the 2008-2009 Gaza war, led by South African jurist Richard Goldstone, charged Israel with war crimes and potential crimes against humanity—only to be later recanted by Mr. Goldstone in a newspaper op-ed. The current inquiry was initially going to be chaired by Canadian academic William Schabas—until it turned out he had been paid to consult for the Palestinians.

This is typical of the U.N., but it's not trivial. As Benjamin Wittes and Yishai Schwartz noted Wednesday in the Lawfare blog, "approaches [to International Humanitarian Law] that begin as a way of constraining Israeli military action quickly migrate to constraining U.S. military action." That goes especially for the Gaza inquiry's presumption that the Israeli military must furnish proof that its targets have military value, or otherwise be suspected of war crimes.

The Obama Administration says it will oppose bringing the report to the U.N. Security Council, but it lent legitimacy to the enterprise when it joined the Human Rights Council after the Bush Administration had stayed away. If the President wants to demonstrate his support for Israel, one place to start would be to withdraw from the Council for producing this shameful report.

[INSERT News Source] – August, [INSERT Date], 2014

What war crimes did Israel commit in Gaza?

While world powers are exempted from investigation and punishment, and tyrant regimes in Africa and in the Middle East are reprimanded from time to time but don't give a damn, Israel is stuck in a bad place in the middle.

By Nahum Barnea

I beg the forgiveness of the distinguished members of the human rights community, but the talk about war crimes in regards to the fighting in Gaza is hollow talk at best, and false talk at worst.

War crimes compared to who? Compared to what? Compared to what Russia is doing in Ukraine? Compared to what the United States did in Iraq? In Afghanistan? Compared to what China is doing in Tibet?

I won't be revealing any exciting news to my readers if I say that the international community's investigation procedures are selective. World powers are exempted from investigation, exempted from punishment: Tyrant regimes, which destroy nations, in Africa and in the Middle East, are reprimanded from time to time, but don't give a damn. Israel is stuck in a bad place in the middle.

In light of this reality, Judge McGowan Davis' report spares Israel. Yes, there was an excessive use of ammunition in many cases, disproportional damage to residential buildings, unnecessary killing of children and civilians, and in two

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cases a fire frenzy in order to prevent a soldier's abduction. But every decision maker in the international community knows that there is no practical way of waging military operations while keeping sterile, with zero flaws.

Like in other Western countries, the public opinion's sensitivity towards fallen soldiers, and the government and army's fear of losing the public opinion's support, increase the number of civilian casualties on the other side.

On Monday, after the report was published, sources in the Israeli government complained bitterly that the report made an analogy between Israel and Hamas. I'm not sure I understand them. When reports issued by international commissions of inquiry directed all their criticism at Israel, claiming that Israel was a sovereign state which is committed to international law, unlike its enemies in Gaza, those same sources complained that Israel was being discriminated against. Now, when a commission of inquiry on behalf of the United Nations makes an effort to balance its criticism, those same sources are complaining again.

The prime minister, the defense minister and the IDF commanders during Operation Protective Edge wanted to kill as many Hamas fighters and fighters of other terror organizations as possible. They were not thirsty for the blood of civilians in Gaza. On the contrary: The fear of a legal or diplomatic entanglement over unnecessary fire made them insist on warning procedures such as "roof knocking," waste sophisticated and expensive ammunition and keep fighter jets in the air for hours, all so as not to make a mistake.

Ironically, what made Hamas accept a ceasefire in the end was not the casualties among its fighters but the extent of damage in the civilian neighborhoods.

The problem with Operation Protective Edge was not the war crimes, but the fact that Israel found itself in a war. The Israeli government prevented the transfer of salaries to Hamas, prevented the transfer of goods and reinforced the siege on the Strip as much as it could. Had the government let into Gaza in 2014 everything it lets in today, there would have been no Protective Edge.

This is where the leaders' guilt lies. It also has to do with the management of the operation, the intellectual fixation, the slow movement, the fear of taking risks and the negligence in defending the soldiers and civilians near the border.

A number of lessons have been learned in the year that has passed since the operation. The secret Qatar-mediated negotiations with Hamas and the ease of the siege point to that. In addition, operational lessons have been learned in the sea, in the air and on the land.

But let us not delude ourselves: If and when another round is launched vis-à-vis Gaza, it won't be any different from the previous round, neither in the reports it generates nor in the feeling of pain, waste and missed opportunity it leaves behind.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
www.centerpeace.org

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/28/2008 5:17:38 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/28/08

Main Topics: Roman Columns, Pawlenty, McCain VP Watch, DNCC

Summary of Shift: Most of the news surrounded the DNCC, with a focus on the speeches by Bill Clinton and Joe Biden last night. Though there was little direct McCain coverage, many stations speculated about McCain's VP choices. Also, the McCain camp's "Barackopolis" smear about the Obama's nomination stage appearing too 'Roman' has been fully embraced by the media, with all networks pondering the visuals of the speech tonight. Tim Pawlenty made the rounds auditioning for VP today.

Hurricane Gustav is by far the prime news item outside of political coverage. Other stories include the Caylee missing girl case, the FDIC bank report, and efforts by Russian leaders to shore up support in neighboring countries.

Highlights:
1. Pawlenty Gives Interviews
a. CNN: Pawlenty says McCain was the architect of the surge
b. MSNBC: Pawlenty talks about issues related to a pro-choice running mate
c. ABC: Pawlenty touts his own credentials, attacks Obama
d. FNC: Pawlenty says Americans can smell hypocrisy

Highlights, No Clip:
1. FNC: MIKE HUCKABEE: Well you know let the Democrats have their show. That's what this is about. I'm sure next week the Democrats are going to be beating up on the Republicans for the way things are staged. I'm more concerned about the content of his speech, what he's going to say, than where he says it and I think Republicans need to be focused on his policies, not the platform from which he speaks quite frankly.

Clips:
Highlight #1
Pawlenty Says McCain is Architect of Surge (CNN 08/28/08 7:30am)
CHETRY: All right. Well, let's take a look at who the Democrats chose. Last night, Senator Joe Biden gave his big speech at the Democratic Convention. And he took on Senator McCain's position on Iraq. Let's listen.

[...]
CHETRY: And you know, governor, even the Bush administration seems poised at this point to set a date for withdrawal in conjunction with the Iraqis. So will the McCain administration be able to carry that policy forward?

TIM PAWLENTY: Well, first of all, the success in Iraq that we're experiencing and seeing is directly the result in large part to the surge. And as you know, Senator McCain was the key architect and the person who had the courage to call for it and to move it forward.

And so this whole opportunity is a result of Senator McCain's substantial leadership and his courage to call it out. And he, too, has said we can withdraw and should begin to withdraw troops from Iraq but he wants to do it at a time and under a circumstance where we can bring our troops home with victory and Iraq can govern itself and be a stable place.

And this success or this corner that's been turned in Iraq is directly attributable to the strategy that John McCain embraced and had the courage to put forward.

CHETRY: You know, Biden also argued last night that the American economy has been driven into a ditch and that the war is costing American taxpayers $12 billion a month. How does John McCain plan to keep the tax cuts in place but also be able to continue to fund the war?

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PAWLENTY: Well, what John McCain has said in contrast to Senator Obama and Senator Biden is we should keep a lid on taxes, not raise them like they want to do. Number two, this economy is dependent obviously on energy issues. And John McCain has been bold saying we need to produce more energy here in America, including offshore drilling.

Senators Biden and Obama are opposed to that. And importantly, whether it's energy or the economy, we need somebody in the White House who can work across party lines in a bipartisan manner. John McCain's actually done that time and time again on major significant issues.

Barack Obama and Joe Biden are two of the most partisan people in the United States' Congress. And Barack Obama has no record, no record of reaching across party lines and working on something of major national significance. That's actually been controversial.

CHETRY: All right. We want to thank you for joining us. Governor Tim Pawlenty. And perhaps we'll see you tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. you never know.

PAWLENTY: OK, Kiran. Thank you. ROBERTS: 30 minutes after the hour. Coming to you live from Denver, Colorado, this morning in INVESCO Field at Mile High. Day four of the Democratic National Convention. Good morning. I'm John Roberts. We've move half mile down the road from the Pepsi Center to INVESCO Field, a 76,000 person stadium, home, of course, to the Denver Broncos. So you get some kind of an idea of what it's for an entire network and convention production team to pick up, and move down the street and set up. We had our folks shoot this time lapse video spanning several days. Hundreds of engineers, producers and technical operators all for tonight's big speech by presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Pawlenty Talks About ProChoice McCain Running Mate, VP (MSNBC 08/28/08 8:37am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Why do you think Mitt Romney would be a great choice for John McCain?

TIM PAWLENTY: Unlike Senator Obama, Mitt Romney's actually done something, he's actually run something. He's been an executive in business, he's actually been an executive of a large state, a-
[...]
CHUCK TODD: The conservatives like him, even the tax guys will forgive him for that cigarette vote. He knows what I'm talking about. He is a younger generation so it ends up balancing a generational. [...] Might be able to help him in Wisconsin, which I think is a little more possible than what you call that the finger of Michigan?

SCARBOROUGH: Can John McCain afford to pick a prochoice Vice Presidential candidate?

PAWLENTY: Well I think John McCain has said he wants a senior team and an administration that reflects his values, his priorities, he's pretty solidly prolife so I think he's going to have a team that reflects that. [...] Joe Lieberman is a wonderful individual, a capable individual, someone he trusts and likes so ultimately that's Senator McCain's call.

MIKE MURPHY: What is the weakness in John McCain going forward? Vulnerability?

PAWLENTY: I don't speak to my strengths or weaknesses as a VP candidate, but as for Senator McCain, you look at what he needs or what he could benefit from in a running mate. I think its someone who can amplify his great record. Do it in a way that's credible-

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: That's not a weakness.

PAWLENTY: What do you think?

BRZEZINSKI: I think he's perfect. [laughter]

SCARBOROUGH: How do you make this sell, after Republicans takeover when there's 155 billion dollar surplus in 2001, 8 years later, record deficits, record debts, we're spending way too much money in foreign wars, we've got a slumping economy, we've got the biggest housing crisis ever, the dollar is in decline, people are struggling

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out there, why should anybody vote for that Republican party in 2008?

PAWLENTY: Well Joe Senator McCain is not a continuation of President Bush and his record reflects that as the Maverick, as an independent, whether it be the surge, whether it be prescription drugs from Canada, whether it be spending, whether it be torture, whether it be nuclear arms proliferation, he has been his own person. Also, importantly, what it takes to heal this country and move forward is going to take bipartisan leadership and not the rhetoric about it, but actually getting it done. There's one candidate in this race that's actually done that and not just talked about it and that's Senator John McCain. And that's what the country is going to need.

TODD: He just made the case for Lieberman didn't he? McCain-Lieberman spin. [...]

Pawlenty Blasts Obama (ABC 08/28/08 7:40am)
TIM PAWLENTY: Well I've certainly heard it through news accounts that he's having a rally in Ohio tomorrow. Speculation is he'll unveil his Vice Presidential running mate there but beyond that I don't have much I can add or say about the issue.

DIANNE SAWYER: Have you had any conversations with him? [...] Do you think in your view the Vice Presidential pick should be pro-life?

PAWLENTY: I think Senator McCain has said he wants an administration, particularly senior leaders who reflect his values and principles and vision for the country. He of course is a prolife person. He doesn't have a litmus test but I think he'll pick someone who shares his values and views. [...] My goodness its amazing that we're three days into the Democratic Convention and 50 or days away from the election and they're still pleading with the American people to convince us that Barack Obama is ready to be President. The fact of the matter is he is not. President Clinton had 12 years as Governor as an executive and commander and chief of the national guard before he became President and Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton and Joe Biden all said during the primary season Barack Obama was not ready. Bill Clinton called it a roll of the dice. Joe Biden said he wasn't ready for the job as did Hillary Clinton. And for them to say that he's ready with great enthusiasm is quite hypocritical, at least inconsistent with what they said previously. Next is Joe Biden's and Barack Obama's judgment. The record is replete with they've made a lot of errors in judgment and John McCain has a steady hand on the throttle.

SAWYER: But on the question of resume, some Democrats have said you're the same age as Barack Obama. You've been Governor for just two years. You were in the legislature, he was in the legislature. Does this raise questions about you being a heartbeat away from being commander in chief.

PAWLENTY: Well setting aside the issue of Vice President, Dianna, I've been Governor for six years, commander in chief of the Minnesota National Guard for six years, when I was in the legislature I was also Majority Leader and done a variety of other things, but the questions for Senator Obama are continuing to be what have you done and what have you run? His accomplishments are nonexistent or essentially nonexistent and he hasn't run anything. He hasn't been an executive and he hasn't been in charge of anything. And lastly, the big problem - one of the big problems facing our country - is the ability to work across party lines and get things done. John McCain actually has a record in that regard. Barack Obama does not. He has good oratory, but when you shut the teleprompter off there's not much else there.

SAWYER: [...] Does the McCain camp think gee we envy the enthusiasm of 70,000 people in an arena like this

PAWLENTY: I think it feeds right into what Americans are starting to realize that this is really about celebrity and not much substance. This Roman-like facade, or facade with Roman columns is a perfect metaphor for or a right kind for an interesting production, but behind it there's not much there. And so its almost like he wants to come out and be somebody called it the other day emperor like in the setting, at least the facade so I think it feeds into the big hoopla, big production, it's about celebrity, it's about entertainment. But as with the facade, there's not much behind it.

Pawlenty: "I think the American people can smell hypocrisy" (FNC 08/28/08 10:00am)
TIM PAWLENTY: I think the American people can smell hypocrisy. A few months ago you had Bill Clinton,

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Hillary Clinton, and Joe Biden all saying Barack Obama wasn't ready to be President. It was a roll of the dice. It was a fairy tale. He didn't have the requisite experience. And now, not long ago, Joe Biden said he would be honored to run as John McCain as his vice President because it would be good for the country.

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/16/2015 9:00:54 AM
Subject: Re: Today's Post story on HRC

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2015, at 3:43 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Interesting

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <catherinehand5@aol.com >
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015
Subject: Today's Post story on HRC
To: jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com , john.podesta@gmail.com
Cc: lorraine@xeolux.com

Dear Jake and John:

I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.

Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.

Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.

I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.

Lorraine-

Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.

Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what

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she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, “politics as usual’ is immediately heard as “politics as usual in Clinton-world.”

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words ‘politics as usual’ it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. “

Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women’s movement in the United States as women’s organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

“ *I Want to Hold Your Hand*” and “ *I Saw Her Standing There”* were released in the U.S., marking the beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson’s War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

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In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon's 'silent majority,' -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women's rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

"The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which "brings us together in a peaceful loving state."

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking's insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From: "Footlik for Congress" <info@jayfootlik.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/10/2008 5:40:07 AM
Subject: U.S. Diplomats: Jay is Ready to Lead

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Dear John,

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Over the past six years, we have watched in shock and disbelief as the disastrous foreign policies of George Bush have tragically increased turmoil and chaos across the globe, endangering the fundamental security of the American people.

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In the Middle East, our leaders' penchant for relying on military force and a botched attempt to impose democracy, have made the situation there more dire than it has been in decades. The neglect of diplomacy threatens critical American interests throughout the region.

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We must elect new leaders who understand today's geopolitics and are prepared to discard the cowboy diplomacy that has marred the 21st century. We need leaders who have the sophistication to deal with complex affairs of state and the competence to create a constructive dialogue where necessary to ease tensions around the globe.

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That's why we are supporting Jay Footlik for Congress. Having worked with Jay in the Clinton White House, we know him to be a dedicated and talented public servant. He is committed to the highest values for which America stands and possesses the knowledge and understanding of current international issues that will allow him to be a productive force in the formulation of policy ideas in the United States House of Representatives.

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Jay will take to Congress a unique background and practical experience that allows him to comprehend the root causes of the conflicts in the Middle East. He has a strong desire to get our country back on track – both in our dealings abroad and at home. In particular, Jay has unique insight into the most critical problems facing our country today – resolving the war in Iraq, dealing with the threat of an Iranian nuclear force, and reducing our dependence on oil.

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Electing Jay Footlik will give the people of the 10th district of Illinois a representative who will put principle over self-preservation, and a patriot who will put what's best for the country over the demands of private interests.

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Sincerely,

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Hon. Richard Holbrooke
Former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.

Hon. Martin Indyk
Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel

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Hon. Jim Rosapepe
Former U.S. Ambassador to Romania

Hon. Dennis Ross
Former Special Middle East Envoy

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Hon. Marc Ginsberg
Former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/21/2008 6:38:22 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: Palin Rally in Reno, NV 10/21/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- Goes into depth about Biden comments-- lays out the 5 "crisis" scenarios we might face, based on Obama's foreign policy plans
    - 1- meeting with world's worst dictators (e.g. Iranian leaders) without preconditions
    - 2- sending the military to pakistan (a partner in the war on terror) without approval of the govt
    - 3- preventing victory in iraq, even though it's in sight
    - 4- Russia could invade ukraine next (if there's a repeat of his indecision and moral equivalence after georgia invasion)
    - 5- biden's next speaking engagement -- these warnings from joe biden are similar to his earlier assessment throughout the primary.
- Says Obama camp wasnt pleased when his "staged photo-op" was interrupted the "real question from a real voter," so now they're attacking Joe the Plumber
    - Says problem is Americans are identifying with Joe, Palin cites "Tito the builder," a Colombian immigrant who wonders why Obama camp is trying to prevent Joe from reaching his dreams
- Says Obama is "hiding his real agenda" of redistributing your hardearned money
    - Calls Obama "the wealth-spreader," keeps up attack that "now is not the time to be experimenting with socialism"

Reno, NV: Palin Rally 10/21/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Piper on stage with Palin
- Before event, a "God bless the USA" singalong with Lee

Speech Highlights
God bless the USA, beautiful absolutely beautiful. it makes you proud to be an american.

a couple of ppl id like to intro you to - piper's here. and 1 of my fave 3rd grade teachers, Mr. Chuck Heath from AK. and todd's on the road, he sends his very best. so does john mccain

2 wks from today, cast vote for next president. theres no time to wait.

a couple of issues in press recently. it is not mean-spirited to talk about someone's record, someone's plans, or associations.

did you hear that senator biden said at a fund-raiser on sunday that he guarantees if barack obama is elected we will face an international crisis within the first six months of their administration? i guess we've got to say, "thanks for the warning, joe." he told his dem donors there were at least 4 -5 scenarios that would threaten Dem administration. he did not specify what these scenarios would be. you'll just have to go to the obama foreign-policy agenda for clues.

for clues, look to Obama fopo policy. crisis situation #1 meeting with terrorists without iran without preconditions. #2 sending the military to pakistan without the approval of the government. invading the sovereign territory of a partner in the war on terror. #3 opposed the surge . he's voted to cut off funding for troops. he wants to pull out, leaving iraqis at mercy of iranians and shiites. by his own admission, american troops might want to go back. #4 indecision

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and moral equivalence after georgia invasion, russia could invade ukraine next. #5 biden's next speaking engagement

the real problem is that these warnings from joe biden are similar to his earlier assessment throughout the primary. he said that barack obama was not up to the job. he is not ready to be president. he said that the presidency is not something that lends itself to on-the-job training. the same joe biden who said he would be honored to run on the ticket with john mccain because he said the country would be better off with john mccain. he will put the country first, fighting for you.

i want a pres. who's not afirad to say 'victory. a president ready to lead on day 1, pres w/ judgment truthfulness experience ready to meet-- or better yet, avoid next internatl crisis. i want mccain as next comm-in-chief

NV, you have great history of understanding of troops. if you would do us the honor of letting us honor those who have served or are serving. TY. TY for loving our country

this election going to come down to wire. i know we can count on battle-horn state. are you ready to make mccain next POTUS? ready to help carry this state to victory? ready to send us to DC to shake things up?

i know you are here b/c you understand the stakes, for the future. tough times, more than ever we need tough leader w/ bold and free and fair plan w/ pragmatic solutions. we need mccain.

we'll help families keep homes and retirees keep savings, investments they worked so hard for and trusted others with. help students. we'll get econ back on rgith track. first w/ tax relief to all americans and businesses. small business is backbone. this country is made great by entreprenerial spirit. we're going to let you keep more of what you earn and produce, thats how jobs are created. we'll lower income taxes and double chidl tax deduction and cut the capital gains tax and cut business taxes - right now, the business tax in US is 2nd highest in world, we'll cut that to help keep Am businesses in america.

on taxes, clear choice. our opponent is not being candid about his tax plans. again, its not neg or meanspirited, we're gonna keep doing this - calling someone out. its in fairness to you to have everyone understand what the choice is. you have to really listen to his words. he's hiding his real agenda of redistributing your hardearned money. he says hes for a tax credit, which is when govt takes your money and gives it to someone else. we're for a tax cut which is when govt just takes less. this allows you to invest acc. to your priorities.

we need to hand it to Joe The Plumber. he succeeded in getting our opponent to do something no one else has: state his agenda in plain language. senator obama says that he wants to, quote, spread the wealth. he wants -- what that means is that government is taking your money and doling it out however politicians see fit. that's not good for our economy. barack obama calls it spreading the wealth. joe biden calls higher taxes patriotic. joe the plumber said it sounded to him like socialism. and now is not the time to experiment with socialism. so when he left joe's neighborhood in toledo, i dont think our opponent was too pleased. their staged photo-op got ruined w a real person w/ a real question. he asked question, stood for so many americans. and now theyre investigating and attacking Joe The Plumber.

but americans are IDing w/ Joe The Plumber. in NM i saw ed the dairyman, i saw Tito the builder. here we have dave the cop, ann the engineer, jon the only GOP in my HS (laughs). tito the builder isnt pleased at how obama camp and the media have been roughing up Joe The Plumber. Tito wants to know why the heck are you going after Joe The Plumber? he has an idea, a future, he has somewhere he wants to go, why are you stopping that? tito is an immigrant from colombia. he says everyone can do waht they want. i was born in colombia, but i was made in the usa.

so tito isnt the only mccain supporter who feel that way. signs have shown the same. if you work hard and want to get ahead and believe america is the land of possibilites and dont want your hopes dashed by obama tax incr, and dont like how he was attacked for asking obama a question, then we're all Joe The Plumber. do we have some here? doesnt sound like we have a lot of fans of obama the wealth-spreader here today.

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our opponent's plan discourages productivity and it will stifle the entrepreneurial spirit that has made this country unique and it has made it the greatest country on earth.

our opponent's plan is just more big government, and john and i think that is the problem, not the solution. instead of taking your hard-earned money and spreading your wealth, we want to spread opportunity so people like you and joe the plumber can create new wealth and create new jobs.

so we're gonna put govt back on side of ppl. we're going to confront the $10 trillion debt that the federal government has run up. thats not right, not fair, that wont happen on our watch. john and i will impose a spending freeze in the federal government's budget on but the most vital functions of government. we have to do this for the fed gvot to be expected to live w/in its budget as you are in your homes, in your businesses, as we have to do as govs and mayors.

you can count on us to follow thru on our promises b/c we're the only ones w/ track records of reform. we havent just been talking the talk, but walked the walk.

as a sen, mccain has confronted abuses of pwr and as he'll tell ya, he has scars to do it. from his own party and from other party also, he's been known as teh maverick taking on the special interests and insider dealings. as pres, he'll end them once and for all.

my track record. as mayor, i eliminated personal prop. taxes and sm. business inventory taxes. we made our town a place where businesses could grow and thrive. it was a progrowth, proprivate sector agenda. we were able to hang that shingle outside our city door that said We're open for business! and it worked, and we took off a vibrant, booming community b/c we had a progrwoth, proprivate sector agenda. we got govt out of the way to let businesses grow and thrive.

as gov, i vetoed nearly $0.5B in wasteful spending. there too, we ruffled some feathers. we suspended state fuel tax and returned a chunk of surplus back to ppl b/c they can spend it better than govt can spend it for them.

in AK, we got back to basics and put govt back on side of the ppl, we'll use that same commonsense approach to reform DC b/c in our admin, i promise we'll never forget who we're accountable to, we'll be working for you, the ppl of USA. you the ppl.

are you ready to send us to DC shake things up and clean things up?

john and i will set this country firmly on a path to energy indep. we're gonna develop new energy sources and tap into what we've already got: oil, natural gas, coal. we'll create thousands of new jobs instead of circulating billions and being beholden to volatile regimes that use energy as a weapon. we'll develop alternative sources, clean coal technology and safely drill. we'll drill here and drill now. and that's when you start to chant. we'll drill baby drill and mine baby mine. for security and for prosperity and job opportunities, we need american energy by american ingenuity and american workers. USA!

i appreciate that. you really do get it and i appreciate you guys.

1 of the missions that we'll take on for you, in addition to energy indep and govt reform, should we be blessed to serve you, esp close to my heart, that is to help fams w/ kids with special needs. it was mother teresa who said that god has created everyone of us, every human, for greater things, to love and be loved. no matter our party or backgrd or affiliations or gender, there is a voice of humanity there in those words. it speaks to all of us. john and i have vision of america where every innocent life counts and everyone has the chance to contribute. where every child is cherished. thats the spirit i want to bring to DC. as gov, i secured more assistance and funding to students w/ special needs. as VP, we'll do more, ushering spirit that says life is sacred, it matters, it should be protected. ill make sure that children, that all our fams know, yep they'llhave advocate in WH.

nov 4 coming quickly. itll come down to what we believe in. mccain and i belivee in what reagan believed in: fwd mvmt of frdm not constant expansion of govt. best of USA not all gahtered in DC, but in goodness of everyday, hardworking ppl in ppl in our factories, teaching, fighting our wars, protecting us and protecting the virtues of frdm. we so believe in the promise of this country in all of its opportunites. and we believe america is not the

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problem, america the solution. USA. we may not be a perf nation but we learn from our mistakes. collectively we represent some perfect ideals. we're that beacon of hope for all that seek equality and frdm and opportunity. we're still that shining city on a hill reagan spoke of.

and i thank god we have a man ready and worthy to lead that nation. he inspires us w/ heroic and trustworthy deeds and not just words. if you believe what we believe, you're ready to shake up DC and WS, and you want to clean up DC, , we're asking for your vote.

you'll hear our opponents go on and on about how they'll "fight for you". since my running mate usually wont say this for himself, ill tell ya: there is only 1 candidate in this race who has ever really fought for you. he is the only man with courage to keep fighting for you. he is john mccain.

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/23/2009 5:56:34 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Engaging Iran Crucial Despite Odious Rants

http://www.nsnetwork.org/node/1412

Engaging Iran Crucial Despite Odious Rants

Washington, D.C. - Today, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will speak to the United Nations General Assembly. He will make predictably odious statements, and they will be seized upon by conservatives in the U.S. as evidence that the U.S. should abandon its policy of engaging the Iranian regime. These critics should be ignored. This past summer has demonstrated that engagement weakens - not strengthens - the Iranian regime. The willingness of the U.S. to sit down for negotiations in an effort to address Iran's nuclear program and possibly to reorient the relationship emboldened those Iranians seeking reform and undermined regime hardliners who thrived on conflict with the U.S. Our willingness to engage has also led to a more cohesive international stance on Iran and will force Iran to clarify its position toward the West. Finally, engagement with Iran puts focus on the core issues - its nuclear program, human rights, and its role in the region - while delegitimizing Ahmadinejad's theatrical ravings.

Conservatives who argue for abandoning engagement are stuck in the failed policies of the past: unilateral and unrealistic sanctions, useless saber-rattling, and wild notions of regime change. This stance defies the opinions of top military leaders and leading Iran experts. While the U.S. must be ready to deploy internationally backed pressure if needed, the best means forward with Iran is to stay committed to the policy of engagement.

Ahmadinejad on the defensive as he heads to the UN General Assembly. A year ago, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad traveled to New York for the UN General assembly emboldened. His country having achieved the ability to "influence all the region's security dilemmas," in the words of Iran experts Ray Takeyh and Suzanne Maloney, Ahmadinejad delivered a rambling, hate-filled tirade, attacking Israel and the West.

This year, Ahmadinejad is on the defensive. The instability following the elections has opened schisms that continue to threaten Ahmadinejad's base of support. Earlier this month a conservative clerical association in Qom rebuked him, urging the President his supporters to "concentrate their minds seriously on economic woes and social challenges and avoid uttering unnecessary and provocative remarks," according to the Los Angeles Times. His regime's egregious violations of demonstrators' rights have dampened international enthusiasm for him and his outrageous anti-Semitism and anti-Westernism.

The Obama administration's willingness to engage has further undermined Ahmadinejad abroad and at home. Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nick Burns says the Administration's early efforts at engagement effectively put him "on [the] defensive prior to this election because of our ability now to open up the vista for the possibility of negotiations." As National Iranian American Council President Trita Parsi put it last June, Obama's "diplomatic outreach and removal of this threat perception has not necessarily created fissures among the Iranian elite in and of itself, but it has weakened the glue that created unity among Iran's many political factions."

[Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, 9/23/08 . Ray Takeyh and Suzanne Maloney, via Brookings, 12/08 . Los Angeles Times, 9/08/09. Nick Burns, 6/11/09 . Trita Parsi, 6/22/09]

Engagement remains the best route to advance core US interests. After the speeches are over, engagement will clarify Iran's position - and that of other nations - and build international support for an effective, common approach.

- Chester Crocker, a Reagan-era State Department official, says that the administration's critics misunderstand engagement. He writes in the New York Times, "Let's get a few things straight. Engagement in statecraft is not about sweet talk. Nor is it based on the illusion that our problems with rogue regimes can be solved if only we would talk to them. Engagement is not normalization, and its goal is not improved relations. It is not akin to détente, working for rapprochement, or appeasement... diplomatic engagement is proven to work - in the right circumstances."
- Secretary Gates said earlier this month, "Our view, and the view that we have shared, I might say, strongly with all of our friends and allies, in the region as well as elsewhere, is that the way to deal with the Iranian nuclear program at this point is through diplomatic and economic efforts."

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- Karim Sadjapour of the Carnegie Endowment argues, "Engagement is not an end in itself, but rather a means that seeks, among other things, to curtail Iran's nuclear ambitions and moderate its regional policies. I hope that negotiations will bear fruit, and I think that Undersecretary of State Bill Burns is an incredibly skilled and thoughtful diplomat."
- Former Undersecretary of State and Bush administration point man on Iran Nick Burns said in a recent interview with World Politics Review that, "I think negotiations are the right way to go. I don't think they have a strong possibility of succeeding, but the ability of the U.S. to get countries to support sanctions depends on the U.S. going to negotiations."
- Deputy National Security Advisor Tom Donilon also spoke with the New York Times' Roger Cohen about a "back end" to the policy of engagement. According to Cohen, "[t]he back end is punitive sanctions, in the event engagement fails, that would change the Iranian calculus on further uranium refinement: cutting off Iranian banks' access to credit; extending that isolation to insurance and shipping; stopping refined petroleum products from reaching Iran." However, as Cohen adds, for that back-end to be available "Obama will need to prove his outreach is more than rhetoric and that other nations have bought into the notion that a near-boycott of Iran should be imposed."
- Brookings Institution Iran expert Suzanne Maloney testified before Congress that despite the new obstacles that have emerged following Iran's presidential elections, engagement represents the only path forward. "The Obama administration's interest in engagement was never predicated on the palatability of the Iranian leadership - indeed, until very recently the conventional American wisdom tended to presume a second Ahmadinejad term - but on the urgency of the world's concerns and the even less promising prospects for the array of alternative U.S. policy options."

[Chester Crocker, NY Times, 9/14/09 . Robert Gates, 9/04/09 . Karim Sadjapour, 9/23/09 . Nick Burns, World Politics Review, 9/4/09 . Roger Cohen, NY Times, 8/02/09 . Suzanne Maloney, 7/22/09]

The conservative position on Iran - saber-rattling, unilateral sanctions, and emphasis on regime-change - is dangerous, rejected by U.S. national security leaders. Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and prominent neoconservative John Bolton recently wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed that "[a]dopting tougher economic sanctions is simply another detour away from hard decisions on whether to accept a nuclear Iran or support using force to prevent it." Meanwhile, Dick Cheney's former national security advisor John Hannah called for regime change this month, writing, "nothing seems more likely to enhance the prospects for peacefully resolving the nuclear issue than the Islamic Republic's replacement by a more democratic government."

Meanwhile, top military and defense officials, former diplomats, and Iran experts agree that unilateral, hostile action against Iran would be "disastrous."

- Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Burns also explained the serious repercussions of a military strike in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last May: "Air strikes would undoubtedly lead Iran to hit back asymmetrically against us in Iraq, Afghanistan and the wider region, especially through its proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas. This reminds us of Churchill's maxim that, once a war starts, it is impossible to know how it will end." More recently he affirmed that the use of force "does not make sense at this time."
- Carnegie Iran expert, Karim Sadjapour is "convinced that Khamenei and Ahmadinejad would actually welcome a military strike; it may be their only hope to silence popular dissent and heal internal political rifts."
- Iran expert Robin Wright and national security expert Robert Litwak, "Yet a military strike is also likely to backfire, instead rallying Persian nationalism around the regime, just as Saddam Hussein's 1980 invasion mobilized support for the revolution at a time it was running out of steam."
- Secretary Gates, who was originally appointed to the position by George W. Bush, agrees, in fact saying that it would be disastrous. He wrote in Parameters journal last year that, "Another war in the Middle East is the last thing we need. In fact, I believe it would be disastrous on a number of levels."
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen said last year on FOX News, "I'm fighting two wars, and I don't need a third one... I worry about the instability in that part of the world and, in fact, the possible unintended consequences of a strike like that and, in fact, having an impact throughout the region that would be difficult to both predict exactly what it would be and then the actions that we would have to take to contain it."
- Abbas Milani, Director of Iranian Studies at Stanford University, stated that unilateral sanctions "only help solidify the regime" by reunifying conservatives around their hostility to Western nations.

[John Bolton, WS Journal, 8/31/09 . John Hannah, Foreign Policy, 9/11/09 . Bret Stephens, WS Journal, 9/15/09 . Nick Burns, 5/06/09 . Nick Burns, World Politics Review, 9/4/09 . Karim Sadjapour, 9/23/09 . Robin Wright and Robert Litwak, 9/13/09 . Secretary Robert Gates, Parameters, 2008 . Admiral Michael Mullen, Fox News, 7/20/08 . Abbas Milani, Philadelphia Inquirer, 8/30/09]

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Adam Blickstein
Communications Director

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/2/2015 8:41:45 AM
Subject: News Update - December 2

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, December 2

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Netanyahu Confirms: Israel Operates in Syria from Time-to-Time**
- **Dawabsha Family Hoping for Progress in Arson Case**
- **Israel Demolishes East Jerusalem Home of Terrorist Who Killed Two**
- **Israeli Government, Military Disagree Over Unrest**
- **Riots at Kadoorie University in the West Bank Get Out of Hand**
- **With Israeli-EU Relations Strained, Israel Looks Towards India, China**
- **Restoring Tourism w/ Egypt; Jordan Labor Program Progresses**
- **IDF Holds Surprise Drill in the Gaza Region**

Commentary:

- **Walla: "New Situation in Syria that Enables Israel to Target Hizbullah"**
  - By Amir Bohbot, Reporter for Military, Security, and Intelligence Issues, Walla
- **Ha'aretz: "The Illusion of Palestinian Sovereignty"**
  - By Amira Haas, Correspondent on the Occupied Territories, Ha'aretz

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Ha'aretz

Netanyahu Confirms: Israel Operates in Syria from Time-to-Time

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday "we operate in Syria from time to time to prevent Syria from becoming a front against us." He was speaking at the Galilee Conference in Acre, a day after he had met in Paris with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the margins of the climate conference. Netanyahu said he had met with over a hundred world leaders, and based on what he experienced in Paris, nothing could be further from depictions of Israel as a pariah state. "We have a disagreement on the Palestinian issue with some of the countries, especially a number of countries in Western Europe...They think the rift with the Palestinians is a territorial dispute, but it's not."

See also, "Netanyahu Confirms that Israel Periodically Operates in Syria" (BICOM)

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Times of Israel

Dawabsha Family Hoping for Progress in Arson Case

The grandfather of a Palestinian boy whose entire family was killed in an arson attack in the West Bank said he hoped reports of a major breakthrough in a Jewish terrorism case referred to the investigation into that attack. On Monday there was a widely reported "major development" in an ongoing investigation into an incident of Jewish extremist violence, although police and the Shin Bet security service have been reticent as to the case in question.
See also, "Duma Arson Gag Order: Covering Up a Failure?" (Arutz Sheva)
See also, "Police Chief 'Very Optimistic' About Catching Duma Arsonists" (Arutz Sheva)

Ynet News

Israel Demolishes Terrorist's Jerusalem Home Who Killed Two

Israeli security forces on Wednesday demolished the East Jerusalem home of Hamas terrorist Ibrahim al-Akari, who killed two Israelis in a vehicular terror attack in November of last year. Some 1,200 Police and Border Police troops were deployed to the Shuafat refugee camp ahead of the planned demolition to maintain order and prevent violent rioting in the flashpoint refugee camp. "The forces were instructed to show zero tolerance for any attempt to harm security forces or disrupt the public order," police stated. The demolition went ahead as planned without any unusual incidents.
See also, "Police Demolish Terrorist's East Jerusalem Home" (Times of Israel)

Reuters

Israeli Government, Military Disagree Over Unrest

Two months into a wave of stabbings, shootings, and vehicle attacks by Palestinians targeting Israelis, gaps are emerging between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the military, and intelligence chiefs over what is driving the violence. While there is agreement over broad aspects of the violence, the deeper causes are disputed. Netanyahu has repeatedly accused 80-year-old Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of directly inciting the unrest. In contrast, the military and Shin Bet point to a variety of economic and socio-political factors fuelling Palestinian anger and frustration, particularly among young men and women in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Ma'ariv

Riots at Kadoorie University in the West Bank Get Out of Hand

A crisis broke out at Kadoorie University in Tulkarm, after the university administration asked the students to stop clashing with the IDF near the campus, since this disrupted the studies. The student union, which is controlled by Fatah, was angry at the request and continued to lead the disturbances. In response, the university administration announced the dissolution of the student union and the dismissal of its members. Sources in the Kadoorie University student union accused the university administration of collaboration with Israel. Senior PA officials intervened in the crisis, and a document of understandings is expected to be signed today that will end the crisis.

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Jerusalem Post

With Israeli-EU Relations Strained, Israel Looking at India, China

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, sat kiddy-corner in armchairs at this week's international climate summit near Paris, talking and laughing. "We have the best of relations, and they can be made even better," Netanyahu told Modi at the meeting. To which Modi responded, "I am happy that often we can talk easily on telephone, we can discuss everything." A brief encounter between Netanyahu and European Union foreign policy envoy Federica Mogherini was far frostier. Mogherini approached Netanyahu in the hallway, and they shared little more than a handshake.

Jerusalem Post

Restoring Tourism w/ Egypt; Jordan Labor Program Progresses

Deputy Regional Cooperation Minister Ayoub Kara (Likud) met with an Egyptian diplomat at the Taba border crossing with Egypt on Tuesday in order to discuss ways to restore the strong tourist ties between the two countries. "We will defeat terrorism, which cannot be allowed to interfere with our daily lives," Kara told The Jerusalem Post. Separately, Kara met with representatives of the Eilat airport, the Wadi Araba border crossing with Jordan, and the manager of the Taba border crossing with Egypt, Yizhak Hai, about progress on the plan to bring Jordanian day workers to work in hotels in Eilat. Under the plan, which began in the past month, there are currently 150 Jordanian workers working in Eilat and by the end of the month, there will be 500. The government target is to eventually reach 1,500 Jordanian workers in Eilat.
See also, "Israel's Plan to Expand Number of Jordanian Day Workers at Eilat Hotels on Course" (Al Bawaba)

Arutz Sheva

IDF Holds Surprise Drill in the Gaza Region

The IDF on Wednesday is holding a surprise general staff drill in the southern region, so as to raise the army's preparedness. In the drill the various Southern Command units will be deployed to practice a variety of potential operations, with a focus on the Gaza region and the western Negev. Throughout the drill residents in the region are likely to feel the heavy presence of military vehicles and planes in the south, as well as in some of the coastal region. In Eilat the IDF Medical Corps are to practice establishing a field hospital.
See also, "IDF Southern Command Holds Surprise Drill on Gaza Border" (Ynet News)

Walla.co.il – December 2, 2015

New Situation in Syria that Enables Israel to Target Hizbullah

By Amir Bohbot

What causes Hizbullah to continue to stockpile more and more missiles and rockets? The Shiite terror organization, which is up to its neck in fighting alongside Assad's army in Syria, has not abandoned its effort to enlarge its rocket reserves, which are intended in due time to be aimed at Israel, in what is dubbed the "Hizbullah war." Reports say that Hizbullah possesses over 120,000 missiles and rockets, including Scud-D missiles that can reach every point in Israel.

Hizbullah has analyzed its challenge vis-à-vis Israel and reached the conclusion that the next war will be shorter than it expected—and judging by the public statements made by high-ranking IDF officers, in the war Israel will respond more aggressively than in the past. For this reason, Hizbullah's leaders understand

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that it has to prepare a new doctrine designed to target strategic installations in Israel, IDF bases and government symbols. In order to do so, it has to arm itself with precise rockets and missiles.

Syria and Iran have joined Hizbullah's effort. The Iranian defense industries are in charge of manufacturing the rockets and the missiles, as well as UAVs. The weapons find their way to Syria, and from there on convoys to Hizbullah headquarters in Lebanon. In the past two years, Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon has said on every possible platform that Israel has red lines, and has emphasized the arms transfers from Syria to Lebanon, warning that Israel would not hesitate to attack. And indeed, according to foreign reports, Israel has acted on its threats.

At first the Israeli effort was aimed at moments when the convoys were on the Syrian-Lebanese border, in "buffer" zones, so as not to embarrass any party and not to create a chain reaction. But like in any pursuit of terror organizations, which learn and become more sophisticated, the pace of smuggling has picked up, and at least according to foreign reports, the IAF has been compelled to carry out strikes on the outskirts of Damascus as well.

Nasrallah threatened and warned Israel not to continue, but to no avail, since Israel considers precise missile attacks to be a real threat to the State of Israel's home front.

A high-ranking officer in the IDF Intelligence Research Department said recently to *Walla News* that Hizbullah was a "learning organization, that develops and builds itself—and it has good teachers." She said that Israel does not make light of Hizbullah, which is the main threat to us at the moment. "We are in a daily war of minds with the organization, and we have to think like it does in order to know the next move and not to find ourselves left behind. If we want to prevent, we have to read the enemy and raise all the possibilities. This is a routine challenge [in operating] against them."

So why did Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu decide now, of all times, to reveal the IAF's activity in Syria? It is all a matter of momentum, of finding a window of opportunity. What has changed in the past few weeks as opposed to the past few years is that Israeli intelligence—according to foreign reports—has located more arms convoys, making it possible to attack them effectively.

In addition, the coordination mechanism between Russia and Israel works effectively, at least judging by the statements of the two countries' leaders. The fact that Israel did not down the Russian plane that infiltrated into Israeli territory improved the relationship between Israel and Russia even more. Putin publicly expressed this, and praised the relationship with Israel while aiming a barb at Turkey, which is not particularly popular in Israel either.

As it looks now, Israel has decided to strike while the iron is hot and to take advantage of the good atmosphere with Russia in order to demand the prevention of the arms transfer from Syria to Hizbullah. We can presume that Russia will undertake to help but will not do anything on the matter in order to preserve a reasonable relationship with Assad, the Revolutionary Guard and Hizbullah—with which it is fighting against ISIS.

Conversely, we cannot discount the possibility that Russia will turn a blind eye when the IAF crosses the skies of Damascus and drops precise munitions on missiles—which are liable in the next war to hit the IDF General Staff base, oil reservoirs or Israel Electric Corporation power plants.

Amir Bohbot works for a leading Israeli news provider, Walla, reporting on military, security and intelligence issues.

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Ha'aretz – December 1, 2015

The Illusion of Palestinian Sovereignty

The West Bank's division into 'territorial capsules' makes it hard for Palestinians to mass against Israeli aggression; instead, there are 'lone-wolf stabbers.'

By Amira Haas

Israeli military incursions into the West Bank's Area A and even Area B – the districts where only Palestinians live and the Palestinian Authority operates – have one positive aspect. Yes, even when they include the destruction of radio stations or raids on hospitals. Despite all the shock and the denunciations, these raids are a lesson in reality. For a few hours, they destroy the illusion of Palestinian sovereignty. It's a virtual sovereignty, fragmented and curtailed. Therefore, it's an illusion – but an illusion that works.

Broadcasters in Hebron think they can tell their listeners where soldiers are located, as if they lived in an independent state. Palestinian Facebook users inhabit a virtual reality twice over: They see the real world in cyberspace and are convinced that it protects them from raids and arrests. Doctors treat people with bullet wounds and forget that the sovereign is the settlement defense forces, which don't recognize the immunity of medical institutions.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas receives ambassadors with great pomp, but is dependent on exit permits from the army. And professors from abroad are shocked when Israeli security services raid the campus of Al-Quds University in Abu Dis; their political geography classes evidently ended in 1993. That is when Zionism achieved one of its greatest military and diplomatic successes.

Short of expelling every Palestinian or "causing them to flee," this is the outcome most closely resembling transfer that was possible to achieve. The international political circumstances didn't allow the territory to be emptied (again) of its Palestinian inhabitants. So reservations were set up (Areas A and B). They were supposed to be temporary, but meanwhile they've become permanent.

It's not important for now whether this is exactly what Zionist leaders intended when they concocted the Oslo Accords' interim agreements. The result is the same either way: Palestinian pseudo-sovereignty in territorial capsules, which is one of the main reasons why the current uprising hasn't taken off.

The checkpoints that surround these enclaves block any mass demonstration that might, for instance, seek to march toward another water-sucking, land-swallowing settlement or a shepherds' village that's about to be demolished. But what's most effective of all, from the standpoint of Israeli interests, is that people have gotten used to the illusion. Within these population enclosures, life is lived in a way that closely resembles normalcy.

In Tel Rumeida, the silence is blood-curdling. But beyond the concrete that isolates the neighborhood, one hears the enticing municipal clamor of Hebron. Cars honk, vendors in the market sell their wares, pedestrians chat. A multitude of seminars takes place in the hotels of cozy Jericho and Ramallah, while half an hour's drive to the north, Israel's Civil Administration is demolishing the houses of the tiny village of Hadidiyeh and the army is once again expelling 13 families from their tents in Khirbet Khumsa. Studies at An-Najah National University in Nablus take place as normal, but a few kilometers southward, settlers burst into the villages of Madama and Burin and sow fear.

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Just how strong the delusion of sovereignty is can be seen in the way East Jerusalem residents, and even Palestinian citizens of Israel, often travel to these West Bank enclaves and feel a sense of relief. In these enclosures, which are free of any army presence, they get a break from routine Israeli racism and vulgarity. This temporary feeling of rest and relief is only strengthened by the necessary return to Israel via an intimidating path of walls, barbed-wire fences, pointed rifles, threatening policemen and soldiers, and deluxe, verdant suburbs for Jews only.

The foreign ruler and his permanent aggression are divided into fractions and experienced differently in every Palestinian "territorial cell," as they are called in army jargon. The more numerous, smaller and fragmented these territorial cells are, the harder it is for the Palestinians to develop a uniform response to Israeli aggression and violence.

That is how the phenomenon of the lone-wolf stabbers emerged – for lack of any other choice. This is a privatizing of the natural and general urge to rebel, a response to Israeli violence that breaks up into dozens of supposedly unconnected little incidents.

This privatization of the struggle is the opposite of an intifada, which is a mass uprising. But because it has become such a widespread phenomenon, it constitutes an internal message: that the normalcy of the enclaves isn't normal.

***Amira Haas is an Israeli journalist and Ha'aretz correspondent for the occupied territories*.**

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Invitation

In Europe's Shadow: A Book Talk with Robert Kaplan

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
1:30 - 3:00 pm

The conversation will be on-the-record.

Speaker
Robert Kaplan, Author and Senior Fellow, Center for a New American Security

Moderator
Derek Chollet, Senior Advisor for Security and Defense Policy, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Location
The German Marshall Fund of the United States
1744 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

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If you have any questions, please contact Dillon Rheuby at +1 202 683 2926 or fpintern2@gmfus.org .

GMF invites you to a discussion with author Robert Kaplan on his most recent book *In Europe's Shadow: Two Cold Wars and a Thirty-Year Journey Through Romania and Beyond*, in which Kaplan examines larger questions of geography, imperialism, the role of fate in international relations, the Cold War, the Holocaust, and how Romania continues to shape its destiny today.

In Europe's Shadow: Two Cold Wars and a Thirty-Year Journey Through Romania and Beyond
Robert Kaplan first visited Romania in the 1970s, when he was a young journalist and the country was a bleak Communist backwater. It was one of the darkest corners of Europe, but few Westerners were paying attention. What ensued was a lifelong obsession with a critical, often overlooked country—a country that, today, is key to understanding the current threat that Russia poses to Europe. In Europe's Shadow is a vivid blend of memoir, travelogue, journalism, and history, a masterly work thirty years in the making—the story of a journalist coming of age, and a country struggling to do the same. Through the lens of one country, Kaplan examines larger questions of geography, imperialism, the role of fate in international relations, the Cold War, the Holocaust, and more.

Here Kaplan illuminates the fusion of the Latin West and the Greek East that created Romania, the country that gave rise to Ion Antonescu, Hitler's chief foreign accomplice during World War II, and the country that was home to the most brutal strain of Communism under Nicolae Ceau escu. Romania past and present are rendered in cinematic prose: the ashen faces of citizens waiting in bread lines in Cold War–era Bucharest; the Bărăgan Steppe, laid bare by centuries of foreign invasion; the grim labor camps of the Black Sea Canal; the majestic Gothic church spires of Transylvania and Maramureș. Kaplan finds himself in dialogue with the great thinkers of the past, and with the Romanians of today, the philosophers, priests, and

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politicians—those who struggle to keep the flame of humanism alive in the era of a resurgent Russia.

Upon his return to Romania in 2013 and 2014, Kaplan found the country transformed yet again—now a traveler's destination shaped by Western tastes, yet still emerging from the long shadows of Hitler and Stalin. In Europe's Shadow is the story of an ideological and geographic frontier—and the book you must read in order to truly understand the crisis with Russia, and within Europe itself.

Robert Kaplan is currently a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security and contributing editor at *The Atlantic*. Prior to this, he worked for Stratfor as the chief geopolitical analyst from March 2012 to December 2014. In 2009, he was appointed to the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board and served through 2011. From 2006 to 2008, he was the Class of 1960 Distinguished Visiting Professor in National Security at the U.S. Naval Academy. He is the bestselling author of sixteen books on foreign affairs and travel, including *In Europe's Shadow*, *Asia's Cauldron*, *The Revenge of Geography*, *Monsoon*, *The Coming Anarchy*, and *Balkan Ghosts*. Foreign Policy magazine twice named him one of the world's "Top 100 Global Thinkers."

Derek Chollet is the counselor and senior advisor for security and defense policy at GMF. From 2012 to 2015, Chollet was the U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, where he managed U.S. defense policy issues related to the nations and international organizations of Europe (including NATO), the Middle East, Africa, and the Western Hemisphere, as well as advising Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel. Prior to joining the Pentagon, Chollet served at the White House as special assistant to the president and senior director for strategic planning on the National Security Council staff. From 2009 to 2011, he was the principal deputy director of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's policy planning staff. Chollet is also the author, co-author, or co-editor of six books on U.S. foreign policy.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan.

GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation.

Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.

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October 15, 2015

Top Stories

Winning the Social Media War Against ISIS



Let's stop here. There is no war online against ISIS in which the United States can seize victory, because there is no online victory to be seized. "Winning" a war implies specific objectives that can actually be met. On the internet, there is no clear ground to be gained, and no reliable way to measure success when it comes to countering violent extremism—as many have mentioned, you can't measure if someone decides to not join ISIS.
Click here for more.

El Niño and the Case for Microgrids

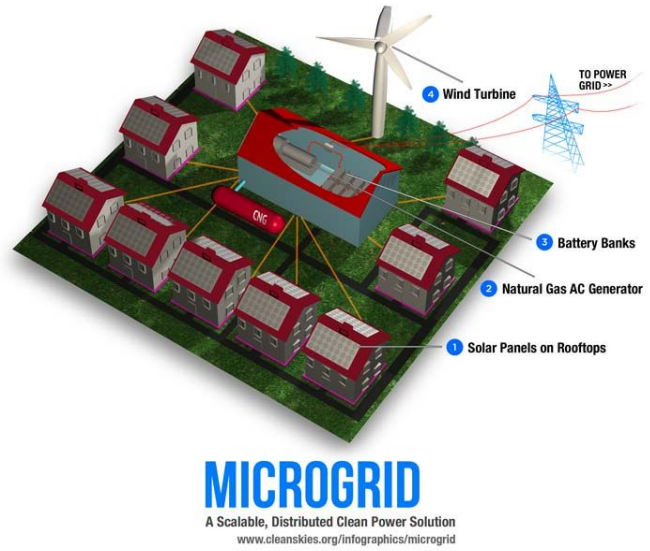
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ASP in the News

Is nuclear fusion about to change our world?
BCAS Member General Fusion Mentioned on CNN

Trinidad's Energy Vulnerability
Andrew Holland, ASP

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Winter is coming to the United States' national electric grid. El Niño – an ocean temperature event that affects global weather – is on its way and is expected to be one of the strongest events in recent history. Already, we have seen El Nino's warmer ocean currents create severe weather conditions, causing blackouts throughout the Asian and Pacific regional energy grids. Experts have expressed similar fears that such extreme weather events might spell danger for the United States' energy grid. These and other events revive the necessary conversation regarding the resiliency of our bulk-power system. The United States should consider supporting distributed energy policies, specifically microgrids, to guard against future strains on the nation's ageing energy infrastructure.

Click here for more.

Upcoming Events

Climate Change, Diplomacy and National Security- A Conversation with Foreign Minister Tony de Brum, Marshall Islands



In December, negotiators from around the world will convene in Paris to negotiate and agree to a deal to address the challenge of climate change. While most attention has been on the position of major economies like China, Europe, and the United States, one group that has played a role in the negotiations far beyond the size of their populations are the Alliance of Small Island States. Their clear moral authority, as "front-line" states of climate change, shows how soft power can accelerate diplomacy.

Wednesday, October 28, 12:00 pm - 01:30 pm

1100 New York Avenue, NW - 7th floor - West Tower
Washington, D.C

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College of Charleston Event – Climate Change: Risks for National Security



Today, the U.S. Navy is preparing for an open Arctic, the Marines are deploying in response to historic typhoons, and the Army is preparing its bases to use less energy than they produce. Climate change is already a major consideration for US military planners. Meanwhile, American politicians continue to ignore the issue. Join us for a discussion with senior flag officers as they discuss the steps the US military has taken and future implications for our national security.

Monday, November 9, 12:30 pm - 02:00 pm

College of Charleston, Stern Center Ballroom
Charleston, South Carolina 29424

Click here to RSVP

Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership For Global and Regional Stability



Final negotiations on TPP concluded on October 5th, 2015 and the long-awaited trade deal now begins a 90-day waiting period before being brought for discussion and vote by the United States Congress. TPP is a cornerstone of the Asia Pivot and includes 11 Pacific nations. Its implementation will increase US access to growing markets across the region while eliminating thousands of import tariffs and other barriers to free international trade. The deal also strengthens relationships between the US and vital partners including Japan, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Mexico.

Thursday, November 19, 12:30 pm - 02:00 pm

1100 New York Avenue, NW - 7th floor - West Tower
Washington, D.C

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On Our Blog

Climate, Energy, and National Security

BCAS Member General Fusion Mentioned on CNN
Ricky Gandhi
Business Council for American Security member General Fusion was highlighted last week in CNN's look at the "promise of nuclear fusion." ITER – an international project – seeks to harness fusion energy. Meanwhile, billionaires have already begun investing in private companies running smaller projects, highlighting the enormous commercial potential fusion research can have in our society.Click here for more…

I nvestments in Clean Energy Make Us Safer
Ricky Gandhi
This December, countries from around the world will meet in Paris to develop an international climate agreement that will attempt to cap warming at 2˚C – the threshold scientists have warned us not to cross.
Click here for more.. .

Reducing our Dependent on Fossil Fuels is a National Security Imperative
Spencer Shweky
In 2013, the EIA projected that world energy consumption would grow by 56% between 2010 and 2040, with fossil fuels continuing to supply almost 80% of the 2040 total. This trajectory threatens not only to alter the nature of the earth's climate, but to fundamentally destabilize the global security environment.
Click here for more...

Wilson Center Global Energy Forum Overview
Ricky Gandhi
The Wilson Center Global Energy Forum provided updated analyses regarding geopolitical situations and their effects on energy production. The keynote speaker, Adam Sieminski of the U.S. EIA, discussed the short-term implication in the growth of demand: a rebalancing between demand and the excess supply caused by OPEC.
Click here for more...

ASP in Colorado: Climate Change and Security in the Heartland
American Security Project
On Wednesday and Thursday, September 9th and 10th, representatives of the American Security Project visited Denver, Colorado and Colorado Springs, Colorado, for a series of meetings, public events, and briefings on how climate change is affecting security, how institutions in the region are planning for it, and

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how.
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Nuclear Security

The Iran Nuclear Agreement & Congress's Role
Sam Hickey
The dangers of nuclear weapons programs span a spectrum of catastrophe: from a meltdown at a nuclear reactor, to a state detonating a nuclear weapon, to terrorists setting off a dirty bomb. The paradox of the security and insecurity that nuclear weapons concurrently provide has yet to be reconciled, but for now, the U.S. must provide direct aid to the international institution responsible for maintaining the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology; the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
Click here for more.

American Competitiveness

The Emergence of the Trans-Pacific Partnership
Anil Powers
The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is the largest regional trade accord in history. It finally emerged after years of negotiations between the US and eleven Pacific Rim nations. It now faces months of scrutiny in a politically divided Congress, although the threat of amendments or a filibuster will not be an issue due to the success of the fast-track trade authority.
Click here for more...

Dante Disparte on Puerto Rico Default
Clark Derrington
On Tuesday, August 4th Business Council for American Security Chairperson Dante Disparte spoke to the BBC World Business Report about the latest development in the Puerto Rican debt crisis. Puerto Rico missed a $58 million bond payment on Monday, sending the island territory into default for the first time. In his interview, Disparte mentioned several of the issues contributing to Puerto Rico's debt troubles.
Click here for more...

National Security Strategy

Iran's Close Relationship with Syria Hinders Negotiations with the US
Anil Powers
There appears to be no end in sight for the war in Syria. As ISIS continues its campaign of terror in the region, Russia and Iran increase their military support of the Assad regime, intensifying a conflict that has already affected millions of people. With no formal peace talks in the works, the United States is reaching out to Iran to negotiate a political solution, one in which the Assad regime is removed from power. But the most critical obstacle to this is Iran's unwillingness to

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part ways with President Bashar al-Assad.
Click here for more...

Biden: Infrastructure a National Security Issue
Ricky Gandhi
The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace hosted the “American Job Creation and Infrastructure Forum” on Thursday, October 9. The event featured a panel consisting of members of congress, think tanks, and experts. It also featured three keynote speakers: Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Vice-President Joe Biden.
Click here for more…

Asymmetric Operations

Containing the Threat of al-Qaeda & Its Affiliates
Anil Powers
For nearly 20 years, al-Qaeda and its ideological cousins have been the most important threats to national and global security. They will remain so over the next 20-30 years.
Click here for more...

Rethink NATO Article 5: Challenges to Collective Security in the Cyber Era
Steffen Westerburger
Ever since its formation in early 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been an important cornerstone of the national security strategy of the United States. This military alliance, once founded to counter the Soviet threat during the Cold War, constitutes a system of collective self-defense. All twenty-eight member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party.
Click here for more...

Cyber Security

Event Recap: The Keynote Speech | Cyber Security: Risk, Recovery, and Resilience
Sam Hickey
On Wednesday, September 16th American Security Project hosted a conference on ‘Cyber Security: Risk, Recovery, and Resilience’. After opening remarks by ASP CEO BGen. Stephen Cheney USMC, (Ret.) – in which he mainly focused on the diversity of the concept of cyber and the challenges this may create to national security, RDML Danelle Barrett – Deputy Director of Current Operations at USCYBERCOM – to delivered the keynote address.

Event Recap : Panel 1 | Lessons from OPM Hack
Ngoc H. Le
The first panel of the afternoon discussed the ‘lessons learned’ from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) data breach. In June 2015 the OPM announced that they had been the target of a large data breach,

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stealing the classified and personal records of several millions of people. James Comey, director of the FBI, put the number at a dazzling 18 million.

Event Review- Panel 2: Cyber Security & Consequences for the Military

Spencer Shweky

The afternoon's second panel, "Consequences for the Military" was moderated by Brigadier General Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret.), CEO of the American Security Project and included MG Garrett Yee, US Army Reserve, Cyber Security Directorate Military Deputy, LTC Scott Applegate, G3 Current Operations Chief, Defensive Cyberspace Operations, United States Army Cyber Command, and Ian Wallace, Senior Fellow, Co-Director Cyber Security Initiative, New America.

Event Review: Panel 3 | Defense, Diplomacy, and Deterrence

Anil Powers

In panel 3 of its conference on cyber security, ASP hosted Michele Markoff, Deputy Coordinator for Cyber Issues at the U.S. Department of State (DOS), Colonel Jon Brickey, National Capital Region Liaison and Assistant Professor at Army Cyber Institute at West Point, and Hon. Bijan R. Kian, Chairman of the Board of Directors for iCelero. William G. Lay, Deputy Chief Information Officer for Information Assurance and Chief Information Security Officer for DOS, moderated the panel. The two panels prior focused on "Lessons from the OPM Attack" and "Consequences for the Military," whereas this panel highlighted the roles of the U.S. government, the military, and the private sector in maintaining cyber security.

About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/23/2008 3:39:55 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/23/08

Main Topics: McCain attacks Obama's dedication to the nation, McCan't keep the time line straight, McCain struggles for spotlight

Summary of Shift: Osama Bin Laden's driver goes to trial. Dolly wreaks havoc on Texas. Bush blames Wall St for economy; calls it 'drunk.' China reports that it holds sincere wishes to talk with the Dalai Lama's envoys. House passes a bill that offers nearly $3 billion to help people save their homes and Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. Speculation about whom McCain will choose as a running mate continues. San Franciscans continue to push to name sewage plant after George W. Bush. Barack Obama's time in Israel grabbed a significant amount of airtime.

Highlights
1) CBS: McCain is unapologetic about his accusations that Obama would lose a war to win a campaign
2) McCain's chronology mistake
   a. MSNBC: Pfotenhauer claims McCain's criticism of the Iraq pre-surge strategy resulted in a change of Defense Secretary
   b. MSNBC: Olbermann attacks McCain mistake
   c. MSNBC: Kagan dismisses the McCain mistake
3) CNN: Dana Bash summarizes McCain's attention-grabbing tactics

No clips
1) MSNBC: Olbermann reports that the McCain camp says Obama is not dedicated to preventing another holocaust
2) CNN: Jack Cafferty asks, 'How much confidence do you have in John McCain's ability to deal with Iraq?' amidst discussion of McCain's Iraq timeline error.
3) FNC: E. D. Hill asks, 'How did media love shift from McCain to Obama?'
4) CNN: Robert Zimmerman calls McCain's appearance with Bush Sr. 'a political rendition of grumpy old man.'
5) CNN: Ed Rollins: 'McCain had a terrible week. He should have disappeared and not tried to compete.'
6) MSNBC: Giuliani discusses McCain's possible VP choices on Hardball with Chris Matthews

Clips
Highlight #1
McCain Lobs Attacks Overseas at Barack Obama (ABC 07/23/08 6:42pm)
CHARLES GIBSON: Barack Obama may be out of the country but he's not been out of range from attacks by John McCain. Day after day the republican candidate has challenged Obama's domestic policies and being quick to point out his inexperience in foreign affairs. [...]

DAVID WRIGHT: Senator I want to start by asking you about an extraordinary statement you just made in that town hall meeting.

JOHN MCCAIN: So apparently Senator Obama would rather lose a war in order to win a campaign.

WRIGHT: That's pretty strong language. Do you really think he's that craven?

MCCAIN: I think that it's very clear that Senator Obama has refused to recognize that the strategy in Iraq called the surge has succeeded.

WRIGHT: But what you seem to be saying there is that it's all about personal ambition for him and not about what he honestly thinks is right for the country.

MCCAIN: I do not believe that any objective observer can conclude that the surge did not work

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and he should know better if he wants to be commander-in-chief and certainly behave differently as far as our presence and our strategy in Iraq.

WRIGHT: But it sometimes seems, as an outside observer, that both of you guys sometimes get stuck in the past. Senator Obama's kind of stuck in 2003 and whether the war was a good idea in the first place and you kind of seem stuck sometimes in 2007 and whether the surge was the right strategy. Shouldn't this debate really be about the future and where we go from here?

MCCAIN: Oh, you're exactly right. It's all about the future and the future, in my view, we have succeeded, but it's still fragile.

WRIGHT: You yourself have said--

MCCAIN: The point is that we are responsible for our records. I was right. Senator Obama was wrong. So therefore, I think that I have more credibility on what the future should be as opposed to Senator Obama who, if he' had his way, we would be very likely be involved in a wider war today.

WRIGHT: Charlie Gibson today sat down with Senator Obama in Jerusalem and, as you can imagine, they talked a lot about the Middle East peace process. How would that initiative look different in a McCain administration than it would in an Obama administration?

MCCAIN: My policy and support for the state of Israel has been very consistent. I visited there many, many times. I would be personally engaged in the efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement between the state of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

WRIGHT: You've been touring here in the states, had the domestic states all to yourself and yet, we're talking an awful lot about foreign policy. It seems like the narrative of this campaign is being driven by whatever Senator Obama does and that you're left to kind of react to that.

MCCAIN: It may seem like that to you. It doesn't seem like that to me. We're gettin' very good crowds. We're doin' well in the polls. So I'm very happy with where we are.

Highlight #2
Pfotenhauer: Correct Chronology Does Disservice to US and Iraqi Military; McCain's Challenge on Iraq Strategy Resulted in Change of Sec. of Defense (MSNBC 07/23/08 2:50pm)
ALEX WITT: […] When it comes to the war in Iraq, John McCain continues to repeat two lines of attack against Barack Obama. [He] charges that his […] rival is flat out wrong when it comes to a timetable for withdrawing troops from Iraq and McCain accuses Barack Obama of being willing to lose a war in order to win a political campaign. […]

Let's talk about the interview last night during which Senator McCain said that the surge helped with the Sunni or Anbar awakening. However, in fact, if you look at the historical details […] the surge […] began after that Anbar awakening yet the campaign is still sticking by the senator's remarks. [Witt reads campaign statement about error in interview.] Do you agree with that?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: I do agree with it and it's not just our opinion. If you talk to General Petraeus or […] other military commanders or, if you even talk to your colleague Joe Scarborough, they'll say there is no way the awakening could have been successful if it weren't for the surge. The surge effort is what made that possible.

Barack Obama and his supporters can try to litigate what came first or what was crucial but that's really an attempt to undermine the significance and the impact of the American troops and their sacrifice and their effort and that's something that does a disservice to the American military, men and women that put your lives on the line as well as the Iraqis forces who put their lives on the line, in order to fight back al-Qaeda.

WITT: […] when you hear details […] and you see, 'Oh there's going to be a question about the timing here,' and you know the media is going to get on this to try to get the facts out correctly, how does that make you feel?

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How do you approach then, dealing with things?

PFOTENHAUER: […] this is a 24-7 job, as you know […] we have a candidate who is extraordinarily well versed, in these matters, and […] he's been on the record for years, if you will, on them and so he knows a tremendous amount about what's happened on the ground and he has the judgment and the proof is before the world right now.

He has the judgment to make the right call like he did when he went into Iraq, came back, challenged his own president, demanded a change in strategy. It even resulted in the in a change of the secretary of defense, in order to put his country's interest above his political interests and get to a successful place in Iraq where we can now, all of us, be talking about victory, if you will, rather than advocating the withdrawal and defeat that Senator Obama did.

WITT: […] I am totally out of time, but, if you can give me a yes or no answer on this. […] Will John McCain announce his VP choice this week […]?

PFOTENHAUER: I don't know.

Olbermann Attacks McCain's History and Definition of the Surge in Iraq (MSNBC 07/23/08 08:04pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: Which came first the surge or the surge? Apparently the surge did. […] Senator McCain who yesterday wanted you to believe that the surge predated the Sunni awakening in Anwar, now wants you to believe that the surge started before President Bush said it did. If that is not confusing enough, the presumptive Republican nominee would also have you believe that the surge and the Anbar awakening, and the counterinsurgency in Iraq are all the very same thing. In front of the cheese case, at the king super market […] the Senator tried to clear up any confusion of when he believes the surge actually began. […] It is worth noting that the vast majority of surge troops went to Baghdad not to Anbar, and the same Sheik that MCCain claimed to Katie Couric that the surge was able to protect was himself assassinated in September 2007 when the surge was at its peak. But let us return to our cheese case […]

JOHN MCCAIN: First of all a surge is really a counterinsurgency strategy and it's made up of a number of components. And this counterinsurgency was initiated, to some degree, by Colonel McFarland in Anbar province, relatively on his own. When I visited with him in December of 2006, he had already initiated that strategy in Remadi by going in and clearing in holding in certain places. That is a counterinsurgency. And he told me at that time he believed that that strategy, which is, "the surge", part of the surge, would be successful. So, then, of course, it was very clear that we needed additional troops in order to carry out this insurgency.

Prior to that counterinsurgency, prior to that, they had been going into places killing people or not killing people and then withdrawing and the new counterinsurgency surge entailed going in and clearing a holding which Colonel McFarland had already started doing. Then, of course, later on there were additional troops and General Petraeus has said that the surge would not have worked and the Anbar awakening would not have taken place successfully if they hadn't have had an increase in the number of troops. So, I'm not sure, frankly, that people really understand that a surge is part of a counterinsurgency strategy, which means going in, clearing holding, building a better life, providing services to the people and then clearly a part of that, an important part of that was additional troops to help ensure the safety of the Sheiks and to gain, regain control of Remadi, which was a very bloody fight and then the surge continued to succeed in that counterinsurgency.

REPORTER: when you say surge then you're not referring to the one President Bush initiated, you're saying it goes back several months before then.

MCCAIN: Yes. And again, because of my visits to Iraq, I was briefed by Colonel McFarland in December of 2006 where he outlined what was succeeding there in this counterinsurgency strategy, which we all know of now of now as the surge.

OLBERMANN: So, it was a secret surge. […]

CHRISTOPHER HAYES: This is really remarkable, right. This is a central tent pole for McCain's vision for Iraq,

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what he is running on. Yesterday he portrayed the fact that he does not understand what it is. Okay. They didn't choose the name the surge because it sounded cool, they weren't naming a rock band, right? They chose the surge because it referred to a surge or increase in troops, full stop. It is distinctive from everything else that happened in Iraq […]

OLBERMANN: So Senator Surge who is now Senator Secret Surge, to push back against criticism that he didn't know when the surge began, he manages to make this seem like he doesn't even understand what a surge is or what this surge was. […]

Fred Kagan Attempts to Dismiss McCain's Misunderstanding on the History of the Surge (MSNBC 07/23/08 08:04pm)
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: […] focusing on domestic issues after making a big gaffe on the timeline of the Iraq war, I don't know if it was a big gaffe but it happened. During a national TV interview, Senator McCain was asked about Obama's stance that the surge was only one factor that led to reduced violence. Senator Obama has also attributed improved security to the Sunni Awakening and the Shiite government's crackdown on the militias. This was John McCain's answer:

JOHN MCCAIN: Colonel McFarlane was contacted by one of the major Sunni Sheiks, because of the surge we were able to go out and protect that Sheik and others and that began the Anwar Awakening. I mean that's just a matter of history.

BRZEZINSKI: Here's the problem, the events Colonel Sean McFarlane was involved in pre-dated the surge. Reports say he wasn't even in the Anwar province at the time. [...] The McCain campaign has responded by saying: " Senator McCain is correct. As General Petraeus has made clear, the surge is the reason why the Anbar Awakening was so successful in tearing up Al Qaeda. The surge strategy that was supported by John McCain and opposed by Barack Obama was responsible for the reduction in violence we have seen over the last year and a half. " What do you make of this sort of timeline of events in terms of what John McCain is saying about the surge and what he attributes it to and does it match reality?

FRED KAGAN: It absolutely does match reality. There is no question that you would not have had the Awakening take form and expand in Anwar, and you certainly would not have had the Awakening spread around into Baghdad and south of Baghdad and throughout the country without the surge forces. And there is no question about that. [...] I spoke with one of the very prominent Sunni Sheiks in Anwar and I ran this very question by him and I said you know there are some people that are saying the Awakening happened independently of the surge and he said "what idiot said that".

BRZEZINSKI: Ok I want to cover a lot of ground with you if I can. Columnist Robert Novak is now saying that he was used by the McCain campaign. Can you weigh in on this; Novak is now questioning the so-called scoop that a top McCain aide gave him about him potentially announcing his Vice Presidential pick this week.

KAGAN: No I'm not a McCain spokesman. I am an expert on Iraq and I am happy to talk to you about Iraq issues. [...]

BRZEZINSKI: What do you make over this gaffe, over the timing of the Sunni or the Anwar Awakening?

KAGAN:I think that this is a trivial, I think gaffe is even too strong. I've spoken with John McCain; John McCain understands the timeline and the cause and events very clearly. What troubles me is that we are in here parsing very precise words that Senator McCain might have said and we are missing the fact that Senator Obama's description of what went down in Iraq in the last 18 months is just 180 degrees wrong. It's just wrong. […] So I think focusing on this question of did McCain get himself tangled up in a sentence or not is so microscopic an issue compared to the absolute false of the vision of the last 18 months that Senator Obama and his supporters have been describing that its hard to for me to believe that we are even having this discussion.
[…]

ANDREA MITCHELL: […] What can the international community do to stop Iran from coming a Nuclear power

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short of an attack?

KAGAN: Well there is nothing that we can do short of an attack to force Iran to give up it's nuclear program. And so if Senator Obama is actually serious in saying that he will not tolerate a nuclear arms race, at the end of the day the only way you can make sure that doesn't happen is with an attack. There are a variety of thinks that you can do short of an attack and hope that it will work but hope is not a method here. We've got a very much of an audacity of hope going on […]

Highlight #3
Dana Bash Takes a Look at McCain's Attempts to Grab Your Attention (CNN 07/23/08 7:23pm)
LOU DOBBS: Senator McCain today strongly criticized Senator Obama for supporting a congressional ban on offshore oil drilling. McCain said crude oil prices dropped sharply after President Bush ended the executive ban on offshore drilling and Senator McCain is absolutely correct. Crude oil prices have plunged more than $20 a barrel since the president lifted that ban on the 14th of July. Crude oil prices today closing just below $125 a barrel. […]

DANA BASH: Call this 'counter-programming.'

JOHN MCCAIN: We know that Americans are sitting around the kitchen table tonight, figuring out whether they can keep their home or not.

BASH: While Barack Obama is overseas John McCain is trying to convince voters back home he's working to ease their pain. He staged a photo-op, food shopping with a Pennsylvania family, going out of his way to show and tell he gets it.

MCCAIN: The price of a gallon of milk just went over $4 a gallon. Renee said that that was the highest she had ever seen it.

BASH: At a town hall he even suggested the price of oil is down because of a controversial White House decision he supported, lifting the federal ban on offshore drilling.

MCCAIN: The President of the United States announced […] a week or so ago that we would be lifting the moratorium on offshore drilling. The price of oil dropped ten dollars! We need to drill offshore!

BASH: But talking pocketbook politics is only half of McCain's double-barreled strategy while Obama is abroad. The other, trying to keep Obama from bolstering his foreign policy credentials this week by pounding away on his Iraq plans.

MCCAIN: He is in favor of unconditional withdrawal. An unconditional withdrawal, my friends, without paying attention to the facts on the ground could lead to our failure.

BASH: Republicans frustrated with Obama's overseas spotlight are trying to be clever in getting their message out. The Republican National Committee will run these radio ads in Berlin while Obama is there.

RNC RADIO AD: When our military needed necessary resources, Barack Obama failed to stand up.

BASH: But, not that Berlin. The towns of Berlin in three battleground states, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania and the McCain campaign is resorting to sarcasm to get attention, handing out fake French press passes, dubbing the McCain media, 'The JV Squad, "Left Behind to Report in America."'

Another Way McCain advisors know they'll get attention is to tease the media on McCain's search for a running mate. The plan was to do that by going to New Orleans to meet with someone on the VP buzz list, Louisiana governor, Bobbi Jindal, but it didn't happen. The trip was cancelled because of bad weather.

--
Jacob Roberts

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From:	"Michael Tomasky" <dajoi@democracyjournal.org>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	9/16/2013 4:28:30 AM
Subject:	New Issue of Democracy: A Journal of Ideas Now Available

DEMOCRACY
A JOURNAL OF IDEAS

New Issue of *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas* Now Available

September 16, 2013

Dear John,

A quarter-century ago, one of the most influential white papers in modern American politics was published. "The Politics of Evasion," by William A. Galston and Elaine C. Kamarck, was a wake-up call to a Democratic Party that had lost three straight presidential elections and seemed completely at sea.

All these years later, there's another party on a losing streak. And this is why we asked Bill and Elaine to revisit their seminal essay and see how it's held up. We present "The New Politics of Evasion," in which the authors size up what they got right, what they got wrong, and how it came to be that the Republicans became the party that can't face up to uncomfortable truths about itself.

The issue next features a very sharp and timely piece on U.S.-Russia relations by Andrew Weiss . While he is tempted to say that as long as Putin is around an enduring improvement in relations is hopeless, he does see some areas where cooperation is possible.

We also have Richard V. Reeves, Isabel Sawhill, and Kimberly Howard on what they call the "parenting gap," which leaves millions of children behind long before school has started. It's high time, they write, that progressives get over concerns about appearing to lecture poor parents, while also ensuring that they get the tools to be better parents. Finally, Henry Farrell takes on the new technology intellectuals who purport to explain how technological advances are changing our societies, but all too often settle for attention-grabbing (and meaningless) jargon.

In our Responses slot this issue, labor leaders Bruce Raynor and Andy Stern reply to Rich Yeselson's "Fortress Unionism" essay. And as usual, we love our book reviews: Joan Walsh on George Packer. Seyla Benhabib on the recent biography of Albert O. Hirschman. J.J. Goldberg on Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's new book on anti-Semitism. Meg Jacobs on austerity politics. And Diana Wueger on how progressives can change the terms of the gun debate.

We have a Facebook page , so please take a moment to "Like" us. If you're on Twitter, be sure to follow us @demjournal . If you're not a subscriber, sign up for a subscription . Or give a tax-deductible donation to keep the magazine going strong!

Thank you as always for reading, and enjoy! I'm sure you will.

Michael Tomasky
Editor

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New thinking and favorable demography have largely addressed the Democrats' old problems. Now it's the Republicans who can't face reality.

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Winter Has Come by Andrew S. Weiss
The "reset" with Russia worked, until Putin sabotaged it. Now the relationship is in tatters. Here's how to save it—if we even want to bother.

The Parenting Gap by Richard V. Reeves, Isabel Sawhill, & Kimberly Howard
The first two years of life are crucial. We need to help lower-income parents do better—and demand that they do.

The Tech Intellectuals by Henry Farrell
The good, bad, and ugly among our new breed of cyber-critics, and the economic imperatives that drive them.

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Recounting

Life of the Party by Ethan Porter
Party platforms don't matter—but they can, and they should. A platform-writing process that included party faithful could energize our politics.

About *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*
Democracy: A Journal of Ideas is a quarterly journal of progressive thought edited by Michael Tomasky. E.J. Dionne Jr., of *The Washington Post* and the Brookings Institution, serves as Editorial Chair. Founded by Kenneth Baer and Andrei Cherny, *Democracy* serves as a place where ideas can be developed and important debates can be spurred. *Democracy* is the progressive analogue of conservative journals such as *Commentary*, the *Public Interest*, and the *National Interest*, and it showcases breakthrough thinking on the major domestic and foreign policy issues of our time. *Democracy* is sold in bookstores nationwide, and its readers—in print and at www.democracyjournal.org —can be found in 90 countries around the world. It was named Best New Publication by the Utne Independent Press Awards in 2008, and has been described by *Politico* as "what Obama's reading."

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 5/30/2014 10:54:12 AM
Subject: Which President told the Cubans "I wish you well"?



May 30, 2014

Dear Friends:

Finally, a President went to Cuba and uttered the words we've longed to hear.

"I wish you well."

Only, it wasn't President Obama.

This message to Cuba's people came from the President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Tom Donohue.

It came up, as he wrapped up his visit to the island with an appearance at the University of Havana, and took questions from the press. When Daniel Trotta of Reuters asked Mr. Donohue, "Is Cuba a good investment?" he responded as follows :

> "Cuba would be a better investment if it had issues like arbitration, and agreements that would protect intellectual property, and ways that we could resolve our differences. But I believe that Cuba, 91 miles from our shore, with the new and extraordinary port that's being built here, has the potential to develop as a very good investment not only for Americans, U.S. citizens, but from people around the world, and **I wish you well**."

To borrow a phrase from Vice President Biden , this is kind of a big deal.

In our reports on economic reform and gender equality , we discussed how Cuba's own policies produced enviable achievements in critical areas like education and health but at unsustainable costs. Since he became Cuba's President, Raúl Castro has authorized greater liberties - from legalizing cell phones to overseas travel - while at the same time cutting the size of the state's payrolls and opening employment opportunities for Cubans in the non-state sector.

In simple terms, Cuba's project going forward is about addressing its economic crisis and bringing its assets and expenditures into a balance that future Cubans can live with.

This is at odds with the core objective of U.S. policy. For more than 50 years, its goal has been to sink Cuba's system by strangling Cuba's economy. The era of reform ushered in by President Castro has, at times, posed a paralyzing dilemma to President Obama.

On one hand, President Obama diverted from the orthodoxy in his first term by opening talks with Cuba on some bilateral issues, and by taking truly useful steps to reform U.S. policy; by giving unlimited travel rights to Cuban Americans and restoring some channels of people-to-people travel for Americans not of Cuban descent.

On the other, he has left the embargo mostly in place, stubbornly enforced sanctions against financial institutions to tie up Cuba's capacity to engage in global commerce and

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trade, and distressingly allowed many excesses of our regime change program to remain in place.

Changing circumstances in Cuba have occasioned no fresh thoughts - and no Hamlet-like indecision - among the pro-sanctions hardliners.

Tim Padgett wrote perceptively this week about their support for policies that exact sacrifice and impose suffering on Cuba's people.

> "Incredibly, [the hardliners are] convinced that denying Cuba's fledgling entrepreneurs more seed money, cell phones and sage advice - that keeping them in the micro-economic Middle Ages - is the best way to change Cuba.
>
> "[W]hy wouldn't the Cuba-policyhardliners want to help accelerate that process? One answer is that it's too mundane: It doesn't fit their more biblical vision of a Cuban Spring in which the Castros are ousted by a fiery, exile-led uprising."

How else to explain their vitriolic reaction to the U.S. Chamber's visit?

"Sen. Marco Rubio," the Wall Street Journal reported, "blasted Mr. Donohue in a letter last week, calling the trip 'misguided and fraught with peril of becoming a propaganda coup for the Castro regime.'" Capitol Hill Cubans taunted The Chamber with a note suggesting they invest in North Korea. Senator Bob Menendez chastised Donohue, saying conditions in Cuba "hardly seem an attractive opportunity for any *responsible* business leader."

Donohue was cheerfully immune to all of this. He said, "the Chamber of Commerce takes human rights concerns seriously," as the AP reported, "calling it an issue that should be part of a 'constructive dialogue' between the U.S. and Cuba."

He knows -in ways the hardliners simply cannot accept - that the political problems that divide the U.S. from Cuba will never be solved through diplomatic isolation but through negotiation and engagement.

In this sense, the voices criticizing Donohue, powerful as they are, represent the past - and neither the U.S. Chamber nor the 44 members of the foreign policy establishment who appealed for reforms in a letter to President Obama are going back.

Instead, our policy going forward will be defined not by pressing for the system's failure, but by the principle that Cubans are better off - and U.S. national interest best secured - by respecting the desire of Cubans to succeed in a future of their own design.

It is up to President Obama to say the words, "I wish you well."

But time is running out. As Tom Donohue observed, "If [President Barack Obama] wants to get it done before the end of his term, he's got two years, so he'll have to get busy."

This week in Cuba news...

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U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

U.S. Chamber of Commerce leaders travel to Cuba

Tom Donohue, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (USCC), visited Cuba with a 12-member delegation this week to learn about the country's economic reforms and its growing private sector, and to explore the potential for U.S. investment opportunities in Cuba, reports the BBC . Donohue, an advocate for lifting the U.S. embargo on Cuba, told Reuters he initiated the trip:

> ***"[B]ecause of the evidence that we're seeing in Cuba of an extraordinary expansion of free enterprise, the reduction in government jobs, and more private hiring, all of which is moving in the right direction."***

The delegation included Steve van Andel, Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors and President of the Amway corporation, and Marcel Smits, Executive Vice-President and Financial Director of the Cargill corporation, along with other members of the USCC, according to Granma . This trip is the first by USCC executives since July 1999, when Donohue traveled to Havana for three days.

During the visit, the delegation met with Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Cuba's Foreign Minister and Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment. It also toured an auto repair cooperative that, for ten months, has been privately operated rather

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than state-run, according to the Associated Press .

Donohue gave a speech to officials and university students at the University of Havana on Thursday. He praised the economic reforms that Cuba has already implemented, but also urged Cuba's government to open its markets and increase the number of private businesses, wrote the AP : "We deeply believe that countries with strong private sectors free of excessive government control and ownership will have the most successful and productive economies." He said that supporting commercial ties with Cuba is not equivalent to disregarding human rights problems in the country:

> ***"Those of us who oppose the embargo are often accused of excusing or ignoring the Cuban government's record on human rights and personal freedom. ... In fact they need to be addressed by our governments in a constructive and ongoing dialogue."***

Donohue met with President Raúl Castro on Thursday. According to CNN , they discussed how both countries can help to move relations forward in the future. Donohue said, "It was positive and we expect to talk again." The delegation returned to the U.S. on Friday.

To see a clip of the press conference that Donahue gave in Cuba, click here .

The Chamber's trip to Cuba was harshly criticized by Cuban-Americans in Congress. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27) decried the visit as "just another Potemkin village tour." Senator Bob Menendez (NJ), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, accused Donohue of supporting a government that "jails foreign business leaders without justification, violates international labor standards and denies its citizens their basic rights." In response, Donohue stated:

> ***"I've been free to go where I want. I'm talking to people from the private and the public sector. We're going to meet with small businesses. We're meeting with people from other countries that are operating here. I think we'll get a fair look and we're enjoying ourselves. ...The great thing about the United States is that everybody is entitled to their opinion including the Members of the Congress and the Senate. We happen to have a different view. We think this is a very positive opportunity."***

DeWayne Wickham, Dean of Morgan State University's School of Global Journalism and Communication, published an op-ed in USA Today expressing hope that the Chamber of Commerce trip would help to change this "blockade against U.S. businesses," and arguing that the U.S. misses out on investment opportunities in Cuba because of the embargo.

OFAC seeks $10 billion fine from French bank BNP Paribas

BNP Paribas, France's largest publicly-traded bank, may be fined $10 billion by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in order to resolve an investigation into claims that the bank dodged U.S. sanctions against Iran, Sudan, and Cuba, reports France24 . According to the report, OFAC also wants BNP to fire twelve employees involved in the illegal transactions, to accept the temporary suspension of all transactions in and out of the United States, and to plead guilty to the charges brought, which would jeopardize the company's U.S. banking license.

If imposed, this penalty would represent one of the largest fines ever levied on a bank and, according to analysts, would be a 5% hit to the company's book value. The last time Cuba Central reported on OFAC's investigation into BNP, the bank was setting aside $1.1 billion of its profits in anticipation of paying the fines.

U.S. petitioned to release information on exiles accused of planning Cuba attacks

This week, two U.S. groups filed joint Freedom of Information Act requests asking the

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U.S. government to release information about the four Miami exiles arrested in Cuba for allegedly planning attacks against the island, reports Reuters . The anti-war ANSWER Coalition and the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five requested information from the FBI, CIA, and the Department of State. The coordinator of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, Gloria La Riva, remarked, "Cuba has asked the U.S. government for cooperation and the public has a right to know the truth."

José Ortega Amador, Obdulio Rodríguez González, Raibel Pacheco Santos, and Félix Monzón Álvarez were arrested on April 26, and said to admit to "planning an attack with the objective of inciting violence." Cuba's Interior Ministry claims that the four exiles "maintain close ties" with Luis Posada Carriles - a former CIA operative and Cuban exile living in Miami who has been involved in killings and terror attacks in an effort to overthrow the Cuban government for decades.

For more information on the case, see our previous coverage .

Miriam Leiva, independent journalist, advocates for engagement at events in the U.S.

Miriam Leiva, a long-standing critic of Cuba's government and the U.S. embargo, met in Washington last week with representatives of the State Department, the U.S. Congress, and the White House. In comments to EFE , she expressed support for President Raúl Castro's reforms, but said they don't go far enough. In her view, increased engagement between Cuba and the U.S. could pressure Cuba to accelerate changes, especially if U.S. sanctions could no longer be blamed for problems in Cuba.

Leiva and her late husband, Oscar Espinosa Chepe, worked for Cuba's government before leaving their positions and becoming public critics of the government. In 2013, she initiated a White House petition in support of the Obama Administration's loosening of travel restrictions policies.

Yoani Sánchez releases interview with Vice President Biden

Dissident Cuban blogger Yoani Sánchez published an April interview with Vice President Joe Biden on her newly launched online newspaper, 14ymedio . The Q&A includes questions about U.S. investment in Cuba, as well as freedom of expression and access to telecom services that are currently unavailable to Cubans due to the embargo. When asked about U.S. policy, Biden said:

> ***"Our objective is to promote positive change on the island so that Cubans can enjoy a normal and productive life in their own country, have the freedom to express their points of view, and benefit from an inclusive and democratic political system."***

The Cuban American Alliance, a DC-based organization of Cuban-Americans, wrote a piece that criticized the interview as a way for Biden to reiterate tired talking points on U.S. policy toward Cuba. Pointing to Sánchez's question about a possible U.S. invasion and Biden's categorical denial, the organization wrote, "This was a case of putting up a straw man in order to knock it down, or lobbing a softball at a batter who is waiting for it."

Sánchez launched 14ymedio last week , but an hour after the website went live, it was hacked and viewers were redirected to a website criticizing Sánchez. People in Cuba could not access the website until Saturday, May 24, according to Reuters . As recently as May 25, Fox News Latino reported that the site continued to be accessible on the island. However, Daniel Trotta, Chief Correspondent for Reuters in Cuba, posted to Twitter on May 28: "The new site @14ymedio by @yoanisanchez is still blocked in Cuba. Could this be permanent?"

Amateur sports license allows Americans to fly 90 miles to run 26 in Havana

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U.S. citizens will be allowed to travel to Cuba to participate in the Havana marathon this November for the first time since the race began in 1987, according to Outside magazine. Tom Popper, president of Insight Cuba, stated that he was able to gain approval for runners to travel under an amateur sports license. Insight Cuba is the first commercial U.S. tour company to receive this type of license, and plans to bring 156 runners from the U.S. to participate in the marathon.

Previous to Popper's efforts, running the Havana marathon would not have been possible for U.S. citizens who are not of Cuban descent. Participation in the event was not possible even under President Obama's 2011 people-to-people travel reforms, as it would not fit the definitions governing educational or cultural licenses. Popper said that U.S. participation in the marathon represents an important type of engagement between the U.S. and Cuba: "We thought this would be a great way to get Americans side by side, literally, with Cubans and have a really meaningful interaction."

Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior calls for change in Cuba policy

Ken Salazar, the former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, spoke in favor of improving U.S. relations with Cuba at the Tribuna EFE-Casa de America forum in Madrid, reports the Latin American Herald Tribune . The forum focused on the status of the Hispanic community in the U.S.

Secretary Salazar spoke about the Cuban-American community, stating that many Cuban-Americans were looking toward a new future of engagement. Salazar signed last week's open letter to President Barack Obama, which urged him to make incremental changes in U.S. policy toward Cuba.

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mexico, South Korea explore investment in Cuba

Mexican and South Korean officials have held meetings about potential investments in Cuba, following last month's announcement of Cuba's new Foreign Investment Law.

Earlier this month, Ildefonso Guajardo Villareal, Mexico's Minister of Economy, led a business delegation to Cuba. While Cuba Standard wrote that 30 people participated in the delegation, other sources, such as the Caribbean Journal , put the number at 60 businesspeople.

The delegation toured the Special Economic Development Zone at Mariel (ZEDM), where Cuban officials hope the new port will usher in a new era of global commercial integration, as we reported in January.

During the trip, Guajardo helped to open a new ProMexico trade office in the Miramar neighborhood of Havana. Bilateral trade between Cuba and Mexico reached $386 million in 2013, making Mexico one of Cuba's most important trading partners.

In comments to Prensa Latina , Francisco González, General Director of ProMexico, Mexico's foreign investment agency, said, "We seek a strong presence at the ZEDM because we think this could be a launching point for many markets."

This week, Ileana Bárbara Núñez Mordoche, Cuba's Deputy Foreign Trade and Investment Minister, traveled to South Korea where she attended an investment fair and met with business leaders to promote investment in Cuba's "agricultural, food, electronics, tourism and medical sectors," reports Progreso Weekly . Núñez Mordoche is the highest Cuban government official to visit South Korea since the countries broke off diplomatic relations in 1959.

Cuban oil technicians will train at Russian university

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Russian oil companies Rosneft and Zarubezhnetf signed agreements with Cuba's state-run oil company CUPET (CubaPetróleo) at the end of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, which a delegation from Cuba attended. The agreement with Rosneft enables Cuban engineers to study at Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas, reports Progreso Weekly . Through the program, Cuban students will be able to receive Master's or Doctoral degrees in petro-chemistry. Cuban students have been absent from the University since 1992. The agreement also included a provision allowing Rosneft to establish a logistics base at the Mariel Economic Development Zone, reported Prensa Latina. President Vladimir Putin attended the signing ceremony and said he looks forward to future cooperation.

The Cuban delegation participated in a forum to discuss collaboration between the Russian and Latin American economies, which Emilio Lozada, the Cuban ambassador to Russia, said Cuba's new foreign investment law would encourage, according to Granma . Lozada also said that the Cuban delegation's attendance at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum served as a rejection of U.S. sanctions against Russia.

IN CUBA

Banking regulations established for non-agricultural cooperatives

Last week, Cuba's Central Bank established regulations for banking services for non-agricultural cooperatives (CNAs) in Cuba in a resolution published in the Gaceta Oficial last week, reports Juventud Rebelde .

Although the government authorized the formation of CNAs last year , this is the first time that it has detailed the steps necessary for CNAs to secure a bank account. Under the regulation, CNAs can use only one bank of choice to open accounts at one branch. CNAs will have the option of maintaining several different kinds of bank accounts, including checking, savings and expense accounts. CNAs will also have access to escrow services.

Cuba's government has authorized non-agricultural cooperatives, composed of both self-employed workers and state employees, on an experimental basis. They have approved the formation of just under 500 CNAs, while over 200 of those are currently in operation. Workers at CNAs retain the same jobs they had when the businesses were state-run, but they now have the opportunity to make business decisions themselves.

Recommended Reading

Tweak Cuban embargo for sake of safe drilling, Sen. Bob Graham says , Dan Christensen, Miami Herald

Former Florida Senator Bob Graham advocates reducing U.S. restrictions on selling U.S. technology to Cuba that would help prevent disastrous oil spills. Spills would endanger Cuba and Florida, as well as the Gulf Stream ecosystem.

Please Don't Call Yoani Sánchez A Hero If You Really Don't Want To Help Her , Tim Padgett, WLRN

Tim Padgett questions Cuban-American hardliners who voice support for Yoani Sánchez as well as the embargo. Sen. Marco Rubio has called Sánchez "one of Cuba's most courageous" dissidents, and "an aspiring Cuban media entrepreneur." But, "[e]ven as Rubio exalts Sánchez as a dissident, he and every other Cuba-policy hardliner are essentially thwarting her as an entrepreneur - when in today's Cuba the latter might be more important than the former."

Cuba Embargo Under Pressure as Obama Urged to Ease It , Bill Faries and David Lerman, Bloomberg News

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Following the recent open letter to President Obama and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's visit to Cuba, Faries and Lerman argue that there is a window of opportunity to improve relations between the U.S. and Cuba. "The approaching end of the Castro regime, shifting political dynamics in the Cuban-American hot spot of Florida...and an eagerness among some in the U.S. business community for trade have combined to make an opening possible."

A Millennial's Plea for a New Cuba Policy , Hector Luis Alamo, Jr., Latino Rebels

After last week's open letter to President Obama, Alamo writes that "for many, especially the younger generation, there's only one response to such news: *It's about damn time.*" Alamo discusses the collective yearning of Latino Millennials to travel to Cuba and the unique perspective this group has regarding Cuba: "It's not like we think the Castros are a wholesome bunch; we simply believe time has proven the embargo ineffective, and that, if anything, the embargo does more to hurt the Cuban people and keep the regime in power."

Analysis: Cuba's new real estate visa , José M. Pallí, Cuba Standard

Pallí explains the provisions of last week's new category of visa. He also compares these new regulations to the ways that the U.S. attempts to attract foreign investment.

Cuba a problem for Crist, Scott , William March, Tampa Tribune

March writes about risks Florida's gubernatorial candidates face in taking a stance on Cuba. March argues that Governor Scott's pro-embargo position divides Republicans and Crist's pro-change position divides Democrats.

Homophobia in Cuba: The Work Ahead of Us , Luis Rondón Paz, Havana Times

Rondón Paz questions the 2012 National Population and Housing Census' failure to register same-sex partnerships and its implications for future reforms pertaining to Cuba's LGBT community.

Cuba plans tentatively for life after a socialist Venezuela , Cécile Chambraud, Guardian Weekly

Chambraud discusses Cuba's strategy for decreasing its economic risks to political upheaval in Venezuela.

Miami's Venezuelans Are Starting To Drive U.S. Policy Like Their Cuban Neighbors, David Noriega, BuzzFeed

Noriega compares the influence and ideology of the emerging Florida-based Venezuela lobby with Miami's Cuban-American lobby, arguing that many lawmakers are trying to apply a "distinctly Cuban-American outlook to the latest ideological conflict in Latin America."

Recommended Viewing

What It's Like to Be Transgender in Cuba , David Rosenberg, Slate

Rosenberg shares a sampling of Mariette Pathy Allen's photos of the transgender community in Cuba from trips she took there in 2012 and 2013. Allen's new book, *TransCuba* , examines the transgender experience in Cuba and its evolution under Mariela Castro's leadership of the Cuban National Center of Sex Education.

Cuba's Own 'Mad Men' , Brett Sokol, The University of Miami Magazine

Fans of the U.S. television drama series Mad Men will love these vintage advertisements

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by one of Cuba's top advertising agencies, Fergo-Arregui Advertising.

Daily Life Scenes in the Cuban Capital , Elio Delgado Valdes, Havana Times

Havana Times presents a collection of photos depicting a typical day in Cuba by freelance photographer Elio Delgado Valdes.

The day I said goodbye to Cuba , Simon Watts and Claire Tailyour, BBC News

Witness, a World Service radio program that provides accounts of moments in history as "told by the people who were there," follows the journey of writer and journalist Mirta Ojito -- a Cuban woman who came to the U.S. in 1980 as part of the Mariel boatlift.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/23/2015 8:42:59 AM
Subject: Fwd:

DiFi !

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> From: Amanda Renteria <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: October 23, 2015 at 3:38:53 PM EDT
> To: Adrienne Elrod <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com >, Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >
> Subject: Fwd:
>
> this is pretty dang good.
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: Jennifer Campaign <jennifer@diannefeinsteinforsenate.com >
> Date: Fri, Oct 23, 2015 at 3:33 PM
> Subject:
> To: Amanda Renteria <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> Feinstein on Clinton: 'I could see her across the table from Putin'
>
> BY CURTIS TATE
>
> *ctate@mcclatchydc.com*
>
> WASHINGTON -- Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was "presidential" in her testimony in a House of Representatives hearing this week and would have no trouble facing leaders such as Russian strongman Vladimir Putin.
>
> Feinstein said Clinton's performance in theHouse Select Committee on Benghazi Thursday left no doubt about her ability to do the job she's seeking.
>
> "I think she showed a drive and a staying power and a motivation," Feinstein said in a conference call with reporters Friday. "I could see her across the table from Putin."
>
> Feinstein, as chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, held more than a dozen hearings into the 2012 terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, and found nothing to implicate Clinton, who was Secretary of State at the time. The findings were unanimously endorsed by the Democrats and Republicans on the Senate committee.
>
> Feinstein and other Senate Democrats said the House hearing revealed nothing new and it was time for Republicans to pull the plug. The panel is the eighth government inquiry into the attack, in which four Americans were killed, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.
>
> While the various probes have cleared Clinton, they have raised questions about whether U.S. diplomatic facilities around the globe are adequately protected.
>
> One of the recommendations of Feinstein's Senate investigation was improving security at those

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compounds.

“I think the best thing we could do is end these hearings,” she said, “save some money and put it toward security at these facilities.”

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., called the 11-hour hearing “abusive” and “disrespectful,” and said House Republicans failed to accomplish what some in their own ranks have admitted was the purpose of the inquiry.

“They certainly didn’t do any damage to Hillary Clinton’s campaign for president,” she said. “And if that was their goal, they got an ‘F.’”

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., said the effort distracted lawmakers from pressing policy matters, such as raising the debt limit, keeping the government funded and passing a long-term transportation bill.

On Thursday, as the Benghazi hearing commanded much of the attention of official Washington, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved a six-year bill to authorize road, bridge and transit projects, the first such legislation in a decade.

“That’s what the House needs to do,” Shaheen said. “Stop the partisan maneuvering and get to the work of the country.”

Read more here: http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article41200488.html#storylink=cpy

--
Amanda Renteria
National Political Director
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Facebook or Twitter

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	3/1/2015 8:52:27 AM
Subject:	3.1.15 HRC Clips
Attachments:	20150301 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
March 1, 2015

HRC

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Hillary and the Machine (The New York Times)
By Ross Douthat
March 1, 2015
The New York Times

WITH Jeb Bush committed and Hillary Clinton all but crowned, the easiest story to tell about 2016 is a tale of two dynasties, a Bush-Clinton grudge match, a fated collision between the first families of American politics.

But only one party is actively cooperating with that narrative. Clinton's inevitability may inspire as much resignation as enthusiasm, but she's currently so far ahead of her "rivals" that she looks like she could win the Democratic nomination with a William McKinleyesque front porch campaign -- if her Georgetown mansion had one, that is.

On the Republican side, though, Bush's alleged front-runner status doesn't show up in any polls. He's locking up money and talent, but his actual numbers are bobbing along in the teens, and his approval ratings are not the kind you associate with a man of destiny. He may win the nomination, but it will be a near-run thing, and nothing like the looming Democratic coronation.

Given the stereotypes about our parties, this is a notable reversal. The Republicans are supposed to be the party of primogeniture, the Democrats of fratricide. The now-ancient Will Rogers joke -- "I belong to no organized political party; I'm a Democrat" -- has been recycled for decades for a reason.

But since Barack Obama outlasted Hillary in 2008, the G.O.P. has fractured and squabbled and cannibalized itself, while the Democrats have become the lock-step party, their internal feuds sedate and their policy divisions mostly buried. Clinton's unassailable position is specific to the former first lady, but it's also part of a pattern where Democrats pick their candidates early -- the winnowing of challengers to Kamala Harris in the California Senate primary is a case in point -- and mostly avoid insurgencies in their primary campaigns.

To some extent this is normal: The stereotypes aside, both parties are more unified when they hold the White House and more fractious when they don't. But the level of Democratic unity really is unusual by historical standards (Obama has faced much less intraparty opposition than did Bill Clinton or Jimmy Carter), and it's particularly unusual given how poorly Democrats have fared outside of Obama's presidential runs -- losing the House in 2010 and the Senate last fall, and getting hammered in state politics.

At some point you would expect those defeats to have a fracturing effect, to inspire grass-roots uprisings or ideological splits. But notwithstanding the occasional surprise showing from a Zephyr Teachout or a Jesus Garcia, and notwithstanding the pining of the Warrenistas, the Democrats are poised to enter the lists in 2016 with the same "hang together" strategy they've taken throughout the Obama years.

One way to look at this strategy is that the party's power brokers are effectively choosing the preservation of their impressive but ramshackle presidential-level majority, whose e pluribus unum qualities they don't want to test with any kind of civil war over the kind of debates and experiments that might make the Democrats more competitive in reddish states and off-year elections.

The unvoiced assumption is that the coalition of 2008 and 2012 exists in a very precise equilibrium (more populism might alienate the liberal rich and upper-class professionals, a bigger tent on social issues might alienate the activists and depress turnout, etc.), and since it's worked twice it's worth sticking with again, even if it isn't likely to take back Congress anytime soon.

At the national level, that choice makes a certain sense. The presidency increasingly bestrides our political system, liberals already have most of the welfare state they want and, as Obama's imperial second term is demonstrating, a creative Caesar can use the bureaucracy to play offense on policy without having either the House or Senate on his side.

But the choice also has downsides, both in terms of what it concedes to Republicans (the entire South, to begin with) and in terms of the possibilities foreclosed, the escape hatches sealed off, when primaries and presidential nominations are predetermined.

I've written before that Hillary is the candidate most likely to hold a version of the Obama coalition together. But that doesn't mean it will be pretty to watch. As we've been reminded by the revelations about all the foreign powers that donated to what is now known as the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation during Hillary's tenure as secretary of state, she's a celebrity on the surface and the very model of a postmodern machine politician underneath, with the ooze of corruption clinging to all the levers that she'll need to pull to win.

For the sake of their existing presidential majority, the Democrats are lucky to have her. Where their integrity and ideals are concerned, maybe not so much.

And there may come a time, during the inevitable sleaze of a Clinton restoration if not sooner, when they may find themselves wishing they could just blow the whole thing up.

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A Veiled Jab at Clinton From a Possible '16 Rival (The New York Times)
By Maggie Haberman
March 1, 2015
The New York Times

Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor who is likely to seek the Democratic nomination for president in 2016, took a veiled shot at a potential rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton, in a speech in South Carolina on Saturday, criticizing the politics of "triangulation" that have historically been associated with the Clintons.

"The most fundamental power of our party and our country is the power of our moral principles," Mr. O'Malley said, according to a transcript of his remarks provided by an aide.

In words that echoed those of Senator Barack Obama when he battled Mrs. Clinton in 2007 for the Democratic nomination, Mr. O'Malley added: "Triangulation is not a strategy that will move America forward. History celebrates profiles in courage, not profiles in convenience."

Mr. O'Malley's comments came at the Democratic Party's John Spratt Issues Conference in Myrtle Beach, and South Carolina is a crucial early primary state that Mrs. Clinton lost to Mr. Obama. Mr. O'Malley has in the past declined to contrast himself with Mrs. Clinton.

Some Democrats hope Mrs. Clinton will face a strong primary challenge, worrying that without one she might be unresponsive to some progressives.

The remarks from Mr. O'Malley, who is viewed as facing an uphill battle, signaled a new phase both of his own efforts, after a year of saying he was not in "compare-contrast" mode with Mrs. Clinton, and of the early 2016 campaign.

The politics of triangulation is a phrase often used to describe former President Bill Clinton's brand of centrism. It has also been used to criticize Mrs. Clinton as overly poll driven, and liberals have long used it as a cudgel. In a pivotal Democratic primary speech in November 2007 in Iowa, Mr. Obama deployed "triangulation" as an attack line against Mrs. Clinton.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton declined to comment on Mr. O'Malley's remarks.

Mr. O'Malley and Mrs. Clinton have enjoyed a good relationship. When Mr. O'Malley called Mrs. Clinton in 2013 to say he was considering a presidential campaign, she told him that he should do what he felt he had to, according to a person who was familiar with the call but was not authorized to speak about it.

One issue of importance to progressives in the Democratic Party is Wall Street reform. Mrs. Clinton has voiced support, but as someone with historic ties to the financial industry, she is facing a push from some on the left in her party to speak out more forcefully.

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Basu: What will donors expect for Clinton donations? (The Des Moines Register)
By Rekha Basu
February 28, 2015
The Des Moines Register

Hillary Clinton has been dropping more serious hints about running for president — probably to few people's surprise. The time she has taken to decide only seems to have grown her favorability ratings, which are so high the New York Times' Nate Cohn writes, "If a candidate has ever been inevitable (for a nomination) it is Mrs. Clinton today." Her Iowa poll numbers are a smashing 61 percent among likely Democratic voters. They're just a point less nationally. And Super PACS for her are amassing a formidable war chest. That momentum had Republican hopefuls skewering her at a conservative political action conference last week. No candidate besides an incumbent has ever done this well in early primary polls, Cohn says.

That's an enviable place from which to watch Republican hopefuls tear each other down. But it puts Democratic voters and the general public at risk of writing off the primary campaign as settled. That would be a mistake since primaries shouldn't be love fests or coronations, but a chance to examine and define priorities, both for the candidates and the party.

And Clinton has some questions to answer. A tough one comes from the recent influx of donations to the family's Clinton Foundation, breeding suspicions they are intended to gain influence with her if she becomes president. The Washington Post reported the charitable foundation has raised nearly $2 billion, including contributions from corporate giants and foreign governments — $262 million of that since Clinton left the Obama administration. And a sizable share of those donating $10,000 or more are also donors to the Ready for Hillary PAC and to her 2008 campaign.

That may not be illegal — very little seems to be anymore when it comes to money in politics — but it raises the prospect of donations earmarked for charity that are really intended to buy influence. What might corporate donors, dominated by the financial services sector, get in return? Probably not stricter financial regulations. Even foreign governments like Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Argentina, which can't legally spend to influence U.S. elections, have given the foundation over $1 million apiece.

Some Clinton allies are raising those questions. Marianne Williamson, a familiar name to many devotees of spiritual and inspirational literature, is a California-based author and speaker on the progressive end of the Democratic Party. She ran for a congressional seat from California last year. In late March she's sponsoring a conference on grass-roots Democratic priorities featuring Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders as keynoter. In an open letter to Clinton last year, published in The Huffington Post, Williamson wrote, "I want a woman president — really, I do. A lot of us do. And yes, you're so qualified, and yes, we've known you forever, and yes, you'd know what to do from Day 1." But she continued, "We only want to vote for you if you run like hell away from that corporate box you've landed in. ... We know now that Wall Street runs the country, and we don't like it. And for many of us, we don't want to vote for you if Wall Street runs you, too."

In a phone interview Thursday, Williamson said she admires Clinton, but wants to see her priorities challenged from the left. Noting her acceptance of $400,000 in speaking fees from Goldman Sachs, Williamson cautions, "they'll want a return." Citing Clinton's ties to the biotechnology industry, she wonders if GMO giant Monsanto would "be given the keys to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue." The State Department under Clinton lobbied foreign governments to use GMO seeds. It also lobbied governments to adopt policies benefiting GE, ExxonMobil, Boeing and Microsoft, all foundation donors. Clinton advocated raising subsidies and tax breaks to biotech companies. And in her last campaign, she picked as her chief campaign strategist a CEO for a public relations firm representing Monsanto.

Two progressive Democrats whose names are being promoted for presidential consideration — Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren — have promoted more regulation of Wall Street. Warren introduced legislation to force corporations that move overseas in order to avoid paying taxes to relinquish control to foreign entities. She helped create the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to guard against abusive lending practices. Sanders has called for an end to tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas, an end to free-trade agreements, and the breakup of banking monopolies. Will Clinton join them?

For now, she's making her appeals to professional women. Speaking to Silicon Valley IT employees last week in the first of three speeches to female audiences, she mentioned the wage gap, glass ceilings and locker-room mentalities. Next she'll speak to EMILY's List, which raises money to for pro-choice women candidates. It's smart strategy. Women tend to embrace Clinton with a rare loyalty and enthusiasm. We've watched her work a punishing schedule, withstand sexism, betrayal and a disappointing campaign outcome. We've seen an accomplished woman take her punches and come back stronger. And many celebrate a grandma who still has the fight in her.

But these times demand a serious commitment to improving the lives of the disenfranchised she has long championed. That means shifting the balance of power back from money to people. The question really isn't if we're ready for Hillary, but if Hillary is ready for that.

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American right unholsters surest shot against Hillary (The Sunday Times)
Toby Harnden
March 1, 2015
The Sunday Times

SHE has shattered glass ceilings throughout her career, showing herself able to rise to the top in a man's world, and now seems poised to try to win the most powerful job in the world.

But the neatly dressed blonde who wowed a raucous crowd inside a convention centre outside Washington was not Hillary Clinton, the Democratic favourite for the White House in 2016, but rather Carly Fiorina, the first woman to lead a company in the Fortune 20 liist of the biggest US businesses.

Fiorina has cleverly positioned herself as the "anti-Hillary", the only woman in a Republican field of more than a dozen men and the candidate most prepared to mount relentless attacks on the former US secretary of state — including a few that a male opponent might struggle to get away with.

A former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard, Fiorina, 60, has never held political office and failed in her 2010 attempt to win a Senate seat in California.

While this may make her an unlikely Republican nominee, conservative activists are tipping her as a possible vicepresidential pick, not least because she could help neutralise Clinton.

Preferring skirts to her rival's trademark trouser suits, she spoke last week at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Maryland, and served up plenty of red meat for party activists hungry for ideas about how to defeat Clinton.

Presenting herself as a freemarket conservative and foreign policy hawk, Fiorina boasted of having done business in more than 80 countries and of serving for several years on the advisory board of the CIA. She spoke of knowing King Abdullah of Jordan and Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister.

"I have met Vladimir Putin, and I know that his ambition will not be deterred by a gimmicky red 'reset' button," she said, referring to her talks with the Russian president at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation event in China and the ill-fated "reset" in relations with the Kremlin announced by Clinton in 2009.

She also mocked Clinton — the Democrat frontrunner due to declare her candidacy by the summer— for boasting that she flew nearly 1m miles during her four years as secretary of state.

"Like Mrs Clinton, I too have travelled the globe," Fiorina said. "Unlike Mrs Clinton, I know that flying is an activity, not an accomplishment."

Fiorina lambasted Clinton over foreign donations to her family foundation.

"Mrs Clinton, please name an accomplishment," Fiorina demanded. "And in the meantime, please explain why we should accept that the millions and millions of dollars that have flowed into the Clinton Global Initiative from foreign governments doesn't represent a conflict of interest."

Fiorina, who first emerged on the political scene as an adviser to Senator John McCain when he was the Republican nominee in 2008, showed a softer side too, talking of her battle with cancer and her stepdaughter's death.

She seems to have got under the skin of the Clinton camp, which has bristled at suggestions their candidate copied the title of her 2014 book Hard Choices from Fiorina's 2007 memoir Tough Choices.

Last week Clinton aides were forced to deny claims she had stolen the phrase "unlock their full potential" from Fiorina, whose organisation is the Unlocking Potential Project.

After Fiorina's speech the Democratic National committee sent out emails linking to articles criticising Fiorina's tenure at Hewlett-Packard.

"Carly Fiorina lacks Secretary Clinton's resumé when it comes to serving and empowering working families and middle-class Americans," wrote Adrienne Elrod, of Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton group. "Hillary's resumé is one of success and this is why Ms Fiorina attacks Hillary and her work to protect children and help every American reach their potential." The CPAC was an opportunity for the full range of potential 2016 Republican presidential candidates to set out their wares.

Jeb Bush, the early frontrunner, was credited with a deft performance in front of an audience containing many who viewed him as suspiciously moderate.

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Senator Rand Paul, a libertarian running against the party establishment, was expected to win the CPAC straw poll for the third year in a row; an outcome, his opponents groused, that was down in large part to his favouring legalising marijuana for medical use — a reform backed by the young activists who dominate the gathering.

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Hillary Clinton Needs a Reverse Sister Soujah Moment (The Observer)
By Lincoln Mitchell
March 01, 2015
The Observer

As the 2016 presidential primary season approaches two narratives have begun to emerge around Hillary Clinton. One is that she is almost certain to her party's nomination for president. In the The New York Times, Nate Cohn argues that Ms. Clinton is in a much stronger position now than she was eight years ago, when she was also the early frontrunner: "No candidate, excluding incumbent presidents, has ever fared so well in the early primary polls as Mrs. Clinton. She holds about 60 percent of the vote of Democratic voters, a tally dwarfing the 40 percent she held this time in the last election cycle." As Cohn adds, further evidence of Ms. Clinton's strength is that "not a single sitting senator, governor or vice president has declared a run."

The second narrative suggests that Ms. Clinton has a problem among progressive Democratic voters, who view her as too conservative on foreign policy or economic issues. Many of these progressives hope to draft Elizabeth Warren to run for President, an effort that has recently been joined by the Working Families Party in New York. However, despite grumblings on the left, there is little evidence to suggest that, at this moment, Ms. Clinton would be vulnerable to a progressive challenge. Some polls have indicated that among self-identified progressives Ms. Clinton trails Ms. Warren, but supporters of Ms. Warren would be foolish to interpret that data too optimistically. Ms. Clinton remains the strong (and well-funded) frontrunner, despite misgivings among some progressives.

Although it is extremely unlikely that Hillary Clinton could lose to Elizabeth Warren or any other progressive challenger in the nominating campaign, Ms. Clinton will be a much stronger candidate if she can increase her popularity among her Party's activist base. That support, while perhaps not necessary in an non-competitive primary is critical in November, when voter enthusiasm could determine the outcome of a general election.

Because of her big lead and lack of any strong opponents, Ms. Clinton should address the enthusiasm gap among progressives. She can do this by borrowing a trick from her husband.

Additionally, as the waft of inevitability around Ms. Clinton becomes even more acute with every passing week, she may leave herself vulnerable to any bump during the primary process. If Martin O'Malley, Jim Webb, Bernie Sanders or any of the other candidates who might run against Ms. Clinton finish a respectable second with even 25-35 percent of the vote in either Iowa or New Hampshire, for example, it could tarnish Ms. Clinton and restart the narrative that she does not have support among the Democratic base.

Because of her big lead and lack of any strong opponents, Ms. Clinton should address the enthusiasm gap among progressives. She can do this by borrowing a trick from her husband. More than twenty years ago, Bill Clinton, when running for President the first time, spoke to the Rainbow Coalition convention and used that platform to criticize Sister Souljah, an African American rapper who had recently spoken out about the possibility of African Americans using violence in the wake of the acquittal of the Los Angeles police who had been caught on video beating Rodney King. Mr. Clinton's remarks became known as his Sister Souljah moment, a phrase now used to describe the tactic a politician publicly distancing him or herself from their party's base to appear more centrist.

Hillary Clinton has spent so much time distancing herself from both President Obama and the activist base of the Democratic Party, that she now needs a reverse Sister Souljah moment. Ms. Clinton would benefit greatly from taking a strong stance on an issue, any issue, that resonates deeply with the left wing base of the Democratic Party. This could include a staunch defense of President Obama, a visible, and believable, statement of concern about something like income inequality.

For Ms. Clinton, the key would be to do this in a way that seems authentic rather than contrived. Ms. Clinton confronted the latter problem when at a rally shortly before last year's midterm elections she said "Don't let anybody tell you that corporations and businesses create jobs," only to try to defang that populist assertion a few days later. "I short-handed this point the other day, so let me be absolutely clear about what I've been saying for a couple of decades. Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in America and workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out," a view with which Jeb Bush or Scott Walker would probably agree.

Ms. Clinton may have a tough race in the general election, and would be in a much stronger position if she had a unified Democratic Party behind her.

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From: "Froman, Michael B" <fromanm@citi.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/13/2008 11:52:42 AM
Subject: Fw: Pena Recommendations

FYI. I think there's a bit of a gap here, but we should discuss.

----- Original Message -----
From: Federico Peña <fpena@vestarden.com>
To: Froman, Michael B [CAI]
Sent: Fri Oct 10 10:44:00 2008
Subject: Pena Recommendations

Mike, Here are some additional Hispanics which we should consider. The only one who is not a Hispanic is Jim Polsfut but he has lived in Mexico and bilingual. Let's discuss when you have time. Federico'

_____

Recommendations provided by Federico Peña
9-Oct-08

NSC Deputies Role to Consider Background
Arturo Valenzuela H Dir. of Georgetown Cntr for Latin Am. Studies; was DAS for Inter Am. Affairs at DOS under Clinton
Dan Restrepo H Director of Americas Project at Center for Am Progress; UPenn JD
Carlos Pascual H Brookings VP; worked at NSC as Russia director under Clinton, was ambassador to Ukraine

Justice Legal Team Role to Consider Background
Antonia Hernandez F, H CEO of Calif Community Foundation; was president of MALDEF, UCLA JD
Vilma Martinez F, H Partner at Munger Tolles & Olson, on boards of Anheusher-Busch and Flour; Columbia JD
Andres Lopez H Practices corporate law, OFA chairman in Puerto Rico, Harvard JD
Carmen Lomellin F, H Executive Secretary of Inter-American Commission of Women at OAS; De Paul Univ MBA
Patricia Diaz Dennis F, H SVP and Assist. Gen. Counsel for AT&T, Republican; FCC Commissioner (86-89), Loyala JD
Albert F Moreno H Board of Excel Energy; retired '05 as Levis Strauss SVP and Gen. Counsel, UCBerkeley JD

WH Deputy Chief of Staff
Katherine Archuleta F, H Senior Advisor to Denver Mayor; was chief of staff at DOT under Clinton, M. Ed from Univ of N Colo.
Regina Montoya F, H CEO of New America Alliance; was dir. of Office of Inter-Govermetal Affairs under Clinton

Foreign Policy Team Role to Consider Background
Gustavo Arnavat H economics and finance Senior Legal Counsel at Citi Wealth Mgt, former Pres. Mgt Fellow, UPenn JD
Luis Lauredo H OAS, AS Latin America, ambassador Senior Consultant to Hunton & Williams LLP; formerly ambassador of the OAS
Alex Arriaga F, H Peace Corps, USAID, AS Human Rights Director of Govt Relations for Amnesty International, was in Office of Special Envoy to Americas
Linda Eddelman F, H IDB ExecDir OAS Trust for the Americas; was Chief Dpty to AS State West. Hemisphere; Stanford JD
Carlos Pasqual H Brookings VP; worked at NSC as Russia director under Clinton, was ambassador to Ukraine
Jim Polsfut AS West.Hemis., ambassador in Latin Am. Pres of Cordillera Foundation; was GM of GE Capital RFS in Mexico, Harvard BA, Stanford MBA

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Frank Sanchez H AS Latin American affairs Natl Chair of Hisp Finance for OFA; was Special Envoy to Americas under Clinton; Harvard MPA
Joseph Westphal H DOD, Homeland Security AS Army (Civil Works) under Clinton, then University of Maine System chancellor, UofMissouri PhD
David Valenzuela H Peace Corps, USAID Peace Corps director in Chile and deputy director in El Salvador in the 80s and 90s.

Defense Team
Carlos Pasqual H Brookings VP; worked at NSC as Russia director under Clinton, was ambassador to Ukraine
Linda Eddelman F, H AS DOD ExecDir OAS Trust for the Americas; was Chief Dpty to AS State West. Hemisphere; Stanford JD
Pedro Pablo Permoy H Dir. of Govt Affairs at Greenberg Traurig; was DAS of DOD under Clinton, MA John Hopkins

Labor Role to Consider Background
(delete Henry Cisneros) (does not want consideration)
Aida Alvarez F, H Secretary Former SBA Administrator under Clinton, on boards of Wal-Mart and Union/BanCal; Harvard BA
Janet Murguia F, H Secretary Pres/CEO of Natl Council of La Raza; was deputy assistant in WH under Clinton; Kansas Univ JD
Xavier Becerra H Secretary Congressman from CA, House Ways & Means Cmte; Stanford BA, Stanford JD

Agriculture Role to Consider Background
Ruben Hinojosa H Secretary Congressman from TX, chair of Subcommittee on Higher Education; MBA UT-PanAm

SBA Role to Consider Background
Maria Contreras Sweet F, H Administrator President of Promerica Bank; former cabinet sec. of Bus, Transp, and Housing under Gray Davis
Mayor Manny Diaz H Administrator Mayor of Miami, Independent, Chair US Conf of Mayors (2008); Former Republican, U of Miami JD
Carlos Saladrigas H Administrator Chairman of Premier American Bank, Republican, on board of Progress Energy; Harvard MBA

Energy Council / czar
Gov. Bill Richardson H Governor of New Mexico

Economic Team
Gustavo Arnavat H Senior Legal Counsel at Citi Wealth Mgt, former Pres. Mgt Fellow, UPenn JD
Oscar Munoz H EVP/CFO of CSX and CSXT freight transport, on board of Continental Airlines; Pepperdine MBA
Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg H CEO of Strategic Inv Group, on boards of Gen. Mills and US Air; chief inv.officer World Bank (81-87)

Transportation
Maria Contreras Sweet F, H Secretary President of Promerica Bank; former cabinet sec. of Bus, Transp, and Housing under Gray Davis

Transportation Deputies
Jeff Morales Director of Caltrans; was EVP of Chicago Transit Authority and on staff at DOT and US Senate

HUD
(delete Henry Cisneros) (does not want consideration)
Mayor Manny Diaz H Secretary Mayor of Miami, Independent, Chair US Conf of Mayors (2008); Former Republican, U of Miami JD

HHS
Francisco Cigarroa H Secretary Pres. of UT Health Sci. Cntr at San Antonio, fellow of Am. College of Surgeons;

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MD John Hopkins
Paul Diaz H Secretary Pres and CEO of Kindred Healthcare, on board of Davita (dialysis services); Georgetown JD

Education
Juliet Garcia F, H Secretary President of UT at Brownsville; former chair of the Am Council of Education; UT Austin PhD
Ricardo Romo H Secretary President of UT at San Antonio, vice chair of Fed Reserve Bank of Dallas/San Antonio; UCLA PhD

Veterans Affairs
Silvestre Reyes H Congressman from Texas, Armed Svcs Cmte; in the Army during Vietnam, retired from the INS

Economic Team
Oscar Munoz H EVP/CFO of CSX and CSXT freight transport, on board of Continental Airlines; Pepperdine MBA
Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg F, H CEO of Strategic Inv Group, on boards of Gen. Mills and US Air; chief inv.officer World Bank (81-87)

Energy Team
Edmundo Gonzalez H Principal El Portal Strategies; AS DOL (95-97), DAS Office of Labor Mgt Standards DOL (93-95)
Frank Sanchez H AS Intl Affairs Natl Chair of Hisp Finance for OFA; was Special Envoy to Americas under Clinton; Harvard MPA

General
(strike Henry Cisneros) (does not want consideration)

Commerce
Alejandro Bru H Secretary Former chairman of PepsiCo (05-07), on boards of Kimberly-Clark and Office Dep, SC Johnson
Carlos Saladrigas H Secretary Chairman of Premier American Bank, Republican, on board of Progress Energy; Harvard MBA
Sol Trujillo H Secretary CEO of Telestra telecomm in Australia, Republican; former CEO of US West; MBA from U of Wyo
Fernando Aguirre H Secretary Chairman, pres, and CEO of Chiquita Brands Intl, on boards of Coca-Cola and Univision

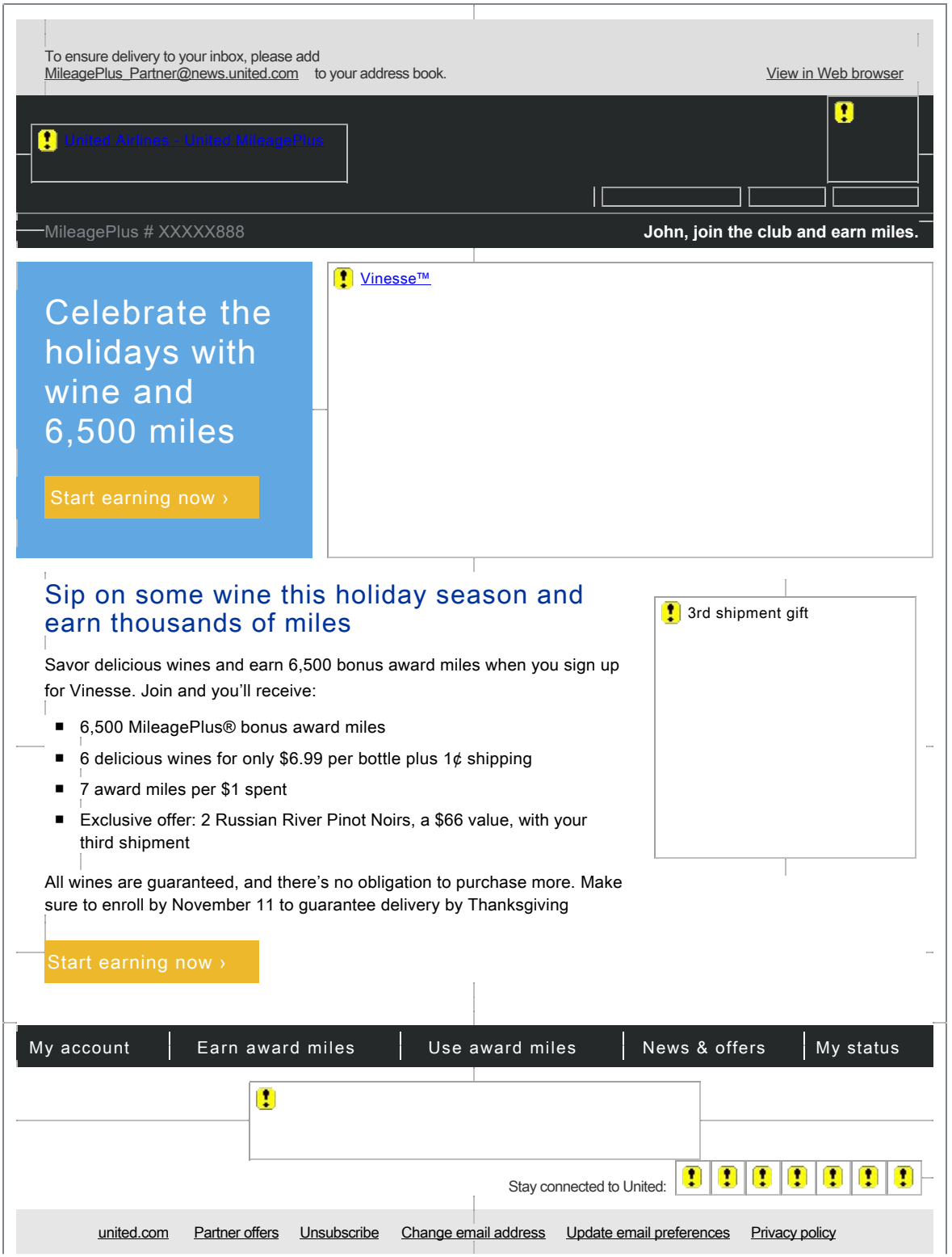
Commerce Team
Frank Sanchez H US for International Trade Natl Chair of Hisp Finance for OFA; was Special Envoy to Americas under Clinton; Harvard MPA
Oscar Munoz H EVP/CFO of CSX and CSXT freight transport, on board of Continental Airlines; Pepperdine MBA
Jim Polsfut Inter-Am Bank, OPIC, US&ForCommSvc Pres of Cordillera Foundation; was GM of GE Capital RFS in Mexico, Harvard BA, Stanford MBA
Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg F, H CEO of Strategic Inv Group, on boards of Gen. Mills and US Air; chief inv.officer World Bank (81-87)

USUN
Arturo Valenzuela H Dir. of Georgetown Cntr for Latin Am. Studies; was DAS for Inter Am. Affairs at DOS under Clinton

USTR
George Munoz H Representative Former pres and CEO of OPIC (97-01), former AS and CFO of Treasury (93-97), Harvard JD

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From: "MileagePlus Partner" <MileagePlus_Partner@news.united.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/19/2015 5:15:42 AM
Subject: Kick-start the holidays with 6,500 bonus miles and great savings on wine



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Houston, TX 77067

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 9/14/2015 9:23:55 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Hey, what's up, hello

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.



Skimm for September 15th

Skimm'd over football

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Adequate BMI" — Apparently a requirement to be a crew member at Air India . The airline is reportedly firing 125 employees for being out of shape. The company also said eating some spicy airline food should help.

SKIMM THIS

THINGS WITH A PLOT TWIST

AUSTRALIA

THE STORY

Yesterday morning, Australia's government told the country, 'G'day mates! While you were sleeping we got a new prime minister.'

WAIT...BACK UP.

For the last two years, Australia's been run by a man named Tony Abbott. You may remember him as the guy who got Putin to cuddle a koala . Abbott's never exactly been Mr. Popular, but lately his approval ratings have been worse than usual. Australia's economy has slowed, with many worried a recession is around the corner. That, plus Abbott's stances on same-sex marriage (against it) and climate change (not sure it exists) hasn't sat well with many Aussies.

SO WHAT HAPPENED?

The other members of Abbott's party took a look at the calendar, and realized the PM's unpopularity meant they'd probably lose their seats in next year's elections. So on Monday, Malcolm Turnbull – one of Abbott's main political rivals within his own party – said he wanted the top job instead . More than half of lawmakers agreed. Now, Turnbull's the new PM, and Abbott's packing his Vegemite.

theSKIMM

The country's economy has been looking down under, so political chaos isn't necessarily the recipe for success. TBD on whether the new guy can Turnbull it around.

SKIMM THIS

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RUSSIA

THE STORY

Yesterday, US officials spread some good cheer and let everyone know that Russia's been beefing up its military presence in Syria.

WAIT...BACK UP.

Syria's been going through a civil war for more than four years, with rebels fighting to oust Syrian President Assad. Over the years, Assad's gotten help from his squad (think Russia & friends). Meanwhile, the US & friends have bonded over helping the rebels trying to get rid of Assad. In the last year, though, ISIS came to town, and finally, everyone agreed on something: get rid of ISIS.

WHAT NOW?

Russia's now sending in some serious equipment. Think: more troops and tanks. Some would call this military escalation; Russia said it's called fighting terrorism.

theSKIMM

Russia's military buildup conveniently gives them a serious military presence in the Mideast. It also conveniently makes it more awkward for the US not to take a bigger role in the Syrian crisis. Guess who's super excited by all this? Rhymes with Shamerica.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR MOM ASKS HOW YOUR NEW ROOMMATE IS...

Not getting better. Over the weekend, wildfires in northern California caused thousands of people to evacuate. Yesterday, the situation got worse. Two separate fires completely destroyed hundreds of homes and displaced over 20,000 people, and one of the blazes is still barely contained. These fires are in large part thanks to a massive drought California's been going through. Meanwhile, yesterday, southern Utah was hit by flash flooding caused by a thunderstorm. At least eight people were killed, and five others are missing.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE WATCHING...

A scary day at Mississippi's Delta State University. Last night, a male university professor who was suspected in two murders shot and killed himself. This was after he was suspected of killing another male professor on campus earlier in the day. Police are investigating whether there's a connection to another shooting, in which a woman romantically connected to the suspect was shot and killed. If you think this feels like it might've been some kind of love triangle, you're not alone. But police say they aren't ready to talk motive yet.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR FRIEND IN FINANCE IS LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB...

Maybe steer clear of Deutsche Bank. Yesterday, Reuters reported that the German bank will not be needing a bigger boat, as it plans to fire about a quarter of the company's employees. The news comes after a rough couple of months for the bank. First, it paid out billions in legal fees for things like allegedly manipulating interest rates. Then it was investigated for tax fraud. Then its co CEOs, Phil & Lil, resigned. Enter the new boss, who's promised to cut costs. Which in this case looks like it means jobs. Deutsche Bank isn't the only one on the struggle bus. Other European banks – like Italy's UniCredit and Britain's Barclays — have recently announced layoffs to cut costs.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR FRIEND WHO CELEBRATED ROSH HASHANAH...

Happy New Year. Good news: Ahnold kept his promise — he came back.

SKIMM THIS

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ΓHING TO KNOW

Noma: The 'best restaurant in the world.' It's in Copenhagen and no, you can't get a rez. It's closing at the end of next year to make room for an urban farm. Because why not?

SKIMM THIS

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Please share theSkimm. Because it's Tuesday.

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To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/9/2015 11:45:18 AM
Subject:	Daily Media Report 6.9.15

National:

-- Discussion about the NYT story on Marco Rubio's finances; panel discussion with Ron Christie, Jamal Simmons, and Jess McIntosh; Christie brought up The Clinton Foundation underreporting to the IRS and paying late, said the Clintons refuse to disclose their own finances; McIntosh said the Clintons have been on the national stage for 30 years, said HRC's finances have been combed and absolutely nothing was found there; McIntosh said voters care more about the agenda a presidential candidate is putting forward; Christie said the gold standard of individuals who look at foundations said The Clinton Foundation should not be considered a charity because they give out 90 percent of the money to their own purposes not charitable purposes; Ari Melber (guest host) jumped in and said neither Rubio nor HRC was facing an inquiry that they'd crossed a legal line. MSNBC's The Ed Show , 2015 06 09 Marco Rubio, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Talk on Rubios financial woes and HRCs foundation.mp4

-- Discussion about Jeb Bush's talk in Berlin on Tuesday; interviewed Al Hunt; used footage of Jeb Bush talking about the Russian reset not turning out so hot; Heilemann noted Bush dinged HRC on the Russian reset. Bloomberg's With All Due Respect , 2015 06 09 Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jeb Bush dings HRC on the Russian reset.mp4

-- Report on the NYT story about Marco Rubio's financial troubles; panel with Blake Zeff, Megan McArdle, and Joan Walsh; McArdle said Americans understand debt, said Americans don't conflate how a person would run a country with personal debt;McArdle said HRC was not in a place to make a charge against Rubio's debt; Wagner said the Clintons had a tricky landscape on anything financial; Zeff noted it was probably other GOP campaigns throwing stones at this point; McArdle said the Free Beacon reported that American Bridge dug up the information about the traffic tickets. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 09 Hillary Clinton, Marco Rubio, Clips, National, Marco Rubios financial problems.mp4

-- Discussion about HRC tweeting support to Chipotle for its new benefits for hourly workers; interviewed Ashley Pratte; Pratte commented that Chipotle's tuition move did not need government mandates; Cavuto said he didn't know if HRC encouraged Chipotle in a way to support the free market or the government forcing companies to offer extra benefits; Pratte said she thought the latter. Fox News' Your World With Neil Cavuto , 2015 06 09 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Chipotle tweet.mp4

-- Report on John Mack backing HRC and Ken Langone backing Chris Christie; interviewed Charlie Gasparino; Gasparino said there was a debate on Wall Street about whether HRC was serious in her economic statements lately or she was pretending and would go "back to normal" after she was elected; Gasparino said HRC would have to follow through on leftist promises, said the New Democrats were done. Fox News' Your World with Neil Cavuto, 2015 06 09 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Gasparino on Wall Streets debate on HRCs econ plan.mp4

-- Discussion about Ralph Nader's comment that HRC has been overcompensated for being a woman and is single-handedly responsible for the war in Libya; Nicole Wallace said she was glad the craziest comment this cycle had come from a left-wing lunatic; Whoopi Goldberg said HRC was beyond menopause so she couldn't be accused of being overemotional. ABC's The View , 2015 06 09 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Discussion about Naders comments about HRCs gender.mp4

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-- Report on Jeb Bush's speech in Germany; interviewed Carl Cameron; used footage of Bush talking about Ukraine; Cameron reported that Bush said the Russian reset button was not a good thing, said it was an implicit attack on HRC who hit the Russian reset button. Fox News' Happening Now , 2015 06 09 Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jeb Bush talk in Germany and Russian reset.mp4

-- Led with Washington Examiner report that high-level State Department officials edited criticism of HRC's security team out of a final report; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry said the Washington Examiner report shows that key sections of an Inspector General report were taken out to help HRC politically before she stepped down as Secretary of State; Henry reported one of the sections taken out had to do with wrongdoing in HRC's State Department; used footage of Jen Psaki from 2013 defending the State Department's behavior; reported the State Department issued a statement saying that a separate investigation showed there were no systematic problems within the State Department. Fox News' Happening Now , 2015 06 09 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Ed Henry on HRCs State Dept redacting to help HRC.mp4

-- Interviewed Jen Psaki about the TPA; Andrea Mitchell asked Psaki if it would be helpful to have more support from HRC on the TPA; Psaki said people have different views on TPA and that NAFTA left a bad taste in people's mouths; Psaki noted that HRC touted the benefits of TPA while she was Secretary of State and has said she wants to see the final bill before rendering judgement. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 2015 06 09 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jen Psaki talks HRCs TPA stance.mp4

-- Report on Jeb Bush's international speech at an economic forum in Berlin; panel with AB Stoddard and Jonah Goldberg; Stoddard said this trip for Bush was high-risk and high-reward; Stoddard called the reset with Russia a failure; Goldberg said it's become the norm for candidates to go abroad while running so they can bring up their trips during debates; host Jon Scott pivoted into talking about HRC's reset with Russia, read excerpt of Bush's expected comments about Russia; Stoddard said the reset with Russia was going to be one of HRC's great vulnerabilities. Fox News' Happening Now , 2015 06 09 Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush, Clips, National, AB Stoddard talks Russian Reset.mp4

-- Report that ISIS kidnapped 88 Christians in Libya; panel with Tucker Carlson; Carlson said this happened in Libya because US policy led by HRC toppled Muammar Gaddafi and created an incubator for groups like ISIS. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 2015 06 09 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Tucker Carlson blames HRC for Libya policy.mp4

-- Report that new tax documents showed that a little-known Clinton foundation donated $100,000 to a New York Times' charity fund; noted the NYT donated HRC in the 2008 election; said there were reports that the NYT wanted to endorse BHO but was overruled by the NYT's chairman whose relatives chair the fund that received the funding from the Clinton's foundation. Fox News' Fox and Friends First , 2015 06 09, Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Clinton foundation donation to NYT charity.mp4

States:

Nevada:

--Report on HRC and voting registration: HRC urging to have states have automatic voting registration for 18 year olds. Reporters claim that it is difficult to track 18 year olds, and that HRC should consider extending her idea to all age groups.KOLO (ABC)'s *Good Morning Reno* , Reno (NV) . 2015 06 09, Hillary Clinton, Clips, Reno, NV, HRC on Voting Registration.mp4

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New Hampshire:

--Report on Jeb Bush's potential snub on HRC: Jeb Bush claims that politicians should not travel in protective bubbles to meet with candidates. Bush claims that whatever mistakes are made on the campaign trail are permanent. WBIN's NH1 News Tonight , Boston (MA). 2015 06 09, Hillary Clinton; Jeb Bush, Clips, Boston, MA, Jeb Bush snubs HRC.mp4

--Report on Carly Fiorina on HRC and gender issues: Fiorina claims that this election is not about gender, as much as HRC wants it to be. Fiorina claims that this election is about leadership. WMUR-MAN (ABC)'s News 9 Tonight, Manchester (NH).2015 06 08, Hillary Clinton; Carly Fiorina, Clips, Manchester, NH, Carly Fiorina Gender Issues.mp4

--Report on HRC and XM Bank: HRC claims that the livelihood is threatened of thousands of jobs because the banks are not standing up to the tea-party. Republicans claim that The XM bank has benefitted no less than 36 New Hampshire companies.WMUR-MAN (ABC)'s News 9 at Six, Manchester (NH) . 2015 06 08, Hillary Clinton, Clips, Manchester, NH, XM Bank.mp4

Iowa:

--Report on HRC in Iowa: Reporters claim hat HRC will be visiting Sioux City for a private event. The date and time have not been released. KCAU (ABC)'s ABC9 News at 10 pm , Sioux City (IA). 2015 06 08, Hillary Clinton, Clips, Sioux City, IA, Hillary Clinton in Iowa.mp4

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC and South Carolina: Reporters claim that HRC will be in Charleston on June 17. The details of her visit have not yet been finalized. WCIV-CHS (BC)'s ABC News 4 at 7, Charleston (SC) . 2015 06 08, Hillary Clinton, Clips, Charleston, SC, Hillary Clinton on SC.mp4

--Report on HRC's NYC launch: More specific on her policies. Dominant player for the democrats. Marks new phase for her campaign. WJCL-SAV (ABC)'s WJCL 22 News at 6, Savannah (GA) . 2015 06 08, Hillary Clinton, Clips, Savannah, GA, Hillary Clinton Campaign Launch.mp4

Bernie Sanders National Coverage:

--Report on Bernie Sanders' and Liberals: Wall Street Journal/NBC Poll claims that liberals have increased by 3 percentage points. This could be a reason that Sanders is gaining so much support, especially by the straw poll in Wisconsin. CNN's CNN Newsroom with Carol Costello . 2015 06 09, Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Bernie Sanders' Liberal Gain.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders in New Hampshire: Rachel Maddow claims that the crowd that Sanders' drew in New Hampshire was loud and enthusiastic. Maddow claims that even though the Wisconsin straw poll shows HRC winning by a thin margin, there is no way that Sanders would beat her for the nomination. MSNBC's The

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Rachel Maddow Show. 2015 06 09, Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Bernie Sanders in NH.mp4

--Report on Sarah Palin on Bernie Sanders: Sarah Palin claims that Sanders is taking the right approach to dealing with HRC. She claims that Sanders is genuinely speaking to the people, whereas HRC is not. Fox News' Hannity. 2015 06 09, Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sarah Palin on Bernie Sanders.mp4

Martin O'Malley National Coverage:

-- No national coverage today.

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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 5:11:52 AM
Subject: Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

I was just thinking: has she made a clear statement on Israel yet? I get this question from donors all the time. Does she need to state her principles on Israel before Iran? Or do both at the same time?

On Jul 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Date: July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
> > To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO
> >
> > http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html
> >
> > Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama
> >
> > But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran deal.
> >
> > By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
> > 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
> > Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
> >
> > Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.
> >
> > But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.
> >
> > *Story Continued Below*
> >
> > Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test; donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as

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compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

"That's just smart politics," said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. "Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was?"

Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was "very supportive of the negotiating process," the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. "So it seemed like she was supporting it," recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a "perception" problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

"Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I've got my own relationships," she said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a

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book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal. "I know Michael well, but I haven't read the book," she said.

At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel's security. "She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel," recalled Jacobs. "And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer."

Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. "She said 'I'm going to do what's in the best interest of the U.S.,' and that was the end of it," Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, "although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it's got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people." He urged Jewish donors "to take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits," adding: "I'd hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support."

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton's senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

"It's a tricky issue for her," said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran "are going to put her in a box."

Clinton's allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. "I know where she stands, but I can't talk about it," Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, "She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don't need to worry about this."

He soon backtracked, saying "I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal."

And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn't hold as

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much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

“Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount of love for the Clintons, but I don’t think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is,” said the donor.

Saban’s representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban’s financial support will not be conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn’t going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

“Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No,” he said. “Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3.”

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. “Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It’s broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate,” he said. “So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama’s support who will at least give her view a more open-minded assessment.”

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

“If there’s a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her,” said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group’s members regard her as too hawkish for their tastes.

“For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy,” said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street’s PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his

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support for a deal to the candidate.

“She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community.”

Authors:

View Comments

--
Ian Sams
(423) 915-6592

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From:	"Lawrence Gostin" <gostin@law.georgetown.edu>
To:	"Law Faculty and Visitors" <LawFacultyandVisitors@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	9/10/2014 7:20:57 AM
Subject:	O'Neill Institute Colloquium: Focusing on Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and Key Populations in the National and Global Response to HIV/AIDS-Sept 10

Dear Colleagues, Just a reminder of today's Colloquium at 1:20pm today in the Hotung Faculty Dining Room where leading scholars will discuss the AIDS pandemic with a focus on MSM.

warmly, Larry

Join us for the O'Neill Institute Colloquium Wednesdays this semester from 1:20-3:20pm

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O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law Colloquium:

Focusing on Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and
Key Populations in the National and Global Response to HIV/AIDS

Wednesday, September 10, 2014
1:20 – 3:20 p.m.

Georgetown University Law Center
Faculty Dining Room, Hotung Room 2001
550 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Chris Beyrer, MD
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Dr. Beyrer serves as Director of Johns Hopkins Training Program in HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Science, and as Founding Director of the Center for Public Health and Human Rights. He is the Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and of the University's Center for Global Health. He currently serves as a member of the men who have sex with men (MSM) Working Group of the HIV Prevention Trials Network. He has extensive experience in conducting international collaborative research and training programmes in HIV/AIDS and other infectious disease epidemiology, in infectious disease prevention research, HIV among Key Populations, and in health and human rights. As Director of the Johns Hopkins Fogarty AITRP Program, Dr. Beyrer provided fellowships for over 1,400 international scholars in HIV/AIDS prevention, research, and treatment. He served as Field Director of the Thai PAVE and HIVNET studies from 1992-1996, based in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, and has done extensive research in the epidemiology of HIV in Thailand, Burma, China, India and across Southeast Asia, in Russia and Kazakhstan, in Malawi, South Africa, and the United States. He is the author of the 1998 book "War in the Blood: Sex Politics and AIDS in Southeast Asia" and Co-Editor of Public Health and Human Rights: Evidence- Based Approaches. Dr. Beyrer has served as advisor to the US President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Program, the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, The Office of AIDS Research of the US National Institutes of Health, the US Military HIV Research Program, the World Bank, the Royal Thai Army Medical Corps and the Thai Red Cross, as well as numerous other organizations.

Gregorio Millett, MPH
amfAR
Gregorio Millett is a well-published and nationally recognized epidemiologist/researcher with significant experience working at the highest levels of federal HIV policy development at both the White House and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). From 2009 to 2011, Mr. Millett served as a detailee in the White House Office of National AIDS Policy as a Senior Policy Advisor. In this role, he coordinated the Office's policy and research activities, including HIV prevention policy and the federal-level inter-agency process to develop the National AIDS Strategy. Gregorio Millett is one of three principal writers of President Obama's National HIV/AIDS Strategy. He served on the organizing committee for the Washington, DC, Conference, and was the federal lead in organizing the U.S. government and White House activities around

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the 2012 International AIDS Conference. Mr. Millett also worked on a diverse array of policy issues during his tenure at the White House, including the elimination of the HIV entry ban that prohibited HIV-positive persons from travelling to or seeking residency in the United States; the temporary suspension of the ban prohibiting federal funding for domestic or global needle exchange programs; and the reallocation of HIV prevention resources by CDC to adopt a new funding formula for state and local health departments that better aligns funding with current disease burden. Prior to joining amfAR in May 2014, Mr. Millett served as the HHS/CDC Liaison to the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. Mr. Millett has been credited with changing the underlying assumptions among researchers of observed HIV infection disparities among black men who have sex with men (MsM) and is widely recognized as one of the first researchers to show no protective effect associated with male circumcision for MSM.

Jeffrey S. Crowley, MPH
O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law
Jeffrey Crowley is the Program Director of the National HIV/AIDS Initiative at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and Distinguished Scholar. Mr. Crowley is a widely recognized expert on HIV/AIDS and disability policy. From February 2009 through December 2011, he served as the Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy and Senior Advisor on Disability Policy for President Barack Obama. In this capacity, he led the development of our country's first domestic National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States, a five-year plan for aligning the efforts of all stakeholders to reduce the number of new HIV infections, increase access to care, and reduce HIV-related health disparities. The Strategy continues to guide the Administration's efforts in this area. He also coordinated disability policy development for the Domestic Policy Council and worked on the policy team that spearheaded the development and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

The O'Neill Institute Colloquium is open to all students, faculty, staff, and interested members of the public.

The hashtag for this event is #oneillcolloquium.

For more information on O'Neill Institute events, please visit http://www.law.georgetown.edu/oneillinstitute/ **.**

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/26/2008 2:16:52 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/26

'08 Election Daily News Clips
Tuesday August 26th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

1pm McCain: Speech in Phoenix, AZ
- Tracking scheduled for this event
9pm McCain: Fundraiser in San Diego, CA

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain, Leno trade Jibes (AP 08/26/08)
By Mike Glover
"Could I just mention to you Jay, that in a moment of seriousness, I spent five and a half years in a prison cell, I didn't have a house, I didn't have a kitchen table, I didn't have a table, I didn't have a chair," said McCain, citing his history as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. "I spent those five and half years not because I wanted to get a house when I got back home." McCain has come under criticism after he confessed he didn't know how many homes he owns with his wife Cindy. The source of the family's wealth is a Phoenix beer distributorship launched by her father.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gzrO4_2eB1S2i3NMbOspDDuSh-cgD92PLPVO6

McCain Warms Up to Hollywood (WSJ blog 8/26/08)
By Elizabeth Holmes
McCain, who turns 72 on Friday, defied the odds and appeared Monday with notable folks to support his candidacy. After the endorsement from Daddy Yankee in Phoenix, McCain attended a fund-raiser in Sacramento with Patricia Heaton of "Everybody Loves Raymond" fame. The Arizona senator then traveled to southern California for an appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and a fund-raiser at the Beverly Hilton.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/08/26/mccain-warms-up-to-hollywood/

Cind McCain to Meet with Saakashvili on Georgia trip (WaPo 08/26/08)
By Michael Shear and Karen DeYoung
John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, announced the visit to a group of fundraisers in Sacramento. McCain spokeswoman Jill Hazelbaker confirmed that his wife was en route to Georgia and said she is visiting as part of the U.N. World Food ProgramGeorgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and visit with wounded Georgian soldiers.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/25/AR2008082503045.html?nav=rss_politics

Latin Star Daddy Yankee Endorses McCain at School (Arizona Republic 08/26/08)
By John Faherty
McCain's appearance at the school lasted just 20 minutes, it lacked any talk of policy and a question-and-answer period with the students did not happen. But it remained a thrill for approximately 120 students who were picked to attend because of their roles in student government or because they are taking advanced social-studies courses.
http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2008/08/26/20080826McCain0826.html

John McCain Shares the stage with Jay Leno and Daddy Yankee (LA Times 08/26/08)
By Maeve Reston
McCain had barely taken his seat when Leno offered him early birthday wishes: "We were going to have a cake, but the fire marshal said '*that* many candles?' " The late-night host added that they'd ribbed McCain with "a few jokes" about his age during the campaign.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain26-2008aug26,0,2890500.story

McCain is not lying low (CNN 08/26/08)
By Ed Henry
So McCain advisers say their goal is to keep Obama's convention "bounce" to a minimum, so McCain can head to St. Paul, Minnesota, next week with some real momentum. They think the best way to do that is to drive a deeper wedge between Obama and Sen.Hillary Clinton .
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/25/mccain.strategy/index.html

McCain Uses Vietnam Ordeal Against Jibes Over Wealth (Reuters 8/25/08)
By Andrew Gray

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BURBANK, California (Reuters) - John McCain , who often invokes his ordeal as a Vietnam war prisoner to show his devotion to his country as he runs for U.S. president, drew on the experience again on Monday -- this time to deflect sniping over the number of houses he owns.
http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSN25286004200808826?feedType=RSS&feedName=politicsNews

McCain Camp Tries To Downplay Top Aide Lobbying In Favor Of Gun Rights for Suspected Terrorists (ThinkProgress 08/25/08)
By Satyam Khanna
In 2007, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced legislation giving the Justice Department the discretion to prohibit gun sales to terror suspects . The legislation was supported by gun-control groups as well as the Bush administration. Siding with the gun industry in opposing closing this "terror gap" was Randy Scheunemann , now Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) top foreign policy adviser. Newsweek reports that Scheunemann lobbied against the bill on behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/25/mccain-scheunemann-guns/

Ayers Linked to GOP Governor Through University (HuffPo 08/26/08)
By Nico Pitney
The campaign season's hottest gotcha game -- six degrees of William Ayers -- has suddenly become a bit more complicated for John McCain and the Republican Party.
It turns out that Ayers, a 60s-era radical and former Weathermen member, is linked to GOP Gov. Mark Sanford through their work for the University of South Carolina.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/26/ayers-linked-to-gop-gover_n_121363.html

New McCain ad evokes Hillary 3a.m. spot, Says Hillary was 'Right' (TPM 08/26/08)
By Greg Sargent
McCain's ad opens with the Hillary spot's 3 A.M. question and segues into a montage of images reminding you that it's a dangerous world out there. It then airs footage of Hillary delivering her now-infamous line about McCain's "lifetime of experience" and her claim that all Obama brings to the commander-in-chief's desk is a 2002 speech.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/new_mccain_ad_evokes_hillary_3.php
View ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yYlzX2ZOLM

Sources: McCain May Announce VP Choice Before Friday (FoxNews 8/25/08)
By Foxnews.com
Presumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain may announce his choice for a running mate earlier than expected, sources told FOX News on Monday. [...] sources close to McCain's campaign told FOX News that his decision may come sooner than that — possibly on Thursday, when Barack Obama accepts the Democratic nomination at Invesco field in Denver, Colo.
http://elections.foxnews.com/2008/08/25/sources-mccain-may-announce-vp-choice-before-friday

McCain's Daddy Yankee Endorsement (NYT blog 8/25/08)
By Michael Cooper
Maybe someone should tell Senator John McCain that Daddy Yankee's big reggaetón smash from a few years back, "Gasolina," is not exactly about off-shore oil drilling.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/25/mccains-daddy-yankee-endorsement/#more-5993
See WaPo blog's "Gasolina! Daddy Yankee Endorses McCain": http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/25/gasolina_daddy_yankee_endorses.html#more

On Leno, McCain Invokes POW History When Asked About House Controversy (ABC blog 8/25/08)
"For a million dollars," Jay Leno asked Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., today, "how many houses do you have?" "Could I just mention to you, Jay, that, at a moment of seriousness. I spent five-and-a-half years in a prison cell," McCain said. "I didn't have a house. I didn't have a kitchen table. I didn't have a table. I didn't have a chair. And I didn't spend those five-and-a-half years because, not because I wanted to get a house when I got out."
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/08/on-leno-mccain.html

The POW "Card" (ABC blog 8/25/08)
Can a person who showed unfathomable heroism in a dark period of war invoke that heroism too often? It's a complicated thing, writing about Sen. John McCain's years as a Vietnam POW, and how he's cited those years in the campaign. A meme has developed among some bloggers and commentators that McCain is citing those grisly five and a half years too often.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/08/the-pow-card.html

McCain: Candidates Shouldn't Talk About Their Vietnam Service (ThinkProgress 8/25/08)
By Matt Yglesias
It seems that John McCain's presidential campaign thinks that thus far they've "underused" the subject of McCain's Vietnam service. Apparently, using it as a response to every criticism isn't good enough so I guess that means they'll be mentioning it in light of all McCain's positive proposals, too. "I was held prisoner in Hanoi and tortured by Communists who wouldn't approve of giant tax cuts slanted to the wealthiest citizens and that's how I know that tax cuts for the rich is just what this country needs." Or something. At any rate, once upon a time McCain was criticizing John Kerry for talking too much about Vietnam, saying he essentially invited the swift boat attacks by doing so:
http://feeds.feedburner.com/%7Er/matthewyglesias/%7E3/373812153/mccain_candidates_shouldnt_talk_about_their_vietnam_service.php

Cindy McCain Heads to Georgia (No, Not the State) (New York Times blog 8/25/08)
by Michael Cooper
Senator John McCain just told a group of donors here that his wife, Cindy, is en route to Georgia , according to a pool report from inside the fund-raiser.
No further details were immediately available, but Mr. McCain has made his support for the country — and his hard line against Russia — central to his campaign since Russia invaded Georgia earlier this month.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/25/cindy-mccain-heads-to-georgia-no-not-the-state/

Dems' attack theme: McCain's houses (Politico 8/25/08)
By Ben Smith

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As dozens of Democrats prepare to address their convention in Denver over the next four days, three themes have become clear: hope, change and John McCain's eight houses. Barack Obama's convention is shaping up to be the toughest — and most negative — in the Democratic Party's recent history, a gathering modeled more on the Republican Party's attack-themed conventions than, in particular, on the determinedly high-minded Democratic National Convention in Boston four years ago.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=FB1398A4-18FE-70B2-A8B88FEA5AFC9C69

From the RNC Podium: McCain Does Not Want to Overturn Roe--What? (Time blog 8/25/08)
by Michael Scherer
The McCain campaign welcomed delegates to Denver with a new ad Monday, showing Debra Bartoshevich, a self-described "proud Hillary Clinton Democrat," announcing that she opposes Barack Obama and will vote for John McCain. To back up the message, Republicans arranged a press-conference in Denver Monday morning with Bartoshevich and other Clinton supporters, who are all now backing McCain.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/08/from_the_rnc_podium_mccain_doe.html

McCain missing from GOP.com (Politico blog 8/25/08)
By Ben Smith
There's not a single reference to the Republican nominee on the home page of the Republican National Committee.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/McCain_missing_from_GOPcom.html?showall

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

The Racism Excuse (WSJ 08/26/08)
Editorial
fter a second round of this -- recall the Obama line "He doesn't look like all those other Presidents on the dollar bills" -- the McCain campaign dared complain that at no time has the GOP candidate said anything remotely about his opponent's race. Predictably, Mr. McCain was charged with playing the "race card" himself.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121970808612971117.html?mod=opinion_main_review_and_outlooks

Charlie Don't Vote (WSJ 08/26/08)
By John Fund
Hans Nichols of Bloomberg News journeyed to Hanoi last week to find Le Van Lua, the first North Vietnamese that Mr. McCain met after being shot down in 1967 during his 23rd bombing run over the country. Mr. Le said he jumped into the lake where Mr. McCain's plane had landed and brandished a knife as he ordered the pilot to put up his hands. He then grabbed Mr. McCain by his hair and hoisted him atop two bamboo pontoons, the knife held to his throat.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121968395863169687.html?mod=opinion_journal_political_diary

Obama's Nomination Marks Start of New Epoch (USA Today 08/26/08)
By DeWayne Wickham
The nomination of Barack Obama as the Democratic Party's White House candidate will end the two-centuries-old hold that white men have had on the presidential nomination of this country's major political parties. This is a transformative moment, one that signals the beginning of the third American epoch.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/08/obamas-nominati.html#more

Jonathan Crutchley Discovers How Intolerant the Gay Community Can be (LA Times 08/26/08)
By James Kirchick
Two weeks ago, news emerged that the co-founder of the website Manhunt.net had contributed $2,300 to the presidential campaign of John McCain. Uproar ensued.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-kirchick26-2008aug26,0,1400460.story

Give Iraqis what they want (Boston Globe 08/26/08)
Editorial
PRESIDENT BUSH has been embarrassed by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Bush had set a goal of July 31 for a security agreement with Maliki's government. The key to negotiating such an accord, for Bush, was to avoid setting a firm date for withdrawal of US combat troops. Bush has insisted that the timing and pacing of a withdrawal had to be determined solely by conditions on the ground - a mantra that GOP presidential candidate John McCain has echoed faithfully.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2008/08/26/give_iraqis_what_they_want/

BUSH NEWS

Bush signs Women's Equity Day proclimation (UPI 08/26/08)
President George Bush signed a proclamation declaring Tuesday Women's Equity Day, recognizing the vision of women who helped build the United States.
http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/08/25/Bush_signs_Womens_Equity_Day_proclamation/UPI-52101219696777/

Cheney to visit Georgia next week (WaPo 08/26/08)
By Dan Eggen
Vice President Cheney will travel next week to war-ravaged Georgia as part of a swing through several former Soviet republics, making him the highest-level U.S. emissary to visit the country since hostilities between Russia and Georgia broke out this month, officials said yesterday.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/25/AR2008082502142.html?nav=rss_politics

Rice Praises Biden as a "True Patriot" (Washington Post 8/25/08)
By Glenn Kessler
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice today lavishly praised presumptive Democratic vice presidential nominee Joseph Biden as a "true patriot" and a "very fine statesman." Rice, speaking to reporters on her plane as she flew to Israel for peace talks, said she was not trying to wade into presidential politics. But she has worked closely with Biden in his role as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and offered this reaction to

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selection of the Delaware Democrat as Barack Obama's running mate.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/25/rice_praises_biden_as_a_true_p.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Netroots Push Back Against MSM 'Bias' (Politico 08/26/08)
By Michael Calderone
Pushback against the media has been aided by the growth of more sophisticated liberal news sites, such as Talking Points Memo and The Huffington Post. In 2004, TPM founder Josh Marshall didn't have any paid staffers; this year he has nine. And Arianna Huffington's arsenal of nearly 2,000 bloggers didn't exist until President Bush was already six months into his second term. Not to mention, liberal watchdog group Media Matters - which provides ammo to many bloggers - has grown in that time from about 20 staffers to near 100, according to a source familiar with the organization.
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/08/24/politics/politico/main4378503.shtml

John Foster Dulles Supports Barack Obama (WaPo Blog 08/26/08)
By Michael Kinsley
But yes, that's exactly who it was: not the ghost of the legendary Cold Warrier (Eisenhower's Secretary of State) but his grandson. And without even needing to be prompted, he apologized for those stupid mobile lounges .
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/postpartisan/2008/08/john_foster_dulles_supports_ba.html

Iraq PM says deal with U.S. on troop exit in 2011 (Reuters 8/25/08)
Iraqi Prime Minister Prime Nuri al-Maliki said on Monday that an agreement had been reached in negotiations on a security pact with the United States to end any foreign military presence in Iraq by the end of 2011. The Iraqi government has said it is proposing U.S. troops end patrols of Iraqi towns and villages by the middle of next year and U.S. combat troops leave Iraq by 2011. But Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in a visit to Baghdad last week that no final agreement had been reached. The Bush administration has sought to steer clear of fixed timetables in negotiating the agreement.
http://www.reuters.com/articlePrint?articleId=USLP66354720080825

Clinton the star of new RNC ad attacking Obama (CNN blog 8/25/08)
She's been the target of countless Republican attack ads, but it now appears Sen. Hillary Clinton is the GOP's new best friend. On the heels of two McCain campaign commercials that feature the New York Democrat's repeated criticisms of Barack Obama during the Democratic presidential primary race, the Republican National Committee released a new ad Monday that asks, "Was she right?"
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/25/clinton-the-star-of-new-rnc-ad-attacking-obama/
Link to video of ad ("Right"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9Rf5eN9eYg

Clinton's riposte (Politico blog 8/25/08)
By Ben Smith
"I'm Hillary Clinton and I do not approve that message," Clinton tells the New York delegation of McCain's ad that features her old criticism of Obama.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/Clintons_riposte.html?showall

New Obama Ad Hits McCain, But With Lighthearted Touch (TPM 8/25/08)
By Greg Sargent
The Obama campaign goes up with a lighthearted negative spot hitting McCain on the economy:
The ad is set to the old Sam Cooke tune "Wonderful World," and features a singer belting out the lyrics "I'm not up on the economy...don't know much about industry...really can't explain the price of gas...or what has happened to the middle class."
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/new_obama_ad_hits_mccain_but_w.php

Possible Obama connection in gun arrest (The Denver Post 8/25/08)
KUSA-TV is reporting that two men have been arrested on weapons charges after the traffic stop early Sunday.
The first man, identified by the station as Tharin Gartrell, 28, was charged with suspicion of being a felon in possession of a weapon after police found two rifles, a high-powered scope and methamphetamine in his car after the traffic stop When police accompanied Gartrell to his hotel in Glendale, a second man jumped from a window and was injured in a four-story fall, according to the station.
http://www.denverpost.com/nationalpolitics/ci_10300246

Rising Hispanic vote shifts focus off Cuba (Miami Herald, 8/25/08)
By Casey Woods
Carlos Pereira grinned widely as he stood in the outgoing tide of newly sworn-in citizens leaving a Miami naturalization ceremony. So far, he had registered 328 people, mostly from Latin American countries. Only 62 of them were from Cuba.
http://www.miamiherald.com/ 979/story/656396.html

POLLS

Poll: Presidential race in Colo. a dead heat (Rocky Mountain News 8/25/08)
On the eve of the Democratic National Convention, a new poll shows that the presidential contenders are in a "dead heat" to lock in Colorado voters.
http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/aug/25/poll-presidential-race-in-colorado-a-dead-heat/

Focus Group: Undecided Voters Care Much More About Character Than Issues (TPM 8/25/08)
By Greg Sargent
Joe Klein sat in on an independent focus group of 21 undecided voters and learned some interesting things about their priorities in this presidential election: Given a list of 31 personal attributes the next President might have and asked to pick the eight most important, "Accountability" finished highest with 13 votes, next was "Someone I can trust" with 12, "honest and ethical" was third with 11. "Agrees with me on the issues" got one vote. They didn't care if the candidate was a Washington insider or outsider. "A dynamic and charismatic leader" got two votes.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/focus_group_independent_voters.php

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/5/2014 9:03:13 AM
Subject: Another Descent Into Hell

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Another Descent Into Hell

Richard Lichtman, Truthout: How do we develop our own opinions? How do we deal with our inability to feel the horror inflicted on others? And when we have changed, how do we change the attitudes of those in power? The small opportunities that exist must be nurtured.

Read the Article

Noam Chomsky | How Many Minutes to Midnight? Hiroshima Day 2014

Noam Chomsky, TomDispatch: "It is a near miracle that we have escaped destruction so far, and the longer we tempt fate, the less likely it is that we can hope for divine intervention to perpetuate the miracle."

Read the Article

Palestinian-American Teen Brutalized by Israeli Police Testifies on Capitol Hill

Chip Gibbons, Truthout: Last week, Tariq Abu Khdeir, the Palestinian-American teen beaten by Israeli police, and his mother testified at a Congressional briefing organized by the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation entitled, "Is Israel complying with US and international laws?"

Read the Article

ALEC's Jeffersonian Project Pushes to Amend the Constitution

Jessica Mason, PRWatch: The United States could be on the verge of calling its first constitutional convention since 1787, and the American Legislative Exchange Council has been working behind the scenes to make it happen, including through its new lobbying arm, the Jeffersonian Project.

Read the Article

Gareth Porter | The Real Tonkin Gulf Deception Wasn't by Lyndon Johnson

Gareth Porter, Truthout: While many believe that the Tonkin Gulf incident was a deception by Lyndon Johnson to justify war in Vietnam, the August 4, 1964,

BuzzFlash

Waitresses Pack Heat While Serving Gun-Toting Patrons Munching on Burgers

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Carrying a gun can now get you a discount at local restaurants around the nation. You have to bring your own bullets, of course.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

My Head Exploded When Obama Sanctimoniously Said, "We Tortured Some Folks"

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Rabbi Michael Lerner | Mourning for a Judaism Being Murdered by Israel

Read the Article at

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US bombing of North Vietnam was not a maneuver by LBJ.

Read the Article

Detroit Activists Herald Partial Victory as City Regains Control of the Water

Anna Lekas Miller, Waging Nonviolence: On July 28, Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr, who has operated the Detroit Water and Sewage Department, and been responsible for turning off water for more than 15,000 Detroit residents, issued an order transferring control of the department back to the city of Detroit and recently elected Mayor Mike Duggan.

Read the Article

Latest Pro-Labor Reform Proposal Might Actually Undermine Labor

Barry Eidlin, Truthout: The latest labor reform proposal to make unionizing a civil right sounds helpful, but in shoring up workers' individual rights, it could undermine workers' collective labor rights.

Read the Article

Syria and Iraq: IS Casts a Chilling Shadow

Richard Sale, Truthout: Can the Islamic State's military victories in Sunni regions of Syria and Iraq translate into the creation of the so-called "Islamic Caliphate" it touts? Signals are mixed.

Read the Article

Lobbyists Bidding to Block Government Regulations Set Sights on Secretive White House Office

Heather Rogers, ProPublica: When Washington lobbyists fail to derail regulations proposed by federal agencies, they often find a receptive ear within the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, an arm of the White House Office of Management and Budget that conducts much of its business in secret.

Read the Article

We're Being Robbed Every Time We Fly

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Airlines have discovered that thanks to the economic recovery, more people want to fly, so airlines have dropped the number of available seats on their planes, which all translates to higher ticket prices. The airlines are taking advantage of simple supply-and-demand economics.

Read the Article

Tikkun

Two DREAMers Confront GOP Rep. Steve King Over Immigration Stance

Watch the Video at YouTube

The US Could Supply All of California With Water if We Fixed Our Leaky Pipes

Read the Article at Grist

"Pro-Troop" Charity Pays Off Tea Party Cronies Instead

Read the Article at The Daily Beast

Methane Blowholes Sign of Runaway Climate Change?

Read the Article at EcoWatch

Trey Gowdy's Benghazi Setback: New Humiliation for GOP's Scandal Hunter

Read the Article at Salon

Senate Bill Preps for War With Russia

Renee Parsons, CounterPunch: If there was an antiwar movement in the United States, the Russian Aggression Prevention Act of 2014 might be at the top of the list for defeat as a totally provocative, irrational piece of legislation that can only be viewed as paving the road for a preemptive first strike on Russia.

Read the Article

Amy Goodman | Likely Solution for a Lasting Cease-Fire Was on the Table Before Israeli Assault and More Than 1,800 Dead

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!: Is a lasting cease-fire in Gaza possible - and on what terms? Nathan Thrall has laid out a possible plan for a ceasefire

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in his new article in the London Review of Books, "Hamas's Chances."

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

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From: "Erika Gudmundson" <egudmundson@hillaryclinton.com>
To:
Date: 12/21/2007 10:05:45 AM
Subject: State Clips, 12/21/07

State Clips
Friday, December 21, 2007

CALIFORNIA

CSUF professor to host party supporting Sen. Clinton *Fresno Bee*

http://www.fresnobee.com/263/story/281609.html

Dolores Huerta will be the featured speaker December 22 at a San Francisco gathering on behalf of the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign. *San Francisco Sentinel*

http://www.sanfranciscosentinel.com/?p=8076

Civil Rights Leader to Visit Richmond *IBABuzz*

http://www.ibabuzz.com/insidepolitics/2007/12/19/civil-rights-leader-to-visit-richmond/

GOP Presidential: What Will Arnold Do? *San Francisco Chronicle*

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/sfgate/indexn?blogid=14

More Crosses Cross Into Politics *LA Times Blog*

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2007/12/crossesallover.html

Ex-President Supportive to a Fault? *LA Times*

http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-bill21dec21,1,3249232.story

Change in Tone Might Have Hurt Edwards in Iowa *LA Times*

http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-edwards21dec21,1,2443375.story?coll=la-politics-campaign

Tancredo Bows Out, Supports Romney *LA Times*

http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-tancredo21dec21,1,4440529.story?coll=la-politics-campaign

Christmas Cheers and Jeers from the Candidates *LA Times*

http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailwrap21dec21,1,3011439.story?coll=la-politics-campaign

Who Has the Most Friends? *LA Times*

http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailtech21dec21,1,5314379.story?coll=la-politics-campaign

Candidates Get Outside Help-or Grief *San Francisco Chronicle*

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/12/21/politics/p002442S20.DTL

Fast-Riser Huckabee Complains His Opponents are Going Negative *San Francisco Chronicle*

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/12/21/MNOAU2F3S.DTL

EPA Chief is Said to Have Ignored Staff *LA Times*

http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-epa21dec21,1,2746599.story?coll=la-headlines-california

Staff at EPA Supported California's Attempt to Reduce Car Emission *San Francisco Chronicle*

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http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/12/21/MNOUU26JN.DTL

In Past, States were Permitted to Set Own Pollution Rules *San Francisco Chronicle*

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/12/21/MN4RU29F5.DTL

California Persists Despite EPA Rule *San Jose Mercury News*

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_7776762?nclick_check=1

Coverage for Uninsured Finds Favor *Sacramento Bee*

http://www.sacbee.com/111/story/583716.html

Governor Promotes Health Care Proposal *Oakland Tribune*

http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/ci_7777582

No Funds to Track Sex Offenders Off Parole *San Francisco Chronicle*

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/12/21/BA6KU2JNB.DTL

OC Settles Medicare Overbilling Charges *LA Times*

http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-settlement21dec21,1,6206535.story?coll=la-headlines-california

Nicholson Sharpens Politics, to a Point *San Francisco Chronicle*

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/12/20/entertainment/e151444S97.DTL

IOWA

I. MUST READS
GLOVER

Edwards touts rural ties in Iowa, *AP: QC Times*
http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/12/21/ap-state-ia/d8tllh481.txt

TIBBETTS

Edwards complains about mailing, *QC Times*
http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/12/21/news/elections/doc476b57fa801b0678001826.txt

Candidate profiles: Fred Thompson proud of laid-back demeanor, *QC Times*
http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/12/21/news/local/doc476b55df08a74129685177.txt

YEPSEN

Blog Post: **Team Tancredo to Hit for Mitt**, *Des Moines Register*
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?category=PluckPersona&U=3a86a5c341684631abb59d87c02a2df8&plckPersonaPage=BlogViewPost&plckUserId=3a86a5c341684631abb59d87c02a2df8&plckPostId=Blog%3a3a86a5c341684631abb59d87c02a2df8Post%3a768f0602-51a1-4ad0-bd71-5b4421e3666b&plckController=PersonaBlog&plckScript=personaScript&plckElementId=personaDest

MISC./OF NOTE

Mauro for Clinton, *QC Times*
http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/12/21/news/local/doc476b588623046176901231.txt

II. CLIPS
HRC

Iowan questions Clinton and Obama on abortion, *Des Moines Register*
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200771220010

Ex-military officers praise Clinton, *Des Moines Register*
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071220/NEWS/71220031/1001

Clinton's Centerville visit canceled, *Des Moines Register*
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071220/NEWS/71220047/1001/NEWS

Clinton: Health care a fundamental right, *CR Gazette*
http://cedarrapidsgazette.ia.newsmemory.com/eebrowser/frame/3_0f.ver/php-script/fullpage.php?pSetup=cedarrapidsgazette&file=0@/cedarrapidsgazette/20071220/crb_20thrfp002.pdf.0/&section=B%3A%20Iowa%20Today&edition=The%20Gazette&pageNum=B02#

Caucus digest: Clinton caucus aid, *QC Times*
http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/12/20/news/elections/doc476a01f633b5a997481227.txt

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Kerrey didn't mean to insult Obama, *AP: Omaha WH*
http://omahaworldherald.ne.newsmemory.com/eebrowser/frame/3_0f.ver/php-script/fullpage.php?pSetup=omahaworldherald&file=0@/omahaworldherald/20071221/21_dec.wh06iaa.pdf.0/&section=A%3A%20Main&edition=Metro%20Morning&pageNum=A06#

Clintons' neighbor charged with murder, *AP: Omaha WH*
http://omahaworldherald.ne.newsmemory.com/eebrowser/frame/3_0f.ver/php-script/fullpage.php?pSetup=omahaworldherald&file=0@/omahaworldherald/20071221/21_dec.wh04iaa.pdf.0/&section=A%3A%20Main&edition=Metro%20Morning&pageNum=A04#

Clinton: Candidates without foreign experience no better than Bush, *AP: Sioux City Journal*
http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2007/12/20/news/iowa/e2349252ccc23430862573b800130a97.txt

Does the media treat Hillary differently? *Ft. Madison Daily Democrat*
http://www.dailydem.com/articles/2007/12/20/news/news2.txt

Locals see Hillary's lighter side, *Ft. Madison Daily Democrat*
http://www.dailydem.com/articles/2007/12/20/news/news1.txt

15 days left until Iowa caucuses, *Keokuk Gate City Daily*
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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/21/2015 1:00:10 AM
Subject: News Update - July 21, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Tuesday, July 21

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **US Defense Secretary: We will Help Israel Defend ItselfBB old headline 2**
- **EU to Pitch New Formula in Bid to Jump-Start Peace Talks**
- **EU to Israel: Halt Forced Population Transfers**
- **Iran Dismisses Germany's Call to Recognize Israel**
- **UN Security Council Endorses Iran Nuke Deal**
- **UN Recognizes NGO that Israel Claims has Ties to Hamas**
- **Anti-Defamation League sets Bar for Congress Approval of Deal**
- **Bennett Scolds Lapid for Iran Inquiry Call**

Commentary:

- **New York Times: "A Good Deal for Israel"**
  - By Chuck Freilich
- **Ynet News: "Before we Storm Capitol Hill"**
  - By Efraim Halevy

Ynet News

US Defense Secretary: We will Help Israel Defend Itself

US Defense Secretary Ash Carter was warmly welcomed by his Israeli counterpart Monday on the first Cabinet-level US visit to the Jewish state since the Iran nuclear deal was announced. The Pentagon chief met at Israel's defense headquarters with Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and on today is to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has strongly criticized the Iran deal. In a joint press conference held by the two defense chiefs, Carter said the US would do all it could to help Israel defend itself including continued funding for missile defense, joint training, and advanced equipment like the F-35, which Israel will receive before all other international partners next year.

See also, "U.S., Israel seek common ground on proxies amid divisions over Iran deal" (Washington Post)

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AFP

EU to Pitch New Formula in Bid to Jump-Start Peace

The EU said Monday it will explore setting up a new international format to breathe life back into the stalled peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini, fresh from her role in the Iran nuclear deal, said she was working on an idea for an "international support group." "We have invested a lot as the EU" in trying to revive the moribund Middle East peace process, Mogherini said after a meeting of the bloc's 28 foreign ministers in Brussels. "The idea of an international support group is one that we will explore in coming weeks. We will come back to it once I have discussed it with regional actors," she said.

Ynet News

EU to Israel: Halt Forced Population Transfers

The foreign ministers of the EU on Monday discussed what they perceived to be obstacles to peace, including what they termed "forced transfers", settlements. A list of decisions made at the meeting stated that among other things, the EU "calls on Israeli authorities to halt plans for forced transfer of population and demolition of Palestinian housing and infrastructure in the Susya and Abu Nwar communities." The decision went on to state that the EU "reiterates its strong opposition to Israel's settlement policy and actions taken in this context, such as evictions, forced transfers including of Bedouins, illegal outposts, settler violence and restrictions of movement and access." The statement concluded that "these actions seriously threaten the two-state solution."

See also, "U.S. warns Israel against evicting Palestinians from Susya" (+972 News)

Times of Israel

Iran Dismisses Germany's Call to Recognize Israel

Iran dismissed a German official's appeal that it recognize the State of Israel's right to exist, saying its stance is not going to change following the signing of a nuclear accord. "We have totally different views from Germany on certain regional issues in the Middle East and we have explicitly expressed our viewpoints in different negotiations," Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Marziyeh Afkham said Monday, according to the Fars news agency. She added that "this is not something new."

Ha'aretz

UN Security Council Endorses Iran Nuke Dea

The United Nations Security Council unanimously endorsed on Monday the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers reached last week in Vienna, as well as the lifting of some sanctions. The resolution will take effect in 90 days. Earlier, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent a message to U.S. lawmakers in congress, in attempt to try and convince them to oppose the nuclear deal with Iran. "The United Nations Security Council resolution (endorsing the agreement with Iran) isn't the last word," Netanyahu said during a Likud faction meeting in Jerusalem. "As long as the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Congress are in effect, Iran would have to make concessions."

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Associated Press

UN Recognizes NGO Claimed to have Ties to Hamas

The United Nations approved UN accreditation Monday for the London-based Palestinian Return Center in a defeat for Israel which claims the organization is affiliated with Hamas and "openly promotes terrorism." The center, which describes itself as an independent consultancy dedicated to find a solution for the Palestinian refugees in accordance with international law, has denied the Israeli allegations. Last month, the UN committee that accredits NGOs, recommended that the center's application be approved. But Israel circulated a resolution, co-sponsored by the US, Australia and Canada, to the committee's parent body, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), opposing the application. In Monday's vote, 13 countries supported Israel's resolution, 16 were opposed and 18 abstained, meaning the resolution was defeated and the application was approved.

Jerusalem Post

ADL sets Bar for Congress Approval of Iran Deal

The Anti-Defamation League has joined a growing list of major American Jewish organizations demanding tough questions to be answered by and for Congress, over the strength of the Iran nuclear deal, or else they will insist that the US legislature reject it. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, B'nai B'rith International, the Orthodox Union and AJC have all voiced deep concern or outright opposition to the deal announced last week by Tehran and international powers. “Congress should critically examine how the deal would be implemented, whether it can, in fact, effectively safeguard America and its allies from the threat posed by a nuclear Iran, and consider additional appropriate policies and measures that will decrease the likelihood Iran will become a nuclear weapons state,” said ADL chair Barry Curtiss-Lusher and Abe Foxman, ADL's national director.

Times of Israel

Bennett Scolds Lapid for Iran Inquiry Call

Education Minister Naftali Bennett chastised Yesh Atid party leader Yair Lapid on Monday for his public criticism of the government’s handling of the Iranian issue, as well as his call for an inquiry on the matter. “Every soldier knows that you don’t conduct an investigation during a battle. If you don’t want to help, at least don’t interfere,” he said during a Jewish Home faction meeting, according to the NRG news site. Bennett was reacting to Lapid’s call on Saturday to establish a state commission of inquiry into what he said was Netanyahu’s diplomatic failure regarding the newly signed nuclear deal with Iran. “When you speak in Hebrew and attack us, the world knows how to translate it. I expect our politicians to act responsibly, especially at this time,” Bennett said.

New York Times -July 20, 2015

A Good Deal for Israel

By Chuck Freilich

The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, responded to the Iran deal as expected: It is bad, endangers Israel, he argued; we are against it and will be the only American ally not only to oppose it, but to go down gloriously, fighting a battle in Congress that we are destined to lose.

Mr. Netanyahu often warns that Iran is like Nazi Germany in 1938, fooling naïve appeasers even as it plans a cataclysm for Jews. But only those who never see merit in any proposal and never initiate their own could respond as the Israeli leader has.

Not that the agreement is without faults. President Obama negotiated from a

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position of weakness and conveyed a message that failure to obtain a deal was not an option. He misguidedly took the military option off the table long ago and made it clear that a return to sanctions would be a poor outcome.

Indeed, Iran will be allowed to retain its nuclear infrastructure instead of dismantling it, and most parts of the agreement are limited to 10 to 15 years, instead of being permanent. It remains to be seen what inspections Iran will actually allow, and the dispute resolution mechanism is cumbersome.

The agreement also does not address Iran's destructive regional role, including its support for terrorism. In fact, the added revenue it will receive as a result of the relaxation of sanctions may enable more aggressive action.

So, yes, we could have gotten a better deal. Israel wanted something different (as did the United States), but this is the agreement that was reached — and despite its faults, it is not a bad one. Crucially, it will contribute to Israel's security.

will not face the danger of annihilation. For Israel, that is a major achievement. It will enable Israel to divert precious resources to more immediate threats, like Hezbollah's more than 130,000 rockets, Hamas and the Islamic State, and no less important, to pressing domestic needs.

No agreement is ironclad, but the inspections provisions provide a high degree of confidence that Iran will not be able to renew the nuclear program without its being detected. A regime that has staked so much on this agreement will be reluctant to incur the costs.

It was Israel that decided years ago to give priority to the nuclear issue, as an existential threat, over all other Iranian transgressions, and concluded that if we can just resolve the nuclear threat, that would be good enough. Malign as Iran's other actions are — its regional role, support for terrorism and more — they can be dealt with at a later date; the overriding priority is the nuclear threat.

By portraying the issue in absolute terms, Mr. Netanyahu obfuscated the fact that the agreement is not the end of the story, merely another stage in a decade's long struggle to prevent Iran from going nuclear. Both Israel and the United States wanted a knockout blow; what we got was a punt.

The nuclear issue has not been resolved, but postponed for at least 10 years. When the agreement expires, or in the event of a violation, the international community may have to resume its efforts. Iran has not given up its long-term nuclear aspirations.

The agreement's detractors have been long on invective, short on suggestions. A collapse of the talks would have freed Iran to go forward and left America struggling to maintain a sanctions regime weakened by international disunity. Israel would have remained isolated, left only with the military option. These are hardly desirable outcomes.

Israel may, at some point, still have to go the military route, but it is abundantly clear that no one in Jerusalem has been avid to do so. Had Mr. Netanyahu wanted to launch an attack, he had many chances. But for very good reasons, not the least of which was American opposition, he did not.

An attack probably could not have achieved more than a few years' postponement of Iran's program, whereas the agreement will do so for at least 10 to 15 years. After the deal expires, it's conceivable that Iran will prefer to avoid becoming an international pariah again.

Over decades, Israel has built a unique alliance with the United States. This

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partnership has provided Israel with extensive aid, turned the Israel Defense Forces into one of the world's most advanced militaries and safeguarded Israel's interests in hostile international forums. Without America, the I.D.F. would be an empty shell, and Israel would be isolated and sanctioned.

Part of being a junior ally is knowing when to say, "Enough, we have made our case, time to be a team player." Nothing is more important for Israel's security than the vitality of its relationship with the United States — which Israel will still need in order to deal with Iran in the future.

Chuck Freilich, a former deputy national security adviser in Israel, is a senior fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center.

Ynet News – July 21, 2015

Before we Storm Capitol Hill

As Netanyahu tries to muster a majority in US Congress against deal with Iran, It's important to hold a profound debate in Israel on whether no agreement is preferable to a signed agreement with components that are crucial for Israel's security.

By Efraim Halevy

The importance of the agreement reached in Vienna is not only in the detailed arrangements aimed at blocking Iran's way to a military nuclear weapon in the coming decade, but also – and that's as important – in the fact that the document was also signed by Russia and China.

This is a rare moment in the complicated relationship between the United States and Tehran's two pronounced friends and main weapon providers. Iran isn't the only country which made concessions in the tough negotiations that were held until the very last moment. Moscow and Beijing committed to it too.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to muster the required majority in the US Congress against the agreement. US President Barack Obama has already announced that he plans to veto such a decision, which would cause the agreement to collapse and erase all the concessions made by Iran.

Without an agreement, Iran will be free to do as it pleases, while the sanctions regime will anyway crumble, as many of the world's countries will rush to Tehran to sign profitable contracts. The US will then lose its influence over the situation in the 18 months left until the end of Obama's term, its leadership will be castrated and humiliated, while Israel will only remain with the independent military option. That's what British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond referred to when he said that Netanyahu is not interested in any agreement with Iran, regardless of its content.

Hammond's impression is gaining strength in light of the major changes taking place in the Israeli strategy these days. At first, Israel maintained that the Iranian threat is a unique, existential threat which must be dealt with separately. The entire international community teamed up for this purpose, and that was the only goal of the biting sanctions against Iran. Israel had its work done by others. After all, it wasn't Israeli sanctions which forced Iran to report to the negotiations. Israel wanted others to do what was required, and they did.

The message sheet in the government spokespeople's hands overturns the previous Israeli strategy by cancelling the nuclear issue's uniqueness. The attempt to change the rules of the game and include additional demands from Iran

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in the agreement, like recognizing Israel and halting the support for terror, shows that Netanyahu has no interest in any agreement. Why if the nuclear issue is of existential-cardinal importance, what is the point in annulling an agreement which keeps Iran away from the bomb in order to try and insert clauses regarding terror, which is definitely not an existential threat to Israel? As far as terror is concerned, other economic and financial sanctions have been declared, and they will remain valid.

The declaration that Israel will not be committed to the agreement is unnecessary, and many even see it as ridiculous. Israel was never a side to the negotiations, and it is not committed to their results in any event.

Iran made concessions in a series of critical matters – it loathed the actual detailed discussion of its nuclear plans, and it has been hit with serious restrictions for the next 10 to 15 years. In the Middle East, a decade is eternity. Iran was also forced to agree to an invasive and unique supervision regime like no other in the world. The agreement even allows inspections at sites which supreme leader Ali Khamenei announced that he would not let inspectors into. In addition, the agreement sets a – complex but clear – process giving a forum with a clear Western majority the possibility of restoring the sanctions even without Russia and China's consent. And this is only a partial list of the concessions.

A moment before we storm Capitol Hill, led by the Israeli ambassador to Washington, it's important to hold a profound debate in Israel on whether no agreement is preferable to an agreement which includes components that are crucial for Israel's security. There will be no other agreement and no other negotiations. What is better, a signed agreement or no agreement?

Efraim Halevy is a former Mossad chief.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
Date: 8/16/2015 8:38:44 AM
Subject: Fwd: Today's Post story on HRC

Know her?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <catherinehand5@aol.com >
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015
Subject: Today's Post story on HRC
To: jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com , john.podesta@gmail.com
Cc: lorraine@xeolux.com

Dear Jake and John:

I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.

Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.

Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.

I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.

Lorraine-

Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.

Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, "politics as usual' is immediately heard as "politics as usual in Clinton-world."

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

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Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words ‘politics as usual’ it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. “

Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women’s movement in the United States as women’s organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

“ *I Want to Hold Your Hand*” and “ *I Saw Her Standing There”* were released in the U.S., marking the beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson’s War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon’s ‘silent majority,’ -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women’s rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill

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Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

“The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which “brings us together in a peaceful loving state.”

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking’s insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/21/2015 12:20:59 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Trump vs. Kasich split screen

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Morning intelligence for leaders

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(Reuters/Dominick Reuter)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

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THE BIG IDEA:

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Donald Trump's South Carolina kickoff, postponed because of the church shooting here last month, and John Kasich's presidential campaign announcement at The Ohio State University both start at 11 a.m. this morning. Cable news will undoubtedly cover the New York businessman, under fire for his comment that John McCain is not a war hero, more than the sitting governor of Ohio, who could much more conceivably be the next president (or vice president). The split-screen contrast will show both sides of the now 16 candidate GOP field and reflect the extent to which Trump, who has taken leads in national and state polling, has drowned out almost everyone else. Neither Trump nor Kasich will speak from a teleprompter. That's about where the similarities end.

The jury is out on just how damaging Trump's POW gaffe will be. The Washington Post and ABC were in the field with a poll when Trump made his comments in Iowa Saturday; even after seeing his support drop dramatically on the final night of the survey, Trump came out at the top of the pack. He leads nationally with the support of 24 percent of registered Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. Scott Walker was in second place with 13 percent, just ahead of Jeb Bush at 12 percent.

Who is supporting Trump? "He does far better among those who are not college graduates than among those who are," Dan Balz and Peyton M. Craighill explain. "His support among men and women is about the same, and he performs somewhat better among GOP moderates than among those who say they are 'very conservative.' … There is clear resistance to his candidacy within the party. A majority (54 percent) say his views do not reflect the core values of the Republican Party … If Trump were to receive the GOP nomination, 62 percent of Americans say they definitely would not consider voting for him."

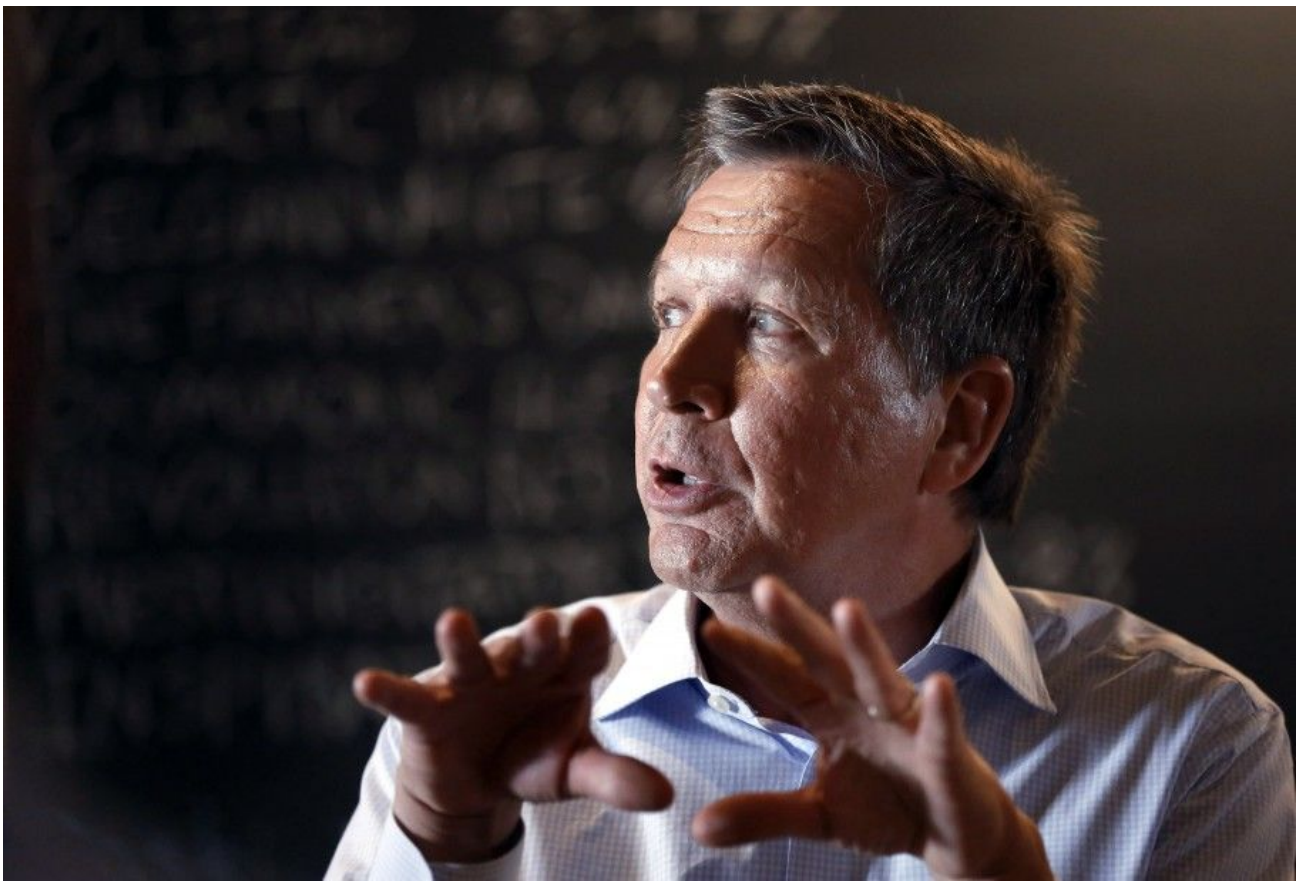
Trump as spoiler? The number in our poll that gives the GOP establishment heartburn: If he were to leave the GOP race and run for president as an independent, something he has not ruled out, our survey shows that Trump would currently get 20 percent in a three-way contest. Hillary Clinton would win with 46 percent, to 30 percent for Jeb Bush.

The latest—Interviewed by Bill O'Reilly on Fox News last night, Trump appeared to soften his tone about McCain. "Certainly if there was a misunderstanding, I would totally take that back," he said. But then he insisted that McCain has not done a good job fighting for vets, something that veterans groups readily disagree with. O'Reilly admonished Trump: "McCain shouldn't be the whipping boy … I don't think McCain's the villain here." McCain, for his part, was more measured earlier in the day on MSNBC: "I think he may owe an apology to the families and those that have sacrificed in conflict and those who have undergone the prison experience in serving their country. Watch O'Reilly's interview with Trump here.

Pile on—The Des Moines Register editorial board calls on Trump to drop out of the race in today's paper: "By using his considerable wealth, his celebrity status, and his mouth to draw attention to himself, rather than to raise awareness of the issues facing

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America, he has coarsened our political dialogue and cheapened the electoral process. He has become 'the distraction with traction' — a feckless blowhard who can generate headlines, name recognition and polling numbers not by provoking thought, but by provoking outrage … The best way Donald Trump can serve his country is by apologizing to McCain and terminating this ill-conceived campaign."



John Kasich in Nashua, N.H. this spring (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

— Why John Kasich deserves to be taken seriously. His pitch boils down to the belief that he is the most qualified person to be president. In addition to his time as a chief executive, he served 18 years in the House, including as chair of the Budget Committee the last time the federal government balanced the budget. He also had a tour on the Armed Services Committee. Of the four sitting governors running for president, he is the only one who remains popular back home.

Kasich's theory of the case : "At this point, there are two races underway," Balz explains in his curtain-raiser. "One is a contest among some of the most conservative candidates for supremacy in Iowa. The other is a largely separate contest among those candidates seen as less conservative and more acceptable to the party establishment who doubt they can win in Iowa and will need to finish strongly in New Hampshire to stay alive. It is the New Hampshire contest that is most attractive to Kasich, according to his advisers. He has spent the past two years separating himself from some of the harder edges of the conservative movement. He has said often that he wants to define what it means to be a Republican."

Bracketing—

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- From the right: The Club for Growth and other conservative groups plan to attack Kasich for expanding Medicaid today. President David McIntosh will warn of "the long-lasting consequences from his decision to burden Ohio with an ever-growing price tag for Medicaid expansion."
- From the left: Kasich worked at Lehman Brothers until the bank's collapse in the financial crisis. The Democratic National Committee will seize on the fact that today is the fifth anniversary of Dodd-Frank to tie him with Wall Street. Kasich says the law "went overboard."
- Trolling Trump: Retired Air Force Col. Tom Moe, a Vietnam veteran who spent five years in the Hanoi Hilton as a POW, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance before Kasich speaks.

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— SCOOP from Jenna Johnson: Two groups supporting Scott Walker raised more than $26 million before the end of June. "The haul puts the Wisconsin governor in fourth place in the GOP's money race, behind Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio … The Unintimidated PAC, which was started in April by two of Walker's closest political advisers, has collected just over $20 million … Our American Revival, a nonprofit advocacy group Walker started in January that does not have to disclose its donors, raised $6.2 million … He also raised $5.9 million for Friends of Scott Walker, a state level account that can't be used for his White House run but shows his fundraising strength. … Aides have said they hope to have at least $40 million on hand by early next year. Nearly 300 people donated to the super PAC and 2,500 donated to the nonprofit political organization. Among the key non-Wisconsin donors to Walker's super PAC: Joe Ricketts, the billionaire founder of TD Ameritrade; supermarket magnate John Catsimatidis; and media mogul John Malone.

— The FBI recovered a pistol that may have been owned and used by one of the Marines killed by Chattanooga shooter Mohammad Youssef Abdulazeez, the Washington Post reported. Investigators want to know if the 9MM Glock was used in the fatal exchange and possibly wounded Abdulazeez. The incident has "prompted calls to arm military personnel at bases and other facilities, including recruiting center" where currently only military police can carry them.

GET SMART FAST:

1. Planned Parenthood told Congress yesterday that its critics have "unlawfully infiltrated its clinics for years and most likely possessed thousands of hours of surreptitious video

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recordings that they could deceptively edit and spread for months to come," the New York Times reports.

2. "A manager at a Veterans Affairs medical center in Georgia is on leave with pay following his indictment on 50 counts of ordering his staff to falsify medical records of veterans waiting for outside medical care," Lisa Rein reports, in what appears to be the first round of criminal charges stemming from the wait-times scandal.
3. Sixty-six percent of Americans would support 10-year term limits for Supreme Court justices in the wake of sweeping health care and same-sex marriage rulings in June, according to a new Reuters/Ipsos poll .
4. California proposed a record $1.5 million fine on a group of Central Valley farmers for stealing water during the drought.
5. SpaceX Founder Elon Musk blamed the June 28 disintegration of his company's rocket, grounding the fleet, on a subcontractor's steel rut.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) announced that he's cancer free following prostate surgery last week.
2. Ex-Florida Gov. Charlie Crist declared that he intends to run for the House, if (as expected) a new, court-ordered congressional map puts his home into a district he can win.
3. John Kerry will travel to Havana on August 14 to open the American embassy in Cuba.
4. Scott Walker signed the 20-week abortion ban into law, with exceptions only for the life of the mother.
5. Rand Paul huddled with Art Laffer and Steve Moore yesterday ahead of a new push to promote his tax plan. On Fox News at 9:40 a.m., the Kentuckian will debut a video that shows him literally taking a chain saw to the U.S. tax code. The campaign sent Dave Weigel this picture as a preview:

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WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

—"Menendez lawyers accuse Justice Department of misconduct," by Carol D. Leonnig: "Lawyers for Sen. Robert Menendez accused federal prosecutors and FBI agents Monday of lying to win a corruption indictment against him this spring, saying the Justice Department would 'stop at nothing' to try to convict the powerful lawmaker…According to the defense documents, the lead prosecutor allowed an FBI agent to falsely testify to the grand jury that HHS officials were 'perfectly clear' that Menendez had been seeking favorable treatment for his friend. In contrast, defense lawyers argued, internal FBI memos showed the officials saying that they couldn't recall Menendez mentioning Melgen, and one said she wasn't sure what Menendez specifically wanted."

–"AIPAC Spent Record $1.7 million as it lobbied Congress to review Iran deal," by Catherine Ho: "The $1.67 million that AIPAC spent so far this year is more than the group has ever spent on direct lobbying during a six-month period — at least in the last 16 years, according to lobbying records in the Senate Office of Public Records database, which date back to 1999… It is funneling resources to support Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran, a new 501(c)4 group that is expected to spend around $20 million on advertising and campaigns in up to 40 states to get opponents of the Iran deal to pressure their representatives in Congress."

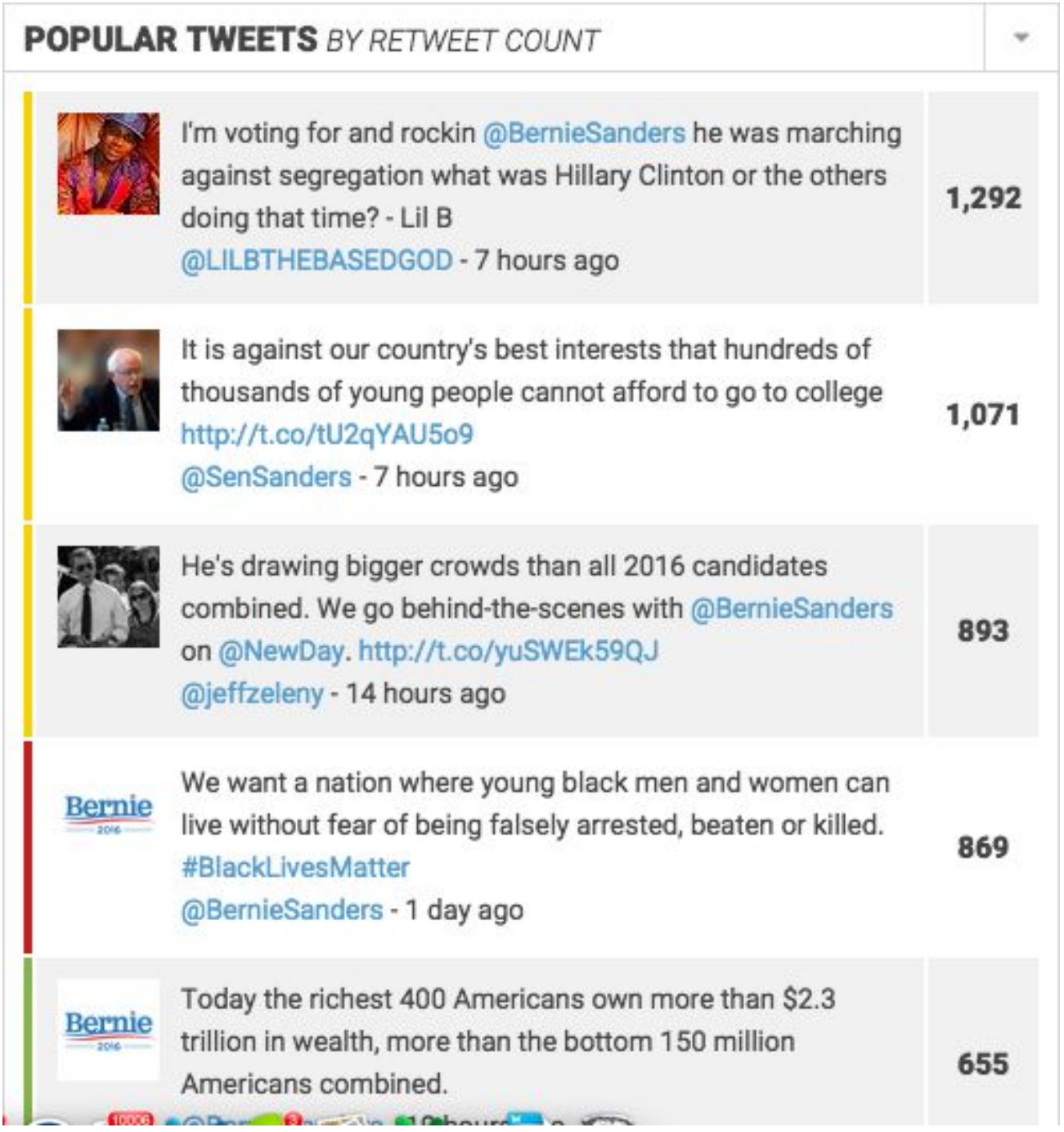
—"Jeb Bush wants to revamp Washington. Some in Washington aren't fans of revamp," by Ed O'Keefe: Bush "on Monday embraced a series of fix-it plans that congressional Republicans and watchdog groups have tried failed to enact for decades. Democrats noted that many of Bush's wealthy supporters would be directly affected by the changes…He endorsed a federal worker attrition plan Republicans have unsuccessfully pursued for years that would replace every three departing federal workers with just one new hire. He backed a GOP plan to partially restore the line-item veto…Most boldly, Bush

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proposed a six-year 'cooling off' period for former lawmakers who want to be lobbyists — an aggressive expansion of current law."

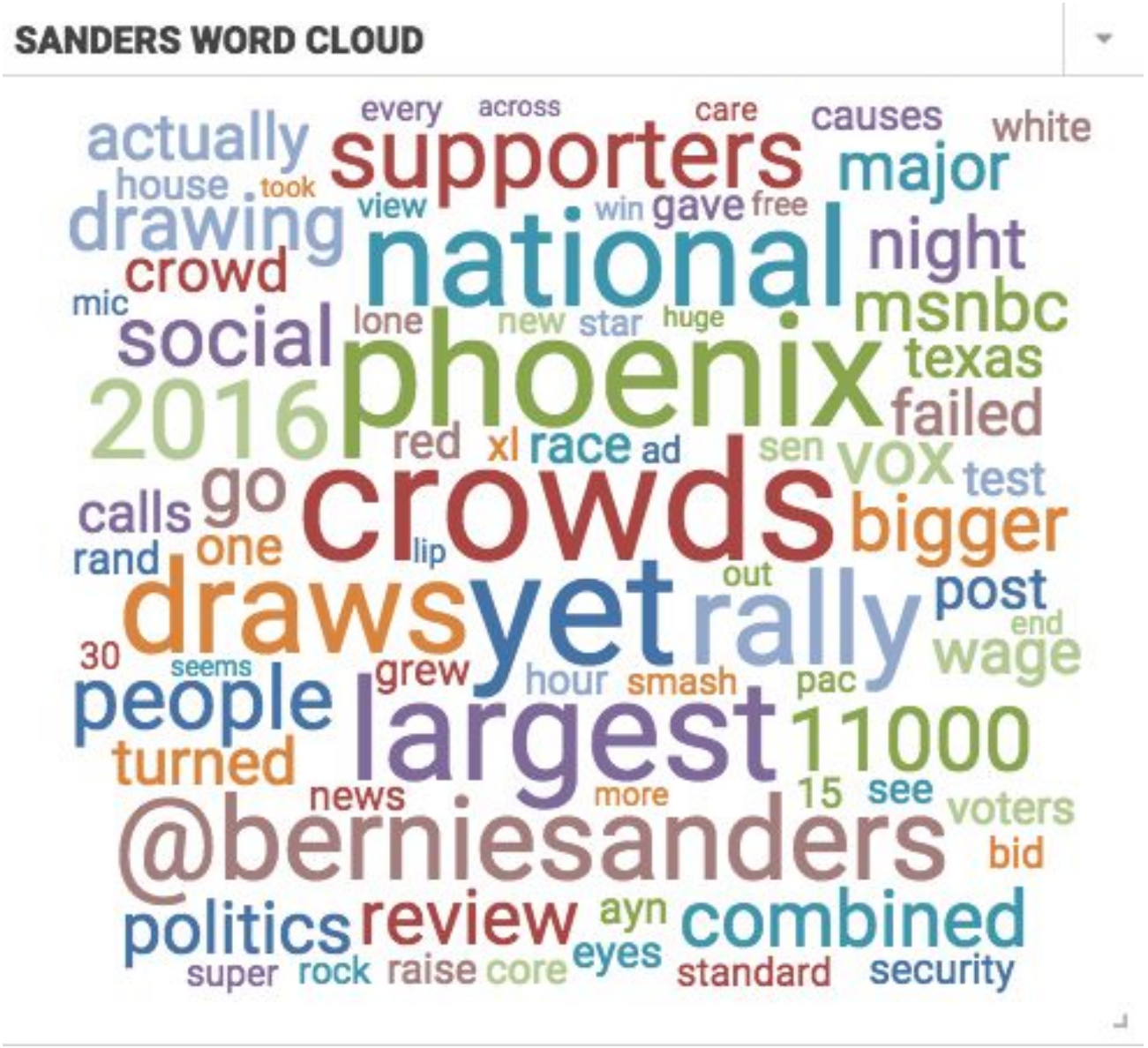
SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Interest in Bernie Sanders continues to grow. The Vermont senator was mentioned more than any other presidential contender on Monday, dominating 20 percent of the overall conversation about 2016. These top Sanders-related tweets summarize the Sanders media alchemy pretty well: some talk of college debt retirement; an income inequality riff; a smidgen of #blacklivesmatter; links to a glowing New York Times feature and an endorsement from the rapper "Lil B":



Any campaign would want Sanders' word cloud, which reflects the big crowds he draws and the sense of momentum that exists among his supporters:

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–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Pictures of the day:

John Kasich unveiled his presidential campaign logo:



(@JohnKasich)

Tweets of the day:

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First Lady Michelle Obama exchanged tweets with Funny or Die's Billy Eichner and Big Bird after a sketch with the two was nominated for an Emmy:

> .@FLOTUS Hi @FLOTUS ! So excited #BillyontheStreet was nominated for an Emmy 4 our segment about #LetsMove with u & @BigBird !!
>
> — billy eichner (@billyeichner) July 20, 2015

> Congrats @BillyEichner on the Emmy nomination and thanks for supporting #LetsMove ! http://t.co/YuTbrYlTx1 — The First Lady (@FLOTUS) July 20, 2015

> That's great @FLOTUS @billyeichner ! But who's Emmy?
>
> — Big Bird (@BigBird) July 20, 2015

> After dancing with @BigBird , an Emmy nomination is just the icing on top. Remember to eat your carrots, @BillyEichner ! — The First Lady (@FLOTUS) July 20, 2015

The Post's Emily Heil documented the first mojitos at the newly reopened Cuban embassy in Washington:

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(@emilyaheil)

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) joked that Sen. Charles Schumer's (D-N.Y.) cousin, comedian Amy Schumer, has "eclipsed" him in fame. "But," Rangel wrote, "I know he doesn't mind sharing a good laugh!" (The grapes are a reference to the Rangel Resolution, a 30-day commitment to three rules of healthy eating):

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(@cbrangel)

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) thanked “Gossip Girl” actress Kelly Rutherford for testifying last week on a law to return abducted American children:

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(@JacksonLeeTX18)

Instagrams of the day:

Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) squeezed in a game of basketball before heading back to D.C.:

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(senatortimscott)

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) posted a photo from the Chickasawhay River:

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(senatorwicker)

Jill Biden shared a snapshot from an orphanage she just visited in Vietnam:

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(drbiden)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— Wall Street Journal, "Democratic Party Machine Shows Rust ," by Colleen McCain Nelson and Peter Nicholas: "A tepid economy and President Barack Obama's sinking approval ratings contributed to some of the Democratic losses last fall. The setbacks also revealed a withering of the campaign machinery built by Mr. Obama's team more than seven years ago. While Democrats held the White House, Republicans have strengthened their hand in statehouses across the U.S…After two presidential victories, Mr. Obama presides over a Democratic Party that has lost 13 seats in the U.S. Senate and 69 in the House during his tenure, a net loss unmatched by any modern U.S. president. Democrats have also lost 11 governorships, four state attorneys general, 910 legislative seats, as well as the majorities in 30 state legislative chambers. In 23 states, Republicans control the governor's office and the legislature; Democrats, only seven."

— Miami Herald, "Lawmakers set special session on Congressional map ," by

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Mary Ellen Klas: "Florida legislators announced Monday they will convene a 12-day special session starting August 10 to comply with a court order to revise the state's congressional districts and will take some extraordinary measures to make sure staffers draw an initial base map without consulting anyone but lawyers…House Speaker Steve Crisafulli and Senate President Andy Gardiner have ordered legislators to compile all documents and communications related to drawing the new congressional districts, forward them daily to a specially-created email account, and prohibited those who are drafting the new map from talking about it."

—Bloomberg View, "Homeland Security Leaders Bent Rules on Private E-mail," by Josh Rogin: "Jeh Johnson, the secretary of homeland security, and 28 of his senior staffers have been using private Web-based e-mail from their work computers for over a year, a practice criticized by cybersecurity experts and advocates of government transparency…The department banned such private e-mail on DHS computers in April 2014. Top DHS officials were granted informal waivers, according to a top DHS official who said that he saw the practice as a national security risk…Future exceptions are to be granted only by the chief of staff."

— Vanity Fair, "Rachel Dolezal's True Lies ," by Alison Samuels: "Her life bears little resemblance to the one she and her 13-year-old son, Franklin, were living just six weeks ago. 'I've got to figure it out before August 1, because my last paycheck was like $1,800 in June,' she says. '[I lost] friends and the jobs and the work and—oh, my God—so much at the same time.' And yet, Dolezal's claim on black womanhood still seems to be non-negotiable. Even in conversation with an actual black woman on the other end of the line or sitting in her cozy home, Dolezal unequivocally identifies as black."



undefined

BUZZING AT THE CAPITOL:

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—House Financial Services Committee Chair Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas) will celebrate what he calls the "Unhappy Fifth Birthday" of Dodd-Frank with a 2:30 p.m. speech at the conservative think tank AEI. An excerpt: "The Dodd-Frank architecture, first of all, has made us less financially stable. Since the passage of Dodd-Frank, the big banks are bigger and the small banks are fewer. But because Washington can control a handful of big established firms much easier than many small and zealous competitors, this is likely an intended consequence of the Act. Dodd-Frank concentrates greater assets in fewer institutions. It codifies into law 'Too Big to Fail' and taxpayer-funded bailouts."

— Politico, "Immigration advocates warn against 'sanctuary city' crackdown ," by Seung Min Kim: "A coalition of immigration advocacy and civil rights groups is urging lawmakers not to push forward with bills to crack down on so-called 'sanctuary cities' — an issue that's been catapulted into the 2016 campaign spotlight after an undocumented immigrant allegedly fatally shot a woman in California earlier this month … The Senate Judiciary Committee…will hold a hearing Tuesday that will bring extra congressional scrutiny to the issue, and the committee announced Monday that [the woman's] father, Jim, will testify."

–Politico, "Ethics panel weighs full probe of Democrat Mike Honda ," by Lauren French: "The House Committee on Ethics is considering whether to launch a full-scale investigation into allegations that California Rep. Mike Honda allowed improper coordination between his congressional and campaign offices…The probe stems from a story published by San Jose Inside that included emails between campaign and congressional staffers discussing fundraising efforts tied to what was being billed as an official event, seemingly in violation of congressional ethics rule."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Photo shows a black police officer helping an ailing neo-Nazi. From Talking Points Memo: "A remarkable photo of a black police officer helping a white neo-Nazi out of the scorching South Carolina sun went viral over the weekend. The image was taken Saturday on the steps of the South Carolina statehouse, where white supremacists clashed with demonstrators from the Florida-

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Six states arm National Guard members in wake of Chattanooga shooting. From Fox News : "While safety concerns at military recruitment centers have been a long-standing issue, last week's fatal shootings at two Tennessee installations underscore the deep risk recruiters face daily … The U.S. military on Monday confirmed to Fox News it directed recruiting centers across

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based Black Educators for Justice. The groups' twin rallies, which drew some 2,000 attendees collectively, spoke to the raw racial tensions recently reignited by the South Carolina legislature's decision to remove a Confederate flag from the statehouse grounds."

the country to step up security measures in the wake of the deadly rampage that claimed the lives of four U.S. Marines and a Navy sailor. At the same time, a handful of governors have taken steps to beef up security measures at National Guard recruitment centers."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: John Kasich will launch his bid for president at Ohio State University in Columbus, then attend a town hall meeting in Nashua, N.H.. Chris Chrstie will attend a meet-and-greet in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Jeb Bush will participate in a forum in Spartanburg, S.C. Marco Rubio will hold meet-and-greets in Hooksett and Portsmouth, N.H. Bobby Jindal will hold town halls in Davenport and Ames, Iowa. Donald Trump will hold a campaign rally in Bluffton, S.C.

–On the Hill: The House will meet at 12 p.m. and vote on several bills under suspension of the rules at 6:30 p.m. The Senate will convene at 10 a.m. and proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R.22, the vehicle for the highway bills at 2:15 p.m.

–At the White House: President Obama will travel to Pittsburgh, Pa. to address the 116th Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention. He will also tape an appearance on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart and attend a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee event in New York City. Vice President Biden will travel to Denver, Co., to deliver a speech on economic policy.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I have the good fortune of knowing both John McCain and Donald Trump well," Sarah Palin told CNN in an e-mail. "Both men have more in common than the today's media hype would have you believe. Both blazed trails in their careers and love our great nation."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— There will be heat today, but it's gone tomorrow with a nicer rest of the week ahead. "Another muggy, warm morning greets us with temps rising through the 80s fairly quick," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "We could also see some scattered light

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showers in the morning before partly sunny midday conditions as temperatures head for afternoon highs in the low to middle 90s. Showers and thunderstorms become more numerous in the mid to late afternoon going into the evening hours."

— The Nationals crushed the Mets, their division rivals, 7-2 last night in one of the team's strongest performances of the season.

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Republicans are jumping on an interview from Martin O'Malley in which he argued that climate change produced poor economic conditions that led to the rise of ISIS:



(America Rising ICYMI)

British comedian Simon Brodkin interrupted a FIFA press conference on Monday to throw fake dollar bills at FIFA President Sepp Blatter, who is departing the group amid a massive corruption scandal:

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(BBC News)

Bonus : Rapper Pitbull declared on Univision that Donald Trump cannot be president. “Trump, watch out for El Chapo!” he yelled in Spanish.

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The Washington Post

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/21/2015 3:25:31 AM
Subject: Draft Qs for Moniz

Hi John-

Kristina, Pete and I put our heads together yesterday and came up with some draft Qs for your NCES Moniz interview. Please let me know if you have any edits or would like to see a question about any other topic.

When we get to a good place with these I can have the NV team print them out to drop off with your HFA briefing materials on Sunday.

Thanks!
Milia

Draft Qs for Moniz:

How can the DOE labs deliver on their core research mission while also driving broader market and commercial innovation? What can and should the US be doing to maximize the return on the investment in the national labs?

Background: In FY 2015 our federal funding for clean energy programs was about 6.6 billion dollars government and a large portion of that money goes through DOE's national labs. The president has requested a 15% increase in FY 2016 to 7.6 billion dollars. Could also ask Moniz how much money he thinks we should be spending on funding clean energy programs?

Six years in to ARPA-E, what are some of the success stories that you would highlight? What role will we see it playing in energy innovation going forward?

You've demonstrated leadership with other major economies through the clean energy ministerial and and through your work with China and with India. How do these countries see their energy futures?

DOE has been working to try to advance CCS technology. What do you see as its potential and what opportunities are available to for the US to move this technology towards commercialization?

As we see an increasing prevalence of extreme storms, wildfires, water shortages and other natural threats, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing our energy infrastructure and what will the US have to do to adapt?

It has become increasingly clear that our energy infrastructure is also vulnerable to cyber attacks. How can we protect our national grid from these new threats?

Given the increase in renewables that will be driven by CPP what are the opportunities and challenges we face in trying to reshape America's energy infrastructure? How will utilities have to change their business models to accommodate the growth in distributed renewable power?

Nuclear energy provides zero carbon base load power, but in an era of cheap natural gas it's harder for nuclear plants and new nuclear contraction to be cost competitive. What is your view of the future of US nuclear industry? What is DOE doing in terms of research and loan guarantees to support the development of nuclear power?

DOE has made a lot of investments in energy efficiency technologies. What are the most exciting technologies you've seen come on the market in the past few years?

You and the President just achieved an historic accord with Iran. What was it like to negotiate with your Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Salehi?

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/5/2008 1:32:00 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/5

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 5th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10:30am BUSH: Remarks at ceremonial groundbreaking of the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.

11am McCain: Finance Luncheon in Orlando, FL

1:15pm BUSH: Meets with prime minister of the Netherlands in the Oval Office at The White House

1:45pm McCain: Speech in Lake Buena Vista, Florida
- Tracking scheduled for this event
TBA McCain: Media Availability in Fort Lauderdale, FL

5:30pm McCain: Finance Reception in Fort Lauderdale, FL

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

With Opponent in Place, McCain Adapts Strategy (NYT 6/5/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER
Now that there is a presumptive Democratic nominee, the presumptive Republican nominee, Senator John McCain, began to show some inklings on Wednesday of what his complicated general election strategy might look like.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/05/us/politics/05mccain.html?ref=politics

Obama vs. McCain, by the map (LA Times 6/5/08)
By Michael Finnegan
The Democrat polls about even with his GOP rival nationally, but both must focus their efforts on the states that went with Bush in 2004.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-map5-2008jun05,0,5018624.story

McCain Proposes 10 Joint Forums (Washington Post 6/5/08)
By Michael D. Shear; A06
Republican Sen. John McCain challenged his Democratic rival, Sen. Barack Obama, on Wednesday to a series of 10 joint town hall meetings, starting next week in New York, saying voters deserve "a new tenor" in presidential campaigns.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/04/AR2008060403685.html
See also: http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/19530299.html

McCain wants town-hall debates with Obama (The Times-Picayune, 6/4/08)
by Jan Moller
Sen. John McCain, making a plea for civility as the general-election campaign for president gets under way, on Wednesday proposed a series of 10 town hall meetings with Illinois Sen. Barack Obama prior to the Democratic National Convention in August.
http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/06/mccain_wants_townhall_debates.html

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Plouffe and Davis talk (Politico blog 6/4/08)
By Jonathan Martin
McCain's camp issues a statement announcing that Messrs Davis and Plouffe have chatted and even say an agreement on the proposed joint town halls has been reached "in spirit."
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0608/Plouffe_and_Davis_talk.html

Analysis: Obama, McCain set up hot campaign issue (AP 6/5/08)
Barry Schweid
The hot dispute between John McCain and Barack Obama about the wisdom of talking to Iran appears likely to retain its heat through the presidential campaign and enliven it.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/news/ap/politics/2008/Jun/05/analysis__obama__mccain_set_up_hot_campaign_issue.html

Flashback: McCain Opposed Divestment From South Africa (ThinkProgress 6/4/08)
During his speech before the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) touted the success of America's divestment campaign from South Africa's racist apartheid regime and proposed a similar policy towards Iran
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/04/mccain-divestment/

McCain still at odds with some colleagues (Politico 6/5/08)
By: John Bresnahan
Hill Republicans are still sorting out how to run with a nominee with views different from their own.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/10864.html

GOP fears Obama's money machine (Politico 6/5/08)
By: Jeanne Cummings
Now it's the McCain campaign's turn to try to match Barack Obama's fundraising might.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/10868.html

Obama has cash advantage over McCain (LA Times 6/5/08)
By Janet Hook and Dan Morain
A powerhouse fundraiser, the presumptive Democratic nominee has raised three times more money than his Republican rival and is expected to eschew federal matching funds -- and their limitations.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-money5-2008jun05,0,6063842.story

Jindal Excites GOP As a Possible Running Mate (WSJ 6/5/08)
By COREY DADE and ELIZABETH HOLMES
Louisiana Governor Of Indian Descent Has Youth and Zeal... Before Sen. John McCain could begin speaking at a town-hall meeting here Wednesday, he first had to quiet a crowd gone wild for Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal -- a politician who not long ago would have been inconceivable in Louisiana.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121263051303347203.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Jindal works the McCain campaign trail (The Baton Rouge Advocate 6/4/08)
Gov. Bobby Jindal's prominent role in Republican presidential contender John McCain's two-day visit to Louisiana is continuing speculation the governor is on the running mate short list.
http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/19539294.html

McCain's Katrina claim gets rapidly fact-checked (Politico blog 6/4/08)
By Jonathan Martin
At a press conference today in Louisiana, McCain was asked why he had voted against launching a commission to investigate the government response to Katrina.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0608/McCains_Katrina_claim_gets_rapidly_factchecked.html

McCain's Day Marked By False Statements And Gaffes (Huffington Post 6/4/08)
By Sam Stein
... Appearing at a press conference in Louisiana on Wednesday, McCain claimed that he had supported "every investigation" into the flawed response to Hurricane Katrina, when, in fact, he had twice voted against creating a commission to inspect the tragedy. ... That trip-up, however, was mild in compared to the gaffe that happened earlier in the day, when McCain acknowledged he was not aware that Obama had introduced a bill that called

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for international divestment from Iran.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/04/mccains-day-marked-by-fal_n_105283.html

McCain Falsely Claims He Has 'Supported Every Investigation' Into Katrina Failures (ThinkProgress 6/4/08)
Today, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) held one of his town hall meetings in Baton Rouge, LA. During this event, a reporter from the CBS station in New Orleans pressed the senator on his sordid Katrina record, asking him why he "voted twice against the creation of a commission to investigate the levee failures in New Orleans."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/04/mccain-katrina/

Sizing Up A McCain-Obama Battle (CBS 6/4/08)
CBSNews.com Reports: What To Expect In General Election Matchup Between Two Candidates Who Are Both Historic And Flawed
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/03/politics/main4150114.shtml

Rivals Obama and McCain work together behind scenes (The Hill 6/4/08)
by Susan Crabtree
Sens. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) are quietly working together on a good-government bill despite their campaign-trail battle over who is tougher against Washingtons special interests. McCains Senate office contacted Obamas office Monday night asking to sign on to a bill opening federal government contracts to public scrutiny, according to three knowledgeable sources.
http://mobile.thehill.com/leading-the-news/rivals-obama-and-mccain-work-together-behind-scenes-2008-06-04.html

McCain Launches Spanish Radio Ads in NM and Nevada (Washington Post blog 6/4/08)
By Ed O'Keefe
As Barack Obama moved to consolidate the support of his party, John McCain today launched the first radio ad of the general election campaign. "Economy," a 60-second, Spanish-language spot, will air in New Mexico and Nevada and deliver a hopeful message about McCain's economic proposals as he seeks to appeal across party lines.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/04/mccain_launches_spanish_radio.html

Matthews: No one in the media has 'laid a glove' on McCain in '10 years.' (ThinkProgress 6/4/08)
During MSNBC's coverage of the South Dakota and Montana primaries last night, host Chris Matthews noted how Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) criticized the media's coverage of Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) in his speech last night, saying that "Pundits and party elders have declared that Senator Obama will be my opponent." "What is his beef with the media, I'd like to know that" said Matthews, adding "I mean, after ten years of covering this guy, I have yet to see anybody lay a glove on him."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/04/matthews-no-one-in-the-media-has-laid-a-glove-on-mccain-in-10-years/

Barr's presidential bid makes solid GOP states competitive (THE WASHINGTON TIMES 6/5/08)
By Stephen Dinan
Bob Barr's Libertarian presidential campaign is poised to play a serious role in this year's election, with early polls showing him taking enough votes from Sen. John McCain to give Democrats a chance to win states that should be safely Republican.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jun/05/barrs-presidential-bid-makes-solid-gop-states-comp/

Hamas Un-'Endorses' Obama (ABC blog 6/4/08)
Sen. Barack Obama's speech to AIPAC has convinced Hamas that he and Sen. John McCain are interchangeable. If the group had its druthers, neither one would win.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/06/hamas-aun-endors.html

McCain Pressed On Past Marital Infidelities During Town Hall (VIDEO) (Huffington Post 6/4/08)
By Sam Stein
During a town hall meeting on Monday, Sen. John McCain was asked, very subtlety, to address how his own marital infidelities - a taboo subject of sorts on the campaign trail - comport with his pledge to protecting the sanctity of marriage by opposing such unions among same-sex couples.

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http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/04/mccain-pressed-on-past-ma_n_105189.html

McCain Rips Off Obama's Slogan And Logo (Huffington Post 6/4/08)
By Sam Stein
Is John McCain trying to be the older, whiter, more conservative Barack Obama? On Tuesday, the Senator co-opted the slogan that has come to personify Obama's candidacy, taking the Illinois Democrat's "Change You Can Believe In" and altering it into "A Leader You Can Believe In."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/04/mccain-rips-off-obamas-sl_n_105266.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

A Town-Hall Summer (NYT 6/5/08)
By GAIL COLLINS
John McCain wants to recreate the old Mickey Rooney-Judy Garland movies about a couple of kids putting on a show in the barn. Him and Barack, barnstorming around the country. They could fly together on the same plane!
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/05/opinion/05collins.html

A game of political hardball, Clinton-style (Boston Globe 6/5/08)
By Joan Vennochi
HILLARY'S WOMEN have a choice to make. Do they stick with their party and the candidate who reminds them of every man who got the raise and promotion before they did? Or, do they switch to the Republican nominee who reminds them of the dad with whom they disagree, but respect?
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/06/05/a_game_of_political_hardball_clinton_style/

McCain, Obama offer contrasts, appealing choice (USA Today 6/5/08)
With Democrats having brought to an end their grueling primary battle, it won't be long before the presumptive presidential nominees John McCain and Barack Obama go into full combat mode. Nor will it be long before independent groups of the far right and far left start up their attack machines, damaging both.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/06/mccain-obama-of.html#more

Obama and McCain and Iran (RealClearPolitics 6/5/08)
By Thomas Sowell
Now that the two parties have finally selected their presidential candidates, it is time for a sober-- if not grim-- assessment of where we are.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/06/obama_and_mccain.html

Media Blindly Pick Up McCain's Talking Point That Town Hall Meetings Are His 'Strength,' 'He's At His Best' (ThinkProgress 6/4/08)
Today, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) sent a letter to invite Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) to join him "in participating in town hall meetings across the country to discuss the most important issues facing Americans." Later today, McCain told reporters that he "prefer[s]" town hall style discussions, saying he "would never have been able to win in New Hampshire if we hadn't have conducted 102 town hall meetings."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/04/mccain-town-hall/

Lincoln's Rule: Organization Matters (WSJ 6/5/08)
By KARL ROVE
Politics has become hi-tech with sophisticated databases, the Internet, TV ads, focus groups and polls.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121262224698246807.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

Obama the naive (LA Times 6/5/08)
By John R. Bolton
His views on world affairs ignore history and imperil the U.S. and our allies.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-bolton5-2008jun05,0,5282011.story

Why Obama Must Go to Iraq (WSJ 6/5/08)
By PETE HEGSETH

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Earlier this year, I spent five days in Iraq, walking the same streets in Baghdad where I had served two years earlier as an infantry platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121262094242346677.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

War Factor (NYT blog 6/4/08)
By Chris Suellentrop
If Hillary had voted against the use of military force in Iraq, would Barack Obama be the presumptive Democratic nominee?
http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/04/war-factor/index.html?ref=opinion

BUSH NEWS

Bush Talks With Israeli Author Before Meeting With Olmert (Washington Post 6/5/08)
By Michael Abramowitz; A17
Before conferring with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel yesterday, President Bush held an unannounced meeting this week with onetime Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky, another prominent Israeli with whom the president has forged a friendly and intriguing relationship.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/04/AR2008060402820.html

Bush seeks to reassure Israelis on Iranian threat (AP 6/4/08)
President Bush tried Wednesday to reassure Israelis worried about the U.S. commitment to keeping Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. "Iran is an existential threat to peace," Bush told Israel's beleaguered prime minister, Ehud Olmert, at the outset of talks in the Oval Office. "It's very important for the world to take the Iranian threat quite seriously, which the United States does."
http://news.aol.com/story/_a/bush-seeks-to-reassure-israelis-on/n20080604153509990063

Bush Attends Groundbreaking For $100M Earmark (AP 6/4/08)
ANDREW TAYLOR
President Bush is on a crusade against lawmakers' pet projects, but on Thursday he plans to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for a $100 million whopper that was slipped into a spending bill almost four years ago.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/04/bush-attends-groundbreaki_n_105330.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Clinton Ready to End Bid and Endorse Obama (NYT 6/5/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY and JEFF ZELENY
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton will endorse Senator Barack Obama on Saturday, bringing a close to her 17-month campaign for the White House, aides said. Her decision came after Democrats urged her Wednesday to leave the race and allow the party to coalesce around Mr. Obama.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/05/us/politics/05dems.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

Rezko found guilty on 16 charges, acquitted on 8 (Chicago Sun-Times 6/4/08)
BY NATASHA KORECKI Federal Courts Reproter
Tony Rezko — the high-flying developer and fast-food magnate who was once a major campaign fund-raiser for Gov. Blagojevich and Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama and one of the governor's closest advisers — is now a convicted felon.
http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/rezko/984453,rezkoverdict060408.article

Senate Approves Stand-Pat Democratic Budget Plan (AP 6/4/08)
By Andrew Taylor
The Senate Wednesday approved a $3.1 trillion election-year Democratic budget blueprint that leaves to the next president the task of sorting out a host of fiscal problems.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/04/AR2008060401471.html

Gay couples cheer California high court ruling (AP 6/5/08)
By LISA LEFF
Gay and lesbian couples around California are planning their nuptials following a refusal by the state's highest court to delay its decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

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http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hZmLBrL36NObNyMR0ghXN7vB5hYwD913RUQ85

POLLS

CBS Poll: Obama Leads McCain (CBS 6/4/08)

Presumptive Democratic nominee Barack Obama holds a six point lead over his Republican counterpart John McCain, a new CBS News poll finds. Obama leads McCain 48 percent to 42 percent among registered voters, with 6 percent of respondents undecided.
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/04/opinion/polls/main4154051.shtml

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From: David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/16/2008 10:32:02 AM
Subject: [big campaign] New McCain Radio Ad and Oil Drilling Statement

For Immediate Release
June 16, 2008

Contact: David Willett, Sierra Club (202) 491-6919

McCain Energy Plan: Same Old Drilling
New Radio Ad Calls for Support of Clean Energy Legislation

Washington, DC: In remarks today Senator McCain indicated that in his speech tomorrow in the heart of the fossil fuel industry, he will focus not on clean energy and fighting global warming but instead on opening America's coasts to drilling. "Tomorrow, I'll call for lifting the federal moratorium for states that choose to permit exploration. I think that this -- and perhaps providing additional incentives for states to permit exploration off their coasts --- would be very helpful in the short term in resolving our energy crisis," said McCain.

Statement of Carl Pope, Executive Director:

"The truth is that drilling our coasts will not solve our energy problems. Additionally, the federal moratorium exists because one state could jeopardize beaches in neighboring states with risky offshore drilling. An oil spill off the coast of Virginia would impact beaches, marine life, and tourism in New Jersey. More importantly, lifting the ban would do nothing to reduce gas prices for the average American family. It would take a decade to bring new leases into production and then they would only line the coffers of the oil industry, which raked in tens of billions of dollars in record profits last year."

"Oil companies are not even using the nearly 6,000 offshore leases they already own. Issuing new leases is just a license for them to destroy more of our public resources for their own profit, while doing nothing to help ease pain at the pump. Senator McCain has said that he supports fighting global warming and clean energy solutions—more off-shore drilling is antithetical to that approach. To protect consumers and get us on the path to a clean energy future, Senator McCain should instead support the Consumer-First Energy Bill currently in the Senate."

Separately, the Sierra Club today began running a radio ad in several Ohio media markets calling attention to Senator McCain's ironic use of windmills in Ohio TV advertising despite his failure to support renewable energy initiatives in the Senate, and asking him to vote for incentives for wind power and other renewables when they come up on the floor.

Full Script: NARRATOR "John McCain is running ads that feature windmills and, truth is, windmills --and the clean energy and jobs they generate have a large role to play in Ohio's future. But not because of anything John McCain has done. Fact is, John McCain opposes requiring the use of more wind and solar power to generate electricity -- he's argued against incentives for the clean energy industry while demanding billions in subsidies for nuclear power and refusing to impose windfall profits taxes

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on Big Oil. Clean energy is key to Ohio's economic future. The Consumer-First Energy bill gives John McCain the chance to support renewable energy and end subsidies to oil companies. Call Senator McCain at 202-224-3121. Ask him to stop spinning windmills and to start supporting them and other clean energy technology to help put Ohio back to work. Paid for by the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club."

David Willett
National Press Secretary
Sierra Club
(202) 675-6698 (w)
(202) 491-6919 (m)
david.willett@sierraclub.orgwww.sierraclub.org
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	9/23/2014 1:11:02 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday September 23, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Tuesday September 23, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Reuters: "High-profile New York event highlights Clinton's 'elite' image"

"'CGI has helped improve the lives of over 430 million people in more than 180 countries and has worked to secure $103 billion to spur innovative solutions to make the world a better place,' said Adrienne Elrod of pro-Clinton group Correct The Record."

Washington Post: "Clinton wonkparty outshines U.N. meeting"

"Ten meetings later, the Clinton Global Initiative now outshines the U.N. gathering, at least when it comes to star wattage. It also serves as an annual company picnic and convocation of the faithful for the Clintons' far-flung political and business networks."

Associated Press: "Clintons Mark 10 Years of Annual Summit"

"Bill and Hillary Clinton marked the 10th anniversary of the former president's annual Clinton Global Initiative, pointing to female empowerment around the globe as the former secretary of state considers a 2016 presidential campaign."

MSNBC: "Clinton family basks in the glow of the global elite"

"The Clinton family relished their spot atop the extended network of friends and supporters they've built over the past ten years through the Clinton Global Initiative, using the first full day of the group's annual meeting on Monday to review their success with an eye toward the future – where a potential presidential run loomed in the shadows."

..."In the lobby, David Brock, the former professional Clinton hater-turned-chief Clinton defender, waited before some meetings with donors. He was not meeting with either Clinton this time, however, he said."

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Wall Street Journal: "Clinton World Braces for Big News on Baby Front"

"If the baby arrives next week, the newest Clinton will turn 35 in the year 2049, missing the constitutional eligibility requirement for the 2048 election cycle — but making him or her fully eligible to run for president in 2052."

Los Angeles Times: "Bill Clinton outlines 100-day agenda for next president"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton seems more eager to talk about her soon-to-arrive grandchild than her plans for a potential presidential run, but her husband seemed more than happy to allude to both prospects Monday."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton to campaign for Charlie Crist"

"Clinton will headline a dinner Oct. 2 in Miami, according to an invitation."

New York Times: "Seeding a Slogan? Clinton Talks Up Choice and Chance in Email Blast"

"In a Monday e-mail titled 'A Choice & A Chance,' Mrs. Clinton dove right into the political fray, urging Democrats to make a donation to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee."

CNN: "Tim Kaine: 'My intuition tells me' Hillary Clinton will run"

"Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia said Monday he thinks Hillary Clinton will run for president next year and that her decision could be known as soon as December."

CNN: "Republicans' favorite label for Hillary Clinton 2016: 'Obama's Third Term'"

"Multiple Republican operatives said this strategy -- which is coming from national party groups, outside super PACs and GOP politicians -- is best at engaging the base and raising money. Therefore, it is something they plan to continue in the coming months and possibly years."

New Republic: "How to Save Obamacare: Make It a Women's Issue"

"The challenge for the next Democratic presidential nominee is thus to break the psychic link—to reshape the way the public thinks about health reform as something more than just a proxy for Obama. And whether she realizes it or not, Hillary Clinton has made a strong case that a female candidate will be better suited to the task than a male candidate."

Variety: "Hollywood 'Ready for Hillary' at Political Fundraiser"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"The Ready for Hillary event on Sunday at the Pacific Palisades home of 'Homeland' executive producer Howard Gordon and his wife Cami was a preview of what attendees hope is to come: heavy and widespread Hollywood support for her presidential bid."

Washington Free Beacon: "WFB's Alana Goodman and Ellison Barber Discuss The Hillary-Alinsky Letters"

"Goodman said that because Alinsky remains a controversial figure in American history, particularly due to his role in the labor movement and community organizing in Chicago, an examination of his role in influencing Clinton's ideology during the formative years of her political career remains relevant."

Bloomberg View: Jonathan Bernstein: "Radical Smear Won't Stick to Hillary"

"Over the weekend, the Washington Free Beacon ran a story about Hillary Clinton's long-ago correspondence with the community organizer Saul Alinsky."

Boston Herald: "Ditch 2016 Elizabeth Warren for prez bid, local Dems ask"

"Local Democratic party boosters of U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren told a frenzied group of progressives to ditch their bid to draft her as a 2016 presidential nominee, saying the push undercuts her vow to stay put as a Massachusetts lawmaker."

Articles:

Reuters: "High-profile New York event highlights Clinton's 'elite' image"

By Gabriel Debenedetti

September 22, 2014, 6:07 p.m. EDT

When Hillary Clinton rubs shoulders with financial executives and philanthropic giants at the Clinton Global Initiative's meeting this week, it will underscore the tension between her elite connections and populist image likely to feature in her expected 2016 presidential campaign.

Seen by liberal critics as a close ally of the global elite, she will have to appeal to middle class voters after facing criticism this summer that she is out of touch.

Clinton drew the ire of progressives and Republicans alike in June by saying she was "dead broke" after leaving the White House as first lady in 2001. And to her populist critics, nowhere is the tension between her status as an emblem of the elite and the need to connect to voters more apparent than in New York, where this week's meeting takes place.

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It is a city where she appears with high-profile billionaires, but also a city led by progressive hero Mayor Bill de Blasio, her one-time campaign manager.

"If you look at her track record from the past, it is out of step with the current Democratic Party. Not on social issues, but definitely on economic issues, so we're going to be watching very carefully," said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of liberal group Democracy For America.

"There's no question the de Blasio wing of the party is ascendant," Chamberlain added, calling Clinton a leader of Democrats' "Wall Street wing" and saying her appearances with financiers are concerning.

Clinton represented New York as a U.S. senator, and both her 2016 campaign and that year's Democratic convention could be based here.

This week's annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative boasts celebrities like actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon alongside business titans like Alibaba's Jack Ma and Goldman Sachs' Lloyd Blankfein. President Barack Obama will speak on Tuesday, at a hotel where early on Monday screens occasionally flashed thanks to sponsor Blackstone, the private equity giant.

Hillary Clinton's appearances with financial executives worry progressives who favor stringent bank regulations. But Clinton allies swat away such criticism by noting this week's event is based on philanthropy, and point to the foundation's work.

The initiative, part of the broader Clinton Foundation, brings together leaders to pledge to work on important global problems. Former President Bill Clinton created the foundation although now Hillary and daughter Chelsea also help lead it.

"CGI has helped improve the lives of over 430 million people in more than 180 countries and has worked to secure $103 billion to spur innovative solutions to make the world a better place," said Adrienne Elrod of pro-Clinton group Correct The Record.

LIBERAL GROUPS WARY

But liberal groups say they are keeping a wary eye on the summit.

"As business and political leaders converge in New York this weekend, the political atmosphere is set. An economic populist tide is sweeping the country," said Laura Friedenbach of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, which heavily supports Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren.

But Clinton's recent speeches have hit a noticeably populist note, and she appeared with labor leaders in New York soon after returning to politically influential Iowa in mid-September.

And supporters of the former secretary of state point to preliminary polls that show Clinton with a considerable lead over potential liberal challengers in the Democratic primary field, including Warren.

A September CNN/ORC poll of Iowa Democrats showed Clinton with a 39 percent lead over Vice President Joe Biden, her closest competitor.

Peter Buttenwieser, a long-time Democratic donor, philanthropist, and Clinton supporter whose mother's family founded Lehman Brothers, said fears of a liberal backlash against Clinton were overblown.

"Most progressive candidates, including many who are running for the Senate this time, meet with business people, and there's nothing wrong with the vast majority of people who run good, successful businesses," he said.

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Washington Post: "Clinton wonkparty outshines U.N. meeting"

By Anne Gearan

September 22, 2014, 3:46 p.m. EDT

NEW YORK — Which party would you rather go to: The one that begins with Leonardo DiCaprio, Eva Longoria and a rocking house band, or the one that begins with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff?

Oh, and one of the gatherings this week in New York City also has former president Bill Clinton and his wife — you might have heard of her — former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton. Plus a due-to-give-birth-any-second Chelsea Clinton.

That event is the Clinton Global Initiative, which also boasted comic Seth Meyers and of-the-moment singers Jason Mraz and Aloe Blacc on the opening night Sunday, if you're keeping score at home.

Did we mention that Matt Damon is going to talk about clean water?

The meeting was established in 2005 as a three-day do-gooder wonkathon that took advantage of the spotlight of the other gathering — the annual United Nations General Assembly — to draw attention to development issues and other concerns.

Ten meetings later, the Clinton Global Initiative now outshines the U.N. gathering, at least when it comes to star wattage. It also serves as an annual company picnic and convocation of the faithful for the Clintons' far-flung political and business networks.

The whiff of a potential Hillary Clinton presidential run was everywhere as Greater Clintonia gabbed and gossiped in the lobby of the New York Sheraton, alongside the sort of Aspen-sleek corporate types and earnest advocates who attend sessions such as "Reimagining Finance for Social Impact: Planning For Scale."

"President Clinton is here! And so is Bill!" emcee Meyers joked Sunday, after she opened the glitzy awards banquet that inaugurated the gathering. (Bill grinned and applauded from the audience.)

Of course it isn't really fair to compare UNGA and CGI, as the natives of both lands call the gatherings. But probably only the Clintons could build an organization that is now in many ways a bigger draw than the august world gathering it was designed to complement.

Brazil's president will be the first of more than 150 leaders expected to address the United Nations beginning Wednesdaymorning. Rousseff is actually something of a rock star among world leaders and a fascinating story for foreign policy geeks because of her tough-talking persona. But it's a good bet that the Hollywood Reporter and US Weekly don't have assigned seats for her address, as they did for the CGI opening.

"There is a little sizzle with the substance," said CGI spokesman Craig Minassian, "but it draws people into the substance."

On Monday, the once-and-maybe-future presidents embraced warmly after Bill Clinton introduced Hillary Clinton. He outlined the accomplishments claimed by CGI: 430 million people in 180 countries helped by the pledges — or commitments, in CGI parlance — that participants must make to try to solve climate change, women's deaths in childbirth, the lack of libraries in rural societies or a host of other problems.

That adds up to action valued at nearly $100 billion, and 27 million people with greater access to safe drinking water, Hillary Clinton said. They are

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very big on big data at CGI.

“The last thing we want to do is just get into a rut where we just do the same things over and over again,” she said. “We have been asking ourselves, ‘How can we continue to reinvent philanthropy and business as effectively in the next 10 years as well as we have done in the past?’ ” she said.

Membership costs $20,000 annually for corporations and other large organizations but is free for many charitable and advocacy groups. Membership is also by invitation only and is capped at about 600 slots. There is no shortage of applicants.

“We have not renewed” some members who did not carry through on their pledges, Minassian said.

“At first I asked people to come to New York when the U.N. was meeting and the world leaders were coming, which guarantees that you could join the world’s worst traffic jam,” Bill Clinton joked. “And then I asked people to come to a meeting where you had to make a commitment to do something, and do your best to keep it, and keep coming.”

Those commitments began as back-of-the-envelope sketches of ideas and promises, and now keep about 100 people employed year-round shaping, refining and measuring the progress of each member’s performance.

It is that culture of expectations that sets CGI apart from other “thought leader” gatherings such as the World Economic Forum, which holds an annual uber-glossy gabfest in Davos, Switzerland.

“This is Davos with action items,” said John Wood, who credits CGI with nurturing his library- and school-building project, Room to Read. “It forces you to say what you are going to do, what is your time frame, how are you going to do it.”

There is some cross-pollination between CGI and UNGA. President Obama is set to address both organizations this year, for example. But many business and development professionals hobnob at CGI without getting anywhere near U.N. headquarters.

Not to mention the Hollywood contingent and their causes.

“The world is now at a turning point, and climate change is the defining issue of our time,” DiCaprio said as he accepted a CGI Global Citizen award. “The task before us to protect this planet will require the largest movement in human history.”

Associated Press: “Clintons Mark 10 Years of Annual Summit”

By Ken Thomas

September 22, 2014, 4:52 p.m. EDT

NEW YORK (AP) -- Bill and Hillary Clinton marked the 10th anniversary of the former president's annual Clinton Global Initiative, pointing to female empowerment around the globe as the former secretary of state considers a 2016 presidential campaign.

The Clintons presided over their yearly gathering of world leaders, corporate executives and philanthropists on Monday, drawing attention to the role of women in leadership positions and opportunities for women and girls around the world.

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"We cannot grow the global economy if we do not open the doors to women to participate in the economy," Mrs. Clinton said. "It's been quite exciting to see a lot of the changes that are going on, but it's also been somewhat distressing to see how hard change still is, including in my own country."

The conference theme is called "Reimagining Impact," a notion that might apply to a future presidential candidate. During a conversation on stage with Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank, and IBM CEO Ginni Rometty, the former first lady listened intently as the IBM executive spoke of the importance of constantly seeking transformation.

Reimagining impact, Hillary Clinton said at the end of the session, "requires leaders who will reimagine and who will be unafraid to do so and ask themselves, beginning with themselves, hard questions."

Bill Clinton, in a separate conversation with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, said the rest of the world often views Latin America as a "real macho place" and might be surprised to learn that Bachelet had won a second term while Brazil is led by a female president, Dilma Rousseff.

"When there are no women in a high-level position, people can talk about equal rights but it's just a speech," Bachelet said. She said when female leaders excel, "then it's a model for others."

Since 2005, the Clintons said their efforts had improved the lives of 430 million people in 180 countries, including giving 44 million children access to a better education. The ex-president, who turned 68 in August, said he was glad to be joined by his wife and daughter Chelsea Clinton in the family foundation's pursuits.

"One of my ideas is that I want them to do more of the heavy lifting," he said. "You know, I'm not a young guy anymore."

Here's a look at other news from the Clinton Global Initiative:

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- 2014 CAMPAIGN: Delving into politics, Hillary Clinton sent out a fundraising appeal Monday on behalf of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, urging activists to help elect House Democrats. Clinton has been stepping up her campaign activity for the party in the weeks before the November elections. Republicans hold a majority in the House and need to pick up six seats to take control of the Senate.

- SERVICE YEAR: Chelsea Clinton, who is expecting her first child in the coming weeks, announced the creation of Service Year, a four-year effort to encourage young people between the ages of 18 and 28 to take part in a year of service. The initiative, led by the National Service Alliance, the Cisco Fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and the Lumina Foundation, aims to create 30,000 annual service opportunities by 2017 and 1 million a year by 2023.

- CLIMATE CHANGE: Mayors Annise Parker of Houston, Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles and Michael Nutter of Philadelphia announced plans for their cities to address climate change. The cities will develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas, adopt a common way of tracking and reporting emissions and promote ways of participating in cap-and-trade programs like California's system.

MSNBC: "Clinton family basks in the glow of the global elite"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

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September 22, 2014, 7:51 p.m. EDT

The Clinton family relished their spot atop the extended network of friends and supporters they've built over the past ten years through the Clinton Global Initiative, using the first full day of the group's annual meeting on Monday to review their success with an eye toward the future – where a potential presidential run loomed in the shadows.

"I want to begin by making a totally unbiased, objective statement. I think my husband has invented an extraordinary initiative," Hillary Clinton said at the first major session of three days of meetings here. "And I can say this because I had nothing to do with creating CGI and I want to thank him for 10 years and so much that we have to celebrate and to build on."

The conference is now at a crossroads. Former President Bill Clinton started the annual event, operated under the auspices of the Clinton Foundation, in 2005 to bring together heads of state, titans of industry, celebrities, thought leaders, and philanthropists to make commitments to improve the world.

Now a family business, the conference was already thrown into question when Hillary Clinton became secretary of state, forced to curtail some of its activities and reveal its donors. If she decides to run for president again in 2016, CGI's future would be even more unpredictable, as the deals struck here could open her campaign (or White House) to charges of conflict of interest.

But for now, the Clintons were proud to tout the success they have achieved over the past decade. When she took the stage, Hillary Clinton ticked off an impressive list of accomplishments: 3,100 commitments from organizations and governments to do something good, nearly $100 billion promised, and 430 million lives affected in 180 countries. "Extraordinary," she said.

The conference, which is timed to coincide with the U.N. General Assembly, is like a who's who of do-gooder global elites.

It's the kind of place where Bill Clinton muses about a promise from the president of Mongolia to provide him with a strong horse ride across the steppe before quizzing the King of Jordan and the president of Chile on turmoil in the Middle East.

"Why did I run [for president] again? Because I just couldn't help it," Chilean president Michelle Bachelet, who is close with someone else at the conference who is considering a second run at the presidency, told Bill Clinton.

It's a rare place where Hillary Clinton does the interviewing, putting questions to the CEO of IBM and the World Bank. And where Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple is major star – but not as big as Leonardo DiCapio, who was given an award here Sundaynight.

While the point of the event is philanthropy, politics is never far away. Spotted were Clinton hands like Paul Begala, a longtime Clinton strategist who currently advises a big money pro-Clinton super PAC, and Gene Sperling, the Clinton and Obama White House adviser.

In the lobby, David Brock, the former professional Clinton hater-turned-chief Clinton defender, waited before some meetings with donors. He was not meeting with either Clinton this time, however, he said.

A big emphasis on this anniversary event was accountability for the money that has been committed over the years. Chelsea Clinton has taken a lead in evaluating the Clinton Foundation's work, commissioning an audit from an outside firm.

"One of the ways that CGI has grown over the years is that the rest of my family joined the business," Bill Clinton said with a laugh. "One of my ideas is that I wanted them to do more of the heavy lifting. You know I'm not a young guy any more."

The former first daughter, looking very comfortable despite the fact that her baby is due any day, is increasingly taking charge of the foundation. She strode on stage to report that almost 90% of projects are on track or have already been successful.

She also announced a new project, Service Year, which will help connect young people with one-year service opportunities, such as

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AmeriCorps. Stanley McChrystal, the retired general who was demoted by President Obama after insulting the president in a Rolling Stone article, is involved in the effort and Chelsea praised him as “an example to all of us.”

The evaluation effort has left Hillary Clinton to think a lot about data, she said. “The idea that big data, information, can be valuable seems so obvious. Because who can be against information? But it turns out, a lot of people are because they don’t want information that violates their ideology or some other pre-existing belief or conviction that they have held,” she told Jim Yong Kim, the head of the World Bank.

Regardless of the future of the Clinton Global Initiative, it already serves as an ideal platform for Clinton to elevate herself and issues that would be important in a presidential run, not to mention stay in touch with potential donors and other influential people.

Twenty nine out of 30 companies listed on the Dow Jones Industrial Average have donated to the CGI, according to Bloomberg. And Democratic donors like Ted Waitt, the founder of computer maker Gateway, and investor Alan Patricof were among the sponsors of some programs.

Wall Street Journal: “Clinton World Braces for Big News on Baby Front”

By Peter Nicholas

September 22, 2014, 4:25 p.m. EDT

NEW YORK – The Clinton family is about to drop some big news – having nothing to do with Hillary Clinton’s presidential ambitions.

Back in April, Chelsea Clinton announced that she was pregnant with her and husband Marc Mezvinsky’s first child. Now, the family is signaling that the baby is due any day.

In an interview with CNN over the weekend, former president Bill Clinton said that he hopes to be a grandfather “by the first of October.” Mr. Clinton also said he didn’t know if the baby was a boy or a girl, as his daughter and son-in-law “decided not to know. They want to be surprised.”

Mrs. Clinton has also had some fun in describing life on tenterhooks as she awaits word of the baby’s arrival.

Speaking at a campaign event in Iowa earlier in the month, she said: “I’ve got a few things on my mind these days. First and most importantly, Bill and I are on constant grandchild watch.

“I’m calling Chelsea every five minutes to make sure things are going alright and when the big moment comes you can bet that I will drop everything to be there in a flash. So I’m telling you now, if you see us sprinting off stage, that’s why.”

Playfully, she added: “And then of course there’s that other thing.”

That other thing would be the presidency.

Can we connect the two? Let’s try.

If the baby arrives next week, the newest Clinton will turn 35 in the year 2049, missing the constitutional eligibility requirement for the 2048

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election cycle — but making him or her fully eligible to run for president in 2052.

Looking very pregnant, Chelsea Clinton has made a few appearances thus far at the Clinton Global Initiative conference this week in New York. On Monday she took the stage to talk about AmeriCorps, the service project signed into law by her father.

Mr. Clinton had been leading a panel discussion with Michelle Bachelet, president of Chile, and King Abdullah of Jordan. The conversation ran long, and Mr. Clinton apologized to his daughter as he ceded the stage.

“You don’t need my forgiveness,” Chelsea Clinton told her father. “I’m always happy to listen to President Bachelet and his majesty. I think all of us are.”

She went on to praise her father for AmeriCorps. She called it “one of my father’s – in my humble opinion, as my mother said, we’re not terribly biased in our family – one of his signature achievements while he was president.”

Los Angeles Times: “Bill Clinton outlines 100-day agenda for next president”

By Maeve Reston

September 22, 2014, 8:29 p.m. EDT

Hillary Rodham Clinton seems more eager to talk about her soon-to-arrive grandchild than her plans for a potential presidential run, but her husband seemed more than happy to allude to both prospects Monday.

Bloomberg’s Charlie Rose interviewed the former president during the 10th Clinton Global Initiative in New York on Monday, the international gathering sponsored by his family's foundation. Rose danced around the specific question of whether Hillary Clinton will run in 2016, presumably because Bill Clinton has repeatedly insisted that he does not know. But he pressed Clinton for clues about what another Clinton presidency might look like, while encouraging him to expound about the changes in the U.S. political climate since he first ran in 1992.

“Let’s assume you are advising a presidential candidate,” Rose said, to laughter.

"That's a heavy assumption," Clinton quipped back. “My advice has sometimes been welcome, sometimes not. Sometimes right and sometimes not."

Regarding the next president’s first hundred days, Clinton said they should focus on helping people climb out of poverty into the middle class. He said he would favor a revived effort in building energy infrastructure and directing investments toward programs to create jobs that would also simultaneously change the job mix to create higher-paying positions. He also called for altering student loan programs to help students with debt, working on initiatives to make higher education more affordable and reforming the U.S. corporate tax system.

Clinton described the presidential campaign as a very difficult job interview. He did not explicitly discuss his wife’s ambitions.

Rose questioned Clinton about why people consider him to be “the best political animal that's ever been in American politics.”

“I don't know if that's true or not. But to be really good at this, you’ve got to like people; you’ve got to like policy; and you’ve got to like politics,” Clinton said. “You've got to have a pain threshold.”

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The former president said the nation's political and media climate was bad in the mid-1990s, but had gotten even more difficult because party politics "are even more polarized." While Americans are "less racist and homophobic" than they used to be, he said, they tend to be far less willing to spend time listening to those who don't agree with them, he said, calling that a dangerous trend.

Of course, one of the most buzzed-about topics at this year's Clinton Global Initiative has been the coming arrival of Bill and Hillary Clinton's first grandchild. A very pregnant Chelsea Clinton, who plays a leading role in running her family's foundation, appeared onstage during the Sunday night gala that launched the conference.

The younger Clinton, who announced in April that she was expecting a child with her husband, Marc Mezvinsky, playfully thanked Clinton Global Initiative attendees for their well wishes on their "impending, though hopefully not immediate, arrival."

On Monday, she took the stage to talk about a new service project championed by the Clinton Foundation that is designed to boost the work of AmeriCorps. Her father, who had been leading the previous panel with President of Chile Michelle Bachelet and King Abdullah of Jordan, apologized to his daughter for allowing his discussion to run over the allotted time.

"You don't need my forgiveness," Chelsea responded, teasing her father. "I'm always happy to listen to President Bachelet and his majesty. I think all of us are."

Chelsea's due date has been a closely guarded secret within the family, but Bill Clinton said during a CNN interview that he hoped to be a grandfather by Oct. 1.

The former president told CNN's Fareed Zakaria in the interview airing Sunday that his daughter and her husband decided not to find out whether the child is a boy or a girl, and said he didn't have a preference. "I can't wait," the former president said.

Hillary Clinton rarely delivers a speech these days without noting her excitement about what she calls "grandbaby watch." She has said the experience of becoming a grandmother could affect her thinking about running for president, and during her recent visit to Iowa she admitted that she was calling her daughter every few minutes to check in.

"When the big moment comes, you can bet that I will drop everything to be there in a flash," Clinton told the crowd at Sen. Tom Harkin's steak fry in Iowa. "So I'm telling you now, if you see us sprinting offstage, that's why."

Here in New York, the Clintons have been able to keep a watchful eye on Chelsea, who attended most of the conference's large events.

No one has sprinted offstage just yet. But both soon-to-grandparents seem to be enjoying this moment of anticipation.

Charlie Rose began his interview with the former president by noting that within a few weeks a child might arrive who would be calling him "Grandpa."

"If my grandchild can talk in one or two weeks, the future of my family is secure," Bill Clinton replied.

Rose quickly rejoined that he hadn't meant to say he was expecting the baby to be talking quite that quickly. But considering it's the loquacious Bill Clinton's grandchild, anything is possible.

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Politico: "Hillary Clinton to campaign for Charlie Crist"

By Maggie Haberman

September 22, 2014, 7:56 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton will headline a fundraising dinner for Florida Democratic gubernatorial Charlie Crist next month, putting her in a key presidential state in the midterms battle, according to an invitation.

Crist, a Republican turned Democrat running for his old job, is in one of the toughest gubernatorial races in the country. He is facing incumbent Republican Rick Scott.

Clinton will headline a dinner Oct. 2 in Miami, according to an invitation.

She is holding a book-signing the same day in the state.

New York Times: "Seeding a Slogan? Clinton Talks Up Choice and Chance in Email Blast"

By Alan Rappeport

September 22, 2014, 6:10 p.m. EDT

Hillary Rodham Clinton has said that she'll likely announce a decision about running for president sometime next year. But from the sound of things, she might be trying out a campaign slogan already.

In a Monday e-mail titled "A Choice & A Chance," Mrs. Clinton dove right into the political fray, urging Democrats to make a donation to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

"This November, we have a clear choice — and a chance," Mrs. Clinton wrote. "It's a chance to elect Democrats to Congress who will fight for us every day."

The phrasing echoes remarks Mrs. Clinton has made in other appearances recently, including at a steak fry in Iowa last week, where she proclaimed that "in just 50 days Iowans have a choice to make — a choice and a chance — a choice between the guardians of gridlock and the champions of shared opportunity and shared prosperity."

A few days later, at a women's forum in Washington, she used the same line, reminding voters of the "choice and chance" to steer issues such as equal pay, health and education.

While Mrs. Clinton has not tipped her hand, she certainly has not closed any doors either.

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CNN: "Tim Kaine: 'My intuition tells me' Hillary Clinton will run"

By Peter Hamby

September 22, 2014, 2:56 p.m. EDT

Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia said Monday he thinks Hillary Clinton will run for president next year and that her decision could be known as soon as December.

Kaine, a Democrat who has vowed to endorse Clinton should she run, made the comments in a question and answer session with students at Randolph Macon College in Ashland, Virginia.

An audio clip of the event was provided to CNN by a person in the room who wished to remain anonymous.

The former governor and chairman of the Democratic National Committee was asked if he would run for president in 2016, but Kaine waved off the question and quickly pivoted to Clinton.

"The answer is no," he said. "I had come out in, I guess in April or May, to strongly support Sen. Clinton, Secretary Clinton, should she run. I have no knowledge about whether she will or won't, but my intuition tells me that she will. But that will probably not be known until, I would say, December."

Clinton has said publicly that she will make her decision about 2016 known sometime after the new year.

Kaine was one of President Obama's first supporters when Obama launched his presidential bid in 2007. With his impressive resume and a deep well of respect within Democratic Party ranks, Kaine has been talked about as a potential candidate himself in 2016.

But Kaine signed on with the Ready For Hillary super PAC earlier this year and announced that he will get behind Clinton if she seeks the Democratic nomination.

He will also host a Washington fund-raiser for the group on Tuesday, Politico reported last week.

CNN: "Republicans' favorite label for Hillary Clinton 2016: 'Obama's Third Term'"

By Dan Merica

September 23, 2014, 7:09 a.m. EDT

Republicans who want to taint Hillary Clinton are going to lengths to link the former secretary of state with President Barack Obama and his sagging poll numbers.

Throughout the party's infrastructure, Republicans say that linking Clinton with Obama, especially labeling her possible 2016 campaign as "Obama's Third Term," is the most potent attack.

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America Rising, an anti-Clinton super PAC that has looked to define the former first lady for the better part of a year, will push out a series of talking points giving Clinton the third-term label, and the group plans to fundraise off the push staring Tuesday.

"Hillary Clinton has a Barack Obama problem," reads a lengthy research document that will go out to GOP pundits, strategists, conservative organizations and media members Tuesday. "No matter how many of her advisors whisper to reporters that she's different from Barack Obama, Americans still know who she is: Barack Obama Part Deux."

The document lists "10 Reasons Why Clinton 2016 = Obama's Third Term," including her praise for Obama as she left the State Department in 2013, her role in his first four years of foreign policy and Clinton's support of Obamacare.

"Looking ahead to 2016, it's critical that Obama's 3rd Term is an element of the broader narrative defining Sec. Clinton, especially since she still has a higher approval than he does," Tim Miller, the group's director, said in a statement to CNN.

Multiple Republican operatives said this strategy -- which is coming from national party groups, outside super PACs and GOP politicians -- is best at engaging the base and raising money. Therefore, it is something they plan to continue in the coming months and possibly years.

Democrats, too, are concerned about the attack line. In August, some close to Clinton told CNN that labeling the former secretary of state as the successor to Obama's legacy was a possible problem.

"She was in his government, she was at his side," said one source. "That is, the way to go after her is four more years of the same old thing. The question they should ask her is 'Tell me 10 things that you disagree with him on.' "

Republican lawmakers -- including those who may challenge Clinton in 2016 -- have been quick to use some variation of Obama-Clinton in speeches, statements and interviews.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas has been the most strident in linking Obama and Clinton, a tactic he first used after the former secretary of state headlined a CNN town hall in June.

"The most consistent error of the Clinton/Obama foreign policy is a failure to understand the nature of the people we're dealing with, of our enemies," Cruz said in an interview with CNN after the event.

According to a senior Cruz aide, the attack engages the senator's base and is something Cruz plans to use again.

"His mindset is it is not just Obama's failed policies, it is all of them," the aide said. "We want to draw attention to the fact that she owns this foreign policy and she is not speaking. She is supposed to be the leader, especially on foreign policy, and she is saying nothing. She has a voice, she doesn't use it."

Sens. Marco Rubio and Rand Paul, too, have been linking the two. In an op-ed earlier this month, Rubio called for voters to reject the "the veiled isolationism of Obama and Clinton," and Paul has looked to link the two on issues including terrorism and Syria.

For her part, Clinton has both distanced herself from Obama and drawn closer to him.

In her memoir, "Hard Choices," Clinton distanced herself from Obama on Syria and did so again in a much-talked-about interview with The Atlantic.

But the former secretary of state has also heralded Obama, like in Iowa this month when she touted his handling of economic issues as getting the

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country "on the road to recovery."

This is a common refrain for Clinton. At the Brookings Institution this month, she touted Obama's "extraordinary leadership," adding "thanks to the economic policies that were pursued by the President and endorsed by the Congress ... we are in a much stronger economic position than we were."

Whether she will continue this trend of heralding Obama while also distancing herself depends, according to former aides.

Donna Brazile, a CNN contributor and Al Gore's 2000 campaign manager, said whether or not Clinton needs to break with Obama "all depends on the political climate and environment in mid-2015 to 2016."

"In 2000, I had to answer this question," she said. "And the answer is always the same. Each year is different and every candidate must make his or her case to the voter of why they represent someone else."

New Republic: "How to Save Obamacare: Make It a Women's Issue"

By Brian Beutler

September 22, 2014

When Senator Mark Pryor, the embattled Democrat from Arkansas, produced an ad last month touting the Affordable Care Act's health coverage guarantee, a thousand Republican party operatives bombarded his campaign with the word "Obamacare." Pryor didn't voluntarily pin a scarlet "O" on his campaign, so Republicans did it for him. Fast forward to last week, when Michigan Governor Rick Snyder raised a glass to the "outstanding progress" of his state's Medicaid expansion, which has already enrolled nearly 400,000 new beneficiaries, and those same GOP operatives sat on their hands.

The upshot is simple. Remove the moniker, and the component benefits of the Affordable Care Act become real political assets. The moniker itself remains unpopular, though. Indeed, what remains of the campaign to repeal the Affordable Care Act is the blind faith that a rose by the name Obamacare will spontaneously putrefy. But though outright repeal has become impossible, Republicans still understand that any catchall for health care reform is a useful way to channel broader unhappiness with the president himself. The enduring unpopularity of reform as a whole is a testament to that fact, and to the likelihood that—absent an Obama favorability surge—these numbers won't change much for the next couple years. They might never change at all.

The challenge for the next Democratic presidential nominee is thus to break the psychic link—to reshape the way the public thinks about health reform as something more than just a proxy for Obama. And whether she realizes it or not, Hillary Clinton has made a strong case that a female candidate will be better suited to the task than a male candidate.

Last Thursday, Clinton joined a Center for American Progress panel about women's economic security, focused mainly on gendered issues like equal pay and child care. But Obamacare fits neatly into the same framework. And if a broad category of issues pertaining to gender equity can redound to the Democrats' political advantage—as Clinton's appearance at the event suggests—then Obamacare can, too.

As Matt Yglesias observed at Vox last week, in our political discourse, we tend to lump all "women's issues" together into the same category as culture war flashpoints like abortion. But for public opinion purposes, this is a big mistake. In truth, the politics of things like childcare and wage equality cut very differently than the "social" issues we associate them with, and that's at least in part because they alter the distribution of income. Higher wages, family leave, subsidized childcare—all of these increase women's income, and, thus, their economic power.

That helps explain why they're winning political issues. Transfer payments and "big government" aren't exactly in vogue right now, but gender equity is very popular. And the key is that Obamacare doesn't stand apart from these issues in any way.

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Whether you like Obamacare or you hate it, chances are you don't think of it as a heavily gendered initiative, like equal pay. But though the debate over Obamacare centers around nominally gender-neutral values—should the government guarantee coverage, and are the benefits too generous?—the law operates as a substantial income transfer from men to women. For the past few years, this aspect of the law has given rise to rancorous debates over contraception and maternity care. But the contraception and maternity care guarantees are both manifestations of the fact that the law prohibits gender rating. Women consume more health care than men. This is in large part by accident of the fact that men don't get pregnant and give birth. Before Obamacare, insurers sorted that out by charging women higher premiums than men. Women were therefore less likely to be able to afford insurance on the individual market than men, more financially dependent on their employers for insurance than men, and thus faced greater tensions between their familial and professional ambitions than men. Obamacare doesn't end these inequalities, obviously, but it seeks to curb them. As a result, employers and spouses are less able to interfere in women's professional and reproductive decision making.

The similarities to, say, universal child care, are clear. Remove that cost, and women gain bargaining power in both the home and the workplace. On a cleaner political level, it helps free women from a socially imposed choice between childcare and professional advancement.

This may have sunk in to some extent already. In polling, Obamacare fares noticeably worse with men than with women.

Variety: "Hollywood 'Ready for Hillary' at Political Fundraiser"

By Ted Johnson

September 22, 2014, 1:16 p.m. PDT

Burt Bacharach sang "Alfie" and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) talked of the urgency of keeping the Senate this year from Republican Mitch McConnell's leadership.

But the several dozen industry figures and Los Angeles politicos who attended a political fundraiser on Sunday had a singleness of purpose: to elect Hillary Clinton as the next president.

She wasn't there, she hasn't announced, and officially has nothing to do with Ready for Hillary, an independent expenditure committee set up last year.

But the Ready for Hillary event on Sunday at the Pacific Palisades home of "Homeland" executive producer Howard Gordon and his wife Cami was a preview of what attendees hope is to come: heavy and widespread Hollywood support for her presidential bid. Gordon was co-chair along with "Glee" and "American Horror Story" executive producer Ryan Murphy and his husband David Miller.

According to sources who were there, Boxer said that she didn't have any inside knowledge of whether Clinton would run but said it was "looking good."

She also expressed doubts that Democrats would be faced with the kind of split loyalties that they were in 2008 when Clinton and Barack Obama carried their nomination fight to the end of the primary season. In Hollywood, it created sometimes bitter divisions as both campaigns jockeyed for money and endorsements.

Ready for Hillary is setting up a grassroots infrastructure of supporters and a campaign-like operation in anticipation of a run — what supporters hope will clear the way for Clinton and avoid a repeat of the divisions of 2008. The political action committee has raised more than $8 million as of the end of June and, according to the Washington Post, its national finance counsel includes Gordon and producer Marcy Carsey.

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A trio of singers did a medley of Bacharach standards, and, as he played piano, he joined them in singing among his most famous songs, “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ On My Head,” another collaboration with lyricist Hal David, “Alfie.”

Also at the event: Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin, Fox’s Dana Walden and producer Gail Berman, as well as Sim Farar, national finance chair for her campaign in 2008; Michael Trujillo, senior adviser to Ready for Hillary and David Wolf, its L.A. finance consultant.

Tickets were $1,000 per person, or $2,500 for a VIP reception.

Washington Free Beacon: “WFB’s Alana Goodman and Ellison Barber Discuss The Hillary-Alinsky Letters”

[No Writer Mentioned]

September 22, 2014, 8:30 p.m. EDT

Washington Free Beacon staff writers Alana Goodman and Ellison Barber appeared on The Blaze TV to discuss Goodman’s recent article revealing correspondence between Hillary Clinton and left-wing political activist Saul Alinsky in the early 1970s.

“We already knew that Hillary Clinton had some sort of relationship with Saul Alinsky, she wrote her Wellsley College thesis on him in 1969, but we didn’t really know the extent of it,” Goodman said. “These letters show that they clearly were pretty close, they had a friendship.”

Goodman said that because Alinsky remains a controversial figure in American history, particularly due to his role in the labor movement and community organizing in Chicago, an examination of his role in influencing Clinton’s ideology during the formative years of her political career remains relevant.

“I think that there is kind of this idea among many of the people in the media that Hillary Clinton’s past has just been picked over, there’s nothing else there, in 2016 the real vetting that the media will have to do will take place against Republicans,” Goodman said. “But I think that the Free Beacon stories that we have done, our coverage of Hillary Clinton over the past year, has shown that she also has vetting that can be done of her background as well, and there’s new information that could come to light.”

Bloomberg View: Jonathan Bernstein: “Radical Smear Won't Stick to Hillary”

By Jonathan Bernstein

September 22, 2014, 4:16 p.m. EDT

Over the weekend, the Washington Free Beacon ran a story about Hillary Clinton’s long-ago correspondence with the community organizer Saul Alinsky. Yes, after wasting years attempting to convince voters that Barack Obama was disqualified from the presidency because of his association with that New Left radical (and others), Republicans now seem to be trying to do the same to Clinton. Jonathan Chait points out the obvious: Clinton has decades of experience in public office and political action, which are far more likely to tell us her “real” thoughts and character than anything she did 40 years ago.

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Three additional comments:

In the discussion about Matt Bai's contention that Gary Hart would have won the presidency in 1988 had it not been for a "gotcha" media unearthing an affair (see good new pieces from Dan Drezner and Ramesh Ponnuru), a few people observed that Hart would have done better than the Democratic nominee, Michael Dukakis, because the Massachusetts governor was vulnerable to attacks tying him to the disastrous furlough of convicted murderer Willie Horton and condemning his veto of a state bill requiring teachers to lead students in the Pledge of Allegiance. But George H.W. Bush's campaign probably would have come up with something against any potential challenger. In 1992, for example, Bush and Republicans maligned Bill Clinton by alleging that there was something suspicious about a trip he took to Moscow as a young man. Candidates who are inclined to use smears (and Bush, whatever his strengths as a president, had the campaign ethics of Tom Zarek) will use them, and there's no target pure enough to be immune.

I agree with Chait that it's silly to pretend that any politician would keep their real intentions secret until he or she reached the Oval Office. But even if they did, it wouldn't matter much, because we're well into what political scientist Richard Skinner described as the era of "partisan presidency." When a party is essentially united on policy, as Democrats are now, policy isn't what's at stake in choosing among candidates. And a president who attempted to govern based on a secret agenda would be severely constrained by his party outside -- and even inside -- the White House. For example, like Obama and George W. Bush, the next president will probably have a chief of staff with a long history within the party, but only limited experience with the president himself.

In any case, presidential-campaign smears are usually a waste of time. Obama won, as did Bill Clinton. People remember the smears against Dukakis or the later attacks on John Kerry's war record because of an Iron Law of Politics: The losing candidate is always thought to have run a bad campaign. Republicans today are united in believing that Mitt Romney did a poor job managing his race. Even so, presidential general elections are such high-visibility, high-information contests that campaigns probably matter less than in any other type of election. A major gaffe really can matter in a Senate race (see Todd Akin and his foolish comments on rape and reproduction in 2012), because the misstep might be all that inattentive voters retain about the candidate. That can't happen in presidential general elections, in which whatever is news in August will have been superceded dozens of times by November. In reality, neither the campaign successes or failures usually matter much, and to the extent they do. we rapidly forget the losing candidates successes and the winning candidate's failures.

Boston Herald: "Ditch 2016 Elizabeth Warren for prez bid, local Dems ask"

By Hillary Chabot

September 23, 2014

Local Democratic party boosters of U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren told a frenzied group of progressives to ditch their bid to draft her as a 2016 presidential nominee, saying the push undercuts her vow to stay put as a Massachusetts lawmaker.

"I think these people are very enthusiastic about Elizabeth Warren's positions on issues and they want her to play an increasing role in national politics, but she has made it pretty clear to Massachusetts voters that she intends to remain in the Senate," said Philip W. Johnston, former chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, who was an early backer when Warren considered running for Senate in 2011.

Johnston's comments came after a Herald front-page story yesterday revealed nearly a year's worth of emails by an ultraliberal group called "Gamechanger Salon," which show how their "Ready for Warren" campaign is trying to emulate GOP Tea Party election successes.

"It's wonderful that they are supportive," Johnston added. "But I think Elizabeth Warren understands who she is and what she thinks, and I don't think she'll be influenced by outside groups."

Other members in the email chain worried that the draft movement might hurt Warren.

"This kind of thing does make me very nervous," Mike Lux, a Democratic consultant wrote last year as the draft effort revved up.

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"Elizabeth is working very hard to be an effective Senator, and if there is a big draft effort, a lot of people will assume, fair or not, that she is encouraging it," Lux added.

The email thread — which ordered members not to share its contents with the press — makes it clear that Warren's emergence was a happy accident and that the collaborators were searching for a progressive to run against the presumed front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"A thought here — the goal is to send a message: We want a progressive to lead the ticket in 2016. But when we get into "draft XX" movements we run into problems," wrote Richard Eskow, a radio personality who works in the progressive action group "Campaign for America's Future."

Johnston said while the progressives are a distraction for Warren, he believes they are doing a good job keeping Clinton on her toes and potentially influencing her campaign policies.

Said Johnston: "I think they should pay heed to (Warren's) success."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 22 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton at CGI (CGI)

· September 23 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton at CGI (CGI)

· September 23 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women CGI Dinner (Twitter)

· September 29 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines fundraiser for DCCC for NY and NJ candidates (Politico)

· September 29 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines another fundraiser for DCCC (Politico)

· September 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton keynotes Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Inc., conference (CHCI)

· September 30 – Potomac, MD: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Maryland gubernatorial candidate Anthony Brown (WaPo)

· September 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for New Hampshire state Sen. Lou D'Allesandro of Manchester (New Hampshire Journal)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the real estate CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 2 – Miami, FL: Sec. Clinton signs "Hard Choices" at Books and Books (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· October 2 – Miami, FL: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Charlie Crist (Politico)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/4/2014 10:50:22 AM
Subject: Twelve Theses on Education's Future in the Age of Neoliberalism and Terrorism

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Twelve Theses on Education's Future in the Age of Neoliberalism and Terrorism

Jeffrey R. Di Leo, Henry A. Giroux, Kenneth J. Saltman and Sophia A. McClennen, Paradigm Publishers: The profit-driven goals of neoliberal education policies are antithetical to the progressive goals of educating productive participants in democratic culture and creating active, critical, autonomous citizens who take joy in learning.

Read the Book Excerpt

How US Intelligence Distorted Its Own Data on Child Migration

David L. Wilson, Truthout: "Misperceptions of US Policy Key Driver in Central American Migrant Surge," a federal El Paso Intelligence Center report, refutes claims that violence and poverty in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are the main forces behind the rise in border crossings, but its assertions are contradicted by the center's own data.

Read the Article

Standing in Solidarity Against Racial Exhaustion

J. Mijin Cha, Truthout: While Asians are widely seen as "model minorities," and many Asian Americans may not see themselves as people of color, the world does. Americans need to figure out how to be allies against racism when the struggle on the surface doesn't appear to be our own.

Read the Article

Laura Flanders | Nikole Hannah-Jones and Jennifer Taub on the Housing Crisis: What's Changed?

Laura Flanders, Truthout: More than five years after the housing market collapsed, the crisis continues, its sources still disputed. Is Americans' inability to acquire a home of their own in a neighborhood that feels safe a personal or a political problem? Apparently, it's a matter of public policy.

Watch the Video and Read the Interview

BuzzFlash

The Koch Brothers Fundamentally Believe in Disposable People

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: The reality - and the Kochs know this in their pocketbooks - is that a laissez-faire theory of capitalism only leads in one direction: financial benefits gushing up to the top 1%, erupting like a geyser into the hands of the gilded few.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

College Rape Survivor Will Carry Her Mattress Around Campus Until Her Rapist Is Expelled

Read the Article at Salon

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The Color of Infant Mortality

Monica J. Casper, The Feminist Wire: Infant mortality is about race, poverty, and geography and the ways that the lives of some women and children in the United States are made to matter more than others. It is also about the multitude of ways we foster life for some people and not others.

Read the Article

Economic Terrorism by Paid Goons

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: It's now harder than ever before to join a union, thanks to the decades-long War on Labor that conservatives have been waging ever since Ronald Reagan came to Washington. Conservatives have been waging that war with help from "right to work laws."

Read the Article

Oil Is Back! A Global Warming President Presides Over a Drill-Baby-Drill United States

Michael T. Klare, TomDispatch: Considering all the talk about global warming, peak oil, carbon divestment and renewable energy, you'd think that oil consumption in the United States would be on a downward path. We should be witnessing progress toward a post-petroleum economy. As it happens, the opposite is occurring.

Read the Article

Will Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders Stand With J Street Against Illegal Israeli Settlements?

Robert Naiman, Truthout: Here is a pointy question right now for members of Congress: Where do you stand on illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank? Do you Stand With J Street, or do you stand with Netanyahu?

Read the Article

Nestlé Has Expanded Its Water Empire to Include Colorado

Judy Molland, Care2: Not content with bottling water in drought-stricken California, Nestlé has added Colorado to its water empire: The world's largest food and beverage company has been draining millions of gallons of water from the Arkansas River out of a pipeline near Buena Vista.

Read the Article

Playing Toxic Whack-a-Mole

Jill Richardson, OtherWords: Getting burned up in a fire is scary. But many flame retardants are toxic. In fact, many flame retardants used in textiles and electronics are chemically related to pesticides like DDT or chlorpyrifos. Some cause cancer, and many persist in the environment for decades.

Read the Article

Amy Goodman | Former US Ambassador: To Resolve Ukraine Crisis, Address Internal Divisions and Russian Fears of NATO

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!: Ukraine has retracted an earlier claim to have reached a cease-fire with Russia. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko

Justice Dept. Will Investigate Practices of the Ferguson Police

Read the Article at The New York Times

We Need an Option to Vote for "None of the Above"

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Fast Food Strikes Hit 150 US Cities

Read the Article at MSNBC

Dr. Ben Carson, African-American Conservative, Hits All the Tea Party's Wacky High Notes

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How to Handle the ISIS Threat

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To Recline Your Airline Seat or Not? Stop Arguing. Capitalism Already Won This Stupid War

Read the Article at The Guardian

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initially said he agreed with Vladimir Putin on steps toward a cease-fire with pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine, but the Kremlin then denied a cease-fire agreement.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Economic Update: Big Changes Coming

Richard D. Wolff, Economic Update / Truthout: This episode covers food insecurity, oil disaster economics, politicos going to Wall Street, billionaires buying homes, education in the UK and how the US sustains elites. We also address an employers' movement for a four-day work week and the history of socialism vs. capitalism. We respond to many listeners' questions.

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From:	NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	8/11/2015 11:52:30 PM
Subject:	First Draft on Politics: Bush Opens New Front in Attack on Clinton's Foreign Policy Record

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The New York Times
FirstDraft
What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Bush Opens New Front in Attack on Clinton's Foreign Policy Record

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Jeb Bush at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., on Tuesday. Mario Anzuoni/Reuters

By Amy Chozick

Good Wednesday morning from what scientists now say is a dying universe and where ***Donald J. Trump*** *remains the leader in Republican polls. But while he dabbled in policy discussions and held a large rally in Michigan on Tuesday, one of his major rivals,* ***Jeb Bush****, regained some of the spotlight by attacking* ***Hillary Rodham Clinton*** *over the Obama administration's policies in the Middle East.*

Republican attacks on **Mrs. Clinton**'s lucrative speeches and her comment that she was "dead broke" seem quaint compared with linking her to the violence, beheadings and instability sweeping the Middle East.

On Tuesday, Mr. Bush ushered in a new phase of the campaign, where Mrs. Clinton's record at the State Department will face intense scrutiny for the rise of the Islamic State and the violence engulfing Syria and Iraq.

In a speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., Mr. Bush said Mrs. Clinton "stood by" as secretary of state as the situation in Iraq worsened and the Obama administration pulled troops out, a vacuum that he said the Islamic State had rushed in to fill.

The Clinton campaign, in turn, cast the blame further back, saying that **President George W. Bush**'s decision to invade Iraq in the first place created the group. "ISIS grew out of Al Qaeda in Iraq," said **Jake Sullivan**, the Clinton campaign's senior policy adviser, "It emerged in no small part as a result of President Bush's failed strategy."

Mrs. Clinton, whose vote to authorize the war in Iraq hurt her in the 2008

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Democratic nominating contest, hardly talks about foreign policy or her time at the State Department. Instead, she devotes her town-hall-style events and speeches to policy areas like the economy, the environment and her new college affordability plan.

But as Mr. Bush made clear on Tuesday, Republicans will press the issue with Mrs. Clinton on foreign policy and over the Obama administration's approach — whether over the spread of the Islamic State, the "reset" of relations with Russia or the nuclear deal with Iran.

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What We're Watching Today

- **Mr. Bush**, whose campaign this summer unsuccessfully pushed for Nevada to switch from a caucus system to a primary and who recently chose leaders to run campaign operations in all of the state's counties, will hold a rally in Reno and a town-hall-style event in Las Vegas later in the day.

- And **Rick Santorum**, who won the Iowa caucuses in 2012 , but whose poll numbers left him out of the top 10 for last week's Republican debate, continues a sustained trip in the state, all part of his goal, his campaign says, "to reach all 99 Iowa counties."

Carson to Take Personal Narrative to a Harlem Institution

After a quiet but relatively well-received performance at the debate, **Ben Carson** is headed to Harlem.

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Mr. Carson will speak with Harlem residents on Wednesday at Sylvia's Restaurant, well known for its Southern comfort food, where photos of **President Obama**, **former President Bill Clinton**, **the Rev. Al Sharpton** and **Representative Charles B. Rangel**, all Democrats, hang on the walls.

"This is a private event," said a woman who answered the phone at Sylvia's. "They called us up and booked the private area," she added, before emphasizing that hosting the event did not represent an endorsement.

On Sunday, Mr. Carson, a retired neurosurgeon whose best moment in the debate came when he said he was the only candidate who had separated conjoined twins, visited a church in Iowa where he spoke about his faith.

He told the congregation of growing up poor in Detroit, how much he hated it and of how he found God in trying to deal with his temper. Despite his lengthy medical résumé, he has not held public office and has relied heavily on his personal narrative.

"Dr. Carson is not here to campaign," the church's pastor said, according to The Des Moines Register. "We're not saying go vote for Dr. Carson. We're saying here's a man who walks humbly before his God, who has an incredible message not only for us but for our country."

The Sylvia's event is another chance for him to introduce himself to voters. And Harlem, home to the country's first black renaissance, may also offer a stage to discuss the Black Lives Matter movement, a subject Mr. Carson, the only black candidate in either party, has touched on only briefly.

"He is not here to make statements," a spokeswoman, **Deana Bass**, said. "This is a meet and greet for him to visit the restaurant and chat with residents. It is nothing extra."

– Sandra E. Garcia

Kasich Thanks Trump for Drawing Debate Crowds

Gov. John R. Kasich of Ohio came to a Peterborough, N.H., event on Tuesday with a take-the-high-road answer prepared for questions about **Mr. Trump**.

"I don't have time to talk about somebody else," Mr. Kasich said, adding that he was fully occupied, like Mr. Carson, with introducing himself to voters.

Responding to a question from a voter about how he had similarly deflected the topic of Mr. Trump in a CNN interview, Mr. Kasich even avoided mentioning the unlikely Republican poll-leader by name.

For a while, that is.

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He eventually gave in to temptation, after uncorking a metaphor about how his much-praised debate performance was akin to being an astronaut launched in a rocket ship.

"Thank God for Donald Trump; 24 million people tuned in," Mr. Kasich said, drawing knowing laughs about the Trump-inflated audience.

— *Jonathan Martin*

Our Favorites From The Times

- **Senator Marco Rubio** of Florida's presidential campaign so far has been a lot of fits and starts: It impresses; it raises expectations; then it goes quiet. And it's all part of the plan.

- Responding to a New York Times Magazine article on efforts to undermine the 1965 Voting Rights Act, **Mr. Obama** wrote a letter to the editor, arguing that voting rights must be "vigorously defended" and calling on Congress to restore the law in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling that invalidated crucial parts of it.

- **Mrs. Clinton** has directed aides to give an email server and a thumb drive to the Justice Department as the inspector general for the intelligence community told members of Congress that two of the former secretary of state's emails among the 40 he has reviewed held classified information.

- And if there is a war between **Mr. Trump** and Fox News, it is an unconventional one. It is not mutually assured destruction; it is mutually beneficial combat.

What We're Reading Elsewhere

- **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont continues to both draw the kind of large crowds that other candidates dream of, and to gain ground on **Mrs. Clinton** in polls. The Washington Post and The Los Angeles Times take a look at his success.

- Politico reports that **Senator Chuck Schumer** of New York, who is the highest-ranking Democrat to come out against the Iran nuclear deal, and is expected to be among the lead contenders to take over the party's Senate leadership when **Senator Harry Reid** of Nevada steps down, has been "working the phones" to explain his decision and to assure Democrats that he will not try to secure more no votes.

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- And **Mr. Bush**'s Middle East policy attacks against **Mrs. Clinton**, Slate argues, will put her in the position of having to choose between defending herself and criticizing **Mr. Obama** during the Democratic contest.

- **Mr. Trump** may have a lot of money, but he is refusing to spend it on his campaign, like by buying television ads, spending on ballot access, or paying for campaign rallies, The Wall Street Journal reports.

- The fact that former **Gov. Rick Perry** of Texas, **Senator Rand Paul** of Kentucky, and **Mr. Santorum** are continuing their campaigns despite fund-raising woes shows how "super PACs" can keep failing campaigns alive , Politico reports.

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Crowds Overflowing, Cruz Makes a 1965 Ford Pickup His Stage

Connie's Fried Chicken in Tupelo, Miss., has a small dining area, maybe enough to seat 30 or 40. Hundreds of people R.S.V.P.'d to **Senator Ted Cruz** of Texas' "Down Home Breakfast" event here on Tuesday.

So the owner called up **Scott Hendrix**, a local classic car enthusiast who owns 15 historical automobiles, at least "one in each decade," and asked him to park his 1965 Ford F-250 flatbed pickup truck outside, so that Mr. Cruz would have a new stage.

Mr. Hendrix was happy to oblige, as both a Republican and a friend of the owner, but he didn't know Mr. Cruz too well. After the speech, however, his tone shifted.

"I was happy to have done it for him, but I didn't start out to do it that way," Mr. Hendrix said. But now "I really like what he has to say."

Mr. Hendrix's cars are his life's passion; he remembers putting his piggy bank savings into a rumble seat of the first classic car he bought with his father: a 1930 Ford Model A Roadster.

"For all of $21, I owned the back seat of that car," he said.

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If Mr. Cruz returned to Mississippi , and was in need of a classic car again, say the Roadster or any other of his fleet, could he turn to Mr. Hendrix?

“Absolutely,” he said.

– *Nick Corasaniti*

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Barbara Slavin" <bas131@aol.com>
seizenstat@gmail.com
Date: 7/15/2015 11:31:51 AM
Subject: RE: task force statement

Dear Barbara,

I just talked with Corinne Goldstein, one of our firm's top sanctions experts, and she said that she and several other of our sanctions attorneys cannot find any reference to the 5 year/8 year extension of the conventional weapons/missile ban in the Agreement or annexes, although the President again mentioned it today, stating that he got more from Iran since the lifting of UN sanctions would automatically lift this ban. Corinne said that the agreement simply indicates that once a new UNSC resolution is passed, the ban terminates period.

If the Administration cannot pinpoint a part of the agreement that refers to this, it could cause a problem with Congress.

Best wishes,

Stu

From: Eizenstat, Stuart
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 4:04 PM
To: 'Barbara Slavin'; seizenstat@gmail.com
Cc: Frederick Kempe (fkempe@acus.org); Natascha Braumann
Subject: RE: task force statement

Dear Barbara,

I have substituted this version for your short, supportive statement. I welcome your views.
Stu

From: Barbara Slavin [mailto:bas131@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart; seizenstat@gmail.com
Subject: task force statement

appreciate quick edit of this so i can send out to others:

The Iran Task Force of the Atlantic Council has worked for XXX years on Iran-related issues, from internal political developments to the impact of sanctions on the Iranian economy, and with a special focus on the challenges raised by Iran's nuclear program. We have held XXX seminars and conferences with a wide-range of experts on every aspect of Iranian society and policy, and published XXX reports. We have put out statements on the progress of past negotiations, including the April 2015 interim agreement.

We believe it is critical to view the Agreement announced in Vienna in a clear-eyed, realistic perspective, in which we may wish for the best outcome--full Iranian compliance with its terms; Iran turning away from a desire to acquire a nuclear weapon, not just during the term of the Agreement, but after its expiration; the channeling of the huge sums that will come to Iran with the lifting of US, EU, and UN sanctions for internal development and the betterment of its citizens, not for further support for terrorism; that its conduct will moderate as its economic isolation is ended and western investment takes hold-- but to be prepared for the worst scenario, which is at least as likely, if not more so--Iranian cheating on its explicit terms and obstructing the IAEA inspections necessary to verify the Agreement; the difficulty of sanctions "snapping-back" if there are violations; a patient willingness to wait until the expiration of the Agreement and then to rush headlong into a nuclear weapons program; the use of some of the funds obtained from the lifting of sanctions for even more aggressive support for the terrorist groups who look to it for leadership, from Hezbollah and Hamas to the radical Shiite militias in Iraq and Yemen, and to further support the Iranian support for the Assad regime in Syria; that its revolutionary zeal will not be curbed, but enhanced with new revenues; and that Iran will be left, with all the restrictions in the Agreement as a nuclear threshold state; the arms embargo on conventional weapons and missiles will be ended in five and eight years, respectively.

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We believe it is likewise critical that the US government recognize and take actions to deal with the signficant opposition to this Agreement from our closest Arab allies in the Middle East and from Israel, which views an Iranian nuclear weapon as an existential threat to its existence. The US government must act urgently to assure that this Agreement does not ignite a new nuclear arms race in the volatile Middle East.

We come to the conclusion, even in a worst or most likely a mixed case scenario, that this Agreement is better than the alternatives if the Agreement is rejected. We would be left with only a military option, which may be necessary if Iran actually marches forward for a nuclear weapon, but would be difficult to justify after Iran has agreed to signficant curbs on its nuclear appetite. We believe that additional sanctions are not likely to produce a significantly improved Agreement. The reason is that we already have the most extensive, comprehensive sanctions ever exacted against a country in peacetime, and there are few others available to the US. Moreover, it is highly doubtful the EU, whose cooperation in imposing sanctions has been critical to getting Iran to seriously negotiate and make the signficant compromises embodied in the Vienna Agreement, would support additional sanctions. Even during the sanctions period, Iran continued to increase the number of centrifuges, to work on more advanced centrifuges, and to begin a plutonium facility at Arak.

Most significant, with no agreement, there would no significant reduction in its 19,000 centrifuges; no dismantlement of its Arak plutonium plant; no intrusive IAEA inspections; no elongation of its breakout period from several months to a year.

The Atlantic Council's Iran Task Force believes the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Acti on (JCPOA), if faithfully implemented, will restrict Iran's nuclear program for at l east a decade in return for sanctions relief. While substantial differences remain b etween the United States and Iran, preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons f or a prolonged period eases concerns about the most alarming aspect of Iranian polic y and could contribute to a desperately needed easing of tensions in the region.

There are important curbs on Iran's nuclear ambitions:

--The number of operating centrifuges at its Natanz facility will be reduced from 95 00 to 5060 for 10 years;

--Iran will limits enrichment to 3.7%, far below weapons grade (90%) and below the 2 0% level to which it has enriched some of its uranium.

--Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium will be cut from 10,000 kilograms to 300 kilograms, less than needed for one nuclear bomb for 15 years, a reduction of 98%;

--For a period of 25 years there will be extensive monitoring by the IAEA on the sup ply chain of Iran's nuclear program, from mining and milling of uranium, all the way to the enrichment of uranium hexafluoride (UF6), and the IAEA will have the right t o continuous surveillance of centrifuge manufacturing and storage facilities);

--The core of the heavy-water reactor at Arak will be removed, precluding its produc tion of weapons grade plutonium (Pu-239), which is the most efficient fuel to make a nuclear weapon, and reprocessing will be prohibited, and its spent fuel will be sen t out of Iran, and it will not build another heavy-water plant for 15 years;

--Iran will transform its deeply buried facility at Fordo into a center for science research;

--Although Iran has long-since signed the Additional Protocol of the Nuclear Non-Pro liferation Treaty, it will now be obligated to implement this, and to permit intrusi

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ve inspections by the IAEA of its civilian and military facilities "anywhere in the country". Many of the inspection provisions will last for 20 or 25 years, and some p ermanently, making it more difficult to develop a nuclear weapon.

--Only the support of five of eight countries could find a violation by Iran that wo uld lead to snap-back sanctions, meaning that Russia, China and Iran together could not block their reimposition if there is a violation of the terms of the Agreement b y Iran.

--The lifting of sanctions, which Iran had wanted to occur immediately upon signing, will come only when the IAEA certifies that Iran has complied with the terms of the Agreement, likely by the end of 2015.

--The IAEA and Iran have entered into a separate agreement in which Iran will be req uired to answer the full 12 questions put to it regarding the Possible Military Dime nsions (PMDs) of their past nuclear program, including interviews of their scientist s and other nuclear officials, in order for the IAEA to make the positive certificat ion necessary for sanctions relief.

--There are restrictions for 15 years on Iran's development of advanced centrifuges, which can produced enriched fuel five to six times faster than the current models.

At the same time, there are significant shortcomings the Task Force sees, that will require a willingness by the US and its allies to call Iran to task if there are vio lations or refusals to cooperate:

--The IAEA cannot initiate inspections of undeclared nuclear sites anywhere-anytime, but must present evidence of why it wishes to have access to the sites, and Iran ha s up to 24 days before they must comply, giving it the time to "clean-up" any suspec t sites;

--The snap-back sanctions would not be able to capture commercial contracts which ha ve been entered into before the violations are discovered, which are grandfathered, thereby encouraging companies to enter into long-term contracts with Iran;

--The conventional arms embargo would be ended in five years, giving Iran additional capabilities to provide arms to its radical, anti-western surrogates; and eight yea rs for ballistic missiles, which would provide a delivery system for possible nuclea r weapon;

--It is inconceivable that Iran would not provide some of the $150 billion in frozen assets it will get after an IAEA certification, as early as the end of this year, t o its radical supporters, giving it the capacity to further destabilize the region.

The most troubling feature of the agreement, is that after 10 years, there are essen tially no limits on Iran's capacity to move rapidly to a nuclear weapon, shortening its breakout time for a nuclear weapon from a year, under the agreement, to a few mo nths, where it is now. It is this feature that is of the gravest concern to our alli es, and should be to the US. Even now, with the restrictions, Iran is a nuclear thre shold state.

Therefore, our Task Force would urge that the US make clear now to Iran that it is n o more acceptable for Iran to have a nuclear weapon after the expiration of a nuclea r weapon after the Agreement expires than now; that Iran understand in clear terms t hat the US will use all means necessary, including military force, to prevent it obt

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aining a nuclear weapon; that we provide additional security guarantees to our allie s in the region, including Israel, and the means to defend themselves.

Our allies in the region must also be assured that the US will not use this Agreemen t as a basis for agreements with Iran that threaten their security.

The Task Force also urges that the Administration work now with the EU to reach agre ement that targeted sanctions could be imposed if there are violations and if Iran i ncreases its funding of terrorist groups with the new funds it will obtain after san ctions are removed.

But the Task Force also believes that rejecting this Agreement will produce the wors t of all possible worlds: the EU will almost certainly abandon its sanctions; the re ductions in Iran's nuclear program may not be realized, and he IAEA inspections will be curtailed or eliminated.

-----Original Message-----
From: Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com >
To: 'Barbara Slavin' <bas131@aol.com >
Sent: Tue, Jul 14, 2015 11:21 am
Subject: RE: Iran Nuclear Agreement

OK
Stu

From: Barbara Slavin [mailto:bas131@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Subject: Re: Iran Nuclear Agreement

i have read the document and am working on a statement. unfortunately cannot change the time for our event tomorrow which is from 9:30-11... albest Barbara

-----Original Message-----
From: Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com >
To: Barbara Slavin (bas131@aol.com) <bas131@aol.com >
Cc: Frederick Kempe (fkempe@acus.org) <fkempe@acus.org >; Natascha Braumann <nbraumann@acus.org >
Sent: Tue, Jul 14, 2015 11:12 am
Subject: Iran Nuclear Agreement

Dear Barbara,

Please do a "deep dive" into the Agreement, with the pluses and minuses (gaps), so we are ready with a response.
I have a client meeting tomorrow from 9:30 am to 11:30 am in Arlington. Can we move the Task Force meeting later in the day?
Stu

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/8/2015 8:10:27 AM
Subject: Three Minutes to Midnight: Can We Turn the Clock Back in Time?

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Three Minutes to Midnight: Can We Turn the Clock Back in Time?

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, Truthout: With atomic scientists' "Doomsday Clock" two minutes closer to midnight, and a report from the National Climatic Data Center confirming that 2014 was the hottest year on record, Congress is trying to move us closer to ecocide. Reversing course will require urgent, concerted action.

Read the Article

Medium and Movement: Todd Wolfson on the Digital Rebellion

Peter Handel, Truthout: Rutgers media studies professor Todd Wolfson talks about his new book *Digital Rebellion: The Birth of the Cyber Left*, which chronicles the genesis of the "indymedia" movement in Chiapas, Mexico, in 1994 and its 1999 birth at the WTO protests.

Read the Interview

"Operation Streamline": The New Prison Boom

Leticia Cortez, El BeiSMan: "Operation Streamline" is a law that makes jail time mandatory for people convicted of illegal entry or re-entry into the United States. As long as Operation Streamline continues to make billions for the prison industrial complex, the politicians they control will continue passing laws to criminalize immigration.

Read the Article

The World's Email Encryption Software Relies on One Guy

Julia Angwin, ProPublica: Werner Koch, the man who built the free email encryption software used by whistleblower Edward Snowden and hundreds of thousands of others, wrote the software known as Gnu Privacy Guard in 1997, and since then has been almost single-handedly keeping it alive.

Read the Article

A Tax Cut for Tax Cheats

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Shadow Prisons: A Private and Profitable Corner of the Federal Prison System

Read the Article at Fusion

Federal Judge Gives FBI the OK to Withhold Alleged Murder Plot Records

Read the Article at Courthouse News Service

BP Oil Workers Join the Largest Nationwide Strike in 35 Years

Read the Article at RT

Yellowstone Oil Spills Expose Threat to Pipelines

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Bob Lord, OtherWords: Critics attack the IRS for making mistakes, darkening the public's view of it. That gives political opportunists a chance to lobby successfully for cuts. A smaller budget virtually guarantees future mistakes by a cash-strapped agency. It's a vicious cycle.

Read the Article

At $8.9 Million, Oil Industry Is Top Spender on Lobbying in California in 2014

Dan Bacher, Indybay: The oil industry is the most powerful corporate lobby in California, overshadowing corporate agribusiness, the high tech industry, the movie industry, insurance companies and other special interests in the money and influence that it wields in state politics.

Read the Article

Another Legislative Year, Another Round of Awful Bills

Robin Marty, Care2: The last GOP-dominated election brought us a legislative session filled with massive abortion restrictions, voter ID and voting restrictions, union busting and lots and lots of proposed private school vouchers. This time, things could get even worse.

Read the Article

Analysis: Last Tango for Nuclear Power?

Peter Dykstra, Environmental Health News and The Daily Climate: New nuclear plants in the US are falling behind schedule and soaring over budget, making an already-jittery Wall Street even more skeptical. Additionally, the demise of Yucca Mountain means there's nowhere for the industry to permanently store its waste.

Read the Article

Pipelines Under Rivers Nationwide
Read the Article at InsideClimate News

Anti-Oil Sands Activists Are Getting Visits From the FBI
Read the Article at The Canadian Press

Stream of Foreign Wealth Flows to Elite New York Real Estate
Read the Article at The New York Times

Birth of a Shadow Doctrine: How a Small Group of Lawyers Launched a War Against International Law
Read the Article at Salon

Rumors of the Walker Probe's Death Have Been Greatly Exaggerated

Brendan Fischer, PR Watch: The Walker probe is not dead. The future of the investigation - and with it, Wisconsin campaign finance law - now rests with the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Although the state's highest court has its own conflicts of interest in the case, the Walker investigation is far from resolved.

Read the Article

This week in Speakout:

David Krause highlights how the San Francisco Unified School District has partnered with the Hamilton Family Center to help at least 75 homeless families find housing this school year; **Pat Elder** looks at the issue of student privacy in conjunction with military recruiting; **David Swanson's** foreword to Gary Brumbeck's new book, *America's Oldest Professions: Warring and Spying* considers how we developed the idea of war as a preferred method to settle political differences; **Maya Schenwar** writes to the students of Village Leadership Academy, who are opening up our visions of what abolition looks like; **David Cupples** urges us to embrace Bob Marley's "One Love" revolution 34 years after Marley's passing; **Victor Grossman** meditates on the soft fascist PEGIDA movement and the horror of Edgar Allen Poe; **Winslow Myers** offers a solution to the paradox of deterrence: compassion; **Lawrence Davidson** analyzes the Boehner-Netanyahu cabal; and more.

Read the Articles

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From:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	11/13/2015 5:21:25 PM
Subject:	Clinton Foundation Update: Latin America Trip

Hi everyone – we wanted to give you some updates on our trip to Latin America this week.

President Clinton got a firsthand look at the work of the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership (CGEP) and CGI commitment-makers in El Salvador, Panama, and Peru.

The Clinton Foundation, through CGEP, is working to develop social enterprises that foster sustainable economic development aimed at helping people work themselves out of poverty, with a focus on increasing opportunities for girls and women. In Latin America, this includes equipping women with sales and skills training and a basket of fortified food and consumer products, which the entrepreneurs then sell to others within their communities – providing essential, life-changing goods and helping to increase household incomes. CGEP also works to empower smallholder farmers by giving them better access to markets and infrastructural improvements for their locally grown produce.

So our friends could follow us along on the trip, President Clinton "took over" the Clinton Foundation's Instagram account , posting pictures of what he saw and who he met. See below for some of those moments.

INCREASING FARMERS' INCOMES IN EL SALVADOR

In El Salvador, President Clinton learned about CGEP's Accesso Oferta program , which purchases fruits and vegetables from small-scale farmers at favorable payment terms, provides essential training in good agricultural practices, and ensures farmers have access to quality seeds and fertilizers that will significantly improve the quality and yields of the produce they grow. During the visit, President Clinton met Lillian Pacheco and Edgar Lemus, two farmers who have benefited from the program. Lillian's income has increased from $200 per month to $900 and Edgar's from $350 per month to $1,100.





Read an English translation of an article about the visit in El Salvador's largest newspaper.

Check out photos of the visit to El Salvador: http://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/estados-unidos/article43917042.html





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Share photos of the visit on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/663925303471943680

Share info on CGEP's innovative model on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/664473885899902976

GENERATING CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY IN PANAMA

President Clinton then headed to Panama, where he visited the Coclé Windfarm, part of the CGI Commitment to Action "Million Investment in Latin America's Renewable Energy." President Clinton and partners toured the wind farm, hearing about its construction, the environmental benefits it offers, and the cost savings associated with the recently introduced renewable energy.

Read an Associated Press piece about the visit: http://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/article44197224.html

Read a CNN piece about the visit: http://www.wtol.com/story/30485543/bill-clinton-visits-largest-wind-farm-in-central-america





Share a video of the wind farm on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/664187597221191681

Empowering women entrepreneurs in Peru

The tour's last stop took President Clinton to Lima, Peru. In the morning, he visited a depot that houses a fleet of buses running of compressed natural gas, helping the city reduce carbon emissions. This work is a result of a partnership between C40, the Clinton Climate Initiative, and the City of Lima. Clinton Foundation Chair Bruce Lindsey signed a Letter of Intent to relaunch C40's work in Lima.





In the afternoon, President Clinton met with women entrepreneurs that participate in CGEP's Chakipi Acceso program, a last-mile distribution enterprise that equips women in various regions in Peru with sales skills training and essential products, which the entrepreneurs then sell to others within their communities – providing essential, life-changing goods that are otherwise hard or impossible to access. President Clinton learned about how the entrepreneurs select their products, observed onsite product training, and heard from several women in the program about how the project has benefitted their families and improved their incomes.

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Read a couple articles about President Clinton's visit here: http://www.andina.com.pe/Ingles/noticia-peru-former-us-president-clinton-highlights-women-empowerment-in-lima-584161.aspx

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/bill-clinton-visits-peru-on-final-stop-of-latin-america-tour/2015/11/11/c0c28f26-88c0-11e5-bd91-d385b244482f_story.html

Share photos of the visit on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/664865648556826624

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/23/2014 1:09:05 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday July 23, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday July 23, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

The Hill: "Clinton message taking shape"

"'Hillary Clinton has made it clear that should she run for president, her forward-thinking agenda will be reflective of her life's work — leveling the playing field and giving everyone a chance to succeed,' said Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton super-PAC. 'She said very clearly, just this month, that the current disparity must be fixed so that hard work is rewarded and our system works for everyone.'"

Huffington Post opinion: Allida Black: "Blazing a Trail: Hillary Clinton, Advocate for Children and the Indigent"

"If we are going to have a discussion about Hillary Clinton's legal career, then let's be sure the whole story is told - one that explains both her commitment and her pioneering advocacy for abused children and the indigent in need of counsel."

KPCC-FM (C.A.): "Hillary Clinton on Gaza, 'Hard Choices' and being called a '20th century candidate'"

Sec. Clinton: "Elections are about differences, as we know, but every election is about the future and certainly anyone who wishes to run for president has to make it clear how the experience that you've had in the past and what you believe and how you have acted on those beliefs will translate into positive results for the American people."

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Washington Post blog: Post Politics: “Hillary Clinton responds to Rubio: ‘Every election is about the future’”

“Clinton sounded like a presidential candidate, vowing to take on issues like student loan debt, immigration and improving the lives of middle class Americans. But she reiterated that has not decided whether she will run in 2016.”

Associated Press: “Seeking The Limelight, Biden Courts Key Dem Groups”

“Caught in Hillary Rodham Clinton's perpetual shadow, Joe Biden is working to boost his political profile among key Democratic voting blocs, a move that could help the vice president fashion himself as a more liberal alternative in the 2016 presidential race.”

Associated Press: “Pat Schroeder: Clinton Would Face ‘Subdued Sexism’”

“Former House Democrat Pat Schroeder predicts that Hillary Clinton would face "a lot of sexism" if she decides to run for president in 2016.”

Real Clear Politics: “Bachmann Says She Might Seek Presidency in 2016”

“The Minnesota congresswoman and 2012 Republican presidential candidate told RealClearPolitics on Tuesday that she is considering a second White House run.”

Politico Magazine: Daniel Halper: “My Battle With the Clintons”

“In short, the Clinton team has been true to form so far. And I’m surprised by little of it.”

Washington Free Beacon: Daniel Halper: “Chasing Hillary”

"But the real question being asked in Washington is not whether Hillary can be beaten as such, as it is whether any prominent Democrat has the guts to try to stop her."

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Articles:

The Hill: “Clinton message taking shape”

By Alexandra Jaffe and Amie Parnes

July 23, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton is sharpening her message months ahead of a likely bid for the White House.

After a rocky first few months back in the spotlight where she struggled to offer crisp sound bites, Clinton is now test-driving various campaign themes.

The former New York senator is signaling that this time around — unlike in 2008 — she will offer a concise and cohesive vision for the country.

On Monday, she said during a Facebook question-and-answer session, “The next president should work to grow the economy, increase upward mobility, and decrease inequality.”

That statement taps into key Democratic rallying points that appeal to independents as well as the liberal base pining for a potential Elizabeth Warren candidacy. She hasn’t offered much policy details, but there’s plenty of time for that.

“We’ve reached a point in our life when we think you really shouldn’t run for office if you don’t have a clear idea of what you can do and a unique contribution you can make and you can outline that,” former President Bill Clinton told CNN this week. “Now that the book [tour] is done, she wants time to think about that and work through it. I think so much of politics is background noise, and we don’t need the background noise anymore.”

But as necessary as it is for the former first lady to come up with a simple message — the lack of which, Clinton allies say, was perhaps a fatal flaw of her 2008 campaign — it’s also a difficult task. In essence, Clinton needs her own “hope and change” theme.

Clinton allies say one is emerging.

“Hillary Clinton has made it clear that should she run for president, her forward-thinking agenda will be reflective of her life’s work — leveling the playing field and giving everyone a chance to succeed,” said Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton super-PAC. “She said very clearly, just this month, that the current disparity must be fixed so that hard work is rewarded and our system works for everyone.”

The current themes are emerging after Clinton and her inner circle pieced together the missteps of the 2008 bid. A Democratic strategist said one of the biggest reasons Clinton lost to President Obama is because she didn’t demonstrate that she had a clear path for moving the country forward. Clinton, the operative said, acted as though she was the inevitable nominee.

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“At every campaign stop you heard Obama say, ‘I want to see the country do x, y and z and that’s why I’m running for president of the United States of America.’ She failed to do that. She relied too much on the sentiment that she was the best person for the job without really explaining why.”

In her book, Hard Choices, the former secretary of State wrote that potential presidential candidates should consider it their responsibility to “renew the American Dream.”

“Having lost in 2008, I know that nothing is guaranteed, nothing can be taken for granted. I also know that the most important questions anyone considering running must answer are not ‘Do you want to be President?’ or ‘Can you win?’” she wrote. “They are, ‘What’s your vision for America?’ And ‘Can you lead us there?’”

Clinton announced her 2008 campaign by proclaiming, “I’m in, and I’m in to win.”

It’s a challenge for Clinton to craft a fresh vision because her campaign will operate in the shadow of her husband’s presidency. She will be asked to answer what went well and what went wrong over those eight years.

Speaking to talk show host Charlie Rose on PBS last week, Clinton offered the outlines of a potential campaign rationale.

“You have to run a very specific campaign that talks about the changes you want to make in order to tackle growth, which is the hand maiden of inequality,” she said.

She offered her husband’s economic policies as an example of what would work to reduce inequality, and implicitly knocked Republican economic theories, a hint at where her own platform would end up.

“We still have people in positions of political leadership who argue that trickle-down economics, supply side economics work. There is no convincing evidence of that,” she said. “So what you need if you’re going to run for president or run for any important position is to be absolutely clear about what you will do and to make the case relentlessly about that.”

A former senior aide to Clinton on her 2008 campaign dismissed concerns that she would be weighed down by her husband’s record, arguing she can easily distance herself from other policies by simply saying, “We live in a different world.”

The ex-staffer said Clinton’s vision will also look “completely different” from 2008 because “we’re not in the same place.”

“We were at war and voter polling indicated that people were still legitimately concerned with terrorism. That’s reality one. And reality two is that we won’t have someone like Mark Penn who came in and messed everything up with bad messaging,” the aide added. Penn was a senior strategist for Clinton’s 2008 campaign.

Skepticism from the progressive base is a 2008 issue that Clinton will have to address head on. Calls from the left for Warren (D) to run in 2016 have grown ever louder as the freshman senator from Massachusetts has been hitting the trail for Democratic candidates this cycle and revving up the base with fiery, populist rhetoric.

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Clinton faces the challenge, said Mike Lux, a former Clinton White House aide, of deciding “strategically, politically, policy wise, how much distance to try to create between her and Wall Street,” which has traditionally been a strong backer of the Clintons.

“I think good politicians — and I think Hillary is a good politician — are good at threading needles, and I think there’s probably a way to do it. But the danger when you’re trying to thread a needle is that you poke both sides, because you try to play it both ways,” Lux said.

Lux added she might ultimately have to apologize for supporting some policies, such as the deregulation of the banks that contributed to the financial crisis, that have given progressives pause.

But a former Hillary Clinton aide said if she runs, she would make a credible case on reducing inequality.

“The totality of her record is very much about equality and fairness,” the ex-staffer said.

A former Obama 2008 campaign aide said Clinton would pummel Warren, who has repeatedly said she’s not running.

“Hillary has more than redeemed herself with many through her services as secretary of State,” the former Obama campaign aide said. “Her leadership skills as an executive are hardly in dispute now.”

The ex-Obama staffer added, “Clinton has done so much more to co-opt the base groups in the past eight years. Yes, Warren will be the left-of-center darling, but I think she’s going to be outgunned by every metric.

“I also think that the left-wing base have grown up a little,” the former Obama aide continued. “They realize that the shiny new object can only do so much in a polarized, gridlocked capital.”

Huffington Post opinion: Allida Black: “Blazing a Trail: Hillary Clinton, Advocate for Children and the Indigent”

By Allida Black

July 22, 2014, 7:08 p.m. EDT

If we are going to have a discussion about Hillary Clinton's legal career, then let's be sure the whole story is told - one that explains both her commitment and her pioneering advocacy for abused children and the indigent in need of counsel.

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To tell this story, you need to return to the mid-1970s, when the nation had no common legal standard for abused and neglected children, the poor had little access to legal counsel, rape was concealed rather than prosecuted, and the nation, especially the South, offered few services to those survived the horror of rape.

Hillary Rodham started law school in the fall of 1969. Child abuse was seen as family matter and was swept under the rug; and children had few protections under the law. A few bold lawyers tackled this and Hillary, the law student, stood with them.

Soon Hillary was at the forefront of legal campaigns to protect children and represent those too poor to pay a lawyer. She helped shape legal aid clinics, researched child abuse and neglect, and represented those who had been assaulted or abused. As she wrote in Living History, her work on behalf of abuse victims "went hand-in-hand with my assignments at the New Haven Legal Services office," as both stemmed from her realization "that what I wanted to do with the law was to give a voice to [those] who were not being heard."

The legal aid system was haphazard and undefined. Even though the 6th Amendment granted criminal defendants in federal cases the right "to have the assistance of counsel," it took until the 1930s for indigent defendants in federal cases to secure counsel, and another 30 years for the Supreme Court to apply that right to indigents charged in state felony cases. Even then the Court left many key questions about legal aid unanswered. The demand for legal aid lawyers swamped existing legal pools.

Hillary spent her years after law school tackling both these challenges. In 1973, she went to work at the newly formed Children's Defense Fund, the country's leading child advocacy organization. After moving to Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1974, she taught criminal procedure at the law school and ran its legal aid clinic.

In early 1975, Hillary was appointed by a judge to represent an indigent man charged with rape. Hillary wrestled with the assignment, especially since a young child was involved. She asked to be removed from the case, but the court denied her request.

I can only speculate on the gut-wrenching torment this must have given Hillary.

She found herself torn between the two legal values she cherished. But in the end, she could not discount that her values and professional ethics mandated that all indigent defendants, not just those accused of nonviolent crimes, receive adequate counsel.

But the record is clear how Hillary responded as soon as the trial ended. She helped launch the first rape crisis hotline in Arkansas and strove to give women the medical, legal, and social support they needed. This was a bold act. Rape Crisis Centers and hotlines were rare. Indeed, crisis centers in Washington, D.C. and Boston had only opened their doors in 1972 and 1973. In the South, only Memphis and Athens, Georgia followed suit.

It wasn't long after that I first learned about Hillary. In 1975, I helped start the first rape crisis center in Atlanta. I was trying to navigate the legal issues related to child assault victims, but the law was so new, I was lost, so I asked for help. Everywhere I called, the experts would say, "Do you know Hillary Rodham? She's who you need to talk to."

Less than four years after graduation, Hillary had already established herself as one of the country's leading advocates for abused and neglected children. Her groundbreaking articles in the Harvard Educational Review and Yale Law Review spurred urgently-needed legal reforms. While at home, her leadership of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families gave voice to abused and neglected children.

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The same can be said for Hillary's cutting edge work to expand legal aid. As manager of the Fayetteville legal aid clinic, she saw how the legal standard used to determine whether a defendant qualified for aid was "an impossible standard to meet" and she "wanted to change the law."

And indeed she did. In 1977, President Carter appointed Hillary to the Legal Services Corporation, a federal program charged with expanding access to legal aid. Hillary was the first woman to chair the corporation, and under her leadership, funding more than tripled from $90 million to $300 million.

Hillary's early leadership in these two fundamental civic values is often overshadowed by her other political and diplomatic successes. It should not be. It shows us who she is, why she took the actions she did, and how she will continue to lead.

KPCC-FM (C.A.): "Hillary Clinton on Gaza, 'Hard Choices' and being called a '20th century candidate'"

By AirTalk

July 22, 2014, 10:38 a.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton responded on Tuesday to charges from Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) that she is a "20th century candidate" by defending the Obama administration's first term and saying that "every election is about the future."

On Morning Edition Tuesday, Rubio said:

"I think she's extremely vulnerable on her record. The truth of the matter is she was the Secretary of State during an administration that has had virtually no major successes on foreign policy. In fact, their failures on foreign policy are stark, and we'll remind them of them every single day, and she'll have to answer for that. And the other is I think she's just a 20th century candidate."

Clinton is currently touring the U.S. promoting her new memoir "Hard Choices," in which she writes about the four years she served as the nation's top diplomat under President Barack Obama. We were lucky enough to snag some time with her to discuss a number of issues, including Rubio's comments on her potential candidacy.

On Rubio's '20th century candidate' remark:

"I wrote a whole book called 'Hard Choices' that details a lot of the important successes of the first term of President Obama (and maybe I should send a copy of it to my Republican friends). Secondly, elections are about differences, as we know, but every election is about the future and certainly anyone who wishes to run for president has to make it clear how the experience that you've had in the past and what you believe and how you have acted on those beliefs will translate into positive results for the American people.

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"I will be standing up and speaking out in favor of the changes that I think we need to make to improve life for middle-class Americans, to give every kid a chance to go to college without being bankrupted and disabled by student debt, to try and resolve our immigration challenges in a way that is keeping with our values, and so much else. I know that elections are about the future and I look forward in engaging in that kind of debate."

On whether she'll run for president:

"We have an election this November, which is a pretty consequential one, because it'll determine the control of the Senate, and obviously I strongly am committed to doing what I can to keep the Senate in Democratic hands. And so I think we all should be focused on that election and not look ahead to 2016. But by the end of the year, or early next year, people will start making decisions, and of course, I will be among them...

"You certainly have to make the decision, when and how you go pubic with it, that's up to each individual, but from my perspective, I think it's incredibly important that we stay focused on these midterm elections — that historically have a lower turnout than presidential elections — because so much is at stake. After we've done everything we can for the 2014 elections, the Democratic Party, the country, we can turn our attention to the upcoming presidential race."

On medical marijuana and federal enforcement:

"Honestly, I don't think we've done enough research yet to say what the effects are and what they could be on different people with different physical or psychological issues, different ages — yes, medical first and foremost, we ought to be doing more to make sure that we know how marijuana would interact with other prescription drugs and the like. But we also have to know how even medical marijuana impacts our kids and our communities.

But the states are the laboratories of democracy, and we're seeing states pass laws that enable their citizens to have access to medical marijuana under certain conditions, so we have the opportunity to try to study those. And then Colorado and Washington have proceeded to permit recreational use. And at the same time, we're seeing the beginnings of important criminal justice reforms.

So I'm a big believer in acquiring evidence, and I think we should see what kind of results we get, both from medical marijuana and from recreational marijuana before we make any far-reaching conclusions... I think the feds should be attuned to the way marijuana is still used as a gateway drug and how the drug cartels from Latin America use marijuana to get footholds in states, so there can't be a total absence of law enforcement, but what I want to see, and I think we should be much more focused on this, is really doing good research so we know what it is we're approving."

On teacher tenure and the Vergara decision:

"I haven't read the Vergara decision, so I don't know the details, but I would make just a few points. First, I think everybody should agree that good teachers are at the heart of high-quality learning, and we need more cooperative partnerships between innovative unions, especially at the local level, and with local school districts, with parents, with teachers, and not the adversarial approach that I think has not worked to the benefit of our kids. And we have to get back to what really does work for kids, because these education debates are really toxic.

...

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Anything that stands truly in the way based on reliable evidence to the well-being and educational attainment of our most disadvantaged kids we should tackle systematically. But I think it's probably unwise to be making education decisions by judicial decision."

On the conflict in Israel and Gaza:

We obviously want to help bring an end to the conflict in Gaza, we also want to support Israel's right to self-defense. And we want to ensure that lethal rockets don't continue to make their way to Gaza under the control of Hamas. You may have heard that American airlines have just been ordered by the FAA not to fly into Ben Gurion Airport because a rocket just landed very close to Ben Gurion Airport. So that certainly is an issue that we have to be paying attention to.

Similarly, with Ukraine, when an unarmed civilian commercial airplane is shot down by insurgents who have been armed and equipped by Russia, that raises a lot of issues for anybody in America who is flying these days, so you have to look at all of this in a thoughtful way, and you have to meet high bars to do anything that might lead to anything with military support.

...I've been on the phone many times with Prime Minister Netanyahu. I have a whole chapter in my book about negotiating the November 2012 cease fire that prevented a ground invasion by the Israelis into Gaza, because at that time Hamas was firing rockets into Israel…I would certainly be urging that he try to accomplish the military objectives — which I have to say Larry, are legitimate ones: To destroy the tunnels that are providing pathways into Israel by armed Hamas fighters and destroy the stockpiles of rockets that are getting more accurate and raining down now on the entire territory of Israel — and I would say, 'Mr. Prime Minister, please move as carefully and expeditiously as is possible to finish the military objectives, because although you do have a right to protect your country, we want to do everything we can to limit, if not eliminate, civilian casualties... I would urge the prime minister to accept any additional offers of cease fire, because Israel should demonstrate its willingness to end the military conflict, but of course, Hamas should be required to do the same."

On the embassy attack in Benghazi:

"I took general responsibility immediately, because I was responsible for the State Department and the people there, but as I write in a very thorough chapter in my book, I am not a security expert. I would not pretend to be one… Obviously it was a tragic event, and I immediately put together an independent review board and they found that there were problems in the assessment of security requests in the department…

I think it's important for Americans to realize that our facilities around the world are often attacked. We had a terrible attack with Ronald Reagan was president — 258 Americans killed in Beirut. There were attacks when my husband was president. We lost 12 Americans and many Africans in attacks on our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania… It's a dangerous world out there and we do the best we can, but we don't retreat. We don't say, 'OK, it's a dangerous world, therefore we can't be out there, and we can't be picking up information, and we can't representing the United States.'"

Guests:

Hillary Rodham Clinton, author of the new memoir, Hard Choices (Simon & Schuster, 2014). She served as the United States Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013 and is former senator from New York from 2001 to 2009

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Jonathan Wilcox, Republican Strategist; former speechwriter for Governor Pete Wilson

Matt Rodriguez, Democratic strategist, Rodriguez Strategies; former senior Obama advisor in 2008

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton responds to Rubio: 'Every election is about the future'"

By Sean Sullivan

July 22, 2014, 4:46 p.m. EDT

Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton responded Tuesday to Sen. Marco Rubio's charge that she is a "20th century candidate," suggesting that all elections are about what's next.

"I know that elections are about the future, and I would look forward in engaging in that kind of debate," Clinton said in an interview with "Airtalk" on Southern California public radio station KPCC.

Clinton said that voters need to evaluate a candidate's record to determine how the candidate will behave in the future.

"Every election is about the future. And certainly anyone who wishes to run for president has to make it clear how the experience that you've had in the past and what you believe and how you have acted on those beliefs will translate into positive results for the American people," Clinton said. "And I will be standing up and speaking out in favor of the changes that I think we need to make."

Clinton sounded like a presidential candidate, vowing to take on issues like student loan debt, immigration and improving the lives of middle class Americans. But she reiterated that has not decided whether she will run in 2016.

Rubio (R-Fla.), who is also a potential candidate, suggested in an interview broadcast earlier in the day that Clinton does not offer a forward-looking platform.

"I just think she's a 20th century candidate," Rubio told NPR in an interview published Tuesday. "I think she does not offer an agenda for moving America forward in the 21st century -- at least not up to now."

Rubio also criticized President Obama's foreign policy, insisting that Clinton has an "extremely vulnerable" record on that front.

Clinton responded by pointing to the accomplishment she details in her book, "Hard Choices."

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"Maybe I should send a copy of it to my Republican friend," she quipped.

Associated Press: "Seeking The Limelight, Biden Courts Key Dem Groups"

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 22, 2014, 6:17 p.m. EDT

Caught in Hillary Rodham Clinton's perpetual shadow, Joe Biden is working to boost his political profile among key Democratic voting blocs, a move that could help the vice president fashion himself as a more liberal alternative in the 2016 presidential race.

Major speeches this week to the NAACP and the Urban League will give Biden prime opportunities to court African-American voters who twice helped deliver the White House to President Barack Obama. He'll do his part to help Democrats in the battleground state of Nevada at a campaign rally Wednesday. And last week, Biden wooed liberals at a pair of grassroots summits, basking in the adoration of activists who chanted "We love Joe."

Biden knows he's not the first name that comes to mind as the Democratic Party's likeliest next presidential candidate. That distinction belongs to Clinton, who dominates in early primary polls and has well-funded political groups trying to draft her to run.

But in recent days, Biden has emerged as a frequent headliner for left-leaning groups, keeping his name high on the list of Democrats who could challenge Clinton or pursue the nomination if she doesn't run. He's joined on that list by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who are pitching populist themes that appeal to those in the party's liberal wing who insist Clinton doesn't have a lock on the nomination.

"I don't take a back seat to anyone when it comes to fighting some of the toughest progressive battles the country has seen," Biden said last week in an energetic speech in Detroit to Netroots Nation.

A day earlier, Biden was at Generation Progress in Washington, where he said he'd been on the "front lines" promoting liberal priorities such as income equality and climate change. He reminded listeners of his early backing for gay marriage, noting how he'd come out in support ahead of Obama. Left unsaid: He also beat Clinton to the cause.

Biden hasn't announced whether he'll run in 2016, but he maintains close ties to early voting states like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, and is fundraising aggressively for Democrats this year. He's also differentiated himself from Clinton by stressing his lack of personal wealth just as Clinton was getting flak for raking in massive speaking fees, declaring recently that he was once "the poorest man in Congress."

Maria Cardona, a Democratic strategist, said if Biden is considering another run, putting himself in front of the Democratic base is exactly the right strategy.

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"Until somebody announces, this is anyone's game," Cardona said. "If the vice president knows that he's interested in this, it would be politically stupid for him not to be doing what he's doing."

Biden's string of speeches comes as advocacy groups across the country are convening for their annual conventions, and it's not unusual for vice presidents to appear at such events. The vice president's office said Biden doesn't have any other speaking engagements scheduled for the foreseeable future.

Biden's remarks Wednesday in Las Vegas to the NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization, precede a Thursday speech at the National Urban League Conference in Ohio, another key presidential state. In between, Biden will rally for House candidate Erin Bilbray, who is running to unseat Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev. Although Heck is outpacing Bilbray in fundraising, the race has attracted national attention from Democrats.

Associated Press: "Pat Schroeder: Clinton Would Face 'Subdued Sexism'"

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 22, 2014, 9:02 p.m. EDT

Former House Democrat Pat Schroeder predicts that Hillary Clinton would face "a lot of sexism" if she decides to run for president in 2016.

Schroeder served in the House from 1973 to 1997 as the first woman elected to Congress from Colorado. Now 73, she appears in "Makers: Women in Politics," a film airing this fall on PBS.

She was asked about Clinton on Tuesday at a summer TV critics' meeting.

"She's still going to have a lot of sexism," Schroeder said. "I can't believe there's people saying can she still be a grandmother and be a president. There are people making snide comments about her age. It's a little more subdued sexism, but it's very much there."

Clinton, 66, has yet to announce whether she intends to run in 2016. The former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state will become a grandmother this year when her daughter Chelsea gives birth.

Schroeder said she believes Clinton would bring a different approach to working with critics than President Obama.

"She understands how mean they are and she understands she's got to come back at them with more force," Schroeder said. "Obama thought he could bring everyone together. That just isn't working in Washington right now."

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Schroeder ran for president but withdrew from contention in September 1987. While in Congress, she was the first woman to serve on the House Armed Services Committee.

She balanced congressional work with motherhood early in her tenure and was known for her focus on work-family issues.

Real Clear Politics: "Bachmann Says She Might Seek Presidency in 2016"

By Scott Conroy

July 22, 2014

Though set to retire from the U.S. House after her term expires at the end of this year, Michele Bachmann may not be done with electoral politics.

The Minnesota congresswoman and 2012 Republican presidential candidate told RealClearPolitics on Tuesday that she is considering a second White House run.

Bachmann made the revelation during an interview, in which she was asked for her view on whether any Republican women might seek the Oval Office in 2016.

"The only thing that the media has speculated on is that it's going to be various men that are running," she replied. "They haven't speculated, for instance, that I'm going to run. What if I decide to run? And there's a chance I could run."

Bachmann entered the last presidential race in June 2011 as a long-shot contender but was able to use her sway with elements of the Tea Party and an effective media campaign to rise temporarily toward the front of the Republican pack in a deeply fluid race.

The high point of her candidacy came in August 2011 when she won the Ames Straw Poll in Iowa.

But Bachmann's campaign soon withered amid a string of gaffes and controversial claims, staff defections, and a rise in the fortunes of other candidates in the race.

She ended up finishing in sixth place in the Iowa caucuses less than five months after her Ames triumph, earning just 5 percent of the vote and dropping out the next day.

The four-term congresswoman that she would "certainly" reap the benefits of having run once before, if she were to launch a second White House bid.

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“Like with anything else, practice makes perfect,” she said. “And I think if a person has gone through the process -- for instance, I had gone through 15 presidential debates -- it’s easy to see a person’s improvement going through that.”

In November 2012, Bachmann barely managed to hold onto her 6th District seat, defeating hotel executive Jim Graves by 4,298 votes. Last May, she announced that she would not seek a fifth term in the House.

Bachmann told RCP that if she decides to run for president again, she will make sure that she has a strong campaign infrastructure in place.

“I haven’t made a decision one way or another if I’m going to run again, but I think the organization is probably the key,” she said. “To have an organization and people who surround you who are loyal, who are highly competent, who know how to be able to run the ball down the field in state after state -- because now I think the primary process will be very different this time. It will tighten up; it will be a much shorter run than it was before.”

Bachmann said that she is looking at “a lot of different options” for her post-congressional life and that another presidential campaign is just one of them.

If she were to run again, Bachmann could struggle to be seen as a credible candidate in what is expected to be a far stronger Republican field in 2016 than the one that she competed in four years earlier.

But in the interview, Bachmann alluded to her fundraising prowess as a reason she should be taken seriously, calling herself “one of the top -- if not the top -- fundraisers in the history of the United States Congress.”

“And it’s because people saw that I had an authentic voice, and I was fighting for them,” she said. “I wasn’t speaking to them like a politician. I was speaking like a real person who was fighting for what they believed in.”

Asked to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of Hillary Clinton’s potential candidacy, Bachmann said that the presumed 2016 Democratic frontrunner has “fatal problems” related to her tenure as secretary of state that should “disqualify her” from the nation’s highest office.

Bachmann suggested that she would zero in on making her own 2016 decision soon after she wraps up her tenure in the House.

“I think it’s important to have sufficient time to lay the necessary groundwork to have a really solid campaign and a campaign team put together,” she said. “And I think probably I would think about that decision earlier than I did last time.”

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Debates”

By William A. Galston

July 22, 2014, 7:19 p.m. EDT

These are tough times for internationalists, liberal and conservative alike. George W. Bush's overreach in Iraq undermined public support for the use of American power overseas, and Barack Obama has done nothing to rebuild it. Large majorities of Americans believe that our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan was a mistake. A July 21 Politico survey of likely voters in battleground states found that only 39% think that we have a responsibility to do something about the mess we left behind in Mesopotamia.

The survey also found that by a margin of 3 to 1, Americans reject the sweeping vision Mr. Bush enunciated in his second inaugural address and would instead confine the use of American military power to direct threats to our national security. In the same poll, completed before the downing of the Malaysia Airlines 3786.KU -2.17% passenger plane, only 17% thought we should get more involved in the confrontation between Russia and Ukraine.

The desire for some nation-building here at home is palpable and understandable. Nevertheless, the forthcoming presidential campaign is likely to feature an unusually spirited debate—within as well as between the parties—about America's role in the world.

The outline of this debate among Republicans is easy to foresee. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has articulated a coherent message of government restraint abroad as well as at home and has proved adept at making a libertarian-leaning agenda more broadly acceptable to conservatives. The young adults who flocked to his father's rallies seem especially receptive to his critique of military intervention and NSA surveillance. Texas Gov. Rick Perry, whose political instincts seem to have improved since 2012, has publicly challenged Mr. Paul for his alleged isolationism, and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has positioned himself as his generation's torchbearer for a muscular internationalism based on American leadership.

Most Republican contenders are likely to side with their party's national-defense orthodoxy of recent decades. Still, Mr. Paul's self-confidence and political skills could carry him far in a divided field and might even gain him the nomination. That would be an earthquake within the Republican Party and present a tough choice for staunch hawks like John McCain and Lindsey Graham. Mr. McCain has publicly said as much.

Although it may not occur, the Democrats are poised for a similar debate. The only significant difference between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in 2008 was her vote for the Iraq war, which probably cost her the presidential nomination. Little has changed. During her tenure as secretary of state, Mrs. Clinton was among the administration's toughest voices during internal debates. She supported the use of American air power in Libya, and the Navy SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden. (Both Vice President Joe Biden and Defense Secretary Robert Gates opposed it.)

Strong legal support from Mrs. Clinton's State Department for President Obama's expansive use of drones surprised many observers. She was an advocate for the 2009 surge of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and favored maintaining a residual American force in Iraq after the end of our combat missions. While not opposed to nuclear negotiations with Iran, she has expressed mistrust about Iranian intentions and has opposed a policy of "containing" a nuclear-armed Tehran if diplomacy fails. As president, it seems reasonable to conclude, Mrs. Clinton would make decisions about using American power based on prudential considerations, not instinctive aversion.

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For the record: Even though I opposed the Iraq war from the start, I believe that Hillary Clinton's judgment on defense and foreign policy issues has been right far more often than it was wrong and that she would serve our country well as commander in chief.

But rank-and-file Democrats are no less dovish today than they were in 2008. Although attention has focused recently on the clash between "populist" and "Wall Street" Democrats, the potential for an intraparty debate on foreign policy seems just as real. While Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has consistently denied her intention to run if Mrs. Clinton enters the race, Vice President Biden has made no such pledge. Estes Kefauver, the 1956 Democratic vice-presidential nominee, once remarked that the only known cure for persistent presidential ambition was "embalming fluid."

Mr. Biden is well-positioned to wage a left-leaning campaign on foreign policy as well as economic issues. Although he voted for the Iraq-war authorization in 2002, he argued vehemently against the Bush administration's surge in 2007, proposing instead the quasi-partition of Iraq into autonomous Kurdish, Sunni and Shiite zones. As vice president, he argued just as hard against Gen. David Petraeus's proposal (backed by then-Secretary of State Clinton) for a massive military surge and nation-building policy in Afghanistan. And he has taken U.S. military action against Iran off the table, declaring that "war with Iran is not just a bad option. It would be a disaster."

These issues matter, not just for the U.S., but for the world. During the Cold War, American retreat usually meant Soviet advance. Now it most often means anarchy. The question is whether the American people can be persuaded that they should care.

Politico Magazine: Daniel Halper: “My Battle With the Clintons”

By Daniel Halper

July 22, 2014

When I started to write Clinton, Inc: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine, I knew the reaction to expect. I was well aware that the former (and perhaps future) first family and its massive retinue of loyalty enforcers, professional defamers and assorted gadflies would rue my intent to examine the real Clintons—especially in my search for the real Chelsea Clinton, who until now has been a media-protected nonperson despite her aggressive public activities on her family’s behalf and despite raking in hundreds of thousands of dollars from her role as former first daughter.

MSNBC’s David Shuster learned this the hard way when he was suspended from the network for saying, “But doesn’t it seem like Chelsea’s sort of being pimped out in some weird sort of way?” in a live TV hit on how the former first daughter was being used by her mother’s 2008 campaign. The Clintons hit the roof over the single relatively banal comment, as I report in my book, and lobbied the head of parent company GE to get Shuster off the air.

I also had a feeling that some of the sources I spoke to, for and not-for attribution, including alleged Clinton mistresses who’ve stayed out of the press and remain loyal to Bill, would alert the Clintons to what I was doing and help them prepare a counterattack.

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But even if I hadn't known it, many, many people in Washington, on the left and right, popped up to warn me of what to expect from the Clinton PR team. Other authors—legitimate ones with serious pedigrees—who'd written about the Clintons said they were threatened and verbally attacked. Of course, nearly everyone in Washington has seen the much-vaunted Clinton PR machine in action. It's very predictable. Here's how it works:

1) Media intimidation tactics: Following their usual method of operation, the first thing Team Clinton would do is attempt a media blackout. A producer with CNN said I'd never be able to get any airtime on her show because the Clintons punish networks that give space to their perceived enemies. So far, even claims in my book that were well sourced with on-the-record quotes—such as Bill Clinton offering counsel to John McCain in how to defeat Barack Obama in 2008—have been all but ignored by the mainstream media.

2) Defame and attack: There would be repeated efforts to turn me into a kook or right-wing hit man. Though they haven't yet gone so far to label me a "crazed stalker" like they did with Monica Lewinsky, the reliable Clinton aide Nick Merrill has repeatedly deployed a classic Clinton spin line on my work—before it was even on sale, mind you, and presumably he hadn't yet read it. "It's sad to see Daniel Halper join the discredited and disgraced ranks" of other authors supposedly out to get them at all costs, he emailed the Huffington Post. Sadly, I received no credit from the Clintons or from Merrill for the praise of both Bill (that he's a "political genius) and Hillary (that she's "intensely likable") in various parts of the book. Merrill also claimed I was just out "to make a buck." Which I take it means that Bill and Hillary Clinton donated all the proceeds of their millions in book deals to charity?

3) The "old news" trick: A favorite gambit is to make any allegation unfavorable to the Clintons as old news. One of the best examples of this came from Clinton media minder Philippe Reines about a book by Jeff Gerth: "Is it possible to be quoted yawning?"Yawn. No biggie. You reporters are fools for even covering it.

Daniel Halper is author of Clinton, Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine and online editor of The Weekly Standard.

4) The dark arts: Some prominent media personalities with experience covering the Clintons in the 1990s told me that their team would have no problem with, say, copying every page of someone's manuscript, sending it out to reporters ahead of publication, and then depicting it as a right-wing smear job. Funny thing, that exact thing happened with my book, as POLITICO noted.

At first, I resisted the temptation to conclude the Clintons were behind this, but now certain events have led me to believe the Clinton team has had copies of this book for some time. Why might they leak the book early? The best explanation is so that the book's contents could come out well before publication and the Clintons can then rely on another standard mode of operation—denouncing any unfavorable allegations as "old news."

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In short, the Clinton team has been true to form so far. And I'm surprised by little of it.

What has surprised me, however, is what the Clintonistas are already doing to their own. In the introduction to my book, I describe what I was told about the Clinton operation. As I put it there, "Nearly everyone in Washington has a Clinton story, or two, or two hundred, but many are afraid to air them publicly or on the record, out of fear of retribution or attack from ruthless Clinton aides and their media allies. … Thus it is pretty clear why less powerful figures inside Clinton, Inc. insist on anonymity. The panic among Clintonites, past and present, is palpable."

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It's one thing to hear about it in the abstract. It's quite another to see it in action. To wit:

While I was still reporting on my book, James Carville's office called, seemingly out of the blue, to grill me on whom I'd already spoken to. I obviously refused to indulge the questioner.

Someone from Bill Clinton's publisher went to mine, HarperCollins, asking questions about my book and what I might be planning.

I write in my book that "Clintonites are known to scour through magazine articles and books to try to decipher blind quotes and tie them to a suspect." I believed that was true. But now I know it is. This is in fact happening with my book as I write this, I've learned, and has been happening for days, if not weeks. Some are throwing other people to the wolves.

Other Clintonites named in the book are heading for the hills. Some preposterously denied that they ever talked to me. Perhaps it's buyer's remorse—but more likely they know the Clinton code of omerta.

I've found the task of covering the Clintons fascinating. They're not exactly the people we see on television. Although many believe Hillary is the cold, calculating and cunning Clinton and Bill is the emotive and gregarious, the exact opposite seems to be a more accurate portrayal of who they really are. As for Chelsea? It would appear from tip to toe she's daddy's little girl—and the wizard behind the curtain.

It's been a wild ride, and I've really been intrigued by my encounters with some of the (many) kooky characters in Clinton, Inc.

Maybe I'll have to do a sequel.

Washington Free Beacon: Daniel Halper: "Chasing Hillary"

By Daniel Halper

July 23, 2014, 5:00 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Book: Biden, O'Malley, Schweitzer, Klobuchar, Emanuel, Cuomo, and Warren preparing to run if Hillary Clinton bows out

Among Democrats who hope Hillary Clinton doesn't run—and their number is larger than one might think—the complaints are familiar. Age and stamina are the obvious considerations. "Look at Obama's hair color, just like George Bush's," says a prominent Washington insider. "Somebody who's seventy shouldn't be president. And I think that's going to be an interesting issue against her, but who in the Democratic Party is going to have the guts to take on that machine?" A former Clinton campaign adviser is equally blunt. "This is gonna sound

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superficial”—which is an understatement—“but men do age better than women,” he says. “At seventy she’s not gonna be—it’s not gonna be great.”

Democrats fear she is too radioactive. One of many prominent D.C. Democrats who will only comment on background out of fear of inciting Clintonian wrath complains that “she will lose the general because her negatives are so high.” Then there is the not-so-secret fact that she is not a very good candidate. Hillary is often compared to the kind of politician always better in concept than as an actual flesh-and-blood candidate. Many compare her unfavorably to Al Gore or John Kerry or even Mitt Romney, stiff policy wonks with difficulty making personal connections.

Some will chalk this up to sexism—or at least the difference between men and women politicians. It is not that Hillary is not a good politician, they will say, but that American politics is not used to female candidates. “We are only now growing used to the style of women in politics. You know, they’re not backslappers, even if they are natural politicians,” says political adviser Bob Shrum, who helped lead Al Gore’s and John Kerry’s presidential campaigns. Hillary, he insists, has grown into a natural politician.

But the real question being asked in Washington is not whether Hillary can be beaten as such, as it is whether any prominent Democrat has the guts to try to stop her.

The most obvious primary challenger, of course, is the one most often discounted. Vice President Joe Biden will turn seventy-four in late 2016. Gaffe-prone and perennially underestimated, Biden is expected to quietly step aside for the Clintons, with whom he’s had a long and friendly relationship. Unless, of course, you ask Joe Biden.

Maybe Obama has forgotten all the trash talk Hillary leveled against Obama back then—but Biden hasn’t. “You decide which makes more sense—entrust our country to someone who is ready on Day One . . . or to put America in the hands of someone with little national or international experience, who started running for president the day he arrived in the United States Senate,” Hillary Clinton told a reporter in 2007. “He was a part-time state senator for a few years, and then he came to the Senate and immediately started running for president,”1 she said in early 2007. And that was just the stuff she said on the record.

After Hillary left the secretary of state’s office, the world went on, and so did the administration. If anything, it was hard to notice she was gone. Except for personnel: Obama was free to shift over his traveling campaign press secretary, Jen Psaki, the dashing redhead who had been so harsh to Hillary on the campaign trail in 2008 that she was not allowed near the State Department until Hillary was out of Foggy Bottom. And most of the Clinton loyalists who had come to the State Department four years earlier left to cool their heels in various positions out of government while Hillary cooled hers.

On policy, John Kerry, some thought, did more for the administration in his first year than she did in her four years. He was able to carry out a key goal of President Obama’s, by beginning to work out the structure of what could be a landmark deal with Iran. And with respect to Syria, Kerry gained plaudits from pundits—and the dovish Obama—for his ability to wage hard-nosed diplomacy by publicly signaling that a deal brokered with the Russians could avert an American strike in the Middle East country. Hillary didn’t accomplish any of that. Instead, she claimed credit for the miles she flew, as if that mattered.

A former high-ranking official in the Clinton administration recently spoke to his friend Biden about Hillary’s 2016 maneuvering.

“You going to step aside for her?” he asked. “No,” the vice president replied confidently. “Fuck no.” Traditionally Biden’s stance might pose problems for Hillary. After all, vice presidents tend to win the nominations of their parties. But Biden has a major drawback. He lacks the support, even the quiet support, of

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the president he serves.

None of this has stopped the vice president from making plans, however. Biden has run for president twice before—in 1988, when he was forced to drop out over plagiarism charges, and again in 2008, when he was barely an asterisk against Obama and Clinton. And he still has the bug, fiercely jealous of the tendency in the press to write him off in favor of endless stories about Hillary's maneuverings.

"And let me not forget Joe Biden, because he will call me this after- noon and remind me," Democrat Donna Brazile once half joked during a Sunday talk show appearance where she discussed the Clinton campaign in waiting.

She isn't the only one. The vice president or his senior aides at his behest will call reporters, pundits, anyone he feels is not giving his candidacy the credibility it deserves. He wants respect.

Though stranger things have happened in politics—like a one-term senator defeating the Clintons in 2008—few give Biden much chance of a surprise victory. One former Senate colleague says Biden could never be president. "He makes people like him, but lack of discipline is his weakness," the senator says. "She's far more disciplined and calculating."

"If you take a look at every important thing that's come out of the White House, Biden's had his finger on it," says a Clinton aide. "So, people underestimate Biden, and part of being a VP is being derided to a certain extent." Still, he adds, "He can't beat Hillary in '16 because she starts with eighteen million votes. Everyone that voted for her in '08 wants her to run again."

Shrum agrees. "I think [Biden] will recognize that reality," he says.

Allies of the vice president of course disagree with this assessment. Biden also knows there is a chance that the Clintons are bluffing. Signaling that she's running for president to get attention, speaking fees, book deals, but not really ready to hop in. Biden, too, is gambling on her health.

So are some Republicans. "I must admit I'm completely befuddled," admits Bush strategist Karl Rove. "My brain says yes, she's the front- runner. My gut tells me we don't know everything about the health issue."

But if Hillary is bluffing, she's doing an excellent job. Leaving nothing to chance, the undeclared candidate has gone out of her way to take swipes at Biden—something she wouldn't likely do if her 2016 effort is just a feint. At a private event in Georgia in 2013, for example, she was asked a question about the bin Laden raid. "She took 25 minutes to answer," a Republican state legislator present at the gathering told the Atlanta newspaper. "Time and time again . . . Clinton mentioned the vice president's opposition to the raid, while characterizing herself and Leon Panetta, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, as the action's most fierce advocates, the paper reported."

Dr. Jill Biden, the vice president's wife, is said to be actively "counting down the days" until she can return to "normal" life. Some close to the Bidens speculate that she would "kill him if he decided to run for president." Especially a race she doesn't think he can win. That appears to be the only thing holding back a potential Biden 2016 run.

Among those not so secretly preparing the ground in case of a Hillary demurral: Senator Amy Klobuchar of

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Minnesota; Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel; and New York governor Andrew Cuomo. But they seem to believe, as one Democratic strategist put it, that “Hillary gets the first right of refusal.”

Observers believe the more potent threat is the little-known but aggressive governor of Maryland, Martin O’Malley. O’Malley would be fifty-four years old on Inauguration Day 2017—fifteen years younger than Hillary Clinton. He is a handsome man with impeccable liberal credentials, and “a fucking political animal,” according to Maryland politicos who know him.

Political consultants in Maryland say O’Malley is someone who could do serious damage to Hillary Clinton in the primary. One listed his assets in a race against the frontrunner: “He is mean. He has a long history of negative campaigning. He’s a good fundraiser.” In other words he’s a younger Bill Clinton.

“He’s very Bill Clinton-esque,” another consultant says. “He’s very good shaking hands and politicking.” He’s even rumored to have women issues like the former president, though none have ever been proven.

Former Vermont governor Howard Dean, who might have been expected to support O’Malley in a primary challenge, especially considering his implicit criticisms of the Clintons when Dean ran for president himself in 2004, has fallen under the Clinton sway. The once-maverick liberal firebrand has become increasingly establishment—in fact, he chaired the Democratic National Committee during the Obama-Hillary race. “I will support her against any other foreseeable Democratic candidate,” Dean told me. But he held open at least a little wiggle room. “I like Martin O’Malley a lot.”

Disclosing that he had a recent conversation with O’Malley—“I’m not going to tell you what the conversation was,” he snapped—he adds, “I think O’Malley is very serious” about running for president in 2016.

By setting himself up as Obama’s true heir, O’Malley is poised to run to Hillary’s left. He’s been an enthusiastic backer of Obamacare and vowed to lead the nation in sign-ups for the controversial program. Major Democrats know that he’s going to be a problem for her. So they’re trying to find a way to give him something to do. He’s tested the New Hampshire waters, according to CNN, where he played a video summary of his career starting as mayor of Baltimore, which said, “Martin O’Malley formulated an assault on hopelessness.” And it claimed that he transformed Baltimore while curbing crime and took his good governance to the Maryland State House in Annapolis. It was a three-and-a-half-minute-long campaign “video befitting a national political convention-style rollout,” said CNN. And of course it was released in New Hampshire, traditionally the first state in the nation to hold a primary. As a Maryland Republican says, “He’s running, unless they buy him off.”

The most obvious payoff, of course, would be the vice presidency. A former Clinton aide envisions a scenario in which Hillary offers him the job to keep him out of the race, or to have him run as a “puppet” opposition candidate. “He’s good looking, Irish Catholic, and young,” the aide reasons. “She’s gonna need some youth, so Martin is the logical pick.”

Brian Schweitzer, a former Democratic governor from Montana, is another wild card. He’s positioning himself as an anti-corporatist, gun- toting populist who’s not shy about bringing up Hillary’s support for both the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. He’s already done that in Iowa, the state to hold the first caucus in the nation—and one where Hillary got tripped up in 2008 when she lost the contest there to Obama.

Antiwar rhetoric is a political weapon that’s previously proven to be lethal on the political left—after all, it’s not at all dissimilar from the public positions that Barack Obama was able to use to undercut the candidacy of Hillary Clinton in the 2008 Democratic primary.

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Schweitzer might not be known yet, but that doesn't mean he can't level the primary field just by appearing in many debates (and performing well) before a nationally broadcast audience.

The same is true for Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. Her very candidacy would undercut Hillary's bid to be the first female president and her liberal credentials are superb. Before being a U.S. senator she was the brains in the Obama administration behind the establishment of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. She is no pragmatist. She is purely an ideologue—which can be very helpful for riling up the base in a party primary.

Then of course there is the possibility of California Gov. Jerry Brown, who ran a stronger than expected primary campaign against Bill Clinton in 1992. Brown, a popular and well-known figure on the political left, has refused to rule out a run. But at seventy-six, and with a personal life that long has been the subject of a whispering campaign, Brown is an unlikely threat. He most likely seems to be basking in the attention that comes from having his name mentioned.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· ~ July 23-27 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Ameriprise Financial Conference (Politico)

· July 23 – Oakland, CA: Sec. Clinton helps launch new Too Small To Fail effort in Oakland (Twitter)

· July 29 – Saratoga Springs, NY: Sec. Clinton makes "Hard Choices" book tour stop at Northshire Bookstore (Glens Falls Post-Star)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

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From:	"Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	10/9/2015 4:07:28 AM
Subject:	Fwd: Reminder -- Tonight's Dinner at 7 PM
Attachments:	.htm
	2015-10-04 HRC FP narrative - record, vision, contrast.pdf

MKA dinner tonight !
I told Laura you'd prob cover some of JPalms agenda item below.

7 PM. 1318 34th Street, NW -- between N and O in Georgetown

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 10:57 AM
Subject: Fwd: Reminder -- Tonight's Dinner at 7 PM
To: Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, Varun Anand <vanand@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >

Hi all - confirmed participant list below, along with the agenda you've already seen, for dinner tonight. Her team also recirculated out record/vision/contrast doc to all (attached). Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Laura

- Welcoming from MKA; what's at stake; why HRC
- Podesta overview on state of the race, critical role of surrogates on national security, welcome thoughts on strategy
- Palmieri overview of messaging environment - ramp up with debate, Benghazi testimony (and Hill outreach/war room plan)
- Sullivan comments on foreign policy in the race, HRC's record/vision/contrast (not doc we've circulated), policy process
- Discussion of strategy and plan:
    - Highlighting accomplishments
    - Showcasing depth of her national security experience and support
    - Benghazi hearing and emails
- Wrestling with tough issues
    - Syria
    - Russia
    - TPP
- MKA closing remarks

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Confirmed attendees:

1. Madeleine Albright
2. Evan Bayh
3. Jeremy Bash
4. Sandy Berger (likely)
5. Johnnie Carson
6. Kurt Campbell
7. Rudy DeLeon
8. Tom Donilon
9. Jose Fernandez
10. Jacob Freedman
11. Helen Gayle
12. Alexis Keslinke
13. Harold Koh
14. Jessica Lewis
15. Brian Katulis
16. Prem Kumar
17. Matt Olsen
18. Jen Palmieri
19. John Podesta
20. Laura Rosenberger
21. Julie Smith
22. Vikram Singh
23. Mariah Sixkiller
24. Jake Sullivan
25. Andrew Shapiro
26. Dan Schwerin

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jacob Freedman <jfreedman@albrightstonebridge.com >
Date: October 9, 2015 at 10:48:15 AM EDT
To: Jacob Freedman <jfreedman@albrightstonebridge.com >
Subject: Reminder -- Tonight's Dinner at 7 PM

Thank you for confirming your participation in tonight's dinner discussion with John Podesta, Jennifer Palmieri and Jake Sullivan at Secretary Albright's home.

As a reminder, we will get started at 7 PM. Her address is 1318 34th Street, NW -- between N and O in Georgetown.

To help inform the discussion, I am attaching a document that Hillary for America has put together outlining core messages on HRC's national security record and vision, and how those contrast with the GOP. You may already have received this from the campaign.

If you have any last minute questions or changes to your schedule, please feel free to contact me via e-

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mail or on my cell phone at 202-297-4756 .

Jacob Freedman | Senior Director

Albright Stonebridge Group LLC

601 13th Street, NW | 10th Floor |Washington, DC 20005

Office +1.202.759.5100 | Direct +1.202.759.5171 | Mobile +1.202.297.4756

jfreedman@albrightstonebridge.com

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 3/3/2015 6:29:15 AM
Subject: Re: AIPAC/Iran

Jake,
We need to keep the military option on the table, but it would be the additional sanctions in the new congressional bill, which would give the future President the right to impose them upon a finding of a violation. But it would als include current sanctions--SWIFT, CBI, etc.
Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 08:53 AM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: Thomas (Tom) R. Nides (tom.nides@morganstanley.com) <tom.nides@morganstanley.com>; Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonemail.com) <huma@clintonemail.com>; Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonfoundation.org) <huma@clintonfoundation.org>; John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com) <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; Melanne Verveer (pverveer@aol.com) <pverveer@aol.com>
Subject: Re: AIPAC/Iran

Thanks Stu. What would those sanctions look like? If Iran actually tried to break out at the end of the period, ostensibly we'd be talking about military action?

On Mar 3, 2015, at 8:09 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

Attached is my speech at AIPAC yesterday to the Rabbinical Assembly, the organization of Conservative American Rabbis, on rising anti-Semitism in Europe; the Iran nuclear negotiations; and U.S.-Israel relations.

I would like to suggest for Secretary Clinton that on the most sensitive issue, Iran, she be generally supportive of an agreement along the lines I outlined, but, crucially, she indicate (a) grave concerns that Iran's missile program is unconstrained and has no civilian purpose, and that we should make its restraint a priority; (b) that Congress should pass additional sanctions after an agreement that could be imposed by a future President following the 10-15 year expiration period of the agreement, if Iran seeks a "breakout" at that point. In other words, one major flaw in the emerging agreement is that Iran would be free of constraints after the period. She should take the position that unless Iran radically changes its posture over this period of time, the U.S. should never allow Iran to become a nuclear weapons state, as North Korea is now.

This position would be supportive of the Obama Administration's efforts, but would signal a tougher position on what a post-agreement world should look like.

Best wishes,

Stu

Stuart Eizenstat

Covington & Burling LLP
One CityCenter, 850 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 662 5519 (tel) | (202) 778-5519 (fax)
seizenstat@cov.com
www.cov.com

<image002.png>

<AIPAC CONSERVATIVE RABBIS STU SPEECH FINAL FINAL 030215 DOCX.doc>

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From:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
To:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
Date:	12/16/2012 2:45:58 PM
Subject:	[big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer - Assualt Weapons are Weapons of Mass Destruction and Should Be Banned

Assault Weapons are Weapons of Mass Destruction and Should Be Banned
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-creamer/assault-weapons-are-weapo_b_2313290.html

The tragedy in Connecticut forces America to confront a simple question: why should we allow easy access to a weapon of mass destruction just because it could conceivably be referred to as a "gun"?

I count myself among the many Americans who at various points in their lives have owned and used long guns -- hunting rifles and shotguns – for hunting and target shooting. No one I know in politics seriously proposes that ordinary Americans be denied the right to own those kinds of weapons.

But guns used for hunting have nothing in common with assault weapons like the ones that were used last week in the mass murder of 20 first-graders – except the fact that they are referred to "guns."

Rapid-fire assault weapons with large clips of ammunition have only one purpose: the mass slaughter of large numbers of human beings. They were designed for use by the military to achieve that mission in combat – and that mission alone.

No one argues that other combat weapons like rocket-propelled grenades (RPG's) or Stinger Missiles should be widely available to anyone at a local gun shop. Why in the world should we allow pretty much anyone to have easy access to assault weapons?

Every politician in America will tell you they will move heaven and earth to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorists. Yet we have allowed the ban on this particular weapon of mass destruction to expire. As a result, a terrorist named Adam Lanza was able to have easy access to the assault weapons he used to kill scores of children in minutes.

Let's be clear, Adam Lanza was a terrorist just as surely as he would have been if we were motivated by an extreme jihadist ideology. It makes no difference to those children or to their grieving families whether their loved ones were killed by someone who was mentally deranged or by someone who believed that by killing children he was helping to destroying the great Satan.

When an individual is willing – or perhaps eager – to die making a big "statement" by killing many of his fellow human beings, it doesn't matter what their motivation is. It *does* matter whether they have easy access to the weapons that make mass murder possible.

And after last week, can anyone seriously question whether assault weapons are in fact weapons of mass destruction? And after last week, can anyone seriously question whether assault weapons are in fact weapons of mass destruction? If Lanza had conventional guns -- or like a man in China who recently went berserk, he only had knives -- he would not have been physically capable of killing so many people in a few short minutes.

Of course you hear people say – oh, a car or an airliner can be turned into a weapon of mass destruction – many things can become weapons of mass destruction.. And there is no question after 9/11 that we know that this is true. But cars and airliners have to be converted from their primary use in order to become instruments of mass death. It takes an elaborate plot and many actors to take over an airliner and it isn't easy to methodically kill 27 people with a car.

More important, assault weapons have no redeeming social value or alternative use whatsoever. The only reason to purchase an assault weapon, instead of a long gun used for target practice or hunting, is to kill and maim large numbers of human beings.

And it is not the case that if assault weapons were banned ordinary people would get them anyway. We certainly don't take that attitude with nuclear weapons or dirty bombs. We make it very hard for a terrorist to get nuclear weapons or dirty bomb. It used to be hard to get assault weapons.

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When the former President of Mexico visited the United States some time ago to discuss the drug-fueled violence on the Mexican border, he pointed out that the end of the assault weapons ban in the U.S. had resulted in an explosion of smuggling of assault weapons from the United States to Mexico. Weapons that were previously unavailable in large numbers, became plentiful. He begged the United States to re-impose the assault weapons ban.

Allowing easy access to assault weapons guarantees that terrorists, criminals and mentally unstable people will use them to commit future acts of mass murder – it's that simple. There are 7 billion people on the planet. Try as we may, we are not going to prevent some of those 7 billion people from becoming terrorists, criminals or mentally unstable. Why make it easy for them to do harm to their fellow human beings by giving them easy access to a weapon of mass destruction?

Since this tragedy, there have been calls for greater restrictions and background checks on those who can buy guns – and there should be. But from all accounts, the weapons used in the Connecticut murders were purchased legally by the shooter's mother – who herself appeared to be perfectly sane right up to the moment that Lanza used those same weapons to end her life.

The NRA will no doubt repeat its mantra about the "slippery slope." "If we ban assault weapons, shotguns will be next", they say. Really? By banning anyone from buying Stinger Missiles that are used to shoot down airplanes do we make it more likely that the Government will one day prevent people from hunting ducks?

The simple fact is that no right is absolute because rights come into conflict with each other. Your free speech does not give you the right to cry "fire" in a crowded theater.

Is the NRA's concern that banning assault weapons will put us on a "slippery slope" more important than the lives of those 20 first graders? Should it really take precedence over the fact that today in Newtown, Connecticut there are 20 families with holiday presents on a closet shelf, that were purchased for an excited 6-year-old who will never open them?

Are the NRA's fears more important than the terror faced by children in the Sandy Hook Elementary school last week?

Does the right to own an assault weapon take precedence over the right of those parents to see their children grow up, and graduate from college, and stand at the alter to be married, and have children of their own?

The bottom line is that there is no reason why weapons of mass destruction of any sort – chemical weapons, biological weapons, RPG's, improvised explosive devices (IED's), missiles, dirty bombs, nuclear devices, or assault weapons -- should be easily accessible. For ten years there was a ban on the production, ownership and use of assault weapons in the United States until Congress and the Bush Administration allowed it to lapse when it sunset and came up for reauthorization in 2004.

A serious response to the tragedy in Connecticut requires that Congress act to reinstate the assault weapons ban before the children of other families fall victim to the fantasies of some other mentally unbalanced individual – or the ideology of a terrorist who has been empowered by our failure to act.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com . *He is a partner in Democracy Partners and a Senior Strategist for Americans United for Change. Follow him on Twitter @rbcreamer.*

Robert Creamer
Democracy Partners
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Cell - 847-910-0363

Robert Creamer

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Democracy Partners
creamer2@aol.com
DC Office 202-470-6955
Cell 847-910-0363

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to dubois.sara@gmail.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From: "Matt Ortega" <mortega@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@gpg.com>
Date: 4/13/2015 11:29:18 AM
Subject: Re: Rubio notes

DWS statement

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: DNC Press <DNCPress@dnc.org >
Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:28 PM
Subject: DNC Chair Statement on Marco Rubio's 2016 Announcement
To: DNC Press <DNCPress@dnc.org >

For Immediate Release
April 13, 2015

Contact – DNC Press – 202-863-8148

DNC Chair Statement on Marco Rubio's 2016 Announcement

Washington, DC – In response to Marco Rubio's announcement that he will run for president in 2016, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"As Marco Rubio's presidential campaign gets underway, expect him to try and portray himself as a bold, new leader with fresh ideas. But the truth is – as those of us in Florida know all too well – he's simply peddling the same stale, harmful wares that the rest of the Republican Party is selling.

"At every opportunity, Rubio has revealed his true colors - taking outdated positions that match up with the Republican base instead of doing what's best for his constituents and the country. Rather than propose a serious tax plan that aims to grow the middle class and expand opportunity for all Americans, his plan is a GOP wish list - slashing taxes for those at the top and shifting the burden onto working Americans. He even went so far as to run away from his own immigration plan when the most extreme wing of his party put pressure on him, and he supported shutting the government down to deny people quality health care, costing our economy $24 billion.

"Rubio says he's a new type of Republican, but the only things he's ever championed are the same failed policies the public has already rejected, and the only cause he's ever advanced is his own."

On Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:24 PM, Matt Ortega <mortega@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> DNC response:
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: Shulman, Holly <ShulmanH@dnc.org >
> Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:11 PM
> Subject: What Marco Rubio really means
> To: "Shulman, Holly" <ShulmanH@dnc.org >
>
> Tonight Marco Rubio will say that "yesterday is over, and we are never going back." But Marco Rubio's policies suggest the exact opposite. Rubio's policies are a repeat of the tired Republican playbook – tax cuts

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for the wealthiest at the expense of hardworking families, repealing the Affordable Care Act and returning power to the insurance companies, opposing marriage equality, and opposing a woman's right to choose. Marco Rubio would erase the progress we have made and turn back the clock for women, for young people, for Latinos, and for the middle class.

Backwards for the hardworking families: Rubio's tax plan would lower taxes on corporations and raise tax rates for hardworking Americans.

Backwards for women: Rubio voted against reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. He opposes equal pay legislation, saying it was "wasting time." Rubio has declared that he would oppose a woman's right to make her own health care decisions "even if 100 percent of my constituents were for it."

Backwards for young people: Marco Rubio voted to block a bill that would allow students to refinance their student loans.

Backwards for Latinos: Marco Rubio ran away from his own immigration reform package, bowing to political pressure, and he wants to end deportation relief that is keeping families together.

###

--
@MattOrtega
925-413-9521

On Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:21 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com > wrote:

> A few notes from the Rubio announcement. He gives a good speech, and sounded much more reasonable, populist and accessible than much of the rest of the GOP field. Felt more like an inspiring Democratic speech than a GOP candidate, outside of foreign policy, repealing Obamacare and choice. Lots of references to "our generation" (I.e. Him and younger voters) vs. "their generation" (them being us, Jeb, his opponents, Washington).
>
> I assume we're sticking to leaving Rubio response to the DNC, but wanted to flag for anyone who didn't get the watch.
>
> A few soundbites/notes:
> We believe in the American Dream: They look for solutions in yesterday—
> Have forgotten that when America fails to lead, global chaos follows—they appease our enemies
>
> Our generation, they look to the past, they're still stuck in the 20th century.
>
> Repeal and replace Obamacare
> Better paying modern jobs
>
> Family, not the government, is the most important institution in our society.
> All human life deserves protection of our laws
> All parents deserve to choose the education that's right for their children—strong people and strong nation.
>
> If America once again accepts the mantle of global leadership—by abandoning concessions to Iran and hostilities to Israel
> Hollowing out of the military, Vets
> No longer being passive in the face of Russia and China
>
> Generational choice about what kind of choice families will have.
> Just yesterday, a leader from yesterday began a campaign for president by promising to take us back to yesterday.
> Yesterday is over. We're never going back. Proud of our history, but our country has always been about the future.
> Can't go back to the leaders and ideas of the past.
>
> --

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> You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
> To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
> To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
> To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/D151B6B1.52700%25creynolds%40gpg.com.
> For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/CAEj1Yxps%3D-%3DaHXbdwCfADBD9SAFWfeqiMDezsJcvdcDiswfJPw%40mail.gmail.com.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 7:19:00 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Just talked over "course correction." Ended with us thinking it was not worth forsaking high ground and could drive headlines of her attacking him as opposed to headline of her exciting Democrats.
Anyone have concerns?

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 1:59 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> I am not a fan of this either – was just offering a way to do it.
>
> I actually think the less we're looking back and the quicker get focused on what's a head the stronger the whole speech will be.
>
> **From:** John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 1:58 PM
> **To:** Dan Schwerin
> **Cc:** Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Robby Mook; Jennifer Palmieri; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
> **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
>
> I defer if others think this buys us good will with Sanders people, but email jokes in Iowa usually end up badly and don't we want to move on?
>
> On Saturday, October 24, 2015, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> I think Podesta has some concerns about referencing emails, even like this
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 12:17 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
> That works too Joel.
> I think her using it shows strength
> Not worried about credit for Bernie
>
> Jim Margolis
> Sent from my iPhone.
> Please excuse typos.
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:59 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>
> > It's a joke that would work and room would love it. However one caveat:
> >
> > I think it gives Bernie the credit for putting the email crap behind us instead of her --- she crushed the debate and she crushed at the committee.. And while crowd may love it question for comms team is whether reporters would take it as proof that Bernie "saved" her campaign from the email tempest.
> >
> > Maybe I'm being too literal here but that was my thought process.
> >
> > If others think I'm overthinking this, we can use it.
> >
> > Line could be ---- I don't if you all saw it but the hearing went on for 11 hours. Eleven hours. I was kind of expecting around hour # 8 Bernie Sanders would burst in and shout --- "enough about your damn emails Hillary!!"
> >
> > **From:** Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
> > **Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:52 AM
> > **To:** Robby Mook
> > **Cc:** Jennifer Palmieri; Joel Benenson; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ;

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

You all think wjc's joke is too much about her kinda wishing after hour 8 that Bernie would come through the door with his damn email line ..,?
I think it's funny and confident and the room would love it.

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
>
> > All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…
> > Thinking.
> >
> > **From:** Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
> > **To:** Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
> > **Cc:** Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com " <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
> >
> > I was kidding!
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Not ninnies.
> > >
> > > We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.
> > >
> > > **From:** Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> > > **Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
> > > **To:** Matt Paul
> > > **Cc:** Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
> > > **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
> > >
> > > Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight

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On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name

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George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to

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torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/13/2008 1:44:54 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/13

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 13th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10:35am BUSH: Ceremony for the Secretary of War Suite in the White House

1:45pm BUSH: Photo opportunity with the 2008 National Spelling Bee champion at the White House

2:15pm McCain: Tours the Beaver Aerospace & Defense, Inc. in Livonia, Michigan
- Tracking scheduled for this event
5:15 pm McCain: Media availability in Birminghan, Michigan

News Clips:

MCCAIN GEORGIA/RUSSIA NEWS

While Aide Advised McCain, His Firm Lobbied for Georgia (Washington Post 8/13/08)
By Matthew Mosk and Jeffrey H. Birnbaum; A03
Sen. John McCain's top foreign policy adviser prepped his boss for an April 17 phone call with the president of Georgia and then helped the presumptive Republican presidential nominee prepare a strong statement of support for the fledgling republic. The day of the call, a lobbying firm partly owned by the adviser, Randy Scheunemann, signed a $200,000 contract to continue providing strategic advice to the Georgian government in Washington.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/12/AR2008081202932.html?nav=rss_politics

On Georgia Crisis, McCain's Tone Grows Sharper (Washington Post 8/13/08)
By Michael D. Shear and Alec MacGillis; A03
Aides to Republican Sen. John McCain were scrambling last Thursday morning even as his plane was descending into Des Moines. Russia had escalated its aggression in the bordering Republic of Georgia, they told reporters, and McCain wanted to seize the moment. ... Since then, McCain's rhetoric has become increasingly sharp. On Tuesday, he called Russia an unrepentant combatant against a "brave little nation" and compared Russian "killing" in the "tiny little democracy" to Soviet aggression during the Cold War era.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/12/AR2008081202935_pf.html

McCain on Putin: Dimmer view than Bush (The Swamp 8/12/08)
by Mark Silva
Sen. John McCain, handed a handy line in an interview, says he doesn't know if President Bush "missed the boat" on Vladimir Putin, but Bush "probably had a higher opinion" of the now-Russian prime minister than McCain does.
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/08/printer-mccain_on_putin_dimmer_view_th.html

McCain On The Russian Invasion And Negative Ads (NPR 8/13/08)
Morning Edition - Republican presidential hopeful John McCain says that Russia's invasion of neighboring Georgia signals a new political era, but not necessarily a return to the Cold War.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93548659&ft=1&f=1102

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http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93548659&ft=1&f=1102

Interview with John McCain (Fox News 8/12/08)
FOX News Special Report With Brit Hume
BAIER: As we just explained, there are plenty of unanswered questions about the Russia-Georgia conflict but where John McCain stands on it isn't one of them. McCain talked exclusive with chief political correspondent Carl Cameron today about the fighting, its implications on the energy market, and what the Bush administration did or didn't do right.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/08/interview_with_john_mccain.html
Link to video: http://www.foxnews.com/specialreport/index.html#

McCain assures Georgian leader of U.S. support (AP 8/12/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain phoned Georgia's president Tuesday to tell him all Americans back his country's efforts to thwart military attacks from Russia.
http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/politics/5940201.html
See AP's "McCain says all Americans back Georgia in struggle": http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-12-mccain-georgia_N.htm?csp=34

McCain's long war (Politico blog 8/12/08)
By Ben Smith
... While virtually every other world leader called for calm in Georgia last Thursday morning, John McCain did something he's done many times over his career in public life: He condemned Russia. ...What remains to be seen is whether the endgame to the Georgia crisis makes McCain seem prophetic or headstrong and whether his muscular rhetoric plays a role in defining for voters the kind of commander in chief he would be.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/McCains_long_war.html

McCain camp dismisses plagiarism rap (Politico blog 8/12/08)
By Jonathan Martin
John McCain's campaign is denying a suggestion made yesterday that the candidate's lengthy response yesterday to the crisis in Georgia was lifted in part from Wikipedia.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/McCain_camp_dismisses_plagiarism_rap.html?showall

McCain takes on Russia, and by extension Obama (AFP 8/12/08)
by Jitendra Joshi
White House contender John McCain, riding his campaign bus into a rally to the stirring theme from "Rocky," cast himself Tuesday as an all-American hero ready to lead in troubled times.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080813/ts_alt_afp/usvotemccain

MCCAIN NEWS

Both Parties Now Ignoring McCain (Washington Post 8/13/08)
By Al Kamen; A13
The presidential campaign strategies these days are clear. For the Democrats, it's time to stop the bickering and rally round Barack Obama, who dominates the Democratic National Committee's Web site. On the Republican National Committee site, it's all Obama, all the time, boosting the campaign's "celebrity" theme, which appears to be gaining some traction.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/12/AR2008081202883_pf.html

Candidates' Olympics ads take different approaches (USA Today 8/13/08)

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By Jill Lawrence
Millions of TV viewers are seeing negative political ads during the Olympics, a gamble by Republican John McCain that the sheer size of the audience outweighs any potential backlash against sharp rhetoric during a feel-good event.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-12-adstrategy_N.htm?csp=34

Can McCain Use Advice Clinton Got on Obama? (Washington Post 8/13/08)
By Dan Balz; A03
If John McCain's campaign operatives were looking for strategic advice for the fall campaign against Barack Obama, they could click on the Atlantic Monthly's Web site. There they would find a raft of memos from Mark J. Penn, Hillary Rodham Clinton's chief strategist, outlining possible ways to try to defeat the presumptive Democratic nominee.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/12/AR2008081202875_pf.html
See WaPo blog's "Mark Penn's Playbook for McCain": http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/12/mark_penns_playbook_for_mccain.html
See UK Telegraph's "Hillary Clinton's failed strategy inspired by Margaret Thatcher": http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/uselection2008/democrats/2548253/Hillary-Clintons-failed-strategy-inspired-by-Margaret-Thatcher.html

In Pa., Looking Out for No. 2 (Washington Post 8/13/08)
By Robert Barnes; A04
The bay door opened under a giant American flag, John McCain's dark-blue Straight Talk Express bus rolled into the exhibition hall to the inevitable (in Pennsylvania, at least) strains of "Rocky," and the presumptive Republican presidential nominee emerged with not one but two of The Mentioned.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/12/AR2008081202938_pf.html

McCain plays up his bipartisanship in Pennsylvania (LA Times 8/13/08)
By Seema Mehta
His history of across-the-aisle collaboration may appeal to Democrats and independents in the battleground state.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign13-2008aug13,0,2803173.story

Republican Trio Crosses Party Lines To Back Obama (WSJ 8/13/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES and AMY CHOZICK; Page A5
...The group, called Republicans for Obama, is led by two moderate Republicans -- James Leach, a former U.S. representative from Iowa, and Lincoln Chafee, a former U.S. senator from Rhode Island -- along with Rita Hauser, a prominent fund-raiser for President George W. Bush.Their reasons for crossing party lines are diverse, ranging from the war in Iraq to overspending in Washington, and signal unhappiness not just with the candidacy of Republican Sen. John McCain, but with the Republican Party as a whole.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121859149525535519.html

McCain's 'Celeb' Cameos Don't Amuse Everybody (WSJ 8/13/08)
John McCain's recent taunting of rival Barack Obama as "the biggest celebrity in the world" has not only gotten under the skin of the Illinois senator, it is also irking some of the celebrities used in the cameo shots.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121859951807236037.html

McCain reminds voters of Obama's 'bitter' gaffe (Washington Times 8/13/08)
By S.A. Miller
Sen. John McCain reminded Pennsylvanians Tuesday that presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama said the state's small-town voters "cling to guns and religion" because they are "bitter," a gaffe that possibly contributed to Mr. Obama's loss in the state primary and might haunt his general election campaign in this battleground.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/13/mccain-reminds-voters-of-obamas-bitter-gaffe/

Visits by McCain, Obama to Orange County church underscore Pastor Rick Warren's prominence (LA Times 8/13/08)
By Duke Helfand

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Backers say the Saddleback Church leader and 'The Purpose Driven Life' author puts social justice ahead of partisanship. Others say he's strayed from the core Gospel or is a spiritual entrepreneur.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-me-warren13-2008aug13,0,1818950.story

Veterans group will campaign against McCain (PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW 8/13/08)
By Mike Cronin
One base of Sen. John McCain's staunchest supporters might be eroding. A group of 15 military veterans on Tuesday held the first meeting of the AFL-CIO Pennsylvania Union Veterans Council at the Sheraton Hotel Station Square.
http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_582543.html

Veterans Pan McCain's 'Veterans Care Access Card' Plan (Wonk Room 8/12/08)
Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) plan to extend health benefits to veterans living in rural areas of the country received mostly negative reviews on Saturday from veterans attending the Disabled Veterans of America convention in Nevada.
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/08/12/mccain-veterans-care-access-card/

Sportsmen back McCain, but by little (Politico 8/13/08)
By: Glenn Thrush
Few hunters are pining for a day in the woods with Barack Obama but a surprising number of sportsmen say they'll vote for him – far more than backed Al Gore or pheasant-hunting John Kerry.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=B985C766-18FE-70B2-A858A1FBB340B545

Stem cell backers doubt McCain's support (The Hill 8/12/08)
By Jeffrey Young
Advocates for greater federal funding of embryonic stem cell research are worried that John McCain will do an about-face on the controversial issue if he wins the presidency.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/stem-cell-backers-doubt-mccains-support-2008-08-12.html

McCain Pa. Tour Skips Iconic Three Mile Island, Harley Plant (Washington Post blog 8/12/08)
By Robert Barnes
Sometimes, the most convenient photo op for a campaign is politically inconvenient. And so it was that on his two-day trip through Pennsylvania, Sen. John McCain's campaign plane yesterday banked over the iconic cooling towers of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant and landed in nearby Harrisburg with no thought of a side trip. [Though] McCain pushes for increased nuclear power each time he talks about the nation's energy woes, the nation's most recognizable plant -- and site of its most significant nuclear accident -- would have been a poor place to make the argument.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/12/mccain_pa_tour_skips_iconic_th.html#more

One On One With Senator McCain (York's WPMT 8/12/08)
Melissa McCormick,
In Lancaster County, Senator John McCain discussed everything from considering former Governor Tom Ridge as a Vice Presidential candidate to a potential one term presidency. The Republican candidate sat down one-on-one with Fox 43's Melissa McCormick at Manheim Central High School right after he dropped in on the high school football team. Here is what he had to say....
http://fox43.trb.com/news/wpmt-081208-mccainoneonone,0,3605675.story
Link to video: http://fox43.trb.com/
See ABC27's "Senator John McCain Talks One-On-One with abc27": http://www.whtm.com/news/stories/0808/543637.html

McCain's Midstate Tour Ends With a Surprise Visit in Lancaster (York's WHTM 8/12/08)
...McCain made a surprise visit to an interesting choice of potential constituents, high school football players. Many of them are not yet eligible to vote. But McCain took to the field anyway at Manheim Central High School. It was day two of football practice; The players are preparing for the upcoming school year.
http://www.whtm.com/news/stories/0808/543694.html

Lieberman suggests Obama has not always 'put country first' (CNN blog 8/12/08)

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By Peter Hamby
John McCain used one of his largest and most ambitious town halls to date to brandish a pair of surrogates, Joe Lieberman and Tom Ridge, who may help him shore up support among independents in this fall battleground.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/12/lieberman-suggests-obama-has-not-always-put-country-first/

McCain visits Michigan today (Detroit News 8/13/08)
Gordon Trowbridge
Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain makes his second visit to Michigan in as many weeks today, while Barack Obama and Democrats will seek man-on-the-street questions that could find their way into the prime-time program during the party's national convention this month.
http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080813/METRO/808130395/1409/METRO

McCain ignoring calls to cancel controversial fundraiser (The Hill 8/12/08)
By Susan Crabtree
Republican presidential candidate John McCain so far is ignoring calls from several watchdog groups to cancel an Atlanta fundraiser promoted by Ralph Reed, a longtime friend and business partner of imprisoned lobbyist Jack Abramoff.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/mccain-ignoring-calls-to-cancel-controversial-fundraiser-2008-08-12.html
See WaPo blog's "McCain's Reed Fundraiser Takes Him Full Circle": http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/12/mccains_reed_fundraiser_takes.html
See Atlanta Journal Constitution's "Ralph Reed: Come meet my new friend John McCain": http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/shared-blogs/ajc/politicalinsider/entries/2008/08/08/ralph_reed_come_meet_my_friend.html#
See Omaha KETV's "McCain, Former Abramoff Associate Team Up": http://www.ketv.com/politics/17158048/detail.html

Hagel won't endorse McCain or Obama, spokesman says (CNN 8/12/08)
* Statement comes after ex-congressman suggests Hagel as Obama running mate
* Sen. Hagel, a Republican, has disagreed with friend John McCain about Iraq war
* Hagel has criticized McCain's campaign for its attacks on Obama
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/12/election.2008.hagel/index.html

McCain Supports Tax Breaks For Oil Industry -- But Not For Wind Power (TPM 8/12/08)
By Greg Sargent
Here's something else that could create political complications for John McCain in key swing states as he continues to defend measures that would maintain tax breaks for the oil industry: He recently opposed extending tax breaks for the wind-power industry.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/mccain_supports_tax_breaks_for.php
See Carpetbagger Report's "Big Oil vs. Little Wind": http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/16533.html

John McCain: "The One" for Lobbyists (AmericaBlog 8/12/08)
By Joe Sudbay
...Nothing will change with a McCain presidency. The lobbyists who loved Bush and Cheney adore McCain -- and run his campaign.
http://www.americablog.com/2008/08/john-mccain-one-for-lobbyists.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgq5I8l6h7E

Is McCain the Nostradamus of the Supreme Court? (CBS blog 8/12/08)
by Ryan Corsaro
Does Senator John McCain know something that Ruth Bader Ginsburg doesn't know? ...he said something that made my ears perk up. "There's going to be two, maybe three vacancies on the Supreme Court, according to people that decide these things. People that pay close attention." Whoa, wait a second.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/12/politics/fromtheroad/entry4344858.shtml?CMP=OTC-RSSFeed&source=RSS&attr=FromTheRoad_4344858

The Great Corporate Tax Heist (Huffington Post 8/12/08)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Robert Borosage
Today, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a study on taxes paid by corporations. In what Sen. Byron L. Dorgan (D-ND) mildly called "a shocking indictment of the current tax system," the GAO found that about two-thirds of corporations operating in the US did not pay taxes annually from 1998 to 2005. ...the Bush administration, led by Treasury Secretary Paulson and conservatives led by John McCain are mounting a major campaign to cut the corporate tax rate even more, arguing that we are crippled competitively by having a US rate higher than any industrial nation other than Japan.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-l-borosage/the-great-corporate-tax-h_b_118479.html

McCain's Michigan Melt-Down Madness (Huffington Post)
By Harvey Wasserman
Leave it to John McCain to pick the site of a horrific atomic meltdown to symbolize his push for nuke power.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/harvey-wasserman/mccains-michigan-melt-dow_b_117968.html

POW mate calls McCain 'liar' over 'turncoat' charge (Orange County Register 8/11/08)
By MARTIN WISCKOL
Retired Marine colonel angered by candidate's statements that he helped enemy while 2 were in Vietnamese prison camp.
http://www.ocregister.com/articles/miller-mccain-war-2121488-pow-says#

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Eight Strikes and You're Out (NYT 8/13/08)
By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
John McCain has a perfect record on a renewable energy bill. He has missed all eight votes over the last year — which effectively counts as a no vote each time.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/13/opinion/13friedman.html?pagewanted=print

Obama will provide a refreshing perspective (Rocky Mountain News 8/13/08)
By Reidar Hansen
Well the pundits and the corporate " liberal" media have started the drumbeat. Word is now coming out that Barack Obama is arrogant, cocky, and overconfident, elitist and the worst of all, he is acting Presidential! The McCain campaign has nothing positive to contribute other than continual gaffs and changes in positions on numerous issues (I believe they call them flip-flops, I call them lies and half-truths) so they have started the traditional Republican attack machine aimed at finding fault in the opponent.
http://www.rockymountainnews.com/news/2008/aug/13/obama-will-provide-refreshing-perspective/?printer=1/

Candidates offer few nuclear energy specifics (Dallas Morning News 8/13/08)
... While Mr. McCain clearly gets the urgency of this issue much more clearly than Mr. Obama, the nation deserves many more specifics from him. He is absolutely right when he says the United States needs nuclear energy as it weans itself from foreign oil and fossil fuels.
http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/editorials/stories/DN-nuclear_13edi.ART.State.Edition1.4d85d3a.html

BUSH NEWS

Rice: Russia military operations 'need to stop' (AP 8/12/08)
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says the United States welcomes Russia's pledge to stop its attacks in Georgia and urged Moscow to follow through on its promise.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-08-12-rice-georgia_N.htm?csp=34

White House imposes sanctions on 5 Iranian firms (AP 8/12/08)
The Bush administration has imposed economic sanctions on five Iranian companies that it has accused of helping the country pursue its ambitions to develop a nuclear weapon.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2008-08-12-administration-iran_N.htm?csp=34

No crimes committed during Justice hirings, Mukasey says (CNN 8/12/08)
* Politics influenced hiring of lawyers, Justice Department inspector general found
* Attorney General Michael Mukasey: Improper conduct only violated civil law

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* Mukasey calls conduct "disturbing," saying, "The system failed"
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/12/mukasey.justice/index.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Moscow Agrees To Georgia Truce (Washington Post 8/13/08)

By Peter Finn; A01
Russia said Tuesday that it had ended its five-day tank and bomber assault against Georgia and agreed to a French peace plan by which most Russian forces would return home and international mediators would work to settle the long and explosive conflict between Georgia and Russian-backed South Ossetian separatists.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/12/AR2008081200365_pf.html

U.S. may seek to punish Russia for Georgia conflict (CNN 8/13/08)

By Elise Labott
Official says no more "business as usual" with Russia, promises consequences
U.S. boycotts NATO meeting; NATO cancels naval exercise with Russia
Washington and its allies consider dropping Moscow from Group of Eight
http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/08/12/georgia.us/index.html

Report: U.S. using contractors in Iraq at unprecedented rate (CNN 8/12/08)

By Mike Mount
* Report says U.S. on track to spend $100 billion on contractors by end of 2008
* Figures reflect reliance on contractors to fill jobs typically held by military personnel
* Use of contractors for security criticized for lack of oversight, political favoritism
* Donald Rumsfeld said contractors freed up personnel for combat roles
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/12/iraq.contractors/index.html

Iraq, Foreign Companies Stalled in Oil Negotiations (WSJ 8/13/08)

By GINA CHON
Oil negotiations between a handful of foreign companies and the government here appear stalled, setting back once again efforts to open up Iraqi oil fields to international companies.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121859029778435427.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

US trade gap narrows as imports slow (Financial Times 8/13/08)

By James Politi
The US trade deficit narrowed unexpectedly in June by 4.1 per cent to $56.8bn, as exports grew more than twice as fast as imports in spite of surging oil prices.
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/91afe936-6870-11dd-a4e5-0000779fd18c.html

Book on Obama Hopes to Repeat Anti-Kerry Feat (NYT 8/13/08)

By JIM RUTENBERG and JULIE BOSMAN
In the summer of 2004 the conservative gadfly Jerome R. Corsi shot to the top of the best-seller lists as co-author of "Unfit for Command," the book attacking Senator John Kerry's record on a Vietnam War Swift boat that began the larger damaging campaign against Mr. Kerry's war credentials as he sought the presidency.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/13/us/politics/13book.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print

Barack Obama: The coincidental tourist (Politico 8/13/08)

By: Carrie Budoff Brown
The oceanfront vacation home Barack Obama is renting this week is owned by a campaign contributor who, along with her husband, has given more than $62,000 to the Democratic Party and its presidential candidates since 2000.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=B8D0BDD1-18FE-70B2-A84EDBBEB73A991F

Some Conservative Republicans Balk at Drilling Compromise (WSJ 8/13/08)

By STEPHEN POWER; Page A4
Some conservative Republicans are balking at an effort to compromise with Democrats on allowing more offshore drilling for oil, even as more key Democrats appear to be softening their opposition to such a move.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121859070476735473.html

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Pelosi looks to load up drilling bill (The Hill 8/12/08)
By Mike Soraghan and Jared Allen
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) may be ready to allow a vote on offshore drilling, but that doesn't mean she's going to make it easy on the Republicans who've been goading her for weeks on energy.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/pelosi-looks-to-load-up-drilling-bill-2008-08-12.html

GOP convention: Hundreds of arrests predicted; everyone's ready (Minneapolis Star Tribune 8/13/08)
By RANDY FURST
With thousands of protesters expected on the streets facing thousands of police officers, the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota is predicting that 800 people will be arrested during the week of the Republican National Convention and will have 75 lawyers on call to defend them.
http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/conventions/26894609.html

'Stop the Slide,' Says New Air Force Chief (Washington Post 8/13/08)
By Josh White; A02
Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, who began his tenure as the 19th Air Force chief of staff yesterday, has taken a frank view of the service's need to address recent failures concerning the security of the U.S. nuclear arsenal and acquisitions practices, telling senior leaders in briefings that they need to "stop the slide."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/12/AR2008081202864_pf.html

Navy relieves commander of air recon squadron (AP 8/13/08)
By CHELSEA J. CARTER
The commander of a Navy air reconnaissance squadron that provides the president and the defense secretary the airborne ability to command the nation's nuclear weapons has been relieved of duty, the Navy said Tuesday.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iKDcgevZDggHCdTkRzapHfQC_a2wD92H4SBG3

POLLS

Polls show landslide scenario unlikely (Politico 8/13/08)
By: David Paul Kuhn
One key historic fact is often overlooked-most popular vote landslides are visible by the end of summer. By that indicator, 2008 doesn't measure up.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12503.html

Poll: Obama leads among Christians (Minn. Public Radio 8/12/08)
by Tom Scheck
A poll by the Barna Group, a Christian polling and resarch organization says Democrat Barack Obama maintains a nine point lead over Republican John McCain among Christians. The poll finds that the race is tightening.
http://minnesota.publicradio.org/collections/special/columns/polinaut/archive/2008/08/poll_obama_lead.shtml?refid=0

New Survey Finds Pennsylvanians Support Increased Access to Domestic Oil and Natural Gas Resources (PRNewswire-USNewswire 8/12/08)
Pennsylvanians are concerned about the price of gasoline and the majority of them support increased access to domestic oil and natural gas resources, a new survey finds.
http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/08-12-2008/0004866217&EDATE=

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Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "David Binder" <David@db-research.com> "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com> "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com> "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/3/2015 4:57:51 PM
Subject:	Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls
Attachments:	2015-05-03 LV Immigration Roundtable - 11pm.docx

In advance of this discussion, here's a draft of her Las Vegas topper. It's a little long so I'm going to try to tighten it up, but this attempts to lay out the contrast on path to citizenship and move the ball forward with the parents of dreamers.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 8:23 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> Agree with Jake and John
> We're not running against King.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On May 3, 2015, at 7:28 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> I'd stick with Bush/Rubio.
>
> On Sunday, May 3, 2015, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> It always makes sense to whack Steve King. And this is particularly outrageous and bigoted and [fill in the bad word]. But the question from you and the comms team is whether hitting King takes away from our effort to get a clean contrast with Bush/Rubio et al. They would also attack King, so it sort of lets them off the hook.
>
> On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 7:09 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
>
> If you won't be on the call, Jake, can I ask one immigration question. Does it make any sense to whack Steve King for trying to change the Constitution to deny babies born here the right to American citizenship if their parents aren't citizens? (basically get rid of the 14th amendment). It seems like a great contrast to what HRC is proposing.
>
> **Mandy Grunwald**
> **Grunwald Communications**
> **202 973-9400**
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
> To: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >
> Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; David Binder <David@db-research.com >; Dan Schwerin

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<dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sun, May 3, 2015 7:03 pm
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:

- Immigration plan
- Clinton Cash update

Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call

Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays
Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.

--
Kristina Schake
Hillary for America

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/6/2014 1:15:33 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday August 6, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Wednesday August 6, 2014 Morning Roundup:

[Click here to Watch Sec. Clinton's Appearance on The Colbert Report from Yesterday Evening]

Headlines:

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Clinton laughs it up in surprise 'Colbert Report' appearance"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a surprise appearance on The Colbert Report on Tuesday, engaging the late-night show host in a marathon name-dropping session in a bid to promote her latest memoir."

New York Magazine blog: Daily Intelligencer: "Hillary Clinton Was Surprisingly Funny in Her Unannounced Colbert Report Appearance"

"Clinton tried to look like she was having a good time during her lengthy Daily Show interview last month, but she was funnier and more natural on Colbert, though the material was outside her comfort zone."

Politico: "Battle of the brag: Hillary Clinton vs. Stephen Colbert"

"Hillary Clinton made a surprise appearance on 'The Colbert Report' last night, jokingly sparring with host Stephen Colbert in a conversation about her new memoir."

Time: "Hillary Clinton Drops In on The Colbert Report to Plug Memoir"

"Hillary Clinton and Stephen Colbert went head-to-head in the name game on Tuesday night when the former Secretary of State (and U.S. Senator, First Lady, etc.) paid an unannounced visit to the Colbert Report."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Huffington Post opinion: Jeffrey Marburg-Goodman, legal counsel, former Obama Administration official: "Hard Choices in a Time of Extremism"

"Whether by accident or by design, Hard Choices doggedly makes the case for the person to lead us who is best placed to deliver more democracy, more freedom and more peacefulness the world over -- and it doesn't hurt that this person has the biggest, most diverse rolodex on the planet."

The Star-Ledger (N.J.): "Hillary Clinton leads Christie for president in N.J., poll finds"

"The Quinnipiac University survey of 1,148 New Jersey registered voters shows Clinton leading Christie in New Jersey 50 percent to 42 percent."

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton gets office upgrade"

"Hillary Clinton has moved her personal office to a high-rise commercial building in Midtown New York City, a spokesperson for the former Secretary of State confirmed."

WPRI-12 (R.I.): "Bill Clinton to campaign in RI for Seth Magaziner"

"Clinton is scheduled to headline a rally for Magaziner on Aug. 27 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, a campaign source told WPRI.com. Magaziner is a political newcomer, but his family has close ties to Clinton."

Washington Post: "On Iowa tour, Rand Paul leans into a presidential run and attacks Clinton"

"Paul went on to blame broader upheaval in Libya on Clinton's policies, saying: 'There are some who call Libya 'Hillary's war.' She was all for it. … And if you look objectively at Libya now, it's a jihadist wonderland there.'"

Articles:

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Clinton laughs it up in surprise 'Colbert Report' appearance"

By Justin Sink

August 6, 2014, 12:30 a.m. EDT

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a surprise appearance on The Colbert Report on Tuesday, engaging the late-night show host in a marathon name-dropping session in a bid to promote her latest memoir.

Colbert, who plays a satirically conservative pundit, had criticized Clinton for the sheer number of celebrities and political figures featured in the pages of her book, which chronicles her time as Secretary of State.

The comedian bragged he spent time with celebrities, too, noting that he had met actor George Clooney.

“Oh, I love George,” Clinton shot back. “I wish you could have joined us when we had lunch with Meryl Streep and Ecuadorian president Rafael Correa.”

Colbert shot back that he had gone camping with fellow television personality Oprah Winfrey.

“Oh?” Clinton responded.

“Oh, does that surprise you?” Colbert retorted.

“No, ‘O’ is just what all her real friends call Oprah,” the former first lady responded.

Clinton, laughing throughout the spot, was also able to match Colbert’s trump card — having taped a full episode of his show with President Bill Clinton.

"I hate to break this two you Stephen, but I've met him too," Clinton joked of her husband.

The segment — which saw Clinton field questions about if she would rather fight a horse-sized duck or 100 duck-sized horses — was a rare moment of levity for the former first lady, widely considered the front runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016.

When she appeared earlier this summer on the Daily Show, which precedes Colbert on Comedy Central, host Jon Stewart pressed her on a possible run.

“I think I speak for everybody when I say nobody cares they just want to know if you are running for president,” Stewart joked.

During that appearance, Clinton did joke she preferred a “home office” and preferably one with “fewer corners.”

New York Magazine blog: Daily Intelligencer: “Hillary Clinton Was Surprisingly Funny in Her Unannounced Colbert Report Appearance”

By Margaret Hartmann

August 6, 2014, 3:40 a.m. EDT

While we thought Hillary Clinton's book tour was finally over, on Tuesday night she turned up on late night again for a name-dropping contest with Stephen Colbert. The appearance was a surprise, and not only because Clinton showed up four minutes into the show and left before Colbert's

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scheduled interview with director James Cameron. Clinton tried to look like she was having a good time during her lengthy Daily Show interview last month, but she was funnier and more natural on Colbert, though the material was outside her comfort zone. Clinton is the rare human being who can easily give a long-winded answer on how to achieve peace in the Middle East, but Colbert had her do a scripted skit in which she attempted to resolve the "eternal question" of whether it's preferable to fight one horse-sized duck or one hundred duck-sized horses.

Clinton emerged as Colbert declared that her book is just "656 pages of shameless name dropping," and the two tried to one-up each other about hanging out with the likes of Bono and Oprah. "I will have you know, madam, I once did an entire show with president Bill Clinton," Colbert declared. "I hate to break this to you, but I've met him too," Clinton quipped.

Next, Colbert accused Clinton of failing to address any real "hard choices" in the book (mercifully, the book's title was referenced less than a dozen times). Clinton admitted that Colbert had a "valid question" about which bizarrely-sized animal to do battle with. She explained how she'd "find common ground between ducks and horses" in a goofy answer that worked about as well as an elaborate old McDonald's farm joke can.

Of course, not everyone was a fan of Clinton's comic stylings. In the ensuing thread on Reddit, one user complained that she never really answered the horse-sized duck question. Another lamented that political candidates shouldn't do silly late-night skits, saying, "I hate stuff like this. I feel like we have turned politicians into pop stars and now we vote for the cool people in hollywood rather than people who represent us well." If a skit this Reddity didn't win them over, Clinton definitely shouldn't let the internet ask her anything.

Politico: "Battle of the brag: Hillary Clinton vs. Stephen Colbert"

By Jonathan Topaz

August 6, 2014, 6:31 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton made a surprise appearance on "The Colbert Report" last night, jokingly sparring with host Stephen Colbert in a conversation about her new memoir.

The comedian began a segment on the Comedy Central show by criticizing the former secretary of State for bragging in the book about her personal and professional connections.

"This book is 656 pages of shameless name dropping," he said, while joking about Clinton's reflections on her personal relationships with various world leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"I just don't buy any of this. There is no way on earth one woman can be in so many places at once," he said, at which point Clinton came onto the set to applause and chants of "Hillary" from the crowd.

Colbert, who plays a conservative pundit on the show, yelled at his crowd for the warm reception for the Democrat, calling them "two-timers."

"Hillary Clinton," a faux-shocked Colbert said to his guest.

"Now who's a name-dropper, Stephen?" she replied, leading into a long name-dropping contest that invoked the likes of celebrities George Clooney and Oprah Winfrey.

"I once did an entire show with President Bill Clinton," Colbert ultimately said near the end of their game of one-upmanship.

"I hate to break this to you, Stephen, but I've met him, too," Clinton responded.

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In the scripted segment, Clinton ultimately coaxed Colbert into promoting her memoir, “Hard Choices.”

Clinton’s summer book tour also led to a July appearance on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.” She continues to mull a potential bid for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016.

Time: “Hillary Clinton Drops In on The Colbert Report to Plug Memoir”

By P. Nash Jenkins

August 6, 2014, 6:07 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Lots of name-dropping, but still no talk of 2016

Hillary Clinton and Stephen Colbert went head-to-head in the name game on Tuesday night when the former Secretary of State (and U.S. Senator, First Lady, etc.) paid an unannounced visit to the Colbert Report.

“This book is 656 pages of shameless name dropping,” the faux-conservative pundit said of Hard Choices, Clinton’s recent memoir of her time at the State Department, just before she walked out onstage.

The two engaged in a lightheartedly schticky debate over which one of them is better connected in the world — Colbert hangs out with Tom Hanks at George Clooney’s place; Clinton once had lunch with Meryl Streep and the president of Ecuador — but the conversation pretty much stopped there. Clinton’s held a pretty ubiquitous media presence in the two months since she released Hard Choices, and she seems to be having fun with it, if only because every appearance on television or radio further flames the discussion of whether or not she’ll run for president in 2016.

Huffington Post opinion: Jeffrey Marburg-Goodman, legal counsel, former Obama Administration official: “Hard Choices in a Time of Extremism”

By Jeffrey Marburg-Goodman

August 5, 2014, 2:05 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] In a Time of Extremism, Extreme Competence and Perseverance Carry The Day

Hillary Clinton could not have known (could she?) when writing Hard Choices that in July 2014 the world would be in a virtual meltdown, with extremists of various stripes on the rise seemingly everywhere. Internationally, there is the dangerous nationalism and ambition for empire-rebuilding being carried out by Vladimir Putin, in ways both coherent and incoherent. Even more frightening -- because we understand it even less well -- are religious zealots and their state sponsors running amok across the Middle East. Meanwhile on the domestic front, extreme elements of one of our two principal national parties have caused dysfunction and the near-breakdown of our polity at a time of unique and pressing challenges: health care, immigration, and the nation's basic infrastructure, to name just three. On top of all this, the emergence of Ebola is a pile-on that, while hardly man-made, appears as a metaphor for a world that seems to have gone mad.

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Against this backdrop stands the former secretary's book and, with August's arrival (and, if we are lucky, a quieter month of introspection and actual book reading), the chance to assess the strengths of extreme competence and steady-as-she goes perseverance that the author brings to once, and perhaps future, national challenges.

Here's what you need to know about Hard Choices, including some tips on how to address this worthy tome.

First of all, this reviewer discovered that the book is a much more interesting read than expected. While there is plenty here for policy wonks, there are also gripping tales that have the quality of a page-turner. The lead-up to Osama Bin Laden's death in Pakistan, the rescue of Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng in Beijing, that famous first flight from Malta into Tripoli, Libya (immortalized by a Hillary-as-commando meme that went viral), the president and secretary literally crashing a private meeting of dissenting world leaders at the 2009 climate change conference in Copenhagen -- these are all here.

But beyond these events, I was impressed by how very accessible this book is. Clinton's prose is simple and matter-of-fact, with complex issues explained in (mostly) plain language. While many Beltway-insiders may roll their eyes at facts and policy arguments they already know by heart, this book wasn't written only for them; rather it was written for Jane Q. Citizen, who reads to learn of recent history, and perhaps to gain insights into a future that may yet be. What Jane Q. will also find in Hard Choices are lesser known, but no less fascinating, foreign policy efforts and events that make equally riveting reading -- like the secret U.S. effort to negotiate peace with the Taliban, the secretary's heart-rending visit with women and children in Eastern Congo, and the extraordinary tale told to her by President Putin about how he came to be born(!)

On the "wonk" side there are real serious, cogent explanations of things you may not have quite understood before. This is an evidence-based book, so facts and statistics often come fast: like the fact that the United States spends less than 1 percent of its annual budget on foreign assistance (rather than the "28 percent" that resides in the popular imagination) or that "Secretary of State" is the addressee on each and every one of the millions of cables that come in to Washington from over 270 U.S. embassies and consulates around the world every year -- and that only a tiny, tiny fraction of these ever reach the secretary's own desk (therefore debunking the misinformation spread by political opponents that the secretary was directly apprised of the Libyan security situation, pre-Benghazi). Among many other subjects, Clinton explains the pragmatism that lay behind the Russian "reset" and, in detail, why the reset did not mean capitulation -- far from it.

While it's notable that Clinton abstains from using this book to settle old scores, she includes careful explanations of events and decisions small and large that may have caused head-scratching -- or outright dissent -- at the time they happened. For example, instead of squarely laying at least some responsibility for Benghazi's inadequate security at Congress' doorstep, Clinton merely alludes rather softly to her "four years making the case to Congress that adequately funding our diplomats and development experts was a national security priority" at a time of shrinking Congressional appropriations.

Clinton also acknowledges her mistake -- in the plainest language possible -- on the subject of her 2002 vote authorizing President Bush to wage war in Iraq, yet also lets us fully understand the context of that vote: one in which a strong majority of then-sitting senators voted "yes" with Clinton on a bill that, by its terms, instructed the president (not yet known, in 2002, for waging preemptive wars) to 'use diplomacy before using force' and 'not to wage war unless U.S. national security is at stake.'

Perhaps most importantly for this book, there is heart, soul and emotion. Clinton saves some of the most expansive, lofty language for her worldwide, and life-spanning, efforts on behalf of women and girls, and this reviewer was especially heartened by all the space she devotes to perhaps the final frontier of international human rights: the plight of LGBT people in the developing world, starting with her description of the first time she uttered the words, at a State Department Pride event, "human rights are gay rights and gay rights are human rights, once and for all."

A couple of parting tips on how to read Hard Choices, especially if you find its telephone book size to be daunting: you don't have to read it cover to cover. The book is organized like a marvelous worldwide travelogue, so while I highly recommend that you begin by reading "Part One: A Fresh Start" (which contains its own share of riveting stories of the Obama-Clinton 2008 rapprochement that are new or newly told), proceed from there by dipping into the parts of the world -- or towards the end, the international challenges -- that tickle your fancy, and come back to the rest later on.

And, oh yes, about that last question you have for Hillary Clinton: will she run for president? Many have quoted the following language from the book's last chapter as a sign that she will: "Never rest on your laurels. Never quit. Never stop working to make the world a better place. That's our unfinished business."

But I prefer the following, from the epilogue:

“In the coming years, Americans will have to decide whether we are prepared to learn from and call on the lessons of history and rise once more to defend our values and interests. This is not a summons to confrontation or to a new Cold War -- we've learned painfully that force should be our

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last resort, never our first. Instead, it's an appeal to stand firmly and united in pursuit of a more just, free and peaceful world. Only Americans can decide this."

Clinton then continues by devoting a long paragraph to America's domestic challenges, including rising income inequality, deepening poverty in many quarters, and Washington's increasing dysfunction. And finally, this: "In the end, our strength abroad depends on our resolve and resilience at home."

July was a month when at least four separate wars raged across the Middle East and South Asia, an American Embassy was evacuated in North Africa, and a commercial airliner was shot out of the sky over Ukraine -- the deadliest such incident in history. Unfortunately, we can expect to look forward to more rather than fewer months like July. To battle feckless extremism wherever it arises, we need feral competence and discipline and perseverance at our helm. Whether by accident or by design, Hard Choices doggedly makes the case for the person to lead us who is best placed to deliver more democracy, more freedom and more peacefulness the world over -- and it doesn't hurt that this person has the biggest, most diverse rolodex on the planet.

The Star-Ledger (N.J.): "Hillary Clinton leads Christie for president in N.J., poll finds"

By Matt Friedman

August 6, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton would win New Jersey in a hypothetical 2016 presidential matchup against Gov. Chris Christie, according to a poll released today.

The Quinnipiac University survey of 1,148 New Jersey registered voters shows Clinton leading Christie in New Jersey 50 percent to 42 percent.

"As Gov. Christopher Christie traipses around the nation, his presidential potential seems alive, but former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the adopted girl next door, easily beats him in his home state," said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

There is a bright spot for Christie, who is seen favorably by 47 percent of New Jersey voters and unfavorably by 47 percent. He does better against Clinton in his home state than the three other potential Republican presidential contenders tested.

Clinton would top former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush 54 percent to 34 percent, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Kentucky) 55 percent to 35 percent, and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee 57 percent to 34 percent.

And while New Jersey's women voters go overwhelmingly for Clinton 54 percent to 38 percent, men slightly prefer Christie 47 percent to 44 percent.

Just 39 percent of Garden State voters think Christie would make a good president, while 55 percent said he would not. At the same time, voters are split on whether Christie should run, with 49 percent saying he should stay home and 46 percent saying he should go for it.

New Jersey, which used to be a swing state, has been solidly Democratic in recent decades. A Republican presidential candidate hasn't won the Garden State's electoral votes since George H.W. Bush in 1988.

But President Obama — who easily carried the state in 2008 and 2012 — is not popular. At 44 percent positive to 52 percent negative, Obama's approval rating is, as Carroll put it, "in the swamp," and barely higher than his record low in October 2011.

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New Jersey has produced two presidents: Woodrow Wilson, who was born in Virginia but became New Jersey's governor, and Grover Cleveland, who was born in Caldwell but moved to New York as a child.

If Christie does run for president, he may decide to resign as governor. And if he resigns, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno would take over for him temporarily.

Despite being so close to the governor's office, the poll found that most voters — 66 percent — don't know enough about her to say whether she would be a good governor. Of those who haved heard enough about Guadagno to form an opinion, 16 percent say she'd be a good governor, while 17 percent say she would not.

The poll was conducted from July 31 to August 4 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points.

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton gets office upgrade"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

August 5, 2014, 7:53 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton has moved her personal office to a high-rise commercial building in Midtown New York City, a spokesperson for the former Secretary of State confirmed.

The entertainment website HollywoodLife.com reported Tuesday evening that Clinton had signed a two-year lease on the property, and cited anonymous sources saying the space will be the site of a future presidential campaign office. But Nick Merrill, Clinton's spokesperson, told msnbc that the space is the new site of her personal office, not a campaign office. The staff moved in last week.

Clinton currently has a small personal staff of less than a dozen, so the new space – which could fit about 25 people – leaves some room for expansion.

HollywoodLife did not list the address of the building, but a reporter for the site tweeted last week about running into Clinton in the lobby of the entertainment website's office building, located on 45th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. The former secretary of state also has an office at her family's foundation, which is located nearby in Rockefeller Center.

Clinton ran her last presidential campaign from the suburbs of Washington, D.C., but some Clinton allies expect that if she runs again, she'll locate her campaign headquarters outside of the capital. New York would be an obvious choice, and the city is also vying to host the Democratic National Convention in 2016.

It would be highly unusual for Clinton to open a large campaign office so early, as it would effectively declare her candidacy. During her last run, staffers began working in a small space for a few months before moving to a larger office in the spring of 2007, after she declared her candidacy.

Clinton has previously said that she'll decide by the end of the year whether she will run for president in 2016.

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WPRI-12 (R.I.): "Bill Clinton to campaign in RI for Seth Magaziner"

By Ted Nesi

August 6, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Former President Bill Clinton is set to visit Rhode Island later this month to campaign for Democratic general-treasurer candidate Seth Magaziner, WPRI.com has learned.

Clinton is scheduled to headline a rally for Magaziner on Aug. 27 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, a campaign source told WPRI.com. Magaziner is a political newcomer, but his family has close ties to Clinton.

Clinton's campaign stop will come just two days before the current Democratic president, Barack Obama, visits Newport to raise money for House Democrats.

Magaziner is battling former Treasurer Frank Caprio to win the Democratic nomination in the Sept. 9 primary. Ironically, the last time Clinton came to Rhode Island to campaign was in 2010 – when he came to support Caprio, who was then the general treasurer and the Democratic nominee for governor.

While the Caprio family has long supported the Clintons, the relationship they have with the former president is no match for that of the Magaziner clan. Seth Magaziner is already airing TV ads highlighting Bill Clinton's endorsement of his candidacy, and he met with Hillary Clinton when she signed books at a Seekonk Sam's Club last month.

Ira Magaziner, Seth's father, met Clinton when the pair were both Rhodes Scholars at Oxford and later served as a top White House adviser, famously working with Hillary Clinton on an unsuccessful health-care overhaul; he also masterminded Rhode Island's failed "Greenhouse Compact" plan in the 1980s. Ira Magaziner lives in Bristol and is now CEO and vice chairman of the Clinton Health Access Initiative, a Clinton Foundation project.

In June Caprio received the formal endorsement of the Rhode Island Democratic Party, which was chaired at the time by his brother, who has since resigned following controversy over beach-concession contracts. Magaziner has won the endorsement of groups such as the Young Democrats of Rhode Island. Labor unions are split between the two.

A third candidate for treasurer, former Auditor General Ernie Almonte, dropped out of the Democratic primary in late June and announced he would instead seek to win the treasurer's office as an independent in November; Republican leaders are tacitly backing him. The three candidates met for a one-hour televised debate on WPRI 12's Newsmakers last month.

A WPRI 12/Providence Journal poll in May showed Caprio with a double-digit advantage over Magaziner in the Democratic primary. The survey of 506 primary voters found Caprio in the lead at 29%, Magaziner in second place at 11%, and Almonte in third place at 9%. Nearly half of voters were undecided.

Magaziner finished the second quarter as the best-funded candidate in the race. As of June 30, Magaziner's campaign had $245,642 on hand, while Almonte's had $233,154 and Caprio's had $195,716.

Washington Post: "On Iowa tour, Rand Paul leans into a presidential run and attacks Clinton"

By Philip Rucker

August 5, 2014, 10:09 p.m. EDT

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OKOBOJI, Iowa — The worst-kept secret in all-important Iowa is this: Rand Paul is running for president.

Journeying this week on a 10-stop, 800-mile tour of the state that holds the nation's first presidential caucuses, the Republican senator from Kentucky has been bold not just in his rhetoric, but in his candor about preparing for a White House bid.

Paul is out-organizing his would-be 2016 rivals, building a network of loyalists in Iowa and other early-voting states while others lag behind and visit less often. He also sounds like a candidate, spitting out lines attacking Hillary Rodham Clinton, the potential Democratic nominee. He labeled the conflict in Libya "Hillary's war," and said the former secretary of state's handling of the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya, should preclude her from becoming commander in chief.

Paul, 51, an ophthalmologist-turned-tea party hero, offered himself to Iowans as a Republican standard-bearer who could broaden the party's appeal to a diversifying electorate. "We should be bigger, bolder and better," he said at each stop — without being "wishy-washy" or "Democrat-lite."

But his vision of GOP outreach and inclusion clashed awkwardly with the party's reality Monday night at a lakeside tiki bar here in rural Okoboji, where Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) held a campaign fundraiser.

Paul was eating dinner at a small table with King when a self-described "Dreamer" immigration activist introduced herself to them. Paul made a hasty exit — he left his half-eaten hamburger on his plate and was visibly chewing as he stood up — as Erika Andiola, the activist, questioned King about his opposition to immigration reform.

King told her, "You're very good at English," to which she appeared to take offense. Minutes earlier, the congressman had talked in his speech about a recent trip to the border in Texas: "I planted a flag right out there on the river across from the Mexicans!"

Paul, after extricating himself from the situation, talked with a handful of reporters about 10 feet away.

The moment underscored the difficulty that Paul and any other Republican presidential aspirant will face in building a diverse national coalition to win a general election, while also incorporating the party's more extreme elements.

The senator's rhetorical approach to the border crisis was to blame President Obama and focus on his vows to take executive action. "I frankly do think we could do some kind of reform, but you can't do it by royal edict," Paul told Republicans at a midterm organizing event in Council Bluffs. "You can't have a king doing it."

Paul came to Iowa to build relationships with key activists and test his message as he moves toward deciding about a presidential campaign early next year. It is Paul's 10th visit to Iowa in two years.

"I don't know why Iowa keeps popping up on my calendar, but it seems to be pretty frequent," he told reporters — a typical wink-wink comment suggesting that his candidacy is all but certain.

In an interview, Paul previewed how he would go after Clinton in a general election if he got the chance. He said her summer book tour has shown "how disconnected she is from the middle class."

"To make a comment about how woeful her finances were when she's worth supposedly between $100 million and $200 million — most of us, myself included, can't imagine that much money," he said.

Paul brought up the Benghazi attacks, saying he thinks Clinton did not pay enough attention to diplomatic security needs in Libya.

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“We want the most competent and wise of humans to be in charge of our military,” he said in the interview. “She made a big deal about the 3 a.m. moment with Barack Obama, that she would be the one to be able to handle the 3 a.m. call, but they were calling her repeatedly for six months and she wasn’t even picking up the phone.”

Paul went on to blame broader upheaval in Libya on Clinton’s policies, saying: “There are some who call Libya ‘Hillary’s war.’ She was all for it. … And if you look objectively at Libya now, it’s a jihadist wonderland there.”

A Clinton spokesman did not return a request for comment.

In his speeches across Iowa, Paul repeatedly attacked Clinton and tried to connect her to the Obama administration, drawing hearty applause from his crowds of Republican partisans.

“It’s sort of like the ‘Old MacDonald’ song — here a scandal, there a scandal, everywhere a scandal,” he said in Okoboji.

But Paul largely avoided talking about foreign policy in his speeches. His anti-interventionist views have been the subject of considerable debate among Republicans in Washington. Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a potential 2016 GOP primary opponent, has said Paul’s worldview would “endanger our national security.”

Some Iowans said they were intrigued by the senator’s potential candidacy, but questioned whether he is commander-in-chief material.

“There are a lot of things I don’t know about Rand Paul, like his foreign policy,” said Dan Dennis, 52, a business owner in Marion who described himself as a libertarian. “Right now, our foreign policy is so in the toilet we’ll need somebody strong in that area.”

In a state that prizes retail politics, Paul cut a reticent figure on the stump. He often seemed introverted and averse to the kind of glad-handing and back-slapping that is a favorite pastime of some of his potential opponents. But his oddities also help underscore the outsider, anti-Washington posture that many GOP voters find appealing.

On Monday, Paul began the day wearing a necktie featuring dozens of miniature profiles of former president James Madison, known as the father of the Constitution. Arriving in Okoboji’s kitschy Barefoot Bar, he changed into a rainbow-striped dress shirt.

“My staff’s like, ‘You’re wearing that?’ ” Paul told his supporters. “I’m like, ‘Well … this is my choice. Live with it. … This is the best party shirt I’ve got.’ ”

Republican strategists here said they are impressed with Paul’s organizing. He is working diligently to maintain the libertarian-leaning network of his father, former congressman Ron Paul (Tex.), who ran for president in 2008 and 2012, while also reaching out to evangelical Christians, fiscal conservatives and moderates. Two top Iowa operatives, Steve Grubbs and A.J. Spiker, are working with him.

“He’s playing it smart,” said Tim Albrecht, a strategist who has worked for Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad (R) and former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. “There’s a case for him winning the Iowa caucuses. He’s definitely the front-runner now.”

Nationally, too, Paul has an early organizational edge.

“There are other people running for president, but they’re not organizing the way he is,” said Spencer Zwick, who was Romney’s national finance chairman. “I think some would regret that because they’re going to find themselves not organized and not prepared to run a full-scale primary campaign.”

When Paul stopped by a GOP office in Council Bluffs to help boost local candidates, Justin Levins, 37, came up to greet the senator.

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"Your filibuster last year was so exciting I went out and put on a [bumper] sticker, 'I Stand with Rand,' and I drove that car like 100,000 miles," Levins said.

"I appreciate that," Paul said, quickly turning to meet someone else.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 6 – Huntington, NY: Sec. Clinton signs books at Book Revue (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bunch of Grapes (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/30/2015 1:46:41 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Will the GOP establishment candidates kill each other?

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The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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Will the GOP establishment candidates kill each other?



Chris Christie speaks at Elly's Tea and Coffee House in Muscatine, Iowa, yesterday. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— The Republican nominating contest has entered a new, more desperate phase. The four GOP candidates vying to occupy the so-called establishment lane all turned on one other yesterday. Attacks that circulated for months on background flared up in the open.

"It's now down to the last five weeks here," Chris Christie told reporters in Iowa. "We need to make distinctions…"

The New Jersey governor then ripped into Marco Rubio for missing more votes than any other senator. "Dude, show up to work," he said in Muscatine. "Just show up to work and vote no. And if you don't want to, then quit."

Rubio, also campaigning in Iowa, fired back: "You know, Chris has been missing in New Jersey for half the time."

— That was one of the more memorable moments in a day that started as a Rubio pile-on but became a free-for-all. Jeb Bush's super PAC, Right to Rise, launched a $1.4 million ad buy in Iowa to highlight Rubio's absenteeism. The goal is to stop another Floridian from getting momentum in the caucuses that he could carry into the New Hampshire primary a week later. "Politics first, that's the Rubio way," the narrator says.

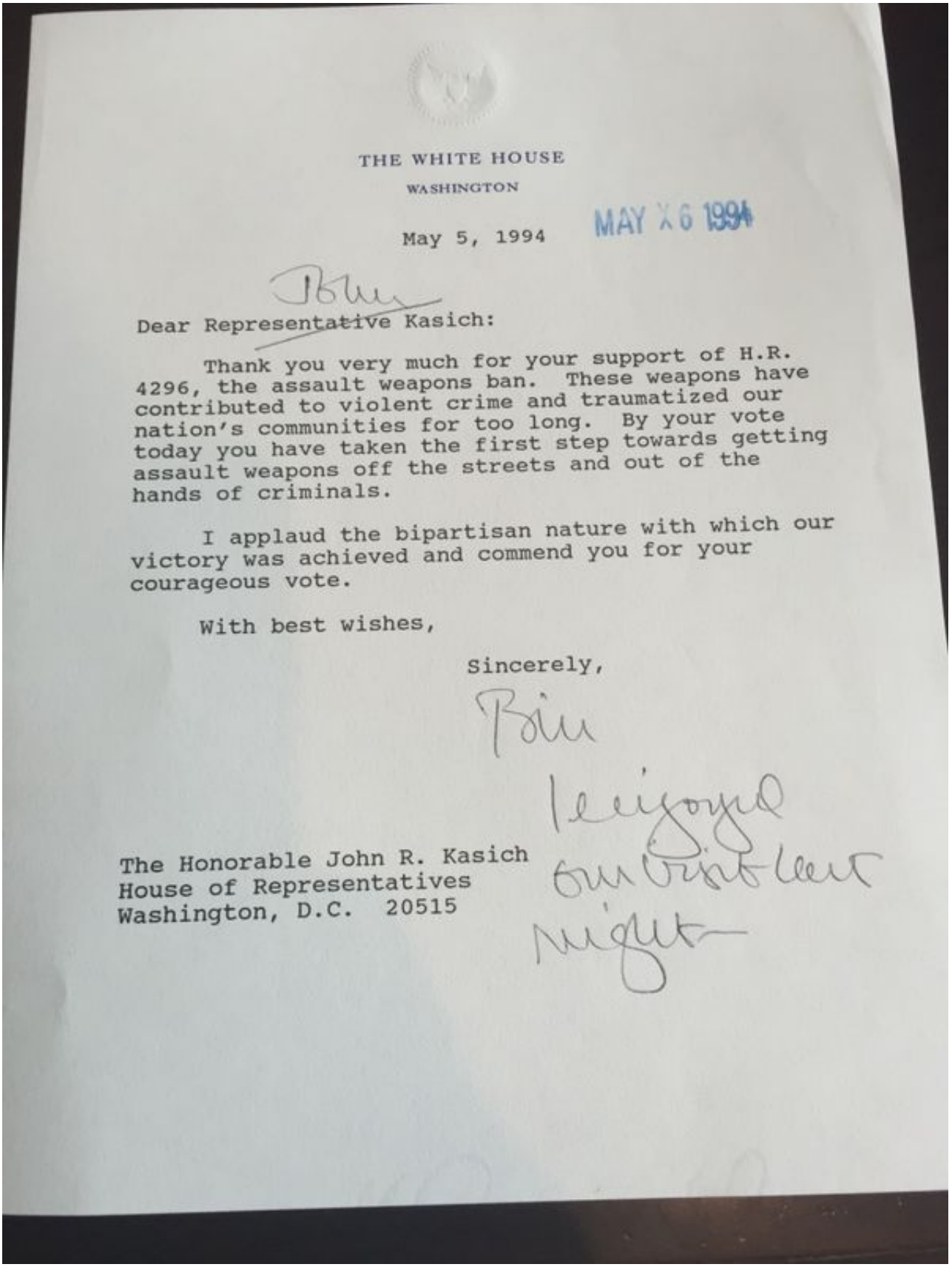
— Right to Rise also unveiled a commercial contrasting Bush with the two other governors in the establishment lane, Christie and Ohio's John Kasich.

— The super PAC supporting Kasich, New Day in America, responded that, "The country doesn't have an appetite for another Bush … As for Governor Christie, his mishandling of his state budget and the 'Bridgegate' scandal have earned him a 60 percent unfavorable rating from those who know him best — the people of New Jersey."

— Then Mike Murphy, the strategist behind the Bush super PAC, began tweeting out pictures of embarrassing documents that his opposition researchers had collected from an archive of Kasich's congressional papers. Among them: a 1980 thank you note from Phil Crane, the Illinois congressman whom Kasich backed over Ronald Reagan in the primaries, and a personalized letter of

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gratitude from Bill Clinton after Kasich supported the 1994 ban on assault weapons:



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 5, 1994 MAY 16 1994

Dear Representative Kasich:

Thank you very much for your support of H.R. 4296, the assault weapons ban. These weapons have contributed to violent crime and traumatized our nation's communities for too long. By your vote today you have taken the first step towards getting assault weapons off the streets and out of the hands of criminals.

I applaud the bipartisan nature with which our victory was achieved and commend you for your courageous vote.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Bill

The Honorable John R. Kasich
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

— More of the back-and-forth is captured in the story leading our newspaper this morning. GOP political consultant Alex Castellanos is quoted saying that the crossfire is beginning to look like "a 'Fistful of Dollars' gunfight," referring to the 1964 western starring Clint Eastwood. (Watch the scene Alex is referring to here ; read Karen Tumulty, Ed O'Keefe and Philip Rucker's story here.)

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Marco Rubio takes a question from the audience during a town hall in Clinton, Iowa, yesterday. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

— Rubio has begun trying to position himself as the most conservative of the four establishment figures.

The campaign is pushing around a column in National Review by Jim Geraghty that ticks off his right-wing bona fides: "This is a man who has a lifetime ACU rating of 98 out of 100. A man who has a perfect rating from the NRA in the U.S. Senate. A man who earned scores of 100 in 2014, 100 in 2013, 71 in 2012, and 100 in 2011 from the Family Research Council. … Rubio's the guy who earned a 100 from National Right to Life in two straight cycles, and a zero rating from NARAL. He supports an abortion ban after 20 weeks, opposes exceptions for rape and incest (although he's voted for legislation that includes those exceptions), and opposes embryonic stem-cell research. … Rubio opposes gay marriage. … He opposes raising the minimum wage … He contends the legislative efforts to fight climate change are economically self-destructive and expresses skepticism that human behavior is driving climate change."

Ironically, the above could also be read as a list of reasons that Rubio would have a lot of trouble winning in a general election…

— Rubio is trying, to the extent possible, to stay above the fray: On the stump yesterday, he tried to brush aside attacks on his record as "par for the course," as his

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campaign released a barrage of surrogate statements decrying the attacks on his abysmal attendance record. His super PAC released a video highlighting nice comments that Jeb has made about Rubio in the past.

Today, Rubio's campaign will go on the air with an ad that presents the first-term senator as knowledgeable about and tough on foreign policy. "Today, we face ever growing threats: radical Islamic terror, a lunatic in North Korea, a gangster in Moscow, and a president more respectful to the Ayatollah of Iran than the Prime Minister of Israel," he says. "Our allies don't trust us. Our enemies don't fear us. And the world doesn't know where America stands. On day one of my presidency that will change."

— New Hampshire's primary may not have the winnowing effect that each campaign expects. David Weigel: "The four … are each counting on one or more of their compadres to fail. Until that happens, none of them are getting through the door. … New Hampshire sends only 12 delegates to the Republican National Convention. The history of people merely performing well there, then staying in the race until it's clarified, is as rich as the history of the state producing a nominee. … At some point, if Bush clearly has the money to last into March (as he says) and if Rubio is clearly in a stronger position to compete after New Hampshire, the 'nightmare' might be unavoidable. There are simply too many candidates waiting for dominoes to fall — and too many who can write off Trump votes as flukes." Dave calls this the Three Stooges Syndrome.

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith.

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

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Donald Trump speaks during a news conference on his airplane in Omaha, Neb., last night. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

–– Donald Trump says, beginning next Monday, he will spend at least $2 million per week on television ads in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. The AP reports the first two spots will be about immigration and national security. "If somebody attacks me, I will attack them very much and very hard in terms of ads," the billionaire told journalists aboard his private jet last night. The buys have not been placed yet, though, and Trump has not always followed through on these kinds of pronouncements. He bragged last night on Twitter about how little he's had to spend for paid media:

> My campaign for president is $35,000,000 under budget, I have spent very little (and am in 1st place). Now I will spend big in Iowa/N.H./S.C.
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 29, 2015

> So, I have spent almost nothing on my run for president and am in 1st place. Jeb Bush has spent $59 million & done. Run country my way!
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 29, 2015

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George Pataki ended his campaign with a video message.

— George Pataki dropped out of the race for the Republican presidential nomination. David A. Fahrenthold and David Weigel note the former New York governor's campaign was doomed to fail from the start, that his liberal stances on abortion, guns and unions are very much at odds with a party that continues moving to the right: "Pataki announced the suspension of his campaign in a two-minute message that aired on NBC affiliates in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. He secured the free air time through an 'equal time' request made after Trump hosted 'Saturday Night Live.'" Pataki, who has not held office since 2006, had flirted with a presidential run in 2000, 2008 and 2012. When he announced in May, he declared: "My life has prepared me for this moment." He was wrong. When "Jeopardy " contestants were shown his picture a few months ago, none could name him.

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Benjamin Netanyahu looks on as John Kerry speaks during a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. (Atef Safadi/Pool via AP)

— The Wall Street Journal reports that NSA surveillance of Benjamin Netanyahu and top Israeli leaders picked up their strategy conversations with members of Congress about how to torpedo the Iran nuclear deal. "That raised fears—an 'Oh-s— moment,' one senior U.S. official said—that the executive branch would be accused of spying on Congress," Adam Entous and Danny Yadron report. "Stepped-up NSA eavesdropping revealed to the White House how Mr. Netanyahu and his advisers had leaked details of the U.S.-Iran negotiations—learned through Israeli spying operations—to undermine the talks; coordinated talking points with Jewish-American groups against the deal; and asked undecided lawmakers what it would take to win their votes." Five nuggets from the piece:

- Obama ordered the NSA to stop spying on the presidents of France and Germany, but not Turkey.
- Obama was convinced for a time that Netanyahu would attack Iran without giving the U.S. a heads up, which prompted the order to step up surveillance.
- "Wary of a paper trail stemming from a request, the White House let the NSA decide what to share and what to withhold … 'We didn't say, 'Do it,'' a senior U.S. official said. 'We didn't say, 'Don't do it.'"- The NSA would also remove the names of lawmakers from intelligence reports.
- Analysts would pass details of intercepted communications to the top within six hours.
- Netanyahu was focused on building opposition to the Iran deal among Democratic

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lawmakers and confident he could win enough votes to stop the deal.



Clemson's Deon Cain runs in a 55-yard pass play for a touchdown during a Nov. 28 game against South Carolina.(AP Photo/Richard Shiro, File)

— Three Clemson football players were suspended after failing drug tests, taking them out of tomorrow's Orange Bowl against Oklahoma. "Deon Cain, Ammon Lakip and Jay McCullough have been sent home from the site of the College Football Playoff semifinal," USA Today reports . "Cain is a freshman wide receiver who is tied for third on the team in receptions. Lakip, a senior kicker, had a three-game suspension earlier this season after a spring arrest for cocaine possession and DUI. McCullough, a junior tight end, has no receptions this season for the undefeated and top-ranked Tigers."

— Four on-duty Secret Service agents were involved in a head-on car collision that killed one-person in Wakefield, N.H., the Associated Press reports. "Police said the agents were passengers in a Ford Taurus heading south on Route 16. A northbound Mercury Sable with three people crossed over the center line and collided head-on into the Taurus." Hillary was campaigning in nearby Berlin.

GET SMART FAST:

1. Eighteen people have now died as the result of massive flooding in Missouri and Illinois. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch)
2. The North Korean official in charge of relations with South Korea died in a car

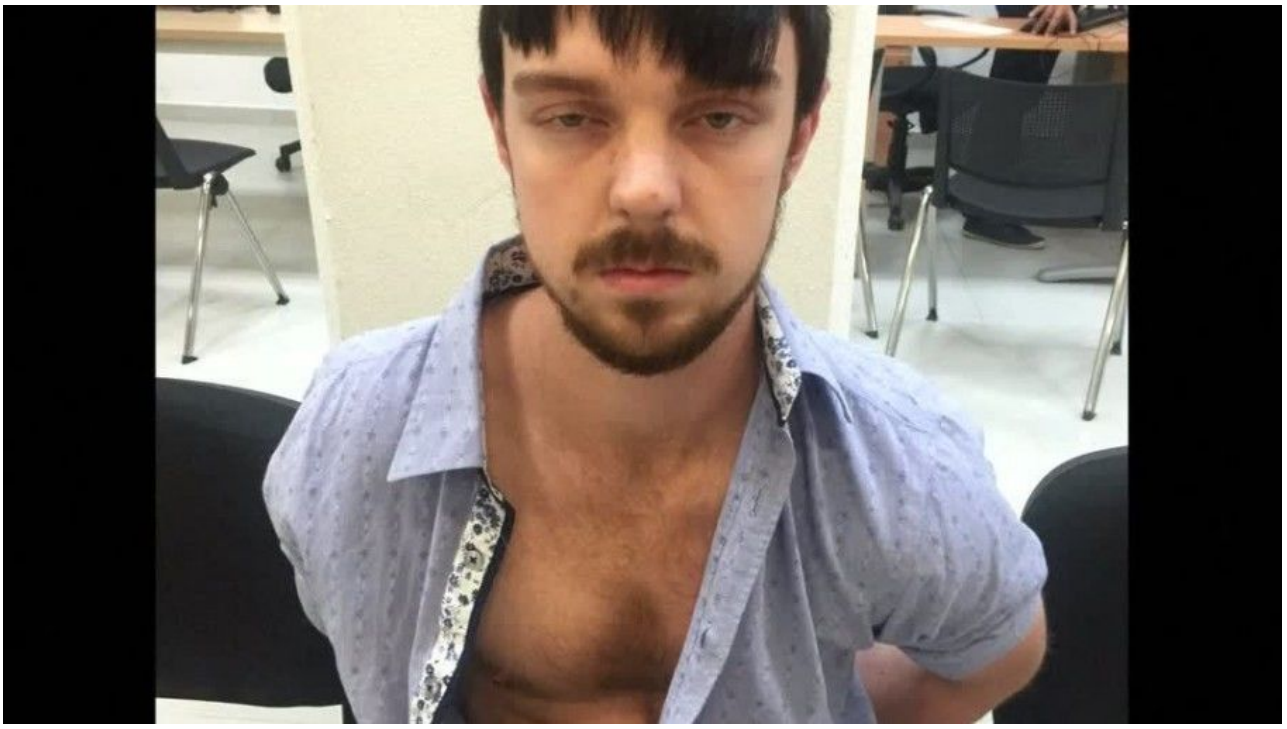
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accident, hampering the chances of improving relations between the two countries. (USA Today)

3. A U.S.-led airstrike killed a high-level ISIS leader in Syria with direct ties to the Paris attackers and who was actively planning more attacks against the West, the Pentagon announced. (Dan Lamothe)
4. A close call in the Strait of Hormuz: Iran conducted a live-fire exercise near the USS Harry Truman as the aircraft carrier passed through international waters. The Revolutionary Guard announced a warning over maritime radio and then fired several unguided rockets from about 1,500 yards off the carrier's starboard side. (NBC News)
5. Twitter has revised its rules of conduct to emphasize that it prohibits violent threats and abusive behavior by users. The question now is whether they will enforce it. (ABC)
6. The owners of a Portland bakery who refused on religious grounds to bake a wedding cake for a lesbian couple paid $144,000 in damages, though they continue to appeal a court ruling. (The Oregonian)
7. An unidentified man was caught on surveillance footage wrapping strips of raw bacon around the handle of a Las Vegas mosque's doors. Police are investigating as a hate crime. (KSNV)
8. China and Taiwan began operating the first telephone hotline between the two nations, designed to reduce tensions. (Reuters)
9. Eight Chinese men were rescued after being trapped for five days in a mine collapse. (AP)
10. A voter file with information about 191 million Americans was left exposed on the Internet, raising questions about the security chops of political campaigns that increasingly hold large caches of data. "The leak appeared to be the result of a technical error that allowed the information to be publicly accessed online, not a hack," Andrea Peterson reports.
11. Country music singer Craig Strickland is missing after going on a hunting trip in Oklahoma. The body of the friend he went out with was recovered after police found their capsized boat. (Niraj Chokshi)
12. A husband and wife in England who wanted to help ISIS were convicted of planning a terrorist attack in London to mark the 10th anniversary of the 2005 train bombings. (AP)
13. Ethan Couch, the "affluenza" teenager from Texas who killed four people while driving drunk, apparently planned his disappearance after being caught drinking on video. Authorities said he even had something akin to "a goodbye party" before

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fleeing to Mexico! *But* the harshest punishment he'll likely face is four months in jail because he's a juvenile. Couch and his mom were caught when they used their phones to order pizza — they are expected to be extradited today. (Dallas Morning News; The Post ; Fort Worth Star-Telegram)



Mexican authorities released a picture of Ethan Couch with dyed black hair after detaining him in Puerto Vallarta. (Jalisco state prosecutor's office, via Reuters)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. African American protesters gathered outside Rahm Emanuel's home and called for him to resign as mayor. (Chicago Tribune)
2. The Philadelphia Eagles fired head coach Chip Kelly with one game remaining in his third season. They missed the playoffs for the second straight year after losing to the Redskins. (Mark Maske)
3. Hillary Clinton began running a radio ad on predominantly African American stations in South Carolina that describes raising family incomes "is the defining economic challenge of our time." (Listen)
4. John Kasich said the people protesting a grand jury's decision to not charge the police officers involved in the Tamir Rice shooting "need to be heard." (Ed O'Keefe)
5. Ron Burkle, a billionaire California investor with a history of donating to Democrats, endorsed and will raise money for Kasich. (Politico)
6. The vice chair of the GOP in Miami-Dade County endorsed Cruz over favorite sons Rubio and Bush, the Tampa Bay Times reports . E.W. Jackson, the gaffe-prone and bombastic GOP nominee for Virginia lieutenant governor in 2013, also

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endorsed Cruz.

7. Trump's campaign signed an agreement give it access to the RNC voter file. (Politico)
8. Just one voter showed up to Martin O'Malley's event in Tama, Iowa, during a snowstorm Monday night. After an extended sitdown with the candidate, he left uncommitted. (Sarah Beckman's Tumblr)



@SarahBeckman3 Twitter

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

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Abdulaziz Moallin, a co-owner of the Juba Cafe, a coffee shop popular among local Somalis, stands in the wreckage of the restaurant after it was burned in an act of arson on the night Trump announced a plan to bar Muslims from entering the country. The restaurant is now closed until repairs are made. (Photo by Andrew Cullen/For the Washington Post)

NASTY RHETORIC HAS NASTY CONSEQUENCES. A few hours after Trump called for temporarily stopping Muslims from entering the U.S., someone in North Dakota drove by a Muslim-owned restaurant and tossed a 40-ounce Bud Light container filled with gasoline inside.

That incident is the lead anecdote in this piece –> "Trump's effect on Muslim migrant debate reverberates in heartland," by Robert Samuels in Grand Forks: "Residents, descended mostly from Norwegian Lutherans, were accustomed to coexisting with the Muslim refugees who have settled in town over the past decade. But a confection of events far beyond the city limits … has made both sides increasingly fearful of their neighbors. After fleeing a decade-long war and remaking their lives in a peaceful, quiet community, Somalis feel they are being looked at with unfair suspicion. Many locals, meanwhile, have questioned whether the government is spending too much money on a group they think shows little interest in assimilation. And they find themselves wondering whether the people wearing unusual garb and speaking a foreign language will produce a jihadist killer."

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Ted Cruz (Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg)

WINNING THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT –> "Ted Cruz huddles with faith leaders at ranch of super PAC donor," by Katie Zezima and Tom Hamburger: "Sen. Ted Cruz huddled with conservative faith leaders in Texas Monday and Tuesday as he coalesces the support of evangelical leaders behind his presidential bid. Cruz met with about 300 prominent faith leaders gathered at the sprawling ranch of Farris Wilks, who, along with his brother Dan, donated $15 million to a super PAC supporting Cruz. The event, sponsored by the PAC, was designed to introduce visitors to the faith story of the Cruz family. No cameras or recording devices were allowed at the remote ranch, where visitors enter through a massive stone archway with black gates, to protect the privacy of attendees and their conversation. … Those in attendance at the Monday sessions included prominent televangelists, such as John Hagee, pastor of the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, and James Dobson, founder of the Focus on the Family organization. Richard Land, president of the Southern Evangelical Seminary and a longtime leader of the Southern Baptist Convention, was there, according to interviews with attendees."

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Director of National Intelligence James Clapper looks on as President Obama speaks at the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean on Dec. 17. (Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images)

A NEAR TOTAL LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY –> "Spy agencies resist push for expanded scrutiny of top employees," by Greg Miller: "U.S. intelligence agencies recently fought off a move by Congress to require the CIA and other spy services to disclose more details about high-ranking employees who have been promoted or fired … The disputed measure was designed to increase scrutiny of cases in which senior officers ascend to high-level positions despite problems ranging from abusive treatment of subordinates to involvement in botched operations overseas. The CIA in particular has come under sharp criticism in recent years for promoting operatives who faced investigations by the agency's internal watchdog or the Justice Department for their roles in the brutal interrogations of prisoners…Under a provision drafted by the Senate Intelligence Committee this year, intelligence agencies would have been required to regularly provide names of those being promoted to top positions and disclose any 'significant and credible information to suggest that the individual is unfit or unqualified.'"

"But that language faced intense opposition from Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr. As a result, the wording was watered down by (congressional Republicans) this month and now requires Clapper only to furnish '*information the Director determines appropriate*.' … Sen. Dianne Feinstein (Calif.), the top Democrat on the Senate [Intelligence] committee, had inserted the initial provision in the intelligence authorization bill that was passed by the panel earlier this year."

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SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— Pictures of the day:

Gina Rodriguez, aka “Jane the Virgin,” shared some snaps of her trip to the White House during the holidays:

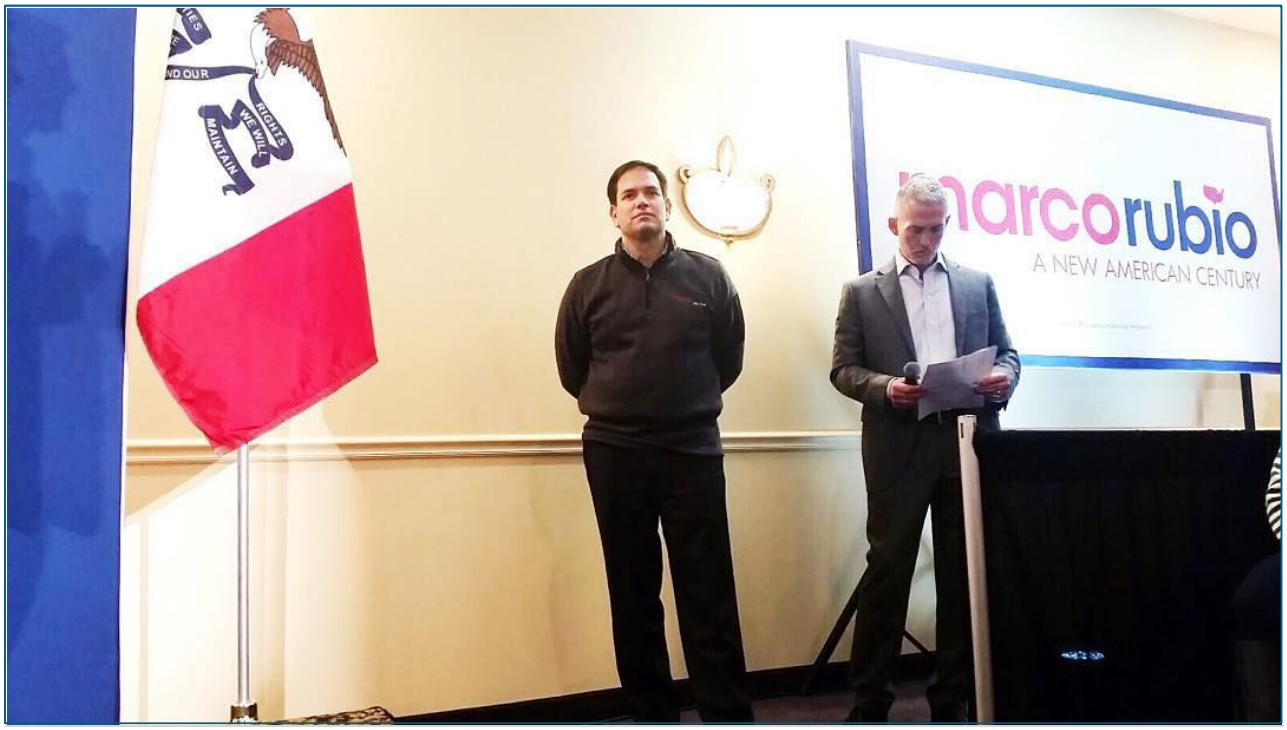


(@michelleobama)

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) appeared with one of his newest supporters, Rep. Trey Gowdy

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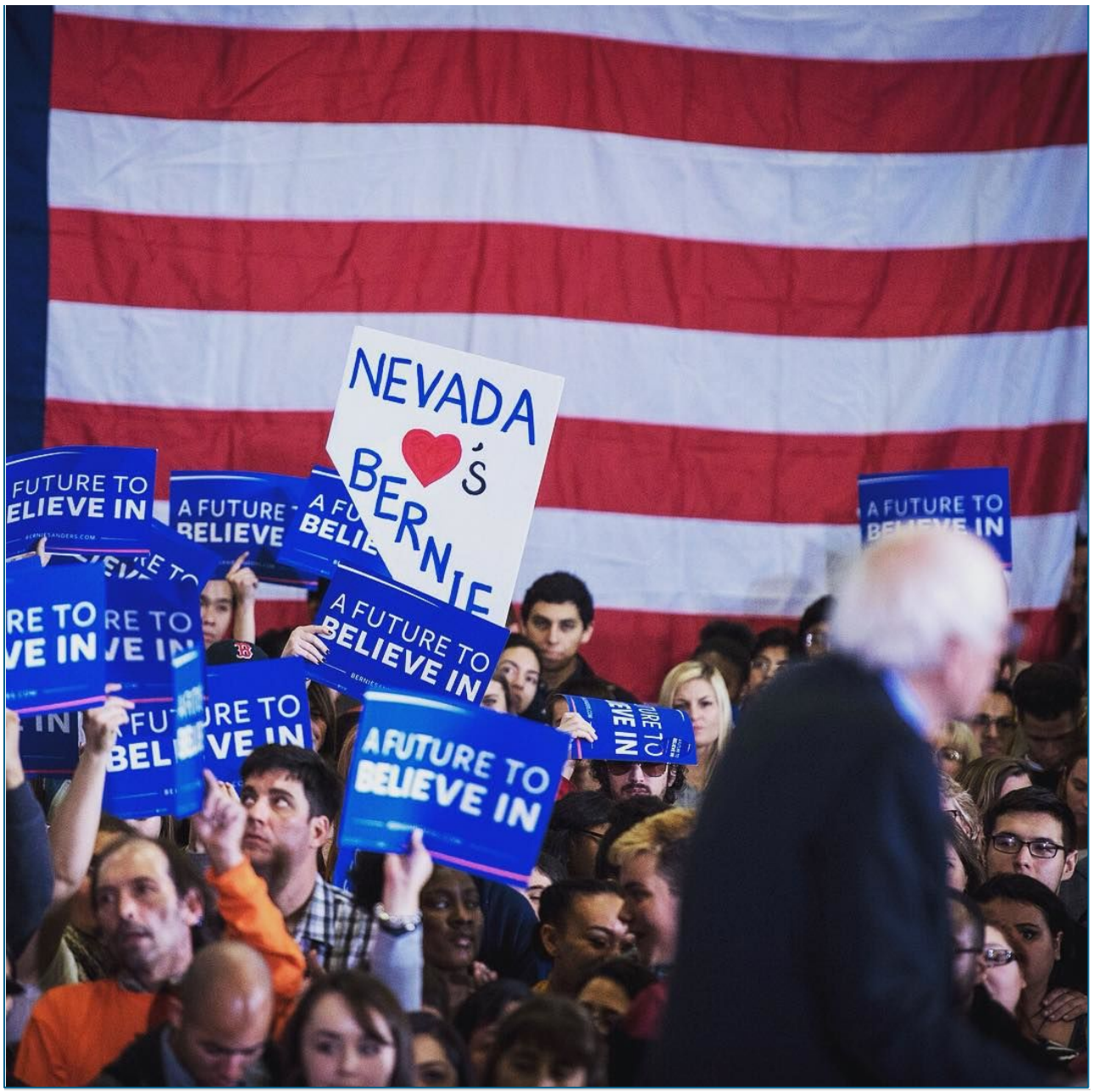
(R-S.C.), at a town hall in Clinton, Iowa:



(@marcorubiofla)

Bernie Sanders showed off some love from his rally in Las Vegas:

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(@berniesanders)

Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) surveys the damage in Rowlett from the Texas tornadoes over the weekend:

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(@reppetesessions)

–Tweets of the day:

Trump continued bashing those who have backed other horses in the race for president:

> I hope @TGowdySC does better for Rubio than he did at the #Benghazi hearings, which were a total disaster for Republicans & America! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 29, 2015

He also went after New Hampshire Union Leader Publisher Joseph W. McQuaid, who has been mocking him in front page op-eds:

> Joe McQuaid (@deucecrew) of the dying Union Leader wanted ads, lunches, donations, speeches from me, and tweets—very unethical. — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 30, 2015

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— Instagrams of the day:

Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-Mass.) showed off his newborn baby, Eleanor (Ellie):



(@repkennedy)

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, aka the “Clean Cooking Congresswoman,” said she had her first-ever “homemade sushi night.” Her daughter and her best friend’s daughter helped out:

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(@cleancookingcongresswoman)

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) said his staff organized the preparation of over 1,000 Christmas care packages for members of the military from his state:

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(@senmikelee)

And for all you cat people out there, here is Florida Rep. Lois Frankel (D):

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(@reploisfrankel)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

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Jeff Weaver, campaign manager for Bernie Sanders (Yuri Gripas/Reuters)

— New York Times, "Top Bernie Sanders aide rankles those in and out of campaign," by Maggie Haberman: "When Senator Bernie Sanders's campaign team was about to address a throng of media about a breach in which his data director and at least two other staff members accessed Clinton's proprietary voter data, reporters and political watchers braced for some sort of apology. Instead, the campaign manager, Jeff Weaver, stood before the cameras and portrayed his campaign as victims of a voracious Democratic National Committee. He threatened to sue the party to restore access to its own voter file data. … The aggressive maneuver struck many political observers as daring. It caught Mrs. Clinton's campaign by surprise … But the person delivering the message, Mr. Weaver, is a long-trusted adviser to Mr. Sanders, who has developed a reputation inside and outside his campaign as a hard-charging operative often willing to go further than the candidate himself."

- "Mr. Weaver, who worked for Mr. Sanders in Congress for years and has the candidate's trust, took a break from a store in Virginia, Victory Comics, to return to the candidate's fold (his cell phone voicemail still identifies him as with the comic-book store.)"
- In October, Weaver rankled many inside the campaign when he said that HRC "would make a great vice president." Maggie reports that Sanders and others saw it as condescending: "The campaign's New Hampshire state director, Julia Barnes, asked

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Mr. Weaver to apologize for the comments, and voiced her displeasure to him in clear terms. He never did, telling unhappy staffers on a conference call after the report aired that their team needed to be mindful that the Clinton campaign was about to unleash attacks on Mr. Sanders."



Trump holds up his Bible during a campaign stop last night in Council Bluffs, Iowa. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

— BuzzFeed, "Trump defended Clinton during Lewinsky scandal against 'moralist" hypocrites In Congress," by Andrew Kaczynski and Megan Apper: "Donald Trump revived Bill Clinton's past marital indiscretions this week, attacking Hillary on Twitter and on TV for playing the 'women's card' and saying her husband's past affairs would be fair game. Trump took a different tact in the late '90s, when the scandal was at its peak, defending then-President Bill Clinton against the 'moralists' and hypocrites in Congress and arguing that the scandal wouldn't have been that bad if only Clinton had chosen to carry on an affair with a supermodel instead. 'I got a chuckle out of all the moralists in Congress and in the media who expressed public outrage at the president's immoral behavior,' wrote Trump in The America We Deserve. 'I happen to know that one U.S. senator leading the pack of attackers spent more than a few nights with his twenty-something girlfriend at a hotel I own. There's also a conservative columnist, married, who was particularly rough on Clinton in this regard. He also brought his girlfriend to my resorts

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for the weekend. Their hypocrisy is amazing.' Trump also wrote that Clinton should have refused to talk about his personal life … Trump at one point compared himself directly to Bill Clinton, telling CNBC in 1998, 'Can you imagine how controversial I'd be? You think about him with the women. How about me with the women? Can you imagine?'"

Trump defended his past comments last night, saying he was just trying to ingratiate himself with the powerful. "As a world-class businessman, you have to get along with everybody," he said. "I was able to get along with Clinton, I was able to get along with virtually every politician you can imagine." (Abby Phillip's story)

— The Atlantic, "The Iowa caucus gets an upgrade, " by Russel Berman: "Caucus Night 2012 was not exactly a banner evening for the Republican Party of Iowa. Reporting problems plagued the vote-counting during the crucial first-in-the-nation presidential contest. … Needless to say, the Iowa GOP would like to have a smoother—and more accurate—election on February 1 … The parties are pinning their hopes on new technology, betting that a custom-designed mobile platform can modernize a quirky voting method and ensure the public knows which candidates won Iowa long before voters head to the polls in New Hampshire. The idea is to meld 'a brand-new technology and a 100-year-old process,' said Stan Freck, senior director for campaigns and elections at Microsoft, which partnered with the parties on the project. … The key features of the app designed by Microsoft and its partner, Interknowlogy, are backstops for clumsy-fingered or tech-challenged precinct captains. 'It's a simple, big-button kind of interface, not a lot of crazy stuff on the screen,' Freck said. A demo confirmed his description; a precinct captain only has to go through a couple of screens after logging in, and the whole process should take no more than a few minutes."

The five House members who made the most floor speeches in 2015, via C-SPAN:

1. Rep. Glenn "G.T." Thompson (R-PA): 110 days
2. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX): 87 days
3. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA): 72 days
4. Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX): 70 days
5. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR): 69 days

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HOT ON THE LEFT

A Virginia GOP state lawmaker will try to remove Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) security detail. Republicans are up in arms, literally, over a decision by state Attorney General Mark Herring that Virginia will no longer recognize concealed handgun carry permits from residents of 25 states. Per the Bristol Herald Courier: State Rep. Bill Carrico (R) plans to retaliate, saying of the governor: "I have a budget amendment that I'm looking at to take away his executive protection unit. If he's so afraid of guns, then I'm not going to surround him with armed state policemen."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

"We Lost Too Many Conservative Luminaries in 2015 — R.I.P.," by Tevi Troy in National Review: "The conservative movement was built by intellectuals … Reflection on 2015 makes clear that we lost some titans, including Martin Anderson, Walter Berns, Harry Jaffa, Ben Wattenberg, Robert Conquest, Amy Kass, and Peter Schramm. They have left in the conservative movement a hole that will be difficult to fill." Berns and Jaffa both studied under Leo Strauss, famously feuded, and, à la Jefferson and Adams, died on the same day. "Jaffa was the intellectual godfather of West Coast Straussianism, best embodied by the Claremont Institute." He's also best known for writing Barry Goldwater's 1964 pronouncement that, "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice [and] … moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

DAYBOOK:

— What's happening today on the campaign trail: Trump is in Hilton Head, S.C., where he will host an event at 11 a.m. Eastern. Bush is also in South Carolina, and he will appear at a barbecue dinner in Lexington at 6:30 p.m. Cruz is in Texas to visit the tornado-ravaged town of Rowlett. He will meet with Rockwell County Mayor Todd Gottel. Rubio

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has town halls in Pella, Newton and Boone, Iowa. Christie, also in Iowa, is hosting meet and greets in Waterloo and Marshalltown, followed by a town hall in Waukee. Sanders has three towns halls in Iowa, with his day concluding in Ottumwa at 7 p.m. Central. O'Malley will attend leadership forums in Humbolt and Clarion. Rick Santorum will speak at a house parties (for the second straight day) in Holstein and Sioux City.

— On the Hill: Recess

— At the White House: President Obama continues his vacation in Hawaii. He went snorkeling yesterday.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Chelsea Clinton vs. Ivanka Trump in 2032? Donald's daughter was asked whether she'll ever run for office. "It's not something I've ever been inclined to do, but I'm 34, so who knows? At this point I would never even contemplate it, but that doesn't mean that when I'm 50 I won't have a change of heart," she told Town & Country in an extended interview.

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "We could see a few glimmers of sun here and there, once the early fog lifts, but for the most part it's another mostly cloudy day as highs head for the mid-50s," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "Might see some spots of drizzle through the morning, with scattered light showers possible starting around or after 3 p.m. About a 50-60% chance of getting wet at any given location. Winds are light from the southeast."

— This month is officially the warmest December ever recorded in D.C., with the average daily temperature at 51.2 degrees, almost five-and-a-half degrees warmer than any other December since 1871. (Martin Weil)

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Motorcycles and dirt bikes pop wheelies and drive the wrong way, slowing traffic on the Beltway Sunday. Officials took no enforcement action, according to Maryland State Police. (Jukin Media, Inc.)

— There's an epidemic of hooligans on dirt bikes and motorcycles causing mayhem, and the police are offering weak excuses for not enforcing the law. They surround cars and circle pedestrians. They drive the wrong way on the highway, terrifying those in their path. A swarm on the Beltway this Sunday was caught on video. I recently saw a similar incident on H St., NE. "Authorities across the region have concluded that pursuing riders on illegal dirt bikes and similar off-road vehicles is dangerous because law enforcement cannot respond quickly enough or safely chase and corral operators who can outmaneuver police cars and escape on stairs and sidewalks and through narrow alleys," Peter Hermann and Dana Hedgpeth report . Residents are stepping up pressure on the cops to crack down.

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

"Saturday Night Live" looks back at the highlights of 2015:

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(@nbcsnl)

Trump released a new video mocking Obama's commitment to the war on ISIS:



(@realdonaldtrump)

See drones get too close to Obama's motorcade:

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(@usatoday)

And watch yet more hoverboard accidents, including Mike Tyson wiping out :



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(@abcnews)

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/17/2015 11:51:10 AM
Subject: A Banner Year for Change

Having trouble viewing this message? Click Here



July 17, 2015

Dear Friends:

Last Friday, the Confederate Flag was lowered on the State House grounds in Columbia, South Carolina.

Next Monday, the Cuban Flag will be hung in the State Department lobby and wave over the building in Washington that will once again serve as Cuba's embassy.

The same day, the flag of the United States of America will be hoisted in Havana at the newly-reconstituted U.S. embassy, with a formal flag-raising by Secretary of State John Kerry to follow later in the summer.

In these weeks, flags - so often invoked as symbols of resilience or an unchanging national character - represent the capacity of nations and their people to grow and change.

It took a while. For sixteen years after President Eisenhower closed our embassy in Havana and severed diplomatic relations with Cuba, an aggressive U.S. policy to reverse the Cuban revolution was frozen in the amber of its own ineffectiveness.

President Jimmy Carter, who wrote in a National Security Directive issued in 1977, "I have concluded that we should attempt to achieve normalization of our relations with Cuba," tried to see past the Cold War into a future where diplomacy would heal the breach between our countries opened by the Cold War.

Under his direction, an agreement between the U.S. and Cuba resulted in the opening of Interests Sections in their respective capitals, which Carter hoped would soon evolve into embassies, if the bilateral relationship could be righted under his leadership.

But neither the Cuban reality nor U.S. domestic politics would align with Carter's hopeful vision, and so his dream of restoring full and formal diplomatic relations waited another thirty-seven years to be realized.

Those of us who came to work on the Cuba issue more recently should acknowledge the debt we owe public servants like President Carter and Ambassador Wayne Smith , and to the experts and activists who worked over the decades, and the people we once called "moderate" Cuban Americans - they are the mainstream now, but sacrificed much to get there - so we could all see this new day arrive.

Their spirits never flagged.

Thanks to them, we now see history as if it were on fast-forward; Presidents Obama and Castro restoring diplomatic relations, freeing prisoners, sitting together at the Summit of the Americas, and opening reciprocal opportunities for travel and trade. The people of Cuba and the United States are seeing the same changes we are, and like what they

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see.

We expect to see tough negotiations ahead over real differences on human rights and on U.S. programs that continue to press for regime change in Cuba. But we never expected to see the Cuban National Assembly live tweeting reactions to a Castro speech about forging a new kind of relationship with the United States.

History isn't just on fast-forward; in 2015, it is moving at warp speed.

This week in Cuba news...

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS
- Congressional sources say U.S. to upgrade Cuba's status on human trafficking list
- Cubans rush to U.S. shores before easy entry ends
- New Cuba PAC posts strong fundraising haul
- Beltway firm seeks to drive U.S. settlement claims against Cuba to fore

IN CUBA
- Cuba's economy grows by 4.7% in first half of 2015
- Mariel port and economic zone gain momentum as foreign firms set up shop

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS
- Former IMF chief to advise Cuba on economic relations
- Cuba plans renewable energy projects with foreign investment
- President Raul Castro condemns sanctions on Russia, criticizes NATO expansion into Eastern Europe

Recommended Reading
- Ex-Commerce Secretary Gutierrez: Cuba must recognize business needs to make a profit, Mimi Whitefield, *Miami Herald*
- U.S.-Cuba Relations: the Trouble with Normal , Jose Pertierra, *CounterPunch*
- Opening for Business , Jon Lee Anderson, *The New Yorker*
- Crown Jewel of Cuba's Coral Reefs , Erica Goode, *The New York Times*
- Tania Bruguera, an Artists in Havana Has a Great New York Week , Randy Kennedy, *The New York Times*
- Cuba Week , *Quartz*
- Beyond 'Bailando': Getting to know Cuba's Gente de Zona , Judy Cantor-Navas, *Billboard*

Recommended Viewing
- Interview from Havana-Engage Cuba , Cristina Escobar, *TeleSUR*
- An Inside Look at Cuba's Music Scene and the Artists Moving the Nation to a New Era, Ned Sublette, *Billboard*
- Youth Culture in the New Cuba , Sebastian Liste, *The New Yorker*

U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

Congressional sources say U.S. to upgrade Cuba's status on human trafficking list

According to Congressional sources, the U.S. State Department plans to upgrade Cuba's status on its annual Human Trafficking report. Reuters says Cuba will be moved from Tier 3, considered the worst offenders, to the Tier 2 Watch List. The State Department has declined to comment on the forthcoming report until it is finalized and released.

The State Department is required by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 to compile a human trafficking report annually, "with respect to the status of severe forms of trafficking in persons."

Nations covered by the report are rated and placed into four categories: Tier 1 countries, whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards; Tier 2 countries, whose governments do not fully comply with the

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TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards; Tier 2 Watch List countries, whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and may still have problems like lack of evidence of their efforts to combat trafficking; and Tier 3 countries, whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

Cuba was not listed in years 2001 and 2002, but began appearing as a Tier 3 nation in 2003 . Tier 3 countries can be subject to U.S. economic sanctions, though Cuba remains subject to a comprehensive trade embargo codified by the 1996 Helms-Burton Act. As with its now-lapsed designation as a state sponsor of terror (1982-2015), Cuba has fiercely rejected claims of the U.S. government that the nation engages in trafficking and voiced resentment that it was stigmatized accordingly.

Josefina Vidal, the Cuban Foreign Ministry's Director General for the United States, and Cuba's lead negotiator in the diplomatic talks, condemned Cuba's continuing inclusion on the list last year:

> "The Cuban government rejects categorically as unfounded this unilateral move offending our people. . . Cuba has not requested the U.S. assessment, nor needed recommendations from the United States, a country with the gravest problem on trafficking children and women in the world."

Last year's report cited continuing concerns over sex trafficking, including of minors between the age of 16 (the age of consent in Cuba) and 18. The 2014 report also noted:

> "There have been allegations of coerced labor with Cuban government work missions abroad; the Cuban government denies these allegations. . . Reports of coercion by Cuban authorities in this program do not appear to reflect a uniform government policy of coercion; however, information is lacking."

Should Cuba's status be upgraded, it could join Bolivia, China, and Jamaica, as well as U.S. allies Panama and Qatar, who were designated Tier 2 Watch List nations in 2014.

At the second round of high level bilateral talks last February in Washington, negotiators agreed to include human trafficking on their agenda for future talks.

Cubans rush to U.S. shores before easy entry ends

USA Today examines the uptick in Cuban emigration to the U.S. amid fears that the policy favoring fast-track citizenship for Cubans is in jeopardy, as we have previously reported.

The 1966 CAA grants fast-track citizenship to Cuban immigrants who make it to the U.S. without being intercepted by U.S. authorities under the so-called "wet foot, dry foot" policy. Authorities in the U.S. have publicly stated that the CAA has not been changed under the new policy direction, but this has not stopped many Cubans from attempting the journey.

Cubans, such as horseshoe maker Duniseky Alvarez, are increasingly choosing to make the dangerous journey across the Florida Straits on makeshift boats, motivated by rumors that the Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA) would be changed as relations normalize with the U.S.

According to projections by USA Today, 2,485 Cubans will be intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard in the Florida Strait before reaching land in 2015. This compares to a recent high of 2,059 in 2014 and 422 in 2010.

Embargo supporters such as Senator Marco Rubio (FL) have said that the CAA should

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be reexamined to focus on political refugees, and not apply to Cubans seeking greater economic opportunities. This view is shared by Jaime Suchlicki, director of the Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies at the University of Miami, who argues that the law should "be strictly for people that are involved in political activities against the Cuban government, the dissidents."

Ric Herrero, executive director of CubaNow, contends that it is "immoral to tell the Cuban people that we are going to close the door on them coming to the United States, while at the same time keeping a policy that tries to strangle their economy."

The CAA is an anomaly in U.S. policy. Miami immigration attorney Ira Kurzban points out that there is no precedent for such a specific preferential treatment policy, and believes that the persistence of the CAA is rooted in the political clout of Cubans who fled Fidel Castro's Revolution and settled in Miami.

This is some cause for mixed emotions among Cubans as well. Duniseky Alvarez, a recent Cuban immigrant stated, "If we're going to have normal relations, they should get rid of [the CAA]. But there are so many people back there who want to do exactly what I did. I just don't know."

New Cuba PAC posts strong fundraising haul

New Cuba PAC, a new Political Action Committee launched in May to support normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba, has raised $178,000 in its first three months, reports the Wall Street Journal.

This compares with the $200,000 reportedly raised by the pro-sanctions U.S.-Cuba Democracy PAC over the two first quarters of 2015 combined. Although the U.S.-Cuba Democracy PAC has dominated political fundraising around Cuba policy since 2004, the figures suggest that New Cuba PAC could match or even outraise its more established rival in its very first year.

"This is something that's been missing for a long time," noted New Cuba PAC director James Williams. "When we approached it, the hard liner, pro-embargo side was incredibly skeptical and with this filing it shows they were wrong. People who care about this issue put their money where their mouth is."

Mauricio Claver-Carone, who serves on the U.S.-Cuba Democracy PAC's Board of Directors, says he's not worried about being out-raised by the new pro-normalization PAC. "At the end of the day what's important when it comes to political fundraising is consistency and reliability. Over the past 10 years we've raised nearly $5 million."

According to data available on the Federal Election Committee website, Claver-Carone's pro-embargo PAC figures peaked in the 2006 and 2008 election cycles at more than $800,000 raised in each two-year period, but those figures have trended downward over the last three election cycles, when it raised $636,000, $509,000 and $555,000.

New Cuba PAC's strong start could be a sign that recent policy changes initiated by President Obama have energized pro-normalization donors. Williams reported that half of New Cuba PAC's approximately 100 donors are Cuban American and include Manny Díaz, former Mayor of Miami.

Beltway firm seeks to drive U.S. settlement claims against Cuba to fore

The Center for Responsive Politics reports that Alexandria, Virginia lobbying firm Poblete & Tamargo has been hired to represent ten American families seeking to enforce property claims on assets seized by the Cuban government after the 1959 revolution.

These families represent a fraction of the more than 6,000 property claims recognized by the United States government with a cumulative value of between $7 and $8 billion

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(including interest and inflation). Many of the claims were made decades ago, but the recent detente in U.S.-Cuban relations has spurred renewed interest in pursuing compensation for seized assets; eight of Poblete & Tamargo's ten clients signed on with the firm since the December 17th announcement that the U.S. and Cuba would begin normalizing relations.

According to Roll Call , the firm's name partners Jason Poblete, who has caricatured President Obama's diplomatic opening as a 'surrender to totalitarianism', and Mauricio Tamargo, a former aide to Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, registered two years ago as lobbyists for Hon. John L. Loeb, Jr., a former U.S. Ambassador to Denmark under President Ronald Reagan. Loeb's father invested and later sold his company's holdings in Cuba's sugar industry prior to the fall of Batista.

The claims of Poblete & Tamargo's clients - and others similarly affected - could present a roadblock to restoring a normal relationship between Cuba and the U.S. Under the Helms-Burton Act passed in 1996, the United States is obliged to resolve claims of seized property before proceeding to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba. However, some observers believe that Cuba's government will seek to reach a deal with the United States to shrink their obligations.

A number of Spanish individuals are also seeking compensation from the Cuban government for assets seized during the revolution. Jordi Cabarrocas, of Spanish investment firm 1898, represents clients claiming almost $2 billion in lost assets. Their case for compensation is considerably more complicated than Poblete's clients' case, due to a 1986 agreement in which the Spanish and Cuban governments agreed to forgive Cuba's debt in return for $40 million in compensation paid over a 15-year period, much of which was paid in tobacco rather than pesos or dollars.

IN CUBA

Cuba's economy grows by 4.7% in first half of 2015

Economy Minister Marino Murillo reported to the National Assembly Wednesday that Cuba's economy grew 4.7% in the first half of 2015, surpassing Murillo's previous estimate of 4% growth contained in a presentation to the Council of Ministers in November of last year.

Contributing factors cited by Reuters include growth in agriculture, particularly sugar, manufacturing, and construction. Although tourist arrivals in Cuba increased more than 15%, Reuters says that currency fluctuations caused earnings to lag behind.

Going forward, the process of U.S.-Cuba normalization is likely to drive export earnings through the increase of U.S. travelers to the island. Bloomberg reports a 15% increase in the number of tourists in the first five months of 2015 as compared to the same period in 2014. Several steps are being taken to allow Americans easier access to Cuba; last week, we reported that the U.S. government had given approval to Carnival Cruise Lines to enter the market, and today Spanish company Balearia announced it had been granted a U.S. license to run a Cuba-Florida ferry .

The expansion of U.S.-based cruise lines and airlines traveling to Cuba will likely accelerate the number of visitors to the island and further fuel Cuba's economic growth.

Mariel port and economic zone gain momentum as foreign firms set up shop

Although the Mariel port and surrounding Special Economic Development Zone opened in January 2014, it is only just beginning to gain traction and attract foreign investors, according to the Associated Press. Eighteen months after the port opened, seven firms have received approval to operate in the Mariel Zone, two of which are domestic Cuban firms.

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Ana Teresa Igarza, Director of the Special Economic Development Zone at Mariel, says that the pace of investment has finally picked up since a slow start, and that they are currently approving "almost one company a month" to operate in the Zone.

Currently, the only foreign firms represented are from Mexico, Belgium, and Spain; however, as we reported in June, the Alabama-based tractor company Cleber LLC is the first U.S. firm invited by the Cuban government to apply to operate in Mariel.

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Former IMF chief to advise Cuba on economic relations

Dominique Strass-Kahn, a former French finance minister who served as head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) until a sex scandal forced him to resign his post, is planning to advise Cuba's government on its economic relationship with the United States, reports Politico.eu.

Following his June acquittal in a trial where he faced "aggravated pimping" charges, friends of the former IMF chief say he is positioning himself for a comeback, if not in French politics then at least on the international economic stage.

It is unclear what advice Strauss-Kahn might offer Cuba on engaging with the U.S., but he could be an instrumental advisor in a discussion about Cuba joining international finance institutions such as the IMF. Cuba exited the IMF in 1964. According to IMF historian William Broughton, Havana secretly reached out to the IMF in 1993, following the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, and with it, their primary source of financing. After several meetings, some of which included Fidel Castro and other high level officials, Cuba formally requested technical assistance from the Fund. The request was declined due to active opposition from the United States, as required under the embargo.

In a January 2015 article exploring the possibility of Cuba rejoining the IMF, Broughton explains that while the 1996 Helms-Burton Act requires the U.S. Treasury Secretary to vote against Cuba's re-admittance (unless s/he can certify that there is a democratic government in Havana), the U.S. does not have veto power over a simple majority vote of the IMF executive board. In the past, pressure from the U.S., which has a 17% voting share, would have influenced the outcome of a vote to readmit Cuba. Today, especially if the Obama Administration made clear that it would not actively oppose it, even while voting no as required by law, Cuba could very well gain re-admittance.

In his 2011 report for the Brookings Institution's Latin America Initiative, Richard Feinberg, a former economic advisor in the Clinton Administration and professor at the University of California at San Diego, also explored Cuba's possible re-entry into the International Financial Institutions. Feinberg spoke to a senior Cuban diplomat, who noted that, "Cuba has no principled position against relations with the IMF or the World Bank." In Feinberg's estimation, that choice of words was not an evasion; it was the Cuban equivalent of "an endorsement." If Cuba is interested in being readmitted to the IMF, it must submit an application. But even if it is not ready for full membership, Feinberg pointed out, it could always explore other types of ties, including technical assistance.

Cuba plans renewable energy projects with foreign investment

Cuba has set sights on foreign investment to finance a series of seven new wind farms, reports The Australian. The new wind capacity is to play an important part of Cuba's plans to generate 24% of the island's electricity using renewable sources by 2030. Currently, renewable energy represents just over 4% of the island's electricity production. Thirteen new wind facilities are planned to supplement four existing plants.

Reporting to the National Assembly this week, Energy and Mines Minister Alfredo Lopez

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said that increasing power generation from sources such as wind, photovoltaic solar, and hydroelectric plants could save $780 million annually. Cuban officials aim to attract $600 million in foreign investment.

Officials did not identify specific foreign investors in the new wind and solar projects; however, during his visit to Cuba last week, Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Mario Giro said that Italian firms are looking at several projects, including wind farms. Spain has also shown interest in renewable energy on the island.

While Cuba seeks to expand its renewable capacity, it is also still poised to explore offshore oil. Reuters reported this week that Cuban officials said that Angolan oil firm Sonagol would be ready to produce oil off Cuba's coast by 2017, if U.S. embargo restrictions were lifted.

President Raúl Castro condemns sanctions on Russia, criticizes NATO expansion into Eastern Europe

President Raúl Castro spoke out this week against the sanctions regime levied by the United States and the European Union on Russia, reports the International Business Times. Castro argued that the sanctions will "damage Europe, increase instability and bring new threats." He extended his criticism to the recent expansion of NATO's military presence in Eastern Europe.

The U.S. and EU sanctions on Russia were initially imposed following Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014, and include asset freezes and travel bans for high-ranking Kremlin officials. Economic sanctions have also been imposed, which the EU voted to extend through at least January 2016.

Nevertheless, Cuba's relationship with European countries continues to evolve following the diplomatic breakthrough reached between Presidents Castro and Obama last year, as well as the on-going normalization talks between Cuba and the EU. Frank-Walter Steinmeier will be the first German Foreign Minister to visit Cuba since German reunification in 1990, as reported by Politico .

Recommended Reading

Ex-Commerce Secretary Gutierrez: Cuba must recognize business needs to make a profit, Mimi Whitefield, *Miami Herald*

Former Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez spoke to a conference organized by the Atlantic Council this week to address the Council's recently published report on the reintegration of Cuba into the world economy. Gutierrez focuses primarily on the importance of Cuba joining international financial institutions such as the IMF.

US / Cuba Relations: the Trouble with Normal , Jose Pertierra, *CounterPunch*

Immigration attorney Jose Pertierra writes about the contradictions inherent in current U.S. policy towards Cuba.

Opening for Business , Jon Lee Anderson, *The New Yorker*

This *New Yorker* piece follows former Cuban refugee Hugo Cancio as he expands his business interests in Cuba and leverages his contacts in the Cuban government to aid Cuban and American entrepreneurs in setting up shop on the island.

Crown Jewel of Cuba's Coral Reefs , Erica Goode, *The New York Times*

This article and photo essay explores how Cuba's pristine coral reef, Jardines de la Reina, has thrived while many other reefs and ocean habitats are being destroyed.

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Tania Bruguera, an Artist in Havana, Has a Great New York Week , Randy Kennedy, *The New York Times*

The New York Times speaks with Cuban-born, New York City-based artist Tania Bruguera, who has been stranded in Havana since December due to a controversial piece of performance art. This week, the Mayor's Office on Immigrant Affairs named Tania their first artist-in-residence, and New York's MoMA purchased Bruguera's performance and video piece "Untitled (Havana 2000)".

Cuba Week , *Quartz*

Quartz is publishing a four-part series on the opening of U.S.-Cuba relations this week, touching on topics such as art and real estate.

Beyond "Bailando": Getting to know Cuba's Gente de Zona , Judy Cantor-Navas, *Billboard*

Billboard interviews Gente de Zona founder Alexander Delgado, who, after highly successful collaborations with Enrique Iglesias, Marc Antony, and Pitbull, plans a Gente de Zona solo album. On making it in the U.S. market, Delgado notes, "We've shown that it is possible to walk the red carpet, to perform on the most important awards shows, and that it doesn't have to be seen as some kind of political statement."

Recommended Viewing

Interviews from Havana - Engage Cuba , Cristina Escobar, *TeleSUR*
Cristina Escobar interviews James Williams, President of Engage Cuba, to talk about progress in U.S.-Cuba relations since December 17th and the work of Engage Cuba in pushing Congress to end travel and trade restrictions.

An Inside Look at Cuba's Music Scene and the Artists Moving the Nation to a New Era, Ned Sublette, *Billboard*
Billboard steps inside the world of Cuban music, visiting prominent venues and speaking with street musicians to discover what makes Havana one of the great music capitals.

Youth Culture in the New Cuba , Sebastian Liste, *The New Yorker*
Photo essay exploring Havana's youth culture, street life and arts

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From:	"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/3/2015 5:17:21 AM
Subject:	Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

We could either get a donor to leak it or just give it to a reporter if we want to get it out there. I'm semi-surprised it's not out yet.

On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:15 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Do we need to push it harder over the next few days? Get something written? I feel like we're going to want something to point to. Or maybe even just content on the website?
>
> On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:12 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > That's basically the goal of the BDS letter.
> >
> > On Fri, Jul 3, 2015 at 12:11 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > I was just thinking: has she made a clear statement on Israel yet? I get this question from donors all the time. Does she need to state her principles on Israel before Iran? Or do both at the same time?
> >
> > On Jul 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > Begin forwarded message:
> > >
> > > > From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > Date: July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
> > > > To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO
> > > >
> > > > http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html
> > > >
> > > > Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama
> > > >
> > > > But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran deal.
> > > >
> > > > By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
> > > > 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
> > > > Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT

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Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.

But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.

Story Continued Below

Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test; donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament

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to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

“That’s just smart politics,” said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. “Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was?”

Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was “very supportive of the negotiating process,” the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. “So it seemed like she was supporting it,” recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a “perception” problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

“Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I’ve got my own relationships,” she said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal. “I know Michael well, but I haven’t read the book,” she said.

At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel’s security. “She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel,” recalled Jacobs. “And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer.”

Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. “She said ‘I’m going to do what’s in the best interest of the U.S.,’ and that was the end of it,” Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, “although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it’s got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people.” He

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urged Jewish donors “to take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits,” adding: “I’d hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support.”

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton’s senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

“It’s a tricky issue for her,” said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran “are going to put her in a box.”

Clinton’s allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. “I know where she stands, but I can’t talk about it,” Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, “She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don’t need to worry about this.”

He soon backtracked, saying “I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal.”

And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn’t hold as much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

“Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount of love for the Clintons, but I don’t think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is,” said the donor.

Saban’s representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban’s financial support will not be

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conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn't going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

"Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No," he said. "Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3."

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. "Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It's broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate," he said. "So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama's support who will at least give her view a more open-minded assessment."

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

"If there's a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her," said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group's members regard her as too hawkish for their tastes.

"For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy," said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street's PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his support for a deal to the candidate.

"She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community."

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Authors:

View Comments

--
Ian Sams
(423) 915-6592

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/13/2008 2:59:28 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/13/08

Main Topics: Russia, "The Obama Nation" book

Summary of Shift:

The Russian Georgian conflict remains to dominate political coverage. The release of "Obama Nation" fueled many discussions on the legitimacy of the book and its possible effects on the Obama campaign. Barack also received negative coverage for requiring DNC speech attendees to volunteer. With the DNC Convention nearing, several networks discussed the various planned speakers and rumors of Barack Obama's VP choice.

In other news, a shooting occurred at the Arkansas Democratic Party headquarters killing the State Party Chair Bill Gwatney. "Golden Boy" Michael Phelps continues to dominate the Olympics and media coverage. Controversy over the age of China's gymnastic team was also a hot topic.

Highlights:

1. Russian Georgian Conflict
   a) MSNBC: Olbermann blasts McCain on Randy Scheunemann, conflicts of interest, inflammatory rhetoric, politicizing war
   b) CNN: McCain's tough stance on Russia could be due to leftover Cold War anger
2. CBS: Dean Reynolds: the new tough McCain campaign tactics, Bush style
3. MSNBC: Hardball guests discuss James Corsi's Anti-Obama book
4. MSNBC: Shuster notes McCain hypocrisy for working with Abramoff connected Ralph Reed

Highlights, No Clips:

1. CNN: CINDY MCCAIN: "The blog was her idea, and she came up with it on her own, and she came up with the idea of what she wanted on the blog. […] Her father and I at first weren't sure because we were trying to protec t her. As it turns out we both love the blog."

Clips:

Highlight #1

Olbermann Blasts McCain On Randy Scheunemann, Conflicts of Interest, Inflammatory Rhetoric, Politicizing War
(MSNBC 8/13/08 8:12pm)

KEITH OLBERMANN: As war rages in Georgia, Russia's invasion of that tiny U.S. ally is raising new questions. Not just about the wisdom and competence of John McCain's foreign policy, but also about the integrity and the ethics that have shaped his position toward Russia. McCain's position may in fact have helped fuel this crisis. It certainly left today a foreign head of state making an extraordinary appeal for help from a capital virtually under siege and calling McCain out by name for not matching deeds to words. Our fifth story tonight the price for McCain's foreign policy possibly in this case a literal price. Did the nation of Georgia think it had bought John McCain. His rebuke at the hands of that nation's leader presently new details about McCain's top foreign policy adviser. **On April 16th Russia announced it would establish legal ties with Georgia's two separatist regions, South Ossetia and Abkahzia, both friendly with Russia. Legitimizing them, a move widely seen as undermining Georgia' sovereignty there. The next day, the Washington Post now reports, Georgia sought help. Agreeing to pay $200,000 to a lobbying firm headed by this man, Randy Scheunemann to renew its contract with Scheunamann who is also and was also at the time McCain's top foreign policy adviser. That same day Scheunemann participated in crafting a strong statement by McCain taking Georgia's side, telling reporters quote we must not allow Russia to believe it has free hand. Did statements like that, purchased or not, give Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili to launch his military offensive in South Ossetia last Friday? Did it in turn become Russia's excuse for invading Georgia? Over the years Georgia has paid Scheunemann's firm $800,000. Scheunemann's company, the Associated Press reports today, has lobbied McCain and his staff on Saakashvili's behalf 49 separate times.** With his capital under siege today, Saakasvili spoke like a man stuck only with a receipt. Asked about the U.S. response or lack thereof, he used the word appeasement and put at least partial blame for the crisis itself on President Bush […]

OLBERMANN**: McCain responded this is no time to politicize the matter, even when it was pointed out he and his surrogate Joe Lieberman did exactly that just yesterday.** […]

JONANTHAN ALTER: […] I do think it is really unseemly that Randy Scheunemann had this lobbying contract. It's always

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the second raters by the way who are foreign agents or lobbying for foreign governments- the top foreign policy people do it in a more subtle way, maybe they're consultants, they're not lobbyists. **So this really stinks, the whole deal of him. Because you don't know who's he representing? Is he representing the interests of Georgia or the interests of the United States? And you never want to get into a situation like that and it's rather, I hate to say it, inexperienced maybe on John McCain's part to be putting up with this kind of thing. And also there's the question of whether in his rhetoric toward Putin, he's just been too inflammatory for American interest.** […] The question though is one of subtly and moderation in one's approach to foreign policy. **He's supposed to be the adult here. You know the mature foreign policy statesman. Those are the grounds on which he has asked us to elect him President. These are not well tempered measured remarks that he's been making**. […]

CLARENCE PAGE: […] I'm just wondering Keith, how we would have felt if Barack Obama had said I speak for all of the people of the United States saying we are all Georgians now. **That, some people would call that a little arrogant**. […]

OLBERMANN: […] McCain said in the 21st century nations don't invade other nations. **Do you suppose the irony of what he said was lost on Mr. McCain and does he assume nobodies going to draw the obvious parallel with his full support we invaded Iraq in 21st century and five years later we're still there?**
PAGE: I think he's hoping we don't draw significance from it but I think we will. You just did. This is the kind of thing people are looking at in assessing John McCain.

McCain's Tough Stance on Russia Could be Due to Leftover Cold War Anger (CNN 08/13/08 8:23pm)
CAMPBELL BROWN: Some of the toughest talk about the Russian invasion of Georgia is coming from the campaign trail. Today Secretary of State Rice revealed that she has been in regular contact with both Barack Obama and with John McCain as this crisis unfolds. **Now McCain of course, has been blasting the Russian's ever since the story broke last week and it has us thinking whether or not there might be something going on beyond the headlines, something a little more visceral for him**. […]

TOM FOREMAN: There is no question that McCain has more hands on experience with Russia then Barack Obama does, and he's been presenting himself both as **the voice of reason and of strength in this latest clash. But some foreign affairs experts are not buying it.**

{Clip of Reagan]

FOREMAN: **In the final years of the Soviet Union Ronald Reagan was thundering at the Russians, John McCain was a first term Senator cheering him on. And 21 years later he still distrusts Russia**. […]

[Clip of McCain in Michigan]
JOHN MCCAIN: "And I am interested with good relations between the United States and Russia but **in the 21st Century nations don't invade other nations."**

FOREMAN: A tough line, especially from a supporter of the Iraq invasion.

JOHN MCCAIN: "The now Prime Minister of Russia, has been clear for a long time, that I've been concerned about Russian behavior in a broad variety of areas."

FOREMAN: And now listen to how this foreign policy expert is reacting.

CHARLES KUPCHAN: Well over the last few years McCain's views on Russia seem to be getting more and more confrontational. And I think **he's really aligned himself with the far right, not with the centrist within the Republican Party and in some ways it seems almost that he either thinks the cold war is still on or wants it to return.**

FOREMAN: McCain has been critical of efforts to reach out to Russia politically and economically, even those of President Bush. He has repeatedly attacked Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who is a former KGB boss.

MCCAIN: I looked into Mr. Putin's eyes and I saw three letters: a K, a G and a B.

FOREMAN: McCain wrote in foreign affairs magazine: "**Today we see in Russia diminishing political freedoms, a leadership dominated by a clique of former intelligence officers. Efforts to bully democratic neighbors such as Georgia, and attempts to manipulate Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas.** " McCain has pushed to have Russia thrown out of the G8, that group of the worlds largest democracies formed to promote economic and political cooperation. He has fought to bring the Soviet Union's former republics into NATO, a military alliance of western powers

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formed to oppose Russia's military might.

KUPCHAN: **I think it's arguably dangerous in the sense that by assuming that Russia may be more aggressive than it is, and by pushing Russia's back up against the wall, it's possible one can produce a self-proclaiming prophecy.**

[…]

Highlight #2
Dean Reynolds Discusses The New Tough McCain Campaign Tactics, Bush Style (CBS 08/13/08 6:40pm)
DEAN REYNOLDS: John McCain decried what he called partisan political sniping. [play clip]

JOHN MCCAIN: This isn't a time for partisan sniping between the campaigns. [end clip]

REYNOLDS: However the sharpest criticism has come from the surrogate standing next to McCain this afternoon. Attacking Barack Obama's stand on the crises as quote morally neutral, the sharper edge by his aides and the candidate is further evidence that the McCain campaign has changed. Gone are the bile green backdrops, and the hard to master teleprompter. [play clip]

MCCAIN: He has the audis-audacity to hope you don't mind. [end clip]

REYNOLDS: Replaced by splashier events, reminiscent of a previous Republican campaign for the White House. But it's more than staging, it's tone. The campaign theme is no longer reform, prosperity and peace. It's now Country First. What that means exactly was made clear Tuesday when an introductionary speaker framed the contest with Obama this way: [play clip]

JOE LIEBERMAN: Between one candidate, John McCain, with experience whose been tested in war and tried in peace, another candidate who has not. [end clip]

REYNOLDS: Remember, this was McCain months ago: [play clip]

MCCAIN: I pledge to conduct a respectful campaign. [end clip]

REYNOLDS: But now it frequently seems respect takes a backseat to ridicule. This attack [Hilton celebrity ad] ran during the Olympics.

KEN GOLDSTEIN: McCain ads are much more likely to be negative, and the Obama advertisements are much more likely to be positive.

REYNOLDS: And as often as McCain speaks out against partisanship, there was a broad Republican consensus that his tamer approach was not working. And that something new was needed. Something like we are seeing today.

Highlight #3
Hardball Guests Discuss James Corsi Anti-Obama Book (MSNBC
RICH MASTERS: […] James Corsi is making no bones about it he wants to defeat Barack Obama. And for legitimate news organizations to give this guy any more credibility than what he deserves, is really really tough right now. It'd be almost laughable for a guy who has called Hillary Clinton a fat cow. **This is a guy who fundamentally has no journalistic bones in his body. And the reason its number one right now is because there are a bunch of right wing think tanks and groups that have purchased this stuff to inflate those numbers so that we are talking about this right now.** […]

DAVID SHUSTER: Charlie Black said the McCain campaign would make a different choice. Here's what Charlie Black said a month ago: "We don't want to talk about his patriotism and character, referring to Barack Obama. We concede that he is a patriot and a person of good character. That flies in the face of this book. […]

MASTERS**: John McCain could have a Catholic problem right now. You've got Reverend Hagee who trashed the Catholic Church as the great Satan. Again, McCain didn't say one word about that. Now we've got this guy who again attacks Pope John Paul. I think John McCain needs to come out because McCain –these folks who are speaking maybe not on his behalf but he certainly hasn't disavowed this bunch of lies that is out there. Somebody has got to step up and say it and John McCain who is an American war hero, should have the courage to do what he did four years ago** and condemn this pack of lies. […]

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Highlight #4

Shuster Notes McCain Hypocrisy For Working With Abramoff Connected Ralph Reed (MSNBC 08/13/08 7:30pm)
DAVID SHUSTER: Just a few years ago former Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed was caught up in the Jack Abramoff lobbyist scandal. John McCain led a Senate investigation into the scandal, ripped the characters involved, and bragged about the people who are going to jail. **Well, now it seems John McCain is now singing a different tune- at least about Ralph Reed**. Reed is now a part of McCain's victory 2008 fundraising team. And Reed recently sent out an e-mail soliciting donations for McCain. Yes, if you want a politician to forgive and forget, help them collect some campaign cash.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/15/2014 6:59:11 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | To Know the Darkness and the Light

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William Rivers Pitt | To Know the Darkness and the Light

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: "I know the darkness, and I damn it with curses unspeakable, because it steals people like Robin Williams every day. Even in my wroth, however, I am forced to bless it as well, because it is Janus of two faces, and the other face of the darkness is the glorious light."

Read the Article

Undocumented Mothers in the US Are Often Vulnerable, Ignored and Misunderstood

Erika L. Sánchez, Truthout: The struggles of undocumented, immigrant mothers are often overlooked when it comes to the immigration debate or any discourse on motherhood, leading to persistent misconceptions. Challenges to raising a family as an undocumented woman include lack of employment and health care, high rates of domestic violence and psychological trauma.

Read the Article

Gaza Blockade Hangs Fire in Cairo: Where Is the Antiwar Left?

Robert Naiman, Truthout: What would be worse than the killing of innocents that has happened so far in Gaza? Doing nothing to stop the same killing of innocents in the future, when we had the ability to do something concrete.

Read the Article

Why the US Chamber of Commerce Is Wrong on Citizens United

Jeffrey D. Clements, Truthout: Besides Lewis Powell and the US Chamber of Commerce, by a large margin, Americans of all political persuasions object to the notions that money is speech and corporations have the rights of citizens.

Read the Article

At Chicago's "National Moment of

BuzzFlash

Police as Occupiers and Agents of Violence: Reflections on the Death of Mike Brown

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: In short, the police are not in these communities - as many law enforcement cars have emblazoned on their sides - "To Serve." They are in these communities, in general, as mobile prison guards.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

The Military on Main Street

Read the Article at The New Yorker

Why the Scientific Case Against Fracking Keeps Getting Stronger

Read the Article at Mother Jones

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Silence" Vigil, Activist Confronts "Black-on-Black Crime" Rhetoric

Megan Crepeau, RedEye Chicago: On Thursday evening, cities across the country observed a moment of silence for victims of police brutality, including Michael Brown. In many places, the vigil was followed by testimony and performances. In this video, activist Malcolm London speaks in Chicago.

Watch the Video

Solar Power Gets Hot, Hot, Hot

Emily Schwartz Greco and William A. Collins, OtherWords: Once enough folks produce their own power on their rooftops and utility-scale clean energy becomes commonplace, demand for the juice generated by the dangerous and dirty oil, coal, gas and nuclear industries will fizzle.

Read the Article

Could Stronger Unions Make China More Democratic?

Michelle Chen, The Nation: In the past few months alone, China has seen scores of wildcat strikes, demonstrations, periodic riots and even the occasional boss taken hostage. The government generally treats this strife as part of the dynamics of China's astronomical growth.

Read the Article

How Did the Suburbs Become the Zip Code From Hell?

Lynn Stuart Parramore, AlterNet: According to a new report by the Brookings Institution, there are now 16.5 million souls in the suburban United States eking out an existence below the poverty line, compared to only 13.5 million in cities. Poverty is becoming more concentrated, creating a new blot on the landscape: the suburban slum.

Read the Article

The Berlin Wall and Missed Opportunities

Ray McGovern, Consortium News: The US State Department's obsession with "information warfare" as a strategic weapon has made US credibility one more casualty of the Ukraine crisis, along with any remaining trust in the mainstream US media. It was not always thus.

Read the Article

The Day Ferguson Cops Were Caught in a Bloody Lie

Read the Article at The Daily Beast

The Crushing Effects of Radiation From the Fukushima Disaster on the Ecosystem Are Being Slowly Revealed

Read the Article at Business Insider

Precious Water Bottled and Shipped Out of Drought-Ridden California

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

A Plea for Humanity at Rikers

Read the Article at The Nation

Louie Gohmert Suspects "Undocumented Democrats" Are Bringing Ebola Across the Border

Read the Article at Raw Story

Ten Theses on the Far Right in Europe

Michael Löwy, Verso: The European elections confirmed a tendency apparent across most of the continent: The spectacular rise of the far right. In many countries this movement obtained between 10 and 20 percent of the vote; today in three countries, it has reached 25 to 30 percent.

Read the Article

One Year After Egypt's Rab'a Massacre, US Still Funding Repression

Medea Benjamin, CODEPINK: A just-released Human Rights Watch report, based on a meticulous year-long investigation, found that at least 817 and likely well over 1,000 people were killed in Rab'a Square on August 14. The report contains horrific first-hand accounts.

Read the Article

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The Mass Destruction of Iraq: The Disintegration of a Nation: Why It Is Happening and Who Is Responsible

Truthout writers William Rivers Pitt and Dahr Jamail have collaborated on a new e-book that examines the history behind the chaos in Iraq. From PNAC to Bush, with vivid reporting from the scene, this book definitively explains why this is happening. Order *The Mass Destruction of Iraq* for Kindle now!

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/4/2014 9:39:49 AM
Subject: MUST READ: Secretary Clinton Reviews Henry Kissinger's New Book

Washington Post opinion: Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton: "Hillary Clinton reviews Henry Kissinger's 'World Order'"

By Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton

September 4, 2014, 3:00 p.m. EDT

When Americans look around the world today, we see one crisis after another. Russian aggression in Ukraine, extremism and chaos in Iraq and Syria, a deadly epidemic in West Africa, escalating territorial tensions in the East and South China seas, a global economy that still isn't producing enough growth or shared prosperity — the liberal international order that the United States has worked for generations to build and defend seems to be under pressure from every quarter. It's no wonder so many Americans express uncertainty and even fear about our role and our future in the world.

In his new book, "World Order," Henry Kissinger explains the historic scope of this challenge. His analysis, despite some differences over specific policies, largely fits with the broad strategy behind the Obama administration's effort over the past six years to build a global architecture of security and cooperation for the 21st century.

During the Cold War, America's bipartisan commitment to protecting and expanding a community of nations devoted to freedom, market economies and cooperation eventually proved successful for us and the world. Kissinger's summary of that vision sounds pertinent today: "an inexorably expanding cooperative order of states observing common rules and norms, embracing liberal economic systems, forswearing territorial conquest, respecting national sovereignty, and adopting participatory and democratic systems of governance."

This system, advanced by U.S. military and diplomatic power and our alliances with like-minded nations, helped us defeat fascism and communism and brought enormous benefits to Americans and billions of others. Nonetheless, many people around the world today — especially millions of young people — don't know these success stories, so it becomes our responsibility to show as well as tell what American leadership looks like.

This is especially important at a time when many are wondering, as Kissinger puts it, "Are we facing a period in which forces beyond the restraints of any order determine the future?"

For me, this is a familiar question. When I walked into the State Department in January 2009, everyone knew that it was a time of dizzying changes, but no one could agree on what they all meant. Would the economic crisis bring new forms of cooperation or a return to protectionism and discord? Would new technologies do more to help citizens hold leaders accountable or to help dictators keep tabs on dissidents? Would rising powers such as China, India and Brazil become global problem-solvers or global spoilers? Would the emerging influence of non-state actors be defined more by the threats from terrorist networks and criminal cartels, or by the contributions of courageous NGOs? Would growing global interdependence bring a new sense of solidarity or new sources of strife?

President Obama explained the overarching challenge we faced in his Nobel lecture in December 2009. After World War II, he said, "America led the world in constructing an architecture to keep the peace. . . . And yet, a decade into a new century, this old architecture is buckling under the weight of new threats."

I was proud to help the president begin reimagining and reinforcing the global order to meet the demands of an increasingly interdependent age. In the president's first term, we laid the foundation, from repaired alliances to updated international institutions to decisive action on challenges such as Iran's nuclear program and the threat from Osama bin Laden.

The crises of the second term underscore that this is a generational project that will demand a commitment from the United States and its partners for years to come. Kissinger writes that foreign policy is not "a story with a beginning and an end," but "a process of managing and tempering ever-recurring challenges." This calls to mind John F. Kennedy's observation that peace and progress are "based not on a sudden revolution in human nature but on a gradual evolution in human institutions . . . a process — a way of solving problems."

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America, at its best, is a problem-solving nation. And our continued commitment to renovating and defending the global order will determine whether we build a future of peace, progress and prosperity in which people everywhere have the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential.

Much of “World Order” is devoted to exploring this challenge. It is vintage Kissinger, with his singular combination of breadth and acuity along with his knack for connecting headlines to trend lines — very long trend lines in this case. He ranges from the Peace of Westphalia to the pace of microprocessing, from Sun Tzu to Talleyrand to Twitter. He traces the Indian view of order back to the Hindu epics; the Muslim view to the campaigns of Muhammad; the European view to the carnage of the Thirty Years’ War (which elicits a comparison to the Middle East today); the Russian view to “the hard school of the steppe, where an array of nomadic hordes contended for resources on an open terrain with few fixed borders.” This long view can help us understand issues from Vladimir Putin’s aggression to Iran’s negotiating strategy, even as it raises the difficult question of “how divergent historic experiences and values can be shaped into a common order.”

Given today’s challenges, Kissinger’s analyses of the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East are particularly valuable.

When it comes to Asia, he notes that all of the region’s rising powers, China included, have their own visions of regional and global order, shaped by their own histories and present situations. How we contend with these divergent visions — building a cooperative relationship with China while preserving our other relationships, interests and values in a stable and prosperous region — will go a long way toward determining whether we can meet the broader global challenge.

In my book “Hard Choices,” I describe the strategy President Obama and I developed for the Asia-Pacific, centered on strengthening our traditional alliances; elevating and harmonizing the alphabet soup of regional organizations, such as ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and APEC (the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation organization); and engaging China more broadly — both bilaterally, through new venues such as the Strategic and Economic Dialogue, and multilaterally, in settings where regional pressure would encourage more constructive behavior and shared decision-making on matters from freedom of navigation to climate change to trade to human rights. Our “pivot to Asia,” as it came to be known, is all about establishing a rules-based order in the region that can manage the peaceful rise of new powers and promote universal norms and values.

This kind of methodical, multilateral diplomacy is often slow and frustrating, rarely making headlines at home, but it can pay real dividends that affect the lives of millions of people. And without an effective regional order, the challenges multiply. Just look at the Middle East. “Nowhere,” Kissinger observes, “is the challenge of international order more complex — in terms of both organizing regional order and ensuring the compatibility of that order with peace and stability in the rest of the world.”

Kissinger is a friend, and I relied on his counsel when I served as secretary of state. He checked in with me regularly, sharing astute observations about foreign leaders and sending me written reports on his travels. Though we have often seen the world and some of our challenges quite differently, and advocated different responses now and in the past, what comes through clearly in this new book is a conviction that we, and President Obama, share: a belief in the indispensability of continued American leadership in service of a just and liberal order.

There really is no viable alternative. No other nation can bring together the necessary coalitions and provide the necessary capabilities to meet today’s complex global threats. But this leadership is not a birthright; it is a responsibility that must be assumed with determination and humility by each generation.

Fortunately, the United States is uniquely positioned to lead in the 21st century. It is not just because of the enduring strength of our military or the resilience of our economy, although both are absolutely essential. It goes deeper than that. The things that make us who we are as a nation — our diverse and open society, our devotion to human rights and democratic values — give us a singular advantage in building a future in which the forces of freedom and cooperation prevail over those of division, dictatorship and destruction.

This isn’t just idealism. For an international order to take hold and last, Kissinger argues, it must relate “power to legitimacy.” To that end, Kissinger, the famous realist, sounds surprisingly idealistic. Even when there are tensions between our values and other objectives, America, he reminds us, succeeds by standing up for our values, not shirking them, and leads by engaging peoples and societies, the sources of legitimacy, not governments alone. If our might helps secure the balance of power that underpins the international order, our values and principles help make it acceptable and attractive to others.

So our levers of leadership are not just about keeping our military strong and our diplomacy agile; they are about standing up for human rights, about advancing the rights and role of women and girls, about creating the space for a flourishing civil society and the conditions for broad-based development.

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This strategic rationale guided my emphasis as secretary of state on using all the tools of foreign policy, even those sometimes dismissed as “soft.” I called it “smart power,” and I still believe it offers a blueprint for sustained American leadership in the decades ahead. We have to play to our strengths. And in an age when legitimacy is defined from the bottom up rather than the top down, America is better positioned than our more autocratic competitors.

Kissinger recognizes this as well. He understands how much the world has changed since his time in office, especially the diffusion of power and the growing influence of forces beyond national governments. International problems and solutions are increasingly centered, in ways both good and bad, on nongovernmental organizations, businesses and individual citizens. As a result, foreign policy is now as much about people as it is about states. Kissinger rightly notes that these shifts require a broader and deeper order than sufficed in the past. “Any system of world order, to be sustainable, must be accepted as just — not only by leaders, but also by citizens,” he writes.

That is true abroad, and it is also true at home. Our country is at its best, and our leadership in the world is strongest, when we are united behind a common purpose and shared mission, and advancing shared prosperity and social justice at home. Sustaining America’s leadership in the world depends on renewing the American dream for all our people.

In the past, we’ve flirted with isolationism and retreat, but always heeded the call to leadership when it was needed most. It’s time for another of our great debates about what America means to the world and what the world means to America. We need to have an honest conversation together — all of us — about the costs and imperatives of global leadership, and what it really takes to keep our country safe and strong.

We have a lot to talk about. Sometimes we’ll disagree. But that’s what democracy is all about. A real national dialogue is the only way we’re going to rebuild a political consensus to take on the perils and the promise of the 21st century. Henry Kissinger’s book makes a compelling case for why we have to do it and how we can succeed.

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/17/2008 3:54:08 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 06/15/08

Main Topics: Obama's overseas trip, National Security

Summary of Shift: Obama's overseas trip received was covered to the exclusion of almost all else today. While McCain praised the idea his communications director was quick to call it a "photo opportunity" and "overseas campaign rally." June was an exceptional fundraising month for both candidates. McCain and Obama raised $22 and $52 million respectively. Oil prices continued to go down as Al Gore made headlines today challenging the United States to use only renewable energy sources by 2018. Direct nuclear negotiations between top Iranian and U.S. officials are expected to begin soon. The government has taken the salmonella warning off of tomatoes but some types of green pepper may still be dangerous.

Highlights

1) Jill Hazelbaker interviewed
   a. MSNBC: Hazelbaker calls Obama's trip "one giant photo opportunity," dismisses Planned Parenthood ad
   b. FNC: Hazelbaker calls Obama's trip "the first of its kind campaign rally overseas"
2) MSNBC: Shuster presses Pfotenhauer on Katrina oil spills
3) MSNBC: "Ape rape" joke an example of "McCain being McCain"
4) FNC: Carl Cameron investigates the McCain camp's hypocritical attacks on Obama's trip
5) CNN: Paul Begala talks national security, calls out Carly Fiorina for working with Ahmadinejad, Iran
6) CNN: Dana Bash investigates McCain's claim that "I know how to win wars"
7) MSNBC: Planned Parenthood ad shows failings of McCain's team
8) FNC: Bill O'Reilly trashes new Planned Parenthood ad
9) Is the media treating both candidates equally?
   a. FNC: What's happened to McCain's media darling status?
   b. FNC: Who's really the media darling in this election?
   c. MSNBC: Obama getting more airtime may be good for McCain [no clip]
10) Stephen Colbert devotes "Word" segment to McCain and psychology of economy
11) President Bush
   a. CNN: Bush continues to push that the economy is doing well
   b. CNN: Bush talks government bailouts, gas prices, oil exploration, Obama's trip to Iraq
   c. CNN: Bush says we are already "surging" and have "surged" in Afghanistan
   d. CNN: Bush: "I'm not an economist . . . I'm an optimist . . . I am 62. I'm having trouble remembering a lot of things."
12) CNN: McCain's "meal ticket" and impact of Busch deal on McCain's fortune and campaign
13) CNN: Rep. John Boehner distances himself and Republicans from McCain's energy policies

Clips

Highlight #1

Hazelbaker Calls Obama's Trip "One Giant Photo Opportunity," Dismisses Planned Parenthood Ad (MSNBC 07/17/08 1:13pm)

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: John McCain is again telling supporters he is the underdog in the race for the White House, a title Barack Obama is also claiming. McCain . . . told supporters at last night's fundraiser, quote, "We are the underdog. We are not taking the state of Nebraska for granted. I'm going to campaign here, and compete here, and I need your help. We need to organize. We need to get out the vote." Jill Hazelbaker is the communications director for the McCain campaign . . .

[. . .]

BRZEZINSKI: Your candidate, McCain, made this claim . . . last weekend and then again last night. What makes John McCain the underdog and is this position one he really wants to be in at this point? I mean, what good can he gain from calling himself the underdog?

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JILL HAZELBAKER: Well, Mika, as you know, we took a very unusual path to the nomination. John McCain always performs better when he's behind, when his back's against the wall. He's a fighter . . .

BRZEZINSKI: . . . he did have a time there when his campaign seemed like it was falling apart . . . he came back in a big way . . . Barack Obama, as you know, gearing up for his trip to Europe and the Middle East. Normally when presidents travel, critics back home lay off on the attacks but, in sort of an unusual move, the McCain campaign has unveiled a new video about Obama and Iraq . . . what is it going to say? And is it really going to focus on Barack Obama and specifically his trip?

HAZELBAKER: . . . first of all, I want to say that Barack Obama set the precedent for attacking your opponent when he was very critical of Sen. McCain while he was in a meeting with President Uribe in Colombia . . . we're simply following his lead. We think it's important that we set the record straight. There is a lot of hypocrisy with Barack Obama shifting position on Iraq and Afghanistan. On the surge Barack Obama . . . said it would never work . . . and of course that position has been proving wrong . . .

BRZEZINSKI: Your candidate, Sen. John McCain, mocked Obama's strategy just moments ago, when speaking in Missouri. Let's take a listen to that:

JOHN MCCAIN: I know that Sen. Obama is going to Iraq. I was very interested that he articulated and announced his policies on Iraq before he went. Not after. Remarkable. I've been on a lot trips around the world, usually at your expense, but I usually issue my policy statements when I get back.

BRZEZINSKI: . . . I've got to ask you though, is this a little bit of a low blow? Because for Barack Obama and John McCain, the argument has a lot to do with judgment about whether this war was the right thing to do in the first place. And Barack Obama, he falls in line with how a lot of people in the country feel about that if you look at some of the public opinion polls. How do, I don't know, how does your candidate at this point, counter the judgment issue and is going after the fact that he's going on a trip after he's written an editorial enough?

HAZELBAKER: Well, the Sen. McCain, of course, had the judgment and had the foresight to see that we needed a new strategy in Iraq so that question has been settled. John McCain was right. Mika, it is interesting that Barack Obama thought it was appropriate to lay out his strategy and his plan for the way forward in Afghanistan prior to getting on the ground . . . this trip is a political trip for him, it's one giant photo opportunity, it is not designed to inform his worldview.

BRZEZINSKI: . . . we were running on *Morning Joe* this morning that Planned Parenthood ad. I'm sure you've seen it. Talk to me about, where does John McCain stand on the issue because a lot of women might of thought, "Why didn't he have a quick answer for that?" You know?

HAZELBAKER: Well, Mika, I'm sorry, in politics today, there are a lot of gotcha games. Sen. McCain, he deals with it everyday on the campaign trail. We afford a lot of access to the news media, sometimes that bites you but it's at John McCain's core to be accessible to reporters like yourself. Let's hope that you can get on the bus with us . . . the campaigns about the big issues Mika, people are concerned about the economy, they're concerned about their safety and as you said, John McCain's in Missouri today, talking about how he can keep Americans working and how he can keep Americans safe.

BRZEZINSKI: You know, top McCain advisor, that would be Carly Fiorina . . . she met again with undecided Clinton supporters this week, as you know, describing these women as intensely uncomfortable about the notion of a President Obama. About 17 million people voted for Clinton in the primaries. How does your campaign plan to secure these votes?

HAZELBAKER: Well, Sen. Clinton should be congratulated . . . we have to reach out to these voters the same way that we're reaching out to people across the country. You know, Clinton voters are just like everyone else. They want safety, they want quality education, they want affordable health care . . . the good thing about a candidate like John McCain is he has a 25-year record of reaching across the aisle, of putting his country first, of working on a bipartisan basis . . . that's part of the reason independents are so attracted to his candidacy and

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we believe we can make the case to some of those Clinton supporters.

Hazelbaker Calls Obama's Trip "The First of its Kind Campaign Rally Overseas" (FNC, 07/17/08, 10:38am)
BILL HEMMER: What do you make of this coverage? What do you think of it?

JILL HAZELBAKER: Well in every campaign, time is a finite resource so it's unproductive for us to spend our time worrying about how much the media loves Barack Obama. John McCain's in Missouri today talking directly to voters about how he's going to keep them safe and how he's going to keep people working.

HEMMER: Do you think there is a bias towards Senator Obama?

HAZELBAKER: Well, Senator Obama is visiting Iraq and Afghanistan, I found it interesting that he released his plan for the way forward in Iraq and Afghanistan prior to visiting the region or talking to any of the commanders on the ground. Lets drop the pretense that this is a fact-finding trip and let's call it what it is. The first of its kind campaign rally overseas.

BILL HEMMER: What you think of all the attention this trip is getting so far? Do you consider it fair? Do you consider it over the top?

JILL HAZELBAKER: It is not for me to decide. The American people choose their president. The media can cover its any way they want. Lie I said, it's unproductive for us to spend our day worrying about the media coverage that Barack Obama is going to get. But it certainly didn't escape our notice that the three networks are decamping for Europe to interview Barack Obama.

HEMMER: There are some who are saying that this is new guy treatment. Ronald Reagan go it, Michael Dukakis got it. George Bush I got it. Is that valid?

HAZELBAKER: Again, it's not for me to decide. What I hope that people will pay attention to is Barack Obama on the policy. He hasn't visited Iraq for nearly 900 days. So he has quite a few questions to answer on his way forward. On Afghanistan, I sure hope that one of these network anchors will ask him why if he had direct oversight into hearings on Afghanistan in the United States Senate, he neglected to hold even one hearing. I hope someone will ask him why he voted against funding for the troops in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Again, not for me to decide how the media covers, but there are certainly some important questions to be asked of him.

HEMMER: I respect your opinion n that. How about this, the Washington Post wrote about it yesterday. The Philadelphia Enquirer picked it up today. Saying that his position on Iraq is too confining. Are his feet planted in cement on this issue?

HAZELBAKER: I think he has some problems with the far left in his party. Barack Obama was opposed to the surge from the beginning. John McCain stood up when the situation was deteriorating in Iraq and said we need a new strategy. He fought hard with members of his own party for the strategy that is succeeding today. It is going to be difficult for Barack Obama to continue to say that we need to leave Iraq when we see success on the ground.

HEMMER: It appears come September more U.S. troops are going be pulled out of Iraq. If you read all the tea leaves out there it appears that is the way it is going to go. Does that take this issue, if not entirely off the table, make it less of an issue come September and October, leading up to the campaign?

HAZELBAKER: Of course not. Iraq and Afghanistan as well continue to be a significant point of national security for the United States. It is an issue of judgment. John McCain had the judgment to stand up and say we need a new strategy in Iraq, we need a surge strategy that is working. The American people are going to have to decide whether john McCain' s judgment on Iraq which has proven to be right is better than Barack Obama' judgment on Iraq which has been proven to be wrong.

HEMMER: Well, the knife can cut both ways on this too, and a gaffe on a trip like this with this much coverage will amplified to the nth degree. So there is risk in this as well. […]

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Highlight #2

Shuster Presses Pfotenhauer on Katrina Oil Spills (MSNBC 07/17/08 4:02pm)

DAVID SHUSTER: We begin with Barack Obama's high-profile trip to Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East and Europe. This is a trip the McCain campaign has been asking Obama to make for months. Nancy Pfotenhauer is a senior policy adviser with the McCain campaign . . . Obama's going to talk to commanders on the ground. Afterwards, if he says America needs to leave Iraq by 2010, would you be willing to acknowledge that this is simply a policy disagreement between the campaigns?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: What's interesting, David . . . before he left on his fact finding mission, he wrote an op-ed and gave a speech saying what his conclusions will be. So, it will be a little difficult, I think, to pass the last test when he comes back . . . you have Senator McCain who went to Iraq, who listened to commanders, came back, advocated the surge and predicted it would succeed. Then you have Obama who opposed the surge and still won't admit it succeeded. Senator McCain's foresight was better than Barack Obama's hindsight.

SHUSTER: Nancy, as you know, a key issue related to the Middle East is oil and energy independence . . . McCain supports increased offshore drilling . . . Barack Obama does not. Earlier this week on this program, though, you defended off shore drilling and said, quote, "We with stood Hurricanes Rita and Katrina and did not spill a drop." In fact, the U.S. Mineral Management Service said that Katrina and Rita caused 124 offshore spills for a total of more than 743,000 gallons of oil and refined products spilled. So, Nancy, you want to take back what you said?

PFOTENHAUER: Well, I actually do. I was misinformed. And my embarrassment aside, the point is still we had a remarkable performance, that you had about 16,000 barrels that were lost during two of the worst storms that have ever . . . hit our coastline in recent history, and keep in mind, David, that 1700 barrels per day naturally seeped into the ocean floor. 365 days a year you're at about 620 thousand barrels per day, pardon me, per year, that naturally seep into the ocean floor. So this is a remarkable performance of technology. And according to the Oceanic Industry Association, since 1985, we've pulled 7 billion gallons of oil out of the federal offshore area, and we have only filled about one one-thousandth of that oil. That's a 98.999% success rate. That's why other developed nations don't tie their hands the way we do.

[. . .]

SHUSTER: . . . as the McCain campaign is vetting potential running mates we've been doing the same thing . . . here are a few things we've found in our Mitt Romney archive. Watch.

MITT ROMNEY: He is the co-author of McCain-Feingold. Which I think took a whack at the first amendment and I do believe, as well, hurt our party significantly. I think it's made money have a greater influence in politics today, not less influence.

[Romney Primary ad plays]

NARRATOR: John McCain, an honorable man, but is he the right republican for the future? McCain opposes repeal of the death tax and voted against the Bush tax cuts. Twice. McCain pushed to let every illegal immigrant to stay here permanently. He even voted to allow illegal's to collect Social Security.

SHUSTER: Nancy, how does the McCain campaign feel about those Romney comments and that Romney ad from the primary?

PFOTENHAUER: Well, I, I, you've heard senator McCain say, personally, how much he appreciates all the work that Governor Romney's been doing for him. He's just a fantastic spokesperson, and advocate of senator McCain, so I, I-- Senator McCain speaks to how he feels about Mitt Romney and it's positive, certainly at this juncture. But you do point out an interesting thing that comes out of primary battles. I mean, we had Senator Biden's words quoted back at him, today, because he was

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criticizing Barack Obama saying, you know, back when Barack Obama rolled out his supposed counterterrorism strategy, Senator Biden shot off a press release saying, well, welcome to the club, you didn't show up for the hearings, you didn't vote for it. You're Johnny come lately I think is the term. It's interesting because you will see a lot of comparisons made during primaries that people later probably regret.

Highlight #3

"Ape Rape" Joke An Example of "McCain Being McCain" (MSNBC 07/17/08 8:38pm)

KEITH OLBERMANN: It is hard to know which is more astonishing, that John McCain does not outright deny he told a joke in 1986 about a woman who enjoyed being raped by a gorilla or the defense that McCain's campaign offered today for that joke and others . . . quote, "Did you hear the one about the woman who is attacked on the street by a gorilla, beaten senseless, raped repeatedly and left to die? When she finally regains consciousness and tries to speak, her doctor leans to hear her sigh contently and to feebly ask, 'Where is that marvelous ape?'" That was 1986. Here is today's non-apology from a spokesman who said, "McCain does not recall telling the joke." Not that McCain didn't, couldn't, wouldn't tell such a joke but, quote, "He's long said that he's said and done things in the past that he regrets. You just got to move on and be yourself—that's what people want. They want somebody who's authentic, and this kind of stuff is a good example of McCain being McCain." Apparently a rape joke is authentic McCain. Authentic also in his jokes about war with Iran, a war that would kill Americans and, as McCain joked on camera, Iranians.

REPORTER: We've learned that exports to Iran increased tenfold during the Bush administration. The biggest export was cigarettes . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: Maybe that's a way of killing them . . .

OLBERMANN: McCain is often praised for self-deprecation, he now has a record of picking on those who are close to him, his own staff and those unable or less able to defend themselves, the elderly, even before he began to join their ranks and frequently, it seems, women, including not only his own wife, with an I stopped beating my wife line earlier this year, with an unrepeatable word years ago which he denies but also as we mentioned, rape victims and even an 18-year old, Chelsea Clinton, McCain's target of choice for a 1998 Republican audience for how ugly she was, a joke that also attacked another woman, Janet Reno, a joke for which McCain later had the decency, if not the authenticity to apologize . . . McCain's spokesman writing this off as authenticity, but if you're telling hurtful jokes about victims, isn't authentic the last thing you want to be? Who defends a rape joke, saying, in effect, lighten up, I did mean it?

RACHAEL MADDOW: You know, I interviewed Ben Smith from Politico.com about this today. I called him specifically to ask about that because I almost couldn't believe that that would be a campaign's response to something like this. That a campaign would respond to their candidate being accused of having joked about how much women love being raped by saying, that just shows how authentic he is. That's just McCain being McCain. And what Ben says is that they really meant the McCain being McCain explanation as a generic, general response to the sadistic and mean comments that McCain has made like this over the years but it's not specific to the rape joke. Which completely leaves the problem as it is. Essentially they're still saying this is authentic McCain, this is McCain being McCain and if you want him to be president, you should know that he likes to pick on women and mock 18-year old girls for their looks. It implies that they think that his sadistic streak is part of what we ought to like about him.

OLBERMANN: Well, that's called appealing to the base. Yesterday McCain was asked whether he would fill out the NAACP survey. He said he fills out literally every survey. It was a quote, "literally." But not the AFL-CIO survey on working family issues, not the American Association of People With Disabilities survey . . . not even the survey from Project Vote Smart, which was one of the groups; he sat on their board until he refused to answer their survey. If you throw in the rest of that record and the pastors he threw under the bus, where is he in terms of authenticity capital . . .?

MADDOW: If anybody's interested, there's a kind of fascinating presidential campaign that could use some reporting right now. But is it involves a candidate who changed his position on Bush's tax cuts, who changed his own lauded position on immigration reform, who changed his position on whether or not US troops should leave

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Iraq if the Iraqi government ever asked us to, changed his position on whether Afghanistan needs more troops, who changed his position on torture, who changed his position on which football team linemen he named when telling his torturers something to put them off the scent . . . if you're trying to catalogue John McCain's authenticity as a candidate, there is a fabulous collapse happening right now in American politics that is just waiting to be catalogued.

OLBERMANN: Let's say I'm not and I'm more interested in where he stands on women's groups and women's issues . . .

MADDOW: He's improved to the extent that sometimes the things that he is saying and people in his campaign are saying that are not true about his record sometimes those falsehoods about his record are better. For example, Carly Fiorina recently said that John McCain would support requiring insurance companies to also cover contraception if they cover Viagra . . . turns out he voted against that. John McCain suggest recently that he's all in favor of equal pay for equal work . . . he suggested that he's been in favor of that and his record reflects that. The problem is that he's voted against that every time he's had the chance to do so. So his falsehoods about his records are getting better for women all the time.

Highlight #4

Carl Cameron Investigates the McCain Camp's Hypocritical Attacks on Obama's Trip (FNC, 07/17/08)

BRIT HUME: John McCain likes to portray himself as a politician who will tell you exactly what he thinks, like it or not. But some unwelcome candor from one of McCain's aids today about Barack Obama's upcoming overseas trip had the candidate promising a little straight talk with his chief of communications.

CARL CAMERON: As John McCain rolled through Missouri on his campaign bus, he found himself seemingly at odds with his communications director who was at headquarters bashing Barack Obama's upcoming foreign trip.

JILL HAZELBAKER: So let's drop the pretense and call it what it is. This is an overseas campaign rally for Barack Obama. This is not designed to inform his worldview, it's to further his political ambitions.

CAMERON: That was to be a big part of McCain's message, before and during Obama's trip. But on the straight talk express the candidate disagreed and said he'd straighten it out.

MCCAIN: I will talk to her, but the fact is I'm glad that he's going to Iraq and I'm glad that he's going to Afghanistan, and it's long, long overdue if you want to lead this nation and secure our national security.

REPORTER: So you disagree, you don't think it's a campaign trip?

MCCAIN: No.

CAMERON: McCain later clarified saying he does not think the Iraq and Afghanistan legs of Obama's trip will be campaign rallies, but Obama's European stops will be. Team Obama fired back. Quote, "The McCain campaign should stop worrying about Barack Obama's travel plans and start focusing on addressing the pressing challenges that the Bush-McCain foreign policy has made worse." At a Kansas City town hall meeting, McCain blasted Obama's opposition to the troop surge and 16 month withdrawal timetable, as based not on facts but campaign considerations.

MCCAIN: Our strategy must be dictated by the situation on the ground, not some artificially politically inspired schedule for withdrawal as Senator Obama wants to do.

CAMERON: To contrast, his own political calculus supporting the surge, McCain hauled out a line that he often used when his campaign was at its lowest point last year.

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MCCAIN: Well many political pundits said that my political ambitions were at an end. And I understood that. But I also want to remind you that I said at the time that I would much rather lose a political campaign than lose a war. And I was willing to do whatever is necessary.

CAMERON: McCain aids say that Obama's chosen an opposite course, withdrawal despite the surge's success. McCain they say knows Obama's visits to Afghanistan and Iraq will not include rallies but since he's already pre-determined his policies, it will be jammed with political theater, they say. And once Obama's out of the war zone, McCain and his aids are in total agreement, a string of Obama campaign rallies in other countries.

Highlight #5

Dana Bash Investigates McCain's Claim That "I know how to win wars." (CNN, 07/15/08, 8:06pm)

DANA BASH: John McCain was supposed to talk, once again today about the economy. But aids scrabbled to move up a speech about Afghanistan in order to offer a contrast to Obama's address today. They saw it as a chance to play on what McCain aids believe is their turf, foreign policy.

Experience is his calling card, and on a day both candidates talked national security, John McCain laid this down as a basic test.

JOHN MCCAIN: I know how to win wars.

BASH: He offered proof. A new proposal for Afghanistan, where violence has spiked.

MCCAIN: And I'll turn around the war in Afghanistan just as we have turned around the war in Iraq. With a comprehensive strategy for victory.

BASH: McCain was an earlier supporter of the military surge in Iraq, which he repeatedly tells voters is working. He said he would apply those lessons to Afghanistan. More troops and a better strategy for how to use them.

[McCain Clip Shown]

BASH: But this was as much about slamming Obama's war plans as praising his own. Obama wants to take troops out of Iraq and send them to Afghanistan.

MCCAIN: Senator Obama will tell you that we can't win in Afghanistan without losing in Iraq. In fact, he has it exactly backwards. It is precisely the success of the surge in Iraq that shows us the way to succeed in Afghanistan

BASH: He mocked Obama for outlying his plan for Afghanistan before ever visiting the country.

[McCain clip shown]

BASH: Later on his bus, McCain continued to hit Obama on his national security credentials. McCain reminded reporters that Obama is chairman of the Senate Committee that oversees NATO which has command in Afghanistan, but Obama has never held a hearing.

Highlight #6

Paul Begala Talks National Security, Calls Out Carly Fiorina for Working With Ahmadinejad, Iran (CNN, 07/15/08, 4:44pm)

WOLF BLITZER: This is the one area, as you know Paul, national security, where John McCain polls really well against Barack Obama. And some suggest whenever Obama has to deal with this, he sort of falling into a trap laid by the McCain campaign. What do you think?

PAUL BEGALA: I think tactically McCain wins the day, because he's stronger on national security in the eyes of the voters. But I think what Obama's trying to do is be strategic. He can't allow that gap to continue. That strength gap, that national security gap. So he, I think, is willing to sacrifice the day. The news of the day should

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have been the economy, right?

[…]

KEVIN MADDEN: […] This is exactly the type of terrain, the issue terrain, that John McCain wants. Where he wins here, is that John McCain has a certain degree of clarity here. And what Barack Obama is doing is re-litigating his position on Iraq. He's changed it in the last couple of days. He's using rather amorphous language. He's trying to win on nuance. Where as John McCain can go and make a very black and white issue, and that's where John McCain wins. He looks more like a commander in chief, and the judgment of voters right now in a lot of these polls we're seeing, is that John McCain wins that debate.

BLITZER: And the McCain campaign is really ridiculing this passage. This excerpt from Senator Obama's speech today dealing with Iranian President Ahmadinejad. […] The McCain campaign is saying, why would you meet with this guy who calls for Israel's destruction, says it's nothing more than a stinking corpse?

BEGALA: Right, that is the extension of the Bush policy. We only meet with our friends. Well, guess what? We don't have any more friends, to speak of, around the world. I think, Barack Obama has the better of the argument here. But here's the thing we should look for. When will he counter attack? If John McCain is so all-fire opposed to the Iranians, why is his chief economic advisor, Carly Fiorina, a woman who when she ran HewlettPackard as CEO, HewlettPackard was selling computers to the Iranian regime! A terrorist regime. Counter-attack Barack! If I was advising him I would say, make Carly Fiorina the Ahmadinejad. She's already participated in a company that was selling equipment to the Iranians. Computers, at that!

MADDEN: […] This, again, is where John McCain can win. It becomes a question of whether or not you have the experience, whether or not you have the readiness to take over the oval office and to be commander in chief. And Barack Obama is going to continue to lose that.

BLITZER: What about the argument that Senator Obama made today. It was a major part of this speech, when he said, you know what? Talk about national security judgment. Senator McCain was wrong back in October, November 2002 in supporting this war in Iraq. The biggest strategic blunder in recent years. I was right in opposing this war in Iraq, and all of the negative consequences, the trillion dollars Senator Obama says that have occurred. The 4,000 Americans plus, who have been killed, wouldn't have happened if Senator McCain among others wouldn't had been a cheerleader for this war.

MADDEN: Well, I think that that is an effort by the Obama campaign to make what they believe is their most compelling argument. But I think a lot of Americans right now are not going to be making a judgment on this election at this time based on whether or not we ought to be re-litigating when we went in. But instead, what's your plan for going forward? How are you going to achieve success?

BLITZER: Is it just history?

MADDEN: Who has the best credentials to do that?

BLITZER: Politically, put on your strategic political hat, can he make the case as he tried to do repeatedly against Hillary Clinton, I was right in opposing this war, she was wrong in voting for it. And now he'd have to make the same case against McCain.

BEGALA: It certainly worked in the primaries against Senator Clinton and his other opponents.

BLITZER: Does it work in the general election?

BEGALA: I think yes. I think it's good to go right at the other fella's strength. Don't make it the entire campaign, but go right at that. And John McCain, not just Dick Cheney, John McCain said we will be greeted as liberators. John McCain said, at one point, the war would last a month or two. It was John McCain, who was part and parcel, of misleading us into this war, and I think that is an important thing. It also has the strategic advantage of linking again, once more, to George

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W. Bush, the most unpopular president of modern times.

[…]

BEGALA: This is where, now, John McCain is chasing Barack. Obama comes out today, as he has said for months, and said Afghanistan, al-Qaeda, Pakistan, that' where we need to be. Well guess what, Senator McCain almost never mentions Afghanistan. And just a month ago, he said we have sufficient forces in Afghanistan. Then Obama says we need more troops in Afghanistan. It's McCain now chasing Barack, saying well I guess Barack's right, we do need more troops in Afghanistan.

MADDEN: I think John McCain has shown he does have the experience, he knows a lot more about Afghanistan and this, whole entire theater on the war on terror, than Barack Obama does. […]

[…]

BEGALA: […] I thought Obama's best line today was when he said, McCain says when violence is up the troops have to say, and when violence is down the troops have to stay. McCain wants troops there a hundred years.

Highlight #7
Planned Parenthood Ad Shows Failings of McCain's Team (MSNBC 07/17/08 5:44pm)
MIKE BARNICLE: The first one is an ad put out by Planned Parenthood, check this out.

[Planned Parenthood ad plays]

BARNICLE: . . . I feel badly for John McCain there.

MIKE PAUL: Translation, "I'm not ready answer that right now" is very different than "I'm not informed enough on the issue." You're putting it in a juxtaposition with this Viagra thing. You know what? I'm also thinking of the conservatives and the right, the Christian right as well. I'm just not prepared for that question right now. And frankly that's not just a John McCain problem, that's a John McCain team problem. They should've been more prepared than that. If I were working on his campaign he should've been able to answer that question.

BARNICLE: Steve, it gets into the whole pro-life, pro-choice issue and the women's vote in this country, which does not break well for John McCain, right?

STEVE MACMAHON: That's right, and this is an issue that's important to women. Sen. McCain has voted twice against requiring health insurance companies to cover contraception for women. It looked a little like he was briefed for that appearance by Governor Sanford . . . maybe those two guys do fit together nicely on a ticket.

BARNICLE: That's a tough one for John McCain

Highlight #8
Bill O'Reilly Trashes New Planned Parenthood Ad (FNC, 07/17/08, 8:50pm)
BILL O'REILLY: On a similar subject, the Planned Parenthood fanatics want you and me to pay for everybody's birth control so they used John McCain to make that point.

[Planned Parenthood ad shown]

Ok, listen up. Viagra is used to help a medical condition. That's why it's covered! Birth control is not a medical condition. It is a choice. Why should I or anybody else have to pay for other people's choices? Do I have to buy you dinner before you use the birth control? Give me and every other tax payer a break, Planned Parenthood.

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Highlight #9

What's Happened To McCain's Media Darling Status? (FNC, 07/17/08, 8:40pm)
BILL O'REILLY: Terry MacAlluf, you know, big guy in a Clinton world, said, was screaming that NBC News and others were in the tank for Obama and this hurt Hillary Clinton. Now, some say, the same thing is happening in the general campaign against John McCain. Do you see it that way?

HOWARD WOLFSON: Well, I think John McCain has always been the media daring. And he and his campaign must be looking around and saying, what happened? I think that the fact that the media is more disposed towards Barack Obama is a huge advantage for him. It's not a reason why he will win, but it certainly gets him a leg up. And it's a big disadvantage for John McCain who used to be the media darling.

[…]

O'REILLY: When the three anchors announced they were going to Iraq, did you feel that was strange? […] When that announcement was made did that mean anything to you?

WOLFSON: Yeah, I thought it was an unusual decision. I think the question that they would have to ask themselves is, whether they would provide the same level of coverage for John McCain?

O'REILLY: Well the answer is no.

WOLFSON: The answer I think is unknown because McCain hasn't had a trip of this length.

O'REILLY: No, but they wouldn't do it. However, to be fair and you know I always like to be that, Barack Obama and Iraq is a huge story. So we all know where John McCain stands on Iraq, he's not going to change his mind. That's it. But now, Obama's waffling on it a little bit. So, everybody's going, well what's he going to do here? So there it becomes a bigger story.

WOLFSON: Well, it's also a ratings issue. Barack Obama is interesting to viewers […] If I'm in the McCain campaign I'm looking for equitable coverage.

O'REILLY: You're not going to get it though.

WOLFSON: So far I'd say it be a real concern if I were working for John McCain. And I think it must be, again, especially shocking for them because for so long John McCain has enjoyed such good press.

Who's Really the Media Darling This Election? (FNC, 07/17/08, 8:15pm)
BERNARD GOLDBERG: If we needed any more proof Bill, that the networks were on the Barack Obama campaign team, this is it. They're covering this upcoming trip as if he were already the president. By sending their anchors they're also sending a not so subtle message to their audience. Their message is this trip is important, because we don't send our anchors unless the trip is important, right? And they're also saying it's a lot more important than the trip to the Middle East that campaign made. Because John McCain, as far as a lot of the mainstream media is concerned, is just another run of the mill white politician and Barack Obama is anything but that. According to the mainstream media.

[…]

JANE HALL: You know, let me take a bit of the other side. When John McCain was running his candidacy in 2000 for presidency, he said the press was his base. The guy was running on fumes and wall to wall media coverage. Obama benefits from being the new kid on the block. I agree with you that this gives the importance of a state visit, which is a little premature. […]

BILL O'REILLY: […] Is this fair?

HALL: I think it's a bit much, but, republicans have made his lack of foreign policy experience an issue. And the

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fact that he's going abroad [...]

Highlight #10

Stephen Colbert Devotes Word to McCain and Psychology of Economy (Comedy Central, 07/16/08, 11:40pm)

STEPHEN COLBERT: Nation, oil's at nearly $140 dollars a barrel. It's getting so that to fill your gas tank you have to take out a mortgage from your bank. If you can still find a bank that's in business. Only two years ago oil was at $78 dollars a barrel. If gas gets any higher, it'll be starring in a movie opposite Tommy Chong. There's a lot of debate over what's causing this crisis, but luckily some leaders understand what the real problem is.

JOHN MCCAIN: I think psychologically. And a lot of our problems today, as you know, are psychological. Confidence, trust, uncertainty about our economic future, ability to keep our own home.

COLBERT: Losing your home is psychological. A lot of people forget that shelter is really just a state of mind. Clearly America needs psychological help. Which brings us to tonight's word. Placebo.

Folks, when scientists have a new medicine, they test it on two groups. One that gets the life saving drug, and one that is told they are getting the life saving drug, but in fact are getting a sugar pill called a placebo.

[Also Called "Airborne"]

Well, sometimes, sometimes a funny thing happens. Patients who have taken the sugar pill get better.

[Until They Contract Diabetes]

You see, what happens is their brain fools their body into believing that useless pill was medicine.

[Same Part of Brain That Generates Votes for Ron Paul]

Well, I think what we need right now is a national sugar pill.

[Technically, High-Fructose Corn Syrup]

John McCain and President Bush understand that. Here's what the President had to say about their plans to expand offshore drilling.

BUSH: I readily concede that it's not going to produce a drop of oil tomorrow, but it is going to change the psychology.

COLBERT: The psychology! You see Bush readily concedes that it's not going to help out here. But in here.

[Only Place Where He Has 50% Approval Rating]

This I believe, is a bold new direction for America.

[Straight To Fantasyland]

That folks, that's not change you can believe in. It's change you have to believe in.

[Clap Or The Gas Fairy Will Die]

My only problem with these guys is that they're telling us that their plans won't actually do anything. That's like a pot dealer standing on the street corner and saying who wants to buy some of my oregano?

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[Matthew McConaughey?}

Mr. President, Senator McCain, just tell us your energy plan is the stickiest-icky. The hairiest, most chronic bud this side of the Himalaya's.

[Stephen Has No Idea What He's Talking About]

If you just do that for us I promise we'll believe you.

[See: Iraq War]

And we'll believe you because we want to. We want to believe that the nothing you're offering is the something we've all been waiting for.

[Rush For The First Time In 30 Years!]

Besides, who doesn't like sugar pills? They're cheap, they taste good, and there are no unpleasant side effects like having to change our driving habits.

[Just Our Life Expectancy]

But if you give us nothing, and tell us it's nothing, well that's a better pill to swallow.

[Placebo]

And that's the word.

Highlight #11

Bush Continues To Push That the Economy Is Doing Well (CNN, 07/15/08, 10:23am)

GEORGE BUSH: Our citizens are rightly concerned about the difficulties in the housing markets and high gasoline prices and the failure of the democratic congress to address these and other pressing issues. Yet, despite the challenges we face, our economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience. While the unemployment rate has risen, it remains at 5.5 percent, which is still low by historical standards. And the economy continued to grow in the first quarter of this year. The growth is slower than we would have liked, but it was growth nonetheless. We saw the signs of a slowdown early and enacted a bipartisan economic stimulus package. We have now delivered more than $91 billion in tax relief to more than more than 112 million American households this year. It's going to take some time before we feel the full benefit of the economic stimulus package, but the early signs are encouraging. Retail sales were up in May and June, and should contribute and will contribute to economic growth. In the months ahead, we expect more Americans to take advantage of these stimulus payments, and inject new energy into our economy. The bottom line is this, we are going through a tough time. But our economy is continually growing, consumers are spending, businesses are investing, exports continue increasing, and American productivity remains strong. We can have confidence in the long-term foundation of our economy and I believe we will come through this challenge stronger than ever before.

Bush Talks Government Bailouts, Gas Prices, Oil Exploration, Obama's Trip to Iraq (CNN, 07/15/08, 10:33am)

REPORTER: […] Are there other entities that are so crucial to stability, that they would require government action to show support for them?

GEORGE BUSH: Government action, if you are talking about bailing out, if your question is should the government bailout private enterprise, the answer is no it shouldn't. And by the way, the decisions on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, I hear some people say it is a bailout, I don't think it is a bailout. The shareholders still own the company. That's why I said we want this to continue to be a shareholder-owned company. In this case, there is a feeling that the government will stand behind mortgages through these new entities. And therefore we felt a special need to step up and say that we are going to provide, if needed, temporary assistance through

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either debt or capital. In terms of private enterprises, I do not think the government ought to be involved with bailing out companies. I think the government should create conditions so that companies can survive. I have listed four. One of the things I am deeply troubled about is the people that think it is okay to raise taxes during these times. It would be a huge mistake to raise taxes right now.

[…]

REPORTER: Mr. President, in February you were asked about Americans facing the prospect of $4 per gallon gasoline, and you said you'd had not heard of that at the time.

GEORGE BUSH: I have heard of it now.

REPORTER: Gas prices are now approaching $5 per gallon, in some parts of the country. Offshore oil exploration is obviously a long-term approach, what is the short-term advice for Americans? What can you do now to help out?

GEORGE BUSH: First of all, there is this psychology in the oil market that basically says that supplies are going to stay stagnant while demand rises. And that is reflected somewhat in the price of crude oil. Gasoline prices are reflected. The amount of gasoline, the price at the pump is reflected in the price of crude oil. And therefore, seems like it makes sense to me to say to the world, that we going to use new technologies to explore for oil and gas in the United States. Offshore oil, Anwar, oil shail projects, to help change the psychology, to send a clear message that the supplies of oil will increase. Secondly, obviously, good conservation measures matters. I have been reading a lot about how the automobile companies are beginning to adjust. Consumers are beginning to say, now wait a minute, I don't want a gas guzzler anymore, I want a smaller car. So, the two need to go hand in hand. There is no immediate fix. This took us a while to get to this problem, there is no short-term solution. I think I was in the rose garden where I issued this brilliant statement, if I had a magic wand, but the president doesn't have a magic want. You just can't say, low gas. It took us awhile to get here, and we need to have a good strategy to get out of it.

REPORTER: What about the strategic petroleum oil reserve, what about opening up that?

BUSH: The strategic petroleum oil reserve is for emergencies, but that doesn't address the fundamental issue. And we need to address the fundamental issue, which i frankly, have been talking about since I first became president, which is a combination of using technology to have alternative sources of energy but, at the same time, finding oil and gas here at home. Now is the time to get it done. I heard somebody say, well it's going to take seven years. Well if we had done this seven years ago, we would be having a different conversation today. i am not suggesting that it would have completely, you know, changed the dynamics in the world, but it certainly would have been, we would be using more of our own oil and spending less money overseas.

[…]

REPORTER: And we know you prize loyalty, and I ask, I wonder if you feel betrayed by Scott McClellan' assessment of the war in Iraq. And moving forward, since there have been positive signs on the ground in Iraq, Senator Obama is also about to take a trip there. What would be your advice to him as he tries to assess the situation on the ground?

BUSH: I have had no comment, no comment now on Scott's book. Secondly, I would ask him to listen carefully to Ryan Crocker and General Petraues. There is a temptation to let the politics at home get in the way with the considered judgment of the commanders. That is why i strongly rejected an artificial timetable of withdrawal. It is kind of like an arbitrary thing. We will decide, in the halls of Congress how to conduct our affairs in Iraq based upon polls and politics, and we will impose this on people. As opposed to listening to our commanders, and our diplomats, and listening to the Iraqis for that matter. The Iraqi's have invited us to be there. But they share a goal with us, which is to get our troops out as conditions permit. Matter of fact, that is what we are doing. Return on success has been the strategy of this administration. And our troops are coming home, but based upon success. So I would ask that whoever goes there, whatever elected official goes there, to listen carefully to what is taking place. And understand that the best way to go forward is to listen to the parties actually on the ground. That is hard to do, I understand for some in Washington, there is a lot of pressure. You got these groups out there,

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moveon.org , banging away on these candidates, it is hard to kind of divorce yourself from the politics. I am glad that all, a lot of these elected officials are going over there. Cause they are going to get an interesting insight. Something that you don't get from just reading your wonderful newspapers, listening to your t.v. shows.

Bush Says We are Already "Surging" and Have "Surged" In Afghanistan (CNN, 07/15/08, 10:44am)
REPORTER: Should Americans expect a troop surge in Afghanistan?

GEORGE BUSH: We are surging troops in Afghanistan. We will analyze the situation, of course, and make a determination based on the conditions on the ground. But we did surge troops. We surged troops, France surged troops, I said in Bucharest, we'll add more troops. And then, of course, we have to make sure that the strategy works. Have a counter-insurgency strategy that not only provides security but also provides economic follow up after the security has been enhanced. The question really facing the country is will we have the patience and determination to succeed in these very difficult theaters. And I understand exhaustion. And I understand people getting tired. But I would hope that whoever follows me understands that we are at war. And now is not the time to give up in the struggle against this enemy. And that while there has not been an attack on the homeland, that is not to say that people do not want to attack us. And safe havens become very dangerous for the American people, and we need to deny that safe haven. And at the same time, win the struggle by advancing democracy. This is an ideological struggle that we are involved in. These people kill for a reason. They want us to leave, they want us to, you know, not push back, they do not want democracy to succeed. And yet, if given a chance, democracy will succeed. And so these two theaters are the big challenges of the time, and the war itself is a challenge.

Bush: "I'm not an economist... I'm an optimist... I am 62. I'm having trouble remembering a lot of things." (CNN, 07/15/08, 11:05am)
GEORGE BUSH: Whether the economy will turn around? I'm not an economist, but I do believe that we are growing, and I can remember, this press conference here, people yelling recession this, recession that, as if you're economists. I'm an optimist. I believe there are a lot of positive things for our economy. But I will tell you, it is not going the way it should, and I am sorry people are paying as high of gasoline prices as they are.

[...]

BUSH: What was the question? I am 62. I'm having trouble remembering a lot of things.

REPORTER: It was about Afghanistan, sir.

BUSH: Good, I remember it now.

Highlight #12
CNN Investigates McCain's "Meal Ticket" and Impact of Busch Deal on McCain's Fortune and Campaign (CNN, 07/15/08, 8:44pm)
CAMPBELL BROWN: So there could be some political fallout to this weeks big deal in the beer industry. The Belgium company InBev is buying Anheuser-Busch for $52 million bucks. Cindy McCain just happens to run one of the biggest Anheuser-Busch distributers in the country, beyond what she stands to make in the deal, red flags are already starting to go up on how a McCain presidency would affect his wife's business.

DAVID MATTINGLY: Fair to say, Cindy McCain, is not only a wife to Senator John McCain, she is also his meal ticket. Her reported 2006 income of more than 6 million dollars exceeded her husband's earnings 16 times over. That money pays for a wealthy lifestyle of high-end condos, an Arizona ranch, flying in a corporate jet, and more.

KEN VOGEL: He wouldn't be able to afford that if not for her. Politically, he is in Congress arguably because her company and her wealth funded his first Congressional campaign and has certainly been helpful in subsidizing his presidential campaign.

MATTINGLY: It's a lifestyle built on beer. Cindy McCain is on the chair of one of the biggest Anheuser-Busch distributers in the country. A company founded by her father with a value estimated at more than $100 million. In

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Congress, Senator McCain has been able to avoid a conflict of interest by staying out of the family business and excusing himself from beer related issues. But critics of that industry doubt that a President McCain would be able to stay so hands-off.

BRUCE LIVINGSTON: It would not be possible, the corporation of which Cindy McCain is an owner of has lobbied ten times in the last 8 years on various issues that have gone to Congress and that have gone to executive branch agencies.

MATTINGLY: As President, Senator McCain would run a mammoth beaurocracy with regulatory control over alcohol sales, distribution, and consumption. The next administration would probably have to deal with issues of beer taxes, labeling, maybe even the politically sensitive international merger just announced involving the giant Anheuser-Busch. These are all issues that could create a conflict because they could have an impact on the McCain family bottom line.

Though she does not run the day to day operations, Cindy McCain's Hensley & Co. website links to a newsletter calling for a rollback in the Federal beer tax. And this 2005 letter posted on the internet by the Los Angeles Times shows company executive Andrew McCain. Yes, that is the Senator's son lobbying against a Federal beer labeling proposal.

[…]

JAMAL SIMMONS: Of course there are red flags. The real question is not so much about what Cindy McCain does for a living, because she can do whatever she wants to do for a living, this is America. The question is whether or not John McCain is going to lead a transparent government, and he so far is not leading a transparent campaign. Here's what I mean. He hasn't talked about how much he pays, or why he doesn't pay full fair for those airplane flights he flies around in that jet. He doesn't talk about what's going to happen to Cindy McCain if he goes into the White House. And so the question is, of course he listens to somebody like Phil Gramm who thinks that the economy is all in our heads, or that economic problems are all mental, because John McCain he has eight houses, they spend $750,000 on credit cards in one month, and he's flying around the country in this corporate jet. He's not in touch with where most of Americans are.

[…]

BROWN: McCain has used his wife's fortune to help fund his campaign, providing a private plane to travel around the country. […] Does he have an obligation to be open with people about this if you want to be president of the United States?
[…]

GLORIA BORGER: There is sort of a basic issue of transparency here, because this is sort of the bedrock of John McCain's campaign, which he wants to be open. His wife has only released the first two pages of her 2006 tax returns. And I remember in covering the 2004 campaign when Teresa Heinz Kerry who is also a very wealthy women, wealthier than Cindy McCain, did not want to release her taxes, republicans were complaining about it.

[…]

SIMMONS: That month where he was spending $750,000 dollars on credit card debts was from March 2007 until the beginning of, middle of 2008, and that's when they were spending all this money on credit cards. They would not have been able to keep the John McCain campaign alive had he not had this personal wealth.

Highlight #13
Rep. John Boehner Distances Himself and Republicans From McCain's Energy Policies (CNN, 07/15/08, 4:17pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Senator McCain has been outspoken in his determination to deal with global warming in contradiction to some of the republicans out there who have some doubts about the whole science of that.

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JOHN BOEHNER: I think that John McCain's position is not really very different than most Republicans. […] The fact is, that we have had climate change. Clearly, humans have something to do with it. And we ought to begin reducing our CO2 emmisions. […]

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Eryn Sepp" <esepp@who.eop.gov>
Date: 6/16/2014 11:57:22 PM
Subject: Fwd: Brian Katulis Mideast report

Eryn
Can you print copies of the report for me and Denis. Thanks

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Suzy George" <sgeorge@albrightstonebridge.com >
Date: Jun 16, 2014 10:29 PM
Subject: Brian Katulis Mideast report
To: "Ben Chang" <bchang@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Fariba Yassaee" <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Anne Hall" <Anne.Hall@aporter.com >, "Bill Antholis" <wantholis@brookings.edu >, "Bill Woodward (blackwoodward@gmail.com)" <blackwoodward@gmail.com >, "bill.danvers@gmail.com " <bill.danvers@gmail.com >, "Brian Katulis" <bkatulis@americanprogress.org >, "Bruce Riedel" <briedel@brookings.edu >, "Caitlin McDonnell" <cmcdonnell@albrightstonebridge.com>, "Carol Browner" <cmbrowner@me.com >, "Carole Hall" <chall@brookings.edu>, "Catherine Whitney" <Catherine.Whitney@skadden.com >, "Chris Roberts" <croberts@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Dan Benjamin" <dbenjam61@hotmail.com >, "Daniel Silverberg" <danielsilverberg@yahoo.com >, "Denis McDonough" <denis.mcdonough@gmail.com >, "Derek Chollet" <dhchollet@gmail.com >, "Don Gips (don.gips@gmail.com)" <don.gips@gmail.com >, "donkerrick" <donkerrick@comcast.net >, "Eryn M. Sepp (eryn.sepp@gmail.com)" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com >, "Frank Lowenstein" <frankl03@yahoo.com >, "Greg Craig" <gcraig@skadden.com >, "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, "Jamie Rubin" <JamesPRubin1960@gmail.com >, "Jan Stewart" <jstewart@albrightstonebridge.com>, "Jeff Smith" <jeffrey_smith@aporter.com >, "Jeremy Bash" <jeremybash@gmail.com >, "Jessica Lewis" <lewisje03@yahoo.com >, "Jim Miller - Department of Defense (james.n.miller.jr@gmail.com)" <james.n.miller.jr@gmail.com >, "Jim O'Brien" <jobrien@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Joanna Nicoletti (info@forwardengagement.org)" <info@forwardengagement.org >, "Joe Cirincione" <jcirincione@ploughshares.org >, "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >, "Julianne Smith" <julsmi@gmail.com >, "Ken Lieberthal" <klieberthal@brookings.edu >, "Kurt Campbell" <kurtmcampbell@yahoo.com >, "Laura Huber" <lhuber@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Leon Fuerth" <hdpf@msn.com >, "Maida Stadtler" <mstadtler@apcoworldwide.com >, "Marcel Lettre" <mlettre@verizon.net >, "Mariah Sixkiller (mariah6@gmail.com)" <mariah6@gmail.com >, "Marisa DeAngelis" <MDeAngelis@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Martin Indyk" <mindyk@brookings.edu >, "Michele Flournoy" <micheleflournoy3@gmail.com >, "Pat Griffin" <pgriffin@pmj-dc.com >, "Rich Verma" <rverma@steptoe.com >, "Rob Malley" <rmalley555@gmail.com >, "Samuel Berger" <sberger@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Steve Ricchetti" <sricchetti@cox.net >, "Strobe Talbott" <stalbott@brookings.edu >, "Susan Rice" <ricesusane@aol.com >, "Tara Sonenshine" <tsonenshine@earthlink.net >, "Theodore Waddelow" <twaddelow@albrightstonebridge.com >, "Tim Roemer" <tjroemer@gmail.com >, "Tom Daschle" <tom.daschle@dlapiper.com >, "Tom Donilon" <tdonilon@gmail.com >, "Tom Downey" <tdowney@dmggroup.com >, "Tommy Ross" <tommy_ross@reid.senate.gov >, "Toni Verstandig" <tonigverstandig@gmail.com >, "Tony Blinken" <ablinken@aol.com >, "Veronica Pollack" <Veronica.Pollock@dlapiper.com >, "Vikram Singh" <vsingh@americanprogress.org >, "Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com >
Cc:

> New report by Brian Katulis
>
> A new era of extremism, sectarianism, and competition between regional powers requires the United States to update its regional strategy.
>
> http://americanprogress.org/issues/security/report/2014/06/16/91809/u-s-middle-east-policy-at-a-time-of-regional-

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fragmentation-and-competition

The ongoing fragmentation in Iraq and Syria is the latest episode in a series of ev ents that is shaking the foundations of today's Middle East. The region has entered a fluid period of transition involving the growing power of non-state actors, including new Islamist extremist groups, at a time of increased competition for influence among the key countries in the region.

For decades, the United States has grappled with formulating a Middle East strategy that advances both its interests and its v alues. Under President Barack Obama, the top U.S. priorities in the Middle East hav e included preventing a terrorist attack on the homeland; stopping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon; ending the Iraq War; maintaining a secure flow of energy from the region; and trying to broker Arab-Israeli peace.

The United States has struggled to define its position since the Arab uprisings in 2011, which sparked a new era of competition among the leading powers in the region. The role and status of Islamists such as the Muslim Brotherhood, which rose to power after the uprisings in some Arab countries, have been central in this intraregional struggle. Also, violent Salafi jihadists such as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, or ISIS, seek to break down national borders and establish an Islamic state by force. This report, based on field research conducted by the Center for American Progress in multiple countries during the past y ear, analyzes the current strategic environment and outlines lessons learned that should inform U.S. policy. Those lessons include:

- **The 2011 Arab uprisings sparked a regional competition in a new "Middle East cold war."** The leading countries of the Middle East and North Africa are engaged in an intense, multipolar, and multidimensional struggle for influence and power. This competition goes beyond Shia-Sunni sectarian divisions and inv olves traditional tools of power projection—such as military aid and economic assistance—as well as new forms of power projection, including direct investments in media outlets, non-state actors, and political movements. The region's wealthier, more politically stable states compete with each other by proxy—and in some cases, directly—on the ground in poorer and politically polarized states. This competition has taken on many features of a cold war: different sides engaged in proxy battles across the region using multiple means of influence.
    - **The status of Islamist movements is central to this regional competition.** The Muslim Brotherhood's empowerment and subsequent remov al from power in Egypt has been a main ev ent and central to this regional struggle. Some states such as Qatar and Turkey back the Muslim Brotherhood, while others such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, or UAE, oppose it. Another new dynamic is the rise of extremist Islamist groups that have challenged the Al Qaeda movement. New political openings, as well as ongoing conflicts such as the civil war in Syria, have enabled a range of political Islamist groups, including the ultraorthodox Salafists, to affect politics in countries such as Egypt and Tunisia and fostered a strand of Islamist extremist groups that has emerged in Syria and Iraq. The regional contest over the status of political Islamists has broad reach; it has contributed to disarray within the Syrian opposition, influenced relations among different Palestinian factions, and affected competition among the various armed groups in Libya.
    - **The United States remains the dominant military power in the region but lacks sufficient diplomatic, political, and economic tools to influence regional political trends.** The new and still unfolding regional dynamics limit the effectiveness of a U.S. policy that maintains a heav y reliance on traditional tools of power, such as the military and intelligence. The current U.S. policy approach lacks a nimble and effective ability to engage multiple centers of power in the region politically and economically in strategies that emphasize political pluralism and prosperity. The Obama administration's engagement with political Islamist organizations such as the Muslim Brotherhood created confusion in the region about U.S. policy priorities and values. The U.S. response to the Arab uprisings and the new Middle East cold war has been unev en and the United States has often appeared as little more than a bystander.

The major changes underway in regional power dynamics point to a need to make U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and North Africa more adept at understanding and responding to political currents in a way that reflects both U.S. core security interests and values. Simply focusing on questions of how many troops are stationed in a particular country for what period of time or how much bilateral security assistance the United States gives to a particular country is too narrow and inadequate to deal with the historical changes sweeping the region and upending its political balance.

A wider range of state actors are seeking to adv ance their interests and values across the region, and the regional landscape now includes a number of non-state actors that have broader reach and impact than they did in previous eras. The United States will not be able to dictate or control events, but many in the region still examine what the United States say s and does v ery closely . Most of its key governments take active steps to shape the trajectory of U.S. policy. The United States should make the most of these diplomatic engagements to craft a wiser engagement policy that seeks to isolate and defeat extremist ideologies in the ongoing battle of ideas.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/18/2015 4:36:49 PM
Subject: New News! (12/18/15)

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

News as of December 18th, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community in public policy

The Economy

With an improving economy, the Fed hikes interest rates for the 1st time since 2006: The Fed has ended the zero-rate era, voting to set the new target range for the federal funds rate at 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent. **Chair Janet Yellen** said the move "would be followed by "gradual" tightening as officials watch for evidence of higher inflation." **Christopher Condon,** *Bloomberg* **[More]**

U.S. stocks closed sharply lower Friday in following Federal Reserve's rate hike Wednesday: The major U.S. averages wiped out gains for the week. Trade volume Friday was the second-highest of the year. The Dow Jones industrial average had its worst day since Sept. 1, closing nearly 370 points lower as dwelling accelerated into the close. **Evelyn Cheng**, *CNN* **[More]**

Bond investors abandon ship - biggest bonds-funds outflow since June 2013: "Ahead of the first interest-rate hike in nearly a decade,... the week ... saw the biggest outflow from bond funds since June 2013, to the tune of $13.1 billion...Not surprisingly, investors pulled the most cash out of illiquid and low-quality assets, such as junk bonds. "Bond carnage" is how the bank titled the report." **Barbara Kollmeyer,** *MarketWatch* **[More]**

The divergence amongst the world's major central banks: While the Fed recently raised short-term interest rates and the Bank of England is preparing to raise rates, the ECB and the Bank of Japan are buying bonds in huge quantities to stimulate their sluggish economies and fight deflation risks. *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

The end of the 40-year-old ban on crude oil exports will likely help U.S. in the global energy arena: "The U.S. is on the verge of ending the restriction, after congressional negotiators late Tuesday included removing the ban in a deal on a $1.15 trillion spending bill, along with such provisions as the extension of tax breaks on solar and wind energy." **Patti Domm**, *CNBC* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

UN Security Council adopts resolution outlining a peace process in Syria: Reaching a rare agreement on the issue, the council endorsed a resolution that would begin talks between the Syrian government and opposition in early January, as well as a ceasefire. However, the resolution does not outline **President Bashar Assad**'s role. *BBC News* **[More]**

US-led air assaults against ISIS fighters kill at least 180: The airstrikes kicked off the most intense fighting that northern Iraq has seen this year, demonstrating ISIS' resilience and "the challenges that Iraqi forces and their U.S. backers will face as they seek to reclaim Mosul and other areas under Islamic State control in Iraq and Syria." **Missy Ryan** and **Loveday Morris** **[More]**

Russia unveils new military hardware from space to use in attacks on Syria: "Moscow claimed it has positioned 10 satellites—representing more than 10 percent of Russia's space arsenal—over Syria to map terrain, spot targets and gather other intelligence, and relay radio signals between far-flung ground, air, and sea forces." **Ad Astra,** *The Daily Beast* **[More]**

Defense Secretary conducted some official business on a personal email account: Ash "Carter continued the practice ... for at least two months after it was publicly revealed in March that Hillary Clinton had exclusively used a personal email

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account as secretary of state ..." **Michael Schmidt**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Zakaria: The phrase 'Radical Islam' has nothing to do with defeating terrorism: "Fighting [ISIS] is not the same as fighting radical Islam...Even if the Islamic State were defeated tomorrow, would that stop the next lone-wolf jihadist in New York or Paris or London? The San Bernardino killers appear to have been radicalized when the terrorist group barely existed. In fact, the enemy is radical Islam, an ideology that has spread over the past four decades-...The fight against it must at its core be against the ideology itself. And that can be done only by Muslims — they alone can purge their faith of this extremism." **Fareed Zakaria**, Op-Ed, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Friedman: Paris Climate Accord is a major success: "We still have a chance to meet what scientists say is our key challenge: to avoid the worst impacts of global warming that we cannot possibly manage and to manage those impacts that we can no longer avoid. That is a big, big deal...Hat's off, because this keeps alive the hope of capping the earth's warming to 2 degrees Celsius, or 3.6 Fahrenheit, above the level that existed at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution...We're already almost halfway to passing that redline." **Thomas Friedman,** Op-Ed, *New York Times* **[More]**

Our fight against ISIS begins online: "Whatever consensus the administration and Congress reach in terms of prosecuting the fight against the Islamic State on the ground, our battle online — disabling the group's ability to freely propagandize, recruit and plan attacks and disrupting the group's online terror propaganda and the technology it uses to communicate —may be the most decisive. The evidence of the power of the Internet to radicalize and encourage violence is clear: 30,000 people, an estimated 250 from the United States alone, have joined the group in Iraq and Syria from countries around the world since June 2014." **Mark Wallace,** Op-Ed **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Congress clears omnibus spending bill and avoids government shutdown: The bipartisan compromise contains $1.1 trillion in spending and about $680 billion in tax cuts for businesses and low income workers: "Both the fossil fuel and alternative energy industries can count themselves as winners, following a trade of the decades-long ban on crude oil exports for an extension of wind and solar tax credits. Syrian refugees, 9/11 first responders and the District of Columbia's elementary and middle school sets are among the other winners. Obamacare, banks and even portrait artists look to be among the losers." **Bernie Becker,** *Politico* **[More]**

Congress' half-trillion dollar spending binge: Budget austerity takes a backseat to unpaid-for tax cuts, "[T]he GOP-led Congress is going on a $680 billion spending spree - none of which will be paid for by budget cuts or other tax offsets. And all of which will be added to the national debt … 'There's something from everybody's wish list" **Rachael Bade,** *Politico* **[More]**

The 1st criminal charges in San Bernardino shooting: Just hours after **President Obama** spoke about terrorism, federal prosecutors arrested **Enrique Martinez**, 24, a friend and former neighbor of **Syed Rizwan Farook**, who allegedly provided "material support - including himself, a firearm, and explosives - for crimes of terrorism." **Marina Koren**, *The Atlantic* **[More]**

"Pharma Bro" Martin Shkreli arrested for securities fraud: Shkreli became a symbol for drug company greed and corporate excess after it was revealed that he raised the price of a life-saving drug from $13.50 to $750.... He is now accused of running his company like a Ponzi scheme…" **Christie Smythe** and **Keri Geiger**, *Bloomberg* **[More]**

Obama doubles clemency numbers for drug offenders: In an effort to reduce prison crowding and give relief to drug offenders who were given lengthy sentences on drug charges during the "war on drugs," Obama commuted the sentences of 95 drug offenders, doubled his clemency numbers since July. **Ryan Reilly,** *The Huffington Post* **[More]**

Bergdahl will face a military trial on charge of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy: The US Army decided to reject the preliminary hearing recommendation that suggested Sgt. Bergdahl face a special court-martial, a move that means he could be sentenced to life in prison if found guilty. **Eugene Scott,** *CNN* **[More]**

NYC and LA give different responses to same terror threat: A terror threat on Tuesday that ultimately proved to be a hoax kept more than 600,000 children in Los Angeles from going to school. However, a similar threat in New York City didn't prevent another 1.1 million kids in New York from attending classes as officials called deemed the threat as an amateurish hoax. **Adam Chandler,** *The Atlantic* **[More]**

Freddie Gray mistrial - An examination of the meaning of justice: After a mistrial in the case of the first of six officers charged in the death of **Freddie Gray**, a man who died in police custody, protesters chanting "No Justice, No Peace" filled the streets. **Charles Blow** attempts to uncover the meaning of justice in these types of questionable cases. "Is justice a charge, a trial and a fair presentation of fact? Is it a favorable verdict? Is it system-altering legislation and an adjustment in patterns and practices?..It seems to me that justice looks different depending on your vantage point...Justice can be defined only relative to your stake in it." **Charles Blow,** Op-Ed, *New York Times* **[More]**

Polls

Poll finds national security now a top concern for 2016: 40% people think national security and terrorism should be the government's top priority, and more than 60% put it in the top two, up from 39% 8 months ago. **Janet Hook**, Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Despite criticism, Trump now has his biggest lead over the GOP field: Following his proposal to temporarily bar Muslims from entering the country, **Donald Trump**'s support stands at 38%, up 6 points since November. **Ted Cruz** in 2nd place with 15%, doubling his support since last month. **Marco Rubio** and **Ben Carson** are tied for 3rd, with 12% each. Carson saw his support cut roughly in half recently. **Dan Balz** and **Scott Clement**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Clinton maintains lead heading into NH debate, but with a trustworthiness deficit: Hillary Clinton leads **Bernie Sanders** by 31% (Clinton 59, Sanders 28) in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll. Despite this lead, 44% say Sanders is more honest and trustworthy, vs. 38 percent who pick Clinton. She's particularly vulnerable in this area among whites (Sanders +26) and political independents (Sanders +25). **Gregory Holyk**, *ABC News* **[More]**

2016 Campaign

Trump wins praise from Putin : **Vladimir Putin** recently described **Trump** as "a very outstanding man, unquestionably talented" and "the absolute leader of the presidential race". He also praised Trump's plan to build a deeper relationship with Russia. Trump has said that he would 'probably get along very well' with Putin." **David Jackson,** *USA Today* **[More]**

The crowd behind the Donald Trump phenomenon: "For the most part, people were...here to be part of something larger than themselves: part of the **Trump** Crowd, ... a phenomenon ... that has become more raucous and sporadically violent as this primary season of fear and anger has progressed." **Stephanie McCrummen**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

DNC penalizes Sanders campaign for improper access of Clinton voter data: After a Sanders staffer viewed confidential voter information the DNC shut off the **Sanders** campaign's access to the strategically crucial list of likely Democratic voters. The campaign will not be able to access the data until it provides an explanation and assures that all Clinton is destroyed." **Rosalind Helderman, Anne Gearan** and **John Wagner,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Cruz and Rubio spar over granting undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship : At the GOP presidential debate, during an exchange with **Marco Rubio**, **Ted Cruz** came out against ever providing any form of legal status to the 12 million people presumed to be living illegally and embraced a policy of "self-deportation." This contradicted statements he made in 2013 and provided an opening to Rubio's campaign who will use this to portray Cruz as a inauthentic political opportunist. **Eli Stokols**, *Politico* **[More]**

Rubio's financiers push him to win an early primary: "Every Republican nominee in modern times has won Iowa or New Hampshire ... But ... **Rubio**'s strategy has pointed toward a test of whether a candidate who finishes no better than second in either could still manage to stay alive." **Jeremy Peters**, *New York Times* **[More]**

GOP's rift on foreign policy in the Middle East: The clash between **Marco Rubio** and **Ted Cruz** over Syria's **Bashar Assad** shows the deep disagreement over how to deal with Middle East dictators. **Trump** reminded the audience that he was against the invasion of Iraq in 2003. "**Cruz**, playing the role of foreign policy realist, said that **President Barack Obama** had left America less secure by pushing for the ouster of Arab dictators, including **Assad**, whom **Obama** insists must leave power. ... [**Rubio**]'s full-throated support for human rights and democracy echoes, to many Republican ears, **Bush**'s grandiose, transform-the-Middle-East philosophy." **Michael Crowley,** *Politico* **[More]**

Window for independent bid by Trump remains wide open: "Trump could campaign...well into March before deciding to ditch the GOP and mount an independent bid ... [T]he obstacles standing in his way are few, so long as he's willing to spend seven-figures to secure a place on the ballot." **Ben Schreckinger**, *Politico* **[More]**

New attack on Hispanic voting rights: "Tactics to suppress minority voting are flourishing - especially in states where Hispanic voters are reshaping the electorate..If Hispanics were to start registering and voting in the same percentages that Anglos do in Texas, and continued to prefer Democrats over Republicans in the same proportions that they do now in presidential elections, Democrats would be able to shave the 16-point deficit they saw there in 2012 to 6 points by 2024." **Jim Rutenberg,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Notable Books and Film

***Under the Gun* premieres Jan. 24th at Sundance:** "Searing and powerful with never-before-seen footage of the shooting in Aurora, *Under the Gun* gives a human face to a crisis that is costing us in blood and scarring the conscience of a nation...Gabby Giffords and Mark Kelly are among several families impacted by both mass shootings and daily gun violence that the film follows." **[More]**

John Heilemann (TCG Speaker) & Mark Halperin (TCG Speaker) launching Showtime series called *The Circus*: The real time documentary series will debut in January before the Iowa caucuses and run through election day. **Hadas Gold,** *Politico* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Norton Garfinkle - Growing a Great Economy: Abraham Lincoln's Relevance

Wednesday, January 13, 2016; Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband - The Great Refugee Crisis

Wednesday, January 27, 2016; Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable Lord Christopher Patten, Chancellor of Oxford University

Tuesday, February 2, 2016; Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff, Isabelle Lehner and Isaac Getlan, and our volunteers: Emily Samuels and Andrea Noel.

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From:	"Jeremy Funk" <funk@americansunitedforchange.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	7/7/2009 7:49:30 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] TV Ads Praising Members of Congress for Supporting the Obama Clean Energy Jobs Bill Get Wide Notice.

AMERICANSUNITED
FOR CHANGE

www.americansunitedforchange.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT:** **Jeremy Funk, 202-470-5878**
DATE: July 7, 2009 **Lauren Weiner, 202-470-5870**

Americans United for Change TV Ads Praising Members of Congress for Supporting the Obama Clean Energy Jobs Bill Get Wide Notice…

*****Click Here to View The Ads *****
Click Here for More Information

The New York Times

The Caucus
The Politics and Government Blog of The Times

http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/07/07/the-early-word-from-moscow-to-la/

July 7, 2009, *8:34 am*

The Early Word: From Moscow to L.A.

By Bernie Becker

More Energy Ads: The nail-biting House vote on the major climate change bill, now a week and a half old, continues to spark ad campaigns, a sign that the energy legislation could continue to be front-and-center in the coming months. The Americans United for Change, a labor-supported advocacy group, will go up with television spots on Tuesday backing a group of moderate, mostly freshmen Democrats who supported the climate bill. (The group went on the air last week with a more generic ad campaign.)

Their latest ads include this one , backing Representative Frank Kratovil, a freshman Democrat from Maryland.

Other liberal groups have also sponsored ads defending moderate House members who voted for the climate bill, while the National Republican Congressional Committee hit some of those same members last week with radio and television ads. (As we noted last week, the facts in the N.R.C.C. spots have been disputed by Democrats and fact checking organizations.)

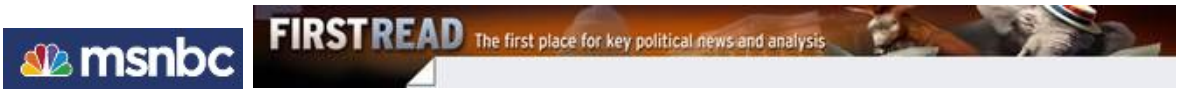


http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/morning-fix/070709-morning-fix-senator-al.html?wprss=thefix

Morning Fix: Americans United Up With "Thank You" Ads: As first reported late last week on the Fix, Americans United, the leading liberal outside group involved in the promotion of President Obama's agenda is up with ads in 15 House districts thanking members for their vote in support of a climate change legislation. The ads will be on the air starting today in Democratic-held districts represented by: Reps. **John Boccieri** (Ohio), **Mary Jo Kilroy** (Ohio), **Steve Driehaus** (Ohio), **Mark Schauer** (Mich.), **Betsy Markey** (Colo.), **Baron Hill**

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

(Ind.), **Ben Chandler** (Ky.), **Frank Kratovil** (Md.), **Dan Maffei** (N.Y.), **Mike Doyle** (Pa.), **Tom Perriello** (Va.) and **Rick Boucher** (Va.). "We want to make sure these members' constituents know that what their Representative voted for was creating tens of thousands of new clean energy jobs in their states," said Tom McMahon, the acting executive director of Americans United.



ADS THANK DEMS VOTING FOR ENERGY BILL

Posted: Monday, July 06, 2009 1:25 PM by Mark Murray
Filed Under: Congress , Democrats , Ads , 2010
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2009/07/06/1987207.aspx

From NBC's Mark Murray
The liberal-leaning group Americans United for Change says it will be airing TV ads that thank House Democrats for voting for the energy/climate bill that recently (and narrowly) passed the House of Representatives.

The advertisements, budgeted at around $150,000, will run in several congressional districts -- including **Mary Jo Kilroy's** (OH), **Betsy Markey's** (CO), **Baron Hill's** (IN), **Ben Chandler's** (KY), and **Rick Boucher's** (VA).

Here's one of the ads: "Last month, Congressman Chandler voted to meet **President Obama's** challenge to create millions of clean energy jobs -- not in India or China, but right here, in America."

E&E News PM
POLITICS: Liberal group's ads defend backers of House climate bill (07/06/2009)

Alex Kaplun, E&Ereporter

Liberal advocacy groups will try to provide political cover for some Democrats who voted for the sweeping House climate and energy bill last month, launching campaigns to build support for the most vulnerable lawmakers.

Americans United for Change will start 30-second television spots tomorrow in the districts of a dozen or so moderate Democrats, thanking them for supporting legislation that will create "clean-energy jobs."

The group will also run an ad on national cable with a similar theme and conduct robo-calls in 74 districts.

The television spots open with images of wind turbines and solar panels and ask, "Who will build the wind turbines, the solar panels that will create new businesses, new industries?"

The ads then tout the climate bill approved by the House last month as a step toward ensuring those jobs are created in the United States. "Last month, Congressman Chandler voted to meet President Obama's challenge to create millions of clean energy jobs, not in India or China, but right here in America," says a version of the ad that will run in Rep. Ben Chandler's (D-Ky.) district.

Similar ads will run in the districts of Democratic Reps. John Boccieri, Mary Jo Kilroy and Steve Driehaus of Ohio; Mark Schauer of Michigan; Mark Schauer of Colorado; Baron Hill of Indiana; Frank Kratovil of Maryland; Dan Maffei of New York; Mike Doyle of Pennsylvania; and Tom Perriello and Rick Boucher of Virginia.

Meanwhile, another left-leaning coalition -- including groups such as America's Building Trade Unions, Blue Green Alliance and Environmental Defense Fund -- is expected to launch its own campaign in the next few days in about a dozen congressional districts thanking members for their votes.

The ads come on the heels of media attacks launched by the National Republican Congressional Committee against some of those same lawmakers. Thus far, the NRCC effort has consisted primarily of radio ads and robo-calls, but the group also launched a television spot in Perriello's district, accusing the freshman Democrat of voting in favor of legislation that will significantly increase costs to consumers (*Greenwire* , July 1).

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Top Republicans have made it clear that they view the climate change vote as a politically potent issue that will cost a number of House Democrats their seats in 2010.



http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0709/MoveOn_thanks_members_on_energy_bill.html?showall

July 06, 2009
Categories: Environment

American United thanks members on energy bill

Americans United for Change is going up with cable buys for a series of positive spots, praising the patriotism of members of Congress who voted for the American Clean Energy and Security Act; the one above is running in the district of Ohio Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy.

Allied groups are expected to run similar spots; a full list of the AUC ads is after the jump.

» Continue reading American United thanks members on energy bill

By Ben Smith 01:22 PM

Hotline On Call

http://hotlineoncall.nationaljournal.com/archives/2009/07/auc_ad_thanks_m.php

AUC Ad Thanks Members For Backing Energy Bill

July 6, 2009 1:17 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) |
Share This

Beginning tomorrow, Americans United for Change will air television ads thanking House members for backing the **Obama** energy bill. The members cast a tough vote for a variety of reasons. Some represent coal country, for example, while others hail from GOP-leaning districts. AUC's budget is $150K; the spots will run 7/7-7/10. The ad, dubbed "Uniquely American," heralds the bill as a clean energy job creation initiative.

AUC's appreciation will be expressed to these Reps.:

John Boccieri (OH-16)
Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15)
Steve Driehaus (OH-1)
Mark Schauer (MI-7)
Betsy Markey (CO-4)
Baron Hill (IN-9)
Ben Chandler (KY-6)
Frank Kratovil (MD-1)
Dan Maffei (NY-25)
Mike Doyle (PA-14)
Tom Perriello (VA-5)
Rick Boucher (VA-9)

The Kratovil version of the ad can be viewed above. In NH, the group is running a more generic version of the spot aimed at thanking Reps. **Paul Hodes** (NH-2) and **Carol Shea-Porter** (NH-1).

(**JENNIFER SKALKA**)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The Hotline

http://www.nationaljournal.com/hotline/lastcall.php

Last Call!

MONDAY . . . 7/6/2009 . . . 4 PM

WHAT'S NEWS . . .

• Americans United for Change is launching a $150K **ad buy** , to run 7/7-7/10, "thanking" various reps in their local markets "for voting for the Obama clean energy jobs bill" (*Last Call!* sources).

House Race Hotline

National Journal's House Race Hotline

July 6, 2009

You Don't Need A Hallmark Card To Say Thank You

LENGTH: 510 words

"Outside groups are coming to the defense of key" Dems, "including some of the eight" GOPers who voted for it. The Environmental Defense Action Fund went up with TV ads this week "thanking" a "handful" of Dems who backed the bill (O'Connor, Politico, 7/3).

In addition, **Americans United for Change** is up with a $150K TV ad buy thanking several Dems for voting for the bill.

Full script:

ANNCR: "Who will build the wind turbines.... the solar panels.... that will create new businesses...new industries? Clean energy represents the jobs of the future. But will they be American jobs? Last month, Congressman XXX voted to meet President Obama's challenge to create millions of clean energy jobs ....not in India or China, but right here, in America. It's a foundation for America's long-term economic success...making us world leader in clean energy. The challenge is global. And the solution...uniquely American."

The ad will support Dem Reps.**John Boccieri**(OH-16),**Mary Jo Kilroy**(OH-15),**Steve Driehaus**(OH-01),**Mark Schauer**(MI-07), **Betsy Markey**(CO-04),**Baron Hill**(IN-09),**Ben Chandler**(KY-06), **Frank Kratovil**(MD-01),**Dan Maffei**(NY-25),**Carol Shea-Porter**(NH-01),**Paul Hodes**(NH-02),**Mike Doyle**(PA-14),**Tom Perriello**(VA-05) and**Rick Boucher**(VA-09) (release, 7/6).

TPM

http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2009/07/americans-united-launches-national-ad-campaign-for-energy-bill.php

Americans United Launches National Ad Campaign For Energy Bill

By Eric Kleefeld - July 6, 2009, 5:32PM

The pro-Obama group Americans United For Change is going nationwide with a new ad campaign, praising members of Congress who voted for the

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energy bill. The ad campaign brings a patriotic fervor to the pro-bill side, boasting of the "uniquely American" solution that will create energy jobs here instead of other countries.

Here's the version running in the district of Rep. Baron Hill (D-IN):

The ad is a localized version of a spot they premiered last week for the D.C. media market -- which is basically a testing ground for response from the media -- with the names of individual Congressmen inserted in to be praised for voting in favor of the bill.

The list of Democratic House members for this ad campaign: John Boccieri (OH); Mary Jo Kilroy (OH); Steve Driehaus (OH); Mark Schauer (MI); Betsy Markey (CO); Baron Hill (IN); Ben Chandler (KY); Frank Kratovil (MD); Dan Maffei (NY); Mike Doyle (PA); Tom Perriello (VA); Rick Boucher(VA); Paul Hodes (NH), who is also running for the Senate; and Carol Shea-Porter (NH). There will also be a generic version in the Detroit media market, and on national cable for CNN and MSNBC. This list has some overlap with the NRCC's new ad campaign against the bill.

THE HILL'S BLOG BRIEFING ROOM

http://briefingroom.thehill.com/2009/07/06/video-auc-launches-ad-blitz-on-cap-and-trade/

July 6, 2009

VIDEO: AUC launches ad blitz on cap and trade

@ 1:56 pm by **Jeremy P. Jacobs**

Americans United for Change is launching a series of television ads across the country this week thanking members for voting for the cap and trade legislation that passed the House about two weeks ago.

The group, which is backed primarily by labor groups, will launch ads this week in 12 districts as well as in all of New Hampshire and in the Detroit media market.

The group is also airing the same ad it ran last week again . This time it will run on national cable; last week it just ran in D.C. And it is running robocalls with the same message in 74 districts.

Americans United for Change is spending $150,000 on the blitz, which will run from Tuesday through Friday.

Check out one of the ads below that will run in Rep. John Boccieri's (D-Ohio) district. It is a variation on last week's ad, emphasizing that the legislation will create a "uniquely American" solution to the energy problems facing the country.

Ads will run in the districts of Democratic Reps. Boccieri, Mary Jo Kilroy (Ohio), Steve Driehaus (Ohio), Mark Schauer (Mich.), Betsy Markey (Colo.), Baron Hill (Ind.), Ben Chandler (Ky.), Frank Kratovil (Md.), Dan Maffei (N.Y.), Mike Doyle (Pa.), Tom Perriello (Va.) and Rick Boucher (Va.).

Additionally, the general ad will run in New Hampshire and the Detroit media market.

jeremy.jacobs@thehill.com

The Washington Post



Liberal Groups Defend Climate Change Vote

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/democratic-party/liberal-groups-defend-climate.html

A coalition of liberal interest groups is launching ads in 17 congressional districts over the July 4 weekend that thanks members of Congress for their vote in favor of **President Obama**'s climate change legislation, a direct counter to a series of attacks on that same vote being sponsored by national Republicans.

Environmental Defense Fund, Americans United and Vote Vets are sponsoring the commercials, which will run in the following members' districts: Reps. **Betsy Markey** (Colo.), **Allen Boyd** (Fla.), **Alan Grayson** (Fla.), **Suzanne Kosmas** (Fla.), **Baron Hill** (Ind), **Debbie Halvorson** (Ill.), **Ben Chandler** (Ky.), **Frank Kratovil** (Md.), **Gary Peters** (Mich.), **Mark Schauer** (Mich.), **Paul Hodes** (N.H.), **Dan Maffei** (N.Y.), **Mary Jo Kilroy** (Ohio), **Zack Space** (Ohio), **Tom Perriello** (Va.), **Gabrielle Giffords** (Ariz.) and **Steve Kagen** (Wis.).

Here's a sample of the ads running in the districts above:

The release of these ads is evidence that the Democratic third party groups have grown increasingly well organized since **President Obama** took office roughly six months ago. The ability to funnel money to these groups and organize a coordinated message is a reflection of the stepped up coordination efforts being led by a handful of longtime Washington hands including Democratic consultant Erik Smith, who is with the group Common Purpose Project.

POLITICO

http://www.politico.com/politico44/

Americans United for Change's ad backs Democrats on climate bill



Tom Perriello is one Democrat being thanked by Americans United for Change for his affirmative vote on climate change legislation. *Photo: John Shinkle*

Liberal groups are firing back after watching national Republicans take aim at lawmakers across the country for backing a landmark climate change bill.

Americans United for Change, a liberal-minded group aligned with the Obama White House, is unleashing a wave of TV ads and robocalls thanking targeted Democrats for backing the bill.

Among those getting the public thank-you note is Rep. Thomas Perriello (D-Va.), who last week was the target of a National Republican Congressional Committee TV ad urging voters to call Perriello to tell him “he was wrong to vote for the Pelosi energy tax.”

“Last month, Congressman Perriello voted to meet President Obama’s challenge to create millions of clean energy jobs — not in India or China, but right here in America,” the Americans United for Change ad says.

All told, the organization has invested $150,000 to run 14 different ads this week. Americans United for Change will also run robocalls in 74 districts.

FarmPolicy.com
A Summary of Farm Policy News

http://www.farmpolicy.com/?p=1267

Climate Bill; Ag Economy- Animal Agriculture; “Rural Tour,” Peanuts; and CFTC Issues

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

And with respect to reflection on the House vote for the Waxman-Markey climate bill, an item posted yesterday at Hotline On Call (National Journal) reported that, "**Beginning tomorrow, Americans United for Change will air television ads thanking House members for backing the Obama energy bill**. The members cast a tough vote for a variety of reasons. Some represent coal country, for example, while others hail from GOP-leaning districts." Just click here to view the Ad.

JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT

http://blog.mlive.com/getting_in_your_business/2009/07/us_rep_mark_schauer_1.html

U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer is thanked for supporting the American Clean Energy and Security Act

Posted by Chris Gautz | Jackson Citizen Patriot July 07, 2009 08:10AM

Categories: Congress

U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, D-Battle Creek, is among 15 Democratic members of Congress from mostly coal producing or coal-reliant districts and states, that will be thanked in television ads beginning today, paid for by Americans United for Change.

Schauer is being thanked for his vote in support of the American Clean Energy and Security Act last month. In addition to the TV ads that will run through the end of the week, which the group has spent $150,000 on, it will also begin using robo calls in 74 congressional districts, according to a statement.

This bill has been the subject of much debate, and will continue to be as the 2010 election cycle ramps up.

"These Members helped America take a giant leap towards becoming the global standard for clean energy while creating millions of new jobs in the process. The Obama clean energy jobs bill will help build a solid foundation for long-term economic prosperity while reducing our nation's dependence on foreign oil and curbing pollution that causes global warming," Tom McMahon, Acting Executive Director, Americans United for Change said in a statement. "We want to make sure these Members' constituents know that what their Representative voted for was creating tens of thousands of new clean energy jobs in their states. Lord knows, the special interests are already out there peddling misinformation and muddying the water over what this bill is all about : clean energy jobs."

The NRCC has been targeting a number of the same Democrats that the AUC is thanking this week for voting for what Republicans call the energy tax. Schauer is not among the Democrats the NRCC is targeting this time.

Watch a sample NRCC ad on the energy bill below:

Since both sides are out either thanking or attacking these Democrats, it's pretty obvious that both sides think these members are vulnerable in 2010. Does the fact that the NRCC has decided not to go after Schauer this time mean it is giving up on the 7th District, especially since it has yet to produce a candidate?

Tags: Americans United for Change, AUC, energy bill, Mark Schauer, NRCC
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OHIO daily

Ohio Rookie Reps Get Air(wave) Cover

Submitted by Anthony Fossaceca on Mon, 07/06/2009 - 12:49pm.
http://www.ohiodailyblog.com/content/ohio-rookie-reps-get-airwave-cover

Americans United for Change plans to take to the airwaves this week with ads praising first-term Representatives Mary Jo Kilroy, John Boccieri, and Steve Driehaus for their votes on the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Ads like these probably won't persuade anyone to directly support the Democratic candidates, but they can help maintain support ahead of likely GOP attack ads coming down the road this fall and into next year.

Here's a look at the Kilroy ad...

CLEVELAND.COM

OPEN
Ohio politics & election news and analysis from The Plain Dealer

Ohio Congressman John Boccieri gets slammed -- then praised -- for his vote on energy

by Stephen Koff / Washington Bureau Chief

http://www.cleveland.com/news/index.ssf/2009/07/john_boccieris_energy_vote_is.html

Thursday July 02, 2009, 5:09 PM



WASHINGTON - Last Friday's contentious energy bill vote in Congress prompted the National Republican Congressional Committee this week to target the districts of Congress members **John Boccieri**, **Mary Jo Kilroy** and **Zack Space** with robo-calls and negative Web ads. The message to Ohioans: These Democrats voted against your interests and would force your energy bills to spike.

Goes one automated call: "Your congressman, John Boccieri, voted this past Friday for a huge national energy tax -- a tax on natural gas and electricity that will hit every American family and small business."

It notes others' criticisms of the bill and instructs constituents to call Boccieri and "let him know that his vote on the Nancy Pelosi National Energy Tax is a vote against American families."

But now comes a group with strong Democratic and organized labor ties, Americans United for Change, with plans to run ads supporting three Ohio Democrats for their votes on the bill.

Ads in support of Boccieri, whose district includes Canton and part of Medina County, will run in the Cleveland television market next week, said Lauren Weiner, a spokesman for Americans United. Similar ads will run in the markets served by Kilroy, of Columbus, and **Steve Driehaus**, of suburban Cincinnati. Each market will have "five-figure" media buys, she said, and the ads will start Tuesday and run for about a week.

Americans United has run numerous campaigns like this before, promoting an issues agenda that often is indistinguishable from that of the Democratic Party. Weiner said the ads in support of the three Ohioans are an extension of a commercial that ran in Washington, D.C., this week, thanking Congress for supporting the clean-energy bill.

But if the ads are not a direct response to the NRCC's criticism of carefully selected Democratic lawmakers -- each one potentially vulnerable in the 2010 election -- they are at least in recognition of the political risks the lawmakers took.

"We appreciate their support and recognize this decision in Ohio is a sensitive one," said Weiner, adding that Americans United also believes it is one that will move the nation's economy and energy development along. The commercials say, "Through investments in scientific research and development, and the vigorous pursuit of alternative and renewable energy, we can create millions of green jobs that allow us to reduce greenhouse gases and excel in a competitive global economy."

Paul Lindsay of the NRCC sees it differently, noting that the energy bill has a tough road to passage in the Senate -- and saying that's a good thing.

"Hopefully Ohio families will never have to pay the price for the skyrocketing costs and lost jobs that this National Energy Tax would impose if it became law, but that doesn't mean their representatives in Washington shouldn't have to pay a price for supporting it," Lindsay said. "This ad offensive by phone and the Web is only the beginning of what Ohio Democrats like John Boccieri can expect for making this potentially career-ending vote."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

ColoradoPols.com
Politics, News & Inside Information

Progressive group plans pro-Markey ads on cap and trade

by: BobMoore

Thu Jul 02, 2009 at 17:11:37 PM MDT

(- promoted by Colorado Pols)

The progressive group Americans United for Change announced today that it plans a five-figure TV ad campaign next week, praising Rep. Betsy Markey for her vote on cap and trade.

The ads will air on Fort Collins and Denver cable systems, according to spokesman Jeremy Funk. (Denver cable? Really?)

The announcement came a day after the National Republican Congressional Committee announced it was beginning a campaign critical of 14 House Democrats who supported cap and trade, including Markey. The anti-Markey initiative will consist of robo-calls and a YouTube video.

Funk said the AUC ads are not a response to the NRCC efforts. However, the NRCC is active in 14 districts on cap and trade, while AUC will be active in 13.

A version similar to the planned Markey ad can be seen here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v...

FORT COLLINS COLORADOAN

Progressive group promises TV ads to defend Markey on energy vote
http://www.coloradoan.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?category=PluckPersona&U=07deebf354a64ac8be008d9811c3b205&plckPersonaPage=BlogViewPost&plckUserId=07deebf354a64ac8be008d9811c3b205&plckPostId=Blog%3a07deebf354a64ac8be008d9811c3b205Post%3ab4689a57-a42c-4790-bcd4-fcc9c1d3c355&plckController=PersonaBlog&plckScript=personaScript&plckElementId=personaDest

Posted 7/2/2009 4:18 PM MDT

A day after the National Republican Congressional Committee announced it would begin a robo-call and Web ad campaign criticizing Rep. Betsy Markey for her vote on the "cap and trade" energy bill, a progressive group is riding to her defense.

Americans United for Change announced Thursday that it will begin running TV ads in Fort Collins and Denver next week supporting Markey for her vote. The ad is a tweaked version of one praising House supporters of the bill that's now airing in the D.C. market.

Here's the text of the ad that spokesman Jeremy Funk said will begin airing on cable stations next week. Funk said the group will spend "in the five-figure range" to air the ad.

Who will build the wind turbines…. the solar panels…. that will create new businesses…new industries?Clean energy represents the jobs of the future. But will they be American jobs?Last month, Congresswoman Markey voted to meet President Obama's challenge to create millions of clean energy jobs ….not in India or China, but right here, in America…It's a foundation for America's long-term economic success…making us world leader in clean energy.The challenge is global. And the solution…uniquely American.

The ad closes with a screen image urging viewers to call Markey to thank her for voting for the bill.

Bob Duffy, the chairman of the Colorado State University political science department, said the ad is "an effort to help Markey, give her some cover for the vote."

"The purpose of these competing 'campaigns' is to generate some free media coverage, and to frame the vote (for the long term) as either a tax hike (Republicans) or job creation (Democrats). This will be a battle that plays out until November 2010, as both sides seek to find issues or votes to create a 'picture' of Markey for the general election," Duffy said.

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CSU political scientist John Straayer called the ad "predictable, and a prelude in the run-up to the election." He also said the NRCC and Americans United for Change efforts are an attempt to frame issues for 2010.

"For Markey, it's jobs, clean environment, solving problems. For the Republicans, on the same issues, it will be rising deficits thus jeopardizing our future, energy "taxes" on hard working folk and creating problems."

Americans United for Change is organized under Section 501(c)4 of the tax code, which means it's not required to disclose its donors. It's "a progressive issue advocacy organization," Funk said.

He said the group's ad is not a response to the NRCC efforts. Americans United for Change will run similar ads in 13 congressional districts. The NRCC is targeting 14 districts in its campaign. Here's the version of the ad currently airing in D.C.:

Comments (4) | Permanent Link

DAILY NEWS



Elizabeth Benjamin
THE DAILY POLITICS



Odds And Ends

July 6, 2009

http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dailypolitics/2009/07/odds-and-ends-490.html

Americans United for Change is running a TV ad praising Rep. Dan Maffei for voting "yes" on the climate change bill.



By Elizabeth Benjamin on July 6, 2009 5:09 PM | Comments (9)

The News & Advance
newsadvance.com
Lynchburg, VA

http://www.newsadvance.com/lna/news/local/article/roanoke_tv_station_airs_revised_ad_against_perriello/17528/

Roanoke TV station airs revised ad against Perriello

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By RAY REED

Published: July 7, 2009

On Monday, a Roanoke-based television station started broadcasting a Republican Party group's ad that targets Rep. Tom Perriello, the station's general manager said Thursday.

Last week, WDBJ-TV did not run the original version of the ad, which was sponsored by the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Perriello, D-5th District, was the only congressman for whom the NRCC bought TV time to attack his vote in favor of the Clean Energy and Security Act, also known as the cap-and-trade bill.

Jeffrey Marks, president and general manager of WDBJ Television Inc., said the NRCC revised the ad after the station relayed to it some concerns Perriello's office had raised.

"They revised the ad, it dealt with those issues and it's on the air," Marks said Monday.

"There were issues the Perriello camp raised that we thought were legitimate about the source of the information and what it referred to.

"We passed those on to the Republican group that was sponsoring the ad. They revised the ad, and it seemed to address those issues," Marks said.

Perriello said the original version of the ad was inaccurate because it cited a Washington Times editorial about the bill's cost to consumers.

The cost analysis, one of several that emanated from Washington sources last week, was done by the Heritage Foundation, and that data was used incorrectly, Perriello said.

Marks said WDBJ didn't take sides in the dispute. The actual argument was between Perriello's office and the NRCC, he said.

"This came off as being very adversarial," Marks said. "It wasn't, as far as we were concerned. The parties may be adversaries," but the station wasn't, he said.

Also on Monday, a Democrat-leaning interest group said it would broadcast a TV ad in the Roanoke-Lynchburg market supporting Perriello's vote on the energy bill.

Americans United for Change said it was praising members of Congress in 15 districts for voting for the bill, which the group said would help establish America as a leader in clean energy and create millions of American jobs.

The Washington Post



The Fix

Political News & Analysis By Chris Cillizza

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/morning-fix/070109-morning-fix.html#more

Americans United on TV With Energy Spots: Americans United, the most active liberal outside group in the early months of the Obama administration, is launching a five-figure television buy today in support of the president's energy plan. The ad , which is running in the Washington media market on cable stations for now, seeks to tie the energy proposal to job creation. "Clean energy represents the jobs of the future," says the ad's narrator. "But will they be American jobs?" The ad goes on to tout the Obama plan as the "foundation for America's long term economic success". A source familiar with the buy suggested that it may well be expanded to include states represented by senators who remain uncommitted to supporting the legislation.

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TPM

http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2009/07/americans-united-ad-climate-bill-creates-jobs-not-in-india-or-china-but-right-here.php

Americans United Ad: Climate Bill Creates Jobs "Not In India Or China, But Right Here"

By Eric Kleefeld - July 1, 2009, 11:08AM

Americans United for Change has this new TV ad in the D.C. media market -- essentially aimed at the political and journalistic classes -- praising the energy bill that was passed in the House and now faces a tough fight in the Senate:



The ad gives a patriotic fervor to the bill, focusing on the development of clean-energy jobs in this country. "Last month, Congress met President Obama's challenge to create millions of clean energy jobs," the announcer says, "not in India or China, but right here, in America."

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boston.com

Political Intelligence

http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2009/07/obama_allies_pu.html

Obama allies push energy bill

Email |Link |Comments (0) Posted by Foon Rhee, deputy national political editor July 1, 2009 11:21 AM

A pro-Obama, Democratic grassroots group unveiled a new TV ad today, lauding the House for passing a landmark climate change bill and urging supporters to call their senators to do the same.

The spot, from Americans United for Change, is to air in Washington this week and asserts that the legislation will create millions of clean energy jobs. "It's a foundation for America's long-term economic success, making us world leader in clean energy," the announcer says. "The challenge is global. And the solution uniquely American."

After lots of arm-twisting by President Obama and his aides, and quite a bit of horse-trading, the House on Friday narrowly passed the bill on a 219-212 vote. It is designed to lower how much carbon is pumped into the atmosphere through a "cap-and-trade" system in which carbon emissions are capped and permits to pollute are

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given away or sold by the government.

But the bill faces tough sledding in the Senate, and some observers don't believe it will pass this year, though Obama wants final passage before he attends an international global warming conference in Copenhagen.

Obama and his allies are ramping up their grassroots efforts to put pressure on senators.

“Thanks to the extraordinary leadership in Congress, America has taken a giant leap towards becoming the global standard for clean energy while creating millions of new jobs in the process," Tom McMahon, acting executive director of Americans United for Change, said in a statement. "This historic legislation will help build a solid foundation for long-term economic prosperity by meeting President Obama’s challenge to reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil and curbing pollution that causes global warming. This ad is designed to encourage Congress to continue standing up to the forces of ‘status quo’ and move this historic clean energy jobs bill to the President’s desk as quickly as possible.”

THE HILL'S BLOG BRIEFING ROOM

http://briefingroomthehill.com/2009/07/01/video-auc-launches-cap-and-trade-ad/

VIDEO: AUC launches cap and trade ad

@ 7:54 am by **Jeremy P. Jacobs**

Americans United for Change are going up with a new ad this week backing the clean energy bill that passed the House last week..

Much like President Obama has in his remarks about the legislation, the ad focuses on the jobs aspect of the cap and trade bill, which passed last Friday by a narrow 219 to 212 vote.

"Last month, Congress met President Obama's challenge to create millions of clean energy jobs, not in India or China, but right here, in America," the narrator says. "It's a foundation for America's long-term economic success, making us world leader in clean energy."

The ad is going up on D.C. cable, so it is a small ad buy focused on D.C. lawmakers and opinion makers.

Check it out below.

---

grist beta
A BEACON IN THE SMOG

http://www.grist.org/article/2009-07-01-americans-united-green-jobs/

TV Ad: Tell Congress to Pass Obama Green Jobs Energy Bill

Americans United for Change unveiled a new television ad today hailing Congress for meeting President Obama’s challenge to establish America as a world leader in clean energy while creating millions of jobs, reducing the nation’s dependence on foreign oil, and curbing pollution that causes global warming. The spot titled “Uniquely American” will begin airing this week in the Washington D.C., market.

U.S. News & World Report usnews.com Washington Whispers

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http://www.usnews.com/articles/news/washington-whispers/2009/07/01/pro-obama-group-says-energy-bill-will-create-jobs.html

Pro-Obama Group Says Energy Bill Will Create Jobs

By Paul Bedard
Posted July 1, 2009

Americans United for Change is working to push President Obama's energy bill, OK'd by the House, through the Senate with a new TV ad that will air in Washington, where they hope it will influence the debate.

Jeremy J. Funk
Communications Director, Americans United for Change
Office: 202.470.5878
Cell: 605.366.3654
funk@americansunitedforchange.org
www.AmericansUnitedforChange.org

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/18/2015 7:41:53 AM
Subject: Women in Solitary Confinement

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Women in Solitary Confinement

Victoria Law, Truthout: Many in the mental health field and even directors of various state prison systems have come to recognize solitary's harmful effects. Despite heightened attention to the issues surrounding solitary confinement, women often remain overlooked.

Read the Article

John Pilger Interview: White Australians Would Like Aboriginal People to Disappear

Mark Karlin, Truthout: John Pilger speaks to Truthout about his new documentary, *Utopia*, and about the brutal conquest and continued racist treatment of the aboriginal people in Australia.

Read the Interview

"Children of War" Photo Series Tells Stories of Youth in Wartime Ukraine

Roger Annis, Truthout: "The idea of our project is quite simple - we take pictures of children affected by the conflict in Ukraine, and tell their stories. No analysis, no political showdown, only their stories," says Yan Shenkman, a journalist in Moscow.

Read the Article and View the Photos

Recovery Delayed Is Recovery Denied: Austerity and Democracy in the EU

John Weeks, Truthout: Significant recovery has not arrived in the eurozone, and when it does, it will have been so long delayed that it will, in effect, be recovery denied, with a legacy of economic and political darkness across the European Union.

Read the Article

Women Garment Workers Organize Against Inhumane Conditions in India

Pushpa Achanta, Waging Nonviolence: Recently modified labor laws in India adversely impact garment workers, most of whom are women working in inhumane conditions. Non-governmental organizations like the Bangalore-based Cividep, however, have successfully backed garment workers

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Obama Will Seek to Raise Taxes on Wealthy to Finance Cuts for Middle Class

Read the Article at The New York Times

Israel Lobbies Foreign Powers to Cut ICC Funding

Read the Article at Reuters

New Snowden Documents Indicate Scope of NSA Preparations for Cyber Battle

Read the Article at Spiegel Online

BP's Maximum Fine for Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

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in their fight for rights.
Read the Article

New IRS Rules for Nonprofit Hospitals That Sue Patients

Paul Kiel, ProPublica: Nonprofit hospitals get big tax breaks for providing care for patients who can't afford it. Under new IRS rules, these hospitals must take extra steps to inform poor patients they may qualify for financial assistance.
Read the Article

Can Community College Systems and Infrastructure Handle Free Tuition?

Rachel Kanakaole, Next New Deal: The President's proposal for free tuition is exciting, but some parts of the plan may need revision if community colleges are going to be able to execute it.
Read the Article

Feminists We Love: Dr. Kristie Dotson

Heidi R. Lewis, The Feminist Wire: "I wondered why people felt so comfortable in what they thought they knew so as to ignore someone trying to tell them something they obviously didn't know," says Dr. Kristie Dotson, a Black feminist philosophy professor. "Why did people think they knew so much?"
Read the Interview

This week in Speakout:

Travis Ross and Roger Annis examine how five years following the January 12, 2010 earthquake that struck the capital city of Haiti, the loudly-trumpeted reconstruction of the country is still an unrealized dream; **Columbia Law School staff** highlight how more than 50 former state attorneys general urged the Federal Communications Commission to establish reasonable rates for prisoner phone calls; **Kelly Hayes** looks at how a new generation organizing around the "Black Lives Matter" movement is reclaiming Martin Luther King Day; **Marcy Wheeler** reveals how the government has declared a monopoly on the right to call James Risen as a witness; the **Center for Constitutional Rights** issues a legal challenge to the New York Police Department's spying program targeting Muslims; **Walter Stewart** describes why the US is losing its wars and offers a simple solution; **Ivy Suriyopas** offers some everyday actions that can help fight human trafficking; **Ann Wright** reports that a South African civil rights leader has called Israeli apartheid of Palestinians more violent than South African government treatment of Blacks; and more.
Read the Articles

Is Cut by Billions
Read the Article at The Guardian

Justice Department Tracked US Residents' International Calls for More Than a Decade
Read the Article at The Washington Post

The CIA Will Not Discipline Anyone for Spying on Senate Torture Probe
Read the Article at Reuters

It's Not Just Keystone XL, It's Also Line 61: The Other Pipeline You Should Worry About
Read the Article at The New York Times

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To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	9/4/2015 2:39:20 AM
Subject:	Fwd: First Draft on Politics: Rubio and Clinton to Have an Island All to Themselves

we forgot to talk about the PR rumble between HRC and Marco. Want to call after Andrea?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com >
Date: Friday, September 4, 2015
Subject: First Draft on Politics: Rubio and Clinton to Have an Island All to Themselves
To: john.podesta@gmail.com

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The New York Times
FirstDraft
What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Rubio and Clinton to Have an Island All to Themselves

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Senator Marco Rubio of Florida spoke at the Prescott Bush Awards Dinner in Stamford, Conn., in June. Eric Thay er for The New York Times

9/04/2015

By Jeremy W. Peters

Good Friday morning. ***Donald J. Trump*** *had a big day on Thursday , but on Friday, other candidates,* ***Senator Marco Rubio*** *of Florida and* ***Hillary Rodham Clinton****, will find themselves in Puerto Rico at the same time. And Mr. Rubio is wasting little time previewing his idea of what the general election might look like.*

"Marco vs. Hillary in Puerto Rico this Friday," reads the news release from the Rubio campaign, like a flyer promoting an event more suited to a boxing ring than a presidential race.

And while **Mrs. Clinton** has acted like she would rather just ignore the Florida senator — her campaign sent out a statement of its own saying only that she would be visiting a cardiovascular care center on the island primarily to discuss health care issues — **Mr. Rubio** sees their visits on Friday as an opportunity to draw clear contrasts with the candidate that many expect to be the Democratic nominee.

Their trips were not planned to coincide, but Mr. Rubio, seems eager to make the most of it. Mrs. Clinton does not speak Spanish. He does, and he plans to make good use of it while he's there.

He also wrote an op-ed (in English and Spanish) that was published on Friday in El Nuevo Día, Puerto Rico's largest newspaper by readership. In it, Mr. Rubio outlined how, unlike Mrs. Clinton and **Jeb Bush**, another Floridian who is one of Mr. Rubio's chief rivals, he does not support allowing the island's municipalities to reorganize their debt in bankruptcy. (Stateside municipalities can do so under bankruptcy law, but as a commonwealth, Puerto Rico's cannot.)

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"So far, Hillary Clinton's liberal hosts in San Juan today have failed to propose any serious measures to fix Puerto Rico's economic challenges," he wrote in the piece.

Of course, there is a subtext to Mr. Rubio's jabs. He hopes their dueling appearances are just a preview of what's to come in the general election.

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What We're Watching Today

- **King Salman** of Saudi Arabia will visit **President Obama** at the White House, but the kingdom's oil production will barely get a mention. Instead, the first order of business for the Saudi king is likely to be the Iran nuclear deal, analysts said.

- **Jake Sullivan**, a key staff member for **Mrs. Clinton** when she was secretary of state, will be interviewed privately by the House committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya. Another aide, **Cheryl D. Mills**, testified on Thursday.

Crowd for Pope's Congressional Visit to Spill Onto the Lawn

The hottest ticket in town this month may be inside the House chamber, but second to that will be passes to the lawn of the West Front of the Capitol, where 50,000 people are expected to gather to watch a broadcast of **Pope Francis**' address to a joint meeting of Congress.

After his speech, plans call for the pope to walk out to the speaker's balcony to appear before the public gathered on the lawn, which has been the site of holiday concerts and other events. Each member of the House will receive a ticket for the

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lower west terrace and 50 tickets for the West Lawn; each member of the Senate will receive a ticket for the lower west terrace and 200 tickets to the West Lawn. So bug your representative to see what's left. Who knows? Francis might well wade into the crowd.

While the broadcast may seem almost impromptu, the Capitol police have been developing the master plan for the event, including security, for months, along with **Speaker John A. Boehner**, who has been trying to get a papal visit to Congress for the better part of two decades.

– Jennifer Steinhauer

Our Favorites From The Times

- A group of software developers and designers, product managers and other tech supporters have volunteered to create apps and other tools to help **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont.

- **Ben Carson** has developed a head of steam in the Republican field. Mr. Carson, a retired brain surgeon, outperformed **Mr. Trump** in a head-to-head matchup, according to a new Monmouth University poll.

- **Kim Davis**, the Kentucky county clerk who was ordered to jail for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, received mixed support from Republican candidates.

Bulletins: A Trump Thursday

- After much hand-wringing by his Republican rivals, **Mr. Trump** signed a party pledge, along with all the other candidates, to forgo a third-party run and support the eventual nominee.

- **Corey Lewandowski**, once a lobbyist, a political operative and a congressional aide who was arrested after he brought a gun to work, is running **Mr. Trump's** campaign.

- And **Mr. Trump** revealed gaps in his mastery of international affairs during a radio interview on Thursday, appearing to mistake the Quds Force, an Iranian military group, for the Kurds, a Middle Eastern people, and growing testy over questions about foreign leaders.

  Oh, and one of his guards hit a protester in the face .

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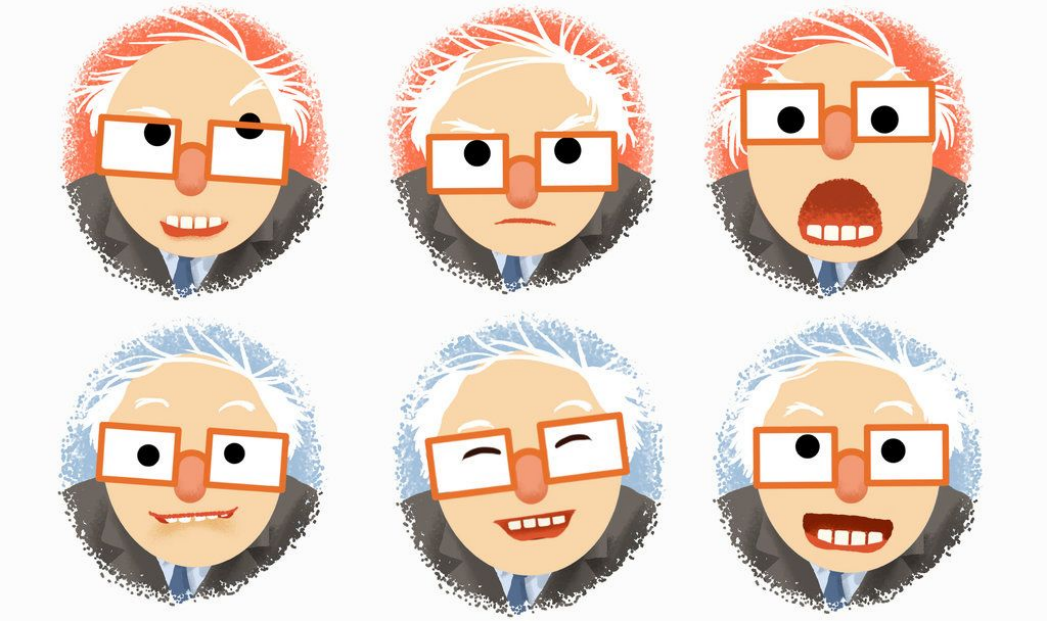
What We're Reading Elsewhere

- **Mr. Carson** is this season's "stealth candidate," MSNBC writes , in part, because of his "contrasting humility and soft-spoken demeanor – paired with his outsider credibility and far-right views."

- **Rick Santorum** is the first in the crowded presidential field to campaign in each of Iowa's 99 counties, according to CBS News .

- The Washington Post reports that **Gov. Chris Christie** of New Jersey said **Mr. Obama**'s "inaction" and "deceit," had helped fuel the Syrian refugee crisis.

A Range of Emojis for Bernie Sanders



Berniemoji is an app that allows users to text, tweet and share emojis based on caricatures of Mr. Sanders. Scott Nash/NASHBOX Graphic Design and Illustration

As the hundreds of top-flight developers and programmers have volunteered their efforts to **Mr. Sanders**, some of his supporters have offered up their own quirkiness and services.

The latest: the Berniemoji , an app that allows users to text, tweet and share emojis based on caricatures of the senator.

"It started as a dare," said **Scott Nash**, a 55-year-old graphic designer from Portland, Me. "One of my colleagues laid down the gauntlet and said 'What's the equivalent of the Shepard Fairey portrait for Bernie?'"

Mr. Nash was referring to the portrait of **Mr. Obama** in 2008, his stoic gaze sitting above an all-caps "Hope" message. But every time Mr. Nash sat down to create an iconic portrait of Mr. Sanders, he struggled to find a gaze or a look that captured his

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momentum.

“And then it occurred to me that the key to Bernie, is he’s not iconic, he’s emotive,” Mr. Nash said. So he set about making not one portrait, but 12, all cartoonishly emotional (which was fairly unsurprising, given Mr. Nash’s background: He designed the logo for Nickelodeon way back when).

Two programmers who work with Mr. Nash, **Akimitsu Hogge** and **Wade Brainerd**, helped him amplify his illustrations.

So though Mr. Nash’s portraits of Mr. Sanders are dotting the texts and chats of supporters, when it comes to the original dare, Mr. Nash jokes, “if you can tell, I failed miserably.”

– Nick Corasaniti

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Times JOURNEYS

A Note to Readers

First Draft will be celebrating Labor Day by not sending you a newsletter on Monday. But we hope you have a great holiday, and we will return on Tuesday.

First Draft is sent weekdays before 7 a.m. and is updated throughout the day at nytimes.com/firstdraft . Check back throughout the day for continuing updates.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/14/2015 10:29:08 AM
Subject: Digital Darkness and Silence for Sex Offenders in the Information Age

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Saturday, 14 February 2015

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Digital Darkness and Silence for Sex Offenders in the Information Age

Andrew Extein, Truthout: Facing public shame and popular contempt, sex offenders released from prison are limited by computer surveillance, internet restrictions and narrowing digital freedoms. Does restricting the online access of an unpopular group portend diminished privacy for all of us?

Read the Article

Our Purpose Is to Love

David Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation: "Our purpose is to love and love some more. To fail to love would be a mortal crime. We don't know what the future holds in store, but surely this: We will each run out of time," writes peace activist David Krieger in a poem about what it means to love.

Read the Article

Portugal Cut Addiction Rates in Half by Connecting Drug Users With Communities Instead of Jailing Them

Johann Hari, YES! Magazine: Fifteen years ago, Portugal had one of the worst drug problems in Europe. So the country decriminalized drugs, took money out of prisons, put it into holistic rehabilitation and found that human connection is the antidote to addiction.

Read the Article

Five Surprises About US Internment During World War II

Jan Jarboe Russell, Truthout: Few people know that President Roosevelt's executive order that permitted the roundup of Japanese and their US-born children during World War II also paved the way for the arrest of Germans and Italians whom the FBI considered security risks and labeled "enemy aliens."

Read the Article

What Led Me to Disrupt the US Supreme Court and Risk 150 Days Imprisonment

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary will return soon.

The Emerging Trend of Innocent Black Men and Boys Dying After Calls to 911
Read the Article at Daily Kos

Senate Report Confirms CIA Had "Black Site" at Guantánamo, Hid It From Congress
Read the Article at Miami Herald

Palestinians Want to Join Investigation of Chapel Hill Shootings
Read the Article at The Washington Post

Rebels Fighting for

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Curt Ries, Truthout: The author disrupted the US Supreme Court in an act of civil disobedience because of money-in-politics corruption, a critical battleground for systems change.
Read the Article

Let Us No Longer Keep Silent About Torture

Hans Christof von Sponeck, Brussels Tribunal: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights points out that according to international law, it is clear that the United States has a duty to guarantee accountability for its torture program. Whether it follows through on that duty remains unlikely.
Read the Article

Peru's Media-Friendly Mining Ban Conceals Toxic Inaction

Heather Williams, NACLA: Peruvian President Ollanta Humala's 2014 ban on informal mining has made for good press, but done little for the local communities the mines pollute or the majority of mine workers they employ.
Read the Article

Trying to Make Sense of Loss: The Chapel Hill Shootings

Lizabeth Paulat, Care2: A local community copes with the murder of three Muslim-American university students known for their charity work, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and questions whether it was a hate crime motivated by Islamophobia.
Read the Article

Telling the Truth About Religious Violence

Donald Kaul, OtherWords: President Obama's modest critique of Christian hypocrisy suddenly has Republicans defending the Crusades. Terrorist violence, however, is the bitter fruit of the past 100 years of subjugation of the Arab and Muslim peoples by Western powers, thirsty for the oil beneath the Middle East.
Read the Article

How Activists Are Responding to the NYPD's Attempts to Thwart Black Lives Matter

Peter Rugh, Waging Nonviolence: As New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton seeks to elevate resisting arrest from a misdemeanor to a felony, Occupy Wall Street and now Black Lives Matter are demonstrating that the most frequent purveyor of violence at New York demonstrations has consistently been the NYPD.
Read the Article

More Territory Ahead of Ukraine Cease-Fire: Kiev Military
Read the Article at Reuters

Five Years After a Mine Explosion Killed 29, Few Expect Justice
Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

NASA Scientists: Future Megadroughts Could Last 30-Plus Years "Thanks to Human-Induced Climate Change"
Read the Article at EcoWatch

Arkansas House Votes in Favor of LGBT Discrimination
Read the Article at The Huffington Post

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To:	"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/13/2015 7:59:26 AM
Subject:	Iran riff

But before we get into the politics, I want to say a few words about one of the most important decisions we face today.

Across our country, Americans are considering and debating the nuclear agreement with Iran. Soon, it will come up for a vote in Congress. There are people of good faith on both sides of this issue, people who are committed to protecting our security and the security of our allies, especially Israel.

President Obama and Secretary Kerry have worked hard to achieve this agreement and they are making passionate arguments for why it will keep us safe and close off avenues for Iran to get a bomb. Others, like my friend Senator Schumer, are deeply skeptical. I respect their concerns. I have no illusions about Iran's true intentions or its continuing threat to Israel, the region, and the United States. That threat is real and it must be confronted.

But leadership is about hard choices. And to me, this one is clear. This agreement is the most effective path to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. There is no viable alternative. None. I support President Obama and I encourage everyone in Congress to do the same.

As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That unprecedented pressure delivered a blow to Iran's economy and gave us leverage at the negotiating table, starting in Oman in 2012. We need to bring the same determination and unity to the job of enforcing this agreement and deterring Iranian aggression across the board. When this debate is over, we need to come together to ensure the President has the tools, resources, and support to send a clear message to Iran: Cheat, and you will pay. When you threaten Israel, you threaten America. And make no mistake, we will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement -- never.

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From: "Leslie Garvey, Project On Government Oversight" <lgarvey@pogo.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/4/2015 1:00:48 AM
Subject: POGO Welcomes Leadership Change at VA Inspector General



Editor's Choice

The VA's Office of Inspector General Has No Clothes
The Veterans Affairs Inspector General tries to defend its poor performance when it should be trying to find solutions to its problems. **Read more**

POGO Welcomes Leadership Change at VA Inspector General
Richard Griffin's decision to step down from his leadership role at the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs is welcome news. **Read more**

See also:
VA's embattled watchdog to step down, *The Washington Post*

Application of FOIA in Army Case Leaves Much to be Desired
U.S. Central Command is misusing the Freedom of Information Act to hide a report on war crimes in Afghanistan. **Read more**

The Navy's Scheme to Pay for a New Submarine Fleet
The Navy and House and Senate Armed Services Committees are scheming to find a way to pay for a new nuclear submarine fleet. **Read more**

Defense Officials Reject Rosy Cost Estimates
The Department of Defense says nuclear spending could reach about 7 percent of its budget, exceeding some outside estimates. **Read more**

From the World of POGO

POGO Response to a Statement by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General
The OIG takes exception to the written testimony of POGO Executive Director Danielle Brian, claiming that her testimony is "replete with inaccuracies and assertions supported, not by factual evidence, but by footnotes to media reporting." It is telling, however, that the OIG could provide almost no relevant or specific evidence to support its own claims or rebut POGO's arguments. **Read more**

POGO Newsletter, January-June 2015 [PDF]
Check out POGO's first newsletter of 2015 for updates on some of our ongoing work. **Read more [PDF]**

Take Action

Open the Pentagon Budget

There are some very troubling things about how the Senate Armed Services Committee debates the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) — essentially, the Pentagon's $612 billion budget — behind closed doors. Was your senator one of the seventeen that voted to

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shut the public out?

Tell these senators that they let taxpayers down: **Sign the petition**



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From: "Bjorklund, Victoria B" <vbjorklund@stblaw.com>
To: aj66@nyu.edu
blindsey@clintonfoundation.org
john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/7/2011 2:23:17 AM
Subject: Fw: Clipping Service - OSF

Dear Chelsea, Bruce, and John--Just FYI, our clients the Soros Foundations have named a new "insider outsider" CEO, our friend and colleague Chris Stone. Like the Clinton Foundation, these organizations are complex, working on succession planning, and have a participating founder.

Best regards, Victoria

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Fax: (212) 455-2502
vbjorklund@stblaw.com

From: Newman, Michael
To: List-exorg
Sent: Wed Dec 07 08:36:06 2011
Subject: Clipping Service - OSF

FYI

New York Times

December 7, 2011

Criminal Justice Expert Expected to Lead Soros Foundations

By STEPHANIE STROM

On Wednesday , George Soros , the billionaire investor, is expected to name Christopher Stone, a well-known expert on criminal justice, the new leader of his unconv entional philanthropic empire.

Mr. Stone, a professor at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, will fully take the helm in July of the Open Society Foundations, a sprawling constellation of more than 30 organizations that operate in places as diverse as Baltimore, Jakarta, the Kremlin and Congress.

He will succeed Ary eh Neier, who is retiring at 74 after serv ing as the Open Society's president since 1993.

"We have a very complex organization," Mr. Soros said in a telephone interview. "It has become too complicated, and it needs to be streamlined, to become more unified."

Mr. Soros has never endowed his collection of foundations, but he often gives away enough money in a year to make Open Society the most generous philanthropy in the country after the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This y ear, for example, it is on track to give away about $860 million.

Mr. Soros said the foundation had worked well because he and Mr. Neier "know all its nooks and crannies, but to hand it over to someone else would be very difficult."

Mr. Stone, howev er, is what Mr. Soros describes as an "outsider insider." He has worked as a recipient of Open Society grants, as an adv iser to Open Society and as a board member of one of the member groups.

Mr. Soros also noted that Mr. Stone served as the faculty director at the Hauser Center on Nonprofit Organizations at Harv ard.

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“They study foundations at the center, and so he also will bring a professional understanding of such organizations to the task,” Mr. Soros said.

Mr. Stone has a track record for building organizations and systems. Early in his career, for instance, he helped found the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, a nonprofit organization nationally renowned for combining a wide range of social services with traditional legal services.

“He has a passion for changing things and great vision and an understanding of how to build institutions and reimagine them so they endure,” said Barry C. Scheck, co-director of the Innocence Project.

Mr. Stone built National Defender while at the Vera Institute for Justice, a nonprofit group that works to improve justice systems, where he eventually rose to become chief executive for 10 years. He expanded Vera’s international programs, working with national governments in South Africa, Russia and Chile and developing a reputation as an expert on the professionalization of police forces.

“Police chiefs will confide in him, and at the same time, he can convene meetings of people from the grass-roots civil-rights community and command the same kind of respect,” said Thomas E. Perez, assistant attorney general for civil rights in the Justice Department and an old friend.

That ability to knit together disparate groups will come in handy at Open Society, where Mr. Soros may elect to support struggling scientists in Russia, as he did after the Soviet Union collapsed, using money he made shorting the British pound. Or he may choose to provide loan guarantees to spur the development of low-income housing in South Africa and money to endow the Central European University, which he founded.

“There’s a spirit of innovation and reform there, which is the essential starting point,” Mr. Stone said. “What I bring to that is a lot of experience with what it takes to make things really stick, to be persistent until the best ideas find their time.”

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From:	"Genevieve Thaler" <gthaler@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	nhstaff <nhstaff@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	12/4/2007 6:03:24 AM
Subject:	NH CLIPS 12/4/07 PM
Attachments:	NH Clips 12-04-07 PM.doc

NH CLIPS 12/4/07 PM

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From: "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Marlon Marshall" <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/30/2015 4:30:13 PM
Subject: Fwd: CLIP | MSNBC: Interview with DWS

This may require us to articulate the difference bt us and Bernie sooner than we thought.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Thu, Jul 30, 2015 at 11:25 PM
Subject: Fwd: CLIP | MSNBC: Interview with DWS
To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >

This exchange is making the rounds.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: whatever is the difference between a democrat and a socialist? i used to think there is a big difference. what do you think it is?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the difference between –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: a democrat like hillary and a socialist between bernie sanders. what's the big difference between a democrat and a socialist? you're chairman of the democratic party. tell me the difference.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the relevant debate we'll be having what's the difference between a democrat and a republican.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: i think there's a huge difference.

Lily Adams
cell: (202) 368-4013

Begin forwarded message:

From: Batul Contractor <bcontractor@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: July 30, 2015 at 9:21:40 PM CDT

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To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: CLIP | MSNBC: Interview with DWS

MSNBC's *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, 7.30.15.

Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=a9a0ef9d-da00-4992-9b3a-2dbec93c46ac

Rough Transcript:

CHRIS MATTHEWS: of course, that was florida congresswoman debby wasserman schultz in 2008. not long ago. now hillary clinton is running again and debby is the chair of the democratic committee. a long primary campaign will only erode the benefit democrats are poised to reap from the republicans' free for all. i'm convince that had a prolonged debate will do us more harm than good. is he right? are we better off with bernie noise against hillary or better off without him?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i think eventually the nominee of both parties benefits from having the muscle that they need exercised throughout a primary. i think it atrophies if you don't get to discuss it. i think it is healthy to have a debate throughout the contest. i don't think we'll have a terribly long one.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: hillary clinton will probably win in iowa. new hampshire will be very close. there could be an upset. won't that hurt to the left? further left than she would want to go? won't that weaken her in the general?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: what will happen throughout the primary and the republican party. the contrast will be extremely clear. that any of our candidates, hillary clinton, hillary clinton, bernie sanders, lincoln chafee, any of them, will focus on moving our country forward. continuing job growth that we've had under president obama for more than five straight years. we were at 750 jobs a year.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: so he can beat jeb bush? linoln chafee? come on.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the american people are with democrats.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: do you want to see bernie sanders speak at the democratic convention? do you want him up there?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: bernie sanders –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: do you want him on the floor of the convention?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: bernie sanders has been a good democrat. caucuses with the democrats.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: she speak in prime time? with everybody watching?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: bernie sanders represents, we are a big time –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: so the answer is yes.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: said yes. i can say yes again.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: in prime time.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i don't know what time he should speak.

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CHRIS MATTHEWS: maybe when nobody is watching, you mean.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: no. of course he should speak. he should speak in a slot where the appeal that he has across the board, the progressive, pop list message that he has that resonates deeply and widely with the american people, not just democrats, absolutely that should be featured. the difference between us and the republicans, we are really a big party.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: whatever is the difference between a democrat and a socialist? i used to think there is a big difference. what do you think it is?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the difference between –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: a democrat like hillary and a socialist between bernie sanders. what's the big difference between a democrat and a socialist? you're chairman of the democratic party. tell me the difference.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the relevant debate we'll be having what's the difference between a democrat and a republican.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: i think there's a huge difference.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: different between a democrat and republican is that democrats fight to make sure everybody has an opportunity to succeed. and the republicans are strangled by their right wing extremists. so where, we're watching them debate. phasing out medicare. and a candidate who actually said that president obama would march israelis to the ovens. that's the kind of debate going on on their side on. our side, we're talking about the best way that we can make sure every american has a chance to reach the middle class.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: are you in or out of the deal? the nuclear deal?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i'm taking my time to really know that deal well. i'm going to go home and talk to my constituents.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: i'm with you on that. let me ask you a tough question. if you vote it down, it is a -- if the congress votes it down. then you basically voted a vote of no confidence against president's foreign policy. the weird things is those on the right would say now we'll cut a better deal. how can they trust obama cut a better deal if they knock down the only plan?

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: the problem i see with people opposed to the deal, the republicans, i think, have been very irresponsible. where they're unilaterally immediately –

CHRIS MATTHEWS: they're not looking at it.

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: i have the. the number one decision, what is the most likely scenario that prevents iran from getting a nuclear women -- nuclear weapon. to make sure we can draw contrast and reemphasize support to make sure everyone has access to health care throughout the entirety of their lives. before medicare, seniors faced medical bankruptcy, families were medically bankrupt. republicans like jeb bush would phase out medicare. every republican on the other side why.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: that's a solid argument. thank you. debby wasserman schultz.

--
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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/22/2014 9:09:51 AM
Subject: EXCLUSIVE: Amid Shootings, Chicago Police Department Upholds Culture of Impunity

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Wednesday, 22 October 2014

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213.489.1971

Amid Shootings, Chicago Police Department Upholds Culture of Impunity

Sarah Macaraeg and Alison Flowers, Truthout: An exclusive Truthout investigation - released today on a day of national protest against police brutality - reveals that the City of Chicago fails to recognize, let alone sanction, police guilty of repeated episodes of violence, including the shooting deaths of unarmed civilians.

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The Mouse That Roared: Stand With the Marshall Islands

David Krieger, Truthout: The people of the world should stand with the tiny Marshall Islands in their courageous nuclear zero lawsuits, which aim to hold the nine nuclear-armed nations accountable to the

BuzzFlash

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen Acknowledges Rise in Income Inequality

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: As welcome as Yellen's remarks are, however, she identifies the problem without advocating aggressive solutions or systemic change in the financial system.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Obama Has Until December to Explain Withholding of 2,100 Graphic Photos of Detainee Torture

Read the Article at The Guardian

States Ease Interest Rate

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terms of the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty for the safety of the planet.
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The Latin American Disappeared and Repeating History in Mexico

Jeff Abbott, Truthout: The disappearance of 43 college students, abducted by police and organized crime from the Mexican state of Guerrero for their political activism, is a particularly disturbing example of the resurgence of a terror tactic used during Latin America's dirty wars.
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Chevron Greases Local Election With Gusher of Cash

Michael Winship, Moyers & Company: Some corporations dipping their toes into new modes of campaign funding have been rebuffed by hostile consumer and stockholder reaction. But corporate giant Chevron has no such qualms about negative public feedback.
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Three Youth, Three Destinies: Which One for Gaza?

Pam Bailey, Truthout: Nearly 64 percent of Palestinians in Gaza are age 25 or younger. Since the latest conflict with Israel, some 85 percent are striving to leave, but have been unable. Here are the stories of three young people.
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Time to Rethink the War on Terror

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Trying alleged terrorists in civilian courts doesn't just bring justice to their victims; it also sends a message to the rest of the world that the United States won't sacrifice its core values in the fight against terrorism.
Read the Article

The Brain Cancer Rate for Girls in This Town Shot Up 550 Percent - Is a Defense Contractor to Blame?

Sharon Lerner, The Nation: For years, radioactive waste has seeped into swampland, canals - and even drinking water. Now a few families are fighting to hold the polluters accountable.
Read the Article

The United States' Grand Fortunes Go Overboard

Sam Pizzigati, OtherWords: With middle-class net worth crumbling, the Forbes 400 grow wealthier than ever. But they haven't just made monstrously large fortunes. They've made a monstrously large mess.
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Laws That Protected Poor Borrowers
Read the Article at The New York Times

Jeremy Scahill | Blackwater Founder Remains Free and Rich While His Former Employees Go Down on Murder Charges
Read the Article at The Intercept

Environmental Groups Say EPA Underestimates Methane Leaks From Fracking
Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

When Black Athletes Stood With Muhammad Ali
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

A New Mission for Amnesty International: Bringing Human Rights Home
Read the Article at The Washington Post

Mary Poppins, Elizabeth Warren and the US Banking System
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Philadelphia Students Go on Strike for Teachers' Benefits

Kate Aronoff, Waging Nonviolence: After the School District of Philadelphia unceremoniously cut its ties with the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, students went on strike in defense of teacher benefits, which they say are now

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at risk.

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Spare the Rod, Respect the Child: Avoiding the Line Between Discipline and Abuse

P.L. Thomas, Truthout: Widespread public legitimacy has been granted to advocates of the idea that there are "appropriate" ways that adults can hit children. We must reject our tolerance for adults hitting children, whether in our homes or in our schools.

Read the Article

Ten Reasons Why You Should Care What You Wear

Sarah Streat and Ronnie Cummins, Organic Consumers Association: US consumers spend millions on clothing, but synthetic fibers and non-organic cottons take their toll on the environment and come from genetically modified - even toxic - cotton plants.

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From: "Byron Georgiou" <byron@georgiouenterprises.com>
To: John.Podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/3/2015 1:16:02 AM
Subject: FW: ANNOUNCEMENT: The Clean Power Plan is here!

Congratulations, John,

Your legacy as a worldwide leader in the fight against climate change has been further cemented by this announcement today.

Take a moment to savor the critical contribution your advocacy has made in convincing the President to take these steps.

Planet Earth and its almost 10 billion inhabitants thank you.

Byron

Byron S. Georgiou, Chair and CEO
Xtreme Green Electric Vehicles
3010 East Alexander Road
North Las Vegas, NV 89030
702-870-0700 (office)
702-513-2575 (mobile)
Byron@xgev.com
www.xgev.com

From: CEQ-Outreach [mailto:Outreach@ceq.eop.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2015 6:32 AM
To: CEQ-Outreach
Subject: ANNOUNCEMENT: The Clean Power Plan is here!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Today President Obama is unveiling the final version of the Clean Power Plan – the strongest action ever taken in the United States to combat climate change. President Obama believes we have a moral obligation to act by not leaving future generations a planet that is damaged. While aiming to slash carbon emissions by a third by 2030, this plan will also keep energy affordable and reliable, and support innovation which will lead to a strong clean-energy economy.

You can participate and stay up to date with the latest on this historic announcement:

Watch President Obama and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy announce the final plan at the White House by tuning in to White House Live at 2:00pm (EDT)

Join the EPA briefing call today at 5:45pm (EDT) to learn more about the Clean Power Plan: Participant Dial-in Number: (877) 290-8017, Conference ID#: 99292351

Follow and participate on social media using #ActOnClimate

Thank you for your support and please let us know if you have any questions.

Best,
Angela Barranco
Office of Public Engagement
White House Council on Environmental Quality

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#ActOnClimate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 3, 2015

FACT SHEET: PRESIDENT OBAMA TO ANNOUNCE HISTORIC CARBON POLLUTION STANDARDS FOR POWER PLANTS

The Clean Power Plan is a Landmark Action to Protect Public Health, Reduce Energy Bills for Households and Businesses, Create American Jobs, and Bring Clean Power to Communities across the Country

Today at the White House, President Obama and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy will release the final Clean Power Plan, a historic step in the Obama Administration's fight against climate change.

We have a moral obligation to leave our children a planet that's not polluted or damaged. The effects of climate change are already being felt across the nation. In the past three decades, the percentage of Americans with asthma has more than doubled, and climate change is putting those Americans at greater risk of landing in the hospital. Extreme weather events – from more severe droughts and wildfires in the West to record heat waves – and sea level rise are hitting communities across the country. In fact, 14 of the 15 warmest years on record have all occurred in the first 15 years of this century and last year was the warmest year ever. The most vulnerable among us – including children, older adults, people with heart or lung disease, and people living in poverty – are most at risk from the impacts of climate change. Taking action now is critical.

The Clean Power Plan establishes the first-ever national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants. We already set limits that protect public health by reducing soot and other toxic emissions, but until now, existing power plants, the largest source of carbon emissions in the United States, could release as much carbon pollution as they wanted.

The final Clean Power Plan sets flexible and achievable standards to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2030, 9 percent more ambitious than the proposal. By setting carbon pollution reduction goals for power plants and enabling states to develop tailored implementation plans to meet those goals, the Clean Power Plan is a strong, flexible framework that will:

Provide significant public health benefits – The Clean Power Plan, and other policies put in place to drive a cleaner energy sector, will reduce premature deaths from power plant emissions by nearly 90 percent in 2030 compared to 2005 and decrease the pollutants that contribute to the soot and smog and can lead to more asthma attacks in kids by more than 70 percent. The Clean Power Plan will also avoid up to 3,600 premature deaths, lead to 90,000 fewer asthma attacks in children, and prevent 300,000 missed work and school days.

Create tens of thousands of jobs while ensuring grid reliability;

Drive more aggressive investment in clean energy technologies than the proposed rule, resulting in 30 percent more renewable energy generation in 2030 and continuing to lower the costs of renewable energy.

Save the average American family nearly $85 on their annual energy bill in 2030, reducing enough energy to power 30 million homes, and save consumers a total of $155 billion from 2020-2030;

Give a head start to wind and solar deployment and prioritize the deployment of energy efficiency improvements in low-income communities that need it most early in the program through a Clean Energy Incentive Program; and

Continue American leadership on climate change by keeping us on track to meet the economy-wide emissions targets we have set, including the goal of reducing emissions to 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and to 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

KEY FEATURES OF THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

The final Clean Power Plan takes into account the unprecedented input EPA received through extensive outreach, including the 4 million comments that were submitted to the agency during the public comment period. The result is a fair, flexible program that will strengthen the fast-growing trend toward cleaner and lower-polluting American energy. The Clean Power Plan significantly reduces carbon pollution from the electric power sector while advancing clean energy innovation, development, and deployment. It ensures the U.S. will stay on a path of long-term clean energy investments that will maintain the reliability of our electric grid, promote affordable and clean energy for all Americans, and continue United States leadership on climate action. The Clean Power Plan:

- ***Provides Flexibility to States to Choose How to Meet Carbon Standards:*** EPA's Clean Power Plan establishes carbon pollution standards for power plants, called carbon dioxide (CO_2) emission performance rates. States develop and implement tailored plans to ensure that the power plants in their state meet these standards– either individually, together, or in

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combination with other measures like improvements in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The final rule provides more flexibility in how state plans can be designed and implemented, including: streamlined opportunities for states to include proven strategies like trading and demand-side energy efficiency in their plans, and allows states to develop "trading ready" plans to participate in "opt in" to an emission credit trading market with other states taking parallel approaches without the need for interstate agreements. All low-carbon electricity generation technologies, including renewables, energy efficiency, natural gas, nuclear and carbon capture and storage, can play a role in state plans.

➢ ***More Time for States Paired With Strong Incentives for Early Deployment of Clean Energy:*** State plans are due in September of 2016, but states that need more time can make an initial submission and request extensions of up to two years for final plan submission. The compliance averaging period begins in 2022 instead of 2020, and emission reductions are phased in on a gradual "glide path" to 2030. These provisions to give states and companies more time to prepare for compliance are paired with a new Clean Energy Incentive Program to drive deployment of renewable energy and low-income energy efficiency before 2022.

➢ ***Creates Jobs and Saves Money for Families and Businesses:*** The Clean Power Plan builds on the progress states, cities, and businesses and have been making for years. Since the beginning of 2010, the average cost of a solar electric system has dropped by half and wind is increasingly competitive nationwide. The Clean Power Plan will drive significant new investment in cleaner, more modern and more efficient technologies, creating tens of thousands of jobs. Under the Clean Power Plan, by 2030, renewables will account for 28 percent of our capacity, up from 22 percent in the proposed rule. Due to these improvements, the Clean Power Plan will save the average American nearly $85 on their energy bill in 2030, and save consumers a total of $155 billion through 2020-2030, reducing enough energy to power 30 million homes.

➢ ***Rewards States for Early Investment in Clean Energy, Focusing on Low-Income Communities:*** The Clean Power Plan establishes a Clean Energy Incentive Program that will drive additional early deployment of renewable energy and low-income energy efficiency. Under the program, credits for electricity generated from renewables in 2020 and 2021 will be awarded to projects that begin construction after participating states submit their final implementation plans. The program also prioritizes early investment in energy efficiency projects in low-income communities by the Federal government awarding these projects double the number of credits in 2020 and 2021. Taken together, these incentives will drive faster renewable energy deployment, further reduce technology costs, and lay the foundation for deep long-term cuts in carbon pollution. In addition, the Clean Energy Incentive Plan provides additional flexibility for states, and will increase the overall net benefits of the Clean Power Plan.

➢ ***Ensures Grid Reliability:*** The Clean Power Plan contains several important features to ensure grid reliability as we move to cleaner sources of power. In addition to giving states more time to develop implementation plans, starting compliance in 2022, and phasing in the targets over the decade, the rule requires states to address reliability in their state plans. The final rule also provides a "reliability safety valve" to address any reliability challenges that arise on a case-by-case basis. These measures are built on a framework that is inherently flexible in that it does not impose plant-specific requirements and provides states flexibility to smooth out their emission reductions over the period of the plan and across sources.

➢ ***Continues U.S. Leadership on Climate Change:*** The Clean Power Plan continues United States leadership on climate change. By driving emission reductions from power plants, the largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, the Clean Power Plan builds on prior Administration steps to reduce emissions, including historic investments to deploy clean energy technologies, standards to double the fuel economy of our cars and light trucks, and steps to reduce methane pollution. Taken together these measures put the United States on track to achieve the President's near-term target to reduce emissions in the range of 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, and lay a strong foundation to deliver against our long-term target to reduce emissions 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. The release of the Clean Power Plan continues momentum towards international climate talks in Paris in December, building on announcements to-date of post-2020 targets by countries representing 70 percent of global energy based carbon emissions.

➢ ***Sets State Targets in a Way That Is Fair and Is Directly Responsive to Input from States, Utilities, and Stakeholders****:* In response to input from stakeholders, the final Clean Power Plan modifies the way that state targets are set by using an approach that better reflects the way the electricity grid operates, using updated information about the cost and availability of clean generation technologies, and establishing separate emission performance rates for all coal plants and all gas plants. .

➢ ***Maintains Energy Efficiency as Key Compliance Tool:*** In addition to on-site efficiency and greater are reliance on low and zero carbon generation, the Clean Power Plan provides states with broad flexibility to design carbon reduction plans that include energy efficiency and other emission reduction strategies. EPA's analysis shows that energy efficiency is expected to play a major role in meeting the state targets as a cost-effective and widely-available carbon reduction tool, saving enough energy to power 30 million homes and putting money back in ratepayers' pockets.

➢ ***Requires States to Engage with Vulnerable Populations:*** The Clean Power Plan includes provisions that require states to meaningfully engage with low-income, minority, and tribal communities, as the states develop their plans. EPA also encourages states to engage with workers and their representatives in the utility and related sectors in developing their state plans.

➢ ***Includes a Proposed Federal Implementation Plan:*** EPA is also releasing a proposed federal plan today. This proposed

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plan will provide a model states can use in designing their plans, and when finalized, will be a backstop to ensure that the Clean Power Plan standards are met in every state.

Since the Clean Air Act became law more than 45 years ago with bipartisan support, the EPA has continued to protect the health of communities, in particular those vulnerable to the impacts of harmful air pollution, while the economy has continued to grow. In fact, since 1970, air pollution has decreased by nearly 70 percent while the economy has tripled in size. The Clean Power Plan builds on this progress, while providing states the flexibility and tools to transition to clean, reliable, and affordable electricity.

BUILDING ON PROGRESS

The Clean Power Plan builds on steps taken by the Administration, states, cities, and companies to move to cleaner sources of energy. Solar electricity generation has increased more than 20-fold since 2008, and electricity from wind has more than tripled. Efforts such as the following give us a strong head start in meeting the Clean Power Plan's goals:

- 50 states with demand-side energy efficiency programs
- 37 states with renewable portfolio standards or goals
- 10 states with market-based greenhouse gas reduction programs
- 25 states with energy efficiency standards or goals

Today's actions also build on a series of actions the Administration is taking through the President's Climate Action Plan to reduce the dangerous levels of carbon pollution that are contributing to climate change, including:

Standards for Light and Heavy-Duty Vehicles: Earlier this summer, the EPA and the Department of Transportation proposed the second phase of fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas standards for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, which if finalized as proposed will reduce 1 billion tons of carbon pollution. The proposed standards build on the first phase of heavy-duty vehicle requirements and standards for light-duty vehicles issued during the President's first term that will save Americans $1.7 trillion, reduce oil consumption by 2.2 million barrels per day by 2025, and slash greenhouse gas emissions by 6 billion metric tons through the lifetime of the program.

Low Income Solar: Last month, the White House announced a new initiative to increase access to solar energy for all Americans, in particular low-and moderate income communities, and build a more inclusive workforce. The initiative will help families and businesses cut their energy bills through launching a National Community Solar Partnership to unlock access to solar for the nearly 50 percent of households and business that are renters or do not have adequate roof space to install solar systems and sets a goal to install 300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy in federally subsidized housing by 2020. Through this initiative housing authorities, rural electric co-ops, power companies, and organizations in more than 20 states across the country committed to put in place more than 260 solar energy projects and philanthropic and impact investors, states, and cities are committed to invest $520 million to advance community solar and scale up solar and energy efficiency for low- and moderate-income households. The initiative also includes AmeriCorps funding to deploy solar and create jobs in underserved communities and a commitment from the solar industry to become the most diverse sector of the U.S. energy industry.

Economy-Wide Measures to Reduce other Greenhouse Gases: EPA and other agencies are taking actions to cut methane emissions from oil and gas systems, landfills, coal mining, and agriculture through cost-effective voluntary actions and common-sense standards. At the same time, the U.S. Department of State is working to slash global emissions of potent industrial greenhouse gases, called hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), through an amendment to the Montreal Protocol; EPA is cutting domestic HFC emissions through its Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program; and, the private sector has stepped up with commitments to cut global HFC emissions equivalent to 700 million metric tons of carbon pollution through 2025.

Investing in Coal Communities, Workers, and Communities: In February, as part of the President's FY 2016 budget, the Administration released the POWER+ Plan to invest in workers and jobs, address important legacy costs in coal country, and drive the development of coal technology. The Plan provides dedicated new resources for economic diversification, job creation, job training, and other employment services for workers and communities impacted by layoffs at coal mines and coal-fired power plants; includes unprecedented investments in the health and retirement security of mineworkers and their families and the accelerated clean-up of hazardous coal abandoned mine lands; and provides new tax incentives to support continued technology development and deployment of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration technologies.

Energy Efficiency Standards: DOE set a goal of reducing carbon pollution by 3 billion metric tons cumulatively by 2030 through energy conservation standards issued during this Administration. DOE has already finalized energy conservation standards for 29 categories of appliances and equipment, as well as a building code determination for commercial buildings. These measures will also cut consumers' annual electricity bills by billions of dollars.

Investing in Clean Energy: In June the White House announced more than $4 billion in private-sector commitments and

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executive actions to scale up investment in clean energy innovation, including launching a new Clean Energy Impact Investment Center at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to make information about energy and climate programs at DOE and other government agencies accessible and more understandable to the public, including to mission-driven investors.

###

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/17/2015 12:10:01 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Is the Libertarian Movement Over?

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Libertarian leaders say it's a mistake to conflate the fortunes of Sen. Rand Paul's presidential candidacy with the success of the movement as a whole. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA by David Weigel: The Libertarian Moment is over, or is it? One

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year ago, in a flag-planting cover story for the New York Times magazine, Robert Draper asked whether a "libertarian moment" had come at last. The memorable art for the story was a fuzzed-out image of Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), patterned after a hardcore show flyer, with a date of 11/8/16. Election Day.

The image made sense at the time. Increasingly, it looks like a nostalgia piece. This August has tagged Paul's presidential bid as officially "embattled." Single-digit support in primary states; indictments for the two heads of his super PAC; a poorly-reviewed run at the first debate. "Whither Rand Paul" stories have been popping up for weeks, and Noah Rothman's Commentary story – "Rand Paul lost the libertarian moment" – is the harshest.

Draper politely declined to revisit his own article and argument, but I caught up with some of his sources. No one argues with this: The Paul campaign's struggle has quieted down the "libertarian moment" talk. The dream of Paul as a "frontrunner"-in-waiting was based on a few polls that showed his support in the high teens. For a brief time, it made sense for libertarians to hitch their wagons to the story of a thriving national politician. That's happening less now.

"It's a mistake to conflate Rand Paul's electoral success with that of the libertarian moment," said Nick Gillespie, the editor of Reason.com. (Disclosure: I worked for Reason from 2006 to 2008.) "Rand Paul's high visibility is better understood as a consequence of the libertarian moment than its cause. There's a reason why he's been at his most electrifying and popular precisely when he is at his most libertarian: calling out the surveillance state, for instance, and leading the charge against reckless interventions in Syria and Libya."

That gets to a grievance that some libertarian activists have expressed about Paul. Perhaps it was too much to hope that he could start with his father's 2012 coalition – one that cracked 20 percent in multiple states – and add new voters. Instead, Paul has failed to even unite self-identifying libertarian voters and donors. Charles and David Koch, who bankrolled much of the modern libertarian movement, have quite clearly been shopping around for a non-Paul candidate.

"The question is not whether the libertarian moment is over but whether libertarians can agree on a single national candidate," says Lawson Bader, the president of the free market Competitive Enterprise Institute. "The answer is probably "no," and if Rand Paul can't unite all the different strands of the movement, I am not convinced anybody else can right now. More importantly, the Republican primary has been 'Trumped,' upending everyone's previous understanding of political alliances."

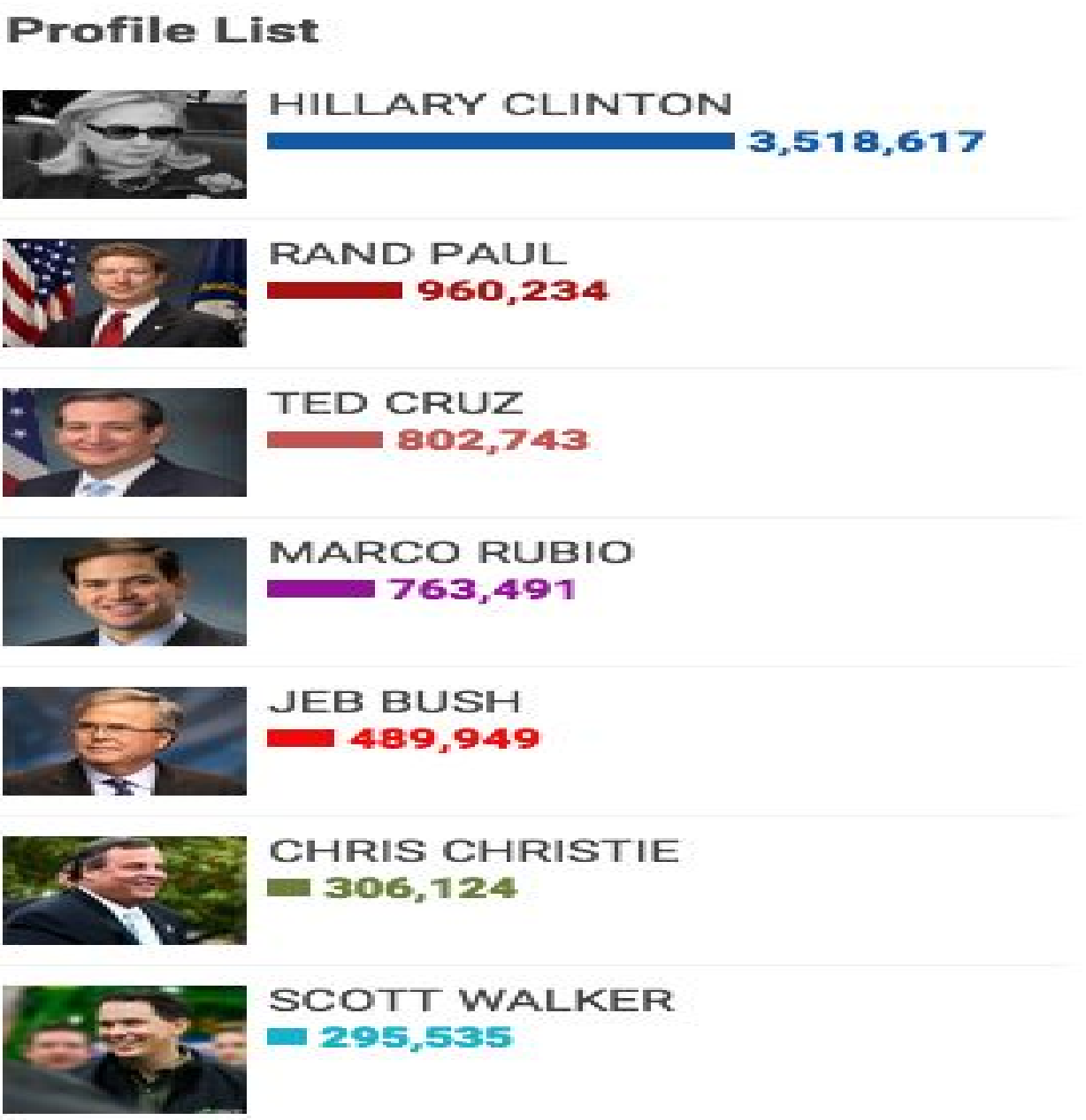
In this read, there is no libertarian "moment" to lose. De-coupled from Paul, the

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causes of the movement – social liberalism, then a distrust-fueled dismantling of government – is humming right along. No Republican candidate, with the chaotic exception of Donald Trump, is proposing a state as large and "compassionate" as the last Republican president. It's really only on foreign policy that the libertarians have been quieted.

Libertarians have been here before. The media come asking about whether now, finally, their movement has won; the media decide that the moment has passed. Paul's campaign, for all its problems, is still going to be the lens through which everyone else tracks the movement's success. "Hopefully his father's endorsement will goad him to become THE libertarian alternative," says Gillespie, "rather than the seventh or eighth or 10th most conservative candidate in the GOP race." Read the full text of my Big Idea.

Our analytics partner Zignal Labs has some pretty dramatic evidence of Rand's fall. In April, when he announced his candidacy, Rand was mentioned more than any other GOP candidate by both social and traditional media (and just behind Hillary Clinton).



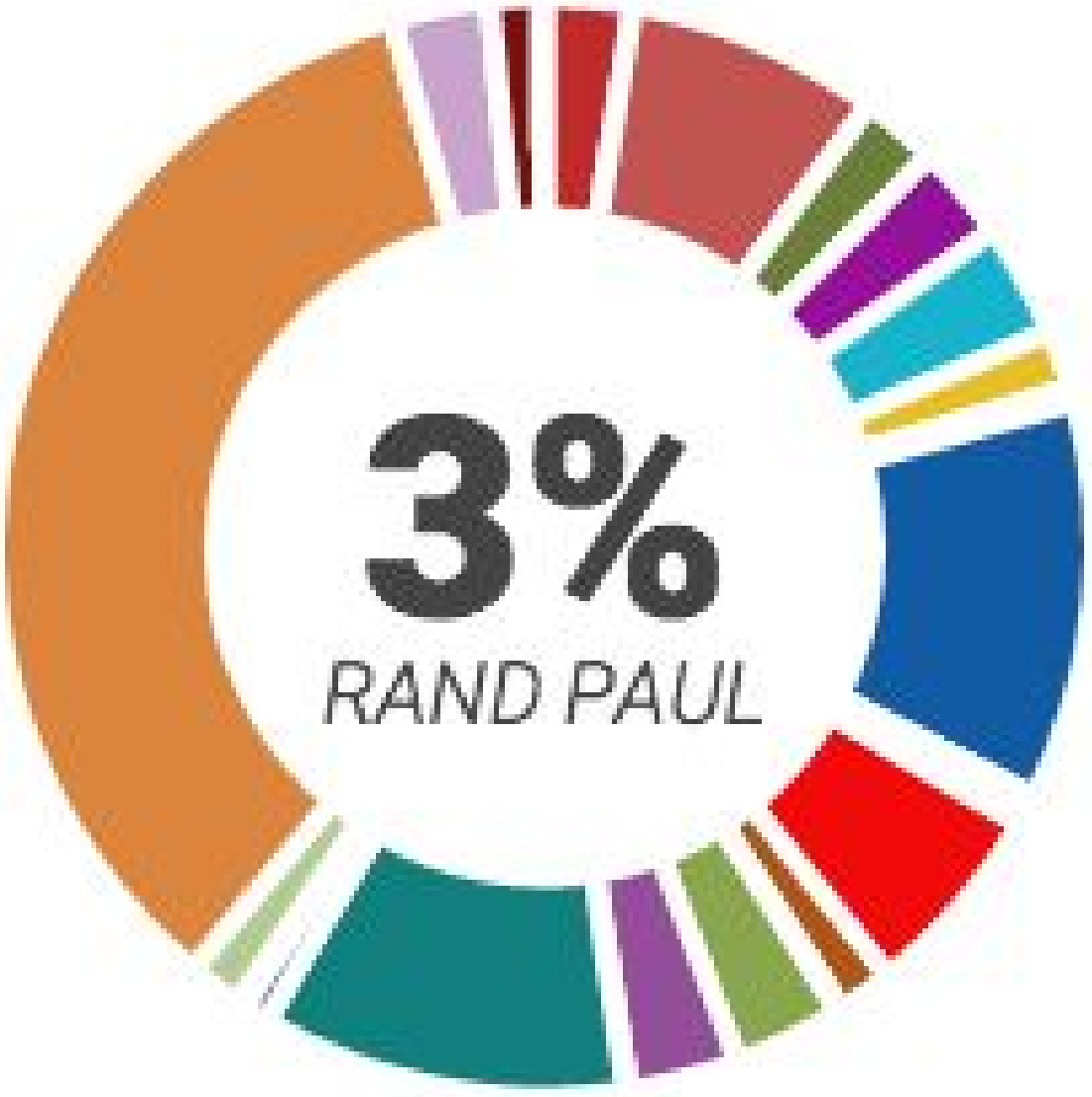
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But over the last 30 days, eight of Paul's rivals — including Carly Fiorina, Ben Carson, and John Kasich — got more media love than the Kentucky senator, who received just three percent of the media's overall attention.

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SHARE OF VOICE



Programming note: James Hohmann is on vacation this week. But watch for Big Ideas

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from fellow Posties Karen Tumulty, Philip Rucker, David Fahrenthold, Robert Costa and Ed O'Keefe.

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— The Pentagon plans to increase by 50 percent the number of daily drone flights by the U.S. military, the Wall Street Journal reports. The flights would "broaden intelligence collection in such locales as Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, the South China Sea and North Africa," a senior defense official told Gordon Lubold . "It would be the first significant increase in the U.S. drone program since 2011, reflecting pressure on military efforts to address a cascading series of global crises. While expanding surveillance, the Pentagon plan also grows the capacity for lethal airstrikes, the most controversial part of the U.S. drone program and its rapid growth under President Barack Obama Strikes by unmanned aircraft have killed 3,000 people or more, based on estimates by nonpartisan groups." By 2019, the Air Force would continue to fly 60 drone flight; the Army 16; and the Special Forces Command up to four.

TRUMP'S BIG WEEKEND:

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(@wpjenna)

Post reporters Philip Rucker and Jenna Johnson had this scene setter from the Iowa State Fair, where the GOP front-runner and business mogul landed his chopper on Saturday (and offered some Iowa kids a lift), waded through the crowds in his golf cart, and ate pork on a stick.

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(@pbump)

He boycotted the Des Moines Register's Soapbox (due to his ongoing feud with the editorial board). But he took selfies with the best of them before lifting off the Trumpcopter for greener pastures — er, or back to New York City.

Check out this video of Trump's day at the fair.

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Meanwhile, the real-estate mogul released a six-page immigration plan , seeking to answer critics who say he's woefully short on policy prescriptions. In it, he slammed the 2013 Senate reform bill as "amnesty, cheap labor and open borders" and a "giveaway to corporate patrons who run both parties." The proposal includes forcing Mexico to pay for a wall across the southern border; tripling Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers; imposing nationwide E-Verify for businesses to check citizenship claims; defunding sanctuary cities; and ending birthright citizenship. He wants to require businesses to hire Americans first; terminate the jobs program for foreign youth and replace it with a resume bank for inner-city youth; and use funds saved from cracking down on refugee and asylum seekers to place U.S. children without parents in safer homes and improve safety in high-crimes areas.

In an earlier appearance on "Meet the Press " with host Chuck Todd (who Trump has called a "real loser!"), Trump vowed to reverse President Obama's executive orders on immigration and deport all illegal immigrants. "We're going to keep the families together, but they have to go," he said in the interview.

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(@JDiamond1)

GET SMART FAST:

1. Iran's Supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Monday that the Iran nuclear deal wouldn't allow American influence into his country. "We blocked this path and will definitely block it in the future. We won't allow American political, economic or cultural

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influence in Iran," Khamenei is quoted as saying . Meanwhile, GOP Sen. Jeff Flake (Ariz.) will oppose the nuclear deal, he announced over the weekend , meaning it might not get any Republican congressional support.

2. Two independent groups allied with Hillary Clinton are teaming up to mobilize female voters on behalf of the Democratic frontrunner, Matea Gold scoops. Priorities USA Action and EMILY's List will raise more than $20 million to target women, especially young ones, in swing states with the message that Republicans "would block access to health care for women and oppose fair pay."
3. A Fox News poll conducted of 1,008 registered voters from Aug. 11-13 showed Trump and Clinton still leading their respective fields. But on the GOP side, Ben Carson shows up in second place (13 points behind Trump) and Ted Cruz in 3rd; while Bernie Sanders is gaining on Clinton, taking 30 percent to her 49 percent.
4. Right to Rise, the super PAC allied with Jeb Bush, announced it will start to air a $10M ad buy starting in Iowa and New Hampshire on Sept. 15 and South Carolina a week later.
5. The Obama administration has warned China to stop the activities of its agents on U.S. soil aimed at pressuring "prominent expatriates — some wanted in China on charges of corruption — to return home immediately, according to American officials," reports the New York Times.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. John Kasich will nab the endorsemen t of Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley (R) on Monday morning, per the Post's Phil Rucker. Bentley's surprise nod shows that Kasich's support extends outside of the Midwest into the South and is a blow to his rivals.
2. Bernie Sanders said he hadn't authorized an apology note from a staffer to Black Lives Matter, arguing he didn't owe the group an apology – and adding he was the only candidate who would strongly fight racial injustice and a broken justice system.
3. Jeb Bush called Common Core "poisonous " at the Iowa State Fair. Bush explained he supports high state standards, but said the federal government should have no role in their creation.
4. On Fox News Sunday, Ben Carson defended his op-ed in the Jerusalem Post in which he suggested that President Obama's rhetoric was "anti-Semitic."
5. Mike Huckabee said he supports the decision by Paraguay to prevent a pregnant 10-year-old girl who was raped by her stepfather from getting an abortion. "I wouldn't pretend it's anything other than a terrible tragedy, But let's not compound the tragedy by taking yet another life," he told CNN's Dana Bash.
6. Julian Bond, 75, civil rights leader, ex-head of the Southern Poverty Law Center and

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former chairman of the NAACP, died of complications from vascular disease.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

—"Congress's Awful Autumn," by Kelsey Snell: "When Congress returns from its August recess, it faces a tangle of fiscal deadlines that could serve as a replay of some of the most contentious battles of the past five years. Those include keeping the government open amid fierce disagreement over spending caps put in place by the so-called 2011 sequester, finding a long-term way to fund highway and transit projects and lifting the debt ceiling before default. Dispatching with all of these issues before year's end would be a big feat under even the most generous of circumstances, but they arrive as Congress will also be deciding whether to block the Iran nuclear deal, hosting a papal visit and dealing with a truncated September calendar due to religious holidays. For now, Republican leaders are preaching calm and assuring the agenda can be tackled without incident."

—"Minimum-Wage Offensive Could Speed Arrival of Robot Powered Restaurants," by Lydia DePillis: "The [restaurant] industry could be ready for another jolt as a ballot initiative to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour nears in the District and as other campaigns to boost wages gain traction around the country. About 30 percent of the restaurant industry's costs come from salaries, so burger-flipping robots — or at least super-fast ovens that expedite the process — become that much more cost-competitive if the current federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour is doubled…The labor-saving technology that has so far been rolled out most extensively — kiosk and tablet-based ordering — could be used to replace cashiers and the part of the wait staff's job that involves taking orders and bringing checks."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Pictures of the day:

Jeb Bush threw a baseball at 47 mph at the Iowa State Fair:

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(@KilloughCNN)

And sampled a fried Snickers bar (it was a cheat day for Bush's Paleo diet, according to an aide):

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(@ddkochel)

Ben Carson spoke to a large crowd at the Des Moines Register Political Soapbox:

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(@carolhunter)

Hillary Clinton greeted the crowd, pork-chop-on-a-stick in hand:

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(hillaryclinton)

And Bernie Sanders (with PBS's Gwen Ifill) joked about Trump's helicopter arrival. "I forgot my helicopter! I left it at home," Sanders said:

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(@betsy_klein)

Tweets of the day:

Obama played golf on Friday during his Martha's Vineyard vacation:

> Obama playing golf today with NBAer's Steph Curry, his dad (and former baller) Dell Curry, and Ray Allen.
>
> — David Nakamura (@DavidNakamura) August 14, 2015

By chance, he met up with President Clinton:

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(@kristindonnelly)

On Saturday, Obama and Clinton played together:

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(@kristindonnelly)

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) visited the Korean Demilitarized Zone, where he came face to face with a North Korean soldier:

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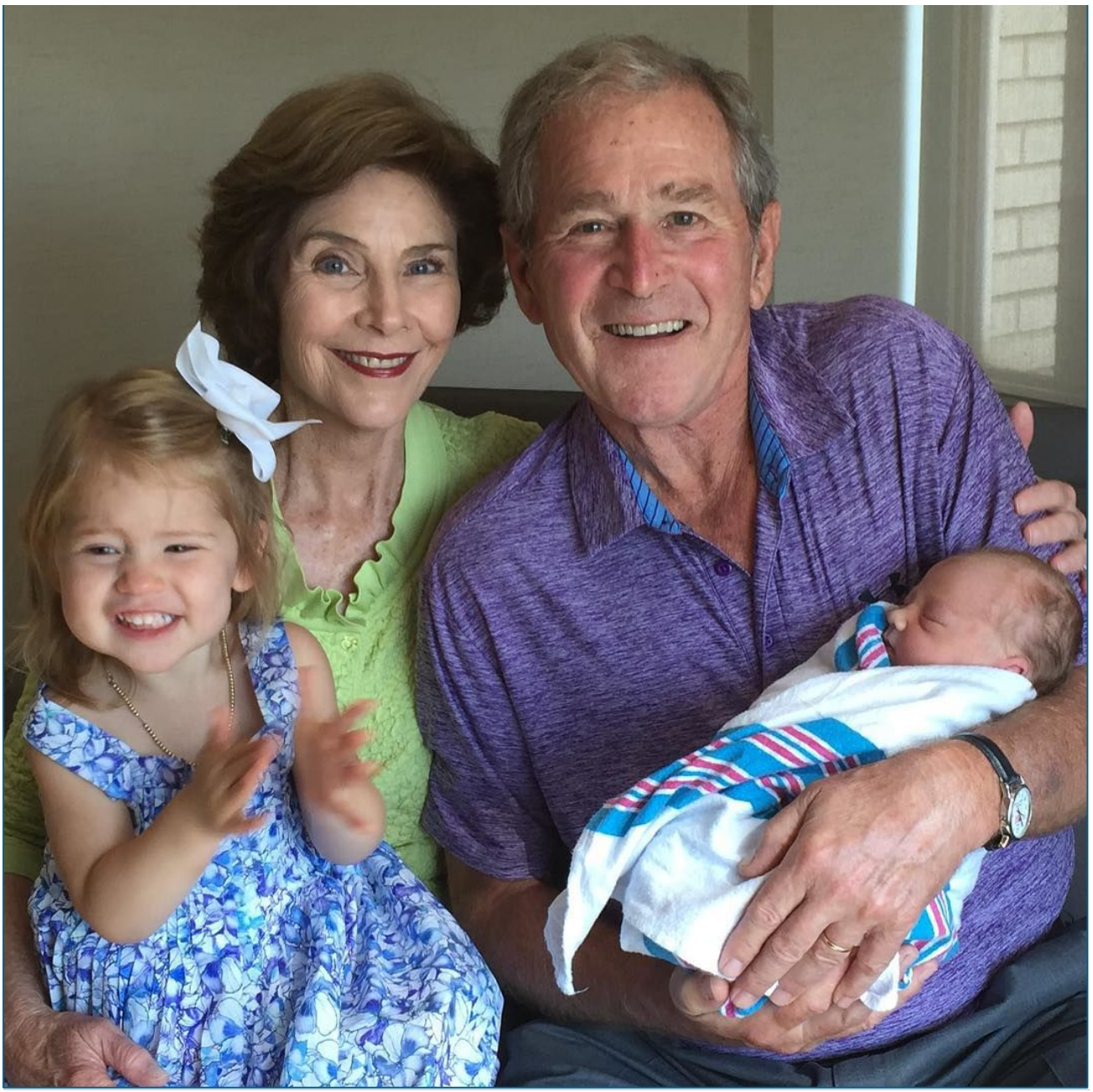


(@SenTomCotton)

Instagrams of the day:

President George W. Bush shared a photo with his new granddaughter, Poppy Louise Hager:

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(georgewbush)

Vice President Biden spoke at a memorial service for the five servicemembers shot dead at a military facility in Chattanooga, Tenn.:

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(vp)

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) discussed the Iran nuclear deal with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu:

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(repkevinmccarthy)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "With High-Profile Help, Obama Plots Life After Presidency," by Michael D. Shear and Gardiner Harris: "The dinner in the private upstairs dining room of the White House went so late that Reid Hoffman, the LinkedIn billionaire, finally suggested around midnight that President Obama might like to go to bed…He then lingered with his wife, Michelle, and their 13 guests — among them the novelist Toni Morrison, the hedge fund manager Marc Lasry and the Silicon Valley venture capitalist John Doerr…The long-running dinner this past February is part of a methodical effort taking place inside and outside the White House as the president, first lady and a cadre of top aides map out a postpresidential infrastructure and endowment they estimate could cost as much as $1 billion. The president's aides did not ask any of the guests for library contributions after the dinner, but a number of those at the table could be donors in the

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future.

The $1 billion — double what George W. Bush raised for his library and its various programs — would be used for what one adviser called a 'digital-first' presidential library loaded with modern technologies, and to establish a foundation with a worldwide reach."

— New York, "The Politics of Presidential Dieting, " by Marin Cogan: "This year's crop of presidential hopefuls is an unusually body-conscious bunch: They are challenging each other to pull-up contests (Rick Perry), bragging about their "gym rat" proclivities (Bobby Jindal), tossing away the garlic bread and scraping aside the pasta (Jeb Bush), and getting involved in push-up contests (Bobby Jindal, again)…But for the moment, we have arrived, more or less, at a general consensus against shaming female presidential candidates for their dietary habits — or at least, we know there'll be significant pushback for the idiots who try to. And to think, it only took a lifetime of Hillary enduring horrible sexism about her hair, makeup, and pantsuits to get there! The same cannot be said for the men. They must both try to lose weight and try not to lose their common touch — which requires the not-infrequent consumption of fried food and beer on the trail."

— Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, "Jane Sanders talks Bernie, politics and the possibility of winning," by Emilie Stigliani: "Sanders shares an office with her husband at campaign headquarters in Burlington, Vt., their desks side by side. Her role seems to merge the personal and the political. 'Right now it's being with Bernie. Traveling with him. Supporting him. And thinking through policy and strategy with him,' she said. 'So basically really supporting Bernie both in the way I always have both as a life partner in a loving couple, but also as a political adviser'…[Jane] Sanders said it's too soon to plan what she would do if her husband did win, but she would have a bridge-building approach to the first ladyship. 'I'd be more likely to build the bridges to the people we don't see eye to eye with,' she said. 'I'm a thinker. I think with empathy … It's more looking out at the people. And that includes the Republicans, you know the people that might be opposed to us. Trying to understand why is it that they want what they want. And then how do we find common ground.'"

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HOT ON THE LEFT

Rosie O'Donnell hits back at Donald Trump's 'blood' comment. From Talking Points Memo: "After remaining relatively mum since the Republican presidential debate, actress Rosie O'Donnell fired back at Donald Trump for his 'shaming' comments about women and women's bodies … The comedienne said there's "a war on women happening in this country" which goes far beyond the real estate mogul. 'I'd like to take my period blood that I no longer have and write, 'You're all a–holes.' I'd like to smear it all over some people's faces,' she said."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Obama can do Iran nuclear deal even if Congress disapproves. From the Associated Press : "The September vote on the Iran nuclear deal is billed as a titanic standoff between President Barack Obama and Congress. Yet even if lawmakers reject the agreement, it's not game-over for the White House … Obama doesn't need a congressional OK to give Iran most of the billions of dollars in relief from economic sanctions that it would get under the agreement, as long as Tehran honors its commitments to curb its nuclear program — at least for now."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Scott Walker, Carly Fiorina and Lindsey Graham will speak at the Des Moines Register's soapbox at the Iowa State Fair. Fiorina will also attend an event in Kimballton, Iowa. John Kasich will participate in an Americans for Peace Prosperity and Security national security forum in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Jeb Bush will participate in a town hall with veterans in Columbia, S.C.

–On the Hill: Both chambers are in recess.

–At the White House: President Obama is on vacation in Martha's Vineyard.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Here's the difference" between me and Trump, Bernie Sanders said on "Meet the Press." "I am not a billionaire. My family doesn't have a whole lot of people."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

–"The sunshine beats down on us (with only spotty cloud cover) and, unlike the weekend days, humidity levels can no longer be considered comfortable. Highs reach the low 90s in most spots, with a few areas peaking in the mid-90s. With dew points in the mid-60s, it feels more like 95-100," the Capital Weather Gang reports.

—The Nationals lost Sunday, 5-0, to the San Francisco Giants.

VIDEO OF THE DAY:

Republicans and Democrats had dueling messages for the 80th anniversary of Social Security. Dems celebrated and blamed Republicans for seeking to privatize the program:



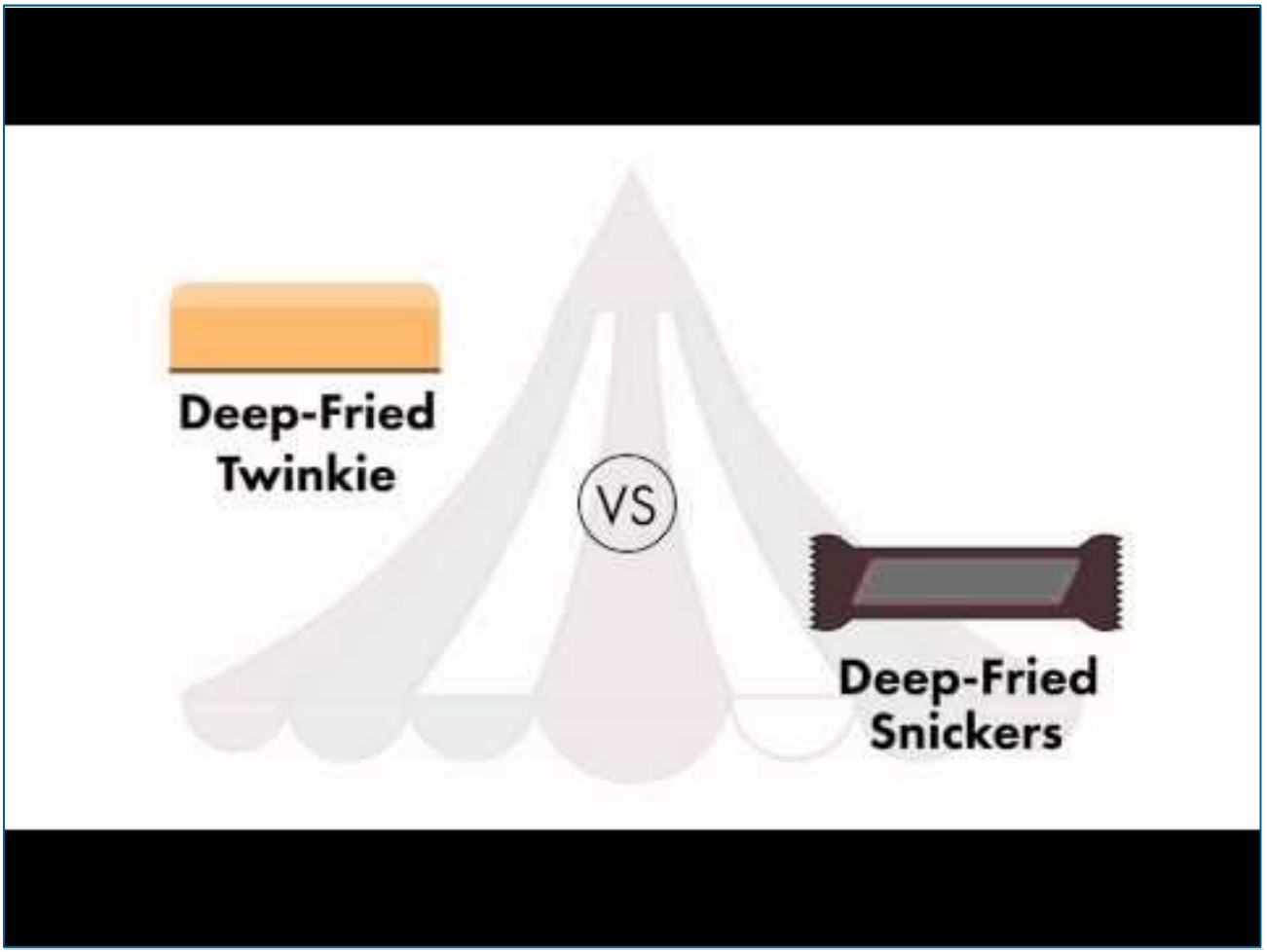
(@DWStweets)

While Mike Huckabee, with help from John Wayne, had a more direct message on behalf of

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Republicans (watch here).

Bonus: Jeb Bush reviewed the Iowa State Fair (below) and Bernie Sanders blew a train whistle in a rendition of "Folsom Prison Blues."



(Jeb Bush)

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The Washington Post

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 2:58:02 PM
Subject: Re: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Oops 202-999-0738

On Apr 23, 2015 9:57 PM, "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
If you have a second call me. 203-999-0738

On Apr 23, 2015 9:43 PM, "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Thanks. We do have some ideas on this, will discus in am.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2015, at 9:33 PM, David Binder <David@db-research.com > wrote:

One thing I think we need to push, that was effective in our groups, is to remind people of the wonderful things that the Clinton Foundation has done around the globe. In the midst of all this incoming stuff, can we remind the world what has been accomplished? In addition to confronting the accusations, do we also have an opportunity to insert the message below that was an effective response in our vulnerability research:

Hillary Clinton's opponents are trying to start a controversy where none exists. The Clinton Foundation is a totally non-political charity whose work saves and improves lives at home and around the world. Because of charitable contributions to the Foundation and its programs, 8 million people have benefited from lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 6,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to fight childhood obesity; 28,000 African farmers have improved their crops; and 248 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced in cities worldwide. The Clinton Global Initiative brings together people from business, labor, government, and the non-profit world to solve problems without politics or gridlock. Republican opponents want to confuse voters about the Clinton Foundation and its donors because all this good work is proof that what Hillary cares about most is helping hard-working people and families build better lives.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:56 PM
To: John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; John Anzalone; David Binder; Robby Mook; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

For our eight am call tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake

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<kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com >, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Stories for tomorrow:

- Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
- New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
- ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
- Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
- WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
- Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
- Bloomberg- Laureate
- NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed

Story Lines:

1. Nervous Dems
2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue
3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

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From: sewallconroy@comcast.net
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/31/2008 8:00:01 PM
Subject: Agency Leads

John,

> We'd like your feedback on two leadership roles in Agency teams.
>
> 1) A replacement (if any) for Sam Nunn on DOD. John Hamre was one of the names we'd discussed before in considering a more senior face to put on the DOD team as you desired. Do you want us to ask him or to develop other candidates, or have Bill Lynn and Michele Flournoy stay as co-leads?
>
> 2) James Loy cannot serve (conflict of interest) as co-lead of DHS with Randy Beers. Randy has proposed two candidates: John Gannon and John Gordon. While Susan and I would be fine with either, we do not know if either would do it.
>
> John Gannon was to have led the pre-Nov 4 Intel/DHS transition but had a conflict of interest and time that led him to step away from the lead. John Gordon's business interests may similarly impede him from playing a role. We'd like your guidance regarding whether to proceed with seeking a co-lead for Randy and if so whether you have preferences.
>
> An alternative model would be to have Randy lead and appoint a deputy -- perhaps Clark Kent Ervin (african american, former DHS counsel) or Ron Lee from NSA since he'd rather be on DHS. Please let us know your thoughts.
>
> Thanks. -Sarah
>
> John Gordon
>
> Gordon was at the WH as HS Advisor til 2004. He is highly respected for his professionalism. Gordon will do it for the country as a committed career officer.
>
> > General John A. Gordon earned a B.S. degree from the University of Missouri in 1968, an M.S. degree at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1970, and an M.A. degree from Highlands University in 1972.
> >
> > General Gordon served in the White House as the President's Homeland Security Advisor from June 2003 until June 2004 and as the Deputy National Security Advisor for Counter Terrorism and the National Director for Counter Terrorism from June 2002 to June 2003. Prior to joining the White House team, General Gordon was the first administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration and Under Secretary of Energy, responsible for the entirety of the nation's nuclear weapons program, serving from June 2000 until June 2002. As an Air Force four-star general, he was the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence from October 1997 until June 2000. General Gordon's 32-year Air Force career included significant concentration on research and development, strategic planning, missile and space operations, intergovernmental operations, and international negotiations.
> >
> > General Gordon is now a private consultant and serves on the boards of several corporations and nonprofit organizations.
> >
> > John Gannon

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BAE Systems has named Dr. John Gannon as vice president for Global Analysis, a new line of business formed within BAE Systems Information Technology.

Gannon joins BAE Systems after serving as Staff Director of the House Homeland Security Committee, the first new committee established by Congress in more than thirty years. In 2002-2003, he was a team leader in the White House's Transitional Planning Office for the Department of Homeland Security. He served previously in the senior-most analytic positions in the Intelligence Community, including CIA's Director of European Analysis, Deputy Director for Intelligence, Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, and Assistant Director of Central Intelligence for Analysis and Production. In the private sector, he developed the analytic workforce for Intellibridge Corporation, a web-based provider of outsourced analysis for government and corporate clients.

Gannon served as a naval officer in Southeast Asia and later in several Naval Reserve commands; retiring as a Captain. He was also elected to the Falls Church, Va., City Council and was subsequently appointed to the city's Planning Commission and later to the city's Economic Development Commission and Charter Review Commission.

Gannon holds a bachelor's degree from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., and master's and doctorate degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. He is an adjunct professor in the National Security Studies Program at Georgetown University.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 8:54:13 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

Can you call Ben and see if I can cal him at 5:00
Get a number.

On Jun 29, 2015 3:19 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.

_____

We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:

- investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future

- protecting families from pollution

- safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence

- preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Hi John-

Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.

Thanks,
Milia

Note From Trevor Houser:

"Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:

1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.

The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."

Secretary of State Record

As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)

She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing

Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting

She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

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In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our

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investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

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Milia Fisher
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o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To:	"Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date:	3/17/2015 12:02:51 PM
Subject:	Iran Nuclear Agreement

Dear Jake,

As I have mentioned, for over three years I have chaired the Iran Task Force of the Atlantic Council, the first year as co-chair with Chuck Hagel. We have done extensive work of the Iran nuclear issue, Iranian internal politics and their foreign policy goals, publishing more than a dozen papers.

Along the lines of the previous notes to you about the emerging Iran Nuclear Agreement, it appears increasingly clear there will be a framework agreement by or before March 24, which will set the parameters in some detail of the obligations of Iran and the phase-out of sanctions. The sanctions relief will entail not only the exercise of presidential waiver authority in congressionally imposed sanctions, but the U.S. going to the UN and seeking sanctions relief there, as well. The latter would have the force of international law.

Obviously, with the 47 Republican Senator letter, Bibi's congressional speech, the distinct possibility Bibi will be the prime minister again (exit polls as of this moment are 27-27 between Likud and Labor, and Bibi can more easily get to 61 seats than Herzog), and that the Saudis, Egyptians, Gulf States, as well as Israel and most of the organized Jewish community, will have great problems with the Agreement, this presents a very difficult issue for Secretary Clinton.

I start with the premise that having been Secretary of State and being involved in earlier phases of the negotiations, and being a Democrat, she has to endorse the outcome. But permit me to suggest that she should take a harder line on a number of issues.

She could say something along these lines, subject to modification when the details are published:

"Given the development of Iran's nuclear program, this Agreement, while far from perfect, offers the best way to constrain Iran from getting a bomb. It reduces the number of active centrifuges enriching uranium, and places limits on the number and quality of centrifuges for the next 10 (or 15 years). It would send most of the enriched uranium out of Iran for reprocessing in ways that makes it highly unlikely it could be used to make a bomb. It would limit enriched uranium to low levels (around 5%). It also places strict limits on the heavy-water plutonium plant at Arak, which would potentially be another way for Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. It would limit the underground facility at Fordow to research and development. It provides for intrusive 24/7 inspections by the respected International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), under the additional Protocol of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. And sanctions would be only gradually withdrawn, based upon Iranian performance (check on details). It creates a one year (check) breakout period, in which the U.S. and our allies would have notice if Iran decided to pursue a nuclear weapon. Moreover, 10 (or 15) years is a long time and Iran's conduct may moderate.

Without this Agreement, Iran would be free to develop its plutonium facility at Arak; would continue to increase the number and sophistication of its centrifuges (indeed has another 10,000 waiting on line); would not be subject to intrusive inspections; and could make more progress toward a nuclear weapon. It has added more centrifuges during the course of the severe sanctions already imposed.

Because we already have the most comprehensive sanctions ever exacted in peacetime against Iran (its private banks out of the SWIFT clearance system; the Central Bank of Iran on the sanctions list; the EU taking no Iranian oil exports; etc.), it is difficult to see any set of additional sanctions which would lead to a better result. While we must keep the military option on the table if Iran moves forward with a weapons system, this Agreement is the best opportunity to avoid the need for military action.

We also have to recognize that one of the reasons sanctions helped bring Iran to the negotiating table is that we were able to forge a partnership with the European Union. If we fail to endorse this Agreement, there is a real possibility the EU would remove its sanctions, and the U.S. would be left alone, with sanctions that would be less effective.

At the same time, there are important gaps in the Agreement. It does not cover Iran's ballistic missile program, which would not exist if Iran simply wanted a civilian nuclear program. It does not require Iran to answer the IAEA's questions about its potential military-related testing of equipment, which was one of the reasons for the UN sanctions (check on final product). It does not permit full inspection at military facilities, like Parchin. It leaves Iran with an industrial-size nuclear facility. And at the end of the 10 (or 15) year period, Iran would be unconstrained.

Therefore, while this Agreement is an important step forward to limit Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions, we must take additional steps to assure that Iran does not pursue a breakout strategy either during or after the expiration of the Agreement. The U.S. strategy should include the following:

1. The toughest sanctions possible should be given to the next President to employ if Iran cheats during the course of the Agreement.

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2. Even after the expiration of the Agreement, Iran should know that if it pursues a nuclear weapons strategy, the U.S. would consider this unacceptable, and would take all actions necessary to prevent it.

3. The U.S. should insist that Iran "come clean" and answer all of the IAEA's questions to their satisfaction.

4. The U.S. should do everything possible to limit Iran's development of long-range missiles.

5. The U.S. should assure our friends and allies in the region, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, Jordan, and others that this Agreement will not lead to across-the-board cooperation with Iran on issues like Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, Afghanistan, where directly or through surrogates Iran is acting in ways contrary to U.S. national security interests and those of our friends and allies. Iran has provided the equipment and training of IEDs and other weapons which have killed American soldiers. Their interests and ours diverge in important ways. We will never forsake our friends, and should begin immediate consultations to provide defense arrangements to reassure them of our continued support and constancy. We will do everything possible to limit Iran's efforts at regional hegemony at the expense of our friends and allies. We will build up our forces in the Persian Gulf to demonstrate this."

Jake, these are some preliminary thoughts. But I do believe Secretary Clinton cannot afford to take a pass on this Agreement, or simply endorse it without these caveats.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

Stuart Eizenstat

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COVINGTON

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/11/2008 1:15:02 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/11

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 11th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

7am McCain: Interview on NBC - "Today Show"

7am McCain: Interview on CNBC - "Squawk Box with Carl Quintinilla"

11am McCain: Town Hall in Philadelphia, PA
- Tracking scheduled for this event

6pm McCain: Finance Reception in Boston, MA

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain, Obama Clash on Economy (Washington Post 6/11/08)
By Perry Bacon Jr.; A01
Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain outlined on Tuesday sharply different approaches on how to revive the nation's economy and provide aid to struggling workers, giving voters a clear choice on the issue that Americans say they are most concerned about.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/10/AR2008061003477.html
Link to transcript of McCain's NFIB Speech: http://www.johnmccain.com/informing/news/Speeches/641cbd73-6945-4103-ad70-306862fdecf3.htm

2 New-Style Candidates Hit Old Notes on Economy (NYT 6/11/08)
By MICHAEL COOPER and LARRY ROHTER
For all the efforts of Senators John McCain and Barack Obama to portray themselves as willing to break with party orthodoxy to get things done, the economic debate that opened their general election campaign this week previews a classic clash. It is a battle between Republican supply-side economics and a Democratic tradition that uses government levers to try to reduce inequality and spur the economy.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/11/us/politics/11campaign.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin

Candidates clash over taxes (USA TODAY 6/11/08)
By David Jackson
John McCain and Barack Obama clashed over tax cuts Tuesday as they continued to make their way through states that will be up for grabs in November.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-10-campaign_N.htm

McCain Criticizes CEOs' Pay in Speech to Businesses (Bloomberg 6/10/08)
By Mark Drajem
John McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, took aim at chief executives of the largest U.S. companies, saying many of them enjoy big paydays while escaping responsibility for their mistakes.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601073&sid=aTYXQYPP.Euk&refer=

McCain Adviser: McCain Opposes 'Reckless Favors For Oil Companies,' Will Eliminate 'All Special Tax Breaks' (ThinkProgress 6/10/08)

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dhe3.jpgIn a conference call yesterday, Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) top economic adviser, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, said McCain voted against the 2005 Energy Policy Act because it contained massive tax breaks to big oil companies. McCain's economic plan, Holtz-Eakin claimed, would eliminate "all special tax breaks" to these oil companies, who are currently enjoying record profits:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/10/holtz-eakin-oil/

McCain vs Obama on taxes (Washington Post "FactChecker" blog 6/11/08)
...McCain's speech to the Small Business Summit yesterday leaves the impression that Obama favors raising taxes on all Americans, across the board. But his words have been carefully parsed. A more literal reading suggests that he could also be talking about some Americans from "every background," not "all Americans."
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/2008/06/mccain_vs_obama_on_taxes.html
See also: http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/10/fiorina-obama-tax-cut/

McCain Claims Lack Of Economics Knowledge Comments Were Taken 'Out Of Context' (ThinkProgress 6/10/08)
During an interview yesterday, Fox News's Carl Cameron asked Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) if it was a "mistake" for McCain to say he knows little about the economy. But McCain denied that he had made any such suggestion, arguing that his past comments were taken "out of context"
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/10/mccain-economy-context/

Presidential candidates target Pennsylvania (Philadelphia Inquirer 6/11/08)
By Thomas Fitzgerald
Once again, Pennsylvania finds itself in the crosshairs of presidential politics, marked as a target on Republican and Democratic maps.
http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/20080611_Presidential_candidates_target_Pennsylvania.html

What should McCain do about Cheney? (Politico 6/11/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
Though Cheney is one of the nation's most influential and talked about vice presidents ever, his favorability ratings are near toxic lows.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11000.html

Candidates close in defense donations (Politico 6/11/08)
By: Jen DiMascio
McCain is only $4,000 ahead of Obama in donations from defense industry employees and their spouses.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/10998.html

Special-interest access abounds in campaign (AP 6/10/08)
By SHARON THEIMER
Barack Obama and John McCain are billing themselves as distant from special interests. It doesn't take a very deep look into their White House bids to see that's false advertising.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gcdZVSGaPDKJL5psKcG4TCWGB89wD917DIB03

McCain Campaign Agrees With CNBC Pundit: Americans Making $200,000 Are 'Not Rich' (ThinkProgress 6/10/08)
Writing in Avenue, "a glossy, lifestyle magazine that chronicles the lives of Manhattan's affluent and socially powerful," CNBC's Maria Bartiromo warns readers that under Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), "the income tax is…in for a bump":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/10/mccain-not-rich/

McCain and Obama Sling Mortgage Mess Mud (ABC 6/10/08)
By AVNI PATEL
Both Accuse The Other Of Ties to Sub-Prime Loan Industry
http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/story?id=5039253&page=1

The Myth of McCain's Weakness Among Evangelicals (WSJ blog 6/10/08)
By Steven Waldman
Conventional wisdom holds that John McCain is struggling to win evangelical voters. ... On the contrary, Sen. McCain won the nomination in part because he did far better than expected with rank-and-file evangelicals.
http://blogs.wsj.com/politicalperceptions/2008/06/10/the-myth-of-mccains-weakness-among-evangelicals/

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McCain aggressively courting independents (CNN 6/10/08)
* Poll finds independent voters split between Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama
* McCain plans to challenge Obama on issues ranging from taxes to the environment
* President Bush's unpopularity, Iraq war may hurt McCain outreach to independents
* GOP insiders express concern over how McCain's campaign is executing strategy
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/10/mccain.strategy/index.html

McCain Calls Arizona a Swing State (Washington Independent 6/10/08)
By John Dougherty
Sen. John McCain's big struggle to energize a suspicious conservative Republican base and attract crucial independent voters is a national fight that encompasses his home state of Arizona. Despite representing the state in Congress for 26 years, McCain is now confronting a resurgent state Democratic Party and a burgeoning number of unpredictable independent voters.
http://www.washingtonindependent.com/view/mccain-campaign

Online, Obama Outpaces McCain by Miles (Washington Post blog 6/10/08)
By Jose Antonio Vargas
Less than five months before The Big Day -- Nov. 4, 2008 -- national polls show John McCain and Barack Obama locked in a dead heat. The latest CNN poll has Obama at 49 and McCain at 46; the most recent Gallup poll shows Obama at 46 and McCain just a point away.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/10/online_obama_outpaces_mccain_b.html

Why Do Women Give McCain a Zero? (Huffington Post 6/10/08)
By Robert Greenwald
John McCain's record on reproductive rights couldn't be more appalling. There, we said it! We said it because the corporate media won't confront McCain on the real issues in this election. They won't tell you, for instance, that McCain has consistently received a big fat zero from NARAL on its pro-choice scorecard. Nor will they tell you that McCain has flip-flopped on Roe v. Wade and now supports overturning this all-too-crucial case.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-greenwald/why-do-women-give-mccain_b_106263.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arw-yNas2xc

Cindy McCain won't serve in husband's administration (CNN 6/10/08)
By Jeff Simon
Cindy McCain on Tuesday ruled out the possibility of serving in her husband's possible presidential administration.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/06/10/cindy-mccain-won%E2%80%99t-serve-in-husband%E2%80%99s-administration/

John McCain's $60 Million in Pork (Huffington Post 6/10/08)
By Ari Rabin-Havt
Senator John McCain would like you to believe he hates earmarks. ...Well, like lot of things John McCain has said it is simply not true.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ari-rabin-havt/john-mccains-60-million-i_b_106362.html

Lame (TIME blog 6/10/08)
by Joe Klein
John McCain quipped yesterday that Barack Obama is "running for Jimmy Carter's second term." I can't imagine that most people under the age of 40 are old enough to remember what Carter's first term was like. It was done 28 years ago. For my kids, it's as vivid as Calvin Coolidge's first term.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/06/lame.html

McCain Plays Defense (TIME blog 6/10/08)
by Jay Carney
As a rule, political candidates have more success when they're telling people what they're for and who they are -- rather than defensively explaining what, and who, they are not. Which is why you might have found the first two national salvos of the general election from the McCain campaign a bit puzzling. First, in his general election

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launch speech a week ago tonight (widely panned because of McCain's awkward delivery), the money graf was all about McCain defending himself against the Democratic charge that he is little more than McBush, a clone who would continue the current unpopular president's policies. Then, at the end of the week, came the campaign's first major TV buy, a 30-second spot running in ten key states around the country, on both cable and broadcast. It's message: I'm not a warmonger.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/06/mccain_plays_defense.html

Former Bush Donors: Still Hesitant About Backing McCain (CQ 6/10/08)
By Emily Cadei and Alex Knott
John McCain may be the presumed Republican presidential nominee, but he's still not connecting with a critical group of donors the way President Bush did during his 2004 re-election campaign.
http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?docid=news-000002892934

Jewish Dem donor joins McCain team (The Hill 6/10/08)
by Alexander Bolton
Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) is attracting elite Jewish Democratic donors who backed Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.) and are concerned about Sen. Barack Obamas (D-Ill.) stance toward Israel, say McCain backers who are organizing the effort to court Democrats.
http://mobile.thehill.com/leading-the-news/jewish-dem-donor-joins-mccain-team-2008-06-10.html

McCain (Not) Playing It "Safe" (The Page 6/10/08)
Poorer candidate (the Republican) starts national cable TV ad buy Wednesday. ... More than $1 million in time bought on Fox News Channel, CNN, Lifetime, TLC, and Discovery through July 3.
First spot to run: "Safe," which is already airing on broadcast TV in key markets (and is going on New Hampshire's WMUR as well).
http://thepage.time.com/2008/06/10/mccain-not-playing-it-%e2%80%9csafe%e2%80%9d/

McCain radio: 'Cuba Prisoners' (Politico blog 6/10/08)
By Ben Smith
The McCain radio spot running in Spanish in South Florida doesn't mention Obama, but the swipe -- taken by a former political prisoner in Cuba -- is clear:http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0608/McCain_Cuba_Prisoners.html
Link to audio of ad ("Cuba Prisoners"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QD1PvyYs1A

Democrats Join to Tout Obama, Bash McCain (Washington Post blog 6/10/08)
By Ben Pershing
With a long and divisive primary fight finally behind them, the bulk of the national Democratic leadership joined forces today to tout the candidacy of Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and to bash Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) -- in noticeably strong terms. At the same time, Obama took a key step toward reaching out to Clinton supporters and raising money for his party's congressional candidates.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/capitol-briefing/2008/06/democrats_join_to_tout_obama_b.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

The McCain Miracle (Washington Post 6/11/08)
By Michael Gerson; A19
In the genuine historical miracle of Barack Obama -- it was only 43 years ago, half a historical eye-blink, when African American voting rights remained unsecured -- the political and personal miracle of John McCain has been largely overshadowed. ....one of the most improbable comebacks of American political history.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/10/AR2008061002526.html

A Vote for McBama (Washington Post 6/11/08)
By Robert J. Samuelson
We know enough about both candidates to temper excitement for either. ...The trouble with McCain is that he often mistakes stubbornness for principle.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/10/AR2008061002528.html

Mister Maverick, Meet Da Machine (WSJ 6/11/08)

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By THOMAS FRANK; Page A21
John McCain's campaign embraces the culture war, Chicago style.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121313942473362395.html?mod=todays_columnists

Change We Can Believe In Is All Around Us (WSJ 6/11/08)
By BRIAN WESBURY; Page A23
...It's ... what everyone seems to want – change. ... If it's the war that is the focus of all this talk about change, well, that's understandable, and maybe people really do want change. But if it's the economy, it's hard to imagine that change could happen any faster.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121314078329762429.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

Re-upping in Iraq (LA Times 6/11/08)
By Max Boot
We need a pact that protects our troops, and Baghdad isn't cooperating.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-boot11-2008jun11,0,5671685.story

BUSH NEWS

President Bush regrets his legacy as man who wanted war (UK's The Times 6/11/08)
Tom Baldwin and Gerard Baker
President Bush has admitted to The Times that his gun-slinging rhetoric made the world believe that he was a "guy really anxious for war" in Iraq. He said that his aim now was to leave his successor a legacy of international diplomacy for tackling Iran.
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article4107327.ece

Bush Visits German Chancellor (AP 6/11/08)
By DEB RIECHMANN
(MESEBERG, Germany)—President Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel both want to keep Iran from developing nuclear weapons but they're standing on opposite sides of a revolving door. He's on his way out of office. She's trying to stay in.
http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1813461,00.html

Kucinich Forces Vote On Bush's Impeachment (Washington Post 6/11/08)
By Ben Pershing; A02
Having failed in efforts to impeach Vice President Cheney, Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich (D-Ohio) escalated his battle against the administration this week by introducing 35 articles of impeachment against President Bush, using a parliamentary maneuver that will probably force a vote today.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/10/AR2008061003087.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

Iraqis Condemn American Demands (Washington Post 6/11/08)
By Amit R. Paley and Karen DeYoung; A01
High-level negotiations over the future role of the U.S. military in Iraq have turned into an increasingly acrimonious public debate, with Iraqi politicians denouncing what they say are U.S. demands to maintain nearly 60 bases in their country indefinitely.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/10/AR2008061003415.html

Tax Hike On Oil Profits Blocked (Washington Post 6/11/08)
By Lori Montgomery and Steven Mufson; D01
Senate Republicans yesterday blocked a proposal to tax the windfall profits of the nation's biggest oil companies and eliminate some of the firms' tax breaks, rejecting Democratic claims that the measure would help assuage consumer anger over $4-a-gallon gasoline.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/10/AR2008061000143.html

The GOP takes aim at Michelle Obama (LA Times 6/11/08)
By Robin Abcarian
A Web video by the Tennessee Republican Party deriding the potential first lady for her 'proud of my country' gaffe is widely seen as a harbinger of future attacks.

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http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-michelle11-2008jun11,0,3978235.story

Paul mulling competing rally (Boston Globe blog 6/10/08)
By Foon Rhee
Without a speaking slot confirmed at the Republican National Convention, Ron Paul is making other plans to be heard.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/06/paul_mulling_co.html

Gates: Next president likely to take 'sensible approach' to Iraq (CNN 6/10/08)
* The next president must not get the "endgame" in Iraq wrong, Gates says
* Defense secretary says U.S. does not want permanent bases in Iraq
* Gates says security agreement will go before Senate if it binds next president
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/10/iraq.next.president/index.html

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From: "Eddie Vale" <evale@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/3/2008 12:55:29 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Full Text of McCain's Speech Tonight

http://www.drudgereport.com/flash7.htm

Remarks of Senator Barack Obama -- Final Primary Night

Tues., June 3, 2008 19:02:11 ET

Tonight, after fifty-four hard-fought contests, our primary season has finally come to an end.

Sixteen months have passed since we first stood together on the steps of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois. Thousands of miles have been traveled. Millions of voices have been heard. And because of what you said -- because you decided that change must come to Washington; because you believed that this year must be different than all the rest; because you chose to listen not to your doubts or your fears but to your greatest hopes and highest aspirations, tonight we mark the end of one historic journey with the beginning of another -- a journey that will bring a new and better day to America. Tonight, I can stand before you and say that I will be the Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

I want to thank every American who stood with us over the course of this campaign -- through the good days and the bad; from the snows of Cedar Rapids to the sunshine of Sioux Falls. And tonight I also want to thank the men and woman who took this journey with me as fellow candidates for President.

At this defining moment for our nation, we should be proud that our party put forth one of the most talented, qualified field of individuals ever to run for this office. I have not just competed with them as rivals, I have learned from them as friends, as public servants, and as patriots who love America and are willing to work tirelessly to make this country better. They are leaders of this party, and leaders that America will turn to for years to come.

That is particularly true for the candidate who has traveled further on this journey than anyone else. Senator Hillary Clinton has made history in this campaign not just because she's a woman who has done what no woman has done before, but because she's a leader who inspires millions of Americans with her strength, her courage, and her commitment to the causes that brought us here tonight.

We've certainly had our differences over the last sixteen months. But as someone who's shared a stage with her many times, I can tell you that what gets Hillary Clinton up in the morning -- even in the face of tough odds -- is exactly what sent her and Bill Clinton to sign up for their first campaign in Texas all those years ago; what sent her to work at the Children's Defense Fund and made her fight for health care as First Lady; what led her to the United States Senate and fueled her barrier-breaking campaign for the presidency -- an unyielding desire to improve the lives of ordinary Americans, no matter how difficult the fight may be. And you can rest assured that when we finally win the battle for universal health care in this country, she will be central to that victory. When we transform our energy policy and lift our children out of poverty, it will be because she worked to help make it happen. Our party and our country are better off because of her, and I am a better candidate for having had the honor to compete with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

There are those who say that this primary has somehow left us weaker and more divided. Well I say that because of this primary, there are millions of Americans who have cast their ballot for the very first time. There are Independents and Republicans who understand that this election isn't just about the party in charge of Washington, it's about the need to change Washington.Ê There are young people, and African-Americans, and Latinos, and women of all ages who have voted in numbers that have broken records and inspired a nation.

All of you chose to support a candidate you believe in deeply. But at the end of the day, we aren't the reason you came out and waited in lines that stretched block after block to make your voice heard. You didn't do that because of me or Senator Clinton or anyone else. You did it because you know in your hearts that at this moment -- a moment that will define a generation -- we cannot afford to keep doing what we've been doing. We owe our children a better future. We owe our country a better future. And for all those who dream of that future tonight, I say -- let us begin the work together. Let us unite in common effort to chart a new course for America.

In just a few short months, the Republican Party will arrive in St. Paul with a very different agenda. They will come here to nominate John McCain, a man who has served this country heroically. I honor that service, and I respect his many accomplishments, even if he chooses to deny mine. My differences with him are not personal; they are with the policies he has proposed in this campaign.

Because while John McCain can legitimately tout moments of independence from his party in the past, such independence has not been the hallmark of his presidential campaign.

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It's not change when John McCain decided to stand with George Bush ninety-five percent of the time, as he did in the Senate last year.

It's not change when he offers four more years of Bush economic policies that have failed to create well-paying jobs, or insure our workers, or help Americans afford the skyrocketing cost of college -- policies that have lowered the real incomes of the average American family, widened the gap between Wall Street and Main Street, and left our children with a mountain of debt.ÊÊÊ

And it's not change when he promises to continue a policy in Iraq that asks everything of our brave men and women in uniform and nothing of Iraqi politicians -- a policy where all we look for are reasons to stay in Iraq, while we spend billions of dollars a month on a war that isn't making the American people any safer.

So I'll say this -- there are many words to describe John McCain's attempt to pass off his embrace of George Bush's policies as bipartisan and new. But change is not one of them.

Change is a foreign policy that doesn't begin and end with a war that should've never been authorized and never been waged. I won't stand here and pretend that there are many good options left in Iraq, but what's not an option is leaving our troops in that country for the next hundred years -- especially at a time when our military is overstretched, our nation is isolated, and nearly every other threat to America is being ignored.

We must be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in - but start leaving we must. It's time for Iraqis to take responsibility for their future. It's time to rebuild our military and give our veterans the care they need and the benefits they deserve when they come home. It's time to refocus our efforts on al Qaeda's leadership and Afghanistan, and rally the world against the common threats of the 21st century -- terrorism and nuclear weapons; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. That's what change is.

Change is realizing that meeting today's threats requires not just our firepower, but the power of our diplomacy -- tough, direct diplomacy where the President of the United States isn't afraid to let any petty dictator know where America stands and what we stand for. We must once again have the courage and conviction to lead the free world. That is the legacy of Roosevelt, and Truman, and Kennedy. That's what the American people want. That's what change is.Ê

Change is building an economy that rewards not just wealth, but the work and workers who created it. It's understanding that the struggles facing working families can't be solved by spending billions of dollars on more tax breaks for big corporations and wealthy CEOs, but by giving a the middle-class a tax break, and investing in our crumbling infrastructure, and transforming how we use energy, and improving our schools, and renewing our commitment to science and innovation. It's understanding that fiscal responsibility and shared prosperity can go hand-in-hand, as they did when Bill Clinton was President.

John McCain has spent a lot of time talking about trips to Iraq in the last few weeks, but maybe if he spent some time taking trips to the cities and towns that have been hardest hit by this economy -- cities in Michigan, and Ohio, and right here in Minnesota -- he'd understand the kind of change that people are looking for.

Maybe if he went to Iowa and met the student who works the night shift after a full day of class and still can't pay the medical bills for a sister who's ill, he'd understand that she can't afford four more years of a health care plan that only takes care of the healthy and wealthy. She needs us to pass health care plan that guarantees insurance to every American who wants it and brings down premiums for every family who needs it. That's the change we need.

Maybe if he went to Pennsylvania and met the man who lost his job but can't even afford the gas to drive around and look for a new one, he'd understand that we can't afford four more years of our addiction to oil from dictators. That man needs us to pass an energy policy that works with automakers to raise fuel standards, and makes corporations pay for their pollution, and oil companies invest their record profits in a clean energy future -- an energy policy that will create millions of new jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced. That's the change we need.

And maybe if he spent some time in the schools of South Carolina or St. Paul or where he spoke tonight in New Orleans, he'd understand that we can't afford to leave the money behind for No Child Left Behind; that we owe it to our children to invest in early childhood education; to recruit an army of new teachers and give them better pay and more support; to finally decide that in this global economy, the chance to get a college education should not be a privilege for the wealthy few, but the birthright of every American. That's the change we need in America. That's why I'm running for President.

The other side will come here in September and offer a very different set of policies and positions, and that is a debate I look forward to. It is a debate the American people deserve. But what you don't deserve is another election that's governed by fear, and innuendo, and division. What you won't hear from this campaign or this party is the kind of politics that uses religion as a wedge, and patriotism as a bludgeon -- that sees our opponents not as competitors to challenge, but enemies to

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demonize. Because we may call ourselves Democrats and Republicans, but we are Americans first. We are always Americans first.

Despite what the good Senator from Arizona said tonight, I have seen people of differing views and opinions find common cause many times during my two decades in public life, and I have brought many together myself. I've walked arm-in-arm with community leaders on the South Side of Chicago and watched tensions fade as black, white, and Latino fought together for good jobs and good schools. I've sat across the table from law enforcement and civil rights advocates to reform a criminal justice system that sent thirteen innocent people to death row. And I've worked with friends in the other party to provide more children with health insurance and more working families with a tax break; to curb the spread of nuclear weapons and ensure that the American people know where their tax dollars are being spent; and to reduce the influence of lobbyists who have all too often set the agenda in Washington.

In our country, I have found that this cooperation happens not because we agree on everything, but because behind all the labels and false divisions and categories that define us; beyond all the petty bickering and point-scoring in Washington, Americans are a decent, generous, compassionate people, united by common challenges and common hopes. And every so often, there are moments which call on that fundamental goodness to make this country great again.

So it was for that band of patriots who declared in a Philadelphia hall the formation of a more perfect union; and for all those who gave on the fields of Gettysburg and Antietam their last full measure of devotion to save that same union.

So it was for the Greatest Generation that conquered fear itself, and liberated a continent from tyranny, and made this country home to untold opportunity and prosperity.

So it was for the workers who stood out on the picket lines; the women who shattered glass ceilings; the children who braved a Selma bridge for freedom's cause.

So it has been for every generation that faced down the greatest challenges and the most improbable odds to leave their children a world that's better, and kinder, and more just.

And so it must be for us.

America, this is our moment. This is our time. Our time to turn the page on the policies of the past. Our time to bring new energy and new ideas to the challenges we face. Our time to offer a new direction for the country we love.

The journey will be difficult. The road will be long. I face this challenge with profound humility, and knowledge of my own limitations. But I also face it with limitless faith in the capacity of the American people. Because if we are willing to work for it, and fight for it, and believe in it, then I am absolutely certain that generations from now, we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless; this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal; this was the moment when we ended a war and secured our nation and restored our image as the last, best hope on Earth. This was the moment -- this was the time -- when we came together to remake this great nation so that it may always reflect our very best selves, and our highest ideals. Thank you, God Bless you, and may God Bless the United States of America.Ê

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/21/2016 8:33:34 AM
Subject: News Update - January 21

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, January 21

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **US Condemns Israel's Jordan Valley Land Expansion**
- **Ban Ki-Moon Condemns New Israeli Land Appropriation Plan**
- **Hezbollah Is Getting Most Sophisticated Russian Weapons**
- **Palestinian Hardliners Blast Security Cooperation with Israel**
- **Residents Anxious as IDF Deploys Artillery Batteries Near Gaza**
- **Interior Minister Revokes Residency of 4 East Jerusalem Terrorists**
- **State Refuses to Aid Palestinians Facing Death for Selling Jews Land**
- **Israel Eyes Improved Ties with Gulf States After Foothold Gained in UAE**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Beware of Hezbollah, Preparing for Hamas"**
  - By Alex Fishman, Military Analyst, Yedioth Ahronoth
- **National Post: "Rebooting Israeli-Turkish Relations"**
  - By Robert M. Cutler, Senior Researcher, Carleton University

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Times of Israel

US Condemns Israel's Jordan Valley Land Expansion

Washington condemned Israel's plan to appropriate West Bank land near Jericho, saying the action called into question Jerusalem's commitment to a two-state solution with the Palestinians. The Defense Ministry said earlier in the day that officials approved the expropriation of some 370 acres West Bank agricultural land near the Palestinian city of Jericho, the largest such move since August 2014. "We strongly oppose any steps that could accelerate settlement expansion and we believe they're fundamentally incompatible with a two-state solution and call into question frankly the Israeli government's commitment to a two-state solution," State Department spokesman Mark Toner said.
See also, "Israel Says Will Seize West Bank Land; Demolish EU Structures" (Reuters)

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Ma'ariv

Ban Ki-Moon Condemns New Israeli Land Appropriation Plan

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that he was deeply concerned about reports that Israel intended to appropriate 1,500 dunams of land south of Jericho. A short time ago, Ban released a statement saying that if this took place, this would be the largest appropriation in the last 1.5 years. He again called on Israel to take steps to improve the lives of the Palestinians and stressed that the settlements violated international law and were in contradiction of Israel's statements that it was committed to the two-state solution.

See also, "Ramallah Readying New UN Bid as Ban Condemns Land Expropriation" (Times of Israel)

Ynet News

Hezbollah Is Getting Most Sophisticated Russian Weapons

"Russian weapons, Moscow's most advanced, are already in Hezbollah's possession," Gen. (res.) Yaakov Amidror said at the end of last week, while speaking to a group of new immigrants at a Midrasha Zionit event in Petah Tikva. Amidror, who was head of the National Security Council two years ago and an adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said that the sophisticated weapons reached Hezbollah as a result of the Syrian civil war.

See also, "As Hezbollah Rocket Arsenal Grows, Israel Creates New Battalions" (Jerusalem Post)

Jerusalem Post

Palestinian Hardliners Blast Security Cooperation with Israel

Palestinian factions on Wednesday strongly condemned Palestinian Authority security commander Majed Faraj for his talk about security coordination with Israel. Faraj, in an interview Sunday with Defense News, revealed that the PA security forces have prevented some 200 terrorist attacks against Israel since October 2015. He also revealed that his forces have arrested about 100 Palestinians on suspicion of planning attacks against Israelis. Faraj is the commander of the PA's General Intelligence Force in the West Bank. His remarks triggered a wave of denunciations from a number of Palestinian factions that are strongly opposed to security coordination with Israel.

See also, "Keeping ISIS Out of Palestine" (Defense News)

Arutz Sheva

Residents Anxious as IDF Deploys Artillery Batteries Near Gaza

In an unusual step, the IDF has deployed artillery batteries along the border with Gaza in response to last week's attempted bombing attack in the northern section of Gaza. The artillery batteries have been stationed along with soldiers deployed in the area. Over the past seven years, artillery batteries have been deployed during times of a sharp increase in attacks coming from Hamas or during IDF military action against Gaza. The batteries offer a quick and destructive response to attacks emanating from open areas.

See also, "IDF Deploys Artillery Battery on Gaza Border" (Ynet News)

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Ynet News

Interior Minister Revokes Residency of 4 East J'lem Terrorists

Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, in a rare move on Thursday, revoked the residency of four terrorists who were responsible for the murder of four Israeli citizens. Three of the residents - Walid Fares Mustafa Atrash, Mohammed Salah Mohammed Abu Keif, and Mahmoud Abed Rabbo Dawiyat - hurled stones on Israeli vehicles on a major throughway near Jerusalem's Arnona neighborhood on Rosh Hashanah eve, causing the death of Alexander Levlovich , 64 - considered the first Israeli murdered in the current wave of violence.
See also, "Residency Rights of 4 East Jerusalem Terror Suspects Revoked" (Times of Israel)

Ha'aretz

State Won't Aid Palestinians Facing Death for Selling Jews Land

More than 95 percent of Palestinians who appeal for help from Israeli courts or authorities because their lives are endangered, due to their cooperation with Israel, are denied asylum or protection, Ha'aretz has found. In a typical case, the High Court of Justice last week rejected a petition from a West Bank Palestinian who sought protection because his life was in danger. His community suspected he had cooperated with Israel and had been involved in selling land to Jews.

Middle East Eye

Israel Eyes Improved Ties w/ Gulf States After Foothold in UAE

Israel hopes that its relationship with Arab Gulf states will continue to improve after ties with countries including the United Arab Emirates have grown in recent years over issues including opposition to Iran, officials and regional experts have told Middle East Eye. On Monday Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz returned from a "secret trip" to Abu Dhabi where he discussed "shared concerns" over Iran, the Islamic State (IS), and other undisclosed matters. The report said the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs is interested in opening an office in Abu Dhabi, following on from the December 2015 announcement that Israel was opening its public office in the UAE at the Abu Dhabi headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
See also, "Speculation Over Israel's Diplomatic Liaisons with Gulf States" (Jerusalem Post)

Yedioth Ahronoth – January 21, 2016

Beware of Hezbollah, Preparing for Hamas

By Alex Fishman

Institutionalized terrorism—to wit, shooting attacks, roadside bombings, car bombings and suicide bombing attacks with the support of terror organizations and regimes such as Iran—are on their way back to the West Bank and from there quite possibly into Green Line Israel as well. That is the true face of the wave of terrorism that is currently being prepared behind the scenes and which threatens to take the place of the wave of spontaneous and popular terrorism featuring lone assailants bearing knives and using vehicles as their weapons.

Senior security officials have been monitoring with concern the decision that Hamas's military leadership in the Gaza Strip has made in recent months: to renew its terror attacks in the West Bank and Israel, even at the cost of a full-scale conflagration with Israel. Senior Israeli security officials say that Hamas, a year and a half after Operation Protective Edge, feels that it has achieved a sufficient degree of readiness to traverse another war with Israel. From Israel's perspective,

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that is of strategic significance: in the course of this coming year it is liable to find itself in another conflagration in the Gaza Strip.

Hezbollah, for the time being, is a marginal player in terms of the institutionalized terrorist infrastructure in the West Bank. The exposure of the Hezbollah terror cell in Tulkarm is testament to the effort that Hezbollah has been making to regain its foothold on the Palestinian front—as it did during the second Intifada when 70% of the Fatah cells that operated against Israel did so under Nasrallah's patronage. Hezbollah believes the Palestinian front to be a primary front that will allow it to operate against Israel without setting Lebanon's southern border on fire. But Hezbollah's penetration into the West Bank still has a long way to go.

The real story is Hamas. Several weeks ago the GSS tracked down a Hamas network in the West Bank, which included a bomb factory and preparations to dispatch a suicide bomber to an attack in Jerusalem. Hamas's military wing in the Gaza Strip, which commanded the network, was working on the assumption that Israel would not be able to refrain from acting in the face of a murderous terror attack in the heart of the capital. Its assessment was that Israel would respond aggressively in Judea and Samaria—which would include damaging the Palestinian Authority—and would carry out retaliatory operations in the Gaza Strip in tandem.

The alarms have been sounding in Israel for several months. The assessment is that Hamas has taken the liberty of staging bombing attacks in the West Bank because it has completed the initial preparations needed to deliver the "surprise blow" that it failed to deliver a year and a half ago on the eve of Operation Protective Edge. It is not unlikely that this will involve infiltration into Israel—from the air, the sea and tunnels—under the cover of massive mortar shell and rocket fire so as to inflict maximal casualties on Israel. Hamas has also developed a doctrine that involves delivering an opening blow that will shock the Israelis and serve as a form of Palestinian revenge for the opening blow that Israel delivered in Operation Pillar of Defense, in which dozens of Hamas police officers were killed in a police installation in Gaza.

It seems that Hamas has completed at least part of its rehabilitation work in the Gaza Strip. The network of offensive tunnels that penetrate Israeli territory has apparently already been rebuilt and based on past experience, those tunnels have several exit points each.

Furthermore Hamas's special forces and frogmen have continued to train intensively, its unmanned aerial vehicle division has been rebuilt and the arsenal of rockets has been partially replenished.

While it is true that the network that was planning the suicide bombing attack in Jerusalem was arrested, it was not alone. General Freij, the commander of the Palestinian Authority's security forces, told the American media that his troops had recently arrested 300 Hamas members.

At the start of the current wave of terrorism some four months ago, Hamas in Gaza and its commanders in Istanbul encouraged the Palestinians to commit acts of violence, and they celebrated the perpetrators of the stabbing and vehicular attacks. At that point, Hamas was encouraging the wave of terrorism but had not yet crossed the line by activating terror cells it had in the West Bank, for fear of Israeli retaliation. Hamas's strategy was to try to undermine the stability of Abu Mazen's regime by means of cultivating unrest on the Palestinian street. Meanwhile, the Israeli assessment was that Hamas was preoccupied with rebuilding its strength, was suffering from economic distress because of its loss of Iran's support and had been dealt a painful blow by Egypt, which had shut down a significant part of its smuggling tunnels. The Israeli assessment was that Hamas lacked the capabilities and the will to risk clashing with the IDF.

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That assessment in Israel changed when it became evident that Hamas has instructed its men in the West Bank to resume bombing attacks inside the Green Line. Indeed, Hamas's terror cells in the West Bank have been reactivated and several bomb factories have already been discovered. Money has also begun to flow to those terror cells, envoys have already been dispatched and have visited the West Bank. It is clear today that Hamas—under the leadership of Mohammed Deif—has changed its course and has upped the ante with Israel.

Alex Fishman is a military analyst for Yedioth Ahronoth.

National Post – January 19, 2016

Rebooting Israeli-Turkish Relations

By Robert M. Cutler

The political earthquake between Saudi Arabia and Iran has overshadowed the news, in early January, about the possibility of a diplomatic reconciliation between Turkey and Israel. This news included the possibility of Israel exporting natural gas to Turkey. The link between the Turkey-Israel and the Saudi-Iran questions is not a simple one.

There have been rumors before about a Turkish-Israeli reconciliation that did not come to pass. This time, notably, it was the liberal Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz that "leaked" this story, perhaps to apply political pressure inside Israel for approval of the deal. But even so, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said that he has not seen its specific provisions.

Although this Turkish-Israeli rapprochement has been in the works for some time, the initiative may be seen from Turkey's side, in the context of the recent Turkish-Russian rift, as an attempt to move Israel away from Russia. From that standpoint, it is unlikely to work. Israel needs aerial co-ordination with Russia over Syrian airspace. Arrangements for this have been made, and they have been working.

Also, Israel will never agree to unrestricted resupply of the Gaza Strip from Turkey. Although creative diplomacy may arrange for verification of shipments, for example, via Cyprus where they could be inspected, the overall economics suggest that Turkey needs Israel more than Israel needs Turkey.

Rapprochement would suit both … but in the end, Ankara needs it more.

It is true that Israel wants markets for its newly discovered natural gas, and that Turkey wants to reduce dependence on Russian gas. It would be difficult, however, for Israel to rely on Turkey for transit of gas to Europe in light of recent bilateral relations. The proposed Eastern Mediterranean pipeline from Israel's offshore through Cyprus (which has also its own gas for export) to Greece, and from there into Italy or the Balkans, makes Turkey unnecessary as a transit country.

How does this affect the Saudi-Iranian equation? Israel has greatly improved its intelligence co-operation with Saudi Arabia, which has in turn established strong relations with the new Egyptian regime. Yet it is an open secret that the Muslim Brotherhood operates easily in Turkey in order to oppose and attack Egypt, including underground and military operations on Egyptian soil.

Israeli-Egyptian co-operation in the Sinai has greatly improved. From this standpoint, Israel has little motive potentially to displease these two states, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, with which it has strong common interests, by re-establishing relations with Turkey, which militantly opposes both regimes in power.

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Turkey may wish to play peace broker between Saudi Arabia and Iran, but Russia has already offered itself for this role. It is natural if Iran were forced to choose, then it would prefer Russia; and if Saudi Arabia were forced to choose, then it would prefer Turkey. Yet there is little prospect of Turkey and Russia co-operating together in this direction.

The balance is not simple. Turkey is an important player in the region but it must be careful not to appear weak in relation to the situation in Syria, or else it would lose diplomatic ground there to either Saudi Arabia or Iran, or also Russia, which is heavily implicated.

Yet while Turkey is an important player in the region, that neither Saudi Arabia nor Iran can risk alienating, still the close relations between Russia and Iran may well lead Turkey to tilt in favor of Saudi Arabia. Turkey has economic relations with both countries, but those with Saudi Arabia have a better horizon for more significant development, including the prospect of important military sales contracts.

It is a cruel puzzle. What is required to guarantee peace is economic co-operation and prosperity, but only peace can bring economic co-operation and prosperity. But the development of markets and human resources does not take place in the short term. Turkey risks being overwhelmed by the war and instability in its neighborhood. It does not have the diplomatic, economic, or human resources to impose peace.

Israel might sell gas to Turkey but would be unlikely to rely on Turkey for gas transit to Europe. Turkey's "ship of state" is being tossed on the seas of social, political, and religious upheaval. This is why Turkey reaches out to Israel as a buoy of stability.

Israel could indeed be such a point of reference for all these countries. It is so for Egypt, and increasingly so for Saudi Arabia. Iran's state ideology and its consistent wish to revise the map of region against the interests of its neighbors are the greatest stumbling-block to peace and stability.

Robert M. Cutler is a senior researcher at Carleton University.

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	"Rob McKay" <rmckay@mckayfund.org>
Date:	2/25/2008 5:09:47 AM
Subject:	For your attention

I wanted to flag this article brought to my attention by Anna.

The way the Fund was represented here is exactly what we dont want to see in print.
The "Fund Official" was neither Katherine or myself. We are following up from the Board Meeting discussion to reach out to some key reporters to have the Fund accurately represented.

Please let me know if you have questions.
Amy

David Cohen
Mother Jones
Forget Swift Boats; this election year could become the battle of the armadas. Thanks to the success of misleading ads against John Kerry in 2004—as well as recent Supreme Court and Federal Election Commission actions—the current presidential contest promises to be more cacophonous and mud strewn than any in recent history, with a record number of down-and-dirty ads financed on the sly by big-money interests. Attacks bankrolled by "independent" groups—businesses, unions, and millionaires—and amplified by YouTube and reporters starved for news "will play a much greater role than ever before," predicts a top gop strategist.

There's just one catch: Groups that make it their express aim to influence federal elections—campaign and party committees, for example—are limited to $5,000 contributions from individuals and can't take money from corporations or unions. But recruiting enough $5,000 donors to underwrite a multimillion-dollar ad buy is a chore. So for those hoping to destroy a candidate with a clever spot or a cheap shot, the key question is which campaign-finance loophole to use.

In 2004, the answer was 527 committees, named after the tax-code provision covering them. These groups can take unlimited donations. Billionaire George Soros alone gave nearly $24 million to 527s that year, including America Coming Together and the Media Fund, which together netted about $140 million in support of John Kerry. On the gop side, the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and the Progress for America Voter Fund raised about $58 million, of which T. Boone Pickens pitched in $4.5 million.

The Federal Election Commission recently ruled that these four 527s had violated campaign-finance law—that they essentially were campaign groups in disguise and should have abided by the $5,000 limit. Yet for what amounted to nearly $200 million in illegal spending, the groups were fined, in total, only $2.4 million, three years after the fact—a punishment easy to dismiss as "the cost of doing business," in the words of Fred Wertheimer, president of the clean-campaign advocacy group Democracy 21.

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Charlie Black, John McCain Aide and Super-Lobbyist

The CIA's Constant Confesser: Michael Hayden Just Can't Stop Admitting Stuff

Green Salt and Nuclear Laptop: New IAEA Report Says Iran Answers Some Questions, Still Has Others to Answer

Kennedy Canta!

Debate's Final Moment — Transformative?

Nevertheless, the fec action has made some donors think twice about 527s, says Wertheimer—which is why political operatives are busy cooking up other stratagems. One involves funneling money to nonprofit advocacy groups like MoveOn and the nra, known as 501(c)(4)s after another tax provision, for voter organization efforts and election-related ads. (Donations to these organizations, unlike those to educational and charitable nonprofits known as 501(c)(3)s, aren't tax deductible; many groups, such as the Sierra Club, have both a (c)(3) and a (c)(4) arm.) Under the 2002 McCain-Feingold act, these advocacy groups were banned from running "issue ads" directed at candidates within two months of a general election. But the Supreme Court modified that ban last June. Now a nonprofit could, say, run a spot just before election time noting that Candidate X once voted against building a wall on the Mexico border, warning that—cue the ominous music!—X is willing to let terrorists sneak into the United States, and exhorting viewers to call X to register their outrage. So long as the ad hasn't (officially) been coordinated with X's opponent and doesn't outright say "vote against X," it's fine. And here's the best part: There are no limitations on the size of a contribution to a (c)(4), nor do its donors have to be disclosed. Moreover, due to that same Supreme Court decision, unions and corporations can now directly finance their own issue ads, expanding the number of players who can slam—or slime—the candidates in 2008.

Wertheimer identifies a few outfits likely to emerge as major independent spenders this year. On the gop side, a likely big player is Freedom's Watch, a (c)(4) founded last summer. In 2007 the group—whose top donor has been casino mogul Sheldon Adelson—spent at least $15 million to support the surge in Iraq, and according to spokesman Jake Suski, it plans to expand its operations in 2008. (See "Betting on Red" in our last issue or at MotherJones.com.) In the Democratic camp, strategists including Clinton White House chief of staff John Podesta and Service Employees International Union (seiu) official Anna Burger have launched a 527 named the Fund for America to raise money and distribute it to (c)(4)s doing voter organization in 10 to 12 key states; a parallel entity headed by Tom Matzzie, the former head of MoveOn's Washington office, will produce issue ads aimed at undercutting the Republican nominee. The Fund for America is hoping to raise at least $100 million.

The legality of this circuitous strategy, admits one Fund for America official, is not fully tested: "We've built into the budget a little money in the expectation that we're unintentionally going to go beyond the boundaries of the law. We know we'll get challenged and will have people watching us every step of the way." The good news for the independent spenders is that a congressional tussle over the appointment of commissioners left the fec with four of its six seats vacant at the start of the year, effectively shutting it down. "If you believe there's no sheriff in town," Wertheimer says ruefully, "anything goes."

Sure enough, the primary season has already seen some sneaky independent action. Prior to January's Iowa caucuses, a (c)(4) called Common Sense Issues set up the website TrustHuckabee.com to recruit pro-Huckabee precinct captains—a blatant and probably prohibited scheme to create a parallel campaign infrastructure. ("They are looking at a lot of litigation," says a former fec official who asked not to be identified. "This is way beyond anything anybody should try.") And a 527 named Alliance for a New America, financed in part by seiu affiliates, ran issue ads in Iowa hailing John Edwards' anti-lobbyist proposals. The Alliance received $495,000 from Rachel "Bunny" Mellon, the 97-year-old daughter-in-law of industrialist Andrew Mellon. A lawyer holding power of attorney for Mellon is an Edwards supporter, and he refused to explain how the generous contribution had come about.

Clearly, political operators weren't very fearful of the fec or irs. The recent rule changes, though, could make Swift-Boat-style character assassination tougher this year. If a 527 or (c)(4) group funded by unlimited contributions produces ads attacking a candidate's past or fitness for office, it will be difficult for the group to claim them as issue ads. "I suppose a group can say, 'We'll file as a 527 not for the purpose of influencing the election, but to educate the public on the quality of the candidates,'" says Jan Baran, a veteran Republican campaign-finance lawyer. "But that would be skating on thin ice."

Which leaves the diy option: There are no restrictions on how much an *individual* can spend to influence an

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election, as long as she or he doesn't coordinate efforts with a candidate or party. Though most big-money people prefer a degree or two of separation from bare-knuckle politics, this year's high stakes could nudge some in that direction. "There is the possibility a billionaire will spend $100 million on the presidential campaign 'just because I feel like it,'" says Democratic consultant Guy Molyneux. "There's the potential for a huge ratcheting up. And we will see some pretty tough stuff." After all, the lesson of 2004 was that it only takes one good ad campaign to undo a candidate.

"We're looking at an enormous shift in control from parties and candidates to outside groups," says the former fec official. "For a candidate, this can mean a loss of control of your message. And this also covers congressional candidates. Imagine if three weeks before the election, someone dumps $600,000 into your House race and you have no idea who it is." Candidates, he adds, "should be scared. Very scared." Maybe voters, too.

David Corn is *Mother Jones*' Washington, D.C., bureau chief

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/20/2016 2:24:43 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT: "We Can't Wait" Speech

She did something a little different tonight that I think is worth looking at. She was reflective, and conveyed a little more self awareness that the press remarked that they hadn't seen from her before. Seems to have made the rest of her remarks more accessible as well. Transcript below, and here's what CNN filed.

http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/20/politics/hillary-clinton-iowa-caucuses/index.html

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Remarks at Organizing Event
January 20, 2016

HILLARY CLINTON: Thank you. Wow, thanks so much. (Cheers.) Thank you all. Hello, Burlington. Thank you all very much. Thank you. Wow. It's great being back here, and thank you all for coming out tonight and being part of this amazing process. I'm really grateful to you.

And before I get started with my remarks about what I think is at stake in this election and what I think you should be considering as you make up your mind once and for all and go out and caucus on February 1st, I just want to say thank you. You know, coming here as I did again, starting last April, I've had the opportunity to talk with and listen by now to thousands of Iowans, and you have impressed upon me all of your concerns, your hopes, some of your worries, some of the challenges that you and your families, your businesses, your schools, your communities, are facing; but also this sense of positive possibility about what we can do if we start working together again.

You've certainly informed me, made me a better candidate, given me a lot more to think about than I even had before I started. And I believe, thanks to you, I will be a better president, someone who really understands firsthand from you what we need to do in our country. So I wanted to start by saying thank you. (Applause.) Thank you for all you have meant to me.

Now, I know that there are a lot of you that have already made up your minds, and I thank you for that. I want to thank Zach, who came out and introduced me. He's one of my active, enthusiastic young volunteers. (Applause.) And I want to thank all the precinct captains who are here. Will everybody who's already a precinct captain or a precinct team member, just know – raise your hand – I want to thank you all so much for being part of this. (Cheers.) It's great. And I know that you have already, many of you, had a chance to meet with our two organizers, Adine (ph), who Zach mentioned, and Sarah. They have been working so hard, and I want you to do whatever they ask you to do in the next days leading up to the caucus.

I'm thrilled that I have this opportunity to talk with you tonight, and I would love to, if we have time, to take some questions. But I want to start by stating the obvious. The stakes in this election are so high. You know, every election is important, but you're going to be the first people world who get to decide who the Democratic nominee for president should be. And there are a lot of folks in our own country and in many others who are watching closely because it matters, not just to us, but it matters to the world who walks into that White House on January 20, 2017. And so it's now time for Iowans to really consider carefully who is prepared, ready, able, to do the job that waits.

Now, some of it we already know is going to have to be tackled, or at least I will tackle it – to get the economy going and growing; to provide more jobs with good incomes for more people in America. (Applause.) I will be prepared also for what might face us starting then around the world because we have to continue to try to make the world a more peaceful, secure, prosperous place.

So you have to decide who can do the job because it really is selecting both a president and a Commander in Chief. Those are equally important. They have different parts of this very overwhelming, in some ways, job that we ask one person to do. But that's why we spend our time meeting with you, answering your questions, to try to give you a feel for who would be the best person at this moment to lead our country.

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I come to this campaign, and I would come to the presidency, with a lifetime of service, experience, and a vision about where our country should be in the 21st century. I feel passionately about this because I know how blessed I am, that I was born in this country to wonderful parents who gave me a great start in life. I went to wonderful public schools with teachers that inspired me to this day. I had the opportunity to go to college, which my mother never had. And then I chose to go to law school, and paid my way through because my father couldn't afford that.

So I feel like an extraordinarily lucky person. But I also know that everything I took advantage of – all the hard work of my dad, who was a small businessman; all the sacrifice of so many in his generation – he was in the Navy during World War II; the hard life my mom had but the loving home she created – I know that you cannot take anything for granted. Everybody has to always keep trying to make it better for those who come after. And that's why, when I left law school, I went to work for the Children's Defense Fund, as you saw in the video, because I knew there were a lot of kids in every part of our country who didn't have anywhere near the blessings and opportunities that I did.

So I bring a perspective to this campaign, and I would bring it to the White House, that motivates me to know I have to do everything possible to make progress for people in our country who deserve a president who is on your side, who fights for you, fights for your family, fights for the best in our nation. (Applause.) And I bring a record of having done that. You saw some of it again in the video.

I know what it's like to be knocked down but not knocked out. I've had a few hard times. I don't know anybody in this audience who hasn't had their own share. But I've learned, and I give my mom the credit for this, that it's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get back up. And I've gotten back up time and time and time again – (applause) – because I believe that we all have an opportunity to try to keep going and to help others along the way.

So when we didn't get the health care reform back in '93-'94, it would have been easy to quit, but I didn't. I said, look. We've got millions of kids who have no insurance. And you know, if kids don't get their health care early on in their lives, that can have lifelong consequences. You all know that. So we got the Children's Health Insurance Program, which now covers eight million kids. (Applause.) And we worked to reform the foster care and adoption system when I was First Lady because again, as an advocate for kids, I saw the terrible situation so many foster kids found themselves in. And I needed an ally in the Congress, and I went to one of the toughest, most partisan Republicans there was, Tom DeLay. And I said to him, "I know you care about foster kids. So do I. Will you work with me to try to improve their lives, to try to make it possible for more of them to get adopted, to have a permanent home?" He kind of paused. So, "Well, what do you want to do?" And I said, "Well, I want you to come to a meeting at the White House, and let's work together." I didn't call a press conference and say, oh, I've got Tom DeLay coming. I said, let's just start working together. Let's see what we can do to help these kids. Maybe it's the only thing – and it was – the only thing we'll ever work on together. But think of the difference we might make. And we did.

So we passed laws. The Safe Families and Adoption Act, which has increased the number of kids being adopted out of foster care, and provided more support for them. And that's what I mean when I say we've got to keep going. We've got to find common ground. You've got to help people be able to have what they need to make the most out of their own lives. You saw a little bit about what I did as Senator after 9/11. I can't even describe to you what that was like. Words really fail me, still today, all these years later. But to go to where we were attacked, the next day, and see what had been done to our country was devastating. But we had to get to work. We had to begin to get things put back together, including the lives of families who lost loved ones, nearly 3,000. Including the health of our first responders, our construction workers. I just met with a big group of ironworkers, and they were dropping their construction tools all over New York City to race to help try to save people because they knew how to move the heavy steel that was still standing.

So I worked to help them – (applause) – with the healthcare they needed against some pretty tough odds. But working on that –what was called "the pile" for weeks and months – first to try to save lives, to find bodies, then to clear it and rebuild it, took a toll on so many, and they deserved to be taken care of. So there's a lot that I have had the opportunity to experience, I would say even the privilege. And to work to solve the problems that the people I represented in New York – it's not all been a bed of roses. It's tough. The politics in our country, in case you haven't noticed, can be pretty harsh. I think I've been called nearly everything. (Laughter). I understand that. It's a competitive process. I wish it were not quite so mean-spirited. I don't think that reflects well on us, but we have to keep forging our way forward and trying to bring people back together again.

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So here's really your decision now. You've been watching us cross Iowa, you've been watching us on TV, listening to us on radio, reading about us in the papers. And now you have to make a decision. Here's what I believe. I believe it's absolutely imperative for us to build on the progress we have made, not let it be ripped away (applause). I personally believe that President Obama doesn't get the credit he deserves for saving our economy – (applause) – from the terrible Great Recession he inherited. And Senator Sanders and I agree on a lot of goals. But we have differences. And it's that time in the campaign when he's making contrasts, and when I am as well.

One of our biggest differences is about healthcare. I remember what it was like when I was trying to get us toward universal healthcare. It was really tough. Insurance companies and the drug companies went right after me, spent tens of millions of dollars to try to convince folks that we shouldn't have universal healthcare. So when President Obama became President, he and I had – we contested each other on healthcare all during our long primary fight. I knew he was determined to try to do what needed to be done, and he got it done. When he started, we had – (applause) – we had 44 million people without insurance. The insurance companies called all the shots. They could basically stop you from getting insurance if you had a pre-existing condition.

When I was working on it back in the 90s, I remember going to the Children's Hospital in Cleveland, meeting with a group of parents who could not get insurance for their sick children at any price. And I will never forget a father of two little girls, both of whom had cystic fibrosis, just with tears in his eyes, saying, I have to have help so that I can take care of my girls. I said, well, what do they tell you when you go and you ask for some kind of insurance policy to help you do this? And he looked down, and looked up at me, and he said something I will never forget. He said, well, one of the insurance brokers just looked at me and he said, we don't insure burning houses. He said, they called my little girls burning houses. That's what was going on in our country, and I bet a lot of you could tell a story or two about it, right?

So we had 44 million people without insurance in 2009. The insurance companies could deny you care based on a pre-existing condition. They actually charged us women more for our health insurance than they charged men, so we were paying more. If you were a young person, you weren't insured, because you were probably still in school, or you were at a job not making much money. So it was a very difficult experience for many millions of Americans. President got to work. The Democratic Congress – because thankfully, when the President was elected, we not only had a Democratic President, we had a Democratic Senate, we had Democratic House. They passed the Affordable Care Act – (applause) – and look at the results. We've got nearly 19 million people now insured. Over 90% of Americans are insured. We are no longer at the mercy of the insurance companies. (Applause.)

You can stay on your parents' policy until you're 26, and I've heard a lot of folks in Iowa thanking the President for that. And that's something I want to protect and defend. The Republicans keep trying to repeal it. They voted to repeal it last week. They sent that to the White House. Thank goodness the President vetoed it. (Applause.) But I can guarantee you if they win the White House back, they will repeal it the very first week because they have promised their hardcore, right wing that they will do that.

Now Senator Sanders cares deeply about covering people. That certainly is a goal we share, but he wants to start all over again. He had a plan for about 20 years that I began asking questions about because I do know a little bit about healthcare and about how it works and how we have to protect people and make sure they get what they need. And in all those 20 years, he never got a sponsor in the Senate or got a vote in the House. And then right before the last debate, he changed his plan and put out an eight-page summary of his new plan, which is a single-payer plan, which will require total new legislation starting from scratch. I do not think we should start from scratch, my friends. I think we can build on what we have achieved, make it better and – (applause).

I don't want to plunge our nation back into a contentious, divisive debate. I sure don't want to give any room to the Republicans to repeal it. I want to fix it; I want to improve it; and I've got specific plans to do that. I want us to get the cost down. I want us to help people with their out-of-pocket costs. I want us to cap prescription drug costs. (Applause.) I want us to require that the drug companies have to negotiate with Medicare so that Medicare recipients get the benefit of lower negotiated drug prices. (Applause.) So that's a difference. I'm laying out specific plans about how I will improve it while I protect and defend it.

I want families in Iowa to start making progress right away. I don't want us debating healthcare all over again. I want to be pushing for the economic and tax changes that I favor in order to make the wealthy pay their fair share and to create more jobs and raise income. That is my highest priority. (Applause.)

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So let's not fight about healthcare; let's keep improving it. We can get to universal coverage. I mean I remember enough of the arithmetic I learned. It's a lot easier to get from 90 percent of coverage to a 100 percent than starting over and going from zero to 100. So let's close the gap; let's decrease the cost; let's go after the drug companies; get those prescription drug costs down; and improve the way that we deliver services. (Applause.) I had a doctor at one of my events ask me the other day, he said, "Well, where do you stand on doctors?" And I said, "I love them. They've done great work for me and my family." He said, "Well, do you support doctors?" I said, "Oh, yes, I do support doctors." The Republicans support the drug companies and the insurance companies. I don't want either of them at my bedside if I'm ever sick. I support the doctors, the nurses, the pharmacists, the people who are actually delivering healthcare services to us. (Applause.)

Now when it comes to the economy – and that's one of the big differences we've had in this very spirited debate – here's what I think. I think we have to make the wealthy pay their fair share, and I have laid out specific plans to do that. Here are some of them. I agree with Warren Buffet. He has something he calls "The Buffet Rule." If you're a millionaire, you should pay at least a 30 percent effective tax rate because you have done really well in our country and you have taken advantage of everything that prior generations built up and created, and you should not avoid your obligation to supporting our country, our society, our future. (Applause.) But I want to go further. I have proposed what I call a Fair Share Surcharge, because here's what I'm worried about. I'm worried about all these gimmicks that the wealthy use to shelter their income, send it to places like Bermuda, call it something that it isn't. So the only way we can end that is to propose a surcharge of 4 percent on every form of their income so they can't hide it; they can't put it in a tax shelter; they have to pay on all of it. That will raise about $150 billion if you impose it on people making more than $5 million. (Applause.)

Now I also believe that we should incentivize profit sharing because if you help a company make profits, you should share in those profits, not just the executives but every one of you who has contributed to that. And it will make us a stronger economy, and it will make a more loyal workforce. Because if you think you're going to actually get to take advantage of your hard work at the end of the year, you're likely to stay; you're likely to make a real commitment.

Of course, I want to raise the minimum wage and I want to give as much of a raise as I think we can possibly get, and then I want to index it to inflation so it keeps going up so we don't have to keep voting on it and try to get the Congress to approve it, but that it keeps going up at appropriate stages so that people are not left behind. (Applause.)

I was at a small event last week and a woman came up to me here and said, "I'm working three jobs, I can barely make ends meet." They were all three minimum wage jobs. It is not right if you work full time that you're still in poverty – (applause) – and we have to begin to increase the wages of people who are working. I want people to work. That's the best answer to any kind of social issue. And then I pledge to you I will do everything I can – you saw when I went to Beijing and spoke out about women's rights and human rights. (Applause.) So I want women to earn equal pay for the work they do. It helps families; it helps our economy; it gives people a better shot.

And so what about Wall Street. You hear a lot about Wall Street in this election. Well, I'll tell you, I'm the one who went to Wall Street before the crash and said, "You all are making a huge mistake doing what you're doing." I made it clear that we had to change CEO bonuses. I called to end loopholes particularly for hedge fund managers. I'm on record of having not just talked about it but tried to do something about it. And I intend to do everything I can as [resident to make sure that Wall Street never wrecks Main Street again. (Applause.)

And one of the big distinctions between us and my two esteemed opponents, the Governor and the Senator, is that they both have the same answer to what we need to do, basically reinstate Glass-Steagall and break up the big banks. We have the authority to break up the big banks right now in Dodd-Frank. Dodd-Frank gives the government the rights and lays out the process for doing that if these banks are causing what is called a systemic risk to our financial system. It will take grit and guts to do it if that is what is called for, but we have the authority. It was passed. The President signed it into law. What we don't have is what I am advocating for. And this is one of those differences. And it is kind of like we are in a vigorous agreement but we are not exactly seeing eye to eye because I have said no bank is too big to fail and no executive is too powerful to jail. And I will do that if that is what is called for. (Applause.)

However, if you go back and look at what happened in 2008, it wasn't primarily the big banks that caused it. It was the investment banks, like Lehman Brothers. It was other banks, like Wachovia. It was mortgage companies, like Countrywide. It was a giant insurance company called AIG. They would not be affected at all by

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what my opponents are proposing.

So what I am trying to do is use the law we passed, protect it against the Republicans from trying to rip it apart, which is what they are doing, but go further, put into law provisions that will enable us to go after the investment banks or the so-called shadow banking system. That is where the experts say the next potential problem could come from. (Applause.) And we don't have enough tools to regulate them.

And the plan that I have put forth has been analyzed. And people like Barney Frank, who knows a lot about this – he is the Frank of Dodd-Frank – and Paul Krugman, the Nobel Prize-winning progressive economist from The New York Times, has looked at all of our plans and have said I have a tougher, more effective, more comprehensive plan. (Applause.)

So if your main issue is what are we going to do to stop Wall Street and the big banks and the shadow banks and all of these other institutions that are out there from hurting us again, I am the person for you because I understand – (Applause.) (Cheers.) – how tough it will be, but I know how to do it.

And I will give you the best evidence I could. Ask yourselves, if the Wall Street guys and the big finance guys were so sure that I wouldn't do what I tell you I will do, why are they running ads against me? (Applause.) Why is Karl Rove taking money from the financial interests and running ads against me to try to influence Democrats in Iowa not to caucus for me? Why are two hedge fund billionaires running ads against me? I will tell you why: because they know that I will come right after them and that I know how to get it done. (Applause.) (Cheers.)

And then, finally, let me just say a word about foreign affairs and national security because, like I said in the beginning, I can't stand here today and tell you everything the next President and commander-in-chief is going to be confronting. I don't think President Obama or any President knows what is going to happen over four or eight years. So you have got to be prepared. You have got to be constantly thinking about contingencies and what will you do if X or Y or Z happens. But we know one threat we have to face right now, and that is from ISIS. And I am the only candidate on either side who has laid out a specific plan about what I would do to defeat ISIS.

And, very briefly, because I have given speeches, one of you tonight told me that you switched from my opponent to me because you looked at my speech – (Applause.) – that I gave about the Iran nuclear agreement that I helped to negotiate by putting the sanctions on Iran that got us to the negotiating table. And I give John Kerry and President Obama all of the credit they deserve – (Applause.) – for bringing that home and making our world safer.

So I want you to know where I stand and what I would do. And here is what I would do, quickly, about ISIS. I agree that we have to lead an air coalition to deprive them of territory, to go after their infrastructure and their leadership, and support the fighters on the ground, the Arab and Kurdish fighters, in the Iraqi army, and Arab militias in Iraq and *Feshmerga*. That is the Kurdish militias, who are really in the day-to-day combat with ISIS. But I will not send American ground troops to – (applause) – Syria or Iraq to fight ISIS or (inaudible) or any other reason. I think that would be a mistake, and I will never let that happen. I support having Special Forces there to work with these fighters on the ground – (Applause.) – to help call in air strikes to be in a position to be able to help supervise and mentor, and I support those of our military or help who are helping the Iraqi army get its act together again after the army that we helped to build and train was destroyed by Maliki.

So I will continue and intensify what we are doing. I will also go after their foreign funds and foreign fighters and their propaganda online because we are facing a new phenomenon. (Applause.) This terrorist network has a global reach. And it is inspiring people, radicalizing people, celebrating violence, directing attacks. So we have to take them on where they are doing that, and that is online. And I talked to some of the biggest companies in Silicon Valley. I have talked with people in our government. We have got to figure out how we don't let them take advantage of the wonder of the internet to promote their evil ideology.

And here at home, I would do whatever it takes to keep us safe. That experience of mine from 9/11 is seared into my brain. And I will not only do everything I can to coordinate federal, state, and local law enforcement but to get more information from friends overseas so that we are acting in real time.

But I'll tell you one thing that I think is very important, and I've gone all over the country saying this. When you hear from the Republicans, particularly their leading candidate, the kind of anti-Muslim rhetoric and the offensive, shameful comments that they are putting out in the world that are being heard by billions of people, that's not only wrong, it's dangerous. (Applause.) We need to be working with American Muslims. We need to

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be working with Muslim nations to defeat the scourge of terrorism. And I don't know if you saw the papers, but the British parliament launched a debate about whether to legally bar Donald Trump from coming into their country. (Applause.) Well, it might make it harder for him to travel, but it also sent a message, didn't it? About what our closest allies think about all this.

One of the things that I learned after the '08 campaign, after President Obama asked me to be Secretary of State, is how closely people around the world follow our election. I don't think I really understood that. I assumed that there'd be people sitting in government offices or maybe in business board rooms following it, but no, it is followed closely by literally billions of people. The first trip I took as Secretary of State, I went to Asia, and I went to Indonesia and I was on a morning talk show – they call it "The Awesome Show." There's a lot of singing and dancing, which I didn't know until I got there, and it really made me nervous. You do not want to see me – well, I danced, but you don't want to hear me sing. (Laughter.) And so I was appearing, because we understood what we inherited from the Bush administration required us to build back good feeling toward the United States, because it had been sorely reduce in the eight years of the George W. Bush administration.

So we were doing things like going on popular shows to communicate directly with people, not just to leaders. And the first question I was asked was this: "We followed your election. We saw how hard you and President Obama ran against each other. And then he asked you to be Secretary of State. How does that work?" And I realized in these new democracies, I mean, you run against somebody, you speak out against somebody, you can get exiled or imprisoned, not asked to be Secretary of State. So it was a very legitimate question. And I thought – I had, like, a nanosecond to think, and I said, "Well, you're right, we ran hard against each other in our electoral process. That's what we do. He won, I lost, and then I went to work to help get him elected, and I was very happy he did. And then he called me literally out of the blue, asked me to be Secretary of State. He asked me, and I agreed for the same reason: we both love our country. We are both committed to serving our country. That's all (inaudible)." (Applause.) It matters. It matters what you say as a president. It matters what you do as a president.

So I'm asking for your help. I'm very proud to have been endorsed by a wonderful group of individuals and institutions, in part because they know me. So when Gabby Giffords and her wonderful husband, the astronaut Mark Kelly, endorsed me because I'm standing up to the gun lobby, that means the world to me. (Applause.) And that so many unions endorsed me, I cannot tell you how proud it makes me. Because the American labor movement built the American middle class, and I want it to be once again supported and given the kind of opportunity to raise the standard of living – (applause) – whether you're a police officer or a fire fighter or an iron worker, a teacher, a public employee, whatever you are. You're really building America.

And I was proud to be endorsed by the Planned Parenthood Action Fund because of the work I've done for so many years to defend women's health. (Applause.) And I was proud to be supported and endorsed by the Human Rights Campaign because of the work I've done to end discrimination against the LGBT community. (Applause.) And I've got to tell you, I was somewhat confused when Senator Sanders said, well, Planned Parenthood and Human Rights Campaign, they're part of the establishment and that's why they're supporting Hillary Clinton, because it's all part of the establishment. I thought, boy, I wish it were. I wish we weren't fighting all the time to protect women's rights, to protect women's health. If it were part of the establishment, that would be time for all of us to just quit having to work so hard and defend it and fight for it. Well, that's just not the case. We have to keep working to make sure people are not taken advantage of, not stripped of their rights. (Applause.)

And the Republicans want to do all of that. So I'm asking you for your support on February 1st, to come and caucus for me, to be part of starting a campaign that will not only go through the primaries, but I'll be back often to win your votes in the general election. I do not want to see Iowa go any direction other than blue, Democratic, building the future, making a difference for all of us. (Applause.)

And as I said, it really is a great honor for me to have spent these months meeting with so many people in cafes and backyards and workplaces and community colleges and universities and so many different settings – labor halls, churches – we've been all over Iowa. And it's been incredibly important to me because it's helped to shape my campaign. And I want to end on this: When I started running for president, I didn't think that some of the issues I've been talking about would be part of my presidential campaign. I knew the economy would be what I wanted to do. I knew health care would be. I knew foreign policy/national security would be. I knew education would be, and a lot of the contentious issues that we have to fight the Republicans over would be. But I didn't realize how important it would be – and it started on my very first day in Davenport – to talk about mental health. To talk about substance abuse. (Applause.) And you hear the stories of families that are dealing

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with Alzheimer's and autism. And to understand how important it is we keep investing in medical research and that we change the way we treat addiction, treat it more like the disease it is instead of the criminal offense it's been labeled as. (Applause.) And how important it is that we make good on our promise to give people with mental health problems the health care they need too. (Applause.)

And I believe so strongly that we need a president who can do all parts of the job. We need a president who can get the economy working for everybody and get incomes rising. We need a president who can keep us safe and keep us strong in the world. And we need a president who will get up every day trying to figure out how to help you deal with the problems that keep you up at night.

I want a strong, confident, united America. That's what I'm asking you to support. Thank you all very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank. Let me shake hands.

# # #

On Jan 20, 2016, at 7:53 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I like a lot of this, but it has the feel of the kitchen sink being thrown in. Can we pare some of the less important stuff out or do you think she wants to see it all in? In the here's where we agree graph, I'd make Wall St last.

On Wednesday, January 20, 2016, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Team, attached is a full draft of a speech based on the outline we gave HRC yesterday. At its core is the argument that Sanders' ideas will lead to gridlock, not action, and Americans can't wait to see results.
>
> This is about 2800 words, which is roughly 25 minutes. So cuts welcome.
>
> I need to get to HRC and WJC soon, so I apologize about the short-turn around but would love reactions ASAP.
> Thank you.
> Dan

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From:	"Donald Smalter" <don.smalter@gmail.com>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu John_mccain@mccain.senate.gov john_P._holdren@OSTP.EOP.GOV <john_P._holdren@ostp.eop.gov> CROHLFING@OSTP.EOP.GOV <CROHLFING@ostp.eop.gov>
Date:	9/7/2014 8:06:17 AM
Subject:	TELL HILLARY SHE IS WRONG ON CLIMATE CHANGE ------ see below

Glaciers melting at alarming rate! Huge uptick in meteor fireballs! Sharp rise in tornadoes, quakes, volcanic eruptions, sinkholes, landslides, melting permafrost, ocean warming.

IS A NEAR-TERM WORLDWIDE CATACLYSM AHEAD ???

(Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open!!)

A gigantic hierarchical website of transcribed communications to an American woman, over more than 15 years to date, from benevolent extra-terrestrials, claims that Planet X (or historical Nibiru), four times larger in diameter than Earth and magnetically more than 20 times stronger, is on a long elliptical path now slowly passing between the Sun and Earth --- and does so every 3600+ years. The existence of Nibiru and its long orbit was first revealed by the Jewish-American scholar Zecharia Sitchin in his 1976 book “The 12th Planet” and multiple follow-on authored books all based on his Middle-Eastern archeological hieroglyphic interpretations. Nibiru was first spotted remotely by USA astronomers in 1983 and reported at that time in the Washington Post --- but since has been subject to a governmental coverup.

It is currently hidden in the Sun's glare, but distant photo images have been provided on the website and the internet. As it passes closer to Earth with its long tail of moons and asteroids, likely within the next 24-or-so months, the aliens’ website predicts it will cause a drastic Earth pole shift of about ninety degrees, due to its magnetic strength. This would result per the website in more Earth wobble, then violent mega-earthquakes, super-hurricane winds, worldwide volcanic eruptions, and oceanic sloshing with gigantic tidal waves inundating most low-lying coastal areas and cities, e.g., Netherlands, Denmark, Bangladesh, Singapore, Hong Kong, NYC, LA, Miami. Food, water, electricity, and gasoline distribution would collapse resulting in massive relocations, rampant crime, riots and starvation. Much housing would be destroyed. Melting old poles combined with much warmer oceans due to a hotter Earth core, per the aliens, would cause a greater than 600 foot rise in ocean levels in the following two years. In worst case, as little as ten or twenty percent of the world population might survive.

Exactly when this shift might happen is unclear if all goes as currently projected, but we already have an unusual number of signs. A rise in strong earthquakes, e.g., Chile, New Zealand, Sumatra, northern Japan, Turkey. Increasing volcanic activity occurring worldwide. Alarming glacier melting. Unprecedented land sinking, e.g., Java, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia. Malfunctioning electronic connections for satellites. Bridge and mine collapses. Worldwide RR derailments. Water, sewer and gas line breaks. And much unusual weather: Intractable droughts, with massive crop damage. Unprecedented regional downpours and flooding major regions, e.g., Java, Philippines. Much flooding in unusual spots. Giant sinkholes, e.g., China, Pennsylvania, Florida. Unusual rogue tidal waves. A sharp rise in USA tornadoes. Melting pole ice and glaciers. Recently, huge asteroid hit, e.g., in Russia.

Minor wobbles of the Earth pole positions are occurring per the website. Nibiru's magnetic strength apparently is already stirring the earth environment and appears to be causing some of the climate change/global warming effects, questionably blamed on atmospheric CO2. Leading up to the shift, near-term, they predict more Japanese mega-quakes, a build-up of Midwest USA quakes from Memphis/New Madrid to Buffalo NY, then an early tsunami inundating low portions of the Netherlands, Denmark, and UK.

TAKING STEPS AHEAD OF TIME WOULD BE CRITICAL AS THE SHIFT WOULD TAKE PLACE WITH LIMITED WARNING. This is likely to happen before 2016 or 2017. Many early indicators are occurring as cited above, but mainly, a second (small blob-like) sun will next become visible in daylight by eyesight --- but apparently already visible with multiple moons and trailing dust/rock clouds per select photos (re Nibiru) in the website. There would, according to the alien predictions, be a lean of the North pole leading to three days of darkness for the northern hemisphere. The Internet would begin to malfunction as satellites, oceanic cables fail, as already

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occurring in the western Pacific. Within four months after the lean, the pole shift would then occur rather suddenly. If this does happen, to survive, food, water, and gasoline especially must be accumulated and stored. And camping equipment with gardening and other tools. Moving far away beforehand, i.e., at least 200 miles and 1000 ft elevation, from low coastal areas would be critical for survival.

Why hasn't Nibiru's existence been publicized? Because leaders in major governments know and have suppressed informing, wanting to avoid panic, hoping perhaps that results would be less than predicted. Severity of damages to Earth depend on where Earth is in its solar system orbit relative to the Nibiru passage. Only a select circle of world and USA leaders are informed and preparing. At some point, the various governments will be forced to openly announce its presence. Any first public announcement by USA/NASA leaders is likely to minimize projections in order to minimize reactionary panic.

All this may seem preposterous, but my extended research over the last dozen-plus years into pre-history, abandoned cities archeology, mythology, past geological catastrophes, such as many underwater civilization remnants, provide ample evidence for past pole shifts. Psychic messengers, Mother Mary apparition messages, UFO/alien communications, English crop circle designs, all are providing warnings specifically time-wise to a pole shift about this current period, based on a frequency pattern of every 3600+ years due to a periodic Nibiru flyby. No direct hit with Earth is anticipated.

For a few historical and geological examples:

1) Niagara Falls gorge was created about 3600 years ago per geologists, 2) Simultaneously, larger northern Canada lakes were created, 3) At that time, also an upward thrust of the Andes happened, 4) Greenland ice cores show volcanic ash layer about 1600+ BC, 5) Tree rings in Irish oak logs in peat bogs show growth stop about 1600+ BC, 6) California Bristlecone pine trees show no growth rings about 1600+ BC, 7) Thera/Santorini eruption occurred about 1600+ BC in Mediterranean, Minoan Crete culture inundated, 8) Shang Dynasty China suffered abrupt end about 1600+ BC due to severe events. 9)Alien messages from the Cassiopaean star system date the last shift specifically as the year 1588 BC--- plus 2014 = 3602 years, and 10) numerous other geological events e.g., about 11,000 years ago, or 3 times 3600 years, there is worldwide geological evidence of horrendous chaos about the time of the disappearance of Atlantis. Also, 4 times 3600 years is one estimate of the time period for inundation of a continent surrounding Easter Island.

NOW, in the spring of 2014, in spite of potential ridicule, I feel an obligation to alert everyone EARLY about the horrible possibilities to let you decide what if anything you will do to prepare. Look for related news, study, then ACT, or deny and ignore, as you see best for you and those you love. For verification, the one best source to review is zetatalk.com , the gigantic hierarchical website. And, search the Internet using the term “Planet X”

Especially, read these suggested website pages concerning the anticipated pole shift ---

For Evidence: Search Ning Chats archives (use the Search box)

1) Velikovsky & 3600 Signature 2) Passage in Prophecy & Legend 3) The Magnetic Dance between Earth & Planet X 4) English Crop Circle messages 5) Scripted Drama 6) Most Terrible Day

See Safe Locations:

e.g., Kansas safer than most; Florida, NYC, LA, New Orleans, Houston, and other low-lying world cities --- NOT safe

For follow-up: see 1) Ning Chats Archives on website every Saturday PM

2) Troubled Times (for suggested survival steps), and

3) Subscribe to the free weekly Internet Newsletter (published every Sunday AM)

THIS COULD ALL BE A QUESTIONABLE ALARM, BUT DON'T JUST IGNORE & DENY, SEE FOR YOURSELF AND DECIDE !!! IS IT A HOAX? No!! OR WRONG TIMING? OR OVERESTIMATED IMPACT?

BE CONCERNED FOR OTHERS. FORWARD THIS TO RELATIVES, FRIENDS, MEDIA, ETC. DJSmalter 03/2014 don.smalter@gmail.com

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NOTE: “There have been very highly evolved civilizations on this planet. There have been bodies in space which came too close, which caused chaos and destruction. The civilizations were destroyed because evolvement was in technology and not in spiritual growth. CATASTROPHES ARE NEEDED FROM WHICH SOULS LEARN.”

Book Source: Andareon Theory., channeled from a benevolent group Andar

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From:	"The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	2/29/2016 1:32:56 AM
Subject:	The Daily 202: How Richard Shelby is trying to survive the Trump Tornado as it moves through Alabama

If you're having trouble reading this, click here.

PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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How Richard Shelby is trying to survive the Trump Tornado as it moves through Alabama



Donald Trump speaks yesterday in Alabama. (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

OXFORD, Ala.—Donald Trump is the odds-on favorite to win tomorrow's Alabama Republican primary. But Super Tuesday also brings the first round of down-ballot congressional primaries in 2016, and what Trump has unleashed is giving heartburn to GOP incumbents who will be on the ballot with him.

Richard Shelby has been in Congress since the 1970s and faced no significant challenge since getting elected to the Senate in 1986. Yet the 81-year-old has spent millions of dollars in an effort to receive more than 50 percent of the vote tomorrow so that he can avoid a runoff with an unknown, 33-year-old challenger.

In a previously unreported development, the National Republican Senatorial Committee quietly deployed many staffers from its Washington headquarters to pull Shelby across the finish line. The senator is saturating the airwaves with commercials that portray him as one of the biggest thorns in President Obama's side and attacking his opponent – a retired Marine captain – as "a con man."

After Eric Cantor's surprise defeat in 2014, Shelby has left nothing to chance. But the continuing success of Trump's outsider message has given additional anxiety not just to his campaign but also to members like Kevin Brady, the House Ways and Means Committee chairman who is hustling to fend off his own primary challenge in Texas tomorrow.

"Our polls look good, but you never know," Shelby said in a brief interview before hopping into a BMW SUV after an event here. "There's frustration everywhere. That's why I go all out."

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Shelby on the campaign trail (AP Photo/Butch Dill, File)

There's something very retro and almost old-fashioned about Shelby's pitch, which emphasizes his seniority: He opened his speech at the Calhoun County Republican Party's annual dinner by noting that he's seeking a sixth term. "You've kept me up there a while," he told 315 party activists as they ate shrimp and grits and sipped sweet tea Friday night. "It gives us opportunities to make a difference because of the power structure. You can't go to Washington as a congressman and a senator and expect to make a difference all at once. You have to earn your way."

Shelby told the crowd that he currently chairs the Banking Committee but opened up about his grander ambition. "If things go right, maybe I'll chair the Appropriations Committee. And I'll tell you: Calhoun County would know it! And Alabama would know it," Shelby added, drawing a standing ovation. "I'm about one step from that!" (The current Appropriations chairman is Mississippi's Thad Cochran, who got reelected in 2014.)

Shelby is an institution here in the Heart of Dixie. Half a dozen public buildings in Alabama are named for him. Structural thank yous for directing government largesse back home stand at the University of Alabama campuses in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Huntsville. There's also a Shelby Center at Auburn and a Shelby Hall at the University of South Alabama.

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Shelby challenger Jonathan McConnell waits for an event to begin in Hoover, Ala. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

“People are sick of his big spending ways,” said Jonathan McConnell, the senator’s principal challenger in the primary. “He’s great at building monuments to himself, but the cost of that is crushing future generations.”

McConnell, who owns a maritime security company that defends merchant ships off the coast of Somalia, argues that Shelby is “too old” and has been in Washington “too long.” Since Antonin Scalia’s death earlier this month, McConnell has been hitting Shelby for blocking Robert Bork’s nomination to the Supreme Court in 1987 (back when he was still a Democrat).

The challenger’s strategy is to very explicitly appeal to supporters of Trump and Ted Cruz. “That’s going to be up to 70 percent of the vote,” McConnell said in an interview. “I think that’s going to help a lot actually. People are frustrated with the status quo, and that’s why you’ve seen Trump’s success. I don’t think they’re going to cancel out their vote by voting for Richard Shelby.”

McConnell said he paid for an internal poll three weeks ago that showed he was within the margin of error of forcing a runoff. But he said it is hard to break through because the local press is “afraid” to write negative stories about Shelby and national outside groups stayed on the sidelines, deterred by the nearly $20 million war chest that the incumbent had amassed before the campaign began. “They’re timid after they got burned (taking) on Thad Cochran two years ago,” he said.

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Shelby steps off the Senate subway recently. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Remarkably, Shelby's message that he can bring home lots of bacon if he gets six more years in office seems to be resonating – at least with more than two dozen folks I interviewed. Several credited the senator with protecting the nearby Anniston Army Depot from closure.

"*We're a poor state. Calhoun County is a poor county. We need what he offers,*" said Fred Hughes, 62, the treasurer of the county GOP and a Ben Carson supporter. "We get respect in Alabama because of him."

Eli Henderson, the circuit clerk for Calhoun County courts, is a strong Trump supporter who was very impressed by Shelby's speech. "Oh my God, if he gets that: *Being chairman of the Appropriations Committee is probably the most important position in all of the Senate*," Henderson said. "Whoever was hanging on not voting for him, you almost got to vote for him now because that is the money stream. That got me!"

"I'm favoring Trump because I like his ideas and I want to see thing shook up," said Greg Drummond, 59, who operates a gun range in Talladega. But *he said the desire to shake things up doesn't extend to Shelby*. He said he's "for him all the way" because his seniority argument "makes 100 percent sense."

Not too long ago, as earmarks were going the way of the dinosaurs because of tea party opposition, this embrace of pork-barrel spending would have been

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hard to fathom, especially in a conservative state like Alabama. Mitch McConnell, for instance, ran ads in 2008 touting earmarks and all the ways he'd delivered for Kentucky. By 2014, facing a credible primary challenge and a base suspicious of all federal spending, the GOP leader mostly avoided boasting about projects he'd made possible.

But in some ways, Shelby's messaging is not all that different from Trump's: he's a deal maker who will "win" again for Alabama. And he does not mind rubbing Senate colleagues like John McCain the wrong way.

"I think he's going to be alright, but the problem is there's so much anti-incumbent attitude amongst the electorate," James W. Bennett, the chairman of the Calhoun County Republican Party, said of Shelby's chances on Tuesday. "A lot of people aren't thinking. They're going to throw the baby out with the bath water just because they're so angry."

Bennett, who owns a lumber company, supports Marco Rubio in the presidential race, but he thinks Trump is likely to carry the state. "They're angry, they're lashing out, and they're easy to get motivated and revved up," he said of Trump's supporters. "It kind of reminds me of George Wallace. George Wallace was very populist, and it was just all about rhetoric. The anger should be directed at Obama, but a lot of people don't understand. They're very impatient, and they know they're hurting. They're out of jobs. They're disappointed about the direction this country is headed, the morals and everything else. There's going to be people turning out to vote who never have. And it is not part of any voter registration drive."

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Men raise their fists as Trump speaks in Alabama. (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

Longtime state Rep. Steve Hurst, an old friend of Shelby's, said "there's going to be some dent" in his share of the vote because of The Trump Effect, but he doesn't know how much. "It's only because new voters don't know him," said Hurst, who thinks Trump will be the GOP nominee. "The people want to hear something different than what they've heard."

Mike Rogers, who has represented this area in Congress since 2002, warmed up the crowd for Shelby at the county GOP dinner by saying he didn't fully appreciate how effective the senator was until he arrived in Washington. "Whether Republicans are in the majority or the minority, he is a 900-pound gorilla," Rogers said.

In an interview later, the congressman expressed surprise at how the presidential race has played out. "There's no telling what's going to happen," he said. "You never could have told me a year ago Donald Trump would be leading, even in New York. It's just bizarre. I served with Bernie. That boy is not right. My point is the world is upside down on both sides of the aisle, and I don't understand it."

"But Shelby is fine," he added. "You watch: he'll win by 10 to 12 points. He'll be in the 60s."

If Rogers is wrong, and Shelby winds up in a runoff, buckle up for a lot of suddenly competitive House and Senate GOP primaries over the next few

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months.

-- Speaking of Alabama, Jeff Sessions (the state's junior senator) endorsed Trump at his rally last night. It is a major blow to Cruz and his hopes for a comeback:



Sen. Jeff Sessions endorses Donald Trump

Welcome to the Daily 202, PowerPost's morning newsletter.
With contributions from Breanne Deppisch (@b_deppy) and Elise Viebeck (@eliseviebeck)

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

-- SIREN: A new CNN poll shows Trump's national lead growing. The businessman now tops his nearest competitor by more than 30 points: 49% back Trump, 16% Marco Rubio, 15% Ted Cruz, 10% Ben Carson and 6% John Kasich. The cable channel reports that he and Hillary Clinton are "poised to lead the nation's two major parties in this fall's presidential election." From pollster Jen Agiesta: "Trump's supporters are incredibly enthusiastic about the coming election, and largely committed in their support for him. Nearly 8 in 10 say that they are more enthusiastic about voting this year than in previous elections, among Republicans who are not supporting Trump, just 39% say they are more enthusiastic than in years past. Likewise, 78% of Trump's backers say they will definitely support him vs. 22% who say they could still change their minds. Among those backing other candidates, 57% say they are committed to their chosen candidate." And just a quarter of Republicans overall say they probably or definitely

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wouldn't support Trump in November. Clinton tops Sanders 55% to 38% in the new poll.

IT IS THE LATEST POLL SHOWING TRUMP AND CLINTON RUNNING AWAY WITH THEIR RACES:

-- Trump leads in Georgia and Tennessee by relatively large margins, according to NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist polls , while Cruz continues to best the GOP frontrunner in his home state of Texas (39-26). In Georgia, Trump gets 30 percent support, followed by Cruz and Rubio who are tied for 23 percent each. Trump again leads the field in Tennessee, enjoying a comfortable 18 percent lead on Cruz, 40 percent to 22 percent. Rubio falls just behind at 19 percent.

-- On the Democratic side, Clinton leads Sanders by about 2-1 in all three southern states: She's at 64 percent to his 30 percent in Georgia, and 60 percent to 34 percent in Tennessee. And in Texas, the former Secretary is up by 21 points, 59 percent to Bernie's 38 percent.

-- But the most telling numbers on the left come from Massachusetts, where Clinton now holds an eight-point lead over Sanders, according to a new Suffolk University poll . She's up 50-42, with a healthy amount of undecided voters still in the mix, but Sanders really needs to perform well here in order to continue as a viable candidate beyond Super Tuesday.

-- Sanders' campaign announced it has raised more than $36 million from 1.2 million individual contributions since the start of the month. Their goal is to get to $40 million by midnight.

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Otto Frederick Warmbier, the University of Virginia student who has been detained in North Korea, in Pyongyang a few hours ago. (Reuters/Kyodo)

-- Otto Warmbier, the 21-year-old University of Virginia student who has been detained in North Korea since January, “confessed” to crimes at a Pyongyang press conference. Anna Fifield : “Escorted by North Korean guards, Warmbier, reading from hand-written notes, said that he had tried to steal a political sign promoting ‘the North Korean people’s love for their system’ from his hotel. … Warmbier was surely directed to deliver the bizarre statement, in which he praised North Korea’s ‘humanitarian treatment of severe criminals,’ and said he was ‘lured by the U.S. administration to commit a crime.’”

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The production team and cast of "Spotlight" celebrate winniong the award for Best Picture on stage at the 88th Oscars in Hollywood. (AFP Photo/Mark Ralston)

-- "Spotlight," the drama about the Boston Globe's exposé of sex abuse in the Catholic Church, won best picture at the Academy Awards . The Globe has posted the stories that started it all here .

Post Film Critic Ann Hornaday's takeaway from the results : "Size and noise are fun, but restraint counts for something, too. … Loud, large-scale spectacles as 'The Revenant' and 'Mad Max: Fury Road' might have earned the most prizes, but the taut, restrained journalism drama 'Spotlight' wound up taking top honors for best picture, as well as best original screenplay. In a year in which nominees were exceptionally well balanced between populist box office extravaganzas and smaller, artier films, the awards ceremony itself followed a similar seesaw pattern. Whereas the hyperkinetic road picture 'Mad Max' swept the proceedings early, earning Oscars for sound, production design, editing and makeup and hair, it was soon joined by 'The Revenant' — an ambitious survival tale of a man crawling his way back to life and revenge after a bear attack. The year's most popular film, 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens,' was nominated for the usual slew of technical awards reserved for the special-effects spectacles that form the spine of Hollywood's business model (and lost them all)." *See the complete list of winners here .*

Watch the "Spotlight" team accept their award:

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Oskar-2016. Spotlight Movie lands the top honor of Best Picture! #Oscars

Watch a video with more highlights from the program:



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Leo's victory speech got a little political when he started talking about climate change:



OSCARS 2016: Leo uses his acceptance speech to highlight climate change

GET SMART FAST:

1. The man who fatally shot Virginia police officer Ashley Guindon during her first day on duty was an Army staff sergeant, stationed at the Pentagon. The cops were responding to a call about a possible domestic incident. (Faiz Siddiqui, Ian Shapira and Justin Jouvenal)
2. A riot erupted in Salt Lake City after police shot and critically wounded a black teenager during a street altercation. Abdi Mohamed, 17, was reportedly holding a piece of a broomstick when fired upon. (Neely Tucker and Peter Holley)
3. Police in Fort Wayne, Indiana, are investigating the deaths of three young Muslim men who were killed “execution style” in an abandoned house last week. (Peter Holley)
4. Russian airplanes struck six towns in Syria, breaching the day-old cease fire and offering a reminder that Putin should never be trusted. (Liz Sly)
5. More than two dozen tech and telecom giants, including Microsoft, Google, and Amazon, are filing court briefs in support of Apple. (Ellen Nakashima)

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6. SpaceX scrubbed its third attempt to launch a commercial communications satellite, halting the ignition for unclear reasons just seconds before liftoff. (USA Today)
7. Islamic State militants killed dozens in Baghdad after bombing a popular market and deploying a series of car bombs, demonstrating the group's ability to "disrupt Iraqi capital" even as it loses ground. (Loveday Morris and Mustafa Salim)
8. An Indian man stabbed and killed 14 family members -- including his own daughters -- at his home in Mumbai before hanging himself. Police say the attacks appeared well-planned, and were alerted to the scene by the man's sister and sole survivor of the rampage. (Sarah Kaplan)
9. Ukraine's pro-Western government is under attack again, after two years of democratic-minded reform failed to rid the country of its widespread oligarchical corruption. In a signal of the loss of faith, several technocrats who entered the government to help implement Western-backed reforms resigned this month. (Andrew Roth)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

-- "Trump Mortgage Failed. Here's what that says about the GOP front-runner, " by Tom Hamburger and Michael Kranish: "As economists and Wall Street traders began to sense danger ahead of the crippling housing market collapse of 2008, Trump waved away worries and offered a concrete confidence in the industry, launching Trump Mortgage LLC in 2006. 'I think it's a great time to start a mortgage company,' he said. 'The real estate market is going to be very strong for a long time to come.' Within 18 months, Trump Mortgage was closed … As a presidential candidate a decade later, Trump says he'll use the skills that made him successful in real estate to fix Washington. But his decision to embrace the mortgage business illustrates the dangers of a business philosophy that relies in part on a willingness to put aside the advice of experts and take risks. 'I think the market is very good,' Trump said in 2006, when an anchor cited a 10-percent decline in home sales. 'It's Trump mortgage, it's going to be a fantastic company.'"

-- The Right to Rise autopsy you've been waiting for --> Strategist Mike Murphy says he only made "middle six figures" from the pro-Bush super PAC: After Bush suspended his presidential bid, many were left wondering what happened to the $100 million haul his super PAC had amassed – and how much of it was spent padding the pockets of longtime strategist Mike Murphy. Though Bush's ambitious endeavors certainly paid dividends for the GOP admaker over the years, Murphy told Matea Gold that his salary from Right to Rise was capped in the "middle six-figures." "Our operation was as tight as a tack," he said. Campaign finance reports show Right

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to Rise paid two Murphy firms $6.35 million for media, consulting and ad placement – less than 5 percent of the $81 million total spent on TV and digital ads. Overall, $94 million of the super PAC's $101 million went to political activities, with administrative and fundraising costs totaling about $7.6 million.

For his part, Bush does not second-guess the strategy of his super PAC or his longtime consultant. "Mike is a great talent and a loyal friend," Jeb told Matea in his first public comments since dropping out.

-- The Supreme Court will hear its most important abortion case in decades, and it could very likely come down to the vote of Anthony Kennedy. Robert Barnes : "Behind doors at an abortion clinic, workers await word from a man in Washington about whether Texas law will force its closure. In the Texas Capitol, officials hope Kennedy will consider an alternative narrative … The Supreme Court's landmark abortion case, being heard on Wednesday, is being pitched to an audience of one. While Kennedy is hardly the rescuer abortion rights supporters would wish for – he has upheld every abortion restriction save one – advocates recognize he is the 'only path to victory' following Scalia's death and assuming the court's four liberal judges will vote accordingly. If challengers convince Kennedy that the Texas law, which heightens standards for abortion providers and practices, is too onerous, it would have national implications: States passed more than 250 abortion restrictions in the past five years, and halved the number of Texas abortion facilities."



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Trump Force One is seen on final approach before he speaks in Madison, Alabama, yesterday. (Photo by Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

MORE ON THE REPUBLICAN RACE –

-- What dominated Sunday: Trump declined to disavow the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacy groups on national television yesterday, saying he "needed to research the groups" before doing so. Trump's insistence that he "knows nothing" about white supremacy or former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke prompted a harsh torrent of criticism from across the political spectrum. (Jenna Johnson)

--Republican rivals piled on:

- "He knows exactly who Duke is," said Marco Rubio at a rally Purcellville, Va., adding that Trump would be "unelectable" if he refused to disavow Duke.
- Speaking to reporters in Oklahoma City, Ted Cruz called Trump's comments "really sad," adding: "In my view, racism and bigotry has no place in politics. That should be common ground among Republicans [and] Democrats ... among everyone."
- John Kasich weighed in from a town hall in Springfield, Mass. "That's horrific, right? We don't have any place for white supremacists in America. It doesn't make any sense. He really needs to make his position clear, and he ought to do it quickly."

--Finally last night, Trump tweeted a video of himself disavowing Duke at a Friday press conference. "As I stated at the press conference on Friday regarding David Duke — I disavow."

-- "The Republican Party's implosion over Trump's candidacy has arrived ," by Philip Rucker and Robert Costa: "The implosion over Trump's candidacy that Republicans had hoped to avoid arrived so virulently this weekend that many party leaders openly questioned whether the GOP could come together before the election … The fracas comes as the presidential race enters a potentially determinative month of balloting, beginning with primaries and caucuses in 11 states on Tuesday. At a moment when Republicans had hoped to begin taking on Hillary Clinton, the GOP has instead become consumed by a crisis over its identity and core values that is almost certain to last through the July party convention, if not the rest of the year. Republican officials had imagined uniting around a nominee with a broadly appealing message to begin prosecuting the case against Clinton. Instead, they are wondering anew whether mainstream voters could accept Trump as the nominee."

-- Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) said the Republican Party needs a "third option" should Trump win the primary nomination, formally calling for an independent conservative to challenge Trump from the right. (Paul Kane)

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-- Senate Republicans are preparing to distance themselves from Trump in the general. The New York Times reported this weekend that Mitch McConnell has begun preparing senators for the prospect of a Trump nomination: “He has raised the possibility of treating Mr. Trump’s loss as a given and describing a Republican Senate to voters as a necessary check on a President Hillary Clinton … He has reminded colleagues of his own 1996 re-election campaign, when he won comfortably amid President Bill Clinton’s easy re-election. Of Mr. Trump, Mr. McConnell has said, ‘We’ll drop him like a hot rock,’ according to his colleagues."

-- Hobby Lobby founder David Green endorsed Rubio, saying that Florida Senator impressed him with his “preparation and humility.” “He gives the glory to God,” said Green. (Washington Examiner)



Hillary Clinton at a rally in Nashville yesterday. (Photo by Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

MORE ON THE DEMOCRATIC RACE

Battleground Texas – The Clinton campaign is focusing heavily on the Lone Star State ahead of Super Tuesday because they think winning big there will give her “a sheen of inevitability,” Abby Phillip reports from San Antonio : “African American and Latino surrogates have blanketed the state. Former president Bill Clinton has made frequent visits to Texas to support his wife, including a stop to kick off the state’s two-week early voting period in border towns including Laredo. And the candidate has locked down nearly universal support from state and local political leaders, which is a key advantage in Texas’s more rural communities. She has called upon loyalties dating back to

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the early 1970s, when young Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham knocked on doors registering voters for the presidential campaign of Sen. George McGovern (S.D.) in poor, heavily Latino parts of the state…"

"Sanders continues to draw passionate support from the state's more liberal enclaves, notably Austin. While his campaign claims that he is still contesting the minority vote in Texas, the candidate has focused his time on areas where the liberal, white vote is most concentrated. On Saturday, he returned to Texas for the first time since July to rally a combined crowd of more than 17,000 in the Austin and Dallas areas. Both rallies were predominantly white, with sprinklings of younger Latinos and African Americans."

Clinton campaigned at two predominantly African American churches in Memphis yesterday, hoping to retain her advantage among black voters.

Hillary's new strategy is to cast herself as "the anti-Trump": "Aides see the 'unity' message as a newly refined way to link the campaign's policies and thematic elements with Clinton's own personal and political motivations — a piece of the campaign aides have struggled with for months," BuzzFeed's Ruby Cramer reports .

-- Bernie Sanders offered a new defense of his ambitious agenda in Fort Collins, Colorado. Sanders' team believes the Clinton attack that his ideas are pie-in-the-sky and have no chance of ever becoming law was a factor in his big South Carolina loss, John Wagner reports. So he tried to explain them a little better yesterday. "I believe that if you start your campaign and run on a platform calling for a full loaf, at worst you're gonna get a half loaf," the Vermont senator told a crowd of 6,500. "If you start your campaign talking about a need for a half loaf, you're going to get crumbs. And the American people today do not want, do not need crumbs. They need the whole loaf."

PIVOTING TO FLORIDA:

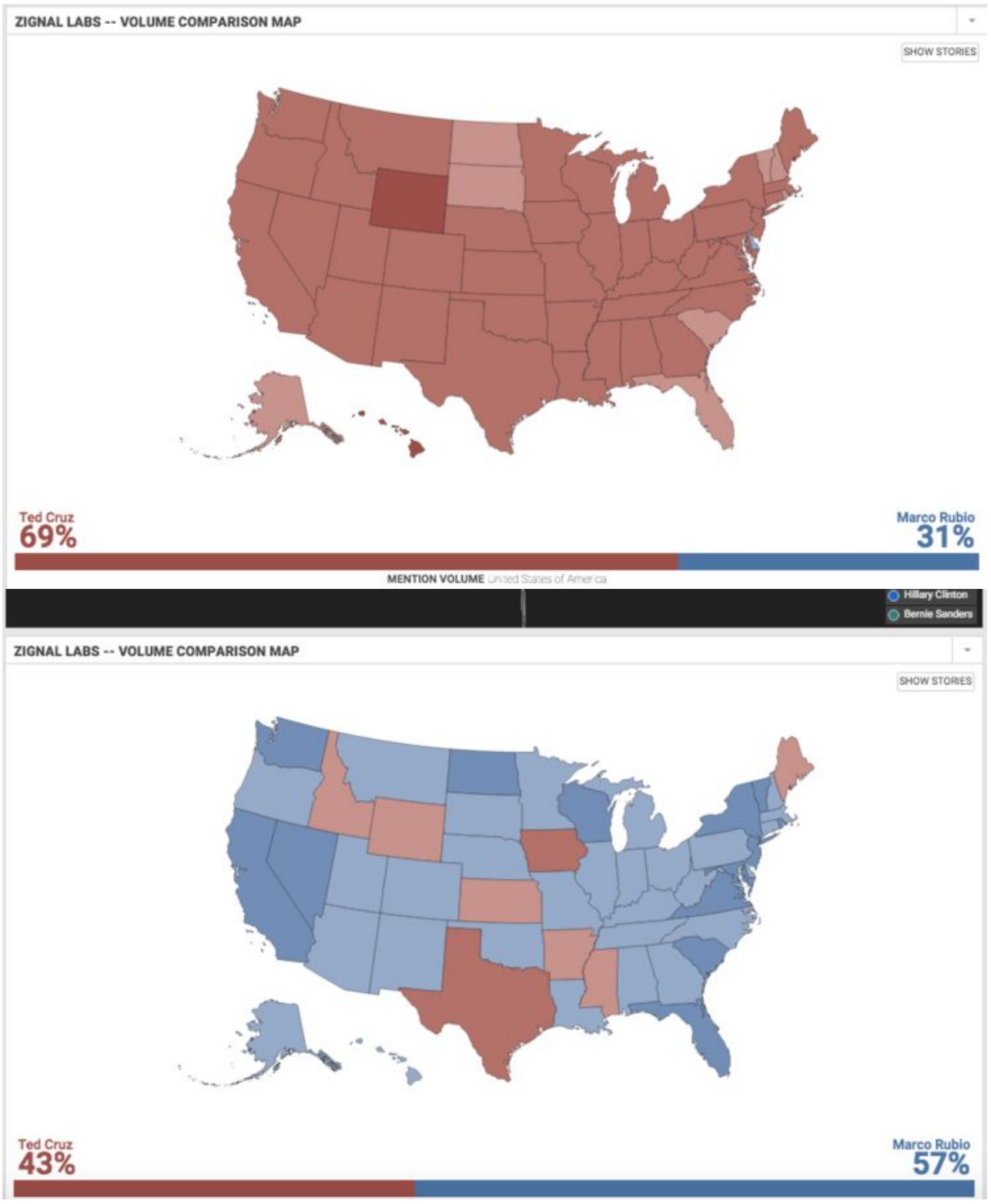
- Hillary's rally tomorrow night to react to the Super Tuesday results will be in Miami. (At Stage One at Ice Palace Films Studios)
- Rubio, who must win Florida on March 15 for his campaign to go on, will also have his event in Miami. (At the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center at Tropical Park)
- Bernie's rally tomorrow night, meanwhile, will be in his home state of Vermont.

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: The trend of Rubio being suddenly the second-most mentioned GOP candidate (behind Trump and ahead of Cruz) continued through

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the weekend. Below are two comparison maps. The first is a state-by-state Twitter mention breakdown from Jan 1-Feb 25. The second is Feb 25-28. Whether or not Rubio's new attack dog strategy will translate into votes remains to be seen. But clearly, social media has taken notice. Via our analytics partners at Zignal Labs:



Here's how Claire McCaskill, who is fighting cancer, watched the Oscars:

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Claire McCaskill
@clairecmc

Follow

I'm in a fierce mood these days. When your family #Oscarnight costume game on point. #MadMax pic.twitter.com/F9f4WXYE45

18:24:51 - Feb 28 2016

592 1,197

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

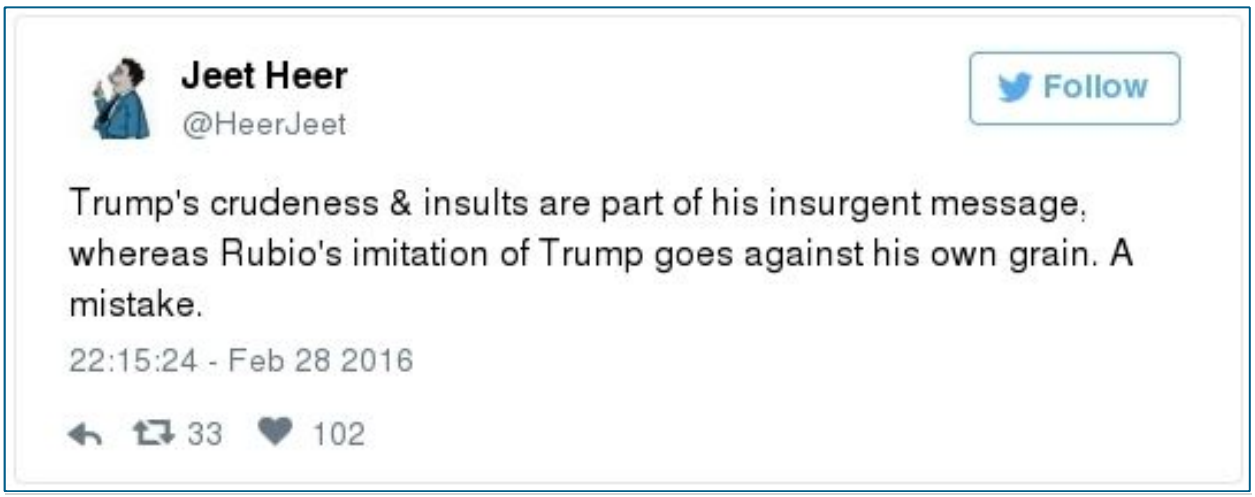
The race reached another low point yesterday when Rubio made a not-so-subtle comment about Trump's *"small hands."* Here's some reaction:



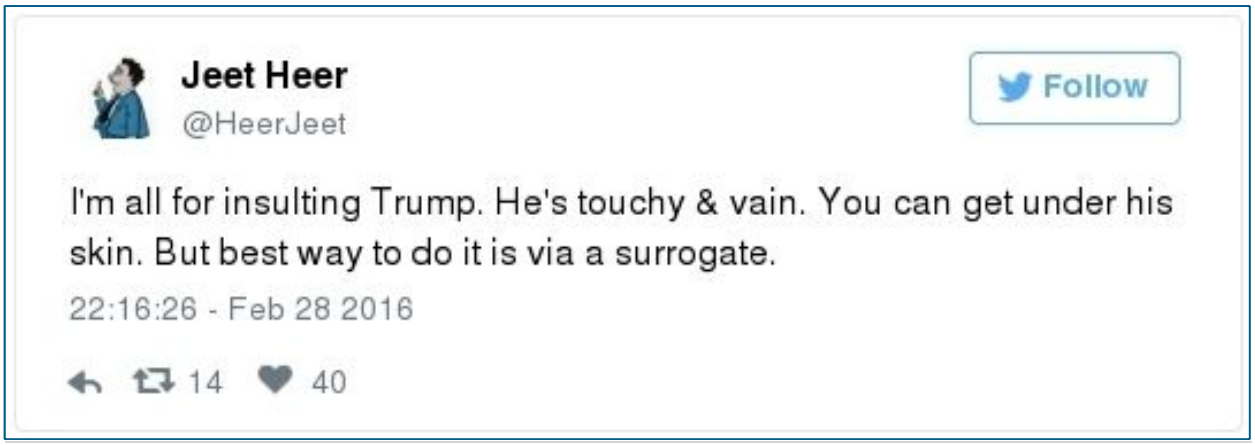
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This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



#NeverTrump
@PatrickRuffini

Follow

pic.twitter.com/VB6bQ8qlAA

10:50:57 - Feb 28 2016

61 58

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.





Jennifer Rubin called out the RNC:



The RNC's chief strategist responded:

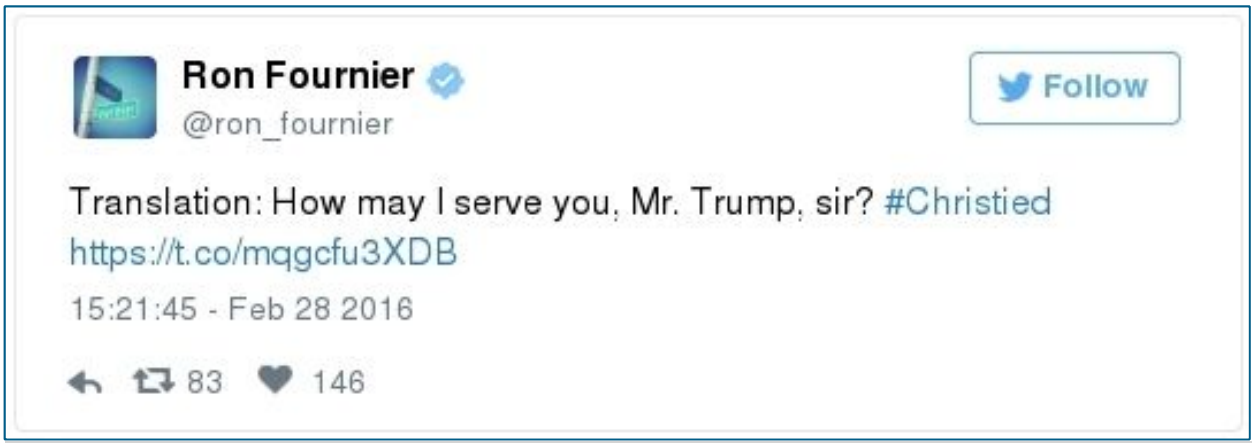
This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



Newt stuck up for Trump:



Ron Fournier reacted:



Reporters uncovered Trump's father's arrest at a KKK rally in the 1920s:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Americans Assaulted by Roman Catholic Police of New York City!

Native-born Protestant Americans clubbed and beaten when they exercise their rights in the country of their birth. Let us appeal to the fair-minded American citizens of Queens County to take your stand in defense of the fundamental principles of your country.

Liberty and Democracy have been trampled upon when native born Protestant Americans dare to organize to protect one flag, the American flag; one school, the public school, and one language, the English language; also when they march peaceably through the streets in honor of their forefathers.

We charge that the Roman Catholic police force did deliberately precipitate a riot and did tear down American flags and did unmercifully beat and club defenseless Americans who conducted themselves as gentlemen under trying conditions.



Yoni Appelbaum 
@YAppelbaum

Follow

In 1927, a thousand Klansmen paraded in Queens, then rioted. Seven were arrested. One of them was Fred Trump: pic.twitter.com/8eBzWj3Q3c

10:24:42 - Feb 28 2016

1,309 742

Some are calling for CPAC to disinvite Trump:

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Hillary Clinton retweeted Bernie Sanders in a rare sign of unity:

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-- Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) stepped down from her post as vice chair of the DNC, which requires neutrality in the primary election, so she could endorse Sanders.

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Susan Sarandon, a prominent Bernie supporter, thanked her:



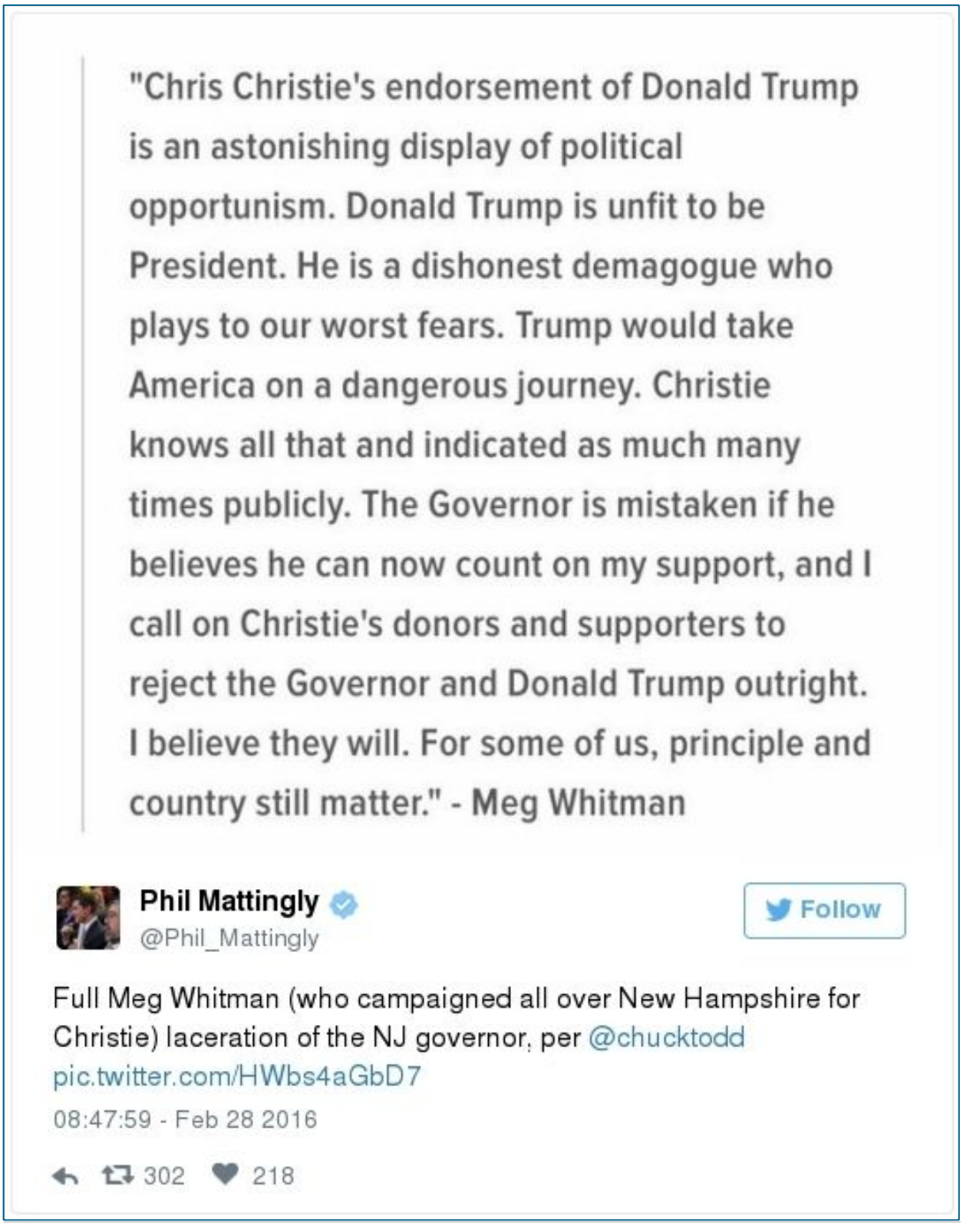
Gabbard explained her decision in a video:



Tulsi Gabbard: Why I'm endorsing Bernie Sanders

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

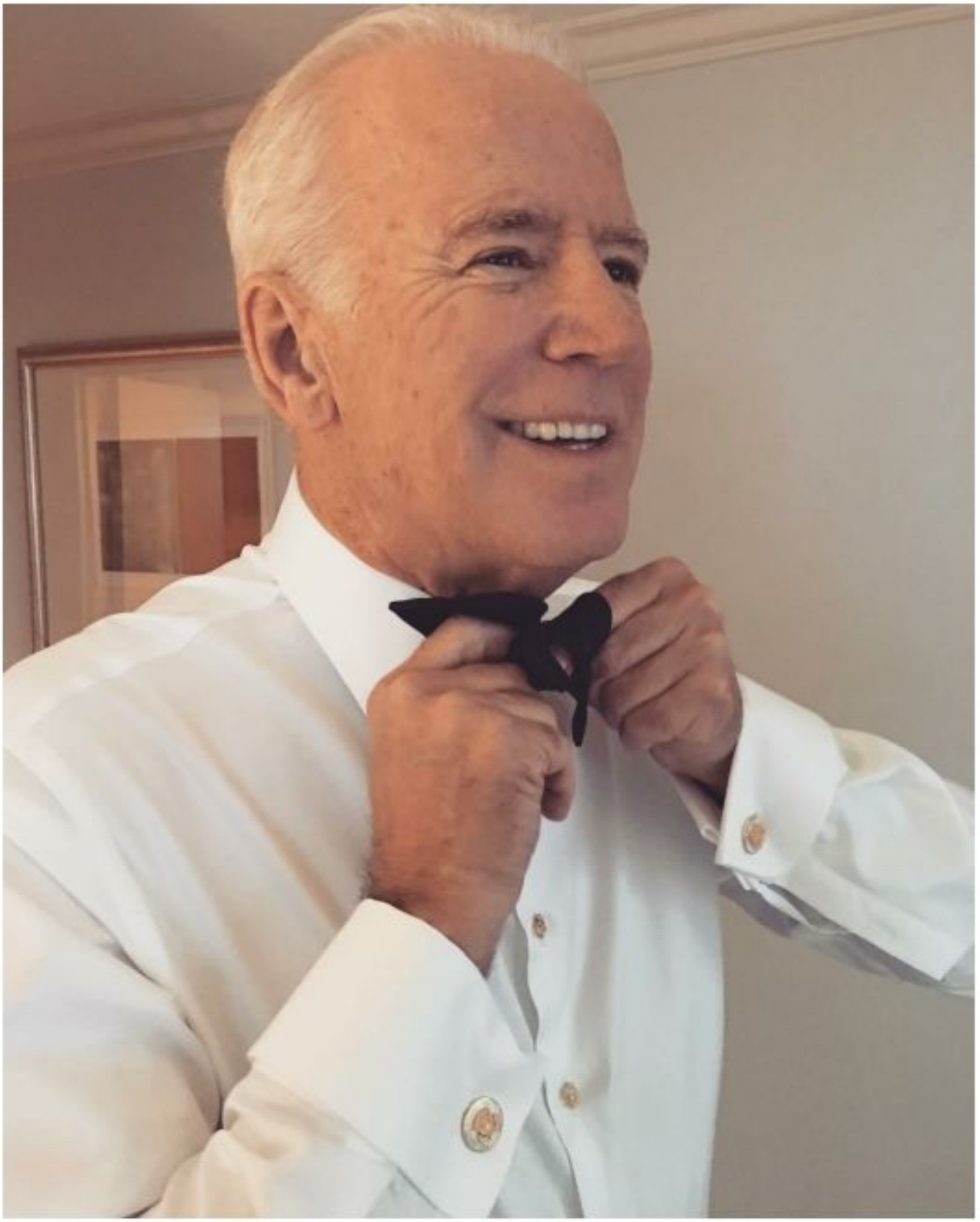
Meg Whitman, who was a national co-chair of Chris Christie's campaign, lashed out at him for backing Trump:



Here's Joe Biden getting ready for the Oscars:

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vp · 9 hours ago + Follow



Honored to introduce someone special at tonight's Oscars. Because #ItsOnUs -- all of us -- to stop sexual assault.

20.2k likes 939 comments Instagram



This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



Sacha Pfeiffer
@SachaPfeiffer

Follow

Go @SpotlightMovie. Go @BostonGlobe @GlobeSpotlight. Go journalism. Love to all the survivors. #Oscars @TheAcademy pic.twitter.com/y5Fojxd1om

17:18:22 - Feb 28 2016

224 537

Remember when Trump live-tweeted last year's show?

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2 Mar 2014
Ellen is sadly having a hard time with her lines. #Oscars

105 80 •••



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2 Mar 2014
Do you believe this singing? #Oscars

154 183 •••



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2 Mar 2014
Which is worse and which is more dishonest - the #Oscars or the Emmys?

152 127 •••



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2 Mar 2014
They must be kidding - can this be happening #Oscars

147 127 •••



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2 Mar 2014
I should host the #Oscars just to shake things up - this is not good!

862 809 •••



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2 Mar 2014
Just terrible! #Oscars

426 393 •••



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2 Mar 2014
Is this boring or is it just me? #Oscars

701 792 •••



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 2 Mar 2014
I'm having a real hard time watching the Academy Awards (so far). The last song was terrible! Kim should sue her plastic surgeon! #Oscars

438 470 •••



Colin Campbell
@BKcolin

Follow

two years ago... pic.twitter.com/3d6txRPvTG

20:26:41 - Feb 28 2016

44 27

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Jose Andres taunted him Sunday night:

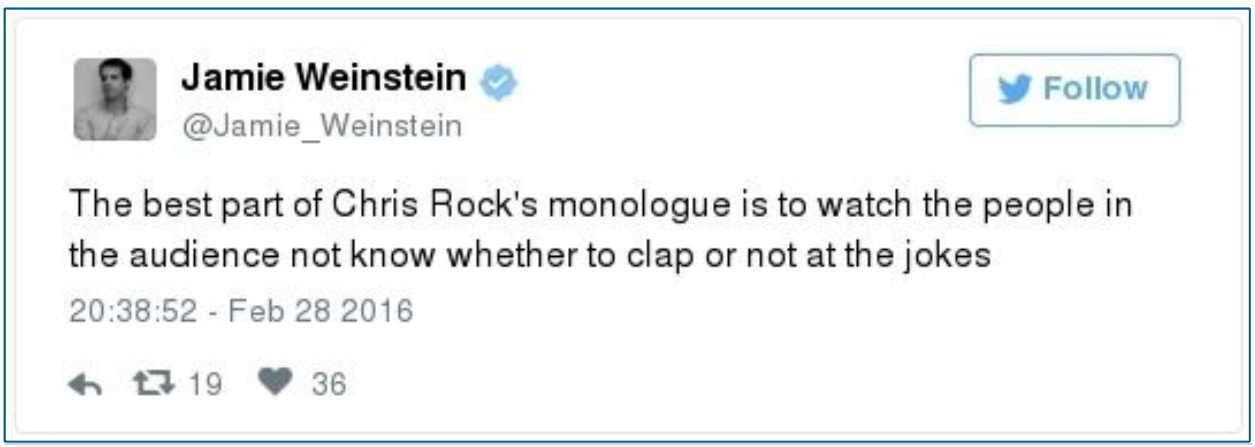


Chris Rock took on the lack of diversity at the Oscars in his opening monologue:



Chris Rock takes on lack of diversity at Oscars

The monologue generated lots of reaction:



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Neera Tanden
@neeratanden

Follow

Hollywood is Sorority racist -- you instantly get it.

20:41:17 - Feb 28 2016

7 23



Matt Laslo
@MattLaslo

Follow

"When your grandma is swinging from a tree it's hard to care about who won Oscar for best foreign short," Chris Rock.

20:37:25 - Feb 28 2016

1 0



Lizzie O'Leary
@lizzieohreally

Follow

This transcript is gonna be like:
[terrified laughter]

20:41:44 - Feb 28 2016

61 98



Jose Antonio Vargas
@joseiswriting

Follow

When will @chrisrock bring up Latino, Asian, Middle Eastern, Native American actors and opportunity? @emergingUS #OscarsSoWhite

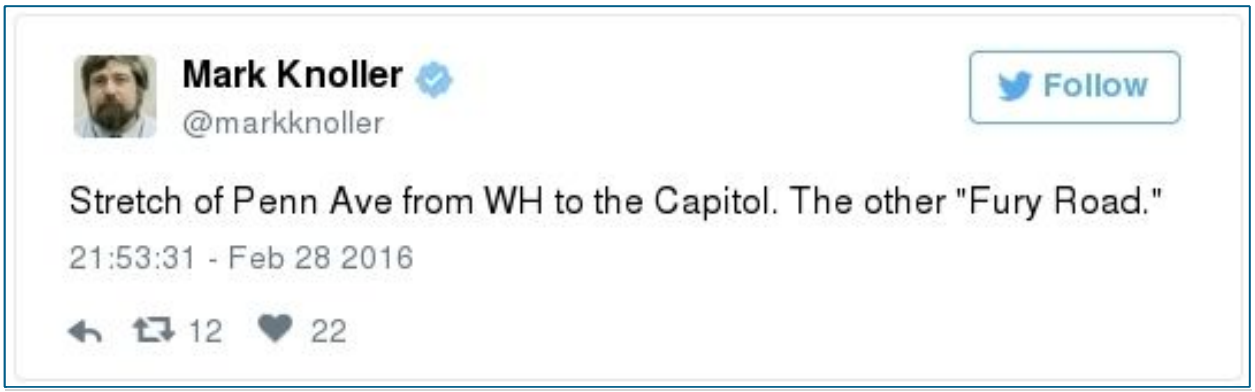
20:42:54 - Feb 28 2016

558 713

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.







Check out this brilliant 2016-themed drink menu from The Townsend Austin:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



JD Elliott
@jdanelliott

Follow

I know you're not supposed to talk about politics in bars but we couldn't help ourselves @TheTownsendATX
pic.twitter.com/OQaSvd6RIe

10:35:48 - Feb 26 2016

34 32

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

HOT ON THE LEFT

Miss. governor declares April 'Confederate Heritage Month.' From the Jackson Free Press : "Two weeks before the Mississippi Legislature allowed 19 state flag bills to die in committee, Gov. Phil Bryant took out a pen and signed an official governor's proclamation, declaring the month of April 'Confederate Heritage Month' ... On Bryant's gubernatorial letterhead, the proclamation starts out by explaining that April is the appropriate month to honor Confederate heritage because it 'is the month in which the Confederate States began and ended a four-year struggle.'"

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Hillary Clinton's email account an open secret in DC before scandal broke. From the Washington Times: "Just how widely disseminated Mrs. Clinton's address was became clear in a single 2011 message from Anne-Marie Slaughter, who appeared to include Mrs. Clinton on a message alongside Supreme Court Justices Stephen G. Breyer and Elena Kagan, reporters Jeffrey Toobin, David Brooks, Fred Hiatt and Evan Thomas, CIA Director David H. Petraeus, top Obama aide Benjamin Rhodes and former White House counsel Gregory Craig."

DAYBOOK:

On the campaign trail: Candidates are all over the map before Super Tuesday. Here's the rundown:

- Trump: Radford, Va.; Valdosta, Ga.
- Rubio: Alcoa, Tenn.; Atlanta, Ga.; Conway, Ark.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Jenks, Okla.
- Kasich: Castleton, Va.; Plymouth, Mass.
- Cruz: San Antonio, Dallas
- Clinton: Fairfax and Norfolk, Va.; Springfield, Mass.
- Sanders: Minneapolis; Milton, Mass.

At the White House: President Obama presents the Medal of Honor to Edward Byers. (Read a curtain-raiser here.) Vice President Biden returns to D.C.

On Capitol Hill: The House meets at 2 p.m. for legislative business. Nine suspension votes will take place around 6:30 p.m.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Trump retweeted a quote by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini: “It is better to live one day as a lion than 100 years as a sheep." When asked whether he wants to be associated with a known fascist on “Meet the Press,” Trump demurred: “What difference does it make whether it’s Mussolini or somebody else?”… I want to be associated with interesting quotes.” (Jenna Johnson)

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

--Expect spring-like morning showers that give way to a gorgeous day! The Capital Weather Gang : “A weak front slipping through the region early this morning brings shower opportunities, mainly before 10 a.m. But then clouds should quickly decrease and the afternoon sunshine propels temperatures towards 60 degrees.”

-- A judge ordered D.C. to pay $13.2 million to a man who was wrongfully imprisoned for 28 years due to flawed hair analysis by the FBI. (Spencer S. Hsu)

-- A D.C. woman recorded her Lyft driver in a cell phone video after he refused to let her out of the car and began speeding in the opposite direction of her destination. (WJLA)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

George Stephanopoulos grilled Chris Christie on his support for Trump:

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Stephanopoulos Grills Christie Hard for Flip Flopping on Trump - ABC This Week

Oops! Jane Sanders took a spill on Saturday:



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Sen. Bernie Sanders -- Wife Takes A Spill

The Emergency Committee for Israel is releasing this anti-Trump ad in primary states:



Trump Loves Dictators

Finally, watch Obama speak (and sing!) at a White House tribute to Ray Charles:

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Watch President Obama speak -- and sing -- at White House tribute to Ray Charles

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From: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 2:08:43 PM
Subject: NYT: Book Questions Clinton Donations

Book Questions Clinton Donations

By AMY CHOZICK APRIL 19, 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/20/us/politics/book-questions-clinton-donations.html?_r=0

The book does not hit shelves until May 5, but already the Republican Rand Paul has called its findings "big news" that will "shock people" and make voters "question" the candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich," by Peter Schweizer — a 186-page investigation of donations made to the Clinton Foundation by foreign entities — is proving the most anticipated and feared book of a presidential cycle still in its infancy.

The book, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, asserts that foreign entities who made payments to the Clinton Foundation and to Mr. Clinton through high speaking fees received favors from Mrs. Clinton's State Department in return.

"We will see a pattern of financial transactions involving the Clintons that occurred contemporaneous with favorable U.S. policy decisions benefiting those providing the funds," Mr. Schweizer writes.

His examples include a free-trade agreement in Colombia that benefited a major foundation donor's natural resource investments in the South American nation, development projects in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake in 2010, and more than $1 million in payments to Mr. Clinton by a Canadian bank and major shareholder in the Keystone XL oil pipeline around the time the project was being debated in the State Department.

In the long lead up to Mrs. Clinton's campaign announcement, aides proved adept in swatting down critical books as conservative propaganda, including Edward Klein's "Blood Feud," about tensions between the Clintons and the Obamas, and Daniel Halper's "Clinton Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine."

But "Clinton Cash" is potentially more unsettling, both because of its focused reporting and because major news organizations are expected to pursue the story lines found in the book.

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have been briefed about the book's findings, which have already made their way into several of the Republican presidential candidates' campaigns.

Conservative "super PACs" plan to seize on "Clinton Cash," and a pro-Democrat super PAC has already assembled a dossier on Mr. Schweizer, a speechwriting consultant to former President George W. Bush and a fellow at the conservative Hoover Institute, to make the case that he has a

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

bias against Mrs. Clinton.

And the newly assembled Clinton campaign team is planning a full-court press to diminish the book as yet another conservative hit job.

Mr. Schweizer and a spokeswoman for HarperCollins, which is owned by News Corporation and is publishing the book, declined to comment.

The timing is problematic for Mrs. Clinton as she begins a campaign to position herself as a "champion for everyday Americans."

From 2001 to 2012, the Clintons' income was at least $136.5 million, Mr. Schweizer writes, using a figure previously reported in The Washington Post. "During Hillary's years of public service, the Clintons have conducted or facilitated hundreds of large transactions" with foreign governments, he writes. "Some of these transactions have put millions in their own pockets."

Continue reading the main story

The Clinton Foundation has come under scrutiny for accepting foreign donations while Mrs. Clinton served as secretary of state. Last week, the foundation revised its policy to allow donations from countries like Germany, Canada, the Netherlands and Britain but prohibit giving by other nations in the Middle East.

Mr. Schweizer's book will be released the same day former President Bill Clinton and the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, will host the Clinton Global Initiative gathering with donors in Morocco, the culmination of a foundation trip to several African nations. (A chapter in the book is titled "Warlord Economics: The Clintons do Africa.")

There is a robust market for books critical of the Clintons. The thinly sourced "Blood Feud," by Mr. Klein, at one point overtook Mrs. Clinton's memoir "Hard Choices" on the best-seller list.

But whether Mr. Schweizer's book can deliver the same sales is not clear.

Mr. Schweizer writes mainly in the voice of a neutral journalist and meticulously documents his sources, including tax records and government documents, while leaving little doubt about his view of the Clintons.

His reporting largely focuses on payments made to Mr. Clinton for speeches, which increased while his wife served as secretary of state, writing that "of the 13 Clinton speeches that fetched $500,000 or more, only two occurred during the years his wife was not secretary of state."

In 2011, Mr. Clinton made $13.3 million in speaking fees for 54 speeches, the majority of which were made overseas, the author writes. Among the connections he tries to draw is a $750,000 speaking fee to Mr. Clinton by the Swedish telecom company Ericsson and a State Department list of new sanctions on Iran that did not include telecom.

Mr. Schweizer, president of the Government Accountability Institute, is the author of the 2013 book "Extortion: How Politicians Extract Your Money, Buy Votes, and Line Their Own Pockets," and "Throw Them All Out" about elected officials receiving insider stock tips.

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--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/21/2015 7:57:00 AM
Subject: News Update - December 21

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, December 21

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Rockets Fired into Northern Israel After Air Strike Kills Kuntar**
- **Israel Completes Final Missile Defense System Test**
- **Israeli Policy Shift: IDF Returning Palestinian Assailants' Bodies**
- **Ministry's Doll Initiative Under Fire**
- **Israeli Arab Cell Set Up Terror Infrastructure in East Jerusalem**
- **Protesters Demand Shin Bet Stop Abusing Jewish Prisoners**
- **Turkey Demands Israel Meet Terms to Normalize Relations**
- **Erdogan Meets Hamas Leader Mashaal in Istanbul**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "A Calculated Strike"**
  - By Alex Fishman, Military Analyst, Yedioth Ahronoth
- **Al-Monitor: "What's Next for Middle East Peace?"**
  - By Uri Savir, Honorary President, Peres Center for Peace

BICOM

Rockets Fired into Northern Israel After Air Strike Kills Kuntar

Three rockets were fired into northern Israel yesterday, in what was thought to be a revenge attack following the death of notorious Hezbollah-affiliated terrorist Samir Kuntar overnight Sunday. Three rockets landed in open spaces near the towns of Shlomi and Nahariya, where public bomb shelters were opened. No injuries or damage was reported. Media reports say that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was behind the firing. Israel shelled targets in southern Lebanon in response. The rocket fire was thought to be symbolic retribution for the death of arch-terrorist Samir Kuntar, who was killed in an early Sunday morning air strike on a suburb of the Syrian capital Damascus.
See also, "Commander of Hezbollah Freed by Israel is Killed in Syria" (The New York Times)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

ABC News

Israel Completes Final Missile Defense System Test

Israel said Monday it had successfully completed the final test of a joint U.S.-Israeli missile defense system before it is expected to become operational next year. The Defense Ministry said the David's Sling system had successfully intercepted targets in a series of tests conducted with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, calling it the "final milestone." David's Sling is intended to counter medium-range missiles possessed by enemies throughout the region, most notably the Hezbollah . The system also aims to protect against low-altitude cruise missiles fired from longer distances.

Ha'aretz

Israeli Policy Shift: IDF Returning Palestinian Assailants' Bodies

After the security cabinet decided not to return the bodies of Palestinians killed while perpetrating terror attacks, Israel changed its course. On Friday, Hadil Awad's body, a 14-year-old Palestinian girl who was killed after carrying out a stabbing attack, was returned to her family. Since then, two bodies have been handed over—one was Mohannad al-Okbi who opened fire in the Be'er Sheva Bus Station. According to family members, police told them to sign documents pledging they would only hold a small funeral. Israel stopped the process of returning bodies of terrorists to families after Hebron funerals became demonstrations attended by thousands. Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said two months ago that if the funerals were quiet, Israel would return the bodies of perpetrators.
See also, "Israel Returns Body of Failed Stabber Rasha Awissi" (Times of Israel)

Ynet News

Ministry's Doll Initiative Under Fire

Israeli Ambassador to Finland Dan Ashbel on Saturday criticized Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely's decision to distribute examples of dolls used to incite against Israel to all Israeli embassies, the idea being to demonstrate Palestinian demonization of Israel. Ashbel compared the initiative to distributing marijuana at every police station in order to permit them to demonstrate the dangers. Hotovely's approach is meant to show that Palestinian incitement is pervasive even among the smallest children.

Jerusalem Post

Israeli Arab Cell Set Up Terror Infrastructure in East Jerusalem

A cell of Israel Arabs from the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Ras al-Amud involved in multiple instances of rock and Molotov cocktail throwing attacks has been arrested, Shin Bet announced Monday. The suspects directed their attacks against security forces and Jewish civilians in Ras al-Amud near the Mount of Olives cemetery. Islam Najar, 18, and Hamza Najar, 22, two brothers from Ras al-Amud were arrested by Shin Bet in October. The interrogation of the pair uncovered that they were involved in a number of Molotov cocktail and stone-throwing attacks directed against security forces. The investigation also revealed that the two minors took part in the burning of an Egged bus in September along with other members of the local terror infrastructure. The suspects described how they poured gasoline on the front of the bus and set it on fire after the driver fled the scene.

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Arutz Sheva

Protesters Demand Shin Bet Stop Abusing Jewish Prisoners

Hundreds of protesters have gathered outside the house of Shin Bet head Yoram Cohen, demanding the release of the Duma suspects. They are carrying signs reading "Jews don't torture Jews," and "Prosecutors stop persecuting." Four protesters were detained by authorities, then released several minutes later. The lawyers for the suspects, who are accused of arson and murder in the Arab village of Duma, held a press conference last week in which the declared it to be "a sad day for the justice system and the rule of law...Senior officers in the Shin Bet entered the interrogation room and used methods of torture and physical violence against a minor."

See also, "Hundreds Outside Shin Bet Chief's House Protect 'Torture' of Jewish Suspects" (Ha'aretz)

Ma'ariv

Turkey Demands Israel Meet Terms to Normalize Relations

Turkey is insisting on its demands in the effort to normalize relations with Israel. This includes a demand that Israel lift the siege on the Gaza Strip, apologize for the Mavi Marmara incident, and compensate the victims of the incident and their families. A spokesman for the ruling party in Ankara said at a press conference last night that Israel had only met one term until now, the apology. He added that the work to articulate the draft of the reconciliation agreement between the countries was still in progress and noted that there was no doubt that Israel and its citizens were friends of Turkey.

See also, "Turkish Official: Israel is Turkey's Friend" (Arutz Sheva)

Times of Israel

Erdogan Meets Hamas Leader Mashaal in Istanbul

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal in Istanbul on Saturday, according to presidential sources who spoke to the Turkish media. During the meeting the Hamas politburo chief, who is based in Qatar, informed Erdogan of "recent developments in the Middle East," the reports said. No other details about the meeting at Istanbul's Yildiz Palace were immediately available. The encounter was timed just days after Israel unveiled a series of steps to revive ties with Turkey that have been discussed in clandestine negotiations with Ankara.

Yedioth Ahronoth – December 21, 2015

A Calculated Strike

By Alex Fishman

Either this was a necessary preemptive strike on a ticking bomb or someone took a calculated risk—and erred.

We'll know the answer within a few days, or possibly even within a few hours. Only then will we know whether the rockets that were fired at the western Galilee—apparently by a Palestinian organization—were a token and perfunctory reaction, or whether they herald the beginning of another round of violence along the northern border.

In January this year, in the wake of the assassination of Jihad Mughniyah and an Iranian general on the Golan, we were very close to a military conflagration on the northern front. After a brief bloody round in which two IDF soldiers were killed, both Israel and Hezbollah gritted their teeth and stopped, since their vested interests prevented the situation from continuing to deteriorate. Will that be the

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case this time as well? The Northern Command has been on a heightened state of alert for the past two days in any event.

Hezbollah's top brass has probably spent the last few hours engaged in situation assessments with a view to its future actions. Hezbollah is subject to popular pressure, and developments that might unfold during Kuntar's funeral, which is to be held today in Beirut, could influence the situation along the border.

Samir Kuntar—notwithstanding his status as a symbol and his heinous past—was no Imad Mughniyah. Despite having been defined by the US administration as an international terrorist, in comparison to Hezbollah's chief of staff [Imad Mughniyah] who was assassinated in Damascus in 2008, he was only a small fish in the sea of regional terrorism. There had to have been an exceptionally good reason for someone to take the risk, to squander the credit that was given us to operate in Syria and to order a targeted killing operation against that man in the suburbs of Damascus. The only reason that could have justified his assassination in the Syrian capital—which is under the protection of the Russian air-defense umbrella, at the center of which is the S-400 missile system that has a radar range that covers large parts of Israel—would have been "concrete" intelligence about a terror attack that was to be carried out in the immediate future.

In a sane defense policy, revenge would not be an acceptable reason for Kuntar's assassination. Had Israel wanted to kill Kuntar either as an act of revenge, in order to send a signal to the Iranians and Hezbollah or to impress upon the security prisoners that a return to terrorism after being released in a prisoner exchange deal comes with a lethal price, there were dozens of opportunities to have done that since his release from prison in 2008.

Regardless of whether Israel was behind the strike or not, before any operation in Syria, the defense minister needs to ask his intelligence officers whether the operation in question is going to cross Hezbollah's red lines so that it is forced to retaliate in a way that might lead to a conflagration along the northern border. That is a key question since the Israeli interest is for Hezbollah to continue to bleed in Syria for many years to come and to be weakened without any Israeli involvement.

Hezbollah's behavior up until now indicated that as long as its weapons were struck on Syrian soil, it accepted those attacks as being fair play. Alternatively, when Jihad Mughniyah was killed, we almost ended up with a military conflagration in the north on our hands.

But Kuntar's status within Hezbollah is radically different. While he served as a symbol in the ongoing fight to release security prisoners held by Israel and was a popular hero of sorts, Hezbollah withdrew its patronage from him about a year ago. Kuntar nevertheless continued to pursue his military efforts independently, under the guidance of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Damascus.

It was not only Hezbollah that turned its back on Kuntar, but the regime in Damascus came to regard his activity in Syria as a threat to Assad's interests, since he was liable to drag Israel into a direct conflagration with Syria. The fact that both the Syrians and Hezbollah took exception to Kuntar's activity might serve to curb a possible deterioration.

The Russian presence in Syria is also a moderating factor, and might make Hezbollah respond with more restraint. A conflagration with Israel will not serve the Russian interests in Syria. If Israel was behind the Kuntar assassination, as the Syrians and Lebanese claim, the Russians—given their technological capabilities—knew about that operation in real time. The fact is that Moscow has remained silent, just as it ignored three similar cases of attacks in Syria that were

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ascribed to Israel.

Samir Kuntar apparently was under very close observation. Otherwise, the targeted killing operation that was carried out with such impressive success could not have been pulled off. Intelligence of that kind, which enabled his precise location to be determined and for missiles to be fired when no innocent civilians were in the vicinity, is not something that one stumbles upon by chance. It is the product of painstaking and very professional intelligence work.

Kuntar was killed in a building in Damascus that served, according to sources in Syria, not only as a residence for his men, but also as the operations center of his organization. According to those reports, Kuntar's spokesman and driver were killed as well, while several other members of his organization were injured. It looks like this was a golden opportunity to deliver a death blow to Samir Kuntar's organization. Now the ball is in Hezbollah's court.

Alex Fishman is a military analyst for Yedioth Ahronoth.

Al-Monitor – December 20, 2015

What's Next for Middle East Peace?

By Uri Savir

US Secretary of State John Kerry came back from his recent trip to Jerusalem and Ramallah on Nov. 24 empty-handed and, for the first time for this extreme optimist, completely disillusioned with the stalled Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. He found Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu even more rejectionist than before, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas weaker and more depressed. A senior US State Department official dealing with the Middle East described to Al-Monitor the current situation in very bleak terms. President Barack Obama's administration is fearing that the lack of any horizon of hope for the Palestinians will turn the current chaotic violence into a more organized and violent intifada.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the State Department official complained about the state of relations between Washington and Jerusalem: "The policy gap vis-a-vis the Netanyahu government is of a strategic nature. The prime minister sees the use of force as a necessary policy option in any regional crisis. The Obama administration sees the use of force as a last option, to be used only after serious diplomacy is exhausted.

This was the case when negotiating the Iran deal. Now that the International Atomic Energy Agency has issued its report on Dec. 2 and concluded that, since 2009, Iran was not actively developing nuclear weapons, many in the administration ask what would have happened if the Republicans and Netanyahu would have had the upper hand in the congressional debate?" This, according to the source, is analogous to the past debate on the war in Iraq. Netanyahu backed then-President George W. Bush in the decision to go to war in the conviction that it would put an end to terrorism. The opposite was true; the Islamic State was born out of that war.

The conceptual differences between Obama and Netanyahu on the Palestinian issue are of a similar nature. At the same time, the senior State Department official said that Abbas was not forthcoming during Kerry's visit, conveying a sense of growing isolation and weakness within the Palestinian Authority.

Given this situation, State Department Middle East policy analysts are deliberating what positions and measures to take in order to stabilize the volatile situation on the ground and set a policy platform for a future two-state

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solution. According to the senior official, a variety of policy options are being considered.

The first option is a UN Security Council resolution on the renewal of negotiations with binding terms of references. Talks were held between US and French officials about such an eventuality. The French, together with New Zealand, are contemplating presenting a resolution to the Security Council that would base negotiations on a two-state solution on the 1967 lines for the border, with a timeline of two to three years for negotiations and implementation. Obama is very much opposed in principle to using the veto right, as he believes in compromise through collective diplomacy.

In this case, according to the senior official, the administration has not yet made up its mind. It is possible that it will abstain from its veto right if the language of the resolution includes policy components in Israel's favor regarding security measures and the recognition between two nation-states in order to end the conflict. Such positions are not acceptable to the Palestinians and the Arab countries. The veto, said the source, will eventually depend on the specific wording of the resolution.

A second option being considered is a written document that will consist of the content of the framework agreement proposal that Kerry conveyed in his talks to the parties in April 2014, which refers to the border being based on the 1967 lines with mutual land swaps, security agreements, a security zone along the Jordan River, a Palestinian capital in the East Jerusalem area, the recognition of Israel as the Jewish homeland, a just and agreed solution to the Palestinian refugee issue, and an end to the conflict and claims with the normalization of relations between the Arab states and Israel based on the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002. Such a document would be conveyed to the parties and the Middle East Quartet as an American terms of reference for future negotiations.

Another option that is on the American discussion table is a presidential policy speech referring to the same policy positions of the framework proposals. It would serve as a framework for future negotiations — "the Obama framework."

These possible American positions may seem futile, given the volatile situation in the region. Yet they are of significant importance — any of the three possibilities — to create a policy bridge to the next American presidency, whether he or she is a Democrat or a Republican.

Uri Savir has spent his professional life working on the strategies of peacemaking in Israel. In 1996, he established the Peres Center for Peace and is currently the center's honorary president.

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Date: 1/7/2015 10:37:16 AM
Subject: Deep Questions Arise Over Portland's Corporate Water Takeover

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Victoria Collier, Truthout: A simmering water war is about to come to a boil over the fate of historic, well-loved public reservoirs in Portland, Oregon. At the heart of the controversy is a breakdown in public trust that reflects the dangers of corporate-led water privatization schemes.

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Salvatore Babones, Truthout: The economy is booming. So where are the jobs? The current expansion won't last forever, and we need at least 10 million new jobs before the next recession hits.

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Kay Whitlock and Michael Bronski, Truthout: The use of *The Interview* and Sony hack drama to push the US Senate's torture report off mass media's front pages, promote the war on terror and obscure US involvement in political assassination and destabilization of other governments was a classic example of misdirection.

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Lawrence S. Wittner, History News Network: Increasingly, modern US conservatism resembles a giant wrecking ball, powered by hate-spewing demagogues to undermine or destroy long-cherished institutions.

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Intervention in the Islamic State Increasingly Messy

Richard Sale, Truthout: Experts say old rivals in areas overrun by the Islamic State use religion as a cover for their territorial ambitions. Hatred between Shiites and Sunnis has thus become a fixed and

BuzzFlash

Loss of Food Stamps Looms for Unemployed Adults as Blast of Cruelty Hits US

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: The possibility of implosion persistently looms over the US economy, but a moral disintegration of the nation has been simmering for decades.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

After "Charlie Hebdo" Attack in Paris, Senators Rush to Undermine Defense Reforms in the US

Read the Article at The District Sentinel

US Media

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dominating factor in Iraq's communal life, and today it produces endless internal chaos in Syria and Iraq.
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Let's Call All Terrorists "Terrorists"

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Would people be as willing to call the Paris attack "terrorism" if the suspects involved were white or members of a right-wing hate group? Probably not.
Read the Article

With One Small Tax, the US Could Insure the Next Generation a Brighter Future

Ronald M. Glassman and Gerald E. Scorse, Los Angeles Times: Congress could pass a financial transaction tax and dedicate the proceeds to providing equal opportunity for college, in a show of dedication to equal access to education and opportunity.
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Los Angeles Imports Nearly 85 Percent of Its Water - Can It Change That by Gathering Rain?

Madeline Ostrander, YES! Magazine: The urban drainage ways of Los Angeles can never quite look like wild creeks, but restoring some of their capacity to store, slow and filter water fixes many problems at once.
Read the Article

Lessons on the Struggle for Health Care as a Human Right

Margaret Flowers, Popular Resistance: After years of working toward universal health care using the framework of human rights, the people of Vermont were spurned. This turn of events provides an important lens for examining what happened in the advocacy for health reform and what must be done now.
Read the Article

Holder and Obama Never Miss an Opportunity to Miss an Opportunity Versus the Banksters

William K. Black, New Economic Perspectives: In finance, because of the deliberate destruction of effective financial regulation, our only means of bringing light to the dark places where the elites "doeth evil" is whistleblowers.
Read the Article

What's the Bag Deal?

Eugene Cordero, Green Ninja: This first episode of "The Green Ninja," a fun and educational video series about environmentalism, reviews the question, "What's the best bag? Paper or plastic?"
Watch the Video

Take Roots Action!

Jeffrey Sterling is set to go on trial for espionage this month. He is accused of blowing the whistle on the CIA, which gave nuclear weapon blueprints to Iran. Blowing the whistle on government recklessness is a public service, not a

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To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	12/10/2015 6:05:06 AM
Subject:	REMINDER: A Discussion with Slovakia's Deputy PM/Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Lajcak

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Invitation

A Discussion with Slovakia's Dep. PM and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Miroslav Lajčák

Thursday, December 17, 2015
1:00 - 2:15 pm

The conversation will be on-the-record. An RSVP is required.

Speaker
H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic

Moderator
Karen Donfried, President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Location
The German Marshall Fund of the United States 1744 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

RSVP

If you have any questions, please contact Taylor Budak at +1 202 683 2603 or tbudak@gmfus.org .

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Europe currently faces a number of challenges that threaten to derail the progress the European project has experienced over the previous decades. From the migration crisis to Russian aggression in Ukraine, to transnational terrorism, to the possibility of a “Brexit” and “Grexit,” these threats to stability are reaching a fever pitch. How is the EU dealing with these enormously challenging issues? How can the United States support our European partners? Does the EU have a grand strategy to guide the response to these challenges?

With these questions in mind, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) would like to invite you to a discussion with H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign and European affairs of the Slovak Republic. This event will be moderated by GMF President Karen Donfried.

Miroslav Lajčák is the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign and European affairs of the Slovak Republic, a role he has held since 2012. From 2010 to 2012, he served as the managing director of the European External Action Service (EEAS) for Russia, Eastern Neighborhood, and the Western Balkans. In that capacity, he served as the chief EU negotiator for the Moldova Association Agreements and the “5+2” talks on a Transnistria Settlement. From 2009 to 2010, Lajčák served as the Slovak minister of foreign affairs, from 2007 to 2009 he was the high representative and EU special representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in 2006 he served as the EU envoy responsible for organizing a referendum on the independence of Montenegro. From 2005 to 2007, Lajčák was the director general for political affairs within the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2001 to 2005, he served as the ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (later Serbia and Montenegro), Republic of Albania, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Lajčák is a graduate of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Comenius University, and the College of International and Security Studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Karen Donfried is president of The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). Before assuming this role in April 2014, Donfried was the special assistant to the president and senior director for European affairs on the National Security Council at the White House. In that capacity, she was the president’s principal advisor on Europe and led the interagency process on the development and implementation of the president’s European policies. Prior to the White House, Donfried served as the national intelligence officer for Europe on the National Intelligence Council, the intelligence community’s center for strategic thinking. Donfried first joined GMF in 2001 after having served for ten years as a European specialist at the Congressional Research Service. From 2003 to 2005, she was responsible for the Europe portfolio on the U.S. Department of State's Policy Planning Staff. Her second term of service at GMF was 2005 to 2010, first as senior director of policy programs and then as executive vice president.

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From: "Tory Brown" <torybrown@gmail.com>
To: jdorner@americanprogress.org
Date: 8/30/2012 11:22:36 AM
Subject: Re: [big campaign] The Ultimate Viewer's Guide to Romney's Post-Truth Campaign

This is an excellent round up from Think Progress! We at Media Matters have seen all of these lies unfold, and picked out the two biggest lies (Obama cut Medicare to pay for Obamacare and Obama gutted welfare reform) and analyzed how news outlets were treating both claims and classified their news stories into three categories: debunked, provided he said/she said hogwash, or provided absolutely no pushback while simply transcribing Romney's false claims.

Despite looking at Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, AP, New York Times, CNN, MSNBC & Fox, you probably won't be surprised to learn the NewsCorp outlets were the worst at providing accurate information in the face of Romney's lies. If Mitt Romney insists on basing his campaign in falsehoods, all of our media must provide clear, concise debunking of his lies. You can see fancy charts and solid debunking bullets at the link:

REPORT: How The Media Covered Two Romney Falsehoods

RESEARCH ›››

Two recent falsehoods from the Mitt Romney campaign have received media attention: the false claim that President Obama removed the work requirement from welfare, and the false claim that the health care reform bill "cuts" $716 billion from Medicare. While many mainstream media outlets debunked the false claims in much of their coverage, several -- particularly Fox News and The Wall Street Journal -- repeatedly failed to debunk the falsehoods.

On Thu, Aug 30, 2012 at 11:18 AM, Joshua Dorner <jdorner@americanprogress.org > wrote:

> Good morning everyone,
>
> If Paul Ryan's fact-free speech is any indication, Mitt Romney will be cranking the lies up to 11 tonight. In anticipation, we've put together a comprehensive list of Romney's most well-worn whoppers -- and why exactly they are not true.
>
> Enjoy!
>
> -Josh
>
> http://thinkprogress.org/romney-facts-matter/

FACTS MATTER: The Ultimate Guide To Mitt Romney's Convention Speech

By **ThinkProgress** on Aug 30, 2012 at 10:36 am

Politicians from both parties twist facts or spin policy, but Mitt Romney's presidential campaign has had a particularly strained relationship with the truth, repeating false claims with impunity — even after fact checkers, mainstream media organizations, and blogs have all debunked their assertions.

From claiming that "Obama gutted the welfare work requirement" to insisting that his own policies won't deregulate Wall

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Street, Romney has led a post-truth campaign. A top adviser even admitted earlier this week, "We're not going to let our campaign be dictated by fact-checkers."

ThinkProgress has compiled a Viewer's Guide comparing what Romney says with the facts:

Romney On His Tax Plan || Romney On Wall Street || Romney On The Budget
Romney On Bain Capital || Romney On Obamacare || Romney On Medicare
Romney On Women's Health || Romney On Energy || Romney On Global Warming
Romney On The Auto Bailout || Romney On Welfare Reform || Romney On Food Stamps
Romney On Security || Romney On LGBT rights

Romney on His Tax Plan

"The highest income people will continue to pay the largest share of the tax burden and middle-income taxpayers, under my plan… So, *we're not going to reduce taxes for high-income people*." [CBS, 8/12/2012]

> REALITY: Under Romney's plan, **someone in the richest 1 percent of Americans would receive a $60,000 tax cut, while someone in the richest 0.1 percent would receive a $264,000 tax cut**. Even under the most generous assumptions about the elimination of tax deductions — so assuming Romney eliminates loopholes and deductions in the most progressive way possible — millionaires still receive an $87,000 tax cut, while the middle-class sees their taxes go up. [Tax Policy Center, 2/23/2012 ; Tax Policy Center, 8/1/2012]

"The people in the middle, the hard-working Americans, are the people who need a break, and that is why *I focused my tax cut right there*." [GOP debate, 10/11/2011]

> REALITY: A Tax Policy Center analysis of Romney plan showed that — even under the most generous assumptions — **Romney's plan raises taxes on everyone making less than $200,000**. Middle-class families would see their taxes go up by $2,000 per year. [Tax Policy Center, 8/1/2012]

"*The U.S. economy's 35 percent corporate tax rate is among the highest in the industrial world*, reducing the ability of our nation's businesses to compete in the global economy and to invest and create jobs at home," Romney's website reads. [MittRomney.com, 8/16/2012]

> REALITY: While America has the second-highest corporate tax rate on paper, once all of the loopholes, credits, and deductions are accounted for, its corporate tax rate is the second-lowest in the developed world. **The U.S. raises far less in corporate taxes as a percentage of its economy than other nations**, including the UK and Canada. Many of America's most profitable corporations pay literally no taxes. [Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/30/2011, 4/9/2012 ; Center for American Progress, 6/10/2011

Romney on Wall Street

"Look, *no one is talking about deregulating Wall Street*." [ThinkProgress , 8/15/2012]

> REALITY: **Romney has called for the full repeal of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act, the first major overhaul of the nation's financial regulatory system since the Great Depression**, and while he has supported a "streamlined regulatory framework," the only specific regulations he mentions in his plan are already in Dodd-Frank. His own running mate is certainly talking about deregulating Wall Street: the House GOP budget

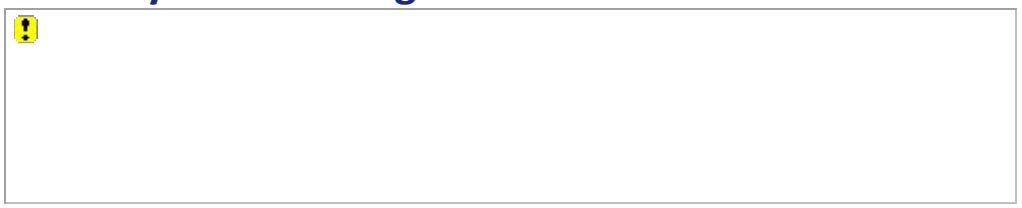
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authored by Ryan dismantles key parts of the law. [ThinkProgress, 8/25/2011 , 8/13/2012 , 8/15/2012]

"*The rate of regulatory burden has increased four-fold since Obama has become president*. Four times the amount of regulation coming out per year as in the past. And so businesses say, 'gosh, I'm not sure I want to invest in America.'" [ThinkProgress, 12/12/2011]

REALITY: **Obama approved 613 new rules during his first 33 months, 4.7 percent fewer than Bush did in the same timespan**. The campaign initially claimed that "the governor misspoke" in levying the charge, but Romney keeps using it. [NPR, 9/9/2011 , Bloomberg, 10/25/2011]

Romney on the Budget



Romney claims that, as governor of Massachusetts, "*we didn't just slow the rate of growth of our government, we actually cut it*." [CBN, 5/14/2012]

REALITY: **Government spending increased by an average of 5 percent** per year during Romney's tenure in office. [Politifact, 5/21/2012]

President Obama has "*racked up as much debt as almost all of the other presidents combined*." [NYT, 12/16/2011]

REALITY: When Obama took office, the national debt stood at $10.626 trillion. When Romney made this claim in December 2011, the national debt was a bit over $15 trillion. **That $4.5 trillion increase is nowhere near as much debt as all the other presidents combined. Even if you just consider the portion of the debt that is owed to private investors, as Romney's campaign has pointed to, the numbers still don't add up**. When Obama took office this figure was at $6.307 trillion and had increased by approximately $4 trillion when Romney made this claim. [NYT, 12/16/2011]

"*The President's vision is one of a larger and larger government, taking more and more,* and trying to provide more and more to you…It takes us on a road to Europe." [Toledo Blade,8/25/2012]

REALITY: Romney is calling for the sort of austerity that's been adopted in Europe, which has unnecessarily blunted economic growth. In fact, **the European governments that have embraced austerity the most have seen the largest contractions in their economies**. The U.S. is doing better in terms of economic growth than both the Eurozone and the United Kingdom, both of which have adopted the kind of heavy spending cuts Romney favors. [ThinkProgress, 7/26/2012 , 5/7/2012]

"*What the president is proposing is therefore a massive tax increase on job creators and on small business*. Small businesses are overwhelmingly being taxed not at a corporate rate but at the individual tax rate. So successful small businesses will see their taxes go up dramatically, and that will kill jobs." [Los Angeles Times, 7/9/2012]

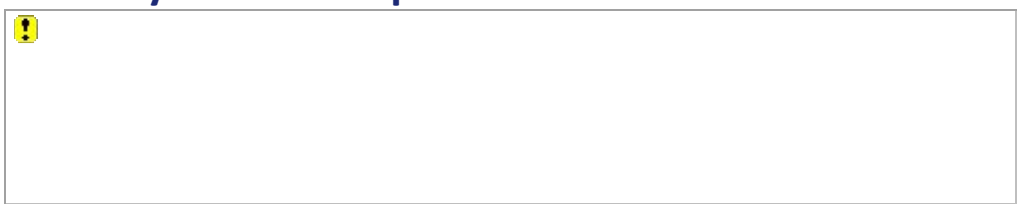
REALITY: President Obama's plan to allow the Bush tax cuts to expire on income in excess of $250,000 would affect exceedingly few small businesses. **The Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that the expiration would affect only three percent of individuals with any business income, from a business large or small**. [Joint Committee on Taxation, 7/12/2010]

"I will remove the crippling uncertainty that is *preventing businesses from hiring*." [Real Clear Politics, 8/14/12]

REALITY: Several surveys and economic analyses have shown that there is no truth to the claim that uncertainty is preventing businesses from hiring; **they're not hiring because they simply don't have enough customers with the economy still recovering**. Conservative economist Bruce Bartlett said, "regulatory uncertainty is a canard invented by Republicans that allows them to use current economic problems to pursue an agenda supported by the business community year in and year out." [Daily Kos, 2/15/2012 ; Wall Street Journal,7/17/2011 ; Economic Policy Institute, 9/27/2011 ; ThinkProgress, 10/4/2011]

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Romney on Bain Capital



"I'm very happy in my former life; *we helped create over 100,000 new jobs*," Romney says, suggesting that he helped create more jobs than President Obama. [ThinkProgress, 1/4/2012]

> REALITY: **The 100,000 statistic is a cherry-picked jobs number from a few companies that did well after they were bought by Bain and "does not include job losses** from other companies with which Bain Capital was involved — and are based on current employment figures, not the period when Romney worked at Bain." In January, the Romney campaign finally conceded that Romney could not have created a total of 100,000 jobs at Bain, admitting, "This tally obviously does not include job losses from other companies with which Bain Capital was involved — and are based on current employment figures, not the period when Romney worked at Bain." The campaign has since downgraded the number of jobs to "thousands." [Washington Post, 1/4/2012]

Romney on Obamacare



Romney claims repealing Obamacare *"saves" $90 billion over the next four years*. [ThinkProgress, 11/4/2011]

> REALITY: **Repealing Obamacare would increase the federal budget deficit by about $109 billion from 2013 to 2022**, the Congressional Budget Office concludes. "Deficits would be increased under H.R. 6079 because the net savings from eliminating the insurance coverage provisions would be more than offset by the combination of other spending increases and revenue reductions," the budget office says. [Congressional Budget Office, 7/24/2012]

"Obamacare *adds trillions to our deficits* and to our national debt." [The Hill, 6/28/2012]

> REALITY: According to the Congressional Budget Office, **Obamacare reduces the deficit by $124 billion over 10 years** and even more after that. [Politifact,6/28/2012]

After the Supreme Court upheld the individual mandate, Romney declared, "And while I agreed with the dissent, that's taken over by the fact that *the majority of the Court said it is a tax, and therefore it is a tax*." [CBS, 7/4/2012]

> REALITY: Romney instituted a similar requirement in Massachusetts and insisted as governor that the penalty is a way to discourage free-riders. Incidentally, **Obamacare will provide millions of families with large tax credits to help purchase coverage** and only about 1 percent of Americans who could afford health care but don't buy insurnace would pay the fine, which would average about $600. [CAP, 7/5/2012]

Romney on Medicare



"And my campaign has made it very clear: *the President's cuts of $716 billion to Medicare, those cuts are going to be restored* if I become President and Paul Ryan becomes Vice President." [CBS, 8/15/2012]

> REALITY: Obama is not robbing Medicare. In fact, **the billions in Obamacare savings will slow the growth of Medicare over the next decade** by eliminating overpayments to private insurers, reforming provider payments

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to encourage greater efficiency, tying reimbursements to improvements in economic productivity, and reducing fraud and abuse. As a result, the program's trust fund will remain solvent until 2024. If Romney restores these savings — which Ryan included in his own budget — he would hasten Medicare's insolvency to 2016. [Politifact, 8/15/2012 ; NYT 8/22/2012]

Romney says that he and Ryan "*want to make sure that we preserve and protect Medicare*." [CBS, 8/13/2012]

REALITY: The claim that "premium support" will save Medicare for future generations is highly misleading. **The federal government will spend less on the program because future will have to pay more**. [CAP, 8/24/2012]

"*Nothing changes for current seniors or those nearing retirement*," Romney's website claims. [MittRomney.com, 8/30/2012]

REALITY: Here is how Ryan's Medicare plan will affect current seniors: 1) by repealing Obamacare, the 16 million seniors receiving preventive benefits without deductibles or co-pays and are saving $3.9 billion on prescription drugs will see a cost increase, 2) **"premium support" will increase premiums for existing beneficiaries** as private insurers lure healthier seniors out of the traditional Medicare program. [CAP, 8/24/2012]

Romney on Women's Health

Romney claimed that under Obamacare, "*the Catholic Church had to provide for insurance that provided contraceptives*, sterilization, morning after pills to the employees of the Church." [ThinkProgress, 2/21/2012]

REALITY: **All houses of worship, including the Catholic Church, are specifically exempt** from the rule requiring employers to provide preventive services like contraception to their employees. And for religiously affiliated organizations, the insurance company will be required to offer the coverage free of charge and the employer will not pay for it. [ThinkProgress, ">3/23/2012]

Romney argued that the contraception mandate would *force employers to offer "abortive pills" free of charge*. [ThinkProgress, 5/8/2012]

REALITY: **Forms of contraception like hormonal birth control pills and the morning after pill do not work as "abortive" medication**. These benefits will only prevent a pregnancy before fertilization. [ThinkProgress, 3/2/2012]

Romney on Energy

Obama has *"already taken over" the energy industry*, and is "waging a war" on coal and oil. [LA Times, 8/14/2012]

REALITY: In the last four years, **oil production has exploded, hitting an eight-year high as oil exports shrunk to less than 50 percent for the first time since 1949**. According to the Mine Safety and Health Administration, coal industry employment has grown to reach its highest level since 1996, up 6.7 percent in West Virginia, and 2.3 percent in Pennsylvania. Coal layoffs and shuttered plants Romney points to can be blamed on economic forces, not regulations, as utilities move toward attractive investment in cheap natural gas. [Charleston Gazzette, 11/18/2011 ; West Virginia Center on Budget & Policy, 5/12/2012 ; EIA,11/30/2011 ; Climate Progress, 6/23/2012]

"An independent inspector general looked at [the Solyndra] investment and concluded that *the administration had steered money to friends and family and campaign contributors*." [Fortune,6/4/2012]

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REALITY: No investigation of Solyndra has ever found any "smoking guns."**Another independent review of all Department Of Energy loan programs by Herb Allison found no wrongdoing**. CNN Money reported that Romney thoroughly mischaracterized the Solyndra facts, and "to make the other guy look bad." A majority of the loan-application process for Solyndra occurred under the Bush administration. [Fortune, 3/27/2012 ; Politico, 5/29/2012]

Romney says he would would end tax credits for wind energy to create "*a level playing field on which all sources of energy can compete on their merits*." [Des Moines Register, 8/5/2012]

REALITY: **Romney has no interest in closing $4 billion tax loopholes that benefit oil and gas companies**. His tax plan even doubles the $2.4 billion the five largest oil companies already receive in taxpayer dollars. While the Congressional Research Service notes that closing oil's loopholes would have little to no impact on production or gas prices, wind tax credits has been essential to spurring billions in private investment in the relatively young industry. [American Progress, 7/26/2012 ; CRS, 5/11/2012 ; Energy.gov,8/14/2012]

"*[Obama] rejected the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have dramatically increased the supply of Canadian oil to the U.S. market*, and now Canada plans to send that oil to China instead," Romney's energy plan says, promising to approve the project. [MittRomney.com, 8/23/2012]

REALITY: **The Keystone XL pipeline would ship tar sands crude across the country to be processed at Gulf Coast refineries and sold on the international market. Therefore, the pipeline would do virtually nothing to make America more energy independent.** In some cases, it would actually raise the price of gasoline in the Midwest because the pipeline would surpass refineries in the region. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office recently concluded that the only way to protect Americans from oil and gas price shocks is to become more efficient and use less oil, not increase consumption. Finally, construction and operation of Keystone XL would only create 6,000 jobs, according to figures from TransCanada, the company building the project – not 20,000 as Romney and other proponents have claimed. [Washington Post, 3/2/2012 ; Congressional Budget Office, 5/9/2012; Inside Climate News, 1/18/2012]

Romney on Global Warming



"My view is that *we don't know what's causing climate change on this planet*. And the idea of spending trillions and trillions of dollars to try to reduce CO2 emissions is not the right course for us." [ThinkProgress, 10/28/2011]

REALITY: **97 percent of published, leading scientists agree that carbon pollution is causing climate change.** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has documented in exhaustive detail that global warming is 90 percent likely to be due to man-made greenhouse pollution. And a Koch-funded scientist has reversed himself, convinced by his own data that "humans are almost entirely the cause" of global warming, and even finding the IPCC didn't go far enough. [NYT, 7/30/2012]

Romney on the Auto Bailout



"I pushed the idea of a managed bankruptcy, and finally when that was done and help was given, the companies got back on their feet. *So I'll take a lot of credit for the fact that this industry's come back*." [The Hill, 5/8/2012]

REALITY: **Romney claimed credit for the outcome of a process that played out in direct opposition to his preferred game plan.** In a 2008 op-ed, Romney called for managed bankruptcy, but later opposed the

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government's bailout, claiming that unions were not forced to make sufficient sacrifices. Auto industry insiders have called Romney's preferred approach "fantasy." [CNBC, 6/12/2012]

Romney on Welfare Reform



"Under Obama's plan, *you wouldn't have to work and wouldn't have to train for a job*. They just send you your welfare check," a Romney campaign ad says. [CBS, 8/7/2012]

REALITY: The **administration's welfare waiver initiative would strengthen work requirements by empowering states to innovate on strategies that could move 20 percent more of the caseload into sustainable employment**. As the government's directive announcing the initiative notes, "The Secretary is only interested in approving waivers if the state can explain in a compelling fashion why the proposed approach may be a more efficient or effective means to promote employment entry, retention, advancement, or access to jobs that offer opportunities for earnings and advancement that will allow participants to avoid dependence on government benefits." Republican and Democratic governors — and even Romney and Paul Ryan — have all promoted flexibility before Obama embraced it. [HHS, 7/12/2012]

Romney on Food Stamps



"What unfortunately happens is with all the multiplicity of federal programs, you have massive overhead, with *government bureaucrats in Washington administering all these programs, very little of the money that's actually needed by those that really need help*, those that can't care for themselves, actually reaches them," Romney said of the food stamp program. [MSNBC, 1/8/12]

REALITY: **The food stamp program has relatively little overhead administrative costs — about 15.8 cents on the dollar.** That's about an average for the cost of a government-administered program. Plus, as the Washington Post points out, "That means almost 85 cents gets to the people who need the help." [Brookings, 3/2008 ; Washington Post, 1/8/2012]

Romney on Security



"*He went around the world and apologized for America*," said Mitt Romney, reiterating a common Romney campaign and right-wing talking point. [9/22/11]

REALITY: The Washington Post's fact checker gave this statement "four Pinocchios," saying, "**Take it from us: The apology tour never happened**." PolitiFact.com also took aim at Romney's false claim, giving it a "Pants on Fire" rating. "We found not a single, full-throated apology" in Obama's speeches while abroad, PolitiFact says, adding, "**we think it's a ridiculous charge**." [The Washington Post 12/10/11 ; PolitiFact.com 9/22/11]

President Obama alone is *responsible for the $500 billion in military spending sequester*. [Chicago Tribune, 5/19/2012]

REALITY: In fact, under the Budget Control Act, **many Republicans voted in favor of the spending sequester**. 28 Republican senators and 174 Republican members of the House backed the measure. [ThinkProgress, 5/20/

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2012; Roll Call, 8/2/2011 ; Roll Call, 8/1/2011]

In an op-ed attacking Obama's Iran policy and ratcheting up the war rhetoric, Romney claimed that *the Islamic Republic has a "nuclear bomb program."* [Washington Post, 3/5/2012]

> REALITY: Top American officials, the International Atomic Energy Agency and U.S. and Israeli intelligence all recently said that while Iran may be moving toward a nuclear weapons capability, **the regime has not made a decision to build a bomb**. [ThinkProgress, 3/5/2012]

Obama has *thrown Israel "under the bus."* [Bloomberg, 7/3/2012]

> REALITY: Obama has ramped up security cooperation with Israel, providing specialized bombs that the Bush administration had once refused to hand off, funding Israel's "Iron Dome" missile defense system to the tune of $275 million, and approving the billions of dollars in defense aid packages passed by Congress every year. Israel's top leaders are immensely appreciative — Defense Minister Ehud Barak has said, "**this administration under President Obama is doing in regard to our security more than anything that I can remember in the past**," President Shimon Peres claimed that "When I look at the record of President Obama concerning the major issue security I think it's a highly satisfactory record from Israeli point of view," and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Obama merited "a badge of honor" for diplomatic support during the Palestinian statehood bid at the United Nations. [Newsweek, 9/23/2011 ; Arutz Sheva 7, 5/17/2012 ; CNN, 7/30/2012 ; CNN,7/31/2012; Politico, 9/21/2011]

Romney claimed Obama "went before the United Nations" and "*said nothing about thousands of rockets being rained in on Israel from the Gaza Strip*." [CNN, 1/26/2012]

> REALITY: In his 2011 U.N. address, Obama said, "Israel is surrounded by neighbors that have waged repeated wars against it. **Israel's citizens have been killed by rockets fired at their houses and suicide bombs on their buses**." The 2009 speech also decried rocket fire falling on the Israeli town of Sderot, saying "We must remember that the greatest price of this conflict is not paid by us. It is paid by the Israeli girl in Sderot who closes her eyes in fear that a rocket will take her life in the night. It is paid by the Palestinian boy in Gaza who has no clean water and no country to call his own." [White House Transcript,9/21/2011 ; New York Times, 9/23/2009]

Romney on LGBT Rights

Romney claims that he "*fully supports the rights of gay individuals and homosexuals*." [NBC,12/16/2007

> REALITY: Romney often makes this claim in the same sentence as he expresses his opposition to marriage equality. He also **opposes federal nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people**. [Salt Lake Tribune, 10/7/2010]

Romney says same-sex couples have a "legitimate interest" in adoption and "*obviously, that's their right*." [Boston Globe, 3/14/2006]

> REALITY: Though Romney "acknowledges" that some states recognize same-sex adoptions, he has said multiples times that same-sex parents are harmful to children, telling Religious Right groups in 2006 that "**the price of same-sex marriage is paid by the children**." [CNS News, 10/12/2011 ; RightWingWatch.org,5/15/2012]

"We're not going to force people of faith to violate their faith in order to carry out their profession," Romney said, explaining that Catholic Charities in Massachusetts "had to *get out of adoptions because they would not, under their faith, place children in the homes of same-sex couples*." [ThinkProgress, 9/5/2011]

> REALITY: Catholic Charities received public funds but refused to place children with same-sex couples in spite of Massachusetts' inclusive law. **It could have continued making this distinction by continuing to operate on**

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> **private funding only, but it voluntarily chose to shut down instead**. Romney believes the government should subsidize religious groups even if they discriminate against gays. [Palmetto Freedom Forum, 9/5/2011]
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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/2/2014 1:40:32 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday September 2, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Tuesday September 2, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Associated Press: "2016ers Jockey Even Before Congressional Elections"

"The former secretary of state's every word will be parsed for her future plans. But Clinton has been offering plenty of hints that she's preparing for another campaign."

MSNBC: "Hillary super PAC makes moves in South Carolina"

"Former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm is headlining a major Democratic event in South Carolina later this month on behalf of Ready for Hillary, the pro-Clinton super PAC."

National Journal: "Why Democrats Are Headed for Vegas"

"That's because on Thursday in Las Vegas possible presidential contender Hillary Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will preside over the senator's eighth clean-energy summit, an event that is emerging as a key stop in Nevada and Democratic Party politics."

Wall Street Journal: "How the 2016 GOP Presidential Wannabes Spent the Summer"

"Whereas the early Democratic contest can be summarized in four simple words—is Hillary Clinton inevitable?—the Republican cast of characters has, over the course of the summer, sorted itself into a matrix of different categories defined by the potential candidates' varied circumstances and strategies."

New York Times: "Christie Studies Foreign Affairs for a 2016 Test"

“Similar doubts about the international savvy of other potential Republican presidential candidates have prompted some to begin a crash course, seeking to catch up with the experience and prestige of a likely Democratic front-runner, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.”

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Sanders calls for agenda 'for all Americans'”

“Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Senate Democrats, is considering challenging Clinton in the hopes of taking advantage of fears among party members that she is too close for comfort with Wall Street.”

New York Times column: Frank Bruni: “Obama’s Messy Words”

“Echoing Hillary Clinton to some degree, Senator Dianne Feinstein just complained that Obama was perhaps ‘too cautious.’”

Articles:

Associated Press: “2016ers Jockey Even Before Congressional Elections”

By Steve Peoples and Ken Thomas

September 1, 2014, 10:09 a.m. EDT

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) -- One set of elections ends in early November as another begins when presidential hopefuls cross the unofficial starting line in the 2016 race for the White House.

With control of the Senate at stake, the months leading up to the mid-term elections offer a clearer window on a crowd of potential presidential candidates already jockeying for position from Nevada to New Hampshire. Their cross-country touring will intensify this fall under the gaze of voters who will pick their parties' nominees. Look for the would-be contenders to road-test rhetoric, expand coalitions, and consider their own political flaws-while keeping close watch on each other.

Democrats want Hillary Rodham Clinton to carry their flag; the Republican field remains crowded, and wide open. The presidential jousting will be most apparent in states like New Hampshire, home to the first-in-the-nation presidential primary and the site of closely-watched races for governor, Senate and the House.

Whichever party controls the Senate after the November 4 balloting-Republicans need a six-seat gain to win the majority-will say much about what President Barack Obama can accomplish in the final two years of his presidency and the tone of the race to succeed him.

"The end of the 2014 general election does, in a sense, commence a beginning of the presidential primary phase," says New Hampshire Republican operative Rich Killion. "But an informal, unofficial opening to the process already is underway."

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Here's a look at potential 2016 candidates and what to expect this fall:

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON:

The former secretary of state's every word will be parsed for her future plans. But Clinton has been offering plenty of hints that she's preparing for another campaign.

Her biggest splash could come in Iowa, where she'll join her husband at Sen. Tom Harkin's annual steak fry fundraiser in Indianola on Sept. 14. The event is billed as a tribute to Harkin, but will generate wide interest as Clinton's first visit to Iowa since losing the 2008 caucuses.

Clinton has limited her campaign activity since leaving the State Department, but this fall should give voters a more concrete look at how she might present her candidacy. Her allies are wary of a "third Obama term" label, so Clinton's speeches and appearances offer a chance to distinguish herself from the president.

She will raise money for Democrats' four major campaign committees and could help several Senate campaigns where Obama remains a liability.

JOE BIDEN:

Vice President Joe Biden has not ruled out a third presidential bid and expects to be an active surrogate for Democrats this fall. Whether he'd challenge Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination remains the big question.

Biden headlined high-profile meetings with young voters, liberals and African-Americans. He's also raised money for congressional candidates in Nevada and incumbent governors in Connecticut and Illinois. Biden is expected to visit New Hampshire, where he maintains ties to party activists, and Iowa, where Rep. Bruce Braley faces Joni Ernst in one of the top Senate battlegrounds.

OTHER DEMOCRATS:

Several Democrats are building for a national campaign in case Clinton doesn't run - or considering a longshot challenge.

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has been the most active, raising money for candidates in Iowa and New Hampshire and traveling to states with active mid-term contests.

Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb recently traveled to Iowa. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats, plans to visit the Hawkeye State in mid-September. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has denied interest in the White House but would face pressure to run if Clinton doesn't.

JEB BUSH

More than seven years out of office, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has been quieter than some of his GOP colleagues as he focuses on his private business dealings.

He recently said he'd begin a more aggressive schedule to help Republicans this fall. He's set to headline a Florida fundraiser in late September to benefit top Republican Senate candidates, a group expected to include Cory Gardner in Colorado, Ernst in Iowa, Monica Wehby in Oregon and Tom Cotton in Arkansas.

RAND PAUL

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Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has been perhaps the most aggressive prospective candidate.

The ophthalmologist recently squeezed in a mission to perform eye surgeries in Guatemala-and invited news organizations to cover it-between stops in Iowa and South Carolina. He's confirmed September appearances in California and Virginia, and October visits to North Carolina and New Hampshire, among dozens more possible stops.

The libertarian-leaning Paul, the son of former Texas Rep. Ron Paul, is trying to build on the small but passionate coalition assembled by his father. The elder Paul wasn't taken seriously by many Republicans, but Rand Paul has emerged as a leading GOPvoice on foreign and domestic policy.

CHRIS CHRISTIE

Working to move past a bridge-clogging scandal that shadowed his plans, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie continues an aggressive travel schedule this fall as chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

Having already visited New Hampshire, he's announced a trip to South Carolina, where he'll have a chance to test his message with more conservative voters. He's also planning trips to Ohio, Wisconsin and Florida.

Christie leads a delegation of New Jersey business and political leaders to Mexico in early September, a trip that gives him a chance to bolster his appeal with Latino voters and burnish his foreign policy chops. And at home, Christie will unveil a budget plan that is sure to draw fury from Democrats and union leaders.

RICK PERRY

Eyeing a second presidential bid, Texas Gov. Rick Perry was already facing challenges related to his disastrous 2012 campaign before his recent felony indictments.

His advisers suggest the charges could actually help his political prospects, and he has pressed ahead with visits to Iowa, Washington, D.C., New Hampshire, and more.

Perry heads to Iowa in early September shortly before a weeklong economic tour across Asia. He'll turn his attention to helping Republican governors win reelection when he returns.

The Texas governor will launch a European tour in October.

OTHER REPUBLICANS:

The possible GOP field also includes Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker hopes to use his reelection test this fall as a springboard into 2016. Others must convince skeptical party leaders they have mainstream appeal - a group that includes conservative firebrand Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and social conservative Rick Santorum.

MSNBC: “Hillary super PAC makes moves in South Carolina”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Alex Seitz-Wald

September 1, 2014, 5:34 p.m. EDT

With Hillary Clinton giving few public appearances ahead of a possible presidential run, some Democrats are happy to take the next best thing.

Former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm is headlining a major Democratic event in South Carolina later this month on behalf of Ready for Hillary, the pro-Clinton super PAC. The South Carolina Democratic Party, which puts on the annual Blue Jamboree fundraiser, perhaps the biggest Democratic event in the state, reached out to Ready for Hillary to secure Granholm's appearance, according to a source familiar with the planning.

At the event, Granholm will deliver a $5,000 check from Ready for Hillary to the state party, bringing the super PAC's total contributions to the federal maximum of $10,000. It cut a another $5,000 check to the state party in June. The group has donated to more than two dozen state party committees, including all of the early primary states.

It's the first time a state party has asked Ready for Hillary for a surrogate at a high-profile event like this. And it's all part of the super PAC's mission to build relationships and curry favor with local officials during the 2014 election cycle in lieu of Clinton herself, who has no political staff and is still technically a private citizen. (Clinton and the group cannot coordinate by law).

"Ready for Hillary is proud to support the efforts of the South Carolina Democratic Party in this year's election and beyond, and we will continue to channel the energy and organization around a potential Hillary 2016 candidacy to help SCDPand 2014 candidates," Seth Bringman, the super PAC's communications director, told msnbc.

The super PAC will also use its massive list to find supporters in South Carolina and encourage them to purchase tickets to the Jamboree, much as they are doing now ahead of Clinton's appearance at an Iowa Democratic Party event earlier in September.

As with Iowa, Clinton's struggles in South Carolina in 2008 will loom large if she decides to run again. Then-Sen. Barack Obama more than doubled Clinton's vote share – 55% to 26% – after Bill Clinton made a series of comments that offended some African-Americans, who are the key Democratic voting base in the Southern state.

Martin O'Malley, the Democratic governor of Maryland who is also considering a presidential bid, announced last week that he's sending four staffers from his leadership PAC to help Democrats in South Carolina during the midterms.

Ready for Hillary's campaign-style bus also visited the state recently, making the rounds of South Carolina colleges in mid-August. "Students were drawn in by the Hillary Bus and the free Hillary posters, but we were then able to tell them about the critical elections taking place this year, and we'll continue that conversation between now and November 4 to make sure they vote and get involved," added Bringman, who was at all five stops. The bus will return to the state for the Jamboree and a Pride parade the week before.

Tickets for the Blue Jamboree, which will be held in North Charleston on September 27, start at $10 and go up to $250. The rest of the speakers announced so far are mostly local to South Carolina.

National Journal: "Why Democrats Are Headed for Vegas"

By Michael Catalini

September 2, 2014

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The Democratic Party's center of gravity will tilt toward Sin City this week.

That's because on Thursday in Las Vegas possible presidential contender Hillary Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will preside over the senator's eighth clean-energy summit, an event that is emerging as a key stop in Nevada and Democratic Party politics.

Superficially, the event gives green business leaders and policymakers an opportunity to swap ideas and map out a sustainable course for Nevada's and the nation's energy sectors.

Summit organizers say they've attracted 10,000 supporters in the Silver State, with 250 businesses pledging to back clean-energy policies, according to Lydia Ball, executive director of the Clean Energy Project, which puts on the summit.

Businesses interested in hosting an exhibit at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center will have to pay between $4,000 and $5,000 for a booth at the event—"a boutique trade show," as Ball calls it. And 28 exhibition booths are expected, according to an internal tally.

But the summit is also a hive of political activity.

The event is sponsored by Reid and the liberal think tank Center for American Progress, among others, and has attracted some of the biggest names in politics.

Former President Bill Clinton and former Vice President Al Gore have headlined the event. Two years ago Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval spoke there. White House counselor and former Clinton Chief of Staff John Podesta is also a regular attendee, and at last year's event two party fundraisers were held at the same location as the summit, according to local media reports.

"I don't want to insult former President Clinton by suggesting his wife is a bigger name," said former Reid aide Jim Manley, who regularly attended the event. "[But] it's all about getting big names to come to the state. There's a lot of networking going on. There's a lot of cross-pollination."

Podesta will be speaking this year, as will CAP head Neera Tanden. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Rep. Dina Titus of Nevada, and former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros will also be on hand.

It's not just the headliners who are politically inclined. Many of the panelists have doubled as campaign donors: Ormat Technologies' Yoram Bronicki, for example, is expected to discuss leapfrogging technology. But he's also given to Reid and the Senate Democrats' campaign arm this cycle, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

Other panelists who are also Democratic donors include Rose McKinney-James of Energy Works Consulting, Patricia Wagner of Sempra Energy, and Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute.

"There's a lot of like-minded people there, including top policymakers," Manley said.

Those policymakers are certainly a draw for many of the small-business owners who plan to attend. But clean-energy entrepreneurs downplay the political side of the event. They point to Nevada as "ground zero" in the solar industry. They also suggest issues like energy efficiency, which as many as 30 states have embraced legislatively, tend to be bipartisan.

"It's easy to become jaded, living in D.C., about gridlock and the partisan nature of politics," said Alex Laskey, president of Opower, a software firm whose clients include utilities in nine countries. "There seems to be an interest in solving problems and a recognition that it's good for our economy. I'm hopeful that there will be kumbaya about efficiency."

The summit tends to attract Democratic-leaning voters, but it also appeals to some Republicans who see an upside to supporting the green economy.

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Jon Huntsman, a former GOPpresidential candidate and Utah governor, will join a panel to discuss businesses' role in carbon reduction, as will MGM Resorts executive and Republican donor Jim Murren, another event cosponsor.

"There is a dimension of altruism to it," Murren said in a conference call on the event, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "But we have learned this is good business sense. People will book conventions at Aria and Mandalay and Bellagio because they share the same core values as we do."

For Reid, the event builds on his reputation as a centrifugal force in Nevada politics. And it doesn't hurt that Nevada has become a key battleground in presidential contests.

"I've always looked at this event as a stage for Senator Reid on where he wants to move forward," Ball said. "Politics are involved in everything we do, but it's not Democratic Party-driven at all. It's very much Nevada-driven."

But it's more than just state politics. With the Democratic Senate majority on the line this cycle, and with speculation mounting that Reid may step aside despite saying he plans to run for his seat in 2016, the event serves as a tangible sign of the Searchlight native's influence.

"This is a legacy issue for Senator Reid," Manley said.

Wall Street Journal: "How the 2016 GOP Presidential Wannabes Spent the Summer"

By Gerald F. Seib

September 1, 2014, 6:28 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Republican Cast of Characters Are Sorting Themselves Into a Matrix of Categories

This Labor Day week marks the official start of the 2014 general-election season, so what's the logical thing to do? Look forward to the 2016 presidential election, of course.

OK, so that isn't entirely logical. But there is no doubt that the 2016 presidential race—which figures to be as wide open, unpredictable and flat-out interesting as any in memory—will be providing much of the background music for this year's congressional election, important as that contest is in its own right.

And at this early stage, the most intriguing presidential jockeying is unfolding on the Republican side. Whereas the early Democratic contest can be summarized in four simple words—is Hillary Clinton inevitable?—the Republican cast of characters has, over the course of the summer, sorted itself into a matrix of different categories defined by the potential candidates' varied circumstances and strategies.

There are, for example, two potential presidential wannabes who have emerged as the policy wonks in the crowd. They are Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.

The former, by dint of his position as chairman of the House Budget Committee, has written a blueprint for the kind of government he envisions, and, more recently, a new plan for how conservatives can fight poverty.

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The latter, having washed his hands of his early emphasis on immigration reform, has delivered a series of speeches on policies foreign and domestic that would help fill up a policy binder in a presidential campaign.

Two of the party's elder statesmen, meanwhile, seem to be making it clear that they are available for a draft if party regulars clamor for them to run.

They are former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and, improbably enough, 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney.

Mr. Bush is the clear favorite of many in the party's establishment and money wings. But he doesn't look like a man who relishes the battles with movement conservatives that his candidacy would require, and may enter the fray only if it is clear establishment players commit to clearing a path for him.

Mr. Romney, meantime, says there is only a one in a million chance he will run again, but his busy travel schedule on behalf of Republican congressional candidates in recent weeks suggests he is open to persuasion.

Two other potential candidates are embarked on reclamation projects. One is New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, seeking to recover from the disastrous scandal over a traffic jam at a bridge created by his aides in a fit of pique. The other is Texas Gov. Rick Perry, seeking to recover from an equally disastrous 2012 presidential run.

Here's betting that both will conclude that their reclamation work has been successful enough to justify a run. Mr. Perry seems to be benefiting in the party from his recent indictment for trying to force out of office a Democratic prosecutor who has been a thorn in the Republicans' side.

One GOP contender stands out for trying to lay sole claim to the hard-right space, and that is Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. On the big three areas of policy debate—economic, social and national security—Mr. Cruz is making sure nobody gets to his right in his unabashed quest to be seen as rightful heir to Ronald Reagan.

Meanwhile, three other governors from around the country are forming a club of outsiders capable of running on an "I'm not from Washington" theme, a potentially lucrative approach at a time when views of Washington are scraping the bottom of the public-opinion barrel. They are Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence.

Mr. Walker retains something approaching folk-hero status within the party for waging an epic battle against public-employee unions a few years ago. The question is whether the enmity he generated among other voters will undermine his bid for re-election this fall.

Neither Mr. Pence nor Mr. Jindal has to worry about re-election this year, so they are focusing on enacting conservative governing agendas within their states that could serve them well with Republican primary voters. Mr. Jindal did that most recently by taking on the Common Core educational standards that conservatives love to hate as an example of government overreach.

Two long-shots—former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, a social conservative, and Sen. Rob Portman, a budget wonk—are circling the runway, their intentions and prospects unclear.

Finally, there is a politician trying to carve an entirely new lane for himself in Republican politics: Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul. He is crafting a singular identity as a quasi-libertarian who nonetheless isn't an isolationist, who can appeal to young voters' hands-off views on social issues, and who reaches minority voters.

It's a tough act to pull off, and Mr. Paul's quirkiness scares many in the GOP.

Yet Scott Reed, a party activist who ran Bob Dole's 1996 presidential campaign, says Mr. Paul did more than anyone else to improve his position over the summer now drawing to a close.

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New York Times: "Christie Studies Foreign Affairs for a 2016 Test"

By Michael Barbaro

September 1, 2014

A few days after Russian forces invaded Crimea, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey was asked at a confidential meeting of Republican activists how he would have handled the situation differently from President Obama.

It was not, according to several of those in attendance, a tough or unexpected inquiry. But Mr. Christie, usually known for his oratorical sure-footedness, offered a wobbly reply, displaying little grasp of the facts and claiming that if he were in charge, Vladimir V. Putin, the Russian president, would know better than to mess with him.

According to an audio recording of the event, he said Mr. Putin had taken the measure of Mr. Obama. "I don't believe, given who I am, that he would make the same judgment," Mr. Christie said. "Let's leave it at that."

One attendee described Mr. Christie's answer as disturbingly heavy on swagger and light on substance. Another called it "uncomfortable to watch."

Now, as he considers a run for the presidency at a moment of spiraling global mayhem, Mr. Christie's trip to Mexico this week is taking on a sudden urgency. Intended as a trade mission, it will double as a chance to demonstrate a level of acumen on foreign policy that has so far eluded him.

Republican leaders are convinced that Mr. Obama's second-term foreign policy — guided by an instinctive reluctance to use force and the mantra "don't do stupid stuff" — has created an opening for a compelling Republican critique in 2016, and they are eager to find an authoritative statesman to deliver it.

The question for the party is whether Mr. Christie, whose political ascent was powered by a lacerating, undiplomatic personality, could be the right messenger.

Similar doubts about the international savvy of other potential Republican presidential candidates have prompted some to begin a crash course, seeking to catch up with the experience and prestige of a likely Democratic front-runner, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. For example, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky just returned from a weeklong trip to Guatemala.

The job training has produced some stumbles. Gov. Rick Perry of Texas invited eye rolls from Pentagon officials when he declared it a "very real possibility" that fighters from the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria had come across the Mexican border and into the United States.

Busy with his day job and still enmeshed in a scandal about orchestrated traffic jams, Mr. Christie is, by his own admission, unschooled in the nuances of global affairs. He has already committed several foreign policy faux pas this year — by the unforgiving standards of Republican presidential politics, anyway.

They range from the minor (omitting the word "Israel" from a speech before an influential Jewish group) to the more meaningful (calling the West Bank the "occupied territories" before another influential Jewish group). Audible gasps ensued in a Las Vegas ballroom, and an apology from Mr. Christie soon followed.

"This is something the governor has struggled with, because it's so far outside his realm of experience," said Brigid Harrison, a professor of political science at Montclair State University in New Jersey who has studied Mr. Christie throughout his tenure.

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“He is not,” she added, “a global guy.”

He is, however, trying to become one. This summer, Mr. Christie finished “Reagan at Reykjavik,” Ken Adelman’s history of the pivotal 1986 Cold War summit meeting. He has struck up a friendship with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, now an informal foreign policy tutor; is known to consult with former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger on major speeches that touch on world affairs; and is in contact with trusted Republican hands like Robert B. Zoellick, a career diplomat and former head of the World Bank.

After spending nearly three hours with Mr. Christie at the State House in July, spinning through the geopolitics of Asia, the economic future of Europe and the energy industry in Mexico, Mr. Zoellick described his pupil as “very quick.”

“Sometimes people will flag,” he said. “He didn’t at all. It could have gone on longer.”

Yet Mr. Christie’s tutorials appear less organized or far along than those of potential 2016 rivals like Mr. Paul or Representative Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, and Mr. Christie has yet to articulate a distinct vision of America’s place in the world that strays from his party’s typical expressions of dismay with Mr. Obama and tributes to Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Christie has been candid about the gaps in his international understanding. Pressed on them during an appearance in Chicago this year, Mr. Christie conceded, “I don’t have the briefings and the background to be able to say that I understand all the intricacies of it.”

The pillars of the Christie worldview, as gleaned from about a dozen speeches and public appearances, tend to rise from a simple observation: A high-functioning America at home, liberated from partisan dysfunction, exerts greater influence abroad.

“What we say and what we do here at home affects how others see us and in turn affects what it is they say and do,” Mr. Christie said during a speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation in 2011.

He places tremendous value on the personal projection of authority, as evidenced by his suggestion — at the event held by conservative activists — that Mr. Putin would think twice about challenging him.

“Foreign policy, in my view, is about human relationships,” Mr. Christie said at the March conference held by the American Enterprise Institute at a resort in Georgia. The event was closed to the news media, but The New York Times was given access to a recording of Mr. Christie’s remarks.

“Men and women across the world judge each other,” Mr. Christie said at the time. “And they take a measure of the person based on your actions and your words.”

With Mr. Obama, he said mockingly, “words matter more to him than actions.”

“He’s in love with words,” he said. “He loves the words coming out of his mouth.”

At the event, Mr. Christie expressed confidence that his brand of resolute, no-nonsense foreign policy would have avoided the dilemma the United States faced when Syria deployed chemical weapons against its own citizens in the civil war.

Mr. Christie said he would have never drawn a “red line,” as Mr. Obama did with President Bashar al-Assad, but, “if you do, you better finish the job.”

Governors, whose duties entail little meaningful interaction with foreign governments, have always struggled to convey global know-how, or even familiarity with the names of foreign leaders. But for a variety of reasons, mastery of foreign relations is likely to become a bigger-than-usual yardstick in the 2016 Republican presidential contest.

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There is a determination within the party to avoid repeating mistakes of the 2012 primary season, when the unwieldy field of candidates displayed an occasionally embarrassing lack of international knowledge. (Herman Cain declared that it was immaterial which leader ran “Ubeki-beki-beki-beki-stan-stan.”) By Election Day, polls showed that Mr. Obama was far more trusted on foreign policy than the Republican nominee, Mitt Romney.

And there is the Clinton factor.

Republican operatives said Mr. Christie had time to catch up, and they pointed to the models of Mr. Romney and George W. Bush, two state chief executives who committed themselves, early on in their governorships, to the rigorous study of global affairs. Mr. Romney invited specialists like Frederick W. Kagan, a former military historian at West Point, to brief him in Boston, and he studied custom-made booklets with the names of world leaders. Mr. Bush held Sunday night conference calls with a team of advisers nicknamed the Vulcans, including Ms. Rice, Stephen J. Hadley and Paul D. Wolfowitz.

“My view is that he’ll have work to do, but he’s up to the task,” said Arthur C. Brooks, the president of the American Enterprise Institute, who was interviewing Mr. Christie at the event in Georgia when the governor talked about Crimea. (Mr. Brooks declined to comment on the exchange.)

Ari Fleischer, Mr. Bush’s former press secretary, said there was a narrow window for a candidate like Mr. Christie to immerse himself in the subject, before the rigors of a campaign begin.

“It becomes essential,” Mr. Fleischer said. “If you make a mistake, particularly later in 2015, and certainly in 2016, it will become magnified way beyond the mistake itself.

“This is the time to do it,” he said.

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Sanders calls for agenda 'for all Americans'”

By Martin Matishak

September 1, 2014, 5:10 p.m. EDT

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said that the U.S. needs an economic plan that benefits “not just the very rich," but all Americans.

“The sad reality of today's America is that while the wealthiest people and largest corporations are doing phenomenally well, the middle class is disappearing and millions of Americans are working longer hours for lower wages,” Sanders said in a statement commemorating Labor Day.

“Congress must start listening to the needs of ordinary Americans, not just the billionaire class and their lobbyists,” he said.

Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Senate Democrats, is considering challenging Clinton in the hopes of taking advantage of fears among party members that she is too close for comfort with Wall Street.

To that end, he spoke at an AFL-CIO breakfast hosted in Manchester, N.H., on Monday and intends to trek to Iowa in mid-September, at the same time Hillary Clinton will be there attending a steak fry hosted by retiring Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa).

Sanders said the U.S. could create “millions of new jobs by rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure and dramatically improve life for low-wage workers by raising the minimum wage,” popular issues among Democratic base voters.

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He called for trade policies that would “prevent corporations from throwing American workers out on the street and running to China for cheap labor" and tax reform so that businesses "can't stash their profits in foreign tax havens.”

Sanders also urged his colleagues to pass “real campaign finance reform so that the Koch brothers and other billionaires are no longer able to buy elections.”

New York Times column: Frank Bruni: “Obama’s Messy Words”

By Frank Bruni

September 1, 2014

There are things that you think and things that you say.

There’s what you reckon with privately and what you utter publicly.

There are discussions suitable for a lecture hall and those that befit the bully pulpit.

These sets overlap but aren’t the same. Has President Obama lost sight of that?

It’s a question fairly asked after his statement last week that “we don’t have a strategy yet” for dealing with Islamic extremists in Syria. Not having a strategy, at least a fixed, definitive one, is understandable. The options aren’t great, the answers aren’t easy and the stakes are enormous.

But announcing as much? It’s hard to see any percentage in that. It gives no comfort to Americans. It puts no fear in our enemies.

Just as curious was what Obama followed that up with.

Speaking at a fund-raiser on Friday, he told donors, “If you watch the nightly news, it feels like the world is falling apart.” He had that much right.

But it wasn’t the whole of his message. In a statement of the obvious, he also said, “The world has always been messy.” And he coupled that with a needless comparison, advising Americans to bear in mind that the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, the rapacity of Putin, the bedlam in Libya and the rest of it were “not something that is comparable to the challenges we faced during the Cold War.”

Set aside the question of how germane the example of the Cold War is. When the gut-twisting image stuck in your head is of a masked madman holding a crude knife to the neck of an American on his knees in the desert, when you’re reading about crucifixions in the 21st century, when you’re hearing about women sold by jihadists as sex slaves, and when British leaders have just raised the threat level in their country to “severe,” the last thing that you want to be told is that it’s par for the historical course, all a matter of perspective and not so cosmically dire.

Where’s the reassurance — or the sense of urgency — in that?

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And maybe the second-to-last thing that you want to be told is that technology and social media amplify peril in a new way and may be the reason you're feeling especially on edge. Obama said something along those lines, too. It's not the terror, folks. It's the tweets.

Is the president consoling us — or himself? It's as if he's taken his interior monologue and wired it to speakers in the town square. And it's rattling.

When he came along, many of us were fed up with misinformation and "Mission Accomplished" theatrics and bluster. America had paid a price for them in young lives.

And we were tired and leery of an oversimplified, Hollywood version of world affairs, of the Manichaean lexicon of "evil empire" and "axis of evil." We longed for something less rash and more nuanced.

But there's plenty of territory between the bloated and bellicose rhetoric of then and what Obama is giving us now. He's adopted a strange language of self-effacement, with notes of defeatism, reminding us that "America, as the most powerful country on earth, still does not control everything"; that we must be content at times with singles and doubles in lieu of home runs; that not doing stupid stuff is its own accomplishment.

This is all true. It's in tune with our awareness of our limits. And it reflects a prudent disinclination to repeat past mistakes and overreach.

But that doesn't make it the right message for the world's lone superpower (whether we like it or not) to articulate and disseminate. That doesn't make it savvy, constructive P.R. And the low marks that Americans currently give the president, especially for foreign policy, suggest that it's not exactly what we were after.

In The Washington Post on Sunday, Karen DeYoung and Dan Balz observed that while Obama's no-strategy remark "may have had the virtue of candor," it in no way projected "an image of presidential resolve or decisiveness at a time of international turmoil."

And no matter what Obama ultimately elects to do, such an image is vital. But in its place are oratorical shrugs and an aura of hesitancy, even evasion, as he and John Kerry broadcast that the United States shouldn't be expected to act on its own. Isn't that better whispered to our allies and negotiated behind closed doors?

Echoing Hillary Clinton to some degree, Senator Dianne Feinstein just complained that Obama was perhaps "too cautious."

Not in what he says, he's not. Not when he draws and then erases red lines. Not with his recent adjectives.

"Messy" is my kitchen at the end of a long weekend. What's happening in much of Syria and Iraq is monstrous.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

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- September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)
- October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)
- October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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Subject: Daily Skimm: You can do it.

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Skimm for August 24th

Skimm'd over ahi tuna tacos in Napa.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm not okay" – A One Direction fan , after hearing reports that the band will go on an 'extended hiatus.' If you have anyone under the age of 13 in your life, drop what you are doing and tell them how sorry you are for their loss.

SKIMM THIS

CRACKED CHINA

THE STORY

China's economy has been taking a lot of sick days this summer. And now, global markets are getting the bug .

EXPLAIN.

Earlier this month, the Chinese government tried to boost the country's meh economy by letting the value of the yuan slide. The goal: to make Chinese goods cheaper and encourage people to spend. The problem: it makes products from other countries (cough, the US, cough) more expensive for Chinese people and companies to buy. This policy change, plus a messy summer for China's stock market , plus some other international headaches (lookin' at you, Greece), equals global investors reaching for the Alka-Seltzer.

DAMN.

Yup. Last week, after some bad economic data from China, global stock markets completely freaked out. US markets ended up with their worst losses in four years. And today isn't looking any better. China's markets opened even weaker than yesterday, which has triggered a global domino effect . Think: Asian and European markets taking tumbles and oil prices way down.

ANYTHING ELSE?

The markets' tantrum comes as everybody's favorite central bankers at the Fed have been deciding when to raise interest rates. The Fed has been keeping them near zero since the financial crisis, with the thinking that if it's cheap for consumers to borrow money they'll do things like buy a house and give the economy a lil' boost. But the bank is about ready for hand-holding to be over. It was considering raising rates at a meeting next month – but thanks to China, that may be on pause.

theSKIMM

Right now, the ups and downs of global markets are hinging on two of the least transparent things ever: the Chinese government and the Federal Reserve.

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REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT...

These three Americans . On Friday, three Americans — two of them off-duty military service members — took down a heavily armed gunman on a train going from Amsterdam to Paris. The three men and a British passenger tackled the suspect – who was carrying an AK47 and lots of ammo – b efore he could do anything. The suspect is a 26-year-old Moroccan man. European officials think he may have terror ties. But yesterday, his lawyer said he was just trying to rob people on the train. Which made everything all better.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU SPRINT ONTO THE SUBWAY RIGHT BEFORE THE DOORS CLOSE...

Just call me Usain Bolt . Yesterday, at the World Championships in Beijing, the Jamaican sprinter reaffirmed for everyone that yes, he is the fastest man alive. He ran 100 meters in the time it took you to read this sentence, otherwise known as 9.79 seconds. Bolt beat American Justin Gatlin (who's been dealing with ongoing doping allegations) by one-hundredth of a second. The two will face off again at the 2016 Olympics in Rio. Pencil in 10 seconds to watch that race next year.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR NEIGHBOR PLAYS LOUD MUSIC...

Hate you. Things between South Korea and North Korea are going swimmingly again. Over the weekend, the not-so-friendly neighbors met to talk things out for the zillionth time. The two countries have technically been at war since the 1950s, and have passed the time with things like threatening all-out war and doing nuclear tests. The drama kicked up again earlier this month when North Korea was blamed for planting land mines that injured two South Korean soldiers. In response, South Korea took the high ground by spreading anti-North haterade. Over a loud speaker system. Like adults. Along the border it shares with North Korea. Which resulted in the two countries firing some shots (actual ones) at each other last week. The talks over the weekend were supposed to help them work it out. But that didn't exactly happen . South Korea said the loud speaker stunt won't end until North Korea apologizes for the land mines. And then they stuck their tongues out at each other.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR FRIEND STARTS TALKING ABOUT ASHLEY MADISON...

This is the hack that never ends. Last month, the website was hacked. Last week, love was in the air when the personal information of about 39 million users who created accounts on the "Life is short. Have an affair" site were posted online for the world to judge. CC: Josh Duggar and more than 10,000 government employees. Yesterday, two Canadian law firms decided all was not fair in love and cheating and filed a $578 million class-action lawsuit against the companies that run the website. And more good news, remember that Christian blogger whose videos surprising his wife about her pregnancy, and then sharing their miscarriage, went viral? Over the weekend, he admitted to having an account on the site . His wife said she forgives him. Safe to say not all spouses took the news that well.

SKIMM THIS

ONE THING TO KNOW

Mei Xiang : The name of the giant panda you've been seeing around all weekend. She surprised everyone at her home – the National Zoo – by giving birth to twins. Giant pandas are an endangered species, so the two-for-one special is big news in the animal world.

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SKIMM SHARE

Still recovering from Sunday funday? We hear sharing theSkimm helps. Share here .

SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

* Indicates Skimm'bassador. You had me at cake.

*Emily Hasen (Old Greenwich, CT); *Hillary Hart (Baton Rouge, LA); Zack Pasanen-Willkie (New York, NY); *Joy Pecoraro (Austin, TX); Sara Crowley (Stamford, CT); Caroline Melly (New York, NY); Bea Whitton (New York, NY); *Kimberly Longwell (Washington, DC); *Krystal Finneran (Mahanoy City, PA); *Langley Clements (Nashville, TN); *Megan McDermott (Savage, MN); *Sammi Faust(Marlboro, NJ); *Lauren Hughes (Morgantown, WV); *Alyssa Pooler (Boston, MA); *Christine Johnson (Atlanta, GA); *Jennifer Teager (Carrollton, TX); *Marina Mazina (Brooklyn, NY); *Christi Tennyson (St. Louis, MO); *Molly Lynch (Millbrae, CA); Krystal Finneran (Mahanoy City, PA); Lucy Conaway (Greenville, SC); Steven Jaffe (Philadelphia, PA); Michael Jaffe (New York, NY); Amy Hines (Charlotte, NC); Alyssa Taylor (Baltimore, MD); Andrew Petrone (Somerville, MA); Beth Gulino (Fort Wayne, IN); Susanne Sousa (Dartmouth, MA); Emily Hasen (Old Greenwich, CT); Hillary Hart (Baton Rouge, LA); Jennifer Kiggins (Manhasset, NY); Lisa Grayson(Memphis, TN); Megan McDermott (Savage, MN); Samantha Lucey (Springfield, PA); Sammi Vittert (Cary, NC); Shelby Lackney(Noblesville, IN); Marsha Egan (Nantucket, MA); Stacy Isquith-Donck (Summit, NJ); Becca Ferraro (Vernon Hills, IL); Gabby Rosenthal (Hoboken, NJ); Linda Sargent (New London, NH); Emily Feinstein (Houston, TX); Amanda Dennis (Atlanta, GA); Bonnie Hesslink (Sheboygan, WI); Jessy Hauser (Phoenix, AZ); Kelsey Conroy (San Francisco, CA); Louisa Taylor (Greensboro, NC); Patti Van Horn (The Woodlands, TX); Taylor Smalling (Atlanta, GA); Amanda Trest (Hernando, MS); Amy Hines (Charlotte, NC); Stanton Scott (Houston, TX); Christi Tennyson (Cottleville, MO); Laura Flusty (New York, NY)

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Date:	5/27/2015 1:04:58 PM
Subject:	HRC TV Coverage 5.27.15

National

-- Started with a joke about on HRC's accent during her appearance in South Carolina; used footage of HRC talking about coloring her hair; led into discussion about whether HRC could repair damage left from 2008 in SC; Heilemann said today was not only about repairing the damage, it was about shoring up the base. Bloomberg's With All Due Respect , 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's speech in Columbia; framed the speech as dueling with Fiorina's appearance; led into a larger piece about Fiorina's dogging of HRC; used footage of HRC saying anyone running for President needs to answer questions; led into HRC talking about Republicans' stance on equal-pay laws; quickly shifted back to Fiorina; Fiorina said she would like to be on a debate stage with HRC; showed footage of HRC's comment about not turning white in the White House. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper , 5.27.15

-- Panel with Andrew Ross Sorkin, Heather McGee, and Ari Berman; Sorkin said the business community is trying to figure out who their candidate is; Berman pointed out that HRC cares about income inequality, noted HRC has always been funded by Wall Street; Wagner and Berman said HRC couldn't have it both ways; McGee said we have a system where you have to have it both ways. MSNBC's Now with Alex Wagner , 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's appearance in Columbia; showed HRC's joke about not going white in the White House; Roberts noted HRC's Southern twang; noted it was HRC's first visit to South Carolina. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts, 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's appearance in Columbia on Wednesday; interviewed Joy Reid about whether HRC and WJC had ground to make up with black voters; Reid said she didn't see any residual disdain of the Clintons from 2008; Reid said voters want to be courted; Reid said one woman she spoke with said she wished HRC were doing larger events than roundtables; Reid said the roundtables help HRC bypass the press and focus group her campaign; Reid said HRC was tweaking her message after the roundtables and that the roundtable helped HRC develop her themes; panel with Howard Dean and Michael Steele; panel discussed Fiorina pushing HRC on Iraq; Dean said Fiorina wouldn't be in the top ten Republicans; Steele said Fiorina did a good job of interjecting herself into HRC's narrative. MSNBC's NOW With Alex Wagner , 5.27.15

-- Brief report on HRC and Carly Fiorina's appearances in SC on Wednesday; shifted into a report that State would release HRC's emails in batches beginning next month; Smith said, "Remember, it's all been vetted… so whatever." Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting , 5.27.15

-- Report that State would release HRC's emails in monthly batches beginning June 30th; interviewed Ed Henry about State's timetable and WJC, LLC; Henry discussed WJC, LLC, saying that HFA said the Clintons didn't have to disclose WJC, LLC, on their PFDs; Henry said a report in the International Business Times reported that there were $165 billion in arms deals by various countries who also gave money to The Clinton Foundation; shifted to a conversation about Fiorina's press conference. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson , 5.27.15

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- Report on HRC's campaign stop in South Carolina on Wednesday; reported on the Clintons' missteps in 2008; showed footage of WJC's Jessie Jackson comment from 2008; interviewed Perry Bacon; Bacon said many people in South Carolina who voted for BHO would support HRC. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's campaign stop in South Carolina on Wednesday; reported on WJC being accused of playing the race card for his comments on Jessie Jackson; interviewed Joy Reid; Reid teased HRC's events in SC on Wednesday; reported on HRC's focus on equal pay and women; shifted into discussion about State's release of HRC's emails with Marie Harf; Harf said HRC's emails provide a glimpse of HRC's interactions as Secretary of State; Harf said, regarding Blumenthal, that all Secretaries of State receive information from a variety of sources. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's campaign stop in SC; noted Fiorina's press conference outside HRC's event; interviewed Jeff Zeleny; Zeleny said Fiorina took advantage of the reporters who were waiting on HRC to show up for her event; Zeleny said voters were noticing Fiorina but noted the GOP field was crowded; shifted into a report on HRC's hope to win the black vote in 2016; interviewed Nia-Malika Henderson; Henderson said it was likely that AfAms would likely show up for the Democrat; discussed how Clyburn could help HRC in 2016 or remain neutral. CNN's Wolf, 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's campaign stop in SC; said this was the first time HRC was back in SC since 2008; pointed to the results of the 2008 Democratic primary; reported on the black vote's importance in 2008; showed footage of WJC's Jessie Jackson comments; mentioned Carly Fiorina was at HRC's event in Columbia; interviewed SC Rep. John King; King said SC was excited for HRC; King noted he was the first representative to support HRC in SC. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 5.27.15

-- Discussion about State's release of HRC's emails every 60 days beginning June 30th; Judicial Watch released documents that they contend show that officials called Benghazi a terrorist event almost immediately; reported Morrell said Judicial Watch was cherry picking; Faulkner said the emails give GOP candidates fresh headlines; Tantaros said the last batch of emails show that HRC listened to Blumenthal over experts; shifted into conversation about Carly Fiorina's press conference in Columbia outside of HRC's event; contrasted Fiorina and HRC. Fox News' Outnumbered , 5.27.15

-- Mitchell noted HRC went to Kiki's Chicken and Waffles on Wednesday; said HRC was trying to appeal to a diverse group of women; Mitchell mentioned WJC was less than helpful in SC in 2008; Chris Cillizza said of IA, SC, and NH that the Clintons were only at home in NH; Luke Russert noted BHO and MLRO would help HRC shore up AfAm support. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 5.27.15

-- Mitchell said HRC went beyond BHO on immigration; noted HRC's tweet on Wednesday, "5th Circuit is wrong on immigration…"; Victoria DeFrancesco Soto said BHO was too slow to act on immigration reform; Soto said we know where HRC stands on immigration. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 5.27.15

-- Interviewed Carly Fiorina; Fiorina said actions speak louder than words; Mitchell said HRC had a long record; Fiorina said HRC took women's rights off the table with China, that HRC said Assad was a reformer, that HRC tried said she would reset relations with Russia; Fiorina said HRC had not been asked a question about Iraq; Mitchell corrected Fiorina and said that HRC was asked about Iraq in Iowa and New Hampshire; Fiorina said she supported equal pay for equal work; Fiorina said HRC was not paying women in her office equally. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's emails from the State Department; noted discrepancies between emails released by The New York Times and by State. Fox News' Happening Now , 5.27.15

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-- Report on WJC, LLC; said that the company had no employees; said HFA did not include the company in HRC or WJC's PFD; interviewed Benjy Sarlin; Sarlin said campaign finance experts said there was nothing wrong with this; Sarlin said most Americans didn't understand shell companies though which in turn could make it fodder for GOP attacks. MSNBC's News Nation , 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's campaign stop in South Carolina; noted HRC is not taking very many questions from the press; noted State will release the next batch of HRC's emails on June 30th and more every sixty days from then; noted Fiorina was holding a press conference outside of HRC's event; interviewed Ed O'Keefe; O'Keefe said Fiorina being a woman allowed her to attack HRC more aggressively; main discussion was on how Fiorina is trying to elevate herself; O'Keefe profiled HRC's 2008 performance; O'Keefe noted that HRC knew she had to earn the nomination. Fox News' Happening Now , 5.27.15

-- Report on State's release of HRC's emails on June 30th; shifted into a report on WJC, LLC; called WJC, LLC, a shell company to channel payments; panel with Mercedes Schlapp and Allan Colmes; used footage from HRC's email answer in Iowa on May 19th; Colmes said HRC's emails would contain no smoking gun because HRC vetted all of them, and there were still questions that needed to be answered; Schlapp credited the Benghazi Committee for the release of HRC's emails; MacCallum said the email controversy comes down to people's perception of HRC's trust; Colmes said he didn't think the email controversy would be an issue in 2016; shifted conversation to WJC, LLC; Schlapp said Americans would get scandal fatigue with the Clintons; Colmes said not everything was a scandal, noted that Romney had shell companies. Fox News' America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's campaign stop in SC; noted it was HRC's first visit to SC since 2008, said Fiorina would hold a press conference outside of HRC's event; interviewed Joy Reid; Reid said HRC was trying to attract women voters and repair the damage from 2008; noted that HRC's SC office has already attracted hundreds of volunteers; showed footage from 2008 when WJC made his Jessie Jackson remarks; interviewed South Carolinians about HRC; teased HRC's events in SC on Wednesday; interviewed Ed O'Keefe; O'Keefe said HRC's visit was designed to demonstrate that she can appeal to minority voters and repair damage from 2008; Reid said AfAms seem warm to HRC whether they were for HRC or BHO in 2008. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 5.27.15

-- Conversation about Carly Fiorina; Kristol said Fiorina was the only GOP candidate attacking HRC in an intelligent way; questioned why Fiorina wasn't as qualified or more qualified to be President than HRC; Kristol noted Fiorina's press conference at HRC's event in South Carolina; talked about Fiorina taking questions as opposed to HRC. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 5.27.15

-- Noted HRC would be in South Carolina on Wednesday; shifted into report on Fiorina hosting a press conference in South Carolina where HRC was hosting her event; shifted into discussion about The New Yorker cover this week; panel with Jackie Kucinich and Olivier Knox; Kucinich noted that Fiorina was tying herself to HRC; King noted HRC's SC performance in 2008; discussion about appeals court blocking BHO's immigration policy; shifted into discussion about the HFA store; teased the pillow, onesie, and pantsuit t-shirt. CNN's New Day, 5.27.15

-- Interviewed Chris Christie; Christie said HRC appeared like she would be the Democratic nominee for President; Christie said HRC had not said much worth commenting on. Fox News' Fox and Friends , 5.27.15

-- Report on the State Department's plan to start releasing HRC's emails on June 30th and post new ones every sixty days; noted the first batch of HRC's emails requested by VICE news would be released in September. MSNBC's First Look , 5.27.15

-- Interview with Jimmy Williams about HRC's visit to South Carolina; noted HRC was appealing to small business;

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said HRC was meeting with AfAm small business owners; said HRC was talking about equal pay and equal rights. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 5.27.15

-- Reported HFA must be wondering whether Sanders is the next Eugene McCarthy; showed a series of Democratic insurgents over the last half-century winning primaries over frontrunners; said Sanders thinks he can upset HRC; O'Donnell said Sanders' key issue was income inequality; panel with Steve Kornacki, Nicholas Confessore, and Caitlin Huey-Burns; Kornacki noted that HRC had trouble in Iowa in 2008; Confessore said HRC could not be tied to income inequality like Johnson could be tied to the Vietnam War; Confessore said that Sanders was stylistically different than HRC; Huey-Burns said Democrats were craving a debate within the party; Kornacki noted Sanders was the only potential Democratic candidate who had traction against HRC. MSNBC's The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell, 5.26.15

-- Opined that foreign chaos will be a huge problem for HRC in 2016; O'Reilly said people will wince if HRC pointed to the Russian reset; O'Reilly said HRC will be pointing to a disaster if she points to the War on Terror. Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor , 5.26.15

-- Noted HRC tweeted congratulations to Ireland for approving legalization of same-sex marriage. MSNBC's Hardball With Chris Matthews, 5.26.15

-- Reported on The Washington Post article's use of anonymous quotes about HRC's leadership style. Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier, 5.26.15

-- Report on HFA's new online campaign store; showed footage of times HRC referenced her pantsuits; pointed to HRC's Twitter bio including "pantsuit aficionado"; reported on the pantsuit shirt, the glass cup, and the pillow from the HFA store. MSNBC's PoliticsNation With Al Sharpton , 5.26.15

-- Briefly reported on HRC's campaign stop to South Carolina on Wednesday within a larger story about 2016 candidates' post-Memorial Day plans. Fox News' Special Report With Bret Baier , 5.26.15

States

Iowa:

Local 4 News at 10PM WHBF-DAV (CBS) – Davenport, IA – 5.26.15

Reported Bernie Sanders announced his candidacy for president; quoted Sanders, "this campaign is not about Bernie Sanders, or Hillary Clinton…or anybody else…it's about the needs of the American people…"; outlining Sanders basic agenda; reported Santorum will announce his candidacy for president.

WQAD-DAV (ABC) – Davenport, IA – 5.26.15

Reported Bernie Sanders announced his candidacy for president; briefly outlined his agenda; reported Sanders will be making two stops in Iowa; reported Santorum will announce candidacy and will visit Iowa this week.

KWQC-DAV (NBC) KWQC Today @ 6 – Davenport, IA – 5.27.15

Reported Pataki and O'Malley are expected to announce in the next week; reported HRC is hoping to boost campaign funding with an online store; reported you can find classic campaign memorabilia such as bumper stickers, campaign signs; reported that some items are meant to attract younger voters such as a t-shirt

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resembling her “iconic” pants suit, a throw pillow that says, “a woman’s place is in the white house,” and a future voter outfit for infants; reported Ted Cruz and Rand Paul also have merchandise available online.

WHBF-DAV (CBS) Local 4 News this Morning at 6AM– Davenport, IA – 5.27.15

Reported Bernie Sanders announced his candidacy for president; briefly reviewed his platform; reported Rick Santorum will announce his candidacy; reported HRC’s new campaign store meant to boost her campaign and build her brand; reported HRC’s campaign as saying all items were made in America and were modeled by staff and their families.

WQAD-DAV (ABC) WQAD News 8 at 11 – Davenport, IA – 5.27.15

Reported HRC is hoping to boost campaign funding with an online store; reported you can find classic campaign memorabilia such as bumper stickers, campaign signs; reported that some items are meant to attract younger voters such as a t-shirt resembling her “iconic” pants suit, a throw pillow that says, “a woman’s place is in the white house,” and a future voter outfit for infants; reported Ted Cruz and Rand Paul also have merchandise available online.

KCCI-DM (CBS) KCCI 8 News at Ten – Des Moines, IA – 5.26.15

Reported Bernie Sanders announced his candidacy, will challenge HRC, and make several campaign stops in Iowa; reported Santorum will announce soon.

KDSM-DM (Fox) 13 News at Nine on Fox 17 – Des Moines, IA – 5.26.15

Reported HRC opened her campaign store; reported you can find classic campaign memorabilia such as bumper stickers, campaign signs; reported that some items are meant to attract younger voters such as a t-shirt resembling her “iconic” pants suit, a throw pillow that says, “a woman’s place is in the white house,” and a future voter outfit for infants; reported all products made in the USA.

WOI-DM (ABC) Local 5 News at Six – Des Moines, IA – 5.26.15

Reported Sanders announced his candidacy; reported Sanders said HRC is a “beatable contender”; reported O’Malley is set to announce his candidacy in the next week; reported Santorum and Pataki likely to announce in the next week.

WHO-DM (NBC) Today in Iowa at 6 – Des Moines, IA – 5.27.15

Reported Santorum entering the race; reported O’Malley might announce his candidacy; reported Sanders will be touring Iowa in the next week.

KCCI-DM (CBS) KCCI 8 News This Morning – Des Moines, IA – 5.27.15

Reported HRC opening her online store at hillaryclinton.com ; reported you can find anything from HRC t-shirts, yard signs, pint glasses, to baby clothes, and a throw pillow that says “a woman’s place is the White House”; reported the products mostly target younger voters who HRC is hoping to win over before 2016.

KCCI-DM (CBS) KCCI 8 News at Noon – Des Moines, IA – 5.27.15

Reported Santorum announced his candidacy; reported that the Justice Department requested a new round of HRC emails be released by the end of June; reported this release would involve approximately 30,000 emails that HRC provided the State Department; reported HRC is under scrutiny for using private email while Secretary of State, then “wiping her private server clean, destroying thousands of emails”; reported HRC said emails were

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private in nature and had nothing to do with official State Dept. business.

WHO-DM (NBC) Channel 13 News at Noon – Des Moines, IA – 5.27.15

Reported HRC opening her online store at hillaryclinton.com ; reported you can find anything from HRC t-shirts, yard signs, pint glasses, to baby clothes, and a throw pillow that says “a woman’s place is the White House”; reported the products mostly target younger voters who HRC is hoping to win over before 2016; reported Ted Cruz and Rand Paul also have merchandise available online.

KWWL-IOW (NBC) Today in Iowa at 5– Iowa City, IA – 5.27.15

Reported Bernie Sanders announced his candidacy; reported Sanders lags behind HRC in polls by about 50 points; reported on Rand Paul at a book signing in NYC.

KTVO (ABC) Good Morning Heartland – Ottumwa, IA – 5.27.15

Reported HRC launched her online store, including a throw pillow that says, “A woman’s place is in the White House,” and a t-shirt printed to look like her pantsuit; reported Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz, and Rand Paul are also selling merchandise.

KTIV (NBC) News 4 Today – Sioux City, IA – 5.27.15

Reported HRC launched her online store, including a throw pillow that says, “A woman’s place is in the White House,” and a t-shirt printed to look like her pantsuit; reported Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz, and Rand Paul are also selling merchandise.

KCAU (ABC) ABC9 News Midday – Sioux City, IA – 5.27.15

Reported Santorum has announced his candidacy for president, and is a heavy underdog; reported DOJ is requesting another batch of HRC’s emails by the end of June; reported the release would involve around 30,000 emails; reported DOJ wants emails release every 60 days after that; reported HRC has been scrutinized for using a private email server while Secretary of State; reported HRC has made it clear that she wants those emails out as soon as possible.

KELO (CBS) Midday in KELOLAND – Sioux Falls, SD – 5.26.15

Reported HRC has been voted one of the most powerful women on Forbes most powerful women list for the fifth consecutive year.

KETV (ABC) KETV Newswatch 7 First News – Omaha, NE – 5.27.15

Reported HRC launched her online store, including a throw pillow that says, “A woman’s place is in the White House,” and a t-shirt printed to look like her pantsuit; reported Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz, and Rand Paul are also selling merchandise.

WOWT (NBC) WOWT 6 News Daybreak – Omaha, NE – 5.27.15

Reported HRC launched her online store, including a throw pillow that says, “A woman’s place is in the White House,” and a t-shirt printed to look like her pantsuit; reported Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz, and Rand Paul are also selling merchandise.

KMTV (CBS) Action 3 News Live Midday – Omaha, NE – 5.27.15

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Reported HRC opened her campaign store; reported you can find classic campaign memorabilia such as bumper stickers, campaign signs; reported that some items are meant to attract younger voters such as a t-shirt resembling her “iconic” pants suit, a throw pillow that says, “a woman’s place is in the white house,” and a future voter outfit for infants; reported all products made in the USA.

South Carolina:

-- Report on HRC’s stop in Columbia where HRC spoke about women’s rights issues; noted HRC called on Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act; used footage of HRC promoting the Paycheck Fairness Act; noted the RNC said HRC was being hypocritical because HRC paid women less when she was in the Senate; one person in the crowd who was interviewed said she was not worried about HRC’s past because everyone has a past; reporter noted they tried to take some of the viewers’ questions to HRC but couldn’t because HRC was separated from the press; reported an RNC spokeswoman said HRC dodged questions; reported supporters at HRC’s event said HRC was the most qualified; used footage of HRC saying she knew how hard the presidency is; teased HRC’s events in Florida, New Mexico, and Texas. WCBD News 2 at 6PM , Charleston (SC), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC’s stop in Columbia; Stacy Jacobson reports; said HRC was welcomed by the state’s Democratic Women’s Council; reported HRC said it was no secret women and minorities make less than men; reported HRC wanted to pass an equal pay law and mandate businesses publish salaries so that women can negotiate fairly; noted HRC’s joke about leaving the White House with her hair colored; said HRC spoke with the House Democratic caucus. WCIV ABC News 4 @ 6 , Charleston (SC), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC’s speech to the SC Democratic Women’s Caucus in Columbia on Wednesday; reported that HRC focused on equal pay for women and a plan to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act; said HRC also talked about raising wages; used footage of HRC speaking about taking care of America; noted HRC spoke with minority business leaders ahead of the event; mentioned HRC lost the state to BHO in 2008. WJCL 22 News @ 5, Savannah (GA), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC’s speech at the “Day in Blue” in Columbia on Wednesday; said up until now HRC had stuck to the grassroots approach in South Carolina; used footage from HRC’s speech on Wednesday talking about going to Kiki’s Chicken and Waffles; looped in Trey Gowdy and Lindsey Graham; reported SC was Graham’s to lose against HRC; used footage of HRC saying US politicians should be more respectful; shifted into coverage of Carly Fiorina’s stop in Columbia; reported HRC achieved the goal of reaching out to the female constituency today. WYFF News 4 @ 5pm , Greenville (SC), 5.27.15

-- Led with footage of cheers for HRC at her event in Columbia on Wednesday; report on HRC’s “Day in Blue” speech; noted the crowd was enthusiastic; said HRC addressed issues affecting women and their families; noted HRC stressed the need to elect more women and the need to make it easier to get higher paying jobs; used footage of HRC talking about the middle class on Wednesday; profiled why SC is important to presidential candidates. WSAV First News at 5:00 , Savannah (GA), 5.27.15

-- Solid report on HRC’s theme of equal pay at the “Day in Blue”; said HRC talked about a lot of issues, including pay disparity for women and classes; included footage of HRC knocking Republicans during the “Day in Blue” event. WLOS First News at 5pm , Greenville (SC), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC’s speech to the Democratic Women’s Council in Columbia on Wednesday; noted the crowd was mostly women; said HRC spoke about first coming to South Carolina with the Children’s Defense Fund; reported on HRC talking about equal pay, noting women earn less than men and minorities earn less as well; used footage of HRC talking about her economic policy for closing the gender wage gap; discussed HRC’s story about how she accepted BHO’s offer to be his Secretary of State; noted there was one protester outside protesting about Benghazi; noted Fiorina was also in Columbia. WCIV ABC News 4 at 5 , Charleston (SC), 5.27.15

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-- Report on the “Day in Blue”; Susan Smith (President of the SC DWC) said HRC’s appearance was the feather in their cap, said HRC’s appearance was the first time a presidential candidate had been part of a “Day in Blue” anywhere across the country. WLTX News 19 Friends @ 5 , Columbia (SC), 5.27.15

-- Led with Carly Fiorina’s press conference outside of HRC’s event on Wednesday; full segment on Fiorina’s press conference; included clip of Fiorina saying that in HRC’s and BHO’s offices, women were not paid the same as men; reporter noted that Fiorina did not cite a source for that statistic; said when prompted about a similarity between HRC and herself, Fiorina said they were both mothers and grandmothers. WMBF News at 5 , Myrtle Beach (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on HRC’s first appearance in Columbia; noted HRC visited a Two Notch Road restaurant for lunch and speaking at the 2015 “Day in Blue”; said HRC’s focus during her speech was job equality for women; used footage of HRC’s equal pay comments on Wednesday. Fox Carolina 4 O’Clock News , Greenville (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on HRC’s speech at the “Day in Blue” today; said the benchmarks HRC laid down were better pay and better leadership; Will Whitson reported; Whitson said HRC did not mention her loss in 2008 extensively; reported HRC did not speak much about her time as Secretary of State either; said HRC spoke mainly on income inequality in America; noted HRC said she fought for equal pay in the Senate and wants to fight for it again; said HRC laid out three platform points: (1) pass Paycheck Fairness Act, (2) promote pay transparency, and (3) raise wages; used footage from HRC’s “Day in Blue” event when HRC talked about tipped workers. WIS’s News 10 at 4PM, Columbia (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on HRC’s speech at the “Day in Blue” today; said the benchmarks HRC laid down were better pay and better leadership; Will Whitson reported; Whitson said HRC did not mention her loss in 2008 extensively; reported HRC did not speak much about her time as Secretary of State either; said HRC spoke mainly on income inequality in America; noted HRC said she fought for equal pay in the Senate and wants to fight for it again; said HRC laid out three platform points: (1) pass Paycheck Fairness Act, (2) promote pay transparency, and (3) raise wages; used footage from HRC’s “Day in Blue” event when HRC talked about tipped workers. WMBF News at 4, Myrtle Beach (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on HRC’s speech in Columbia on Wednesday; reported HRC would be unveiling her women’s agenda which included discrimination at work, pay transparency, and raising wages. WSPA 7 On Your Side at Noon, Greenville (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on the Justice Department’s ask for the State Department to release HRC’s emails at the end of June; said the release would involve around 30,000 emails released every 60 days until January 2016; reported HRC had been under scrutiny for using a private email server during her time as Secretary of State. WJBF News Channel 6 at Noon, Augusta (GA), 5.27.15

-- Reported on HRC’s appearance at the “Day in Blue” event; reported HRC’s appearance would bring attention to a campaign that’s been criticized for limiting her exposure to the public and the media. WCSC Live 5 News at Noon, Charleston (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on the HFA online store; featured the throw pillow and pantsuit T-shirt. WCBD News 2 Midday , Charleston (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on the HFA online store; featured the throw pillow and pantsuit T-Shirt. WHNS Morning News @ 8 , Greenville (SC), 5.27.15

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-- Reported on HRC's keynote at the "Day in Blue" event; reported HRC's appearance would bring attention to a campaign that's been criticized for limiting her exposure to the public and the media; used footage of an interview with Bob Oldendick who said HRC's strategy was smart. WTAT Morning News at 7 , Charleston (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on HFA's online store; featured the pantsuit t-shirt; said the pantsuit t-shirt does not come with bottoms and the back says "Pantsuit up." WSPA 7 On Your Side Daybreak at 6am , Greenville (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on HFA's online store; featured the pantsuit t-shirt; noted Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz, and Rand Paul also had stores. WYFF News 4 @ 5:30am , 5.27.15

-- Reported on HRC's appearance in Columbia; noted this was HRC's first visit to SC; teased HRC's events in Columbia today; interviewed Brady Quirk-Garvan; Quirk-Garvan said HRC could talk about bringing manufacturing back to America; reported HRC was likely to open up more campaign headquarters across SC as the date of the primary got closer, one being in Charleston. WCIV Good Morning Charleston , Charleston (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on HRC's appearance in Columbia; noted this was HRC's first visit to SC; teased HRC's events in Columbia today; noted HRC had already made appearances in IA, NH, and NV; said Wednesday's visit was likely to be the first of many; interviewed Brady Quirk-Garvan; Quirk-Garvan said there was excitement that SC was an early state; teased HFA's online store; said HRC's store was designed to connect with the youth; teased bumper stickers, buttons, yard signs, and the pantsuit t-shirt; noted Rand Paul and Ted Cruz had similar online stores. WCIV's Good Morning Charleston , Charleston (SC), 5.27.15

-- Included HRC's SC campaign stop in the newscast's six things to know for the day; reported on her meeting with minority small business owners and at the state house and state senate Democratic caucuses. WJBF Good Morning Augusta, Augusta (GA), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's SC campaign stop in Columbia on Wednesday; reported on HRC's 2008 primary battle with 5 other candidates; interviewed Bob Oldendick; Oldendick said winning SC would be challenging for a Democrat; mentioned that HRC's campaign had been criticized for not speaking with the media. WIS News 10 Sunrise , Columbia (SC), 5.27.15

-- Report on the State Department's plan for releasing HRC's emails; said the State Department would release a batch on June 30th and then every 60 days afterwards through January 2016. WOLO America This Morning , Columbia (SC), 5.27.15

-- Report on the federal judge's order for State to release HRC's emails beginning on June 30th continuing every 30 days after that to have them done by January 15, 2016. WMBF News Today at 6 AM , Myrtle Beach (SC), 5.27.15

-- Preview of HRC's campaign stop in Columbia on Wednesday; noted HRC would visit with minority small-business owners; said HFA said HRC would take nothing for granted; noted that HFA already opened phone banks in South Carolina. WPDE Good Morning Carolinas , Myrtle Beach (SC), 5.27.15

-- Reported on HFA opening the online store; reported on the pantsuit t-shirt, bumper stickers, yard signs, buttons, and pillow; reported that all the items were made in the USA. WOLO's ABC Columbia New at 11 , Columbia (SC), 5.26.15

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-- Reported on HFA opening the online store; reported on the pantsuit t-shirt, bumper stickers, yard signs, buttons, pillow, and onesie; said some of these items were designed to reach out to young people; noted all the items were made in the USA. WHNS Fox Carolina Ten O'Clock News , Greenville (SC), 5.26.15

-- Reported on HFA opening the online store; reported on the pantsuit t-shirt, bumper stickers, yard signs, buttons, pillow, and onesie; said some of these items were designed to reach out to young people; noted all the items were made in the USA; teased HRC's appearance in Columbia on Wednesday. WPDE NewsChannel 15 Nightside, Myrtle Beach (SC), 5.26.15

-- Reported on HFA opening the online store; mentioned the bumper stickers, yard signs, and pantsuit t-shirt; noted all the items were made in the USA; noted Rand Paul and Ted Cruz had opened stores of their own. WFXB's Fox News at Ten , Myrtle Beach (SC), 5.26.15

-- Reported HRC would make her first appearance in SC on Wednesday; contrasted the number of candidates competing for the Democratic nomination in 2008 to 2016; said HRC's visit with Democratic women and small-business owners would bring attention to a campaign that had been criticized for limiting HRC's exposure to the public or media; included footage of Bob Oldendick saying that HRC was defining her strategy and waiting to see who would emerge on the Republican side. WIS's WIS News 10 7:00 Report , Columbia (SC), 5.26.15

-- Reported HRC would make her first appearance in SC on Wednesday; contrasted the number of candidates competing for the Democratic nomination in 2008 to 2016; said HRC's visit with Democratic women and small-business owners would bring attention to a campaign that had been criticized for limiting HRC's exposure to the public or media; included footage of Bob Oldendick saying that HRC was defining her strategy and waiting to see who would emerge on the Republican side. WMBF's WMBF News at 11 , Myrtle Beach (SC), 5.26.15

-- Report on HRC's visit to Columbia; profiled HRC's last visit to Columbia in 2008; whole segment devoted to HRC's last speech at Benedict College in Columbia; noted Obama won Southern states from Louisiana to Virginia; interviewed Bob Oldendick who said Obama brought a lot of excitement and energy; Oldendick said HRC should have less of a fight for the AfAm vote in 2016 than she did in 2008; teased HRC's events in Columbia on Wednesday. WIS's WIS News 10 at 6:00 , Columbia (SC), 5.26.15

-- Reported HRC would make her first appearance in SC on Wednesday to keynote the "Day in Blue" around 2 pm; noted it would be HRC's first visit to SC since she lost in 2008. WFXG's Fox 54 News at 10 , Augusta (GA), 5.26.15

-- Reported HRC would make her first visit to SC on Wednesday to meet with minority small-business owners and make brief remarks at the State house. WJBF's WJBF News Channel 6 at 6 , Augusta (GA), 5.26.15

--Reported HRC would be in Columbia on Wednesday to deliver remarks at the Day in Blue event; reported HRC would meet with minority small-business owners. WCBD's News 2 at 11PM , Charleston (SC), 5.26.15

New Hampshire:

-- Report on Sander's announcement. Said he is "hoping to appeal to Democrats unsatisfied with HRC" WPTZ First at Five, Burlington (VT), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's email release. A federal judge ordered the State Department to begin posting the emails every 60 days, having them all released by January 15 of next year. Last Friday, it released nearly 300 emails

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relating to Benghazi. WPTZ-BUR Newschannel 5 Today @ 6am , Burlington (VT), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's online campaign store that includes bumper stickers, yard signs, buttons, and a t-shirt resembling a pantsuit. Noted that everything in the store is made in the U.S. WVNY-BUR Local 22 News This Morning, Burlington (VT), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's appearance on the list of 100 of the most powerful women. HRC is number two.WHDH 7News First at 4PM, Boston (MA), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's email release. Noted they will all be available by 2016 by posting them every 60 days. The Department is reviewing 55,000 pages of emails during her time as S.O.S. WCVB NewsCenter 5 at Noon , Boston (MA), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's online campaign store selling "swag" for support. Featured a pillow and the pantsuit shirt. WFXT FOX 25 Morning News , Boston (MA), 5.27.15

-- Report on HRC's online campaign store that is selling a pantsuit shirt. She is getting the "last laugh here" and tweeted about the shirt. WCVB Newscenter 5 Eyeopener , Boston (MA), 5.27.15

-- Report on Sander's announcement. Sen. Patrick Leahy and Governor Peter Shumlin are supporting HRC. Footage of Shumlin announcing his support. WCAX Channel 3 News at Eleven , Burlington (VT), 5.26.15

-- Report on Carly Fiorina attacking HRC for not taking questions at a luncheon in Derry. In a 1-on-1 interview with NH1, Fiorina says she thinks "it's pretty clear that HRC is not transparent." NH1 News at 6 , Boston (MA), 5.26.15

-- Report on Sander's announcement. Said Sanders will not take a direct shot at HRC or CGI but will reference millionaires and billionaires. WPTZ 5:30 Now , Burlington (VT), 5.26.15

-- Report on HRC's email release. The deadline was today for the State Department to decide to release all of the emails by January 2016. Ordered the emails to be released on a rolling basis every 60 days. Noted that HRC supports this and showed footage from Iowa event where she answered press question about the emails. The hundreds of emails released so far give a glimpse into her concerns about Benghazi. She has repeatedly denied that she received classified information on the personal account. WHDH 7News First at 4PM , Boston (MA), 5.26.15

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <ewhitbeck@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/24/2008 4:35:58 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 06/24/08

Main Topics: Charlie Black Comments, Tim Pawlenty

Summary of Shift: Charlie Black and his comments about a terrorist attack aiding McCain politically led the day. Even Mr. Black couldn't push oil and energy off center stage; coverage of offshore drilling and the gas tax holiday were heavy. Another levee broke worsening conditions and forcing more evacuations throughout the Midwest and lightning fires continue in California. Zimbabwe remains in turmoil as Mugabe tries to retain control and his opponent flees. French President Sarkozy was rushed out of Israel after a suicide bomber struck near Tel Aviv airport. Violence in Iraq spiked with attacks in Sadr city killing four Americans. Discussion on whether Don Imus's recent comments were racist or not was also prevalent.

Highlights:

1. Charlie Black comments
   a. CBS: Black may be right but his position as McCain advisor makes his comments unacceptable
   b. NBC: Andrea Mitchell covers Black back and forth for *Today Show*
   c. ABC: Charlie Black terrorist attack comments scrutinized
   d. ABC: McCain campaign "tearing their hair out" over Charlie Black comments
   e. CNN: Frustration in McCain campaign over Black comments palpable, but no signs of him leaving campaign
2. Pawlenty interviews
   a. MSNBC: Tim Pawlenty defends Charlie Black comments and says the gas tax holiday is not a gimmick
   b. FNC: Pawlenty talks McCain's energy policies and comments on Charlie Black
3. CNN: Straight Talk Express derailed, McCain criticized for many flip-flops
4. FNC: New MoveOn.org ad criticized for being deeply dishonest
5. MSNBC: Michael Burgess (R-TX) defends McCain's healthcare plan
6. CBS WUSA DC: Coverage of McCain's energy speech [no clip]
7. MSNBC: Brzezinski: Black's comments may be helpful as they put McCain's security credentials at the forefront [no clip]

Local Highlights:

6. KSFN ABC CA: Protestors outside McCain's Fresno energy speech [no clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
Black May Be Right but his Position as McCain Advisor Makes Comments Unacceptable (CBS 06/24/08 7:13am)
HENRY SMITH: Senator John McCain disavowed controversial remarks from a top advisor in which the aide remarked that a terror attack would politically beneficial to John McCain . . .explain who Charlie Black is . . .

JEFF GREENFIELD: Charlie Black is a veteran Republican political operative for decades . . . signed on as an unpaid political advisor to McCain . . . so he's a key play in the McCain campaign.

[. . .]

GREENFIELD: The reaction was, I think the Obama campaign called it a disgrace, he apologized . . . John McCain said, if that's what he meant, I really disavow it. All of which ignores the question, well on the merits as a political piece of analysis, of course it would be and everyone knows that, John McCain's strength is national security, he's the tough guy. It's like the reverse of Voltaire who once said, "If I disagree with what you say but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." In this case I probably agree with what Charlie Black said but I disagree with his ability to say it as a

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McCain advisor.

[. . .]

GREENFIELD: . . . last Dec. 28th he actually said, yeah it might help me . . . it went without a ripple.

Andrea Mitchell Covers Black Back and Forth (MSNBC 06/24/08 7:31am)
ANDREA MITCHELL: His advisor has apologized but it is a controversy. The top strategist was already in the spotlight for past lobbying work. Now he's under fire for suggesting that John McCain would benefit from another 9/11 style attack . . . McCain quickly rejected those sentiments.

JOHN MCCAIN: I can't imagine why he would say it. It's not true. It's, uh, I've worked tirelessly since 9/11 to prevent another attack on the United States of America.

MITCHELL: Black apologized but it was an example of another unexpected turn in this volatile campaign. John McCain is lashing out at Obama for not keeping his word about appearing with McCain at joint town hall meetings.

MCCAIN: When he was asked about it originally he said, "Anywhere, anytime." Well, I hoped that he would stick to that commitment. Which obviously he has not done.

MITCHELL: Another example, says McCain, is Obama's reversal on public financing.

MCCAIN: What bothers me is how the American going to have trust and confidence in the commitments we make to them . . .

Charlie Black Terrorist Attack Comments Scrutinized (ABC, 6/24/08, 7:06am)
ROBIN ATIN: Back to Campaign 08 and those controversial comments made by McCain's chief campaign strategist. He said a terrorist attack would be a big advantage for John McCain's presidential bid. […]

JAKE TAPPER: […] Well, Navy pilot and former Vietnam P.O.W. John McCain often discusses national security. According to polls it's one of the few issues that more Americans trust John McCain to handle it than trust Barack Obama. But as one of McCain's top aids learned first hand, discussing national security issues, especially terrorism, requires a degree of sensitivity. Top McCain aid, Charlie Black, tells fortune magazine in a new story that the December assassination of former Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto helped McCain's campaign by re-emphasizing his commander and chief credentials. Black then said of a future terrorist attack on U.S. soil quote, "Certainly it would be a big advantage to McCain as well in the November election."

MICHAEL O'HANLON: Certainly Charlie Black can make the argument he did and he's got reasonable grounds to do it, but it seemed to callous like he was looking for political benefit about something for it to happen would have terrible human cost.

TAPPER: McCain immediately distanced himself from the campaign miscalculation.

JOHN MCCAIN: I can't imagine why he would say it, it's not true.

TAPPER: In a later statement, Black called his comments "inappropriate" and said he regrets them. But the Obama campaign pounced, saying the remarks were "a complete disgrace." Feeding into what Obama calls quote, "the Bush-Cheney political book of fear."

BARACK OBAMA: We know what kind of campaign they're going to run. They're going to try to make you afraid.

TAPPER: McCain and Obama were squaring off over national security just a few days ago, over whether alleged terrorists detainees should be given certain rights. Obama said yes, McCain said no.

MCCAIN: He doesn't have an understanding of the nature of the threat. And I'll look forward to that debate quite often in the future.

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TAPPER: Obama's pushback, the war in Iraq he says has weakened the war on terror.

OBAMA: In part because of their failed strategies, we got Bin Laden still sending out audio tapes.

TAPPER: You might remember Senator Clinton last August, campaigning in N.H., made a similar remark saying that a terrorist attack could benefit the republican nominee. She was attacked by her fellow democrats for her quote, " tasteless political calculation."

McCain Campaign "Tearing Their Hair Out" Over Charlie Black Comments (ABC, 06/24/08, 7:16am)
ROBIN ATIN: Alright George, almost immediately we had apologies from McCain and Charlie Black. But is this the kind of thing that a campaign puts out there on purpose and then retracts?

GEORGE STEPHANOPOLIS: No way, not on this one Robin. In fact, the McCain campaign is tearing their hair out over this this morning. Now it is true, as Jake pointed out in his piece, that the fight against Al Qaeda is one of the clear issues where John McCain has an advantage. A clear advantage over Senator Obama. But a lot of observers, democrats and republicans alike, agree that a terrorist attack could end of benefiting John McCain. But this is the kind of thing you just can't say, it's too crude, it's too insensitive. And the bigger problem for the McCain campaign right now is that they can't seem to avoid what one aid called these unforced errors. They were trying to drive home a message on energy policy yesterday, this got in the way, this clouded it. They're trying to tighten control of the message to stop these unforced errors but they haven't been able to do it yet.

Frustration in McCain Campaign Over Black Comments Palpable, But No Signs of Him Leaving Campaign (CNN, 06/24/08, 8:33am)
[…]

DANA BASH: […] The frustration inside the McCain Campaign was really palpable because they felt like they had finally, yesterday, they had a message when it comes to energy. The issue they understand that voters care most about. A headline grabbing idea and it really got muddled big time by what happened with Charlie Black.

JOHN ROBERTS: Dana, some calls by the opposition for McCain to throw Charlie Black overboard. I assume he's not going to do that?

BASH: At this point it doesn't look that way at all. I mean Black is somebody that has been a trusted advisor to McCain for a very very long time. They've known each other for 30 years. And because, I think they feel inside the campaign, because he understood very quickly that this is something that he had to correct fast, and he did so, that they hope that this can get blown over. Having said that, democrats are not going to let this go. You saw all of these statements by democrats yesterday calling this a disgrace. They're going to keep pushing this.

Highlight #2
Pawlenty Responds to Black Comments, Says Gas Tax Holiday not a Gimmick (MSNBC 06/24/08 8.19am)
MIKE BARNICLE: This is Mike Barnicle, I was wondering, you just mentioned Senator McCain's energy policy. What is his energy policy with regard to the facts that people are paying $4.30 for gasoline per gallon right now today.

PAWLENTY: Unlike Barack Obama, he is for a holiday on gas taxes . . . He wants to transition us as radically and quickly as possible to non-petroleum based cars, that's why he's offered this $300 million incentive, also wants to give a $5,000 per car tax credit for the first manufacturers who can put out zero emission cars for everybody who buys one or sells one. He also wants to drill off-shore so we can increase domestic production . . . he wants to increase nuclear energy. Barack Obama is against all these things. John McCain does not want to increase taxes on energy . . .

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: But governor, some striking contrasts within John McCain's energy policy. The one that you just listed, starting with the gas tax. Why would you put out a gas tax holiday, basically inspiring people to drive

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more? Why would you go there? That sounds to me like such a gimmick and a gimmick, quite frankly, to buy votes.

PAWLENTY: Well, it's near-term relief and if you go out and talk to truckers who are spending great deals of money just to keep their trucks on the road or people who are commuting to and front work, it may seem like something that's temporary, but it's temporary relief to people that are hurting.

BRZEZINSKI: But we are talking about energy policy. Talking about trying to get rid of our dependence on foreign oil. We're trying to figure out a solution. Not prolong it or promulgate the problem.

PAWLENTY: Yes, Mika but that's, that holiday is only one small piece of a comprehensive plan . . . so in the meantime, Sen. McCain has near term ideas and strategies as well and the holiday is one of those.

PAT BUCHANAN: . . . let me talk about one of those near-term strategies, and, quote, Senator McCain: "I further propose we inspire the ingenuity and resolve of the American people by offering a $300 million prize for development of a battery . . . this is $1 for every American." It suggests that only Americans can compete for this 300 million prize when the Japanese are five years ahead of us in developing these batteries. If the Japanese . . . group came together and produced this new battery that Senator McCain and the world wants, would the Japanese be eligible for the prize?

PAWLENTY: I don't know that that's been asked an answered directly by Senator McCain. But I think the . . . the intent is to incentivize American ingenuity and innovation. And by the way, don't assume the Japanese are ahead of us. . .

[. . .]

BRZEZINSKI: Governor, I have a question for you. I take it you are aware of this, I would say low-level controversy over statements made by Charlie Black that he then apologized for. How would you advise Senator McCain to deal with that?

PAWLENTY: Well, first of all, Charlie has apologized for the comments and Senator McCain has said he strenuously disagrees with them. So I think that's a proper response to the comments. But more importantly, I think Charlie was, I suspect, just trying to emphasize that Senator McCain rightly and understandably is viewed as the stronger candidate when it comes to national security and military affairs and on international matters and that's a function of his record and a function of the facts. But the way that Charlie said that he has acknowledged was inappropriate and Senator McCain concurred.

BARNICLE: Do you think it was inappropriate, governor? And what was inappropriate about it?

PAWNLENTY: Well, I think Charlie indicated that, you know, suggesting that any particular political candidate could benefit from a tragedy, particularly a horrific terrorist attack and tying those two things together is inappropriate and that's obvious and Charlie has acknowledged that and Senator McCain has as well. But the point he was trying to make indirectly is Senator McCain has a stronger outlook on those issues.

BUCHANAN: Governor, even the late primaries, Senator McCain had locked up the nomination, everybody had been out, Ron Paul and Gov. Huckabee were winning 25% of the Republican vote in Pennsylvania. Do you think John McCain has solved what many people believe was one of his problems energizing the conservative base and energizing the evangelical base of the Republican Party?

PAWLAENTY: Well, pat, at least as measured by the polls of the percent of Republicans or Conservatives that are supporting Senator McCain, that level of support that he is receiving is as high or higher than comparable Republican Presidential candidates at this point in the campaign. So I think the answer to your question is yes, but you also asked about energizing them and I think you will see that momentum pick up over the summer and fall as well. Not just getting their support, also energizing them as you said.

[. . .]

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Gov. Tim Pawlenty Talks McCain's Energy Policies and Comments on Charlie Black Controversy (FNC, 06/24/08, 7:58am)
STEVE DOOCY: Governor let me ask about this. Over the last couple of weeks the senator from Arizona has changes his stand on offshore drilling. Now he is for it. And now a number of democrats are saying, well look at that, John McCain is a flip-flopper. Sure, Barack Obama said he was for campaign financing from the public before he was against it. But John McCain is flipping on oil drilling offshore. What do you say to that?

TIM PAWLENTY: Well, to be fair, I think John McCain has spoken in the past about offshore drilling, if the states allowed it or gave permission, which is what he's proposed here now. You have a situation where John McCain is for reducing gas taxes for temporary relief. Barack Obama's against that. John McCain's for nuclear energy, Barack Obama is against that. John McCain is for drilling now to create more supply, and we need it, look at these gas prices. Barack Obama is against that. John McCain is for not increasing taxes on energy, Barack Obama has been for increasing taxes. So there's big contrast here, John McCain sees the need to increase supply, Barack Obama has sort of a do-nothing or minimalist approach, and that's not going to work, we have a big crisis in this country, and John McCain I think in terms of this offshore drilling issue has said in the past that he would look at it if states were involved and that's what he's proposed.

DOOCY: One more thing before you go, I wanted to ask you about something that Charlie Black, one of John McCain's senior advisors said. He said that a terrorist attack on the United States would be a big advantage to John McCain because it has to do with national security. Of course Barack Obama's campaign has said that is completely inappropriate and an awful thing to say. Just curious, your perspective?

PAWLENTY: Well Charlie's apologized for the comment, and John McCain has said he doesn't like the comment, he doesn't agree with it. I think Charlie was probably just trying to reflect that John McCain is viewed as in fact has stronger national security has stronger international affairs credentials than Barack Obama. But he's acknowledged the statement was inappropriate.

Highlight #3
Straight Talk Express Derailed, McCain Criticized For Many Flip-Flops (CNN, 06/24/08, 7:54am)
[…]

JOHN ROBERTS: What about John McCain, has he done some flip-flops as well?

JOAN VENNOCHI: Well John McCain, the Straight-Talk Express, which existed in the year 2000, has been derailed. It's really been derailed. For example, on offshore oil drilling. In 2000 he believed in a moratorium on offshore drilling, now he's saying let the states decide, as gas prices edge up and he's looking to get that vote.

ROBERTS: What about tax cuts?

VENNOCHI: Well, again on tax cuts, I mean John McCain, as a matter of conscious he voted against the Bush tax cuts. Now he's saying that the tax cuts should be permanent. So you know, another big derailment of the Straight Talk Express.
ROBERTS: And also immigration reform you pointed out in your column.

VENNOCHI: On McCain and immigration reform, my goodness, I mean he and Ted Kennedy championed comprehensive immigration reform. It called for a guest worker pass and a path to citizenship. In a debate on January 30th, John McCain actually said he would vote against his own plan. That's a pretty big flip-flop I'd say.

[…]

Highlight #4

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New MoveOn.org Ad Criticized For Being Deeply Dishonest (FNC, 06/24/08, 7:20am)
STEVE DOOCY: A new ad by MoveOn.org attacking John McCain's policy on the War in Iraq. […]

[MoveOn.org Ad shown]

DOOCY: […] You don't like that ad why?

BILL KRISTOL: No I think it's deeply dishonest. I mean, John McCain doesn't want little Alex. Of course it's up to Alex to decide whether he wants to volunteer for the military in 18 years. John McCain will long since cease to be president at that point, it's not up to his mommy to decide if he's going to serve or not. But it makes it seem as if we have a draft, and it makes it seem, more importantly, it's such a selfish ad, I mean it's really an attempt to play on parents heart strings, but really in a disgraceful way. If MoveOn.org wants to say the war in Iraq is a mistake, John McCain's policies are wrong, they're entitled to say that. But the notion that John McCain is going to come snatch kids out of their mother's arms and send them to war in Iraq in 18 years is, of course, ludicrous. And I'm very shocked, in the New York Times the other day, the head of MoveOn.org has a letter objecting to my column, which cheered me up. And I think with my column, maybe I hit a little nerve. And his letter does not really defend the ad, it just attacks McCain's Iraq policy. There's something really bad about turning our political discourse into a kind of emotional, mothers protecting their little babies from John McCain type of discourse.

[…]

GRETCHEN CARLSON: There's a sense of elitism, because they're implying in this ad that someone's going to have to take care of this, but it's not going to be this child.

KRISTOL: You know, it's interesting what you say Gretchen, MoveOn claim on their website that this is their most effective ad ever. And maybe it is, maybe it really does hit people, but if you don't think much about it you don't realize how deeply deeply dishonest it is. And I think, it turns our soldiers into kind of babies in a sense. You know, mommy does not volunteer young Alex, young John, Mary for the military in our country. And we should honor and respect those who have chosen to serve. This ad really conveys the impression that the only people who might go into the military are people who foolishly get seduced in. It really shows a disdain and contempt for the military. For those that have served, for parents who might be proud of their children who have chosen to serve.

[…]

KRISTOL: It's a phony issue. John McCain has always been for the volunteer army. Barack Obama's for the volunteer army. We don't need a draft, we need to increase the size of our army and marines a bit. And both candidates afford that sentiment. […]

CARLSON: […] The implication is, if you vote for John McCain's he's going to institute a draft.

KRISTOL: Right, so let them make that argument instead of implying it in a dishonest way. It's not true.

Highlight #5
Burgess Defends McCain's Health Care Plan (MSNBC 06/24/08 9:35am)
CONTESSA BREWER: Barack Obama is promising. . . access to health insurance for every American. Will John McCain's plan do the same?

MICHAEL BURGESS: Well I think John McCain's plan comes a lot closer to the ideal goal . . .

BREWER: If you're looking at the five thousand dollars in tax credits, a lot of people who can't afford health insurance, that $5000 tax credit might not mean anything to them because they're probably not even paying that much in taxes . . . if you're looking at employers, an average of $12,000 a year to insure a family of four. How does 5000 bucks in tax credits going help?

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BURGESS: . . . first . . . the employer who provides $12,000 a year in health insurance. They . . . would be able to provide additional compensation to that employee . . . the other aspect is that if someone doesn't make enough money to pay taxes in the first place, remember this is an advancable, prefundable tax credit . . .

BREWER: . . . how does John McCain plan to pay for this?

BURGESS: Well, the offset mechanism, what is now occurring in the employer based system, the amount of money that is off the table for taxes, the amount of money that is spent over and above that $5000 tax credit, that is part of the payment. The reality is that a lot of these details are being worked out in different economic models . . . this will be a fully vetted and complete plan the day that John McCain takes office . . .

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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From: "Congressman John Garamendi" <info@garamendi.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/30/2015 1:44:29 PM
Subject: FW: Did you see this?



John & Mary,

I'm hoping you had a chance to read my note a few days ago. We are just hours away from our quarterly reporting deadline. We need 25 more grassroots contributions to hit our goal. Can you chip in $5 or more by midnight to help us reach our goal?

Thank you for all that you do.

John Garamendi

Dear John & Mary,

Friday at the Sacramento Airport, as Patti and I got off the plane, we were stopped by a fellow passenger. "Congressman, I just want to thank you for SB 250, your 1982 law that established the Emergency Medical System for California. It has worked for 33 years. I'm the Deputy Director and we save lives every minute. Thank you for your vision."

Wow! What a wonderful way to complete a week of reflection set in motion by the Pope's visit to Washington and the Congress. Yes, reflecting on my public policy work is satisfying. It's a good journey and I always look to tomorrow's challenges.

The list of issues is long and in every way affects all humanity today and future generations as well. Next week I will engage our European allies in a discussion of nuclear weapons. I'm deeply troubled by the restart of a nuclear arms race involving the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France and China. America will spend over $1Trillion dollars in the next 25 years rebuilding our nuclear bombs and fielding new stealth bombers, missiles, submarines, satellites, and defensive systems. One trillion dollars of your tax money will not be spent on education, infrastructure, healthcare and so many more important issues here at home and abroad, but rather on creating a far more dangerous world.

In Congress we must debate and act on Climate change, challenging our Republican Colleagues to honor the Pope's message on this threat to future generations. We must seek creative ways to revitalize our economy, preserve environmental resources, and create new opportunities for people to receive an affordable education, and a good middle class job. In Congress, I have worked across the aisle to secure emergency fire and drought funding, to fight for American jobs with my Make it in America bills, and to promote diplomacy and peacebuilding.

In this journey I have not been alone. Patti has always been at my side for every step and every issue, and you are there too with advice, financial support and a good word of encouragement.

Yes, it is a good journey, and part of that journey is the never-ending necessity to raise money for the next election, which is just 10 months away. We are quickly approaching the September 30th quarterly reporting deadline, and **my campaign needs your support. If you pitch in $25, $50 or $100 to my campaign, we can continue to address pressing issues facing our nation.**

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I am passionate about investing in American families to ensure prosperity for generations to come. That is why I will be seeking reelection in 2016. Your support throughout the years has been critical to my success, and I hope I can count on you to stand with me in the coming months. **You can help by making a contribution here. Big or small, it all counts, so please click here and send what you can.**

Thank you for your support,



Congressman John Garamendi

Paid for by Garamendi for Congress

916-863-6881
PO Box 440
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

send to a friend

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From: "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/4/2016 5:12:39 AM
Subject: Fwd: Rapid Summary: WJC first event in NH

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Mon, Jan 4, 2016 at 11:56 AM
Subject: Rapid Summary: WJC first event in NH
To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Angel Urena - PC <angel@presidentclinton.com >

Summary: WJC opened with explanation of what he believes the election is about, namely broadly shared prosperty and how to keep US safe while maintaining our values. He noted that experts have praised HRC's Wall Street plan as the most comprehensive. WJC gave extraordinarily warm and personal comments about HRC as a person, saying he fell in love with her because she was the most amazing person and that "everything she touched, she made better." This came after a long explanation of her young life and career when she was working for the Children's Defense Fund.

The item from his speech that garnered the most attention was a comment he made on Tom DeLay and Ted Cruz. He called DeLay the pre-tea party Ted Cruz and said HRC's accomplishment of agreement with him on foster care reforms in the 1990s was perhaps a bigger deal than her getting China and Russia to agree to Iran sanctions.

Andrea Mitchell caught him on the rope line and asked about Trump:

- Mark Murray @mmurraypolitics: Bill Clinton ducks Q by @mitchellreports on Donald Trump: "We are trying to win a primary"

Key tweets below:

Zeke Miller @ZekeJMiller
Bill Clinton re tone of the campaign: "I'm a happy grandfather — I'm not mad at anybody"

Dan Merica @danmericaCNN
Bill Clinton on his first solo campaign trip: "I don't fit anymore. First of all, I'm a happy grandfather. I'm not mad at anybody."

Peter Nicholas @PeterNicholas3
"I think this election is about broadly shared prosperity," @billclinton says in campaign trail debut in Nashua, NH.

Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
Bill Clinton goes local almost immediately, taking on the opioid addiction crisis. "Three children of friends of mine have died."

Dan Merica @danmericaCNN
Another issue this election is about, Bill Clinton says, is "how are we going to keep America safe and still keep it America."

Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
Roughly 720 people here in the gym at Nashua Community College for Bill Clinton's solo campaign debut.

Mike Memoli @mikememoli

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We're getting a taste of the sober, philosophical @billclinton . "Yesterday I read a story about Kenya ... "

Peter Nicholas @PeterNicholas3
.@billclinton protests flood of "dark money" in political system.

Abby D. Phillip @abbydphillip
Bill Clinton reminds Dems: the next president will make between 1-3 US Supreme Court appointments.

Sam Frizell @Sam_Frizell
Bill: "Even if the Supreme Court says billionaires can give all the money they want, you ought not to be able to give it in secret."

Abby D. Phillip @abbydphillip
Bill Clinton getting personal: "My wife, we fell in love... I thought she was the most amazing person."

Abby D. Phillip @abbydphillip
Bill on Hillary Clinton: "Everything she touched, she made better."

Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
"Tom Delay — he was the Ted Cruz of the pre-Tea Party era" - Bill Clinton, describing Hillary's health care work in the '90s

Jake Sherman @JakeSherman
interesting parallel. twitter.com/gdebenedetti/s…
Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
"Tom Delay — he was the Ted Cruz of the pre-Tea Party era" - Bill Clinton, describing Hillary's health care work in the '90s

Mike Memoli @mikememoli
.@billclinton refers to Tom DeLay the Ted Cruz of his era. But notes he signed bill that was product of his and Hillary's work together

Jonathan Martin @jmartNYT
!!!!

twitter.com/jeneps/status/…
Jennifer Epstein @jeneps
Bill Clinton calls Tom Delay "the Ted Cruz of the pre-Tea Party era." (Before recalling HRC's work with him on foster care.)

Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
I do not believe in my lifetime that anybody has run for this job who is better qualified by experience, knowledge & temperance - WJC on HRC

John Harwood @JohnJHarwood
virtuoso @billclinton in New Hampshire just now

Mike Memoli @mikememoli
And that's a wrap - @billclinton 's first NH speech clocks in just short of a half hour

Josh Kraushaar @HotlineJosh
.@chucktodd , on Bill Clinton debut on trail: "I didn't expect Bill Clinton to use Franklin Pierce to make the case for Hillary Clinton"

Domenico Montanaro @DomenicoNPR
The point of Bill Clinton -- or any spouse -- campaigning is to authenticate, humanize and personalize the candidate.

Alex Seitz-Wald @aseitzwald
Took a bit for Clinton to rev up, but he delivered in the final mins with meditation on what it takes to be POTUS and strong

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endorsement.

Mark Murray @mmurraypolitics
Bill Clinton ducks Q by @mitchellreports on Donald Trump: "We are trying to win a primary"

Domenico Montanaro @DomenicoNPR
"No candidate who's ever bordered the state has ever lost here" -- Bill Clinton trolling @BernieSanders . BTW, Dean lost in 04 to a MA Sen

Abby D. Phillip @abbydphillip
Bill Clinton didn't mention any GOP candidates by name except for this: He called Tom DeLay "the Ted Cruz, pre-Tea Party"

--
Ian Sams | Rapid Response
Hillary for America
(423) 915-6592 | @IanSams
Gchat: icsams

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <info@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	12/9/2015 9:00:05 AM
Subject:	News from Hudson: Putin's Role in Obama's Middle East Strategy, ISIS and Radical Islam, French Leadership, and more

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Michael Bronfein" <mbronfein@gmail.com>
Date: 7/15/2015 10:41:49 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: AIPAC's Position on the Iran Nuclear Agreement

Thanks Michael. Very much appreciated. She's studying it now. Probably warrants another chapter in Hard Choices
John

On Jul 15, 2015 5:06 PM, "Michael Bronfein" <mbronfein@gmail.com > wrote:

John,

I listened in on the AIPAC call today. It was a call to arms. AIPAC views this as one of the most important lobbying efforts in its history. In addition to normal lobbying efforts they are collaborating with Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran to run TV ads and are embarking on a fundraising campaign around this issue. I wanted you to know this so that HRC and her advisors knew this in advance of her staking a position. Personally, I'm opposed to the Iran Deal as I understand it but am prepared to more deeply understand it before making a final determination. I fear that this will become a polarizing issues for the Pro-Israel community and it will be important for HRC to fully consider all aspects of this policy issue before taking a public stance. Her stance to date in my view has been very appropriate. The landscape has now changed and people will be closely examining her every word. Moreover, the republicans' will use this to energize Pro-Israel supporters and donors. When I meet with her in April I shared that I was surprised at the number of people in the Baltimore Jewish Community questioning her stance on Israel. I attempted to persuade them differently but she is suffering to some degree from guilt by association. This could be a defining moment.

Let me know if i can be helpful to you in any way.

Regards,

Michael

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Robert A. Cohen, AIPAC President" <membership@aipac.org >
Subject: AIPAC's Position on the Iran Nuclear Agreement
Date: July 15, 2015 at 4:35:17 PM EDT
To: mbronfein@gmail.com
Reply-To: "AIPAC" <membership@aipac.org >

Click here to view the web version.

AIPAC America's Pro-Israel Lobby

As promised in my letter to you yesterday, AIPAC's policy experts have carefully reviewed the entire proposed nuclear agreement with Iran, including all of its annexes. Following our detailed assessment, we have come to the unfortunate conclusion that this agreement does not achieve the minimum requirements necessary for an acceptable deal.

AIPAC admires the determined efforts by America's negotiating team over the past many months, and we remain committed to a successful diplomatic

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process to bring about an end to Iran's nuclear weapons quest. As we have said since the negotiations began in 2013, diplomacy offers the best path to peacefully resolving the Iranian nuclear issue. Regrettably, however, the deal presented yesterday in Vienna falls short of its intentions to make the United States, Israel and our allies safer. In fact, we believe this agreement will do the opposite.

We can, and we must, do better.

Over the next 60 days, AIPAC will focus on one goal: engaging and convincing members of the House and Senate to oppose this deal and ultimately seek a better one.

A congressional rejection of this bad agreement will require the passion and political activism of every single member of our movement. This effort will demand unprecedented resources, energy and focus to engage our representatives in Washington and to articulate the grave consequences of accepting this deal.

Please take action today by contacting your members of Congress and urging them to oppose this unacceptable agreement.

AIPAC published a press release moments ago, which further explains our position and details our concerns with the proposed deal. Please read this statement (included below) and share it broadly with those in your community. In addition, please take a look at this fact sheet highlighting six unacceptable consequences of the proposed agreement.

I am proud to stand with you and with AIPAC as we meet this challenge together and work to safeguard our future.

Thank you for all that you are about to do.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Cohen
AIPAC President

--

AIPAC Statement on Proposed Iran Nuclear Agreement

AIPAC has consistently supported diplomatic efforts to end Iran's nuclear weapons program, and we appreciate the commitment and dedication of President Obama and his administration throughout these negotiations. Unfortunately, this proposed agreement fails to halt Iran's nuclear quest. Instead, it would facilitate rather than prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and would further entrench and empower the leading state sponsor of terror.

During these negotiations, we outlined criteria for a good deal that Congress itself had set in five critical areas: inspections, possible military dimensions, sanctions, duration and dismantlement. In each of these areas, the proposed agreement has significant flaws:

- The proposed deal does not ensure "anytime, anywhere" short-notice inspections;

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- The proposed deal does not clearly condition sanctions relief on full Iranian cooperation in satisfying International Atomic Energy Agency concerns over the possible military dimensions of Tehran's program;

- The proposed deal lifts sanctions as soon as the agreement commences, rather than gradually as Iran demonstrates sustained adherence to the agreement;

- The proposed deal lifts key restrictions in as few as eight years;

- The proposed deal would disconnect and store centrifuges in an easily reversible manner, but it requires no dismantlement of centrifuges or any Iranian nuclear facility;

- In return for this flawed agreement, Iran will receive over $100 billion in sanctions relief. Tehran will use these funds to fuel its hegemonic ambitions, support the killing of civilians in Syria, fund the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah, and spur deadly conflicts throughout the region.

This agreement not only fails to achieve its objectives in the nuclear arena, but it releases Tehran in a matter of years — regardless of Iranian behavior — from ballistic missile sanctions and an arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council. This late, unexpected concession will provide additional arms for terrorism and proxy wars, while strengthening Iran's capabilities against our regional allies.

This accord threatens the future of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. By leaving Iran on the threshold of a nuclear weapon — despite its history of violating international obligations — other countries in the region will have a dangerous incentive to initiate their own nuclear programs. The resulting nuclear arms race would severely destabilize the region.

Proponents of the proposed agreement will argue that the only alternative to this agreement is military conflict. In fact, the reverse is true. A bad agreement such as this will invite instability and nuclear proliferation. It will embolden Iran and may encourage regional conflict.

We strongly believe that the alternative to this bad deal is a better deal. Congress should reject this agreement, and urge the administration to work with our allies to maintain economic pressure on Iran while offering to negotiate a better deal that will truly close off all Iranian paths to a nuclear weapon.

Congress should insist on a better deal.



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From: "Debbie Stabenow" <dstabenow@stabenowforsenate.com>
To: "John D. Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 10/6/2015 9:02:59 AM
Subject: The Great Lakes are at risk

DEBBIE STABENOW
STANDING UP FOR MICHIGAN

John D. –

As Michiganders, we know what a precious resource the Great Lakes are. They are central to our Michigan way of life and they provide billions of dollars annual in economic activity.

Right now, the Great Lakes are at risk: Canada is proposing to permanently store millions of gallons of nuclear waste less than a mile from the shores of Lake Huron. The proposal puts the drinking water of over 40 million people at risk, as well as endangering our economy.

We've been fighting this proposed plan, but we need your help.

Sign with us today if you believe the Great Lakes are too important to go ahead with this risky plan.

This plan could have long-term negative effects on the health, jobs, and quality of life of Michigan residents.

Thank you for standing with us and our Great Lakes,

Sincerely,

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Gary Peters
United State Senator

Dan Kildee
Congressman, Michigan's 5th District

ADD YOUR NAME >>

Paid for by Stabenow for U.S. Senate

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Stabenow for U.S. Senate
P.O. Box 4945
East Lansing MI 48826 United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please unsubscribe .

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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 3/21/2015 6:18:41 PM
Subject: Re: SCHWEIZER / Clinton Cash

Bob B is on it too.

On Mar 21, 2015, at 8:37 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

Oh that's a great idea. I'll get a chain going on that.

On Sat, Mar 21, 2015 at 8:34 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Feels like what Brock is good at.
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> > On Mar 21, 2015, at 6:43 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > That would be big - we are having a hard time finding it.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> >> On Mar 21, 2015, at 6:36 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
> >>
> >> May have a line on it
> >>
> >>> On 3/21/15, 3:01 PM, "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
> >>>
> >>> Adding Kristina who is poking around as well
> >>>
> >>>
> >>>
> >>>> On Mar 21, 2015, at 5:54 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >
> >>>> wrote:
> >>>>
> >>>> Definitely would be good to get a copyŠ
> >>>>
> >>>>
> >>>> <Clinton Cash - Annoucement Release.doc>
> >>

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan (Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com)" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 2/22/2016 1:28:00 PM
Subject: Anne Pence

Dear Jake,

I am sure everyone in the campaign breathed a sigh of relief after Nevada. I hope that South Carolina and Super Tuesday will knock-out Sanders, and allow Hillary to concentrate on a general election strategy.

I want to strongly recommend that you add Anne Pence to one of the campaign's working groups -- particularly on economic policy, inclusive growth and job creation. I have known and worked with her now for over 15 years, first at State, and now at Covington. Anne was on my staff when I was Undersecretary of State for Economic, Business & Agricultural Affairs in the Clinton Administration, and continued with my successor, Ambassador Al Larson, for a total of some 9 years. She handled international economic and development policy as G8 policy advisor in support of our roles as G8 Foreign Affairs Sous Sherpa. She was a civil servant who remained in the Under Secretary's office (and accompanied the President's team at G8 prep meetings and Summits) because of her deep understanding of international machinery used to advance our economic interests (G8/G20, IFIs, UN, OECD, APEC and USAID and MCC), as well as sectors of key interest to the U.S., such as the financial sector, energy, manufacturing, labor markets, health, agriculture, high tech/IT and infrastructure.

She's a superb talent, who is able to cover the full breadth of international economic issues-- trade, investment, development assistance, international finance, health, climate change/sustainable development, anti-corruption, counter-terrorism finance, energy markets, as well as the global market economic conditions and challenges. Anne is also familiar with every USG agency involved in the international policy arena. She is among the most creative at marshaling evidence and arguments, in developing realistic initiatives, and in negotiating for consensus in extremely complex situations -- internationally as well as within our domestic bureaucracies. Anne is a Harvard-trained economist, with two masters degrees, one in economics, and the second at the Kennedy School in development. She is widely traveled, and has had direct experience with every region of the world, including on initiatives to help create jobs and stability in the Middle East. She's a huge asset, as well as collegial to work with. Below is a recent article she wrote on the G20.

Anne is co-hosting a fundraiser for Hillary this week, and has been a strong supporter from the start. I really believe she would be a great asset to the campaign.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

Stuart Eizenstat

Covington & Burling LLP
One CityCenter, 850 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-4956
T +1 202 662 5519 | seizenstat@cov.com
www.cov.com

COVINGTON

Can the G20 Pull the Global Economy Out of its Stall?

By Constance Anne Pence on February 19, 2016

In recent days, Citi strategist Jonathan Stubbs and his colleagues have warned that the global economy is trapped in a "death spiral."[1] Economist Mohamed El-Erian says that the era when policymakers could rely upon growth from easy money provided by Central Banks is over, and went on too long[2] . Nouriel Roubini, also known as Dr. Doom for calling the mortgage crisis before most others, believes that extreme volatility, sluggish growth, deflationary pressures, financial stress and "unconventional" monetary policies are part of a "new abnormal" that could last for years. [3] William White, who heads the OECD's Economic Development and Review Committee, not only warned of a possible financial crisis before it hit, but in 2012

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wrote convincingly about the potential for "ultra-easy money" policies to have the unintended consequence of making things worse over time. [4]

Larry Summers now sees a one-in-three chance of a global recession[5] in the next three years. The IMF — known for somewhat rosy forecasting — has again lowered estimates of global growth, as has the OECD.[6] Yet, the IMF still projects over 3 percent annual global growth for 2016 and 2017[7], while more pessimistic forecasts cluster at just under 3 percent.[8] The U.S. economy puttered along at around 2.4 percent growth in 2015[9], with falling unemployment, real wage increases, strengthening bank balance sheets and various other signs of economic life, which bring some hope to the global economy.

So, why the doom and gloom? And what, pray tell, could be done to dodge another global recession?

The underlying realities of the global economy are a lot like the television commercial where an elderly woman cries out, "help, I've fallen and I can't get up." Since the great recession of 2008-2009, policymakers worldwide have relied upon liquidity flooded into global markets by Central Banks to mitigate the severe damage of financial meltdown. With this, we avoided global depression, but growth has yet to lift-off sustainably in the years thereafter. Governments most certainly should have used those years to ensure healthy financial sectors and balance sheets, to rationalize public budgets, to invest in the productivity of their people and economies, and to make major improvements in public and corporate governance and institutional integrity. They should have acted boldly to facilitate and reduce the cost of business start-ups, and to facilitate financial inclusion and reduce the risk and cost of private investment, including in infrastructure. But facing already hard-hit domestic economies, tight budgets and political opposition, few did. And policymakers now fear they have little monetary or fiscal ammunition, or public support, with which to combat fearsome global economic clouds.

Since the financial meltdown, already unhealthy levels of debt worldwide — public, corporate and household — have continued to rise[10] even as private investment, commodity prices and emerging economy stock markets collapsed. Developing country equities lost $4.3 trillion in value in Q3 of 2015 alone. Global unemployment rates meanwhile have remained stuck at around 6 percent. [11] International trade, a reliable indicator of economic vibrancy, has slowed to a crawl due to low demand, a lack of trade finance and outright protectionism. [12] [13] Manufacturing and industrial output too are down.[14] And even if China manages a soft landing while transitioning industries away from state-managed export production to a more market-oriented service economy — no small feat — its economic slowdown will continue to have broad impacts. China's growth was responsible for about one-third of global growth over the past seven years. Growth has to come from somewhere.

Emerging markets had been the global economy's best hope. But in 2015, nearly $1 trillion in investment capital fled from emerging markets, the first net outflow in 27 years. Oil prices have declined far steeper and faster than predicted, but that hasn't offset other strong headwinds, even in oil importing countries. A strong dollar and weakening Chinese yuan (despite some recent Chinese efforts to prop it up) only make it harder for emerging markets to manage debt while trying to finance basic goods and services. Trillions of dollars have been wiped off the books as stock markets rise and fall precipitously, especially in emerging markets. And despite extremely low interest rates, banks, investment funds, corporations and people are hoarding cash, preferring to save rather than spend or invest for higher yields.

And make no mistake, though hundreds of millions escaped poverty in recent decades (mostly in China), tens of millions have now fallen back into poverty, in rich as well as poor countries. This includes millions in Russia, a resource-rich country with skilled labor, where plummeting oil prices and spending on guns versus butter have reversed economic gains. Furthermore, deep and destabilizing inequalities persist globally, and are worsening. Popular frustrations threaten to boil over in many countries — as we saw during the Arab Spring. Today, the poorest half of the population typically holds less than 10% of the wealth, in developed and developing economies alike. Pew Foundation surveys[15] find that some 75 to 90 percent of people believe inequality to be extremely serious, and they fault their governments.

And this "new abnormal" of stagnating growth, social immobility and low confidence in institutions and leaders is dangerous. Along with the real risk of another wrenching global recession comes risk of even greater instability in a world plagued with high levels of geo-political instability and great uncertainty.

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When people, political leaders and/or specific groups feel disenfranchised, targeted or blamed for economic dislocation and division, and helpless to make things better, they do not react well. Results can include nationalism, nativism, extremism, protectionism, military adventurism, conflict and violence. Such reactions are already evident in today's world. It's not the first time.

These dangers, and the economic cost and human suffering that would result from a global economic "death spiral," are neither inevitable nor insoluble. There are substantial, untapped global assets and opportunities for growth and progress. Thorny, persistent growth-barriers — such as corruption and weak rule of law and property rights — could be more effectively tackled rather than left to fester and undermine productivity. Good and coherent, not perfect, policy approaches might well encourage people to invest, take entrepreneurial risks to deliver new goods and services that are wanted and needed, or to improve and deliver existing products and services more efficiently. As Larry Summers recently opined, however, we seem "stuck." When times are tough economically and geopolitically, coordinated action among responsible governments may be most needed, but often hardest to achieve. But an "every country for itself" policy approach simply won't work to restart economic engines.

Fortunately, high-return opportunities for governments, communities and private enterprise to work together and invest productively worldwide are actually tremendous. Think about it: billions of people do not yet have regular access to basics such as clean water, reliable transportation, primary health care, electricity, literacy and useful skills, internet and communications technology, financial services, sanitation, housing , proper nutrition, a healthy natural environment, legal rights and accountable governance, and freedom from violence and repression. And even where those things are largely available, such as the United States and Europe, they cost more than they should and do not provide the best results possible. There are at least 20 highly-diverse countries with populations greater than 40 million — e.g. Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam — where creativity, drive and productivity have yet to be unleashed to anything near the potential. And even in countries with slow-growing and aging populations, there are plenty of unmet needs that markets could help to address — for better health, more convenient, reliable goods and services, and enriching social and cultural experiences.

The real dilemma now is what can and should be done to get out of any economic "death spiral." It certainly will require instilling confidence that an integrated global economy and pluralistic societies that value both inclusion and competition can work, and deliver lasting improvements in people's everyday lives. Nobel laureate economist Hernando de Soto recognized decades ago that a failure to integrate large swaths of people into the formal economy, with their property rights established and protected, would leave only an elite minority to enjoy the economic benefits of the law and globalization. The productivity and assets of those not included and protected by economic systems (tens of trillions of dollars) would languish as "dead capital." He knew all too well from violent peasant rebellion in his native Peru that failing to build social systems within which the poor (and the middle class, many would argue) can be productive and meet basic needs, especially while others prosper disproportionately, is a recipe for instability. And conflicted, divided societies grow more slowly, which only makes things worse. No surprise that all sorts of alarms are sounding just now.

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet at the end of this month, February 26-27, in Shanghai. China chairs the G20 this year. G20 members represent around 85 per cent of global gross domestic product, over 75 per cent of global trade, and two-thirds of the world's population. The G20[16] also includes many of the emerging markets with the greatest untapped potential to help get us out of this "death spiral." The G20 could commit to specific measurable near- and longer-term steps and outcomes — together and individually — that would steer the global economy towards more confidence and certainty, and sustained growth, if they can agree together to take some politically-difficult steps. As IMF Managing Director LaGarde urges, we need a "New Partnership for Growth."[17]

Here are some growth-oriented policy initiatives and themes which could be part of urgent, concerted G20 effort to fuel shared global growth, job creation, financial stability and rising productivity:

1) I**nfrastructure with Integrity** — Trillions of dollars of investment in new and rehabilitated

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infrastructure is needed worldwide, and good infrastructure correlates directly with growth.[18] It is estimated that redirecting savings toward efficient investment in emerging market infrastructure alone could increase global GDP by around 7 percent over the next 10 years.[19] Some two-thirds of all Africans still have no access to electricity, obviously a constraint to growth. But infrastructure spending is notoriously a place in which to hide corruption, waste and over-spending. With interest rates low, materials cheap and labor available, the G20 should act on its own superb work to launch an "Infrastructure with Integrity" initiative to match private investment (especially long-term institutional capital) with projects in countries committed to competition, transparency and supportive policies. Those countries and projects could also be supported by bilateral and multilateral funding, project development services, investment guarantees and risk insurance. Links to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative and Construction Sector Transparency (COST) initiative could help to reduce the risks that keep private investors on the side lines and out of such investments.

2) **Trade and Investment Cost Reduction** — The World Bank and other institutions have very useful ways of measuring the high cost and counterproductive impacts of logistical, legal and regulatory and other impediments to trade and investment and market entry barriers. The global implosion of trade and investment levels (both domestic and foreign) highlight the value of an urgent campaign to reduce such costs. By some estimates, the stock of products subjected by G20 members to non-tariff barriers and other less transparent restrictions is up by some 50 percent since the global financial crisis. The new G20 Trade and Investment Working Group could launch a program to support (with multilateral involvement) programs and commitments aimed at measurably reducing these costs and barriers at the national and regional level.

3) **Business Ecosystem Development** — Dynamic, inclusive economies flourish best where the "business ecosystem" for private enterprises of all sizes and types (including start-ups and disruptors) is healthy, competitive and integrated across the value chain. A G20 focus on analyzing and measurably improving and enabling such an "ecosystem" might better promote comprehensive action on elements that together promote efficiency and productivity — rule of law and property rights, institutional capacity and accountable governance (both public and private), sound and inclusive financial systems, efficient tax and regulatory systems, human capital investment and sustainable natural resource management. G20 Members could model success by auditing and committing to improve measurably their own "business ecosystems," building on indicators and indices maintained by the World Bank and other institutions.

4) **Strong Fundamentals for Balanced Growth** — The G20 has a Working Group on the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, but its crisis-era focus has been on near-term stabilization. It looks to be time for a pivot to committed steps on structural reform. Fiscal sustainability (which requires growth not just "austerity"), e.g. as regards entitlements and broader tax bases; labor market revitalization and reform; greater capacity for openness and innovation (e.g. intellectual property rights, R&D, information and communications services, continuous access for all to information and skills); strong bank balance sheets and greater financial sector resilience to crises (including appropriate deleveraging — corporate debt is very high in many emerging markets); and, international progress on modernizing tax policies, e.g. faster global implementation of the OECD Base Erosion and Profit-Shifting (BEPs) measures are all areas where committed action could benefit broad-based global growth.

5) **Global Economic Coordination** — This deserves careful analysis, because missteps could make things worse, and have unintended consequences, as some argue regarding "ultra-easy" monetary policies. However, it is clear that major economic imbalances co-exist along with tremendous volatility in global markets. The falling value of China's yuan and strengthening US dollar are creating tumult and uncertainty, especially for emerging markets. Emerging markets do not have access to reciprocal swap lines between central banks and their financial safety nets remain weak. This makes them more dependent on their FX reserves for financial stability. Whether there are better approaches is worth G20 discussion. At the same time, the complexity of financial markets globally, and especially in in developed-country markets, is known to have increased. Some believe that beyond the soundness of banks, the G20 need to examine and address the degree to which another "black swan" financial crisis could cause important segments of their financial markets to seize up from a lack of liquidity. French economist Hélène Rey[20] believes that her research shows that global market openness and integration has advanced to the point where there is now a "global

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financial cycle" responsible for some 25% of movement in open economies, including bubbles, booms and busts. That should give the G20 still more incentive to define and promote financial sector health broadly, and to consider the implications with respect to financial risk-taking.

So, it is true that global economic conditions are very precarious. Mohammed El Erian may well be right that we are at a critical "T juncture," where a wrong move, or lack of positive movement, could make recession all but inevitable. But there is also a lot of room for helpful G20 steps to achieve good if not perfect results, in part by reducing the enormous risk, uncertainty and fear that now burdens consumers, producers and investors. This is a test for the G20, and for China's important role as an emerging market leader. If the G20 can agree on concrete, effective, cooperative steps, we may finally see the end of this dismal period of economic gloom and doom, and less of the popular frustrations that appear to feed dangerous instability and extremism.

[1] http://www.cnbc.com/2016/02/05/citi-world-economy-trapped-in-death-spiral.html

[2] http://www.cnbc.com/2016/01/26/mohamed-el-erian-warns-about-a-day-of-reckoning.html

[3] http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/market-volatility-in-global-economy-by-nouriel-roubini-2016-02

[4] http://dallasfed.org/assets/documents/institute/wpapers/2012/0126.pdf

[5] https://hereandnow.wbur.org/2016/01/27/larry-summers-us-economy

[6] http://www.slideshare.net/oecdeconomy/oecd-interim-economic-outlook-february-2016-presentation

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[14] http://www.worldeconomics.com/SMI/Global-Manufacturing-SalesManagersIndex.efp

[15] http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/11/08/with-41-of-global-wealth-in-the-hands-of-less-than-1-elites-and-citizens-agree-inequality-is-a-top-priority/

[16] Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, European Union.

[17] https://www.imf.org/external/np/speeches/2016/020416.htm

[18] http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSDNET/Resources/infrastructure-background-note-G20.pdf

[19] Restoring and Sustaining Growth, prepared by Staff of the World Bank for the G20, June 8, 2012

[20] https://www.kansascityfed.org/publicat/sympos/2013/2013rey.pdf

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/26/2014 5:48:31 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Saturday July 26, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday July 26, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

NBC 4 (New York): "Hillary Clinton Mobbed by Hugging Kids at Bronx Summer Program"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton got a whole lot of love from the Bronx on Friday after telling children who are part of a summer arts program to dream big."

New York Daily News: "Hillary Clinton touts Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor's memoir while visiting the Bronx"

"Clinton and the Bronx-born Sotomayor — whose book, "My Beloved World," was published this year — were the star speakers at the Bronx Children's Museum annual Dream Big event at Lehman College."

CNN blog: Fareed Zakaria GPS: "Clinton: Putin 'disabused' us over reset hopes" [VIDEO]

Sec. Clinton: "I was among the most skeptical of Putin during the time that I was there, in part because I thought he had never given up on his vision of bringing Mother Russia back to the forefront."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton: Putin 'bears responsibility' in downing of MH17"

"Russian President Vladimir Putin bears at least some responsibility for the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Friday."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton calls Putin arrogant, charming"

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"Hillary Clinton called Russian President Vladimir Putin 'tough' and 'arrogant' — if at times capable of charm — and noted that she had raised concerns about him to President Barack Obama."

Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "Hillary Clinton on 'Fusion' Tuesday "

"Hillary Clinton gave a one-on-one interview to Jorge Ramos on Friday, which will air Tuesday on Fusion's 'America with Jorge Ramos.'"

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Poll Data Show Little Gap Between Democrats and Liberals"

"The difference between liberals and rank-and-file Democrats simply isn't the gulf some people might imagine."

Associated Press: "Despite Clinton: O'Malley In Iowa Amid 2016 Talk"

"The Maryland governor is filling the void in Iowa, New Hampshire and beyond during the early stages of the 2016 presidential race, campaigning for fellow Democrats and making personal appeals while former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton remains the prohibitive — if yet undeclared — favorite."

Associated Press: "U.S. Evacuates Embassy in Libya Amid Clashes"

"The United States shuttered its embassy in Libya on Saturday and evacuated its diplomats to neighboring Tunisia under U.S. military escort as fighting intensified between rival militias. Secretary of State John Kerry said 'free-wheeling militia violence' prompted the move."

Articles:

NBC 4 (New York): "Hillary Clinton Mobbed by Hugging Kids at Bronx Summer Program"

By Jill Colvin

July 25, 2014, 6:47 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Clinton, a potential 2016 presidential contender, told the kids to believe in themselves and ask for help to pursue their dreams

Hillary Rodham Clinton got a whole lot of love from the Bronx on Friday after telling children who are part of a summer arts program to dream big.

The Democratic former first lady and secretary of state and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito were mobbed by hugging kids at a Bronx

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Children's Museum event at Lehman College.

The show of affection came after Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor instructed more than 100 kids in attendance to fan out and hug audience members.

"I want a bunch of you to go to each of them and hug them and say thank you," Sotomayor instructed the primary school-goers, who had gathered around her onstage.

During brief remarks after a series of song and dance performances, Clinton, a potential 2016 presidential contender, told the kids to believe in themselves and ask for help to pursue their dreams.

"Dream big. Not only this program, but keep dreaming big because we need you," she said, adding that she'd been thinking about children a lot lately as she prepares to become a grandmother.

Clinton, who has been on tour selling her new book, "Hard Choices," also encouraged those gathered to read Sotomayor's autobiography about her life growing up in the Bronx.

Sotomayor recently dropped by a Clinton book signing event at a suburban Virginia Costco.

Friday's event honored the Dream Big summer arts enrichment program, which aims "to inspire children to dream, work hard, follow their passions."

Sotomayor has been a longtime supporter of the program and invited Clinton to attend Friday's event, a museum board member said.

New York Daily News: "Hillary Clinton touts Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor's memoir while visiting the Bronx"

By Annie Karni

July 25, 2014, 11:09 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Clinton raved about Sotomayor's autobiography to students at the Bronx Children's Museum annual Dream Big event at Lehman College. The Bronx-born justice was also a star speaker at the affair.

Hillary Clinton took a break Friday from promoting her new book to tout the recent memoir of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

"I hope you will read her autobiography," Clinton told hundreds of grade-school kids in the Bronx, as Sotomayor looked on.

"She tells the story of how as a child of the Bronx, she dreamed big and ended up on the highest court of the land," Clinton said. "She's one of our heroes."

Clinton and the Bronx-born Sotomayor — whose book, "My Beloved World," was published this year — were the star speakers at the Bronx Children's Museum annual Dream Big event at Lehman College.

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Clinton smiled through almost two hours of children's dance performances and remarks by Latino elected officials and public figures, including City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and actress Sonia Manzano, who plays Maria on "Sesame Street."

"Every one of us had to dream big, or we wouldn't be where we are today," Clinton said.

"I'm going to be a grandmother for the first time, so I'm thinking a lot about children. ... I saw the future up here on this stage. Always believe in yourself and know that many, many others believe in you."

In Harlem, Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, also spent time with children, at the Disney Junior's Pirate & Princess event where she talked about "the power of doing good."

CNN blog: Fareed Zakaria GPS: "Clinton: Putin 'disabused' us over reset hopes" [VIDEO]

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 25, 2014, 1:55 p.m. EDT

Fareed Zakaria speaks with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about U.S. relations with Russia. Watch the full interview on "Fareed Zakaria GPS," this Sunday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. ET on CNN

You say in your book that you felt – and you've said in interviews subsequently – that the reset with Russia worked because you got a new strategic arms treaty out of it, you got the Russians to agree to sanctions on Iran. Why do you think that it stopped working? What changed?

Well, I thought a lot about that, because I was among the most skeptical of Putin during the time that I was there, in part because I thought he had never given up on his vision of bringing Mother Russia back to the forefront. Not by looking at what Russia could do to be a modern nation, but by looking to the past, and especially trying to control their borders from Central Asia to the Baltics.

So when he announced in the fall of 2011 that he would be changing positions with Medvedev, I knew that he would be more difficult to deal with. He had been always the power behind Medvedev, but he had given Medvedev a lot of independence to do exactly what you said and make the reset a success.

I saw that firsthand with respect to the primary elections in Russia, because they were filled with irregularities and Russian people poured out in the streets to protest. And I, as Secretary of State, said the Russians deserve better. They deserved elections that reflected their will.

Putin attacked me personally because he is very worried about any kind of internal dissent. He wanted to clamp down on any opposition within Russia and he wanted to provide more influence and even intimidation on his borders.

And I certainly made my views known in meetings, as well as in memos to the president. I think that what may have happened is that both the United States and Europe were really hoping for the best from Putin as a returned president. And I think we've been quickly, unfortunately, disabused of those hopes.

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CNN: "Hillary Clinton: Putin 'bears responsibility' in downing of MH17"

By Jason Miks

July 25, 2014

Russian President Vladimir Putin bears at least some responsibility for the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Friday.

"I think if there were any doubt it should be gone by now, that Vladimir Putin, certainly indirectly -- through his support of the insurgents in eastern Ukraine and the supply of advanced weapons and, frankly, the presence of Russian Special Forces and intelligence agents -- bears responsibility for what happened," she told CNN's Fareed Zakaria in an exclusive interview that will air Sunday.

Clinton's comments come just over a week since Flight MH17 crashed in eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 on board. Pro-Russian militants have been accused of downing the plane using Russia-supplied armaments and of interfering with the subsequent investigation at the crash site.

U.S. President Barack Obama last week called the crash a "wake-up call for Europe and the world that there are consequences to an escalating conflict in eastern Ukraine," a view Clinton echoed in urging Europe to go further.

"We have to up the sanctions that are required. The United States has continued to move forward on that, Europe has been reluctant," Clinton told. "They need to understand they must stand up to Vladimir Putin."

Her comments came as the Pentagon warned that Russia is preparing to transfer more powerful weaponry into Ukraine, a move it said could happen at any time.

Putin has argued that Ukraine bears significant responsibility, saying in a statement that if military operations had not resumed in eastern Ukraine on June 28, "this tragedy probably could have been avoided."

However, Clinton joined a chorus of Western voices laying much of the blame at Moscow's door, and she lamented that the United States and Europe had been "disabused" of their earlier hopes over the so-called reset in U.S.-Russia relations that was announced during President Obama's first year in office.

"He [Putin] has a strategic plan in mind, the Eurasian Union, which would be in competition to Europe," Clinton said. "His continuing efforts to intimidate Europeans -- not just through energy, but through interfering in elections, putting money behind buying press outlets in European countries ... trying to discourage countries like Ukraine being able to join the European Union."

"And if the United States and Europe don't present a united front, I think Putin is the kind of man who will go as far as he can get away with. I think he is still smart enough and cautious enough to be pushed back. But there has to be a push in order to make that happen."

'He's a very arrogant person to deal with'

Clinton also shared her thoughts on her interactions with Putin during her stint as Obama's secretary of state.

"He's very tough. He's a very arrogant person to deal with, which I think is a combination of this vision of Russia and some fundamental insecurity, because when you are dealing with him, he often acts as though he could care less," Clinton said.

"...There was a G20 summit in Los Cabos (Mexico, in 2012) and our President had a meeting scheduled. He kept President Obama waiting 40

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minutes before he showed up. He sat down. It was a very small meeting on both sides of the table. We, at the time, were very hopeful -- not realistically so, but idealistically so -- that we could get more cooperation from Russia to slow down (Bashar) al-Assad and what he was doing in Syria," she said. "Putin could not have looked more bored, more discomfited, and never apologized for being late."

"So then, of course, he wanted a summit in Russia. He wanted to play the host. And my advice to the president was don't go chasing after him. We're not sure of what his real intent is."

Has Israel committed war crimes?

In a wide-ranging interview, Clinton also discussed the ongoing violence in Gaza as Israel's ground incursion entered its second week. Asked about the warning Wednesday by U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay that war crimes may have been committed, and whether Israel has used excessive force, Clinton said she did not agree with the war crimes assessment.

"I think that the Israelis are in a very difficult position. Hamas, we know, embeds missiles, embeds command-and-control units in civilian areas," she said. "Now, some of that is just the geography. It's a very small area, very densely populated. But some of that is a deliberate choice by Hamas."

However, she said, "too many people have died and too many of them are clearly innocent civilians, even children."

More than 800 people have been killed in the more than two weeks of violence in Gaza, as diplomats scramble to establish a ceasefire. Palestinian leaders called for a day of rage as protests erupted in the West Bank following a strike this week on a U.N. shelter. Israel's security cabinet on Friday unanimously rejected a proposed one-week humanitarian ceasefire, Israeli Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz told CNN. Secretary of State John Kerry said later that there was a framework for a cease-fire, but that more needed to be done to make it happen.

"They [the Israelis] understand the terrible box that they find themselves in because they want to end the rockets. And unfortunately, since the last ceasefire, the Hamas leadership has felt cornered. And the only way out of that corner, in their opinion, was to get better, more accurate, longer range rockets.

"And they've been digging tunnels, apparently constantly, that can come up inside Israeli territory. And the Israelis have a perfectly legitimate objective to try to destroy as much as of the rocketry as they can and to destroy the tunnels."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton calls Putin arrogant, charming"

By Katie Glueck

July 25, 2014, 2:48 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton called Russian President Vladimir Putin "tough" and "arrogant" — if at times capable of charm — and noted that she had raised concerns about him to President Barack Obama.

She made the comments in an interview with CNN journalist Fareed Zakaria, set to air on his eponymous show at 10 a.m. Sunday.

"He acts, you know, bored and dismissive," said Clinton, the former secretary of state and possible 2016 Democratic frontrunner, according to a transcript released Friday. "So he has a lot of personas that he pulls out — if he wants to stare intently at you with his very, you know, bright blue eyes, because he wants something from you, or he wants to convey a message to you, he can turn on the charm. But he can also be, you know, very tough to deal with and act as though it's a burden on him to be in conversations with other world leaders."

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Clinton, who has defended the Obama administration's "reset" of relations with Russia as being effective for a time, also noted in the interview that she "was among the most skeptical of Putin." Clinton, on tour to promote her new memoir of her time at the State Department, "Hard Choices," has generated much scrutiny over the extent to which her foreign policy views aligned with others in the administration.

In the interview, she made clear that she communicated her later reservations about Putin to Obama.

"I, you know, certainly made my views known in, you know, in meetings, as well as in memos to the president," she said. Regarding the long-term viability of the "reset," she said that "I think that what may have happened, is that both the United States and Europe were really hoping for the best from Putin as a returned president. And I think we've been quickly, unfortunately, disabused of those hopes."

Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "Hillary Clinton on 'Fusion' Tuesday "

By Dylan Byers

July 25, 2014, 2:23 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton gave a one-on-one interview to Jorge Ramos on Friday, which will air Tuesday on Fusion's "America with Jorge Ramos."

Ramos and the former Secretary of State discussed "the latest headlines, the political climate as the country approaches the 2014 and 2016 elections, as well as her book 'Hard Choices,'" according to a Fusion spokesperson. A preview, in which Clinton discusses the border crisis, will air tonight on Univision.

Clinton's interview with Ramos followed an hour-long interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria, which will air Sunday.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Poll Data Show Little Gap Between Democrats and Liberals"

By Dante Chinni

July 25, 2014, 3:10 p.m. EDT

After spending most of the primary season analyzing Republican and conservative voters, let's take a look at the Democrats and liberals.

Polls suggest there are far fewer self-described "liberals" in America than there are "conservatives," even though those same polls tend to show that there are more Democrats than there are Republicans. For instance, the latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll finds 41% identified themselves as Democrats and 36% as Republicans. Yet only 22% identified themselves as "liberal," while 36% — matching the GOP number — identified themselves at "conservative."

That 19-point difference between liberals and Democrats has garnered a lot of attention lately as some analysts have theorized that anointed Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, if she runs, could face a challenge on her left flank some someone representing the liberal wing of the party. Some of the popular names mentioned include Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

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But there is a problem with that formulation of the splits within the party, at least where the data are concerned: The difference between liberals and rank-and-file Democrats simply isn't the gulf some people might imagine. On long list of issues – from education reform to carbon dioxide emissions to, notably, Ms. Clinton's potential candidacy – the differences are fairly negligible.

On the question of approval for how President Obama is handling his job, Democrats are at 75% approval, liberals are at 74%. On how Mr. Obama is handling foreign policy – 67% of Democrats approve and 63% of liberals.

And there are more issues on the agreement list including more philosophical points.

Democrats and Liberals on a Range of Issues

[COMPARISON GRAPH OF DEMOCRATS AND LIBERALS]

So what is the difference between liberals and Democrats? Most demographic measures don't show big splits, according to the latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll.

Among Democrats 64% are white, 21% African-American and 15% are Hispanic. Among liberals, 66% are white, 18% are African-America and 15% are Hispanic. Liberals are slightly more likely to be college graduates and are slightly more likely to live in the South or the West, but those differences amount to a few percentage points here or there.

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The real difference comes in age. As a group, liberals are much younger than Democrats – 39% of liberals are between ages 18 and 34, that's true of only 26% of Democrats.

Age Breakdown for Liberals

There may be a few points behind that age difference, but seeing as there not dramatic differences between Democrats and liberals, it may be that the divide is primarily one of nomenclature. People in the 18- to 34-year-old age group may simply be more comfortable with using the word "liberal," even though their positions are largely in line with rank-and-file Democrats who don't use that word.

When look deep enough at the numbers, some differences emerge between liberals and Democrats where that age difference may play a role.

The June poll showed liberals are much more likely to say "climate change has been established as a serious problem and immediate action is necessary" – 61% versus 50% for Democrats. That same poll showed liberals are more likely to say that poverty today is more likely "caused by circumstances beyond people's control" – 72% versus 63% for Democrats.

But even in those cases the numbers largely reflect a difference in degree of support, not a strongly different point of view. In the case of climate change, both Democrats and liberals strongly agree – 80% or more – that climate change is taking place and action should be taken.

Taken together, the numbers suggest that future of the Democratic Party may be more "liberal" but it's not clear what difference that will actually make in terms of position and policy. And, more important for the immediate future and 2016, splitting the "liberal" and "Democratic" electorates may be a very difficult thing to do.

Associated Press: "Despite Clinton: O'Malley In Iowa Amid 2016 Talk"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Ken Thomas and Thomas Beaumont

July 26, 2014, 3:54 a.m. EDT

Martin O'Malley's latest foray into Iowa begins, appropriately, in a place called Clinton.

The Maryland governor is filling the void in Iowa, New Hampshire and beyond during the early stages of the 2016 presidential race, campaigning for fellow Democrats and making personal appeals while former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton remains the prohibitive — if yet undeclared — favorite.

In the summer before November's mid-term elections, Clinton's dominant position in a hypothetical field has limited Democrats' activities in early presidential voting states even while an ambitious slate of Republicans descend. Active Democrats here say O'Malley has become an exception, cultivating relationships and developing a reputation as a loyal foot soldier for the party.

"He's doing more than anybody else," said Mike Gronstal, the Iowa Senate Democratic leader. "Others have indicated they are interested in doing some things. But we haven't seen it yet." He declined to name the other Democrats who have inquired.

O'Malley is laying the groundwork for a presidential campaign whether or not Clinton runs, although it remains unclear if he will challenge the popular former first lady. O'Malley was the second governor to endorse Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign in 2007 and maintains ties to former President Bill Clinton, who brought the then-Baltimore mayor to Northern Ireland on a presidential delegation trip in 2000 and appeared in an ad for O'Malley during his first campaign for governor.

As his second term in Maryland ends, O'Malley has visited New Hampshire twice since November and raised money for Gov. Maggie Hassan, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen — a fellow alumnus of Gary Hart's presidential campaigns — and Rep. Annie Kuster. In South Carolina, O'Malley has held events for Vincent Sheheen, who is challenging GOP Gov. Nikki Haley, and Bakari Sellers, who is running for lieutenant governor.

O'Malley was returning to Iowa on Saturday, headlining a fundraiser for state Sen. Rita Hart in Clinton, a town on the banks of the Mississippi River, and another event in North Liberty for Kevin Kinney, a Johnson County sheriff's deputy seeking an open state Senate seat. After a Saturday night speech in Omaha to help the Nebraska Democratic Party, O'Malley was joining with Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jack Hatch, who is challenging Republican Gov. Terry Branstad, for fundraisers in western Iowa on Sunday and a canvassing kickoff in Sioux City.

O'Malley made a round of fundraising appearances for Hatch in Iowa last month, along with a speech at the state party convention. Iowa Democrats hold a narrow majority in the state Senate and party officials here said the governor's willingness to wade into local races was appreciated — and duly noted.

"Helping out legislative races is a really smart strategy. It's an easy way to come out and be helpful," said Norm Sterzenbach, a former executive director of the Iowa Democratic Party. He noted that O'Malley got his political start in Iowa, as a field organizer for Gary Hart's 1984 presidential campaign in eastern Iowa.

O'Malley's fundraising and campaign travel has coincided with a policy fight with the Obama administration on the stream of unaccompanied immigrant children from Central America over the Mexican border. He recently criticized a White House proposal that could expedite the deportation of the children, saying it would "send them back to certain death." Obama's team pushed back, leaking a phone call in which the governor asked the White House not to have children brought to a Maryland facility.

O'Malley's stance has won support within Latino groups and has marked a contrast with Clinton. She said at a televised forum that she felt the children needed to be reunited with their families but the U.S. needed to make clear that "just because your child gets across the border doesn't mean your child gets to stay."

To be sure, O'Malley is not the only Democrat extending feelers in the politically active state. Clinton, who placed a disappointing third in the 2008 caucus, recorded a humorous tribute to retiring Sen. Tom Harkin that aired at the state party convention dinner. Ready for Hillary, an unaffiliated organization laying the groundwork for a Clinton campaign, has been active in Iowa and Democrats are buzzing about whether Hillary Clinton — or former President Bill Clinton — will appear at Harkin's annual steak fry in September, his last as a senator.

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Biden, who headlined the steak fry last year, notably dropped by a Washington hotel in May to greet a group of Iowans attending the Greater Des Moines Partnership meeting. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar plans to campaign next month in Iowa for Rep. Bruce Braley, who is seeking Harkin's seat.

Hart, the state senator and one of O'Malley's beneficiaries this weekend, said she has never met the governor before or spoken to him — his staff reached out about the fundraiser. She said her husband's aunt lives in Maryland, admires his record and urged her to get to know him. But like many Iowans, that's the extent of her knowledge for now.

"I really don't think many people know anything about him. I think he's a pretty new name to a lot of people," Hart said. "That's probably why he's coming — he wants to change that."

Associated Press: "U.S. Evacuates Embassy in Libya Amid Clashes"

By Matthew Lee and Lara Jakes

July 26, 2014, 11:12 a.m. EDT

The United States shuttered its embassy in Libya on Saturday and evacuated its diplomats to neighboring Tunisia under U.S. military escort as fighting intensified between rival militias. Secretary of State John Kerry said "free-wheeling militia violence" prompted the move.

American personnel at the Tripoli embassy, which had already been operating with limited staffing, left the capital around dawn and traveled by road to neighboring Tunisia, with U.S. fighter jets and other aircraft providing protection, the State Department said. The withdrawal underscored the Obama administration's concern about the heightened risk to American diplomats abroad, particularly in Libya where memories of the deadly 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in the eastern city of Benghazi are still vivid.

The evacuation was accompanied by a new State Department travel warning for Libya urging Americans not to go to the country and recommending that those already there leave immediately. "The Libyan government has not been able to adequately build its military and police forces and improve security," it said. "Many military-grade weapons remain in the hands of private individuals, including anti-aircraft weapons that may be used against civilian aviation."

Speaking Saturday in Paris where he was meeting with other diplomats on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Kerry said the U.S. remains committed to the diplomatic process in Libya despite the suspension of embassy activities there. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the evacuated employees will continue to work on Libyan issues in Tunis, elsewhere in North Africa and Washington.

"Securing our facilities and ensuring the safety of our personnel are top department priorities, and we did not make this decision lightly," Harf said. "Security has to come first. Regrettably, we had to take this step because the location of our embassy is in very close proximity to intense fighting and ongoing violence between armed Libyan factions."

The Pentagon said in statement that F-16 fighter jets and other U.S. aircraft provided security. "The mission was conducted without incident, and the entire operation lasted approximately five hours," the statement said.

The State Department said embassy operations will be suspended until a determination is made that the security situation has improved. Tripoli has been embroiled for weeks in inter-militia violence that has killed and wounded dozens on all sides. The fighting has been particularly intense at the city's airport.

"We are committed to supporting the Libyan people during this challenging time, and are currently exploring options for a permanent return to Tripoli

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as soon as the security situation on the ground improves," Harf said.

Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., the House Armed Services Committee chairman, expressed gratitude for the work of the U.S. forces that helped in the evacuation.

The move marks the second time in a little more than three years that Washington has closed its embassy in Libya. In February 2011, the embassy suspended operations during the uprising that eventually toppled longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi. After the formation of a transitional government in July 2011, the embassy reopened in September. Gadhafi was killed in October 2011.

The Obama administration has been particularly sensitive about security of U.S. government employees in Libya since the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. mission in the country's second largest city of Benghazi. The attack killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. The administration is still fending off criticism from Republicans and others that it did not take the needed steps to enhance security in Benghazi or evacuate the mission due to rising violence in that city in the months prior to the attack.

The Benghazi mission was abandoned after that attack and never reopened. The embassy In Tripoli has been operating with reduced staff since but has remained open even as the violence intensified.

On Friday, U.S. Ambassador to Libya Deborah Jones appealed for fighting near the embassy to stop. "We have not been attacked but our neighborhood a bit 2 close to the action," she tweeted. "Diplomatic missions 2 B avoided pls." Jones had also tweeted about "heavy shelling and other exchanges" of fire in the vicinity of the embassy. Speculation about an evacuation had been rife at the State Department for more than a week.

Libya is now witnessing one of its worst spasms of violence since Gadhafi's ouster. In Tripoli, the militias are fighting mostly for control of the airport. They are on the government's payroll because authorities have depended on them to restore order.

The U.S. is the latest in a number of countries to have closed diplomatic operations in Libya. Turkey on Friday announced that it had shut its embassy and militia clashes in Benghazi have prompted the United Nations, aid groups and foreign envoys to leave.

In Tripoli, clashes near the international airport have forced residents to evacuate their homes nearby after they were hit by shells. On Friday, the official Libyan news agency LANA reported that explosions were heard early in the day near the airport area and continued into the afternoon.

The battle in Tripoli began earlier this month when Islamist-led militias — mostly from the western city of Misrata — launched a surprise assault on the airport, under control of rival militias from the western mountain town of Zintan. On Monday, a $113 million Airbus A330 passenger jet for Libya's state-owned Afriqiyah Airways was destroyed in the fighting.

The rival militias, made up largely of former anti-Gadhafi rebels, have forced a weeklong closure of gas stations and government offices. In recent days, armed men have attacked vehicles carrying money from the Central Bank to local banks, forcing their closure.

Libyan government officials and activists have increasingly been targeted in the violence. Gunmen kidnapped two lawmakers in the western suburbs of Tripoli a week ago and on Friday armed men abducted Abdel-Moaz Banoun, a well-known Libyan political activist in Tripoli, according to his father.

An umbrella group for Islamist militias, called the Operation Room of Libya's Revolutionaries, said in a brief statement on its Facebook page on Friday that "troops arrested Abdel-Moaz over allegations that he served under Gadhafi" and "instigated rallies against" the Islamists.

Calendar:

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Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

- July 27 – CNN: Sec. Clinton interview with Fareed Zakaria (Politico)
- July 29 – Fusion: Sec. Clinton interview with Jorge Ramos (Politico)
- July 29 – Saratoga Springs, NY: Sec. Clinton makes "Hard Choices" book tour stop at Northshire Bookstore (Glens Falls Post-Star)
- August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)
- August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)
- September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)
- October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
"Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 2/22/2016 8:49:09 AM
Subject: Re: Anne Pence

Thanks Stu -- I will follow up. Adding Laura.

On Mon, Feb 22, 2016 at 3:28 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

I am sure everyone in the campaign breathed a sigh of relief after Nevada. I hope that South Carolina and Super Tuesday will knock-out Sanders, and allow Hillary to concentrate on a general election strategy.

I want to strongly recommend that you add Anne Pence to one of the campaign's working groups -- particularly on economic policy, inclusive growth and job creation. I have known and worked with her now for over 15 years, first at State, and now at Covington. Anne was on my staff when I was Undersecretary of State for Economic, Business & Agricultural Affairs in the Clinton Administration, and continued with my successor, Ambassador Al Larson, for a total of some 9 years. She handled international economic and development policy as G8 policy advisor in support of our roles as G8 Foreign Affairs Sous Sherpa. She was a civil servant who remained in the Under Secretary's office (and accompanied the President's team at G8 prep meetings and Summits) because of her deep understanding of international machinery used to advance our economic interests (G8/G20, IFIs, UN, OECD, APEC and USAID and MCC), as well as sectors of key interest to the U.S., such as the financial sector, energy, manufacturing, labor markets, health, agriculture, high tech/IT and infrastructure.

She's a superb talent, who is able to cover the full breadth of international economic issues-- trade, investment, development assistance, international finance, health, climate change/sustainable development, anti-corruption, counter-terrorism finance, energy markets, as well as the global market economic conditions and challenges. Anne is also familiar with every USG agency involved in the international policy arena. She is among the most creative at marshaling evidence and arguments, in developing realistic initiatives, and in negotiating for consensus in extremely complex situations -- internationally as well as within our domestic bureaucracies. Anne is a Harvard-trained economist, with two masters degrees, one in economics, and the second at the Kennedy School in development. She is widely traveled, and has had direct experience with every region of the world, including on initiatives to help create jobs and stability in the Middle East. She's a huge asset, as well as collegial to work with. Below is a recent article she wrote on the G20.

Anne is co-hosting a fundraiser for Hillary this week, and has been a strong supporter from the start. I really believe she would be a great asset to the campaign.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

Stuart Eizenstat

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Can the G20 Pull the Global Economy Out of its Stall?

By Constance Anne Pence on February 19, 2016

In recent days, Citi strategist Jonathan Stubbs and his colleagues have warned that the global economy is trapped in a "death spiral."[1] Economist Mohamed El-Erian says that the era when policymakers could rely upon growth from easy money provided by Central Banks is over, and went on too long[2] . Nouriel Roubini, also known as Dr. Doom for calling the mortgage crisis before most others, believes that extreme volatility, sluggish growth, deflationary pressures, financial stress and "unconventional" monetary policies are part of a "new abnormal" that could last for years. [3] William White, who heads the OECD's Economic Development and Review Committee, not only warned of a possible financial crisis before it hit, but in 2012 wrote convincingly about the potential for "ultra-easy money" policies to have the unintended consequence of making things worse over time. [4]

Larry Summers now sees a one-in-three chance of a global recession[5] in the next three years. The IMF — known for somewhat rosy forecasting — has again lowered estimates of global growth, as has the OECD.[6] Yet, the IMF still projects over 3 percent annual global growth for 2016 and 2017[7] , while more pessimistic forecasts cluster at just under 3 percent.[8] The U.S. economy puttered along at around 2.4 percent growth in 2015[9] , with falling unemployment, real wage increases, strengthening bank balance sheets and various other signs of economic life, which bring some hope to the global economy.

So, why the doom and gloom? And what, pray tell, could be done to dodge another global recession?

The underlying realities of the global economy are a lot like the television commercial where an elderly woman cries out, "help, I've fallen and I can't get up." Since the great recession of 2008-2009, policymakers worldwide have relied upon liquidity flooded into global markets by Central Banks to mitigate the severe damage of financial meltdown. With this, we avoided global depression, but growth has yet to lift-off sustainably in the years thereafter. Governments most certainly should have used those years to ensure healthy financial sectors and balance sheets, to rationalize public budgets, to invest in the productivity of their people and economies, and to make major improvements in public and corporate governance and institutional integrity. They should have acted boldly to facilitate and reduce the cost of business start-ups, and to facilitate financial inclusion and reduce the risk and cost of private investment, including in infrastructure. But facing already hard-hit domestic economies, tight budgets and political opposition, few did. And policymakers now fear they have little monetary or fiscal ammunition, or public support, with which to combat fearsome global economic clouds.

Since the financial meltdown, already unhealthy levels of debt worldwide — public, corporate and household — have continued to rise[10] even as private investment, commodity prices and emerging economy stock markets collapsed. Developing country equities lost $4.3 trillion in value in Q3 of 2015 alone. Global unemployment rates meanwhile have remained stuck at around 6 percent. [11] International trade, a reliable indicator of economic vibrancy, has slowed to a crawl due to low demand, a lack of trade finance and outright protectionism. [12] [13] Manufacturing and industrial output too are down.[14] And even if China manages a soft landing while transitioning industries away from state-managed export production to a more market-oriented service economy — no small feat — its economic slowdown will continue to have broad impacts. China's growth was responsible for about one-third of global growth over the past seven years. Growth has to come from somewhere.

Emerging markets had been the global economy's best hope. But in 2015, nearly $1 trillion in investment capital fled from emerging markets, the first net outflow in 27 years. Oil prices have declined far steeper and faster than predicted, but that hasn't offset other strong headwinds, even in oil importing countries. A strong dollar and weakening Chinese yuan (despite some recent Chinese efforts to prop it up) only make it harder for emerging markets to manage debt while trying to finance basic goods and services. Trillions of dollars have been wiped off the books as stock markets rise and fall precipitously, especially in

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emerging markets. And despite extremely low interest rates, banks, investment funds, corporations and people are hoarding cash, preferring to save rather than spend or invest for higher yields.

And make no mistake, though hundreds of millions escaped poverty in recent decades (mostly in China), tens of millions have now fallen back into poverty, in rich as well as poor countries. This includes millions in Russia, a resource-rich country with skilled labor, where plummeting oil prices and spending on guns versus butter have reversed economic gains. Furthermore, deep and destabilizing inequalities persist globally, and are worsening. Popular frustrations threaten to boil over in many countries — as we saw during the Arab Spring. Today, the poorest half of the population typically holds less than 10% of the wealth, in developed and developing economies alike. Pew Foundation surveys[15] find that some 75 to 90 percent of people believe inequality to be extremely serious, and they fault their governments.

And this "new abnormal" of stagnating growth, social immobility and low confidence in institutions and leaders is dangerous. Along with the real risk of another wrenching global recession comes risk of even greater instability in a world plagued with high levels of geo-political instability and great uncertainty. When people, political leaders and/or specific groups feel disenfranchised, targeted or blamed for economic dislocation and division, and helpless to make things better, they do not react well. Results can include nationalism, nativism, extremism, protectionism, military adventurism, conflict and violence. Such reactions are already evident in today's world. It's not the first time.

These dangers, and the economic cost and human suffering that would result from a global economic "death spiral," are neither inevitable nor insoluble. There are substantial, untapped global assets and opportunities for growth and progress. Thorny, persistent growth-barriers — such as corruption and weak rule of law and property rights — could be more effectively tackled rather than left to fester and undermine productivity. Good and coherent, not perfect, policy approaches might well encourage people to invest, take entrepreneurial risks to deliver new goods and services that are wanted and needed, or to improve and deliver existing products and services more efficiently. As Larry Summers recently opined, however, we seem "stuck." When times are tough economically and geopolitically, coordinated action among responsible governments may be most needed, but often hardest to achieve. But an "every country for itself" policy approach simply won't work to restart economic engines.

Fortunately, high-return opportunities for governments, communities and private enterprise to work together and invest productively worldwide are actually tremendous. Think about it: billions of people do not yet have regular access to basics such as clean water, reliable transportation, primary health care, electricity, literacy and useful skills, internet and communications technology, financial services, sanitation, housing , proper nutrition, a healthy natural environment, legal rights and accountable governance, and freedom from violence and repression. And even where those things are largely available, such as the United States and Europe, they cost more than they should and do not provide the best results possible. There are at least 20 highly-diverse countries with populations greater than 40 million — e.g. Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam — where creativity, drive and productivity have yet to be unleashed to anything near the potential. And even in countries with slow-growing and aging populations, there are plenty of unmet needs that markets could help to address — for better health, more convenient, reliable goods and services, and enriching social and cultural experiences.

The real dilemma now is what can and should be done to get out of any economic "death spiral." It certainly will require instilling confidence that an integrated global economy and pluralistic societies that value both inclusion and competition can work, and deliver lasting improvements in people's everyday lives. Nobel laureate economist Hernando de Soto recognized decades ago that a failure to integrate large swaths of people into the formal economy, with their property rights established and protected, would leave only an elite minority to enjoy the economic benefits of the law and globalization. The productivity and assets of those not included and protected by economic systems (tens of trillions of dollars) would languish as "dead capital." He knew all too well from violent peasant rebellion in his native Peru that failing to build social systems within which the poor (and the middle class, many would argue) can be

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productive and meet basic needs, especially while others prosper disproportionately, is a recipe for instability. And conflicted, divided societies grow more slowly, which only makes things worse. No surprise that all sorts of alarms are sounding just now.

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet at the end of this month, February 26-27, in Shanghai. China chairs the G20 this year. G20 members represent around 85 per cent of global gross domestic product, over 75 per cent of global trade, and two-thirds of the world's population. The G20[16] also includes many of the emerging markets with the greatest untapped potential to help get us out of this "death spiral." The G20 could commit to specific measurable near- and longer-term steps and outcomes — together and individually — that would steer the global economy towards more confidence and certainty, and sustained growth, if they can agree together to take some politically-difficult steps. As IMF Managing Director LaGarde urges, we need a "New Partnership for Growth."[17]

Here are some growth-oriented policy initiatives and themes which could be part of urgent, concerted G20 effort to fuel shared global growth, job creation, financial stability and rising productivity:

1) **Infrastructure with Integrity** — Trillions of dollars of investment in new and rehabilitated infrastructure is needed worldwide, and good infrastructure correlates directly with growth.[18] It is estimated that redirecting savings toward efficient investment in emerging market infrastructure alone could increase global GDP by around 7 percent over the next 10 years.[19] Some two-thirds of all Africans still have no access to electricity, obviously a constraint to growth. But infrastructure spending is notoriously a place in which to hide corruption, waste and over-spending. With interest rates low, materials cheap and labor available, the G20 should act on its own superb work to launch an "Infrastructure with Integrity" initiative to match private investment (especially long-term institutional capital) with projects in countries committed to competition, transparency and supportive policies. Those countries and projects could also be supported by bilateral and multilateral funding, project development services, investment guarantees and risk insurance. Links to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative and Construction Sector Transparency (COST) initiative could help to reduce the risks that keep private investors on the side lines and out of such investments.

2) **Trade and Investment Cost Reduction** — The World Bank and other institutions have very useful ways of measuring the high cost and counterproductive impacts of logistical, legal and regulatory and other impediments to trade and investment and market entry barriers. The global implosion of trade and investment levels (both domestic and foreign) highlight the value of an urgent campaign to reduce such costs. By some estimates, the stock of products subjected by G20 members to non-tariff barriers and other less transparent restrictions is up by some 50 percent since the global financial crisis. The new G20 Trade and Investment Working Group could launch a program to support (with multilateral involvement) programs and commitments aimed at measurably reducing these costs and barriers at the national and regional level.

3) **Business Ecosystem Development** — Dynamic, inclusive economies flourish best where the "business ecosystem" for private enterprises of all sizes and types (including start-ups and disruptors) is healthy, competitive and integrated across the value chain. A G20 focus on analyzing and measurably improving and enabling such an "ecosystem" might better promote comprehensive action on elements that together promote efficiency and productivity — rule of law and property rights, institutional capacity and accountable governance (both public and private), sound and inclusive financial systems, efficient tax and regulatory systems, human capital investment and sustainable natural resource management. G20 Members could model success by auditing and committing to improve measurably their own "business ecosystems," building on indicators and indices maintained by the World Bank and other institutions.

4) **Strong Fundamentals for Balanced Growth** — The G20 has a Working Group on the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, but its crisis-era focus has been on near-term stabilization. It looks to be time for a pivot to committed steps on structural reform. Fiscal sustainability (which requires growth not just "austerity"), e.g. as regards entitlements and broader tax bases; labor market revitalization and reform; greater capacity for openness and innovation (e.g. intellectual property rights, R&D, information and communications services, continuous access for all to information and skills);

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strong bank balance sheets and greater financial sector resilience to crises (including appropriate deleveraging — corporate debt is very high in many emerging markets); and, international progress on modernizing tax policies, e.g. faster global implementation of the OECD Base Erosion and Profit-Shifting (BEPs) measures are all areas where committed action could benefit broad-based global growth.

5) **Global Economic Coordination** — This deserves careful analysis, because missteps could make things worse, and have unintended consequences, as some argue regarding "ultra-easy" monetary policies. However, it is clear that major economic imbalances co-exist along with tremendous volatility in global markets. The falling value of China's yuan and strengthening US dollar are creating tumult and uncertainty, especially for emerging markets. Emerging markets do not have access to reciprocal swap lines between central banks and their financial safety nets remain weak. This makes them more dependent on their FX reserves for financial stability. Whether there are better approaches is worth G20 discussion. At the same time, the complexity of financial markets globally, and especially in in developed-country markets, is known to have increased. Some believe that beyond the soundness of banks, the G20 need to examine and address the degree to which another "black swan" financial crisis could cause important segments of their financial markets to seize up from a lack of liquidity. French economist Hélène Rey[20] believes that her research shows that global market openness and integration has advanced to the point where there is now a "global financial cycle" responsible for some 25% of movement in open economies, including bubbles, booms and busts. That should give the G20 still more incentive to define and promote financial sector health broadly, and to consider the implications with respect to financial risk-taking.

So, it is true that global economic conditions are very precarious. Mohammed El Erian may well be right that we are at a critical "T juncture," where a wrong move, or lack of positive movement, could make recession all but inevitable. But there is also a lot of room for helpful G20 steps to achieve good if not perfect results, in part by reducing the enormous risk, uncertainty and fear that now burdens consumers, producers and investors. This is a test for the G20, and for China's important role as an emerging market leader. If the G20 can agree on concrete, effective, cooperative steps, we may finally see the end of this dismal period of economic gloom and doom, and less of the popular frustrations that appear to feed dangerous instability and extremism.

[1] http://www.cnbc.com/2016/02/05/citi-world-economy-trapped-in-death-spiral.html

[2] http://www.cnbc.com/2016/01/26/mohamed-el-erian-warns-about-a-day-of-reckoning.html

[3] http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/market-volatility-in-global-economy-by-nouriel-roubini-2016-02

[4] http://dallasfed.org/assets/documents/institute/wpapers/2012/0126.pdf

[5] https://hereandnow.wbur.org/2016/01/27/larry-summers-us-economy

[6] http://www.slideshare.net/oecdeconomy/oecd-interim-economic-outlook-february-2016-presentation

[7] http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2016/update/01/

[8] https://www.conference-board.org/data/globaloutlook/

[9] http://www.tradingeconomics.com/united-states/gdp-growth

[10] http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/economic_studies/debt_and_not_much_deleveraging

[11] http://reports.weforum.org/outlook-global-agenda-2015/top-10-trends-of-2015/2-persistent-jobless-growth/

[12] http://qz.com/544891/global-trade-has-fallen-to-recession-levels-oecd/

[13] https://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/GEP/GEP2015a/pdfs/GEP2015a_chapter4_report_trade.pdf

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[14] http://www.worldeconomics.com/SMI/Global-Manufacturing-SalesManagersIndex.efp

[15] http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/11/08/with-41-of-global-wealth-in-the-hands-of-less-than-1-elites-and-citizens-agree-inequality-is-a-top-priority/

[16] Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, European Union.

[17] https://www.imf.org/external/np/speeches/2016/020416.htm

[18] http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTSDNET/Resources/infrastructure-background-note-G20.pdf

[19] Restoring and Sustaining Growth, prepared by Staff of the World Bank for the G20, June 8, 2012

[20] https://www.kansascityfed.org/publicat/sympos/2013/2013rey.pdf

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jesse Ferguson" <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/26/2015 3:37:16 AM
Subject: Re: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

This is amazing. A pleasure to read.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2015, at 10:31 AM, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

great work everyone. this interview is perfect. he lands nothing and everything is refuted (mostly based on our work)

On Sun, Apr 26, 2015 at 9:49 AM, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

Apr 26, 2015, 9:34 AM ET

This is a rush transcript for April 26, 2015. It will be updated and may contain errors.

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-clinton-cash-author-peter-schweizer/story?id=30568766&singlePage=true

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, HOST: And the author of "Clinton Clash," Peter Schweizer, joins us now.

Thank you for joining us this morning, Peter.

You know, I was looking at the book jacket right here and you say that, here in the book jacket that your reporting raises serious and alarming questions about judgment of possible indebtedness to an array of foreign interests and ultimately, a fitness for high public office.

So how does your reporting show that **Hillary Clinton** may be unfit for the presidency?

PETER SCHWEIZER, AUTHOR, "CLINTON CLASH": Well, I think the real question here, George, is when you ever have an issue of the flow of funds to political candidates, whether that's to their campaigns, whether that's to private foundations, whether that's to their spouse, is there evidence of a pattern of -- of favorable decisions being made for those individuals?

And I think the -- the point that we make in the book is that there is a troubling pattern.

There are dozens of examples of that occurring.

Some people, I think particularly the Clinton camp, would say that these are all coincidence. I don't think, when you're talking about 12 instances, you're talking coincidence. I think you're talking trend.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But you take it pretty far. You write that, "The pattern of behavior is troubling enough to warrant further investigation by law enforcement (INAUDIBLE)."..

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that a crime may have been committed?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it's -- if you look at a couple of recent examples. For example, Governor McConnell down in Virginia, or you look at **Senator Menendez** , in these cases, you didn't have evidence of a quid pro quo. What you had was funds flowing to elected officials, some of them gifts, some of them campaign contributions and actions that were being taken by those public officials that seemed to benefit the contributors.

Certainly, I think it warrants investigation. What that investigation will reveal, we'll see.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: But a criminal investigation?

SCHWEIZER: Well, we'll see. I mean that's what the Governor McConnell has faced and that's what Menendez has faced.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the...

SCHWEIZER: And I think the evidence here is far more widespread in terms of repeated action than there were in those two instances.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Clinton campaign says you haven't produced a shred of evidence that there was any official action as secretary that -- that supported the interests of donors.

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action. And an independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison, of the Sunline Foundation (ph), wrote this. He said, "There's no smoking gun, no evidence that she changed the policy based on donations to the foundation."

No smoking gun.

Is there a smoking gun?

SCHWEIZER: Yes. The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior. And here's the analogy I would give you. It's a little bit like **insider trading** . I wrote a book on Congressional insider trading a couple of years ago and talked with prosecutors.

Most people that engage in criminal insider trading don't send an e-mail that says I've got inside information, buy this stock.

The way they look at it, they look at a pattern of stock trades. If the person has access to that information and then they do a series of well-timed trades. That warrants investigation.

I think the same thing applies here.

By the way, what's important to note is it was confirmed on Thursday, both by "The New York Times" and "The **Wall Street Journal** ," that there are multi-million dollar, non-disclosed donations that were made to the **Clinton Foundation** that were never disclosed by the Clintons.

This is a direct breach of an agreement they suggested with the White House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That -- that is an issue for them, but it's not a criminal -- it's nothing that would warrant a cmii.

So let's look at some of the specifics behind your pattern.

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of focus on the sale of a company, Uranium One, to a -- to a **Russian** company. Of course, Frank Drisdra (ph), who had committed, what, a $130 million, a pledge to the Clinton Foundation back in 2006, had had an interest in this company.

But he actually sold it.

SCHWEIZER: Well, he sold his stock, but his firm, Endeavor Financial, continued to do finance deals well after that. And the individuals involved in the book, as you probably read, there are nine -- count them, nine major contributors to the Clinton Foundation who were involved in that nuclear deal.

The two individuals who were the financial advisers on the deal of the sale to the Russians, they're both major Clinton Foundation supporters. The chairman of that Foundation, Ian Telfer, whose donations were not disclosed, campaign -- and sorry, Clinton Foundation contributor. And there are others.

So this is not just about Frank Giustra. This is multiple layers (INAUDIBLE)...

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STEPHANOPOULOS: OK, but you didn't disclose in your book that he had sold the interest.

SCHWEIZER: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Beyond that, this deal was approved by a -- a board of the government called the CFIUS Board.

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: This actually chaired by the secretary of the Treasury...

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- not the secretary of State.

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Eight other agencies on board, the secretary of State, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- signed off on it. And even though the State Department was one of nine agencies to sign off on it, there's no evidence at all that Hillary Clinton got directly involved in this decision.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it warrants further investigation. And there's a couple of things that need to be clarified.

Number one, she was one vote -- or the State Department was one vote on CFIUS. But any agency has veto power. So it needs to be unanimous. So they had to support this agreement.

The second thing that I would say is that in the midst of all of this, Hillary Clinton was in charge of the Russian reset. She was in charge of -- in -- of the A123 nuclear agreements with the Russians. She was the one that was meeting with Lavrov. There were four senior congressmen on national security issues that raised concerns about this issue...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But wait a second. There were nine different agencies...

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- who approved it.

Doesn't that suggest that that was because there was no national security concern, not because of some nefarious influence by Hillary Clinton?

SCHWEIZER: But -- but look at the nine individuals that were on the CFIUS committee, the nine agencies represented.

Who was, by far, the most hawkish on CFIUS issues in the past?

Hillary Clinton. She was big on rejecting the Dubai ports deal. She was big on other issues. She sponsored legislation when she was in the Senate to straighten CFIUS.

This was a signature issue for her and this is totally out of character...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the assistant secretary who sat -- the assistant secretary of State who sat on the committee said she never intervened on any CFIUS issue at all.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think that deserves further scrutiny. I would question that.

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To argue that (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But based on what?

Based on what?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think based on her (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that she actually intervened in this issue?

SCHWEIZER: No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, George, this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is afoot.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And that -- that is that -- the Clintons do say it's a coincidence. As they say, you have produced no evidence. And I still haven't heard any direct evidence and you just said you had no evidence that she intervened here.

But I do want to ask a broader question.

It's been reported that you -- you briefed several Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the chairman, Bob Corker.

Did you offer any briefings for Democrats?

SCHWEIZER: No, but I'd be glad to give them before the book is released. This was a -- a friend that asked me. He thought it would be a good idea to talk to these individuals. This was the committee that confirmed her.

And I was glad to meet with them. They did not get copies of the book. They did not get any material. It was simply a verbal briefing.

And I'd be glad to brief any Democrats before May 5th, when the book comes out.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Democrats have said this is -- this is an indication of your partisan interest. They say...

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- you used to work for President -- President Bush as a speechwriter. You're funded by the Koch brothers.

How do you respond to that?

SCHWEIZER: Well, George, what did I do when this book was completed?

I went to the investigative unit at "The New York Times," the investigative unit here at ABC. I went to the investigative unit at "The Washington Post." And I shared with them my findings, OK. These are not cupcakes. These are serious researchers and investigators.

And they are confirming what I've reported. So people can look at the facts and...

STEPHANOPOULOS: They haven't come -- they haven't confirmed any evidence of any crime.

SCHWEIZER: Well, but -- but it's not up to an author to prove crime. I mean do you think that when people first started looking at Governor McConnell or they started looking at Menendez, that they immediately had evidence?

You need subpoena power. You need access to records and information. You need access to e-mails.

There's all sorts of things that you can do. You can't leave it up to an author to say that an author has to prove a criminal case.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally, Bloomberg News is reporting that you're going to be looking into Jeb Bush's business dealings, as well.

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Is that true?

What have you found?

Where and when will you publish?

SCHWEIZER: We've been working on it for about four months. We've been looking at land deals. We've been looking at an airport deal. We've been looking at some financial transactions involving hedge funds based out of the UK.

We have already reached out to several media outlets and we're going to adopt a similar model that we have here, which is to share that information with investigative journalists at established news outlets, share with them that information.

And I think that people will find it very, very interesting and compelling.

Peter Schweizer, thanks very much.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks for having me, George.

Up next, the roundtable on this Hillary book and augways (ph) from the campaign trail.

Plus, same-sex marriage coming to the Supreme Court this week.

Bruce Jenner's big announcement puts transgender issues in the spotlight. We debate the next frontier in civil rights.

And we're back in just two minutes.

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Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
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To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	9/30/2014 7:30:18 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday September 30, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday September 30, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton launched education initiatives to raise the status of girls around the world #HRC365 http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-education-for-girls-futures … [9/29/14, 1:45 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Politico: "Bill Clinton to sub for Hillary Clinton at Brown event"

"Hillary Clinton has bowed out of a fundraiser for Maryland gubernatorial hopeful Anthony Brown scheduled for Tuesday after the birth of her granddaughter — but Bill Clinton will be there in her place, it was reported Tuesday."

Baltimore Sun: "Hillary Clinton cancels Brown fundraising appearance, sends Bill Clinton"

"New grandmother and former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton has decided to stay home in New York with daughter Chelsea today, skipping a planned high-dollar fundraiser for Democratic Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown."

Public Policy Polling: "Iowa Senate race remains close, slight edge to Ernst"

"Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush are tied in a hypothetical 2016 match up in Iowa at 43%. Clinton leads the rest of the Republican field by 4-8 points. It's 45/41 over Chris Christie, 46/42 over Mike Huckabee, 47/42 over Rand Paul, and 47/39 over Ted Cruz."

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New York Times: "Mitt Isn't Ready to Call It Quits"

"He [Gov. Mitt Romney] called Hillary Clinton an 'enabler' of Obama's foreign policy and said he was concerned by the isolationist inclination of likely Republican presidential candidates like Rand Paul."

BuzzFeed: "The 'Totally Ridiculous' Romney Boomlet"

"This is, they say, not a thing."

Associated Press: "Eying 2016, Rand Paul Courts Young Voters"

"Paul says the Republican Party has a big opportunity to attract more young voters - a group that fueled President Barack Obama's success and could prove critical to Hillary Rodham Clinton should she seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016."

Articles:

Politico: "Bill Clinton to sub for Hillary Clinton at Brown event"

By Maggie Haberman

September 30, 2014, 11:20 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton has bowed out of a fundraiser for Maryland gubernatorial hopeful Anthony Brown scheduled for Tuesday after the birth of her granddaughter — but Bill Clinton will be there in her place, it was reported Tuesday.

"I am very grateful to President Clinton for changing his schedule to travel to Maryland and attend our event this evening," Brown, Maryland's lieutenant governor, said in a statement to The Baltimore Sun. "I appreciate and respect Secretary Clinton's decision to stay and spend time with her daughter and new granddaughter, Charlotte. I appreciate both of the Clintons' commitment to the Brown-Ulman campaign."

Bill Clinton's appearance falls on the same day as two other events Hillary Clinton canceled, both in Washington — one a conference by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and the other a fundraiser for a New Hampshire state legislator.

Brown would become the third African-American official in the country to be elected governor, and could be a key surrogate for Hillary Clinton among black voters if she runs for president, as expected.

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Baltimore Sun: "Hillary Clinton cancels Brown fundraising appearance, sends Bill Clinton"

By Erin Cox

September 30, 2014, 10:30 a.m. EDT

New grandmother and former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton has decided to stay home in New York with daughter Chelsea today, skipping a planned high-dollar fundraiser for Democratic Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown.

Instead, former President Bill Clinton will headline the event in her place.

"I am very grateful to President Clinton for changing his schedule to travel to Maryland and attend our event this evening," Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown said in a statement. "I appreciate and respect Secretary Clinton's decision to stay and spend time with her daughter and new granddaughter, Charlotte. I appreciate both of the Clintons' commitment to the Brown-Ulman campaign."

This will be the second fundraiser Bill Clinton has attended for Brown. The last one in May raised nearly $1 million for the Democrat's bid. Campaign organizers expected tonight's event at a wooded, 2.8-acre private home in Potomact to raise even more.

The Clintons curtailed their busy election season schedules after Charlotte was born Friday. Bill Clinton has long been scheduled to headline a fundraiser in North Carolina today for the re-election of U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, a first-term Democrat.

This morning, Clinton added a stop in Maryland to his schedule accommodate the Brown fundraiser, Brown's campaign said.

Public Policy Polling: "Iowa Senate race remains close, slight edge to Ernst"

[No Writer Mentioned]

September 30, 2014

PPP's newest Iowa Senate poll continues to find a tight race with Joni Ernst slightly ahead of Bruce Braley. Ernst is ahead 44/42 when all the third party candidates are included, and 45/43 in a straight head to head. The 45/43 advantage for Ernst is identical to what we found on our last poll of the race in late August.

Even though the horse race numbers haven't changed much, this is the first time we've found Ernst with a better net favorability rating than Braley. Ernst is at -4 with 42% of voters rating her favorably to 46% with a negative opinion, numbers that are up from a -10 spread at 36/46 in August. Meanwhile Braley's numbers continue their slow decline- he has a -7 rating with 37% rating him favorably and 44% holding an unfavorable opinion, down from -4 at 37/41 last month. Braley's favorability has dropped a net 17 points from where it was when we first polled a Braley/Ernst match up in July of 2013 and he was at +10 (34/24).

Both candidates have a pretty good lock on their party base. Only 5% of Democrats are crossing over to support Ernst, and just 8% of Republicans are crossing over to support Braley. The key for Ernst is with independent voters- she has a 45/35 advantage with them.

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The Governor's race in Iowa does not appear to be making any move towards being competitive. Terry Branstad leads Jack Hatch 50/36 with the full field of candidates and 52/38 in a straight head to head. Branstad is up 20 points with independents at 51/31, and is winning over 17% of the Democratic vote while losing just 6% of Republicans. The horse race numbers pretty closely track with Branstad's approval numbers at 53/38. Feelings about Hatch are divided three ways with about a third rating him favorably, a third unfavorably, and a third having no opinion either way.

The closest race down ballot continues to be the one for Secretary of State. Republican Paul Pate leads Democrat Brad Anderson 36/33, with 25% of voters remaining undecided. Also in the range of being competitive is the race for Auditor- Republican Mary Mosiman has a 41/35 advantage over Democratic challenger Jonathan Neiderbach there.

The other three statewide contests don't appear they'll be competitive this year. Democrat Tom Miller leads 53/33 for reelection as Attorney General, Republican Bill Northey is up 49/29 in his bid for another term as Agriculture Commissioner, and Michael Fitzgerald has a 47/35 advantage in his run at keeping the Treasurer's job.

Other notes from Iowa:

-Charles Grassley remains easily the state's most popular politician with 57% of voters approving of him to only 29% who disapprove. He would lead a hypothetical reelection contest against former Governor Tom Vilsack (also generally popular with a 46/36 favorability rating) 51/42. Tom Harkin is on positive ground with a +10 net approval rating at 47/37 as well. The only states besides Iowa in recent years where we've found the Governor and both Senators in a state all with +10 net approval ratings are Mississippi and Wyoming.

-Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush are tied in a hypothetical 2016 match up in Iowa at 43%. Clinton leads the rest of the Republican field by 4-8 points. It's 45/41 over Chris Christie, 46/42 over Mike Huckabee, 47/42 over Rand Paul, and 47/39 over Ted Cruz. We'll have early numbers on who Democrats and Republicans want as their 2016 nominees tomorrow.

New York Times: "Mitt Isn't Ready to Call It Quits"

By Mark Leibovich

September 30, 2014

"Hey, Ann, can you come here a sec?" Mitt Romney called out, sinking into the cushions of a walnut-colored easy chair, his legs outstretched on a matching ottoman. Romney's blue work shirt was tucked into faded jeans; sockless ankles peeked out from his New Balance sneakers. He paused as Ann Romney entered from the kitchen, where she was baking chocolate-chip cookies. "Sweetie," he continued, "what are some of the items we gave away at the Yankee swap?"

It was a September morning, and the Romneys were closing up their summer house in Wolfeboro, N.H. The place, which is vast and uncluttered, had a decidedly empty-nester vibe. Framed family photos were clustered on shelves; half-packed bags were strewn around the kitchen. The silence in the living room was accentuated by the distant whine of motorboats on Lake Winnipesaukee. After years of traveling entourages, the Romneys now live alone. There were no staff members or aides or handlers; no phones rang. Nothing announced the presence of an almost-president, other than a sign on the porch: "Ann and Mitt Romney: Tennis, Volleyball, Water-Sports." A single Cadillac SRX was parked in the driveway as a flock of geese orbited overhead. "Darn geese," Romney said, "keep pooping all over the lawn."

The Romneys are in downsizing mode. They have sold their Belmont, Mass., townhouse, and they also might sell the villa in La Jolla, Calif., which they purchased for $12 million in 2008 — the one with the zoning and renovation troubles, the disdainful Democratic neighbors and the much-derided plans for a car elevator. On a lark, they recently decided to make their permanent home in Utah, where they are building a house adjacent to one of their five sons' 2.5-acre property.

The relocation has not been without its practical concerns. When you run for president twice, you tend to accumulate huge amounts of campaign souvenirs, gifts and other detritus. However elusive the ultimate prize, the trunkloads of consolation trophies endure: There are the plaques, the

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awards and the occasional engraved glass eagle (“I got it for a speech or something”). Then there are the homemade portraits of the candidate, sent in by supporters. The Romneys have also saved 22 of each campaign T-shirt, button and poster — one for each of their grandchildren. From Ann’s $1,000-a-plate birthday luncheon in April 2012, they have saved the cake topping of her on horseback that was commissioned by Donald Trump.

Had the election turned out differently, these tokens might have found a nice home in some government facility, en route to a presidential library. Instead, Romney was forced to cram them into his garage in Wolfeboro. When he began to worry that the snowy winters would foster mold, he loaded what he could into a horse trailer and paid a guy named Poppy to drive it across the country. Before he left, the Romneys hosted a giveaway party, or Yankee swap, for the things they didn’t want.

“What about that elephant purse?” Ann said, arriving from the kitchen in a light blue blouse and jeans. “Did you mention the elephant purse?”

“Ah, the elephant purse,” Mitt said, nodding. A very nice woman had given it to him, perhaps in Iowa, or maybe Ohio or Nevada. “She made it with that puff paint,” Mitt said. “It had those, what do you call them, bedazzle beads.” Ron Kaufman, a longtime adviser, snared this particular keepsake at the Yankee swap.

“Very appropriate,” Ann said. “Ron is the king of tchotchkes.”

“The best was the bust of Ronald Reagan,” Romney continued. “It was plaster but bronzed. Or it looked like it was bronzed. It said, ‘Governor Mitt Romney, the Reagan Freedom Award,’ or something of that nature.” His tone had hardened a little, acquiring the edge of a sarcastic boast. “I actually have several busts of Ronald Reagan that have been presented to me,” he said. Then the room fell silent as Ann returned to the kitchen to set out a small buffet of sliced turkey, corned beef, two loaves of Pepperidge Farm bread (white and wheat) and a selection of both mayonnaise and Miracle Whip. Romney, sinking back in his chair, looked out the window as more geese flew by.

After losing the presidential election to Barack Obama in 2012, Romney expected to become a political empty-nester of sorts — a “loser for life,” as he predicted in “Mitt,” the Netflix documentary about his two presidential campaigns. (“Mike Dukakis, you know, he can’t get a job mowing lawns,” he remarked at the time.) Unlike John McCain and John Kerry, Romney didn’t have a job to return to in the Senate. Unlike Al Gore, he had already amassed extraordinary wealth. Romney, who is 67, was left to confront the vacuum of a long retirement, come what may.

Being the first nominee to nurse his defeat fully in the social-media age brought its own indignities. Gore could go away and grow a beard, then get rich, fat and separated from his wife, all in relative obscurity. Romney, by contrast, has posed dutifully for Instagram photos with commercial-airline companions (“airports are the worst”), supermarket employees and staff members at Wahoo’s Fish Taco. He briefly inspired a hashtag, #SelfiesWithMitt. Recently he was taking an early-morning jog in Arkansas, where he was campaigning for the Republican gubernatorial candidate, Asa Hutchinson, when a woman accosted him. “You’re John Kerry! You’re John Kerry!” she yelled. He tried to correct her, but she wasn’t buying it; she kept running alongside him. “I said, ‘I’m not John Kerry — I’m Tom Brady,’ ” Romney recalled. At that, she left him alone.

As a candidate, Romney often appeared as if he were bracing for a light fixture to drop on his head. On this September morning, though, he seemed far more at ease. No doubt some of his buoyancy could be ascribed to a postdefeat surge of popularity. G.O.P. candidates had been begging him to campaign and raise money for them; polls had found that he would defeat Obama in a rerun of 2012. A number of Romney’s seemingly askew assertions during the campaign — like identifying Russia as the United States’ greatest geopolitical threat — now looked prescient. An online “Draft Mitt” petition had already accumulated more than 120,000 votes of support.

Romney shrugged off the recent attention, citing the natural human tendency to covet the unavailable. (“If you live in the mountains, you long for the trees and the lakes,” he said. “If you live in the trees and the lakes. . . .”) And yet a confluence of political realities has created a genuine opening for a Romney third act. As Obama struggles through a difficult final term, there is a lack of a clear Republican heir apparent. Presumptive early front-runners, like Chris Christie and Jeb Bush, have shown themselves to be flawed or reluctant or both. A splintering of possible movement candidates (Rand Paul, Ted Cruz) could beget a need for a default consensus choice.

Romney, for his part, is noticeably playing along. He recently told a radio host that he was not planning on running for president but allowed that “circumstances can change.” A recent column by the conservative pundit Byron York noted that Romney had kept in close contact with many of his advisers and aides. As we spoke, Romney compared the barrage of 2016-related questions to a scene in the film “Dumb and Dumber.” After Jim Carrey’s character is flatly rejected by Lauren Holly, she tells him that there’s a one-in-a-million chance she would change her mind. “So,” Romney told me, embodying the character, “Jim Carrey says, ‘You’re telling me there’s a chance.’ ”

This was the obvious opening for me to ask if there was a chance. Romney’s response was decidedly meta — “I have nothing to add to the story” — but he then fell into the practiced political parlance of nondenial. “We’ve got a lot of people looking at the race,” he said. “We’ll see what

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happens."

As deftly as Romney plays the self-deprecating bridesmaid, he is open about his dread of becoming irrelevant. After his father, George Romney, a three-term Michigan governor, lost the state's primary in 1968, he struggled to get meetings. "I remember my dad becoming quite frustrated," Romney said. "He used to say that Washington is the fastest place to go from 'Who's Who' to 'Who's That?' " In the saturated media landscape of today, the son has been luckier. "I have been able to get on TV, get key interviews, get op-eds published," Romney said. When I showed up in Wolfeboro, as Romney led me to the living room, he made sure we were on the record. "You have a tape recorder? Notebook?" he asked me as he was describing the potential mold problems of New Hampshire storage. He wanted to make sure I got this.

Romney also seemed eager to put much less frivolous points on the record. He spoke dismissively about his visit to the White House shortly after the 2012 election — the cursory meeting in which the former combatants are supposed to play gracious, take pictures together and make noises about issues on which they might work together in the future. "It was intended to check a box," Romney said of the president's invitation. He was not offered any follow-up, which was typical, Romney said, according to what he heard from some of his executive friends. "No one gets the impression that what they are saying is being incorporated," he told me. "I won't mention who it was, but I met with one of the nation's top Republican leaders, and he said, 'You know the strange thing is that the president seems to answer to only two people — Valerie Jarrett and Michelle Obama.' "

Romney derided Obama for his continual complaints about Republican intransigence. "That's the nature of democracy," he said, shaking his head with an exaggerated grimace. He contrasted this with the exemplary bipartisan record of, for instance, himself. When he was governor of Massachusetts, Romney reminded me, he always worked with the state's liberal stalwart, Ted Kennedy. "Ted Kennedy would do the work," Romney said, in contrast to the state's other longtime senator. "John Kerry was always in front of the camera but not out doing the hard work." He called Hillary Clinton an "enabler" of Obama's foreign policy and said he was concerned by the isolationist inclination of likely Republican presidential candidates like Rand Paul. Romney told me that he was more passionate about foreign affairs than he showed in the 2012 campaign, which was largely given over to domestic affairs. It went without saying that this probably wouldn't be the case in 2016.

"Mitt," which was released in January, portrayed the candidate as a family man — vulnerable, funny and cognizant of the absurdity of his undertaking. "One of the big frustrations a lot of us had on the campaign is that people weren't seeing the guy we all know in private," said Representative Paul Ryan, Romney's running mate in 2012, offering a familiar complaint. "The 'Mitt' documentary was a very good picture of that guy." I asked Ryan if the film's warm portrayal might argue for a looser, less scripted approach to campaigns. "The pressure you get from the consultant class to conform to the norm and do these stock standard things drives me nuts, personally," he said.

When I asked Romney the same question, however, he said the exact opposite. "There will be no free time in the back of the plane where you'd just go back and shoot the breeze with the media," he told me. He would do this occasionally, but his aides argued against it. "They were always afraid that, you know, I'd make some little joke or someone would ask some question that couldn't be answered — you know, 'When did you stop beating your wife?' " Romney told me that during the campaign, the F.B.I. informed him that a foreign government — he wouldn't say which — was reading his emails. This was another reminder that there could be no safe zone, no such thing as an unplugged candidate. "The era of spontaneity in politics is over," he declared, as I immediately wondered when it had started.

"I was talking to one of my political advisers," Romney continued, "and I said: 'If I had to do this again, I'd insist that you literally had a camera on me at all times" — essentially employing his own tracker, as opposition researchers call them. "I want to be reminded that this is not off the cuff." This, as he saw it, was what got him in trouble at that Boca Raton fund-raiser, when Romney told the crowd he was writing off the 47 percent of the electorate that supported Obama (a.k.a. "those people"; "victims" who take no "personal responsibility"). Romney told me that the statement came out wrong, because it was an attempt to placate a rambling supporter who was saying that Obama voters were essentially deadbeats.

"My mistake was that I was speaking in a way that reflected back to the man," Romney said. "If I had been able to see the camera, I would have remembered that I was talking to the whole world, not just the man." I had never heard Romney say that he was prompted into the "47 percent" line by a ranting supporter. It was also impossible to ignore the phrase "If I had to do this again."

Romney's camera-at-all-times plan, however, reflected his own limitations as a candidate. By the same token, it was quite an indictment that "Mitt" — made by a little-known filmmaker on a shoestring — created a more palatable rendering of Romney than his campaign, which spent hundreds of millions on genius operatives and image makers. Romney, for his part, seemed to understand this. No matter how content he appeared, when the conversation turned to his disappointment in losing, his voice dropped. "It really kills me," he said. "It really kills me." He became inaudible, and it seemed as if he might tear up.

As if to rescue him, Ann called out from the kitchen that lunch was ready. Mitt remained in the living room, now staring at the floor. "The consequences of my loss are very clear to me and to a lot of people," he said. "And that's really hard." His voice dropped to nearly a whisper, before he caught himself and quickly pivoted. "Let's get a sandwich!" he bellowed.

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Following behind, I informed the defending Republican nominee that I would now be turning off my tape recorder and that he could relax. “Oh,” he said, “you can keep recording.”

Mark Leibovich is the magazine’s chief national correspondent and the author of the forthcoming book “Citizens of the Green Room.”

BuzzFeed: “The ‘Totally Ridiculous’ Romney Boomlet”

By Ben Smith

September 30, 2014, 12:15 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Kristol is queasy. This is not a thing.

There’s only one false note in Mark Leibovich’s wonderful visit to Mitt Romney’s quite nice new life, in which the former Republican nominee — rather than having the letter “L” for “loser” branded on his forehead — is enjoying the low-level celebrity of airport selfies and ongoing flattery of sycophants who say they want him to run for president.

The false note: “a confluence of political realities has created a genuine opening for a Romney third act.”

There are a few people who think this is the case: true Romney loyalists and believers, Republicans like Emil Henry, Robert O’Brien, and Hugh Hewitt, who just love the guy and write about it in Politico. They are all but family; I’m not sure what the actual family thinks. Members of his former political staff — people who talk to Romney regularly, and regard him highly — saidTuesday morning that they didn’t actually think he’d run, and viewed it, at best, as not a great idea. Indeed, some of his real admirers (and most people who worked for Romney do admire him) were trying out their eye-rolls Tuesday morning at this feeblest of boomlets.

This is, they say, not a thing.

“I respect Romney, but have the queasy feeling that Romney ‘16 would be a reprise of Dewey ‘48,” Weekly Standard editor and former Romney champion Bill Kristol said in an email.

One top former Romney aide, who likes and respects Romney and thinks he would make a great president, agreed to speak on the condition of not being named or identified, and to outline the broad sense in what’s left of Romneyworld.

“It’s ridiculous — totally ridiculous,” the former aide said.

The core flaw is a kind of cluelessness about how this is going to work, a bit of wishful thinking indulged by a handful of donors who love Romney — but not actually much on the minds of the top Republican fundraisers now thinking about Paul and Cruz, Rubio and Bush, and the other more plausible candidates for president.

“Here’s the problem with the theory of the Romney candidacy, as much as I love the guy and as much as I think he’d be a good president,” the former aide began. “The problem with the way these [Romney donors and friends] are treating a potential Romney candidacy is that they act as though Romney, if he were to get into the race, picks up where he gets off. As though, because he was the last Republican nominee, he’s still the Republican nominee unless he decides to bequeath it to someone else.”

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"The field is not going to be nearly as weak as it was last time and nobody in the field, including the potential establishment candidates — Jeb or Chris Christie or Scott Walker — believe they should step aside for Mitt Romney," the former aide predicted. "So Romney gets into the race and he's suddenly competing with heavy-duty candidates who have as much claim on the mainstream donor base as he does, and suddenly he's in a messy primary where these people will be going at him in a very nasty way."

And here is the thing that Leibovich's piece really gets at: Mitt Romney has been surprised by his life since the defeat. He predicted he'd be branded a "loser for life" after 2012, his name — like Mike Dukakis' — synonymous with defeat. Instead, he's regarded with warmth, if not passion, by people who still think he would have made a decent president, and don't all blame him for blowing it.

"I think Romney really likes where he is right now," said the former aide. "He's saying, 'Wow — I ran and I lost and I'm still held in high esteem' … He's really taken aback by that. He wants to bottle that."

And to run would, probably, be to give that up for good.

"Wouldn't it be truly pathetic if on his third time he doesn't even win the nomination?" asked the former aide. "Then he does have the 'L' and he's truly truly a diminished figure.

"I think he personally has thought that through more than the people who are pushing him to run."

Associated Press: "Eying 2016, Rand Paul Courts Young Voters"

By Steve Peoples

September 30, 2014, 3:00 a.m. EDT

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is working to improve the Republican Party's image among young voters as he visits South Carolina, a key state in the presidential primary calendar.

The tea party favorite, who hopes to strengthen his national network ahead of a likely White House bid, was set to appear at the University of South Carolina and at the College of Charleston on Tuesday before addressing the Horry County GOP.

Paul says the Republican Party has a big opportunity to attract more young voters - a group that fueled President Barack Obama's success and could prove critical to Hillary Rodham Clinton should she seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016. Polls suggest Obama's standing with younger voters has slipped significantly in recent months.

"Young people aren't so wedded to party," Paul, 51, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "The kids are probably adrift somewhat. And I don't think someone who is an authoritarian, or comes from a much more authoritarian point of view like Hillary Clinton, will attract them."

While the next presidential primary season won't begin in earnest until next year, Paul already has established himself as among the most active prospective candidates. His South Carolina visit marks his fourth appearance in the state this year, according to his office. But he disputed a recent report that he had decided to seek the presidency as long as his wife agreed.

"There has been no final decision," Paul said, noting that his wife's support is "a big part" of that decision. "But you can tell obviously by my travels and by the people who have come to work for our organization that there is an interest. We're not sitting passively by and doing nothing. We're building a nationwide organization."

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Perhaps best known for his libertarian positions on civil liberties and foreign policy, Paul is casting himself as an anti-establishment conservative eager to repair what he called the Republican Party's "tattered" image.

He is critical of the GOP's push to require voters to present photo identification at the polls and reduce early voting in some states, moves criticized as efforts to suppress participation by minority voters who typically support Democrats. Republican-led legislatures in North Carolina and South Carolina in recent years passed Voter ID laws that were challenged by the Justice Department as discriminatory.

Paul said he doesn't think Republicans are trying to suppress the minority vote, but acknowledged that many African-Americans believe that to be the case.

"I've cautioned Republicans, `You need to be aware of peoples' perceptions,'" he said. "If the perception is out there, why don't you start talking about something good, like restoring peoples' right to vote?"

Paul is scheduled to spend Wednesday campaigning alongside Senate candidate Thom Tillis in North Carolina, where the Republican-led legislature has voted to limit early voting and end same-day voter registration.

"I think it's a dumb idea to spend a lot of time on Republicans trying to change early voting," Paul said, citing a similar law in Texas. "My position is I want more people to vote, not less."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Tina Flournoy" <Tina@presidentclinton.com>
Date:	2/9/2013 3:06:52 AM
Subject:	RE: Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 2.9.13.docx

Hannah,
Can you please use the attached/below updated biweekly instead of the one I sent yesterday? It now contains input from CGI.
Thank you!
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
February 9, 2013

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The Alliance conducted a satellite media tour with Billy Blanks and Tara Stiles to showcase the Fit for a Healthier Generation campaign aimed at making kids more active in schools. The tour reached more than 20 million people across the country.

24 Hour Fitness and Cigna have signed on to the Alliance's Healthcare Initiative and will offer their employees and employer groups, respectively, extended visits to primary care practitioners and covered visits to registered dietitians.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative

CHMI will meet with the PGA Tour later this week to finalize details on launching the CHMI community program in the Greater Jacksonville area.

CHMI met with Commissioner Kelly's team last week to discuss the details of the event on prescription drug abuse and further collaboration. Due to scheduling constraints, the event will take place in the spring on an NYC campus. Meanwhile, CHMI will be working with the NYPD to convene NYC college and university presidents to discuss ways in which these campuses can educate their students on the dangers of prescription drugs and the mixing of these drugs with other substances.

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative

CEO met with Kevin Langley, the former Global Chairman of the Entrepreneurs Organization (EO), to discuss possible partnership opportunities between EO and CEO. The Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) is a global business network of over 8,000 business owners in 122 chapters and 35 countries. Conversation centered upon the possibility of leveraging EO's New York and New Orleans chapters to create a small business event geared towards providing much needed advice and support to small business owners who were still in the midst of dealing with the damages brought on by Hurricane Sandy. Kevin was able to give valuable advice and emotional support to EO member and former EMP mentee Victor Chan, a small business owner whose business survived Hurricane Katrina. Kevin counseled Victor on how best to keep his South Street Seaport area restaurant business alive amidst a host of financing and real estate issues that have threatened to put him out of business. CEO will be continuing exploratory conversations with EO around how EO New Orleans entrepreneurs could be leveraged in a similar manner to support NYC area small business owners impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Inc. magazine is currently working to gain internal approvals on two possible collaboration opportunities: 1) integration of CEO's Entrepreneur Mentoring Program into the Inc. Business Owner Council in the form of a new business accelerator program and 2) a Women's Summit in collaboration with the Clinton Foundation.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Malawi

The trees project is being reviewed by a large purchaser of carbon credits in Scandinavia for a potential major purchase commitment (up to 40,000 tons per year). COTAP, the carbon credits broker in the US that is aiming to be the Kiva of carbon credits, has made over $3,700 in sales of Trees of Hope credits to individual buyers in the few months since signing a marketing agreement with CDI. Bank accounts have been established for Trees of Hope farmers who will be receiving their first payments from carbon sales.

CDI is working on finalizing the long-term lease agreement for the commercial farms. Discussions have begun with John McAslan on developing a master site plan for the commercial farms to help guide renovation and construction of needed infrastructure after leases are in place.

Rwanda

CDI has approached some technical schools and universities to recruit their best students for factory jobs at Mount Meru Soyco Ltd. They will conduct interviews in February and those selected will be sent to a factory in Arusha for a three-month training in March. The Soyco factory is preparing to begin buying raw materials from farmers.

Regarding the AGRA project, all crops are maturing on the field and the team hopes to begin the harvest and mobilize more farmers for the coming season by the end of this month. The CDI team has begun doing field days in the three Districts of the project area—Kayonza District, Kirehe District and Gatsibo District.

CDI has also been supporting the rehabilitation of the ISAR (Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du *Rwanda) microbiology lab* to be able to produce more inoculums. The lab has bought new equipment with CDI's support.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

Peru

CGSGI's cataract surgery program has reached 49, 646 surgeries. The 50,000 cataracts surgery goal is expected to be met by the end of February.

CGSGI is finalizing an MOU with the Peru's Ministry of Tourism to begin capacity building necessary to link small suppliers in Cusco, Peru with that region's hospitality and restaurant sector. The project is expected to launch in March.

Colombia

The Acceso Fund has agreed to capitalize a new Supply Chain Impact Enterprise in Cartagena, Colombia with USD $2.1 million. This enterprise is expected to begin operations in April and will procure agricultural products and seafood from local suppliers for resale to the hospitality, restaurant and supermarket markets along Colombia's caribbean coast. The business will provide distribution, warehousing, processing and logistics for the suppliers reducing the costs to both suppliers and buyers and creating opportunities for low income suppliers in the region to broaden their market opportunity and substantially increase their incomes. This is the second new enterprise capitalized by Acceso in Cartagena. The first, a hospitality labor training center, will start its first class in March.

Clinton Global Initiative

Annual Meeting

CGI currently has 127 paying members registered for the 2013 Annual Meeting. Of the total number of registrants, 106 are renewals, 61 fewer than last year at this time, and 21 are new, 9 more than last year at this time. CGI will contact each prior member who has not yet renewed over the next couple of weeks.

The United Postcode Lotteries has renewed its sponsorship for the 2013 Annual Meeting and increased from last year's amount of €300,000 euro to €400,000 euro.

CGI University

January 30 was the final application deadline for CGI U. A record number of applications was received from 3976 students, representing 136 countries and all 50 states.

32 colleges have formally joined the newly-created CGI University Network, committing a total of $357,000 in travel stipends and seed funding for student commitment-makers from their respective campuses.
Sponsorship of CGI U currently stands at $950,000.

Commitments

The Energy & Ecosystems Track has split into two distinct tracks: the Energy Track and the Environmental

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Stewardship Track.

Upcoming Convenings

Eighteen mayors have officially agreed to participate in the **Infrastructure Finance for Cities Task Force**, co-led by CGI and the US Conference of Mayors. They represent the cities of Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Louisville, Los Angeles, Mesa, New Orleans, Oakland, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Redmond, and San Francisco. The Task Force will begin work this month and culminate at CGI America in June.

Additional convenings in February include:

- **Best Practices in Employee Engagement** (2/8/2013)
- **Impact Investing: State of the Market** (2/11/2013)
- **Arts & Development in Post-Conflict Communities: Why the Arts Matter for Resilient Societies** (2/19/2013)
- **CGI Winter Meeting** (2/20/2013)
- **Integrating Women-Owned Businesses in Supply Chains: A Commitment Workshop** (2/21/2013)
- **Haiti Action Network** (2/27/2013)

Zayneb K. Shaikley
Associate Counsel & Initiative Liaison | William J. Clinton Foundation
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Direct: 917.720.0295 | Mobile: 646.873.0244
zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org | www.clintonfoundation.org

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From: Zayneb Shaikley
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 11:22 PM
To: Hannah Richert - PC; Bruce Lindsey; Stephanie Streett; 'Tina Flournoy'
Cc: Laura Graham; Valerie Alexander; Scott Curran; Amitabh Desai; Dennis Cheng; Bari Lurie; Angel Urena - PC; Jon Davidson - President Clinton; 'John Podesta'; Ali Rubin contact; Brittany Doyle Contact
Subject: Biweekly Report for WJC

Hannah,
Attached and below is President Clinton's latest biweekly report.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
February 8, 2013

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From:	"Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	4/26/2015 3:54:20 AM
Subject:	CNN: 'Clinton Cash' author says no "direct evidence" of wrongdoing

'Clinton Cash' author says no "direct evidence" of wrongdoing

Updated 10:11 AM ET, Sun April 26, 2015
http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/26/politics/schweizer-clinton-cash/

Washington (CNN)The author of a book alleging that some donors to the Clinton Foundation received favors while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state said Sunday that he did not have "direct evidence" of any impropriety, but argued the "pattern of behavior" required an investigation into Clinton's record.

Peter Schweizer claims in a forthcoming book, "Clinton Cash," that contributors to Clinton's family foundation had undue influence on American foreign policy. But when pressed by the host of ABC's "This Week," George Stephanopoulos, Schweizer said the record is only suggestive, not definitive.

"The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior," Schweizer said, comparing his findings to previous research he did on insider trading. "Most people that engage in criminal insider trading don't send an email and say, 'I've got inside information -- buy this stock.' "

Even though Schweizer admitted he had no hard proof of any quid-pro-quos, he did raise several instances when he said Clinton foundation supporters benefited from State Department actions. And the author noted that several media outlets have begun to follow up on his reporting by dispatching their own investigative reporters to confirm and expand on his findings.

Schweizer said his role was merely to lay the groundwork for a broader probe by authorities.

"It's not up to an author to prove crime," he said.

Schweizer is also currently reporting on potential ethics violations by Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor likely to seek the Republican nomination.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/2/2008 3:33:45 PM
Subject: [big campaign] NSN VP Debate National Security Fact Check

Summarzing the VP Foreign Policy Questions
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

1. Palin mispronounced our commander in Afghanistan, Dave McKiernan's name and also claimed that he supported the idea of using the Iraq surge as a model for Afghanistan even though just yesterday he said he did not.

2. In response to a question on Iran and Pakistan Palin answered by starting to talk about Iraq. Similar to McCain's obsession on Iraq with complete neglect for all other national security priorities.

3. Palin promised that the Middle East peace process would be a top priority for a McCain administration. But McCain's own advisors last week said that it wouldn't.

4. Palin was unable to distinguish any specific difference between Bush and McCain on any foreign policy issues. Joe Biden made that point very clearly.

5. Sarah Palin seems to rely quite heavily on her notes and on a very limited set of talking points. She has been dodging questions all night long.

Does Palin understand the meaning of deterrent?
Posted by The Editors

This is a post from NSN intern Eric Auner

Palin just said that nuclear weapons are currently being used as a deterrent. The only problem is that this was said in response to a question on the circumstances under which the weapons would actually be fired. The meaning of the deterrent is that they might, at some point, be fired. If you are unclear about what that point is, then the deterrent is meaningless.

October 02, 2008 at 10:03 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Best Foreign Policy Moment of the Debate
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

Biden asks how is McCain's policy any different on Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan... He is right there has been no clear difference on any of these issues.

October 02, 2008 at 10:02 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Petraeus and McKiernan say no surge in Afghanistan
Posted by Max Bergmann

This week General McKiernan, the top commander in Afghanistan, and General David Petraeus made an obvious point: "Afghanistan is not Iraq."

Both insisted that the challenges in Afghanistan are very different than the ones in Iraq and therefore require a very different strategy and approach. McKiernan said "What I don't think is needed - the word I don't use in Afghanistan is the word surge" and General Petraeus explained that every situation is "unique." This is in stark contrast to the approach advocated by Senator McCain, who has insisted on applying the same "surge" plan that was adopted in Iraq to Afghanistan.

At last Friday's debate McCain said, "the same strategy that he [Obama] condemned in Iraq. It's going to have to be employed in Afghanistan." In July, McCain said "the surge in Iraq shows us the way to succeed in Afghanistan." It is not surprising that McCain would mistakenly conflate Iraq and Afghanistan, since he and his fellow conservatives have paid little attention to the war in Afghanistan. McCain didn't offer his "surge" plan for Afghanistan until late this summer and at the Republican National Convention last month, no major speaker even mentioned the word Afghanistan. As the situation continues to deteriorate in Afghanistan, the United States needs to adopt the comprehensive plan that progressives have been advocating the past few years.

October 02, 2008 at 10:01 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Israel on the Back Burner
Posted by Patrick Barry

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Governor Palin claimed that promoting an Arab-Israeli peace deal would be at the top of the agenda for John McCain's administration. It's fine, even laudable to make a claim like that, but when it directly conflicts with statements from one of your key advisors, Max Boot, who just said a few weeks ago that bringing peace to Israel would not be a big priority for McCain, you begin to wonder about who controls the policy in John McCain's camp.

October 02, 2008 at 10:00 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Not different
Posted by Max Bergmann

Biden hits the mark. McCain's foreign policies are no different than Bush. In the rare cases that they are, such on North Korea, they are more extreme.

October 02, 2008 at 09:58 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Meetings
Posted by James Lamond

If Barack Obama's decision to meet with Iran, North Korea, and Cuba is so dangerous and naive, then how does she explain the Bush administration's current negotiations with North Korea, and both Republican and Democrat Secretaries of State saying we should negotiate with Iran:

- Henry Kissinger, Jim Baker, Colin Powell, Madeleine Albright and Warren Christopher all agree we need direct talks with Iran without pre-conditions. Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State under Presidents Nixon and Ford, not only indicated that he "was in favor of negotiating with Iran," but said that such negotiations should occur "without conditions," and should begin at a high level." Former Clinton Secretary of State Madeleine Albright advised that "You need to engage with countries you have problems with," and said "I believe we need to engage with Iran." Colin Powell, Secretary of State under George W. Bush echoed the need for negotiations stating: "Let's get together and talk about nuclear weapons." [AP, 9/15/08. ABC News, 9/15/08. Reuters, 9/16/08.]

- The Bipartisan Iraq Study Group believes the US should have direct talks with Iran. "Given the ability of Iran and Syria to influence events within Iraq and their interest in avoiding chaos in Iraq, the United States should try to engage them constructively. In seeking to influence the behavior of both countries, the United States has disincentives and incentives available." [Iraq Study Group, 12/06]

- Even the Bush administration is moving toward Senator Obama's strategy of diplomatic engagement with Iran. The Bush Administration is beginning to embrace a number of foreign policy positions favored by Senator Obama. "On a range of major foreign policy issues over the past year, Bush has pursued strategies and actions very much along the lines of what Sen. Obama has advocated during his presidential race." "On the diplomatic front, Obama has made a point of advocating dialogue with Iran" and though he has been vilified by conservatives for it, "in July, Bush sent a high-level U.S. emissary to attend nuclear talks with Iran" In June, the Washington Post reported that "Senior officials at the State Department and beyond are mulling a proposal to open an interest section in Tehran, similar to the one the United States has operated in Havana since 1977." [Washington Post, 9/15/08. Washington Post, 6/23/08]

October 02, 2008 at 09:54 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Talking to allies
Posted by Max Bergmann

Palin just said that her and John McCain were in favor of diplomacy. But what does that mean? Does McCain agree with Kissinger's position which is in favor of talking at the Secretary of State level with the Iranians? McCain and Palin say they do and then they attack Obama and Biden for wanting to talk to the Iranians. They are all over the place.

The fact is that the McCain-Palin position of continuing the George Bush policy is indefensible and will only result in a nuclear armed Iran.

Continue reading "Talking to allies" »

October 02, 2008 at 09:52 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

Iraq on the Brain
Posted by Ilan Goldenberg

Palin gets asked about Pakistan and Iran and can't help but start with Iraq.

October 02, 2008 at 09:50 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Palin Supports Debunked McCain Plan for Afghanistan
Posted by Patrick Barry

Palin just repeated John McCain's claim that the surge strategy from Iraq could be successfully implemented in Afghanistan. Yet in the past two days alone, the two members of the military working more closely on Afghanistan than anyone fundamentally disagreed with the McCain-Palin plan:

U.S. Commanders rebuff McCain's vision for the war in Afghanistan. Speaking in Washington yesterday General David McKiernan, head of the NATO-led coalition in Afghanistan and former head of ground forces in Iraq, rejected McCain's plan for Afghanistan. McKiernan argued that more troops "are urgently required to combat a worsening insurgency, but he stated emphatically that no Iraq-style 'surge' of forces will end the conflict there." While McCain has often said that he wants to apply the same surge strategy in Afghanistan as in Iraq, the commanding general clearly stated "Afghanistan is not Iraq." General David Petraeus, now the head of CENTCOM and former commander in Iraq said, "People often ask, 'What did you learn from Iraq that might be transferable to Afghanistan?'The first lesson, the first caution really, is that every situation like this is truly and absolutely unique, and has its own context and specifics and its own texture." [Washington Post, 10/2/08. New York Times, 10/1/08]

Afghanistan's strategic puzzle will not be solved by a surge in troops alone. NATO-ISAF commander General David McKiernan outlined Afghanistan's many challenges that cannot be addressed purely by an influx of troops: "A country that has very harsh geography. It's very difficult to move around, getting back to our reliance on helicopters. It's a country with very few natural resources, as opposed to the oil revenues that [Iraq] has. There's very little money to be generated in terms of generated in Afghanistan. The literacy rate - you have a literate society in Iraq, you have a society that has a history of producing civil administrators, technocrats, middle class that are able to run the country in Iraq. You do not have that in Afghanistan. So there are a lot of challenges. What I don't think is needed - the word that I don't use in Afghanistan is the word 'surge.' There needs to be a sustained commitment of a variety of military and non-military resources, I believe." Today's piece in the New York Times, covering Afghanistan's debilitating opium trade, which funds insurgents and produces instability, further demonstrates why a military solution alone will not be sufficient in Afghanistan. [General David McKiernan, Washington Independent, 10/1/08 . NY Times, 10/02/08]

October 02, 2008 at 09:49 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

No plan
Posted by Max Bergmann

McCain has never laid out a plan for how to bring the troops home. McCain has said he wants to have an indefinite presence in Iraq (remember the 100 years comment) but has never said at what point he will bring the troops home. He has never defined what he means by "victory" and has never said how that would be achieved. All McCain has said that he would stay the course.

October 02, 2008 at 09:44 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Shumway Marshall, Business Forward" <info@businessfwd.org>
To: "John Podesta" <John.Podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/29/2015 2:28:27 PM
Subject: REMINDER: Media training on Friday - Join us to learn interview best practices

John—

Don't forget to sign up for our media training on Friday.

Here's the link to register: http://www.businessfwd.org/blog/media-training .

I hope you can make it,

--Shumway

From: Shumway Marshall, Business Forward
Date: Monday, October 26, 2015 at 4:52 PM
Subject: INVITE: Join us to learn media interview best practices

BUSINESSFORWARD

John—

As a business leader, your experiences are important to creating effective public policies that will grow our economy and create jobs. But how can you best communicate your views so that Washington listens?

Sharing your perspective with local and national media can be a particularly effective tool for encouraging policy action. And it can help bring attention to your business as a leader in your industry.

Please join Business Forward for an interactive media training. Using the effect of severe weather and climate change as a case study, seasoned public affairs strategists Aric Caplan and Jonathan Hahn will show you:

- How to present yourself as a thought leader and expert source;
- Tips for speaking about policy issues from your perspective as a business leader;
- Best practices for print and radio interviews.

Subsequent trainings in this series will focus on social media, television and public speaking appearances, and writing letters to the editor and op-eds.

Can you join our media training on print and radio interviews?

YES > NO >

Here are the details:

WHAT:
Media training for business leaders on print and radio interviews

WITH:
Aric Caplan
Founder and President
Caplan Communications
and

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Jonathan Hahn
Managing Director
Caplan Communications

WHEN:

Friday, October 30
3:00 p.m. ET / 12:00 p.m. PT

WHERE:
You will receive a unique dial-in and password when you register

Following a presentation from Aric and Jonathan, you will have the opportunity to ask questions. If you prefer, you can also submit questions in advance by emailing info@businessFWD.org .

Here's the link to register: http://www.businessfwd.org/blog/media-training .

I hope you can make it,

Shumway Marshall
Digital Director
Business Forward

P.S. There is no cost to attend Business Forward's programming so please feel free to forward this invitation to your colleagues.

ABOUT THE TRAINERS

ARIC CAPLAN is the founder and president of Caplan Communications. For over 18 years, Mr. Caplan's winning issues advocacy campaigns have furthered the timely missions of civic organizations, non-profit groups and NGOs seeking to advance human rights, environmental protection and safeguard social justice. Caplan Communications also maintains a robust literary division that services the needs of major book publishers across the United States. As a seasoned public affairs strategist and avid news junkie, Mr. Caplan has made a career of renovating the air products of major-market news/talk radio stations in Pittsburgh and West Palm Beach, FL. He worked in radio as a reporter and producer at KDKA and program director at WJNO before entering public relations. In February 2004, Mr. Caplan founded his agency to champion issues in the public interest and on behalf of social justice and environmental causes. Aric Caplan frequently publishes editorials in industry trend magazines such as O'Dwyer's magazine and has been invited to address audiences on communications panels as a public affairs practitioner whose insights and approaches continue to reach and influence target audiences and Capitol Hill with precision.

JONATHAN HAHN is the managing director of Caplan Communications. He is a seasoned media trainer who specializes in strategic communication, public advocacy and story development. Mr. Hahn has managed press operations for various clean, renewable energy media relations events, including the Climate Action Campaign's 27-state "I will Act on Climate" bus tour. He also specializes in strategic advocacy and crisis public relations, which include the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. He is a veteran media trainer with more than a decade of experience coaching executives to prepare for television, radio and print interviews.

This email was sent to: **John.Podesta@gmail.com**
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From: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 8:28:23 AM
Subject: RE: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

If Haim's going to give it to the Jewish media, I think that solves our problem. Once they write, we can make sure it gets picked up by some of our beat guys.

From: Robby Mook [mailto:re47@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2015 3:08 PM
To: Christina Reynolds
Cc: Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; Oren Shur; John Podesta; Nick Merrill
Subject: Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

Let's def give it to someone. I see zero downside to a story. Then we can circulate around right away (hopefully) in advance of Iran

On Jul 3, 2015, at 2:48 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Right, but if we wanted to have a reporter cover the Israel support now, a leak of the letter could probably get written.
>
> Otherwise, we can work around the Israel support for reporters covering Iran.
>
> **From:** Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 3, 2015 2:44 PM
> **To:** Christina Reynolds
> **Cc:** Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin; Oren Shur; John Podesta; Nick Merrill
> **Subject:** Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO
>
> We have a two pager I'm getting clearance from her on. That is what we have to ship around.
>
> On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:17 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > We could either get a donor to leak it or just give it to a reporter if we want to get it out there. I'm semi-surprised it's not out yet.
> >
> > On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:15 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Do we need to push it harder over the next few days? Get something written? I feel like we're going to want something to point to. Or maybe even just content on the website?
> > >
> > > On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:12 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > That's basically the goal of the BDS letter.
> > > >
> > > > On Fri, Jul 3, 2015 at 12:11 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > I was just thinking: has she made a clear statement on Israel yet? I get this question from donors all the time. Does she need to state her principles on Israel before Iran? Or do both at the same time?
> > > > >
> > > > > On Jul 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > >
> > > > > > This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html

Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama

But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran deal.

By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT

Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.

But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.

Story Continued Below

Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test; donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah

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Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

"That's just smart politics," said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. "Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was?"

Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was "very supportive of the negotiating process," the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. "So it seemed like she was supporting it," recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a "perception" problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

"Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I've got my own relationships," she said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal. "I know Michael well, but I haven't read the book," she said.

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At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel's security. "She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel," recalled Jacobs. "And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer."

Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. "She said 'I'm going to do what's in the best interest of the U.S.,' and that was the end of it," Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, "although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it's got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people." He urged Jewish donors "to take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits," adding: "I'd hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support."

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton's senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

"It's a tricky issue for her," said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran "are going to put her in a box."

Clinton's allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. "I know where she stands, but I can't talk about it," Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, "She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don't need to worry about this."

He soon backtracked, saying "I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal."

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And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn't hold as much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

"Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount of love for the Clintons, but I don't think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is," said the donor.

Saban's representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban's financial support will not be conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn't going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

"Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No," he said. "Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3."

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. "Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It's broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate," he said. "So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama's support who will at least give her view a more open-minded assessment."

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

"If there's a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her," said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build

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support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group's members regard her as too hawkish for their tastes.

"For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy," said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street's PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his support for a deal to the candidate.

"She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community."

Authors:

View Comments

--
Ian Sams
(423) 915-6592

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 8:19:16 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.

_____

We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:

- investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future

- protecting families from pollution

- safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence

- preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Hi John-

Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.

Thanks,
Milia

Note From Trevor Houser:

"Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:

1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.

The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."

Secretary of State Record

As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)

She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing

Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting

She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

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From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

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Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

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Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
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mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/11/2014 9:13:08 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | Meet the New War, Same as the Old War

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Thursday, 11 September 2014

truthout

William Rivers Pitt | Meet the New War, Same as the Old War

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: Maybe President Obama's words last night will prove prescient and the latest US action in Iraq and Syria will work out fine. Maybe airstrikes alone will work for the first time in recorded history to defeat a foe. Except every time we drop bombs on a problem that was caused by us dropping bombs, we wind up dropping more bombs to try and solve it.

Read the Article

Total Recall , Water and the Values of the Group Called Value of Water Coalition

Ellen Dannin, Truthout: The Value of Water Coalition was formed by large, well-resourced water and wastewater organizations to change the way we think about water. The rest of us need to know that we may not like the way they think of us and our rights to water.

Read the Article

Small Island Country Attempts to Hold the Hegemon to Its Promises

Leslie Thatcher, Truthout: The Marshall Islands' lawsuits against the United States and other nuclear weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty are a bold attempt to keep all of us safe from nuclear destruction, peace activist David Krieger says.

Read the Interview

An Economic Hit Man Speaks Out: John Perkins on How Greece Has Fallen Victim to "Economic Hit Men"

Michael Nevradakis, Truthout: John Perkins, author of *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, says: "Sure, Greece made mistakes … but the people didn't really make the mistakes, and now the people are being asked to pay for the mistakes made by their leaders, often in cahoots with the big banks."

Read the Interview

BuzzFlash

Obama Asserts a US Exceptionalism That Ronald Reagan Would Love

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: In evoking US exceptionalism, President Obama is using jingoistic language to rally the US behind extending the clock on our great derangement.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

The Quick-Draw Morality of Violent Police Force

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Obama's Legal Rationale for ISIS Strikes: Shoot First, Ask Congress Later

Read the Article at The Guardian

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Playing God: How the Koch Brothers, Sheldon Adelson, Sam Walton, Bill Gates and Other Billionaires Are Undermining the US

Steve Fraser, TomDispatch: From this country's earliest tycoons to the latest batch of family capitalists, there is one overwhelming, unifying trait: a deep-seated belief in a country that worships self- or family-made money, that the more billions you have, the more you should be listened to.

Read the Article

John Pilger | Breaking the Last Taboo: Gaza and the Threat of World War

John Pilger, Truthout: The attack on Gaza was an attack on all of us. The denial of justice to Palestinians is a symptom of much of humanity under siege and a warning that the threat of a new world war is growing by the day.

Read the Article

New Research: How Sexual Exploitation of Men and Boys Is Overlooked and Dismissed

Carol McNaughton Nicholls, The Conversation: Deep-rooted gender stereotypes can mean boys are overlooked as victims by professionals as much as by others in their lives. Understanding sexual exploitation can be very challenging, but now more than ever, we need to try harder to understand it.

Read the Article

The Invisible Diseases of 9/11

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Along with the victims of 9/11, the first responders bore the brunt of that deadly day. They're being denied health care by Republicans in Congress, and they're starting to die. It's time for these heroes to get the help and support they deserve and to prevent the diseases of 9/11 from claiming any more lives.

Read the Article

The Big Winners From Sweden's For-Profit "Free" Schools Are Companies, Not Pupils

Susanne Wiborg, The Conversation: The Swedish experience shows that allowing for-profit providers into the "school market" has not led to increased standards and improved schools, but instead permitted another vested interest into education in pursuit of aims above those of children's education, in this respect: profit.

Read the Article

Mexico's Cocopah People Refuse to Disappear

Daniela Pastrana, Inter Press Service: For more than 500 years, the members of the Cocopah Amerindian group have relied on fishing for their livelihoods. Now a government-imposed fishing ban practically condemns them to extinction.

Read the Article

DA Joins the Climate Activists He Declined to Prosecute,

Charles P. Pierce | On September 11, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Continued

Read the Article at Esquire

Dick Cheney, Still Blind

Read the Article at The Washington Post

The Two-Front War for the Future of the Internet

Read the Article at Truthdig

Missouri Lawmakers Enact Three-Day Waiting Period for Abortion

Read the Article at The Associated Press

Ted Cruz Blames Anti-Semitism After Arab Christians Boo Him Off Stage

Read the Article at Talking Points Memo

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Citing Danger of Global Warming

Amy Goodman and Nermeen Shaikh, Democracy Now!: Two climate activists were set to go on trial in Massachusetts on Monday for blocking a shipment of coal to the Brayton Point power plant. But the local prosecutor dropped the criminal charges and now says he and the activists plan to march together in the upcoming People's Climate March in New York City.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Economic Update: Corporations Are the Problem

Richard D. Wolff, Economic Update / Truthout: This episode covers Market Basket workers' recent victory, top-paid asset managers, Chipotle's gross inequality, Montreal corruption and the Russia/China economic alliance. We also continue the discussion on socialism's new directions, and we respond to listeners' questions on franchising, capitalist growth, advertising and consumer desires.

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From: "Washington Monthly" <editors@washingtonmonthly.com>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/11/2015 8:14:00 AM
Subject: WEEKLY WRAP-UP: The Bernie/Trump contrast

Washington MONTHLY

Weekly Wrap-up

September 11th, 2015

From the podcast

Reporting the Chaos

Ed Kilgore and Paul Glastris welcomed SiriusXM host Julie Mason this week for a liv ely discussion on this profoundly strange election cycle. Watch it. You can also subscribe to the podcast on iTunes here and by email and other means here .

The Best of Political Animal

- The comparativ e orthodoxies of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump show that, despite more tolerance for ideological dissent, the Democratic Party has less to fight ov er than y ou might think. Read it.
- One of the iron verities of this strange presidential election cy cle has been that if you attack Donald Trump, he will attack you right back, often with treble the vitriol. Read it.
- House Republicans seem to believe that they won't have lost the fight over the Iranian nuclear deal *if they don't admit they lost!* Read it.
- We need more discussion about how we use our special forces, and it sounds like *Relentless Strike*, by prov iding us with a comprehensiv e history of those forces, is going to be an indispensable tool in those debates. Read it.

John Boehner's Kabuki Theater

Since losing the Planned Parenthood funding battle is as foreseeable as the Sun coming up in the East tomorrow morning, there's no compelling reason for Boehner to stage the play at all. Read it.

Retirement Raidings

Americans are borrowing record amounts from retirement savings. Should 401(k) loans be limited? Read it.

New Report: Building Strong Readers in Minnesota

Minnesota students score well above average in reading and math on national and international tests. They are also more likely to graduate high school than students in most other states. Read it.

New Online Credential Program Aims to Turn Out 10,000 New Teachers in the Next Five Years

This teacher prep site has trained 700 teachers so far and has plans to scale up quickly. Read it.

The Case For Reacting Calmly To Media Coverage

There's a case to be made for ignoring or at least taking media coverage with a grain of salt even when it doesn't please. One reason is the notion that everyone has to take his or her lumps. Another is that media coverage isn't nearly as influential as you (and I) may think. Read it.

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From the magazine

A Bitter Pell

Some universities could be doing a much better job enrolling and graduating low-income students. *By Mamie Voight and Colleen Campbell* Read it.

Washington Monthly
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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	11/9/2012 4:01:39 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 11.9.12.docx

Hannah,
I have attached and pasted below the latest biweekly report for President Clinton. Please let me know if there are any questions or comments.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
November 9, 2102

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation (AHG)

- The Alliance received a $1.5 million grant from the Walmart Foundation to expand its Healthy Out of School Time Initiative to four additional markets: Little Rock, Miami, Oklahoma City and Philadelphia.
- The Alliance and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation released the second edition of the Be Well! series--A year of Living Well--that includes stories from Moms, Dads and Youth who have made a healthy living impact on their families and communities. These books are available at no cost in English and Spanish. More than 1.2 million copies of the first edition were distributed.
- The Alliance launched a “water is best” campaign with Brita.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative (CHMI)

- Tenet Healthcare Corporation has signed on as the title sponsor (at $450,000) for the Health Matters conference for the second year in a row. To date, other conference sponsors include Verizon, GE, Masimo, Sanofi, and Lionel Rabb.
- The CHMI website, developed in partnership with NBC Universal, will launch this Monday, November 12.
- At the invitation of Judge Buddy Villines, Ginny Ehrlich presented the plan to activate the CHMI community strategy in Pulaski County to all county mayors. Work will begin in early December.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative (CDI)
Malawi

- Preparations are continuing on five commercial farms for planting. Growing contracts with SeedCo, Pannar, Senwes, Carlsberg Breweries and Funwe Seed Company are being finalized.
- First payments to smallholder tree farmers from recent carbon credit sales will be made in the next several weeks.

Rwanda (CHDI)

- The soybean factory project is moving according to CHDI's timeframe. The company's board is currently working to secure a bank loan for the factory, as the equity money has run out. CHDI is in negotiations with three banks and is in need of a total of $7 million--$2 million for capital expenditures and $5 million for working capital.
- With regards to the AGRA project, CHDI has concluded seed distribution within the three districts of the project area for the coming season, and has concluded its trial set up for the season. The Government is providing strong support by pushing soybean planting in other districts in Eastern Province in order to prepare raw material availability for the edible oil plant.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative (CGSGI)
Peru

- The CGSGI cataracts project has just reached 45,000 surgeries, now at 90% of its committed 50,000 target. The 50,000th surgery is expected to be recorded in the first quarter of the new year.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/1/2014 7:38:57 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday September 1, 2014 Roundup



"On Labor Day, our nation celebrates the hardworking men and women who drive our economy and build the future of our nation." - Hillary Clinton

Correct The Record Monday September 1, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: "Benghazi coming back with a vengeance in September"

"Clinton defenders at Democratic groups like Correct the Record and American Bridge say they will be ready to respond to any incoming fire, and are already passing along research to undermine the books."

Washington Post: "Clintons keep up with a sprawling, yet aging, political network in Arkansas"

"'Lynda's List' as her under-the-radar alumni news service is called, is a telling example of the Clintons' attention to detail in maintaining and nurturing their formidable political network, which extends around the globe yet remains perhaps deepest in Arkansas."

Jewish Journal opinion: Lazar Palnick: "Hillary, Israel and the Jews"

"From her foreign policy abroad to her work back home, Hillary Clinton has consistently shown her support and dedication to the issues that matter most to Jewish Americans."

Washington Times: "O'Hillary: The Ready for Hillary superpac journeys to Ireland, raises $50,000"

"Fundraise for Hillary Clinton in Ireland: faith and begorra, that's exactly what Ready for Hillary did. The independent grass-roots activist group traveled all the way to Ballsbridge - that's an exclusive suburb of Dublin - to raise $50,000 for Mrs. Clinton, a potential White House candidate."

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Washington Examiner: "Six signs Hillary Clinton is running"

"Hillary Clinton isn't officially running for president. But unofficially, the signs are everywhere."

Wonkette (satire): "At The New York Times, A Slow News Day"

"Maureen Dowd manages a third straight week without any mention of Bill or Hillary Clinton…"

Articles:

MSNBC: "Benghazi coming back with a vengeance in September"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

September 1, 2014, 7:12 a.m. EDT

After several mercifully Benghazi-free months, the 2012 attack on the diplomatic compound in Libya is about to be thrust back into the spotlight around its September 11 anniversary.

The special House committee investigating Benghazi is finally expected to begin its work, in earnest, with its first hearing the week Congress returns from August recess. Meanwhile, two books promising explosive new allegations about the terror attack will hit shelves in September, and Fox News plans to air a new, one-hour documentary on the attack this week, featuring exclusive interviews with Americans who fought in the onslaught.

Add that to the usual fare that accompanies the anniversary of any major news event and you get a headache for the teams surrounding Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. For both, it's a stubborn political problem that will likely never go away, no matter how many investigations clear the senior players of the worst allegations of wrongdoing. And it's little doubt why: Polls suggest that Clinton is vulnerable on Benghazi ahead of a potential 2016 presidential run, with members of both parties listing it as her biggest weakness.

Partisans on both sides are gearing up for the return of Benghazi. Tim MIller, for example, who is the executive director of the GOP super PAC America Rising, told msnbc his team is prepared to jump on "anything that comes up in these books/hearings that call into question Sec. Clinton's claims." And Clinton defenders at Democratic groups like Correct the Record and American Bridge say they will be ready to respond to any incoming fire, and are already passing along research to undermine the books.

On Sept. 9, conservative talk radio host Aaron Klein's "The Real Benghazi Story" will hit bookstores. Published by an imprint of World Net Daily (the website that promotes the notion that Obama was not born in the U.S.), the book promises "to blow the lid off" "shocking," "devastating," and "mind-blowing" new details of the terror attack. It's the story "the White House and Hillary don't want you to know," the book's subtitle claims.

Klein's audience is undoubtedly the already-converted, but three of his previous books have made it to The New York Times bestseller list, and his latest is easy fodder for the conservative echo chamber. Klein has plans to promote the book in New York and Washington, and already "has interview commitments with top-tier cable, radio and print outlets," according to his publicist.

Then, at the end of the month comes "13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened In Benghazi." The book is likely to gain more traction in the mainstream press, considering its author, Boston University journalism professor Mitchell Zuckoff, and publisher, Hachette, a well respected house.

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Zuckoff got unprecedented access to the six Americans who defended the CIA annex in Benghazi and tells their story from the ground. Paramount reportedly bought the film rights months ago and has a screenwriter and producers attached to the project.

Zuckoff's book promises to "set the record straight" on what happened on the ground, but will not dwell much on the politics or bureaucratic wrangling in Washington. Still, even if Clinton barely makes a cameo, anytime people are talking about Benghazi its bad for Clinton. The book may also provide embarrassing new details from people closest to the attack.

Zuckoff's work also spawned an hour-long Fox News special, set to air Friday, in which host Bret Baier interviews the security operators. The documentary is being promoted by Fox and will likely further stir the pot on the right.

The House Select Committee on Benghazi – the seventh congressional committee that has looked into the attacks – has been quiet since its inception this spring, will hold its first hearing the second week of September. Led by South Carolina Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy, Republicans last week hired the Army's former top lawyer to be their general counsel. They're finishing staffing up, but are revealing little about future plans beyond the first hearing. The Democratic side, led by Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, say they are mostly staffed up.

Rep. Adam Schiff, a California Democrat who sits on the select committee, said that while Gowdy has been inclusive of Democrats and responsible thus far, he'll have to deal with high expectations from the conservative base. "I'm not sure where we're headed. I'm not sure the House leadership knows where we're headed. But I do think there's going to be a lot pressure on the chairman to produce something," he told msnbc.

Gowdy told The New York Times Friday that it will likely take until at least the end of 2015 for the committee to complete its work, but that it could go into 2016 if agencies are slow to turn over requested documents.

Some Democrats and Clinton allies, who have long dismissed the slew of Benghazi investigations as being politically motivated, say they expect the committee will be used to attack Obama in anticipation of the midterm elections, before turning attention to Clinton afterwards. But Schiff said the committee is unlikely to produce anything in time for 2014 elections. He did, however, say there will be tremendous pressure on Gowdy to bring Clinton as a witness.

Other Democrats are treating a Clinton testimony request as a certainty.

"I don't think there are many new facts to be found there," Schiff added.

Washington Post: "Clintons keep up with a sprawling, yet aging, political network in Arkansas"

By Philip Rucker

August 31, 2014, 10:31 p.m. EDT

LITTLE ROCK — While Bill and Hillary Clinton were vacationing in August at their rented mansion on a scenic bluff in the tony Hamptons, they read a flurry of e-mail updates from an earlier life.

At 7:41 one Monday morning, the Clintons received word that the elderly mother of longtime Little Rock radio and television personality Craig O'Neill had passed away.

A few days later, another bulletin: Rufus Ellis "Buddy" Tate Jr., a farmer and lumberer from Marvell, Ark., died five days shy of his 100th birthday. His only child, Sherman Tate, is an old friend of Bill's.

Then another: Dorothy Jean Darr Martinous, who managed the bridal salon at J.C. Penney and was a prize-winning dancer of the Charleston, died at age 98. She had been active for decades in Arkansas Democratic politics.

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In each case, the notices came from a 70-year-old retiree named Lynda Dixon, who worked as Bill Clinton's personal secretary when he was governor of Arkansas and now fires off e-mails to her old boss, Hillary Rodham Clinton and their aides from her home here in downtown Little Rock, within view of the Clinton Presidential Center.

"Lynda's List," as her under-the-radar alumni news service is called, is a telling example of the Clintons' attention to detail in maintaining and nurturing their formidable political network, which extends around the globe yet remains perhaps deepest in Arkansas. The couple's strong ties to the state have been highlighted this year as Bill spends time here stumping on behalf of Democratic candidates in the November midterms.

After the Clintons packed up from Arkansas in 1993 to move to the White House, never to return permanently, Dixon stayed behind and kept the couple up to date with news from their sprawling — and aging — network of friends and acquaintances. Once full of wedding and baby announcements, or reports of a new job or award, Dixon's notices nowadays more commonly deliver word of who is sick, who has died and who needs a helping hand.

"I am the one that knows who his friends were, all his constituents that were important to him — I just send notices to him and Hillary," Dixon said in a rare interview. Unlike many Clinton hands who lead public careers, Dixon has served the couple in near-anonymity.

In anticipation of Hillary Clinton's potential 2016 presidential campaign, the Clintons are keeping their Arkansas network especially active. Their allies here insist she would put Arkansas in play, even though the state has become more Republican since Bill Clinton carried it in the 1990s. President Obama lost here by 20 percentage points in 2008 and by 24 percentage points in 2012.

The Clintons have staffs in New York and Washington, but, Dixon said, those aides "don't know the Devoe Bollingers of the world. He was one of the president's constituents, one of his supporters, an old cattle farmer from Horatio, Arkansas."

Dixon said she scours the obituary pages of local newspapers and calls funeral homes looking for familiar names. At the top of each e-mail to the Clintons, Dixon writes the name, address and phone number of the subject — or, in the case of death, a next-of-kin. Like clockwork, that person often gets a call from Bill. A few days later, a warm letter from Hillary might show up in the mail. And in some instances, the Clintons fly home to attend funerals, as Bill did on Aug. 15 in Hot Springs, where he bade farewell to Margaret "Marge" Mitchell, a close friend of his late mother. The former president was an honorary pallbearer.

"You may move from your home town, you may move from your home state, but you don't forget from where you came, and Bill Clinton is the prime example of that," said Skip Rutherford, a longtime Clinton adviser and friend who serves as dean of the University of Arkansas's Clinton School of Public Service.

When Bill returned to Little Rock on Aug. 15 to address a meeting of the Southern Governors' Association, he referred to Arkansas as "our state."

"I'm feeling pretty nostalgic," he said, noting that he woke up in New York that morning at 4:45 to fly to Hot Springs for Mitchell's funeral.

At a time when the Clintons are under scrutiny for their family's exploding wealth and extravagant lifestyle on the paid speaking circuit, reminding voters of Hillary's Arkansas roots has political benefits. This is where she married Bill, raised daughter Chelsea, practiced law, came of age politically, and, as first lady, championed state education and children's health initiatives.

In July 2013, both Clintons attended the dedication of the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library in Little Rock, a gleaming facility where, as Bill marveled in his recent speech to the governors, "they've got a 3-D printer!" At the opening, Hillary read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" to youngsters sitting around her feet.

Hillary returned this May for the opening of the Clinton Presidential Center's temporary blown-glass exhibit by artist Dale Chihuly. And she came in June to sign copies of her latest book, "Hard Choices," at a suburban Wal-Mart.

But in this high-stakes election year, it's Bill who's been an especially frequent visitor, throwing himself into Arkansas races. With his sky-high popularity — his favorability rating was 68 percent among registered voters in Arkansas in a May NBC News-Marist poll — he is trying to boost three longtime friends: Sen. Mark Pryor, gubernatorial candidate Mike Ross and congressional candidate James Lee Witt.

In August, Clinton headlined a Democratic Party fundraiser at Little Rock's historic Capital Hotel, and associates said he is coming back in September and October to campaign.

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“If he could get away with it, he’d live here for the two to three weeks before the election,” said Vince Insalaco, the state Democratic Party’s chairman and a longtime Clinton friend.

Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe (D) said that when he asked Clinton’s staff if he would come to the August events, “they weren’t real high on him coming” because the Clintons were vacationing in the Hamptons. But once Beebe got the former president on the phone to personally invite him, it was easy to get to “yes.”

“A vacation from vacation is probably consistent with his personality,” Beebe said. Here in Arkansas, he added, “he soaks up information like a sponge. He’s always wanting to know the politics, he’s always wanting to know the policy, and even more often than when he comes, I’m getting a phone call from him.”

Before the Little Rock fundraiser, Clinton huddled with Pryor to talk politics. Pryor said he met Clinton when he was about 12; his father, David Pryor, served as governor when Clinton was climbing the political ladder as attorney general, and then as a U.S. senator when Clinton was governor and president.

“It’s not unusual if you’re in Arkansas for the phone to ring at an odd hour and it be Bill Clinton at the end of the line,” Mark Pryor said as he rested his hands on his Bible during an interview on a recent Sundaymorning before church.

Clinton is eyeing the race to succeed Beebe with special interest. The Democratic nominee is Ross, a protege who got his start in politics as Clinton’s 21-year-old driver during the 1982 governor’s campaign.

“We had a one-car motorcade: It was him and me in a Chevy Citation,” Ross recalled. “People wanted their photo taken with him. I’d take it with one of those old Polaroid cameras where the picture shoots out the front. He would autograph the bottom and say, ‘You’ll have your picture developed in a couple minutes.’ ”

Clinton helped persuade Ross — a former congressman who graduated from Hope High School, in Clinton’s birthplace — to run for governor and has counseled him throughout the race.

The Republican nominee is Asa Hutchinson, who as a congressman in the late 1990s was a floor manager of Clinton’s impeachment proceedings following the Monica Lewinsky scandal. For many Clinton loyalists here, Hutchinson’s role still stings.

“It’s kind of like being against the Razorbacks,” Insalaco said, referring to the University of Arkansas sports teams. “It wasn’t just being against Clinton, but against the whole state. . . . Insiders remember, but voters outside, I think they may need to be reminded.”

Hutchinson said Democrats were “grasping at straws.” And he argued that Bill Clinton’s popularity would not rub off on Ross. “Arkansas is not really a coattails state,” he said.

Bill Clinton, busy reconnecting with old friends here, is trying to challenge that prophecy.

After Clinton’s August fundraiser at the Capital Hotel, George Hale, 69, settled into a couch in the lobby. When a reporter introduced himself, Hale said, “I’m an F.O.B. Friend of Bill.”

This May, after Hale’s wife died, Hale said Clinton “sent me a little handwritten note saying he was very sorry for the loss. He said, ‘Hang in there, George.’ ”

How did Clinton know about Hale’s loss? Lynda’s List, of course.

Jewish Journal opinion: Lazar Palnick: “Hillary, Israel and the Jews”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Lazar Palnick

August 29, 2014

Last month, I read an opinion piece in a Jewish publication wrongfully accusing Hillary Clinton of being anti-Israel and not fighting for the issues that matter most to Jewish Americans. This couldn't be further from the truth. Throughout her career, Hillary Clinton has fought for and been a strong ally and representative of the Jewish community. To suggest otherwise is just absurd.

I have been lucky enough to know Hillary Clinton for more than 35 years, ever since I was a teenager in Arkansas in the 1970s. I don't know anyone who is more able and ready to work on the issues that matter and to make sure that the ideas and concerns of the Jewish people are addressed.

I first met Hillary when my father, who was a Rabbi in Little Rock, went to Fayetteville to perform the town's first ever Bar Mitzvah. At the reception, we met a nice young couple, Bill and Hillary Clinton. My parents and the Clintons became friends, and thus began a long history working together in public service.

The author of the piece I read cites obscure references to Hillary Clinton's life and work back in Arkansas. Having witnessed that time in her life, I can say how misleading and unrepresentative these are to her history fighting for and understanding important issues to the Jewish community.

Hillary was always close to the Jewish community, and she and I worked together on many projects. Behind the scenes, Hillary became one of the leaders of a group of civic-minded professionals who worked together to help people of all faiths strive for communication and cooperation. While Hillary was a Methodist and Bill a Baptist, they always supported interfaith activities.

Hillary was always good at thinking outside the box and finding unique solutions to problems. While traveling, Hillary discovered an Israeli educational program that was designed to help immigrants and their children adjust to life in new countries. Hillary studied the groundbreaking program and figured out that it could be adapted to help economically disadvantaged families in Arkansas. Hillary brought the HIPPY program to Arkansas, where it was soon offered statewide and now operates in 21 states, serving 15,000 families.

I also noticed that the author conveniently chose to exempt from his argument Hillary Clinton's eight years in the Senate where, as a Senator from New York, she came to know the largest Jewish constituency outside of Israel and was an outspoken defender of Israel. Hillary Clinton's support within the Jewish communities of both New York and Arkansas is a testament to her friendships and relationships that have been developed over a lifetime.

Conflicts in Israel and the Middle East weigh heavy in the hearts and minds of the Jewish community. Strong leadership from leaders who understand our history and share the interests of the Jewish people is needed to bring about peaceful resolutions. The article chooses to neglect this in passing judgment on Hillary Clinton's record as Secretary of State.

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton continued her strong support for Israel. One of her greatest achievements as Secretary of State was negotiating a cease-fire to avert an all-out war in Gaza. She also helped lead efforts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. On the U.S's relationship with Israel, Hillary said, "Israel and the United States are united by a deep and unbreakable bond based on mutual interests and respect."

The domestic issues that the Jewish community cares about - freedom of religion and separation of church and state, personal freedoms and rights, education, and health care - are issues Hillary Clinton has worked on her entire life. Her passionate support of the Jewish community culminated with her being awarded a lifetime achievement award from the American Jewish Congress.

From her foreign policy abroad to her work back home, Hillary Clinton has consistently shown her support and dedication to the issues that matter most to Jewish Americans.

I share in the thoughts of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in saying to Hillary Clinton, "you are a great friend and a great champion of peace," and I hope the rest of the Jewish community can share in this long-lasting bond with Hillary Clinton.

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Washington Times: "O'Hillary: The Ready for Hillary superpac journeys to Ireland, raises $50,000"

By Jennifer Harper

September 1, 2014

Fundraise for Hillary Clinton in Ireland: faith and begorra, that's exactly what Ready for Hillary did. The independent grass-roots activist group traveled all the way to Ballsbridge - that's an exclusive suburb of Dublin - to raise $50,000 for Mrs. Clinton, a potential White House candidate.

A hundred fans showed up on Friday night for the event, organized by New York-based attorney Brian O'Dwyer and hosted by local power couple Linda and Brian Farren, who also have raised money for former President Bill Clinton in the past.

The Irish press was intrigued, boasting headlines like "Is Ireland ready for Hillary?" and suggesting that the nation feels ignored by the Obama administration. Meanwhile, only American citizens could donate to the cause, though organizers suggested Irish folks would donate if they could. Mrs. Clinton herself was not at the event. Iowa, rather than Ireland, is calling.

She will attend retiring Sen. Tom Harkin's 37th annual steak fry on Sept. 14 in the company of Mr. Clinton - which might be problematic, as he is a vegan. But no matter. He can have a veggie fry. Ready for Hillary will also be there, incidentally. The group is raffling off an all-expenses-paid trip to the event for an eager Clinton fan.

Washington Examiner: "Six signs Hillary Clinton is running"

By Rebecca Berg

September 1, 2014, 5:00 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton isn't officially running for president. But unofficially, the signs are everywhere.

Most Democrats expect the former secretary of state won't make a public decision before the midterm elections in November. But her actions so far this year have pretty much confirmed what most people already thought.

Here are six steps she's taken toward a presidential campaign:

The memoir.

A carefully crafted, inoffensive memoir is nearly a prerequisite to the modern presidential campaign, a convenient way for a candidate to tell her story on her own terms. Clinton released her memoir "Hard Choices" this summer, detailing her tenure as secretary of State, and outlining her policy perspectives on a wide range of foreign policy and national security issues. The book tour was not unlike a presidential campaign: Clinton crisscrossed the nation for book signings, speeches, and interviews, receiving outsized media attention all the while.

The super PACs.

Without money, there is no presidential bid — and Clinton will be able to count on plenty of the former. Two super PACs, although by law directly unaffiliated with Clinton herself, have already set to work raising money and building lists of volunteers to help Clinton hit the ground running if she decides to seek the presidency. The first, Priorities USA, which supported President Obama in 2008, has aligned itself early with Clinton and has brought on former Obama campaign manager Jim Messina to help attract the party's biggest donors. The second group, Ready For Hillary, has been methodically building a nationwide network of Clinton supporters and collecting mostly small-dollar donations.

The office upgrade.

Clinton recently relocated her personal office to a larger space in midtown Manhattan, an important step should she want to add to her existing staff in advance of a presidential bid. The office likely would not house her presidential campaign headquarters, but serve as a transitional space.

The trip to Iowa.

In 2008, Clinton posted a disappointing result in the key Iowa caucuses, where she finished third behind Obama and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. This time, she's launching her Iowa charm offensive early, with a trip to the Hawkeye State in September. Clinton will headline the annual Steak Fry of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, an important political event, along with her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

The cautious remarks.

Clinton drew some criticism for taking more than a week to respond to the protests in Ferguson, Mo., but her caution was hardly surprising. Clinton appears to have made a deliberate calculation that any newsmaking statements that could later pop up in a campaign setting where views have changed. That's not to say Clinton hasn't taken some risks, however. In an interview with The Atlantic, Clinton attempted to distance herself from some of the president's foreign policy by calling his decision not to intervene early in Syria a "failure."

The celebrity endorsements.

Should she run for president, Clinton will likely have no trouble lining up celebrity surrogates on her behalf. In fact, they're lining up already. Singer Katy Perry snapped a photo with Clinton earlier this year, with the caption: "I told @hillaryclinton that I would write her a 'theme' song if she needs it..." Actresses Liv Tyler and Aubrey Plaza, among others, have also expressed their early support for Clinton.

Wonkette (satire): "At The New York Times, A Slow News Day"

By Doktor Zoom

August 31, 2014, 3:38 p.m. EDT

Things have quieted down in Ferguson and we have a holiday weekend, so the New York Times is full of analysis-type stuff today. There's a pretty good piece on Democrats' attempts to mobilize African-American voters who are outraged over Michael Brown's shooting (and another story about that effort in Ferguson, specifically). There's also longish story about the Chinese Communist Party's attempt to prevent Hong Kong from doing free-n-fair elections, which is both well-reported and interesting, but which we bet you won't read because it is not sexxay, you laggards. Go on, we dare you! You probably can't handle it! The big breaking news of the morning, we guess, is the St. Louis Rams' cutting Michael Sam, and if you read the New York Times for sports news, that's in there too.

How about more analysis stuff? ISIS is both medieval in its politics, and pretty darn modern in its use of social media, doing what the Times calls "jihad 3.0." Also, too, five years after everyone freaked out about "Death Panels" in Obamacare, insurance companies are increasingly covering end of life planning sessions, and the American Medical Association has recently requested that Medicare do the same. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is considering the proposal but not saying anything about how it may decide, so get ready for a Return of the Death Panels — or not, maybe, since aging Boomers really want coverage for their visits to plan living wills and such. And here's some cheery news: "Temporary" jobs are becoming a bigger part of the employment picture, and we're all doomed (OK, we skimmed that one).

The Social Q's advice column is as terrible as it ever was, and fun to read because you can thank your personal deities (ours are Molly Ivins and George Carlin) that you don't know any people like these:

An old friend has a perennial problem being faithful to girlfriends. His current mate, whom he met while cheating on his former girlfriend, recently discovered a number of his dalliances. She decided to stay with him, but asked me to stop being friends with one of the women he cheated with. (I was not aware of the affair while it was going on, if that matters.) Trouble is, I am not that close with the girlfriend, but I've become quite friendly with the woman I've been asked to drop. Thoughts?

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We can't really quibble with the advice — "Simply ignore the request. You are not that close" — and the suggestion that if the new GF continues to press the issue, it would be best to sympathize but add "You focus on your relationships, and I'll tend to mine." But yeesh, we're happy we don't have any friends who are apparently still in junior high school. Also, too, there is a question about diarrhea, right there in the Paper of Record:

A sweet friend, who is justifiably modest about her culinary abilities, had us to dinner at her house. The next day, when I called to thank her, she said her husband had been up all night, feeling queasy. I did not confess that I, too, had suffered symptoms associated with travel in third-world countries because my friend (who has a low self-esteem thanks to a rough childhood) would be crushed. My husband viewed this as a matter of public health and thought I should have spoken up to prevent future episodes. What say you?

Irene, Stamford, Conn.

Again, the advice is spot-on (ewww), and even gets to the central weirdness of the question:

When your friend opens a food truck, trolling the streets of Stamford to hawk her extra-rare chicken cordon bleu, that is the moment for speaking up. But the morning after a modest dinner for four, where 25 percent of the guests have already complained of food-related illness, I would probably keep it to myself [...] But you have conjured a heroine almost as fragile as Laura Wingfield in "The Glass Menagerie." Why smash her unicorn (again)?

Honestly, only here on Wonkette would we ever say, "Oh, yeah, that gave me the squirts, too!"

Which seems like the obvious transition to the Sunday Review section, and the note that Ross Douthat and Tom Friedman are off today, does it not? Instead, Roger Cohen has a column about Barack Obama's "hesitant foreign policy," and why mister we could use a man like Richard Holbrooke again.

Frank Bruni has a book-blurb as a column, about Sam Harris's upcoming Waking Up, which asks what it means to be "spiritual but not religious." It's every bit as fascinating and exciting as a Frank Bruni column should be, although Bruni does have this worthwhile question:

We hear the highest-ranking politicians mention God at every turn and with little or no fear of negative repercussion. When's the last time you heard one of them wrestle publicly with agnosticism?

Hahaha, this is a hilarious question, seeing as how it is written about elected politicians in the United States of America Under God.

Maureen Dowd manages a third straight week without any mention of Bill or Hillary Clinton, largely because she's hanging out with a celebrity, Matthew Michael Sheen [one of those "M" names, whatevs -- Dok Z], star of Masters of Sex. Skip it, unless you like Matthew Michael Sheen a whole lot.

Nicholas Kristoff has the groundbreaking insight that white people, very often, simply Don't Get It, and he is eager to "push back at what I see as smug white delusion," which will probably win him some friends among the Bill O'Reillys of the world. After a litany of statistics that should be shocking, he says,

All these constitute not a black problem or a white problem, but an American problem. When so much talent is underemployed and overincarcerated, the entire country suffers.

Kristoff hopes that if more whites actually had black friends, they might become a little more aware of what reality is like for black Americans:

I was shaken after a well-known black woman told me about looking out her front window and seeing that police officers had her teenage son down on the ground after he had stepped out of their upscale house because they thought he was a prowler. "Thank God he didn't run," she said.

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One black friend tells me that he freaked out when his white fiancée purchased an item in a store and promptly threw the receipt away. “What are you doing?” he protested to her. He is a highly successful and well-educated professional but would never dream of tossing a receipt for fear of being accused of shoplifting.

And he also says that a “starting point is for those of us in white America to wipe away any self-satisfaction about racial progress.” Yes, we got rid of Jim Crow, in a legal sense, but maybe it also would be helpful “to acknowledge that the central race challenge in America today is not the suffering of whites.”

It will be fascinating to see how Fox News addresses Nicholas Kristoff’s shockingly racist anti-white column.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin’s Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 2:47:22 PM
Subject: Re: NYT: Book Questions Clinton Donations

I think sooner the better.

On Sun, Apr 19, 2015 at 9:40 PM, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:

Yes - but if we want to have her express skepticism we can do so through a spox answer to question, using our QA.

On Apr 19, 2015, at 9:19 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

The enviros may latch onto this going forward. Have we discussed when she will come out against Keystone? After POTUS vetoes?

and more than $1 million in payments to Mr. Clinton by a Canadian bank and major shareholder in the Keystone XL oil pipeline around the time the project was being debated in the State Department.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Sun, Apr 19, 2015 at 9:08 PM
Subject: NYT: Book Questions Clinton Donations
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com >

Book Questions Clinton Donations

By AMY CHOZICK APRIL 19, 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/20/us/politics/book-questions-clinton-donations.html?_r=0

The book does not hit shelves until May 5, but already the Republican Rand Paul has called its findings "big news" that will "shock people" and make voters "question" the candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton .

"Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich," by Peter Schweizer — a 186-page investigation of donations made to the Clinton Foundation by foreign entities — is proving the most anticipated and feared book of a presidential cycle still in its infancy.

The book, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, asserts that foreign entities who made payments to the Clinton Foundation and to Mr. Clinton through high speaking fees received favors from Mrs. Clinton's State Department in return.

"We will see a pattern of financial transactions involving the Clintons that occurred contemporaneous with favorable U.S. policy decisions benefiting those providing the funds,"

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Mr. Schweizer writes.

His examples include a free-trade agreement in Colombia that benefited a major foundation donor's natural resource investments in the South American nation, development projects in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake in 2010, and more than $1 million in payments to Mr. Clinton by a Canadian bank and major shareholder in the Keystone XL oil pipeline around the time the project was being debated in the State Department.

In the long lead up to Mrs. Clinton's campaign announcement, aides proved adept in swatting down critical books as conservative propaganda, including Edward Klein's "Blood Feud," about tensions between the Clintons and the Obamas, and Daniel Halper's "Clinton Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine."

But "Clinton Cash" is potentially more unsettling, both because of its focused reporting and because major news organizations are expected to pursue the story lines found in the book.

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have been briefed about the book's findings, which have already made their way into several of the Republican presidential candidates' campaigns.

Conservative "super PACs" plan to seize on "Clinton Cash," and a pro-Democrat super PAC has already assembled a dossier on Mr. Schweizer, a speechwriting consultant to former President George W. Bush and a fellow at the conservative Hoover Institute, to make the case that he has a bias against Mrs. Clinton.

And the newly assembled Clinton campaign team is planning a full-court press to diminish the book as yet another conservative hit job.

Mr. Schweizer and a spokeswoman for HarperCollins, which is owned by News Corporation and is publishing the book, declined to comment.

The timing is problematic for Mrs. Clinton as she begins a campaign to position herself as a "champion for everyday Americans."

From 2001 to 2012, the Clintons' income was at least $136.5 million, Mr. Schweizer writes, using a figure previously reported in The Washington Post. "During Hillary's years of public service, the Clintons have conducted or facilitated hundreds of large transactions" with foreign governments, he writes. "Some of these transactions have put millions in their own pockets."

Continue reading the main story

The Clinton Foundation has come under scrutiny for accepting foreign donations while Mrs. Clinton served as secretary of state. Last week, the foundation revised its policy to allow donations from countries like Germany, Canada, the Netherlands and Britain but prohibit giving by other nations in the Middle East.

Mr. Schweizer's book will be released the same day former President Bill Clinton and the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, will host the Clinton Global Initiative gathering with donors in Morocco, the culmination of a foundation trip to several African nations. (A chapter in the

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book is titled “Warlord Economics: The Clintons do Africa.”)

There is a robust market for books critical of the Clintons. The thinly sourced “Blood Feud,” by Mr. Klein, at one point overtook Mrs. Clinton’s memoir “Hard Choices” on the best-seller list.

But whether Mr. Schweizer’s book can deliver the same sales is not clear.

Mr. Schweizer writes mainly in the voice of a neutral journalist and meticulously documents his sources, including tax records and government documents, while leaving little doubt about his view of the Clintons.

His reporting largely focuses on payments made to Mr. Clinton for speeches, which increased while his wife served as secretary of state, writing that “of the 13 Clinton speeches that fetched $500,000 or more, only two occurred during the years his wife was not secretary of state.”

In 2011, Mr. Clinton made $13.3 million in speaking fees for 54 speeches, the majority of which were made overseas, the author writes. Among the connections he tries to draw is a $750,000 speaking fee to Mr. Clinton by the Swedish telecom company Ericsson and a State Department list of new sanctions on Iran that did not include telecom.

Mr. Schweizer, president of the Government Accountability Institute, is the author of the 2013 book “Extortion: How Politicians Extract Your Money, Buy Votes, and Line Their Own Pockets,” and “Throw Them All Out” about elected officials receiving insider stock tips.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Verma, Richard R" <VermaRR@state.gov>
To: "Verma, Richard R" <VermaRR@state.gov>
Date: 12/30/2015 3:05:21 AM
Subject: 2015 Year In Review

Dear Friends –

As we approach the end of 2015, we wanted to give you a brief recap of the year. Building upon decades of hard work between our two nations -- and millions of people to people ties -- we have had a transformative year in US/India relations, further broadening and deepening our partnership in so many areas. It was also a year of firsts and many high points.

President Obama was the first US President to be the Chief Guest for India's Republic Day ceremonies in January. Months later, Secretary of Defense Carter was the first Defense Secretary to visit an Indian military command. And, recently, Indian Minister of Defense Parrikar was the first Indian Defense Minister to visit Pacific Command, and then land on a US aircraft carrier (the USS Eisenhower) to witness flight operations.

We held the first-ever Strategic and Commercial Dialogue, merging our commercial and strategic issues to help power the growth of both of our countries. We established secure lines between our two National Security Advisors, and between the President and Prime Minister, so that important, time sensitive issues could be tackled directly by our leaders. We launched a trilateral ministerial dialogue between Japan, India and the United States, and we entered into a Joint Strategic Vision for cooperation across the Asia Pacific with India – solidifying our joint commitment to uphold the rules-based order across the Indo-Pacific.

We've moved beyond a buyer/seller relationship in our defense relationship to one of joint production and co-development. Our military forces continued to train at a very high level, further integrating our understanding of how we would each employ force and operate in contested environments. We called upon India for help to evacuate U.S. nationals from Yemen, and we worked together with India and others to help the people of Nepal after a devastating earthquake. We elevated our strategic partnership to "strategic plus" – signifying that we work together at a much higher level, in more places, and on more different subjects.

We exceeded all previous records in two-way trade and foreign direct investments, totaling over $102 billion. Indian companies invested some $11 billion in the US, while US investments in India topped $28 billion. We processed the highest number of visas ever – over 1 million. And more Indian students – over 130,000 -- studied in the US than ever before.

In so many other areas we pushed our cooperation to new heights, bringing together our best experts in health, science, space and innovation. We launched major new initiatives in global health security, tuberculosis, and joint cancer research. We created a new Innovation Forum to build upon the Prime Minister's successful visit to Silicon Valley, and help leverage the use of technology in a wide range of areas, including building new smart cities and modern infrastructure.

And, of course, on the climate and clean energy front, the US and India played a leadership role in constructing and finalizing a historic agreement to combat climate change. We also rolled-out a major new initiative to double our clean energy R&D spending, and we were proud to support India's new solar alliance to fully realize the potential of solar energy. Energy will continue to be one of our biggest areas of cooperation, especially as we move toward implementation of the civil nuclear agreement in the New Year.

As we move into 2016, we do so with optimism and an ambitious agenda for the future. While we are proud of our accomplishments, we know there is much more we can do together. We very much appreciate your continued interest in our work and the progress we have made together – so much of it would not be possible without all of you.

For those of you who want more detail about our activities here, I'd refer you to a few good sources:

- 2015 Mission India Fact Sheet further detailing our cooperation
- Recent op-ed in the Indian Express
- Recent Times of India interview
- A link to our newly established monthly video blog series
- A link to the full set of speeches and remarks over the course of the year – in all, some 87 speeches, remarks and statements!
- A map showing the Indian cities we visited this year

And, of course, you can continue to follow news and activities from New Delhi and our four consulates on social media at:

- Facebook
- Embassy and Ambassador Twitter handles

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- YouTube
- Instagram
- Website

Thanks again, and best wishes for a safe, happy and prosperous new year.

Rich

Richard R. Verma
U.S. Ambassador
India
vermarr@state.gov

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	2/13/2015 11:15:17 AM
Subject:	2.13.15 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	2.13.15 Weekend-Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below. Thanks!

2.13.15 Weekend Package

1. The Hill: “Hillary calls for extending CHIP funding”
2. Hillary Clinton: Fighting for America’s Workers
3. Black History Month: Hillary Clinton Fighting for Civil Rights
4. Hillary Clinton: Tough on Terrorism
5. Hillary Clinton: Tops New National Poll

ICYMI: The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Hillary calls for extending CHIP funding”

By Jesse Byrnes

February 12, 2015

Hillary Clinton is pushing for Congress to reauthorize the federal government's child healthcare program, lending her support to congressional Democrats looking to keep the program around.

"[D]espite strong bipartisan support, we are concerned that gridlock in Washington and unrelated disputes over the Affordable Care Act could prevent an extension of the program," Clinton and former GOP Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (Tenn.) wrote in an op-ed in The New York Times on Thursday.

"As parents, grandparents and former legislators, we believe that partisan politics should never stand between our kids and quality health care," the pair added.

Clinton, the presumed 2016 Democratic presidential frontrunner, is calling on Congress to extend the Children's Health Insurance Program's (CHIP) funding for the next four years, labeling the approximately $10 billion expense "an investment in our children that will pay off for decades to come."

Senate Democrats have launched their own push to reauthorize the program, signing on as co-sponsors of a bill that would extend funding through 2019. Currently, the program's funding runs out at the end of September. A companion bill was also introduced in the House on Thursday.

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The program, which has been around for the better part of two decades, covers about 10 million children. Some Republicans have cast CHIP as duplicative given benefits under ObamaCare, and say additional subsidies and eligibility under Medicaid make the program as unnecessary.

"If CHIP is not reauthorized, more families will be hit with higher costs. As many as two million children could lose coverage altogether. Millions more will have fewer health care benefits and much higher out-of-pocket costs, threatening access to needed health services," Clinton and Frist wrote.

"And because families without adequate insurance often miss out on preventive care and instead receive more expensive treatment in hospital emergency rooms, all of us will be likely to end up paying part of the bill," they added.

The op-ed also marks the second time in as many weeks that Clinton has jumped into a healthcare debate. Last week she tweeted that "#vaccineswork" after two possible 2016 Republican contenders, Gov. Chris Christie (N.J.) and Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) suggested that parents should have some choice on whether to immunize their children.

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON: FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S WORKERS

"This is the country where if you work hard, you can make it. And each generation is supposed to have it a little better than the one before." – Hillary Clinton, 10/23/14

- Hillary Clinton has stood up and fought for American workers her entire life, reflecting her belief that our country's future depends on a strong and successful middle class.
- Clinton worked to close tax loopholes and called for eliminating "any tax break that promotes or rewards outsourcing." Hillary also supported legislation to discourage outsourcing in the private sector and to restrict federal agencies from outsourcing work.
- Clinton proposed a $1 billion per year innovation fund to encourage states to develop family leave and paid leave policies, and also called for providing paid parental leave to all federal employees.
- Clinton cofounded the bipartisan Senate Manufacturing Caucus and fought to bring new manufacturing technology to small and medium-sized businesses, which would help to create jobs and spur manufacturing growth.
- Clinton stood up against unfair Chinese trade practices and voted in favor of authorizing action on Chinese imports if the Chinese government did not reform its currency practices.
- Clinton worked to expand job training opportunities for workers and led efforts to bring together local businesses, governments, educational institutions and labor organizations to collaborate on new programs to train workers for modern technology jobs.
- Clinton backed efforts to expand protections for workers' pensions and to protect overtime pay for working Americans.
- Clinton fought to strengthen safety protections for coal miners and worked to secure health coverage for laid off and retired steelworkers.
- Clinton worked to give all American workers the opportunity to easily save for the future. Hillary proposed creating "American Retirement Accounts" that would give workers greater security on their savings and increase flexibility in making investments.

BOTTOM LINE: Hillary Clinton's life has been about fighting to protect and lift up American workers and their families. Hillary's vision for our future is reflected by her efforts to ensure everyone has a fair shot at the American Dream.

TALKING POINTS: BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HILLARY CLINTON FIGHTING FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

BACKGROUND: February is Black History Month, when we honor the struggle, progress, and contributions of African Americans. Throughout her entire career, Hillary Clinton has been a strong champion of the African American community, working to ensure all Americans enjoy the same rights and opportunities.

KEY POINTS:

Hillary Clinton has worked her entire life to ensure that all Americans have equal access to our country's rights and freedoms.

When Hillary was a teenager, she had the privilege of seeing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak and recalled that "he challenged all of us there that evening, as he did throughout his life, to stay awake during the great civil rights revolution that was sweeping our country."

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Clinton has consistently advocated in favor of voting rights and repeatedly fought to expand access to the polls to make it easier for everyone to vote. She also led efforts to guarantee that every vote is counted, by updating electronic voting machines.

Clinton has called for more equity in America's criminal justice system. In the wake of unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, Hillary Clinton delivered bold comments that "got personal by asking whites to put themselves in the shoes of black Americans." Hillary asked people to "imagine… if a third of all white men – just look at this room and take one-third – went to prison during their lifetime. Imagine that. That is the reality in the lives of so many of our fellow Americans in so many of the communities in which they live."

As a candidate for president in 2007, she proposed making changes to drug sentencing laws and noted in particular that "the scales of justice are seriously out of balance when it comes to charging, sentencing and punishing African Americans." In the Senate, she also fought to strengthen community policing programs and end racial profiling.

In the face of a Supreme Court that in 2007 "turned its back on the promise of *Brown* vs. *Board of Education* that students of different racial backgrounds deserve an opportunity to attend school together," Hillary Clinton proposed a plan to help every school voluntarily work for a more diverse student body.

Hillary fought against attempts to weaken civil rights through our nation's Justice Department. She spoke out against federal judicial nominees like Leslie Southwick, whom she said had "demonstrated a lack of respect and understanding for the civil rights of all Americans, and particular indifference towards the real and enduring evils of discrimination against African Americans."

She has boldly sounded the alarm about the inequities that still exist between African Americans and whites, such as disparities in the number of uninsured children, people living in poverty, and college enrollment for high school graduates.

Hillary has honored the history of African Americans by introducing legislation to establish a Civil Rights History Project and by cosponsoring bills that created the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

TALKING POINTS: TOUGH ON TERRORISM

MESSAGE: *In a changing and unpredictable world, Hillary Clinton's leadership on issues of national security has kept America secure and helped make the world a safer place.*

KEY POINTS:

Hillary Clinton has recognized the threat and taken a tough stance against ISIS saying, "we have to do everything we can to…marginalize extremists through the Middle East."

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton worked through diplomatic channels to help the United States fight terrorism and safeguard our national security.

- Secretary Clinton made the case for the raid to bring Osama bin Laden to justice.
- Clinton built relationships with key players in the Middle East and funded counterterrorism training initiatives.
- Through negotiations with Russia, Clinton successfully worked to reduce the number of nuclear missile launchers in the world.

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- Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history in order to encourage Iran to abandon, or at least stall, its nuclear program.

- Clinton negotiated the Gaza cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians, helping avert an all-out war in Gaza.

- Clinton played a role to end the war in Iraq and begin a transition to civilian society in Afghanistan.

- Clinton instituted new roles at the State Department to fight terrorism:
  - Clinton created the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online.
  - Clinton established the Bureau of Counterterrorism to advance counterterrorism objectives and our national security.

- Clinton identified and led on important issues which affect our national security, such as the global empowerment of women and climate change.
  - Clinton worked to empower women and girls around the world to participate in their economies. This helps make economies stronger and more stable.
  - Clinton prioritized addressing climate change in her time at the State Department. Weather events caused by climate change can lead to famine and destroyed infrastructure, which increase instability and unrest.

Serving as a United States Senator representing New York during September 11, 2001, Hillary Clinton made it a priority to urge the pursuit of justice against Al Qaeda and improve our nation's efforts to combat terrorism.

RECENT STATEMENTS ON ISIS:

Clinton: "Canada, the United States, and many other nations are working together to stop the spread of ISIS and other violent jihadi extremists in the region." "Canada, the United States, and many other nations are working together to stop the spread of ISIS and other violent jihadi extremists in the region. These militants are targeting religious and ethnic minorities, kidnapping and beheading civilians, persecuting and enslaving women, and attracting foreign fighters, including some with Western passports from the United States and Canada who could easily return home. This fight is crucial, and more broadly, we have to do everything we can to empower moderates and marginalize extremists throughout the Middle East and the wider Muslim world." [Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Global Perspectives – Winnipeg, 1/21/15]

Clinton: "There is a distorted and dangerous strain of extremism within the Muslim world that continues to spread." "We are in a contest of ideas and values. And who are we contesting against? Well we are not contesting against the vast majority of Muslims. Islam itself is not the adversary. And the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and tolerant people. Here amongst us this afternoon we see that every day, in Canada and the United States, with so many of our neighbors and fellow citizens. But we can't close our eyes to the fact that at this time in our world history there is a distorted and dangerous strain of extremism within the Muslim world that continues to spread. Now its adherents may be few in number. But they have the capacity to cause profound damage, most especially, to their own communities. With these vicious few, we are confronting an ideology of hate – a worldview based on tearing down and dividing rather than building up and bringing together based on a claim to absolute truth and total intolerance for the beliefs and rights of their fellow human beings." [Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Global Perspectives – Winnipeg, 1/21/15]

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON TOPS NEW NATIONAL POLL

BACKGROUND: A new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm College New Hampshire poll conducted January 31 – February 5, 2015 finds that Hillary Clinton leads the field of potential Democratic presidential candidates in New Hampshire and maintains sky-high approval ratings.

KEY POINTS:

- Even as right-wing attack groups throw everything but the kitchen sink at Hillary Clinton, she continues to connect with Democrats, Independents and Americans of all backgrounds who are hungry for her experience, leadership and vision. Because of Hillary Clinton's years of public service, her strong record as a leader, and her commitment to fighting for middle class workers and their families, she has the support of so many Americans.

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- According to the poll, 56% of the likely Democratic primary voters polled in New Hampshire said that Hillary Clinton was their first choice for president, 41% ahead of the next potential candidate.
- Hillary Clinton is viewed favorably by 89% of likely Democratic primary voters.

THE BIG PICTURE:

- This latest poll is in line with what others polls and pundits have been showing for months – that Hillary Clinton has unprecedented support, despite the onslaught of Republican attacks against her.
  - A Fusion Massive Millennial poll conducted January 6-11, 2015 finds that 57% of young Democrats polled chose Hillary Clinton as their preferred Democratic presidential nominee, 47% higher than the next potential candidate. The poll also shows that in a head-to-head matchup with young Republicans' preferred GOP nominee, Mitt Romney, who eventually decided not to run, Hillary Clinton would win by double digits, 55%-31%.
  - A Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa poll conducted January 26-29, 2015 finds that 56% of the likely Democratic caucus-goers polled in Iowa said that Hillary Clinton was their first choice for president, 40% ahead of the next potential candidate. The poll also shows that Hillary Clinton is viewed favorably by 84% of Democratic likely caucus-goers.
  - An ABC News/Washington Post poll conducted January 12-15, 2015 finds that Hillary Clinton leads each of the top potential GOP candidates in hypothetical matchups by double digits. According to the poll, Hillary leads Jeb Bush 54%-41%, Mitt Romney 55%-40%, Chris Christie 53%-40%, Rand Paul 54%-41%, and Mike Huckabee 56%-39%.
  - For 17 out of the past 18 years, Hillary Clinton has been named Americans' Most Admired Woman, according to a Gallup poll from December 8-11, 2014.
  - Clinton is extremely popular among Democrats: an NBC/Marist poll from July 7-13, 2014 puts her favorability/unfavorability rating in Iowa at 89 percent/6 percent; in New Hampshire it's even higher, at 94 percent/4 percent.
  - In polls conducted this summer in Ohio, New Jersey and Florida, Hillary Clinton had commanding leads over potential 2016 GOP contenders.
  - According to a Quinnipiac press release on the Ohio poll, "Secretary Clinton, on the other hand, is almost everyone's favorite candidate."
  - Regarding the New Jersey poll, a Quinnipiac official stated, "As Gov. Christopher Christie traipses around the nation, his presidential potential seems alive, but former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the adopted girl next door, easily beats him in his home state."
  - Based on the Florida poll, CNN reported that "Hillary Clinton is the clear 2016 frontrunner in the nation's largest presidential battleground state."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	4/6/2012 9:51:00 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly report 4.6.12.docx

Hannah,
Attached and below is President Clinton's latest Biweekly Report.
Please let me know if there are any questions or feedback.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
April 6, 2012

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

The current biggest issue is the impact of President Mutharika's sudden death yesterday and whether there will be a smooth transition to the vice-president, who is no longer a member of the ruling party.

CDI had a visit from Kartikeya Maheshwari, an Indian businessman who has an interest in partnering with CDI to operate an agricultural products distribution business. The head of African development for Brookings in Malawi will see CDI's projects next week. A staff member of the Howard G. Buffet Foundation will be visiting later this month.

Harvesting and delivery of soya continues on the commercial farm and among smallholders in the Anchor Farm Project.

Rwanda (CHDI)

On the Mount Meru Soyco Ltd. site, the foundation of the solvent extraction plant is being laid, to be followed by the foundation for the refinery.

The planting period is now nearly complete for the AGRA project. Data compilation from last season's trials is underway.

At the fruit nursery, new seed beds have been installed, and the full grafting operation will begin in the next three months.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

The Investment Committee of the Colombia Acceso Fund has approved its second investment—$455,000 USD in Fontel S.A., a communication services provider. The funds will be principally allocated to the opening of twenty new service centers, which provide phone, Internet, and other office services in Bogotá and in the Caribbean region of Colombia. The investment is expected to generate sixty-six new formal direct jobs. Fontel's business model will also have a high social impact as it enables access for bottom of the pyramid (BoP) communities to use the Internet and other basic telecommunication and financial services. Thirty percent of Fontel's client base consists of low-income populations and thirty-five percent of its stores are located in BoP neighborhoods throughout the Caribbean region of Colombia.

Clinton Global Initiative

Membership/Sponsorship

- Since the last update on March 2, Ambassador Angelopoulos ($500,000), Ford Foundation ($400,000), and Delos Living ($300,000) have renewed their sponsorships for the 2012 Annual Meeting.

- CGI currently has 235 paying members registered for 2012. The renewal rate is eight percent higher than at this time last year, although the number of new member registrants is slightly behind (-11).

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CGI U

- The fifth annual CGI University meeting was a success by all accounts.
- 1,116 students attended CGI U 2012, representing 327 colleges and universities from 97 countries. Of the 1,116 students in attendance, 289 were international students, the highest percentage of international students represented at any CGI U meeting.
- The meeting received coverage in the following outlets: *The Washington Post*, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Associated Press, ABC News, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *Fast Company*, *Forbes*, *Seattle Times*, *Sioux City Journal*, *USA Today*, NPR, Sirius XM Radio, and WTOP.
- The CGI U Service Project went off smoothly, and both Rebuilding Together and the USO were very pleased with the turnout and results of the day.
- A complete wrap-up report will be delivered to YOU in the coming weeks.

CGI America

- CGI America has received 73 commitment progress reports out of 111 commitments made in 2011.

Zayneb K. Shaikley
William J. Clinton Foundation
77 Water Street, New York, NY 10005
T: 917.720.0295 | M: 646.873.0244
E: zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"King & Spalding" <update@kslawmail.com>
To:	"Odesta, Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	11/20/2015 4:31:05 AM
Subject:	King & Spalding Client Alert: ITC Initiates Investigation Into Likely Impact Of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)

KING & SPALDING

Client Alert

International Trade & Litigation Practice Group

ITC Initiates Investigation Into Likely Impact Of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has requested pursuant to section 105 of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, that the U.S. International Trade Commission (the ITC) conduct an assessment of the likely impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership ("TPP") Agreement on the U.S. economy as a whole, on specific industry sectors, and on the interests of U.S. consumers. More »

Contact(s)

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/18/2008 3:24:25 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech in Orlando, FL 08/18/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Evan, on the ground in Orlando, FL. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights

- Attacks on Obama and promises to vets largely a repetition, verbatim, of speech to DAV 2 weeks ago; plus a section on Georgia
    - Again hits Obama on judgment and "shifting positions", says "not content to merely predict failure in Iraq, [Obama] tried to legislate failure"
    - On Georgia, repeats warnings of Russia hitting BTC pipeline, says we must view them a "threat to the peace"
- Major changes from prev. speech
    - Directly addresses Obama charge he'll privatize VA; adamant that this is an expansion
    - Directly addresses Obama criticsm GI bill, says it would've been politically easier to sign GI bill but "I sought a better bill"
- Says he will "save billions" by vetoing every earmark, which can be used for vets care
- Repeats blames on Congress for exacerbating problems in vet health care and energy problems
- Accuses Obama of not "listen[ing] to the troops on the ground when they say ... 'Let us win'"
- Compares conflict in Georgia to Balkan conflict

Orlando, FL: McCain Speech at VFW 08/18/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- about 4,000 in attendance in venue w/ seats for 10k
- Heavy press: 10 or so cameras, mix of natl and local
- Tracker had no problem getting in: VFW staffers doing check-in; tracker didn't see any McCain staffers
- Ruslan Aushev, Soviet cmdr in Afghan war and Pres. of Ingushetia, speaks of cooperation b/t Russ. vet group (CIS) and VFW and need for international vet. affairs assoc.
- George Lisicki Cmmnder. in Chief of VFW, intros Cindy (she runs across stage w/o speaking); intros John with brief bio and notes 1992 Americanism award
- 1 woman in audience held "John McCain for President" sign
- Tracker didn't see any protesters
- McCain reading from paper, not teleprompter
- In addition to top military personnel named in speech, McCain thanks Orange County Mayor Rich Crotty, Sen. Mel Martinez (from Cuba, 'a great success story'), and Lindsay Graham and Lieberman for attendance

LINK TO FULL REMARKS: http://thepage.time.com/mccains-address-to-the-vfw/
REMARKS BY JOHN MCCAIN TO THE 109TH ANNUAL VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL CONVENTION

Thank you all very much. National Commander George Lisicki, thank you for the kind introduction. Ladies Auxiliary President Virginia Carmen, Incoming National Commander Glen Gardner, Incoming Ladies Auxiliary

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President Dixie Hild, Adjutant General Gunner Kent, Executive Director Bob Wallace: I thank you all for the warm welcome. I am honored to be in the company of all my fellow members of the VFW, and especially anyone here who might hail from Post 7401 in Chandler, Arizona.

I'm proud to count many of you in this room as personal friends, including my good friend retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major Paul Chevalier of New Hampshire. And there's another gentleman here I know you'll want to welcome. He's as fine a friend as a man could have in a tough spot, Lieutenant Colonel Orson Swindle of the United States Marine Corps.

All of us take pride in being members of this great organization. After its founding in 1914, the VFW served many of the more than four million American veterans of the First World War. Today just one of those veterans survives, a man of 107 named Frank Buckles. Frank lives in West Virginia. And I have a feeling that word will reach him if we all join in a round of applause for the last doughboy.

In all the years since, the men and women of the VFW have stayed faithful to their mission of serving those who have served their country. In Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and elsewhere, America's veterans have faced different enemies, but they have always found the same friend and ally in the VFW. All of us returned from war with a few experiences we'd gladly forget, but the friendships and camaraderie we brought home are forever. For keeping us all together, and helping those most in need, we're all in the debt of the VFW.

The men and women of the VFW know the value of freedom, because you have been its protectors. You were there when your country needed you. You shouldered heavy burdens and accepted great risks. I'm sure many of you will also recall from your experiences in war, as I do from mine, that when you're somewhere on the other side of the world in the service of America you pay attention to the news from back home. It affects morale. And even during this election season, with sharp differences on the wisdom and success of the surge in Iraq, Americans need to speak as one in praise of the men and women who fight our battles. They are the best among us, as you were before them, and I know you will join me in applauding the courage and skill that will see America through to victory.

Though victory in Iraq is finally in sight, a great deal still depends on the decisions and good judgment of the next president. The hard-won gains of our troops hang in the balance. The lasting advantage of a peaceful and democratic ally in the heart of the Middle East could still be squandered by hasty withdrawal and arbitrary timelines. And this is one of many problems in the shifting positions of my opponent, Senator Obama.

With less than three months to go before the election, a lot of people are still trying to square Senator Obama's varying positions on the surge in Iraq. First, he opposed the surge and confidently predicted that it would fail. Then he tried to prevent funding for the troops who carried out the surge. Not content to merely predict failure in Iraq, my opponent tried to legislate failure. This was back when supporting America's efforts in Iraq entailed serious political risk. It was a clarifying moment. It was a moment when political self-interest and the national interest parted ways. For my part, with so much in the balance, it was an easy call. As I said at the time, I would rather lose an election than lose a war.

Thanks to the courage and sacrifice of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines and to brave Iraqi fighters the surge has succeeded. And yet Senator Obama still cannot quite bring himself to admit his own failure in judgment. Nor has he been willing to heed the guidance of General Petraeus, or to listen to our troops on the ground when they say -- as they have said to me on my trips to Iraq: "Let us win, just let us win." Instead, Senator Obama commits the greater error of insisting that even in hindsight, he would oppose the surge. Even in retrospect, he would choose the path of retreat and failure for America over the path of success and victory. In short, both candidates in this election pledge to end this war and bring our troops home. The great difference is that I intend to win it first.

Behind all of these claims and positions by Senator Obama lies the ambition to be president. What's less apparent is the judgment to be commander in chief. And in matters of national security, good judgment will be at a premium in the term of the next president -- as we were all reminded ten days ago by events in the nation of Georgia.

It's been a while since most Americans -- including most of our leaders and diplomats -- have viewed Russia as a

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threat to the peace. But the Russian government's assault on a small democratic neighbor shows why this needs revising. As I have long warned, Russia under the rule of Vladimir Putin is becoming more aggressive toward the now democratic nations that broke free of the old Soviet empire.

Russia also holds vast energy wealth. And this heavy influence in the oil and gas market has become a political weapon that Russia is clearly prepared to use. Georgia stands at a strategic crossroads in the Caucasus. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, which brings oil from the Caspian to points west, traverses Georgia. And if that pipeline were destroyed or controlled by Russia, global energy supplies would be even more vulnerable to Russian influence with serious consequences on the world energy market.

For some time now, I have been making the case for a dramatic acceleration of domestic energy production. With high prices and growing demand for oil and gas, Americans cannot remain dependent upon others for the most vital of commodities. Now we are reminded that energy policy is also a matter of the highest priority not only for our economy, but for our nation's security. Disruptions of supply abroad can suddenly raise energy prices, inflicting great harm on our economy and on America workers. And in the term of the next president, skillful handling of such a crisis could be the difference between temporary hardship and far-reaching disaster.

When Russia first invaded Georgia, some people may have wondered why events in this part of the world should be any concern of ours. After all, Georgia may seem a small, remote and obscure place. But many of you served in places that once seemed remote and obscure. And the veterans of foreign wars know better than anyone how inattention to small crises can invite much larger ones. There are many reasons why the Russian invasion of Georgia is of grave concern to America and to our allies. Above all, Georgia is a struggling democracy where Soviet tyranny is still fresh in memory. There are reports now of Georgian villages being razed, civilians being rounded up, and innocent civilians shot. We have seen such things before, as in the Balkans and in earlier periods of European history, and now we must ensure that events in Georgia do not unfold into a tragedy of greater scale. When young democracies are threatened or attacked, and innocent civilians are targeted, they should be able to count on the free world for support and solidarity.

If I am elected president, they will have that support. And in cooperation with our friends and allies in Europe, we will make it clear to Russia's rulers that acts of violence and intimidation come at a heavy cost. There will be no place among G-8 nations, or in the WTO, for a modern Russia that acts at times like the old Soviet Union. The Cold War is over, the Soviet empire is gone, and neither one is missed. Least of all is that empire missed by the once captive nations of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, and Georgia. These brave young democracies have joined the free world, and they are not going back.

Through decades of struggle, free nations prevailed over tyranny in large measure because of the sacrifices of the men and women of the United States armed forces. And it will fall to the next commander in chief to make good on the obligation our government accepts every time any man or woman enters the military, and again when they receive their DD 214. Those we depend on as troops should know, when they become veterans, that they can depend on us. Honoring this obligation will require leadership. And I pledge to you that as president I will lead -- from the front -- to reform our VA system and make sure that veterans receive the respect and care they have earned.

The Walter Reed scandal was a disgrace unworthy of this nation -- and I intend to make sure that nothing like it is ever repeated. There are other problems as well that have not received as much media attention. And my administration will do the hard and necessary work of fixing them, even when the press and the public are not watching.

Reform begins with appointing a Secretary of Veterans Affairs who is a leader of the highest caliber, and who listens to veterans and veterans' service organizations. My VA secretary must be a forceful advocate for veterans and forthright advisor to me, so we can make the right choices about budgeting, health care, and other veterans' benefit issues. He or she will also need to be a high-energy leader, too, because we'll have a lot of work to do in improving service to veterans.

Veterans must be treated fairly and expeditiously as they seek compensation for disability or illness. We owe them compassion and hands-on care in their transition to civilian life. We owe them training, rehabilitation,

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and education. We owe their families, parents and caregivers our concern and support. Veterans should never be deprived of quality medical care and mental health care coverage for illness or injury incurred as a result of their service to our country.

As president, I will do all that is in my power to ensure that those who serve today, and those who have served in the past, have access to the highest quality health, mental health and rehabilitative care in the world. And I will not accept a situation in which veterans are denied access to care on account of travel distances, backlogs of appointments, and years of pending disability evaluation and claims. We should no longer tolerate requiring veterans to make an appointment to stand in one line for a ticket to stand in another.

I'm not here to tell you that there is a cost that is too high to be paid in the care of our nation's veterans. I will make sure that Congress funds the VA health care budget in a sufficient, timely, and predictable manner. But I will say that every increase in funding must be matched by increases in accountability, both at the VA and in Congress. And this requires an end to certain practices and abuses that serve neither our veterans, our country, nor the reputation of Congress itself.

Exactly because funding VA programs command bipartisan support, some in the Congress like to attach unrelated appropriations and earmarks to VA bills. The result is to mix vital national priorities with wasteful and often worthless political pork. Earmarks show up in bills of every kind, and not just VA bills. That's how we end up budgeting hundreds of millions of dollars for bridges to nowhere, or lesser sums for Woodstock museums and the like. When that earmark for a million bucks to fund a Woodstock museum didn't come through, I don't imagine that many veterans had to change their vacation plans. And the principle here is simple: Public money should serve the public good. If it's me sitting in the Oval Office, at the Resolute desk, those wasteful spending bills are going the way of all earmarks, straight back to the Congress with a veto. [PARAPHRASE - NOT IN PREPARED REMARKS - You will know their names. I will make them famous and we'll make it clear that this wasteful spending must end. And that will save billions, which can be used for veterans' care.]

When we make it clear to Congress that no earmark bill will be signed into law, that will save many billions of dollars that can be applied to essential priorities, and above all to the care of our veterans. But reform doesn't end there. We must also modernize our disability system to make sure that eligible service members receive benefits quickly, based on clear, predictable, and fair standards. And we must address the problems of capacity and access within our VA health care system. While this will involve a wide range of initiatives, I believe there is a simple and direct reform we should make right away.

My administration will create a Veterans' Care Access Card to be used by veterans with illness or injury incurred during their military service, and by those with lower incomes. This card will provide those without timely access to VA facilities the option of using high-quality health-care providers near their homes. For many veterans, the closest VA facility isn't close enough. And many of their local providers are already familiar with the most common needs of veterans. Often, all that prevents them from receiving local care is a system for sharing medical records among VA, DOD, and civilian hospitals and doctors. My reform will improve care, reduce risks, and broaden access all at the same time.

This card is not intended to either replace the VA or privatize veterans' health care, as some have wrongly charged. I believe the VA should always be there to provide top-quality care for our veterans. And I believe that the VA should continue to provide broad-spectrum health care to eligible veterans, in addition to specialized care in areas such as spinal injuries, prosthetics, and blindness -- services in which the VA sets the standard in medical care.

Even so, there are veterans eligible for care who are not currently able to receive it, on account of distance, wait times, or the absence of certain specialties. And for this group, the new card I propose will offer better alternatives, to provide the benefits they have earned.

Reform must also recognize that greater care is needed for certain types of injuries. In the Senate, I co-authored the Wounded Warrior Act, which was the first major legislative initiative to address post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. As president, I will build on this legislation to improve screening and treatment for these severe injuries suffered by many in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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The VA must also broaden its care for the women who are entering the armed forces in greater numbers than ever. The growing ranks of women in uniform have left the VA lagging behind in the services it provides. And here the Veterans Care Access Card will prove especially valuable, affording women medical options while the VA improves capacity and expands services.

These are among the elements of my reform agenda for the VA system. And today, as other occasions, I have stated in the plainest, most straightforward terms that the Veterans Health Care Access Card will expand existing benefits. I don't expect this will deter the Obama campaign from misrepresenting my proposals, but lest there be any doubt you have my pledge: My reforms would not force anyone to go to a non-VA facility. They will not signal privatization of the VA. And they will not replace any scheduled expansion of the VA network -- including those facilities designed to serve veterans living in rural and remote areas.

I suppose from my opponent's vantage point, veterans concerns are just one more issue to be spun or worked to advantage. This would explain why he has also taken liberties with my position on the GI Bill. In its initial version, that bill failed to address the number one education request that I've heard from career service members and their families -- the freedom to transfer their benefits to a spouse or a child. The bill also did nothing to retain the young officer and enlisted leaders who form the backbone of our all-volunteer force.

As a political proposition, it would have much easier for me to have just signed on to what I considered flawed legislation. But the people of Arizona, and of all America, expect more from their representatives than that, and instead I sought a better bill. I'm proud to say that the result is a law that better serves our military, better serves military families, and better serves the interests of our country.

No one who has worn the uniform of his or her country can ever take these matters lightly. We all learned an ethic in the service of looking after one another, of leaving no one behind, and this commitment did not end when we left the service. As a matter of duty and of honor, whatever our commitments to veterans cost, if I am president those commitments will be kept.

The next president will have many responsibilities to the American people, and I take them all seriously. But I have one responsibility that outweighs all the others and that is to use whatever talents I possess, and every resource God has granted me to protect the security of this great and good nation from all enemies foreign and domestic.

It is every veteran's hope that should their children be called upon to answer a call to arms, the battle will be necessary and the field well chosen. But that is not their responsibility. It belongs to the government that called them. As it once was for us, their honor will be in their answer not their summons. Whatever we think about how and why we went to war in Iraq, we are all humbled by and grateful for their example. They now deserve the distinction of the best Americans, and we owe them a debt we can never fully repay. We can only offer the small tribute of our humility and our commitment to do all that we can do, in less trying and costly circumstances, to help keep this nation worthy of their sacrifice.

Many of them have served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many had their tours extended. Many returned to combat sooner than they had been led to expect. It was a sad and hard thing to ask so much more of Americans who have already given more than their fair share to the defense of our country. Few of them and their families will have received the news about additional and longer deployments without aiming a few appropriate complaints in the general direction of people like me, who helped make the decision to send them there. And then they shouldered a rifle or climbed in a cockpit and risked everything -- everything -- to accomplish their mission, to protect another people's freedom and our own country from harm.

It is a privilege beyond measure to live in a country served by them. I have had the good fortune to know personally a great many brave and selfless patriots who sacrificed and shed blood to defend America. But I have known none braver or better than those who do so today. They are our inspiration, as I suspect all of you were once theirs. And I pray to a loving God that He bless and protect them. Thank you.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Doug Band - PC" <doug@presidentclinton.com>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Bari Lurie" <blurie@clintonfoundation.org>
	"John Podesta \(john.podesta@gmail.com\)" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	3/2/2012 10:24:04 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 3.2.2.docx

Hannah,
Attached (and below) is President Clinton's latest biweekly report.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
March 2, 2012

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The Alliance is working closely with Kaiser Permanente on a partnership to launch the Healthy Schools Program in their eight key markets.

Two articles on the impact of the Healthy Schools Program will appear in the March issue of the CDC's peer-reviewed journal, *Preventing Chronic Disease.*

The Alliance is working with the Clinton Presidential Center team in Little Rock to host a pre-screening of a new HBO documentary, *Weight of the Nation*, on May 2.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

The President of AGRA, Dr. Namanga Ngongi, is in Malawi this week and is visiting with smallholder farmers who are partners in the Anchor Farm Project. Dr. Ngongi will have a full update on the progress to date of the commercial farming and smallholder operations and will hear from smallholders on the specific impacts the project is having on their livelihoods.

CDI is finalizing a small volume sale of carbon credits through a Carbon Trade Exchange buyer. The buyer has a record of making regular purchases, so it is promising that the buyer is interested in and has begun buying credits from CDI's project.

Rwanda (CHDI)

Following the groundbreaking of Mt. Meru Soyco Ltd., construction has begun on the ground, including drilling a bore hole, excavating the boundary wall, cleaning and leveling the site, mobilizing the civil contractor team, and getting all necessary documents in order.

With regards to the AGRA project, the current harvesting work is being finalized and preparations are underway for the next season. Farmers are mobilized and seeds are now available.

On February 8, the transfer of the government land in the name of RFCC was approved. With that resolution, the CHDI team can now apply for a construction permit. CHDI is moving forward with the next steps in this regard.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

Mexico

A Ganar, the pilot project that CGSGI participates in with Fundación Carlos Slim in Chihuahua, Mexico, will have its first graduation on March 8. At the event, 301 youth from the first phase of the project will graduate. *A Ganar* — which means "to win" and "to earn" in Spanish — utilizes soccer and other team sports to help youth age 16-24 re-enter the formal education system, and learn the entrepreneurial skills necessary to enter the workforce in the future. To date, 528 youth have enrolled,

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72 job placements have been made (as nursing assistants, administrative assistants and junior chefs), and 41 have gone back to school.

The goal of this multinational program, supported by the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative, Fundación Carlos Slim, the PepsiCo Foundation of Mexico, and other donors, is to combat youth unemployment through the application of an integrated job training program, transforming lessons and skills developed through sports into marketable job skills.

Haiti

The Haiti Development Fund is now under CGSGI management. This will allow synergies in processes and sharing best practices with the Colombian fund, Fondo Acceso.

Clinton Global Initiative

Membership/Sponsorship

NRG Energy, Duke Energy, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina have all renewed their CGI sponsorship at the $350,000 level for the 2012 Annual Meeting. Procter & Gamble has also renewed its CGI sponsorship for $500,000 for both 2012 and 2013.

CGI currently has 208 paying members for 2012. As was previously reported, a change in the methodology by which members are renewed makes year-to-year comparisons difficult. Nonetheless, the current renewal rate is 6 percent higher at this time than last year, although we are running slightly behind on new member registrants (-7).

CGI Winter Meeting

The CGI Winter Meeting will be held March 15th at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City.

The plenary panelists include:

- Ashley Judd, board member, Population Services International
- M. Sanjayan, lead scientist, The Nature Conservancy
- Bobbi Silten, president, Gap Foundation and senior vice president, Global Responsibility, Gap Inc.
- Derek Yach, senior vice president, Global Health and Agriculture Policy, PepsiCo

There are 275 registrants for the meeting, including 88 new member prospects. Our goal is to have 330 total registrants by March 15th.

CGI U

Usher, Kathryn Schultz (author of *Being Wrong*), and Luis Moreno have all confirmed their participation at the fifth meeting of CGI U.

The CGI U service project has been confirmed. We will be working in partnership with Rebuilding Together and the USO. The service project rally will be hosted at Kelly Miller Middle School located in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

The *Arrive Magazine* cover story featuring you and CGI U was released on March 1st and will be available on all Amtrak trains through the months of March and April.

CGI America

We have started sending out invitations for CGI America and expect sto have approximately 1,000 participants at this year's meeting.

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/28/2015 3:59:02 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.28.15
Attachments:	6.28.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

June 28, 2015

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Praises Gay Marriage Decision and Hounds GOP // TIME // Sam Frizell – June 27, 2015

"Equality triumphed, and America triumphed"

Hillary Clinton praised the Supreme Court decision to guarantee same-sex marriages on Friday night and forcefully condemned the Republicans' response to the ruling, warning the GOP presidential field not to turn LGBT issues into a "political football for this 2016 campaign."

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“It was an emotional roller coaster of a day, Clinton said. “This morning, love triumphed in the highest court in our land. Equality triumphed, and America triumphed.”

“Instead of trying to turn back the clock,” Clinton continued, Republicans “should be joining us in saying no to discrimination once and for all.”

Clinton’s comments on Friday evening were her first public remarks in the wake of Friday’s Supreme Court ruling that the Constitution guarantees the right for same-sex couples to marry. Her campaign issued a statement Friday in support of the decision and touted it on social media.

Nearly all the Republican presidential hopefuls have criticized the Supreme Court’s decision, with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker calling it a “grave mistake” and Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee naming the Supreme Court “an imperial court.” The Republicans have said the issue should be decided by the states, and several called for a constitutional amendment.

Among the general electorate, the issue of gay marriage favors the Democrats: nearly 60% of Americans support same-sex marriage, a count that has grown rapidly in recent years. It is likely to be a boon for Democrats in a general election.

Clinton called Friday’s Supreme Court decision a ruling that reinforced American values. “Today was not about discovering new rights—it was about getting closer to the ideals that have defined our nation from the very beginning,” she said.

Much of the former secretary of state’s address was a preview of what her stump speech in a general election might sound like. Clinton ticked off a list of issues that she said made the Republicans sounds like the “party of the past,” including gun control, immigration reform, same-sex marriage and the Affordable Care Act.

She praised the Supreme Court for upholding the Obamacare subsidies in states with federal-run exchanges, and called on all states to accept funding for Medicaid expansion.

The Supreme Court ruled Friday that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage, bringing an end to a patchwork of marriage laws across the U.S. and decades of activism pushing for marriage equality.

Friday was Clinton’s first stop of her presidential election campaign in Virginia, a purple state that Barack Obama won in 2008 and 2012. It will be a key state for Clinton in the 2016 election if she wins the Democratic nomination, one that she will likely need to defeat a Republican opponent.

Virginia’s governor, Terry McAuliffe is a close ally of the Clintons and will be a key player for her in the state. McAuliffe introduced Clinton with an effusive speech, calling her a “tenacious fighter.”

“You know why else I love this woman? She’s been beaten up, she’s been knocked down, but every time she does she gets right back up,” said McAuliffe, echoing an oft-repeated theme of Clinton’s campaign stump speech.

McAuliffe, who vacations with the Clintons, told the crowd when he’s traveling with them and wants a pre-dinner cocktail, “I don’t go looking for Bill Clinton: I go looking for Hillary Clinton, because she’s a lot more

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fun than him."

Cheering Marriage Decision, Hillary Clinton Heads to Provincetown // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 27, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton transformed her H-and-an-arrow campaign logo into a gay-rights rainbow on Friday to mark the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage ruling. She issued a statement calling the court's decision "an affirmation of the commitment of couples across the country who love one another." Her campaign sells a variety of branded "Hillary" items timed to June's Gay Pride Month.

But on Thursday, Mrs. Clinton will make perhaps her most gay-friendly move: She will visit Provincetown, Mass.

The seaside enclave — in the state that was first to legalize same-sex marriage — has long been a Shangri-La for gay men and lesbians who enjoy raucous, romantic or just relaxing weekends in the scenic city at the northern tip of Cape Cod.

In 2012, the Census reported that Provincetown had 163.1 same-sex couples per 1,000 people, the most of any city in the country.

As much as it may call to mind drag-queen pool parties or kitschy rainbow-festooned nightclubs, Provincetown has served a far more serious purpose: Historically, it was one of the few resort locales where gay men and lesbians could openly enjoy a vacation without the threat of discrimination or worse.

Mrs. Clinton, who maintains strong support among gay people, and whose campaign recently released a video showing same-sex couples before and during their weddings, will attend a fund-raiser in Provincetown hosted by Bryan Rafanelli, an event planner, and Alix Ritchie, a prominent gay-rights activist. The event is part of a string of fund-raisers Mrs. Clinton has arranged in and around Boston in early July.

It was planned weeks ago — but just became extremely well timed.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Ashley Killough (6/27/15, 11:11 AM) - Man says he had a ticket to @JebBush event but was told right before it was a private event and he wasn't allowed in.

Jenna Portnoy (6/27/15, 2:49 PM) - The compromise takes it. @VA_GOP votes 42 to 39 to choose presidential nominee by primary in 2016 and gov nominee by convention in 2017.

Ashley Killough (6/27/15, 8:47 PM) - On beating Clinton @ScottWalker says "if we're going to beat a name from the past, we need a name from the future—not a name from the past"

Wall Street Journal (6/28/15, 9:20 PM) - Breaking: Iran, world powers plan to continue nuclear talks beyond June 30, says senior U.S. official wsj.com

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

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Hillary Clinton says you can vote in Texas with a concealed-weapon permit, but not a student ID // Politifact // W. Gardner Selby – June 27, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, campaigning in Texas, called for citizens to be automatically registered to vote at age 18. Speaking at Texas Southern University, Clinton also lashed out at the Texas law reached by the Republican-steered Legislature in 2011 requiring voters to present photo identification at the polls.

Rick Perry, the state's governor into 2015, "signed a law that a federal court said was actually written with the purpose of discriminating against minority voters," Clinton said. Mostly True, PolitiFact in Washington, D.C. recently found, noting that a federal judge had aired that conclusion, though the judge's ruling that the law is unconstitutional remains under appeal.

A reader asked us to consider another Clinton charge from that Houston appearance.

According to a New York Times account of her speech, Clinton said young Texans had been disenfranchised by the voter ID law. "If you want to vote in this state," she said, "you can use a concealed-weapon permit as a valid form of identification, but a valid student ID isn't good enough."

This claim took just a few key strokes and help from a state office to confirm.

Prior to the change in law, Texas law didn't require anyone to present a photo ID to vote. However, Alicia Phillips Pierce, a spokeswoman for the Texas secretary of state, confirmed by email that student ID's previously could have been presented to help officials pin down someone's identity for the purposes of voting though the law did not require anyone to present more than a voter registration card. The old law broadly said a voter could present a "form of identification containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity."

The Texas secretary of state's office says on its Frequently Asked Questions web page that the current ID mandate enables a registered voter to cast a ballot at a poll during early voting or on Election Day with one of seven types of a photo ID:

A Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS.

Texas personal identification card issued by DPS.

Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS.

U.S. military identification card containing the person's photograph.

U.S. citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph.

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U.S. passport.

So, yes to voting in Texas with a concealed handgun license but no-go for someone presenting a student ID.

Nationally, the National Conference of State Legislatures said in March 2015, 14 of 34 states with laws requiring voters to show identification at the polls included a student ID option, including three states — Mississippi, Virginia and Wisconsin — that, like Texas, were described by the group as having "strict" photo ID voting laws.

Wondering if a student ID element was ever part of the legislation that became the Texas law, we reviewed the varied versions of Senate Bill 14, authored by Sen. Troy Fraser of Horseshoe Bay and fellow Republicans that advanced in the 2011 legislative session. We found no "student" mentions. Language permitting a state license to carry a concealed handgun to be offered at the polls wasn't in the original Fraser proposal; it was added, though, before the Senate sent the proposal to the House, legislative records show.

Voting by mail

We've noted before that Texas maintains a no-ID element for voting by mail, in 2013 rating True a claim the Texas law doesn't require a person voting by mail to present a photo ID. That's so, we found, for all but first-time voters who did not present a photo ID number or the last four digits of their Social Security number when registering to vote. Those voters who seek to vote by mail can expect to be asked for a copy of their photo ID, yet even they don't have to do so if they are disabled, in the military or living overseas.

A registered voter wishing to ballot by mail must say she or he will be out of her or his home county on Election Day and during the early-voting period or she or he is sick or disabled or will be 65 or older on Election Day or confined in jail though still eligible to vote.

Our ruling

Clinton said: "If you want to vote in" Texas, "you can use a concealed-weapon permit as a valid form of identification, but a valid student ID isn't good enough."

The photo IDs accepted at Texas polling places include the state's concealed-handgun license and not any student IDs. We rate this statement True.

Hillary Clinton, Praising the Court's Marriage Decision, Pits Herself Against 'the Party of the Past' //
National Journal // Emily Schultheis – June 27, 2015

FAIRFAX, Va. — Energized by a major week of policy victories for Democrats, which culminated with the Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide, Hillary Clinton at a stop in Virginia on Friday forcefully drew contrasts between herself and the 2016 Republican field on issues ranging from same-sex marriage and health care to immigration, women's health and gun control laws.

"A lot of the Republicans may talk about having new ideas and fresh faces, but across the board they're the party of the past, not the future," she told a crowd of about 1,800 supporters on George Mason University's campus in Fairfax.

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Clinton praised the Supreme Court for its same-sex marriage decision, quoting from Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinion. "This morning, love triumphed in the highest court in our land," she said. "Equality triumphed. America triumphed."

Though Friday's event was a fundraiser for the state Democratic Party, which is neutral in the Democratic primaries, it felt like a de facto Hillary Clinton pep rally. The coterie of local and state politicians who spoke before her were effusive in praise, and virtually all of them endorsed or advocated for her on stage.

"I don't know about you, but I made my choice—I'm ready for Hillary," Virginia Sen. Mark Warner said, to applause.

Clinton's speech gave early but clear signs of how she'll paint herself against a Republican opponent if she makes it to the general election, as most assume she will. Clinton denounced a GOP field who, she said, "seemed determined to lead us right back into the past," going after the Republican candidates who had criticized the Court's decision earlier in the day.

"This morning they all decried the Supreme Court's ruling upholding marriage equality—we even heard them call for a constitutional amendment to strip away the right to equality from our gay brothers and sisters," she said, seemingly alluding to amendment proposals from Scott Walker and Ted Cruz. "Instead of trying to turn back the clock, they should be joining us in saying loudly and clearly, 'No, no' to discrimination once and for all."

"I'm asking them, please: don't make the rights, the hopes, of any American, a political football for this 2016 campaign," Clinton continued.

She went on to to contrast Democratic policies on health care, women's health and gun control laws with those of Republicans. Pointing to a vote in Congress over Centers for Disease Control and research on gun violence, Clinton denounced Republicans for voting against the funding before the funerals of those shot and killed in Charleston last week were over. "How can you watch massacre after massacre and take that vote?" she said. "That is wrong."

She said the country doesn't need leaders who "shame and blame women" for medical decisions, calling out Republicans for restrictive policies on abortion and other women's health issues.

"Ask them about women's reproductive health, they're likely to talk—about defunding Planned Parenthood," she said. "Or maybe they'll insist on forcing women to undergo some demeaning and invasive medical procedure, as was attempted right here here in Virginia."

On health care, Clinton indicated that the Affordable Care Act isn't going anywhere after the Court's King v. Burwell decision, and Republicans would do well to fall in line. "All the Republicans candidates were furious that earlier this week, the Supreme Court once again confirmed what we've all known and believed for years—it is settled law and it is here to stay."

Clinton also showed how easily Republican candidate Donald Trump, who referred to Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and "criminals" during his campaign announcement, can be turned into a talking point for her campaign. "Maybe he's never met them," she said. "Maybe he's never stopped to ask the millions of people who love this country, work hard and want nothing more than a chance to build a better life for themselves and their children, what their lives are like."

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Her speech came after a week particularly emboldening week Democrats, which began with widespread removals of the Confederate flag. That glee was apparent in speeches from the Virginia politicians who also appeared on stage.

"What an incredible week," said Warner. "I mean, is there a week in modern American history where so many fundamental things have changed?"

Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine said the week's victories made the country "a more perfect Union"—and said that if Clinton is elected, "we will make it more perfect again."

And Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a longtime friend and ally of the Clintons, joined in as he introduced her on stage: "Yes, after 226 years, it is time for a woman president of the United States!"

The latest mystery over Hillary's missing e-mails // NY Post // Post Editorial Board - June 27, 2015

The latest mystery over Hillary's missing e-mails

Now this was predictable: The State Department on Thursday said Hillary Clinton failed to turn over 15 work-related e-mails from her private server, despite claiming she'd handed over everything.

Which raises the troubling question: How many more did she also, uh, "miss"?

Remember, the former secretary of state and her aides had insisted they'd sent the department all her work-related e-mails from her personal server after conducting a "careful" review.

Now it turns out she didn't include 15 of those she'd exchanged with longtime confidant Sidney Blumenthal concerning Libya.

To comply with a subpoena, Blumenthal gave the House Select Committee on Benghazi about 60 Libya-related e-mails he'd exchanged with Hillary. But the committee found some of those were not included in the batch the State Department gave it.

Now we know the reason: State didn't actually get everything from Hillary.

Of course, Hillary & Co. are always ready with an answer: Her staff claims it doesn't "recognize many of those materials and cannot speak to their origin."

Hmm. Maybe George W. Bush secretly wrote them and planted them on Blumenthal's hard drive.

Sure, it's possible those messages were missed accidentally in Hillary's search. The State Department also claims the content of the omitted Blumenthal e-mails "is not relevant to the 2012 attacks in Benghazi" — a key part of the committee's probe.

But even if you give Hillary the undeserved benefit of the doubt, the revelation is still

troubling.

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"This has implications far beyond Libya, Benghazi and our committee's work," says panel chairman Trey Gowdy. "This conclusively shows her e-mail arrangement with herself, which was then vetted by her own lawyers, has resulted in an incomplete public record."

Indeed.

The point is, if she missed Blumenthal's e-mails, she might have also overlooked others — "accidentally" or not. In fact, the only reason anyone even found out about Blumenthal's stash is because hackers got them and made them public.

Bottom line: Hillary failed to supply a complete record, despite her assertions to the contrary. Once again the public may never know what it's missing.

And she wants Americans to trust her as their president?

Undo Obamacare? Dream on // New York Daily News // James Warren - June 28, 2015

Having ducked the need to replace Obamacare, Republicans can now bitch and flail and face Washington's most potent force: the status quo.

The Affordable Care Act is now the de facto status quo as a result of the Supreme Court's decision last week. And smart Republicans should know you usually get only one shot at the king.

They tried by concocting a theory that was less about substance than semantics: What did an exchange "established by the state" really mean?

Now they can rail against Obamacare and "activist" judges. GOP presidential candidates can make that a campaign refrain and thus let the party keep the issue without owning the outcome of the decision they sought, namely more than 6 million losing their health care.

But do they really have a chance to change, even repeal, the law?

"It's hard to fully repeal it, but it is not that hard to change it substantially. The GOP has to have a strategy of fixing it, the more the better," says John Feehery, a Republican consultant and former top aide to former House Speaker Dennis Hastert and House Minority Leader Tom DeLay.

Changing it substantially will be hard for a simple reason: the history of entitlements screams out that the longer a law is in place, the harder it is to ditch or dramatically alter it.

Indeed, there's a lot of research about what the political scientists call "positive feedback loops" when it comes to policy.

The academics can make it sound complex but it isn't: You pass a law, constituencies who rely on it are born and they and others proceed to resist changes.

"Social Security is the classic case, of course," says Andrew Rudalevige, a political scientist at Bowdoin College.

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There are a few examples to the contrary. For example, interest groups fought ferociously to regain their tax breaks and undermined a historic bipartisan tax reform in 1986 crafted under President George H.W. Bush.

But Social Security and other transformational changes, such as transportation deregulation (trucking and airlines), proceeded apace and suggest why Obamacare "has staying power," as Rudalevige puts it.

It's unleashed market forces that are hard to undo.

If you doubted that, be informed that HCA Holdings Inc., Tenet Healthcare Corp. and Community Health Systems Inc. shares all gained at least 8% shortly after Bloomberg News first broke word of the decision at 10:08:09 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on Thursday (beating Thomson Reuters by all of six seconds).

Further, Obamacare is pretty heavy on regulations, like Social Security and Medicare. Those become tough to alter, while creating a huge number of people with incentives to maintain their benefits.

It's not guaranteed with metaphysical certitude but likely. One interesting qualifier is broached in the work of Andrea Campbell at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who talks about welfare politics and its key constituents, the poor, voting infrequently and finding it harder to organize.

So one trick for Obamacare might be to make sure it insinuates itself into the middle class, which has more political clout and ability to resist change.

But it's not as if even proponents don't concede issues with the law, which did not alter the private health care system in any significant fashion.

"Basically the real challenge now is for delivery system reform — that is improving quality and lowering cost," said Ezekiel Emanuel, an oncologist and medical ethics and health policy expert at the University of Pennsylvania and a former White House adviser on the health care law.

"The ACA galvanized that activity and is pushing it forward but a lot more needs doing. That will continue now without distraction of will ACA be repealed. That is good.

"And one would hope that there could be more bipartisan overlap to push initiatives that would accelerate the transformation. It is happening but could go faster."

For sure. But, with a presidential campaign upon us, the near certainty is that even as more Americans may benefit from the law, Republicans will beat the drum.

And they'll go after Hillary Clinton for her support, while she beats her own drum among minorities, especially Latinos, and gains advantage.

The bottom line will be the same: The GOP can hector all it wants. But, as with gay marriage, they've now lost the argument.

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June 27, 2015

Hillary Clinton did last week what candidates for president often do in Minnesota. She quietly swooped into town, steered toward Lake Minnetonka and switched on her campaign-finance vacuum cleaner. It went to work on a crowd of about 120 that reportedly nibbled crab salad and vegetable-chèvre crêpes while Clinton discussed the challenges facing America's working families.

You missed the big rally that followed? So did I — because there wasn't one.

I'm not complaining (much). It's early. As the far-and-away front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, Clinton likely has all next summer and September and October, too, to rent a local arena and put on a show that in many Minnesota minds has become obligatory. The DFL faithful who have worked to keep Minnesota reliably Democratic blue in every presidential election save one since 1960 expect at least one such performance.

Or next year, maybe more than one — given the year's unusual state political lineup.

Ever-turning four- and six-year election cycles have spun around to a circumstance not seen in Minnesota since 1992, the first time the name Clinton was on the presidential ballot. It's a presidential year in which no state constitutional office is at stake. Neither U.S. Senate seat is up for grabs. The state's eight U.S. House seats will be on the ballot, as usual. So will all 201 seats of the Minnesota Legislature.

President, the U.S. House, and the Minnesota House and Senate. Toss in a few county races and a ballot question or two, and that's the entire political dance card in 2016. (If your memory does not stretch back to 1992, try this variation: It's 2004 plus the state Senate to boot.)

That means legislative candidates next year will be more vulnerable than usual to the vagaries of presidential politics. The situation has DFL legislators investing a lot of hope in Hillary — and last week, it had the Minnesota Republican Party behaving as the anti-Welcome Wagon as Clinton pulled into town.

The state GOP's news conference pulled no punches. It called Clinton "shady," "dishonest and untrustworthy," and prone to "secrecy and scandal."

Only minutes later, the business-funded Minnesota Jobs Coalition piled on. It released a poll of 600 likely voters conducted June 9-11 in 16 Minnesota House districts that have proved prone to swing to either party in recent years — 12 in Greater Minnesota, four in the suburbs.

The approve/disapprove results weren't pretty for Clinton: 35 percent approve, 49 percent disapprove, the coalition crowed. Coalition executive director John Rouleau noted that even among female poll respondents — voters who typically tilt toward the DFL — Hillary's approval score lagged 6 percentage points behind her disapproval share.

Those numbers shouldn't cause any panic attacks among DFLers — yet. The poll did not pair Clinton with any GOP rival. And — did I mention? — it's early.

But the poll's very design underscores this feature of 2016 Minnesota politics: Control of the Legislature will be the year's big prize. It likely won't turn on which presidential candidate carries this state. But it may well turn on how the presidential contenders perform in a few dozen key districts in Greater Minnesota and on

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the metro fringe.

And as the last several legislative elections showed, a big factor in political performance is turnout. When it's low — 1998, 2010, 2014 — Republicans generally pick up legislative seats. When it's 70-plus percent — Minnesota's usual presidential-year range — DFLers do better.

The question that's got to be nagging at DFLers is whether a Hillary Clinton presidential candidacy can gin up Minnesota's customary turnout — and whether that turnout will be substantial not only in Linden Hills and Highland Park, but also Willmar, Brainerd and Albert Lea.

Clinton's money-vacuum stop at Ellen Goldberg Luger's back yard last week provided little indication that she's attuned to this local concern. Other aspects of her campaign do.

Within days of announcing her candidacy on April 12, Clinton dispatched a full-time organizer to every state in the country, assigned to work with local Democratic parties and pols to enlist reliable volunteers. That's an earlier and bigger commitment to grass-roots organizing in states without early primaries than presidential candidates typically make.

Clinton's man on the ground in Minnesota, Scott Hogan, deflected my queries about his activity to the campaign's Brooklyn, N.Y., headquarters. There, an official said that Hogan's been plenty busy, arranging 24 events and signing up more than 575 volunteers in less than two months. Notably, those events have occurred in each of the eight congressional districts, not just the DFL strongholds of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth.

That geographic reach undoubtedly pleases the DFL legislative campaign crew. So does her professed interest in coordinating her campaign with the DFL Party and legislative races, rather than operating as a free agent.

So do the candidate's published assurances that she aims not just to win her own election, but to bolster state and local political parties and shore up democracy along the way. One such, from South Carolina: "I am running to live again at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. But I don't want to be there all by myself. I want Democrats elected from the local to the county to the state to the federal level, once again making the case that when Democrats win, Americans win."

More than the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Clinton is a creature of the Democratic Party. She looks likely to be a team player who will visibly ally herself with local candidates, show up a time or two and spend some campaign cash in a traditionally blue state. That undoubtedly sounds good to DFLers trying to hang on to the state Senate and recapture the House.

But as the Jobs Coalition's poll suggests, Clinton's reputation as an establishment Democrat may limit her appeal in legislative swing districts. In those places, her efforts to be a DFL party-builder could be a two-edged sword.

Hillary's list offers staffers cheap Brooklyn accommodation **// Telegraph // Rob Crilly – June 27, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's decision to locate her campaign HQ in fashionable Brooklyn has given staffers and volunteers a major headache - how to find affordable accommodation in one of the country's most inflated housing markets.

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The campaign is running a spare room or couch surfing service - a sort of politicos' Craig's List - pairing donors with its young army of workers who need a bed for the night.

The scheme is part necessity, part useful branding exercise for a wealthy politician frequently derided as out of touch with ordinary Americans and their money worries.

One recent email put it bluntly.

“Do you have a spare room – or just a spare couch! – where a new staffer could stay?”

“You and I both know that finding a place to live in New York can take longer than an afternoon of apartment hunting,” it said.

“These folks will be working long days, so they really just need a place to sleep, and they'll be so grateful to be staying with someone who shares their beliefs and their goals.”

Mrs Clinton's run for the White House is based over two floors of an office block in Brooklyn Heights.

In fact Brooklyn Heights lacks the hipster appeal of places such as Williamsburg, but even so its historic brownstowns and views across the East River to Manhattan, mean that rents are the highest in the entire borough. Finding a shoe-box sized apartment for less than $2000 (£1270) is a challenge.

Lena Dunham, writer and star of Girls, recently spent almost $5 million on a home just around the corner.

For those on a more modest budget, it means hunting further afield – scouting locations deeper into Brooklyn, in the sort of neighbourhoods that have yet to get an artisan coffee shop - or apartment hopping using the Clinton Campaign's host-a-staffer service.

Jasmin Harris, 22, stayed with a middle aged couple in their Brooklyn Heights apartment, for six weeks, until they needed their spare room for visiting relatives.

“I don’t know exactly where I’m going, but I’ll be somewhere else tonight,” she told The New York Times. “I have my bags packed and am waiting for an email.”

It is not the only money-saving element of the campaign.

Workers have been told to take the bus wherever possible. That is in part to keep costs down during the primary campaign when individual donations are limited to $2700 per person, but also to show that lessons have been learnt from the disastrous 2008 run when Mrs Clinton was seen as the high-spending Washington insider upended by Barack Obama's shoestring insurgents.

Although it still leaves Mrs Clinton with one other dilemma headache – whether to take the usual summer break in the Hamptons where a holiday home can cost $200,000 a month.

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Clinton Ally Terry McAuliffe Suggests Hillary's Leadership Is 'Fitting' Of Charleston Victims // IJReview // Katie Lapotin – June 27, 2015

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe told a crowd full of supporters Friday night that the type of leadership former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would bring to the White House is "fitting of the people who lost their lives last week" during a mass shooting at a historically black church in Charleston, S.C.

The former DNC chair was introducing the 2016 presidential candidate at the state party's annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner when he made the remark.

> "In the wake of that unspeakable tragedy in Charleston, South Carolina, many politicians went out of their way to duck the tough issues that terrible act raised. But not Hillary Clinton. Hillary stepped forward and began a national conversation about race and gun violence," he said.
>
> "It is fitting of the people who lost their lives last week. Folks, this is the type of leadership that we need from our next president."

McAuliffe, who also served as chairman of her failed 2008 presidential bid, quipped that he would rather share a cold one with Hillary than her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

Clinton returned the gesture from her longtime friend and political ally, telling those in attendance:

> "[McAuliffe's] my kind of leader, a pragmatic progressive. He prefers common ground to scorched earth."

Clinton's speech at the Jefferson-Jackson Friday was her first official campaign visit to Virginia since launching her campaign in April. Despite the state's importance in 2016, however, party organizers ended up giving away free tickets to the dinner late Friday in order to fill tables.

Hillary Clinton establishes campaign presence in ND // Dickinson Press // Grace Lyden and Tu-Uyen Tran – June 27, 2015

For three weeks, Clinton has had a staffer in town, Andrew Buis, who also worked for President Barack Obama's campaign. But fitting with the name of her "Ramp Up Grassroots Organizing Program," most of the events, such as house parties and barbecues, have been hosted by local volunteers.

"We want people to get involved, not just people who are deeply entrenched in politics, but everyone," said Jeffrey Eide, a 30-year-old volunteer who lives in Fargo.

It's an approach Clinton is taking nationwide. Campaign spokesman Tyrone Gayle said in an email that paid staffers like Buis are in all 50 states and the territories through the end of June, but that Clinton's message will be spread through "old-school organizing," complete with potlucks and parades.

Eide, who's joined Buis in talking to people on the street, said this attracts and gives voice to atypical voters, particularly millennials. Obama appealed to that age group with his savvy social media, and Clinton aims to get their vote with old-fashioned conversation.

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"Amongst my friends, I sense oftentimes that people feel their concerns and their political interests are not being attended to," Eide said. "As important as social media is for getting out and maintaining and reinforcing a strong message, face-to-face communication, in my opinion, has always been the best way to get to know other people and hear what they have to say."

Gayle said there have been grass-roots organizing meetings in Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck and Belcourt.

Volunteer Mary Jo Cayley, who is housing Buis, said gatherings also create momentum and, in turn, motivate people to vote. They build enthusiasm, she said, and make for a more positive campaign.

"Last time, it was, 'Yes we can,' " she said. "Now, we know we can."

But how likely is a Clinton win in North Dakota?

Carma Hanson, vice chairwoman of the North Dakota Republican Party, sees Clinton's early start as a sign that she knows what she's up against.

"She's going to be looking for votes wherever she can get them, and I think she knows we are a very Republican state," Hanson said. "It will be a battle for Democrats in the state to establish their presence, so I think it's their way of reaching out and trying to grab that foothold in a state that is very red."

No Republican presidential candidate has established a presence in North Dakota yet.

"Members of the Republican Party have received materials in the mail and that kind of thing, but as far as opening office doors and things like that, I'm not aware of any at this time," Hanson said. She said one would probably do so next spring or summer, once a front-runner appears.

But Cayley believes Clinton has the potential to appeal to North Dakotans.

"She's dedicated her life to public service. That's hard work," Cayley said. "We have those values of working hard, and I think all North Dakotans can stand behind that."

Robert Haider, executive director of the North Dakota Democratic-NPL Party, said he couldn't comment on whether other Democratic candidates were planning North Dakota campaigns.

Buis declined an interview.

Dynasties aren't all bad news **// Las Vegas Sun // Jamelle Bouie - June 28, 2015**

Hillary Clinton is the front-runner in the Democratic presidential primary, and Jeb Bush is a front-runner in the Republican one. And although there is a lifetime of politics between now and the next election, there's a good chance that, on Nov. 8, 2016, Americans will choose between a Bush and a Clinton for the second time in 25 years. We could have our third Bush presidency or another turn for the Clintons.

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To many Americans, this is troubling. Last year, former first lady Barbara Bush said that "there are more than two or three families that should run for high office in America." Sixty-nine percent of Americans agree, according to a 2014 poll from NBC News and the Wall Street Journal.

In March, in another NBC News/WSJ survey, 39 percent of voters said they would think more or somewhat more favorably of a candidate whose last name was not Bush or Clinton. Similarly, a majority said that electing Hillary Clinton or Jeb Bush would represent a return to the policies of the past.

There's no denying that the status quo — of a White House claimed by one or the other family — is unusual, and I won't criticize anyone disturbed by a pattern of "Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama, Bush" or "Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama, Clinton."

But I also don't think it's as bad as it looks.

Observers have called this a "dynastic" election. This headline from a January edition of The New York Times is typical: "Are two dynasties our destiny?"

"Dynasty" might apply to the Bush family. Indeed, Jeb Bush, in his announcement speech, described himself as "a guy who met his first president on the day he was born and his second on the day he was brought home from the hospital," before declaring that "not a one of us (presidential candidates) deserves the job by right of resume, party, seniority, family or family narrative. It's nobody's turn."

But that term doesn't apply to the Clintons. Hillary Clinton neither came from a political family nor joined one. Instead, she entered politics as a partner to Bill and, after two decades as a political spouse, set out on her own career, first as a senator, then as a presidential candidate, then as a top diplomat, and now — again — as a presidential candidate.

Given the degree to which she's built her career in tandem with her husband's, Clinton isn't a dynastic candidate as much as she's a tightly connected one.

For some, of course, this is a distinction without a difference, which is why it's important to note that national political dynasties are a recurring part of American life.

The first father-son presidential duo, in the 19th century, was John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams, the second and sixth presidents of the United States. The Harrison family also produced two presidents, William Henry and Benjamin. The Breckinridges dominated Kentucky politics and sent senators, House members and a vice president to Washington. Two other antebellum presidents — John Tyler and Franklin Pierce — came from distinctly political families.

The 20th century brings more familiar names: Theodore Roosevelt and his cousin Franklin Roosevelt; William Howard Taft, his son Sen. Robert A. Taft, his grandson Sen. Robert Taft Jr., and his great-grandson, former Ohio Gov. Robert Taft III. Most famously, there's the Kennedy clan.

The fact that dynasties are normal — that Senate seats, governorships and presidencies have moved between and within families with ease — may be alarming (America isn't especially meritocratic), but it's also mostly harmless.

American democracy wasn't stronger after two Adams presidencies in quick succession, but it wasn't weaker,

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either. Besides, despite the frequency of dynasties, the vast majority of powerful positions in national politics go to people who aren't connected to political families.

One last point. George W. Bush was a very different president than his father, and if elected, Hillary Clinton will be a different president than her husband. Hillary faces a different Democratic Party than Bill did and has to make different choices for different ends. The same is true for Jeb and the Republican Party. Their surnames aside, neither is "more of the same."

When you vote for president, you're voting for an administration of bureaucrats and assistants and a whole host of appointees. What matters most is the party and its network of operatives, activists and policymakers, not the individual at the head of that party.

If Clinton had won in 2008, her administration would have looked a lot like the one Obama put together. And on the same score, a Jeb Bush White House probably wouldn't look too different than a Scott Walker White House or a Marco Rubio White House.

The aesthetics of another Clinton or Bush presidency don't look great. But optics have little bearing on what either candidate would do in office.

Immigrant issues a priority for Clinton **// Las Vegas Sun // Rafael Lopez – June 27, 2015**

I grew up like any other American child, but I didn't have the same opportunities. Why? I'm undocumented. I've lived in Nevada since I was a baby, but my family got caught in our broken immigration system. We fell victim to fraud: An attorney falsely promised to fix our statuses. Instead, we received deportation orders.

But there is hope. Three years ago I woke to a phone call that changed my life: My friend told me President Barack Obama had announced a deferred action (DACA) program to help Dreamers. Through DACA, I obtained a work permit, and my life instantly improved. I was able to afford tuition at UNLV and I no longer lived in fear. Now, I'm in my last semester pursing a degree in psychology and criminal justice.

But we still have much to do. Our next president must step up and defend our families.

This May, I participated in a roundtable with Hillary Clinton to talk about just that. Clinton strongly supported immigration reform. She answered our questions with clarity, showed she understood our challenges and listened with compassion. She defended DACA and pledged to strengthen protections for undocumented immigrants.

It's too early to tell which presidential candidates offer the best solutions, but last week at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials conference in Las Vegas, Clinton again demonstrated she will fight to keep families together.

I want to hear more from Clinton and other candidates about immigration reform. I only hope others will talk to me with the same respect as Hillary did.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

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O'MALLEY

O'Malley: Islamic State a result of 'mindless rush to war' **// AP // Ken Thomas – June 27, 2015**

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley said Friday the rise of the Islamic State group was an unintended consequence of a "mindless rush to war" in Iraq and the U.S. must avoid "mission creep" there now.

In a speech, the former Maryland governor said the invasion of Iraq was one of the most tragic and costly blunders in U.S. history. He made no mention of his Democratic rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who faced criticism during her 2008 presidential campaign for her Senate vote in favor of the 2003 invasion, which she has since called a mistake.

"No threat probably better illustrates the unintended consequences of a mindless rush to war — and a lack of understanding — than the emergence of ISIS," O'Malley said in his first foreign policy address as a presidential candidate, using an acronym for the Islamic State group.

He added: "We are still paying the price of a war pursued under false pretenses and acquiesced to, in the words of Dr. (Martin Luther) King (Jr.) by 'the appalling silence of the good.' "

Speaking to the Truman National Security Project, O'Malley said there is a risk that American military involvement in Iraq could be counter-productive. He said the U.S. should work with partners to "contain, degrade and ultimately wear down and defeat ISIS."

O'Malley said American foreign and national security policies are directly connected to economic stability around the globe and a rising global middle class. He said the U.S. faces an array of threats, from violent extremism and nuclear proliferation, to pandemics and cyberattacks. He advocated tackling climate change, promoting fair trade and addressing poverty around the world.

The ex-governor trails Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the early stages of the Democratic primary campaign and could be at a disadvantage on foreign policy against Clinton, who traveled the globe as President Barack Obama's secretary of state.

Ahead of next week's deadline on Iran talks, O'Malley said a nuclear-armed Iran is among the most immediate threats faced by the U.S. He said Congress would be wise to support a "verifiable, enforceable agreement" that bars Iran's path to developing nuclear weapons.

O'Malley also said there are "real lessons" to be learned from the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans, including U.S. ambassador Chris Stevens. A GOP-led House panel has been investigating the attack and Clinton's actions.

O'Malley said the Benghazi attack shows the need to "know in advance who is likely to take power — or vie for it — once a dictator is toppled, not after."

Doug Wilson, O'Malley's foreign policy adviser, said the speech was not "about Hillary Clinton and the State Department," but about how O'Malley would conduct foreign policy if elected president.

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How pardons from O'Malley changed one man's course // Delmarva Now // Jennifer Cording and Phil Davis – June 27, 2015

It was mid-July, and it was hot, but maybe that wasn't the only reason Darnell Bowen's palms were damp. Most people in his shoes would be a bit nervous.

He'd just seen the governor arrive — along with his big opportunity — at the Crisfield clam bake.

So the Berlin native walked right up to then-Gov. Martin O'Malley and he stuck out his hand. The men shook and exchanged how-are-you's.

Most folks were ready for a party and seafood that day, of course. But Bowen was there for a very different reason.

He wanted to clear his name. He wanted a second chance for a better job and a better life.

Bowen shook hands with the governor, and he asked O'Malley for a criminal pardon.

And O'Malley blessed it — right there amongst the picnic tables of corn and crab shells and seafood lovers — and with that unofficial approval, Bowen had a fresh start in life.

Or, at least, the process of a gubernatorial pardon began.

For Bowen, convicted years earlier for a minor theft, it was like the clouds lifted and the sun was shining for the first time in years at the crowded clam bake that day.

"I guess I felt happy because it was coming directly from him, and I was hoping he was telling me the truth," said Bowen.

"It's a weight off my shoulders"

Bowen, seated recently at his own picnic table in the freshly mowed yard of his family's home in Berlin, told how much the pardon meant to him.

The misdemeanor conviction — he'd stolen a $5 canister of camera film — showed up on a job background check, he said.

He'd lost a managerial job at Eastern Correctional Institution because the conviction showed up during a background check, he said.

"They gave me the job and everything," he said. "They gave me a start date."

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But the conviction was enough to derail all of it.

Bowen's was one of about 150 pardons O'Malley approved during his just-completed eight-year tenure as Maryland's governor.

The former Baltimore mayor — who marketed himself as "tough on crime" — recently announced a bid for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

And it's true he didn't hand out many pardons compared to the requests that came across his desk, nor compared to those granted by other governors in recent years.

When he finally heard from the pardons office that his record was wiped clean, Bowen took to Facebook, he said, to celebrate the news.

When the piece of paper came in the mail, he had to register it at the local courthouse. Court workers passed around the pardon, Bowen said. They'd never seen one.

And it's true it took persistence to get it. The application process took two years — even after the governor gave Bowen the nod at the festival.

"I wasn't going to give up," said Bowen. "It's a weight off my shoulders."

Pardons as a reflection of the politician

Voters like politicians who are tough on crime, it seems.

And, it seems politicians like to accommodate. O'Malley rejected nearly 1,300 pardon cases during his term.

The vast majority of his pardons covered minor crimes, such as misdemeanor thefts and lesser drug charges. Outside of the commutations of four death-row inmates — and a medical commutation of a convicted armed robber who contracted AIDS — records show most people granted pardons served no jail time and had short probationary periods.

Some other governors have been tough, too. In Kansas, former Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius issued only one pardon during her six years in office between 2003 and 2009. Her successor, current Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, once declared he would refuse to issue pardons for an entire year in 2011.

However, in California, Gov. Jerry Brown issued 105 pardons on Christmas Eve 2014 alone. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, a Democrat, granted clemency more than 1,000 times in four years.

On a national level, Bowen's story highlights a delicate question employers, both public and private, must weigh: How does someone's criminal past affect his or her future?

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According to a study done by the National Employment Law Project, an estimated 70 million people in the United States have arrest or conviction records.

Since "tough on crime" political platform swept the country in the 1980s and 1990s, incarceration rates inflated from 150 people per 100,000 citizens in 1980 to as high as 753 people per 100,000 citizens in 2008.

"This is a huge problem all over this country," said Nayantara Mehta, a senior staff attorney with the organization.

Citing the study, Mehta's organization and others have pushed for larger reforms for "fair chance" employment.

According to Eastern Correctional Institution spokesman Gerard Shields, if an applicant is disqualified if their misdemeanor crime carries a potential penalty of a year or more in prison.

While Bowen's crime would not carry a penalty that large now, it did in 1997, when "theft under $300" could mean up to 18 months in jail in Maryland.

"His story is really very, very similar with what most people experience," said Victor Dickson, president of Safer Foundation.

The foundation, based out of Chicago, helps ex-offenders find work and supports the National Law Enforcement Project's advocacy for "fair chance" employment.

For Dickson, Bowen's story is one he's heard before.

"We had another lady who ... had some drug charges, went to school and actually wanted to get into the health care field," Dickson said. "She started working for a hospital and was on the job — I think for two or three months — and then the company did a background check, saw the drug charges and then terminated her."

"That record is used to deny people a whole host of things that we consider to be the basic right of a citizen," Dickson added, pointing to ranging restrictions on public housing, voting and public benefits in various states.

A life-changing encounter

Bowen, now 50, served his probationary period and was not convicted of further crimes.

He bounced around the job market, but he also worked for a decade at a local Salisbury upholstery business before it relocated farther south, according to Bowen.

With his experience, he decided to apply for a management position supervising prisoners in the upholstery work program at Eastern Correctional Institution.

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He was surprised to see how well the interview process went, at first.

"They gave me the job and everything," Bowen said. "They gave me a start date."

But then he was sent to Baltimore for a background check, and he was told he'd lost the job. He said he received no explanation. Bowen didn't think the misdemeanor theft charge was relevant to working in upholstery.

"No, I don't think it was justified," Bowen said. He applied for a pardon once, he said, and he was turned down. Someone in the pardons office told him most people are turned down the first time, Bowen said.

Bowen said it set the stage for his experience at the J. Millard Tawes Clam and Crab Bake.

For more than three decades the event has been perhaps the most distinctly political gathering on the Eastern Shore. The shells of eaten crabs, corn and other Shore seafood delicacies — toted from the food stands in cardboard box plates — are strewn across vast picnic tables.

But past the picnic tables are the tents of legislative hopefuls and dignitaries. State delegate and senate campaign slogans are emblazoned on signs and baking on the backs of campaign managers in the hot July sun.

Bowen saw the governor. That day in 2012 was especially hot, he remembers.

"So I said 'OK, here's my chance.' So I went and shook his hand and (asked), 'Could I have a few minutes of your time?'" Bowen said. "I just threw my situation out to them."

Though he'd been denied previously, he hoped his story would strike a chord with the Democratic governor. It did, and O'Malley told Bowen to reapply for the pardon and to pass along O'Malley's verbal stamp of approval.

It took more than a year, still, but Bowen did receive a pardon from O'Malley in 2013, records show. It was 16 years after the film theft.

He knows the job at ECI is gone, but Bowen said he still thinks about it and how it'd be different now.

"But, every now and then, a thought comes back that if it would become available again, I (maybe) would apply," said Bowen, who works now as a field engineer for the Oracle Corp., a multinational computer technology company.

But, even if the upholstery management job doesn't come up again, Bowen says he's glad he'll never again need to worry about his former criminal conviction.

It took persistence and determination, but Bowen had plenty of both. He said it's how he finally cleared his

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name.

"I wasn't going to give up," he said.

SANDERS

Sanders says he will significantly step up his outreach to minority voters // WaPo // John Wagner – June 27, 2015

NASHUA, N.H. -- Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who's made limited headway with African American voters despite drawing large crowds on the campaign trail, on Saturday pledged "a significant expansion" in outreach to minority communities.

"We're going to significantly increase that," the Democratic presidential hopeful told reporters after a morning campaign stop here. "The views that we hold are important to all Americans … but to be honest with you, they're probably more relevant to black and Hispanic voters … because the poverty rate in those communities is even higher than whites."

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, cited his support to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour and offer free college tuition as examples.

In a later interview, Sanders said he plans to add members to his campaign staff to help with the effort.

"We're going to be bringing people into our campaign who will give us increased capability of reaching out to the African American community and the Hispanic community," he said. "We have a lot of work to do."

Black voters are a crucial constituency in the Democratic nominating process, particularly after the contest moves beyond Iowa and New Hampshire to South Carolina and other states with larger African American populations, where Hillary Rodham Clinton is a well-established figure.

In recent weeks, Sanders has seen his crowds swell in early nominating states and other places where he's traveled. His audiences numbered in the thousands recently in both Minneapolis and Denver.

Sanders represents a state that is 95 percent white. In a piece in the New York Times last week outlining his challenge, the senator's advisers acknowledged that he remains largely unknown among African American voters, despite a civil rights record that includes leading sit-ins in the 1960s.

Speaking here to a crowd of more than 500 packed into a community college gymnasium, Sanders made a passing reference to having more recently joined African American workers in North Carolina on the picket lines in support of raising the minimum wage.

During his hour-long stump speech, however, he made no mention of the recent massacre at a historic African American church in Charleston, S.C., that left nine parishoners dead. The episode has prompted Clinton and another Democratic, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley (D), to make gun control a prominent part of their pitch.

Sanders, whose state is rural and home to many hunters, has a mixed record on gun control, including a 1993

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vote against the landmark Brady Bill, which mandated federal background checks on firearms purchasers.

Asked by an audience member here Saturday if he is willing to take on the National Rifle Association, Sanders defended his record, saying the gun rights group has given him a lifetime rating of “somewhere between D and F.”

Sanders noted the rural nature of his state, saying that “guns in Chicago and Los Angeles are not the same thing as guns in New Hampshire and Vermont.”

But he relayed that he has during his career voted for bills to ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips.

“I think my record is pretty strong,” he said.

A Democratic senator attacked Bernie Sanders for being extreme. He should thank her. **// WaPo //**
Amber Phillips – June 27, 2015

Bernie Sanders is "extreme," and if the media were to dig into him a little more, he wouldn't be doing as well as he is.

That attack comes not from a Republican, but one of the Democratic senators with whom Sanders caucuses.

"The media is giving Bernie a pass right now,” Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) said Thursday on MSNBC. “I very rarely read in any coverage of Bernie that he’s a socialist.”

First of all: Wrong. It's hard to find an account of Sanders's personal politics that doesn't include the s-word. It's all over the place.

And the Vermont senator is indeed a socialist. He's an independent who caucuses with the Democrats in the Senate. He's also running for president as a Democrat, and several polls show him gaining a bit on frontrunner Hillary Clinton -- whom McCaskill supports -- while making headlines for drawing thousands of people to campaign events as far off as Denver.

McCaskill argued Sanders wouldn't be doing so well if the media treated him like other candidates. "I think everybody wants a fight," she continued.

That might be true. But in saying that, McCaskill has essentially set up one. Her comments ring of the kind of intra-party snipes you'd expect to see in a contested, genuinely competitive primary. Witness her start comparing Clinton to Sanders:

"I think Bernie Sanders has a message that's touching people," McCaskill said. "And I totally get that. But so does Hillary Clinton."

McCaskill said Sanders is "too liberal" to win, and she could be right.

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As The Fix has pointed out several times, it's too soon to know whether Sanders's impressive support this early on will translate into votes that could actually give Clinton a run for her money. The other day, 92 percent of Democratic-leaning voters said they'd be comfortable with Clinton as the Democratic nominee. And she's still polling like a frontrunner; about 50 percent of Iowa Democrats told Bloomberg last week she's her first choice, while 24 percent said Sanders is.

Sanders told Bloomberg later that day this is the first time he thinks a Democratic colleague "has attacked me like this."

And he has better hope it isn't the last, because it's a sign that Clinton supporters are at least mildly concerned.

Sanders: I was ahead of the curve on gay rights // The Hill // Mark Hensch – June 27, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said Saturday he has been waiting for the nation to catch up to his support for same-sex marriage.

Sanders' remarks come a day after Friday's landmark 5-4 Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide.

He argued he was well ahead of the historic decision, unlike Hillary Clinton, his main rival for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

"Back in 1996, that was a tough vote," Sanders said of his opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

"Not too many people voted against it, but I did," he told listeners in Nashua, N.H.

Sanders at the time served in the House of Representatives, which voted 342-67 in favor of DOMA. The Senate voted 85-14 in favor, before former President Bill Clinton signed it into law.

"That was an anti-gay marriage piece of legislation," he added of the law that defined marriage at the federal level as the coupling of one man and one woman.

Sanders on Saturday praised Americans for creating greater opportunities for same-sex couples. Friday's Supreme Court ruling, he charged, was not possible without national pressure for gay rights.

"No one here should think for one second this starts with the Supreme Court," Sanders said.

"It starts at the grassroots level in all 50 states," he said. "The American people want to end discrimination in all its forms."

"Because of the decency of the American people, because of the strength of the gay rights movement, we have changed consciousness in this country," Sanders added.

The Vermont lawmaker criticized conservatives who reject same-sex marriage on religious grounds.

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“We disagree with right-wing Republicans’ definition of family values,” Sanders said. “They think that family values are opposition to gay marriage and gay rights.”

The 2016 White House hopeful also took aim at Wall Street and wealthy special interests.

“The message we are sending to the billionaire class is that your greed has got to end,” Sanders said of his presidential campaign.

“You cannot take advantage of all the benefits of America without accepting all the responsibilities of America,” he said. “That, to me, is not democracy.”

Sanders said the rich and powerful had created an economic system with fundamental flaws in its treatment of everyday Americans.

“In America today, we have more income and wealth inequality than any other major industrialized country on Earth,” he said.

“Today, the top one tenth of 1 percent owns almost as much one wealth as the bottom 90 percent,” Sanders said.

“That type of economy is immoral, it is unsustainable and it is un-American,” Sanders added. “Together we have to change it.”

Sanders formally launched his presidential campaign May 26 in Burlington, Vt.

He has since portrayed himself as a champion of progressive ideas to the left of Clinton, the heavy favorite for the Democratic coronation next year.

Bernie Sanders, Rising in Polls, Gets Standing Room Only Crowds in New Hampshire // National Journal // S. V. Dáte – June 27, 2015

HENNIKER, N.H. – Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders brought his call for a "political revolution" back to the first-in-the-nation primary state Saturday, again drawing enthusiastic crowds who cheered his message of curbing the influence of corporate interests in politics.

Sanders praised this week's Supreme Court decisions on Obamacare and same-sex marriage, but said the battle to reduce income and wealth inequality would be far tougher. "It is a much more difficult thing to look the billionaire class in the eye and say: you cannot have it all," Sanders said during a speech and question-and-answer session at a town meeting here.

This weekend's New Hampshire appearances are Sanders' first since recent polls show him emerging as the leading challenger to front runner Hillary Clinton for the Democratic primary nomination. One poll released last week by WMUR and CNN found Sanders just 8 points behind Clinton in New Hampshire. (Although a second poll released the same day by Bloomberg and St. Anselm College showed Clinton with a 32-point lead.)

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The Clinton campaign, however, has enjoyed a big head start laying the groundwork for its turnout efforts in the Democratic primary. It already has opened a handful of field offices in the state and has two dozen paid staff. The campaign spent Saturday morning in its first canvassing effort aimed at likely primary voters.

Sanders' New Hampshire team is only just coming together. Sanders' New Hampshire coordinator, Kurt Ehrenberg, was hired a month ago, and so far has hired an operations manager and two field organizers. A state headquarters office is set to open next week in Concord, with other offices planned for the coming weeks, he said.

Sanders has been elected as an independent over his two-decade congressional career, and describes his political philosophy as "democratic socialism," as is practiced in much of Western Europe. Even some Democrats argue that Sanders is unelectable to nationwide office in the United States because of that label.

He has nevertheless drawn large audiences across the country, including 5,000 at a recent appearance in Denver.

Seth Kallman, a retired contractor from Harrisville who attended the Henniker appearance, said he agrees the "socialist" label is likely harmful. "I admire that he steps forward and uses it anyway, because he is honest," Kallman said, calling that one of Sanders' best attributes. "You couldn't get Hillary to speak that frankly. He is speaking frankly."

Sanders saw an audience of 500 at a morning town meeting in Nashua, about 150 at a house party in Bow, and 350 at the Henniker town meeting Saturday evening. All three were standing room only, exceeding expected attendance.

Bernie Sanders' surge is partly fueled by veterans **// Boston Globe // Annie Linskey – June 28, 2015**

DES MOINES — Vermont's Bernie Sanders railed against the Vietnam War. He voted against invading Iraq — both times. He wants to cut the defense budget.

He might not be a friend to the military, but many veterans believe he's gone to war for them. And that's why they're out there cheering for a socialist as he launches a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

There's the former Marine who drove about six hours to hear Sanders speak in Des Moines. There's another former Marine, this one a registered Republican, going door-to-door to collect signatures so Sanders' name will appear on the ballot in Indiana. Entire Reddit threads are dedicated to how veterans can best pitch Sanders to other veterans.

"He is revered," said Paul Loebe, a 31-year-old who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan during eight years of active duty and spends three hours a day updating a Facebook page promoting Sanders to veterans. "He's very consistent with where he stands. He's the first politician that I've believed in my life."

Sanders battled over veterans issues as chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee from 2013 until early this year, giving him an easy pitch to a crucial voting bloc of veterans, particularly in South Carolina where veterans make up more than 11 percent of the voting-aged population. There's stiff competition for these voters, with front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton wooing them this month during a round table in Nevada.

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Even the leaders of veterans groups who praise Sanders acknowledge that the 73-year-old Democratic socialist isn't an obvious champion for the flag-waving set of former military officers and enlistees. When asked if the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which recognized Sanders with its Congressional Award in March, had ever bestowed the honor on a socialist before, the group's Washington executive director, Bob Wallace chuckled a bit.

"No. No. No," said Wallace, a man who won three Purple Heart medals during Vietnam. "What you have to do is put aside his other interests."

Enthusiasm for Bernie Sanders's populist message is evident with crowds swelling at events and supporters pushing the slogan "Feel the Bern," a play on the senator's first name. It's difficult to know, beyond anecdotal evidence, how much of this support comes from veterans.

Sanders has previously courted veterans as part of an electoral strategy, campaigning in 2006 for Senate with triple-amputee Max Cleland, the former Democratic senator from Georgia and Veterans Affairs administrator. Sanders has done little on the trail to seek out veterans for his 2016 bid.

But veterans interviewed for this story were well versed in Sanders's record, aware that, as Veterans Affairs chairman, he pushed to restore cost of living raises, expand education opportunities, and add new dental care benefits.

The effort came within a few votes of passing the Senate, but was blocked by Republicans concerned about the $24 billion price tag.

Veterans also credit Sanders for striking a deal with Republicans to pass a smaller — $16 billion — package aimed at erasing the lengthy wait times at veterans hospitals. Passing it earned Sanders top awards from the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Military Officers Association of America.

For Louis Celli, at the American Legion, Sanders's progressive views make some sense in the context of advocating for veterans' programs. "Who better than a socialist to advocate for veterans' health care?" he asked.

Passing the fix showed something else about Sanders: He was willing to make a deal. It's a notion that runs counter to commonly expressed concern — even among some attendees at Sanders's rallies — that the senator's far left views prevent him from working with others.

Last summer, the bill fixing wait times at hospitals appeared to be heading for defeat. Faced with possibility that Congress would adjourn without enacting it, Sanders joined forces with John McCain, the Arizona Republican and GOP presidential nominee in 2008.

Sanders dropped his opposition to a provision that let veterans who live far from VA hospitals use private doctors. In exchange, he got an additional $5 billion to hire more staff and build more facilities, according to a member of Sanders's staff.

McCain said working with Sanders involved "very stimulating conversations, and the occasional four-letter word."

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"He advocates vigorously for what he believes in, and so do I," McCain said. "I can't say it was the most enjoyable experience, but it was certainly one of the most interesting."

Veterans are a group long courted by politicians. In the early primary states, New Hampshire is home to 113,000 veterans, Iowa has 226,000, Nevada has 227,000 and South Carolina has 392,000 — according to US Census figures.

Clinton held a round table for veterans in Nevada on June 18. She unveiled a detailed plan that would make changes to the GI Bill meant to protect veterans from what her campaign called "deceptive practices" by for-profit colleges and universities who target veterans but fail to provide a quality education.

Clinton, as is her custom at campaign events, didn't take questions from the audience.

Sanders typically does.

After speech at Drake University, the Vermont senator asked for questions. Tyson Manker was right there in the front row. He stood up, identified himself as a former Marine who drove six hours for the event, and said: "Mr. Sanders, I look forward to the day I can call you Mr. President."

David M. Shribman: Democrats swoon for Sanders // Pittsburgh Post-Gazette // David M. Shribman – June 28, 2015

Here are the elements of a presidential candidacy bound to go nowhere: 1960s radical leftist. Lived on a kibbutz. Moved to Vermont in the tumult of 1968. Became a carpenter. Ran for governor twice and for Senate twice as a candidate for the socialist Liberty Union Party. Jewish — not an advantage in Iowa, New Hampshire or South Carolina. Would be 79 at the end of his first term. Bernie Sanders is not going to be president of the United States.

But that doesn't mean he can't be a big factor in the 2016 presidential race.

He polls about a third of the vote in New Hampshire, which, contrary to popular perception, is not very much like its neighbor, Vermont. (In northern New England folklore, adapted from Milton's "Paradise Lost," one state is full of the "parsimonious emmet," the other populated by those known as "newts.")

Mr. Sanders does less well in Iowa, though his iconoclasm suits the sort of committed liberals who participate in that state's February caucuses — plus the United Auto Workers members who surely noticed that Mr. Sanders was swift to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership while former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton took weeks to decide.

This is not an argument that the Sanders surge threatens Ms. Clinton as she glides toward the Democratic presidential nomination. It is, however, an argument that he affects Ms. Clinton as she seeks the nomination.

This is all the more apparent now that it is also apparent that Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, the most prominent progressive in Washington, is not going to run for the White House. All the unrequited passion for Ms. Warren has been transferred to Mr. Sanders, with stunning suddenness and seamlessness. Earlier this month, the Ready for Warren group endorsed Mr. Sanders, saying he was the candidate "who best embodies the values that Warren champions."

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Now we confront the nature of the Clinton campaign. It is fueled by determination rather than passion. There's nothing romantic to it, aside from its historical significance as the vehicle for the first female presidency — a factor not to be underestimated in November but less powerful now. Her steady-as-you-go campaign is the political equivalent of the line from the English novelist George Meredith that, a generation ago, was emblazoned on thousands of trivets hanging on kitchen walls, tacked against the rice wallpaper: "Kissing don't last, cookery do."

Ms. Clinton, the candidate of the cookery, is running the campaign of the hot tuna casserole. Mr. Sanders, by contrast, is running the campaign of the moonlight smooch.

Yet the Clinton campaign must deal with the factors that make all those hearts flutter there by the shore of Lake Winnipesaukee or by the Raccoon River in New Hampshire, for Mr. Sanders, who by appearance — floppy white hair, rumpled suit — does not exactly possess the raw materials (or the raw energy) that customarily make the masses swoon. He's no Edward Rochester of "Jane Eyre," nor even Heathcliff of "Wuthering Heights."

But the danger for the Clintonistas is that by its very existence, the Sanders campaign reveals the character of the Clinton campaign.

While the Sanders campaign is supple, the Clinton campaign is clunky. The Sanders campaign is ruled by instinct, the Clinton campaign by calculation. The Sanders campaign is audacious, the Clinton campaign is cautious. The Sanders campaign is roses and chocolates and chilled Champagne and a hopelessly amorous stroll across pine needles through thick woods at dusk (we'll find our shoes later), while the Clinton campaign is geraniums and rice pudding and V8 juice and a station-wagon trip across Interstate 80 (we're wearing sensible shoes, double knotted).

The strong likelihood that the Clinton campaign will triumph is important but, at this stage of the race, almost irrelevant.

Because it is Mr. Sanders (like Ms. Warren before him) who has the whip hand. By not winning he may still prevail, in the way that Ms. Warren did on income disparity. Just as Ms. Clinton embraced the signature Warren message by characterizing her campaign as an effort on behalf of "everyday Americans," she also sought to embrace a principal Sanders message by saying, finally, that she opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which she repeatedly supported while a member of the Obama administration.

The next issues to watch for the Warren/Sanders effect: Single-payer health insurance, student debt, Wall Street, fracking.

We know what Mr. Sanders believes and we know he will say almost anything. We're not quite sure what Ms. Clinton believes, but we know that she will fashion her remarks with craftswoman-like care. People probably want the latter in a president. They're drawn to the former in a primary campaign — which is why, in New Hampshire in 1984, Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado, whose very eyes transmitted a twinkle of romance, prevailed over former Vice President Walter Mondale, whose fundamental decency suggested he was a fuddy-duddy and whose native caution suggested he was rigidly conventional.

All of which brings us to the most natural Bernie Sanders analogue, the 1992 Republican struggle mounted against George H.W. Bush, who held the presidency, by Patrick J. Buchanan, who in New Hampshire held a pitchfork. Mr. Buchanan had more fun, was more unpredictable, had better lines ("All the knights and barons will be riding into the castle pulling up the drawbridge in a minute. All the peasants are coming with pitchforks.") Mr. Bush had better results, though he lost the general election to Mrs. Clinton's husband.

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“I pulled Bush to the right on social and cultural issues, and he stopped talking about the New World Order,” Mr. Buchanan said in a telephone conversation last week. “I like Bernie — especially his independence — and I think he can have the same effect on Hillary, moving her way to the left.”

Mr. Buchanan didn’t win a single primary or caucus in 1992, though he came within 16 percentage points in New Hampshire (and actually won the primary there four years later, edging Sen. Bob Dole by one percentage point.) But he had a blast, and he didn’t allow Mr. Bush to wobble toward the center.

Similarly, Mr. Sanders will very likely win no primaries next year either. But Ms. Clinton will feel his presence at every stop, in every state.

UNDECLARED

WEBB

Webb close to 2016 decision, insiders say Clinton camp helped delay launch // Fox News // John Roberts – June 27, 2015

CLINTON, Iowa – Jim Webb was supposed to declare he was running for president Friday night. At least that's what the prevailing belief was inside his campaign.

Webb was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the Clinton County Democratic Hall Of Fame dinner in Clinton, Iowa. While the timing was bad (Friday night, where news goes to die), insiders said Webb thought it would be a good place to drop the hammer on a presidential run.

Enter the Clinton campaign, which Webb confidantes grumble has been sandbagging them at every turn. They convinced the Clinton County Democratic Party to add Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar to the speakers roster. The intention was for her to give a spirited sales pitch for Hillary at the very same place and time Webb would launch his campaign.

For Webb, insiders say, that, plus the fact that a Friday night launch could have gotten lost in the news cycle, was enough to convince him to delay the announcement.

Until when, only Webb knows.

Fox News caught up with Webb before the dinner, after a three-hour drive from Chicago which he described as "long." He wasn't giving up anything on the Clinton campaign stealing his thunder. To do so would be to admit there was thunder in the first place, which candidates are loath to do until the words "I'm running for president" actually come out of their mouth. But he did allow that he is getting close to pulling the trigger.

"We're pretty close to being done ... that's the best thing I can say, really," Webb said.

It was typical understatement from a guy who plays his cards so close to the vest that even his closest advisers are left to do a lot of tea-leaf reading. But Webb himself has said he would make a decision sometime

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around the end of June, so "close to being done" could be read as "imminent."

And it became clear Friday night that Webb's campaign will be one of 'themes' and not specific policy proposals. Go to the "issues" section of his website and one can find his positions on the complex problems facing the nation summed up in a single paragraph.

Ask him about specifics on, for example, what he would do to grow the economy and he begins to bristle.

"I don't think that the issue right now for me is to bring in some sort of a specific set of numbers that I would pull out of the air," Webb told Fox News. "The issue is to lay down the themes that we would govern on and then to bring good people in."

That's the Webb formula -- one he employed successfully as a senator from Virginia. Take a problem, gather together the brightest minds you can find, examine it from every angle, then chart a course to fix it. It doesn't fit into a convenient sound bite, nor does it give the level of detail that politically savvy voters in Iowa and New Hampshire want to chew over. But it is classic Webb style.

"The most important thing a leader can do is to reach out and get good people -- the best minds in the country to come together and figure out solutions -- to give a vision of where you want the country to go," Webb told Fox News.

Webb has a reputation for meticulously thinking through every issue with the perseverance of an academic before rendering an opinion -- as he did earlier this week with a Facebook posting about the Confederate flag. Webb decreed that the issue was "complicated" and that any discussion about the flag needed to recognize that the majority of soldiers who fought for the South did not own slaves and that the nation needs "to respect good people who fought on both sides."

Many of Webb's most ardent fans saw it as a defense of a flag that has come to symbolize racism and vigorously disagreed with him.

"The Confederate battle flag was a battle flag," Webb told Fox News. "It was misused particularly during the civil rights era as a racist and political symbol. And I am fine with it coming down from public fora. At the same time, let's remember our history and let's not turn the acts of people who fought on either side in the Civil War into something they were not."

The nuance Webb expresses is a departure for most presidential candidates who speak in short, declarative sentences. Between his thought processes and his background in the military, politics and private sector, he has been described as a person who has the potential to be 'the most interesting candidate in the race.' Certainly, voters who spend time with him come away with a favorable opinion. But the big question -- can Webb take on the juggernaut that is the Hillary Clinton campaign?

Webb is confident.

"If I didn't think it was possible, I would not do it," Webb told Fox News.

Webb points to his Senate race, when he beat incumbent George Allen in Virginia. Webb was 33 points behind nine months before the race and managed to win. Of course, it helped that Allen imploded over his now-infamous "macaca" comments.

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Can lightning strike twice? Could Hillary falter? Talk to Democratic voters in Iowa and many will tell you they are open to an alternative.

"We don't do coronations here, we do discussions," said Dr. Andy McGuire, chairwoman of the Iowa Democratic Party.

Even if Webb has no chance to become the nominee, his entry into the race would certainly add new energy to the debate, though voters may be hungry for a little more detail than Webb is presently willing to provide.

OTHER

Joe Biden's presidential decision hinges on family // Delaware Online // Nicole Gaudiano – June 27, 2015

WASHINGTON – Vice President Joe Biden has a top concern as he considers whether to run for president: family.

The two-time presidential candidate believes he would offer something unique to the country as president, said supporter Dick Harpootlian, a former South Carolina Democratic Party chairman. But he said Biden is weighing the needs of his family following the May 30 death of his 46-year-old son Beau, Delaware's former attorney general.

"He is thinking about [a presidential run]," said Harpootlian, who spoke with Biden on May 19 and had more recent talks with people close to the vice president. "It's all about his personal situation – 'Can I do this and not in any way deny my family what I can give them or do for them?' This is a decision about his family."

Biden's supporters say it would be understandable if he decides to sit out the 2016 presidential campaign. Beau Biden's death from brain cancer was yet another tragic loss for the 72-year-old vice president. His first wife Neilia and 13-month-old daughter Naomi were killed in a December 1972 car accident that also injured Beau Biden and his brother, Hunter.

But the vice president has a history of working through overwhelming grief.

"No one would blame him if he said, 'You know, look, it's just too much,'" Harpootlian said. But he added, "He's a tough guy and he fights his way through tough times."

Biden served 36 years in the Senate representing Delaware after senators persuaded him in January 1973 to take his first oath of office -- which he did next to his son's hospital bed.

Biden has spent time in Delaware in recent weeks, but four days after his son's funeral he returned to the White House for lunch with President Barack Obama and an afternoon meeting with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk to discuss that country's reform agenda.

"One thing about the vice president that we all know: He's very resilient," said William Pierce, executive director of the Draft Biden 2016 super PAC.

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Biden is expected to announce in August whether he will run for president. Draft Biden, launched by former staffers and campaign veterans, is hiring staff in Iowa and New Hampshire and raising funds for independent expenditures in support of a possible Biden candidacy. The group so far has nearly 100,000 signatures on a petition urging Biden to run and is planning a rally in Wilmington in late July.

"We're taking it to his backyard... just to show him that his community is behind him as well," Pierce said.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has a sizable lead in polls that include Biden. In a Monmouth University Poll released June 16, Clinton was supported by 57 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters nationwide, compared to 12 percent for Biden and 12 percent for Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, an independent running for the Democratic nomination. Biden would be fighting for Clinton supporters, who are ideologically similar, said Patrick Murray, director of the polling institute.

But he said it would be a mistake to evaluate Biden's potential based on early "horse race" polls. The June 16 survey also showed that 62 percent of Democrats view Biden favorably, compared to 78 percent for Clinton.

"It suggests that there are people out there who would support him," Murray said. "The question is whether there are enough to overcome Hillary's initial advantage."

Biden has said he wouldn't be influenced by Clinton's decision to run.

"The only reason to run for the president of the United States is if you truly believe you're in a better position to do what you think is most needed in the country," Biden said in February on The View.

His supporters say there's still room for another Democratic candidate.

"I don't think Hillary is really the presumptive candidate everybody thinks she is," said Iowa Rep. Bruce Hunter, a Biden supporter who represents south and central Des Moines.

Harpootlian said Biden, former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, knows foreign policy and the legislative process, and has personal skills Clinton lacks.

"Joe Biden is a person that can speak to crowds and to people individually and emote and inspire them and bring them to tears or bring them to their feet cheering," Harpootlian said. "That ain't (Clinton's) skill."

Beau Biden clearly wanted his father to run for president, said Harpootlian, who last saw the younger Biden at the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

Harpootlian said he spoke with Joe Biden in May about presidential campaign logistics, including how much it would cost for a vice president to visit battleground states, and South Carolina's political landscape.

Biden would openly express pride in the Obama administration's accomplishments if he runs for president, Harpootlian said. But he said Biden realizes some Americans have missed out on the economic recovery because of a financial system that favors the wealthy.

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"I think he'd spend the next eight years trying to correct that," he said.

With Sanders and Chafee in state, Clinton and O'Malley supporters on hand, Democratic competition on full display in N.H. // Concord Monitor // Casey McDermott – June 28, 2015

You didn't need to travel far in New Hampshire on Saturday to understand this much about the Democratic presidential primary: It's on.

In fact, if you were in Nashua on Saturday morning, you didn't need to travel more than a few miles.

Over at the Clinton campaign headquarters on Main Street at 10 a.m., Massachusetts Congressman Joe Kennedy III and others were galvanizing a few dozen Hillary Clinton volunteers before spreading out for the campaign's first "Day of Action" – the first of many planned door-knocking efforts of the 2016 primary. A similar kickoff rolled out in Concord, Keene, Manchester, Portsmouth and a handful of other locations across the state.

Thirty minutes later, in the gymnasium of Nashua Community College on the other side of Nashua, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont was motivating several hundred supporters of his own – urging them to believe in the viability of his goal to take on "the billionaire class," and not to give in to those who would label his agenda as one that's too extreme.

"This is the agenda of America," Sanders declared after outlining a policy vision that included calls for a move toward public financing of political campaigns, a transition to a single-payer health system, a swift attempt to curb the effects of climate change, guaranteed family and sick leave for American workers and guaranteed vacation time. The senator brought the audience to its feet several times during his speech.

"Don't let anybody tell you or allow them to define me as some kind of extremist, out-of-touch with the American people," Sanders implored the crowd. "Virtually every issue that I have talked about, every proposal I have brought forth has the support of the vast majority of Americans. The people who do not have the support of the American people are those Republicans who want tax breaks for billionaires, to cut social security, Medicare, Medicaid, et cetera. They are way out of touch."

The main target of Sanders' criticism was the Republican party, not any Democratic opponent. He urged the audience in Nashua to challenge friends and family who might think of voting with the other party, adding: "What I will not accept is working class people in New Hampshire, in Vermont and around this country voting against their own best interests and the interests of their kids."

Sanders continued on to several other stops: A house party in Bow that attracted about 100 people from New Hampshire and neighboring states, a Blue BBQ with the Hillsborough and Antrim Town Democrats and a "town meeting" at New England College in Henniker. He had another full day of events scheduled for Sunday, with more "town meetings" planned in Rochester, Durham and Laconia.

Meanwhile, Clinton's team brought in several out-of-state surrogates to canvass on the candidate's behalf this weekend: There was Kennedy in Nashua, as well as Massachusetts Congresswoman Niki Tsongas in Salem, and New York Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney (a New Hampshire native) in Manchester.

And all of the declared Democratic contenders' campaigns converged – at one point or another – at the barbecue in Hillsborough.

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Former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee spoke at the event and spent time mingling with attendees, one of several trips to the state he made this week. Sanders was the only other candidate to speak in person – but Maloney stopped by to speak on Clinton's behalf, and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley sent a representative from his campaign, too.

Also at the event was campaign finance reformer and Harvard University professor Lawrence Lessig, who continued his calls asking New Hampshire residents to make election funding a priority as they vet candidates in the months ahead.

While Clinton volunteers hit the streets and Sanders's camp rallied followers for a campaign that focused on "educat(ing) and organiz(ing)," Chafee, in an interview at the picnic, was taking the long view. Unlike Clinton, Sanders and O'Malley, he hasn't yet hired staff in New Hampshire or led any organized volunteers yet. As Clinton continues to lead in recent polls, with Sanders not far behind, Chafee has not yet managed to pick up much momentum. Still, Chafee said he's optimistic that there's room for him in the race – he even pointed to Sanders' recent surge in the polls as proof that Democrats are eager for a competitive primary.

"I think the Democrats are kicking the tires," Chafee said, sitting on a picnic bench at the Hillsborough Fire Department Picnic Grounds on Saturday afternoon. "They want to hear from the candidates. I don't think they're 100 percent committed to Hillary or Bernie or Linc or Marty yet. They're listening. That's good."

As some take sides, others still weighing options

Across the Democrats' events in New Hampshire yesterday, there seemed to be a consensus that – for the moment, at least – the main rivalry for the liberal wing of the Granite State exists between Clinton and Sanders.

Clinton's supporters at the Nashua office pointed to the former U.S. senator and secretary of state's credentials, leadership style and policy expertise as key factors in their decision to back her bid for presidency. Sanders, several said, has good ideas – but seemed less experienced on foreign policy and perhaps too outspoken to work with other policymakers in a meaningful way. Others expressed hesitancy because of his stance on gun control. (Sanders has supported an assault weapons ban and backed President Obama's call for gun control in the wake of the Sandy Hook shooting, as noted by the Boston Globe earlier this month. On the other hand, the as Globe reported, "Sanders voted against the landmark Brady Bill, which required background checks and a waiting period before purchasing a firearm. He supported legislation allowing guns to be transported on Amtrak trains. He voted for a measure to protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits in cases of shootings."

In comments Saturday and other recent interviews, he stressed that it's important to understand the significance of hunting and recreational gun use for Americans in more rural areas.)

"I think Bernie might be her biggest competition. Vermont is a strong liberal state, and I love him, and he's doing so much. She's my preference," said Sonia Prince, a Nashua resident who's volunteering for Clinton. "Sometimes he's a little harsh, and I wonder how that would go over in certain situations. I think she can handle herself better. And the gun thing is a huge deal for me."

Sanders' supporters, meanwhile, voiced a sense of elation – and, in some cases, pleasant surprise – that their candidate was attracting so much enthusiasm at this stage in the race. New Hampshire voters (some sporting "Feel the Bern" and "Bern, Baby, Bern") were not turned off by the Senator's willingness to be blunt – indeed, that was part of what they liked best. Some expressed skepticism that Clinton could be the same kind of champion for middle class families that Sanders is trying to be, and some said they were questioning Clinton's trustworthiness because of the issues recently raised surrounding her email practices as secretary

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of state, among other things.

"He's a stand-up man. And he tends to be kind of a firecracker, and if he doesn't agree with something, he says something. He does something," said Nashua resident Jennifer Craffey, who attended the rally in Nashua. "I like that his initials are B.S. – and he's sick of the B.S. down in D.C."

And then, there are still plenty of residents who are still weighing their options. Peter Beblowski and Martha Pinello, both of Antrim, said at the Hillsborough picnic that they're happy to have several strong potential choices on the Democratic side.

"I think we're looking at the retail politics that New Hampshire provides," Beblowski said. "This is way in advance of 2016."

"One of the things that's great is that you get to see candidates repeatedly, so you not only get to read their positions but you get to see how they interact with their staff and how they interact with voters," Pinello added.

Even for all of the talk of Clinton's frontrunner status, the sense of competition ahead of canvassing efforts was evident. In Nashua yesterday morning, State Sen. Bette Lasky reminded the group that no New Hampshire primary (in recent decades, at least) has been won with more than 50 percent of the vote.

"We know firsthand that we have to start working today, continue, don't let up," Lasky told the group. "And do not leave any stone unturned until 8 p.m. on primary day."

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

The Definition of Insanity: Jeb Bush still favors appointing judges "with a proven record of judicial restraint" // WaPo // Randy Barnett – June 27. 2015

In an interview with Hugh Hewitt, Jeb Bush responded to criticism of his brother's selection of John Roberts to be Chief Justice. Without intending it, his answer revealed he would select judges by exactly the same criteria that has given us our current problem with a Supreme Court that is dominated by Republican nominated justices:

> "When I was governor, we tried to find people with a proven record of judicial restraint, and people that were committed to enforcing the constitutional limits on government authority. In essence, what I'm saying is I think we need to have people that have not just theoretically, but have had a proven record of not legislating from the bench."

He then doubled down:

> "All justices disappoint their presidents some of the time but Souter was like a 90 percent swing and miss," Hewitt said. "How do you avoid Souters?"

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> "You focus on people to be Supreme Court justices who have a proven record of judicial restraint," Bush answered.

This is exactly the problem with the judicial philosophy promoted by many conservatives for the past 30 years: "judicial restraint" in "enforcing constitutional limits on government authority" leads to NFIB v. Sebelius. In fairness, that is not what Bush actually said but, as George Will recently observed, that is what this judicial philosophy produces in practice.

Thoughtful conservatives today will insist that, properly defined, "judicial restraint" includes enforcing constitutional limits, and the term could be defined that way. But that is not the mentality of "restraint" as it was originally formulated by the Progressives and has been perpetuated by some conservatives. For years, "judicial restraint" has been primarily about not thwarting the will of "democratic majorities." There are myriad doctrines to accomplish this. For example, you adopt a "presumption of constitutionality" that cannot be rebutted. Or find a "saving construction" of a statute to avoid finding it unconstitutional. Or you "defer" to administrative agencies' interpretation of statutes. Or you make a statute "work" as the "legislature intended" (even if that means ignoring the plain or natural reading of its words).

Many good conservatives truly wanted Obamacare invalidated in NFIB because it was unconstitutional. And they then sincerely wanted it to be enforced according to its terms in King. But selecting judges with the judicial mindset of "judicial restraint" and "deference" to the majoritarian branches leads to the results we witnessed in NFIB and King. If conservatives persist in supporting presidents who select judges on this basis, they will persist in being disappointed.

I know, I know. What about Obergefell and gay marriage? Didn't that result from a lack of "restraint"? No, if you don't approve of Obergefell, it is because you do not agree with the constitutional rationale Justice Kennedy articulated for invalidating the state laws at issue, not because he was "unrestrained." Winning Obergefell on the grounds urged by Chief Justice Roberts in his dissenting opinion also gives you NFIB and King. If you want to avoid the latter, then you should criticize the majority on the ground that Justice Thomas did in his dissent: that the majority misinterpreted the Due Process Clause, not that they were "unrestrained." You will notice that Chief Justice Roberts did not join Justice Thomas's dissent (though regrettably, Justices Thomas and Scalia joined his). The Chief Justice's dissent was all about restraint and only secondarily about correctness. He cited Lochner v. New York 16 times because Lochner was supposedly about activism, rather than appropriate restraint. In contrast, Justice Thomas appealed to the original meaning of "the due process of law." There is a big big difference between these two judicial mindsets.

So, if conservative Republicans want a different performance from the judiciary in the future, they must vet their presidential candidates to see whether they understand this point. Jeb Bush clearly does not. And I have personally heard Marco Rubio and Carly Fiorina say much the same sort of thing about judges, showing that they do not understand this either–at least not yet. Only Rand Paul has been very clear about the duty of judges to invalidate unconstitutional law without restraint or deference.

I haven't heard yet what other candidates think about this, but everyone should be listening closely. If you hear catch phrases like "judicial restraint," "deferring" to "the democratic branches," or "not legislating from the bench," then you know this candidate intends to repeat the mistakes of past Republican presidents.

Conservatives must learn from the recent past what not to look for in a justice.

Bush to meet with Charleston pastors **// WaPo // Ed O'Keefe – June 27, 2015**

Jeb Bush plans to meet privately on Monday with pastors in Charleston, S.C., his campaign says.

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The Republican presidential candidate was originally scheduled to be in Charleston 10 days ago for an event scheduled for the morning after a deadly shooting at a historic African American church in the city. After arriving in the city just hours after the shooting, Bush canceled his scheduled appearance, saying it would be inappropriate to campaign in the city in the wake of the shooting.

His campaign declined to say with whom he will meet with on Monday.

Later in the day, the former Florida governor is scheduled to hold a campaign event in West Columbia, S.C., at a pharmaceutical company.

Jeb Bush touts record on guns **// CNN // Ashley Killough – June 27, 2015**

Henderson, Nevada (CNN) Jeb Bush on Saturday said he doubted gun control measures supported by President Barack Obama would have prevented recent tragedies, including the church massacre in South Carolina.

Instead, the former Florida governor, speaking at a town hall event in the early caucus state of Nevada, touted his record on guns as a way to balance public safety and Second Amendment rights.

"Florida is a pro-gun state. Gun violence has dropped. There's a reason for it," he told reporters after the event. "We created a balance that's focused on lowering gun violence but protecting the Second Amendment, and it's a model for many other countries and many other states because of that."

Bush proudly touted his A+ rating with the National Rifle Association and called Florida a "freedom-loving state," but also cited his efforts to combat crime through the "10-20-Life" law, a statute that he campaigned on and enacted as governor.

The law, which is still in place, issues a minimum 10-year sentence for anyone who pulls a gun while committing a crime, 20 years for pulling the trigger during a crime and 25 years to life for injuring or killing someone by firing a gun.

"And we advertised it in Spanish, Creole and English to make sure that people knew that if they're going to commit gun crimes, that they were going to pay a heavy price," he said in the town hall, adding that they saw a "dramatic reductions in gun violence."

According to a 2013 report by the nonpartisan research arm of the Connecticut General Assembly, which looked into the law using FBI crime reporting statistics, gun violence in Florida indeed went down in the years after the law was enacted in 1999 -- but it also went down across the entire country.

Separately, an Orlando Sentinel report found that only a small percentage of those charged with gun crime in Orange County from 2003 to 2007 actually received the mandatory sentence.

Bush argued that none of the gun control proposals by the Obama administration would have stopped recent mass shootings. Asked by reporters afterwards if he could specify which proposals he was talking about, he repeated, "all the ones."

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"Every one of them. There's not been a single thing that he's proposed recently that would have changed the course of any of these tragic cases," he said.

Following the Newtown elementary school shooting in 2012, the Obama administration, with the help of a small number of Republicans, pushed for legislation that would have applied background checks to all private sales or transfers, but the measure failed to advance in the Senate two years ago.

While Bush said Florida requires background checks for gun purchases, he told reporters that the state does not have checks for the kinds of private transactions included in the Congressional push two years ago.

He said he doesn't think "we need to be politicizing this issue," and in the town hall, he emphasized focusing on mental health issues as a way to address the problem.

"I'd also say going forward that these cases -- that the race system in Charleston or these cases of people who are just mentally deranged -- we as a society better figure out how we identify these folks long before they feel compelled to take up a gun and kill innocent people," he said.

In his first stop to Nevada as an official candidate, having announced his presidential campaign earlier this month, the town hall in Henderson was largely a friendly event for Bush. At one point, a voter stood up and told him he'd been a Democrat for 50 years but last month switched to become a registered Republican. Bush approached the voter and gave him a hug.

While he faced no confrontational questions at the event, a small group of pro-immigration protesters with signs waited for Bush outside, standing near reporters who were anticipating a small press conference. Bush's campaign then moved reporters inside where the candidate answered questions.

Bush pledged to return to the early caucus state "a lot," not only for the Republican nominating contest, but because Nevada is a swing state in the general election.

He acknowledged that the Republican nominee won't be able to win Democratic strongholds like New York and California next November, but he thinks Republicans can expand the map to win Nevada, Florida, New Hampshire, Iowa, Colorado, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

"I'm going to do this to win," he said to applause during the town hall. "And I want your support."

That will require campaigning in places where Republicans don't traditionally go, he said, and appealing to groups like Latino voters, repeating a message he often gives. This time, however, he tried using a gambling term to get across his message.

"If we don't try to broaden out the map, we're going to have to win with an inside straight, to use a Vegas term. Inside straight flush or whatever. It's just not going to happen. I'm not a big gambler so I don't know any gambling ... Does that sound stupid when you say that?" he asked, to laughs. "You'll teach me about that later."

Jeb Bush: Charleston shootings wouldn't have been prevented by Obama proposals // CBS // Alan He – June 27, 2015

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Jeb Bush told an audience today in Henderson, Nevada that "not a single one" of the mass shootings in recent years would have been prevented by President Obama's gun control ideas, and that more emphasis should be put on the role of mental health in gun violence. Bush's comments came just a day after President Obama said that the nation had been, "blind to the unique mayhem that gun violence inflicts," for far too long.

Answering an audience question about his stance on gun control, Bush said that, "all of these tragic incidents that have taken place in the past few years, are heartbreaking," but that, "not a single one of them would have been stopped by any of the ideas proposed by Barack Obama." The Republican candidate referring to alleged killer Dylann Roof as the "racist in Charleston," instead argued that, "we as a society better figure out how we identify these folks long before they feel compelled to take up a gun and kill innocent people."

On Monday, Bush heads to Charleston, South Carolina to meet privately with community faith leaders who he described Saturday as having shown, "incredible love and compassion" in the wake of the shooting.

During a press conference held in the hallway after the town hall in the gymnasium had ended, the former Florida governor responded to reporters' questions about the recent Supreme Court decisions upholding Obamacare and the right to same-sex marriage. Bush said that he was "disappointed" by both decisions. He described a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage as "unrealistic," calling for an environment where, "people aren't discriminated against," while also allowing "people to act on their religious conscience."

On the subject of Obamacare, Bush had told the town hall audience that his solution would be to replace it with a system that provides people with access to a high-deductible, low-premium catastrophic coverage.

Bush also touted his own openness and willingness to "step outside his comfort zone," in contrast to the Democratic candidate, former Secretary State, Hillary Clinton. He drew audience laughter when he invoked Clinton's Scooby Van, saying. "I will make mistakes along the way because I'm going to campaign outside my comfort zone. I'm not going to be in a little protective shell, I'm not going to be inside of a bubble. I'm not going to go on my Scooby Doo van and have everything screened out."

Jeb Bush: U.S. needs to strengthen economically and internationally **// Las Vegas Review-Journal // Ben Botkin – June 27, 2015**

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush told an audience in Henderson that the United States needs to strengthen its economy and its relationships with other nations, including Israel.

Speaking to about 300 people at a town hall meeting Saturday, he said personal income and disposable income need to grow, which hasn't happened in this economy.

"More and more people are falling prey to the false choice of more government to be able to take care of them," Bush said at the city's Valley View Recreation Center.

Bush, the governor of Florida from 1999 to 2007, touted key parts of his campaign message, including reducing federal regulations that harm businesses and reducing poverty.

"All of this can be fixed because it requires winning in a way that draws people to our cause," Bush said, adding "I'm going to run with heart."

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It was the Bush's first visit to Southern Nevada since his June 15 announcement that he's in the race. Bush, the brother of former President George W. Bush and the son of the first President George Bush, visited Reno and Las Vegas in May.

Bush, a friend of Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, also praised Nevada for its work on education reform, particularly the new education savings accounts.

The new voucher program will allow parents to put their child's state public school funding toward a private school or tutoring. Bush championed a voucher program in Florida as governor.

Asked about the deadly June 17 shooting spree in Charleston, S.C., where a gunman killed nine people in a church, Bush said a society needs to focus on mental health issues and look for ways to identify and help people with mental health problems sooner.

Bush drew frequent applause at the town hall, which offered online registration for free tickets in advance.

Considered a GOP presidential race front-runner, Bush leads most polls in a crowded field of at least a dozen Republican candidates. A recent NBC/Wall Street Journal national survey placed him at the top, preferred by 22 percent of likely Republican primary voters.

Nevada has attracted attention from other candidates who have visited in recent months. The list includes Republicans U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, and Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Bush said accountability is needed at the federal Office of Personnel Management, which suffered a data breach and did nothing after an Inspector General report suggested the agency that houses the government workforce's personnel files wasn't secure.

"The Chinese have broken into that system and now it's possible they have 18 million separate records," Bush said, adding that President Barack Obama put his political director in charge of the agency rather than someone qualified. Katherine Archuleta, who was Obama's national political director, heads the agency.

Bush criticized her for blaming the Chinese, saying people need to take action and responsibility.

As Florida's governor, "when there was a mistake, I cleaned it up," he said.

Nevada's status as a key swing state in the presidential election wasn't lost on Bush. Nevada's February 2016 caucuses will play an early role in determining who gets the Republican nomination, along with New Hampshire, South Carolina and Iowa. In the November 2016 general election, Nevada is expected to be competitive: It could swing for the GOP or the Democratic ticket.

"We're purple as well," Bush said, referring to his Florida home state. "And Republicans will win if we win purple states."

Bush sharply criticized Obama's foreign policy.

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“This president is the first president in the post-World War II era that believes we’re not a force for good,” Bush said.

He said the U.S. needs to be a “beacon of peace and security for the world.”

Asked about Iran and its nuclear capabilities, Bush said no option should be taken off the table. Iran and its potential ability to have a nuclear weapon have stoked fears in the Middle East.

Bush also took aim at Democratic front-runner Clinton, saying she only sponsored three bills that became law during her eight years as a U.S. senator representing New York.

The Democratic National Committee quickly pounced on Bush’s comments in Henderson that Obama’s economics have been horrible for people in poverty and disastrous for those in the middle. The committee said private-sector jobs have expanded by 12.6 million jobs during 63 consecutive months and wages and benefits increased last year at the quickest rate in six years.

Both Democratic and Republican candidates are courting the Latino vote as demographics have shifted.

“The next president has to go to places where Republicans haven’t been seen in a long, long while,” Bush said, referencing the Latino community.

He didn’t call for a path to citizenship for immigrants who are in the country illegally. Instead, he said they should be eligible for “earned legal status.” That status would come through a provisional work permit where they pay taxes and learn English and “over an extended period of time” earn legal status, Bush said.

“I don’t see any other option,” Bush said. “I don’t think our country is going to be the type of country that puts people in boxcars and sends them away.”

Several Latino protesters were outside the building, holding signs that said: “Jeb: Are you a supporter or a deporter?” and “Nothing less than citizenship.”

Bush, speaking to reporters after his speech, said he believes in traditional marriage and that it’s important to protect religious freedoms. He was responding to a question about the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling Friday that the U.S. Constitution guarantees a nationwide right to same-sex marriage.

Bush plans to meet with ministers in Charleston, S.C., on Monday.

Jeb Bush says stricter US gun control laws aren't needed // Sydney Morning Herald // Kurtis Lee – June 27, 2015

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush has argued against calls from President Barack Obama and other Democrats for stricter gun control laws after the mass shooting at a Charleston, South Carolina, church that killed nine people.

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Mr Bush, who travelled to the Las Vegas suburb of Henderson on Saturday for a campaign appearance, said he does not believe tougher gun laws would prevent mass shootings.

"All of these tragic instances that have taken place in the last couple of years are heartbreaking. They really are," said Mr Bush. "Not a single one of them would have been stopped with any of the ideas proposed by Barack Obama. Not a single one of them."

Mr Bush, among the front-runners in the race for the Republican presidential nomination, said more emphasis should be placed on improving access to mental health services. On Monday, he plans to meet with black ministers in Charleston.

Meanwhile, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, in recent days has called for universal background checks for gun purchases, noting the "politics on the issue have been poisoned".

Mr Bush has received strong support from the National Rifle Association, and as Florida governor he signed the "stand your ground" law that received attention after the Trayvon Martin shooting.

On Saturday, Mr Bush said gun laws should be a state issue.

"In Florida we had background checks, state by state I think these things get sorted out based on tradition, based on the differences in our states," he said.

Mr Bush said he supported a Florida law that requires background checks on some gun sales.

"We've created a balance that's focused on lowering gun violence, but protecting the Second Amendment," he said regarding the Florida laws.

RUBIO

Rubio Buys Airtime for Campaign Ads in First Four Nominating States **// WSJ // Patrick O'Connor – June 27, 2015**

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination, has started reserving television airtime in the first four nominating states, seven months before a vote is cast, according to a people familiar with the advertising purchase.

The Florida senator has reserved airtime in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada that is set to run from November through February, according to someone familiar with the reservation.

The Republican presidential nominating process gets under way in February, when New Hampshire and South Carolina hold primaries, while Iowa and Nevada are set for caucuses.

By reserving ads early, the Rubio team should be able to secure lower rates than some of its rivals will pay if they buy airtime closer to the primary voting.

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Some of Mr. Rubio's rivals have bigger war chests, particularly former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

PAUL

Rand Paul silent on gay marriage ruling **// Politico // Daniel Strauss – June 27, 2015**

Ted Cruz called for impeachment. Bobby Jindal said he'd "just get rid of the court" entirely. Scott Walker floated a Constitutional amendment. Mike Huckabee hinted at civil disobedience.

But well over 24 hours after the Supreme Court's historic ruling making same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states, one Republican 2016 candidate has thus far remained silent: Rand Paul.

While other GOP hopefuls bashed the high court's decision to one degree or another, the Kentucky senator didn't say anything or release a statement or respond to requests for comment from POLITICO.

Paul's silence stands in contrast to his voluble response on Thursday, when the justices upheld a key part of the Affordable Care Act. He released a statement saying the decision "turns both the rule of law and common sense on its head." He was still going on Friday afternoon, tweeting, "while some in my party may want to wave the white flag, I am more determined than ever to fight for total repeal of Obamacare." No tweets, however, on gay marriage.

By Saturday, Paul had also tweeted about his poll numbers and the "hackathon for liberty and privacy" sponsored by his campaign and made numerous requests for donation.

Again, though, there was no mention of gay marriage of the high court's landmark ruling earlier that day — on any of the candidate's many social media accounts.

Paul's habit of initial silence on the hot political topic of the day has been noted by the national press recently, especially his delayed response to Mitt Romney's call for the Confederate flag to be taken down from Capitol grounds in South Carolina. Paul finally weighed in on Tuesday, days after Romney's Saturday tweet, and well after his rivals had already made statements. The Kentucky senator's silence on the gay marriage ruling is another example of that pattern.

Paul hasn't refrained from talking about gay marriage before, however. In April, in an interview with CNN's Dana Bash, Paul said he believed "people ought to be treated fairly under the law" but also said he believed in the "traditional religious connotation" of marriage, usually defined by religious conservatives as between a man and a woman.

"And you probably could have both," Paul added. "You could have both traditional marriage, which I believe in. And then you could also have the neutrality of the law that allows people to have contracts with another."

In a 2013 interview with the American Family Association's Bryan Fischer, Paul voiced reservations about "federalizing" same-sex marriage.

"I'm not sure exactly how I'd come down on the federalization part," Paul said in the January 2013 interview. "My fear is that in federalizing it, we're going to lose the battle for the whole country. In keeping it state by

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state, which is the way marriage has always been adjudicated, we'll have states that continue to have traditional marriage. I think we're losing in large areas of the country now. If the urban areas are able to dictate, for the rest of the country, what our definition of marriage is, I'm really concerned about that."

CRUZ

Ted Cruz calls for judicial retention elections for Supreme Court justices // WaPo // Katie Zezima – June 27, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) has proposed a constitutional amendment that would subject Supreme Court justices to periodic judicial elections in the wake of rulings that upheld a key portion of the Affordable Care Act and affirmed gay couples' right to marriage.

"I am proposing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would subject each and every justice of the United States Supreme Court to periodic judicial retention elections," Cruz said Saturday, during a speech in Des Moines, Iowa. He also called for such elections in the National Review on Friday.

The proposal from Cruz, who once served as Supreme Court clerk, comes as he is trying to position himself as the presidential candidate of choice for conservatives and evangelicals who disagree with the court's decisions this week. The Texas Republican is using the rulings to paint himself as a stalwart defender of religious freedom, opponent of same-sex marriage and reaffirm his pledge to abolish the Affordable Care Act should he win the presidency.

Cruz is also using the rulings to reemphasize his assertion that he tacks far to the right of the rest of the 2016 GOP field when it comes to social issues, a point he started making in the wake of a controversial religious freedom law Indiana passed in March.

"Sadly we've seen several 2016 candidates in response to yesterday's decision saying it is the law of the land, we must accept it and move on," Cruz said as the Des Moines audience booed. "When Republican candidates are standing up and reciting Barack Obama's talking points things have gone seriously wrong."

Earlier this year Cruz filed legislation that would protect states that prohibit same-sex couples from getting married.

Cruz said last week in Iowa that some Republican presidential candidates chose to "rearrange their sock drawers" in the wake of the Indiana decision. After a backlash to the initial law, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence (R) signed a revised version of the religious freedom bill making it clear that businesses cannot use the legislation as the basis to discriminate based on sexual orientation.

The Texas Republican, who had a tepid start in Iowa, tried to use Saturday's speech, titled "Believe Again" as a way to both solidify his presence in the state and as the uncompromising conservative in the 2016 field. Cruz has come up with a new phrase for the institution he said he is fighting: the "Washington cartel," which he said is comprised by members of both parties, lobbyists, and now Supreme Court justices.

"This week's assault was but the latest in a long line of judicial assaults on our Constitution and Judeo-Christian values that have made America great," he said. The Supreme Court "has now forced the disaster of a health-care law called Obamacare on the American people and attempted to redefine an institution that was ordained by God."

Cruz's strategy is to coalesce the support of his conservative base and draw in support from evangelical

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Christians and conservative libertarians, all but ignoring the Republican establishment and moderates. Cruz said he is the only candidate in the field who is bucking Republican leadership, and said those leaders have been "embarrassed" to stand up for traditional marriage. He said both Democrats and Republicans were "popping Champagne" after the court's rulings because it spared them from having the government "actually follow the law."

The candidate also hit 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney, who held a Republican summit earlier this month, for inviting all of the candidates who are "pro-amnesty" on immigration to Utah.

Ted Cruz Recalls How Father Tried to Join Fidel Castro's Army **// AP – June 27, 2015**

AUSTIN, Tex. — The father of Senator Ted Cruz was a 1950s Cuban revolutionary who longed to slip into the island's eastern mountains and join Fidel Castro's guerrilla army.

At 17, Rafael Cruz led a group of insurgents staging urban sabotage against Fulgencio Batista, a Cuban dictator. Mr. Cruz was eventually jailed and tortured, and upon his release wanted the underground to help him reach Mr. Castro's camp in the Sierra Maestra highlands.

"My dad asked if he could join Castro in the mountains and keep fighting," Senator Cruz, Republican of Texas and a presidential candidate, writes in his book, "A Time For Truth," which is being released on Tuesday. "But he was told there was no way to get to the rebels."

Instead, the elder Cruz bribed his way to a Cuban exit visa and headed to the University of Texas.

He returned home shortly after Mr. Castro seized power in 1959, but, Ted Cruz writes, was appalled to see Mr. Castro had "declared to the world that he was a Communist." Mr. Castro did not formally call his revolution Socialist until the eve of the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

The Cruzes have long acknowledged that Rafael Cruz was an early Castro sympathizer. But Ted Cruz's memoir — a copy of which The Associated Press purchased — provides new details about his desire to fight alongside the guerrilla leader.

The Cuban government has not commented about Rafael Cruz, making the anecdotes difficult to confirm. But Ted Cruz also writes that his father had planned to join Mr. Castro and help attack an army barracks in the city of Santiago in 1956, but did not because Mr. Castro was delayed in returning to Cuba from Mexico.

Today, Rafael Cruz, 76, is a pastor who frequently quotes scripture in antigovernment speeches to grass-roots groups. He has compared President Obama to a young Castro.

Ted Cruz writes that his father did not open up about being tortured in Cuban jails until the senator was a teenager, when the pair watched "Rambo." The movie features scenes in which the title character is tortured.

The senator describes how his father said he was beaten with clubs and kicked in the head. That is also difficult to confirm, but the book includes a Rafael Cruz mug shot in which his nose appears to be broken.

In the book, Mr. Cruz briefly tells how his elder half sister, Miriam, died of a drug overdose in 2011. He discusses the bouts of depression that his wife, Heidi, had in 2005 — which he chalks up to her having

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trouble adjusting to Texas life after the couple moved to Austin from Washington.

Mr. Cruz also recalls heading to Maine in 2009 to meet former President George H. W. Bush — whose son Jeb is now one of Mr. Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign rivals. Mr. Cruz was invited to go sailing but was wearing a suit, so Mr. Bush lent him clothes, including a "President of the United States" belt buckle.

Mr. Cruz writes that the borrowed clothing felt "surreal."

Cruz seeks to harness conservative outrage after Supreme Court decisions // CNN // Theodore Schleifer – June 27, 2015

Orange City, Iowa (CNN) Ted Cruz is moving quickly to galvanize conservatives frustrated by the Supreme Court's landmark decisions this week.

Hours after the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage on Friday morning, the Texas Republican senator looked to pivot the defeat for social conservatives into a wedge issue between himself and his rival presidential hopefuls. And by the end of his day in Iowa, Cruz was outflanking any of the other aspirants on the right and was continuously accusing them of doublespeak.

In stops across northwest Iowa, Cruz said many in the GOP were "popping champagne" after the decision. He took swipes at both the integrity of the Supreme Court and his longtime friend, Chief Justice John Roberts. He suggested he would back a constitutional convention to scale back the high court's power, and concluded the day by calling for an amendment to the Constitution that would give voters the chance to end a Supreme Court justice's lifetime tenure early.

If Cruz was looking to emerge as the presidential candidate who took the most umbrage, who expressed the most disbelief after both the same-sex marriage ruling and the Court's decision to uphold a key provision of Obamacare this week, he made his best try here on Friday.

"This is not a typical moment in American history," Cruz told a crowd of more than 100 Iowans gathered on a baseball diamond in the small town of Pierson. "The last 24 hours at the United States Supreme Court were among the darkest hours of our nation."

Cruz, a former clerk to Chief Justice William Rehnquist who later represented the state of Texas in arguments at the Supreme Court, was originally slow to respond to the news out of Washington on Friday morning. His delay was especially surprising as the tea party hero is making an aggressive play to win over the family-focused evangelical voters who are expected to make up half of the electorate in next year's Republican Iowa caucuses.

When he eventually registered his first reaction at a town hall meeting in Sheldon, Cruz blasted the court for its "unadulterated judicial activism," just as many other 2016 candidates did. That was ordinary.

But Cruz went further, saying there was disconnect between what Republicans in Washington were saying in their press releases and what they truly believed. Several GOP candidates, including Jeb Bush and Lindsey Graham, issued tightly-parsed language urging their colleagues to focus on protecting "religious freedom," while Ohio Gov. John Kasich urged Republicans to respect the ruling and ditch the matter altogether. Mike Huckabee and Bobby Jindal were a bit stronger, with the former Arkansas governor calling for Americans to "reject judicial tyranny, not retreat."

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But Cruz was skeptical that his opponents were committed to stopping same-sex nuptials.

"As much as there were crocodile tears shed in Washington yesterday on Obamacare, there were even bigger crocodile tears shed in Washington today on marriage," Cruz said.

That is a contrast Cruz made sure to highlight to nearly every voter he met in the Hawkeye State. The script at Dutch Bakery here was workmanlike: Shake the hand. Share outrage at the decision. Ridicule Republicans' public statements. Blast them for "popping champagne." Shake a new hand.

In those statements, some of Cruz's competitors, like Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, did call for a constitutional amendment to protect so-called traditional marriage. Cruz has introduced this amendment in the past, but again, he went a step further, strongly implying that he would support a constitutional convention to propose new amendments, a course of action never before pursued though it is explicitly outlined in Article V of the Constitution.

"I fully expect the drive for an Article V convention to get new energy and new steam," Cruz said in Sheldon when a voter asked whether he would back it.

By the end of the day, Cruz was bringing it up himself -- though always stopping just short of saying he would support the call for a convention. In a column posted on the National Review's website late Friday, Cruz was not only floating the convention idea but proposing his own amendment: judicial retention elections every eight years for Supreme Court justices.

"When they violate the constitutional amendment and the law, the American people can remove them," Cruz said to his loudest applause of the evening in Pierson. "We are not governed by a judicial priesthood. We are not governed by judicial tyranny."

But Cruz reserved his toughest talk for the head of that tyranny: Roberts, a justice who dissented with the Court's decision on Friday but who the day before voted with the Court's liberal wing to uphold Obamacare subsidies.

"His decision yesterday and his decision a couple of years ago violated his oath of office," Cruz said. "He knows full well that he's changing the law and not following it."

In northwest Iowa, Cruz calls court rulings 'lawless' // Des Moines Register // Matthew Patane – June 27, 2015

PIERSON, Ia. – Two Supreme Court decisions in as many days have made 2016 an even more bitter fight for conservatives, Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz said Friday.

Making three stops in northwest Iowa, Cruz railed against the court's justices for what he called "naked and unadulterated judicial activism" in a 5-4 ruling Friday that said same-sex marriages can take place in all 50 states.

"Religious liberty has never been so threatened as it is today," Cruz said in Sheldon. "I'll tell you, today's lawless decision from the Supreme Court puts religious liberty front and center in the target of the federal government."

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The U.S. senator from Texas also criticized some of his colleagues for their responses to the same-sex marriage decision, saying they issued "condemning statements, but were quietly thrilled, relieved, celebrating and popping champagne because they're afraid to defend marriage."

"They don't want to have to talk about it anymore. Several 2016 candidates today put out statements saying 'The matter is decided, it's the law of the land, it's time to move on,' " Cruz told a crowd in Pierson. "We are in a very strange place when Republican presidential candidates are echoing Barack Obama's talking points."

U.S. Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, also condemned the Supreme Court's ruling.

"Not one civilization in history has endorsed same-sex marriage, and they believe somehow the ratifiers of the 14th Amendment or the Constitution wrote it in in 1868," King told reporters. "I guarantee you, they weren't writing same-sex marriage into the Constitution in 1868."

He said Congress could enact retribution on the court, such as cutting its administrative budget.

"We can eliminate some of their staff to let them know that they have overreached and they don't need all of that help to do the damage they have done to the Constitution," said King, who attended the same event in Pierson as Cruz.

The Supreme Court also overstepped its bounds, Cruz said, by upholding a key provision of the federal health care law, more commonly known as Obamacare.

"Well, I'll tell you one consequence of yesterday's decision: It has made the 2016 election a referendum on repealing Obamacare," said Cruz, who has campaigned around the full repeal of the health care law.

Bill Tentinger, an independent pork producer from Le Mars, spoke with Cruz briefly during the candidate's Pierson stop.

Tentinger said Cruz appeard "down-to-earth," but it's too early for him to back a candidate.

"I'd be looking for a candidate that'd be interested in understanding the ramifications of increased regulations. ... I think we've got way too much of this stuff that is happening, regulations that are coming, without any forethought of what it's going to do to the economy," Tentinger said.

Following his speech in Sheldon, Cruz made retail politics-style stops in Orange City, interacting with Iowans while visiting three area businesses and a cultural center.

Delores DeJohn, 75, was one of the first to speak to Cruz as he entered a Dutch bakery off the city's main strip. DeJohn said she liked Cruz because "we need to have someone with strong values."

"I believe God is in control of it all, and we need god-fearing men in (the White House), otherwise this country will keep going down the other way," said DeJohn, who is retired.

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AT THE EVENT

SETTING: In Sheldon, a meeting room at the Sheldon Community Services Center. In Orange City, three local business and a cultural center. In Pierson, a picnic, a baseball diamond and a city park. Organizers served pork and a band played country and rock music.

CROWD: About 57 people in Sheldon. Cruz's Orange City stop saw the largest crowd with about 12 people in a local bakery. About 130 people came to a picnic in Pierson to see Cruz, King and State Sen. Bill Anderson, R-Pierson, speak.

REACTION: A receptive audience in Sheldon, where Cruz received multiple applause lines and laughter. Quiet conversations in Orange City. A standing ovation in Pierson.

WHAT'S NEXT: Cruz will give a speech at Drake University in Des Moines on Saturday, followed by a "Main Street walk" in Pella.

GRAHAM

In Lindsey Graham's hometown, resentment over the Confederate flag // Politico // Ben Schreckinger – June 27, 2015

CENTRAL, S.C. — Sen. Lindsey Graham's home lies across the state from the city where nine African-Americans were gunned down in the basement of their church and the arena-turned-sanctuary where 5,500 mourners gathered Friday to honor a slain pastor.

Here in the town where Graham grew up, there are still billiard tables in the basement of the building where his family once lived in a back room and ran a pool hall, a liquor store and bar. For much of Graham's childhood, sitting inside the bar was a privilege reserved for whites. Today, the proprietor is a Puerto Rican woman from the Bronx.

Graham, in a short autobiography written as a preface to his presidential run, takes a small share of credit for racial progress in a part of the South where change never came quickly. He recounts a moment when, as a high school student, he confronted his parents about the unwritten rule that black patrons had to drink outside.

"The next time a black customer came into the place," writes Graham in "My Story," "my mom opened a bottle of beer, set it down on the bar, and motioned for him to take a stool." That was in the early 1970s, years after the legal end of Jim Crow.

Last week, in the wake of the racially motivated massacre at Emanuel AME Church by a white man in Charleston, as calls mounted to take down the Confederate flag that flies in front of the South Carolina Statehouse, Graham stood up for the banner. "It works here," he said.

But on Monday afternoon, Graham stood quietly beside Gov. Nikki Haley as she called for the flag to come down.

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Call it a cave-in or a flip-flop or an evolution. In Pickens and Oconee counties, where Graham was raised and remains today, the people know him — firsthand or otherwise — and like him. Some resent him for turning on the flag. Most understand it. On race and Confederate heritage, they express the same mix of stubborn defensiveness, empathy and resignation that Graham has. In that way, he represents the people here. But he certainly isn't leading them.

The battle standard still has its staunch defenders in Central. At the Wal-Mart on Calhoun Memorial Highway, Confederate memorabilia had already been cleared from the shelves on Friday, but the flag shone from the front license-plate holder of a Chevy pickup in the parking lot. The truck's owner, Rita Haney, 28, said she wasn't bowing to the flag's opponents. She's planning to fly a big one in her front yard, "just to piss them the f—- off."

She expressed dismay that the group now includes her state's senior senator. "My dad loved Lindsey Graham," Haney said. "He would roll over in his grave."

There were others in the diners and under the shade trees in and around the town whose support Graham has lost in the past week. "He went from being all right to a coward," said Stanley, a 60-year-old logger wearing a National Tractor Pullers Association hat in a booth at Paw's Diner in nearby Seneca, where Graham now lives.

At Margaret's, another diner on another highway 10 miles away, 71-year-old waitress Betty Smith sat in another booth, breaking from work to chat with friend Betty Whitmire. She said she was so disgusted with the state's leaders that she would stop voting, and that she couldn't abide Graham's change of course. "I don't care what they do with the flag, but when you stand up and lie like that ...," she said.

But Whitmire expressed a more common sentiment. She still liked Graham. He had known her older brother, Leon, and showed up to his funeral as a congressman 14 years ago. She said she understood Graham's decision to change course on the flag, even if she didn't wholeheartedly endorse it.

Most white people around Central maintained the flag had nothing to do with the massacre in Charleston, even if it had become the cause of more trouble than it was worth. They said it didn't stand for racism, even if the people who chose to display it (whom they described as "rednecks," though not for attribution) were doing it to be racist. They said the flag at the Statehouse belonged "in a museum," even if politicians' "knee-jerk reaction" to the massacre was the wrong way to put it there.

If this moment presented Graham with an opportunity to lead the people of his native Upstate South Carolina out of a tangled thicket of contradictory feelings about race and heritage, he didn't seize it. Instead, he only stayed out of change's way. As events overtook lingering loyalties to the flag, Graham told NBC News this week, "I am not going to be part of stopping the progress of my state."

That doesn't surprise people who knew Graham in his youth. In the senator's autobiography, he writes of himself as a child blessed with "the gift of gab," but others remember him as more reserved.

"Lindsey wasn't a popular kid. He wasn't outspoken. He was real quiet," said lifelong Central resident Jimmy Head, 63, sitting in the shade of a tree with his father, John, 83, outside the family home.

Jimmy Head grew up next door to Graham's babysitter and his first memories of the senator are of a 5-year-old toddling over to shoot marbles on the dirt in their backyard and staying to play by himself long after the other kids had moved on to other games.

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Head's father, John, Central's fire chief for 40 years, said he doesn't believe the flag's removal will change much or satisfy anybody. "That flag didn't shoot them people," he said. "To me, they agreed to take it off the [Statehouse] 15 years ago. You put it in a museum, in 15 years they'll go and try to close down that museum. There ain't no end."

Back then, protesters led by the NAACP demanded the removal of the flag from the dome of the South Carolina Statehouse, where it had flown since the 1960s. In the resulting compromise, the flag was moved to a Confederate war memorial in front of the Statehouse, where it remains today.

At the time, Graham, still in the House, stood with the people in his district who felt a sentimental attachment to the flag.

"There is a guy out there named Bubba," he said. "He grew up when public schools got integrated. He goes to work every day. There are women and African-Americans in the workplace and he's fine with that, but he thinks the whole world is against him and has rights he doesn't have. He thinks the flag is the last thing he has going for him and he's not going to take it down. I don't want to step on Bubba's feelings. There are no groups sticking up for the Bubbas of the world."

Graham's newfound support for the flag's removal doesn't change John Head's approval of him. "He has a good attitude. I would think he would have a good opportunity to win the race. He's well-knowledgeable," said Head, who last ran into Graham at the Waffle House in neighboring Clemson, home of the university, on the Sunday before the Charleston shooting.

Al Cumbie, a former mayor of Central five years Graham's senior, first knew the senator when he was a "little bitty thing." He, too, recalls a "quiet" kid, though a loving one who took it upon himself to raise his teenage sister Darline when both of their parents died during his college years and Graham was struggling to pay Cumbie, also the town's undertaker, for their funerals.

Smiley Garvin, 52, the owner of Uptown Barbers on the town's main, and only, drag, said black people in Central look fondly on the Grahams. They were poorer than the town's whites, but Lindsey's father was good about extending them credit at his liquor store, and when Lindsey closed the store down after his father's death, they still remember that he forgave the debts of people who had racked up tabs.

"I'm proud that he made the decision that he made," Garvin said of Graham's new stance, but he said South Carolina faces more pressing issues. "They could be spending time on something more beneficial than fussing over a flag. Like minimum wages. They should be fussing over that."

After 20 years in Washington, Graham hasn't strayed far from his roots here, said Cumbie. "You can see him in a Waffle House in blue jeans and a hat. You wouldn't necessarily know that he's a politician if you saw him out by himself."

That endears him to people in South Carolina's northwest corner. "He doesn't take being a senator as something of power. He's a pretty down-to-earth guy," he said.

In other words, he's not one to get way out ahead of his constituents. "I think he tries his best to be a statesman," said Cumbie.

But in Charleston, at the funeral on Friday for the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, one of the shooting victims and a former state senator, it was Gov. Nikki Haley who was praised because she was "bold enough to declare, 'Take it down.'" It was Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley whom President Barack Obama praised for "good and

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wise leadership." Graham was acknowledged for his presence, to light applause.

Back in Paw's Diner in Seneca, the late lunch stragglers paid little attention to the images of the funeral beamed by Fox News to the television behind the counter. For those caught up in the culture war, the Supreme Court's decisions on Obamacare and gay marriage offered fresher ammunition. Most people, though, said they were none too eager to linger on issues of race and heritage, and happy to move on.

Bill Wright, 67, gave Graham's role in the drama of the past two weeks a shrug. "He's a politician," said Wright, between bites of fried fish and cornbread. "That's basically the size of it."

Lindsey Graham's Unique Way Of Handling A Voter's Racist Comments // Buzzfeed // Rosie Grey – June 27, 2015

TAMA, Iowa — Lindsey Graham was in the full swing of his pitch to a group of potential voters gathered at a VFW hall in this small town an hour outside Des Moines on Saturday when, while he was talking about his relatively liberal stance on immigration, there came an unwelcome interruption.

"Towel heads," grumbled a man sitting at the bar, sporting a denim shirt with the arms cut off. "Sand n*****s."

Graham did what every candidate must in the age of smartphones and opposition trackers following a candidate anywhere he or she goes.

"I totally dissociate myself from this guy," Graham said. "What I would say is that what he said is not who I am. I'm not running to be president to please this guy." He then moved on and continued on taking questions from the other attendees.

At this early stage, running for president can be a weird thing — especially in these tiny, intimate gatherings where people are able to to speak their minds. In an earlier era, maybe before a woman once notoriously insisted to John McCain that Barack Obama was an Arab, Graham could probably have gotten away with ignoring the man; today, he had to act.

But Graham is also a long-shot candidate without much to lose, and his response ended up being different from the kind of tight-lipped, efficient shutdown one could imagine coming from someone for whom the stakes are higher. A few minutes after the exchange, Graham concluded his spiel to the 15 or so people assembled in the dark, low-ceilinged room by drawing a comparison between his own hardscrabble upbringing in a bar in small town South Carolina and people like the man who had issued the slurs.

"I'm tired of telling people things they want to hear that I don't believe. I changed a long time ago as a politician. I was scared to death of going into a room to be disagreed with. I don't feel that way anymore. I feel free. I feel able to tell you exactly what I believe and why I believe it," Graham said.

"Put me on your list of people to consider, talk to a neighbor, and if you can support me, bring somebody to the caucus — that's the only way I'm going to make it, is to have people like you buy into what I'm trying to do," he said. "I grew up in a place just like this. This guy at the bar, I grew up with people just like him."

Graham then took it a step further: The event had been billed as "Politics and Pool," and he wanted to play pool with someone.

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There was silence.

Finally, a couple guys suggested the very man who had offered the slurs — the one Graham himself had called out, twice. The man agreed to play, Graham shook his hand, and the men played pool. Graham won.

On the way out, BuzzFeed News asked Graham why he had played pool with the man.

“Because he was the only one that would play,” Graham said. “And I wanted to beat him. I was going to beat him if it’s the last thing I did in Iowa.”

SANTORUM

Santorum denounces marriage ruling as Supreme Court decision dominates conservative gathering / / AP // Kristen Wyatt – June 27, 2015

DENVER — Republican presidential hopeful Rick Santorum denounced the landmark same-sex marriage ruling Friday in a fiery speech to about 4,000 conservatives gathered in Denver.

The former Pennsylvania senator told the Western Conservative Summit that the Supreme Court’s decision making same-sex marriage the law of the land is “based on a lie.”

“We have a Supreme Court that says the only reason that you could possibly oppose changing marriage laws in America is because you hate people who want to marry people of the same sex. That is not true,” Santorum said. “It’s a decision based on a lie. Based on fundamental untruths.”

Santorum said he predicted a decade ago that gay marriage would be law nationwide without an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. He stopped short of calling for a fresh effort to amend the Cponstitution, but he said the nation needs to “heal” from the decision.

“My heart aches tonight. My heart aches tonight because that family unit has further been assaulted,” Santorum said.

The crowd applauded Santorum’s remarks and gave him a standing ovation. Santorum won Colorado’s GOP presidential caucuses in 2012 and 2008.

Santorum is one of six presidential hopefuls in Denver this weekend addressing the Western Conservative Summit.

Colorado’s presidential preference primaries are nonbinding and play little role in either party. But Colorado is a key battleground state in general elections, and presidential candidates frequently test campaign themes here.

Addressing the conference Saturday are Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Rounding out the slate are businesswoman Carly Fiorina, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

Republican Sen. Rand Paul is visiting Colorado next week.

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Outside Santorum's remarks Friday, the Colorado Log Cabin Republicans manned a free booth given to them by the state party.

The gay Republican group sought to buy a booth from the Western Conservative Summit, organized by Colorado Christian University. The school denied their request, prompting the state party to invite them to share their booth.

"We really are part of the Republican Party, and we want to be part of the conversation," said Log Cabin Republicans member Jeff Bjorlin.

Santorum Leads Off Speakers At Western Conservative Summit // AP – June 27, 2015

Five Republican presidential hopefuls are in Denver Saturday talking to a group of conservative activists.

The Western Conservative Summit is a gathering of about 4,000 conservatives. The crowd heard Friday speeches from tea party activists and GOP presidential candidate Rick Santorum.

So far the gathering has concentrated on last week's Supreme Court rulings and what they mean for the GOP. The Court last week upheld President Obama's health care overhaul and made gay marriage legal in all 50 states.

Santorum, who won Colorado's GOP presidential caucuses in 2012 and 2008, said the gay marriage ruling was "based on a lie" that gay-marriage opponents are motivated by discrimination.

He's is one of seven presidential hopefuls in Denver this weekend addressing the Western Conservative Summit. Also attending the conference are Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Rounding out the slate are businesswoman Carly Fiorina, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

In addition to Walker, the crowd is hearing Saturday speeches from GOP presidential hopefuls Ben Carson, Carly Fiorina, Mike Huckabee and Rick Perry.

Rick Santorum: Justice Kennedy Is "Potentially Disrupting The Foundation Of The World." // Buzzfeed News // Andrew Kaczynski – June 27, 2015

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum says the Supreme Court decision on Friday ruling bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional is "potentially disrupting the foundation of the world."

Santorum, who is running for the Republican presidential nomination, said he wasn't surprised at the ruling, citing the previous ruling from the court striking down the Defense of Marriage of Act. He called Friday a "very sad day."

"Justice Kennedy said — this is remarkable but listen to it — the only reason that any could oppose gay marriage is because they hated gays and lesbians. Which is almost stops you in your tracks," Santorum said.

"That five thousand years of human history, a biblically-given thing that God somehow gave us marriage as a

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man and woman, that that was, that somehow that was intrinsically about hating other people. Which is very, very sad to see how the culture's changed and how this one man, this is it, this one man, this one man, a 5-4 decision is going to try to affect the basic foundation of America, and frankly, now, with America leading the way, potentially disrupting the foundation of the world."

Santorum said the next thing to do after the court ruling was to fight to be able "to even to talk about it," because people will try to "silence any disagreement." He said it was not time "to move on," because then they would lose ground in arguing for religious liberty.

"There's no slippery slope here," the former Pennsylvania senator added, "religious liberty is under assault today, not going to be, it is, and it's going to be even more so as we say with this decision."

"Now that this is the law of the land," he said. "The question is going to be whether we are going to allow people to actually dissent on this or whether if they are going to be treated as the proponents of this position have advocated: this is a civil rights position and if you oppose this you're the equivalent a racist back in the 50s and 60s."

Santorum suggest churches and others who dissent could lose the privileges of tax benefits.

HUCKABEE

Huckabee, Other GOP Hopefuls Slam Gay Marriage Ruling // AP – June 28, 2015

DENVER — Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee told conservatives Saturday that the Supreme Court tried to "unwrite the laws of nature and the laws of nature's God" when it legalized gay marriage across the nation.

The former Arkansas governor suggested that people in the United States flout the ruling, as President Abraham Lincoln did in the wake of the justices' 1857 decision that blacks could not be citizens. Huckabee also pointed out that President Barack Obama opposed gay marriage until 2012.

"He was either lying in 2008, or he's lying now, or God has rewritten the Bible and only Barack Obama has gotten the new edition," Huckabee told the crowd at the Western Conservative Summit.

Huckabee was among the GOP presidential hopefuls at the gathering, which followed a week in which the high court also upheld Obama's signature health care law. The Republicans offered few suggestions on what to do about the gay marriage ruling, highlighting the party's challenges on social issues ahead of the 2016 elections.

Joining Huckabee at the conference was Republican hopeful Carly Fiorina, who said she supports civil unions. She said opponents of the ruling should now focus efforts on religious freedom in public accommodations, such as cases of bakers facing penalties for refusing to serve gay couples.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry derided the ruling but didn't suggest a next step.

"These decisions need to be made in the states," said Perry, who noted that his states' rights plank extends

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even to Colorado legalizing recreational marijuana in defiance of federal drug law.

"I defend the right of Colorado to be wrong on that issue," Perry said. The crowd chuckled.

Scheduled to conclude the gathering Saturday was Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who has called for a constitutional amendment to undo the marriage ruling.

On Friday, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum said the gay marriage ruling was "based on a lie" that gay-marriage opponents are motivated by discrimination.

"We have a Supreme Court that says the only reason that you could possibly oppose changing marriage laws in America is because you hate people who want to marry people of the same sex. That is not true," Santorum said.

Mike Huckabee: Conservatives can ignore gay marriage ruling like Lincoln ignored Dred Scott // The Washington Times // Valerie Richardson – June 27, 2015

DENVER — Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee suggested Saturday that conservatives treat the Supreme Court's gay marriage decision like Abraham Lincoln treated the high court's pro-slavery ruling in Dred Scott: Ignore it.

"They can do same thing that Abraham Lincoln did about the Dred Scott decision of 1857," Mr. Huckabee said at the Western Conservative Summit. "The Dred Scott decision said that African-Americans were not fully human, that they need not be treated as fully human."

"He [Lincoln] simply ignored the ruling and said, 'That's not correct,' " Mr. Huckabee said. "And by the way, it may sound like, 'Oh, that's an extreme position.' Actually, it's a constitutional position. Here's why: If we acquiesce immediately without review, without the other branches of government, it goes back to my point, that this is judicial tyranny."

He also said he wanted to warn his liberal friends — "both of them," he joked — that an activist court can swing the other way.

When that happens, "I hope they remember their jubilation," Mr. Huckabee said.

The Republican presidential hopeful and former Fox News host took a jab at President Obama for reversing his past opposition to same-sex marriage.

"If he has so radically changed his view and now he believes that same-sex marriage is the best thing that could happen to this country, one of three things is true: He was either lying in 2008, he's lying now, or God rewrote the Bible and Barack Obama is the only one who got the new edition," Mr. Huckabee said to applause and laughter.

Mr. Huckabee is one of six would-be GOP presidential nominees scheduled to speak at the three-day conference hosted by the Centennial Institute at the Colorado Convention Center.

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Huckabee: Supreme Court is an 'extreme court' // **The Hill** // **Martin Matishak – June 27, 2015**

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) on Saturday skewered the Supreme Court for ruling to legalize same-sex marriage and preserve Obamacare, saying the decisions could lead to "judicial tyranny."

"Over the last couple of days, our country has seen two of the most blatant, disturbing, disgusting examples of judicial activism in the history of these United States," the 2016 presidential candidate said in a speech during the second day of the Western Conservative Summit in Denver.

"We don't have a Supreme Court, we have an extreme court," he added. "We have a court that think it's not just the Supreme Court, they thinks they are the supreme branch" of government.

"They are not the supreme branch and they are most certainly not the supreme being that can unwrite the laws of nature and the laws of nature's god, which is exactly what they've attempted to do this week," according to Huckabee.

He urged the audience not to "bow and worship at the alter of judicial supremacy."

Huckabee said letting the court overrule the two other branches of government and election decisions opens the door to "something very dangerous to our way of life and our great republic: Judicial tyranny where the people no longer rule, five unelected black-robed lawyers rule."

He said the decision should be up to local and state governments and suggested conservatives simply ignore the ruling, likening it to President Lincoln's choice not to respect the court's Dred Scott decision regarding slavery.

Without review by the legislative and executive branches, the court essentially chose to "reach out into thin air and created a law," according to Huckabee.

He also warned liberals who have celebrated the decision, including the Obama administration, which lit up the White House Friday night with gay-pride colors, to "remember their jubilation" because "someday there may be a conservative court" that reverses the decision.

FIORINA

Carly Fiorina on Obamacare: Rich getting richer, while middle-class getting squeezed // **The Washington Times** // **Valerie Richardson – June 27, 2015**

DENVER — Obamacare is fueling "crony capitalism" by driving out small providers and ensuring that only the largest insurance companies and hospitals can survive, says Republican presidential contender Carly Fiorina.

The former CEO of Hewlett-Packard, Ms. Fiorina said Saturday that the Affordable Care Act has made the tax and regulatory codes so complicated that only the biggest, richest businesses can afford to grapple with the details.

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"Why does Obamacare have to be repealed?" said Ms. Fiorina at the Western Conservative Summit. "Not just because it's failing by every measure — emergency room visits are up over 20 percent, insurance premiums are up over 35 percent, we're dumping people into Medicaid, there aren't enough doctors in Medicaid any more — we're not serving people."

The ACA "is so many thousands of pages, literally tens of thousands of pages, that what do you see happening right now? Insurance companies consolidating. Big merger announced last week. Hospitals consolidating. Drug companies consolidating. The big are getting bigger to handle big government. That's what's happening," she said.

The result is that "the wealthy are getting wealthier," and "the small, the powerless, the start-ups are getting crushed," Ms. Fiorina said.

"Crony capitalism is alive and well now, and the reason for that is when you have big complicated government, only the big, the powerful, the wealthy, the well-connected can deal with it," she said.

Ms. Fiorina spoke and signed copies of her recently released book, "Rising to the Challenge: My Leadership Journey," at the summit, which runs through Sunday at the Colorado Convention Center.

Fiorina: Marriage is 'grounded in spirituality' **// The Hill // Mark Hensch – June 27, 2015**

GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina on Saturday said the Supreme Court's legalization of same-sex marriage nationwide ignores religious history across most world faiths.

The former Hewlett-Packard CEO argued history has almost always defined marriage as the coupling of one man with one woman on spiritual grounds.

"Marriage is an institution grounded in spirituality," she told listeners at the Western Conservative Summit 2015 in Denver.

"For millennia, through every religion in the world, marriage has meant a very specific thing," Fiorina said.

"That is very different from five Supreme Court justices saying, 'We're going to tell you what marriage is,' " she added.

The Supreme Court ruled in a landmark 5-4 decision Friday that all states must recognize same-sex marriages under the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause.

Fiorina said Saturday their decision stole an opportunity from Americans to organically decide the issue themselves.

"We saw over the last couple days an incredible example of judicial overreach," she said of the Supreme Court's multiple rulings earlier this week.

"We saw an example of people giving in to politics and giving up on principles," she said, criticizing the Supreme Court as "activist judges."

"I am sorry the Supreme Court took up this case," Fiorina added. "I think it was best left up to the states and the people to continue this discussion."

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Fiorina said her reaction to Obergefell v. Hodges' decision did not mean she opposes same-sex relationships.

She argued a better balance is possible between gay and religious rights.

"I have always been supportive of civil unions," she said, citing moves made during her tenure at Hewlett-Packard.

"I don't think government should discriminate in the provision of benefits."

The ex-technology executive argued Republicans should practice greater inclusiveness towards potential voters.

Fiorina said any inability to connect with Americans could cost her party the presidential election in 2016.

"We have to talk to everyone," she said. "Our tone matters. Our language matters."

"We cannot be judgmental, we have to be empathetic," Fiorina added.

Fiorina argued that as president, she would help Americans realize their shared capability for achieving great things.

"Here, in this nation, every individual has the right to fulfill their potential," she said.

"Our Founders knew that everybody has God-given gifts," Fiorina added. "That right comes from God and cannot be taken away by man or government."

Carly Fiorina fired up conservatives at Western Summit // The Gazette // Megan Schrader – June 27, 2015

The former CEO of the technology giant Hewlett-Packard wowed a crowd at the Western Conservative Summit in Denver Saturday with her pitch for president.

Her fire and brimstone preaching of a keep-it-simple-stupid approach to governing had the crowd on its feet.

Carly Fiorina hit foreign policy hard in her short speech at the Denver Convention Center.

"The truth is I know more world leaders on the stage today than anyone else running with the possible exception of Hillary Clinton, only I didn't do photo ops," Fiorina said. "I had a private meeting with Vladimir Putin, a private meeting with Bibi Netanyahu a private meeting with the king of Jordan, a private meeting with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, South Africa, China, Brazil."

Fiorina said on her first day in office she'd call Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu and show the world what a true ally the United States is. The crowd erupted.

She said she'd draw a hard line in the sand for Iran - the new deal would be access to all nuclear facilities or face crippling economic sanctions.

"Ladies and gentlemen we can defeat ISIS our allies will help us but we must lead," she said.

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Fiorina was one of the most talked about speakers at the conference. Coming from a non-political background (like presidential hopeful Ben Carson who will speak tonight) Fiorina has the draw of the unknown.

Bob Beauprez, the unsuccessful Republican nominee for governor in 2014, said "Carly just knocked it out of the park."

"She's a remarkable talent," Beauprez said, adding that there are a whole list of steller conservatives running this year and it'll be a hard decision.

TRUMP

Hispanic leaders urge NBC to cut ties to Donald Trump // CNN // Brian Stelter – June 27, 2015

In a statement on Saturday, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda simultaneously applauded Univision's decision to sever ties with Trump and urged NBC to "follow Univision's lead."

Members of the coalition, NHLA for short, include business, media, and cultural advocacy groups like the National Council of La Raza, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Presente.org and the National Hispanic Media Coalition.

It called on NBCUniversal to "withdraw from airing the Miss USA pageant and terminate its financial ties to Donald Trump."

Univision similarly canceled its airing of Miss USA, slated for July 12, in the wake of Trump's offensive remarks about Mexican immigrants. Trump, now a presidential candidate, has called Mexicans "rapists" and "killers," among other things.

Univision's decision was announced on Thursday. The network had a long-term contract with Trump to televise Miss USA and Miss Universe, and Trump has threatened to sue over the breach of contract.

NBC's ties with Trump have since come under scrutiny. NBCUniversal owns half of the pageant business while Trump owns the rest. So NBC is not just a broadcaster of Miss USA, it's a business partner of The Trump Organization.

CNNMoney reported on Friday that NBC is reviewing its contracts with Trump. For now the network has distanced itself from the candidate's offensive comments but said nothing about the business venture or the upcoming broadcast.

One of the coalition members, Felix Sanchez, chairman of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, said Univision's decision "is civil rights leadership in the digital age."

He said, "We implore NBCU to follow Univision's lead and take a similar stance and sever their financial relationship with Mr. Trump, in light of the bigoted way he has denigrated Mexicans and Mexican-Americans."

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An representative of NBC, which is owned by Comcast (CCV), declined to comment on Saturday.

Donald Trump Pushes Forward in Iowa Despite Republican Party Concern // ABC News // Benjamin Siegel – June 27, 2015

Donald Trump attended two events in Iowa Saturday, continuing his campaign push in the state despite drawing concern from the Republican party over his recent comments about Mexican immigrants.

The real estate mogul appeared at a reception at the John Wayne Birthplace and Museum ahead of headlining the Madison County GOP Dinner.

Republican National Committee Chair Reince Priebus admits that Trump's comments were "not helpful to the party." But the party won't condemn the presidential candidate or ban him from the first primary debate due to his comments, Priebus said.

"We're going to run a fair, clean primary system, which includes a debate process that's up front and clear to people," Priebus said Friday regarding Trump. "Whichever candidates make that process cutoff, those people are going to be on the stage."

Trump said Mexican immigrants were bringing "drugs," "crime" and "rapists" to the U.S. when announcing his candidacy earlier this month.

"Not everything is going to be a hundred percent copacetic all the time," said Priebus, who commissioned a report after the 2012 election that determined the Republican party needed to improve its outreach to Hispanic voter. "But again, it's not my decision to decide who the nominee is and who we're going to support."

Trump, 69, is among the top 10 Republican presidential candidates in a number of recent polls, which puts him on pace to qualify for the first two Republican primary debates in the presidential cycle later this year.

Many party members are concerned the business mogul, who has not been afraid to criticize fellow Republicans as a candidate, would serve as a distraction in the primary process.

Spanish language television network Univison ended its Miss Universe pageant relationship with Trump's business interests after his immigrant comments. He has since banned the company and its leaders from using his hotel and golf course in Doral, Florida.

Donald Trump is even more of a monster than you think: Why his golf courses are environmental disasters // Salon // Lindsay Abrams – June 27, 2015

Here in the United States, Donald Trump gets a lot of flak for the many, many things you can hardly believe he said: claiming that a cold day disproves the reality of global warming, for example, or, more recently, declaring that most Mexican immigrants are "rapists."

Trump's no less loathed in Scotland. There, however, the problem is less about what Trump says, and more

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about what he's actually done — run roughshod over protected dunes to build an elite golf course, attack an offshore wind energy project because it "ruined" his view, cajole politicians into supporting his every whim. He's also run into trouble for the promises he's failed to keep — when the deal ultimately went sour, he flew off in his private jet, leaving behind none of the economic prosperity he'd sworn the project would create. His fate as one of the country's top villains was sealed with Anthony Baxter's 2011 documentary, "You've Been Trumped," which documented a saga so egregious it inspired a folk song, and made such waves that Trump finally agreed to sit down with Baxter on camera.

That interview could be read as the climax of Baxter's newest documentary, "A Dangerous Game," which picks up where the last left off. But Trump knows how to hold his own against angry activists — or, at least, he knows how to deflect their questions. With no evidence to back himself up, he explains at one point that he himself is a "great environmentalist." The film's more alarming revelation is that it's not just Trump: elitist billionaires, in Baxter's telling, have co-opted golf, creating vast artificial environments for play that strain local resources and shut out all but the wealthy, and which all too often subvert democracy. This plays out as tragedy in Dubrovnik, Croatia — a World Heritage Site — where residents' efforts to keep out a golf resort result in the passing of a local referendum with an 84 percent majority, only to see the project green-lighted anyway.

Salon spoke with Baxter about the golf industry's need to embrace a more sustainable model, and about his continued pursuit of America's would-be 45th president. This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.

To start, it would be great to hear about how you went from this one local Donald Trump story, and then branched out into this larger problem of elite golf courses.

It was through taking it to communities that really led me to make this film, because people kept saying to me at screenings around the world that they were having the same type of thing happening to them in their communities. It's not always Donald Trump, but it's people like him. That was really the journey I set out on.

I also wanted to focus in on the ludicrous situation of these golf courses being built in places like the California desert, for example, which has experienced the worst drought in history. And when you consider that the average golf course uses 312,000 gallons of water per day, and the average American family of four uses 400 gallons/day, it really is shocking, the scale of this stuff. I wanted to explore how our planet cannot afford these gated, super-luxury resorts for very wealthy people like Donald Trump, yet they keep being built in places that are so unsustainable.

Donald Trump recently announced plans to build a new golf course designed by Tiger Woods in Dubai, and it's just crazy. I don't think anybody could make a case as to why, environmentally, that is a sound idea. They're so vulnerable as well to an economic downturn, as we've seen: the first golf course of Tiger Woods' design of the desert in Dubai has now been reclaimed by the desert because the whole plan went belly up.

So yes, it was a case of wanting to explore that, but also to continue to tell the story of what was happening in Scotland, because, despite having had the first film on the BBC, where there is a real backlash against Donald Trump, his organization, and the way they had treated those local people, I was so shocked to find that that treatment was continuing, even after that. So 90 year-old Molly Forbes still didn't have a proper working water supply several years after Donald Trump's work was cut off while building the golf course, and there were still mounds of earth being built next to the residents' homes and Donald Trump was telling the media that he was treating them well. I think that those things were really the powerful driver to want to continue to follow the story.

You really have a clear-cut villain in this one of Trump. I keep thinking back to that image of Molly carrying the water up from her well to wash her dishes ...

Yes, I think the problem with Donald Trump, and the reason these late-night chat shows have so much fun

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with him, are the inflammatory things he says. Just take his comments about Mexico sending rapists and drugs dealers and crime into the U.S., and his big idea to build a Berlin Wall-style barrier between the two countries. That, of course, allows people to have a laugh about those ridiculous ideas, but the point is, as we show in the film, that it's not just what he says that is bad and dangerous, but it's what he does.

In Scotland, he claimed that he was going to be creating 6,000 jobs, and he invested one and a half billion dollars into what he claimed was going to be the greatest golf course in the world. Now, that was 10 years ago, and to date we have one golf course built, we have less than 200 jobs created, we have tens of millions of dollars having been invested, and not the $1.5 billion — which was such a stupid number under any scrutiny. But the Scottish government believed his promises, and that's also part of the problem with this whole thing, because we look to our governments to protect us from these kinds of developments, and the Scottish government completely failed in this case to protect a site of special scientific interest, which was supposed to be protected for future generations to enjoy, and that's now been lost because of the golf course built there.

Donald Trump has now stabilized the dunes, he's nailed them down, so that they don't move and shift as nature intended. He's built a golf course, which is for wealthy people to play, and he had plans to build another one, which he pulled the plug on after the Scottish government won the battle against him over the wind farm which he took great umbrage over.

The things that he does that we document in the film are simply dangerous and worrying, and I hope as many people as possible in the United States can see the film. Even seeing those polling numbers Tuesday, where he's polling No. 2 in New Hampshire, you have to ask yourself: Do people really know what he does? They enjoy his entertainment value, maybe, but take a look at this film and you'll see what he actually does.

About those ridiculous things he says: As somebody who's confronted Donald Trump a few times, and then being finally able to sit and talk with him, did you get the impression that he kind of plays dumb as part of a strategy he uses for getting away with things?

Yes, well, he's used to inviting people up to the boardroom in Trump Towers for interviews, and the first question I'll ask is about his hair, which he obviously loves. But the point is, it's that kind of deflection that's the real problem. He'll make points to journalists that they'll just repeat as facts, and that's what's so concerning.

In the Scottish case, for example, he said he was going to be investing $1.5 billion and clearly wasn't. The thing is, he's such an expert at manipulating the media, and he also has access to the airwaves and the lawyers that ordinary people don't have; he just needs to jump onto Fox and Friends for anything he wants to say, and it'll just be believed. It's a very, very worrying situation. Yes, it's entertaining, but it's concerning that a man who thinks he stands a chance of becoming the next president of the United States could be making such ludicrous claims and saying such inflammatory things on prime-time television.

Donald Trump Presidential Campaign Dissected By Bill Maher And Panel // Deadline // Lisa de Moraes – June 27, 2015

Real estate mogul/reality TV Star/beauty pageant co-owner/GOP presidential candidate Trump is "the Frankenstein monster," created by the Tea Party, who isn't going away any time soon, Bill Maher pronounced last night on his HBO late night show Real Time. "He never apologizes – he's never wrong, no matter what crazy thing he says. He's the white Kanye," Maher added for good measure. "For a party whose base adores belligerence, this is The Guy."

Most recently, Trump's been in the news when Univision announced it would not broadcast the Miss USA Pageant, which his organization co-owns with NBC, owing to comments Trump made about Mexico in announcing his White House bid.

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Republican pollster Kristen Soltis Anderson, joining Maher in his show's panel discussion, said the problem Trump is going to have is that he is viewed unfavorably by 3/4 of Republicans. Guess how long into the chat it took her to blame the media for Trump's current polling numbers?

"I indict the media on this one. Because any time Trump does anything looney he gets so, so much press. He holds a press [conference] to be The Birther In Chief, and everybody goes and watches," she scolded.

"He's the guy on The Bachelorette you don't want to see kicked off the show," chimed in panelist Judd Apatow.

Hispanic Group Pressures NBC to Dump Donald Trump // Hollywood Reporter // Ryan Gajewski – June 27, 2015

Spanish-language network Univision cut ties with the mogul's Miss Universe Organization on Thursday.

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda issued a statement Saturday calling on NBC to cut ties to the Miss Universe Organization, which counts Donald Trump as a part-owner.

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda issued a statement Saturday calling on NBC to cut ties to the Miss Universe Organization, which counts Donald Trump as a part-owner.

The coalition of 39 different Latino advocacy groups praised Univision for ending its Miss Universe deal Thursday following Trump's disparaging remarks about Mexican-Americans. In his speech earlier this month announcing his presidential campaign, Trump said that immigrants from Mexico are "bringing crime" and are "rapists."

"Aspirants to the highest office in the land must not use a national electoral platform to spew venomous speech about Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans," said NHLA chair and Labor Council for Latin American Advancement executive director Hector Sanchez. "As a Mexican immigrant to this country, I can personally attest to the falsity of Donald Trump's statements."

Felix Sanchez, chairman and co-founder of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, said: "Univision Communications' courageous action to sever ties with both the Miss USA and Miss Universe Pageants — which are partly owned by Donald Trump — is civil rights leadership in the digital age. We implore NBCU to follow Univision's lead and take a similar stance and sever their financial relationship with Mr. Trump, in light of the bigoted way he has denigrated Mexicans and Mexican-Americans."

In a letter directed at Univision president Randy Falco on Friday, Trump responded to Univision ending its deal by stating that Univision's employees and representatives are not to step foot on Trump National Doral property.

The Miss Universe pageant is set to air July 12 on NBC.

UNDECLARED

WALKER

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Scott Walker gives shout-out to Colorado Springs during Denver speech // Gazette // Megan Shrader – June 27, 2015

DENVER - Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, an all-but-announced 2016 presidential candidate, shouted out to his birthplace - Colorado Springs - Saturday night before thousands at the Western Conservative Summit in Denver.

Walker, who headlined the three-day event, said his father was a preacher at a Baptist church in downtown Colorado Springs.

Senate President Bill Cadman, R-Colorado Springs, introduced Walker, touting Walker's ability to beat back an effort to recall him from office after sweeping employment reforms that some considered anti-union became law.

"They were trying to intimidate us. I'm proud to tell you tonight that we were not intimidated. We took the power out of the hands of big special interests," Walker said.

He said thousands of protestors arrived at his home, and that was the origination of the Occupy Wall Street movement.

"My apologies for starting that," he said.

"Our reforms not only changed unions in our state, we were able to change our economic status," he said, adding that unemployment levels dropped, labor participation rates rose and the economy recovered.

Walker was well received by all but one man in the crowd who interrupted his response to a question by yelling out in the darkened theater. The man asked Walker to talk about immigration and then continued yelling until police removed him.

Walker's speech capped a day of speeches in which several GOP presidential candidates ticked through their plans.

Earlier in the day, the even-tempered Ben Carson, with his subtle jokes and stabs, methodically laid out his complex plans for such things as overcoming the unfunded liability for Medicaid and Social Security and fixing the Affordable Care Act.

"The longer you allow it to grow the deeper the pain, the more difficult it will be to fix it," Carson said, noting that France had to cut benefits and raise the retirement age to bail out its benefits.

Carson, a retired renowned neurosurgeon whose rise from poverty story is the subject of a Cuba Gooding Jr. movie, has never held political office and is considered a long shot for the office.

"People say to me you're a doctor and you've had an illustrious career why would you sully that with politics, and I asked myself the same thing too," Carson said. He proposed a hiatus of corporate taxes to allow trillions in off-shore tax-sheltered dollars to come home with the stipulation that 10 percent must be used for job creation.

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When it comes to Obamacare, Carson envisions using Health Savings Accounts to the level that ordinary people can self-insure and then would only need to purchase insurance for catastrophes.

Carson won the straw poll in 2014 at the Western Conservative Summit and some said it was likely he would win again. Attendees of the conference were asked for their presidential pick and the results will be tallied Sunday.

Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of the technology-giant Hewlett-Packard, was one of the most anticipated speakers Saturday and she did not disappoint.

Carole Cruson, 72, of Golden came last year and returned to see Rick Santorum, the Pennsylvania Senator who is giving the White House a second shot, on Friday night.

She's particularly excited about Carly Fiorina, however.

"I just think she's the most well-spoken person I've heard," Cruson said. "She's an articulate woman with great poise."

Even Bob Beauprez, Colorado's retired congressman who ran for governor in 2014, was impressed with Fiorina, calling her a great talent.

Fiorina hit foreign policy hard in her short speech at the Denver Convention Center.

"The truth is I know more world leaders on the stage today than anyone else running with the possible exception of Hillary Clinton, only I didn't do photo ops," Fiorina said. "I had a private meeting with Vladimir Putin, a private meeting with Bibi Netanyahu, a private meeting with the king of Jordan, a private meeting with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, South Africa, China, Brazil."

Fiorina said on her first day in office she'd call Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu and show the world what a true ally the United States is. The crowd erupted.

Addressing her weak point, Fiorina said she did what she needed to do at HP and is proud of her record even though it included layoffs.

She said sometimes you have to make tough decisions to live to fight another day.

Long-time Texas Gov. Rick Perry brought on his southern drawl and charm for his animated stump speech Saturday afternoon. Perry ran down how the Texas economy flourished under his leadership.

"We believe that if you're free from overtaxation and overregulation, if you're free from over litigation, if you've got accountable public schools in place where you've got a skilled workforce, there is nothing you can't accomplish," Perry said.

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Perry ran in 2012 and lost in his primary pursuit. When asked why he was more animated Saturday than he had been four years ago, Perry said it's good to be healthy.

"There are already 13 or 14 in, so who knows how many are going to get into this thing. But any of you who are thinking about it, don't have major back surgery," Perry joked.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee joked that he plans to raise more money this time around than in 2008 when he failed to win the GOP presidential ticket.

He laid out his plan to reform the tax plan, get rid of the IRS and move to a "fair tax." Instead of taxing income the nation should tax at the moment of consumption, he said.

"It no longer punishes people for their productivity and rewards them for their irresponsibility," Huckabee said. "I was raised with the idea that we ought to reward people who work, who save, who invest and who leave something behind for the next generation and yet our government, our current tax code punishes every one of those activities."

Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum mentioned a fair tax during his speech Friday night at the event sponsored by the Lakewood-based Colorado Christian University. It's the sixth annual "Rally on the Right" and arguably the biggest year. It concludes Sunday with the straw poll.

Scott Walker in Colorado to address conservative summit // Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal – Sentinel – June 27, 2015

Gov. Scott Walker is scheduled to speak Saturday night at the Western Conservative Summit in Denver.

At the event, Wisconsin's Republican governor and likely 2016 presidential candidate will be doing a question-and-answer session with conservative radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt.

Walker will be joined by other GOP presidential hopefuls, including former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, and Dr. Ben Carson.

The gathering brings together about 4,000 conservatives at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver.

It comes in the wake of a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling Friday that extended same-sex marriage rights nationwide.

Walker deemed the decision a "grave mistake," and called for amending the U.S. Constitution to allow states to ban gay marriage.

Walker plans to launch his bid for the presidency next month. He said earlier this week he plans to announce his plans the week of July 13, a date previously reported by Daniel Bice of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Much of the talk among conservatives in Denver so far has concentrated on that ruling, as well as another

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released Thursday upholding President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie Sets Up Campaign Web Site Before Expected Presidential Run **// WSJ // Heather Haddon – June 27, 2015**

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie launched a presidential campaign website Saturday, another signal that he soon will enter the Republican primary race.

The website, www.chrischristie.com , includes Mr. Christie's slogan, "Telling it Like it Is," a phrase he's used in town-hall meetings he's held in recent weeks in early primary states.

Mr. Christie is been expected to hold an event Tuesday to mark his formal entry into the race. He would be the 14th major Republican in the primary field.

The new website states that it was paid for by Chris Christie for President Inc. Earlier, Mr. Christie had paid for political activities through a leadership political-action committee, Leadership Matters for America. He also has a super PAC, America Leads, that has been raising funds.

Once Mr. Christie officially announces a bid, the super PAC can't coordinate activities with his campaign.

The governor had said he would wait to announce his decision on a 2016 candidacy until after the state's budget was set. On Friday, Mr. Christie signed a $34 billion budget that vetoed tax increases and extended a credit to working families.

On Tuesday morning, Mr. Christie is set to "host a special announcement event at Livingston High School," his alma mater, according to a news release. He will then travel to New Hampshire for an event in which he will take unscripted questions from voters.

Mr. Christie is expected to hold campaign events in New Hampshire through Independence Day.

The governor got his start in politics in the suburban Livingston High School, where he was class president.

The public school is also the alma mater of David Wildstein, the former Port Authority of New York and New Jersey official and Christie aide who pleaded guilty in May to charges related to the George Washington Bridge lane closure scandal.

Mr. Christie was in the class behind Mr. Wildstein. He has distanced himself from his former ally since the lane closure scandal came to light last year.

Asked if there were concerns about using the same high school Mr. Wildstein attended for the presidential announcement, an aide to Mr. Christie said they weren't worried about it.

Chris Christie Unveils Presidential Campaign Website // Bloomberg // Elizabeth Titus – June 27, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie on Saturday unveiled a presidential campaign website ahead of his formal kickoff Tuesday.

The slogan “Telling It Like It Is” appears on the site, a nod to the Republican's reputation for blunt talk in a state dominated by Democrats. A disclaimer says “Paid for by Chris Christie for President, Inc.” He posted a link to the site from his verified Twitter account.

A “special announcement event” is set for Tuesday at 11 a.m. local time at Livingston High School in Christie's hometown, said a press release from his campaign on Saturday. That evening, he plans to hold a town hall-style meeting—a staple format of his time as governor—in Sandown, New Hampshire, according to the release.

Christie will become the 14th candidate to join the Republican presidential primary contest for 2016, after months of travel to early-voting states and a stint as Republican Governors Association chairman that took him around the country to raise funds and campaign for others following his decision not to join the 2012 presidential race.

Chris Christie Launches Campaign Website Three Days Before His Announcement // National Journal // Nora Kelly – June 27, 2015

If the trips to New Hampshire and leaked announcement invitations weren't big enough clues, Chris Christie is in for 2016.

Like several other campaigns this cycle, Christie's team went for a digital-first approach ahead of any formal announcement: The New Jersey governor launched a campaign website on Saturday, just three days before he's expected to announce his White House bid from the gym of his high school alma mater in Livingston, N.J.

He signaled the site's launch in a series of tweets Saturday morning.

The simply designed ChrisChristie.com is emblazoned with his signature "Telling It Like It Is" slogan, has areas to sign up for the campaign and donate, and includes links to social media. (There's no cheeky 404 page just yet.)

Christie has been teasing a presidential run for months, making trips to Iowa and holding multiple town halls in New Hampshire. Just two days ago, he said on a New Jersey radio program that "there's been absolutely no final decision made by me."

Christie has some hurdles to climb: In his home state, his approval rating is at an all-time low at 30 percent. And as the 14th Republican to jump into the race, several of his fellow candidates are months of campaigning ahead of him.

Will Christie have enough campaign cash for his 2016 White House run? // NJ // Claude Brodesser-Akner – June 28, 2015

TRENTON — Gov. Chris Christie will declare his intent to seek the presidency on Tuesday, but he's been

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competing in the "invisible primary" for months now.

While not an officially sanctioned contest, it's considered the time from when a candidate shows interest in running for president and when voters start pulling levers for them during primaries. And it's a crucial period to raise money and make friends among the GOP's donor class.

But something funny happened in the last six months, according to Christie.

"Jeb Bush's strategy failed," said the governor, speaking on his monthly call-in radio show last week. "I mean, Jeb's strategy was to get in in December of 2014, and to intimidate people out of the race. Right? I mean, he was talking about all the money he was going to raise, and how it was the Bush name, and he was going to dominate. Well that hasn't happened. In fact, quite the opposite. In some ways, it's been a magnet."

The fact that the GOP field is the largest since Abraham Lincoln may have changed the monetary calculus for Christie, according to some of the donors supporting his run. They say rather than taking on one big-money candidate such as Bush, Christie will simply need enough to compete with the crowd of over a dozen, at least for now.

Christie's campaign, which went live on Saturday ahead of an formal announcement Tuesday, won't say officially just how much cash is needed But top Christie donor Al Hill, Jr. — the Texas oilman who's the grandson of billionaire H. L. Hunt — told NJ Advance Media: "My understanding is $20 million needs to be raised between now and the first of December."

Because federal election law limits the amount an individual can give to a federal candidate or a candidate's committee to $2,700 per election, and $5,000 per year to a political action committee, "obviously raising $20 million at $2,700 (per person) is a big road to get up," said Hill.

As the 14th contender to enter the race, Christie may be late in getting in the game, but that might have been by design. The real reason why Christie has waited so long, Hill says, likely has to do with those federal campaign finance laws just mentioned: As soon as he's a candidate, he won't be allowed to coordinate with his super-PAC, America Leads, and, as of only today, can't ask for contributions in excess of $2,700 to it once he's a candidate.

"The actual campaign fund (caps) start when you're an announced candidate – that's why a lot of people may have waited," said Hill, "To let the PACs raise as much as they can before they become announced candidates."

That actual campaign as begun as Christie began accepting donations for his presidential run on Saturday. His supporters say their efforts were already going well prior to the formal announcement. Bobbie Kilberg, president of the Northern Virginia Technology Council says her May 14 Virginia fundraiser for Christie's PAC raised $180,000.

"My next phase of fundraising will start soon, and I'll have a lot more people who want to contribute once he's a formal candidate," Kilberg said a few days before the campaign launch. "Lots of people want to wait and see who's in the field."

So while Mitt Romney's entire 2012 campaign cost a combined $1.2 billion, GOP strategists say Christie's narrow path to victory hinges on doing well in the small state of New Hampshire. Bill Greiner, a New Hampshire real estate developer and banker who held a meet-and-greet for Christie in his Bedford home on June 8, stressed: "You don't have to have a fortune to win this state."

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An insider at Christie's nascent campaign echoes as much, saying that "you don't have to have so much (cash)" in a tiny state like New Hampshire and a field this large.

"If you have $100 million, or $50 million or $10 million, you're going to be competitive," said the Christie campaign insider, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person is not authorized to speak to the media about campaign matters. "It's going to be a crowded field where message is going to matter. We feel pretty good about where we are. We're going to have the resources."

Meanwhile, Hill says Christie's messaging is exceptional, even if standing in the polls isn't.

"What I have heard most often is, 'I want a candidate who will win the election.'" says Hill. "After the last few pretty close campaigns and races, everyone is pretty well ready for the pick to be a winner. People say, 'I've got my favorite, however I want someone who can win.'"

Hill thinks big ticket GOP donors are tired of candidates so conservative they cannot win. "They like the fact that he's had to work with a Democratic legislature. That's something that people continue to bring up about him," he said.

But in the meantime, it's still exceptionally early in the 2016 fundraising process, as Hill noted: "Most of my friends are in Colorado or Wyoming or Montana or somewhere for the summer. I've really not sure who's committed to do what for whom yet."

It's still early in New Hampshire, too, where a third of votes have yet to make up their minds, according to a Suffolk University poll, and where money isn't even being discussed yet among those circling Christie.

"I'm not on Team Christie but think a lot of him," said Tom Eaton, a former New Hampshire Senate president who is hosting an event with Christie at his lake house in Spofford, N.H. Thursday. "It's just a meet and greet, no talk of fundraising or anything else," said Eaton, who'll also being doing a similar event with Carly Fiorina in the weeks to come.

"They're not gonna open their wallets right at this point - that's a little bit down the road. Once the kids get back into school, things start happening."

Can Christie catch up to the other 2016 GOP contenders? **// NJ // Jonathan D. Salant – June 27, 2015**

WASHINGTON — Gov. Chris Christie sat atop opinion polls just a year ago. Then came Bridgegate. And former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. And a bevy of other Republican candidates.

So Christie, who in July 2014 led an CNN/ORC International poll with 13 percent, fell to ninth place and 4 percent in the same survey in June 2015.

It shows that Christie, who plans to announce his candidacy for president next week, will start his campaign with a very steep mountain to climb.

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"He had phenomenally positive approval ratings and then it all went downhill," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute in Hamden, Conn. "Although, given the crowded field for the nomination anything is possible, he does not start out impressive shape."

A summary of opinion polls by Real Clear Politics covering the period May 19 through June 23 placed Christie in ninth place with 4 percent. The top 10 candidates, as determined by an aggregation of polls, will be invited to participate in the first two Republican presidential debates by Fox News and CNN. The others will be invited to a separate event.

The latest Fox News survey, however, put Christie in 11th place. That one survey provided a clear example of Christie's drop in opinion polls; he was at 2 percent in June 2015 after receiving 15 percent in April 2014.

Christie led several opinion polls in 2013, including a November CNN survey that gave him 24 percent, nine points higher than second-place finisher U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky. As late as July of last year, he led all comers in the CNN poll.

But Christie polled just 6 percent in a Marist College/McClatchy poll in March of this year, and the June CNN survey put Christie in ninth place, just 2 percentage points ahead of 12th place finisher Rick Santorum, the former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania.

A December CNN poll put Christie at 13 percent, good enough for second place but 10 points behind Bush. Since then, the New Jersey governor has failed to reach double figures in any surveys, according to a compilation by Real Clear Politics. That compares to a stretch of 16 surveys from April 2013 to April 2014 in which he fell below 10 percent just once.

"In a crowded field, without a core following, he ends up falling deeper into the pack without a clear path to the nomination, said Lee Miringoff, director of the Marist College poll in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

At the annual Conservative Political Action Committee Conference in February, Christie insisted that his dismal showing in recent opinion polls had no bearing on his chances to win the GOP nomination.

"If I decide to run for president, I'm not worried about what polls say 21 months before were going to elect the president of the United States," he said at the conference. "I'll take my chances on me. I've done pretty well so far."

While Christie was not indicted in the George Washington Bridge lane closing scandal, the incident has taken its toll, Miringoff said.

"He had one of two routes to take at that point," Miringoff said. "One was to admit that he messed up and ask forgiveness, the mea culpa route. The other was to say, 'I'm shocked,' the Casablanca route. That means he was not in charge of the details of staff management that he should have been."

Adding to Christie's problems is the perception that he has walked back his previous support of positions anathema to the Republican right, already skeptical of a governor who embraced President Obama after Hurricane Sandy. For example, he called in May for scrapping national Common Core education standards that he used to back.

"People have now seen him running around, somewhat adjusting positions," Miringoff said.

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Bush's announcement in December that he was considering a presidential run meant Christie faced strong competition for donors and supporters among the Republican establishment. And the huge number of announced or potential 2016 GOP candidates is making it difficult for anyone to emerge as a clear frontrunner.

"Newer candidates become fresh faces," Brown said. "As they come in and join the race, Christie's numbers have deteriorated. There's more competition. A lot of people have small slices of the pie. Nobody has very much of the pie at this point."

Here's how Christie has fared in a sample of opinion polls over the last two years:

2013

April, Quinnipiac, 14 percent

July, Marist/McClatchy, 15 percent

November, CNN/ORC, 24 percent

2014

February, Marist/McClatchy, 14 percent

April, Fox News, 15 percent

June, Quinnipiac, 10 percent

September, Marist/McClatchy, 12 percent

December, CNN/ORC, 13 percent

2015

February, Quinnipiac, 8 percent

April, Wall Street Journal/NBC News, 5 percent

June, Washington Post/ABC News, 6 percent

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Has Christie's ship already sailed? // **Inquirer** // **Thomas Fitzgerald – June 27, 2015**

He had them at "sit down and shut up!"

In the summer of 2011, some Republican leaders and billionaire donors begged Gov. Christie to run for president to save the party. Less than thrilled with the available options, they loved his blunt style and success in a blue state. Christie wavered, but passed.

"Now is not my time," he said.

As Christie prepares to announce his 2016 presidential intentions Tuesday, after months of travels to early-voting states, some question whether he missed his moment. The Republican electorate seems to have given a collective shrug and moved on; Christie is near the bottom of the polls.

"You need to go when it's your time," said Douglas Gross, a Des Moines lawyer and GOP power broker. "The luster wore off. They pass the pie, and you'd better take your piece, because it's not coming around again. I don't sense a clamor for Christie."

His image has suffered some dents in the last 18 months, including the scandal over the 2013 lane closures on the George Washington Bridge in retribution against a Democratic mayor who would not endorse Christie's reelection. Two Christie allies were indicted, and one pleaded guilty to federal charges in the case. The governor has said he had no knowledge of the shutdown.

Also, New Jersey's economy grew just 0.4 percent in 2014, ranking 46th. The state's credit rating has been downgraded three times by each of the three ratings agencies under the Christie administration. And Atlantic City is falling apart.

Moreover, some on the GOP right mistrust Christie, considering him too moderate on social issues.

He has among the highest unfavorable ratings of the Republican contenders in most polls, a more reliable sign than horse-race numbers at this early stage of a candidate's potential standing.

Monmouth University's June 15 national poll, for instance, found Christie viewed favorably by 26 percent of likely Republican primary voters, and unfavorably by 43 percent - for a net of minus 17 percentage points. Fifty-five percent of Republicans in this month's Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll said they would never consider voting for Christie.

"There's a path for Christie, but it's a narrow one," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth poll. "His high negatives and wide name recognition put a ceiling on his growth. He doesn't have much room for error."

And as for that blue-state electability, just 30 percent of New Jersey voters last week approved of Christie's job performance in a Fairleigh Dickinson University poll. And this is a governor who won reelection in a landslide, including carrying the Hispanic vote and gaining support from a majority of women - against a female opponent.

Christie's planning was based on his emerging as the establishment choice, a conservative but pragmatic governor who could appeal to moderates and be electable in November, strategists say. But he has been squeezed out. Others are competing to be that candidate, including governors with better economic records.

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Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, and Ohio Gov. John Kasich all have establishment appeal. And then there's Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, son of a Baptist preacher, who has governing credibility and support among evangelical Christian conservatives. Walker and Kasich have not yet declared.

Even for voters who back Christie, he's not the only offering of whatever it is they like about him. Christie took on public-employee unions, but Walker went bigger, stripping bargaining rights from those workers and pushing through right-to-work legislation.

Christie, who began his political career supporting abortion rights, now brags about vetoing state funding for Planned Parenthood. Yet Bush became a hero to pro-life groups as he fought to keep life support going for Terri Schiavo, a woman in a persistent vegetative state. And Walker is pushing a ban on all abortions in his state after 20 weeks' gestation.

"One obstacle Christie faces is, what's his argument for taking it to the next level?" said Kevin Madden, a GOP consultant who was a senior adviser to the party's 2012 nominee, Mitt Romney. "He doesn't have a defining issue, a rationale."

Since his popularity began tumbling after "Bridgegate," Christie has sold himself as an in-your-face truth-teller on issues such as pension reform and as a champion of detailed conservative domestic policies, such as a plan to cut Social Security and Medicare spending, as well as a muscular foreign policy.

Christie also can try to set himself apart with the force of his personality. He has charisma, but to some voters, there is a fine line between tough talk and bullying.

Perry Hamilton, a Lower Merion activist who saw Christie speak June 19 at a regional GOP conference in Philadelphia, illustrates the governor's predicament.

"We have at least six guys just like him," said Hamilton, 63. While he appreciates Christie's blunt manner, Hamilton said it's also a weakness. "Attitude: Sometimes I could do without that."

The crowded field could have an upside for Christie.

As long as nobody is pulling away from the rest, almost anything is possible, and it doesn't take much to win or place well in an early state. The thinking of his strategists: Why not stick around and see what happens? Maybe the governor will emerge from the rubble.

Another reason not to short Christie stock: He has a team of loyal donors who include Home Depot CEO Ken Langone and hedge-fund manager Stanley Druckenmiller. Both are expected to write big checks to the governor's superPAC America Leads, which can raise and spend unlimited amounts. Christie may not have Bush-scale dollars, but he'll be able to compete.

Christie's advisers say they're not writing off the other early states, but they want to plant their flag in New Hampshire, which holds the first primary and is traditionally friendly to moderate candidates. Christie has spent at least 19 days in the state this year, more than most, taking hundreds of questions from the public in the town-hall meetings that are his political trademark back in New Jersey.

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It could be paying off. While he is bunched in the middle of the pack (and well behind celebrity Donald Trump), Christie has a better favorable-to-unfavorable ratio in New Hampshire than he does nationally. A Suffolk University poll last week found him viewed favorably by 44 percent of Republican primary voters in the state, and unfavorably by 42 percent - for a margin of plus-2 percentage points.

New Hampshire "is tailor-made for a Chris Christie-style retail campaign," pollster Murray said. "One on one, there's no better candidate in the field."

Right after making his announcement Tuesday at his old high school in Livingston, N.J., Christie is expected to head to the Granite State.

He's in a weaker position in the first-voting state, Iowa, which is scheduled to hold caucuses Feb. 1. A Des Moines Register/Bloomberg poll earlier this month found 58 percent of Iowa Republicans viewed Christie negatively, with 45 percent ruling out a vote for him.

Even if Christie performs well in New Hampshire, it's unclear where that might lead.

He'll immediately run into a GOP electorate in South Carolina that is dominated by white evangelical Protestants. A Winthrop University poll in April found that nearly 56 percent of evangelicals said they would not consider voting for Christie, one of the highest negative rankings among would-be candidates.

"He hasn't really been in consideration, part of the conversation," said Chip Felkel, a Republican strategist in Greenville, S.C., who worked on the campaigns of both Presidents Bush and is not aligned this time.

"He's viewed right now as a second-tier wannabe," Felkel said. "He's got to find some way to get momentum. The question is, does Christie have the ability to convince conservatives of his bona fides and not damage himself for the general election?"

After South Carolina comes Nevada, then a succession of Southern states on Super Tuesday. In early March, there's Florida, where Bush and Rubio are expected to dominate.

For his part, Christie professes not to sweat the polls. "It's not make-or-break," he told reporters in Iowa this month, "until people start voting."

JINDAL

Growing up in Baton Rouge, Bobby Jindal's future passion for politics a surprise to most // The Advocate // Tyler Bridges – June 27, 2015

At a competitive high school filled with Baton Rouge's best and brightest, he chummed with the brainiest and highest achievers of all.

That's no surprise because Gov. Bobby Jindal is typically described these days as the smartest person in the room. He's a Brown University graduate and Rhodes scholar, after all. And he scored a 4.62 grade-point average at Baton Rouge Magnet High School when he graduated in 1988.

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But this may be a surprise: He was not the valedictorian. Nor was he the salutatorian.

He ranked third among the 232 students.

And if you had asked teachers and classmates back then who might become a politician one day, they probably would have answered Tracy Smith. She was the senior class president. Or they might have mentioned Martin Johnson. He was one of the class's two delegates to Boys State, a high school training ground for aspiring politicians.

Jindal?

"He wanted to be a doctor at the time," said Kathy Reznick, his high school sweetheart, who went on to Tulane Law School and has returned to Baton Rouge.

More than anything, Jindal's demanding immigrant father EXPECTED him to become a doctor.

As a result, best friend Kent Shih was perhaps the only one who knew of his real ambition.

"His parents wanted him to go into medicine," Shih said. "He always wanted to go into politics."

For the first time in its 198-year history, a native of Baton Rouge is mounting a serious campaign to be president of the United States. And the intriguing story is how unlikely it is that it would be Jindal, according to nearly everyone who knew him in his formative years, except perhaps Shih, now a doctor in Nashville, Tennessee.

Teachers and classmates knew Jindal had a bright future. He was voted "most likely to succeed" among the boys in his class. And "Most Polite."

But Jindal had a narrow circle that consisted of the kids who took honors classes, got the best grades and organized parties where they challenged one another with obscure mathematical equations rather than beer-chugging contests. Jindal was typically home before midnight. He was more nerd than politician-on-the-make.

"He didn't hang out with the popular kids," said Susan Yang, who was the salutatorian and is now a doctor in St. Louis.

"He was reserved. He was not an extrovert," said Anu Goel Bourgeois, a close friend from the class of 1987 who is now a Georgia State University professor of computer science.

Slightly built and not a fan of team sports, Jindal didn't make a name for himself among the student body by winning athletic championships.

Instead, his main extracurricular activity was Mu Alpha Theta, the math club, which traveled to New Orleans and other cities on Saturdays to compete against other schools and which won the state championship in Jindal's senior year. He gladly provided after-school tutoring for classmates like Dione Hasse, now a

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management consultant in Nashville, who couldn't quite keep up.

"He showed up to meetings with bright green pants and a pink polo shirt with an upturned collar," Hasse said with a laugh. "He was trying to be Mr. Preppy."

The adolescent years are crucial for anyone, of course. In Jindal's case, while growing up in Baton Rouge, he Americanized his name, converted to Christianity, began to show off his high-wattage brain power and only occasionally flashed an interest in public policy, but always from a conservative bent.

Thousands of articles have been written about Jindal since he first burst onto the scene in 1996, when newly elected Gov. Mike Foster named him secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals at the precocious age of 24.

None have plumbed his years growing up.

Jindal's parents moved from India to Baton Rouge on Feb. 1, 1971, so his mother could study nuclear physics in graduate school at LSU. Their son, whom they named Piyush, was born on June 10.

In a recent interview, Jindal said the family initially lived in Tiger Town just off Nicholson Drive.

He was about 4 when his mother picked him up from school one day. As he told the story, "a teacher said, 'Look, your son came to school and asked everyone to start calling him Bobby.' "

He took it from one of the characters on "The Brady Bunch," the 1970s sitcom.

"That was one of the shows I'd watch after school," Jindal said. "Bobby was about my age."

His parents were concerned and asked, " 'Are you going to be Greg tomorrow? Are you going to pick a different name the next day?' Once they realized that it was going to stick, they didn't have any objection."

In 1978 or so, the Jindals moved to Kenilworth, a new subdivision near LSU, populated by university professors and oil industry engineers. By then, Bobby had a brother named Nikesh, who is seven years younger.

His father, Amar, worked as a civil engineer, while his mother, Raj, worked at the state labor department as a data processor.

The family's new ranch-style home, at 7526 Cardiff Ave., had three bedrooms, a brick exterior and a shingle roof. Bobby's mother had exclusive use of the master bathroom while the three males shared the hallway bathroom. Bobby and his brother played in the yard and rode bikes in the neighborhood. Bobby played tennis through BREC.

"Kenilworth was an idyllic place to grow up," Jindal said. "It was one of those neighborhoods where you could tell the kids to go and play outside and come back when it's dark."

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In his early years, no Hindu temple existed in Baton Rouge. So the Jindals and other Indian families met on most Sundays at someone's home for Hindu ceremonies known as pujas, followed by meals featuring curries and other Indian food.

The family didn't socialize with the neighbors, remembered Barbara Michael, who raised a family two houses down.

But his parents insisted that they assimilate into American culture, Jindal said.

"My mom was fully committed to raising us as Americans," he said. "That was a conscious decision. We ate food that would be familiar to other families in south Louisiana. She wanted to raise us like other kids in the neighborhood."

Jindal attended the private Runnels School through fourth grade and then moved to the public Greenville Elementary School for fifth and then scored well enough to attend Istrouma Middle Magnet for sixth grade and then moved to McKinley Middle Magnet School for seventh and eighth grades. It was at McKinley that Ajay Jindia, who was one year older, saw a flash of his later career.

"I remember having a conversation at his house where he was preaching the benefits of Reaganomics," said Jindia, now an Atlanta lawyer, referring to the economic philosophy of President Ronald Reagan.

From McKinley, Jindal moved on to Baton Rouge Magnet. The high school had an unusual social dynamic. With no football, baseball or basketball teams — and no cheerleaders — the brainiacs were almost cool.

Jindal is known today for talking fast. His high school friends talk fast, too.

"You could be proud, be smart and be a nerd," Yang said. "Nerds were not outcasts."

Most of Jindal's closest friends were, like him, the children of Asian immigrants who embraced the United States as the land of opportunity and pushed their children to succeed by out-studying everyone else.

"My dad was always reinforcing to my brother and I that you should dream big to achieve anything in life," Nikesh said. "It requires a lot of hard work and doing academically well in school. That was a message that was continually reinforced by our parents, particularly our dad."

Jindal and his brother (who would go on to Dartmouth University) took that message to heart. Jindal got only a single B in high school, for a term paper on Huey Long, said Shih, who added, "He was pissed." (Through his press secretary, Jindal said he got more than one B but wasn't specific.)

Jindal was active in an array of extracurricular groups that would make a college admissions officer swoon: the Beta Club, the Junior Academy of Science, the Latin Club and Interact, a service club.

But his biggest passion was the math club.

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The members raised money by working a concessions booth at LSU football games and played spades on bus trips to tournaments outside of Baton Rouge.

Jindal captained the Equations team, which required quick thinking.

And he dressed like Alex P. Keaton, the conservative high schooler played by Michael J. Fox in the ’80s sitcom “Family Ties.”

“He had a bow tie with dollar bills on it,” said Elaine Parsons, who is now a history professor at Duquesne University. “When the movie ‘Wall Street’ came out, he’d go around saying, ‘Greed is good!’ People would roll their eyes at him.”

For years, Jindal bought bags of candy that he would keep in his backpack and sell individual pieces to sugar-craving students.

Some classmates view it now as a sign of a would-be political operator.

“But I always thought of it as more entrepreneurial,” said Johnson, who is now a professor of political communication at LSU.

Classmates and others who knew Jindal during his formative years remember him fondly. But they watch in awe or dismay, depending on their political beliefs, at how he has transformed into a conservative firebrand.

They first began to see the inklings of his future political success after he graduated from Baton Rouge Magnet.

Richard Juneau, who raised a family across the street from the Jindals, was struck by his maturity when they talked one day when Jindal was visiting Baton Rouge while a Rhodes scholar.

“I was so impressed with him,” Juneau said. “He was such a good conversationalist. He was above and beyond the normal 20-year-old.”

Enoch Huang, a Baton Rouge Magnet classmate and friend, was struck by his polish and confidence when Jindal as DHH secretary spoke at Tulane, where Huang was attending medical school.

“It was a very different side of Bobby,” he said. “He was on top of everything. It was very humbling.”

Jindal has little contact today with his high school friends. Many of them last saw him when he hosted their 20th reunion at the Governor’s Mansion.

For an hour or so, his classmates pinched themselves on one of their own holding the most important job in the state. Several of them made snarky comments about how Jindal had developed a Southern accent during his political climb in Louisiana.

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But the conversation stopped when he and his wife, Supriya, appeared and slowly made their way down the grand staircase. The crowd began to cheer, and classmates lined up to shake his hand and ask for a photo.

Bobby Jindal sidesteps gay marriage ruling's meaning for Louisiana // Times-Picayune // Julia O'Donoghue – June 27, 2015

Speaking on the front porch of the Governor's Mansion, incumbent Bobby Jindal reiterated Saturday (June 27) that Louisiana eventually will comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling legalizing gay marriage in all 50 states. But he wouldn't say exactly what that will mean for same-sex couples in the state.

"Our agencies will follow the law and we will do it in a way that respects individuals' religious liberty rights, but we'll follow the law," Jindal said before heading into a reception for his staff and presidential campaign supporters. The governor refused to say whether "following the law" might let same-sex couples not only marry but receive other benefits they don't currently enjoy.

Gay rights advocates assume the Supreme Court decision will give same-sex couples not only access to marriage but also joint adoption, spousal benefits in the workplace and joint tax filings like other legally married couples in Louisiana.

Initially, Jindal stopped short of saying that these types of benefits would be extended to same-sex couples. He said he had to wait on rulings from lower courts before getting into specifics about what might change in Louisiana.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans and the Louisiana Supreme Court currently are considering cases involving gay marriage. They must take the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to affirm gay marriage into account when issuing their own rulings.

Later on Saturday, after the governor's meeting with the press, Jindal's presidential campaign spokesman Kyle Plotkin said the governor believes the lower court decisions will result in same-sex married couples receiving benefits in Louisiana.

"While we disagree... the state agencies will comply with the law, and that will, of course, including benefits [for same-sex couples]," Plotkin said.

A number of same-sex married couples also eagerly await being able to join their spouse's health insurance and retirement plans, among other things. Elaine Maccio, a professor at Louisiana State University, said she and her partner had to pay "through the nose" for separate health care plans when her partner lost a job. Now they are both employed, but the months of paying for two different health care plans left them financially strapped.

Same-sex married couples, including those who have valid marriage licenses from other states, also want to be able to collect government tax refunds after having to pay state taxes as a single person for years. "There is the possibility of amended returns for previous years. I know people who would do that tomorrow if they could," said Matthew Patterson, research and policy coordinator for Equality Louisiana.

Louisiana and Mississippi are outliers in their handling of the Supreme Court's gay marriage decision. They are the only two states that refused to issue marriage license to same-sex couples after the court's ruling was issued Friday morning.

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Renouncing roots: Here's why Bobby Jindal is not popular among the Indian-American community in US // India Times // Ishani Duttagupta – June 28, 2015

Bobby Jindal is so white, he refers to Indian food as "ethnic cuisine." American stand-up comic Hari Kondabolu, on Twitter

It's not just the US that isn't quite sitting up to notice Bobby Jindal throwing his hat into the 2016 presidential ring — the 44-year-old governor of Louisiana is after all among 26 Republican candidates (at last count) running for office. Even the desi community appears distinctly unmoved, which is surprising if you consider that Jindal is the first Indian-American to be running for America's top job.

There's of course a reason for that dispassion (along with digs like "Bobby Jindal is so white, he beat himself up after 9/11," another Kondabolu tweet). "Jindal's announcement that he is running for president could have been the turning point for the entire community, but he does not enjoy support of the Indian-Americans either at the grassroots level or from top fundraisers because of his controversial comments about not wanting to be seen as a hyphenated American," a prominent Indian-American Republican fundraiser who didn't want to be identified said.

If there were any doubts about how close — or rather how far —Jindal is from his local roots, he dispelled them in a spectacular style earlier this week when he launched his presidential campaign. "We are not Indian-Americans, African-Americans, Irish-Americans, rich Americans, or poor Americans. We are all Americans," thundered the first Indian-American to be elected a governor in the US.

It didn't take long for an eruption back home in India on social media, and the hashtag #BobbyJindalIsSoWhite duly went to become one of the top trending topics on Twitter on Thursday, a day after Jindal, who grew up as a Hindu before converting to Christianity when in his teens, made the statement.

Renouncing Roots

Niraj J Antani, 24, a Republican who was last year elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, believes that the Indian-American community will only support Jindal if he embraces his heritage. One of the youngest state lawmakers in the US, Antani even believes that the governor can become president if he embraces the reality of being an Indian-American.

"The American people want authenticity in their elected officials and governor Jindal can show that by embracing his heritage," Antani told ET Magazine. He adds that Jindal has made some remarks that are of particular concern to the Indian-American community. "I am myself proud to be the second Indian-American elected in Ohio's history. I hope that Jindal will also be proud of being an Indian-American. Only then will he get the support of the community," Antani added. If not, he feels, the campaign will be a highly disappointing one.

A section of Indian-Americans, however doesn't foresee the governor attempting to mend fences with the community.

"The basic issue for the support from the Indian-Americans would be the image of Jindal in the community. He has not developed a positive relationship and has not even identified himself as an Indian-American," says Piyush Agrawal, a Florida-based community activist, who was a close associate of former president George W Bush and is seen as the mover a n d shaker behind starting the tradition of Diwali being celebrated at the White House for the first time in 2003.

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Vinod Gupta, a close friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton, who in the past has been considered among the biggest contributors to the Democratic Party, too doesn't see much of support for Jindal from Indian-Americans. "Jindal was born and raised in the US and hasn't been part of the Indian immigrant experience and doesn't identify with it," Gupta said.

When announcing his presidential bid, Jindal did mention his parents who immigrated from India, but that may not be enough to please the desi community.

"Jindal is, to most Indian-Americans exactly what they do not want their children to become — a person orphaned from traditions, heritage and religion that nurtured him, who openly and publicly disavows his community.

His failure as a leader in Louisiana, and his embrace of a far-right evangelical ideology, leaves him with nothing in common with most Indian Americans," says Aseem Shukla, a member of the Hindu American Foundation board of directors and associate professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He adds that Jindal had ample opportunities to represent Indian-Americans — from supporting the Congressional Diwali resolution when he was in Congress, to speaking up for religious liberty issues — but he never reached out.

Fractured Support

Jindal, who became the second Indian-American to be elected to the US Congress in 2004, was re-elected in 2006; according to Shukla, his journey is inspiring for young Indian-Americans and it proves that it is possible to overcome racial barriers in politics. "But his experience also proves that the racial ceiling was broken over the back of religious identity where an Indian rejected his heritage and religious traditions," Shukla said.

Jindal's achievements in the political arena are not lost on the Indian community despite his efforts to distance himself.

"What he has achieved in public life at such a young age is incredible and he is definitely admired for that," says Sanjay Puri, chairman of the Washington DC based US Indian Political Action Committee.

However, he thinks that the Indian-American support for Republican candidates was likely to get fractured and divided because of the large number in the running. "Jeb Bush has strong ties with Indian-American Republicans in Florida while governor Chris Christie is from New Jersey which has a large Indian-American population. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton too has long standing ties with the Indian-American community," Puri added.

OTHER

Column: Most GOP voters support allowing undocumented immigrants to stay, poll says // Des Moines Register // Kathie Obradovich - June 27, 2015

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, making his first Iowa trip last week as a potential presidential candidate, advocated for creating a path to legal status for the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States.

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“Well, look, we’re not going to ship all these people out. You know, they ditched the line and they’re going to have to pay a penalty and we’ve got to make sure they haven’t engaged in criminal activity and we have to protect our border.”

Such a position runs against the grain of most Iowa Republicans who oppose “amnesty” for people who live in this country illegally. Or does it?

Public-opinion research by a pro-immigration group in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina suggests narrow political definitions of “amnesty” don’t match the attitudes of likely voters.

More than three-quarters of likely Iowa Republican caucusgoers — 77 percent — would support a candidate who favors a multi-step process allowing undocumented immigrants to earn citizenship. An even greater majority, 81 percent, would support a candidate who favors a process leading to legal residency but not citizenship.

That’s according to a poll of 400 likely Iowa GOP caucusgoers conducted in April for the Partnership for a New American Economy by Burning Glass Consulting. The consulting firm’s founding partner, Katie Packer Gage, was the deputy communications manager for Mitt Romney’s 2012 campaign.

The Partnership for a New American Economy is a non-partisan group that advocates for comprehensive immigration reform. It found similar willingness among likely primary voters in New Hampshire and South Carolina to consider a candidate who favored a process for letting undocumented people stay.

John Stineman is a Republican consultant who works with the Partnership for a New American Economy in Iowa and nationally. He said the organization wanted to test the assumption that Republican candidates had to take a hard line on immigration to win the Iowa caucuses or other early-state contests.

In fact, he said, polling and focus group interviews showed that once a candidate specifies an intent to secure the border, plans aimed at allowing undocumented immigrants already in the country to earn legal status or even citizenship is far from a deal-breaker.

No more than one in five likely voters in the three early states is a hard-line, single-issue voter on immigration, he said. That’s someone who bases their vote largely on immigration and who wants no opportunity for illegal immigrants to stay. Only 17 percent of likely Iowa Republican caucus-goers fit that description.

“Toward the perception that if they go hard right in primary, than that’s what they are going to need to do, but the reality is there’s no more than one in five Republicans in any of the early states that are hard-line, single-issue voters,” Stineman said.

Republicans generally disapprove of amnesty for illegal immigrants, but what is amnesty? A majority of likely Iowa GOP caucusgoers — 63 percent— agree that executive orders granting temporary legal status to 4 million undocumented immigrants qualifies as amnesty. But that’s the limit of the accord.

Half of likely caucusgoers think it’s amnesty if illegal immigrants are given a pathway to citizenship if they pay a fine, any back taxes, pass a background check, learn English and take other required steps. Only 40 percent call it amnesty if people complete all of those steps to receive legal residency but not citizenship.

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Only 28 percent define amnesty as any action short of securing the border and stronger enforcement of existing law.

"We just need to delete the word 'amnesty,' " Stineman said, noting that it has ceased to mean anything.

Besides Kasich, who has yet to decide whether he'll run for president, Jeb Bush, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham and George Pataki have at some point advocated for a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants. Some of the other GOP candidates have made statements acknowledging the improbability of deporting 11 million or 12 million people, but few have offered detailed plans for moving candidates toward legal status.

Most of the Democrats in the race, including Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley, have called for comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship.

With such a huge field for the GOP nomination, it's conceivable a candidate could win the Iowa caucuses with less than 20 percent. That might make it worthwhile for some candidates to attempt to unify that minority of hard-line immigration voters.

However, there's a price to pay in the general election for candidates who do that, polling shows. The Partnership polled 800 likely general-election voters in these battleground states: Iowa, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin. Single-issue voters who want comprehensive reform outnumber single-issue, hard-line voters by a margin of 2 to 1.

Fifty-three percent of battleground-state voters said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate they viewed as anti-immigration, compared with 29 percent who said that wouldn't matter to their vote.

This polling is from an issue advocate, to be sure, but the pollster has been fully transparent in releasing data and methodology. It's clear from this that voters expect candidates — of both parties — to have a plan for dealing with undocumented immigrants. Merely securing the border is not a plan.

The Partnership for a New American Economy/Burning Glass Poll of 400 likely GOP caucus or primary voters in each of the three early states, taken April 9-15, has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points. The swing-state poll of 804 voters, taken May 6-11, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 points.

As Left Wins Culture Battles, G.O.P. Gains Opportunity to Pivot for 2016 // NYT // Jonathan Martin – June 27, 2015

WASHINGTON — A cascade of events suggests that 2015 could be remembered as a Liberal Spring: the moment when deeply divisive and consuming questions of race, sexuality and broadened access to health care were settled in quick succession, and social tolerance was cemented as a cornerstone of American public life.

Yet what appears, in headlines and celebrations across the country, to represent an unalloyed victory for Democrats, in which lawmakers and judges alike seemed to give in to the leftward shift of public opinion, may contain an opening for the Republican Party to move beyond losing battles and seemingly lost causes.

Conservatives have, in short order, endured a series of setbacks on ideas that, for some on the right, are definitional: that marriage is between a man and a woman, that Southern heritage and its symbols are to be

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unambivalently revered and that the federal government should play a limited role in the lives of Americans.

Remarkably, some of these verities have been challenged not by liberals but by figures from the right.

The past week and the month that preceded it have been nothing short of a rout in the culture wars. Bruce Jenner, the famed Olympian, became Caitlyn Jenner in the most prominent moment yet for transgender people. The killings of nine black churchgoers in Charleston, S.C., at once rendered the Confederate battle flag unsuitable for government-sanctioned display. And Friday's legalization of same-sex marriage nationwide elevated a community that had been consigned to the shadows for centuries of American life.

But even as conservatives appear under siege, some Republicans predict that this moment will be remembered as an effective wiping of the slate before the nation begins focusing in earnest on the presidential race.

As important as some of these issues may be to the most conservative elements of the party's base and in the primaries ahead, few Republican leaders want to contest the 2016 elections on social or cultural grounds, where polls suggest that they are sharply out of step with the American public.

"Every once in a while, we bring down the curtain on the politics of a prior era," said David Frum, the conservative writer. "The stage is now cleared for the next generation of issues. And Republicans can say, 'Whether you're gay, black or a recent migrant to our country, we are going to welcome you as a fully cherished member of our coalition.' "

The critical question is whether the Republican Party will embrace such a message in order to seize what many party officials see as an opening to turn the election toward economic and national security issues.

It will not happen easily: Every major Republican presidential candidate criticized the Supreme Court's ruling on Friday affirming same-sex marriage as the law of the land.

Of course, many of the Republicans running for president are keen to move on from the culture wars, but others, like Mike Huckabee and Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, are already seizing on matters like same-sex marriage and what they call judicial overreach to distinguish themselves in a crowded primary field. And the conservative activists and interest groups that play an important role in the primary will not let any of the candidates simply move on.

"Our candidates running in a primary are put in a little bit of a box by the events of this week, but at the same time, it does change the landscape for the general election, which is a blessing," said Carl Forti, a Republican strategist who has worked on presidential races. "I'm glad I'm not on a campaign and don't have to advise my candidate on how to navigate those three issues this week, because the answers for the primary and the general are radically different."

Privately, some of the strategists advising Republican hopefuls believe the last week has been nothing short of a gift from above — a great unburdening on issues of race and sexuality, and on health care a disaster averted. Rhetorical opposition to the Affordable Care Act will still be de rigueur in the primaries, but litigating the issue in theory is wholly different from doing so with more than six million people deprived of their health insurance.

Collectively, this optimistic thinking would have it, June will go down as the month that dulled some of the wedge issues Democrats were hoping to wield next year.

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“Whether the presidential candidates agree or disagree with the results of all this, it allows them to say these issues have been settled and move on to things that offer more of a political home-field advantage,” said Tim Pawlenty, the former Republican governor of Minnesota.

While acknowledging that the country has become more tolerant and, in some ways, culturally liberal, many Republicans contend that America is still receptive to a more conservative approach on economics and national security. After all, the same week that highlighted the ascent of cultural liberalism also illustrated the limitations of economic populism, as organized labor was unable to block a measure giving President Obama expansive trade authority.

“There will always be side issues, but none of that will compete with people’s primary concerns, which are the economy and who is going to be able to keep the country safe,” said Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster advising Senator Marco Rubio of Florida.

Yet as the 2012 presidential race demonstrated, the immediate demands of a Republican primary can outweigh the eventual priorities of a general election. And, given last week’s events, conservative hard-liners in the coming Republican contest will be even hungrier for candidates to demonstrate that they are willing to employ all possible means to repel what they see as an assault on foundational values.

“We have been observing the deconstructing of America in the last six and a half years,” said Tony Perkins, the head of the conservative Family Research Council. “The tolerance level has been exceeded.”

What outrages social conservatives is not only the narrow issue of same-sex marriage rights, but also what they see as a violation of religious liberties that they believe are intrinsic to the country.

When Senator Cruz said the past week had featured “some of the darkest 24 hours in our history,” he spoke for those conservatives who believe the America they know is slipping away.

What is unclear about the wide Republican field is whether a candidate has yet surfaced who is deft enough to appeal to such devoted conservatives without going so far to mollify them as to scare away less dogmatic voters.

Of the well-financed candidates, Jeb Bush has done the most, on matters of race and marriage, to portray himself as a candidate who can appeal to a more socially tolerant country. Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who made his name on fiscal issues, has surprised some in the party by positioning himself on the right on cultural issues. Mr. Rubio has been more cautious, trying not to inflame primary voters while also speaking in a measured fashion to avoid harming himself if he is the nominee.

Yet even if the party’s eventual standard-bearer can win the nomination without providing much fodder for Democrats to use in the general election, he or she will not be able to ignore cultural issues entirely. Self-identified white evangelical voters can make up as much as 40 percent of a Republican presidential nominee’s vote.

That is what worries many of the party’s strategists. “Some of our candidates will play to them and take positions that aren’t helpful in a general election,” Mr. Forti said.

And while a window may be open for Republicans to shift the race in a different direction, Democrats will do their best to keep the focus on subjects many Republican candidates want to avoid. Many of them, Hillary

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Rodham Clinton told Democrats on Friday night in Virginia, appear "determined to lead us right back into the past."

In a fast-changing culture, can the GOP get in step with modern America? // WaPo // Philip Rucker and Robert Costa – June 27, 2015

CORYDON, Iowa — Mike Huckabee — former Fox News personality, Arkansas governor and Baptist preacher — gathered with a modest crowd here in the back of Breadeaux Pizza on his "Main Street American Family" tour and opened the floor to questions.

The very first one set the tone. Jeff Hontz, 49, a Baptist pastor in town, said he has been anxious because he sees "America going down the wrong roads morally." God decreed unchanging standards in Scripture, Hontz argued, but society keeps changing — and fast.

"I saw a commercial this morning about a transgender show, and everybody was praising it," he said, prodding the presidential candidate.

Huckabee responded by declaring that the standard of all truth is the Bible. Distorting the laws of nature, he said, is akin to playing the piano without a tuning fork — or baking a cake without the proper measurements of salt, flour and sugar. "You're going to have a disaster on your hands," he said.

The exchange illustrates the vexing challenge now facing Republican presidential candidates and the GOP itself: how to get in step with modern America.

Across the cultural landscape, the national consensus is evolving rapidly, epitomized by this year's convulsions of celebrity, social issues and politics — including the acceptance of Caitlyn Jenner's gender identity, Pope Francis's climate-change decree and the widespread shunning of the Confederate flag.

Then came Friday's landmark Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage. As rainbow colors bathed the White House and other landmarks in celebration, the entire field of Republican presidential candidates condemned the ruling.

This uneven terrain is now a key battlefield in the 2016 campaign, unnerving red America and fueling intense debate within the Republican Party about how to navigate such changes — or whether to adapt to the mainstream at all.

"Most Republicans look at what's happening and think we're watching a new stage of left-wing nuttiness," said former House speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.). "It's just surreal."

The GOP's activist base wants its leaders to fight loudly for traditional, Christian values and sew together a moral fabric they see as frayed, even shredded. This is especially true here in Iowa, which hosts the first caucuses and where candidates will not easily avoid pressure from the far right. Yet political survival demands evolution with popular opinion.

So far, many contenders are giving the base what it wants.

"We're called upon not to be the thermometers that reflect the temperature in the culture," Huckabee said in

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Corydon. “We’re called upon to be thermostats, which can read the temperature and seek to adjust it to where it should be.”

Democrats are hoping for just this approach. They argue — as many Republican Party elites in Washington fear — that if Republicans don’t moderate on issues such as gay rights and immigration and become more tolerant, they will be locked out of the White House. Asked how Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton could motivate voters, several top Democratic officials said: The Republicans may do it for her.

“Republicans are going to have to make inner peace about living in a same-sex marriage world,” said Pete Wehner, a former adviser to President George W. Bush. “Our nominee can’t have serrated edges. Like it or not, any effort to create moral or social order will be seen as rigid and judgmental. . . . Grace and winsomeness are the ingredients for success in a world where cultural issues are at the fore.”

‘Get with modern life’

This is a profound shift for a party that a decade earlier won national elections under a banner of social conservatism. In 2004, Bush successfully used his opposition to gay marriage as a wedge issue in his reelection campaign.

“If these topics are the big ones in the general election — rather than the failure of President Obama and Hillary Clinton as his third term, foreign policy, and of course the economy — we can’t win,” said Austin Barbour, a Mississippi-based operative who runs the super PAC supporting former Texas governor Rick Perry. “We need to be sensible, logical and reasonable on the social issues, but also make sure the debate isn’t entirely about them.”

The shifts to the left on social issues may be reinforcing pessimistic beliefs among Republicans about the direction of the country. In a CBS/New York Times poll last month, 88 percent of Republicans said the nation was on the wrong track, compared with 63 percent of Americans as a whole. Meanwhile, 57 percent of Democrats said the country was headed in the right direction.

“When a young voter sees a Republican coming, many of them roll their eyes and wonder why they can’t get with modern life,” said Ari Fleischer, White House press secretary under George W. Bush.

The party’s business wing has been evolving quickly on many social issues, particularly on gay rights. Religious liberty measures in Indiana and Arkansas that many saw as discriminatory against gays drew immediate backlash earlier this year from local chambers of commerce — not to mention corporations such as Wal-Mart, the red-state retail giant — prompting reversals from Republican governors.

“The country is changing, the culture is changing, the demographics are changing and politics is changing,” said former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty, now president of the Financial Services Roundtable. “The rhetoric at the congressional level and with some of the candidates tends to be a lagging indicator.”

In far-flung state capitols, legislatures that became more solidly Republican during the past two midterm election sweeps are moving aggressively with social policy designed to combat what conservative lawmakers see as liberal encroachment from Washington. For instance, bills to ban abortions after 20 weeks are moving in several state legislatures.

Politicians are responding to the deep angst conservative activists voice in their communities. At a Huckabee event Wednesday night in Osceola, Iowa, Mary Klein, a 79-year-old school nurse, invoked an

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urban legend.

“Have you heard about the frogs?” Klein asked. “When you put a bunch of frogs in water and you heat it, they don’t realize the temperature is getting warmer and warmer and warmer. Then it kills them. Our country is getting neutralized, at small degrees at a time, and we won’t realize it until we’re already sucked in and it’s too late.”

‘Kindness of conservatism’

Among the 16 declared or likely Republican presidential candidates, there is general agreement on traditional social policies, such as opposing gay marriage and abortion rights. The differences come in tone, emphasis and countenance.

“We can share our views without sounding like avenging angels,” said Rep. Peter T. King (R-N.Y.). “It’s the self-righteous tone that scares more than the views themselves.”

Major GOP donors, especially those in high finance in New York, have been privately quizzing leading presidential candidates on same-sex marriage. Some have been turned off by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, thinking the son of a Baptist preacher to be too strident in his opposition, and preferring former Florida governor Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) because they suggest a more laissez-faire attitude.

Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), an even-tempered ally of House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), recalled: “Ronald Reagan was awfully good at not backing off his position while also never yelling or shouting or pounding the table. Persuasion, persistence and resolve — that was his magic.”

Arthur Brooks, president of the American Enterprise Institute, said that speaking only to the base about issues of God, guns, gays and abortion isn’t enough to win. “Republicans need to recognize this and change the terms of the conversation — or they’ll pay the price for decades,” Brooks said.

One likely candidate trying to soften the party’s language is Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who espouses what he calls “the kindness of conservatism.” A devout Christian, Kasich looks to the activist pope as a model.

In Iowa last week, Kasich advocated a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants — a lightning-rod issue in the Republican primary season. When he encountered an undocumented woman and her young son, Kasich said, “They are made in the image of the Lord.”

By contrast, businessman Donald Trump railed against illegal immigrants in his campaign announcement speech. He said the United States had become a “dumping ground” for drug abusers, “rapists” and other criminals from Mexico.

On Thursday night in Iowa, former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum gave a fiery speech promising to lead what he called a cultural battle against the “secular left.” He said, “It will be tough to stand against it, but we must.”

Democrats are eager to portray Republicans as the party of Trump, Santorum and Huckabee, as well as retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.) and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal — all candidates who proudly resist the shifting social mores.

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In a particularly partisan speech Friday night in Northern Virginia, Clinton said Republican candidates "seemed determined to lead us right back into the past" with their responses to the high court's gay marriage ruling.

"Instead of trying to turn back the clock, they should be joining us in saying loudly and clearly: 'No to discrimination once and for all,' " Clinton said, adding, "A lot of Republicans may talk about having new ideas and fresh faces, but across the board, they're the party of the past, not the future."

Housing Secretary Julián Castro, a potential Democratic vice presidential candidate whose ancestors emigrated from Mexico, criticized Trump in a recent interview for "plainly insulting Mexicans and by extension folks who are the descendants of Mexicans.

"He will be in this campaign in many ways the face of the Republican Party, because he has higher name identification than almost all of them," Castro said.

'Tolerance only goes so far'

Huckabee, asked during an interview in Iowa how he might modulate his language on social issues, said he does not see any political disadvantage in standing up for his conservative beliefs, as long as voters see them as genuine.

"I think people are deeply interested in issues of morality, character, but it all goes back to trustworthiness and authenticity," Huckabee said. He added, "The question is: Can I articulate my view, defend it, do it rationally and in a way that's intellectually honest, without being hateful or spiteful?"

Along Huckabee's tour in rural Iowa last week, voters dismissed any suggestion that the GOP needed to modernize.

After seeing him campaign Thursday morning at the Dinky Diner in Decatur City, Tracee Knapp, secretary of the Ringgold County Republican Party, concluded that unlike party elites in Washington, "he's not neutered."

"I'm just sick of secular things," she said. "Homosexual issues are on the television all the time. I'll be honest — we live on a farm. We have to have a bull and a cow to make a baby. We have to have a rooster and a hen. Maybe some Republicans need to come live on a farm."

The night before in Osceola, Tawny Waske, 49, was celebrating her eighth wedding anniversary with her husband, Tim, at Nana Greer's Family Table restaurant when Huckabee walked in to shake hands and answer questions. She, too, fretted about cultural changes.

"It's legalized here for gays [to marry], and we just bite our lips," Waske said. "As a Christian, we're taught to love the sinner, not the sin. But tolerance only goes so far."

Waske brought up ABC's prime-time special this spring on Jenner's gender transition.

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"Is it him? Her? It? I don't even know what to call it," she said. "You know, don't shove this down my throat."

OTHER 2016 NEWS

The Straight Talk Express Gets a Few More Passengers // TIME // Alex Altman and Zeke J Miller – June 27, 2015

It takes a savvy politician to run for president by telling people what they don't want to hear—or perhaps a crazy one. Yet here was Lindsey Graham, South Carolina's senior senator, shuffling into the state capitol June 22 to advocate the removal of the Confederate flag. Graham's nascent presidential campaign depends on winning the Palmetto State — where six in 10 voters oppose the relocation of the rebel emblem.

But it wasn't the first time Graham, who supports comprehensive immigration reform and climate science, has put conscience ahead of his constituents. And he's hardly the only candidate risking the repercussions of defying the party base as the race for the White House ramps up.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has stuck by his moderate positions on education and immigration. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie will make controversial entitlement reforms a cornerstone of his comeback bid. Ohio Gov. John Kasich infuriated conservative activists by expanding Medicaid in Ohio. And long-shot candidate former New York Gov. George Pataki has made disagreeing with his party's mainstream a point of pride.

The maverick style has gone mainstream. Fifteen years after John McCain tried to ride the Straight Talk Express to the GOP nomination, the truth-telling persona has become as much a fixture of presidential campaigning as the flag pin. And in the 2016 Republican primary, more candidates than ever before are betting that a base-bucking approach will pay off with voters sick of the quadrennial presidential pander.

"You have to understand," Kasich explained to TIME in a recent interview, "the Republican Party is my vehicle, and not my master."

All this is a stark change from the 2012 campaign, when the GOP field was desperate to indulge the activist base that seemed to hold the keys to the White House. The rush to the right often manifested in ways that were embarrassing or ugly. There was the debate where nearly the entire field pledged to veto a 10-to-1 deal of spending cuts for new tax revenue—a pact most sensible conservatives would snap up in a second. There was the collective unwillingness to call out conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh's ad hominem attack against women's rights' activist Sandra Fluke. There was the forum in Florida where the candidates stood idly by as a gay soldier was booed on live television.

Yet four years later, the number of candidates eager to establish their independence exceeds the number who are purely focused on pleasing the base. "Voters are looking for leaders who treat them like adults and tell them the truth," says Mike DuHaime, Christie's chief strategist. "They are rejecting politicians who tell everyone what they want to hear and speak only in cautious focus-grouped terms."

In some ways, the tell-it-like-it-is caucus is responding to Americans' well-documented dissatisfaction with the nation's institutions—and especially its elected officials.

"Most of these candidates understand that of the forces shaping the electorate, there is nothing more dominating than the utter collapse of trust between the American people and just about every institution you can think of," explains Steve Schmidt, McCain's former top strategist. "What they get is the macro-political climate in the country. They get the sour mood of the American people, the collapse of trust between most

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American institutions and the American people, and that they want a real leader."

"Folks hate Washington, D.C.; its polices, it's politics, it's attitude," adds New Hampshire-based GOP strategist Dave Carney. "We thirst for someone to treat us as adults, and be straight with us about the problems and challenges we face as a nation."

But that's not the only reason why Ted Cruz, whose Oval Office aspirations may hinge on winning the Iowa caucuses, called for an end to the ethanol subsidies that have long fattened local interests. Or why Bush told the Wall Street Journal last December that the next GOP nominee must be willing to "lose the primary to win the general without violating your principles."

"Folks will tell you in politics, 'don't talk about that subject,'" Christie said in New Hampshire this month, in a reference to raising the retirement age. "They call it the third rail of American politics. They say, 'don't touch it.' So we're not going to touch it. We're going to hug it."

The maverick shtick is popular because it can be good politics. Each of these campaigns has mapped their paths to the White House through New Hampshire, where style has always been as prized as substance. They know that truth-telling can be a recipe for media attention, and that presenting one's self as an agent of change can help establish a niche in a crowded field.

Their numbers are also growing as a side effect of new rules put in place after the 2012 race to shorten the primary calendar and limit the number of televised debates. The guidelines, imposed by the Republican National Committee to limit the damage inflicted on the eventual nominee, have had the unexpected effect of nationalizing the race. With more states voting early on, contests in places like Iowa and South Carolina become less vital to a candidate's chances. That saps the power of hardcore activists and hands more influence to moderate voters in bigger, more diverse states. And with national polling being the standard to get on stage at the all-important televised debates, candidates have to define themselves more. "Loud doesn't mean a lot," Graham says.

The would-be mavericks are also responding to a well-documented hunger for a virtuous statesman, as embodied by the cinematic archetypes of Frank Capra's Mr. Smith or Aaron Sorkin's Jed Barlet. Or even the real-life McCain, whose bull-shooting sessions with the press on the back of his bus are the stuff of political legend.

Still, it's a safe bet that political calculations will ultimately trump conscience. Graham's good friend McCain pandered on the Confederate flag in his 2000 campaign and tapped Sarah Palin as his running mate in 2008 when he needed to galvanize the base. And candidates of all stripes can cast the same old red-meat as telling uncomfortable truths that somehow only discomfort the other party.

"It remains to be seen," Schmidt says, "whether we're going to have truth-telling candidates rather than candidates using 'truth-telling' as a prop."

New Hampshire Poll: Sanders Inching Closer to Clinton, Bush Continues Leading GOP **// Latin Post // Rodrigo Ugarte – June 27, 2015**

New numbers out of New Hampshire show that many in the Granite State have started making up their minds about how they will vote for in the state's presidential primary. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Democratic presidential hopefuls, are coming closer on the polls while Republicans struggle to shine.

A new WMUR/CNN poll shows Sen. Sanders is closing the gap between him and Clinton among Democratic

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primary voters. The poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire, surveyed 1,010 people and among the likely Democratic primary voters Clinton still remained in the number one position with 43 percent believing she should be the party's first choice. However, Sen. Sanders was only eight points behind with 35 percent. None of the other Democratic candidates or potential candidates broke past 10 percent.

Sen. Sanders' rise in the polls could coincide with a continued importance on the economy among New Hampshire voters. Though it has declined in importance from 35 percent in February to 24 percent in June, the economy remains the top issue for New Hampshire Democratic primary voters.

Sen. Sanders has built his campaign on his views on economic inequality and reform in various areas of the country.

His favorability rating of 66 percent is even closer to Clinton's 74 percent and she also enjoys the rank of top unfavorable Democratic candidate with 11 percent. Yet, the former secretary of state continues to lead.

Among Republicans, however, the race remains uneven with Jeb Bush leading in the polls in the same survey. Sixteen percent of primary voters in the state opted to vote for Bush. The next choice was Donald Trump with 11 percent.

However, when asked about whom they favor the most, Bush had a 50 percent while Trump only 38 percent. Sen. Marco Rubio also from Florida came the closest to Bush with 49 percent but only six percent would vote for him if the primary election happened today.

The New Hampshire primary is the second in the country and it is slated to happen in early February 2016.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

2 Charged in Confederate Flag Removal at South Carolina Capitol // NYT // Kenneth Rosen – June 27, 2015

A protester climbed a 30-foot flagpole and removed the Confederate battle flag from its perch outside the South Carolina State House early Saturday, before she was arrested and the flag replaced, the police said.

The protester, an African-American woman, was nearly halfway up the pole when a State Capitol police officer on routine patrol ordered her to come down. The authorities said the woman, who was wearing climbing gear, had ignored the command.

She continued her climb to the top of the flagpole and unhooked and removed the flag before descending.

An officer from the Bureau of Protective Services arrested her and a white male who had aided her.

The police identified the woman as Brittany Ann Byuarim-Newsome, 30, of Raleigh, N.C., and her purported accomplice as James Ian Tyson, 30, of Charlotte, N.C.

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They were charged with defacing a monument, the police said, a misdemeanor that carries a fine of up to $5,000, a prison term of up to three years or both.

About the time she was being arrested, Ms. Byuarim-Newsome sent a statement to the news media via email. “We removed the flag today because we can’t wait any longer. We can’t continue like this another day,” the statement said. “It’s time for a new chapter where we are sincere about dismantling white supremacy and building toward true racial justice and equality.”

Some opponents of the flag argued that the protesters’ actions had created an opening to resolve a divisive issue.

“The flag is down now — we should keep it down,” Rashad Robinson, the executive director of ColorOfChange.org , an advocacy group, said in a statement.

But the flag in Columbia — which flies near the Confederate Monument on the grounds of the State House — is protected by state law. A new flag was hung within an hour after Saturday’s incident.

Around 10 a.m., about a dozen cars and trucks flying Confederate flags circled the State House in advance of a pro-Confederate flag rally at the monument. Protests against the Confederate battle flag and calls for it to be removed from public display have escalated since the June 17 killings of nine African-American churchgoers at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. Gov. Nikki R. Haley, a Republican, has called from the removal of the flag at the State House, but she said she needed the cooperation of the legislature. On Tuesday, South Carolina lawmakers agreed to allow discussion of the matter during the legislative session.

The man charged in the attack at the Emanuel A.M.E. Church, Dylann Roof, 21, posted photographs on social media and the Internet showing him posing with the Confederate flag. The police and prosecutors have said his attack was racially motivated and have accused him of a hate crime.

For Obama and Clinton, twisty paths to 'yes' on gay marriage // AP // Jim Kuhneman and Lisa Lerer – June 27, 2015

When President Barack Obama praised the Supreme Court's watershed same-sex marriage ruling, he held it up as evidence that a "shift in hearts and minds is possible."

Obama may well have been describing his own public trajectory on gay unions — a complicated path that took him through opposition and ambivalence to enthusiastic embrace.

His journey is not unlike the rest of America. But over the years he has worn his uncertainty on his sleeve, publicly musing about his stance before becoming a full-throated advocate for marriage and other aspects of gay rights.

"When all Americans are treated as equal, we are all more free," Obama declared Friday.

As far as political figures go, Obama's road to "yes" is hardly unique.

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Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign jumped on the Supreme Court decision, changing its red campaign logo to a rainbow colored H, releasing a gauzy video of gay wedding ceremonies, and blasting out supportive tweets aimed at building its campaign list.

In a fiery speech Friday night to Democratic activists in Northern Virginia, Clinton said that "love triumphed in the highest court" and declared: "We can sum up the message from the court and the American people in just two words: Move on."

But like Obama, such expressions of support mark a remarkable shift for Clinton, who opposed gay marriage for more than two decades as a first lady, a U.S. senator and a presidential candidate. Just three months ago, Clinton's position was that while she personally supported gay marriage the issue was best left for individual states to decide — a policy stance held by most of the Republican presidential field.

"It has been an evolutionary process," said Fred Sainz of the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay rights group. But he said Obama now stands as one of the great champions of gay rights, up there with the likes of Harvey Milk. As for Clinton, he said, "she connects with gay people on a level that is beyond explanation."

Obama has carefully staked out his position on same-sex marriage throughout his political career. During his 1996 Illinois state Senate race, he replied to a questionnaire from a gay newspaper in Chicago: "I favor legalizing same-sex marriages, and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages." Two years later, he declared himself undecided.

By 2004, as he ran for the U.S. Senate, he said he opposed gay marriage for politically strategic reasons, saying Republicans would exploit the issue, and he advocated instead for gay civil unions. In his 2006 book, "The Audacity of Hope," he cited his own faith as a reason to oppose same-sex marriage, though he also wondered whether "in years hence I may be seen as someone who was on the wrong side of history."

He came out firmly for same-sex marriage in 2012 and called for it in his second inaugural address. But earlier this year, his former top strategist, David Axelrod, wrote that Obama had feigned opposition to gay marriage for most of his political career, grudgingly taking Axelrod's advice that African-American religious leaders and others would oppose him if he let it be known he supported gay marriage.

"If Obama's views were 'evolving' publicly, they were fully evolved behind closed doors," Axelrod wrote.

Obama disputed the account, telling BuzzFeed News that he thought civil unions were "a sufficient way of squaring the circle," but that "the pain and the sense of stigma that was being placed on same-sex couples who are friends of mine" changed his mind.

"I think the notion that somehow I was always in favor of marriage per se isn't quite accurate," Obama told BuzzFeed.

But even after he endorsed gay marriage, he took his time embracing other aspects of the gay community's agenda.

It wasn't until July 2014 that Obama gave employment protection to gay and transgender workers in the federal government and its contracting agencies.

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Still, gay rights advocates hold him up as one of their biggest political advocates.

"It's absolutely right to note that this administration did not get off to a good start with LGBT advocates," Sainz said. "But the sheer volume of what he has done will be hard for another president to replicate, simply because so much of what he has done has been so incredibly powerful, momentous and life changing for LGBT people."

Clinton's path into the embrace of the gay community has been similar. She backed her husband's Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, described marriage between a man and a woman as a "fundamental bedrock principle" in a 2004 Senate floor speech, and dodged the question when asked in 2007 whether she agreed with Gen. Peter Pace, then the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, that homosexuality was immoral.

But as secretary of state, Clinton emerged as a champion of gay rights, declaring that "gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights," at a 2011 conference in Geneva.

Sainz said that in Clinton, the LGBT community sees a kindred spirit. "It's in our DNA to support her," he said. "We have been forced to deal with some of lives greatest indignities and have come out on the other side."

Obama's Charleston eulogy: 'Amazing Grace' **// CNN // Kevin Liptak – June 27, 2015**

Charleston, South Carolina (CNN) President Barack Obama delivered a touching eulogy, a rousing political speech and a thoughtful meditation on race in America when he traveled to Charleston, South Carolina on Friday to speak at the funeral of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, who was gunned down last week by a racist terrorist during Bible study.

But the President's speech will be remembered for a moment at the end when he launched into a solo of "Amazing Grace," that at first stunned the mourners and then brought them to their feet as they joined him in song.

"As a nation, out of this terrible tragedy, God has visited grace upon us for he has allowed us to see where we've been blind," Obama said. "He's given us the chance, where we've been lost, to find our best selves."

The President's remarks at times felt like a sermon, with organ chords backing him during some of the most impassioned passages. The mostly African-American crowd was, at the end of the eulogy, on its feet, clapping and cheering Obama as he named each victim of the church shooting and declaring each "had grace."

The President, first lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, a bipartisan host of high-level members of Congress and Hillary Clinton all attended the memorial service at TD Arena in downtown Charleston. Last Wednesday, a 21-year-old man opened fire at a Bible study inside Charleston's Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, killing nine.

The shooter declared he was there to "kill black people," and an online manifesto attributed to him contained white supremacist screeds.

Obama, in his eulogy, said the killer likely assumed he "would deepen divisions that trace back to our nation's original sin."

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"But God works in mysterious ways," Obama said. "God had different ideas. He didn't know he was being used by God."

"The alleged killer could have never anticipated the way the families of the fallen would respond when they saw him in court in the midst of unspeakable grief, with words of forgiveness," Obama said.

The country, he argued, has responded to the church shooting "with a thoughtful introspection and self-examination that we so rarely see in public life."

Friday's funeral service for Pinckney wasn't the first time Obama delivered a high-profile eulogy, and with a year and a half remaining in office, it may not be the last.

But on Friday, Obama's speech moved beyond just grief for the victims -- the President stepped directly into a national conversation about race in which he plays a central role.

He declared the Confederate flag a symbol of racial oppression, and praised the renewed urgency in removing it from the South Carolina State Capitol.

"Removing the flag from this state's capital would not be an act of political correctness," he said. "It would not an insult to the valor of Confederate soldiers. It would simply be acknowledgment that the cause for which they fought, the cause of slavery, was wrong."

Unlike past times Obama has confronted an act of violence, he knew the highest profile victim of the Charleston shooting personally. Obama met Pinckney as an early supporter of his 2008 presidential bid.

That personal connection differentiated Friday's eulogy from the funerals Obama keynoted after previous shootings. So, too, did the renewed questions on race spurred by the shooter's apparent motivations.

"None of us can or should expect a transformation in race relations overnight. Every time something like this happens, somebody says, 'We have to have a conversation about race,'" Obama said. "We talk a lot about race. There's no shortcut. We don't need more talk."

Prior to the eulogy, Obama himself used some of his bluntest language to date on race during an interview with comedian Marc Maron on Friday, saying that just because the N-word is no longer used frequently in public, "that's not the measure of whether racism still exists or not."

The moment was a distant cry from the earlier days of Obama's presidency, when he studiously avoided discussing race or the implications of his election to office.

At Friday's funeral, Obama called for greater attention to less apparent forms of racism.

"Maybe we now realize the way a racial bias can infect us even when we don't realize it so that we're guarding against not just racial slurs, but we're also guarding against the subtle impulse to call Johnny back for a job interview but not Jamal," he said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Greece on the brink of default after talks with creditors break down // WaPo // Griff Witte – June 27, 2015

LONDON — Greece's long-running standoff with its European creditors appeared headed on Saturday for an abrupt — and potentially cataclysmic — ending as the continent's finance ministers rejected an emergency Greek request to help the cash-starved country meet a Tuesday deadline for paying back its debts.

The development, just hours after Greece's prime minister stunned the continent with plans to hold a nationwide referendum on Europe's latest proposals, makes it increasingly likely that Greece will default — and could soon crash out of the euro zone altogether.

Reflecting the newly dire outlook, people formed lines at ATMs across Greece, seizing on perhaps their last chance to withdraw their savings. Some went away empty-handed after the machines ran dry.

With speculation mounting that the banks may lack the funds to reopen Monday morning, European officials huddled behind closed doors to plot out how to contain the damage of a Greek financial meltdown. The Greek finance minister was pointedly excluded from those talks, which ended with a statement from the other 18 euro-zone countries urging Greek authorities to implement capital controls.

The statement also highlighted the safeguards that have been implemented to keep debt contagion from spreading to other vulnerable economies, suggesting that if Greece is forced to abandon the euro, the collateral damage may be limited. But because no country has left the euro zone in its 16-year history, no one knows just how extensive the impact may be.

The collapse of negotiations on Saturday was the most ominous turn in a process that has been poisoned from the start by bitter mistrust between Greece's radical leftist government and the austerity-minded heavyweights who set policy in Europe.

Although both sides have repeatedly expressed a determination to keep Greece inside the common currency — and to avoid at all costs an uncontrollable and potentially disastrous default — that shared aspiration has not been enough to bridge the substantial divide.

As has become customary, each on Saturday blamed the other for the breakdown.

Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis called Saturday "a sad day for Europe" and said its decision to reject his request to extend Greece's bailout for several more weeks "will certainly damage the credibility of the euro group as a democratic union."

European officials countered that Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras had blindsided them by calling a referendum early Sunday on a proposal that was still being negotiated, a move that effectively torpedoed any chance for a deal.

"The negotiations are clearly ended, if I understand Mr. Tsipras correctly," said German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble as the continent's top finance officials gathered for their fifth emergency meeting in the past two weeks. "We have no grounds for further discussions."

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Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem discusses Greek rejection of European Union deal that could result in default and exit from the Euro. (Reuters)

Varoufakis later challenged European leaders to come back with a new proposal and signaled an openness to further talks. But the acrimony with which talks ended Saturday suggested that a return to the negotiating table is highly unlikely before two critical tests in the week ahead.

The first will come Monday, when Greek banks that have grown ever more reliant on emergency loans from the European Central Bank face the prospect of reopening for business without new lifelines.

The second will be Tuesday, when a $1.7 billion payment to the International Monetary Fund comes due. The IMF has repeatedly said it will not offer an extension on that deadline. Greek officials, meanwhile, say they do not have the money to make the payment unless the country's creditors unlock $8 billion in bailout funds that have been frozen as the negotiations have stalled.

Tsipras has set the referendum for July 5, although it is unclear exactly what Greek voters will be deciding. In announcing the vote, Tsipras said he wanted to give the Greek people the chance to vote on the latest proposal by Greece's creditors, which he attacked as "an ultimatum" that would place "unbearable new burdens on the Greek people."

But with Greece sliding toward default and a possible break with the euro zone, there is no guarantee that the offer will remain viable by the time of the referendum, even if Greece does vote "yes."

The European Central Bank, the European Commission and the IMF have together provided Greece with $264 billion in bailouts over the past five years as the country has reckoned with sky-high debts.

After years of withering austerity policies imposed by European paymasters as a condition of those deals, Greece in January rejected the medicine and elected Syriza, a radical leftist party that promised to tear up the old agreements and start anew.

Greece has repeatedly demanded that Europe reduce the nation's debt load and ease up on austerity, which officials say has devastated the economy and sent unemployment rocketing to 25 percent. But European officials have been unwilling to hand Syriza a victory and have insisted that the country keep to strict targets for belt-tightening.

The past week began with rare optimism, as Greece submitted proposals that European officials initially welcomed as a significant step forward after months of deadlock. But by Wednesday, the creditors had submitted counterproposals for slashing pensions and cutting spending. Greek officials rejected them, saying they would cross the government's red lines.

During debate in the Greek Parliament on Saturday over whether the referendum should go ahead, Tsipras was given a standing ovation from supporters who cheered his defiance of European authorities. But opposition leaders and others accused him of recklessly endangering the country's place in Europe.

"The nation's most vital interests demand that the country remains at the heart of Europe. The E.U.'s actual shortcomings do not, in any way, negate this," said former prime minister Costas Karamanlis, who spoke out after a long silence. "Foolish choices that undermine this principle push the country to adventures, with

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unpredictable and possibly irreversible consequences."

ISIS bomb plot on London military parade foiled, nation remains on high alert // New York Daily News // Dennis Slattery – June 27, 2015

British security forces were on high alert Saturday at events marking Armed Forces Day following reports that officials foiled an ISIS bomb plot on a military parade in London, officials said.

Police foiled an attack on a London military parade Saturday after an undercover reporter who obtained details on the plot alerted counterterrorism officials, The Sun newspaper reported.

The plot included the use of pressure-cooker devices, similar to those used during the deadly attacks on the Boston Marathon in 2013.

Prime Minister David Cameron told reporters "heightened security" would be deployed at events paying tribute to Britain's military in response to the report.

Police said they were also beefing up security for the annual gay pride parade in London on Saturday.

Britain's terrorism threat remains at "severe," meaning an attack is considered highly likely.

The number of domestic terrorism-related arrests increased by about one-third in 2014, as police try to halt those joining Islamic extremists in Syria.

About 700 Britons are believed to have left the country to join militants.

The announcement followed bloody attacks in Tunisia, France and Kuwait on Friday.

At least 15 Britons were among the 39 people — mostly tourists — who were killed when a gunman attacked a Tunisian beach resort on Friday.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Gay Marriage Is American As Apple Pie // Daily Beast // Gil Troy – June 27, 2015

Even before the Supreme Court decided on Friday in Obergefell v. Hodges that same-sex marriage rights were universal, the popular verdict was in: gay marriage—and gay life—had become as American as apple pie.

Two years ago, in June 2013 the Supreme Court refused to limit the words "marriage" and "spouse" to heterosexual unions, invalidating the Defense of Marriage Act. That November, the Senate passed ENDA, the Employment Nondiscrimination Act banning anti-gay discrimination in the workplace 64 to 32—including 10 Republican votes, although the House of Representative has yet to pass it. Until recently,

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Democrats often opposed gay marriage publicly, even while approving it privately; now, Republicans are increasingly supporting gay marriage publicly—or dodging the issue Chris Christie style—even while disapproving it privately. This reversal in what constitutes the politically safe position on gays probably represents America's fastest, sharpest U-turn on a fundamental social issue since the 1960s.

Twenty-two years ago, when the last Democratic president, Bill Clinton, admitted he approved of gays serving in the military, the resulting firestorm ultimately imposed "Don't ask, don't tell." Despite the Democratic majority in Congress, only 69 House members signed a letter supporting gay rights. Three years later in 1996, Clinton wooed the center by signing the Defense of Marriage Act, whose key provision many Clinton nominees to the Supreme Court eventually gutted in U.S. v. Windsor (2013) as placing an unfair "stigma" on gay spouses. As of January 2004 gay marriage was illegal in all 50 states.

Even as recently as seven years ago, when Barack Obama's presidency began, gays were weaker politically. Obama's 2008 campaign triggered a surge of socially conservative black and Hispanic voters who helped pass California's Proposition 8 banning same sex marriage. With many blacks—and Democrats—still opposing civil unions, Obama had not endorsed gay marriage. As president, he only approved same sex marriage on May 9, 2012, thanks to Vice President Joe Biden's blurting out his own endorsement days earlier on "Meet the Press."

What John Adams would have labeled a revolution "in the minds and hearts of the people," has been rapid and radical. Since Thomas Jefferson's wonderfully subversive phrase in the Declaration of Independence proclaiming "all men are created equal," gradually, "all" broadened to include blacks, gays and others. "Men" expanded to include women; even the notion of "equal" grew.

Those seeking to create a heroic history of gay liberation emphasize the Stonewall protests of 1969, along with four decades' worth of protests producing legislative and legal victories. But in fact, a mass cultural conversion precipitated this political change.

While rooted in the Sixties' sexual revolution and the Seventies' "Me Decade," this cultural revolution went national in the 1980s. Ironically, the AIDS tragedy helped mainstream gay life. Many gays became more open about their lifestyles, while many heterosexuals became more aware of gays around them, especially after the disease killed President Ronald Reagan's friend, the Hollywood legend Rock Hudson, in 1985.

In the 1990s, despite the complex politics handcuffing Clinton, Hollywood propagandized effectively for gay equality. Movie blockbusters like Philadelphia starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington, and The Birdcage, starring Robin Williams and Gene Hackman, cast in celluloid the dominant Hollywood stereotype of gays as normal, respectable, family-loving Americans underneath whatever flamboyant facades some might choose—with conservative opponents cast as Neanderthals awaiting redemption. A year later, the comedienne Ellen DeGeneres came out of the closet on The Oprah Winfrey Show. With art first imitating, then shaping, life, DeGeneres's popular sitcom character "Ellen" subsequently came out to her therapist, played by Oprah Winfrey.

Will and Grace debuted in 1998 introducing Will Truman, an openly-gay lawyer sporting an all-American name and a conservative personality. By 2005, the American public proved surprisingly open to a sexually explicit macho males' love story in Brokeback Mountain. Movies and television had not only normalized what most once deemed abnormal, they glamorized what most once deemed repulsive.

As with the Reagan years, the George W. Bush years proved surprisingly good for gays in their march to social and political acceptance. Mary Cheney's lesbianism was not that scandalous, and actually softened the George W. Bush-Dick Cheney image. When Bush's former Republican National Committee chair, Ken Mehlman, came out in 2010, many emphasized the shocking fact that few were shocked.

Cheney's and Mehlman's outsider-as-insider stories, paralleling millions of others' paths, reveal gays' power

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as both an invisible minority and as the privileged oppressed. Like Jews, gays frequently pass easily in society, often asserting their distinct identity as they please. It becomes hard to hate "them" when "they" are "us."

And, like women, many gays sit at the most elite familial, corporate and governmental tables in the land, giving them the exclusive access long denied to African-Americans and other minorities. This growing intimacy, familiarity, and prominence, with millions coming out to relatives and colleagues, set the stage for this decade's political and legal changes. Before Friday, 37 states and Washington, D.C., allowed same-sex marriages.

Ironically—but cleverly—gays changed their collective image by embracing marriage during an epidemic of heterosexual divorce. Emphasizing their conventionality and familiarity, rather than flamboyance and rebelliousness, gays have framed equal treatment as a civil rights issue, appealing to an increasingly fluid and tolerant society that worships individual rights and abhors discrimination.

The late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan taught that: "The central conservative truth is that it is culture, not politics that determines the success of a society. The central liberal truth is that politics can change a culture and save it from itself." This time, cultural transformation triggered liberal change. Especially in today's horizontal democracy, culture matters, ideas count, media transforms—and sometimes, politics and the law just catch up.

The monuments to the framers of The Southern Manifesto of 1956 **// American Thinker – June 27, 2015**

As Confederate flags come down, so should the monuments that honor the Democrat politicians who overwhelmingly supported The Southern Manifesto of 1956.

The Southern Manifesto – officially entitled The Decision of the Supreme Court in the School Cases Declaration of Constitutional Principles – was signed by 101 members of the U.S. Congress, including 19 senators and 82 members of the House of Representatives. Ninety-nine of them were Democrats.

All 19 Senate signatories were Democrats: Walter F. George, Richard B. Russell, John Stennis, Sam J. Ervin, Jr., Strom Thurmond, Harry F. Byrd, A. Willis Robertson, John L. McClellan, Allen J. Ellender, Russell B. Long, Lister Hill, James O. Eastland, W. Kerr Scott, John Sparkman, Olin D. Johnston, Price Daniel, J.W. Fulbright, George A. Smathers, Spessard L. Holland.

The Manifesto was entered into the Congressional Record, 84th Congress, Second Session, Vol. 102, Part 4, on March 12, 1956, as a response to the 1954 Supreme Court ruling in Brown v. Board of Education.

It included this language:

This unwarranted exercise of power by the Court, contrary to the Constitution, is creating chaos and confusion in the States principally affected. It is destroying the amicable relations between the white and Negro races that have been created through 90 years of patient effort by the good people of both races. It has planted hatred and suspicion where there has been heretofore friendship and understanding.

The effort underway today to shame the display of the Confederate flag should be rightly accompanied by a removal of the monuments to those national politicians who, 60 years ago, claimed that "amicable relations between the white and Negro races" was being perpetuated by separate but equal educational opportunities.

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Those monuments include statues of Senator J. William Fulbright (who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award from President William Jefferson Clinton)…

…West Virginia senator (and former Ku Klux Klansman) Robert C. Byrd…

…South Carolina senator Sam Irwin…

…South Carolina senator Strom Thurmond, drafter of the original version of the Manifesto…

…and Louisiana senator Russell B. Long, son of Louisiana governor and U.S. senator Huey Long.a

If there is no honor in the memories evoked by the Confederate flag, then there is even less to be found in the statues depicting those prominent politicians who fought for segregation well into the 20th century.

Clinton supports universal background checks // Des Moines Register // Sarah Mannheimer – June 27, 2015

Late last year, three Des Moines-area schools went into lockdown on the same morning after separate shooting incidents in our area. My 5-year-old daughter asked me why she had to hide under her desk. I couldn't bring myself to tell her. I refuse to teach my children to live in fear.

Recently a young woman was gunned down at the Coral Ridge Mall near Iowa City. And of course, last week, nine people were massacred at their church in Charleston, S.C. It doesn't end there; 88 people lose their lives to gun violence every day in this country, many of them women and children.

Last week, Hillary Clinton asked the most urgent question facing our country, "How many people do we need to see cut down before we act?" Hillary supports universal background checks to keep weapons out of the hands of domestic abusers, violent felons, and those suffering from mental illness. Hillary Clinton is willing to fight for a future free from gun violence. Are you?

I'm calling on all candidates to follow Hillary's lead. I'm calling on responsible gun owners to take a stand. I'm calling on Iowans to recognize that gun violence affects every community. Together we can keep our schools, churches and workplaces safe. Hillary Clinton is right. It is time to act.

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From: "Bob Wendelgass - Clean Water Action" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/28/2013 5:04:57 AM
Subject: You Can Help Us Protect Our Water Today!

Clean Water Action

Dear Mary,



Polluters and their allies in the Senate are at it again – putting the drinking water for millions of Americans at risk. We need you to help us stop them today. You can give our teams the resources they need to mobilize Clean Water Action members and concerned Americans just like you with a gift of $25 today.

We've been pushing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for nearly four years to protect the streams and wetlands that provide the drinking water for nearly 117 million Americans. EPA is nearly done, but Senators like John Barrasso (R-WY) and Rand Paul (R-KY) are working behind the scenes to stop this vital progress. Senator Paul is even trying to take protections away from more of the streams we fish from and swim in, and more of the wetlands that protect us from floods.

Your support will send them a message today. Join our fight with a special gift and tell these Senators that we need to protect all our streams, not fewer of them!

If it seems like you've heard this all before, it's because you have. Senator Barrasso and his anti-environment colleagues have tried to stop EPA from finishing this important work for years. Time after time, these Senators introduce bills to weaken protections and time after time--and time after time, we've stopped them – with you at our side. Take a moment to tell polluters and their allies in the Senate that "enough is enough" – make a gift to fight back today !

For clean water,

Bob Wendelgass, President & CEO

Lik Us | Fo Us | W Us | Sp the | Su Cl | Do for

National Office
1010 Vermont Ave | Suite 400 | Washington D.C. | 20005 | 202.895.0420

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/31/2015 9:28:20 AM
Subject: Crises at Pacifica Radio

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Crises at Pacifica Radio

Michael Corcoran, Truthout: Pacifica Radio, the iconic progressive radio network, is currently dealing with several major crises, including an audit from the California Attorney General's Office, layoffs, divisive infighting and dwindling fundraising and listenership.

Read the Article

The United States' Hidden Hand in the Creation of Israel

L. Michael Hager, Truthout: Alison Weir's new book, *Against Our Better Judgment*, exposes little-known facts about Zionist manipulation of US policy makers in the creation of Israel in 1948. It helps explain how the United States became entangled in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the side of Israel.

Read the Review

Dispatch From Sundance: "How to Change the World"

Tom Roston, Moyers & Company: A ragged band of Canadians took a fishing boat into the frigid waters of the North Pacific Ocean in 1971 to try to stop a nuclear weapons test on the island of Amchitka. With that action, they started the environmental group Greenpeace and, in addition to saving many a whale, revolutionized political activism and advocacy journalism.

Read the Interview

The Death Penalty: Chaotic Tedium

Susanne Dumbleton, Truthout: Georgia is set to execute a man with an IQ of 70. Oklahoma is scheduled to execute a man whose guilt is questionable. California continues to fill up its death row and now has 749 residents. Who is served by this gruesome chaos?

Read the Article

Texas Town at Center of Latest Earthquake Swarm Questions Fracking Impact

Julie Dermansky, DeSmogBlog: The town of Irving,

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Measles Outbreak Grows to 107 Cases, Latest in Marin County
Read the Article at the Los Angeles Times

A Strained Alliance: Obama-Netanyahu Rift Grew Over Years
Read the Article at The New York Times

Ukraine, Rebels Gather for Peace Talks as Fighting Rages in East
Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

Going to a Public College

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Texas, experienced 12 earthquakes during a 48-hour period in January. Residents are concerned nearby fracking operations are the cause.

Read the Article

Young Navajos Stage 200-Mile Journey for Existence

Lyla Johnston, Idle No More: At dawn on January 6, 2015, a group of young Diné (Navajo) women and their supporters gathered at sunrise near the fire department at the base of Dzil Na'oodilii (Huerfano Mountain). From there the group embarked on a 200-mile trek through eastern New Mexico, as a tribute to the 150th anniversary of the tragic "Long Walk."

Read the Article

You've Heard of Hip-Hop, but What About Krip-Hop?

Making Contact, National Radio Project: "Krip-hop" is the name for the international movement of disabled artists, poets, musicians and MCs.

Listen to the Radio Program

Mourners for Black Queer and Trans Lives Attacked by Castro Bar

QTPOC Liberation, The Feminist Wire: Bar patrons in San Francisco's Castro District assaulted queer and trans people of color who had taken to the streets to challenge mainstream gay communities to combat anti-Black racism.

Read the Article

Pentagon Finally Identifies the Remains of a POW Lost Since 1942

Megan McCloskey, ProPublica: Long buried alongside hundreds of unknown US soldiers in the Philippines, the remains of Pvt. Arthur "Bud" Kelder are being returned home after a lawsuit by his family.

Read the Article

Progressive Policies Are Popular - So Why Should Democrats Be Afraid of Them?

Keane Bhatt, FAIR: Polls found large percentages of the public support policies like increasing the minimum wage, requiring paid sick leave and offering free community college. So why are Democrats so hesitant to support them?

Read the Article

Isn't as Affordable as It Used to Be
Read the Article at The Washington Post

The Worst Trade Deal You've Never Heard of
Read the Article at The Huffington Post

Evangelicals' Racist "Purity" Culture: What's Really Behind Huckabee's Beyoncé Slur
Read the Article at Salon

Native Communities Feel the Heat of Climate Change in the Southwest
Read the Article at MintPress News

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From: "Lauren Peterson" <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 8:45:02 AM
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Will nudge the approvals chain right now

On Jul 31, 2015, at 3:42 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I hope so! Can we get it going?

From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 3:40 PM
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Katie Dowd <kdowd@hillaryclinton.com >; Jenna Lowenstein <jlowenstein@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Is this happening?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 1:04 PM
To: Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Katie Dowd <kdowd@hillaryclinton.com >; Jenna Lowenstein <jlowenstein@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

ok by me

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 1:02 PM, Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> I vote for just replying directly with no period before the @ - people will see this and it will get pickup. We do need to shorten though - here's my attempt:
>
> @ marcorubio That's backwards—engagement's a threat to the Castros, not a gift. Embargo hasn't worked for 50 yrs. Cuban ppl deserve better -H
>
> On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:41 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > + Nick and Lauren.
> >
> > **From:** Brian Fallon [mailto:bfallon@hillaryclinton.com]
> > **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:39 PM
> > **To:** Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Cc:** Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> > **Subject:** Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> >
> > Like this (w the handle). Lets do it
> >
> > On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:35 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I like including his handle.
> > >
> > > .@marcorubio you've got it backwards: Engagement isn't a gift to the Castros -- it's a threat to the Castros. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Cuban people deserve better.

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On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.

From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.

On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Here we go...

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com>

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User Actions
Following
<image001.jpg> **Marco RubioVerified account** @ marcorubio

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--
Jeremy Massey
Research Department

847 736 9211
JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	10/29/2015 12:57:01 PM
Subject:	Clinton Foundation News & Guidance: Donor Update

Today, the Clinton Foundation updated its donor posting with contributors who gave in the third quarter of 2015, which included CGI's Annual Meeting. We wanted to make sure you were aware and had information about today's news. We were pleased with the results this quarter, because:

- Total amount donated to the Clinton Foundation in the first three quarters of 2015 is higher than the same period in 2014.
- The number of donors is higher compared to the first three quarters of 2014.
- Consistent with previous years and the first two quarters of 2015, approximately 90 percent of donations were $100 or less.
- CGI sponsorship revenue rose in 2015, with 33 new and returning sponsors. These include Procter & Gamble, The Coca-Cola Co., Microsoft, Goldman Sachs, Cisco, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Gap Inc., NRG Energy, Swiss Reinsurance Co., the Rockefeller Foundation and Western Union.
- Membership in CGI is strong, with 16 of the 30 companies in the Dow Jones industrial average part of CGI. First-time CGI members this year included Apple, Cardinal Health, Xerox and Zurich Insurance.

Donna Shalala posted a retrospective of the Foundation's work this past quarter on the Clinton Foundation blog:

> *"The Clinton Foundation has a strong commitment to transparency and accountability. In fact, we take measures that make us one of the most transparent nonprofits in the world—including disclosing all of our donors on a quarterly basis. We released the latest update just today."*

> *"Compared to this time last year, donations are up—both in terms of the amount donated and the number of donors. And, as was the case in previous years, about 90 percent of donations were in the amount of $100 or less."*

Read it here: https://www.clintonfoundation.org/blog/2015/10/29/our-donors-and-important-work-they-make-possible

Last month, Bob Harrison, the CEO of the Clinton Global Initiative, wrote an op-ed about how support for CGI has strengthened:

> *"Despite our mission, some have characterized the turnover of a handful of CGI's sponsors as 'trouble' for CGI and 'abandoning' the Clintons, but this is just another example of critics trying to politicize philanthropy, and the facts don't bear out the argument."*

> *"At CGI, corporations not only provide funding, but also apply their expertise in management, technology, manufacturing, distribution and research to help non-governmental organizations and foundations be more effective. These corporate commitments are providing better access to education and healthcare in the developing world, creating jobs and improving infrastructure in the U.S, and protecting the environment."*

Read it here: http://www.foxbusiness.com/business-leaders/2015/09/22/corporations-stay-committed-to-clinton-global-initiative/
Share the piece on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/646441578366672896
Share the piece on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/clintonglobalinitiative/posts/10153246430420318

And yesterday, the Chronicle of Philanthropy reported on the Foundation's hiring of Kevin Thurm as the new Chief Operating Officer:

> *"Kevin Thurm will serve as executive vice president and chief operating officer, Ms. Shalala said in a message to foundation staff. He will focus on strategy, day-to-day operations, and the Clinton Foundation's administrative units. He will report directly to Ms. Shalala."*

> *"'Kevin has been a trusted colleague and partner since he served as my chief of staff and then deputy secretary for HHS in the '90s, where he oversaw major policy and management issues, including the implementation of legislative initiatives like the Government Performance and Results Act and challenges like the 'Y2K' computer programming situation,' Ms. Shalala said, referring to the fear in 1999 of a breakdown in important communications when computers switched to 2000."*

Read the story here: https://philanthropy.com/article/Shalala-Hires-Former-Colleague/233964

The support to the Clinton Foundation has enabled specific programs to expand their work and reach even more individuals across the globe. Over the past three months, we have seen many examples of this work in the news:

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An Associated Press article looked at Commitments to Action that came out of CGI's Annual Meeting, profiled the unique commitment model. The piece cites several commitments, including:

> *"One such pledge has led to financial education for more than 1.2 million poor women and youths and scholarships for more than 10,000 students in Kenya. Another has spawned more than 430 successful online crowdfunding campaigns for projects centered on women and girls. A third, aimed at enlisting African-American churches in combatting HIV and AIDS, has trained more than 500 religious leaders."*
>
> *"We're in the middle of defining the terms of our interdependence in a world where so much of our identity is caught up in our differences," Bill Clinton said. "So our job, as citizens — those of us who have no political power — is to do what we can to build up the positive forces of our interdependence and reduce the negative ones."*

Read the piece here: http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/bill-clinton-global-initiative-results-34083188

In September, the Atlantic wrote about the importance of closing the word gap not only to resolve education consequences, but also to improve health outcomes saying, *"Children with more words do better in school. Adults who were good students and earned a college degree have longer life expectancies."* The article sites Too Small to Fail's "Talking is Teaching" campaign as one of the organizations focusing on this issue.

> *"There are certainly people watching, from state health officers in California and Indiana to academics at the University of Kansas. The White House has issued a 'call to action' to reduce the word gap, spotlighting the Georgia program specifically. And the Clinton Foundation has launched 'Talking is Teaching' through its early childhood Too Small to Fail campaign."*

Read the article here: http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/09/georgias-plan-to-close-the-30-million-word-gap-for-kids/403903/

At the beginning of September, Reuters published an article about climate change's effects on island nations and how the Clinton Climate Initiative's Islands Energy Program is helping to develop sustainable, renewable energy solutions.

> *"Dymphna van der Lans, CEO of the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), which is working with around a dozen Caribbean and East African island nations to develop and roll out renewable energy strategies, said there was both a moral and economic imperative for such states to transition away from costly diesel imports."*

Read the article here: http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/01/us-islands-climatechange-energy-idUSKCN0R13BB20150901

In August, Refinery29 posted a story about the Clinton Foundation's recent trip to Haiti, where they got a firsthand look at our work there and what we're doing to empower girls and women.

> *"I think there is such a case for optimism about Haiti," Chelsea says. "And also really about what women can do when we're truly unfettered." These female entrepreneurs strive for success not because it will bring them wealth or fame, but because with steady employment, they're able to economically support not just their families but also other women as well.*

Read the article here: http://www.refinery29.com/2015/08/92969/chelsea-clinton-foundation-haiti-women-empowerment#.mfdbkf:4DM6

In August, Forbes wrote about how the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership is working with CropConnect Enterprises to streamline the farming process in India. This partnership empowers farmers and reduces agricultural waste.

> *"Partnering with former president Bill Clinton and Canadian philanthropist Frank Giustra's Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, [CropConnect Enterprises] is currently working to create joint platform across India's often ignored northeastern states. They plan to introduce a crop cycle that allows farmers to maintain a sustainable business throughout the year by growing different types of fruits and vegetables."*

Read the article here: http://www.forbes.com/sites/abehal/2015/08/18/in-indias-disorganized-agricultural-sector-a-connector-of-crops-to-markets/

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <rduncan@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "R Duncan" <rduncan@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/17/2008 5:40:10 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 06/17/08

Main Topics: McCain's Oil Drilling Solution, McCain Courts The Females, Carly Makes the Rounds

Summary of Shift: Al Gore endorsement of Barack Obama was still a major focus of the morning news. As was the severe flooding that is currently ravaging the Mid-West. The Mississippi River continues to swell and overwhelm several levy systems causing mass flooding and devastation. New Orleans levy's are also still at risk. Floods in China have also wiped out small villages, already devastated by last month's earthquake, causing hundreds of deaths so far. Gay and lesbian couples in California have finally started being issued marriage licenses, and the presidential candidates positions on gay marriage was then covered. Tiger Woods epic battle to win the USOpen was featured heavily, as was a new study linking drinking coffee to fighting heart disease. Tim Russert's wake and funeral are taking place in DC today and tomorrow.
The Taliban have seized control of several villages and continue their uprising against the Afghani Government, after their high-scale prison break. Karzai has promised to send in more troops. McCain's attacks on Obama's Iraq stance and calls for him to visit the area and meet with the commanders on the ground were scrutinized, especially now that Obama has announced his upcoming trip there. Some wonder if he is playing into McCain's hand. The recent polls showing the gender gap continue to be a focus for commentary by surrogates from both parties. Carly Fiorina made the rounds, speaking on several stations about McCain's push for Hillary Clinton supporters. McCain's new plan and upcoming speech on new oil drilling was also featured.

Highlights:
1.) Carly Fiorina Makes the Rounds
   a. Carly Fiorina Talks About Oil Drilling and Women Voters For McCain
   b. Scarborough Hits Fiorina on McCain's Tax Cuts Flip-Flop
2.) McCain the Ladies Man
   a. McCain Aggressively Courting Women Voters, But Does He Even Have a Chance?
   b. McCain's Edge and Weaknesses (Women, Hispanics, Age) Examined
3.) Morning Joe Highlights Gorge Will's WaPo Editorial Calling Out McCain on his Position on Guantanamo Ruling
4.) Richard Haass Discusses the Difficulty of Labeling the Surge as Effective or Ineffective
5.) Scarborough: "I was a conservative's conservative but I took Greenpeace's position on offshore oil drilling."
6.) McCain's Lack of Energy and Enthusiasm During Energy Speech Mocked
7.) Scarborough Defends Lobbyists on Either Campaign
8.) Morning Joe Pans New MoveOn Ad: "Probably Going to Backfire"
9.) McCain's Gay Marriage Stance Examined
10.) Fox and Friends Covers Presidential Candidates Smoking Habits (No Clip)
11.) CNN Covers McCain Going After Obama On "Bitter" Comments & Not Visiting Iraq (No Clip).
12.) MSNBC reports on Cindy stealing recipes. (No Clip).
13.) MSNBC does a story on polls, asking if McCain is an "underdog" (No Clip).
14.) There Will Be Oil
   a. Local DC News Discuss McCain's Plans for Offshore Drilling (No Clip).
   b. Local DC News Reports on McCain's New Environment Ad.

Clips:

Highlight #1
Carly Fiorina Talks About Oil Drilling and Women Voters For McCain (CNN 06/17/08 7:26am)
JOHN ROBERTS: John McCain now saying that he supports offshore drilling, to find more U.S. oil. Right now there's a federal ban in place that stops states that might want to, from allowing oil drilling. Will it set up a battle in some key swing states this election year? Here to talk about that and McCain's efforts to gain more women voters is Carly Fiorina. She's the senior advisor for the McCain campaign, also the former CEO and chairwoman of HewlettPackard.

[...]

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Tell me a little bit about this proposal senator McCain will issue later on today to lift the federal moratorium on offshore drilling. Critics are saying it's not much more than an outreach for contributions from the oil and gas industry and maybe to try to take a swing at voters in Virginia, a state considering offshore drilling if it had the authority to do so.

CARLY FIORINA: John McCain begins a serious of conversations today with the American people about our energy crisis. He will talk as well about what it will take to achieve energy independence. John McCain first began talking about this subject about a year ago. Since then it's important to remember the price of oil has doubled in just a year. So clearly these are extraordinary times. He is proposing both a series of short term and long term measures. To your specific question, yes. He's calling for a lifting of the ban on offshore, off continental shelf drilling. It will still be up to the states to decide whether they will permit such drilling. Obviously this is a time now where we need to tap all of our own reserves of oil, natural gas, coal. He proposes basic research into clean coal. We need more sources of energy of our own.

ROBERTS: Some polls are suggesting that the majority of Americans may support a proposal to increase offshore drilling on the coast of the United States. But this proposal would also put him at odds with environmentalists who say it flies in the face of his plans to curb global warming. The real rich prize here in all of this, Florida. Governor Kris is well opposed, and environmentalists in the state of Florida are very much opposed to offshore drilling there. Could he ever get this through?

FIORINA: Ultimately, of course, as I said it will be up to the states to decide. Florida will have a decision to make. It's also important to remember that McCain has consistently said that the U.S. must take a lead in curbing global warming. It is why, despite his call for the lifting of this ban, he also will repeat today once again that he believes we must preserve pristine wildernesses like ANWR, like the grand canyon. He does not propose drilling there. Again, this is a time now where we are in foreign debt paying for foreign oil where the price of gas goes up every day. And so in addition to short-term solutions like the gas tax holiday which he has proposed for several months now, he also wants to talk to the American people about the longer-term solutions. Which are mining our own energy more effectively. But also turning to green technologies, nuclear power, all of those things that will help us achieve independence from foreign oil.

ROBERTS: Let me switch gears here a little bit. There's a battle raging on the campaign trail for disaffected Hillary Clinton supporters. You're involved in this outreach, you were on a conference call with John McCain other the weekend. Barack Obama is taking aim at this outreach to women saying quote about Senator McCain, "he has opposed equal pay, he has opposed the chip that's the health care program that would make children insured, he opposed efforts to protect women against some of the discrimination that they experience in the workplace," now that's not going to be a track record that's going to be very appealing to women. How do you respond?

FIORINA: Well first I think, John McCain has a very particular view about the role of government and he doesn't believe government should be regulating pay. Although, he certainly agrees that women need to be treated equally in the workplace. But very specifically, what I would say is this. No one should be taking the women's vote for granted. They represent 52% of the voting public. They start small businesses at twice the rate as men, the small businesses is the engine growth in this economy. So what John
McCain is talking to women about is the fact that they are an economic and political force. He wants to talk to them about issues that matter to their pocketbooks. They manage the family budget, for example.

ROBERTS: But according to recent polls Senator Obama has got a huge advantage in women voters. As much as 13% in some polls.

FIORINA: That lays out the challenge for us to make sure that women understand who John McCain is. What he stands for. And the reality is, that I have met many many women across this country who are very open-minded and eager to understand John McCain. I think that represents a huge opportunity for us. I think we'll narrow that gap considerably.

Scarborough Hits Fiorina on McCain's Tax Cuts Flip-Flop (MSNBC 06/17/08 7:52am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Now let's bring in somebody on the straight talk express. McCain economic adviser Carly

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Fiorina. Carly, has the straight talk express gone into the ditch like Barack Obama suggests?

CARLY FIORINA: Well, ou know, it's a great laugh line but it just isn't true. I think it's once again an ample of rhetoric not matching the reality. John McCain has a long track record of putting his country before his party. He has a long track record of standing up to his party and President Bush, when necessary. And that's no more clearer than on the subject of energy independence, which he will talk about today and begin a substantive dialogue with the American people on that all important subject.

SCARBOROUGH: Let's talk about taxes, though. Early in the Bush administration John McCain was one of only two republicans who voted against the Bush tax cut. He said America couldn't afford it and it was, in effect, tax cuts for the rich. Now, as we go into this campaign, that's going to be one of his top issues. He wants to renew George Bush's tax cut. That's not straight talk, is it?

FIRORINA: Actually, it is straight talk because he was absolutely right, which he usually is. We couldn't afford those tax cuts. . .when they were passed the first time. And that's because he said at the time that tax cuts must be coupled with a reduction in government spending. This Republican president, George Bush, and a Republican congress, have presided over a 55% increase in the size of domestic government spending in the last seven years.

SCARBOROUGH: Exactly. Carly—

FIORINA: That's out of control government.

SCARBOROUGH: Carly, hold on one second though. When those tax cuts were passed we had a balanced budget. We were coming off a $150 billion surplus. This year in 2008, we're going to run the biggest deficit in the history of America.

FIORINA: That's right.

SCARBOROUGH: Now it's time to cut taxes? If we couldn't afford tax cuts in 2002 we sure as hell can't afford them in 2008, can we?

FIORINA: Well, I actually disagree. Our economy is in difficulty. Now is not the time to raise taxes. 23 million small businesses file taxes as individuals. Those 23 small businesses would see the largest tax increase in American history. It is absolutely essential that spending in Washington be reformed, which John McCain will do, and John McCain will be able to balance the budget by the end of his first term. But let me just say—

SCARBOROUGH: H-how will he do that?

FIORINA: --it is Barack Obama who is proposing to raise taxes of every conceivable type. He admitted as much when he said the other day, well, maybe I would postpone my tax increases because they might harm the economy. And he's will said that all of his spending proposals are paid for. The only way that's possible is if he is raising taxes by a huge margin.

SCARBOROUGH: I want to talk ab—

FIORINA: --the way we're going to balance the budget is to grow the economy as well as reduce federal government spending.

SCARBOROUGH: We've been talking about Barack Obama and how his numbers don't add up all morning. He wants to increase spending and he also wants to cut corporate taxes. Let's go back to John McCain. And I really want to lean in on this issue because I just want to understand where Senator McCain is coming from and where you're coming from this morning. You said John McCain was against tax cuts in 2002 and he was right to be against tax cuts in 2002 because we couldn't afford them, because they weren't spending cuts.

FIORINA: That's right.

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SCARBOROUGH: Now you just said after six or seven years of some of the biggest, most wasteful spending in American history, now John McCain says, with a largest deficit in American history, probably coming in 2008, now you're saying we can afford those tax cuts? Spending is worse than it's ever been in American history.

FIORINA: What he is saying is two things. One, to repeal those tax cuts now would be in essence to levee the single largest tax increase in American history. You do not increase—

SCARBOROUGH: We can't afford it, can we?

FIORINA: Joe, let me just finish my sentence. Uh, you do not increase taxes when the economy is in grave difficulty. But he has also very quickly said that we must absolutely reduce federal spending. And he would propose to do that in a couple of very specific ways. One, he would put a freeze on all increases and discretionary spending over the next year. Two, he would review every single federal government program and post that on the internet for every American citizen to see. Three, he would veto absolutely every bill that had wasteful pork barrel spending on it. All of those bills, by the way, Barack Obama supported, whether it was the Farm Bill, whether it was the 2005 energy bill that Dick Cheney and President Bush supported. Only John McCain stood up and said, no. You're right. It's absolutely essential that we cut government spending. But the one man who knows how to do that is John McCain. But what we don't do increase taxes when our economy is going through a very difficult time.

SCARBOROUGH: Certainly, if he does those three things that you said he did, wanted to do, freezing discretionary spending and putting all of these wasteful programs up on the internet, he certainly will be doing something that George Bush hasn't done over the past six, seven years.

FIORINA: Absolutely.

SCARBOROUGH: And also something that John McCain has been one of the few Republicans in Washington that has been a champion, at least a fiscal restraint on the spending side.

Highlight #2
McCain Aggressively Courting Women Voters, But Does He Even Have a Chance? (CNN 6/17/08 6:25am)
JOHN ROBERTS: The battle for women voters on the most politics in the morning. John McCain might not be wearing a pant suit but he is trying to peel off disaffected supporters of Hillary Clinton. It's looking like it might be a tough go for McCain though. A recent Gallup tracking poll shows Barack Obama with a 13 percent advantage among women voters. So are women a lock for Obama? Let's ask Patricia Murphy.

[…]

So, John McCain actively courting Hillary Clinton supporters. But let's listen to a little of what he said in his appeal.

[McCain Clip Shown]

So there you go, the active outreach. Does McCain have any kind of a chance with these hard lined Hillary supporters? What are you hearing from them on your website?

PATRICIA MURPHY: Well, I think he has a chance with some of them. There has been some recent polling that most of those Hillary Clinton supporters, about 60 percent of them, have already decided to go for Barack Obama. But among that 40 percent that's left, we got about 20 percent I think that John McCain does have a shot with. 20 percent of those women are probably going to go off with Barack Obama eventually because he's so similar to Hillary Clinton on policy issues. But a lot of women that I'm hearing from, and I get emails from them all the time, are saying that either Barack Obama doesn't have the experience to be president, Hillary Clinton did, John McCain is their next choice. And the rest of them are just worried about how it all ended for Hillary Clinton, they are still very disappointed, they may go over to Obama but they're very open to supporting John McCain.

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[…]

The women who are still open to John McCain are still the ones who think that experience is more important than someone who's going to bring change.

JOHN ROBERTS: On that point, Barack Obama is ridiculing John McCain's outreach to these women, saying that he's wrong on every issue that matters to women voters. But, among white women at least, as we saw during the primaries, Barack Obama ran into some trouble. Hillary Clinton won white women running away. Does he have some work to do to court that very very important voting block this November?

MURPHY: He does, he has some work to do. He's very lucky he has a lot of women's groups who are helping him to do that. And they are that the more that women know about John McCain and his record, particularly on abortion and Roe v. Wade, that they will come over to Barack Obama rather than John McCain. But I will say, just because a candidate is pro-life doesn't mean they couldn't win the women's vote. Reagan won the women's vote both times and George H. Bush won the vote. So John McCain has an opening.

McCain's Edge and Weaknesses (Women, Hispanics, Age) Examined (ABC 06/17/08 7:05)
DIANE SAWYER: We heard what Senator Obama had to say about that, just 6 point spread between Senator McCain. What's the reason for this? Closer than it should be?

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: It is closer than it should be, Diane, because if you look at some other numbers, the fact that President Bush is at a record low approval rating, the fact that 84 percent of the country thinks that we're going in the wrong direction. That should indicate that Barack Obama should be farther ahead, but if you look at the key question of experience that may be what's holding him back. Only 50 percent of voters say that he has the experience to be president. A full 46 percent say no, he doesn't have the experience. They're going to have to work on that, that's one of the reasons they're going on these foreign trips. There also seems to be an age factor here, Diane. Barack Obama winning big with under 30 voters. Voters under the age of 30, 2-to-1, 63 to 30 but he is losing voters that are 65 and older. He is losing them by about 12 points. And it's the older voters who are the most reliable voters, the ones who are most certain to vote in November.

SAWYER: That's right. Those are the one's you can count on to show up at the polls. Traditionally, anyway. Which means, I guess, the battleground are middle-aged voters and of course, what about the independents?

STEPHANOPOULOS: Let's take a look at those numbers. You look at those two groups, and you got a dead heat going on right now. Voters, aged 30-64, those middle of the road, independent voters, they're breaking right down the middle. This is going to be a key battleground for both campaigns in to November. You know, Jake's up in Detroit up in Michigan, I'm here in Ohio this morning. I think you can look to this election to be fought over middle-aged, middle of the road politically voters, right here in the middle of the country.

SAWYER: Now Senator Clinton's voters, we've all been asking over the past month, are they going to stick with the democratic party or not? What did we learn from the poll? I know Hispanics, surprisingly went to Obama fairly heavily. But what about the rest?

STEPHANOPOULOS: Big time, Hispanics going 7-to-2 for Barack Obama. But Senator Clinton supporters are still holding back a little bit. You got about a 1⁄4 of Senator Clinton supporters now saying that they're going to vote for John McCain. If that number stays that high it's going to be difficult for Barack Obama to win. Here's another danger sign for Obama. He is losing married white women. Married white women to John McCain by 20 points. Now, George W. Bush won married white women as well but this is a huge gap that Obama has to close if he's going to do well. And I noticed in J. Tapper's interview there that Senator Obama is hitting on things like this children's health program like the issue of choice, that was designed to target these women voters.

SAWYER: And finally, the issue of race and age, the two sort-of enflamed categories out there.

STEPHANOPOULOS: So far race doesn't seem to play a huge factor, in this race Diane. 23 percent of voters say that it's a factor, but they split pretty evenly between Obama and McCain. Age is a much bigger factor,

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40 percent of the voters are saying they care about age and of those 40 percent they break very heavily by more than 20 points for Barack Obama over John McCain.

Highlight #3

Morning Joe Highlights Gorge Will's WaPo Editorial Calling Out McCain on his Position on Guantanamo Ruling (MSNBC 06/17/08 6:40am)

JOE SCARBOROUGH: And the Washington Post, George Will . . . "The day after the Supreme Court ruled that detainees imprisoned at Guantanamo are entitled to seek habeas corpus hearings, John McCain called it one of the worst decisions in the history of the country . . . does it rank with Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857)"

[not read but displayed on screen, editorial continues: "which concocted a constitutional right . . . to hold slaves . . .]

SCARBOROUGH: "Did McCain extravagant condemnation of the court's habeas ruling result from his reading of the 126 pages of opinions and dissents? More likel More likely some clever ignoramus convinced him that this decision would make the Supreme Court – meaning [which] candidates would select the best judicial nominees -- a campaign issue." And actually I think it will make it a campaign issue. So that clever ignoramus actually is clever because it does bring the Supreme Court into it.

Highlight #4

Richard Haass Discusses the Difficulty of Labeling the Surge as Effective or Ineffective (MSNBC 06/17/08 7:22am)

RICHARD HAASS: [No matter] who's the next president, we are going to gradually dial down our prescience but we're not going to withdraw . . . we're going to have withdrawals . . . where we'll cut back troops. But the United States is going to be in Iraq at a gradually reducing level for years to come.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: You know, we look at these stories and it's very easy to say: President Bush's surge worked. But there's actually an article in a recent Foreign Affairs that said it didn't work. That it's actually encouraging all the bad things to move forward.

HAASS: I think what the surge did is it recognized the principal reality: you've got to get the security situation right. . . and what mattered was less than increase in troops than the change in strategy . . .it wasn't the only thing . . . but it was one important thing.

SCARBOROUGH: You and Fareed Zakaria wrote about the United States standing in the world. It sounds like 1973 or 1979 all over again. People talking about how . . . the sun is setting . . . is a long term existence in Iraq, Afghanistan . . . is that a great threat to the United States. . . ? Are we being bled dry?

HAASS: No. We will be in places for years to come and we need to be. . . what we've gotta do is get our political and economic foundations right . . . we've got to reduce some of our military presence, we can't stay large everywhere but there's no way the United States can withdraw from the world . . .

SCARBOROUGH: But there's no way we can stay in Iraq with a 150,000 troops.

HAASS: And we won't. We should and we don't need to . . . my hunch is over the next four years, whoever is the next president we'll see less troops in Iraq, more in Afghanistan and continuing problems in Pakistan. . .

SCARBOROUGH: You're not wringing your hands now over the state of Iraq. Things are going in a better direction.

HAASS: I'd say in a better direction. But I say that without high confidence about the future. And even a better direction doesn't mean anything remotely looking like a normal country yet . . .

[. . .]

JOHN RIDLEY: . . . we have a poll of Americans in terms of foreign policy, trusting who could be president. John McCain is still narrowly beating Barack Obama. You'd think one of the lessons we learned over the last few

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years is we need a leader who's going to get the world galvanized together and it seems that the world is very excited over Barack Obama. . . will that make a big difference?

HAASS: It's really important because there's very little the United States can solve in the world on its own . . . we've got to be multilateral, like it or not.

Highlight #5
Scarborough: "I was a conservative's conservative but I took Greenpeace's position on offshore oil drilling." (MSNBC 06/17/08 8:13am)
WILLIE GEIST: [quoting headline] "McCain Seeks to End Offshore Drilling Ban" This is his aggressive response to high gas prices . . . a reversal of the position he's taken over the years and maybe a risky one for him?

CHUCK TODD: Ask Joe. I want to put the question to Joe. Can you name the last time a Republican got elected in the state of Florida for being for lifting the ban on offshore oil drilling?

JOE SCARBOROUGH: When I ran in 1994 in Northwest Florida I was this right-wing nutjob . . . I was conservative's conservative but I took Greenpeace's position on offshore drilling. No offshore drilling in Northwest Florida.

[. . .]

SCARBOROUGH: By the way, Jeb Bush, Connie Mack, all conservatives, all took that position.

TODD: I think that what McCain did, look, it's a pragmatic approach, he can make the pragmatic argument on this, saying, look, I believe that we've gotta work on these issues that are affecting climate change . . . but he's trying to argue, hey, we also need to have some shortcuts here . . . and maybe that means drilling offshore . . . but I tell you, McCain, maybe he thinks he has a big enough lead in Florida that he thinks he can risk this. But if I'm Obama today, I am doing everything I can to make sure that every single costal resident in the state of Florida knows that John McCain has somehow reversed himself on this issue. It is a potentially very vulnerable issue for McCain in Florida. That said, in the rust belt . . . those folks may say, "Hey, we gotta get oil from somewhere." It may be that McCain is kind of saying, ok I'm going to roll the dice here on Florida because I think I can make Obama look like too idealistic. . .

Highlight #6
McCain's Lack of Energy and Enthusiasm During Energy Speech Mocked (FNC 06/17/08 6:20am)
STEVE DOOCY: This afternoon down in Houston, at the Hilton American Airlines Hotel, John McCain is going to give a major energy speech. We know you are very concerned about the high cost of gasoline. […] But here's the thing, John McCain is going to say, we have got to lift off-shore drilling off the shores of states in the United States. He is still against drilling in ANWR, but now he's saying, hey things have changed. Just listen to this.

[McCain Energy Speech Shown]

BRIAN KILMEADE: Right, and of course, John McCain through the roof there with Vivarin and Red Bull. He's got to pick it up a little bit! That's a major announcement Senator McCain! Show a little vigor please! I'm nodding off in the middle. He's telling all the states, start drilling if you want, that's my idea. That's a major idea. Stop whispering.

DOOCY: He's a guy, he's a little bit more soft-spoken then you Brian. And a little bit more soft-spoken then Barack Obama.

ALISYN CAMEROTA: Maybe he likes substance over style.

KILMEADE: Good point.

Highlight #7
Scarborough Defends Lobbyists on Either Campaign (MSNBC 06/17/08 7:41am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: . . . it seems to me that some Washington insiders, while they like reform, are starting to

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get concerned . . . if you get a bunch of saints from outside of DC, who have no idea how Washington works, who have not had their hands stained at all by Washington, then things are going to start falling apart. Are you concerned that Obama has set the standard so high that it could cause him real problems in this campaign and beyond?

RICHARD COHEN: Yes. I am concerned, not only he, but John McCain also, have set a standard in which they're looking for such pure people that they almost have no past. You can't have been a lobbyist . . . you can't have done this, you can't have done that. You need people with experience. I mean this government is very hard to administer, these enormous problems facing the country, you need people who have been around the block a little bit. Anybody who's been around the block is going to pick up something along the way that may not look good on television for a minute or two, but you gotta stick with them . . .

SCARBOROUGH: And by disqualifying lobbyists! Let's face it, I don't know what people expect politicians and people that work in the administration to do . . . a lot of people that's how they work in between administrations. So if you disqualify lobbyists, you disqualify the smartest people in Washington

COHEN: And the most knowledgeable people in Washington . . . a good lobbyist gets around, a good lobbyist is a first class gossip . . . when John McCain talks about lobbyists with disdain, I understand what he's talking about but at the same time some of his closest friends are lobbyists, they may not be on the campaign at the moment—

SCARBOROUGH: Naw, he's got lobbyists involved in the campaign and Obama's got lobbyists involved in his campaign. That's the insanity of all of this.

Highlight #8
Morning Joe Pans New MoveOn Ad: "Probably Going to Backfire" (MSNBC 06/17/08 8:06am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: It appears that MoveOn.org is going to also weigh in on Iraq.

WILLIE GEIST: We just got this in, this is exclusive, this is the first time you'll see it. An ad from MoveOn.org attacking John McCain on the war.

[ad plays]

JOHN RIDLEY: I don't think it's a good ad. I think it's a powerful ad . . . it starts as more like a Dove ad, for Dove soap, kind of nice, kind of pleasant and then it takes kind of a sharp turn. I have other issues with it, it's kind of flat . . . but if you're really going to be effective I need something that's going to emote me more than momentarily saying, "You can't have my kid a hundred years from now." Again, talk about subtlety and I don't quite want to use this word because I don't want to sound sexist, but shrill and the ad does feel in some ways shrill instead of touching me as a father . . .

[. . .]

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: I'm just wondering what you think about the use of the "one hundred years." Because at this point I think it just feels like a cheap shot. That line has been almost practically revoked by John McCain, or at least clarified.

SCARBOROUGH: Well and even Frank Rich . . . who has been critical of John McCain and George Bush's position on the war, said that that's a cheap shot. That being said, if you say things like that, it's going to come abck and you're going to hear it time and time again in the campaign.

BRZEZINSKI: Actually, I think voters are smart enough to say, "Oh, they're using that line again."

[. . .]

SCARBOROUGH: I think lifting a baby and putting in front of a face to elect somebody, in any political race, is probably going to backfire.

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[. . .]

SCARBOROUGH: It has begun. The war of these independent groups. It doesn't really matter what McCain and Obama say about what kind of high minded, independent campaign they're going to run, it's going to get down to the mud pretty fast with these independent groups . . .

CHUCK TODD: It is. I think it was a borderline shameless ad. Using a baby like that. It just seems like a sledgehammer in the message that I guess they were trying to send. Stuff like that, it strikes me as an ad that's going to backfire a lot. Not a little. But the independent groups, you know, we'll see. You know, the Republican side, frankly, is having a hard time getting their independent groups funded. It has really become kind of a serious, competitive issue. MoveOn has never, never been at aloss for money and even though you've got Obama doing everything he kind to sort of discourage some major donors from getting other 527s started, MoveOn . . . has always been able to raise money.

Highlight #9
McCain's Gay Marriage Stance Examined (CNN 6/17/08 7:00am)
JOHN ROBERTS: Here's an extra look at where the presidential candidates stand on the issue. John McCain says marriage is between a man and a woman. He opposes a constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage. He supports legal benefits for same-sex partners.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/6/2014 8:30:48 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Sunday July 6, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday July 6, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

Reuters: "Hillary Clinton says Merkel is Europe's 'greatest leader'"

"Former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton called Chancellor Angela Merkel 'the greatest leader in Europe' during a visit to Berlin on Sunday and said it was high time America had a woman leader too, though without confirming she would seek the job."

Associated Press: "Spy Case Threatens to Sour German-US Ties Anew"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said at a book presentation in Berlin it's 'a serious issue.' 'Let's find out what the facts are and then let's act appropriately, but also try to be careful not to undermine the necessary cooperation which exists between us,' she said."

Politico blog: Politico Now: "McCain on being Clinton's 'favorite Republican'"

"Sen. John McCain isn't eager to embrace the title of 'Hillary Clinton's favorite Republican.'"

ITV: "Hillary Clinton on This Morning"

"Hillary Clinton on running for Presidency: 'I have to decide that it is the right thing for me and it is the right thing for my country at this time.'"

New York Times opinion: Jacob Heilbrunn, National Interest editor: "The Next Act of the Neocons"

"Even as they castigate Mr. Obama, the neocons may be preparing a more brazen feat: aligning themselves with Hillary Rodham Clinton and her

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nascent presidential campaign, in a bid to return to the driver's seat of American foreign policy."

Washington Post: "What's left of the political center?"

"We are in a time in which there are both rising expressions of independence from the two major parties by many Americans and elections in which the red-blue divisions are increasingly stark."

CNN: "The 'Inside Politics' Forecast: Hillary Clinton's European road test" [Excerpt]

"Hillary Clinton spent her Fourth of July across the Atlantic, selling 'Hard Choices' to a European audience and, as Politico's Maggie Haberman shares, looking to move past some of the rocky moments of her book roll out tour."

The Hill: "Mitt Romney's 2014 renaissance"

"Mitt Romney is looking to keep his sterling endorsement streak alive as the 2014 campaign transitions from primary to general election season."

Articles:

Reuters: "Hillary Clinton says Merkel is Europe's 'greatest leader'"

By Stephen Brown

July 6, 2014, 8:39 a.m. EDT

Former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Clinton called Chancellor Angela Merkel "the greatest leader in Europe" during a visit to Berlin on Sunday and said it was high time America had a woman leader too, though without confirming she would seek the job.

Clinton also referred to Russian President Vladimir Putin as a "tough customer with a pretty thin skin" in an appearance at a Berlin theatre to promote her new book, "Hard Choices".

The former senator and wife of ex-President Bill Clinton is widely expected to run for the White House in 2016 and has cited Merkel as a good argument for the United States having a woman president soon.

"I think we are ready for a woman to break through the glass ceiling," Clinton said in an interview with Bild am Sonntag newspaper, adding that she would decide whether to run for president "at the end of this year or early next year".

Clinton joked at the Schiller Theater about her and Merkel's shared taste for pants suits and voiced admiration for the chancellor's leadership of

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Europe in the euro zone debt crisis.

"I say in the book I think she is the greatest leader in Europe, I think she is a great leader globally, I think she carried Europe on her shoulders and it wasn't easy," she said.

Associated Press: "Spy Case Threatens to Sour German-US Ties Anew"

By Geir Moulson

July 6, 2014, 9:48 a.m. EDT

German-U.S. relations are facing a new test over a German intelligence employee who reportedly spied for the U.S., with Germany's president saying if the allegations are true, that kind of spying on allies must stop.

Prosecutors say a 31-year-old German was arrested last week on suspicion of spying for foreign intelligence services, and that he allegedly handed over 218 documents between 2012 and 2014. German media, without naming sources, have reported he was an employee of Germany's foreign intelligence service who says he sold his services to the U.S.

Germany's Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. ambassador Friday to help clarify the case. The country's top security official stepped up the pressure Sunday.

"I expect everyone now to assist quickly in clearing up the accusations - and quick and clear statements, from the USA too," Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere was quoted as saying in Bild newspaper.

The issue threatens to strain German-U.S. relations again after earlier reports that the National Security Agency spied on Germans, including on Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone.

If it turns out the U.S. "gave this kind of assignment to one of our intelligence employees, then it really has to be said: That's enough now," President Joachim Gauck said on ZDF television.

The head of a parliamentary committee investigating the activities of U.S. and allied spies, Patrick Sensburg, said he has no information that documents from the panel were spied on, but government documents destined for the committee may have been.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council have declined to comment.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said at a book presentation in Berlin it's "a serious issue."

"Let's find out what the facts are and then let's act appropriately, but also try to be careful not to undermine the necessary cooperation which exists between us," she said.

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Politico blog: Politico Now: "McCain on being Clinton's 'favorite Republican'"

By Kevin Robillard

July 6, 2014, 11:11 a.m. EDT

Sen. John McCain isn't eager to embrace the title of "Hillary Clinton's favorite Republican."

"I hope this program is blacked out in Arizona," McCain said on CBS's "Face The Nation." "Please cut this."

The former secretary of state named McCain as her favorite member of the GOPduring an interview last month. Asked by host Bob Schieffer who his favorite Democrat was, McCain didn't return the compliment.

"I think it's my job to work with every president, if she regrettably obtains the presidency," he said, adding: "I respect Hillary Clinton. I may not agree with her."

ITV: "Hillary Clinton on This Morning"

[No Writer Mentioned]

July 4, 2014

Hillary Clinton on running for Presidency: "I have to decide that it is the right thing for me and it is the right thing for my country at this time"

On her marriage to Bill: "I knew he was trouble from the moment I met him"

On meeting Obama post losing out in the US Primaries: "It was like an awkward first date"

During an interview on today's This Morning programme on ITV, Hillary Clinton explained to hosts Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford how she would normally celebrate Independence day. Hillary said, "We would be at home, we'd probably go to a barbecue or a picnic, we'd go see the fireworks, that's what we always do and I do miss it but I'm happy to be here" Before praising the British weather.

On her new book, Hard Choices, Hillary expressed some of the hard choices she has had to face during her personal and professional life. She said "Obviously to get married, to stay married, to take care of my ageing mother, she lived with us for the last years of her life. To worry about my child and now my future grandchild... I don't know any woman who doesn't worry about the hard choices we face and it is always a challenge to try to make sure that you're being responsible in making those choices and I respect people who make responsible choices but that doesn't mean they're less hard it just means they come at different points in your life and you have to be ready for them."

Explaining how she balances personal choices and choices up for scrutiny on the world stage, Hillary explained, "I was in a front row seat helping to make some of the hardest choices during the four years I served as Secretary of State. How do you gather information, how do you know it's right, who can you trust? … You have to make these decisions and you know that you're an imperfect person and you know that you have imperfect information and you know that no matter what you decide there will be consequences, some of them unintended."

When asked if she is able to sleep at night when juggling all these things, Hillary admitted, "Yes I can, because what I try to do during the day,

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which is always very intense and active for me, is to do the best I can… Leaders are like citizens, we have our strengths and we have our weaknesses and I think in a democracy what is so great about our system of government is we pick among the citizenry, there is no ordained leader… each of us who's given a responsibility has to do the best we can. I fault people who don't try to do the best they can. I believe that someone in whatever position whatever job, if you're doing the best you can… I give you my respect."

Following her confession of enjoying book tours - and Eamonn requesting her to sign his copy - Hillary revealed how enjoyable she found writing the book and the reasons for doing it and what people will learn from it. She said, "I hope that they will see that the curtain has been pulled back on how you make these hard choices or at least how we made them… I have a whole chapter on women's rights and gay rights because for me, that's unfinished business, I think we have to do more to make sure every woman and girl has a chance to fully participate and I think we have to end discrimination and other forms of abuse against gay people. I want people to know what my values were, what the United States was doing, what we stand for and see whether there's any points of identification."

When pushed on the big question of running for President in 2016, Hillary looked into Eamonn eyes and confessed, "I don't know. And the reason I don't know is because I know a lot about the job. I have had the most extraordinary front row seat in the administration of my husband obviously. After 9/11 I had to work very closely with President Bush because I was a Senator from New York, I had to deal with the horror of our being attacked and then serving as a partner and friend to President Obama. It is such an overwhelming job."

Hillary added, "We have a lot of very capable people, I am absolutely confident that we have in my party, the democratic party, a number of people who are governors, senators, others who could compete and be successful. I have to decide that it's the right thing for me and it's the right thing for my country at this time. I am going to become a grandmother, to me, that's really exciting… I want to fully participate in that experience, I don't want to be looking over the shoulder of my new grandchild thinking 'what am I going to be doing next year' I want to be really focused on what's important in the here and now."

On working mother guilt and whether she feels it, Hillary admitted, "I'm very proud of my daughter and very grateful that I'm her mother but I also invested a lot of time and effort into being the best mother I could be, not perfect by any means, but the best that I could be and I want to do the same for my grandchild and I really feel at the end of the day the most important responsibility that any parent has is to do that."

Recalling the campaign against Obama and their first meeting post his win, Hillary confessed, "We knew each other before that campaign, and it was a very hard fought campaign. Everything you saw was exactly what was going on."

She added, "We met - it was like an awkward first date between teenagers, just the two of us one on one - after the end of the primaries and we sat and talked and cleared the air between us. We had a glass of wine. Did I swear? Not in that meeting! But what I told him was exactly how I felt. It had been hard fought. He won, I lost. And I was going to do everything I could to get him elected President. He asked for my help, he asked for Bill's help... and we did more than a hundred events to try to help him and we were thrilled and relieved that he won."

Before continuing, "And there were rumours that he might offer me something but I really didn't not believe them because there are always rumours... but I went to see him, he asked me to be his secretary of state. And I said no! I also said no to my husband the first two times when he asked me to marry him, so this is like a pattern that I have with these charismatic men!"

On not taking Bill's name when she first got married, Hillary explained, "He didn't mind at all, it was everyone else that minded. And that's why I became Hillary Rodham Clinton as that covered every ones concerns. But it is a right, it's a choice... and it's one of the choices a woman should make. But when I made the decision to become Hillary Rodham Clinton, I felt very comfortable with that."

Opening up about standing by her husband during difficult times with indiscretions, Hillary revealed, "It is such an individual choice and I have lived long enough to have had close friends go through similar situations. Some have made the choice to continue the relationship and some not to, for me, it was a very hard choice but the right choice to choose forgiveness and to continue what had become such a central part of our lives. I'm very grateful that that was the decision I made, but I'm also very respectful when others make a different decision."

She added, "I believe I would have made exactly the same decision if we had of been Mr and Mrs Smith, but when you're in public and people are throwing their views at you, you really have to be very conscious of listening to your own heart and not being pushed or pulled prematurely in one direction or another... and that was challenging."

When Eamonn said 'as they say in Ireland, do you still fancy him?' Hillary replied, "Yes. Because I knew he was trouble from the moment I met him! That's why I turned him down twice when he asked me to marry him! He is an extraordinary combination of intelligence and charisma, but also of empathy and kindness and sensitivity...he was raised to really try and put himself in another person's shoes, so he's always very aware of what others are going through and I find him incredibly fanciable!"

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On what her husband feels about her decision to stand for Presidency or not, Hillary said, "He says very clearly that he will support whatever I decide and that's the right attitude. He knew from a very young age that he knew he wanted to run for public office and maybe some day run for president... but I never thought that. It was not something that I grew up believing. So he's a great guide as he's been through it and understands the various difficulties of the decision making."

New York Times opinion: Jacob Heilbrunn, National Interest editor: "The Next Act of the Neocons"

By Jacob Heilbrunn

July 5, 2014

After nearly a decade in the political wilderness, the neoconservative movement is back, using the turmoil in Iraq and Ukraine to claim that it is President Obama, not the movement's interventionist foreign policy that dominated early George W. Bush-era Washington, that bears responsibility for the current round of global crises.

Even as they castigate Mr. Obama, the neocons may be preparing a more brazen feat: aligning themselves with Hillary Rodham Clinton and her nascent presidential campaign, in a bid to return to the driver's seat of American foreign policy.

To be sure, the careers and reputations of the older generation of neocons — Paul D. Wolfowitz, L. Paul Bremer III, Douglas J. Feith, Richard N. Perle — are permanently buried in the sands of Iraq. And not all of them are eager to switch parties: In April, William Kristol, the editor of The Weekly Standard, said that as president Mrs. Clinton would "be a dutiful chaperone of further American decline."

But others appear to envisage a different direction — one that might allow them to restore the neocon brand, at a time when their erstwhile home in the Republican Party is turning away from its traditional interventionist foreign policy.

It's not as outlandish as it may sound. Consider the historian Robert Kagan, the author of a recent, roundly praised article in The New Republic that amounted to a neo-neocon manifesto. He has not only avoided the vitriolic tone that has afflicted some of his intellectual brethren but also co-founded an influential bipartisan advisory group during Mrs. Clinton's time at the State Department.

Mr. Kagan has also been careful to avoid landing at standard-issue neocon think tanks like the American Enterprise Institute; instead, he's a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, that citadel of liberalism headed by Strobe Talbott, who was deputy secretary of state under President Bill Clinton and is considered a strong candidate to become secretary of state in a new Democratic administration. (Mr. Talbott called the Kagan article "magisterial," in what amounts to a public baptism into the liberal establishment.)

Perhaps most significantly, Mr. Kagan and others have insisted on maintaining the link between modern neoconservatism and its roots in muscular Cold War liberalism. Among other things, he has frequently praised Harry S. Truman's secretary of state, Dean Acheson, drawing a line from him straight to the neocons' favorite president: "It was not Eisenhower or Kennedy or Nixon but Reagan whose policies most resembled those of Acheson and Truman."

Other neocons have followed Mr. Kagan's careful centrism and respect for Mrs. Clinton. Max Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, noted in The New Republic this year that "it is clear that in administration councils she was a principled voice for a strong stand on controversial issues, whether supporting the Afghan surge or the intervention in Libya."

And the thing is, these neocons have a point. Mrs. Clinton voted for the Iraq war; supported sending arms to Syrian rebels; likened Russia's president, Vladimir V. Putin, to Adolf Hitler; wholeheartedly backs Israel; and stresses the importance of promoting democracy.

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It's easy to imagine Mrs. Clinton's making room for the neocons in her administration. No one could charge her with being weak on national security with the likes of Robert Kagan on board.

Of course, the neocons' latest change in tack is not just about intellectual affinity. Their longtime home, the Republican Party, where presidents and candidates from Reagan to Senator John McCain of Arizona supported large militaries and aggressive foreign policies, may well nominate for president Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, who has been beating an ever louder drum against American involvement abroad.

In response, Mark Salter, a former chief of staff to Senator McCain and a neocon fellow traveler, said that in the event of a Paul nomination, "Republican voters seriously concerned with national security would have no responsible recourse" but to support Mrs. Clinton for the presidency.

Still, Democratic liberal hawks, let alone the left, would have to swallow hard to accept any neocon conversion. Mrs. Clinton herself is already under fire for her foreign-policy views — the journalist Glenn Greenwald, among others, has condemned her as "like a neocon, practically." And humanitarian interventionists like Samantha Power, the ambassador to the United Nations, who opposed the second Iraq war, recoil at the militaristic unilateralism of the neocons and their inveterate hostility to international institutions like the World Court.

But others in Mrs. Clinton's orbit, like Michael A. McFaul, the former ambassador to Russia and now a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, a neocon haven at Stanford, are much more in line with thinkers like Mr. Kagan and Mr. Boot, especially when it comes to issues like promoting democracy and opposing Iran.

Far from ending, then, the neocon odyssey is about to continue. In 1972, Robert L. Bartley, the editorial page editor of The Wall Street Journal and a man who championed the early neocon stalwarts, shrewdly diagnosed the movement as representing "something of a swing group between the two major parties." Despite the partisan battles of the early 2000s, it is remarkable how very little has changed.

Washington Post: "What's left of the political center?"

By Dan Balz

July 5, 2014, 7:37 p.m. EDT

In a politically polarized nation, what constitutes the middle ground?

The answer is not as simple as it might seem. We are in a time in which there are both rising expressions of independence from the two major parties by many Americans and elections in which the red-blue divisions are increasingly stark.

Party identification tells one part of it, the story of a country moving away from allegiance to the major political parties. A decade ago, about one-third of Americans described themselves as independents, according to Gallup surveys. Today that's grown to four in 10 or more. In some states that allow registration by party, the biggest increases have been among those who decline to identify with either the Republicans or Democrats.

Voting behavior tells a different story. In recent elections, at least nine of every 10 people who identify themselves as Republicans or Democrats — or who say they are independents but lean toward one party or the other — vote for the candidate of their party down the ballot. In 2012, only about 11 percent of voters said they cast split tickets. The percentage of true independents may be only about 10 percent of the electorate.

The trend toward polarized politics is well documented. From the most recent studies by the Pew Research Center to a sizeable body of continuing work by political scientists, it's clear that partisanship drives a considerable portion of the electorate. The gap between those on the left and right — especially among the most politically engaged citizens — is deeper and more passionately expressed that it was in the past.

About a fifth of the population is now either consistently conservative or consistently liberal, according to Pew's analysis. Add to that those

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citizens who are generally conservative or generally liberal and that accounts for, roughly, an additional 40 percent of the population. That leaves about four in 10 somewhere in the ideological middle. According to Pew, that middle ground has shrunk over the past decade or so, when it accounted for half the population.

Those in the middle are often assumed to be moderate in their political outlook. If that's the measure, they too constitute a smaller share of the electorate than they once did. Until 2009, according to Gallup's historical tables, moderates were the largest group in the electorate — more than four in 10. Last year, 34 percent of Americans identified themselves as moderate, the lowest found by Gallup in its polls.

Today a plurality of people describe themselves as conservatives — but the group that has risen most rapidly in the past few years are those who call themselves liberals.

Independents are still more likely to call themselves moderates than as liberals or conservatives. What Gallup has seen in recent years is that more and more independents describe their ideology as conservative.

The reason for that, according to Gallup's analysis of the numbers, is that people who once called themselves Republicans now say they're independents. Their party identification has changed but not necessarily their ideology.

Still another factor that complicates the picture is the fact that people who may be classified as part of the political middle aren't necessarily in the middle of the electorate and doesn't mean they really are moderate in their views.

The Pew study in fact found something quite different. People who didn't fall into the polarized extremes sometimes hold views similar to those who are. They're just not consistent about it. "Being in the center of the ideological spectrum means only that a person has a mix of liberal and conservative values, not that they take moderate positions on all issues," according to the Pew analysis.

One consistent finding is that those who now constitute the middle are less active politically than those on the left or right. "The voters in the middle tend to be much less engaged in politics than those near the poles — less interested, less attentive, less knowledgeable and less active," said Alan Abramowitz, a political science professor at Emory University. "So the more active and knowledgeable the set of voters, the more polarized they tend to be."

The Pew study looked at the electorate in another way, grouping people into different categories based on a variety of measures. This typology, the latest in a series dating to 1987, described eight distinct groups among the population. Seven of the groups are politically engaged. The other is on the sidelines — not even registered to vote.

Three of the seven politically engaged groups are the partisan anchors for either the Democrats or the Republicans. "Steadfast Conservatives" and "Business Conservatives" are loyal to the Republican Party and "Solid Liberals" are attached to the Democratic Party. Together they make up 36 percent of the population, 43 percent of registered voters and 57 percent of the people who are politically engaged.

Among those not at the polarized wings of the electorate are three groups that lean toward the Democrats — "Hard-Pressed Skeptics," "Next Generation Left" and "Faith and Family Left" — and one that aligns with the Republicans — "Young Outsiders." These four groups make up 54 percent of the population but only 43 percent of politically engaged people.

Notably they are more difficult to categorize in their political behavior. As the Pew study put it, they are "less partisan, less predictable and have little in common with each other or the groups at either end of the political spectrum. The one thing they do share is that they are less engaged politically than the groups on the right or left."

However disparate, however disengaged and whatever its size, the middle of the electorate cannot be ignored by either party. The shifting sentiments of these voters have caused big swings in elections over the past decade. In 2006, independents swung one way and helped Democrats take control of the House. In 2010, they went the opposite way and gave Republicans control of the House.

Gary Jacobson, a political science professor at the University of California at San Diego, describes the political middle this way in an e-mail message: "It does not form a potentially coherent coalition around which some political entrepreneur might build a centrist party," he wrote. "People in it are more susceptible to short-term political tides (because they are less partisan and ideological) and thus help to swing elections."

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CNN: "The 'Inside Politics' Forecast: Hillary Clinton's European road test" [Excerpt]

By John King

July 6, 2014, 8:47 a.m. EDT

CNN's John King and other top political reporters empty out their notebooks each Sunday on "Inside Politics" to reveal five things that will be in the headlines in the days, weeks and months ahead.

Washington (CNN) – This week's final trip around the "Inside Politics" table unearthed some glimmers of Democratic hope this midterm election year, a potential replay of sorts in Kansas and a glimpse at Hillary Clinton's hopes for the Europe leg of her book tour.

1. Hillary Clinton's European road test

Hillary Clinton spent her Fourth of July across the Atlantic, selling "Hard Choices" to a European audience and, as Politico's Maggie Haberman shares, looking to move past some of the rocky moments of her book roll out tour.

Clinton has a few more interviews where her allies expect she's going to continue cleaning up a lot of the fallout from the dead-broke gaffe and some of her other missteps.

Then she's going to disappear for most of the summer - in the Hamptons.

And the hope from her allies, according to Maggie, is that she has learned something from what went wrong in the last couple of weeks and will demonstrate that in the fall.

…

The Hill: "Mitt Romney's 2014 renaissance"

By Cameron Joseph

July 6, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Mitt Romney is looking to keep his sterling endorsement streak alive as the 2014 campaign transitions from primary to general election season.

The former GOPpresidential nominee has a perfect record after getting involved in a number of competitive Republican races this year. Now, with Senate control on the line and his party eager to add to their House majority, he's turning his attention to helping many of those same candidates in tough fall battles.

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Free from the pressures of daily life in the spotlight, Romney has undergone a latter-day renaissance, rebuilding his public image after a brutal 2012 campaign.

Two years later, he's being welcomed on the trail with open arms as one of his party's most sought-after surrogates. Republican candidates and strategists salivate over his fundraising prowess and seem less and less worried about potential baggage from appearing with him.

"As an elder statesman in the party, he's able to endorse good, conservative candidates that can win. For too long the party has been without someone who can help the most conservative candidates who can win a primary and still win the general," said Ryan Williams, a former Romney aide who is now working former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown, now running in New Hampshire.

Romney stumped with Brown on Wednesday in the Granite State, just the latest in a crowded schedule of campaign events. He's already headed to more than a dozen states to help the GOP, from New York and California to Idaho and Michigan.

The former Massachusetts governor has endorsed 33 candidates this election cycle, including many facing competitive primaries. So far, not a single one has lost.

The prodigious fundraiser has held about two dozen campaign and fundraising events for those candidates and the national party, including major fundraisers for the Republican National Committee, National Republican Senatorial Committee, National Republican Congressional Committee and Republican Governors Association.

And he's not done yet. Sources close to Romney say he's in the midst of scheduling another round of campaign trips for his allies heading in mid- to late-August.

With his presidential hopes gone, Republicans say Romney is able to help boost candidates without regard for his own political fortunes. He's repaying allies and helping the party wrestle down candidates the GOP establishment believes could cost them seats and hurt their national brand.

His deep fundraising network, maintained by former Romney finance chairman Spencer Zwick, remains a powerful weapon for the GOP. Candidates and committees have also taken advantage of renting his robust email list, Targeted Victory, for online fundraising.

Strategists say Romney may not be universally beloved, but say the stench of the 2012 campaign has mostly faded. They also point out that he won most of the states and districts the 2014 campaign is being fought in, particularly with red-state Senate seats the GOP hopes to flip.

Even though his primary appeal may be to donors and not voters in the general election, he's still playing a critical role for a party that lacks someone with the star power of a President Obama or Hillary Clinton.

"He's a tier-one fundraiser," said one national GOP strategist whose organization has benefitted from Romney's help in recent months. "His skill is primarily fundraising."

Romney was one of the first big-name Republicans to back Iowa state Sen. Joni Ernst in her come-from-behind primary victory. He helped boost her struggling fundraising and low name recognition to give national Republicans the candidate they wanted in the open seat race. A number of Romney's past Iowa staff are involved in Ernst's campaign.

"Romney got behind Joni before anybody did, back in February, back before anyone else had endorsed us, before the squeal ad or anything," Ernst spokeswoman Gretchen Hamel said. "He got out early behind Joni and did bring some attention to her."

He also played a big role in helping Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) slay his Club for Growth-backed Tea Party challenger. Romney came into the heavily Mormon district for fundraisers and campaign rallies, and cut an ad for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to boost Simpson's campaign.

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"We are proud to have worked closely with Gov. Romney in Idaho and the Iowa Senate race," Chamber political director Rob Engstrom told The Hill in an email. "His support for American free enterprise speaks for itself.

Democrats are still trying to reuse some of their old playbook against Romney, attacking the blue- and purple-state candidates who have appeared with Romney. But most privately admit that Romney can raise big money and won't be their main boogeyman this fall.

"There are some states he's been a liability in, but not nearly as much as the Republican candidates themselves are," said Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee spokesman Justin Barasky. "Joni Ernst is a bad fundraiser and Mitt Romney can provide her a boost. But she has a whole host of problems he can't fix."

Romney's flurry of events come as his numbers have improved and President Obama's have sunk. A recent poll from Quinnipiac University found that 45 percent of voters thought the country would be in better shape had Romney beaten Obama, while 38 percent disagreed.

"The fact that candidates are so eager to be endorsed and supported by Gov. Romney show that he's much more popular than he was even a year ago. He's an elder statesman, serious, sober with gravitas in the party and he's really taken up the mantle of elder statesman," said Williams.

All that activity has led to some buzz about Romney running for president one more time. But he's repeatedly ruled out a third presidential bid, and those close to him dismiss the notion.

"I'm crossing my fingers but I don't think that's likely," Williams laughed. "He's pretty emphatic in ruling that out."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· July 6 – Berlin, Germany: Sec. Clinton is interviewed at Schiller Theater (AFP)

· July 7 – France (AFP)

· July 8 – France (AFP)

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

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From:	"Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs" <info@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	10/5/2015 3:26:06 PM
Subject:	You're Invited: Wendy Sherman & David Sanger on Iran Deal

This message contains graphics. If you do not see the graphics, click here to view .

HARVARD Kennedy School
BELFER CENTER for Science and International Affairs

"The Iran Nuclear Negotiations"

Wendy Sherman
Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
Chief American Negotiator, 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal
Institute of Politics Fall 2015 Resident Fellow
Undersecretary for Political Affairs, US State Department (2011-2015)

David Sanger (moderator)
National Security Correspondent, *New York Times*
Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

October 6, 2015 – 6:00PM
JFK Jr. Forum
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, MA, 02138

No RSVP required. Open to the public.



April 3, 2015 – Wendy Sherman arrives at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland after participating in Iran nuclear talks in Switzerland.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can watch a live stream of the event – just visit this page at the scheduled date and time. Or, you can view the recording at your convenience once it is posted to the IOP website .

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <tbudak@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/2/2016 5:49:05 AM
Subject: Speaker Added: Confronting the Challenges of Instability in Eastern Europe

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

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The German Marshall Fund of the United States is pleased to invite you to:

Invitation

Confronting the Challenges of Instability in Eastern Europe

Friday, February 5, 2016
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

The conversation will be on-the-record.

Speakers

Mircea Dan Geoană, President, Aspen Institute Romania; former President of the Senate, Romania

Sorin Dan Mihalache, Head, Romanian President's Chancellery

Ambassador George Maior, Ambassador, Embassy of Romania

Moderator

Ivan Vejvoda, Senior Vice President for Programs, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Location

The German Marshall Fund of the United States
1744 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

RSVP

If you have any questions, please contact Taylor Budak at +1 202 683 2603 or tbudak@gmfus.org .

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Romania stands at the crossroads of Europe's many current challenges. With Russia's aggression in the East and the refugee crisis pouring in from the South, Romania must deal with the various internal and external consequences. As the potential for instability increases, Romania continues to seek policies to alleviate these pressures in line with EU and NATO positions, remaining a strong partner in the region. The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) invites you to a discussion with former Romanian Senate President Mircea Dan Geoană, Head of the Romanian President's Chancellery Sorin Dan Mihalache, and Romanian Ambassador George Maior on the challenges facing Romania. This event will be on-the-record and moderated by GMF Senior Vice President Ivan Vejvoda.

Mircea Dan Geoană is president of the Aspen Institute Romania and a current Romanian senator. He is also a member of the boards of the Aspen Institute U.S., Aspen Italia, and Aspen Germany. He was the former president of the Romanian Senate from December 2008 to November 2011. Prior to that, Dr. Geoană was the chairman of the Romanian Social-Democrat Party (PSD) from 2005 to 2010, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Romanian Senate, and a member of the European Integration Joint Committee of the Romanian Parliament. In January 2006, he was elected chairman of the Socialist International Committee for Southeastern Europe. Dr. Geoană also previously served as the Romanian foreign minister from 2000 to 2004.

Sorin-Dan Mihalache was appointed head of Presidential Chancellery on December 22, 2014 right after the election of Klaus Iohannis as president of Romania. He has broad political experience, having led numerous political, policy, and communications campaigns on behalf of the National Liberal Party between 2009 and 2014 and President Iohannis in 2014. From 2004 to 2008, Mihalache served a complete term as member of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies, while in 2006 and 2007, he held a seat as observer and then as member of the European Parliament (MEP). Prior public positions include secretary general of the Romanian Senate from 2013 to 2014, deputy secretary general of the Romanian government in 2012, and advisor to the Romanian prime minister from 2001 to 2004. He is a graduate of the Bucharest University Law School and the National Defense College, and has a doctoral degree in political science.

George Cristian Maior has served as ambassador of Romania to the United States since September 2015. Prior to this, he served as director of the Romanian Intelligence Service. In November 2004, he was elected senator in the Romanian Parliament, where he held various positions, including chairman of the Committee for Defense, Public Order and National Security; member of Joint Committee for the Parliamentary Oversight on the Foreign Intelligence Service Activity; and member of the Senate Committee for Human Rights, Cults and Minorities. Between 2000 and 2004, he held the position of state secretary and head of the Department for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Defense Policy within the Ministry of National Defense. In 1992, he received his LL.M. in International and Comparative Law at the George Washington University, Washington DC, and in 1997, he was conferred a PhD in International Law at the "Babeș Bolyai" University in Cluj Napoca.

Ivan Vejvoda is senior vice president for programs at GMF. From 2003 to 2010, he served as executive director of GMF's Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions in Southeastern Europe. Vejvoda came to GMF in 2003 from distinguished service in the Serbian government as senior advisor on foreign policy and European integration to Prime Ministers Zoran Djindjic and Zoran Zivkovic. Prior to that, he served as executive director of the Belgrade-based Fund for an Open Society from 1998 to 2002.

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From:	"The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	8/5/2015 12:20:01 AM
Subject:	The Daily 202: Jeb, in damage control mode, highlights risk of GOP's war on Planned Parenthood

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Jeb Bush being interviewed by Dr. Russell Moore in Nashville yesterday. Trying to appeal to Southern Baptists, the former Florida governor made a damaging aside about funding for women's health. (AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Jeb Bush gave valuable ammunition to Democratic ad makers yesterday when he declared ,"I'm not sure we need half a billion dollars for women's health issues," while referring to the debate over Planned Parenthood. Bush tried to clean up his comment with not one but two statements. The second version added the words "I misspoke."

The kerfuffle highlighted how hard it will be for Republicans to play offense on women's issues in a sustained way. In 2012, pro-life candidates blew two winnable Senate races with comments about rape and abortion, as Mitt Romney lost women by double digits. Republicans were much more cautious in 2014, even running commercials touting their support for widely-available birth control. Using the embarrassing undercover videos of Planned Parenthood officials, another of which came out yesterday, social conservatives have convinced GOP operatives that this will be a winner in 2016. A handful of Republicans running for president are now threatening to shut down the federal government this fall to try cutting off Planned Parenthood, which is already barred from using federal funds to pay for abortion.

Even after the hard-to-defend videos, the group is still viewed favorably by 45 percent of Americans, according to this week's NBC/Wall Street Journal poll . Only 30 percent view it negatively. As a point of comparison, the same poll found that Jeb is viewed positively by 26 percent of Americans and negatively by 40 percent.

Bottom line: The GOP does not have the numbers to ultimately succeed, as demonstrated by a test vote on Monday, and it is inconceivable that there would not be more inartful comments like Jeb's during a prolonged legislative battle. Sensing the opportunity to run the war-on-women playbook, Hillary Clinton quickly pounced on Twitter:

> .@JebBush : You are absolutely, unequivocally wrong. — Hillary Clinton (@HillaryClinton) August 4, 2015

Bush's comment even drew rebukes from the right. *"Yeesh,"* tweeted the political editor at the conservative site Townhall, Guy Benson, arguing that the comment will help

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Democrats "obfuscate" on Planned Parenthood's "barbarity" by "conflating" the issues. A senior writer at The Weekly Standard, John McCormack, wondered : "Isn't one benefit of an establishment candidate supposed to be that he's not going to make gaffes like this?" Meanwhile, on the left, the Huffington Post said the "unforced error" evoked the ghost of Romney. On the defensive, trying to get the right to rally around him, Bush responded to Clinton on Twitter last night:

> .@HillaryClinton what's absolutely, unequivocally wrong is giving taxpayer $ to an org whose practices show no regard for lives of unborn — Jeb Bush (@JebBush) August 4, 2015

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



Hillary Clinton checks her phone while on a C-17 en route to Libya in October 2011. (REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque)

— The FBI has begun looking into the security of Hillary's private e-mail setup. The Post scoops that agents have in the past week contacted a Denver-based technology firm that helped manage the unusual system. "Also last week, the FBI contacted Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall, with questions about the security of a thumb drive in his possession that contains copies of work e-mails Clinton sent during her time as secretary of

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state," Carol D. Leonnig, Rosalind S. Helderman and Tom Hamburger report. "The FBI's interest in Clinton's e-mail system comes after the intelligence community's inspector general referred the issue to the Justice Department in July. Intelligence officials expressed concern that some sensitive information was not in the government's possession and could be 'compromised.' The referral did not accuse Clinton of any wrongdoing, and the two officials said Tuesday that the FBI is not targeting her."

New details raise fresh questions about the security of Clinton's system: The server installed in her Chappaqua, N.Y., home as she was preparing to take office as secretary of state was originally used by her 2008 presidential campaign. The staffers who set it up had limited training in computer security: "In 2008, responsibility for the system was held by Justin Cooper, a longtime aide to the former president who served as a personal assistant and helped research at least two of his books. Cooper had no security clearance and no particular expertise in safeguarding computers, according to three people briefed on the server setup." The email system was also unreliable: it crashed for days after Hurricane Sandy in October 2012, while HRC was still at State.

— Terrible New Hampshire numbers show why Hillary launched a $2 million ad buy this week: A WMUR Granite State Poll published last night shows Clinton leads Bernie Sanders by only 6 points, 42-36, with 5 percent backing Joe Biden. The sample is small (276 likely Democratic primary voters), but it follows a national NBC/WSJ survey that shows Clinton's unfavorable numbers rising among crucial constituencies, including white women, young people, independents and African Americans.



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Kasich during his announcement speech on July 21 in Columbus. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

— John Kasich and Chris Christie have made the cut for Fox News' debate tomorrow night. Rick Perry did not. Based on an average of the five most recent national polls, the 10 candidates invited to be on stage for the 9 p.m. Eastern debate are Donald Trump (23.4%), Jeb Bush (12.0%), Scott Walker (10.2%), Mike Huckabee (6.6%), Ben Carson (5.8%), Ted Cruz (5.4%), Marco Rubio (5.4%), Rand Paul (4.8%), Chris Christie (3.4%) and John Kasich (3.2%). The five polls included in the average were conducted by Bloomberg, CBS News, Fox News, Monmouth University and Quinnipiac University.

The Fox News Decision desk emails to defend the inclusion of Kasich over Perry: "Given the over 2400 interviews contained within the five polls, from a purely statistical perspective it is at least 90% likely that the tenth place Kasich is ahead of the eleventh place Perry."

Whatever the methodology, it is a really big break for Kasich. It would have been humiliating for the sitting governor of Ohio to not appear among the top 10 at a debate in Cleveland. The slight uptick in support seems to validate his super PAC's decision to run a big ad buy in New Hampshire, and Kasich's decision to announce in the weeks before the debate, hoping that he would get some kind of a bounce.

Besides Perry, who is being relegated to the underdog debate? Rick Santorum, Bobby Jindal, Carly Fiorina, Lindsey Graham, Jim Gilmore and George Pataki. These seven will appear together at 5 p.m. Eastern, where each will almost certainly try to make a splash to get their way into coverage of the main debate.

Jindal's super PAC will broadcast an ad on Fox News during the main debate. "The debate in Cleveland is all about a celebrity, but one candidate is moving up where it counts, in Iowa: Bobby Jindal," a narrator says. Jindal is shown at a town hall meeting saying, "If you elect somebody to D.C. that wants to be popular with the mainstream media, we are done as a country." Watch here .

GET SMART FAST:

1. With 14 large fires raging across California, the U.S. Forest Service will issue a report today warning that two-thirds of its budget could go to fighting wildfires within a decade. Compare that to 16 percent in 1995. (Chris Mooney)
2. Jeb received more than $9 million in income since January 2014 by delivering speeches, sitting on boards of directors and helping to manage private investment firms, according to a disclosure filed last night. This means he has received about $38 million in income since leaving the Florida governorship in 2007.
3. The FAA is investigating low-fare Allegiant Air after multiple emergency landings and

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in the midst of its pilot union questioning safety standards.

4. With no warning , long-term care insurance premiums have risen for federal workers and military personnel.
5. Capitol Police arrested an active-duty Marine who works for Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), after authorities found a loaded .45-caliber handgun in his vehicle during a routine security screening, The Hill reports.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. President Obama will heavily echo John F. Kennedy's 1963 speech supporting a nuclear-test-ban treaty in a speech at American University today to sell his own nuclear deal with Iran.
2. Marco Rubio is doing an event in Cleveland today at a restaurant owned by a booster of the effort to legalize marijuana in Ohio.
3. Rupert Murdoch has spoken by phone with Donald Trump to try mending fences after calling the businessman an embarrassment. CNN's Brian Stelter describes the call was "cordial and forward looking."
4. Trump told Bloomberg that Paul Volcker would be a model for the kind of Federal Reserve chairman he would appoint if elected.
5. Scott Walker is rolling out his 65-member Iowa leadership team today. It includes more than one-third of the state's senate Republicans and six state representatives. (Des Moines Register)
6. Walker will sign the Milwaukee Bucks arena funding bill, unpopular among movement conservatives, on August 12th at the state fair park. (WITI)
7. Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy broke up , the Muppets characters announced on Twitter, part of a play to drum up publicity for a new show on ABC.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

–"How the Obama White House runs foreign policy ," by Karen DeYoung: "…it may be too late to change impressions of an [National Security Council] bureaucracy whose size has come to symbolize an overbearing and paranoid White House that insists on controlling even the smallest policy details, often at the expense of timely and effective decisions. When the president has wanted to move swiftly on some of his most ambitious policy initiatives — the opening to Cuba and the early Iran nuclear negotiations — he has circumvented the usual practice for decision-making and kept a close hold within the White House…, the NSC, designed in Harry Truman's time to coordinate sometimes-conflicting diplomatic and defense views, is still widely seen as the place where policy becomes immobilized by indecision, plodding through months and sometimes years of repetitive White House meetings."

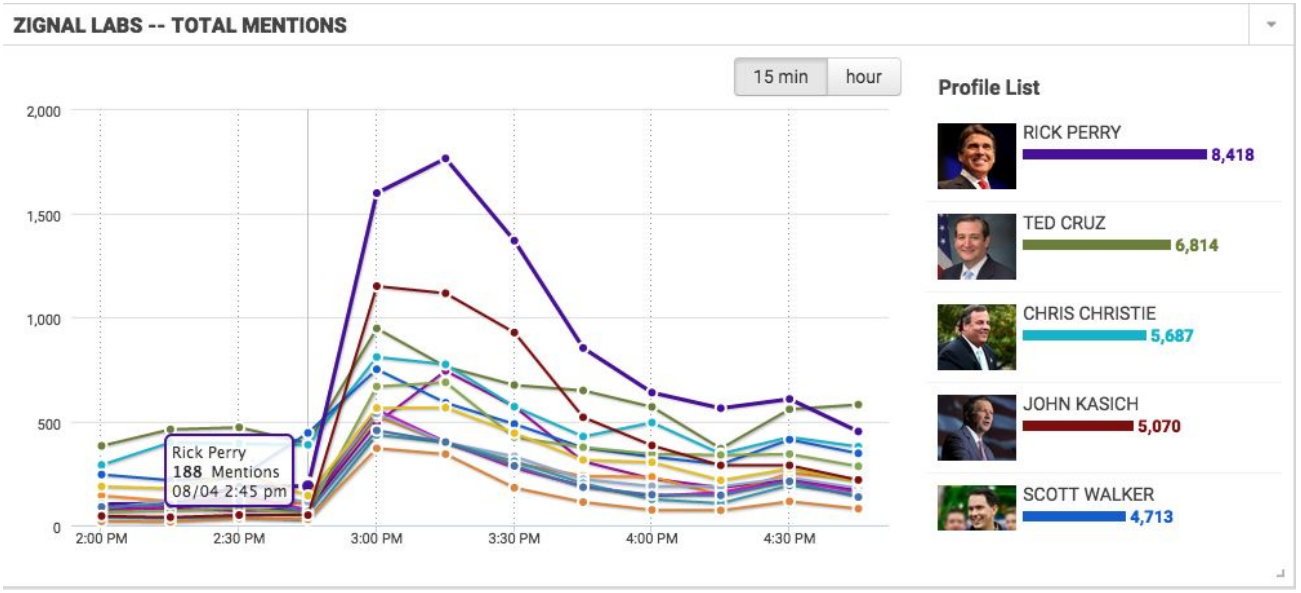
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— New SEC rule "could reveal the huge pay gap between CEO and worker pay," by Drew Harwell and Jena McGregor: "Thousands of public U.S. companies are likely to soon be forced to share a number many would rather keep under wraps: how much more their chief executives make than their typical rank-and-file employees. The Securities and Exchange Commission is expected to finalize on Wednesday a long-delayed rule forcing businesses to share their "pay ratio"… Fifty years ago, the typical chief executive made $20 for every dollar a worker made; now, that gap is more than $300 to $1, and it's growing."

— "Chelsea Clinton steps into the spotlight, on her own terms ," by Jessica Contrera: "Today, the woman who could become America's only two-time first daughter has decided: If the spotlight must always shine on her, she might as well use it in her favor…She isn't quite a celebrity. Or a philanthropist. Or a politician, though let's not rule that out. Now serving as vice chair of her family's foundation, she has reinvented herself as a champion of uncontroversial causes, her life an endless string of grand entrances, polite speeches, photo-ops — after which she retreats to her eight-figure Manhattan condominium, expecting the media and the public to preserve the boundaries she has cherished since childhood."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Real-time monitoring of the field shows that most of the news surrounding the announcement of who got into debate centered on Perry missing the cut and Kasich locking up the final spot. This graph shows mentions of the GOP field between 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern. Look at how Perry and Kasich get separation from the field:



–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Pictures of the day:

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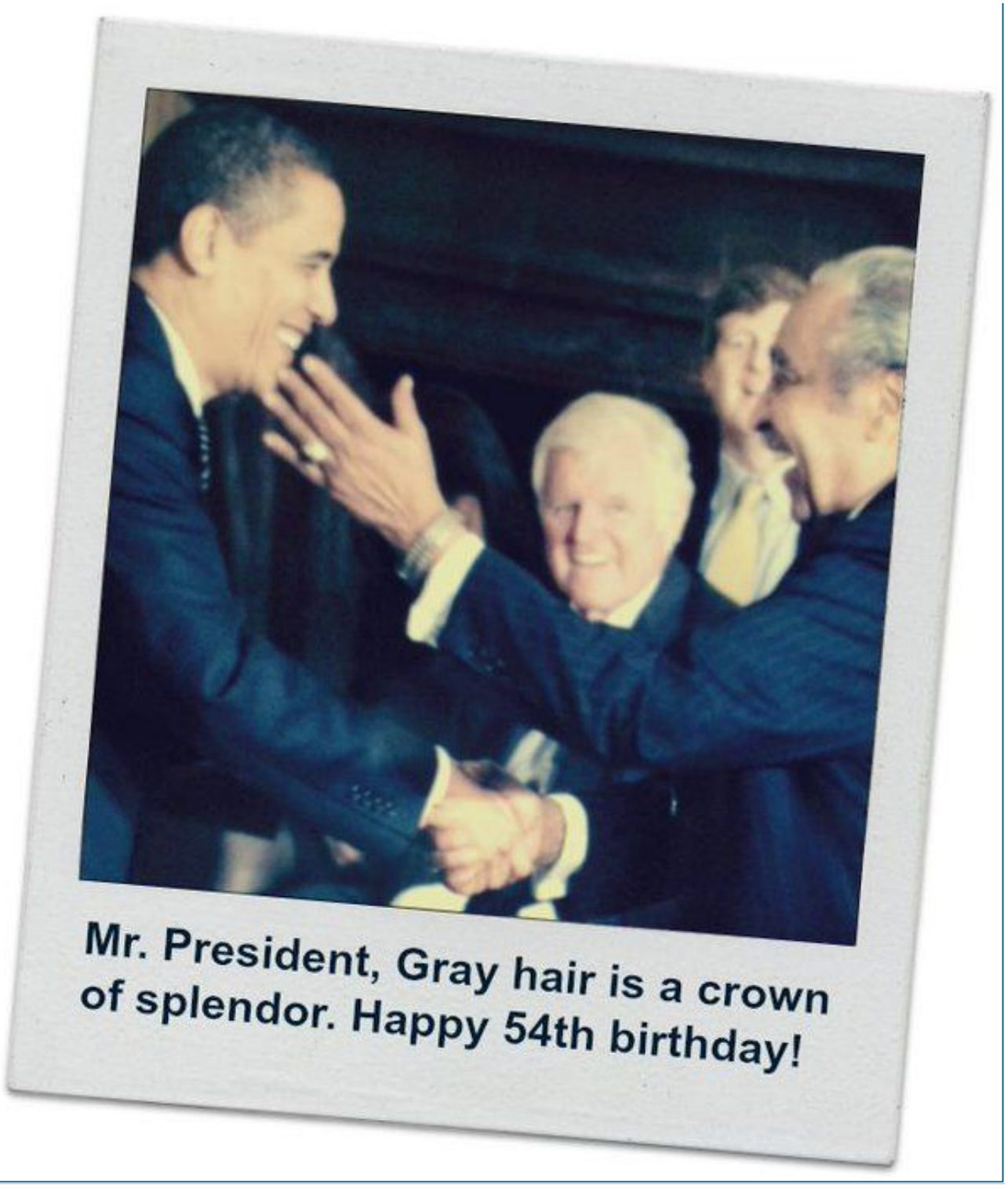
Snakes on a train? A five-foot-long black snake was spotted eating a bird yesterday morning at the Naylor Road stop of Metro's Green Line (Read WaPo's story here):



(@jfdulac)

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) wished President Obama a happy birthday on Twitter. "Gray hair is a crown of splendor; be proud & keep doing great work!" he wrote:

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(@cbrangel)

First lady Michelle Obama also marked the occasion, tweeting “Happy birthday to a loving husband, wonderful father and my favorite dance partner. 54 looks good on you, @POTUS!”

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(@FLOTUS)

Tweets of the day:

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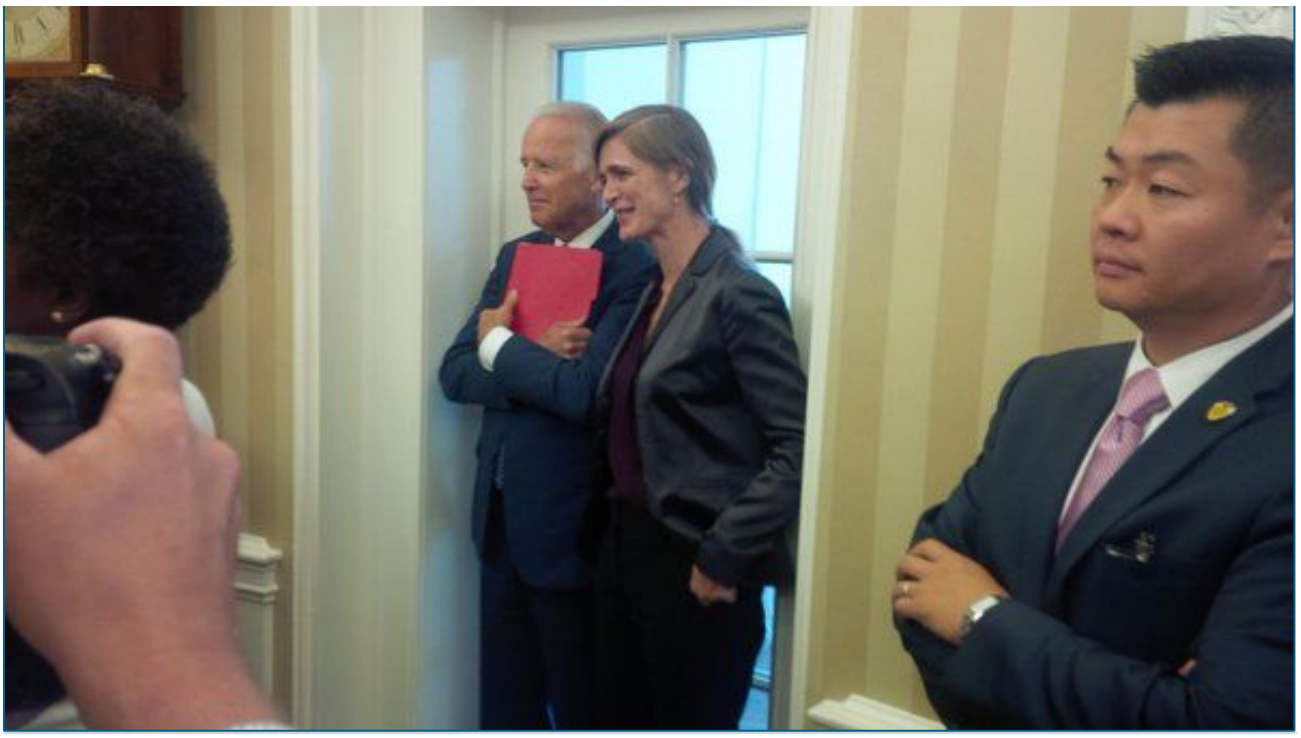
Members of the Congressional Black Caucus met with Apple CEO Tim Cook to push for more diversity in the technology industry:



(@GKButterfield)

As he left the Oval Office, Vice President Biden was asked by reporters if he's going to run for president. "Only if you're my running mate," he quipped to the Wall Street Journal's Carol E. Lee:

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(@carol_e_lee)

Instagrams of the day:

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) started the day by paddle boarding:

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(tulsigabbard)

Speaker Boehner (R-Ohio) wished a happy birthday to the U.S. Coast Guard:

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(speakerboehner)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— The New York Times, "Friends of Joe Biden worry a Run for President Could Bruise his Legacy," by Carl Hulse and Jason Horowitz: "Those supporters, in the White House and the Senate, and within the political circles he has moved in for decades, fear that the legacy Mr. Biden has built as an effective partner who took on tough jobs for President Obama, not to mention the deep reservoir of public good will and sympathy he has amassed in his poignant handling of personal tragedies, could be sacrificed in the pursuit of an unsuccessful challenge to Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination…While the concern about Mr. Biden appears widespread among his political allies, few seem eager to tell him out of fear of hurting his feelings and seeming to be presumptuous about a decision that is all too personal."

— Los Angeles Times, "4 Uber Drivers Cited at LAX Have Serious Criminal

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Records," by Laura J. Nelson and Joel Rubin: "The drivers have been convicted of child exploitation, identity theft, manslaughter and driving under the influence, according to court records. Each offense would make them ineligible for a city of Los Angeles taxi permit…The disclosures come as the Los Angeles City Council weighs whether to assert jurisdiction over a new airport permit process that would allow Uber and other app-based ride companies to legally pick up passengers at LAX."

— Portland Press Herald, "Opponents of Gay Marriage Suffer Another Loss in Bid to Conceal Donors to Maine Campaign," by Steve Mistler: "The National Organization for Marriage has lost another round in its attempt to hide the identities of donors to a successful 2009 referendum campaign that reversed Maine's marriage equality law…the Maine Supreme Judicial Court refused the organization's request for a stay that would have enabled it to delay complying with a state ethics board ruling that it must file a report identifying the sources of the $2 million that NOM gave to the referendum drive…The decision Tuesday sets the stage for NOM to proceed with an appeal before the Supreme Judicial Court."

BUZZING AT THE CAPITOL:

— The Hill, "McConnell eyes fall talks to avert shutdown ," by Alexander Bolton: "Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) on Tuesday said he would begin negotiations with Democrats to prevent a government shutdown in September. The majority leader vowed there would not be another shutdown on his watch — but it could be difficult to avoid, given the long list of thorny issues he will have to tackle this fall. Funding for the government is set to run out at the end of September, and Democrats and the White House want to increase defense and non-defense spending."

— Politico, "Iran deal foes spend big, get little so far ," by John Bresnahan and Anna Palmer: "Pro-Israel groups have spent more than $11 million on a TV ad blitz aimed at scuttling President Obama's nuclear deal with Iran, but so far they aren't gaining any ground with House and Senate Democrats. Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran, created by the powerful American Israel Public Affairs Committee, has shelled out more than $11 million since mid-July running ads pressuring lawmakers to vote against the deal when it comes before Congress next month … The group has been running network TV ads in 23 states, spending more than $1 million in California, Florida, New York and Texas, respectively."

"Yet the CNFI ad blitz doesn't appear to have moved any Democratic votes at this point. … Just on Tuesday, Democratic Sens. Barbara Boxer of California, Tim Kaine of Virginia and Bill Nelson of Florida publicly declared their support for the agreement … New York Reps. Nita Lowey and Steve Israel both came out against Obama's deal on Tuesday … However, none of the 151 House Democrats who signed on to a May 7 letter to Obama

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urging a negotiated settlement over Iran's nuclear weapons program have come out against the P5+1 agreement at this point. Unless the anti-deal forces begin making inroads into that group — which has so far held steady — Congress will not be able to derail the agreement."

— The Hill, "Senators struggling to reach 11th-hour cyber deal ," by Cory Bennett: "The Senate is on the verge of punting again on a long-stalled cybersecurity bill that supporters say is needed to bolster the nation's failing digital defenses. According to several people with knowledge of the negotiations, senators are struggling to reach a deal to restrict floor debate and swiftly move the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA) — intended to boost the sharing of data on hackers between the public and private sectors — before the Senate's month-long August recess. While Democrats had apparently settled on a list of roughly a dozen amendments as of Tuesday afternoon, Republicans were still working Tuesday evening to determine which amendments they wanted to see the light of day."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Jon Stewart takes a big parting shot at Fox News. From the Huffington Post : "Jon Stewart has [a few] more nights left in the 'Daily Show' chair, but on Monday he delivered what may be his parting shot at longtime nemesis, Fox News. The network's talking heads have called him a 'tool' of President Barack Obama, referred to the pair as having a 'bromance' and described the comedian as an administration 'propagandist.' So where's the evidence? Instead, Stewart played clip after clip of Fox News hosts over the years gleefully pointing out his many disputes with the administration."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Fifth Planned Parenthood video turns to "intact" fetuses. From The Hill : "A Planned Parenthood official discusses the procurement and cost of 'intact' fetuses and altering abortion procedures to meet specific needs in a video released Tuesday … In the fifth of a series of videos from the Center for Medical Progress, a woman identified as Melissa Farrell, director of research for Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, discusses contributing to the organization's 'diversification of the revenue stream' and the potential to 'get creative' with conditions for procurement needs. The video was reportedly filmed in April at a Planned Parenthood facility in Texas."

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DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Marco Rubio holds a meet-and-greet in Cleveland. Martin O'Malley will speak at the opening of his campaign's new office in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Hillary Clinton will raise money in Portland, Oregon.

–On the Hill: The Senate will convene at 9:30 a.m. to resume work on a cybersecurity bill.

–At the White House: President Obama will deliver remarks on the Iran nuclear deal at American University.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I'm a Catholic, but I've used birth control, and not just the rhythm method, okay?" – Chris Christie at a New Hampshire town hall yesterday morning . "My church has a teaching against birth control. Does that make me an awful Catholic…? I don't think so."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— The Nationals beat the the Arizona Diamondbacks, 5-4.

— "We have a good chance to tally our 13th straight 90-degree day at Reagan National today. Yet the lower humidity and nice breeze make for a pretty pleasant day despite the heat. Tomorrow starts nice, too, before shower and storm chances rise late tomorrow and into Friday," the Capital Weather Gang reports.

VIDEO OF THE DAY:

Jimmy Fallon poked fun at Donald Trump in a sketch about preparing for the GOP debate:

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(The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon)

For President Obama's 54th birthday, The Hill newspaper documented his increasingly graying hair. Watch the video ("Obama graying through the years") here .

Speaker Boehner told the Golf Channel why he's too much of a sinner to run for president: "I smoke cigarettes, I drink red wine… I cut my own grass." Watch the clip here .

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) went skeet shooting with CNN's S.E. Cupp in Prince George's County. Watch the package here .

Bobby Jindal did a push-up contest for BuzzFeed at its New York office. Watch the Louisiana governor take on the ghost of his 2009 State of the Union response here .

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The Washington Post

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/14/2008 7:59:27 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: Palin Rally in Scranton, PA 10/14/08

Hello All,

Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- Says there are world's standards of perfection and then there are god's and those are the final measure (in talking about what she's learned from Trig)
    - Goes into long discussion of her personal experience of having baby with special needs - Says when she and Todd first learned about having kid w/ special needs, they were scared and prayed (now they feel blessed)
- Tweaks attack on Obama for troop funding; says once our young men and women are over there in war zone, you dont vote to cut off funding for troops as obama did. not for political reasons. obama caved to political pressure. that makes me question his judgment and ambition.
- Adds "retraining workers" to list of exceptions from McCain's proposed spending freeze
- Touts McCain's newly unveiled economic plan; picks up talking points he started using yesterday (
- Says whether biden approves it or not, well develop these and look to goodness of clean coal. - our plan for clean coal will create 30k new jobs, e.g. in OH and PA
- Repeats yesterday's lines acknowledging anger about lobbyists, Wall Street, Washington elite, *and anger about voter fraud* (concludes, let john mccain turn that anger into action)
- Absent are mentions of Obama's connection to Ayers or his abortion record

Scranton, PA: Palin Rally 10/14/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Palin, accompanied by Todd, walks out into packed sports complex, Crowd chants Sarah! Sarah!
- Signs: "Read my lipstick," "Pennsylvania clings to Sarah" "Another Democrat for McCain"

Speech Highlights

- very good to be back in PA. all you soccer moms and basketball moms and hockey moms, TY for being here to support us. i appreciate you coming out here. this si a beautiful showing of support. i know suome of you have been waiting for some time so we're gonna do something special. you don't just wanna hear me talk. a lil special: welcome Lee Greenwald on stage. [comes up in track suit]
    - Lee Greenwald: That's the wrong music.
    - Palin: hey if everything's going alright that means youre going to slow.
    - [Lee Greenwald leads crowd in National Anthem]
    - LG: as an entertainer, i always felt like i had a role to play in uniting america. just like GP. -- 25 yrs ago i wrote this song to unite america and it still does -- here is my anthem, "God Bless the USA"
- SP: That was beautiful. Before we start a couple of other fellows i'd like you to meet:
    - AK's First Dude Todd Palin - he knows how to work with his hands, Steelworkers Union, 4x snow mobile champ - he knows something about tight races and how to make it to finish line
    - how many of you follow the Iditirod? 4x Idititorod champ, Martin Boozer - another fellow from AK
    - we're learning a lil something about races from these guys who have been the underdog but come out on top
    - and a minute to recognize those who have served our country in uniform [points to individuals, gives them thumbs-ups and thankyous]

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- [someone yelling]
- we are 3 wks from election day - itll come down to wire in PA
- we're taking our cause of reform to every voter of every party and every backgrd - we're asking for your vote - are you ready to carry this state to victory? [USA! USA!] are you ready to make john mccain the next POTUS? and are you ready to shake things up in DC? [cheers]
- there is so much at stake. our econ is in crisis, financial mkts collapsing, retirement at risk, jobs vanishing. our country is facing tough times, we need tough leader. we need bold plan of action - not just words - to take this country in new direction.
- we know across america there's a lot of anger about insider dealing of lobbyists, and greed on Wall Street and about arrogance of washington elite, and anger about voter fraud [cheers]. america, let mccain turn that anger into action.
- so just this morning, john mccain set forth a plan to help those who have been hardest hit in this economic crisis. our pension and family security plan. this is going to get our country through a time of testing and it's going to get the economy back on the right track. under this plan, we'll help american families keep their homes and save failing neighborhoods and bring stability to our housing market.
- see predatory lenders that has so taken advantage of a lot of good americans, now those americans are struggling under the weight of the wrong mortgage. so we're going to work with them to get them a fixed rate mortgage that will help them keep their homes. not a handout, but a handup to help them keep their homes. a lot of retirees, a lot of our esteemed elders in this country and folks nearing retirement, they're worried about their loss of savings in this crisis and only john mccain has a plan to change the tax code immediately so that americans can keep money in their retirement accounts and rebuild their savings.
- instead of just giving more billions of tax dollars to the wall street bankers and brokers who got us sloo this mess, john has a plan to help america's workers and small business owners because they're the ones that make the economy run. john and i will bring tax relief to every american and every business so that business owners, you business owners out there, so that you can hire more people. that's how jobs are created. allowing you to keep more of what you earn. and then reinvest. that is how jobs are created
- we'll eliminate unfair tax on unemployment benefits b/c those making a concerted effort to find work shouldnt have to worry about another tax
- mccain has the backbone to confront $10T deficit and we will balance budget by the end of our term. a $10T debt that we're expected to pass onto kids and grandkids. thats not fair. when you're in a hole, you have to quit digging.
- how do we do that? 1st, impose spending freeze to cover all but most vital functions of govt like worker retraining and taking care of vets
- in this great community and those like it, all ppl asking is for govt to be on side to have job in hometown, a plant gate to walk thru and ...
- americans cant afford more tax increases, esp not at time like this. obama had 94 chances to be on your side but was on other side, even on hardworking individuals making just $42k / yr. taxes already too high, but he wants to raise them. govt spending too much, and he wants nearly $1T more. he wants to deepen our debt. americans just cant afford another big spender in WH.
- as sen, mccain who was known as maverick and patriot -- took on special interests and his own party sometimes and other party -- took on wasteful spending and corruption and abuses in Washington. As pres, he'll end those abuses whatever it takes. you can get to know someone via track record. mccain has record of fighting the system when it's not right. i too have track record. not just talking the talk. i had the opportunity to walk the walk and to show you what my intentions are also then in supporting john mccain.
- as mayor, i eliminated personal property taxes, small bus. inventory taxes, annoying things like business license renewal fees. as gov, suspended state fuel tax and vetoing nearly $0.5 in wasteful spending - certainly when you do that, you ruffle some feathers. but you do what you have to do for ppl who hired you. i took chunk of suprlus and gave it back to ppl. we got back to basics in AK and put govt back on side of ppl b/c i always knew i was accountable to the ppl who hired me, the ppl of AK. in a mccain-palin administration, we'll never forget that we're there for you, the ppl of america. [sarah! sarah!]
- mccain also - we have mission to set country firmly on a path to energy indep. develop new energy sources and find better ways to tap into sources we've already got, drilling, mining, nuclear. i get to talk about coal w/ you all b/c you get it. tapping into domestic resources instead of relying on foreign countries to produce it for us. ridiculous. when prices were as high as they were over summer, we were circulating $700b, some of money ends up in hands of ppl who dont like america
- biden said there's no such thing as clean coal [angry yelling] he said even if there were clean coal, in an obama-biden administration, itd be fine if china used it, but it wouldnt be used here at home. [boos] he's

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also called enviro-friendly offshore drilling "raping" the coast - they both oppose offshore drilling. americans will have clear choice on nov 4. we will adopt all of the above approach, .eg. the wind, the solar, the biomass, the geothermal god has so richly blessed us with. we'll create 45 new nucl plants and create 700k jobs. whether biden approves it or not, well develop these and look to goodness of clean coal. [sarah! sarah!] thank you.

- did you know there's more coal in this free country than there is oil in all of saudi arabia?
- our plan for clean coal will create 30k new jobs in places theyre needed most, e.g. OH and right here in PA. and we'll safely drill for billions of barrels of oil we have waiting for us. and that means going offshore. drill here and drill now. [drill baby drill!] drill baby drill and mine baby mine, yes. for nations security and econ prosperity, we need American energy brought to you by Americans [sarah! sarah!]
- ok john and i have talked about another mission that he'd like me to focus on and i feel blessed to do so: help our fams who have kids w/ special needs. [cheers] it was the great PA gov. Robert Casey, a son of Scranton who was once asked how society should treat most vulnerable among us, such as kids w. special needs. he said it simple: you put them first in line. he understood it that these children inspire a special love and thats something we need more of. they're not a problem, they're a priority and we need to show them the good heart of america. id hope that no matter our party our backgrd, theres a voice of humanity in Casey's wds that speaks to all of us. a lot to say about how those most vulnerable among us who cant speak for themselves. when i learned Trig would have special needs, i had to prepare my heart. at first i was scared and todd and i prayed for strength and understanding. some things ive learned from Trig: everyone belongs in circle of protection; every child has something to contribute if we give them chance; there are world's standards of perfection and then there are god's and those are the final measure; every child deserves love. we love him all the more b/c he is so vulnerable. we stand to learn more from him than he'll learn from us. we're not scared anymore, we feel blessed.
- as gov, ive secured funding for kids w/ special needs, but i want to do more and make sure that these kids and their fams have friend and advocate in WH. [sarah! sarah!]
- for campaign that says all about the future - back to our opponents - they talk a lot about past and pointing fingers backward. the past is easy to find blame. we're looking to the future, where you find solutions. they're looking to past b/c they're trying to run against current admin. but that strategy is wearing pretty doggone thin. mccain is his own man, a patriot, a maverick. from enemy prison camp to halls of congress, he's always put his coutnry frist. he's the only man in this race who talks about the wars america is fighting and he isn't afriad to use word victory. our opponent gives speech after speech - it'd be nice if just 1x he'd say he wants america to win. [usa! usa!] yeah. once our young men and women are over there in war zone, you dont vote to cut off funding for troops as obama did. not for political reasons. biden called him out for it, and he said he wouldn't do it but he caved to political pressure. that makes me question his judgment and ambition.
- mccain served country for 22 yrs, 5 1/2 yrs as POW, met adversity, knows how great challenges overcome. as mom of 1 of those troops, hes exactly kind of man i want as commander in chief.
- PA, nov 4 is coming soon. its gonna come down to what we believe in. what mccain and i believe in is what reagan believed in: fwd mvmt of frdm not the constant expansion of govt, the best of america not all gathered in DC, but is here in the kindness and courage of everyday ppl who grow our food, run our factories, fight our wars, protect our frdm. the promises in this country and all that we wish for our sons and daughters, we believe america is not the problem, but the solution. and we still believe america is that shining city on a hill and htank god we have a man ready and willing to lead it, a man who inspires with heroic and trustworthy deeds, not words.
- our opponents go on about how they fight for you, but since my RM wont say this on his own too often, ill say it for him: theres only 1 man in this race who's ever really fought for you and that man is john mcacin. thank you!! god bless you and god bless america! [sarah! sarah! sarah! sarah!]

--
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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/13/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: Russia in Syria | Jordan's Energy Supply | Future of NATO

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GMF's World Wire

October 14, 2015

Is Vladimir Putin Trying to Teach the West a Lesson in Syria?



Ivan Krastev
Is Russia in Syria simply for the sport of humiliating U.S. President Barack Obama? It is more accurate to say that the Kremlin is in Syria for pedagogical reasons: It wants to teach Americans a lesson, and a valuable one. | *The New York Times*

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Jordan's Energy Supply Options



Simon Henderson
A new source of energy is opening up for Jordan: imports of natural gas from Israel. Though an attractive option for the country's leaders, Jordanian citizens are less keen.

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Europe 25 Years After German Unification



On October 6, GMF hosted Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland and Transatlantic Academy Fellow Ivan Krastev for the final installment of GMF's Legacy of '89 series.

WATCH HERE

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Tweet of the Week

@KseniyaShvedova :
Must read "@JoergForbrig : Republic of Lukashenko -my piece on yesterdays presidential "elections" in Belarus @gmfus http://politico.eu/article/makeov.. ."

RETWEET

From Wales to Warsaw: Implementation and Adaptation



On October 9, GMF organized the first ambassadorial roundtable of the Transatlantic Security and the Future of NATO program in Washington, DC, which brought together 23 ambassadors.

READ MORE

GMF Hosts Reception on the Importance of Subnational Diplomacy



On October 7, GMF hosted the opening reception for the Washington, DC, portion of Our Cities, Our Climate . The reception was followed by an exclusive screening of the documentary *Catching the Sun* .

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From: "Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
To: "Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
Date: 12/3/2014 7:36:58 AM
Subject: UABA Urges Swift Congressional Passage of S. 2828 and HR. 5782

Press Release: December 3, 2014

UABA Urges Swift Congressional Passage of S. 2828 and HR. 5782

The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) strongly urges swift Congressional passage of Senate Bill 2828 and House Bill HR 5782. These bipartisan bills will grant Ukraine "Major Non-NATO Ally Status" (MNNA) and defensive military assistance. Once these bills become law, they will greatly enhance the United States' national security interests and will promote peace on the Eurasian continent and throughout the world.

It is obvious that economic sanctions in and of themselves are woefully deficient and will not stop Russia's unlawful aggression against Ukraine. Despite all its denials, the Kremlin now openly deploys its heavily armed military on Ukrainian territory, and continually re-supplies its mercenary "separatists" with impunity under the guise of "humanitarian aid." Putin has doubled down on his bellicose pronouncements and has vehemently restated his resolve to return Russia to the previous borders of the former USSR, and even to expand the Kremlin's hegemony over the eastern parts of the European Union. Obviously, Vladimir Putin has made the economic calculation that he can withstand the financial price of a scolding by the West (including any additional sanctions that could be imposed in the future) -- and all international agreements, promises, and pledges Russia had signed in the past don't matter.

America readily supplies lethal weapons worth billions of dollars to questionable allies in the Middle East. We are ready to put "boots on the ground" to protect countries in that region, many of which have well-equipped armies of their own and the economic strength to fully support their own military, but these same countries do not put their citizenry's boots on the ground to defend their own territorial integrity from invasion. We are asked to do it for them -- and we have done that! However, when it comes to Ukraine, which does not ask America to put our soldiers in the line of fire -- Ukrainians already have their sons and daughters dying daily on the front lines -- but asks only for adequate weapons so that Ukraine's sons and daughters can suitably defend themselves, America rebuffs Ukraine's dire requests with lame excuses.

Had Ukraine received American and Western military aid earlier in a timely fashion, Ukraine would have been in a better military posture to repel the pro-Russian terrorists and seal its border from further Russian incursion. Continued tardiness or inaction by the United States Congress in rendering timely military aid to Ukraine will condemn Ukraine to an endless and hopeless waiting for American assistance -- as the characters in "*Waiting for Godot*"-- only to have its sovereign territory painfully eroded by Russian aggression, with extensive casualties to its population, with millions of people displaced, and many a young Ukrainian soldier killed by a stronger and brutal aggressor nation whose only goal is imperial territorial expansion. If Ukraine falls, then the horrific conflagration of war will spill over into the eastern part of the European Union and will necessitate American "boots on the ground". All this may be avoided if the United States Congress acts now and fulfills its obligation and duty to give timely military assistance to Ukraine.

For further information, please contact
Myroslaw Smorodsky, Esq.
Communications Director of the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA)
Tel: 201-507-4500; Email; myroslaw@smorodsky.com ; Website; www.smorodsky.com

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From: "Traci Blunt" <tblunt@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Clips Distro" <Clips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 11/29/2007 3:56:07 AM
Subject: AA Media Clips 11.29.07
Attachments: BlackEnterprise Dec 2007.pdf

<<BlackEnterprise Dec 2007.pdf>>

IN THE NEWS

Race, gender come to forefront of presidential race
Many black women debate voting for Clinton vs. Obama

By SONJI JACOBS
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published on: 11/29/07
The dozen or so Spelman College women had come together in a basement classroom, after hours, to hash over a choice unimaginable just a few generations back.

Fliers posted across campus summed up the thrust of their conversation: "Should you vote for Barack Obama because of your race, or should you vote for Hillary Clinton because you are a woman?"

With Democratic primaries quickly approaching, black women throughout Atlanta and across the nation are asking each other that question. They are debating it as they post blogs, meet for political round tables, host fund-raisers and whip out their checkbooks.

It's an ongoing discussion that, for many black women, stirs visceral emotions as they weigh their racial and gender identity.

At Spelman that evening, Shayna Atkins, 19, cut to the chase, pointedly asking her peers: "Would you feel like a sellout if you didn't vote for Barack?"

"Maybe if it were 1963," shot back Marquise Alston, another 19-year-old who is a Clinton supporter.
The conversation rarely turned to former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, the other top Democratic presidential contender, or to any Republican front-runners.

For some black women, U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) embodies a strong leader who, if elected, could open doors for all women, black and white. They admire her intellect and political acumen. In some ways, they identify with Clinton because they see gender as more of a hindrance than race.

For others, U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) represents the ideal candidate. They like his intelligence and willingness to work across racial and party lines. They also identify with his wife, Michelle, an African-American woman from Chicago's South Side. They believe the presence of the Obamas in the White House would help shatter racial and gender stereotypes.

Desiree Pedescleaux, associate professor of political science at Spelman, said the majority of black women in Atlanta will vote for Obama because of their strong identification with race.

She says some black women may support Clinton because of deep admiration or because they view her as the Democratic candidate most likely to succeed. But on an emotional level, Pedescleaux argues, race will trump gender.

"When an African-American woman walks into a room, what do most people see first?" she asked. "They see race. They see her as black before she is a woman."

National polls, however, indicate that black women are leaning toward Clinton. While black men are more evenly split between the two candidates, black women appear to support Clinton in far greater numbers.

In an October CNN Poll of registered Democrats, 68 percent of black women said they would vote for Clinton, who has enjoyed strong support from women overall.

Some political pundits speculate that blacks may feel that an African-American candidate, no matter how qualified, will not win the general election.

Others say former President Clinton's popularity among blacks may be giving his wife a boost.
In Georgia, prominent African-American women such as Valerie Jackson, the widow of Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson, and Billye Aaron, the wife of baseball legend Hank Aaron, have contributed several thousand dollars to Sen. Clinton's campaign.

Vivian Creighton Bishop, wife of U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.), said she has admired Clinton for years.
"Senator Clinton is a brilliant woman," Bishop said. "She's very stately. She's independent and strong."
While her husband is supporting Obama, Bishop wants more African-American women to come out for Clinton.
She is trying to recruit supporters across the state, especially in Atlanta and Columbus, where she lives.
African-Americans make up 27 percent, or 1.2 million, of Georgia's registered voters. And of black registered voters, 60 percent, or 720,567, are women.

Still, with less than two months left before the state's Feb. 5 Democratic and Republican primaries, Obama is leading his Democratic rivals in Georgia fund-raising.

So far, his campaign has raised $1.1 million, more than any other candidate, Republican or Democrat.
Clinton, by contrast, has raised $589,000.
Much of Obama's support has come from Atlanta's black middle class.
Henrietta Antoinin, an Atlanta native and vice president at the Atlanta Life Financial Group, said she has been puzzled by polls and news reports that indicate black women may be torn between Obama and Clinton. She said she and all of her friends are Obama supporters. Antoinin has written a few checks — $50 here, $250 there — to his campaign.

"I think he's smart. I think he's capable. I like what I'm hearing from him," Antoinin said.
She said she respects Clinton and went to her campaign appearance at Paschal's restaurant last month, during which the senator received an endorsement from Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon. But Antoinin left still believing Obama is the better candidate.

Patricia Wilson-Smith, a 42-year-old information technology specialist who lives in Lawrenceville, contends that Obama would be the best leader because he reaches out to all Americans. She argues that Clinton is too divisive and too much of a Washington insider.

Six months ago, Wilson-Smith built a Web site, blackwomenforobama.org, started a political blog and founded an organization to support the Obama campaign.

Earlier this month, the group held its first fund-raiser at the Atrium at Sweet Auburn.
On her blog, Wilson-Smith confronts many of the mixed emotions black women have about the candidates.
She dismisses the idea that Obama can't be elected because he is black.
"The reason we've never been close to running that truly feasible black candidate is because we've never had one who was interested in governing the entire nation," she wrote, "and not just championing the cause of blacks."

Wilson-Smith also is critical of those who would vote for Hillary Clinton because of an affinity for Bill Clinton.
In the 1996 presidential election, national exit polls showed Bill Clinton received 84 percent of the votes cast by African-Americans.

Some say his wife's experience as a Washington insider who has tackled major policy issues may be one of her biggest strengths.

Alston, the president of the Spelman chapter of the Young Democrats of America, explained that she supports Clinton because of her strong stance on health care reform and women's rights. She said she believes a woman in the White House will break the proverbial glass ceiling for women in business.

"My mother is a business owner, and one of her biggest struggles is because she's a woman in a male-dominated field," Alston said.

Mary Long, a member of the Democratic National Committee who lives in Atlanta, has trailblazed as both a woman and an African-American, and her accomplishments include heading Georgia's WIN List, an organization that supports Democratic women candidates.

Long said she likes the top three Democratic candidates — Clinton, Obama and Edwards — but has not yet decided whom she will support.

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"You think, do I have more trouble with discrimination as an African-American or as a woman?" Long said. "Do you not support Obama, such a strong African-American candidate running for president? Or, are you going to abandon a good woman?"

Long paused. "I'm not sure sometimes, as African-American women, we know where we are. We are constantly straddling that fence. And no matter what you decide, you're going to be criticized."

http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/stories/2007/11/28/newblkwomenvoters_1129.html

* * *



Black Ministers Back Clinton In S.C.

Clergy Play Key Role In Influencing State's Large African-American Population

(CBS/AP) Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton picked up endorsements from dozens of black ministers Tuesday in South Carolina, an early voting state where she and rival Barack Obama have been courting the critical black vote.

The clergy were drawn to the New York senator for her views on health care, jobs and other issues, said a state representative who helped organize the endorsements. "They felt this was the best candidate addressing their concerns," said state Rep. Harold Mitchell, a Democrat from this northern part of the state.

Nearly half of South Carolina's Democratic primary voters are black, and ministers can play a huge role in shaping the political direction of their congregations. More than 60 ministers gathered with Clinton on a stage at a hotel and her campaign said 88 were in the room where the endorsements were announced.

Clinton, in a wide-ranging speech to a crowd of more than 450, touched on her plans to expand health care, better public education and improve the image of the U.S. She said she would send emissaries around the globe - and mentioned former Secretary of State Colin Powell as "someone I know very well" - to send a message the era of "cowboy diplomacy is over."

"I understand we've got to take on health insurance companies and the drug companies," she said. "Don't you think it is time for us to do that?"

The Rev. Timothy Brown, of Cleveland Chapel in Spartanburg, said Clinton will get government to a "better plateau." He also referenced Obama, a first-term senator who wrote a book called "The Audacity of Hope."

"We need to look for a leader that is ready to lead right now," Brown said. "We don't need to be filling our heads with hopes and dreams."

Also Tuesday, Clinton's campaign released her proposal to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS, which in part focuses on fighting the spread of the illness in minority communities. Clinton would double the HIV/AIDS research budget at the National Institutes of Health to $5.2 billion annually and spend at least $50 billion within five years around the globe, according to an e-mail from her campaign.

Clinton did not focus on the proposal in her first two of three appearances in South Carolina. In Aiken, she was asked by one man about whether gays should be able to openly serve in the military. "I don't believe 'Don't ask, don't tell' worked," she said.

The endorsements from the South Carolina ministers came as Clinton tries to widen what one recent poll showed was as much as a 10 percentage point lead in the state over Obama, an Illinois senator.

"This is just the beginning," said state Sen. Darrell Jackson, a Columbia minister working for Clinton. Similar announcements are in the works in other regions of the state, he said.

Another state senator, Harold Mitchell, told CBS News chief White House correspondent Jim Axelrod that his heart had him backing Obama early on, but he switched to Clinton last month.

"We've got to get away from these emotional feelings," Mitchell said. "If you put that aside and look at the candidates... it's a no-brainer."

Obama has pulpit endorsements of his own. He's visited churches in the state and his campaign has organized forums on faith at churches and community centers. It also sponsored a recent gospel music tour.

In October, Obama stood in front of the pulpit of a Greenville church and told a mostly full, 4,200 seat sanctuary that faith was everything to him. "It's what keeps me grounded. It's what keeps my eyes set on the greatest of heights," he said.

Clinton's husband remains popular with blacks in South Carolina, and the former president apparently helped get the support that was announced Tuesday during a visit to the state last month.

Don Fowler, a former Democratic National Committee chairman, said courting the pulpit is key for the black vote here.

"The church and individual members play an extremely important role in black politics," Fowlers said in an interview last month.

"There's very stiff, intense competition for the hearts and minds of the African-American clergy," he said. "Collectively, they have huge influence."

Obama's campaign said it has held forums educating people about his faith across the state and recruited 180 volunteers who are organizers in their "faith communities."

"Senator Obama is proud of the tremendous support he has from South Carolina congregations and ministers. The successful Obama Faith Forums have allowed us to capture enthusiasm among voters who are interested in how Obama's faith impacts his vision to transform our nation and have a positive impact on issues like healthcare, poverty and education," the campaign said in a statement.

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/11/27/politics/main3545171.shtml

* * *

DIVERSITY, INC.

Can Oprah Propel Obama to Victory?

By Eric L. Hinton

Headlines this week: Will Oprah Make the Difference? Mitt Romney Says No Muslims in Cabinet; 'Black Enough' Still Dogging Obama? Clinton Gets Endorsement From Streisand; GOP Set for YouTube Debate

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Will Oprah Make the Difference?

Talk about having an ace in your pocket. Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama announced Oprah Winfrey would be touring with him in early contest states including Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, reports CBS News . But just how much Winfrey's public support will help Obama is being debated. A CBS News poll indicates 31 percent of registered voters are more likely to vote for Obama because of Winfrey's support. But *Time Magazine* writer Mark Halperin says Winfrey only provides what Obama already has in abundance, "campaign cash, celebrity, excitement and big crowds."

'Black Enough' Still Dogging Obama?
The issue of whether he is black enough continues to dog the Obama campaign, reports CBS. For his part, Obama says, "I self-identify as African American. That's how I'm treated and that's how I'm viewed. I'm proud of it."

Romney Says No Muslims in Cabinet

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney is disputing a report that appeared in the Christian Science Monitor that said he's categorically ruled out having a Muslim as part of his candidate should he be elected president, reports CNN.com (scroll down). Romney admits making the comment but has clarified his statement, saying, "No, I don't think you need to have a Muslim in the Cabinet to take on radical jihad any more than during the second World War we needed to have a Japanese American to help us understand the threat that was coming from Japan."

Romney Cries Foul on Calls Attacking Mormon Faith

Romney is calling a recent string of calls to residents in Iowa and New Hampshire "ugly and divisive." Romney said callers portrayed themselves as members of a nonpartisan polling center and then proceeded to give negative and misleading information about his Mormon faith, according to CNN.com .

Clinton Leads Pack Among Likely Black Voters
Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Hillary Clinton continues to be viewed more favorably by likely black voters, with Obama running second, according to a national survey released by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

Clinton Gets Endorsement From Streisand
A day after Obama announced Oprah Winfrey would be joining him on the campaign trail, the Clinton campaign announced Oscar winner and musical legend Barbra Streisand was going to campaign for Clinton, according to The Associated Press .

Read the Nov./Dec. 2007 issue of *DiversityInc* magazine now online to find out who's really winning the black women's vote and why.

Other News
Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, Fred Thompson, John McCain and the other Republican presidential contenders are getting set for tonight's CNN/YouTube debate. The Daily News reports Romney and Giuliani may be among the most contentious candidates, as they've spent the last several weeks exchanging barbs over immigration and LGBT rights.

Latino Leaders Want Candidates to Address Small-Business Needs
The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) called on all presidential candidates to address the needs of small-business owners. USHCC is particularly interested in each candidate's agenda for the growth of minority- and women-owned enterprises.

http://www.diversityinc.com/public/2782.cfm
* * *

Black Issues Get Some Play as GOP Presidential Hopefuls Spar Over Immigration, Taxes

By: Associated Press and BlackAmericaWeb.com
Republican presidential rivals Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney scornfully debated immigration Wednesday in a provocative CNN/YouTube debate in St. Petersburg, Florida, held just over a month before the first votes are cast.

Giuliani, the front-runner in national polls, accused Romney of employing illegal immigrants at his home and running a "sanctuary mansion." The testy personal exchange came after Romney said Giuliani had retained New York's status as a sanctuary city while he was mayor.

Romney said it would "not be American" to check the papers of workers employed by a contractor simply because they have a "funny accent." He had landscapers at his Belmont, Mass., home who turned out to be in the country illegally.

Giuliani shot back, calling Romney's attitude "holier than thou."
"Mitt usually criticizes people when he usually has the far worse record," Giuliani said.
The audience, however, booed Giuliani as he tried to persist in his criticism of Romney.
The confrontation came at the start of an innovative CNN-YouTube debate that forced the candidates to confront immigration immediately, signaling the volatility of the issue among Republican voters. The eight Republican candidates encountered a range of questions, including abortion, gun control from a gun wielding NRA member, and farm subsidies from a man eating an ear of corn.

Surprisingly, black issues got some attention from the presidential hopefuls as well, thanks to the videotaped queries from YouTube users. Giuliani and Huckabee took a question on the Republican Party's lack of support from the African-American community submitted by a Los Angeles resident who maintained that blacks "hold fairly conservative views." The subject of the propriety of publicly displaying the Confederate flag was addressed. And a father from Atlanta submitted a question, captured on video with his son, asking about the candidates' positions on inner city violence. "Two hundred to 400 black men die yearly in one city alone," he said. "What are you going to do about that war?"

First to respond, Romney lauded the questioner, saying his son "is pretty fortunate because he's got a dad standing next to him that apparently loves him by all appearances there, and that's probably the best thing you can do for a kid is to have a mom and a dad ... That's number one. And thank heavens Bill Cosby said it like it was. That's where the root of crime starts."

David McMillan from Los Angeles, in his question, noted that "on a variety of specific issues -- gay marriage, taxes, the death penalty, immigration, faith-based initiatives, school vouchers, school prayer -- many African-Americans hold fairly conservative views ... why don't we vote for you?"

"We probably haven't done a good enough job as a party in pointing out that our solutions, our philosophy, is really the philosophy that would be the most attractive to the overwhelming majority of people in the African-American and Hispanic community," replied Giuliani. "here are many, many issues on which we can reach out. I found that one of the best was moving people off welfare. I moved 640,000 people off welfare, most of them to jobs. I change the welfare agency into a job agency, and all of a sudden, I had people that had a future."

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee cited CNN's own poll results to bolster his claim that "some 48 percent of the African-Americans in my state did, in fact, vote for me," he said, noting that the figure "is unusually high for African-Americans voting for a Republican. Here's the reason why: Because I asked for their vote, and I didn't wait until October of the election year to do it ... I don't want to be a part of a Republican party that is a tiny, minute and ever decreasing party, but one that touches every American from top to bottom, regardless of race."

The racial politics of the Confederate flag came up via an inquiry from Houston resident Leroy Brooks, who asked candidates if "this flag right here represents the symbol of racism, a symbol of political ideology, a symbol of Southern heritage -- or, is it something completely different?"

Huckabee said that, "with the kinds of issues we got in this country, I'm not going to get involved with a flag like that ... The people of our country have decided not to fly that flag. I think that's the right thing."

He also used his answer to take a shot at Democratic candidate and former senator John Edwards.

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"Every time I listen to someone like John Edwards get on TV and say there are two Americas, I just want to -- I just want to throw something at the TV, because there are not two Americas. There's one America," Huckabee said. "We are a nation united. We face extraordinary challenges right now. And Democrats dividing us and tearing down this country are doing exactly the wrong thing. We're succeeding in Iraq. We've got tough challenges. We can overcome them. But we do not need to have that kind of divisive talk. And that flag, frankly, is divisive, and it shouldn't be shown."

Former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson, noting that "everybody who hangs the flag up in their room like that is not racist," conceded that "I also know that for a great many Americans, it's a symbol of racism. As far as a public place is concerned, I am glad that people have made the decision not to display it as a prominent flag, symbolic of something, at a state capitol. As a part of a group of flags or something of that nature, you know, honoring various service people at different times in different parts of the country, I think that's different. But, as a nation, we don't need to go out of our way to be bringing up things that to certain people in our country that's bad for them."

At the outset of the debate, immigration dominated the questions submitted online and swept in the remainder of the Republican field.

Thompson took the opportunity to distinguish himself from both Romney and Giuliani, arguing that Romney had supported President Bush's plan to provide a path to citizenship for some immigrants in the United States illegally now. He took Giuliani to task for attacking Romney's employment of illegal immigrants.

"I think we've all had people who we've hired who in retrospect was a bad decision," he said.
Sen. John McCain, for whom the immigration issue has proved particularly vexing, defended his support for an unsuccessful overhaul of immigration laws that included a temporary worker program and a path to citizenship.

"We must recognize these are God's children as well," McCain said. "They need our love and compassion, and I want to ensure that I will enforce the borders first. But we won't demagogue it."

Huckabee, who has also come under GOP criticism for some of his immigration policies while governor of Arkansas, defended benefits he supported for children of illegal immigrants, including allowing children to be eligible to apply for college scholarships.

"Are we going to say kids who are here illegally are going to get a special deal?" Romney asked.
Huckabee objected, saying the benefit was based on merit. "We are a better country than to punish children for what their parents did," he said.

The most fierce exchanges were among the candidates with the most at stake with only five weeks left before the first voting in the presidential contest begins. Giuliani leads in national polls but trails Romney in early-voting Iowa and New Hampshire. Romney faces challenges from Huckabee in Iowa and from Giuliani and McCain in New Hampshire.

Thompson, in what amounted to one of the first video attacks of the campaign, questioned the conservative credentials of two of his rivals in a YouTube clip. The video challenged Romney on abortion and Huckabee on taxes.

"I wanted to give my buddies here a little extra air time," Thompson said to laughter as he defended the video.
For Thompson, Romney and Huckabee are his biggest obstacles toward establishing himself as the candidate of conservatives.

"I was wrong, I was effectively pro-choice," said Romney, who has said he changed his stance in 2004 during debates on stem cell research. "On abortion, I was wrong."

"If people are looking for somebody in this country who has never made a mistake ... then they ought to find somebody else," he said.

As the front-runner, Giuliani faced questions about gun control, abortion and whether New York taxpayers foot the bill for security he received while the married mayor visited his then-girlfriend, Judith Nathan, now his wife.

Giuliani said he had 24-hour protection as mayor because of threats against him and said all costs incurred were proper.

"I had nothing to do with the handling of their records," he said of how his security detail reported the expenses. "And they were handled, as far as I know, perfectly appropriately."

He didn't, however, offer an explanation for why the tens of thousands of dollars in costs, which aides say were routine expenses for protection for the mayor, were billed to city offices like the Office for People With Disabilities.

Tony Carbonetti, Giuliani's mayoral chief of staff and his top campaign political adviser, said he's asked Joe Lhota, a former city budget director, ex-deputy mayor and a Giuliani campaign adviser, to explain how such accounting practices could have occurred and why security expenses were not billed to the police department.

"These were all legitimate expenses incurred in protecting the mayor, and his police detail covered him wherever he went, 24/7," Carbonetti said in an interview before the debate. "You just do what you do, and the police go with you. That's just a fact of life when you're the mayor of New York."

Later, an aide said that for accounting purposes, the expenses appear to have been temporarily allocated to city offices and paid for out of the mayor's budget but that the police department ultimately picked up the tab and reimbursed the mayor's office at the end of each year.

Giuliani's affair with Nathan, while he was married to second wife Donna Hanover, has become common knowledge.
But the suggestion, true or not, that he was hiding expenses for liaisons with Nathan in little-known city accounts, could open him up to criticism, remind voters of his three marriages and infidelity and tarnish his good-guy image from the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The report surfaced just hours before debate.

None of Giuliani's rivals raised the issue.
McCain, who has shown no love for Romney during the campaign, seized on Romney's response to a question about the legality of waterboarding as an interrogation technique. Romney said that as a candidate he would not publicly discuss what techniques he would rule out. That prompted McCain, a former Vietnam POW, to assert that waterboarding is indeed torture and should not be tolerated.

"Governor, let me tell you, if we're going to gain the high ground in this world ... we're not going to torture people," McCain said. "How in the world someone could think that that kind of thing could be inflicted on people who are in our custody is absolutely beyond me."

McCain also engaged Ron Paul, a Texas congressman whose libertarian views and opposition to the war have attracted thousands of donors, millions of dollars and a devoted online following.

McCain said Paul is promoting isolationism in calling for the United States to disengage from the war. "We allowed (Adolf) Hitler to come to power with that attitude of isolation," he said.

Paul objected, saying McCain had misunderstood his support for nonintervention with isolationism.
"I want to trade with people, talk with people, travel," Paul replied.
http://www.blackamericaweb.com/site.aspx/bawnews/gopdebate1129

* * *

Commentary: On Oprah and our votes

By Clarence Page [Chicago Tribune]
Does Oprah Winfrey's endorsement help Sen. Barack Obama? She doesn't hurt.

The question seems to be on everyone's lips. Obama's campaign announced Monday that Winfrey will join the presidential hopeful next month in the important lead-off states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

I doubt that Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, was thrilled to hear that news. The conventional wisdom holds that celebrity endorsements don't mean much, if anything. But, hey, this is ...Oprah!

We're talking about the queen of all media taking on the diva of Democratic politics.

Winfrey and Clinton are very popular with women and African-Americans. Obama, judging by the polls, needs to win more support from both. If Winfrey can help Obama build his female support without damaging his support from the guys, she could be as valuable of an asset to Obama on the campaign stump as Bill Clinton has been for the former first lady.

That observation was supported Tuesday, a day after Obama's Oprah announcement, in a new national poll of likely African-American voters. Like other national polls, it shows that

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among black voters Clinton is viewed most favorably and Obama is running a close second.

Clinton's lead is attributed mostly to her strong support from women. The AARP-sponsored poll was conducted by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a black-oriented think tank. Clinton received favorable approval ratings from 86 percent of the women in the poll, but only 78 percent of the men. Obama was approved equally by both sexes.

That's the story in South Carolina polls. Clinton has received stronger support from black voters than Obama in that state, thanks again to black women. Since about half of the state's Democratic voters are black and its primary closely follows Iowa and New Hampshire, Obama's chances could hinge on Oprah's ability to help him close that gender gap.

The public seems divided in an interesting way over the impact of Winfrey's blessing. A Pew Research Center poll in September found that most Americans claimed endorsements have no impact on their vote, yet most also thought Winfrey's endorsement would help Obama. In other words, "She won't influence me but I bet she'll influence a lot of other people."

Also interesting in the Pew poll were the groups of voters who said they were most likely to listen to Winfrey: women, African-Americans and young folks ages 18 to 29. Obama is already stronger among the under-30 crowd in the polls, although they're less than half as likely to vote as the over-55 folks who tend to favor Clinton.

The Joint Center's poll also found that "commitment to change" was twice as important to black voters as "experience in public office." Even though black voters tend to favor Clinton, the "change-over-experience" theme could work for Obama down the road, depending on how he plays it.

It's not hard to believe Winfrey could serve as an important change agent to help put Obama over the top. When she endorses, people listen. She's already proved her powers of persuasion with books. Her book club has made best-sellers out of little-known authors. She's made legions of her viewers go out and purchase old classics instead of the CliffsNotes versions that some of us read back in high school.

Celebrity endorsements usually don't matter much because the sort of people who are most likely to be influenced by celebrities tend to be lazy voters. They're not very committed. It's hard for campaigns to get them up off of their cozy couches to go out and stand in line to vote. If she can move Americans to go to bookstores, she might well be able to move a few to vote.

On the question of whether Obama risks trivializing the political process, I think Winfrey's taking a bigger risk. It doesn't hurt Obama to pal around with an entertainment icon who has Winfrey's formidable crossover appeal. It is Winfrey who must dance delicately above the turbulent waters of our country's bitterly polarized politics.

She says her support of Obama is personal, not partisan. I believe her. She has hosted guests of both parties on her shows with equal hospitality. I'm sure she will continue to do so. Still, I won't be holding my breath waiting for Mrs. Clinton to say "yes" again.

http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-nu_oped1128pagenov28,1,7519797,print.column?ctrack=3&cset=true

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LOS ANGELES SENTINEL: The Power of the African American Ballot

Apathy is a dangerous thing. In New Orleans they recently held elections and it is a terrible thing when a city as badly damaged and divided as this city is, gets less than a 20 percent turn out. Reports have shown that New Orleans is still a majority Black city but so few Blacks got involved to let their voices be heard. As we have and continue to discuss, our own community is under attack on lots of different levels and we have some serious issues, which we must address.

Well, sitting on the sidelines doing nothing and bitching about the outcome certainly is not the way to fix our problems. For the past year I have dedicated myself and this paper to making African American Voter Education and Voter Registration one of my priorities. This African American Voter Program has had significant impact in getting Mike Davis elected to the 48th Assembly, it played a key role in Laura Richardson winning as African Americans held on to the Congressional Seat vacated after the death of our beloved Congresswoman and friend Juanita McDonald and the Black vote will also play a key factor in several upcoming races including the 55th Assembly District, the Los Angeles County Supervisor 2nd District and of course the 2008 Presidential Elections.

In 2004 I led a campaign, which registered over 2000 new voters, and at Taste of Soul this year over 3,000 people registered to vote or signed up to get involved in either the Obama or Clinton for President Campaign, and I promise you all this effort will not stop anytime soon.

Right now, we are once again fighting the fight to hold on to the seat vacated by Laura Richardson's election to Congress. This has been a seat held by an African American for several years, from Juanita McDonald to Congresswoman Richardson. And now Councilman Mike Gipson is in a battle with Warren Fuatani.

People constantly want to reduce the significance of African Americans and our voting power. I refuse to believe that our power has been diminished, but I am concerned that we (African Americans) will diminish our own validity by not coming out, taking a stance and getting involved. Again, my brothers and sisters I am asking you to take a stand. I am asking you to get involved in the campaign to elect Mike Gipson to the 55th Assembly District of the California Legislature.

We need to send a message to every political entity and community entity out there, let them know that we will not sit still, we are not going to sit on the sidelines, we are determined to send a message to every mayor, councilman, assemblyperson, or other elected official that you cannot discount us, you cannot take us for granted and we refuse to just sit back and take it and we will not be apathetic in the decisions that matter most in our community. Please, Please, Please my brother and sisters lets get involved and get involved NOW! Let's take a stand, register to vote, get involved in a campaign, make sure every member of your family is registered to vote and then make sure they vote, that is the only way we can stand up and be counted, short of that we might as well sit around and wait to be washed away by a hurricane and then complain about the outcome.

So, whether you agree or disagree, now more than ever I really need your input. I need to hear from you. I need to know what is going on in our community. I also need to know what other stories we need to tell, and what is on your mind. I really do want to hear from you, I want you to "Talk to Danny."

Sincerely,
Danny J. Bakewell, Jr.
President & Executive Editor
http://www.lasentinel.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=598&Itemid=111

* * *

NEW AMERICA MEDIA: "Hot Chicks Dig Obama "

YO! Youth Outlook Multimedia

SAN FRANCISCO – Even with recent controversy around his supposed **drug and alcohol** use in high school, Barack Obama has gotten a bump in the **polls** – at least in Iowa. But his popularity among young people was in full effect when he rolled into town on November 14th. I've been pretty much decided from day one who I want to **vote** for, but I went to check out what my fellow constituents were like.

The line of people waiting to get into the rally wrapped around a few blocks. It was a strange mix of college students, high school kids, middle class suburban people and a few women dressed as though they were going to a club rather than a political event. Before the doors opened, I talked to some young people outside about Barack and why he has such a cult following with youth.

"He's young, so it's easier to relate to him," said one young woman, sporting a "Hot Chicks Dig Obama" pin. Another young woman added: "He seems to be concerned about the young people and I think other presidential candidates don't think that young people care."

One young man I spoke to vented his anger with the current administration and said charisma was his reason for supporting Barack. "The general population of young people that are going to be voting will probably vote Democratic because it's more progressive," he said. "We're all really pissed off at Bush and his administration." He continued: "Plus, Hillary Clinton just isn't that charismatic." Inside the event, there were stadium-style balcony seats that wrapped around the room and the general admission floor area where people stood in front of the stage awaiting Obama.

In the crowd there were some young women that could have easily been at a Fall Out Boy concert, there were other young people dressed in sensible casual clothing that looked like they were on their way out to a nice dinner, and then some college students with "Barack and Roll" t-shirts – who looked like they were on the way to a kegger.

After about 50 percent of the room filled up, a choir hit the stage. I've always found it interesting how Barack Obama runs his rallies almost like church – the only big difference on this night was that churches don't serve beer. In true sporting event fashion, plastic cups of frothy golden beer and green personal-sized pizza boxes could be seen scattered about the crowd.

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There were a few speakers before Obama came on stage. They all talked about him like he was the second coming, JFK and Martin Luther King all wrapped up in one. Between speakers, mostly old soul and funk songs like Sister Sledge's "We Are Family" played over the P.A. People that looked like they have never even heard the word 'dance' before, threw their fists into the air and began to bend their elbows and knees in some bizarre ski stance move, like it hurt and was very pleasurable to them at the same time.

Somewhere between the songs "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "It's Your Thang," the wave broke out in the balcony and I could help but wish I brought a foam finger. When Barack finally did get on stage, the crowd erupted. Signs flew up in the air and everyone was out of their seat like someone hit a game winning shot. He greeted the crowd casually with "Hey!" and "What's up?" When he began to actually speak, I could tell why people like him so much. He definitely has a way of engaging his audience. He paced back and forth on the stage – making the classic politician fist with one hand and holding the mic in the other.

But not everyone was completely satisfied with what Barack had to say. One young woman pointed out that in his speech Barack said nothing about immigration, which is a big issue that hits close to home with a lot of Californians. It was also pointed out by another woman that Barack said nothing about women's rights, another hot topic in San Francisco.

The great majority of the young people that attended seemed satisfied. A schoolteacher from a prep school in Oakland who brought her entire class of students summed it up nicely. "Young people are the ones that have changed all the world, if you look through out history it's the young people that have made the change," she said. So, will young people be the one's who will decide this election by wearing clever Obama t-shirts and pins all the way to the polls? It's too early to predict, but one thing's for sure: B-money knows how to throw a serious party.

http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=4953661037731d20ae5487692f912192
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THE BOSTON GLOBE

Questions at crunch time

By Dan Payne | November 29, 2007

35 DAYS TO GO and a new poll in Iowa shows Barack Obama has jumped into the lead with 30 percent; Hillary Clinton is at 26 percent; and John Edwards has 22 percent, according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll. Clinton people say the poll is an outlier, but admit that Iowa is her toughest state.

Consider this: Asked who best understands "the problems of people like you," 30 percent of Iowans said Obama, 25 percent said Edwards, and only 20 percent said Clinton.

Change or experience? The poll shows 55 percent of Iowans believe a "new direction and new ideas" are needed, compared with 33 percent who wanted "strength and experience." That's a 12-point shift toward change since July. In perfect triangulation, Clinton says she has the experience to produce change.

Three out of four Iowans say they are just getting by or falling behind financially. They are, as President Bush once said, struggling to "put food on their families."

What's driving change? Consider the country under Cheney-Bush: We're killing and dying in a disastrous war in Iraq, we're hated around the world, gas and oil prices are soaring, home prices are falling, the mortgage mess is chilling the economy, the earth is warming, China is selling us lead-laced toys, Pakistan is in turmoil, and Iran wants nuclear weapons. In such a world, saying you know your way around Washington is like saying you know how to hit yourself in the head with a ball-peen hammer.

Sports cars or sedans? Democrats drool over sports cars but buy practical sedans. Democrats have a history of nominating safe candidates. See Hubert Humphrey over Eugene McCarthy, Jimmy Carter over Mo Udall, Walter Mondale over Gary Hart, Mike Dukakis over Jesse Jackson, Bill Clinton over Jerry Brown, Al Gore over Bill Bradley, John Kerry over Howard Dean. This favors Hillary, but white Iowans may want to show their lack of prejudice by standing up in caucuses for an African-American.

Who's your second choice? This is crucial because Iowa's rules say a candidate must get at least 15 percent in a caucus for votes to count; if your pick doesn't make it, you have a viable alternative. The ABC/Post poll showed 34 percent say Obama is their second choice, 28 percent Edwards, 15 percent Clinton. One edge for Edwards: He's done this before, in 2004. Bill Clinton never contested Iowa and its 1,781 precinct meetings.

What happens after Iowa? If Hillary Clinton wins big in Iowa, the race could end right there; if she doesn't, it will go on for a while. Five days later is New Hampshire, a good state for the Clintons. Michigan is next on Jan. 15 and Obama, Edwards, Bill Richardson, and Joe Biden have all removed their names from its ballot. Michigan is a rogue state whose date violates national party rules. But the real reason for bailing out is to curry favor with date-obsessed Iowa and New Hampshire.

Hillary remains on the Michigan ballot and can shrewdly say she won't campaign there and decline to say whether the votes count until she sees how many she gets. The GOP is holding its primary that day so votes will be tabulated.

What will stick? Conventional wisdom says attacks don't go over well in Iowa. Clinton and Obama didn't get the memo. Hillary has been belittling Obama's foreign policy experience, while claiming as first lady she made 80 official foreign visits.

Obama says Hillary campaigns from a "poll-driven" defensive crouch, refusing to take clear positions on healthcare or the Iraq war, out of fear that she will be attacked in a general election.

If this bickering continues, Edwards could become the alternative, except. . .
Has Edwards jumped the shark? After running four years ago in unfiltered sunlight, Edwards has grown darkly anti-Hillary. It's a shame because he's been raising important issues - poverty, the stranglehold of money in Washington, truly universal healthcare, and federal policies that have cost working-class people their jobs and homes.

If Edwards has jumped the shark - i.e., gone too far - it may be because one of his top advisers is Joe Trippi of the 2004 Howard Dean campaign. Trippi's arrival coincides with the dawn of a new, angry populist Edwards. Yeeeeee-Haw!

Who you gonna buy? Here's the race in a nutshell: Hillary's got her husband stumping for her in Iowa. Big surprise. Obama will tour the state with Oprah Winfrey, who's never endorsed anyone for office. Tiebreaker: When was the last time average women bought millions of books recommended by Bill Clinton?

Dan Payne is a Boston-based media consultant who has worked for Democratic candidates around the country.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2007/11/29/questions_at_crunch_time/

* * *

Is Rev. Jackson an Obama supporter or not?

I can't figure at out times whether the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. is truly a supporter of Sen. Barack Obama or not.

A couple of months ago he was busted for saying that Obama was "acting white" for his so-called refusal to speak out on the Jena 6 case. In fact, Obama did speak out on the case and was on record.

But yesterday, Jackson took all Democrats to task, except for John Edwards, for not addressing black issues.
In a column that ran in the Chicago Sun-Times, Jackson said: "the Democratic candidates -- with the exception of John Edwards, who opened his campaign in New Orleans' Ninth Ward and has made addressing poverty central to his campaign -- have virtually ignored the plight of African Americans in this country. The catastrophic crisis that engulfs the African-American community goes without mention. No urban agenda is given priority. When thousands of African Americans marched in protest in Jena, La., not one candidate showed up.

"Democratic candidates are talking about health care and raising the minimum wage, but they aren't talking about the separate and stark realities facing African Americans."

Now I get Jackson's position; he ran as a black candidate for president in 1984 and 1988, and we all knew he couldn't win. He ran as a "statement candidate" who had a tremendous effect on down ballot races.

But Obama isn't running to make a statement. He's actually trying to get the nomination. He's raised $80 million, and is now leading in the polls in Iowa, and is cutting into Sen. Hillary Clinton's lead in New Hampshire.

Now, Clinton and Obama have both made speeches, and issued policy statements on a variety of issues of concern to African Americans. So what in the world is Rev talking about?

Jackson mentioned education, poverty, the plight of black men and the criminal justice system in his column. I've heard multiple speeches from Obama and Clinton on those issues. So how are they not getting addressed? Now how on one hand can folks say he hasn't said a word about black issues, when the record disputes that.

I get why Jackson is making a mountain out of a mole hill. This is in his focus. But him becoming the story is ridiculous because right now, Obama has momentum, and when I turned on CNN on Tuesday, all I heard was Jackson criticizing the Democrat candidates.

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After Jackson's "white" comment in South Carolina, he issued a statement reaffirming his support for Obama. And what did he do yesterday after his column? The same thing.

This back and forth with Jackson over Obama points to a serious problem, and frankly, it's one that Rev is going to have to deal with. He wants a much larger role in the Obama campaign, but Jackson has to accept the reality that Obama has to be careful as to this issue.

Like it or not, Jackson is a volatile figure outside the black community. And Obama has to clearly appeal to non-black voters for him to have any chance of winning the Democratic nomination. I concur that he has to speak to black issues - and have written as such - but he can't run as the "black candidate."

When the Democratic candidates, and specifically Obama, discuss healthcare, the Iraq War and the economy, does that not include black folks? At one point are we going to wake up and realize this?

http://essence.typepad.com/news/

* * *

Joint Center releases survey of likely black presidential primary voters
Good news for Clinton and Obama in Joint Center poll

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the nation's leading think tank on African American issues, released their "2007 National Survey of Likely Black Presidential Primary Voters" and it bodes well for Democratic frontrunners, Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Background: The survey is a national survey of 750 black likely primary/caucus voters, and was done between Oct. 5 and Nov. 2, 2007. "Respondents were asked their views on important national problems, issues in the campaign, and candidates for both the Democratic and Republican presidential nominations. The survey methodology is described in an accompanying appendix. The Joint Center conducted the survey with the support of the AARP."

Here are the highlights:

- Clinton had the highest favorable rating of any presidential candidate with 83 percent of black likely voters. Only 9.7 percent saw her unfavorably. Of that, 86 percent of black women viewed her favorably and only 7 percent unfavorably. Obama? He drew 74.4 percent favorable and 10.1 percent unfavorable.

- Black voters aren't too high on the Republicans. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani was tops among the GOP, but only 27.1 percent viewed him favorably and 42.7 percent unfavorably. The least negative among black voters? Former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson.

- Most important problem facing the nation? War in Iraq at 28 percent; healthcare came in at 20 percent; and jobs came in at 15 percent. Education was fourth at 10 percent. Interestingly, less than 1 percent chose immigration as "the most important national problem." This stands in stark contrast to the center's pre-2004 survey of black adults - "not likely voters," they said

- that showed jobs and the economy tops and the war in Iraq second.
Clinton has been touting her experience as the most important factor in the race, but for black voters, that isn't the most important issue.

"A strong majority (63 percent) of black voters said what matters most to them in the presidential candidate is a commitment to change; less than a third indicated that a candidate's experience in elective office mattered most to them," according to the survey.

That should be good news to Obama, who has made change the leading focus of his campaign in an effort to distinguish him from Clinton.

Now when it comes to President Bush, "abysmal" was the word the Joint Center used to describe his ratings among likely black voters with "only 11 percent rating his work excellent or good, while 87 percent give him negative marks--including 58 percent who rate his work as poor. Black women voters (61 percent), those with more than a college degree (72 percent), and those making more than $75,000 (72 percent) were most negative toward the president."

Ouch!

When it comes to African Americans and their views about Democrats, it is no contest.
- "African Americans favor the Democrats over the Republicans on healthcare (75 to 11 percent), Iraq (72 to 14 percent), the economy and jobs (70 to 15 percent), terrorism and national security (60 to 23 percent), Social Security (72 to 13 percent), immigration (60 to 19 percent), taxes (71 to 15 percent), education (72 and 14 percent), and moral values (63 to 17 percent). Democrats are favored over the GOP even on the GOP's signature issues of terrorism and moral values."

- "African Americans continue to identify strongly with the Democratic Party with 84 percent being self-described Democrats and 11 percent identifying with the Republicans; 54 percent of those surveyed described themselves as strong Democrats, while only seven percent were strong Republicans. In 2007, likely black primary voters were also strongly liberal in their political orientation with 41 percent describing themselves that way; 36 percent were self-described moderates and 21 percent conservatives. Conservatism has lost some of its brand strength among African Americans: In Joint Center surveys of black adults conducted during the late 1990s, between 35 and 40 percent described themselves as conservative in their political orientation."

Bottom line: Democrats have lots of good news in this survey, and the GOP has a lot of work to do. But it also bodes well for both Clinton and Obama, who are far and away the preferred choices among likely black voters.

http://essence.typepad.com/news/

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Commentary: Clinton camp has problems doing their math
WASHINGTON (CNN) — I just finished watching the Monday night piece on Sen. **Barack Obama** that aired on ABC's Nightline. During the broadcast, anchor Terry Moran read a comment from the Clinton campaign that said if the junior senator from Illinois was elected president, he would have less experience than any president in the 20th century.

Here is what Deputy Communications Director Phil Singer wrote Tuesday after an Obama foreign policy speech:

"With the critical foreign policy challenges America faces in the world today, voters will decide whether Senator Obama, who served in the Illinois State Senate just three years ago and would have less experience than any President since World War II, has the strength and experience to be the next president. Sen. Clinton, who has traveled to 82 countries as a representative of the United States and serves on the Armed Services Committee, is ready to lead starting on Day One."

Really?

George W. Bush only held elected office for six years before becoming president. He was elected governor of Texas in 1994 and won the presidency – OK, liberal bloggers, the Supreme Court ruled in his favor – in 2000.

Obama is in his 11th year as an elected officeholder – eight years in the Illinois state senate, followed by three as a U.S. senator. Clinton is in her seventh year of elected office.

So the question has to be asked: Is the Clinton campaign struggling with their math, or hoping we all can't add?
If the Clinton camp is saying state experience doesn't matter, does that apply to Bush, who never served at the federal level prior to coming to the White House; President Jimmy Carter, who was governor of Georgia before residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue; and even her husband, Bill Clinton, who was governor and attorney general of Arkansas before being elected in 1992?

I sent Singer an email asking for a clarification. I'll let you know if he gets back to me.
– CNN Contributor Roland Martin
http://www.rolandsmartin.com/blog/?p=112

* * *

'Gay question' general linked to Clinton
By: Kenneth P. Vogel
November 29, 2007 06:08 AM EST
The retired general who asked about gays and lesbians serving in the military at the CNN/YouTube Republican debate on Wednesday is a co-chair of **Hillary Clinton** 's National Military

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Veterans group.

Retired Brig. Gen. Keith H. Kerr was named a co-chair of the group this month, according to a campaign press release.

He was also active in John F. Kerry's 2004 campaign for president.

Kerr **asked candidates** "why you think that American men and women in uniform are not professional enough to serve with gays and lesbians."

After the debate former Education Secretary Bill Bennett, said on a CNN panel that he was being told Kerr was involved with the Democratic presidential campaign of Clinton, a New York senator.

CNN anchor Anderson Cooper, who moderated the debate and the panel, said that if that was the case, CNN should have identified Kerr as such.

David Bohrman, a CNN senior vice president and executive producer of the debate, later said: "We regret this, and apologize to the Republican candidates. We never would have used the general's question had we known that he was connected to any presidential candidate."

Kerr told CNN that he had not done work for the Clinton campaign, and CNN verified before the debate that he had not contributed money to any candidate, the broadcaster said in a blog post after the debate.

Kerry told CNN he is a member of the Log Cabin Republicans and was representing no one other than himself, CNN said.

A Nov. 11 **press release** retrieved from the website of the non-partisan magazine Campaigns & Elections lists Kerr as one of nearly 50 co-chairs of "Veterans and Military Retirees for Hillary."

Clinton's campaign did not respond to an e-mail asking about Kerr's role in her campaign or whether he was acting on behalf of the campaign.

Kerr also was on 2004 Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry's National Veterans Steering Committee, according to a campaign **press release** retrieved from the website of George Washington University.

And Kerr appears to be an active opponent of the U.S. military's current stance on gays and lesbians serving the military, the so-called "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

He appeared on the now-defunct CNN partner network CNNfn in Dec. 2003 to discuss the tenth anniversary of the policy. According to a transcript, he called it "a tremendous waste of personnel, a tremendous waste of financial resources for the United States."

Rep. **Duncan Hunter** (R-Calif.), the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, got first crack at Kerr's question. He said he thought having openly gay men and lesbian women in the military "would be bad for unit cohesion."

Former Arkansas Gov. **Mike Huckabee** , answering next, basically agreed.

Cooper then singled out former Massachusetts Gov. **Mitt Romney** , who in 1994 said he looked forward to the day gays and lesbians could serve openly in the military.

Romney said times have changed. Though he said he laughed when he first heard talk of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, and didn't think it would work, he said: "You know what? It's been there now for 15 years and it seems to have worked."

Cooper then turned to Kerr and asked whether he felt he got an answer to his question.

Kerr responded: "With all due respect, I did not get an answer from the candidates. American men and women in the military are professional enough to serve with gays and lesbians.... Today, don't ask, don't tell is destructive to our military policy."

Sen. **John McCain** (R-Ariz.), a decorated Vietnam veteran, got the last word on "don't ask, don't tell."
He said high-ranking military officials "almost unanimously, they tell me that this present policy is working. That we have the best military in history, we have the bravest, most professional, best-prepared and that this policy ought to be continued because it's working."
* * *

On the Presidential Campaign Trail
By The Associated Press
IN THE HEADLINES
Iowa's caucus system, New Hampshire's same-day registration makes participation open to many ... Dozens of black ministers in South Carolina back Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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CLINTON-MINISTERS
Clinton endorsed by S.C. ministers as rivals seek black support in early voting state
SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton picked up endorsements from dozens of black ministers Tuesday in South Carolina, an early voting state where she and rival Barack Obama have been courting the critical black vote.

The clergy were drawn to the New York senator for her views on health care, jobs and other issues, said a state representative who helped organize the endorsements. "They felt this was the best candidate addressing their concerns," said state Rep. Harold Mitchell, a Democrat from this northern part of the state.

Nearly half of South Carolina's Democratic primary voters are black, and ministers can play a huge role in shaping the political direction of their congregations. More than 60 ministers gathered with Clinton on a stage at a hotel and her campaign said 80 were in the room where the endorsements were announced.

Clinton, in a wide-ranging speech to a crowd of more than 450, spoke about her plans to expand health care, improve public education and boost the image of the U.S. She said she would send emissaries around the globe — and mentioned former Secretary of State Colin Powell as "someone I know very well" — to send a message that the era of "cowboy diplomacy is over."

(AP Photos SCMC101-104)

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DODD-FUNDS
Dodd eligible for public matching funds
WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Chris Dodd became eligible Tuesday for federal matching money to help finance a campaign that is banking on a surprise finish in Iowa.

The Federal Election Commission announced that Dodd had met the minimum requirement to receive public funds from the Presidential Public Funding Program, which is financed by taxpayers who set aside $3 for the fund in their tax returns.

Dodd is seeking to emerge as an alternative to better-financed rivals like Hillary Rodham Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards. As of Sept. 30, when candidates filed their latest financial reports, Dodd had total receipts of $13.6 million. He raised $1.5 million in the third quarter, covering July-September.

The presidential fund matches the first $250 of each individual primary contribution to an eligible candidate. To accept the money, candidates must agree to an overall spending limit of about $50 million and must meet spending thresholds in individuals states as well. The limits do not include money spent on staff, fundraising and several other costs that could significantly increase the base limit.

Dodd joins Edwards as the only two Democrats to be declared eligible for matching funds so far. Obama and Clinton do not plan to accept public money, freeing them from the spending limits. Republican presidential candidates John McCain and Tom Tancredo have also been declared eligible for public funds. McCain said Monday he had not yet decided whether to participate in the program.

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EARLIEST VOTES

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Ease of voter registration one more quirk in Iowa, N.H. presidential nominating contests
DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — It's Jan. 3 in Iowa and you decide, what the heck, I'm going to a precinct caucus.
Not affiliated with a political party? Not registered? Not even old enough to vote?
No problem. Come and help choose the nation's next president.
In yet another quirk of Iowa's caucus system, all citizens can participate as long as they sign a statement attesting to residency in the precinct and show that they'll be 18 in time for the general election.

"It has not been a problem," said state Democratic Party spokeswoman Carrie Giddins.
Some people do have a problem with the ease of registering for New Hampshire's leadoff primary, which follows Iowa's caucuses by five days. New Hampshire allows same-day registration at the polls, has no minimum residency period and defines a voter's home as the place where he or she sleeps most nights or intends to return after a temporary absence.

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THE DEMOCRATS
Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois addresses foreign policy issues in Portsmouth, N.H. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York visits a middle school in South Carolina, while her husband — former President Clinton — campaigns for her in Iowa. John Edwards joins a rally in New York in support of striking writers and entertainment industry workers.

Also in Iowa, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson rolls out his agriculture policy proposals and Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware discusses challenges in education. Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio hosts a town hall meeting in Exeter, N.H.

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THE REPUBLICANS
Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney holds a health care forum in St. Petersburg, Fla.
Sen. John McCain of Arizona campaigns in South Carolina.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY:
"There's very stiff, intense competition for the hearts and minds of the African-American clergy. Collectively, they have huge influence." — Don Fowler, a former Democratic National Committee chairman

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iNxTApa2sQRu0Xx99P3jt2bEXw7gD8T64VQ00

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Obama's Racial Identity Still An Issue

(CBS) Barack Obama has said that the big city cab drivers who once refused to pick him up had no doubt about his blackness back then, nor should anyone else now, **CBS News correspondent Dean Reynolds** reports.

Campaigning, he addresses the race issue without hesitation, once even mimicking gangbangers - he criticized their work ethic: "Why I gotta do it? Why you didn't ask Pookie to do it?" he said.

He quotes Martin Luther King and occasionally slips into the cadence of a black preacher, but recent polls show Hillary Clinton is the choice of more black Democrats, and it's clear that Obama's racial identity gives pause to some. He is not the descendant of African slaves, but is the son of a white mother and a Kenyan father, so he alone gets questions about just who he is.

"My black activist friends from here to Boston say that you are not black, you are multiracial, and I want to know how you self-identify?" he was asked at a recent event.

Obama replies: "I self-identify as African American - that's how I'm treated and that's how I'm viewed. I'm proud of it."

"The issue of whether he is black enough is not the primary issue," said Michael Fauntroy, a professor of public policy at George Mason University. "The issue is whether he has enough experience."

Besides, Obama may have other strengths. "He is seen as more palatable and more acceptable to larger numbers of white voters," Fauntroy said.

Of course, there are whites who will never vote for Obama because he is black.

"I don't want to sound prejudiced or anything, but for one, I am not going to vote for a colored man to be our president," said one South Carolina voter.

When asked if this country would vote for a black man for the highest office in the land, Sen. Obama deflects the question, suggesting merely raising it is a disservice to the American electorate.

But the American electorate has never had anyone quite like Barack Obama to consider.

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/11/27/eveningnews/printable3546210.shtml

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FROM THE BLOGS:

BET.com
CLINTON GETS SOME PULPIT POWER

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SPARTANBURG, S.C. (Posted Nov. 28, 2007) – Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) visited South Carolina Tuesday, which will be the first southern state to hold its presidential primary. She stopped in Spartanburg to pick up endorsements from some 50 ministers whose congregations cover the northern region of the state. The delegation of pastors flanked Clinton on stage before a crowd of more than 300 in the Spartanburg Marriott Hotel ballroom.

A political pep rally with pastors is a winning combination for any campaign. But the one who stood out to me was the event coordinator. South Carolina State Rep. Harold Mitchell (D) had first endorsed Clinton's top rival, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.).

Mitchell told me his switch wasn't "a quick change" but after finding Clinton was closer to the issues he cared about, it just seemed like the right thing to do.

Mitchell said when he testified at a hearing in Washington, D.C., on environmental justice, he listen to what Clinton had to say and found she supported the same state projects he was working on. Not just on this issue but other issues as well.

"She came back and put together a trust fund for affordable housing; she signed onto the reauthorization of Hope Six, an initiative to spark home ownership, and she has the leadership and experience," Mitchell said.

You can never underestimate how a candidate relates to the folks when they meet face to face. And Clinton worked the room and clearly roped in a few votes. After her remarks, she shook hands with the crowd and exchanged pleasantries.

Bertha Robinson from Moore, S.C., told me, "I like her ideas, and she would be an excellent president; she's for the middle class and underprivileged."

John Teamer, of Spartanburg, was still undecided. "I wanted to see what she's like; I want a president that's for everybody."

* * *



Y&R's Drucilla may have disappeared, but her portrayer, Victoria Rowell, is very much alive and visible as she has been traveling around the country speaking out in support for Senator Hillary Clinton. She has visited South Carolina as well as other southern states, and heads this week to New Hampshire speaking about her support for Clinton.

Rowell, who is also best-selling author of "The Women Who Raised Me" about her experiences growing up in the foster care system, is a practiced public speaker who supports issues relating to women and children, African-Americans, as well as the arts community. In a recent speech, she compared Hillary Clinton to the women who raised her - strong, graceful, and doing something worthwhile.

Hillary Clinton first met Victoria back in 1997, and **The Young and the Restless** alum has supported the Senator's efforts to make adoption more affordable, offer tax-incentives to families adopting children with special needs and provide caregivers with additional support systems.

Many in the audience become moved by Rowell's speeches, in which she claims Americans need someone in office who supports children's causes. While speaking, she even refers to Hillary Clinton as "President Clinton" on occasion!

It is said that many **Y&R** fans turn up at the rallies to hear Victoria Rowell speak and she spends up to an hour afterward chatting and signing autographs.

Although, Victoria alludes to this campaign as being a reason for taking time away from **Y&R** , she only jokes when asked about a return to the daytime sudser, such as in a recent soap

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industry magazine where she made a statement to the effect of, 'Drucilla's body has never been found, nor has her hat - so you never know'!

Remember, Soaps.com readers, whoever your choice for office, on Election Day, stand up and have your voice heard by voting!! We admire Victoria Rowell for her inspirational role, and for getting involved and making a difference!

http://www.soaps.com/youngandrestless/news/1259/Victoria_Rowell_Campaigns_for_Hillary_Clinton

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What About Shirley Chisholm...and Her 1972 Presidential Campaign?
As we draw closer to the 2008 presidential primaries - with Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama trading one-liners and fighting for percentage points - it's important to look back and pay homage to someone who paved the way for both of them.

That person is Shirley Chisholm.
Like most people moderately well-versed in American politics, I thought I knew all about Shirley Chisholm. First black woman elected to Congress. First African American woman to run for President on a major party ticket . Those two bare-bones sentences don't nearly do her justice.

If she ran today, she'd have twice the grassroots buzz surrounding her that Ron Paul enjoys.
Her campaign slogan, "Unbought and Unbossed," spelled it out.
And if you don't get my meaning, here's an example: In her freshman year in Congress, you know how they hand out those committee assignments to new members? And you're pretty much supposed to take your assignment, smile, and be grateful for the honor? Well, Shirley Chisholm was assigned to a subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee.

And what does agriculture have to do with her constituents back in Brooklyn, smack-dab in the middle of New York City? Not much.

And that's why she said, "No...I'm not going to take this assignment." She looked the powers-that-be in the eye (white men in those days) and just said no.

That was who she was - determined, committed, not a woman to be pushed around. And she was way, way ahead of her time.
That's why I'm surprised that more women (and men) aren't talking about her this campaign cycle and referencing her accomplishments.

She was the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for President at the Democratic National Convention.
She was the first African American to campaign for the Democratic nomination.
Clinton and Obama are campaigning on her legacy - a ground-breaking presidential race she knew she'd never win.
But as she explained, "Somebody has to be the first."
http://womensissues.about.com/b/2007/11/29/what-about-shirley-chisholmand-her-1972-presidential-campaign.htm

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http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/view/29181/hillary_leads_gop_rivals_in_united_states

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HEADSUP: The Blog

WATERBOARDING THE NUMBERS

http://headsuptheblog.blogspot.com/2007/11/waterboarding-numbers.html

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OH-EIGHT (D): HILLARY AND FIRST LADIES

http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2007/11/27/482065.aspx

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http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2007/11/oprah.php

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http://hnn.us/roundup/entries/44746.html

Is Barack Obama just another high-toned liberal

doomed to failure? [Original]

All presidential candidates have their signature rhetorical moves, and Barack Obama's has been to make a virtue of defying pressure groups.

In a recent debate, he boasted of telling a crowd of automakers—rather than "some environmental group," as he put it—that we need to raise the fuel efficiency standards of cars.

He has also hyped his frankness in urging merit pay on teachers and in lecturing African-American groups that unwed fathers need to act more responsibly.

Never mind that none of these positions is terribly controversial, even among liberal Democrats.

In touting these acts of supposed rebellion, Obama isn't really seeking to stake out dangerous ground; he's trying to score points for appearing to brave powerful constituencies on behalf of a larger common good.

Telling Detroit to go green may (or may not) bruise him in the Michigan primary, but overall it will help him much more by buffing his aura as a truth-teller and healer.

Pundits call these gestures "Sister Souljah" moments, in honor of Bill Clinton's 1992 speech before the Rainbow Coalition blasting the rapper for seeming to advocate black-on-white violence.

But that label doesn't really apply to Obama's gestures. Clinton's comments were tied closely to a specific subject matter—racial politics.

Though arguably opportunistic, they were aimed squarely at Reagan Democrats who felt their party had become too tolerant of black radicalism.

The particular objects of Obama's attacks, in contrast, are irrelevant. It's the larger image of candor on behalf of the general interest that he's after.

A more apt precedent, then, is the rhetoric of a different Democratic standard-bearer from the past - Adlai Stevenson - who, not coincidentally, also embodies the strain of high-minded reformism that, of all liberal traditions, influences Obama most.

Stevenson, the famously virtuous Illinois governor who nobly went down to defeat against Dwight Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956, remains the model Democratic loser.

He was the sensible champion of civility who gallantly upheld the liberal banner in a conservative age, even while getting drubbed at the polls.

One of his favorite tactics was to proclaim his ability to flout his audiences and instead act on behalf of the whole public.

"I remember the night in Dallas when I spoke to Texans of my views of tidelands oil," he said in a televised speech on election eve, 1952.

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"I remember the crowd in Detroit when I said I would be the captive of all of the American people and no one else. I remember the evening in the railroad station in New Haven when I identified a powerful Democratic leader as not my kind of Democrat. ...

"I have done my best frankly and forthrightly." The same theme marked TV commercials like this one—an ad that also lends some insight into why Stevenson had so much trouble that year.

The appeal to the greater good, as opposed to sectarian interest, was typical of Stevenson—and of a persistent persuasion within liberalism that has now given rise to Obama's candidacy.

It's an appeal that aims not only to create an image of principled candor, but, equally important, to distinguish the candidate from the familiar Democratic interest-group pluralism.

Whereas most Democratic politicians have succeeded by building alliances of disparate groups, each with its own pet issues, Stevenson's approach tended to deny or elide the fact that the demands of particular groups often conflict.

Instead, he was partial to language about "the common good" and "the public interest" and spoke loftily to "all Americans."

This sensibility wasn't inherently hostile to Democratic constituencies like blacks, blue-collar workers, or immigrants whose interests often fell outside conventional notions of the "common" interest, but it did tend to marginalize their concerns. Conversely, it resonated most with intellectuals and well-educated upscale professionals.

Obama exhibits other elements of this Stevensonian style as well. It's a style—an ideology, really—that links the quest for common ground with a language of enlightened reason.

It disdains the passionate and sometimes ugly politics of backroom deals, negative campaigning, sordid tactics, and appeals to emotion. It extols sacrifice and denigrates self-interest.

This tradition, of course, predates Stevenson. Its roots go back to the classical or civic republicanism that permeated American thought in the revolutionary era.

But the real precursors of Obama and Stevenson are the educated, middle-class reformers of the Gilded Age known as the Mugwumps.

The Mugwumps were liberal professionals and gentlemen of the late 19th century who tried to transform both the economic arrangements of the industrial age, with their deepening social inequities, and the machine-dominated political system, with its patronage and corruption.

They were the forebears of the Progressives of the next generation with whom they shared many qualities.

Both generations were, in the main, comfortable, noble-minded, often moralistic, usually sensible in their policy prescriptions (the civil service system, clean elections).

But they were also elitist, given to condescension toward lower classes and minorities, and often blind to those virtues that the parties and their machines did possess.

Mugwump-style reformism went into eclipse during the New Deal. Franklin Roosevelt and his circle preferred a strategy of coalition building that had roots in Democratic urban machine politics.

In their policies, they focused unsentimentally on economics—passing programs that would put food on people's tables. They dispensed with the Mugwumps' and Progressives' moral uplift in favor of a pragmatic approach.

With Stevenson, though, Mugwump liberalism reasserted itself—launching an era in which it would reside almost exclusively within the Democratic Party.

The original Mugwumps had been Republicans, and the Progressives included at least as many Republicans as Democrats; even Calvin Coolidge displayed Mugwump tendencies.

But after Stevenson, the Democratic Party furnished most of the presidential candidates and national figures who spoke the language of civic obligation, of suppressing group interest for the common good, of restoring an elevated political discourse.

From Eugene McCarthy in 1968 to Paul Tsongas in 1992 to Bill Bradley in 2000, these figures typically commanded strong followings among students and upscale liberals.

But they generated comparatively less enthusiasm among labor and African-Americans, among other core Democratic voters.

No one would deny the admirable side of the Mugwump inheritance: the policies it helped to implement, the idealism it represents, the commitment to principles like clean campaigning and good government that lie at its core.

Yet the failures of Stevenson and his heirs pose a warning as well to those like Obama who would adopt this ideology, rhetoric, and style.

For it was no coincidence that Stevenson and others failed as campaigners; his failure was rooted in his attitude toward politics.

In 1952 and again in 1956, Stevenson tried to avoid negative campaigning at first, considering it undignified and an insult to voters. (He felt the same way about TV ads.)

And so when he finally, of necessity, resorted to attacking Eisenhower—mainly by going after his running mate, Richard Nixon—Stevenson came off as desperate and hypocritical.

The same was true for Tsongas and Bradley when they flailed haplessly at Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

Today, Barack Obama finds himself in a similar bind to those men. If he continues to heed the advice of friendly pundits to attack Hillary Clinton more forcefully, he risks undermining the very premise of his campaign.

He would be tainting his image as a new kind of politician while failing to land his punches, because in the end he's not really a street fighter.

What he doesn't seem to understand—as Stevenson did not—is that democratic politics fairly demands a measure of thrust and parry, of appeals to self-interest, and of playing the political game. And so does being a good president.

http://joswift.blogspot.com/2007/11/barack-obama-too-liberal-for.html

* * *

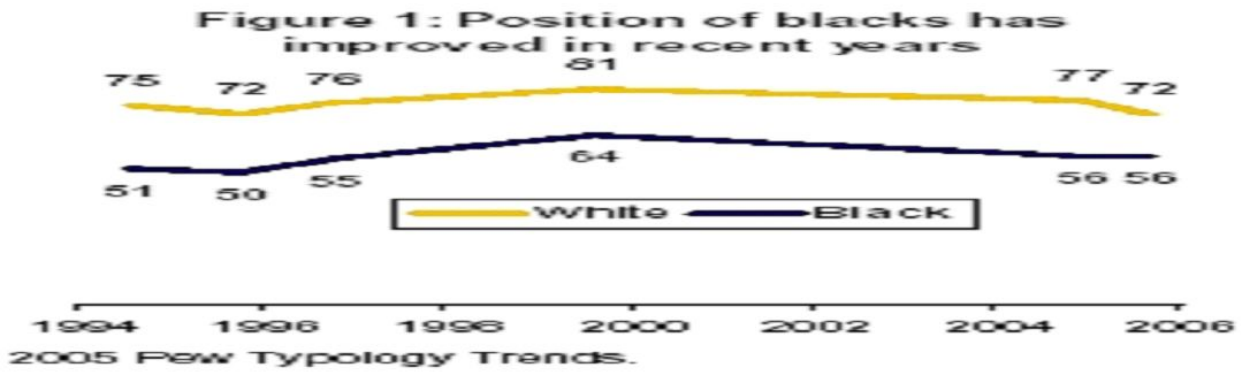
Filet Mignon or Lobster

http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/news/politics/blog/2007/11/filet_mignon_or_lobster.html

* * *

WHY BLACKS LIKE HILLARY OVER OBAMA
Bill Clinton led his send-off speech at the Dem 2000 convention for Al Gore, with the fact that under the second term of his administration, blacks saw a higher growth of income than whites.....

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During the Bush Years, they gave it all back.....
Therefore to the average Afro American, this election is extremely important, from purely an economic reason.....African Americans fared well under the first Clinton. They put their faith, if not their fervor into Al Gore, and look where we are today....Bottom line, they feel they need to back someone who will win with white voters ....

Of course they are proud of Obama. Even more, they are proud of his high poll standings and his ability to earn money.....equal almost to that of Hillary Clinton herself.....

But when it comes to keeping track of how many promising Black candidates actually win .....their memories are better at keeping score than most whites.....Likewise they are sharper because of their struggles, on who is capable and not capable of delivering upon their campaign promises.....

Bill did...and that leads a lot of credence that his wife will do the same.....Her experience is slightly more prodigious than her husband's. She seems to have the Rights' nod to the presidency, implying at best the Republicans will try to mount a Dole sized Campaign to keep from acquiescing entirely.

Obama on the other hand, was a state senator, and then a freshman Senator, until he started taking time off to campaign...How will he be able to effectively work Capitol Hill better than Hillary, when what is necessary will be the reversal of all things Bush, and a return to the tax policy, environmental policy, social policy that proved to raise ALL RACES AND ECONOMIC STRATAS at the same time.....something no one else has ever been able to do.

They do not need another candidate to stumble out of the gate . Therefore though they like Obama, as for right now, the money is on Hillary.....

But that could change after Iowa...where currently Obama is in the lead .....If Obama can show the curse is lifted and in a state where there are very few African Americans to be found...that a black can beat the wife of the most popular president ever,.....those allegiances can shift.....But Obama must win in Iowa, sort of the same way Kennedy had to win in West Virginia, (proving once and for all back in 1960 that a Catholic did have a shot at the presidency. Boy have we come a long way.....)

Black voters, argues Jim Clyburn, House Majority Whip, are aware that they make up a minority of the population in the United States and that to win the White House in 2008 the Democratic candidate must be able to demonstrate considerable appeal among white voters if Iowa goes Obama, then Blacks may see him as capable of making it all the way. If that vision becomes reality, then their support will switch to that candidate who can win the White House in 2008.....even if he is black.....

http://kavips.wordpress.com/2007/11/29/why-blacks-like-hillary-over-obama/

* * *
http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dailypolitics/2007/11/odds-and-ends-137.html

* * *

OBAMA'S COMING TO THE APOLLO

http://blogs.villagevoice.com/runninscared/archives/2007/11/obamas_coming_t.php

* * *

OPEN LEFT (BLOG)

REVEREND JESSE JACKSON AND BARACK OBAMA

http://www.openleft.com/showDiary.do?diaryId=2521

OTHER NEWS LINKS AND STORIES:

Hillary Clinton: Clinton Outlines Plan To Cut Minority Dropout Rates In Half

http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/48738064_hillary-clinton-clinton-outlines-plan-cut-minority-dropout-rates-half

* * *
Hillary Clinton: Clinton Announces Plan to Fight HIV/AIDS At Home And Abroad
Will Double Research Funding & Support Evidence-Based Prevention Programs
http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/48738066_hillary-clinton-clinton-announces-plan-fight-hiv-aids-home-and-abroad

* * *

Senators Clinton, Obama Well Ahead of the Pack in the Minds of Likely African American Primary Voters

http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/11-27-2007/0004712166&EDATE =

* * *
CLINTON TOPS OBAMA AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS

http://www.iowavotes2008.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4003&Itemid=75

* * *
BLACK VOTERS SUPPORT HILLARY CLINTON OVER OBAMA

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/11/28/2007-11-28_black_voters_support_hillary_clinton_ove.html
* * *
Black voters focus on Clinton, Obama; Poll: Name, perceived electability help put N.Y. senator ahead

http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-blackvote28nov28,1,758050.story?ctrack=1&cset=true

* * *

BLACK VOTERS FAVOR CLINTON OVER OBAMA

http://www.al.com/news/birminghamnews/wire.ssf?/base/news/119624191513320.xml&coll=2

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OBAMA 'THE MAN FOR THE MOMENT'

http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2007/11/27/obama_the_man_for_the_moment.html

* * *

Needle Exchange Action May Be Imminent

Last spring at the **National African American Drug Policy Coalition** summit here in Washington, the question was asked of Donna Christian-Christensen (Congressional Delegate from USVI, the closest thing the territories have to US Representatives), a physician and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust, what the prospects were for repealing the ban on use of federal AIDS grant funds to support needle exchange. Her answer was, "We're going to give it a good try." I took that to mean "it's not going to happen this time."

The issue has made some progress however, at least as it affects us here in the District of Columbia, where a particularly infamous part of the annual appropriations bill prevents DC from spending even its own locally-collected tax funds on needle exchange appears to be **on its way to getting repealed** , thanks to positive action by a House subcommittee that drafted the new appropriations bill. I know better than to take it as a given that repeal will make it all the way through. But it is looking pretty good, and at the **PreventionWorks!** anniversary party this evening -- attended by new PW executive director **Ken Vail** -- **AIDS Action** lobbyist Bill McColl informed the crowd that it could hit the floor within a few days.

Earlier this year we reported that Hillary Clinton was noncommittal about lifting the ban during a **videotaped exchange** at a private forum with prominent AIDS activists. The exchange was fascinating; after several pointed back-and-forths with **Housing Works** executive director Charles King, Sen. Clinton directly acknowledged that it was political concerns only that accounted for her position (though the kinds of concerns that can't necessarily be dismissed offhand). Sen. Obama, by contrast, had stated his support for lifting the ban.

This week Clinton took the plunge and made strong pro-needle exchange promises in **a campaign statement on AIDS funding** . What would ultimately happen with this in a Clinton presidency, or any Democratic presidency, is probably hard to predict -- politics is still politics. But the fact that the Democratic candidates are lining up to support the issue has McColl feeling cautiously optimistic that the Democratic Congress won't drop the ball on the DC language at least.

And it's encouraging for all of us about the long-term. The federal needle exchange restriction came to a boil during the Clinton administration, when the findings needed to lift the ban -- needle exchange doesn't increase drug use, but does reduce the spread of HIV -- were made by the administration, but not acted on. Some advocates believe that if Donna Shalala had been on a certain Air Force One flight, instead of Barry McCaffrey, that it would have happened. It took a change in Congress to even get the issue back onto the radar screen; more may be needed to actually get the law changed.

Still, let's keep our fingers crossed for the DC ban to be lifted, maybe even by the end of the year. Assuming that happens: **Let's Do Heroin!** (That was sarcasm, in case anyone didn't realize.)

http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle_blog/2007/nov/28/needle_exchange_action_may_be_im

* * *

Hillary Leads GOP Rivals in United States

November 29, 2007

(Angus Reid Global Monitor) - Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton holds the upper hand in the 2008 United States presidential election, according to a poll by Gallup released by *USA Today*. At least 49 per cent of respondents would vote for the New York senator in head-to-head contests against four prospective Republican rivals.

Rodham Clinton holds a five-point edge over former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, a six-point lead over Arizona senator John McCain, a 13-point advantage over actor and former Tennessee senator Fred Thompson, and a 16-point lead over former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney.

On Nov. 27, in an op-ed published in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, African American leader Jesse Jackson expressed disappointment with several Democratic presidential hopefuls, writing, "The Democratic candidates—with the exception of John Edwards, who opened his campaign in New Orleans' Ninth Ward and has made addressing poverty central to his campaign—have virtually ignored the plight of African Americans in this country. The catastrophic crisis that engulfs the African-American community goes without mention."

In American elections, candidates require 270 votes in the Electoral College to win the White House. In November 2004, Republican George W. Bush earned a second term after securing 286 electoral votes from 31 states. Democratic nominee John Kerry received 252 electoral votes from 19 states and the District of Columbia.

Bush is ineligible for a third term in office. The next presidential election is scheduled for November 2008.

Polling Data

Possible match-ups - 2008 U.S. presidential election

Giuliani v. Rodham Clinton

	Nov. 14	**Nov. 4**	**Aug. 2007**
Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)	49%	51%	46%
Rudy Giuliani (R)	44%	45%	50%

McCain v. Rodham Clinton

	Nov. 14	**Jun. 2007**	**Feb. 2007**
Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)	50%	49%	50%
John McCain (R)	44%	46%	47%

Thompson v. Rodham Clinton

	Nov. 14	**Jul. 2007**
Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)	53%	48%
Fred Thompson (R)	40%	45%

Romney v. Rodham Clinton

	Nov. 14	**Jul. 2007**
Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)	54%	53%
Fred Thompson (R)	38%	40%

Source: Gallup / USA Today

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 897 American registered voters, conducted from Nov. 11 to Nov. 14, 2007. Margin of error is 4 per cent.

http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/view/29181/hillary_leads_gop_rivals_in_united_states

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Middle-income blacks are downwardly mobile

THE ECONOMIST: EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

Some black Americans are doing very well. Barack Obama is pulling ahead of Hillary Clinton in Iowa. Tiger Woods is the world's best-paid athlete. Stan O'Neal was given a $160 million golden parachute as he was ejected from Merrill Lynch last month.

But these exceptional folk are indeed exceptional. For members of the black middle class, the news is gloomier. New research suggests that their grip on affluence is precarious.

The Economic Mobility Project, an arm of the impeccably non-partisan Pew Charitable Trusts, compares contemporary Americans' family income (based on surveys conducted between 1996 and 2003) with their parents' (between 1968 and 1972).

Overall, the picture is cheerful. Two-thirds of Americans who were children in 1968 and are now in their 30s or 40s enjoy higher household income than their parents did then. The same is true for black Americans.

But black upward mobility consists largely of people from poor families moving up. Blacks born halfway up the income ladder, by contrast, show an alarming tendency to fall down.

Only 31 percent of blacks who were children in 1968 and whose parents were in the middle fifth of America's income distribution now earn more than their parents did. The average household income for this group has actually declined -- from $53,700 (in 2006 dollars) to $44,900. Nearly half fell all the way into the bottom fifth.

These findings have furrowed many brows. CBS News calls them "chilling." The Washington Post laments that the middle-class dream is eluding African-Americans. Many people find the data perplexing. Why, if America really is the land of opportunity, are so many blacks finding it hard to hold onto the middle rungs of the ladder?

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Some caution is in order. Black families who managed to pull themselves up to the middle of the national income distribution by the late 1960s i.e., within five years of the Civil Rights Act -- must have been hot stuff. Certainly, they would have been near the top of the income distribution for blacks. So it would not be that odd for their children to fall short of their high standards.

Gary Burtless of the Brookings Institution, a think tank, thinks some of the downward mobility unearthed by the Pew study will turn out to be nothing more sinister than a reversion to the mean.

White children whose parents were in the top 20 percent in the late 1960s have also fallen slightly behind their parents. But nothing like as dramatically as middle-income blacks have.

Furthermore, at all income levels, blacks were less likely than whites to surpass their parents. (Overall, blacks and whites were equally likely to be upwardly mobile, but this was because anyone who starts at the bottom has more room to climb, and more blacks started at the bottom.)

Is racism to blame for downward mobility among middle-class blacks? Probably not much. Discrimination is far from dead, but it is hard to argue that it has intensified since the 1960s.

The grease on the ladder must have other ingredients, too. An oft-cited one is the changing structure of the economy. Forty years ago a man with a high school diploma could work at a steel factory for a middle-class salary. Nowadays good jobs typically require a college degree, which black men are less likely than whites to have.

Black men who worked full-time in 2004 earned 22 percent less than white men did, and fewer of them were employed at all.

Another big change since the 1960s is that the black family has all but disintegrated. In 1969 two-thirds of blacks in their 30s were married. Three decades later, 42 percent were. White families have gone non-nuclear too, but much less dramatically.

This affects household income. Other things being equal, two working parents earn more than one. White household incomes have risen sharply in the past generation largely because white women are now far more likely to work outside the home. The richest households typically consist of two professionals, married to each other and working full-time.

Few black households look like this. Black women, who have always worked outside the home in large numbers, now earn 95 percent as much as white women. But they are more likely to be sole breadwinners. And for those who want to marry a black man of similar status, the odds are unkind. For every 100 black female college graduates, there are only 70 black male ones.

A third factor is that even when blacks earn the same as whites, they tend to be less wealthy. In 2000 the average white household in the bottom fifth of income-earners was worth $24,000. For black households the figure was $57 -- less than O'Neal might spend on lunch. Whites in the middle fifth were five times wealthier than their black counterparts; those in the top fifth were three times more so.

Dalton Conley, a sociology professor at New York University and the author of "Being Black, Living in the Red," thinks this explains a lot. Extra cash cushions whites against temporary setbacks, such as losing a job or falling sick. It makes it easier to buy a home near a good school, and to borrow money for university.

Blacks are less likely to graduate from college than whites with the same family income, but the gap disappears if you compare families with the same income and net worth. Wealthier parents can more easily lend their offspring cash to start a business, and assets mean you can plan for the future.

So what can blacks do to keep their grip on the ladder? Financial education is one big thing, says Dawn Franklin of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As the recent collapse of the subprime-mortgage market shows, people without assets need to be careful how much they borrow, and on what terms. "Just because a bank says yes to you doesn't mean you got a good deal," she says.

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http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/341447_incomeonline29.html

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SOUTH CAROLINA HOT PRESS RELEASES:

Clinton Outlines Plan To Cut Minority Dropout Rates In Half

http://schotlinepress.wordpress.com/2007/11/28/clinton-outlines-plan-to-cut-minority-dropout-rates-in-half/

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Does NBC News' Series on Black Women Rehash Old Stats or Offer a Fresh, In-Depth Look?
http://www.blackamericaweb.com/site.aspx/bawnews/nbcseries1127

* * *

Commentary: Post-Katrina Priorities Prove That Outrage is One of the Many Casualties of the Bush Years
http://www.blackamericaweb.com/site.aspx/sayitloud/mathis1126

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	1/23/2015 7:51:03 AM
Subject:	1.23.15 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	1.23.15 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below. Thanks!

1.23.15 Weekend Package

1. **Hillary Clinton: Energy and the Environment**
2. **Hillary Clinton: Tough on Terrorism**
3. **Hillary Clinton: A Lifetime Champion of the Middle Class**
4. **Hillary Clinton: Tops New National Poll**

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

"So to those who doubt the science of climate change and who lack faith in American innovation, just tell them, look at the record and look at what's already happening across the United States … We are already advancing clean energy solutions that can begin turning this tide and can make America the clean energy superpower for the 21st century. We have the opportunity to invest in the infrastructure of the future resilient enough to withstand the effects of climate change we won't be able to avoid…"
– Hillary Clinton remarks to the League of Conservation Voters, 12/1/14

MESSAGE: Hillary Clinton recognizes the realities of climate change and has fought to move to cleaner energy to create green jobs, boost our economy and preserve the natural wonder of creation for the next generation.

- **In the Senate, Hillary Clinton boosted alternative energy power and fought for clean energy solutions.**
  - Hillary Clinton voted for tax credits for electricity produced from renewable energy sources and proposed permanent tax credits for wind and solar production.
  - She proposed getting big oil companies to reinvest some of their excess profits toward developing smarter energy technologies like fuel-efficient cars and wind and solar power.
  - Senator Clinton repeatedly cosponsored the Clean Power Act to get power plants to reduce harmful air pollution.
  - She introduced legislation to make federal buildings more energy efficient.
  - Hillary cosponsored the Diesel Emissions Reductions Act to increase investment in technologies to reduce pollution from diesel-powered trucks.
- **As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton prioritized the fight against climate change as a matter of foreign policy.**

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- Secretary Clinton appointed a Special Envoy for Climate Change to serve as an advisor on international climate change policy.
- She established the Bureau of Energy Resources to channel the domestic energy boom to advance American interests around the world and address the threat of climate change posed by the world's energy consumption. [combined two bullets from other two sets of TPs]
- During Secretary Clinton's tenure, the Bureau of Energy Resources helped European nations reduce their dependence on Russian gas, lessening Putin's leverage over Ukraine and Europe's energy supply.

- **Secretary Clinton led the way through partnerships and developed incentives to encourage cooperation and progress toward reducing our footprint on the environment.**
  - Secretary Clinton helped negotiate an unprecedented agreement between all major economies to commit to curb carbon emissions through 2020.
  - She promoted the development of clean energy projects in a regional partnership with countries in North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean through the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas.
  - She signed an agreement with Brazil to strengthen cooperation as our countries work together to meet the grave challenge of global climate change.
  - She implemented 18 EcoPartnerships with China to collaborate on clean energy, sustainable development, and environmental issues.
  - She launched the U.S. Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative to drive private sector investment into Africa's clean energy sector.
  - Recognizing that dirty cookstoves kill nearly 2 million people a year and are harmful to the environment, Secretary Clinton took action and launched the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves in order to save lives and protect our planet.

TALKING POINTS: TOUGH ON TERRORISM

MESSAGE: *In a changing and unpredictable world, Hillary Clinton's leadership on issues of national security has kept America secure and helped make the world a safer place.*

KEY POINTS:

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton worked through diplomatic channels to help the United States fight terrorism and safeguard our national security.

- Secretary Clinton made the case for the raid to bring Osama bin Laden to justice.
- Clinton built relationships with key players in the Middle East and funded counterterrorism training initiatives.
- Through negotiations with Russia, Clinton successfully worked to reduce the number of nuclear missile launchers in the world.
- Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history in order to encourage Iran to abandon, or at least stall, its nuclear program.
- Clinton negotiated the Gaza cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians, helping avert an all-out war in Gaza.
- Clinton played a role to end the war in Iraq and begin a transition to civilian society in Afghanistan.
- Clinton instituted new roles at the State Department to fight terrorism:
  - Clinton created the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online.
  - Clinton established the Bureau of Counterterrorism to advance counterterrorism objectives and our national security.

- Clinton identified and led on important issues which affect our national security, such as the global empowerment of women and climate change.

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- Clinton worked to empower women and girls around the world to participate in their economies. This helps make economies stronger and more stable.

- Clinton prioritized addressing climate change in her time at the State Department. Weather events caused by climate change can lead to famine and destroyed infrastructure, which increase instability and unrest.

Serving as a United States Senator representing New York during September 11, 2001, Hillary Clinton made it a priority to urge the pursuit of justice against Al Qaeda and improve our nation's efforts to combat terrorism.

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON: A LIFETIME CHAMPION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

"With all due respect, it is not rich people who made America great. It is the vast American middle class. It is the upward mobility of people who thought they could do better than their parents."

–Hillary Clinton

MESSAGE: Hillary Clinton has dedicated her life to ensuring that hardworking Americans can succeed. In uncertain times, families need faith that opportunity for their children and grandchildren is alive and well. Hillary Clinton wants the American Dream to be a real possibility for every child and every family across our nation.

Hillary Clinton knows that tomorrow's shared success starts with today's child, and her dedication to children began long before she ever entered public office. In fact, her first job out of law school was for the newly-formed Children's Defense Fund, an organization she would later chair.

Hillary Clinton has worked to expand access to early childhood education for children of lower-income families. As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton introduced her husband to the HIPPY program, which expanded early childhood education to economically disadvantaged children. In the Senate, Clinton partnered with Kit Bond in an effort to expand voluntary full-day pre-K for children from low-income families. Today, as part of the Too Small to Fail Initiative to improve the health and well-being of children five and under, Hillary Clinton is working to close the "word gap" for kids in low-income families who often have smaller vocabularies than their classmates.

Hillary Clinton has worked to increase health coverage for millions of children in low-income and working families through the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program she helped created as First Lady. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton looked for ways to strengthen the program, introducing bills to allow states to expand it.

Hillary Clinton's record proves she believes that every American should be able to earn an equal day's pay for an equal day's work. As a Senator, Hillary Clinton introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act and was an original cosponsor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton supported increasing the minimum wage and voted repeatedly to protect and increase it. She was an original cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, and authored the 2006 and 2007 Standing with Minimum Wage Act to tie Congressional salary increases to an increase in the minimum wage.

As a Senator, Hillary Clinton supported progressive tax policies that required millionaires to pay their fair share. She opposed tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations in 2001 and 2003, and she supported a variety of middle-class tax cuts, including tax credits for student loan recipients, and keeping in place the tax cuts for those who make under $250,000 a year.

- Clinton has said "that inherited wealth and concentrated wealth is not good for America," and she has consistently voted against repealing the estate tax on millionaires, doing so in 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Hillary Clinton supported working families going through difficult times through no fault of their own. In the Senate, she was a bipartisan leader on fighting to extend emergency unemployment benefits.

BOTTOM LINE: Leading the charge for equal pay for equal work, fighting to increase wages, strongly advocating for progressive tax policies and access to education and healthcare to help middle-class families – Hillary Clinton has fought for an America and a future where everyone can rise to their potential.

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HILLARY CLINTON'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

In her many public appearances over the past year, Hillary Clinton has continued to advocate for the middle class by sharing her vision all over the country:

In a speech to a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf, "Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start.'" According to Politico, Clinton "gave one of her strongest political speeches since her 2008 campaign ended in June 2008 as she headlined a women-focused event for Democratic gubernatorial Tom Wolf in Pennsylvania. Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start,' as well as women's pay equity and her gauzy first days as a new grandmother. For the first time in months, Clinton's public talk was neither a dry recitation of public policy nor a self-reflection about her tenure as secretary of state." [Politico , 10/9/14]

Clinton's language at a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf was "some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class." According to Politico, "The remarks were some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class. They came after she was accused of being out of touch for her comment in June about being 'dead broke' when she left the White House, and for giving paid speeches at exorbitant prices." [Politico , 10/9/14]

The theme of Clinton's speech at an event for Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Tom Wolf was working families. According to BuzzFeed, "The thread running through Clinton's message here in Pennsylvania, the state she won six years ago in a primary against Barack Obama, was working families — a theme she teased repeatedly throughout her speech with populist undertones, mentions of her granddaughter, and stories about her own trips as a child to Scranton, where Clinton's father, Hugh, was born to a working-class immigrant family." [BuzzFeed , 9/9/14]

In Pennsylvania, Clinton criticized the power of corporations, siding with middle-class families. According to the Wall Street Journal, "Though she and her husband have raised more than $1 billion from U.S. companies and corporate officials over the last two decades**,** Mrs. Clinton signaled that she sided with everyday families struggling to pay bills and keep afloat. Corporations, she said, 'seem to have all the rights, but none of the responsibilities of people …' She decried practices that pay women less than men for the same work and took aim at politicians who've belittled women's rights. 'A 20th century economy will not work for 21st century families,' she said." [Wall Street Journal , 9/9/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she would fight to restore and re-open the middle class. According to TPM, "The notion of 'upward mobility' was central to Clinton's message to the New American audience in May. She described it as 'time-tested wisdom' that was 'at the heart of what I believe is the basic bargain of America.'… Here is how Clinton described that basic bargain of America, as she sees it, in May: 'No matter who you are or where you come from, if you work hard and play by the rules, you'll have the opportunity to build a good life for yourself and your family.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she can address income inequality and gender inequality. According to TPM, "So income inequality has been a big part of the message. But it's also been married to inequality between the sexes. At both the New American and CAP events, the same factoid made an appearance: That three-quarters of jobs that rely on tips -- like 'waiters, bartenders and hairstylists' as she said on both occasions -- are held by women…. And she said Thursday that these issues should be used to mobilize voters -- in the 2014 midterms and moving forward." [TPM , 9/22/14]

In recent speeches, Clinton has taken a tougher stance on big business, likely in "an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism" she may need in 2016, according to Reuters. According to Reuters, "Long viewed as an ally by Wall Street, likely 2016 presidential contender Hillary Clinton has increasingly been taking banks and big business to task while on the campaign trail for Democrats across the country…. This is a change of tone for the former New York senator, who faced criticism for her Wall Street ties as recently as September, after appearing with Goldman Sachs (GS.N) chief executive Lloyd Blankfein. Allies and analysts see it as an effort to find

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the balance between populism and her familiar centrism that Clinton may need in order to broaden her appeal in a potential 2016 Democratic primary contest." [Reuters , 11/2/14]

During a New Hampshire midterm event, Clinton discussed expanding economic opportunity and raising the minimum wage. According to the Boston Globe, "Clinton spoke in New Hampshire about expanding economic opportunity, raising the minimum wage, and protecting women's rights. She acknowledged that, across the country, there is 'a lot of anxiety and insecurity.' But the former secretary of state and US senator from New York struck a hopeful note: She bookended her remarks talking about her new granddaughter and said seeing another generation in the family focuses the mind on what's important. Clinton said she and her husband were raised to believe the American Dream was within your reach if you worked hard. 'You should not,' Clinton told a packed gymnasium, 'have to be the grandchild of a governor or a senator or a former secretary of state or a former president to believe that the American Dream is in your reach.'" [Boston Globe , 11/2/14]

In midterm campaign appearances, Clinton has been echoing populist notes. According to Bloomberg, Clinton "has been sounding more populist notes of late as a campaign-trail advocate for Democratic candidates who are on the ballot next week. That's an important turn as she contemplates a run for president in 2016 because Clinton's biggest weakness among Democrats, and some Republicans, is the perception that she's too close to Wall Street and corporate America…. And the more anti-corporate tone is pleasing to the ears of liberals who have pined for Senator Elizabeth Warren, a scourge of Wall Street banks, to challenge Clinton for the Democratic nomination. And, they say, it's a message Clinton can use against Republicans because many in the GOP have turned wary of Wall Street and big corporations since the 2008 financial crash." [Bloomberg , 10/27/14]

During a midterm appearance in New York, Clinton clarified earlier comments about companies and job creation, while maintaining the same theme: "Clinton's for the little guy." According to Bloomberg, "Days after Republicans feasted on her claim that corporations don't create jobs, Hillary Clinton tried Monday to 'be absolutely clear about what I've been saying for a couple of decades.' 'So-called trickle-down economics has failed,' Clinton said as she stumped for Representative Sean Patrick Maloney in New York. 'Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in an America where workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out–not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas.' While campaigning Friday for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley, Clinton created a stir–and drew criticism from Republicans–by saying, 'Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs.'…The cleaned-up message, though, hits at the same theme: Clinton's for the little guy." [Bloomberg , 10/27/14]

While campaigning for Democrats in the midterm election, Clinton frequently tells voters that "everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance." According to a CNN, an investigation into Clinton's most common lines on the trail found that Clinton frequently tells voters, "'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance…' Clinton has focused a great deal on economic populism on the stump, an issue other Democrats thinking about seeking the presidency in 2016 have started to tweak Clinton on. 'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance to keep going and to make something of themselves,' Clinton said in Iowa earlier this year. 'That was one of the most important lessons of my life.' Clinton usually uses the line to encourage compassion from a crowd, and to show that she has compassion, too." [CNN , 10/28/14]

In a San Francisco speech, Clinton revealed some of what may be her economic message: "Who's on your side?" According to the Washington Post, "Here in San Francisco on Monday, Clinton gave a spirited call to arms to Democrats as she road-tested what is likely to be her economic message if she runs again. The November midterms, she said, come down 'to a simple question: Who's on your side?' She sounded close to her party's populist marrow when she decried the erosion of economic security for many working Americans, and a long way from her tone-deaf remark earlier this year about being 'dead broke' when she and Bill Clinton left the White House in 2000. 'It's time to elect leaders who will fight for everyone to get a fair shot at the American dream,' Hillary Clinton said." [Washington Post, 10/21/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she could finish the economic recovery begun by Obama. According to TPM, "Clinton seems to have a handle of the line she wants to toe: Obama saved us from worse

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economic struggles (as his defenders have been saying for years), but the work isn't over. Implicit, of course, is that she -- if she runs -- would finish the job. 'We haven't seen a full recovery from the economic crash,' Clinton said Thursday at CAP. 'When the president came in, he deserves an enormous amount of credit for staunching the bleeding and preventing a further deterioration and getting us out of that ditch we were in. But we know unless we change our policies, a lot of the benefits are not going to be broadly shared.' 'It's not just about more jobs for more people and better paying jobs,' she said. 'It's making sure that the people themselves get to keep those benefits and build that future back that they are so desperate to see for themselves.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

In an interview with PBS, Hillary said : "Bill and I have had terrific opportunities, both of us…have worked hard, but we've been grateful for everything that we've been able to achieve, and sadly that's just not true for most Americans today…It's important that we all try to figure out what we're going to do, and that's what I've done my entire life, fighting for a higher minimum wage, or family leave…equal pay for equal work…I think my record speaks for itself."

At a speech at the Aspen Ideas Festival, Hillary said : "At the end of the day, we're all on the same team. We're on the American team. And we've got to do a better job of getting our economy growing again and producing results and renewing the American Dream so that Americans feel that they have a stake in the future and that the economy and the political system is not stacked against them, because that will erode the trust that is at the basis of our democracy."

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON TOPS NEW NATIONAL POLL

BACKGROUND: *A new ABC News/Washington Post poll conducted January 12-15, 2015 finds that Hillary Clinton leads each of the top potential GOP candidates in hypothetical matchups.*

THE POLL:

- According to the poll, Hillary beats all other potential GOP contenders polled by double digits.

- In head-to-head matchups, Clinton leads Jeb Bush 54%-41%, Mitt Romney 55%-40%, Chris Christie 53%-40%, Rand Paul 54%-41%, and Mike Huckabee 56%-39%.

THE BIG PICTURE:

Hillary Clinton continues to connect with Democrats, Independents and Americans of all backgrounds who are hungry for her experience and vision. Because of Hillary Clinton's years of public service, her strong record as a leader, and her commitment to being a voice to the voiceless, she has the support of so many Americans.

This latest poll is in line with what others polls and pundits have been showing for months – that Hillary Clinton has unprecedented support behind her, despite the onslaught of Republican attacks against her.

- Clinton is extremely popular among Democrats: an NBC/Marist poll from July 7-13, 2014 puts her favorability/unfavorability rating in Iowa at 89 percent/6 percent; in New Hampshire it's even higher, at 94 percent/4 percent.

- In polls conducted this summer in Ohio , New Jersey and Florida , Hillary Clinton had commanding leads over potential 2016 GOP contenders.

- According to a Quinnipiac press release on the Ohio poll, "Secretary Clinton, on the other hand, is almost everyone's favorite candidate."

- Regarding the New Jersey poll, a Quinnipiac official stated , "As Gov. Christopher Christie traipses around the nation, his presidential potential seems alive, but former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the adopted girl next door, easily beats him in his home state."

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- Based on the Florida poll, CNN reported that "Hillary Clinton is the clear 2016 frontrunner in the nation's largest presidential battleground state."

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From: "John DeCock - Clean Water Action" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 5/21/2010 9:23:35 AM
Subject: Oil Spill In the Gulf: One Month...and Counting

GRAPHIC: Clean Water Action logo with wave background and donate badge

Make sure the oil spill in the Gulf doesn't become "business as usual"

Hello Mary,

We need your help to stand up to Big Oil

We don't think the sea should be flammable.

PHOTO: Aerial view of oil being burned from the Deepwater Horizon/BP incident, May 19, 2010. Favorable weather conditions allowed burns to total more than nine hours.

Photo: Deep Water Horizon Response

GRAPHIC: Donate button

The latest heartbreaking new s from BP's Deep Water Horizon oil spill show s that parts of the noxious, 10 mile long, 300 foot wide surface slick and the massive sub-surface plumes have been picked up by the Gulf's Loop Current. It is likely this will spread the spill and its devastating impacts around the tip of Florida and up the Atlantic Coast. First stop: the fragile, unique, and irreplaceable Florida Keys coral reef ecosystems...in as little as a w eek.

And w e still have no real idea of the spill's reach and the potential damage it could cause. This is w hy w e need your help Mary to make sure that spills of this kind don't become "business as usual." Help us ensure a clean energy future today!

Millions in taxpayer dollars and donations to non-profit organizations are being spent to try to prevent even more damage from being done. But the oil keeps gushing. The epic scale of BP's failure has overw helmed nearly all efforts. Small businesses and individuals are suffering staggering personal losses. And the oil keeps gushing.

Throughout our history Clean Water Action has opposed offshore oil exploration projects because of the many risks to w ater resources. Clean Water Action is w orking to ensure a clean energy future that protects w ater and rejects dirty, expensive, and unsafe technologies, like more off-shore drilling, coal and nuclear power.

Mary, your support for our efforts is vital to ensuring this tragedy is not repeated.

Big Oil and the rest of the dirty energy industry are right now focusing on making sure that the energy and climate bills before Congress continue to favor the dirty, polluting energy sources of the past - including more offshore drilling, coal, and nuclear - and include taxpayer support for failed energy policies that degrade and deplete our water.

With your support, Mary, Clean Water Action and our allies w ill stand-up to Big Oil and dirty energy and advance a clean energy future.

Clean Water Action w ill keep the pressure on public officials at every level - w ith your help - so they know they w ill be held accountable for protecting our w ater.

Yours for Clean Water,



John DeCock
President
Clean Water Action

Contact Us

National Office
1010 Vermont Ave NW,
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005-4918
202-895-0420

tell a friend button

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You are receiving this message because you or someone using your e-mail address, john.podesta@gmail.com, gave us permission to send it. Not interested anymore? unsubscribe now .

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From:	johnson_lo <johnson_lo@mail2000.com.tw>
To:	
Date:	12/2/2008 8:08:32 AM
Subject:	Have you been Moscow-Russia？你去過莫斯科嗎？
Attachments:	Moscow-Russia-_Christine.pps

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From:
To:
Date: 10/16/2016 7:18:55 PM
Subject:

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From:	"Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date:	7/16/2015 6:42:20 AM
Subject:	Re: Iran

Stu -- have you read her statement?

On Thu, Jul 16, 2015 at 10:34 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

> Dear Jake,
>
> It is clear the campaign and Hillary want to be seen as simply praising the Iran deal without any of the qualifications and assurances to our allies we have discussed for weeks. You had even strengthened the language I proposed on using all means to stop an Iranian nuclear weapon during or after the expiration of the term of the Agreement. Is this now all by the boards? I am very concerned about her loss of Jewish and moderate support, without the kind of statement I assumed would be forthcoming.
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Stu

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/8/2008 5:39:25 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Appearance in Des Moines, IA 08/08/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Lee, on the ground in Des Moines, IA. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Advocates free trade, says agreement with S Korea could make Iowans $10 more per pig/hog
- Repeats that he's "all for" inflating our tires but that's not an energy plan, that's a public service announcement
- Tells crowd he's against ethanol subsidies but for renewable fuels

Des Moines, IA: McCain Appearance at State Fair 08/08/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- Unidentified woman gives brief introductory remarks
- Over 200 people in crowd listening to McCain speak
- McCain gives remarks from atop haystacks in Fairground
- Cindy with McCain
- Following brief remarks, McCain walks through fair shaking hands; eating fair fare; walks through agriculture building
    - about 50 people following McCain with encouraging words; yelling 'pick mitt' and offering money
- Tracker didn't see any protesters

Speech Highlights

- TY for being here, great to be back in heartland, IA state fair is great
- I understand yesterday a few corn dogs were consumed a world-record -- I just came from my favorite place- seeing Freight Train, a fat pig-- Next we're going to eat a deep-fried twinkie and pork on a stick. I love the heartland, a chance to meet and greet the heartland.
- People from all over the world are consuming the quality products produced right here in Iowa. I will make sure every market in the world is open to your products. Some of the great products--talking to Craig Lang and Bill Northie, and they told me there's $150 to be made for every pig/hog raised here. $30 of those dollars are made from internatl exports. If we approve free trade agreement w/ S Korea, $10 more can be made. Your agricultural products can feed the world.
- We are facing an energy crisis in USA. Lowest-income Americans are suffering the most. We must achieve energy independence. When I'm POTUS, we will. We can't spend $700B to countries that don't like us very much.
- [microphone feedback] This microphone is brought to you c/o DNC.
- I have a plan to achieve energy independence: "all of the above", the Lexington Project. We have to include nuclear. We're a long way from the ocean but we have to drill offshore - drill here, drill now. Obama's opposed to offshore drilling and he said we have to inflate our tires. I'm all for inflating our tires but that's not an energy plan, that's a PSA.
- We're having fun w/ this campaign. We should enjoy this. Obama should come here with me and talk to you .
- TY vets for what you've done in Iraq, Afghanistan. The bravest and most professional military is the one we have today.
- We are winning in Iraq and we have succeeded adn we will bring the troops home with honor and victory

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and not in defeat as would've happened if my---

- And can I tell you a quick story that helped me put everything in perspective, 'as we politicians need to do from time to time': Matthew Stanley story.
- I want to be POTUS b/c I want to inspire a generation to serve a cause greater than self.
- We can recover our economy and create a better world and it is reaffirmed here in IA.
- We will disagree from time to time: I believe in renewable fuels, I don't agree with ethanol subsidies

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/5/2015 8:25:52 AM
Subject: ASP Newsletter

Climate Diplomacy | Tony de Brum Event Recap | Upcoming Charleston and TPP Events

View this email in your browser

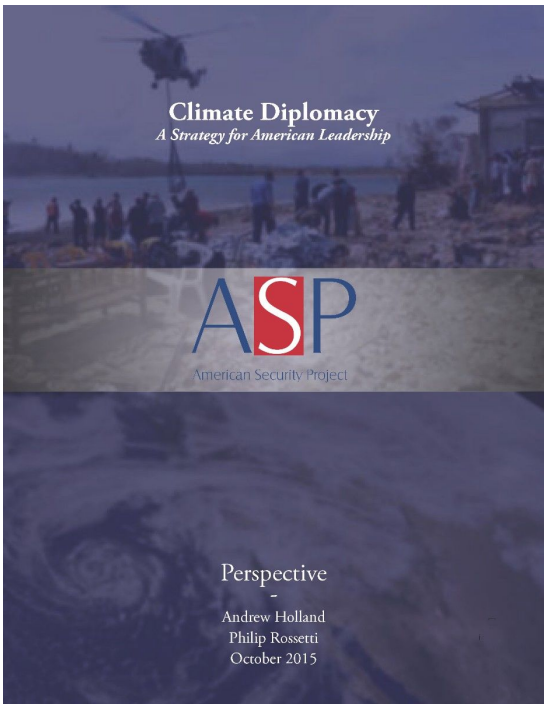


November 05, 2015

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Top Stories

Perspective - Climate Diplomacy: A Strategy for American Leadership



In December, 2015, the world will gather in Paris in an attempt to finally address the challenge of climate change. The stakes are high: failure would only make addressing climate change more costly and difficult and could have repercussions on broader national security goals. But “Climate Diplomacy” is not just about a single conference in Paris: it must be a bipartisan, long-standing priority for the U.S. government. This paper lays out why climate diplomacy is important and outlines a strategy to deploy it.

Click here for more.

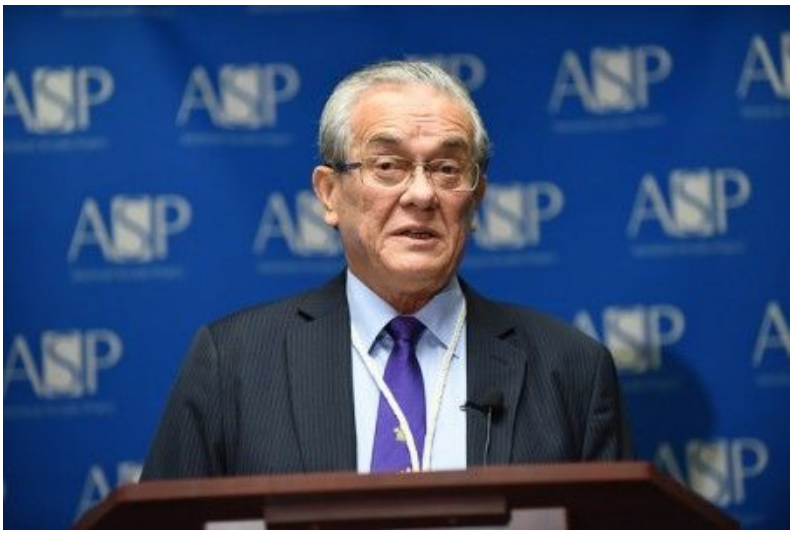
ASP in the News

Start-Ups Take on Challenge of Nuclear Fusion
The New York Times

After the OPM Breach: Ripple Effects and Lingering Questions
GCN

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Event Recap: Climate Change - Tony de Brum, Marshall Islands



On Wednesday, October 28, 2015, the American Security Project hosted an event featuring Minister Tony de Brum, Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands. He discussed the devastating effects climate change is already having on the islands, as well as the international cooperation needed to tackle this problem quickly and effectively.

Click here for more.

Upcoming Events

College of Charleston Event - Climate Change: Risks for National Security



Climate change is already a major consideration for US military planners. Meanwhile, American politicians continue to ignore the issue. Join ASP for a discussion with senior flag officers as they discuss the steps the US military has taken and future implications for our national security.

Monday, November 09, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

College of Charleston, Stern Center Ballroom
Charleston, SC 29424

Click here to RSVP

TPP: Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership for Global and Regional Stability

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This event will include a panel discussion featuring key leaders well versed in the economic and security impact of free trade from several TPP nations. The event will conclude with a keynote address from Representative Don Beyer (D, VA-8), former Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Thursday, November 19, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

American Security Project
1100 New York Ave. NW – 7th Floor, West Tower
Washington, DC 20005

Click here to RSVP

On Our Blog

Climate, Energy, and National Security

GMOs Play a Key Role in Climate Change and National Security
Ricky Gandhi
Climate change has had notable impacts on our environment and national security, serving as a "threat multiplier," according to the Department of Defense. The argument goes that climate change can exacerbate existing conflict by making already-scarce resources ever scarcer, such as land and water.
Click here for more...

The United States Should Lift Its Ban on Crude Oil Exports
Spencer Shweky
On October 9th the US House voted to lift the 40-year old ban on crude oil exports, and it seems the Senate may soon be about to do the same. The President, meanwhile, has called the legislation unnecessary, saying that Congress should instead focus "its efforts on supporting our transition to a low-carbon economy."
Click here for more...

Israel's Energy Crisis
Spencer Shweky
A few weeks ago Genie Energy, an American energy company, announced that it had found significant quantities of oil and gas in Israel's disputed Golan Heights territory. Since then, many have speculated that these new-found reserves may be large enough to eventually make Israel self-sufficient in energy.
Click here for more...

Australian Defense Force Responds to Climate Change
Ngoc H. Le
On 28 October 2015, the Australian Climate Security Panel at the Australian Defense Force Academy discussed the security threats of climate change. Australian Defense Forces are increasingly working with the U.S. and U.K militaries on this issue.
Click here for more...

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Todd Stern Testifies on Impacts of Paris Negotiations
Ricky Gandhi
Todd D. Stern, the Special Envoy on Climate Change at the State Department and President Obama's chief climate negotiator, testified on the economic and environmental impacts of the recent climate negotiations set to be finalized in Paris this December.
Click here for more...

Holland Featured at "Insights from a National Dialogue on Climate Change, Energy, and Security"
Ngoc H. Le
October 21, 2015 – Andrew Holland, Director of Studies and Senior Fellow at the American Security Project, joined " Insights from a National Dialogue on Climate Change, Energy, and Security" conference as a featured speaker co- sponsored by CNA , the EU Delegation to the United States, the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, and the Energy Foundation in the Wilson Center, Washington, D.C to talk about climate security in the United States today.
Click here for more...

Nuclear Security

Who Wields Iranian Sanctions Authority?
Sam Hickey
The Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996, later renamed the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA), was introduced "to deny Iran the ability to support acts of international terrorism and to fund the development and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction," and the act has been reproduced in various capacities every couple of years by executive orders and codified by Congress.
Click here for more...

American Competitiveness

Gen. Stephen Cheney and Christine Whitman on Why We Should Export Nuclear Energy
ASP CEO BGen. Stephen Cheney, USMC (Ret.) and ASP Board Chairperson and Board member of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition (CASE) Gov. Christine Whitman discussed the importance of exporting nuclear power in Fortune.
Click here for more...

Biden: Infrastructure a National Security Issue
Ricky Gandhi
The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace hosted the "American Job Creation and Infrastructure Forum" on Thursday, October 9. The event featured a panel consisting of members of congress, think tanks, and experts.
Click here for more...

The Emergence of the Trans-Pacific Partnership
Anil Powers
It finally emerged after years of negotiations between the US and eleven Pacific Rim nations. It now faces months of scrutiny in a politically divided Congress, although the threat of amendments or a filibuster will not be an issue due to the success of the fast-track trade authority.
Click here for more...

National Security Strategy

Reality, Risk and Potential: Managing Today's Conflicts
Sam Hickey
On Monday, October 26th at the Council on Foreign Relation's, Foreign Affairs and the International Crisis Group (ICG) in New York hosted an event on "Reality, Risk, and Potential: Managing Today's Conflicts." The event featured panels of experts consisting of think tank fellows, academics, journalists, and business professionals.
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Winning the Social Media War Against ISIS
Matthew Wallin
On the internet, there is no clear ground to be gained, and no reliable way to measure success when it comes to countering violent extremism—as many have

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mentioned, you can't measure if someone decides to not join ISIS.
Click here for more...

Asymmetric Operations

Iran's Close Relationship with Syria Hinders Negotiations with the US
Anil Powers
With no formal peace talks in the works, the United States is reaching out to Iran to negotiate a political solution, one in which the Assad regime is removed from power. But the most critical obstacle to this is Iran's unwillingness to part ways with President Bashar al-Assad.
Click here for more....

Containing the Threat of al-Qaeda & Its Affiliates
Anil Powers
For nearly 20 years, al-Qaeda and its ideological cousins have been the most important threats to national and global security. They will remain so over the next 20-30 years.
Click here for more...

About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From:	"Nikki Budzinski" <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/12/2015 3:24:19 AM
Subject:	Trades Dinner Sunday

Hi John
Milia reached out about the Building Trades dinner on Sunday night in Washington DC. I thought it might be helpful to provide some further background. I am working on a more detailed memo for you to have in hand tomorrow. The dinner was initiated by the Mike Monroe from the Building Trades for two reasons...

1. Bring together some key trades unions that have specific concerns about energy. Mike felt that giving them a off the record opportunity to talk with you about the importance of that particular industry to their unions and members would be beneficial for them and us.

2. This dinner will help set up HRC's presentation on September 9th for the Building Trades Council. It could be informative to that presentation.

Right now we have several building trades that are ready to endorse: Painters, Operating Engineers, Bricklayers and Plumbers.

(The Carpenters are ready to go soon too but are not in either the AFL-CIO or the Building Trades Council. HRC will be visiting their Las Vegas facility next week with Pres. McCarron. We're good here.)

Two key unions that we are need in to continue to work are the Laborers and IBEW. Mike is working hard to get LIUNA to the dinner.

In addition you should know that Friday I have worked with policy and the Building Trades council to host four different 30 minute conversations with the trades and our policy shop on these issues: 1. Existing nuclear and relicensing issues 2. Opportunities in building efficiency 3. Pipeline modernization and construction 4. Clean Power Plan. I can have a brief together for you from that conversation to assist with Sunday's dinner.

Last, Mike is getting to me RSVPs today. If we do not have either Laborers or IBEW I think we reschedule. I will know this today and will let you know asap.

Happy to discuss and please let me know what you think.
Thanks!
Nikki

--
Nikki Budzinski
Labor Outreach Director
Hillary for America
646-854-1442 (direct)

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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Tina Flournoy" <Tina@presidentclinton.com>
Date:	2/8/2013 4:21:43 PM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 2.8.13.docx

Hannah,
Attached and below is President Clinton's latest biweekly report.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
February 8, 2013

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The Alliance conducted a satellite media tour with Billy Blanks and Tara Stiles to showcase the Fit for a Healthier Generation campaign aimed at making kids more active in schools. The tour reached more than 20 million people across the country.

24 Hour Fitness and Cigna have signed on to the Alliance's Healthcare Initiative and will offer their employees and employer groups, respectively, extended visits to primary care practitioners and covered visits to registered dietitians.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative

CHMI will meet with the PGA Tour later this week to finalize details on launching the CHMI community program in the Greater Jacksonville area.

CHMI met with Commissioner Kelly's team last week to discuss the details of the event on prescription drug abuse and further collaboration. Due to scheduling constraints, the event will take place in the spring on an NYC campus. Meanwhile, CHMI will be working with the NYPD to convene NYC college and university presidents to discuss ways in which these campuses can educate their students on the dangers of prescription drugs and the mixing of these drugs with other substances.

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative

CEO met with Kevin Langley, the former Global Chairman of the Entrepreneurs Organization (EO), to discuss possible partnership opportunities between EO and CEO. The Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) is a global business network of over 8,000 business owners in 122 chapters and 35 countries. Conversation centered upon the possibility of leveraging EO's New York and New Orleans chapters to create a small business event geared towards providing much needed advice and support to small business owners who were still in the midst of dealing with the damages brought on by Hurricane Sandy. Kevin was able to give valuable advice and emotional support to EO member and former EMP mentee Victor Chan, a small business owner whose business survived Hurricane Katrina. Kevin counseled Victor on how best to keep his South Street Seaport area restaurant business alive amidst a host of financing and real estate issues that have threatened to put him out of business. CEO will be continuing exploratory conversations with EO around how EO New Orleans entrepreneurs could be leveraged in a similar manner to support NYC area small business owners impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Inc. magazine is currently working to gain internal approvals on two possible collaboration opportunities: 1) integration of CEO's Entrepreneur Mentoring Program into the Inc. Business Owner Council in the form of a new business accelerator program and 2) a Women's Summit in collaboration with the Clinton Foundation.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

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Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

The trees project is being reviewed by a large purchaser of carbon credits in Scandinavia for a potential major purchase commitment (up to 40,000 tons per year). COTAP, the carbon credits broker in the US that is aiming to be the Kiva of carbon credits, has made over $3,700 in sales of Trees of Hope credits to individual buyers in the few months since signing a marketing agreement with CDI. Bank accounts have been established for Trees of Hope farmers who will be receiving their first payments from carbon sales.

CDI is working on finalizing the long-term lease agreement for the commercial farms. Discussions have begun with John McAslan on developing a master site plan for the commercial farms to help guide renovation and construction of needed infrastructure after leases are in place.

Rwanda

CDI has approached some technical schools and universities to recruit their best students for factory jobs at Mount Meru Soyco Ltd. They will conduct interviews in February and those selected will be sent to a factory in Arusha for a three-month training in March. The Soyco factory is preparing to begin buying raw materials from farmers.

Regarding the AGRA project, all crops are maturing on the field and the team hopes to begin the harvest and mobilize more farmers for the coming season by the end of this month. The CDI team has begun doing field days in the three Districts of the project area—Kayonza District, Kirehe District and Gatsibo District.

CDI has also been supporting the rehabilitation of the ISAR (Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Rwanda) microbiology lab to be able to produce more inoculums. The lab has bought new equipment with CDI's support.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

Peru

CGSGI's cataract surgery program has reached 49, 646 surgeries. The 50,000 cataracts surgery goal is expected to be met by the end of February.

CGSGI is finalizing an MOU with the Peru's Ministry of Tourism to begin capacity building necessary to link small suppliers in Cusco, Peru with that region's hospitality and restaurant sector. The project is expected to launch in March.

Colombia

The Acceso Fund has agreed to capitalize a new Supply Chain Impact Enterprise in Cartagena, Colombia with USD $2.1 million. This enterprise is expected to begin operations in April and will procure agricultural products and seafood from local suppliers for resale to the hospitality, restaurant and supermarket markets along Colombia's caribbean coast. The business will provide distribution, warehousing, processing and logistics for the suppliers reducing the costs to both suppliers and buyers and creating opportunities for low income suppliers in the region to broaden their market opportunity and substantially increase their incomes. This is the second new enterprise capitalized by Acceso in Cartagena. The first, a hospitality labor training center, will start its first class in March.

Zayneb K. Shaikley
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From: "Maggie Feldman-Piltch" <mfeldmanpiltch@americansecurityproject.org>
To: John <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/8/2016 12:01:14 PM
Subject: Spring Message to Friends of ASP

Friends of ASP: Cuba Kick-off with Gen. Kelly, USMC (Ret.), Geoeconomics Launch

View this email in your browser

American Security Project

Friends of ASP Newsletter

Friends of ASP,

With spring (finally!) upon us, I wanted to share the details on several public and private events that may be of interest -- and what to expect from ASP in the coming months.

On March 21st, we will host Puerto Rico on the Brink: Energy, Economy and Security. Should your schedule allow for you to join us please let me know so I may reserve seating and time with the featured speaker(s) on your behalf.

We also look forward to hosting you in mid-April for the launch of our upcoming paper on Syrian Reconstruction. Final details on this event will be made available in the coming weeks.

While there has been much discussion on U.S.- Cuban relations since December 17th, 2014, there has been little focus on the national security argument for engaging Cuba. ASP is excited to launch a long-term project in this area, beginning with an opening reception on Wednesday, April 20th at the home of ASP Board Member Mr. Scott Gilbert in Miami, Florida. This invitation-only event will feature General John Kelly, USMC (Ret.) Combatant Commander of U.S. Southern Command from 2013-2016. If you are interested in learning more about this special opportunity, or ASP's

Recent Publications

ASP Risk Forum: Pathways to Resilience - Event Summary

Featured Speaker: Judge Alice Hill, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Resilience Policy, NSC
Panel One: Understanding the City Risk Index
Featured Speaker: Gov. Tom Ridge, Former Gov. of Pennsylvania and Secretary, DHS
Panel Two: Emerging Risks: Impacts and Opportunities
Panel Three: How to Build Resilience

Wall Street Journal Op-Ed: America's Chance to Break Russia's Energy Dominance

ASP CEO BGen Stephen Cheney and Senior Fellow for Energy and Climate Andrew Holland recently published an article in The Wall Street Journal discussing the importance of the bipartisan Energy Policy Modernization Act and its role to improve how the U.S. approves permits for the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Click here for more.

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upcoming work in the space, you may contact me directly.

Later this spring we will launch a long-term project on geo-economics, first looking at how U.S. businesses can begin to engage in Iran. If you or members of your network would be interested in working with us in this area or attending or participating in related upcoming events, please let me know.

Very respectfully,
Maggie Feldman-Piltch

Nuclear Capabilities Innovcation Act Passes the House Unanimously

On February 24th ASP sent a letter of support for the bill, signed by CEO BGen. Stephen A. Cheney USMC (Ret.) on behalf of the Board of Directors and cosigned by the Business Council for American Security's Chairperson Dante Disparte and Chair of the Fusion Advisory Committee Nathan Gilliland on behalf of General Fusion. Click here for more .


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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/15/2015 8:09:13 AM
Subject: Some Thoughts on Mercy: An Essay on Race and Redemption

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Some Thoughts on Mercy: An Essay on Race and Redemption

Chris Moore-Backman and Ross Gay, Truthout: Beginning with a commonplace encounter in our racist society, poet-essayist Ross Gay tells a story that breaks open the murky and painful world of race. Through his eyes, our journey into that world of racial hurt, degradation and separateness holds out the fragile possibility of redemption.

Read the Article

Frida Berrigan: Give Your Children a Conscience Instead of Material Possessions

Mark Karlin, Truthout: Raising kids with a lot of time for friendships and work for peace and justice seems "rebellious" these days, author Frida Berrigan, daughter of two legendary antiwar activists, tells Truthout.

Read the Interview

David Krieger's Haunting Poetry: A Wake-Up Call

Leslee Goodman, Truthout: Astonishingly, *WAKE UP!*, David Krieger's most recent book of poetry, is fully alive to the beauty and promise of our precious world - despite the quotidian violence of those who continuously incite us to war.

Read the Review

The Challenges of Liberalism

David Palumbo-Liu, Truthout: It is those in power who get to determine the elasticity or rigidity of liberalism. They channel "blasphemy" in the directions they prefer, that is, away from their gods and churches.

Read the Article

Connecticut Schools Pin Down and Restrain "Staggering" Number of Kids

Annie Waldman, ProPublica: Connecticut public schools are far too quick to restrain or isolate unruly children against their will, leaving hundreds with injuries and many others with unmet educational

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary will return soon.

Obama to Sign an Executive Order Promoting Private Sector Cybersecurity Information Sharing

Read the Article at Reuters

Study Finds 60 Percent of Gaza Victims of Israel Strikes Were Women, Children or Elderly

Read the Article at RT

Untested Chemicals Are Everywhere, Thanks to a 39-Year-Old US Law. Will the Senate Finally Act?

Read the Article at The Guardian

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needs, a state report finds.
Read the Article

US Looks to Detain More Mother, Child Migrants, Sometimes for Months

Franco Ordoñez, McClatchy Newspapers: An almost-abandoned practice of holding migrant mothers and children in prisonlike settings is not only back, but also is surging as the US government continues to struggle with the wave of migrants fleeing violence in Central America.
Read the Article

Zimbabwe's Famed Forests Could Soon Be Desert

Jeffrey Moyo, Inter Press Service: According to the United Nations Environment Programme, Zimbabwe lost an annual average of 327,000 hectares of forests between 1990 and 2010. The country's deforestation crisis is linked to several factors. Unfortunately, Zimbabwe is not the only sub-Saharan country facing a crisis in its forests.
Read the Article

Marshaling Marooned Tax Dollars

Josh Hoxie, OtherWords: Closing offshore tax shelters is a great idea. Giving a major tax break to the corporations that built them is not. A better proposal would close loopholes for both corporations and the super-rich and spend some of the extra money collected on infrastructure.
Read the Article

A Tiny Step Toward Ending a CEO Scam

Sam Pizzigati, Campaign for America's Future: The SEC has just issued proposed regulations on executive hedging. But the new rules don't prohibit executives from betting against their own companies, they just require companies to let us know if they let their executives do this betting.
Read the Article

How Bail Punishes the Poor for Their Poverty
Read the Article at The Washington Post

ACLU Sues for Records on Border Patrol's "Roving" Agents
Read the Article at the Associated Press

US Military Just Can't Kick Its Afghanistan Habit, Picks Up Pace of Night Raids
Read the Article at emptywheel

"Ferguson Everywhere": Hundreds Protest Police Killing of Latino Worker in Washington State
Read the Article at RT

Obama, the National Prayer Breakfast and the Tortured Truth of Christian History

Mikey Weinstein, AlterNet: "At this sorry historical moment of rampant fundamentalist religiosity, racialized xenophobia and purely irrational bigotry, catastrophe is on a precipitously dangerous winning streak."
Read the Article

This week in Speakout:

Eric Draitser notes that while the election of Syriza in Greece has been vital to the future of the country, it is not the only means by which the Greek working class is building a future for itself; **Dean Baker** highlights how Washington Post columnist Robert Samuelson is unhappy that seniors get Social Security and Medicare; **Victoria Collier** looks at how citizens are mobilizing to resist undemocratic corporate water grabs; **Kathy Kelly** reflects on her time in Lexington federal prison, abolitionism and how to make the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society; **US Right to Know staff** spotlight a recently removed internet video in which the public relations firm Ketchum bragged about its success in spinning the media to get positive coverage of GMOs; **Alex Kogan** wonders if the renewal of sanctions launched in response to Russian involvement in Ukraine are a curse or a blessing; **Dan Riker** urges political leaders to control corporations before they completely control us; **Tor Ekeland** reports that Canada has denied refugee status for

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Anonymous-linked Matt DeHart, who was tortured by the FBI; and more.

Read the Articles

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From: "Gene Karpinski, League of Conservation Voters" <josh_hicks@lcv.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/17/2012 9:49:57 AM
Subject: Quick Election Update: 20 days to go!

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Dear John,

You and I have always known that this election was going to be close. And as we enter into the final critical days, the race to the White House and the battle for the Senate remain dangerously tight. As we saw again in last night's debate, the stakes couldn't be higher.

Thanks to your generous support, LCV's campaign team is in full gear in key battlegrounds across the country. We now have 24 full-time organizers deployed in 11 states and we are mobilizing thousands of LCV members to volunteer between now and Election Day. No slowing down until we cross the finish line.

The Washington Post put out a great piece this week highlighting the central role LCV is playing in key races across the country: League of Conservation Voters Spends Heavily on 2012 Campaign. And as you'll see from the update below, environmental champions across the country are counting on us to help close the gap in tight races.

With 20 days until this critical election, LCV Victory Fund is still $350,000 shy of raising the resources we need to run our targeted campaigns at full scale, and any additional support you are able to lend will be very well spent!

With deep appreciation,

Gene

LCV Launches Ad Campaign in Arizona

With a month to go until Election Day, the Arizona Senate race has emerged as a surprisingly competitive race. The Cook Report moved it to a "toss-up" race and the Real Clear Politics average of public polling shows Dr. Richard Carmona only 2.3 points behind Rep. Jeff Flake. The contrast of these two candidates' positions on our issues is as clear as it is in any race, with Rep. Flake earning a dismal 9% lifetime score from LCV.

We just can't let this rare opportunity to elect an environmental champion from Arizona pass us by. This week LCV and Majority PAC launched a new $470,000 television ad campaign against former mining lobbyist and Congressman Jeff Flake for sponsoring legislation that most Arizonans are emphatically against: allowing mining for radioactive uranium near the Grand Canyon and Colorado River, threatening the drinking water of 25 million Americans. The ad, "Dangerous," will air in the Phoenix media market and will run through October 24th. To view the ad, please click here .

LCV turns up the heat on the Flat Earth Five

With your support, LCV launched a new $200,000 television ad campaign against "Flat Earth Five" member Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-24) for her extreme environmental voting record, and for denying the existence of climate change, which she has called a "myth." The ad, "Support," is airing in the Syracuse media market and will run through October 23rd. To view the ad, please click here .

We also launched a clever billboard campaign targeting each of the members of the "Flat Earth Five" campaign to highlight their extreme, anti-science views on climate change. The billboards , which will stay up in all five Congressional districts through Election Day, are part of LCV's campaign against Rep. Dan Benishek (MI-01), Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (NY-24), Rep. Dan Lungren (CA-07), Rep. Francisco Canseco (TX-23), and Rep. Joe Walsh (IL-08).

More information about the Flat Earth Five can be found at http://www.lcv.org/flatearthfive .

Join us in New York to honor Robert Redford

We hope you will join us at the League of Conservation Voters' annual New York Dinner on **Wednesday, October 24th at Hilton Hotel in New York City.** We are thrilled to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Redford for his exemplary leadership to protect the environment and will also hear from New York Senator Chuck Schumer. It is sure to be a great evening! You can purchase tickets at www.lcv.org/NYDinner or contact Jenna Ebert at (202) 454-4583 or jenna_ebert@lcv.org if you have any questions.

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***GiveGreen*: Because not all money is "green"**

With only 20 days to go until Election Day, **now is the time to donate as generously as you can to pro-environment political candidates.** For environmental voters like yourself, the best giving strategy is to "bundle" your contributions with contributions from others who share your environmental values. Bundling through LCV Action Fund's *GiveGreen* magnifies the power of your contribution by calling attention to the environmental values that drive you to support the candidate in the first place. LCV Action Fund has already raised and contributed nearly $2 million in support of environmental candidates this cycle. Visit www.givegreen.com today to support LCV Action Fund's featured environmental champions.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/29/2008 4:35:05 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/29/08

Main Topics: Sarah Palin as McCain's Surprise V.P. Choice, Palin Interviewed, Maverick or Gimmick?

Summary of Shift:
With the announcement of McCain's vice presidential nominee, a slew of speculation has arisen as to Sarah Paulin's ability to chair the position of commander in chief if McCain passes. The strongest arguments against her remain her inexperience (2 years as governor and small-town mayor), her limited relationship with McCain, as well as the current investigation due to her firing a commissioner under questionable intentions. Barack Obama's speech at the DNC has continued to be highlighted.
In other news, the Gulf Coast prepares for the worst as Gustav is predicted to become a category 4 hurricane. The death toll continues to rise in India amidst severe flooding during the monsoon season. The Kremlin announced that it intends to absorb South Ossetia into 'one united Russian state'.

Highlights:
1. FNC: Pfotenhauer ignorant on McCain's and Palin's short relationship
2. CNN: Jack Cafferty frowns upon Palin's domestic and international inexperience
3. FNC: Tucker Bounds dances around question on Paulin's foreign relations experience
4. MSNBC: Senator Lindsey Graham on McCain's Choice of Sarah Palin
5. MSNBC: Andrea Mitchell and Chuck Todd Discuss Palin's Risk
6. MSNBC: Hardball discusses if Palin's Selection is Just a Gimmick
7. MSNBC: Countdown Investigates If Palin Will Be Able to Draw Clinton Voters
8. MSNBC: Rachel Maddow Highlights Palin's Bridge to Nowhere Flip-Flop
9. MSNBC: Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz Blasts Palin as Anti-Women Issues
10. MSNBC: Rep. Eric Cantor Supports Sarah Palin's Experience
11. MSNBC: Race to the White House Asks If Sarah Palin is the New Dan Quayle
12. CNBC: Sarah Palin Interview Discusses Energy and ANWR Drilling

Highlights, No YouTubes:
1. MSNBC: Mike Murphy gave the Bush presidency a "C" grade
2. MSNBC - DAN SCHNUR: "I think, like everybody else in the universe, I am extremely surprised. Earlier this summer when McCain was running 10, 12, 15 points behind Obama a pick like this, a gamble like this would have made more sense. Conventional wisdom suggested that in a race that's essentially tied, he would have done something safer. But I think what it show's you Andrea is how much John McCain values his reputation as a Maverick. He's very steadily come back in the polls over the last couple of weeks, but it's been by running a very conventional campaign. I think given the choice of being a maverick and being president, John McCain would rather be president. A pick like this, potentially at least, gives him the opportunity to do both."
3. MSNBC - RACHEL MADDOW: On the temperament issue, I think that we'll keep hearing it because I think that McCain keeps demonstrating it. I mean, when he said "we are all Goergian's now", that may have sounded like big tough rhetoric, but he's essentially saying, let's treat Georgia like it was a member of NATO. Which means, let's treat Georgia as if it were Nebraska that just got invaded by the Russians. Let's go bomb Moscow. To have that sort of reaction, that sort of hair trigger reaction, on a very sensitive on-going policy dispute, where our own government is taking a very different attack, yeah, no matter who says that, I think temperament ought to be an issue. He keeps bringing it up himself.
4. MSNBC - PHIL MUSTER: "Well, look, I think the bottom line on experience here is she's had more experience as a chief executive as the Governor of Alaska than Barack Obama has in the United States Senate. So people grow into new jobs as they develop and take them. But her record as a chief executive in Alaska has been great. She's reached out across the board, just like John McCain has worked in a bi-partisan fashion in Washington, she's worked in a bi-partisan fashion in Alaska. She hasn't been afraid to challenge those within her own party who are wrong. Take for example, the fact that she's been outspoken in supporting a primary challenge to Don Young who sponsored the bridge to no where in our party. She calls them like she sees them, and I think America might fall in love with this woman who really brings a real common touch."
5. MSNBC - MICHAEL MOORE: […] I don't know if you showed the cake there, that they had three years ago

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today with McCain and Bush. When Marie Antoinette, when she said let them eat cake, I think she was speaking figuratively, they literally were, while New Orleans was drowning, eating cake.

6. MSNBC - KEITH OLBERMAN: But our winner [Worst Person in the World] Senator John McCain. In the last twenty days, suicide bombers have killed at least 78 people in Iraq. Wounded countless others. Yet the Senator told Time Magazine, in an extraordinary and frightening interview, that as to Iraq, "It's a peaceful and stable country now." The reporters asked the natural follow-up, "It is? But you wouldn't say you've achieved victory now?" He answered, "Yes, I would say that the surge is succeeding and we are winning." So an average of four people a day dead in suicide bombings means that a country is peaceful and stable. But a peaceful and stable country does not mean victory has been achieved and we can get our men and women out of there. One way or another, you are witnessing a man suffering from at least from one actual delusion. To say nothing of an utter disrespect of the meaning of the loss of life. It is not funny, it is shameful. John McCain, today's worst person in the world.

Clips:

Highlight #1
Pfotenhauer Doesn't Know the Extent or Length of McCain's and Paulin's Relationship (FNC 08/29/08 10:08am)

BILL HEMMER: […] Tell me about the relationship between McCain and Palin. How much time have they spent together? How well do they know one another?

PFOTENHAUER: You're running flat into the wall of my ignorance here, Bill. I just, I truly, um, no indication whatsoever of the extent of a relationship that exists with the governor of Alaska. And you know there are several other folks […] and they have been at the forefront of the scene the last several months.

HEMMER: You know, Nancy, if I could just stop you there, maybe that answer itself is a bit revealing of the fact that they don't have much of a relationship. Is that a fair reading?

PFOTENHAUER: No, no, no. It's revealing of my ignorance. Not of their relationship.

Highlight #2
Jack Cafferty on Sarah Paulin's Inexperience with International and Domestic Issues (CNN 08/29/08 6:39pm)
GLORIA BORGER: […] I've been talking to some democrats who are now expecting that Senator McCain will soon name his Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense to try and relay questions about this sort of military industrial complex in his administration, should anything happen to him.

[…]

STEVEN HAYES: […] It's legitimate to wonder whether she would have this experience; but look at what she's done in Alaska. You can't just ignore her record in Alaska. She up-ended the establishment. The republican party establishment in Alaska taking on people in her own party, she's governed effectively, she's cut taxes, she's done all of these things that won her an 80% approval rating. It is absolutely not crazy to pick her. […]

JACK CAFFERTY: The state of Alaska has the population of Austin, Texas. What does she know about inner-city poverty? The war on drugs? What does she know about the Middle East? You want to put her up against Putin, Achmajenidad? She was the mayor of a town of 7,000 people in Alaska. […] Most of the republicans I heard from, including a lot of women, how dare John McCain presume because he names an inexperienced woman from Alaska, that he can start collecting the 18 million votes that were cast for Hillary Clinton? They're on opposite sides of all the issues, people are outraged. This is a joke.

Highlight #3
Bounds Deflects Question About Palin's Foreign Experience (FNC 08/29/08 1:35pm)

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TUCKER BOUNDS: […] It's an exciting pick for us. Both of these candidates share a passion for change in government, they have records of reform, and we can think of no better person to be joining us here at the campaign other than governer Palin of Alaska. So many of the issues, she has expertise on. We are important to American voters that are facing skyrocketing gas prices. She's an expert on energy issues. She understands that we need to transition to alternative fuels, renewable energies. But she also understands the importance of drilling; making sure we have those short shock measures to fight energy prices that are skyrocketing, pinching families.

TRACE GALLAGHER: […] the democrats are already on the attack here. You know they're going to go after her foreign credentials, and how do you retaliate against that?

BOUNDS: […] for them to completely ignore that Governor Palin is a governor and executive and reformer in the state of Alaska, and to belittle her, to try and say that small-town Americans , a mayor wasn't befitting of a vice presidential nominee. […] America's built on small towns. Small town Americans may have taken offense. I know I certainly did.

GALLAGHER: […] How do you respond to the democrats when they attack her foreign relations credentials?

BOUNDS: Well, Senator McCain is running for president of the United States, and I don't think anyone would disagree that in this campaign, there is no one with more experience, more understanding of the international stage, foreign affairs than John McCain. That's why Americans are gonna support him in the fall; is because he understands that we need to take the right approach overseas […]

Highlight #4
Senator Lindsey Graham on McCain's Choice of Sarah Palin (MSNBC 08/29/08 4:33pm)
PETER ALEXANDER: First question, perhaps in the case of an unforeseen tragedy, John McCain comes into office at the age of 72, would be the oldest president to walk into the White House. If for any reason Sarah Palin were to assume the presidency, are you comfortable with her leading this country?

SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM: Given her life story, yes, absolutely. When you look at what she's accomplished in her life, from a personal point of view and a professional point of view, I don't think there's anything that she can't do. She is tough. She's reformed minded. She's taken a beating for her principles. She's put her political future at risk more than one time challenging her own party. She's a quite extraordinary lady and I would be proud for her to be my president.

ALEXANDER: If you're comfortable with her life story, I think a lot of democrats will hear you say that Senator and say, why then aren't the republicans comfortable with Barack Obama's life store? If he lacks experience but he does have a terrific life story, wouldn't that be sufficient for him as a candidate?

GRAHAM: I'm not talking just about her life story; I'm talking about her judgment. She has taking on corruption, she has made people mad at her they you would want mad at you if you wanted to reform the government. She has really done things in Alaska that are similar to what john McCain would like to do in Washington. At the end of the day, I had a chance to see senator Obama up close in the immigration debate. We had a comprehensive bipartisan deal where republicans got some things and gave some things to democrats. I saw what he did. We had a temporary worker program as part of the comprehensive bipartisan agreement that republicans wanted, unions hated. And at the end of the day he introduced an amendment to do away with that part of the deal, which was basically killing the deal. So I'm not very impressed with senator Obama, quite frankly, when it comes to doing hard things and telling democrats something they don't want to hear. I'm very impressed with governor Palin taking on her own people at times. That's what John's looking for. Somebody that will come to Washington with him, that will turn the place up side down. And Obama and Biden are not going to do that.

ALEXANDER: Senator, have you ever met Governor Palin?

GRAHAM: No. Talked to her on the phone. Anybody that hunts moose at 3:00 in the morning is high on my list.

ALEXANDER: Alright, then give us a better sense, perhaps, is this pick more of an appeal, do you believe, to the

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republican base? She's a strong social conservative. Or do you think it plays to independents and disgruntled Hillary Clinton supporters? Who will this sway?

GRAHAM: Good question. What I think it's going to do is reinforce what senator McCain would like to do in Washington. You know, when you look at his legislative career he's always pushed the status quo, much to his detriment sometimes. And you've got a governor, a young governor in Governor Palin, who's done exactly the same thing in Alaska. So I think that's the narrative that will resonate in both groups. People are frustrated, the Congress is at 12 percent. People are dying for something new and different, and controlling spending, reforming the way business is done. From the women perspective, I think a lot of young women in this country are going to be inspired by Governor Palin. And Republicans will be inspired by her. She's a solid conservative, but more than anything else, she's taken the status quo and corruption head on. And that's exactly what we need to do in Washington. So I think it's a two-for. I think it helps us with our base, and I think it will help us with independent voters who are looking for somebody, not to talk about change, but who has actually done something to make things change.

Highlight #5
Andrea Mitchell and Chuck Todd Discuss Palin's Risk (MSNBC 08/29/08 5:05pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: […] Now it is a high risk, high payoff kind of nomination, because she's got no real national experience. […] She could help with Hillary Clinton voters in the suburbs of some of the big cities, in battleground states, I mean this could be a game changer. That said, the fact that John McCain only met her once, when we get this tick doc just now that, from the McCain, they didn't even know each other. This was not a carefully vetted, personal decision. This was a very calculated, strategic decision to try to change the whole game.

CHRIS MATTHEWS: […] Is this niche marketing here? In other words, you're taking a person who doesn't really conform to the profile, the voters you're trying to win over, the women voter, the working women, the very committed woman. This candidate for vice president, now apparently has no real interest in the Iraq war. She said she hasn't given it much thought, which certainly separates her from a lot of democratic women who are vastly against the war. She would outlaw abortion in every circumstance, including cases where a woman had been raped or there was incest involved. Certainly a radical view at odds to, it seems to me, in my experiences with those suburban women that Andrea just mentioned.

CHUCK TODD: Well, look, I see this pick as a decision by the McCain campaign to basically say, well, look we can not win on experience alone. Every time there's an election, a change election, and it's change versus experience, change wins and I think they came to that conclusion. Look, I had been told a couple of weeks ago that you can tell what McCain thinks about his chances by the type of running mate he names. […] They've abandoned experience and that's ok, because McCain had not been able to recapture his maverick, change image. This is giving him an opportunity to re-launch. Look, he may not win over a lot of new supporters over the next couple of days. But it's making them take a second look and that's what he needed. He needed a second look, he needed a fresh look. Look the campaign staff is fired up, they're enthusiastic. […] For McCain it's about playing with the news cycle and surprising, do these nice surgical strikes when it comes to the media. Look, it may be a disaster at the end of the day. But McCain thought they had a ceiling going on in the trajectory that they were headed.

Highlight #6
Hardball discusses if Palin's Selection is Just a Gimmick (MSNBC 08/29/08 5:15pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: We have a Vice President who's committed almost viscerally to the war in Iraq. Here's a candidate to replace him in a Republican Party who said this, […] "I've been so focused on state government, I haven't really focused much on the war in Iraq." I mean here she is running to replace a guy with 60 staff people involved with foreign policy and Intel collection in a very hawkish setting. How can she be a credible successor? […]

ANDREA MITCHELL: […] Foreign policy is not why she was chosen. You could argue, politically, tactically, you don't want to replace Dick Cheney with another Dick Cheney. That's not what the Republicans want right now. You've got John McCain, John McCain's your foreign policy guru. Look, there are a couple of pluses and minuses here. She's got five children, […] she will appeal to the soccer moms and the hockey moms, as she describes herself. She's got a lot of color. People are going to talk, people who don't know Alaska who don't

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know that part of the world, […] she eats moose burgers. This is exciting to a lot of people. Everyone up there eats moose burgers. That's the meal, that's the food, that's the meat that you get, that you shoot. That you bring home. […] She is also a bit of a libertarian. She's not completely consistent on those social conservative issues. I got a Log Cabin email from the Log Cabin Republicans saying her first veto was to protect gay rights for partners. So we need to dig a little deeper into this. […] But the biggest thing is she has no personal relationship with the man that she's running with.

CHUCK TODD: The biggest downside, Chris, is that this could look like a gimmick. Cause John McCain only met her twice. Doesn't know her. This goes against everything we think we know about John McCain. He likes to surround himself with people that he's comfortable with, that are loyal to him, and all of a sudden this is a political calculation, and it's gimmicky. And the gimmick could wear out. […]

CHRIS MATTHEWS: Let's talk about age. John McCain has just turned 72. John McCain will be 77 in his first term as President. A lot of concern he wouldn't really be running for two terms, which is unique. He'd really be running for one. And there for his running mate would really be running like his successor to be. And you have to wonder whether this is credible. Is John McCain replaceable, effectively by the Governor of Alaska, could something happen in the first term? Is this something that he can honestly say to the American people, that this person after a year in office in Juno, with no foreign policy interest? Not just experience, no interest apparently. Can this person be commander in chief if something happens?

MITCHELL: That is going to be the biggest question. […]

Highlight #7
Countdown Investigates If Palin Will Be Able to Draw Clinton Voters (MSNBC 08/29/08 8:31pm)
KEITH OLBERMAN: The Republicans have chosen the least experienced vice presidential candidate, probably in American history. A rabid conservative, seemingly a vague alternative to Hillary Clinton, except that last March the Governor claimed that Senator Clinton was "whining" about the primaries.

KEITH OLBERMAN: This wasn't really a bid for Hillary supporters was it? I mean A: If you're trying to poach Clinton women, you would announce this before the democratic heal-a-thon, not the day after it ends. And B: at your own magazine's women in leadership event, […] she felt kind of bad she couldn't support a woman, but she didn't like Clinton's "whining". So the Hillary alternative just called Hillary and the PUMA's whiners?

HOWARD FINEMAN: Well Keith, there are a lot of pro-drilling and anti-polar bear and anti-abortion women among those 18 million Hillary supporters, I'm sure. I'm being factious, I don't think there's that many left. And I don't think this really is about that. I think in big picture terms, it was about John McCain seeking to change things up to try to re-establish his Maverick credentials. Because, despite her lack of experience, Sarah Palin is sort of a brave political person, having taken on her own political party the way John McCain used to do. He wanted to underscore the desire for change, and the fact that he gets it. And he wanted to, frankly, shake things up and not make it so boring. […]

[…]

OLBERMAN: The experience argument. This had been viewed widely, as maybe Senator McCain's best weapon against Obama. He just turned this in. Why give this up for her?

FINEMAN: Well for the reasons I said. Because he hadn't established himself with the grassroots of the Republican Party. Because he wanted to be an agent of change. Because he wanted to restore his maverick credentials. I mean, that's what the McCain people were telling me all day today, the Maverick just picked a maverick. But yes, he's done it at great cost, because the whole Republican Convention, I was told, […] the slogan was going to be, he's not ready to lead, meaning Barack Obama. Well Sarah Palin makes Barack Obama look like John Adams. I mean it's no contest. […]

Highlight #8
Rachel Maddow Highlights Palin's Bridge to Nowhere Flip-Flop (MSNBC 08/29/08 8:40pm)
KEITH OLBERMAN: She said no thanks to the Bridge to Nowhere. But in 2006 one of her spokesman, I guess in Alaska her spokesman, told the Associated Press that she had supported the Bridge. So she just jumps into this

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national spotlight complete with the Bridge to Nowhere attached to her? Is she the bridge to nowhere?

RACHEL MADDOW: Yeah, this is very awkward, because she is out there, in her, you know, I'm the new running mate speech, her debut on the national stage bringing up that bridge to nowhere issue. I went and looked it up in the Anchorage Daily News from 2006, she was asked point-blank about funding for that bridge, and she said yes, I would like to Alaska's infrastructure projects built sooner rather than later. The window is now while our congressional delegation is in a strong position to assist. So as recently as two years ago, she was not only in favor of the Bridge to Nowhere, which she's now saying that she wasn't, but she was also in favor of it on the basis of the fact that Alaska's congressional delegation was in a position that they could do it through earmarks. This is an embarrassing position to have taken. Not only because of the flip-flop, but they're trying to market her as a fiscal conservative who stood up to Alaska's, sort of famously corrupt Republican politicians.

Highlight #9
Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz Blasts Palin as Anti-Women Issues (MSNBC 08/29/08 6:16pm)
DAVID GREGORY: This statement from Hillary Clinton, could this not be interpreted as a message to her own supporters that perhaps this new Republican ticket ought to warrant a new look?

REP. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: No, I don't think that's the message that Hillary Clinton was speaking at all. On the contrary, she made it clear that John McCain and Sarah Palin are wrong on all the issues that matter to women. This is a pick that demonstrates colossally bad judgment on the part of John McCain. You know, we're talking about someone who has less than 18months experience as Governor of a state that has fewer people than my own Congressional district. Someone who was the mayor of a town of 8,000 people. Someone who would have to have their hand on the pillar of our foreign policy, and combat the war on terror, with that colossal lack of experience is frightening. And it demonstrates that John McCain, just like Barack Obama said last night in his acceptance speech, just doesn't get it.

[…]

SCHULTZ: John McCain has failed both tests, experience and judgment. He's chosen someone who totally lacks the experience that we need in a potential President of the United States, and he's demonstrated an unbelievable lack of judgment in choosing her. What he's done here is he's tried to appeal to the women of this country, by choosing someone who simply has the same parts that we do. And what matters to women is not having someone that's the same gender as we are, but we need to make sure that we have someone in office that cares the same issues that we do. Sarah Palin is wrong on a women's right to choose, wrong on equal pay for equal work, wrong on expanding access to children's healthcare. It's insulting, I have to tell you.

[…]

SCHULTZ: […] I'm sure she manages her household with five children very well, but she is not ready to manage this country.

Highlight #10
Rep. Eric Cantor Supports Sarah Palin's Experience (MSNBC 08/29/08 6:18pm)
DAVID GREGORY: Is there the potential […] that John McCain would actually experience a backlash from the very women he's trying to court here, Hillary Clinton supporters and other women around the country? Does this look like pandering?

REP. ERIC CANTOR: […] Sarah Palin represents what so many women in this country are about, trying to balance work and raising a family, and all the double income families out there in America, we all feel the strains. And the women often bare the brunt of that. So what we have in Sarah Palin is in individual that has a wealth of experience, not only raising five children, becoming a mayor, and then a governor, but also one of experience. I mean, I find it really unbelievable that the Barack Obama folks are starting to criticize Sarah Palin over lack of experience. She has as much experience as Barack Obama, and even more. She was chief executive of a state, Barack Obama has had no executive experience whatsoever.

GREGORY: He's 72 years old, he's actively talked [..] about him just pursuing one term as president. […] Now

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he's got someone who's 44 years old, only been Governor since 2006, will Americans look to her and think, yeah she can do the job if anything happens to him.

CANTOR: I think Americans will pull the level when they go into the ballot booth in November, they'll put it based on Barack Obama versus John McCain.

Highlight #11
Race to the White House Asks If Sarah Palin is the New Dan Quayle (MSNBC 08/29/08 6:46pm)
RACHEL MADDOW: This feels a little Dan Quayle like to me. I mean, I guess it would be Daniel Quayle. Have they ever been seen together before? Are there any pictures of them together? Is there any evidence that they've ever spoken? In an interview today, Sarah Palin did not know what John McCain's plan is on Iraq. I mean, the reason that Dan Quayle was a bad choice is that it was a transparent electoral choice. I think this guy will make me look younger, I think this guy will make me look more like the future. And there was not even lip service paid, either with Dan Quayle or with Sarah Palin. To the idea that these two politicians want to govern together, that they even know each other, or that the McCain campaign really thinks she can be the best president, out of everybody else in the country, other than John McCain. It just doesn't feel right, it doesn't smell right, it seems a little insulting.

DAVID GREGORY: Is this stage craft first?

JOHN HARWOOD: Yes. […] He has a much narrower margin for error than other recent Republican nominees. He's got to have everything go right. And if people look at her and say, hey this was a real reach that was made for political reasons to try to appeal to those Hillary supporters, that's going to hurt him. […]

Highlight #12
Sarah Palin Interview Discusses Energy and ANWR Drilling (CNBC 08/29/08)
SARAH PALIN: Economically speaking though, it's about 20 percent of the U.S. domestic supply of energy is produced up on the north slope up in Prudo. So it's very, very significant economically, physically, it's a tiny little foot.

MARIA BARTIROMO: So you're saying it's a tiny little footprint, actually the operations in Prudo Bay, but people think of it as so expansive and so massive that it's going to have a material effect if in fact we were going to see drilling there, on the wildlife and on the community.
PALIN: Well, ANWR, that point, it's about 2,000 acres that is being asked to be looked at and then to be explored and then to be produced. 2,000 acres out of 20,000,000 acres. That footprint, it's about the size of LAX, or one of the larger airports across the nation. That should allow some perspective there also. No one, I think, but Alaskans, care more about our wildlife, about our clean water, our clean air, the pristine environment that we are blessed to live in and get to breath in every single day. No one but Alaskans will care more to make sure that we are preserving that pristine environment that is ANWR, the coastal plane, Prudo Bay, Alaska as a whole. And when you ask Alaskan's, are you ready to allow drilling to take place to a greater degree up on the north slopes, specifically here we're talking about ANWR, do you want to see that happen? And with Alaskan's love and care for our environment and our lands and our wildlife, Alaskan's are saying, yes, because we believe that it can be done safely. It can be done prudently. And it had better be done ethically, also. Yes, we'd want to see that drilling. So hopefully the rest of American can understand that also. You go door to door and you ask Alaskans if we are ready, willing, and able to produce more and contribute more to the U.S., and they're going to tell you, yes.

BARTIROMO: President Bush tried this a number of times under his watch. Why is it that we have been unable to actually get this done?

PALIN: I think there's a lot of misperceptions and misconceptions about what ANWR is all about and what, up in the north slope, what the environment actually is up there. You see pictures, you see visuals from the nay-sayers, the critics of the idea of opening up ANWR and the pictures that they're showing are mountains, and polar bears, lots of different wildlife. They'll show moose in a stream with mountains in the background, that's not ANWR. And as your people go up there also and actually get to see for themselves, and we've had a lot of Congressman and Congresswomen come up here this summer even to see for themselves, what actually is ANWR. What would be touched here in terms of lands and wildlife. Then they see that those visuals that have

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been shown to America for all these years are inaccurate. Those are not the pictures of ANWR, there aren't mountains up there for instance. So I think that there's a lot of misperception out there for what the plane actually looks like. And the visuals are very important to Americans, I do think though that Americans are recognizing more and more, it's evidence in the pressure that they're putting on Congress at this point, the constituents putting on Congress, more and more Americans are recognizing it is time to ramp up America's supply of energy. Especially, we're a nation at war, a lot of the issues that are so adversely effecting America are based on energy supplies as we're relying on foreign sources of energy to feed our hungry market. More and more Americans are recognizing, our sister state, up in the Alaska, has these supplies. We have trillions of cubic feet of clean, natural gas. We have billions of barrels of oil still sitting underground, in a sense, being warehoused. It's time to unlock these reserves and allow competitors to come in and compete for the right to tap those resources and start flowing that energy into the domestic markets that so hungry, so that we can become less reliant on foreign sources of energy. As more Americans recognize that, more Americans, I believe, are choosing to educate themselves on what ANWR is really all about.

BARTIROMO: For Sure. And this year there was a price. And once there was a price actually reached, it was, people got it.

PALIN: I believe so too.

BARTIROMO: Let me get your thoughts, on really the consequences. What then are the major consequences of drilling in ANWR? I was reading a piece earlier that said, look, it will impact the breeding of caribou, the breeding of polar bears. Give me your sense, what are the consequences?

PALIN: Well, let's look at lessons learned over the last 30 years from the Trans-Atlantic Oil Pipeline was finally allowed to be built. And there were the threats then and the fears that the caribou herds would diminish and die off. No, the caribou herds are actually thriving, they're flourishing. There has not been the adverse impact on the caribou herds. So we anticipate the same thing as we tap more energy supplies up on the North Slope in ANWR, and as we build a Natural Gas Pipeline also that's underway at this point. When you consider the naysayers, kind of the fear mongerers, 30 years ago before the Trans America Pipeline was built, and remember, that pipeline has supplied 50 billion barrels of oil into our domestic supplies here in America. By the way, Joe Biden was one who voted against that Trans Atlantic Pipeline 30 years ago. He was fearful of allowing ramped up domestic supplies of energy, even then. So of course, I fear, if he's of the same mind today we're in a world of hurt there. But no, the environment will continue to be protected. Our wildlife will continue to thrive and prosper up there. And we're going to make sure that we have the stringent and safe oversight that is necessary and will allow the population of this wildlife and the pristineness of the area to continue.

BARTIROMO: Ok, let's talk about jobs and sort of the impact of drilling and of operations there. How significant?

PALIN: Here in Alaska, oil production is so significant. 85 to 90 percent of our entire state budget is based on that barrel of oil and the price that it drives. And our state revenue, is again, so reliant on the price of a barrel of oil. For such a great part also Alaskan jobs are contingent on very aggressive production of oil and natural gas up here in Alaska.

BARTIROMO: On probably of all the 48 states, it's a ripple effect

PALIN: Absolutely, and also the ripple effect, is our belief too that as more domestic supplies of energy from Alaska flow into the hungry markets, naturally, we believe the price of energy will diminish also. It will decrease and that will be good for the economy as a whole. But very, very important to the US economy, specifically here in Alaska. My goodness, it is what drives our economy.

BARTIROMO: So how important are the oil and gas industries, businesses to Alaskans?

PALIN: Very, very important. Conical Phillips, Exxon, BP, you know we bump heads quite a bit when it comes to the sovereignty of our state. Alaska is set up unlike any other state in the nation, where our statehood compact act, and our state constitution lays out for us who owns the resources. And unlike other states, it's Alaskans who live here who own the resources underground. So as they're tapped, as they're produced Alaskans share in the wealth that's derived from the production of these resources. So the oil industries there are our partners here,

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they have the leases, the rights to develop the resources. But Alaskans own the resources. So that obviously creates some tension with who owns what and who can control what. But our position of strength in my administration, we know is our state consititution that again lays out for us who actually owns the resources. That's the Alaskan residents and I will do all I can to protect the Alaskan residents as we develop, but at the same time we recognize that the big oil industry that is here they do have the rights and have had the rights for many years now to develop these resources for us and with us.

BARTIROMO: How will you do that? How will you protect Alaskans homes, there environment?

PALIN: We need to drill, drill, drill though. Otherwise I can not believe that a domestic solution is any part of a national energy policy. If they're not going to let Alaskans drill on our own lands, and on Federal lands within our own state. And a domestic solution isn't part of a national energy plan, then our nation is in a world of hurt. We're going to continue to be reliant on foreign, dangerous regimes, to feed our hungry markets. I find it ironic, and I find it non-sensical that here, we send Secretary Bodman we even send our own President overseas to negotiate with the Saudi's to ask the Saudi's ramp up oil production. For us in America, where again, absolute nonsense because Alaska has those resources already. And we should be tapping these American supplies before we go over to the Saudi's and ask them to do so. So very significant where what is going on and I think our nation is at a cross roads also. We better be making decisions to allow this American supply of energy to be tapped, or we are going to become more and more beholden to these foreign regimes. And again, our nation is going to be in a word of hurt. When you talk about national security, when you talk about ever reaching potential towards energy independence. If we can not implement a domestic solution for this national energy policy, and we have lacked a national energy policy also. We have not had a plan. Alaska should be a leader in this plan because we have the conventional, the non-renewable supplies, the petroleum. We have them up here. […]

We also have the renewables also. We have the largest tides on the continent. We have the geothermal. We have the winds. We have all these alternative renewable resources that also can be tapped into as we work collectively and comprehensively on an energy plan.

BARTIROMO: So as a nation we need to be doing everything?

PALIN: We need to be doing everything, and people need to be realistic, also. This is what scares me about Biden and Obama also is it seems to be almost a naïve notion of their that we can just automatically jump right into a renewable supply of energy to feed hungry markets across our nation, when these renewables are not yet proven to be economic or reliable. We're going to be in a transition period for quite some time where we're going to have to continue to be reliant on conventional sources of energy as we're working on the renewables. And we certainly have to head in that direction also, but it's got to be doin' everything, everything that we can to allow the domestic supplies; renewable and unrenewable, to be tapped; solutions plugged in both those ends, and not just skip the oil and gas developments that- and the coal development also that we have to have as part of a comprehensive plan. It's naïve to think we can go right to renewables, and think that's ever going to work for our nation, today. At this time.

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To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 6/26/2015 3:59:09 AM
Subject: Uri Avnery on Israeli War Crimes, BDS and the One State Proposal for Israel and Palestine

Tikkun { tē-kün } to heal, repair, and transform the world

Uri Avnery is the leader of the Israeli peace movement Gush Shalom and from Tikkun's perspective one of the most respected voices for peace and reconciliation between Israel and Palestine. Here we present 3 articles he has written in the past month that reflect his wisdom and his sardonic humor--on the UN charge of Israeli and Hamas war crimes, on the BDS- Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions strategy of some who seek Israeli and Palestinian reconciliation and some who seek to end the existence of a Jewish state at all, and on the proposed One State Solution merging Israel and Palestine into one political entity. Read these three articles--they are very important perspectives, and a good place to start a serious conversation about Israel and Palestine along with adding into the discussion the empathic and psychologically sensitive perspective you need to get by reading Rabbi Michael Lerner's book *Embracing Israel/Palestine* (for Kindle at amazon.com, for print, order it at www.tikkun.org/eip) which in some places differs from Avnery's approach.

Uri Avnery from Tel Aviv

June 27, 2015

War Crimes? Us???

"WAR IS HELL!" the US general George Patton famously exclaimed.

War is the business of killing the "enemy", in order to impose your will on them.

Therefore, "humane war" is an oxymoron.

War itself is a crime. There are few exceptions. I would exempt the war against Nazi Germany, since it was conducted against a regime of mass murderers, led by a psychopathic dictator, who could not be brought to heel by any other means.

This being so, the concept of "war crimes" is dubious. The biggest crime is starting the war in the first place. This is not the business of soldiers, but of political leaders. Yet they are rarely indicted.

THESE PHILOSOPHICAL musings came to me in the wake of the

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recent UN report on the last Gaza war.

The investigation committee bent over backwards to be "balanced", and accused both the Israeli army and Hamas in almost equal terms. That, in itself, is problematic.

This was not a war between equals. On one side, the State of Israel, with one of the mightiest armies in the world. On the other side, a stateless population of 1.8 million people, led by a guerrilla organization devoid of any modern arms.

Any equating of such two entities is by definition contrived. Even if both sides committed grievous war crimes, they are not the same. Each must be judged on its own (de)merits.

THE IDEA of "war crimes" is relatively new. It arose during the 30 Years War, which devastated a large part of Central Europe. Many armies took part, and all of them destroyed towns and villages without the slightest compunction. As a result, two thirds of Germany were devastated and a third of the German people was killed.

Hugo de Groot, a Dutchman, argued that even in war, civilized nations are bound by certain limitations. He was not a starry-eyed idealist, divorced from reality. His main principle, as I understand it, was that it makes no sense to forbid actions that help a warring country [or “party”] to pursue the war, but that any cruelty not necessary for the efficient conduct of the war is illegitimate.

This idea took hold. During the 18th century, endless wars were conducted by professional armies, without hurting civilian populations unnecessarily. Wars became "humane".

Not for long. With the French revolution, war became a matter of mass armies, the protection of civilians slowly eroded, until it disappeared entirely in World War II, when whole cities were destroyed by unlimited aerial bombardment (Dresden and Hamburg) and the atom bomb (Hiroshima and Nagasaki).

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Even so, a number of international conventions prohibit war crimes that target civilian populations or hurt the population in occupied territories.

That was the mandate of this committee of investigation.

THE COMMITTEE castigates Hamas for committing war crimes against the Israeli population.

Israelis didn't need the committee to know that. A large share of Israeli citizens spent hours in shelters during the Gaza war, under the threat of Hamas rockets.

Hamas launched thousands of rockets towards towns and villages in Israel. These were primitive rockets, which could not be aimed at specific targets – like the Dimona nuclear installation or the Ministry of Defense which is located in the center of Tel Aviv. They were meant to terrorize the civilian population into demanding a stop to the attack on the Gaza strip.

They did not achieve this goal because Israel had installed a number of "Iron Dome" counter-rocket batteries, that intercepted almost all rockets heading for civilian targets. Success was almost complete.

If they are brought before the International Court in The Hague, the Hamas leaders will argue that they had no choice: they had no other weapons to oppose the Israeli invasion. As a Palestinian commander once told me: "Give us cannons and fighter planes, and we will not use terrorism."

The International Court will then have to decide whether a people that is practically under an endless occupation is allowed to use indiscriminate rockets. Considering the principles laid down by de Groot, I wonder what the decision will be.

That goes for terrorism in general, if used by an oppressed people that has no other means of fighting. The black South Africans used

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terrorism in their fight against the oppressive apartheid regime, and Nelson Mandela spent 28 years in prison for taking part in such acts und refusing to condemn them.

THE CASE against the Israeli government and army is quite different. They have a plentitude of arms, from drones to warplanes to artillery to tanks.

If there was a cardinal war crime in this war, it was the cabinet decision to start it. Because an Israeli arrack on the Gaza Strip makes war crimes unavoidable.

Anyone who has ever been a combat soldier in war knows that war crimes, whether in the most moral or the most base army in the world, do occur in war. No army can avoid recruiting psychologically defective people. In every company there is at least one pathological specimen. If there are not very strict rules, exercised by very strict commanders, crimes will occur.

War brings out the inner man (or woman, nowadays). A well-behaved, educated man will suddenly turn into a ferocious beast. A simple, lowly laborer will reveal himself as a decent, generous human being. Even in the "Most Moral Army in the World" – an oxymoron if there ever was one.

I was a combat soldier in the 1948 war. I have seen an eyeful of crimes, and I have described them in my 1950 book "The Other Side of the Coin".

THIS GOES for every army. In our army during the last Gaza war, the situation was even worse.

The reasons for the attack on the Gaza Strip were murky. Three Israeli kids were captured by Arab men, obviously for the sake of achieving a prisoner exchange. The Arabs panicked and killed the boys. The Israelis responded, the Palestinians responded, and lo – the cabinet decided on a full-fledged attack.

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Our cabinet includes nincompoops, most of whom have no idea what war is. They decided to attack the Gaza Strip.

This decision was the real war crime.

The Gaza Strip is a tiny territory, overcrowded by a bloated population of 1.8 million human beings, about half of them descendents of refugees from areas that became Israel in the 1948 war.

In any circumstances, such an attack was bound to result in a large number of civilian casualties. But another fact made this even worse.

ISRAEL IS a democratic state. Leaders have to be elected by the people. The voters consist of the parents and grandparents of the soldiers, members of both regular and reserve units.

This means that Israel is inordinately sensitive to casualties. If a large number of soldiers are killed in action, the government will fall.

Therefore it is the maxim of the Israeli army to avoid casualties at any cost – any cost to the enemy, that is. To save one soldier, it is permissible to kill ten, twenty, a hundred civilians on the other side.

This rule, unwritten and self-understood, is symbolized by the "Hannibal Procedure" – the code-word for preventing at any cost the taking of an Israeli soldier prisoner. Here, too, a "democratic" principle is at work: no Israeli government can withstand public pressure to release many dozens of Palestinian prisoners in return for the release of one Israeli one. Ergo: prevent a soldier from being taken prisoner, even if the soldier himself is killed in the process.

Hannibal allows – indeed, commands – the wreaking of untold destruction and killing, in order to prevent a captured soldier from being spirited away. This procedure is itself a war crime.

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A responsible cabinet, with a minimum of combat experience, would know all this at the moment it was called upon to decide on a military operation. If they don't know, it is the duty of the army [or “military”] commanders – who are present at such cabinet meetings – to explain it to them. I wonder if they did.

ALL THIS means that, once started, the results were almost unavoidable. To make an attack without serious Israeli casualties possible, entire neighborhoods had to be flattened by drones, planes and artillery. And that obviously happened.

Inhabitants were often warned to flee, and many did. Others did not, being loath to leave behind everything precious to them. Some people flee in the moment of danger, others hope against hope and stay.

I would ask the reader to imagine himself for a moment in such a situation.

Add to this the human element – the mixture of humane and sadistic men, good and bad, you find in any combat unit all over the world, and you get the picture.

Once you start a war, "stuff happens", as the man said. There may be more war crimes or less, but there will be a lot.

ALL THIS could have been told to the UN committee of inquiry, headed by an American judge, by the chiefs of the Israeli army, had they been allowed to testify. The government did not allow them.

The convenient way out is to proclaim that all UN officials are by nature anti-Semites and Israel-haters, so that answering their questions is counterproductive.

We are moral. We are right. By nature. We can't help it. Those who accuse us must be anti-Semites. Simple logic.

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To hell with them all!

Uri Avnery

June 13, 2015

BDS, the New Enemy

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU was racking his brain. His whole career is based on fear mongering. Since Jews have lived in fear for millennia, it is easy to invoke it. They are addicts.

For years now, Netanyahu has built his career on fear of the Iranian Nuclear Bomb. The Iranians are crazy people. Once they have the Bomb, they will drop it on Israel, even if Israel's nuclear second strike will certainly annihilate Iran with its thousands of years of civilization.

But Netanyahu saw with growing anxiety that the Iranian threat was losing its edge. The US, so it seems, is about to reach an agreement with Iran, which will prevent it from achieving the Bomb. Even Sheldon the Great cannot prevent the agreement. What to do?

Looking around, three letters popped up: BDS. They denote Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, a worldwide campaign to boycott Israel because of its 48 year-old subjugation of the Palestinian people.

Ah, here we have a real threat, worse than the Bomb. A second Holocaust is looming. Brave little Israel facing the entire evil, anti-Semitic world.

True, until now Israel has suffered no real damage. BDS is more about gestures than about real economic weapons. But who is counting? The legions of anti-Semites are on the march.

Who will save us? Bibi the Great, of course!

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HONEST DISCLOSURE: my friends and I initiated the first boycott, which was directed at the products of the settlements.

Our peace movement, Gush Shalom, was deliberating how to stop the spread of the settlements, each of which is a land mine on the road to peace. The main reason for setting up settlements is to prevent the two-state solution – the only peace solution there is.

Our investigators made a Grand Tour of the settlements and registered the enterprises which were lured by government enticements to set up shop beyond the Green Line. We published the list and encouraged customers to abstain from buying these products.

A boycott is a democratic instrument of protest. It is non-violent. Every person can exercise it privately, without joining any group or exhibiting himself or herself in public.

Our main aim was to get the Israeli public to distinguish clearly between Israel proper and the settlements in the occupied territories.

In March 1997 we held a press conference to announce the campaign. It was a unique event. I have held press conference which were overflowing with journalists – for example, after my first meeting with Yasser Arafat in besieged West Beirut. I have held press conferences with sparse attendance. But this one was really special: not a single Israeli journalist turned up.

Still, the idea spread. I don't know how many thousand Israelis are boycotting the products of the settlements right now.

However, we were upset by the attitude of the European Union authorities, which denounced the settlements while in practice subsidizing their products with customs exemptions like real Israeli wares. My colleagues and I went to Brussels to protest, but were told by polite bureaucrats that Germany and others were obstructing any step toward a settlement boycott.

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Eventually, the Europeans moved, albeit slowly. They are now demanding that the products of the settlements be clearly marked.

THE BDS movement has a very different agenda. They want to boycott the State of Israel as such.

I always considered this a major strategic error. Instead of isolating the settlements and separating them from mainstream Israelis, a general boycott drives all Israelis into the arms of the settlers. It re-awakens age-old Jewish fears. Facing a common danger, Jews unite.

Netanyahu could not wish for more. He is now riding the wave of Jewish reactions. Every day there are headlines about another success of the boycott movement, and each success is a bonus for Netanyahu.

It is also a bonus for his adversary, Omar al-Barghouti, the Palestinian organizer of BDS.

Palestine is well stocked with Barghoutis. It is an extended family prominent in several villages north of Jerusalem.

The most famous is Marwan al-Barghouti, who has been condemned to several life sentences for leading the Fatah youth organization. He was not indicted for taking part in any "terrorist" acts, but for his role as organizationally responsible. Indeed, he and I were partners in organizing several non-violent protests against the occupation.

When he was brought to trial, we protested in the court building. One of my colleagues lost a toenail in the ensuing battle with the violent court guards. Marwan is still in prison and many Palestinians consider him a prospective heir of Mahmoud Abbas.

Another Barghouti is Mustafa, the very likable leader of a leftist party, who ran against Abbas for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority. We have met while facing the army in several demonstrations against the Wall.

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Omar Barghouti, the leader of the BDS movement, is a postgraduate student at Tel Aviv University. He demands the free return of all Palestinian refugees, equality for Israel's Palestinian citizens and, of course, an end to the occupation.

However, BDS is not a highly organized worldwide organization. It is more of a trade mark. Groups of students, artists and others spring up spontaneously and join the struggle for Palestinian liberation. Here and there, some real anti-Semites try to join. But for Netanyahu, they are all, all anti-Semites.

AS WE feared from the beginning, the boycott of Israel – as distinguished from the boycott of the settlements – has united the general Jewish population with the settlers, under the leadership of Netanyahu.

The fatherland is in danger. National unity is the order of the day. "Opposition Leader" Yitzhak Herzog is rushing forward to support

Netanyahu, as are almost all other parties.

Israel's Supreme Court, a frightened shadow of its former self, has already decreed that calling for a boycott of Israel is a crime – including calls for boycotting the settlements.

Almost every day, news about the boycott hits the headlines. The boss of "Orange", the French communications giant, first joined the boycott, then quickly turned around and is coming to Israel for a pilgrimage of repentance. Student organizations and professional groups in America and Europe adopt the boycott. The EU now vigorously demands the marking of settlement products.

Netanyahu is happy. He calls upon world Jewry to take up the fight against this anti-Semitic outrage. The owner of Netanyahu, multi-billionaire casino mogul Sheldon Adelson, has convened a war council of rich Jews in Las Vegas. His counterpart, pro-Labor multi-billionaire Haim Saban has joined him. Even the perpetrators of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion would not believe it.

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AS COMIC relief, another casino owner is competing for the headlines. He is a much, much smaller operator, who cannot be compared to Adelson.

He is the new Knesset Member Oren Hazan, No 30 on the Likud election list, the last one who got in. A TV expose has alleged that he was the owner of a casino in Bulgaria, who supplied prostitutes to his clients and used hard drugs. He has already been chosen as Deputy Speaker of the Knesset. The Speaker has temporarily suspended him from chairing Knesset plenum sessions.

So the two casino owners, the big and the small, dominate the news. Rather bizarre in a country where casinos are forbidden, and where clandestine casino goers are routinely arrested.

Well, life is a roulette game. Even life in Israel.

Uri Avnery

June 20, 2015

Isratin or Palestrael?

THERE WAS this guy who had an earth-shaking invention: an airplane that flies on water.

No more gas. No more pollution. No more astronomical prices. Just fill it up with water, and it will fly to the end of the world.

"Wonderful!" people cried out. "Show us the plans!"

"Plans?" the man said. "I have had the great idea. I leave it to the engineers to work out the technical details."

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The inventors of the "One-State Solution" remind me of this genius. They have a wonderful idea. But there are a few questions left open.

FIRST QUESTION: how can it be achieved?

The obvious answer is: by war.

The Arab world will mobilize its armies. Israel will be conquered. The victors will impose their will.

This may be possible within a few generations. I rather doubt it. In a world of nuclear arms, wars may end with mutual annihilation.

Well, if not war, then "outside pressure".

I doubt this, too. The international boycott movement is quite effective, in its way. But it is far, far from being able to compel Israelis to do something that is opposed by every fiber of their being: to give up their sovereignty. The same goes for political pressure. It may hurt Israel, it may isolate it – though I don't believe this is possible in this or the next generation – but this, too, won't be enough to bring Israel to its knees.

Convince the majority in Israel? One has to be very remote from Israeli reality to believe that this can happen in the foreseeable future. For more than 130 years, now, the core of the Zionist and Israeli *raison d'etre* has been Israeli (or "Jewish") statehood. Many people have died for it. Every child in Israel is indoctrinated from kindergarten on, through school and the army, to see the state as the highest of all ideals. Give it up voluntarily? Not likely.

But for argument's sake, let's assume that one way or another, the One-State Solution becomes possible. Perhaps by divine intervention.

How would it function?

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In all my dozens of debates with One-Staters of all kinds, I have never, not even once, received an answer to this simple question. Not once. Like the inventor of the water-fueled plane, they leave that to the engineers.

Let's try.

HOW WILL the state be named? Not an easy question.

The late Muammar Gadddafi proposed "Isratin" (why not Palesrael"?) I can think of "Holyland", "State of Jerusalem" and other names. Perhaps just "The United State of Israel and Palestine" (let's call it USIP).

Various flags and national anthems have been proposed., some of them really inventive. Will anyone sacrifice their blood for them?

But that, too, is not the real problem. It's when we approach the realities of the state the questions multiply.

How will the state function on a day-to-day basis?

How difficult that may be is illustrated by a simple historical fact: since World War II, there is not a single instance of two states or two peoples voluntarily coming together in one state. But there are ample instances of multinational states breaking apart.

Let's start with the Soviet Union, a mighty world power. Then Yugoslavia. Then Serbia. Czechoslovakia. Sudan.

Other countries are threatened with breakup. Who would have thought that the venerable United Kingdom might become Disunited? Scots, Catalans, Basques, Quebecois, East Ukrainians are waiting in line. Only the Swiss, united by centuries of history, seem immune. And also Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Be that as it may, let's look more closely at the thing itself.

THE STATE must have a united army. How will it function?

Will Jews and Arabs serve in the same squad? Or will there be separate battalions or separate brigades? If there is trouble in Jewish neighborhoods, will Jewish units follow orders against their brethren? In a war against an Arab state, how will Arab units act?

Will the Chief of Staff be a Jew or an Arab? Perhaps by rotation? And the General Staff – half and half?

That's easy, compared to the police. Will Jews and Arabs serve side by side, as they did during the British Mandate, when practically all local policemen belonged to secret nationalist organizations?

How will this police force investigate nationalist crimes? Who will be the Inspector General?

Then there is the question of taxes. As of now, the average income of Jews in Israel is 25 times higher than that of Arabs in occupied Palestine. No, that is not a typo. Not 25% higher. *25 times higher*!

Will they pay the same taxes? Very soon, Jewish citizens would complain that they pay for nearly all the welfare and education of the Palestinian citizens. Trouble.

THEN THERE are the problems of the political structure.

Of course, there will be universal and free elections. How will citizens vote – according to their class interests or along ethnic lines?

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Experience in many countries indicates that the ethnic identity will take precedence. In today's Israel, that is the rule. During the British Mandate, there was only one joint party: the Moscow-line Communist one. On the eve of the 1948 war, it split between Jews and Arabs. In the new State of Israel, they reunited (as ordered by Moscow) but then split again. Now it is in practice an Arab party, with a few Jewish followers.

In 1984 I took part in the foundation of a new party, the Progressive List for Peace, based on strict parity: our Knesset list was Arab, Jew, Arab, Jew, up to 120.

In two successive election campaigns we entered the Knesset. But a curious thing happened: almost all our voters were Arabs. Soon after, the party disappeared.

I strongly suspect that in USIP the same will happen. In Parliament, two blocs will face each other in a climate of perpetual mutual animosity. It will be extremely difficult to form a working government coalition composed of elements of both sides. Look at Belgium, another problematic bi-national state.

Some One-Staters admit that the project is only feasible if both peoples change their basic attitudes completely, and a spirit of mutual love and respect displaces the present nationalistic hatred and contempt.

Some 50 years ago I had a conversation with the then Indian ambassador in Paris, Kavalam Madhava Panikkar, a very respected statesman and scholar. We talked, of course, about Israeli-Palestinian peace, and he said: "It will take 51 years!"

Why exactly 51, I asked, surprised. "Because we need a new generation of teachers," he said. "That will take 25 years. These new teachers will educate a new generation of pupils, who will be able to make peace, That will take another 25 years. Making peace will take one more year."

Well, 51 years have passed, and peace is further off than ever.

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Matchmakers tend to say: "They don't love yet, but once married and having children, they will come to love each other."

Perhaps. How long will it take? A hundred years? Two hundred years? Long before that, we shall all be dead.

The main argument against the One-State vision is that it will soon become the battlefield of a perpetual conflict, like Lebanon. There will not be a day of internal peace.

The greatest danger is that in such a state, with a growing Arab majority, affluent and highly educated Jewish citizens will slowly leave (as some are already doing now). In the end, only the poor and ill-educated will be left –a small Jewish community in another Arab state.

I have a lurking suspicion that some of the Arab One-Staters embrace the idea for this reason alone: to put an end to Israel.

Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs are two of the most nationalist nations in the world. One has to be an extreme optimist – even more extreme than I – to believe that it will work.

Honest disclosure: I did once believe in the "One-State solution", long before the term was invented. In 1945, when I was just 22 years old, I founded a group that was devoted to the idea that the new Hebrew nation in Palestine and the Arab nation in Palestine, bound by common love for the country, could become one joint nation and live in one common state.

Our ideology caused an uproar in the Zionist community in the country. We were universally condemned. But during the 1948 war, when I came into immediate contact with the Palestinian reality, I gave up this beautiful idea for ever and from 1949 on was one of the creators of the concept of the Two-State Solution.

I have a great respect for the adherents of the One-State Solution.

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Their motives are admirable. Their vision lofty. But it is disconnected from reality.

I WOULD like to make one point quite clear: for me, the Two-State Solution is not a recipe for separation and divorce, but on the contrary, a kind of wedding.

From the first day on, 66 years ago, when we, a tiny group, raised the banner of the Two-State Solution, it was clear to us that the two states, living close together in one small country, must live in close cooperation. Borders must be open for the movement of people and goods, the economies closely intertwined. Some kind of federation is inevitable. Attitudes will slowly change on both sides.

Connections will be formed. Friendships will be established. Business interests will convince people. People will work together and come to like each other. As the Arabs say: Inshallah.

When I am asked whether this is the best solution, my answer is: "It is the only solution."

****

Want to support a movement committed to the survival of both Israel and Palestine as states living in peace, seeks to boycott goods from the settlements and firms that collaborate with the settlers, but does not seek to boycott Israel as a whole, and approaches these issues with empathy and compassion for both Israelis and Palestinians as well as severe criticisms of the way each side has been violent and arrogant toward the other (without denying the huge discrepancy in power between the two, and hence the greater responsibility for Israel to make the major concessions by ending the Occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza and participating in a spirit of generosity and atonement in the creation of a politically and economically viable Palestinian state living in peace with Israel)? If so, join the interfaith and secular-humanist-and-atheist-welcoming NSP--the Network of Spiritual Progressives www.spiritualprogressives.org/join With membership in the NSP comes a free suscription to Tikkun magazine (the print version which is not available on our lively website www.tikkun.org though lots of other articles are available for free there at www.tikkun.org)

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To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	12/30/2015 6:07:31 AM
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Will the GOP establishment candidates kill each other?



Chris Christie speaks at Elly's Tea and Coffee House in Muscatine, Iowa, yesterday. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— The Republican nominating contest has entered a new, more desperate phase. The four GOP candidates vying to occupy the so-called establishment lane all turned on one other yesterday. Attacks that circulated for months on background flared up in the open.

"It's now down to the last five weeks here," Chris Christie told reporters in Iowa. "We need to make distinctions…"

The New Jersey governor then ripped into Marco Rubio for missing more votes than any other senator. "Dude, show up to work," he said in Muscatine. "Just show up to work and vote no. And if you don't want to, then quit."

Rubio, also campaigning in Iowa, fired back: "You know, Chris has been missing in New Jersey for half the time."

— That was one of the more memorable moments in a day that started as a Rubio pile-on but became a free-for-all. Jeb Bush's super PAC, Right to Rise, launched a $1.4 million ad buy in Iowa to highlight Rubio's absenteeism. The goal is to stop another Floridian from getting momentum in the caucuses that he could carry into the New Hampshire primary a week later. "Politics first, that's the Rubio way," the narrator says.

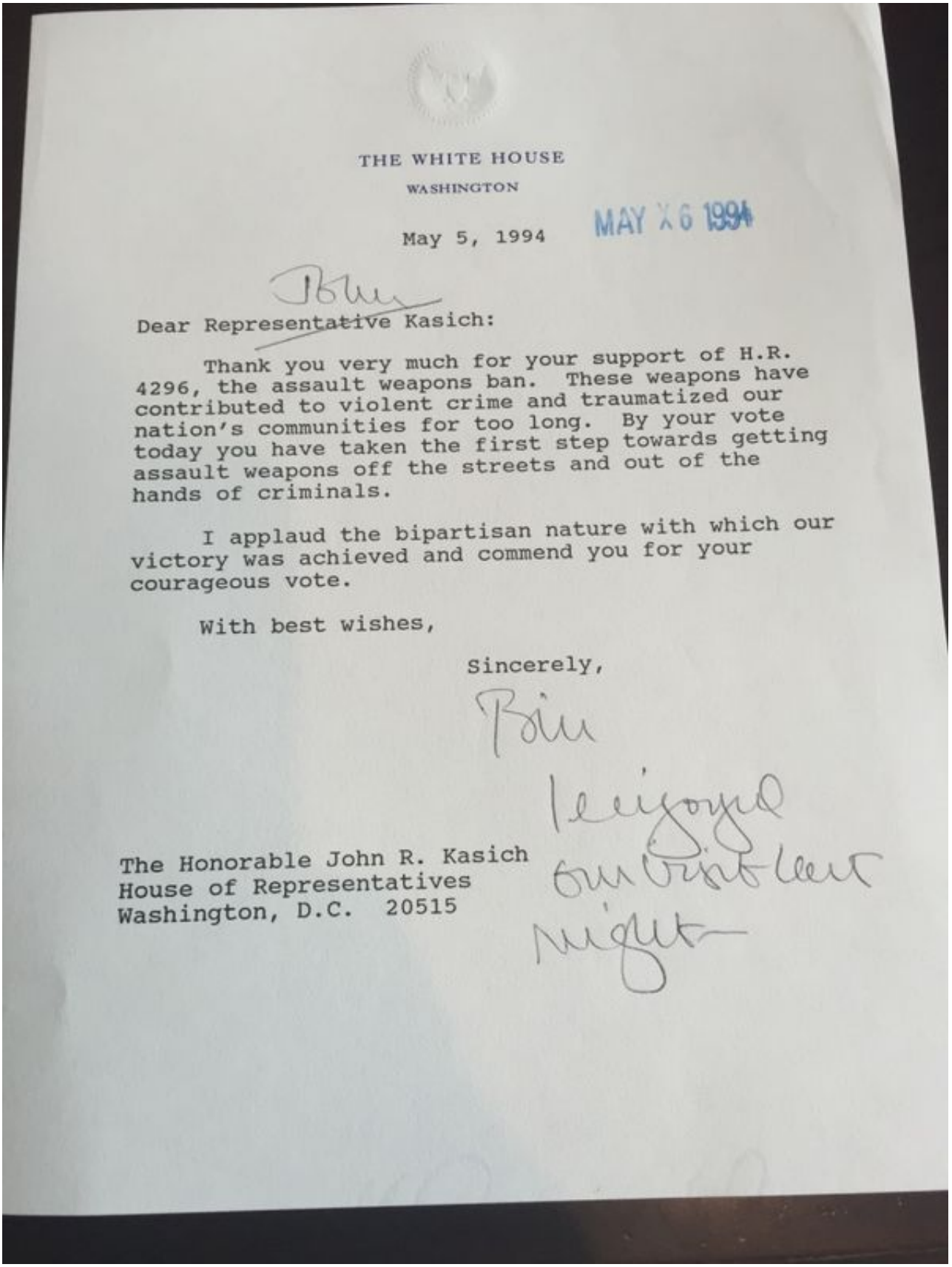
— Right to Rise also unveiled a commercial contrasting Bush with the two other governors in the establishment lane, Christie and Ohio's John Kasich.

— The super PAC supporting Kasich, New Day in America, responded that, "The country doesn't have an appetite for another Bush … As for Governor Christie, his mishandling of his state budget and the 'Bridgegate' scandal have earned him a 60 percent unfavorable rating from those who know him best — the people of New Jersey."

— Then Mike Murphy, the strategist behind the Bush super PAC, began tweeting out pictures of embarrassing documents that his opposition researchers had collected from an archive of Kasich's congressional papers. Among them: a 1980 thank you note from Phil Crane, the Illinois congressman whom Kasich backed over Ronald Reagan in the primaries, and a personalized letter of

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gratitude from Bill Clinton after Kasich supported the 1994 ban on assault weapons:



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 5, 1994 MAY 16 1994

Dear Representative Kasich:

Thank you very much for your support of H.R. 4296, the assault weapons ban. These weapons have contributed to violent crime and traumatized our nation's communities for too long. By your vote today you have taken the first step towards getting assault weapons off the streets and out of the hands of criminals.

I applaud the bipartisan nature with which our victory was achieved and commend you for your courageous vote.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Bill

The Honorable John R. Kasich
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

— More of the back-and-forth is captured in the story leading our newspaper this morning. GOP political consultant Alex Castellanos is quoted saying that the crossfire is beginning to look like "a 'Fistful of Dollars' gunfight," referring to the 1964 western starring Clint Eastwood. (Watch the scene Alex is referring to here ; read Karen Tumulty, Ed O'Keefe and Philip Rucker's story here.)

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Marco Rubio takes a question from the audience during a town hall in Clinton, Iowa, yesterday. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

— Rubio has begun trying to position himself as the most conservative of the four establishment figures.

The campaign is pushing around a column in National Review by Jim Geraghty that ticks off his right-wing bona fides: "This is a man who has a lifetime ACU rating of 98 out of 100. A man who has a perfect rating from the NRA in the U.S. Senate. A man who earned scores of 100 in 2014, 100 in 2013, 71 in 2012, and 100 in 2011 from the Family Research Council. … Rubio's the guy who earned a 100 from National Right to Life in two straight cycles, and a zero rating from NARAL. He supports an abortion ban after 20 weeks, opposes exceptions for rape and incest (although he's voted for legislation that includes those exceptions), and opposes embryonic stem-cell research. … Rubio opposes gay marriage. … He opposes raising the minimum wage … He contends the legislative efforts to fight climate change are economically self-destructive and expresses skepticism that human behavior is driving climate change."

Ironically, the above could also be read as a list of reasons that Rubio would have a lot of trouble winning in a general election…

— Rubio is trying, to the extent possible, to stay above the fray: On the stump yesterday, he tried to brush aside attacks on his record as "par for the course," as his

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campaign released a barrage of surrogate statements decrying the attacks on his abysmal attendance record. His super PAC released a video highlighting nice comments that Jeb has made about Rubio in the past.

Today, Rubio's campaign will go on the air with an ad that presents the first-term senator as knowledgeable about and tough on foreign policy. "Today, we face ever growing threats: radical Islamic terror, a lunatic in North Korea, a gangster in Moscow, and a president more respectful to the Ayatollah of Iran than the Prime Minister of Israel," he says. "Our allies don't trust us. Our enemies don't fear us. And the world doesn't know where America stands. On day one of my presidency that will change."

— New Hampshire's primary may not have the winnowing effect that each campaign expects. David Weigel: "The four … are each counting on one or more of their compadres to fail. Until that happens, none of them are getting through the door. … New Hampshire sends only 12 delegates to the Republican National Convention. The history of people merely performing well there, then staying in the race until it's clarified, is as rich as the history of the state producing a nominee. … At some point, if Bush clearly has the money to last into March (as he says) and if Rubio is clearly in a stronger position to compete after New Hampshire, the 'nightmare' might be unavoidable. There are simply too many candidates waiting for dominoes to fall — and too many who can write off Trump votes as flukes." Dave calls this the Three Stooges Syndrome.

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith.

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

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Donald Trump speaks during a news conference on his airplane in Omaha, Neb., last night. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

— Donald Trump says, beginning next Monday, he will spend at least $2 million per week on television ads in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. The AP reports the first two spots will be about immigration and national security. “If somebody attacks me, I will attack them very much and very hard in terms of ads,” the billionaire told journalists aboard his private jet last night. The buys have not been placed yet, though, and Trump has not always followed through on these kinds of pronouncements. He bragged last night on Twitter about how little he’s had to spend for paid media:

> My campaign for president is $35,000,000 under budget, I have spent very little (and am in 1st place). Now I will spend big in Iowa/N.H./S.C.
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 29, 2015

> So, I have spent almost nothing on my run for president and am in 1st place. Jeb Bush has spent $59 million & done. Run country my way!
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 29, 2015

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George Pataki ended his campaign with a video message.

— George Pataki dropped out of the race for the Republican presidential nomination. David A. Fahrenthold and David Weigel note the former New York governor's campaign was doomed to fail from the start, that his liberal stances on abortion, guns and unions are very much at odds with a party that continues moving to the right: "Pataki announced the suspension of his campaign in a two-minute message that aired on NBC affiliates in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. He secured the free air time through an 'equal time' request made after Trump hosted 'Saturday Night Live.'" Pataki, who has not held office since 2006, had flirted with a presidential run in 2000, 2008 and 2012. When he announced in May, he declared: "My life has prepared me for this moment." He was wrong. When "Jeopardy " contestants were shown his picture a few months ago, none could name him.

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Benjamin Netanyahu looks on as John Kerry speaks during a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. (Atef Safadi/Pool via AP)

— The Wall Street Journal reports that NSA surveillance of Benjamin Netanyahu and top Israeli leaders picked up their strategy conversations with members of Congress about how to torpedo the Iran nuclear deal. "That raised fears—an 'Oh-s— moment,' one senior U.S. official said—that the executive branch would be accused of spying on Congress," Adam Entous and Danny Yadron report. "Stepped-up NSA eavesdropping revealed to the White House how Mr. Netanyahu and his advisers had leaked details of the U.S.-Iran negotiations—learned through Israeli spying operations—to undermine the talks; coordinated talking points with Jewish-American groups against the deal; and asked undecided lawmakers what it would take to win their votes." Five nuggets from the piece:

- Obama ordered the NSA to stop spying on the presidents of France and Germany, but not Turkey.
- Obama was convinced for a time that Netanyahu would attack Iran without giving the U.S. a heads up, which prompted the order to step up surveillance.
- "Wary of a paper trail stemming from a request, the White House let the NSA decide what to share and what to withhold … 'We didn't say, 'Do it,'' a senior U.S. official said. 'We didn't say, 'Don't do it.'"- The NSA would also remove the names of lawmakers from intelligence reports.
- Analysts would pass details of intercepted communications to the top within six hours.
- Netanyahu was focused on building opposition to the Iran deal among Democratic

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lawmakers and confident he could win enough votes to stop the deal.



Clemson's Deon Cain runs in a 55-yard pass play for a touchdown during a Nov. 28 game against South Carolina.(AP Photo/Richard Shiro, File)

— Three Clemson football players were suspended after failing drug tests, taking them out of tomorrow's Orange Bowl against Oklahoma. "Deon Cain, Ammon Lakip and Jay McCullough have been sent home from the site of the College Football Playoff semifinal," USA Today reports . "Cain is a freshman wide receiver who is tied for third on the team in receptions. Lakip, a senior kicker, had a three-game suspension earlier this season after a spring arrest for cocaine possession and DUI. McCullough, a junior tight end, has no receptions this season for the undefeated and top-ranked Tigers."

— Four on-duty Secret Service agents were involved in a head-on car collision that killed one-person in Wakefield, N.H., the Associated Press reports. "Police said the agents were passengers in a Ford Taurus heading south on Route 16. A northbound Mercury Sable with three people crossed over the center line and collided head-on into the Taurus." Hillary was campaigning in nearby Berlin.

GET SMART FAST:

1. Eighteen people have now died as the result of massive flooding in Missouri and Illinois. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch)
2. The North Korean official in charge of relations with South Korea died in a car

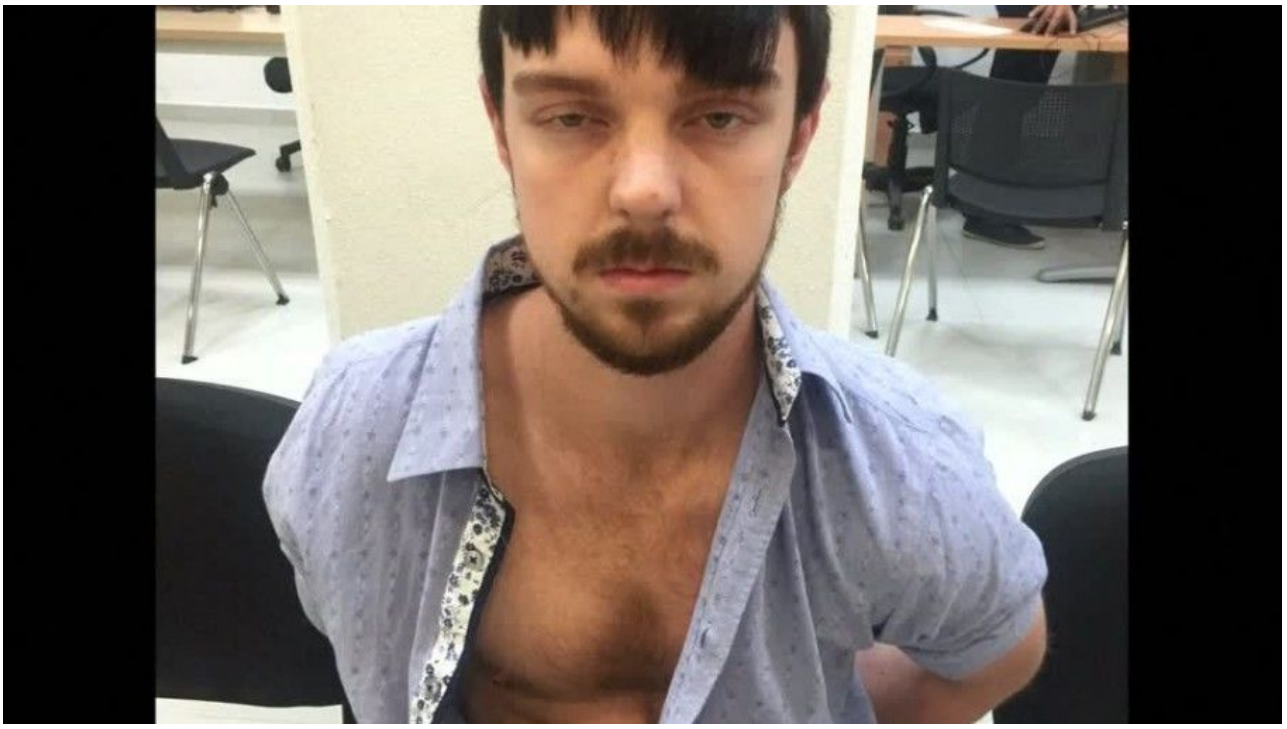
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accident, hampering the chances of improving relations between the two countries. (USA Today)

3. A U.S.-led airstrike killed a high-level ISIS leader in Syria with direct ties to the Paris attackers and who was actively planning more attacks against the West, the Pentagon announced. (Dan Lamothe)
4. A close call in the Strait of Hormuz: Iran conducted a live-fire exercise near the USS Harry Truman as the aircraft carrier passed through international waters. The Revolutionary Guard announced a warning over maritime radio and then fired several unguided rockets from about 1,500 yards off the carrier's starboard side. (NBC News)
5. Twitter has revised its rules of conduct to emphasize that it prohibits violent threats and abusive behavior by users. The question now is whether they will enforce it. (ABC)
6. The owners of a Portland bakery who refused on religious grounds to bake a wedding cake for a lesbian couple paid $144,000 in damages, though they continue to appeal a court ruling. (The Oregonian)
7. An unidentified man was caught on surveillance footage wrapping strips of raw bacon around the handle of a Las Vegas mosque's doors. Police are investigating as a hate crime. (KSNV)
8. China and Taiwan began operating the first telephone hotline between the two nations, designed to reduce tensions. (Reuters)
9. Eight Chinese men were rescued after being trapped for five days in a mine collapse. (AP)
10. A voter file with information about 191 million Americans was left exposed on the Internet, raising questions about the security chops of political campaigns that increasingly hold large caches of data. "The leak appeared to be the result of a technical error that allowed the information to be publicly accessed online, not a hack," Andrea Peterson reports.
11. Country music singer Craig Strickland is missing after going on a hunting trip in Oklahoma. The body of the friend he went out with was recovered after police found their capsized boat. (Niraj Chokshi)
12. A husband and wife in England who wanted to help ISIS were convicted of planning a terrorist attack in London to mark the 10th anniversary of the 2005 train bombings. (AP)
13. Ethan Couch, the "affluenza" teenager from Texas who killed four people while driving drunk, apparently planned his disappearance after being caught drinking on video. Authorities said he even had something akin to "a goodbye party" before

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fleeing to Mexico! *But* the harshest punishment he'll likely face is four months in jail because he's a juvenile. Couch and his mom were caught when they used their phones to order pizza — they are expected to be extradited today. (Dallas Morning News; The Post ; Fort Worth Star-Telegram)



Mexican authorities released a picture of Ethan Couch with dyed black hair after detaining him in Puerto Vallarta. (Jalisco state prosecutor's office, via Reuters)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. African American protesters gathered outside Rahm Emanuel's home and called for him to resign as mayor. (Chicago Tribune)
2. The Philadelphia Eagles fired head coach Chip Kelly with one game remaining in his third season. They missed the playoffs for the second straight year after losing to the Redskins. (Mark Maske)
3. Hillary Clinton began running a radio ad on predominantly African American stations in South Carolina that describes raising family incomes "is the defining economic challenge of our time." (Listen)
4. John Kasich said the people protesting a grand jury's decision to not charge the police officers involved in the Tamir Rice shooting "need to be heard." (Ed O'Keefe)
5. Ron Burkle, a billionaire California investor with a history of donating to Democrats, endorsed and will raise money for Kasich. (Politico)
6. The vice chair of the GOP in Miami-Dade County endorsed Cruz over favorite sons Rubio and Bush, the Tampa Bay Times reports . E.W. Jackson, the gaffe-prone and bombastic GOP nominee for Virginia lieutenant governor in 2013, also

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endorsed Cruz.

7. Trump's campaign signed an agreement give it access to the RNC voter file. (Politico)
8. Just one voter showed up to Martin O'Malley's event in Tama, Iowa, during a snowstorm Monday night. After an extended sitdown with the candidate, he left uncommitted. (Sarah Beckman's Tumblr)



@SarahBeckman3 Twitter

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

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Abdulaziz Moallin, a co-owner of the Juba Cafe, a coffee shop popular among local Somalis, stands in the wreckage of the restaurant after it was burned in an act of arson on the night Trump announced a plan to bar Muslims from entering the country. The restaurant is now closed until repairs are made. (Photo by Andrew Cullen/For the Washington Post)

NASTY RHETORIC HAS NASTY CONSEQUENCES. A few hours after Trump called for temporarily stopping Muslims from entering the U.S., someone in North Dakota drove by a Muslim-owned restaurant and tossed a 40-ounce Bud Light container filled with gasoline inside.

That incident is the lead anecdote in this piece –> "Trump's effect on Muslim migrant debate reverberates in heartland," by Robert Samuels in Grand Forks: "Residents, descended mostly from Norwegian Lutherans, were accustomed to coexisting with the Muslim refugees who have settled in town over the past decade. But a confection of events far beyond the city limits … has made both sides increasingly fearful of their neighbors. After fleeing a decade-long war and remaking their lives in a peaceful, quiet community, Somalis feel they are being looked at with unfair suspicion. Many locals, meanwhile, have questioned whether the government is spending too much money on a group they think shows little interest in assimilation. And they find themselves wondering whether the people wearing unusual garb and speaking a foreign language will produce a jihadist killer."

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Ted Cruz (Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg)

WINNING THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT –> "Ted Cruz huddles with faith leaders at ranch of super PAC donor," by Katie Zezima and Tom Hamburger: "Sen. Ted Cruz huddled with conservative faith leaders in Texas Monday and Tuesday as he coalesces the support of evangelical leaders behind his presidential bid. Cruz met with about 300 prominent faith leaders gathered at the sprawling ranch of Farris Wilks, who, along with his brother Dan, donated $15 million to a super PAC supporting Cruz. The event, sponsored by the PAC, was designed to introduce visitors to the faith story of the Cruz family. No cameras or recording devices were allowed at the remote ranch, where visitors enter through a massive stone archway with black gates, to protect the privacy of attendees and their conversation. … Those in attendance at the Monday sessions included prominent televangelists, such as John Hagee, pastor of the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, and James Dobson, founder of the Focus on the Family organization. Richard Land, president of the Southern Evangelical Seminary and a longtime leader of the Southern Baptist Convention, was there, according to interviews with attendees."

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Director of National Intelligence James Clapper looks on as President Obama speaks at the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean on Dec. 17. (Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images)

A NEAR TOTAL LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY –> "Spy agencies resist push for expanded scrutiny of top employees," by Greg Miller: "U.S. intelligence agencies recently fought off a move by Congress to require the CIA and other spy services to disclose more details about high-ranking employees who have been promoted or fired … The disputed measure was designed to increase scrutiny of cases in which senior officers ascend to high-level positions despite problems ranging from abusive treatment of subordinates to involvement in botched operations overseas. The CIA in particular has come under sharp criticism in recent years for promoting operatives who faced investigations by the agency's internal watchdog or the Justice Department for their roles in the brutal interrogations of prisoners…Under a provision drafted by the Senate Intelligence Committee this year, intelligence agencies would have been required to regularly provide names of those being promoted to top positions and disclose any 'significant and credible information to suggest that the individual is unfit or unqualified.'"

"But that language faced intense opposition from Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr. As a result, the wording was watered down by (congressional Republicans) this month and now requires Clapper only to furnish '*information the Director determines appropriate*.' … Sen. Dianne Feinstein (Calif.), the top Democrat on the Senate [Intelligence] committee, had inserted the initial provision in the intelligence authorization bill that was passed by the panel earlier this year."

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SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— Pictures of the day:

Gina Rodriguez, aka “Jane the Virgin,” shared some snaps of her trip to the White House during the holidays:

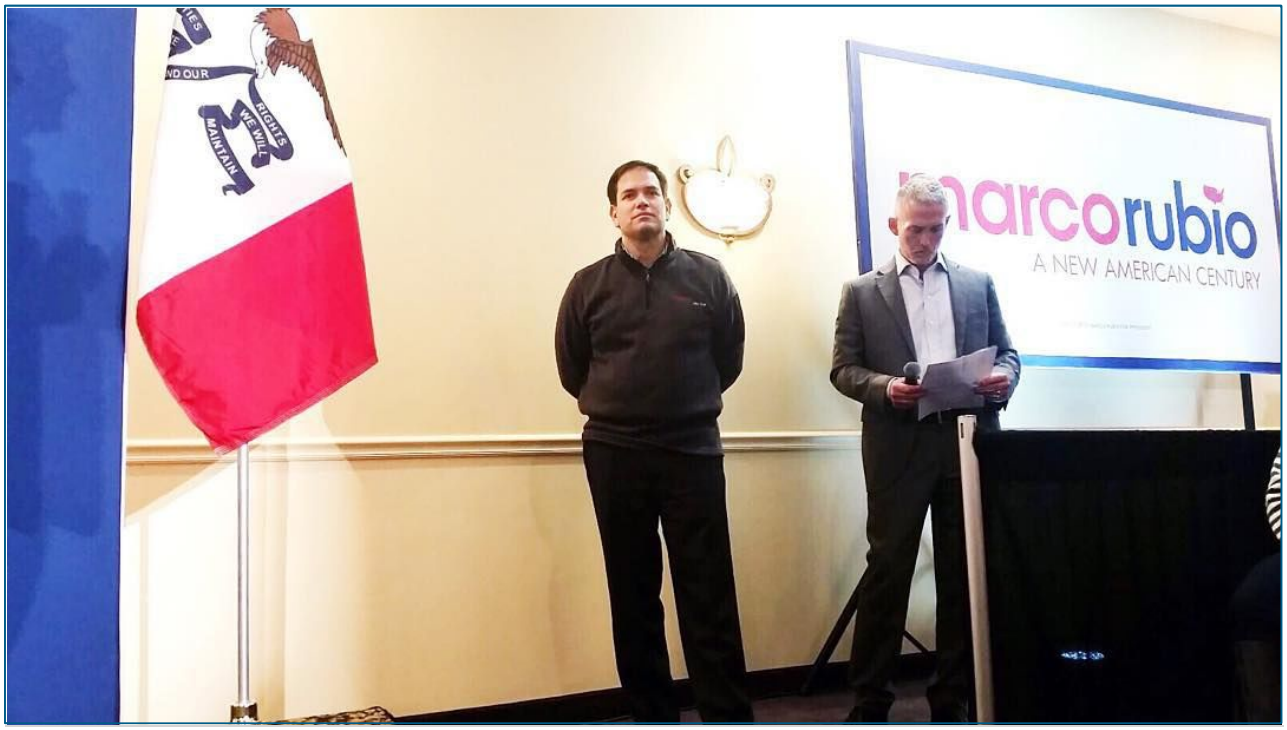


(@michelleobama)

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) appeared with one of his newest supporters, Rep. Trey Gowdy

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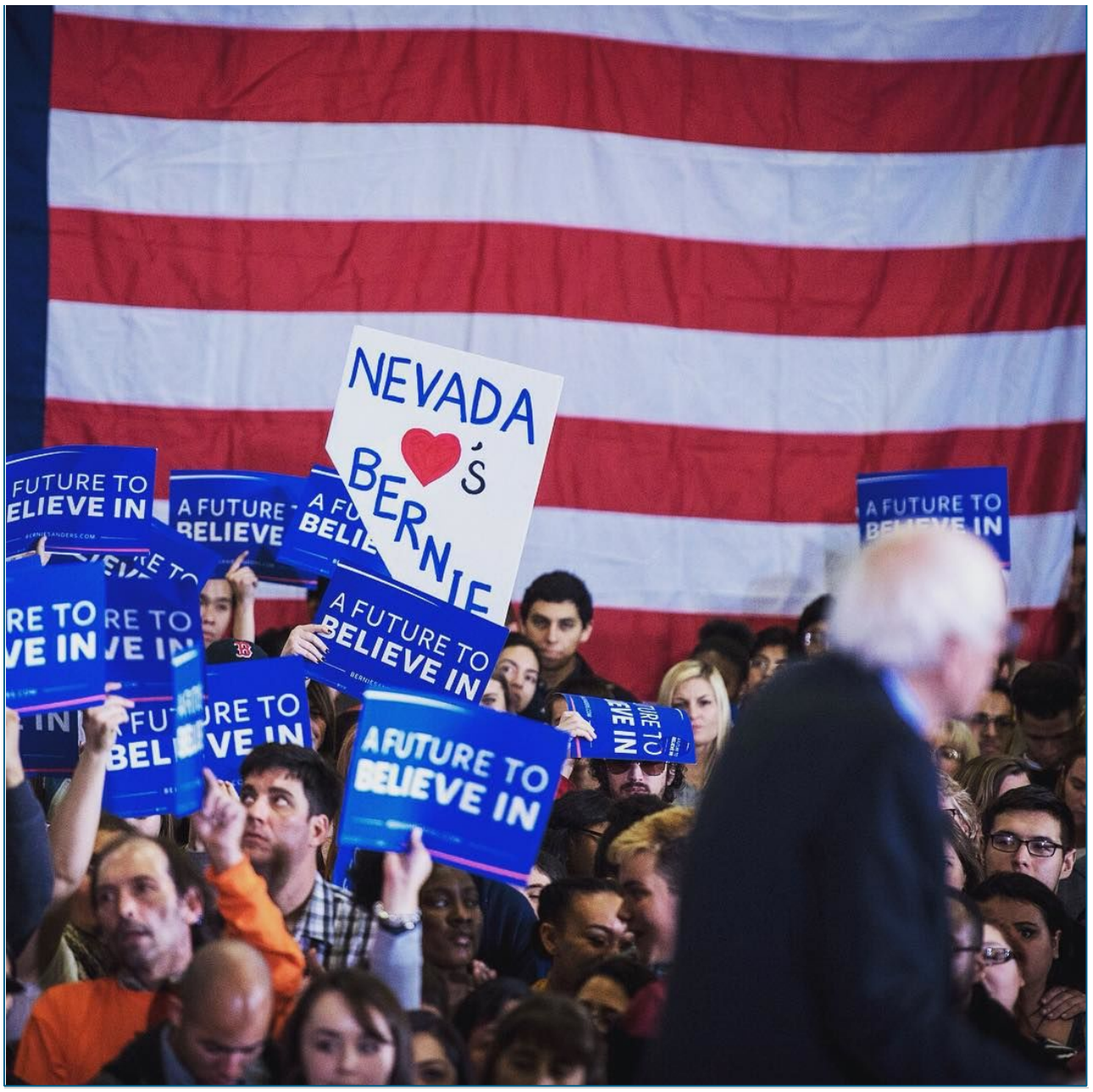
(R-S.C.), at a town hall in Clinton, Iowa:



(@marcorubiofla)

Bernie Sanders showed off some love from his rally in Las Vegas:

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(@berniesanders)

Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) surveys the damage in Rowlett from the Texas tornadoes over the weekend:

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(@reppetesessions)

–Tweets of the day:

Trump continued bashing those who have backed other horses in the race for president:

> I hope @TGowdySC does better for Rubio than he did at the #Benghazi hearings, which were a total disaster for Republicans & America! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 29, 2015

He also went after New Hampshire Union Leader Publisher Joseph W. McQuaid, who has been mocking him in front page op-eds:

> Joe McQuaid (@deucecrew) of the dying Union Leader wanted ads, lunches, donations, speeches from me, and tweets—very unethical. — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 30, 2015

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— Instagrams of the day:

Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-Mass.) showed off his newborn baby, Eleanor (Ellie):



(@repkennedy)

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, aka the “Clean Cooking Congresswoman,” said she had her first-ever “homemade sushi night.” Her daughter and her best friend’s daughter helped out:

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(@cleancookingcongresswoman)

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) said his staff organized the preparation of over 1,000 Christmas care packages for members of the military from his state:

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(@senmikelee)

And for all you cat people out there, here is Florida Rep. Lois Frankel (D):

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(@reploisfrankel)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

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Jeff Weaver, campaign manager for Bernie Sanders (Yuri Gripas/Reuters)

— New York Times, "Top Bernie Sanders aide rankles those in and out of campaign," by Maggie Haberman: "When Senator Bernie Sanders's campaign team was about to address a throng of media about a breach in which his data director and at least two other staff members accessed Clinton's proprietary voter data, reporters and political watchers braced for some sort of apology. Instead, the campaign manager, Jeff Weaver, stood before the cameras and portrayed his campaign as victims of a voracious Democratic National Committee. He threatened to sue the party to restore access to its own voter file data. … The aggressive maneuver struck many political observers as daring. It caught Mrs. Clinton's campaign by surprise … But the person delivering the message, Mr. Weaver, is a long-trusted adviser to Mr. Sanders, who has developed a reputation inside and outside his campaign as a hard-charging operative often willing to go further than the candidate himself."

- "Mr. Weaver, who worked for Mr. Sanders in Congress for years and has the candidate's trust, took a break from a store in Virginia, Victory Comics, to return to the candidate's fold (his cell phone voicemail still identifies him as with the comic-book store.)"
- In October, Weaver rankled many inside the campaign when he said that HRC "would make a great vice president." Maggie reports that Sanders and others saw it as condescending: "The campaign's New Hampshire state director, Julia Barnes, asked

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Mr. Weaver to apologize for the comments, and voiced her displeasure to him in clear terms. He never did, telling unhappy staffers on a conference call after the report aired that their team needed to be mindful that the Clinton campaign was about to unleash attacks on Mr. Sanders."



Trump holds up his Bible during a campaign stop last night in Council Bluffs, Iowa. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

— BuzzFeed, "Trump defended Clinton during Lewinsky scandal against 'moralist" hypocrites In Congress," by Andrew Kaczynski and Megan Apper: "Donald Trump revived Bill Clinton's past marital indiscretions this week, attacking Hillary on Twitter and on TV for playing the 'women's card' and saying her husband's past affairs would be fair game. Trump took a different tact in the late '90s, when the scandal was at its peak, defending then-President Bill Clinton against the 'moralists' and hypocrites in Congress and arguing that the scandal wouldn't have been that bad if only Clinton had chosen to carry on an affair with a supermodel instead. 'I got a chuckle out of all the moralists in Congress and in the media who expressed public outrage at the president's immoral behavior,' wrote Trump in The America We Deserve. 'I happen to know that one U.S. senator leading the pack of attackers spent more than a few nights with his twenty-something girlfriend at a hotel I own. There's also a conservative columnist, married, who was particularly rough on Clinton in this regard. He also brought his girlfriend to my resorts

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for the weekend. Their hypocrisy is amazing.' Trump also wrote that Clinton should have refused to talk about his personal life … Trump at one point compared himself directly to Bill Clinton, telling CNBC in 1998, 'Can you imagine how controversial I'd be? You think about him with the women. How about me with the women? Can you imagine?'"

Trump defended his past comments last night, saying he was just trying to ingratiate himself with the powerful. "As a world-class businessman, you have to get along with everybody," he said. "I was able to get along with Clinton, I was able to get along with virtually every politician you can imagine." (Abby Phillip's story)

— The Atlantic, "The Iowa caucus gets an upgrade, " by Russel Berman: "Caucus Night 2012 was not exactly a banner evening for the Republican Party of Iowa. Reporting problems plagued the vote-counting during the crucial first-in-the-nation presidential contest. … Needless to say, the Iowa GOP would like to have a smoother—and more accurate—election on February 1 … The parties are pinning their hopes on new technology, betting that a custom-designed mobile platform can modernize a quirky voting method and ensure the public knows which candidates won Iowa long before voters head to the polls in New Hampshire. The idea is to meld 'a brand-new technology and a 100-year-old process,' said Stan Freck, senior director for campaigns and elections at Microsoft, which partnered with the parties on the project. … The key features of the app designed by Microsoft and its partner, Interknowlogy, are backstops for clumsy-fingered or tech-challenged precinct captains. 'It's a simple, big-button kind of interface, not a lot of crazy stuff on the screen,' Freck said. A demo confirmed his description; a precinct captain only has to go through a couple of screens after logging in, and the whole process should take no more than a few minutes."

The five House members who made the most floor speeches in 2015, via C-SPAN:

1. Rep. Glenn "G.T." Thompson (R-PA): 110 days
2. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX): 87 days
3. Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA): 72 days
4. Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX): 70 days
5. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR): 69 days

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HOT ON THE LEFT

A Virginia GOP state lawmaker will try to remove Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) security detail. Republicans are up in arms, literally, over a decision by state Attorney General Mark Herring that Virginia will no longer recognize concealed handgun carry permits from residents of 25 states. Per the Bristol Herald Courier: State Rep. Bill Carrico (R) plans to retaliate, saying of the governor: "I have a budget amendment that I'm looking at to take away his executive protection unit. If he's so afraid of guns, then I'm not going to surround him with armed state policemen."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

"We Lost Too Many Conservative Luminaries in 2015 — R.I.P.," by Tevi Troy in National Review: "The conservative movement was built by intellectuals … Reflection on 2015 makes clear that we lost some titans, including Martin Anderson, Walter Berns, Harry Jaffa, Ben Wattenberg, Robert Conquest, Amy Kass, and Peter Schramm. They have left in the conservative movement a hole that will be difficult to fill." Berns and Jaffa both studied under Leo Strauss, famously feuded, and, à la Jefferson and Adams, died on the same day. "Jaffa was the intellectual godfather of West Coast Straussianism, best embodied by the Claremont Institute." He's also best known for writing Barry Goldwater's 1964 pronouncement that, "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice [and] … moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

DAYBOOK:

— What's happening today on the campaign trail: Trump is in Hilton Head, S.C., where he will host an event at 11 a.m. Eastern. Bush is also in South Carolina, and he will appear at a barbecue dinner in Lexington at 6:30 p.m. Cruz is in Texas to visit the tornado-ravaged town of Rowlett. He will meet with Rockwell County Mayor Todd Gottel. Rubio

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has town halls in Pella, Newton and Boone, Iowa. Christie, also in Iowa, is hosting meet and greets in Waterloo and Marshalltown, followed by a town hall in Waukee. Sanders has three towns halls in Iowa, with his day concluding in Ottumwa at 7 p.m. Central. O'Malley will attend leadership forums in Humbolt and Clarion. Rick Santorum will speak at a house parties (for the second straight day) in Holstein and Sioux City.

— On the Hill: Recess

— At the White House: President Obama continues his vacation in Hawaii. He went snorkeling yesterday.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Chelsea Clinton vs. Ivanka Trump in 2032? Donald's daughter was asked whether she'll ever run for office. "It's not something I've ever been inclined to do, but I'm 34, so who knows? At this point I would never even contemplate it, but that doesn't mean that when I'm 50 I won't have a change of heart," she told Town & Country in an extended interview.

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "We could see a few glimmers of sun here and there, once the early fog lifts, but for the most part it's another mostly cloudy day as highs head for the mid-50s," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "Might see some spots of drizzle through the morning, with scattered light showers possible starting around or after 3 p.m. About a 50-60% chance of getting wet at any given location. Winds are light from the southeast."

— This month is officially the warmest December ever recorded in D.C., with the average daily temperature at 51.2 degrees, almost five-and-a-half degrees warmer than any other December since 1871. (Martin Weil)

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Motorcycles and dirt bikes pop wheelies and drive the wrong way, slowing traffic on the Beltway Sunday. Officials took no enforcement action, according to Maryland State Police. (Jukin Media, Inc.)

— There's an epidemic of hooligans on dirt bikes and motorcycles causing mayhem, and the police are offering weak excuses for not enforcing the law. They surround cars and circle pedestrians. They drive the wrong way on the highway, terrifying those in their path. A swarm on the Beltway this Sunday was caught on video. I recently saw a similar incident on H St., NE. "Authorities across the region have concluded that pursuing riders on illegal dirt bikes and similar off-road vehicles is dangerous because law enforcement cannot respond quickly enough or safely chase and corral operators who can outmaneuver police cars and escape on stairs and sidewalks and through narrow alleys," Peter Hermann and Dana Hedgpeth report . Residents are stepping up pressure on the cops to crack down.

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

See drones get too close to Obama's motorcade:

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And watch yet more hoverboard accidents, including Mike Tyson wiping out :



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From: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/22/2015 1:53:56 PM
Subject: TIME: Clinton Allies Knock Down Donor Allegations, New Questions Pop Up

Clinton Allies Knock Down Donor Allegations, New Questions Pop Up

Sam Frizell @Sam_Frizell

Zeke J Miller @ZekeJMiller
Massimo Calabresi @calabresim

8:49 PM ET
http://time.com/3831794/clinton-allies-knock-down-donor-allegations-new-questions-pop-up/

Hillary Clinton's allies are pushing back against the suggestion in a new book that donations to the Clinton Foundation influenced the handling of the sale of U.S. uranium mines to a Russian-backed company.

The new book,"Clinton Cash: the Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich," says that Hillary Clinton failed in 2010 to block the purchase of American uranium mines by a Russian-backed company while people with financial and strategic interests in the sale were making millions of dollars of donations to the Clinton Foundation, a philanthropy run by her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

The suggestion of outside influence over U.S. decision making is based on little evidence—the allegations are presented as questions rather than proof. The deal's approval was the result of an extensive inter-agency process that required the assent of at least nine different officials and agencies. A former State Department official who participated in the deal's approval told TIME that Clinton did not weigh in on the uranium sale one way or the other, and her campaign calls the allegations in the book, "absurd conspiracy theories."

But the book's dark suggestions reflect the growing problem Clinton faces in her run for the White House in 2016 as more and more details of the Foundation's fundraising activities present the appearance of impropriety and lack of transparency during her time as Secretary of State.

One chapter of the book, written by conservative author Peter Schweizer and obtained by TIME, focuses on an obscure deal that had been years in the making. Schweizer says Secretary Clinton failed to block the Russian State Atomic Nuclear Agency (Rosatom), a Kremlin-controlled nuclear agency, from purchasing a controlling stake in an American Uranium mining concern, Uranium One. The company's chairman, Ian Telfer, was a major donor to the Clinton Foundation. Several other Clinton Foundation donors stood to gain from the agreement as well.

Because the proposed sale involved the transfer of potentially strategic U.S. assets, the Uranium One transaction was subject to approval by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), an interagency panel that comprises powerful federal agencies. In prior years, Clinton had urged the committee to take a hawkish view of deals involving U.S. strategic assets, and Schweizer says that should have inclined her against the Rosatom purchase. "Despite a long record of publicly opposing such deals Hillary didn't object," Schweizer writes in the version of the chapter obtained by TIME. "Why the apparent reversal? Could it be because shareholders involved in the transaction had transferred approximately $145 million to the Clinton Foundation or its initiatives? Or because her husband had profited from lucrative speaking deals arranged by companies associated with those who stood to profit from the deal?"

The State Department's role in approving the deal was part of an extensive bureaucratic process, and the chapter offers no indication of Hillary Clinton's personal involvement in, or even knowledge of, the deliberations. State has just one vote on the nine-member committee, which also includes the departments of Defense, Treasury, and Energy. Disagreements are traditionally handled at the staff level, and if they are not resolved, they are escalated to deputies at the relevant agencies. If the deputies can't resolve the dispute, the issues can

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be elevated to the cabinet secretary level and, if needed, to the president for a decision. The official chairman of CFIUS is the Treasury Secretary, not the Secretary of State.

Before purchasing a controlling stake in Uranium One, the Russian conglomerate also had to get approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, an independent agency outside of the State Department's purview, as well as Utah's nuclear regulator. It also received the sign-off of Canada's foreign investment review agency. The deal itself was the outgrowth of a diplomatic initiative launched by the administration of George W. Bush to expand trade opportunities between Russia and the U.S., including in the area of nuclear power.

One official involved in the process said Clinton had nothing to do with the decision in the Uranium One case. Jose Hernandez, who as former Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs was the State Department's principal representative on the committee, rejected the notion that Clinton's Foundation ties had any bearing on the deal. "Secretary Clinton never intervened with me on any CFIUS matter," he told TIME. A spokesperson for Hillary for America, Josh Schwerin, also attacked the suggestions made in the book. The transaction, "went through the usual process and the official responsible for managing CFIUS reviews has stated that the Secretary did not intervene with him," Schwerin says, "This book is twisting previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories."

Throughout the new book, Schweizer suggests that Hillary Clinton used her authority as Secretary of State to intervene on behalf of companies that donated to her family's foundation. Clinton has sought to distance herself from the charges on the campaign trail, calling the GOP claims "distractions."

Even if Clinton was not involved in approving the deal with the Russian company, the book does raise more questions about the Clinton Foundation's transparency regarding its donors and shows that the issue will continue to dog her candidacy. The book reports that Telfer, the Uranium One chairman, donated $2.1 million to a Clinton Foundation subsidiary through a charity he controls around the time the purchase was being finalized, an assertion TIME has verified through a review of public records. Those donations do not appear on the Foundation's disclosure of donors. Telfer is listed for smaller donations he made directly to the parent foundation.

In 2008, the Clinton Foundation and President Barack Obama's transition team signed a memorandum of understanding about the foundation's activities to allay congressional concerns over potential conflicts of interest stemming from its donors as Clinton was preparing to become Obama's Secretary of State. "In anticipation of Senator Clinton's nomination and confirmation as Secretary of State, the Foundation will publish its contributors this year," the agreement states. "During any service by Senator Clinton as Secretary of State, the Foundation will publish annually the names of new contributors."

Exempt from that relationship were an array of Clinton Foundation subsidiaries, including the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, a Canadian-based charity which works to establish "social enterprises" in the developing world. Telfer is one of three directors of a charity called the Fernwood Foundation, according to Canadian tax records dug up by Schweizer and verified by TIME. Fernwood has donated $2.1 million to the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, which at one point passed through as much as 88% of its donations to the main Clinton Foundation, Schweizer writes. Schweizer alleges that Telfer had 1.6 million shares in Uranium One and profited hugely off the deal, a claim that couldn't be independently verified.

The Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, is listed as having given contributed more than $25 million to the Foundation according to its online disclosures, but the Foundation does not list any of the Giustra Partnership's individual donors. When contacted by TIME, a spokesman for the Clinton Foundation deferred comment to the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, which didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Without a full account of donors to the Foundations, allegations like the one in Schweizer's book will follow Clinton's candidacy even as she seeks to remain above the fray. The campaign, for its part, will continue to do its best to discredit Schweizer's book and distance itself from Republican attacks.

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“While Republicans focus their efforts on attacks, Hillary Clinton is going to continue to focus on how to help everyday Americans get ahead and stay ahead,” the Clinton campaign said in a memo circulated Tuesday night. “That’s what her campaign is about, and no book—especially one as discredited as this one—is going to change that.”

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
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From: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Karen Finney" <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/12/2015 2:35:52 PM
Subject: Re: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks

Agree on need for positive stuff. If we're not already let's add the topper but send them all the great stuff we've put together today so that people aren't seeing this in a vacuum.

On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:31 PM, Karen Finney <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Can we start with a positive line like - despite the overwhelmingly positive response to Hillary's message, the GOP went into attack mode.
>
> On Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:15 PM, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Hey folks. Here are some points we pulled together for surrogates going on TV -- not a wide blast -- on how to respond to day one attacks on HRC. Thoughts? Adrienne/Karen/etc. can get to surrogates once we're all good.
> >
> > Thanks.
> > Ian
> >
> > **OPENING DAY -- SURROGATE TALKING POINTS ON GOP ATTACKS**
> >
> > Today we've seen a wide range of attacks from the entire GOP field and their allies. Below are some points to respond -- keeping the focus on Hillary's desire to focus on voters while the Republicans are trotting out tired attacks on her.
> >
> > - **Republicans can focus on attacking her, but Hillary is focused on meeting voters and having real conversations about issues facing everyday Americans.** This is the start of the different kind of campaign that Hillary wants to run -- one that is squarely focused on having a conversation with voters -- answering their questions, asking them questions and sharing ideas.
> >
> > - **Meanwhile, Republicans want to be the champions for those at the top.** While Hillary is talking to voters and focused on everyday Americans, every single Republican candidate has offered the same tired attacks and the same economic agenda that Americans know rob them of the stability they've worked so hard for -- with a top-down agenda that would stack the deck even more in favor of those at the top.
> >
> > - **Americans have responded clearly that they appreciate Hillary's focus on their issues and their lives**, so if Republicans want to keep their focus on tired political attacks, that's their choice.
> >
> > ***If pressed on specific GOP attacks on foreign policy/HRC's record at the State Department, stemming from Jeb Bush's video or other attacks:***
> >
> > **Job number one for Hillary as Secretary of State was to restore America's leadership after it was badly eroded by eight years of the Bush administration's foreign policy** -- two wars, damaged alliances, diminished moral standing, no stopping Iran's nuclear program, and no action on climate. She's proud of her accomplishments.
> >
> > - Hillary led the effort to build a worldwide coalition to impose the toughest sanctions in history against the Iranians, which forced them to the negotiating table and gave us our best shot at preventing them from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
> > - Hillary brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, which prevented a wider war and protected Israel's security.
> > - Hillary stood up to Putin by strengthening NATO, encouraging Europe to find alternative sources of energy, and called him out for trying to rebuild the Soviet Empire.
> > - Hillary worked with President Obama to get every major developing country, including China and India, to agree for the first time to reduce their carbon emissions and be held accountable for it.
> > - Hillary put internet freedom, LGBT rights, and women's rights on the global agenda, and defending human rights

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advocates on the frontlines around the world.
- And, of course, she was part of the President's team making the decision to launch the raid against bin Laden.

Jeb Bush may attack Hillary's time as Secretary of State now, but it's just negative politics meant to gin up his Republican base.

- Jeb Bush in 2013: "Former Secretary Clinton has dedicated her life to serving and engaging people across the world in democracy. These efforts as a citizen, an activist, and a leader have earned Secretary Clinton this year's Liberty Medal." [National Constitution Center, 6/27/2013]

Jeb Bush is advocating for the same failed foreign policy that led us to misguided wars and degraded our nation's standing in the world.

- Jeb Bush on George W. Bush: "I will tell you that I'm the only Republican that was in office when he was office as President that never disagreed with him. And I'm not going to start now. Why would I do that now after two years? …I'm not going to start now. It's just – 'til death do us part." [CNN interview]

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Ian Sams | Rapid Response Associate
Hillary for America
(423) 915-6592 | @IanSams
Gchat: icsams

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From: "Ian Sams" <isams@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/22/2015 12:30:45 PM
Subject: Politico: Martin O'Malley forces ramp up for late May launch

http://www.politico.com/story/2015/04/martin-omalley-forces-ramp-up-for-late-may-launch-117254.html

Martin O'Malley forces ramp up for late May launch

By GABRIEL DEBENEDETTI

4/22/15 7:26 PM EDT

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley's supporters are getting ready for a likely presidential campaign launch in Baltimore in late May, while the candidate meets with prospective donors in the San Francisco area this week.

It's part of a significant ramp-up in activity taking advantage of the natural media vacuum that's resulted from Hillary Clinton being the only declared Democrat in the presidential race. O'Malley, who left the Maryland governor's mansion in 2015 after eight years, has recently sat for a handful of national interviews, including one with NPR during which he raised eyebrows — and his profile — by labeling Republican claims that regulation leads to income inequality "kind of patently bullshit."

Story Continued Below

He is due at the South Carolina Democratic Party convention this weekend, and will almost certainly stop in Iowa in the coming weeks, though details have not yet been finalized, according to aides. His stop in New Hampshire on May 13 for a state party fundraiser and house party will probably be one of his final pre-campaign trips.

Then he will likely make his White House intentions official at a late May announcement in Baltimore, where he launched his political career and served eight years as mayor.

As the consensus settles that progressive hero Elizabeth Warren really won't pursue the presidency, O'Malley's appearances have been calibrated to position himself as the liberal alternative to Clinton with a proven record of accomplishments. He regularly talks about imposing tighter regulations on Wall Street banks, an issue closely associated with the Massachusetts senator, and he has also aligned with her wing of the party against the 12-nation Pacific trade deal that is supported by President Barack Obama.



ALSO ON POLITICO

Hill Dems to Hillary: Get off the fence on trade

MANU RAJU and LAUREN FRENCH

O'Malley's allies assume that down the line much of the progressive infrastructure currently devoted to drafting and backing Warren in Washington and the early-voting states will turn to him as their best realistic hope.

"There's a base of progressives out there nationally looking for a voice, and they've been funding people for a while," says O'Malley's senior advisor Bill Hyers, who served as the campaign manager for liberal darling Bill de Blasio in 2013. "There's definitely a group we can tap into that is looking for Governor O'Malley."

But as O'Malley seeks to sharpen the contrast with Clinton, aides said, he remains unlikely to lash out at her directly anytime soon.

Instead, he will continue to point out her policy shifts, talk about a need for new leadership, and tweet videos highlighting his stances on specific issues when they disagree, according to people familiar with his plans.

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While the O'Malley brain trust is invested in raising the likely candidate's name recognition levels in the early-voting states, his advisers see no benefit in doing so by attacking Clinton, whose campaign looks and feels like a juggernaut. It's not productive for O'Malley to become known for anti-Clinton attacks, they believe, instead preferring that he focus on specific issues — like strengthening Wall Street regulation and opposing the Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal — that excite liberals.



ALSO ON POLITICO

The 2016 Blast: A sneak peek inside 'Clinton Cash'

KATIE GLUECK and JONATHAN TOPAZ

Ultimately, his strategists hope to position him as a liberal with executive experience, funded largely by a robust online donation operation.

Not that they mind when he catches the attention of the national press by subtly knocking the former secretary of state, like he did Wednesday with a fundraising email about the trade deal carrying the subject line "Hard choice?" — an obvious reference to Clinton's 2014 book, "Hard Choices."

But O'Malley, who has consistently hovered around one percent in national polls of Democrats considering their options for the White House in 2016, has no specific plans to go much further for now, in what are likely the final weeks of his pre-campaign.

"It wouldn't be sustainable to have a ping-pong match going back and forth, especially in the early states. What you want to do is get known for issues," says Trevor Cornwell, a Silicon Valley executive and former campaign operative who is helping O'Malley raise money and hosting him for a series of meetings with venture capitalists and tech figures in California this week.

But on top of his polling and name recognition deficit, O'Malley also faces a major uphill financial climb against the Clinton machine that is looking to raise over $2 billion between its campaign and super PACs between now and November 2016, backed by a who's who list of the Democratic Party's major donors. O'Malley has a handful of allies prepared to fund his efforts and to raise money for him — including Washington attorney John Coale and Terry Lierman, the former Maryland state party chairman who served as a national finance chair for Howard Dean in 2004 — but his team expects his focus on online fundraising to be "tremendous," in the words of Hyers.



ALSO ON POLITICO

Clinton lawyer: 'No reason' for private Benghazi testimony

LAUREN FRENCH

"We've seen a lot of candidates take a lot of money because they catch fire at the right time, and that has to be part of the strategy," he said, pointing to O'Malley's liberal appeal on a handful of issues.

In a recent speech at Harvard University, where Warren taught until recently, O'Malley cited his record of raising the minimum wage, bolstering collective bargaining, and increasing education funding as governor. He also called for expanding Social Security and reforming the college loan system.

But his consistent hammering on staunchly liberal issues has not paid dividends in polling. His 1.5 percent support is far behind Clinton's 63 percent in the RealClearPolitics national polling average through mid-April, but also behind the 12 percent for Warren and 11 percent for Vice President Joe Biden, not to mention Vermont senator Bernie Sanders and former Virginia senator Jim Webb. O'Malley backers assume he will pick up many of the voters who are currently aligned behind Warren and Biden, but a CNN/ORC poll of the Democratic field that didn't include Warren still showed O'Malley at 1 percent earlier this week.

Still, Democrats across the party expect a non-Clinton candidate to catch fire over the summer and to garner

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around 25-to-30 percent of the vote in Iowa, a state with which O'Malley has been familiar since he spent time there on behalf of Gary Hart's 1984 presidential campaign. Clinton's camp expects O'Malley to rise in the polls.

O'Malley's team has been aggressive about following up with activists who speak with the former governor during his early-state trips, and he has been benefited from the state parties' financial and organizational interest in competitive primaries.



ALSO ON POLITICO

O'Malley dings Clinton for flip-flops on gay marriage, immigration

NICK GASS

"It's a really straightforward grassroots approach," says Dave Allen, a New Hampshire lawyer who hosted O'Malley for a roundtable discussion last month. "He's seen as the only person who could make the primary relevant."

Nonetheless, even Democrats who see him as liberals' best hope against Clinton identify his likely fundraising deficit as a serious uphill battle, joined by the fact that the Democrat running to replace him in Annapolis lost in November, in what was widely taken as a referendum on O'Malley. And many see a weakness in the fact that he was one of Clinton's staunchest backers when she ran in 2008, supporting her against Obama until June of that year.

But Clinton's team has yet to directly engage with O'Malley or any other potential challenger, despite their behind-the-scenes acknowledgment that he could cause some trouble down the road.

Unsurprisingly, that's fine with O'Malley's allies.

"Hillary better be nice to him," warned Dan Calegari, a longtime New Hampshire activist, who has, like Cornwell, known O'Malley since their days on the Hart campaign. "He's going to need a good vice president. First woman vice president."

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2015/04/martin-omalley-forces-ramp-up-for-late-may-launch-117254.html#ixzz3Y5GMrgzO

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From:	"Stephen Paduano" <spaduano@hfaintern.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	7/24/2015 5:36:19 AM
Subject:	
Attachments:	Daily Clips (7.24.15).docx

Daily Clips

July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton Strongly Defends Planned Parenthood and Cites Nuance on Glass-Steagall NYT/Amy Chozick

In Greenville, SC on Thursday HRC defended Planned Parenthood and gave a "nuanced" answer to an attendee's question about Glass-Steagall. HRC said: "I'm not interested in just saying there's one answer to the too-big-to-fail problem."

Hillary Clinton Things She Can Change How America's Biggest Companies Behave

WaPo/Jim Tankersley

"Hillary Cilnton is set on Friday to unveil a new round of economic proposals aimed at a problem that liberals and conservatives largely agree exists in America today: Companies aren't investing enough in the sorts of things that could lift the economy in the long-run."

Hillary Clinton to Return to the Hamptons for Vacation

NYT/Amy Chozick

Several news outlets reported on WJC and HRC's August vacation to the Hamptons, noting that in years past they have rented "multimillion-dollar mansions." It was also reported that HRC is set to attend fundraisers in the Hamptons.

Criminal Inquiry Sought in Hillary Clinton's Use of Email

NYT/Michael Schmidt, Matt Apuzzo

"Two inspector generals have asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account Hillary Rodham Clinton used as secretary of state."

Hillary Clinton Invokes 'Black Lives Matter' Mantra

WSJ/Laura Meckler

"Hillary Clinton at a campaign appearance Thursday, spoke in blunt terms about race in America, saying the nation must confront 'systemic racism' and twice invoking the activist cry 'black lives matter.'"

U.S. Democrat Hillary Clinton Backs Local Taxes on Internet Sales (Reuters)

At a campaign stop in South Carolina, HRC said that she supports allowing cities and states to tax online purchases, but that she would not mandate it.

What's Going On With Mr. O'Malley's Money?

WaPo/Editorial Board

The Washington Post Editorial Board published an Op-Ed Thursday scrutinizing Gov. O'Malley's financial relationship with the tech company Esri, The Environmental Systems Research Institute.

Esri received a no-bid state contract from Maryland while O'Malley was governor, and then paid him $148,000 for speeches and consulting when he left office.

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"What's concerning is how [Gov. O'Malley] pivoted almost immediately on leaving office to accepting a large income from a firm whose ongoing business with the state was sustained in no small part because of Mr. O'Malley's influence."

O'Malley: Democrats Need to Support Wall Street Overhaul

AP/Ken Thomas

"Gov. Martin O'Malley on Thursday challenged the Democratic presidential field to commit to making changes on Wall Street, including restoring the Glass-Steagall law that once separated commercial and investment banking."

Jeb Bush Calls for an End to Energy Subsidies

NYT/Alan Rappeport

In New Hampshire on Wednesday, Jeb Bush called for a phasing out of tax credits that subsidize the wind, solar, oil, and gas industries. Bush said: "I don't think we should pick winners and losers."

Jeb Bush Condemns 'Political Correctness' of #BlackLivesMatter Protesters

WaPo/David Weigel

Following Gov. O'Malley's walk-back of his "white lives matter" remark at Netroots Nation, Jeb Bush said: "We're so uptight and politically correct now that we apologize for saying 'lives matter'... If he believes that white lives matter, which I hope he does, then he shouldn't have apologized to a group that seemed to disagree with it. Gosh."

Marco Rubio and John Kerry State Differences on Iran Nuclear Deal

NYT/Alan Rappeport

At a Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Thursday, Sen. Rubio and John Kerry exchanged barbs on the Iran nuclear deal. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew were also at the hearing.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker Criticizes Iran Nuclear Deal

AP/Elliot Spagat

"Gov. Scott Walker told a sympathetic crowd of state lawmakers from around the country Thursday that he would trash the nuclear deal with Iran on his first day as president, striking a combative tone on how we would govern on a range of domestic and foreign policy issues."

New Jersey Dems Take a Swipe at Christie's Wallet

Politico/Ryan Hutchins

"Democratic lawmakers in New Jersey are taking a swing at Governor Chris Christie, pushing legislation that would require his campaign to reimburse taxpayers for security costs when he's traveling for political purposes."

Ohio Gov. John Kasich To Meet With 2012 Nominee Mitt Romney

AP/Steve Peoples

"Kasich plans to have lunch Thursday with the 2012 GOP nominee at Romney's lakeside vacation home in New Hampshire."

Donald Trump Threatens Third-Party Candidacy

NYT/Alan Rappeport

"In an interview with The Hill published Thursday, Donald Trump said that many of his supporters have been urging him to consider a third-party run if he fails to secure the Republican nomination. Noting that the Republican National Committee has been 'foolish' in its handling of him, he said that his treatment by the party will dictate his plans."

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Drug Prices Soar, Prompting Calls for Justification

NYT/Andrew Pollack

"As complaints grow about exorbitant drug prices, pharmaceutical companies are coming under pressure to disclose the development costs and profits of those medicines and the rationale for charging what they do."

3 Dead, 7 Hurt When Gunman opens Fire in Lafayette Movie Theater

CNN/Ed Payne

A 58-year-old white male opened fire inside a movie theater in Lafayette, Louisiana Thursday night, killing two and wounding seven before taking his own life.

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From: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/20/2015 10:30:17 AM
Subject: Politico: Hillary Clinton on GOP field: They only want to talk about me

Hillary Clinton on GOP field: They only want to talk about me

“I don’t know what they’d talk about if I weren’t in the race.”

By ANNIE KARNI
4/20/15 5:23 PM EDT
http://www.politico.com/story/2015/04/hillary-clinton-2016-new-hampshire-republicans-117160.html#ixzz3Xt4oxaND

KEENE, N.H. — Hillary Clinton on Monday attacked the crowded field of Republican presidential contenders for making her the focus of their campaigns.

“I think it’s worth noting that Republicans seem to be talking only about me,” she told reporters after her first roundtable in New Hampshire, which took place at a family-owned wooden toy company in Keene. “I don’t know what they’d talk about if I weren’t in the race.”

Clinton arrived in New Hampshire Monday – she drove from her home in Chappaqua, N.Y. – following a two-day gathering in the Granite State of 19 Republican presidential contenders who appeared to be workshopping their best shots. They spent the weekend blasting Clinton on everything from Benghazi to the State Department email scandal to the highly choreographed roundtables to her roadside lunch stop at Chipotle.

In contrast to the other side of the aisle, Clinton had the whole stage here to herself. During the event, she tried to present herself as above the political fray, while making a few subtle digs at the Republican field and veering into a couple policy areas.

She swatted away attacks due to be published in a book out next month, “Clinton Cash: the Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich,” by Peter Schweizer. “[I’ll be] subjected to all kinds of distractions and attacks, and I’m ready for that. I know that that comes, unfortunately, with the territory,” she told reporters.

Before addressing the new book, Clinton toured Whitney Brothers, the toy company, and then sat down for an hour-long roundtable discussion with the CEO and six employees.

Sitting in the chilly warehouse where wooden step stools were being assembled nearby, Clinton twice mentioned that she was not going to be an ideological candidate — an implicit jab at the Republican party. “I want to embed what I propose as policies, not in ideology, not in some philosophy, but in the real daily lives and experiences of American workers and business owners, and everyone who has a stake in making sure the economy is working again,” she told the group of her early campaign strategy.

Answering questions about the future of Social Security, Clinton said she wanted to avoid getting into arguments “about ideology and rhetorical attacks and claims.” She said she is fully committed to ensuring that people who have worked hard can enjoy security when they retire. Clinton also said those who think the government should privatize social security are “just wrong.”

Clinton arrived in New Hampshire planning to speak about the importance of small business to helping rebuild the country’s middle class.

But she quickly found herself on what appeared to be an unplanned subject: drug addiction and substances abuse in rural communities, which multiple participants in the roundtable brought up. “There is a hidden epidemic … whether it is pills or meth or heroine, is not as visible as 30 years ago when there were all kinds of

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gangs and violence," Clinton said. "This is a quiet epidemic. And it is striking in small towns and rural areas." She called substance abuse a "perfect storm" and an "increasing problem that is only beginning to break through the surface."

Treating mental health issues, including substance abuse, will be "a big part of my campaign," she said.

Clinton — whose win in the New Hampshire primary in 2008 resuscitated her campaign after a bad loss in Iowa — told the group assembled she was "thrilled to be back in New Hampshire … the first place I ever came for any political campaign was in 1991, when I was here campaigning for my husband." It was the first time Clinton has mentioned the former president in her public remarks on the campaign trail this time around.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2015/04/hillary-clinton-2016-new-hampshire-republicans-117160.html#ixzz3Xt4oxaND

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Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
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To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/9/2014 7:38:10 AM
Subject:	Gen. Wesley Clark Talks about Hillary and the Future

Today, General Wesley Clark was on the Diane Rehm show. He spoke candidly and passionately about his support for Secretary Clinton. You will find the links and script below. Please listen and share. I hope you are well on this fine Autumn day.

Click here to watch General Clark discuss Secretary Clinton as a potential candidate for president.

REHM: Would you, if Hillary Clinton decides to run, will you support her?

GEN. CLARK: Yes.

REHM: She is your candidate?

GEN. CLARK: She is my candidate. Yeah.

REHM: Nobody else out there on the Democratic side that you would support?

GEN. CLARK: Well, and let me explain. First of all, I've known Hillary for over thirty years. I've watched her growth. I've admired her from a distance. She was a remarkable lawyer in private practice in Little Rock. I live there now and I talk to people who worked with her. They'll tell you. She was smart. She was absolutely determined on her cases. She saw deeply in. She's extremely effective in dealing with small groups. She's a leader. She's fearless in speaking out. And I watched her as First Lady, Senator, Secretary of State. I think there's never been anybody quite so experienced and capable who would stand for the Office of President of the United States. I hope she'll run.

Click here to hear General Clark discuss Secretary Clinton's leadership.

GEN. WESLEY CLARK. Well, I do think that Hillary is a very strong leader. I think she has a very robust view of what American capabilities and responsibilities are, but I think to characterize her that way [as an interventionist] would be unfair to the record. She did a lot of things as secretary of state to raise the stature of economic diplomacy. We got talking serious about energy developments. We've been trying to encourage the Europeans to be less dependent on Russian energy. Ever since she became secretary of state we have an assistant secretary of state who works energy policies and things like that. She's worked diligently with the Agency for International Development to promote development abroad. So she's taken a much broader view than simply intervention. But on the other hand, there are times, unfortunately in this world, where the United States may have to use military power. Hopefully, we just deploy forces, not troops, but I think Hillary as president would be strong enough to make those decisions if required to do so.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/16/2014 1:50:13 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday October 16, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday October 16, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Courier-Journal: "Grimes rallies crowd with Hillary Clinton"

"In many ways, the speech seemed like it could serve as a starting point for another presidential campaign by Clinton. It was peppered with her beliefs and even talked about returning to a time like when her husband was in office when Republicans and Democrats worked together."

New York Times: "In South, Clinton Tries to Pull Democrats Back Into the Fold"

"The demand for Mrs. Clinton — she has already been asked back to campaign again for Ms. Grimes — only underscores the racial and class divisions in the Democratic Party that emerged in 2008 and have been exacerbated during Mr. Obama's presidency, and which Mrs. Clinton would need to bridge if she runs for president again in 2016."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Running From Obama: Grimes Declares Kentucky Is 'Clinton Country'"

"Former Secretary of State and first lady Hillary Clinton was the marquee speaker at the rally – and the person Mrs. Grimes suggested she'd rather see at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

Bloomberg: "Hillary Clinton Attempts to Rescue Alison Lundergan Grimes"

"A day after the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee announced plans to pull its Kentucky television ads, Clinton came to Louisville for a rally with Grimes."

Lexington Herald-Leader: "In Louisville, Hillary Clinton implores Democrats to 'send Alison to Washington'"

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"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton joined more than 4,000 of Alison Lundergan Grimes' supporters for a rallyWednesday night as Democrats were eager to rebut the narrative that Grimes' campaign was struggling down the stretch in her U.S. Senate race against incumbent Mitch McConnell."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Hillary Clinton's complicated relationship with Mitch McConnell"

"But when she traveled to the state four years ago, she struck a much softer tone when speaking about the Republican incumbent whom Democrats paint as the 'obstructionist in chief.'"

CNN: "Pro-Clinton group adds $2 million to its war chest"

"Ready for Hillary, the super PAC urging Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016, raised over $2 million and had 21,000 new donors in the last three months, officials from the group said Wednesday."

Politico: "$2M quarter for 'Ready for Hillary'"

"The amount means the group has raised more than $10.25 million overall, primarily through small donations."

CNN: "Is Hillary Clinton ready for marijuana's 2016 push?"

"It is 2016, when voters will also have to decide who they want in the White House, that marijuana activists feel could be the real tipping point for their movement."

Politico: "Scoring Hillary Clinton's politics"

"Political watchers have spent years debating whether Hillary Clinton is a liberal Democrat, or center-left. Steve Hilton, a former adviser to British Prime Minister David Cameron, says the answer is simple: It depends."

Politico: "Tales from a Clinton impeachment leader"

"Hutchinson declined repeatedly to assess a potential Hillary Clinton 2016 candidacy or to say whether he'd be a surrogate for the eventual GOP nominee. He skirted questions about his party's criticism of her on issues like the Benghazi attacks. 'This race is about Arkansas, not about what happens three years from now, it's about what happens next year,' Hutchinson said."

CNN: "With an Eye to 2016, Bill Clinton Campaigns in New Hampshire"

"Clinton's visit appears to be buoying many Democrats already. With news of his headlining appearance, 1,200 people have purchased tickets to

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the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, the biggest crowd since the state party revived it as a fall fundraising event in 1991. Normally 400-450 Democrats attend."

Articles:

Courier-Journal: "Grimes rallies crowd with Hillary Clinton"

By Joseph Gerth

October 15, 2014, 11:37 p.m. EDT

Continuing to make her case that she is a Clinton Democrat, Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes appearedMonday night in Louisville with Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former presidential candidate and secretary of state.

Together, the two rallied a crowd of 4,500 at the Kentucky International Convention Center.

"Alison is the right leader at the right time with the right plan to deliver for Kentucky's hard-working families," said Clinton, the wife of former President Bill Clinton who nearly won the Democratic nomination for president six years ago.

In a 32-minute speech, Clinton ripped U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, with whom she served with in the Senate, for his positions on various issues ranging from pay equity to student loan debt to raising the minimum wage.

She ended each passage with the same refrain, "You know what you have to do, send Alison to Washington."

At one point, a man sitting in the far away bleachers could be heard yelling, "We love you Hillary."

Clinton was a prize "get" for Grimes as she tries to capitalize on the popularity of the Clinton name in Kentucky, even as McConnell tries to connect her to President Barack Obama, who is deeply unpopular in Kentucky. Grimes has said she voted for Hillary Clinton in the 2008 Democratic primary but has avoided saying whether she voted for President Obama in the 2008 and 2012 general elections.

Bill Clinton has already been to the state twice to rally the Democratic troops and raise money for Grimes, and her campaign hopes to get him back again.

Hillary Clinton recalled trips to Kentucky, including dipping a bottle of Maker's Mark in wax in Loretto in 2008 as well as, as a friend of Grimes' father, Jerry Lundergan, visiting their old homestead in Maysville.

Grimes noted that she has known Clinton since she was 14 years old. What she didn't say is that she handed the Clintons flowers when they stepped out of their limousine at Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993.

"She will never forget how she was raised and the people who helped her along the way," Clinton said of Grimes.

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Before the rally — the biggest of the race so far for Grimes — Clinton headlined a $1,000 to $2,600 per head fundraiser at the 21c Hotel about five blocks away.

The event didn't have the feel of a flagging campaign as the media has suggested in recent weeks. Grimes has come under fire for refusing to say who she voted for for president in the 2008 and 2012 general elections, and on Wednesdaythe Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee stopped buying ad time in the state.

The DSCC pushed back on Wednesday morning with DSCC executive director Guy Cecil tweeting that he had just signed a $300,000 check to help the get-out-the-vote effort in Kentucky.

"That's an interesting view of 'pulling out of the race,' " he wrote.

Grimes appeared to take a jab at the DSCC, noting at one point during her speech that the race wouldn't be decided by political operatives in Washington.

"Washington abandoned us a long time ago," she said.

Grimes mentioned Obama, but only to say that he wasn't on the ballot.

U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth, D-Louisville, who spoke earlier in the program, gave a rousing defense of the president, at one point blaming McConnell for losses in the coal industry over his 30-year career — saying that it wasn't the fault of Obama.

A long line of enthusiastic supporters began filing into the convention hall when the doors opened at 5:30. The room was set up to accommodate the large crowd and looked like a mini-political convention with narrow, horizontal signs signifying each of Kentucky's 120 counties.

Confetti also was shot into the air at the conclusion of Clinton's speech.

Grimes noted that she raised a record $4.9 million in the latest fundraising quarter. But she still trails McConnell, who has raised more than $28 million. Grimes has raised just over $16 million.

"Big ideas and big hearts beat big money every single time," Clinton told the boisterous crowd.

She asked the crowd if they had seen Monday's debate on Kentucky Educational Television, the only debate of the election, and said, "You could not have a clearer contrast between solutions for Kentucky's families and Washington double-talk."

Clinton also touted Grimes' job plan, which calls for improving education and providing job opportunities for military veterans.

But in many ways, the speech seemed like it could serve as a starting point for another presidential campaign by Clinton. It was peppered with her beliefs and even talked about returning to a time like when her husband was in office when Republicans and Democrats worked together.

She recalled Bill Clinton talking about "building a bridge to the 21st Century" but said today's Republicans seem intent on tearing it down.

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New York Times: "In South, Clinton Tries to Pull Democrats Back Into the Fold"

By Amy Chozick

October 15, 2014

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The last time Hillary Rodham Clinton campaigned in Kentucky, she was delivering her victory speech after defeating Barack Obama in the state's 2008 Democratic presidential primary on the strength of a huge advantage among white working-class voters.

White Democrats voted for Mrs. Clinton over Mr. Obama by 49 percentage points in 2008, a telling indication of both her strength and Mr. Obama's trouble in attracting traditional Democratic voters.

When Mrs. Clinton returned here on Wednesday to campaign for the Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes, a family friend, it was that appeal that Kentucky Democrats hoped would give Ms. Grimes a needed boost in her underdog campaign against Senator Mitch McConnell. The demand for Mrs. Clinton — she has already been asked back to campaign again for Ms. Grimes — only underscores the racial and class divisions in the Democratic Party that emerged in 2008 and have been exacerbated during Mr. Obama's presidency, and which Mrs. Clinton would need to bridge if she runs for president again in 2016.

Mr. Obama is so unpopular in Kentucky that Ms. Grimes will not even say whether she voted for him. In a debate on Monday evening, Ms. Grimes cited "privacy at the ballot box" when asked again about it, though she has freely acknowledged voting for Mrs. Clinton in 2008 and at Wednesday's rally called Kentucky "Clinton country."

Many Democrats said Mr. Obama never made efforts to repair the divides that became apparent that year, leaving states like Kentucky and Arkansas vulnerable to a Republican rout.

"I think if Hillary Clinton were in the White House today, McConnell would be behind by 20 points," said Todd Hollenbach Sr., a former Jefferson County judge executive whom Mr. McConnell unseated in 1977.

But after four years serving as secretary of state in the Obama administration and nearly two years living in New York with a packed schedule of paid speeches, book signings and charity galas, Mrs. Clinton will need to reintroduce herself to the blue-collar voters here and elsewhere who have become further alienated from the Democratic Party during the Obama administration. "I will never forget the time I spent crisscrossing the state in 2008 and all of the determined, hardworking people I met along the way," Mrs. Clinton said.

"Well, tonight I'm back," she added.

Besides Wednesday night's speech, Mrs. Clinton will talk about middle-class jobs on Thursday in Michigan at campaign events for two Democrats, Representative Gary Peters and former Representative Mark Schauer. Before the midterm election, Mrs. Clinton will also campaign in Georgia for Michelle Nunn, the Democratic nominee for Senate, and in New Hampshire for Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Gov. Maggie Hassan.

"When she speaks about issues of economic opportunity, particularly when she speaks about economic opportunity for women and for families, she does it in a way that really connects," said Mo Elleithee, the national communications director at the Democratic National Committee who worked on Mrs. Clinton's 2008 campaign.

That message helped Mrs. Clinton defeat Mr. Obama here by 35.6 percentage points in the state's 2008 primary; only in Arkansas did she win a wider margin of white voters. By then, Mr. Obama had already won the delegates necessary to effectively secure the nomination, but in her victory speech in Louisville, Mrs. Clinton vowed to stay in the race until Democrats had a nominee, "whoever she may be."

In the past six years, this state like much of the country has become more politically polarized. At the same time, fond memories of the Clinton administration — many of the voters who supported Mrs. Clinton did so because of their affection for Bill Clinton, who carried Kentucky in 1992 and 1996 — have faded.

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Kentucky voters identified with Mr. Clinton because of his rural Arkansas roots and centrist politics. Mrs. Clinton largely resonated here because of "the Bill factor," said Al Cross, director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues at the University of Kentucky. "It's been a while, so she does need to reintroduce herself," he added.

Jonathan Miller, a former Kentucky state treasurer, said it was voters' animosity toward Mr. Obama, and not necessarily excitement for Mrs. Clinton, that was energizing Democrats here. "We're just nostalgic for when Democrats were different than Obama," he said.

Kentucky Republicans have tried to remind voters that Mrs. Clinton worked in the Obama administration and cannot easily escape association with the unpopular president.

In the debate on Monday, Mr. McConnell pushed back on Ms. Grimes's associating herself with Mr. Clinton's style of centrist policies. "There's not a dime's worth of difference between a Clinton Democrat and an Obama Democrat," Mr. McConnell said.

The Clintons have been particularly invested in the long-shot Kentucky race. Mr. Clinton is friends with Ms. Grimes's father, Jerry Lundergan, a local entrepreneur and former chairman of the Kentucky Democratic Party. Mr. Clinton has campaigned frequently for Ms. Grimes, whom the Clintons have known since she was 14 years old, and made his first television ad this election cycle on her behalf.

"This is a young woman who knows where she came from," Mrs. Clinton said. "She will never forget how she was raised and the people who helped her along the way."

In her speech, Mrs. Clinton defended the impact the Affordable Care Act has had on Kentuckians and railed against congressional Republicans for the current gridlock in Washington.

"More than any other race in the country," Mrs. Clinton said, "this election in Kentucky is a referendum on the future."

A theme of the evening was shattering the glass ceiling, and Mrs. Clinton spoke extensively about raising the minimum wage and equal pay for women.

Ms. Grimes, 35, has sparred with the 72-year-old Mr. McConnell on gender issues, including seizing on a Republican operative's comment that Ms. Grimes was an "empty dress" because her campaign lacked specifics.

The rally at the Kentucky International Convention Center drew about 4,500 people and was one of Mrs. Clinton's riskier midterm efforts. Until recently, she seemed a reluctant and cautious surrogate, more focused on fund-raisers in Washington and New York than stepping out on the stump.

But that changed recently as her schedule has picked up and Democrats face a reality in which they could lose control of the Senate. Despite requests, as of Wednesday, Mrs. Clinton did not plan to return to Kentucky. This week the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee stopped funding ads on Ms. Grimes's behalf.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Running From Obama: Grimes Declares Kentucky Is 'Clinton Country'"

By Peter Nicholas

October 16, 2014, 7:19 a.m. EDT

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. – It's no secret that Democrats running for Senate in deep red states aren't pining for a visit from the leader of the party.

Just how toxic President Barack Obama has become was evident in a rally Wednesday when Kentucky Democratic Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes said she won't be sorry to see him go when his term is up.

Ms. Grimes scarcely mentioned Mr. Obama in her speech, except to say he won't be on the ballot in the November election. Instead, she showered praise on the last Democratic president – Bill Clinton.

Less than one minute into her appearance she proclaimed that Kentucky is "Clinton country."

Former Secretary of State and first lady Hillary Clinton was the marquee speaker at the rally – and the person Mrs. Grimes suggested she'd rather see at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

"This election is not about who's in the White House now," Ms. Grimes said. Mr. Obama, she added, "has two more years. This is a six-year term. It's about the senator that will work for the next four years with whomever is in the White House, no matter he – or she – might be."

Ms. Grimes is in a delicate spot, running an underdog campaign against the longtime Republican incumbent, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. The Real Clear Politics average of polls in Kentucky shows Mr. McConnell with a three-point lead.

With Mr. Obama's approval ratings sagging across the board, Ms. Grimes is doing all she can to distance herself from the unpopular president.

Mr. Obama won't be showing up in Kentucky any time soon and Ms. Grimes won't say whether she voted for him in 2012.

In her speech , she spent no time discussing what Mr. Obama's supporters see as his signature achievements: Helping end the recession, overhauling the health-care system and imposing new regulations on large financial firms.

Instead, she touted Mr. Clinton's economic record in the 1990s. She said Mr. Clinton presided over "the largest economic expansion that the nation has ever seen."

"I am a Clinton Democrat and that's the kind of senator I will be," Ms. Grimes said.

Left unsaid in her speech is that when it comes to major domestic goals, Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton aren't far apart. Both favor an increase in the minimum wage. Both want more money spent on road, bridge and public works projects. And both see Mr. McConnell as an obstacle to legislative progress.

When it was her turn to speak, Mrs. Clinton praised the health-care overhaul ushered in by Mr. Obama in 2010.

Mrs. Clinton mentioned that Ms. Grimes favors improvements in the state's infrastructure, singling out the Brent Spence Bridge, which spans the Ohio River.

"She'll back common sense improvements to infrastructure that will get Kentucky's economy moving again, like the Brent Spence Bridge," Mrs. Clinton said.

Yet Mr. Obama has called attention to that same aging bridge. In 2011, he traveled to the Brent Spence Bridge and urged that it be updated, as part of a larger $50 billion jobs package.

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Calling out Mr. McConnell and House Speaker John Boehner (R., Ohio), the president said, “Mr. Boehner, Mr. McConnell, help us repair this bridge.”

Mr. Obama’s jobs package went nowhere in Congress.

Bloomberg: “Hillary Clinton Attempts to Rescue Alison Lundergan Grimes”

By Lisa Lerer

October 15, 2014, 11:40 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Kentucky's struggling Senate candidate brings in a powerful friend.

LOUISVILLE, KY -- National Democrats have gone tepid on her. Progressive groups are attacking her. Latino leaders are condemning her campaign. But there's at least one powerful force in the Democratic Party sticking by Kentucky Senate candidate Alison Lundergan Grimes: Hillary Clinton.

A day after the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee announced plans to pull its Kentucky television ads, Clinton came to Louisville for a rally with Grimes.

"You know this race is too close to call and it all comes down to who shows up," Clinton told a convention hall packed with cheering supporters. "Let's put another crack in that glass ceiling and elect this incredible young woman to the United States Senate."

Grimes is challenging Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and her backers seemed undaunted by the latest campaign setbacks as they roared chants of "Mitch Doesn't Care" at a rally they called "McConnell's retirement party." Campaign Manager Jonathan Hurst released a memo to reporters on Wednesday saying that the media is overstating the importance of the DSCC decision.

"The 15-month campaign plan we've put together and ridden to a statistical tie entering the final 20-day stretch of the election remains in place," he wrote. "The race will remain airtight and come down to turnout."

The Grimes campaign is banking on the Clinton appearance to motivate a key democratic group: women voters. Whether Democrats can stave off a major drubbing this November will depend, in large part, on female turnout. That battle has been front and center in Senate races in Colorado, Iowa, Georgia, Louisiana and Kentucky, where Grimes has hammered McConnell for being hostile to women's issues. Supporters waved "shatter the glass, break the ceiling," signs, a slogan repeated by female senators in a video introducing Grimes at the rally.

"You want to know what a freshman senator can do, you just look at Senator Clinton's record. That's what a senator can do and should do in Washington," said Grimes, standing beside two huge screens broadcasting her image to the crowd. "You are ready for an independent strong Kentucky woman who can set the partisanship aside and won't be bullied by Mitch McConnell."

Clinton, who is considering a second presidential bid, endorsed Grimes, saying she would fight for equal pay, raising the minimum wage, health care and other policies to help working families.

"I'm back for one reason and that’s because Kentucky deserves a change in Washington," said Clinton. "And I think you agree with me: Alison is the right leader, at the right time, with the right plan to deliver for Kentucky's hard-working families."

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Grimes has a history with the former first family. Her father, former state party chairman Jerry Lundergan, is a longtime Clinton friend. As a 14-year-old in 1993, Grimes handed President Clinton a bouquet of roses while attending his inauguration events. Bill Clinton helped convince Grimes to enter the race and campaigned with her earlier this year.

"I am a Clinton Democrat and that's the kind of senator that I will be," Grimes said, referencing her backing for Clinton and refusal to say whether she voted for President Barack Obama.

While both the Senate Majority PAC, a Democratic super-PAC, and the DSCC have reserved no airtime in the state, officials say they're continuing to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in get out the vote efforts.

Grimes is under attack from the progressive wing of the party for an ad aired by her campaign that attacks McConnell for backing immigration legislation in the 1980s—calling it "amnesty"—and referring to undocumented immigrants as "illegal aliens." Democracy for America, led by former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, and Latino organizations have demanded she pull the spot.

"To see a candidate from either party use this kind of language in advertising is unacceptable in 2014," said Cristobal Alex, head of the Latino Victory Project. "We condemn this attempt by Alison Lundergan Grimes to play ugly politics with an issue so important to our community and the nation."

Her polling numbers have been sinking, showing McConnell with a small lead, and she opened herself up to fresh attacks earlier this month with her refusal to say whether she voted for Obama. NBC's Meet the Press host Chuck Todd said she "disqualified herself," a statement that quickly ended up in a McConnell ad. Grimes supporters tried to turn that into a benefit: a fight with another Washington insider.

"This election is not going to be won by some party hacks in Washington or words that come out of Chuck Todd's goatee," Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway told the crowd.

Lexington Herald-Leader: "In Louisville, Hillary Clinton implores Democrats to 'send Alison to Washington'"

By Sam Youngman

October 15, 2014

LOUISVILLE— Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton joined more than 4,000 of Alison Lundergan Grimes' supporters for a rally Wednesday night as Democrats were eager to rebut the narrative that Grimes' campaign was struggling down the stretch in her U.S. Senate race against incumbent Mitch McConnell.

"I do believe Kentucky is Clinton country," Grimes said to wild applause.

Clinton took the stage at the Kentucky International Convention Center to a thunderous welcome, saying it was good to be back in the Bluegrass and remembering the time she spent in the state during the 2008 presidential primary, noting that she still smiles "when I think of that bottle of Maker's Mark that I dipped into the red wax."

"Well, tonight, I'm back," Clinton said. "I'm back for one reason, and that's because Kentucky deserves a change in Washington."

"Let's put another crack in that ceiling and send this incredible young woman to the United States Senate," Clinton said.

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With Clinton possibly running for president in 2016, the event took on a presidential feel, and the crowd seemed as enthused about a possible White House run by Clinton as it was by the prospect of defeating McConnell, the Senate minority leader.

The hall was decorated to look like a presidential nominating convention, and signs posted throughout the seating area denoted each of Kentucky's 120 counties, similar to the setting of a national convention where each state's delegation is marked by a sign.

After a parade of state Democrats warmed up the crowd, with Attorney General Jack Conway and state Auditor Adam Edelen calling Clinton "the next president of the United States," Grimes introduced the former first lady as "a woman who has literally known me since I was 14 years old."

Grimes continued to fight the notion pushed by McConnell that she would be a rubber stamp for President Barack Obama, saying again that Obama isn't on the ballot.

"I am a Clinton Democrat, and that's the kind of senator that I will be," Grimes said. She added: "This election, it's not about who's in the White House now."

Clinton echoed Grimes' criticisms of McConnell, following her attack lines by telling the crowd that the best way to change the nation's capital was to "send Alison to Washington."

While not mentioning McConnell by name, Clinton blasted his positions on health care and the minimum wage while recalling the economic successes of her husband's administration.

The event could not have come at a better time for Grimes as Tuesday was dominated by news that the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee was not renewing its ad buy in the state, and a number of left-leaning groups condemned the Grimes campaign for running an ad in which she said she would never give "amnesty or benefits for illegal immigrants."

Though the DSCC tried Wednesday to convince reporters that it wasn't abandoning the state, pointing to $300,000 for Grimes' ground game, the candidate cited last week's Bluegrass Poll, which showed her leading McConnell by 2 points, and said she didn't need the DSCC's help, framing the election as "Kentucky versus Washington."

"We are ahead not because of Washington, D.C., insiders," Grimes said. "Washington abandoned us a long time ago."

With McConnell having released his fundraising numbers earlier in the day, Grimes appeared thrilled to tell the crowd, "we've out-raised the Mitch McConnell money machine yet again by nearly $1.5 million."

After days of enduring questions from the national media about why she refused to say whether she voted for Obama, Grimes included a shot at Chuck Todd, moderator of NBC's Meet the Press.

McConnell included Todd in a campaign ad after the well-known analyst said that Grimes had "disqualified herself" by refusing to answer the question. Grimes responded Wednesday night by saying that Washington needs a "woman who won't be bullied by Mitch McConnell or Chuck Todd."

Allison Moore, McConnell's spokeswoman, said in a statement that "the only possible reason why Alison Grimes would throw a party for Hillary Clinton but refuse to admit she voted for Barack Obama is that she thinks we're all too stupid to figure out they have the exact same policy views."

"Instead of highly produced events with celebrity guests, most Kentuckians would settle for an honest answer from Alison Grimes on anything related to the job of a U.S. senator," Moore said.

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While both Grimes and Clinton avoided direct mentions of Obama, U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth was eager to defend the president, pointing to the economic crisis Obama walked into at the start of his administration.

"Nobody has inherited a tougher job than Barack Obama did," Yarmuth said, adding that Kentucky's job losses are "on your head, Senator."

"It's not on President Obama's head," Yarmuth said.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Hillary Clinton's complicated relationship with Mitch McConnell"

By Alexander Bolton

October 15, 2014, 5:10 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton is expected to take some hard shots at Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell when she campaigns with his opponent, Alison Lundergan Grimes, in Kentucky on Wednesday.

But when she traveled to the state four years ago, she struck a much softer tone when speaking about the Republican incumbent whom Democrats paint as the "obstructionist in chief."

Clinton, a likely 2016 presidential candidate, praised McConnell effusively when she spoke at the University of Louisville in April 2010 while serving as secretary of State.

McConnell invited her to discuss nuclear nonproliferation at the McConnell Center's spring lecture series.

At the time she hailed McConnell's cooperation with the Obama administration on an array of foreign policy issues.

"During the eight years that I served in the Senate with Mitch, I was fortunate to find common cause and work with him on a number of foreign policy issues: human rights in Burma; legislation to support small businesses and micro-credit lending in Kosovo; promoting women and civil society leaders in Afghanistan; strengthening the rule of law in parts of the Islamic world," she said, according to a transcript posted on the State Department's website.

"And I've appreciated working with him in my new capacity upon becoming secretary of State," Clinton added.

The glowing remarks somewhat undercut Grimes's campaign narrative that he is an unrepentant obstructionist.

"Sen. McConnell's 30-year record? It's gridlock. It's obstruction. It's extreme partisanship," Grimes, the Kentucky secretary of State, said at a debate Monday night.

Clinton acknowledged that she and McConnell often clashed fiercely on domestic policy but touted him as a helpful partner on national security issues where they found common ground.

"Back in Washington these days, our policy discussions can get pretty lively. We can both vouch for that, both Sen. McConnell and I, because

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anybody who's turned TV during the last few months will remember some of the heated exchanges," she said. "But in foreign policy, we have a long tradition of coming together across party lines to face America's toughest national security challenges."

Grimes's allies argue that Clinton's remarks highlighting areas where she worked together with McConnell do not in any way conflict with her advocacy for his defeat.

Merely praising the GOP leader's record on human rights in Burma does not imply an endorsement of his other positions or broader record in the Senate, they say.

"There's nothing wrong with being collegial and working together. Secretary Clinton felt at the time that Sen. McConnell brought positive aspects to his job as they worked together, but overall she thinks Sen. Grimes would be better for the United States and for Kentucky," said Bob Gunnell, a Democratic strategist based in Kentucky.

Clinton is scheduled to appear with Grimes on Wednesday evening at the Kentucky International Convention Center. It will be her first campaign appearance with Grimes in Kentucky.

Former President Bill Clinton has already traveled to the state to help Grimes.

CNN: "Pro-Clinton group adds $2 million to its war chest"

By Dan Merica

October 15, 2014, 11:02 p.m. EDT

Ready for Hillary, the super PAC urging Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016, raised over $2 million and had 21,000 new donors in the last three months, officials from the group said Wednesday.

Ready for Hillary's haul came from more than 38,000 contributions, according to group spokesman Seth Bringman, giving the group an average contribution of $52.

The $2 million is in line with what Ready for Hillary has raised in the past, but slightly less than the record $2.5 million the group raised in the second quarter.

Ready for Hillary is part of a cadre of pro-Clinton outside groups that are organizing for Clinton's likely run at the presidency. Unlike other super PACs, which are focused on communications and large-money donors, Ready for Hillary has tried to focus on small, grass-roots donations. So far, the group has raised over $10 million.

But in the third quarter of 2014, Ready for Hillary also moved to do more than just raise money and began to raise its profile in the eyes of many longtime Clinton confidants by having a large presence at events like September's Harkin Steak Fry in Indianola, Iowa.

Led by former Clinton aides and supporters, the super PAC also began to dish out money to state parties, local candidates and other Democratic groups, as well as helping raise money for 2014 candidates whom Clinton has endorsed.

After Clinton endorsed Bruce Braley in Iowa, for example, the group blasted out an email to its supporters asking them to donate money to the

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Democrat's Senate campaign.

Ready for Hillary also maxed out contributions during the third quarter to Vincent Sheheen, South Carolina's Democratic candidate for governor, Bakari Sellers, the state's Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor and the South Carolina Democratic Party.

Donating money to state parties has been a Ready for Hillary strategy for much of the year. Last month, a source with the group said Ready for Hillary had donated thousands of dollars to 29 state parties. Most of these donations were close to $10,000, the maximum the group can give to a state party.

Part of this stepped up involvement in early states is in reaction to the fact that other possible 2016 Democrats are already making moves there, too.

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley moved political staff into South Carolina in August and has been raising money for state Democrats for months. Vice President Joe Biden also has been heavily involved with helping local South Carolina politicos raise money since 2013.

Ready for Hillary began sending political staff to 14 states -- including Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire -- on October 1.

Politico: "$2M quarter for 'Ready for Hillary'"

By Maggie Haberman

October 15, 2014, 11:03 p.m. EDT

The pro-Hillary Clinton low-dollar super PAC "Ready for Hillary" raised more than $2 million in the third fund-raising quarter of this year, officials with the group said, as they prepared to file financial disclosure forms.

The amount means the group has raised more than $10.25 million overall, primarily through small donations.

It outraised Organizing for Action, the remainder of the Obama campaign apparatus, and took in more than 38,000 contributions in the three-month period ending on the last day of September.

The group has been primarily involved in list-building activities, with the intent of swapping it with an eventual Hillary Clinton campaign, or selling it at market rate.

CNN: "Is Hillary Clinton ready for marijuana's 2016 push?"

By Dan Merica

October 16, 2014, 6:43 a.m. EDT

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When Hillary Clinton graduated from Wellesley College in 1969 -- where the future first lady and Secretary of State says she did not try marijuana -- only 12% of Americans wanted to legalize the drug.

In 45 years, however, the tide has changed for legalization: 58% of Americans now want to make consumption legal, two states (Colorado and Washington) already have and two more states (Oregon and Alaska) could join them by the end of the year.

Despite their growth in approval, many activists see 2014 as a smaller, but important, step to their end goal. It is 2016, when voters will also have to decide who they want in the White House, that marijuana activists feel could be the real tipping point for their movement.

"There will certainly be even more on the ballot in 2016," said Tamar Todd, director of marijuana law and policy and the Drug Policy Alliance. "More voters coming to the polls means more support for marijuana reform and in presidential election years, more voters turn out."

Demographics and money are also an important consideration. Big donors who are ready to fund pro-legalization efforts are more loose with their money in presidential years, according to activists, while Democrats and young people are more likely to turn out. This means legalization activists will be better funded to reach the nearly 70% of 18 to 29 year old Americans who support legalization.

On paper, activists feel their plan will work. But it is one yet to be decided factor -- who Democrats will nominate for president in 2016 -- that could throw a wrench into their push.

Hillary Clinton is the prohibitive favorite for the Democrats' nomination, but to many in the marijuana legalization community, she is not the best messenger for their cause.

"She is so politically pragmatic," said Alan St. Pierre, the director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. "If she has to find herself running against a conservative Republican in 2016, I am fearful, from my own view here, that she is going to tack more to the middle. And the middle in this issue tends to tack more to the conservative side."

Making a concerted push during a presidential election year means activists' goals will be directly contrasted with the Democrats' presidential standard bearer. This happened in 2004, when more conservative voters helped tip the presidential election for President George W. Bush at the same time that 11 states had anti-gay marriage questions on the ballot.

Clinton has moved towards pro-legalization, though.

Earlier this year, during a town hall with CNN, she told Christiane Amanpour that she wants to "wait and see" how legalization goes in the states before making a national decision. At the same event, she cast some doubt on medical marijuana by questioning the amount of research done into the issue.

Later in the year, Clinton labeled marijuana a "gateway drug" where there "can't be a total absence of law enforcement."

"I'm a big believer in acquiring evidence, and I think we should see what kind of results we get, both from medical marijuana and from recreational marijuana before we make any far-reaching conclusions," Clinton told KPCC in July. "We need more studies. We need more evidence. And then we can proceed."

This is more open, however, than in 2008 when Clinton was outright against decriminalization, a step that is less aggressive than legalization.

Despite warming on the issue, Clinton's position is concerning to activists like St. Pierre because he feels they are far from solid.

"If reforms keep picking up... the winds in our sails are clear," he said. "But if we lose one of more or all of those elections this year, cautious

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people around her could make the argument that this thing has peaked and you now have to get on the other side of it."

St. Pierre said he also watched -- laughing -- as Clinton tried to personally distance herself from marijuana at the CNN town hall.

"Absolutely not," Clinton said when asked if she would try the drug. "I didn't do it when I was young, I'm not going to start now."

"I will eat both of my shoes," he said, 'if she and Bill didn't trip their nuts off at Wellesley and Oxford."

What's more, some activists spoke highly of Democrats with executive experience like Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who spent eight years as mayor of Baltimore.

O'Malley, who is also entertaining a run at the presidency in 2016, supports medical marijuana and approved a Maryland law that decriminalized possession of small amounts of the drug in 2014.

"As a young prosecutor, I once thought that decriminalizing the possession of marijuana might undermine the Public Will necessary to combat drug violence and improve public safety," O'Malley said in a statement at the time. "I now think that decriminalizing possession of marijuana is an acknowledgement of the low priority that our courts, our prosecutors, our police, and the vast majority of citizens already attach to this transgression of public order and public health."

As for where the governor is on legalization, Lis Smith, his top political adviser, said as long "as long as it is consistent with the goal of driving down crime," O'Malley is "open to sensible drug policy."

With an eye on 2016, some activists are starting to contrast that view with Clinton.

"I think in 2016 there is going to be a number of states with legalization initiatives on the ballot and there will be broad support," Todd said. "I don't see standing behind and defending the status quo of this destructive policy as helping a candidate in the 2016 election."

Clinton has come face-to-face with some aspects of marijuana policy on her trips to stump for Democrats across the country.

While raising money in Colorado for Sen. Mark Udall earlier this week, Hillary Clinton saw marijuana in her coffee. Pointing to the foam design atop Udall's latte, Clinton said, "Look at you, you got like a plant. Is that a marijuana plant?"

To laughs from the baristas at PigTrain Coffee, some who may have seen that the design looked more like a rose than marijuana, one answered jokingly, "That's exactly what it is."

Politico: "Scoring Hillary Clinton's politics"

By Maggie Haberman

October 16, 2014, 5:12 a.m. EDT

Political watchers have spent years debating whether Hillary Clinton is a liberal Democrat, or center-left. Steve Hilton, a former adviser to British

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Prime Minister David Cameron, says the answer is simple: It depends.

Hilton, the founder of Crowdpac , a site that scores politicians based on different factors, ran Clinton's donor history from her three runs for office — two in the Senate and one presidential — and her votes in the Senate from 2000 to 2008, and came up with a mixed picture on a scale that ranks people based on being liberal, or conservative. "10L" is the most liberal score and "10C" is the most conservative.

Clinton, much of the time, ranks somewhere in the middle of the liberal scale, according to data that Crowdpac ran through its ranking system. Clinton is not currently listed on its website since she isn't a declared candidate for office. So, the focus of the data was on where she left off.

"For years, pundits have debated whether Hillary Clinton is a liberal, a centrist, or even slightly conservative. Turns out: it depends on the issue," said Hilton. "She's often to the right of the average Democrat in Congress but to the left on some cornerstone issues, like health care.

"By analyzing her years in the Senate — her votes, her rhetoric, and her donor history, we found that Secretary Clinton is a dyed-in-the-wool progressive on health care, fair elections, and the environment and moderate on defense, banking, and immigration. But when it comes to some surprising issues like gender equality and student loans, she shares more with conservatives than you would think."

For instance, on abortion, Clinton got a 4.6L, while the average Democrat in Congress gets a 6.4L. On the environment, she scores closer to average, at 6.32L. Elsewhere, the scores are less indicative — Clinton ranked a 3.23 on gender equality, an issue she has focused on extensively in the State Department and at her family's foundation. But a number of votes on gender-rights legislation took place once she'd left Congress. On student loans, an issue she focused on in 2007, she gets a 3.79L.

On health care and immigration, she gets strong marks, a 6.95L and a 5.34L, respectively. Her fulls scores and their congressional comparisons are here.

The scores are an example of the type of work Crowdpac, which Hilton launched when he moved to the U.S. and became immersed in Silicon Valley, can do in the upcoming presidential cycle and the next midterms.

"The idea is to help level the playing field. … to give objective information," said Hilton in an interview. "It's a combination of objective information."

His goal was to give people more information about the people they are electing than just what they see in high-dollar ads and in direct mail. When he moved to California with his wife, who works for Google, he saw the chance to combine his interest in politics with policy.

People often say, "What difference does it make if I get involved?" Hilton said. His hope was to create a site in which people could use different algorithms to better understand the people they are considering supporting.

Typically, a score is also based on a candidate's public speeches. In Clinton's case, that hasn't been blended into her scoring yet. Her most recent speeches, however, have focused on the new Democratic populism, meaning there could be a change.

Politico: "Tales from a Clinton impeachment leader"

By Katie Glueck

October 16, 2014, 5:05 a.m. EDT

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — As a federal prosecutor in the 1980s, Asa Hutchinson sent Bill Clinton's brother to jail. As a member of Congress in the late 1990s, Hutchinson steered impeachment proceedings against the president from his home state.

But to hear him tell it now, Hutchinson — likely the next governor of this state — has the utmost respect for Hillary Clinton, and he's downright fond of Bill.

That posture is a testament to the enduring power of the Clinton name here. But it's also driven by the complicated relationship Hutchinson has had with Clinton dating back to the 1970s, long before they faced off over Monicagate or became household names in Arkansas politics.

Now the favorite to defeat Democratic candidate Mike Ross in the governor's race, Hutchinson has the potential to be a serious thorn in both Clintons' sides if Hillary Clinton runs for president as expected. But in a 40-minute interview here, the 63-year-old Hutchinson showed little interest in becoming a surrogate for Clinton antagonists.

If their opposing political parties make them adversaries by default, Hutchinson made clear he harbors no grudge against the Clintons — even if the former first couple's allies hold one against him.

"I ran in 1996 for Congress, and [Bill Clinton] came in and campaigned, of course, for my Democratic opponent," Hutchinson recalled with a smile. "He's always been on the other side from a political standpoint," adding that Clinton's fervor for politics, even as he nears age 70, is "something that's perhaps even refreshing to see."

To say Clinton has "always been on the other side" may be an understatement. In Congress, Hutchinson, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, chose to serve as one of the House managers handling Clinton's impeachment — something many Democrats here have never gotten over.

About 10 years after the impeachment, Hutchinson told The Associated Press that he initially wasn't interested in joining the proceedings, though many of his colleagues on Judiciary were spearheading the effort. And though reports from the time indicate that Hutchinson wasn't as excited about the impeachment drive as some of his fellow Republicans, he opted to play a central role in it just the same.

"I'm grateful for this opportunity, although it … comes with deep regret to be before you," Hutchinson told senators in the opening remarks of his impeachment presentation in 1999. But then he proceeded to dive in, outlining the "seven pillars of obstruction" Clinton allegedly perpetrated.

"I knew it wasn't good politics for Arkansas, being the president's home state," he said a decade later, reflecting on the impeachment experience in the AP interview. But he concluded that "I could actually help our country go through a difficult time, and so I accepted that responsibility reluctantly."

"Anybody who observed me at that time knows I was just trying to help the country through a difficult time," Hutchinson added during the interview with POLITICO last week.

To which many Arkansas Democrats respond: Please. They were outraged then and say they haven't forgotten that Hutchinson chose to help prosecute the president who put their state on the map.

"There's no love lost, that's for sure," said Little Rock's Democratic Mayor Mark Stodola, a longtime Clinton supporter. "There's a substantial number of people who believe Asa did not have to go do that extra step by being part of the impeachment team, that the piling on was gratuitous coming from Arkansas."

A spokesman for Bill Clinton did not return a request for comment on the former president's relationship with Hutchinson.

Hutchinson was courteous, if somewhat reserved, during the interview last week, joining a reporter in a dark-paneled conference room in a building that houses his campaign headquarters after walking his grown daughter — whose child stars in one of Hutchinson's best-received ads — to the door. The former congressman, who is 6 feet 1 inch, sat tall, with his thinning, nearly white hair neatly combed back, and invited the interviewer to "ask me anything you'd like." There was no fire-breathing rhetoric: Hutchinson, trained as a lawyer, talked about Arkansas and his

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opponent in a cool, analytical tone. And when he didn't want to discuss a subject — like Hillary Clinton — he declined to answer questions witha broad smile.

Hutchinson's brother, Tim Hutchinson, lost his Senate seat in 2002 to Arkansas Attorney General Mark Pryor, as Democrats called Tim Hutchinson a hypocrite for vocally backing impeachment even as he divorced the mother of his children to marry a much younger staffer. Now Pryor is locked in one of the closest Senate races of the year against GOP Rep. Tom Cotton.

Asa Hutchinson, who represented a conservative district in an otherwise Democratic-tilted state, escaped the impeachment politically unscathed (though there were rumblings of anger from some constituents at the time).

Skip Rutherford, the dean of the Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas and a longtime friend of the former president, said he doesn't think people "wake up in the middle of the night and pace the floor over it. But do they recall it? Yeah. I recall it."

Ross, Hutchinson's opponent, has brought up impeachment on occasion, though in an interview with POLITICO, Ross said his campaign is "not about reliving the past." Clinton campaigned for the Democratic ticket in Arkansas last week and will do so again over the weekend.

Hutchinson and Bill Clinton first encountered each other at the University of Arkansas Law School in the 1970s, when Hutchinson was a student and Clinton, fresh out of Yale Law School, was teaching (though he was not Hutchinson's professor). Hutchinson's politics hadn't yet jelled: He recalled going door-to-door for David Pryor, the former Democratic senator and governor of Arkansas, who is the father of Mark Pryor.

As it turned out, that was the last time Hutchinson campaigned for a Democrat, he said, but his interactions with Clinton continued.

"Our paths crossed [again] when I was U.S. attorney and he was governor at that time," Hutchinson said of Bill Clinton in the interview. I remember him calling my home [about] this terrorist group up in northern Arkansas. We worked together [on a stand-down]."

In the 1980s, Hutchinson, then a Reagan-appointed U.S. attorney, "had the unfortunate responsibility" of prosecuting Clinton's half-brother, Roger, who eventually went to jail on drug charges. But in the former president's memoirs, published after he left office, Clinton wrote that the jail time probably saved Roger Clinton's life — and he had praise for Hutchinson's conduct.

"Asa Hutchinson was professional, fair and sensitive to the agony my family was experiencing," Clinton wrote. "I wasn't at all surprised when later he was elected to Congress from the Third District."

Hutchinson was for a long time one of a handful of Republican voices in a Southern state with a strong Democratic tradition. As Clinton climbed the ranks, Hutchinson lost three statewide races.

"Whether it's Dale Bumpers" — the beloved former senator, to whom Hutchinson lost in 1986, and who delivered the final speech on behalf of Clinton in the impeachment proceedings — "or Bill Clinton, they've had a very strong farm team, and populist-type candidates on the Democratic side," Hutchinson said.

In the early 1990s, Hutchinson served as state GOPchairman while Clinton was governor.

"So we've always been very respectful adversaries, respectful political adversaries," he said. "That's how I viewed that relationship."

In 1996, Hutchinson won his first House race. His opponent was Ann Henry, a personal friend of the Clintons who hosted the couple's wedding reception at her home; her top campaign strategist was also Clinton's former chief of staff, according to a report from the time.

From the House, Hutchinson was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. His nomination sailed through the Senate on a 98-1 vote, with Hillary Clinton, then a senator, voting yes.

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She “did me the great honor of supporting my confirmation,” Hutchinson said. And after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the two had “very professional” interactions when he served as undersecretary in the Department of Homeland Security and she was in the Senate.

Hutchinson declined repeatedly to assess a potential Hillary Clinton 2016 candidacy or to say whether he’d be a surrogate for the eventual GOP nominee. He skirted questions about his party’s criticism of her on issues like the Benghazi attacks. “This race is about Arkansas, not about what happens three years from now, it’s about what happens next year,” Hutchinson said.

“I think they’ve looked at me as somebody who’s very committed to our country,” he later said of the Clintons. “We have different viewpoints, I respect them the same ways. And so I would just urge anybody who’s worried about the past to take the same fair approach and look at my heart.”

CNN: “With an Eye to 2016, Bill Clinton Campaigns in New Hampshire”

By Brianna Keilar

October 16, 2014, 6:09 a.m. EDT

In early 2000, shortly after Al Gore beat Bill Bradley by a too-close-for-comfort four points in the state's first-in-the-nation primaries, Ray Buckley, then a New Hampshire state legislator, swung through Washington to have breakfast with a friend in the Clinton administration.

As he sat in the White House mess eating pancakes, Buckley was shocked when an aide brought him a note that said President Bill Clinton wanted to see him in the Oval Office. He didn't know Clinton was even aware he was visiting.

"He started grilling me on what towns Gore did well in and didn't do well in. He didn't have a paper in front of him, he just knew. He was asking me 'Why didn't Al do better in Amherst?' His understanding of the political landscape of New Hampshire is just amazing," Buckley, now the chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, told CNN.

Clinton is taking that enthusiasm for the Granite State, generated in no small part by the dramatic successes he and his wife have historically secured here, to the state party's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in Manchester on Thursday, raising money and encouraging voters in his party to get to the polls on election day.

Incumbent Gov. Maggie Hassan has the most comfortable lead in the polls among Democrats running for federal office in New Hampshire. Reps. Carol Shea-Porter and Ann Kuster are in more competitive races as they try to hang onto their House seats. But it's Sen. Jeanne Shaheen who is getting the most attention. The longtime Clinton ally is running statistically even with Republican Scott Brown, the former senator from Massachusetts, in a race that could determine the balance of power in the senate.

"Bill Clinton is probably the best person for Shaheen," says Neil Levesque, the executive director of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics and Political Library at Saint Anselm College. "He's custom made for a state like New Hampshire that really appreciates someone who can get into the issues."

Clinton's visit comes one day after Mitt Romney campaigned alongside Brown and with Democratic activists here growing more and more anxious (the state legislature's return to Republican control looks like a foregone conclusion already) it's just in time.

"The concern is if there's anxiety bordering on depression about the bad news not just in New Hampshire but nationally that might stop an activist from working as hard as they might to get out the vote," says Dante Scala, professor of Political Science at the University of New Hampshire.

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Clinton's visit appears to be buoying many Democrats already.

With news of his headlining appearance, 1,200 people have purchased tickets to the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, the biggest crowd since the state party revived it as a fall fundraising event in 1991. Normally 400-450 Democrats attend. This year, some attendees will be watching Clinton from an overflow room and the normally seated dinner has been scrapped for an earlier buffet-style meal followed by Clinton's speech to a crowd in a theater-style seating arrangement.

New Hampshire has always been friendly to the Clintons and they're not going to neglect the state as Hillary Clinton eyes another presidential run.

In 1992, just a few days after a tabloid broke a story about Bill Clinton's affair with an Arkansas state employee named Gennifer Flowers, a surprise second place finish in the New Hampshire primary kept Clinton's presidential prospects alive. He famously declared that January evening, "New Hampshire has made Bill Clinton the comeback kid," and went on to win the state in the general election as well.

In 2008, when Hillary Clinton trailed Barack Obama by double digits in the lead up to the New Hampshire primary, she teared up at a Portsmouth coffee shop as she told a voter who asked how she was faring on the trail, "I just don't want to see us fall backwards. This is very personal for me. It's not just political." The next day, she answered Obama's crushing Iowa caucus win with a three point victory in New Hampshire, telling her supporters at her victory rally, "Now let's give America the kind of comeback New Hampshire has just given me."

Hillary Clinton will campaign here the weekend before the election, hoping to make a last minute move for Sen. Shaheen and Gov. Hassan.

By then, most voters will have made up their minds. But strategists say Clinton can make an effective play for undecided female voters, especially with incumbent Democratic women up and down the ballot.

"She could win this race for Shaheen," says Levesque. And if she does, the Clintons are betting New Hampshire will remember that in 2016.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

- October 16 – MI: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Rep. Gary Peters and Mark Schauer in Michigan (AP)
- October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)
- October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Senate Democrats (AP)
- October 24 – RI: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Rhode Island gubernatorial nominee Gina Raimondo (Politico)
- October 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the launch of The International Council on Women's Business Leadership (CNN)
- November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)
- December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From:	"Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	5/15/2008 8:34:49 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Re: PRESS CALL TODAY: Experts Respond to McCain Claim of Victory in Iraq by 2013

The call was great. Below are a few quotes from the call, and a link to the full audio can be found here :

I think John McCain has been one of the most important voices on national security policy for many years now, so it really surprises me to see him giving speeches like the one today that are almost in "lala" land. These unsupported generalizations and predictions that he would have scoffed at as the old John McCain. Lets just take a couple of examples, one is what he says about the future Iraq. He says most of the troops will be gone in four years, at that time there will be relative security in the country and that it will be a democracy. But we have no idea how that is to come about. It certainly isn't coming about by the present polices of the Bush administration and the speech gives every indication he'll continue those policies and so it's kind of a wild eyed, unsupported prediction.
- Les Gelb, President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations

I don't think McCain has an understanding of what a counterinsurgency is all about...To project that there will be substantially reduced violence in Iraq and that Iraq will be a functioning democracy sounds almost like a campaign promise. For the troops that means a indefinite extension of the substantial deployments in a country where they are seen as occupiers...I am very disappointed Sen. McCain would make these kind of projections, which are fantasies, without giving any hint of how he plans to achieve them.
- General Robert G. Gard (RET)

When it comes to Iraq I think he's lost his perspective right from the beginning. If you go back and look at his statements back in 2003, before the war, and predictions all throughout 2003 that it was going well and would end shortly and then each year he seemed to be telling us it would end very very quickly...But now what he is saying it will end in four years. Even if that were to be true, he's not shown us how you could get there, that will have meant the United States be there for 10 years.
- Lawrence Korb, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress Action Fund

On May 15, 2008, at 11:35 AM, Adam Blickstein wrote:

PRESS CALL TODAY: Experts Respond to McCain Claim of Victory in Iraq by 2013

Washington D.C. - The National Security Network will be holding a conference call TODAY AT 2:00 PM with Les Gelb, President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations and Chairman of NSN's Advisory Board, General Robert G. Gard (RET), Lawrence Korb, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and Former Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Reagan, and NSN President Rand Beers to respond to John McCain's claim, made today, that he envisions victory in Iraq by 2013, as well as other aspects of his speech.

Call-in #: 1-800-895-1085
Passcode: 7MCCAIN

WHO: Les Gelb, President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations and Chairman of the NSN Advisory Board
General Robert G. Gard (RET)
Lawrence Korb, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and Former Assistant Secretary of Defence under President Reagan.
Rand Beers, President of the National Security Network

WHAT: Conference call responding to Sen. McCain's claim of victory in Iraq by 2012

WHEN: TODAY Thursday, May 15th, 2008
2:00 PM ET

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Les Gelb is a former correspondent for *The New York Times* and is currently President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and is a member of the editorial board of Encyclopædia Britannica that was re-established in 2005 after a 10-year hiatus.

Gelb was director of Policy Planning and Arms Control for International Security Affairs at the Department of Defense from 1967 to 1969, winning the Pentagon's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award. Robert McNamara appointed Gelb as director of the project that produced the infamous Pentagon Papers, on the Vietnam War. He was an Assistant Secretary of State in the Carter Administration from 1977 to 1979, serving as director of the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs and winning the Distinguished Honor Award, the highest award of the US State Department.

He was diplomatic correspondent at *The New York Times* from 1973 to 1977; later, between 1981 and 1993, he was in turn national security correspondent, deputy editorial page editor, editor of the Op-Ed Page, and columnist. He was a leading member of the *Times* team that won a Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism in 1986 for a six-part comprehensive series on the Strategic Defense Initiative (known as "Star Wars").

Gelb became President of the Council on Foreign Relations in 1993 and is now President Emeritus.
Lt. General Robert G. Gard, Jr. is Chairman of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation where his policy work focuses on nuclear nonproliferation, missile defense, Iraq, Iran, military policy, nuclear terrorism, and other national security issues.

During his military career, Gard saw combat in both the Korea and Vietnam wars, and served a three year tour in Germany. He also served as Executive Assistant to two secretaries of defense; the first Director of Human Resources Development for the U.S. Army; Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; and President of National Defense University (NDU).

After retiring from the U.S. Army in 1981, after 31 years of distinguished service, Gard served for five years as director of the Johns Hopkins University

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School of Advanced International Studies Center in Bologna, Italy, and then as President of the Monterey Institute of International Studies from 1987 to 1998. Since 1998, he has been an active consultant in Washington, DC, on national security issues, including the international campaign to ban anti-personnel land mines.

Gard has written for well- known journals and periodicals that focus on military and international affairs and lectured widely at U.S. and international universities and academic conferences. He serves on the board of eight non- profit organizations and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Gard holds a BA from the U.S MIlitary Academy at West Point and both an MP.A. and Ph.Din Political Economy & Government from Harvard University.

Lawrence J. Korb is a Senior Fellowat American Progress and a Senior Advisor to the Center for Defense Information. Prior to joining the Center, he was a Senior Fellow and Director of National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. From July 1998 to October 2002, he was Council Vice President, Director of Studies, and holder of the Maurice Greenberg Chair.

Prior to joining the Council, Mr. Korb served as Director of the Center for Public Policy Education and Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies Program at the Brookings Institution, Dean of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, and Vice President of Corporate Operations at the Raytheon Company.

Dr. Korb served as Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Logistics) from 1981 through 1985. In that position, he administered about 70 percent of the Defense budget. For his service in that position, he was awarded the Department of Defense's medal for Distinguished Public Service. Mr. Korb served on active duty for four years as Naval Flight Officer, and retired from the Naval Reserve with the rank of Captain.

Rand Beers is the president of the National Security Network. He served as the National Security adviser to the Kerry- Edwards 2004 campaign. Previously he spent 35 years as a senior civil servant. After serving as a Marine officer and rifle company commander in Vietnam, he entered the Foreign Service in 1971 and the Civil Service in 1983. From 1988-98, Mr. Beers served on the National Security Council Staff at the White House as Director for Counter- terrorism and Counter- narcotics, Director for Peacekeeping, and Senior Director for Intelligence Programs. From 1998-2003 he was Assistant Secretary of State for International. Narcotics and LawEnforcement Affairs. In 2002- 03 he was Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Combating Terrorism. In 2002- 03 he was Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Combating Terrorism at the National Security Council. Beers earned a B.A. from Dartmouth College and an MA from the University of Michigan.

Adam Blickstein
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National Security Network
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Mobile: 617-335-0859
ablickstein@nsnetwork.com

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	2/19/2015 2:03:58 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Thursday February 19, 2015 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Thursday February 19, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Wall Street Journal: “Clinton Foundation Defends Acceptance of Foreign Donations”

"In its statement, the foundation said: 'The Clinton Foundation has strong donor integrity and transparency practices that go above and beyond what is required of U.S. charities and well beyond the practices of most peer organizations. This includes the voluntary, full disclosure of donors on our website for anyone to see. The bottom line: these contributions are helping improve the lives of millions of people across the world, for which we are grateful.'"

Washington Post: “Clinton foundation’s global network overlaps with family’s political base”

“Since its creation in 2001, the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation has raised close to $2 billion from a vast global network that includes corporate titans, political donors, foreign governments and other wealthy interests, according to a Washington Post review of public records and newly released contribution data.”

Politico: “GOP group calls on Clinton Foundation to return foreign donations”

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National Journal: “When a Clinton 'Ally' Isn't an Ally At All”

[Subtitle:] “Dozens of freelancing Democrats are posing as Clinton confidantes, and it’s mess-making for her real team.”

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The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Conservative group hits Jeb for giving award to Hillary”

“A conservative group is launching a campaign calling former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) 'unelectable' because he gave presumed Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton an award in 2013. In the minds of ForAmerica, a conservative group founded by Brent Bozell, the president of the Media Research Center, that one appearance is enough to disqualify him from a 2016 bid entirely.”

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“There's also this: People are really bad at deducing precisely what is important to their vote. Just because they say something isn't important doesn't mean it isn't.”

Bloomberg: “Fake Hillary Clinton and the New Social Media Rules of Truth”

“The world of new media is different, in barrier and also in tone. The game is getting in on the meme. The one who wins on Twitter is the fast, the fluid, the so-damn-biting that the mic gets dropped.”

Articles:

Wall Street Journal: “Clinton Foundation Defends Acceptance of Foreign Donations”

By Peter Nicholas and Rebecca Ballhaus

February 18, 2015, 6:40 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Charity has received funds from governments of U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, Oman and Canada, among others

The Clinton Foundation on Wednesday defended its practice of accepting donations from overseas governments, amid concerns from some ethics experts that such contributions are inappropriate at a time when Hillary Clinton is preparing to run for president.

A Wall Street Journal review of donations to the Clinton Foundation in 2014 showed the charity received money from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Oman, among others. The donors included Canada’s foreign affairs department, which is promoting the Keystone XL pipeline.

The foundation had agreed to stop raising money from foreign governments in 2009, after Mrs. Clinton became secretary of state. That step was in

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deference to Obama administration concerns about the propriety of taking money from other nations while Mrs. Clinton served as America's top diplomat.

Mrs. Clinton left the State Department in early 2013, and the foundation later dropped the ban.

Mrs. Clinton is an important figure in the foundation, serving as a marquee fundraiser for what is now officially called the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation. Some ethics experts questioned whether it is appropriate for the foundation to accept funds from foreign governments at a time when Mrs. Clinton is preparing for an all-but-certain presidential bid.

In its statement, the foundation said: "The Clinton Foundation has strong donor integrity and transparency practices that go above and beyond what is required of U.S. charities and well beyond the practices of most peer organizations. This includes the voluntary, full disclosure of donors on our website for anyone to see."

"The bottom line: these contributions are helping improve the lives of millions of people across the world, for which we are grateful."

In its account of the donations from foreign governments, the Journal quoted several independent analysts who said the foundation should restore its ban on such contributions, out of concerns that foreign governments would attempt to curry favor with Mrs. Clinton.

Republicans on Wednesday chided Mrs. Clinton over the contributions.

"The alarming rate at which these contributions are now coming in presents a massive conflict-of-interest problem for her," said Michael Short, a spokesman for the Republican National Committee. "When that 3 a.m. phone call comes, do voters really want to have a president on the line who took truckloads of cash from other countries? Absolutely not."

A spokeswoman for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush , who is preparing a campaign for the White House, declined to comment on whether the Clinton Foundation should stop accepting contributions from foreign governments. But she noted that Mr. Bush, "as part of seriously exploring a potential run for president," had stepped down as chairman of his foundation, and that his foundation doesn't take donations from foreign governments or entities.

America Rising, a Republican opposition research group, on Wednesday called for the Clinton Foundation to restore its ban on foreign contributions and return the donations it has received from foreign countries and entities, including nonprofits where foreign government donations constitute the majority of their funds. They also requested that Mr. Clinton return the speaking fees he has earned from foreign governments and stop accepting them.

"The potential conflict of interest for someone in Clinton's position requires they return the money, and the ethical lapse to accept the money in the first place calls into question Hillary Clinton's judgment," the group said in a statement

The United Arab Emirates, a first-time donor, gave between $1 million and $5 million, 2014 according to disclosures on an online Clinton Foundation database. The German government—another first-time donor—contributed between $100,000 and $250,000.

Saudi Arabia, a previous donor, has given between $10 million and $25 million since the foundation's creation. An unspecified portion of the money came in 2014.

Other donors to the foundation last year included Jonathan Lavine, an investment adviser in Boston and previous donor to Mrs. Clinton's campaigns, gave between $500,000 and $1 million together with his wife through a foundation they created.

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Several prominent Silicon Valley figures gave to the foundation for the first time last year. Ann Doerr, the wife of venture capitalist John Doerr , gave between $50,000 and $100,000. A foundation started by Sean Parker , the co-founder of Napster, gave between $500,000 and $1 million.

Newsmax, a conservative news organization, last year pledged $1 million to the Clinton Foundation over a five-year period, according to a spokesman for Chris Ruddy, the organization's CEO. Mr. Ruddy has been friends with the Clintons since 2007. Through a spokesman, he said the donation wasn't tantamount to an endorsement of Mrs. Clinton's potential campaign, though he thinks she would "make a great presidential candidate."

Washington Post: "Clinton foundation's global network overlaps with family's political base"

By Rosalind S. Helderman, Tom Hamburger, and Steven Rich

February 18, 2015, 9:30 p.m. EST

Since its creation in 2001, the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation has raised close to $2 billion from a vast global network that includes corporate titans, political donors, foreign governments and other wealthy interests, according to a Washington Post review of public records and newly released contribution data.

The total, representing cash and pledges reported in tax filings, includes $262 million that was raised in 2013 — the year Hillary Rodham Clinton stepped down as secretary of state and began to devote her energies to the foundation and to a likely second run for president.

The financial success of the foundation, which funds charitable work around the world, underscores the highly unusual nature of another Clinton candidacy. The organization has given contributors entree, outside the traditional political arena, to a possible president. Foreign donors and countries that are likely to have interests before a potential Clinton administration — and yet are ineligible to give to U.S. political campaigns — have affirmed their support for the family's work through the charitable giving.

The Post review of foundation data, updated this month on the group's Web site to reflect giving through 2014, found substantial overlap between the Clinton political machinery and the foundation.

Nearly half of the major donors who are backing Ready for Hillary, a group promoting her 2016 presidential bid, as well as nearly half of the bundlers from her 2008 campaign, have given at least $10,000 to the foundation, either on their own or through foundations or companies they run.

The Clintons have relied heavily on their close ties to Wall Street, with donations from the financial services sector representing the largest share of corporate donors.

And many of the foundation's biggest donors are foreigners who are legally barred from giving to U.S. political candidates. A third of foundation donors who have given more than $1 million are foreign governments or other entities based outside the United States, and foreign donors make up more than half of those who have given more than $5 million.

The prevalence of financial institutions, both foreign and domestic, as major donors is likely to stir more unease in the Democratic Party's liberal base, which is pushing Hillary Clinton to adopt a more populist and less Wall Street-focused economic agenda. The role of interests located in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Argentina may spur questions about the independence of a potential commander in chief who has solicited money from foreign donors with a stake in the actions of the U.S. government.

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'A philanthropy, period'

Foundation officials said the organization's fundraising success reflects its track record of accomplishment. They said many other foundations have a similar international donor base.

"The Clinton Foundation is a philanthropy, period," said Craig Minassian, the group's chief communications officer. "We take pride in our programs, our efficiency, and our transparency. As with other global charities, the Clinton Foundation receives the support of individuals, organizations and governments from all over the world because our programs are improving the lives of millions."

Minassian said it was a "false choice to suggest that people who may be interested in supporting political causes wouldn't also support philanthropic work."

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Hillary Clinton, declined to comment.

The foundation, which Bill Clinton created soon after leaving the White House in 2001, has become one of the world's fastest-growing philanthropies.

It consists of multiple charitable initiatives that deal with climate change, HIV drug access and economic development in poor areas. One program, led by Hillary and Chelsea Clinton, seeks to improve the lives of women and girls.

The foundation has won accolades from philanthropy experts and has drawn bipartisan support, with members of the George W. Bush administration often participating in its programs. Major donations have come from figures such as Christopher Ruddy, the chief executive of the conservative Web site Newsmax.com and a onetime critic of Bill Clinton.

Foundation tax records show that it reported raising $1.69 billion in cash and pledges between 2001 and 2013, the last year for which documents are available. As of the end of 2014, donations reached nearly $2 billion, foundation officials confirmed.

The scope of the foundation's finances show the unparalleled fundraising power of one of the world's most important political brands.

"To be raising $250 million a year, certainly puts them in the top ranks of U.S. nonprofits in terms of fundraising," said Steven Lawrence, director of research for the Foundation Center, which studies philanthropy.

Lawrence said the Clintons' ability to draw support from overseas — a coveted goal for many U.S. charities and university endowments — was especially unusual.

"It's all about building networks and connections," Lawrence said, adding that donors are likely attracted both personally to the Clintons and to the highly regarded philanthropic work of their foundation.

The donor list shows that the foundation has relied most heavily on seven donors that have each given more than $25 million, including a foundation established by a Canadian mining magnate, Frank Giustra; the national lottery of Holland; and Chicago-based Democratic donor Fred Eychaner.

Other major donors giving at lower levels run the gamut of industries and interests, such as the investment banking firm Goldman Sachs, beverage giant Coca-Cola, and the governments of Oman, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

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Foundation officials say some of their public support comes from competitive grants that are also available to other charities.

Concerns in late 2008

The foundation's fundraising sparked concerns in late 2008 when President-elect Barack Obama was preparing to nominate Hillary Clinton to be secretary of state. Some Republicans, raising the prospect of conflicts of interest, criticized the fact that the foundation's donors were kept secret.

The Clintons struck a deal with the Obama administration to begin posting lists of its contributors online and to accept some restrictions on support from foreign governments.

As part of the deal, the Clinton Global Initiative, which brings together world leaders, industries and charities to discuss global issues, was split from the foundation during Hillary Clinton's tenure at the State Department. In 2013, after she stepped down as secretary of state, the foundation and the global initiative were reintegrated. The newly published donor list is the first to provide a public accounting of the cumulative giving to both groups.

In posting its donor data, the foundation goes beyond legal requirements, and experts say its transparency level exceeds that of most philanthropies.

But that transparency has limits. The foundation identifies its donors within broad ranges — $1 million to $5 million and greater than $25 million, for instance. And the foundation tallies the giving of each donor only cumulatively, making it difficult to track trends in giving over time.

As a result, it is not possible to determine how much particular donors contributed in the months since Hillary Clinton joined the foundation in 2013.

Still, the organization has stepped up its solicitation efforts in anticipation of soon losing one of its chief fundraisers to the campaign trail — building a $250 million endowment designed to provide some long-term stability.

The recent efforts have at times looked like a political campaign. A contest offered foundation donors the chance to win a free trip to New York to attend a Clinton gala and have a photo taken with the former first couple.

Hillary and Chelsea Clinton hosted a "Millennium Network" event in 2013 aimed at cultivating a younger generation of philanthropists. According to an invitation, there were six tiers of donations, ranging from $150 for individuals to $15,000 for a couple seeking a photograph with Hillary Clinton.

The Post review found that the foundation provided another way for the Clintons' longtime political donors to support the family's endeavors between election campaigns. The analysis relied on a list of bundlers compiled by the advocacy group Public Citizen using campaign disclosures and news reports. Each donor had generally raised at least $100,000 for her 2008 campaign.

Susie Tompkins Buell, for instance, a close Clinton friend and 2008 fundraiser who has given to Ready for Hillary, has donated as much as $10 million to the foundation from her charitable fund.

Haim Saban, the billionaire creator of the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers and one of the Clintons' most-prolific political givers, has donated as much as $25 million to the foundation.

Buell and Saban did not respond to requests for comment.

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The overlap between the Clintons' political network and their charitable work was apparent Friday, when Dennis Cheng stepped down as the foundation's chief development officer ahead of his expected role as a key fundraiser for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign.

U.S.-regulated donors

Some major foundation donors are corporations that are regulated by the U.S. government.

Tenet, a health-care giant that has been investigated in the past for overbilling Medicare, has given $1.75 million to the Clinton Foundation since 2012 to fund local health programs, such as one promoting more HIV testing in the Palm Springs, Calif., area, where the company has a major hospital.

"We really believe in their health-care model — the community-based model," said Daniel Waldmann, Tenet's senior vice president for public affairs.

The newly updated foundation donor list shows that, despite the restrictions on foreign-government support imposed during Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state, the foundation continued to rely heavily on non-U.S. sources. The Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday that the foundation has now lifted the foreign-government restrictions.

The data shows that some major donors represent international interests that have faced scrutiny from the U.S. government.

All three Clintons, for instance, have attended meetings and private events with Victor Pinchuk, a Ukrainian steel magnate who has faced formal complaints in the United States for unfair trade practices. Spokesmen for the Clintons and Pinchuk waved away any suggestion of a conflict between the donor's regulatory concerns and the charitable contributions to the foundation.

"No assistance with any business issues has now or ever been sought from the Clinton Foundation or its principals," said Thomas Weihe, a spokesman for the Kiev-based Pinchuk Foundation.

He said Pinchuk supported the Clinton effort because of the foundation's record and the "unique capacity of its principals to promote the modernization of Ukraine."

Politico: "GOP group calls on Clinton Foundation to return foreign donations"

By Gabriel Debenedetti

February 18, 2015, 5:58 p.m. EST

One day after a report revealed that the Clinton Foundation has abandoned its near-prohibition of raising new money from foreign governments, Republican opposition research firm America Rising is calling on the organization to return funds from international sources and to promise to stop accepting them.

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The group is warning against the prospect of countries that in some cases have given $1 million or more to the foundation having a “special” relationship with a Clinton administration. The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday reported that nations including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Canada have recently donated to the foundation.

“The potential conflict of interest for someone in Clinton’s position requires they return the money, and the ethical lapse to accept the money in the first place calls into question Hillary Clinton’s judgment,” the group will say on Wednesday in its release announcing these requests.

Neither Hillary Clinton’s spokesman nor a Clinton Foundation spokesman responded immediately to requests for comment.

While Clinton lies low ahead of her campaign launch, Republicans have been criticizing her work as a public official and a private citizen. The Journal report reflected one Republican line of criticism — that Clinton’s foundation ties to foreign regimes could cause her political difficulties — and a similar fear among some of her allies and defenders.

The organization — which was started by former President Bill Clinton as he left the White House and was renamed the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation in 2013 — has caused Hillary Clinton political headaches before. It agreed to stop actively seeking out new money from foreign governments, and to have increases in existing donations vetted, when she stepped into the secretary of state role in 2009. And it has again been the focus of Republican scrutiny since she left the State Department in 2013.

Many of Clinton’s public appearances in that year and 2014 were under the foundation’s umbrella, as the former senator and first lady has been involved with its philanthropic initiatives while preparing for her likely presidential bid.

America Rising will demand that the organization “return all donations from foreign governments, including regional or local government entities since 2013 and pledge never to solicit or accept them.” It is also asking the foundation to return funds received from nonprofit organizations that are themselves mostly funded by foreign governments or officials, and to return money from foreign officers. It is asking Bill Clinton to give back his own speaking fees from international governments as well.

The Journal article specifically pointed to the United Arab Emirates, which it said gave the foundation between $1 million and $5 million last year, as a recent first-time donor. The paper also reported that the Clinton Foundation received money from Oman, Australia, Germany, Norway, Italy and the Netherlands.

National Journal: “When a Clinton 'Ally' Isn't an Ally At All”

By Emily Schultheis

February 18, 2015

[Subtitle:] Dozens of freelancing Democrats are posing as Clinton confidantes, and it’s mess-making for her real team.

There are Clinton "insiders" and Clinton "allies." Clinton "loyalists" and Clinton "confidantes." People "familiar with Clinton's thinking" or "in Clinton's orbit."

No doubt, Washington is filled with Democrats who have worked for, advised, donated money to, or rubbed elbows with Hillary or Bill Clinton over

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the duo's three decades in politics. But as the former secretary of State prepares a 2016 campaign, these "allies" are posing a problem for Clinton's real team.

Ever eager to voice opinions on everything from the timeline of Clinton's announcement to her 2016 message to how her "hipster black-rimmed glasses" fit with the optics of a Brooklyn-based operation, self-labeled advisors are going rogue. And by freelancing, they're taking the Clinton story out of Clinton's hands, even as she tries to build a team that's more leak-proof and less willing to air dirty laundry than in 2008.

"There are three parties to this equation: we're one, the source is two, and the media is three. And arguably we have the least amount of influence on any of this," said longtime Clinton aide Philippe Reines. He conceded, though, that there's no real way for her team to control it: "We just have to sit back. We just have to grin and bear it."

The issue is singularly frustrating for people who work and have worked in Clinton's press operation and dealt with the issue first-hand—enough so that several of whom, like Reines, were willing to give rare on-the-record interviews for this story.

"This is a constant problem," said Howard Wolfson, who served as Clinton's communications director in 2008. "There is an enormous number of people who have had, or claim to have had, an association with the Clintons over the years—and many of them claim to have some degree of knowledge of her plans or activities that they don't in fact have."

Unlike on the Republican side, where a crowded field makes candidates and their staffs happy to dish to reporters about big hires, early-state plans, and behind-the-scenes machinations, movements to and within Clinton's growing operation are closely held. Indeed, Republicans have used a running tally of the "no comment" responses from the Clinton camp to paint the former senator and first lady as out-of-touch—"OFF THE RECORD: no comment," read the headline on one recent Clinton-related release from the Republican National Committee.

So with Clinton's staff keeping public comments to a minimum, the quasi-"insiders" largely have the floor to themselves.

Certainly, former staffers eagerly offering up their own takes or speculation isn't unique to Clinton, but for her it's magnified by the amount of time she and her husband have spent in the public eye. There are decades' worth of former staffers to contend with: there are the Arkansas people, the Clinton White House advisers, New York Senate staffers, 2008 campaign aides, Clinton Foundation associates, and State Department aides, among others.

Asked how the campaign could get a handle on all the anonymous outside chatter, Reines placed much of the blame back on the media for being willing to grant anonymity to sources who don't know what they're talking about. Unless the unnamed "advisers" stop talking to reporters, or reporters stop quoting them, Reines added, there's no way to get the issue under control.

"What gets lost is there are no consequences for [the source or the media] when they're wrong—there just aren't," he said. "If you were to go back and look at the last three, four, five, six months of coverage about Secretary Clinton, you're going to see certain reporters who cover her closely whose accuracy rate is less than 50/50."

Any reporter covering the Clinton beat knows it's tough to navigate the sphere known as Clintonworld. A source who offers up good information for one story might be totally wrong on another, and most Democrats are understandably squeamish about talking on the record about anything Clinton-related because nearly all of them are hoping for jobs with her. (More than a dozen people contacted for this piece said they were happy to discuss it—but only on background.)

The thing is, a Clinton "ally" could be anyone: a top donor or former staffer in the know, sure, but also a Democratic strategist on the outside who is just sharing an opinion, wants to feel important, or is hoping to settle a score. What's more, it's far harder for the campaign to chastise someone for saying things they shouldn't—or stop telling that person privileged information—if they're quoted anonymously and you don't know for sure who said what.

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"Any time someone actually says their name and publishes a quote, it's easy for the campaign to call them up and say, 'Please don't do that anymore,'" said Michael Trujillo, who served as a senior staffer for Clinton's 2008 campaign in California, Texas and North Carolina. But with anonymous quotes, you don't know where they're coming from.

(Reines warned it's not difficult to figure out: "It's not like you read something and say, 'Oh my gosh, that could have been 97 people.' You tend to know. Not 100 percent of the time, but ... I think sources would probably shrivel up if they knew that when these things happen, there's usually a four-minute conversation about, 'Oh, that was probably X ... I think people would be mortified. I don't think they realize how much that happens.")

Mike McCurry, Bill Clinton's White House press secretary in the 1990s, also pegged the problem not to the campaign but to reporters who "hyperventilate" about 2016. "I love Mrs. Clinton and hope she decides what is best for her. But anyone that would quote me 'on background' would be misleading their audience because I have no real idea what they are thinking," he wrote via email. "I believe 75% (conservatively) of what I read about the political strategy inside the Clinton camp is from people who want to be in the 'inside circle' but probably aren't."

The dynamic in 2008 is just a preview of what the chattering "allies" will be like this time around. Trujillo said more than once he and his team were stunned at news reports about Clinton's plans in each of those states—which often had sources who were in direct contradiction with what was actually happening inside the campaign.

"To read that in the paper and know it was the complete opposite ... it's never helpful, it's never asked for," said Trujillo, now a Los Angeles-based senior adviser for Ready for Hillary. "You're not being helpful by pontificating on what she is or isn't going to do."

So what's the eventual Clinton campaign to do? No one reached for this story had a good answer. Some suggested the outside "allies" would be given less status once it's clear who's actually involved in the campaign and who isn't. Others said John Podesta, the expected campaign chairman, might be able to instill order among the older generations of Clinton loyalists, many of whom he's worked with in the past.

Ben LaBolt, the press secretary for the Obama 2012 campaign, said the eventual Clinton campaign needs to make it very clear to reporters who's actually on the campaign and in the know—and who isn't.

"Campaigns should bend over backwards to limit the number of people that speak officially for the campaign and to make sure the media understands exactly who serves on that team," he wrote in an email. "Otherwise, you're forced to apologize for, correct or condemn statements by people who don't actually have anything to do with the campaign."

But sometimes, Wolfson said, the 2008 staff took a step back and just laughed about who some anonymous sources could have been. "In the '08 campaign, we used to laugh and say, 'Okay, that was the shoe-shine guy.' 'That was the guy who ran the sandwich shop down the street,'" he said. "There was, in my experience, a very elastic and loose definition of who constitutes a 'Clinton loyalist,' 'Clinton insider,' 'Clinton confidante.'"

The reporting and speculation about her intentions and campaign plans, Reines said, often baffle even Clinton herself: "When you're talking to the person whose life is being written about and they're like, 'Where do they get this stuff?' It's really sobering."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Conservative group hits Jeb for giving award to Hillary"

By Ben Kamisar

February 19, 2015, 5:00 a.m. EST

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

A conservative group is launching a campaign calling former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) “unelectable” because he gave presumed Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton an award in 2013.

In the minds of ForAmerica, a conservative group founded by Brent Bozell, the president of the Media Research Center, that one appearance is enough to disqualify him from a 2016 bid entirely.

“Anytime Jeb calls Hillary 'Obama 2.0,' any criticism he makes of her awful record as Secretary of State, any time he shows how much of an extremist she is on the issues, will be completely dismissed when she reminds everyone that he gave her an award for public service,” Bozell said in a statement.

“Jeb has absolutely no credibility to criticize her because he has already anointed her as a great public servant; and he inexplicably did so almost a year to the day of the Benghazi massacre," he continued. "He will lose, and the public will have to suffer at least another four years of Obama’s policies – and anything worse she has in store for America.”

As chairman of the National Constitution Center, Bush gave Clinton a lifetime achievement award for public service and her work on women’s rights.

A video released by ForAmerica shows footage of Bush thanking Clinton and her husband, President Bill Clinton.

"We are united by love of country and public service,” Bush says. The video then shows text calling Hillary Clinton “responsible for the security of the American embassy in Benghazi” and noting that the 2012 attack on the embassy that left four Americans dead “occurred on her watch.”

The event occurred one night before the first anniversary of the Benghazi attacks.

Bush has finished near the top of most national polls of Republican voters, but some of the party’s more conservative figures argue that he is too moderate for their liking and will struggle to win the base and nomination.

Most potential candidates, including former Gov. Mike Huckabee (Ala.), Gov. Scott Walker (Wis.), and Sen. Ted Cruz (Texas) are expected to run well to the right of Bush, who has been hit by conservative Republicans over his support for Common Core education standards and immigration reform.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: “Three-quarters say the first-woman-president thing doesn’t matter. They’re wrong.”

By Aaron Blake

February 19, 2015, 6:30 a.m. EST

Breaking: Hillary Clinton, if she were to run for and win the presidency, would be the first female U.S. president.

And, if you believe the polls, almost nobody who has any control over that really gives a rip.

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New polling from Quinnipiac University on Wednesday showed about three-quarters of people in the swing states of Colorado, Iowa and Virginia said that distinction made no difference to their 2016 vote. And the majority who said it did were Democrats. Basically no Republicans said it made them more likely to back Clinton, and only about one in 10 independents agreed -- the same percentage who said it makes them less likely to back her. In other words, these are probably just folks who claim to be independent but vote reliably for either party.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll a few weeks back showed basically the same thing, with just slightly more independents saying the first-woman-president thing was something that made them more pro-Clinton.

But there's also this: People are really bad at deducing precisely what is important to their vote. Just because they say something isn't important doesn't mean it isn't. The same goes for endorsements. Nobody likes to think their vote is based on such easy shorthand, but sometimes it is.

Case in point: the first-black-president thing. Turns out, back in 2008, almost nobody said it was a big deal -- even less than the first-woman-president thing today.

A Gallup poll conducted in June 2008 found 78 percent of African Americans and 88 percent of whites said Obama's race had nothing to do with their vote. (The question wasn't framed as "first black president," for what it's worth, but it stands to reason that's how almost everyone interpreted it.)

By the end of the campaign, just 9 percent were saying Obama's race made them more likely to vote for him, and 6 percent less likely -- basically a wash. And given much of the "more likely" crowd were African Americans (who vote almost universally Democratic anyway), it's hard to say whether it had any measurable effect on swing voters.

But then you get to turnout. That's where this mattered. Obama's status as the potential first black president pushed black turnout to unprecedented levels and helped him win the presidency (and reelection in 2012).

Here's how turnout looked in recent elections -- noting the upticks in 2008 and 2012.

[CHART]

Which is where the first-woman-president thing comes into play for Clinton. No, it might not sway as many swing voters as women's groups might like, and there is probably a countervailing effect of people still hesitant about installing a woman in the presidency.

Where it could really help Clinton is if it spurs higher turnout among women -- who tilt Democratic -- and particularly among lower-turnout unmarried and college-educated women -- who tilt much more Democratic.

Here is turnout for unmarried women.

[CHART]

These extra votes won't uniformly go to Clinton as much as the black vote did for Obama -- and we might not ever get a truly accurate first-woman-president polling response -- but they would go a long way toward helping her re-create the so-called "Obama Coalition."

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And if 2008 is any indication, the first-fill-in-the-blank-president thing doesn't exactly hurt among swing voters either -- whether they know it or not.

Bloomberg: “Fake Hillary Clinton and the New Social Media Rules of Truth”

By Emily Greenhouse

February 18, 2015, 9:09 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Fast and loose, in fact and on line.

At 11:45 a.m. on Valentine’s Day, Saturday, Senator Rand Paul tweeted, "Hillary Clinton's new Valentine's Day Pinterest board is worth a look. Check it out and please RT!"

As Paul advertised, the link took people to a Pinterest page purporting to belong to Hillary Clinton. Instead, it had been put together by Paul's camp. There was a "Power Couple" board, with shots of the Clintonian Mr. & Mrs., an "Inspirational Quotes" slot, and—because Paul knows what women like—a "White House remodel" board, with pictures of a heart-shaped pool and a stylish office with a desk resembling a doily. Then there was the holiday card, all in pink: Clinton's face, open-mouthed, with the words "I've Benghazing at you!" in a red heart beside her.

In presidential politics, it’s a fairly rare genuflection toward policing the truth. In 2004, a number of Vietnam War veterans turned against one of their kind. They called themselves the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, and they ran ads, as a tax-exempt 527 group, saying that John Kerry, then a candidate for president, was “no war hero,” that he “lied to get his Bronze Star.” One spot opened with the men stating, solemnly, that they had served with Kerry. But the the New York Times reported, “None of the men served with Mr. Kerry on his Swift boat.”

Swiftboating fast became a verb: a shorthand synonym whose meaning was extended to cover unjust or untrue political attacks, however petty or trivial. In the next presidential election cycle, Barack Obama accused his opponent, John McCain, of engaging in “swift boat politics,” after the McCain campaign accused Obama of sexism for his use of the phrase "lipstick on a pig," claiming the comment referred to vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin. The charges and counter-charges were ugly, but allowed, and it's doubtful that we’d recognize our national politics without mudslinging, misattribution, and misrepresentation. Hyperbole has become the norm—how else could the public be trusted to grasp basic political points? In television and newspaper ads, facts may seem slack, but the spirit is accurate. To someone, at least.

The world of new media is different, in barrier and also in tone. The game is getting in on the meme. The one who wins on Twitter is the fast, the fluid, the so-damn-biting that the mic gets dropped. Much has been made already of Rand Paul’s use of social media; Politico called him “the first true Twitter candidate.” In just the last weeks of January, Paul published a “secret tape” of a fake phone call between Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush, and posted tweets (initially misspelled) showing friendship bracelets exchanged between Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney.

His Valentine’s-themed fake Pinterest page seemed a natural extension of that, the du jour-ness, the jumping on the trend. Swiftboating, maybe, but swiftboating is savvy branding. But Paul hit a dam in the water Sunday when Pinterest deleted Paul’s ‘parody’ account.

The fake Hillary Clinton account, a spokesperson for Pinterest said, violates the company’s acceptable use policy, which makes it impermissible to "impersonate or misrepresent your affiliation with any person or entity.” A site like https://www.pinterest.com/fakebarackobama/ is labeled as a parody, and https://www.pinterest.com/randpaulreview “makes clear that it is administered by someone else.” But not this.

The company representative noted that Pinterest has “disabled other accounts that appear to impersonate individuals and our policies on this are nearly identical to other services.” Twitter and Facebook have similar positions on parody accounts. A spokesperson for Twitter said that the

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social network has disabled accounts claiming to be (or to be affiliated with) politicians, that weren't real.

Which means that so long as Rand Paul is tweeting as Rand Paul, he can keep posting made-up letters and images of friendship bracelets, leaving it to fate or followers to determine whether he's joking. This is an interesting modern condundrum, a hairsplitting of truth—which, we know, is already in short supply in politics. The rule seems to be: falsehood is acceptable, as long as it is uttered by a verifiable human. Possibly, social media networks should streamline their swiftboat policy.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by EMILY's List (AP)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to keynote Irish American Hall of Fame (NYT)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	8/26/2014 1:44:05 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday August 26, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Tuesday August 26, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Rand Paul says he scares Democrats. Should he?"

"'It's pretty funny to see Rand Paul trying to direct Democrats on policy and politics alike,' said Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct The Record, a Clinton-aligned super PAC. 'He's too cute by half, and as a whole, he is too dangerous for our nation.'"

MSNBC: "Potential 2016 contenders flocking to I.A., N.H."

"Hillary Clinton has not made stops to either state…yet."

Huffington Post opinion: Ian Reifowitz: "Dear Hillary: Don't Worry About 'Obama's Third Term' Nonsense -- Run on Progressive Values and Record"

"The most important task for any Democrat is to make an election a choice between the values and record of our party versus that of Republicans."

The Hill: "Sanders weighs Clinton challenge"

"Sen. Bernie Sanders (Vt.) is gearing up for a presidential primary challenge against Hillary Clinton and hopes to capitalize on Democratic concerns over Clinton's coziness with Wall Street banks."

Politico political column: Roger Simon: "Hillary doomed if she's Obama's third term"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"You know who should worry? Hillary Clinton should worry. She has some of the same flaws as Obama."

Washington Post: "O'Malley to send campaign staff to Iowa, N.H. and elsewhere to aid fellow Democrats"

"Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is preparing to dispatch more than two dozen campaign staffers to other states with competitive elections this year, including Iowa and New Hampshire, in his latest move consistent with someone gearing up to run for president."

BuzzFeed: "Martin O'Malley Sends Staffers To Support Campaigns In Iowa, New Hampshire"

"Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley will pay for more than two dozen staffers to work on Democratic campaigns in Iowa, New Hampshire, and several other states ahead of the midterm elections this fall, his spokesperson confirmed Monday."

Articles:

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Rand Paul says he scares Democrats. Should he?"

By Chris Cillizza

August 25, 2014, 2:42 p.m. EDT

Here's Rand Paul on what a 2016 matchup between himself and de facto Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton might look like: "If you wanna see a transformational election in our country, let the Democrats put forward a war hawk like Hillary Clinton, and you'll see a transformation like you've never seen."

While I'm not sure Clinton would describe herself as a "war hawk" she has tended -- as Secretary of State and in the Senate -- to favor more aggressive approaches to international conflicts then those advocated by President Obama or, for that matter, Paul.

Consider:

* Clinton, while in the Senate, voted for the use of force resolution against Iraq in 2002. Obama, spoke out in opposition to it. Paul, who, like Obama, wasn't in the Senate at the time of the vote, has worked to repeal the use of force resolution.

* Clinton supported a larger troop surge in Afghanistan in 2009. Obama chose a smaller one. Paul penned an op-ed -- along with two Democratic Senators -- advocating for a faster withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan than Obama proposed.

* Clinton was a strong voice advocating military intervention in Libya. President Obama eventually sided with her. Paul opposed military intervention.

* Clinton favored more directly and broadly arming Syrian rebels early in the civil war, a move Obama resisted. Paul opposed arming the rebels.

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Given that record, if Clinton and Paul were their party's respective nominees, it seems certain that she would be more hawkish in her approach to nearly every major international conflict than he would be. And that fact alone would be a remarkable turnabout -- given that Republicans have built much of their electoral success over the past three-plus decades around a muscular foreign policy. (It remains to be seen whether Paul's non-interventionist views will be disqualifying for him in the Republican primary fight.)

"It's pretty funny to see Rand Paul trying to direct Democrats on policy and politics alike," said Adrienne Elrod, communications director for Correct The Record, a Clinton-aligned super PAC. "He's too cute by half, and as a whole, he is too dangerous for our nation."

The more intriguing question is whether Paul or Clinton would be closer to where the American public stands on what role the U.S. should play in foreign conflicts.

While there is a natural tendency to assume Clinton's hawkish views would be preferred, there's reason to believe that the cumulative effect of a decade's worth of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq -- wars strong majorities don't believe were worth fighting -- has fundamentally altered how people view the U.S.'s place in the world community.

Take this amazing chart via Wall Street Journal politics editor Aaron Zitner from an April NBC-WSJ poll:

[GRAPH OF HOW INVOLVED THE U.S. SHOULD BE IN WORLD AFFAIRS]

And, the NBC-WSJ poll is far from an outlier. In a January Pew poll, six in ten people said "we should pay less attention to problems overseas and concentrate on problems here at home" while just 35 percent said "it's best for the future of our country to be active in world affairs." A June CBS-New York Times survey showed 58 percent saying that the U.S. should not take a leading role "among all other countries in the world in trying to solve international conflicts" while just 37 percent said America should play a leading role. An August NBC-WSJ poll found that just 35 percent of people were either "very" or "somewhat" satisfied with the U.S.'s role in the world while 62 percent were very or somewhat dissatisfied. Back in late 1995, 52 percent said they were satisfied with the U.S. role while 43 percent said they were not.

Support for the U.S. playing a more narrow role in world affairs tends to run higher among Democrats and independents than it does among Republicans. (See my point above about Paul's challenge in selling his views to Republican primary voters.) Whether the difference between Clinton and Paul on that set of issues would be enough to convince some Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents to vote for him, however, remains to be seen. It's simply too far away to begin predicting what the key issues of the 2016 presidential election will be.

"How things have always been" only holds true until those things change. Remember how America would never elect a black president named Barack Obama? Or how the Senate would never invoke the nuclear option? One day the current prevailing conventional wisdom about what the public wants the U.S. to do -- and be -- internationally may find its way onto that list.

MSNBC: "Potential 2016 contenders flocking to I.A., N.H."

By Lisa Crivelli

August 25, 2014, 7:25 p.m. EDT

If you're not visiting New Hampshire you're not running for president… and Texas Governor Rick Perry made the pilgrimage there this weekend. It was Perry's first visit.

According to a report from NBC News and U.S. News and World Report, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Chris Christie, Paul Ryan, and Marco Rubio have made a combined forty trips to New Hampshire and Iowa. That's four times more than their Democratic counterparts, which include Vice President

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Joe Biden and Brian Schweitzer. Hillary Clinton has not made stops to either state…yet.

Huffington Post opinion: Ian Reifowitz: "Dear Hillary: Don't Worry About 'Obama's Third Term' Nonsense -- Run on Progressive Values and Record"

By Ian Reifowitz, author of "Obama's America: A Transformative Vision of Our National Identity"

August 25, 2014, 5:59 p.m. EDT

Some people just wanna party like it's 2008. There's apparently some "concern" out there among advisers to Hillary Clinton -- all of whom, of course, told CNN they had to remain anonymous -- about Republicans attacking her candidacy (and presumably that of any Democratic nominee) as "Obama's third term."

One of these unnamed advisers predicted that the Republican attack would unfold thusly:

"If you like Obama, you will love Hillary. ... She was in his government, she was at his side. ... That is, the way to go after her is four more years of the same old thing. The question they should ask her is "Tell me 10 things that you disagree with him on."

Now, we don't know whether the Democratic nominee in 2016 -- whomever she or he may be -- will listen to this nonsense. Either way, running away from the Obama administration would be a serious mistake, not to mention being all but impossible for just about any Democrat currently on the horizon. Doing so would divide the party and depress enthusiasm, and thus voter turnout, among President Obama's core supporters in key swing states like Ohio and Florida. Besides, as we saw even as they competed for the Democratic nomination in 2008, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama do agree on the vast majority of issues. Trying to pretend otherwise would be seen as disingenuous at best.

The most important task for any Democrat is to make an election a choice between the values and record of our party versus that of Republicans. When we do that, we win. Period. When it comes to values, Democrats are the party of the 99 percent, Republicans are the party of the 1 percent. We are the party of freedom, justice, and equality for all Americans, no matter who they are. The Republicans? Not so much. We are the party that believes "we're all part of one American family," while the GOP operates from a different principle: "I've got mine, and the rest of you are on your own." If former Secretary Clinton is our party's 2016 nominee for president, she must put these contrasts front and center.

The last three presidents have included two Democrats and a Republican. How'd they do? President Bill Clinton presided over the longest peacetime economic expansion in history, saw 20 million net jobs created during his eight years, and, thanks in large part to a 1993 budget deal passed with only Democratic votes in Congress, turned huge deficits into the first run of federal budget surpluses in decades.

George W. Bush turned these surpluses -- which the Congressional Budget Office predicted would come to over $800 billion per year from 2009 to 2012 -- into massive deficits. Additionally, he created all of about 1 million net jobs in eight years, and that thanks only to an increase in government jobs. The private sector actually lost jobs during the eight years of his presidency.

In his last year, George W. Bush's economy tanked. It crashed. Our economy was as bad as it's been at any point since the Great Depression. Barack Obama came in and stabilized the situation. Fighting against almost universal Republican opposition, his policies reversed the collapse, and we've been growing slowly but steadily since. Even after losing millions of jobs in its first months, his administration has seen overall job growth exceed 5 million in just five-and-a-half years.

Unemployment is down. Median income, after falling hard thanks to the crash, has rebounded in the last three years. The economy has grown for the most part over the past five years, while the deficit has fallen dramatically. The stock market has more than doubled off the low point reached just after President Obama took office. Assuming these trends continue over the next two years, the Obama record will be one to run on in 2016, and that includes Obamacare.

The American people have watched for the better part of three decades as Democratic presidents have performed better for our country than have Republicans. President Obama, in particular, has had to clean up the messes left at home and abroad by George W. Bush, a president who

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inherited a very strong country from Bill Clinton.

There's no question that Hillary Clinton will also have to run on her own individual vision, her own talents, experience, and personal qualities. Absolutely. But rather than listen to the advice of some "unnamed" supporters and run away from the Obama record, former Secretary Clinton should absolutely highlight it, along with that of her husband, as a record of Democratic success.

In 1988, Michael Dukakis unfortunately tried to run a campaign that was "not about ideology, it's about competence." In 2016, however, the Democratic candidate for president would only benefit by emphasizing ideology, by contrasting what Democrats believe to the beliefs of a Republican party that, whoever is its nominee, is dominated by extreme right, by the tea party. Our policy positions -- even now, when President Obama's ratings are not what they were two years ago -- are more popular than those of the Republicans. Those positions reflect our values, as does the record of the last two Democratic presidents. Any Democrat running in 2016 should enthusiastically embrace them.

The Hill: "Sanders weighs Clinton challenge"

By Alexander Bolton

August 26, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Sen. Bernie Sanders (Vt.) is gearing up for a presidential primary challenge against Hillary Clinton and hopes to capitalize on Democratic concerns over Clinton's coziness with Wall Street banks.

Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Senate Democrats, plans to travel to two crucial presidential battleground states next month.

He will speak at an AFL-CIO breakfast hosted in Manchester, New Hampshire, over Labor Day weekend and then travel to Iowa in mid September, when Clinton will be there building support for her own 2016 campaign.

Sanders plans to return to New Hampshire, which neighbors his home state, on Sept. 27 to speak at the Stafford County Democrats annual dinner near Durham, according to his staff.

"I'll be going to New Hampshire and I'll be going to Iowa. That's part of my trying to ascertain the kind of support that exists for a presidential run," he said Monday in an interview.

Sanders has not said whether he will run as an independent or a Democrat.

He has served as an independent during his entire career in Congress. This lack of affiliation allows him to distance himself from both parties and the low approval ratings they have as a result of years of squabbling.

But a non-partisan bid would force Sanders to raise millions of dollars to overcome the hurdles various states have erected to make it harder for independent candidates to get their names on the ballot.

Running as a Democrat would give Sanders higher visibility by allowing him to participate in the early primary debates.

Sanders will hold a series of town-hall meetings in Dubuque, Waterloo and Des Moines on Sept. 13 and 14, according to his staff. Clinton will be in Iowa the same weekend to attend a steak fry hosted by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa).

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This week, Sanders will visit South Carolina, the host of another important contest early on the 2016 presidential primary calendar, to speak at an event sponsored by Progressive Voters of America, South Forward and the South Carolina Progressive Network.

Many liberals have raised questions about Clinton's stance on regulating Wall Street banks and expanding Social Security, but Sanders has so far declined to take shots at the presumed Democratic presidential frontrunner.

"I don't want to speak about other people," he said.

Instead, Sanders will push his agenda, which calls for a "massive jobs program," raising the minimum wage, changing the nation's trade policies, programs to make childcare and college education more affordable, and subsidized healthcare.

Democratic strategists say there is room for a candidate to challenge Clinton from the left in 2016.

"Hillary Clinton has a lot of progressive positions on issues and she herself may move in a more populist direction but she also has lots of ties to big money, she has lots of ties to Wall Street," said Mike Lux, a Democratic strategist. "She has been very reluctant to criticize Wall Street on a lot of things.

"Absolutely there's room on the populist left for someone to run against her," he added.

Democratic strategists say it is far too early to say whether Sanders will emerge as the primary liberal challenger to Clinton.

They say it's possible that other candidates, including Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) or Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, may emerge as the leading alternative.

Liberal advocates say there are many questions about Clinton's policy stances. She has stayed relatively quiet about domestic issues since retiring from the Senate in 2008.

"I would like to know more about where she stands. The world has changed a lot since her husband was president and she hasn't had to deal with domestic issues since she was in the U.S. Senate," said Roger Hickey, co-director of Campaign for America's Future. "The questions I would like her debate and discuss is what do we do with this banking system that is a problem for the real economy.

"Do we continue to deregulate the way her husband did or do we break up the banks and make them less powerful?" he said.

Democratic activists acknowledge that Sanders is unlikely to present a serious threat to Clinton but they are happy to see him jump in the race because they want a vigorous debate over Wall Street.

Warren has emerged as the leading Democratic voice on Wall Street reform but she insists that she does not plan to run for president.

"The big question that most progressives have for Hillary is, 'Where is she now compared to the past?'" said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America, a liberal advocacy group. "In the past she sided with the Wall Street wing of the party. The reality is that the corporate, Wall Street wing of the Democratic Party is going away.

"The future of our party is the Warren wing, which is fighting to break up the big banks, expand Social Security and fighting economic inequality," he said.

Liberal Democrats hope a challenge from Sanders or another populist candidate will force Clinton to move to the left on financial regulations, corporate tax reform and expanding Social Security.

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Politico political column: Roger Simon: "Hillary doomed if she's Obama's third term"

By Roger Simon

August 26, 2014, 5:05 a.m. EDT

When Barack Obama was first elected to the presidency, he asked David Axelrod to leave Chicago and come to the White House with him. Axelrod would be a senior adviser, a powerful position where he could craft both policy and the president's message.

But Axelrod hesitated.

Though he was often credited with being a calming influence in the fractious world of high-stakes politics, there was one thing Axelrod held dear: the ability to tell his boss off when his boss needed telling off.

And when you're president, Axelrod told Obama, I won't be able to tell you off.

Obama thought about it.

Yes, you still can tell me off, Obama told Axelrod. As long as you do it in private.

Axelrod went to the White House in January 2009 and left in January 2011. And today I wonder if there is anyone in the West Wing who has the valor and the vigor to occasionally tell the president off.

Was there anyone who said last week, "Uh, the golf thing, Mr. President? Maybe delay it a couple of days? So it doesn't come minutes after you tell the nation how 'heartbroken' you are over a beheaded journalist. Maybe go hiking? Sit on a rock, commune with nature, that kind of thing?"

Instead, the president swiftly changed into his golf togs, grabbed his bag and, as one wit put it, introduced the nation to his new doctrine: "Speak softly and carry a Big Bertha."

Even the civil unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, following the slaying of an unarmed black teenager by a white police officer, did not keep Obama off the links. As much as the White House says the president is always connected to his job no matter where he is — which is technically true — golf is clearly a world where the president goes to clear his mind and think other thoughts.

Don Van Natta, who has written a history of presidents and golfing, wrote for ESPN The Magazine in 2012 that Obama's wife, Michelle, "nudged him onto the links, hoping he would trade his smashmouth brand of pickup basketball for the more gentlemanly game of golf. Now Obama sees the game as his only chance to just wander around."

But there are better times to wander than others. Especially while playing a game associated with the 1 percent, not the people working two jobs to make a living wage.

Still, Obama played on. And even though he talked about Ferguson during a brief news conference, he wanted to keep it at arm's length. "I've got to make sure that I don't look like I'm putting my thumb on the scales one way or the other," Obama said.

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So Eric Holder, his attorney general, was left to express the kind of sentiments that Barack Obama used to express. It was Holder who went to Missouri and talked about being hassled by police as a young man and the kind of smoldering anger and mistrust that builds in black America.

“I understand that mistrust. I am the attorney general of the United States. But I am also a black man,” Holder said.

And it was Holder in 2009, in his first major speech after being confirmed, who said: “Though this nation has proudly thought of itself as an ethnic melting pot, in things racial we have always been and continue to be, in too many ways, essentially a nation of cowards.”

Holder called for a “national conversation” on race not because such a conversation would be easy, but because it was necessary to America’s future.

President Obama wanted no part of it. In 2012, after Trayvon Martin, another unarmed black teenager was shot and killed, Obama said it was not “particularly productive when politicians try to organize conversations” on race.

But how does he know? When did he try it?

There appears to be nobody working for him who both disagrees with him and is willing to tell him so. Instead, we are left with a president who seems wrapped in his aloofness as a protective blanket to keep the outside from getting in.

He may not care about the “optics” of all this. He’s got his two terms and his big legacy item: national health care.

So why should he worry? You know who should worry? Hillary Clinton should worry.

She has some of the same flaws as Obama. She can project a chilly public personality, a remoteness, a reserve and a detachment from ordinary people.

And the Republicans see their opportunity. They already have their 2016 theme:

“She may be riding high right now, but people may decide against having another four years of this kind of governing,” Rep. Paul Ryan, the Republican vice presidential nominee in 2012, said recently.

The candidate at the top of the GOP ticket backed him up. “Our party has to come together or we will continue with a third term of Barack Obama,” Mitt Romney warned.

It is easier to imagine Clinton losing the presidency in 2016 than to imagine exactly whom she would lose to. The Republican field has a very few candidates capable of winning a general election and a gaggle of far right-wingers who cannot.

Still, Clinton must connect with voters and sell her vision of America — which thus far she has kept largely to herself — in order to win.

And even if she does that, she is not a sure thing: If she can be labeled as Obama’s third term, she can be beaten.

That’s because I don’t think there are too many people who want an Obama third term. Not even Obama.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Washington Post: "O'Malley to send campaign staff to Iowa, N.H. and elsewhere to aid fellow Democrats"

By John Wagner

August 25, 2014, 4:27 p.m. EDT

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is preparing to dispatch more than two dozen campaign staffers to other states with competitive elections this year, including Iowa and New Hampshire, in his latest move consistent with someone gearing up to run for president.

O'Malley (D), who has said he is seriously considering a 2016 White House bid, plans to meet Friday with members of the group, who will be sent by his political action committee to states with gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races in the fall, aides said.

O'Malley spokeswoman Lis Smith confirmed the governor's plans but offered few specifics and declined to share the states to which the staffers will be sent, beyond Iowa and New Hampshire. Both states have gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races on the fall ballot.

Smith characterized the plans as part of O'Malley's ongoing effort to assist Democrats across the country win 2014 elections.

"The governor is doing everything he can to elect more Democrats, and this is part of that," she said.

Over the past two years, O'Malley's PAC has made more than $230,000 in contributions to Democratic candidates and committees, according to campaign finance records. O'Malley has also hosted more than dozen fundraisers for fellow Democrats, aides said.

And he has appeared in more than two dozen states at party dinners and other events. Those include multiple events in both Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two states with presidential nominating contests.

O'Malley's political activities have far exceeded those of other Democrats considering a 2016 run but have been overshadowed by speculation about whether Hillary Rodham Clinton will enter the race.

The tactic of paying for campaign staff in other states prior to a presidential year is one that has been employed by other White House hopefuls in past cycles.

Smith declined to discuss the staffers that O'Malley's PAC has hired for the upcoming field work, which will focus on getting sympathetic voters to the polls.

O'Malley has long believed in the importance of that kind of campaign work. In 1984, he worked in Iowa as field organizer for presidential candidate Gary Hart.

BuzzFeed: "Martin O'Malley Sends Staffers To Support Campaigns In Iowa, New Hampshire"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Ruby Cramer

August 25, 2014, 8:27 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The Maryland governor is the only Democrat sending people out this year. A way to build favor in early-voting states ahead of 2016.

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley will pay for more than two dozen staffers to work on Democratic campaigns in Iowa, New Hampshire, and several other states ahead of the midterm elections this fall, his spokesperson confirmed Monday.

The move to dispatch campaign workers, first reported by the Washington Post, signals the extent to which O'Malley is pursuing a possible White House bid.

The governor's spokesperson, Lis Smith, would not discuss details about how many staffers would travel to which states. But she said the staffers would be helping Senate and gubernatorial campaigns across the country, including those races in Iowa and New Hampshire, the states that host the first caucuses and primary.

The staffers, Smith said, will be paid for by O'Malley's political action committee, O'Say Can You See, also called O'PAC.

Politicians considering a national run will often send money or manpower to early-voting states during the election cycle before a presidential race. In 2006, before Democrats' last open primary, workers paid by former Democratic Sens. John Edwards and Evan Bayh, for example, hit New Hampshire and Iowa.

But this year, O'Malley is the only known Democrat providing such support.

Raymond Buckley, chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, said he had no knowledge of plans for other Democrats to engage in races in his state.

He hadn't heard of O'Malley's intentions to send staffers until Monday, he said.

Ready for Hillary, a super PAC preparing for a possible Hillary Clinton campaign, has been set up in primary states for the last year. The group made its first organizing trip to Iowa last January. But Clinton herself has yet to engage in midterm races. She is scheduled to appear in Iowa at Sen. Tom Harkin's annual steak fry next month.

O'Malley will finish his second and last term as governor in January. He has spent much of the last year traveling on behalf of Democrats, while putting together what he has called "the framework" for a possible presidential campaign.

The campaign workers will meet with O'Malley on Friday and will dispatch to states "imminently," Smith said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

- August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)
- September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)
- September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)
- September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)
- October ? – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (The Hill)
- October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Hudson Institute" <events@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	9/3/2015 10:00:04 AM
Subject:	Upcoming Events: U.S.-China Strategy, India-Pakistan Relations, IAEA and the Iran Deal, and more

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
	"Lily Adams" <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/17/2015 5:29:53 PM
Subject:	RE: HRC did great

For awareness (or tweeting), here's a quick little snapshot Iowa put together that's up on the Briefing: https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/updates/2015/07/17/idp-hof/

We will also be putting up a part of the riff on women, but had some technical issues, so will get it up tomorrow when more people are watching.

-----Original Message-----
From: Tony Carrk [mailto:tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 11:20 PM
To: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: RE: HRC did great

Good job on not getting CSPAN hot mic'ed yet.

-----Original Message-----
From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 11:04 PM
To: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: RE: HRC did great

Webb said he wouldn't have voted for war in Iraq, wouldn't have authorized the intervention in Libya and will not support Iran having any possibility of getting a nuclear weapon.

He didn't name us, and the first two things are not inaccurate, so I don't think it's worth putting anything out, but just flagging.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:49 PM
To: Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri

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<jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Subject: Re: HRC did great

Interesting that Bernie is making a big play on AA and Latino issues -- and getting good reaction,

Huge applause on Citizens United.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

> On Jul 17, 2015, at 10:40 PM, Lily Adams <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>
> wrote:
>
> Oh my mistake. He seems hoarse.
>
>
> ---------
> Lily Adams
> cell: (202) 368-4013
>
>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:39 PM, Christina Reynolds
>> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>
>> I think he meant Bernie shouting at the crowd. It feels awkward on TV.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Lily Adams [mailto:ladams@hillaryclinton.com]
>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:38 PM
>> To: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>> Cc: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Christina
>> Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook
>> <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin
>> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
>> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>
>> It's from one corner of the room where his tables are
>>
>>
>> ---------
>> Lily Adams
>> cell: (202) 368-4013
>>

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>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:36 PM, Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> wrote:
>>>
>>> How is the shouting in the room?
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:32 PM
>>> To: Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin
>>> <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Kristina Schake
>>> <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Tony
>>> Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>>
>>> Bernie is up.
>>>
>>> It's really like listening to Robby.
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:20 PM, Christina Reynolds
>>>> <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Worth noting:
>>>> @Lis_Smith
>>>> BIG THEME of @MartinOMalley's speech tonight: Actions, not Words.
>>>> As progressives, we need someone who can get. things. done.
>>>>
>>>> -----Original Message-----
>>>> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
>>>> Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 10:16 PM
>>>> To: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>> Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; John Podesta
>>>> <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan
>>>> <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; creynolds@hillaryclinton.com;
>>>> Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Nick Merrill
>>>> <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>; Lily Adams
>>>> <ladams@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>;
>>>> Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Jim Margolis
>>>> <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>> Subject: Re: HRC did great
>>>>
>>>> Not yet. O'Malley is speaking now.
>>>>
>>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>>
>>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 9:14 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
>>>>> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Fantastic. Any incoming from the others?

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>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>>> On Jul 17, 2015, at 10:13 PM, Jennifer Palmieri
>>>>>> <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Passionate, great response in the room.
>>>>>>
>>>>>> Sent from my iPhone

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 11:23:29 AM
Subject: Re: FW: HRC Iran statement

Thanks Stu. I need to grapple with some of these edits, which go beyond where I might suggest she go at this point. Others are very well taken. Let me give it another crack and come back to you.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 6:14 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Dan and Jake,

Here is a cleaner version. Something happened with the one I just sent that left gaps in the sentences.

Stu

From: Eizenstat, Stuart
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 6:09 PM
To: 'Daniel Kurtz-Phelan'
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com)
Subject: RE: HRC Iran statement

Dear Dan and Jake,

I am sorry for the delay, but I only landed this morning from Israel via JFK. Please see my comments below. Of course, we do not know the details at this time.

Stu

From: Daniel Kurtz-Phelan [mailto:dkurtzphelan@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2015 8:52 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: Jake Sullivan
Subject: HRC Iran statement

Dear Stu,

Jake asked that I share with you the current draft of HRC's statement on the Iran deal. It's pasted below. Some of this could of course change depending on the details of a final agreement, but it would be great to have your feedback at this stage,

Many thanks,

Dan

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**

I applaud President Obama and Secretary Kerry for securing a nuclear agreement that offers the strongest chance to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this deal will make the United States, Israel, our Arab partners, and the region safer and more secure than if there were no agreement.

At the same time, there are aspects of the agreement that are a cause for concern, and a basis for special diligence. has not been required to answer questions about the Possible Military Dimensions (PMD), including allowing the IAEA to inspect sites, interview key scientists and officials, and review documents that would shed light on their past and current PMD activities. In addition, clarity is required on what limits are imposed during the term of the agreement and thereafter to preclude Iran's work on advanced centrifuges. It is also critical that sanctions relief must come only when Iran has demonstrates to the satisfaction of the IAEA that they have complied with their obligations. Sanctions for terrorism and other non-nuclear sanctions must remain in place. I I want to make sure as President that any violation of the agreement by Iran would trigger a reimposition of sanctions, without an Iranian veto over the findings, and in ways that assure the US can act if we feel there is a violation. Most important is monitoring and verification. The IAEA inspectors must have timely and effective access to all sites in Iran, including military sites. It is unclear if this is the case.

Despite these concerns, it is critical in assessing this agreement to ask what alternatives exist. We already have in place the most effective, broad-based sanctions ever imposed on a country in peacetime. While they have brought Iran to the negotiating table, they have not stopped the continued expansion of their nuclear program. It is difficult to see what other sanctions would lead to greater Iranian concessions. Without an agreement, there would be no two-thirds reduction in their number of centrifuges; no dismantlement of their plutonium plant at Arak; no 24/IAEA inspections; no dilution of their 20% enriched uranium. Their capacity to "break-out: would be far more likely without this agreement, than with it. We also have to consider it we could maintain the partnership with the European Union, which has made the sanctions most effective.

Today's agreement is the culmination of an effective strategy executed over many years. By the end of the Bush administration, Iran was rapidly expanding its nuclear centrifuge capacity despite unilateral American sanctions and ineffective saber rattling. The Obama administration took a different approach, working with Congress and our allies and partners around the world. As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms – especially in Moscow and Beijing – to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history against Tehran. That unprecedented pressure shattered Iran's economy, halted the progress of its nuclear program (NB. BE CAREFUL THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGES AND AMOUNT OF ENRICHED URANIUM SINCE OBAMA TOOK OFFICE), and forced its leaders to the table to negotiate a deal that puts a nuclear weapon out of reach.

As President, I will use every tool in our arsenal to compel rigorous Iranian compliance. The response to any violation will be clear, immediate, and devastating -- starting with the return of sanctions but taking no options off the table, including, if necessary, the use of force. The message to Iran must be loud and clear: We will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; we will never allow you permit you to produce sufficient fissile material or otherwise acquire it, sufficient for a nuclear weapons; not just during the term of this agreement – never.

Going forward, we have to be clear-eyed when it comes to the broader threat Iran represents. Even with an agreement that limits its nuclear ambitions, Iran still poses a direct challenge to the United States and our allies, especially Israel. The funds it will receive with sanctions relief will provide billions of dollars more for Iran to use to support terrorism. It continues to destabilize countries from Yemen to Lebanon, while exacerbating conflict in Syria. And it fuels terrorism throughout the region and beyond, including through direct support to Hamas and Hizballah. We have to aggressively oppose and raise the costs for Iran's destabilizing activities, insist on the return of U.S. citizens being held by the Iranian government, and strengthen cooperation with our allies and partners. This agreement under my Administration will not see this agreement as the beginning of an American-Iranian partnership. Our allies in the Middle East deserve to have this assurance, and they will have it if I am elected President.

Israel should be confident that now and in a Hillary Clinton Administration, the United States will always defend its security and ensure its military edge in the region. Our two countries have to be on the same page when it comes to the threat posed by Iran, so I would invite the senior Israeli leadership to Washington for early talks on further strengthening our crucial alliance. I will provide Israel with all the military means it requires to defend itself against an Iranian threat, and support its actions to defend itself. We should also deepen our security relationship with Arab partners who are threatened by Iran's ambitions.

Ultimately, this agreement is the best way to protect our country and our allies. To walk away from a deal that will stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, or to bomb Iran as long an agreement offers an alternative, [as some Republican candidates for President suggest,] would be both dangerous and shortsighted – fracturing our global coalition, raising the risk of regional war, and ultimately bringing Iran closer to a nuclear weapon.

So we should proceed with wisdom and strength in implementing a deal born out of effective diplomacy and strong American leadership.

**

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/8/2015 12:40:04 AM
Subject:	News Clips 5.8.15
Attachments:	H4A Clips 5.8.15.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 8, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Yesterday a federal appeals court ruled the NSA phone data collection illegal and Hillary Clinton along with the White House endorsed a bill that would scale back NSA mass surveillance.

The Senate voted overwhelmingly Thursday to approve legislation allowing Congress to review a nuclear deal with Iran in a 98-1 vote. Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) was the only Senator in attendee to oppose.

The State Department says it has no plans to review previously undisclosed donations to a branch of the Clinton Foundation.

Yesterday a poll was released from Quinnipiac University found that with 60 percent of the vote among Iowa likely Democratic Caucus participants, Hillary Clinton has an early lock on the first-in-the-nation presidential test, apparently undamaged by a nationwide flood of negative publicity.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

Last night there was no 2016 election coverage. The three major news outlets instead covered ISIS followers in the US, Wednesday evening's severe weather in Oklahoma and Patriots Super bowl quasi-scandal: Deflategate.

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TODAY’S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton endorses NSA reform bill // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald - May 7, 2015

On the same day a federal court ruled against the National Security Agency’s bulk collection of telephone data,

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Hillary Clinton joined the White House in endorsing a bill to roll back mass surveillance.

“Congress should move ahead now with the USA Freedom Act — a good step forward in ongoing efforts to protect our security & civil liberties,” Clinton wrote on Twitter Thursday.

The USA Freedom Act would end the NSA’s bulk collection of data under the Patriot Act’s controversial Section 215. The section is set to expire June 1 unless Congress takes action, and momentum is building around the rollback measure.

The bill passed the House Judiciary Committee with a lopsided 25-2 vote, while a Senate version was recently introduced by a bipartisan group of lawmakers, led by libertarian Republican Mike Lee and senior Democrat Patrick Leahy.

However, a similar bill failed in Congress last year and opposition from hawkish Republicans in the Senate will likely force supporters to secure at least 60 votes as a means of overcoming a filibuster.

The White House also threw its support behind the bill this week. White House press secretary Josh Earnest has called bill “commonsense” reform and wrote on Twitter Thursday that President Obama thinks “Congress shld pass USA Freedom Act.”

Some civil libertarians say the bill doesn’t go nearly far enough, however, claiming that it only scratches the surface.

Earlier Thursday, a federal court in New York ruled that the NSA’s bulk data collection under Section 215 is illegal. It was the first such ruling and could set an important precedent.

Clinton left the State Department before NSA leaker Edward Snowden made the agency’s snooping a major political issue. But she has been asked about bulk collection since and tried to find a balance between defending the agency’s work and acknowledging the concerns of many Americans, especially in the Democratic base.

In April of last year, Clinton said Snowden’s leaks likely helped — “intentionally or unintentionally” — terror groups. “I have a hard time thinking that somebody who is a champion of privacy and liberty has taken refuge in Russia, under Putin’s authority,” she added, referring to Snowden.

When asked about the NSA during an appearance in Silicon Valley this year, Clinton called for reform. “Well, I think the NSA needs to be more transparent about what it is doing, sharing with the American people, which it wasn’t. And I think a lot of the reaction about the NSA, people felt betrayed,” she told Re/Code’s Kara Swisher at a tech conference.

Senate overwhelmingly approves Iran review bill in 98-1 vote // The Hill // Jordain Carney – May 7, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The Senate voted overwhelmingly Thursday to approve legislation allowing Congress to review a nuclear deal with Iran in a 98-1 vote.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) was the only senator to oppose the bill. He said in a statement that he objected that the deal was not to be presented to the Congress as a treaty.

"A nuclear-arms agreement with any adversary—especially the terror-sponsoring, Islamist Iranian regime—should be submitted as a treaty and obtain a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate as required by the Constitution," he said.

The Senate bill would require a competed deal to be submitted to Congress, which could then vote to approve or disapprove the nuclear deal within 30 days. Sanctions on Iran could not be lifted during this consideration.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), after the vote, suggested that passage of the bill allows Congress to take "power back" from President Obama. He also said it ensures the Congress will play "an appropriate role" in the nuclear talks.

Passage of the legislation clears the way for U.S. negotiators to continue to work on a nuclear deal with Iran ahead of a June 30 deadline with little fear of interference from Congress. Negotiators reached a framework agreement in April.

A vote to disapprove a nuclear deal with Iran would not kill it. President Obama could veto such a measure, and the House and Senate would then need two-thirds majorities to override his veto.

The administration initially opposed the legislation, arguing it could interfere with negotiations with Iran. The White House changed course after it became clear that the bill had strong support from Democrats.

The legislation will now move to the House. Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) suggested that passing the legislation would allow House lawmakers to "hold President Obama's administration accountable."

"This important, bipartisan legislation will ensure that Congress has a role in reviewing any potential agreement regarding Iran's nuclear weapons program," he said. "I applaud the Senate for passing this bill, and thank Sen. Bob Corker and others for their hard work. I look forward to House passage of this bill to hold President Obama's administration accountable."

The White House indicated it would sign the bill, as long as it is not changed with amendments opposed by the administration in the House.

"The president said he would sign it in its current form. The president also made clear if amendments were added to that bill that would endanger a deal coming together that prevented Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon that we would oppose it," White House spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters traveling on Air Force One.

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Ahead of the vote, several Republicans ripped the legislation negotiated by Corker and Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.), the ranking member on his panel.

Republicans also expressed frustrations that they could not offer more amendments to the bill.

Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) filed a motion to end debate after Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Cotton tried to force a vote on an amendment requiring Iran to recognize Israel's right to exist as part of a final deal.

The move was a reversal of the open amendment process Republican leadership pledged to bring to the Senate.

McConnell said Thursday that he would have preferred that amendments be added to the bill, but that it might have invited a presidential veto.

“If we didn’t face the threats of filibusters, or the blocking of amendments, or the specter of presidential vetoes, this bill would be a heck of a lot stronger. I assure you,: he said. “But the truth is, we do. That’s the frustrating reality.”

Rubio slammed the decision not to allow his amendment requiring Iran to support Israel as part of a deal to come up for a vote, saying that some senators are "terrified" of voting against it.

"Apparently there are senators terrified of voting against that amendment, so they'd rather not have a vote at all. So I am deeply disappointed by the direction this has taken," he said.

But, he added that he would support the final bill, suggesting that it was better than nothing.

"At a minimum at least it creates a process whereby the American people through their representatives can debate an issue of extraordinary importance," he said. "So I hope this bill passes here today so at least we'll have a chance to weigh in."

Rubio's remarks separate him from his presidential rival Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) who said on Wednesday that the legislation is a "bad bill."

But Cruz voted in favor of the bill after voting against ending debate on it.

“I voted no on cloture because we should have insisted on amendments to put real teeth in this bill," the Texas Republican said. "Ultimately, I voted yes on final passage because it may delay, slightly, President Obama's ability to lift the Iran sanctions and it ensures we will have a Congressional debate on the merits of the Iran deal."

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Cruz was joined in voting against ending debate by fellow GOP Sens. Charles Grassley (Iowa), Tom Cotton (Ark.), Jerry Moran (Kansas), Mike Lee (Utah) and Dan Sullivan (Alaska).

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) was absent for the vote.

The legislation has been a source of tension between congressional Democrats and the White House. Cardin, acknowledging that the hurdles he and Corker have had to overcome with the legislation, told reporters that "very few of you thought we would get a 98-1 vote on the floor of United States Senate, but we did."

This story was updated at 4:37 p.m.

State Department Plans No Review of Clinton Foundation Donations // AP // Matthew Lee - May 7, 2015

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The State Department says it has no plans to review previously undisclosed donations to a branch of the Clinton Foundation.

Some say the unreported private donations to the Clinton Health Access Initiative raise questions about potential conflicts of interest during former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's time in office.

But State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said Thursday that private contributions would not have been reviewed even if they had all been disclosed under the terms of ethics agreements Clinton signed before she took office. Only donations from foreign governments were subject to vetting.

Rathke said the department is aware of no evidence to support allegations of wrongdoing and would not "make a retroactive judgment about items that were not submitted" during Clinton's tenure.

What Trouble? Clinton Has Early Lock On Iowa Caucus, Quinnipiac University Poll Finds; Sanders, Biden Are Only Dems Over 3% // Quinnipiac University - May 7, 2015

With 60 percent of the vote among Iowa likely Democratic Caucus participants, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has an early lock on the first-in-the-nation presidential test, apparently undamaged by a nationwide flood of negative publicity, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 61 percent Clinton showing in Iowa in a February 26 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont has 15 percent among Democrats, with 11 percent for Vice President Joseph Biden and 3 percent each for former U.S. Sen. James Webb of Virginia and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. Another 7 percent are undecided.

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Clinton and Biden each get 7 percent on the "no way" list when likely Democratic Caucus participants name a candidate they would "definitely not support." Sanders gets 6 percent.

Iowa Democrats say 76 - 17 percent that Clinton is honest and trustworthy, with Biden at 84 - 10 percent.

"One thing is obvious about Iowa Democratic Caucus participants: They are loyal as the day is long, at least when it comes to Hillary Clinton," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. "The former secretary of state has taken a major pounding in the news media and from her political opponents over her e-mail and family foundation. So far these criticisms have had absolutely no effect on her standing among Iowa Democrats.

"One other thing is slightly less obvious but interesting: By more than four-to-one, 76 - 17 percent, Iowa caucus-goers say Clinton is honest and trustworthy."

"When Quinnipiac University surveyed all Iowa voters last month, it found 49 - 43 percent they saw her as not honest and trustworthy. When it comes to analyzing Clinton's 2016 standing, it is important to keep straight who is talking," Brown added.

Iowa likely Democratic Caucus participants have an 83 - 11 percent favorable opinion of Clinton. Her positions on the issues are "about right," 70 percent of Democrats say. Likely caucus participants also say 93 - 6 percent that she has strong leadership qualities and 83 - 13 percent that she cares about their needs and problems.

Biden gets a 79 - 15 percent favorability rating from Iowa Democrats. His positions on the issues are "about right," 75 percent say. Democrats say 76 - 19 percent that he has strong leadership qualities and 85 - 10 percent that he cares about their needs and problems.

"Four in 10 Iowa likely Democratic Caucus participants aren't convinced about Clinton, but there is no candidate who appears to have the political and financial resources at this time to successfully take her on," Brown said. "Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont finished second in the caucus-goer poll, but that may reflect the news he was going to make the race, much of which occurred while this poll was being taken.

"Vice President Joseph Biden also makes it into double-digits, barely. Absent a change of events, numbers like those from Democratic core voters in Iowa make a strong statement: There may be a lot of talk about what Bill and Hillary Clinton have done since he left the presidency, but nothing has penetrated her base of support."

In fact, former President Bill Clinton scores an 87 - 10 percent favorability rating from Iowa likely Democratic Caucus participants, compared to President Barack Obama's 86 - 11 percent favorability.

From April 25 - May 4, Quinnipiac University surveyed 692 likely Iowa Democratic Caucus participants with a margin of error of +/- 3.7 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in

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Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

Hillary Clinton says 'not one' GOP presidential contender backs path to citizenship // Politifact // Louis Jacobson - May 7, 2015

During a visit to a school in Nevada, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton positioned herself as an uncompromising advocate for immigration -- and in the process, she took a shot at the Republican presidential field for not joining her.

"This is where I differ with everybody on the Republican side," Clinton said during the May 5, 2015, event. "Make no mistake: Not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential, is clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship. Not one. When they talk about legal status, that is code for second-class status."

We wondered whether Clinton was correct. So we took a look closer look at where the GOP field stands on the issue.

We'll start by noting that Clinton made some careful word choices here.

First, she explicitly distinguishes between eventual "citizenship" and a grant of "legal status." While those concepts are similar, they are not identical. Perhaps the biggest difference between the two is that citizens would be able to vote, while people with legalized status would not.

Second, Clinton emphasized that she's referring to Republican candidates who have "clearly and consistently" articulated support for a path to citizenship. That means she is discounting those who may have said they support citizenship on one or two occasions but have since stopped saying it or have said other things that would seem to undermine their commitment to that position.

We found that the other Republican candidates and potential candidates generally fell into one of three categories.

1. Those who unambiguously support a path to citizenship

We quickly found one exception to Clinton's formulation: Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who isn't officially in the race but has said he's likely to run.

Graham -- who had been a leading Republican supporter of the "Gang of Eight" immigration legislation that passed the Senate but died in the House -- "has been clear about … his support for a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants that includes registering with the government, paying fines, learning English and undergoing background checks," Brittany Bramell, spokesperson for Security Through Strength, a pro-Graham group.

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2. Those who have never supported a path to citizenship

Some GOP candidates or potential candidates do not appear to have ever explicitly articulated support for a path for citizenship. This list includes Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, former CEO Carly Fiorina, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania.

3. Those who have expressed support for a path to citizenship but have since reversed themselves or expressed ambiguous views.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. In 2013, Walker was asked by the Wausau Daily Herald, "Can you envision a world where, with the right penalties and waiting periods and meet the requirements, where those people could get citizenship?" He answered, "Sure. Yeah. I mean, I think it makes sense."

But in February 2015, Walker backed away from that stance, first on ABC's This Week and then, on March 1, 2015, in an interview with Fox News Sunday, when he said, "My view has changed. I'm flat out saying it. … Candidates can say that. Sometimes they don't." When Fox's Chris Wallace asked, "So, you've changed from 2013?" Walker said, "Absolutely."

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Huckabee seemed to support citizenship during a book tour in January 2015. "I don't believe that it is a just thing to punish someone who had nothing to do with the breaking of the law. What I want to do is see what can we do to put that person in a position where they do abide by the law and become a citizen," Huckabee said. "I would like that person to become a very generous tax-paying citizen rather than somebody who is going to take taxes away from the rest of us."

However, this does not go as far as Clinton's position, and on other occasions, Huckabee has framed himself more of a critic of immigration. "A country that does not have secure borders is really not a country anymore," he said at the Iowa Agricultural Summit in March 2015.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. In 2010, Christie said on ABC's This Week that "the president and the Congress have to step up to the plate. They have to secure our borders, and they have to put forward a commonsense path to citizenship for people." But appearing on This Week in 2013, Christie sidestepped repeated questions about whether he still held the same view, saying, "I don't get to make those determinations."

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal. Jindal wrote in 2013 that "for folks who came here illegally but are willing to gain proficiency in English, pay a fine, and demonstrate a willingness to assimilate, we should require them to work here and pay taxes for a substantial period of time after obtaining legal status before they have the opportunity to begin the process of applying for U.S. citizenship." However, Jindal opposed the Senate bill that would have created a path to citizenship.

Physician Ben Carson. Carson has been widely quoted in the conservative media saying he would "of course allow (illegal immigrants) to have a pathway to citizenship. That's the only humane and reasonable thing to do." However, the time and place of that comment is not clear. It does get some support from this passage in Carson's 2012 book, America the Beautiful: "Is it moral for us, for example, to take advantage of cheap labor from illegal immigrants while denying them citizenship? I'm sure you can tell from the way I phrased the question that I believe we have taken the moral low road on this issue."

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However, since he's become a presidential candidate, Carson has articulated his position on immigration without referring to a path for citizenship, notably in a column for the National Review.

The candidates in this category who are hardest to characterize are the two from Florida, a state whose large population of immigrants makes immigration a somewhat touchier issue: former Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. As PolitiFact Florida has noted, Bush has flip-flopped extensively on the question of a path for citizenship during his long political career.

In the 2013 book Immigration Wars, Bush and his co-author Clint Bolick wrote that permanent residency "should not lead to citizenship. It is absolutely vital to the integrity of our immigration system that actions have consequences — in this case, that those who violated the laws can remain but cannot obtain the cherished fruits of citizenship."

But in the wake of the book's release, Bush backtracked. He supported the Senate bill that included a path to citizenship, and he told ABC's George Stephanopoulos that "the basic premise needs to be that coming to the country legally should be easier with less cost than coming to the country illegally. And if you can create a system like that — as is being discussed in the Senate and in the House — through a path to citizenship, that's fine."

As recently as March 2015, Bush told reporters during a visit to New Hampshire that he could support a path to citizenship. "If you could get a consensus done, where you could have a bill done, and it was 15 years (to achieve citizenship) as the Senate Gang of Eight did, I'd be supportive of that," he said.

However, he's also said some things contrary to that stance.

At a Politics and Eggs breakfast in New Hampshire in April 2015, Bush urged, "Deal with the folks who are here illegally in a rational, thoughtful way. My suggestion is earned legal status. Not earned citizenship, but earned legal status. You don't create a system where people cut in line in front of those who have been patiently waiting. But you get a provisional work permit, you work, you pay taxes, you pay a fine, you learn English, you don't commit crimes, and you earn — over an extended period of time — legal status."

A Bush campaign representative did not respond to inquiries for this article.

Sen. Marco Rubio. Rubio was one of the leading Republicans supporting the Senate immigration bill, which included a path to citizenship.

Asked for his reaction to Clinton's claim, Rubio spokesman Alex Conant referred us to several pieces of evidence.

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One was a January 2015 interview with the New York Times Magazine in which Rubio was asked, "Are you dropping the idea of citizenship for those who came here illegally?" He responded, "Once you have permanent residency, which is a green card, existing law allows you to apply for citizenship."

He echoed that stance in an interview with CBS's Face the Nation on April 19, 2015. "After a substantial period of time in that (work permit) status, assuming they haven't violated any of the conditions of that status, they would be allowed to apply for legal residency, just like anybody else would, not a special process," Rubio said. "And after you're a legal resident, after a number of years, by law, you're allowed to apply for citizenship."

However, at a National Review Institute event in May 2015, Rubio didn't use the term "citizenship." He said that after "securing the border" and "modernizing" the legal immigration system, "what you would get is the equivalent of a non-immigrant, non-permanent work visa to be in the U.S. and you would have to be in that status for a significant period of time. And at some point, if you choose, you could apply for permanent residency, but you'd have to do it through that modernized legal immigration system and you'd have to do it just like everybody else, not a special process or anything of that nature."

And some have raised questions about whether Rubio's proposal would be practical, given the long backlog in applications for legal residency -- 4.4 million people are awaiting green cards, according to the State Department.

Conant declined to respond specifically to whether Rubio fits into the category Clinton outlined.

As for the Clinton camp, spokesman Josh Schwerin indicated that all of the candidates in the third category aren't clearly supporting a path to citizenship, as Clinton put it. "Any candidate who is intentionally vague on the issue is, by definition, not clear and consistent in their support," he said.

Our ruling

Clinton said that "not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential, is clearly supporting a path to citizenship. Not one."

She's telling voters who want a path to citizenship that there's no one on the Republican side who supports that issue. That is not accurate. There is one -- Graham. She does have a point that the other dozen or so candidates either have never backed a path to citizenship or have sent mixed signals.

On balance, we rate Clinton's claim Mostly False.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Maggie Haberman (5/7/15 7:54AM)@maggieNYT . : @ByronYork on the trap Clinton set for Rs on immigration m.washingtonexaminer.com/how-will-top-2 …

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Amy Chozick (5/7/15 10:45AM) @amychozick : Iowa Democrats unfazed by criticism of Clinton. Nice look at her standing in the caucus state, by @arappeport nytimes.com/politics/first …

Ken Thomas (5/7/15) @KThomasDC : State Dept plans no review of Clinton Foundation donations, via @APDiploWriter bit.ly/1ET7rgy

Teddy Schleifer (5/7/15, 7:48 PM) @teddyschleifer: Contrary to previous report, @SaraMurray scoops that Jeb cited George W. as foreign policy, not Israel, adviser. | cnn.com/2015/05/07/pol …

Maggie Haberman (5/7/15 6:41) @maggieNYT Interesting - Priorities USA brings on Rafi Jafri, Dem fundraiser who'd worked for Clinton '08 and Ready for Hillary, per two sources

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton Shows New Willingness to Tackle Risky Issues // New York Times // Patrick Healy - May 7, 2015

It has been only three weeks since Hillary Rodham Clinton declared her candidacy for the White House, but she already looks more confident than she did during the almost 17 months of her last campaign.

Sure, no serious rival has yet emerged to get under her skin the way Barack Obama did in 2008. But Mrs. Clinton and her team have also shown a determination not to be thrown off course: not by the blowback on her use of personal email while at the State Department, not by reports critical of the Clinton Foundation, nor by congressional investigations of the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

Such flare-ups used to make Mrs. Clinton go cold and cautious. Now, she is projecting a scandals-be-damned attitude and barreling ahead with her agenda. In Las Vegas on Tuesday, she was unafraid to court controversy on an issue dear to her — families and children — by saying that she would go beyond President Obama's executive action on immigration and try to protect tens of thousands of parents who are still facing deportation.

It was a vivid contrast to a low point in 2007, at a Democratic primary debate, when she avoided taking a clear stand on an issue that was similarly divisive among voters: driver's licenses for illegal immigrants.

Mrs. Clinton's embrace of citizenship for many illegal immigrants, bold executive action and even those driver's licenses, which she endorsed recently, will allow her to play offense against Republican candidates who are divided on immigration.

What she does not say is that she used to side with many Republicans on some cultural and social issues. She now sees a constitutional right to same-sex marriage, for instance, after years of saying that marriage was only between a man and a woman.

It is not every day that a lawyer like Mrs. Clinton discovers a new constitutional protection, but Democratic primary voters increasingly favor same-sex marriage — and she is determined to catch up with them.

It may be early to jump to any "Hillary unbound" conclusions, and she has yet to engage in any freewheeling back and forth with reporters. But from her full-throated speech last week about ending mass incarceration to her bullish decision on Wednesday to court donors for a "super PAC," Mrs. Clinton has shown a new willingness to take stands that turn off some voters or interest groups.

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This is a meaningful development. Mrs. Clinton twisted herself into knots during her last campaign when trying to mollify Democrats over her Iraq war vote without admitting any fault. After spending 2007 and 2008 refusing to apologize for events in Iraq, she now seems increasingly capable of saying what liberals want to hear.

“We are seeing a bolder and more confident candidate this time out,” said Geoffrey Garin, a Democratic strategist who worked on Mrs. Clinton’s first presidential bid. “As a result, I think voters are getting a much better look at the real Hillary Clinton.”

He continued, “At a similar point eight years ago, the mind-set of the Clinton campaign was to be cautious and avoid rocking the boat.”

Mrs. Clinton’s advisers, who were sometimes accused of overkill in defending her in the 2008 contest, are fighting back against opponents with a new tone and style intended to appear eminently reasonable.

Her lawyers are trying to strike a compromise with Representative Trey Gowdy, the Republican leading an investigation of the Benghazi attacks, to have her testify in public. A Clinton spokesman, Brian Fallon, appeared this week in a campaign video adopting a genial, Wally Cleaver manner as he attempted to eviscerate the new book “Clinton Cash” and the credibility of its author, Peter Schweizer.

The steadier hand is particularly noticeable to old Obama aides, who recall Mrs. Clinton as a more tactical than strategic-minded opponent in 2008.

“Her presidential campaign seems a lot less distracted by the day-to-day news stories than it was in 2008,” said Bill Burton, who was the press secretary for Obama’s first presidential campaign. “That means her ability to project a cleareyed focus on the American people is a lot more effective.”

Her near-term strategy, in the view of some Republicans and political analysts, is to catch up with the steady migration of many Democratic primary voters to the left wing of their party.

“Secretary Clinton has always run the campaign that she has politically calculated is the most advantageous for her at the time,” said Tim Miller, a spokesman for Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor and a likely Republican candidate. “She’s making a tactical choice that her best chance at winning is to protect her left flank from a challenge and run a divisive general election campaign.”

New opinion polls this week suggested that Mrs. Clinton’s approach is working, especially among Democrats. Americans now view her more favorably than they did earlier this year, despite weeks of critical reports about her use of personal email and about donations to the Clinton Foundation, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll. Four out of five Democrats say she is honest and trustworthy, and that she shares the values most Americans try to live by.

One important challenge will be following up on her rhetoric with policy details. After Mrs. Clinton’s remarks on immigration in Las Vegas, the White House press secretary, Josh Earnest, said that President Obama had used

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“as much authority as he could” to help parents and others facing deportation, and appeared at a loss about what more Mrs. Clinton might do.

Clinton advisers said on Wednesday that she wanted to try an additional approach of providing a new application process for some parents who are illegal immigrants to pursue a path toward citizenship.

It remains to be seen how this would work in practice, and what positions Mrs. Clinton will take on complex economic issues that she has barely begun to tackle. But her allies in the Democratic Party seem grateful to have so much now on which to agree with her.

“My sense is that she rightfully perceives a much better political landscape for her today than eight years ago,” said Carter Eskew, a Democratic political consultant who is not involved with her campaign.

“Then, voters were looking for a clean break from President Bush, and she carried the burden of voting for the Iraq war,” he continued. “In this cycle, voters seem to be much more focused on candidates with confidence, experience and perceived ability to get things done — which have always been her greatest strengths. Unless Republicans crack those, they may find running against her very frustrating.”

The Clintons’ Canadian Mining Pal Has Been Accused Of Double-Dealing Before // Daily Caller // Chuck Ross - May 6, 2015

Frank Giustra, the Canadian mining magnate and Clinton Foundation board member, has gone to great lengths recently to shoot down claims that his work with the former president presents a conflict of interest.

But a review of Canadian court documents and other records raises questions over whether Giustra is truly an above-the-board businessman.

The 57-year-old Giustra, who bears the haircut of Caesar, the stature of Napoleon, and was described to The Daily Caller as a “puppet-master,” has interests in a wide variety of industries — including the film industry and the olive oil business.

But his main interest is in mining, and he has made millions investing in shell companies in the industry and turning them for massive profit. Technically, Giustra is the CEO of Fiore Financial, but he is heavily involved and invested in numerous companies, including Endeavour Financial, and its offshoot, the Cayman Islands-based Endeavour Mining.

In Dec. 2008, Endeavour Financial and Rusoro Mining, a company controlled by Russian businessman Andre Agapov, attempted a hostile takeover of Gold Reserve Inc. (GRI), a mining company based in Spokane, Wash.

The rub was this: in 2004, GRI entered a contract with Endeavour in which it paid the company $1.2 million for consultation services while Endeavour had both equity and debt investments in the company. GRI alleged that it was not aware of Endeavour’s investment in Rusoro, and that the Giustra-controlled company breached its

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confidentiality and engaged in an obscene case of a conflict of interest.

Two Canadian judges sided with GRI in separate rulings in February and April 2009. Giustra and his right-hand man, Gordon Keep, were named by GRI in a lawsuit in 2010, and Endeavour and Rusoro eventually agreed to a multi-million dollar settlement with GRI in 2012.

Stanley Beck, an arbitrator and the former chair of the Ontario Securities Commission, offered scathing testimony during the case.

“I am not aware of any case in which the financial adviser of a company, who is subject to a confidentiality agreement, has subsequently appeared as the financial adviser to a hostile bidder for that same company,” Beck stated, according to court documents.

Another mining industry insider familiar with the companies and the lawsuit told The Daily Caller that Endeavour’s double-dealing was “unprecedented” and that Endeavour’s “financial advisory business suffered…because people were literally appalled.”

Endeavour Financial morphed into a mining company after the ruling, said the insider, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Partnership

Clinton’s first documented meeting with Giustra occurred in Jan. 2005 when the former president spoke via satellite for an event arranged by Giustra to discuss tsunami relief. By June, Clinton’s team reached out to Giustra to seek use of the tycoon’s luxurious MD-87 private jet.

“The plane is a business tool,” Giustra told The Globe and Mail in 2008. “No more, no less.”

Clinton has used that so-called business tool 26 times since meeting Giustra, according to The Washington Post. Giustra has accompanied Clinton on 13 of those trips.

Clinton and Giustra developed a closer partnership when, in Sept. 2005, they flew to Kazakhstan on Giustra Air. There Giustra negotiated a deal for a contract that gave one of his companies, UrAsia Energy, access to three uranium mines. Clinton and Giustra also met with Kazakh president Nursultan Nazarbayev, with whom Clinton claimed he wanted to discuss his philanthropic work on HIV/AIDS.

As author Peter Schweizer lays out in “Clinton Cash,” his book about the Clinton Foundation and its many wealthy donors, HIV/AIDS was a strange project for Clinton to undertake in Kazakhstan. As of 2005, only between 0.1 and 0.3 percent of the country’s population suffered from the disease.

After their meetings, Clinton issued a public statement in support of Nazarbayev. That backing was out of line

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with U.S. policy towards the dictator, who had just won an election with a 90-plus percent showing at the polls.

Weeks after the trip, Giustra donated $31 million to the Clinton Foundation.

But that was just a taste of what was to come. In 2007, Giustra pledged $100 million to form the Clinton-Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative (CGSGI), which is now known as the Clinton-Giustra Enterprise (CGE) Partnership. The CGE Partnership also has a Canadian arm, which has been the recipient of millions of dollars in donations from “Friends of Frank,” as they are known.

The Clinton-Giustra Kazakhstan trip was reported by The New York Times in 2008 and is revisited in detail in Schweizer’s “Clinton Cash.”

The book, and another Times article, furthered the story by tying together Giustra’s UrAsia to Uranium One, which was eventually absorbed by Russia’s energy agency, Rosatom. Hillary Clinton’s State Department, and other agencies, approved a series of stock transactions that allowed Rosatom to acquire a majority stake in Uranium One. The deal enriched a number of Giustra associates (and Clinton donors) and helped put 20 percent of U.S. uranium deposits under Russian control.

Giustra and the Clintons were also together in Bogota in June 2010 when Hillary made a major concession to Colombian president Álvaro Uribe.

Giustra, who had business interests in Colombia’s oil, mining and timber industries, first met Uribe in 2005 at a Clinton Global Initiative function.

In 2007, Giustra formed a Colombian oil company, Pacific Rubiales, which proceeded to grow at a phenomenal rate. The company was able to purchase an oil company with close ties to the Colombian government that had just been made private. The Colombian government also granted Pacific the rights to build a pipeline.

In July 2007, Pacific Rubiales announced that it was donating $2.2 million to the new CGSGI. Matching funds would be provided by other longtime Giustra associates — companies like Canaccord and GMP Securities, which have underwritten numerous Giustra deals.

According to a press release in which Giustra is quoted, the $4.4 million total pledge amounted to one percent of the $440 million raised by Pacific Rubiales to continue its Colombian crude oil operations.

While Giustra stated that the Pacific Rubiales deal and the one percent donation “shows other companies how they can help make a real difference in developing countries,” the company has been accused of using heavy-handed tactics to thwart labor strikes.

Whether because of the Pacific Rubiales consortium’s donations to the Clinton Foundation or because of the dictates of U.S. policy, Hillary Clinton helped Pacific Rubiales’ interests.

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In June 2010, Giustra, Bill and Hillary Clinton traveled to Colombia and held separate meetings with Uribe. After a morning meeting with Bill, Uribe met with Hillary several hours later. In that meeting, she expressed support for a U.S.-Colombia trade agreement, a reversal of her position from the 2008 presidential campaign trail.

In doing so, the U.S. relieved pressure on Colombia to improve its human rights records, especially in the realm of labor relations.

The gist of “Clinton Cash,” which has led to a massive, coordinated rebuttal from the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign, is that without the access that only Clinton could provide, Giustra would not have met leaders like Uribe or Nazarbayev who may have helped his business dealings. And without Giustra, Clinton would not have the convenience of a private luxury jet or to millions of dollars of donations from wealthy Canadian miners.

“My money is more effective backing Clinton than any other person I can think of on this planet,” Giustra told The Globe and Mail in 2008.

Non-disclosure

The Clintons have denied that the appearance of quid pro quo is not as it appears. Giustra has done the same.

“I sold all of my stakes in the uranium company – Uranium One – in the fall of 2007, after it merged with another company,” Giustra said after The Times published its report on the Kazakh deal last month.

While it may be true that Giustra does not directly hold Uranium One stock, he is still tied to the company through his investments in other mining companies and mining financiers. Many of his close associates were still closely involved in Uranium One well into Hillary Clinton’s tenure at the State Department.

Ian Telfer, who was the chairman of Uranium One when it was acquired by Rosatom, donated $2.35 million to the Canadian arm of the Clinton Foundation through his charity, the Fernwood Foundation.

Frank Holmes, the CEO of U.S. Global Investors, held $4.7 million in shares with Uranium One as of 2011. He donated between $250,000 and $500,000 to the Clinton Foundation. Neil Woodyer, who was an adviser to Uranium One and founded Endeavour Mining with Giustra, donated between $50,000 and $100,000 to the foundation.

Many of the companies and their executives are likely among the 1,100 donors that the Clinton Foundation has admitted were not disclosed. That despite a promise the Clintons made in 2008 to disclose all of its donors.

A July 2013 archived page from the Clinton-Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative website sheds some light on what companies have donated to and sponsored the Canadian wing.

The list includes names like Endeavour Mining, Gold Fields, Gran Colombia Gold, Pacific Rubiales, Rusoro, and,

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curiously, Uranium One.

GMP Securities and Holmes' U.S. Global Investors are also listed as sponsors. Both companies, described to TheDC as being part of a "triumvirate" along with Endeavour, have helped arrange financing deals for Giustra's numerous mining industry deals and were involved in the Uranium One deal.

A request for comment sent to Giustra's Fiore Financial email account was not returned. The Clinton-Giustra Enterprise Partnership also did not respond to a request for comment.

The Canadian arm of the foundation has claimed that Canadian law prohibits the disclosure of donors without their permission, though the claim has been widely disputed.

In denying the appearance of quid pro quo, both Clinton and Giustra say they have respect for each others' commitment to humanitarian causes. Though as The Globe and Mail noted in its 2008 Giustra profile: "until a few years ago, [Giustra] had only dabbled in philanthropy, funneling to local charities and organizing the occasional fundraiser."

Rusoro-Gold Reserve dispute

If Giustra's interests vis a vis Clinton are not conflicted, the same cannot be said about his dealings with Gold Reserve Inc. and Rusoro.

Giustra was the chairman of Endeavour Financial from 2001 to 2007 and is currently a major shareholder and a board member of Endeavour Mining, which is closely related to Endeavour Financial. The two entities share many of the same personnel, and Giustra's Fiore Financial reportedly shares office space with Endeavour. A recent financial disclosure shows that Giustra holds 6.8 million shares of Endeavour Mining.

Giustra also made the initial pitch to GRI seeking its consulting business, a source familiar with the dealings told TheDC.

"Nobody would do a thing if Frank didn't approve," the source said.

At the time, GRI was one of only two companies with gold mining stakes in Venezuela. The company had invested $230 million since 1993 developing what is known as the Brisas Project.

In Oct. 2004, the company entered a confidential consulting arrangement with Endeavour. The arrangement allowed Endeavour to have access to confidential data related to GRI's finances, operations, and technical specifications for the Brisas prospect.

And the prospect had huge potential. According to GRI's website, the mine contained as much as 10 million ounces of gold and 1.4 billion pounds of copper.

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Giustra first approached GRI about a merger with Rusoro in the fall of 2006, though, according to GRI, he did so "without disclosing that both he and Endeavour had a financial interest in Rusoro."

Endeavour owned 7.5 million shares of Rusoro, 7 million stock warrants, and had loaned the company $10 million. Endeavour would also reap 5.5 million shares if the deal went through, according to court documents.

According to the source familiar with the attempted deal, Rusoro's Agapov, who had been implicated in a 2002 Thai banking scandal, believed that he held an advantage because of his Russian nationality. He believed that would give Rusoro an advantage in dealing with Venezuela's communist dictator Hugo Chavez, who was on friendlier terms with Russia than with the West.

According to court documents, Doug Belander, GRI's president, also later testified that in 2007 he was told by representatives from New York investment banks that Giustra and Agapov had "expressed an interest" in combining Gold Reserve and Endeavour.

But GRI wasn't interested.

The first takeover attempt came on Aug. 21, 2008, when Endeavour — curiously — placed a friendly takeover offer on behalf of Rusoro. But to the surprise of Rusoro and Endeavour, GRI balked, saying it had no interest in joining up with Rusoro, which GRI executives believed to be in poor financial health.

In Dec. 2008, Rusoro took a different approach by announcing that it was launching a hostile takeover. GRI shareholders weren't interested either.

That month, GRI filed a lawsuit in Canadian court accusing Endeavour of breaching its confidentiality and of using information it had through the consulting contract to help Rusoro in its takeover attempt.

In a Feb. 2009 ruling, one judge with the Ontario Circuit Court ruled that the case raised "a serious issue that Endeavour improperly preferred the interests of its client Rusoro to those of its client Gold Reserve."

That ruling included the testimony from Stanley Beck, who was then the chairman of GMP Securities, which had done business with Endeavour. Beck stated that during his three-plus decades in the securities industry he had not seen another case of double-dealing like the one undertaken by Endeavour and Rusoro.

Neil Woodyer, the CEO of Endeavour Mining, a longtime business associate of Giustra's and a Clinton Foundation donor, denied any wrongdoing on Endeavour's part.

"Endeavour Financial did not breach its confidentially with Gold Reserve," he told TheDC through email.

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Woodyer did not address questions about Giustra's level of involvement in Endeavour or the bid for GRI.

Despite Woodyer's denial, Endeavour and Rusoro settled with GRI in Sept. 2012.

In the settlement, Endeavour agreed to pay $1.5 million (Canadian) — more than the money it received through the consulting contact with GRI — while Rusoro agreed to pay $250,000 in cash, 2.5 million shares of common stock, and a conditional promissory note worth $1 million.

In the end, GRI did not get to mine for gold and copper in Venezuela. The Brisas project sits idle, while small-time prospectors rake through minerals easily found on the surface.

In May 2008, Chavez's regime nationalized the mining industry. But the country is stuck because GRI secured all technical data related to the mine when it was kicked off of the plot. It would take up to 10 years for another entity to collect that data so that mining could begin.

Meanwhile, GRI has been awarded a $750 million default judgement against Venezuela and awaits payment.

Why Clinton's immigration speech left many Republican rivals speechless // Washington Post // David Nakamura and Robert Costa - May 7, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's fighting words on immigration this week, designed in part to provoke Republicans into a reactionary counterattack, instead drew an unusual early response from several top-tier GOP presidential candidates: silence.

Two days after Clinton vowed to expand on President Obama's executive actions to shield up to 5 million undocumented immigrants from deportation, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was one of the only leading Republican 2016 contenders to strike back, calling it a "full embrace of amnesty" that is "unfair to hard-working Americans."

By contrast, former Florida governor Jeb Bush, Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.), Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie did not weigh in publicly on the remarks Clinton made Tuesday at a campaign stop in Las Vegas. Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.), one of Obama's most vocal critics on immigration, waited to make a late evening post on Facebook, writing that Clinton "wants to expand and continue" Obama's programs and "lawlessness."

Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee told MSNBC that Clinton was wrong, saying the country needs to focus on border security first.

The relatively subdued GOP reaction illustrated a dilemma for a Republican Party still wrestling with the hot-button issue of immigration three years after Obama routed Mitt Romney behind overwhelming support from Latinos and Asian Americans.

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Although virtually all of the Republican hopefuls have denounced Obama's executive actions, which are wildly unpopular with the GOP's conservative base, they recognize that staking out a hard-line immigration position probably would harm their status with two of the fastest-growing subsets of the electorate. In 2012, Romney advocated "self-deportation" for illegal immigrants, earning him scorn from Latino groups.

"The waters are treacherous, which explains the muted response," said William J. Bennett, education secretary under President Ronald Reagan and now a talk-radio host. "Not one of the campaigns, with the exception of Jeb Bush, have full clarity on where they want to go, and people are doing a lot of moving."

Fergus Cullen, a former chairman of the Republican Party in New Hampshire, home to the first-in-the-nation primary, was even blunter, blaming his compatriots with not putting the issue of immigration reform behind them. House Republicans last summer refused to vote on a bipartisan border control bill, approved by the Senate, that included a 13-year path to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

"Republicans' intransigence has created an obvious opportunity for Hillary to rip off our arms and beat us with the bloody ends," Cullen said. "She's expertly exploiting our party's internal problems."

Last year, Obama delayed his executive actions until after the midterm elections at the behest of jittery Senate Democrats, only to see the party lose control of the chamber anyway. Now, Clinton's enthusiastic embrace of Obama's immigration actions so early in the election cycle has been an unequivocal sign that Democrats, once wary of an issue former Obama chief of staff Rahm Emanuel has called the "third rail of American politics," may believe that immigration is a golden ticket to electoral-college success.

During her appearance in Las Vegas — where a growing Latino population helped power Obama to a 2012 victory in Nevada — Clinton again backed a path to citizenship, and said she would potentially go further than the president to protect immigrants from deportation until Congress reforms border control laws. She goaded Republicans, saying they are supporting "second-class status" for illegal immigrants.

Her pitch to the left was so emphatic that White House aides, who had said Obama's executive actions in November represented the limit of his legal authority, were compelled to defend him Wednesday for not going further.

"The president's views have not changed," White House press secretary Josh Earnest said during his daily briefing when asked whether Obama believed he could do more in light of Clinton's announcement. Asked whether her pledge to expand the deportation relief would hold up legally, Earnest added, "That's something for a future president and future courts to decide."

Public polling has shown split views on Obama's immigration actions. In a Washington Post-ABC News poll in January, 41 percent said the actions should go forward and 56 percent said they should be blocked. But support among Hispanics for the president's initiatives was 80 percent, compared with 28 percent among whites.

Other surveys have showed higher levels of overall support for allowing illegal immigrants to remain in the country and work and to eventually apply for citizenship.

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That has presented difficulties for Republican contenders who have struggled to articulate a clear vision on immigration reform.

“One of the biggest challenges we’ve had with Hispanic voters is that we’re defined by what we’re against rather than what we’re for,” said Kevin Madden, a former Romney adviser. “We created a lot of problems for ourselves in 2012 when we had an immigration platform that was defined by ‘self-deportation’ and expected to win their support.”

Bush, who is the former governor of a state with a large Hispanic population and whose wife is Mexican American, has endorsed a path to legal status for the undocumented, but he has pledged to overturn Obama’s executive actions.

Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, helped negotiate the Senate’s immigration bill last year but backed away after House conservatives killed it. And Walker has said his views on immigration have changed since he previously voiced support for a citizenship plan.

In a statement, Walker said Wednesday that Clinton’s position “is unfair to hardworking Americans and all immigrants who followed the law to achieve the rights and privileges afforded to U.S. citizens. And by supporting the president’s lawless executive action, Hillary Clinton once again believes she’s above the law.”

Immigration advocates have delighted in Clinton’s proactive move, noting that it was perhaps most vexing for Bush, who has sought to position himself as slightly more moderate among the GOP field on immigration.

“He has been going on two years of going back and forth on the question of citizenship: What’s doable? What’s viable in his party?” said Marshall Fitz, vice president of immigration policy at the left-leaning Center for American Progress. “But he hasn’t formally stuck to his guns on what is the right thing to do, and she called him out on it.”

Republican political strategists, trying to look for an upside, suggested that as Clinton shifts to the left, her candidacy risks seeming emblematic of a third Obama term.

“She’s boxing them in a little, but she’s also linking herself more significantly to Obama,” said Ed Rollins, a veteran Republican consultant. “If his approval ratings are above 50 percent next year, it’s smart. If they’re below 50 percent, she won’t do well.”

Peyton M. Craighill, Anne Gearan, Jenna Johnson, Sean Sullivan and Katie Zezima contributed to this report.

Clarification: This article originally stated that Sen. Ted Cruz’s response was made through an aide. He issued his own statement late Wednesday.

Poll: Hillary Clinton strong in Iowa despite email, foreign cash flaps // Politico // Nick Gass - May 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton remains the overwhelming favorite among likely Iowa Democratic caucus-goers, according to a

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new Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday, despite ongoing scrutiny of foreign donations to her family's foundation and lingering criticism over the former secretary of state's use of a personal cellphone and email server for official business.

Among likely participants in the Democratic caucus, 60 percent said they would back Clinton, compared with 61 percent who said they would support her in a Feb. 26 Quinnipiac survey that came out before reports of her use of a private email address.

Independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders comes in second with 15 percent, followed by Vice President Joe Biden with 11 percent. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb trail with 3 percent each. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has said repeatedly that she is not running, was not included.

By more than 4 to 1, Iowa voters say Clinton is honest and trustworthy — 76 percent to 17 percent. By comparison, 84 percent say Biden is honest and trustworthy, versus 10 percent who say he is not.

"One thing is obvious about Iowa Democratic Caucus participants: They are loyal as the day is long, at least when it comes to Hillary Clinton," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. In a Quinnipiac poll last month, however, 49 percent of all Iowa voters said they did not think she was honest or trustworthy.

The poll was conducted April 25-May 4, surveying 692 likely Iowa Democratic caucus participants via land lines and cellphones with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.7 percentage points.

WMUR Poll: Clinton trails or tied with five top Republicans // WMUR // John DiStaso - May 7, 2015

DURHAM, N.H. —In five of the last six presidential general elections, including the last three, the Democratic nominee has won New Hampshire's four electoral votes. That's not a sure thing for 2016, according to the results of a new WMUR Granite State Poll.

Hillary Clinton trails or is in virtual ties with Republicans Jeb Bush, Rand Paul, Scott Walker, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, the poll of 706 randomly selected adults shows. That's a sharp change from just three months ago, when the former secretary of state held comfortable leads over all five of those announced or likely candidates.

The decline in Clinton's showing in head-to-head matchups since February mirrors a drop in her favorability rating even among likely Democratic primary voters from a plus-74 percent in February to a plus-58 percent in the new poll, taken April 24 to May 3.

The new poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center, also shows that Granite Staters are aware of the controversy surrounding Clinton's exclusive use of a personal email account to conduct official business, although most said it would make little difference in their votes.

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The poll shows that former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio fare the best against Clinton among the top five candidates in this week's GOP primary poll.

Bush leads Clinton 47 to 41 percent, while Rubio leads her, 47 to 42 percent. Bush holds a strong lead over Clinton among independents, 39 to 22 percent, while independents are split between Clinton and Rubio, with Clinton leading 33 to 31 percent.

The margin of error in the poll is 3.7 percent.

Granite Staters also favor Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul over Clinton, 47 to 43 percent, with independents favoring Paul, 43 to 36 percent. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Clinton are in a dead heat, at 44 percent each, with independents favoring Clinton, 36 to 28 percent.

Voters are also split between Clinton and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, with Clinton leading, .

46 to 45 percent. Independents are split among the two, with 37 percent favoring Clinton and 35 percent favoring Cruz.

The poll further showed that 45 percent of likely general election voters said they have heard a great deal about the Clinton email use issue, while 32 percent have heard a fair amount, 14 percent have heard a little and 8 percent have heard nothing.

But 59 percent of those likely voters said the issue makes little difference in their vote, 34 percent said they are less likely to vote for her because of it, 2 percent they are actually more likely to vote for her and 4 percent were unsure.

The results show a wide gender gap, with women heavily backing Clinton over all five Republicans and men strongly supporting the Republicans.

Among the likely general election voters, 10 percent said they have definitely decided who to support, 18 percent are leaning toward someone and 73 percent are still trying to decide.

Hillary Clinton pushes the limits of campaign finance law // LA Times // Evan Halper - May 7, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign team had hoped to frame her trip hopscotching through the mansions of some of California's deepest-pocketed donors this week as an exercise in modesty, highlighting the relatively low price of a ticket to the events as a reflection of her commitment to cultivating the grass roots.

But that narrative quickly unraveled Wednesday when word got out that the candidate was also using the California trip as an occasion to begin courting an entirely different group.

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Clinton, who has emphasized campaign finance reform in the early stage of her latest White House bid, has apparently already decided the modest approach alone won't be enough. She is going after much bigger checks, much sooner, and in a much more aggressive way than her campaign had revealed.

The candidate will be pushing the boundaries of campaign finance law further than any Democratic presidential contender ever has by directly asking donors to give to a friendly "super PAC" that can raise unlimited amounts of campaign cash from donors, according to a person familiar with her plans. That effort started in California on Wednesday, when Clinton met in San Francisco with potential donors of the organization Priorities USA. She has another meeting planned in Los Angeles on Thursday.

Clinton’s plans to raise money for Priorities USA was first reported by the New York Times. Campaign officials are declining to comment.

Clinton would not be the first contender in this year's race to go after such cash. Republicans are already testing the limits of campaign finance law. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has yet to announce he's running, has been soliciting checks for as much as $1 million for his super PAC. Candidates avoided such activity in the 2012 race, adhering to a law that says they can not coordinate directly with the groups.

But the increasingly permissive nature of the Federal Election Commission, whose members are deadlocked over the question of how candidates can and cannot engage with super PACs, is leading the candidates to take ever bolder approaches. Clinton supporters say she is caught up in a campaign arms race and she has no choice but to use the tools her opponents have at their disposal.

Still, the quick shift on fundraising puts Clinton in an awkward position.

“Just three weeks ago, Hillary Clinton decried unaccountable money in politics and even called for amending the Constitution to ban it,” said Jeff Bechdel, communications director for America Rising, a conservative research group. “Today, she announced she’s going to personally court donors and raise money for her own super PAC. … Clinton’s hypocrisy knows no bounds."

The California trip was supposed to be a chance for Clinton to showcase a more modest approach to fundraising, one that squared with what she promised would be a campaign that is humble, lean and focused on the values of everyday Americans. Even though the events were to be held in the homes of billionaires and mega-millionaires, including hedge fund titan Tom Steyer and media mogul Haim Saban, donors were not to give more than $2,700.

Those who want to give more than $2,700 can encourage others to give checks, becoming what's known as a campaign bundler. Clinton's campaign calls its bundlers “Hillstarters," and those designated as such get perks that include invites to receptions with the candidate. Clinton is making it much easier to get in this circle of fundraisers than she did eight years ago, when supporters had to raise $100,000. Now, they need only generate $27,000 for the campaign.

“It’s a far smaller bundling program than other presidential campaigns and is designed to involve more people

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and build the donor base," said a campaign aide.

But that effort to engage a larger group of donors early on and set a tone of relative modesty got overshadowed quickly, as donors pushed the candidate to seize the momentum from her announcement and start collecting big checks from big donors eager to write them.

Why Hillary Clinton Embraced Big Money in Politics // NBC News // Perry Bacon, Jr. - May 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton surprised the political world when on her first campaign stop as an official candidate in Iowa last month she said reforming America's campaign finance system would be one of her top priorities. The next week, in New Hampshire, Clinton said it wasn't enough simply to have the names of big donors disclosed, but that there needed to be real limits on how much they can spend on campaigns.

"What good does it do to disclose if somebody's about to spend $100 million to promote their own interest and to defeat candidates who would stand up against them? What good does that do?" Clinton told Democratic activists in Concord, New Hampshire.

She added, "We need to get this corporate and unchecked money out of politics."

But as the New York Times reported on Wednesday, Clinton is not going to practice what she seemed to be preaching. The former secretary of state is meeting with potential donors to Priorities USA, the Democratic super PAC, on a trip to California this week, the first sign of her sanctioning of the group to aid her campaign. Priorities, like the super PAC's that are aiding Republican 2016 candidates, is expected to bring in donations from individuals that will be hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars. Steven Spielberg gave the group $1 million in 2012.

Clinton is embracing Priorities USA more than President Obama did during his 2012 campaign. In that race, the president, another rhetorical opponent of unlimited donations in politics, allowed some of his top aides to attend the Priorities' events, but did not go to them himself. Obama did appear at an event for Senate Majority PAC, a super PAC designed to aid Democratic U.S. Senate candidates, on the eve of the 2014 elections.

Republicans have already slammed Clinton as a hypocrite, and one of her Democratic primary opponents, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has pledged not to have a super PAC supporting his candidacy.

But Clinton really had no other choice. The Republican presidential nominee, the Republican National Committee and groups associated with electing a Republican president are expected to spend at least $1 billion and probably closer to $2 billion to elect a GOP president. Democrats will attempt to match this fundraising, if not raise more.

Under the traditional campaign finance spending rules, individual donations to campaigns are limited to $5400. But contributions to super PAC's are unlimited.

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The Republican candidates, particularly Jeb Bush, are expected to operate much of their campaign operations through their super PAC's. So if Clinton had opted only to raise money through the legal limits, she would be running a campaign raising $5400 per person, while Bush is currently accepting individual donations to his super PAC of $100,000. Clinton in effect would have needed 18 donors for every one Bush donor.

This would not create just a financial disadvantage for Clinton, but perhaps one of time as well, since she would need to spend more hours attending fundraisers and soliciting money over the phone if she needed to build up a larger bloc of donors.

It's not clear how far Clinton will go in embracing super PAC's. Republican candidates Ted Cruz, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio have some of their top aides operating their super PAC's instead of working on their official campaigns, making the super PAC's hugely influential.

So far, the vast majority of Clinton's top strategists are working in her Brooklyn headquarters, so it's not clear if Priorities USA will employ her closest confidants. And Clinton's super PAC has not said if will raise tens of millions from one major donor, the way casino magnate Sheldon Adelson gave more than $20 million to bankroll Newt Gingrich's 2012 campaign.

However she uses the Super PAC, Clinton made the choice to play by the existing rules of politics, instead of taking a more principled stand that likely would have complicated her path to victory. In 2008, Obama made a similar decision in opting out of campaign finance rules that would have placed limits on his overall spending, even though he had praised that system before.

Clinton, like Obama, is participating in what she has bemoaned: a radical shift of the campaign finance system created in the post-Watergate era that was designed to limit the influence of wealthy donors and encourage campaigns funded by a wider bloc of Americans. The 2016 campaign marks in effect the death of that system and a shift towards a new model in which a very small group of wealthy donors finance many campaigns and will likely have a huge amount of influence over the candidates.

Clinton has said she does not like this new system and would consider backing even a constitutional amendment to change it.

But her embrace of the liberal super PAC suggests, Clinton, in a phrase she used during her last campaign, is in to win.

Hillary Clinton's Not the First Democrat to Woo Super-PAC's Donors // Bloomberg Politics // Ali Elkin - May 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton is preparing to cozy up to super-PAC donors, according to a new report, but it's not exactly a first for a Democratic presidential candidate.

As the New York Times wrote on Thursday, “Clinton will begin personally courting donors for a 'super PAC' supporting her candidacy, the first time a Democratic presidential candidate has fully embraced these independent groups that can accept unlimited checks from big donors and are already playing a major role in

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the 2016 race."

"Running for re-election in 2012, President Obama reluctantly endorsed fund-raising by [Priorities USA Action] because of fears that he would be outspent by Republicans who were more aggressive in using what was then a new vehicle for raising large amounts of money that could be used in support of a campaign but not go directly to it," the Times continued. "But he never appeared at any of its fund-raisers."

But Obama did rub shoulders with donors at a Priorities function during his reelection bid, according to Double Down: Game Change 2012, the campaign book by Bloomberg Politics managing editors Mark Halperin and John Heilemann. They write that in October of that year, Obama went to an event at film executive and Democratic bundler Jeffrey Katzenberg's house in Los Angeles. The White House billed the event as a "thank you" to big donors, but in reality, it was a Priorities USA event—"the sort of shindig that Obama had sworn never to attend."

Katzenberg billed it as "unobtainium" and recommended that attendees shell out $1 million to attend. Three of them did a few days before the lunch. The final guest list included Reid Hoffman, Irwin and Joan Jacobs, Vinod Khosla, Seth McFarlane, Sean Parker, Eric Schmidt, and Steven Spielberg. At the event, Obama assured the donors that his sorry debate performance in Denver was a one-time thing.

First on CNN: Clinton invites donors to New York, but only if they've hit their goals // CNN Politics // Jeff Zeleny - May 7, 2015

Washington (CNN) Hillary Clinton is inviting her most loyal fundraisers to New York next week for the campaign's first Finance Leadership Summit, but there's a catch: The welcome mat is extended only to donors who have already met their goal of finding 10 people to write $2,700 checks.

The invitation, which was obtained by CNN from a recipient, illustrates how the campaign is trying to step up the urgency for fundraising. If contributors hope to be part of the inaugural group of so-called "Hillstarters," the invitation says, their first fundraising goal must be met now.

The initial fundraising goal of $27,000 -- a pittance in a campaign expected to raise more than $1 billion -- is intentionally set low by today's big-money standards to try a build a broader nationwide network of donors.

The afternoon summit on May 14 in New York, which includes an optional tour of campaign headquarters in Brooklyn, features Clinton and her senior team of advisers. It's the most robust gathering of donors since Clinton formally entered the race one month ago.

Without a highly competitive Democratic primary race, the campaign has struggled to capture the early attention of some donors. Clinton's presence at the summit underscores the point that donors will be remembered for getting in on the ground floor.

"On behalf of Hillary and the entire campaign," the invitation says, "we thank you for your early support and leadership and we hope to see you in New York on May 14!"

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Clinton has already devoted more days raising money than meeting Democrats in early-voting states. She held three fundraising events in Los Angeles alone on Thursday, part of a three-day visit to California this week. She's already done early fundraising stops in New York and Washington.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm," Andy Spahn, a longtime Democratic fundraiser in Los Angeles, told CNN. "There is a tremendous desire to be a part of it."

Spahn, a political adviser to entertainment mogul Jeffrey Katzenberg and others who ultimately sided with Barack Obama in the 2008 campaign, said Democratic donors were largely unified behind Clinton.

In the first month of her candidacy, Clinton has campaigned in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada, three of the four early-voting states. She is set to visit South Carolina, the fourth, soon. Before the end of May, aides said, she will also deliver the first major campaign speech.

Her calendar also includes something outside her control: An appearance before the House Select Committee on Benghazi, which is also expected in the coming weeks.

Democratic primary debates will still matter for Hillary Clinton // Chicago Tribune // Jonathan Bernstein - May 7, 2015

The Democrats have announced they will sponsor six presidential nomination debates, and Hillary Clinton rapidly signaled her intention to participate.

Nomination debates (unlike those during the general election) can affect the outcomes of primaries — just ask Rick Perry. We aren't only talking about collapses. A good performance can cause a polling surge, and lesser-known contenders need a shot of good publicity at some point, even if they have won support in the invisible primary. For any of that to make a difference, however, it has to be a competitive race.

From what we know so far, it would take something far more substantial than a few debates to reopen the battle for the Democratic nomination in 2016. Yet Clinton's performance in the debates will count in a different and important way.

Set aside the primaries. Think about the debates as part of the process of representation in a democracy.

People who run for office make promises: They signal who they will be and how they will act if elected. Not only do politicians want to keep the pledges they have made on specific policies. They try to be generally in sync with who they were on the campaign trail too, as political scientist Richard Fenno found in his research on Congress. So a candidate who runs as a partisan will try to govern as a partisan. A candidate who runs as a conservative will govern as a conservative. A candidate who runs as a member of an ethnic group will, if elected, emphasize group identity.

Even if new issues arise out of the blue (and they always will), the president will in effect ask herself: What would

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the version of me from the campaign do about this? How will I be able to explain what I do now in terms of who I was back then?

Moreover, the promises that count the most are likely the ones made in the candidates' high-profile appearances. For presidential nominees, the biggest such events are convention acceptance speeches and the general-election debates in the fall. But before that, nomination debates are as high profile as it gets.

Thinking of democracy in terms of representation is different from the focus on accountability. Representation involves the politician: what she vows to do, how she governs with those promises in mind, how she explains her actions to constituents in light of those original pledges. It's part of a continuing relationship with voters, a bond that can develop over time as the politician earns her constituents' trust.

Accountability, on the other hand, refers to voters' decisions on how well a politician has done in office and what they do to hold him or her responsible for results. It's what people think democracy is, but it doesn't capture how democracy really works.

Individual elected officials can only rarely deliver specific results that voters identify as the politician's responsibility. Even presidents can't just decide, in a system of separated institutions sharing power, to carry out some policy voters will like, let alone decide to have an economic boom or a foreign-policy success.

And voters don't pay enough attention to politics to know which officials are responsible for what policy. They are prone to do irrational things such as punishing incumbents for bad weather, shark attacks and losses by local sports teams.

So expecting voters to reward or punish politicians for what they've done will rarely work. Yes, there are baseline incentives: Presidents don't want to lose wars or start recessions. But that's about all.

Representation, by contrast, gives politicians the realistic goal of building a strong relationship with their constituents. It provides the democracy that accountability can't — as long as politicians try to be good representatives. And we have plenty of evidence that they do.

Bloomberg View

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist covering U.S. politics.

Hillary Clinton Hints Of Going Beyond Obama By Floating The Idea Of Debt Free College // Politicus USA // Jason Easley - May 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign is hinting that they may go beyond President Obama's free community college proposal, by suggesting a plan that will make getting a college education debt free.

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Politico reported:

When Hillary Clinton's campaign manager said the words "debt-free college" in an interview with CNBC on Wednesday morning, liberal ears perked up.

Robby Mook's declaration — "what voters are looking for in this election is someone who's going to be a champion for everyday people, for young people that's debt-free college, that's finding that job after you graduate" — stopped short of an endorsement of the policy goal embraced by liberals and by Clinton's likely primary rival Martin O'Malley, but it sent a message to progressive activists that the Clinton camp is paying close attention to their concerns.

Although Clinton has spoken in general terms about making college more affordable and has embraced President Barack Obama's proposal to make community college free, she has yet to publicly support a plan to let students graduate from college without debt. It is one of a handful of areas on which progressive groups and activists are pressuring Clinton, who has yet to release her full policy agenda, from the left.

If Clinton's plan does go beyond the Obama plan of free community college, it will represent a major shift leftward in higher education policy. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) has been a tireless advocate for Americans who are buried beneath mountains of student loan debt. A debt free college plan from Clinton would represent a strong acknowledgment of Warren's efforts.

With each passing day, the worries of some Democrats that Hillary Clinton would be too centrist to lead a Democratic Party that has moved more to the left are vanishing.

Hillary Clinton is her own person. She should be judged on her own policy proposals, not her husband's presidency. Hillary Clinton has her own distinguished career and many former Sec. of State Clinton's ideas for the future represent today's Democratic Party, not her husband's presidency.

The Billionaire Whose Clinton Foundation Ties Could Be Trouble for Hillary Clinton // Bloomberg // Joshua Green - May 7, 2015

Like countless people before him, Frank Giustra's first meeting with Bill Clinton was a life-altering event indelibly etched in his memory. "We hit it off right away," Giustra recalls. "We hit it off for a whole number of reasons. We had a very similar upbringing. We had similar interests in books. Pretty soon, we were having a great conversation. I think he liked me."

Giustra was experiencing the famous Clinton connection, the tractor beam of personal magnetism that Clinton has deployed to pull people into his orbit since his earliest days in Arkansas. Back then, they were people like Mack McLarty, the well-to-do kindergarten classmate who became Clinton's first White House chief of staff, and Jim McDougal, the local banker and real estate investor who was the Clintons' partner in the Whitewater land deal and eventually wound up in jail. In Arkansas the stakes were comparatively small. Clinton had little money, and his admirers didn't have a whole lot more. Today, in his post-presidency, Clinton has built up a multibillion-dollar family foundation with a global reach. He may soon be back in the White House. The people he solicits are the sort who gravitate to Davos, not Little Rock—people like Frank Giustra.

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Giustra is a billionaire mining magnate from Vancouver who met Clinton in 2005 aboard his private jet, which he had lent the former president for a trip to South America. (Clinton really must like Giustra—or his jet—an awful lot, because he borrowed it 25 more times, according to the Washington Post.) Somewhere in the air between Little Rock and Bogotá, Giustra realized, as so many had before him, life would be more glamorous, important, and fun with more Bill Clinton in it: "I said to him, 'Hey, tell me more about what the Clinton Foundation does.' "

Before long, Giustra had pledged $100 million, established a Canadian arm (the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership), and joined the Clinton Foundation's board. By his own telling, his life has been utterly transformed. "I'd been doing charitable work my whole adult life but on a very small scale," he says. "Then I met Bill Clinton. Just hanging out with him and seeing how he had dedicated his life to this—I know this sounds cheesy, but it's true—he inspired me."

Giustra now sees himself as Canada's answer to Andrew Carnegie and intends, as Carnegie did, to give away his fortune apart from what he requires to live on. The vehicle for his giving shouldn't come as a surprise. "In the philanthropic sense," he says, "all my chips are on Bill Clinton."

Although few people outside the mining industry had heard of Giustra until recently, he's emblematic of the class of plutocrats with whom Clinton has surrounded himself since leaving office. He also represents a new kind of political problem sure to dog Hillary Clinton's presidential bid. As the author Peter Schweizer documents in his book Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich, Giustra's globe-trotting adventures with Bill Clinton have coincided with lucrative business deals.

In Colombia, where his investments include oil, timber, and coal mines, Giustra dined one evening in 2010 with Bill and Hillary Clinton, who both met with Colombia's president the next day. Soon after, one company in which Giustra holds a stake "acquired the right to cut timber in a biologically diverse forest on the pristine Colombian shoreline," Schweizer writes, and another was granted valuable oil drilling rights.

A similar situation had unfolded in Kazakhstan in 2005. Giustra and Clinton jetted in to dine with the country's authoritarian president, Nursultan Nazarbayev. Days later, Giustra's mining company signed an agreement giving it stakes in three state-run uranium mines in addition to those it controlled in the U.S. After a $3.5 billion merger, the company was eventually acquired by the Russian atomic energy agency, Rosatom. Because uranium is a strategic asset, the sale required (and received) approval from multiple U.S. agencies, including the Department of State, then run by Hillary Clinton.

Giustra insists these deals were on the up-and-up and Bill Clinton played no role. "He's shown up in two places where I've done business," he says, "but I've traveled to countless countries around the world with him and put money into [charitable] programs in places I have zero business interests in." While Giustra hasn't done charity work in Kazakhstan, he says a deal of that scale is hashed out over many months and didn't require Nazarbayev's permission. He adds that he sold his stake in the uranium mining company two years before Hillary Clinton became secretary of state, and he agreed to share documents with Bloomberg Businessweek that would prove this, although a week later he hadn't produced them.

Previous Friends of Bill have sometimes fallen out of favor when deemed a liability. Ron Burkle, the billionaire supermarket magnate, is the most famous example. Before Giustra, Burkle was the one flying Clinton around in a private jet and enjoying his attention and companionship. That relationship began to sour in 2007 with Hillary's bid for the White House. According to press reports, Burkle's business ties to foreign governments were part of the reason for the split.

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Giustra professes to have no concern that politics might prompt Clinton to jilt him, too. "I don't think it's going to happen," he says, "but if for whatever reason Clinton walked away from this, I would just change the name of the damn thing, and I would carry on. I'm dead serious."

Burkle, too, once seemed to regard himself as impervious to political attacks. But he changed his mind. As he complained to Businessweek in March 2010, "If someone wanted to embarrass [Clinton], I got thrown in it, too."

What looms as a greater threat to Hillary Clinton's presidential ambitions than the details of the Russian uranium transaction is that Giustra is the first of what may be a procession of similar figures who will be in the spotlight between now and Election Day. That's because anyone with the means to give millions of dollars to the Clinton Foundation likely also has global financial interests affected by U.S. policy or, at the very least, would benefit from a favorable relationship with the Clintons. As Giustra himself notes, "He's one of the best brand names in the world."

The potential conflicts of interest are nearly limitless—and so is the potential for political damage. According to a study by Vox, a news and policy analysis website, 181 contributors to the Clinton Foundation also lobbied the State Department while Hillary Clinton ran it. That's enough to furnish several more volumes of Clinton Cash, should Schweizer have the fortitude to produce them.

On May 5, the Clinton campaign rolled out a website, the Briefing, to attack Schweizer and rebut the book's insinuations of corruption. But the damage Hillary Clinton has sustained is largely self-inflicted. Although the Clinton Foundation signed an agreement with the White House to disclose its donors as a condition of her becoming secretary of state, it hasn't fulfilled the pledge. A New York Times investigation of Giustra's uranium mining deal turned up donors whom the Clinton Foundation failed to disclose. Bloomberg found an additional 1,100 undisclosed foreign donors. The Boston Globe turned up even more.

This may help explain why a majority of independents in a May 5 New York Times/CBS News poll said that although Hillary Clinton is a "strong leader" who "shares their values," she is "not honest and trustworthy."

Improving her image will be a challenge in light of the scrutiny yet to come. The Clinton Foundation has announced it will continue accepting money from select foreign governments and won't disclose the identities of all its foreign donors. Bill Clinton told NBC News he would keep giving paid speeches because "I gotta pay the bills."

Voters will have to take it on faith that these arrangements are as innocent as the participants claim. Giustra, for one, sounds doubtful they will. "If I didn't know me, and I wasn't there," he says, "I would think, Oh my God, there is some connection between all the good stuff that's happening with Giustra and his donations to the Clinton trips." If Hillary Clinton is going to make it to the White House, she'll need to convince the country otherwise.

Hillary Clinton's Hill Whisperer // National Journal // Sarah Mimms - May 7, 2015

Eager to line up support from top members of the national Democratic Party, Hillary Clinton sent three of her senior aides to Capitol Hill last month. For the Clinton campaign, it was an opportunity to brief members of

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Congress on her plans, avoid any surprises, and shore up support among the party's electeds.

For Clinton's political director Amanda Renteria, it was a homecoming.

After running a failed congressional campaign in California last year, the 40-year-old former staffer for Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Debbie Stabenow returned to Capitol Hill in April as a top liaison between Team Hillary and some of the members she knows well from nearly a decade on the Hill.

Given her knowledge of working in (and running for) Congress and her sterling reputation among Democratic senators, Renteria could be a secret weapon for Clinton in keeping the campaign and the minority party in Congress on the same page.

"Oh, I was so proud of her," Stabenow said beamingly, reflecting on Renteria's performance in a closed-session luncheon with the Democratic senators. "I feel like it's one of the family, for me. … I think she's very well-respected in the caucus. People were very excited to see that she is in this position. I think people have a lot of confidence in her."

In the three weeks since, Stabenow said several members have approached her to praise Renteria and her team of regional political directors for their quick responses to their queries about the campaign's views on policy, surrogacy needs, fundraising, and more. "She understands both the importance and the benefits of having members totally engaged and also the importance of being able to respond quickly with information," Stabenow said.

"I've worked on a lot of campaigns for a really long time and I'm shocked by how good this campaign is at keeping people in the loop. Usually this is the one thing that campaigns do badly. And in the past weeks, I've just been astounded," said Bill Sweeney, Stabenow's current chief of staff who served as Renteria's deputy. "I think that a lot of it really does stem from Amanda's leadership … understanding that folks out here are trying our best to be helpful."

It's been a long and unusual road for Renteria, the daughter of a Mexican-immigrant father and Mexican-American mother, who was raised in California's Central Valley. After graduating from Stanford University, where she played both softball and basketball for the school, Renteria briefly worked at Goldman Sachs. Then she took a job teaching high school, left to get her MBA at Harvard, and then took a job as a budget analyst and consultant to the City of San Jose, before finally landing on Capitol Hill in 2005.

At age 30, Renteria took a job as a legislative aide to Feinstein, her home-state senator. Just two years later, she became the first Latina chief of staff in Senate history, working for Stabenow.

That quick rise was fueled not only Renteria's ambition and work ethic but her warmth and ability to quickly earn the trust of those she's working with, current and former Democratic staffers said.

Nowhere was that more evident than in the fight to pass a farm bill through both chambers of Congress last year. Renteria was instrumental in bridging the gap between not only the two parties, but the regional factions of members that grew up around the bill. That kind of coalition-building could be instrumental to the Clinton

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campaign, as the presumptive nominee faces criticism from the party's liberal wing.

And her relentless optimism helped to keep a team of warring staffers together. "That farm bill almost died about 20 different times I think," one former Senate Democratic staffer said. "But she ... was never sort of, dour. Even at sort of the darkest times she remained positive and determined. That's part of the reason why she's such an effective leader—because then everybody else said, if Amanda still thinks it's possible [then maybe it is]."

Renteria declined to be interviewed for this story, but Sweeney said he sees clearly how she'll translate her skills honed in the Senate to a presidential campaign. "Really, the job of the chief of staff is really just to keep everything running. She was really good at that, good at keeping the trains running on time, keeping everybody in the loop. And that's the key thing she's going to be doing at the Hillary campaign," he said.

After wrapping up the farm bill and seeing Stabenow reelected in a tough 2012 contest, Renteria left the Hill on a high note, preparing to return two years with a very different title: Congresswoman.

It didn't work out that way. Although California's 21st District was redrawn in 2012 to be much more favorable to Democrats and now is 72 percent Hispanic, Renteria lost to incumbent Republican David Valadao by almost 16 points.

The loss was difficult for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which helped to recruit Renteria for the seat. She was one of their most promising candidates for a seat that the party finally had a shot at after years of Republican control, executive director Kelly Ward said in an interview. But it was one of many in the 2014 cycle to swing toward Republicans, and the DCCC had to switch its focus to protecting its own incumbents rather than trying to make inroads in new territory.

In preparing for the 2016 election cycle, Renteria was the first candidate that the DCCC reached out to, Ward said. Ward had been impressed during the previous cycle by Renteria, a mother of two who she described as "warm, but tough." She was rumored to be considering a second run for Congress, but had told local reporters she was leaning towards running for an open California State Assembly seat.

"Her number one focus was going home and doing right by her community," Ward said.

As a candidate in 2014, Renteria did everything "110 percent," Ward said, and although it's often difficult for "doers" like Renteria, she handled the transition from staffer to candidate, who had to pass a lot of the work she typically did to a staff of her own, better than almost any other candidate Ward had seen.

The 2014 loss "was no fault of hers," Ward said.

And the California Democratic Party is hoping that the energy she brought to Democrats in the Central Valley will pay dividends in 2016, even without Renteria as a candidate. "She brought new people into the party because she … just drew them in because she is so dynamic," Shawnda Westly, the party's executive director said in an interview. Renteria built an incredibly loyal volunteer base in the district that impressed Westly and other members, a skill she could use in building a team for Clinton as well.

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The personal experience of campaigning for Congress clearly informs Renteria's work as political director for the Clinton campaign. But it also gives her another connection to members on Capitol Hill. The DCCC, too, has kept in touch with Renteria—not as a candidate, but as a liaison to help keep the campaign committee in the loop with Team Hillary.

"I'd love to have her as a candidate in a presidential election cycle," Ward said, but she understands why Renteria is moving on to the Hillary campaign rather than running another of her own. "I think she is going to do a great job."

Sweeney echoed that sentiment. "Frankly the best thing is if she was in Congress right now, the second best thing is her working to get Hillary elected," he said.

Ja Rule just endorsed Hillary Clinton // Business Insider // Hunter Walker - May 7, 2015

Ja Rule will always be there when Hillary Clinton calls and he will always be on time.

The rapper and former federal prison inmate appeared on Fox Business on Thursday to discuss Magnises, a credit card company he's working with. While there, Ja Rule was asked who he's backing in the 2016 presidential election.

Though he expressed admiration for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), Ja Rule said Clinton, who announced her campaign last month, will get his vote.

"I like Hillary. I like Hillary. But, you know, it's crazy because ... I also think Jeb is a good candidate as well," Ja Rule said. "But, you know, I don't — I'm a Democrat, so yeah, so I would vote Hillary."

Clinton's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Ja Rule's endorsement.

Behind High Walls: Clinton Charity Moves Moroccan Party Out of View // ABC News // Matthew Mosk and Brian Epstein – May 7, 2015

With its private collection of Arabian horses and a restaurant touting biolight cuisine, the Selman palace hotel in Marrakesh presented an opulent backdrop for Wednesday evening’s reception forClinton Foundation members and guests.

Busloads of the Clinton Foundation’s members and sponsors were shuttled here -- 30 minutes away from the conference hotel -- across the exotic, palm-lined city’s ancient walled old city. Torches lined the hotel’s gated entrance and a team of security comprised of retired U.S. Secret Service agents triple checked guests lists as they arrived.

What happened at the event, however, remained hidden behind the sprawling resort’s 12-foot-high walls, off

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limits to the press. When ABC News producers attempted to take pictures of guests arriving at the front entrance, Moroccan police threatened their arrest. The foundation's spokesman initially professed not to know where the reception was being held, and the location was among the only not included on schedules handed out to the media and published online.

"Due to the structure of this event, this session is closed to press," it stated.

The secrecy surrounding the reception was a departure from a comparatively free-wheelingClinton Global Initiative conference -- a three-day event where members of the foundation hear about the results of ongoing charitable projects, and plot the course for new ones. The majority of this conference was open, and unlike some past ones, members of the press were permitted to roam from panel discussion to cocktail party without much hassle. (At a CGI event last year, a New York Times reporter wrote about being watched so closely that a 20-something staffer followed her into the bathroom.)

The Morocco conference is underway at an unusual time for the Clinton Foundation. With Hillary Clinton launching a new presidential bid, and a new book questioning the motivations of some foreign donors to the charity, especially during the period when she was serving as Secretary of State, the foundation has taken pains to push back against perceptions that it is anything but transparent.

During the first panel discussion of the conference, telecom billionaire Mo Ibrahim became the first to address the foreign donation issue that had been weighing on a number of the foundation members and supporters in attendance.

"What is wrong if Saudi Arabia gives money for a farm in Africa? What's the big deal?" Ibrahim asked. "I just could not understand. I didn't see anybody from the foundation standing up."

"You should have stood up and really took issue -- what is this money for?... What have you done with it?" he said.

Clinton shrugged off the topic with a light touch. "I just work here, I don't know," he joked.

"There is one set of rules for politics in America and another set for real life. And you just have to learn to deal with it," Clinton said, quickly turning to the discussion back to the charity's efforts.

Foundation officials said the evening reception was behind closed doors to encourage members to openly exchange ideas as they socialized. They noted that few other charities -– if any –- are asked or expected to open the doors of their private functions.

But at least one reporter covering the conference appeared to believe the openness extended to the evening festivities, and lined up to board the idling tour busses as they prepared to take guests to the Selman. Staff members dutifully checked her ID badge when she stepped to the door, and then promptly turned her away.

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Clinton 'fact-check' under fire // Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood - May 7, 2015

A Kazakh official involved in brokering a controversial mining deal for a major Clinton Foundation donor is behind bars for his role in the transaction, undercutting a Clinton campaign "fact-check" thatattempted to dismiss ethical questions about the former president's ties to the lucrative contract.

Hillary for America and the Clinton-aligned group Media Matterspushed back on allegations that the Clintons had used their political clout to drum up millions in foundation donations and speaking fees by furthering the financial interests of friends in the wake of Tuesday's publication of Peter Schweizer's Clinton Cash.

Schweizer dedicated an entire chapter to a 2005 deal in which Bill Clinton allegedly helped his friend Frank Giustra break into a fiercely competitive uranium market, setting the stage for the high-profile takeover of mining conglomerate Uranium One by Russia.

In response to a spate of stories questioning whether Giustra's hefty donations to the Clinton Foundation influenced Hillary Clinton's position on the Uranium One deal, Giustra released a statement denying his involvement with the company.

He also claimed Bill Clinton "had nothing to do with the purchase of private mining stakes by a Canadian company," as Schweizer and others have suggested.

"That's just dead wrong," said Brian Fallon, a spokesman for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, in a video released Wednesday. "The main donor he's talking about sold his stake in the company two years before Hillary Clinton even became secretary of state."

Giustra had to step down from UrAsia's board when Uranium One acquired it in 2007 so his company could "pursue this transaction without any perception of conflict" because he was serving simultaneously as its financial advisor thanks to his position as chairman of Endeavour Financial.

Giustra noted in his statement that he sold his shares "at least 18 months before Hillary Clinton became the secretary of state. No one was speculating at that time that she would become the secretary of state."

"Schweizer spins a tale that in 2010, then-Secretary Clinton pushed the State Department to approve the sale of Uranium One to the Russian government in order to benefit a stakeholder who had donated to the Clinton Foundation," Hillary for America said in its pushback.

The campaign "fact-check" highlighted the fact that Giustra sold his stake "three years prior to the sale" of Uranium One to Russia.

But Giustra's firm, Endeavour Financial, remained Uranium One's financial advisor well after its acquisition of UrAsia, casting doubt on assertions that he severed his ties to the company before Hillary Clinton became secretary of state.

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Giustra's claim that Bill Clinton played no role in helping UrAsia win mining rights in Kazakhstan in 2005 contradicts what at least one Kazakh official has said about the nature of both Clintons' involvement.

Mukhtar Dzhakishev, the Kazakh official in charge of the country's uranium and nuclear industry, claimed then-Sen. Hillary Clinton had "pressured Kazakh officials to secure a deal for the Canadians" by refusing to meet with the prime minister when he was in the U.S., according to Schweizer.

In 2008, Dzhakishev also said Bill Clinton, Frank Giustra and Kazakh President Nazarbayev discussed the mining deal at a banquet just days before UrAsia acquired significant stakes in three mines, although both Giustra and Bill Clinton deny those conversations.

Dzhakishev was among the key officials whose approval UrAsia would have needed to complete the transaction.

Giustra's company managed to secure a deal that industry insiders deemed a "mystery" less than 48 hours after he and Bill Clinton wrapped up their trip to Kazakhstan.

Mining analysts questioned the arrangement that allowed UrAsia to become "a major uranium producer when it didn't even exist before."

Giustra later gave $31.3 million to the Clinton Foundation.

The deal faced renewed scrutiny in May 2009 when Dzhakishev was arrested for arranging corrupt uranium transactions with foreign companies.

"Authorities singled out the sale of a 30-per-cent stake in Kyzylkum that was allegedly sold for little more than $100,000 in 2005," the Globe and Mail reported the week after Dzhakishev was arrested.

That 30 percent stake was among the assets UrAsia acquired with Bill Clinton's alleged assistance, and belonged to Uranium One at the time Hillary Clinton's State Department allowed it to be bought by the Russian government.

Representatives of Uranium One assured media outlets in 2009 that UrAsia had paid $75 million for the mining stake in question.

"This is just a big misunderstanding, that's all it is," Jean Nortier, Uranium One's CEO, told theToronto Star.

However, Giustra was unable to identify who had sold him the mining stakes after Dzhakishev came under fire.

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Canadian securities documents showed a company called the Jeffcott Group, registered in the British Virgin Islands, had owned the disputed stake before UrAsia bought it in 2005.

Giustra told the Globe and Mail he had only been in contact with a representative from Jeffcott during the transaction and said he was "never privy to the Jeffcott purchase price."

According to the World Bank's Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative, Dzhakishev and a friend, Mukhtar Ablyazov, teamed up to form Jeffcott in a scheme to profit off mining deals like the one with UrAsia.

Ablyazov, who was then head of a state-controlled bank and was reportedly Dzhakishev's college roommate, allegedly created Jeffcott and other offshore companies in order to put together joint ventures into which Dzhakishev shifted government-owned mining stakes.

Giustra later purchased the mining stakes in those joint ventures.

By March of last year, the scandal surrounding Dzhakishev threatened Uranium One's rights to the mines Giustra had purchased.

Two of the three mining properties involved in the 2005 UrAsia deal came from Ablyazov, the former Kazakh energy minister who spent about a year behind bars for corruption before Nazarbayev pardoned him in 2003, according to Bloomberg.

In 2010, Dzhakishev was sentenced to 14 years in prison for the scandal.

Just three years before he ended up behind bars, however, Dzhakishev was sitting down with Bill Clinton and Giustra at the former president's Chappaqua, New York home.

Dzhakishev traveled for the meeting to discuss Kazakhstan's interest in a U.S. company the same month Uranium One took over UrAsia, the New York Times reported in 2008.

"Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Giustra at first denied that any such meeting occurred. Mr. Giustra also denied ever arranging for Kazakh officials to meet with Mr. Clinton. Wednesday, after The Times told them that others said a meeting, in Mr. Clinton's home, had in fact taken place, both men acknowledged it," the Times wrote in January of that year.

The report also notes Giustra's company sent an engineering consultant to Kazakhstan to scope out the mines in 2005, just four weeks before he and Bill Clinton headed to the country for the former president's first trip there since leaving the White House.

That Kazakhstan trip was arranged "hastily" on "last-minute notice," the Times reported.

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How will top 2016 Republicans respond to Hillary Clinton immigration move? // Washington Examiner // Byron York - May 6, 2015

Hillary Clinton shook up the presidential race in both parties with her declaration that she would not only protect President Obama's unilateral executive actions on immigration but that she would go further to offer new status to currently illegal immigrants, and in the end grant "full and equal citizenship" to those who came to the U.S. illegally. It was a move so swift, so consequential — and so far to the left — that Democratic immigration activist groups were stunned.

Some on the right saw an opportunity for Republicans to go on the offensive against Clinton. "Now the GOP campaigns are all filing away footage of [Clinton's] event, in hopes of being able to use it against Hillary next year," wrote conservative blogger John Hinderaker Wednesday.

Maybe not. Rather than quickly condemn Clinton's new position, the two leading Republican presidential candidates most associated with immigration reform — Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio — said nothing at all about it on Thursday.

Bush aides said the candidate himself might address the matter in coming days, while Rubio aides pointed to his previous statements on the issue of immigration reform. For its part, the Republican National Committee criticized the fact that Clinton changed her position but did not criticize her new position itself. The bottom line was that some leading GOP voices were basically silent about Clinton's big move.

The other top Republican in the polls, Scott Walker, has also become identified with the immigration issue, albeit in an entirely different way than Bush and Rubio. Walker rocked the immigration debate inside the GOP recently by suggesting the U.S. should set immigration policy with an eye to the needs of American workers. "The next president and the next Congress need to make decisions about a legal immigration system that's based on, first and foremost, on protecting American workers and American wages," Walker said.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Walker was eager to respond to Clinton's immigration gambit. "Hillary Clinton's full embrace of amnesty is unfair to hardworking Americans and all immigrants who followed the law to achieve the rights and privileges afforded to U.S. citizens," Walker said in a statement Wednesday. "And by supporting the president's lawless executive action, Hillary Clinton once again believes she's above the law. Working families want to secure the border, enforce the law, and fix the broken legal immigration system."

How will Republicans ultimately respond to Clinton? They're in a difficult situation. Both Bush and Rubio have, at different times, declared themselves open to a path to citizenship for the millions of immigrants in the U.S. illegally. Now, both men speak in terms of granting some sort of "legal status" to those immigrants. Clinton noted that in her Nevada remarks when she said that "not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential, is clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship. Not one. When they talk about legal status, that is code for second-class status."

Clinton's move has made a big problem even bigger for Bush, Rubio, and the entire Republican Party.

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After the GOP's decisive defeat in the 2012 presidential elections, in which Barack Obama won 71 percent of the Hispanic vote, a number of Republicans expressed their strong belief that the party had to pass comprehensive immigration reform to ever have a chance of winning a significant number of Hispanic voters.

The idea was that reform was a threshold issue — that is, Republicans would have to pass it before Hispanic voters would consider supporting the GOP's stand on other issues. Hence the Gang of Eight effort, led by Rubio. But reform, passed by the Democratic Senate with Rubio's efforts, died in the Republican-controlled House.

So Clinton has made her move. Her new position effectively trumps all other immigration reform offers on the table. Her message to Hispanic voters is: No Republican — not Jeb, not Marco, not anybody — will offer you as much as I will.

The Republican response is unclear. Can Bush and Rubio say they share Clinton's goal of citizenship for millions of currently illegal immigrants but disagree with her way of getting there? That's not terribly strong. Do they stick with the "legal status" that Clinton characterizes as "second-class status"?

The fact is, if the heart of immigration reform is an effort to win the support of Hispanic voters, Clinton's offer has trumped all other immigration reform proposals on the table. There's not much pro-reform Republicans can say: "We'll give you a little less than Hillary — but please look at our issues, like taxes and entitlement reform."

Republicans will have to come up with something, because Clinton plans to press the issue in the coming campaign. "This will be a defining issue in the election," her campaign manager, Robby Mook, said Wednesday on CNBC. And it's a defining issue Clinton clearly believes she can win.

Pennsylvania's Fight Over Paid Sick Days Could Be The Presidential Campaign's // Huffington Post Politics // Jonathan Cohn – May 7, 2015

You've got a nasty head cold, or maybe your kid is home with the flu. If you're a waitress and you call in sick, should the law forbid your employer from withholding your day's wages?

A big debate over that question is taking place in Pennsylvania, pitting conservative state lawmakers in Harrisburg against liberal city officials in Philadelphia. It's the latest in a series of such clashes that have taken place across the country. Underscoring the high stakes of the outcome, the battle is also drawing attention from high-profile Democrats, including Hillary Clinton, in what could be the early stages of an argument that will play out during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Earlier this year, Philadelphia enacted an ordinance that will allow employees to earn up to five full days of paid sick time per year. Under its terms, employees can claim the days for their own illnesses or for those of direct family members, or they can use the days to deal with domestic violence incidents. The law goes into effect next week. Once it does, workers begin accruing paid sick time -- one hour for every 40 that they work -- as soon as they've been on the job for at least three months.

The law doesn't apply to seasonal employees or interns, or to companies where workers have unions.

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Companies with fewer than 10 employees must provide the time off, but not salary. Even so, as many as 200,000 Philadelphians who didn't have paid sick days before will now get them, according to the law's supporters. When Mayor Michael Nutter signed the measure in February, after vetoing two previous ones, these advocates were ecstatic.

"It's a great day for all of our workers and all of our businesses," said Marianne Bellesorte, an official with Pathways PA, a nonprofit service and advocacy group that works on issues for women, children and families.

But city officials may not have the last word on the matter. As far back as 2013, when Nutter was still blocking the ordinance, conservative lawmakers in the state were talking about passing a law that would invalidate local sick day laws altogether. The clear target of that effort was Philadelphia, since it was the only city considering such a measure and, because of a quirk in the state's constitution, it may be the only city that has the legal authority to do so.

"I think we have an inherent problem with government trying to tell private business what they should do with their employees," John Eichelberger, a Republican state senator, told The Huffington Post in an interview last year. Eichelberger co-sponsored a preemption bill that the Senate passed last month; a similar measure is now before the state's House of Representatives. Tom Wolf, the newly elected Democratic governor, has promised to veto such legislation -- and that's where things stand now. It's not clear whether Republican leaders in the legislature could muster the votes to override him.

A Familiar Fight With Familiar Faces

This isn't the first time conservatives have tried to leverage their superior numbers in state government to block or undermine paid sick days legislation in big cities, where liberals typically hold large majorities. Using a legislative template supplied by the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and working closely with employers who oppose paid sick days mandates, conservatives have tried to enact preemption laws in more than a dozen other states. In Arizona, Georgia and nine other states, they have prevailed.

Bill Clinton: We had the lowest net worth of any president entering office since Harry Truman // Politifact // Katie Sanders - May 7th, 2015

Former President Bill Clinton is back to making claims about his family's humble financial roots.

A year ago, he was defending Hillary Clinton for claiming that they left left the White House "not only dead broke, but in debt" (which rates Mostly False).

"I had the lowest net worth of any American president in the 20th century when I took office," Clinton said then (Half True).

This time, it's amid scrutiny of all those lucrative speeches and foreign government donations to his family foundation.

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"I'm grateful for our success," Clinton told NBC News' Cynthia McFadden in an interview that aired May 4. "But let me remind you. When we moved into the White House, we had the lowest net worth of any family since Harry Truman."

So, did Bill do better by isolating on presidents since Harry Truman?

The answer is yes.

A humble haberdasher, Harry S. Truman

Detailed financial disclosures were not required for presidents through the 1970s, so we're left to rely on other resources to get a picture of a commander-in-chief's financial assets, said Paul Brace, a professor of political science at Rice University.

Still, we do know a lot about their lives. Let's start with Truman since he's critical.

Truman and his wife Bess were not homeowners when he became president. They rented a Washington apartment, and Bess' mother, who owned the Independence, Mo., home associated with Harry Truman, shared a room with their daughter Margaret, said Alonzo Hamby, a Truman biographer and Ohio University emeritus professor of history.

Truman's journey to public office followed bankruptcy-dodging and a failed haberdashery business in the 1920s. He worked his way up from county judge to a U.S. senator, vice president and president upon Franklin D. Roosevelt's death in 1945. Even when he was earning $10,000 as a senator in 1935 ($171,000 in 2015 dollars), he could not save the family farm his mother owned.

It was Truman's post-White House flirtation with bankruptcy that inspired Congress to pass presidential pensions, said Aaron Crawford, a post-doctoral student at Southern Methodist University.

Experts can't pinpoint his net worth to a specific dollar figure, but all the evidence points to the number being quite low. Joseph J. Thorndike, director of the Tax History Project at Tax Analysts, explored Truman's financial highs and lows using tax returns released by his presidential library.

The man from Hope, and his pre-White House wallet

The Clintons are certainly unique compared to other first families in modern history for a couple big reasons: They did not inherit sizable family estates, and Hillary Clinton was the family breadwinner as Bill worked as a career politician.

Before running for the White House in 1992, Clinton brought in $35,000 a year as Arkansas governor, plus some speaking fees, honorariums and in-kind income, such as living in the governor's residence. Hillary was a

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senior partner in the Rose Law Firm of Little Rock at the time, earned $92,000 salary and listed her share of her law firm's profit-sharing and retirement plan between $100,001 and $250,000, according to a New York Times examination of the couple's finances in 1992.

The Clintons listed their net worth as nearly $700,000 in a 1992 statement, a substantial hike from the $418,692 net worth reported at the end of the 1989, according to the Washington Post.

Lest you worry about the financial wealth of the Clintons, the family was still well off by most any standard. The median household net worth for Americans in 2013 was$81,200 (see page 12), according to the Federal Reserve.

Other presidents since Truman

The experts we contacted didn't rattle off hard numbers as they dissected various presidents' pre-office net worth. Instead, they ruled out the obviously wealthy presidents based on their jobs and family situations. (Truman biographer Hamby used the phrases, "JFK of course was quite rich," "Reagan was at least quite affluent," and "George H.W. Bush was at least wealthy if not filthy rich.")

Eliminating the obvious, experts focused on who might present Clinton with a realistic challenge.

Richard Nixon? He had a pretty lucrative law practice in New York. Lyndon B. Johnson? Journalists and historians disagree on exactly how he built his wealth, experts said, but he at least married a wealthy woman whose father owned Texas radio stations.

Dwight D. Eisenhower? Nah, they said, as he was doing well for himself after World War II, landing on corporate boards and enjoying a good military pension and sales of his memoir, Crusade in Europe. "You save the world, you get good royalties," said Jeffrey Engel, director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University.

Most encouraged us to give presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford a closer look.

Carter had earned a good living as the owner of a peanut warehouse business in Georgia before running for the state Senate in 1962, said Scott Kaufman, a scholar of Ford and Carter at Francis Marion University.

In 1979's Jimmy Carter: A Character Portrait, authors Bruce Mazlish and Edwin Diamond wrote that Carter's fortune was $814,000 when he became president, Kaufman said. That bests Clinton, without even having to break out the inflation calculator.

A separate source — a 1976 Washington Post article sent over by the Hillary Clinton campaign — showed Carter had a net worth (when valuing assets at their original cost) of $512,000, which translates to $1.3 million in 1992 dollars, according to 1975 tax returns he released during his campaign against Ford.

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A document from the Gerald R. Ford presidential library suggests Ford had a more modest net worth compared to other presidents. The document, dated Oct. 29, 1973, (the year before Ford became president), showed a net worth of $256,378, which had the same buying power as about $810,000 in 1992. That's more than the Clintons, though not by much.

Ford's finances and dealings were part of the most intense background checks for anyone ever screened for the vice presidency, Kaufman said, coming off the resignation of Nixon vice president Spiro Agnew earlier that month and amid looming worries about legal implications for Nixon in the Watergate scandal.

"They didn't want to appoint someone who might also have problems," Kaufman said.

Our ruling

Bill Clinton urged Americans to remember the Clintons' more modest beginnings with his family's fattened finances in the limelight, saying, "When we moved into the White House, we had the lowest net worth of any family since Harry Truman."

You can decide whether his point is relevant, but Clinton has improved the accuracy of his factoid since making a similar claim last year.

We could not find evidence of a president after Truman whose inflation-adjusted net worth was smaller than the Clintons'.

We rate his claim True.

Hillary and the Burden of Clintonism // The Atlantic // Molly Ball – May 7, 2015

The Democratic presidential candidate's proposals are increasingly at odds with the policies of her husband's administration.

Last week, in the first policy speech of her presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton staked out a position on criminal-justice reform that was a direct repudiation of Bill Clinton's tough-on-crime policies.

It wasn't the first time Hillary Clinton has found herself up against Bill Clinton's record, and it likely won't be the last. As the former first lady stakes out aforthrightly liberal platform for her second presidential campaign, she is increasingly at odds with the legacy of her husband. If the promises she's making now bear fruit, a second Clinton administration could well end up reversing many of the policies of the first one.

Though the criminal-justice contrast was the most widely noticed, Hillary Clinton has already staked out multiple stances that contrast starkly with Bill Clinton's policies. This week, in Las Vegas, she laid out a set of immigration policies including "full and equal citizenship" for undocumented immigrants, protecting the parents of young

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"Dreamer" undocumented immigrants from deportation, and softening deportation policies. Bill Clinton, on the other hand, signed several restrictive immigration measures during his tenure, speeding deportations, increasing penalties, and making it harder for the undocumented to gain legal status. The measures were passed by the Republican Congress at the time.

Hillary Clinton recently expressed hope that the Supreme Court would makesame-sex marriage a constitutional right; her announcement video even featured a gay couple talking about their upcoming wedding. Bill Clinton, in 1996, signed the Defense of Marriage Act to deny federal marriage protections to same sex couples—a law that the Supreme Court ruled largely unconstitutional in 2013.

As the campaign continues, progressives can be expected to push Hillary Clinton to take more stances that contravene Bill Clinton's record. Trade and financial regulation are two notable areas of liberal angst: Many critics blame Bill Clinton's repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act for the 2008 financial crisis, and the North American Free Trade Agreement, which he championed, is frequently cited in the current debate over trade authority as an example of a bad free-trade deal. Welfare reform is another Bill Clinton compromise that many modern-day progressives reject. The Hillary Clinton of 2016 has yet to take a position on these issues, though she issued a statement expressing concern about the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. Obama strongly supports the deal, and Hillary Clinton previously supported it as secretary of state.

Tighter financial regulation, including reimposing Glass-Steagall-style regulations, is the top priority of supporters of Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, whose fans are still hoping she will reverse herself and decide to run for president. The pining for Warren is a symptom of some progressives' continuing suspicion of Hillary Clinton, who, like her husband, has a reputation for pro-business dealmaking rather than bold liberalism. "A growing number of supporters are urging Elizabeth Warren to run because her actions speak even louder than her words," said Erica Sagrans, campaign manager of the Ready for Warren draft effort. "By leading the charge to create our nation's first consumer protection agency, Elizabeth Warren has shown that she can take on the tough fights and win."

What's the significance of Hillary Clinton's departures from her husband's policies? They may serve to remind liberals how frequently Bill Clinton, when he was president, was willing to compromise liberal stances in the service of getting things done—stoking Democrats' fears that, however progressive Hillary Clinton sounds now, she might not govern that way in practice. Hillary Clinton's record in the Senate was likewise that of a dealmaker, and since leaving the state Department and reentering politics, she's talked about trying to break out of the gridlock of the current era. That's going to mean working with Republicans, and potentially agreeing to deals that fall far short of the policies liberals would like to see.

Hillary Clinton's team says her differences with her husband are simply a mark of changing times. It would be silly, after all, to expect the policies of 2016 to be exactly the same as those offered in 1993. Cracking down on crime, for example, was appropriate in the 1990s, when it was an epidemic problem; nowadays, with crime down and growing concern around mass incarceration, different solutions are called for. (Supporters also note that Bill Clinton has now taken a similar stance against his old tough-on-crime policies.)

“Hillary Clinton is running on her own agenda and her proven record as a fighter for everyday Americans," Clinton campaign spokesman Jesse Ferguson told me. "Her policy ideas fit the challenges we face and the times we’re in.”

Much has already been written about the challenge Hillary Clinton faces in positioning herself against the Obama legacy. How can she convince voters looking for a change that that is what she represents when she

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was an integral part of the Obama administration? And how much of a departure can she call for without alienating Obama's still-loyal base of support?

Yet as Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign takes shape, the Democratic administration with which she's offering the clearest contrast isn't Obama's—it's Bill Clinton's.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Trade Debate Gives Bernie Sanders a Chance to Put Hillary Clinton on the Hot Seat // Bloomberg // Heidi Przybyla - May 7, 2015

Senator Bernie Sanders is setting the first in a number of political traps for Hillary Clinton with next week's start of a congressional debate over trade legislation.

The Vermont independent challenging Clinton for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination is dialing up pressure for her to take a stand on a 12-nation Pacific trade deal she's supported in the past.

Sanders has virtually no chance of winning the Democratic nomination unless Clinton alienates grassroots activists like labor union members, and he's pushing her to do just that. He has been needling her in media appearances and, last month, he marched with labor officials in Washington to protest the upcoming trade vote.

"I have voted against every disastrous trade agreement coming down the pike," Sanders said on Wednesday, arguing that such deals have exported "good-paying jobs to low-wage countries."

"People have got to look at Secretary Clinton's record," he added.

The Senate plans to begin debate next week on legislation granting President Barack Obama the ability to expedite trade agreements like the Pacific deal, which is unpopular among many Democratic voters. The AFL-CIO, environmental groups and other progressive organizations are making its defeat their top legislative priority. Fast-track authority requires Congress to hold an up-or-down vote on international agreements negotiated by the president, meaning there's no opportunity for amendments or filibusters.

Sanders's rhetoric on trade demonstrates how he poses a threat to Clinton even if he doesn't endanger her grip on the nomination. While labor groups fighting the trade legislation are likely to support Clinton as the eventual nominee, she could suffer from an enthusiasm gap if the labor and progressive communities aren't motivated to show up at the polls and turn out their followers.

On April 17, Sanders issued a statement calling on Clinton to oppose the deal. The same day, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said she believes any new trade measures must "put us in a position to protect American workers, raise wages and create more good jobs at home," but stopped short of indicating whether she supports or opposes the trade deal.

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Clinton has in the past expressed support for a Pacific trade deal, which pits key elements of the Democratic coalition against key Democratic leaders—among them Obama, and Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton.

It's an opportunity for Sanders, who announced his long-shot 2016 candidacy last week, to show he can shape his party's primary debate, even if he's unlikely to become the nominee.

More contrasts to come

Other areas where Sanders is in a position to draw stark contrasts with Clinton include: Her support for the Patriot Act; her vote in 2002 to authorize the war in Iraq, and her stance on the Keystone XL pipeline. As secretary of state, Clinton said she was “inclined” to approve the pipeline. Since then, much like on the trade measure, Clinton has been silent on Keystone.

On trade, Clinton has to contend not only with her own record, but that of her husband. One of the hallmark legislative successes of former President Bill Clinton's administration was the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement that unions blame for thousands of lost U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Unions typically provide the campaign foot soldiers who knock on doors, make phone calls and help get Democratic voters to the polls. Right now, they're launching an all-out war against the trade legislation. An AFL-CIO fact sheet said its members have held 450 nationwide events, including rallies in Washington, made 100,000 phone calls and gathered 40,000 petition signatures.

The labor federation is freezing all political action committee contributions to candidates to put those funds toward a campaign to stop fast-track legislation. That includes digital ads pressuring 16 senators to oppose the deal and attacks on Democrats Ron Wyden of Oregon and Michael Bennet of Colorado, who voted for the legislation in committee. Last week, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka delivered a speech putting elected officials on notice, without mentioning Clinton by name.

'No middle ground'

"We expect those who seek to lead our nation forward to oppose fast-track," Trumka said. "There is no middle ground, and the time for deliberations is drawing to a close."

To Matt Bennett, a former White House aide to President Bill Clinton who supports trade legislation, "The ferocity with which segments of the labor community are fighting this has been surprising." He acknowledged it puts Hillary Clinton in a bind.

"She's torn between what she knows to be important for America's economy and our leadership in the global economy and the necessity of uniting the party behind her," said Bennett, now senior vice president at Third Way, a Democratic policy group.

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House Speaker John Boehner is also leaning on Clinton to declare her position.

Last week, the Ohio Republican said in an interview on NBC's Meet the Press that Obama needs Clinton's help to corral hesitant Democratic senators to support the trade measure. "She can't sit on the sidelines and let the president swing in the wind here," he said.

Martin O'Malley Hires Political Director Before Likely Run // New York Times // Maggie Haberman - May 7, 2015

Martin O'Malley, the former Democratic governor of Maryland, is moving to solidify his team for his all-but-certain 2016 presidential campaign, bringing on a former aide to President Obama as his national political director.

Karine Jean-Pierre will be taking on that role, according to Mr. O'Malley's aides. Mr. O'Malley is expected to announce his presidential candidacy in the coming weeks.

Ms. Jean-Pierre was the deputy battleground states director for Mr. Obama's re-election campaign in 2012. Before that she worked as regional political director in the White House Office of Political Affairs.

Ms. Jean-Pierre has spent time immersed in a crucible of liberal primary politics — she was the campaign manager for Letitia James, the New York City public advocate, in her primary campaign runoff in 2013. She also was a senior adviser to Bill Thompson when he ran for mayor of New York that same year.

Mr. O'Malley has been making repeated trips to early voting states in recent months, and is scheduled to return to New Hampshire next week. He has also been trying to sharpen the distinctions between himself and Hillary Rodham Clinton on key issues.

Martin O'Malley Keeps On Baiting Hillary Clinton // Bloomberg Politics // Sahil Kapur - May 7, 2015

According to the latest polls, it may not be working, but Martin O'Malley remains a mission to paint Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton as an inauthentic opportunist, as evident in his messaging so far and signals from people familiar with his political strategy.

The former Maryland governor hasn't yet formally declared his intentions to challenge Clinton for the White House but he has begun portraying her as a politician who shapes her positions according to public opinion. In marked contrast to Senator Bernie Sanders, a Vermont socialist who had an outwardly friendly Twitter exchange with Clinton on the day he announced he was challenging her, O'Malley has gone after the former secretary of state, albeit sometimes without mentioning her name.

"I believe that we are best as a party when we lead with our principles and not according to the polls," he told reporters when he spoke at Harvard on April 16, summing up the theory of his would-be candidacy. "And every election is about the future. And leadership is about making the right decision, and the best decision before sometimes it becomes entirely popular." One day later he took a similar veiled swipe at Clinton on CBS' Face

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The Nation. "You can't forge public opinion by following public opinion," he said.

So far, as Clinton has worked to align herself with progressives on a host of issues—sometimes altering her past positions. She has also maintained intimidatingly high popularity levels with Democrats.

O'Malley, by contrast has scant name recognition and barely registers in early primary polls. The lead singer of an Irish rock band named "O'Malley's March," he strikes up the same tune on issue after issue: I was fighting on the progressive side from the start; Clinton wasn't—and in some cases still isn't. (Her campaign declined to comment for this article.)

Here are five notable examples.

Child Refugees at the Southern Border

As Clinton was shoring up her progressive credentials on May 5 at a Las Vegas roundtable by championing relief for undocumented people brought to the U.S. as children, O'Malley spokeswoman Lis Smith released a statement touting his support for letting a flood of children who arrived at the Southern border last year stay in the U.S. after they had fled gang violence in Central America.

"Governor O'Malley stood up when it mattered. When most leaders in the Democratic and Republican Parties were saying that we should close our border to children fleeing violence in Central America, he defied them and said that we could not send children 'back to certain death.' He was criticized for that position, but leadership is about forging public opinion, not following it."

The context: The timing of Team O'Malley's statement made clear that it was a thinly veiled reference to Clinton saying in 2014 that the unaccompanied minors "should be sent back." At the time, the issue received national attention and the Obama White House and Republicans broadly agreed that the children should be processed by the system and deported.

Same-Sex Marriage

Under O'Malley's watch in November 2012, Maryland became one of the first states to approve same-sex marriage, and the former governor loves to brag about his role in the battle. "I believe marriage is a human right, not a state right. I'm glad she's come around to that position," he told reporters in mid-April, referring to Clinton.

The context: Clinton had just completed her 180-degree flip on gay marriage; her campaign said the Supreme Court should declare it a constitutional right for same-sex couples in a landmark case expected to be decided next month. Her evolution was gradual: in 2013, after stepping down as secretary of state, she came out for same-sex marriage. But as recently as June 2014 she told NPR she wants to let states prohibit it if they choose to, a position that gay rights advocates (and, increasingly, Americans) oppose.

Drivers' Licenses for the Undocumented

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As governor, O'Malley signed a law permitting undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers' licenses. "I believe that we do our country a disservice when we make it harder for new American immigrants to abide by the rules of the road and obtain drivers' licenses," he told a group of reporters at Harvard University in April. "And I'm glad she [Clinton] has come around to that position."

The context: During the 2008 primary, Clinton opposed drivers' licenses for people in the U.S. illegally (after initially hesitating during a debate). At the time the Democratic Party was divided on the issue of immigration. Not so anymore. In mid-April, days after launching her 2016 campaign, she came around. "Hillary supports state policies to provide drivers' licenses to undocumented immigrants," her campaign told the Huffington Post.

Social Security Expansion

In early March, O'Malley said he'd push for more generous Social Security benefits as president. He reiterated that position in his April speech at Harvard, saying: "Rather than reducing Social Security benefits or privatizing Social Security, we need to expand Social Security benefits." He wants to pay for it by lifting the cap on payroll taxes for incomes above a certain level. Currently, income above $118,500 is not taxed to support Social Security.

The context: O'Malley was drawing a contrast with Clinton, who in 2008 called for a bipartisan commission to propose changes to Social Security. He was well aware that she hadn't taken a position on the issue of expansion, which has been growing in popularity with progressives. Last month her campaign spokesman Jesse Ferguson said "dealing with challenges facing older Americans is a top priority for her" and touted her "record of fighting against privatizing Social Security and opposing cuts to seniors benefits."

Trade

"Hard Choice? Nope. To me, opposing bad trade deals like TPP is just common sense," O'Malley wrote in an April 22 fundraising email, making a snarky reference to Clinton's 2014 memoir Hard Choices. "American workers whose jobs could be on the line right now are owed more than lip service. They deserve to know where leaders stand."

The context: So far, Clinton has not taken a position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement that the U.S. is negotiating with some dozen countries. Congress could begin debating it as early as next week. The White House supports it; the AFL-CIO and many groups on the left oppose it. "She will be watching closely," Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement on April 17, "to see what is being done to crack down on currency manipulation, improve labor rights, protect the environment and health, promote transparency, and open new opportunities for our small businesses to export overseas."

Can Elizabeth Warren Kill President Obama's Trade Deal? // TIME // Haley Sweetland Edwards - May 7, 2015

Elizabeth Warren, the famously fiery populist senator from Massachusetts, has a reputation for having a bit of a reverse-Midas touch, when she wants to: if she decides she is against something, it often turns to smoke.

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The latest subject of her withering glare? In a letter to supporters Thursday afternoon, Warren decried a sub-chapter in the Obama administration's proposed trade deal, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, that would allow companies to sue foreign countries through an extra-judicial tribunal made up of three for-profit arbitrators.

If that sounds a little hard-to-follow, that's because it is. But Warren's street cred with liberals is strong enough that they tend to take her lead even when the argument can't be summed up in a simple bumper sticker slogan.

Provisions for these tribunals — known as an investor-state dispute system, or ISDS — have appeared in more than 3,000 trade deals, including the North American Free Trade Agreement, since the 1950s, according to Jeff Zients, the director of the National Economic Council.

But Warren argues that it's different this time around. For one, the Trans-Pacific Partnership is enormous. It includes the U.S. and 11 other countries, including Japan, Australia and Chile, oversees a whopping 40% of the world's total annual GDP, and it's irreversible: once we're in it, there's no getting out.

And for another, she claims that ISDS isn't what it used to be. Two decades ago, when NAFTA was ratified, multi-national corporations were smaller and less powerful than they are today. Her case is that as those interests have gotten bigger and bigger, they've gotten more litigious: in the four decades from 1959 to 2002, there were fewer than 100 ISDS cases world wide. Between 2010 and 2013 alone, there were more than 200.

"Recent cases include a French company that sued Egypt because Egypt raised its minimum wage, a Swedish company that sued Germany because Germany decided to phase out nuclear power after Japan's Fukushima disaster, and a Dutch company that sued the Czech Republic because the Czechs didn't bail out a bank that the company partially owned," she wrote in a Washington Post op-ed this winter.

In February, John Oliver, the Comedy Central comedian and host of Last Week Tonight who also holds sway with liberals, mocked an effort by the tobacco company, Philip Morris, to use ISDS to reverse public health regulations in Uruguay's designed to reduce the smoking rate.

President Obama, backed by most Republicans, a majority of Democrats, and the powerful corporate interest groups, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable, says Warren is just plain wrong. (He'll be at Nike's headquarters in Oregon on Friday explaining why the TPP is great.) ISDS is necessary, the deal's backers argue, to ensure the corporations feel comfortable making direct foreign investments in other countries — particularly those with less well developed court systems.

But policy arguments aside for a moment, will the famous Warren touch work this time around?

In the past, Warren has been successful in taking down very narrow targets. Last fall, she set her sights on Antonio Weiss, the White House's nominee for Treasury undersecretary for domestic finance, and by January, he'd bowed out. Before that, Warren helped doom Obama's plan to nominate former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers to head the Federal Reserve.

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But Warren's also had some off-days. She failed, for example, in her effort last December to quash Congress's unwieldy continuing resolution and omnibus bill — nicknamed the "Cromnibus" — which included provisions that unwound financial regulations.

And the Trans-Pacific Partnership, for better or worse, may have more in common with the latter than the former. Like the Cromnibus, the TPP is huge, unwieldy, and also includes provisions that many Democrats will like.

Plus, there are technical difficulties. If Congress passes what's known as the "fast-track" bill next week — it's unclear if they currently have the votes they need — there won't be any room for debate about which parts to keep, rewrite, amend or scrap. The fast-track bill binds Congress into an up or down vote on the final version of the trade deal.

And if it comes down to a simple "yes" or "no," Warren's famous touch, however powerful, might not be enough.

GOP

Rubio Headlines Fundraiser For Policy Group That Supports Conversion Therapy // Buzzfeed // Chris Geldner – May 7, 2015

Rubio Headlines Fundraiser For Policy Group That Supports Conversion Therapy

Republican presidential contender Marco Rubio headlined a fundraiser Wednesday night for the conservative Arizona group behind much of the state's socially conservative legislation.

Although there was no media inside the room at the Center for Arizona Policy fundraiser, held at Arizona Christian University, and a spokesperson from Rubio's campaign did not respond to repeated requests Wednesday for comment about the event or what Rubio planned to say, at least two attendees did post on social media from within the event with remarks from Rubio.

"Even as I'm speaking to you now, a human life is being terminated in America," a congressional staffer attending Wednesday's event quoted Rubio as saying. The staffer works for Rep. Trent Franks, who also was in attendance.

"Without faith at the core of our society, you fall into an era of moral relativism," the staffer quoted Rubio as saying.

When Rubio was discussing marriage, the Franks staffer did not quote Rubio directly, but he tweeted, "Dangerous era in America, says @marcorubio, where if you believe in the traditional definition of marriage, you're a bigot."

Rubio did not apparently reference or discuss the center's stated support for conversion therapy — a practiced banned when used on minors in New Jersey, California, and DC — and his spokesperson did not respond to a question asking whether Rubio agrees with the group's view that "homosexuals [can] modify[] their behavior and

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becoming heterosexual through Christian ministries and counseling."

Just last month, Rubio expressed a different view, saying, "[T]he bottom line is, I believe that sexual preference is something people are born with."

Arizona state Sen. Katie Hobbs, the Democratic minority leader in the state Senate, spoke with BuzzFeed News about the event, noting that an abortion bill was one of the two key pieces of legislation the center pushed in the legislature this term. The other related to vouchers, she said. In the past legislative term, the group had pushed the religious liberty bill that eventually was vetoed by former Gov. Jan Brewer.

Hobbs criticized Rubio's appearance before the Center for Arizona Policy. "I know that's there's folks in their base for whom these social issues matter," she said of the Republican Party, "but average Americans should be worried that these are the issues a presidential candidate is focusing on." She described the group as having power within the state capitol — but also out of the mainstream.

Marco Rubio Campaigns on His Immigrant Story, Cautiously // New York Times // Jonathan Martin and Ashley Parker - May 7, 2015

ANKENY, Iowa — At a recent ice cream social here, Jim Hallihan liked what he heard from Senator Marco Rubio.

He praised the Florida senator's youthful optimism and his eloquent testimony to the opportunities America offered.

But there was something larger that drew Mr. Hallihan, a former Iowa State basketball coach, to Mr. Rubio, 43, the son of poor Cuban immigrants.

"The day of the older white guy is kind of out," said Mr. Hallihan, a 70-year-old white guy.

As Mr. Rubio has introduced himself to curious, and overwhelmingly Caucasian, Republican audiences from Iowa to New Hampshire, he has vaulted to the front ranks of the early pack of likely presidential candidates, partly because of his natural political talent. But it may owe just as much to the combination of his personal story and the balm it offers to a party that has been repeatedly scalded by accusations of prejudice.

He says he is highlighting his background only to share his own twist on the American dream — not out of any desire to make history on behalf of Hispanics. But Mr. Rubio and those around him are also acutely aware of the sometimes raw tensions in his party, between those unsettled by an increasingly diverse society and those who say Republicans must embrace the multihued America of 2015.

To the party operatives and donors who have placed long bets on him, and to the rank-and-file primary voters he has impressed, Mr. Rubio's candidacy seems to affirm the idea that, in a free market, anyone can rise without the benefit of connections or wealth. That he did so as the child of Latin American parents who fled an autocratic government and toiled in the humblest of jobs — maid and bartender — has sent some Republicans swooning.

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“The identity politics people in the party want a champion who looks like him to mitigate accusations of racism,” said Ben Domenech, a conservative writer. “And the classical conservatives look at him and say, ‘This is somebody who can sell our ideas to the public.’”

Conservatives have long had a philosophical contempt for politics driven by gender, racial or class designations. But those sentiments are giving way as the party tries to compete with Democrats, who galvanized support among targeted demographics to decisively win consecutive presidential elections.

Republican voters are overwhelmingly white: The composition of the electorate in almost every contested state during the 2012 party primary was about 90 percent or more non-Hispanic white, according to exit polls.

A New York Times/CBS Poll this week found that 68 percent of Republicans think America is ready to elect a Hispanic president. And after nearly eight years in which Republicans have angrily disputed charges that their opposition to President Obama was rooted in racial animus, Mr. Rubio could serve as an unspoken, but forceful, rebuttal.

“The same things that ignited Democrats about Obama are what will ignite Republicans for Rubio,” said Ed Failor Jr., an Iowa Republican strategist.

Or, as Mr. Domenech put it, “If we look to politicians to make us feel good about ourselves, do you want to go with just another Republican caricature, or somebody who has this unique appeal?”

Andrea Szewczyk, 51, a Republican and a schoolteacher in Romeo, Mich., who was surveyed in the Times poll, said she believed that Mr. Rubio’s ethnicity could excite the electorate, much as she said Mr. Obama’s identity did. “We’d get some Democrats voting Republican because of it,” she said.

Indeed, much as many white liberals treasured the opportunity to support Mr. Obama, white conservatives may welcome a Bible-quoting, handsome Hispanic capable of evangelizing the gospel of American exceptionalism in two languages.

Mr. Rubio disputes suggestions that he is capitalizing on the history-making potential of becoming his party’s first nonwhite nominee.

“The presidency is too important to say we’re going to share it among ethnicities,” he said in an interview.

Much as Mr. Obama avoided running expressly as a black candidate, Mr. Rubio is uneasy about explicitly invoking his ethnicity in the primary of a party that can seem split between tapping into and trying to overcome white-resentment politics.

Instead, just as Mr. Obama’s talk of “hope and change” in 2008 allowed voters to project their own vision onto the candidate, Mr. Rubio’s campaign is its own Rorschach test.

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His advisers assert that Mr. Rubio's background is compelling to voters across racial lines, many of whom are themselves only a few generations removed from Ellis Island narratives. But they have also studied the voter rolls to see how Mr. Rubio might spur Hispanic turnout in some heavily white states — say, by delivering him as few as 5,000 Hispanic votes in Iowa.

Still, if some Republicans love the idea of what Mr. Rubio's race represents, others are wary. "Eight years of one demographically symbolic president is enough," said Wayne R. LaPierre, chief executive of the National Rifle Association, at its annual conference last month.

Mr. LaPierre was referring to Mr. Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton, who, if elected, would be the first female president. (The Republican field includes another Latino, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, whose father emigrated from Cuba.)

But Mr. Rubio seems mindful of the risks of confronting the most conservative elements of his party over delicate racial issues.

At a candidate forum in New Hampshire last month, he passed up the chance to offer even a gentle reproach to a woman who, citing bilingual store signs and automated phone lines, complained that immigrants were not "coming here and learning English."

"Well, here's the bottom line," Mr. Rubio told her. "If you don't speak English, you're not going to prosper economically in America."

At a similar gathering recently in Iowa, Mr. Rubio recounted vowing to his dying grandfather, in Spanish, that he would study hard and not squander opportunities. But Mr. Rubio told the story in English.

Asked if he was comfortable speaking Spanish on the campaign trail, Mr. Rubio seemed to grow momentarily defensive. "Sure," he said, adding, "I don't want to make Spanish illegal."

"I'm ultimately saying that you have to have a unifying language where your schools are taught, what your laws are written in and how others communicate with each other," he continued. "Every nation needs a unifying language; our unifying language is English."

As for those with dial-1-for-English gripes, Mr. Rubio said, "I know Hispanics that complain about that, especially people in the second or third generation."

Mr. Rubio has met with some pushback in his party from people who see the country changing and want to stop placating those who are unhappy about it.

"You can't allow yourself to be pushed back into 'English only, English only,' " said former Representative Henry

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Bonilla of Texas, a Republican and Mexican-American. “This is the U.S.; our language is English. But we’re in a global economy now, so why wouldn’t you want to know more than one language?”

Mr. Rubio does not entirely avoid speaking Spanish: He frequently gives interviews to Spanish-language journalists, especially in Florida. And in his announcement speech in Miami last month, he shared a benedictionlike saying of his late father’s: “En este país, ustedes van a poder lograr todas las cosas que nosotros no pudimos,” Mr. Rubio said. Then he translated it: “In this country, you will achieve all the things we never could.”

But he is careful about how he presents his dual identity. In a video his campaign released shortly after he entered the race, Mr. Rubio was shown answering the questions about him posed in frequent Google searches. “What nationality is Marco Rubio?” he said, reading one. “I’m an American — of Hispanic descent.”

By contrast, Jeb Bush, whose wife is Mexican and often refers to their “bicultural” children, is not so torn: He delights in opportunities to demonstrate his fluent Spanish, and last week he courted voters in Puerto Rico. “I know the power of the immigrant experience because I live it each and every day,” he said there.

The legislative embodiment of the conflicting forces tugging at Mr. Rubio was the effort to overhaul American immigration laws. He helped write a comprehensive bill including a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants already in the country. But it died in the Republican-controlled House, and provoked outrage from the party’s most reliable primary voters.

Last month, when Mr. Rubio made his first trip to Iowa after announcing his campaign, he was confronted at a closed-door meeting by Mariannette Miller-Meeks, a former congressional candidate, who pointedly urged him not to retreat from an immigration overhaul.

“My advice to Senator Rubio was to be honest with people, be yourself,” Ms. Miller-Meeks said afterward, “because that will carry a lot of weight.”

'Underdog' Rick Santorum says he'll announce intentions May 27 // Politico // Nick Gass – May 7, 2015

Rick Santorum will announce whether he will make a run for president later this month at an event in his hometown of Butler, Pennsylvania, on May 27.

“Look, it was a great campaign last time,” he told Fox News’ Greta Van Susteren on Wednesday night, referencing his 34-vote victory in the 2012 Iowa Republican caucus. “We were clearly the underdog and we are starting out as looking at this race and we would be in the same position. And so we are very comfortable there.”

Santorum said he is looking at a venue in the town approximately 35 miles north of Pittsburgh “to sort of talk about what it was like growing up there and where America needs to go in the future.”

The former Pennsylvania senator made his 2012 announcement in Somerset, Pennsylvania — an hour and a

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half east of Pittsburgh and near where his grandfather worked as a coal miner.

Santorum also touched upon the social issues he might tackle if he announces a presidential run.

“Talking about what we can do to help strengthen that family structure is going to be certainly a part of the campaign,” he said.

Why Carly Fiorina is on a media blitz // CNN Politics // Chris Moody – May 7, 2015

A central theme of Carly Fiorina's nascent campaign for the Republican presidential nomination is that she is uniquely positioned to neutralize the historic potential of Hillary Clinton's 2016 bid.

But first, she has to introduce herself to voters, who in large part don't know who she is.

On the day she announced her candidacy, Fiorina sat for two interviews with ABC's "Good Morning America" in New York. Then she hopped on a phone for a mid-morning press call with 65 journalists. After lunch, she was off to Yahoo News' studio for a live sit-down with anchor Katie Couric, followed by a question-and-answer session using the live-streaming app Periscope. That evening, she joined Megyn Kelly on Fox News.

The next day was no different: Fiorina navigated eight interviews, including Glenn Beck's radio show, CNN and "The Late Show with Seth Meyers." Seven more interviews were scheduled Wednesday, followed by five press availabilities over the weekend in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

Fiorina's exhaustive schedule is emblematic of candidates who enter the race without a lick of national name ID. For a candidate whose name barely registers in CNN/ORC polls conducted regularly since November, Fiorina — and upstart candidates like her -- must rely on the media's megaphone to get her name heard. Even better-known contenders like Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Marco Rubio of Florida, did a media blitz after announcing their presidential bids.

"Candidates with lower name identification must jump at virtually every opportunity to garner media coverage," said Republican political consultant Ellen Carmichael, who managed press outreach for Herman Cain's presidential campaign in 2011, a candidate who started out virtually unknown. "For some, this means creating their own news by saying things the media deems controversial. For others, it means answering every media inquiry and agreeing to every interview that comes your way. More established candidates, however, have the luxury of passing on requests."

That's one luxury that Clinton is enjoying.

Since her presidential campaign announcement on April 12, Clinton has not held a formal press conference. While on the campaign trail, she has responded — reluctantly at times -- to roughly eight questions from journalists.

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Even that count is a charitable one, given that some responses have been little more than short exclamations, such as, "I'm having a great time, can't look forward any more than I am," which she said in response to a question about her strategy in Iowa. When a reporter in New Hampshire asked about her next stop on the campaign trail, she merely said, "Oh, onward."

Clinton has been so reclusive in the first weeks of her candidacy that the New York Times started publishing questions their reporters would have asked her that day on the campaign trail if they had had the chance.

At this early stage in the race, Clinton doesn't need to rely on the media to reach her core supporters. She has a Twitter feed with 3.47 million followers and a new Facebook page that has grown to 800,000 online supporters since her announcement in April. This week her campaign launched a web series called, "The Briefing," which it intends to use to combat what they consider unfriendly media coverage.

It would be hard to see how any other candidate could take such a brazen go-it-alone approach.

Of course, Clinton's absence from media interviews does not come without consequence.

Her lone official challenger, Sen. Bernie Sanders, announced his candidacy last week and quickly booked a round of interviews, which led the liberal magazine Mother Jones to post the jabbing headline, "Bernie Sanders Has Already Taken More Press Questions Than Hillary Clinton."

This is one of the few instances in which die-hard liberal Sanders and conservative Fiorina are in the same boat: The CNN/ORC poll in April found that just 5% of Democratic voters would consider supporting Sanders, compared to 69% for Clinton.

As the campaign progresses, Clinton will become more available for press questions, Clinton spokesman Jesse Ferguson told CNN. But as the frontrunner 19 months until the general election, her campaign strategists know that journalists will still continue to cover her regardless of whether she answers questions.

Her lesser-known opponents—on both sides of the aisle—don't have that benefit.

Jeb Bush is Failing to Impress Iowa Republicans, Poll Shows // New York Times // Alan Rappeport - May 7, 2015

Former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida has been on a fund-raising tear as he prepares before a probable announcement that he is running for president, but he might want to spend some more time in Iowa.

The crucial caucus state that kicks off nominating season is not particularly impressed with Mr. Bush so far, according to a new poll released on Wednesday by Quinnipiac University.

In a survey of 667 Republicans who are most likely to participate in the Iowa caucuses, Mr. Bush comes in

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seventh with just 5 percent saying they would probably support him. A quarter of Iowa Republicans who might caucus said they would definitely not support him.

The poll shows that 45 percent of the Iowans surveyed had an unfavorable opinion of Mr. Bush, with the same number saying he is not sufficiently conservative.

The figures show the challenge that Mr. Bush could face charting a path to securing the Republican nomination and consolidating conservative voters. The poll has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Quinnipiac's poll shows Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin as the early favorite in Iowa, with 21 percent of likely Republican caucus-goers most likely to back him. Senators Rand Paul of Kentucky, Marco Rubio of Florida and Ted Cruz of Texas are all vying for second place.

"For national unknowns like Walker and Rubio, a fast start in Iowa may be critical to their chances of overall success, while supporters of national names like Bush note that fewer than half of Iowa winners wind up inhabiting the Oval Office," said Peter Brown, assistant director of Quinnipiac's poll.

Jeb Bush Plans to Spend More Time in Iowa // New York Times // Alan Rappeport - May 7, 2015

Former Gov. Jeb Bush will have the chance to correct his polling problems in Iowa with a trip to the state next week.

Mr. Bush will join several others considering White House bids at the Republican Party of Iowa's Lincoln Dinner in Des Moines on May 16. He will also participate in a town hall meeting at Loras College in Dubuque and attend a fund-raiser with Senator Charles E. Grassley in Iowa City.

Jeff Kaufmann, chairman of Iowa's Republican Party, said that while the state does not necessarily feel neglected by Mr. Bush just yet, he'll need to put some serious time in if he wants to connect with voters.

"The amount of time he's going to spend here is going to have to change to move those particular numbers," Mr. Kaufmann said.

The visit will be Mr. Bush's second trip this election cycle. He traveled to Iowa in March to be a guest of honor at a fund-raiser for Representative David Young, a House freshman.

The Republican from Florida heads to the Hawkeye State as his support there has been flagging among likely caucusgoers. A Quinnipiac University poll on Wednesday showed his support at 5 percent, placing him in seventh place behind potential rivals for the nomination.

Supporters of Mr. Bush have noted that past candidates such as Michele Bachmann and Herman Cain

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performed well in early Iowa polls before flaming out as others began more serious efforts in the state.

While Mr. Bush continues to show strength in polls in New Hampshire, where he was atop WMUR's latest Granite State Poll, a strong showing in Iowa will be important for his momentum as next year's nomination contest gathers pace.

"He's going to have the opportunity to address a whole lot of Republican activists in a week," Mr. Kaufmann said. "I look for him to be very active in the state."

One of Jeb Bush's top advisers on Israel: George W. Bush // Washington Post // Robert Costa and Matea Gold - May 7, 2015

When asked this week at an exclusive Manhattan gathering about who advises him on U.S.-Israel policy, Jeb Bush surprised many of the 50-plus attendees by naming his brother, former president George W. Bush, as his most influential counselor.

"If you want to know who I listen to for advice, it's him," Bush said Tuesday, speaking to a crowd of high-powered financiers at the Metropolitan Club, according to four people present.

The remark came as part of an answer to a question about Bush's political advisers and their policy views. Bush was pressed for details about who he surrounds himself with and consults as he thinks through his positions, guests said.

The Republicans in the room who spoke with The Washington Post were granted anonymity to divulge information about the proceedings, where confidentially was insisted upon by the event's host, GOP mega-donor Paul Singer.

Embracing his brother as a foreign policy confidant is a risky and unexpected move for the former Florida governor as he readies for a likely presidential run. While George W. Bush's approval ratings have improved since he left office in 2009, his foreign policy legacy — particularly the long war in Iraq — remains deeply unpopular. He has also become anathema to some conservative activists for presiding over an increase in the federal debt, among other policies.

As he has explored a 2016 campaign for the White House, Jeb Bush has sought to create distance from the family political brand. While Bush has not criticized his brother, he rarely cites him as his guide on policies. And George W. Bush said last month that he planned to stay away from the campaign trail because voters do not like political dynasties.

Jeb Bush's revelation that he regularly speaks with his brother about Israel also indicates that the siblings may be closer than often portrayed. The relationship is is often described as cordial and warm, but distant on policy matters.

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Tim Miller, a Bush spokesman, played down the significance of Bush's comment.

"Governor Bush has said before that his brother is the greatest ally to Israel in presidential history, he admires his stalwart support for our ally, and that is in line with his commitment to standing with Israel in the face of great threats to their security and our own," Miller said in a statement Thursday.

Singer, a hedge-fund billionaire, hosted the session — which was not a fundraiser — for his friends and associates to hear from Bush. Similar meetings have been held with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and former Hewlett-Packard chief executive Carly Fiorina, three of Bush's potential rivals in the 2016 race.

The question that led to Bush's response was about how much he relied on former secretary of state James Baker, a respected party figure but one who angered conservative Republican hawks in March when he addressed the left-leaning pro-Israel advocacy group J Street. During his keynote speech, Baker criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for not embracing a two-state solution.

Bush said at the Manhattan gathering that he respected Baker, but insisted that he is not part of his foreign policy team. He then said that one person he routinely looks to for guidance on Israel is his brother.

"It was a very positive response, just based on faces around the room," one attendee said. "There didn't seem to be any sort of negative reaction."

But others said that many in the room were surprised by Bush's answer. A majority of registered voters still have unfavorable views of how George W. Bush handled his job as president, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll in March. Still, there remains deep affection in the GOP for George W. Bush, with 87 percent approving of his White House tenure.

Last month, the former president drew warm reviews for his appearance before a gathering Republican Jewish Coalition, where he answered questions about his time in the White House and his post-presidency.

T. Boone Pickens, With Cash, Backs Jeb Bush // New York Times // Alexandra Stevenson - May 7, 2015

LAS VEGAS — The oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens is backing former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida for president, saying Thursday that he had donated $100,000 to help give Mr. Bush a leg up in the 2016 election.

"I've already backed him," Mr. Pickens said, speaking on the sidelines of a hedge fund conference in Las Vegas, where some of the industry's best-known and wealthiest investors are speaking this week. But, Mr. Pickens quipped, it will take $100 million to get Mr. Bush elected.

Once called a corporate raider by Time magazine, Mr. Pickens has emerged as the latest billionaire to play the political game just as the landscape has started to get colorful. Over the next few weeks and months, some of the country's wealthiest people — many of them from Wall Street — will throw fund-raisers to help candidates

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supercharge their efforts through donations to their campaigns and to “super PACs.”

Called the Super Bowl of the hedge fund industry, the SkyBridge Alternatives Conference has drawn public figures like Ben S. Bernanke, the former Federal Reserve chairman; George Papandreou, the former prime minister of Greece; and the political operative Karl Rove to the Bellagio hotel for three days of debate and discussion.

Much of the focus this year has been on politics and the 2016 election. As V.I.P. guests sipped on champagne and networked in the Bellagio’s high-roller Villa Privé on Tuesday night, rumors swirled that some prominent attendees were absent and dining with Hillary Rodham Clinton at the house of a local head of a business in Las Vegas.

On stage Thursday, Mr. Pickens elicited cheers from an audience of hedge fund managers and financial advisers when he called Mrs. Clinton a “loser.”

He gave a wide-ranging, 30-minute interview during which he complained about gridlock in Washington and expressed frustration that President Obama had vetoed a bill that would have approved construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, a cross-border project with Canada. Environmentalists and several leading climate change scientists have urged Mr. Obama to reject the pipeline, contending that its construction makes it easier to move heavily polluting petroleum from the Canadian oil sands.

Mr. Pickens said he thought that Mr. Bush, if elected, would help usher in the project.

“You’ve already passed the House and the Senate,” Mr. Pickens said, adding, “so a new president would fix it.”

While on stage, Mr. Pickens said he was about to “give up on Washington” and complained that the government was spending too many resources in the Middle East to protect its oil interests there. He argued that the government was doing more to protect the oil interests of countries like China and regions like Europe than those of the United States.

“The oil sands in Canada is being offered to the U.S., no special cost, no military protection,” Mr. Pickens added.

Lindsey Graham Slams Hillary Clinton's New Immigration Proposal // Bloomberg Politics // Sahil Kapur - May 7, 2015

The 2016 battle lines are quickly forming on immigration.

South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, who is exploring a run for the Republican nomination, ripped into Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton's proposal to expand President Barack Obama's executive actions to additionally offer deportation relief to undocumented parents of young people brought to the U.S. illegally, who have been granted "deferred action" protections.

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"She's shown no leadership on this issue. She's been a follower. I think it's just political pandering," Graham said. "No American should want the executive branch to do something this monumental by themselves."

"Clear to me," he said, "this is a sign of her weakness."

Graham argued that he would have the most credibility of any presidential candidate to push through a permanent legislative solution on immigration. "I think I could sit down with Democrats, who've known I've taken a beating to try to get a fair compromise," he said, referring to his co-authorship of a sweeping immigration reform bill that passed the Senate with bipartisan support in 2013 and died in the House. "And I think I could convince my party that now's the time to get this behind us."

He brushed off a question about whether Clinton's endorsement of the idea—which Hispanics and immigrant-rights groups strongly support—poses a problem for Republicans in the 2016 election. "I think what Hispanics want is a fix to the problem," he said. "What she's doing is ensuring a third wave of illegal immigration. I think there'll be a backlash in this country."

While some Republican hopefuls such as Jeb Bush and Florida Senator Marco Rubio have not commented silent on Clinton's new proposal, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker criticized it as a "full embrace of amnesty" that is "unfair to hardworking Americans and all immigrants who followed the law."

The Clinton campaign has suggested it will make immigration a major issue in the upcoming election.

Arizona Senator John McCain—the party's 2008 nominee, who according to exit polls lost badly among Hispanics—pointed out that a federal judge has halted the "unconstitutional" executive actions that Clinton is offering to expand.

"I think it's very obvious that she's trying to reach out to the Hispanic vote, and get the kind of support that Obama got in the last election. It's clearly a political ploy," he said. "A naked political ploy."

Will it work?

"We Republicans have to give Hispanics reasons to vote for us," McCain said.

Lindsey Graham: '98.6% sure' to run, and on a different path on immigration // USA Today // Susan Page - May 7, 2015

WASHINGTON — South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who says he's "98.6% sure" he'll run for the Republican presidential nomination, vows to chart a course on immigration at odds with every other contender in a large and growing GOP field.

Graham's formal announcement, expected within the next few weeks, would add the voice of a leading national-

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security hawk and an architect of the 2012 Senate immigration bill that for a time raised hopes of a bipartisan agreement on a comprehensive overhaul.

"If I were president of the United States, I would veto any bill that did not have a pathway to citizenship," Graham, 59, told Capital Download, USA TODAY's weekly newsmaker series. "You would have a long, hard path to citizenship ... but I want to create that path because I don't like the idea of millions of people living in America for the rest of their lives being the hired help. That's not who we are."

The third-term senator from a solidly red state insists that his position doesn't doom his long-shot bid for the Republican nomination — and he says the GOP risks electoral disaster in 2016 with its current hard line on immigration.

"We'll lose," he says flatly. "I mean, we've got a big hole we've dug with Hispanics. We've gone from 44% of the Hispanic vote (in the 2004 presidential election) to 27% (in 2012). You'll never convince me ... it's not because of the immigration debate."

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton spotlighted the GOP's tough stance on Tuesday, announcing in Las Vegas that if elected she would expand President Obama's executive order allowing young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children to avoid deportation. She defended providing a path to citizenship. "Make no mistake: Not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential, is clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship — not one," she said.

With Graham's likely announcement, that is no longer true. While he opposes Obama's use of executive orders to protect the "DREAMers," Graham's position on citizenship puts him closer to Clinton than to any of his GOP rivals on immigration.

Most of the other Republican contenders say border security must be tightened before the legal status of an estimated 11 million undocumented residents can be discussed. None of the other hopefuls now endorse simultaneously providing a path to citizenship.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who also helped negotiate the bipartisan Senate bill, now says securing the borders must come first. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker once said he supported a path to citizenship but now opposes it. Former Florida governor Jeb Bush endorses a path to legal status short of citizenship.

"One of the candidates here helped write the bill; he now says we've got to secure the border first," Graham says, referring to Rubio. "That's not practical. No Democratic Congress is going to give the Republican Party everything we want on border security until you tell them what happens to the 11 million."

Graham took some shots at another fellow senator and presidential rival, Rand Paul of Kentucky, for his approaches on national security issues involving Iraq, Iran, Syria and Israel. "He's a nice man; I like him a lot (but) he's a libertarian. He is one step behind leading-from-behind," Graham said. "At the end of the day, his world view has not stood the test of time and I think he'd be the worst possible person to send into the ring when it came to foreign policy."

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Worse than Hillary Clinton?

"She could get to his right very easily," he said.

Graham also blasted Clinton, who by one count has answered just seven questions from reporters since she formally announced her presidential campaign.

"I don't know how people in your business put up with this," he says. "She wants to be president of the United States. She's doing a listening tour from North Korea. Kim Jong Un — whatever the new guy's name is, Kim Jong Un? There's more access to him than I think there is to her."

Lindsey Graham looking at June 1 to announce White House run, sources say // Politico // Katie Glueck - May 7, 2015

Lindsey Graham is telling donors that June 1 is the likely date for his presidential announcement, according to several sources familiar with the conversations.

The announcement would likely take place in South Carolina, possibly near his home base of Seneca, according to the sources, which would enable the GOP senator to highlight a compelling personal story not widely known outside his home state.

Graham grew up in nearby Central, S.C., in the back of a pool hall run by his parents, who died young. He helped raise his sister while going to college and serving in the Air Force. It's a hardscrabble story that could help him stand out in a field of candidates with wealthy backgrounds, including Jeb Bush.

A spokeswoman for Graham said Thursday that she couldn't confirm any information about a potential announcement. The senator's team has suggested they were looking at a mid-May time frame.

Graham's hawkish views would almost certainly be a central feature of an announcement speech as he weighs a bid premised on his experience on defense and foreign policy. While the three-term senator is a long shot to win the GOP nomination, he could play an important role in driving foreign policy and national security issues to the forefront of the primary debate.

Graham will be entering a crowded field of Republican presidential contenders that includes three fellow senators who have already formally kicked off their campaigns — Ted Cruz, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio.

So far, the candidates with whom Graham contrasts — and clashes — with most are Paul and Cruz, the former over foreign policy and the latter over his often-uncompromising conservative positions.

Graham has said he is "98.6 percent" sure he will run, and during appearances in the Palmetto State over the weekend, he all but announced that he's in.

"To our enemies: Get ready, because there's a new way of doing business coming," Graham said last Friday at a state GOP Silver Elephant dinner. "To our friends: Get ready for the America that you used to know. To Iowa and New Hampshire: Hello. To South Carolina, you have my heart."

Rand Paul praises 'monumental' NSA ruling // The Hill // Ben Kamisar - May 7, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) on Thursday praised a court ruling that found the NSA's bulk metadata collection program illegal a “monumental decision for all lovers of liberty.”

“I commend the federal courts for upholding our Constitution and protecting our Fourth Amendment rights,” he said in a statement released by his presidential campaign.

“While this is a step in the right direction, it is now up to the Supreme Court to strike down the NSA’s illegal spying program.”

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday that the NSA’s program, which culled data from Americans' phone calls, was outside of the authorization set forth by the Patriot Act, the law passed on the heels of the 9/11 attacks that gave broad authority to the intelligence community.

Paul, who is lauded by the libertarian wing of the Republican Party, has pressed for the repeal of the Patriot Act and has offered bills that limit the spying powers of the intelligence community.

Substantial aspects of that law are set to expire by the end of the month, unless Congress acts. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) wants to extend the entire bill, while others have offered a variety of ways to tamp down the authority it gives to the federal government.

Paul, McConnell part ways on Patriot Act // The Hill // Julian Hattem - May 7, 2015

Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul are on opposite sides in the battle over government surveillance, putting the alliance between the two Kentucky Republicans to the test.

While McConnell made clear this week that he wants to move forward with his own “clean” legislation to reauthorize three expiring portions of the Patriot Act, Paul, who is running for president, has been one of the law’s most vocal critics.

With a handful of legislative days left until the surveillance measures expire, Paul has been surprisingly mum on whether he opposes McConnell’s plan, though few expect him to stay silent for long.

“I think both McConnell and Paul realized all along in this deal that there were going to be issues where they just had to agree to disagree,” said Josh Withrow, legislative affairs manager at FreedomWorks, which opposes McConnell’s Patriot Act bill. “This will probably be one of those.”

Their relationship got off to a rocky start, when McConnell endorsed Trey Grayson, then Kentucky’s secretary of State, in the 2010 Republican primary against Paul, who shortly after refused to say whether he would back McConnell for Republican leader.

Since then, the two men have struck up a friendship, with Paul providing critical support to McConnell on the campaign trail during his reelection race last year.

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Returning the favor, McConnell has said he is “almost certainly” supporting Paul in his White House bid, adding that his colleague is “the most credible candidate for president of the United States since Henry Clay.”

“I’m a big fan of his,” McConnell said on CNN last year. “I mean, we started off on opposite paths, but we’ve become great allies. ... I think he’s a very, very smart, capable guy.”

But their relationship will be put to the test in the coming weeks, when the Senate is expected to take up three expiring provisions of the Patriot Act, including the controversial section that the National Security Agency has relied on to collect the phone records of millions of Americans.

The legal powers are set to expire at the end of May, and the Senate’s last scheduled legislative session for the month is May 22.

McConnell has made clear that he supports a speedy extension of the law, so as not to tie “our hands behind our back” when it comes to terrorism. Legislation he recently introduced with Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr (R-N.C.) would renew the Patriot Act provisions unchanged through the end of 2020 and is likely to become the main vehicle moving through the Senate.

“I think, most likely, the outcome is some kind of an extension,” McConnell said this week.

So far, Paul has yet to take a public stand on the legislation.

“We currently are not commenting on future votes,” Paul spokeswoman Jillian Lane said on Wednesday.

Announcing his candidacy for president last month, Paul vowed he would end the National Security Agency’s bulk collection of Americans’ phone records on his first day in the White House.

“The president created this vast dragnet by executive order. And as president, on Day One, I would immediately end this unconstitutional surveillance,” he said.

Last year, Paul voted to filibuster an NSA reform bill that would have extended the Patriot Act provisions to 2017 while also imposing sweeping new limits on the spy agency’s collection of Americans’ communications. Unlike the other lawmakers who opposed the bill, Paul said he cast his vote because the reforms didn’t go far enough.

In a statement at the time, Paul said he “stood on principle by opposing a bill that included a provision reauthorizing elements of the Patriot Act that violate the Bill of Rights.”

“I have always been steadfast against the Patriot Act and I will continue to do all I can to prevent its extension,” he said in the November statement.

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That caused a certain amount of grief among his fellow civil libertarians, who questioned whether his strategy wouldn't end up empowering hawks in Congress who are skeptical of limiting the NSA.

This time around, Paul seems to be aiming his fire at other Senate hawks, such as likely fellow White House hopeful Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.).

"One unapologetic senator who I've had a few rounds with said, 'If you're not talking to terrorists, why are you worried?' " he said in April, in an oblique reference to Graham. "Our Founding Fathers would be mortified."

"I think it is a political calculation that he is making by not criticizing McConnell directly," said one person close to the Senate negotiations, who asked to remain anonymous in order to discuss the matter frankly.

That's not to say that Paul will continue to be quiet.

But as the Senate nears the deadline for action, Paul might try to avoid making it a personal fight with McConnell, observers say.

"I would probably expect him to kick and scream without mentioning McConnell's name," the person close to the situation added. "I do not expect Rand Paul to do anything other than theatrics, because he does not want to endanger his relationship with McConnell, and it is clear where McConnell stands."

Chris Christie: Hillary Clinton 'pandering' on immigration // CNN Politics // Chris Moody - May 7, 2015

Sunapee, New Hampshire (CNN)New Jersey Republican Gov. Chris Christie on Thursday slammed Hillary Clinton's call for a "full and equal" path to citizenship for immigrants living in the United States illegally, calling her comments extreme.

"I think the path to citizenship is a problem for folks who have been waiting the appropriate way to get in, so I think we have to have a much broader conversation than just pandering. We should not just be pandering. We should be talking about this, honestly," said Christie, who is exploring a possible bid for the presidency, while meeting with supporters at a restaurant here.

Earlier this week, Clinton surprised supporters by adopting an aggressively liberal stance on immigration -- one she did not embrace during her White House bid in 2008 -- vowing full support for citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

"We have to finally, once and for all, fix our immigration system," Clinton said during a roundtable discussion with undocumented children in Las Vegas on Tuesday. "Make no mistake, today not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential, is clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship. Not one. When they talk about legal status, that is code for second-class status."

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Immigration has been a difficult issue for both parties in recent years, one that has befuddled the presidential administrations of both President Barack Obama and President George W. Bush, neither of whom could usher a comprehensive bill through Congress. The issue is fraught with political pitfalls, as leaders in both parties see the issue as a gateway toward securing votes from the rapidly growing Hispanic-American population.

Christie, who said he plans to outline his own position on immigration in "a detailed speech" soon, suggested that Clinton's most recent position was unrealistic.

"Her position now is not really addressing what the country wants to hear about this," he said. "That's not a thoughtful position."

"I haven't met a person yet whose undocumented who came here and said, 'The reason I came here was because I wanted to vote,'" Christie said. "They say they come here because they wanted to work. I think that's where the focus has to be."

Christie Brings His Drug Treatment Message to New Hampshire // WSJ // Heather Haddon - May 7, 2015

MANCHESTER, N.H.—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie brought his campaign to reduce the stigma surrounding drug treatment to a receptive audience Thursday in New Hampshire, a state that has grappled with a wave of overdoses attributed to illegal narcotics.

Mr. Christie spoke about New Jersey's expansion of drug intervention courts at a substance abuse-treatment facility here and met with those who have overcome addiction to now advocate for others to seek help.

The Republican governor called the "war on drugs" that started decades ago "a failure and ineffective."

"I've always felt like this is an illness," Mr. Christie said about drug addiction. "Everybody in life makes mistakes and we need to give people a second chance."

Mr. Christie said that visiting drug-treatment facilities would be a regular occurrence for him as the potential 2016 presidential candidate travels nationally with his political-action committee, Leadership Matters for America. There were 321 drug-related deaths last year in New Hampshire, city officials said.

The governor returned to the Granite State on the first of a two-day swing in the first-in-the-nation primary state. He received a standing ovation at a bar in New Hampshire's Lakes Region and took questions from voters about immigration, tuition costs, health care and national security.

Few voters mentioned the George Washington Bridge scandal, nor did they seem to care about it.

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"That was a distraction but now that Bridgegate thing is in the past," said Ellen Mehan, a retiree with a lake house in Sunapee, N.H., who came to the One Mile West bar to hear Mr. Christie speak.

Federal prosecutors say three former Christie allies deliberately closed lanes to the bridge for five days in 2013, causing traffic backups in Fort Lee, N.J., to punish Fort Lee's mayor for not endorsing Mr. Christie for re-election.

A past Christie appointee to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has pleaded guilty to charges in the case. Two other former Christie allies have pleaded not guilty. Authorities haven't accused Mr. Christie of wrongdoing.

Mr. Christie has been dogged by press questions about the bridge during political travel earlier this week in Louisiana and Mississippi, and in New Hampshire Thursday.

The governor said he has taken steps to address the scandal and it wouldn't reflect on the kind of administration he would administer if he was elected to the White House.

"I don't think you can find one administration, whether it's at the governor's level or the presidential level, that hasn't had mistakes or had problems. What matters is how you respond to them," he said. "We responded swiftly."

Mr. Christie will return to New Hampshire next Tuesday to deliver a second policy speech addressing tax policy, regulation and economic growth, his PAC announced Thursday.

Mr. Christie's advisers are banking on a strong showing in New Hampshire's GOP primary if he chooses to run for president. Mr. Christie has said he would announce a decision on whether he will run by June.

On Friday, he continues his New Hampshire trip with a breakfast visit to an Amherst diner, a private business roundtable hosted by former state Sen. Gary Lambert and a town-hall meeting at Fury's Publick House bar in Dover.

Fiorina Comes Out Against TPP: 'I Am Very Uncomfortable With This Deal' // Daily Caller // Alex Griswold - May 7, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina said she opposes giving President Obama fast track trade authority and is "very uncomfortable" with Obama negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership on "The Laura Ingraham Show" Thursday.

INGRAHAM: I gotta ask you about fast track trade, because you know for me, I believe a populist approach is the way to win and build the Republican Party both among minorities and grassroot supporters. And for me, this fast track deal, the way its being negotiated, the way congressional authority is being eroded, is a terrible idea, especially with Obama doing the negotiations.

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What's your take on giving President Obama trade promotion authority?

FIORINA: Well, I believe that free and fair trade advantages the U.S.. But I am very uncomfortable with this deal, and I'm uncomfortable with this deal and giving him trade authority.

Because first of all, I know from personal experience that the Chinese have not lived up to their agreements when they entered the WTO. In other words, partners can cheat on these deals, and we have evidence of partners cheating on these deals.

Secondly to your point, this is an extremely complicated deal, a multilateral deal with a lot of details that we don't know about. And Obama and his administration has demonstrated their inability to negotiate a good deal. And so look, I think the devil's in the details, and we better understand what these details are before we just assume it's a good deal. I don't assume it's a good deal and I do think we need the details.

Republican presidential contenders are split on "fast track" trade authority, with former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee joining Fiorina in opposition, but Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz in support.

Republican National Committee to share data with 2016 campaigns // Washington Examiner // David Drucker - May 7, 2015

The Republican National Committee has signed data-sharing agreements with the leading GOP presidential campaigns, providing these entities access to the party's voter file and digital analytics clearinghouse.

The accord, to be announced by RNC Chairman Reince Priebus on Thursday, provides the Republican White House contenders access to the party's $100 million-plus data and voter turnout program, built from scratch following President Obama's 2012 re-election victory. Agreements were reached with the campaigns of the announced candidates as well as and political action committees of the presumed but not yet official candidates.

"The 2016 election will be a data-driven campaign cycle, and I am enthusiastic about the possibilities these agreements provide," Priebus said in a statement shared with the Washington Examiner. "These list exchanges will allow the RNC to benefit from enhancements made by these PACs and campaigns so that the RNC, the eventual presidential nominee, and Republican candidates up and down the ticket will have an even more robust data for use in the general election."

The agreements are a two-way street, as the campaigns and political action committees will share with the RNC updates to any of the data they use in their political activities. Deals have been reached with:

American Future Project (Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal); Carly for President (business woman Carly Fiorina); Cruz for President (Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas); Leadership Matters for America (New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie); Our American Revival (Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker); Patriot Voices (former Sen. Rick Santorum); Reclaim America (Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida); RickPAC (former Texas Gov. Rick Perry); and Right to Rise (former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush).

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"By committing to this plan for enhanced data, we can ensure that the party will be prepared to target and turn out voters in the general election with the most complete and up-to-date voter file. We know that voters do not want another four years of Obama-Clinton policies, and this unprecedented data exchange will allow us to win the White House in 2016," Priebus said.

AP-GfK Poll: Republicans open to softer immigration policy // The Big Story // Thomas Beaumont and Emily Swanson - May 7, 2015

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans appear open to a softer immigration policy than Republican presidential candidates have preached in the past. Even a majority of Republicans in the country can see themselves voting for someone who would protect millions of immigrants from deportation, according to a new poll.

The Associated Press-GfK poll finds that Republicans overwhelmingly want a candidate to reverse President Barack Obama's unilateral action to postpone deportations. But most could see themselves voting for someone who would keep that policy in place.

The poll was conducted before Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton's effort this week to magnify the difference between letting people who are in the country illegally have legal status, which some Republicans support, and letting them gain citizenship, which she supports. The poll suggests that people don't see much difference.

"This country has always had open doors," said Dean Talmadge, a Republican from suburban Seattle. "I don't just have a problem with immigration, as long as they are here, working and following the rules."

That's a sentiment shared by most Americans, who according to the poll, favor a path to citizenship by 53 to 44 percent. It did not make a significant difference if respondents were asked instead whether they supported a path to legal status short of citizenship: 50 percent said they favored it and 48 percent opposed.

Clinton's remarks Tuesday were aimed at Hispanic voters, who heavily supported Obama in 2012, especially in battleground states such as Florida, Colorado and Nevada, where Latinos form an influential bloc.

She also said she would expand Obama's executive action, which shielded many young immigrants brought to the country as children, along with parents of citizens and permanent residents, from deportation.

In the poll, about 6 in 10 Americans and 4 in 10 Republicans support those key measures of the Obama policy. Americans overall were split about evenly on whether they would prefer to vote for a candidate who would keep or undo the executive action.

"I don't have a problem if they want to earn their citizenship while they are here," said Darlene Harmison, a Republican from Colfax, Iowa, a rural town east of Des Moines. "I'm not saying send them all back. But I do agree they need to speak English."

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Most GOP presidential prospects support allowing people who are in the country illegally to stay while pursuing legal status. But they stop short of offering citizenship, although a few have not ruled that out as an eventual prospect.

Their positions, which are sometimes in flux and not always fleshed out, seem to reflect what the poll finds to be fragile acceptance among Republican voters of policies that had spelled trouble for past candidates.

Three-quarters of Republicans in the poll say they would prefer to vote for a 2016 candidate who would undo Obama's immigration action — even more than the two-thirds of Republicans who say they oppose a path to citizenship or legal status.

Even so, 55 percent of Republicans either prefer a candidate who would support Obama's policy or say that they could vote for someone who does if they agreed on other issues. Even among conservative Republicans, nearly half — 47 percent — could at least imagine voting for a candidate who would keep it in place.

In 2006, Republican Sen. John McCain, who supported a bipartisan bill that included a path to citizenship, was surprised at the backlash he received from Republicans in early voting states as he began taking steps toward running for president.

"There's no question it was not well received by certain segments of our electorate," said David Roederer, McCain's 2008 Iowa campaign director.

More recently, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a GOP presidential candidate, faced pushback from tea party supporters when he co-authored legislation that would have set out a path to citizenship for those who met certain conditions, over time. The bill passed the Senate, failed in the House and convinced Rubio that immigration policy would have to be changed only piecemeal.

He still supports a path to citizenship, but wants to start with securing the border and end with letting people who are in the U.S. illegally stay.

Even those viewed as hardliners are not calling for mass deportation of the millions in the country illegally, signaling a possible shift in the GOP political landscape as the nation — judging by the poll and other measures — also evolves.

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The AP-GfK Poll of 1,077 adults was conducted online April 23-27, using a sample drawn from GfK's probability-based KnowledgePanel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points. Some questions were asked of a half sample and have higher margins of error.

Respondents were first selected randomly using phone or mail survey methods and later interviewed online.

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People selected for KnowledgePanel who didn't otherwise have access to the Internet were provided access at no cost to them.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

N.S.A. Phone Data Collection Is Illegal, Appeals Court Rules // New York Times // Charlie Savage and Jonathan Weisman - May 7, 2015

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court in New York on Thursday ruled that the once-secret National Security Agency program that is systematically collecting Americans' phone records in bulk is illegal. The decision comes as a fight in Congress is intensifying over whether to end and replace the program, or to extend it without changes.

In a 97-page ruling, a three-judge panel for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit held that a provision of the U.S.A. Patriot Act, known as Section 215, cannot be legitimately interpreted to allow the bulk collection of domestic calling records.

The ruling was certain to increase the tension that has been building in Congress as the provision of the act that has been cited to justify the bulk data collection program nears a June 1 expiration. It also comes amid a global uptick in controversy over electronic surveillance, including a push in France to increase domestic spying and a decision by Germany to reduce cooperation on surveillance with the United States.

The ruling ratchets up pressure on Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, the majority leader. Mr. McConnell has resolutely pressed to maintain the N.S.A.'s existing program against bipartisan pressure to scale it back, and has proposed simply extending the statute. But the court's ruling calls into question whether that statute can still be used to issue fresh orders to phone companies requiring them to turn over their customers' records.

Thursday's ruling is the first time a higher-level court in the regular judicial system has reviewed the N.S.A. phone records program. It did not come with any injunction ordering the program to cease, and it is not clear that anything else will happen in the judicial system before Congress has to make a decision about the expiring law.

The data collection had repeatedly been approved in secret by judges serving on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, known as the FISA court, which oversees national security surveillance. Those judges, who hear arguments only from the government, were willing to accept an interpretation of Section 215 that the appeals court rejected on Thursday.

The court, in a unanimous ruling written by Judge Gerard E. Lynch, held that Section 215 "cannot bear the weight the government asks us to assign to it, and that it does not authorize the telephone metadata program." It declared the program illegal, saying, "We do so comfortably in the full understanding that if Congress chooses to authorize such a far-reaching and unprecedented program, it has every opportunity to do so, and to do so unambiguously."

The House appears ready to pass a bill next week that would end the government's bulk collection of phone records. That bill, known as the U.S.A. Freedom Act, would replace it with a new program that would preserve

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the N.S.A.'s ability to analyze links between callers to hunt for terrorists, but keep the bulk records in the hands of phone companies, which would be free to dispose of them after 18 months. The N.S.A. keeps them for five years.

But the appeals court ruling raises the question of whether Section 215, extended or not, has ever legitimately authorized the program. The statute on its face permits only the collection of records deemed "relevant" to a national security case. The government secretly decided, with the FISA court's secret approval, that this could be interpreted to mean collection of all records, so long as only those that later turn out to be relevant are scrutinized by analysts.

However, Judge Lynch wrote: "Such expansive development of government repositories of formerly private records would be an unprecedented contraction of the privacy expectations of all Americans. Perhaps such a contraction is required by national security needs in the face of the dangers of contemporary domestic and international terrorism. But we would expect such a momentous decision to be preceded by substantial debate, and expressed in unmistakable language."

Judge Lynch was appointed by President Obama. He was joined in the decision by Judge Robert D. Sack, a Clinton appointee, and Judge Vernon S. Broderick, another Obama appointee. Judge Broderick usually hears Federal District Court cases but was sitting on the appeals court for this case as a visiting judge.

The appeals court sent the matter back to a Federal District Court judge to decide what to do next. The government could also appeal the ruling to the full appeals court, or to the Supreme Court. Parallel cases are pending before two other appeals courts that have not yet ruled.

Alexander Abdo, who argued the case for the American Civil Liberties Union, praised the ruling as a "victory for the rule of law that should spur Congress into action." Several lawmakers who helped draft the U.S.A. Freedom Act seized on it as justification for enacting their bill. Among them, Senators Patrick J. Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, and Mike Lee, Republican of Utah, said in a joint statement: "Congress should not reauthorize a bulk collection program that the court has found to violate the law. We will not consent to any extension of this program."

Mr. McConnell and another supporter of the existing program, Senator Richard M. Burr of North Carolina, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, took to the Senate floor on Thursday and gave no ground.

Mr. McConnell blasted the House bill as "an untested, untried and more cumbersome system" that would neither "keep us safe or protect our privacy."

"Section 215 helps us find a needle in the haystack," he said. "But under the U.S.A. Freedom Act, there might not be a haystack at all."

But Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said both sides now have to come to the table because it was not clear that either option — the U.S.A. Freedom Act or extending the existing program — has the 60-vote support necessary to overcome a filibuster.

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Mr. McConnell has the power to decide which bills get brought up for a vote. To create more time for debate, Democrats might permit an extension of the existing statute for a month, said a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss their progress. The Democrats would do that in exchange for a promise by Mr. McConnell to allow a vote on the House bill in June.

Still, even if there were votes in Congress for a short-term extension of the existing statute , Thursday's ruling would create potential political and legal difficulties for keeping the program going in the interim.

To bridge any gap between the existing program and a new one, the Obama administration would have to ask the FISA court to reauthorize the program and a FISA judge would have to agree to do so, notwithstanding the Second Circuit's ruling that Section 215 cannot authorize such an order.

(The FISA court is not directly subject to the Second Circuit's authority because it has its own appeals court.)

In a statement, Edward Price, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said the administration was still evaluating the ruling but reiterated that President Obama's support for legislation that would transform the program is in line with the U.S.A. Freedom Act.

The bulk phone records program traces back to October 2001. After the Sept. 11 attacks, President George W. Bush secretly authorized the N.S.A. to begin a group of surveillance and data-collection programs, without obeying statutory limits on government spying, for the purpose of hunting for hidden terrorist cells.

Over time, the legal basis for each component of that program, known as Stellarwind, evolved. In 2006, the administration persuaded a FISA court judge to issue an order approving the bulk phone records component, based on the idea that Section 215 could be interpreted as authorizing bulk collection.

Many other judges serving on the FISA court have subsequently renewed the program at roughly 90-day intervals. It came to light in June 2013 as part of the leaks by the intelligence contractor Edward J. Snowden.

The revelation led to a series of lawsuits challenging the program. Different district court judges reached opposing conclusions about its legality. Thursday's ruling did not address the A.C.L.U.'s separate argument that bulk collection of records about Americans — regardless of the claimed statutory basis — is unconstitutional.

FBI knew shooter might go to Muhammad drawing contest // Washington Post // Adam Goldman - May 7, 2015

FBI Director James B. Comey said Thursday his agents learned hours before the start of a cartoon contest and exhibit depicting the prophet Muhammad that one of the gunmen had expressed interest in going to the controversial event in Texas, but there was no indication he was planning an attack.

Comey said the FBI sent an intelligence bulletin to local authorities through its Dallas field office that included a

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picture of Elton Simpson, 30, and other details such as his associates and possible license plate numbers.

“But we didn’t know more than that,” Comey said in an interview with reporters at FBI headquarters.

Simpson and his roommate, Nadir Soofi, 34, who lived in Phoenix, were killed by a local traffic officer as they opened fire at a conference center in Garland, Tex., where the competition was taking place.

The two men were heavily armed, U.S. law enforcement officials said. They had six weapons — four handguns and two semiautomatic assault rifles. Soofi is thought to have purchased one of the rifles on Craigslist, officials said.

All of the weapons were purchased legally, according to officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Comey also provided details about the FBI’s long-standing interest in Simpson. He said FBI agents in Phoenix began investigating Simpson in about 2006, based on information that he was looking to travel to Somalia to join al-Shabab, an al-Qaeda affiliate and a U.S.- designated terrorist organization.

Simpson was arrested in 2010 after he bought a plane ticket to South Africa. He was charged with lying to FBI agents in connection with terrorism. He was convicted, however, of a lesser charge the following year and sentenced to three years’ probation.

Comey said the FBI continued to investigate Simpson until 2014. Agents in Phoenix reopened the case in March, Comey said, after “we developed information that he was making statements on social media that might indicate a renewed interest in jihad, but this time with” the Islamic State.

He added that the “investigation was open, but far from complete.”

Comey declined to discuss whether the FBI was also looking at Soofi, but other officials said agents in Phoenix were preparing to investigate him when the shooting took place.

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Soofi’s mother, Sharon Soofi, said her son had discussed Anwar al-Awlaki, the radical American preacher who took on a prominent role in al-Qaeda’s Yemen affiliate before he was killed in a 2011 drone strike.

Soofi’s mother said her other son, Ali Soofi, lived with his brother and Simpson. She said Ali Soofi was concerned about Simpson’s influence on his brother and recently moved out.

Comey said the FBI will review whether the bureau made any missteps and could have stopped Simpson and Soofi before the attack. But, he said, he hasn’t seen any indications that his agents missed a major warning sign.

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The roommates apparently fell under the sway of the Islamic State, which has been using social media, including Twitter, to encourage attacks in the United States.

Comey said the Islamic State's effort to recruit and motivate people in the United States to try to do harm was paying dividends.

"If you can't travel, kill where you are," Comey said, echoing the Islamic State's message to followers. He described the Islamic State's message as a siren's song, one easily accessed on phones or computers.

"It's almost if there is a devil sitting on the shoulder saying, 'Kill,' 'Kill,' 'Kill,' 'Kill,' all day long," he said.

Comey also discussed whether the attack was actually directed by the Islamic State. He said al-Qaeda previously would train its operatives so they could be vetted before getting an assignment.

"But what we see [the Islamic State] doing is trying in a way to test people's bona fides by urging them to kill," he said. "Sometimes supplying with them hit lists, sometimes suggesting particular targets, but other times just 'kill in our name.' In a way, the old paradigm between inspired or directed breaks down here.

"The distinction is irrelevant. I find it not to be a useful framework any longer."

Justice Department to launch federal investigation of Baltimore police // WaPo // Sara Horwitz – May 7, 2015

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch has decided to launch a federal investigation into whether the Baltimore Police Department has engaged in a "pattern or practice" of excessive force.

Lynch's announcement about the Justice Department's probe — the latest in a string of municipalities that are being investigated by the federal government for civil rights violations — could come as early as Friday, according to two law enforcement officials.

A Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment Thursday night.

Lynch hinted Thursday that a decision could come soon, when she testified during her first hearing on Capitol Hill as attorney general. She said that she would decide "in the coming days" whether to have the department's civil rights division open an investigation into the Baltimore police force.

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on Wednesday called on the Justice Department to open a federal investigation. Rawlings-Blake made the request after Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn J. Mosby filed criminal charges against six Baltimore officers who were involved in the arrest of Freddie Gray, who died of injuries sustained while he was in police custody.

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Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony W. Batts welcomed any federal review. “I think it’s a good thing,” Batts told WBAL-TV on Thursday after a conference of police chiefs. “We could use the extra weight. Lawsuits are down. Citizen complaints are down. Officer-involved shootings are down. But the community doesn’t feel it.”

Mosby said Gray was arrested illegally, was treated callously by the officers and suffered a severe spinal injury April 12 in the back of a police van while his pleas for medical help were ignored.

Gray’s death April 19 ignited protests and rioting in Baltimore and is the latest case to spark anger about law enforcement tactics in low-income neighborhoods across the country.

“We all know that Baltimore continues to have a fractured relationship between the police and the community,” Rawlings-Blake (D) said when she asked the Justice Department for federal help. “I needed to look for any and all resources I could bring to my city to get this right for my community.”

In her first official trip as attorney general, Lynch visited Baltimore on Tuesday and met with the mayor, law enforcement officials and community leaders. She also met with Gray’s family and spoke with an officer who was injured in the violence. Vanita Gupta, acting assistant attorney general for the civil rights division, has also been meeting with Baltimore officials since the outbreak of violence after Gray’s funeral April 27.

“The situation in Baltimore involves a core responsibility of the Department of Justice — not only to combat illegal conduct when it occurs but to help prevent the circumstances that give rise to it in the first place,” Lynch told the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on commerce, justice, science and related agencies. “When there are allegations of wrongdoing made against individual officers and police departments, the Department of Justice has a responsibility to examine the evidence and, if necessary, implement changes.”

Since 1994, the Justice Department has been able to investigate local police departments under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. The departments in Ferguson, Mo., and Cleveland are undergoing federal civil rights investigations. A white police officer in Ferguson fatally shot unarmed teen Michael Brown in August, and 12-year-old Tamir Rice was shot and killed by a Cleveland police officer in November.

Baltimore resident Kevin Moore captured video of Freddie Gray being loaded into a police paddy wagon on April 12. In this video, Moore reflects on what he witnessed and talks about the charges brought against six officers in the death of Gray. (DeNeen Brown and Ashleigh Joplin/The Washington Post)

Over the past two decades, some city officials have asked the Justice Department to investigate and help reform their departments, as Rawlings-Blake did this week.

Former D.C. police chief Charles H. Ramsey called in the Justice Department after a 1998 Washington Post series found that D.C. police had shot and killed more people per resident in the 1990s than any other large American city police force.

Federal “pattern or practice” probes focus on the entire police department, rather than investigating the conduct

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of certain officers.

In that way, they are different from civil rights investigations of certain individuals, such as the two-year-long probe into the death of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old African American from Florida who was unarmed when he was fatally shot by a former neighborhood watchman; the civil rights investigation into the death of Brown; and the ongoing probe into the death of Eric Garner, an African American man who died after being placed in a chokehold by a white officer on Staten Island.

Ramsey, now Philadelphia's police commissioner, said at a law enforcement gathering two years ago that he asked the federal government for help because the D.C. community "did not have confidence that we could fix the problems on our own."

Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) made the same point during the congressional hearing with Lynch on Thursday morning when she said she supported the mayor's request to open an investigation. She sent a formal letter to the attorney general Thursday afternoon.

"Last year, 120,000 police stops occurred in Baltimore," Mikulski said. "We're a population of 610,000. That's a lot. I don't know what the appropriateness of that is, but I think we need to look at it.

"But I want to say this," Mikulski added. "In many cities throughout the country, and including my own town of Baltimore, and in communities primarily that have significant populations of color, there has been now a tattered, worn and even broken trust between the community and the police department. We've got to restore that trust."

Tornadoes Hit Plains States, Battering Oklahoma // New York Times // The Associated Press - May 7, 2015

OKLAHOMA CITY — The authorities on Thursday began surveying the damage left behind by spring storms carrying tornadoes that swept across the Plains and brought floods, forced the evacuation of an international airport and destroyed homes near Oklahoma City.

At least 12 people were injured, but no deaths were reported from tornadoes that hit rural parts of Kansas and Nebraska, as well as Texas.

The Oklahoma City area seemed to be the hardest hit. A tornado destroyed homes in Grady County, southwest of the city, and it appeared another tornado touched down in the area later Wednesday evening when a second storm came through.

"We do strongly think there was a tornado on the south side of Oklahoma City," a meteorologist, Michael Scotten, said after the second storm hit.

The storm flipped vehicles on Interstate 35 and left power lines strewn across the roadway, Mr. Scotten said. Officials twice evacuated the Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, sending passengers and staff

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members into a tunnel outside the security zone.

Before sunrise Thursday in northeast Oklahoma City, fire department divers worked for hours to rescue a driver who was trapped in a car by the high waters left in the wake of the storms. Capt. Dee Patty of the Oklahoma City Policy said the driver had used her cellphone to call for help.

Five to eight of rain had fallen in the area, said Forrest Mitchell, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Norman, Okla. A measurement of 7.1 inches at the Oklahoma City airport set a daily rainfall record, he said, topping the previous record of 2.61 inches.

A spokeswoman for Oklahoma City, Kristy Yager, said the rainfall prompted the city to issue a flash flood emergency for the first time in its history.

Lara O'Leary, a spokeswoman for Emergency Medical Services Authority, said ambulances had responded to water rescue calls from "all over" the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. Two ambulance crews required help after getting stuck in high water, she said.

Ms. O'Leary said ambulances had taken 12 residents from a trailer park in south Oklahoma City to hospitals. She had no details about their injuries.

The emergency management director for Grady County, Dale Thompson, said about 10 homes had been destroyed in Amber and 25 in Bridge Creek. As the storm moved to the east, forecasters declared a tornado emergency for Moore, where seven schoolchildren were among 24 people killed in a storm two years ago. When the first of the storms moved through Wednesday, school districts held their pupils in safe places.

Also in Grady County, all animals were accounted for after a zoo in Tuttle was hit by a tornado, Alisa Voegeli, a dispatcher at the sheriff's office, said. The damage had initially prompted fears that wild animals had escaped.

A flash flood warning was in effect for parts of six counties in central Oklahoma and two counties in north-central Texas. That area also experienced possible tornadoes late Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, Mr. Mitchell said.

In Nebraska, 10 to 15 homes were damaged near Grand Island, and between Hardy and Ruskin, near the Kansas line.

At least nine tornadoes were reported in Kansas, the strongest of them in the sparsely populated north-central part of the state. That included a large tornado near the tiny town of Republic just south of the Nebraska state line, where some homes were damaged. In Harvey County, a tornado destroyed a hog barn and damaged trees, according to the National Weather Service.

The Storm Prediction Center had warned that bad weather would come to the region known as Tornado Alley and said more storms were possible later in the week.

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INTERNATIONAL

Senate Passes Bill Giving Congress Right to Weigh in on Iran Nuclear Deal // WSJ // Kristina Peterson - May 7, 2015

WASHINGTON—The Senate overwhelmingly passed a bill Thursday establishing Congress's right to weigh in on international negotiations to curb Iran's nuclear program.

The 98-1 vote capped weeks of bipartisan efforts to strike a delicate deal on the legislation and then protect it from unraveling on the Senate floor under the weight of GOP attempts to push the Obama administration to take a harder line with Iran.

The underlying agreement, reached last month by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R., Tenn.) and the panel's top Democrat, Ben Cardin of Maryland, withstood two weeks of procedural machinations before passing easily Thursday, with only Sen. Tom Cotton (R., Ark.) opposed.

Senators said the vote marked a rare reclaiming of congressional authority over foreign policy, after years of taking a back seat to recent presidents.

"It's the first time in the eight years and four or five months that I've served in the Senate that I can remember Congress asserting itself and taking power back" from the executive branch, Mr. Corker said after the vote.

Thursday's action, however, is likely to be the high-water mark for congressional consensus on the nuclear negotiations, as the lawmakers have signaled they will likely diverge along partisan lines on the substance of the deal itself.

Democrats who were willing to buck an initially resistant White House for the right to scrutinize the deal are less likely to challenge it over the nuts and bolts of the agreement due by the end of June.

On Thursday, 151 House Democrats signed a letter to President Barack Obama backing the administration's negotiations with Iran and urging him to remain committed to diplomatic efforts. The U.S. and five other international powers are trying to reach a comprehensive pact on Iran's nuclear program by a self-imposed deadline at the end of June after agreeing on the framework of a deal in March.

Meanwhile, Republicans who worked with Democrats to stave off GOP amendments on the Senate floor that could have derailed the bill are likely to take a more critical eye than Democrats toward the nuclear talks' outcome.

"From what we've seen so far, we're very skeptical—I certainly am," said Sen. John McCain (R., Ariz.).

In particular, while the crop of 2016 GOP presidential candidates fell in line with Mr. Corker's bill, many already are stressing their opposition to the deal's outlines as they seek to establish foreign-policy credentials in the crowded Republican primary field. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.) who is running to be the Democratic presidential

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nominee, also backed the bill.

The bill would prevent Mr. Obama from waiving sanctions on Iran for 30 days while Congress reviews any final agreement to diminish Iran's nuclear capabilities. Lawmakers would then be able to vote to disapprove the deal, or take no action.

But skeptics noted that even if lawmakers voted to disapprove an Iran deal, Mr. Obama could veto that action—and that critics of any deal aren't expected to have enough votes to override a veto.

"This bill as drafted will provide some political cover to Senate Democrats to say they have voted to provide strict scrutiny and congressional approval of an Iran deal," presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz (R., Texas) said this week. "And yet as currently drafted, it is a virtual certainty that no matter how terrible this deal is, it will go into effect and this legislation is unlikely to stop it."

Republicans had pushed to vote on dozens of amendments that Democrats warned could sink the deal. The Senate defeated two contentious GOP measures before Mr. Cotton made an unorthodox procedural move last week that scuttled bipartisan talks to bring up more amendments for quick votes.

Mr. Cotton's move, like objections from Sen. David Vitter (R., La.), thwarted the ambitions of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.), who has sought to make allowing more amendment votes a trademark of his control of the Senate.

"I do regret we weren't able to follow through on the amendment process," said Mr. Corker, who noted it had been "hard to get the genie back in the bottle" after Mr. Cotton's effort to bring up votes on amendments from himself and Mr. Rubio.

Mr. Cotton said he opposed the bill because it didn't require a final deal with Iran to come to the Senate as a treaty, which would require the approval of two-thirds of the chamber.

"Congress should not accept this usurpation, nor allow the president any grounds to claim that Congress blessed his nuclear deal," the freshman senator said.

The White House had initially urged Democrats to reject the bill, but dropped its objections after Mr. Cardin brokered a compromise with Mr. Corker. The lawmakers' deal shortened the initial review period and boosted support for the bill to a veto-proof majority.

As part of the deal, the administration will also have to provide detailed reports to Congress on Iran's terrorist activities and certify to lawmakers every 90 days that Iran is complying with the nuclear agreement.

"What we're seeing is a determined bipartisan corps of members of the Foreign Relations Committee who want to see the Senate be relevant again in foreign relations and be more than just a speed bump on the way towards agreements internationally," said Sen. Chris Coons (D., Del.).

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Scrutiny of the deal is expected to escalate as negotiators near the June deadline. Mr. Corker said he would be focusing on the quality of inspections meant to ensure Iran is meeting its obligations.

The Obama administration has been trying to sell the idea of an agreement with Iran to Arab allies, who have asked for military equipment and security assurances. Mr. Obama is meeting with top officials from six Arab countries at the White House and at the presidential retreat at Camp David next week.

Exit poll: Conservatives running strong in Britain election // USA Today // Kim Hjelmgaard, Jane Onyanga-Omara, and John Bacon - May 7, 2015

LONDON — An exit poll showed an unexpectedly strong vote for returning Prime Minister David Cameron and his Conservative Party to power in Britain's election Thursday, though the party appeared to fall short of an outright majority.

The poll by Britain's broadcasters showed the Conservatives would win 316 seats in Parliament – 10 short of a majority. A renewed coalition with the central Liberal Democrats could make up the difference to allow Cameron to form a new government.

The exit poll showed the Labour Party lagged with a projected 239 seats.

Pre-election polls showed a near toss-up between the Conservatives and Labour, led by Ed Miliband.

The Scottish National Party was in third place with 58 seats, followed by several other parties.

The poll suggested that Labour will come up short when the votes are counted because it lost most of its Parliament seats representing Scotland to a resurgent Scottish National Party, which favors independence from Britain.

The centrist Liberal Democrats appeared to perform poorly, garnering only 10 seats, according to the exit poll. But that would be enough to renew their current coalition with the Conservatives to form a government.

If the exit poll is accurate, it would appear to give Cameron a decisive lead going ahead with any potential coalition talks.

"I'd treat the exit poll with HUGE caution. I'm hoping for a good night but I think 58 seats is unlikely!" Scottish National Party leader Nicola Sturegon tweeted immediately after the results.

Paddy Ashdown, chairman of the 2015 general election campaign for the Liberal Democrats, who formed the previous coalition government with the Conservative Party, told the BBC he believed the exit poll was wrong, and that another survey by market research firm YouGov had predicted the party would get 31 seats.

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"Opinion polls are all over the place," he said.

Labour Party deputy leader Harriet Harman told the broadcaster: "If that poll is right about this election, the Tories (Conservatives) have more or less lost the majority for the coalition. If it's right, the question is whether they would be able to form a majority in the new parliament."

A majority of 326 seats is needed to govern without a coalition partner.

Polls closed at 10 p.m. local time (5 p.m. ET).

Around 50 million people voted in the election in some 50,000 polling stations up and down the country that included schools, community centers, churches and even pubs.

Heading into the voting, polls showed Cameron's Conservative Party was in a statistical dead heat with would-be leader Miliband of the Labour Party.

The candidates showed up early to vote, then slipped out of public view while awaiting the nation's decision. But their Twitter feeds didn't go silent.

"Let's not just reject the Conservatives today, let's reject the Tories' plan that always puts the rich and powerful first. #VoteLabour" Miliband tweeted several hours after voting began.

Cameron's Twitter counter: "Remember, Britain has the chance of a strong, stable Government - but only if you #VoteConservative today"

Supporters of both parties also could be heard on social media. But many Brits just wanted to be sure their countrymen voted.

"I've #voted exercise your democratic right and make sure this parliament really is the people's. #generationvote" tweeted Abitha Pallett, who described herself as a model, student and freelance journalist in London.

The final election tally detailing which 650 candidates have won seats in the House of Commons could come as early as Friday afternoon.

The expectations of a tight race meant that for the first time in generations minor parties with more niche interests could have a major impact on the composition of that government.

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The Scottish National Party, for example, wants to see Scotland leave the union with England. The U.K. Independence Party thinks Britain should abandon its membership of the European Union.

For many voters, the choice was difficult.

"When I went to vote this morning, I wasn't sure who I was going to vote for. It's hard to know who's best," said Ralph Prime, 51 of London, who ended up going with the Conservatives. "I spent a lot of time in the military and they're the only people I feel gave us appreciation," he said.

"Labour and Conservative — they just seem so alike nowadays," Prime added.

Outside a Westminister polling station, Diana Karter, 60, wouldn't say who she voted for, only that "it's a party I've not voted for since my early years."

Ezerol Petrie, 39, from Brixton in south London, is supporting the Labour Party and said he hopes for a prime minister who can stabilize the economy and provide more opportunities for young people, and for immigrants.

"Many (immigrants) have been working for many years, paying taxes and nothing's been done for them," he said.

Isatu Hamzie, 46, said she voted for Labour because she thought the party was best suited to help families and single parents like her.

"It's been tense for the past few years," she said outside a Westminster polling station about the tight political race. "I've never seen anything like it."

British academics and political experts say that while the results Friday may show which party won the most parliamentary seats, if no party gets the 326 seats needed to win an overall majority, it may be several days or even weeks before it becomes clear which party will be able to form the next government.

Yemen Al Quaeda Leader Who Claimed Credit for Charlie Hebdo Attack Killed in U.S. Drone Strike // NBC News // Daniella Silva - May 7, 2015

A senior al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula leader who claimed the group's responsibility for the Charlie Hebdo massacre and the murder of an American hostage during a botched raid in December has been killed in a U.S. drone strike in Yemen, it was announced Thursday.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) announced the death of leader Nasr bin Ali al-Ansi and other operatives by a U.S. drone strike in a video, which was verified by security consulting firm and NBC News partner Flashpoint Intelligence.

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Al-Ansi had appeared in several militant videos for the group, including one claiming responsibility for the Paris attack on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo on Jan. 7, which left 12 people dead.

In the 11-minute video titled "Message regarding the blessed raid in Paris," al-Ansi said AQAP "chose the target, laid the plan and financed the operation," according to a translated transcript of the video put out by the group's official media wing.

Al-Ansi had also previously claimed the group was responsible for killing American hostage Luke Somers following a botched U.S. raid in December, according to Flashpoint.

Somers, 33, had been held by the group for a year before U.S. military forces set out to rescue him in an initial, failed first attempt. AQAP then released a video threatening to kill Somers within three days if their demands were not met.

In a second commando raid, the U.S. military failed to rescue Somers after his captors were alerted to their presence — possibly by a barking dog. The group shot and killed Somers along with a South African hostage. Six militants were also killed during the operation.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Hillary Clinton's eight questions // Politico // Hadas Gold - May 7, 2015

Since announcing her bid for the presidency last month, Hillary Clinton has answered a grand total of eight questions from the media. Reporters have grown so frustrated by the limited media availability that they're beginning to publish the hypothetical questions they would ask Clinton -- if only they could. Of course, Clinton has no obligation to the press.

More confounding, however, is the way her campaign is spinning the issue: On Wednesday, Clinton spokesperson Jesse Ferguson posted this "philosophical" question on Twitter: "If a candidate answers hours of questions from real people on camera but they didn't come from press, did they happen?"

Ferguson is referring to the hours of round tables and events Clinton has had with voters in early states like Iowa and New Hampshire where she is asked and answered questions from voters. What Ferguson fails to mention is that many of the people asking the questions at these events were preselected by the campaign or the group hosting the campaign such as the recent immigration event in Las Vegas. This is far from a unique approach. Most campaigns do the same in order to ensure a positive reception.

So, to answer Ferguson's question, No: While questions from "real people" are incredibly valuable and should be paid attention to, questions from these often preselected voters are not a substitute for questions from the media.

Ferguson's tweet gives us an insight into how the Clinton campaign hopes to handle the media -- by going

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around them. Clinton does not need the media; she's got nearly 100 percent name recognition and very little competition from fellow Democrats. And, again, she has no obligation to the increasingly frustrated press.

Hillary Clinton's liberal lean on immigration — and what it means for 2016 // Washington Post // Philip Bump - May 7, 2015

Hillary Clinton's announced Monday that she supported a full path to citizenship for people in the country illegally and possibly an expansion of President Obama's executive action on immigration. The move was hailed by progressives as surprisingly ... progressive. The only Republican whose stated position on the subject is anywhere close to Clinton's is Jeb Bush. And that, many feel, is one reason why it's now Clinton's professed position.

Last week, we looked at LIBRE, an organization heavily funded by the Koch brothers and which has been providing support services to Hispanics as part of an effort to introduce conservative political arguments and to collect contact information. As we noted then, Hispanics identify heavily as Democratic, but less so in recent years than Asian or black voters (based on annual surveys from Pew Research).

That's party identification -- not voting. To see voting, we can look at past exit polling. Looking at House races every two years, Hispanics have consistently voted more heavily Democratic than the voting population on the whole -- but the margin has been declining for the past two elections.

It's hard to say how Hispanics feel about the 2016 matchups so far, because many public polls don't offer breakdowns by race and many others focus on Iowa and New Hampshire, where Hispanic voters are not a large part of the electorate. Two polls, one from SurveyUSA in North Carolina and one from Mason-Dixon in Florida, do have breakdowns that compare Clinton to possible Republican primary opponents.

The match-ups against Bush and Marco Rubio (whose position on immigration has moved right in recent years) are closer among Hispanics than those against other candidates -- though Clinton still has a lead with Hispanics against both in both states.

Notice on the bottom graphs above that Hispanics are also more likely to say that they're undecided. There's a broader margin of error with the group in both polls, since the sample size is smaller. But compared to black voters, for example, the margins are much more modest. In the Mason-Dixon Florida poll, black voters prefer Clinton over Bush by 87 points and over Rubio by 77. Among Hispanics, it's 7 points and one point, respectively. The caveats, of course: Two polls, it's very early, etc.

When Obama announced his expanded immigration actions last fall, his support among Hispanics surged. Clinton doesn't need that surge right this moment. But next fall, she clearly hopes that her position on immigration will start letting a little more sunshine between her and whoever her opponent turns out to be.

The media's real role in 2016 // Politico // Dylan Byers - May 7, 2015

Let's be honest with ourselves for a second: This is Hillary Clinton's election to lose.

On Nov. 8, 2016, Clinton will start — start — with a minimum 247 of the 270 electoral votes she needs to win. If you give her Colorado and Virginia — which many political strategists would, given the Hispanic population in

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one and the rising influence of the northern-centered population in the other — she'll start with 269. That means Clinton doesn't need Ohio or Florida. She just needs one small state like Iowa, Nevada or New Hampshire to put her over the edge. And because she's got a boatload of money and no viable primary challenger, she'll have plenty of time and resources to lock at least one of those states up.

In order to shift the map ahead of Election Day, the Republican nominee would have to find a way to win Colorado and/or Virginia. That means winning over Hispanics, which will be a difficult task for a nominee who has spent a months-long primary trying to win over the conservative grassroots. It also means winning over enough members of Virginia's white working class to counter the more populated liberal-urban centers in the north. Not impossible, of course, but hard.

Unless ... unless one of two things happens: 1. The Republicans build an Obama 2008-level narrative around their nominee, significantly broadening their candidate's appeal to independents and Democrats. 2. Some legitimate controversy, historic stumble, unconscionable error or jaw-dropping gaffe completely reorients the way voters view Hillary Clinton.

As of now, the first option seems unlikely. Republicans have not produced a candidate who looks poised to pull off a 'hope and change' style campaign, despite Marco Rubio's attempt to brand himself as the candidate for a "new American century." The second option would require a controversy or error so major — and legitimate — that it didn't go away. Such a controversy would have to be far bigger than a secret email account or questionable Clinton Foundation donations. The inconsequence of those stories can be seen in the latest New York Times/CBS News poll, which found that "Americans now view Mrs. Clinton more favorably and more see her as a strong leader than they did earlier in the year, despite weeks of scrutiny about her ethics."

The conventional wisdom among Clinton's supporters is that Clinton is invincible, because she has already weathered all the storms of media scrutiny. She has been in the public eye for 25 years and endured countless controversies, from Whitewater to Lewinsky to Benghazi. The book has been thrown at her, and the book lost.

This argument overlooks two important factors: First, the national media has never been more primed to take down Hillary Clinton (and, by the same token, elevate a Republican candidate). Even before she announced her presidential bid, The New York Times alone had published more than 40 articles related to her private email account, spurring other stories across the national print, digital and television media. Since announcing her bid, the national media has spent the bulk of its time investigating potential lines of influence between Clinton Foundation donations/speaking fees and Clinton's actions as secretary of state. The Times, The Washington Post and others even struck deals for early access to anti-Clinton research.

Second, the media environment is radically different from the 1990s or even the 2000s. The power and volume of social media means that controversies can be both disseminated and elevated to unprecedented levels. In today's media environment, nothing with even a whiff of gunpowder comes across the transom without blowing up, because blowing stuff up is what the media does. Or, as Danniel Henniger notes in today's Wall Street Journal, the "electronic elements have reached critical mass... [and] the new political media that will drive the 2016 presidential contest are like the surface of the oceans — huge, always moving, unpredictable and potentially destructive."

The rest, as they say, is noise. The media can cover every minor process development and chase Hillary to every Chipotle, but without a transformational Republican candidate and/or an unforeseen controversy of truly epic proportions, Hillary Clinton will waltz to the nomination and enter Election Day with a significant advantage over her Republican challenger.

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Meeting Hillary Clinton was like talking to a mentor // Iowa City Press-Citizen // Carter Bell Guest Opinion - May 6, 2015

Walking in the door alone, without any staffers in front or behind her, Hillary Clinton entered the Jones Street Java House.

“What’s are people talking about on campus? What would you say are students’ number one priority?” she asked me a few minutes later after ordering coffee from the owner’s son and greeting the other patrons in the coffee shop.

It was a bright, clear Iowa morning on Tuesday, April 14. A bit taken aback by her straightforward and candid questions, a bit nervous meeting for the first time a woman I admired so much, my brain scrambled to orient itself. “Uh, jobs! Now and after graduation. The jobs we have now are minimum wage (or less if we wait tables), and while our parents talk about how they could work a summer and pay for a year of college, our jobs now don’t even pay our rent, let alone our tuition, fees, textbooks, food, phone bill, and other expenses. So then we’re also concerned about jobs after graduation: will we find a job at all? Will it pay enough to help pay back our student loans and still pay the current bills?”

Clinton listened intently, sympathizing and commenting how she worked during school as well.

Clinton was shocked when I told her that my friends and I have not taken or have put off taking certain classes because the textbooks cost hundreds of dollars. When talking about the cost of tuition itself, Clinton commented how the average student debt for a student graduate in the state of Iowa is more than $29,000. Later, we talked about my grandmother, and Clinton said she hopes to have a similar type of close relationship with her granddaughter, Charlotte.

Clinton talked a lot with one of my fellow coffee-goers, Austin, who works at a hospital and takes night classes at St. Ambrose University. I was shocked by how much Clinton knew about all that he talking about. Inpatient versus outpatient services, the midnight rule, and the nursing shortage, Secretary Clinton knew exactly what he was talking about and never missed a beat.

Sara, another woman at coffee shop, talked with Clinton about how blessed but rare her situation with childcare is: a very affordable in-home daycare provider and grandparents close to also watch her baby. Secretary Clinton agreed that we must do something so affordable, high quality day care is not longer an exceptional circumstance.

People ask me about how my coffee with Hillary Clinton was, and the truth is, it still hasn’t really sunk in. I still have a hard time believing it happened because it felt like I got coffee with a mentor or favorite professor, not a presidential candidate. The conversation didn’t feel staged or forced; it flowed naturally between the four of us on college affordability, women’s health, job shortages, childcare, our families, and our hopes, dreams and fears for the future.

Carter Bell is a junior Political Science major at the University of Iowa originally from Waukee, Iowa. She is involved with University Lecture Committee, University Democrats, and the President's Committee on Sexual Misconduct.

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'I Gotta Pay Our Bills' // WSJ // Daniel Henninger - May 6, 2015

Staring at identical Rorschach blots of the Clintons' now-famous foundation, their 24-karat speeches, the missing emails and nonstop nonanswers about all of it, Republicans and Democrats come to separate conclusions.

Republicans keep asking: Will she get away with it? Democrats alter one word in this question: Will she get by with it? Conservatives think the liberal media will cover for Hillary. Liberals expect the Clinton machine will beat the rap, again.

Some bipartisan advice for aging elephants and donkeys: You're not in 1993 anymore.

The media environment in which this new edition of Whitewaterish stories is appearing didn't exist when Bill and Hillary lived in the White House. Back then, the Clinton sagas about all those things gone missing or unremembered would get published in this newspaper, the Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Boston Globe and the wire services, with a late-day kicker from evening newscasts. In terms of message-carry, the Clinton years might as well have been the age of the telegraph.

The World Wide Web, the oxygen of life now, was just coming to life when Bill Clinton was president. Google appeared in 1998. The opinion-transmission monster called "social media" didn't arrive until 2004, with Facebook.Twitter hit in 2006. And it wasn't until the Obama presidency that every single person with a political ax to grind owned the modern version of the frontier equalizer—a smartphone.

Today, these electronic elements have reached critical mass: The people paying really close attention to political news at such an early stage of a presidential campaign are vastly more numerous than ever.

So when Bill Clinton tells an NBC reporter somewhere in Africa, "I gotta pay our bills," it flows instantly into a complex political ecosystem that reinterprets what he said, and not in a good way. James Carville and the rest of the Clinton surrogate crew don't have enough spin time in their lives to offset this torrent. Type "I gotta pay our bills" into Twitter's search window, and the screen will fill with tiny blue birds cackling about the Clintons' family wage slave.

Stories describing Hillary Clinton's missing State Department emails started to appear in early March. The Clinton response was classic 1994: stonewall. Today, stonewalling is catnip to social media. The Clinton phalanx can erase her servers to stonewall Trey Gowdy's House committee, but it can't erase the zillions of opinions sent, received and read about the erasures and excuses.

Which raises the question: Why don't the Clintons reduce the volume of negative opinion flow by coming clean, or at least cleaner, some of the time about what they do? Instead, they let stories like the missing emails or grants to the Clinton Foundation from a Kazakhstan-connected donor continue to feed on themselves and self-multiply via the electronic galaxy that is Twitter, Facebook, blogs, newspaper websites, Politico, Instapundit, RealClearPolitics, TV and radio talk shows.

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Skeptics will say most of this activity is just being recycled through the already convinced right and left. And that many of these people are political trolls with no life beyond outputting snide remarks. Could be, but no one knows that for sure.

What we do know is that along with the snark, they have also been posting the URL links to all the major Clinton newspaper stories the past two months.

Those stories have been forwarded to and read by people who normally would never see them. And the takeaway from the experience isn't terrific for Hillary or the Democrats.

In Wednesday's print version of the New York Times/CBS poll, a chart announced that a wondrous 82% of Democrats think Hillary is "honest and trustworthy." Excavate your way through the Times' online tabs, though, and you discover that among independent voters, 41% think she's honest. That number is close to the red zone for candidates.

The Clintons didn't know what hit them in 2008, when Barack Obama's progressive techies used barely understood social media to run over them. Not much seems to have changed. Bill, we learned during the email mess, doesn't use email, and Hillary's explanations of how she used cellphones as secretary of state sounded like something your grandma would come up with.

It's not clear that anyone fully understands how social media shape opinions or how long they last. But in their power and volume, the new political media that will drive the 2016 presidential contest are like the surface of the oceans—huge, always moving, unpredictable and potentially destructive. The Republicans are out there bobbing, too. Their time will come.

The irony, on the evidence of the campaign so far, is that the social media that defeated the Clinton machine in 2008 could do it again. But this time there won't be an organized intelligence at the controls, not even the vast right-wing conspiracy. That, too, was so 1990s.

The odd history of why the Clintons keep all their money in cash // WaPo Blog // Max Ehrenfreund - May 7, 2015

Bill Clinton received some criticism this week for his defense of the paid speeches he gave after leaving the White House. "I got to pay our bills," the former president told NBC's Cynthia McFadden, adding that he had taken "almost no capital gains" in the past 15 years.

That statement was not entirely accurate. Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, did enjoy returns on their investments at first, according to tax returns she released during her first campaign for the office her husband held.

Since 2007, however, their wealth has earned them almost nothing, and they probably have not taken significant capital gains, according to a review of Hillary Clinton's financial disclosures from her time as secretary of state.

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The Clintons' portfolio has performed poorly because it is almost entirely in cash. As of 2012, when Hillary Clinton left the State Department, the couple's wealth was in an account at JPMorgan likely worth between $10 million and $25 million.

Just like everyday Americans, the Clintons keep their money in a regular old savings account. The former president pays the bills with money he earns by working, not from dividends and interest.

It's just that for most American dads nearing retirement, their jobs haven't paid quite as well as Bill Clinton's most recent speechmaking gig.

In a global economy with an increasingly unequal distribution of wealth, the Clintons' massive savings account is unusual. People as rich as they are typically put their money to work in hedge funds, bonds, real estate or just about anything else that's profitable, rather than keeping it in cash.

Not all the wealthy are politicians, though. The Clintons' financial strategy is a response to the intense scrutiny placed on them throughout their career in American public life and a reminder, in dollars, of how much they've been willing to give up to achieve their ambitions.

When Bill Clinton became president, the couple assigned their money to a blind trust, managed by an independent adviser who made decisions without their knowledge or instructions to avoid conflicts of interest. They didn't have much at the time, and eight years later, they left the White House in debt. The former president did have bills he had to pay legals bills resulting from his tumultuous tenure in the Oval Office.

Bill Clinton began giving speeches around the world, collecting a cool six figures with most of his appearances. Soon the adviser of the trust had some real money to invest.

The Clintons continued to hold their wealth in trust until Hillary Clinton's first presidential campaign. Federal officials told them that their trust was out of date, and to comply with the rules on ethics, they would have to liquidate it.

The Clintons sold all of their assets and did not reinvest the proceeds. The income they would pass up by keeping the money in cash and U.S. Treasury bonds was a price they were willing to pay to shield Hillary Clinton from any questions about conflicts of interest.

Others of similar stature have also changed their investment strategies. President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama hold less than $5 million in Treasury bonds and several hundred thousand dollars in index funds, according to their most recent financial disclosure.

The Clintons' finances are unusual even among politicians in that as of 2012, almost all their money was in cash, and they had a lot of it.

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In 2008, they kept the money at Citibank, mostly in Treasuries. They moved the money into Treasuries and cash at JPMorgan in 2009, when it was worth at least $10 million. (On the federal disclosure forms, the values of assets are reported in ranges.)

By 2011, all the money less than $25 million was in cash.

The 2012 disclosure states that the Clintons earned between $50,000 and $100,000 in interest on the account, a rate of between 0.2 percent and 1 percent.

Bill Clinton earned more in royalties on his books. His book about the economy, "Back to Work," brought him between $100,000 and $1 million that year. "My Life," the autobiography he published in 2004, added another $50,000 to $100,000. His speeches, by far, were his largest source of income. His wife's memoir, "Hard Choices," was published after she left the State Department, and it is not known how much the book is generating in royalties.

There are still other questions about the Clintons' money. If the former senator and first lady had simply wanted to avoid questions about her finances on the campaign trail, it isn't obvious why she and her husband didn't simply invest in index funds, as the Obamas have done.

After deciding to keep the money in cash, though, the Clintons then apparently ignored the federal limit on deposit insurance. The government insures a joint account owned by two people for up to $500,000. They might have deposited the money at several banks, in case JPMorgan were to fail. President George W. Bush, for example, kept some of his money in certificates of deposit at a number of banks.

Whatever their reasons, the irony is that Bill Clinton's speeches have generated as much controversy as any investments the couple might have made.

A number of those who have paid him to speak have also donated money to the couple's charity, the Clinton Foundation. News media and a new book by the conservative author Peter Schweizer have scrutinized whether contributions to the charity created conflicts of interest while Hillary Clinton was in office.

Debunking Hillary Clinton's liberal 'problem' // WaPo Blog // Chris Cillizza – May 7, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton takes part in a roundtable discussion with young Nevadans on immigration at Rancho High School in Las Vegas on May 5. (Mike Blake/Reuters)

One of the most persistent tropes of the 2016 election is that some large number of liberals are deeply dissatisfied with the centrist approach to politics long championed by Hillary Rodham Clinton and, as a result, are actively engaged in a search for a more progressive alternative.

Persistent -- and wrong. The truth is that scant evidence exists in any poll to suggest that Clinton is anything short of beloved (or, at the very least, be-liked) by the party's liberal base.

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Take a new Iowa poll conducted by Quinnipiac University. In it, Clinton stands at 60 percent in a hypothetical caucus vote, with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) running second at 15 percent. Clinton's standing among the base of the party? She gets 61 percent among those who consider themselves "very" liberal and 66 percent among the "somewhat" liberal. Her poorest performing ideological group is "moderate/conservative" Democrats, where she wins only 58 percent.

Take it a step further. It's not just that liberals in Iowa are going to vote for Clinton. They also have an extremely positive view of her. Overall, 83 percent of likely Iowa Democratic caucus-goers told Quinnipiac that they view Clinton favorably. That number jumps to 88 percent among "very" liberal Democrats. So, 9 in 10 of the most liberal voters in Iowa like Clinton. Not exactly a liberal problem, right?

And it's not just Iowa. The last national poll conducted by the Washington Post-ABC News, in late March, showed similar popularity numbers for Clinton. Eighty four percent of Democrats rated her favorably. Seventy seven percent of self-identified "liberals" had a favorable opinion of Clinton, including 50 percent who felt "strongly" favorable toward her.

Poll after poll -- in key states and nationally -- shows the same thing. Are their voices within the party -- Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Bill de Blasio -- who wonder aloud whether Clinton is sufficiently committed to liberal ideals to carry the party's banner basically unchallenged in 2016? Yes. But, remember two things: 1) It is in the interests of people like the trio I mentioned above to elevate themselves as leaders of the left, a calculation to which Clinton is really a sidebar and 2) There is NO evidence that these few prominent voices represent any substantial bloc of, you know, actual voters. Pockets of discontent toward Clinton exist, but they are pockets, not a whole pair of pants. (Ugh.)

And, to the extent that there remains any doubt about Clinton among liberals, she is moving forcefully to address it. She surprised almost everyone on the left with her aggressive endorsement of a path to citizenship for undocumented workers and also recently spoke about prison reform, a cause near and dear to liberals. And, don't forget that Clinton -- from her announcement video on -- has put income inequality front and center in the campaign.

Look, Clinton has plenty of potential problems in the race. The baggage she carries from her years in the public spotlight. Her husband and his role in the campaign. The Clinton Foundation. The e-mail server. You get the idea.

But it is a fallacy to talk about her "liberal" problem. She doesn't have one.

Clinton's claim that no GOP candidate has consistently supported a path to citizenship // WaPo Blog // May 7, 2015

"We can't wait any longer for a path to full and equal citizenship. Now, this is where I differ with everybody on the Republican side. Make no mistake: Today not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential, is clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship. Not one."

–Hillary Clinton, roundtable in North Las Vegas, Nev., May 5, 2015

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This was an interesting statement by former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, made as she laid out her policy goals for tackling illegal immigration. She tried to draw a stark distinction between her stance and the growing field of Republican candidates.

But one of those candidates, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), was a key member of the bipartisan coalition that passed a comprehensive immigration overhaul in the Senate in 2013. That bill died in the House, and Rubio has since said it is better to tackle the problem piecemeal, starting with better border security.

But what's his position on citizenship? Note that Clinton made a point of saying "clearly and consistently"—modifiers that leave the actual meaning of her statement open to some interpretation.

The Facts

In 2014, as the Senate bill was debated in the House, Rubio at one point mused that he would be "open" to a bill that did not include a path to citizenship, on the grounds that it was better than the status quo, but he added: "Do I think it is in the best interest of this country to have millions of people here who can never become Americans? I don't."

Similarly, in a 2014 interview with Simon Conway, he said:

"The part that's difficult is, is what do you do with millions of people in this country who are here illegally? What do you do about it? And I think that the couple of things we're not going to do — we're not going to award citizenship to people or give them a benefit they wouldn't otherwise have. And we're also not going to round up and deport 12 million people. So the problem with finding a solution between those two different positions is people are not willing to even talk about it until they believe the laws are going to be enforced."

Rubio has continued with that theme in 2015. His book, "American Dreams" was published in January and described his current thinking. He outlined a three-step plan under which undocumented immigrants must come forward and register, and then, if qualified, apply for a temporary non-immigrant visa. This would give them a work permit. Rubio then writes:

"Third and finally, those who qualify for a nonimmigrant visa will have to remain in this status for at least a decade. After that, they would be allowed to apply for permanent residency if they so choose. Many who qualify for this status will choose to remain in it indefinitely. But those who choose to seek permanent residency would have to do it the way anyone else would, not through any special pathway."

Rubio's reference to not having a "special pathway" led some reporters to conclude he had backed away from an explicit path to citizenship. But in numerous interviews, Rubio denied that was the case.

In a New York Times interview, published Dec. 31, 2014:

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Q: “In your book, you propose a piecemeal approach starting with more border security and ending with permanent residency. Are you dropping the idea of citizenship for those who came here illegally?”

A: “Once you have permanent residency, which is a green card, existing law allows you to apply for citizenship.”

On CNN, Jan. 23, 2015, Rubio said he still believed there should be a path to citizenship at the end:

“Once you have a green card, under existing law, in three to five years, depending on whether you got it through marriage or work, you would be able to apply for citizenship. Now, I don’t think it’s wise to have 12 million people who are forever in this country who feel American but are permanently barred from becoming citizens. Other people think that should be the price of having violated our laws in the first place. We can debate that. But we have to deal with that issue realistically, and we can’t until illegal immigration is under control first.”

On CBS’s “Face the Nation,” April 19, 2015, Rubio said:

“And then the third step would be to pass the bill that goes to the 10 million people that are here, or 12 million that are here illegally. …And after a substantial period of time in that [work permit] status, assuming they haven’t violated any of the conditions of that status, they would be allowed to apply for legal residency, just like anybody else would, not a special process. And after you’re a legal resident, after a number of years, by law, you’re allowed to apply for citizenship.”

As always with these issues, there are complexities in the weeds. Rubio, in his comments, makes it sound relatively easy to obtain legal residency — a green card— after the 10-year wait is completed. But there is a cap on the number of green cards that are issued — 625,000 a year — and there also are country and category caps. As a result, there is a waiting list of 4.4 million people outside the United States seeking green cards.

So how would 11 million people suddenly qualify for green cards?

The Senate bill supported by Rubio actually addressed this problem, in an obscure provision (section 2302) that was informally known by Senate aides as the “ShamWow visa.” (The ShamWow towel supposedly soaks up an enormous amount of liquid.) But it’s unclear if Rubio would support such a provision now, especially because in the CBS interview he reiterated that there would not be “a special process” for applying for legal residency.

“He’s always talked about fixing the legal immigration system before letting illegal immigrants apply for green cards,” Rubio spokesman Alex Conant said. “Part of fixing the legal immigration system means dealing with the big backlog.” Conant noted that Rubio voted for the Senate bill, but he did not specifically answer a question on whether Rubio still supports section 2302.

Conant added: “As recently as the National Review Summit on Friday, Marco was arguing that we should want people who are going to be here for the rest of their lives to become Americans. He has said it would not be wise to have millions of people permanently in this country who could never become citizens.”

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Depending on one's perspective in the debate, Rubio is either trying to have it both ways or is simply being a bit obtuse. Lynn Tramonte, deputy director of the pro-immigration advocacy group America's Voice, said that Rubio has been "deliberately vague" on what he supports, and that it would be difficult for undocumented immigrants to get green cards unless special provisions were enacted. She added: "I don't see him as an advocate for a path to citizenship."

But Alex Nowrasteh of the libertarian Cato Institute said: "Senator Rubio has consistently, if not clearly, supported a path to citizenship for most unauthorized immigrants." In his view, "Rubio's strategic and policy changes do not mean he opposes a path to citizenship. Rubio has merely reordered his reform priorities." He agreed, however, that Rubio has not been especially clear about his position.

Clinton spokesman Josh Schwerin defended Clinton's language: "Any candidate who is intentionally vague on the issue is, by definition, not clear and consistent in their support."

The Pinocchio Test

This is a difficult situation to evaluate. Clinton certainly wanted to paint all of the Republican candidates with an anti-immigration brush, but gave herself some wiggle room on Rubio by adding in the modifier of "clearly and consistently."

But that's an all-purpose modifier that could be applied to every politician on just about every issue, including Clinton herself.

In straining to suggest Rubio's stance is the same as other Republicans, Clinton goes too far. Rubio has consistently said he supports a path to citizenship. Clinton would have a better case if she specifically said Rubio needs to provide more clarity on how quickly his plan would grant immigrants that citizenship–especially if he no longer supports creating a new visa category that would smooth the path to a green card. After all, that's a critical step on the way to citizenship.

We wavered between One and Two Pinocchios, but ultimately tipped toward Two. Rubio has taken a relatively lonely position in the GOP on immigration, and it's not quite fair to suggest his position on citizenship has been inconsistent.

(Update: Our friends at PolitiFact correctly note that Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who also backed the Senate bill, is also considering a presidential run and has not wavered from advocating a path to citizenship. They gave Clinton a "mostly false," equivalent to Three Pinocchios. Given that Clinton mentioned "potential" candidates, that may be a fair assessment.)

Two Pinocchios

--

Alexandria Phillips
Communications | Press Assistant
Hillary for America
https://www.hillaryclinton.com

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To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: johnpodestatemp@outlook.com
Date: 3/30/2015 2:55:26 AM
Subject: Fwd: Hillary Clinton Tells Malcolm Hoenlein Wants to Improve Relations With Israel

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Haim Saban <kussa@saban.com >
Date: Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 9:26 AM
Subject: RE: Hillary Clinton Tells Malcolm Hoenlein Wants to Improve Relations With Israel
To: "Hspeumpottsa Abedin (Huma@clintonemail.com)" <Huma@clintonemail.com >
Cc: Laura Hartigan <lhartigan@saban.com >, Alex De Ocampo <adeocampo@saban.com >, "john.podesta@gmail.com " <john.podesta@gmail.com >

Also pls be aware that these articles will be mailed to thousands of people who are interested in the subject matter and who have been asking themselves ,,,,and me ,many times ”Where is Hillary on this”

Well ,,,,,now they will know.

Adding John .

From: Haim Saban
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 5:56 AM
To: Hspeumpottsa Abedin (Huma@clintonemail.com)
Cc: Laura Hartigan; Alex De Ocampo
Subject: FW: Hillary Clinton Tells Malcolm Hoenlein Wants to Improve Relations With Israel

Hey Huma.

A very good statement ,,,,,w/o saying anything that would show even a sign of criticism of the administration.

Very smart and politically correct.

Pls say thanks to the lady.

Below: NYT & Algemeiner

Clinton Wants to Improve Ties With Israel

By MAGGIE HABERMANMARCH 29, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told a representative of a group of prominent Jewish leaders on Sunday that she wanted to put the relationship between the United States and Israel back on “constructive footing,” the representative said.

Mrs. Clinton’s comments, made in a phone call to Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, contrasted in tone from recent remarks by members of the Obama administration, who have publicly criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel amid tensions over a nuclear deal with Iran and comments Mr. Netanyahu made in the final days of his re-election campaign this month.

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"Secretary Clinton thinks we need to all work together to return the special U.S.-Israel relationship to constructive footing, to get back to basic shared concerns and interests, including a two-state solution pursued through direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians," Mr. Hoenlein said in a statement issued by his organization on Sunday evening. "We must ensure that Israel never becomes a partisan issue," he quoted her as saying. Mrs. Clinton knows Mr. Hoenlein from her time in the Senate.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton confirmed that she had spoken to Mr. Hoenlein, but would not elaborate on what they had discussed or say if he had quoted her accurately.

Mrs. Clinton's comments are her first on the United States- Israeli relationship to be made public since Mr. Netanyahu's re-election on March 17, when the strains between the two countries reached their height in the days surrounding the election. Mr. Netanyahu urged supporters to counter Israeli Arabs who he said were voting in "droves," comments widely criticized as racist , and asserted that no Palestinian state would be established on his watch, a statement that President Obama 's chief of staff, Denis McDonough, called "very troubling."

After his victory, Mr. Netanyahu backed off both statements. Obama administration officials have left open the possibility of changing the United States' stance on Israel at the United Nations since the election. Historically, the United States has acted as a shield for resolutions that Israel found troublesome.

A senior White House official was quoted by The Wall Street Journal recently suggesting that some in the Obama administration felt "personally sold out," after accusations that Israel had spied on negotiations for an Iran nuclear deal and that those aides could be around for the "next administration," a clear reference to a potential Clinton White House.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/30/us/politics/hillary-clinton-wants-to-improve-relations-with-israel.html?_r=0

Algemeiner

Hillary Clinton Breaks Silence on US-Israel Tensions Under Obama, Calls for Return of 'Constructive' Relationship

March 29, 2015 7:50 pm 65 comments

After weeks of escalating criticism of Israel by the Obama Administration, Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State and the leading 2016 Democratic presidential contender, on Sunday called for the renewal of the "special" relationship between the US and the Jewish state.

In a telephone conversation with Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Clinton said that she "thinks we need to all work together to return the special US-Israel relationship to constructive footing, to get back to basic shared concerns and interests."

The Secretary said this includes "a two-state solution pursued through direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians." She further noted that, "we must ensure that Israel never becomes a partisan issue."

Mr. Hoenlein, who initiated the conversation, said that, "Secretary Clinton's views are of special importance and timeliness given recent issues in the US-Israel relationship. We note her call for direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, which, we believe, is the only possible route to a true peace."

Clinton's comments follow weeks of escalating criticisms from the Obama Administration mainly addressing comments made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu days before his reelection earlier this month. The latest attacks follow a pattern of aggressive language directed towards Israel's leaders throughout the Obama presidency which has been marked by a number of stark policy differences between the Israelis and the White House.

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A number of major Jewish leaders have spoken out in recent days, calling on the White House to tone down its rhetoric and to respect the historic bipartisan nature of US-Israel relations.

Explaining the significance of Clinton's comments Hoenlein told *The Algemeiner*, "As the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination, her words are especially significant and impactful."

"We believe that it is particularly important, given the challenges Israel and the region are facing, that the US and Israel stand together to advance their shared concerns and interests," Hoenlein added. "There is too much at stake to do otherwise."

http://www.algemeiner.com/2015/03/29/hillary-clinton-breaks-silence-on-us-israel-tensions-under-obama-calls-for-return-of-special-relationship/

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From: "Jesse Ferguson" <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com>
hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/27/2015 2:58:41 AM
Subject: RE: First Read: 'Clinton Cash' Author Speaks Out

Can we update the doc of all the stuff showing this guy was debunked (including this below)?

From: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com [mailto:hrcrapid@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Josh Schwerin
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2015 9:20 AM
To: hrcrapid
Subject: Fwd: First Read: 'Clinton Cash' Author Speaks Out

Conservative author admits evidence on Hillary Clinton is circumstantial

In back-to-back interviews over the past 24 interviews, conservative author Peter Schweizer admits he doesn't have direct evidence that Hillary Clinton intervened to assist individuals and entities because they donated large sums of money to the Clinton Foundation. On ABC yesterday, Schweizer was asked if he had proof that Hillary Clinton directly took action to benefit a Clinton Foundation donor from the sale of a uranium mining company. "No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, ... this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is afoot." In an interview with NBC's Savannah Guthrie this morning , Schweizer said, "What we have is a pattern of behavior," adding that this pattern consistently shows Clinton Foundation donors benefiting from Hillary Clinton's State Department. More Schweizer: "I think it should be [criminally] investigated... I don't think a quid-pro-quo needs to be a standard," citing the charges that brought down former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell. When Guthrie asked him about his ties to the conservative movement and GOP politics, Schweizer said, "I am not claiming to be neutral," though he also stated that he's taken on conservatives, too.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **First Read from NBC News** <email@mail.nbcnews.com >
Date: Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 9:14 AM
Subject: First Read: 'Clinton Cash' Author Speaks Out
To: Joshschwerin@gmail.com



First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter brought to you by NBC News' Chuck Todd, Mark Murray and Carrie Dann.

FIRST READ: 'CLINTON CASH' AUTHOR SPEAKS OUT

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Clinton Foundation: "Yes, we made mistakes"

Meanwhile, in a blog post on Sunday , the Clinton Foundation's acting CEO, Maura Pally, acknowledged that the Clinton Foundation made mistakes in its filings of 990 tax forms. "Our total revenue was accurately reported on each year's form - our error was that government grants were mistakenly combined with other donations... So yes, we made mistakes, as many organizations of our size do, but we are acting quickly to remedy them, and have taken steps to ensure they don't happen in the future." Pally also explained why some Clinton Foundation-related donations weren't disclosed like others were -- because they were to a Canadian offshoot. "[T]he Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership (Canada) is publicly listed as a donor on our website. But as it is a distinct Canadian organization, separate from the Clinton Foundation, its individual donors are not listed on the site. This is hardly an effort on our part to avoid transparency - unlike in the U.S., under Canadian law; all charities are prohibited from disclosing individual donors without prior permission from each donor."

Why is the Clinton Foundation STILL taking foreign donations?

But here's a big question that we have as Hillary Clinton has begun her presidential candidacy and as she stands a decent chance of sitting in the Oval Office in 2017: Why is the Clinton Foundation taking ANY foreign money at all? As we wrote last week, and as Pally confirms in her blog post, the Clinton Foundation still receives foreign money from six foreign countries -- Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the U.K. A Clinton Foundation official has told NBC News, "You just can't pull the plug" on existing programs, especially when they involve multi-year grants. But in a world where appearances do matter, should the Clinton Foundation be receiving those donations anymore?

Jeb: I've raised more money in 100 days than any GOP operation in history

The New York Times : "Jeb Bush told donors [in Miami] that he believed his political action committee had raised more money in 100 days than any other modern Republican political operation, according to those who heard him." Of course, there's one hitch with any record: The money Jeb is raising is through his Super PAC, which is able to raise unlimited amounts of money. And while the Clinton Foundation money is legitimately receiving attention, so should the loophole that Jeb Bush is exploiting in campaign finance law -- that presidential candidates can't coordinate with Super PACs. But since Jeb TECHNICALLY isn't a presidential candidate, he's raising all of this money for his Super PAC.

George W. Bush comments on his brother's campaign, Obama's Iran policy

Over the weekend, it turned out Jeb Bush's older brother -- former President George W. Bush -- made some news. The Washington Post : "At a closed-door dinner Saturday night before nearly 800 members of the Republican Jewish Coalition, the 43rd president noted that it could hurt former Florida governor Jeb Bush if he campaigned alongside another Bush who served in the White House, according to several attendees. 'He said that one of the challenges his brother is going to have is that the country doesn't like dynasties,' recalled David Volosov, a RJC member from Silver Spring, Md. 'People are going to say, "Oh, here comes another Bush." His response is that he is going to stay as far as way as he can. He is going to stay away from the whole process.'" More from the New York Times : "Mr. Bush voiced skepticism about the Obama administration's pursuit of a nuclear deal with Iran. Although he had begun the diplomatic effort to press Iran to give up its nuclear program, Mr. Bush questioned whether it was wise to lift sanctions against Tehran when the Islamic government seemed to be caving in, and suggested that the United States risked losing leverage if it did so."

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FIRST READ'S MORNING CLIPS

OBAMA AGENDA: A different Abe (Shinzo) to address Congress

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be the first Japanese leader to address a joint session of Congress this week -- and he'll talk about his nation's role in global security. The Wall Street Journal: "When Shinzo Abe goes to Washington for a pomp-filled visit this week, the Japanese leader faces a delicate balancing act: selling Americans on his vision of the future-a newly vibrant, muscular, more equal Japanese partner-while trying to quell doubts stoked by his views

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of the past."

The New York Times explores the administration's efforts to take its cybersecurity pitch to a skeptical Silicon Valley.

The Washington Post ed board backs Obama on trade. "With a furious political battle over trade looming on Capitol Hill, it's high time Mr. Obama personally and aggressively took on the phony arguments that "progressives" are marshalling in a desperate attempt to block trade measures whose merits would withstand honest scrutiny."

In rare comments on global issues, George W. Bush took on Obama's foreign policy, criticizing the Iran deal and his efforts to counter the Islamic State, writes Bloomberg.

CONGRESS: Will GOP amendments doom bipartisan Iran legislation?

"A bill to give Congress a voice in the nuclear deal with Iran is now endangered by Republican amendments that would peel away bipartisan support for a measure begrudgingly accepted by the White House this month," writes the New York Times.

More, from POLITICO : "Republican and Democratic leaders, who back the review bill, plan to muster enough votes to block any seriously problematic amendments while still allowing their members to take some political potshots. If they let through any bombshells that significantly undermine the White House's negotiations, they risk losing Democratic support and the veto-proof majority that Corker has painstakingly assembled.

The odd media story around Harry Reid's New Years Day accident continues with this, from the Las Vegas Sun: "A Las Vegas man claims he started a false rumor that the injuries suffered by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid several months ago were the result of an attack by Reid's brother, not an exercise accident."

OFF TO THE RACES: GOP struggling to adjust to gay-marriage landscape

Here's the Des Moines Register's wrap of the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition's Saturday cattle call.

Big picture, in the New York Times : "Republican presidential candidates are struggling to adjust to a rapidly changing legal, political and cultural landscape this primary season, as the Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments Tuesday on whether same-sex marriage is a constitutionally protected right."

BUSH: In Miami Beach, Jeb Bush told super PAC donors that they've raised more money in the organization's first 100 days than any other Republican operation in history.

CLINTON: Hillary Clinton writes a Des Moines Register op-ed: "When I came to Iowa, I wanted to do something a little different. No big speeches or rallies. Just talking directly with everyday Iowans. Because this campaign isn't going to be about me, it's going to be about Iowans and people across our country who are ready for a better future. It's not enough to just get by, you deserve to get ahead and stay ahead. And everywhere I went, I met Iowans with great ideas for how we can get there."

The acting chief executive of the Clinton Foundation admits that the organization "made mistakes" in how it disclosed donors.

More, from the Washington Post : "Nevertheless, the foundation explained for the first time publicly that one of its affiliates - a Canada-based charity that bears Bill Clinton's name - would continue to keep its donors secret because of restrictions in Canadian law."

Here's Savannah Guthrie's interview with "Clinton Cash" author Peter Schweizer.

CRUZ: The gay businessman who hosted an event for Ted Cruz has apologized for showing "poor judgment."

RUBIO: He detailed his immigration philosophy to the Des Moines Register ed board.

WEBB: He attended a private event with veterans in Des Moines.

And around the country...

CALIFORNIA: The New York Times looks at the divide between rich and poor in drought-stricken California.

PROGRAMMING NOTES.

*** **Monday's "News Nation with Tamron Hall" line-up:** Tamron Hall speaks with Nick Cienski survivor of the avalanche at base camp at Mount Everest, Kenji Yoshino, Chief Justice Earl Warren Professor of Constitutional Law at NYU Law School about SCOTUS taking up same sex marriage, Parker Molloy, transgender rights advocate and Upworthy.com trends writer about Bruce Jenner, and Tim Smith, Jerel Maddox, and Kentrell Collins of Oxygen's new show: "The

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Prancing Elites".

*** **Monday's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" line-up:** NBC's Kristen Welker is filling in for Andrea and will have the latest on the Nepal earthquake with USAID Director of Foreign Disaster Assistance Jeremy Konyndyk and the United Nations World Food Programme Chief Spokesperson Bettina Leuscher, NBC's Pete Williams and Brian Mooar, Clinton campaign surrogate Ann Lewis, Fmr. RNC Chairman Michael Steele, the Washington Post's Chris Cillizza and Bloomberg Editor Jeanne Cummings.

PROP 8 ATTORNEYS: MARRIAGE EQUALITY COMING SOON

The lawyers who argued in favor of overturning California's same-sex ban in front the Supreme Court said Sunday they believe the votes exist for the Supreme Court to rule in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage in all 50 states.

David Boies and Ted Olsen said on Meet the Press that based on a previous ruling that struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act - which prevented legally married same-sex couples from receiving federal benefits - the Court will rule to overturn the ban.

"If you read what the Supreme Court said in that case, there's really no other way for the Supreme Court to come out in the case that's up for argument on Tuesday," Ted Olson said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"The first part of that case is whether states have to recognize the rights of individuals who wish to get married in that state. I think that will end the debate right there."

They said that the impact of the ruling will be based on the number of justices voting one way or the other.

"I think civil rights cases ought to be decided 9-0 or 8-1, the way the racial and civil rights decisions were largely made," David Boies said in the same interview.

"It sends a message that this country doesn't tolerate discrimination. So, I think the more justices that sign on, the better."

However, the likelihood of a unanimous or near-unanimous decision is unlikely based on the votes of other cases. "We were hoping that all nine justices would fall in line once the case finally was decided because of the inherent rights of individuals," Olson said.

"I'm still optimistic it'll be more than five votes. But we can count the justices that already decided the Defense of Marriage case and their explanation for why they decided that."

Public opinion on same-sex marriage, which has changed rapidly in the last five years, will also influence the justices. At the time California's same-sex marriage ban was overturned, less of the country was in favor of legalization, Boies said.

"Now overwhelmingly it's taken over the country," he said. "Just in the last couple of years, we've seen a tremendous movement that I think makes it easier now for the Supreme Court to make that total decision."

WHAT HILLARY CLINTON CAN LEARN FROM TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Presidential Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin explains how Hillary Clinton could take a page out of Teddy Roosevelt's book to deal with the "Clinton Cash" issue.

#NERDSCREEN: AGREEMENT ON TRADE?

While the two parties don't agree on much - trade is one place where overall, they do agree.

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LATEST NEWS

- First Read: 'Clinton Cash' Author Speaks Out
- Turkish Rescuers Pull Out Man Alive From Kathmandu Wreckage
- Dawen On Making Music And A Home in Taiwan
- First Read's Morning Clips
- Three New Fitness Trends to Spice Up Your Workout



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Josh Schwerin
Cell: 518-369-5469

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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 4/2/2015 12:54:56 PM
Subject: Re: Iran statement

If not out, pls add following. If out, fine:

> The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, RESOLVES THE MILITARY DIMENSION, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It can never be permitted to acquire a nuclear weapon. It is also vital that these efforts be part of a comprehensive strategy to check Iran's regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

On Apr 2, 2015, at 7:07 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

> One small tweak below and now good to go.
>
> > The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It can never be permitted to acquire a nuclear weapon. It is also vital that these efforts be part of a comprehensive strategy to check Iran's regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.
>
> On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:49 PM, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:

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Give me 10 or so to confirm one thing.

On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:44 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com > wrote:

Looks great. If folks are good, let's get out.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 2, 2015, at 6:14 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

+ Brian

From: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:11 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Cc: Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
Subject: Iran statement

HRC has signed off on the statement below and asks if she should tweet as well. Anyone have any concerns?

The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It is also vital that our efforts to deny Iran a nuclear weapon be part of a comprehensive strategy to check its regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/4/2015 12:37:26 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 6.4.15
Attachments:	6.04.14 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips

June 4, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Today Hillary Clinton will give a speech at the Barbara Jordan Gold Medallion Presentation in Houston, Texas. Clinton will call for swift action to restore the Voting Rights Act and will discuss ways to make it easier for voters to access the voting booth and cast their ballots. Clinton will also attend two fundraisers while in Texas.

Jeb Bush is expected to announce his candidacy for president on June 15th.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

There was not 2016 coverage on any network tonight. Instead they covered the hurricane growing and tornado threats, new evidence in the home of the family that was killed in Washington DC, and the price of cancer medication.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton to Speak at Latino Leaders Conference // Latin Post // Robert Ugarte - Jun 04, 2015

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic Party's top presidential contender, will return to Nevada later in June to give a speech at a large conference of Latino political leaders. She continues to be a favorite among Latinos and continues to push for the community's backing.

Clinton, the first Democratic candidate to vie for the party's nomination, will return to Las Vegas on June 18 in a dash of appearances spanning the country. The Associated Press reports Clinton will attend the 32nd annual National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) conference, speaking in front of various Latino leaders from across the nation.

The NALEO conference "presents a unique opportunity for Latino policymakers to meet with their colleagues

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from all levels of government to address the challenges and opportunities facing our communities and our nation," according to its website.

Clinton will speak at around 11:30 a.m. local time and the conference is only accessible to those attending and the media.

Because of the conference's focus, Clinton will undoubtedly be talking about Latino issues, but the topics have not been revealed as of yet. The NALEO conference website adds that Congresswoman Dina Titus, D-Nevada, Nevada Sen. Mo Denis, D-Las Vegas, Nevada Sen. Ruben Kihuen, D-Las Vegas, and Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, D-Las Vegas, will also speak.

The last time Clinton visited Las Vegas she proclaimed her administration would work towards establishing a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the nation.

"We cannot wait any longer for a path for full and equal citizenship," she said in early May, calling the Republicans' plan for legal status as "code for second-class status."

Despite winning over many Latinos and retaining her place as the darling of the Democratic electorate, Clinton has begun slipping in the polls. A CNN/ORC poll released on Tuesday showed the Democratic candidate's numbers have started going down.

In March Clinton's favorability rating stood at 53 percent; however, at the end of May, it has fallen to 46 percent as her "unfavorable" rating rose to 50 percent. Yet, among non-whites Clinton remains strong with 65 percent.

The poll showed Clinton continued to surpass her Republican opponents as the favored candidate.

In the past month, Clinton has made an effort to include Latinos in her campaign, having included Lorella Praeli and Xochitl Hinojosa, both well-known Latino leaders.

Clinton's visit to Las Vegas is part of a series of trips to states with early caucuses or primaries. The Las Vegas Review-Journal explains Clinton will be in Iowa from June 13 to 14, in New Hampshire on June 15, and in South Carolina on June 17.

Clinton to call for at least 20 days of early voting nationwide **// WaPo // Anne Gearan – June 3, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to call for an early voting period of at least 20 days in every state.

Clinton will call for that standard in remarks Thursday in Texas about voting rights, her campaign said. She will also criticize what her campaign calls deliberate restrictions on voting in several states, including Texas.

The former secretary of state's address at historically-black Texas Southern University in Houston comes as Democrats pursue legal challenges to voting rule changes approved by Republican legislatures in several states.

Clinton and her allies claim the changes are aimed at narrowing the electorate in ways that benefit Republicans.

“This is, I think, a moment when we should be expanding the franchise,” Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta

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said in an interview. “What we see in state after state is this effort by conservatives to restrict the right to vote.”

The legal effort began late last month with lawsuits in Wisconsin and Ohio, both presidential battleground states.

“This lawsuit concerns the most fundamental of rights guaranteed citizens in our representative democracy — the right to vote,” lawyers wrote in a federal complaint filed Friday in Wisconsin.

The challenge to a cutback in early voting in Wisconsin was filed by lawyers including Democratic election lawyer Marc Elias, who is the Clinton campaign’s top lawyer. Elias was not acting on behalf of the campaign, although all Democrats including Clinton could benefit if early voting were expanded.

“That right has been under attack in Wisconsin since Republicans gained control of the governor’s office and both houses of the State legislature in the 2010 election,” the lawsuit alleges.

Hillary Clinton Is Alone at the Top of Democratic 2016 Hill Endorsements // National Journal // Alex Brown – June 2, 2015

Hillary Clinton has racked up a slew of congressional endorsements in her presidential bid. Her rivals either can't compete on the Hill or are only doing so quietly.

Clinton's endorsement tally already stands at triple digits—nearly half of all sitting Democrats. But lawmakers say they've heard little outreach from Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley, Clinton's underdog rivals to lead Democrats' 2016 ticket.

Even the group that provides the underdogs' best chance at winning allies says the phone has stayed firmly on the hook: Both Sanders and O'Malley are running to Clinton's left, but the Congressional Progressive Caucus says it has heard no calls for support from either candidate. Instead, caucus cochair Raul Grijalva has thrown his support behind Clinton, as have fellow liberals like Reps. Rosa DeLauro and Jan Schakowsky.

While members say they would welcome the chance to hear from presidential hopefuls, it appears those candidates have decided the road to the nomination doesn't run through the Beltway—at least yet. "We've certainly had opportunities in the past to have some of those declared candidates come before us," said House Democratic Caucus Chair Xavier Becerra, citing an O'Malley appearance on the Hill last year. "Certainly this caucus will invite any declared candidate for president to come before us and address the caucus members, because the members are very interested."

Haley Morris, a spokeswoman for O'Malley, said his team has already started a thorough outreach campaign. But when it comes to Washington Democrats backing Clinton, she said, O'Malley is "not worried about establishment backing establishment."

Observers say there could be several reasons for the quiet on Capitol Hill. First, at this early stage in the race, candidates are far more focused on fundraising and building a ground game than getting members of Congress on board. "I haven't really seen any [outreach] at all," said Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger of Maryland. "There will probably be more action here when the primaries start coming up."

Ruppersberger, who has not yet made an endorsement, cited his close ties to both Clinton and O'Malley as his reason for staying out of the primary so far.

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Meanwhile, the candidates likely realize that Congress, too, has its focus elsewhere right now. "This is appropriations season," laughed Ruppersberger. And eight months out from Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucus, most members are unlikely to get behind a candidate who has yet to challenge Clinton in the polls.

But even with many members in wait-and-see mode, Clinton's challengers have already seen many of their potential allies back the front-runner—including in the home states of Clinton's rivals.

In O'Malley's home state of Maryland, with its clout-heavy congressional delegation, Clinton has earned several high-profile endorsements: Minority Whip Steny Hoyer and Budget Committee ranking member Chris Van Hollen, both Marylanders, have endorsed Clinton. Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin back Clinton as well.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont has endorsed Clinton, leaving undecided Rep. Peter Welch as Sanders' only remaining home-state endorsement opportunity. Meanwhile, the entrance of former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee into the race hasn't stopped half a dozen Virginia and Rhode Island members from backing Clinton over their long-shot contenders back home.

Of course, no congressional endorsement will change Clinton's status as the favorite, and her challengers may be content to watch her rack up Capitol Hill endorsements as they paint her as a creature of the Washington establishment. While O'Malley will tout his state executive experience, Sanders—an independent and self-described socialist—will likely have little trouble distancing himself from the other candidates.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Matt Corridoni (5/3/15, 3:18 pm) - "We can already trade & we should...[but #TPP] is bad for us as a country." - @GovernorOMalley taking a clear stance, once again, on trade

Lisa Lerer (5/3/15, 5:24, pm) - Law school seminar or Lincoln Chafee's presidential announcement?

Trip Gabriel (5/3/15, 7:50 pm) - Carly Fiorina releases her net worth: $59 million. Effective federal tax rate: 20 percent.

Ari Berman (5/3/15, 8:12 pm) - Would be very big deal if every state had 20+ days of early voting, as HRC wants. 14 states have no early voting http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-pol ...

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Heroin epidemic leaves mark on 2016 presidential race // WaPo // Katie Zezima – June 3, 2015

When aspiring presidential candidates step into Mayor Ted Gatsas's office here, he doesn't let them leave without telling them about what he calls one of the most pressing, dire issues his city faces: drug abuse.

"Every candidate that comes in here, what I say to them is, 'It's not only an issue here in Manchester, New Hampshire. It's a national issue,' " said Gatsas (R). "If we don't get our arms around it, it's going to take over our country."

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The nation is in the throes of an epidemic of prescription-drug and heroin abuse — a wave that's leaving its mark on the 2016 presidential campaign, too.

Hillary Rodham Clinton has told supporters that drug abuse and mental health will be key issues in her Democratic presidential campaign, and she launched a policy-focused outreach effort on the issue. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) recently participated in a round-table discussion at a drug treatment facility here. Republican Carly Fiorina has spoken movingly about losing a stepdaughter to addiction. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has made reforming drug laws and the criminal-justice system a centerpiece of his presidential campaign. And former Florida governor Jeb Bush (R) said he learned about New Hampshire's heroin problem while touring as a potential presidential candidate.

Drug addiction and treatment are no longer problems acknowledged only with infrequent stump lines. They are driving a sustained conversation on the presidential campaign trail.

And that conversation revolves around ending — not stepping up — the war on drugs. It centers on the language of addiction and treatment, on the sharing of deeply personal experiences and on calls from candidates for the criminal-justice system to be restructured to make the government's response to illegal use less punitive.

It is being driven by voters such as Pamela Livengood of Keene, N.H., who told Clinton last month that she has had to take on the care of her grandson because of drug abuse.

"Grandpa and I have guardianship of him because of all the growing drug problem in our area that my grandson's mother can't be quite so responsible," Livengood said carefully. "So we've picked it up and took over, but we also need to see more for substance abuse help in our area. There are very limited resources here."

Clinton responded that she was "really concerned because, Pam, what you just told me and I'm hearing from a lot of different people." She described drug use as a "hidden . . . quiet epidemic," different from the headline-grabbing phenomenon of the 1980s, that is "striking in small towns and rural areas as much as any big city."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of deaths nationwide involving heroin increased from 3,041 in 2008 to 8,260 in 2013, the most recent year for which statistics are available. In 2013, 16,235 people died from overdosing on prescription opiates; in 2008, 14,800 people died. Drug overdoses were the nation's leading cause of injury death in 2013,according to the CDC. Among people 25 to 64, overdoses caused more deaths than traffic accidents.

Here in New Hampshire, the state's medical examiner has called heroin abuse "the Ebola of Northern New England." New Hampshire recorded 325 drug overdose deaths last year; about 90 percent of them involved opiates, according to the medical examiner's office. The state also has seen a rapid increase in the number of deaths from the painkiller fentanyl, which is often mixed with heroin.

"I am not at all surprised that it's coming up in community conversations around New Hampshire, because this is the community conversation that is happening in New Hampshire right now," said Tym Rourke, chairman of the commission on alcohol and other drug abuse prevention set up by Gov. Maggie Hassan (D).

Christie held a roundtable discussion last month at the Farnum Center, a drug abuse treatment facility here and relayed a story he often tells, about how a law-school classmate struggled with an addiction to prescription painkillers. The friend died in a New Jersey hotel room with an empty vodka bottle and an empty painkiller bottle.

"This is a treatable problem," Christie said. "And we need to start talking about it like an illness, not like some

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moral failure."

On the same trip, the New Jersey governor discussed addiction at a Manchester pizza place that had recently experienced the death of an employee from a heroin overdose.

For years, Christie — a former prosecutor — has been advocating treatment over incarceration for low-level drug offenders, sometimes framing that approach as part of being "pro-life for the whole life."

In response to a surge in opioid deaths in New Jersey, Christie signed a bill in April to establish a statewide task force. He has expanded drug courts and broadened access to naloxone, a drug that can reverse the effects of an opiate overdose.

Paul has made reforming drug laws one of the signature issues of his time in the Senate and in his presidential campaign, often telling audiences that the war on drugs has failed — that it has "created a culture of violence and put police in an impossible situation," as he said in Las Vegas in April — and that low-level drug offenders should go into treatment rather than being jailed.

Carly Fiorina's stepdaughter Lori Ann Fiorina died in 2009 at age 35 after struggling for years with alcohol and drug addiction. Hours after announcing her presidential bid last month, Fiorina said the country must change the way it deals with people who are addicted to drugs.

"Drug addiction shouldn't be criminalized," she said on a conference call. "We need to treat it appropriately."

For all the talk, there's little yet in the way of policy plans. The first votes of the 2016 campaign are still months away, and so far, no candidate has come up with concrete proposals on how he or she would handle the epidemic from the Oval Office.

Over the past week, Clinton's campaign has started to move in that direction. Campaign advisers held Google hangouts with treatment providers, law enforcement officials and others in Iowa and New Hampshire, and Clinton asked voters to share their thoughts on and experiences with substance abuse with her in a Facebook chat. The campaign has said it will use the information to develop policy proposals.

Clinton herself has spoken about addiction numerous times in New Hampshire and brought it up at a campaign event in Iowa. The former U.S. secretary of state said she had heard all over Iowa about two issues: mental illness and drugs.

"The drug epidemic, meth, pills in Iowa — and then I got to New Hampshire and at my very first coffee shop meeting I heard about the heroin epidemic in New Hampshire," Clinton said in Mason City, Iowa, last month. "This is tearing families apart, but it is below the surface. People aren't talking about it, because it's something that is hard to deal with."

During a stop in Davenport, Iowa, on Saturday, Clinton rival Martin O'Malley was asked by two women in the audience about the issue. Both were wearing T-shirts with a photo showing one of the women's sons, who had died of a heroin overdose.

"Sadly, many of us are becoming much more expert on the tragedy of heroin overdose deaths in our country because of what's happened recently," said O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, who hugged both women.

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O'Malley sought, with limited success, to combat the issue during his tenure as governor, which ended in January. In 2014, 578 people in Maryland died of heroin overdoses, a 25 percent increase over 2013 and more than twice the number who died from using the drug in 2010.

One question Republican candidates will face — but which Clinton and O'Malley will not — is how they plan to cover addiction treatment if they want to repeal the Affordable Care Act. That law mandates that insurance plans make substance-abuse and mental-health treatment essential benefits.

But even under the ACA, treatment is often hard to come by, and barriers to access remain. A report issued last month by the National Alliance on Mental Illness suggested that some patients are still being denied care.

"The issue is, [candidates are] talking about it, but are they committed to making sure that adequate funding and services are available for these people?" said Dedric L. Doolin, senior deputy director of the Area Substance Abuse Council in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Doolin wants candidates to ensure long-term treatment will be funded.

Here in Manchester, Gatsas, the mayor, said he is bringing together law enforcement officials, treatment providers and others to try to tackle the issue locally. But they will not be the only ones hearing from the mayor, who said he plans to continue to press the issue with current and prospective presidential candidates. He predicts that his constituents will, too.

Candidates now "hear it even more on the stump, because people want to know, 'What are you going to do?' "

Hillary's Popularity Rollercoaster // Politico // Jack Shafer – June 3, 2015

Political journalists abhor a vacuum, especially the vacuum that forms 17 months before a presidential election, attaches itself to their brains like a sea lamprey and sucks hard.

Oh, political journalists have so much to write about this distant from a general election. There are speeches to cover, fundraising numbers to chase, campaign jockeying to chronicle, backstories to collate, campaign staff rosters to collect, press management schemes to detect and vats of wonkery to fry. Such coverage is all necessary and good, but at this point even the press hounds will concede that they're mostly barking at dust and vapor, waiting for the field to thin and for primary ballots to be cast so they can write more concretely about the race. (After all: Just how much public appetite is there for in-depth coverage of George Pataki or Lincoln Chafee?)

Until then, journalists casting for something tangible to hang their thoughts upon are reaching for poll data—like the figures released this week from CNN/ORC and Washington Post/ABC News, which show Hillary Clinton's "favorability" numbers crumbling to a 14-year-low of 46 percent. "The honeymoon is over for Hillary Clinton, according to two new polls," reported the National Journal. "As revelations mount, Hillary Clinton's poll numbers plunge," proclaimed the Atlantic Journal-Constitution. The conservative press, including Breitbart and the Washington Examiner danced on the new polls. "Is Hillary 'Likeable Enough'?" asked National Review.

While glory awaits the journalist who buries Hillary Clinton, carves her tombstone and tidies her grave, the makings of her demise cannot be read in these poll results. Clinton rides a favorability rollercoaster, and has been riding it hard for the past 23 years, as the American Enterprise Institute's Karlyn Bowman and her team demonstrate in a recent analysis of Clinton polling data. As an infographic they produced indicates, Clinton favorability numbers vary with the role she's playing. Her numbers grew steadily in the campaign year of 1992 and higher still when she became First Lady in 1993. First ladies, notes Bowman, "generally receive positive marks."

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But Clinton's numbers suffered whenever she stepped outside of the traditional First Lady function to join the policy and politics tussle (the healthcare debate) or became attached to White House "scandals" (Travelgate, Whitewater, Lewinsky, et al.). As a U.S. senator (2001-2009), Clinton's numbers varied much less, dropping some during her 2008 run for president. Then came her secretary of state years (2009-2013), when she exuded diplomacy and did her soaring best in the polls. Her numbers descended again as she became identified with the Benghazi attack in 2013.

How to best interpret Clinton's latest decline? When asked to rate Hillary Clinton on a favorable-unfavorable continuum, it has usually mattered to respondents what Clinton's duties were. Now that she's running for president, it's predictable that some of the respondents who liked Clinton enough to give her a favorable rating when she was a self-effacing, team-playing diplomat might not like her enough to give her a favorable rating when they view her as a private citizen prepping a presidential candidacy. (This timeline from the Pew Research Center ties Clinton career "milestones" to her favorability ups and downs.)

Clinton's numbers could easily go lower, of course, given the twin backdrops of the email controversy and the Clinton Foundation coverage. Also, in the coming months, as the Republican field winnows out, the remaining candidates will increase the frequency of their attacks on Clinton, their most credible opponent on the Democratic side, and lower her favorability still more.

But it's hard to imagine a favorability-ratings veteran like Hillary Clinton panicking at this week's or next week's numbers. As the wise man once said, Clinton operates in glacial time, and has the patience to build support—and favorability—as the campaign throttles up. She has almost 30 years of hand-on experience handling political calamities and downturns. Plus, as low as her favorability ratings have dropped, they're still about 15-to-20 percentage points higher than several of her Republican opponents.

It's always easier for a politician to survive a trough when she has so much experience living on the crest.

Hillary Clinton is Too Liberal for Bill Clinton **// Politico // Alan Greenblatt – June 2, 2015**

The biggest irony of the 2016 campaign is Hillary Clinton running as the sort of liberal Bill Clinton once ran against. The Democratic party has moved too far left to accept the former president, or at least the version of Bill Clinton that dominated Democratic politics back in the 1990s.

The overarching project of his political career was to pull the party back toward the center. Barney Frank recalls, while Clinton was in office, getting no response to a letter he'd sent to "The Democratic President of the United States" because the post office classified it as "addressee unknown." Within a few years of Clinton's reign, politicians such as Paul Wellstone and Howard Dean began to refer to themselves as representatives of the "Democratic wing" of the Democratic Party.

To succeed today, Hillary Clinton—like any national Democrat—must win over that wing. But doing so will encourage Republicans to paint her as too beholden to the party's liberal, urban, heavily minority base. If those attacks succeed and she loses, it will be back to the future for the GOP. That line of attack is why Bill Clinton self-consciously sought to ditch the losing liberal policies of the party's previous presidential nominees, such as Michael Dukakis and Walter Mondale. Democrats lost five out of the six presidential elections between 1968 and 1988, going 0-for-3 by the time Clinton ran in 1992. There was a lot of talk at the time about the GOP holding a "lock" on the Electoral College. Clinton and other so-called New Democrats thought they could regain voter trust by taking a tougher line on social and spending issues. Hillary Clinton is doing the opposite.

She is being dragged left by younger voters and minority groups, who make up essential elements of today's Democratic coalition and tend to favor federal solutions more readily, according to polls, than older, whiter voters. The party's votes now overwhelmingly come from big cities, territory in which Democratic mayors such as Bill De Blasio in New York and Eric Garcetti in Los Angeles have made addressing income inequality central to their mission through measures such as lifting the minimum wage and building more affordable housing. President

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Obama, having grown convinced that Republicans intend to give him nothing, responded to the GOP's big victory last fall by making deals with Cuba and Iran and moving left on issues such as immigration, free community college and paid family leave. (Unpaid family leave was one of President Clinton's earliest legislative accomplishments.)

It all shows how far the party, and the Clintons, have come. The most resonant phrases from Bill Clinton's day—aside from the sex stuff—were the exact opposite of any progressive call to arms, such as "end welfare as we know it" and "the era of big government is over." But the era of big government being over—if that chime ever indeed did sound—is long since done. Put aside the expansions of federal programs that took place under Obama and George W. Bush. Although Obama and some other Democrats were willing to entertain thoughts a few years ago of trimming Social Security as part of a bigger budget deal, pledging to preserve or even expand the program has once again become a litmus test for party officials.

As president, Bill Clinton not only signed the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act (an act for which he has since repented). He also signed a welfare law that cut off immigrants from receiving many benefits. Legal immigrants. Imagine any national Democrat agreeing to either of those things today. "They've moved left partly because they've won," says Lara Brown, a political scientist at George Washington University. "Parties typically go as far toward their core ideology as they can, as long as they keep winning."

President Clinton did champion many progressive causes, including universal health care (a botched effort run by Hillary Clinton), gun control and expansion of the earned-income tax credit, an anti-poverty program Clinton himself wished had a zippier brand name. But Clinton also argued that by melding liberal principles and conservative ideas, voters who had written off the Democratic Party would again listen to its message, which remained broadly populist on economic matters. Clinton believed Democrats had to shed any lingering hippie image and talk tough on crime. When still the governor of Arkansas, Clinton left the campaign trail in 1992 to preside over the execution of a cop killer who was mentally impaired. He also went out of his way to distance himself from civil rights leader Jesse Jackson—his "Sister Souljah moment."

Triangulation (remember that?) wasn't just about Clinton positioning himself to the left of old-line liberals. He picked the Republicans' pockets on their most popular issues, forcing them out alone on a limb to defend their most extreme positions. "Back when he ran in 1992, my party, the Democratic Party, had lost three consecutive elections, one of them in which we carried only one state," says Evan Bayh, a former governor and senator from Indiana who, like Clinton, enjoyed success in the 1990s by seeking the center. "Any time a party has lost three consecutive elections, it becomes a bit more

willing to explore the notion of principled compromise so it's able to pursue some of its objectives."

Barney Frank, the liberal former congressman from Massachusetts, makes this point explicitly in his recent memoir. "At the time, many on the left believed he was 'too moderate,'" Frank writes. "In the political climate of the times, I continued to believe that Bill Clinton was the most liberal electable president."

Concerns about Clinton records dates back to her tenure at State **// CNN // Laura Koran – June 3, 2015**

Officials at the National Archives and Records Administration -- the agency tasked with managing official government records -- were in touch with the State Department about plans to preserve former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's records shortly before she left that office, newly released emails reveal.

The emails were obtained by CNN through a Freedom of Information Act request submitted to NARA in March, shortly after it was revealed that the former secretary exclusively used a personal email server while in office, preventing many from being archived until she ultimately submitted them to the Department.

One email in particular shows that concerns were raised two and a half years ago that any retention of documents on Clinton's part could create controversy.

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"Before I forget," Chief Records Officer for U.S. Government Paul Wester told two of his colleagues in December 2012, "when we meet later this week we need to discuss what we know, and how we should delicately go about learning more about, regarding the transition plans for Secretary Clinton's departure from State."

Wester then refers to someone identified only as Tom who, "heard (or thought he heard) from the Clinton Library Director that there are or may be plans afoot for taking her records from State to Little Rock."

"Tom then got to asking questions about what we are doing to make sure everyone leaving the Administration does not leave with Federal records," the email continues.

Ultimately, Wester says he spoke with Tom and explained how previous administrations have handled records retention and how NARA is seeking to clarify their guidance ahead of the upcoming inauguration when some high level officials planned to leave the administration.

He also says he told Tom copies of records can sometimes be kept in an approved way, citing the example of former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill used records to work on his memoir, "to illustrate how 'walking off with the records' is sometimes not really 'walking off with the records.'"

Nevertheless, Tom (and another individual referred to only as Jay) appeared concerned, Wester said.

"Tom seemed to understand all of this, but he and Jay continued to invoke the specter of the Henry Kissinger experience vis-a-vis Hillary Clinton," Wester said, referring to a controversy surrounding former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's decision to hold on to his official records.

There are several redactions in this and other emails obtained by CNN.

Clinton ultimately retained her emails on a private server until they were requested by the State Department late last year. She and her staff then turned over 55,000 pages of emails, keeping those they deemed irrelevant to her time in office.

The emails obtained by CNN also illustrate how officials at NARA came to learn of the Clinton controversy after they were reached out to by staff on a congressional committee, then a few days later by New York Times reporter Michael Schmidt, who broke the story in March.

After speaking with Schmidt, NARA's General Counsel Gary Stern wrote to other NARA officials to explain the details of the story and their conversation.

"This case, if true, would present a concern," he writes, "although it may be the case that the State Department has already taken appropriate action to recover the records."

Axelrod: Clinton "Hurt" By Only Doing "Sporadic" Events, Challenge Is For Her To Take "Risks" **// Buzzfeed // Andrew Kaczynski & Megan Apper – June 3, 2015**

Former Obama strategist David Axelrod says Hillary Clinton's "sporadic" campaign appearances are hurting her candidacy. Axelrod added that Clinton will have a problem unless she gets into the "routine of campaigning."

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"I thinks she's being hurt right now by her sporadic appearances, you want to be the regular routine of campaigning and it's important that she gets there and gets there quickly," Axelrod told ABC Wisconsin-affiliate WISN Tuesday. "If she does, I think all of this will be forgotten. I think if she continues in this fashion it will be a problem."

Axelrod was in Milwaukee to speak about his new book at a Marquette University Law School forum.

Speaking the event, he said it was likely she would be the nominee, although "inevitability" is a burden for her in 2016.

"The high likelihood is that Hillary will be the nominee but having said that I think inevitability is not her friend," Axelrod told a crowd at the school. "I think it's a real burden."

Axelrod said he saw "two Hillary Clintons" during the 2008 race: one that was cautious and one that was "a very effective candidate."

"I saw two Hillary Clintons in 2007, 2008. In 2007 she was kind of constrained in this straight jacket of inevitability and she carried that inevitability around like a porcelain vase and she was very cautious, unadventuresome, unrevealing," Axelrod said.

"And then she lost the Iowa Caucuses and she became a different candidate. She threw all that caution away. She was much more revealing of herself, much more connecting with other people, much more of an advocate than she had been. In my view, a very effective candidate. It was just too late."

Axelrod questioned if Clinton was once again following the "temptation to be cautious."

"The question she'll have to answer is which candidate is she going to be in 2016 because once again there's this veil of inevitability and there's a temptation to be cautious," he said.

"You have to take some risks along the way," added Axelrod. "I think that's the challenge for her if she's gonna go all the way but I think she certainly has a chance to do that."

Hillary Clinton's honesty problem // The Hill // Niall Stanage – June 3, 2015

Is it possible to win the White House if more than half the electorate thinks you're dishonest?

Hillary Clinton may yet put that question to the test. It's not the kind of challenge any candidate would relish, but two new polls released on Tuesday underlined the presidential hopeful's difficulty in persuading the public of her integrity.

Both those polls found Clinton deep underwater when voters were asked whether they viewed her as honest and trustworthy.

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An ABC News/Washington Post poll found 52 percent of people answering “no” to that question, compared to 41 percent who expressed trust in Clinton.

A CNN poll made even grimmer reading for the former secretary of State. It found 57 percent of adults asserting that Clinton is not honest or trustworthy, and only 42 percent saying that she is.

Those figures were enough to send a shiver down some Democrats’ spines.

“We’re about 30 to 60 days away from real nervousness, if not panic, in the Democratic establishment,” said one strategist who declined to be named, citing a fear of retribution by Clinton loyalists.

The strategist argued that Clinton’s campaign has consistently underestimated the damage that has been wreaked by negative stories about donations to the Clinton Foundation and the former secretary’s use of a private email account while at State.

“There is this attitude that this is something that the media or the right-wing are fixated on, and they are missing the bigger dynamic here,” the strategist said of the Clinton campaign. “The bottom line here is that there is this pervasive belief that the story is going to go away and they can mitigate this with silence. And it ain’t working.”

The Clinton campaign contends that the candidate’s low numbers are symptomatic of a general distrust of political figures. Campaign officials believe the higher ratings Clinton enjoyed at the State Department were bound to slide as she returned to partisan politics.

Further, they assert that her policies will, over time, foster a different, more important kind of trust among voters.

Observers who follow every political twist and turn might imagine that opinions of Clinton would be hard to change, for good or bad, given that she has now been a top player on the national political stage for a quarter-century.

The polling figures do not bear that out, however.

In the past year, the former first lady’s polling numbers on the “honesty” question have flipped.

One year before Tuesday’s ABC News/Post poll showing her 11 points underwater on the issue, the same organization found her with a net positive of 11 points, with 53 percent of those polled thinking of her as trustworthy versus 42 percent saying she was not.

When CNN/ORC asked the question in a March 2014 survey, 56 percent said Clinton was honest, while 43 percent disagreed — a net positive of 13 points. Today her standing on the question in the equivalent poll is a net negative of 15 points.

Republicans see those figures as little more than an increased public acceptance of what they have long believed to be true.

“She is paranoid, she is ethically squirrelly and she believes there are two sets of standards: one for the Clintons and one for everyone else,” said GOP strategist Rick Wilson.

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Wilson was buoyed by what he considered fresh evidence of the shallowness of Clinton's support.

"She is always 'inevitable' right up until the moment she is no longer inevitable," he said.

Independent observers don't believe the situation is quite so dire for Clinton. They note that she has often performed worse on questions of honesty and likability than on other metrics such as having strong leadership skills.

"It's certainly not good news but these are not necessarily the kind of numbers that make a candidate unelectable," said Peter Brown, the assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

An April Quinnipiac poll in three swing states — Colorado, Iowa and Virginia — showed the same weakness for Clinton on the honesty question, most conspicuously in Colorado, where a startling 56 percent of voters viewed Clinton as dishonest versus only 38 percent who saw her as honest.

But, Brown notes, "We have elected presidents who voters did not necessarily like."

Others, including journalist Ron Brownstein, have pointed out that exit polls from the 1996 presidential election showed that 54 percent of voters did not view President Clinton as honest or trustworthy. He won handily regardless.

But a related question is whether a distrust of Hillary Clinton would stymie her efforts to maximize Democratic turnout.

"Her husband transcended numbers like this and it's not crazy to think that she can as well, especially because American politics is so partisan now," said Kyle Kondik of the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents may not think Clinton is very trustworthy, but they're going to like her a heck of a lot more than any Republican. Clinton's main concern is getting those voters to show up."

Still, right now, some Democrats just want to see evidence that the decline in personal trust in Clinton can be stopped before it becomes a larger problem.

"At some point they are going to have to address this head-on, publicly," the Democratic strategist said, "and the clock on that is beginning to tick loudly."

Democrats Wage a National Fight Over Voter Rules // NYT // Maggie Haberman & Amy Chozick – June 3, 2015

Democrats allied with Hillary Rodham Clinton are mounting a nationwide legal battle 17 months before the 2016 presidential election, seeking to roll back Republican-enacted restrictions on voter access that Democrats say could, if unchallenged, prove decisive in a close campaign.

The Democrats began last month with lawsuits filed in Ohio and Wisconsin, presidential battleground states whose governors are likely to run for the Republican nomination themselves. Now, they are most likely going to attack a

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host of measures. They include voter identification requirements that Democrats consider onerous, time restrictions imposed on early voting that they say could make it difficult to cast ballots the weekend before Election Day, and rules that could nullify ballots cast in the wrong precinct.

The effort, which is being spearheaded by a lawyer whose clients include Mrs. Clinton's campaign, reflects an urgent practical need, Democrats say: to get litigation underway early enough so that federal judges can be persuaded to intervene in states where Republicans control legislatures and governor's offices.

A similar lawsuit was begun last year in North Carolina. Other potential fronts in the pre-emptive legal offensive, Democrats say, could soon be opened in Georgia, Nevada and the increasingly critical presidential proving ground of Virginia.

Almost all of those states have growing African-American or Hispanic populations, groups crucial to Mr. Obama in 2012 but whose voting rights Democrats say could be impinged next year, damaging the party's prospects.

Democrats seeking office at every level in 2016 could gain if lawsuits in their states are successful. But Mrs. Clinton, who has a wide lead in public polls, is certain to benefit if she is the party's nominee.

On Thursday, Mrs. Clinton will tackle the issue of ballot access head-on in an address at Texas Southern University, a historically black college in Houston. She is expected to condemn the Supreme Court's 2013 rulingstriking down an important provision of the Voting Rights Act, which opened the way for states to pass laws requiring voters to present government-issued photo identification at the polls.

Mrs. Clinton is also expected to single out laws in Texas and in North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin, which voting rights groups say limit participation, especially among minorities, the poor and younger voters who disproportionately cast their ballots for Democrats.

Her speech, which is expected to be similar in scope and tenor to her remarks about overhauling the criminal justice system, will tie voting rights into the broader civil rights strife that has erupted over the recent deaths of several unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers, aides said.

For Mrs. Clinton, such speeches can do much to reinforce her liberal credentials while reassuring black voters who supported Mr. Obama that she is on their side.

In the same way, even if the lawsuits are unsuccessful, Democratic strategists say, they serve an important political purpose for Democrats by highlighting Republicans' responsibility for the statutes being challenged. Democrats will also remind the party's base that Republicans have tried to mobilize their own core voters by warning, as Mitt Romney did in 2012, against the possibility of widespread voter fraud by Democrats.

Both those points could help fire up minority leaders and voters, Democratic strategists say.

Republicans, however, argue that the lawsuits are a transparent ruse aimed at energizing minority voters, whom Mrs. Clinton badly needs to turn out in numbers similar to those Mr. Obama drew in his 2012 re-election.

"I think it has been a growing trend in the last 10 years for campaigns to use litigation like this as a campaign weapon," said Hans von Spakovsky, a Republican election law expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation. "The claims that they keep making, that this is going to depress turnout, just keep proving to be not true, and many of these issues have already been litigated."

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According to the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, there are 14 states with new voter laws in place for the first time in a national race.

The lawsuits filed in Ohio and Wisconsin, like the 2014 North Carolina case, were brought by Marc Elias, a leading Democratic lawyer on voter protection issues who represents four of the party's national campaign committees.

Mr. Elias is also the general counsel for Mrs. Clinton's campaign, and her aides have spoken favorably of the lawsuits.

The lawsuits are typically filed on behalf of people who say they have been, or could be, disenfranchised. In the Ohio case, a black pastor is among the plaintiffs.

Mrs. Clinton's campaign is not a party to the lawsuits, although her aides have said her team supports them. People involved in the actions have refused to say who was paying for them.

But Mr. Elias suggested that the litigation was simply common sense. "We should all want to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote and have their vote counted," he said. "It's unfortunate that some Republicans see a benefit in making it harder for people to vote."

Since the election fight in 2000 between George W. Bush and Al Gore, court battles have become a routine and increasingly strategic component of presidential campaigns. The new round of lawsuits is occurring relatively early and is a more preventive effort than in past election cycles, experts say.

More broadly, the legal campaign is shaping up as something of a delayed Democratic response to the Republican takeovers of a number of governorships and legislatures in the same states after the rise of the Tea Party movement in 2009 and 2010, as well as to the Supreme Court's ruling on the Voting Rights Act in 2013.

As a result of both changes, a series of stringent state laws were enacted in some of those states that Democrats say are intended to curtail voting by important segments of Mr. Obama's political coalition, African-American and younger voters in particular.

Donna Brazile, the campaign manager for Mr. Gore in the 2000 presidential race and a member of a Democratic National Committee task force that was formed after the party's disastrous losses in 2014, said she and Mr. Elias had for months been sounding an alarm within the party about voting-rights conditions in a number of states.

Instead of idling, she said, Democrats had to "proactively" seek changes in states where voter protections might be changed, whether through litigation or legislation.

Republicans have used such laws for mobilization purposes of their own, denouncing voter fraud as they appeal to an increasingly conservative party base. Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, for example, has repeatedly boasted to Republicans across the country about having enacted tougher voting laws in his state.

"Any measure that protects our democracy by making it easier to vote and harder to cheat is a step in the right direction," said Kirsten Kukowski, a spokeswoman for Mr. Walker. "This is a bipartisan issue, and Hillary Clinton and the Democrats are on the wrong side."

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Rick Hasen, an election law expert at the University of California, Irvine, called the Democratic lawsuits "long shots," saying that so-called voter protection lawsuits had often failed in the courts. "In terms of success, some of these things are a stretch," he said.

Mr. Elias emphasized that the seeds of the Ohio and Wisconsin suits had been planted before Mrs. Clinton was a candidate. Mr. Elias and Robby Mook, now Mrs. Clinton's campaign manager, began collaborating on voter-protection efforts last year, before it was clear she would run or that they would be involved, people briefed on their work said.

But their efforts now — whether parallel or in concert — involve much higher stakes. Unlike Mr. Obama, who could rely on a much wealthier Democratic National Committee to pursue voter registration for several years leading up to his re-election campaign, the party's standard-bearer this time will have no such backup: The national committee has struggled financially of late and has largely outsourced its registration efforts to nonprofit groups.

That means Mrs. Clinton, if she is nominated, may have to compensate for underwhelming efforts to register voters by maximizing the ability of existing Democratic voters to cast their ballots.

As Mrs. Clinton prepares to head to Texas Southern University, where she will receive an award named for the former congresswoman and civil rights leader Barbara Jordan, some Democrats see voter protections as a safe topic for her to explore at this stage of the campaign, one that will not turn off voters she needs in a general election.

But Michael Waldman, president of the Brennan Center and a former speechwriter for President Bill Clinton, said the subject was riskier than it might seem.

"There's been such a hotly contested wave of new laws that it's not such a safe issue anymore," said Mr. Waldman. "It's not just something for Fourth of July orations."

Clinton to propose at least 20 days of early voting in every state // USA Today // David Jackson – June 3, 2015

Hillary Clinton plans to use a voting rights speech Thursday in Texas to call for an early voting period of at least 20 days in every state, her presidential campaign says.

Clinton also plans to criticize what Democrats call Republican efforts to restrict voting — especially for African Americans and Latinos — through devices like voter identification laws.

"This is, I think, a moment when we should be expanding the franchise," Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta tells The Washington Post. "What we see in state after state is this effort by conservatives to restrict the right to vote."

Clinton is slated to deliver her voting rights speech at Texas Southern University in Houston.

Hillary Clinton to Attack G.O.P. Rivals on Voting Rights // NYT // Amy Chozick – June 3, 2015

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Hillary Clinton will accuse some of her Republican rivals on Thursday of supporting a spate of new state voting laws that threatened the democratic process merely for their own political gain, her campaign said Wednesday.

In a speech at the historically black Texas Southern University in Houston, Mrs. Clinton will propose a series of voter-protection policies, including ensuring greater access to online voter registration, reducing wait times at voting precincts and setting a nationwide early voting standard of at least 20 days before an election. She will also underscore her support for allowing ex-felons to vote.

Mrs. Clinton will also call on Congress to reenact parts of the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court struck down in 2013, according to an outline of her speech provided to reporters on Wednesday.

It will be one of her most substantive and sharply political events since Mrs. Clinton declared her candidacy for president in April. For the most part, her campaign stops have included orchestrated round-table policy discussions with a handful of voters in early nominating states — not in-depth policy proposals or fiery political attacks.

In a sharpening of her partisan edge, Mrs. Clinton will also single out some of her potential Republican rivals, including Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, and former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, whose states have enacted laws that impose additional requirements on voters.

Mrs. Clinton will present a state-by-state critique of new voting laws in states across the country that require voters to present government-issued identification, an effort that voting rights activists say disproportionately hurts minority and young voters, groups that tend to vote Democratic.

Hillary Clinton Works For The Support Of An Old Ally: The Teachers Union // Buzzfeed // Ruby Cramer – June 3, 2015

Three Democratic candidates each traveled to Washington this week to court the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers — and after taking part in the hour-long meetings, the thing that stood out most to Randi Weingarten, the union, president, was this: Hillary Clinton knew what she was doing.

The other two, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, maybe less so.

The AFT meetings, which took place over the course of Tuesday and Wednesday, may offer Clinton the possibility of an early, influential endorsement from the major teachers union that endorsed her in the 2008 presidential race. Weingarten herself is close to and has supported Clinton for years. She sits on the board of Priorities USA Action, the super PAC raising millions to support her candidacy.

On matters of education policy, according to Weingarten, Clinton engaged the group with noticeably more depth and granular detail than her competitors. It was, she said, the most striking difference between the three candidates, particularly on the set of issues that have created fissures inside the Democratic Party, including testing, teacher evaluations in tenure decisions, and Common Core.

"Both in terms of the presentation as well as the questions, Secretary Clinton was clearly understood and spoke in great depth," said Weingarten. "The members of the board did not ask Sen. Sanders or Gov. O'Malley as many questions about public education. I don't frankly…" Weingarten paused. "I really don't… Let me just observe that it was interesting. I don't really want to draw a conclusion about it."

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Weingarten said that all three candidates — Clinton; Sanders, the U.S. senator from Vermont; and O'Malley, the former Maryland governor of Maryland — voiced strong support for public school teachers. But Clinton "talked so granularly about the issues that people felt a freedom to ask follow-up questions," she said.

The three meetings, hosted at AFT's headquarters, were each attended by about 150 union members, around one third of whom are on the group's executive council. Each of the candidates gave brief introductory remarks before answering questions from the audience. The conversation with Clinton, O'Malley, and Sanders touched on five key areas, said Weingarten: the "imbalance in the economy," public education, health care, retirement security, and the democracy.

The AFT effort to engage the candidates marked the first formal endorsement meeting of its kind by a union or interest group in the 2016 Democratic primary.

The meetings were not open to the media. But in an interview on Wednesday evening, Weingarten described AFT's endorsement process and outlined in broad strokes each candidate's message. She declined to elaborate on any shades of difference in policy or position between Clinton, O'Malley, and Sanders.

Prior to the meetings, the candidates each completed a policy-focused questionnaire, which AFT leadership began preparing in collaboration with its members in February. The attendees on Tuesday and Wednesday formulated their questions for the three Democrats — which were not prescreened — having reviewed their responses to the questionnaire. AFT plans to use the documents, as well as taped video from the three meetings this week, during the election.

AFT also invited Republican candidates to participate in the same process. None acknowledged receipt of the questionnaire, according to Weingarten.

Lincoln Chafee, the former Republican and Independent from Rhode Island who announced his presidential campaign on Wednesday as a Democrat, declined to participate, telling AFT officials his record could speak for itself, Weingarten said.

Asked about her past support for Clinton in relation to AFT's endorsement, Weingarten said it wouldn't be an issue, noting that some of her colleagues had relationships with O'Malley and Sanders: "I'm one person on the board."

Since she launched her campaign in April, Clinton has not discussed the finer points of her positions on a number of policies important to teachers unions. (She is expected to outline a more detailed agenda following her formal campaign launch speech on June 13 on New York's Roosevelt Island.)

The AFT backed Clinton over Barack Obama in October 2007. The largest teachers union, National Education Association, did not endorse a candidate in the 2008 Democratic primary, though the union did back Obama's re-election.

Eight years later, however, Clinton may face more pressure from a share of the Democratic Party, and donor community, that has fought unions for more charter schools, voucher programs, and measures that test teachers and link tenure to achievement.

Wealthy Democrats who have made education their top priority have already said that Clinton, despite her lead in early polling, should make her beliefs known sooner rather than later. Ann O'Leary, the campaign's top policy adviser, told the New York Times earlier this year that Clinton would be engaging with leaders on both sides of the debate more than Obama administration has: "both the teachers union and the reformers will really feel like they have her ear in a way they haven't."

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But Weingarten said she wasn't worried. The union leader was head of the New York-based United Federation of Teachers when she first backed Clinton, then the state's junior senator. Weingarten dismissed the donors, saying Clinton "follows the evidence, not ideology — that's what she told our members."

Asked to detail Clinton's stance on the issues discussed, Weingarten said the candidate "addressed issues of testing, of standards, and she did it in a very direct way. She basically said, which was the bottom line over and over again, you cannot help students, virtually all students, if teachers aren't our partners."

Weingarten said Clinton signaled a need for "a change in that direction."

But she added that, when it comes to AFT's endorsement, the union will take into account characteristics such as "tenacity," "openness," and "integrity."

"As people are on the campaign trail, they'll be more and more specific about policies," Weingarten said. "The different was, Secretary Clinton spoke in a very extensive way about policies and practices that would help more and more children be ready for life and career and college — and that there was a depth there in terms of the conversation that she had. That was the big difference."

The topic of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, another issue dividing the Democratic Party, also came up in each of the three meetings. Weingarten said that Clinton's comments to the AFT members were consistent with her public remarks on the issue: that she would support a trade deal that protects U.S. workers and wages, and strengthens national security, but would not weigh in on this trade deal until the president finished the negotiations that are still shaping its makeup.

Democrats finally get a contest as Hillary Clinton draws challengers // WaPo // Philip Rucker, Robert Costa & Anne Gearan – June 3, 2015

A once-sleepy Democratic presidential primary contest is fast coming alive as Hillary Rodham Clinton's poll numbers fall and a diverse array of long-shot opponents step forward to challenge her.

The recent developments mark a dramatic evolution in the 2016 sweepstakes, which until now has been shaped by the large assortment of hopefuls on the Republican side, where there is no front-runner.

The latest Democrat to enter the race is Lincoln Chafee, a onetime Republican and former Rhode Island governor and senator, who launched his campaign Wednesday in Northern Virginia. Though his candidacy is quixotic, Chafee's sharp attacks on Clinton's hawkish foreign policy record — and in particular her 2002 vote to authorize the war in Iraq — could nonetheless complicate her march to the nomination.

Chafee joins an underfunded and jumbled field of Clinton rivals who see the favorite's coziness with Wall Street and political longevity as weaknesses and who think she is vulnerable to a grass-roots contender who better captures the party's liberal soul.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a fiery populist who identifies as a socialist, has been attracting some of the largest crowds of any candidate from either party as he summons supporters to join his "political revolution."

Another foe, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, is making an overt generational contrast: His campaign slogan is "New Leadership." And former senator Jim Webb of Virginia has echoed Chafee's antiwar pitch as he explores a candidacy.

The activity has brought fresh attention to the fault lines within the Democratic coalition over economic fairness and foreign policy.

At Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters, the mantra has been to prepare for a difficult primary and compete for every vote in every state. Her team has carefully crafted a summer rollout — a June 13 kickoff rally followed by major policy speeches — to cast Clinton as a progressive champion.

On Thursday, for instance, Clinton will give a speech on voting rights at a historically black college in Texas, where she will call for an early voting period of at least 20 days in every state. Her address comes as Democrats

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pursue legal challenges to voting restrictions ushered in by Republican legislatures.

“We’ve always thought there would be challengers,” Clinton campaign chairman John D. Podesta said in an interview Wednesday. “There were always going to be people saying she wasn’t this enough, wasn’t that enough, wasn’t populist enough.”

He added: “Our strategy at the moment is to welcome them into the race and lay out our program versus theirs. . . . There will be debates. These candidates will get their airtime. But what we’re focused on is telling her story, what her vision for the country is.”

Polls show that Clinton’s popularity is foundering with her reemergence as a political candidate, effectively erasing the bipartisan approval she enjoyed as secretary of state.

More Americans said they held an unfavorable opinion of Clinton than a favorable one, 49 percent to 45 percent, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll this week. Among independent voters, the figure is worse: 55 percent unfavorable to 39 percent favorable.

Republicans are pleased to see Clinton’s popularity coming down to earth.

“Clearly, whatever political capital that Hillary Clinton had previously enjoyed as secretary of state has atrophied,” said pollster Neil Newhouse, who is likely to work for Right to Rise, the pro-Jeb Bush super PAC.

Still, Clinton is trouncing the rest of the Democratic field by every measure, including in money raised and in the depth of her organization. Her campaign has opened nine field offices in Iowa, which hosts the first presidential caucuses.

This week’s Post-ABC poll showed Clinton leading the Democratic pack at 62 percent. Vice President Biden, who has not formally ruled out a candidacy, was second with 14 percent, followed by Sanders at 10 percent.

Paul Begala, an adviser to the pro-Clinton super PAC Priorities USA Action, predicted that the race will tighten.

“The day she announced, the polls had her at like a million percent,” Begala said. “She needed to print that out, put it in a scrapbook and give it to baby Charlotte, because it will never be this good again.”

Clinton is showing political fragility in some areas, including on character attributes. Fifty-two percent of those polled said she was not honest and trustworthy.

Clinton’s advisers attribute this to intense media scrutiny. They argue that a more accurate barometer of her standing is the question of empathy. Asked whether she “understands the problems of people like you,” 49 percent said she did and 46 percent said she did not.

Anastasia Rave, 26, a retail manager in Beaufort, N.C., was among those polled. A Democratic-leaning independent, Rave said she would support Clinton over any Republican candidate — but she remains uneasy.

“I don’t think that her attempts to act like she understands the everyday working person are genuine,” Rave said. “I don’t really buy it.”

The Clinton response is to give speeches on issues such as college affordability in an effort to show her as compassionate toward the middle class.

“The real trust issue in the election will be who voters trust to look out for them,” said pollster Geoff Garin of Priorities USA.

To Democrats who are fretting, Ed Rendell, a former Pennsylvania governor and a Clinton booster, has a blunt message: “Man up.”

“No matter who the candidate was — if Moses or Jesus or Muhammad came back — there would be time periods when they were considered untrustworthy by the public,” Rendell said. “If you’re not convinced that Hillary’s a lights-out candidate, tell me who is?”

A swelling number of liberal activists, however, see Sanders as the answer. The boisterous crowds that have greeted his road show in the two weeks since he launched his campaign have surprised even his longtime advisers.

With his Brooklyn-accented barbs about what he believes is the alarming power of corporate America, Sanders sees a path to defeating Clinton. While Clinton is flanked by aides and Secret Service agents at controlled events, Sanders revels in rowdy town hall meetings and wanders through crowds wearing a rumpled suit and with unruly white hair.

“I don’t want to get too socialist about it, but I’d describe it as communal,” said Sanders political consultant Tad Devine.

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Sanders has instructed his inner circle to concentrate on the economy rather than Clinton's Iraq vote, even though that is one front where their records differ. "We don't want a campaign about something that happened 12 or 13 years ago," Devine said. "It's got to be about the next 10."

But Iraq is a centerpiece of Chafee's appeal to Democrats.

"It's heartbreaking that more of my colleagues failed to do their homework," Chafee said Wednesday as he announced his candidacy at George Mason University. "And incredibly, the neocon proponents of the war who sold us on the false premise of weapons of mass destruction are still key advisers to a number of presidential candidates today."

He added later: "Including the main Democratic candidate."

Chafee's approach is reminiscent of how then-Sen. Barack Obama used Clinton's Iraq vote to drive a wedge between her and antiwar Democrats in 2008. Clinton has since disavowed the vote, and some supporters believe the war is no longer a central concern for voters.

"When I ran [in 2004], it was a different party and frightened about the war," said former Vermont governor Howard Dean, a Clinton backer.

O'Malley, 52, is offering himself as a youthful alternative to Clinton palatable to all wings of the party, while also railing against "the privileged and the powerful" as he said this past weekend.

O'Malley and his associates are targeting those who tried unsuccessfully to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to run. A super PAC supporting O'Malley said Wednesday that it will soon purchase a round of television ads in Iowa highlighting his willingness to battle Wall Street, though a spokesman said the initial buy is a modest $25,000.

"There is a real hunger for economic populism. O'Malley is speaking to that," said George Appleby, O'Malley's state chairman in Iowa. He called Sanders "honorable and interesting" but said that "I'd be very surprised if Democrats nominated a 73-year-old man."

Clinton pollster downplays Hillary's sinking poll numbers **// Politico // Nick Gass – June 3, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's pollster, in a rare appearance on CNN Wednesday, downplayed reports in POLITICO and elsewhere noting the candidate's sinking polling numbers.

"We think there's been a minimal change," said Joel Benenson, who also worked as a senior strategist for President Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns.

Benenson said he takes all public polls with a grain of salt, reminding host Wolf Blitzer that CNN's poll put President Barack Obama in a dead heat with Republican challenger Mitt Romney in the days leading up to the 2012 election. Blitzer said the polls carry a margin of error and show trends and perspective at a particular time.

"We're not going to get hung up on margin of error. It's not a term I've ever shared with a client," Benenson responded.

In particular, Blitzer made reference to the CNN/ORC poll released Tuesday that found a majority of American adults do not find the former secretary of state honest or trustworthy. Additionally, just 47 percent of respondents said Clinton "cares about people like me," compared with 52 percent who said she does not.

Clinton still has the edge over her opponents on that score, the pollster responded.

"I don't want to debate you over your poll. You want to treat it as the gold standard. I don't think that's what it is," Benenson said.

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"If you look at the metric for 'who cares about people like me,' Hillary Clinton has a six-to-20-point advantage over all of her opponents, and that's going to be the way the voters are going to view this, through the prism of 'who's going to be working harder for me?,' 'who can I trust to get me and my family ahead?' That's what's central to their lives," he added.

In her campaign materials and appearances, Clinton has said she wants to be a "champion" for "everyday Americans."

Benenson said "it remains to be seen" how much the campaign will make use of Bill Clinton, expressing the desire that the former president would be available as much as he could.

"He's obviously very passionate" about his wife's candidacy, Benenson told Blitzer, calling the former president "a forceful and skillful advocate" for Democrats and touting his ability to bring issues home to voters.

As for media gripes about Clinton's lack of availability, Benenson said there will be "ample time" for more face-to-face interactions in the coming months as preparations ramp up in early-state primaries.

"I understand that people in the media want this to be a sprint every day, but the truth is the presidential campaign is a marathon," he said.

The Beltway's Clinton derangement syndrome: What I saw inside a Hillary campaign briefing // Salon // Joan Walsh – June 3, 2015

So I attended that now-infamous briefing with Clinton campaign officials in Brooklyn last Thursday. I wasn't going to write about it. No news was broken. Still, I learned some things I could see myself using along the way. It was a snapshot; here's what senior officials thought about the race six weeks in, and seven months from the first caucuses in Iowa. I knew it was set up to give increasingly restless Clinton beat reporters time to ask questions of campaign officials, to diffuse the obviously building tension. I wasn't sure it would work, but it seemed worth a try.

But it turns out news was broken, in a way. The briefing itself became news; its structure, its ground rules, its very existence. CNBC's John Harwood wrote a withering take on it. It led to reporters from rival news organizations gathering to formalize their complaints about access to the Clinton campaign. They told other reporters about the meeting, but strictly on background, an irony that wasn't entirely lost on the reporters who then covered it. (This Paul Farhi story about said reporters failing to "practice what they preach," trying to control his story about the flap, is hilarious.)

Media covering the media's complaints about the way media is treated; what could be more Beltway-centric inside baseball? But as long as people are writing about it, it's clear the briefing scandal illuminates the increasingly toxic relationship between the press and the Clintons. So I'll share what I saw, since now the event has become news in itself.

Let me shock you up front: I actually came away from it marginally more sympathetic to the Clinton beat reporters than before I went in. Essentially, they're a bunch of people trying to do their jobs. Some are well-paid and pampered; many are not. A lot of reporters had schlepped up from a Clinton event in South Carolina earlier that day. They carried luggage and laptop bags and looked tired and bedraggled, resentful at having a command event scheduled that afternoon but unwilling to miss it. What if it did break news?

So a lot of the bitching is just people trying to do a good job, who think the Clinton folks are making it harder than necessary. There were lots of questions about when Clinton might take a vacation (which means they can, too) – we couldn't get more specific than late August. That might seem petty, unless you've been asking these questions

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going back to the first Bush campaign, which some of those folks may be. Likewise, they peppered officials with questions about Clinton's June 13 kickoff rally, but couldn't get much detail, not even the location (three days later, we learned it would be in New York.) That got tedious, but the beat reporters have been surprised more than once with sudden scheduling (include the briefing itself). The senior campaign officials promised they'd have plenty of notice, and they did, they got 12 days.

I come at this from a completely different perspective. I took the B train to Brooklyn, just kind of curious about the event and not on any kind of deadline. And since I consider political media part of my beat, I got a fascinating look at the culture. My comfort with the scheduling and the ground rules partly reflects my very different job. I get that. But that said, the briefing wasn't as useless as it's been depicted. I learned a lot about the campaign I can share with readers. I could see the very different styles of individual "senior campaign officials," and learn who suffers fools, or questions they consider foolish, better than others – although Harwood's right, I can't tell you about them specifically, by name.

The Clinton folks, for their part, stayed relentlessly on message – which is their job — but I learned some interesting things anyway. I saw the way they're determined to frame Clinton as laser-focused on the four early primary and caucus states – Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. She doesn't take anything for granted, they said many times. Sure, that's become a cliché. But there was a rueful joke about how, this time around, they're paying attention to the actual delegates who will pick the nominee. It would be funnier if I could put it in direct quotes, but it was salty, and it acknowledged the 2008 campaign's many stumbles when it came to actually winning delegates, especially in caucus states.

I also learned that campaign polling shows that stories about the Clinton Foundation, and Clinton's infamous personal email server, aren't damaging her – at least among Democratic primary voters, and they're the focus for now. I asked a question about how the campaign balances its need to consolidate the Obama coalition with ideas about reaching working class white voters, and heard them say those are questions more suited to the general election than the primary. They emphasized their polling shows Clinton doing very well with the Obama coalition, despite that spirited 2008 rivalry. I heard a lot of talk about millennials and women, who seem to be the white voters the campaign is best suited to lure.

Finally, I learned that they consider this early period of the campaign a success, on their terms. Clinton's small-group "dialogues" — oh, it's not a listening tour, I learned that, too: she's having dialogue with voters – have performed several functions for the campaign. Yes, they provide kind of a soft launch for a woman who hasn't campaigned in seven years. They also let her reach voters in a person to person way some of these same reporters said she'd never pull off. And finally, they let voters, not reporters, dominate the campaign. You can mock it, you can wish it were otherwise, but mostly it's working, so far.

So I was just going to file all this away for some future post. But in the wake of the controversy over the briefing, I find it surprising that so many people thought the gathering useless. Again, I get that my job is different, but it shocked me that this was the dastardly Clinton campaign event that put some reporters over the edge.

I also saw, first-hand, how the journalists try to mask their own complaints about access as being impartial, expert criticism of the campaign's strategy. The small "dialogues" made sense for a while, one reporter allowed, but aren't they becoming "counterproductive?" They were said to lack "energy;" they're becoming "static." Why isn't Clinton turning out big crowds and giving big speeches? And are we really supposed to believe she's serious about focusing on Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina? C'mon now. Members of the Church of the Savvy know that can't be true.

Of course, if Clinton was going around giving big speeches in huge venues and criss-crossing the country without paying special attention to the early primary/caucus states, she'd be accused of arrogance, and running another campaign about inevitability, just like 2008. One campaign official (I can't tell you who) essentially made that sarcastic observation: remember how in 2008, Barack Obama was criticized for his speechifying before large, adoring crowds?

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It struck me that a sizeable share of the room seemed to work backward from the conclusion that whatever campaign strategy Clinton adopts, it's flawed. As a colleague of mine (who wasn't there) correctly observed later, they so often use "voters" as sock puppets to voice their complaints. It's not enough for the pack, even though it's early, to watch the campaign unfold, and report on it. We will learn soon enough – from polling numbers, from voters' praise or grousing, ultimately, from results – whether it's working. No, these folks have to pre-emptively declare the campaign flawed – largely because they don't like their access to it.

Yes, the campaign's secrecy about mundane logistics is silly, and so is the notion of sending "embargoed" background information via email to hundreds of reporters who haven't agreed to keep the info embargoed. (So Adam Nagourney tweeted it out anyway.) Personally, I would like to hear Clinton talk, whether to reporters or publicly to voters, about her views on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, or how to combat ISIS, or what she thinks of the debt-free college movement. There were a couple of questions about when Clinton will make a formal stand on the TPP, but otherwise issues were largely missing from the discussion.

The whole thing seemed designed to improve campaign-media relations, to clear the air and answer the frustrated reporters' questions until there were no more questions. Then they stayed and served us beer – I was peeved; I prefer wine — and talked some more. Some "senior Clinton campaign officials" stayed and schmoozed longer than I was able to. And it all backfired, spectacularly, because this relationship cannot be saved. But on some level, right now, the campaign doesn't have to care.

I continue to be struck by the self-importance of the media. Campaigning has changed, and the Clinton campaign has evolved an approach that its leadership thinks serves the candidate. Maybe they've changed the rules of coverage; but the rules change all the time. Instead of figuring out a way to grapple with those changing rules and break stories anyway, journalists are acting as though they have a sacred right to have dozens of them covering Clinton's every move. If they don't like the campaign rules, they shouldn't play. They are entirely within their rights to refuse to attend briefings where officials can't be quoted, for instance. They could boycott her events and talk to voters on their own, instead. They could pore over records and donor lists (some people are doing that.)

After 30 years of wrangling, Clinton can't win with the national media, but I think the campaign has decided it doesn't need to. It's going to look for ways to be cordial, and serve folks beer occasionally, but it's not going to be driven by irritated beat reporters. And let me use voters as sock puppets here: I really don't think voters will care.

When it comes to the Clintons and Wall Street: Democratic opponents are silent // McClatchy // Anita Kumar & Greg Gorden – June 3, 2015

This year's crop of Democratic candidates can't seem to stop talking about how they are going to fight Wall Street and help struggling Americans.

So we wondered just what those vying for president next year thought of the close ties between Wall Street and their party's front-runner, Hillary Clinton, and her husband, Bill Clinton.

The former president earned millions of dollars in speaking fees and donations for his global charity from big banks, some that paid billions of dollars to resolve federal investigations, according to a McClatchy analysis. Hillary Clinton also accepted speaking fees from at least one bank.

What do Clinton's opponents -- all of them way down in the polls -- say about that? Not a thing.

Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley: No comment.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders: No comment.

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Former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee, who's throwing his hat into the ring later today: No comment.

It's not too surprising that Chafee's campaign declined to comment. His criticism of Clinton has been focused on her vote to invade Iraq.

But O'Malley and Sanders have made income equality a centerpiece of their campaigns.

Last week, Sanders said: "Wall Street cannot continue to be an island unto itself, gambling trillions in risky financial instruments while expecting the public to bail it out. If a bank is too big to fail it is too big to exist."

This week, O'Malley said this on Good Morning America: "I believe that the presidency is a sacred trust and I believe that we are best served by giving the choice of who our president should be to the people of the United States and not to the big banks on Wall Street."

We get it. They don't like big banks. But when it comes to the Clintons and Wall Street, they are silent.

21 New 'Clinton Cash' Revelations That Have Imperiled Hillary Clinton's Campaign // Breitbart – June 3, 2015

Prior to the release of the New York Times bestselling investigative exposé Clinton Cash by Government Accountability Institute President and Breitbart Senior Editor-at-Large Peter Schweizer, Hillary Clinton and her supporters claimed she was among the most vetted political figures in America—a candidate about whom everything was known.

Yet as media outlets across the ideological spectrum have confirmed and verified the book's explosive revelations about Clinton's tenure as Sec. of State and the influx of hundreds of millions of dollars from foreign sources into the Clinton Foundation, the nation has learned much it did not know. Subsequent reporting by national news outlets has expanded on the book's findings using its investigative methodology.

Indeed, the dizzying flurry of resulting Hillary Clinton Foundation scandals has been difficult to keep up with. As CNN's John King put it on Sunday, "You can't go 20 minutes in this town, it seems, without some sort of a story about Clinton Foundation that gives you a little bit of the creeps."

Early on, as Clinton Cash bombshells began appearing in the New York Times, Washington Post, New Yorker, Bloomberg, and elsewhere, Hillary Clinton's campaign sought to calm nervous campaign donors by announcing the creation of a special "rapid response" War Room aimed at combating a book, an unprecedented move in the annals of modern presidential campaigning. The Clinton campaign team built a website called "The Briefing," issued memos, and tasked an eight-person team to create videos featuring embattled Clinton spokesperson Brian Fallon as he awkwardly and unsuccessfully attempted to smear Peter Schweizer. Team Clinton's message: all of Clinton Cash's revelations are incorrect or merely "coincidences."

Yet as the nation's largest news organizations began to confirm finding after finding, the Clinton campaign did the only thing it could: it gave up in its attempts to refute the swelling avalanche of now well-established facts. Indeed, the Clinton campaign's last video response on its "The Briefing" YouTube page is dated May 5th—Clinton Cash's official launch date.

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To date, Hillary Clinton has yet to substantively answer a single question from the mountain of Clinton Cash questions that continue to pile up with each passing day.

The result: according to Tuesday's CNN poll, the "Clinton Cash Effect" has rendered Hillary Clinton historic new lows in her favorability with American voters.

Below we chronicle just 21 of the myriad Clinton Cash-related revelations that have emerged since the book's publication—all of which have been confirmed and verified as accurate by national media organizations.

Huffington Post: Clintons Bagged at Least $3.4 Million for 18 Speeches Funded by Keystone Pipeline Banks

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and TD Bank—two of the Keystone XL pipeline's largest investors—fully or partially bankrolled eight Hillary Clinton speeches that "put more than $1.6 million in the Democratic candidate's pocket," reports the Huffington Post.

Moreover, according to Clinton Cash, during Hillary Clinton's tenure as Sec. of State, Bill Clinton delivered 10 speeches from Nov. 2008 to mid-2011 totaling $1.8 million paid for by TD Bank, which held a $1.6 billion investment in the Keystone XL pipeline.

The Clintons' speaking fees windfall, which has infuriated environmental groups, have yet to be addressed by Hillary Clinton.

New York Times: Clinton Foundation Shook Down a Tiny Tsunami Relief Nonprofit for a $500,000 Speaking Fee

Bill Clinton refused to give a speech for a tiny nonprofit seeking to raise money for tsunami victims until the group agreed to pay a $500,000 speaking fee to the Clinton Foundation. The Times reported that the Clinton Foundation "sent the charity an invoice," which "amounted to almost a quarter of the evening's net proceeds—enough to build 10 preschools in Indonesia."

New York Magazine: Clinton Foundation "Strong-Armed" Charity Watchdog Group

When "the Clinton Foundation wound up on a 'watch list' maintained by the Charity Navigator, dubbed the 'most prominent' nonprofit watchdog," reported New York Magazine writer Gabriel Sherman, "the Foundation attempted to strong-arm them by calling a Navigator board member."

International Business Times: Hillary Clinton's State Dept. Gave Clinton Foundation Donors Weapons Deals

"Under Clinton's leadership, the State Department approved $165 billion worth of commercial arms sales to 20 nations whose governments have given money to the Clinton Foundation, according to an IBTimes analysis of State Department and foundation data," reports IBT. "That figure—derived from the three full fiscal years of Clinton's term as Secretary of State (from October 2010 to September 2012)—represented nearly double the value of American arms sales made to the those countries and approved by the State Department during the same period of President George W. Bush's second term."

Salon, MotherJones, HuffingtonPost, Slate, and several other liberal publications reported on IBT's findings.

Washington Post: Clintons Hid 1,100 Foreign Donor Names in Violation of Ethics Agreement with Obama Admin.

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Clinton Cash revealed five hidden foreign donations. On the heels of the book's publication, the Washington Post uncovered another 1,100 foreign donor names hidden in the Canada-based Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership—a Clinton Foundation initiative Bill Clinton erected with controversial billionaire mining executive Frank Giustra.

"A charity affiliated with the Clinton Foundation failed to reveal the identities of its 1,100 donors, creating a broad exception to the foundation's promise to disclose funding sources as part of an ethics agreement with the Obama administration," reports the Washington Post. "The number of undisclosed contributors to the charity, the Canada-based Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, signals a larger zone of secrecy around foundation donors than was previously known."

In a follow-up story, the Post reports that only 21 of Frank Giustra and Bill Clinton's secret 1,100 foreign donors have subsequently been revealed. If and when the other 1,079 hidden donors names will be revealed is presently unclear—and will be the subject of forthcoming investigative reports by Breitbart News.

Vox: At Least 181 Clinton Foundation Donors Lobbied Hillary's State Dept.

"Public records alone reveal a nearly limitless supply of cozy relationships between the Clintons and companies with interests before the government," reports Vox. "There's a household name at the nexus of the foundation and the State Department for every letter of the alphabet but "X" (often more than one): Anheuser-Busch, Boeing, Chevron, (John) Deere, Eli Lilly, FedEx, Goldman Sachs, HBO, Intel, JP Morgan, Lockheed Martin, Monsanto, NBC Universal, Oracle, Procter & Gamble, Qualcomm, Rotary International, Siemens, Target, Unilever, Verizon, Walmart, Yahoo, and Ze-gen."

BuzzFeed: Two of Hillary Clinton's Top Donors Were Major Felons

When Hillary Clinton ran for president in 2008, two of her biggest fundraisers were conducting massive Ponzi schemes. One was Hsu, who posed as a garment tycoon, and is now serving a 24-year sentence in federal prison in Milan, Michigan. The other, Hassan Nemazee, is serving a 12-year sentence in Otisville, New York, for bank fraud. He used fake documents and nonexistent loans to trick bankers into extending him more credit," reports Ben Smith of BuzFeed. "Those two convictions cast light on a central perplexity of the 2016 presidential cycle, and its 'Clinton Cash' phase: Why are shady people with murky interests always hanging around political superstars, and particularly Bill and Hillary Clinton?"

Daily Beast: Clintons' Charity Scored Millions from Qatar and Donations from Corrupt FIFA Soccer Organization

"The Clinton global charity has received between $50,000 and $100,000 from soccer's governing body and has partnered with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association on several occasions, according to donor listings on the foundation's website," reports The Daily Beast. "Qatar 2022 committee gave the foundation between $250,000 and $500,000 in 2014 and the State of Qatar gave between $1 million and $5 million in previous, unspecified years."

Associated Press: The Clintons' Have a Secret "Pass-Through" Company—WJC, LLC

"The newly released financial files on Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton's growing fortune omit a company with no apparent employees or assets that the former president has legally used to provide consulting and other services, but which demonstrates the complexity of the family's finances," reported the AP. "The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to provide private details of the former president's finances on the record, said the entity was a 'pass-through' company designed to channel payments to the former

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president."

Hillary Clinton has yet to release the names and amounts of the payments that flowed through the hidden WJC, LLC, company.

New York Times: Hillary Funneled $10K Monthly Payments to Sidney Blumenthal Through Clinton Foundation

"An examination by The Times suggests that Mr. Blumenthal's involvement was more wide-ranging and more complicated than previously known, embodying the blurry lines between business, politics and philanthropy that have enriched and vexed the Clintons and their inner circle for years," reports the Times. "While advising Mrs. Clinton on Libya, Mr. Blumenthal, who had been barred from a State Department job by aides to President Obama, was also employed by her family's philanthropy, the Clinton Foundation…and worked on and off as a paid consultant to Media Matters and American Bridge, organizations that helped lay the groundwork for Mrs. Clinton's 2016 campaign."

New Yorker: Bill Clinton Scored a $500,000 Speech in Moscow Paid for by a Kremlin-backed Bank

The New Yorker confirms Clinton Cash's reporting that Bill Clinton bagged $500,000 for a Moscow speech paid for by "a Russian investment bank that had ties to the Kremlin."

"Why was Bill Clinton taking any money from a bank linked to the Kremlin while his wife was Secretary of State?" asks the New Yorker. To date, Hillary Clinton nor her campaign have answered that question.

Washington Post: Hillary Clinton's Brother Sits on the Board of a Mining Co. that Received a Coveted Haitian "Gold Exploitation Permit" that Has Only Twice Been Awarded in 50 Years. Rodham Met the Mining Executive in Charge of the Company at a Clinton Foundation Event.

"In interviews with The Washington Post, both Rodham and the chief executive of Delaware-based VCS Mining said they were introduced at a meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative—an offshoot of the Clinton Foundation that critics have long alleged invites a blurring of its charitable mission with the business interests of Bill and Hillary Clinton and their corporate donors."

"Asked whether he attends CGI meetings to explore personal business opportunities, Rodham responded, 'No, I go to see old friends. But you never know what can happen.'"

New York Times: Court Proceedings Reveal Hillary's Brother Claimed Admits Clinton Foundation and the Clintons Are Key to His Haiti Connections

"I deal through the Clinton Foundation," Tony Rodham said according to a transcript of his testimony obtained by The Times. "That gets me in touch with the Haitian officials. I hound my brother-in-law [Bill Clinton], because it's his fund that we're going to get our money from. And he can't do it until the Haitian government does it."

Wall Street Journal: Clinton Foundation Violated Memorandum of Understanding with the Obama Admin. By Keeping Secret a Foreign Donation of Two Million Shares of Stock from a Foreign Executive with Business Before Hillary's State Dept.

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Clinton Cash revealed that Canadian mining tycoon Stephen Dattels scored an "open pit mining" concession at the Phulbari Mines in Bangladesh where his Polo Resources had investments. The coveted perk came just two months after Polo Resources gave the Clinton Foundation 2,000,000 shares of stock—a donation the Clinton Foundation kept hidden.

New York Times: Hillary Clinton's Campaign Claims She Had No Idea Her State Dept. Was Considering Approving the Transfer of 20% of U.S. Uranium to the Russian Govt.—Even as the Clinton Foundation Bagged $145 Million in Donations from Investors in the Deal

In a 4,000-word front-page New York Times investigation, the Times confirmed in granular detail Clinton Cash's reporting that Hillary's State Dept. was one of nine agencies approving the sale of Uranium One to the Russian government. "The sale gave the Russians control of one-fifth of all uranium production capacity in the United States," reports the Times.

The Times then published a detailed table and infographic cataloging the $145 million in donations to the Clinton Foundation made by uranium executives involved in the Russian transfer of 20% of all U.S. uranium.

Bloomberg: A For-Profit University Put Bill Clinton on Its Payroll and Scored a Jump in Funding from Hillary Clinton's State Dept. When Clinton Cash Revealed the Scheme, Bill Clinton Quickly Resigned.

Even as Hillary Clinton and Democrats continue to blast for-profit colleges and universities, Hillary Clinton's campaign continues to stonewall questions about how much Bill Clinton was paid by Laureate International Universities, one of the largest for-profit education companies in the world—and an organization that has underwritten Clinton Foundation events. As soon as Clinton Cash revealed Bill Clinton spent years on Laureate's payroll, the former president quickly resigned.

According to an analysis by Bloomberg: "in 2009, the year before Bill Clinton joined Laureate, the nonprofit received 11 grants worth $9 million from the State Department or the affiliated USAID. In 2010, the group received 14 grants worth $15.1 million. In 2011, 13 grants added up to $14.6 million. The following year, those numbers jumped: IYF received 21 grants worth $25.5 million, including a direct grant from the State Department."

Hillary Clinton has refused to answer questions about the Clintons' income from the for-profit education company.

New York Times: The Head of the Russian Govt's Uranium Company Ian Telfer Made Secret Donations Totaling $2.35 Million to the Clinton Foundation—as Hillary Clinton's State Dept. Approved the Transfer of 20% of All U.S. Uranium to the Russians

Ian Telfer, the former head of the Russian-owned uranium company, Uranium One, funneled $2.35 million to the Clinton Foundation—donations that were never revealed until Clinton Cash reported them and the New York Times confirmed them.

Hillary Clinton has yet to answer a single question about Uranium One.

Washington Post: Bill and Hillary Clinton Have Made at Least $26 Million in Speaking Fees from Entities Who Are Top Clinton Foundation Donors

According to the Post's independent analysis, "Bill Clinton was paid more than $100 million for speeches between 2001 and 2013, according to federal financial disclosure forms filed by Hillary Clinton during her years as a

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senator and as secretary of state."

The Post added: "Bill Clinton was paid at least $26 million in speaking fees by companies and organizations that are also major donors to the foundation he created after leaving the White House, according to a Washington Post analysis of public records and foundation date."

Washington Free Beacon: Former Clinton Campaign Operative-Turned-ABC News Host George Stephanopoulos Failed to Disclose His $75,000 Donation and Deep Involvement in the Clinton Foundation Before Launching an Attack Interview Against Clinton Cash Author

Clinton political operative-turned-ABC News anchor George Stephanopoulos infamously hid his $75,000 Clinton Foundation donation from ABC News viewers before launching a partisan attack "interview" with Clinton Cash author Peter Schweizer.

Roundly condemned by numerous journalists, Stephanopoulos apologized and received zero punishment from ABC News. Hillary Clinton's campaign then used footage from the Stephanopoulos' attack "interview" with Schweizer in its political campaign videos.

"It was outrageous," said former ABC News anchor Carole Simpson.

Hillary Clinton has yet to answer whether her campaign coordinated with Clinton Foundation donor George Stephanopoulos.

CNBC: Clinton Foundation Mega Donor Frank Holmes Claimed He Sold Uranium One Before Hillary Clinton's State Dept. Approved the Russian Transfer—Despite His Company's Own SEC Filings Proving Otherwise

In a highly embarrassing CNBC grilling, Clinton mega donor and uranium executive Frank Holmes claimed he sold his Uranium One stock well before Hillary Clinton's State Dept. greenlit the transfer of 20% of all U.S. uranium to the Russian government in 2010.

However, according to his company's, U.S. Global Investors, own 2011 SEC filing, Holmes' company did, in fact, still hold Uranium One stock, a point he later conceded.

Politico: Hillary's Foundation Accepted $1 Million from Human Rights Violator Morocco for a Lavish Event

"The event is being funded largely by a contribution of at least $1 million from OCP, a phosphate exporter owned by Morocco's constitutional monarchy, according to multiple sources with direct knowledge of the event," reports Politico. "But in 2011, Clinton's State Department had accused the Moroccan government of 'arbitrary arrests and corruption in all branches of government.'"

ABC News similarly confirmed the Clinton Foundation's acceptance of the unseemly funds.

Iowa Poll: Bill and George W. May Not Hurt Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush // Bloomberg // David Knowles – June 3, 2015

The nation's next president may well be advised by a former one. For the most part, that prospect doesn't seem to trouble Iowa caucus-goers.

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Fifty-seven percent of likely Republican caucus-goers in a new Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa Poll said that it would be “mostly good” for Jeb Bush's presidency if he were to tap his older brother, George, as a close adviser. Thirty-three percent said such an arrangement would be “mostly bad” for Jeb Bush's presidency.

As for Hillary Clinton, a whopping 83 percent of likely Democratic caucus-goers approved of the idea of her using her husband, Bill, as a close adviser, while just 9 percent said doing so was a “mostly bad” suggestion for her presidency.

Interviewed on CBS's Face the Nation in May, Jeb Bush said that his older brother “is not going to be a problem at all. I seek out his advice,” adding that he had "learned from his successes and his mistakes."

Poll respondent Sarah Rynearson, an independent who plans to caucus with Republicans, is similarly at ease with the idea of Bush being advised by his brother.

“I think it would be a great idea, because I think his brother was a great president,” said Rynearson, 36, who delivers meals to the elderly in Waterloo, Iowa.

Republican respondent Thomas Stanley, 60, of Fairfield, Iowa, disagreed.

“I think that George W. Bush did a very poor job at trying to unify the country around commonly held beliefs,” Stanley said, adding that the former president's foreign policy decisions were “part of” what should preclude him from serving as an adviser to his brother. “Dick Cheney is another part. Donald Rumsfeld is another. He just had advisers that were pretty extreme.”

When Bill Clinton ran for president in 1992, he told voters that if they elected him, they would get “two for the price of one” in reference to his wife. More than 20 years later, that prospect is sitting well with likely Iowa Democratic caucus-goers.

“They've both already been there and done that before. They seem to be a good team, and work together really well together,” said Democrat Mickie Franklin, 33, a Transportation Security Administration worker who lives in Nevada, Iowa. “She seems like a really strong-willed lady. And she seems like if someone she knew felt very strongly about something, she might take their opinion, but not necessarily go with what they want. I think there's nothing wrong with getting advice from him.”

Ben Frazier, a 21-year-old Democrat and political science major at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, voiced reservations.

“It's going to be important for her to think on her own and show that she has the necessary experience to make her own decisions,” he said. “I feel like he's going to want to be more involved than he should be. Politically speaking, Bill Clinton is out of his prime.”

Bush has struggled with the question of how much to embrace his family legacy on the campaign trail. He has repeatedly said “I'm my own man” when asked how he would distinguish himself from his brother and the other former president in his family, his father. At the same time, he has assembled a team of foreign policy advisers that closely resembles his brother's.

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Bush has also stumbled over the question of whether, with the benefit of hindsight, he would have sent U.S. troops into Iraq.

Clinton, meanwhile, has distanced herself from several of her husband's former policies, including support for free trade agreements, support for three-strikes legislation, and opposition to gay marriage. Like his wife, Bill Clinton has changed many of his former positions, making for less of a contrast between the two.

The survey of 437 likely Democratic caucus-goers has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.7 percentage points, while the survey of 402 likely Republican caucus-goers has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent. The West Des Moines-based Selzer & Co. conducted the poll May 25-29.

Clinton rivals pounce as her ratings fall // WaPo // Philip Rucker, Robert Costa and Anne Gearan - June 3, 2015

A once-sleepy Democratic presidential primary contest is fast coming alive as Hillary Rodham Clinton's poll numbers fall and a diverse array of long-shot opponents step forward to challenge her.

The recent developments mark a dramatic evolution in the 2016 sweepstakes, which until now has been shaped by the large assortment of hopefuls on the Republican side, where there is no front-runner.

The latest Democrat to enter the race is Lincoln Chafee, a onetime Republican and former Rhode Island governor and senator, who launched his campaign Wednesday in Northern Virginia. Though his candidacy is quixotic, Chafee's sharp attacks on Clinton's hawkish foreign policy record — and in particular her 2002 vote to authorize the war in Iraq — could nonetheless complicate her march to the nomination.

Chafee joins an underfunded and jumbled field of Clinton rivals who see the favorite's coziness with Wall Street and political longevity as weaknesses and who think she is vulnerable to a grass-roots contender who better captures the party's liberal soul.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a fiery populist who identifies as a socialist, has been attracting some of the largest crowds of any candidate from either party as he summons supporters to join his "political revolution."

Another foe, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, is making an overt generational contrast: His campaign slogan is "New Leadership." And former senator Jim Webb of Virginia has echoed Chafee's antiwar pitch as he explores a candidacy.

The activity has brought fresh attention to the fault lines within the Democratic coalition over economic fairness and foreign policy.

At Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters, the mantra has been to prepare for a difficult primary and compete for every vote in every state. Her team has carefully crafted a summer rollout — a June 13 kickoff rally followed by major policy speeches — to cast Clinton as a progressive champion.

On Thursday, for instance, Clinton will give a speech on voting rights at a historically black college in Texas, where she will call for an early voting period of at least 20 days in every state. Her address comes as Democrats pursue legal challenges to voting restrictions ushered in by Republican legislatures.

"We've always thought there would be challengers," Clinton campaign chairman John D. ¬Podesta said in an interview Wednesday. "There were always going to be people saying she wasn't this enough, wasn't that enough, wasn't populist enough."

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He added: “Our strategy at the moment is to welcome them into the race and lay out our program versus theirs. . . . There will be debates. These candidates will get their airtime. But what we’re focused on is telling her story, what her vision for the country is.”

Polls show that Clinton’s popularity is foundering with her reemergence as a political candidate, effectively erasing the bipartisan approval she enjoyed as secretary of state.

More Americans said they held an unfavorable opinion of Clinton than a favorable one, 49 percent to 45 percent, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll this week. Among independent voters, the figure is worse: 55 percent unfavorable to 39 percent favorable.

Republicans are pleased to see Clinton’s popularity coming down to earth.

“Clearly, whatever political capital that Hillary Clinton had previously enjoyed as secretary of state has atrophied,” said pollster Neil Newhouse, who is likely to work for Right to Rise, the pro-Jeb Bush super PAC.

Still, Clinton is trouncing the rest of the Democratic field by every measure, including in money raised and in the depth of her organization. Her campaign has opened nine field offices in Iowa, which hosts the first presidential caucuses.

This week’s Post-ABC poll showed Clinton leading the Democratic pack at 62 percent. Vice President Biden, who has not formally ruled out a candidacy, was second with 14 percent, followed by Sanders at 10 percent.

Paul Begala, an adviser to the pro-Clinton super PAC Priorities USA Action, predicted that the race will tighten.

“The day she announced, the polls had her at like a million percent,” Begala said. “She needed to print that out, put it in a scrapbook and give it to baby Charlotte, because it will never be this good again.”

Clinton is showing political fragility in some areas, including on character attributes. Fifty-two percent of those polled said she was not honest and trustworthy.

Clinton’s advisers attribute this to intense media scrutiny. They argue that a more accurate barometer of her standing is the question of empathy. Asked whether she “understands the problems of people like you,” 49 percent said she did and 46 percent said she did not.

Anastasia Rave, 26, a retail manager in Beaufort, N.C., was among those polled. A Democratic-leaning independent, Rave said she would support Clinton over any Republican candidate — but she remains uneasy.

“I don’t think that her attempts to act like she understands the everyday working person are genuine,” Rave said. “I don’t really buy it.”

The Clinton response is to give speeches on issues such as college affordability in an effort to show her as compassionate toward the middle class.

“The real trust issue in the election will be who voters trust to look out for them,” said pollster Geoff Garin of Priorities USA.

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To Democrats who are fretting, Ed Rendell, a former Pennsylvania governor and a Clinton booster, has a blunt message: “Man up.”

“No matter who the candidate was — if Moses or Jesus or Muhammad came back — there would be time periods when they were considered untrustworthy by the public,” Rendell said. “If you’re not convinced that Hillary’s a lights-out candidate, tell me who is?”

A swelling number of liberal activists, however, see Sanders as the answer. The boisterous crowds that have greeted his road show in the two weeks since he launched his campaign have surprised even his longtime advisers.

With his Brooklyn-accented barbs about what he believes is the alarming power of corporate America, Sanders sees a path to defeating Clinton. While Clinton is flanked by aides and Secret Service agents at controlled events, Sanders revels in rowdy town hall meetings and wanders through crowds wearing a rumpled suit and with unruly white hair.

“I don’t want to get too socialist about it, but I’d describe it as communal,” said Sanders political consultant Tad Devine.

Sanders has instructed his inner circle to concentrate on the economy rather than Clinton’s Iraq vote, even though that is one front where their records differ. “We don’t want a campaign about something that happened 12 or 13 years ago,” Devine said. “It’s got to be about the next 10.”

But Iraq is a centerpiece of Chafee’s appeal to Democrats.

“It’s heartbreaking that more of my colleagues failed to do their homework,” Chafee said Wednesday as he announced his candidacy at George Mason University. “And incredibly, the neocon proponents of the war who sold us on the false premise of weapons of mass destruction are still key advisers to a number of presidential candidates today.”

He added later: “Including the main Democratic candidate.”

Chafee’s approach is reminiscent of how then-Sen. Barack Obama used Clinton’s Iraq vote to drive a wedge between her and antiwar Democrats in 2008. Clinton has since disavowed the vote, and some supporters believe the war is no longer a central concern for voters.

“When I ran [in 2004], it was a different party and frightened about the war,” said former Vermont governor Howard Dean, a Clinton backer.

O’Malley, 52, is offering himself as a youthful alternative to Clinton palatable to all wings of the party, while also railing against “the privileged and the powerful” as he said this past weekend.

O’Malley and his associates are targeting those who tried unsuccessfully to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to run. A super PAC supporting O’Malley said Wednesday that it will soon purchase a round of television ads in Iowa highlighting his willingness to battle Wall Street, though a spokesman said the initial buy is a modest $25,000.

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“There is a real hunger for economic populism. O’Malley is speaking to that,” said George Appleby, O’Malley’s state chairman in Iowa. He called Sanders “honorable and interesting” but said that “I’d be very surprised if Democrats nominated a 73-year-old man.”

Bush and Clinton seem inevitable. Except to voters . // Yahoo News // Matt Bai - June 4, 2015

According to new polls, Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush aren’t viewed very favorably. (AP Photo)

Voters of America: What exactly is your problem?

For months, we in the media have been telling you, repeatedly and in very small words, that Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush are going to be the nominees in 2016. They’ve got big money, big names, the comforting ’90s vibe. Their debates will feel like a rerun of “Friends,” before everyone started doing drugs and sleeping with each other.

Just a few days ago, some guy wrote an entire op-ed in Politico titled “Newsflash: It’s Going to Be Hillary vs. Jeb.” Since the writer wasn’t God or Nostradamus, I didn’t really feel the need to keep reading, but clearly you should have, because you’re just not getting the message.

According to a batch of brand-new polling, the number of voters who view Clinton favorably has dropped below 50 percent for the first time since she last ran for president in 2008; suddenly fewer people like her than don’t. Ditto for Jeb, who, according to the results of an ABC/Washington Post poll, would be the least liked Republican in the potential field were it not for the beneficence of Donald Trump.

Why is it so hard to accept your fate already? Why do you insist on dating bad boys like Scott Walker and Bernie Sanders when we’ve gone to such trouble to arrange reliable marriages that benefit everyone?

Don’t tell me it’s because Americans are suspicious of dynastic rule — whoever started that meme must have stopped reading his textbook after the bit about King George. Take away the Roosevelts, Kennedys and Bushes, and the last century of political history would read like some Mad Lib. We’re just fine with dynasties, for better or worse.

No, the reason Clinton and Bush are having trouble keeping your affection is less about who they are than where they’ve been. The reality is that candidates returning from long absences are a little like distant relatives; the idea of a reunion sounds great, but when they show up at your door it’s another story.

If there’s one thing we all love in politics, it’s the idea of the candidate who seems above the litany of daily disappointments in Washington. Presidential narratives are often built around the idea that a candidate has been away somewhere (other than prison, say) and is just now coming back because he can’t stand what a mess all these lesser politicians have made of things.

Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan exploited that ideal, which Newt Gingrich (quoting his favorite political philosopher, Arnold Toynbee) once described to me as the doctrine of “departure and return.”

Clinton and Bush embody that idea, too. After four years as secretary of state, followed by a few years of relative seclusion, Clinton was enjoying the highest approval ratings of her political life; to most Americans who weren’t hardened anti-Clinton conspiracists, she seemed to have entered the realm of statesmanship.

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Bush spent most of the last decade talking reasonably about education reform and the environment, to the point where a lot of voters had almost forgotten about his partisan role in the recount debacle of 2000.

The problem is that once you return to the arena, once you start giving speeches that sound more or less like everybody else's, then you're no longer departed, and we can't quite remember why it was you seemed so alluring in the first place. Suddenly you're a politician again.

And running for office isn't like the proverbial riding of a bike, where you can leave off for a decade and then, on a whim, just climb onto some rental and scale a mountain. Politics at this level is more like hitting a baseball. It takes a while to get your timing back, and that's only if your clarity of vision and basic skills haven't deteriorated.

In the case of both Bush and Clinton, this basic rustiness seems to have been compounded by a certain arrogance — an inner voice that says, "I already know how to hit a baseball, so I'll be damned if I'm going to spend every day at the cage practicing my swings."

It's almost unthinkable — and it shook a lot of the Republican operatives who should be his supporters — that Bush didn't have an answer for the question about the Iraq invasion and whether he would have done the same thing his brother did. What possible explanation is there for that, other than that he's decided he can pretty much wing this thing?

If he actually asked his aides to prepare him for the campaign trail and they didn't raise that question more than once, then he should probably think about getting some new aides.

The other problem you have, when you're the kind of candidate who's been off the scene for a while and who thus occupies an exalted place in the minds of the electorate, is that your party's operatives will tell you almost anything to get you to return. So it might take a few months to realize that the theory of the campaign to which you're clinging, which everyone around you said was totally brilliant and doable back in January, is actually about as relevant this year as Ross Perot.

You can bet that all the Clinton whisperers made 2016 sound like a mere formality and nothing like the grind of 2008. We'll send your stunt double to have lunch at a Chipotle in Ohio , and you can just hole up in Chappaqua and watch "Downton Abbey" reruns. No worries — we'll call when you clinch.

But then she won't answer questions about her private emails or her foundation's foreign donors, and she refuses to tell anyone where she is on a free-trade bill that's dividing Washington, and suddenly the diving poll numbers aren't something you can ignore. Clinton remains the clear favorite to win the nomination, but her persona as a stateswoman is already a casualty, and it's not even summer.

Bush started out his campaign spouting this stuff about how you had to be willing to lose the primaries in order to win the general election, a theory his eager advisers must have validated. And a pretty courageous one, too, except that he has spent most of his time lately trying to mollify conservative primary voters, who, it appears, might be just fine with nominating Mike Huckabee or Ben Carson and watching him get pulverized in November.

What the voters in both parties are telling us in these polls, more than anything else, is that they're not going to have their nominees dictated to them. What you all seem to be saying is that Clinton and Bush are formidable but also uninspiring, and you intend to weigh all your options before making that decision for yourselves.

Well, OK, but you know the conventional wisdom in Washington seems to be that this is all just preseason jitters,

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and by fall the inevitable nominees will be exactly what they're supposed to be, which is inevitable.

In other words: Trust us. You'll learn to love them over time.

Why Hillary Can't Run on Her State Department Record // **Bloomberg // Josh Rogin – June 3, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's record as secretary of state became a hot-button issue this week after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Bloomberg Television that the Barack Obama administration's failed "reset" policy with Moscow was her "invention."

Here's why it matters: Her campaign chairman, John Podesta, gave an interview to Bloomberg View's Al Hunt in April in which he said holding up the "major accomplishments" from her State Department tenure would be a centerpiece of her campaign. Podesta may want to reconsider that plan. Running on Clinton's signature diplomatic initiatives is fraught with risks because, on closer inspection, most that he mentioned don't hold up to scrutiny.

"She put together that sanctions package that's led to at least the possibility of having a deal on the Iran nuclear program," Podesta told Hunt in the interview, which was aired on PBS's "Charlie Rose" show. "That took very careful and longtime careful diplomacy."

In fact, the State Department under Clinton vigorously opposed almost all of the Iran sanctions passed by Congress while she was in office. Top officials, including Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman, openly advocated against many bills, including the sanctions on Iran's central bank, which dealt the true crippling blow to the Tehran regime. The Senate passed that bill 100-0 and Obama reluctantly signed them into law. The State Department did implement them, but was criticized by lawmakers and advocacy groups for using waivers in the law to exempt several countries, including China and our allies Japan and South Korea.

Clinton can also expect to be pressed during the campaign over her involvement in the secret negotiations that led to the controversial Iran nuclear negotiations now nearing completion. Her deputy, William Burns, and her top foreign policy advisor, Jake Sullivan, held months of clandestine meetings with Iranian officials to set up the talks. In the run-up to her campaign announcement, Clinton was cautiously supportive of the nuclear talks; leaving herself some wiggle room by saying she won't render a final judgment until the deal is done.

Podesta then went on to say that Clinton "restored America's place in the world, which had been very badly battered through the previous administration."

While it's true that global opinion of the U.S. soared when Barack Obama was first elected president, during Clinton's State Department tenure of 2009 to 2013 there was no measurable upswing in foreigners' views of America, according to the Pew Research Center's polling on global attitudes. In most major countries, approval of the U.S. actually went down by the time Clinton left office, including by 11 percentage points in each of France, Germany and the U.K.

A poll conducted in 33 countries by the BBC World Service just after Clinton stepped down as secretary found that overall world opinion of the U.S. by 2013 was the lowest since the presidency of George W. Bush. If Clinton wants to run on having polished America's image abroad, she'll be hard pressed to come up with data to back it up.

"She engineered the so-called 'pivot to Asia,' " Podesta continued. "Her first trip was to China."

Clinton did lead parts of what the White House now calls the "rebalance" to Asia, but as Governor Scott Walker, a

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top Republican contender, pointed out last week, that policy has fallen well short of expectations. With China building fake islands around the South China Sea and threatening to enforce an air-exclusion zone in the area, the pivot policy now looks inadequate.

Along with Treasury Department officials, Clinton initiated a new strategic dialogue with China, but after several high-level summits, the effort has produced few if any tangible results. The State Department did succeed in creating an opening with Myanmar, an effort led by her top Asia official, Kurt Campbell. Unfortunately, the military junta has not eased up its brutal persecution of Muslim minorities, leading to a vast refugee crisis in Southeast Asia, and political reform has now slowed to a crawl.

“She put some new issues on the table for American diplomacy," Podesta went on, "including internet freedom, the importance of women’s rights as human rights, of LGBT rights as human rights, as part of our diplomatic package, which I think restored values to the way America projects its power around the world.”

This is hard to square with the fact that, in her first visit to China, Clinton insisted that human rights advocacy “can’t interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis, and the security crisis." Clinton's State Department repeatedly waived laws that would have cut aid to countries guilty of gross human rights violations, such as Egypt. This record won't be helped by Clinton’s family foundation having taken millions of dollars from foreign governments that systematically abuse their citizens and deny basic liberties to women.

Clinton did have several significant public initiatives meant to respond to the pressing social and economic issues of the new century. Her project on Internet freedom had some early success. Yet it was ultimately undermined by revelations from Edward Snowden and others, making her admonishment in 2011 of governments that “pry into the peaceful activities of their citizens” seem hypocritical.

Podesta also stressed Clinton's record on the struggle against violent religious extremism. “She was tough on terrorism, and participated in the decision that led up to the decisions that led up to the killing of Osama bin Laden,” he told Hunt.

While Clinton did support Obama's decision to launch the raid that killed bin Laden, it's misleading to claim that the State Department was a significant player in fighting terrorism. That effort was and is still led by the Pentagon and intelligence agencies. And, of course, the worst terrorism blow to U.S. interests since the Sept. 11 attacks happened at a diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, on her watch.

In addition, while the administration claimed in 2013 that terrorism was on the decline, the spread of the Islamic State, Boko Haram (which Clinton refused to put on the State Department’s terrorism list in 2011, despite requests from the Justice Department and the CIA) and other groups since then makes the victory laps of the first term look far too self-congratulatory.

Podesta avoided mentioning several other diplomatic initiatives Clinton led that turned out poorly. She was a major proponent of the U.S.-led intervention in Libya in 2011, which has led to bloody chaos and a new bridgehead for the Islamic State. Her State Department led a failed diplomatic effort between Israel and the Palestinians. Her officials held years of talks with the Taliban that never bore fruit. She tried to build a moderate Syrian opposition. None of these are going to help her case that she deserves the Oval Office.

Some Republicans are already looking to turn Clinton's tenure as the nation's top diplomat into a liability. "I think her time in the position of secretary of state is demonstrably one that lacks accomplishment, but that also has some real blemishes on it," said Carly Fiorina in April, just before announcing her own candidacy.

Fiorina, of course, has no international experience at all, and neither do most of the other Republican primary candidates. Still, if Clinton is going to run on her foreign policy credentials, she will have to come up with a better

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narrative than the one the campaign has been peddling.

Americans split on whether Clinton cares about their needs **// AP // Julie Pace & Ken Thomas – June 3, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to spend the summer building a case that Republicans are out of touch with the public. But many people aren't convinced she empathizes with them, either, polls suggest, in a potential early warning sign for the Democratic front-runner.

Yet average Americans appear to be split on whether Clinton can relate to them, in the face of scrutiny about her family finances and the Republican argument that she and husband Bill, the former president, play by different rules and have amassed wealth in ways that are inconceivable for most people.

About 47 percent of Americans said Clinton cares about people like them in a CNN/ORC poll released Tuesday. That's down from 53 percent in the same poll last summer. An ABC News/Washington Post poll released the same day also found a slight decline in the past year on a similar question, with 49 percent saying Clinton "understands the problems of people like you" and 46 percent saying she doesn't.

The dip in Clinton's ratings on attributes like empathy coincides with a decline in her overall favorability from the time she was Obama's secretary of state. Her current levels mirror how the public viewed her during her failed 2008 White House campaign.

Dan Pfeiffer, a longtime Obama adviser who left the White House this spring, said it's too early for the numbers to cause anxiety in Clinton's Brooklyn campaign headquarters. But he added that "if this trend doesn't reverse itself over the next many months, it should be a cause of concern."

Empathy was a focus of Obama's re-election bid against Romney. The Democratic incumbent relentlessly argued that Romney's policies and personal wealth left him out of touch with most Americans. By Election Day, 81 percent of Americans who said they voted based on whether a candidate cared for people like them backed Obama, according to exit polls.

Clinton campaign officials say they care less about how Clinton is viewed in isolation on the question of empathy and more about how she is compared with specific Republican challengers. While no major polls have done such a head-to-head comparison, a Quinnipiac survey last week found large numbers of Americans undecided on whether many Republican presidential hopefuls - among them Marco Rubio and Scott Walker - care about their needs.

And the ABC News/Washington Post poll had worrying signs for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, with 55 percent of Americans saying he doesn't understand the problems of people like them.

Clinton will use a June 13 rally to argue that the GOP field as a whole is out of touch on gay rights, immigration, climate change and more. She has also been highlighting her differences with Republicans on economic issues, financial reform and budget priorities.

While the GOP race is wide-open, with more than a dozen candidates expected to vie for the nomination, the Clinton campaign plans to cast the field as monolithic on policy.

Republicans, however, see an opportunity to turn the question of empathy against Clinton. They've already started trying.

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Republican pollster David Winston said the intense early focus on such issues gives Republicans an opening to define the terms of the debate over the direction each party wants to take the country.

"If she doesn't have a product on the shelf - her ideas - what's the point?" Winston asked.

Since the start of the year, Clinton has faced questions about her family foundation's fundraising practices and acceptance of money from foreign governments, as well as her decision to use a private email server at the State Department and destroy personal emails during her tenure in the Obama administration.

Clinton's personal wealth has also created unwanted attention. The Clintons reported last month that they earned more than $30 million in combined speaking fees and book royalties since January 2014.

Clinton campaign officials argue that the individual issues have not affected the way the public views Clinton but the cumulative effect of the scrutiny has.

Her early campaign strategy suggests Clinton and her advisers are aware of the need to present herself as more relatable to Americans. While her failed 2008 White House bid emphasized her toughness and experience, the first months of her second campaign have highlighted her family background and her early work on women's and family issues.

During small round table events in Iowa, New Hampshire and elsewhere, Clinton has frequently referenced her roots as the daughter of a father who was a small business owner and a mother who overcame a difficult upbringing and abandonment.

She's also centered policy discussions on pre-kindergarten and daycare options for young children, as well as the plight of those with mental health problems and addictions to heroin and prescription drugs - calling it a "quiet epidemic" striking small towns and rural areas.

"I want to be the president who takes care of people," Clinton told voters in New Hampshire last week. "I consider that my highest and most important responsibility."

Campaign Reporters Told There Will Be 'NO Opportunities To Interview Hillary Clinton' // The Daily Caller // Chuck Ross – June 3, 2015

Reporters attending a Hillary Clinton speech in Houston on Thursday must remain within the confines of barricade and will not have a chance to interview the Democratic presidential nominee, they were informed in a note with big, bold red letters.

"There will be NO opportunities to interview Hillary Clinton," a press blast from Texas Southern University reads. "Her speech will be her interview."

After attending fundraisers in Dallas and Austin, Clinton will head to Texas Southern University in Houston to talk about voting rights and to receive the first inaugural Barbara Jordan Public-Private Leadership Award, named after the late Texas congresswoman.

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The award goes to “a deserving woman anywhere in the world who shall have made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor in the public or private sector.”

The strict rules imposed on reporters attending the event are par for the course so far for Clinton’s campaign. She has been criticized repeatedly for choking off reporters’ access and refusing to take questions.

Whoa, If True: Hillary Clinton Blows Off Autograph-Seeking Voter // Bloomberg // David Weigel – June 3, 2015

This is another installment of "Whoa, If True," an occasional look at the wild and false tales that make it into the mainstream of presidential campaign news.

On May 22, Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton paid a visit to New Hampshire's Smuttynose Brewery, and worked a line of voters outside. The visit made almost no news, apart from a second-day story about angry Republicans threatening to chug Really Old Brown Dog and Finestkind IPA no more.

On June 1, the conservative opposition research shop America Rising tweeted a Vine of Clinton interacting with a voter outside Smuttynose. Its clicky summary: "Watch what happens when a@HillaryClinton supporter asks her to sign something." Anyone who watched the Vine saw Clinton tell a woman to "go to the end of the line" when asked for a signature.

“You think she said it in a nice way?”

Cue: Virality. The Weekly Standard posted the Vine, under the headline "Hillary to Supporter: 'Go to the End of the Line." The Daily Caller posted the Vine as proof of "Queen Hillary" being impatient with voters: "Every once in a while, Her Majesty must put the rabble back where they belong." Conservative talk radio host Laura Ingraham told Fox News viewers that Clinton would never tell "influence peddlers" to "go to the back of the line" as she had this voter. According to Breitbart News reporter Charlie Spiering, the video's placement on the Drudge Report (headline: "She snaps at adoring voter") got it 4 million loops. America Rising's Colin Reed later bragged to a Salon writer that it was up to 5 million.

There were two small problems with the story.

One: The voter was not told to go to "the back" of the line, as if she'd cut ahead. She was told to go to the end of the procession, to where Clinton was pausing to sign notes, photographs, and books.

Two: Once the voter found the end of the line, she got the signature she asked for.

The video, graciously provided to reporters by America Rising, is 17 minutes long. At 8:59, Clinton emerges from the brewery and offers a "Hey, guys!" to the waiting crowd. For two minutes, she moves down the line, shaking hands, and trading extremely light banter. ("You just graduated from Penn State? My father and my brother went to Penn State.") At roughly11:11, the Vine moment occurs.

After the "line" exchange, Clinton reassures the voter that she'll give here a signature. "Yeah, we will," she says. "Definitely, yes. See these guys over here? They'll take good care of you."

She was referring to sunglasses-wearing handlers, who... proceeded to help her out, at the proverbial end of the

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line. At 12:16, the video clearly shows the woman who asked Clinton for a signature and a photo—a woman with a black-and-white striped shirt and grey hair tied back -- getting a signature, then taking a photo.

Every news outlet that reported on Hillary snubbing the voter got it wrong—and could have easily gotten it right. The story never passed a basic B.S. test. Why would a tracker, with a perfect view of Clinton and the crowd, drop the story after the voter was told to relocate? Why would he not go up to the voter and ask how she felt about the snub? (She'd hardly have been the first person swarmed by media after an awkward candidate moment.) The answer was hinted at in the Vine itself, as a close listen revealed Clinton's handlers promising to "take care" of the voter. To make Clinton look rude, the video had to cut around the awkward fact that the voter got what she came for.

"If you look at the whole video," Fox News commentator Greg Gutfeld said on Tuesday, "she was saying, 'Oh I'm shaking these hands, if you meet me over on the other side, you could sign it.' She wasn't being rude at all."

By the time Gutfeld said that, the bogosity of the "snub" was becoming better known, and the story was already evolving into criticism of Clinton's tone. "You think she said it in a nice way?" a shocked Kimberly Guilfoyle asked Gutfeld.

"I don't think it was that bad," said Dana Perino, who as a veteran of George W. Bush's administration actually knew how voter ropelines worked.

The "Clinton seemed rude" theory of the case didn't even mesh with America Rising's original spin. As the Vine burned up Twitter, Colin Reed told Business Insider that Clinton had blown off a regular American. "Maybe these New Hampshire voters would have better luck getting Secretary Clinton's attention if they wrote a six-figure check to the Clinton Foundation or were a highly-vetted political activist at one of her staged campaign events," he said.

Asked by Bloomberg if he stood by that statement, Reed said that "the vine (and its 7 million views so far) speaks for itself."

Georgina Bloomberg is backing Hillary for President **// NY Daily News // Annie Karni – June 3, 2015**

It's too soon to tell if dad's on board, but Georgina Bloomberg is going for Hillary.

"I would probably vote for her just to be able to say that I voted for the first woman President," Bloomberg, a professional equestrian, told the Daily News in an email exchange.

Georgina Bloomberg, 32, said being a new mom makes her eager to support Clinton's expected run.

"I am all into doing things that will be cool stories to tell my grandkids," the younger of the city's two former First Daughters said.

Bloomberg's son, Jasper, is just over a year old.

Her support is a little piece of good news for Clinton, who has yet to answer questions about why she relied solely on a homebrew email system registered to her Chappaqua home during her tenure as secretary of state.

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Last time Clinton ran for President, former Mayor Michael Bloomberg briefly considered running against her as an independent.

But the two are said to have a solid working relationship.

In 2012, Bloomberg reportedly urged Clinton to run for mayor after he left office.

Bloomberg has been a guest at Clinton Global Initiative conferences. And the high-wattage officials most recently appeared together at an event at the Bloomberg Foundation in December, where they highlighted an initiative that collects data on women in an effort to close gender gaps across the globe.

But Bloomberg also has ties on the Republican side.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush , who is exploring a presidential run, is a Bloomberg Philanthropies board member.

Bill Clinton to Give Secret Address to Health Insurers // The Weekly Standard // Michael Warren – June 3, 2015

Former president Bill Clinton will be the keynote speaker at a conference of health-insurance executives this week. America's Health Insurance Plans, the largest health-insurance provider trade group in the country, is holding its Institute 2015 conference in Nashville this week. Clinton, whose wife Hillary is running for president, will close out the conference Friday afternoon with his address to attendees.

"The session is open to Institute attendees (who have registered and paid for the entire Institute) and Friday only registrants," says the conference's website. "No press allowed."

AHIP describes itself as a trade organization and advocacy group on behalf of health insurers. Representatives of nearly 150 insurance providers are attending the organization's conference.

2016 Democratic White House hopefuls jockey for Hispanics' support // The Washington Times // S.A. Miller – June 3, 2015

Putting a premium on Hispanic voters as the key to their party's future, Democratic presidential candidates this year are jockeying to outdo one another with promises to halt even more deportations and grant citizenship to every illegal immigrant — checking off the entire wish list of pro-immigration activists.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley became the latest Democratic contender to go all in on immigration Wednesday when he vowed to block deportations for all but the worst criminals and push comprehensive immigration reform laws through Congress in his first 100 days in office.

"I would absolutely do everything in my power," Mr. O'Malley said at a question-and-answer forum in Washington hosted by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "I would not give up."

He also took a swipe at President Obama, whom immigration rights activists fault for breaking his promise to

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make immigration reform a top priority in his first 100 days and not going far enough with the deportation amnesty he eventually attempted with executive action after last year's midterm elections.

Mr. O'Malley said that to forge a consensus for comprehensive immigration reform, America needs "not leadership that follows public opinion but leadership that leads public opinion."

"We need comprehensive immigration reform, and we need to engage with all our members of Congress to make that happen. And that's what I intend to do," he said. "There's no magic wand, there's no easy button for this. We have to talk with one another."

Hispanics voted for Mr. Obama en masse, helping carry him to victory in 2008 and especially in 2012, when they voted for him over Republican Mitt Romney 71 percent to 27 percent. But Hispanic were left discouraged and disappointed by Mr. Obama's progress on the immigration issue.

Mr. Obama's controversial move to unilaterally grant deportation amnesty to more than 4 million illegal immigrants, which some pro-immigrant activists said didn't go far enough, was blocked by a federal judge and remains snared in the courts.

Eager to shore up Hispanic support, Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton quickly moved to promise immigrant rights groups everything they want. The other Democrats in the race, Mr. O'Malley and Sen. Bernard Sanders of Vermont, then rushed to promise everything and more on immigration.

"They are definitely feeling the pressure and the strength of the immigrant rights movement, especially when it comes to motivating the Latino electorate," said Cesar Vargas, co-director of the Dream Action Coalition, which had been advocating for most of the positions the candidates adopted.

He said that Hispanic voters will be looking for more details from the candidates about how they will achieve the goals, and he said to expect the Democrats to go even farther with immigration reform proposals.

"The reality for us that is going to matter is the record of the candidates and how much they are willing to actually commit to the plans and timelines rather than just campaign rhetoric that, right now, Hillary Clinton just has," said Mr. Vargas.

Democrats certainly don't want to lose their edge with Hispanics, which are already the largest minority in the U.S. — and their numbers are rapidly growing.

The Hispanic population in 1990 was 22 million, or about 9 percent of the population. By 2013, it reached 54 million, or 17 percent of the total population, and about 1 million more Hispanics are added to the U.S. population every year, according to the U.S. Census.

By comparison, blacks made up about 13 percent of the U.S. population in 2013, up from 12 percent in 1990, according to census data.

"Hispanic voters are the fastest-growing segment of the American electorate — period, exclamation point, capital letters — and are therefore important not just to the Democratic Party but to the entire country," said Democratic campaign strategist Craig Varoga, who worked on President Bill Clinton's 1996 re-election team and Mr. O'Malley gubernatorial campaign.

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He said that the three Democratic candidates are making the smart moves by aligning themselves with Hispanics and embracing an immigration reform agenda, which he said Republicans shun to their own detriment.

“All three of these [Democratic] candidates clearly believe that America is stronger if every single person in this country reaches their fullest potential,” he said. “Some, but not all, Republicans recognize that their party will continue to put themselves behind the eight ball and lose close elections if they ignore the growing role of these new Americans in our country.”

Republican presidential candidates have taken a more cautious approach to immigration reform, such as offering some illegal immigrants a legal status that stops short of citizenship.

Mrs. Clinton said that amounted to an offer of “second-class status.”

She first staked out an immigration position that went beyond Mr. Obama’s at an event in Las Vegas in early May. She promised to use executive action to grant deportation amnesty to potentially millions more illegal immigrants despite the Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel previously advising that it would be illegal.

Mrs. Clinton also promised to make it easier for illegal immigrants to plead for leniency in deportation proceedings and provide more legal representation for young illegals in immigration courts, as well as fight for comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship for most of the estimated 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants living in the United States.

More than the other candidates, Mrs. Clinton has broken with pro-immigrant activists in the past, including opposing giving driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants when she was a senator from New York.

Mr. Sanders, a self-described socialist, has long supported immigration reform but had not made it a centerpiece of his agenda. After Mrs. Clinton came out strongly on the issue, he enthusiastically took up the cause.

“We have 11 million people in this country living in the shadows, living in fear. That’s got to end. We need a path toward citizenship for all of those people,” he said on MSNBC.

Mr. Sanders said that he too would use executive action to halt deportations and change immigration law, dismissing concerns that the Office of Legal Counsel deemed it beyond the scope of presidential power.

“The courts are the people who determine what is legal or not. I think what you need is an administration that fights for justice, fights for what’s right, takes the case to the courts, and you do your best to win that case,” said Mr. Sanders.

At the forum in Washington, Mr. O'Malley showed that he was ready to fight Mrs. Clinton for the Hispanic vote, taking a veiled shot at her record on immigration when he touted his own pro-immigration record.

Among many pro-immigrant actions by Mr. O'Malley, he signed legislation giving driver’s licenses to undocumented residents in Maryland, supported sanctuary cities for illegal immigrants in the state and signed into law Maryland’s Dream Act that provided in-state tuition and other benefits to young adult illegals who were brought into the U.S. as children.

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“One of the greatest indicators of a person’s future actions would be how they acted in the past when they had the power,” said Mr. O'Malley.

“I plan to run a campaign that offers new leadership with executive experience, with progressive values and the fearlessness that I believe will rally people to this candidacy,” he said. “I’ve listed the things that I did when I was in power and when I was in office. I intend to offer that same sort of leadership, and we’ll let the people decide.”

Meet the woman who's guiding Hillary Clinton's stance on police reforms // Fortune // Nina Easton – June 3, 2015

Maya Harris is Clinton’s senior policy adviser—and a major influence on how the Democratic candidate talks about issues of crime and policing.

With many of the power players from Hillary Clinton’s 2008 presidential run are sitting this one out, the big question is: Who’s in?

What follows is the latest installment of a Fortuneseries looking at the the most influential women on Clinton’s 2016 team. When this series wraps, we’ll turn our attention to the most powerful women on the GOP side of the race.

Maya Harris hails from a family of female overachievers. Her late mother, Shyamala Harris, immigrated from India in the 1950s to obtain her PhD in endocrinology from UC Berkeley, and went on to make breakthrough discoveries in breast cancer research. Her big sister, Kamala Harris, is California’s attorney general, and is now running for U.S. Senate. At age 29, Maya herself became one of the nation’s youngest-ever law school deans when she took the reins of the Lincoln Law School of San Jose, a night school that prepares students for the California bar.

Then—as if choosing a spouse specially equipped to keep up with all this hard-charging ambition—Harris married fellow Stanford Law student (and her best friend) Tony West. West would go on to become the third-highest ranking official in the Obama Justice Department. Their friendship blossomed when Harris’ 4-year-old daughter Meena engaged West in games of hide-and-seek while her then-single mom was registering for classes. Following family tradition, Meena is now a Harvard law grad.

“It’s all justice all the time,” Harris laughs when asked about family dinner talk.

Harris’ mother, who mostly raised her girls alone (Harris’ Jamaican-born father was a Stanford economist), was swept up in the civil rights movement in and around Berkeley, so Harris grew up imbued with a healthy dose of activism. But the girls’ trailblazing mother also modeled a life of mentorship—always supporting her graduate students while also demanding high standards. “She was tough on them,” Harris recalls. “Until her dying day she never lost sight of this notion that if you’ve been able to walk through doors, you don’t just leave the doors open. You bring others along.”

The sisters spent their early childhood in Berkeley before moving to Montreal, where their mother was a researcher at the Jewish General Hospital—and Harris learned French. They returned to the Bay Area six years later, where Harris attended U.C. Berkeley. Both she and Kamala inherited their mother’s intense drive—Harris as a civil rights attorney; Kamala a prosecutor—and her passion for cooking everything from soul food to Italian cuisine.

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Today, with inner cities exploding over police tactics, Harris' appointment as one of three senior Clinton policy advisers is timely: The one-time private attorney has spent much of her professional life working on criminal justice issues, particularly policing. Her influence was evident in Clinton's April 29 speech denouncing the "tough on crime" policies of her husband in the 1990s and the "era of mass incarceration" it produced. That's an argument Harris has made over the years while working at the ACLU, the Oakland-based group PolicyLink, and, most recently, liberal Center for American Progress in Washington.

Harris talks about the "collateral consequences of conviction" on families and communities, not just individuals, and tells me that the best police reforms are those that "engage the community as partners and problem-solvers, not just people to be policed." Clinton's speech gave fodder to critics who accuse the candidate of being too soft on crime and too hard on police officers assigned to work the front lines of dangerous neighborhoods.

But, interestingly, Clinton's calls for sentencing and prison reforms are echoed by some powerful Republicans, including presidential candidate and Senator Rand Paul. Koch Industries CEO Charles Koch, a well-known funder of Republican candidates, also recently argued that "overcriminalization" has led to "conflict between our citizens and law enforcement." "I'm heartened that we've arrived at a bipartisan moment where people on the left and on the right are coming together," says Harris.

Immigration is another issue that falls under Harris' campaign purview, and another spot where Clinton has rejected her husband's policies and moved to the left—further left than even President Barack Obama. In a May 6 speech that Harris helped to craft, Clinton warned that if Congress doesn't pass immigration reform—and she is elected president—she would issue executive orders beyond those issued by President Obama to provide legal protection to undocumented workers living here. Look to see Harris' influence again on June 13, when Clinton delivers official "launch" speech on Manhattan's Roosevelt Island.

The campaign to put Julian Castro on Hillary Clinton's VP shortlist // GABRIEL DEBENEDETTI and ANNIE KARNI // Politico – June 4, 2015

It's way too early, Clinton insiders say. But the Castro buzz is useful as Democrats court Hispanics.

The Democratic National Convention isn't for 13 months, and Hillary Clinton isn't the party's nominee, but some Hispanic Democratic leaders are already pushing hard for Julián Castro to be her running mate — or at least a top contender for the job.

The former San Antonio mayor and current housing secretary was in Washington while Clinton raised money in his hometown on Wednesday, but his name is on the minds and lips of Democrats close to the Clinton camp as the presidential front-runner crosses Texas for campaign fundraisers and a Houston speech on Thursday.

The flashy trial balloon and Castro's innate appeal have likely ensured the Mexican-American Cabinet member a place on Clinton's vice presidential long list if she wins the nomination, Democrats close to Clinton said. But Castro hardly has any relationship with the candidate herself, and the effort has gotten a mixed reception at best.

Democrats say it's far too early for this conversation — arguing that it's unproductive to talk about a general election ticket when Clinton is battling three other declared Democratic candidates and the ever-present perception of inevitability.

What's more, several Democrats warned, Castro's backers run the risk of overplaying their strong hand.

"If I were Julián Castro I'd be worried," said one Clinton ally with an eye on Democrats' efforts to woo Hispanic voters. "Others who are in his corner need to dial down those effusive musings."

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Still, there's a political logic in letting the pro-Castro drumbeat go on.

Clinton's campaign sees Hispanic voters as crucial to her success, both in swing states like Florida and early-voting states like Nevada, where the candidate last month unveiled an immigration agenda that surprised even the Obama White House with its scope and aggressiveness.

And Castro, an engaging speaker and a fresh young face at 40, would make it somewhat harder for Republicans to paint the 67-year-old Clinton as the candidate of the past.

Former HUD secretary and San Antonio mayor Henry Cisneros ratcheted up the Castro speculation with a recent appearance on Univision, the Spanish-language channel owned by close Clinton ally Haim Saban.

"What I am hearing in Washington, including from people in Hillary Clinton's campaign, is that the first person on their lists is Julián Castro," Cisneros, who was considered for the vice presidency in 1984, said. "He is the superior candidate considering his record, personality, demeanor and Latin heritage."

Castro has largely played along, despite telling a Washington audience, "I'm not holding my breath" on Wednesday. He called Republican questions about Clinton's private email address a "witch hunt" last month, and Cisneros — who said he has spoken to Bill Clinton about Castro — laughed when asked by POLITICO whether Castro wanted to be considered for the position.

"Is he a red-blooded American male?" Cisneros asked rhetorically. "I would be hard-pressed to imagine a scenario where a Latino, and particularly Julián Castro, was not on that short list. It makes so much sense."

Cisneros is just one of several prominent Hispanic leaders who are promoting Castro. Democratic National Committee Finance Chairman Henry Muñoz told BuzzFeed in May that Castro "deserves to be on the short list," and New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, who was born in Puerto Rico, said the concerted effort from Hispanic leaders to promote Castro reminded her of the united rally around Sonia Sotomayor when she was under consideration for a Supreme Court nod.

Clinton and Castro haven't spoken since they appeared together on a panel in Washington in April, but people close to the campaign acknowledged that it's politically useful for the candidate to keep his name in the public conversation, long before her operation formally starts vetting prospects. That way she can implicitly emphasize to Hispanic voters that she is taking their concerns about representation seriously.

"A lot of Latino Democrats are concerned about what happens if Marco Rubio becomes the [Republican nominee], or Jeb Bush, or even if Scott Walker becomes the nominee and he chooses Rubio to be the VP," said a Democratic strategist close to the Clinton camp, adding that many see Castro as an easy solution to the dilemma.

And while the early pro-Castro campaign is risky, it effectively ensures he will be considered seriously when it comes time for Clinton to choose a running mate, assuming she wins the nomination.

"There's an entire art to getting yourself on the list," explained California Democratic strategist Chris Lehane, a veteran of Bill Clinton's White House who helped to vet Al Gore. "There's value to being talked about."

"But at the end of the day," Lehane said, "there are really two factors: How does the [candidate] really personally

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feel about the person who is going to be the No. 2, and the single biggest factor is: Is the person ready to be a heartbeat away from the presidency? That's a 'You know it when you see it' issue."

The answer to the first question could change as Clinton travels the country, especially if Castro emerges as a campaign surrogate, considering that the two have met only a handful of times and that he is actually closer to Bill Clinton than to Hillary.

But Lehane's second question — and Castro's inexperience — is giving some Washington Democrats pause.

The HUD secretary has been in Washington for less than a year after running San Antonio from 2009 to 2014, and Democratic staffers and lobbyists in the capital arched eyebrows and whispered about Castro's policy chops following what they saw as his inelegant performances on "The Daily Show" and in congressional budget hearings this year.

Some Democrats told POLITICO that Castro would be a better candidate four years down the road and that Clinton might face serious trouble if she were to put him on the ticket.

"Yes, he's a rising star, and people even talk about him being the first Latino president," said the Democratic strategist allied with Clinton. "But now is just not the time, in this day and age when people are looking for real presidential experience. [President Barack] Obama was on the receiving end of charges of not being prepared."

"John McCain chose Sarah Palin and was bashed for that," she added. "She has more experience than [Castro] does."

Castro, at least in public, coyly dismisses the veep buzz, telling CNN recently, "If I had a dime for every amount of speculation that happens in D.C., you know, I think all of us would be wealthy."

But the public nature of the pro-Castro campaign has nonetheless rubbed some Clinton allies and staffers the wrong way: One Democratic campaign veteran who is in frequent contact with Clinton's top donors said such a high-profile effort all but ensures that Castro will have a harder time getting through the eventual vetting process.

And it has also functioned to bring other vice presidential contenders to the public eye. Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper recently announced he has an autobiography coming out around the time the vice presidential conversation may be heating up, and many Clinton loyalists are enamored of Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, widely considered the front-runner for the post.

But the fact remains that Clinton's team views courting the Hispanic vote as a top priority as she looks to replicate Obama's electoral success with minorities. Clinton's decision to unveil her immigration policy in Nevada was no mere happenstance, and when she returns to the state later this month she will speak at conference of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Even so, Castro's ethnic background may not be as effective in appealing to Hispanic voters as some believe. As one Clinton ally put it: "Tim Kaine speaks Spanish much better than Julián Castro does."

Hillary Clinton Cannot Afford to Lose Black Voters **// National Jounal // EMILY SCHULTHEIS – June 3, 2015**

Turnout will drop compared to Obama's two elections, but she's about to roll out a policy platform aimed directly

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at African-American voters. Barack Obama didn't need to do much—almost anything—to win record turnout from African-American voters. Hillary Clinton will need to pull out all the stops to score just a fraction of that support.

An exaggeration? Black political leaders don't think so.

"Make no mistake, there will be some drop-off," said Rep. Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri, a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, whose comments echoed those of other influential African-American Democrats.

Indeed, black leaders concede it will be nearly impossible for Clinton to replicate the level of turnout Obama's candidacy generated among this core demographic—a group of voters central to the national coalition necessary for a Democrat to win the White House. So she'll need to coax them to the polls by honing specific messages about policies relevant to the black community, something her team says she's preparing to unveil.

On Thursday, Clinton will call for expanded early voting in every state, including weekend and evening hours over many days before Election Day—positions supported by Democrats who say working-class voters need greater access to the polls.

And she'll specifically criticize laws in North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin that, she argues, reduced rather than expanded access to the polls.

These are significant targets for Clinton. Democrats have their eyes on changing demographics in counties in North Carolina, Texas, and elsewhere that might begin to shift those states away from Republicans, perhaps as soon as 2016.

Black voters, specifically, are growing as a share of the electorate in many states. But while pollsters think Clinton will win them by similar margins to Obama—95 percent of African-Americans voted for the president in 2012—her team should not underestimate the challenge she will have motivating African-Americans to show up when the first black president isn't at the top of the ticket.

In 2012, the U.S Census Bureau estimated that just more than 66 percent of eligible black voters showed up at the polls—the highest turnout ever for this demographic group, higher even than turnout among whites. Indeed, Obama's support among black voters "went off the charts," said Brookings demographer William Frey—enough so that minority turnout, especially black turnout, was a deciding factor in the president winning a second term.

And in states like Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida, a difference in turnout of even a few percentage points could have big repercussions, Frey added.

"You could call it the excitement factor," he said. "At least in these states ... where blacks are a huge part of the minority population, she's going to need that."

In other words, unlike Obama, Clinton will really have to work for high black turnout.

"I can't in all honesty say that she will receive the same level of support as an African-American president," said Rep. Marcia Fudge of Ohio, "but clearly I do believe that if her message is strong she can get close."

Late last week, Clinton appointed LaDavia Drane, the former executive director of the CBC, as her African-

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American-outreach director. Drane joins a staff at Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters with several other high-profile African Americans among its ranks, including Marlon Marshall, the director of state campaigns; Maya Harris, a top policy adviser; and Karen Finney, a senior spokeswoman.

Harris, sister of California Democratic Senate candidate Kamala Harris and formerly of the Center for American Progress, has done research specifically on encouraging greater turnout of minority women, and she argued that they are a reliable voting bloc when they're given strong policy reasons to vote. That's true of black voters overall, she noted, and is part of the campaign's calculus.

"One thing we know is that issues matter—that at the end of the day, whether [African-American] voters are going to turn out is going to depend on whether they have been motivated to turn out," Harris told National Journal. "Secretary Clinton is well-situated to do that, both in terms of what she has already demonstrated in her life's work and in the issues she's talking about."

That motivation will come partly from policy proposals and partly from focusing on parts of Clinton's biography, the campaign says. Speaking in South Carolina last week, she put deliberate focus on her early career experiences at the Children's Defense Fund and her work for women and children. The campaign is also talking about specific policy positions that are relevant to the black community—health care, a minimum-wage increase, substance-abuse issues, and perhaps most noticeably, criminal-justice reform, which Clinton addressed in a speech at Columbia back in April. Clinton aides are quick to note that it was her first policy speech as a candidate—and with its proposals to provide body cameras for police officers nationwide and end the "era of mass incarceration," it was a direct response to unrest over police activity in Baltimore and other cities.

"Her speech in New York was amazing," said Bakari Sellers, a former South Carolina state legislator who backed Obama in 2008 but is now supporting Clinton. "It's a serious plank in terms of African-American outreach, it's one that can be developed, it's one that can help galvanize not just your typical participants ... but also a new generation of voices."

The other key piece of necessary strategy is the ground game. Cleaver said African-American leaders are welcoming signs from Clinton that her team will build a robust turnout operation in urban areas, which is something Obama—whose candidacy was naturally a source of excitement to many black voters—didn't need to do. Clinton's 2016 team, with campaign manager Robby Mook at the helm, is placing heavy emphasis on grassroots strategy; it has sizable field teams in the four early states.

"The president did not have to do a lot in the urban core, and didn't—he used his resources elsewhere," Cleaver said. "So I think you're going to find elected officials celebrating the fact that there's a great deal of attention being paid to the ground game."

That starts in South Carolina, the only one of the four early states with a large African-American population. Clinton's campaign has hired a team of staffers and field organizers—including state director Clay Middleton and state political director Jalisa Washington, both of whom are African Americans with strong ties to the state's politics. A half-dozen field organizers are already in place in the state, focusing on traditionally African-American neighborhoods and gathering places as they start to introduce themselves and the campaign to the state's voters."We are going to where the voters are. So we are in faith-based communities, we are at churches, we are at several social-justice organizations," Middleton said. "We have field organizers that look like the community and understand the community and can relate to those individuals."

Emily's List Focuses Its 'Madam President' Program on Clinton **// NYT // Jonathan Martin – June 3, 2015**

Emily's List, the Democratic advocacy group for female candidates who support abortion rights, is beginning an independent expenditure effort dedicated entirely to **Mrs. Clinton.**

Emily's List has been running a program, Madam President, for two years that was dedicated to promoting the

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concept of electing a female president. It was implicit that Mrs. Clinton would be that candidate, but now the group is making their support official.

In a memo to donors, an official with the group noted that the project would be aimed at persuading and turning out female voters in targeted states and would feature extensive polling, voter contact, TV ads and digital advocacy. The official, **Denise Feriozzi**, wrote that it would be the most extensive independent expenditure program in the 30-year history of the organization.

As part of the push, Emily's List is taking over the social media platforms that had been controlled by Ready for Hillary, the grass-roots organization built around nudging Mrs. Clinton into the presidential race.

Clinton campaign snares Box CEO in courting young tech millionaires // Reuters // Sarah McBride – June 3, 2015

The last time Hillary Clinton ran for the White House in 2008, Aaron Levie was too busy building his start-up company to pay much attention to politics.

But earlier this year, the 30-year-old Levie led his company, Box, through an initial public offering, helping free a small portion of his time to support the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016. A few weeks ago, Levie, whose company is worth more than $2 billion, agreed to host a fundraiser for Clinton.

He sees big stakes for the tech sector in this election, Levie told Reuters, on issues ranging from improving the patent system to securing visas for foreign workers and limiting government surveillance.

"There's more intersection between the technology industry and policy than ever before," said Levie, whose trademark mad-scientist hair showed signs of gray, countered by youthful bright orange sneakers. He said he was backing Clinton because Democrats' social policies, for example on marriage equality, resonated more with him than Republican ones.

The campaigns of various White House hopefuls are looking to reel in the younger Silicon Valley influencers like Levie who could help raise some money for their candidates and also bring along some of the tech sector's energy and cachet.

Levie, whose company helps store data remotely in the "cloud," is among several young Silicon Valley executives Clinton's campaign has been courting.

"Young, innovative entrepreneurs are key to growing and strengthening our economy," said a Clinton campaign spokesman.

SILICON VALLEY A CHALLENGE

But recruiting tech entrepreneurs can prove a challenge. Many lack enthusiasm for politics. For example, in April venture capitalist Marc Andreessen told Fortune he was "struggling between the anti-science party and the anti-economics party" and felt tempted to sit out the next election.

Fundraising officials who declined to be named said they hoped the imprimatur of a few will make it easier to attract others, and Democrats have a long list of prospects.

"The next crowd is Twitter, Facebook, Airbnb," said venture capitalist Steve Westly, who served on President Barack Obama's national finance committee during the 2008 election. While some of those companies have been around for years, many of their employees are relatively new to their wealth.

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Twitter and Airbnb representatives didn't respond to requests for comment. A Facebook spokesman declined comment.

Many in Silicon Valley gravitate toward Democrats, because the party is seen as more in sync with the tech community on social issues such as gay marriage. But Republican 2016 hopefuls such as Kentucky Senator Rand Paul are trying to woo the technorati on economic and regulatory issues. A packed room of start-up workers at his San Francisco office opening last month suggested he may be having some success.

Some big names in technology are already involved in politics. Twitter chief executive Dick Costolo is a longstanding Democratic donor, while Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg gives to candidates of both parties.

COLLEGE DROPOUT

Levie said he has donated only once to a candidate, Senator Chuck Schumer, a Democrat from New York. He still hasn't registered to vote in California, his home for almost a decade, relying instead on his parents to forward him his ballot from Washington state.

A dropout from the University of Southern California, Levie founded Box with some friends and ran it for a time out of his uncle's garage near San Francisco before landing hundreds of millions in venture capital backing.

Friends and business associates such as Emanuel Yekutiel, deputy finance director for Clinton, helped spark his interest in her campaign, Levie said.

The clincher: a May 1 meeting in Palo Alto where Clinton campaign officials, including chief technology officer and former Google executive Stephanie Hannon, met with about 50 executives and venture capitalists and highlighted the importance of building a cash reserve for the campaign.

Among the invitees: Palmer Luckey, the 22-year-old co-founder of Oculus Rift, a virtual-reality company bought last year by Facebook for $2 billion, according to someone involved in the event.

Though Levie says campaign support will take a backseat to running Box, he weighs in on election issues with vigor.

Last month, he criticized Rand Paul on Twitter over his comments at a congressional hearing where he compared the "right to healthcare" to the enslaving of doctors.

"Dude, you should be a script writer for `The Hunger Games`, not running for President," Levie wrote on Twitter, referring to the movie about death matches in a dystopian, ruthless society.

Clinton campaign opens five more Iowa offices // The Des Moines Register // Tony Leys – June 3, 2015

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign is demonstrating its commitment to competing in Iowa by announcing the opening of five new offices in the state.

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The new locations are in Ames, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Dubuque and Iowa City, according to a press release Wednesday from spokeswoman Lily Adams. The campaign already had opened offices in Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Sioux City and Waterloo.

Such offices are used for recruiting and training volunteers, holding meetings and holding phone-calling efforts.

The campaign also said it has six "regional organizing directors" and 21 organizers on the ground in Iowa. "Each day our organizers are out talking to Iowans about why Hillary Clinton is the champion we need in the White House and they will continue to have those conversations in these offices, in homes, and online," state director Matt Paul said in the release.

Clinton finished a disappointing third in Iowa's 2008 Democratic caucuses. She has stressed that she will compete hard for the state this time around, even though she holds a commanding lead in polls.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Chafee to unveil presidential run, puzzling longtime allies **// AP – June 3, 2015**

Former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee plans to formally open his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination on Wednesday, setting off on a quixotic political quest that has left even some of his closest allies scratching their heads.

Chafee, a former Republican turned independent who joined the Democratic Party two years ago, surprised many when he announced plans to explore a presidential run in April. Since then, he's made little effort to set up a competitive campaign operation, beyond a few visits and calls to activists in the early voting states of New Hampshire, Iowa and South Carolina.

While his primary competitors travel the country raising money and wooing supporters, longtime Chafee strategists and donors say they know little about his intentions — or even his rationale for running.

"He's not done anything other than posture on some issues," said Mike Trainor, a former Chafee aide. "The question he's going to have to answer is what credible indications can he give that he is at all ready to run a national campaign."

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the dominant Democratic candidate, has set a goal of raising $100 million for her primary bid. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who entered the race last week, has said he's already raised at least $4 million. And allies of former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley have established a super PAC to support his bid.

All three have begun building robust campaign operations with staff across the country, a step Chafee has yet to take.

In previous campaigns, Chafee has spent significant sums from his family fortune to further his political ambitious, for example, dropping $1.8 million on his 2010 gubernatorial bid. But running for president is significantly more expensive than seeking statewide office, with some pegging the estimated cost of a successful 2016 campaign at more than $1 billion.

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"The time will come, but it's not now," Chafee said of his plans to raise money, in an interview with The Associated Press last month. "Perhaps after I announce."

Chafee also faces questions about his rationale for challenging Clinton. Though most of the Democratic field has focused on pocketbook issues, calculating that the falling unemployment rate masks a lingering feeling of economic insecurity, Chafee says he's "alarmed" by international instability, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa.

"I don't like where this is going," he said in a Web video announcing his exploratory committee.

His opposition to Clinton, Chafee has said, is driven by the belief that the next president should not be someone who supported the war in Iraq, which he calls "one of the worst decisions in United States history." Then a Republican, Chafee was the lone GOP senator to vote in 2002 against the invasion.

Clinton, then a New York senator, voted to authorize the war, which became a major issue during her 2008 campaign. Clinton now opposes putting American soldiers on the ground in Iraq, other than as advisers to the Iraqi forces. "This has to be fought by and won by the Iraqis," she said after a campaign event in New Hampshire last month.

Chafee left the Republican Party in 2007 to become an independent and supported President Barack Obama in both his campaigns. After winning election as governor, Chafee became a Democrat in 2013, but he opted against seeking re-election amid low approval ratings. Those decisions attracted plenty of national media attention, which former aides say Chafee was happy to encourage.

So far, his latest political maneuver has attracted far less notice, even from his hometown paper — a fact that's frustrated at least one person very close to the soon-to-be candidate.

"No one has contacted him," wrote his wife, Stephanie Chafee, on Facebook nearly three weeks after his April announcement. "so SAD!"

Lincoln Chafee expected to announce longshot presidential bid **// WaPo // Jose DelReal – June 3, 2015**

Former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee (D), a one-time Republican U.S. senator who notably broke with the GOP on the 2002 Iraq war authorization, is expected to announce Wednesday that he will seek the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

Chafee's decision to run, which he plans to announce in an evening speech at George Mason University, makes him the fourth Democratic hopeful to officially enter the race. But he's already been the first to directly and consistently attack frontrunner Hillary Clinton -- particularly over the Iraq War vote that helped sink her first presidential bid.

"I don't think anybody should be president of the United States that made that mistake" of voting for the Iraq War, Chafee told The Post in April. "It's a huge mistake, and we live with broad, broad ramifications today — of instability not only in the Middle East but far beyond and the loss of American credibility. There were no weapons of mass destruction."

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Chafee, the son of Rhode Island Sen. John Chafee (R), was appointed to U.S. Senate after his father died in 1999, leaving the seat vacant. As a liberal Republican, Chafee was re-elected to a full term in 2000, before losing in 2006. He officially left the Republican Party the following year. He was elected governor as an independent in 2010 and joined the Democratic Party in 2013. His announcement Wednesday comes less than two years after he decided not to seek a second term as governor amid low approval ratings and the prospect of a bruising primary.

Central to Chafee's presidential campaign: his 2002 Senate vote against authorizing the use of military force in Iraq in 2002, when he was the only Republican senator to oppose the measure.

Instability in Iraq has become an unexpected campaign issue in the GOP presidential race. Chafee's hoping it will once again take center stage in the Democratic contest too.

“Don't forget that probably the biggest reason that Senator Obama, at the time, defeated Hillary Clinton in '08 was because of the Iraq war vote. That was the issue,” Chafee told CNN in April. “And that's my big issue here, because we are dealing with [the] ramifications of that huge mistake that Senator Clinton made in 2002, which I did not make, and we live with it today.”

[Lincoln Chafee accuses Hillary Clinton of diplomatic clumsiness, says ‘America loves an underdog’]

Clinton’s other rivals for the Democratic nomination have so far mostly stopped short of direct attacks on the former secretary of state. Former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley (D), who last week announced his candidacy, has made subtle digs the frontrunner that focus on her perceived coziness with Wall Street and her long history in Washington. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has staked out populist positions that sometimes fall far to Clinton's left, but takes pains to avoid mentioning her explicitly.

Chafee does not appear concerned with subtlety.

Several weeks ago, he suggested that heightened tensions with Russia might be traceable to a symbolic, incorrectly-labeled "reset button" Clinton presented to that country's leadership several years ago.

“In the early days, they tried to restart with Russia and she presented the Russian foreign minister with the restart button. And they got the Russian word wrong. They said, 'This means over-charge,' and it was an insult,” he said. “Look what is happening with Putin and with Russia – Ukraine, selling arms to Iran – and it all could have started with the diplomatic mistake, getting the word wrong.”

Chafee has said that he does not expect to raise nearly as much money as Clinton, but that he takes comfort in knowing that “America loves an underdog."

In a year when one of the candidates seeking the Democratic nomination isn't even a member of the party, Chafee isn't concerned that his past party allegiance will raise eyebrows in his relatively new partisan home. "I have not changed. My old liberal Republican stand on the issues does line up with the Democratic Party — women’s reproductive freedoms, support for working families. I have a 30-year record,” he said in April. “Also note that of the candidates here, [former Virginia senator] Jim Webb was a Republican and Hillary Clinton was a Goldwater Girl."

A Washington Post/ABC News poll released Tuesday suggested Clinton has the support of 63 percent of likely Democratic voters nationwide, with Sanders at 10 percent and O’Malley at 3 percent. Chafee registered 1 percent support.

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Launching '16 bid, Chafee refuses to rule out talks with IS // AP // Lisa Lerer – June 3, 2015

Former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee entered the race for president Wednesday by calling for the U.S. to switch to the metric system, take an "open-minded approach" to drug trafficking and consider negotiating with Islamic State militants.

With his announcement, Chafee became the biggest longshot among Clinton's rivals, who have a long way to go to avoid becoming historical footnotes in the 2016 campaign.

He did so by casting himself as an anti-war candidate who opposed the invasion of Iraq in 2003, but he quickly detoured into a list of policy proposals that are likely to be non-starters on the campaign trail.

Among them was refusing to rule out talks with Islamic State militants, a violent extremist group that has tortured and beheaded prisoners and opposition fighters as it has overrun parts of Iraq and Syria.

A U.S.-led coalition has launched airstrikes against the extremist group since last August, but Chafee pointed to what he said was the group's protection of antiquities in some of the territory they've taken as a reason to reconsider.

"It's early," he said. "We're coming to grips with who these people are and what they want."

Chafee, a former Republican turned independent who joined the Democratic Party two years ago, has made little effort to set up a competitive campaign operation, beyond a few visits and calls to activists in the early voting states of New Hampshire, Iowa and South Carolina. His launch Wednesday was made during a subdued speech in suburban Washington before a small group that consisted mainly of reporters.

"We must deliberately and carefully extricate ourselves from expensive wars," Chafee told a half-full law school classroom at George Mason University. "We need to be very smart in these voluble times overseas."

Along with moving to the metric system, the policy prescriptions in his speech included ending capital punishment, allowing National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden back into the U.S. without punishment and repairing relations with Venezuela. His priority would be to end all wars.

"Let's wage peace in this new American century," he said.

Longtime Chafee strategists and donors said earlier they know little about his intentions - or even his rationale for running.

"He's not done anything other than posture on some issues," said Mike Trainor, a former Chafee aide. "The question he's going to have to answer is what credible indications can he give that he is at all ready to run a national campaign."

Clinton has set a goal of raising $100 million for her primary bid. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who entered the race last week, has said he's already raised at least $4 million. And allies of former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley have established a super PAC to support his efforts.

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All three have begun building robust campaign operations with staff across the country, a step Chafee has yet to take.

In previous campaigns, Chafee has spent significant sums from his family fortune to further his political ambitions - for example, dropping $1.8 million on his 2010 governor's race. Running for president is significantly more expensive than seeking statewide office, with some pegging the estimated cost of a successful 2016 campaign at more than $1 billion.

Unlike the other Democratic challengers, who've focused on pocketbook issues, Chafee has staked his campaign on growing international instability. His opposition to Clinton, Chafee said, is driven by the belief that the next president should not be someone who supported the war in Iraq. Then a Republican, Chafee was the lone GOP senator to vote in 2002 against the invasion.

Clinton, then a New York senator, voted to authorize the war, which became a major issue during her 2008 campaign. Clinton now opposes putting U.S. soldiers on the ground in Iraq, other than as advisers to the Iraqi forces.

Though he never mentioned Clinton by name Wednesday, Chafee took several veiled swipes at her candidacy, describing the controversies over her family foundation, finances and use of a private email account and server while secretary of state as "regrettable."

"We just can't have that," he said. "We need to just get back the respect and admiration of the international community."

Chafee left the Republican Party in 2007 to become an independent and supported President Barack Obama in both his campaigns. After winning election as governor, Chafee became a Democrat in 2013, but opted against seeking re-election.

Iraq War focus for Lincoln Chafee campaign launch **// CNN // Dan Merica – June 3, 2015**

Lincoln Chafee has been elected to office as a Republican senator and an Independent governor. Now he's got his sights set on the White House as a Democrat.

A defining issue for Chafee has been the war in Iraq; he was the lone Republican to vote against authorizing the war as a senator in 2003. Hillary Clinton was among the Democrats to vote in favor of giving President George W. Bush the authority to invade.

When Chafee announces he is running for president on Wednesday evening in a speech at George Mason Center for Politics & Foreign Relations in Arlington, Virginia, expect him to focus on that vote he took as senator 13 years ago and how he differs on the issue than Clinton.

Chafee has told CNN that he feels Clinton's vote should disqualify her from the presidency, even though it happened more than a dozen years ago.

"Considering the premise for invading Iraq was based on falsehoods and considering the ramifications we live with now from that mistake, I would argue that anybody who voted for the Iraq War should not be president and

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certainly should not be leading the Democratic Party," he said in an interview after he announced he was exploring a presidential run in April.

Clinton has said she regretted the Iraq vote, and told reporters last month that she "made a mistake, plain and simple."

According to Debbie Rich, Chafee's spokeswoman, the former governor will make his decision to vote against authorizing the war a key argument behind his rationale for running. The speech, Rich said, will not be deeply biographical, despite the fact few people know Chafee, but will instead focus on his vision.

"I don't see a lot of 'rah rah, this is who I am' in the speech," Rich said. "It is more about his vision and his record."

Chafee's strategy on the Iraq War is simple: Damage Clinton on an issue on which he was diametrically opposed. Chafee has said he doesn't worry about staking his campaign on a backward looking issue, and is proving that by repeatedly returning to the Iraq War vote in interviews.

So far, however, the issue has failed to move the needle for Chafee. In a May CNN/ORC poll, the former governor failed to get even 1% support from self-identified Democrats and independents. In the same April poll, the former senator received 1%.

He is more liberal than Clinton on other issues, too. He supported gay marriage before she did, for instance. But he is more of a hawk on fiscal matters.

Chafee, a former horseshoe specialist, told CNN in April that he wouldn't bet on himself in the 2016 race, but added that he isn't concerned with his abysmal polling.

The election is a "long, long way away. And any political historian can give innumerable examples of 1 percenters who have gone on to success," he said. "Maybe even Bill Clinton himself?"

From the start, Chafee has been a somewhat reluctant candidate. He announced he was exploring a run with such an understated video and website that nearly every political journalist and operative were blindsided by the decision.

And, according to his spokesman, Chafee backed into his decision to announce on Wednesday. After getting ahead of himself by telling reporters, including CNN, that he was "running," Chafee and his team knew they had to announce soon.

"All the media outlets kept asking," Rich said. "When this opportunity came up that he was speaking on foreign policy, which is one of his passions, he decided he would use that opportunity to make a decision."

After announcing his presidential run, Chafee will head straight to New Hampshire, a state he and his advisers say he has to do well in to have any chance at winning the presidency.

After visiting Keene, New Hampshire for a meet and greet with local Democrats on Tuesday night, Chafee will hold a similar event in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

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"I am new at this. But I am a New Englander, so New Hampshire voters have heard of me, read about me in the Boston Globe," Chafee said in an interview last month. "I haven't campaigned in either state, so I don't know what to answer."

In Presidential Bid, Lincoln Chafee Calls For Metric System // WSJ // Byron Tau & Reid Epstein – June 3, 2015

In a presidential campaign turning largely on stagnant incomes and national security, Lincoln Chafee announced his bid for the White House on Wednesday with an unusual policy stance: He called for adoption of the metric system.

Mr. Chafee, a former Republican and independent who is seeking the Democratic nomination, cast the proposal as a step toward global comity. “Here’s a bold embrace of internationalism: let’s join the rest of the world and go metric,” Mr. Chafee said at his campaign kickoff in Virginia.

The policy raised questions about what American traditions might have to change—football fields might be 91.44 meters, rather than 100 yards, and the distance from home plate to first base measured as 27.432 meters, rather than 90 feet.

Mr. Chafee, a former Rhode Island governor and senator, said that the U.S.’s insistence on using inches, feet, quarts and gallons set the country apart from the global community. He described the process of converting to metric as “easy.”

As a model, Mr. Chafee pointed to Canada, where he also said that he has lived.

“Only Myanmar, Liberia and the U.S. aren’t metric. And it will help our economy,” he said.

His surprise embrace of the metric system caught even potential allies off guard. The U.S. Congress passed the Metric Conversion Act in 1975 calling the system the “preferred” one for trade and commerce. Still, widespread adoption has been scant.

Paul Trusten, the vice president of the U.S. Metric Association, was shocked Wednesday when told that Mr. Chafee called for the country to adopt the metric system.

“Who?” he asked. He then added: “Oh, my gosh.”

Mr. Trusten, a pharmacist in Midland, Texas, said he wasn’t aware of any presidential candidate ever advocating for “metricazation.” People in the metric community, Mr. Trusten said, expected support from President Barack Obama, though that never materialized. They were disappointed by the White House’s response, in 2013, to a citizen petition calling for adopting the metric system.

“I had very high hopes that Mr. Obama was going to be a leader in this because of his discussion of science progress and science initiative…but it never came up,” Mr. Trusten said.

The problem, Mr. Trusten said, is that no American politician has shown sufficient leadership when it comes to the nation’s system of weights, measurement and distances.

“Setting a standard of measurement should be a matter of national assent. It’s something that should be raised, not be made a matter of tyranny but as a matter of leadership,” he said.

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Mr. Chafee, a long shot for the presidency, is perhaps best known as the only Republican senator to vote in 2002 against the invasion of Iraq. He won the governor's office in Rhode Island in 2010 as an independent before becoming a Democrat.

In seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, Mr. Chafee joins former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Gov. Martin O'Malley as a candidate.

Does Anybody Remember Lincoln Chafee's Facebook Password? //

Bloomberg // Ben Brody – June 3, 2015

Getting ready to launch a presidential campaign is a lot of work. There's a speech to write, staff to hire, and social-media profiles to touch up.

That last task is tripping up Lincoln Chafee, a former Rhode Island governor who is set to announce Wednesday evening that he is setting out on a long-shot quest for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In a public Facebook post on May 28, Chafee's wife, Stephanie, asked, "Does anybody from my Husband's staff remember his FB page access?"

A spokeswoman for Lincoln Chafee, Debbie Rich, confirmed on Wednesday the post was authentic. His campaign has lost track of the log-in credentials to the Facebook page that staffers started and managed for Chafee as governor, Rich said, and that page seems to be attracting more attention than the page he has set up for 2016, so now they'd like to merge the two.

His gubernatorial page has about 6,100 likes and a verified checkmark, but hasn't had anyone posting to it since October. Chafee left office in January after serving one term. His 2016 Facebook page has fewer than 200 likes.

National Journal editor Scott Bland pointed out Stephanie Chafee's post on Twitter on Wednesday. The contender's wife "just thought some of her people who were her Facebook friends might have been the one that set it up," Rich said.

The former governor's wife has previously commented on Facebook about how little media coverage her husband is getting, according to the Associated Press. "No one has contacted him," she wrote after he announced the formation of an exploratory committee in April, according to AP (the post no longer appeared to be available to the public on Wednesday). "so SAD!"

President Obama's popularity numbers are running well behind historic norms // WaPo // Scott Clement – June 3, 2015

President Obama's job ratings have lost steam since a small early-2015 surge, but Democrats are positive about changes Hillary Rodham Clinton might bring, according to a new Washington Post/ABC News poll.

With 18 months left in office, the poll depicts an unappealing legacy taking shape for Obama. His job ratings are significantly below average for presidents in the past 70 years, he receives sharply negative marks for dealing with the Islamic State, and Republicans are far more passionate in dislike of Obama than Democrats are in supporting him. Each factor poses challenges for Democrats seeking to secure a third consecutive term for the party.

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Americans, though, expect Clinton to offer a different path; 58 percent expect she will come up with new policies if elected president rather than follow Obama's, and most who expect new ideas say this is a "good thing." Among Democrats, two-thirds expect Clinton to follow her own path and the vast majority see this as a positive move.

Overall, 54 percent say she'll either pursue new policies and that it's a good thing (44 percent) or that she'll pursue the same policies and that's a good thing (10 percent).

The Post/ABC poll finds 45 percent approve of the way Obama is handling his job while 49 percent disapprove. Obama's approval marks are better than the low 40s of late last year, but down from 50 percent approval in January and 47 percent in March. Other public polls showed an even more modest rise, with current ratings also tilting negative.

Obama gained traction early this year after months of strong economic news, and a January Post/ABC poll found 41 percent saying the economy was at least "good" -- up from 24 percent in late 2013. The economy's shrinking first quarter might have stalled Obama's gains, but the poll shows the issue is not as much of a drag on his approval as before -- his economic approval rating is two points above his overall job approval mark, a positive gap that occurred in just five of 56 previous Post/ABC surveys. Americans are still far from cheery on the issue, with 73 percent saying they are very or somewhat worried about its direction over the next few years.

One possible reason Obama's overall numbers lag behind his economic numbers: Americans are increasingly upset with Obama's handling of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. By a 24-point margin, more disapprove than approve of Obama's handling of the situation (55-31) less than a month after the terrorist group captured the major Iraqi city of Ramadi. The negative judgment marks a flip from September, when 50 percent approved of Obama's handling of the issue after he ordered airstrikes to combat insurgents. The issue has highlighted Obama's often-weak support from fellow Democrats for his performance on foreign affairs; fewer than half of Democrats approve of how he has handled the issue (49 percent), 28 points lower than his overall job rating among fellow partisans.

Historically, Obama's standing is below the 56 percent average of presidential approval ratings in Washington Post/ABC News and Gallup polls dating back to the 1930s. His 45 percent mark is also just below average for other two-term presidents at this stage. He is significantly higher than George W. Bush (35 percent) and Harry Truman (24 percent) but lower than Ronald Reagan (52 percent), Bill Clinton (59 percent) and Dwight Eisenhower (64 percent) at this point in their presidencies.

A bigger challenge for Obama's personal legacy is the sheer intensity of disapproval, which was also seen under George W. Bush. Nearly four in 10 (38 percent) strongly disapprove of his job performance, while 22 percent strongly approve.

At the root of this gap are vastly different levels of passion among Democrats and Republicans. Fully 73 percent of Republicans strongly disapprove of Obama, compared with 45 percent of Democrats who strongly approve. In June 2007, partisans were flipped by almost identical numbers, with 73 percent of Democrats strongly disapproving of Bush and 40 percent of Republicans strongly approving.

O'Malley's Mangled Wage Statistic **// FactCheck // Brooks Jackson – June 3, 2015**

Democratic presidential contender Martin O'Malley claims that "70 percent of us are earning the same or less than they were 12 years ago." That's not correct. Actually, weekly paychecks for rank-and-file workers are 6.6 percent higher than they were a dozen years ago, even after adjusting for inflation.

O'Malley was citing figures that don't reflect a spike in real wages and earnings that has taken place over the past

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year or so. Real hourly wages are up 2.3 percent since the end of 2013, and they have risen faster for rank-and-file workers than for supervisors. Real weekly earnings are up even more, thanks partly to a slightly longer average work week.

O'Malley, a former governor of Maryland, made the claim in his May 30 speech formally announcing that he is running for his party's nomination. And he repeated it the following day when he appeared on ABC's "This Week" with George Stephanopoulos.

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When we asked where O'Malley got his figure, a campaign spokeswoman told us it came from a report by the Economic Policy Institute, released June 4 last year. But the figures in that report are now badly out of date, and didn't quite back up what O'Malley said anyway.

The EPI found that between 2000 and 2013, real hourly wages of the lowest-earning 30 percent of workers did indeed fall, and those workers in the range between 30 percent and 40 percent saw no increase at all. But EPI's figures (see table 1 on page 11) show wages for all but the bottom 40 percent increased at least a bit. For those between the bottom 40 percent and the top 30 percent, the increase ranged from 0.1 percent to 0.2 percent annually. EPI characterized this group's wages as "essentially stagnant," and we would not disagree with that. But it's not the same thing as "earning the same," as O'Malley claimed.

In a more recent report, released Feb. 19, EPI found that real wages fell for nearly all groups between 2013 and 2014, rising only for the bottom 10 percent and those in the 40th percentile. (See Table 1.)

However, EPI's figures are based on year-to-year comparisons, and thus fail to reflect a remarkable and broad spike in real wages and earnings recorded in more recent, month-to-month figures published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

EPI's research and policy director, Josh Bivens, said this rise will be reflected in the group's next annual report. "It's true that real wages over the past 12 months have been pushed up a lot by falling oil prices, but, I think that's clearly a temporary phenomenon and those gains will be clawed back when oil prices rise in the future," Bivens told us. "But they have definitely provided a boost to purchasing power in the short-term, it's true."

As we've noted before, falling prices for gasoline and other fuels have actually pushed down the Consumer Price Index recently, which in turn has helped push up the purchasing power of the dollar.

A Spike in Real Wages and Earnings

Temporary or not, the gains have been substantial and broad. "Real" hourly wages, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics expresses in constant 1982-1984 dollars to adjust for inflation, haveincreased by 2.3 percent since December 2013, after a long period of stagnation or decline since the end of the Great Recession in 2009.

That figure is for all employees in the private workforce taken together. (Both the EPI and BLS wage and earnings figures cover only private sector employees, and exclude government workers.) BLS does not provide statistics broken down by wage level percentiles, as the EPI report did. But it's clear the recent gains were not concentrated at the top.

BLS does provide a breakdown for "production and nonsupervisory" employees, who make up 82 percent of all workers, and who are paid less on average than their bosses. Those rank-and-file workers have seen their real hourly wages go up 2.7 percent since the end of 2013, an even bigger increase than the average for all workers.

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It's also worth noting that O'Malley used the word "earned," and weekly earnings have risen even faster than hourly wages recently. That's because workers are putting in slightly more hours than they did at the end of 2013. Since December 2013, weekly paychecks have gone up 2.9 percent for all workers, and 3.1 percent for rank-and-file workers.

We also looked at how real earnings — the measure O'Malley used — stacked up against those of "12 years ago" — the time period he specified. And it turns out that as of April, weekly paychecks for rank-and-file, nonsupervisory employees were 6.6 percent higher than they were in April 2003.

Martin O'Malley counters Hillary Clinton: I'm not new to immigration reform // Politico // Jonathan Topaz – June 3, 2015

Martin O'Malley, struggling to emerge from the long shadow of Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, is betting on immigration as a break-out issue that can win him a strong share of the Latino vote.

He's casting Clinton as a late-to-the-party figure on immigration reform, and he's likely got an edge on Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is enjoying a surge of attention in the presidential race but is not prioritizing immigration in his campaign.

"It's central to our nation's character and central to our nation's economy … For me, it's a pretty essential part of what it's going to take to get things going in the right direction," O'Malley said in a phone interview with POLITICO Wednesday, ahead of a Q&A with Hispanic Chamber of Commerce president Javier Palomarez.

And after Hillary staked out an aggressive, and relatively new, stance on the issue last month, O'Malley delivered his own promise during the event: he would pursue immigration reform in his first 100 days in office and would use executive action, if needed.

In the interview earlier in the day, O'Malley said his record speaks for itself and also says something about Clinton. He argued his leadership on immigration while he was Maryland governor was an example of challenging Washington orthodoxy — particularly in his fight against the White House and Clinton when he spoke out last summer against the fast-track deportation of the flood of Central American unaccompanied minors across the border.

In many ways, he placed the issue as central in the larger narratives of his campaign — a generational contrast with Clinton and his gubernatorial record. While he declined to challenge Clinton or Sanders directly — he never used their names — O'Malley alluded to politicians who failed to speak up and declined to buck the party, apparent references to Clinton.

"When nobody else would speak up about the deplorable treatment of the Central American refugee kids coming to our country for sanctuary, I stood up and spoke very directly," he said.

While Clinton impressed – and genuinely surprised – immigration activists with her Nevada speech last month in which she called for a pathway to citizenship and for more robust executive action on immigration, O'Malley is arguing that he's had their backs all along.

Not all activists are convinced, though, that O'Malley will get a significant advantage over Clinton with Latino voters by portraying her as a latecomer.

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Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, says there's little distinction between the three candidates on immigration. He argued that Clinton pushed Obama to the left on immigration during their 2008 campaign, noting in particular a famous moment on the trail in Nevada in which Clinton, meeting with immigrant families, said: "No woman is illegal."

"If Latino voters in the Democratic Party were to look over the timeline of Hillary Clinton's relationship with the Latino community, those roots are pretty deep," Noorani argued. "I guess O'Malley is trying to chip away at those roots and find a lane."

O'Malley's doing a good deal of Hispanic outreach early in his campaign. Since his announcement last Saturday in Baltimore, the former governor conducted one of his first interviews with Univision and his appearance with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Wednesday was one of his first public engagements as a candidate. He has also hired Gabriela Domenzain, a sought-after operative and former director of Hispanic media for President Barack Obama's 2012 campaign.

O'Malley's also pointing to his tenure as Maryland governor from 2007 through early 2015, during which Maryland passed the DREAM Act, which granted in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants, as well as a law to provide driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants. His team also touts a big increase in contracts for Hispanic small businesses in Maryland.

In the afternoon Q&A on Wednesday, O'Malley pledged to scale down deportations and take more executive actions. When asked about foreign policy, he immediately began speaking about outreach to Latin America and the border crisis this summer.

"You definitely see a day-and-night contrast with Gov. O'Malley and Secretary Clinton … Hillary Clinton has a dismal record on the issue," said Cesar Vargas, co-director of the DREAM Action Coalition. "It's nice the Hillary is actually saying great words, but we're not going to fall for it."

Added Clarissa Martinez, deputy vice president at National Council of La Raza: "In O'Malley's case, his immigration record is not something that has taken shape as a result of his wanting to run for president … O'Malley has a stronger position among the Democrats. Because it's not just words. It's deeds."

And O'Malley is proudly pointing to that high-profile and heated back-and-forth last summer with the White House and its connection to Clinton. While Clinton backed the Obama administration's push to fast-track the deportation process, in order to try to stem the tide of unaccompanied Central American children along the U.S.-Mexico border, O'Malley pushed back.

"It is contrary to everything we stand for to try to summarily send children back to death," he said at the time, a statement that prompted a phone call from White House Domestic Policy Director Cecilia Muñoz and further criticism from the administration.

Some activists still bristle at Clinton's backing of the White House. And there are still wounds from the 2008 primary season in which Clinton famously was vague on several occasions about whether she supported driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.

Clinton's campaign in April said she supports the policy, which quickly prompted a sharp retort from O'Malley — "I'm glad Secretary Clinton's come around to the right positions on these issues."

Asked during the interview on Wednesday whether Clinton has been late on immigration issues, O'Malley took a long pause. "I've never hesitated on these issues, even when some would say that it was politically risky," he said.

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Sanders, meanwhile, hasn't been emphasizing immigration.

While immigration was featured prominently in O'Malley's announcement address last weekend, with a DREAM-er originally born in Panama as one of the opening speakers, Sanders was introduced by labor leaders, affordable housing advocates and campaign finance activists.

He didn't mention immigration in his speech, which had fourteen different policy sections and lasted about a half hour. The senator rarely talks about it on the stump; at a recent town hall in D.C., he said that while immigration was an important issue, it wasn't as central as the other issues he discusses far more.

"If people are going to get to know him, they need to get to know him on the basis on what he believes are the biggest issues facing our country," said top Sanders adviser Tad Devine — meaning campaign finance reform, income inequality and climate change. He noted also that Vermont has a relatively small immigrant population.

Martin O'Malley: Makes No Sense To Keep 11 Million In Shadow Economy // NBC News // Suzanne Gamboa – June 3, 2015

Attempting to further capitalize on his immigration record, 2016 Democratic hopeful Martin O'Malley on Wednesday promoted immigration reform as a way to improve wages for all Americans.

"How are you going to get wages to go up if you allow 11 million people to live in a shadow economy?" O'Malley asked at an event sponsored by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

He further said immigration needs to be talked about as a national economic and security priority "not for this group or that group, but for us" as a country.

O'Malley committed to addressing immigration during his time in office if elected, but only would go so far as to say he hoped to make it happen within the first 100 days he is in the Oval Office.

Obama pledge in 2008 to take up a comprehensive immigration reform bill in his first year, an unkept promise that was used against the president in 2012.

Immigration was one of a range of issues O'Malley addressed in his first public event since declaring on Saturday that he is running for president.

In the almost one hourlong discussion, O'Malley also took subtle swipes at the Obama administration and was evasive in answering a question about what some see as a velvet gloved treatment of his chief rival Hillary Clinton in the campaign.

Asked if he was "Ready for Hillary," O'Malley said he and other candidates have reason for running and "now the public gets to decide."

Although the Obama administration often points to economic gains under Obama, O'Malley said "we need to get our economy functioning again."

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He was most animated in discussing the Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal and "the secrecy with which it was thrust upon us." Obama has won fast track authority for the agreement, giving him the authority to negotiate it and holding Congress to only an up or down vote with no amendments or filibustering of the agreement.

O'Malley said the North American Free Trade Agreement between the U.S., Mexico and Canada led to dislocation and loss of jobs and devastation in Mexico and hurt small communities. A good trade deal "would level the playing field without diminishing our standards for labor and workers and our standards when it comes to the protection of the environment," he said.

Javier Palomarez, USHCC president, reminded O'Malley that his chamber supports the trade pact and asked him to agree that it contains protections for labor and the environment.

But O'Malley declined to go along, saying he'd let Palomarez know when he's had a chance to read the agreement.

"'When you have a secret deal and the only people who get to see it are the great captains of corporate America who have more cash than they've had in a long time . . . and now we are told 'trust us' on the secret agreement that we are not allowed to read as a people before our representatives have to fast track it, it's not the way our country is supposed to work," O'Malley said raising his voice.

The Republican Party issued a statement saying O'Malley's policies while he was governor of Maryland hurt families and small business.

The event was another example of the elevated struggle among the presidential campaigns to win the increasingly valuable Latino vote that voted 2-1 for Obama in 2012 and made up about 11 percent of people who went to the polls.

Next week, Hillary Clinton plans to be in Las Vegas and speak to the National Association of Elected and Appointed Officials conference, which she announced earlier Wednesday.

Martin O'Malley Wrongly Says That Wages Haven't Gotten Better For Americans // HuffPo // Brooks Jackson – June 3, 2015

Democratic presidential contender Martin O'Malley claims that "70 percent of us are earning the same or less than they were 12 years ago." That's not correct. Actually, weekly paychecks for rank-and-file workers are 6.6 percent higher than they were a dozen years ago, even after adjusting for inflation.

O'Malley was citing figures that don't reflect a spike in real wages and earnings that has taken place over the past year or so. Real hourly wages are up 2.3 percent since the end of 2013, and they have risen faster for rank-and-file workers than for supervisors. Real weekly earnings are up even more, thanks partly to a slightly longer average work week.

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employees were 6.6 percent higher than they were in April 2003.

O'Malley on the Stump // **NYT** // **June 3, 2015**

Martin O'Malley, a Democratic presidential candidate, sought to seize on the immigration reform debate on Wednesday, pledging to take on the issue within the first 100 days of his administration.

Mr. O'Malley, a former Maryland governor, made the remarks at a United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce event in Washington, where he was interviewed by the group's president, Javier Palomarez.

"Absolutely," he told Mr. Palomarez about addressing immigration as an immediate priority. He said that addressing immigration had been so difficult because politicians treated it like a niche issue affecting a specific voting bloc as opposed to a critical economic policy.

Mr. O'Malley also tried to remind people of his executive experience, a past-is-prelude approach he is certain to continue in an effort to stand out from Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Struggling in the polls, Mr. O'Malley is trying to get a toehold in the Democratic primary, in which Mrs. Clinton has a strong lead and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont has gained early momentum.

Mr. O'Malley believes immigration provides him with that opportunity, and he has tried to highlight actions on the issue he took in Maryland, such as a law for in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children.

He has also tried to paint Mrs. Clinton, who has told immigrant rights advocates that she would go further than President Obama's executive actions halting some deportations, as new to the issue.

Separately, the "super PAC" supporting Mr. O'Malley, Generation Forward, began placing television ad buys for two Iowa media markets, to air Friday through Sunday, according to a person tracking the early ad spending.

Martin O'Malley Calls For More Restrictions on NSA Surveillance // **TIME** // **Sam Frizell – June 3, 2015**

Former Gov. Martin O'Malley said that recent reforms to the Patriot Act did not go far enough in curtailing the National Security Agency, arguing that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance court should include a public advocate.

"The USA Freedom act was a step in the right direction, and I'm glad that it passed and the president signed it," said O'Malley, who is running for the Democratic nomination for president.

"I would like to see us go further in terms of a role for a public advocate in the FISA court," he continued. "As a lawyer myself and by training, I think our national security and our rights would be better served if we had a bigger role for a public advocate in the FISA court."

O'Malley's remarks at the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday afternoon marked the first time the two-term governor has laid out a notable policy position on mass surveillance since becoming a presidential

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candidate. He has thus far staked his candidacy on a progressive economic platform, including regulating Wall Street and pushing for immigration reform.

President Obama signed into law on Tuesday sweeping legislation that dissolves the NSA's authority to monitor data on millions of Americans' phone calls, instead requiring that phone companies store the data themselves. If the government wants to access call data, it has to first acquire a court order with FISA.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who is running for the Republican nomination, has made reforming surveillance a central platform of his presidency. But O'Malley differed with Paul on how to do that.

Over the weekend in New Hampshire, O'Malley said he opposed Paul's move on Sunday to delay a vote on to extend the Patriot Act. Paul's delay ultimately led to the NSA surveillance authorities lapsing for nearly two full days, but paved the way for the USA Freedom Act to pass on Tuesday. "I think we could be less safe if we resort to obstructionism when it comes to something as important as protecting our homeland from the threat of terror attacks," he said, BuzzFeed news reported.

O'Malley super PAC to air early television ads in Iowa **// WaPo // John Wagner – June 3, 2015**

A super PAC supporting Democrat Martin O'Malley's presidential bid is preparing to air television ads in Iowa highlighting the former Maryland governor's willingness to stand up to Wall Street "bullies."

The $25,000 ad buy by the Generation Forward PAC is relatively modest, but it represents the first 2016 presidential advertising on television on the Democratic side in Iowa, the nation's first caucus state.

Ron Boehmer, a spokesman for the PAC, which is barred by law from coordinating with O'Malley's campaign, said it's possible more money could be put behind the ad, which he said will air on network affiliates around the state.

O'Malley, considered a long shot against Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination, announced his bid on Saturday.

The ad features footage from O'Malley's announcement speech at Federal Hill Park in Baltimore, where he noted that the chief executive of investment bank Goldman Sachs recently said he would be fine with either Clinton or Republican Jeb Bush as president.

"I bet he would," O'Malley told the crowd. "Well, I've got news for the bullies of Wall Street. The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families."

Since then, O'Malley's aides have sought to highlight the comments of Fox Business Network correspondent Charles Gasparino, who reported this week that O'Malley is "public enemy No. 1" at Goldman Sachs. The super PAC's ad closes with that quote from Gasparino.

In recent months, O'Malley has laced his speeches with calls for tougher Wall Street regulations, an issue on which his advisers argue Clinton is weak because of past support from the financial sector.

On Wednesday, at a forum hosted by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, O'Malley was asked if he plans to take campaign contributions from Wall Street banks and their executives. He said he probably already had done so and plans to continue doing so.

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"There's a lot of good people who work in our financial industry," O'Malley said, adding that many of them are also "saddened" by bad behavior by some of the big banks.

Wall Street Execs Take Aim at O'Malley Campaign Hypocrisy // Fox News // Charlie Gasparino – June 3, 2015

Wall Street executives are fighting back against Martin O'Malley, branding the former Maryland governor and 2016 Democratic presidential candidate a hypocrite for attacking the big banks after what they say is a largely unsuccessful attempt to collect fat-cat campaign contributions, the FOX Business Network has learned.

O'Malley, who announced Saturday that he is challenging former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination, has made his opponent's ties to the big banks the center piece of his nascent campaign. But since at least the beginning of the year, O'Malley himself has eyed contributions from executives at several major Wall Street banks, according to people with direct knowledge of O'Malley's fundraising.

These people say in recent months, O'Malley met key officials from Morgan Stanley (MS), and, according to O'Malley campaign officials, he is looking for contributions from what he considers "reformed minded bankers" at other firms such as JP Morgan (JPM) and even Goldman Sachs (GS), whose chief executive Lloyd Blankfein was singled out by O'Malley in his announcement speech for having too much influence with Clinton.

It's unclear how much—if any money – O'Malley has or will receive from the big banks; both his political action committee and his campaign have until July 15 to file contribution disclosures. While governor of Maryland, O'Malley received $559,000 from people and entities labeled "securities, investments" and "commercial banks," according to disclosure forms.

Many Wall Street executives have branded O'Malley as "public enemy No. 1" for his recent spate of attacks on their influence on public policy. Some of those execs are now calling him a hypocrite for making class warfare and bank bashing a central theme of his campaign against Clinton after meeting with financiers.

"O'Malley has not been shy about meeting with the big banks for money," one senior Wall Street executive with direct knowledge of the matter said. "That doesn't mean he will be successful; in fact no one I know has given him anything."

Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan had no comment.

"They can try to leak as many meaningless tidbits as they want, but Governor O'Malley has shown he will stand up to his own party to call for real structural and accountability reforms of Wall Street. His message is the same everywhere - Wall Street must be held accountable once and for all," O'Malley spokeswoman Halley Morris said in a statement.

An O'Malley campaign official speaking on a not for attribution basis added that a recent meeting between the candidate and Morgan Stanley Vice Chairman Tom Nides was a "political meeting," and was not with the sole purpose of benefiting the O'Malley campaign.

"Obviously [Nides is] a close confidante of the Clintons given his relationship with the Clintons," the source said. Nides served as deputy secretary of state under Clinton before he took the post at Morgan Stanley.

Two Candidates Go Head-to-Head

Clinton, the former Obama Secretary of State and first lady, has received millions of dollars in speaking fees from

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corporations, such as Goldman and is expected to raise millions of dollars from the finance industry given her close relationships with major player such as Blankfein and Larry Fink, the chief executive of money-management powerhouse BlackRock (BLK). Cheryl Mills, a key Clinton adviser and Clinton Foundation board member, is also a board member of Blackrock. Wall Street executives say Fink is interested in a cabinet spot – like Treasury Secretary -- in a Clinton Administration .

A Blackrock spokesman had no comment on the matter.

O'Malley ignited a firestorm among Clinton's vast army of Wall Street supporters on Saturday when he announced his candidacy by attacking her ties and those of Republican presidential front runner and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush to major players in the finance industry.

"Let's be honest, they were the ones who turned our economy upside-down in the first place. And they are the only ones who are benefiting from it," O'Malley said in his speech. "Goldman Sachs is one of the biggest repeat-offending investment banks in America. Recently, the CEO of Goldman Sachs let his employees know that he'd be just fine with either Bush or Clinton. Well, I've got news for the bullies of Wall Street --the presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families."

FBN has previously reported that the heads of the big Wall Street firms believe either a Clinton or Bush presidency would further their goals of weakening recent financial regulations such as Dodd Frank.

Clinton leads O'Malley by wide margins in recent polls, but her operatives are said to be worried about O'Malley's line of attack and that her relationships with Wall Street firms at the center of the 2008 financial collapse could have resonance particularly among progressive Democratic Party voters.

Sanders Calls for 'Political Revolution' **// The Weekly Standard // Michael Warren – June 3, 2015**

"Is Finland crazy? I want somebody to comment on that."

Bernie Sanders was speaking Wednesday morning in a basement classroom at Johns Hopkins University's Washington campus. The Vermont senator and Democratic presidential candidate had been asking the group of 50 or so to think about what sort of country they wanted to live in. During a short Q&A, a Finnish graduate student named Hans spoke up to ask about student loan debt. After some prodding by the senator, Hans revealed that not only did he pay no tuition for his studies but he was actually being paid by the government for living expenses. That sounded like the kind of country Sanders wanted to live in.

"Are people in Finland—a beautiful country—are they crazy about saying, as I understand it, that every young person in Finland should have the opportunity to go to college fully and invest in their young people?" Sanders said to the audience. "Well, raise your hands! And if they're not crazy, why isn't it happening in America? What are you doing about it?"

A student asked what young people can do to fix the problems of the country, and Sanders went into a stemwinder.

"If you are concerned about the future of this country, the patriotic thing to do, the thing to do in respect to the founding fathers of this country, those people who fought and died in Okinawa in World War II, and all the wars that we have fought, is to get involved. And I know it's not a cool thing to get involved. Get involved in politics? Hey, there's a party down the street. Let's get drunk. Let's get high. That's what being young and alive is about. Well, if you really want to be patriotic and you really want to be a hero, and you really want to show your concern a few miles away from here who have no opportunity whatsoever, you know what? Have some courage. Do what

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your friends are not doing," he said.

If a Bernie Sanders campaign event sounds a bit like a lecture from your grandfather, that's because it kind of is—if your grandfather were an avowed socialist with a funny, sarcastic streak. He touted the social welfare paradises of places like Finland and Denmark, getting laughs from the crowd when joked that free education and health care were the awful consequences of "European socialism." It was a friendly crowd at Johns Hopkins, with questioners asking about paid maternity leave (he's for it), foreign policy (he was "one of the leaders of the opposition" to the Iraq war in 2003), and the federal minimum wage (it ought to be $15 an hour, he says). When one older man prefaced his question by saying it was an "honor" to be in his presence, Sanders interrupted him.

"No, no, no. Hold it, hold it, hold it," Sanders said. "That makes me nervous. It's not an honor to be in my presence. It's an honor to be in your presence. I'm just a person like you who happens to be a senator."

Sanders's socialism is less intellectual and more populist. "The major issue facing our country," he said, by way of introduction, "is the grotesque level of income and wealth inequality."

There's a moral element, too. "In my view, there is something profoundly wrong when the top one-tenth of one percent owns almost as much wealth as the bottom ninety percent. There is something profoundly wrong when ninety-nine percent of all new income generated in this country goes to the top one percent today," said Sanders. "Are you comfortable with that?"

For Sanders, the gross wealth inequality means the rich have not only corrupted our culture and society but our government and politics as well. We don't talk about these inequality issues, he said, because "the folks who essentially own the country would prefer us not to discuss" it. The Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, which removed limits on donations to outside political groups and which Sanders calls "one of the worst" in U.S. history, has opened the floodgates for moneyed interests in politics. In fact, Sanders said, he would consider support for overturning Citizens United as a "litmus test" for any Supreme Court nominees he would name as president.

Sanders excoriated the libertarian and Republican-friendly Koch brothers for their plans to spend nearly a billion dollars in the next election cycle on campaigns and advocacy. But left unmentioned was one of his rivals for the Democratic nomination, Hillary Clinton, who has and will continue to raise money from Wall Street, Hollywood, and other centers of money and influence. Sanders has been muted in directly criticized Clinton on wealth and inequality issues, instead opting for a more general argument, as he did Wednesday.

"What I've called for in this campaign is what I call a political revolution," he said. You have to go into your heart of hearts. I can't do that for you. And you gotta look around and say, you know, men and women fought and died to preserve American democracy. Are you content with where we are right now?"

Bernie Sanders Calls for More and Earlier Debates **// NYT // Alan Rappeport – June 3, 2015**

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont is employing a new strategy that he hopes will help him stand out in the growing field of Democrats who are running for president: He's calling for more debates.

The Democratic National Committee has agreed to sanction six debates starting this fall. But on Wednesday, Mr. Sanders circulated a petition calling on the party to start the debates this summer.

Mr. Sanders has said that Democrats need more debates to cut through the noise of attack ads and sound bites. He has even suggested that Republicans could participate in early debates.

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"I'd like to have myself and other Democratic candidates on stage with some of the Republican candidates and let the American people hear from both sides on the big issues," Mr. Sanders said.

Leaders of both parties have been reluctant to allow too many debates out of concern that primary fights could become too bruising. And Fox News, sponsor of the Republican debates, has said that it will limit the number of candidates who can participate to prevent the debates from becoming too unwieldy.

For Mr. Sanders, considered a long-shot to beat Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination, more debates would be one way to gain access to a national audience without using up advertising funds.

"In the long haul of a presidential campaign, candidates like myself spend a lot of time traveling to states with early primaries speaking directly to voters," Mr. Sanders said. "But we can only be in so many places at once, and so the media ends up distilling these discussions down to sound bites for evening newscasts. Debates change that."

Former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland announced his candidacy last week, and Lincoln Chafee, the former senator and governor from Rhode Island, is also expected to join the Democratic race on Wednesday.

Sanders slams Jeb Bush over Social Security remarks **// The Hill // Rebecca Shabad – June 3, 2015**

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) on Wednesday slammed former Gov. Jeb Bush's (R-Fla.) recent comments about raising the retirement age for Social Security.

Bush suggested the age to get Social Security should be raised from 65 to 68 to 70.

"At a time when more than half of the American people have less than $10,000 in savings, it would be a disaster to cut Social Security benefits by raising the retirement age," the Democratic presidential candidate replied in a statement.

"It is unacceptable to ask construction workers, truck drivers, nurses and other working-class Americans to work until they are 68 to 70 years old before qualifying for full Social Security benefits," added Sanders, who has pushed to expand Social Security benefits.

Bush called for a hike in the retirement age in an interview with CBS News's "Face the Nation."

"I think it needs to be phased in over an extended period of time," Bush said. "We need to look over the horizon and begin to phase in, over an extended period of time, going from 65 to 68 or 70. ... And that, by itself, will help sustain the retirement system for anybody under the age of 40."

Bush, who is exploring a presidential bid, also said he would be open to slashing benefits for wealthy people and their beneficiaries.

"I think it ought to be considered, for sure," Bush said.

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“I have a hard time understanding what world Gov. Bush and his billionaire backers live in,” Sanders responded on Wednesday.

"Gov. Bush has made clear that he wants to protect Social Security for those who have earned it. And yet, reform it so it's still around for younger generations," Right to Rise PAC spokesman Matt Gorman told The Hill in response to Sanders's comments.

Right to Rise PAC is Bush's leadership political action committee.

Hillary Clinton, considered the Democratic front-runner for president, chastised Republicans in April for attempts to change Social Security.

“What do we do to make sure it is there? We don’t mess with it, and we do not pretend that it is a luxury — because it is not a luxury. It is a necessity for the majority of people who draw from Social Security,” she said during a stop in New Hampshire.

Clinton is expected to hold a kick-off rally in New York this month, about two months after officially jumping into the 2016 race. After that, she's expected to roll out more specific policy platforms.

GOP

Jeb Bush to announce presidential bid June 15 in Miami // Miami Herald // PATRICIA MAZZEI AND ALEX LEARY – June 4, 2015

Nearly six months after saying he was “actively” exploring the idea of running for president, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush will officially enter the race June 15 in Miami.

“Governor Bush is thankful for the support and encouragement he has received from so many Americans during the last several months and looks forward to announcing his decision,” spokeswoman Kristy Campbell told the Miami Herald and Tampa Bay Times.

Bush, 62, picked Miami Dade College, the largest institution of higher education in the country, as his announcement location in a nod to his passion for education policy and a campaign theme of expanding economic opportunities for people who, in his words, want to “rise up.” The college’s mission is to give every student who wants a college degree a chance to get one.

More information about the 3 p.m. event at the college’s Kendall campus is at jebannouncement.com .

The announcement will follow a weeklong trip for Bush to Europe that begins Monday, giving him a close look at foreign policy issues that have been a central focus of the presidential contest so far.

Despite having a famous last name and raising what is expected to be a breathtaking amount of money, Bush has struggled to break out of a growing pack of GOP contenders.

The group includes fellow Floridian Marco Rubio, who is pitching himself as a fresh face against “outdated”

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politicians, a line seemingly directed at Democrat Hillary Clinton but also at Bush, who was governor from 1999-2007.

Rubio ignored conventional thought that he would stand down for Bush, a mentor, and jumped in the race April 13. In the weeks since, Rubio has gained momentum in the polls and attracted the support of wealthy backers.

Bush startled the political world on Dec. 16 when he announced on Facebook that he was “actively” considering a run for president. In recent months, he has been traveling the country extensively, giving speeches focused on improving educational and work opportunities for Americans.

But his all-but-official status has attracted growing criticism from campaign finance watchdogs, newspaper editorial boards and other candidates. It also has caused some clumsy moments.

On CBS News’ Face the Nation on Sunday, Bush said, “I would like to run,” as if something was holding him back. A while before that, in Nevada, he accidentally said he was running — then corrected himself.

The decision to wait so long has a major financial upside, as Bush has been free to work directly with the Right to Rise Super PAC, started by his allies, and raise unlimited money. Watchdogs have filed several complaints with the Federal Election Commission and the Justice Department.

Asked on Face the Nation whether he was violating the law, Bush said: “I would never do that.”

As a declared candidate, Bush’s interaction with the committee will be limited. People giving directly to his presidential campaign are tapped out at $2,700.

Still, the Super PAC has amassed tens of millions of dollars already, and its staff has become deeply familiar with Bush’s objectives. He could push some traditional functions of a campaign to the Super PAC, which will continue to raise large sums.

On Monday, Bush departs for Germany, Estonia and Poland, key U.S. allies. Bush likely will use the trip to draw a contrast to President Barack Obama, whom many Republicans see as weak on foreign policy. Poland has been pushing for the United States to get more involved in curbing Russia’s meddling in Ukraine.

Bush also will “discuss policies to promote growth, innovation and technologies to address the changing global economic environment and ways to foster prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic,” according to a Reuters story previewing the visit.

Back in Miami, the bilingual Bush will make his presidential announcement at a diverse college that boasts more than 165,000 students and has gotten used to hosting politicians. President George W. Bush delivered the Kendall campus commencement in 2007. He introduced his younger brother, who was in the audience, as always “mi hermano” — always my brother.

The Kendall campus is in the heart of Miami-Dade County’s largely Cuban-American suburbs. It’s the university’s second-oldest campus, built in 1967 on 185 acres of land and housing 13 buildings for a variety of academic programs ranging from architecture to business to science.

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Bush made K-12 education central to his tenure in Tallahassee, and he has spent his years out of office pushing for higher standards — including the contentious Common Core — and expanded access to charter schools across the country.

Rubio chose to make his presidential announcement at a Miami Dade College institution with Cuban significance, too — downtown Miami's Freedom Tower. The iconic Biscayne Boulevard building is where Cuban exiles were first welcomed into the United States, beginning in 1964. Today, it houses the school's Museum of Art and Design.

For Bush, the choice strikes a far more populist tone than, say, the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, where he plays golf regularly and has had his private business office for years.

His campaign headquarters also are in a decidedly unflashy part of town, a sturdy West Miami-Dade County office building near the working-class and largely Hispanic neighborhoods of Sweetwater and Fontainebleau.

After his announcement, Bush will embark on a tour of early primary states.

Jeb Bush, Taking His Time, Tests the Legal Definition of Candidate // NYT // Eric Lichtblau & Nick Corasaniti – June 3, 2015

Jeb Bush is under growing pressure to acknowledge what to some voters and a number of campaign finance lawyers seems obvious: He is running for president.

The lawyers say Mr. Bush, a former Florida governor, is stretching the limits of election law by crisscrossing the country, hiring a political team and raising tens of millions of dollars at fund-raisers, all without declaring — except once, by mistake — that he is a candidate.

Some election experts say Mr. Bush passed the legal threshold to be considered a candidate months ago, even if he has not formally acknowledged it. Federal law makes anyone who raises or spends $5,000 in an effort to become president a candidate and thus subject to the spending and disclosure restrictions. Some limited activities are allowed for candidates who are merely "testing the waters" for a run.

"When you look at the totality of the activities, could a reasonable person conclude anything other than that he is seeking the presidency?" asked Karl J. Sandstrom, a campaign finance lawyer who served on the Federal Election Commission.

For a candidate to avoid restrictions by simply not declaring his candidacy, he said, "makes a mockery of the law."

The issue is not one of mere semantics. If Mr. Bush did declare that he is running, it would bring a raft of election restrictions, including a limit of $2,700 on contributions, and a ban on "coordinating" with a "super PAC" he has used to raise money.

But much of campaign finance law is a subject of dispute, and defining who is a candidate is no exception.

David M. Mason, a former F.E.C. commissioner, said a 1981 case involving the possible presidential campaign of the former Florida governor Reubin Askew gives politicians wide latitude to take steps to "explore" a run.

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“You can’t enforce the law based on what everybody ‘knows’ because that requires you to be a mind reader,” Mr. Mason said. “The broad impression — ‘oh yeah, he’s campaigning, he’s been in Iowa, he made a speech, then went to New Hampshire’ — is not enough to make him a candidate.”

Mr. Bush, who announced in December that he would “actively explore” a White House bid, has said repeatedly that he has not made a decision. But he has faced rising skepticism in recent weeks.

In an appearance Sunday on CBS’s “Face the Nation,” the host, Bob Schieffer, asked Mr. Bush bluntly whether he was violating the law by not declaring himself a candidate for the White House.

“No, of course not,” Mr. Bush responded, appearing jarred by the question. “I would never do that.”

Mr. Bush said he was “nearing the end of this journey of traveling and listening to people, garnering, trying to get a sense of whether my candidacy would be viable or not.”

He added, “We’re going to completely adhere to the law, for sure.”

Mr. Schieffer sounded incredulous. “Now you’re not telling me there’s a possibility you may not run?” he asked.

Mr. Bush did not waver. “Look, I hope I — I hope I run, to be honest with you,” he said. “I would like to run. But I haven’t made the decision.”

Last month, he slipped up for a moment, telling reporters in Nevada, “I am running for president in 2016.” He quickly corrected himself, adding “if I run.”

In his appearance at $25,000-a-head fund-raisers in Washington, New York and elsewhere, Mr. Bush and his advisers are using what are technically considered outside groups — two political action committees, both called Right to Rise — to take in the money, rather than creating an official campaign organization to do it.

Last week, two campaign watchdog groups, Democracy 21 and the Campaign Legal Center, called on the Justice Department to appoint a special counsel to investigate whether Mr. Bush had broken election law by evading restrictions on candidates.

The groups called his noncandidacy “a charade” and called on prosecutors to intervene because they said the F.E.C. — perpetually gridlocked — was unlikely to do anything.

The groups filed an earlier complaint with the F.E.C. in March charging that Mr. Bush and three other politicians — Martin O’Malley, a Democrat; and Scott Walker and Rick Santorum, both Republicans — were evading campaign finance restrictions by not declaring themselves candidates. (Mr. O’Malley and Mr. Santorum have each declared their candidacy in the past week.)

“You can say you haven’t decided,” said Trevor Potter, the president of the Campaign Legal Center. “But if you go off and look like a candidate and act like a candidate and amass funds, it doesn’t matter. You are a candidate in the eyes of the law.”

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As he travels through Iowa, New Hampshire, Michigan and other key states, Mr. Bush has certainly seemed like a candidate. He arrives in a black sport utility vehicle, talks about his vision for the country, shakes hands, answers questions and poses for photographs with voters until aides drag him to his next event.

"I really like campaigning," Mr. Bush told businessmen in Portsmouth, N.H., last month, before quickly adding, "I'm not a candidate."

By all accounts, Mr. Bush is enjoying what he calls the "journey" of a possible candidate, but he has made sure in most appearances to throw in the legal caveats.

"Let me be clear," he said Tuesday at an event in Orlando, Fla. "If I run, if I'm a candidate — and that decision is going to be coming real soon — my intention is to run on my record and my ideas and try to win the presidency. "

Amid the verbal jujitsu, reporters have begun to press Mr. Bush.

In Lansing, Mich., a reporter asked him, "How important is transparency in a presidential candidate?"

Smiling, Mr. Bush asked if it was a trick question. "Where are you going with it?" he asked.

The reporter then ticked off an account of Mr. Bush's recent visits and fund-raisers before asking, "Are you running for president?"

Chuckling, Mr. Bush said, "Not yet." He quickly took another question — this one on Senator Rand Paul, a declared Republican candidate.

The wait is making some voters anxious.

As Mr. Bush was leaving a Lincoln Day dinner in Bath Township, Mich., a woman wearing a photograph of the former governor around her neck chased him outside.

"Run, Jeb, run!" she chanted. "Run, Jeb run! We need you!"

Mr. Bush smiled and waved as he was driven away.

With some donors doubting Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio seizes an opening // WaPo // Matea Gold & Sean Sullivan – June 3, 2015

Marco Rubio is benefiting from pockets of discontent in Jeb Bush's sprawling money network, winning over donors who believe the 44-year-old freshman senator from Florida offers a more compelling persona and sharper generational contrast against Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Rubio is working to seize the moment by making an all-out push to lock down financial backers in the coming month — hopscotching the country in a nonstop series of fundraisers that are limiting his presence on the

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campaign trail.

While he faces stiff competition in the money race from Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker in particular, Rubio's in-person courting sessions are starting to pay off. Longtime Bush loyalists and other big-money players on the right have emerged from the meetings raving about his abilities, according to people familiar with private gatherings he has had around the country.

"After meeting Marco and listening to him — he is almost astounding, he is so articulate and he has got such great vision," said Anthony Gioia, a top GOP fundraiser in Buffalo. Gioia raised more than $500,000 for George W. Bush and then served as his ambassador to Malta but is supporting Rubio this time. "I hate to overuse the word transformational, but I really feel he is," he said.

It is not just veteran bundlers coming aboard. Rubio has recently gained the backing of heavyweight players such as Oracle founder and billionaire Larry Ellison — who is hosting a campaign fundraiser in Silicon Valley next Tuesday — and Randy Kendrick, an influential Arizona donor and the wife of Arizona Diamondbacks owner Ken Kendrick, who hosted the senator at their Phoenix home last month.

"I'm looking for someone who is an inspiration," said Kendrick, who plans to work her network to bring other donors aboard.

It remains to be seen whether the passion for Rubio will translate into huge financial sums. He has the support of billionaire Miami auto dealer Norman Braman, who has committed to putting as much as $10 million into a pro-Rubio super PAC, but allies concede that their efforts are dwarfed by Bush's massive fundraising apparatus. The former Florida governor has been amassing a record tens of millions in his allied super PAC, in part by tapping into a national network of ambassadors and other senior appointees who served in the previous two Bush administrations.

The Rubio strategy: target less prominent donors and bring new ones into the fold.

"You've got the Bush family rolodex that is what, 50 years old or more," said J. Warren Tompkins, head of the pro-Rubio super PAC Conservative Solutions. "The rest of these guys are small donors. You have to go and grind it out and do a lot of meet-and-greets."

As a result, Rubio is spending less time than some other declared candidates in the early nominating states, making just one visit each to Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada since launching his campaign in April. Instead, his itinerary this spring includes stops in Oklahoma, Illinois, Texas, Florida, Idaho, New York, California and Pennsylvania, according to a person familiar with his schedule.

At every stop, the campaign is signing up new bundlers. And in some cases, Rubio has also made side appearances before clutches of potential super PAC donors.

His repeat visits to the nation's biggest money centers are helping him make inroads in places such as Texas, where Bush, Sen. Ted Cruz and former governor Rick Perry all have claims on state donors.

"You look at that and think, 'Gosh, how can anyone else break in?' " said George Seay, a Dallas-based investor who is supporting Rubio. "But Marco has been very successful in Texas and will continue to be. I think the more people get exposed to him realize he's not just a good background story — he's a very, very deep talent."

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Rubio is benefiting in part from a growing uncertainty among some top fundraisers about Bush's ability to resonate with the party base, particularly in the wake of his stumbling answers last month about the Iraq war and his brother, the 43rd president. A new Washington Post-ABC News poll this week showed that Bush, who led the GOP field for months, has slipped into a two-way tie for third place.

At a gathering of the Republican Governors Association's top donors last month in Dallas, one of the main topics of discussion was that Bush appeared less formidable a candidate than he had a few months ago, according to several participants.

"One consensus seemed to be that, 'Wow, Jeb is really raising lot of money, but he doesn't seem to be striking a chord with voters,' " said one well-connected Republican who participated in the meeting and requested anonymity to detail private conversations.

Bush "has not come on as strong as I would have thought," said Edwin Phelps, a private-equity investor who is a major GOP donor. "I'm disappointed in how he handled questions on something he knew would come up. Jeb hurt himself, but it's early enough in the cycle he can right the ship."

In the meantime, many donors are casting their support wide and giving to multiple contenders, still weighing who has the best shot in a general election.

"I don't have conviction right now toward any candidate," said Phelps, who has donated to Bush and plans to contribute to Rubio as well. "I think that's how a lot of us feel who are mainstream Republicans. There is a strong, deep-seated sentiment that we want someone who can get elected."

Rubio still faces skepticism in some donor quarters, however, particularly among those who are not eager for the party to field a first-term senator as its nominee.

He must also navigate his own policy and personal land mines. At her fundraiser last month, Kendrick said Rubio got some hard questions on immigration, a fraught issue for the Florida senator. He was a co-sponsor of a Senate immigration reform bill that provided a path to citizenship for up to 11 million illegal immigrants, but he later backed away from the legislation.

But Rubio acquitted himself well, Kendrick said.

"He's threading the needle on immigration, and he got several questions where he very honestly and skillfully answered those questions about the things that needed to be done first," she said.

Before she signed on to help Rubio, Kendrick said she "was open and interested" in all the candidates, adding: "I just felt that Rubio rose above the others in his depth and knowledge about policy."

Other veteran fundraisers described their conversion into Rubio supporters as more of a thunderbolt experience.

"I've been in politics a lot time, since Ronald Reagan, and he is really unique," Gioia said. "From my point of view, it's like the movie 'Jerry Maguire' — he got me on 'hello.' "

Why Jeb Bush Can't Bank On Faith Like His Brother Did // NPR // Don Gonyea – June 3, 2015

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Evangelical voters are a major force in Iowa Republican politics. A force that can tip the balance in the state's marquee event: the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucuses.

And it's been that way for a long time. Sixteen years ago those voters delivered in a big way for a Texas governor named George W. Bush. But it's not likely that the younger brother of that successful presidential hopeful will get that same kind of support in the 2016 election. Jeb Bush is certainly a deeply religious man — and he shares his brother's conservative views on key social issues. But despite that, many religious voters view the former Florida governor with suspicion.

Last month Jeb Bush visited Iowa's Loras College, a small, Catholic liberal arts school located in Dubuque.

It may have been an ideal place to talk about his faith in some detail, but the comments he did make came more as an afterthought at the end of his remarks.

"Gosh, what was it, twenty years ago I converted to Catholicism," Bush said, "It was one of the smartest things I've done in my whole life."

He spoke to a small audience of just over a hundred. Seated in the front row was his wife, Columba Bush, a lifelong Catholic whose religion he joined when he was in his 40s. Bush went on to say, "I believe that it is the architecture that gives me the serenity I need, not just as a public leader or in life. It gives me peace. It allows me to have a closer relationship with my creator."

It was a firm statement of belief. But it was considerably different than the almost evangelical way George W. Bush spoke about his faith during his first presidential campaign. At the Iowa Straw Poll in the summer of 1999, the future president was cheered when he said, "America's strongest foundation is not found in our wallets. It is found in our souls."

As a candidate, George W. Bush often talked about personal redemption. Including how at age 40 he quit drinking, and how he embraced religion with the help of none other than the Reverend Billy Graham. He often spoke of protecting the unborn, as he did in a debate during the 2000 general election campaign.

"I think what the next president ought to do is promote a culture of life in America," he said.

That played very well with Iowa evanglicals and Bush coasted to victory in the Iowa caucuses. But Christopher Budzisz, a political science professor at Loras College, says George Bush got those voters with more than words. He used organization as well.

"One thing the Bush campaign was very concerted about was reaching out to the church networks and getting advocates for the candidacy oftentimes outside the gaze of the media or public conversation," said Budzisz.

He says that's not happening in the same way for Jeb Bush.

Evangelical voters are more organized in Iowa than they were four presidential elections ago. And they make up 60 percent of GOP Iowa caucus participants.

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Despite Jeb Bush's opposition to abortion — and same-sex marriage — many voters here see him as moderate. This reaction, from Republican voter Byron Carlson, a physician, is not unusual: "I would say I'm a Christian conservative, but I think at this time it's a wide open field with lots of options." After seeing this Bush speak recently, he added, "Jeb just wasn't that impressive to me listening to him."

Bob Vander Plaats, who heads the state's top social conservative organization The Family Leader, praised Bush's record in dealing with the Terri Schiavo case when he was governor of Florida. Bush fought the removal of the brain-damaged woman's feeding tube, even after she'd been unconscious for more than a decade. Still, Vander Plaats acknowledges ambivalence toward Bush. He points to Bush's saying he'd run a campaign to win the general election and not just the primaries.

"That may be code for, 'Do you really want to champion conservative values?'" Vander Plaats said.

And there's dislike of Jeb Bush's support for Common Core education standards and his call for a path to legal status for immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

This year's GOP field looks to be huge. It could grow to 15 or more. And many of them are making a hard play for evangelicals. Vander Plaats says that's good, and bad.

"And the reason it's bad is because it can divide its support quickly which really weakens the impact we can have in the process," he said.

That could create an opening for Jeb Bush. It would also please Republicans like 60-year-old Dave Richter who came to see the still officially-undeclared candidate at the town hall in Dubuque.

Richter says, "I'm a little afraid of the Christian right, it's infiltrated government to too big of a degree" adding "I think it's problematic."

But despite Richter's concerns, in Iowa those evangelical voters do matter, a great deal. Especially in the caucuses. Four elections ago, George W. Bush got them to pull together to give him an important first win in the race for the nomination. For Jeb, his best bet may be if they don't.

There will be blood: Prepare for nasty Jeb Bush — but don't expect any fingerprints // Salon // Jim Newell – June 3, 2015

When is Jeb Bush going to stop being so boring and get mean? This is the question on the minds of the political press corps. Sure, it's nice that he's open to any and all questions from reporters and voters alike, but does he have to answer them with his wishy-washy technocratic details? When's he going to start calling his opponents terrible names so reporters can sex up their Jeb stories a bit?

Everyone wants to see some blood. The hope, now that Bush is tumbling from presumed frontrunner status, is that he'll be forced to mix it up a little instead of responding to questions with, say, a critique of the wording in subclause 2(b)(ii) of some education bill from 1995. The further you tumble from contention, the more you have to resort to weird humiliating stunts to get attention in this field of dozens of candidates.

And there's no better place to start getting nasty than at Walt Disney World. Florida Gov. Rick Scott, a malevolent ghoul straight out of the German folk stories on which most classic Disney movies are based, held an economic summit yesterday at the sweltering Orlando money-suck where dreams come true. Bush, finally on some friendly

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turf, used the occasion “to more forcefully attack opponents” than he’s previously been willing to do, according to the Washington Post. ”Bush has mostly avoided sparring with Republican contenders,” the Post writes, “saying that he’s not yet an official candidate and is eager to be a ‘joyful’ alternative for voters upset by partisan warfare. But that strategy doesn’t appear to be working.”

Alright, so give us the skinny: what did he say? Did he call Scott Walker a dingdong? Did he throw a trash can at Ted Cruz? Did he literally murder Mike Huckabee?

Ehh, not really. He made the bold decision — you’ll never believe this — to criticize Rand Paul on national security. He said that Paul was “wrong about the Patriot Act.” Bam! “He also delivered his most personal swipe yet at Rubio,” the Post writes, “in response to the senator’s suggestions earlier in the day that Republicans should elect younger leaders.” Okay, let’s see this uppercut: “It’s kind of hard to imagine that my good friend Marco would be critical of his good friend Jeb,” Bush said.

Oh. That’s it?

Yeah, so… I’m not quite sure that we saw the sharper, meaner, more aggressive and debased Jeb Bush that we were all promised here. Seems more like he simply said he disagreed with Rand Paul and made a light joke about the media’s obsession with getting him and Marco Rubio to prematurely destroy each other.

Bush’s refusal to engage in direct bloodsport against his opponents is no fun, sure, but if everyone can just wait a few months, it will happen. Jeb Bush may seem like a total boob now, but it’s never a good idea to get between a Bush and an election. As Jeb said yesterday, “there are motivations for every candidate. Mine would be to win.”

The Bushes are perfectly willing to set aside their WASPy sense of manners and do what it takes to win elections. George H.W. Bush, an old-school Connecticut Yankee, was willing to wear clownish cowboy clothes for a full two years if that’s what it took to beat Michael Dukakis. More importantly: he was willing to go hard after the Willie Horton issue — while leaving outside groups to run the infamously nasty ad, keeping his hands clean. George W. Bush, too, was able to win 2000 South Carolina primary when certain mysterious outside forces launched a guerrilla smear campaign against John McCain.

Now, thanks to our Supreme Court, campaign finance regulations are structured to allow candidacies to get as nasty as they so desire while offering the candidates themselves full deniability. Jeb Bush’s Right to Rise super PAC is expected to have at least $100 million dollars with which to work in trashing anyone who dare nip at Bush’s heels. Much like Mitt Romney in 2012, Bush can simply blush and say “Who, me?” when asked about some horrific ad that his super PAC unleashes Marco Rubio or Scott Walker.

Everyone can relax. “Jeb Bush,” in the amorphous sense of the whole apparatus that exists to win Jeb Bush the presidency, will get quite nasty at the precise moment that it becomes politically necessary, even if Jeb Bush personally just keeps prattling on about some tweak he wants to make to existing small business tax credits.

Fox News Poll: Bush, Walker, Carson top GOP pack, support for Clinton down // Fox News // Dana Blanton – June 3, 2015

National security is a much bigger issue for Republicans this time than during the last primary. And more GOP hopefuls make it official -- yet they barely move the needle. Bernie Sanders nearly doubles his numbers and support for Hillary Clinton dips -- even as Democrats say they’re not concerned about allegations of her dishonesty.

These are some of the findings from the latest Fox News poll on the 2016 presidential election.

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There's no true frontrunner in the race for the GOP nomination - and not all the candidates in the poll have declared yet. The new poll, released Wednesday, finds three Republicans receiving double-digit backing from GOP primary voters: former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker each receive 12 percent and neurosurgeon Ben Carson gets 11 percent.

They are followed by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul at 9 percent, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz at 8 percent, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio at 7 percent, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee at 6 percent and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at 5 percent.

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who will make his candidacy official Thursday, and businessman Donald Trump get 4 percent each.

Three Republicans officially threw their hat in the ring recently. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham announced June 1, former New York Gov. George Pataki announced May 28 and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum declared May 27. Each receives 2 percent.

Businesswoman Carly Fiorina and Ohio Gov. John Kasich also each garner 2 percent.

The top four favorites among the Tea Party movement are Walker (22 percent), Cruz (17 percent), Carson (12 percent) and Paul (11 percent).

It's no wonder the GOP race is so splintered. Of the candidates tested, about one in five Republican primary voters say they would "definitely" vote for six of them: Walker (22 percent), Carson (21 percent), Rubio (21 percent), Bush (20 percent), Cruz (19 percent) and Paul (19 percent).

More than half say they would "never" support Trump (59 percent). That's the highest number saying they would never vote for a particular candidate. Christie comes next (37 percent), followed by Bush and Huckabee (24 percent each) and Paul (20 percent).

Bush alone has the distinction of being in the top five of both the "definitely" and the "never" vote for lists.

Walker, who is still unannounced, looks especially well-positioned among GOP primary voters. Not only does he have the highest number saying they would "definitely" vote for him (22 percent), but he also has the lowest "never" vote for number of those tested (eight percent).

GOP voters are most likely to "want more info about" Kasich (60 percent), Fiorina (55 percent) and Walker (47 percent).

The priorities of Republican primary voters have changed significantly since last time around. Forty-six percent say economic issues will be most important in deciding their vote for the GOP nomination. That's down 30 percentage points from the 76 percent who said the same in 2011. And 36 percent now say national security will be their deciding issue -- more than four times the 8 percent that said so four years ago. For 12 percent, social issues will be most important, up from six percent.

On the Democratic side, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remains the clear frontrunner for the nomination with 57 percent support among self-identified Democratic primary voters. Still, that's down from 63 percent last month, and marks only the second time in more than a year that support for Clinton is below 60 percent. Her highest support was 69 percent in April 2014.

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At the same time, support for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders nearly doubled, from six percent last month to 11 percent now. He was at 4 percent in April.

The most recent Democratic contender to jump in the race, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, garners 4 percent. That's a nice bump from the less than one percent support he got before his May 30 announcement. Vice President Joe Biden (8 percent) and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren (7 percent) -- both are undeclared -- still best O'Malley.

Despite Clinton controlling the field, most Democratic voters -- 69 percent -- say someone else could still win the nomination. That's more than twice the 28 percent who say the race is over.

Most Democratic primary voters, 68 percent, say they are not worried about allegations of Clinton's dishonesty and unethical behavior. Thirty-one percent are concerned, including 10 percent who feel "very concerned."

For the broader electorate, however, recent allegations against Clinton may be more problematic. A 61-percent majority of voters thinks it is at least somewhat likely that the Clintons were "selling influence to foreign contributors" who made donations to the Clinton Foundation while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. A significant minority of Democrats (41 percent) feels that way, as do a majority of independents (66 percent) and most Republicans (82 percent).

Pollpourri Would you rather the next president be a Democrat or a Republican? The poll asks voters that simple question and finds ... a split! Forty percent prefer a Democrat and 39 percent a Republican. The results are also evenly divided among independents: 24 percent say Democrat, 24 percent Republican and 35 percent "other."

By a 51-39 percent margin, more voters say it would be "a bad thing for the country" if a Democrat wins the presidential election and continues President Obama's policies. That includes 88 percent of Republicans, 52 percent of independents and 20 percent of Democrats.

About the same number of voters says they would be "very" interested in watching a presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush (38 percent), as they would between Clinton and Fiorina, the other female candidate (35 percent), or between Clinton and Paul (35 percent).

And women are as likely to want to watch Clinton debate Bush (37 percent) as they are to want to see Clinton debate Fiorina (36 percent).

The Fox News poll is based on landline and cell phone interviews with 1,006 randomly chosen registered voters nationwide and was conducted under the joint direction of Anderson Robbins Research (D) and Shaw & Company Research (R) from May 31-June 2, 2015. The full poll has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points. The margin of error is higher among the subgroups of Democratic and Republican primary voters (+/-5%).

Republican Conservative Base Shrinks **// Gallup // Frank Newport –June 3, 2015**

The percentage of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who describe themselves as both social and economic conservatives has dropped to 42%, the lowest level Gallup has measured since 2005. The second-largest group of Republicans (24%) see themselves as moderate or liberal on both social and economic issues, while 20% of all Republicans are moderate or liberal on social issues but conservative on economic ones.

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These data are from Gallup's Values and Beliefs poll, which since 2001 has included questions asking Americans to rate themselves as conservative, moderate or liberal on social and economic issues. These trends show not only that Americans as a whole have become less likely to identify as social or economic conservatives, but also that Republicans' views are changing along the same lines.

This change in recent years has been significant. The percentage of Republicans identifying as conservative on both dimensions has dropped 15 percentage points since 2012, largely offset by an increase in the percentage who identify as moderate or liberal on both dimensions. Still, the current ideological positioning of Republicans is not unprecedented; the proportion of social and economic conservatives was as low or lower from 2001 through 2005.

Republicans' Ideology Varies Significantly by Age

The percentage of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who are conservative on both social and economic issues rises steadily with age. An analysis of aggregated surveys conducted since the 2012 election shows that the size of the social and economic conservative group is twice as large among Republicans aged 65 and older as it is among those aged 18 to 29. This may be good news for GOP candidates who are running on a conservative platform and can assume that older Republicans will constitute a sizable portion of primary and caucus voters. But it would not be such good news when it comes to the challenge of energizing a broader base of Republican voters to come out to vote in the typically higher-turnout general election.

Implications

The recent shift in how Republicans view themselves ideologically may have significant implications for the coming GOP presidential nomination fight, particularly in terms of how the candidates will try to position themselves to maximize their appeal. Republican candidates are dealing with a party base that is today significantly more ideologically differentiated than it has been over the past decade. A GOP candidate positioning himself or herself as conservative on both social and economic issues theoretically will appeal to less than half of the broad base of rank-and-file party members. This opens the way for GOP candidates who may want to position themselves as more moderate on some issues, given that more than half of the party identifiers are moderate or liberal on social or economic dimensions.

The caveat in these campaign decisions is that not all Republicans are involved in the crucial early primary and caucus voting that helps winnow the pack of presidential candidates down to a winner. Ideology on both social and economic issues is strongly related to age, and primary voters tend to skew older than the overall party membership. This could benefit a more conservative candidate in the primary process, but that advantage could dissipate in the general election.

Democratic candidates will be dealing with party identifiers who are mostly moderate or liberal on social and economic issues, with a significant divide between these two groups. A forthcoming story will look at the Democratic ideological situation in detail.

Survey Methods

Results for the most recent Gallup poll are based on telephone interviews conducted May 6-10, 2015, with a random sample of 1,024 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is ±4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

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Results for the aggregated Gallup polls conducted in 2013-2015 are based on telephone interviews with a random sample of 3,587 adults, aged 18 and older. For results based on this sample, the margin of sampling error is ±2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. All reported margins of sampling error include computed design effects for weighting.

Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 50% cellphone respondents and 50% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by time zone within region. Landline and cellular telephone numbers are selected using random-digit-dial methods.

Rick Santorum Wants Pope Francis To Stop Talking About Climate Change // HuffPo // Ed Mazza – June 3, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Rick Santorum says he loves Pope Francis, but he wants the pontiff to stop talking about climate change.

Santorum, a devout Catholic, told Philadelphia radio host Dom Giordano on Monday that the pope should "leave science to the scientists."

His comments come as the pope, who earned a master's degree in chemistry before turning to the priesthood, becomes increasingly vocal about climate change. Pope Francis is preparing a groundbreaking encyclical to be released in the coming weeks that's expected to make the case that taking action to fight climate change is a moral and religious imperative.

Santorum described himself as a "huge fan" of the pope and said he appreciates the pontiff's commitment to family issues, but he wants the church to stay out of science.

“The church has gotten it wrong a few times on science, and I think that we probably are better off leaving science to the scientists and focusing on what we're really good at, which is theology and morality,” Santorum said. "When we get involved with political and controversial scientific theories, I think the church is not as forceful and credible."

His full comments from "The Dom Giordano Show" are included below. The discussion of the pope starts at about the 10-minute mark.

Despite his pleas to the pope, Santorum has a history of rejecting established science. He denies that climate change is man-made and has dismissed global warming as a "hoax" despite the fact that 97 percent of actively publishing climate scientists agree that "climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities," according to NASA.

Santorum has also rejected evolution and instead believes in "intelligent design,” according to Discover magazine.

Pope Francis says evolution does not contradict church doctrine.

George W. Bush tops Obama on favorability in new poll // The Hill // Mark Hensch – June 3, 2015

A new survey finds that more Americans view former President George W. Bush favorably than President Obama.

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The CNN/ORC poll reveals that 52 percent of Americans see Bush positively, while 43 percent do not.

In contrast, U.S. voters are split on their views of Obama.

The new poll finds that 49 percent view Obama favorably, while 49 percent do not.

Those ratings for Obama are down from a similar poll in March. During that sampling, 52 percent of Americans viewed him positively, while another 46 percent did not.

Bush's numbers, meanwhile, mark a major shift for the former president since he departed office in early 2009, CNN said.

It noted that back then, Bush received a favorability rating from roughly one third of those surveyed.

Bush's favorability, CNN added, has remained below the 50-percent threshold most of the time since his presidency.

Just one year ago, it said, the former president had a 46-percent favorability rating. Another 51 percent, however, still viewed Bush unfavorably.

Bush's new score reflects more positive views of him across a wide variety of groups.

CNN said that the former president has notched an 11-point favorability increase among men, a 10-point increase among Republicans and an 8-point increase among suburbanites.

He also saw his favorability increase 10 points among those with household incomes under $50,000 and 9 points among young adults under age 50.

CNN said that Bush still remains the least popular among Democrats, liberals, non-whites and those under age 35.

Despite this, its poll found increasing warmth for the former president among some of those groups.

Approximately 70 percent of Democrats view Bush unfavorably, a decrease from February, 2009, when 85 percent took a negative view of him.

In addition, 68 percent of liberals still view the former president negatively, an improvement from the 90 percent who disliked his administration in February 2009.

CNN/ORC surveyed 1,025 adults from May 29-31 via telephone for its latest poll. It has a 3-percentage0point margin of error.

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Texas' Economic Hiccup Complicates Rick Perry's 2016 Pitch // WSJ // Nathan Koppel & Colleen Mccain Nelson – June 3, 2015

In his previous bid for the White House, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry trumpeted his role as the leader of an economic juggernaut cranking out jobs while much of the U.S. struggled.

But as Mr. Perry prepares to announce an anticipated second run for president on Thursday, the "Texas Miracle" is looking less impressive amid falling oil prices that have led to thousands of job cuts in his home state. That has created an opening for challengers to say Mr. Perry's jobs record was attributable more to good timing—namely the hydraulic-fracturing oil-and-gas boom—than to the business-friendly mix of low tax rates and light regulations that he has frequently cited.

Texas lost more than 25,000 jobs in March according to state figures, its first monthly net decline in more than four years, after adding nearly 458,000 jobs in 2014, more than any other state. It bounced back in April but still only added 1,200 new jobs, far below other large states.

Mr. Perry is still talking up his economic record as he tours the country, but he is also seeking to broaden his appeal by citing his agricultural roots as a native of tiny Paint Creek and his military service as a former Air Force transport pilot.

The 65-year-old Republican is also arguing that he is the most seasoned executive in the crowded GOP field, having been governor of the nation's second most populous state for a record 14 years.

"I have faced my share of leadership tests," Mr. Perry told a crowd last month at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City. He added that "there was no manual" to guide him when he faced such challenges as housing Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Texas, or responding to the nation's first diagnosed case of Ebola in Dallas.

Mr. Perry's allies and advisers say his fiscal conservatism and the jobs created under his tenure would be a huge selling point in a second presidential campaign.

"The Rick Perry jobs record has seeped into the mind-set of Republican activists all over the country and will be a significant calling card," said Ray Sullivan, a former Perry chief of staff and co-chairman of a super PAC created to boost a Perry presidential bid.

Abby McCloskey, policy director for Mr. Perry's political-action committee, said it was remarkable that Texas has a 4.2% unemployment rate even with an oil and gas industry downturn and a surging dollar.

"Texas, contrary to popular image, is not all about oil," she said.

As governor, Mr. Perry launched a campaign aimed at luring companies to relocate to Texas, traveling the country and pitching the state as the best in which to do business. He also endorsed the wide use of state incentive payments to technology and health-care companies, among others. The Texas legislature this year curtailed the use of such incentive payments.

Economic experts said Mr. Perry can lay claim to having helped diversify the Texas economy, which is projected by economists and state officials to continue to grow, albeit at a slower pace.

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“Perry can still make the point that he oversaw tremendous growth and diversification of the economy,” said Terry Clower, a professor at George Mason University in Virginia who has studied the Texas economy.

Still, falling oil prices have shaken Texas’ claim on economic supremacy. Kevin Hassett, the director of economic-policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute think tank, said Texas’ economic success was indisputable a year ago—when oil prices were higher.

Today, “the story is a little more complicated,” said Mr. Hassett, who advised the presidential campaigns of Mitt Romney and John McCainbut hasn't signed on to work for a 2016 candidate.

In an interview shortly before leaving office in January, Mr. Perry said he had done everything possible to insulate the state against falling oil prices. “We made tremendous progress in expanding and diversifying the Texas economy,” he said.

The changing economic picture is just one challenge Mr. Perry faces as he attempts to rebound from his unsuccessful first presidential bid nearly four years ago. He continues to be weighed down by a felony indictment related to a veto he issued as governor. He has denied wrongdoing and filed a motion to dismiss the indictment, which is pending before an appellate court in Austin.

The former governor also is in the single digits in a field expected to include more than a dozen Republicans, and he is working to overcome any lingering negative impressions by primary voters. The last time around, after briefly claiming front-runner status, he stumbled with a couple of debate answers and ultimately dropped out.

Mr. Perry, who has conceded he was ill-prepared in his last race, has underscored the preparation he has undertaken the second time around, immersing himself in the intricacies of policy. As Mr. Perry said in a recent radio interview, “just being the governor of the state of Texas was not enough.”

Brandon Rottinghaus, a political-science professor at the University of Houston, believes Mr. Perry can likely counter any attacks on his economic record. But other challenges, like the indictment and the famous “oops” moment during a debate in his earlier campaign, may be tougher to overcome, he said.

“The one-two strike of the indictment and communication failures of the 2012 race will make it hard for him to get his footing” Mr. Rottinghaus said.

Scott Walker Says 2016 Announcement Coming After Budget Wrap at End of June **// Ali Elkin – June 3, 2015**

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker said Wednesday he will announce whether or not he plans to run for president after the state budget is passed, which he says will happen in short order.

“I haven't made an announcement yet and won't until after the budget's done at the end of this month,” the Republican said, appearing on Fox News's Fox and Friends.

Walker had wanted to finish the budget process in record-early time, but that goal now appears to be out of reach, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel reported Tuesday.

“We do have a lot of stuff that we need to get ironed out,” said Wisconsin state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald. Sticking points–including among some legislators of Walker's own party—are funding for roads and a

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new basketball arena, according to the newspaper.

The current budget expires June 30. “Past legislatures and governors have sometimes even gone past the July 1 deadline. That forces the state government to run on the provisions of the old budget until the new one passes,” the newspaper said.

Wisconsin Abortion Ban Would Allow Father To Sue For Emotional Distress // HuffPo // Laura Bassett – June 3, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) said this week that he would sign a ban on abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy that does not contain exceptions for rape and incest victims, if the bill reaches his desk. The measure also contains a less-discussed provision that would allow the father to sue the doctor for "emotional and psychological distress" if he disagrees with the abortion, regardless of his relationship with the woman having the procedure.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 237 would ban abortions after 20 weeks "postfertilization," which doctors would measure as 22 weeks of pregnancy since pregnancies are usually measured from the woman's last menstrual period. If the bill becomes law, doctors who perform an abortion after this time could be charged with a felony and fined up to $10,000, or face up to three and a half years in prison.

In addition to those penalties, the bill would allow the father to sue the doctor for damages, "including damages for personal injury and emotional and psychological distress," if the doctor performs or attempts to perform an abortion after the 20-week limit. The man does not need to be married to the woman or even in a relationship with her to sue her doctor, as long as the pregnancy is not a result of sexual assault or incest. The bill also says the woman can sue.

Walker and the co-authors of the bill, state Rep. Jesse Kremer (R) and Senate President Mary Lazich (R), did not respond to requests for comment. The Wisconsin House and Senate are expected to vote on the bill next week.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports reproductive rights, 6 of the 11 states that currently ban abortion at 20 weeks postfertilization -- Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma -- have similar language tucked into their respective laws that allow the parents to sue a doctor who performs an abortion after that point. In Kansas, the provision applies to the father only if he is married to the woman who had the abortion.

So far, the 20-week ban is not standing up well in court. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down Idaho's law last week, ruling it "unconstitutional because it categorically bans some abortions before viability." The Supreme Court decided in Roe v. Wade in 1973 that states cannot ban abortions before the fetus would be viable outside the womb, which is estimated to occur between 22 and 24 weeks of pregnancy.

Republican supporters of the bill argue that abortions should be banned after 20 weeks because fetuses can feel pain at that point -- a theory that has been refuted by the mainstream medical community.

"Whether you're pro-life or not, that's a good time to say that shouldn't be legal after a time when an unborn child can literally feel pain," Walker told reporters this week.

Opponents of the bill point out that less than 1 percent of abortions occur after 20 weeks, and the women who seek them have often discovered severe medical problemswith the fetus that were not clear in earlier tests. Marcy Stech, a spokeswoman for the progressive women's PAC EMILY's List, said the Wisconsin bill is "extreme, outrageous and profoundly wrong."

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"A woman's right to choose is hers and hers alone," Stech said. "Scott Walker is the last person on earth who should be telling women how to make their deeply personal decisions."

Scott Walker dead set against path to citizenship but has no answer for what to do with 11 million undocumented residents // Tampa Bay Times // Alex Leary – June 3, 2015

Scott Walker said he adamantly opposes a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants, but was vague in an interview with the Tampa Bay Times about what should be done with the 11 million people already in the U.S.

"My belief is that because the system is so broken, we need to do the other things I mention before we can even begin to start talking about what the president and the next congress can do," Walker said, referring to his call for more border security and enforcement of existing law.

"Until we deal with those other issues, any potential solution is largely irrelevant."

Walker's comments continued an uneven response to the vexing issue of immigration since he emerged as a presidential hopeful. The Wisconsin governor once supported a path to citizenship, but earlier this year veered to the right, then backed off a bit.

The shifting positions have left many wonder what exactly does he think should be done.

"I said I was opposed to the Gang of 8, so I never said I supported that," Walker said in an interview Tuesday afternoon at the Disney hotel where Gov. Rick Scott held his presidential forum. In 2013, Sen. Marco Rubio and seven other senators worked out a comprehensive bill, which would have added billions in more security spending while providing an eventual pathway to citizenship. (Rubio has famously backed away from his own legislation but still supports citizenship.)

Walker said his new view has been shaped by President Obama's executive actions and by taking with border-state governors and voters across the country.

"Certainly we're a nation of immigrants," he said. "There's a number of things that have to be done, starting with securing the border, enforcing the laws that are on the books. I've made it clear that I don't support amnesty for citizenship.

But you're not ready to say what should happen to the 11 million, whether they should eventually given some legal status, which is kind of Jeb Bush position, or citizenship, which is what the Rubio bill would have granted?

"It's left up to the next president and congress," Walker replied.

"Specifically when it comes to citizenship, I don't believe there should be any amnesty regardless of the circumstances. There is a current process by which anyone in the world can seek citizenship and that's the path people should use."

He said depending on what is done with security and other reforms, "Things and circumstances will changes, conditions will be different depending on how effectively we do (those first steps)."

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In April, Walker went farther than other Republican hopefuls when he suggested legal immigration should be scaled back. That brought condemnations from immigration activists and some Republicans, who are worried the fight for the presidential nomination is putting the party back in a nativist mode that hurt "self-deport" Mitt Romney. (Allies say his remarks were misinterpreted and he just wants to control flow as workers are needed or not.)

"I've only said that legal immigration should be focused on American workers, their wages, as the top priority," Walker said.

Bush, appearing at the same forum on Tuesday, said immigration reform needs to be tackled, "for crying out loud," to grow the economy. Walker disagrees, though his argument overlooks Bush's point that the labor pool is getting older and more workers will be needed.

"There's too high a number of American – both citizens and legal residents --- who are not in the workforce today who could and should be," Walker said. "Before we start talking about anything else we need to figure out ways to make sure that everyone who is here who is able to work is getting the skills and the education, the qualifications and the encouragement to get into the workforce."

Rand Paul calls out Jeb Bush for defending NSA // Politico // Katie Glueck – June 3, 2015

Rand Paul is slamming Jeb Bush over the former Florida governor's defense of National Security Agency data collection, the latest round in the Kentucky senator's battles with his own party on the issue.

"Just like he was confused for weeks about his position on the Iraq war, Gov. Bush appears completely unaware of the facts about the government's illegal and unnecessary spying [on] the American people and made it clear his position is based on politics, not policy and the Constitution," Paul spokesman Sergio Gor said in a statement on Wednesday, jabbing a likely 2016 rival over Bush's previous equivocating about whether he would have invaded Iraq given the intelligence available now.

The Paul presidential campaign's pushback follows an interview Bush gave to Fox News a day earlier, when Bush said that most of the criticism of the NSA stems from Democrats. His comments come after a heated debate in Congress over the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act, during which Paul raised strenuous objections about data collection allowed under the law.

"While Rand Paul and a few others have expressed concerns about civil liberties — and I respect that although I don't see any shred of evidence that anybody's civil liberties are being violated — the great preponderance of people that want to overturn the Patriot Act are on the left," Bush said on Fox, when asked whether there was a divide between the "Rand Paul wing and pretty much everyone else." Bush continued, "And we need to … give people some room in the Democratic Party to be strong supporters of defending the homeland again. I think we need to restore a bipartisan consensus on this. The great majority of Republicans are supportive of the NSA."

On Tuesday, Congress passed the USA Freedom Act, which sought to balance security measures with more privacy protections. Paul, who did not vote for the measure, has spent the better part of a week tearing into bulk data collection and forced the expiration of elements of the PATRIOT Act, a move that played well with his libertarian-leaning base but sparked outrage from more hawkish corners of his party.

Gor's statement, an effort to fire back at that GOP criticism, referenced a bad week for Bush last month, when it took him days to say he wouldn't have gone to war in Iraq given today's knowledge of intelligence failures in the lead-up to the war.

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When Rand Paul steps in it // Politico // MANU RAJU – June 4, 2015

The 2016 contender says he's no programmed pol. But straight talk can be a dangerous thing

After Rand Paul said GOP defense hawks had "created" ISIS, he told Sean Hannity: "I think I could have stated it better." When he claimed some of his adversaries were "secretly" hoping for a terrorist attack so they could blame him for shutting down the PATRIOT Act, the next day he admitted that "hyperbole" got the better of him "in the heat of battle."

And when Paul quipped that he was "glad" his train didn't stop in Baltimore in the wake of riots there, he later offered "regret" that his comments were "misinterpreted."

As Paul has sought to stand out from the clustered GOP presidential field, he's finding that his freewheeling, off-the-cuff speaking style can cut both ways. His supporters say it's what's refreshing about him: He's not a typical programmed pol who spews the same talking points over and over; there's an authenticity that's rare in today's poll-driven politics, they say. But his critics say it betrays a lack of discipline that should concern Republicans in a general election — when any rhetorical blunder can trigger a media circus lasting days — let alone in the White House.

In an interview, Paul spurned advice he often receives to "say the same thing over and over again," even as he acknowledged his comments are "not always perfect."

"People have to choose what they want," he told POLITICO this week. "If they want robots, who say the same thing over and over again, there are plenty of them. If they want something more genuine, where everything is not always perfect — we'll see what people want. I am who I am."

The 52-year-old ophthalmologist may seem like a political neophyte, given that his 2010 Senate victory was his first foray into elective politics. But he has spent a good portion of his life around the spotlight, learning the political ropes from his father, former Rep. Ron Paul, whose brand of libertarianism set him apart from much of his party.

And, like his father, he has methodically worked to portray himself as a different type of candidate, including speaking to an array of different audiences and not shying away from the press. It's in stark contrast to other candidates who fear unscripted moments and adopt a more disciplined approach to the media when running for higher office.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for one, has not participated in a formal sit-down interview and has sharply limited press availability since announcing her presidential run in April. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), who was known for his willingness to engage with reporters in the Capitol, is now limiting — if not avoiding — interactions with Hill media. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) takes questions from reporters and often gives long-winded answers, but he rarely deviates from the precise point he's trying to make.

Paul said Clinton's press avoidance strategy may have spared her some bad headlines in the short term, but he asserted it's backfired on her lately. "She's had a bad month. I think I like my month better than her month," he said.

Of course, Paul isn't the front-runner for his party's nomination, so he has a lot more to gain than Clinton does by mixing it up with the press.

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In the past month, Paul became the scourge of his caucus for his defiant stand against the PATRIOT Act, forcing a two-day lapse in the law by refusing to allow a temporary extension to pass. As GOP hawks slammed the libertarian-minded Paul over his view that the anti-terrorism law invaded privacy rights, the Kentucky Republican took to the floor in a rare Sunday night session and made a rather incendiary claim.

“People here in town think I’m making a huge mistake,” Paul said. “Some of them, I think, secretly want there to be an attack on the United States so they can blame it on me.”

A day later, Paul was walking it back. “I think hyperbole can sometimes get the better of us,” he told reporters outside the Capitol.

Last week, Paul was on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” when he was asked about Sen. Lindsey Graham’s position that a more restrained foreign policy empowered Islamic State militants.

“ISIS exists and grew stronger because of the hawks in our party who gave arms indiscriminately and most of those arms were snatched up by ISIS,” Paul said. “These hawks also wanted to bomb [Syrian leader Bashar] Assad, which would have made ISIS’ job even easier. They created these people.”

After an uproar, Paul was confronted about the comments on Hannity’s Fox News show. “Ultimately, I think I could have stated it better,” Paul said. “The ultimate people who are responsible for terrorism are obviously the terrorists.”

In the POLITICO interview, Paul said the backlash was an instance of him saying something “1,000 times” and then changing his wording once, prompting criticism. He said he should have also pinned blame on Clinton and President Barack Obama for backing policies that created ISIS. But he stood by the essence of his remarks that Republican hawks are culprits, as well.

“The comments I said about ISIS, I’ve said 1,000 times,” Paul said. “I used one different word — which is probably not the correct word — the ‘created’ word. I probably should have said, ‘enabled’ or ‘make worse.’ And all things I’ve said, a million times, and I still believe that.”

Such comments have already given fodder to Paul’s foes.

“I think it really shows how little understanding he has on both the conflict and the challenges and the threat it presents to the security of the United States,” said Arizona Sen. John McCain, a leading GOP hawk who backs Graham (R-S.C.) for president.

Unlike some candidates who tend to hew closer to their scripts, Paul, at times, grows weary of giving the same defense of a policy position. So he is prone to veer off topic and offer a new argument publicly. Doing that, however, has its risks. His advisers have tried to impress upon Paul the need to hash out his line of thinking privately before speaking publicly about it for the first time.

For instance, when he said on Fox Business Network in 2013, “I don’t care” if a drone were to kill a man robbing a liquor store, it seemed incongruent with his 13-hour filibuster the month earlier against U.S. policies on unmanned drones. And after contending in February during a testy CNBC interview there were cases of vaccinations causing “mental disorders” in some children, he later stressed he believes all kids should be inoculated, even tweeting a picture of himself getting a booster shot.

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Paul's supporters believe voters will cut some slack to a candidate who's unafraid to speak his mind.

"It's a two-edged sword, yet his greatest strength," said Brian Darling, a former senior aide to Paul. "It's a risk at times when comments get him in trouble. But it's a huge upside in the sense that people know he's a genuine guy."

Darling added: "Rand Paul may be the new 'Straight-talk Express' from the Senate," a riff on McCain's 2008 presidential campaign slogan.

While Paul comes across as a no-nonsense senator, he occasionally likes to flash his sense of humor. Yet, his timing can sometimes fall flat, as it did when he quipped on Laura Ingraham's radio program about moving quickly through Baltimore amid riots there in April. "I'm glad the train didn't stop," he said.

The remark undercut his long-running effort to reach out to communities of color, and Paul and his team moved quickly to contain the fallout.

Missteps aside, Jesse Benton, a longtime political adviser to Paul who is married to the senator's niece, said the senator has improved vastly as a communicator during his short time in public office.

"I think he's a master at it, but even a master is not always perfect," said Benton, who now runs Paul's super PAC. "Sometimes, he makes news in a way that is not exactly in the way he wants it. However, the vast majority of the news he makes is extremely positive for him."

Scott Walker: Women Mostly Worry About Rape Pregnancies 'In The Initial Months' **// Talking Points Memos // Ahiza Garcia – June 3, 2015**

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) said Monday that he'd be willing to sign a 20-week abortion ban without exceptions for rape or incest, adding that women were mostly concerned about those issues "in the initial months" of pregnancy, television station WKOW reported.

"I mean, I think for most people who are concerned about that, it's in the initial months where they're most concerned about it," Walker said of pregnancies caused by rape and incest.

"In this case, again, it's an unborn life, it's an unborn child and that's why we feel strongly about it," Walker said. "I'm prepared to sign it either way that they send it to us."

On Tuesday, a public hearing on the bill featured testimony from women who have had abortions and medical experts. While the Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate are expected to vote on the bill soon, none is scheduled.

Walker, a potential 2016 Republican presidential candidate, made news last week when he said ultrasounds were "pretty cool" while discussing Wisconsin's mandatory ultrasounds for women seeking abortions.

Rand Paul: GOP Isn't Entirely Responsible For Creating ISIS **// HuffPo // Sam Levine – June 3, 2015**

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) backtracked on his recent comments that hawkish Republicans were responsible for creating the Islamic State group, also known as ISIS.

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Last week, Paul said the Islamic State "exists and grows stronger" because of Republican hawks who were too eager to arm Syrian rebels. Pressed on those comments by Fox News Host Sean Hannity on Monday, Paul took some of the blame off Republicans.

"I think ultimately I could have maybe stated it a little bit better," said Paul, who is seeking the Republican nomination for president. "The ultimate people who are responsible for terrorism are obviously the terrorists. So ISIS is responsible for the mayhem, the murders, the brutality, the beheadings, that's ISIS."

Paul linked the rise of ISIS to the policies of President Barack Obama, but stopped short of saying his party was not responsible at all.

"This was the policy of President Obama, it was the policy of Hillary Clinton and it was also the policy of some in my party who wanted to arm the Islamic rebels," he said. "And I warned at the time that the great irony is that you arm these people, one day we'll have to go back and fight against these weapons ourselves."

Paul, who is seeking the Republican nomination for president, faced criticism from conservatives for the comments.

"Rand Paul does not belong in the Republican party when he carries that message," Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.) told MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell last week. "You can have honest differences over what should be done in Iraq, what should be done in Syria, but to say that it was Republicans or Republican policies or Lindsey Graham or John McCain, that caused the growth of ISIS. That's totally untrue ... For him to so misread ISIS to me shows that he's totally unqualified to be commander-in-chief."

On Monday, Paul said the rise of ISIS was an "unintended consequence" of arming Syrian rebels.

"I would say that we can have a valid discussion over whether or not ISIS has grown stronger by pouring arms into the Islamic rebels in the Syrian civil war," Paul said. "It is objective truth that ISIS grew stronger the more weapons that went into the Syrian civil war. So I think it was an unintended consequence that ISIS grew stronger because of weaponizing these Islamic rebels in Syria."

'I use them, they use me': Local politicians profit from presidential hopefuls in early-voting states // LA Times // Seema Mehta – June 3, 2015

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker entered a fundraiser in a cavernous barn here on a recent sunny Saturday afternoon to the flashes of cellphone cameras and throngs of people seeking a handshake and a selfie.

The front-runner in Iowa among those seeking the GOP nomination was the guest of honor, but he wasn't raising money for a White House bid. The haul would go to Chad Airhart, the recorder for Dallas County in central Iowa.

"Thanks for letting us come by and join with you; thanks for your leadership," Walker told Airhart, as the recorder's supporters dined on bratwurst and baked beans, surrounded by hanging cow hides and saddles. "I'm honored to be here today."

In much of the nation, a top presidential prospect wouldn't bother showing up to raise money for a local official who handles paperwork for a county of 66,000 people.

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But in Iowa, local politicians are showered in love for one important reason: They are gate-keepers to voters and party activists who will provide access to their networks and commit time to White House candidates hoping to make a splash in the state that holds the first presidential nominating contest.

“I don’t know if spoiled is the right word,” said Airhart, who has endorsed Walker, even though the governor has not formally announced his candidacy. “I would say we’re blessed in Iowa to have this opportunity.”

Republican Rep. David Young, a freshman Iowa congressman, was blunter.

“I use them, they use me,” Young said.

This year, he has raised thousands of dollars for his reelection campaign at a dessert reception headlined by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a pizza parlor fundraiser with former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, and a gathering at a farm-themed restaurant with Walker. In turn, the prospective candidates got to meet hundreds of Young’s supporters.

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“It’s mutually understood and it’s accepted,” Young said. “It’s all OK because we’re unique here in Iowa because we’re first in the nation.”

In the lead-up to the 2012 Iowa caucuses, candidates like eventual GOP nominee Mitt Romney announced dozens of new supporters who ranged from statehouse leaders to the mayor of De Soto, a town of 1,050 people. Courting of local leaders also happens in the other early-voting states of New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

Another way White House hopefuls curry favor is through political action committees. Bush’s Right to Rise leadership PAC, for example, has announced contributions of more than $240,000 since being formed in January. Candidates and parties in the four early states have received one-third of the amount.

California, which is unlikely to play a role in the nominating contest because of its late primary date, has Republican candidates swarming the state raising money, but they rarely hold public events or court small-town mayors.

“We are fortunate! Put as many exclamation points after that as possible,” said Jeff Kaufmann, chairman of the Iowa GOP. “I can’t express how fortunate Iowa is to be a carve-out state … but with that comes some pretty significant responsibility.”

Airhart, a 7th-generation Iowan, grew up poor; his parents were teenagers when he was born, and his father spent time in jail. He said his upbringing on the East Side of Des Moines never suggested he would become an elected

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“We’re really fortunate. We have an opportunity to meet all the candidates, to go through the vetting process and hopefully pick the next president of the United States, whether you’re a Republican or a Democrat,” Airhart said shortly after Walker spoke at the annual “Blue Jean Bash” fundraiser. “We have that opportunity in Iowa that really no one else in the country has.”

Democrats aren’t as aggressive this cycle in wooing Iowa’s politicians because their field of candidates is less competitive than the Republicans’.

There is a long tradition of the state’s most influential politicians staging events that attract national candidates. Former Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin’s annual steak fry, which ran for 37 years and ended in 2014, was one that presidential hopefuls didn’t dare pass up.

Republican Gov. Terry Branstad started holding an annual birthday fundraiser during his first term in the 1980s. The parties — including cupcakes decorated with images of the governor’s trademark mustache — are must-stops for White House candidates.

olitical observers say the practice is getting increasingly common among lower-profile politicians, like Young and fellow first-term Rep. Rod Blum, neither of whom has endorsed in the 2016 contest.

“It is a fascinating way for a first-term freshman member of Congress to get in front of a bunch of people who might not show up at any campaign event they might hold on their own,” said Craig Robinson, publisher of the influential Iowa Republican blog.

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Robinson said it was unclear whether neophyte politicians such as Young or Blum would emerge as “kingmakers.” “This is kind of new territory,” he said.

Blum has held events with nearly every 2016 GOP presidential prospect.

“For a freshman congressman like myself, obviously the crowds that a presidential candidate attracts are good-size crowds for me. It lets me dive into the crowds, and I’m reconnecting with supporters and also meeting new people,” he said. “Sometimes if it works out, we have a private event before or after the public event; we try to raise some money.”

Such courtships are not without risks. Bush, Perry, former Hewlett-Packard chief Carly Fiorina and businessman Donald Trump have faced questions about their support of Rep. Frank Guinta of New Hampshire, who is embroiled in a fundraising scandal that has prompted fellow Republicans to call for his resignation.

And sometimes, the courting crosses the line. Former Iowa state legislator Kent Sorenson pleaded guilty in a pay-to-play scheme in federal court last year, admitting that he accepted $73,000 from then-Rep. Ron Paul’s 2012 presidential campaign after dropping his endorsement of then-Rep. Michele Bachmann in favor of Paul shortly before the caucuses.

But for the most part, the relationships are positive, and Iowa’s leaders sometimes marvel at the experience.

Kaufmann recalled the 2008 nominating contest, when he was a state lawmaker and Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson — better known for being a “Law and Order” star — came for a visit. Thompson wanted to campaign in Kaufmann’s home county.

“We walked up and down the streets of Tipton and talked to business owners I’ve known all my life,” Kaufmann said. “Here I am, little old me, in Tipton, Iowa, and I get to go around and introduce Fred Thompson. It was neat for me.... It enhances a local legislator’s image.”

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Inequality a Major Issue for Americans, Times/CBS Poll Finds // NYT // Noam Scheiber & Dalia Sussman – June 3, 2015

The poll found that a strong majority say that wealth should be more evenly divided and that it is a problem that should be addressed urgently. Nearly six in 10 Americans said government should do more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, but they split sharply along partisan lines. Only one-third of Republicans supported a more active government role, versus eight in 10 of Democrats.

These findings help explain the populist appeals from politicians of both parties, but particularly Democrats, who are seeking to capitalize on the sense among Americans that the fruits of the economic recovery are benefiting only a handful at the very top.

Far from a strictly partisan issue, inequality looms large in the minds of almost half of Republicans and two-thirds

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of independents, suggesting that it will outlive the presidential primary contests and become a central theme in next year's general election campaign.

"There is a small group of people in our country who own or control a vast majority of the wealth," Stephanie Alteneder, 28, a high school teacher from Los Angeles, said in a follow-up interview. "There are a lot of systems set up so that the people who have money get to make more of it."

The percentage of Americans who say everyone has a fair chance to get ahead in today's economy has fallen 17 percentage points since early 2014. Six in 10 Americans now say that only a few people at the top have an opportunity to advance.

The nationwide telephone poll, conducted on landlines and cellphones May 28-31 with 1,022 adults, has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points.

The survey touched on several issues relating to the economy and the workplace, showing that four in five Americans support requiring employers to offer paid parental leave, and even more support paid sick leave. A majority also favors requiring chain stores and fast-food restaurants to inform workers of scheduling changes two weeks in advance or to compensate them with additional pay if they fail to do so.

Seven in 10 Americans support an increase in the federal minimum wage to $10.10 from $7.25 an hour, although Republicans are about evenly divided on the question.

Americans were also skeptical of free trade. Nearly two-thirds favored some form of trade restrictions, and more than half opposed giving the president authority to negotiate trade agreements that Congress could only vote up or down without amending, a White House priority.

Still, it was Americans' views on the distribution of money and opportunity in the country that were most striking. More than half of higher-income Americans said that money and wealth should be more evenly distributed. Across party lines, Americans said the chance to get ahead was mainly a luxury for those at the top.

"People have to get a high school education and they have to go to college as well, and then they go out there and can only get a low-paying job," said Betty Burgess, 70, a retired textile worker from Lincolnton, N.C.

Almost three-quarters of respondents say they believe that large corporations have too much influence in the country, about double the amount that said the same of unions. However, a majority of Americans said that workers who did not want to join a union at their workplace should be able to opt out of paying union fees, even as they benefit from the union's protection and bargaining efforts. Unions generally oppose these so-called right-to-work measures.

The phenomenon of public frustration about inequality rising several years into a recovery is not unprecedented. According to data that Leslie McCall, a professor at Northwestern University, has culled from the General Social Survey, a biennual survey by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, some measures of concern about inequality rose steadily after the 1990-91 recession and did not peak until 1996, after which they fell for several years.

The source of the resentment, Professor McCall said, was that "people think the returns to economic growth should be going to people like them as much as they should be going to people at the top."

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The poll also included a variety of intriguing findings about what Americans think should be done to reduce inequality.

Six in 10 Americans opposed requiring fast-food chains and other employers of hourly workers to raise wages to at least $15 an hour, the aim of a two-and-a-half year nationwide campaign led in part by a major union. (On Tuesday, Francis Slay, the mayor of St. Louis, threw his weight behind an effort to gradually raise the minimum wage there to $15 an hour by 2020, following similar moves in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle in recent years.)

When asked about the other end of the income spectrum, two-thirds of Americans favored raising taxes on people with annual salaries exceeding $1 million. By a 50-45 margin, they favored capping the income of top executives at large corporations, a measure that more than one-third of Republicans supported as well.

Inequality Troubles Americans Across Party Lines, Times/CBS Poll Finds // NYT // Noam Scheiber & Dalia Sussman – June 3, 2015

Americans are broadly concerned about inequality of wealth and income despite an economy that has improved by most measures, a sentiment that is already driving the 2016 presidential contest, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll.

The poll found that a strong majority say that wealth should be more evenly divided and that it is a problem that should be addressed urgently. Nearly six in 10 Americans said government should do more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, but they split sharply along partisan lines. Only one-third of Republicans supported a more active government role, versus eight in 10 of Democrats.

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Far from a strictly partisan issue, inequality looms large in the minds of almost half of Republicans and two-thirds of independents, suggesting that it will outlive the presidential primary contests and become a central theme in next year's general election campaign.

"There is a small group of people in our country who own or control a vast majority of the wealth," Stephanie Alteneder, 28, a Democrat and a high school teacher from Los Angeles, said in a follow-up interview. "There are a lot of systems set up so that the people who have money get to make more of it."

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Working dads make more money than working moms in every state // WaPo // Danielle Paquette – June 3, 2015

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By now, after two zany Amy Schumer skits crashed this economic research Web site, you may have realized America's gender wage gap is more of a maternal wage gap.

Women, on average, make about 78 cents for every dollar paid to men. But at the start of their careers, the difference is much smaller. Consider millennial ladies, the slowest generation to have babies in U.S. history: They bag about93 cents for every guy-earned dollar.

That average falls dismally, however, when kids enter the work-life balance. American mothers who work full-time earn 30 cents less than working fathers, according to an analysis by the National Women's Law Center released today.

"Stereotypes about mothers and fathers contribute to this disparity," the researchers wrote. "Mothers are recommended for significantly lower starting salaries, perceived as less competent, and are less likely to be recommended for hire than non-mothers."

Beyond the obvious financial blow to families -- poverty touches half of kids living with single mothers, for example -- the psychological impact of receiving less pay for equal work can be devastating. Expectant mothers, anticipating judgment amid an otherwise joyful time, sometimes hide their bellies for as long as possible -- or plunge into overdrive at work to combat the stereotype, often at the expense of their health.

Working moms make less than working dads in every state, according to the National Women's Law Center analysis. The maternal wage gap is smallest in Washington, D.C., where mothers typically make ten cents less than fathers, and highest Louisiana, where the difference is a whopping 42 cents.

In seven states, dads make more than $20,000 annually than moms: Alaska ($21,000), Utah ($21,000), Wyoming ($22,000), Massachusetts ($23,000), Louisiana ($23,000), Connecticut ($25,000) and New Jersey ($25,000).

Republican Senators Will Sponsor A Bill To Protect Pregnant Workers For The First Time Ever // Think Progress // Bryce Covert – June 3, 2015

On Thursday, Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) will reintroduce the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA), a bill aimed at helping pregnant employees stay safely on the job. For the first time ever, however, it will get Republican sponsorship from Sens. Kelly Ayotte (NH) and Dean Heller (NV), a Congressional staffer told ThinkProgress.

The PWFA requires employers to offer their pregnant workers small changes so that they can keep working safely unless they can prove it would impose undue hardship on their businesses. Those accommodations could include switching from heavy lifting to light duty, more frequent bathroom breaks, or simply a stool to sit on.

Today, two-thirds of first-time mothers work during their pregnancies, 80 percent of whom stay until their last month. Yet an estimated quarter million women are denied these changes every year, while even more say they don't ask because they're afraid of risking their jobs. Some women have ended up miscarrying, while others have been forced onto unpaid leave or fired when they asked for and were denied an accommodation. The Supreme Court recently sided with Peggy Young, a former UPS employee who was put on unpaid leave instead of being given light duty during her pregnancy.

The Republican support comes after the PWFA was included in a vote-o-rama of budget amendments in March and got unanimous support. The bill has been introduced as its own piece of legislation multiple times in past years

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but only had Democratic sponsorship and didn't advance.

Meanwhile, states have advanced their own versions of the bill: 14 and Washington, D.C. require employers to give pregnant employees reasonable accommodations.

House GOP votes to block administration on immigration **// AP // Erica Werner – June 3, 2015**

House Republicans have voted to block the Obama administration from spending any money against a lawsuit over the president's immigration policies.

The 222-204 vote Wednesday came on an amendment by leading immigration hardliner Rep. Steve King of Iowa to a spending bill for the Commerce and Justice Departments.

House Republicans spent weeks earlier this year trying to overturn President Barack Obama's executive actions from last fall that granted work permits and stays of deportation to millions of immigrants living in this country illegally.

The House efforts were unsuccessful, but Republicans have claimed success anyway, noting that the policies have been put on hold by a federal judge in a lawsuit by a group of states seeking to overturn the actions.

INTERNATIONAL

ISIS Making Political Gains **// NYT // Anne Barnard & Tim Arango – June 3, 2015**

Days after seizing the Syrian desert city of Palmyra, Islamic State militants blew up a notorious prison there, long used by the Syrian government to detain and torture political prisoners.

The demolition was part of the extremist group's strategy to position itself as the champion of Sunni Muslims who feel besieged by the Shiite-backed governments in Syria and Iraq.

The Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, has managed to advance in the face of American-led airstrikes by employing a mix of persuasion and violence. That has allowed it to present itself as the sole guardian of Sunni interests in a vast territory cutting across Iraq and Syria.

Ideologically unified, the Islamic State is emerging as a social and political movement in many Sunni areas, filling a void in the absence of solid national identity and security. At the same time, it responds brutally to any other Sunni group, militant or civilian, that poses a challenge to its supremacy.

That dual strategy, purporting to represent Sunni interests and attacking any group that vies to play the same role, has allowed it to grow in the face of withering airstrikes.

While the Obama administration has focused on confronting the Islamic State militarily, experts say the group's recent victories point to the need for a political component in the strategy to counter the group — even after nearly 4,000 airstrikes by the American-led coalition and what United States officials say are the deaths of 10,000 ISIS militants.

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“They are hijacking legitimate demands,” Ibrahim Hamidi, a journalist and political analyst from the restive Syrian province of Idlib, said of the Islamic State. He has long argued that without more forceful international action against the Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, and a political program to empower Sunnis, support for the extremists will grow.

“This is part of what makes them so dangerous,” he said. “Defeating them needs a comprehensive approach.”

Sunnis form an aggrieved majority in Syria, where repression of a mostly Sunni uprising by Mr. Assad’s government, backed by Shiite-led Iran, exploded into war. And they are an aggrieved minority in Iraq, where Shiites are more numerous, after years of sectarian violence between Sunni and Shiite militias.

But little has been done to give Sunnis a greater role in their own governance. Mr. Assad remains in power, backed by Iran and the militant group Hezbollah. And American officials are fighting an uphill battle to persuade Sunnis in Iraq to fight ISIS alongside the Shiite-led central government and Iranian-backed militias.

That, Mr. Hamidi and other analysts said, has left some Sunnis willing to tolerate the Islamic State in areas where they lack another defender, especially in conservative communities like the ones in western Iraq and eastern Syria, where the group is strongest. The analysts emphasized that most Sunnis do not support the Islamic State’s harsh interpretation of Islam, or its brutality, but that some were becoming more susceptible to its political talk about protecting oppressed Sunnis.

“Now, with the sectarian polarization of the region, under the skin of every single Sunni there is a tiny Daesh,” Mr. Hamidi, a Sunni, said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State.

By attacking ISIS in Syria while doing nothing to stop Mr. Assad from bombing Sunni areas that have rebelled, he added, the United States-led campaign was driving some Syrians into the Islamic State camp. “The coalition is scratching the skin and making this Daesh come out.”

A slang word has even emerged, aid workers in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon say, for someone who supports ISIS just a little bit. Some people say, with a hint of sheepishness, “I’m a Dawoosh,” using an Arabic diminutive that suggests “a cute little Daesh.”

In Iraq, the Islamic State has largely engulfed a pre-existing Sunni insurgency. It has deeper roots there, having grown out of Al Qaeda in Iraq, that sprang from resistance to United States after the 2003 invasion.

In 2006, Iraq became embroiled in civil war, with Sunni and Shiite militias carrying out sectarian attacks on civilians. Now, some of those Shiite militias are among the most effective forces on the ground after the partial collapse of the Iraqi Army. But there have been reports of revenge killings by the militias, and some Sunnis trust them so little that they prefer the Islamic State.

The situation in Syria is similar in some ways, with Mr. Assad relying on support from Iran and Iranian-backed militias. But the Islamic State faces greater challenges winning popular support in Syria, where its Iraqi leadership is viewed as foreign and where there remains a significant collection of Sunni insurgent groups opposed to both the Islamic State and the government.

Washington is trying to recruit some of those rival groups to be trained and equipped as a front-line force against the Islamic State in Syria. But the program is small, with only 90 fighters in the first round of training, and recruiting is a challenge, since most Syrian insurgents place the highest priority on fighting the Assad government.

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Also arrayed against the Islamic State in Syria are many hard-line Islamist groups, including the Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front. They can match the Islamic State in espousing Sunni sectarian views, condemning minority sects, and reject its claim to represent Sunnis, calling them instead “khawarej,” a term from Islamic history signifying divisive outsiders.

The Islamic State has made more inroads in areas where either it or the government has stamped out alternative insurgent forces. That was the case in Palmyra, the first city the group took directly from government forces, which had crushed a rebellion there in 2012.

One resident of Palmyra who opposes both the Islamic State and the government said it was trying to persuade townspeople to view it as a liberator.

“For the last seven years, they have been winning hearts and minds in Iraq,” he said, using only a nickname, Dahham, for safety reasons. “This is the same approach they are using in Palmyra, and nobody stood against them.”

Rami Jarrah, an antigovernment activist who also opposes ISIS, said the group scored a victory by destroying the prison. The site has powerful resonance across the spectrum of opponents of Mr. Assad, from secular communists to Sunni Islamists accused of taking part in a Muslim Brotherhood insurgency that was crushed in the 1980s.

Syrians who lost loved ones to abuses by the governments of Mr. Assad and his father, Hafez al-Assad, may now feel that while global powers ignored their pleas for help, “justice has been met at the hands of extremist militants,” Mr. Jarrah wrote on Facebook.

With the recent gains by the Islamic State, Washington is tinkering with tactics and weapons. Anti-tank missiles are on their way to Iraq, to destroy American tanks that the group took from fleeing Iraqi soldiers.

But United States military support has its limits, given the Iraqi Army’s weakness, which in turn reflects the divisions that have made Iraqi national unity elusive.

“ISIS can only really be defeated by the Sunnis in Iraq,” said Emma Sky, a Briton who was a political adviser to the American military in Iraq. That is what happened in 2006, when the American military established the Awakening program, paying Sunni tribes to switch sides and fight Al Qaeda in Iraq and the greater Sunni insurgency.

The United States, unable to act unilaterally as it did in 2006, is now pushing the Iraqi government to arm Sunni tribes to fight the Islamic State, but little has happened in the face of objections by harder-line Shiite leaders. There is also a reluctance among Sunnis to fight ISIS, because many do not see being governed by Baghdad as something worth fighting for.

“We need assurances that those who are fighting against Daesh will have rights and be treated like Iraqis,” said Osama Nujaifi, a vice president of Iraq and a Sunni.

Some Iraqi Sunnis, having seen what ultimately happened with the Awakening, take a once bitten, twice shy approach now. Envisioned as a long-term effort to empower the Sunni community, the Awakening collapsed because the Shiite-led Iraqi government never fulfilled promises of full- time jobs to the Awakening fighters.

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Sheikh Wissam al-Hardan, a Sunni from Anbar Province who is loyal to the government, said that Sunni fighters still on the payroll of what remains of the Awakening groups had not been paid in 15 months.

“There is no reconciliation between the government and the Sunnis,” he said. “The government considers them as if they are all ISIS.”

Cuba officially off U.S. terror blacklist **// CNN // Kevin Liptak – June 3, 2015**

The United States officially removed Cuba from its list of countries that sponsor terrorism on Friday, setting the two nations up for a full renewal of diplomatic ties.

President Barack Obama originally announced in April that he was recommending that Cuba be removed from the terror blacklist after a State Department review. Friday marked the expiration of a 45-day period when Congress could have blocked the move.

"The rescission of Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism reflects our assessment that Cuba meets the statutory criteria," the State Department said in a statement Friday.

The statement noted that the U.S. "has significant concerns and disagreements with a wide range of Cuba's policies and actions" but said these fall outside the criteria related to rescinding a state sponsor of terror designation.

Cuba was originally placed on the terror list in 1982 when the U.S. government accused the Fidel Castro regime of sponsoring communist groups in Latin American and Africa. But independent analysts have for years cast doubt on the country's current terror ties, and the State Department said its association with certain groups had "become more distant."

Three other countries are currently named as state sponsors of terror: Iran, Sudan and Syria.

The terror listing was one of the final barriers to restoring diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba. Obama announced in December that he was ending a nearly half-century of frozen relations, stating that the freeze wasn't benefiting either nation.

The administration has already lifted some of the restrictions on travel and trade with Cuba, including permitting some ferries to run services from Florida to the island. American visitors are still required to obtain a license from the federal government before traveling to Cuba, though the Treasury has made it easier to obtain permission to go.

The removal of the terror designation will also ease some trade restrictions, though in order for full economic ties to be restored, Congress will need to lift the embargo on Cuba that's been in place since 1960.

Some lawmakers -- including Republican and Democratic Cuban-Americans -- staunchly oppose any normalization in relations with Cuba, accusing Obama of sidling up to a brutal dictatorship.

House Speaker John Boehner said on Friday that Obama "handed the Castro regime a significant political win in return for nothing" by removing Cuba from the terror list.

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"The communist dictatorship has offered no assurances it will address its long record of repression and human rights abuses at home," Boehner said in a statement.

Despite the objections, neither Boehner not other opponents of Obama's Cuba policy sought to block the terror designation removal in Congress. A GOP congressional source said leaders anticipated that overcoming a presidential veto on the measure would be difficult, and determined the practical effects of the removal were minimal.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, an expected contender for the 2016 GOP presidential nomination, wrote in a statement that, "Neither continued repression at home nor Cuba's destabilizing activities abroad appear sufficient to stop President Obama from making further concessions to the Communist regime in Havana."

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest dismissed Republicans' concerns on the terror list removal and said the potential of Obama visiting Cuba remains a "presidential aspiration."

In January Obama met with Cuban leader Raul Castro at the Summit of the Americans in Panama, the first time the leaders of the two countries had met for substantial talks since before the Cuban revolution. Visiting Miami on Thursday, Obama made a stop at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity, a religious site honoring the patron saint of Cuba, to pay respects the large Cuban diaspora in the United States.

Officials have been negotiating the reopening of embassies in Washington and Havana, though some sticking points -- like how freely American diplomats will be able to move around Cuba -- remain.

The U.S. is eying the current head of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba, Jeffrey DeLaurentis, as the first U.S. ambassador to Cuba in more than 50 years. Plans are being formulated to remodel the current building on Havana's waterfront that houses the interests section to use it as the embassy.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Romney defeating Bush in GOP establishment primary **// The Hill // Brent Budowsky – June 3, 2015**

Almost immediately after Mitt Romney announced he was not running in the 2016 race, I speculated that he may be engaging in a clever ploy to stay out of the line of political fire, hoping that former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) fails as a candidate and the growing army of GOP presidential candidates creates a deadlock for the Republican nomination, and the party turns to ... Mitt Romney!

There are many scenarios that could unfold in the GOP race. It is certainly possible that a candidate such as Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) or Florida Sen. Marco Rubio (R) could catch fire and seize the Republican nomination. I have an upcoming column about Rubio that considers his prospects.

If Romney, the Republican 2012 nominee, is actually pursuing the Machiavellian strategy I suggest, recent events in the GOP make this scenario even more likely. Currently, the absurdly growing GOP field makes a deadlocked primary and convention process more likely, with numerous candidates holding between 8 and 13 percent of the GOP vote. The GOP debates could well become a farce with so many candidates.

Next, in the unlikely event that one of the right-wing candidates such as Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) begins winning

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primaries, I guarantee that the entire GOP national party leadership will move aggressively to stop that candidate, correctly fearing that candidate would lose a landslide to Hillary Clinton (D). In this case they would almost certainly turn to ... Mitt Romney!

For this scenario to unfold, there is a secondary primary process, outside the formal primary process, to determine who the establishment compromise nominee would be. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) could have played that role, but it ended on a bridge to New York. A Machiavellian Romney would have nothing to fear from Christie.

In my theory, the big bet Romney would have to have made is that the Bush's campaign would fail, paving the way for Romney as the alternative to a rightist front-runner or a deadlocked convention.

Let's be direct. This Romney bet, if he made it, appears to be paying off. Bush has been a very weak candidate, another name in a big bunch of mid-range candidates. Bush could not answer the obvious question about the Iraq War initiated by his brother, George W. Bush (Bush 43). A long list of aides, advisers, donors and supporters of Bush 43 are refusing to support Jeb Bush. Why? The right dislikes Jeb Bush even more than they dislike Romney. And Bush has very high negative ratings generally and among Republicans, while Romney gets great public relations from a charity boxing match and supports various GOP candidates in many states.

The more Bush lags in the GOP sweepstakes, the more Romney gains in the GOP establishment primary within the larger primaries.

Romney, by nature, is a takeover artist. Might he be planning his greatest takeover since the 2012 Republican National Convention? Every week brings more evidence that his big bet has a real chance of paying off.

Hillary Clinton is political, but her foundation isn't **// Boston Globe // Dan Payne – June 3, 2015**

THE MUCH-DISCUSSED Clinton Foundation builds partnerships with businesses, governments, nongovernment organizations, other foundations, and wealthy individuals. Like Robin Hood, the foundation used those resources to reduce childhood obesity and improve meals at 20,000 US schools, aid 56,000 small farmers in Malawi, launch programs to save forests in Cambodia, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, and Tanzania, and cut the cost of HIV/AIDS medications for 9.9 million people in 70 countries.

Clinton detractors would have us believe the foundation is an arm of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. But judging by the politics of its donors, people give and support the foundation without regard to her campaign. Consider these big donors:

Big Media is well-represented, an indication that they don't see the foundation as a political arm of Campaign Hillary. Comcast, NBC Universal, News Corporation, Thomson Reuters, Time Warner, and Turner Broadcasting are big contributors; other big givers include Carlos Slim, the Mexican telecom magnate and largest shareholder of The New York Times Company. Bloomberg News donated $500,001-$1 million. (Gifts are reported as a range.)

If the foundation benefits Clinton's candidacy, that will come as news to James Murdoch, co-chief operating officer for the company that owns Fox News, donated $1 million-$5 million, as well as his father Richard, who founded Fox News and gave $500,001-$1 million.

Major conservatives have given major dollars. Calling itself "The #1 conservative site in the nation," Newsmax Media chipped in $100,001-$250,000 and also $1 million-$5 million. The recently deceased Pittsburgh billionaire Richard Mellon Scaife, principal heir to the Mellon family's old banking, oil, steel and aluminum fortune, was described as "one of America's leading funders of conservative causes." He donated $250,001-

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$500,000.

Even big name Republicans are on board. Many Republicans have supported Foundation events, including the Global Initiative meetings. Guests have included Laura Bush; former two-time presidential candidate Mitt Romney; TV host Donald Trump, who also forked over $100,000; New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, presidential candidates Carly Fiorina; former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson.

What about Stephanopolous? Yes, George Stephanopolous, of ABC News, gave $75,000 to the foundation, which was publicly listed. Yes, he helped Bill Clinton's campaign for president and should have told his bosses and his audience about his donation. But he gave to support efforts against AIDS and deforestation. His gift reveals nothing about his political history that wasn't already known.

How diverse can you get? None other than onetime vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin attended a Clinton Global Initiative session to hear a speech by Senator John McCain, the-then presidential nominee.

The ideological variety of the foundation's supporters shows its work is seen by even the most political people as apolitical. Many things can be said to criticize Hillary Clinton. But using the Clinton Foundation to advance her run for president isn't one of them.

Democrats, Don't Freak Out! **// Slate // Jamelle Bouie – June 3, 2015**

George W. Bush is popular again.

According to a new poll from CNN, the majority of Americans—52 percent—have a "favorable" view of Bush, versus 43 percent who still aren't keen on the former president. And while he isn't as popular as his post-presidential peers—including his father—he's in far better shape than he was during his final days in office, when most Americans disliked and disapproved of his administration.

But more striking than this is his stature versus the current president, Barack Obama. In addition to their survey on Bush, CNN also finds that the 43rd president is more popular than the 44th, who is as liked (49 percent approval) as he is disliked (49 percent disapproval).

Conservatives, no surprise, are thrilled. But before touting these numbers as proof of Bush's ultimate success—and Obama's clear failure—they should consider this fact of public opinion: Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson aside, every president becomes popular, or at least more popular, out of office. Jimmy Carter was so unpopular he faced a powerful Democratic opponent to his re-election campaign and lost the general election in a popular and electoral vote landslide. But 35 years later, his favorable/unfavorable spread is also better than Obama's. The other one-term president of the past generation, George H.W. Bush, has also recovered from his prior unpopularity. On the eve of the 1992 election, his approval rating was 43 percent. Today, 63 percent of Americans have a favorable view of the elder Bush, versus 31 percent who still aren't convinced. Likewise, Bill Clinton was popular throughout his eight years—with an average approval rating of 55 percent—and has become more popular as his tenure has moved to memory. According to Gallup, he has an average post-presidential rating of 60 percent.

Put bluntly, George W. Bush's popularity isn't news, although it would be if, after seven years of a quiet post-presidency, Bush was still as hated as he was at the end of 2008.

With that said, what's striking about the rehabilitation of Bush is that it's concurrent with Hillary Clinton's return from the stratosphere of public opinion. At this time four years ago—when she was chief diplomat and the 2012

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election was still in the distance—Clinton was among the most popular figures in the country with a favorable rating of 60 percent. Indeed, just 31 percent of Americans held an unfavorable view of her. She was less popular in 2012, but not by much; the atmosphere was partisan, but not so much that it hurt her standing.

That changed in 2013, as she slid from a 56 percent favorability rating in January to 48 percent one in December. And her numbers fell further in 2014, from a high of 50 percent to just under 47 percent at the end of the year. Her recent decline—as well as her higher unfavorables—are part of the same trend. Through 2012, less than one-third of respondents had a poor view of Hillary Clinton. By last month, the anti-Hillary crowd had grown to almost 47 percent of Americans, inching out her supporters.

For the media, this reflects scandal. Between the email controversy, foreign donors, and the Clinton Foundation, the public is already weary from Hillary's baggage. At the same time, those are relatively young stories—they've only been in the news a few months. If you want to understand the broad trend of Clinton's decline, you have to look at her position: She was outside of politics.

By leaving domestic politics after the 2008 election, Clinton entered a sort of post-presidency, not dissimilar to Bill Clinton's or even George W. Bush's. In public life, but out of the spotlight, she was no longer a partisan figure, which—for Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike—made her palatable. She wasn't, to borrow from the New Republic's Rebecca Traister, asking for anything.

Now she is. And as she's gone from a potential candidate to a live one, her popularity has climbed down from the stratosphere. Now, she's back to where she was in 2007—a well-known and polarized politician with tremendous opposition on the right and substantial support on the left. Like Bush, her journey through public opinion has less to do with her and everything to do with her place in the political firmament.

There is one difference. When he left office, Bush was genuinely unpopular, so much so that—four years later—a majority of voters still blamed him for the country's poor economic conditions. For as much as Republicans might celebrate his present standing, I'd be shocked if they asked him to campaign for the eventual nominee. Americans have warm feelings for the former president, but that sentiment wouldn't survive the scrutiny of a campaign.

Clinton didn't leave on a high, but she didn't leave on a low either. When Obama claimed victory in the Democratic primary, 48 percent of Americans had a favorable view of Clinton. Which means that, with her current ratings, she's returned to her norm as a partisan figure. And it's a good one. By 2009, that 48 percent had become 50 percent as Democrats forgave and forgot the combat of the previous year. In the same way, the secret of her present decline is that it's driven by Democrats, who will return to the "team" as the country enters election season. Despite everything, Hillary is in good shape.

If you aren't convinced, consider the reverse scenario. Imagine that the Republican Party had a former senator turned presidential candidate turned secretary of state, who at worst pulled a plurality of all voters, and who at best pulled a firm majority. Would the GOP reject her, or would they immediately embrace her standard, confident that—even with the inevitable scandals and criticism—they're still positioned for victory.

A 'favorable' way to stop Hillary Clinton's 'trust' fall // WaPo // Jonathan Capehart – June 3, 2015

Hillary Clinton's first big rally of her 2016 presidential campaign will take place on Roosevelt Island on June 13. And it's coming at the right time. Two national polls released Tuesday and a couple of fundraising stories out of New York spell trouble for the Democratic candidate. By making the case for her candidacy, putting forth ideas that can be debated and answering reporters' questions, Clinton can use the next six months to turn all of this around.

The Post-ABC News poll puts Clinton's favorability rating at 45 percent, a seven-year low. The CNN-ORC poll has

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it at 46 percent, the worst it has been since 2011. That CNN survey also puts her unfavorable rating at 50 percent. The former secretary of state who once soared in public opinion is now upside down. To make matters worse, the public's view of Clinton's trustworthiness took a hit.

In the CNN-ORC survey, it plummeted eight points since March, from 50 percent to 42 percent. When asked whether "is honest and trustworthy" applies to Clinton, 57 percent said no. That's an eight-point jump since March. The Post-ABC News poll wasn't as bad, with a five-point drop to 41 percent in trustworthiness. But there was a six-point spike in untrustworthiness to 52 percent. These numbers do not a president make. But I should point out that neither poll asked about the trustworthiness of Clinton's two Democratic rivals — Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley — or anyone in the cavalcade of Republican presidential hopefuls. Not trusting Clinton is one thing. A trust match-up between her and the declared GOP 9 and the undeclared six would be a much more useful measure.

Of course, Clinton's trust plunge has to do with an avalanche of stories about lingering questions about her e-mails, her private e-mail server and the fundraising actions of the Clinton Foundation. Each new revelation feeds the negative narrative that the Clintons play by different rules than the rest of us. Candidate Clinton's March press conference about the server didn't quell queries, and her relative silence since then contributed to the diminished opinion of her.

Meanwhile, stories about the lack of enthusiasm among deep-pocketed Democratic donors are certain to add to the seeming mayhem around Clinton's campaign. But, folks, I'm here to remind you that we are still at the beginning of a very long process.

We know all about Clinton, but we don't know what her candidacy is all about. That will change with her speech on the 13th at Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park. The national park commemorates President Roosevelt's 1941 State of the Union address, otherwise known as the "four freedoms" speech. In it, FDR called for "a world founded upon four essential human freedoms," including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

The symbolism of Clinton's chosen location and the speech it honors gives a clue into where her campaign is headed. Translating FDR's universal vision into specific and viable policies for a 21st-century nation and world is vital to Clinton right- sizing those poll numbers. So is answering direct questions from reporters, which The Post's Anne Gearan reports will start happening around the same time as the big rally.

The sooner Clinton gets this part of the campaign up and running, the better. It's time she show that she can listen to the American people as she travels the country and talk to them at the same time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lanny Davis: Hillary Clinton and the frenzy of the media // The Hill // Lanny Davis – June 3, 2015

"Mobs of reporters and cameramen and other Big Timers were out there wearing bush jackets with leather straps running this way and that and knocking back their Pepsi-Colas and Nehis and yelling to each other and mainly just milling about, crazy with the excitement of being on the scene, bawling for news of the anguished soul of Louise Shepard. They wanted a moan, a tear, some twisted features, a few inside words from friends, any goddamned thing. They were getting desperate. Give us a sign! Give us anything! Give us the diaper-service man! The diaper-service man comes down the street with his big plastic bags, smoking a cigar to provide an aromatic screen for his daily task — and they're all over him and his steamy bag. Maybe he knows the Shepards! Maybe he knows Louise! Maybe he's been in there! Maybe he knows the layout of chez Shepard! He locks himself in the front seat, choking on cigar smoke, and they're banging on his panel truck. 'Let us in! We want to see!' They're on their knees. They're slithering in the ooze. They're interviewing the dog, the cat, the rhododendrons. … These incredible maniacs were all out there tearing up the lawn and yearning for their pieces of Louise's emotional wreckage."

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—Tom Wolfe, The Right Stuff (1979), describing the media scrum at the home of Louise Shepard, wife of Alan Shepard, America's first astronaut, who had just returned safely from a suborbital flight in space.

Has anything changed?

Decades later, on May 22, Ruby Cramer of BuzzFeed was in the small town of Hampton, N.H., covering a Hillary Clinton event at — I am not making this name up — Smuttynose Brewing Co., a locally owned small business that proudly brews its own brands of beer.

Cramer reported that a small group of 60 local townspeople attended, including Lenore and Gary Patton, ages 78 and 79, respectively. For about an hour, the Pattons and the five dozen other guests listened to Clinton talk "in granular detail" about challenges facing small businesses.

The event was open to the press. And here's what happened next, as reported by Cramer:

"The spell of the everyday was broken. Clinton was swarmed by reporters. From the aisle, pressed up against the wall of beer cases stacked to the ceiling on pallet shelves, they gathered in a thick circle that happened to coalesce right around the two best seats in the house. Lenore and Gary Patton could not talk to the candidate they had come to see. They could not even get out of their chairs.

"Cameras flashed wildly. Lenore was crunched. Gary had a tape recorder in his right ear, a television camera in his left, and microphones overhead. They were inches from Clinton, with her 'in the eye of the hurricane,' as Gary put it after watching her field questions on Iraq, her emails, and her image. ('Do you have a perception problem?')"

Clinton responded by saying she would let voters decide for themselves.

" 'Hey,' Gary said to no one in particular. 'She's smart. She's experienced. End of story. ... This woman has what it takes.'

'She has ideas for the direction of the country she wants to go in,' said Lenore. 'She cares about the middle class. We're about as middle class as you can get.'

'She's so experienced, she's so bright, and she's so adroit,' her husband added. 'And I came in here not necessarily feeling all of these things, but I go away thinking that we would be lucky to have her as the president, because she has so many attributes that you need. It's an incredibly impressive performance.' "

A CNN poll published on Tuesday reported that the former secretary of State's favorable and trustworthiness ratings have dropped. Shocking! She has been pounded virtually every day for the last two months by mainstream media, far-right media and every Republican running for president, so that shouldn't be surprising.

Lest we forget, just recently The New York Times/CBS national poll showed that the percentage of Americans who rate Clinton as a strong leader has increased from 57 percent in March to 65 percent, and she is still defeating most Republicans in most polls by a significant margin.

Is there a disconnect between Clinton and real voters like Lenore and Gary Patton? Or is the disconnect between the frenzied media scrum and partisan Republican presidential candidates, and real, everyday Americans?

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You decide.

Alexandria Phillips

Press Assistant | Communications

Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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From: "Sara Latham" <Sara.Latham@ptt.gov>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/8/2009 8:05:01 AM
Subject: FW: FINAL DoD release

From: Amy Brundage
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2009 2:15 PM
To: Amy Brundage; Dan Pfeiffer; Tommy Vietor; Laura Petrou; Dana Hyde; Sarah Feinberg; Sara Latham; Benjamin Rhodes; Kristin Sheehy; Brooke Anderson; Mark Patterson; Cammie Croft
Subject: FINAL DoD release

Final release is below. thanks all

President-Elect Obama Announces Key Department of Defense Posts

WASHINGTON – Today, President-elect Barack Obama announced that he intends to nominate the following individuals for key posts at the United States Department of Defense (DoD): William J. Lynn III, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Robert F. Hale, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); Michèle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense (Policy); and Jeh Charles Johnson, General Counsel.

President-elect Obama said, "I am confident that these distinguished individuals have the expertise and commitment needed to help me implement a sustainable national security strategy that combats 21st century threats and keeps the American people safe. They share with me the utmost respect for our brave men and women in uniform, and will work day and night to support our troops, strengthen our military, and advance our capacity to carry out 21st century missions. Together with Secretary Gates and our military, we will work to responsibly end the war in Iraq, defeat al Qaeda and the Taliban, and renew America's strength and standing in the world. I am honored that they have joined me in this mission, and I trust that they will serve the American people well."

The announcements made today are below:

William J. Lynn III, Deputy Secretary of Defense
Lynn brings decades of experience and expertise in reforming government spending and making the tough choices necessary to ensure that American tax dollars are spent wisely. Lynn served as the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) from 1997 to 2001. In that position, he was the chief financial officer for the Department of Defense and the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense for all budgetary and fiscal matters. From 1993 to 1997, Lynn was the director of program analysis and evaluation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he oversaw all aspects of the DoD's strategic planning process. Lynn was awarded three DoD medals for distinguished public service, the Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and awards from the Army, Navy and Air Force. He also received the 2000 Distinguished Federal Leadership Award from the Association of Government Accountants for his efforts to improve defense accounting practices. Lynn currently serves as senior vice president of Government Operations and Strategy at Raytheon Company. Before entering the DoD in 1993, Lynn served for six years on the staff of Senator Edward Kennedy as liaison to the Senate Armed Services Committee. He has also been a Senior Fellow at the National Defense University, on the professional staff at the Institute for Defense Analyses and served as the executive director of the Defense Organization Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Lynn has a law degree from Cornell Law School and a Master's in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. He is married with a daughter.

Robert F. Hale, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)
Hale currently serves as the Executive Director of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC). From 1994 to 2001 Mr. Hale was appointed by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller). He was responsible for the Air Force budget and all aspects of Air Force financial management. He also spearheaded creation of the first-ever certification program for defense financial managers. Hale served for twelve years as head of the defense unit of the Congressional Budget Office. Early in his career, Hale served on active duty as a Navy officer and worked for the Center for Naval Analyses. Robert Hale holds a BS with honors from Stanford University as well as an MS from Stanford and an MBA from George Washington University. He is also a Fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration. Mr. Hale has served on the Defense Business Board and recently completed service on a Congressionally-mandated Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care. He is a former National President of the American Society of Military Comptrollers and is a Certified Defense Financial Manager with acquisition specialty.

Michèle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)
In January 2007, Flournoy cofounded and was named president of the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), a venture dedicated to advancing a strong, centrist national security strategy. Prior to joining CNAS, she was a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where she worked on a broad range of defense policy and international security issues. Previously, she was a distinguished research professor at the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense

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University (NDU), where she founded and led the university's Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) working group, which was chartered by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to develop intellectual capital in preparation for the Department of Defense's 2001 QDR. Prior to joining NDU, she was dual-hatted as principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy and threat reduction and deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy. In that capacity, she oversaw three policy offices in the Office of the Secretary of Defense: Strategy; Requirements, Plans, and Counterproliferation; and Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasian Affairs. Flournoy was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service in 1996, the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service in 1998, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 2000. In addition to several edited volumes and reports, she has authored dozens of articles on international security issues. Flournoy holds a B.A. in social studies from Harvard University and an M.Litt. in international relations from Balliol College, Oxford University, where she was a Newton-Tatum scholar.

Jeh Charles Johnson, General Counsel
Johnson is a partner in the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, based in New York City. Johnson's career has been a mixture of successful private law practice (as an experienced trial lawyer) and distinguished public service (as a federal prosecutor and presidential appointee). At age 47, he was elected a Fellow in the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. Johnson's career as a trial lawyer began in 1989-91, as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where he prosecuted public corruption cases. He served three years as a federal prosecutor. In 1998, Johnson left Paul, Weiss for 27 months when President Clinton appointed him General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, following nomination and confirmation by the United States Senate. While in that position, Johnson was awarded the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service. In 2007-08, Johnson served as a foreign policy advisor to President-elect Obama's campaign. Johnson is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a graduate of Morehouse College and Columbia Law School.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2009
Contact: Obama Transition Press Office, 202-540-3483

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 4:48:04 AM
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

I think we want the frame of protecting exec actions but taking additional steps. If the statement carries that I'm fine, but if we need to make sure that's probably the place to do it.

On Monday, May 4, 2015, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I thought we could background generally tonight but was concerned about getting ahead of her on the daca/ dapa/plus stuff. What do you think?

Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2015, at 6:06 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Should we pitch a story to univision tonight?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: May 3, 2015 11:57 PM
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >, "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com >, "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>, "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com >, "David Binder" <David@db-research.com>, "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, "Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >, "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >, "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: "Marissa Astor" <mastor@hillaryclinton.com >

In advance of this discussion, here's a draft of her Las Vegas topper. It's a little long so I'm going to try to tighten it up, but this attempts to lay out the contrast on path to citizenship and move the ball forward with the parents of dreamers.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 8:23 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

Agree with Jake and John
We're not running against King.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 3, 2015, at 7:28 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I'd stick with Bush/Rubio.

On Sunday, May 3, 2015, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com > wrote:

It always makes sense to whack Steve King. And this is particularly outrageous and bigoted and [fill in the bad word]. But the question from you and the comms team is whether hitting King takes away from our effort to get a clean contrast with Bush/Rubio et al. They would also attack King, so it sort of lets them off the hook.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 7:09 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

If you won't be on the call, Jake, can I ask one immigration question. Does it make any sense to whack Steve King for

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trying to change the Constitution to deny babies born here the right to American citizenship if their parents aren't citizens? (basically get rid of the 14th amendment). It seems like a great contrast to what HRC is proposing.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
To: Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; David Binder <David@db-research.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marissa Astor <mastor@hillaryclinton.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sun, May 3, 2015 7:03 pm
Subject: Re: 8 am Agenda & Standing Meetings / Calls

Marlon and I will be on a plane to Atlanta. Dan can walk through our immigration gameplan.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 6:48 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Our agenda for tomorrow's 8 am is:
>
> - Immigration plan
> - Clinton Cash update
>
> Just to remind everyone that these are our standing meetings/calls going forward:
>
> **Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am Call**
>
> **Week & Month Look Ahead - Thursdays**
> Normally this call will be every Thursday, but due to scheduling conflicts this week it will be Friday at 1 pm. It will be a one hour call and then every other week it will be a 2 hour in-person meeting. The first in-person meeting will be on May 14. Marissa is scheduling it with your offices.
>
> --
> Kristina Schake
> Hillary for America

<2015-05-03 LV Immigration Roundtable - 11pm.docx>

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 6/28/2015 11:13:10 AM
Subject: Re: Israel and Iran

Thanks Stu. Some of what Dennis suggests is quite complicated, as you know.

> On Jun 28, 2015, at 5:53 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>
> Dear Jake,
>
> Dennis Ross and I had an hour-plus meeting Sunday morning with the PM and full Israeli Cabinet, in our capacity as co-chairs of the Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem.
> While we made presentations on a number of topics, Iran and BDS were the most important and engendered the most comment.
>
> Before the meeting, I met at length with Dennis about Iran. I wanted to share his views, beyond those in his Washington Institute letter I have referenced before, because they may be useful in shaping Hillary's statement.
>
> 1. He felt that an agreement would be reached, would be disapproved by Congress, and the President's veto would be sustained, most likely in the House. Dennis later
> conveyed that view to the PM and Cabinet, provoking a strong reaction from Bibi.
>
> 2. The US should state clearly upfront that we will use all means at our disposal to prevent Iran from crossing the very fine line between being a nuclear capable state and being a nuclear weapons state. Iran must get a clear signal now.
>
> 3.The US should provide Israel with a
> new Mission Ordinance Penetration (MOP) bomb, that is more powerful than the Bunker Busting Bomb, and could blow-up the Fordo facility, if necessary. This would be a signal to Iran, that cheating will not pay.
>
> 4.The US should state it will support any action Israel must take for its own defense.
>
> 5. The US will not cooperate with Iran on regional issues.
>
> 6. If Hillary has to support what he believes will be a deeply flawed agrement, that will not measure-up to the April US Fact Sheet, these points above would be useful to state. In addition, she could balance support for opposing a new UN Resolution.
>
> When I land. I will summarize the points I made about BDS.
>
> I was struck in my week in Israel, not only among Israeli officials, but among my friends across the political spectrum (most are former officials) and apolitical relatives, at the depth of antipathy and distrust of President Obama, as "weak", "pro-Muslim", and "anti-Israel".
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Stu

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/28/2015 12:48:26 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Are we going to lose Afghanistan?

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PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

Are we going to lose Afghanistan?



An Afghan shopkeeper watches this morning from a broken window of his shop near the site of suicide car bomb attack in Kabul. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Because of ISIS and the threat of attacks on the homeland, Syria has been on the front burner and Afghanistan has been on the back burner during the presidential campaign. That's about to change.

In the last few hours, a Taliban suicide bomber killed at least one person and injured 13 more near the airport in Kabul. The incident, just two weeks after a major assault on the city and a week after six U.S. soldiers were killed in another bombing near Bagram air base, underscores the extent to which the situation continues to deteriorate.

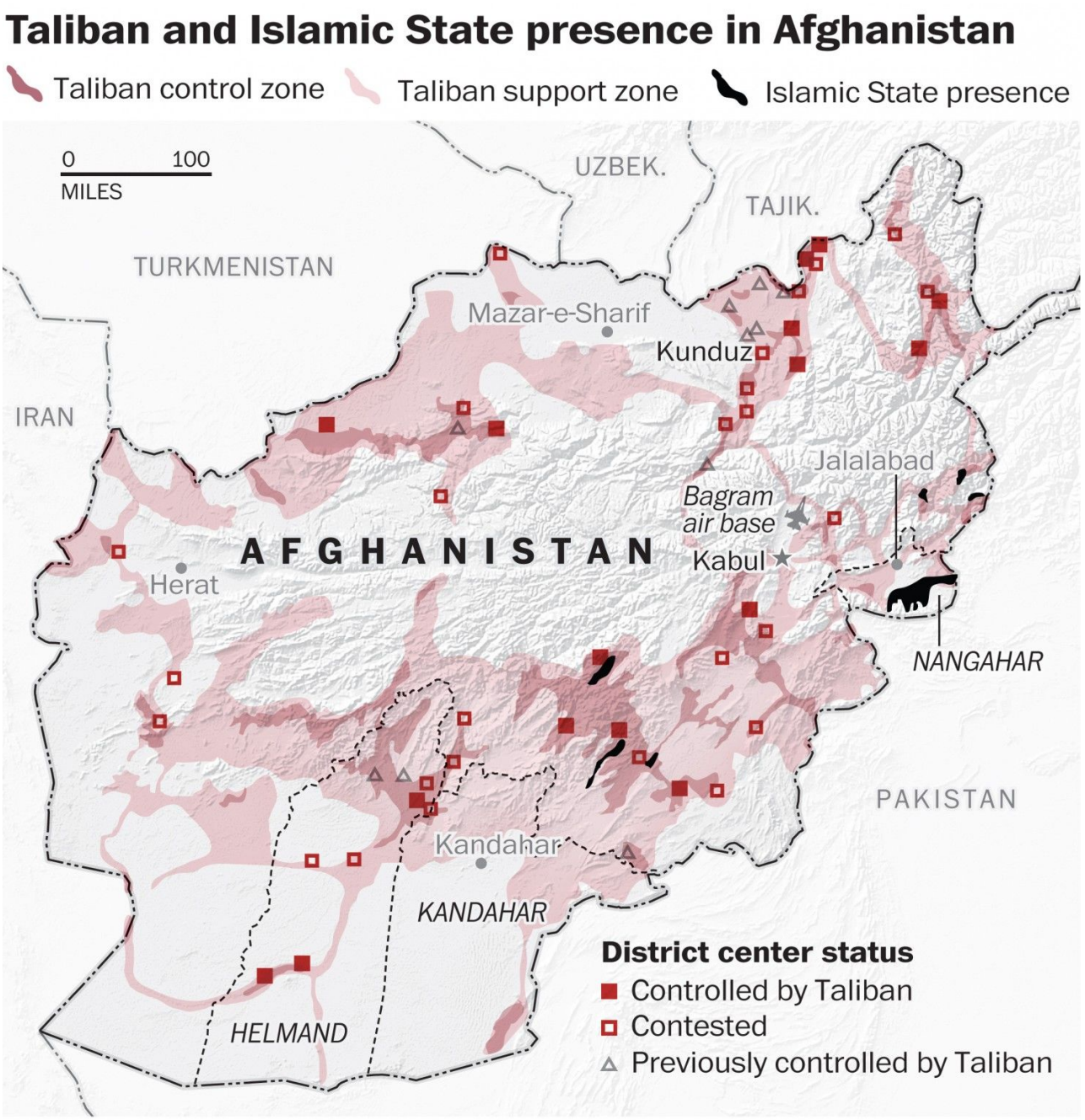
— "In private, top Afghan and American officials have begun to voice increasingly grim assessments of the resurgent Taliban threat," The Post's Sudarsan Raghavan reports from Marja. "With control of — or a significant presence in — roughly 30 percent of districts across the nation, according to Western and Afghan officials, the Taliban now holds more territory than in any year since 2001. … Deserters and injured Afghan soldiers say they are fighting a more sophisticated and well-armed insurgency than they have seen in years."

— The Post obtained an eye-opening transcript of a late-October meeting of the Afghan National Security Council that raises serious questions about whether the local government is up for the challenge. "We have not met the people's expectations. We haven't delivered," Abdullah Abdullah, the country's chief executive, told the high-level gathering. "Our forces lack discipline. They lack rotation opportunities. We haven't taken care of our own policemen and soldiers. They continue to absorb enormous casualties." At the meeting, Gen. John F. Campbell, the commander of U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan, told his Afghan counterparts that he was as guilty as they were of "just putting our finger in the dike in Helmand."

— "For now, the top American and Afghan priority is preventing Helmand, largely secured by U.S. Marines and British forces in 2012, from again falling to the insurgency," Raghavan reports. "As of last month, about 7,000 members of the Afghan security forces had been killed this year, with 12,000 injured, a 26 percent increase over the total number of dead and wounded in all of 2014. …U.S. Special Operations troops are increasingly being deployed into harm's way to assist their Afghan counterparts. Since

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Nov. 4, four members of the U.S.-led coalition have been wounded in Helmand." Read the full story.



Source: Institute for the Study of War LARIS KARKLIS/THE WASHINGTON POST

— Afghanistan's decline has serious implications for U.S. national security. One of President Obama's first major decisions was to expand the troop presence in the country. This is a major legacy issue for him. How far are the 2016 candidates in both parties willing to go to stop the Taliban? The electorate remains reluctant about open-ended deployments of U.S. boots on the ground. How much more sacrifice Americans are willing to accept, even in this time of rising anxiety about terrorism, is very much an open question.

— The Taliban is a barbaric foe… Pamela Constable reports from Kabul today on the beheading of a third-grade girl.

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— …but can there be a negotiated peace? From the Associated Press: "Afghanistan and Pakistan agreed on Sunday to meet with U.S. and Chinese officials in the first weeks of the new year to discuss 'peace-related issues,' a move that could re-invigorate a stalled peace process with the Taliban, the Afghan president's office said. The development came as Pakistan's powerful army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif met with senior officials in the Afghan capital."



An injured NATO soldier lies on the ground after a suicide car bomb attack targeted foreign military vehicles in Kabul this June. (Wakil Kohsar/AFP/Getty Images

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

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President Obama speaks to troops at a Marine Corps base on Christmas. (Reuters/ Jonathan Ernst)

— President and Mrs. Obama, along with a few friends, had a 4.5-hour dinner last night at Hoku's, the flagship restaurant at the Kahala Hotel. It came at the end of a day that included hours on the beach and a stop for Hawaiian shave ice. See the dinner menu from where the Obamas ate here .

— Bernie Sanders, starting a two-day Nevada swing, ripped into the Republican candidates who have kissed Sheldon Adelson's ring. At an evening rally in Reno that drew more than 2,000 people, Sanders spoke facetiously of an "Adelson caucus," including Marco Rubio and Donald Trump. "Sheldon Adelson has not invited me to speak with him," he said. (John Wagner)

— The old Axis powers are still grappling with the consequences of World War II. *Two stories on the wire this morning show how long it takes to heal wounds:*

- Japan will formally apologize to South Korea for forcing its women to work in brothels during World War II. Tokyo will provide $8.3 million toward the care of aging "comfort women" in a historic agreement that could ease tensions between two key U.S. allies.
- For the first time in 70 years, a new edition of "Mein Kampf" will be released in Germany next week. The new edition, being released by a publicly funded institute, will include critical commentary about Adolph Hitler. "While historians

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say it could help fill a gap in Germans' knowledge of the era, Jewish groups are wary," the AP reports from Berlin. "Under German law, a copyright expires at the end of the year 70 years after an author's death — in this case, Hitler's April 30, 1945, suicide in a Berlin bunker … That means Bavaria's state finance ministry, which holds the copyright, can no longer use it to prevent the work's publication beyond Dec. 31."

GET SMART FAST:

1. At least 11 people died after tornadoes swept through the Dallas area, bringing the total number of weather-related deaths in the country over the last week to 43. (Dallas Morning News)
2. Chicago police accidentally shot and killed a community activist after officers were called to her apartment complex because an emotionally-disturbed 19-year-old neighbor, also killed by cops, was wielding a baseball bat. (Mark Guarino)
3. The fire that burned a Houston mosque on Christmas was definitely arson, investigators ruled Sunday. (Houston Chronicle)
4. The NFL and Major League Baseball will investigate claims made in an Al Jazeera documentary that an anti-aging clinic in Indianapolis provided steroids to numerous athletes, including Peyton Manning, Ryan Zimmerman and James Harrison. Those three, and others, issued quick denials. (Barry Svrluga and Mark Maske)
5. Iraqi forces reclaimed the main government center in Ramadi, which was under ISIS control for seven months. (Mustafa Salim and Loveday Morris)
6. The Justice Department charged at least 60 people with terrorism-related charges in 2015, a record attributable to the rise of ISIS and its influence on social media. (Ellen Nakashima)
7. China has officially instituted a new two-child policy, ending the one-child rule that was in place since the 1970s. (CNN)
8. The Chinese bureaucrat responsible for regulating the waste heap that caused last week's big landslide committed suicide. (Sarah Kaplan)
9. The Chinese Foreign Ministry expelled a French journalist over an article that suggested Beijing's expression of solidarity after the Paris attacks was really about getting international support to crack down on the Uighurs. (Emily Rauhala)
10. The Virginia chamber of commerce official shot while being interviewed on a Roanoke TV station – during which the reporter and cameraman were killed – is done with her surgeries and will soon return to work. (CNN)
11. The Chipotle where 136 Boston College students got sick reopened this weekend after being closed for three weeks. (The Globe)

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12. A mall in Louisville, Ky., closed early and extra police officers were called in after up to 2,000 “unruly” teenagers engaged in fights, and harassed customers and store employees. (Toledo Blade)
13. A 33-year-old visiting San Diego fell 40 feet off a cliff to his death on Christmas because he was distracted while trying to take pictures on his cell phone. (Union Tribune)
14. Eleven unrelated cold cases were solved by a man who investigated serial killer John Wayne Gacy’s unknown victims. (Sharon Cohen)
15. “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” has already grossed $1.09-billion worldwide. (Michael Cavna)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Trump slammed the Republican Party of Virginia for requiring that primary voters sign a statement saying they’re Republicans, saying it discourages independent and first-time voters from participating. (Jenna Portnoy)
2. Bill Gates donated $42 million in 2015 to groups supporting Common Core. (Valerie Strauss)
3. South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy (R) endorsed Marco Rubio and will campaign with him this week in Iowa. “It’s a major show of support from a Republican who had previously recoiled at the idea of making a 2016 endorsement,” writes David Weigel.
4. The psychiatrist who urged the American Psychiatric Association to stop treating homosexuality as an illness, Robert Spitzer, died of heart disease at 83. (Amy Argetsinger)

SUNDAY SHOW HIGHLIGHTS:

1. John Kasich refused to say he would endorse Trump if he won the GOP nomination, attacking The Donald for complaining about everything. (ABC)
2. DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz warned Trump to attack Bill Clinton at “his own peril” after the GOP frontrunner tweeted that Clinton has a history of sexism. (NBC)
3. Mike Huckabee denied that his super PAC “selectively edited” an ad that prematurely cut off Ted Cruz’s answer to a question about the importance of fighting same-sex marriage. Unlike Kasich, Huckabee said he would support Trump if he were the GOP nominee. (Fox)
4. Bernie Sanders said on NBC that he is working with the DNC to put the Clinton data breach incident “behind us.” The Vermont senator also said on

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CBS that Sandra Bland, who died in police custody, would not have been arrested had she been white.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:



Ben Carson is photographed in his home in Upperco, Md., on December 23, 2015. (Photo by Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

— "Ben Carson on the brink: "A process like this is pretty brutal," by Steven Ginsberg and Robert Costa: The Post interviewed the famous neurosurgeon in his "manse in the countryside near Baltimore." On attacks, Carson said "it's not pleasant…But it's discouraging to know that we're at that stage in our country where people don't care so much about the truth. It's just what's sensational, what's the shiny object. It's all 'Who's in the football game? Who's on 'Dancing With the Stars'? Who's yelling the loudest?' And I'm not sure that's what we need right now because we've got some real big problems in our country." He his decline in the polls is because a narrative is being pushed that "if you're soft-spoken and mild-mannered, there is no way you can deal with terrorism, with national security, that you're not a strong person … We want to be comforted, we want to be comforted quickly, and we go for the bright, shiny object as the solution rather than being a little more cerebral … What I've been emphasizing on the road lately is that strength is not defined by the decibels of which you say something or by the gesticulations associated with it, but by the accomplishments of one's life. What have you faced, and how have you faced

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those things?"

— "In Central Asia, Chinese inroads in Russia's backyard, " by Simon Denyer: "The Silk Road slogan may be new, but many of its goals are not. Beijing has long been working to secure a share of the region's rich natural resources to fuel China's industrial economy; it is building a network of security cooperation in Central Asia as a bulwark against Islamist extremism that could leak into China's restive western province of Xinjiang, and it wants to create alternative trading routes to Europe that bypass Asia's narrow, congested shipping lanes. Under the Silk Road plan, China also is promising to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to build new infrastructure here, and it hopes to reap benefits of its own: to create new markets for Chinese goods, especially for heavy industries such as steel and cement that have suffered as the Chinese economy has slowed."



Vladimir Putin has preciously said Russia will add more than 40 new intercontinental ballistic missiles to its nuclear arsenal this year. (Reuters/Maxim Shemetov)

— The Post's editorial board expresses alarm about Russia's development of a nuclear-armed, underwater, unmanned drone : "The new weapon was revealed when Russian President Vladimir Putin met with military chiefs in Sochi in November and television news footage captured a page being used in the briefing. The Kremlin later said the video … should not have been broadcast, and the video was deleted … Russia appears to be creating a tactical nuclear weapon that could be slipped into a harbor, unleashing a tidal wave as well as the devastating effects of a nuclear

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explosion. It might be used to attack a military target, such as a submarine or naval base, but cities and industry could also be hit. … There are no arms control treaties in place to stop this; smaller tactical nuclear weapons have never been limited by treaty." *Wonder if Trump will weigh in…*

— "The flawed system that allows companies to make millions off the injured, " by Terrence McCoy: "In all, according to Terrence Taylor's bank records and court documents, the burn survivor sold $11 million of his structured settlement — which had a present value of about $8.5 million — for roughly $1.4 million, or 16 cents on the present dollar. He has sued the companies, focusing on a South Florida firm named Structured Asset Funding, which did six deals with him. That Taylor, who had received diagnoses of learning and emotional disabilities, could so quickly hemorrhage 30 years' worth of income in deals approved in a courthouse he never visited is the result of Virginia's failure to properly regulate and monitor an industry that makes tens of millions off some of the state's most vulnerable residents, a Washington Post investigation has found. Unlike traditional settlements, which are paid out in one sum, structured settlements dispense the payout in portions over a lifetime to protect vulnerable people from immediately spending it all."

— "The A.I. anxiety, " by Joel Achenbach: "Nick Bostrom's underlying concerns about machine intelligence, unintended consequences and potentially malevolent computers have gone mainstream. You can't attend a technology conference these days without someone bringing up the A.I. anxiety. It hovers over the tech conversation with the high-pitched whine of a 1950s-era Hollywood flying saucer. People will tell you that even Stephen Hawking is worried about it. And Bill Gates. And that Elon Musk gave $10 million for research on how to keep machine intelligence under control. All that is true. … This is a topic rife with speculation and perhaps a whiff of hysteria. But the discussion reflects a broader truth: We live in an age in which machine intelligence has become a part of daily life. Computers fly planes and soon will drive cars. Computer algorithms anticipate our needs and decide which advertisements to show us. Machines create news stories without human intervention. Machines can recognize your face in a crowd. … We don't know how this will play out. But some of the most serious thinkers on Earth worry about potential hazards — and wonder whether we remain fully in control of our inventions."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— Pictures of the day:

2016 presidential candidates wished voters a Merry Christmas via social media, with some fun family photos and some throwbacks:

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(@realdonaldtrump)

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(@hillaryclinton)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



(@chrischristie)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.



(@marcorubiofla)

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(@jebbush)



(@realbencarson)

And President Obama, plus some former residents of the White House, extended their Season's Greetings:

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(@thewhitehouse)

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(@georgewbush)

Jacqueline Kennedy, John Jr., and Caroline, on Christmas Day in Palm Beach, Fla., in 1962:

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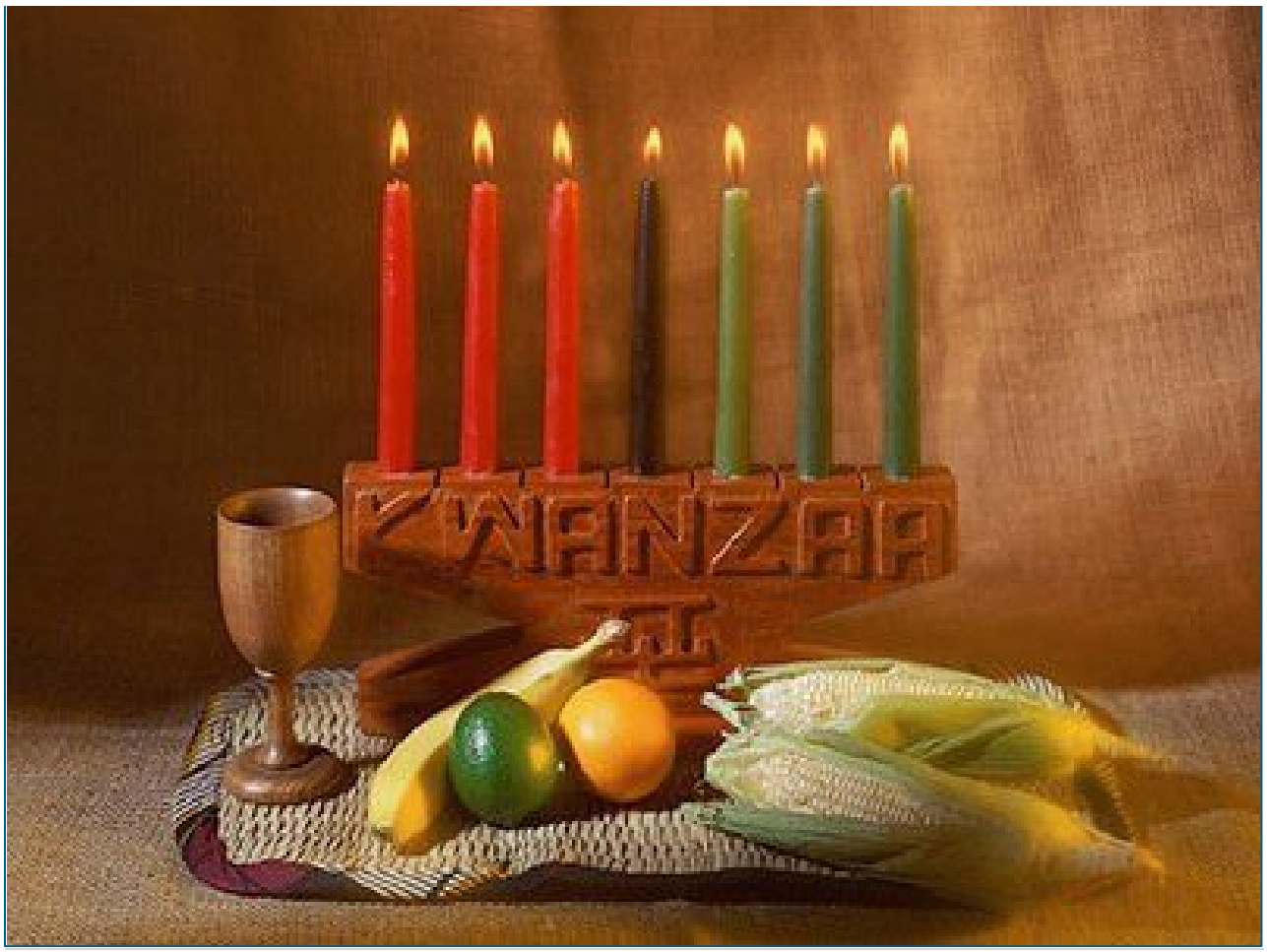


(@whitehousehistory)

–Tweets of the day:

Rep. Donna Edwards (D-Md.), seeking the Maryland Senate seat being vacated by Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), sent her own wishes for a Happy Kwanzaa:

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(@repdonnaedwards)

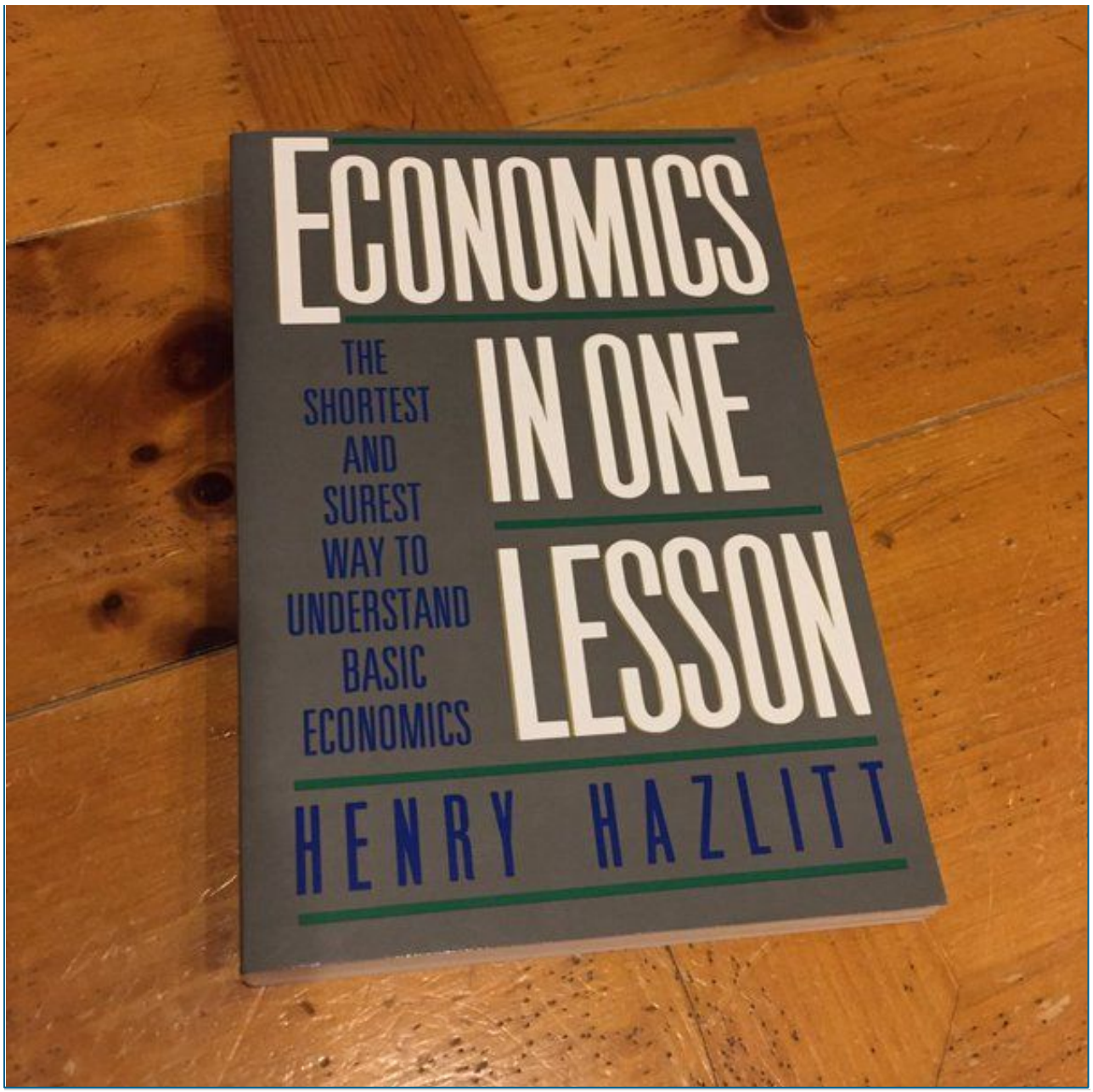
Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.) celebrated Christmas with the troops in Iraq:



(@repcicilline)

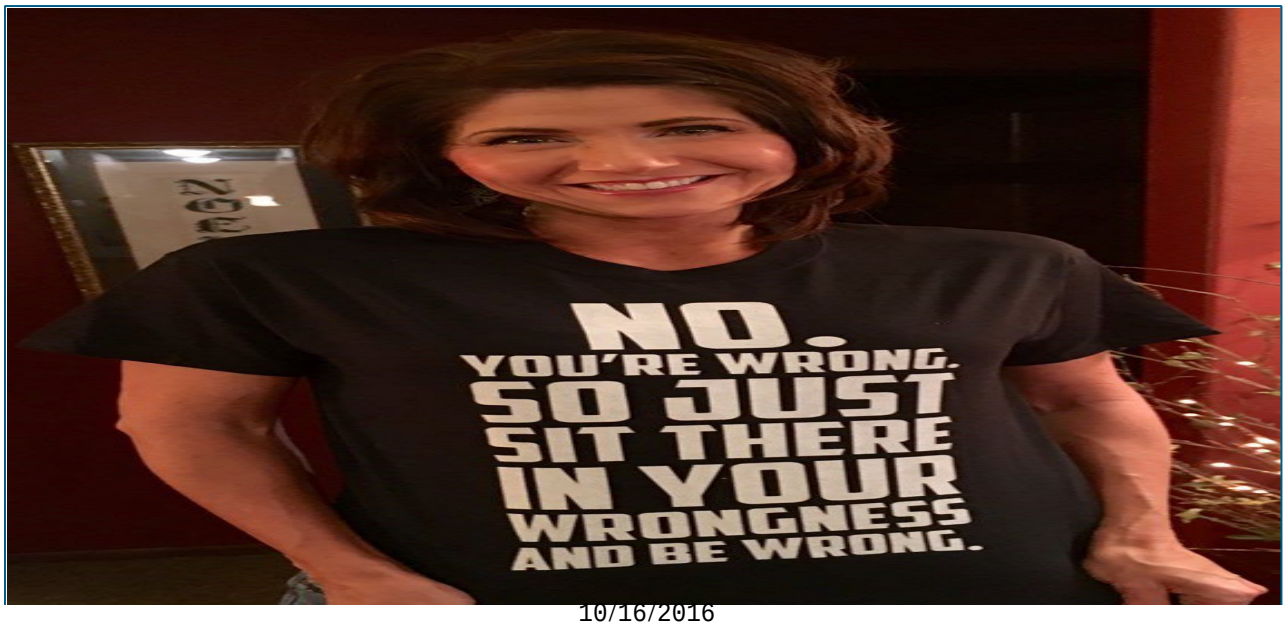
Rep. Justin Amash (R-Mich.) offered Clinton and Sanders a libertarian economics lesson:

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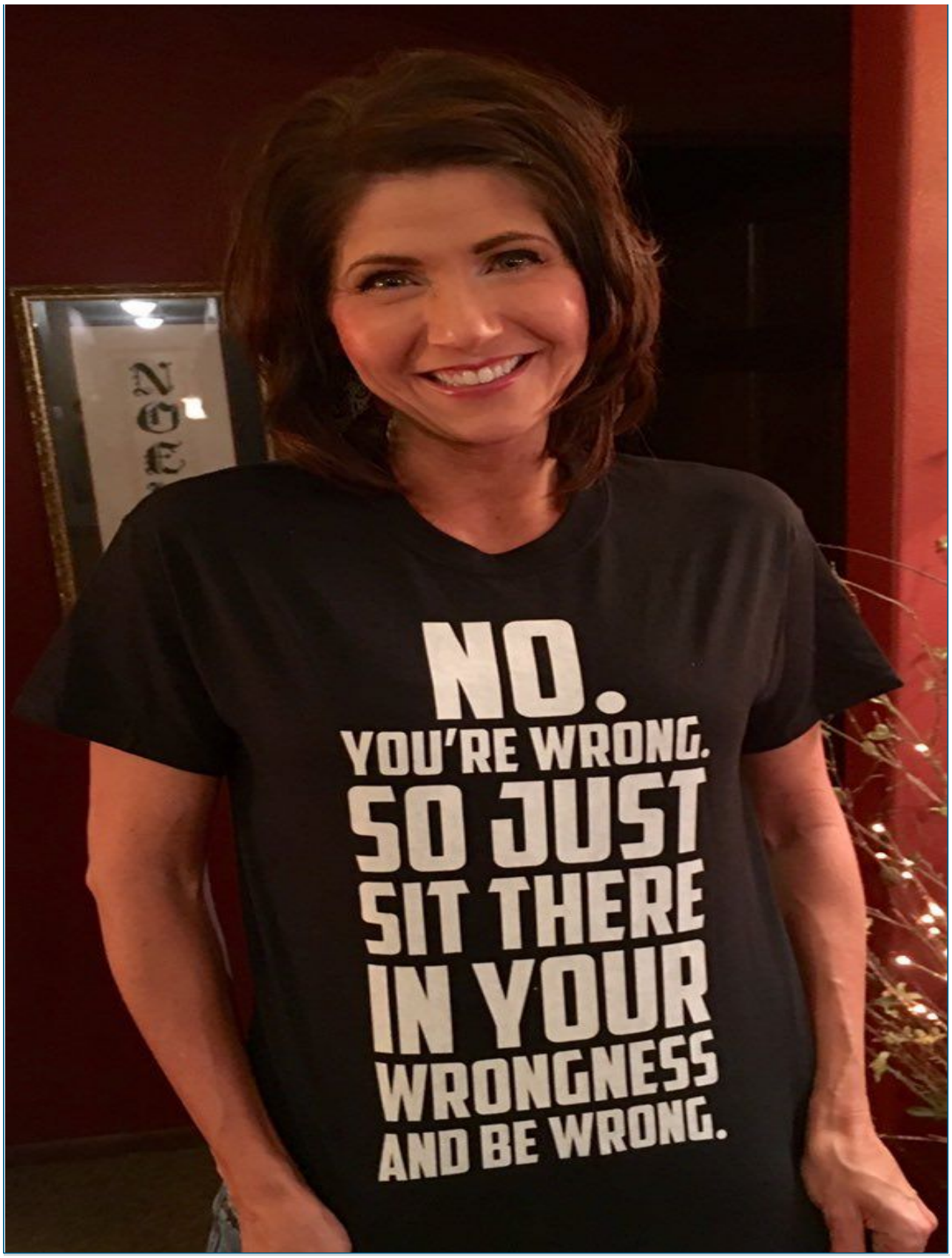


(@justinamash)

Rep. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.) got a practical gift from her sister. “I think I’m offended,” she tweeted:



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(@repkristinoem)

Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) tweeted that his dad celebrated his 96th birthday by getting "stuck being our driver:"

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(@SenJohnThune)

— Instagrams of the day:

Dogs were a constant — and of course cute — theme on Instagram over the holidays.

“Bart,” an explosives detection trained canine, found Santa instead at the Kansas City International airport:

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(@TSA)

Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) took a walk in the snow with his dogs on Christmas Day:

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(@stevedaines)

Ben Carson noted that pet lovers could get animal swag at his online store:

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(@realbencarson)

Former reality TV star Sean Duffy, now a GOP congressman from Wisconsin, showed off his family:

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(repseanduffy)

The Sanders campaign posted this picture of a little Bernie and his big brother, Larry, growing up in Brooklyn:

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(@berniesanders)

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.) warned his nephew, Nolan, that he was “not to cool” to be picked up, no matter how old he is:

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(@repswalwell)

And Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) showed the holiday lights along Canyon Road in Santa Fe:

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(@senatormartinheinrich)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

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Bill, with Hillary, campaigning for governor of Arkansas in 1978. (The Washington Post)

— New York Times, "How Hillary Clinton went undercover to examine race in education," by Amy Chozick in Dothan, Ala.: "On a humid summer day in 1972, Hillary Rodham walked into this town's new private academy, a couple of cinder-block classrooms erected hurriedly amid fields of farmland, and pretended to be someone else. Playing down her flat Chicago accent, she told the school's guidance counselor that her husband had just taken a job in Dothan, that they were a churchgoing family and that they were looking for a school for their son. The future Mrs. Clinton, then a 24-year-old law student, was working for Marian Wright Edelman, the civil rights activist and prominent advocate for children. Mrs. Edelman had sent her to Alabama to help prove that the Nixon administration was not enforcing the legal ban on granting tax-exempt status to so-called segregation academies, the estimated 200 private academies that sprang up in the South to cater to white families after a 1969 Supreme Court decision forced public schools to integrate. Her mission was simple: Establish whether the Dothan school was discriminating based on race. … A look at Mrs. Clinton's efforts that summer, through archives and interviews with more than 50 local officials, civil rights activists and people who knew her, reveals a summer job that was both out of character for the bookish law student and a moment of awakening."

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Donald Trump at Taj Mahal in Atlantic City (Photo by Tom Briglia/FilmMagic)

— Los Angeles Times, "Trump left his mark on Atlantic City — for better and for worse," by Joseph Tanfani: "With his showman's knack for positive spin, he depicts his history in Atlantic City, bankruptcies and all, as more proof of his genius for timing. … The real story of Trump's rise and fall in Atlantic City is more complicated. His casinos were profitable early. As he expanded, though, Trump's aggressive borrowing and go-go strategy left them laboring under high-interest debt. When he decided to leave, in 2009, the exit was far from smooth and graceful; he gave up after last-ditch battles with bondholders. Today, some still love him here, even people who lost money. Others have bitter memories. 'He trampled everyone: the shareholders, the bondholders, the employees, the contractors,' said Sebastian Pignatello, who lives in Flushing, N.Y., near where Trump

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grew up. An investor who headed a stockholders' committee that tried to recover losses in one Trump bankruptcy, Pignatello says many small businesses had to settle for 'pennies on the dollar.'"



John Kasich leaves a birthday message for the father of a voter attending his town hall in Salem, New Hampshire, on December 3. (Michael Mathes/AFP/Getty Images)

Kasich campaign touts analytics –> New Hampshire Union Leader, "Primary 'ground games' delve deep into data mining," by Dan Tuohy: "Talking about 'ground game' ahead of New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation Presidential Primary, it seemed appropriate to hear Tom Rath refer to 'Sabermetrics,' the statistical study of baseball to identify player performance. 'It's become more like the analytics approach to baseball,' he said. 'Analytics really drives a lot of the tactical decisions.' His player is John Kasich, the Ohio governor. Rath, a state co-chairman, shared some insight into the Republican presidential hopeful's organization and the use of data-mining technology to target likely voters. … The technology indicates where a campaign is strongest and drills down to the demographics, said John E. Sununu, a former U.S. senator who is Kasich's state chairman. He said the data provides a more objective layer, but experience and expertise remain key to the roadmap."

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A long exposure photograph from last week shows the SpaceX Falcon 9 lifting off (L) from its launch pad and then returning to a landing zone (R) at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. (Reuters/Mike Brown)

— Daily Beast, "What's next for outer space? " By David Axe: "Elon Musk has called reusability 'the fundamental breakthrough needed to revolutionize access to space.' For decades, government and private space organizations have dreamed of possessing such a multiple-use rocket, believing it will cut down on the high cost—hundreds of millions of dollars per launch—of getting to, and beyond, Earth's orbit. Governments have repeatedly tried and failed to design a launch-and-land rocket. It took a private company headed by an eccentric billionaire inventor to actually get it done following years of experimentation and one high-profile crash in April. Musk and SpaceX's December feat was more than just a technological milestone—it also signaled the coming of age of private space exploration. If 2015 was the year private space firms such as SpaceX, Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic and lunar mining concern Moon Express blasted into the headlines, 2016 could be the year these extraterrestrial companies make substantial progress toward reaching, exploring and profiting from space."

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HOT ON THE LEFT

The University of California school system will no longer invest in private prisons after its administrators met with black student groups who were lobbying for the change. From Think Progress: "As a result of mounting student pressure to divest, UC removed its $25 million shares from the Geo Group Inc and Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) — controversial companies linked to human rights abuses across the country."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Trump, in response to Trey Gowdy's endorsement of Rubio, called the Benghazi hearings a "disaster." From the Washington Examiner: "He did not win with those hearings," Trump said. "It was not good for Republicans and for the country. I hope he does a lot better for Marco than he did with the Benghazi hearings."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Donald Trump is holding a rally at 7 p.m. in Nashua, New Hampshire. Marco Rubio holds a town hall in Burlington, Iowa. Chris Christie is campaigning in Dubuque in the afternoon before holding a town hall in Davenport in the evening. Martin O'Malley will attend a leadership forum in Iowa Falls before campaigning in Waterloo and Tama later in the day. John Kasich stops in Manchester and Derry, N.H.

— On the Hill: Recess

–At the White House: President Obama is vacationing in Hawaii.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY:

This summer Bernie Sanders got angry when interviewers suggested he and Trump were both outsiders tapping into discontent with the status quo. Now, a month out from Iowa, he's changing his tune. "Many of Trump's supporters are working class people and they're angry," the democratic socialist said on CBS Sunday. "And they're angry because they're working longer hours for lower wages. They're angry because their jobs have left this country and gone to China or other low wage countries. They're angry because they can't afford to send their kids to college or they can't retire with dignity. And I think what Trump has done successfully, I would say, is take that anger, take that anxiety about terrorism and say to a lot of people in this country, 'Look, the reason for our problems is because of Mexicans.' … For his working class and middle class supporters, I think we can make the case that if we really want to address the issues that people are concerned about … we need policies that bring us together, that take on the greed of Wall Street, the greed of corporate America and create a middle class that works for all of us, rather than an economy that works just for a few."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "It's noticeably colder with overcast skies for much of the day," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "Temperatures trickle down through the 40s. During the afternoon, some patchy light rain and/or drizzle may develop from the southwest. Winds are from the east around 10 mph."

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DeSean Jackson and Trent Williams celebrate winning the NFC East division in Philadelphia Saturday. (Photo by Mitchell Leff/Getty Images)

— Playoff bound: The Redskins clinched the NFC East title with a 38-24 win over the Philadelphia Eagles. (Liz Clarke spot story; Mike Jones has five takeaways from the win; and the team savors the berth.)

Meanwhile, the Carolina Panthers' bid for a perfect season ended with a 20-13 loss to the Falcons. (Mark Maske)

— Are we less safe? The District now has fewer than 3,800 police officers, the smallest force in a decade and a number that city officials have previously suggested would be dangerous. "District officials blame the staffing shortfall almost entirely on retirements," Peter Hermann reports . "But the union representing the rank and file says that the exodus also includes officers and street-level supervisors who are leaving with fewer than 10 years on the force. The union argues that this is evidence officers are fleeing a department and a chief they do not like, as well as a crime plan they say will not make the District safer."

— "A state advisory panel is calling for major changes to 'Maryland, My Maryland,' a Civil War-era song that urges Maryland to join the Confederacy, bashes 'Northern scum' — and has survived as the state anthem despite six previous efforts to eliminate it," Ovetta Wiggins reports . The panel offered six recommendations, including the adoption of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

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— Seven hundred pounds of venison, taken from deer shot by sharp shooters in Rock Creek Park, was used to feed the homeless at DC Central Kitchen. (Tara Bahrampour)

— Eight Republican candidates trying to unseat Rep. John Delaney (D) in Maryland's 6th Congressional District will face off in an April primary. But no top-tier Republicans are competing for Chris Van Hollen's open seat in Montgomery County, Bill Turque reports .

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Ben Carson released a new ad titled "Our Hands," a play on the neurosurgeon's autobiography, "Gifted Hands." The theme is for Americans to unite:



(@realbencarson)

Ted Cruz appealed to social conservatives in a new ad:

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(@tedcruz)

Charlie Brown was apparently more religious than we remembered:



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(@funnyordie)

George Lucas talks about what it was like to “break up” with “The Force Awakens”:



(@charlierose)

Queen Elizabeth delivers her Christmas message:

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(@skynews)

And watch people who received hoverboards and drones for Christmas have some awkward accidents.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/26/2016 11:09:07 AM
Subject: You are invited...

The Common Good

You are cordially invited to
wine reception and remarks
with

The Rt. Hon. Lord Christopher Patten
Chancellor of Oxford University and the last Governor of Hong Kong
on
The Changing World Order: Europe, Asia & the US

Tuesday, February 2nd
6:15-7:45pm

The Edelman Residence at Park Avenue and 73rd.
Address provided with confirmed RSVP.
Private dinner to follow for Executive Members.



Lord Christopher Patten is a highly respected statesman in Great Britain and around the world. He has served as a major player in British politics who has also helped resolve complex international issues, including the transfer of governance in Hong Kong where he was widely seen as standing up for the colony's rights, and Patten has been an important leader in conflict prevention and crisis management efforts in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, and Asia. He has also served as Chairman of the BBC Trust, overseeing the esteemed British Broadcasting System, even as he very capably dealt with a scandal involving a celebrity employee there.

Drawing from his multifaceted international experience in such roles as European Commissioner of External Affairs-- the EU's Secretary of State, or as Great Britain's last Governor of Hong Kong, Lord Patten will provide an overview of the changing world order and the power shifts, disruptions, and trends that are taking place globally. Patten will brief us on topics ranging from the implications of increased Russian aggressiveness in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, China's economic prospects, to the changing Middle East and an emerging Iran.

Reception/Remarks: 6:15-7:45pm. Edelman residence on Park Avenue near 73rd Street. Address provided with confirmed RSVP.

RSVP

Private Dinner for Executive Members: 8:15-9:45pm at the acclaimed Café Boulud at 20 East 76th Street near Madison Avenue. $250. Seating is limited, must

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have confirmed RSVP.

RSVP

If you have any problems registering online, please call **(212) 599-7040** or email us at **patriciaduff@thecommongood.net.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet the Candidate: Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), running for US Senate

Monday, February 29, 2016

Breakfast & remarks: 8-9:30am

RSVP

The Common Good Forum on "Global Disruption: Security and Opportunity"

Friday, May 20, 2016

8:00am-4:00pm, Leading speakers and panels all day on national and economic security and the rapid changes affecting the US, the globe and your life.

RSVP

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115 East 57th Street, Suite 1010
New York, NY 10022
(212) 599-7040

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From:	"Barack Obama" <info@barackobama.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	5/10/2011 1:25:18 PM
Subject:	Fixing what's broken

John --

I went to El Paso, Texas, today to lay out a plan to do something big: fix America's broken immigration system.

It's an issue that affects you, whether you live in a border town like El Paso or not. Our immigration system reflects how we define ourselves as Americans -- who we are, who we will be -- and continued inaction poses serious costs for everyone.

Those costs are human, felt by millions of people here and abroad who endure years of separation or deferred dreams -- and millions more hardworking families whose wages are depressed when employers wrongly exploit a cheap source of labor. That's why immigration reform is also an economic imperative -- an essential step needed to strengthen our middle class, create new industries and new jobs, and make sure America remains competitive in the global economy.

Because this is such a tough problem -- one that politicians in Washington have been either exploiting or dodging, depending on the politics -- this change has to be driven by people like you.

Washington won't act unless you lead.

So if you're willing to do something about this critical issue, join our call for immigration reform now. Those who do will be part of our campaign to educate people on this issue and build the critical mass needed to make Washington act:

http://my.barackobama.com/Immigration-Reform

In recent years, concerns about whether border security and enforcement were tough enough were among the greatest impediments to comprehensive reform. They are legitimate issues that needed to be addressed -- and over the past two years, we have made great strides in enhancing security and enforcement.

We have more boots on the ground working to secure our southwest border than at any time in our history. We're going after employers who knowingly break the law. And we are deporting those who are here illegally. I know the increase in deportations has been a source of controversy, but I want to emphasize that we are focusing our limited resources on violent offenders and people convicted of crimes -- not families or people looking to scrape together an income.

So we've addressed the concerns raised by those who have stood in the way of progress in the past. And now that we have, it's time to build an immigration system that meets our 21st-century economic needs and reflects our values both as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants.

Today, we provide students from around the world with visas to get engineering and computer science degrees at our top universities. But then our laws discourage them from using those skills to start a business or a new industry here in the United States. That just doesn't make sense.

We also need to stop punishing innocent young people for the actions of their parents -- and pass the DREAM Act so they can pursue higher education or become military service members in the country they know as home. We already know enormous economic benefits from the steady stream of talented and hardworking people coming to America. More than a century and a half ago, U.S. Steel's Andrew Carnegie was a 13-year-old brought here from Scotland by his family in search of a better life. And in 1979, a Russian family seeking freedom from Communism brought a young Sergey Brin to America -- where he would become a co-founder of Google.

Through immigration, we've become an engine of the global economy and a beacon of hope, ingenuity and entrepreneurship. We should make it easier for the best and brightest not only to study here, but also to start businesses and create jobs here. That's how we'll win the future.

Immigration is a complex issue that raises strong feelings. And as we push for long-overdue action, we're going to hear the same sort of ugly rhetoric that has delayed reform for years -- despite long and widespread recognition that our current system fails us all and hurts our economy.

So you and I need to be the ones talking about this issue in the language of hope, not fear -- in terms of how we are made stronger by our differences, and can be made stronger still.

Take a moment now to watch my El Paso speech and join this campaign for change:

http://my.barackobama.com/Immigration-Reform

Thank you,

Barack

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/11/2014 10:13:31 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | The Rank, Reeking Horror of Torturing Some Folks

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William Rivers Pitt | The Rank, Reeking Horror of Torturing Some Folks

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: Bush said it didn't happen. Cheney said it did. And Obama said those who tortured are patriots, and those who call it wrong are sanctimonious. Meanwhile, everyone walked. That, right there, is why this whole nightmare came to be.

Read the Article

What They Haven't Told Us About the European Financial Crisis

Michael Nevradakis, Truthout: University of Cambridge economist Ha-Joon Chang, author of *23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism*, discusses the ongoing financial crisis in Europe, the economic situation in Greece, the myths surrounding the crisis and the new economic bubble, which he argues is about to burst.

Read the Interview

Fighting for Farm Workers at Our Dinner Tables

Jennifer Keys Adair, Truthout: The movie *Food Chains* should dramatically raise our collective consciousness - and conscience - about how our food is produced. We need to establish a "slave-free" section at our supermarkets.

Read the Article

Report on CIA Torture Shows Need for Limiting Military Force Against ISIS

Robert Naiman, Truthout: In the absence of greater agitation, limitation and oversight, the national security establishment is likely to get worse, not better, in terms of its accountability to democratic control and the rule of law.

Read the Article

Faith Inc. and Criminal Justice Reform

Kay Whitlock, Critical Mass Progress: Do faith-based programs work better than programs sponsored by the government or secular community-

BuzzFlash

Marissa Alexander: The Rippling Impact of Injustice and Imprisonment

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: With the highest rate of imprisonment in the world, the United States uses incarceration as a form of social cleansing and bias against people of color, as well as poor people, gender-nonconforming people and people with mental illness.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Cheney Throws Bush Under the Bus on Torture Program

Read the Article at Talking Points Memo

Elizabeth

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based organizations? That depends on how effectiveness is assessed, what questions are asked and from what vantage point.

Read the Article

"These Are Crimes": New Calls to Prosecute Bush Administration as Senate Report Reveals Brutal CIA Torture

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!: "In light of the release of the Senate torture report, Reed Brody, counsel and spokesperson for Human Rights Watch, says, "When individuals commit torture, we call on those countries to hold the abusers to account." So far, however, the only one charged with a crime is the whistleblower who exposed the CIA program.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Is the Koch Brothers' Curriculum Coming to Your Child's School?

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: It's bad enough that the Koch brothers have a stranglehold on our democracy and political system, courtesy of our Supreme Court. We don't need them in our classrooms, too.

Read the Article

How the President Who Pledged to Banish Nuclear Weapons Is Enabling Their Renewal

James Carroll, TomDispatch: In order to get the Senate Republicans to ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, Obama laid the groundwork for a vast "modernization" of the US nuclear arsenal, which is already morphing into a full-blown reinvention of the arms cache at an estimated future cost of more than $1 trillion.

Read the Article

When Charter Schools Are Nonprofit in Name Only

Marian Wang, ProPublica: Some charters pass along nearly all their money to for-profit companies hired to manage the schools. It's an arrangement that's raising eyebrows.

Read the Article

Twenty Key Findings From the Senate Report on CIA Torture

Staff, Moyers & Company: After months of wrangling with intelligence officials, the Senate Intelligence Committee released a summary of its 6,700-page report on the CIA's detention and interrogation programs under President George W. Bush. Here are the key findings.

Read the Article

Would You Rather Get Your Water From Your City Government - or From a Corporation?

Michelle Chen, The Nation: Detroit's water crisis may seem like an anomaly, but we may soon see more resource crises nationwide if pro-business officials decide water isn't so much an essential entitlement as it is a commodity to be traded like corn and crude oil.

Warren Leads Liberal Rebellion on Spending Bill

Read the Article at The Washington Post

The Militarized Divide in This Shattered Nation

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Rumain Brisbon Is Just the Latest to Be Shot Dead by a Cop Over a Phantom Gun

Read the Article at Mother Jones

Only Half of Global Banks Have Policy to Respect Human Rights

Read the Article at Inter Press Service

"Corrupt, Toxic and Sociopathic": Glenn Greenwald Unloads on Torture, CIA and Washington's Rotten Soul

Read the Article at Salon

Sen. Udall Discloses CIA Findings on Torture and Blasts Obama's Inaction

Read the Article at The Nation

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Read the Article

Call Congress to Oppose Back-Room Wall Street Deal

Isaiah J. Poole, Campaign for America's Future: Activists are calling for an all-out push today to stop a back-room deal that would reopen the Wall Street derivatives casino that caused so much damage in 2008, leaving taxpayers stuck with the bill for cleaning up the mess.

Read the Article and Watch the Video

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To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	1/16/2015 7:14:07 AM
Subject:	1.16.15 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	1.15.15 Weekend Package.docx



Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below.

1.15.15 Weekend Package

1. **Hillary Clinton: Race and Criminal Justice System**
2. **Hillary Clinton: Energy and the Environment**
3. **Hillary Clinton: Tough on Terrorism**
4. **Hillary Clinton: A Lifetime Champion of the Middle Class**

HILLARY CLINTON'S REMARKS ON RACE AND OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

BACKGROUND: *At an event in New York for the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, Hillary Clinton once again addressed the issue of race relations and our criminal justice system in light of the events in Ferguson, Missouri and Staten Island. She previously addressed this issue in Boston, as well as in San Francisco last summer.*

Highlights from Hillary's remarks on December 16, 2014:

"We can stand up together and say 'Yes, black lives matter.'"

"[Robert Kennedy] understood everyone in every community benefitted when there is respect for the law, and when everyone in every community is respected by the law."

"Policies, politics, priorities matter, but values matter even more. And it is possible…to restore a sense of community and potential to families struggling, worrying, disappointed, discouraged, revitalizing and re-stitching the fraying fabric of American life. It is possible to keep us safe from terrorism and reduce crime and violence without relying on torture abroad or unnecessary force or excessive incarceration at home."

"African American men are still far more likely to be stopped and searched by the police, charged with crimes, and sentenced to longer prison terms…a third of all black men face the prospect of prison during their lifetimes, and by some estimates, young black men are more than 20 times more likely to be shot dead by a police officer than a young white man."

"We know that there are so many police officers out there every day inspiring trust and confidence, rather than fear and frustration; honorably doing their duty; putting themselves on the line to save lives, not take them. We can build on that. We can work to restore the balance to our public life, our economy."

Highlights from Hillary's remarks on December 4, 2014:

"I know that a lot of hearts are breaking, and we are asking ourselves, 'Aren't these our sons? Aren't these our brothers?'"

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"Each of us has to grapple with some hard truths about race and justice in America…When one stops and realizes a third of all Black men face the prospect of prison during their lifetimes, what devastating consequences that has for their families, and their communities, and all of us."

"We have allowed our criminal justice system to get out of balance. And I personally hope that these tragedies give us the opportunity to come together as a nation to find our balance again."

"I'm very pleased that the Department of Justice will be investigating what happened in Ferguson or Staten Island. Those families and those communities and our country deserve a full and fair accounting as well as whatever substantive reforms are necessary to ensure equality, justice, and respect for every citizen…I support the President's announcement of a task force on policing."

"We all know there are decent, honorable, brave police officers out in our communities every single day, inspiring trust and confidence rather than fear and frustration. So let's learn from the best examples. Let's invest in what works."

"The most important thing each of us can do is to try even harder to see the world through our neighbors' eyes. To imagine what it is like to walk in their shoes, to share their pain and their hopes and their dreams. These tragedies did not happen in some far-away place. They didn't happen to some other people. These are our streets, our children, our fellow Americans, and our grief…We are all in this together, we can all do better."

Highlights from Hillary's remarks on August 28, 2014:

- "Watching the recent funeral for Michael Brown, as a mother, as a human being, my heart just broke for his family because losing a child is every parent's greatest fear and an unimaginable loss."
- "This is what happens when the bonds of trust and respect that hold any community together fray. Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone, not in America. We are better than that."
- "We cannot ignore the inequities that persist in our justice system. Inequities that undermine our most deeply held values of fairness and equality."
- "Imagine what we would feel and what we would do if white drivers were three times as likely to be searched by police during a traffic stop as black drivers, instead of the other way around. If white offenders received prison sentences ten percent longer than black offenders for the same crimes. If a third of all white men – just look at this room and take one-third – went to prison during their lifetime. Imagine that. That is the reality in the lives of so many of our fellow Americans and so many of the communities in which they live."
- "I applaud President Obama for sending the Attorney General to Ferguson and demanding a thorough and speedy investigation. That's both appropriate and necessary to find out what happened, to see that justice is done, to help this community begin healing itself."
- "It was 51 years ago today that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called us to live out the true meaning of our creed, to make the dream real for all Americans. And that mission is as fiercely urgent today as when he stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the hot August sun all those years ago. So we have a lot of work to do together."

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

"So to those who doubt the science of climate change and who lack faith in American innovation, just tell them, look at the record and look at what's already happening across the United States … We are already advancing clean energy solutions that can begin turning this tide and can make America the clean energy superpower for the 21st century. We have the opportunity to invest in the infrastructure of the future resilient enough to withstand the effects of climate change we won't be able to avoid..." – Hillary Clinton remarks to the League of Conservation Voters, 12/1/14

MESSAGE: Hillary Clinton recognizes the realities of climate change and has fought to move to cleaner energy to create green jobs, boost our economy and preserve the natural wonder of creation for the next generation.

- **In the Senate, Hillary Clinton boosted alternative energy power and fought for clean energy solutions.**
  - Hillary Clinton voted for tax credits for electricity produced from renewable energy sources and proposed permanent tax credits for wind and solar production.
  - She proposed getting big oil companies to reinvest some of their excess profits toward developing smarter energy technologies like fuel-efficient cars and wind and solar power.

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- Senator Clinton repeatedly cosponsored the Clean Power Act to get power plants to reduce harmful air pollution.
- She introduced legislation to make federal buildings more energy efficient.
- Hillary cosponsored the Diesel Emissions Reductions Act to increase investment in technologies to reduce pollution from diesel-powered trucks.

- **As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton prioritized the fight against climate change as a matter of foreign policy.**
  - Secretary Clinton appointed a Special Envoy for Climate Change to serve as an advisor on international climate change policy.
  - She established the Bureau of Energy Resources to channel the domestic energy boom to advance American interests around the world and address the threat of climate change posed by the world's energy consumption. [combined two bullets from other two sets of TPs]
  - During Secretary Clinton's tenure, the Bureau of Energy Resources helped European nations reduce their dependence on Russian gas, lessening Putin's leverage over Ukraine and Europe's energy supply.

- **Secretary Clinton led the way through partnerships and developed incentives to encourage cooperation and progress toward reducing our footprint on the environment.**
  - Secretary Clinton helped negotiate an unprecedented agreement between all major economies to commit to curb carbon emissions through 2020.
  - She promoted the development of clean energy projects in a regional partnership with countries in North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean through the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas.
  - She signed an agreement with Brazil to strengthen cooperation as our countries work together to meet the grave challenge of global climate change.
  - She implemented 18 EcoPartnerships with China to collaborate on clean energy, sustainable development, and environmental issues.
  - She launched the U.S. Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative to drive private sector investment into Africa's clean energy sector.
  - Recognizing that dirty cookstoves kill nearly 2 million people a year and are harmful to the environment, Secretary Clinton took action and launched the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves in order to save lives and protect our planet.

TALKING POINTS: TOUGH ON TERRORISM

MESSAGE: *In a changing and unpredictable world, Hillary Clinton's leadership on issues of national security has kept America secure and helped make the world a safer place.*

KEY POINTS:

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton worked through diplomatic channels to help the United States fight terrorism and safeguard our national security.

- Secretary Clinton made the case for the raid to bring Osama bin Laden to justice.
- Clinton built relationships with key players in the Middle East and funded counterterrorism training initiatives.
  - Through negotiations with Russia, Clinton successfully worked to reduce the number of nuclear missile launchers in the world.
  - Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history in order to encourage Iran to abandon, or at least stall, its nuclear program.
  - Clinton negotiated the Gaza cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians, helping avert an all-out war in Gaza.
  - Clinton played a role to end the war in Iraq and begin a transition to civilian society in Afghanistan.

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- Clinton instituted new roles at the State Department to fight terrorism:
  - Clinton created the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online.
  - Clinton established the Bureau of Counterterrorism to advance counterterrorism objectives and our national security.

- Clinton identified and led on important issues which affect our national security, such as the global empowerment of women and climate change.
  - Clinton worked to empower women and girls around the world to participate in their economies. This helps make economies stronger and more stable.
  - Clinton prioritized addressing climate change in her time at the State Department. Weather events caused by climate change can lead to famine and destroyed infrastructure, which increase instability and unrest.

Serving as a United States Senator representing New York during September 11, 2001, Hillary Clinton made it a priority to urge the pursuit of justice against Al Qaeda and improve our nation's efforts to combat terrorism.

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON: A LIFETIME CHAMPION OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

"With all due respect, it is not rich people who made America great. It is the vast American middle class. It is the upward mobility of people who thought they could do better than their parents."

–Hillary Clinton

MESSAGE: Hillary Clinton has dedicated her life to ensuring that hardworking Americans can succeed. In uncertain times, families need faith that opportunity for their children and grandchildren is alive and well. Hillary Clinton wants the American Dream to be a real possibility for every child and every family across our nation.

Hillary Clinton knows that tomorrow's shared success starts with today's child, and her dedication to children began long before she ever entered public office. In fact, her first job out of law school was for the newly-formed Children's Defense Fund, an organization she would later chair.

Hillary Clinton has worked to expand access to early childhood education for children of lower-income families. As First Lady of Arkansas, Hillary Clinton introduced her husband to the HIPPY program, which expanded early childhood education to economically disadvantaged children. In the Senate, Clinton partnered with Kit Bond in an effort to expand voluntary full-day pre-K for children from low-income families. Today, as part of the Too Small to Fail Initiative to improve the health and well-being of children five and under, Hillary Clinton is working to close the "word gap" for kids in low-income families who often have smaller vocabularies than their classmates.

Hillary Clinton has worked to increase health coverage for millions of children in low-income and working families through the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a program she helped created as First Lady. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton looked for ways to strengthen the program, introducing bills to allow states to expand it.

Hillary Clinton's record proves she believes that every American should be able to earn an equal day's pay for an equal day's work. As a Senator, Hillary Clinton introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act and was an original cosponsor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton supported increasing the minimum wage and voted repeatedly to protect and increase it. She was an original cosponsor of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, and authored the 2006 and 2007 Standing with Minimum Wage Act to tie Congressional salary increases to an increase in the minimum wage.

As a Senator, Hillary Clinton supported progressive tax policies that required millionaires to pay their fair share. She opposed tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations in 2001 and 2003, and she supported a variety of middle-class tax cuts, including tax credits for student loan recipients, and keeping in place the tax cuts for those who make under $250,000 a year.

- Clinton has said "that inherited wealth and concentrated wealth is not good for America," and she has consistently voted against repealing the estate tax on millionaires, doing so in 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Hillary Clinton supported working families going through difficult times through no fault of their own. In the Senate, she was a bipartisan leader on fighting to extend emergency unemployment benefits.

BOTTOM LINE: Leading the charge for equal pay for equal work, fighting to increase wages, strongly advocating for progressive tax policies and access to education and healthcare to help middle-class families – Hillary Clinton has fought for an America

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and a future where everyone can rise to their potential.

HILLARY CLINTON'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

In her many public appearances over the past year, Hillary Clinton has continued to advocate for the middle class by sharing her vision all over the country:

In a speech to a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf, "Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start.'" According to Politico, Clinton "gave one of her strongest political speeches since her 2008 campaign ended in June 2008 as she headlined a women-focused event for Democratic gubernatorial Tom Wolf in Pennsylvania. Clinton focused on 'hard-working families' and restoring America's luster and a strong middle class with 'a fresh start,' as well as women's pay equity and her gauzy first days as a new grandmother. For the first time in months, Clinton's public talk was neither a dry recitation of public policy nor a self-reflection about her tenure as secretary of state." [Politico , 10/9/14]

Clinton's language at a women-focused event for Democrat Tom Wolf was "some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class." According to Politico, "The remarks were some of her strongest about rebuilding the middle class. They came after she was accused of being out of touch for her comment in June about being 'dead broke' when she left the White House, and for giving paid speeches at exorbitant prices." [Politico , 10/9/14]

The theme of Clinton's speech at an event for Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Tom Wolf was working families. According to BuzzFeed, "The thread running through Clinton's message here in Pennsylvania, the state she won six years ago in a primary against Barack Obama, was working families — a theme she teased repeatedly throughout her speech with populist undertones, mentions of her granddaughter, and stories about her own trips as a child to Scranton, where Clinton's father, Hugh, was born to a working-class immigrant family." [BuzzFeed , 9/9/14]

In Pennsylvania, Clinton criticized the power of corporations, siding with middle-class families. According to the Wall Street Journal, "Though she and her husband have raised more than $1 billion from U.S. companies and corporate officials over the last two decades**,** Mrs. Clinton signaled that she sided with everyday families struggling to pay bills and keep afloat. Corporations, she said, 'seem to have all the rights, but none of the responsibilities of people …' She decried practices that pay women less than men for the same work and took aim at politicians who've belittled women's rights. 'A 20th century economy will not work for 21st century families,' she said." [Wall Street Journal , 9/9/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she would fight to restore and re-open the middle class. According to TPM, "The notion of 'upward mobility' was central to Clinton's message to the New American audience in May. She described it as 'time-tested wisdom' that was 'at the heart of what I believe is the basic bargain of America.'… Here is how Clinton described that basic bargain of America, as she sees it, in May: 'No matter who you are or where you come from, if you work hard and play by the rules, you'll have the opportunity to build a good life for yourself and your family.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she can address income inequality and gender inequality. According to TPM, "So income inequality has been a big part of the message. But it's also been married to inequality between the sexes. At both the New American and CAP events, the same factoid made an appearance: That three-quarters of jobs that rely on tips -- like 'waiters, bartenders and hairstylists' as she said on both occasions -- are held by women…. And she said Thursday that these issues should be used to mobilize voters -- in the 2014 midterms and moving forward." [TPM , 9/22/14]

In recent speeches, Clinton has taken a tougher stance on big business, likely in "an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism" she may need in 2016, according to Reuters. According to Reuters, "Long viewed as an ally by Wall Street, likely 2016 presidential contender Hillary Clinton has increasingly been taking banks and big business to task while on the campaign trail for Democrats across the country…. This is a change of tone for the former New York senator, who faced criticism for her Wall Street ties as recently as September, after appearing with Goldman Sachs (GS.N) chief executive Lloyd Blankfein. Allies and analysts see it as an effort to find the balance between populism and her familiar centrism that Clinton may need in order to broaden her appeal in a potential 2016 Democratic primary contest." [Reuters , 11/2/14]

During a New Hampshire midterm event, Clinton discussed expanding economic opportunity and raising the minimum wage. According to the Boston Globe, "Clinton spoke in New Hampshire about expanding economic opportunity, raising the minimum wage, and protecting women's rights. She acknowledged that, across the country, there is 'a lot of anxiety and insecurity.' But the former secretary of state and US senator from New York struck a hopeful note: She bookended her remarks talking about her new granddaughter and said seeing another generation in the family focuses the mind on what's important. Clinton said she and her husband were raised to believe the American Dream was within your reach if you worked hard. 'You should not,' Clinton told a packed gymnasium, 'have to be the grandchild of a governor or a senator or a former secretary of state or a former president to believe that the American Dream is in your reach.'" [Boston Globe , 11/2/14]

In midterm campaign appearances, Clinton has been echoing populist notes. According to Bloomberg, Clinton "has been sounding more populist notes of late as a campaign-trail advocate for Democratic candidates who are on the ballot next week. That's an important turn as she contemplates a run for president in 2016 because Clinton's biggest weakness among Democrats, and some Republicans, is the perception that she's too close to Wall Street and corporate America…. And the more anti-corporate

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tone is pleasing to the ears of liberals who have pined for Senator Elizabeth Warren, a scourge of Wall Street banks, to challenge Clinton for the Democratic nomination. And, they say, it's a message Clinton can use against Republicans because many in the GOP have turned wary of Wall Street and big corporations since the 2008 financial crash." [Bloomberg , 10/27/14]

During a midterm appearance in New York, Clinton clarified earlier comments about companies and job creation, while maintaining the same theme: "Clinton's for the little guy." According to Bloomberg, "Days after Republicans feasted on her claim that corporations don't create jobs, Hillary Clinton tried Monday to 'be absolutely clear about what I've been saying for a couple of decades.' 'So-called trickle-down economics has failed,' Clinton said as she stumped for Representative Sean Patrick Maloney in New York. 'Our economy grows when businesses and entrepreneurs create good-paying jobs here in an America where workers and families are empowered to build from the bottom up and the middle out–not when we hand out tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas.' While campaigning Friday for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley, Clinton created a stir–and drew criticism from Republicans–by saying, 'Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs.'…The cleaned-up message, though, hits at the same theme: Clinton's for the little guy." [Bloomberg , 10/27/14]

While campaigning for Democrats in the midterm election, Clinton frequently tells voters that "everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance." According to a CNN, an investigation into Clinton's most common lines on the trail found that Clinton frequently tells voters, "'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance...' Clinton has focused a great deal on economic populism on the stump, an issue other Democrats thinking about seeking the presidency in 2016 have started to tweak Clinton on. 'Everyone deserves a second chance, a third chance to keep going and to make something of themselves,' Clinton said in Iowa earlier this year. 'That was one of the most important lessons of my life.' Clinton usually uses the line to encourage compassion from a crowd, and to show that she has compassion, too." [CNN , 10/28/14]

In a San Francisco speech, Clinton revealed some of what may be her economic message: "Who's on your side?" According to the Washington Post, "Here in San Francisco on Monday, Clinton gave a spirited call to arms to Democrats as she road-tested what is likely to be her economic message if she runs again. The November midterms, she said, come down 'to a simple question: Who's on your side?' She sounded close to her party's populist marrow when she decried the erosion of economic security for many working Americans, and a long way from her tone-deaf remark earlier this year about being 'dead broke' when she and Bill Clinton left the White House in 2000. 'It's time to elect leaders who will fight for everyone to get a fair shot at the American dream,' Hillary Clinton said." [Washington Post , 10/21/14]

Hillary Clinton's speeches are revealing a theme that she could finish the economic recovery begun by Obama. According to TPM, "Clinton seems to have a handle of the line she wants to toe: Obama saved us from worse economic struggles (as his defenders have been saying for years), but the work isn't over. Implicit, of course, is that she -- if she runs -- would finish the job. 'We haven't seen a full recovery from the economic crash,' Clinton said Thursday at CAP. 'When the president came in, he deserves an enormous amount of credit for staunching the bleeding and preventing a further deterioration and getting us out of that ditch we were in. But we know unless we change our policies, a lot of the benefits are not going to be broadly shared.' 'It's not just about more jobs for more people and better paying jobs,' she said. 'It's making sure that the people themselves get to keep those benefits and build that future back that they are so desperate to see for themselves.'" [TPM , 9/22/14]

In an interview with PBS, Hillary said : "Bill and I have had terrific opportunities, both of us…have worked hard, but we've been grateful for everything that we've been able to achieve, and sadly that's just not true for most Americans today…It's important that we all try to figure out what we're going to do, and that's what I've done my entire life, fighting for a higher minimum wage, or family leave…equal pay for equal work…I think my record speaks for itself."

At a speech at the Aspen Ideas Festival, Hillary said : "At the end of the day, we're all on the same team. We're on the American team. And we've got to do a better job of getting our economy growing again and producing results and renewing the American Dream so that Americans feel that they have a stake in the future and that the economy and the political system is not stacked against them, because that will erode the trust that is at the basis of our democracy."

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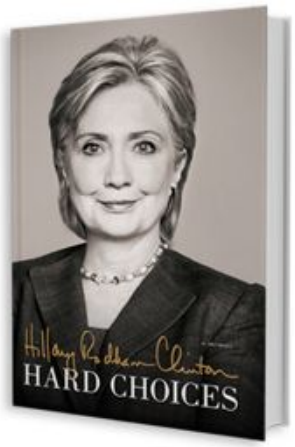
From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin.hrco@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/27/2014 3:01:59 AM
Subject: Author's Note

John, I have to tell you that I loved both your walk-about on the Mall and seeing you with your son in Afghanistan — so glad you got to do that! I wanted to give you a heads up that this morning we released the Author's Note for Hard Choices: http://www.hillaryclintonmemoir.com/excerpt . I will be very curious to hear what you think. Hopefully a grown-up conversation about the choices and trade-offs we face in the world will resonate with readers tired of both triumphalism and defeatism. We'll see!

Best,

Dan

AUTHOR'S NOTE



All of us face hard choices in our lives. Some face more than their share. We have to decide how to balance the demands of work and family. Caring for a sick child or an aging parent. Figuring out how to pay for college. Finding a good job, and what to do if you lose it. Whether to get married—or stay married. How to give our kids the opportunities they dream about and deserve. Life is about making such choices. Our choices and how we handle them shape the people we become. For leaders and nations, they can mean the difference between war and peace, poverty and prosperity.

I'm eternally grateful that I was born to loving and supportive parents in a country that offered me every opportunity and blessing—factors beyond my control that set the stage for the life I've led and the values and faith I've embraced. When I chose to leave a career as a young lawyer in Washington to move to Arkansas to marry Bill and start a family, my friends asked, "Are you out of your mind?" I heard similar questions when I took on health care reform as First Lady, ran for office myself, and accepted President Barack Obama's offer to represent our country as Secretary of State.

In making these decisions, I listened to both my heart and my head. I followed my heart to Arkansas; it burst with love at the birth of our daughter, Chelsea; and it ached with the losses of my father and mother. My head urged me forward in my education and professional choices.

And my heart and head together sent me into public service. Along the way, I've tried not to make the same mistake twice, to learn, to adapt, and to pray for the wisdom to make better choices in the future.

What's true in our daily lives is also true at the highest levels of government. Keeping America safe, strong, and prosperous presents an endless set of choices, many of which come with imperfect information and conflicting imperatives. Perhaps the most famous example from my four years as Secretary of State was President Obama's order to send a team of Navy SEALs into a moonless Pakistani night to bring Osama bin Laden to justice. The President's top advisors were divided. The intelligence was compelling, but far from definitive. The risks of failure were daunting. The stakes were significant for America's national security, our battle against al Qaeda, and our relationship with Pakistan. Most of all, the lives of those brave SEALs and helicopter pilots hung in the balance. It was as crisp and courageous a display of leadership as I've ever seen.

This book is about choices I made as Secretary of State and those made by President Obama and other leaders around the world. Some chapters are about events that made headlines; others are about the trendlines that will continue to define our world for future generations.

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Of course, quite a few important choices, characters, countries, and events are not included here. To give them all the space they deserve, I would need many more pages. I could fill a whole book just with thanks to the talented and dedicated colleagues I relied on at the State Department. I have enormous gratitude for their service and friendship.

As Secretary of State I thought of our choices and challenges in three categories: The problems we inherited, including two wars and a global financial crisis; the new, often unexpected events and emerging threats, from the shifting sands of the Middle East to the turbulent waters of the Pacific to the uncharted terrain of cyberspace; and the opportunities presented by an increasingly networked world that could help lay the foundation for American prosperity and leadership in the 21st century.

I approached my work with confidence in our country's enduring strengths and purpose, and humility about how much remains beyond our knowledge and control. I worked to reorient American foreign policy around what I call "smart power." To succeed in the 21st century, we need to integrate the traditional tools of foreign policy—diplomacy, development assistance, and military force—while also tapping the energy and ideas of the private sector and empowering citizens, especially the activists, organizers, and problem solvers we call civil society, to meet their own challenges and shape their own futures. We have to use all of America's strengths to build a world with more partners and fewer adversaries, more shared responsibility and fewer conflicts, more good jobs and less poverty, more broadly based prosperity with less damage to our environment.

As is usually the case with the benefit of hindsight, I wish we could go back and revisit certain choices. But I'm proud of what we accomplished. This century began traumatically for our country, with the terrorist attacks on 9/11, the long wars that followed, and the Great Recession. We needed to do better, and I believe we did.

These years were also a personal journey for me, both literally (I ended up visiting 112 countries and traveling nearly one million miles) and figuratively, from the painful end of the 2008 campaign to an unexpected partnership and friendship with my former rival Barack Obama. I've served our country in one way or another for decades. Yet during my years as Secretary of State, I learned even more about our exceptional strengths and what it will take for us to compete and thrive at home and abroad.

I hope this book will be of use to anyone who wants to know what America stood for in the early years of the 21st century, as well as how the Obama Administration confronted great challenges in a perilous time.

While my views and experiences will surely be scrutinized by followers of Washington's long-running soap opera—who took what side, who opposed whom, who was up and who was down—I didn't write this book for them.

I wrote it for Americans and people everywhere who are trying to make sense of this rapidly changing world of ours, who want to understand how leaders and nations can work together and why they sometimes collide, and how their decisions affect all our lives: How a collapsing economy in Athens, Greece, affects businesses in Athens, Georgia. How a revolution in Cairo, Egypt, impacts life in Cairo, Illinois. What a tense diplomatic encounter in St. Petersburg, Russia, means for families in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Not every story in this book has a happy ending or even an ending yet—that's not the world we live in—but all of them are stories about people we can learn from whether we agree with them or not. There are still heroes out there: peacemakers who persevered when success seemed impossible, leaders who ignored politics and pressure to make tough decisions, men and women with the courage to leave the past behind in order to shape a new and better future. These are some of the stories I tell.

I wrote this book to honor the exceptional diplomats and development experts whom I had the honor of leading as America's sixty-seventh Secretary of State. I wrote it for anyone anywhere who wonders whether the United States still has what it takes to lead. For me, the answer is a resounding "Yes." Talk of America's decline has become commonplace, but my faith in our future has never been greater. While there are few problems in today's world that the United States can solve alone, there are even

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fewer that can be solved without the United States. Everything that I have done and seen has convinced me that America remains the "indispensable nation." I am just as convinced, however, that our leadership is not a birthright. It must be earned by every generation.

And it will be—so long as we stay true to our values and remember that, before we are Republicans or Democrats, liberals or conservatives, or any of the other labels that divide us as often as define us, we are Americans, all with a personal stake in our country.

When I began this book, shortly after leaving the State Department, I considered a number of titles. Helpfully, the *Washington Post* asked its readers to send in suggestions. One proposed "It Takes a World," a fitting sequel to *It Takes a Village*. My favorite was "The Scrunchie Chronicles: 112 Countries and It's Still All about My Hair."

In the end, the title that best captured my experiences on the high wire of international diplomacy and my thoughts and feelings about what it will take to secure American leadership for the 21st century was *Hard Choices*.

One thing that has never been a hard choice for me is serving our country. It has been the greatest honor of my life.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/8/2015 3:46:34 AM
Subject: News Update - July 8, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, July 8

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **US: Iran Nuclear Talks Extended to Friday**
- **Top IDF Officers Back Partial Lifting of Gaza Blockade**
- **Beduin leader: PA would Restart Talks if Israel froze Settlements**
- **Hamas Close to Restoring Pre-War Rocket Capabilities**
- **Egypt's Sissi tells U.S. Jews: Peace will Help End Terrorism**
- **Palestinian FM: France Drops UN Effort to Kickstart Peace**
- **Israeli Minister Says Reform Jews Are Not Really Jewish**

Commentary:

- **Associated Press:"Boycott Drive Gains Strength, Raising Alarm in Israel"**
  - By Tia Goldenberg
- **The National Interest: "Assessing an Iran Deal: 5 Big Lessons from History"**
  - By Graham Allison

Ynet News

US: Iran Nuclear Talks Extended to Friday

Iran and major powers will continue negotiations on a nuclear deal to Friday, July 10, past a deadline for a long-term agreement, which is set to expire later on Tuesday, State Department spokesperson Marie Harf confirmed. Harf also said that talks had made "substantial progress. We're frankly more concerned about the quality of the deal than we are about the clock, though we also know that difficult decisions won't get any easier with." But a source close to the talks said Tuesday that contrary to statements made by Iranian officials, the negotiations were not open-ended or without a deadline. "We've come to the end," the source added. "We have just made one, final extension. It is hard to see how or why we would go beyond this. Either it happens in the next 48 hours, or not."

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Times of Israel

Top IDF Officers Back Partial Lifting of Gaza Blockade

A panel of senior IDF officers believes the path to long-lasting quiet in the Gaza Strip lies through a partial lifting of the blockade, combined with measures to increase freedom of movement and stimulate the coastal area's dire economic straits. The officers made the remarks in a recent briefing with Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon. The comments come as both sides mark a year since the start of the last year's 50-day conflict between Israel and Hamas. According to the officers' recommendations, Israel should allow thousands of Gaza's residents to pass through its territory and enter Jordan via the Allenby Bridge in the West Bank, if they so choose.

Jerusalem Post

Beduin leader: PA would Restart Talks if Israel froze Settlements

Insert new text here. INSERT NEW TEXT HERE. Insert new text here. INSERT NEW TEXT HERE. Insert new text here. Insert new text here. INSERT NEW TEXT HERE. Insert new text here. INSERT NEW TEXT HERE. Insert new text here.PA President Abbas says he would restart peace talks if Israel froze settlement construction, Zidan Kaabiya, head of Forum of Northern Beduin Council, told The Jerusalem Post on Tuesday. Abbas met in Ramallah with representatives of Israeli Beduin over the weekend. Kaabiya said Abbas sees Israeli Beduin as a bridge to mediate between the sides. "Abbas asked that we pass a message to President Reuven Rivlin that he is against violence and wants negotiations," said Kaabiya. "No one from the Israeli government has contacted us", continued Kaabiya, though he added that Rivlin did respond that the visit was important. "I asked him his conditions to return to talks, and he said one small thing, to stop settlement building – not to tear down anything," Kaabiya said.

Ynet News

Hamas Close to Restoring Pre-War Rocket Capabilities

The IDF's Southern Command said last summer's operation in Gaza was the biggest and most significant Israel has ever fought against the Palestinians in general and in the Strip in particular. At the end of Operation Protective Edge, Army Intelligence estimated that over two-thirds of Hamas' rockets were destroyed in the fighting. A source in the Southern Command said Tuesday that Hamas has yet to restore its rockets stock to what it was before the war, but that it was getting closer to doing so.

See also, "A year on, army looks to last Gaza war for lessons on fighting the next one" (Times of Israel)

Ha'aretz

Sissi tells U.S. Jews: Peace will Help End Terrorism

Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will help put an end to terror, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sissi told group of U.S. Jews on Monday, according to an official statement released by his government. In a meeting with representatives of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in Cairo, Sissi said that Palestinian issue served as catalyst for people from around the region joining what he described as "terrorists organizations," the presidential statement said. According to the statement, Sissi said that international assurances were needed to encourage Israel to reach a deal with the Palestinians and foster hope among Palestinians to support peace.

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Ha'aretz

Pal. FM: France Drops UN Effort to Kickstart Peace

Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riad al-Malki said Tuesday that a French diplomatic bid to advance a United Nations resolution to restart the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians has been abandoned by the Élysée Palace in wake of pressure by Israel and the U.S. Senior Palestinian officials in Ramallah who spoke with Ha'aretz said that al-Malki's comments were not entirely accurate, and that it was more his analysis of the updates he had received on the matter than information based on an official decision by the French. Al-Maliki told the Voice of Palestine radio station in an interview Tuesday said that "the French initiative to put forward a UN Security Council resolution based on the two-state solution and renewing peace talks is no longer topping the agenda of French leadership and they have withdrawn [from the idea]."Al-Malki reportedly further claimed that the French change of heart was a result of pressure by Israel and the U.S., with the later reportedly saying that it should remain off the diplomatic docket until a deal is reached with Iran.

New York Times

Israeli Minister: Reform Jews Are Not Really Jewish

Israel's strictly Orthodox minister of religious services said Tuesday that he did not consider Reform Jews to be Jewish, inflaming internal discord over religious issues and underscoring tensions with American Jews, who mostly belong to the more liberal streams of Conservative and Reform Judaism. "The moment a Reform Jew stops following the religion of Israel, let's say there's a problem," the minister, David Azoulay of the Shas party, said on Army Radio, adding, "I cannot allow myself to call such a person a Jew." Mr. Azoulay said he did not want to be the one to determine who is a Jew and who is not. When he was asked specifically about American Reform Jews, Mr. Azoulay referred to people who "try to fake and do not carry out the religious law properly, and give it other interpretations." "These are Jews who erred along the way," he added.

See also, " Netanyahu rejects minister's 'hurtful' claim Reform Jews can't be called Jews (Ha'aretz)

Associated Press – July 8, 2015

Boycott Drive Gains Strength, Raising Alarm in Israel

By Tia Goldenberg

Ten years ago, a small group of Palestinian activists had a novel idea: Inspired by the anti-apartheid movement, they called for a global boycott movement against Israel as a nonviolent method to promote the Palestinian struggle for independence.

Long confined to the sidelines, the so-called BDS movement appears to be gaining momentum — so much so that Israel has identified it as a strategic threat on a par with Palestinian militant groups and the Iranian nuclear program. While Israel says the movement is rooted in anti-Semitism, its decentralized organization and language calling for universal human rights have proven difficult to counter, resulting in a string of recent victories that have alarmed Israeli leaders.

"We are now beginning to harvest the fruits of 10 years of strategic, morally consistent and undeniably effective BDS campaigning," said Omar Barghouti, one of the group's co-founders. "BDS is winning the battles for hearts and minds across the world, despite Israel's still hegemonic influence among governments in the U.S. and Europe."

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The BDS movement — named for its call for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel — began as an idea by 170 Palestinian civil society groups worldwide in 2005. It has grown into a global network of thousands of volunteers lobbying corporations, artists and academic institutions to sever ties with Israel. Its members include campus activists, church groups and even liberal American Jews disillusioned by Israeli policies.

Most worrying for Israel, some of the group's core positions toward products made in West Bank settlements are starting to be embraced by European governments. Although the EU says it opposes boycotts of Israel, it is exploring guidelines for labeling settlement products, which many in Israel fear could be a precursor to a full-fledged ban. Settlement products, which make up a tiny percentage of Israeli exports, include wines, dates and cosmetics.

At a time when peace efforts are frozen and show no sign of getting back on track under a new hard - line government, Israelis fear such sentiment will increase. "The concern is that there will be a spillover to a much wider phenomenon that will become mainstream and erode support for Israel," said Emmanuel Nahshon of Israel's Foreign Ministry.

The BDS movement has three goals: to end Israel's occupation of territories captured in the 1967 Mideast war, to end discrimination suffered by Arab citizens of Israel, and to promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to family properties lost in the war surrounding Israel's creation in 1948.

For Israel, this last position is nothing less than a call for its destruction. Israel opposes the Palestinian "right of return," saying a massive influx of refugees would mean the end of the country as a Jewish state. The international community favors a "two-state solution" creating a Palestinian state alongside Israel, and even Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has indicated willingness to compromise on the refugee issue under a final peace deal.

Barghouti, a U.S.-educated engineer who also holds a graduate degree at Israel's Tel Aviv University, said the BDS movement is "completely neutral" on the political solution to the conflict. But he said he represents the Palestinian "consensus," and any deal that "undermines our basic rights under international law and perpetuates the colonial oppression" is unacceptable.

As for his attendance at a university he asks others to boycott, he said Palestinians "cannot possibly observe the same boycott guidelines as asked of internationals," adding that the "indigenous population" is entitled to all services they can get from the system.

Israeli leaders consider the movement to be the latest in a history of antagonists out to destroy the Jewish people. "We are in the midst of a great struggle being waged against the state of Israel, an international campaign to blacken its name," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said recently. "It is not connected to our actions. It is connected to our very existence."

The BDS movement is led by a West Bank-based national committee with representatives from around the world, which sets guidelines but allows local branches to decide their own strategy. It focuses on battles with a reasonable chance of success. So some of the biggest companies active in Israel, such as Microsoft and Intel, have not been targeted.

Battles have taken place in U.S. food co-ops and city councils. The movement has helped organize several boycotts by U.S. and British academic unions and has made inroads on American campuses. Roughly a dozen student governments have approved divestment proposals.

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Entertainers, including Roger Waters, Elvis Costello and Lauryn Hill have refused to perform in Israel. The BDS movement also claims responsibility for pressuring some large companies to stop or alter operations in Israel, including carbonated drink maker SodaStream, French construction company Veolia and international security firm G4S.

Last month, Britain's national student union joined the movement. Last week, the top legislative body of the United Church of Christ voted to divest from companies with business in the Israeli-occupied territories, following a similar move by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) last year. The Episcopal Church and Mennonite Church USA also considered divestment proposals recently, with the Episcopalians rejecting it and the Mennonites deferring action for two years.

Perhaps the biggest blow was last month's announcement by the chief executive of French mobile phone giant Orange that he wanted to end his partnership with Israeli carrier Partner Communications. He cited his desire to improve business in the Arab world. Although CEO Stephane Richard later traveled to Israel to apologize, Orange and Partner announced plans to unwind their deal.

The idea of boycotts is extremely sensitive in Israel. Netanyahu has referred to the Nazis' boycott of Jewish businesses and artists in 1930s Germany before the Holocaust — though that campaign took place when the Nazi party held power and was accompanied by acts of violence and virulent anti-Semitic slogans. "The attacks on the Jews were always preceded by the slander of the Jews," Netanyahu recently said.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Arab countries pressured companies doing business with them to shun Israel. Currently, Israel is fending off attempts by the boycotters to compare Israeli policies in the West Bank to South African apartheid.

BDS activists deny being fueled by anti-Semitism, saying their battle is against Israel, not Jews. They point to a small but growing number of Jewish supporters, including the U.S.-based "Jewish Voice for Peace," whose 9,000 dues-paying members support a boycott of Israel.

Naomi Dann, JVP's media coordinator, said the stance stems from frustration over failed U.S.-backed peace efforts. She said that while the group recognizes the Jewish attachment to Israel, it can't come at the expense of Palestinians." It's not about destroying Israel," she said. "But full equal rights and a democratic society are more important than preserving the Jewish character of the state." It remains difficult to quantify the BDS movement's actual achievements.

Leading global companies, including Microsoft, Google, Apple and Intel, maintain operations in Israel. Major entertainers, including Paul McCartney, Lady Gaga, Madonna and Rihanna, have performed in Israel in recent years.

A February report by Israel's Finance Ministry concluded the BDS movement has had a negligible economic impact. But it outlined some worst-case scenarios, including EU government-led boycotts or cancellation of free-trade agreements. Likewise, a recent study by the Rand Corp. said that while the BDS movement "has not yet had a significant negative effect" on Israel, it is growing and Israeli leaders fear it could have "substantial detrimental effects" on the economy.

Last month, Jewish billionaires Sheldon Adelson and Haim Saban led a Las Vegas fundraiser to fight the BDS movement at U.S. universities. Israel's justice minister, Ayeled Shaked, instructed her ministry to prepare "legal steps" against the movement. This week, Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Rodham Clinton said she opposed the BDS movement.

David Makovsky, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy

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and former member of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's peace team, said Israel must show it is serious about the creation of a Palestinian state to slow the momentum. "You can reduce its scope, its impact by making clear when the prime minister ... says he supports two states for two people that he is not then going to say Israel will settle in what will be a future Palestinian state," he said.

The National Interest – July 8, 2015

Assessing an Iran Deal: 5 Big Lessons from History

Negotiated agreements contributed significantly to the fact that we survived and, indeed, won the Cold War without nuclear Armageddon.

By Graham Allison

As the policy community prepares to assess an agreement between the U.S. and its P5+1 partners and Iran, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker asked me to review the history of analogous agreements for lessons that illuminate the current challenge. In response to his assignment, I reviewed the seven decades of the nuclear era, during which the U.S. negotiated arms-control treaties, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968; strategic arms limitation talks and agreements from SALT to New Start; the North Korean accord of 1994; the agreements that helped eliminate nuclear weapons in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus in the early 1990s; and the pact that eliminated the Libyan nuclear weapons program in 2003.Among many lessons and clues from this instructive history, five stand out:

Lesson #1: Arms control can advance American national interests without war. Negotiated agreements to constrain the spread and use of nuclear weapons have been an essential tool in the arsenal of American national security strategy. Such agreements are not an alternative to the use of military force, economic coercion, or covert action. Rather they are an instrument in the arsenal of American power that can be used in conjunction with other means to protect and defend our interests. Instructively, negotiated agreements contributed significantly to the fact that we survived and, indeed, won the Cold War without nuclear Armageddon.

Lesson #2: No compromise, no deal. Because agreements are by definition negotiated – not imposed – they require give and take: compromise. As any parent or legislator knows well, the results of any negotiation invite a predictable litany of criticism: from mild remarks about painful concessions and remorse about the possibility of a better deal, to the extreme but still-common charges of "appeasement" or "conspiring with the enemy."

Lesson #3: Reduced risks. From the record of arms-control negotiations and agreements by both Republican and Democratic presidents – from Nixon and Reagan and both Bushes, to Kennedy, Johnson, Clinton, and Obama – one takeaway is hard to deny: agreements have reduced the risks of war, lowered the numbers of nuclear weapons, lessened uncertainties in estimating threats, and enhanced predictability.

Lesson #4: North Korea is complicated. The case of North Korea is unquestionably a non-proliferation failure. The historical facts of the case, however, have been overtaken by legend. As we consider how policy failed, keep in mind these four questions:

- During the eight years in which North Korea was constrained by the nuclear agreement of 1994, how many nuclear weapons or weapons equivalent of fissile material did North Korea add to its arsenal, according to the best estimates of the

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U.S. intelligence community? Answer: none.

-From 2003 to 2008, when the U.S. confronted North Korea for cheating, abrogated the agreement, and sought to isolate and sanction Pyongyang, how many nuclear weapons or weapons equivalent of fissile material did it add to its arsenal? Answer: According to U.S. intelligence estimates, enough material for 2-to-9 more bombs.

-Under which treatment – agreements or confrontation – did North Korea conduct a nuclear weapons test? Answer: confrontation.

-Under which treatment – negotiations or confrontation – both in the Clinton–Bush and Obama periods did North Korea build its nuclear arsenal of more than a dozen weapons that it has today, according to U.S. intelligence estimates? Answer: confrontation.

Lesson #5: Details matter. To paraphrase Shakespeare, in the realm of arms control, "deals are neither either good or bad in themselves, but details and context make them so." Assessing the Iran deal – if there is one – depends vitally on both the fine print and the feasible alternatives. In foreign affairs, completely good deals are rare – and typically the result of massive military leverage after victory in war. The right standard, even for stakes as high as nuclear weapons, is good enough. In the case of Iran, good enough means a deal that does more than no deal and its feasible alternatives to prevent Iran from acquiring a bomb.

If Secretary Kerry and his team bring back an agreement that successfully translates key parameters of the Framework Accord reached by the P5+1 and Iran into legally-binding constraints, including intrusive procedures for inspection, verification, and challenges, my bet is that it will be difficult to responsibly reject that agreement. The burden will fall on those who propose to do so to describe a feasible alternative that will better protect and defend American national security.

Graham Allison is director of the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

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From:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To:	dkurtzphelan@gmail.com
Date:	6/29/2015 11:14:30 AM
Subject:	FW: HRC Iran statement

Dear Dan and Jake,
Here is a cleaner version. Something happened with the one I just sent that left gaps in the sentences.
Stu

From: Eizenstat, Stuart
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 6:09 PM
To: 'Daniel Kurtz-Phelan'
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com)
Subject: RE: HRC Iran statement

Dear Dan and Jake,

I am sorry for the delay, but I only landed this morning from Israel via JFK. Please see my comments below. Of course, we do not know the details at this time.
Stu

> **From:** Daniel Kurtz-Phelan [mailto:dkurtzphelan@gmail.com]
> **Sent:** Sunday, June 28, 2015 8:52 PM
> **To:** Eizenstat, Stuart
> **Cc:** Jake Sullivan
> **Subject:** HRC Iran statement
>
> Dear Stu,
>
> Jake asked that I share with you the current draft of HRC's statement on the Iran deal. It's pasted below. Some of this could of course change depending on the details of a final agreement, but it would be great to have your feedback at this stage,
>
> Many thanks,
> Dan
>
> **
>
> I applaud President Obama and Secretary Kerry for securing a nuclear agreement that offers the strongest chance to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this deal will make the United States, Israel, our Arab partners, and the region safer and more secure than if there were no agreement.
> At the same time, there are aspects of the agreement that are a cause for concern, and a basis for special diligence. has not been required to answer questions about the Possible Military Dimensions (PMD), including allowing the IAEA to inspect sites, interview key scientists and officials, and review documents that would shed light on their past and current PMD activities. In addition, clarity is required on what limits are imposed during the term of the agreement and thereafter to preclude Iran's work on advanced centrifuges. It is also critical that sanctions relief must come only when Iran has demonstrates to the satisfaction of the IAEA that they have complied with their obligations. Sanctions for terrorism and other non-nuclear sanctions must remain in place. I I want to make sure as President that any violation of the agreement by Iran would trigger a reimposition of sanctions, without an Iranian veto over the findings, and in ways that assure the US can act if we feel there is a violation. Most important is monitoring and verification. The IAEA inspectors must have timely and effective access to all sites in Iran, including military sites. It is unclear if this is the case.
> Despite these concerns, it is critical in assessing this agreement to ask what alternatives exist. We already have in place the most effective, broad-based sanctions ever imposed on a country in peacetime. While they have brought Iran to the negotiating table, they have not stopped the continued expansion of their nuclear program. It is difficult to see what other sanctions would lead to greater Iranian concessions. Without an agreement, there would be no two-thirds reduction in their number of centrifuges; no dismantlement of their plutonium plant at Arak; no 24/IAEA inspections; no dilution of their 20% enriched uranium. Their capacity to "break-out: would be far more likely without this agreement, than with it. We also have to consider it we could maintain the partnership with the European Union, which has made the sanctions most effective.
> Today's agreement is the culmination of an effective strategy executed over many years. By the end of the Bush administration, Iran was rapidly expanding its nuclear centrifuge capacity despite unilateral American sanctions and ineffective saber rattling. The Obama administration took a different approach, working with Congress and our allies and partners around the world. As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms – especially in Moscow and Beijing – to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history against Tehran. That unprecedented pressure shattered Iran's economy, halted the progress of its nuclear program (NB. BE CAREFUL THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGES AND AMOUNT OF ENRICHED URANIUM SINCE OBAMA TOOK OFFICE), and forced its leaders to the table to negotiate a deal that puts a nuclear weapon out of reach.
> As President, I will use every tool in our arsenal to compel rigorous Iranian compliance. The response to any violation will be clear, immediate, and devastating -- starting with the return of sanctions but taking no options off the table, including, if necessary, the use of force.

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The message to Iran must be loud and clear: We will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; we will never allow you permit you to produce sufficient fissile material or otherwise acquire it, sufficient for a nuclear weapons; not just during the term of this agreement – never. Going forward, we have to be clear-eyed when it comes to the broader threat Iran represents. Even with an agreement that limits its nuclear ambitions, Iran still poses a direct challenge to the United States and our allies, especially Israel. The funds it will receive with sanctions relief will provide billions of dollars more for Iran to use to support terrorism. It continues to destabilize countries from Yemen to Lebanon, while exacerbating conflict in Syria. And it fuels terrorism throughout the region and beyond, including through direct support to Hamas and Hizballah. We have to aggressively oppose and raise the costs for Iran's destabilizing activities, insist on the return of U.S. citizens being held by the Iranian government, and strengthen cooperation with our allies and partners. This agreement under my Administration will not see this agreement as the beginning of an American-Iranian partnership. Our allies in the Middle East deserve to have this assurance, and they will have it if I am elected President.

Israel should be confident that now and in a Hillary Clinton Administration, the United States will always defend its security and ensure its military edge in the region. Our two countries have to be on the same page when it comes to the threat posed by Iran, so I would invite the senior Israeli leadership to Washington for early talks on further strengthening our crucial alliance. I will provide Israel with all the military means it requires to defend itself against an Iranian threat, and support its actions to defend itself. We should also deepen our security relationship with Arab partners who are threatened by Iran's ambitions.

Ultimately, this agreement is the best way to protect our country and our allies. To walk away from a deal that will stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, or to bomb Iran as long an agreement offers an alternative, [as some Republican candidates for President suggest,] would be both dangerous and shortsighted – fracturing our global coalition, raising the risk of regional war, and ultimately bringing Iran closer to a nuclear weapon.

So we should proceed with wisdom and strength in implementing a deal born out of effective diplomacy and strong American leadership.

**

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From:	NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	8/27/2015 11:49:39 PM
Subject:	First Draft on Politics: Democratic Candidates Gather Before Party Leaders to Give Their Best 10-Minute Pitches

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What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Democrats Go Before Party Leaders to Give Their 10-Minute Pitches

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Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont campaigning last week in Eldridge, Iowa. He and most of the other Democratic candidates will speak to the party's national committee on Friday. Jim Young/Reuters

By Patrick Healy

Good Friday morning. The Iran nuclear deal has been making its way back to the Capitol during summer break, even if Congress has not, and it will be a focus of several events. But the big party is with the Democrats as they meet in Minneapolis to hear the candidates try to curry favor with the party's leaders.

The summer meeting of the Democratic National Committee gets down to business on Friday with speeches by four of the party's presidential candidates – **Lincoln Chafee**, the former Rhode Island governor, and **Hillary Rodham Clinton** in the morning, **Martin O'Malley**, the former Maryland governor, and **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont in the afternoon – to hundreds of activists who are plenty familiar with their political speeches and policy views. So will the contenders say anything new or surprising?

Mr. Sanders, for one, was playing around with ideas on a yellow legal pad as he flew to Minneapolis on Thursday, according to Democrats on the plane with him. Like the other candidates, he has only about 10 minutes to speak, but advisers expect him to make a sincere pitch — even if he is not a Democrat, but an independent — as an outsider who is attracting big crowds.

"He will say if Democrats want to keep the White House," said **Michael Briggs**, Mr. Sanders's campaign spokesman, "then establishment politics won't do it."

"Few would deny he is generating excitement, and that's what the party needs."

Mr. O'Malley has been arguing that the current plan for only six debates favors Mrs. Clinton, who is leading in the polls. Several Democrats said they were curious if Mr.

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O'Malley would press for more debates in his speech — and whether he would do so politely or pugnaciously.

The party leaders are convening as Mrs. Clinton's dominance in the race is shadowed by her email practices as secretary of state, and amid uncertainty about whether **Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.** will enter the race.

As for Mrs. Clinton, this is her crowd: Many in the audience are already planning to support her. Democrats expect her to rally the base and rip into Republicans — which won't be all that surprising, but will sure make people there feel good.

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What We're Watching Today

- Charleston, S.C., is to be the scene of two tough-talking foreign policy addresses by Republicans, **Senator Marco Rubio** of Florida and **Gov. Scott Walker** of Wisconsin.

  Mr. Rubio plans to take aim at China, as concern grows about Beijing's devaluations of its currency and the steep declines in markets that have reverberated to Wall Street.

  His remarks come a week before China's president, **Xi Jinping**, visits Washington to meet **President Obama.** Mr. Walker, who has called on the White House to cancel Mr. Xi's visit, will focus his speech mostly on the Middle East. He will draw a contrast with what he considers weakness by Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton, and will call for a rejection of the Iran nuclear deal.

  "As president, I will send the following message: The retreat is over," Mr. Walker plans to say, according to an advance text.

  He will criticize the idea of engaging at all with Iran across a negotiating table.

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Instead, he will call for an American defeat of Iranian "theocrats" and Islamic State "barbarians," as necessary to deter Russian aggression in Eastern Europe and the Chinese in the South China Sea.

"We've had enough of a president who proclaims that the greatest threat to future generations is climate change," the prepared text says.

– Trip Gabriel and Gerry Mullany

- As part of his efforts to press for the approval of the nuclear deal, **Mr. Obama** will speak via a webcast to an event co-sponsored by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Jewish Federations of North America.

Vilsack's Endorsement of Clinton Adds to Her Shows of Strength

Though **Mrs. Clinton**'s campaign has been dogged by the questions about her email use, she has moved this week to highlight her strength before the Democratic National Committee meeting, including receiving an emotional endorsement from an old friend.

Tom Vilsack, the secretary of agriculture who says he owes his career to Mrs. Clinton for her help in his Iowa governor's race in 1998, endorsed her on Tuesday and joined her on Wednesday in Iowa, introducing her in a way that could serve as a counterpoint to some voter perceptions of her as untrustworthy.

The rollout of the endorsement, and memos released by the Clinton team on Thursday detailing her organizational power in early voting states, are gestures that many see as timed to the party meeting and to Mr. Biden's 2016 deliberations.

But, to Mr. Vilsack, it was personal.

"This introduction means a lot to me," he told a crowd in Sioux City.

He recalled how Mrs. Clinton had recently told him how concerned she was about drug addiction and mental health in the country. It struck a chord.

"I was adopted into a family where my mom suffered alcohol and prescription drug addiction," he said. "And, on one very sad occasion, she tried to take her own life."

Mr. Vilsack recalled how the last conversation he had had with his father before he died was about the cost of law school, then noted Mrs. Clinton's plan for easing student debt.

And, he said, "she understands loyalty." She first took interest in him and his fledgling campaign in 1998, he said, "24 years before that, she met my brother-in-law."

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"It was that friendship that got her interested in my race," Mr. Vilsack said. And then, "introducing my friend to my friends," he handed the microphone to Mrs. Clinton.

– Nick Corasaniti

Bulletins: Trump's Choice; Fiorina's Push; Clinton's Deal

- **Donald J. Trump** said in an interview on Thursday that he would soon decide whether to sign a pledge to support the ultimate Republican presidential nominee, something the South Carolina Republican Party is requiring to compete in the state's critical primary.

- **Carly Fiorina**, who has been gaining in polls and was widely seen as the winner of the second-tier Republican debate this month, is pressing party leaders in an effort to secure a spot in the prime-time debate in September.

- And **Mrs. Clinton** and the Democratic National Committee have finalized a joint fund-raising agreement after months of difficult negotiations, opening the door for the party to gain a significant head start on Republicans at roping in big checks from donors.

Our Other Favorites From Today's Times

- On the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, **Mr. Obama,** who has cited such severe storms in his push on climate change proposals — and separately faced some criticism from environmental groups on Thursday, visited New Orleans to make a case for his entire presidency: that when disaster strikes, the federal government should help not only to rescue the stranded but also to rebuild better and fairer than before.

- Planned Parenthood gave congressional leaders and a committee that is investigating allegations of criminality at its clinics an analysis it commissioned concluding that "manipulation" of undercover videos by abortion opponents make those recordings unreliable for any official inquiry.

- And **Mrs. Clinton** compared some of the Republican presidential candidates' views on women to those of terrorist groups, citing in particular stances against abortion even in the cases of rape or incest, and calls to defund all services of Planned Parenthood.

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Cruz Invites Trump to Rally Against Iran Deal

They've shared a private meeting in New York, the debate stage, and now, they will share a podium in Washington.

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas has invited **Mr. Trump** to join him to lead a rally calling on Congress to vote against the Iran nuclear deal.

The event will be on Sept. 9, a week before the next Republican debate.

"Senator Cruz has invited Donald Trump to join him on the Capitol grounds for a rally to call on members of Congress to defeat the catastrophic deal that the Obama administration has struck with the Islamic Republic of Iran," the Cruz campaign said in a statement emailed to reporters. "The event will be sponsored by Tea Party Patriots, Center for Security Policy, and the Zionist Organization of America."

A joint appearance has long been in the works, according to **Catherine Frazier**, a spokeswoman for the Cruz campaign, "and this event rallying against the Iran deal is an important issue and perfect chance to partner together."

Mr. Cruz did not extend the invite to any of the other Republican candidates, despite some, like **Gov. Chris Christie** of New Jersey, taking strong positions in opposition to the deal.

Inviting Mr. Trump, who leads Republican polls, gives Mr. Cruz a near-guaranteed large crowd and extensive media coverage. Mr. Cruz has also been one of the few Republican candidates who have declined to criticize Mr. Trump over some of his more caustic comments.

– Nick Corasaniti

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What We're Reading Elsewhere

- **Mr. Trump**'s news conference argument with **Jorge Ramos** of Univision this week — Mr. Trump said Mr. Ramos was asking questions without being called on; Mr. Ramos said Mr. Trump was refusing to answer tough questions — drove a fair

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amount of traffic on television, online and in print. But, Time Magazine writes , Mr. Ramos says Mr. Trump is not the only one at fault: Speaking of the national media, " 'He hasn't been challenged enough,' Ramos said of Trump. 'He hates to be challenged, and it is time that we start doing it.' "

- And NPR takes a look at **Mr. Sanders**, who considers himself to be a Democratic socialist, and "the S-word," which "is not a word Sanders often uses on the campaign trail to define himself."

- Who would give money to **Mr. Trump**'s campaign? Politico looked and found that "63 people contributed $250 or more in the first two weeks after Trump announced."

  "Ten of them have already 'maxed out,' meaning they've given the legal contribution limit for a federal primary election, $2,700," Politico reports.

- The animosity between **Mr. Trump** and **Jeb Bush** is rooted in decades of tensions between the billionaire and the Bush family. "There are clashes of style, manner and class between the Bushes — a patrician clan of presidents, governors and financiers who have pulled the levers of power for generations — and Trump, a hustling New York City deal-maker who turned his father's outer-borough real estate portfolio into a gold-plated empire," The Washington Post writes.

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From: "Rabbi Michael Lerner" <rabbilerner.tikkun@gmail.com>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 3/3/2015 12:52:59 PM
Subject: Benjamon Netanyahu's Fantasy World: Aresponse to Netanyahu's address to Congress

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empowered by salsa



A note from Rabbi Michael Lerner Join or Donate Now!

You can read this online on Huffington Post's home page Tuesday evening, March 3rd at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rabbi-michael-lerner/the-fantasy-world-of-benj_b_6796216.html

Benjamin Netanyahu's Fantasy World

by Rabbi Michael Lerner

"If you take out Saddam, Saddam's regime, I guarantee you that it will have enormous positive reverberations on the region." ~ Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu urging the US to invade Iraq in 2002.

Netanyahu's speech to Congress was brilliantly deceitful because it played to the fantasies that Israeli propaganda and right wing militarists in the US have been popularizing for the past thirty years.

* The biggest fantasy: that we can coerce others through power over them to do what we consider in the best interests of the U.S. or Israel. This is what I call "The Strategy of Domination." A more effective path is "The Strategy of Generosity"--showing others that we care about them and recognize their needs as being equally legitimate to our own. This second approach is the view that made trade between tribes, and eventually between nations possible in the past, and it remains the view that makes it possible for most countries of the world to live in peace with their neighbors. They hate to do business with those who think that they can get their way through power-tripping and manipulations and threats.

This struggle between two world views is the core of the debate today in the U.S. and the reason that the militarists have the upper hand is because the Obama Administration, fearing that it might be ridiculed as believing in "kumbaya politics," used its first six years to pursue policies that better fit the Strategy of Domination than the Strategy of Generosity. Predictably, now it finds itself without a popular base for turning toward a more rational path in regard to Iran, having to frame its policies in terms of his policies' toughness rather than in terms of their humanity and reflection of higher ethical values.

I know so many people who shake their heads in despair at the growth of the right-wing consciousness in the US in every sphere except identity politics, but really what other discourse are they ever exposed to? Obama should embrace the Biblical call for "love the stranger/the other" and challenge Americans to take that call seriously. Instead, he tries to measure up against the criteria set by the militarists. Guess what? In that coercion-oriented arena liberals and progressives

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will always fail, because you have to be unscrupulous to win there.

Netanyahu is a master of manipulating the fantasies that the right-wing discourse advances. For example, the view of the world that sees "our side" (whether that 'our' be the U.S. or Israel) as always innocent and good, and "the other" as intrinsically evil.

* So consider his claim that it is Iran that has been making war against countries in the Middle East. No...actually it is the U.S. that has been making war against those countries in the past 12 years. You will have to look very hard to find any Iranian troops in Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, or Egypt in the past 12 years. But you will find tens of thousands of American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq in the past twelve years. Similarly, it is Israel that has been decimating Gaza, not Iran decimating a neighboring city or province or country. From a global perspective, and based on the behavior of these countries in the past two decades ever since the peace-oriented prime minister of Israely Yitzhak Rabin was murdered by a right wing religious Zionist, the world has more to fear from the US and Israel and our indomitable sense of self-righteousness than it does from Iran.

*Iran is the biggest violator of human rights in the region. Not so fast. Iran has some stiff competition with America's ally Saudi Arabia, not to mention the U.S. torture operations in Abu Ghraib. In fact, the US still won't release the full U.S. Senate report on its torture operations around the world because they would be too shocking to the US population. And the CIA chief recently appointed by President Obama insists that the CIA was not involved in torture, and the Obama Administration refuses to bring charges against any CIA agents who were engaged in torture, thus giving a signal to future torturers that they will be exempt from any punishments. We will deplore their behavior, but then let them continue it.

Undermining negotiations with Iran by continuing sanctions and offering no serious benefits for Iran to agree to anything would lead to Iran accelerating its nuclear program out of fear that it might soon be facing a war with Israel and the U.S. and perceiving itself as vulnerable unless it quickly develops nukes for itself. So following Netanyahu's path would actually create the very situation he claims to fear--a renewed commitment on the part of Iran to develop nuclear weapon capability.

* Israel is a beacon of democracy. Well...not so fast. Palestinians living within the West Bank and Gaza are living under the effective control of Israel on most matters of life, pay taxes to the Israeli government, must get permission from Israel to lave those areas, yet have no vote in the elections (though Jews living in the West Bank do have the right to vote). It's certainly better than what faces people in many other middle eastern countries, but it's a stretch to call Israel a democracy as long as the Occupation continues.

* Iran with nuclear weapons would be a danger to everyone. Well, that's partially true and partially false. It's true to the extent that any country having nuclear weapons is a danger to everyone on the planet (though the US is the only country in the world to have ever actually used nuclear weapons in a war). But it's not true that Iran would use those weapons. While I detest the current regime in Iran and hope for its nonviolent overthrow by the people of Iran, I see nothing in their behavior that leads me to believe that they are suicidal. On the contrary, they have a strong desire to make their Islamic republic the model for all future Islamic societies.

Iranian leaders know full well that Israel has the capacity, should Iran strike at Israel, to use its 200 nuclear bombs to wipe Iran off the face of the planet, if the US didn't do that first in the event of an Iranian use of nuclear weapons against Israel. So Netanyahu's paranoid fantasy only seems plausible if you think that

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Iran is the equivalent of the Nazi regime. And that is precisely where political analysis has to yield to psychological investigation. In my book *Embracing Israel/Palestine* (check it out at www.tikkun.org/eip) based in part on research I did while living in Israel and doing research at Tel Aviv U. and Hebrew U in Jerusalem, I describe the devastating consequences of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder on the capacity of those who have suffered extreme stress or oppression to make rational decisions for themselves. The PTSD is most acute in both the Israeli and Palestinian population, but far less so among Iranians who have never suffered in the past 70 years the way Jews and Palestinians have. So if we have any worries about possession of nuclear weapons, that concern should direct us to seeking nuclear disarmament from Israel. But for the impact of PTSD, having those 200 nukes should have yielded Israel a payoff in feeling secure. Instead, Israel continues to live under the cloud of the 70 year old trauma of the Holocaust, and the Prime Minister of Israel comes to the U.S. to shout "Never Again." But that slogan was originally meant to be a slogan concerning all peoples--so that no one should ever suffer what Jews suffered. The path to a war with Iran would make a mockery of that slogan. So it was tragic to see Elie Wiesel allowing himself to become a political pawn in Netnayahu's fantasy trip.

All this plays well for the US militarists and their cheerleaders among Christian Zionists and the rightwing of the Jewish Zionist movement. They raise the same fears and solutions they raised 55 years ago when they hoped to push the US into a war with the Soviet Union when it developed nuclear weapons. That war would have cost millions of lives, and saner voices prevailed. President Eisenhower warned about the dangers of the military/industrial complex and its ability to push the US toward wars. But Democrats, fearful of being called weak, brought us the War in Vietnam, and refused to cut off funds when the Republicans led us into the trillion-dollar debacle of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now those same moral idiots who led us into the Iraq war want to let Netanyahu's brilliant manipulation of our quite justified desire to see Israel remain safe and strong lead us into a war with Iran. We should resist such a folly. We could have used that trillion dollars to end global and domestic homelessness, hunger, poverty, inadequate health care, inadequate education, and to repair the destruction advanced indsutrial societies both capitalist and socialist have done to the global environment. Such a Global Marshall Plan might be dismissed as "unrealistic," just as the movements to end apartheid and segregation, provide equal rights for women, end legal discrimination against gays and lesbians, were also dismissed at first as unrealistic, naive, utopian or even "dangerous."

But the only way we can succeed in stopping the Republicans and AIPAC Democrats from following like lemmings the Netanyahu path is to present and powerfully advocate for an alternative--the Strategy of Generosity and a Global Marshall Plan modeled on the one we at Tikkun and our interfaith and secular-humanist-welcoming Network of Spiritual Progressives have developed (download the full version of our Global Marshall Plan at www.tikkun.org/gmp).

Please join us in developing this path rather than in the futuile path of domination that will only confirm the fears of the most paranoid elements of all sides.

You dont have to believe in God or be part of a spiritual or religious tradition or practice to be a "spiritual progressive." You are a spiritual progressives by our definition if you want institutions, social practices, government policies, corporations, our educational system, our legal system to be judged "efficient, rational or productive" to the extent that they maximize our capacities to be loving, caring for each other and the earth, supporting generosity instead of domination, and responding to the universe not solely as "a resource" for human purposes but with a sense of awe, wonder and radical amazement at the grandeur

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and preciousness of life itself and the universe in which it has evolved!

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Rabbi Michael Lerner is editor of Tikkun, co-chair with Indian environmental activist Vandana Shiva of the Network of Spiritual Progressives, holds a ph.d. in philosophy and a second ph.d. in psychology and was principal investigator of research on stress for the NIMH. He has written 11 books including 2 national best sellers (Jewish Renewal: A Path of Healing and Transformation and The Left Hand of God: Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right). He is rabbi of Beyt Tikkun Synagogue-Without-Walls in Berkeley and San Francisco, California.

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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/17/2008 7:32:21 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 08/17/08

Main Topics: Georgia-Russia conflict, VP speculation, Jerome Corsi, Saddleback Forum

Summary of Shift: As the conventions loom, the Sunday shows, with several of the likely candidates appearing as guests, focused largely on running-mate speculation. Subjects of debate ranged from the Georgia-Russia conflict, social issues and the Saddleback debate yesterday, to a general rehashing of the judgment vs. experience argument for framing the candidates. On Face the Nation, Senator Bayh said McCain should denounce the Jerome Corsi book. On Fox, media critic Liza Trotta attempted to marginalize opposition to the Corsi book, saying many of the swift boat claims in 2004 were true and that the Obama campaign's 'Unfit for Publication' is 'exaggerating.'

Highlights:
1. Georgia-Russia Conflict Leadership
   a. ABC: Romney Defends McCain response to crisis
   b. CNN: Richardson slams McCain for pushing to isolate Russia, says engagement is better policy
   c. CBS: Bayh and Pawlenty discuss McCain's foreign policy credentials, Bayh says McCain should condemn Corsi
2. MSNBC: Jindal touts McCain yet can't name a single 'big idea' proposed by the GOP nominee
3. FNC: Trotta defends swiftboating, says both Obama and Corsi are exaggerating their claims
4. CNN: Hosts praise McCain comment on adultery at Saddleback Forum

Highlights, no Clip:
1. ABC: GEORGE WILL: Well, I called Lieberman's office this week and said, "why did your man vote against Alito?" And they said, "he was wrong, now he likes Alito."

Clips:

Highlight #1
Romney Touts McCain Leadership Regarding Georgia-Russia Conflict (ABC 8/17/08 10:15am)
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Didn't President Saakashvili bring some of this on himself by going into South Ossetia?

MITT ROMNEY: If you mean by becoming a Democracy and standing up for the principles of freedom, did he bring it on himself, I would certainly hope that would not be cause for...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But bringing military action against South Ossetia?

ROMNEY: Well certainly when his truckload of policemen attacked by South Ossetians, blown up, then you have a responsibility to protect your citizens as he had communities being attacked by-with rockets coming from South Ossetia so he of course took action to protect his nation. The Russians have been looking for an excuse to punish either the Ukraine or Georgia or flex their muscles in the caucuses and this is something they've been anticipating for some time. And that's why I think it's been so important that frankly President Clinton listened to John McCain and changed his course back in the 90's you know we are going to let the former Soviet satellite states become part of NATO. This is something John McCain has fought for. He's been not only in South Ossetia, John McCain has, but also in Georgia time and again. [..] This shows one more time that in a dangerous and troubled world, it's helpful to have a leader of the nation that knows these places, knows the people, understands the setting, and John McCain didn't have to search around to figure out what to say.

STEPHANOPOULOS: How do you respond to the argument that by pushing for Georgia to be in NATO, by pushing Ukraine to be in NATO, by putting a missile defense system in Czechoslovakia this was seen as belligerent and aggressive by Putin and kind of brought him in?

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ROMNEY: Well there's no question that Putin with his authoritarian bent – everything from what he's done to the business community in Russia to what he's done to the media in Russia and former employees in Russia – that he has the ambitions of the old Soviet Union to a certain degree. He's certainly more in the direction than Gorbachev or leaders that are looking for a more Democratic state. That John McCain recognized that long term to protect the democracy, and the human rights of the world, that its essential that the former Soviet states become part of NATO. That is the best defense from Russian aggression. […] This administration has and John McCain is someone who has worked with people around the world and we will work with those that are our strongest enemies, we will sit across the table with them, negotiate, but of course you also want individuals to know if they take action which is contrary to the interest of freedom and democracy and contrary to our interests, that they'll be consequences. […] I do think when the people of America are reminded of how dangerous the world is, they recognize the importance of selecting a person that has experience and judgment and wisdom, whose actually led in a critical time and bring that to bare in the White House […]

Richardon Slams McCain's Counterproductive Attempts To Isolate Russia (CNN 08/17/08 11:22am)
BILL RICHARDSON: The G8 is a group of industrialized nations meeting, the World Trade organization is meaningful, the point I was trying to make is that Senator McCain wants to isolate Russia, that's the last thing we need to do, we need to engage them. If you isolate Russia, there's going to be more moves there to radicalism, towards resentment, look they're a major power, they're acting irresponsibly, we have to stand fully with Georgia, but what we need is the European Union we need NATO, we need allies upon allies to say to Russia to say look you gotta stop your expansionist motives. You've got to stop using oil as a political weapon. […]

Tim Pawlenty and Evan Bayh on McCain's Foreign Policy Stance (CBS 08/17/08 10:51am)
BOB SCHIEFFER: Governor, John McCain says that "We're all Georgians now." He refused in a recent interview to take military action off the table. Under what circumstances do you think the United States should take military action in this kind of situation?

TIM PAWLENTY: Well, Senator McCain said last night during the forum with Pastor Warren that he would use a deploy U.S. military assets and forces when the national security interests of the United States were at risk or challenged. I think he's acknowledged that military action in this particular situation is unlikely, but as commander in chief he wants to make sure that all options remain available to him, and that's understandable. But Secretary Gates, most others have recognized that this is going to be handled diplomatically; but Senator McCain has said that we need to deal with this aggressively. One of the questions this crisis raises is, who do you want sitting across the table from Vladimir Putin and people like him? […] Senator McCain… with his experience with national security, military affairs, his clarity, his strength and his judgment in these matters, as you saw with the surge, as you see, even before this crisis broke out, he said last year, we've got a problem, we should be thinking about having Russia be disinvited from the G-8.

SCHEIFFER: Do you think Senator McCain went to far, Senator Bye?

EVAN BAYH: […] John… he's a little bit given to this bellicose rhetoric, which has a tendency to inflame conflicts rather than to diffuse them.

PAWLENTY: The surge has been singularly […] one of the main reasons for the turnaround in the war. Senator McCain saw that because his judgment, his experience, his wisdom.

BAYH: When John McCain was asked about Barack's 16-month timetable for getting us out of Iraq, he said, well, that sounds like a reasonable timetable to me.
[…]

PAWLENTY: Senator McCain's judgment in these matters is legendary. He's someone of deep experience. You look at the forum last night with Pastor Warren- Senator McCain was crisp, decisive, knew what he was about, knew his values.

SCHEIFFER: There are some who say that […] maybe we have some responsibility[…] that we promised the

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Georgians more than we could or should deliver., should something like this break out.

PAWLENTY: […] Well when you look at the reactions of the two candidates, […] Senator McCain came out and said, you know this really is bullying behavior by Russia. […] Senator McCain saying I saw Vladamir Putin, and I saw in his eyes a K and a G and a B, and he's a bully. And who do you want sitting across the table from somebody like Putin? […] I know answer for most Americans is going to be John McCain.

BAYH: […]Unfortunately the national security policies of this administration, fully endorsed and supported by Senator McCain, have created a perception of weakness in the world about our country, that we cannot tolerate. The Russians know we are bogged down in Iraq. If we wanted to propose a military deterrent, we're not able to do that very easily now. Because of the Iraq policies that Senator McCain will continue.

PAWLENTY: In terms of withdrawing troops from Iraq, […] Senator McCain has said he favors that, but he wants to do it at a time and under circumstances that allow Iraq to be stable, can defend itself, and brings our troops home with honor and victory.
[…]

BAYH: I wish that Senator McCain would take the opportunity to denounce the book that has come out about Barack Obama, making all sorts of lies and allegations against him. The old John McCain would denounce that. The new John McCain has embraced those tactics. That is unfortunate.

Highlight #2
Bobby Jindal and Tim Kaine Talk Russia, Health Care, and VP Picks for McCain (NBC 08/17/08 9:30am)
BOBBY JINDAL: Well, I think Senator McCain has again shown that he has the judgment, the experience we need during these uncertain times. Just as he was right to call for the surge in Iraq before it was popular, he had called even last year, he had said, we should at excluding Russia from the G-8 He said when he looked in Putin's eyes., he saw KGB very early on . He very forcefully understood this was an attack on a democratic ally, this has regional implications, it has implications beyond Georgia's borders. One of the reasons I think you see folks at Brookings, Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, Georgetown- several experts praising his response including a former Clinton advisor. So I think again what we' ve seen is Senator McCain's got the experience, the perspective.. He was right on Iraq, on the surge, he was right again calling attention to the dangers when Russia invaded a democratic ally.

TIM KAINE: I don't know how anyone could say Senator McCain was right on Iraq. I think he's been the sole cheerleader for Iraq, and he's probably the last remaining cheerleader for Iraq. The decision to go into Iraq, which Senator McCain supported, is now acknowledged by folks, including a lot of the Bush Administration, officials who left the administration as a significant mistake. My thought about Senator McCain's tough talk is this: Teddy Roosevelt said talk softly and carry a big stick. In much of the world now we're talking loudly and have not stick, because what we've done is we've so focused on Iraq, that we've let victory escape from our grasp in Afghanistan, and in regions of the world, like Russia, we've let dangers grow more intense.

TOM BROKAW: Let's turn to domestic matters in this campaign.

KAINE: Senator McCain's strategy is to measure the economy by how the well-off and big businesses are doing. That's why it's tax cuts to the wealthy, and tax cuts to the most profitable and productive businesses like oil companies. […] Senator McCain has said, I don't know much about the economy. It is too risky, at this point in our nation, with the economy so hurt to put a guy in the Whitehouse who says, I don't know much about the economy.
[view McCain ad]

BROKAW: That's a pretty direct swipe at President Bush, isn't it governer?

JINDAL: Well, you know, Senator McCain has a long history of bucking his own party, his own president. Whether it was fighting against earmarks, wasteful spending, and he's got a long tradition of standing on principal, for what he believes is right.
[…]

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JINDAL: I think Senator McCain, because he has long fought against the wasteful spending in Washington- I think many conservatives were disappointed the Republicans, both in the Whitehouse and in Congress, didn't control spending. But Senator McCain, for years, has fought members of his own party and the Democratic Party to cut spending, cut corporate welfare, and cut earmarks.

BROKAW: You've talked about the crisis within the Republican Party, that it lost its way, that it used to be the party of big ideas. And now you back Senator McCain. What's the Big Idea that Senator McCain is campaigning on?

JINDAL: [...] Certainly when it comes to domestic issues, he understands the energy crisis is the biggest economic obstacle we face. He understands that it's not one silver bullet. We do need more domestic oil and gas production, we do need nuclear power, we need clean coal, we need conservation-

BROKAW: But those were Bush/Cheney Big Ideas in 2000. Where are the new Big Ideas of the Republican Party that John McCain is championing?

JINDAL: You've seen gridlock in DC. You've seen one side only push for oil an gas, you've seen the other side say no drilling. What you've not seen is an aggressive push to get all of that done. Senator McCain's talking about dozens of nuclear reactors. He's talking about the Lexington Project in terms of cutting edge research to break America's dependence on foreign energy. [...] Clearly when it comes to addressing our economic crisis, Senator McCain understands we need to have more independence, lower cost energy, more dependable energy, but also lower taxes. He's got a proven track record of fighting wasteful spending. And on healthcare. He understands we don't want the government running our healthcare. We need to make it more affordable, he's proposed refundable tax credits so American families can afford their own healthcare without a bureaucrat tell them how they should get healthcare.

BROKAW: Governor Jindal, would you like to be Vice President?

JINDAL: No […]
[…]
BROKAW: […] Senator McCain indicated that he would be open to a pro-choice running mate, like former governor of Pennsylvania Tom Ridge. […] Do you think that would be a mistake that would hurt Senator McCain?

JINDAL: […] Senator McCain has a pro-life record, he said he'll have a pro-life administration. What's most important to me, as a pro-life voter, is what kinds of judges will the next president appoint to the Supreme Court. Are they going to be judges that will read the Constitution, […]

Highlight #3
Fox's Trotta Defends Swiftboating; Says Both 'Unfit for Publication' and 'Obamanation' Are 'Exaggerating' (FNC 08/17/08 11:50am)
LIZ TROTTA: [..] This is Unfit For Publication and it says brought to you by the Bush-Cheney attack machine, which I think is untrue of course. We have both sides here exaggerating what they're claiming. There are a lot of inaccuracies if you will, small ones by the way, misleading comments, unsubstantiated claims, and all of this is being dug up of course by reading the book and making the comparison which a few journalists have had time to do. By in large they are pairing it with the book, the Corsi book prior to this which was about Kerry as you mentioned. That book really was the lead guy on that was John O'Neal who defended the book on Kerry and swiftboating career in Vietnam throughout the campaign. So what we have here is we have journalists resorting to using swiftboats as a verb that meaning that these charge are untrue. So you'll see in most of the stories in the liberal media that Mr. Obama has been swiftboated, i.e. assailed by lies. The fact is that many if not most of the swiftboat claims in the Corsi/O'Neal book were true. So swiftboat has become sort of a synonym for lies which the press is getting way with.

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ERIC SHAWN: But some warrant, some claim, Kerry was there one month when he was really there for at least several months. But in terms of this book, and what's in this book, and what they're saying about this, is there that comparison?

TROTTA: Well the interesting thing about this is that first of all there is not a chorus of witnesses to say that this, to document the claims Corsi is making. Most of the errors, if you read this publication by the Obama campaign concern his early life. For example the day that he was married. The errors get fewer and fewer as you read the book, you get along to domestic and foreign policy. Corsi makes no bones about the fact that he does not want Obama in the White House. And is not shy about why he wrote the book. It's number one on the New York Times bestseller list this week so there are some curious souls out there. As with most of these books, it will make an impression, and not every reader is going to check it against Unfit for Publication which is what Obama's people are saying.

SHAWN: 20 seconds left. I mean its not a flattering portrait at all of the Senator rightly or wrongly.

TROTTA: No it isnt. And of course its how you look at the Senator and we know that there is a pro-Obama bias in the liberal press. This man doesn't sit there. So again its back to which prism you're looking through.

SHAWN: Well again fair and balanced you read both. You read the book and the response if you wanna know about that.

Highlight #4
CNN Hosts Praise McCain Comment On His Adultery (CNN 08/17/08 10:50am)
[plays clip of McCain saying at the Saddleback Civil Forum that his greatest moral failing was his first marriage]
CORRESPONDENT: I don't know I think McCain did something extraordinary when he answered that question, Howie. He addressed an issue that the campaign has had a hard time figuring out how to deal with. They've wanted to confront it, it's out there on the Internet, it's something that Democrats are trying to use against McCain- he put it out there and acknowledged it and he sorta inoculated himself against it. I think that's really going to help him – Obama's answer, you know that was not new information for a 47 year old man to claim that his worst moral failure happened when he was a teenager, I know it's a little disingenuous. So I think it does get some traction going forward there was a lot of news coverage.

HOWIE KURTZ: McCain has acknowledged he was not faithful in his first marriage, but not necessarily before a nationally televised audience.

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From: "Karl Frisch, Media Matters" <kfrisch@mediamatters.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 11/12/2009 8:01:51 AM
Subject: [big campaign] So, what really happened to Lou Dobbs?

http://mediamatters.org/blog/200911120019

So, what really happened to Lou Dobbs?

So, what really happened to Lou Dobbs? According to *The New York Times* : "Months ago the president of CNN/U.S., Jonathan Klein, offered a choice to Lou Dobbs ... [he] could vent his opinions on radio and anchor an objective newscast on television, or he could leave CNN." This after months of intense pressure from those concerned with the content broadcast nightly on Dobbs' CNN program -- leading some in the press to describe the host as a "publicity nightmare" for the network. It is in that environment, that Dobbs announced last night his immediate departure from CNN, his cable news home for nearly 30 years.

Media Matters released the following statement responding to the late breaking news :

> "For too long, CNN provided Lou Dobbs with its stamp of approval as he pursued a dangerous, one-sided and all too often false conspiracy tinged crusade against immigrants," said Eric Burns, president of *Media Matters*. "This is a happy day for all those who care about this nation of immigrants and believe in the power of media to elevate the political discourse."

Since CNN's Lou Dobbs first began spreading false, racially charged conspiracy theories about President Obama's birth certificate in July of this year, Media Matters for America has published 299 research items, video/audio clips, column, and blog posts about his misinformation and hate speech. Below are some of the most significant examples of work Media Matters has done -- this year and in the past -- to combat Dobbs' pernicious influence on the national dialogue.

The Drop Dobbs campaign and other efforts. *Media Matters* played a leading role in the Drop Dobbs Coalition (DropDobbs.com), which was launched to call attention to Dobbs' incendiary hate speech and falsehoods. Through this coalition, Media Matters worked successfully behind the scenes to persuade major corporations to stop advertising on Lou Dobbs Tonight. The coalition includes numerous national civil rights and other groups concerned about the kind of hate promoted daily by Dobbs on his television and radio programs. In addition to *Media Matters* in partnership with NDN, the coalition, representing over 2 million people, includes the National Council of La Raza, LULAC, the National Hispanic Media Coalition, America's Voice Education Fund, The Hispanic Institute, the Southern Poverty Law Center, Netroots Nation, Voto Latino, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, the Center for New Community, Reform Immigration for America, the Dolores Huerta Foundation, the National Puerto Rican Coalition and the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials. There were also many others around the country involved in complementary efforts including the amazing grassroots organizing and activism conducted by Presente.org through their BastaDobbs campaign.

Media Matters released ads -- which CNN refused to run -- calling for Dobbs to be held accountable. In August, CNN refused to air a *Media Mattes* ad calling on the network to credibly address Dobbs' continued promotion of birther conspiracy theories. In October, CNN refused to air an ad produced by America's Voice and *Media Matters* calling out the network for giving Dobbs a prominent platform. Both ads ultimately ran on competing cable networks.

Dobbs repeatedly advanced false conspiracy theories about Obama's birth certificate. As *Media Matters* extensively documented , Dobbs suggested on his July 15, 2009, CNN show that the birth certificate Obama provided to FactCheck.org was not "the real document" and suggested on his radio show that day that it was not "the real deal." After asking if Obama should be "more forthcoming" about his birth certificate, Dobbs added: "One of our callers, by the way, pointed out that he didn't release -- he didn't release his medical records, either. Now isn't that interesting? And hasn't produced some other documents. What's the deal? What is the deal here? I'm starting to think we have a -- we have a document issue. Do you suppose he's un -- no, I won't even use the word undocumented. It wouldn't be right." On his July 21, 2009, radio show, Dobbs faulted "certain quarters of the national liberal media" for "absolutely trying to knock down the issue of President

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Obama's birth certificate." On his July 23, 2009, radio show, Dobbs addressed media reports on his conspiracy theories by declaring , "I do believe in a national left-wing media conspiracy in which they work in concert and attack like hell."

Dobbs used CNN to engage in wild conspiracy theories and legitimize hate groups. Dobbs' birth certificate obsession wasn't the first outrageous theory that he promoted on CNN. As *Media Matters* documented, Dobbs has repeatedly accused the U.S. government of secretly plotting with the governments of Mexico and Canada to merge the three countries into a "North American Union" -- a charge his own CNN colleagues labeled a "conspiracy theor[y]." Dobbs has promoted the smear that Mexican immigrants are conspiring to reclaim the U.S. Southwest for Mexico and at one point illustrated this theory by using a graphic sourced to the Council of Conservative Citizens, a hate group that "oppose[s] all efforts to mix the races of mankind." Dobbs famously aired a false report about a purported spike in leprosy cases linked to illegal immigration and repeatedly defended his show's reporting even after it had been proven wrong.

Dobbs had close ties to "hate group" FAIR. In September, Dobbs helped lead the annual "Hold Their Feet to the Fire" radio host rally organized by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) -- an organization the Southern Poverty Law Center has designated a "hate group ." On August 28, *Media Matters* president Eric Burns wrote an open letter to CNN president Jonathan Klein urging him to prohibit Dobbs from participating in the FAIR event. *Media Matters* also documented that Dobbs used his CNN show to report on the FAIR rally without disclosing during those reports that he was helping lead it. A year earlier, Dobbs had broadcast his CNN show from the FAIR rally. In addition, the group has given Dobbs an award for "his continued efforts in leading the immigration reform movement through both his talk radio show and his television show." In the past year, Dobbs has cited FAIR as a credible source on immigration issues at least six times and has routinely failed to disclose his close association with the group.

Dobbs smeared U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as sympathetic to "Mexico's export of drugs and illegal aliens." On March 10, 2009, Dobbs criticized Obama for delivering a speech on education to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Dobbs accused Obama of "pandering to the pro-amnesty open-borders lobby" and aired a clip of a FAIR spokesman saying, "We don't want the president to make it appear as if he's favoring one particular group in the disposition of public benefits." Dobbs also said, "Making a decision to talk about a national initiative on education from the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which is effectively an organization that is interested in the export of American capital and production to Mexico, and Mexico's export of drugs and illegal aliens to the United States. This is crazy stuff." On March 17, 2009, Dobbs said he "made a mistake," explaining, "I, of course, do not believe that the chamber supports or condones either drug or human trafficking. My apologies to the ... U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and I hope that they will forgive me for that misspeaking."

Report: CNN's Lou Dobbs problem and the immigration debate. In September, *Media Matters* released a report on the most egregious conspiracy theories, hate speech, and undisclosed conflicts of interest in Dobbs' immigration reporting. Among other things, *Media Matters* documented that Dobbs used his CNN show to report on and praise a Hazleton, Pennsylvania, ordinance targeting undocumented immigrants without disclosing that he had been helping to fundraise for the town's legal defense fund.

Report: "Dobbs' immigration obsession out of step with CNN's news coverage." In July, *Media Matters* released a report documenting the extent to which Dobbs' broadcast was consumed by the topic of immigration, and undocumented immigrants specifically. *Media Matters* showed that over a period of six months, Dobbs had more than three times as many broadcast hours that included briefs, segments, and panel discussions on immigration -- often focusing on undocumented immigrants -- as *The Situation Room*, which is three times as long as Dobbs. In word count, the difference was even starker, with Dobbs devoting about 528 words per hour to discussions of immigration -- 13 times more than *The Situation Room*'s 40 words-per-hour average.

Report: Conservative guests outnumber progressives on Lou Dobbs Tonight. In May, *Media Matters* released a report documenting that in the first four months of 2009, 52 percent more Republicans and conservatives appeared as guests on *Lou Dobbs Tonight* than Democrats and progressives. These results were consistent with a 2006 *Media Matters* study on Dobbs' guest lineup.

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Lou Dobbs' right-wing war on health care reform. In August, *Media Matters* released a report documenting Dobbs' repeated use of discredited right-wing smears about health care reform efforts, including the notions that end-of-life counseling could lead to "euthanasia" and that Obama said he "doesn't even know what's in" the House health care bill. Dobbs also touted GOP Sen. John Barrasso as "one of the leading experts on ... health care" and provided a forum for serial misinformer Betsy McCaughey to falsely claim that the economic recovery package would allow the federal government to eliminate "whatever" it deems to be "unnecessary" health care.

Dobbs declared, "Mexico has become our enemy." As *Media Matters* documented, Dobbs complained on his March 3, 2009, radio show that there are people "trying to control our political agendas" and "social agendas with political correctness, trying to control thought, and, of course, speech through political correctness." He added that while it may be "politically incorrect," it is "absolutely factually correct" that "Mexico has become our enemy."

Online videos used to boost campaign against Dobbs. *Media Matters* effectively used its official YouTube channel to generate pressure against Dobbs through new media outlets. The ad addressing Dobbs' continued promotion of birther conspiracy theories that CNN refused to air in August generated nearly 168,000 views online, and at the same time, led to a huge media presence both in the traditional and new media. Moreover, a mini-documentary *Media Matters* produced for DropDobbs.com received more than 60,000 views since the launch of that site. In late July, when Dobbs was repeatedly advancing false conspiracy theories about Obama's birth certificate, *Media Matters* was able to expose his efforts through rapid response videos, releasing four videos from July 27 through July 30 on its YouTube channel exposing CNN's Dobbs problem; the videos generated well over 80,000 views. All together, *Media Matters*' special rapid response videos exposing Dobbs have generated well over 300,000 views.

So, what's next for Dobbs? In October, *The New York Times* reported that "Dobbs ... met for dinner with Roger E. Ailes, the chairman of Fox News, last month, according to two people with direct knowledge of the meeting" and that one of those sources "said Mr. Dobbs is a potential hire for the Fox Business Network." Well, that move may be a bit tough to pull off. Fox News' Geraldo Rivera recently ripped Dobbs for his Latino-bashing rhetoric saying he "is not coming to Fox News." Following news of Dobbs' resignation, Fox Business anchor Liz Claman tweeted, "Clearly Geraldo won." Rivera is by no means Dobbs' only obstacle. Dobbs had recently been involved in an on-air spat with new Fox Business hire John Stossel. After the former reporter of ABC's *20/20* said "I don't subscribe to Lou Dobbs-kind of rants about immigrants wrecking America," Dobbs went on the attack, calling Stossell a "self important ass" and his criticism, "myopic idiocy."

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From:	"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To:	"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> "Speech Drafts" <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	12/13/2015 6:32:44 AM
Subject:	Re: DRAFT: Tuesday speech on homeland security

Dan/jake:
I know you are doing a revised draft, but a few quick comments beyond saying I think you have a strong speech here.

1. Big picture, we've been talking a lot in prep about making sure that we connect to an underlying sense that people should be able to feel safe in America. You should be able to go about your life without fear. As you've written before, families should be able to go to church, go to a movie, go to the mall, go to school — feeling safe. And that's what HRC is determined to do. So I'd lift that notion up a bit.

2. Smaller notes:

- Page 1: We say they were Americans. He was. But she was a legal resident. I'm not sure I'd grant that she was 'American'… Even though I know you are making the homegrown point.
- Page 1: You say family members didn't know. It seems like the jury is out on that. Maybe it's SOME members of the family didn't know, or it appears family members didn't know (questions about the mother's knowledge).
- Page 3: You say 'we've overcome bigger challenge's. I would change that to 'overcome big challenges' before. If some gets ahold of nuclear material, this could be our biggest challenge.
- Page 4: I like what you did with the Cruz carpet bombing smack down. The only question is that two graphs later we lead with 'Pummel them from the air'. I like that too. I just wonder whether it's a little awkward given the proximity of the two points. Maybe it's okay. Just sharing.

From: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 3:52 AM
To: Speech Drafts <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Oren Fliegelman <ofliegelman@hfaintern.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: DRAFT: Tuesday speech on homeland security

All, as you know, we're doing a speech on Tuesday in Minnesota about homeland security and preventing domestic radicalization and terrorism. It will build on the plan to defeat ISIS that HRC laid out at CFR and also explain why anti-Muslim bigotry makes us less safe. This is more political than the previous two foreign policy speeches, in part with the GOP debate that night in mind. But hopefully it also continues to establish her as a far more credible commander-in-chief than any of our rivals.

We'd love your thoughts on the attached draft. If it's possible to get us comments on Saturday, that would be great. (Oren Fliegelman on our team will be tracking all the inputs, so please copy him at ofliegelman@hfaintern.com .)

Thanks
Dan

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From: "Wilson Center" <wwics@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/28/2014 4:33:04 AM
Subject: The Ground Truth Briefing Takeaways--Ukraine Elections

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Ground Truth Briefing

Wilson Center

Ukraine Elections

In case you missed the Ground Truth Briefing on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, please see this summary of the conversation with experts Maryana Drach, Gennadiy Druzenko, and Oleksiy Haran. Click below to hear the full briefing.

The Takeaways:

1. President Petro Poroshenko's legitimacy and approval was reinforced on Sunday as pro-Western parties won the majority of seats in Ukraine's new parliament. Most pro-Russian parties were largely voted out of Parliament, and the new coalition plans to pursue agreements with the European Union.
2. Petro Poroshenko's Bloc and the People's Front were neck and neck in the exit polls with each gaining just over 21% of the total seats, making President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk the biggest winners in the election.
3. Leading up to the elections, candidates largely campaigned on their personalities rather than policies and substance. Many candidates voiced support for a reformist and pro-European agenda yet failed to address how they would tackle the country's energy and economic challenges.
4. Despite relative calm, Ukraine is still at war and voter turnout in the eastern regions was fairly low, as expected, with only 30-40% of the electorate voting in the East. In the western regions, voter turnout ranged from 50-70% of eligible voters.

Listen Now

Summary:

With early parliamentary elections held on October 26, Ukrainian citizens had an opportunity to honor the spirit of the Euromaidan revolution and elect a new parliament that could steer the country out of conflict and towards a new future.

In western Ukraine, many citizens and candidates were eager for the early elections and have been vocally supporting the anti-corruption and pro-European platforms advocated by President Poroshenko and his bloc of political allies. As their popularity soared, Dr. Haran explained, "pro-European and reform parties" would win the majority of seats in the Rada. Ms. Drach agreed with this prediction, claiming she expected to see a "shift in (Ukraine's) political landscape" following Sunday's elections.

However, Dr. Haran also stated that, due to the country's unchanged electoral laws, a number of entrenched and potentially corrupt politicians, who served in the Yanukovich

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government, were likely to reclaim seats and still wield some influence in policy decisions. Indeed, the Opposition Bloc, which is essentially the remnants of The Party of Regions of former President Viktor Yanukovich, gained between 7-10% of the vote. With half of the contested parliamentary districts still operating as single-member constituencies, in which a simple plurality determines the winner, Dr. Haran was concerned that bribery and other forms of fraud would still be effective in determining election results. This could be problematic, as the demand for reforms will likely grow now that a new parliament is formed.

In particular, Mr. Druzenko worried that the new government will not be able to enact reforms quick enough so as to appease the peoples' high expectations. So far, the Poroshenko government has been able to justify its inaction by claiming that it is waiting for a parliament to be formed before introducing new policies. However, with the formation of a new parliament, there will be no excuse for the government not to act. Although leading parliamentary candidates have been quick to espouse progressive rhetoric, Mr. Druzenko is "skeptical" that they will be able to enact the "radical and very painful reform(s)" needed to tackle the country's looming energy and fiscal challenges.

Regardless of this new push for equal, open, and transparent voting, other realities on the ground cannot be ignored: most pressing, the country is still divided by war. Although surveys indicated that 70% of Ukrainians supported holding early elections, "Ms. Drach estimated that roughly 4.6 million people were not able to take part in the elections. In Crimea, home to 1.8 million people, only three and a half thousand people planned to vote in mainland Ukraine." This is a sharp decline since May's presidential election and many have reportedly voiced skepticism that "their vote will make a difference." Further, ethnic Tatars have stated that they are reluctant to cross the border to vote in Southern Ukraine because they are afraid Russian officials will not allow them to reenter Crimea.

Despite these reasons for uncertainty, many others were optimistic heading into the elections. Citing recent surveys, Ms. Drach confidently claimed, "more than 40% of Ukrainians expect good things from the elections."

Even now that the election results are coming in, and a picture of the new parliament is forming, significant challenges remain for Ukraine. There is a strong hope that the new Ukrainian government can begin to make significant progress implementing the post-Euromaidan reform agenda, heal lingering social wounds related to the conflict with Russia, and sustain a course towards integration with the European Union.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 5:38:23 AM
Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today

You guys tuned into any of this. One stream is that i'm pro-fracking because Tony and I went to Greek Independence Day together where he must have convinced me to be anti-environment
The other is Uranium 1.
I assume we ignore.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com >
Date: May 4, 2015 9:52 AM
Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> From: Missi Tessier <tessier@PodestaGroup.onmicrosoft.com >
> Date: May 4, 2015 at 5:51:12 PM GMT+2
> To: Tony Podesta <podesta@podesta.com >, David Marin <DMarin@podestagroup.com >
> Cc: Stephen Rademaker <srademaker@PodestaGroup.onmicrosoft.com >
> Subject: RE: Podesta in the News Today
>
> Yes you are correct. David and Steve may want to give additional justification, but all of us agree that it is not in anyone's interest to engage with or respond to purposefully inaccurate right wing bloggers as it will only result in additional rounds of stories that will do nothing to correct the record. Our internal digital analysis has shown that this story line has flatlined over the last several days and we do not believe that inducing another spike in the online discussion will be beneficial.
>
> From: Tony Podesta
> Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 10:43 AM
> To: Missi Tessier; David Marin
> Cc: Stephen Rademaker
> Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today
>
> Weren't the Russians already owners when we started
>
> This implies we worked on cifius
>
> Don't think we should let anything pass
>
> Views
>
> Sent from my iPhone

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From: Gregory McGowan <gmcgowan@podestagroup.com >
Date: May 4, 2015 at 4:26:00 PM GMT+2
To: Everyone <PA-Everyone@podesta.com >
Subject: Podesta in the News Today

PODESTA IN THE NEWS: 05.04.2015

Note: numerous blogs are continuing to repost last week's DeSmog Blog article as well as the following Breitbart piece that was published over the weekend.

Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One

By: Ben Shapiro, Breitbart

Breitbart

May 1, 2015

Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One

By: Ben Shapiro

If you love the team that put together the Clinton Foundation and all of its various corrupt dealings with foreign nations, you'll love the Hillary Clinton 2016 campaign. It now turns out that John Podesta, chair of Hillary's presidential campaign – and the same man who called the allegations of Peter Schweizer's Clinton Cash "conspiracy theories" – has a brother who runs a company, The **Podesta Group**, that lobbied the State Department on behalf of Uranium One while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State and beyond.

Uranium One is, of course, the uranium firm that sent a "flow of cash" to the Clinton Foundation as the Russian government gained increasing ownership of the company; the State Department had to sign off on the Russians' encroachment into the American uranium market. The Clinton Foundation did disclose its relationship with Uranium One in Hillary's State Department disclosures. According to the Daily Caller, Uranium One "paid the **Podesta Group** $40,000 to lobby the State Department, the Senate, the National Park Service and the National Security Council for 'international mining projects,' according to a July 20, 2012 filing."

Hillary's relationship with John Podesta goes back to the first Clinton administration. During Bill Clinton's second term, Podesta acted as chief of staff. After leaving, he created the Center for American Progress, a Clinton-backed leftist think tank designed to forward the political goals of the

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Clintons. As the Christian Science Monitor reported when Podesta joined Hillary Clinton's campaign back in January:

Podesta is the guy people call on when the going gets tough: He served as Bill Clinton's chief of staff from 1998 to 2001, helping control a series of crises including Clinton's impeachment trial. The Obama administration brought him on to help the President steer a path through Congressional impasses and to avert embarrassments like the Affordable Care Act's botched rollout.

Podesta's relationship with the Clintons didn't waver during Hillary's time in the White House; his own ties with the Obama administration grew stronger when he became a senior advisor to the Obama administration in late 2013, before resigning this year to join Hillary's campaign.

Podesta isn't the only member of the Clinton team embroiled in Clinton Foundation corruption. Hillary's new top fundraiser is Dennis Cheng, the former chief development officer for the Clinton Foundation, which means he did all the fundraising for that organization. Cheng has not been asked any questions thus far about his relationship with the Clinton Foundation or the new Clinton 2016 campaign.

Just as President Obama magically transformed his campaign organization, Obama for America, into a political action group, Organizing for Action, to lobby for his preferred governmental policies, Hillary Clinton has transformed the Clinton Foundation and its constellation of allies into her 2016 campaign.

GREGORY MCGOWAN ASSOCIATE

O 202.448.5204 / C / W www.podestagroup.com

1001 G Street NW, Suite 1000 West, Washington, DC 20001

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/5/2009 6:06:41 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Conservatives Undermine the Commander-in-Chief

Conservatives Undermine the Commander-in-Chief

Washington, D.C. - The mythical "water's edge" beyond which politics plays no part in US national security policy receded further this weekend, as Senator Jim DeMint personally worked to undermine US policy toward Honduras and other Senators sought to go around the chain of command on Afghanistan and called for military strikes on Iran. It is fair to advocate these positions; it is another thing to actively lobby for them in a political manner that undercuts our country's ability to navigate the already difficult terrain of national security policy.

The President's global agenda has come under withering attack from conservatives. Opposition to President Obama on national security policy has come to resemble little more than a consensus of "no". Their reflexive opposition - vividly evident in domestic debates and in the celebrations over the Olympic committee's decision against Chicago as well - has become their defining characteristic. The concept of a loyal opposition that provides subdued criticism of a President's national security policy seems to have been forgotten, replaced by a counter-productive, damaging and reckless political agenda. There no longer appears to be a water's edge in Washington.

Senator Jim DeMint (R- SC) undercuts Obama on Latin America by deliberately working "against the foreign policy of the United States" on Honduras. DeMint has prevented the Obama administration from fully fielding its Latin America diplomatic team, undercutting our ability to resolve the immediate tensions in Honduras as he tries to enforce policy goals at odds with the Administration..Senator DeMint's home state newspaper, The State, described the Senator's recent trip to Honduras saying, "U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint returned Saturday from his controversial fact-finding mission. DeMint led a delegation that met with Honduran President Roberto Micheletti, members of the Honduran Supreme Court, leading candidates for the upcoming Nov. 29 elections, election officials and Honduran business and civic leaders... The DeMint trip caused a spark last week after U.S. Sen. John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, attempted to block DeMint's trip... DeMint has long objected to the Obama administration's response to the crisis, arguing the United States should not promote the former government's return to power." As Steve Clemons at the Washington Note further explains, "Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) has announced that he is heading down to Honduras to encourage those who helped fund and supported the coup against Honduran President Manuel Zelaya to resist American pressure to return Zelaya to office. The US Department of State has begun to revoke the visas of wealthy supporters of the military coup. In other words, Jim DeMint is acting on behalf of, in cahoots with, and against the foreign policy of the United States of America in encouraging post-coup Honduran government officials defy the United States. He is encouraging a political leadership which has no legitimacy and which not recognized by other democracies in the region -- while the ousted President makes cell phone UN General Assembly statements from a couch-bed in the Brazilian Embassy in Tegucigalpa."

In addition, to his controversial trip, "DeMint has blocked the nominations of Thomas Shannon, President Barack Obama's pick to serve as ambassador to Brazil, and Arturo Valenzuela, the choice for the post of assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs," according to The Hill. Clemons puts DeMint's actions in historical context: "A US Senator alone does not make the America's foreign policy, and working against the policies of the United States in collaboration with foreign officials... well... there are words that come to mind to describe this behavior, but I want to be civil towards the Senator." DeMint is not only out of sync with U.S. policy, but the policy of the entire hemisphere, undermining the international consensus of our regional partners to bring about a peaceful solution, as the Washington Post explains : "The administration, along with all other governments in the hemisphere, branded the action a 'coup.' It also cut off millions of dollars in aid and suspended the U.S. visas of Honduran officials. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton helped organize negotiations, led by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, that produced a plan to allow ousted president Manuel Zelaya to return to his post temporarily, with limited powers." [The State, 10/4/09 . The Washington Note, 10/1/09 . The Hill, 9/20/09. Washington Post, 10/5/09]

Conservative Senators call on Obama to abrogate role as Commander in Chief and instead to simply defer to the military on Afghanistan - Gen. Jones takes them to task for playing politics. Over the last few weeks, certain congressional conservatives have exhibited a steady pattern of undermining the President's deliberations over the strategy for Afghanistan by using the military for political purposes. Senator Jon Kyl (R - AZ) accused White House officials of "being

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armchair generals," argued that the President should defer to the military leadership, and cautioned against "a big debate." Former Republican President Candidate and Kyl's colleague from Arizona Senator John McCain has pushed a similar position. Last week McCain attempted to pass an amendment to the Defense appropriations bill that would have required General Stanley McChrystal to testify before Congress, without complementary testimony from the civilian leadership involved in setting the strategy for Afghanistan. The amendment failed and a replacement amendment that respected the chain of command, authored by Senator Levin (D - MI), passed.

In a rebuke to such efforts, National Security Advisor Jim Jones appeared on CBS's Face the Nation to underscore "the importance of the moment to make sure that the strategic issues and the strategic decisions that the president will make are fully aired and vetted and that the options that the president has are also put on the table. It would be, I think, unfortunate if we let the discussion just be about troop strength." Also appearing on CNN's State of the Union, Jones emphasized that "it's better for military advice to come up through the chain of command." When asked to respond to an insinuation by Senator McCain - that the Administration was kowtowing to its liberal base - Jones took exception to the remark and stressed the importance of not "play[ing] politics with national security." [Senator Jon Kyl (R - AZ), 10/04/09 . National Security Advisor Jim Jones on CBS 10/04/09 . National Security Advisor Jim Jones on CNN 10/04/09]

Conservatives on Capitol Hill attempt to undercut Administration's hard-headed negotiations with Iran. When asked by John King from CNN's State of the Union whether Congress should move ahead with sanctions against Iran, despite ongoing international negotiations, Senator Jon Kyl responded by saying "Putting sticks on the table is exactly the point, John... I think we should go forward with it." Kyl was joined by Senators Saxby Chambliss (R - GA) and Lindsey Graham (R - SC). On Fox News Sunday, Chambliss said that "just continuing the dialogue with them and threatening them with sanctions, if the President's gonna take that attitude, I don't think we're gonna get anywhere." Chambliss also urged that if sanctions failed, the U.S. should pursue "a full-out military strike."

Yet there is widespread agreement amongst top Pentagon officials, foreign policy experts, and even Iran's moderate opposition that this dangerous approach will not work and will be counterproductive to our interests:

- **Colin Kahl, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East,** told ThinkProgress: "'[I]t will have an unpredictable set of consequences for the region but we can imagine a number of destabilizing ones. Depending on how Iran chose to retaliate, whether they chose to retaliate through the use of proxies in places like Iran or in Afghanistan through incitement of Shia communities... They could activate potentially activate or encourage Hizballah and Hamas to engage in reprisals and you can imagine the second and third order consequences of that on the peace process and on our outreach to the Muslim world and all of that.... We don't exactly know how it would unfold you have the prospects for unintended escalation and kind of losing control of what's going on,' Kahl warned, adding that even though any military strike could delay Iran's nuclear program, it could also 'incentivize the Iranians to go all the way to weaponize.'"
- **Ambassador Nick Burns, former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs during the Bush administration:** "Here again, I would just credit President Obama. I know that there are critics, particularly on the right, who say that engagement isn't going to work and that it has been a waste of time. I very strongly disagree with that. I think President Obama made clear from the very first moments of his presidency, from the clenched fist reference in his inaugural speech, through his Nowruz message to the Iranian people and then through his offer to negotiate unconditionally - I think he turned the tables on the Iranians. He has helped to put them on the defensive. I do think these talks start with the Iranians in a difficult position."
- **Iranian opposition leader Mir Mir Hossein Mousavi**: "[s]anctions would not affect the government but would impose many hardships upon the people, who suffer enough as a result of the calamity of their insane rulers."

[Senator Jon Kyl on CNN, 10/04/09 . Senator Saxby Chambliss on Fox News via TPM, 10/04/09 . DASD for the Middle East Colin Kahl, via Ben Armbruster, Think Progress, 10/1/09 . Ambassador Nick Burns, 10/01/09 . Mir Hossein Mousavi, Washington Post, 10/1/09]

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From: "Adam Jentleson" <Ajentleson@americanprogress.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/28/2009 2:14:49 AM
Subject: [big campaign] WaPo Poll Finds Strong Support for Clean Energy Legislation

Highlights:

-Nearly six in 10 of those polled support the proposed changes to U.S. energy policy being developed by Congress and the administration.

-Majorities of those surveyed say changes in energy policy would address global warming and not raise energy costs.

-Fewer than one in five say that the reform efforts would lead to job losses; more than twice as many see added jobs.

On Energy, Obama Finds Broad Support

Poll Shows Backing for Reform Efforts, But Cap-and-Trade Bill Is Harder Sell
By Steven Mufson and Jennifer Agiesta
Washington Post Staff Writers
Friday, August 28, 2009

Most Americans approve of the way President Obama is handling energy issues and support efforts by him and Democrats in Congress to overhaul energy policy -- including the controversial cap-and-trade approach to limiting greenhouse gas emissions, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll.

Even as public support has slipped for Obama's health-care proposals, support for ambitious changes in energy policy has been steady. Although the issue of health care arouses more intense feelings than energy policy does, those who do feel strongly about energy and climate policy tend to tilt toward the administration's position and a broad majority of people echo Democratic lawmakers' views on the benefits of proposed changes.

Nearly six in 10 of those polled support the proposed changes to U.S. energy policy being developed by Congress and the administration. Fifty-five percent of Americans approve of the way Obama is handling the issue, compared with 30 percent who do not. A narrower majority, 52 to 43 percent, back a cap-and-trade system; that margin is unchanged since June. A cap-and-trade system would set a ceiling for the nation's greenhouse gas emissions, and it would allow firms to buy and sell emissions permits.

"Something definitely has to be done," said Marian Eldridge, a former legal secretary from East Windsor, N.J., who participated in the survey. "Anything's worth a try at this point." She said she tries to "ignore the politics; you get discouraged." But she said that higher energy costs were "inevitable" and that "we're too dependent on other countries."

Despite public support for an energy and climate bill, the prospects for legislation remain uncertain. The House narrowly passed a measure in June, but not before inserting a multitude of provisions for consumers, interest groups and corporations. The Senate remains divided over how to move forward, and getting 60 senators to back an end to debate could be difficult. Adding to that challenge is the thin public support for the cap-and-trade approach if it were to raise consumers' costs. Although 58 percent of those polled would support the plan if it reduced greenhouse gas emissions and cost them an extra $10 a month, support drops to 39 percent if new monthly costs reached $25.

Moreover, the Senate's calendar is crowded with legislation on a variety of matters, including health care, appropriations, an increase in the debt ceiling and the extension of a nuclear weapons treaty with Russia.

Effect on Jobs

Majorities of those surveyed say changes in energy policy would address global warming and not raise energy costs. Although many proponents of a cap-and-trade bill say it could spur job creation in the renewable-energy sector and foes say it would drive jobs overseas, a plurality of Americans -- more than four out of 10 -- think that the legislation would have no effect on employment in their states. Fewer than one in five say that the reform efforts would lead to job losses; more than twice as many see added jobs.

GOP criticism of the House energy and climate bill appears to have primarily influenced Republicans themselves.

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Among Republicans, support for cap-and-trade legislation has dipped from 45 percent to 37 percent since a poll taken in June.

"It will make the cost [of energy] go up too high for people," said Mary Lou Pomeroy, an elementary school teacher's assistant in Renton, Wash., near Seattle. "I think there's a lot of people struggling and seeing their income reduced, and we don't need things that cost more. I'm just not sure that's our biggest issue. . . . I think health care right now is bigger. Or the huge deficit."

Support for the plan among independents has increased slightly, with a narrow majority now in favor. Overall, a slight majority of those polled say changes to energy policy would help address global warming, while a third say they will not. A slim 5 percent volunteered that global warming is not an issue.

Obama's goal of putting 1 million electric cars on the road by 2015 strikes a chord. More than eight in 10 people say they support the development of electric car technology.

Some people see the government's Cash for Clunkers program as a symbol of energy policy, even though it is separate from the comprehensive House legislation. Nearly seven in 10 backed using cash rebates to encourage people to buy more fuel-efficient cars .

Eldridge, the New Jersey resident, said, "I think the clunker thing was a good idea. It helped get some garbage off the roads."

Pomeroy, however, predicted that many people who traded in clunkers would be unable to make payments on their new cars. And she viewed the government's difficulty in getting payments to dealers as symptomatic of government involvement in the economy. "I don't think our government is all that great at efficiency," she said.

Energy Sources

The public's preferences regarding energy sources to meet the nation's needs remain mostly the same as they were at the start of the decade, with a modest uptick in support for new nuclear power plants and a decline in support for building oil-, coal- or natural gas-fueled plants.

Solar and wind power enjoy near-universal support; nine in 10 people support further development. More than eight in 10 favor requirements for greater fuel efficiency. Broad majorities also favor requiring increased energy conservation from businesses and consumers.

Fifty-two percent favor building more nuclear power plants, but that support drops to 35 percent if the new plants were within 50 miles of the respondent's home. Support for building nuclear plants is up about six percentage points since 2001.

But energy issues and the voluminous House bill remain difficult for people to understand. Fifteen percent say they have no opinion on Obama's handling of the energy issue, whereas 5 percent say they have no opinion on health care and 2 percent lack an opinion about the economy.

The poll was conducted Aug. 13-17 among a random national sample of 1,001 adults. The results have a margin of error of three percentage points.

Polling director Jon Cohen contributed to this report.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/27/AR2009082703823_pf.html

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/17/2009 3:22:01 AM
Subject: [big campaign] TODAY 1PM: Missile Defense Press Call

TODAY 1PM: Missile Defense Press Call

Washington D.C. - Today at 1:00 PM EDT, several national security and missile defense experts will provide reaction to the Obama administration's decision to not to proceed with Bush-era plans to place untested, ground-based missile interceptor system in Poland and the Czech Republic. Nonproliferation expert Joe Cirincione, missile defense expert Philip Coyle, and intelligence expert Greg Thielmann will discuss how the decision reflects the need to respond to new threats and underscores the new technological realities of missile defense.

*****Call-in #: 1-800-862-9098*****
***International Only*: 785-424-1051**
*****Passcode: 7DEFENSE*****

WHO: Joe Cirincione, President of Ploughshares Fund;
Philip Coyle, senior advisor to the Center for Defense Information;
Greg Thielmann, senior fellow Arms Control Association

WHAT: Press Call to discuss Missile Defense

WHEN: Today, Thursday September 17
1:00 PM

Joseph Cirincione, President of the Ploughshares Fund, served previously as senior vice president for national security and international policy at the Center for American Progress and as director for nonproliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace for eight years. He worked for nine years in the U.S. House of Representatives as a professional staff member of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Government Operations, and served as staff director of the bipartisan Military Reform Caucus. He teaches at the Georgetown University Graduate School of Foreign Service and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Philip Coyle is a senior advisor to the Center for Defense Information. He is a recognized expert on U.S. and worldwide military research, development and testing, on operational military matters, and on national security policy and defense spending, including defense acquisition reform and defense procurement. Coyle also has extensive background in missile defense, in military space systems, and in high-technology weapons, such as high power lasers and other directed-energy weapons. From his many years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Coyle also has considerable experience in nuclear weapons research, development, and testing, and nuclear weapons effects, including EMP.

Greg Thielmann most recently served as a senior professional staffer of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI). Prior to joining the SSCI in 2005, he was a U.S. Foreign Service Officer for 25 years, last serving as Director of the Strategic, Proliferation and Military Affairs Office in the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. His foreign posts include Deputy Political Counselor of the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil; Political-Military Affairs Officer in Moscow, USSR; and Political-Military Affairs Officer in Bonn, Germany. Thielmann also served as the Deputy Office Director in the State Department's Office of German, Austrian and Swiss Affairs; Special Assistant to Ambassador Paul Nitze (then Special Adviser to the President and Secretary of State on Arms Control Matters); and State Department advisor to the U.S. Delegation at the Geneva INF arms control negotiations. Greg is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Arms Control Association (2003-2005). His July 2003 appearance at an ACA press briefing on faulty intelligence assessments on Iraq's WMD capabilities.

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 1/4/2010 6:38:48 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Conservatives Spend Holiday Regifting Fear to the American People

Conservatives Spend Holiday Regifting Fear to the American People

Washington, D.C. - On Christmas day, a terrorist came perilously close to successfully staging an attack within the US. The event points to weaknesses and limitations in our intelligence, screening and information-sharing capabilities. The administration has set out to carefully review how this attempt could have taken place, with the President vowing to strengthen the system protecting Americans and to hold his administration accountable for its mistakes. This careful, sober response has become a hallmark of the administration's strategy for countering terrorism, an approach which at its core emphasizes integration, consistency with our laws and values, and a refusal to engage in the over-reaction and fear mongering that our enemies hope to produce. Praising the President's reformulated approach to counterterrorism, the Washington Post wrote that his administration has "demonstrated tenacity and pragmatism blended with a necessary reassessment of the flawed policies of his predecessors and a recommitment to the rule of law."

Sadly, the attempt has also confirmed some conservatives' unwillingness to answer the President's call for unity and calm. Within a day, conservatives had begun discussing preventive war on Yemen, confidently asserting that Obama's policies had caused the attack, and using the incident for fundraising purposes. The implications of such threat-hyping - war in every country where extremists operate - play directly into Al Qaeda's strategy: forcing the U.S. to over-extend itself through limitless military operations. And by leaping to inject partisan politics into what could have been a national tragedy, conservatives once again exhibited a worrisome refusal to act constructively when it comes to national security. For the sake of Americans' security, conservatives should abandon these dangerous tactics, and take up the administration's call for unity in countering the terrorist threat.

Administration's cool-headed approach is the right way to deal with terrorist threat. Since the attempted terrorist attack on Christmas Day in Detroit, the Obama administration has moved swiftly and soberly to ensure that everything possible is done to protect Americans' security. Following the failed attack, President Obama launched a comprehensive review to determine how the attempt could have taken place. The Administration's response highlights several key principles of its counterterrorism approach:

> **Countering terrorism using an integrated approach:** On Sunday, White House Counterterrorism and Homeland Security Advisor John Brennan explained how the reviews would feed into the administration's integrated approach for countering terrorism: "There's no single silver bullet that's going to be able to allow us to have that type of assurance that we're going to be able to stop individuals from coming aboard planes. It's -- has to be a package of things. It has to be technology, it has to be expertise, it has to be intelligence, it has to be cooperation with our international partners. And so all this has to come together seamlessly, and it has to be done on a daily basis." [John Brennan, Meet the Press, 1/03/10]
>
> **Fighting extremism without letting the fight distort all our foreign and domestic policy:** As he has in the past, Brennan also situated the administration's response within the President's broader commitment to security, prosperity and the rule of law: "Well, because, first of all, we're a country of laws, and what we're going to do is to make sure that we treat each individual case appropriately. In the past Richard Reid, the former shoe bomber; Zacarias Moussaoui; Jose Padilla; Iyman Faris; all of them were charged in criminal court, were sentenced some in -- in some cases to life imprisonment. We have these tools available, whether it's an enemy combatant avenue or to charge them criminally. We look at the cases, and in this case we decided it was best, in fact, to charge him criminally." Rep. Jane Harman (D-CA) chairwoman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence also stressed that holding true to America's values is important to maintaining security. She told the Washington Post that "Civil liberties matter, and we must stay mindful that an overreaction has the potential to overwhelm the system and fail to make us more safe," [John Brennan, Meet the Press, 1/03/10 . Jane Harman, via Washington Post, 12/28/09 .]

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Refusing to overreact or give in to fear: In his address to the nation, the President made clear that he would not have his policies ruled by fear: "But as we go forward, let us remember this-our adversaries are those who would attack our country, not our fellow Americans, not each other. Let's never forget what has always carried us through times of trial, including those attacks eight Septembers ago. Instead of giving in to fear and cynicism, let's renew that timeless American spirit of resolve and confidence and optimism. Instead of succumbing to partisanship and division, let's summon the unity that this moment demands. Let's work together, with a seriousness of purpose, to do what must be done to keep our country safe." The CATO Institute's Jim Harper commented: "attacks would likely increase if it appeared that attacking the U.S. and its interests could visibly fluster the U.S. president. The discipline shown by the White House during this event is an important contribution to our security from the next attack. Politicians beneath President Obama's grade should take a lesson and control their reactions as well. " [President Obama, 1/02/10. Jim Harper, 12/30/09 .]

[President Obama, 1/02/10]

Fear mongering does nothing for our security - but it does play into Al Qaeda's hands. Marc Lynch, senior fellow at CNAS and professor at George Washington University, explains, "In fact, this risks becoming a classic case of massive overreaction playing right into the hands of a terrorist group. The Obama administration, which actually has been working on the Yemen issue all year, now risks falling right back into the classic catalog of Bush-era conceptual and practical mistakes as it scrambles for a response. To get Yemen right will require getting the complicated terrain of Yemeni and Gulf politics right -- not just looking for some kind of military intervention or an influx of foreign aid in order to be seen to have 'done something', and not reducing it to an Al Qaeda or COIN problem. Direct American military intervention in Yemen is so obviously ludicrous that it shouldn't even need to be said. Osama bin Laden himself explains in a 2004 video "We [Al Qaeda] are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah." In the video bin Laden, referring to the fight against the Soviet Union, said, "using guerrilla warfare and the war of attrition to fight tyrannical superpowers. We, alongside the mujahedeen, bled Russia for 10 years until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat." He also said Al Qaeda has found it "easy for us to provoke and bait" the Bush administration.

Disappointingly, the initial response from conservatives fell right into that trap. Rep. Peter King (R-NY), the ranking Republican on the Homeland Security Committee, first responded by saying that "This was the real deal... This could have been devastating." Charles Krauthammer offers Al Qaeda the grandiosity and uniqueness that it seeks: "A man who shoots abortion doctors is an extremist. An eco-fanatic who torches logging sites is an extremist. Abdulmutallab is not one of these. He is a jihadist. And unlike the guys who shoot abortion doctors, jihadists have cells all over the world; they blow up trains in London, nightclubs in Bali and airplanes over Detroit (if they can); and are openly pledged to war on America." Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I- CT) even went as far as to suggest that a future war in Yemen may be the solution to international terrorism. He said on ABC's This Week that "Senator Collins and I, with a few colleagues, were in Yemen in August. And one of our American personnel there said to us -- and I thought quite wisely -- that Iraq is yesterday's war, Afghanistan is today's war, and if we don't act preemptively, Yemen will be tomorrow's war." [Peter King, via NY Times, 12/25/09 . Charles Krauthammer, 1/1/10 . Joe Lieberman, ABC News, 1/3/10 . Marc Lynch, 1/2/10 . Al Qaeda video via CNN, 11/1/2004]

Conservatives use attempted attack as a chance to politicize national security, but counter-terrorism professionals push back. As Peter Baker documented for the New York Times Magazine, former senior Bush administration officials don't agree with the rhetoric of their former bosses. "A half-dozen former senior Bush officials involved in counterterrorism told me before the Christmas Day incident that for the most part, they were comfortable with Obama's policies, although they were reluctant to say so on the record," reported Baker. On Fox News Sunday, President Obama's counterterrorism advisor John Brennan criticized these attempts to politicize national security issues. "I just think that, you know, partisan politics should be put aside when something as important to national security as the threat of terrorism -- it's a serious threat. It continues to haunt us. And we have to make sure that we stay focused on Al Qaida. And so that's what I'm going to do in this job." He went on to says that "It's disappointing to me that either the vice president and others have willfully mischaracterized President Obama's position and actions, or they're just ignorant of the facts...I'm neither a Republican nor a Democrat. I've worked for the previous five administrations, and this president is determined, and I think it is demonstrated in his language. He says that we're at war with Al Qaida. We're going to destroy Al Qaida the organization." But conservatives have chosen to use the incident for partisan ends and even for fundraising: [NY Times, 1/4/10 . John Brennan, FOX News Sunday, 1/03/10]

Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), the ranking Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, within 72 hours of the attack, sent out a fundraising letter that strongly politicized the failed Christmas day airline bombing. Hoekstra, who is running for governor in Michigan, used the event to try and scrape up a few extra dollars for his campaign. After

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comically mentioning that "there should be no partisan rancor when it comes to keeping our citizens safe," Hoekstra attacked Obama and "his left-wing cronies" in an attempt to exploit national security issues raise money for a political campaign. The fundraising letter said "They just don't get it. The system didn't 'work' here. Far from it! It is insulting that The Obama administration would make such a claim, but then again, these are the same weak-kneed liberals who have recently tried to bring Guantanamo Bay terrorists right here to Michigan!" [Pete Hoekstra fundraising letter, 12/28/09]

Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC), who has continually politicized national security by blocking important nominations, is also blocking President Obama's nominee to head the Transportation Security Administration, putting partisan politics ahead of national security priorities. USA Today reports that "Sen. Jim DeMint, the Republican senator who is blocking the president's choice to head the Transportation Security Administration... DeMint is blocking Erroll Southers appointment over labor issues -- including possibly giving TSA employees collective bargaining rights." [USA Today, 1/4/10]

Former Vice President Dick Cheney has once again emerged, leading the attacks on the Obama administration. In a letter to Politico, Cheney attacked President Obama saying that he is "trying to pretend we are not at war... Why doesn't he want to admit we're at war? It doesn't fit with the view of the world he brought with him to the Oval Office. It doesn't fit with what seems to be the goal of his presidency - social transformation - the restructuring of American society." [Dick Cheney via Politico, 12/30/09]

Bill Kristol, in an attempt to gain political ground, says pronounces al Qaeda victorious. He said, "We can't protect our own embassy in Yemen, a place where we have special operations forces? A place we say we're working with the government on the front lines of the war on terror? And there's a terror threat, and we close the embassy? That's a victory for al Qaeda." [Bill Kristol via the Atlantic Wire 1/3/10]

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/20/2015 2:50:01 AM
Subject: News Update - August 20, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, August 20

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **White House 'comfortable' with Tehran 'Self-Inspecting' Concept**
- **US Reform Movement: We Can't Choose Sides on Iran**
- **Iran, Russia Reach Agreement on Delivery of S-300 Missiles**
- **Pelosi: Democrats Have the Votes to See Iran Deal Through**
- **Court Suspends Palestinian's Administrative Detention**
- **Abbas Orders Palestinian Branch of Geneva Initiative Closed**
- **Foreign Ministry Workers: We'll Delay Danon's Departure**

Commentary:

- **MSNBC: "Israeli Lawmaker: Iran Deal will Lower Nuclear Threat to Israel"**
  - By [Insert Author Here]
- **Al Monitor: "Herzog: Abbas Worries about 'Losing Control' of West Bank"**
  - By Ben Caspit

Times of Israel

White House 'comfortable' with 'Self-Inspecting'

The White House on Wednesday said it was "confident" in the abilities of the International Agency for Atomic Energy to monitor and inspect the possible military dimensions on Iran's past nuclear work and was "comfortable" with confidential arrangements between the IAEA and Tehran to ensure compliance with the nuclear deal signed on July 14. "As the administration has said before — including in classified briefings for both chambers of Congress — we are confident in the agency's technical plans for investigating the possible military dimensions of Iran's former program, issues that in some cases date back more than a decade," White House National Security Council spokesman Ned Price said Wednesday in response to an Associated Press report that revealed the IAEA would cede investigative authority of a suspected nuclear site to Tehran.

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Jerusalem Post

US Reform Movement: We Can't Choose Sides on Iran

"There is simply no clarity that would support taking a position 'for' or 'against'" the Iranian nuclear accord, the leaders of the American Reform Movement's main institution organs asserted on Wednesday. In a joint statement, the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and the Association of Reform Zionists of America declined to take sides in the debate, instead asking American Jews to consider the "day after" and the repercussions of an acrimonious debate both upon communal cohesion and American-Israeli relations. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed upon in Vienna and currently up for review before Congress is "challenging to analyze," the groups' leaders wrote, citing arguments both for and against legislative approval. "We recognize that these arguments have merit: The JCPOA does present a way forward, there are real dangers to rejecting it, and it does not foreclose Iran's ability to become a nuclear weapons threshold state."

Ha'aretz

Iran, Russia Reach Agreement on S-300 Missiles

Iran and Russia have reached an agreement to deliver S-300 surface-to-air missile systems, Russia Today reported on Wednesday. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov was quoted as saying that "the topic is closed. We have reached full understanding on the matter together with our Iranian partners." It is still unclear whether the agreement lists three or four missile systems. Russian state arms producer Almaz-Antey in June said it would supply Iran with a modernized version of the S-300, among the world's most capable air defense systems, once a commercial agreement was reached. Russia says it canceled a contract to deliver S-300s to Iran in 2010 under pressure from the West. But President Vladimir Putin lifted that self-imposed ban in April following an interim nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, one of the most vocal critics of last month's final nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, has expressed Israel's "dismay" at Russia's decision to supply the S-300s to Tehran.

AP

Pelosi: We Have the Votes to See Iran Deal Through

House Democrats have the votes, if necessary, to uphold President Barack Obama's veto of a resolution against his Iran nuclear deal, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said Wednesday. Pelosi said that if such a vote were held today there would be enough support among House Democrats for Obama to prevail. That would take 146 House Democrats, and fewer than 60 have publicly declared their support so far. In an interview with The Associated Press, Pelosi declined to disclose her private vote count but expressed confidence in the outcome. "The president's veto would be sustained" if the vote were held today, Pelosi said, adding she hopes it doesn't get to that point. "But I feel very confident about it."

Ha'aretz

Abbas Orders Pal. Branch of Geneva Initiative Closed

In yet another move to minimize the influence of his political opponents, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday signed a presidential order for the closure of the Palestinian branch of the Geneva Initiative. The head of Palestinian Peace Coalition, an NGO devoted to implementing the Geneva Initiative, is Yasser Abed Rabbo, who was recently fired by Abbas from his post as PLO secretary general for voicing criticism against the Palestinian president. Palestinian Peace Coalition was founded after the Geneva Initiative was unveiled in 2003. The nonprofit is working to promote the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in various sectors of the Palestinian society and is also holding meetings between Palestinians and Israelis.

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Ynet News

Court Suspends Pal.'s Administrative Detention

Israel's High Court on Wednesday evening announced it was suspending the administrative detention of hunger-striking Palestinian Mohammed Allaan. The court ruled that if Allaan's brain damage proves to be irreversible, the administrative order for his detention will be completely revoked. It was unclear whether the damage was reversible. The justices also ruled that if Allaan's condition improves, and in the event that he requests transfer to another hospital or turns to the authorities, or if there are problems or disagreements, the court will reconsider the case. Justice Rubinstein explained the reasoning behind the decision: "He does not pose a danger because of his medical condition, and so the administrative order is not active now," he wrote. He added that relatives and associates could now visit Allaan, subject to normal hospital guidelines.

Ynet News

Foreign Min. Workers: We'll Delay Danon's Departure

Foreign Ministry workers, who have been in a labor dispute with the government for ten days, announced that they were intensifying their efforts, and will be delaying the issuing of diplomatic passports for different recent nominations by Prime Minister Netanhayu. These include the diplomatic passports for new UN Ambassador Danny Danon, new Ambassador to Brazil Danny Dayan, and new Ambassador to Italy Fiamma Nirenstein. Workers hope these steps will encourage Prime Minister Netanyahu (who also currently serves in official capacity as foreign minister) to quickly resolve the dispute.

MSNBC – August 19, 2015

Israeli Lawmaker: Iran Deal will Lower Nuclear Threat to Israel

By Omer Bar Lev

After carefully studying the agreement between six world powers and Iran to prevent the development of an Iranian nuclear weapon, I have concluded that the nuclear threat to Israel as a result of the deal will be significantly lower for the coming years than it is today.

Let me be clear – this is not a perfect deal. Indeed, the agreement contains fundamental flaws, such as allowing Iran to continue developing advanced centrifuges. But it also contains significant benefits for Israel that have not been sufficiently acknowledged in the debate over the agreement that has raged in my country.

For example, Iran already possesses enough enriched uranium today to produce more than five nuclear bombs. Under the agreement, Iran must ship most of its enriched uranium out of the country. For the next 15 years, it will be allowed to retain only 300 kilograms of low enriched uranium. Since 1.5 tons of highly enriched uranium are required to make just one nuclear bomb, this is a huge positive. Additionally, beyond the verification and inspection mechanisms outlined in the deal, Israeli and U.S. intelligence have robust capabilities that will allow them to detect an Iranian violation if it occurs.

Those who charge that the agreement increases the nuclear threat to Israel ignore these inconvenient facts. Some perhaps do so out of ignorance because they have not bothered to read the agreement. But others are undoubtedly doing so for political reasons, none more so than Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has deliberately misled the public.

Mr. Netanyahu is deceiving the Israeli people by creating the perception that the

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implementation of the agreement and the removal of the sanctions depend solely upon the upcoming vote in the U.S. Congress. This could not be further from the truth. Already, Britain, France, Russia, China, as well as Germany and the United Nations Security Council itself, have voted to remove the sanctions as soon as the International Atomic Energy Agency confirms that Iran has upheld its part of the agreement.

This includes Iran exporting its enriched uranium and shutting down the majority of its centrifuges. For those who might be confused about time frames, these steps are supposed to occur before the end of 2015.

Now we must ask ourselves: What will the United States do? If Congress overrides President Barack Obama and rejects the deal, only American sanctions will remain in place. However, Article 36 of the agreement states that if one of the signatories does not abide by the agreement, Iran is allowed to reject the deal in its entirety and not uphold any of its commitments.

Such a development would pose a double threat to Israel. First, it will create a reality in which most of the sanctions will have already been removed and billions of dollars already flowed into Iran. No doubt some of them will finance Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and other terror organizations in the Middle East and around the world.

Second, Iran will be able to resume its nuclear weapons program without violating any international agreement or resolution, and Israel – whose relationship with the United States has been badly damaged by Netanyahu – will be left isolated and blamed for the collapse of the agreement.

The strict implementation of the Iran nuclear agreement will significantly diminish the Iranian nuclear threat to Israel. It will allow Israel's defense establishment to focus on preparing the country for any potential confrontation with Hamas or Hezbollah. Moreover, the country will be able to divert resources to prepare proper defenses so the home front is ready to deal with missiles and rockets that will surely rain down upon Israeli cities in any future confrontation.

We should not take this lightly. If Israel had been party to the nuclear negotiations, or if we had been in close contact with the negotiators, we would likely have been able to shape a final agreement that would be far more favorable. However, given the reality we face, Israel would be best served if we objectively examined the situation rather than spreading fear and half-truths, which are nothing more than political tools.

Omer Bar Lev is a Knesset Member representing the Zionist Union.

Al Monitor – August 20, 2015

Herzog: Abbas Worries about 'Losing Control' of West Bank

By Ben Caspit

His meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Aug. 18 was an encounter Zionist Camp leader Isaac Herzog had requested some time ago — immediately after losing to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the March 17 elections. The only way the Zionist Camp party leader could differentiate himself from Netanyahu was to meet with Abbas and to demonstrate an affinity for and commitment to any kind of diplomatic process. The problem was that the Palestinian leader was not exactly enthusiastic about the idea. Spring went, summer arrived and suddenly, while Herzog was vacationing with his family in Cyprus, the telephone call came from presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rodeina:

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The chairman would be happy to see you, Herzog was told.

They sat together in Ramallah for almost an hour and a half, just the two of them. As opposed to prior visits and meetings, this tête-à-tête was without fanfare: no media presence, no escorts nor other participants. Just Abbas and Herzog sat together, the two great losers of the previous year. Herzog had almost made it to the prime minister's office when he lost to Netanyahu at the last minute and Abbas had remained the abandoned rear guard without an agenda, a diplomatic horizon, any kind of negotiations or international interest. Of the two of them, only Abbas is mulling possible retirement. Herzog, by contrast, is a relatively young politician who believes that his future is still before him.

What pressed the veteran Palestinian leader to meet with Israel's opposition chairman? The common assessment is that Abbas is very worried about telltale signs and publicity regarding real (though indirect) feelers between Israel and Hamas. Abbas is afraid of being left behind. A 10-year arrangement between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip is liable to make Abbas irrelevant. Therefore, if Netanyahu can talk to Hamas, Abbas' main opposition, then clearly Abbas can talk to Herzog, Netanyahu's main opponent.

Herzog urged Abbas to join the contacts and attempt to create a larger package deal with Israel. Why should the Israeli government confine itself to talking to Gaza alone when it can raise the ante, adopt confidence-building measures and work for a settlement package deal for all the territories? "You have to ride this wave," Herzog reportedly told Abbas, "You can't let yourself remain behind."

After the meeting, Herzog told Al-Monitor, "This is a propitious time for the entire region; almost everyone is converging in the same place. The joint interests of the various players are mounting. Everyone wants peace and quiet; everyone wants to focus on their mutual enemies, which are Islamic State, Iran and the Shiites. Under such circumstances, Abbas cannot allow himself to lag behind. He also needs to take advantage of the situation and get on the bandwagon."

Asked what, exactly, Abbas should do, Herzog said, "He should set out his conditions for entering into the Gaza plan. Hamas should not be allowed to come out on top from everything that's been going on recently. We can still find ourselves in a situation in which Hamas brings 10 years of calm to Gaza allowing for prosperity, while Mahmoud Abbas finds himself on the cusp of a third intifada in Ramallah. Instead, everyone should be able to profit and Abbas, who truly fights terror and is a legitimate leader, cannot be left behind."

At the same time, Netanyahu's government denies reports about contacts with Hamas. "Not directly, not through another country and not through intermediaries," read an official statement released by the prime minister's office at the beginning of the week, stating that Israel has no contacts with Hamas and there is no agreement in the pipeline.

If so, how can one explain the current reality in which numerous figures headed by former Quartet envoy Tony Blair are diligently running the course between Gaza and Israel? It's very simple: This is Netanyahu's method. Netanyahu will always make sure he has wiggle room for denial. He'll send faceless emissaries that he can repudiate at the moment of truth along the lines of "it's only an American proposal" or "non-binding, unofficial contacts."

And that is exactly the situation this time around, as well. The contacts with the Palestinians in Gaza are coordinated by the Israeli security apparatus. At the head of the pyramid stands Yoav (Poli) Mordechai, the coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories. An Arab newspaper actually proposed, humorously, that Mordechai replace Abbas after the latter retires. Mordechai, who speaks fluent Arabic and makes numerous appearances on the Arab electronic media

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outlets in the Middle East, has become a familiar figure on practically every screen from Gaza to Cairo, Ramallah and Amman.

One of the problems is trust. Abbas does not trust the Hamas leadership at all, and vice versa. The chasms separating the two entities are deeper than their commonalities. At the same time, the situation in the West Bank is continuing to deteriorate. "I am worried about losing control," Abbas admitted to Herzog, according to diplomatic sources. "Our streets are raging; the murder in Douma fanned the flames."

Abbas asked President Reuven Rivlin as well as Prime Minister Netanyahu to do everything possible to apprehend the murderers of the Dawabsha family. (The toddler, Ali, and his father, Saad, died of their wounds, and another son and the mother are still fighting for their lives.) Abbas feels that in order to restore peace, it is imperative to capture the murderers and serve justice to them. Then Herzog spoke to Abbas about the wave of terror attacks from the Palestinian side, including the daily stabbings of Israelis, the hurling of Molotov cocktails and stones, and a general deterioration of the territory to a dangerous level.

Abbas detailed the Palestinian Authority's anti-terror activities but claimed that he is unable to pinpoint and arrest every Palestinian with a knife who decides to retaliate. Abbas also complained about the open-fire policies of the Israel Defense Forces and other security forces. In most cases, Abbas argued, the attackers could have been neutralized by shooting at their feet, and some of them have been shot when they no longer posed a threat. The bottom line is that Abbas warned about a third intifada. The pressure cooker is heating up, he says, and eventually it may explode.

In his meeting with Herzog, Abbas verified the reports regarding his deliberations over retiring. Abbas' resignation threats are viewed by the Israeli security apparatus as serious, more serious than in the past. There is no diplomatic expectation, global interest in the Palestinian problem is dissipating, the Arab countries are busy with their own trials and tribulations, the political situation in the territories is touchy and the economic situation is hard. Most worrisome of all is that currently there are no signs of renewing negotiations and no responsible party (the Americans?) interested.

Abbas is already over 80 years old. He is tired and in constant danger, as swathes of the Palestinian people view him as a traitor who cooperates with the Israel security system. "Ultimately, he'll break [under the pressure] sometime or other," an IDF source said on condition of anonymity, though no one knows exactly when that might happen. Former President Shimon Peres celebrated his 92nd birthday this week and has no intentions of ever retiring. The question is whether Abbas is a chip off Peres' imperishable material.

If Abbas really does pick up and leave, said Herzog, Israel will find itself missing him. He emphasized that there is no doubt that Abbas is the first Palestinian leader who truly fought against terror and chose the diplomatic route. "I'm not naive," he added. "There is no permanent arrangement on the agenda, but we really could show some creativity. We could adopt financial and other steps such as confidence-building. We have to do everything to bring back hope."

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 6/29/2015 4:47:05 PM
Subject: Re: FW: HRC Iran statement

Jake,
Thanks. It's you call. I cannot open the letter in the format you sent it--sorry.
Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 06:23 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: dkurtzphelan@gmail.com <dkurtzphelan@gmail.com>; John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com) <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com) <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Subject: Re: FW: HRC Iran statement

Thanks Stu. I need to grapple with some of these edits, which go beyond where I might suggest she go at this point. Others are very well taken. Let me give it another crack and come back to you.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 6:14 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Dan and Jake,

Here is a cleaner version. Something happened with the one I just sent that left gaps in the sentences.

Stu

From: Eizenstat, Stuart
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 6:09 PM
To: 'Daniel Kurtz-Phelan'
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com)
Subject: RE: HRC Iran statement

Dear Dan and Jake,

I am sorry for the delay, but I only landed this morning from Israel via JFK. Please see my comments below. Of course, we do not know the details at this time.

Stu

From: Daniel Kurtz-Phelan [mailto:dkurtzphelan@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2015 8:52 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: Jake Sullivan
Subject: HRC Iran statement

Dear Stu,

Jake asked that I share with you the current draft of HRC's statement on the Iran deal. It's pasted below. Some of this could of course change depending on the details of a final agreement, but it would be great to have your feedback at this stage,

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Many thanks,

Dan

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I applaud President Obama and Secretary Kerry for securing a nuclear agreement that offers the strongest chance to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this deal will make the United States, Israel, our Arab partners, and the region safer and more secure than if there were no agreement.

At the same time, there are aspects of the agreement that are a cause for concern, and a basis for special diligence. has not been required to answer questions about the Possible Military Dimensions (PMD), including allowing the IAEA to inspect sites, interview key scientists and officials, and review documents that would shed light on their past and current PMD activities. In addition, clarity is required on what limits are imposed during the term of the agreement and thereafter to preclude Iran's work on advanced centrifuges. It is also critical that sanctions relief must come only when Iran has demonstrates to the satisfaction of the IAEA that they have complied with their obligations. Sanctions for terrorism and other non-nuclear sanctions must remain in place. I I want to make sure as President that any violation of the agreement by Iran would trigger a reimposition of sanctions, without an Iranian veto over the findings, and in ways that assure the US can act if we feel there is a violation. Most important is monitoring and verification. The IAEA inspectors must have timely and effective access to all sites in Iran, including military sites. It is unclear if this is the case.

Despite these concerns, it is critical in assessing this agreement to ask what alternatives exist. We already have in place the most effective, broad-based sanctions ever imposed on a country in peacetime. While they have brought Iran to the negotiating table, they have not stopped the continued expansion of their nuclear program. It is difficult to see what other sanctions would lead to greater Iranian concessions. Without an agreement, there would be no two-thirds reduction in their number of centrifuges; no dismantlement of their plutonium plant at Arak; no 24/IAEA inspections; no dilution of their 20% enriched uranium. Their capacity to "break-out: would be far more likely without this agreement, than with it. We also have to consider it we could maintain the partnership with the European Union, which has made the sanctions most effective.

Today's agreement is the culmination of an effective strategy executed over many years. By the end of the Bush administration, Iran was rapidly expanding its nuclear centrifuge capacity despite unilateral American sanctions and ineffective saber rattling. The Obama administration took a different approach, working with Congress and our allies and partners around the world. As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms – especially in Moscow and Beijing – to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history against Tehran. That unprecedented pressure shattered Iran's economy, halted the progress of its nuclear program (NB. BE CAREFUL THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF CENTRIFUGES AND AMOUNT OF ENRICHED URANIUM SINCE OBAMA TOOK OFFICE), and forced its leaders to the table to negotiate a deal that puts a nuclear weapon out of reach.

As President, I will use every tool in our arsenal to compel rigorous Iranian compliance. The response to any violation will be clear, immediate, and devastating -- starting with the return of sanctions but taking no options off the table, including, if necessary, the use of force. The message to Iran must be loud and clear: We will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; we will never allow you permit you to produce sufficient fissile material or otherwise acquire it, sufficient for a nuclear weapons; not just during the term of this agreement – never.

Going forward, we have to be clear-eyed when it comes to the broader threat Iran represents. Even with an agreement that limits its nuclear ambitions, Iran still poses a direct challenge to the United States and our allies, especially Israel. The funds it will receive with sanctions relief will provide billions of dollars more for Iran to use to support terrorism. It continues to destabilize countries from Yemen to Lebanon, while exacerbating conflict in Syria. And it fuels terrorism throughout the region and beyond, including through direct support to Hamas and Hizballah. We have to aggressively oppose and raise the costs for Iran's destabilizing activities, insist on the return of U.S. citizens being held by the Iranian government, and strengthen cooperation with our allies and partners. This agreement under my Administration will not see this agreement as the beginning of an American-Iranian partnership. Our allies in the Middle East deserve to have this assurance, and they will have it if I am elected President.

Israel should be confident that now and in a Hillary Clinton Administration, the United States will always defend its security and ensure its military edge in the region. Our two countries have to be on the same page when it comes to the threat posed by Iran, so I would invite the senior Israeli leadership to Washington for early talks on further strengthening our crucial alliance. I will provide Israel with all the military means it requires to defend itself against an Iranian threat, and support its actions to defend itself. We should also deepen our security relationship with Arab partners who are threatened by Iran's ambitions.

Ultimately, this agreement is the best way to protect our country and our allies. To walk away from a deal that will stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, or to bomb Iran as long an agreement offers an alternative, [as some Republican candidates for President suggest,] would be both dangerous and shortsighted – fracturing our global coalition, raising the risk of regional war, and ultimately bringing Iran closer to a nuclear weapon.

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So we should proceed with wisdom and strength in implementing a deal born out of effective diplomacy and strong American leadership.

**

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From: "Jeremy Funk" <funk@americansunitedforchange.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/19/2008 7:48:14 AM
Subject: [big campaign] One Month Ago Today, Iraqi Prime Minister Endorsed Obama Iraq Strategy

Iraq Campaign 2008

AMERICANSUNITED FOR CHANGE

www.americansunitedforchange.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT: Jeremy Funk, 202.470.5878**
DATE: August 19th, 2008

The Elephant Still Very Much in the Room

One Month Ago Today, Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki Endorsed Obama Timetable for U.S. Withdrawal from Iraq…and Put John McCain in a Tough Spot

When asked in and interview with SPIEGEL when he thinks US troops should leave Iraq, Maliki responded "as soon as possible, as far as we are concerned." He then continued: ***"US presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal,*** *with the possibility of slight changes."* [SPIEGEL, 7/19/08]

One Month Later and Sen. John McCain Remains in Total State-of-Denial of the Iraqi Government's Wishes and At Total Odds With His 2004 Statement That "I think it's obvious that we would have to leave" if a Sovereign Iraqi Government Asked Us To

John McCain Stands Alone

The Iraqi Government Wants U.S. Out of Iraq…

Iraqi Prime Minister Endorsed Obama Timetable for Withdrawal from Iraq. According to FOXNews.com, "Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki told a German magazine that he supports Barack Obama's plan to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq within 16 months of taking office. The apparent endorsement of a cornerstone of Obama's foreign policy drew swift praise from the Obama campaign…"U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months. That, we think, would be the right timeframe for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes," al-Maliki told the magazine Der Spiegel. He said he wants U.S. troops to leave "as soon as possible." [FoxNews.com, 7/19/08]

Iraq's National security Adviser: No Deal with U.S. Unless it Sets Specific Dates for Withdrawal. According to the Associated Press, Iraq's national security adviser said [on July 8, 2008] his country will not accept any deal with the United States unless the agreement sets specific dates for the withdrawal of U.S.-led forces…"Our stance in the negotiations underway with the American side will be strong," [Mouwaffak al-]Rubaie said. "We will not accept any memorandum of understanding that doesn't have specific dates to withdraw foreign forces from Iraq." [Associated Press, 7/8/08]

Iraqi parliament opposes security agreement without timetable for withdrawal. According to Politico, "Rep. Bill Delahunt (D-Mass.) released a letter [on June 4th, 2008] from 31 Iraqi legislators asserting that the proposed agreement is opposed by a majority of the parliament if it does not include a specific timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. military troops." [Politico, 6/4/2008]

The American People STILL Want Troops Home From Iraq…

62 Percent of Americans Favor Timetable for Withdrawal from Iraq. According to CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll conducted July 27-29, 2008, 62 percent of respondents replied "Set a Timetable" to the question: "Which comes closer to your view about U.S. troops in Iraq? The U.S. should set a timetable for withdrawal by announcing that

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it will remove all of its troops from Iraq by a certain date. The U.S. should keep troops in Iraq as long as necessary without setting any timetable for withdrawal." [PollingReport.com, Accessed 8/19/08]

Most of America's Top-Foreign Policy Experts Want U.S. Troops Out of Iraq and the Eye on the Ball in Afghanistan Where it Belongs...

According to a new report from the Center for American Progress, "almost 70 percent [of America's top foreign policy experts] recommend that the majority of U.S. forces be withdrawn from and redeployed to Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf in the next 18 months. ['The Terrorism Index,' AmericanProgress.org, 8/18/08]

The Troops Themselves Are Rejecting McCain's Endless War Policy...

Troops Deployed Abroad Give 6:1 to Obama Over McCain. According to an analysis of campaign contributions by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, Democrat Barack Obama has received nearly six times as much money from troops deployed overseas at the time of their contributions than has Republican John McCain , **and the fiercely anti-war Ron Paul ,** though he suspended his campaign for the Republican nomination months ago, **has received more than four times McCain's haul.** [OpenSecrets.org, 8/14/08]

Even Bush Agrees to "time horizon" in Iraq...

President Bush Agrees to "time horizon" in Iraq. According to the Washingon Post, " President Bush and Iraq's prime minister have agreed to set a "time horizon" for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq as part of a long-term security accord they are trying to negotiate by the end of the month, White House officials said yesterday." [Washington Post, 7/19/08]

But, John McCain Knows Better Than Us...

His Better Judgment Tells Him to Spend $12 Billion a Month Keeping U.S. Troops in the Crosshairs of Iraqi Civil Conflicts for '100 Years' or More...

FACTBOX-Security developments in Iraq, Aug 18

18 Aug 2008 20:16:43 GMT

Source: Reuters: http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/ANW828684.htm

Aug 18 (Reuters) - Following are security developments in Iraq at 2015 GMT on Monday.

* denotes new or updated items

* RAMADI - A suicide car bomber killed five policemen and wounded seven in an attack on a police checkpoint in Ramadi, capital of Iraq's western Anbar province, police said.

* BAGHDAD - Two journalists for the Afaq satelite television channel and their driver were wounded by a grenade thrown at their car in Baghdad's central Allawi district on Sunday, the Iraq Media Safety Group said in a statement.

NEAR ABUL KHASIB - Gunmen killed two people working for Iraq's electoral commission and wounded another person in a drive-by shooting near the town of Abul Khasib, some 460 km (285 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Three police officers and a civilian were wounded in roadside bomb that exploded in the Karrada district of central Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Iraqi forces killed three militants and arrested 33 others during last the 24 hours in different areas in Iraq, Defence Ministry said in a statement.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb wounded three prison guards in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded five people, including three policemen, when it exploded in the Mansour district of western Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded nine people, including three policemen, when it exploded near a U.S. military patrol in the Yarmouk district of western Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Gunmen killed a Shi'ite cleric and wounded his wife when they opened fire on the couple's car in Zaafaraniya district of southeastern Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - U.S. forces detained 11 militants on Sunday and Monday during operations targeting al Qaeda in central and northern Iraq, the U.S. military said.

MOSUL - Gunmen killed a religious leader on Sunday outside a mosque in central Mosul, police said.

This is The Same Judgment That Led John McCain to...

Declare in 2002 that Hussein Continued To Acquire, Amass And Improve On His Arsenal of Weapons of Mass Destruction. During a floor debate on the floor of the senate, McCain said, "Saddam Hussein continues to acquire, amass, and improve on his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. He continues to attempt to acquire a nuclear weapon. **These are all well-known facts**. So if you believe that Saddam Hussein....is not going to abandon his request for his weapons, then the longer we wait, the more dangerous he becomes." [Asheville Citizen-Times, 10/13/02; emphasis added]

Declare that "The Iraqi People Will Greet Us As Liberators." While appearing on *NBC's The Today Show*, McCain said, "But I believe, Katie, that the Iraqi people will greet us as liberators. I believe that they will have an opportunity over time, and it will be difficult, to realize the same hopes and dreams and aspirations that every person in the world has and

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deserves the opportunity to live in a free and open society." [NBC, "The Today Show," 3/20/03]

Declare that The War In Iraq Would Be "One of The Best Things That's Happened To America." While appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press*, McCain said, "We're going to be all right. We're going to prevail and we will win and it'll be one of the best things that's happened to America and the world in a long time 'cause it'll reverberate throughout the Middle East." [NBC, "Meet the Press," 3/30/03]

Predict That "There's Not A History Of Clashes That Are Violent Between Suunis And Shiahs, So I Think They Can Probably Get Along." While appearing on *Hardball*, McCain said, "There's not a history of clashes that are violent between Sunnis and Shiahs. So I think they can probably get along." [MSNBC, "Hardball," 4/23/03]

Predict that the Iraqi Oil Reserves Would Cover The Cost of War. During an interview with National Journal, McCain said, "Everybody now is talking of post-Saddam Hussein Iraq. I look on it with optimism and hope. As far as the cost is concerned, Iraqis have vast oil reserves and they, I'm sure, would shoulder the cost of the transition." However, according to the New York Times, "Soaring oil prices will leave the Iraqi government with a cumulative budget surplus of as much as $79 billion by year's end, according to an American federal oversight agency. But Iraq has spent only a minute fraction of that on reconstruction costs, which are now largely borne by the United States. [National Journal, 2/15/03; New York Times, 8/5/08]

Erroneously and Repeatedly State That Al Qaeda Was Being Trained By Iran. While speaking in Jordan, McCain said it was, "common knowledge and has been reported in the media that al-Qaeda is going back into Iran and receiving training and are coming back into Iraq from Iran, that's well known. And it's unfortunate." According to the HuffingtonPost, McCain made the same erroneous statement three times in two days. [Washington Post, 3/18/08 ; Huffington Post, 3/19/08]

This is the Same Judgment That Tells John McCain...

...To Keep Short Changing So Many Priorities Here at Home Like Veterans and Children's Healthcare -- to Keep Making Us Less Safe By Stretching Out Military to the Breaking Point in Iraq While Keeping the Eye Off the Ball in Afghanistan

Why? Because John McCain Just Knows Better.

Say, Senator '"[T]hat's not too important" when U.S. troops come home' McCain – Where Do You See the Goal Post in Iraq This Week?

Where's the Goal Post in Iraq This Week, Sen. McCain?

Early 2003: The End is "Very Much in Sight."

McCain Predicted a "Brief, Successful War In Iraq." While speaking on the floor of the senate on the day before U.S. military action commenced in Iraq, McCain said, "The costs of these enterprises are not known with any degree of certainty at this time. Nor are the costs we will incur after what I believe, what I fervently, hope, will be a brief, successful war in Iraq, as we seek to establish the foundations for a peaceful, stable and democratizing Iraq." He added, "I believe the war in Iraq can be concluded successfully in a relatively brief time." [McCain Senate Press Release, 3/18/03]

McCain Believed The War In Iraq Would Be Relatively Short. While appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," McCain said, "I believe that this conflict is still going to be relatively short. I believe we've achieved significant goals and successes." [NBC, "Meet the Press," 3/30/03]

In 2003 McCain Said The End Was "Very Much In Sight." Senator McCain was asked "At what point will America be able to say the war was won?" McCain said there were oil fields to secure and "die-hards" to take care of but "**it's clear that the end is very much in sight**, and today I think Americans should be very proud of their leadership, their technology…There are still some foreigners, Syrians and others hanging around. But it won't be long. It will be a fairly short period of time, but this happens in wars. I'm confident that once they are confident the area is no longer a threat to the Marines and to or army troops that they'll start imposing discipline. In the meantime, we'll have a short period of chaos." [ABC, Good Morning America, 4/9/03, emphasis added]

In April 2003, McCain Said He Was "Sure" The End Of Conflict In Iraq Was Near. While appearing on "Lou Dobbs Moneyline," Dobbs asked McCain, "Is it your judgment that we are near the end of this conflict?" To which McCain replied, "Oh, I'm sure that's true." [CNN, "Lou Dobbs Moneyline," 4/10/03]

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October 2003: Five Years?

McCain Predicted The War Would Take "Four Or Five Years." During an appearance on ABC's Nightline, Ted Koppel asked McCain how much more money the war would cost. He said, "Estimates I hear as much as 50 to $55 billion more." When asked, "Over a course of how many years?" McCain answered, "Four or five years." [ABC, "Nightline," 10/1/03]

November 2003: A Few Months?

McCain Said "We Would Probably Know Within The Next Few Months" If America Won Or Lost In Iraq. During an appearance on MSNBC's "Buchanan & Press," McCain was asked what "victory" in Iraq was. McCain said, "I think the next three to six months are very critical in this whole scenario because the Iraqi people don't want to go back to Saddam Hussein. They're not crazy. But many of them in the Sunni Triangle are losing any confidence that the United States can bring them what their ambitions are all about for themselves and their families. So I think we're in a very critical time. And we would probably know within the next few months." [MSNBC, "Buchanan & Press," 11/6/03]

2004: Five Years?

McCain Said "Listen, My Friend, We're Going To Have To Be There For Five or Six Years." During a February 2004 appearance on MSNBC's "Hardball," McCain discussed the war in Iraq and said, "Listen, my friend, we're going to be there for five or six years. A little straight talk. We're going. We're going to have to be there for quite a while." [MSNBC, "Hardball," 2/25/04]

Early-2005: One Year?

McCain: "I Would Think That It's Going To Be Another Year To A Year And A Half." During an appearance on CBS's "The Early Show," McCain was asked "What is a realistic timetable" regarding the war in Iraq? McCain said, "If I had to guess, I would think that it's going to be at least another year to a year and a half, but, hopefully before then we could have our troops out of a lot of the areas where they're vulnerable to casualties." [CBS, "The Early Show," 2/3/05]

Mid-2005: A Couple of More Years?

McCain: "I Think Part Of That Is It's Going To Be, At Least, A Couple More Years." While appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," McCain said, "I don't think Americans believe that we should cut and run out of Iraq by any stretch of the imagination. But I think they also would like to be told, in reality, what's going on and, by the way, I think part of that is it's going to be, at least, a couple more years." [NBC, "Meet the Press," 6/19/05]

McCain: "I Think We Should Tell People It's Not Going To Be A Short—I'd Rather Say Two Or Three Years." While appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," McCain said, "And, again, I think we should tell people it's not going to be a short--I'd rather say two or three years, and be surprised a year from now, than say, 'Everything's fine,' and then be disappointed a year or two from now." [NBC, "Meet the Press," 6/19/05]

McCain: I Think It's Very Possible "Within The Next Year or Two." While appearing on "Meet the Press," McCain said, "I think it's going to be long and hard and tough." Tim Russert asked, "Years?" McCain responded by saying, "Well, when I say years, I think that it's very possible within the next year or two that you could see this transition taking place, but the American troops being a supplement rather than being replaced by, in other words, most of the effort being carried on over time by the Iraqis, but it's going to be tough. " [NBC, "Meet the Press," 12/4/05]

2006: Months?

McCain: "We're Either Going To Lose This Thing or Win this Thing Within the Next Several Months." While appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," McCain said, "If you talk to most military experts, we're in a critical and crucial time. We're either going to lose this thing or win this thing within the next several months." [NBC, "Meet the Press," 11/12/06]

Early 2007: Ten Years?

McCain Said Americans Could Be Persuaded To Support The War For 5 to 10 Years. According to the Houston Chronicle, while at the opening of the Center for the Intrepid, "McCain said it was important for America to 'accomplish the mission' in Iraq, but said he didn't know how long that would take. He said Americans could be persuaded to support the conflict another five to 10 years 'if we can show progress.'" [Houston Chronicle, 1/30/07]

Mid 2007: "I Don't Have A Date"

McCain Said "I Don't Have A Date" When Asked About The End of The War. While discussing the war in Iraq on NBC's "Meet the Press," McCain said, "If it is only in a role that is of support and American casualties are minimal, then I think it's probably worth the investment. If the level of casualties stays where it is, and we do not have success, then we know that that will be a condition that we

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cannot stand before." Tim Russert then asked, "By when?" to which McCain replied, "**I don't have a date**, I think that the important thing is whether we assess as we move along." [NBC, "Meet the Press," 5/13/07; emphasis added]

Early 2008: Months?

McCain Said Winning The War "Is Going To Take Months." During an interview with the editorial board of the *Detroit News*, McCain was asked, "Can we win this war? And how long will it take?" McCain responded, "It is going to take months. Al-Qaida is on the run, but it is not defeated. [The Iraqi military] can be effective with our support. I know how frustrated all of us are with the lack of effectiveness of the Iraqi government. ... Whoever invented this form of government ought to be taken out and shot. There has been some progress..." [Detroit News, 1/3/08]

Early 2008: A Hundred Years?

McCain Said US Could Stay In Iraq for "Maybe A Hundred Years" and He Was "Fine" With It. In January 2008, McCain said the U.S. military could stay in Iraq for "a hundred years" and that "would be fine with me." At a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, a questioner said, "President Bush is talking about our staying in Iraq for 50 year," at which point McCain interrupted and said, "**Make it a hundred**. We've been in South Korea, we've been in Japan for 60 years, we've been in South Korea for 50 years or so. That'd be fine with me as long as Americans are not being injured, or harmed, or wounded, or killed. That's fine with me, I hope it would be fine with you." [Town Hall Meeting in Concord, NH, 1/3/08 ; emphasis added]

McCain: "I Don't Think Americans Are Concerned If We're There For 100 Years Or 1,000 Years Or 10,000 Years." In an interview on CBS's "Face the Nation," host Bob Schieffer asked McCain about staying in Iraq for 100 year. McCain responded, "We've got to get Americans off the front line, have the Iraqis as part of the strategy, take over more and more of the responsibilities. **And then I don't think Americans are concerned if we're there for 100 years or 1,000 years or 10,000 years**. What they care about is a sacrifice of our most precious treasure, and that's American blood. So what I'm saying is look, if Americans are there in a support role, but they're not taking casualties, that's fine. We're in Kuwait now. As you well recall, we had a war, we stayed in Kuwait. We didn't stay in Saudi Arabia. So it's going to be up to the relationship between the Iraqi government and the United States of America." [CBS, "Face the Nation," 1/06/08; emphasis added]

McCain: "It Doesn't Matter…We Could Be There For A Hundred Years, For All I Know." During an interview with the editorial board of the Detroit News, McCain was asked, "When should the United States leave Iraq?" McCain responded, "**It doesn't matter**. We're still in Kuwait since the first Gulf War. If we can continue to show this progress, we **could be there for 100 years, for all I know**, as long as Americans are not dying. It's not a matter of American presence; it's a matter of success so we can beat back this adversary. If we'd done what they wanted us to do six months ago, al-Qaida would now be trumpeting to the world that it defeated the United States of America." [Detroit News, 1/3/08,emphasis added]

McCain: "We're Going To Be In This Struggle For The Rest of The Century." While speaking at a town hall meeting in Sun City Center, Florida, McCain said, "I'd like to look you in the eye and tell you there's not gonna be any more wars. I'd like to look you in the eyes and tell you that this terrible evil called radical Islamic extremism is defeated. I can't do that. **I've got to tell you that we're gonna be in this struggle for the rest of this century** because it's a transcendent evil." [Town Hall Meeting; Sun City Center, FL 01/26/08; emphasis added]

McCain: "We Are In A Greater Struggle That Is Going To Be With Us For The Rest of This Century." While giving a speech in Nashua, New Hampshire, We are in two wars. **We are in a greater struggle that is going to be with us for the rest of this century… He added, "These young people that are in this crowd, my friends, I'm going to be asking you to serve**. I'm gonna be asking you to step forward and serve this nation in difficult times." [Speech in Nashua, New Hampshire, 1/7/08; emphasis added]

Mid 2008: "Not too important" when troops come home – No, wait, make it "2013"

On NBC's "Today Show," John McCain said bringing American troops home was "not too important." In an interview on NBC's Today Show, host Matt Lauer asked Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) about his support for the war in Iraq. Noting that violence has decreased in Iraq, Lauer asked if McCain has a better "estimate" of when he would withdraw troops from the country. McCain responded: **"No, but that's not too important**. What's important is the casualties in Iraq. Americans are in South Korea. Americans are in Japan. American troops are in Germany. **That's all fine**. [NBC's Today Show, 6/11/08]

McCain: Iraq War will be won by 2013: "By January 2013, America has welcomed home most of the servicemen and women who have sacrificed terribly so that America might be secure in her freedom. The Iraq war has been won." [McCain Remarks, 5/15/08]

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/5/2015 8:51:45 AM
Subject: News Update - March 5

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, March 5

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Herzog: The Bottom Line is that the Speech Will Achieve Nothing**
- **Kerry: Simply Demanding that Iran Capitulate Is Not a Plan**
- **Israel Asks Congress for Missile Defense Aid despite Public Row**
- **Ya'alon: Likud Hasn't Ruled Out Coalition with Zionist Union**
- **Channel Ten Poll: Likud Gains Two Seats**
- **As Election Nears, Women March to Put Peace on Agenda**
- **Abbas: We'll Work Toward Peace with Whoever Wins Israeli Vote**
- **U.S. Syria Strategy Falters with Collapse of Rebel Group**

Commentary:

- **USA Today: "Netanyahu Has Reasons to be Worried"**
  - By Dennis Ross
- **Wall Street Journal: "What Went Wrong Between the US and Israel - and How to Fix the Alliance"**
  - By Brian Katulis and Michael Singh

Ma'ariv

Herzog: The Bottom Line is that the Speech will Achieve Nothing

The political establishment continues to buzz one day after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress, and the opposition is continuing its attack on the prime minister. Opposition and Zionist Camp Chairman Herzog responded yesterday to the speech and said, "Netanyahu is known to be a good orator and I am always happy when we receive applause in Congress. However, it has no connection with the result. The bottom line is that this speech will achieve nothing." "The citizens of Israel can be very pleased for a moment with the applause, but in the long run, Netanyahu is out of the picture, Israel is out of the picture. At the end of the day, the US has a presidential regime. The person who makes the rules on these matters is the president," said Herzog.

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Ha'aretz

Kerry: Simply Demanding that Iran Capitulate Is Not a Plan

The United States and Iran completed another round of talks in Switzerland on Wednesday, within the framework of ongoing attempts to reach a deal on the latter's nuclear program. After the talks, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry responded to the speech made in Congress on Tuesday by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and said "simply demanding that Iran capitulate is not a plan." Kerry has been trying in recent days to reach an understanding with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on two primary issues – the amount of enriched uranium Iran will retain after the deal with the world powers is signed, as well as the pace at which sanctions in place on the Iranian republic will be rescinded.

CNN

Israel Asks Congress for Missile Defense Aid despite public row

Publicly the U.S. and Israel have been clashing over Iran's nuclear program, but quietly Israelis have been making another appeal: getting more U.S. funds for missile defense systems to defend against Iran's growing ballistic missile program. A Republican congressional source told CNN that the Israelis are asking lawmakers to approve more than $300 million in additional U.S. funding for missile defense systems, above the $155 million the Pentagon is already requesting from Congress. For the first time, the source said, Israel is asking the U.S. for procurement funding for the Arrow 3 missile, designed to counter longer-range Iranian ballistic missiles, and the David's Sling missile defense system, for shorter-range Iranian weapons.

Jerusalem Post

Ya'alon: Likud Hasn't Ruled Out Coalition with Zionist Union

Likud has not ruled out sitting in a government with the Zionist Union party, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon told Army Radio on Thursday morning. He said however that the party would not agree to a rotation in the prime minister's office. "We haven't said no to anything, but it is clear that first we need to create a natural bloc, a natural coalition that is Right, and after if someone wants to join they can."

Channel 10 News

Channel Ten Poll: Likud Gains Two Seats

Was Netanyahu's "speech of a lifetime" ultimately electorally worthwhile? That depends on one's vantage point. While the Likud under Netanyahu's leadership rose by two seats to run neck-and-neck with the Zionist Camp, only seven percent of respondents said that Netanyahu's public statements about the Iranian threat had prompted them to change their minds as to which ballot to cast in the elections. Furthermore, nearly half of the Israelis believe after the fact that Netanyahu's speech did not justify the crisis in relations between Israel and the United States. Meanwhile, the joint Arab list has continued to gain ground, and is tied as the third-largest party in Israel along with Yesh Atid. The Jewish Home continued its downward trend and received only 11 seats in this poll. Among the smaller parties, Moshe Kahlon's Kulanu picked up another seat, and is now polling at 10 seats.

See also, "Polls: Netanyahu's Congress speech boosts Likud, but no game changer" (Ha'aretz)

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Times of Israel

As Election Nears, Women March to Put Peace on Agenda

Braving a persistent Jerusalem drizzle, some 3,000 women from across Israel circled the Knesset on Wednesday to demand that peace take center stage in the next government ahead of elections on March 17. Rallied by Women Wage Peace, a grassroots organization created last August, the women — wearing turquoise ribbons and carrying signs reading "choosing a diplomatic agreement" — chanted "It's reality, not a dream, women make peace." Yael Elad, head of the group's media team, said Women Wage Peace was formed in the wake of Operation Protective Edge in Gaza by two prominent lawyers, Irit Tamir and Michal Barak, who felt that "women cannot just sit at home, complain, and hope for the best, without actively doing something to change the situation." "It's time for us to be part of the dialogue that revolves around security and peace," Elad told Times of Israel.

Times of Israel

Abbas: We'll Work Toward Peace with Whoever Wins Israeli Vote

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said on Wednesday that he was willing to work with whichever party wins the upcoming Israeli elections and that achieving peace is central to regional stability. At the opening of a two-day meeting of the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Abbas warned that the status quo of occupation in the West Bank is a provocation and cannot continue, the official WAFA news agency reported. Abbas said Israel had eroded the authority of his self-rule government in the West Bank to the point where it has "no real power here over anything."Abbas said the Arab Peace Initiative would be the best framework for peace talks. "Now is the time for Israel to wake up from its sleep … the ball is in its court," Abbas said.

Reuters

U.S. Syria Strategy Falters with Collapse of Rebel Group

The Hazzm movement was once central to a covert CIA operation to arm Syrian rebels, but the group's collapse last week underlines the failure of efforts to unify Arab and Western support for mainstream insurgents fighting the Syrian military. A blow to U.S. moves to aid rebels, the dissolution of Hazzm also highlights the risks that a new Department of Defense program could face in training and equipping fighters in Jordan, Turkey and Qatar.

USA Today - March 4, 2015

Netanyahu Has Reasons To Be Worried

By Dennis Ross

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a strong case to the Congress about why he thinks the potential agreement with Iran on its nuclear program is a "very bad deal." Leaving aside his fears that lifting sanctions will provide Iran more resources to pursue trouble-making in the Middle East, the prime minister worries that a deal that permits Iran to be a threshold nuclear state will not prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons but actually pave the way for it to do so.

Netanyahu believes that the break-out time for producing weapons-grade uranium will inevitably be too short -- indeed, less than the year President Obama speaks about -- and that inspections of the Iranian program will necessarily be too limited and, in any case, promise no action in the face of violations. Worse, Iran will be treated like Japan or the Netherlands after the agreement expires in 10-15 years, permitting it to build tens of thousands of centrifuges and enabling it to produce

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a weapon at a time of its choosing.

Accepting the mantra that "no deal is better than a bad deal," Netanyahu offers the alternative of insisting on better terms and increasing the pressure on the Iranians until a more credible agreement is reached. He does not fear the Iranians walking away from the negotiating table because, in his words, they need the deal more than the U.S. and its partners.
While the Obama administration is unlikely to accept his argument that it should simply negotiate better and harder, it should not dismiss the concerns he raises about the emerging deal. Indeed, the administration argument that there is no better alternative than the deal it is negotiating begs the question of whether the prospective agreement is acceptable.

And, here, the administration needs to explain why the deal it is trying to conclude actually will prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons for the life-time of the agreement and afterwards. It needs to explain why the combination of the number and quality of centrifuges, their output, and the ship-out from Iran of enriched uranium will, in fact, ensure that the break-out time for the Iranians will not be less than one year. Either this combination adds up or it does not, but there should be an explicit answer to Netanyahu's charge that Iran will be able to break-out much more quickly.

Similarly, there should be an answer on how the verification regime is going to work to ensure that we can detect, even in a larger nuclear program, any Iranian violation of the agreement. The issue of verification is critical not just because Iran's past clandestine nuclear efforts prove it cannot be trusted but also because the administration has made a one year break-out time the key measure of success of the agreement. But we can only be certain that Iran will be one year away from being able to produce a bomb's supply of weapons-grade uranium if we can detect what they are doing when they do it.

Obviously, detection is only part of the equation. We cannot wait to determine what we will do about violations when they happen. Iran must know in advance what the consequences are for violations, particularly if we want to deter them in the first place. And this clearly goes to the heart of Netanyahu's concerns: if he had high confidence that we would impose harsh consequences in response to Iranian violations, including the use of force if we caught Iran dashing toward a weapon, he would be less fearful of the agreement he believes is going to emerge.

But he does not see that, and he fears as with past arms control agreements that we will seek to discuss violations and not respond to them until it is too late. So the administration should address this fear and prove it means what it says by spelling out different categories of violations and the consequences for each -- and then seek congressional authorization to empower this president and his successors to act on these consequences.If applied also to Iranian moves toward a nuclear weapon after the expiration of the deal, the administration would truly be answering the most significant of the concerns that Netanyahu raised. Maybe then, this episode of U.S.-Israeli tension would be overcome.

Dennis Ross, the counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute, served as a senior Middle East advisor to President Obama from 2009 to 2011. This article was made possible in part by support from the Irwin Levy Family Program on the U.S.-Israel Strategic Relationship.

Wall Street Journal - March 4, 2015

What Went Wrong Between the U.S. and Israel–and How to Fix the Alliance

By Brian Katulis and Michael Singh

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U.S.-Israel relations hit their lowest point in decades in the fracas that enveloped Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to Congress . Yet the foundation for bilateral ties is still stable. It includes a long list of shared security goals, continuous and deep engagement across government and society, and strong public support in both countries for working together. These features are in short supply among U.S. partners in the Middle East, and Israel needs all the help it can get–which is why U.S. and Israeli leaders should take steps to repair relations after Israel forms its new government, no matter who leads it.

The crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations is often attributed to an ideological or personal conflict between President Barack Obama and Mr. Netanyahu. But the roots of the crisis run deeper.

The United States and Israel have struggled to adapt their national security strategies to a changed regional landscape. Strategic shocks to the Middle East in the past decade include the rise of Iran's regional influence after the 2003 Iraq war; growing threats from Islamist terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic State (ISIS or ISIL); and the 2011 uprisings that opened the door to a series of transitions in Egypt and Syria's civil war.

Israel and the United States reacted to these shocks differently. President Obama prioritized diplomacy toward Iran and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but otherwise sought distance from regional issues. Israel, having no option to withdraw, hunkered down. Mr. Netanyahu saw U.S. policy as imposing burdens on allies while relieving pressure on adversaries, and paving the way for a deeper disengagement that would leave Israel to fend for itself. Mr. Obama saw Israel as resisting U.S. ideas without offering viable alternatives.

Despite these dynamics, the cliché that the relationship is "indispensable" is true. Israel is a rare sort of ally in today's Middle East: It not only shares U.S. interests but also is willing and able to advance them, easing our burden. For Israel, the U.S. alliance is a national security pillar, conveying strength and support to adversaries that might otherwise be tempted to try to take advantage of Israel's small size and isolation.

This makes repairing the U.S.-Israel relationship a security priority as well as a political matter. Repair efforts should happen in a channel of empowered aides trusted by each side, much as French ambassador Jean-David Levitte and U.S. national security adviser Stephen Hadley were able to repair Franco-American relations in the wake of the Iraq war. Efforts should focus on three key fronts:

1. Iran. The White House must recognize that while Mr. Netanyahu may be the most vociferous critic of U.S. diplomacy with Iran, Israeli concerns are shared by other allies in the region–and this is not the only issue that divides us from allies. A nuclear deal is not assured, nor would one resolve our concerns about Iranian support for terrorism or other destabilizing activities. In addition to securing a worthwhile agreement, we need to reassure allies about continuing U.S. commitment to address these threats. Devising joint strategies for doing so and bolstering our allies' capacity to contribute is a start. The United States has lacked a broader regional strategy for a long time and would benefit from one, regardless of the outcome with Iran.

2. Counterterrorism on Israel's borders. The panoply of terrorist networks operating in Syria, Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, southern Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza pose a threat to Israel and to the U.S. Israel used to worry about Arab strength; now, it fears Arab disarray and weakness. We should not only confront these groups directly but also offer to mutual partners such as Jordan support in the form of military and intelligence cooperation as well as close and early consultation on a shared regional agenda.

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3. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A steadier approach is needed. Washington's ability to advance peace is a function of the extent to which it enjoys the trust of all sides–Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab states–and influence in the region. That trust and influence have receded on every front as each party despairs of reaching a negotiated two-state solution.

The U.S. must be willing to engage in the incremental, unglamorous work of restoring trust–among all sides–to halt the regression of the peace process and rebuild its foundation. For its part, Israel must recognize that bad ideas will continue to fill the diplomatic vacuum as long as it neglects to put forward a plan to resolve the conflict.

Hanging over our agenda is doubt among U.S. allies about our commitment to the region, to our allies and their interests, and to action. The U.S.-Israel alliance is a leading indicator of this commitment and is of surpassing value to U.S. security. Repair efforts will require leaders in both countries to take constructive steps together.*Brian Katulis is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress . Michael Singh is managing director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. From 2005 to 2008, he worked on Middle East issues at the National Security Council.*

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/18/2015 10:33:34 AM
Subject: Tom Blanton Oped

America classifies way too much information — and we are all less safe for it

By Tom Blanton July 31

Tom Blanton is director of the National Security Archive at George Washington University.

Warning: If you hold a security clearance, reading this column could expose you to information that potentially violates your security agreement. Reading this column will certainly expose you to information that is currently classified by some securocrats, though not by others.

The inspectors general of the State Department and the intelligence community have made a security referral to the Justice Department regarding Hillary Clinton's e-mails on the grounds that some of them were "potentially classified."

So is this column.

Watch out: Your clearance is at stake.

Let me get the suspense over with. Here's a classified fact: We, the United States, based medium-range ballistic missiles carrying nuclear warheads in Turkey in 1962, which angered Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev so much that he put his own into Cuba.

Wait: I've read all about that. It's been declassified, hasn't it?

Well, yes. Except — in the immortal words of John F. Kennedy — "there's always some son of a bitch who doesn't get the word."

The word is the Cold War is over, yet Cold War secrecy rules still control the government's information systems.

The Defense Department still can't bring itself to declassify nukes in Turkey, and Italy, and the 50 or so other countries where we idiotically stationed them during the Cold War.

Here at the National Security Archive, in our "Dubious Secrets" series, we have published hundreds of U.S. government documents that one office or official considers declassified, while another insists must stay secret. Whom do you listen to?

We have two versions of the same page of White House e-mail, addressed to then-deputy national security adviser Colin Powell, with the top and bottom blacked out from one review, and the middle blacked out from another, 10 days later. Turns out it was the same reviewer both times. So goes the highly subjective process of classification.

But let's talk about Clinton. Thank goodness she used a private e-mail server when she was secretary of state. If she had used the State Department system, practically none of her e-mail would survive. That's how bad State's electronic archiving was then. Instead, the State Department has 30,000 of her messages, and history is becoming much the wiser. Her critics, not so much.

Now, the same folks who clamored to see those messages seem to want to lock them up in classified vaults. Foolishness. They intend to redact the e-mails, thus putting red flags right on messages that circulated for years in unclassified form, thus highlighting the secrets they contain, if there really are any. Keeping the e-mails unclassified would actually be the best way to protect anything sensitive — through obscurity.

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There were significant efficiency gains for our national security when the secretary of state ran her main e-mail account in unclassified form. No artificial barriers to information sharing. A bright line against including truly classified documents. A standing rebuke to the massive overclassification all around her.

I've seen a couple-million pages of documents that were classified when the government put them on paper or computer screens. I can say from experience that few deserved such consideration.

There are real secrets. This is where I diverge from the Julian Assanges and the Chelsea Mannings of the world. I don't want the designs of binary chemical warheads getting out, nor the identities of any brave Iranian or Chinese voices who talk to our embassies or CIA stations. The bottom lines of our diplomats in negotiations, I think we should keep to ourselves until such time as the deals are done.

But the real secrets make up only a fraction of the classified universe, and no secret deserves immortality. In fact, essential to the whole idea of democratic government is that secret deals with dictators will come out eventually, not least to deter the worst deals from being made.

WikiLeaks produced hysteria in Washington with its large-scale release of U.S. diplomatic cables in 2010. The House Judiciary Committee asked me to talk about whether lawmakers should amend the Espionage Act to prosecute those guys. Bad idea, I said. I predicted that there would be little damage to real national security because most classified cables can be published within a few years with no harm done.

I showed Congress the estimates over the years of how much gets classified that doesn't deserve to be. Ronald Reagan's executive secretary for the National Security Council, Rodney B. McDaniel, said 90 percent. Thomas H. Kean, the Republican head of the 9/11 Commission, said 75 percent of what he saw that was classified should not have been.

In fact, the congressional inquiry into 9/11 concluded that secrecy had kept the American people — our best allies in the fight against terrorism — from engaging with the threat they faced. The only responders with enough information to disrupt any of the Sept. 11 attacks were the passengers on United Flight 93, who heard through their cellphones what was happening on other planes and attempted to retake control of their own, saving who knows how many lives in the process.

The best defense of an open society is open information. We are not safer in the dark.

Those inspectors general poring over Clinton's e-mails need to get back to their transparency and accountability jobs, where they should focus on opening — not closing — the files that will empower a free citizenry to protect our country and ourselves, and hold our leaders to account.

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
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From: "Tom Matzzie" <tom@zzranch.com>
To: "Andrew Baumann" <ABaumann@gqrr.com>
Date: 2/20/2008 5:50:13 AM
Subject: Re: Joe Klein: McCain Soft on al Qaeda

note the hat tip in Klein's column to the National Security Network. good work by Ilan and Rand's team.

On Wed, Feb 20, 2008 at 12:47 PM, Andrew Baumann <ABaumann@gqrr.com > wrote:

In case anyone hasn't seen this, this was quite a piece by Joe Klein on Time.com today:

http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/02/mccain_soft_on_al_qaeda.html

McCain: Soft on Al Qaeda?

A curious passage from John McCain's victory speech last night:

"Or will we risk the confused leadership of **an inexperienced candidate who once suggested invading our ally, Pakistan,** and sitting down without pre-conditions or clear purpose with enemies who support terrorists and are intent on destabilizing the world by acquiring nuclear weapons?"

In time, I'm sure, Barack Obama will explain that any meetings with Iranian leaders will be fully prepped by staff in advance, including advance meetings at the ministerial level...but what about the first part of the quote? **Utter nonsense**. Here's what Obama actually said:

"I understand that President Musharraf has his own challenges. But let me make this clear. There are terrorists holed up in those mountains who murdered 3,000 Americans. They are plotting to strike again. It was a terrible mistake to fail to act when we had a chance to take out an Al Qaeda leadership meeting in 2005. If we have actionable intelligence about high-value terrorist targets and President Musharraf won't act, we will."

And, in fact, Obama was merely saying that he supported current U.S. policy. A month ago, for example, a bomb launched from a CIA predator drone killed the Al Qaeda leader Abu Laith al-Libi *in Pakistan*. Was McCain opposed to that?

The point is, McCain's loose, inaccurate talk continues a sad pattern he has shown on national security matters, particularly with regard to Iraq, where he is a loose cannon, firing off hot-button words like "victory" and "surrender"--words that his hero General David Petraeus has never and would never use. As it now stands, McCain believes that Iraq, where 150,000 U.S. troops are chasing after 3,500 Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia terrorists, is the "central front" in the war against terrorism--and he is on the record opposed to taking military action against the *real* Al Qaeda, which is actively working to destabilize Afghanistan, and Pakistan, and may be planning the next 9/11 in the mountains of Waziristan. Indeed, the election results in Pakistan this week may lead to further instability, perhaps a military coup, which could make U.S. action--action, not invasion--to root out Al Qaeda all the more necessary.

A central foreign policy discussion in the general election should be: Are our troops deployed appropriately to meet the threats we are facing? Should we have more in Afghanistan and fewer in Iraq? (McCain, like Bush, has already ceded his authority as Commander-in-Chief on that decision to Petraeus, whom, he says, should have the last word on troop levels in Iraq--an abdication of authority that raises deep questions about McCain's ability to conduct a coherent national security policy.)

In sum, John McCain, who claims to take national security seriously, made a foolish statement to score political points last night. At the very least, I hope he retracts it and joins Obama in the effort to defeat Al Qaeda.

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Andrew Baumann

Analyst

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From: "Gene Karpinski, League of Conservation Voters" <josh_hicks@lcv.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/31/2012 8:59:20 AM
Subject: Trick or Treat?

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Dear John,

Happy Halloween!

With only 6 days to go before the election, the race to the White House continues to tighten. Whether or not November 6th is a trick or a treat depends on just a few key states and races across the country.

We simply have to stop Mitt Romney and his Dirty Energy allies from gaining control. I don't think I have to tell you how devastating a President Romney would be for the environmental movement. Thanks to your steadfast support of LCV and LCV Victory Fund, we have continued to run a highly effective and targeted campaign in some of the tightest races in the country.

As you will see below, we recently and significantly have expanded our efforts. We are still trying to raise a final $250,000 for LCV Victory Fund in these closing days.

With deep appreciation,

Gene

Presidential and Senate Races Remain Close

LCV has been able to go back into important key states to make one final push for President Obama and some of our environmental champions in the Senate.

– In Colorado, LCV announced a new $850,000 television ad campaign re-launching an ad featuring a former employee of a local wind turbine manufacturing plant who says he "got laid off because Mitt Romney and his friends in Congress want to eliminate tax credits for wind energy." The ad features Chris Maese of Pueblo, Colo., who built wind turbines at Vestas' Pueblo facility. Vestas is the world's largest wind turbine manufacturer. In the ad, Maese talks about how Romney's opposition to extending the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind energy helped cause his layoff in August. The ad is airing in the Denver media market through Election Day.

– In Arizona, LCV Victory Fund and Majority PAC launched a new $1.2 million television ad campaign outlining the risks of sending former uranium mining lobbyist Jeff Flake to the Senate. Flake has worked in Congress to allow mining for radioactive uranium near the Grand Canyon and Colorado River, which would endanger the drinking water of 25 million Americans, while taking campaign cash from his mining industry allies. The ad, "Two Jobs," is airing through Election Day.

– In Virginia, earlier this week, LCV and Majority PAC launched an $800,000 ad buy in Virginia against George Allen. The ad targets George Allen's cozy relationship with special interests like the oil and gas industry. The ad will run through Election Day in key markets in Virginia. You can view the ad, "Worked for Them," by clicking here .

– In Wisconsin, LCV has announced its involvement in the Wisconsin Senate race with a $1 million dollar ad buy designed to help make Tammy Baldwin the next United States Senator. LCV is launching two ads that will air through Election Day. "Cash ," running in the Milwaukee media market, highlights how Tommy Thompson cashed in when he joined a lobbying firm in Washington. "Allies ," running in the Madison media market, outlines how Baldwin has worked with President Obama to create clean energy jobs and would build on those efforts in the United States Senate.

Update on Massachusetts Senate Race

I'm sure you are following the Massachusetts Senate race as closely as I am at this point. Most of the recent polls seem to be pointing in a good direction. LCV made the decision to spend over $1 million dollars to help send Elizabeth Warren to the US Senate. Here are a couple highlights of what we are doing:

- LCV kicked off our campaign late this summer with an unprecedented field effort to reach swing voters in the Boston suburbs. We've already knocked on nearly 200,000 doors and we're continuing to expand our campaign.

- We also launched a four-part mail program to expose Brown's ties to Big Oil and his 278 votes against President Obama's agenda. This targeted program will reach 150,000 persuadable households across the

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state.

Update on the Michigan Clean Energy Ballot Measure

The only place in which clean energy will be explicitly on the ballot in November is in Michigan, where the voters will decide on Proposition 3, which would increase the state's production of clean renewable energy to 25 percent by 2025.

Both major utilities in Michigan are fiercely opposing the initiative, which is supported by labor unions, nurses, environmental groups and a broad array of organizations. In a year where oil and coal companies have spent millions of dollars attacking clean energy, passing Proposition 3 in a Midwestern industrial state like Michigan would send a clear message that clean energy is central to rebuilding the economy and creating millions of good-paying jobs. LCV is working closely with Michigan LCV in this critical campaign, which has recently received the endorsement from former President Bill Clinton.

Please check out my op-ed earlier this month on this important issue by clicking here .

LCV Action Fund Surpasses $2.1 million raised with *GiveGreen*

LCV Action Fund has now raised and contributed over $2.1 million in support of environmental candidates this cycle, thanks to many of you, and it continues to increase. If you haven't yet done so, **now is the time to donate as generously as you can to pro-environment political candidates.** For environmental voters like you, the best giving strategy is to "bundle" your contributions with contributions from others who share your environmental values. Bundling through LCV Action Fund's *GiveGreen* magnifies the power of your contribution by calling attention to the environmental values that drive you to support the candidate in the first place. Visit www.givegreen.com today to support LCV Action Fund's featured environmental champions.

Join Us for LCV's Post-Election Report, Analysis, and Discussion

What impact did you and LCV have on the outcome of the 2012 elections? What does the new political landscape mean for the environment? Please join LCV senior political strategists for an in-depth analysis of the election results and for a preview of what we can expect in the months ahead. **The call will be held on Thursday, November 8th at 2 p.m. EST.** To receive the call-in number, please contact Josh Hicks at (202) 454-4565 or Josh_Hicks@lcv.org.

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	2/22/2015 9:04:18 AM
Subject:	2.22.15 HRC Clips
Attachments:	20150222 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
February 22, 2015

HRC

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The making of Hillary 5.0: Marketing wizards help reimagine Clinton brand (The Washington Post)
By Philip Rucker and Anne Gearan
February 22, 2015
The Washington Post

Is Hillary Rodham Clinton a McDonald's Big Mac or a Chipotle burrito bowl? A can of Bud or a bottle of Blue Moon? JCPenney or J. Crew?

As she readies her second presidential campaign, Clinton has recruited consumer marketing specialists onto her team of trusted political advisers. Their job is to help imagine Hillary 5.0 - the rebranding of a first lady turned senator turned failed presidential candidate turned secretary of state turned likely 2016 Democratic presidential nominee.

Clinton and her image-makers are sketching ways to refresh the well- established brand for tomorrow's marketplace. In their mission to present voters with a winning picture of the likely candidate, no detail is too big or too small - from her economic opportunity agenda to the design of the "H" in her future campaign logo.

"It's exactly the same as selling an iPhone or a soft drink or a cereal," said Peter Sealey, a longtime corporate marketing strategist. "She needs to use everything a brand has: a dominant color, a logo, a symbol. . . . The symbol of a Mercedes is a three-pointed star. The symbol of Coca-Cola is the contour bottle. The symbol of McDonald's is the golden arches. What is Clinton's symbol?"

Clinton's challenge is unique. Unlike potential Republican challengers of relatively middling fame who are introducing themselves to a national audience for the first time, Clinton is almost universally recognized. Love her or loathe her, potential voters know who she is after more than two decades in public life.

Or they think they know.

As Clinton and her advisers conceptualize her 2016 image, her own history shows the potential for peril.

In politics, authenticity can be a powerful trait, and it is one that sometimes has escaped Clinton. In her 2008 presidential campaign, despite some raw displays of emotion, she often came across as overly programmed.

In 2016, a challenge for Clinton will be adapting to the political moment with a fresh image while remaining true to her settled identity. "Look at Budweiser," said a former campaign adviser to President Obama, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to talk candidly. "That's what Hillary Clinton is. She's not a microbrew. She's one of the biggest, most powerful brands ever in the country, and recognizing that is important."

Ahead of her campaign launch, Clinton has tapped some of the Democratic Party's star strategists as well as two of corporate America's branding wizards: Wendy Clark, who specializes in marketing age-old brands such as Coca-Cola to younger and more diverse customers; and Roy Spence, a decades-long Clinton friend who dreamed up the "Don't Mess With Texas" anti-littering slogan as well as flashy ad campaigns for Southwest Airlines and Wal-Mart.

Clark took an unpaid leave in January from Coca-Cola, where she is president of brands and strategic marketing for carbonated beverages in North America, to help Clinton in what Clark called "a passion project." Spence is co-founder and chairman of GSD&M, an Austin-based corporate ad firm, and has experience in politics, including with Clinton's 2008 campaign.

Clinton's words suggest that her 2016 campaign will stress economic fairness - the level playing field for the middle class implied by her Twitter message last month praising Obama's State of the Union address. "Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class. #FairShot #FairShare," Clinton wrote.

But the plans for Clinton's rebranding are not yet clear, nor are the influences of the Madison Avenue sensibility Clark and Spence bring to her operation.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill declined to comment on the branding strategy or the specific work of Clark and Spence.

People familiar with Clinton's preparations said Clark and Spence are focused on developing imaginative ways to "let Hillary be Hillary," as one person said, and help her make emotional connections with voters.

"I just want America to know the Hillary Clinton I know," said Jerry Crawford, a friend and the Iowa chairman of Clinton's 2008 campaign. "I want as many people as possible to get to know the woman I've seen behind closed doors. She's bright, disciplined, quick to throw her head back and laugh - just a very, very attractive person."

Spence, who got to know Bill and Hillary Clinton when they worked in Texas on George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign, tried to steer Clinton out of a rough patch in 2008 after her early losses to Obama. He is credited with her provocative "3 a.m. phone call" ad but also with soft-focus initiatives to reveal what he called "Hillary's heart."

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Mark McKinnon, a friend and competitor of Spence and a media strategist with George W. Bush's presidential campaigns, said: "Spence and Clark have a lot of experience refreshing established, well-known brands like AT&T, Coca-Cola and Wal-Mart. Should come in handy."

Spence and Clark have been credited with creating three- dimensional personalities around otherwise dull consumer brands. At Coca-Cola, Clark spearheaded the "Share a Coke" campaign to put names such as Brittany and Zach on soda cans, a marketing move that boosted sales among millennials. Spence helped DoubleTree Hotels make the freshly baked chocolate chip cookies the chain serves guests upon check-in an icon for its sales pitch of warm comfort for beleaguered travelers.

But Fred Davis, a Republican advertising guru, said that if Clinton's rebranding "seems like a craven attempt to try to put fresh paint on an old house, then it will backfire."

"I think most voters are actually pretty intelligent, and they'll see through any blatant attempt to change," Davis said. "Her only hope, to me, is not a rebranding, but it's actual policy positions and ideas that are fresh and new - and because those are fresh and new, voters might think, 'Wait a minute, I'm going to give her another chance.' "

Some Clinton allies agreed. They dismissed the suggestion that refreshing her brand alone will make the candidate seem current. They said Clinton's paramount challenge is to answer two questions: why she is the right person to step into the Oval Office, and what she would do when she's there. If she does that, they said, her image will take care of itself.

"I don't think people are looking for someone who's being reinvented or rebranded," said Steve Elmendorf, a top Democratic lobbyist who was a strategist for Clinton's 2008 bid and other presidential campaigns. "This is somebody they know, whom they have confidence in, and the question is, can she lead us to a better place over the next four years? That's her biggest challenge. What are the new ideas? . . . It can't be yesterday's program."

Sealey, who is credited with the successful "Always Coca-Cola" campaign in the 1990s, said that Clinton, like Coke, "has incredible top-of-mind awareness, and it's a huge asset."

"The issue is: What is her promise?" he said. "With Mercedes, it's quality. With Volvo, it's safety. With Coca-Cola, it's refreshment. If you can get her promise down to one word, that's the key."

Spence's business partner, Haley Rushing, said their approach to all clients, corporate and political, "starts with them at the center," rather than market trends. "We always start from the inside out, not the outside in," she said.

Rushing and Spence co-founded the Purpose Institute, where Rushing's title is "chief purposeologist" and the staffers act as "organizational therapists" uncovering the central purposes of their client organizations. Rushing said she is not working on the Clinton effort but that she envisions a Clinton brand built around years of experience. She said, "Everything emanates from, 'What is Hillary's purpose in the world?' "

Clinton has faced that question before, with mixed results.

After a complicated tenure as first lady, Clinton reinvented herself as a potholes-and-pork senator from her adopted state of New York. Then she ran for president as a tough woman in the mold of Margaret Thatcher. Failing that, she had a careful run as the country's top diplomat under Obama that allies believe raised her stature.

Perhaps her most significant rebranding came in 2000, when she became a popular elected official in her own right after her husband's Monica Lewinsky scandal and after a controversial tenure as first lady. Clinton was ridiculed as a dilettante and a carpetbagger, but she won over critics, even some Republicans, with a dogged commitment to local issues.

In 2008, however, Clinton's rebranding went badly, starting with a misreading of the zeitgeist that had her stressing her commander-in-chief qualifications when the public preferred Obama's promise of hope and change.

Clinton's advisers were divided then about how to bust the caricature of Clinton as remote and brittle. Some begged Clinton to reprise a campaign feature that had charmed New York voters, in which she stayed in ordinary people's homes while traveling around the state. But Clinton insisted that doing so in Iowa or New Hampshire would come across as forced.

Similarly, an online compilation of testimonials meant to showcase Clinton's humanity and relatability fell flat. Too cheesy, some advisers said; at odds with her strength-and-competence message, others said.

A rebranding that stuck: Clinton's workmanlike turn as secretary of state, during which she visited more countries than most of her predecessors - and used her celebrity to draw attention to women's empowerment and human rights issues.

Now, Clinton will try to refresh her image once more so that voters see her as a champion for the middle class amid deep concerns about income inequality. Rohit Deshpande, a marketing professor at Harvard Business School, offered a fast-food giant as a case study.

"Refresh with the times is the issue McDonald's is facing right now," he said. "It's considered tired, and the marketplace has

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moved on."

Fabian Geyrhalter, a corporate branding consultant, also drew a parallel between McDonald's and Clinton: "There has been a brand value proposition over so many years, and suddenly she needs to shift that legacy into Clinton 2016: 'This is what I stand for now.' "

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For Clinton, Her Family Foundation May Pose Campaign Risks (Associated Press)
By Ken Thomas
February 22, 2015
Associated Press

The foundation launched by former President Bill Clinton more than a decade ago has battled HIV and AIDS in Africa, educated millions of children and fed the poor and hungry around the globe. It also has the potential to become a political risk for Hillary Rodham Clinton as she moves toward a second presidential campaign.

The former secretary of state has struggled with some recent bad headlines over large donations given to the foundation by foreign governments in the past two years, and the $200 million-plus the organization has raised since 2013, ahead of her anticipated White House campaign.

Republicans contend that foreign governments donating to a foundation led by a potential U.S. president creates unacceptable conflicts of interests. Also, the involvement of big money reinforces a long-standing narrative pushed by the GOP of the Clintons as a couple who frequently mix business and politics.

"Unless Hillary Clinton immediately reinstates the ban on foreign countries giving to her foundation and returns the millions of dollars these governments have already donated, she's setting an incredibly dangerous precedent," said the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Reince Priebus. "The American people are not about to elect a president in Hillary Clinton who could expose them to the demands of foreign governments because they dumped massive sums of cash into her foundation."

The foundation, which is scheduled to hold events in Morocco and Greece this spring, defended its financial support and addressed how it might function if Clinton runs for president. If she seeks office again, something taken as a given by most, the foundation said it would ensure its policies and practices are "appropriate, just as we did when she served as secretary of state."

In 2009, when Clinton became President Barack Obama's chief diplomat, the foundation stopped raising money from foreign governments. The fundraising involving non-U.S. entities resumed in 2013, after she left the his administration.

The Wall Street Journal last week reported the foundation had received money in 2014 from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman and others. The Washington Post reported the charity has raised nearly $2 billion since the former president started it in 2001. About one-third of its donations of $1 million or more come from foreign governments or non-U.S. entities, the newspaper found.

Democrats say the Clintons can defend their work at the foundation because of its track record and history of tackling some of the world's biggest problems, from AIDS and clean water to hunger, educational opportunities and the protection of endangered wildlife.

They also note that the foundation voluntarily discloses its donors — nonprofits are not required to do — and say there is no evidence the Clintons have used it to enrich themselves. Nearly 90 percent of the foundation's money goes toward its programming.

"The foundation has done amazing work," said Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy, a Democrat who campaigned with Bill Clinton last year. "It has been a unifying force in our national affairs and in our international affairs."

Yet the influx of corporate and foreign money just before a potential Hillary Clinton campaign has caused some anxiety within her party.

"There was a reason they stopped taking foreign government donations when Hillary was secretary of state," said Mike Carberry, a Johnson County, Iowa, supervisor and former county Democratic chairman. He said the foundation should reinstate the policies used from 2009 to 2013. "It doesn't seem right."

The foundation has strong ties with several corporations and other large foundations. Last September's annual meeting in New York was sponsored by an array of companies that regularly lobby the federal government, including financial firms HSBC Bank USA, Barclays and Deutsche Bank, as well as Fortune 500 companies such as Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Monsanto, Procter & Gamble and ExxonMobil.

Goldman Sachs, whose corporate officers have played leading roles in the Treasury Department in recent years, has worked with the Clinton Foundation on the 10,000 Women Initiative aimed at helping female entrepreneurs around the globe access capital.

Many of the same donors to the Clintons' political campaigns have given money to the foundation. Dennis Cheng, a former Hillary Clinton campaign fundraiser, recently left the foundation as its chief development officer and is expected to be a top fundraiser for her expected campaign.

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The examination of the foundation's finances come as many Democrats want Clinton to take on a more populist economic agenda that would demand more oversight of Wall Street firms. It also follows efforts by Democrats to scrutinize Republican Mitt Romney's business practices in 2012 and tie Republican candidates to millions of dollars provided by the Koch Brothers and their business interests.

Beyond the headlines, many Democrats say it shows the need for Clinton to begin actively campaigning and build an apparatus better suited to rapidly respond to these types of critiques.

"There's a vacuum," said Tom Henderson, the chairman of the Polk County, Iowa, Democrats, who noted potential candidates such as former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb are visiting soon. "She isn't doing anything" in Iowa, he said.

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Hillary, Jeb and $$$$$$ (The New York Times)
By Frank Bruni
February 22, 2015
The New York Times

LAST week began with the comedy extravaganza of the "Saturday Night Live" reunion, but not one of its sketches or jokes was half as funny as four words three days later by Jeb Bush.

"I'm my own man," he said.

And he kept a straight face somehow.

The remark came during a foreign policy speech in Chicago, and he was making clear that he was no slave to the policies and priorities of his father, the 41st president, or his older brother, the 43rd.

I'll buy that.

But immediately following the speech, donors sought to buy him.

It was estimated that at back-to-back fund-raisers, he hauled in about $4 million for his Right to Rise PAC and for a "super PAC" that supports him.

This was on top of another $4 million that he reportedly netted the previous week in one evening alone at the Manhattan home of a private equity bigwig. After Manhattan came the Washington, D.C., area, where he racked up $1 million at two events, according to Politico . An atlas of cities, an avalanche of dough: It's what successful campaigns are made of, and his is expected to raise between $50 million and $100 million over a span of three months.

Those dollars come with expectations. Money almost always does.

Bush is no more his own man than Hillary Clinton is her own woman. And in her case, too, I'm not talking about the imprint of her family, specifically a husband who served two terms in the White House and still looms impossibly large and loquacious on the post-presidential stage.

I'm talking about financial ties — past, present, future. I'm talking about the reality, growing ever more pronounced and ominous, that you can't run for a major, fiercely contested political office in this country without becoming a monstrous, ceaseless, insatiable Hoover of money.

The Clintons suck it in like no one before them, with a dearth of caution that boggles the mind. Stories in The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post last week tabulated and detailed the fund-raising of the Clinton Foundation over the last decade and a half, calculating that it had raised $2 billion.

And the sources of some of that money should give us pause. As The Wall Street Journal reported , "Recent donors include the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Australia, Germany and a Canadian government agency promoting the Keystone XL pipeline."

There are firm and necessary laws against American candidates accepting foreign donations. There's no such prohibition for a philanthropy like the Clinton Foundation, which undeniably does much essential, heroic work around the globe.

But it's a philanthropy headed by a woman who's most likely running for president and by her husband and daughter. Their requests and their gratitude cannot be separated entirely from politics. There's inevitable overlap and blending.

As The Washington Post wrote, the foundation "has given contributors entree, outside the traditional political arena, to a possible president. Foreign donors and countries that are likely to have interests before a potential Clinton administration — and yet are ineligible to give to U.S. political campaigns — have affirmed their support for the family's work through the charitable giving."

And this isn't some minor wrinkle of the foundation's structure and workings. "A third of foundation donors who have given more than $1 million are foreign governments or other entities based outside the United States, and foreign donors make up more than half of those who have given more than $5 million," according to The Post's analysis.

That analysis also showed that "donations from the financial services sector" represented the "largest share of corporate donors." In other words, the foundation is cozy with Wall Street, which has also funneled Clinton some of her enormous speaking fees.

The Journal noted that "at least 60 companies that lobbied the State Department during her tenure donated a total of more

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than $26 million to the Clinton Foundation."

A few prominent Democrats with whom I spoke were spooked, not because they believed that Clinton would feel a pressing need to repay these kindnesses, but because the eventual Republican nominee had just been handed a potent weapon against her.

And in the income-inequality era, how does a candidate crowned with this many dollar signs put herself forward persuasively as a woman of the people and a champion of the underdog?

THE answer — and her salvation — may be that we've all become so accustomed to the tide of money washing through politics that we just assume all candidates to be equally (and thoroughly) wet. We give in. And we stop acknowledging frequently or urgently enough that American elections, which should be contests of ideas and character, are as much (if not more) contests of cold, hard cash.

Certainly those of us in the news media are somewhat guilty of this, because something that's no longer new is no longer news.

Sure, we publish stories about the dizzying, obscene heights of spending by major donors, like one written in The Times last month by Nicholas Confessore. He noted that the Koch brothers had drawn up a budget of $889 million for the 2016 election cycle.

But we discuss the damage being done to Chris Christie's presidential dreams by the defection of potential donors without digressing to underscore the perversity of a small circle of people having so much consequence.

We report, as we did in January, on how well or poorly Rand Paul, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz performed when they spoke at a gathering put together by the Kochs in Southern California. But we don't flag the oddity of these auditions, the chilling bizarreness of the way the road to the White House winds not only through the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary but also through plutocrats' posh retreats.

An astonishing bounty of the comments and developments that make headlines emanate from the arena of fund-raising. We learned that Mitt Romney might enter the 2016 race because he was telling donors as much, and we learned that he had decided otherwise because he was letting donors know. In neither instance did we take sufficient note of that.

We articulate misgivings about how much of Clinton's or Bush's thinking may be rooted in the past. But the bigger issue, given the scope of not just their own political histories but also their relatives', is how heavy a duffel of i.o.u.s each of them would carry into office.

Their prominence is commensurate with their debts. And only so many of those can be forgotten.

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Hillary Clinton And The Not Too Bitter, Not Too Smooth, Just Right Primary (Huffington Post)
By Jason Linkins
February 22, 2015
Huffington Post

It shouldn't be controversial to say that at this point in the 2016 race, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton enjoys virtually every possible advantage in the Democratic primary field. She's the best-known candidate with the highest level of name recognition and visibility. She has a long-nurtured campaign apparatus and the ability to call campaign infrastructure into being on the fly. Against the rest of the Democratic field, she's the overwhelming favorite in every poll that's ever been conducted.

Of course, anytime we talk about a "Democratic field," we should really say, "insofar as one exists." Her competition -- so far a dimly lit constellation of long shots (and perhaps the current vice president) -- isn't shaping up as a particularly robust challenge. Clinton plays a role in that simply by looming on the landscape. As has been discussed previously, Clinton has the power to "freeze the field" -- meaning that her dominance is such that Democratic party elites and mega-donors are loath to invest in a competitor, creating a sort of vicious cycle in which no viable competitors can truly present themselves.

There is a very real possibility that Clinton could face only a nominal challenge in a Democratic primary, and potentially none at all. And that's produced an interesting phenomenon among the members of the political media who, expecting a competitive primary to generate monetizable content and grist for "The Narrative," find themselves somewhere in the middle of a story that doesn't seem to have started. This is how you can understand the constant attention given to Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren -- a woman who is not running for president -- as a "foil" for Clinton. Every great protagonist needs an antagonist, and the political press would dearly love, if possible, to will one into being.

Elsewhere, there are the Hot Takes, suffused by the media's drug of choice, counter-intuition. Are all the advantages that Clinton secretly holds actually disadvantages in disguise? Is Clinton's ability to quelch all viable contenders for the Democratic nomination actually the Achilles heel that will lead to her undoing? A better question might be: Are all the people offering that opinion simply planting a flag for a future "Told ya so" story down the line?

I think it's fair to say that most of us, if we wanted something important (like, say, a job), wouldn't spend much time regretting the news that we were the only person in the running. Just about everyone would prefer to win in a blowout. At the same time, there is something that we all understand instinctually about the nature of competition: It tests mettle. And the old eyeball test informs us of the virtues of tested mettle. When we look at the 27-1 Gonzaga University men's basketball team alongside the other basketball teams in the top four of the NCAA's national rankings, many of us downgrade the Bulldogs because we know that they didn't play against the same level of competition as Kentucky, Virginia and Duke did. So, in the back of our mind, Gonzaga looms as a paper tiger.

That said, eventually Gonzaga is going to have ample opportunity to show that they're superior to their competition -- just like Clinton will, even if she runs in an uncontested primary.

Of course, the fact that there isn't already vigorous competition for Clinton to face tells us a few potentially ominous things. First and foremost, it shows that the Democratic Party's bench is not terribly deep right now. Elections are, at bottom, a competition of ideas -- one in which a losing candidate's vision may persist beyond the candidate's own electoral hopes. That's a good thing for any political party. Furthermore, a quickly decided primary could negatively impact state-level political organizing, which in turn would impact the vitality of down-ticket campaigns.

But let's stick with the question: Is Hillary running virtually unopposed a bad thing? As Vox's Matt Yglesias points out, having a competitive primary means "real debates, real media strategy, real policy rollouts, and all the other accompaniments of a presidential nominating congress." He goes on to note that "competition" in this instance goes well beyond simply having other credible opponents:

A vigorous primary campaign is a means through which, among other things, the key potential vulnerabilities in a candidate's biography get aired. Was Clinton lying about her opposition to gay marriage the way David Axelrod says Obama was? Have too many years at the pinnacle of American politics left her out of touch with middle class struggles? Can she distance herself from Obama administration foreign policy initiatives that didn't work out (settlement freeze? Russia reset?) without sounding disloyal or ineffectual? Can she answer questions about the complicated finances underlying her husband's foundation?
As long as she's "not running," we just don't know. And the closer she gets to obtaining the nomination without answering the questions, the more vulnerable the position she leaves herself in for the general election.
Here's the thing: All of that is smart-sounding stuff. It's thoughtful argument that appeals to our instincts. You can take that to a Beltway soiree or the set of a Sunday morning talk show, and with a little charm, you'll hold up. And yet, it's still really just gut feelings. It's still that instinct that pushes you to take an at-large team from the ACC deeper in the tourney than the one-loss Western Conference champions -- a good enough gamble that could, nonetheless, leave your bracket in tatters.

And it's worth pointing out that over on the GOP side, Republican elites are making their own set of gambles with their primary. The Republican National Committee's interpretation of their 2012 cycle woes has led them to believe that the long primary cost them dearly. The RNC believes that their primary afforded too many fleeting also-rans too much media coverage, that the

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length of the competition provided too many opportunities for their party to be shown in a bad light, and that ultimately, everything conspired to force their nominee into a bunch of positions from which the extrication was too difficult. They have, subsequently, undertaken a number of moves to "fix" this problem, and while they've not created a situation in which one candidate has a massive advantage over everyone else, it's still a drive toward limiting the competition, all based on some gut feelings.

Can we get closer to the truth of how, if at all, a competitive primary brings benefits -- or pitfalls -- to candidates? Well, if we turn to political science, there seems to be one constant notion: A competitive primary is very good for candidates, right up to where the competitive primary becomes a divisive primary, at which point the benefits of competition tend to fade.

The virtues of competitive primaries are hotly debated, as it turns out. Back in February of 2008, The Monkey Cage's John Sides embarked on an exploration of the topic, noting that the most relevant research at the time pointed to other factors as being far more determinative of success in a general election. From a gambler's point of view, the health of the economy and the popular regard for the presidential incumbent matter a lot more than what happens during a primary.

But Josh Putnam, proprietor of Frontloading HQ, nevertheless saw something interesting in the notion that a competitive primary could take a dark, blowback-producing turn. Just as the RNC concluded after the 2012 cycle, the factor that fascinated Putnam in 2008 was timing -- the notion that on a long enough timeline, a competitive primary eventually, maybe inevitably, turns divisive. Per Putnam:

At what point does the positive competitiveness of the race for delegates turn into the negative, party-splitting divisiveness? Should Clinton do well in Ohio and Texas on Tuesday, then 2008 may have reached that point for the Democrats. But in the Super Tuesday era (1988/1992-2004), no challenger has been afforded such an opportunity. That era was marked by frontrunners who were able to snuff out insurgencies before competitiveness turned to divisiveness. ... [Walter] Mondale quelled Gary Hart before a movement started (No, this isn't within the era I defined above but it is a good example.). George W. Bush kept [John] McCain at bay. And [John] Kerry silenced John Edwards. Competitiveness yielded to reality in all three cases before divisiveness took hold or could attempt to take hold.
It's almost as if there's a sort of "uncanny valley" phenomenon happening, in which competition elevates everyone until it gets too hot or turns too personal. There's a sweet spot: Ideally, you want your level of competition to be challenging, but not bedeviling. You want the primary race to look like a collegial bit of tire-kicking, not a campaign in which you're sending arsonists out to torch the rival dealership. So maybe all of the people who continually pen that "Elizabeth Warren versus Hillary Clinton" fan fiction are onto something, instinctually: They have a sense that the Jim Webbs and Martin O'Malleys of the world might not make it out of Iowa and that Clinton needs someone who can stay in the game long enough to make it to Super Tuesday. But not much further than that.

In the end, that data-driven conclusion about competitive primaries that we really want remains elusive -- or at the very least, not strong enough to talk us out of our horse-sense feelings on the matter. But let's return to one last study, cited by The Monkey Cage's Jonathan Robinson, about that 2008 competition between Clinton and Barack Obama:

Using a survey that tracked individual voters from the primary to the general election, Michael Henderson, D. Sunshine Hillygus, and Trevor Thompson ... examine whether and why Clinton supporters did or did not support Obama in the general election. They find that 71% of Clinton supporters ended up voting for Obama. Moreover, supporters of Clinton and the other Democratic candidates were no more likely to stay home on Election Day. The most important factors that predicted a vote for McCain among supporters of the other Democratic candidates were not frustration with the primary election's outcome but ideology and political issues, especially the Iraq War.
All of that suggests that even though the 2008 Democratic primary got fiercely competitive, it still stoked an energy that lasted throughout the election cycle, ensuring that Democratic voters stayed engaged over the long haul. Perhaps what a political party, ideally, wants out of a primary is a contest where the competitiveness fosters some amount of voter engagement without tipping into a grotesque spectacle that leaves those who had engaged with it feeling nauseous, discouraged and just plain done with politics for the year.

Handled the right way, a contested primary creates a number of "products" organically that would need to be manufactured by other means in a non-contested primary. Competition helps to present those Big Ideas to the electorate, a vision of the future for which to fight. It breeds passion and gets voters to start using those muscles of commitment, which eventually get them out of the house and to the polls on Election Day. Perhaps most importantly, it allows the candidates to make connections with those activist members of the electorate, who'll use their muscles to make sure those committed voters know how to get to those polls on time.

At this point, it sure looks like Hillary Clinton can grab the nomination without too much trouble. Trouble is, some trouble might be a nice thing to have.

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One Thing That Might Surprise You About Hillary Clinton (ABC News)
By Benjamin Bell
February 21, 2015
ABC News

This week, we asked Amy Chozick, national political reporter for the The New York Times, who covers Hillary Clinton, about when the former secretary of state might announce her 2016 intentions, her possible competition and one thing that surprised Chozick about Clinton.

1] Hillary Clinton has not said she is running for president, although obviously many people assume she will. If she does, what do we know about when she might announce?

Amy Chozick: The conventional wisdom is that she would establish some sort of exploratory committee to begin raising money in April. She could then do a splashy public rollout of an official campaign later in the spring or early summer. But the exploratory committee would give Clinton the legal apparatus to begin to raise and spend money for a political campaign.

2] Clinton's Twitter account has been closely watched since she started tweeting. Do we know who is in control of that account and the strategy behind it?

Amy Chozick: I think we might be overanalyzing. Clinton, apparently, handles her own Twitter account and enjoys the medium. Just look what it did for her with the "Texts from Hillary" meme. Tweeting allows her to comment (albeit in 140 characters) on events of the day in a very controlled, but heavily disseminated way. That beats the unpredictability of a press conference, at least for now.

3] The New York Times reported Clinton met with Sen. Elizabeth Warren in December. Do they [team Clinton] perceive her as a threat to a possible Clinton candidacy for president? And if so, how large? Also, is there a specific Republican that team Clinton perceives would pose the biggest challenge to Clinton should she decide to run and secure the nomination?

Amy Chozick: Sen. Warren says she is not running for president, but she has had a significant impact on the national conversation, especially about Wall Street and inequality and how Clinton and the Democratic Party writ large address those issues. On the Republican side, Jeb Bush is currently perceived as the biggest threat. He has name recognition, appeals to Latinos, and has deep coffers and some centrist appeal.

4] At this point, who are Clinton's closest advisers? Should Clinton decide to run for president, who might be at the top of the power structure? Who might run her campaign?

Amy Chozick: Many of the same loyal aides who have been with Clinton since the White House (when her team was known as Hillaryland) continue to serve as her closest advisers, but a lot of newcomers will come on board for a 2016 campaign. John Podesta, who worked in former President Bill Clinton and President Obama's administrations, is expected to serve as a campaign chairman.

5] Covering Clinton, what is one thing that has surprised you about her?

Amy Chozick: Hmm. She likes to drink. We were on the campaign trail in 2008 and the press thought she was just taking shots to pander to voters in Pennsylvania. Um, no.

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Hillary Clinton's Nixonian strategy of lying low (CNN)
By Dan Merica
February 20, 2015
CNN

Washington (CNN)Few White House hopefuls would ever want to be compared to former President Richard Nixon, but some of Hillary Clinton's pre-campaign moves -- or lack thereof -- are reminiscent of the 37th president.

As Clinton eyes another run at the presidency in 2016, some close to her -- especially those who are cheering reports she may wait until summer to officially announce a bid -- point to Nixon's successful 1968 presidential bid as a positive sign, particularly how Nixon's public operation went dark for about six months before entering the race.

Despite being the presumed Democratic front-runner since Obama was reelected in 2012, Clinton has been largely absent from the public spotlight since the midterms wrapped in November 2014. And with the exception of the occasional paid speech and non-profit event, she could lie-low through the spring, a months-long hiatus similar to one Nixon took more than fifty years ago before winning the presidency for the first time.

READ: Clinton Foundation defends foreign donations

In "The Greatest Comeback: How Richard Nixon Rose from Defeat to Create the New Majority," author and longtime Nixon aide Patrick Buchanan retells the debate and intrigue around Nixon deciding to take a six-month hiatus from presidential politics ahead of the 1968 election.

The comparisons to Clinton, while not perfect -- she is the same young lawyer who worked as an aide on the Nixon impeachment trial of the former president -- are obvious.

Clinton is the favorite to win the Democratic nomination in 2016 and has already had to deal with attacks about her not being a "fresh face." A CNN/ORC poll out Wednesday found that Clinton leads the field with a whopping 61%. Both candidates have unsuccessfully sought the presidential nomination before and held high profile West Wing positions elevating their status and name recognition.

Nixon, who had then served a vice president for eight years but lost in the 1960 presidential election and the 1962 California gubernatorial race, was seen as the overwhelming favorite to win the Republican nomination in 1968. There was strong competition -- notably from then Michigan Gov. George Romney -- but none had the support Nixon had.

That is why, according to Buchanan, it was shocking when Nixon told an interviewer that after the 1966 midterm elections he was "going to take a holiday from politics for at least six months."

"Is it really wise to cede the field to Romney and lock ourselves into a six-month moratorium with no flexibility," Buchanan recalls asking Nixon.

Nixon pointedly responded: "Let 'em chew on him for a little while."

"That is what he expected the press to do to George. Romney, and that is what the press did," Buchanan writes. "The new year would prove an annus horribilis for the governor of Michigan."

Buchanan adds: Nixon knew "if he started out on a presidential campaign in 1967, even as an unannounced candidate... the press and public would tire of him and begin looking about for the 'fresh face.' Thus he would back away and not appear center stage as a candidate until more than a year later. ... It was a risky strategy and, judging by the results, a brilliant one."

Nixon would go on to narrowly win the 1968 election over Democrat Hubert Humphrey, but more importantly, he emerged from the Republican nomination process as the clear winner, trouncing Nelson Rockefeller, Ronald Reagan and Romney.

Buchanan, who ran for president three times, said he does see some of Nixon's strategy in Clinton.

"I see her more looking at the scene, asking, 'Why move now,'" he said. "I think that whole idea is absence makes the heart grow fonder."

He added that he wasn't surprised Clinton, despite her work to impeach Nixon, has mixing his strategy.

"What dictates the strategy is more the circumstance and the individual," he said. "This was not just a lark, this was thought though."

By ducking from public events -- Clinton had only two public events in January and has only one slated for February -- the frontrunner is clearly trying to lie low. Clinton has four events planned for March, but that number is nothing compared to how many events she headlined in 2014.

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Reports have surfaced that she may wait until summer to officially kick off a campaign, but Clinton confidants have told CNN that they expect some sort of campaign move to happen in April.

The Nixon comparison favored by some close to Clinton -- but also causing some in Clinton-land to grimace -- have some . There are two obvious holes: The first being even if Clinton decides to lie low, today's media landscape doesn't have to abide by her wishes.

Leaks about who she is hiring, where she may put her campaign headquarters and the problems she will face on the trail are rampant and the media is still as focused on her -- if not more -- than they were months ago.

Secondly, unlike Nixon, Clinton's crowded field of realistic challengers isn't in the primary.

On her Democratic side, Vice President Joe Biden, Democratic Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Sen. Bernie Sanders from Vermont and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb haven't really made much a splash in polling, and one of her closest liberal competitors has repeatedly said she's not running. While Clinton finds herself with over 60% support, her next closest competitor, Biden, has gained six points since December and stands at 14%. Warren follows at 10%.

Instead, the real crowded field facing Clinton comes mostly from Republicans, who have roughly two dozen possible hopefuls who might compete for the presidential nomination. While the media spotlight has burned a few contenders, it's unclear if those missteps on the GOP side will translate to Clinton's benefit once she finally decides to officially hop into the race.

Quite simply, Clinton doesn't have a George Romney for the media to "chew" on.

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Have Obama's supporters forgotten how much they once disliked Hillary Clinton? (Slate)
By Alec MacGillis
February 20, 2015
Slate

As a presidential candidate, says one political veteran, Hillary Clinton does not offer the country a "fresh start." "For all of her advantages, she is not a healing figure," he continues. "The more she tries to moderate her image … the more she compounds her exposure as an opportunist. And after two decades of the Bush-Clinton saga, making herself the candidate of the future could be a challenge."

Who said this? Marco Rubio? Scott Walker? A consultant for their fledgling 2016 campaigns? In fact, none of the above. They are the words of David Axelrod, the uber-strategist for Barack Obama's 2008 campaign, and are drawn from his new memoir, Believer. The hefty, engaging book has been dissected mostly for Axelrod's analysis of his former client and his presidency, but it's actually far more remarkable from another vantage: It is a reminder of how far liberals who were in the pro-Obama camp in 2008 have traveled in their view of Hillary Clinton—and how much they've allowed themselves to forget along the way.

The reconciliation of Obama's following with the presumptive 2016 Democratic nominee has been the great underexamined story on the Democratic side of the ledger heading into an election year. One simply cannot overstate how much ill will there was between the two camps in 2007 and 2008—that historic, down-to-the-wire primary standoff was based not in policy contrasts (good luck recalling the differences in their health plans) but in a deeply personal clash about the meaning and methods of progressive politics. "Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do," Obama said in his breakout speech in Des Moines in November 2007. "This party … has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose—a higher purpose."

Clinton fired back sarcastically three months later: "Now, I could stand up here and say, 'Let's just get everybody together. Let's get unified. The skies will open, the light will come down, celestial choirs will be singing, and everyone will know we should do the right thing and the world will be perfect.' " The legions of young Obama foot soldiers in Iowa, South Carolina, and elsewhere were fired not just by airy notions of hope and change and making history but by the more negative motivation that the prospect of a Clinton nomination stirred in them.

And yet here we are, eight years later, and it is almost as if that great showdown never happened. Some of those young Obama loyalists have now assumed leading positions in the vast Clinton apparatus, as have some of his most senior campaign staff. With no serious opposition looming in next year's primaries, Clinton's standing among Democratic voters is vastly stronger than it was at this point eight years ago (right around the time Obama announced his challenge), notes Nate Cohn in the New York Times. As was the case then, the papers are full of eyebrow-raising stories about overlap between her political backers and donors to the Clinton Foundation. Yet whereas in 2007 those stories were seized on by many liberals as confirmation of their wariness of Clinton, this time around there is little sign of the stories—or those about her continuing to rake in $300,000 speaking fees—causing any real agita on the left.

It's not hard to come up with explanations for liberals' newfound acceptance. There is the fact that she and Obama reconciled and her (mostly) dutiful service as his secretary of state. There is the letdown that some (many?) Obama liberals have felt about their man and his high-flown aspirations for changing Washington, which has led to a reassessment of Clinton's more Earth-bound approach. There is the simple reality that there is not a credible rival to assume Obama's spot in the field as the more liberal, dynamic, and idealistic alternative—were Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run, she would quickly remind liberals of their misgivings about Clinton, but it really looks like she's not running.

The result is a sort of collective amnesia among Obama supporters when it comes to their former estimation of Clinton—a reluctance to reckon fully with their aversion to her then and what has come of it since. This amnesia may seem harmless now, but one can't help but wonder if it might come back to haunt Democrats in the general election if it is not confronted more fully before then. Democrats, including Obama's diehard 2008 backers, may now seem willing to accept Clinton with a shrug or even a hug, and let bygones be bygones. But will that acceptance hold once they start seeing her out on the trail again—giving the stump speeches they found so dreadfully dull in contrast to those of their chosen guy in 2008, giving such hyper-cautious answers in debates, coming off as stumbling and disingenuous in her efforts to align herself with the mood of the moment? Better for Democrats to reckon with that prospect now than in the heat of the 2016 campaign, when they might suddenly find themselves feeling as unenthusiastic about her as they did about another Democrat running to succeed a two-term president with a stronger claim to the party's emotional core.

That is why Axelrod's new recounting of the 2008 showdown provides a service to Obama liberals—it cuts through the fog of forgetfulness, like some kind of Ghost of Primaries Past, to bring Obama-ites face to face with the Clinton they could not abide. Axelrod is no Clinton-hater—he did ads for her 2002 Senate campaign and expresses repeated gratitude in the book for her support of his and his wife's efforts to spur research on epilepsy, which their daughter has battled for years.

But, unlike Obama 2008 veterans, he has not signed up with Clinton this time around, and is willing to recount the grand clash in clear-eyed terms. He recalls Clinton's weakness for gun-for-hire consultants like the "bloodless and calculating" Mark Penn,

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who "saw his mission as quashing any liberal impulses" and "justified himself with fuzzy polling numbers and a smug self-assurance that made everything grating." He distinguishes Obama's offer of change in Washington from Hillary's copy-cat rhetoric: "The 'change' Hillary was offering was not much change at all—certainly not a move away from the raw, divisive politics that had come to define Washington. Rather, she seemed to revel in those politics. … The change she was offering was not away from Washington's habit of parsing words and passing on tough issues. (She habitually sought safe harbor.) The change she was offering was not away from a system dominated by PACs and corporate lobbyists. (She had taken their money and defended their work.)"

He casts in distinctly unflattering terms Clinton's turn to a more aggressive tone once it became clear how much trouble she was in, calling her "downright gleeful" about attacking Obama and describing "the ardor with which she bared her teeth," all of which "validated our critique that she was a reflection of scorched-earth Washington politics rather than an answer to it." He singles out for opprobrium Clinton's clumsy suggestion that Bobby Kennedy's assassination late in the 1968 primaries was proof that anything could happen and that she should therefore stay in the race until the bitter end—an "inexcusable" and "thoughtless" comment that Axelrod says "enraged" him.

And he reminds readers of Bill Clinton's provocative efforts to rally white voters around his wife in the South Carolina primary, which he says set off another senior Obama adviser, Alabama native Robert Gibbs: "Gibbs was convinced that Bill Clinton was trying to tap into the ugly impulses in southern politics that he had done so much to allay during his political career. 'This guy had risen above the Old South,' Robert said, 'Now their backs are to the wall, and look at what they're doing. Campaigning right out of the Lee Atwater handbook!' " Axelrod even gets in a small dig once his narrative turns to the general election, speculating that Hillary was unwilling to speak out against Sarah Palin after the GOP vice presidential nominee gave her a shoutout in her introductory speech because she was "perhaps flattered by Palin's tribute."

Axelrod makes sure to close on a conciliatory note, writing that Clinton was "as game, smart, and experienced an opponent as Barack could draw" and that "the warm partnership they built would become one of the inspiring subplots of my time in the administration."

But make no mistake—Axelrod has not forgotten what the differences were that motivated him, and millions of other Democrats, to come to Obama's side instead of Clinton's not that long ago. And it would be better for their party's sake if those voters grappled with those memories and realities sooner rather than later.

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Clarence Page: How Democrats lost white voters (The Fresno Bee)
By Clarence Page
February 21, 2015
The Fresno Bee

While talking to black and white Republicans recently about the Grand Old Party's outreach efforts to voters of color, I wondered: What are Democrats doing to reach working-class whites?

Much has been said and written — some of it by me — about how desperately Republican leaders seek to woo voters of color back to their side, the fabled "party of Lincoln" to which earlier generations of African-Americans were fondly devoted.

The surprisingly robust exodus of Hispanic, Asian, unmarried women and young voters, too, in Mitt Romney's racially lopsided 2012 presidential election loss convinced GOP chairman Reince Priebus and other moderate GOP leaders that, yes, maybe it's time to spend serious time and dollars on expanding the party's voting base.

Fast forward to now: After last year's large Republican victories in low-turnout midterm congressional elections, Democrats are asking themselves a similar question to the one Republicans have raised about themselves: How can Andrew Jackson's and Franklin D. Roosevelt's fabled "party of labor" expand its outreach to its own largest bloc of demographic defectors, working-class whites?

Yes, despite having one of their own in the White House and demographic trends favoring Democrats in future electoral maps, the Dems face several minefields in the short run.

One, what happens to the black vote after President Barack Obama leaves the White House? African Americans are likely to vote heavily Democratic for the foreseeable future, but it doesn't take much of a shift in the size or partisan preferences of black voters to shift outcomes in the electoral map.

Two, will Democratic gains in presidential elections be offset by Republican gains in mid-terms? Democrats won the popular vote in five of the past six presidential elections, but surprisingly large GOP conquests in the 2010 and 2014 midterms show how more reliably and enthusiastically the Republican base turns out.

The GOP's 2006 "thumping," as President George W. Bush called it, resulted from unusual high anger over the Iraq war and the Bush administration's Hurricane Katrina response. Surprises like that show how democracy can keep politicians on their toes.

Three, Hillary Rodham Clinton looks strong in national polls but has a history of snatching defeat out of the jaws of victory. (See her 2008 contest versus a relatively unknown Illinois senator.) Once the lesser GOP lights are eliminated in the primaries, a Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio or even a fast-rising star like Scott Walker could give Clinton another nail-biter of a race.

Today's partisan racial divide took shape a half-century ago as the hard-won victories of the civil rights revolution coincided with the decline of high-paying, low-skill industrial jobs. As long-overdue opportunities opened up for women and minorities, they began to dry up for workers who lacked much education beyond high school.

Former Alabama Gov. George Wallace gave voice to blue-collar frustrations and middle-class resentments of "pointy-headed professors," the liberal "beatnik crowd" and Washington's "briefcase-totin' bureaucrats." Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 partly by positioning himself as a moderate, pragmatic alternative to Wallace's extremism in attracting what were called "white backlash" votes.

Where, many reasonably asked, were the affirmative action programs for white workers?

A new conservative voting majority replaced the once-dominant Democratic presidential coalition beginning in the late 1960s, as described by Thomas Byrne Edsall and Mary Edsall in their landmark 1992 book, "Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights and Taxes on American Politics."

The book helped to inform Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign, in which Clinton vowed to aid "the forgotten middle class" and "end welfare as we know it."

Two decades later, many Democrats still ask why so many working-class whites "vote against their economic interests?"

Blogging in The New York Times after November's elections, Tom Edsall said Democrats really should be asking themselves: "What has the Democratic Party done for these voters lately?"

Good question. As the Republicans' post-2012 autopsy found, working-class voters understand their interests. Obama's victory was helped not only by voters of color but also by working-class white voters who switched to Obama or didn't vote at all because of Romney's failures to connect with working-class interests.

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It is important to ask why voters don't vote their economic interests. But I think the most important question in politics, regardless of race, creed or color, is simply, "Who's on my side?"

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Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush and the problem with baggage (The Hill)
By Niall Stanage and Amie Parnes
February 21, 2015
The Hill

Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush are dealing with the baggage of their political histories even before their 2016 campaigns officially begin.

For the former secretary of state, the new scrutiny of Clinton Foundation donors — especially foreign governments and wealthy non-U.S. citizens — is bringing back memories of Whitewater and the selling of the White House Lincoln Bedroom to political patrons.

Revelations about the Clinton Foundation's donor list caused The New York Times to editorialize that someone needed "to reinstate the foundation's ban against foreign contributors, who might have matters of concern to bring before a future Clinton administration."

Jeb Bush's baggage is comprised of the decisions made by his father and his older brother during their years in the White House, particularly President George W. Bush's 2003 invasion of Iraq.
Much attention was given to Jeb Bush's speech this week in Chicago in which he paid due deference to his father and older brother's achievements but added, "I am my own man." In a question-and-answer session that immediately followed the speech, he also acknowledged that "there were mistakes made in Iraq, for sure."

The focus on their histories, and that of their families, is enough to make the assumed frontrunners dwell on William Faulkner's famous words, "the past is never dead. It's not even past."

Still, some observers argue that, just as the duo's decades in the public eye have given them records on which they can be attacked, it has also tempered them so they are better able to withstand the heat.

Tony Fratto, who served as deputy press secretary to President George W. Bush, said that while people will be interested in the pasts of Clinton and Jeb Bush, "they're both skilled in getting people to see past that."

"The difference with [Bush and Clinton] is that they've got a lot of experience in having to answer these types of questions, having to deal with unfortunate situations," Fratto added. "They have what you might not expect from other candidates and campaigns who will overreact, try to hide it, not have a clear answer. With both of these candidates, they've been around it for so long and know how to deal with these situations."

Terry Shumaker, a former U.S. ambassador who co-chaired Bill Clinton's New Hampshire campaigns and is involved in Ready for Hillary in the Granite State, argued it was unrealistic to expect anyone who can entertain realistic hopes of entering the White House to have lived a blank, unblemished life.

"When people get to the high level of running for president, they've lived interesting, complicated lives in the private and public sectors and have done a lot. But I think voters are going to look beyond that stuff. They're more interested in who's going to be the best president. Elections are about the future — not the present or the past."

Still, there are other experts who do not believe things will be quite that simple — especially when the protagonists are from families that arouse such high emotions, even within their own parties.

Referring to this week's Clinton Foundation flap, Boston University professor Tobe Berkovitz asserted that "what all of this does is reinforce the way that the Clintons, though they are beloved by many people in the [Democratic] Party, also have an incredibly checkered history which despite their best efforts, constantly re-raises its head."

Bill Clinton, of course, also has more personal peccadilloes, notably his affair with Monica Lewinsky while in the White House. Lewinsky has re-emerged on the public stage of late as an anti-bullying advocate.

The consensus appears to be that Lewinsky has little capacity to cause the Clintons any further damage. One Clinton ally even went so far as expressing the hope that opponents would raise the issue, on the basis that such a tactic was bound to backfire. "Please, please, throw me in that briar patch," the ally said.

When it comes to more strictly political matters, Berkovitz argued that Clinton had a disadvantage over Bush in dealing with the past.

By the nature of being first lady, and a very politically engaged one, she was a genuine player in the Clinton White House. For Bush, on the other hand, "his baggage is much more family baggage than his own. How can you blame Jeb Bush for Iraq? Or how can you blame him for the early 1990s recession? That's a real stretch."

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Cal Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University, took a different tack. He asserted that the time that has passed since Bill Clinton was in the White House has allowed the once-boiling partisan passions that surrounded him and his wife to cool to some degree.

Hillary Clinton, Jillson said, "at least has the benefit of 15 years of separation from the Clinton presidency, whereas Jeb Bush has a more immediate proximity to the George W. Bush presidency. That still has a rawness to it that the Clinton years no longer have."

Still, for both candidates — and for good or for bad — the past cannot be avoided.

"It's best to acknowledge it and not make it go away," said Fratto. "The best way is to try and deal with it directly."

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Bush and Clinton's generation game (The Sunday Business Post)
February 22, 2015
The Sunday Business Post

The names on the ballot in the 2016 US presidential election might well be the same ones that appeared almost a quarter of a century before. The last names, that is.

Back in 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton defeated Republican George HW Bush, then the sitting president. Next year, Hillary Clinton is the heavy favourite to win the Democratic nomination. The Republican field will be more competitive, but Jeb Bush – son of HW, and younger brother of George "Dubya" Bush – is the early frontrunner.

The prospect of another Clinton-Bush election says a lot about the state of US politics – and most of it isn't good. It seems only to confirm the suspicions of those who insist that the choices for US voters are too limited, the importance of money too suffocating, and the game suspiciously close to being rigged.

To merely note the 1992 precedent is to underestimate the extent to which the two families are fixtures on the landscape. Consider this, instead: with the sole exception of 2012, the last presidential election in which no Bush or Clinton played a key role was in 1976.

The record runs as follows. George HW Bush was Ronald Reagan's vice-presidential running mate in 1980 and 1984. He then won the presidency in 1988. Bill Clinton, having defeated Bush in 1992, was re-elected in 1996. He was succeeded by George W Bush in 2000, who won a second term in 2004. In 2008, Hillary Clinton was vanquished by Barack Obama after an epic battle within the Democratic Party.

And now here we go again.

It's true that neither Clinton nor Bush has officially declared her or his candidacy. But that is only a technicality at this stage. The fact that Clinton is planning yet another tilt at the presidency is the worst-kept secret in Washington DC. Political newspapers and websites are full of reports about the likely site of her campaign headquarters (among the current favourites: Brooklyn, New York) and the identities of the Beltway insiders who will be at the helm of her campaign.

There had been more doubt about whether Jeb Bush would run in 2016, but it is fast disappearing. He stole a march on potential rivals by announcing in mid-December that he was "actively exploring" a presidential candidacy.

Candidates who "actively explore" such a possibility and then decide against it are as rare as hen's teeth.

Just last week, Bush made a major speech distancing himself from his elder brother's decision to invade Iraq. "I am my own man," he insisted. In a question-and-answer session, he acknowledged that "there were mistakes made in Iraq, for sure".

The status of Clinton and Bush as frontrunners in their respective parties has little to do with any unique abilities they possess, however. Were either of them to have a different last name, how would they be seen?

Bush's two terms as Florida governor were proficient but hardly brilliant. Much the same can be said of Clinton's one-and-a-bit terms as a senator representing New York.

Bush's last name is a millstone overseas. Clinton's is an asset, but a deceptive one. In many places, including Ireland, it leads people to vastly overestimate her political skills. It's worth remembering that her main endeavours in more than three decades on the national stage have been to try to reform healthcare during her husband's presidency (she failed); to try to win the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2008 (holding vast advantages, she lost); and to serve as Obama's Secretary of State, a tenure which went undistinguished by a single major accomplishment.

So what do Clinton and Bush have going for them aside from fame? In a word: money. They're able to take advantage of the fundraising networks that have served their respective families for so many years, they can rake in bucketloads of the stuff.

Left-wing Democrats would love Clinton to face a challenge from her liberal flank in the shape of Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders, two senators who are among the fiercest critics of Wall Street. But either one would likely be buried under an avalanche of Clinton cash.

Among Republicans, religious evangelicals hold former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee in high regard. But he is an economic populist whose appeal to the richest donors among his party's followers is cripplingly limited.

None of this is to say that a Clinton-Bush choice would be no choice at all. There are legitimate differences in their views. But they hardly span the ideological gamut, to put it mildly.

This, in turn, means that the broader, structural problems of US politics and society – wage stagnation, grotesque income

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inequality, and the creeping failure of the body politic itself to function – are unlikely to be addressed in any fundamental way, whatever the outcome of such an election.

Can a candidate win without the advantages of a Bush or a Clinton? Yes. The current president – a black man, raised by a single mother — attests to that. But our familiarity with Obama has dulled us to just how exceptional, in the literal sense of that word, he is.

So settle in for another long and brutal presidential election campaign. But remember, too, the way in which the wealthiest and most familiar voices shut so many others out.

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Peace negotiator to ease into role as key Jeb aide (The Sunday Times)
By Toby Harnden
February 22, 2015
The Sunday Times

SHE is a Harvard professor with maroon hair, she was a key player in Northern Ireland peace talks for more than a decade and she was once nearly killed in a rocket attack in Baghdad.

Now Meghan O'Sullivan is in line to take on one of the most potentially influential foreign policy jobs in the world as a top adviser to Jeb Bush, the Republican frontrunner for the White House in 2016.

Her expected role as the former Florida governor's senior foreign policy aide seems to encapsulate his desire to draw on the cautious pragmatism of his father's approach to the world without renouncing the actions of his brother. While she was an undergraduate at Georgetown University, O'Sullivan, now 45, earned extra money by modelling for Washington department stores. She later took a doctorate in politics at David Cameron's alma mater of Brasenose College, Oxford.

As President George W Bush's lead adviser on Iraq, she was an architect of the "surge" strategy that, temporarily at least, snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in 2007. She is also closely associated with the "realist" school of foreign policy epitomised by President George Bush Sr.

Her mentor Richard Haass, the former US special envoy for Northern Ireland, has been critical of the so-called "neoconservative" faction that championed the Iraq invasion.

O'Sullivan was one of 21 foreign policy advisers named by Jeb Bush last week. Of those, 19 had served under his brother, the 43rd American president, and six under his father, the 41st. Only two of the advisers have never worked for a Bush administration.

If she is confirmed in the top post, O'Sullivan will be in charge of leading the attack on Hillary Clinton, the secretary of state for President Barack Obama's first term.

In Chicago last week Bush used his first major foreign policy speech of the 2016 campaign to declare: "I love my father and my brother. I admire their service to the nation and the difficult decisions they had to make. But I am my own man."

That statement was a recognition of the difficulty he will have in dealing with the Bush legacy. While the family name is a huge boost in raising money and attracting establishment support, his advisers concede that it could turn off centrist voters and make him appear to be a figure from the past.

Rick Wilson, a veteran Florida political consultant who says he is "an old Bush guy", said: "There's probably too much amateur psychology going on about the Bush family — is Jeb W, or is he '41'? "Jeb was shaped by experiences that did not occur in the rest of the Bush family. His time in Latin America, marrying Columba [his Mexican wife] — all these things are of a different flavour. He's lived all over the place. He switches between English and Spanish instantaneously. He's very cosmopolitan."

A former Bush administration adviser, who has worked closely with O'Sullivan, said: "Jeb Bush didn't say much in Chicago. He gave some broad critiques of the Obama administration foreign policy, which is not hard to do.

"People take cues from his demeanour that he might be leaning more towards the conception of the Bush One foreign policy, but demeanour is not a good indicator of doctrine."

O'Sullivan, he said, would be a major asset to Bush, although her reserved and serious manner might not be best suited to a hard-fought campaign: "She's not a bomb thrower. She doesn't fit neatly into the realist versus neoconservative box.

"When I've heard her give advice it is always backed up by deep knowledge of what's happening on the ground. That's not always the case with advisers and it's a great advantage."

O'Sullivan narrowly escaped injury in October 2003 when an insurgent rocket hit her hotel in Baghdad, killing a lieutenant colonel. The blast jammed O'Sullivan's door shut and she escaped by clambering onto a ledge outside her 10thfloor window.

Long viewed as an enigmatic figure in Washington, O'Sullivan has always been instantly noticeable in foreign policy circles because of her practice for at least the past 15 years of dyeing her hair red.

That has prompted comparisons with a red-haired Irish-American on the other side of the political aisle: Samantha Power, Obama's ambassador to the United Nations. But while Power is passionate and forthright, O'Sullivan tends to stay in the background.

The job of top foreign policy adviser tends to lead to a major position in government if the candidate wins the White House.

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Condoleezza Rice, the former secretary of state, and Susan Rice, Obama's national security adviser, were both lead foreign policy advisers on campaigns.

If Bush is to win his party's nomination and defeat Clinton, however, he will have to come to terms with the doubleedged sword of his family name — a problem Clinton herself would also face, of course.

Wilson said: "Is it like Voldemort [the Harry Potter villain] to Democrats, the one word they can use to stoke up their ageing hippie base with one more round of Bush hatred? That's a real question."

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Clinton vs. Bush gives me the deja vu blues (Chicago Sun-Times)
By Steve 20, Huntley
February 2015
Chicago Sun-Times

Dynastic politics can be complicated. Obviously, it offers vast benefits in name recognition, a built-in network of supporters and invaluable experience in the nitty gritty of politics. But it has its downsides. Jeb Bush keeps having to explain how he's different from the previous two Bush presidents. And Hillary Clinton finds herself mired in a conflict-of-interest controversy over a family foundation that sucked in $2 billion in donations from heavy hitters domestic and foreign who crave influence in Washington.

OPINION

Dynastic political families aren't alien to America. Think of the Adams, Harrisons, Roosevelts and Kennedys. What is new is the possibility of a clash of two dynasties for president, as could happen in 2016 if Bush and Clinton are the Republican and Democrat nominees.

Neither has faced the issue of dynasty head on. Bush has referred to it, saying, for instance, that he confronts an "interesting challenge." Or he differentiates himself from Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush as he did the other day at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs: "I am my own man, and my views are shaped by my own thinking and own experiences."

But that doesn't address the question of why Americans should vote for a family dynasty. Likely he doesn't have an answer to that. Clinton, wife of former President Bill Clinton, probably doesn't have an answer other than she offers the best hope of electing the first woman president.

Though Bush the father had many successes in the White House, he was brought down by a revolt among the party's conservative base over a tax increase he promised would never happen and an economic downturn. President Bush the son has seen the stock in his presidency rise a bit in recent years, but he is remembered for the Iraq war and the disastrous aftermath. That his military surge left Iraq largely stabilized is mostly lost in the crisis of the Islamic State.

Jeb Bush is haunted by that history. With foreign policy looming as a top tier issue in 2016, he will only be pressed more and more about the Iraq war. How quickly and how well he can separate himself will be a major test of whether he can secure the GOP nomination and then convince voters that the nation needs a third Bush president.

Clinton seems all but assured of the Democrat nomination. Still, take away the history-making prospect of a female chief executive, and there's not much to get excited about in a Clinton dynasty.

First lady is neither an appointed nor elective office (despite the Clinton 1992 campaign two-for-one theme). Who remembers anything about her U.S. Senate term — other than her vote for the Iraq war? Her time as secretary of state was mostly distinguished by miles traveled — activity, not accomplishment, as possible GOP presidential candidate and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina put it. Clinton's book tour for her "Hard Choices" was a flop, noted for blunders, like her claim that her family left the White House "dead broke."

Now come disclosures of mega-donations from big corporations and foreign countries and families to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation. Everyone proclaims innocence and lofty charitable motives, but it smells like influence peddling and currying of favors. And the foundation looks like a home for Clinton staff between campaigns. For example, the Wall Street Journal reports that a Clinton campaign fundraiser in 2008 is back at that job for 2016 after working in the intervening years for the foundation. Ironies abound, such as a foundation dedicated to women's rights taking millions from Saudi Arabia, which doesn't permit women to drive a car.

Clinton vs Bush.

Any votes for a fresh face in 2016?

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From:	"Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs" <info@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	1/28/2016 1:00:10 PM
Subject:	Introducing "Office Hours"

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/23/2008 5:33:34 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 05/23/08

Main Topics: McCain Medical Records, Pastor Disaster, Biden Interviews

Summary of Shift: John McCain released his medical records today. Reportedly the Obama and Clinton campaigns are discussing VP possibilities. 15 GOP senators broke with Bush yesterday and helped to pass the war-funding bill that includes billions for veterans' aid. The House Judiciary Committee subpoenaed Karl Rove. Rove's lawyer says he will not testify due to instructions from the White House.

Also in the news, a Texas court ruled the state lacked authority to seize the children of polygamists. Myanmar is now letting in international aid workers. Wildfires rage in California, a tornado ravaged Colorado, and the death toll of the Chinese earthquake is now more than 80,000.

Highlights:

1) McCain's medical records released
a. CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta raises questions about McCain's bouts with cancer
b. Dr. Gupta Goes Over Early AP Reports From McCain's Health Records: Skin Lesions, Cell Carcinoma, Colon Polyps, Vertigo, Cholesterol Problems, Arthritis and Ear Wax
c. CBS gives positive coverage for McCain campaign, says age should not be a factor
2) McCain's Pastor Disaster
a. David Brody: "A quick Google search would've helped the McCain campaign clearly"
b. Brian Todd: McCain rejects an endorsement "once seen as critical to his conservative credentials"
c. Chuck Todd: McCain's problems with Hagee and Parsley are symptomatic of "inexperience of the McCain campaign dealing with evangelicals"
d. "Early Show" mentions McCain "rejected" the endorsement of Hagee and Parsley
e. MSNBC plays footage of Hagee and Parsley controversial comments
3) Joe Biden does rounds on morning shows
a. On CNN, "Bush-McCain saber rattling" is "self-defeating"
b. On "Today Show", says we're "weaker" under Bush and mentions McCain did not support US action in the Balkans
c. On "Good Morning Joe", defends Obama's foreign policy with historical examples and spells out a more rational Iran policy
d. Biden is disappointed that McCain on the GI Bill is resorting to "ad hominem" attacks against Obama, says "this whole campaign in drifting toward a place I'm not comfortable with"
4) McCain vs. Obama on the GI Bill, Jewish outreach, and age

Clips:

Highlight #1

Dr. Sanjay Gupta Highlights Lack of Information about McCain's Bouts With Cancer: "In McCain's case they kept cutting and removing and we don't know why"(CNN 05/23/08 7:02am)

SANJAY GUPTA: […] One of the big things that has happened since he last released his records is his diagnosis of melanoma. That's something that a lot of people have paid attention to. They've seen the scars on the left side of his face, they're pretty extensive. The question has been, what exactly do those scars mean? We take a look.

DR. KEITH DELMAN: It looks to me as if he had surgery on the left side of his temple for this, what we know is his melanoma. What happens is they take off the melanoma, which is not only the melanoma but the area of normal tissue around that. So it can be a pretty sizeable defect that they take off there. And then to take out the area in the face and the lymph nodes there, they took out part of his paradig gland which sits right in front of the ear, just along the ear. Similar to an incision you would have for a facelift, but not quite as pretty.

GUPTA: As a surgical oncologist that strikes you as saying what?

DELMAN: That's a little bit aggressive.

GUPTA: It didn't all fit. Make no mistake, melanoma is malignant cancer but why would the doctors aggressive with McCain's operation? Was the cancer more extensive than we've been told or was it just an abundance of caution?

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DELMAN: You'd have to speculate that perhaps they were aggressive because it was Senator McCain.

GUPTA: […] But here is where surgeons typically stop. In McCain's case they kept cutting and removing and we don't know why.

Dr. Gupta Goes Over Early AP Reports From McCain's Health Records: Skin Lesions, Cell Carinoma, Colon Polyps, Vertigo, Cholesterol Problems, Arthritis and Ear Wax (CNN 05/23/08 8:01am)

SANJAY GUPTA: [visual] Precancerous skin lesions frequently removed. Early-stage Squamous Cell Carcinoma removed: Feb. 2008, Benign colon polyps removed: March 2008.

GUPTA: Also as I mentioned before, people are gonna be concerned about his heart. [visual] He was on a treadmill, sometime in the last 8 years for 10 minutes and he was able to tolerate that well as you may know, a lot of viewers know that 10 minutes is sort of the gold standard for checking someone's heart. He has a good cholesterol level, although not optimal. He was on a medication known as Vitorin. That medication came under some criticism; he has now switched over to Cymbastat. He also complained of these episodes of dizziness, John. […]

JOHN ROBERTS: […] He's suffering degenerative arthritis from the war injuries that he received during his captivity?

GUPTA: Yeah, that's right. They talk about his joints, his shoulders, I think his hip as well. And I think, at least according to his doctors, this might mean in the future at some point, he might need a joint replacement. You know, again, which is not uncommon for someone of his age, even without the degenerative problems from the war injuries.

ROBERTS: There's also a citation here about ear wax […]

CBS Gives Positive Coverage to McCain's Medical Records, Segment Says Age Should Not Be Factor (CBS 05/23/08 7:15am)
REPORTER: We have breaking news this morning. Republican presidential candidate John McCain has just released his medical records in an effort to put to rest any concerns that voters may have about his age and vitality [...]

JEFF GLOR: If voters pick John McCain in November, at 72 he'll be the oldest president elected to a first term. According to a CBS News/New York Times poll just 2% of Americans believe the best age for a president would be in his or her 70s. 20% say someone's 40s, and nearly half say 50s. Fair or not, John McCain knows this mentality presents a challenge.

JOHN MCCAIN: What should we be looking for in our next president? Certainly someone who is very very very old.

GLOR: To address concerns about his age, McCain's been using the model established by Ronald Reagan, elected to a second term at 73, humor.

FRANK LUNTZ: Ronald Reagan turned age from a negative to a positive against Walter Mondale, it changed the entire election.

RONALD REAGAN: I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience (laughter).

LUNTZ: The American people laughed and all of a sudden age wasn't an issue.

GLOR: And according to doctors it shouldn't be.

DR. BRENT RIDGE: The most threatening thing to John McCain as a president is the threat ageism and that's the belief that people hold that because of his age he won't make a good president and that's just not true.

GLOR: McCain has faced some medical challenges. The injuries he suffered in Vietnam left him unable to completely lift his arms. In 2000, he had surgery to remove a patch of skin from his lymphnods in his neck to battle stage two melanoma. But McCain's age is not the defining factor in his health.

DR. BRENT RIDGE: Someone who is 70 and might be actually healthier and aging better than who is 60 or even 50.

GLOR: What he means is that there's a difference between chronological age, which is just a number, and physiological age, essentially how well you're aging. Staying physically active, mentally engaged, and socially connected, those are the keys, all

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things McCain has clearly been doing.

MCCAIN: And of course, my mother Roberta McCain.

GLOR: To assure voters he can well handle a four year term McCain points to his 96 year old mother's longevity. Strategists believe he'll need even more.

LUNTZ: John McCain's gonna need a line, he's gonna need a phrase that gets him through the challenge of age, turn it into an advantage. You've seen it all, you've done it all, and you've succeeded a lot more than you've failed.

GLOR: Ok now, more than a thousand pages of McCain's medical records, first previewed this morning show he has had no sign of melanoma since 2002, melanoma, blood pressure and weight are healthy, he has an occasional bout of dizziness when standing suddenly but repeated tests say it is harmless, and he takes a common medication for cholesterol. McCain's internist describes his patient as "considerably younger than his chronological age, based on his cardiovascular fitness."

Highlight #2

David Brody: "A quick Google search would've helped the McCain campaign clearly. John Hagee has been somewhat controversial in evangelical circles for awhile"
(CNN 05/23/08 7:51am)
JOHN ROBERTS: […] John McCain desperately needed people like Hagee and Rod Parsley to shore him up in places like Texas, courting the Christian conservative vote there but I guess he found out that endorsements can come back to bite him.

DAVID BRODY: Well, at times for sure. This was a vetting process error, John. I mean a quick Google search would've helped the McCain campaign clearly. I mean John Hagee has been somewhat controversial in evangelical circles for awhile and so that's been out there. This goes to the larger issue, John, which is this tap dance that John McCain needs to do with evangelicals. I mean he desperately wants the evangelical support. He's not gonna pander to get it but he wants evangelical leaders out there and so John Hagee it seemed at the time to be a perfect fit. […]

Brian Todd: McCain rejects an endorsement "once seen as critical to his conservative credentials" (CNN 05/23/08 6:32am)
JOHN ROBERTS: He had once accepted their backing in a bid to win support from religious conservatives. But McCain is now rejecting the endorsement of Pastor John Hagee over remarks he made about the holocaust as well as the backing of Rod Parsley who called Islam 'inherently violent.'

BRIAN TODD: John McCain now rejects an endorsement that was once seen as critical to his conservative credentials.

[video of Hagee's endorsement]

TODD: McCain's camp tell us that when Hagee endorsed McCain in February, McCain was not aware of remarks Hagee had made in a sermon years earlier. […]

[audio and visual of Hagee's hunters quote]

TODD: […] But McCain has another pastor problem.

[video of Parsley]

TODD: Pastor Parsley another popular televangelist who also endorsed McCain in February.

UNNAMED PERSON: Well, it was shocking to hear that Senator McCain would associate himself with someone who holds such bigoted views against Muslims and Islam.

Chuck Todd: McCain's Problems with Hagee and Parsley Symptomatic of "Inexperience of the McCain Campaign in Dealing with Evangelicals" (MSNBC 05/23/08 9:20am)
CHUCK TODD: [...] I think what you see with this McCain and Hagee, and also the dumping of this Rod Parsley person from Ohio, that this was the inexperience of the McCain campaign in dealing with evangelicals. This has not been a constituency they've tried to woo in the past. Basically at the end of the nomination fight, where he was finally getting the primary campaign wrapped up. He wanted to try to reach out that that constituency and it seems as if they didn't vet these guys [...]

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"The Early Show" Mentions McCain "Rejected" the Support of Hagee and Parsley for Extremist Statements (CBS 05/23/08 7:00am)
CHRIS RAGEE: Once again a candidate is distancing himself from the words of a pastor. Texas preacher John Hagee endorsed John McCain three months ago but McCain rejected the endorsement yesterday after an audio recording surfaced in which Hagee said God sent Adolf Hitler to help Jews reach the promise land.

JOHN MCCAIN: I just think that the statement is crazy and unacceptable. I've received their endorsement which did not mean that I endorsed their views.

RAGEE: McCain also rejected the support of Ohio evangelist Rod Parsley who called Islam 'inherently violent.'

MSNBC Plays Footage of Hagee and Parsley Controversial Comments (MSNBC 05/23/08 9:50am)
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: John McCain now rejecting the endorsements of two influential priests, preachers. The first, evangelical Pastor Hagee whose made controversial remarks, to say the least, about Catholics and Katrina victims. But his comments about Hitler and Jews were the straw that broke the camel's back. The second, Rod Parsley, an Ohio Preacher who made incendiary comments about Islam. Take a listen to both.

[audio of Hagee]

[video of Parsley]

BRZEZINSKI: Hmmm, not good. Repudiating these comments of both men, McCain also tried to make a clear distinction between his Pastor problems and Barack Obama's relationship with Reverend Wright.

[video of McCain]

Highlight #3
Biden: 'The Bush-McCain saber rattling is the most self-defeating policy imaginable' (CNN 05/23/08 7:25am)
JOE BIDEN: [visual of quote] The Bush-McCain saber rattling is the most self-defeating policy imaginable. It achieves nothing.

BIDEN: This has been the single most ineffectual, incompetent administration in the conduct of foreign policy in modern history. […]

JOHN ROBERTS: Senator we just got this statement in from the McCain campaign and they claim that your "missing the point about the unconditional summit saying the actual issue is that the office of the President of the United States should lend its prestige and legitimacy to Ahmadinejad, saying 'when a tyrant or dictator is afforded the promotion of an equal footing of unconditional summit with the President of the United States, those bad actors are emboldened and it threatens the security of the United States and our allies.' What do you say?

BIDEN: […] The lack of the sophistication on the part of Republicans of not realizing that Ahmadinejad does not control the security of the apparatus in Iran, it is theocracy. […] So the whole notion is that they don't even know what we're talking about. […] It does not respond to whether the [GI] bill is good. It takes on a cheap shot on whether or not Obama, who is 40 years younger than John, whether he served in the military.

On "Good Morning Joe", Defends Obama's Foreign Policy with Historical Examples and Spells Out a More Rational Iran Policy (MSNBC 05/23/08 8:00am)
MIKA BRZEZINSKI:[...] Is Barack Obama's foreign policy possibly undermining to our safety in the world?

JOE BIDEN: Absolutely not. Look, one of the reasons I responded to my friend Joe, is I'm going to respond no matter who the nominee is because I refuse to sit back like we did in 2000 and 2004. This administration is the worst administration in American foreign policy and modern history, maybe ever. The idea that they are competent to continue to conduct our foreign policy, to make us more secure, and make Israel more secure is preposterous [...] Can you imagine Franklin Roosevelt, can you imagine President Truman, can you imagine President Kennedy conducting the kind of policy this outfit has? You remember, during the Vietnam War, while China was supplying North Vietnam with weapons killing Americans and help, President Nixon sat down with Mao. Remember, President Reagan sat down with President Gorbachev without any freeze on the nuclear weapons system. This president of the United States had his people sit down with Libya, Momar Kadafi, a terrorist and cut a deal. This president Bush is writing letters, Dear Mr. Chairman Kim Jong Ill, who makes

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Amhadijhad look like a much lesser threat. This is ridiculous.
[...]
BIDEN: [...] You know as well as I to, that our options relative to Iran now are relatively limited, in terms of the military, and our options in terms of sanctions are limited without getting both Russia, the European Union, and China into the deal. And one of the reasons I think we have to make it clear we're prepared to the leadership, is we have to demonstrate to Russia, to Europe [...] and to China we were willing to go the extra mile. So they can't look back at us and sat we're the problem. Because the last place we want to be Pat is them continuing to march, no one with us, and our only option being war and us not being able to conduct that war while we have a 140,00 people tied down in war. So it requires a smarter, tougher policy [...]

On "Today Show", Defends Obama, Says We're "Weaker" Under Bush, and Mentions McCain Opposed Action in the Balkans (NBC 05/23/08 7:20am)
MATT LAUER: Barack Obama has taken a lot of heat from John McCain for his willingness to meet with and talk to America's adversaries and engage them. Now a former presidential rival, fellow Democratic Senator Joseph Biden is coming to Obama's defense today with an Op-Ed piece in the Wall Street Journal. Senator good morning, nice to see you.

JOE BIDEN: Good morning Matt [...]

LAUER: This issue seems like it's gonna be front and center in the fall election for a couple of reasons. One it seems to draw a line between perceived strength and weakness and it also seems to draw a line between perceived change and the politics of the past. By coming to Senator Obama's defense in this Op-Ed piece are you admitting that he is somewhat vulnerable on this issue?

BIDEN: No, what I'm saying is I'm sick and tired of Republicans characterizing Democrats generally as well as Barack and Hillary as being weak on national security. The truth is we've never been weaker in the last 100 years, in terms of our position in the world than under this administration. And it's not, they talk about 'freedom on the march in the Middle East', well it's Iran on the march in the middle east. I've never seen a time, [with] the seven presidents I've been with, when America 's been less respected around the world and has less leverage. And the idea that we sit there and let this President and my friend John McCain characterize us as "weak" is just preposterous.

LAUER: And your friend Joe Lieberman, by the way, in an op-ed piece the day before in the Wall Street Journal, I think you're referring to some of that [...] His argument basically Senator, is that the Democratic Party itself somewhere in the late 1960s became weak on National Security [...] Now as we look at the upcoming election, particularly between a war hero and Barack Obama, do you think that's gonna be a major problem Democrats?

BIDEN: Well I think that's what they're gonna try to revive. There's truth to that. I ran in 1972 as a young 29 year old guy who won a Senate seat, being the guy who was viewed as hawk because I didn't join in that mantra. It was Bill Clinton, and I might say me pushing it, saying that you had to go to war in the Balkans to end genocide. It was John McCain, initially saying 'no, no, no, no, we can't do that.' The Republicans voting 'no, no, we can't do anything, we don't have the power to do that.'

LAUER: Why than Senator the perception? If you look at the history of polls taken in this country over the last 20 years or so, voters tend to rate the Republicans higher on issues like national security and strength abroad than they do Democrats. Why?

BIDEN: No, I know they do Matt and that's why we've got to fight back [...]

Biden Disappointed that McCain on GI Bill is Resorting to "Ad Hominem" Attacks Against Obama, Says "This Whole Campaign is Drifting Toward a Place I'm Not Comfortable With" (MSNBC 05/23/08 8:00am)
WILLIE GEIST: Senator I want to ask you about something we witness yesterday between Barack Obama and John McCain. Barack Obama there on the floor of the Senate criticizing Senator McCain for not backing this, the bill that Jim Webb is co-sponsoring, the GI Bill. I want you to listen to John McCain's response to Barack Obama, I want to hear your reaction.

JOHN MCCAIN: I believe that I have earned the right to speak out on veterans issues. As a matter of fact, I've received the highest award from literally every veterans' organization in America. I don't know if the American people will judge Senator Obama, as to whether he has military experience or not, but I think they may judge him as to whether he has experience and knowledge to make the kind of judgment necessary to care for our veterans.

GEIST: Senator, so essentially Barack Obama has questioned John McCain for not backing up this bill. How do you see

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these two guys coming down on this?

BIDEN: Well look. John's a. This is tough for me. Because John's been my friend for 35 years. Umm, and I'm disappointed because you know there's a , as you all know, there's a difference between an ad hominem argument and a logical response. A logical fallacy is an ad hominem argument and that's basically what John engaged in [...] It's not right, it's not fair. John McCain does have every single right in the world to be able to say he thinks he knows what's best for veterans. But to make the argument, that because he's a national hero, because he was a veteran, that he knows it's not necessary to provide for these college scholarships [...] This whole campaign seems to be drifting toward a place that I'm not comfortable with, in terms of how they're gonna respond to Barack.

Highlight #4

Local News Highlights McCain vs. Obama on the GI Bill, Jewish Outreach, and Age (NBC-WRC-DC 05/23/08 6:30am)
BROOKE HEART: John McCain and Barack Obama competed for veterans' attention ahead of this memorial day weekend. It seems bound to kick off summer and a hot political season too [...] Today John McCain looks to put questions about his age and health to rest. In Sacramento the 71 year old joked about age and his rival.

JOHN MCCAIN: Senator Obama, who I admire and respect Senator Obama, for a young man with very little experience he's done very well.

HART: McCain's comments masted a day of sharp barbs, starting with Barack Obama on the Senate Floor.

BARACK OBAMA: But I can't understand why he would line up behind the president in his opposition to this GI Bill.

HART: The bill to give education benefits to veterans passed, despite warnings it will thin the ranks of the military.

MCCAIN: I don't need anybody to tell me about what veterans needs, I know them.

HART: The two battled on another front too, courting Jewish voters[...]McCain did damage control too, after more statements surfaced from the evangelist who endorsed him, John Hagee on Hitler as a Hunter.

HAGEE: And they the hunter shall hunt them, that would be the Jews. '

HART: It was enough for McCain to renounce Hagee's endorsement [...]

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Subject:	H4A News Clips 5.23.15
Attachments:	H4A 5.23.15 Clips.docx

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May 23, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Yesterday Hillary Clinton was in New Hampshire to speak about small business and community banks. She criticized congressional Republicans and presidential hopefuls for their opposition to Export-Import Bank, saying Friday that their priorities are "absolutely backwards" when it comes to helping Americans workers and businesses.

The State Department released 300 emails that Hillary Clinton sent and receiv ed when she was secretary of state. The emails are the first tranche of many that will be released by the State Department ov er the next year. The news outlets covered the emails briefly and with little speculation, only noting that the GOP would not find a "smoking gun" in this release of emails.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

ABC had a brief report on the State Department has released part of HRC's emails, one has been classified. The emails show that HRC nev er sent classified information, but one email contains redacted information. Many of the emails are mundane and Republicans hav e yet to point to a smoking gun.

CBS aired a two minute report on the release of almost 300 of HRC's emails dealing with Benghazi on Friday; reported there were no major revelations in the emails; cuts to Nancy Cordes' report; said the emails verify the confusion surrounding the aftermath of the Benghazi attacks; reported on both of the emails from Sidney Blumenthal that came after the attacks; reported many of the emails were heavily redacted including one about rev ised TPs that wrongly claimed the Benghazi attacks were spontaneous.

NBC also included a report on the State Department emails including much of the same information; used footage of HRC's answer at her press conference in New Hampshire on Friday about the classified email; reported the release included what may have been the last email HRC saw from Christopher Stevens; reported that HRC said she did not see Stevens' emails where he warned of increased v iolence; reported the emails released show how concerned HRC's team was about how she was portrayed and the political fallout from misleading talking points after the Benghazi attack.

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Hillary Clinton Says GOP Hopefuls Are Afraid to 'Stand Up to the Tea Party and Talk Radio' // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein - May 22, 2015

As the State Department releases a batch of her e-mails, the Democratic front-runner takes aim at the right.

Hillary Clinton chided congressional Republicans and presidential hopefuls for their opposition to Export-Import Bank, saying Friday that their priorities are "absolutely backwards" when it comes to helping Americans workers and businesses.

"It is wrong that Republicans in Congress are trying to cut off this vital lifeline for small businesses," the former secretary of state and Democratic presidential candidate said at Smuttynose Brewery in Hampton, N.H.

"It seems as though they would rather threaten the livelihoods" of the estimated 164,000 workers whose jobs are supported by the bank "than stand up to the Tea Party and talk radio," she said.

Clinton spoke at a roundtable on small business in the brewery 's warehouse just as the State Department released a small trov e of her e-mails on Libya. She did not address the release but kept her focus on exports, community banks and other issues related to small business.

The Export-Import Bank guarantees loans for American businesses involved in exporting products. Its authorization expires June 30, and some Republicans hav e voiced strong opposition to keeping the agency aliv e. The Chamber of Commerce and other establishment groups continue to support the bank, but conservative groups such as Americans for Prosperity and the Club for Growth want to see it dismantled.

Speaking before the latter group in February, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush said the bank was one of sources of government overreach that he believ es "should be phased out." Florida Senator Marco Rubio has been opposed to the agency since at least 2012 and has reiterated his position in recent weeks. Other Republican presidential candidates also want to see the bank lose its charter.

The bank's current chairman, Fred Hochberg, is a longtime Clinton supporter who helped raise money for Hillary Clinton in 2008. He's contributed more than $18,000 to various Clinton political campaigns and has also given between $10,000 and $25,000 to the Clinton Foundation.

Clinton backs small business // Union Leader // Jason Schreiber - May 22, 2015

HAMPTON — Surrounded by beer kegs at the Smuttynose Brewing Company, Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton met with locals Friday to talk about ways to strengthen small businesses, which she described as an engine for economic growth.

During her second campaign visit to New Hampshire, the former First Lady and U.S. Secretary of State spent much of her

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time at Smuttynose batting around ideas for small business growth with a panel of sev en local business leaders.

"I want to be the small business President," Clinton said during a roundtable discussion before an audience of about 80 people inside a warehouse at the Hampton brewery.

Later in the day , Clinton traveled to downtown Exeter, where she met with about 50 supporters at the Water Street Bookstore.

At the rally, Clinton said she's not running for a third Bill Clinton or Barack Obama term but wants to continue their "positive results," according to a pool report.

She wrapped up her day with a final public stop at Moo's Place, an ice cream shop in Derry , the pool report said.

After touring the brewery earlier in the day, Clinton sat down at a table where there were no mugs of beer, but panelists were treated to water in Smuttynose glasses.

Clinton took notes as she listened to Smuttynose co-owners Peter Egelston and Joanne Francis and other local business owners talk about their successes and the challenges they've faced growing their companies.

Clinton shared her thoughts on expanding small businesses, expanding access to capital, tax relief for small businesses, and the need to access new markets.

She said the local brewery exemplifies a lot of the reasons why she's talking a lot about small businesses.

Clinton said she wants to make it easier for small businesses to grow "so it feels less like a gamble."

While the ev ent was about business, Clinton said her campaign will focus on ensuring the economy is running "full steam" ahead with job creation and rising incomes; making sure families and communities are strong; fixing what she calls a dysfunctional political system; and dealing with the threats being faced in the world today.

Clinton also addressed the debate in Congress over keeping the U.S. Export-Import Bank open.

The bank is an independent federal agency that fills gaps in private export financing by offering financing, including working capital guarantees and export credit insurance, to promote sales of American goods and services abroad.

Many conservative Republicans want to let the Export-Import Bank's charter expire on June 30.

"Assistance from the Export-Import Bank supported hundreds of millions of dollars in exports by small businesses here in New Hampshire over the past five years," Clinton said, adding that Ex-Im supports up to 164,000 jobs nationally.

"It is wrong that Republicans in Congress are trying to cut off this vital lifeline for American small businesses. It's wrong that candidates for President, who really should know better, are jumping on the bandwagon. In fact, it seems as though they would rather threaten the livelihood of those 164,000 jobs than stand up to Tea Party and talk radio," she said.

Clinton also talked about the middle class, say ing one thing that hasn't changed are the values that "made the middle class mean something."

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"That is true for my family and generations of families like mine. Being middle class should mean you feel control (over) your own financial future, you have confidence that everything you've worked for won't be lost in a flash particularly because of actions taken by people and institutions over which you have no control and are not a part of the decision making," she said.

Clinton took no questions from audience members, most of whom were supporters who either reached out to the brewery to get a seat or were contacted by the campaign.

Town hall meetings with voters haven't been a part of her campaign so far, but supporters said they're hopeful they'll be coming soon.

"I think that she's trying to make this campaign a little bit different than the last campaign. She's going small and then going big. I understand her emphasis on small businesses and getting to know the individuals in a smaller setting," said supporter Rich Green, 26, of Durham.

Hampton Democrat Lenore Patton, 78, also wasn't worried about the lack of town hall meetings.

"I say to people when they tell me that, 'Do you realize how far the election is from today and the time there is going to be to campaign?'" said Patton, who is vice chairman of the Rockingham County Democrats but wasn't speaking on behalf of the group.

Outside the brewery, supporters gathered with signs.

Corina Chao, 19, of Hampton, held a sign that read, "A woman's place is in the House, Senate and Oval Office."

Chao has never heard Clinton speak, but has followed her since her 2012 campaign and is excited to vote in her first presidential election.

"I've always liked her and I've liked the idea of a woman President, but that's not the only reason I support her. Of course she's on the right side of all the issues that I care about, especially from my generation, like LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) rights, raising the minimum wage (and) making college more affordable," she said.

Sorry, GOP. There's No Smoking Gun In Hillary Clinton's Benghazi Emails // Daily Beast // Tim Mok - May 22, 2015

Conspiracy-minded conservatives, be warned: The trove of Clinton emails don't prove much about her culpability for the infamous 9/11 anniversary attacks.

If Republicans were looking for a silver bullet to use against Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, the State Department's Friday document dump about Benghazi wasn't it.

There's no illicit weapons Libyan program to be found in the emails, as some have speculated. No 'stand-down' order. Just a hectic flow of information to and from Hillary Clinton—about danger, about death, and ultimately, about condolences.

The State Department released Friday 296 emails involving Hillary Clinton during her tenure as Secretary of State, from 2009 to 2013. The documents include some 300 emails related to Benghazi, which were turned over to the Congressional committee investigating the 2012 attacks. The attacks left four Americans dead, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya.

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The hundreds of emails released by the agency show a Secretary of State who was deeply engaged on Liby an issues—but usually just in a crisis. While Clinton was a key proponent of interv ening in Libya to protect civilians under threat from then-Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi, her emails show that she took a largely hands off approach towards the country.

Of course, this document trove is an incomplete v iew, at best. It excludes any phone calls, briefings or memos. It doesn't include the emails that were deleted by Clinton—and we know there were many. (Republicans noted "inexplicable gaps" in Secretary Clinton's emails ov er sev eral time periods, such as from Oct. 2011 to Jan. 2012, and from April 2012 to July 2012.) And it was released by a State Department that was formerly helmed by Clinton and is still part of a Democratic administration.

But according to her Benghazi-related email traffic, Clinton appears to be only been involved at times of crisis and even then deferred to those on the ground, including Stevens and friends outside gov ernment.

Clinton's emails show that the late Amb. Christopher Stevens had multiple brushes with danger in Benghazi in 2011—more than a y ear before the September 2012 attacks that would ultimately take his life.

Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton received an update about Stevens' 2011 security situation: that there had been intelligence indicating a credible threat to his safety, and that officials were moving swiftly out of the hotel he was staying at in Benghazi.

"There is credible threat info against the hotel that our team is using—and the rest of the Intl community is using, for that matter… DS [Diplomatic Security] going to evacuate our people to alt locations. Info suggested attack in next 24-48 hours," wrote top Clinton aide Jacob Sullivan in an email to Clinton on June 10, 2011, with the subject line, 'Hotel in Benghazi.'

At the time Stevens was a special env oy to Libya, and the U.S. had joined a U.N. campaign to set up a no-fly zone to assist rebels in the overthrow of Muammar Qadhafi.

In a separate incident, in April 2011, a State Department official wrote:

"The situation in Ajdabiyah has worsened to the point Stev ens is considering departure from Benghazi. The env oy's delegation is currently doing a phased checkout (paying the hotel bills, moving some comms to the boat, etc). He will monitor the situation to see if it deteriorates further, but no decision has been made on departure."

The communications received by the Secretary of State illustrate the fast pace of security decisions made on the ground—but don't show Clinton with a direct role in these decisions. For example, there's no indication that Clinton intervened in the decision-making process when told about Stevens' 2011 security scares.

Clinton was heav ily criticized when it emerged in March that she had used a private email server to conduct business while she was Secretary of State. Her private email accounts prevented the normal process of archiving official government records. Clinton's staff had turned over some 55,000 pages of email correspondence to the State Department in December 2014.

Democrats on the Select Benghazi Committee had urged the release of Benghazi-related emails for months. Clinton herself had urged the State Department to swiftly publish the emails, telling reporters earlier this week that she wanted them in the public domain as soon as possible.

"I am pleased that the State Department released the complete set of Secretary Clinton's emails about Benghazi—as Democrats requested months ago," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the committee.

The American people can now read all of these emails and see for themselves that they contain no evidence to back up claims that Secretary Clinton ordered a stand-down, approv ed an illicit weapons program, or any other wild allegation Republicans have made for years.

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In the time between the June 2011 security scare and the September 2012 terrorist attacks, the mood in Libya ebbed and flowed—Stev ens left Libya in November 2011 before returning as U.S. ambassador in May 2012.

In July, Libya held national elections which went off well, leading to people heralding the country worldwide. Meanwhile, Islamist flags had emerged on buildings throughout Benghazi.

The correspondence in summer 2012 shows a somewhat positive situation in Libya: the last email from Stevens that Clinton receives paints a rosy picture: in July 2012 Sen. John McCain is in Tripoli, Liby a, being lauded for his support of the rebels.

“The atmosphere in Tripoli is very festive,” Stevens wrote in one email on July 7, 2012. “The gov’t declared today a holiday and people are driving around honking and wav ing flags and making peace sign gestures… McCain was applauded and thanked for his support wherever we went.”

The world’s focus doesn’t dwell on Libya, and Clinton doesn’t receive additional emails about Benghazi again until the 2012 attacks on U.S. facilities.

By September 2012, the situation in Libya had deteriorated. In a diary entry on Sept. 6, Stevens wrote about a “security vacuum” and “dicey conditions,” even suggesting that he was on an “Islamist ‘hit list’ in Benghazi.”

On the fateful day of Sept. 11, 2012, at approximately 4 p.m. in Washington, D.C., the first attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound occurred. Clinton had previously testified (PDF) that she was at the State Department that day, which could explain why she did not send or receive a large volume of emails about Benghazi.

She becomes more active on emails that evening, and at 11:37 p.m., she receiv es word through her Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills that the Libyan government had confirmed Amb. Stev en’s death.

“Cheryl told me the Libyans confirmed his death. Should we announce tonight or wait until morning?” Clinton wrote in an email to top aides.

Throughout the morning after the initial attacks she has a lot of activ ity: in particular she received a large number of messages expressing condolences to her and the State Department ov er the death of the ambassador.

“The Ambassador was a perfect role model of the kind of person we need representing us around the world, and the others had so much to give—and already had given so much,” said former Secretary of Defense Bob Gates.

“What a wonderful, strong and moving statement by your boss. please tell her how much Sen. McCain appreciated it. Me too,” wrote a top national security aide for Sen. John McCain.

That weekend, Clinton continued to exchange emails on the Benghazi issue. On Saturday Sept. 15, the day before Susan Rice appeared on cable shows to make the since-rescinded claim that the Benghazi attacks were the result of protests-turned-v iolent, Clinton was involved arranging calls from her home and the collection of an action memo via classified courier.

The emails give insight into how Clinton operated at the time: using classified couriers to move memos and getting on the phone with other world leaders, rather than using email.

None of the released emails show Clinton being involved with Rice’s appearance on the Sunday shows, or the discussion of what Rice should say . She does, however, receive a transcript of what Rice would eventually say.

Findings of the Republican-led Select committee on Benghazi may not be released until sometime in 2016, in the thick of

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campaign season.

If the Select Committee continues to operate through the end of the 2015, its estimated cost will rise to $6 million dollars. The House Select Committee on Benghazi was established in May 2014. If it continues through to the end of 2015, it will have been investigating for 19 months—longer than other major, comparable investigations.

(To compare, the joint inquiry into the intelligence community's actions with regard to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks took less than a year. The Senate Watergate committee operated for about 17 months before presenting its findings. And the Warren Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy operated for under a year.)

The release of Friday's Benghazi-related emails has itself been months in the waiting: the State Department had been going through an excruciating process of assessing the emails for any information that would show sensitive or personally identifiable information, and then removing it. The State Department will now turn its attention to performing the same task on thousands of Clinton emails that are not related to Benghazi.

In fact, Hillary Clinton's email correspondence has the potential to generate headlines at least through the end of the year, acting as a disruptive force that distracts from her presidential campaign.

For Republican committee chairman Trey Gowdy, the release of these emails are just the first step in a long slog to "collect and evaluate all of the relevant and material information necessary." Gowdy said that the emails released Friday had all been exclusively reviewed and released only after review by her own lawyers.

Earlier this week, a federal judge had dismissed a State Department plan to release her email archives, comprised of some 55,000 pages of emails, by January 2016. Instead, the judge asked the State Department to come up with a plan to gradually release the emails in stages.

In the nearer term, Hillary Clinton is expected to appear before the Select Committee on Benghazi, Gowdy said last week that he will not schedule the former Secretary of State's testimony until the State Department turns over more documents.

"The Select Committee should schedule Secretary Clinton's public testimony now and stop wasting taxpayer money dragging out this political charade to harm Secretary Clinton's bid for president," Cummings, a Democrat, said Friday.

The New York Times obtained and published about a third of the Clinton Benghazi emails earlier this week, revealing that longtime Clinton friend Sidney Blumenthal had frequently written to her about Libya, serving as a source of information about the country before and after the 2012 attacks.

While Blumenthal had originally blamed demonstrators in the American diplomatic facility in Benghazi, a subsequent memo fingered a Libyan terrorist group for the attacks, arguing that they had used the demonstrations as cover for the violence. This week, the Select Committee on Benghazi subpoenaed Blumenthal to appear before the panel.

Two Actual Everyday Americans Walk Into A Hillary Clinton Event…

…and get crushed. The challenges of the "everyday" campaign. // Buzzfeed // Ruby Cramer – May 22, 2015

HAMPTON, N.H. — When they heard Hillary Clinton would be here on Friday in Hampton — a small coastal town just south of the Maine border — Lenore and Gary Patton contacted the campaign. They wanted to lend a hand as volunteers.

The morning of the event — a roundtable discussion about small businesses at the locally owned Smuttynose Brewing Company — the Pattons arrived early, help set up, and secured the best spot in the house: front row, first two seats.

Lenore, 78, and Gary, 77, had a perfect view of the candidate.

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Had this been a typical event, the Pattons may not have been able to attend.

Clinton aides emphasize — in every email, memo, and press release — that this campaign is about "everyday Americans." But as a result of efforts to keep each gathering intimate — allowing Clinton to best "get the input of every day Americans" — few Americans of that particular stripe actually end up in the room.

Clinton's campaign functions are typically so small that there is barely an audience, just a handful of invited guests, often local Democratic officials.

Last month, before her first event in New Hampshire, a group of young supporters stood outside the venue in the rain, hoping to catch a glimpse of the candidate. Clinton never materialized. But every now and then, one could be seen at the window, face pressed to the glass, hands cupped on either side for a better view.

The roundtable in Hampton was Clinton's largest yet. About 60 people came — including the Pattons, who described themselves as local activists who "fervently supported" Barack Obama in 2008 and now "fervently support" Clinton. The rest of the group was a mix: some invited by the campaign, some invited by the brewery, and others who'd simply asked to come. According to a Clinton aide, the campaign was able to accommodate nearly every request to attend that they received.

For about an hour, the Pattons and the five other dozen guests watched Clinton, alongside her seven roundtable participants, discuss in granular detail the challenges facing small businesses.

And then the spell of the everyday was broken. Clinton was swarmed by reporters. From the aisle, pressed up against a wall of beer cases stacked to the ceiling on pallet shelves, they gathered in a thick circle that happened to coalesce right around the two best seats in the house. Lenore and Gary Patton could not talk to the candidate they had come to see. They could not even get out of their chairs.

Cameras flashed wildly. Lenore was crunched. Gary had a tape recorder in his right ear, a television camera in his left, and microphones just overhead. They were inches from Clinton, with her "in the eye of the hurricane," as Gary put it after watching her field questions on Iraq, her emails, and her image. ("Do you have a perception problem?")

"I'm gonna let the Americans decide that," Clinton replied on her way out.

"Hey," Gary said to no in particular. "She's smart. She's experienced. End of story."

But most people had left by then. One reporter turned to the Pattons to remark on their good view. "Well, we could hardly help it," Gary said. "We couldn't get out."

There was a certain disconnect the Pattons felt they had just witnessed.

"My God, end of story. Stop telling me about the tape recorders," Gary said, referring to the media swarm. "This woman has what it takes."

"She has ideas for the direction of the country," said Lenore. "She cares about the middle class. We're about as middle class as you can get."

"She's so experienced, she's so bright, and she's so adroit," her husband added. "And I came in here not necessarily feeling all of those things, but I go away thinking that we would be lucky to have her as the president, because she has so many attributes that you need."

"It's an incredibly impressive performance," he said.

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Clinton announced this week that her first rally wouldn't be until June 13, a month later than originally expected, kicking off what aides have signaled will be a faster, bigger phase of the campaign.

On Friday afternoon, at her second event of the trip, Clinton suggested that she'd prefer to push that all back indefinitely — staving off for a little bit longer the reality that her campaign isn't small, intimate, or everyday.

"Some people had asked me, particularly in the press, 'When are you going to have really big events?" she told a group of supporters.

"And I said, 'Later, later, later...'"

SOCIAL MEDIA

Jay Rosen (5/22/2015:6:45 AM) : In this dispatch from the campaign trail with HRC and reporters I defy you to find any point to the exercise .

Jennifer Epstein (5/22/2015; 2:07PM): "There is no role whatsoever for American soldiers on the ground to go back" to Iraq except as trainers/ advisers, Clinton says in NH"

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

State Department Releases Hillary Clinton Emails // NYT // Michael S. Schmidt – May 22, 2015

WASHINGTON — The State Department said on Friday it was releasing 296 emails that Hillary Rodham Clinton sent and received when she was secretary of state.

The emails are the first tranche of many that will be released by the State Department over the next year. After it was revealed in March that Mrs. Clinton had exclusively used a personal email account when she was secretary of state, she asked the State Department to release all of the emails she had provided it from her time in office.

The State Department said the emails it was releasing Friday were provided to a specially appointed House committee investigating the 2012 attack on the American mission in Benghazi, Libya. The emails were sent from January 2011 and December 2012, the State Department said.

The New York Times on Thursday obtained and published an initial batch of the emails online.

"The emails we release today do not change the essential facts or our understanding of the events before, during, or after the attacks, which have been known since the independent Accountability Review Board report on the Benghazi attacks was released almost two and a half years ago," the State Department said.

The website that the State Department uses was not working on Friday when it said it was releasing the emails.

Hillary Discussed Speculation About Her Health With Aides In Emails // Daily Caller // ALEX PAPPAS // May 22, 2015

Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton discussed with aides the chatter on cable news about whether she actually suffered a concussion in 2012, according to emails released by the State Department on Friday.

A week before she was to testify before Congress in December 2012 about the attacks in Benghazi, Clinton postponed her

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appearance with aides explaining she had fainted and suffered a concussion.

On Dec. 20, chief of staff Cheryl Mills forwarded Clinton by email a transcript of Fox News host Greta Van Susteren discussing Clinton's health with Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain.

"Senator," Van Susteren said during that segment, "there is a report from the State Department that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will testify on Benghazi before the middle of January . There has been some criticism of whether or not she has a concussion. I believe she has a concussion. What do you think?"

McCain replied: "I have never seen her back down. And I believe that she is now not physically well enough to testify and she will testify the middle of January."

Mills sent a transcript of that interview to Clinton's personal email — hrod@clintonemail.com — and to close aide Huma Abdein.

Speaking of McCain, Clinton replied: "Huma called him and [South Carolina Sen. Lindsey] Graham."

"Also," Clinton added, "someone should call Greta VS to thank her for 'knowing the truth.'"

The emails released Friday , ahead of the Memorial Day weekend, are a few of the thousands the Democratic presidential candidate has turned over to the State Department from her personal email account. Clinton acknowledges she used that email account for both personal and official business.

Clinton emails silent on deadly danger facing Americans in Benghazi // Washington Examiner // BYRON YORK - MAY 22, 2015

The newly-released Hillary Clinton Benghazi emails do not contain any communications relating to security from the critical last month before the September 11, 2012 terrorist attack on the U.S. facility in Libya. During that period, Ambassador Christopher Stevens, who along with three other Americans would die in the attack, warned Clinton and other State Department officials of a growing danger, indeed a security emergency, in Libya. Stevens specifically noted that the possibility of an attack on Americans was growing, and, if such an attack occurred, the U.S. contingent did not have the strength to repel it. But to judge from the emails made public Friday, Clinton gave not a thought to the matter.

Go back to August 2012. On the 15th of that month, U.S. security officers in Libya held an "emergency" meeting to address the very real possibility that growing violence in the area could soon target Americans. The next day, August 16, Stevens sent a cable to Clinton concluding that the Americans in Liby a could not defend U.S. facilities "in the event of a coordinated attack, due to limited manpower, security measures, weapons capabilities, host nation support, and the ov erall size of the compound."

It was a clear call for help, one that, judging by the newly -public emails, went entirely unheard at the highest level of the State Department. Apart from some hugger-mugger analyses of Libyan politics by Clinton's friend Sidney Blumenthal, there is nothing at all in the emails concerning Benghazi from the month before the attack.

Clinton has long maintained she never saw the August 16, 2012 cable. "That cable did not come to my attention," Clinton testified under oath before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in January 2013. "I have made it very clear that the security cables did not come to my attention or above the assistant-secretary level, where the [State Department internal investigation] placed responsibility."

Clinton explained that she was simply too busy , and there were simply too many cables, for her to see ev ery one. "One-point-43 million cables a year come to the State Department," she told the House committee. "They're all addressed to me. They do not all come to me."

But wasn't that August 16, 2012 cable -- warning of dire consequences should the existing violence in Libya target

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Americans -- a pretty important communication? What struck Republicans investigating Benghazi is that, while they knew Clinton was indeed busy, other equally busy top Obama administration officials did read the cable. In an appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee, both former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey -- two busy men with pretty big jobs -- testified they knew about it.

"You were aware that Ambassador Stevens -- of his cable that said that the consulate could not withstand a coordinated attack, is that right?" Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte asked Panetta.

"Correct," said Panetta.

"General, you had said that you previously were aware of that?" Ayotte aid to Dempsey.

"Yes, I was aware of the communication back to the State Department," Dempsey answered.

Clinton, on the other hand, insists to this day that she knew nothing. And there is nothing in the newly-released emails to contradict her sworn testimony on the matter. That should not come as a surprise to anyone. After all, because Clinton kept her communications on a separate, secret system, the only emails that State Department officials possess are the ones Clinton has given them. Clinton and her lawyers, of course, chose the emails that she gave to the State Department and then destroyed all of her email communications, including backups. Could anyone possibly be surprised that nothing Clinton turned over to the State Department -- and ultimately to the public -- contradicted her testimony under oath?

The period leading up to the Benghazi attacks is the most critical time in the entire tragic episode. What did Clinton know about the danger to American officials there, and what did she do about it? That is the key question of Benghazi. What happened afterward -- the blame-the-video spin -- can be interpreted as an attempt to cover up Clinton's inaction before the attack. Yes, the spin campaign was dishonest. But the more serious offense was allowing the conditions that led to the deaths of Stevens and three other Americans. The crime is worse than the cover-up. And if Republicans thought they would receive any new information in the Clinton-edited version of the emails released Friday, they will surely be disappointed.

First batch of Hillary's State Department emails released // Politico // LAUREN FRENCH, JOSH GERSTEIN and BRYAN BENDER – May 22, 2015

The first batch of emails from Hillary Clinton's four years running the State Department was released Friday.

Even before the emails were made public, the State Department argued that the nearly 900 pages of documents do not fundamentally alter the findings of the State Department's Accountability Review Board that probed the Benghazi terrorist attacks.

"The emails we release today do not change the essential facts or our understanding of the events before, during, or after the attacks, which have been known since the independent Accountability Review Board report on the Benghazi attacks was released almost two and a half years ago," wrote the department's deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf.

These highly anticipated emails, some of which have already leaked out, give insight into Clinton's tenure as the top U.S. diplomat. They're also serving as fodder for critics of the Democratic presidential front-runner, who is still dogged by questions about a 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens.

And they are sure to raise more questions about the administration's and Clinton's response to what quickly became a political scandal. There is an email dated Sept. 15 with Clinton providing "talking points" for an upcoming closed-door hearing before the House Select Committee on Intelligence, but with the exception of Jake Sullivan the recipients are blacked out, along with the entire document.

It states only: "Per the discussion at Deputies, here are the revised TPs for HPSCI."

The emails also show that Clinton received now-classified documents on her personal email address. One of the documents State recently deemed classified was a November 2012 email reporting possible arrests in Libya related to the Benghazi attack. The memo was sent through unclassified State Department channels and forwarded to Clinton's private account by Sullivan, State's Director of Policy Planning. A notation on the document released says it was classified as –"SECRET"—the

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middle tier of national security classification—on Friday, the same day the records were released.

Clinton has been under intense pressure for weeks since it was revealed that she used a non-official email address while at the State Department and stored those emails on a personal server in her New York home. Republicans jumped on those revelations to accuse Clinton of attempting to runaround federal records laws and keep key documents about Liby a and Benghazi from the public.

Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, has subpoenaed the State Department for all documents on Libya from Clinton's time at the State Department and is refusing to schedule the former secretary to testify until the Obama administration turns the emails over to congressional investigators.

Clinton's Benghazi emails show correspondence with adviser // Concord Monitor // Lisa Lerer - May 22, 2015

A batch of Hillary Rodham Clinton's emails from her time as secretary of state show her corresponding with a longtime adviser about the Libyan rebellion against Moammar Gadhafi and the Benghazi attack.

The set of messages, which were published yesterday by the New York Times, focus on the 2012 attacks on the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans, including U.S. ambassador Christopher Stev ens.

The emails – many of which are marked "sensitive but unclassified" – show the role play ed by Sidney Blumenthal, a longtime Clinton family confidante, who was working for the Clinton family foundation and advising a group of entrepreneurs trying to win business from the Libyan transitional government. Blumenthal, who was not an employ ee of the State Department at the time, repeatedly wrote dispatches about the events in Libya to Clinton, who often forwarded them to senior diplomatic officials.

Clinton has faced months of controversy after revealing that she used a private email address while working as secretary of state, rather than a government address, and failed to preserve all of her messages. This week, a district court judge ruled that the agency must set a timetable to release the 55,000 remaining pages. The portion of the emails about the events in Libya have already been given for review to a special House panel investigating the attacks. They are expected to be released by the State Department in the coming days after months of delay.

Clinton had initially been expected to testify this week on the attacks, but her testimony was put off after panel chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., complained that he lacked the necessary State Department documents to thoroughly question her. Speaking after a campaign stop in Iowa this week, Clinton urged the agency to make her emails public as quickly as possible.

Another day of damaging disclosures for Hillary // Fox News // Chris Stirewait - May 22, 2015

If the first rule of scandal management is to completely purge the damaging information and cauterize the wound, Hillary Clinton is failing badly. We learned today that Clinton's family foundation hid $26 million in foreign and corporate contributions as "revenue" on the grounds that the presumptive Democratic nominee or her husband or daughter gave speeches in exchange for the gifts. The donors include a Chinese energy consortium, a Nigerian newspaper and Citibank. And later today we will get the first wave of her emails from a secret serv er.

"This is coming from individual who when she worked in State Department didn't obey the law to begin with, which said she should hav e had an official email on an official government server. So she's already broken the law once, so now we're to trust her that the ones she turned over are all of emails? I personally won't be satisfied till we look at the server." – Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., on "America's Newsroom"

Blumenthal's hidden hand in Hillary's State Department // Washington Examiner // Editorial Board - May 22, 2015

The New York Times ran an alarming report this week on how Sidney Blumenthal, a former Clinton aide from the 1990s and an employ ee of the Clinton Foundation, may have helped shape U.S. policy in Libya.

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Despite being barred by former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel from employment at the State Department when then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton tried to hire him in 2009, Blumenthal passed intelligence to Clinton at an email address she had prev iously maintained she did not use at the time. She evidently took his adv ice v ery seriously, routinely forwarding his unvetted memos to senior diplomats. Her aide would anonymize the memos, concealing the fact that Blumenthal — a polarizing figure known in the 1990s for ruthlessly attacking the Clintons' critics, and accused of attacking Obama during the 2008 campaign — was their source.

Blumenthal's information "appears to have come from a group of business associates he was advising as they sought to win contracts from the Libyan transitional government," the Times revealed.

Much of the information Blumenthal handed over was wrong — in some cases ignorantly so, as when he confused two different politicians who had the same last name. But Blumenthal had Clinton's ear, so that his intelligence was disseminated anyway throughout the upper echelons of the State Department. Clinton even recommended passing information from one of his unvetted memos — purporting to describe the attitude of Libya's new president toward Israel — to the Israeli government.

The rev elation of Blumenthal and his scurrilous, possibly self-serving rumors raises the question of exactly who was running things during Clinton's tenure at the State Department, and just how public-spirited their goals were.

This would not be nearly as much of an issue if the U.S. military intervention in Liby a had gone well. The fact that it has been a disaster — nearly as big as the invasion of Iraq, albeit with fewer American casualties — makes the situation ev en more troubling. Since the U.S. intervention, Liby a has become a failed state featuring rival governments, warring militias and hundreds of thousands of internally and externally displaced persons. It is also a new locus of power for the fanatics of the Islamic State terrorist group, who have become known for proudly posting video of their crimes against humanity online.

The Times report is dispiriting and raises many grave questions. For example, Blumenthal seems to have had Clinton's ear in a way that American diplomats, with their repeated requests for additional security at their vulnerable facilities, did not.

But more to the point, he had access to a gullible or complicit top government official who was willing to treat his word as fact. If used in a proper and convincing way, this access could have put the resources of the U.S. government into the serv ice of helping Blumenthal and his business partners make a considerable amount of money, even if they nev er succeeded in doing so.

Clinton Foundation Silent on Blum enthal's Exit Date // Washington Free Bacon // Alana Goodman - May 22, 2015

Controversial Clinton pal Sidney Blumenthal is no longer on the Clinton Foundation payroll, but it is still unclear when he left and under what circumstances.

A spokesperson for the foundation told the Washington Free Beacon that Blumenthal "hasn't worked here in a while," but did not confirm when he left or why. Blumenthal did not respond to request for comment.

The New York Times reported on Monday that Blumenthal was simultaneously working for the foundation, entities with business interests in Libya, and providing foreign policy advice to Hillary Clinton while she was at the State Department.

The congressional committee investigating the Benghazi attack subpoenaed Blumenthal on Tuesday for a closed-door deposition, which could take place as early as June 3.

According to the Times, Blumenthal sent Clinton numerous emails with advice on Libya policy, which she then passed on

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to other State Department officials. Some of the messages mentioned officials related to Blumenthal's business interests, while others included information that seemed dubious to State Department officials.

At the time, Blumenthal was also being paid as an adv iser to the Clinton Foundation, according to the Times.

Blumenthal, a former journalist who became an advisor to President Bill Clinton, used his media clout to help defend the Clintons in the 1990s. But some critics accused him of underhanded tactics. According to his long-time former friend, the late journalist Christopher Hitchens, Blumenthal shopped around false stories about Monica Lewinsky in an attempt to discredit her during the Kenneth Starr investigation.

Blumenthal's ties to the Clintons came under new scrutiny in 2013, after his private emails advising Hillary Clinton on Libya policy were leaked by a hacker known as Guccifier.

Later that year, Blumenthal began promoting a controversial anti-Israel book written by his son, Max Blumenthal, and launched a behind-the-scenes attack campaign against the book's critics.

The book, Goliath, compared the Israel government to Nazi Germany and painted the Jewish state as inherently racist. It was endorsed by the white supremacist David Duke's website, and landed Max Blumenthal on the Simon Wiesenthal Center's list of the "Top 10 Global Anti-Semitic and Anti-Israel Slurs."

The left-leaning columnist Eric Alterman wrote in the Nation that the book "could have been published by the Hamas Book-of-the-Month Club (if it existed)."

In response, Sidney Blumenthal launched an attack campaign against Alterman by blasting the columnist's credibility in a widely circulated mass email reported by BuzzFeed. He also hosted the book launch party for Goliath at his home, the Free Beacon reported.

At the time, media outlets were stonewalled by the Clinton Foundation when they asked whether Sidney Blumenthal was on the payroll. Blumenthal also fled from a Free Beacon reporter who asked whether he was being paid by the foundation.

At the time, Clinton ally Alan Dershowitz called on the Clintons to cut ties with Blumenthal if he did not distance himself from the views expressed in the book.

"In light of the long association between the Clintons and Sid Blumenthal, I hope that the Clintons ask Sid to expressly disasscoate himself from his son's views–and if he refuses to, that they no longer work with him on any matters," Dershowitz told Breitbart News.

Hillary Clinton defended her long-time adviser on Tuesday in response to the new revelations.

"We've been friends for a long time," said Clinton during an ev ent in Iowa. "He sent me e-mails I passed on in some instances. That's part of the giv e and take. ... I'm going to keep talking to my old friends, whoever they are."

Hillary Clinton's Surprisingly Effective Cam paign // The Atlantic // PET ER BEINART - MAY 22, 2015

Hillary Clinton has been an official candidate for president for five weeks, and she still hasn't done the thing most candidates do on day one: giv en a speech laying out her vision for America. Nor is she planning on doing so anytime soon. Politico reports that Hillary's "why I'm running for president," speech, initially scheduled for May , has now been delayed until June, or even later.

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There's a reason for that: The speech is unlikely to be very good. Soaring rhetoric and grand themes have never been Hillary's strengths. That's one reason so many liberals found her so much less inspirational than Barack Obama in 2008. And it's a problem with deep roots. In his biography, A Woman in Charge, Carl Bernstein describes Hillary, then in law school, struggling to articulate her generation's perspective in an address to the League of Women Voters. "If she was speaking about a clearly defined subject," Bernstein writes, "her thoughts would be well organized, finely articulated, and delivered in almost perfect outline form. But before the League audience, she again and again lapsed into sweeping abstractions."

Team Clinton appears to understand this. And so it has done something shrewd. Instead of talking vision, Hillary is talking policy, which she does really well.

The Many Measures of Hillary Clinton

If Hillary's struggles with vision go back a long time, so does her passion for wonkery. As a student government leader at Wellesley, Bernstein notes, Hillary developed "a better system for the return of library books" and "studied every aspect of the Wellesley curriculum in developing a successful plan to reduce the number of required courses."

In 1993, she took time off from a vacation in Hawaii to grill local officials about the state's healthcare system. In his excellent book on Hillary's 2000 Senate race, Michael Tomasky observes that, "In the entire campaign, she had exactly one truly inspiring moment" but that, "over time it became evident to all but the most cynical that she actually cared about utility rates."

Hillary's handlers have played to this strength. On April 29, she devoted the first major speech of her campaign not to her vision for America, but to something more specific: race and crime. She began with a graphic and harrowing description of the young black men recently killed by police:

Walter Scott shot in the back in Charleston, South Carolina. Unarmed. In debt. And terrified of spending more time in jail for child support payments he couldn't afford. Tamir Rice shot in a park in Cleveland, Ohio. Unarmed and just 12 years old. Eric Garner choked to death after being stopped for selling cigarettes on the streets of this city. And now Freddie Gray. His spine nearly severed while in police custody.

She recounted advocating for prisoners while director the University of Arkansas' legal-aid clinic. She noted the parallels between race and class, observing that life expectancy is declining not only for many African Americans, but also for white women without high-school degrees. And she made the crucial point that because government currently treats drug addiction and psychiatric disorders primarily as criminal rather than public-health problems, "our prisons and our jails are now our mental health institutions."

The speech was not merely substantive. It was authentic. It showcased the real Hillary Clinton: A woman who, whatever her faults, hates injustice and knows what she's talking about when it comes to government.

A week later in Las Vegas, Hillary gave another impressive speech, this one on immigration. In a media environment where "pro" and "anti" immigration often refers merely to how many people America lets in, Hillary turned the conversation to how America treats immigrants once we do. First, she talked movingly about her childhood memories of the migrant farm workers who worked in the fields around Chicago. Then she attacked the idea, common in "pro-immigration" Republican circles, that America should legalize undocumented immigrants without allowing them citizenship. "Today not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential, is clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship," she declared. "Not one. When they talk about "legal status," that's code for "second-class status." America, Hillary insisted, must see the undocumented not merely as workers, but as human beings.

Sooner or later, Hillary will have to move from policy to philosophy. It may be a rocky transition. And if the Republicans nominate Marco Rubio (which at this point looks like a decent bet), she will face a candidate who interweaves personal biography and national aspiration better than she does. But if Hillary stumbles, these opening weeks of her campaign may offer a template for how she regains her footing. She's at her best talking about America not abstractly, but concretely. She's most inspiring when talking not about what she believes, but about what she wants to do. And she most effectively humanizes herself by being true to who she is: knowledgeable, passionate, and vaguely obsessive about making government work. Against Rubio, or any other likely Republican challenger, that identity should provide an excellent

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contrast.

On policy, Clinton plays it safe : With broad rhetoric but risk-averse stances, she tilts left without moving very far. // Politico //ANNIE KARNI – May 22, 2015

HAMPTON, N.H. — Hillary Clinton's approach to policy, so far, has been as risk-averse as her media strategy.

On the trail, she prefers the safe hav en of the controlled roundtable setting, and for the most part avoids taking questions from the press. And when it comes to the issues she wants to talk about, Clinton sticks with those that are either so broadly popular as to present no threat to her brand or general-election prospects, or so small-bore as to carry little chance of backlash.

On Friday in New Hampshire, Clinton spoke with a passionate, progressive voice, pounding away at Republicans for "jumping on the bandwagon" to kill the Export-Import Bank, whose authorization in Congress is set to expire June 30. It was a safe call, to say the least: House Democrats support the bank. Moderate Democrats such as Sen. Chuck Schumer support the bank. A liberal like Sen. Elizabeth Warren? She's pro-bank, too.

"It is wrong that Republicans in Congress are now trying to cut off this vital lifeline for American small businesses," said Clinton, at the SmuttyNose Brewery in Hampton. Republicans, she said, would threaten the livelihoods of American workers rather than "stand up to the Tea Party and talk radio. It's wrong, it's embarrassing."

Weighing in forcefully on an issue where her outlook matches that of the majority of her party was right in line with Clinton's posture on many policy issues during this first phase of her campaign.

In her month and a half on the trail, Clinton has spoken in broad terms that give her the appearance of sometimes channeling Sen. Elizabeth Warren and championing the left — in the case of her appearance at SmuttyNose Brewery, sticking up for small businesses and bashing the GOP.

She sounds like she's wrapping her arms around the progressive wing of her party while alienating few. She uses rhetoric that sounds Warren-esque ("The deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top") while being vague about details of how precisely she would address the problem.

One Democratic strategist described Clinton's positioning as a "head fake, making the general audience of the left think she's one of them."

The risk is that Clinton play s into the stereoty pe that she is a cautious and poll-driven politician more inclined to appease rather than lead. In an op-ed in the Portsmouth Herald Friday, Sen. Marco Rubio knocked Clinton for playing it safe and feeling no pressure to "offer new ideas."

Clinton campaign advisers, meanwhile, argue that her positioning is not a strategy at all, but rather a sincere reflection of her record of fighting for the middle-class.

"The campaign is built on that record and consistent with the values Hillary Clinton has always championed," spokesman Jesse Ferguson said. "It's not about left or right, it's about the v alues Hillary Clinton believes in and the fight she is continuing to wage."

But the issues her advisers cite tend to be broadly accepted Democratic chestnuts. Clinton has said same-sex marriage should be a constitutional right; the minimum wage should be raised; the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision should be overturned to remove big money out of politics; community college should be free; police departments should be equipped with body cameras; what works in Obamacare should be extended and the high cost of prescription drugs should be lowered; paid family leave should be instituted; effective treatment should be provided for those who suffer from mental health and substance abuse problems.

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Some of her stances, such as that on same-sex marriage, represent an evolution from where she has been in the past. But overall, Clinton has not supported progressive positions where she would hav e to stick her neck out from where the majority of her party is.

Moderate Democrats have taken note. “She’s being smart by checking the boxes on progressive issues that have wide appeal across the party , but keeping her general election powder dry by not going too far to the left,” said Jonathan Cowan, president of Third Way, a think tank started by former Clinton administration staffers.

Nonetheless, she’s succeeded in giving the impression of moving to the left.

The right-wing America Rising PAC has already accused Clinton of “staking out far-left positions that are outside of the mainstream of most Americans.” Ev en some of her biggest donors claim they see a shift.

“I think she is moving a little bit to the left and I think that’s fine,” hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, who recently hosted a fundraiser for Clinton, said in a television interview with Bloomberg. “People who are giving money to her understand that.”

But supporting universal pre-k and reforming student loans are hardly bold positions for Democrats in 2015 — instead, Democratic strategists argued, they act as liberal stalking horse issues that allow a candidate to appear boldly progressive while risking little.

A real sign that Clinton was tacking left would be a call for a single-payer healthcare sy stem, or a promise to break the country’s large banks, or returning to a higher income-tax rate on everyone making more than $1 million a y ear. Clinton is unlikely to take those positions, and so far has not offered those kinds of specifics.

Indeed, as Vox.com’s Jonathan Allen pointed out, 91 percent of voters said they fav ored police officers wearing body cameras, according to a Pew poll from last year. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll from April showed that 58 percent of respondents favor legalizing same-sex marriage. And 57 percent of voters support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who live in this country, according to a CBS/New York Times poll from earlier this month.

On those issues that could be potentially costly to her — like weighing in on President Obama’s trade deal or the Keystone XL Pipeline— Clinton has notably refused to weigh in.

“Her strategy: alienate no one,” said Democratic strategist Hank Sheinkopf. “Give the left of the Party no reason to criticize. Rhetoric works better than detail. Rhetoric you can change or edit. Details are difficult to erase.”

Details, such as how much she would like to raise the minimum wage, hav e yet to be shared. Even on immigration, where Clinton surprised many of the immigration activists who in the past had protested her speeches, some are still waiting eagerly for specifics. Clinton has yet to outline how, legally , she would be able to institute any policy that would go beyond where Obama went with an executive action to let millions more undocumented immigrants gain protections and work permits.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton eyes her chocolate peanut butter fudge ice cream Friday during a stop at Moo's Place in Derry, N.H. AP Photo

“Everything we hear now is words on the campaign trail, but the proof is in the pudding,” said Javier Valdes, co-executive director of Make the Road Action Fund. “We appreciate that she’s pushing the envelope. But the details will matter. We’re happy to hear that she’s taking that stance but we need to hear a little bit more.”

The hope, Democrats said, is that Clinton will soon add specifics to the outlines of policy she has only traced so far.

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On Thursday, the campaign announced its big kick-off rally, where Clinton will address thousands of supporters with a big-picture speech about her candidacy and her vision for the future.

Clinton Foundation muscles the media // AP // Jake Tapper - May 22, 2015

CNN anchor and chief Washington correspondent Jake Tapper this week entered the news cycle obliquely. An article in USA Today noted some turbulence over just how to describe his role in the June 8-10 Clinton Global Initiative America Meeting in Denver. Was he going to be a "speaker" at the event, or something else?

CNN and the Clinton Foundation appear to be going back and forth on the matter, as Breitbart's John Nolte has reported.

Neither USA Today nor Breitbart would have plowed such interest into this matter a year ago, back when the Clinton Foundation was an aggressive global charity with a bipartisan roster of supporters. After Hillary Clinton ramped up and then announced a 2016 presidential bid, the Clinton Foundation has turned into something different: An aggressive global charity with a bipartisan roster of supporters — and whose every move is suspect. Author Peter Schweizer, the New York Times, The Washington Post and Fox News, among others, have combed the foundation's records in search of overlaps with Clinton's dealings as secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. "We will see a pattern of financial transactions involving the Clintons that occurred contemporaneous with favorable U.S. policy decisions benefiting those providing the funds," writes Schweizer in "Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich."

The sudden touchiness of the Clinton family charity explains why last week's revelation that ABC News chief anchor George Stephanopoulos had donated $75,000 to the foundation blew a pothole in an otherwise smooth career. And it surely contextualizes the negotiations between the foundation and CNN over just how Tapper's participation in the Denver event is presented. At the Denver confab next month Tapper will not only interview former president Bill Clinton as part of the proceedings but is also listed as the moderator of a panel on "The Business Case for Investing in America's Workforce," according to the event's Web page. Portions of that discussion will air on CNN, according to a network spokesperson, who notes that details are still being negotiated.

The proceedings will take place under the banner of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), a Clinton Foundation subsidiary that "convenes global leaders to create and implement innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges," according to the foundation. And by the foundation's accounting, CGI community members "have made nearly 3,200commitments which have improved the lives of over 430 million people in more than 180 countries."

Those numbers look impressive, but it's a name that attracts media heavies such as Tapper. He'll interview Bill Clinton for 15 to 20 minutes, according to the foundation. Even when his wife is not at the center of the country's biggest ongoing news story, former president Clinton is an ideal interviewee — informed, agile and ever willing to joust with his questioners. Says a CNN spokesperson: "This on-the-record interview with President Clinton will be broadcast exclusively on CNN. Nothing is off limits and Jake intends to use this opportunity to ask important, pressing and relevant questions of the former President who happens to have a unique role in the 2016 elections."

So why is Tapper also moderating a CGI panel?

Because that's part of the media-CGI "template," to cite the term of Craig Minassian, chief communications officer for the Clinton Foundation. This template features access to the former president in addition to — or, perhaps, in exchange for — participation in one of the CGI's panel discussions. "There's an understanding that the package has two elements because that's how we've always done it," says Minassian, who indicates that the arrangement dates back to 2006.

The template saw some action earlier this month, when CNN chief international correspondent Christiane Amanpour participated in a CGI event in Marrakesh, Morocco. She interviewed Bill Clinton and moderated a panel discussion on youth and education. The interview made some waves, as Bill Clinton chided "Clinton Cash" author Schweizer: "Even the guy that wrote the book apparently had to admit under questioning that we didn't have a shred of evidence for this, we just thought we would throw it out there and see if it flies. It won't fly!"

The panel discussion on youth and education yielded less striking headlines. It consisted of Amanpour chatting with Chelsea Clinton, vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, along with two others — Kenyan Kennedy Odede, who runs a girls

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school in Nairobi that's sponsored by the Clinton Foundation, and Tunisian activ ist Asma Mansour. The first question from Amanpour to Chelsea Clinton: "What about your current trip has really staggered you or stood out for you?" Softballs aside, the discussion was thorough, informed and utterly shadowed by the Clinton Foundation iconography on the curtain surrounding panel members:

The panel discussion, as well as the Clinton interview, secured air time on Amanpour's show.

The Clinton Foundation doesn't micromanage the questions posed by the likes of Amanpour or Tapper in these sessions. "We don't put editorial restrictions on interv iews with the president," says Minassian. "We're not try ing to compromise the editorial perspective of the journalist but the reason we're working with news organizations is so that we can get the message and word out about the work that CGI is doing."

At that, CGI has been successful. Though Tapper is the news peg for this go-round, many of his colleagues have plowed this same terrain over the years. Former CNN anchor Piers Morgan, CNN anchor Erin Burnett, former CNBC host Maria Bartiromo, PBS's Charlie Rose, former NBC News anchor David Gregory and others hav e all worked the CGI interview-panel circuit.

Consider that last one. In June 2014, Gregory interviewed Bill Clinton in the aftermath of media buzz about the Clinton family's wealth. In her then-headline-making tour for her book "Hard Choices," Hillary Clinton had madenews with her comment that the family was "not only dead broke, but in debt" after leav ing the White House. When asked about the topic by Gregory at CGI, Bill Clinton said, "It is factually true that we were $7 million in debt."

Gregory also moderated a panel with Clinton and national business leaders on economic issues, portions of which aired on "Meet the Press," not to mention a "Meet the Press Extra".

That's not all, either. MSNBC aired an "extended" version of the panel discussion.

The tradeoff facing media organizations that want a seat at the CGI scene appears stark: You get to interview Bill Clinton one on one. But you have to stick around to do one of our wonky panel discussions — and air the end product. Which brings up an idea — couldn't CNN or NBC News or ABC News simply tell CGI that they'll take Door No. 1 (President Clinton interview) and decline Door No. 2 (panel discussion)? "They could but we wouldn't do it," says Minassian.

Assertive! For Clinton watchers who chronicle the family's transactional nature, log this one in the books. The foundation's people know they have a commodity for which news organizations will negotiate. And the byproduct of the negotiations is extensive exposure for the Clinton Foundation. This should go down in the Philanthropy Book of Best Practices.

It's all a collaborative arrangement, notes Minassian. "Hopefully it works for everybody," he says. "We like to think it's a creative approach. Ev erybody has felt that it gives them access not only to an interview but also to other important voices. . . . Our approach is that CGI is a content platform, where the content is the philanthropic work that all sectors of society are doing."

The Erik Wemple Blog is agnostic about whether CGI is a content platform. In any case, Minassian highlights the ways in which CGI's interests overlap with the media's. For instance, the topic of Amanpour's panel discussion very much tracked on the sort of issues she approaches in her international coverage. The economics topics explored by Gregory's panel, likewise, melded with the fare on "Meet the Press." "We're working with them to create content," say s Minassian.

Yet it's not quite as collaborative as all that. The Clinton Foundation is doing what other global charities only dream of doing, which is to muscle media organizations into promoting and moderating discussions on themes of the charity's choosing. Consider that after more than a decade of holding CGI conferences, the foundation now fields proposals from TV outlets. "The networks have been coming to us for years," says Minassian, noting that CNN last fall approached the foundation about its 2015 plans.

"Working with networks to originate programming from CGI events is just one of the many ways we showcase philanthropic work that's improving the lives of millions of people around the world to as wide an audience as possible,"

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Minassian writes in an e-mail. “Since CGI has a long history of conv ening global leaders from all sectors of society, it shouldn’t be surprising that networks approach us about working together to create compelling content. Good news about what’s going right in the world is a tough sell so of course we’re going to take every opportunity to promote it.”

If nothing else, the arrangement places pressure on the networks to tell viewers just who is deciding on the themes of discussion and the guests arrayed on stage. Transparency , that is. Said Tapper in a note to the Erik Wemple Blog: “As I learned from the late, great David Carr and from you when I worked for you at Washington City Paper years ago, transparency is extremely important in journalism. That lesson (and others) I learned during my time at WCP guide me to this day, and that will not change no matter whom I interview.”

Hillary Clinton's dark whisperer is back // Politico // Glenn Thrush - May 22, 2015

Sidney Blumenthal is right back where he wants to be: in the middle of another partisan blood feud with the Vast Right Wing Conspiracy he’s been fighting since the 1990s.

Hillary Clinton’s wartime, peacetime — anytime — confidant has been thrust again into the public eye by disclosures that he had shoveled questionable second-hand intelligence on Libya in 2012 to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in the form of reports she forwarded to her skeptical Foggy Bottom aides.

The rev elations, contained in 850 pages of emails grudgingly released by Clinton, are likely to earn Blumenthal an appearance before Rep. Trey Gowdy’s Benghazi committee – but they haven’t weakened the bond between the former New Yorker writer and the Clintons, according to a half-dozen people who know both parties. In the words of one longtime Clinton ally, Blumenthal’s involvement in the email mess “has if anything strengthened his position” by underscoring his loy alty and willingness to share inside dope, however flawed — always coin of the realm for the information-hungry Clintons.

Blumenthal’s knack for passing along intriguing tidbits and strategic advice has long given him a position of influence, if not direct operational power, inside Clinton’s inner circle of friends. His now-central role in the Benghazi fight comes as no surprise to allies who have watched with fascination, and not a little alarm, as he’s outlasted a musical-chairs cast of professional Clinton advisers ov er the past 20 years.

Clinton was unapologetic about her relationship with Blumenthal when asked about the emails on Tuesday during a campaign stop in Iowa. “I have many , many old friends, and I always think that it’s important when you get into politics to have friends you had before you were in politics, and to understand what’s on their minds,” she said. “He’s been a friend of mine for a long time.”

People close to Blumenthal say he’s lawyering up, unbowed and eager to fight back. And he’s confident the Clintons will have his back — as part of an informal loyalty pact that extends back to the early 1990s when he defended them in print, often to the dismay of his own editors.

In addition to being a friend, Blumenthal is also on the extended payroll of Clinton Inc., drawing a salary as a strategic adviser to the Clinton family foundation and another from Democratic-aligned advocacy groups run by a powerful Clinton ally.

Blumenthal is no longer in the inner circle of full-time Clinton operatives populated by the likes of Huma Abedin, John Podesta and the increasingly inv olved Chelsea Clinton. He consults with Bill and Hillary Clinton less frequently than he did during the 2008 campaign, when he forged a powerful alliance with Clinton pollster Mark Penn, people close to her tell POLITICO. And campaign officials don’t consider him to be as influential as other key intimates outside the official chain of command, such as superlawyer Cheryl Mills or Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

But Blumenthal has been plenty active since Clinton declared her candidacy in March, sharing his insights with the Clintons on the 2016 Republican field and quietly offering opinions on how to battle conservativ e groups to a select group of friends, according to Democratic operatives familiar with his activities.

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And Blumenthal still enjoys unmediated access to the former first couple, to the irritation of the candidate's senior staff, especially campaign chairman John Podesta, who chafed at Blumenthal's back-channel access to the first family when he serv ed as chief of staff — and Blumenthal's boss — in the Clinton White House.

When POLITICO reached out for comment, Blumenthal responded by saying he was entirely consumed with finishing the first installment of a four-volume political biography of Abraham Lincoln. "I have cultiv ated patience, and made no attempt at a retort," Blumenthal emailed — Lincoln's statement to critics following his 1858 defeat in the Illinois Senate race to Stephen Douglas.

He has, indeed, thrown himself into book research: When a reporter approached him at a pre-White House Correspondents' Dinner event last month, Blumenthal responded by saying he would be happy to chat — so long as the conversation was confined to the topic of Honest Abe. Then followed a cheerful, erudite and achingly detailed analysis of the political motivations underly ing Lincoln's 1847 speech opposing the Mexican war.

Blumenthal broke his silence on the Benghazi emails late Thursday, issuing a statement through his attorney saying he intended to fully cooperate with congressional investigators and emphasizing the informal nature of his consultations with Clinton. "From time to time, as a private citizen and friend, I prov ided Secretary Clinton with material on a variety of topics that I thought she might find interesting or helpful," he wrote. "The reports I sent her came from sources I considered reliable. I have informed the House Select Committee on Benghazi that I will cooperate with its inquiry and look forward to answering the Committee's questions."

The Benghazi email trov e is probably just a hint of what's out there. Over the y ears, Blumenthal has corresponded more or less constantly with the Clintons, but especially Hillary, on a wide range of topics — not for nothing did he earn the nickname "Grassy Knoll" for spinning dark conspiracy theories during his tenure in the White House during the Lewinsky scandal. Blumenthal's noir, wheels-within-wheels worldview meshed with the first lady's less-than-sunny v iew of the press and Republicans.

In his 2003 chronicle of 1990s life in the White House, "The Clinton Wars," Blumenthal describes feeding Hillary Clinton's appetite for intelligence on her enemies as an operational — and emotional — necessity, a psy chic security blanket that gave her a sense she could survive whatever Republicans threw her way. "Hav ing knowledge restored a sense of normality, even amid the storm," he wrote. "We could see the lines of influence underlying the scandal — the cause and effect, intent and action — and they were political and familiar."

Blumenthal's greatest coup — and the one that cemented his standing as a Clinton loyalist — was the secret recruitment of David Brock, a conservativ e investigative reporter who had done more damage than any other anti-Clinton journalist, as a double agent of sorts in the late 1990s. In 1997, Blumenthal reached out to Brock through a mutual friend and to his surprise, Brock expressed his disgust with the machinations of the right-wing press and the rich conservatives who funded his anti-Clinton work.

The two stuck a friendship. Eventually, Brock flipped sides, developed his own relationship with the Clintons and built a powerful network of Democrat-allied organizations that have made him a major player in party politics. Blumenthal and Brock remain close, and Blumenthal has worked for the Brock-founded Media Matters for America and his super PAC, American Bridge.

One job he couldn't get: an appointment as a formal staff adviser to Clinton at the State Department. Her attempt to bring him on board in 2009 was vehemently opposed by President Barack Obama's team, led by then-chief of staff Rahm Emanuel and press secretary Robert Gibbs, ov er Blumenthal's role in pushing unflattering stories about Obama's drug use and personal life to the media.

Yet, as the Benghazi emails show, Blumenthal and Clinton managed to work together anyway, in typical ov er-the-transom fashion. One could hear the y ou-can't-stop-me in Clinton's voice Tuesday when she defended the correspondence: "He sent me unsolicited emails which I passed on in some instances, and I say that that's just part of the give and take."

The first tranche of emails, revealed Thursday by The New York Times, shows the danger of this sort of informal arrangement: Blumenthal sent then-Secretary Clinton a memo a day after the Benghazi attack claiming that the murderous mob was part of a wav e of protests against a YouTube video that had prompted an attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Cairo. Clinton forwarded the email to Jake Sulliv an, a top foreign policy adviser, requesting "More info."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

But the emails also show that Republicans' hoped-for smoking gun is, at least so far, nowhere to be found: Sullivan responded politely but noncommittally to most of the Blumenthal emails and forwarded the information, at Clinton's request, to the appropriate State Department specialists. There they seem to hav e died.

Despite the fact that Clinton doesn't name Blumenthal as her source in the emails, two former administration officials told POLITICO that Sullivan, who now serv es as the Clinton campaign's policy czar, knew very well that he was her source and that he resented Blumenthal's freelancing.

"Jake was too nice to tell the secretary what he really thought," said one former senior national security official. "But he was really pissed off that Sid was wasting everybody's time."

Still, Sulliv an is discovering what other Clinton hirelings have known for years: Bill and Hillary think Sid's time, advice and dish are yet valuable.

Clinton's 'Secret' Email Accounts // Fact Check // Eugene Kiely - May 22, 2015

The Republican National Committee thinks it has the smoking gun that prov es Hillary Clinton used "multiple secret email addresses" as secretary of state. It doesn't.

The RNC made its claim in a May 18 blog post hours after the New York Times published copies of emails that Clinton had sent and received when she was secretary. The emails displayed two accounts: hdr22@clintonemail.com and hrod17@clintonemail.com . That seemed to clearly contradict Clinton's claim that she used only hdr22@clintonemail.com while in office, which was from January 2009 to February 2013.

But the Clinton campaign says there is a simple explanation for this apparent discrepancy: The emails published by the Times were printed out in 2014 after Clinton had left the State Department and after she had changed her email address, so the printed copies of emails she sent while in office display her new address (hrod17@clintonemail.com), even though they were originally sent under her old address (hdr22@clintonemail.com). We agree that this is possible.

The Clinton explanation passed two tests — including one conducted for us by Ray Tomlinson, the man who is widely credited with inv enting email.

Tomlinson ran an optical character recognition on the PDF of the emails that the Times posted to its website, and what he found is consistent with the Clinton campaign's explanation for what happened.

We at FactCheck.org also tested Clinton's explanation. Our IT staff created originaluser@asc.upenn.edu and renamed it newuser@asc.upenn.edu . An email sent by originaluser@asc.upenn.edu printed out as if it had come from newuser@asc.upenn.edu after we changed the name of the email account.

Tom Conte, a professor at the Schools of Electrical & Computer Engineering and Computer Science at Georgia Institute of Technology and president of the IEEE Computer Society, said Clinton's explanation is "technically possible" and that our test "proves it."

@clintonemail.com

As most know by now, Clinton did not use the gov ernment email sy stem while secretary of state. Instead, she used a priv ate server and email account. This unusual arrangement — first detailed March 2 by the New York Times — triggered a political firestorm.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Republicans have accused Clinton of seeking to avoid public disclosure of her emails on controversial issues, such as the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the temporary consulate in Benghazi that resulted in the deaths of four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador to Liby a Chris Stevens. For her part, Clinton has said that her email arrangements were a matter of convenience, and that the "v ast majority of my work emails went to government employees at their government addresses," so they were preserved at the State Department.

The issue of how many private email accounts Clinton used was first raised by a special House committee inv estigating Benghazi.

On March 4, two day s after the Times disclosed Clinton's exclusive use of personal emails to conduct official business, the Select Committee on Benghazi said it was "in possession of records with two separate and distinct email addresses used by former Secretary Clinton and dated during the time she was Secretary of State." At the time, the House committee declined our request to provide us with the second email address.

Why does it matter how many private email accounts Clinton had? The Republicans question whether Clinton has been forthcoming in turning over all the documents related to Benghazi. Clinton turned over 55 ,000 pages of emails to the State Department in December 2014, her office confirmed after the Times story appeared.

The existence of hdr22@clintonemail.com has been public knowledge since March 2013, a month after she left office. But the existence of hrod17 @clintonemail.com became public when the New York Times on May 18 and May 21 published copies of the printed emails.

On May 18, the RNC wrote that the emails published by the Times contradicted a claim by Clinton's lawy er that she used only one @clintonemail.com email account as secretary of state. Clinton's lawy er David Kendall sent a letter on March 27 to Rep. Trey Gowdy, the chairman of the Benghazi committee, that said " 'hrod17@clintonemail.com ' is not an address that existed during Secretary Clinton's tenure as Secretary of State."

On May 20, House Speaker John Boehner's spokesman Matt Wolking wrote that Kendall's response to the committee is "completely false." He wrote, "The address hrod17@clintonemail.com did exist while she was Secretary of State, according to emails from 2011 and 2012 published by The New York Times on Monday."

Conservative websites were abuzz with claims that Clinton was "caught in another email lie," as Breitbart put it.

The Blaze embedded several emails (like the one below) into its news article and said, "Multiple emails show Clinton used account "hrod17@clintonemail.com " while serving in the Obama administration as secretary of state."

But all is not what it seems.

What the Ev idence Shows and Experts Say

When we contacted the Clinton campaign about the apparent discrepancy, we were referred to an explanation that was first contained in a Q&A issued by the campaign on March 10. The question and answer addressed the allegation, made by the Benghazi committee, that Clinton had two private email addresses:

Why did the Select Committee announce that she used multiple email addresses during her tenure?

In fairness to the Committee, this was an honest misunderstanding. Secretary Clinton used one email account during her tenure at State (with the exception of her first weeks in office while transitioning from an email account she had previously used). In March 2013, a month after she left the Department, Gawker published the email address she used while Secretary, and so she had to change the address on her account.

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At the time the printed copies were provided to the Department last year, because it was the same account, the new email address established after she left office appeared on the printed copies as the sender, and not the address she used as Secretary. In fact, this address on the account did not exist until March 2013. This led to understandable confusion that was cleared up directly with the Committee after its press conference.

Kendall, in his letter to the committee, identified the new email address established in March 2013 as hrod17@clintonemail.com .

But why would the emails — including the one we display above — show hrod17@clintonemail.com as the sender if it came from hdr22@clintonemail.com ? Is that even technically possible?

We consulted four computer experts, and all agreed that it was possible. There is one example in the trove of emails that the Times posted online that proves it is possible. That's a May 6, 2011, email from Clinton to Jake Sullivan, who at the time was her deputy chief of staff and director of policy planning.

On page 31 of the New York Times' PDF of Clinton's emails is a print copy of Clinton's email to Sullivan that shows Clinton's email address as hrod17@clintonemail.com (the one she says was created after she left office). But that same email also appears on page 35 of the PDF as part of an email exchange with Sullivan (who had responded to her), and the email address for Clinton in that case is displayed as hdr22@clintonemail.com .

"This string of email messages proves the Clinton team's explanation is true," said Conte, the president of the IEEE Computer Society.

The reason, he said, is simple: The hdr22@clintonemail.com address that is part of the email string is now static text, so it wouldn't change. That means that the email originated from hdr22@clintonemail.com . But the address on the printed version of just Clinton's email to Sullivan would be populated with the new email address because that is an active data field — giving the illusion that it came from hrod17@clintonemail.com .

We asked our IT staffers to see if they could recreate the same behavior, and they did. They created an email account called originaluser@asc.upenn.edu , exchanged emails with this author and then changed the name of the account to newuser@asc.upenn.edu . The emails were then printed out by the sender after the account was renamed. The results are below.

The first email sent on Thursday, May 21, at 12:26 p.m. displays originaluser@asc.upenn.edu as the sender, because it was part of an email string and was static text:

But that same email appeared to be sent from newuser@asc.upenn.edu when it was printed out separately:

Original

The steps that we followed for the test were the same as those suggested by Tomlinson, who was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame for inventing email.

Tomlinson conducted a separate test that weighs in support of Clinton's claim. He used optical character recognition (OCR) to convert the Times' PDF of the Clinton emails into searchable text. He said "the 37 messages that were purportedly sent from H have hrod17@clintonemail.com in the From: field. No such message is From: hdr22. hdr22 appears only in the From: field of 15 messages that were included in a received message. All such messages contained in replies to H are from hdr22 and no such message contained in replies to H are from hrod17."

He said that outcome is consistent with the Clinton campaign's "statement that the messages originally sent from H appear in the pdf as if they were sent from hrod17. There are no counterexamples."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The RNC noted that IT expert Bruce Webster told the Daily Caller that Clinton's explanation "made no sense." But the conserv ative website also quoted Webster as saying it is possible with servers hosted by Microsoft Exchange — which, as it turns out, is the serv er that we used for our test.

Tomlinson initially also told us that the Clinton explanation was "not a completely natural outcome," even if it is possible. But after we told Tomlinson of our test and sent him our results, he replied: "Your experiment may refute that last statement."

This doesn't prove, of course, that Clinton did not have more than one @clintonemail.com address while secretary of state. All four experts told us the only way to know for sure how many @clintonemail.com accounts Clinton had while in office is to conduct a forensic examination of her mail server. (Clinton has said she will not make her personal server available to the gov ernment or an independent third party.)

"The best way to obtain all of the facts about these emails would be for a third party forensic examiner to conduct an examination of Ms. Clinton's mail server and desktop system," said Jonathan Zdziarski, forensics expert and author of the book "iPhone Forensics: Recovering Evidence, Personal Data, and Corporate Assets." "That could easily determine what email addresses existed at approximately what dates, possibly even when they were changed, as well as retrieve the original email env elopes and content."

What we do know, however, is that the emails posted by the Times do not support the RNC's claim that Clinton had "multiple secret email addresses" as secretary of state, and there is no evidence to contradict Clinton's claim that she created hrod17@clintonemail.com after she left office.

Clinton N.H. trip interrupted by Benghazi e-mail release // Boston Globe // James Pindell - May 22, 2015

HAMPTON, N.H. – Hillary Rodham Clinton said she was pleased the State Department released hundreds of e-mails she sent from a priv ate server in the days following an attack in Benghazi, Libya, that left four Americans, including a US ambassador dead.

On Friday the State Department released 900 pages of e-mails, which they characterized as not contradicting an official review on what went wrong during the September 2012 attack. After a presidential campaign event in New Hampshire, Clinton told reporters these e-mails had already been sent to a House Committee inv estigating the Benghazi matter.

"I'm glad that the e-mails are starting to come out," Clinton said. "It is something that I've asked to be done, as you know, for a long time. Those releases are beginning."

The moment served as just another reminder of how difficult it will be for Clinton to move on from e-mail scandals during her tenure as US secretary of state. With cases of beer and kegs serv ing as Clinton's backdrop, a chorus of vibrating phone news alerts interrupted her roundtable with small business leaders at Smuttynose Brewery Co.

Later during her trip Friday, her second to the state since launching her campaign for president, she went to a grass-roots event at a bookstore in Exeter. She is scheduled to attend a similar event in Amherst later.

Earlier in the day, the Clinton campaign hoped she could seize some attention in calling for Republican presidential candidates to back reauthorizing the US Export-Import bank. The bank helps underwrite loans for American businesses selling abroad. Some Republicans say the bank doesn't create American jobs, arguing that the bulk of the loans benefit just a handful of major companies like Boeing and Caterpillar.

At her noontime event, Clinton argued that Republicans who espouse this position are "embarrassing."

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About 50 people attended her appearance at the brewery, which was invitation only — like the rest of her events so far as a candidate. The Clinton campaign has been criticized for not holding a single public event in Iowa or New Hampshire

Clinton addressed some of that criticism at her second stop of the day at a Water Street Bookstore in downtown Exeter.

“Some people had asked me, particularly in the press, when are you going to have really big events. And I said later, later, later. I want to listen to people. I want to talk to people on small groups,” Clinton said. “What I want to do is to make sure that we have a conversation about what we want to accomplish in our country and this is the way I feel most comfortable doing it.”

Dozens of supporters gathered outside the bookstore on the sidewalks for her arrival. More fans awaited inside, including one with a sign that read: “Welcome home to New Hampshire.”

Apparently, those who show initiative can make their way onto the guest list.

For example, earlier this week, Trinette Hunter, 13, of Henniker, N.H., told her mother it was her dream to have dinner with Clinton. When she was 5, her mother, Jessica Gorhan, took her into the voting booth to pull the lever for Clinton in the 2008 New Hampshire primary.

This week, Gorhan called the brewery to ask how to get in, and the Clinton campaign got in touch with her. After the event, Hunter and her mom were among about 50 people lined up to take pictures with Clinton and get her autograph.

“It was awesome,” Hunter said.

Insiders: Benghazi testimony works to Hillary's advantage // Politico // Katie Glueck - May 22, 2015

Three out of four Democratic insiders in the early states believe testifying before Congress about the attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, will work to Hillary Clinton’s advantage.

This week’s survey of The POLITICO Caucus, a bipartisan group of the most influential activists, operatives and elected officials in Iowa and New Hampshire, found that most Democrats think it would be beneficial to Clinton when she is called to discuss the matter before Congress, something she is expected to do at some point, likely this summer.

Story Continued Below

Earlier this week, Sidney Blumenthal, a Clinton ally, was subpoenaed by a House committee investigating the incident, which in the past has been a major galvanizing issue for Republicans critical of Clinton’s role when she was secretary of state.

Democrats were skeptical that Clinton would get a fair hearing, but were confident she would do a good job shutting down questioners in the hopes of moving on from the issue.

“Republicans prefer the safety of manufactured outrage on Benghazi. In person, I think Clinton will crush their questions,” said an Iowa Democrat.

Added a New Hampshire Democrat, “As she has proven many times before, Hillary is not afraid to testify and is a very good witness; she will walk out of the hearing room enhanced.”

A majority of Republicans — nearly 60 percent — also said it would be helpful for Clinton to address the issue head-on (she appeared before Congress once before on this issue in 2013). Several Republicans warned some in their party could overdo

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the confrontation, which could work to Clinton's advantage if she appears to be answering questions openly and honestly.

"It is a real opportunity for her to face this and defuse it—the R's will not be able to resist the temptation to gang up and it may actually engender some sympathy for her, hard as that is to imagine," said a New Hampshire Republican.

Another Granite State Republican acknowledged, "Hillary is at her strongest when she answers her critics head-on. She should embrace it — and hope her opponents overplay their hands. Which they could do, easily."

An Iowa Republican added, "Do not underestimate the ability of Republican House members to overplay their hand and appear more focused on scoring partisan points than ascertaining the truth."

The issue of Clinton's handling of the Benghazi tragedy itself appears to have faded slightly from the minds of GOP primary voters, though one nonpartisan Iowan said that if the former secretary of state testifies, "The testimony keeps the story alive and in the newspapers on a daily basis. Also continues to give Republicans reason to talk about it on the campaign trail."

Still, 74 percent of Democrats and 22 percent of Republicans — including one-third of the 15 New Hampshire Republicans who responded this week — say that the Benghazi attack is not quite as much of a hot-button issue for the GOP base as it was in the aftermath of the attacks and during the 2014 midterm elections.

"The nut job conspiracy theorists on the fringe love the issue. Everyone else sees shades of gray in a horrible, messy, tragic situation, and how it was handled," said a New Hampshire Republican. "Could have happened just as easily in a Republican administration."

An Iowa Republican who also thinks the issue has faded, reacted very differently, saying, "Sadly I think many people have forgotten about the issue. Perhaps with congressional hearings and a campaign it will again gain attention."

In any case, the issue still moves the dial, according to 78 percent of Republicans surveyed. "It's a rally cry that still unifies activists," an Iowa Republican said.

Here are four other takeaways from this week's POLITICO Caucus:

The furor surrounding the release of Clinton's emails isn't breaking through … yet.

A judge ruled this week that the emails Clinton sent from a personal account during her time at the State Department should be released on a rolling basis. Clinton herself also said this week that she wants the emails, which have been the subject of significant controversy because she sent government communications through a personal account, released as soon as possible. But 96 percent of Democrats and about one-third of Republicans say voters aren't paying much attention yet.

"So Beltway," yawned an Iowa Democrat. Another one added, "Second-rate Clinton 'scandals' are like seasonal allergies: predictable and annoying but not concerning."

A New Hampshire Democrat said, "[This] is reporter-land territory, not kitchen table people land territory."

Republicans saw the extended scrutiny of her emails as potentially more damaging. But one New Hampshire Republican noted, "This has drawn out (and will continue to draw out) so long that people have become numb to it, regardless of the seriousness of the issue."

Still, said other Republicans, reminders that Clinton was using her own email to do official government business reinforce problematic narratives — that the Clintons are secretive and see themselves as above the law.

"Democrats try to dismiss the email scandal as white noise and Beltway chatter, but the saga reinforces with voters all the worst attributes of the Clintons: secrecy, arrogance, hypocrisy and one set of rules for them and a different for every one else," said a New Hampshire Republican who believes the issue is hurting Clinton. "… Undercutting and discrediting Clinton's secretary of state bona fides is going to be a big part of the GOP strategy for defeating her in 2016, and the emails are going to play a key role in that process."

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Republicans don't want to see a crowded debate stage — and Democrats are gleeful at the prospect.

Close to 20 Republicans could seek the GOP nomination this year, and many campaigns are obsessing ov er which candidates will make the cut and whether the standards for inclusion in the debates are fair. On Wednesday, it became clear that the television networks would set the rules for some of the early debates. Before that news broke, insiders were asked whether every one should be allowed onstage — and 87 percent of Republicans said no. But many also said that finding the right threshold for inclusion would be a daunting task.

"There is no good answer but whoever picks should get armed protection for the rest of his or her natural life," said one New Hampshire Republican.

Others suggested fundraising and polling thresholds, but recognized that there was no way to placate all the campaigns. So far, Fox News and CNN have indicated that polling averages will be a factor.

"You probably have to use polling and fundraising parameters, but the candidates will scream about it," added another Republican Granite Stater.

Democrats, on the other hand, relish the prospect of messy debates marked by long-shot GOP candidates taking v aluable time away from more viable contenders.

"Please include every single one — please!" urged one Iowa Democrat.

Another offered, "The crazier the candidate, the more air time they should get."

Insiders on both sides were preoccupied by the question of whether Donald Trump would qualify to compete.

"Filed presidential committee (to smoke out Trump once and for all)," should be a key criterion, advised one Iowa Republican.

Jeb Bush's Iraq headache isn't over y et.

Last week, Bush fumbled several attempts to answer the question of whether he would have invaded Iraq if he had known at the time of intelligence failures. Ultimately he spelled out that he wouldn't have, and he was back on the campaign trail this week seeking to bounce back. But 61 percent of Republicans and 85 percent of Democrats say he has not put the issue behind him.

"He's able to mov e on and talk about other things, but that clip is going to come back to bite him one way or the other in the next seven months," said an Iowa Republican.

"The video lasts forever," added an Iowa Democrat.

Hillary Clinton was also asked about her Iraq position this week, an issue that plagued her during the 2008 primary. But she called her Senate vote authorizing the war a mistake, and 80 percent of Democrats surveyed this week said that's good enough for them.

Rick Santorum shouldn't expect a repeat of his 2012 performance.

The former Pennsylvania senator, who in 2012 won the Iowa caucuses and stayed in the Republican primary far longer than expected, is expected to announce another presidential bid next week. But an overwhelming majority of Republican insiders surveyed — 93 percent — said he won't match or outpace his performance from last time. Forty-one percent said Texas Sen. Ted Cruz is in the best position to win social conserv atives in Iowa and New Hampshire, followed by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker at 23 percent, and former Arkansas Gov . Mike Huckabee at 18 percent. Santorum got 2 percent.

Clinton emails show concern about image after Benghazi // Reuters // Mark Hosenball and Alistar Bell - May 22, 2015

Top aides to former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton fretted over how she would be portrayed after the 2012 Benghazi attacks that killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three other Americans, emails released on Friday showed.

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The emails from Clinton's personal email account made public by the State Department do not appear to contain any revelations that could badly damage her bid for the presidency in 2016 or prov ide fodder for Republicans who accuse her of being negligent before the Benghazi attacks.

But they offer a glimpse into how Clinton's team was concerned about her image immediately afterward.

A senior adv iser to Clinton forwarded an email from a State Department official about positive media coverage of a statement she gave on Sept. 12, 2012, the day after the killings.

"Really nice work guys," State Department official Matthew Walsh wrote in an email to other staffers, which linked to a story on the Slate news site praising Clinton's comments about Benghazi as "her most eloquent news conference as secretary of state." Sullivan passed the email on to Clinton with the letters "FYI."

In another email from September 2012, Sullivan assured the secretary of state that she had used the correct language to describe the lead-up to the Benghazi attack by Islamist militants on a U.S. diplomatic compound and CIA base.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations at the time, Susan Rice, drew heav y criticism from Republicans for defending this view on Sunday TV shows, ev en though intelligence indicated within hours that the attacks were the carefully planned work of Islamist militia members.

Sullivan assured Clinton that her language when discussing the attacks in public had been correct.

"You never said spontaneous or characterized the motives, in fact you were careful in your first statement to say we were assessing motive and method," he wrote in an email.

Long a focus of Republican investigators in Congress, accusations that Clinton was negligent on Benghazi are putting her under more intense scrutiny now that she is running for the Democratic Party nomination in the 2016 presidential election.

Republicans say the Obama administration was lax about the security of U.S. personnel in Libya and then misled the public about the nature of the attacks, but various congressional probes have produced little damaging evidence.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said that the 296 emails released on Friday "do not change the essential facts or our understanding of the events before, during or after the attacks."

They were the first installment of a rolling release of 5 5,000 pages of emails from her time as secretary of state between 2009 and 2013 that are due to be released in the coming months.

Clinton or her aides have deleted another 30,000 emails which she has termed as personal from the same private account, causing Republicans in Congress to accuse her of picking and choosing what she wants to make public.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, the Republican who heads the Benghazi probe in the House of Representatives, said the emails made public on Friday "continue to reinforce the fact that unresolved questions and issues remain as it relates to Benghazi."

"The best way to answer all questions related to the attacks in Benghazi continues to be having access to the full public record, not a 'record' controlled, possessed and screened exclusively by Secretary Clinton's personal lawyers," he said.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

First Batch of Hillary Clinton's Emails on Libya Made Public // NBC News // CARRIE DANN - May 22, 2015

A batch of Hillary Clinton's personal emails made public on Thursday morning offers a glimpse into her team's initial exchange of information in the wake of the Benghazi attacks as well as her relationship with longtime confidante Sidney Blumenthal, who sent her at least two dozen memos regarding Liby a during her tenure as Secretary of State.

The State Department plans to release about 850 pages of the emails, which had been handed over to the congressional panel investigating the Benghazi attacks. But on Thursday, the New York Times released about a third of that batch of correspondence, which Clinton exchanged using a private server rather than a government email account.

The documents show that, while Clinton used her personal email account to receive information the gov ernment calls "sensitive," she did not appear to use her priv ate server to exchange classified information.

The "sensitive" information included details like the location of State Department officials in Libya during a time of instability in the country in 2011.

The documents released by the New York Times also show that Clinton received numerous briefing memos about Libya from Blumenthal, a longtime friend of the Clintons who was not employed by the State Department. The New York Times reported earlier this week that Blumenthal was also involved with a possible business venture in the country at the time.

Two of those memos from Blumenthal came in the day s immediately following the September 11, 2012 Benghazi attacks.

In one, sent on September 12, Blumenthal suggested that top security officers in the country believed that the attacks "were inspired by what many devout Libyan viewed as a sacrilegious internet video on the prophet Mohammed originating in America." Clinton forwarded that information to top adviser Jake Sullivan with the message "more info."

But another memo sent the following day indicated that the attacks may have actually been carried out by a militia group. Blumenthal wrote that officials in the country "believe that the attackers having prepared to launch their assault took advantage of the cover prov ided by the demonstrations in Benghazi protesting an internet production seen as disrespectful to the prophet Mohammed."

The release of the emails comes after a prolonged political fight for Clinton ov er her use of a private email server while serv ing as Secretary of State.

On Tuesday, Clinton urged the State Department to expedite the vetting of the emails after initial reports suggested that the data trove would not be ready for public release until January of next year.

Clinton says she's not running for a 'third term' of her husband or Obama // WaPo // Robert Costa - May 22, 2015

EXETER, N.H. -- Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday sought to distance herself somewhat from both her husband, a previous president, and Barack Obama, the current White House occupant who defeated her in 2008.

"I'm not running for my husband's third term and I'm not running for Barack Obama's third term," Clinton said here, where she met with activists. "I'm running to continue the positive results oriented policies that both of them worked for."

Clinton is attempting a balancing act between highlighting her own identity as a former U.S. senator and secretary of state while embracing many of the policies of her Democratic predecessors, especially Obama. With her husband, Clinton has already notably deviated from policies enacted or expanded under Bill Clinton by embracing gay marriage and calling for an end to harsh criminal sentencing policies that took root in the 1990s.

During her second trip to New Hampshire, Hillary Clinton also defended the low-key beginnings of her presidential

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campaign, which hav e focused on tightly controlled meetings with handpicked activists and supporters in Iowa and New Hampshire. The Clinton campaign announced Thursday that she would hold her first big campaign rally and speech event in mid-June.

"Some people had asked me, particularly in the press, when are you going to have really big ev ents," Clinton said. "And I said later, later, later. I want to listen to people. I want to talk to people on small groups."

Hillary Clinton defends emails, slams GOP's small business agenda // MSNBC // Alex Seitz - Wald - May 22, 2015

HAMPTON, New Hampshire – After declaring in Iowa earlier this week that she wants to be "a small-business president," Hillary Clinton came to a craft brewery here Friday to slam Republicans for trying to kill what she called a crucial institution for small companies. She also answered questions from reporters on the ongoing controversy over her private email account, moments after the State Department released almost 300 of them. Clinton said all the information in the emails was "handled appropriately."

Her comments came after a roundtable discussion at Smuttynose brewery here, where she defended the Export-Impact bank, which she said supports 164,000 American jobs.

"It is wrong that Republicans in Congress are trying to cut off this vital lifeline for American small businesses," she said "Republican candidates for president who really should know better are jumping on this bandwagon, and it seems as though they would rather threaten the livelihood of those 143,000 jobs than stand up to the Tea Party and talk radio."

She called the attacks on the Export-Import bank "wrong" "embarrassing" and "absolutely backwards."

Long a noncontroversial government agency, the Export-Import bank, which helps companies engaged in international trade secure financing, has lately become a top target for some libertarian-leaning conservative. Tea Party activists and others view the bank as "crony capitalism," and have mounted several attempts to kill it in Congress.

New Hampshire is an exporting state, and Clinton said the Export-Import bank helps many local businesses around the state.

Fred Hochberg, the Obama-appointee who runs the Export-Import bank, is a longtime Clinton donor and was one of her top bundlers during her 2008 presidential campaign. He also ran the Small Business Administration under the presidency of Clinton's husband.

As she did at a similar event at a bike shop in Iowa Tuesday, Clinton noted that her own father was small businessman. Hugh Rodham owned a tapestry business in suburban Chicago, where Clinton grew up, and taught her the value of hard work and entrepreneurship, she said.

But even as Clinton laid out her message here, questions swirled nationally over her use of a private email account while she served as Secretary of State.

In the middle of her event here, the State Department released its first batch of Clinton's emails – 296 documents put online about 30 minutes after she began her remarks.

After the event, Clinton, took questions from the press for the second time this week. She defended her use of private emails after being asked by NBC's Andrea Mitchell.

"All of the information in the emails has handled appropriately," she replied, adding that she was glad the emails are

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coming out. “I want people to be able to see all of them.”

It’s expected to take months for all 55,000 pages of email Clinton turned over to State to be fully released. Asked if she was worried that people don’t trust her after the email issue, she replied only, “I’m going to let the Americans decide that.” Meanwhile, thursday night, the Clinton Foundation also disclosed information on 97 speeches Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton gave on behalf of the charity since 2002. The speeches, mostly from Bill Clinton, raised between $12 million and $26 million for the charity’s work from a wide range of companies, banks, univ ersities, and nonprofits.

Also that night, Sidney Blumenthal, the former Clinton White House adv isor who sent Secretary Clinton intelligence-like reports on Libya before and after the Benghazi terror attack, defended himself and said he had agreed to testify before a House committee investigating Benghazi in a statement Thursday night.

Clinton also met with grassroots organizers in New Hampshire Friday. She heads to South Carolina and Florida next week.

In a War-T orn Middle East, Clinton’s Legacy in T unisia Is a Bit Brighter // Newsweek // Emily Cadei - May 22, 2015

Hillary Clinton was secretary of state on December 10, 2010, when a street vendor named Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire, lighting a fuse that became the Arab Spring. When the new Tunisian president, Beji Caid Essebsi, v isited the White House Thursday, the country remained the only real democracy left standing out of the uprisings across the Middle East and North Africa earlier this decade. As Essebsi observed in public remarks Wednesday in Washington, D.C., “There is actually no such thing as an Arab Spring. There is a Tunisian spring.”

So, sure, Libya, Egy pt and Sy ria didn’t work out. But maybe little Tunisia is Clinton’s State Department success story, the example of a foreign policy accomplishment that has proven so elusive, even to her supporters. Let’s take stock.

Tunisia has never been a focus of American foreign policy the way, say , Egypt or Jordan have been. It’s just not as important from a security standpoint, and its cultural and economic ties have traditionally been much stronger with Europe, which lies just across the Mediterranean. So when the uprising in Tunisia toppled dictator Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali in early 201 1, sparking a wav e of protests elsewhere in the region, Clinton and her team at the State Department had to scramble to respond.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the United States has allocated over $610 million in aid to Tunisia since 2011, equivalent to over 40 times what U.S. aid was in fiscal y ear 2009. Much of the early money was to stabilize the country and help with the democratic transition. But as Clinton, herself, pointed out during a visit to the country in March 2011, “It’s not just about the politics, because what sparked the Tunisian contagion was a terrible incident of a young man taking his own life out of such desperation because he saw no future.” Economic reforms, she said, were key, including “opening up the system, creating more entrepreneurs, people like those who started this station and more businesses, employ more young people who are educated.”

Tunisia’s economy , however, isn’t in great shape. Economic growth,according to the African Development Bank, was just 2.6 percent in 2013, lower than projected and a dip from 2012. And many of the programs that Clinton and other Obama administration officials touted early on, saying they’d help kick-start the economy, are decidedly works in progress. Take the Tunisian-American Enterprise Fund, one of the signature efforts, which Clinton and others said would promote private investment in the country. The U.S. government has provided $60 million in funding, but has made just one $2.4 million investment, in a private equity fund, according to a Gov ernment Accountability Office report. Another early initiativ e was to submit Tunisia for a major grant through the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. aid agency . That never materialized amid criticism from the development community and Congress.

At a more general level, the United States has also struggled, under Secretary Clinton and her successor, John Kerry, to keep Tunisia on the front burner, despite its symbolism as the cradle of the Arab Spring. Middle East expert Amy Hawthorne, who worked at the State Department on the response to the uprisings until 2013, says it was apparent to her that “Secretary Clinton was quite interested in Tunisia.” She signaled to staff there that “this is a priority; we need to put a spotlight on this country.”

Clinton wasn’t able to overcome some harsh realities, however. In an era of fiscal austerity, few politicians in Washington

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were eager to dump a lot of money into a North African country of just 11 million people. And with major conflicts exploding elsewhere in the region at the same time, Washington was consumed with crisis management. Tunisia, too, felt the impact of the chaos next door in Libya, with a steady flow of refugees, weapons and militants across its border (and some of the blame for that could arguably fall at Clinton's feet given her support for the invasion there). And then Tunisia, itself, was unstable, going through a series of interim governments.

None of those things are very conducive to economic rebirth. The fact is, the type of economic development Clinton and the State Department talked up are slow and grinding in the best of times. There "wasn't really an appreciation of how long these takes," says Hawthorne, now senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, a think tank. "These things were really oversold."

And yet, Tunisia is still standing. The country adopted a relatively liberal new constitution in January 2014 and held free and fair elections later that year, won by Essebsi and his secular Nidaa Tounes party. Its relationship with the United States is strong and growing stronger. During Essebsi's visit to the White House Thursday, President Obama announced his intent to designate Tunisia as a major non-NATO ally. The White House has proposed doubling foreign aid to Tunisia this year. The president and Essebsi also penned a joint op-ed in the Washington Post, hailing the fact that "democracy and pluralism are taking root" in the country.

As Hawthorne observes, "Whenever an authoritarian leader falls from power suddenly, it's really tumultuous. Tunisia is doing pretty well, but it hasn't been easy." There have been failures, and progress has come in fits and starts. But there are signs of progress, and that started during Clinton's tenure at State.

Hillary Clinton Takes It to the People **// US News // David Cantanese - May 22, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's animus toward the press was born long before her failed run for the presidency in 2008, and even before the painful impeachment trial of her husband a decade earlier.

It dates back even further, to those early days in Arkansas around when Bill Clinton lost the governorship after just one term in 1980, stunning the couple and suspending their dogged political ascendancy.

Ellen Brantley, who went to college with Hillary at Wellesley and was later appointed an Arkansas state judge by Bill, explained it to The New Yorker in 1994.

"She has always really disliked the press. Her attitude is, 'We're the ones who are trying to accomplish some good, we're doing the best we can, we're on the right side – so stop taking potshots at us. And, especially, don't raise anything during a campaign.'"

Flash-forward more than two decades to her own political comeback, and it's no surprise Clinton has not made reporters a priority as she ramps up her candidacy.

"If she's decided not to speak to the press, she has her reasons," Brantley told U.S. News this week.

The difference is, back then, Clinton needed to cultivate the media to achieve her political goals. Now, in the opening stages of her 2016 campaign, she is universally known, obsessively covered and the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. She simply doesn't have to.

While Republicans have piled on Clinton for answering only approximately 20 questions from reporters since launching her bid, the former secretary of state is countering by highlighting her direct contact with everyday Americans, whom she says, in turn, are altering her message and priorities as a candidate.

"Somebody asked me the other day, 'Well, you know, you're going to these events where you're taking time to actually talk and listen to people. Is that what you're really going to do?'" Clinton said Monday at a home in Mason City, Iowa. "And I said, 'Well, yes, it is. Because not only do I learn a lot, but I also feel like it's the best way to make those connections that will

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not only give me a firm foundation in the caucus here in Iowa or in a primary in New Hampshire – because it really is about people-to-people connections ... but it will also give me the kind of information I need to be an even better president."

Correct The Record, an effort launched by pro-Clinton super PAC American Bridge 21st Century , has outlined more than 100 questions Clinton has asked supporters who have attended her round-tables in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nev ada. But even by their count, she had fielded only 20 queries from these "everyday Americans" through Monday.

As concerns continued to mount this week about the fundraising pursuits of the Clinton Foundation during her time as the country's top diplomat and the revelation of a second private email addressshe used during her tenure, the demand for a substantive exchange with Clinton reached a boiling point.

"Why won't you answer any questions?" Fox News Channel's Ed Henry shouted at Clinton Monday as she climbed into a traveling v an positioned safely away from reporters.

On Tuesday in Cedar Rapids, Henry interrupted Clinton in the middle of a small business round-table, complaining that "we haven't heard from you in a month."

Raising her open hand up in his direction, she replied, "Maybe when I finish talking to the people here."

Henry 's gambit worked, forcing Clinton later into a semicircle of hungry reporters, where she fielded seven questions in five minutes. She called her vote as a U.S. senator to authorize the Iraq War a "mistake" and asked the State Department to expedite the process for releasing her emails.

Her very act of engaging the press was enough to prompt a breaking news chyron by CNN: "Just In: Hillary Clinton Takes Questions."

But these types of rapid-fire rope line interactions aren't conducive to the follow-ups or depth required to penetrate controv ersial issues. Unlike ev ery one of the Republicans contemplating presidential bids, Clinton hasn't done a sit-down interview with even a local reporter since formalizing her candidacy.

What's more, she appears largely unmoved by the pressure thus far, seeing little need to appease a frustrated press corps whose complaints are far from the minds of those "everyday Americans" who will ultimately determine her fate.

Hav ing absorbed years of battle wounds, her respect for the media likely has only declined since she was pitching her husband's health care reform initiative in 1993 and referred to the "unjust, inaccurate reporting that goes on from coast to coast, north to south, east to west."

Stuart Stevens, Mitt Romney 's chief strategist in 2012, thinks Clinton has simply surveyed the scars from her 2008 campaign and made a calculus of risk over reward.

"The only thing that matters is what the numbers tell you, and if the numbers tell you y ou can get away with not talking to the press, don't talk to the press," he says. "If they're winning, it's OK. If they 're losing, they'd do some regression analysis to see if there's any causality. Until there is some reason to change, they won't change. What they're betting on is the press doesn't matter."

On the other side of the campaign, the press has mattered, and the risk-reward equation has come out negatively for some. Republicans Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio recently sat for those longer interviews but found they didn't necessarily serve them well. It was a conversation with Fox's Megyn Kelly that produced Bush's befuddling Iraq answer, which metastasized into the former Florida governor's worst week as a potential presidential candidate.

Rubio's sit-down with Fox's Chris Wallace similarly produced a combative back-and-forth that exposed flaws in the Florida

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senator's defense of the 2003 decision to go to war.

But, unlike Clinton, both Bush and Rubio are wrestling for every potential inch of support in a wide-open primary battle for their party's nomination. The accessibility deficit between Clinton and the GOPers is, at least in part, due to a lack of robust Democratic competition.

"The Republicans, because there's so many of them, are straining for attention," says Iowa Democratic National Committeeman Scott Brennan, a former state party chairman who defended Clinton.

"She can't win. The problem is, when she ran in the 2008 cy cle, the criticism was she didn't talk to real Iowans. She had big rallies, giant press events. They heard that criticism and are out talking to Iowans and now they get criticized for talking to Iowans," Brennan adds.

Most of the "real people" Clinton is talking to have been thoroughly vetted beforehand and are interested in local issues, a smoother alternative to a pesky press corps angling for reaction to the latest revelations about her complicated political entanglements.

Standing in a supporter's home in Mason City on Monday, Clinton spoke about learning of the drug epidemic plaguing rural communities from Davenport to Council Bluffs through kitchen table conversations.

"I did not believe I would be standing in your living room talking about the drug abuse problem, the mental health problem and the suicide problem," Clinton said. "But I'm now convinced I hav e to talk about it."

This is her implicit rationale for skirting the media – it's a play to gather up ideas from the ground that will eventually inform her policies.

And while Stevens, the former Romney operative, calls the semi-staged confabs "insulting," he also admits the Clinton camp has the luxury of adopting such a strategy.

"They are operating under different rules," he says. "I don't know that they 're not right."

Brantley, who knew Clinton 40 years ago, thinks her old college classmate's mindset is based on "many, many years of experience."

"I'm sure she will" engage with the media, she said. But "right now ... she's thought it through, and her strategy seems to be not to."

Hillary Clinton Aims to Capture the Cool **// NYT // Jason Horowitz - May 22, 2015**

On Super Tuesday of the bitter 2008 Democratic primary campaign, a group of Barack Obama supporters riding the New York City subway noticed Audrey Gelman wearing aHillary Rodham Clinton campaign button on her jacket.

They berated Ms. Gelman, then a junior staff worker on the Clinton campaign, for backing a candidate standing in the way of the first black president. At another point, the button invited mocking inquiries at a Lower East Side cafe as to whether Ms. Gelman was a Republican.

Now a 27-y ear-old public relations consultant with one foot in Democratic politics and the other in New York's hipper-than-thou fashion, arts and music scene, Ms. Gelman is feeling more confident in her Clinton accessories this time around. "If you go to a party in Williamsburg or Bushwick now and wear a Hillary pin," she said, "people are going to be like, 'Right

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on.' "

"Cool Kids for Hillary." You may be able to imagine it on a campaign button, but would any of them wear one? Whereas Mr. Obama's 2008 candidacy organically prompted excitement on college campuses, the country's skinny-jean citadels and celebrity hangouts, the candidate Clinton seems to be trying awfully hard to be down with the in crowd.

"Say you'll Bey on Team #Hillary2016, too" read a May 15 tweet on Mrs. Clinton's official account above an article in Marie Claire (where Ms. Gelman is a contributing editor) that was headlined "Bey oncé just publiclyshowed her support for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign."

Then there's the Brookly n Heights campaign headquarters. "Brookly n U.S.A. How can you beat that?" Mrs. Clinton asks in a meet-the-neighbors web video — complete with a precious faux-handwriting font — that captures her greeting adoring Brooklynites. (Nev er mind that this is one of the borough's more-staid neighborhoods.)

Ms. Gelman, who called the former secretary of state "a feminist icon and a cultural icon," has sought to lift Mrs. Clinton's cultural cred. On the day Mrs. Clinton announced her candidacy , Ms. Gelman said that approving Instagram messages poured in from the singer Ciara, the stars of the raunchy millennial comedy "Broad City" and her best friend and "Girls" creator Lena Dunham. ("My new tramp stamp," Ms. Dunham wrote under the campaign logo.)

There have also been endorsements from Katy Perry, 50 Cent and America Ferrera, the star of TV's "Ugly Betty." On Thursday evening, Mrs. Clinton replied "Back at you" to the singer Kelly Clarkson, who called herself a "fan of Hillary."

But in campaign appearances, Mrs. Clinton has targeted voters on the opposite side of the cool-kid spectrum. On Monday, she stood before leatherbound classics and a ceramic life-size dog in the Mason City, Iowa, living room of Dean Genth and his husband, Gary Swenson.

"People really got to see a personable, down-to-earth, approachable Hillary Clinton that I think a lot of people don't realize exists," Mr. Swenson said after the event, adding that she was "really interested in what the heartland of America and what America in general is interested in."

The next day, Mrs. Clinton sat for a round-table discussion about small businesses inside a Cedar Falls, Iowa, bicy cle shop. With the clean-cut owner of Goldie's Ice Cream Shoppe on her right, Mrs. Clinton put on her super-folksy accent and stated, again, "I'm running for president because ev ery day Americans and their families need a champion."

And yet, Mrs. Clinton would love for young trendsetters to champion her cause and to replicate Mr. Obama's success at converting his cultural currency among young voters into hard votes.

The campaign argues that she enjoy s their widespread support, thoughDemocratic Party operatives say that has more to do with the increasingly liberal positions she has taken than any excitement about her per se.

"Obama was new," the actor Steve Buscemi said on a recent afternoon as he took a break from filming a scene for a television show on Mott Street. He called Mrs. Clinton "formidable" and "amazing" but added, "She's been around a long time, so we can't expect her to have the same thing."

Mrs. Clinton has made efforts to maintain contact with cultural signposts. In 2012, she posed with the singer Lia Ices at Roberta's, the Bushwick pizzeria housed in a former garage that was all the rage. That same y ear, she tasted viral Internet fame and liked it.

Stacy Lambe and a friend were at Nellie's Sports Bar, a popular Washington gay hangout, when they got the idea of writing humorous texts under a photograph of Mrs. Clinton wearing oversize sunglasses and reading her BlackBerry. The resulting Tumblr account, "Texts From Hillary," turned into an Internet meme of a woman so ice-cold as to be cool. Mrs. Clinton embraced the image, making it her Twitter avatar.

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But Mr. Lambe, who now works at “Entertainment Tonight,” said the meme’s momentum and excitement over Mrs. Clinton has abated somewhat since the controversy over her personal email accounts.

Moreover, “there was this cool-kids factor with Obama,” he said, “and I definitely think Hillary didn’t have that.”

There is little doubt that young voters, who are traditionally Democrats, will prefer Mrs. Clinton over the Republican nominee. And one of the most accomplished women in American political history certainly does not care much about the opinions of people whose defining characteristics are the style of their Warby Parker glasses or the origins of their pour-over coffee. But she does care a lot about becoming president.

The question is then whether she can get young people excited about her candidacy. A temperature-taking in Washington Square Park was not promising.

“Honestly, I really haven’t seen anything,” said Mckennah Spagnola, 19, a New York University student studying psychology, when asked about her peer group’s response to Mrs. Clinton.

A few feet away, the actress Anne Hathaway and her husband smiled as they watched toddlers interacting with dogs. She politely declined to comment (a former boyfriend of hers who once pledged $50 million to the Clinton Global Initiative pleaded guilty to fraud in 2008) and instead admired a circle of aspiring Broadway stars shouting voice exercises.

While the musical theater set had approving things to say about Mrs. Clinton, Mariah Ramirez, 18, who was in sixth grade in the months before the 2008 presidential election, said, “It’s not cool to support Hillary.” Ms. Ramirez said that while the prospect of a female president was exciting, she supports Senator Bernie Sanders because he has said he would not accept super PAC money.

Apathy may be preferable to some of the ambiguous messages Mrs. Clinton has triggered on the streets around her Brooklyn headquarters, where black-and-white posters popped up in April depicting the former first lady over the words “Secretive” or “Ambitious.”

That’s a far cry from the Hope posters (and subsequent ubiquitous T-shirts) made by the graffiti artist Shepard Fairey, who said he is not going to be making another one for Mrs. Clinton.

“I was interested in Obama in 2008 because his stated positions at the time made him seem like a subversive delivery vehicle for progressive principles I believe in,” Mr. Fairey wrote in an email. “Since then, I’ve realized that the corrupt nature of the system itself, with current campaign finance structure and the stranglehold corporations have on government, limits the kind of candidates that will make it into the system and narrows the spectrum of what’s available in our near non-Democracy.”

Try putting that on a T-shirt.

On a recent afternoon, in front of St. Ann’s, a private school across the street from the Clinton headquarters, Adrian Briscoe, 42, paused from chatting with the actress and Brooklyn Heights native Jennifer Connelly to discuss Mrs. Clinton’s decision to base her campaign nearby.

“Do I seem excited?” he asked. He did not.

Neither did Stewart Gerard and Jessica Mazza, who walked out of Glasserie, a trendy restaurant in Greenpoint that evening, to smoke a cigarette in front of a red retro pickup truck. Ms. Mazza, 25, an aspiring filmmaker and artist, said she wished Elizabeth Warren would get in the race.

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Mr. Gerard, 32, a production designer, insisted that while he was “down with Hillary,” he worried that young people wouldn’t come out to vote for her, as he had seen none of the enthusiasm Mr. Obama had generated in 2008. He added with a touch of nostalgia, “I wish I could vote for Obama for a third term.”

Clinton campaigning in a bubble, largely isolated from real people // McClatchy // Anita Kumar - May 21, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA — Here’s how Hillary Clinton campaigned for president this week: She took a private 15-minute tour of a bike shop that had closed for her visit. She spoke to four small business owners chosen by her staff in front of an audience of 20, also chosen by her staff. She answered a few questions from the media following weeks of silence.

And after a little more than an hour, Clinton was off, whisked away by aides and Secret Service agents, into a minivan and on to the next event.

Members of the public who wanted to go inside the building to support her, oppose her or merely ask a question of her were left outside on an unseasonably cool Iowa day. Most didn’t bother showing up.

“I am troubled that so far in this caucus cycle she hasn’t had any public town halls,” said Chris Schwartz, a liberal activist from Waterloo, as he stood outside the bike store hoping to talk to Clinton about trade. “If she had a public town hall then we wouldn’t be out here. We would much rather be in there engaging with her.”

Welcome to Hillary Clinton 2.0. Mindful of her defeat by Barack Obama in 2008, Clinton has embraced a new strategy – one that so far does not include town-hall meetings and campaign rallies, media interviews, even public events.

Instead, she holds small controlled events with a handful of potential voters in homes, businesses and schools. She repeats many of the same lines (“I want to be your champion” is a favorite), participants are handpicked by her staff or the event host, and topics are dictated by her campaign.

Brent Johnson, 35, the owner of Bike Tech, said Clinton campaign staffers walked into the shop a week earlier and asked him if he’d be interested in hosting an event. He and the three roundtable participants were on a conference call with the campaign the day before to hear Clinton’s “basic talking points” about helping small businesses. A campaign aide says they found guests through the small business community.

Clinton’s approach – made possible by her lack of strong competition for the Democratic nomination – comes as she works to relate to working American families after years of being criticized as an out-of-touch Washington insider garnering hefty paychecks for her speeches and books.

But the campaign to show the world that she’s never forgotten her middle-class, Middle America sensibilities can be a tough sell from inside a bubble of armored cars, Secret Service agents and wary aides.

“It’s going to come back and haunt her,” said Eric Herzik, chairman of the political science department at the University of Nevada, Reno. “I think it will backfire.”

Clinton takes a minute at most events to talk about her approach.

“This conversation is just another example of why I love doing this, because I always learn something and I feel like we need a conversation in our country again, where we are talking to each other, where we are respecting each others’ opinions,” she said, thanking the roundtable participants Tuesday.

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As of Monday, Clinton had answered 20 questions from “everyday Americans” and asked 117 questions to “everyday Americans,” according to Correct the Record, a research organization designed to defend Clinton against attacks.

“In 2008, the rallies got so big you couldn’t talk to her,” said Scott Brennan, a former chairman of the Iowa Democratic Party. “This provides a chance to get to know her.”

Clinton’s distance from the public stands in contrast to other candidates in both parties, who routinely mix and mingle with the public, hold town-hall meetings and appear on TV news programs.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley , a Democrat, has been known to unexpectedly break into song on the campaign trail when someone hands him a guitar. Wisconsin Gov . Scott Walker, a Republican, unexpectedly posed for photos with a bride and groom last month after his speech in New Hampshire had to be moved to accommodate their wedding. And Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., was surrounded by crowds this week after campaign events in Philadelphia, where people lined up to shake his hand or pose for photos.

“You can’t script y our way to the presidency – put yourself in a protective bubble and never interact with people, only talk to people who totally agree with you,” said former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a Republican. “It’s not going to work.”

Walking outside the bubble does pose political risks, of course.

Bush, for example, has faced tough questions, such as when a 1 9-year-old college student confronted him about former President George W. Bush’s role in allowing the Islamic State terrorist group to grow. “Your brother created ISIS,” the student said in a tense exchange at a town hall in Reno.

So far, Clinton has not held one ev ent open to the public since she launched her campaign, though aides say she eventually will hold bigger ev ents. She sometimes makes unannounced visits to coffee shop and stores, though the easily recognizable Clinton, who often travels with an entourage, frequently finds herself physically removed from the crowds.

“She’s someone I’m interested in seeing in seeing face to face and asking her some questions,” said Christine Elliott, 28, a librarian at nearby Wartburg College who generally votes for Democrats.

Elliott said she appreciates Clinton’s new strategy but wonders if it’s authentic. “It’s just advertising,” she said. “It’s a ploy to show that she can get down to our lev el. That’s how it is with all politicians.”

Andrew Smith, director of the University of New Hampshire Survey Center, said that while there’s value in hearing what potential voters say , the Clinton campaign has ensured she only gets friendly audiences even if she doesn’t know exactly what they will say.

“There’s not the same level of push-back. It’s always going to be artificial.” he said. “She shouldn’t be afraid to talk to voters and really campaign.”

Clinton spoke Monday to about 60 people at the Mason City home of Dean Genth and Gary Swenson, major Democratic organizers in Iowa who were among the first gay couples married in the state. They supported Barack Obama in 2008.

“It just thrills me that Hillary is coming to Iowa and really doing what Iowa caucus-goers love, which is having up-close personal interactions,” Genth said. “I think she is astute and smart at this stage of the campaign to come to Iowa and gather what is on Iowans’ minds.”

Journalists' contributions to Clinton Foundation raise credibility questions // Baltimore Sun // Jules Witcover - May 22, 2015

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While much of the political community frets over the influence of billionaire money in presidential campaigns, the much smaller world of journalism occasionally worries over the ethics of politicians crossing over into the news-and-analysis business.

The latest stir has occurred in the disclosure that George Stephanopoulos, an ABC News anchor and once a key political aide to President Bill Clinton, contributed$75,000 between 2012 and 2014 to the charitable Clinton Foundation, headed by Bill, Hillary and Chelsea.

The red flag of conflict of interest immediately fluttered, especially since Mr. Stephanopoulos had been mentioned to moderate a Republican presidential debate in early 2016 sponsored by the network and the Republican National Committee.

ABC News quickly announced that he had decided not to be the moderator, and he apologized for not having disclosed the donations himself, saying he thought his gifts "were a matter of public record." In hindsight, he said, "I should have taken the extra step of personally disclosing my donations to my employer and to the viewers on air during the recent news stories about the foundation."

I'm unaware of any reporting that Stephanopolous has done on the Clinton Foundation. Even so, are reporters not allowed to ever give to the Gates Foundation? That's a pretty ridiculous bar you've set.

Mr. Stephanopoulos was referring to a recent interview he did with Peter Schweizer, author of a book, "Clinton Cash," highly critical of the Clintons and their foundation. It questioned whether donations from foreign governments might have affected Hillary Clinton's decisions as secretary of state in the first term of the Barack Obama administration. The ABC anchor reported that his network and others had found no evidence of it.

The close tie between Mr. Stephanopoulos and Bill Clinton has been well known in the political community in light of his White House departure after the Monica Lewinsky scandal. That scandal led to Mr. Clinton's impeachment and subsequent acquittal (thanks to Democratic senators who held their noses and voted not to convict). Mr. Stephanopoulos's book, "All Too Human," was a frank if sympathetic account of his five years as a key Bill Clinton political insider.

He has defended his contribution as motivated by the foundation's work on global AIDS and deforestation, but he has admitted he should have been aware of the appearance of conflict of interest. The fact that he came into high-profile journalism after working as a political partisan may be an explanation for his blind spot, but hardly an excuse.

Along with this disclosure came word that another prominent television anchor, Judy Woodruff of "PBS NewsHour," had also made a one-time contribution the Clinton Foundation of $250 for Haitian earthquake relief in 2010 in response to a plea from Mr. Clinton and former President George H.W. Bush. But that was peanuts compared to the Stephanopoulos donations and Ms. Woodruff had no working connection with either president, rising in journalism as an Atlanta newscaster who moved to the White House beat for NBC with the 1976 election of former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter.

The phenomenon of political operatives segueing into high-level journalistic posts as been a longtime subject of discussion within the journalistic community. A once-honored wall between the two professions has increasingly broken down, especially as television and its huge advertising revenue have produced astonishingly high salaries and made celebrities of the recipients. The recently suspended Brian Williams, anchor of "NBC Nightly News," reportedly had just signed a $10 million contract.

Occasionally, a journalist who already has attained star status, such as CBS' Edward R. Murrow, may switch teams at a president's request for less money. He became director of the U.S. Information Agency in the Kennedy administration, and NBC's John Chancellor was recruited for a time to head the government-run Voice of America by Lyndon Johnson. But the switch most times works the other way around. For example, ABC's Diane Sawyer was a press aide in the Nixon White House, and Chris Matthews of MSNBC was a press secretary to House Speaker Tip O'Neill before achieving prominence in television news.

Press credibility took a big hit from the revelation that Mr. Williams was given to exaggerations, to say the least. Any

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appearance of conflict of interest in reporting or commenting on the news can easily lead to further public distrust, unless there is full disclosure of any possible suspicion of favoritism or softness in journalists' relations with public officials.

Clinton: GOP threatening small-business jobs // AP // Ken Thomas - May 22, 2015

HAMPTON, N.H. (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton says Republicans in Congress and GOP presidential hopefuls are threatening tens of thousands of small-business jobs by seeking to cut a little-known gov ernment agency that guarantees loans to help U.S. exporters.

The Democratic presidential contender said during a round-table discussion at Smutty nose Brewery in New Hampshire that Congress should renew financing for the Export-Import Bank. She argues the GOP is risking up to 164,000 jobs supported by the bank.

She says Republicans running in the 2016 campaign would rather threaten the jobs than "stand up to the tea party and talk radio."

Conservatives have sought to eliminate the Export-Import Bank, arguing it giv es the government too big a role in helping some large American companies sell products overseas at the expense of others.

Clinton's claim that it takes longer to start a business in the U.S. than in Canada or France // WaPo // Glenn Kessler- May 22, 2015

Our antenna alway s goes up when a politician asserts a "fact." Clinton made this remark in the midst of a discussion about the "perfect storm of crisis" that she said small businesses face in the United States.

She made a similar point in an article she posted on LinkedIn on May 21, but with an additional country added: "It should not take longer to start a business in the U.S. than it does in Canada, Korea, or France."

This statement poses a fact-checking conundrum because, as the Clinton campaign hastened to point out, it is accurately drawn from a database at the World Bank. But sometimes, depending on the context, things can be technically true but still misleading. Let's take a look.

The Facts

The World Bank's database lists 189 countries in terms of the time required to start a business. For 2014, in first place is New Zealand, with one day. In France and Canada, along with eight other countries, it takes five days. (South Korea, along with six other countries, is listed as four days.) The United States, with 12 other countries, is listed as six days.

First of all, one extra day does not seem like much of a hindrance — so much so that, as Clinton asserted in the LinkedIn article, the fact signified the "red tape that holds back small businesses and entrepreneurs."

But if you did dig even deeper into the data, the differences narrow further. From France it works out as 36 hours (4.5 days), Canada 40 hours (5 days) and the United States 45 hours (5.6 days).

The average time for starting a business in the world was 22.3 days, according to the World Bank. In high-income countries, it was 15.2 days, while in the Euro area, it was 10.6 days. So, within the world, the United States ranks very close to France and Canada — and exceeds many other industrialized countries.

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We should note that the World Bank studied a very specific size of company —employing between 10 to 50 people within one month, having five owners, using start-up capital equiv alent to 10 times income per capita and being engaged in industrial or commercial activities and owning no real estate.

But there's another funny thing about the data. While Clinton uses these numbers as a proxy for entire countries, in most cases, researchers only looked at the time it took to start a business in a country's largest city. That would be Paris in France and Toronto in Canada. But the United States was one of the few countries in which its figure was an amalgam of the two largest cities — New York and Los Angeles.

When y ou look at the individual city data, it turns out that it takes four days to start a business in New York and eight days to start one in Los Angeles. In the report, that was averaged as six days. But if you really used an apples to apples comparison – the largest city in each country –then actually the United States (ie, New York, with four days) tops France (Paris, with 4.5 days) and Canada (Toronto, with five days.)

The World Bank Web site lets you compare the individual cities to countries, so New York ends up tied for 6th place — with Belgium, Iceland, South Korea, the Netherlands and Sao Tome. Los Angeles is down in 15th place, tied with Cyprus, Egypt, Madagascar and the Kyrgyz Republic, among others. Another World Bank report notes that the differences are so large because, in the United States, "company law is under state jurisdiction and there are measurable differences between the California and New York company law."

So what does data about starting a business in the largest city hav e to do with small businesses in Iowa? Beats us.

The Clinton campaign noted that the United States (ie, the combined ranking for New York and Los Angeles) ranked 46th on a broader "starting a business" category, which also includes time to start a business, the number of procedures, cost of capital and paid-in minimum capital. Each element is weighed equally to come up with an ov erall ranking.

Under this criteria, Canada ranked second, Korea was 17th and France was 28th. But again, the U.S. score is dragged down by greater difficulties found in starting a business in Los Angeles. And Clinton spoke simply of the time it took to start a business.

The Pinocchio Test

In the context in which Clinton used this factoid, it does not make much sense. This is specifically about starting businesses in a country 's largest city — and the score for the United States is affected by the fact that it is one of the few countries with a blended figure for two cities.

There is such a wide v ariation between New York and Los Angeles because corporate law generally is set at the state level — making us wonder what federal solution Clinton is proposing. (Her article said such specific policy suggestions would be forthcoming in the future.)

On a strictly technical level, this factoid at least is based on a legitimate data set. But it means much less than Clinton suggests in her statement and lacks important context. So she earns a Pinocchio.

One Pinocchio.

Why Hillary Clinton Prefers to T alk About Comm unity Banks // TIME // Sam Frizell - May 21, 2015

Like many Democrats, Hillary Clinton has talked tough about reining in mega banks. But as her presidential campaign has gotten underway, she's focused on the homier side of the financial industry: community banks.

At times, listeners might have even mistaken Clinton for a moderate Republican.

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“Today,” Clinton said, “local banks are being squeezed by regulations that don’t make sense for their size and mission—like endless examinations and paperwork designed for banks that measure their assets in the many billions.”

“And when it gets harder for small banks to do their jobs, it gets harder for small businesses to get their loans,” she said. “Our goal should be helping community banks serve their neighbors and customers the way they alway s have.”

Community banks tend have less than $1 billion in assets, are usually based in rural or suburban communities and are the kind of place your uncle in Idaho might go for money to open an antique shop. Touting small businesses is a tried-and-true trope for candidates on both sides of the aisle. For office-seekers from Barack Obama to Marco Rubio, the subject is as noncontroversial and all-American as crabgrass.

The difference, then, comes at how politicians want to handle bigger banks. Congress right now is debating how far to exempt banks from certain regulations. Democratic lawmakers generally want to reduce them only for smaller banks; some Republicans want to exempt all banks, an approach Clinton criticized.

Big banks in the United States have become increasingly large and powerful in the seven years since the financial crisis. Of the 6,000-odd banks in the United States, the five largest control nearly half of the country’s banking wealth, according to a December study. In 1990, the five biggest banks controlled just 10% of the industry ’s assets.

Small banks complain that federal regulation in the aftermath of the Dodd-Frank legislation is contributing to a decline in their numbers. Annual examinations at a community banks, for instance, require staff to walk regulators through paperwork. Filling out paperwork and pay ing for compliance lawyers to deal with new Dodd-Frank stipulations are burdensome extra costs, banks say. And new rules can impose high damages on lenders who do make unsafe loans.

“There’s an inherent advantage in scale,” said Mike Calhoun, president of the Center for Responsible Lending, pointing out that small banks often hav e more trouble pay ing for regulation compliance. “Community banks, being smaller, have less business to spread the cost of regulations over.”

It’s an issue that resonates with Iowa bankers, says John Sorensen, president and CEO of the Iowa Bankers Association. “A lot of the banks we have across Iowa are small businesses with 10 to 30 employees that have been interrupted in their ability to serve their customers through a good part of Dodd-Frank,” he said.

But some say the discussion about scrapping community bank regulations as Clinton suggests is a distraction. Small banks were in steady decline for many y ears before Dodd-Frank, and they are protected from liability on certain loans that big banks are not. And regulators argue that preventing risky mortgages of the kind that brought on the financial crisis is a good thing.

Much of the push to deregulate community banks comes from bigger institutions who want exemptions from regulation themselves. “If you were able to somehow magically trace who is whipping up frenzy about regulator burden on small banks, you’d find its trade associations at the behest of bigger banks,” said Julia Gordon of the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning think tank that has supplied some top officials in the Clinton campaign.

During the roundtable, Donna Sorensen, chair of the board of Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust and a participant on Tuesday, suggested to Clinton that more U.S. Small Business Administration-supported loans come with no fees. Clinton took notes and nodded in assent.

“If we really wanted to jumpstart more community bank lending, part of what we would do is exactly that—raise the limits to av oid the upfront fee” for businesses that need loans, Clinton said.

Clinton did not say specifically what regulations she would remove if she were elected president, but locals in Independence, Iowa, where Clinton stopped by for a v isit after her small business roundtables, asked her to hold true to her

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sentiments. Terry Tekippe, whose family owns an independent hardware store, walked onto the street as Clinton walked by. “Keep us in focus,” Tekippe said.

“I want to be a small business president, so I am,” Clinton called back as she continued down the street.

Hillary Clinton, Acutely Aware of Pitfalls, Avoids Press on Campaign Trail // NYT // Jason Horowitz - May 22, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — Hillary Rodham Clinton was in a forgiving mood. She had been discussing the small-business economy at a round-table gathering at a bike shop here on Tuesday when the Fox News correspondent Ed Henry interrupted. When, he shouted, would she take questions from the news media she had ignored for weeks on end?

“May be when I finish talking to the people here,” Mrs. Clinton said as she leaned over a 3-D printed mechanical part that looked like a post-apocalyptic Rubik’s cube. “How’s that?”

“You’ll come over?” Mr. Henry followed up.

“I might,” Mrs. Clinton said teasingly . For the amusement of the 19 local residents invited to attend this latest installment of the movable Clinton court, and to the annoyance of the more than 50 members of the news media roped off around them, she added: “I have to ponder it. But I will put it on my list for due consideration.”

Unlike in 2008, when Mrs. Clinton’s regal bearing was brought low by Barack Obama’s insurgent campaign, there is no one to force her out of her Rose Garden. Neither Bernie Sanders, the socialist senator from Vermont, nor Martin O’Malley, the former gov ernor of Maryland, has applied significant pressure on her. That leaves the news media as her only real opponent so far on the way to the Democratic presidential nomination, and while it may not be great for an educated populace or the furtherance of American democracy, it makes all the political sense in the world for Mrs. Clinton to ignore them, too.

What Hillary Clinton Would Need to Do to Win

There is no shortage of reminders of the downsides of engagement. She need only look at her Republican counterparts, starting with Jeb Bush, who has made a point of opening up more to reporters butdamaged himself during a sev eral-day struggle with how to answer a question about the wisdom of the war in Iraq.

Senator Marco Rubio’s difficulties with the same question were condensed to a few highly awkward and viral minutes. Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin has been working for weeks to overcome his flubbing of initial questions about foreign policy, and Senator Rand Paul’s snappish interactions with female reporters have only fed the impression that he is thin-skinned.

Mrs. Clinton had her own rocky introduction to the 2016 press corps when she gave defensiv e and not entirely convincing answers at a news conference prompted by the revelation that she had used a private email server as secretary of state. But as reporters have dug deeper into the emails, the financial conduct of her family’s foundation and the character of the company she keeps, Mrs. Clinton has only seemed more comfortable and dominant on the campaign trail.

She has rolled out more liberal positions on immigration reform and college debt and stayed mum on inconvenient things she does not want to talk about, like a potential trade deal or Israeli policies loathed by her liberal base. And unlike in 2008 — when the battle between her and Mr. Obama forced Mrs. Clinton to do ev ents late into the night, and she often slipped up or held forth about brain science — she is keeping her campaign schedule to a bare minimum.

This week, as she campaigned in Iowa, in Chicago and, starting Friday, in New Hampshire — a relative flurry of activity — she generally filled each day with one event open to the news media, a smaller one with a pool reporter, and then some

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unexpected stops where she ordered coffee or bought toys for her grandchild. Always the grandchild.

At the bike shop event on Tuesday, she listened intently to the stories of the round-table participants, nodding 43 times a minute as they talked about their ice cream shops and 3-D printing. As television lights cast the shadows of two rows of "everyday Americans" onto the tablecloth, she looked expertly over the locals' heads and into the television cameras behind them to give her prepared remarks ("I want to make the words 'middle class' mean something again").

Who Is Running for President (and Who's Not)?

She complimented the participants on their inquiries ("that's a very fair question" or "that's a very good question"), and when the moderator unexpectedly pushed her on her position on President Obama's proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, she dodged artfully.

When it finally came time to ask their questions, the reporters seemed more agitated than the candidate as they pushed against a rope line for the impromptu news conference and gasped when her traveling press secretary, Nick Merrill, joked, "Wouldn't it be funny if she walked off?"

"Hey, y'all ready?" Mrs. Clinton asked as she sauntered over.

"Yeah!" said the chorus of reporters.

"Tell me — tell me something I don't know," she said, almost musically, as she snapped her head to the left in a Janet Jackson-era dance move. "Ha, ha, ha, ha."

The smile on Mrs. Clinton's face slowly faded as she nodded and replied and obfuscated in response to the half-dozen questions asked of her. She did so with ease, despite the people shouting about her destroying her emails and calling out, "Did you take official actions for the Clinton Foundation donors?" And then she turned away, essentially dusting the whole dodging-the-press story line off her bird's-eye blazer.

Rick Santorum Denounces Fox News Curbs on Debate07:40 AM ET

Today in Politics: No Time for a Lazy Summer as Campaigns Ramp Up 07:01 AM ET

Clinton Foundation Releases List of Speeches That Filled Its Coffers 9:42 PM ET

Mrs. Clinton's relationship with the political press has never been warm. She started the 2008 race straight-arming reporters, and only when the nomination began slipping from her grasp did she seek to embrace them. It was too late. When she boarded the press bus with bagels ("I didn't want you to feel deprived"), no one partook. Despite that chill, though, there was a sense of professionalism and familiarity on the Clinton bus, because many of the reporters represented New York-based publications and had covered her as a senator. News conferences were not frequent, but they occurred behind curtains after events.

Now, both Mrs. Clinton and the news media have changed. She seems less a presidential candidate than a historical figure, magically animated from a wax museum to claim what is rightfully hers. And the press corps, both blessed and cursed with live streaming, tweeting and Snapchatting technologies, is armed with questions devised to win the moment. The result is a carnival atmosphere. It is not clear what Mrs. Clinton gains politically from playing the freak.

The solution for her team has been to keep the press at bay as Mrs. Clinton reads the scripts to her daily campaign shows.

"The media was confined between the bar and the stove," Gary Swenson said, describing an event with Mrs. Clinton at his home in Mason City, Iowa, on Monday. Asked if he had learned anything from her talk, he said, "No, I don't think I learned anything remarkably new," but added after a pause: "I think it was more her demeanor. It astonished me. I expected somebody who had space between herself and the people who lived here, and there was none."

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The press did not learn much, either, from Mrs. Clinton's remarks in Mason City or her answers at the impromptu bike store news conference, except that she is an exceedingly strong candidate. But that did not mean the ev ent was entirely without news.

Outside, by the steps of the bike shop, Mr. Henry did a stand-up in front of his Fox camera. "The reason she had a news conference is because I started shouting questions," he crowed to his viewers. He called that the day's "bottom line."

Small v ictories.

Hillary Keeps It Boring // Bloom berg // Margaret Carlson - May 22, 2015

This week, Hillary Clinton broke her almost month-long streak of avoiding the press. After a speech on small businesses in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she took six questions from reporters who have been diligently following her around since she announced her presidential candidacy April 12.

No surprise, the media didn't clamor for her to flesh out her plan for small businesses. Instead, she found herself parry ing queries about her e-mails, the Clinton Foundation and its donors, and her vote to approve the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

What would have been a squirm-inducing moment for any other candidate was for Clinton an occasion to draw on skills tempered in the fires of decades in politics. It prov ided both a reminder of her past in the hot seat of Whitewater, Monica and other battles and a glimpse of her future campaign strategy: She will swat away any unwanted questions by stonewalling as long as possible and, when that's no longer viable, by deflecting with responses designed to make the topic seem as boring as rain and her questioners as tedious gnats.

Here's how she handled a question about the burgeoning scandal involving questionable donations to the Clinton Foundation: "I am so proud of the Foundation," she said. "I'll let the American people make their own judgments."

There's nothing to see here. Move on.

My boring question: Is Hillary just kidding us or is she also kidding herself? At the very least, she didn't report the Foundation's donations from foreign governments, as she promised the president she would when she became secretary of state. At worst, the Foundation took money from some shady characters hoping to put a Clinton gloss on dicey businesses.

But the thin gruel she served up has a strategic purpose: Next time the controversy comes up, she can say: asked and answered, old news. Can we please talk about the important issues the American people care about?

It works, too. The Clintons have an extraordinary ability to thrive amid turmoil that would fell mere mortals. They -- and the rest of us -- have seen it all before.

Speaking of déjà vu, Sidney Blumenthal, a consigliere from the Clinton White House and Monica Lewinsky scourge, has re-emerged as the author of memos on Libya that Clinton passed on to top State Department aides as urgent reading. So how does he fit now and why was a political operative giving adv ice on Liby a policy? Hillary played the loyalty card: "I have many, many old friends and I always think that it's important when y ou get into politics to hav e friends you had before you were in politics and to understand what's on their mind."

Even ABC News anchor George Stephanopoulos, one of the few top aides to President Bill Clinton to escape the association seemingly unscathed, recently found the tentacles reaching around his neck because of a charitable donation to the Foundation.

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But she will wriggle free of all that and whatever else comes her way. In March, Hillary waited eight days to address the missing e-mails, and said no more about it for another month. She was following the first rule of Clintonland: Wait out the first wave of attacks, then say there's nothing to be concerned about in a frustrated, sing-song voice, as if to a group of kindergartners.

The template was forged when her husband intoned his infamous denial about not having sex with that woman, then left the stage to his enemies for six months, giving them time to self-destruct. Instead of Clinton having to resign for a scandalous dalliance with an intern, Ken Starr looked pruriently overzealous, Republicans viciously partisan, and impeachment a bridge too far.

If boring worked for Monica -- Bill Clinton is one of the most popular men on the planet -- surely it's going to work for Hillary's more mundane, sex-free scandals. She's had a lot of practice weathering flare-ups: Gennifer Flowers, the embarrassing tax deduction for Bill's underwear, cattle futures, the pardons, the furnishings taken (and returned) to the White House, nefarious friends with private jets and the list goes on.

There were predictions that Hillary's poll numbers would plummet after the public learned that thousands of e-mails spanning her tenure at state were destroyed. It didn't happen. What's more, with the passage of time, Hillary was able to conflate two separate sets of e-mails into one so that now it's the darn State Department's fault if anything's missing. All she has to do is to keep repeating the answer she gave Tuesday, "I have said repeatedly I want those e-mails out."

Note the deft use of "repeatedly," conveying the sense that these questions are getting really tiresome.

We should have known when Hillary announced her candidacy with a supremely boring video that she intended to run the most boring campaign ever. She's off to a good start.

Koch organization attacks Hillary on Ex-Im bank // Politico // Kenneth Vogel and Tarini Parti - May 22, 2015

The Koch brothers organization on Friday blasted Hillary Clinton's support for the Export-Import bank, previewing a potentially rancorous and expensive fight between the leading Democratic presidential candidate and the deepest pocketed network of donors on the right.

The issue of re-authorizing the once little known export credit agency is getting a lot of attention on the campaign trail, with the bank's charter set to expire June 30 and Republican presidential candidates and members of Congress under pressure from influential conservative groups including those in the Koch network to oppose it.

It's a fight that plays into the sweet spot of both — Clinton and the Koch network.

For the Kochs and their network, it's a chance to elevate a pet issue while engaging in the presidential race at a time when its legions of rich donors remain divided over which GOP candidate to back.

Freedom Partners, the umbrella group overseeing the Koch network, in a statement released Friday and promoted on social media asserted that Clinton's support for re-authorizing the bank draws "a clear line between her and the Republican presidential field and push(es) the Ex-Im Bank into the national dialogue." Freedom Partners also linked Clinton's support to donations to her family's foundation from beneficiaries of the bank, while the Koch group's spokesman James Davis called Clinton's position "a case study in cronyism and corporate welfare. Congress should reject Mrs. Clinton's Ex-Im position and end this culture of corruption, and start fighting on behalf of hard-working taxpayers."

Clinton during a Friday afternoon roundtable at Smuttynose Brewery in New Hampshire, criticized Republicans for targeting the bank and risking up to 164,000 jobs supported through its programs at the behest of "the tea party and talk radio."

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And her campaign seemed to welcome the attack from Freedom Partners, with spokesman Jesse Ferguson responding in a statement “Hillary Clinton just made the case that Republicans were jeopardizing small business exports by blocking the Export-Import Bank to please their tea party base when an overwhelming share of the bank’s transactions support American small businesses. And then a leading tea party organization came out attacking her for it. Enough said.”

Democrats in the last couple elections spent significant time and money trying to make a campaign issue of the unprecedented political and public policy spending by the industrialist billionaires Charles and David Koch and the donors in their network, which they allege created the tea party protest movement in 2009.

Freedom Partners didn’t actually form until late 2011 and since then it has overseen a vast expansion of the Koch network to include scores of wealthy conservative donors funding groups pushing primarily fiscal conservative initiatives and messaging. The network helmed by Freedom Partners intends to spend $889 million in the run-up to the 2016 election through electoral and advocacy efforts.

Freedom Partners in a web video last month signaled its desire to take on Clinton over her support for the bank. It distinguished her position on the issue with those of

the leading GOP contenders. The group has spent the last few months pressuring the GOP’s presidential prospects to support their economic policy agenda, which includes expiration of Export-Import bank’s charter.

“Should your tax dollars fund foreign companies? Hillary Clinton does,” a narrator says in the video, which ends with pictures of Sens. Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz and Gov. Scott Walker and Jeb Bush. “Will Congress follow Hillary or free market champions who oppose it?”

GOP chairman: Hillary a 'natural cheerleader' for Export-Import Bank // The Hill // Kevin Cirill - May 22, 2015

House Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas) attacked Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton Friday over her support for the embattled Export-Import Bank.

Clinton is expected to reiterate her support for the bank during campaign appearances in New Hampshire, as Congress continues to grapple with whether or not to reauthorize the 80-year-old bank's charter before it expires June 30.

“Hillary Clinton is a natural cheerleader for the Export-Import Bank. After all, Ex-Im’s biggest beneficiaries are foreign governments and giant corporations," Hensarling said in a statement.

Hensarling and other conservatives — including all top-tier Republican presidential candidates — oppose reauthorizing the federally-backed bank, which finances business projects overseas.

Critics argue that the bank unfairly benefits big corporations by backing major, politically connected firms as opposed to small businesses. Boeing, for example, received more than a third of the Bank's total loan commitments between 2007 and 2013, according to an S&P report.

"Conveniently, these just happen to be among the biggest donors to the Clinton Foundation as well as major underwriters of the speaking fees that added millions of dollars to the Clinton bank account," Hensarling said in a statement.

“If Mrs. Clinton truly wants to help small business and exporters, she would be an outspoken supporter of trade promotion authority, pro-growth tax reform, the Keystone pipeline and real regulatory relief," Hensarling said.

Hensarling's panel has jurisdiction over a reauthorization bill and it's unclear whether the House will vote to extend the bank's charter.

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The issue has exposed a rift between the Tea Party and the business community within the Republican Party.

The business community — including prominent groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers — are working to reauthorize the bank, arguing that its support of big businesses helps sustain small business jobs in the supply-chain economic ecosystem.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), a potential presidential candidate and supporter of the bank, said Thursday that he expects a v ote in the Senate before the bank's charter expires.

Republican PAC calls on Clinton to take clear position on trade agreement // WMUR // John DiStaso - May 21, 2015

MANCHESTER, N.H. —A top official of a pro-Republican political action committee Thursday called on Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to take a clear position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which cleared a major hurdle in the U.S. Senate earlier in the day.

Ahead of Hillary Clinton's second trip to New Hampshire on Friday, a small business owner from Portsmouth will get a unique social media opportunity. For one day, she'll be tweeting to more than 3.5 million followers.

MORE

Colin Reed, executive director of America Rising PAC, charged that Clinton's "refusal to take a position on President Obama's bipartisan trade deal undercuts all her empty small business rhetoric and leaves no doubt that she is nothing more than a typical politician desperate to get elected."

His comments came on the eve of Clinton's second visit to New Hampshire since announcing her candidacy. She will focus on small businesses while in the state, her campaign said.

Reed, the former campaign manager for 2014 Republican U.S. Senate candidate Scott Brown, cited a 2012 study by the Peterson Institute for International Economics and East-West Center that said the TPP would result in 3,359 new jobs for the state. The institute was founded by Peter G. Peterson, a commerce secretary during the Nixon administration and an investment banker and fiscal conserv ative. The study was published on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce website.

America Rising PAC, founded in 2013 by former Mitt Romney campaign manager Matt Rhoades, cited remarks by Clinton supportive of the TPP in 2010 and 2011, when she was secretary of state. The group noted that since becoming a presidential candidate, she has been less definitive in her position.

In Iowa earlier this week, she said she wants to "judge the final agreement. I hav e been for trade agreements. I have been against trade agreements."

CNN reported that Clinton said she wants to see rules included in the TPP that would penalize countries for driving down the value of their currencies in order to give their exports a price advantage in the U.S. market. She also reportedly said she is concerned about a prov ision that would give, she said, "corporations more power to overturn health and environmental and labor rules than consumers have."

Clinton's campaign on Thursday declined to comment on the criticism by Reed of America Rising and to comment further on the trade agreement.

The Senate Thursday voted 62-38 to provide President Barack Obama "fast-track" authority he needs to complete the TPP deal.

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Reed said, “It’s impossible for Secretary Clinton to credibly talk about small business without addressing this major piece of bipartisan legislation."

The issue has split Obama, who strongly supports the agreement, and liberal Democrats such as Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who strongly oppose it.

Clinton the leader in Granite State Facebook traffic // NH1 // Paul Steinhauser - May 22, 2015

CONCORD – Hillary Clinton’s the overwhelming front runner in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, and it appears she’s also far out in front in the battle among 2016 White House contenders for Facebook visitors in the first-in-the-nation primary state.

New numbers provided to NH1 News by the social media giant indicate that over the past two months 71,00 people on Facebook in New Hampshire made 45 7,000 likes, posts, comments and shares related to Clinton.

GOP Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, who was the first big name in the Republican Party to launch a White House campaign, was a distant second, weighing in with 29,000 unique people and 162,000 interactions. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who’s running for the Democratic nomination, had 21,000 unique people and 107,000 interactions. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a GOP presidential candidate, scored 20,000 interactions and 111,000 likes, posts, comments and shares.

With social media increasing play ing a larger and larger role in campaign politics, these numbers matter.

"Facebook is home to a political conversation that isn't just large, it's authentic and meaningful. Not only are voters are using Facebook to connect with candidates, debate public policy issues, and get the latest election political news and information, but so are presidential contenders using Facebook to reach out to voters,” Erin Egan, Facebook’s vice president of U.S. Public Policy , told NH1 News.

And in the Granite State, Facebook trumps Twitter.

“With regards to social media, in New Hampshire, no offense to Twitter, the best way to reach people is through Facebook,” said NH1 News Digital Director Kevin Deane.

Hillary Clinton’s scripted campaign is starting to make New Hampshire mad // Boston Globe // Nik DeCosta-Klipa -May 22, 2015

At some point in the 1970s, a man in Manchester, New Hampshire asks his friend, “What do you think about Mo Udall for president?” The other man replies, “I don’t know, I only met him twice.”

Or so goes John McCain’s oft-repeated joke about the Granite State’s brand of personal politics.

Now it appears that Hillary Clinton’s campaign is starting to get on New Hampshire’s nerves for being impersonal.

The Nashua Telegraph published an editorial Thursday that said a conference call by Clinton’s campaign with local media was “the antithesis of what NH is about.”

According to the Telegraph, the former secretary of state’s campaign expected that participating media would write stories from the call using unnamed sources only, even though it had “little or no substance.” Clinton’s campaign wanted to talk about their social media outreach plan.

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From the Telegraph's editorial:

"And then there was this: New Hampshire voters "would be seeing a lot of (Clinton) in the months ahead," said a campaign strategist.

That's not exactly stop-the-presses material right there.

The importance of what was said by campaign operatives in no way rose to a level that required anonymity .

In fact, the nature of the call itself runs counter to a long tradition where the appearance of unnamed sources – be they presidential candidates or their operatives – are few and far between in New Hampshire newspapers, including this one. Anonymity, as a matter of course and for its own sake, is part of the culture in Washington, not New Hampshire."

The editorial came one day after a prominent Democratic activist in New Hampshire told The Boston Globe that when it comes to Clinton, "We feel like we don't matter. I feel like she doesn't realize it is personal in New Hampshire."

During her first New Hampshire visit, Clinton held panel discussions and house parties, only open to pre-credentialed media and individuals selected by campaign organizers.

As The Globe's Annie Linskey pointed out, "Those ev ery day Americans who want to quiz Hillary Rodham Clinton on trade, foreign policy , or even her favorite color hav e one option: They need to be on the right inv ite list to get in a room with her."

However, a spokesman for the campaign told Linskey the pattern is not part of a long-term strategy, noting there is "plenty of time" before the state's primary February 9, 2016.

Clinton's campaign is set to return to New Hampshire this weekend, v isiting Smuttynose Brewery in Hampton and an organizing ev ent in Exeter. A campaign press release indicates neither will be open to the public.

Clinton's national and New Hampshire campaigns didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

New Hampshire paper blasts Hillary Clinton campaign for lame conference call // WaPo // Erik Wemple - May 22, 2015

The "background call" is a staple of contemporary American politics. A message-shaping tool, it inv olves spinmeisters telling a group of reporters about their strategies on the condition that their names not be used. It's the launching pad of those quotes you see in the media citing a "senior campaign official" or a "White House official" and so on.

Too rarely do the shenanigans of the "background call" get called out. But that's precisely what the the Telegraph of Nashua, N.H., did today in a searing editorial ripping the paltry information that Hillary Clinton's campaign dished under the cover of anonymity. Here's a look:

Clinton operatives held a conference call about efforts the campaign is making to bulk up a social media outreach campaign and plans to build working groups that are – get this – based on specific issues rather than the traditional county-by-county breakdown.

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We'll give you a moment to recover from the impact of such revelatory news.

There was no reason to report any of the "news" from the call, noted the editorial. Except for the existence of the tepid call itself. The editorial ripped away:

"Everyone has a story , and connecting that story to their support for this campaign is something that is as crucial and important and something that people want to do – people want to tell those stories," said a top official with the national campaign.

They needed anonymity for that? Really?

Another bonus came from a Clinton strategist, who said that New Hampshire v oters "would be seeing a lot of (Clinton) in the months ahead."

The killer line: "Anonymity , as a matter of course and for its own sake, is part of the culture in Washington, not New Hampshire." The Erik Wemple Blog can confirm the part about Washington.

New York T im es does its best to be a 'real opponent' to Hillary Clinton // Daily Kos // Laura Clawson - May 22, 2015

New York Times reporters really aren't bothering to hide their loathing of Hillary Clinton anymore, to the point where the next logical step is for the newspaper to adopt the mottoes "fair and balanced" or "we report, you decide." Here's how one Times reporter tweeted his latest article:

In Iowa, Queen Hillary and the Every day Americans of the Round Table distribute alms to the clamoring press. http:// t.co/..

— @jasondhorowitz

Yeahhhh, Queen Hillary. "We report, you decide!" As for the article itself ...

Unlike in 2008, when Mrs. Clinton's regal bearing was brought low by Barack Obama's insurgent campaign, there is no one to force her out of her Rose Garden. Neither Bernie Sanders, the socialist senator from Vermont, nor Martin O'Malley, the former gov ernor of Maryland, has applied significant pressure on her. That leaves the news media as her only real opponent so far on the way to the Democratic presidential nomination, and while it may not be great for an educated populace or the furtherance of American democracy, it makes all the political sense in the world for Mrs. Clinton to ignore them, too.

"That leaves the news media as her only real opponent so far." It's a horrible premise, as Jay Rosen among others has made clear. But boy is it ev er a premise Jason Horowitz does his best to liv e out in an article with personal animus oozing from under ev ery line. Here's how Horowitz describes Clinton taking press questions, as they'd been endlessly whining she was not doing:

"Tell me — tell me something I don't know," she said, almost musically, as she snapped her head to the left in a Janet Jackson-era dance mov e. "Ha, ha, ha, ha."

The smile on Mrs. Clinton's face slowly faded as she nodded and replied and obfuscated in response to the half-dozen questions asked of her.

Later in the piece, "She seems less a presidential candidate than a historical figure, magically animated from a wax museum to claim what is rightfully hers." So, Janet Jackson-era dance moves and a historical figure magically animated from a wax museum—she's old! To claim what is rightfully hers—Queen Hillary , so entitled! How dare she be a strong presidential candidate when we, the press, don't like her?

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The entitlement here is on the part of the press, claiming a role in politics that does not belong to it by any reasonable read of the role of the press, with reporters insisting that their inane questions and picayune obsessions are what's important in this race. Insisting that, rather than covering Bernie Sanders' campaign as seriously as they 're covering the campaigns of Republicans with lower polling numbers than Sanders, the right way to cover the Democratic primary is by dismissing Sanders and setting themselves up as Clinton's true opposition. It's disgraceful.

Prospect of Hillary Clinton-Marco Rubio Matchup Unnerves Democrats // NYT // Jeremy W. Peters - May 22, 2015

WASHINGTON — They use words like “historic” and “charismatic,” phrases like “great potential” and “million-dollar smile.” They notice audience members moved to tears by an American-dream-come-true success story. When they look at the cold, hard political math, they get uneasy .

An incipient sense of anxiety is tugging at some Democrats — a feeling tersely captured in four words from a blog post written recently by a seasoned party strategist in Florida: “Marco Rubio scares me.”

What is so unnerving to them at this early phase of the 2016 presidential campaignstill seems, at worst, a distant danger: the prospect of a head-to-head general-election contest between Mr. Rubio, the Republican senator from Florida, and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Yet the worriers include some on Mrs. Clinton’s team. And even former President Bill Clinton is said to worry that Mr. Rubio could become the Republican nominee, whittle away at Mrs. Clinton’s support from Hispanics and jeopardize her chances of carrying Florida’s vital 29 electoral votes.

Interactiv e Feature | What Marco Rubio Would Need to Do to Win Mr. Rubio will try to position himself as a next-generation conserv ative who can unite the Republican Party.

Democrats express concerns not only about whether Mr. Rubio, 43, a son of Cuban immigrants, will win over Hispanic voters, a growing and increasingly important slice of the electorate. They also worry that he would offer a sharp generational contrast to Mrs. Clinton, a fixture in American politics for nearly a quarter-century who will turn 69 less than two weeks before the election.

As her supporters recall, Barack Obama beat Mrs. Clinton for the nomination in the 2008 elections after drawing similar contrasts himself.

Patti Solis Doyle, who ran Mrs. Clinton’s presidential campaign for most of the 2008 contest, said Mr. Rubio “could have the ability to nip away at the numbers for the Democrats.”

Ms. Doyle, the first Hispanic woman to manage a presidential campaign, added that Mr. Rubio could allow Republicans to regain a “reasonable percentage” of the Hispanic v ote, which hit a low of 27 percent in the 2012 presidential election.

Interactiv e Feature | What Hillary Clinton Would Need to Do to Win Mrs. Clinton can expect little if any opposition in the Democratic primaries. But she was similarly well positioned when she declared her candidacy in 2007.

“He is a powerful speaker,” she added. “He is young. He is very motivational. He has a powerful story.”

Recognizing how essential it is to win Hispanic support, Mrs. Clinton has gone further in laying out an immigration policy than she has on almost any other issue, saying that she would extend greater protections to halt deportations of people in the United States illegally. She has also hired a former undocumented immigrantto lead her Latino outreach efforts.

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Her own strategists, their allies in the “super PACs” working on her behalf and theDemocratic Party all say they see plenty of vulnerabilities in Mr. Rubio’s record and his views. And they are trying to shape the perception people have of him while polls show that he is still relatively unknown: Yes, the Democratic National Committee said in a recent memo, Mr. Rubio was a fresh face, but one “peddling a tired playbook of policies that endanger our country, hurt the middle class, and stifle the American dream.”

So far, Democrats who have combed over Mr. Rubio’s voting record in the Senate have seized on his opposition to legislation raising the minimum wage and to expanding college loan refinancing, try ing to cast him as no different from other Republicans.

The subtext: He may be Hispanic, but he is not on the side of Hispanics when it comes to the issues they care about.

Democrats will try to use Mr. Rubio’s youth and four-y ear career in national politics against him, depicting him as green or naïve — a liability at a time when unrest abroad is a top concern. “A Dan Quayle without the experience,” suggested Christopher Lehane, a veteran strategist who has worked for the Clintons.

Bill Richardson, the former governor of New Mexico, who is of Mexican heritage, said Democrats would also make an issue of Mr. Rubio’s mixed record on how to overhaul the immigration system: He initially supported a Senate bill to grant people in the United States illegally a path to citizenship, but he later backed down.

Mr. Richardson said that would poison his chances with Hispanic voters. “His own Hispanic potential would defeat him,” he said.

It is also unclear how much Mr. Rubio would appeal to Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and other voters with Latin American ancestry who may not feel much cultural affinity with a Cuban.

Still, when many Democrats assess Mr. Rubio’s chances, as nearly a dozen of them did for this article, they put him in the top tier of candidates who concern them the most, along with former Gov. Jeb Bush, another Floridian who is courting Hispanics, and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin.

Mr. Rubio’s heritage and his youth could be particularly dangerous to Mrs. Clinton, they said. Each of those points could help neutralize one of her biggest strengths: the opportunity to help elect the first female president, and the experience Mrs. Clinton gained as secretary of state.

Mr. Rubio already appears to be pursuing that strategy. By calling himself a candidate of the “21st century, not the 20th,” he seeks both to turn Mrs. Clinton’s long career against her and to entice voters who may desire a change of direction.

In Florida, Democrats who have watched Mr. Rubio’s rise warn against playing down his strengths.

Former Gov. Charlie Crist, who lost to Mr. Rubio in the Republican primary for the 2010 senatorial election but later switched parties, said he admired how Mr. Rubio told the story of his immigrant parents — his mother a maid, his father a bartender — and how they worked hard so that he could succeed. “It’s hard to get more compelling than that,” Mr. Crist said.

John Morgan, a major Democratic donor in Florida who will hold a fund-raiser for Mrs. Clinton next week, said he planned to raise the issue of Mr. Rubio’s strengths with her.

“Jim Messina talks about how elections are about where we want to go from here,” Mr. Morgan said, naming the strategist who helped President Obama win two national elections. What is problematic about Mr. Rubio, he said, is “his theme will be, ‘We don’t want to go back; we need to go forward.’ ”

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“I think they do underestimate him,” Mr. Morgan added. “He’s energetic, he’s photogenic, and he will say whatever you want him to say.”

Steve Schale, the Florida strategist who wrote the “Marco Rubio scares me” blog post, said that when he worked for the Democratic leader of the Florida House of Representatives, his boss, Dan Gelber, had a saying about Mr. Rubio’s effect on crowds, and about his sincerity: “Young women swoon, old women pass out, and toilets flush themselves.”

And Mr. Gelber himself recalled the day in Tallahassee, Fla., in 2008 when he and Mr. Rubio, then the speaker of the State House, gave their farewell speeches. He spoke first, followed by Mr. Rubio, as Mr. Gelber’s wife looked on.

“She’s sitting there weeping,” Mr. Gelber recalled, still incredulous. “And I look up, and I mouth, ‘Are you kidding me?’ ”

Mr. Gelber praised Mr. Rubio’s ability to use his family’s story to convey compassion for people marginalized by society, but he said he believed, as many Democrats do, that this was disingenuous.

“It’s a little maddening when his policies are so inconsistent with that,” Mr. Gelber said. “My head would explode.”

A Rubio-Clinton contest could ultimately come down to Florida. Republicans can ill afford to lose the state if they hope to win the White House. And bleeding Hispanic votes could make Mrs. Clinton’s path much harder.

“Losing a point among whites means winning Hispanics by about 5 percent more just to make up that loss,” Mr. Schale wrote in his memo on Florida’s election demographics. If Democrats continue to lose white voters, he added, Mr. Rubio’s place on the ballot would only complicate matters.

“He should be the one you don’t want to face,” Mr. Schale wrote.

Hillary Clinton's Accomplishment Deficit **// RCP // Jonah Goldberg - May 22, 2015**

There are plenty of reasons to believe 2016 will be a very ugly election year. Here’s one more.

Bloomberg Politics convened a focus group of Iowa Democrats. Nearly all loved Hillary. “She’s a bad mama-jama,” said one female participant. Bad mama-jama is good, by the way. The woman explained that Clinton is “not afraid to step up” or “afraid to say, ‘No. I don’t want to do it that way. I’m going to do it this way.’”

Another participant insisted that Clinton is a “better woman than I am” — a great standard for selecting a president, to be sure — because of Clinton’s ability to weather various scandals and humiliations.

The awkward part came when Bloomberg’s Mark Halperin asked the room, “What did she accomplish that you consider significant as secretary of state?”

The answers — or rather, the replies, since no one had an answer — were awkward to say the least.

“I really can’t name anything off the top of my head,” one squirming Democrat admitted.

“Give me a minute. Give me two minutes. Go to someplace else,” another Iowa Democrat pleaded.

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A third let the uncomfortable silence play out for as long as she could before confessing, “No.”

One young man offered the most grudging endorsement he could. “She’s been at a high level in numerous offices for about 25 years now. It’s either going to be that or it’s going to be Scott Walker . . . destroying America’s unions. She’s not perfect. But she’s been in the eye for a long time — in the public’s eye — and you’re going to have some stuff on her. But, you know, she has great policies and she knows how to get stuff done.”

So, the best case for her is that she weathered a lot of scandals and, to borrow Robert Hoover’s defense of the Delta Tau Chi fraternity in Animal House, Hillary Clinton has “a long tradition of existence.”

Supporters also said she knows how to get stuff done but can’t name anything she’s actually, you know, done. This is like praising a coach for knowing how to win football games but not being able to cite any actual wins.

In fairness to them, Clinton can’t name anything significant she did as secretary of state either — because she didn’t do anything very significant.

The consensus inside the Beltway is that this isn’t a big problem for Clinton. I’m not so sure.

The Beltway view does have merit. Most voters are party-line voters. The young man who hates Scott Walker will vote for whichever candidate isn’t Scott Walker. (Likewise, Republicans will likely vote for whichever candidate isn’t Hillary Clinton.) John Kerry had no significant accomplishments to his credit after decades in the Senate — and yet, in 2004, he got more votes than any Democratic presidential candidate ever had up until then.

Still, Clinton has a problem. While partisan Democrats will surely vote for her, their difficulty — and her difficulty — in citing any meaningful accomplishments may not play well with independents and swing voters.

Personally, I think swing voters are a mixed bag. We don’t have a formal parliamentary system in this country, but in reality we vote for parties, not personalities. Do you want these 5,000 appointees running the government or those 5,000 appointees? If you’re a liberal Democrat, you want liberal policies implemented by liberal officials. If you’re a conservative Republican, you want conservative policies implemented by conservative officials.

Swing voters put more emphasis on particular personalities. They also put a premium on their own self-conception as independent thinkers. Thus, they give a lot of weight to things like accomplishments, if for no other reason than to justify their “swing voterness.” If neither Clinton nor her fans can offer evidence she’s effective, that could hurt her among swing voters in swing states.

And that’s why the 2016 election will be an ugly affair. Going by her own fan base in Iowa, Clinton is not a fresh face. She has more baggage than the luggage-claim level at O’Hare Airport. Her record amounts to surviving scandals, many of her own making. Her most compelling selling point is that she’s a woman. And her strategists have decided she needs to energize the “Obama coalition” of low-information voters.

All of this points to a general election strategy of demonizing her opponent — whoever he (or she) might be. If you can’t make the case for yourself, you make the case against your opponent. And the Clintons certainly have a long record of accomplishment in doing exactly that.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Clinton plants a flag in O'Malley's home state // Baltimore Sun //John Fritze - May22, 2015

It's Martin O'Malley's home turf, but Hillary Clinton is beginning to engage in Maryland.

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For a state that rarely plays a role in presidential politics because of its late primary , Maryland has received considerable attention from Clinton's nascent presidential campaign — including an effort to engage elected leaders and early communication with political donors.

O'Malley, a former two-term governor, is widely expected to announce his presidential ambitions in Baltimore next weekend. Since leaving office in January, the Democrat has become a regular presence in early-nominating states and has promoted his record in Annapolis and as Baltimore's mayor.

Polls show Clinton crushing O'Malley in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, even as the former secretary of state has faced her share of obstacles. Hundreds of emails sent from a private account she used during her time at the State Department were released Friday, resetting attention on a controversy that had ebbed somewhat in recent weeks.

With its late-April primary — nearly three months after the Iowa caucuses — Maryland has long been flyover country for presidential candidates.

Yet Clinton called Rep. Steny H. Hoyer when she formally launched her campaign last month and requested that he reach out to other elected officials in the state. The Southern Maryland lawmaker also helped coordinate an organizing meeting for Clinton v olunteers this month in Bethesda.

Her campaign has held at least three similar meetings in the state since then.

"I don't think Hillary is taking anything for granted," said Hoy er, the No. 2 Democrat in the House. "What I've experienced so far is a lot of enthusiasm and broad-based support for her candidacy."

And what of O'Malley, who led state Democrats for eight years?

"I admire Gov ernor O'Malley, I like Governor O'Malley," Hoyer said, echoing a sentiment expressed by others backing Clinton.

"I think he's proving to be ... a very attractive candidate," he added.

Most of Mary land's federal elected officials long ago expressed support for Clinton, including Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski. The dean of the state's congressional delegation, who is close with O'Malley, came out early for Clinton, prov iding a measure of political cover for others to follow.

Sen. Ben Cardin, who had previously expressed his support for Clinton, reiterated that position in an email Friday .

"Hillary's ground-breaking presidency will be a message to the world that the U.S. has selected the very best to lead our nation and that we are prepared to take on the challenges necessary to ensure a progressive future where all y oung girls and boys, regardless of ZIP code or continent, have an equal shot at reaching their dreams," Cardin wrote to supporters.

An O'Malley spokeswoman said the campaign isn't putting much stock in such gestures.

"The establishment backing the establishment is the oldest story in politics," O'Malley spokeswoman Haley Morris said in a statement. "If Governor O'Malley runs for president, he'll bring new leadership — not old-guard establishment thinking — to the race."

Clinton's campaign has repeatedly pressed its network of elected officials in Maryland to engage in the race. Lawmakers and their staff have been asked to use social media to direct their supporters to events for Clinton, for instance.

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That effort has caught the attention of some O'Malley supporters who speculate Clinton's team is trying to undercut him.

"I'm surprised that they are being as aggressive as they are right now," said Yvette Lewis, a former chair of the state Democratic Party and an O'Malley ally. "If it was me, if I was getting calls this early in the game, I would be a little concerned because I would feel like I'm being strong-armed."

In public, the Clinton campaign has gone out of its way to ignore O'Malley's potential candidacy. Several Clinton supporters said they have not seen evidence of an approach that is any more heavy-handed than in other states that aren't home to a presidential aspirant.

"Just like we are doing in all 50 states, D.C. and the territories, we are starting early, building a lasting relationship with communities and organizing to earn every vote in each primary and caucus, taking nothing for granted," Clinton campaign spokesman Tyrone Gayle said in a statement.

In addition to interactions with elected officials, Clinton is hiring staff in Maryland, including several former aides to then-Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown's unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign last year. Alicia Jones, a Baltimore native who worked briefly for Brown, is serving as the Clinton campaign's "grass-roots organizer."

Michael Schultz, a fundraiser for Brown, is now the Clinton campaign's finance director for Maryland and Delaware.

And there are early signs the Clinton operation is beginning to tap political donors in the state. Maryland ranked ninth in the nation in political giving in the 2008 presidential campaign.

"Absolutely," said longtime political operator and donor Lainy LeBow-Sachs, when asked if she had heard from Clinton's campaign finance team. "I've given and I'm going to raise for her."

LeBow-Sachs also has given thousands of dollars to O'Malley. But, she said, she's supporting Clinton.

Polls have shown voters in Maryland have a mixed view of O'Malley. About 60 percent of both Democratic and Republican residents polled by Goucher College in February said O'Malley should not run, compared with 31 percent who said he should.

That's an improvement, said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher. During last year's gubernatorial campaign, when Republican Gov. Larry Hogan was running television ads criticizing O'Malley's record, 65 percent of respondents said O'Malley should not run.

O'Malley does better among state Democrats who would actually vote in the presidential primary. Only half of them say he should not run.

"Maryland might not necessarily be throwing their support behind the hometown guy," Kromer said, "but the pathway to the presidency doesn't go through Maryland."

O'Malley to campaign in Iowa hours after 2016 announcement // AP // Catherine Lucey - May 22, 2015

Once he announces his presidential decision, Martin O'Malley will waste no time in getting himself to Iowa.

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O'Malley will campaign in the leadoff caucus state on May 30, the same day he makes an announcement in Baltimore about whether he will seek the Democratic presidential nomination. A Democrat with knowledge of O'Malley's travel plans, who spoke on condition of anonymity so as not to pre-empt the formal announcement, said O'Malley would appear in Davenport in the afternoon and Des Moines at night.

If he runs for the nomination, as his travel plans strongly suggest he will, O'Malley will join former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders as the major candidates in the race for the Democratic nomination.

The former Maryland governor has made several visits to the early caucus state this year, has two paid staffers on the ground and plans to add more. He also invested heavily in Iowa last year, making four trips to the state and putting 14 staffers to work on state campaigns.

During a visit earlier this year, O'Malley said Iowa Democrats needed to get to know him. He said that at a certain point, "the race quickly narrows between the once inevitable front-runner and the new and unknown candidate who emerges to offer a more compelling alternative."

O'Malley has trips planned to Iowa and N.H. after 'special announcement' // WaPo // John Wagner - May 22, 2015

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley has back-to-back trips planned to Iowa and New Hampshire after his presidential announcement at the end of this month, according to activists in those early nominating states.

The Democrat has heavily teased a "special announcement" the morning of May 30 at Federal Hill Park in Baltimore, the city he served as mayor for seven years. According to activists, O'Malley will then travel to Iowa, where he has events scheduled in Davenport and Des Moines, and he plans to be in New Hampshire the following day.

The activists spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak for O'Malley's campaign-in-waiting. Aides to O'Malley, who are relocating to new office space in Baltimore, did not immediately return phone calls on Friday.

If O'Malley moves forward with a White House bid, he will become the third Democrat to enter the race, joining Hillary Rodham Clinton, the dominant frontrunner, and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who is drawing support from the party's liberal wing. Sanders has a "hometown campaign kickoff" planned Tuesday in Burlington, Vt., where he served as mayor before being elected to Congress.

O'Malley aides have continued to be coy about his intentions, though all signs point to a White House bid, including a recent solicitation for a May 29 fundraiser that went out under an "O'Malley for President" banner.

On Friday, Daniel Goetzel, finance director for O'Malley's political action committee, send out an e-mail solicitation saying O'Malley "is really close to a very important decision, one that will transform the 2016 political landscape." He asked for contributions of $20.16 "to show that we're with him."

O'Malley has also been adding in staff in both Iowa and New Hampshire, according to activists in the two states.

This weekend, O'Malley plans to travel to Ireland, where is scheduled to give a paid speech that was canceled late last month. O'Malley cut that trip shortafter rioting and looting broke out in Baltimore, saying he wanted to be present amid the unrest in the city he had served.

Some Iowa Democrats prefer Sanders over Clinton // Des Moines Register // Brianne Pfannenstiel - May 22, 2015

Iowa Democrats participating in a Bloomberg Politics/Purple Strategies focus group this week acknowledged exercising

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pragmatism over idealism in the 2016 elections.

Four participants in the 10-person focus group said they would favor U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont over frontrunner Hillary Clinton in the presidential race if they thought he had a better shot at winning the nomination. They prefer his policies, but don't believe he's electable, they said.

"He proposed something — free college tuition at public universities," said Charlie, a 24-year-old graphic designer. "You know what, good luck getting that through."

"And that's the big difference," he said. "You know, he is to the left on just about every issue. And a lot of the issues I agree with him — not on maybe every issue, but I am with him on a lot of stuff. But, you know, good luck with that. ... It's just not going to get passed."

Sanders, who is an independent but caucuses in the Senate as a Democrat, announced his candidacy in April, joining a small list of possible challengers to Clinton. Others include former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former U.S. Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia.

John, a 31-year-old teacher, said he likes that Sanders' policies are generally more liberal than Clinton's. He voiced — and others echoed — the hope that Sanders' presence in the race will push her to the left on certain issues as the campaign progresses.

"He is going to have a bigger voice than he's given credit for," he said.

But the four are throwing their support to Clinton, in an effort to see a Democrat continue to occupy the White House.

Sanders is a self-described socialist, making him an easy target for conservative and tea party Republicans, they said.

Another major drawback is his inability to raise enough cash to compete with the fundraising efforts of the Clinton campaign and others.

"I mean right now, whether we like it or not, you know, we have a Citizens United America, and you need to raise a lot of money," Charlie said. "And he's just not — there is just so many characteristics where he does not stand a chance."

About the focus group

Bloomberg Politics, in conjunction with Purple Strategies, conducted two qualitative focus groups in Des Moines, one of likely Democratic caucus participants and one of likely Republican caucus participants.

Each group consisted of 10 participants, both men and women, and from a variety of ages and socio-economic and educational backgrounds.

Qualitative research results cannot be statistically analyzed or projected onto the broader population at large. As is customary, respondents were compensated for their participation.

Presidential Election Campaigning Underway in Iowa // VOA // Kane Farabaugh -May 22, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA—

Although the November 2016 presidential election is over a year and half away, campaigning to choose party nominees is already underway in Iowa - a key state because it holds a party caucus early in the election season.

Though Cedar Falls, Iowa has a population just over 40,000, right now it is the epicenter of the race for the White House. Republican party presidential hopefuls are pressing the flesh (shaking hands with people) and answering voters' questions on issues ranging from immigration reform to marriage equality.

"My biggest concern as a voter is that America has to come back to God," said Linda Morris.

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Republican voter Linda Morris was among a group attending a breakfast with candidate and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee.

“We have gone down the wrong path for the last eight years," she said.

Conservative voter Curtis Bartlett agrees. He wants a president that can reverse escalating racial tensions in America.

“I don’t understand why whites and blacks can’t get together and sit down and talk over what one person wants, the other person wants too," said Bartlett.

Bartlett’s list of concerns also includes the debate over same-sex marriage.

It’s an issue that attracted dozens of protestors outside Cedar Falls High School. Inside, Huckabee joined fellow presidential hopeful former Senator Rick Santorum on stage to speak with conservative voters who oppose same-sex marriage.

“I don’t think it’s that big of an issue," said Lynn Brant.

As a Democrat, Lynn Brant supports same-sex marriage. In his party, the leading presidential contender is former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who also visited Cedar Falls to interact with potential supporters.

“It looks like Hillary might be a shoo-in, but I hope not. I hope that there is a debate that she will have to defend herself and the Democrats will hav e a choice," said Brant.

Iowa matters for these candidates because it is the first state to hold an election, called a caucus. The results can either boost or sink aspirations for the White House early in an election y ear depending on who wins or loses.

For Republicans this year, Iowa is the place where they can build name recognition and momentum ahead of the caucus. But the growing field of candidates all vying for attention and campaign funding concerns Curtis Bartlett.

“Because are you going to wipe out somebody who could be a good candidate right away because they can’t get the finances?" Asked Bartlett.

More finances means more advertising, and in an election expected to break all prev ious records for money spent, ev ery dollar counts.

Prospect of Hillary Clinton-Marco Rubio Matchup Unnerves Democrats // NYT // Jeremy W. Peters - May 22, 2015

WASHINGTON — They use words like “historic” and “charismatic,” phrases like “great potential” and “million-dollar smile.” They notice audience members moved to tears by an American-dream-come-true success story. When they look at the cold, hard political math, they get uneasy .

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the prospect of a head-to-head general-election contest between Mr. Rubio, the Republican senator from Florida, and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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What Marco Rubio Would Need to Do to Win

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Ms. Doyle, the first Hispanic woman to manage a presidential campaign, added that Mr. Rubio could allow Republicans to regain a "reasonable percentage" of the Hispanic v ote, which hit a low of 27 percent in the 2012 presidential election.

"He is a powerful speaker," she added. "He is young. He is very motivational. He has a powerful story."

Recognizing how essential it is to win Hispanic support, Mrs. Clinton has gone further in laying out an immigration policy than she has on almost any other issue, saying that she would extend greater protections to halt deportations of people in the United States illegally. She has also hired a former undocumented immigrant to lead her Latino outreach efforts.

Her own strategists, their allies in the "super PACs" working on her behalf and the Democratic Party all say they see plenty of vulnerabilities in Mr. Rubio's record and his views. And they are trying to shape the perception people have of him while polls show that he is still relatively unknown: Yes, the Democratic National Committee said in a recent memo, Mr. Rubio was a fresh face, but one "peddling a tired playbook of policies that endanger our country, hurt the middle class, and stifle the American dream."

So far, Democrats who have combed over Mr. Rubio's voting record in the Senate have seized on his opposition to legislation raising the minimum wage and to expanding college loan refinancing, try ing to cast him as no different from other Republicans.

The subtext: He may be Hispanic, but he is not on the side of Hispanics when it comes to the issues they care about.

Democrats will try to use Mr. Rubio's youth and four-y ear career in national politics against him, depicting him as green or naïve — a liability at a time when unrest abroad is a top concern. "A Dan Quayle without the experience," suggested Christopher Lehane, a veteran strategist who has worked for the Clintons.

Bill Richardson, the former governor of New Mexico, who is of Mexican heritage, said Democrats would also make an issue of Mr. Rubio's mixed record on how to overhaul the immigration system: He initially supported a Senate bill to grant people in the United States illegally a path to citizenship, but he later backed down.

Mr. Richardson said that would poison his chances with Hispanic voters. "His own Hispanic potential would defeat him," he said.

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It is also unclear how much Mr. Rubio would appeal to Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and other voters with Latin American ancestry who may not feel much cultural affinity with a Cuban.

Still, when many Democrats assess Mr. Rubio's chances, as nearly a dozen of them did for this article, they put him in the top tier of candidates who concern them the most, along with former Gov. Jeb Bush, another Floridian who is courting Hispanics, and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin.

Mr. Rubio's heritage and his youth could be particularly dangerous to Mrs. Clinton, they said. Each of those points could help neutralize one of her biggest strengths: the opportunity to help elect the first female president, and the experience Mrs. Clinton gained as secretary of state.

Mr. Rubio already appears to be pursuing that strategy. By calling himself a candidate of the "21st century, not the 20th," he seeks both to turn Mrs. Clinton's long career against her and to entice voters who may desire a change of direction.

In Florida, Democrats who have watched Mr. Rubio's rise warn against playing down his strengths.

Former Gov. Charlie Crist, who lost to Mr. Rubio in the Republican primary for the 2010 senatorial election but later switched parties, said he admired how Mr. Rubio told the story of his immigrant parents — his mother a maid, his father a bartender — and how they worked hard so that he could succeed. "It's hard to get more compelling than that," Mr. Crist said.

Chris Christie and Jeb Bush Cite Experience in Courting Southern G.O.P. 4:35 PM ET

Josh Duggar Receives Support From Mike Huckabee 3:22 PM ET

Hillary Clinton Takes Questions Again and Addresses Emails 2:53 PM ET

John Morgan, a major Democratic donor in Florida who will hold a fund-raiser for Mrs. Clinton next week, said he planned to raise the issue of Mr. Rubio's strengths with her.

"Jim Messina talks about how elections are about where we want to go from here," Mr. Morgan said, naming the strategist who helped President Obama win two national elections. What is problematic about Mr. Rubio, he said, is "his theme will be, 'We don't want to go back; we need to go forward.' "

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"I think they do underestimate him," Mr. Morgan added. "He's energetic, he's photogenic, and he will say whatever you want him to say."

Steve Schale, the Florida strategist who wrote the "Marco Rubio scares me" blog post, said that when he worked for the Democratic leader of the Florida House of Representatives, his boss, Dan Gelber, had a saying about Mr. Rubio's effect on crowds, and about his sincerity: "Young women swoon, old women pass out, and toilets flush themselves."

And Mr. Gelber himself recalled the day in Tallahassee, Fla., in 2008 when he and Mr. Rubio, then the speaker of the State House, gave their farewell speeches. He spoke first, followed by Mr. Rubio, as Mr. Gelber's wife looked on.

"She's sitting there weeping," Mr. Gelber recalled, still incredulous. "And I look up, and I mouth, 'Are you kidding me?' "

Mr. Gelber praised Mr. Rubio's ability to use his family's story to convey compassion for people marginalized by society, but he said he believed, as many Democrats do, that this was disingenuous.

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“It’s a little maddening when his policies are so inconsistent with that,” Mr. Gelber said. “My head would explode.”

A Rubio-Clinton contest could ultimately come down to Florida. Republicans can ill afford to lose the state if they hope to win the White House. And bleeding Hispanic votes could make Mrs. Clinton’s path much harder.

“Losing a point among whites means winning Hispanics by about 5 percent more just to make up that loss,” Mr. Schale wrote in his memo on Florida’s election demographics. If Democrats continue to lose white voters, he added, Mr. Rubio’s place on the ballot would only complicate matters.

“He should be the one you don’t want to face,” Mr. Schale wrote.

A Win for Progressives in Philadelphia // The Atlantic // Molly Ball - May 21, 2015

Is there a rising progressive tide in the Democratic Party? Liberals like to claim that there is. But beyond the recent elections of two vocal populists—Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio—there hasn't been a whole lot of evidence to point to. Indeed, in two of the most hyped challenges to centrist Democratic officeholders—the recent primaries of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel—the left has come up short. And things aren't looking much better for Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders in his left-wing challenge to Hillary Clinton.

On Tuesday, though, progressives scored a victory. The Democratic primary for Philadelphia mayor pitted a crusading left-winger against a charter-school advocate backed by suburban hedge-fund magnates. This time, the left-winger, a former city councilman named Jim Kenney, actually won. Given the city's overwhelmingly Democratic tilt, the primary is likely to decide the election.

Kenney ran on a de Blasio-esque platform of establishing universal pre-K, raising the minimum wage to $15 per hour, and ending stop-and-frisk police tactics. (Kenney, a 57-year-old Irish-American, also epitomizes the classiness and tact for which Philadelphia sports fans are famed: In December, he called New Jersey Governor Chris Christie "fat assed" and "a creep" for sitting in the Dallas Cowboys' box at an Eagles game.) On Monday, de Blasio endorsed Kenney, saying the two shared a "progressive vision." Kenney’s campaign was outspent many times over by supporters of his chief rival, Anthony Hardy Williams, a state senator who was backed by a $7 million super PAC. But on Tuesday night, Kenney took 56 percent of the vote.

The Kenney-Williams divide typifies the current split within the Democratic Party between those who style themselves "pro-business" and those who emphasize remedying income inequality. It's a conflict that's also currently playing out on Capitol Hill, where President Obama is in an increasingly acrimonious dispute with the majority of congressional Democrats over a Republican-backed trade-authority measure. The split has echoes of the 1990s battles between Bill Clinton's Democratic Leadership Council and the party base led by Jesse Jackson.

Education is a major fault line in the current Democratic divide—in Chicago, Emanuel's school policies were a principal driver of the dissatisfaction that forced him into a runoff last month. De Blasio has also been in high-profile fights with New York charter-school advocates, while Obama's stance in favor of education reform has dismayed the teachers’ unions that are a major Democratic Party constituency.

Williams, Kenney's rival, was the author of a state law that created a voucher-like system giving companies tax credits in exchange for student scholarships. The super PAC backing him was bankrolled by three financiers who support free-market education reform. Yet in addition to backing Kenney, Philadelphia voters on Tuesday also approved an advisory ballot question seeking to return public schools to local control. Kati Sipp, director of Pennsylvania Working Families, a union-backed liberal coalition, declared the primary "a big win for public education," adding, "Money men tried to buy this election, but they failed."

Liberal activists say Kenney's election is further proof that the center of the Democratic Party is indeed moving leftward—a trend that Clinton, even without a serious primary challenger, will have to grapple with in 2016. Also Tuesday, the city council in Los Angeles voted to raise that city's minimum wage to $15 per hour. "The energy in the Democratic Party is on the left," Anna Greenberg, Kenney's pollster, told me. "It's coming from the urban centers, and that's where Democratic

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votes come from."

GOP

[‘Optimistic’ Jeb Bush faces hard truths in New Hampshire swing] // MSNBC // Benjy Sarlin - May 22, 2015

PORTSMOUTH, New Hampshire – Jeb Bush has cautioned from the start of his presidential flirtation that he would only take the final plunge if he can “do it joyfully.”

“In order to win a Republican has to be joyful, has to be hopeful, has to be optimistic,” Bush told a roundtable of business leaders here on Wednesday during a 2-day campaign tour of the nation’s first primary state.

That goal has never looked more daunting than it does now, as the nominal GOP frontrunner looks to shake off a rough period of questions about his position on the Iraq War, fend off ongoing attacks from the right on his stances on immigration and education, and – perhaps most importantly – unshackle himself from his brother’s legacy.

“Joy” is one of his most frequently used words on the trail and there are laughs here and there in his speeches, but his one-liners tend toward the biting rather than the giddy. As he left a local Chamber of Commerce event at a bar in Concord on Thursday, he told reporters gathered outside his car that he had been told to smile more – then flashed a grin before driv ing off.

If Bush is having trouble smiling enough, it’s because there’s an implied underside to Bush’s talk of a “joyful” run, which is the modern political meat grinder that the campaign usually is in practice. Bush’s well-earned contempt for the show is borne out of generations of family experience and he got his first taste of its bitter reality earlier this month when he stumbled over an answer on the Iraq War, prompting a multi-day media frenzy that played out across multiple interviews with network TV and radio hosts and in scrums at high-profile GOP gatherings.

“It got a little bumpy, but all is well now,” Bush told a voter concerned about the Iraq episode in Portsmouth. “The ship is stable.”

With the worst behind him for now, Bush spent his two day s in New Hampshire getting back to basics at four small retail events with just a few dozen attendees each. Along the way , he accepted hours of impromptu questioning from locals and the press alike on any topic that crossed their minds in between shaking hands and slapping backs. These are the kinds of personal grill sessions that state Republicans argue are the key to prevailing in what is likely a must-win primary for Bush. It was also, as Bush’s aides liked to point out, a pronounced contrast to the often inaccessible Hillary Clinton.

Bush is better versed in the X’s and O’s of political strategy than probably anyone in the field with the exception of Clinton and it showed. He has a habit of narrating his political thinking in real time, a kind of meta-commentary in which he tells audiences whether something he’s about to say might cause him problems with the press, or with a key voting bloc, or with his political opponents.

After an audience member in Portsmouth asked him about what he would do about the “pathological liar on the other side” in the general election– presumably Clinton – Bush straightforwardly said he “can’t rephrase that question because I’ll get in trouble with the ‘pathological liar’ part” before answering. He quipped that he was called “a lot of things I can’t repeat here in front of the press” as governor.

Later that evening, a state radio reporter asked Bush whether he regretted raising money for Republican Rep. Frank Guinta, who is now engulfed in a career-threatening campaign finance scandal. Knowing any response he gav e would crowd out coverage of his remarks in the local press, Bush offered a bracing non-answer: “I am av oiding the question.”

Bush, who opens his speeches with earnest biographical anecdotes about his wife and family, even went into detail with one

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voter about the political logic to the way he discusses his personal life – it's meant to insulate him from the character attacks that plagued the previous nominee.

"Mitt Romney was a successful, loving, caring, generous man and he never showed it," Bush said.

But the obv ious savv y Bush displayed on the road raised a troubling question for some attendees. How could someone with such a finely-tuned political radar get caught so flat-footed last week over an issue as predictable as the Iraq War?

"I would have thought if you were a presidential candidate or a serious politician you'd have had the answer down pat on the first try," Joan Rice, who works at a financial planning business, told msnbc at the Portsmouth event. "It's such an important question – how could not be prepared for it?"

Milling around a Bedford house party ahead of a visit from Bush, state representative David Milz said he was glad the 201 6 hopeful had eventually distanced himself from the decision to invade Iraq. Not because Milz was critical of the Iraq War – as far as he's concerned, George W. Bush has nothing to apologize for – but because it was the obvious political mov e.

"Bush gets blamed for every thing – everything," he told msnbc. "They 're still trying to hold him responsible for stuff Obama has screwed up for y ears now."

It's the topic of family that most threatens to harsh Bush's vision of a mellow campaign. The former Florida governor seems almost physically pained discussing any kind of difference with his sibling or father. During the Fox News interview with Megy n Kelly launched the Iraq odyssey, he appeared most concerned about making sure v iewers know that whatever criticisms of the war he cited were shared by his brother as well.

"I'm proud of my family, I love my mom and dad, I love my brother and people are going to hav e just get ov er that," he said in Portsmouth, prompting a round of applause. "That's the way it is."

At the house party, Bush turned to discussing the fall of the Soviet Union at one point, a development he credited to Ronald Reagan "and the guy who succeeded him who I'm supposed to somehow disown."

Bush scored a laugh at the same event by assuring the audience that he would differentiate himself from Marvin and Neil Bush, two non-politician siblings. He waxed philosophical about the issue after being asked an audience member to elaborate on his family ties, telling the crowd how reading the great historian Barbara Tuchman had reminded him of history's "confounding way of repeating itself" and that even though the world had "changed dramatically" since his father was president, he planned to apply lessons learned from previous administrations.

He got some encouragement along the way too. Bush met plenty of supporters in New Hampshire who thought the Iraq issue was overblown or said that the Bush name was a selling point, not a drawback.

"If I'm hiring a plumber and he says his dad's a plumber, I'm not going to say he can't work on the house," Lori Ashooh, who co-hosted the Bedford party with her husband, told msnbc. She's uncommitted for now in the primaries.

But the prev ious week also showed the danger for Bush of setting himself up, intentionally or not, as the Republican field's defender-in-chief of the family legacy . Many Republicans say they like the younger Bush personally, but are concerned about encouraging a "dynasty" or worry that he'll be constantly sucked into old political fights if he can't mute the issue early on.

Well aware of the problem, Bush offered the most pointed critique of his brother's presidency yet to a voter in Concord who asked where they differed on policy .

"I think in Washington during my brother's time Republicans spent too much money ," Bush said. "I think he could have

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used the veto power, he didn't have line item veto power, but he could have brought budget discipline to Washington, DC."

For most candidates it would be a relatively banal admission – almost nobody in the party defends Bush-era spending anymore. For the only candidate whose last name is Bush, however, it's not so easy. He quickly followed up with a set of caveats – Obama's deficits were bigger, nobody's perfect, let's not dwell on our differences, etc.

"I don't feel compelled to go out of my way to criticize Republican presidents," Bush said. "I don't know, just call me a team player here. Just so happens the last two Republican presidents happen to be my dad and my brother, but you'll never hear me complain about Ronald Reagan either. Every president makes mistakes, the question is what do you do, what do you learn from those mistakes?"

It did not look like a joyful moment. Only 536 days until the general election.

Jeb Bush's War on Gay Adoption // Daily Beast // Betsy Woodruff - May 22, 2015

Bush defended Florida's strict ban on LGBT adoption, but emails from his time as governor show he had trouble explaining why.

When Jessie Odell asked Jeb Bush to let him and his partner adopt a child 15 years ago, all he got was silence. But his pleas did no go unheard, and despite the governor's best efforts, Odell is now a father.

His story is one of many that play out in the email exchanges between Bush and his staff -- which the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting recently made searchable -- and it gives an intriguing view into how the then-Florida governor struggled to explain his opposition to adoption rights for LGBT people.

It also shows that Bush and his top advisors were acutely aware of internal inconsistencies in the state's policy on same-sex adoption and foster families.

In 1977, Florida became the only state in the country to proactively ban gays and lesbians from adopting. Thanks in part to the dogged anti-gay activism of former Miss Oklahoma Anita Bryant, the state implemented legislation saying sexual orientation alone could disqualify prospective parents from adopting.

That law faced a court challenge during Bush's time as governor. In 2004, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against four gay men trying to overturn the law – a decision Bush applauded.

"[I]t is in the best interest of adoptive children, many of whom come from troubled and unstable backgrounds, to be placed in a home anchored both by a father and a mother," Bush said at the time, according to the St. Petersburg Times. "Our adoption policies take that important role into account."

In 2005, the Supreme Court refused to hear the men's appeal. But years later, the adoption ban was finally overturned.

Bush's email exchanges with gay constituents during the adoption fight indicate that his rhetoric on the topic was carefully crafted. And perhaps the most telling exchange is between Bush, his staffers, and Jessie Odell.

Odell, a gay man then living in Florida with his long-term partner, emailed the governor on Feb. 9 of 2000 pushing him to change his stance on adoption.

"My partner and I have been together for 11 years, our income is in the six figures, we have a very normal and stable home life," Odell wrote. "We have a lot to offer a child, love, the finest schools, and good moral standing. I also want to know, do you all feel that we would raise our children to be gay or lesbian? Do you all think that we would molest children?"

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He then appealed to the governor's traditional values.

"I understand that the media sometimes will show only the bad side of people, such as the drag parades on gay day, and other negative things of that nature," he continued. "Please understand that there is a whole other gay community, that the general public is unfamiliar with. My partner and I are in that community. We go to work, and pay bills just like you and your family."

I spoke with Odell about this email, and he said he never heard back from the governor or his staff about it. But emails show that Bush wanted to respond and was ultimately persuaded against it by his aides. A day after getting the email, in fact, he forwarded it to staffers and asked them to draft a reply. Two months later, Brian Yablonski, one of Bush's most senior advisors, emailed around a proposed response.

"While I respect the great diversity of our state, and have not been a vocal opponent of the gay and lesbian lifestyle, I am not in favor of lifting the ban on gay and lesbian adoptions," wrote Yablonski in his suggested response for Bush.

He continued to say that placing a child in "an alternative environment, as loving it may be [sic]," would be "an additional challenge for that child to face."

Then Yablonski suggested that the governor touch on the gay "lifestyle."

"I do not believe it is for the state to encourage or endorse this particular lifestyle," he wrote. "So long as it is within the bounds of the law, people may be free to do what they wish in their own private and personal affairs. However, when those activities require state approval and oversight, then that constitutes an explicit endorsement of the activity by the state. I am joined by the majority of policy makers and Floridians who do not believe it is appropriate for the state to sanction this particular lifestyle."

Yablonski suggested they conclude the email by saying, "I am sure this is not the response that you wanted to hear, but on this matter we have difference of opinion."

Sally Bradshaw, perhaps Bush's most trusted aide, then weighed in on Yablonski's proposed response.

"I am concerned about the obvious inconsistency in the fact that we allow gay couples to become foster parents, but not to adopt children," she wrote. "Don't we?"

Bush's reply was confused.

"I didn't think we allowed gay couples to be foster parents," he wrote. "Or may be it is adoption."

Bradshaw then emailed, "Don't you remember the info about [Kathleen Kearney, then-secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families] presenting an award to a gay couple for being stellar foster parents? That's why this is problematic."

Yablonski then cleared up that the state had a "don't ask don't tell" policy on gay foster parenting, and that as a result children were placed with gay foster parents.

And his proposed response never went out. Yablonski told the email chain that he spoken to Kearney about the issue, and that she discouraged them from replying.

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“She encouraged us not to respond because there is on going litigation against the state on this matter,” he said.

And that was that. In 2011, the now-married Odell finally adopted a son who, despite Bush’s concerns, has been on Honor Roll several times this year and is “the center of our universe.”

“God really played his hand in this, because we ended up with the most perfect, most gorgeous blond-haired, blue-eyed boy you’ve ever seen and not a problem in the world, just happy to be loved and have daddies,” he said.

Odell never heard back from Bush. When I directed his attention to the emails discussing his note, he wasn’t impressed with the inner workings of Team Bush.

“I am absolutely appalled to read those ‘possible’ responses they were considering sending,” Odell told me. “Especially the one that ended in ‘I know that's not the response you wanted to hear, But...’ That is the REAL Jeb Bush right there. Typical cowboy behavior like his brother. God Help us should he win the presidency. Go Hillary!!!”

But some gay Floridians were more forgiving of Bush’s stance on adoption.

“I am a proud republican and a gay man as well,” wrote Miik Martorell on Oct. 15, 2002. “Unlike many in my community, I support the conservative agenda because I believe that being BORN THIS WAY does not make me any less of a person or any more of a person. It makes me EQUAL, just like everyone else.”

Then he raised a concern.

“I believe that making the statement that only a man and a woman must parent a child is to say the least, ignorant,” he wrote.

“What you said about gay parenting just hurts, even more because I have supported you for so long,” he continued. “I believe I could make a good parent one day and I hope that I will be able to marry the one I love before I die. I guess my only thought for you would be to take a look at people like me that support you even though they are ridiculed by their community for doing so, yet we still fight on.”

Martorell didn’t get the response he wanted, but at least he got one. The governor wrote that he opposed anti-gay discrimination and hate, but didn’t think barring gays from adopting was a type of discrimination.

“Perhaps our disagreement is that I believe that the creation of life by a husband and wife and the creation of a family from that should be something that is protected and treated differently than other family strutures [sic],” he wrote. “I don't believe that this is a discriminatory position.”

And a few days before the 2002 re-election, another gay supporter emailed Bush to express support and call for him to change his stance on adoption.

“It seems that practically all people in the gay community think that if you are gay that you must vote for the democratic candidate,” wrote Bob Fritz. “Not so. Perhaps you should rethink your position on gay adoption and perhaps there may be another issue or two that I would like to see you take a different position on, but no candidate is perfect.”

Bush’s stance on gay adoption gets less popular by the day. Talking Points Memo reported earlier this week that, per UCLA demographer Gary Gates, gay adoption has even stronger public support than gay marriage.

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It's perhaps unsurprising, then, that Bush has softened his rhetoric on the issue. Earlier this week, the governor alluded to the gay adoption issue in an interview with the Christian Broadcast Network.

"If we want to create a right to rise society where people -- particularly children born in poverty -- if we want to have them have a chance, which should be a core American value, we have to restore committed loving family life with a mom and a dad loving their children with their heart and soul," he said.

Bush hasn't endorsed Sen. Ted Cruz's push for a Constitutional amendment to keep the federal government from overturning states' marriage laws, and in 2012 told Charlie Rose that loving same-sex parents can be good role models. And earlier this year, he talked about his opposition to LGBT adoption in the past tense.

"Previously, I opposed gay adoption, but it has since become the law in our state, and I respect that decision," he told Politifact in January .

For families like the Odells, that's good news. Still, as the emails from his time as governor show, Bush's messaging is certain to be handled carefully on LGBT issues as he struggles to court both social conservative die-hards, and a broader electorate that's much more pro-equality than when he last ran for office.

Christie: Patriot Act debate is 'dangerous' // MSNBC // Jane C. Timm - May 22, 2015

OKLAHOMA CITY — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie slammed the Patriot Act's critics on Friday for engaging in a "very dangerous debate."

"This debate that we're having right now about the Patriot Act — it's is a very dangerous debate because it's done by people with no experience dealing what I've dealt with," Christie said. "I'm the only person in this national conversation who has used the Patriot Act, signed off on it, convicted terrorists because of it."

Presidential candidate and Republican Sen. Rand Paul has been the most vocal critic of the act, part of which has allowed for bulk data collection by the NSA and is set to expire on June 1. Paul spoke for ten-and-a-half hours in a "talking filibuster" to protest the Patriot Act's re-authorization, helping to delay the vote to Saturday in the Senate. His epic talk-a-thon also means that it's likely to expire temporarily since the House of Representatives is already in recess for the holiday weekend. A bipartisan group of senators assisted Paul by asking questions during the filibuster, a tactic designed to give the speaker a break.

Christie — who is expected to mount his own presidential campaign — said there's a "responsible" way to oversee the laws, and that the current critics were being irresponsible in the debate about the law.

"That's why I act the way I act, some days it may make you feel great and cheer, and other days you may wince and say I can't believe he said that!"

NEW JERSEY GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE

"These same folks who are criticizing it now will be the same people who will stand on Capitol Hill if there's another attack on America and interrogate the CIA director and FBI director and say why they didn't connect and not see the hypocrisy in their own actions," he said to big cheers, speaking at the Southern Republican Leadership Conference, where Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz are canceling in-person appearances because of the planned Saturday votes.

Likely presidential candidate and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has had a difficult time appealing to hard line conservatives on social issues in particular, agreed with Christie, saying the Patriot Act should be reauthorized. The pair of governors will struggle among some of the most conservative voters, as they're seen as more moderate on a handful of

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issues. As such, both sought to assure the crowd they're conservative enough.

Bush talked up his conservative credentials and worked to convince the crowd that he is an effective leader with executive experience in a purple state.

"We took on the public unions and we won. We took on the teacher's unions and we won. We took on the broken worker's compensation system and we won," he said, continuing to enumerate his record despite applause that drowned him out. "I'm proud of that record and i believe there's a direct role for the next president of the United State to apply the kind of principles that we applied in the state of Florida to Washington, D.C."

Bush and Christie both spoke on Friday morning, where they largely impressed the audience in equal amounts; the crowd particularly approved of the conservative credentials Bush championed, like high grade ratings from the National Rifle Association.

On the other hand, Christie boasted of his work as a U.S. Attorney and worked to introduce himself to the conservative crowd — the New Jersey governor doesn't always attend these GOP cattle calls. He also portrayed himself as a more hawkish, safety-oriented potential candidate.

"I lov e this country and I want this country to be safe for my children," he said. "I will fight for it with every ounce of energy. I have to return America to the promise and prosperity at home and leadership around the world, if you giv e me a chance. That's why I came to Oklahoma."

Christie also seemed to offer a defense — and some spin — about his often blunt style, particularly highlighted in an expletive-laden speech on Thursday.

Recounting his late mother's advice, Christie said he knew she'd advise him to speak plainly in a presidential bid.

"[She'd say] you better tell them what's on y our mind and in your heart and you better not mince words because they need to trust you," he said. "That's why I act the way I act, some days it may make you feel great and cheer, and other days y ou may wince and say I can't believ e he said that! But here's what y ou'll never have to say — you'll never have to say I wonder what he thinks."

Chris Christie Says the Difference Between Coverage of Him and Hillary Reveals Biased Media // IJRreview / Chris Enloe - May 22, 2015

During an interview on CNBC Thursday, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie slammed the media for their leniency toward Hillary Clinton and her private email server scandal.

Gov. Christie said he was upset because he faced a lot more scrutiny from the media over the "Bridgegate" scandal than Clinton has over her email use scandal. Christie said:

"Has there been coverage of the email situation with the Secretary, absolutely. But the intensity of the coverage, and the relentlessness of the coverage is different. And that's where the bias is revealed."

Christie went on to hypothetically ask the show hosts how they thought the media would react if it had been him who had deleted his emails, in an attempt to show the media's bias for Hillary Clinton:

"If I had come out the day after the 'Bridgegate' thing was announced and said, 'By the way , all my emails are on a private serv er, and I deleted a whole bunch of them and destroyed the server and you have to take my word for it, the emails had nothing to do with the bridge stuff,' can you only imagine what the reaction would have been?

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Can you imagine if it were me who deleted my emails?"

During the interview, Christie also reiterated the fact that he was recently exonerated of any wrongdoing in the "Bridgegate" scandal:

"Fifteen months later ... everything that I said the day after that story broke, everything I said, has proven out to be true after three different investigations."

In recent weeks, three people from Christie's office have been charged in connection with the scandal.

Gov. Christie is also considering a 2016 White House run, but hasn't made any formal announcements about if or when he will decide to enter the race.

Florida's Jewish voters a target for 2016 Republicans, but a near lock for Democrats // Tampa Bay News // Adam C. Smith and Kirby Wilson - May 22, 2015

TAMARAC — Republicans can't win the White House without winning Florida, so every presidential election cycle they look longingly at Florida's Jewish voters.

Just reason with them, the thinking goes. They are disproportionately affluent and well-educated. Surely these Floridians can be persuaded that voting Republican is more in their self-interest, through lower taxes and unwavering support for the conservative government in Israel.

The difference between three-quarters of Florida Jews voting for the Democratic nominee and two-thirds voting Democratic could be 50,000 votes — enough to decide the election.

"We're looking to do whatever we can," said Mark McNulty of the Republican Jewish Coalition, which spent $6.5 million in 2012 trying to sow doubts with Jewish voters about President Barack Obama's commitment to Israel. "In places like Florida and Ohio with substantial Jewish populations, a couple percentage points can mean the difference in an election."

But as much as political groups like the RJC like to say they are steadily gaining ground with Jewish voters, their progress is more accurately measured in inches than miles.

Even amid the falling out between Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as leading Republican presidential candidates argue Obama and Hillary Clinton made the Middle East less safe, and as Obama critics in Washington and Israel call the emerging nuclear deal with Iran a grave threat to the Jewish state, few experts see Republicans as likely to significantly improve their performance in 2016. Clinton's strong ties to the Jewish community, in fact, could make Jewish voters a harder target for the Republican nominee.

"It's a constant feature of American elections in the past decade. Every time the GOP claims to make inroads, and every time they are disappointed to find the American Jewish community has not changed its behavior," said Shmuel Rosner, a prominent columnist in Israel and political editor of the Jewish Journal.

It doesn't help that many of the Republicans most vocal about their deep love and devotion to Israeli security are Christian conservatives who turn off even staunchly Republican Jews.

"Apart from getting rid of their base — evangelicals — I don't see a way for Republicans to make really deep inroads in the Jewish vote," said Kenneth Wald, a political science professor and the Samuel R. "Bud" Shorstein professor of American Jewish Culture & Society at the University of Florida. "They've essentially got the Jewish voters who they're going to get, and it's essentially the same group they've had for a long time, probably about a fifth to a quarter of the population."

More than 40 years ago, political scientist Milton Himmelfarb noted that Jews are about the only ethnic group not to have

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grown more conservative as they became more prosperous, quipping that Jews "earn like Episcopalians, and vote like Puerto Ricans."

But Wald credits radio host and comedian Peter Sagal with best summing up the question about Jewish voters that has consumed academics and confounded leading Republican strategists for generations:

"What is it about being rich and white that Jews do not understand?"

• • •

The tip filtered through the newsroom of the Tampa Bay Times earlier this month. Somebody's friend had an elderly mother living in a vast condo complex in Broward County, the kind of overwhelmingly Jewish retirement community as familiar to Democratic politicians in Florida as to fans of the TV showSeinfeld. Supposedly this lady's Democratic Club was loaded with people either ambivalent about Hillary Clinton running for president or downright hostile to her candidacy.

That would be a stunning development. Tepid support among elderly Jewish Democrats, expected to be among Clinton's most loyal constituencies, would signal serious trouble for the likely Democratic nominee.

Nowhere are the political stakes higher than Florida, the nation's biggest battleground state where Jewish voters represent anywhere from 3 percent to 6 percent of the electorate. A 10 percent swing in the Jewish vote would mean a net gain of 100,000 votes for the Republican. Obama won Florida by 74,000 votes in 2012 and 236,000 in 2008.

We hopped on a plane, drove to the 4,869-home Kings Point community in western Broward, and marched into the Kings Point clubhouse. Residents on this particular morning had gathered around dozens of sign-up tables for clubs ranging from Current Events to Canasta and Ceramics.

"I don't like that they 're trying to spread all this garbage about her emails, and donations to their foundation. It's not right, and it's not fair," said Shirley Rosen at the Hadassah table. "I'm all for her, and I don't think you'll find anyone around here who doesn't like Hillary, but there are v ery few Republicans. ... Honestly, when someone tells me they're Republican I think to myself, 'I really don't know who you are.' "

Paula Layne, 80, was distributing cards for her funeral serv ice business and bantering with friends, when she overheard a mention of Clinton.

"She's the smartest human being on Earth — truly. She's got good ideas and she's not afraid of anybody. She's fearless. All my friends are Hillary people and very enthusiastic" Layne declared.

"If she were a man, we'd say she has brass ones," chimed in George Jaquith, another transplant from the northeast. "And I think people are ready for a woman president ..."

"Not just a woman, but a smart woman," Layne cut in. "What she went through is an inspiration to all women. She overcame everything with such dignity and beauty and did not break up her family."

At the nearby Current Events Club table, Caroline Gore did not sound like much of a swing voter either.

"Any woman who votes for a Republican is an idiot, I'm going to tell you that right now. Look at the stricter abortion laws they're doing across the nation in a lot of places," she said. "It's not because she's a woman that I support her, but because of the issues. And I think she's the strongest candidate we hav e who can win the presidency and be a good president. I think she'd be a terrific president."

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So it went throughout the Kings Point Clubhouse. Enthusiasm for Clinton was almost unanimous. Almost.

"As much as I am a Democrat all my life, I don't know how much I like Hillary Clinton," said Viola Baras, 87, sitting at the Holocaust survivors table. "These emails? If most people did that they would be in jail."

Turns out Mrs. Baras, who has two physician sons in the Tampa Bay area, was the source of the rumor of Clinton's weakness among Kings Point Democrats, though she doubted even the rare critic of Mrs. Clinton in her circle would ever vote Republican.

"The Jewish v ote will always be Democratic. As much as they may not like some of the policies with Israel, it doesn't affect their votes," said Baras, who survived the Auschwitz concentration camp.

• • •

Alan Bergstein, a Republican activist in Broward County, has spoken to countless Jewish groups in South Florida about why he thinks Republicans are better for Israel. These days he sounds about ready to throw in the towel.

Clinton will "absolutely" win a bigger share of Florida's Jewish vote than Obama did, Bergstein predicted, and almost nothing Republican political committees or billionaire conserv atives like Sheldon Adelson do will change that.

National exit polls showed Obama received 69 percent of the Jewish vote in 2012, compared to 78 percent in 2008, although another, more detailed analysis of exit polls concluded he really received 74 percent in 2008. Considering that Obama's support among white voters overall dropped 4 percentage points, some experts see the drop in Jewish support as insignificant.

"It's terribly frustrating," said Bergstein, a former school principal in New York. "When I talk to people who are Jewish, like I am, and have made literally fortunes in their businesses and are extremely bright people, for them to not understand the situation tells me they are no longer Jews, they are Democrats first. Their religion has been superseded by their politics."

Polls show Jewish voters more liberal on Middle East matters than most Americans, and Israel a lower-tier issue. Only 4 percent of Jewish voters cited Israel as the most important issue in their vote in a 2012 Public Religion Research Institute survey. More than half cited the economy, 15 percent said the growing gap between rich and poor, 10 percent said health care and 7 percent the deficit. They ov erwhelmingly supported abortion rights, same-sex marriage, environmental regulation, and more than half said they would pay more taxes to fund programs to help the poor.

"The position on Israel for most candidates is not going to be the determining factor for how Jews vote," said Ira Sheshkin, director of the Jewish Demography Project of the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami. "Jews vote on social issues."

Wald, the UF professor and nationally recognized expert on Jewish voting behavior, dismisses the common supposition that Jews tend to be liberal due to Jewish values or historical experience. Only in America are Jews so concentrated on the left of the political spectrum, he noted, and Jewish support for Democrats has fluctuated at times.

"The political priority of most American Jews is making sure that the Jews continue to be full and equal participants in American life, and that is largely driven by their sense that the law should take no notice of religion," Wald said. "It's deeper than separation of church and state. It's more fundamentally that citizenship in the United States doesn't depend on your religion, your race, your ethnicity."

Jewish support for Democrats dropped in the 1960s, as the party embraced identity politics and policies such as affirmative action. President Jimmy Carter, who spoke often about being a born-again Christian, had little reservoir of goodwill with Jewish voters when he worked closely with Palestinian Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat. The Jewish voted shifted back toward the Democrats in the 1980s as the Christian right gained prominence in the GOP.

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A 2007 Pew survey found Jewish voters more receptive than non-Jews to supporting a presidential candidate who was Catholic, Mormon, Muslim, atheist, black, woman, or Hispanic — but not Evangelical Christian.

"Every time the surveys come out showing that 58 percent of Republicans think the U.S. should officially be a Christian country, that just reminds Jews that their success here is never entirely secure," Wald said.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Senate Vote Is a Victory for Obama on Trade, but a Tougher Test Awaits // NYT // Johnathan Weisman - May 22, 2015

President Obama moved closer to expanded trade negotiating power Friday night after the Senate passed hard-fought legislation that would help complete the most ambitious trade accord in a generation. The deal would link 12 nations on either side of the Pacific into a trading bloc that would encompass 40 percent of the global economy.

The Senate voted 62-37 to give this president and the next so-called trade promotion authority, ensuring that Congress could not amend or filibuster any trade accord negotiated over the next three-to-six years, though lawmakers could reject it.

Senator Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and usually a foe of Mr. Obama's, called it "likely the most important bill we'll pass this year," adding, "it shows that when the president is right we will support him."

The legislation still faces a difficult path in the House, where almost every Democrat is dug in against Mr. Obama's top legislative priority, and where a rebellion may be brewing among the most conservative Republicans. Opponents say the measure will only hasten the exodus of manufacturing jobs to low-wage countries like Vietnam, depressing wages for the working class as it buoys the fortunes of the affluent.

"Do we want to live in an America where the middle class is wiped out?" asked Senator Jeff Merkley, Democrat of Oregon, presaging criticism to come.

But Mr. Obama's Senate victory was significant and convincing. It brought the president one step closer to securing the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a legacy-defining trade accord linking countries from Canada to Chile and Australia to Japan, cementing at least the economic part of Mr. Obama's so-called pivot to Asia. Trading partners have said they cannot complete negotiations without trade promotion authority because they cannot make their own politically difficult concessions, knowing Congress could tamper with them.

But the legislation goes still further. It extends that negotiating power for three years, with a possible extension for another three. That would mean the next president will enjoy most of the authority and it would ease passage of another major trade accord under negotiation with the European Union, expected to be finished in 2016.

Twice, Democratic opponents nearly derailed the trade promotion bill on procedural votes. On Friday night, supporters of the bill narrowly defeated a bipartisan amendment that would have demanded that future trade agreements crack down on countries that intentionally devalue their currencies, a measure that again could have derailed the bill. The amendment, by Senators Rob Portman, Republican of Ohio, and Debbie Stabenow, Democrat of Michigan, fell 48 to 51.

In the end, 13 Democrats sided with the president over Senate Democratic leadership to ensure passage.

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“By passing this legislation, we can show we’re serious about advancing new opportunities for bigger American paychecks, better American jobs and a stronger American economy,” said Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the majority leader, who forged a rare alliance with the president to push the legislation.

Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, the Democratic leader and stalwart Obama ally, denounced the bill as “a handout for multinational corporations” that “does nothing for the middle class.”

Final passage came only after the bill ran a gantlet of amendments that could have derailed it — or at least made passage through the House much more difficult. The nail-biter was over the currency provision co-sponsored by Mr. Portman, a former United States trade representative in the George W. Bush White House. It would have demanded that future trade agreements include an enforceable crackdown on countries that intentionally depress their currencies to make their exports cheaper and American imports more pricey.

Jacob J. Lew, the Treasury secretary, had called on Mr. Obama to veto the trade promotion bill if the currency amendment was attached, fearing it could have backfired and empowered trading partners to challenge American fiscal and monetary policy making.

The Senate also voted down an amendment by Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts, which tried to remove from the Pacific accord a chapter that would give corporations the power to challenge governments that take actions that affect the value of their investments. Ms. Warren maintains the so-called investor-state dispute settlement process could jeopardize American banking regulations and future environmental protections.

Also defeated was an amendment requiring congressional approval before any country not among the original 12 could join the Pacific partnership, and a Republican effort to strike assistance to workers who lose their jobs because of trade agreements.

The trade battle now shifts to the House, where passage was always expected to be more difficult. Only 17 Democrats have publicly declared their support, well short of the 30 that Republican leaders say they need. Senior House Democrats are adamant that trade deals dating to the North American Free Trade Agreement have cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and depressed wages for workers competing with low-wage countries.

More ominously for supporters of trade are the rumbles on the right that could cost the president Republican votes. The decision by Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas and a Tea Party favorite, to back trade promotion has insulated the bill from Republicans inclined not to give Mr. Obama authority for anything. But that protection may be fraying.

On Friday, Rush Limbaugh became the latest conservative voice to pressure lawmakers.

“Since it’s an Obama deal, the odds are the United States is going to take it in the shorts, as we have on so much of the Obama agenda, both domestic and foreign policy,” he announced on his radio show.

Obama Set to Strengthen Federal Role in Clean Water Regulation // NYT // Coral Davenport -May 22, 2015

The Obama administration is expected in the coming days to announce a major clean water regulation that would restore the federal government’s authority to limit pollution in the nation’s rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands.

Environmentalists have praised the new rule, calling it an important step that would lead to significantly cleaner natural bodies of water and healthier drinking water.

But it has attracted fierce opposition from several business interests, including farmers, property developers, fertilizer and pesticide makers, oil and gas producers and a national association of golf course owners. Opponents contend that the rule would stifle economic growth and intrude on property owners’ rights.

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Republicans in Congress point to the rule as another example of what they call executiv e overreach by the Obama administration. Already, they are adv ancing legislation on Capitol Hill meant to block or delay the rule.

The announcement of the rule could come as soon as Friday. If not, it is likely to happen next week, people with knowledge of the plans said.

The water rule is part of a broader push by President Obama to use his executiv e authority to build a major environmental legacy , without requiring new legislation from the Republican-controlled Congress.

This summer, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release a final set of rules intended to combat climate change, by limiting greenhouse gas pollution from power plants. Mr. Obama is also expected to announce in the coming year that he will put vast swaths of public land off limits to energy exploration and other development.

“Water is the lifeblood of healthy people and healthy economies,” Gina McCarthy, the E.P.A.’s administrator, wrote in an April blog post promoting the water rule. “We have a duty to protect it. That’s why E.P.A. and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are finalizing a Clean Water Rule later this spring to protect critical streams and wetlands that are currently vulnerable to pollution and destruction.”

But even as E.P.A. staff worked this month to finish the rule, the House passed a bill to block it. The Senate is moving forward with a bill that would require the agency to fundamentally revamp the rule.

“Under this outrageously broad new rule, Washington bureaucrats would now have a say in how farmers, and ranchers, and families use their own property,” said Senator John Barrasso, Republican of Wyoming and the chief author of the Senate bill.

“It would allow the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate private property just based on things like whether it’s used by animals or birds, or even insects,” he said.

“This rule,” he added, “is not designed to protect the traditional waters of the United States. It is designed to expand the power of Washington bureaucrats.”

The E.P.A. proposed the rule, known as Waters of the U.S., last March. The agency has held more than 400 meetings about it with outside groups and read more than one million public comments as it wrote the final language.

The rule is being issued under the 1972 Clean Water Act, which gave the federal government broad authority to limit pollution in major water bodies, like Chesapeake Bay, the Mississippi Riv er and Puget Sound, as well as streams and wetlands that drain into larger waters.

But two Supreme Court decisions related to clean water protection, in 2001 and in 2006, created legal confusion about whether the federal government had the authority to regulate the smaller streams and headwaters, and about other water sources such as wetlands.

E.P.A. officials say the new rule will clarify that authority, allowing the government to once again limit pollution in those smaller bodies of water — although it does not restore the full scope of regulatory authority granted by the 1972 law.

The E.P.A. also contends that the new rule will not giv e it the authority to regulate additional waters that had not been covered under the 1972 law. People familiar with the rule say it will apply to about 60 percent of the nation’s waters.

“Until now, major bodies of water were protected under the law,” said Elizabeth Ouzts, a spokeswoman for Environment

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America, an advocacy group. “But they can’t be fully protected unless the streams that flow into them are also protected.”

The rule will also limit pollution in groundwater and other sources of drinking water. Polluted groundwater is now chemically treated before being used as drinking water.

“We could spend a lot of money to massively treat the water that we drink, but it makes a lot more sense to protect the source,” Ms. Ouzts said.

A coalition of industry groups, led by the American Farm Bureau Federation, has waged an aggressive campaign calling on the E.P.A. to withdraw or revamp the rule.

Farmers fear that the rule could impose major new costs and burdens, requiring them to pay fees for environmental assessments and to obtain permits just to till the soil near gullies, ditches or dry streambeds where water flows only when it rains. A permit is required for any activity, like farming or construction, that creates a discharge into a body of water covered under the Clean Water Act or affects the health of it, like filling in a wetland or blocking a stream.

“It’s going to cause a nightmare for farmers,” said Don Parrish, the senior director of congressional relations for the American Farm Bureau Federation.

“Our members own the majority of the landscape that’s going to be impacted by this,” he said. “It’s going to make their land, the most valuable thing they possess, less valuable. It could reduce the v alue of some farmland by as much as 40 percent. If you want to build a home, if you want to grow food, if you want a job to go with that clean water, you have to ask E.P.A. for it.”

The lobbying fight over the rule has also generated a public-relations battle over social media.

In its protest of the rule, the American Farm Bureau Federation started a social media campaign, using the Twitter hashtag #DitchTheRule, to urge farmers and others to push the E.P.A. to abandon or revamp the rule. The E.P.A., in response, created a campaign with the hashtag #DitchTheMy th, urging people to speak out in favor of the rule. But some legal experts contend that campaign might have tested the limits of federal lobbying laws, which prohibit a government agency from engaging in grass-roots lobbying for proposed policies or legislation.

Wal-Mart urges m eat suppliers to curb antibiotic use // Reuters // P.J. Huffstutter and Nathan Layne - May 22, 2015

Wal-Mart Stores Inc (WMT.N) is pressing meat, seafood, dairy and egg suppliers to reduce the use of antibiotics, becoming the first large retailer to take such a public stand against the excessive use of drugs in raising farm animals.

The voluntary guidelines announced on Friday would limit suppliers to using antibiotics to treat and prevent disease, and not for promoting growth, a controversial practice by livestock producers. The move comes as concern is growing that over-use of antibiotics in animals can spawn drug-resistant superbugs, endangering human health.

Wal-Mart, the country's biggest food retailer, is also telling suppliers not to raise animals in gestation crates or in other conditions considered inhumane.

The retailer is asking suppliers to its roughly 5,200 Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores in the United States to publicly disclose their use of antibiotics and treatment of animals on an annual basis.

In March McDonald's Corp (MCD.N) said in two years its U.S. restaurants would stop buy ing chicken raised with human antibiotics, marking the first time a major U.S. company had taken concrete action and set a timetable to it. Bulk retailer

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Costco Wholesale Corp (COST.O), a Wal-Mart riv al, has said it was working with suppliers to phase out chicken and livestock raised with antibiotics that are used to fight human infections.

But Wal-Mart's mov e is the most significant by a retailer so far, adv ocates said. Since it controls a quarter of the U.S. grocery market, the guidelines will likely ripple through the entire food supply chain and prompt rivals to follow suit.

"They're the first ones who have asked for this sort of data and to make it public. We haven't gotten that from anyone else, including the U.S. government," said Gail Hansen, senior officer for Pew Charitable Trusts' antibiotic resistance project.

"Because of its size, Wal-Mart can driv e the industry on this and they can do more," said Susan Vaughn Grooters, policy analyst with the nonprofit group Keep Antibiotics Working.

In 2013 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration released guidelines for drug makers and agricultural companies to voluntarily phase out antibiotics as a growth enhancer in livestock.

But the extent to which U.S. meat producers are using such drugs is unclear. The U.S. Agriculture Department is planning to begin collecting more detailed data on antibiotics used on farms, a potential precursor to setting targets for reducing use of the drugs in animals.

Wal-Mart said its mov e was rooted in consumer demand. It cited an internal study showing that 77 percent of its customers would increase their trust and 66 percent were more likely to shop from a retailer that ensures humane treatment of livestock.

"Our customers want to know more about how their food is grown and raised, and where it comes from. As the nation's largest grocer, Walmart is committed to using our strengths to drive transparency and improvement across the supply chain," Kathleen McLaughlin, senior vice president of Walmart sustainability, said in a statement.

Wal-Mart told suppliers it wanted them to adhere to the "five principles" of animal welfare, a set of guidelines that includes ensuring animals are not starved, hav e sufficient space to move, and do not suffer mental distress.

The advocacy group Mercy for Animals said Wal-Mart's "historic" mov e came after protests and its release of hidden-camera videos exposing animal abuse at pork suppliers of the retail chain.

Wayne Pacelle, president of the Humane Society of the United States, said the news reflected "game-changing progress" but urged Wal-Mart to set a deadline for suppliers to implement the changes.

Some meat and chicken suppliers have already begun shifting their policies after McDonald's announcement, but others have dug in their heels.

Tyson Foods Inc (TSN.N), the largest U.S. poultry producer, said in April that it planned to eliminate the use of human antibiotics in its chicken flocks by September 2017.

However, Sanderson Farms Inc (SAFM.O), the third largest U.S. poultry producer, said on Wednesday that it planned to continue using antibiotics on its birds, partly because there are no alternatives on the horizon for treating a deadly but common gut disease.

Wal-Mart's rivals may also come under pressure to alter their policies. Target Corp (TGT.N), one of the nation's top 10 grocers, said it requires that suppliers for its Simply Balanced line of healthy food products use meat from animals raised without antibiotics, hormones and steroids, and are vegetarian fed. It does not impose the same limits on other food products.

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INTERNATIONAL

Islamic State loyalists claim Saudi mosque attack // AP // Abdullah Al-Shihri and Aya Batrawy - May 22, 2015

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A suicide bomber killed at least 19 people Friday in a blast inside a Shiite mosque in eastern Saudi Arabia as worshippers commemorated the 7th century birth of a revered figure, residents and officials said.

Loyalists of the extremist Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack — the second against Shiites in the kingdom in six months. In November, the extremist Islamic State group was accused of being behind the shooting and killing of eight worshippers in the eastern Saudi Arabian village of al-Ahsa.

Despite a string of IS-related attacks over the past several months that have also targeted police, Friday's suicide bombing appears to be the deadliest in the country in nearly a decade.

Habib Mahmoud, managing editor for the state-linked Al-Sharq newspaper in Qatif, said that the local Red Crescent authorities confirmed to him that 19 people had been killed and 28 wounded.

Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry has not released its count for the number of dead and wounded, but said that a suicide bomber who hid explosives under his clothes was behind the attack. Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki said that the attacker struck the Imam Ali mosque in a village called al-Qudeeh.

In a statement distributed on Twitter feeds linked to IS group loyalists, a group purporting to be the IS branch in Saudi Arabia issued the claim. It could not be independently confirmed if the new group actually has operational links to the Islamic State group, which is based in Syria and Iraq.

The group's statement carried a logo in Arabic referring to itself as the "Najd Province" — a reference to the historic region that is home to the capital Riyadh and the ruling Al Saud family, as well as the ultraconservative Wahhabi branch of Islam.

Mahmoud, the editor in Qatif, said the attacker stood with the worshippers during prayer and then detonated his suicide vest as people were leaving the mosque.

A local activist, Naseema al-Sada, told The Associated Press by telephone from Qatif that the suicide bomber attacked worshippers as they were commemorating the birth of Imam Hussain, a revered figure among Shiites. She said the local hospital has called on residents to donate blood.

The Al-Manar television channel, run by the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah group, carried blurry pictures of pools of blood inside what appeared to be the mosque where the attack took place. It also showed still photos of at least three bodies stretched out on carpets, covered with sheets. One person dressed in a white robe was being carried away on a stretcher.

The attack comes amid heightened Sunni-Shiite tensions in the region as Saudi Arabia and Iran back opposite sides in conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Just before Saudi Arabia launched airstrikes against Shiite rebels in Yemen in late March, a purported affiliate of the IS group claimed responsibility for suicide bombings in Yemen's capital that killed at least 137 people and wounded nearly 360.

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The Saudi offensive in Yemen has sharpened anti-Iranian rhetoric inside the kingdom. Saudi Arabia accuses Iran of arming the Yemeni rebels, a claim that both the militias and Tehran deny.

Some ultraconservative Sunnis in Saudi Arabia, known as Wahhabis, have used Friday sermons to rally support for the war and simultaneously criticize Shiites and their practice of praying at the tombs of religious figures, which they view as akin to polytheism.

Mahmoud said people in Qatif are shocked by the attack and "hold those who are inflaming sectarian rhetoric, from those on social media and in the mosques, responsible."

He said that too often the public does not differentiate between what is Iranian government policy and what is Shiite, and "blame Shiites for Iranian actions in the region."

The country 's top cleric, Grand Mufti Abdel-Aziz al-Sheikh, told Saudi state television that the attack in Qatif aims at "driving a wedge among the sons of the nation" and described it as "a crime, shame and great sin." The country's top council of clerics issued a statement blaming the attack on "terrorist criminals with foreign agendas."

Residents in the country 's eastern region say they are discriminated against because of their faith. They say that despite the region being home to most of the kingdom's oil reserves, their streets, buildings, hospitals, schools and infrastructure are neglected and in poor condition. They say unemployment runs high among Shiite youth in the area.

In 2011, Shiites in the east inspired by the Arab Spring uprising in neighboring Bahrain took to the streets to demand greater rights. Police arrested hundreds of people and a counterterrorism court sentenced an outspoken cleric, Nimr al-Nimr, to death.

After the bombing, a few hundred people marched in mourning through the village, Mahmoud said.

Al-Sada, the activist, said she too holds the government responsible for not doing more to criminalize sectarian rhetoric.

"The government should protect us, not encourage sermons and schoolbooks to incite against us as non-believers," al-Sada said. "We want them to prevent this from happening in the first place."

"Martyrdom does not scare us, but we want to live like other citizens and with stability ," she said.

In heavily Catholic Ireland, voters to decide on same-sex marriage // LAT // Alexandra Zavis - May 22, 2015

Joe Masterson isn’t your typical gay rights activ ist.

A 72-year-old Irish farmer, he grew up in an era when such matters were simply not discussed. But there he was, going door to door this week asking neighbors in the small village of Castlepollard to support a proposal to allow same-sex couples in Ireland to marry.

He was not alone. Opinion polls suggest that this once deeply conservative and still overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country could become the first to legalize gay marriages through a popular vote Friday.

That such a milestone could be reached in a country that did not decriminalize homosexuality until 1993, is ev idence of how quickly attitudes have changed and of the declining influence of the church after a succession of child abuse scandals.

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In spite of the church's opposition, the government and all the main political parties have come out in support of the proposal to introduce a line into Ireland's Constitution that says: "Marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex."

They have been joined by major businesses, trade unions, media organizations, sports stars and other celebrities. Even some Catholic priests have said they back the amendment.

Still, analysts caution that the margin of support has narrowed in recent weeks and the vote's outcome is not certain. They suspect that some conservative voters might be shy about publicly saying they are likely to vote no.

"Everything hangs on who turns out on Friday," said David Farrell, a politics professor at University College Dublin. Support for the amendment is strongest among young, urban voters, but turnout is usually higher among their older, rural counterparts.

Masterson was taking nothing for granted as he headed out for one last night of handing out leaflets before campaigning was officially halted Thursday.

For him, the issue is personal. Masterson's son, Allan, the youngest of three children, was about 20 years old when he finally confided to his dad that he might be gay. Masterson gave his son a hug and told him it wouldn't change anything. But inside, he worried whether others in the family would respond as he did.

It wasn't until years later, when the young man married his longtime partner in the Netherlands, that his father realized how much support there was for him. Aunts, uncles, cousins traveled from near and far to celebrate the marriage. Now, Masterson would like the union to be recognized in Ireland, in case his son should want to move back with his husband one day.

"It should be the same for everybody," he said. "It shouldn't be a them-and-us issue."

To opponents, the proposal is an assault on traditional values that would encroach on religious beliefs and redefine marriage in ways they fear would harm children.

We who are parents, brothers and sisters, colleagues and friends of Ireland's gay citizens know how they have suffered because of second-class citizenship.

They have draped city lampposts with posters featuring a pair of parents kissing a rosy-cheeked infant. "Children deserve a mother and a father. Vote no," it says.

"It does seem strange to me that we have reached a point not just in Ireland, but in Western society, where we are suddenly doubting the intrinsic value of mothers and doubting the intrinsic value of fathers," said David Quinn, founder of the Iona Institute, a conservative religious advocacy group.

He argues that approving the amendment would have broad implications, making it extremely difficult, for example, for Parliament to approve an adoption or surrogacy law that says, "actually it's in the best interests of the child to have a mother and a father, all other things being equal."

The debate has played out on television screens and in homes across the island nation.

"I am told that I am not broad-minded enough and I'm old-fashioned," said Una Heaton, a 65-year-old artist and museum curator in Limerick, the country's third-largest city, who planned to vote no Friday. "But it's nothing to do with being

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broad-minded; it's to do with marriage and children."

"I see nothing wrong with gay friends having civil relationships, but gay marriage is a step too far," she said. "And putting it in our constitution is bonkers."

Unlike in the United States, where the issue has been taken up by the Supreme Court, a simple majority of voters will decide whether to legalize same-sex marriage in Ireland. Seventeen countries have already done so, all of them through legislation or court rulings. Ireland would have to change its constitution, which requires a referendum.

For 'banished' adoptees, search for Irish family is risky

The results are expected on Saturday, which happens to be the day of the Eurovision song contest. That could make Saturday "the gayest day in Irish history," quipped Rory O'Neill, the drag queen known as Panti Bliss, in an interview with the Independent newspaper of London.

Same-sex couples have been able to enter into civil partnerships in Ireland since 2011, but activ ists argue that those don't afford the same rights and protections as being legally married.

"In symbolic terms, it is also incredibly important because it says to Irish lesbian and gay people, especially young people, that they too can grow up in a country that values them," said Brian Sheehan, codirector of Yes Equality, the umbrella group that leads the y es campaign.

Until recently, he said, many people had to emigrate if they wanted to be open about who they were. The decriminalization of homosexuality allowed thousands more to come out of the closet, a big part of the change in Ireland, Sheehan said.

One of the things he found most moving about the campaign was the number of parents who became advocates for their gay children. They include people as prominent as former President Mary McAleese, a dev out Catholic who spoke about the bully ing endured by her son, Justin.

"We who are parents, brothers and sisters, colleagues and friends of Ireland's gay citizens know how they hav e suffered because of second-class citizenship," she said at an event this week.

The debate also prompted top political figures such as Health Minister Leo Varadkar and former Equality Minister Pat Carey, who are both gay, to speak publicly about their sexuality for the first time. Both remarked on the warm response they receiv ed. The conservative-leaning prime minister, Enda Kenny , paid a visit to one of Dublin's more prominent gay bars in December.

Church leaders hav e also stepped into the fray, distributing pastoral letters to their congregations. But Farrell, of University College Dublin, said that "they're pulling their punches a lot more than they used to."

"This one referendum we're having on marriage equality personifies very well just how far the relations between church and state hav e changed," he said.

Irish political leaders have long deferred to the church, especially on matters of social policy. Contraceptives were only fully legalized in 1985. Divorce was outlawed until 1995, and abortion is still banned in most cases.

But a series of damning reports detailing decades of sexual abuse of children by clerics and efforts of church officials to protect the abusers rather than the victims was met with a public outcry and calls for a break between church and state. The scandals came at a time of spreading secularization in Ireland, which began with the economic boom of the 1990s.

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Archbishop Eamon Martin took pains to emphasize in a statement posted on YouTube that gay people "ought always to be treated with respect and sensitiv ity." But he said Irish bishops can't support an amendment that "places the union of two men or two women on a par with a marriage between a man and woman, which is open to the procreation of children."

Such arguments have been hard for Louise Fitzgerald to hear. The 29-year-old radiographer is planning to marry her partner, a female police officer. She already has a wedding venue picked out in her hometown of Cork.

"All I want to do is quietly liv e my life with my partner and get on with work, and I feel like my character and her character are being laid bare and dissected in public," Fitzgerald said on Wednesday .

She was planning to do some canv assing that night, but was nervous about how she would be received. "It's a strange thing to hav e to go up to someone's door and ask them if it is OK if I get married," she said.

She was born in Wales, where same-sex marriage is now legal, and is thinking of going there to get married if the referendum doesn't go her way.

"It means the world to have that piece of paper," she said, "just to hav e a proper marriage somewhere."

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

T he T rigger-Happy Generation // WSJ // Peggy Noonan - May 22, 2015

Readers know of the phenomenon at college campuses regarding charges of "microaggressions" and "triggers." It's been going on for a while and is part of a growing censorship movement in which professors, administrators and others are accused of racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, gender bias and ethnocentric thinking, among other things. Connected is the rejection or harassment of commencement and other campus speakers who are not politically correct. I hate that phrase, but it just won't stop being current.

Kirsten Powers goes into much of this in her book, "The Silencing." Anyway, quite a bunch of little Marats and Robespierres we're bringing up.

But I was taken aback by a piece a few weeks ago in the Spectator, the student newspaper of Columbia University . I can't shake it, though believe me I've tried. I won't name the four undergraduate authors, because 30 y ears from now their children will be on Google, and because everyone in their 20s has the right to be an idiot.

Yet theirs is a significant and growing form of idiocy that deserves greater response.

The authors describe a student in a class discussion of Ov id's epic poem "Metamorphoses." The class read the my ths of Persephone and Daphne, which, as parts of a narrative that stretches from the dawn of time to the Rome of Caesar, include depictions of violence, chaos, sexual assault and rape. The student, the authors reported, is herself "a surviv or of sexual assault" and said she was "triggered." She complained the professor focused "on the beauty of the language and the splendor of the imagery when lecturing on the text." He did not apparently notice her feelings, or their urgency. As a result, "the student completely disengaged from the class discussion as a means of self-preservation. She did not feel safe in the class."

Safe is the key word here. There's the suggestion that a work may be a masterpiece but if it makes anyone feel bad, it's out.

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Later the student told the professor how she felt, and her concerns, she said, were ignored. The authors of the op-ed note that “Metamorphoses” is a fixture in the study of literature and humanities, “but like so many texts in the Western canon it contains triggering and offensive material that marginalizes student identities in the classroom.” The Western canon, they continue, is full of “histories and narratives of exclusion and oppression” that can be “difficult to read and discuss as a survivor, a person of color, or a student from a low-income background.”

That makes them feel unsafe: “Students need to feel safe in the classroom, and that requires a learning environment that recognizes the multiplicity of their identities.” The authors suggest changing the core curriculum but concede it may not be easy. Another student, they report, suggested in her class that maybe instead they could read “a Toni Morrison text.” A different student responded that “texts by authors of the African Diaspora are a staple in most high school English classes, and therefore they did not need to reread them.” That remark, the authors assert, was not only “insensitive” but “revealing of larger ideological divides.” The professor, they report, failed at this moment to “intervene.”

The op-ed authors call for “a space to hold a safe and open dialogue” about classroom experiences that “traumatize and silence students,” with the aim of creating environments that recognize “the multiplicity” of student “identities.”

Well, here are some questions and a few thoughts for all those who have been declaring at all the universities, and on social media, that their feelings have been hurt in the world and that the world had just better straighten up.

Why are you so fixated on the idea of personal safety, by which you apparently mean not having uncomfortable or unhappy thoughts and feelings? Is there any chance this preoccupation is unworthy of you? Please say yes.

There is no such thing as safety. That is asking too much of life. You can’t expect those around you to constantly accommodate your need for safety. That is asking too much of people.

Life gives you potentials for freedom, creativity, achievement, love, all sorts of beautiful things, but none of us are “safe.” And you are especially not safe in an atmosphere of true freedom. People will say and do things that are wrong, stupid, unkind, meant to injure. They’ll bring up subjects you find upsetting. It’s uncomfortable. But isn’t that the price we pay for freedom of speech?

You can ask for courtesy, sensitivity and dignity. You can show others those things, too, as a way of encouraging them. But if you constantly feel anxious and frightened by what you encounter in life, are we sure that means the world must reorder itself? Might it mean you need a lot of therapy?

Masterpieces, by their nature, pierce. They jar and unsettle. If something in a literary masterpiece upsets you, should the masterpiece really be banished? What will you be left with when all of them are gone?

What in your upbringing told you that safety is the highest of values? What told you it is a realistic expectation? Who taught you that you are entitled to it every day? Was your life full of . . . unchecked privilege? Discuss.

Do you think Shakespeare, Frieda Kahlo, Virginia Woolf, Langston Hughes and Steve Jobs woke up every morning thinking, “My focus today is on looking for slights and telling people they’re scaring me”? Or were their energies and commitments perhaps focused on other areas?

I notice lately that some members of your generation are being called, derisively, Snowflakes. Are you really a frail, special and delicate little thing that might melt when the heat is on?

Do you wish to be known as the first generation that comes with its own fainting couch? Did first- and second-wave feminists march to the barricades so their daughters and granddaughters could act like Victorians with the vapors?

Everyone in America gets triggered every day. Many of us experience the news as a daily microaggression. Who can we sue, silence or censor to feel better?

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Finally, social justice warriors always portray themselves—and seem to experience themselves—as actively suffering victims who need protection. Is that perhaps an invalid self-image? Are y ou perhaps less needy than demanding? You seem to be demanding a safety no one else in the world gets. If y ou were so vulnerable, intimidated and weak, you wouldn't really be able to attack and criticize y our professors, administrators and fellow students so ably and successfully, would you?

Are you a bunch of frail and sensitiv e little bullies? Is it possible you're not intimidated but intimidators?

Again, discuss.

By the way, I went back to the op-ed and read the online comments it engendered from the Columbia community. They were quite wonderful. One called, satirically, to ban all satire because it has too many "v erbal triggers." Another: "These women are like a baby watching a movie and thinking the monster is going to come out of the screen and get them." Another: "These girls' parents need a refund."

The biggest slay er of pomposity and sanctimony in our time continues to be American wit.

T raders hoped for a more interesting Yellen, got same old // CNBC // Patti Domm - May 22, 2015

Fed Chair Janet Yellen stuck to her script Friday, even though traders had hoped a jump in consumer prices would force the central banker to give a nod to the improved inflation data. (Tweet This)

Yellen reiterated comments that the Fed is on track to raise rates this y ear and that inflation will ultimately move to 2 percent as the economy strengthens.

The consumer price index, excluding energy and food, rose 0.3 percent, compared to expectations for 0.2 percent. Headline CPI gained 0.1 percent as expected, meaning overall prices actually fell 0.2 percent year over year. Core prices, however, rose 1.8 percent, closer to the Fed's inflation target.

"It's basically the first summer Friday. It's before a long weekend. She hardly strays from her FOMC colleagues in normal times. She said we're still on track to raise rates," said John Canally, strategist and economist at LPL Financial. "She didn't say we're going to tighten soon or in June, so I think that leaves September or December."

Traders had speculated that Yellen would hav e to address the move higher in consumer prices because inflation is one of the Fed's main issues. They said if the pickup in consumer inflation continues, it would be key in determining whether the central bank will need to move sooner to raise rates.

Treasury yields mov ed higher after CPI, while the yield curve flattened—indicating the market believes a rate rise could come sooner. According to RBS, fed funds futures are now giving 45 percent odds for a Fed rate hike in September, up from a perceived 35 percent chance last week.

After Yellen's afternoon comments, yields stayed roughly in the same range they had been trading in, and stocks gained slightly but were still mostly lower on the day. The dollar index moved higher, adding 0.2 percent after her remarks.

"(CPI) was a gain, a bigger-than-expected gain, and there's been a steady gain in core for the last few months, so in the near term it certainly is influential and brings on the ever-increasing risk of a Fed move. But I don't think we need to change the odds very much," said David Ader, Treasury strategist at CRT Capital.

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Yellen spoke in Rhode Island to the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce on the economy, and she did not take questions.

Ader said he hoped to get insight into whether the Fed was concerned about the rise in core inflation or whether it was looking elsewhere. Yellen did give a nod to labor market improv ement, and said there were some encouraging improvements to wage growth this year. However, wage data in the CPI on Friday showed zero movement.

Traders had also been anxious about the timing of Yellen's comments, delivered during pre-holiday trading and on a day when some markets close early. Chicago pit trading in foreign exchange and interest rates futures closed early, at 1 p.m. ET, just as Yellen started to speak. But electronic trading remained open. The Treasury cash market was to close early at 2 p.m. ET, and stocks were to remain open until 4 p.m. ET, as usual.

"I think the market has adjusted in anticipation. Yields are higher at the front end by 4 basis points, implying that she'll be more hawkish, but the benchmark 30-year is down on the day . People are betting there's going to be a flatter curve," said Ader ahead of Yellen's speech. "The best-performing issue is the 30-year so if you think the Fed might hike, that's supportive of the back end, relative to the front end."

Tyler Tucci, RBS short-term markets and derivatives strategist, said according to his firms' calculations, fed funds futures Friday morning showed a 100 percent chance for a 25 -basis-point Fed rate hike by December. The odds had been as low as 88 percent for December recently after some traders placed bigger bets on January for the first increase.

Art Cashin, director of floor operations for UBS at the NYSE, said the bond and stock markets had different interpretations of the importance of the CPI number.

"Stock guys shrug it off, pointing to distort that is primarily health cost (government related). Bond types see it as somewhat inflationary and fed fund futures move for an earlier Fed liftoff and bond y ields rise. Gold seems to side with stock ty pes," Cashin wrote in a quick note.

Ward McCarthy , chief financial economist at Jefferies, said one factor pushing up CPI was rent, and the other inflation data have not been strong enough to change his view that the Fed will hold off on rate hikes until December.

"The bottom line is there's very little signs of inflation of any type. It's a think day. Hope springs eternal. People want to get the Fed off zero. Numbers like we saw today are not going to do that," McCarthy said, noting the decline in last week's PPI and drops in import prices.

But y et, the markets wonder how much the Fed, stating it is data-dependent, will take notice of this one CPI reading.

"All of a sudden, we have back-to-back core CPI advances of 0.23 percent and 0.26 percent in March and April. I certainly do not expect core inflation to be that firm every single month, but I have to wonder how many more of these Fed officials will need to see before they stop worrying about deflation," wrote Stephen Stanley , chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities.

"A 0.3 percent increase in the core CPI is such a rare event that it holds considerable shock value, even though the unrounded gain was 'only' 0.25 6 percent. In fact, there have only been four 0.3 percent rises in the core CPI since the financial crisis, and each of them was 0.25 percent or 0.26 percent unrounded. The last time we had a larger monthly increase than 0.26 percent was January 2008," he wrote.

JPMorgan economists, in a note, said they do not expect to see the CPI translate into a gain in the core PCE, the Fed's preferred inflation measure because of the influence of health-care costs.

Medical care in the PCE index is based on inputs from the producer price index, which were softer than CPI data. JPMorgan expects the core PCE to be up 1.3 percent over a year ago.

As for CPI, they noted that medical care services rose 0.9 percent, helping lift core services, up 0.3 percent, the highest

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since June 2008. Rent measures also gained, with owners equiv alent rent rising 0.28 percent. Airfares fell for a second month, losing 1.3 percent.

Alexandria Phillips

Press Assistant | Communications

Hillary for America | www.hillaryclinton.com

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To: lsaunders@afscme.org
bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
erome@afscme.org
Date: 7/21/2008 6:04:28 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/21/08

Main Topics: al-Maliki statements, Obama visiting Iraq

Summary: As the media swooned over Senator Obama's arrival in Baghdad this morning, the McCain campaign attempted to hit back to influence the coverage. Senator McCain himself appeared on various networks giving interviews. On Good Morning America, he erroneously spoke of problems on the "Iraq-Pakistan" border. On the Today Show, Meredith Vieira pressed McCain on missing every single Afghanistan hearing his own Armed Services Committee held in the past two years, the 'learning curve' he would have on domestic issues relating to the economy, and on Phil Gramm. Senator McCain brushed aside the recent al-Maliki comment essentially endorsing Senator Obama's withdrawal plan, claiming, "I know what they [the Iraqis] want." Surrogates for the McCain campaign echoed Senator McCain's message of withdrawal being dictated by 'conditions on the ground' rather than 'an arbitrary date.' However, Governor Bobby Jindal veered slightly off-message while speaking on behalf of McCain, saying "let's listen to…Prime Minister Maliki" and also that withdrawal could take place in shorter than 16 months. Senior McCain adviser Nancy Pfotenhauer similarly conflicted with Senator McCain's dismissal of al-Maliki by saying "when [al-Maliki] comes forward and makes this statement, it's got a lot of credibility." In other news, the Batman movie performed very well in box offices, China is attempting to drastically reduce pollution before the Olympics, bin Laden's driver will be tried as a war criminal, and oil prices are down, though it is believed they will rebound shortly.
Highlights:
1. NBC: McCain Interviewed, pressed on withdrawal, Maliki's comments, hearings, economic learning curve, Gramm
2. ABC: McCain Interviewed, makes gaffe on "Pakistan-Iraq" border
3. CBS: Short clip of McCain interview, McCain stressing Obama's misjudgement of surge
4. MSNBC: Jindal highlights McCain endorsement of surge, claims withdrawal could be shorter than 16 months, says McCain listens to al-Maliki
5. CNN: Jindal downplays Maliki statement, stresses success of surge
6. FNC: Joe Lieberman Interviewed, Claims Obama seeks to lose war in Iraq
7. MSNBC: Bill Press mocks McCain's whining about Obama's overseas trip, hosts note McCain's absence from Afghanistan hearings
8. MSNBC: Pfotenhauer says Maliki has credibility, however repeats talking point about adhering to conditions on the ground
9. CNN: James Dobson "might" endorse McCain
10. CNN and FNC: Giuliani and McCain go to Yankees game

Clips:
Highlight #1
McCain Interviewed on Today Show, Pressed on Negative Ad, Withdrawal, Economic Learning Curve, Gramm (NBC 07/21/08
MEREDITH VIEIRA: Senator McCain thank you for joining us.
JOHN MCCAIN: Good morning Meredith.
VIEIRA: You have been very tough on Senator Obama, you've questioned his judgement on foreign policy, called him naïve, and his trip little more than a campaign rally overseas. So given what you've seen and heard over the past few days do you still hold to that assessment? MCCAIN: Look I'm glad Senator Obama will get a chance for the first time to sit down with General David Petraeus and understand what the surge was all about, why it succeeded, and why we are winning the war. And that is because we carried out a strategy which has succeeded. And Senator Obama rallied against, voted against, and used his opposition to the surge as a way of gaining the nomination of his party. I hope he will have a chance to admit that he badly misjudged the situation and he was wrong when he said that the surge wouldn't work.
VIEIRA: Senator you mentioned General Petraeus-
MCCAIN: It's important that the American people know that is the situation and I've mentioned General Petraeus,

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yes?
VIEIRA: I'm bringing him up because he told the AP on Saturday that al-Qaeda may be shifting its base back to Afghanistan. Then on Sunday Barack Obama reiterated his belief that Afghanistan is the central front in the war on terrorism. Do you agree with that Senator?
MCCAIN: I agree with Petraeus when he said Iraq is the central battleground in the war and the struggle against al-Qaeda. He said that. And I agree with him when he said we will be able to withdraw troops as conditions on the ground dictate. Not to do what Senator Obama wants to do, which was we'd be out by last March. Never to have the surge and the success. And you can't choose to lose a war in Iraq in my view in order to win a war in Afghanistan. Of course we have problems in Afghanistan. And as we succeed in Iraq, there will be troops available to go to Afghanistan. But it's more than just troops. Senator Obama doesn't understand that it is a strategy – the same strategy that succeeded in Iraq we will employ in Afghanistan, the one that he rejected in and still does not accept the success of.
VIEIRA: Senator Obama's table of removing troops from Iraq within that 16 month period seemed to be given a thumbs up by the Iraqi prime minister when he called it the right timeframe for withdrawal, he has backed off that somewhat but the Iraqis have not stopped using the word timetables so if the Iraqi government were to say, if you were President, we want a timetable for troops being removed, would you agree to that?
MCCAIN: I've been there too many times. I've met too many times with them and I know what they want. They want it based on conditions and of course they'd like to have us out. That's what happens when you win wars, you leave. We may have a residual presence there as even Senator Obama has admitted. But the fact is, that it should be based on the agreement between prime minister Maliki, the Iraqi government, and the United States that it will be based on conditions. This is a great success, but it's fragile. And could be reversed very easily. I think we should trust the word of General Petraeus who has orchestrated a dramatic turnaround. And by the way, we'd have been out last March if Senator Obama's wish had originally called for. Not 16 months from now, but last March. He was wrong on the surge. He was wrong today saying it wouldn't succeed. And obviously we have challenges in Afghanistan, which will require more troops, and more NATO participation, but we can win. If we had lost in Iraq, we'd have risked a much wider war that would have put enormous challenges and burdens on our military.
VIEIRA: You know in this latest TV ad sir you criticize- your ad- you critcize Obama for never holding a single Senate hearing on Afghanistan, but according to Senate records, you've missed all six hearings on Afghanistan that were held by the Senate Armed Services Committee on which you served during the last 2 years. So where is your accountability?
MCCAIN: I've visited Iraq many times. I've had briefings, constant briefings. I've visited Afghanistan. I know the issues extremely well. And, I'm not the chairman of a subcommittee that had direct responsibility, but the fact is I was right about the surge at the darkest times when many people said that would kill my ambitions for the Presidency. I did it because I believed it was best for America. Senator Obama chose a path which was very wrong and is wrong today. And if we had done what he wanted to do, we would be facing enormous challenges – probably the risk of a wider war. That's the real difference.
VIEIRA: You said in a time of war, a commander in chief's job doesn't get a learning curve. We're facing a crises here domestically that a lot of people consider more significant in their lives right now in the war and that is the economic crisis. You have admitted that your economic policy is a weakness for you. So do you deserve a learning curve to get up to speed?
MCCAIN: Actually I have far more experience on the economy than Senator Obama. I'm very strong on the economy. I was chairman of the Senator Commerce Committee, Science and Transportation which addresses all these issues. I have a concrete economic plan to fix the problems in America-
VIEIRA: But look at the man who established that plan for you-
MCCAIN: Offshore drilling, including the fact that we have nuclear power-
VIEIRA: Phil Gramm who called this a mental recession.
MCCAIN: Oxygen. Uh, Hydrogen. Hybrid fuels. All kinds of nuclear power. I have plans for all of those and I am confident we can succeed. Americans working together on a mission to fix our economy, keep them in their homes, become energy independent and I have a strong plan of action and a strong backgroud on the economy to address these issues
VIEIRA: But Senator if I can bring up Phil Gramm again, that was your key economic adviser and the framer of your policy until he called whats happening here a mental recession and that we are a nation of whiners. He has since stepped down, removed himself from your campaign. But do voters have a right to question your judgement because you said he was the strongest person you knew on economic issues. Should they be worried about your ability to lead us out of a recession?
MCCAIN: Actually, he was one out of a number of advisers that I have. I value their views and their opinions and

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I'm very strong plan of action for our economy. I think most Americans agree with it, including offshore drilling, which Senator Obama opposes, including nuclear power which Obama opposed. I strong- keep taxes low. We have a very strong economic policy. We're talking about it in town hall meetings all over America. And I've invited Senator Obama to come to these town hall meetings with me and that way people can compare us on these issues that are so important to their future and economy and the future of this nation. And I'm proud to have a broad array, including 300 economists and 5 nobel prize winners that say my economic plan is very good.

Highlight #2

McCain: Surge has worked, Afghanistan is a "serious" situation but not "precarious" or "urgent" (MSNBC 07/21/08 7:05am)

DIANE SAWYER: You have criticized Sen. Obama in the past for not going to Iraq and getting a fresh assessment. He is in Iraq as we speak this morning. Does this take care of it?

JOHN MCCAIN: Well, I believe that he'll be able to—I know that he'll be able to have the opportunity to see the success of the surge. It has succeeded. This is the same strategy that he voted against, railed against, campaigned for his nomination, to obtain his nomination in opposition. He was wrong about the surge. It is succeeding. We are winning. And I hope he will agree that he had a fundamental misjudgment in the need for this change in strategy which has succeeded, which is allowing us to win this war.

SAWYER: Quick coverage about the press coverage if I can. He's there with a lot of reporters and it's been widely reported—you're laughing. Do you think the press coverage is unfair?

MCCAIN: That's up to the American people to decide, Diane. It is what it is.

SAWYER: His camp has said that, in fact he was out ahead of you on Afghanistan, where the real problem is today. The level of violence has increased, more US and NATO troops killed in June in Afghanistan than were in Iraq. The Taliban resurging and also, Sen. Obama says he was warning of this all along. And I'm going to play a bite from yesterday.

BARACK OBAMA: I believe that US troop levels need to increase and I have, for at least a year now have called for two additional brigades, perhaps three. The situation is precarious and urgent here in Afghanistan and I believe this has to be our central focus. The central front on our battle against terrorism.

SAWYER: Does he deserve the credit for saying that there should be more troops in Afghanistan now that the chairman of the joint chiefs is saying just the same thing?

MCCAIN: Actually the chairman of the joint chiefs has said yesterday that it'd be very dangerous to do what Sen. Obama wants to do in Iraq. He said the fragile victory that we are succeeding in gaining would be all placed at risk if we did what Sen. Obama wanted. Look, you don't have to choose to lose in Iraq in order to succeed in Afghanistan. Of course I've been following closely the events in Afghanistan. I gave speeches in Germany talking about the need for more NATO troops, more US troops. But it's more complicated than that Diane. It's not just a matter of troops, it's a matter of our relations with Pakistan, it's relations with a new strategy, which will, can and will succeed. The same kind that worked in Iraq, which he has rejected, and we can succeed there and it's going to be tough.

SAWYER: But—

MCCAIN: It is very tough. If we had lost in Iraq, the complications in Afghanistan would have been enormously more difficult.

SAWYER: But the chairman of the joint chiefs says, "I need the troops, I need the additional brigades but I don't have troops I can reach for to send to Afghanistan until I have reduced requirement in Iraq." So, in a sense they are linked. The troops in Iraq and the availability of troops for Afghanistan. My question is, when will you have enough troops to send to Afghanistan?

MCCAIN: I'm sure fairly soon. But it'll be dictated by the conditions on the ground. Look, it's like any counterinsurgency or strategy that's succeeds. We will be able to free up troops to go to Afghanistan but if we

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abandon Iraq [laughing] and state specific dates for withdrawal, we would've been out last March. This previous March if we had done what Sen. Obama wanted to do. He was wrong then. He was wrong now. And he should admit that he was wrong. That might help us succeed in Afghanistan and we will free up additional troops as we succeed in Iraq and come home in victory and honor.

SAWYER: Do you agree the situation in Afghanistan is precarious and urgent?

MCCAIN: Well, I think it's very serious.

SAWYER: Not precarious and urgent?

MCCAIN: Oh, I don't know, uh, exactly run through the vocabulary but it's a serious situation. And but there's a lot of things we need to do. We have a lot of work to do and I'm afraid that it's a very hard struggle. Particularly given the situation on the Iraq/Pakistan border. And I would not announce that I am going to attack Pakistan as Sen. Obama did when he was doing his campaign. But most importantly, he railed against, voted against and said the surge wouldn't work. He said it wouldn't work and couldn't work. And has failed to acknowledge. It did work and we have succeeded. Thank god.

[. . .]

Highlight #3
Short Interview of McCain Stressing Obama's "Misjudgement" (CBS 07/21/08)
JOHN MCCAIN: We are winning the war and Senator Obama was wrong. He railed against it, he voted against the surge, and he said it would fail. He was wrong there. And there's very little doubt in my mind that he will see for himself that he had a gross misjudgment and that he'll correct that.

Highlight #4
Jindal Slam Obama For Late Visit, Claims Withdrawal Could Be Before 16 Months, To Listen To Maliki (MSNBC 07/21/08)
BOBBY JINDAL: One extreme says no more domestic production, the other extreme says let's only drill our way to independence. The reality is we've got to do it all. We need nuclear power, we need conservation, we need renewables as well as more domestic production. It makes no sense to say we're not going to produce more oil and gas at home while we yell at other countries that aren't always our friends. But secondly, I tell voters don't just vote on the party, vote for conservatives. And I absolutely agree the voters had cause to fire the Republican majority in Congress. The Republican majority was spending like Democrats, wasn't balancing the budget, had become addicted to earmarks, was defending corruption that we never would have tolerated in the Democratic Party, and finally we stopped being the party of new ideas. So I tell voters you know don't always vote Republican but find the real conservatives that have real great ideas. Here in Louisian we've cut six taxes, our largest income tax in our state's history, we got one of the nation's strongest ethics codes. We're actually growing jobs. We got a fortune 1000 company moving its headquarters here. Fortune 500 company contemplating a 3 billion dollar investment in Louisana. So, I tell voters find real conservates, don't worry about party labels. Find people who will do what they promise you in their campaigning.

WILLIE GEIST: Governor Jindal, it's Willie Geist here in New York. The McCain campaign has called Barack Obama's campaign overseas a photo-op, a campaign rally, a couple of the terms. I wonder what you think as you watch these pictures coming in from the weekend from today of him sitting with Karzai there, visiting Baghdad today, what are your impressions of his trip?

JINDAL: Well certainly I think its long overdue. I'm glad that he's finally going there. He didn't go during the primaries but now that he's there, I wish he'd gone and listned to the commanders instead of sticking to his policies before he announced his policies decisions before he went to listen to the commanders in the field. You know certainly when he talks about the 16 month timeline, this firm timeline, the reality is the surge is working. I hope when he goes over there he says look Senator McCain was right, Senator McCain even when the Bush administration wasn't for this, Senator Obama opposed it, said it would never work, Senator Reid said it wouldn't work, Senator McCain stood tall and said the surge can work, it will work, Senator McCain said he was willing to lose an election, rather than lose a war. So I hope Senator Obama will come back and say he's learned from his trip, he thinks the surge is working. I certainly agree we want our troops to come back as quickly and as safely

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as possible. But the fundamental difference between the two Senators is Senator McCain has said it has to be based on the facts on the ground. Senator Obama continues to advocate an unconditional withdrawal.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: I think there's an argument that since we're in there the job needs to be done. I think the argument has been if we should have been in there in the first place and what kind of misconceptions brought us there.

JINDAL: I disagree.

BRZEZINSKI: Senator McCain confused the issue here on exactly the differences are between the candidates.

JINDAL: Well no I disagree. I think the American voters are looking forward now and saying we want our troops to come home safely and victoriously. There is a fundamental difference between Senator Obama saying its 16 months no matter what happens on the ground and Senator McCain saying you know look it could be shorter, it could be longer, let's listen to General Petraeus, lets listen to Admiral Mullen, let's listen to Prime Minister Maliki, who have all said basically the same thing, which is yes American troops should be able to leave, they should be able to leave safely, probably more quickly that we originally anticipated, but it should be based on facts on the ground, not an artificial political timeline. I think that's the fundamental difference.

BRZEZINSKI: Well also the Prime Minister has been quoted saying the 16 month-now the questions as to exactly what that's being translated to, its pretty clear that he seems to be at least likely attracted to the 16 month withdrawal time line that Barack Obama is putting out there as suppose to a horizon.

DAVID SHUSTER: Governor Jindal it's David Shuster here I think you said something and I just want to follow up. You said John McCain said it could be less than 16 months? When has he said that? Would you agree with pulling troops out less than 16 months?

JINDAL: I think if you listen carefully to General Petraeus and the Senator and the Admiral, others who've commented on this all have said look if we want our troops to come home as quickly and safely as possible, but it needs to be driven on facts on the ground. Let me say this, and I'll put those words in my mouth, not somebody else's mouth, it could be 12 months, it could be 16 months, it could be longer, but the point is, the Senator's always consistently said it needs to be driven by the facts on the ground. And let's be clear, the reason we're able to have this conversation today is because the surge is working. The surge that Senator Obama opposed. And lets also be clear Obama's been advocating 16 months even before the facts on the ground changed. The bottom line, the most important thing is this: whether its 16 months, 12 months, 24 months, whatever the timeline, it has to be based on the facts on the ground. It cannot be simply an unconditional etched in stone withdrawal and one of the things I truly admire Senator McCain for he has said again and he said this last year: willing to lose an election but he was not willing to lose a war. I think that speaks to his character and the fact this isn't driven by politics. […]

JOE SCARBOROUGH: You talk about facts on the ground, McCain talks about facts on the ground, Obama talks about facts on the ground, but we also have facts on the ground in Washington DC, the Pentagon, the Generals saying there that we are stretched to a breaking point our army is. I know you know this even though you're working down in Louisiana now for the people of Louisiana now. Should we pay as much attention to what our generals are saying at the Pentagon about our broken US army as much as we are the generals on the ground in Iraq.

JINDAL: Absolutely. One of the things we hear our commanders both in DC as well as abroad in the field tell us is that as the surge has worked, as we are able to reduce our troop presence in Iraq- and it does look from early indications that we'll be able to be even more aggressive at reducing the number of combat troops we had originally anticipated, it absolutely looks like we'll be needing to send more troops to Afghanistan. In some sense the same kind of surge strategy that was advocated by Senator McCain in Iraq to apply that same pressure, that same tactic in Afghanistan. We absolutely need to be listening to our commanders that as we achieve success in Iraq, that may free up the resources to provide some relief in Afghanistan.

SCARBOROUGH: We just don't have the troops to send that surge to Afghanistan unless we remove them from Iraq.

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Highlight #5

Jindal Downplays Maliki Comments, Pushes for Need to Pay Attention to "Facts on the Ground"
(CNN 07/20/08 7:55am)

JOHN ROBERTS: Not only does Senator Obama want to deploy troops from Iraq to Afghanistan after he is elected president . . . but he also said in Afghanistan yesterday he think there needs to be an immediate shift of troops from Iraq to Afghanistan, because Afghanistan is now the central front in the war on terror. Where does senator McCain come down on that idea of immediately moving troops?

BOBBY JINDAL: Well, two things. One, it's good to see senator Obama endorse the same kind of surge in Afghanistan he opposed in Iraq. But secondly, what Senator McCain has said, what Prime Minister Maliki has said, what Adm Mullen said yesterday, what Gen Petraeus has said, is that troop withdrawals should based on the conditions on the ground. Everyone wants to see our troops come home safely and victoriously . . . now, the surge is working. General Petraeus is beginning to say it may be possible to bring even more troops back even more quickly than originally anticipated. Now, that's great news. We need to remember, when it wasn't popular, Sen. McCain, even when the Bush administration wasn't there, Sen. Obama wasn't there, Senator McCain stood for the surge, stood for sending in more troops. One of the things I respect senator McCain for . . . he has made it clear he would rather lose an election than lose a war. He has made it very clear. Let's listen to the commanders on the ground. Yes, bring the troops out, but base ton the facts on the ground.

ROBERTS: On the point of listening to commanders on the ground, General David Petraeus said . . . at hearings that it appears that al-Qaeda is diverting fighters from Iraq to Afghanistan speaking to an urgent need for more troops on the ground there in Afghanistan.

JINDAL: Absolutely. You hear General Petraeus, Admiral Mullen and senator McCain saying give the commanders what they need . . . Sen. Obama, for months, for years now, Obama has been advocating this withdrawal without any regard to conditions—

ROBERTS: But Senator Obama also advocated, in advance of what Senator McCain said last week, sending at least two more brigades of U.S. forces to Afghanistan. Senator McCain has only recently come to that issue.

JINDAL: Again, I, this is the fundamental difference between the two is that Senator McCain said, let's listen to the commanders on the ground. General Petraeus is now saying, because of a surge senator McCain supported, it may be possible to withdraw more troops if they need more troops in Afghanistan . . . Senator McCain is right to follow the advice of the commanders on the ground but to make sure if we redeploy, we do it victoriously so that all of the sacrifice, the work on the ground is not all for naught.

ROBERTS: Gov Jindal, Sen. Obama also appeared to get support from Iraqi prime minister, Nuri al-Maliki . . . for his 16-month withdrawal timetable, a an interview he did with *Der Spiegel* magazine, the White House expressed concern, contacted al-Maliki, his office came out, they tried to walk it back a bit, saying it was mistranslated, misunderstood, but in a separate CNN translation of that exchange with the German reporter, al-Maliki did say, "if he is elected he would withdraw the troops within 16 months, we believe that time period give or take a little would be good to end of troop presence in Iraq." That would seem to indicate that he is coming down in favor of the Obama plan

JINDAL: Well, I think the Prime Minister came back and explicitly said, look, he wasn't trying to interfere with American elections, endorse one candidate or another. But, two things. One, the prime minister is making it clear that, thanks to the surge that Senator McCain supported, thanks to the decrease in violence and thanks to the victories against al-Qaeda it may be possible for American troops to leave more quickly than originally anticipated—

ROBERTS: Would they be able too leave in that 16-month timetable?

JINDAL: Well, but again that has be driven by facts on the ground. I think the fundamental difference is you can't go in and say 16 months no matter what happens. Let's remember, Senator Obama was advocating 16 months even before the recent drawdown in violence, the recent victories. I think that's the fundamental difference. It's an arbitrary timetable based on politics versus a plan based on the actual results on the ground. Senator

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McCain has long believed the surge would work and result in the kinds of victories we're seeing today, and that would allow us to listen to commanders and to begin to withdraw troops. Both men want our troops to come home safely, I think the difference is Senator Obama . . . has held on to the same timeline for months despite the facts on the ground.

ROBERTS: But Governor Jindal, do you believe that given the progress in Iraq from the so-called surge, which is now coming to an end, that it might be reasonable to think you could pull combat brigades out of Iraq by June of 2010?

JINDAL: Look, it may be 12 months, may be 16 months, maybe longer. It all depends on the conditions on the ground, depends on what our commanders tell us based on what we see today. And we know the facts on the ground can change quickly. Based on what we've seen today is appears we'll be ale to withdraw more troops more quickly than originally anticipated. But let's not give the enemy an artificial deadline, let's not tell them in advance, let's not telegraph our plans so they feel like they can just outwait us or manipulate these timelines . . . the good news is that the surge is working. Senator McCain was right and, you have to remember, he advocated that long before the Bush administration, Senator Obama or anybody else. Senator Obama has yet to come out for the surge that's creating the conditions allowing our troops to come home victoriously.

Highlight #6
Lieberman Interviewed, Attacks Obama For Seeking To 'Lose' In Iraq (FNC 07/20/08)
WALLACE: Joining us now to talk about Senator Obama's trip and its effect on the presidential campaign, two key supporters who are on the vice presidential watch lists -- Senator JoeLieberman, an independent Democrat who supports McCain, and Senator Evan Bayh, who backs Obama.And, Senators, welcome back to Fox News Sunday .

LIEBERMAN: Thanks, Chris.

WALLACE: As we discussed with Admiral Mullen, Iraqi prime minister Maliki seemed over the weekend to endorse Obama's plan for pulling combat troops out of Iraq by mid 2010, within two years. Now he's apparently backed off that.

But, Senator Lieberman, the Iraqis clearly want us out sooner rather than later, and they would like on a timetable. Why is Senator McCain resisting that?

LIEBERMAN: Well, we -- Senator McCain and I and others -- want us out of Iraq sooner rather than later, but we want us out in a way that does not compromise all the gains that American and Iraqi forces have made in Iraq, which Admiral Mullen spoke to.

And frankly, we want to stay there to a victory because we don't want all those who have served in the American uniform there to have served or in some cases died in vain.

Remember this, Chris. We wouldn't be having this discussion about how to get out unless the surge, which John McCain courageously fought for, taking on the president of his own party, popular opinion, risking his campaign, and which Senator Obama opposed, worked.

So I think that's the good news. I think everybody -- that is, Prime Minister Maliki, President Bush, people like John McCain and I -- agree the sooner we're out, the better. But it has to be based on conditions on the ground.

Senator Obama doesn't seem to feel that way. It looked like he did a little bit after the primaries were over. But then he, pushed by MoveOn.org and others on the antiwar left of the Democratic Party, is back to a rigid time line. And that's not wise.

WALLACE: Let me talk to Senator Bayh about that. Admiral Mullen didn't mention Obama, but he did say this idea of a timetable for getting out in two years is dangerous. Why not agree that you're going to make any decisions based on conditions on the ground, Senator?

BAYH: Chris, I think it's important to note that Barack Obama's judgment about these issues has been excellent

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from the beginning, the kind of judgment you'd want in a commander in chief, and others are now beginning to adopt his positions.

We wouldn't be discussing surges in Iraq or anything else if Barack had had his way. We wouldn't have started that war to begin with.

He was right about Afghanistan. That's the place from which we were attacked. He's been calling for more troops there now for over a year. And John McCain, to his credit, has now come around and adopted Barack's point of view on that.

He has been for, as you say, a phased withdrawal from Iraq. As we heard, Prime Minister Maliki has embraced a more definitive time line, whether it's the 16 months or something else. But clearly, they want a more definitive time line.

And even President Bush now is coming up with a variety of euphemisms -- aspirational goals, time horizons. I mean, it's starting to sound pretty much like a time line to me.

So it's common sense, Chris. Any important enterprise, certainly something as important as a war -- you want to have a plan. And a plan has to have some idea of what it's going to cost, what the adverse consequences are going to be and how long it's going to take.

So 16 months seems to be a reasonable goal. Let's work toward that. Let's bring this to a conclusion in a responsible way and focus on Iraq (sic) where the focus should have been all along.

WALLACE: But, Senator Bayh, even the Washington Post criticized Obama this week for -- and let's put it up on the screen -- his iron timetable, accusing him of foolish consistency and that he's ultimately indifferent to the war's outcome.

And here's an exchange between Obama and McCain this week.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: We can safely redeploy our combat brigades at a pace that would remove them in 16 months. That would be the summer of 2010.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MCCAIN: I'm really astonished that he should give a policy speech on Iraq and Afghanistan before he goes to find out the facts.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WALLACE: Again, two questions, really, Senator Bayh. Why the, quote,

iron timetable that the Washington Post talks about? And secondly, this issue -- why announce your policy before you go to Iraq and talk to the generals and the Iraqis?

BAYH: A couple of things, Chris. First, General Petraeus was asked recently about whether a 16-month period was a reasonable period of time, and he said it would depend on a variety of factors. He didn't say it was unreasonable.

We've been there -- will have been -- 16 months from when the next president is inaugurated, almost seven years. We've spent $700 billion. Just think of all the other things we could have done --finished Afghanistan, energy security for our country -- with those amount of resources.

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What's really surprising is that John, a man I admire and respect, says that even knowing there were no weapons of mass destruct in Iraq, knowing all the consequences that have been adverse in Afghanistan because of our fixation on Iraq, he would do this all over again. That's what is really surprising.

So Barack thinks that 16 months from January is a reasonable period of time. Let's go for it. Let's see. Let's try and bring this to a conclusion on that time frame. If there are difficulties, we'll address them when they arise.

LIEBERMAN: Look, the fact is that if Barack Obama's policy on Iraq had been implemented, Barack Obama couldn't go to Iraq today. It wouldn't be safe. Barack Obama and John McCain saw the same difficulty in Iraq.

John McCain had the guts to argue against public opinion, to put his whole campaign on the line, because, as he says, he'd rather lose an election than lose in a war that he thinks is this important to the United States.

The reason I say Barack -- if Barack Obama's policy couldn't --had been implemented -- if Barack Obama's policy in Iraq had been implemented, he couldn't be in Iraq today is because he was prepared to accept retreat and defeat.

And that would mean today Al Qaida would be in charge of parts of Iraq. Iranian-backed extremists would be in charge of other parts of Iraq. There'd be civil war and maybe even genocide.

And the fact is that we are winning in Iraq today. And you know, you can't choose, as Senator Obama seems to think, to lose in Iraq so you can win in Afghanistan.

The reality is if we lost in Iraq, which Obama was prepared to do, we would go to Afghanistan as losers. Instead, Al Qaida has its tail tucked between its legs as it's exiting Iraq to go -- to try to...

WALLACE: I'm going to...

BAYH: I have to respond to that. Barack Obama was not for losing in Iraq. Barack didn't want the war to begin with.

John McCain opposed surging troops in Afghanistan until last week.

LIEBERMAN: Yeah, but what...

BAYH: Excuse me. Was John for losing in Afghanistan? I don't think so.

LIEBERMAN: Of course not.

BAYH: And now you have Maliki, even President Bush, are moving toward Barack Obama's position on this.

WALLACE: I want to...

BAYH: His judgment was right.

WALLACE: Gentlemen, I want to -- we could continue this...

LIEBERMAN: Those questions -- bottom line, no question that Barack Obama was prepared to lose in Iraq.

BAYH: That's not true.

WALLACE: All right. All right.

LIEBERMAN: Forget what's right or wrong...

WALLACE: Gentlemen, you're going to have to agree to disagree. I want to move on to the whole issue of his trip this week.

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Senator Lieberman, the McCain camp seems divided about whether this is a legitimate fact-finding trip or a political stunt. After McCain and the Republican Party taunted Obama for not going to Iraq, has that, in fact, backfired on them by making this an even bigger story?

LIEBERMAN: No, I don't think so. I think John McCain's challenge to Barack Obama is very important. And frankly, it says a lot more than whether McCain was right about Iraq and Obama was wrong.

It says what kind of leaders these people will be as president. Obama reached -- John McCain reached a decision about what to do in Iraq based on what he saw there, what he heard -- what he heard from the generals and from the soldiers, and then he had the guts to fight big interests to see - - including public opinion, to see that that would happen.

Senator Obama was taking positions about Iraq to put us on a rigid time line to get all troops out by March 2008 -- all combat troops. That's what he said. That would have been accepting defeat there. And I think what it says about the two of them -- this is the kind of president John McCain will be on the economy. We're in crisis. We need a president who will listen, learn, decide what's right for the country, not what's right for their political campaign, and fight for the American people to make...

WALLACE: I want...

LIEBERMAN: ... that happen.

WALLACE: I want to ask Senator Bayh about another aspect of Obama's trip.

He plans to make a big public speech in Berlin. There was first talk it was going to be at the Brandenburg Gate. They announced today it's going to be at the Victory Column, a golden column in the heart of downtown Berlin.

Why would someone running for president of the United States hold a big rally in Germany? Wouldn't it be like a candidate for German chancellor holding a rally in front of the Statue of Liberty?

BAYH: A couple of things, Chris. First, getting back to Iraq, I just have to disagree once again. Barack Obama is for success in Iraq. His judgment about this was right from the beginning.

If you agree that knowing what we know today you would do this all over again...

WALLACE: With all due respect...

BAYH: ... then vote for John McCain.

WALLACE: Gentlemen, I think we both have been there.

BAYH: But I just couldn't let Joe get away with saying he's for defeat. That's not true. He has a better path to victory. His judgment's been right about this.

WALLACE: Now answer my question.

BAYH: Now, with regard to Germany, look. I was with Barack the last time he made one of these trips to Iraq. We met with the Iraqi president, the prime minister, our generals, our ambassadors. He was very substantive, very knowledgeable about the challenges that we face.

Now he's meeting with some of our European allies. We need to rehabilitate these relationships. They frayed over the last eight years. Our reputation in the world has been damaged because of some of the policies this president has pursued.

If we are going to be strong, if we are going to confront Iran, we need allies and friends with us. Rallying global opinion to America's side is an important responsibility for a president, and that's one of the things he is

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attempting to do. WALLACE: All right. Finally, I want to ask you both about your political situations.

Senator Bayh, if Obama asks you to be his running mate, what will you say?

BAYH: Well, I've said that's not the sort of thing you say no to, Chris, so...

WALLACE: Which means you'd say yes.

BAYH: Well, that's the kind of thing you do say yes to, and I've said that. But you should probably ask Joe. He has more experience with the vice presidential questions than I do.

WALLACE: Have you been asked to turn over personal information to the campaign?

BAYH: You know, that's their business, Chris, and I think you should direct those questions to them.

WALLACE: But -- oh, come on.

(LAUGHTER)

BAYH: Well, I'm trying my best not to make news on that this morning, so I hope you'll forgive me. But truly, they've established a process. It's their process. And I think it's up to them to respond to that.

WALLACE: Are you in the process?

BAYH: You know, I'd love to answer your question, but I think I really can't.

WALLACE: Senator Lieberman, some conservative leaders say -- on the Republican right say with your liberal stands -- obviously, you're not liberal or -- I don't know if those words mean anything.

But obviously, you support McCain on foreign policy, but with your -- what they call liberal stands on economic issues and social issues, for McCain to pick you as his running made would be a political, in their word, catastrophe. Do you agree?

LIEBERMAN: Well, they shouldn't worry about it too much because it's not going to happen. But I will say this. I hope that my support of John McCain, an independent Democrat supporting a Republican, is my way of saying that there's too much partisanship in Washington.

We need a leader like John McCain, a president like John McCain, who has always reached across party lines to get things done, to fight for the American people.

WALLACE: Real quickly, are you going to speak at the Republican convention? LIEBERMAN: I don't know yet.

WALLACE: If you're asked, will you?

LIEBERMAN: If John asks me and he thinks I can help him, because I believe -- this is no ordinary time, no ordinary election. John McCain is no ordinary candidate. I want to help him.

I'm not going to attack Barack Obama. I'm going to go to explain why I, as an independent Democrat, am supporting John McCain, hoping that I can convince other independents and Democrats to join me in choosing the man who is clearly more ready to be the president America needs today.

WALLACE: Even if that means Senate Democrats would kick you out of their caucus?

LIEBERMAN: Well, I'm following the model of John McCain. I'm going to do what I think is right for the country and not worry about the politics. And John McCain is definitely right for the country as our next president.

WALLACE: Senator Lieberman, Senator Bayh, we want to thank you both. We could have talked a lot more.

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Safe travels on the campaign trail to both of you.

LIEBERMAN: Thank you.

BAYH: Thank you, Chris.

WALLACE: Up next, what does our Sunday panel make of the big Obama trip and all those anchors and reporters following the senator halfway around the world? Some answers when we come back.

Highlight #7
Bill Press calls McCain a whiner, hosts note McCain's absence at Afghanistan Armed Services Committee hearings (MSNBC 07/21/08)
DAVID SHUSTER: You know first of all whenever you start an ad talking about how many hearings someone has been to, that's not a very strong ad. Secondly, if you do want to talk about hearings, John McCain, ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee, there were six hearings on Afghanistan in the last two years, how many did John McCain attend?
MIKA BRZEZINSKI: How many?
SHUSTER: Zero.
BRZEZINSKI: Ouch. Well there's the rebuttal ad. I will just say, country first, that's, I mean that's playing into those polls that already say he's more of a patriot.
BILL PRESS: I'd like to add, the country first gets to me as an American with a flag. I like John McCain and I respect his service to the country but you're right he's whining about how many hearings Obama attended, and then he's whining about this trip. You know sorta he reminds me of a kid who wasn't invited to the birthday party. So he's on the outside saying 'what a lousy party.' It's not a lousy party, it's a great party. He's just not there.

Highlight #8
Pfotenhauer Says Maliki Statement Has Credibility, Yet Repeats Talking Point About Adhering To Conditions On The Ground (MSNBC 07/21/08)
TAMRON HALL: Let me ask you do you believe the Iraqi leaders are playing politics here? Including Nouri Al-Maliki, the prime minister are playing politics here? Because their time table is essentially the same thing as what we're hearing from Senator Obama. Are they playing with the political system here?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: I certainly couldn't question their motives. I'm just saying Maliki over time has been consistent in saying that any withdrawal needed to be based on conditions on the ground. So, when he comes forward and makes this statement, it's got a lot of credibility. But if someone was calling for withdrawal, troop withdrawal a year ago or two years ago when they were fighting the surge, withholding funds for our troops who are in combat in Iraq and in Afghanistan, those motives are questioned. I mean it's interesting that Senator Obama is able to safely visit these places in part because the strategy that he fought was put in place and has succeeded.

HALL: Some people are asking Nancy this morning where does this leave Senator McCain? You have the end of the work week, the President of course George Bush saying that there is a time horizon. That they've reached an agreement the White House and the Iraqi officials agree, reached an agreement on time horizon. Did you wake up this Monday morning with this timetable the year 2010 that Iraqi officials say they're look at yet. Where does this leave Senator McCain. Some people describe, they're saying he's kind of in a box here. He's gotta come out and he's gotta be more definitive about what he thinks is happening and what should happen next.

PFOTENHAUER: Well he made the statement a month or so ago where he said he was confident that the troop reductions would certainly be done by 2013. So he was projecting even months ago that would occur. Now we're talking about really the art if you will, not the science, of how many troops and how fast, in order to ensure the gains that were made on the ground that are significant but they're still fragile and reversible are not put into jeopardy and that requires a tremendous amount of local knowledge. It's not something that should be made based off politics. It should be made based on the very best knowledge our military commanders on the ground. And so I think what Senator McCain has done in a very principled way is that's what its gotta be based on, not any timetable that helps my election. And I think that's the opposite of what Senator Obama has done.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 9:12:03 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

Let Jen and Kristina know that I am blowing off ABC.

On Jun 29, 2015 4:08 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
Also- Trevor just followed up again with the following on the SCOTUS ruling:

"One more thing to flag. John is certainly aware of today's Supreme Court decision presenting a near-term obstacle for Mercury regulations. He may be asked about it, and he could underscore his confidence that the Obama administration will take the necessary steps to comply and fully implement the regulations, but should there be a delay, HRC will do so as President.

Of note, These pollutants are dangerous primarily to women and their fetuses. They have never been regulated. It's been 25 years since the toxics provisions were adopted by Congress in 1990. The regulations are long overdue."

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:00 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
Yep, you're all good to call him at 5:00 or even later if it takes you longer to get here or home. His best number is his desk line: 202-266-7429

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:56 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
Yep I have a number and I will call him now to ask. Will circle back.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:54 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
Can you call Ben and see if I can cal him at 5:00
Get a number.

On Jun 29, 2015 3:19 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.

_____

We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:

- investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future

- protecting families from pollution

- safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence

- preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
Hi John-

Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.

Thanks,
Milia

Note From Trevor Houser:

"Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:

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1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.

The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."

Secretary of State Record

As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)

She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing

Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting

She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut

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carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com

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o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Rich Davis" <rich@dixondavismedia.com>
To: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 5:03:57 PM
Subject: RE: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

Yep

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 6 edge, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 7:01 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>
Cc: oshur@hillaryclinton.com, john@algpolling.com, Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com, David Dixon <david@dixondavismedia.com>, Rich Davis <rich@dixondavismedia.com>, john.rimel@gmmb.com, jandrews@jacompany.com, john.podesta@gmail.com, re47@hillaryclinton.com, jbenenson@bsgco.com
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

Just so all on same page - 3 scripts being written:

1. Straight positive from DMR endorsement (DDMG)
2. Endorsement script that leans more heavily into the contrast language from the DMR (DDMG)
3. Endorsement buffet script - PP, gun groups, DMR, etc. (GMMB)

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:55 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com> wrote:

> I wonder if we should try a version of the DMR spot with our endorsement groups too. Planned Parenthood, HRC, Labor, LCV, Gabby Giffords etc -- something that gives a big sense of momentum
>
> I think these groups actually have more impact on voters than the DMR (a lot of good they did us in 2008!)
>
> **Mandy Grunwald**
> **Grunwald Communications**
> **202 973-9400**
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
> To: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>
> Cc: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; David Dixon <david@dixondavismedia.com>; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com>; John Rimel <john.rimel@gmmb.com>; jandrews <jandrews@jacompany.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
> Sent: Sat, Jan 23, 2016 6:40 pm
> Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
>
> You're such a nice guy Anzo .... But yeah probably right
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:23 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com> wrote:
>
> > I would let that part go. I think it is more insulting than helpful for our message contrast.
> >
> > John Anzalone
> > Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
> > 334-387-3121. Office

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@AnzaloneLiszt

On Jan 23, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Programthat provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is

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guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.



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Rodney White/The Register

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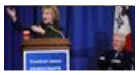


















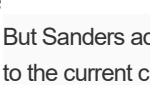
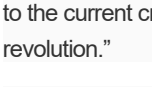
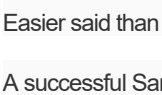
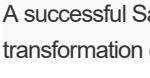
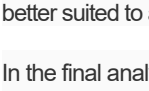





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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

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Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From:	"Tom Matzzie" <tom@zzranch.com>
To:	"Paul Begala" <pbegala@hatcreekent.com>
	"Susan McCue" <susan@one.org>
	"Stan Greenberg" <sgreenberg@gqrr.com>
	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	12/21/2007 2:40:08 AM
Subject:	Tracking Update
Attachments:	Program Update 12-20.doc
	MasterTrackerEventLog.xls

See below and attached documents

Event Details:

- Giuliani held one event in FL, one event in NH, one event in OK and three events in MO 12/113-12/19.
- Giuliani released a 'holiday' ad this week:

  MSNBC: 'Surreal' Giuliani holiday ad has to be spoof

  Rudy Giuliani's new campaign ad features the candidate attempting to soften his tough-guy image by wearing a fuzzy red sweater vest while sitting in front of a Christmas tree. Speaking in jovial tones, he confides to the viewer, "I'll be working to get everyone the same gift: a safer America, lower taxes, secure borders, job growth, fiscal discipline, strict constructionist judges -- and probably a fruitcake or something …"

  Link to story and ad: http://rawstory.com/news/2007/Scarborough_slams_Rudys_new_Xmas_political_1219.html

- At a speech in Tampa, FL on 12/15, Giuliani announced a new optimistic message for his campaign. (Quotes below)

Giuliani's new optimistic campaign message:

On Leadership:

"America needs a leader. I am running for President of the United States because I believe that I can lead America into a new era …with bold leadership, optimism, determination, and distinctly American solutions."

"If you are looking for perfection, you are not going to find it. Not in me and not in any candidate. But if you are looking for a leader who has been tested in times of crisis. … A leader who is ready to lead right now. … A leader who has achieved results – results that some people thought were impossible – a leader who believes that there is no problem too serious for American solutions and a free, American spirit … I believe I am that leader."

"We Can Do It" Attitude:

"As I travel across our country, I've begun to hear a murmur that somehow America has lost its ability to achieve great goals. - Some good people have come to believe that our country is on the wrong track.

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Middle Class families feel that the American Dream may be slipping away – they're worried the future might not be as bright as the past. - It does not have to be that way. We can decide America's direction. We determine America's future. That's what an election is all about."

On the War on Terror:

"We're at war. The American people want to see victory in Iraq and Afghanistan – not humiliation and defeat. They want their children to live free from the fear of Islamic Terrorism. They're telling us: Get it done. And we will."

On Immigration:

"The American people are angry that the federal government has failed to secure our border. They want to see legal immigration reconnected with

Americanization. They're telling us: Get it done. And we will."

(Major Speech; Tampa, Florida 12/15/07)

On liberal bias in the media:

"There is a media bias against, against Republicans that is very strong. There is no question that it exists. It is not the figment of anyone's imagination. It's just a reality. And the best thing for us to do as Republicans is just to, you know, those are the cards are dealt, deal with it. Don't have a chip on your shoulder about it. All it does, it means we have to communicate better. We got to do things like we're doing right now. Talk to people directly, explain to them how we deal with Islamic terrorism, how we deal with our military."

(Town Hall; Cedar Rapids, IA 12/12/07)

*Clip Available

Event Details:

- Romney held three events in CA, 11 events in IA, one event in GA, one event in MA, three events in NH and four events in SC 12/13-12/19.
- Romney appeared on NBC's Meet the Press on 12/16.

  Transcript here: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22273924

- Romney hosted a webcast on 12/18.
- At some events, Romney gives a powerpoint presentation with his economic plan. That plan is broken down into five main parts: fiscal discipline, lower taxes, open markets, innovation and immigration reform.
- Ann Romney took to the stump this week in NH. She appeared nervous and uncomfortable and spoke primarily about the greatness of her husband and her job as a mother.
- Our trackers' character observations on Romney are that he's elitist, stand-offish and just not comfortable with normal, everyday folk. He shakes hands because he has to – not because he's genuinely interested in the people he's meeting. He's nice, but has trouble connecting with people. This is in much contrast to Huckabee's charismatic, personable nature.

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- FUN FACT: The Romney campaign plays Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" at his Iowa campaign events.
- Romney released a new ad this week:

> New Spot: Romney "Helped Save My Daughter" (Washington Post, 12/19/07)
>
> Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney will today begin airing a new ad in New Hampshire that will take the place of his attacks against rival Mike Huckabee as voters celebrate Christmas next week. The ad tells the story of the daughter of Romney's business partner, who disappeared for three days in New York City in 1996.
>
> http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2007/12/19/new_spot_romney_helped_save_my_1.html
>
> Link to ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjwWVWkPr-4

Romney's storytelling side:

"…Of course I came back, I came back to Iowa a little later, after I worked in a ranch in Idaho. Joan's dad, Joan's dad owned a ranch in Idaho and I worked on that in the summer time. I will tell you, its different faming in Idaho. At least in this part of Idaho, King Hill, Idaho. The ground is sort of sandy and kinda of a gray color. It doesn't rain very much, so you have uhh, to water the corn with, with uhh irrigation ditch water. And the corn doesn't grow real tall and the ears don't get real big. After the summer there I came back on the train, and you look out the window when you get to Iowa, you see the black soil, big tall dark green corn, great big ears, the water comes from the sky like its supposed to. I said to myself, "God must love Iowa." You know that, don't you?"

(Speech; Muscatine, IA 12/13/07)

*Clip Available

On Iran:

> "Q: …You mentioned Chavez, Putin, and Ahmadijhad a few times. With regards to the Iranian issue, we're sort of at a cross-roads right now in what road may be taken in international relations with them. Where do you stand on relations with them?

A: I would be tightening down as hard as we can, diplomatic and economic sanctions on Iran, so that they know that pursuit of nuclear technology and weaponry is unacceptable in the world. And that's us, that's the Europeans, its getting the Chinese to come along with us, trying to move the Russians to do that. That takes a lot of diplomatic effort, a lot of tongue twisting. But, it is, unacceptable to the world to have Iran develop a nuclear capacity.

Now, umm I know that there are a number of reports that have come out recently that, most important is the National Intelligence Estimate. Don't, don't feel comfortable by virtue of just a quick headline reading of that. The 16 agencies I read, in that National Intelligence Estimate, say that Iran is continuing to develop nuclear technology, that they are enriching uranium. That they would be able to have a bomb as early as 2009, 2010. That means that, you know, that's not far off. You remember, this is almost 2008, in just a few days here. And that means 2009 or 2010, they could have a nuclear bomb. This is not a time for us to sit back and say ohh 'we got plenty of time.' This is a time for us dramatically tighten our economic sanctions on that nation, as well as our diplomatic sanctions.

I would indite Ahmadijhad under the Genocide Convention for incitation of genocide. Let the world know and his people know, that he is unacceptable on the world stage."

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(Speech; Muscatine, IA 12/13/07)

*Clip Available

On Reagan:

"I'm convinced that if we don't take a left turn, following Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama, over the edge if you will. If we instead stay on the path that Ronald Regan built. Which is a strong economy, with strong values among our people, and a strong military to protect us, if we stay on that path our future will be bright."

(Speech; Muscatine, IA 12/13/07)

*Clip Available

"Now some folks when they look at all those challenges, they ring their hands, and say 'well government is gonna have to take over.' If you listen to Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and John Edwards, they want to take America on a sharp leftward tack. I think they're inspired by the Europe of old, big government, big brother, big taxes. In my view that is the wrong way to go. The right way for America to proceed when we face the kinda of challenges we face is to pursue the strategy which Ronald Reagan pursued when we faced the challenges of the last century. He said the right path forward is to strengthen America. He strengthened our confidence in ourselves. He rebuilt the optimism that America had lost under Jimmy Carter. He strengthened our families and values. He also made sure that we could compete with anybody in the world. He brought our taxes down, *a lot*. That caused our economy to take off. And in turn allowed us to out-compete the Russians. And then of course, he strengthened our military. Facing the kind of military challenge that we faced then, he made sure that our military was second to none. And finally, the, the Soviets had to say 'enough already' and they threw in the towel."

(Speech; Carroll, IA 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

"America will follow the path Ronald Reagan chose, as he faced the great challenge of the last century. And that's a path of strength… He said I'm going to strengthen the values of country, our optimism, our sense of future… He also strengthened our economy, by holding down taxes. And he strengthened our military, and produced what was without question the strongest military in the history of the world."

(Meet and Greet; Spartanburg, SC 12/18/07)

*Clip Available

"We should take inspiration from the strategy that Ronald Reagan talked about… It was his view that the right way to approach challenges was to strengthen ourselves… He strengthened the values and the heart and the passion of the American people by calling on our optimism. He strengthened our economy by keeping our taxes down. He strengthened our military, so we could frankly out-compete the Russians on every single dimension."

(Meet and Greet; Myrtle Beach, SC 12/18/07)

*Clip Available

"Now Hillary Clinton says that, with all those challenges she's the candidate of change. And she would change America, wouldn't she. That's what we're afraid of, exactly. We don't want to follow the pathway of Europe with big government, big taxes and big brother. We instead want to pursue the pathway, frankly, that Ronald Reagan championed. When he was facing challenges in that last century,

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the spread of the Soviet Union and their communism, he said, 'You know, the right way to proceed is to strengthen America with a strong military and a strong economy and strong values and strong homes.

(Meet and Greet; Charlotte, SC 12/18/07)

*Clip Available

On Veteran's Benefits:

"Q: What are you gonna do to improve veteran's benefits particularly what this administration has done, which really hasn't been very admirable, such as spending bills to gentlemen that had been wounded in Iraq, that they didn't fulfill their commitment. I hope this type of routine would not continue on…

A: Kinda hard to believe isn't it?

Q: Its almost sick….

A: I must admit, when I heard the story… that people who had been in Iraq, that had let's say a one-year commitment to follow through in order to get certain benefits. They got injured and were sent home because they got badly injured, and then they're told ok, because you didn't fulfill your one-year commitment, you're not gonna get benefits… That makes no sense at all… That's you're government at work…

Q: But that's done by this administration...

A: That's done by government bureaucrats...

(Office Opening; Bettendorf, IA 12/13/07)

*Clip Available

On Iraq:

Q: "What are *your* plans for ending the Iraq War?"

A: "What are *the* plans for ending the Iraq War?

Q: "*Your* plans?"

A: "My plans? My plans are the same as General Petraeus' plans at this point and that is to win. How do we win? The troop surge is working. A lot of people didn't think it was gonna work. Umm, but it is working. And the reason it is working is because the people in Iraq have recognized our commitment and our resolve. The Sunnis have recognized how bad their life would be if Al Qaeda took over their community. And the Sunnis are working with us to get rid of Al Qaeda. For me the key to success in Iraq is making sure we do not leave behind a safe-haven for Al Qaeda or Hezbollah, or other terror groups. And we are successful at this stage in helping move those kinds of groups out of positions of power in Iraq. And I think what you're gonna see, is as General Petraeus has laid out, we are going to start bringing down our troops

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support by about a brigade a month until July, when we'll take a pause. We'll have gone from about 20 to 15 brigades. We'll take a pause and see how well the Iraqis are doing, standing up their capacity to patrol the streets and secure the public safety. And then I think you're gonna see us start bringing troops down until we're down to a much more modest level.

I think you'll also see our troops playing more of a support role. Which means that we'll being being, doing aerial support, intelligence support, logistical support, and the Iraqi military will be playing a more primary front role. Ultimately, I believe our troops should all come out Iraq. I think we'll have troops in Kuwait, or Cutter, or other places where we have permanent bases in the region. But I think the Iraqis need to know that we are not planning on staying in their country forever. I believe you're going to see us successful there. And again, success for me is making sure we do not have safe-havens for Al Qaeda, from which they would launch uhh attacks, from which they would train, finance, or umm recruit people to go after us."

(Speech; Carroll, IA 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

"It's been interesting over these past several months to watch the Democrats increasingly ratchet up their rhetoric attacking the President. And uhh, of course, as I've pointed out, the war in Iraq has not been perfectly managed. We did a great job knocking down Saddam Hussein and his military. But then after that we were under-prepared and under-planned, under-staffed; The President has pointed out those weaknesses. Tony Blair has.

There is no question we were not perfectly managed. Although today we are making great progress with the surge, and its working. And we're helping the Sunnis reject Al Qaeda amongst them. And that being said, by the way, I must admit I was shocked to pick up the paper and read… One of my fellow Republicans said that this administration, he accused this administration of an 'arrogant Bunker mentality.' And I had to look again, did this come from Barack Obama? Or from Hillary Clinton? Did it come from John Edwards? No, it was one of our own, it was Governor Huckabee. He said [the]'Bush administration is guilty of an arrogant bunker mentality that's been counterproductive here and abroad. I simply can't believe that. I can't believe he'd say that. I'm afraid he's running for the wrong party.

The truth of the matter is, this president has kept us safe these last six years. And that has not been easy to do. He went to Afghanistan and knocked down the Taliban there, and took out Al Qaeda's safe haven from which they could launch attacks against us. Instead of just listening to what happened around the world, in places like Iraq and taking one shot after another. You know, we got hit at the USS Cole, Cobar Towers was hit, our embassies in Africa were hit. One time after another we were hit with no response, other than negotiating. This president finally said we are doing something about it. And responded aggressively, as he should have.

And here at home he made sure we passed the PATRIOT Act, so we could find out what the bad guys were planning on doing to us. And he also made sure that when Al Qaeda was calling, someone was listening. And we captured a terrorist, we interrogated them. And you know the story about Kahild Shiek Mohammed, he's the so-called mastermind of the 9/11 tragedy. When he was captured, he said 'I'll see you in New York with my lawyer.' Can you imagine? I'm sure he was thinking an ACLU lawyer would be provided at government expense. Instead, he saw GIs and CIA interrogators in Guantanamo, just like it ought to be.

And so, I'm, yeah go ahead, that's fine… (Romney shamelessly asks for forced applause), thank you. And so I'm of the view to say thank you to the president for keeping us safe these last six years. And I'm the last person to say that this administration is subject to an 'arrogant bunker mentality' counterproductive here and abroad.'

(Town Hall; Humboldt, IA 12/15/07)

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On Iraq and Oil:

"I sure was surprised that we got in there and found the infrastructure was as terrible as it was. I think the plan was that we'd use the [Iraqi] oil to offset our costs."

"And frankly, we are not getting as much oil out of that place as we expected."

"The effort we have in Iraq is not going to pay for itself in dollars and cents. But hopefully, it will pay for itself in removing the safe-haven for Al Qaeda and Hezbollah from which they can launch attacks against us."

(Meet and Greet; Early, IA 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

On Huckabee and his 'arrogant bunker mentality' comment:

"What are some differences? Well I've described for instance with regards to military policy, I do not think the President's administration is an 'arrogant bunker mentality" administration. I believe that this President has done everything he could do to keep us safe. Does a president make mistakes? Of course. Will I make mistakes? Of course. But the last thing you're gonna hear me say is that the President of the United States, George W. Bush, is a person who is arrogant with a "bunker mentality." That's simply wrong and uhhh not something I would ever do."

(Town Hall; Humboldt, IA 12/15/07)

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"You also heard my comments, my remarks today about uhhh Governor Huckabee's article in Foreign Affairs. To accuse the President of an 'arrogant bunker mentality' is in my view more fitting uhh from a person running for the Democratic party than from our own. It sounds like something Barack Obama or John Edwards would say. Not what you'd hear from someone running for President as a Republican. And I think it was uhh a very serious error. With that, happy to take any questions you may have."

(Town Hall; Humboldt, IA 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

"But, I'm its one thing to say that your're gonna make changes, its one thing to say that there are things have been done wrong in the past, it's a very different matter to say that the administration is arro… it's a "arrogant bunker mentality", that's uh a very different accusation. Its sounds like it came from Barack Obama and John Edwards. Its sounds like Governor Huckabee is running for the wrong party."

(Town Hall; Humboldt, IA 12/15/07)

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On Huckabee's FAIR Tax:

Q: "I know that Governor Huckabee has supported the FAIR Tax. I have one follow up, do you support that or not? I understand that is a national sales and use tax.

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A: Yeah, it has a lot of good elements to it. It is not part of my presidential platform and I'll tell you a couple of reasons why. One, I would like to uhh, thoroughly understand what its implications would be for seniors and for middle income folks. I do not want to raise taxes on middle income Americans. So I want to understand that thoroughly. Two, I want to get immediate action to encourage economic growth. And one of the aspects of the FAIR tax is it would require a complete restructuring of our entire tax system and probably a constitutional amendment. And as you know, getting the Democratic Congress to amend our constitution and to eliminate the income tax and then to get three-quarters of the states to do the same thing, would take a long time. So I'm instead proposing immediately we take off the tax on savings.

Q: Uhh ok, that's good. I agree with you. The other thing, Huckabee talks about a 23 cent national sales tax. And everything I say, or read, says that 30 cents up to be revenue neutral. So I think you're right.

A: And, uh, you know. We ought be…Truth in, Truth in lending here, as they say, is important. Which is, which is this is how they calculate the percentage. If something costs a dollar today, and you're probably, you're pretty good at math. This takes most of us a second to think about. If something costs a dollar today, after the FAIR tax, it would, a 30 cent tax would be put on top of it, which is a dollar thirty. But 30 cents is only 23% of a dollar thirty. So they call it a 23% tax. So it is either a 30% tax or a 23% tax depending on what's in the denominator. If anybody followed that, it has not been long since you were out of school."

(Speech; Carroll, IA 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

Attacking Huckabee:

"The great majority of Americans want a person of capability with the kinds of values and vision that will lead the country forward in a very difficult time. And I think Governor Huckabee's rise in the polls justifies him getting a close look by the voters. They take a close look at his record on his immigration they'll see someone who is too liberal on immigration. When they look at the 1,033 commutations he handed out they'll see someone who is too liberal on crime. When they look also on his record of spending, from $6 billion to $16 billion as governor they'll see that's too liberal of a spending record and too liberal of a tax record. So I'm convinced that as people take a closer look the good republicans of South Carolina will support a conservative candidate like myself, and they won't be supporting Governor Huckabee."

(Meet and Greet; Columbia, SC 12/18/07)

*Clip Available

On Immigration:

"If there is a state in America that gives driver licences to illegals, I cut back on their federal highway funds. If there is a state that says were giving in state tuition credits (pause for clapping) or scholarships, I cut back on their higher education funds. And if there is a city that say its a sanctuary city and their not going to enforce the law, I am going to cut back on funds for those cities…"

(Town Hall; Storm Lake, IA 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

"We year after year after year talk about the need to enforce our immigration laws and secure the border. But we simply haven't gotten the job done… Congress is cutting back funding for the fences… For me, completing the fence is Step One. Step Two is putting in place an employment verification system… And finally, you say to

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the people who got her illegally that they should get in line with everybody else."

(Meet and Greet; Spartanburg, SC 12/18/07)

*Clip Available

"I like legal immigration, but I want to stop illegal immigration. And for me that means putting in place a fence and having enough border patrol agents to make sure we secure our border. It also means giving the legal immigrants a card, that shows that they're an immigrant, but they're a legal immigrant." (Note: Isn't that what a green card is?)

(Meet and Greet; Myrtle Beach, SC 12/18/07)

*Clip Available

On American being a "superpower":

"There is one superpower. I think they'd all agree, there is one superpower on the planet, that is us right now. And then there are nations which are one tier below that. And I've always said as well that they are great nations but they are not superpowers, as they once were. I don't think anyone of them would disagree with that actually. The French call us a 'hyper-power'. So, They recognize there is a difference in our military and economic capacity. And in my view, it is important for us to remain as the world's economic and military leader."

(Town Hall; Humboldt, IA 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

On Social Security:

"For our seniors today, it's not an issue, no one should frighten our seniors, we're not gonna change the deal for seniors or near-seniors. We're gonna rely on the program we have, that's, that's, and there's more money coming in to Social Security today, as you know, than money going out. So this is not matter for current seniors, but for people in their twenties, thirties, and forties, this is a matter of real concern."

(Town Hall; St. Anselm College, NH 12/17/07)

*Clip Available

On his financial investments:

"The answer is I will take a lead in our efforts to stop genocide in Darfur. I, I do not have funds these days in, uh, my investments are all managed by a blind trust. And that has been the case since I was governor, so it's been five years plus. So I don't control any of the investments that I have, but I have asked the trustee to make sure that my investments, to the extent humanly possible, can not involve things with which I disagree, and, um, and I trust that he has done just that. Or the company has done just that, that manages my investments."

(Town Hall; St. Anselm College, NH 12/17/07)

On the deficit:

"Well right now, even with the cost of the War in Iraq, the budget deficit of last year is $161 billion dollars, much smaller than it was when President Bush took office. And it's gonna continue to decline, we are gonna see a balanced budget within 4 years."

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(Town Hall; Londonderry, NH 12/17/07)

On military spending:

"Our strong military is another one I should underscore… I also want to acknowledge a great need in this country. We need to add at least 100,000 active duty personnel to our military. I think as well, that we need to provide better funding so we can buy the equipment they need so they can be successful on the battlefield… So, as President of the United States, my budget will include additional funding. Will bring our funding level back up to about 4% of GDP. That's about $40 billion higher than it currently is."

(Meet and Greet; Spartanburg, SC 12/18/07)

*Clip Available

On Taxes:

"One thing you do is keep the tax burden down. You don't raise taxes if you want the economy to get stronger. I want to kill the Death tax once and for all. I also want to have a special savings tax rate… for people earning $200,000/year or less, my view is there should be a new tax rate on your savings…. At the rate of zero."

(Meet and Greet; Myrtle Beach, SC 12/18/07)

*Clip Available

Emotional Romney:

"I have five boys of my own, I imagine what it would be like to lose a son in a situation like that…

"As I looked up there, every single hand was on every heart, and I recognized this is a nation that comes together and respects and reveres those who serve this great nation, and who joins in mourning when one of them is lost."

(Town Hall; Londonderry, NH 12/17/07)

*Clip Available

Event Details:

- Huckabee held two events in IA and six events in MH 12/13-12/19.
- Huckabee appeared on CNN's Larry King Live on 12/17.

  Trancscript here: http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0712/17/lkl.01.html

- On 12/14 in NH, Huckabee announced that Republican strategist, Ed Rollins (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed_Rollins), had joined his campaign as the "National Campaign Chairman and Senior Advisor."
- The weekend of 12/15-15, Huckabee campaigned in NH with Chuck Norris.
- In general, Huckabee is very interactive with the audiences at his events. For example, he'll ask for a show of hands to make a point. During his handshaking, he'll learn details about a few folks and then use those

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details later in his stump speech. On one occasion, he noted a couple in the audience celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. He's very good at making a connection with individuals in the room – asking their name, what they do, how's their job, etc – and people love it. This is in contrast to Romney – who often appears 'stand-offish' and elitist.

- Huckabee released a new ad this week:

  Ad Hawk: The Greatest Story Ever Told (Newsweek, 12/17/07)

  …This might be the smartest ad of the cycle. For all the observers wondering how the candidates would manage the awkward holiday/caucus overlap, Huckabee delivers a master class.

  Link to article: http://www.blog.newsweek.com/blogs/stumper/archive/2007/ 12 /17/ad-hawk-the-greatest-story-ever-told.aspx

  Link to ad ("What really matters"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xn7uSHtkuA

Response to Romney's attacks:

"If the only platform I have is to tell you what is wrong with others, I don't have much of a platform."

(Press Conference; Concord, NH 12/14/07)

On health care:

"One of the current problems with our healthcare and health insurance issues is that we have an intervention based system that waits until we are catastrophically ill before it kicks in. The real trend has to be that we move to a prevention based system so that the dollars are spent preventing the disease rather than treating the disease after we have already gotten it…

"We started doing that in my state, ending the co-pays and deductibles on colonoscopies, mammography, prostate and cancer exam, paying 100% for the cost of smoking cessation programs, weight loss programs…

"And let me say that I think some of the approaches by the Democrats and Republicans are both wrong headed. Democrats tend to say let's turn it over to the government and the Republicans tend to say let's just turn it over to the private insurance companies. Well I don't know about you, but I don't trust private insurance companies anymore than I trust the government. I trust me.

"…even if you change jobs, you don't have to lose your insurance, it goes with you cause you own it."

(Town Hall; Boscawen, NH 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

On 'socialized medicine':

"But here's the problem, if we go immediately to coverage without a shared responsibility, without understanding, getting those issues of quality and affordability, imagine what would happen, because the logic is nobody should be without health care, everybody deserves it, it's a, it's a right, you hear those things. Sounds good. Here's the problem. You could make the same argument about eating. Everybody should eat in a very wealthy society like ours, nobody should be hungry, so to make sure that everybody has plenty,

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everyone is going to get a card, and that card will entitle you to get groceries. Whenever you want, any time you want, and you can have anything you want because universal groceries is now our new goal. Now imagine giving every American, all 303 million of them, a card that says any time you're hungry or want to go to the store just use the card, and you get anything you want. How long would it take for us to bankrupt America? What kind of shopping would we do? Would we compare shopping? How many of us would still coupon clip and actually say, hmm, boy, uh, this name brand is a lot more expensive, I'd better go with the generic and the store brand? None of us would do that anymore. We wouldn't be buying ground beef, we'd be buying ribeyes every time we shopped for meat. My point is that it would get completely out of control."

(Town Hall; Berlin, NH 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

On the military and how it should be like Chuck Norris:

"It is my position that we need to have the strongest possible military on the face of the earth so no one wants to engage in a battle. The best way to have peace is to have a ... military strength that is other nations who would think about touching it would take a second look and decide they don't want to do it. It's kind of like looking at Chuck Norris and saying, 'I don't think so.' And that's what we want. We want a military that is as tough as the idea of going up against Chuck Norris in a, in an alley. And, uh, quite frankly, that's what America has always been able, uh, to have that is it's greatest source of its strength and it's peace. And if we have a weak military, one that is considered vulnerable or that doesn't have the resolve, that's the military that is likely to be engaged in a battle because somebody would believe they can take it out. I hope we never have another war. But realistically we live in a very dangerous, brutal, ugly world and some people are filled with hate and a desire to kill others and to destroy …. We have an enemy now, radical Islam, that really does believe that they need to annihilate the rest of us on this planet. And just never forget somebody would take a bomb and strap it to the belly of their own child and kill their own children for their cause, they certainly wouldn't mind taking your children or mine and killing them for their cause as well…"

(Town Hall; Tilton, NH 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

On his faith:

"I've never downplayed or up-played it."

"People should vote for or against me because of my faith."

"… my faith gives you a framework for what my convictions are."

((Press Conference; Concord, NH 12/14/07)

On God's role in the rise of his candidacy:

"…I'm not trying to say that God's registered to vote in any of the early primary states that I checked. You know, I'm simply saying that there is no reasonable explanation that I can offer."

(Press Conference; Concord, NH 12/14/07)

On the economy:

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"I sit on a stage with a lot of the other Republican candidates for president in Dearborn, Michigan during a debate, and they ask how's the economy doing? One by one across that stage, my colleagues running for president, good men everyone of them, anyone of them, I think, probably better than all of the guys, or any of the guys, on the other side. My personal perspective of it, that would be my feeling. But the fact is, as I listened to every one of them speak and ask how's the economy doing, everyone said it's doing great. And they rattled off the Republican National Committee talking points that we all get. 22 consecutive months of unprecedented economic growth and that we were hearing all these wonderful things about how great it was, it came to me I was the only guy on the stage who said, well, for most of the guys on this stage, it's doing real well. But I said for a lot of people in this country, it's not doing that great."

(Town Hall; Berlin, NH 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

On troop withdrawal from Iraq:

"… rule of war is whoever walks away from a battle, lost."

(Radio Interview; Littleton, NH 12/15/07)

On a national service program:

"And there's just a real need for us to do two things. One, is to raise a whole generation who have some skin in the game when it comes to America. And the other is to give them an opportunity to advance their capacity to live the American dream."

(Town Hall; Littleton, NH 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

On Abortion:

"I'm a staunch believer in the sanctity of life, and I'm gonna explain why. I believe nothing gets closer to the heart of what our founding fathers understood than that every person has intrinsic value and worth that is worth protecting."

(Town Hall; Berlin, NH 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

On immigration and the 14th Amendment:

"Okay, the concept of the anchor baby, right? Right. I think there's a lot of, um, merit to saying that just physical birth if a person isn't here legally is not automatically citizenship. That's one of those things where we really need to take another look at the 14th amendment, is that what it says. Of course it's said that it does, so it would require court action to change that."

(Town Hall; Littleton, NH 12/15/07)

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Event Details:

- Thompson held 10 events in IA and one event in TN 12/13-12/19.
- At the kick off event for his Iowa bus tour, Thompson spoke for approximately 10 minutes, took no questions and left in a hurry. The event boasted one of the largest crowds we've seen to this point for a Thompson event, 100, which in comparison to the other candidates, is unimpressive.
- In his Iowa bus tour this week, Thompson held three or four events where he drove his campaign bus into town, parked it and sat inside. Every now and again he would come out, shake a hand or two, but then go back in the bus. Such occurrences were billed as actual campaign events.
- A recent article in the Politico sums up Thompson's campaign best:

> *"She e-mailed me back that Thompson "was so vague that I would be hard-pressed to write a story. Simply put, there is no news peg other than he came to the newsroom with his model wife and a beehive of staffers. When I asked him specifically what he would do as prez for farmers in Bremer County, he resorted to glittering generalities."*
>
> *So the sum total of Thompson's day in Waverly was meeting with a newspaper editor and saying nothing and then meeting about 15 people in a warm firehouse and saying nothing.*
>
> *When he was supposed to go out and find voters in shops and diners, talk to them and answer their questions, he decided to skip it and get back on his luxury bus instead.*
>
> *That's not retail politics. That's not Iowa. And that's not laconic. That's lazy."*
>
> http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1207/7474.html

On the Democratic Party:

"…my friends, the main reason I'm standing here before you today is because those fundamental principles are under attack in this country. They're under assault. They're under assault from a left-wing, big government, high taxing, weak on national security, Democratic Party that's just licking its chops to take over the reins of government so they can lead us down the road to a welfare state. But there are some things standing in their ways my friends, and a lot of them are standing in this room tonight. We're not gonna turn to keys this country over to that outfit. Not as long aas we have anything to say about it. And on January the third, the people of Iowa are gonna answer an important question: Who do we want to stand for us against this assault? Who do we want to lead us in preserving our value and our principles. Now, It's a little late in the process for me to be coy. So I want to tell you, that I believe I am that man and with your help I will be that man."

(Bus Tour Kick Off; Dubuque, IA 12/17/07)

*Clip Available

On Terrorism:

"We're electing a leader. We're electing a leader for a time that is gonna need serious leadership. My friends, I've been there, I can tell you, that we are just one successful terrorist plan away from a nuclear attack in this country. All the experts know that, that's the kinda of world we live in. It's not the time for on-the-job training."

(Bus Tour Kick Off; Dubuque, IA 12/17/07)

*Clip Available

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On his record:

"When I left public service, I still continued public service in a private matter. Now although, I had a little television show called Law & Order, some of ya'll might of seen it, it got a little more publicity then some of the other stuff I've done. But the fact of the matter is while that was going on, some important things happened to me because it gave me a chance to continue my public service in a very quiet way. When Condoleeza Rice, Secretary of State, needed someone to advise her on matters of international security, she called me, its a public record. When the President of the United States wanted to help get a good solid conservative judge on the Supreme Court, now he's chief justice on the Supreme Court, he called me, he called me.

My record is clear. My experience is clear. And that's why I asked folks, the other night at the debate, after it's all said and done, think about one thing. If you're gonna think about just one thing, think about this. When the time comes where our worst enemy in the world is sitting across the table, thinking about what he can do to the United States of America, what he can get away with, who do you want sitting on the other side of the table representing us looking back across the table at him."

(Bus Tour Kick Off; Dubuque, IA 12/17/07)

*Clip Available

Event Details:

- McCain held two events in IA, two events in MA, 16 events in NH, one event in NY and five events in SC 12/13-12/19.
- A few anti-war protesters greeted McCain at events in SC.
- On 12/17 at an event in NH, Sen. Joe Lieberman publicly endorsed McCain.

Link to video of endorsement: http://youtube.com/watch?v=_nd_FczO-FM

- McCain launched a direct mail attack on Romney this week. Our trackers in NH have acquired the piece.

McCain launches direct mail attack (Nashua Telegraph, 12/18/07)

CONCORD – Republican hopeful Sen. John McCain, of Arizona, launched an attack – a direct mail campaign labeling New Hampshire primary front-runner Mitt Romney as a serial flip-flopper that "voters can't trust."

http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071218/NEWS08/78615490/-1/news08

On health care:

"My whole philosophy is that we've got to put more decisions in the hands of the user, we've got to have a whole range of actions taken in order bring inflation down and among them are to give every American family 5000 dollar refundable tax credit so they can go across state lines which they cant now, to find an insurance policy of their choice…"

(Town Hall; Davenport, IA 12/13/07)

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"My friends, there's never been a system in history that when the government paid for it, it wasn't more expensive than when the private enterprise system did it. So please don't listen to this siren song of let government take it over and it'll be cheaper. My friends, the cost will be much higher, but it'll just be coming out of a different pocket."

(Town Hall; Salem, NH 12/18/07)

On SCHIP:

"First of all, SCHIP, I'm not, like I said, these things, sometimes I have to tell you things you don't want to hear as well as those that you want to hear. Um… The SCHIP program was designed to provide children with health insurance. We did that pretty well. There's still 8 million children that are not covered. 6 million of those are simply because we haven't signed them up. It's not a problem, we've simply got to find them and sign them up. We've got 2 million that we're going to have to expand the program to cover, and that would cost about 3 to 5 billion dollars. So what do they want to do in Washington? They want to expand it by 35 billion dollars. And they want it to encompass adults, and they want it to encompass the, uh, 300 people, 300 percent of the poverty line."

(Town Hall; Concord, NH 12/17/07)

*Clip Available

On 'mission accomplished':

"I understand the frustration, the anger, and the sorrow that people in this state and all over America feel because of nearly four years of 'mission accomplished,' 'last throes,' uh, 'few dead-enders,' these things that defied reality. And I was angry about it, and I remain angry about it."

(Town Hall; Concord, NH 12/17/07)

*Clip Available

***FLIP FLOP

Senator McCain was asked "At what point will America be able to say the war was won?"

McCain said there were oil fields to secure and "die-hards" to take care of but "it's clear that the end is very much in sight, and today I think Americans should be very proud of their leadership, their technology. There are still some foreigners, Syrians and others hanging around. But it won't be long. It will be a fairly short period of time, but this happens in wars. I'm confident that once they are confident the area is no longer a threat to the Marines and to or army troops that they'll start imposing discipline. In the meantime, we'll have a short period of chaos." [ABC News, Good Morning America, 4/9/03]

"This is a mission accomplished. They know how much influence Saddam Hussein had on the Iraqi people, how much more difficult it made to get their cooperation." [This Week, ABC, 12/14/03]

On troop withdrawal:

"I would pull out troops as the situation warrants it on the ground … I will stay as long as necessary."

(Town Hall; James Island, SC 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

"My timetable for Iraq is not distinct. My, my, my, my view of Iraq and success in Iraq is what we are

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achieving now. It's not American presence in Iraq that matters. What matters in Iraq is American casualties."

(Town Hall; Salem, NH 12/18/07)

*Clip Available

On the sacrifices of our soliders:

"Lindsey and I were over in Iraq over Thanksgiving. And we had a great opportunity to spend Thanksgiving dinner with a number of the troops. And they're so good and they're so brave and they're so professional that you're very humbled to be in their company. A lot of 'em are South Carolinians and a lot of 'em come over and say, 'Hi' to their senator and tell them [sic] that they appreciate the fact that their senator is working to keep them on the path to success that they have embarked on with great sacrifice. I have no doubt, I have no doubt that when you look at the beginning of this surge the casualties went up because we had to go into places we had not been in for a number of years. And this success has been purchased with America's most precious asset, and that's American blood that's been sacrificed."

(Meet and Greet; Newberry, SC 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

On Terrorism:

"I think we are fighting an enemy called radical Islamic extremism, who are willing to cut off the head of someone and televise it and broadcast it, because they happen to be Jewish and an American."

(Town Hall; Greer, SC 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

On Iran:

"I don't know where the intelligence came from… I have detected no change in the Iranian behavior. They are still dedicated to the destruction of the state of Israel. They are still supporting terrorist organizations, Hamas and Hezbollah. They are still exporting explosive devices, the most lethal kind, into Iraq and killing young Americans… I've changed very little in my view that the Iranians still pose a threat to peace in the Middle East and in the world."

(Town Hall; James Island, SC 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

On Putin and Russia:

"We all knew it's a puppet show, we just didn't know who the puppet was... He's insuring his perpetuation in power… I looked into Mr. Putin's eyes and I saw three letters, a "K," a "G" and a "B." If I were the President of the United States, I would make sure that he wasn't invited to the next G-8 meeting. I would make it very clear that he's using all these petro-dollars to stick his thumb in America's eye."

(Town Hall; James Island, SC 12/14/07)

*Clip Available

On President Bush:

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"… after 9/11, every expert in the world believed there was going to be another attack on the United States of America. There hasn't been. Don't you think that President Bush deserves some credit for that?... Let's give the president some credit."

(Town Hall; Greer, SC 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

On Pelosi and Reid:

"… it's beneath their dignity for them to call the war lost, as Harry Reid did back in April. I think it's beneath their dignity to call for the cutting of the funds for a mission that is succeeding and has (inaudible) consequences for the future of America."

(Town Hall; Greer, SC 12/15/07)

*Clip Available

On immigration:

"My, my, my, uh, plan to deal with illegal immigration is that we have to secure the border first. My friends, there's no trust or confidence in Washington, and so when we said we'd secure the border, have a temporary worker program, and address the issue of 12 million people who are in this country illegally, they didn't believe us. And there's some legitimacy to that skepticism. I'm sure you may, many remember that in 1986 we passed a law where we said we gave amnesty to a couple million people, and we'd secure the borders. We gave the amnesty, the borders aren't secure, and we now have 12 million people here, who are here illegally. We have to secure the borders first, that's the message that we got from this last debate. I will secure the borders first, I know how to do it."

(Town Hall; Hillsborough, NH 12/17/07)

*Clip Available

On earmarks and pork:

"I have never asked for, nor received an earmark or pork barrel project for the state of Arizona in the 24 years I have been there. And I guarantee ya' I never will."

(House Party; Concord, NH 12/17/07)

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From: "Gene Karpinski, LCV Action Fund" <feedback@lcv.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/29/2010 4:56:22 AM
Subject: Deadline: Midnight tonight!

LCV ACTION FUND

Dear John,

There are only four days until Election Day.

With the latest polls showing many environmental leaders facing extremely competitive races -- every phone call we make, every door we knock on, and every contribution we RUSH to candidates – will make the difference between winning and losing on Tuesday.

Click here to RUSH your last-minute contribution to LCV Action Fund's endorsed candidates via GiveGreen>>

There's Still Time to Have an Impact

Help LCV Action Fund put Senator Boxer, Senator Bennet, Rep. Sestak, Rep. Perriello, and others over the top on Election Day.

RUSH Your Donation to them via GiveGreen>>

We set a goal this year of raising $1 million for priority environmental candidates, an amount FAR more than we had ever raised before. Some folks thought that was far too ambitious, but with your help we are only $18,744 from reaching that goal. Help put us over the top and support top priority candidates in these closing days. **There's still time to have a major impact on their races and your support can do it, but we need your donation BEFORE MIDNIGHT TONIGHT. Here are four of our top priorities:**

Sen. Barbara Boxer: At the top of our list of environmental leaders is California Senator Barbara Boxer. As Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chair, Barbara Boxer is a long-time environmental champion. The latest polls show her race within the margin of error and we expect it to remain close. Her opponent, failed Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, vigorously supports California's Prop 23– the ballot initiative that threatens to repeal California's landmark clean energy and climate law. In fact, Fiorina received $285,000 in contributions from the same Big Oil companies behind Prop 23. Independent groups just dumped another $3 million into the race earlier this week and Fiorina just added a million of her own money to her campaign.

Please RUSH Your Donation to Senator Barbara Boxer via GiveGreen>>

Rep. Joe Sestak: Rep. Joe Sestak is running a neck-and-neck race for US Senate in Pennsylvania against former Club for Growth President and ex. Rep. Pat Toomey. The Reuters/Ipsos poll from October 24th shows that this race is TIED. Rep. Sestak needs our immediate help. Rep. Sestak is an environmental leader who voted for the House-passed American Clean Energy and Security Act. On the other hand, we can expect wave after wave of attacks against the EPA and sound environmental policies if Rep. Pat Toomey is elected to the Senate on Tuesday.

Please RUSH Your Donation to Rep. Joe Sestak via GiveGreen>>

Sen. Michael Bennet: Politico rates the Colorado Senate race as one of the closest Senate races in the country. Senator Michael Bennet -- an environmental champion who consistently supports measures to build a clean energy economy -- is running against Tea Party-endorsed, climate denier, Ken Buck. The CNN/Time poll from this past Tuesday showed Ken Buck up by just one point. More third party money has poured into this Senate race than any other in the country -- most of it used to attack Senator Bennet. LCV Action Fund is putting more money into this Senate race than any other, so please help put him over the top on November 2.

Please RUSH Your Donation to Senator Bennet via GiveGreen>>

Rep. Tom Perriello: One of the closest House races in the country is unfolding in central Virginia's 5th Congressional District. Rep. Tom Perriello -- who won his first race by only 727 votes -- is running an extremely competitive race against Virginia State Senator Robert Hurt. State Senator Hurt has deep ties to the uranium industry and is willing to protect the uranium industry's profits at the expense of public health. LCV Action Fund is putting more money into this House race than any other in the country, so please help put him over the top on November 2.

Please RUSH Your Donation to Rep. Tom Perriello via GiveGreen>>

During these final days of the 2010 election, your contributions to candidates through LCV Action Fund's GiveGreen program helps increase our collective environmental strength in Congress by demonstrating your support for clean energy and the environment.

Sincerely,

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Gene Karpinski
President
LCV Action Fund

PS **Please RUSH your donation to GiveGreen candidates right now.** Help top priority candidates and LCV Action Fund meet our $1 million goal.

Paid for by the League of Conservation Voters Action Fund, www.lcv.org , and not authorized by any candidate or committee.

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From:	"Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	7/28/2015 11:08:36 AM
Subject:	Fwd: News from The Hill: Dems clash with Kerry over Iran deal

See you in September

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: The Hill <news@thehill.com >
Date: July 28, 2015 at 7:55:09 PM GMT+2
To: podesta@podesta.com
Subject: News from The Hill: Dems clash with Kerry over Iran deal
Reply-To: news@thehill.com

THE HILL

News from The Hill

Dems clash with Kerry over Iran deal

By Kristina Wong

Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee joined with Republicans in pushing back on the Iran nuclear deal Tuesday as Secretary of State John Kerry faced the panel.

Committee Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) said he was "troubled by" and "very disappointed" with parts of the agreement, citing a litany of concerns.

"Truth is, after 15 years, Iran is a nuclear threshold state, which means they can produce weapons-grade, highly-enriched uranium without limitations," he said. "Our friends in Israel are rightfully concerned."

Read the full story here.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/15/2015 2:53:32 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: A defensive Hillar y Clinton lost last night's debate

View The Daily 202 on the Web

PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

A defensive Hillary Clinton lost last night's debate



Hillary Clinton on stage at Drake University Saturday night. (AFP/Mandel Ngan)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Bernie Sanders' campaign expressed concern before Saturday night's debate about CBS' decision to put additional emphasis on foreign policy in the wake of the Paris attacks that left 129 dead.

Many expected that Hillary Rodham Clinton would show a command of global issues that the senator from Vermont lacked, further consolidating her status as the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination.

Clinton indeed highlighted her experience, but the shift wound up working to Sanders' advantage. For the first 30 minutes of the two-hour debate, the former Secretary of State was on the defensive about everything from the Obama administration being caught off guard by the rise of the Islamic State to her 13-year-old vote for the Iraq war.

"Regime changes have unintended consequences," Sanders said. "On this issue, I'm a little more conservative than the secretary."

— It was a taste of the debate as a whole, which turned to a far greater extent than the previous meeting on Clinton's record and positions. With only three candidates on stage, Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley also got more time to speak. In Las Vegas, the candidates were unprepared to attack Clinton on foreign policy. No one even challenged her when she characterized Libya as a success story. This time it was Clinton who had to explain why removing Muammar Gaddafi was justified.

— With the world on fire, and rising fears about terrorism at home, Clinton quickly distanced herself from President Obama at the top. The day before the Paris attacks, he told ABC that ISIS has not been completely decapitated but that U.S. efforts had "contained" the group. "I don't think they're gaining strength … and we have contained them," the president told George Stephanopoulos. In a not-subtle line, Hillary declared: "We have to look at ISIS as the leading threat of an international terror network. *It cannot be contained;* it must be defeated." She also referred to her early support for arming moderate rebels in the Syrian civil war, which the president hesitated on.

To be sure, Sanders did not look like a commander-in-chief. And his insistence that climate change is still our biggest national security threat made him look out of his depth and

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unserious in the face of global terrorism. But very few Democrats still believe that someone besides Clinton will actually be their nominee, so there's less concern about him actually having the nuclear launch codes. Instead, all eyes were on her.

When the debate moved to the domestic issues on which Sanders is more comfortable, the event became more spirited. The most heated fight of the night came over reforming Wall Street. Sanders said Clinton's Wall Street proposal was "not good enough," and O'Malley called it "weak tea."



Then-New York Sen. Hillary Clinton visits the site of the World Trade Center wreckage in 2001 with Rudy Giuliani. (File photo)

— The Des Moines debate will ultimately be remembered for just one moment: Clinton playing both the gender card and invoking the Sept. 11 attacks to defend her coziness with and campaign cash from Wall Street.

Here is the exchange that everyone is talking about:

- Sanders attacks: "Let's not be naive about it. Why, over her political career, has Wall Street been a major, *THE* major, campaign contributor to Hillary Clinton? You know,

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maybe they're dumb and they don't know what they're going to get, but I don't think so. … Why do they make millions of dollars of campaign contributions? They expect to get something! Everybody knows that!"

- Clinton pulls out a rhetorical bazooka: "Wait a minute, he has basically used his answer to impugn my integrity. Let's be frank here: … Not only do I have hundreds of thousands of donors, most of them small. And I'm very proud that for the first time a majority of my donors are women, 60 percent. So, I represented New York, and I represented New York on 9/11 when we were attacked. Where were we attacked? We were attacked in downtown Manhattan, where Wall Street is. I did spend a whole lot of time and effort helping them rebuild. That was good for New York. It was good for the economy and it was a way to rebuke the terrorists who had attacked our country."

— Many liberal thought leaders concurred that Clinton's answer was Giuliani-esque:

- Slate's headline: "Hillary Says It's OK That She Takes Wall Street Money Because Of Women and 9/11."
- Mother Jones names it "the most important exchange of the debate."
- The Nation is struck by its "breathtaking cynicism." From D.D. Guttenplan: "Though there was a breathtaking cynicism in the way Clinton took a question about Wall Street's influence on her and turned it into a trifecta of righteousness—not only claiming that her efforts on behalf of finance capital were really part of the fight back against 9/11, and suggesting that any suggestion to the contrary was anti–New York and pro-terrorist … there was also something almost beautiful about the sheer chutzpah of the move. It was one of several moments in the debate when Clinton seemed to be navigating in 3D while her opponents remained trapped in Flatland."
- The Atlantic's Conor Friedersdorf describes the exchange as "the major gaffe of the night": "The wild card in this debate was its proximity to the Paris attacks. Many believed this would play to Clinton's strengths. But in the end I think that it hurt her because the effect was to have a long discussion about her Iraq War vote … Her overall performance was fine, but what was she thinking using 9/11 to defend all the money that she's taken from Wall Street? I expect it will be used to attack her in primaries and in the general if she gets there."

— The kerfuffle is breaking through to voters: Twitter and Facebook both say that the 9/11 moment generated more conversation than any other exchange during the face-off. NPR calculates that Wall Street and the banks got more time than any other issue. By its count, the back-and-forth took up 11 minutes and 18 seconds of airtime, compared to 9 minutes and 16 seconds on foreign policy and 6 minutes on ISIS specifically.

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— The 9/11-related clips that posted overnight are brutal, and it seems certain that the mainstream media and cable news will zero in with second-day follow-ups.

- Politico's Glenn Thrush describes Clinton's answer as "really cray-cray" and believes it "will haunt" her. The longtime Clinton watcher described the 9/11 exchange as "one of the craziest things she's uttered in public during this campaign or any other." In his takeaways piece, Glenn calls the gender part of the comment "clever" but says the rest of the answer went off the rails: "Needless to say, the remark – delivered in her emphatic shout-voice — raised eyebrows 24 hours after the terror attacks in Paris killed more than 120 people. And it's not likely to go away."
- The Economist calls the tussle "the low point" of the night: "It was so odd, and so shameless…"
- One of CNN's main takeaways was that it "could really come back to bite her." David Axelrod, Obama's strategist in the 2008 primaries, said it was "her one really false note. That was an example of her being too political." He elaborated on Twitter: "[She] seems trapped between being candidate and a responsible potential president. Solid answers. Not necessarily winning ones."
- The Des Moines Register spun out a sidebar on the exchange. So did the Wall Street Journal, describing the comment as an "unusual defense."
- The Fix's Chris Cillizza said it is "hard to overstate how little sense Clinton's … argument makes."
- Washington Post fact checkers also note that just 17 percent of Clinton's donors meet the definition of small (those contributing under $200): "More than 80 percent of her donations come from big donors, compared to just 22 percent for Sanders."
- Post editorial columnist Alexandra Petri's headline: "Under attack, Hillary Clinton PLAYS EVERY POSSIBLE CARD."

— A taste of how rivals are already trying to capitalize:

- O'Malley senior adviser Lis Smith: "My dad worked in [the World Trade Center] from the day it was built to the day it went down. @HillaryClinton, never invoke 9/11 to justify your Wall St. positions."
- RNC Chairman Reince Priebus: @HillaryClinton, you reached a new low tonight by using 9/11 to defend your campaign donations."

— Clinton tried to walk it back: Later in the debate, as Twitter exploded, CBS presented her with an emblematic viewer tweet. University of Iowa law professor Andy Grewal

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wrote: “Have never seen a candidate invoke 9/11 to justify millions of Wall Street donations. Until now.” Clinton replied, “I’m sorry that whoever tweeted that had that impression … Yes, I did know people. I had a lot of folks give me donations from all kinds of backgrounds [and] say, ‘I don’t agree with you on everything. But I like what you do. I like how you stand up.’”

In the spin room, her communications director highlighted a tough-on-Wall Street speech from before the financial meltdown. Clinton argued that her financial regulatory proposal “is tougher, more effective, and more comprehensive” than Sanders’ “because I go after all of Wall Street not just the big banks.”



Bernie Sanders (AP/Charlie Neibergall)

— Demonstrating the passion and enthusiasm of his supporters, Sanders also received more buzz and mentions than she she did. According to our analytics partners at Zignal Labs, Sanders accounted for 202,000 of the 370,000 mentions of the candidates during the debate, compared to 152,000 for Clinton. Facebook also said Sanders got more mentions than Clinton on its platform, and Vermont was the most engaged state on the social network during the debate. Here’s a chart tracking mentions over the two hours:

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— To be sure, many observers point out that very few people were watching last night and the race's underlying dynamics still remain the same. The Post's Dan Balz and Philip Rucker write on our front page that the result "appeared unlikely to change the overall shape of a nomination battle that has moved back in Clinton's direction in recent weeks."

Other themes in the post-debate coverage:

- The New York Times' Amy Chozick and Jonathan Martin argue that Clinton was looking "beyond the primary" and trying "to improve her standing among general election voters:" "In calling out Mr. Sanders for what she said are impractical proposals, Mrs. Clinton reiterated the sentiment, if not the exact phrasing, of a refrain that resonated in the first debate: 'I'm a progressive who likes to get things done.'
- The Boston Globe's Annie Linskey says "Clinton seemed to embrace her age": "*I come from the sixties,'* she said. Later, when talking about her approach to health care reform, she sounded a bit resigned. "I waited for revolution," she said. "Revolution never came."
- Bloomberg's Mark Halperin : "After several weeks on a roll, Clinton not so much moved backwards as she let Sanders, and even O'Malley, back in the hunt."

— Looking ahead, Clinton understands that the Democratic race has, once again, become a referendum on her. "You've heard a lot about me in this debate," she said in her closing statement. "I'm going to keep talking and thinking about all of you."

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— The next two Democratic debates are also scheduled for weekends when very few will watch: the Saturday before Christmas and the Sunday before MLK Day. The DNC denies it, naturally, but this was an obvious ploy to minimize viewership in order to help out the front-runner. After the first debate, suppressing viewership seemed unnecessary. After last night, it makes much more sense.



A rose placed in a bullet hole in a restaurant window the day after a series of attacks in Paris. The note reads: “In the Name of What?” (Reuters/Pascal Rossignol)

— THE LATEST FROM PARIS:

French police says the Friday evening attacks were carried out by three teams. Police have detained seven relatives of one of the assailants who was killed, Omar Ismail Mostefai, a 29-year old French national. Of Algerian descent, Mostefai was arrested between 2004 and 2010 for minor things like driving without a license. But in 2010, French police started watching him because of his ties to a mosque outside Paris. “The aim is to figure out what led this man to become a suicide bomber,” a French official told The Post’s Anthony Faiola and Souad Mekhennet.

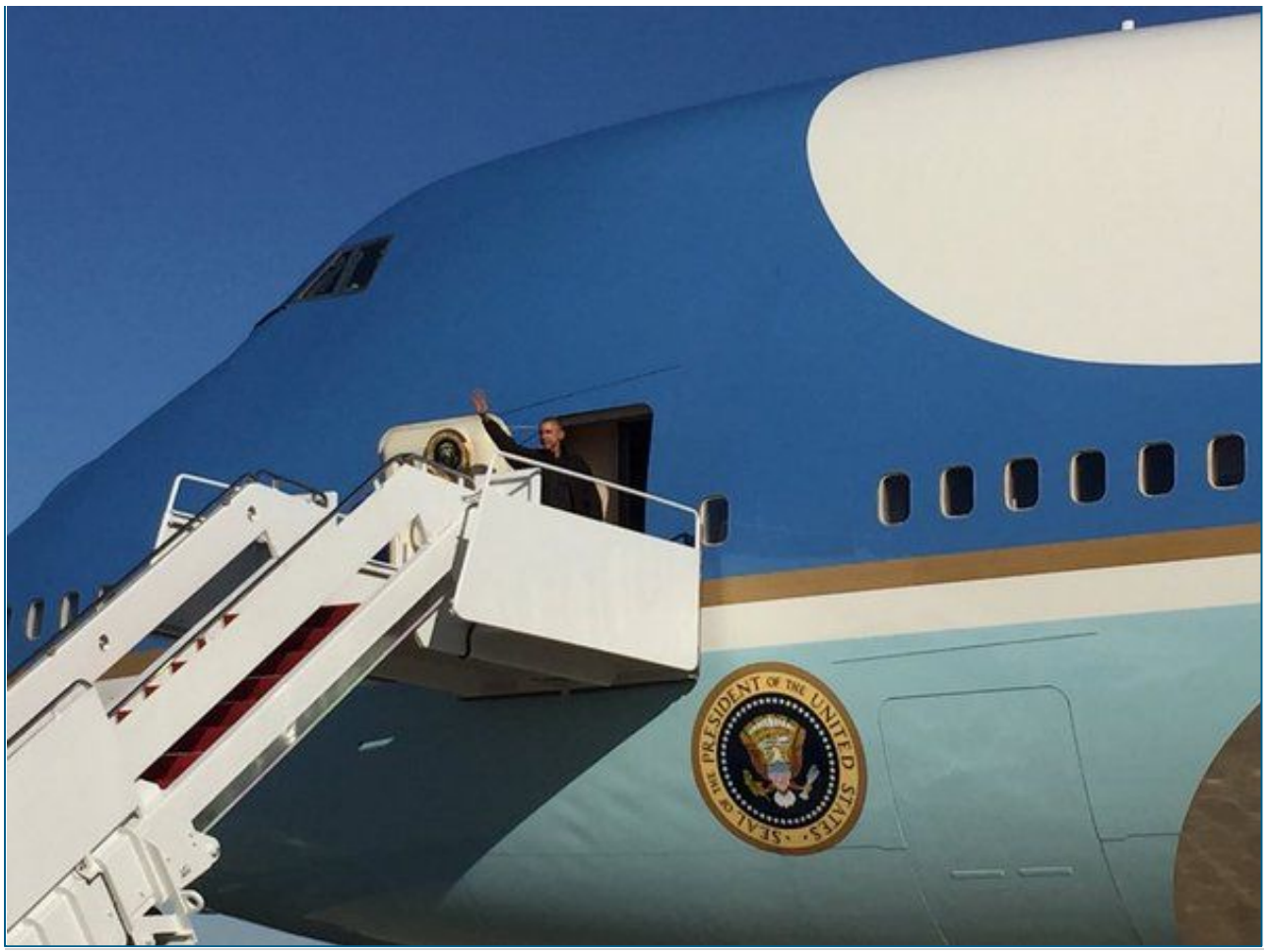
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A man pays his respect outside the Le Carillon restaurant the morning after it was attacked (Reuters/Christian Hartman)

— French President Francois Hollande called the attacks, for which the Islamic State claimed responsibility, an “act of war” and vowed “merciless” retribution. He also declared a state of emergency in France.

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President Obama boarded Air Force One for a nine-day trip to Turkey, the Philippines and Malaysia. (@DavidNakamura)

— From the G-20 summit in Turkey , President Obama said: "The skies have been darkened by the horrific attacks that took place in Paris," and vowed that the U.S. will stand in "solidarity" with France "in hunting down the perpetrators of this crime and bringing them to justice." Interestingly , Obama has begun using the word "Daesh" to refer to ISIS, a derogatory phrase that can mean "bigot" for which the Islamic State has threatened to "cut out the tongues" of anyone using it.

What else we know:

- A manhunt is underway across Europe for a possible eighth suspect who may have fled, per Anthony Faiola .
- At least 99 of the 352 injured remained in serious condition.
- A French official confirmed one of the attackers had a Syrian passport, which he used to enter Europe in October in the refugee exodus from the Middle East.
- At least two of the seven dead attackers are thought to be Belgian, including an 18-year-old who fought in Syria.
- Three Kalashnikovs were found inside a car that was used, per the AP .
- The attackers wore suicide vests made with the "mother of Satan" explosive.
- The Eiffel Tower was shut down indefinitely: "Paris landmarks became ghost towns.

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The government deployed 1,500 troops to safeguard key buildings. Schools, libraries, food markets, swimming pools and gymnasiums were closed."

- Among the victims was 23-year-old American exchange student Nohemi Gonzalez , who was eating dinner at Le Petit Cambodge when attackers struck.

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Nohemi Gonzalez, the 23-year-old Cal State University Long Beach student who died in the Paris terror attacks. (Courtesy of CSULB)

GET SMART FAST:

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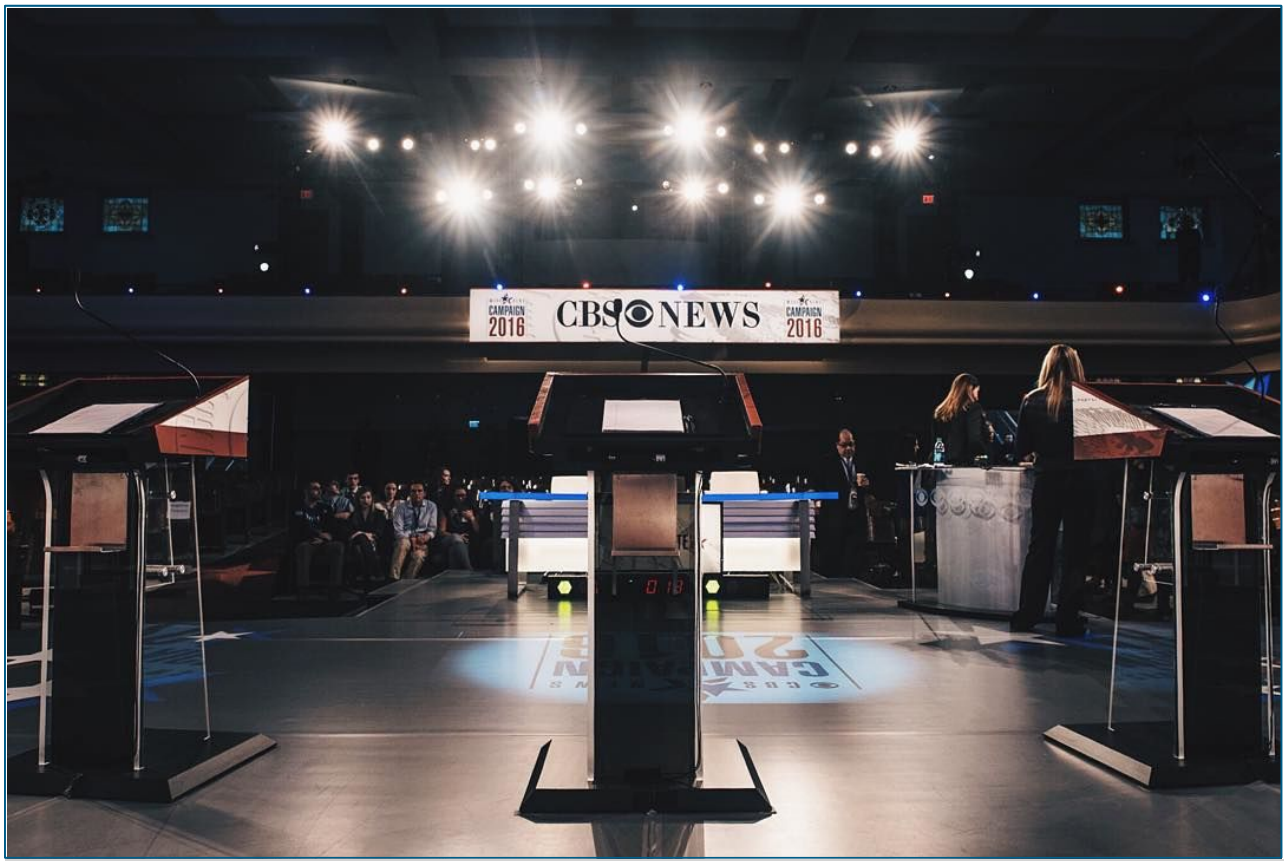
1. Baltimore had its 301st homicide last night, crossing a milestone not seen since the dark days of the crack epidemic.
2. A man who was attacking a woman with a knife was shot at Union Station last night by an off-duty cop from Maryland. “The knife-wielding man had refused to drop the weapon before being hit, along with a bystander, according to police sources,” per Clarence Williams and Martin Weil .
3. Lebanon detained seven Syrians and two Lebanese suspected of involvement in planning terrorist attacks, including a twin bombing last week, and smuggling extremists into the country, per the AP .

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ

Curated by Elise Viebeck (@eliseviebeck)

From the Democratic debate:

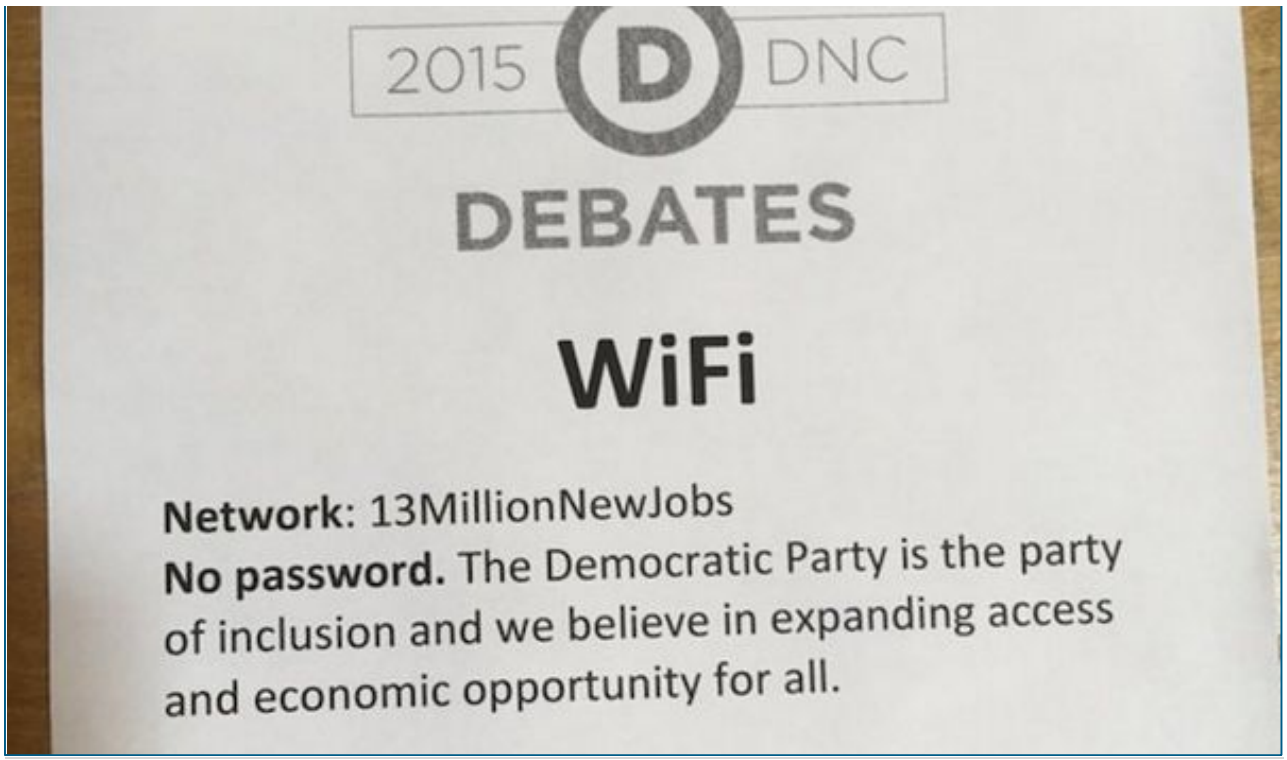
Here’s a view from the stage at Drake University in Des Moines:



(hillaryclinton)

The Democrats trolled Republicans with the name of their Wi-Fi network:

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(@thehill)

Sanders and O'Malley bumped into each other earlier in the day:



(@boydenphoto)

O'Malley was trying to go for the Adlai Stevenson look in this pre-debate picture from the

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campaign:



(@MartinOMalley)

DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz met debate host Drake University's mascot, Griff:

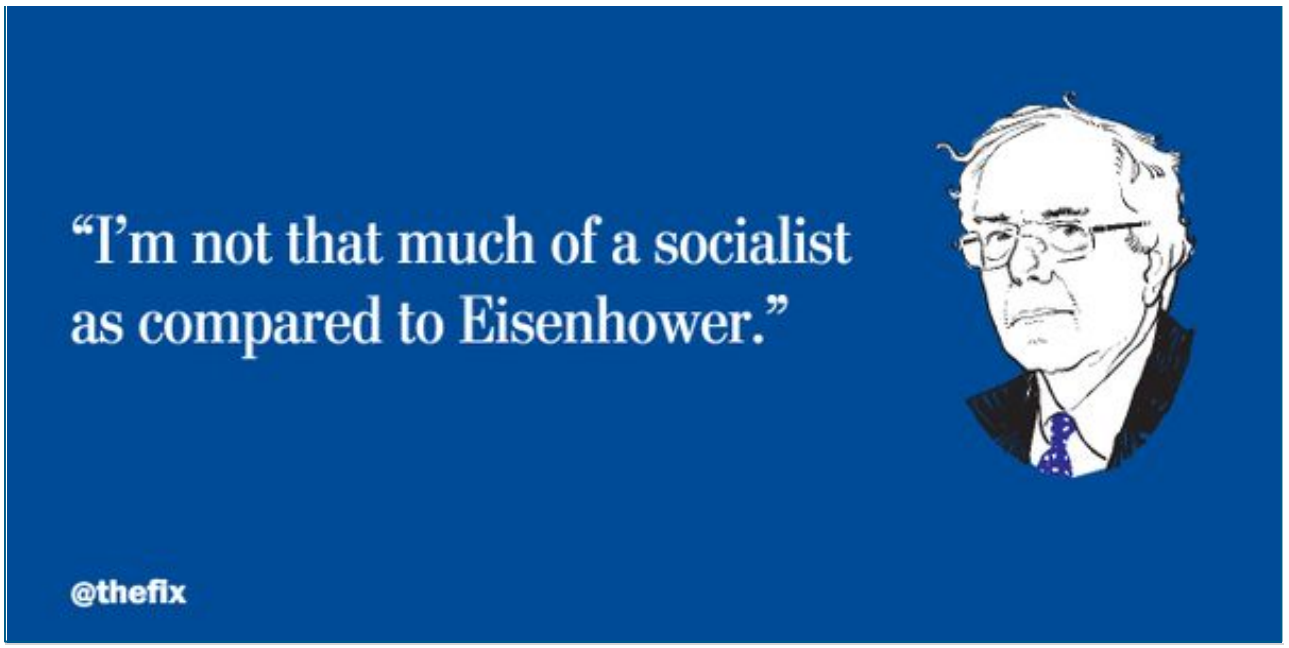
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(@DWStweets)

Sanders defended his proposal to increase taxes, noting that he'd raise the marginal tax rate to a level that's still lower than it was in the 1950's:

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(@TheFix)

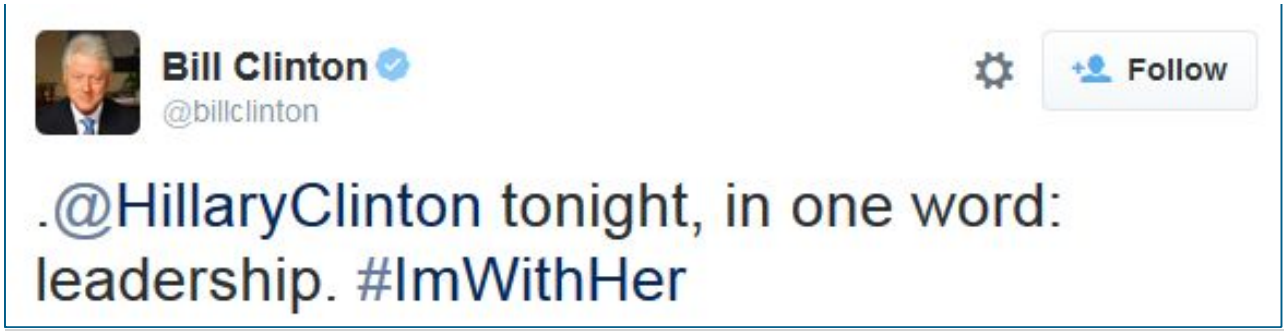
At a Clinton debate watch party in New Hampshire, viewers were served milk and cookies:



(@McClainJulie)

Bill Clinton praised his wife’s performance:

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(@billclinton)

Back at Drake, Student Body President Kevin Maisto took a photo with Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.):



(@kevinmaisto)

Reporters caught a glimpse of Caitlyn Jenner on campus:

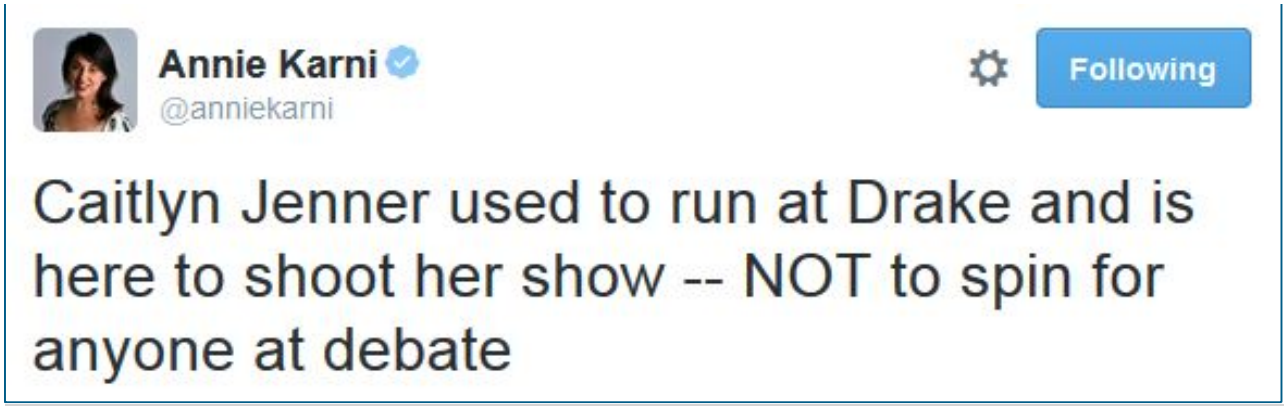
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(@anniekarni)

But it turns out she wasn't there for the debate:

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(@anniekarni)

Following the Paris attacks:

Many lawmakers and staff switched their profile pictures to this image in honor of the tragic events of Friday night:



(senatorkirk)

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Across the world, major monuments were lit up to honor France. Here's the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin:



(@bennyjohnson)

The Nationals posted this image to Instagram:

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(nationals)

Republican reaction to the Paris attacks:



(@RealBenCarson)

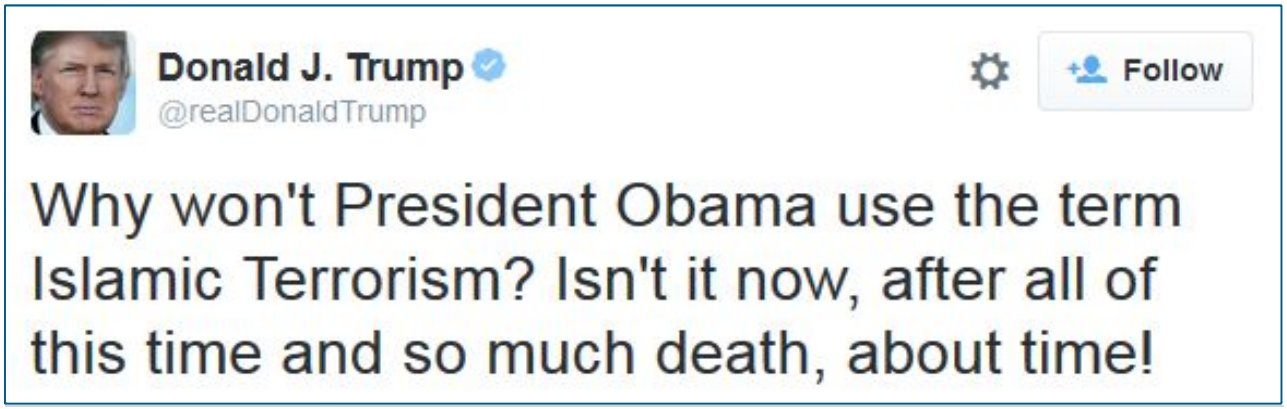
Marco Rubio released a video saying that the U.S. is in a “clash of civilizations” with radical Islam:

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(Marco Rubio)

Trump, like many other Republicans, critiqued how Democrats described the perpetrators of the attacks. He also said that tough gun control laws in Paris contributed to the tragedy during a rally in Texas:



(@realDonaldTrump)

In a radio interview, Jeb Bush called the attacks an “organized effort to destroy western civilization”:

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(Jeb Bush Communications)

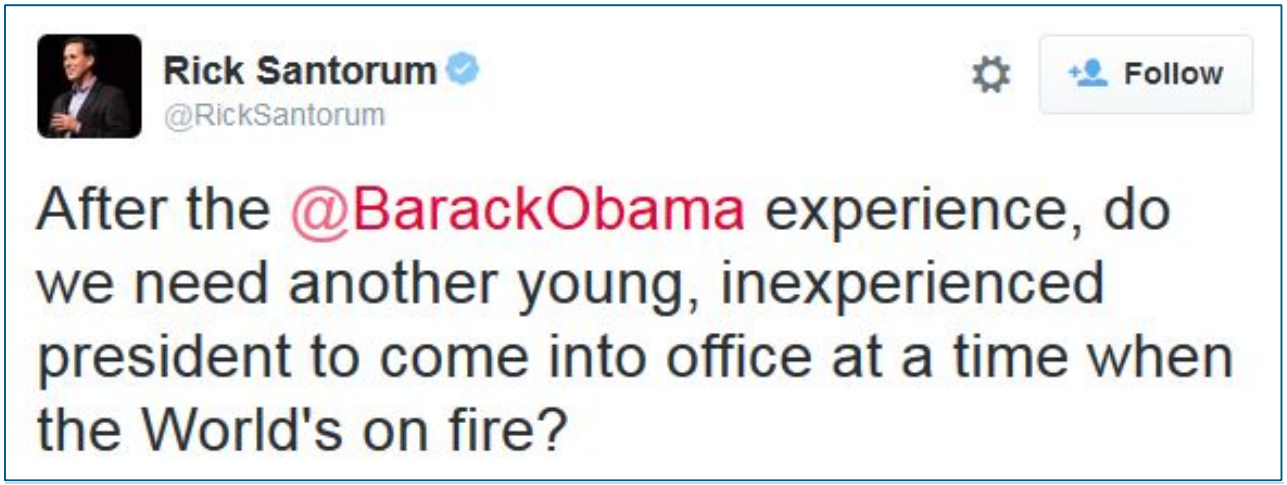
Scott Walker lit up the Wisconsin governor's mansion in response:

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(@ScottWalker)

Rick Santorum made a veiled attack on younger Republican presidential candidates:



(@ricksantorum)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

For Saturday Night Live's cold open, Cecily Strong delivered a touching tribute to the victims in France. "Paris is the City of Light, and here in New York City, we know

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that light will never go out," she said, first in English and then in French. Watch here .

Here are highlights from the Democratic debate, via The Post's video team:

–Democrats react to the Paris attack

–Democrats spar on Iraq, Islamic state

–Sanders says he's "not that much of a socialist compared to Eisenhower"

–O'Malley calls for bringing immigrants out of the shadows

–Sanders, Clinton clash over minimum wage

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The Washington Post

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From: "Lauren Peterson" <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Katie Dowd" <kdowd@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jenna Lowenstein" <jlowenstein@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 6:02:26 AM
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I vote for just replying directly with no period before the @ - people will see this and it will get pickup. We do need to shorten though - here's my attempt:

@ marcorubio That's backwards—engagement's a threat to the Castros, not a gift. Embargo hasn't worked for 50 yrs. Cuban ppl deserve better -H

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:41 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

+ Nick and Lauren.

From: Brian Fallon [mailto:bfallon@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Like this (w the handle). Lets do it

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:35 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I like including his handle.

.@marcorubio you've got it backwards: Engagement isn't a gift to the Castros -- it's a threat to the Castros. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Cuban people deserve better.

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.

From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

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Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.

On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
> **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

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Here we go...

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Jeremy Massey <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

User Actions

Following

Marco RubioVerified account @marcorubio

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--

Jeremy Massey

Research Department

847 736 9211

JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/17/2015 4:31:15 AM
Subject: Re: CLIP | Yahoo: Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection

Thanks
What's your plan for nights of 22 23 24 25

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 17, 2015, at 12:19 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Friday, October 16, 2015
Subject: Fwd: CLIP | Yahoo: Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Tyson Brody <tbrody@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 4:13 PM
Subject: CLIP | Yahoo: Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection
Michael Isikoff

Hillary Clinton and Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud prior to a State Department meeting in 2012. (Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images)

The Saudi government, under increasing criticism over civilian casualties from its airstrikes in Yemen and a harsh crackdown on political dissidents at home, has just hired a powerhouse Washington, D.C., lobbying firm headed by a top Hillary Clinton fundraiser — an arrangement that critics charge raises fresh questions about the influence that foreign government lobbyists could have on her campaign.

The Saudi contract with the Podesta Group, owned by veteran Washington lobbyist and Clinton campaign bundler Tony Podesta, calls for the firm to provide “public relations” and other services on behalf of the royal court of King Salman.

It included an initial “project fee” payment of $200,000 last month and unspecified further sums over the course of the next year, according to documents recently filed with the Justice Department Foreign Agents Registration Act office.

The retention comes at a time the Saudis are being condemned by United Nations officials over reports that its bombings against Houthi strongholds in Yemen’s civil war has resulted in the deaths and injuries of hundreds of innocent civilians, including children.

Adding to the international pressure, the Saudis are also facing criticism from human rights groups over its continued refusal to allow basic rights to women (e.g. the freedom to drive cars). They are also being

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criticized for their hardline domestic suppression of political dissidents, with draconian punishments such as the sentence — by beheading — recently given to a 20-year-old Shiite political protester.

“They are very nervous about an American policy change, and so they are betting on the horse they think will win — Hillary Clinton,” said Ali Al-Ahmad, a Saudi analyst with the Institute for Gulf Affairs, and a frequent critic of the regime, about the hiring of the Podesta Group.

The Podesta Group is now on a roster of a half-dozen D.C. lobbying firms representing the Saudis, including the giant international law firm of DLA Piper and the firm of Hogan Lovells, whose principal on the Saudi account is former Minnesota Republican Sen. Norm Coleman, who chairs the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super-Pac that is a major source of House GOP campaign funds. (Former Texas congressman Tom Loeffler, a top bundler for Jeb Bush’s presidential campaign, for years representedthe Saudis, but his current firm, Akin Gump, now lobbies for the United Arab Emirates, among other foreign clients.)

But the retention of the Podesta Group has gotten attention in Washington lobbying circles because of its unusually close ties to Hillary Clinton’s campaign: Tony Podesta is the brother and former business partner of Clinton’s campaign chairman, John Podesta. He is also a prolific Democratic Party fundraiser who is among 43 Washington lobbyists (many of whom also represent foreign governments) listed as Clinton campaign bundlers in reports filed by the campaign with the Federal Election Commission.

The reports disclose that Podesta had raised $140,175 for the Clinton campaign through Sept. 30. Two weeks ago, just days after filing its Saudi contract with the Justice Department, Podesta held a Clinton campaign fundraiser at his home that offered fine Italian food cooked by five gourmet chefs, including himself and his brother, the campaign chairman.

The Podesta Group point man on the Saudi account is David Adams, who previously served as assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs in 2011 and 2012, making him Clinton’s chief Capitol Hill lobbyist for her last two years as secretary of state, according to Justice Department filings reviewed by Yahoo News.

But Tony Podesta, while calling himself “a proud Clinton bundler,” vigorously denied that the Saudi contract had anything to do with his efforts to elect her president. “I’ve never had a conversation with Hillary Clinton or anybody in the campaign about the work of the firm,” Podesta said, when reached by Yahoo News on his cell phone while he was dining at a restaurant in Sicily. “We represent a dozen foreign governments around the world — we do good work for them. And it has nothing to do with the Hillary Clinton campaign.”

Asked for comment, Clinton campaign spokesman Josh Schwerin emailed: “Hillary Clinton has a strong record of standing up for human rights, and has spent her career fighting for women and girls around the world. She’s proven that she cannot be intimidated — let alone influenced — to sacrifice these core principles. And so as president she will continue to stand up to countries like Saudi Arabia that don’t allow women to have equality. … Make no mistake, when it comes to U.S. national security, she is guided only by the best interests of our country.“

The Saudis have longstanding ties to the Clintons: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is among the largest donors to the Clinton Foundation, contributing between $10 million and $25 million, according to the foundation’s website (which only discloses figures in broad categories, not precise sums.) Bill Clinton has also received hefty fees for speeches in Saudi Arabia, including $600,000 for two talks while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. Last September 4, Bill Clinton met with King Salman for what was described by one source as a “brief courtesy visit” at the Four Seasons Hotel. Two weeks later, on Sept. 18, the Podesta Group filed papers with the Justice Department reporting that it had been retained by an entity called “the Center for Studies and Media Affairs at the Saudi Royal Court.”

Tony Podesta speaking to Associated Press reporters in Philadelphia, September 2004. (Photo: Jacqueline Larma/AP)

Podesta said he was “unaware” of the Four Seasons hotel meeting between the King and the former president and that his negotiations to represent the Saudis had been going on for several months before

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that. He declined, however, to talk about precisely what his firm had been retained to do for the Saudis. “We don’t speak on or off the record about what we do for our clients,” he said.

Podesta is far from the only Clinton campaign bundler to be lobbying for foreign governments or their interests. A review of the Clinton campaign’s bundler list by Yahoo News found lobbyists representing the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, South Korea, Morocco, Japan, and Hong Kong. (Bush, who among GOP candidates has the most entrenched ties to K Street, received bundled contributions from lobbyists with firms that represent the People’s Republic of China, Turkey, and South Korea.)

Two of the Clinton lobbyist-bundlers, Richard Sullivan and David Jones, are principals in a firm that, until late last year, represented the Russia Direct Investment Fund, a sovereign wealth fund co-founded by Vladimir Putin when he was prime minister. Another Clinton campaign bundler, former New Jersey Sen. Robert Torricelli, is the lobbyist for the Paris-based National Council for Resistance in Iran, a controversial Iranian dissident group that for years had been on the State Department’s terrorism list, but was “de-listed” three years ago.

In her campaign, Hillary Clinton has pledged to push for sweeping campaign finance reform that will “end the stranglehold that wealthy interests have over our political system” and “curb the outsized influence of big money in American politics.” But the role of so many well-heeled foreign lobbyists in Clinton’s campaign fundraising apparatus is “very troubling” and represents a substantial retreat from eight years ago, when then candidate Barack Obama refused to take campaign money at all from any registered lobbyists, said Craig Holman of Public Citizen, a public interest group that has long pushed for wholesale changes in the campaign-finance system.

“This is classic influence-peddling,” said Holman

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/31/2014 7:27:33 AM
Subject: $15 and Change: How Seattle Led the Country's Wage Revolution

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Sunday, 31 August 2014

truthout

$15 and Change: How Seattle Led the Country's Wage Revolution

David "Goldy" Goldstein, YES!
Magazine: Seattle's path to a $15 minimum wage is a winding tale of effective organizing, smart messaging and luck. It is also a roadmap for bypassing partisan gridlock one city at a time.
Read the Article

Students Should Be Creative Innovators, Not Force-Fed Consumers of Status-Quo Knowledge

Mark Karlin, Truthout: Unless students are empowered to help shape their own educations, and use their skills and energy to fight for justice and make their neighborhoods better places , there will be little progress in solving the nation's most pressing problems, Mark Naison, author of *Bad Ass Teachers Unite,* tells Truthout.
Read the Interview

"Badhoneywell" Makes Its Nationwide Debut

Mathias Quackenbush, Truthout: The US government's complicity in the Israeli siege of Gaza is no secret, but what remains in the shadows, however, is the alarming extent to which United States corporations like Honeywell profit from the Israeli war machine.
Read the Article

The Plague

John Feffer, Foreign Police In Focus: Ebola is bad news, but it hasn't generated the same kind of fury as that other fast-spreading scourge, namely the Islamic State. The recent beheading of US journalist James Foley has ratcheted up the outrage of American observers.
Read the Article

Artesia, New Mexico: Locking up Children From Cold War to War on Immigrants

Betsy Hartmann, Truthout: It is perhaps not

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Ferguson Isn't About Black Rage Against Cops, It's White Rage Against Progress
Read the Article at the Washington Post

Charles Koch Personally Founded a Group Protecting Oil Industry Handouts
Read the Article at The Nation

This 11-Year-Old Was Locked Up Trying to Cross the Border. Read the Heartfelt Letter She Sent Obama
Read the Article at Mother Jones

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surprising that Homeland Security set up its immigrant detention center for children and families crossing the border in Artesia, New Mexico, where children went to school in an underground shelter in the '60s, amid the bleak nuclear landscape.

Read the Article

Truthout Interviews Featuring Adam Bessie and Dan Carino on Bill Gates, Graphic Journalism, and the Education Reform Hype Machine

Ted Asregadoo, Truthout: Ted Asregadoo speaks to English Professor Adam Bessie and Graphic Journalist Dan Carino about Bill Gates' free-market education reform movement that emphasizes a more technocratic and quantitatively rigid curriculum.

Watch the Video

Nine Extraordinary Ways to Use the Tools of Your Trade in Protest

Nadine Bloch, Waging Nonviolence: Farmers, janitors, musicians and fire fighters have found ways to wield their ordinary tools in extraordinary protests. Here are examples of some of the most iconic forms of activism.

Read the Article

Van Jones and Charles Blow Absolve White America

Margaret Kimberley, Black Agenda Report: The people of Ferguson had no power brokers dissuading protest, claiming to speak for them or cutting deals behind their backs. So they took to the streets day after day and worldwide media attention soon followed.

Read the Article

Trans Women of Color Speaking Truth to Power

Tanisha C. Ford, The Feminist Wire: Trans women of color are fighting to gain greater visibility for trans issues while also creating safe spaces for themselves. Far too often the voices of women at the vanguard of the movement who do not have a global platform are pushed to the margins of our social and political consciousness.

Read the Article

Impending Casino Closures Foreground Atlantic City's Great Divide

Read the Article on MSNBC

Six Other Excessive Force Complaints Filed Against Ferguson PD

Read the Article at Crooks and Liars

Beijing Rules Out Open Elections in Hong Kong

Read the Article at The New York Times

Colorado Town to Ask Higher Court to Uphold Its Fracking Ban

Read the Article at Inside Climate News

This week in Speakout:

Anis Shivani raises doubts about the utopian promises laid out by technology enthusiasts and scientists; **Joe Uehlein** draws parallels between the Great Depression and conditions in the current recession and suggests a revitalized green Labor movement; **The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation** says the tiny Marshall Islands nation will continue in its quest to force the US to comply with its commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty; **Fran Shor** discusses the racism that remains embedded in American football; **the Rev. Samuel Weddington** notes apartheid roots of the crackdown in Ferguson; **Laura Finley** asks us to reconsider shelters for housing domestic violence victims; **Dean Baker** points out the New York Times missed the mark in its criticism of French economic policy and excoriates public funding for inflated university president pay; **Ben Ptashnik** and **Victoria Collier** report on the activism surrounding the resumption of water shut-offs in Detroit; **Reprieve** criticizes Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel for refusing to release video tapes of Guantanamo detainees being force fed; **Emily Homrok** raises concerns over the racial composition of wrongful convictions; **Gabriel San Roman** interviews Tomas Moniz of Rad Dad Magazine on discussing radical politics

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with children; **Kathy Kelly** illustrates the hardship of gaining even a basic education in Afghanistan; **Roger Annis** points to fascist participation in fundraising by Ukrainian activists in Canada and details misconceptions about the roots of conflict in Ukraine; **Guerry Hoddersen** reviews *Ms. Anna and the Tears from the Healing Tree,* a book about racial pain and healing in the United States; and more.

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	2/28/2015 9:30:12 AM
Subject:	2.28.15 HRC Clips
Attachments:	20150228 HRC Clips.docx

HRC Clips
February 28, 2015

HRC

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Group Backing Netanyahu Will Air Ad Attacking Hillary Clinton (The New York Times)..... 24
Hillary Clinton takes fire from Democrats as Libya chaos creates terrorist safe haven (The Washington Times) 26

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At CPAC, Republicans attack Hillary Clinton from every angle (Politico)
By Gabriel Debenedetti
February 27, 2016
Politico

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said Hillary Clinton couldn't make it to the Conservative Political Action Conference because "we couldn't find a foreign nation to foot the bill." Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard CEO, insisted Clinton "likes hashtags, but she doesn't know what leadership means." And former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush knocked her on conflict of interest claims involving her family's foundation.

It was amply clear at the annual conservative confab this week that Clinton has eclipsed Barack Obama as the Republican residential hopefuls' main punching bag. But it is the sheer number of distinct anti-Clinton attack lines that is raising eyebrows.

Whether onstage or off, Republicans derided Clinton from every angle. They cast the 67-year-old as yesterday's news, brought up her husband Bill Clinton's 1990s scandals, questioned the rationale for her expected run for the White House, criticized her high-dollar speaking fees, and, of course, lashed her over the Benghazi attacks.

Republicans eager to derail a Clinton 2016 campaign, like those flooding the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center here, see the panoply of critiques as a show of force against a candidate they insist is more vulnerable than her allies realize. Watching warily from afar, however, Democrats eager to see a Clinton presidency cast the attacks as a sign of confusion in the GOP, predicting the mish-mash of arguments will fail to jell and dent the former secretary of state's image.

Both sides could agree on one thing: that the brewing questions about the Clinton Foundation's funding — the theme gaining most attention at CPAC and among national political operatives in recent weeks — pose special danger for her. "The foundation stuff is real," said a Democrat in Clinton's orbit. "That's hurting."

Clinton has stayed relatively low-key in recent months, appearing in public within the United States for the first time just this week. She is expected to take a formal step toward a presidential run before the end of April, and her allies expect she and her campaign team will engage with such criticisms once she does. Republicans, however, cite her aides' unwillingness to take on the critics now as evidence that Clinton is "hiding" because she doesn't have a good response.

"Hillary barely comes out in public these days," Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said on stage. "If there's not a private luxury jet and a quarter million-dollar speaking fee waiting for her, you can forget about it."

Republicans' intense and long-standing focus on Clinton suggest many of them expect her to be a formidable candidate. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, for instance, warned a packed hotel suite of about 100 college students that Clinton has strategic advantages because she is a woman and could make history by winning the White House.

But as White House aspirants paraded through the convention center halls this week and riled up conservative activists from the stage, fellow Republicans brushed off the notion that there were too many arguments against Clinton floating around, pointing out that 2016 hopefuls aren't expected to coordinate their messages.

"Democrats have a real problem if they are complaining about Hillary Clinton having too many vulnerabilities for Republicans to exploit. This is further proof of how flawed their candidate is and why she won't come out of hiding to talk with voters," RNC spokeswoman Allison Moore said.

Democrats pointed out that Clinton, a public figure for decades, has weathered numerous controversies in the past, and that it will be hard for any one issue to change perceptions of her so far ahead of the election, especially when Republicans are hitting her with so many separate criticisms.

"It's more important to get [the campaign launch] right than to be out there to deal with all these one-offs," said former Bill Clinton White House aide Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist.

The anti-Clinton messages were not limited to the main speakers' stage at CPAC: posters trashing the former first lady line the walls; college-age Republicans frequently refer to Clinton as the enemy as they stroll the hallways; and the official schedule included a screening of an anti-Clinton documentary.

Republican 2016 hopefuls speaking at the convention center aren't trying to sway independents; they're trying to excite the GOP base, and a stinger of a line about Clinton is worth the barrage of attention it will get.

Speaking on Friday afternoon, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul fumed over the 2012 attacks on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, whose victims included U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens. He called on Clinton to "permanently retire."

"Hillary's war made us less safe," Paul said. "As Hillary was declaring victory in Libya, Ambassador Stevens was pleading for more security."

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Asked by conservative media personality Sean Hannity for a one-word description of Clinton a few hours later, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said, "foreign fundraising."

Some of the harshest attacks of the week against Clinton have come from Fiorina, the sole woman in the emerging GOP presidential field, who appears to be positioning herself as its top Clinton antagonist.

Fiorina zeroed in on the Clinton Foundation and its relationships with foreign governments: "Please explain why we should accept that the millions and millions of dollars that have flowed into the Clinton Global Initiative from foreign governments doesn't represent a conflict of interest," Fiorina implored an energized crowd on Thursday.

Speaking next that afternoon, Cruz went a similar route, saying Clinton "embodies the corruption of Washington." Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, meanwhile, continued his tactic of painting Clinton as a candidate of "yesterday."

But amid the deluge of anti-Clinton talk, one unexpected argument in particular caught CPAC's attention and set the crowd abuzz.

The notion was offered up by popular conservative radio host Laura Ingraham, who was tasked with helping rouse the sleepy activists on Friday morning.

"Why don't we just call it quits?" she asked. "Jeb and Hillary can run on the same ticket."

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The Democrats might be radio silent for the next year, thanks to Hillary Clinton (The Washington Post)
By Philip Bump
February 27, 2015
The Washington Post

The annual convention/pep rally that is CPAC has attracted a lot of attention over the last few years for fairly obvious reasons. It's many of the most prominent conservative members of the Republican Party, speaking publicly on current issues in an otherwise slow news period. The media loves to amplify the comments made at CPAC, in part because they generate outrage elsewhere. But for those few days, the political press is talking about one thing: conservative Republican politics.

There's no liberal equivalent. There are gatherings that get coverage, but they don't have that same sort of high-profile speaker line-ups and often lack the fire and brimstone you get at CPAC. It's easier to rant against Washington when your party doesn't control the White House, of course, but even in that short window when the Bush years overlapped with a splintered digital media, there wasn't a Democratic focal point.

The GOP will transition from CPAC to the 2016 fight with very little delay; in fact, nearly all coverage of the CPAC speeches is already using a 2016 lens. The first debates aren't for a few months -- August to be exact -- but bear in mind that it has already been two months since Jeb Bush announced his leadership PAC/presidential campaign. Time flies when you're obsessed with a presidential election. Before you know it, it will be late summer, and the Republican candidates will be fighting and clawing in preparation for Iowa. And the political press will talk about one thing: Republican politics.

On the Democratic side, well, there's Hillary Clinton. It's increasingly apparent that she won't face any real opposition in her walk to the nomination in Philadelphia. Jim Webb? Bernie Sanders? Martin O'Malley? No television network is going to preempt an evening's programming to watch Clinton swat them away. Part of the motivation for getting Elizabeth Warren into the race is that her politics are considered more liberal, particularly on economic issues. But in part, it's because there's perhaps no one else who might actually offer Clinton a real contest. Without a real contest, we'll have her announcement, a few speeches after Clinton wins a few big states, and the convention. But otherwise, what?

The theory goes that this is advantageous for Clinton. That she can sit back and raise money and, as needed, bash whoever's popping up in the GOP field. There's validity to that, to be sure. But it also means that the voices that capture the public's attention will be the Republicans criticizing each other -- and her. Especially her. Running some ads or announcing fundraising numbers won't change that. (Nor, it's safe to assume, would another book.)

There is recent evidence that this alleged disadvantage won't matter. In 2011 and early 2012, the conversation was all Republican, all the time. And Obama lackadaisically walked to victory that November. Will voters be as excited about electing Hillary Clinton as they were about reelecting Barack Obama? Perhaps. But it seems very safe to consider that they perhaps may not be. And in 2012, voters were considering someone with a known record who was sitting in the White House. Clinton needs to get people to hear her platform and to get them to believe that she is something new and fresh -- an opportunity she won't likely get until the general election.

This may not matter. Predicting politics a year from now is a fool's errand; there could be a real Democratic nomination fight or a quick Republican one. We'll see. But it's hard to see how 12 to 14 months of increasingly refined debate over which Republican solution will best address America's problems -- and how Hillary Clinton is a move in the wrong direction -- is a good thing for those hoping to elect a Democrat.

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Hillary Clinton has a plan to fix Washington. It is not a good plan. (Vox)
By Ezra Klein
February 27, 2015
Vox

There's a lot of chatter about what Hillary Clinton's campaign will actually be about. But the truth is, coming up with a policy agenda is the easy part. The hard part is going to be persuading voters that that agenda can pass.

The Obama years have been, for liberals, a searing lesson in the limits of the presidency. Obama made huge progress on liberal goals when he had a Democratic majority from 2009-2010. Since then, his legislative agenda has been blocked. A president without a Congress can't make much change. And the next Democratic president isn't going to have a Democratic Congress. Population patterns and gerrymandering mean the House is safely under GOP control at least into the 2020s.

Now, with Republicans nearly certain to keep control of the House, the 2016 Democratic candidates are going to have to somehow convince voters that they not only have ideas, but they have a plausible plan for getting those ideas passed into law.

The New York Times reports that at the Watermark Silicon Valley Conference for Women, Clinton previewed her answer. It's not very good:

She spoke at length about bipartisanship and promoted her record of working with Republicans in Arkansas and as a senator from New York. Her objective, should she run for president, would be to end partisan gridlock, she told Ms. Swisher.

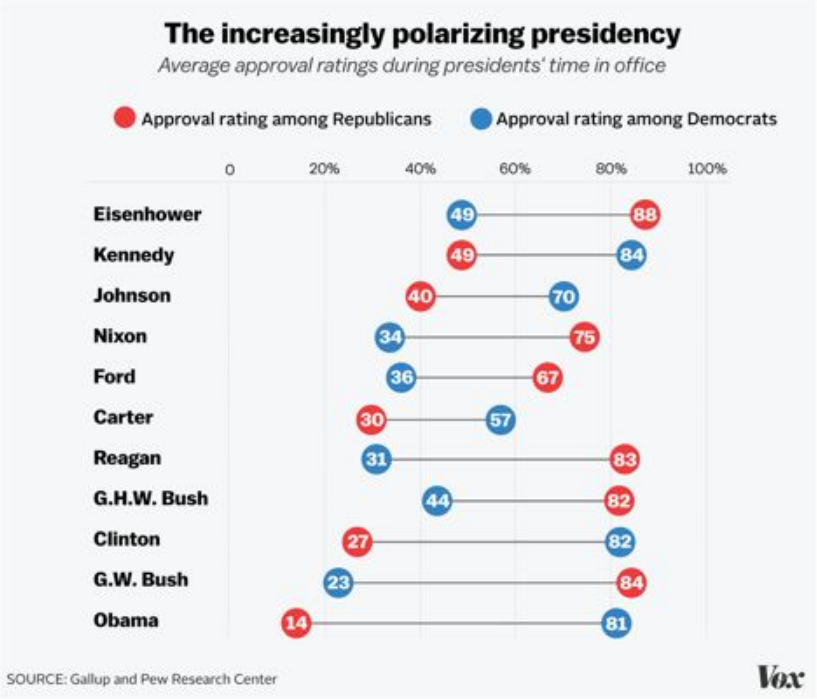
"I'd like to bring people from right, left, red, blue, get them into a nice warm purple space where everybody is talking and where we're actually trying to solve problems," Mrs. Clinton said.

And I'd like to ride a Google Bus to work in the morning. But it's not going to happen. I don't work at Google. And Hillary Clinton doesn't work in a political system where right, left, red and blue are going to meld into a warm purple.

One reason Clinton lost in 2008 was that many believed her too polarizing to elect. They were tired of the partisan wars, the bitter divisions. They wanted a president who seemed capable of bridging differences, not destined to deepen the divides. In his influential endorsement of Obama, "Goodbye to All That," Andrew Sullivan wrote:

Clinton will always be, in the minds of so many, the young woman who gave the commencement address at Wellesley, who sat in on the Nixon implosion and who once disdained baking cookies. For some, her husband will always be the draft dodger who smoked pot and wouldn't admit it. And however hard she tries, there is nothing Hillary Clinton can do about it. She and Giuliani are conscripts in their generation's war. To their respective sides, they are war heroes.

As the thinking went, Clinton was intrinsically polarizing. She couldn't end the war because she was part of the war. But Obama, as a political and generational outsider, could end the war. He clearly believed this too. But he was wrong. Obama made the war worse.



Obama has been the most polarizing president since the advent of polling. But before him, it was George W. Bush. And before Bush, it was Bill Clinton. Party polarization — and its result, partisan gridlock — is structural, not individual. Obama couldn't

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end it. Clinton certainly can't. The fundamental fact of American politics right now is that party polarization is natural, partisan behavior is rational and gridlock is the result.

Clinton is promising what Obama, Bush, and, well, Clinton promised before her — to make politics work by making it less polarized. But she's not going to make it less polarized. She's somehow going to have to make it work even though it is polarized.

In 2008, Clinton made a version of this point in response to Obama's challenge:

Now I could stand up here and say 'Let's just get everybody together, Let's get unified. The sky will open. The light will come down. Celestial choirs will be singing. And everyone will know we should do the right thing and the world will be perfect.' Maybe I've just lived a little long, but I have no illusions about how hard this is going to be. You are not going to wave a magic wand and have the special interests disappear.

When Clinton talks about "special interests," she presumably doesn't include the Republicans. But they're not going to disappear either, and nor is partisan gridlock. If her plan is to pretend otherwise and to try to persuade the electorate that the gridlock of the last few years is unique to this era, well, that's not a very good plan.

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Hillary Clinton Aides Are in Talks to Fill Top Campaign Roles (The New York Times)
By Maggie Haberman
February 27, 2015
The New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton's advisers are in serious discussions with nearly a half-dozen operatives to fill key roles such as political director on a likely 2016 presidential campaign.

The prospects are mostly people who have worked with Mrs. Clinton before, according to a person familiar with the discussions, who asked for anonymity to speak freely about personnel discussions.

The conversations reflect a fast-moving effort by Mrs. Clinton to build a campaign as a number of Democratic Party operatives are vying for position. While the budding campaign had been criticized as too white and too male in its early stages, this group of operatives is diverse and would give Mrs. Clinton a number of women and people of color in top jobs.

They include Amanda Renteria, the first Hispanic woman to work as a chief of staff to a senator when she was on the staff of Debbie Stabenow of Michigan. Ms. Renteria, whose parents were immigrants from Mexico and worked as fruit pickers in California, is expected to be the campaign's political director. Ms. Renteria ran unsuccessfully for Congress last year.

Marlon Marshall, who worked on Mrs. Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign and later took a job with President Obama's White House, is likely to be in charge of all her state strategies in 2016. Mr. Marshall is also very close with Robby Mook, Mrs. Clinton's expected campaign manager. Mr. Marshall is often described as Mr. Mook's "right hand."

A third potential employee, Tracey Lewis, is currently working for Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts. She worked for Mrs. Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign in New Hampshire, and before that she was the first African-American to run the Massachusetts Democratic Party's coordinated campaign efforts, when Deval Patrick was running for governor in 2006.

Brynne Craig, who's been working as a scheduler for Mrs. Clinton, is another who is close to Mr. Mook and who is also likely to be chosen for a deputy political director role, according to the person familiar with the campaign plans. She was political director on the 2013 campaign for Virginia governor by Mrs. Clinton's friend Terry McAuliffe, a race that Mr. Mook managed.

Matt Ortega, an operative who works as the digital director at the Democratic firm New Partners, has had conversations with the campaign about working on Mrs. Clinton's digital strategy. New Partners has a contract with Mrs. Clinton to conduct research into her potential vulnerabilities.

One person who has already been brought on board for Mrs. Clinton is Dennis Cheng, who led the Clinton Foundation's endowment efforts and is a trusted ally. He is having extensive conversations about filling more than a half-dozen regional jobs, according to people who've been privy to the conversations.

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Hillary Clinton's 'obsession' with money could be an obstacle for her 2016 campaign (Business Insider)
By Colin Campbell
February 27, 2015
Business Insider

For Hillary Clinton, more money means more problems.

Clinton, the Democratic presidential front-runner in 2016, is under a barrage of criticism for her finances including her six-figure speaking fees and her foundation's fundraising practices. The headlines have some experts on both sides of the aisle convinced Clinton's cash could be an issue in her prospective White House bid.

Multiple Republicans working on the 2016 race told Business Insider they thought Clinton's finances were a major weakness for her on the campaign trail.

"I think that it absolutely would be a potent attack against Hillary Clinton, if only for the fact that she's just not able to relate to the guy who's actually waiting paycheck to paycheck," one GOP operative said.

In the most explosive development, The Washington Post reported Wednesday night that the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation broke an agreement it made with the White House by taking a $500,000 contribution from the Algerian government while Clinton was secretary of state. The agreement was designed to prevent foreign governments from indirectly currying favor with the State Department through Clinton.

A Democratic operative told Business Insider the story created "a line of attack that should keep Hillaryland up at night."

"Accepting foreign donations is a huge conflict of interest, and their decision to reverse the ban is mind-boggling," the Democrat said.

Indeed, almost immediately after the story about the donations broke, the GOP pounced. In a statement, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus ripped into Clinton's fundraising "obsession" and said it should disqualify her from the presidency.

"The latest revelations about the Clinton Foundation's shady deals are disqualifying," Priebus said. "No one in their right mind, Democrat or Republican, can think the foundation receiving foreign government donations while Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state, and in violation of its ethics agreement with the Obama administration, is acceptable. This is symptomatic of the Clintons' obsession with raising cash at all costs."

The Algerian contribution is only a small drop in the $2 billion bucket reportedly raised by Clinton's foundation over the years. A significant amount of that money is from foreign entities, including Saudi Arabia, which has widespread human-rights abuses, and Qatar, which has a history of supporting an Al Qaeda affiliate.

Clinton's foundation isn't the only aspect of her finances that has generated negative headlines. Despite widespread criticism of her paid speeches — which can command as much as $300,000 an event — Clinton has continued giving them. The organizations she speaks to have included esoteric groups like the New York regional chapter of the American Camp Association, as well as public universities like the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. UNLV students unsuccessfully petitioned Clinton to return the money to their school, which is in an important swing state.

Clinton's most recent paid appearance, at a Silicon Valley gathering of professional women, generated a damning Yahoo News headline: "Hillary Clinton paid $300,000 to explain what ails the middle class."

A representative for Clinton did not respond to a request for comment from Business Insider.

And it's not just Republicans who have been raising questions about Clinton's behavior. A Democratic strategist who spoke to Business Insider said Clinton's decision to keep taking lucrative speaking fees and foreign donations was "baffling" in light of the problems it could cause for her brand.

"You can kind of massage policy things, but these are just avoidable mistakes, and in many ways it feeds a narrative that's far more damaging than if she wasn't pure on trade, or healthcare, or some other issue — so, it's baffling," the strategist said.

Robert Gibbs, a former spokesman for President Barack Obama, also described Clinton's finances as a potential obstacle for her presidential ambitions in an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. Gibbs said the foreign donations to Clinton's foundation have an appearance that is "awkward at best" and alluded to the steady drumbeat of bad press relating to her finances.

"I think they're going to have to do something in the very short term to deal with this in a way that puts it off the table," Gibbs added. "I think there are a lot of people that have watched the sort of slow roll of the Hillary Clinton campaign, really dating

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back to last year with a book tour that some wondered what she was doing. ... There has been a slow roll of concerning headlines for a long time."

Indeed, Clinton's potential rivals have already started making her money an issue. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) was one of many potential 2016 candidates who mocked the Clinton foundation's foreign contributions at the conservative confab CPAC this week.

"We could have had Hillary here, but we couldn't find a foreign nation to foot the bill," he quipped to laughter on Thursday.

The Republican operative who spoke to Business Insider said the revelation about the Algerian donation wouldn't just be a problem for Clinton in the next few days. The operative predicted the issue could be used as ammunition against her throughout the coming campaign.

"I think what you're seeing is maybe one of the first big hits on her that seems to be resonating," the Republican said. "It's certainly raising ethical questions. And you can take it to the bank that the headlines that are being produced from these stories are going to be in television ads over the next few years."

In addition to Clinton's finances providing fodder for attacks from her opponents, the Democratic strategist suggested they could also prevent Clinton from hitting her rivals on their wealth or coziness to corporate interests.

"At best, if we were running against Mitt Romney and she was the nominee, then it would be a wash. But we're not going to be that lucky this time," the Democrat said. "And from an operative's standpoint, it makes me nuts because it takes so much off the table that you might be able to use to go after [Jeb] Bush or one of the other Republicans."

Given the issues her speaking fees and the foreign donations to her foundation could pose for Clinton's presidential ambitions, nearly all the sources who spoke to Business Insider expressed shock she hasn't stopped taking the money as she prepares to launch.

"It's a form of arrogance that they think that they can continue doing it and not be held accountable for it and not get called out for it," the GOP operative said of Clinton and her family. "It's not like they didn't know that she was going to be running or that this was a possibility."

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Bush, Rubio keep focus on Hillary at CPAC; Candidates avoid bashing each other to conservatives (The Post and Courier)

By Schuyler Kropf
February 28, 2015
The Post and Courier (South Carolina)

NA TIONAL HARBOR, Md. — The anticipated race to the right at the annual CPAC gathering of conservative activists has, instead, been largely a cathartic opportunity to bash Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama.

Even natural rivals among the potential Republican presidential contenders who normally would be trying to outdo each other in proving they are more conservative have held their fire in talking about each other, reserving it instead for the Democrats.

"That's who's the 800-pound gorilla right now," said Charles Harvey, of Charleston, referring to Clinton during a break at the Conservative Political Action Conference. "This is a conservative rallying point."

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who is considering a run for the White House, skipped CPAC, leading some political observers to say he wanted to avoid a confrontation with far-right activists who view him as a liberal when even being considered a moderate can be the kiss of death at CPAC.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush risked that in appearing Friday, as did Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. But both emerged mostly unscathed, primarily by focusing their criticism on the common enemy.

Bush, whose middle-of-the-road appeal is often touted as his strength in seeking the White House, drew the most "boos" from the audience during his 20-minute appearance. But the real vitriol was reserved for Clinton.

Some of the speakers at the convention have equated a Clinton White House to a third Obama term. The president and the former secretary of state were repeatedly vilified for the Affordable Care Act — known as Obamacare — and the perceived loss of U.S. prestige in the world.

"Our allies no longer trust us and our enemies no longer fear us," Rubio said Friday, repeating a variation of a line often used by the speakers this week about the "Obama-Clinton" foreign policy.

He equated the words "Hillary Clinton" to the one word answer: "Yesterday." Obama was called "Failed."

"Hillary's war in Libya is a perfect example," said Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul, joining in the Democrat bashing. "Hillary's war made us less safe — Libya's less stable.

"It's time for Hillary Clinton to permanently retire."

Attendees said they were fine with the blistering tone, as long as it was directed at the Democrats.

"It's not all Hillary bashing, but a lot of it is Hillary bashing," said Sam Wigle, a junior at Clemson University and among a large cadre of young conservatives attending the convention.

All of the unannounced candidates avoided attacks on their potential GOP primary opponents, except one: Developer Donald Trump went after Bush.

"He's in favor of Common Core; he's weak on immigration," said Trump. "I don't see there's any way. You people are going to have to make your own choice."

Bush was the last of the potential candidates to speak at the gathering, which wraps up Saturday with a straw poll by the attendees of their presidential choices. He did face a slight rebellion when dozens of tea party-aligned Floridians walked out of his speech in quiet protest.

Wigle said the Republicans still have time to work out their divisions and settle on their candidate.

"We're so far away from the actual voting," he said.

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Marco Rubio: Hillary Clinton is 'yesterday' (USA Today)
February 27, 2015
USA Today

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, the most focused on national security of the potential 2016 field, said Friday that the administration's "Obama-Clinton" foreign policy means "our allies no longer trust us and our enemies no longer fear us."

Rubio said it was his fifth appearance at the Conservative Political Action Conference, but his first as a potential presidential candidate.

At 43, he's the youngest of the potential presidential candidate. Asked what the words "Hillary Clinton" meant to him, he replied, "Yesterday."

Rubio advocated a ground war against the Islamic State fought by a "coalition" of nations including U.S. special operation forces and U.S. air support.

"If we wanted to defeat them militarily, we would do it," Rubio said, but President Obama "doesn't want to upset Iran."

Rubio drew criticism from his own party when he advocated immigration reform that would allow a pathway to citizenship for immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. He has since changed his position.

"It wasn't very popular, I don't know if you know that from people here," he joked before the CPAC audience. "What I've learned is that you can't even have a conversation about that until people believe" that future illegal immigration will be controlled.

"Americans know we're exceptional, and most of all, the world knows. When was the last time you heard of a boatload of American refugees arriving on the shores of another country?"

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Rand Paul: 'It is Time for Hillary Clinton to Permanently Retire' (Bloomberg)
By David Weigel
February 27, 2015
Bloomberg

Kentucky Senator Rand Paul was supposed to speak at 10:40 a.m. Then, it was 11:40 a.m. As first Sean Hannity, then Donald Trump took the CPAC stage to free-associate about freedom, libertarian fans of Paul–many clad in STAND WITH RAND T-shirts bearing a silhouette of the senator–grew a little restless.

"I came up a half hour ago to see Rand, and it didn't work, so I thought I'd try again," joked Cato Institute vice president David Boaz. (For the record, he was not wearing one of the T-shirts.)

Paul's delay, which was delayed by 20 minutes away in the Capitol, had aftershocks. When Hannity polled the crowd for their views of the 2016 candidates, Paul got a roar of approval. The names of Jeb Bush and Chris Christie drew loud, lusty boos, duly recorded by hundreds of reporters and tweeters. Trump, never a disciplined speaker, ran into the same bear trap when he suggested "boots on the ground" could defeat ISIS and had his hair (figuratively) blown back by jeers.

Finally, closer to 12:30 p.m., Paul took the stage to some of the weekend's loudest applause and the smooth rock sounds of the Edward Winter Group's "Frankenstein." As it had been for Scott Walker's Thursday speech, the Potomac ballroom was filled to the edges.

"There comes a time in the history of nations when fear and forgetfulness cause a nation to hesitate, to waver, and perhaps even to succumb," said Paul. "When that time comes, those who love liberty must rise to the occasion. Will you lovers of liberty rise to the occasion?"

It sounded like a quote from a founding father; it was a Paul original. Paul spoke in high dudgeon about the conflicts in the Levant and the culprits in the rise of ISIS. "Hillary's war made it less safe," said Paul, leading to the growth of "a dangerous and barbaric cult" that perverted Islam.

"We need a foreign policy that encourages stability, not chaos," Paul said. "At home, conservatives understand that the government is the problem, not the solution. As conservatives, we should not succumb to the notion that a government inept at home will somehow become successful abroad." That was not just a whack at the party's hawks. "It is time for Hillary Clinton to permanently retire," said Paul, though that line did not generate as many cheers as the self-criticism of the GOP did.

Paul moved on to a recap of his trips to "Ferguson, Detroit, Chicago," and other blue cities that proved that "liberal policies had failed urban America." In the speech, and in a Q&A, he cited Martin Luther King, Jr.'s concept of two Americas, "two stark American experiences that run side by side." He "was born into the America that experiences in and believes in opportunity," but he knew what ailed the people in the other America.

"In the coming weeks," said Paul, "I will propose the biggest tax cut in American history, a tax cut on every worker in America. It will cut spending and balance the budget in just five years."

The Q&A, a feature of this CPAC that has taken wildly different forms for different candidates, made up just a few minutes at the end of Paul's time. The questions were friendly -- one asked if "curly hair" was a "gift from God," which allowed Paul to poke fun at himself. Another asked how the GOP could reach out to libertarians who were skeptical of them.

"Nominate Rand Paul!" yelled a man in the crowd.

"Good answer," said Paul.

He delivered his usual argument that true conservatism focused "on the fourth amendment, not just the second amendment," and after a few more questions he walked off the stage to "Frankenstein." Around half of the crowd left with him, as former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum came onstage. The discussion among Paul fans was whether to return just in time for Jeb Bush's Q&A–and then walk out.

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Rand Paul Slams Hillary Clinton, NSA Spying At Conservative Lovefest (Huffing Post)
By Jennifer Bendery
February 27, 2015
Huffington Post

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. -- Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) was the guy that everyone wanted to hear speak at the Conservative Political Action Conference, and he didn't disappoint.

In a speech Friday, Paul hit on all the issues that make a young libertarian salivate. He vowed to repeal "every last bit" of the Affordable Care Act. He wondered aloud how we can trust the government to rebuild nations abroad if it can't deliver the mail here. He criticized President Barack Obama for driving up the debt, and said Hillary Clinton was "forever" unfit to run for office because of her "dereliction of duty" as secretary of state in the wake of the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

Don't like the National Security Agency collecting your data? Neither does Paul. "The phone records of law-abiding citizens are none of the government's damn business!" he said, drawing loud cheers.

The 2016 presidential hopeful even had a little bit of news: He announced that in the coming weeks, he plans to unveil the "largest tax cut in American history," a plan that will, somehow, simultaneously cut spending and balance the budget in five years.

"I will keep the IRS out of your life and out of the way of every job creator in America," Paul declared.

Paul's supporters came in droves to see him speak. Hundreds of people wearing "Stand with Rand" T-shirts filled the ballroom before he spoke, and cleared the room as soon he was done. In a show of loyalty, many fans were planning a mass walkout later when Jeb Bush, one of Paul's more moderate rivals for the 2016 Republican nomination, was scheduled to take the stage.

"President Paul! President Paul!" they shouted at Paul, who chuckled as he wrapped up his speech.

But for some CPAC attendees, particularly the young and fickle, a fiery speech by a GOP presidential contender may have just been something fun to check out, rather than an indication of voter support ahead of 2016. Some were just as eager to find out when the star of "Duck Dynasty" was scheduled to speak.

"Great guy," said one college-aged attendee as he walked out after Paul's speech. "He won't be president, though."

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Hillary Clinton stacks March schedule with women's events, a paid speech (CNN)
By Dan Merica
February 27, 2015
CNN

After a handful events in two months, Hillary Clinton has filled her March with a mix of women's events, nonprofit speeches and at least one paid appearance.

In January and February, Clinton headlined three events -- only one of which was in the United States. But as Clinton moves closer to her expected 2016 presidential campaign announcement, the former secretary of state has at least seven events scheduled for the month of March.

Most of Clinton's events are focused on one thing: women.

Clinton starts her month by headlining the 30th anniversary gala for Emily's List -- a pro-Clinton organization that focused on helping Democratic women win elected office. At the D.C. speech on March 3, Clinton is expected to give a nod to the group's importance to Democrats and highlight the reason more women are needed in politics.

Emily's List has been energized by Clinton's campaign and has pledged to raise and spend more money than any other election cycle because of the prospect of a Clinton White House.

The following week, Clinton will headline two New York events tied to her 1995 speech to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing -- a speech Clinton regularly references in pitches to women. In that speech Clinton said, "If there is one message that echoes forth from this conference, let it be that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights once and for all."

On March 9, Clinton teams up with Chelsea, her daughter, and Melinda Gates to release a report through the Clinton Foundation that looks at "the gaps that still remain" in women's participation in the economy and politics.

The following day -- on March 10 -- Clinton will headline the United Nation's Women Empowerment Principles annual gathering in New York. Clinton will use the speech to outline the findings in the Clinton Foundation report and "reflect on progress made in implementing the agenda set in Beijing two decades ago," the organizers said in a release about the event.

On March 16, Clinton will be inducted into the Irish America Hall of Fame at an event in New York. Clinton is not Irish -- her family is of English, Scottish, French, and Welsh descent -- but she is being hooded because of "her dedicated work on Irish Peace Process."

"Hillary Rodham Clinton is one of the unsung heroes of the success of the Irish peace process," said Irish America co-founder Niall O'Dowd.

In 1998, Clinton put together the Vital Voices Conference of women in Belfast, a body that pressed for a piece agreement. The former secretary of state cited her experiences in Ireland during a number of speeches in 2014.

O'Dowd is a longtime Clinton supporter, though,and was a member of her 2008 campaign finance team. Some Republicans have questioned how active Clinton was in the Northern Ireland peace process. The Washington Post Fact Checker wrote in 2008 that Clinton "seems to be overstating her significance as a catalyst in the Northern Ireland peace process, which was more symbolic than substantive," but that she did play "a helpful role at the margins."

On March 19, Clinton will headline her only confirmed paid speech of the month when she heads to Atlantic City for the American Camp Association, NY & NJ Conference.

Susie Lupert, the group's executive director, tells CNN, "Yes, just like most nonprofits and conferences, she is being paid for her appearance." But she would not confirm how much she is being paid. On average, Clinton makes between $200,000 and $300,000 per speech.

Near the end of the month, on March 23 in Washington, D.C., Clinton will be the keynote speaker at the award celebration for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting from Syracuse University.

Robin Toner, who graduated from Syracuse, was the first woman national political correspondent for the New York Times.

Syracuse Dean Lorraine Branham said Clinton is a "vivid example — like Robin — of a pioneering woman at the top of her profession."

Clinton headlining an event honoring political journalists is somewhat unique because for decades she has held a dim view of the profession.

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In a 1996, according to the diary of the late Clinton confidant Diane Blair, Clinton said the media are "complete hypocrites." At an event in 2014, Clinton said "journalism has changed quite a bit in a way that is not good for the country and not good for journalism."

"A lot of serious news reporting has become more entertainment driven and more opinion-driven as opposed to factual," she said. "People book onto the shows, political figures, commentators who will be controversial who will be provocative because it's a good show. You might not learn anything but you might be entertained and I think that's just become an unfortunate pattern that I wish could be broken."

Clinton's presidential campaign has become a forgone conclusion and Democrats close to Clinton expect she will announce some official move towards the presidency in April.

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If the struggle is for equal pay, Hillary is not the right leader (The Star Telegram)
By Richard Greene
February 27, 2015
The Star Telegram

Those wanting to see a political rant break out on this year's Oscars show didn't have to wait long for their wish to be fulfilled.

My wife and I are movie lovers. We watch four or five of them on our home screen just about every week.

We must be one of Redbox's best customers, and when we can't find what we want from one of their nearby dispensers, we turn to iTunes, or Netflix, or U-verse or our own library of several hundred DVDs.

Adding to our long engagement with the wonder of moving pictures is our enjoyment of following the success of family members working in the industry.

So you will find us among the legions of movie fans viewing the annual presentation of the Academy Awards.

It's always a risk that our enthusiasm for the art and magic of moviemaking will take a hit when performers seize the occasion to reveal their political agendas.

I know, they are certainly as free as the rest of us to express their views, but I would like it much better if we didn't know anything at all about the private or political lives of actors and actresses.

Sometimes such insight affects the ability to become absorbed in their films and takes the edge off the admiration of their exceptional talents.

Unsurprisingly though, some use their freedom of expression and celebrity to try to shape our society and align themselves with politicians who will pursue the results they want.

Preparations were well underway prior to this year's event to advance the narrative of equal rights for women -- a political issue that seems to loom high among the priorities in the upcoming race to elect the next president.

Helping to set the stage for what was to follow was a Hillary Clinton super PAC tweeting the hashtag #askhermore, a campaign supported by Hollywood activists to get beyond the "who are you wearing" meme that has dominated interviews with female stars on Oscar night's Red Carpet.

The point is to rally again to the cause of equal pay for actresses and renew the overall myth of conservatives waging a war on women.

I have no problem with advancing compliance with the multitude of federal laws -- some of which have been in effect for 50 years -- that protect rights of employees to be free from discrimination and ensures equal pay for equal work.

But Hollywood would be wise to consider whether it has found the right stalking horse to advance the cause.

Just hours after this year's best supporting actress Patricia Arquette's rousing demand for women's equality, Hillary's record of what she paid her Senate female staff members came into view.

The next day, an analysis by the Washington Free Beacon political website had her paying women in her workforce just 72 percent of what men earned.

The website story went on to cite the conclusion of American Enterprise Institute economist Mark Perry: "Either Clinton is guilty of gender discrimination and pays her female staffers significantly less than men, or she is guilty of statistical fraud for spreading misinformation about the alleged gender pay gap at the national level."

In spite of all her talk about breaking the "glass ceiling," the one above her own office apparently remained fully intact.

Clinton has long enjoyed the support of Hollywood's high-profile personalities. Whenever and wherever the heavyweights stage a fundraiser for her, millions flow into her campaign.

If, however, they are serious about furthering the mission of equal pay, they may want to rethink their choice.

Hillary may look the part, but her performance in the real world tells a different story.

Richard Greene is a former Arlington mayor and served as an appointee of President George W. Bush as regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency.

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Group Backing Netanyahu Will Air Ad Attacking Hillary Clinton (The New York Times)
By Maggie Haberman
February 27, 2015
The New York Times

The first television advertisement of the 2016 presidential campaign cycle to attack Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, will have its debut this weekend, paid for by a neoconservative group that strongly supports Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

The ad is being purchased by the Emergency Committee for Israel, a group started by William Kristol, the editor of The Weekly Standard, who has been deeply critical of President Obama and of Mrs. Clinton, the former secretary of state.

It is being supported with a small advertising buy: about $200,000, mainly on cable networks, beginning with the Sunday news shows and running through Tuesday, with some placements during the morning shows on two broadcast networks. There will also be a digital component, according to an official with the group, although it was unclear what portion of the dollar figure will be spent online.

The ad comes less than two weeks after a Republican group, American Crossroads, began running a web-only advertisement critical of Mrs. Clinton.

The new saber-rattling ad is harshest with Mr. Obama, but its main target is clearly Mrs. Clinton. The commercial ties together the Obama administration's nuclear talks with Iran and Mr. Netanyahu's scheduled speech before Congress at the invitation of House Republicans, which has been met with protest from Democrats, a number of whom plan to boycott the address. The ad then turns to Mrs. Clinton, who has not spoken publicly about Mr. Netanyahu's speech.

"Does she support the boycotters, or is she too afraid to stand up to them?" it asks.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton did not respond to an email for comment. A White House press aide did not respond to an email.

Mrs. Clinton wrote extensively about her sometimes contentious dealings with Mr. Netanyahu in "Hard Choices," a memoir that she promoted heavily last year. But she also forcefully defended Israel in its conflict with Hamas in a widely discussed interview with the columnist Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic.

While Mrs. Clinton is not expected to seek to distance herself from Mr. Obama on domestic policy to a great extent, she has pointed to areas of disagreement with the administration on global issues, and she is historically more hawkish than the president.

With foreign policy potentially playing a bigger role in this presidential campaign than it did in 2012, Republicans have long planned to try to make Mrs. Clinton's tenure as secretary of state a liability. And top Republican operatives have spent months discussing the possibility of airing ads before Mrs. Clinton officially begins a campaign, to try to define her before she openly starts to present herself to voters as a candidate.

"The Obama administration has launched an all-out assault against the Israeli prime minister," Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel, said in a statement. "Friends of the Jewish state ranging from Joe Lieberman to Elie Wiesel to Shelley Berkley have rallied to his defense. Hillary Clinton has remained silent. It's time for the former secretary of state and prospective presidential candidate to come out of hiding and tell us where she stands. Does Hillary Clinton stand with the boycotters or the supporters of Israel?"

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Hillary Clinton takes fire from Democrats as Libya chaos creates terrorist safe haven (The Washington Times)
By Kelly Riddell
February 27, 2015
The Washington Times

As Libya descends into a failed state — marked most recently by the beheadings of 21 Coptic Christians by jihadis — Democrats are beginning to question Hillary Rodham Clinton's rush to war in the country, and one in particular, former Sen. Jim Webb, may make national security the focal point of a presidential campaign.

More than three years after Mrs. Clinton pushed for U.S. airstrikes to end Moammar Gadhafi's four-decade-long autocracy, the country has been divided between two rival governments, each with its own military, and various tribal militias all competing for power.

As happened with Afghanistan in the 1990s, the chaos has provided Islamist terrorists with a perfect breeding ground to organize, with intelligence officials confirming late last year that jihadis have set up multiple training camps in eastern Libya.

In 2011 the NATO-led operation into Libya was heralded by both President Obama and Mrs. Clinton, who was then secretary of state, as a model for intervention. Both hoped that Gadhafi's ouster would move the North African nation toward democracy, as President George W. Bush's cabinet hoped the overthrow of Saddam Hussein would usher in a period of democracy and peace in Iraq.

But now even those who helped trumpet the international war cry at the time are beginning to question its merits.

"We're in a period of real turbulence in Libya, with an on-the-ground, ongoing civil conflict between an internationally recognized government centered in Tobruk and an Islamist force centered in Tripoli," said Adm. James Stavridis, who was NATO's supreme allied commander during the conflict, in a Feb. 19 interview on CNN. "Dropped in the middle of this mix is a dose of [the] Islamic State. Bad combination, and clearly a period of great turbulence."

He added he still believes Libya will be better off in the long run without Gadhafi, but right now "this is a very dark period for Libya."

America's top counterintelligence official spoke similarly Thursday in an appearance on Capitol Hill, telling the Senate Armed Services Committee that the collapse of authority has vaulted Libya into the position of most worrisome state in the region.

"There are, in addition to ISIL, probably six or eight other terrorist groups that have gathered in Libya," said James R. Clapper, director of national intelligence, using an acronym for the Islamic State group, which is also known as ISIS. "So it's a magnet because, essentially, it's ungoverned."

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Hawaii Democrat and an Iraq War veteran, has been a vocal critic of the U.S. intervention in Libya and the lack of cogent U.S. strategy in dealing with the rise of the Islamic State.

"Our policy went wrong when we took our eye off the true enemy, which is Islamic extremists, and put it on Gaddafi," Ms. Gabbard told The Washington Times. "We should not have intervened in Libya and overthrown Gaddafi. The U.S. and the rest of the world are now paying for those mistakes. Unfortunately, too often, many of our leaders have not and do not look ahead and anticipate the consequences and effects of their actions and decisions."

She added: "The root cause of these problems [the rise of the Islamic State] is that our leaders, after 9/11, lost sight of who the real enemy is, namely Islamic extremists. This lack of focus led the U.S. to engage in efforts to overthrow dictators and engage in nation-building."

Even former counterintelligence officials who served during the intervention are worried about the breakdown happening in Libya — and say at the heart of the problem was a lack of U.S. strategy after Gadhafi was toppled.

The rise of the Islamic State over the past few months highlights "the real security vacuum that we have in many of these places, and in Libya, that is really most obvious," said Michael Leiter, who served as the director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center during the Libyan conflict.

Mr. Leiter stepped down from his position at the counterterror center in July 2011 — five months into the conflict.

"The breakdown of civil society and government authority in Libya since the fall of Gadhafi in 2011 has allowed, with a lack of security services, elements of ISIS associates — now three different groups in Libya — to really take charge and perpetrate these incredibly gruesome and horrific events," he said this month in an interview with PBS News.

Even the Rev. Jesse Jackson blasted the U.S. role in Libya this month in an op-ed column he penned for the Chicago Sun-Times, questioning the validity of Mrs. Clinton's argument for entering the war in the first place.

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"The 'humanitarian intervention' in Libya has left chaos and violence in its wake," Mr. Jackson wrote in the article, which also questioned the wisdom of U.S. policies in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The left-leaning press, once supportive of Mrs. Clinton's arguments for intervention, is also beginning to doubt the administration's strategy behind the Libyan war, given the rise of the Islamic State in the region.

"The underlying message is that, regardless of the approach in the early stages of the engagement, how long and how committed does the international community stay in that process to make sure that the state does not collapse?" said NBC News correspondent Ayman Mohyeldin when questioned on MSNBC.

He answered his own question skeptically, saying Libya has become a failed state.

"What we saw in Libya is that, yes, there was a central government that was a dictatorship and certainly controlled the territory and the people underneath it. In the wake of the Arab uprising and the wake of that NATO liberation, if you will — or NATO campaign to help the rebels — there was a disengagement following that and following the Benghazi attack. They did not want to get involved. It was too dangerous perhaps. They wanted to see the central government kind of exert itself. That failed. And what we [see] in Libya now is a failed state."

During the time of the Libya intervention, Mr. Webb, then a U.S. senator from Virginia, adamantly opposed the U.S. getting into the Libya conflict. Mr. Webb, who announced an exploratory presidential committee in November, has since given speeches highlighting his national security background, formerly serving as a Marine and as Navy secretary under President Ronald Reagan.

"It is not a healthy thing when the world's dominant military and economic power has a policy based on vagueness," Mr. Webb said in a speech at the National Press Club last year. "And so we ended up, and continue to be trapped, in the never-ending, ever-changing entanglements of the Middle East, beginning with the Pandora's box that was opened with the invasion of Iraq and continuing through the illogical and still-fermenting nightmare of the Arab Spring, particularly our inadvisable actions in Libya."

Mr. Webb declined The Times' request for an interview.

Although a long shot as a presidential contender due to Mrs. Clinton's brand name and establishment ties, Mr. Webb will be able to appeal to those within his party who want a different foreign policy with fewer military interventions, Democratic consultants say.

"Many Democrats have some concerns about our role in the Middle East," said Jim Manley, a Democratic strategist and former top staffer with Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and Harry Reid.

"Part of the issue is [Mrs. Clinton] voted for the authorization to go to war in Iraq, a vote that has since haunted her. If [Mr. Webb] were to go in, he has strong foreign policy and national security credentials he could use, and based on what I saw in the Senate, I assume those issues, and anything related to the armed forces, will be a big priority for him," Mr. Manley said.

Others agree.

"For those whose issue is foreign policy, but who want an option to the left of Clinton, yes, Webb could be the guy — and given his military background, it seems likely that's where he'll make his play," said Democratic strategist Christy Setzer, though she added that "as of now, there's no horse race; it's only Clinton."

Mr. Manley said the tougher battle for Mrs. Clinton may come when she has to answer to Republicans, who see her role in Libya and other actions as secretary of state as fraught with mismanagement and overreach.

Indeed, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who is expected to seek the Republican presidential nomination, already is making Mrs. Clinton's tenure running the State Department — and her involvement in Libya — a tenet of his campaign.

"I think there was a rush headlong toward war in Libya, and they weren't listening to anyone saying anything otherwise — including the defense department and intelligence communities, who were saying, 'hold on a minute, this may not be a good idea,'" Mr. Paul said. "Hillary's judgment has to be questioned — her eagerness for war in Libya should preclude her from being considered the next commander in chief."

• Maggie Ybarra contributed to this report.

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/11/2015 1:08:39 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 7.11.15
Attachments:	7.11.15 H4A News Clips.docx

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July 11, 2015

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Trusted Hillary Clinton Aide Has a Full Plate // WSJ // Laura Meckler – July 10, 2015

There are legions of economists who have worked for the Clintons over the years, and more than 200 have helped develop the current campaign's economics platform.

The inner circle is much smaller, however. And at the center of it is a longtime aide to Hillary Clinton who has no particular background in economics.

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Jake Sullivan, a 38-year-old who rose to prominence in Mrs. Clinton's State Department, now has the challenge of distilling advice from across the Democratic Party. The resulting plan will be the foundation of a Monday policy speech in which Mrs. Clinton intends to lay out her vision.

His challenge is evident in how the campaign has been buffeted by a surprising challenge from the left in the form of independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. Part of the party's base wants to hear about government solutions for problems such as income inequality and wage stagnation, while its more centrist members emphasize prescriptions to stimulate economic growth.

While the subject material is new for Mr. Sullivan, colleagues say the process is familiar from his four years at Mrs. Clinton's side when she was secretary of state. Those who know Mr. Sullivan, from both sides of the aisle, commend his intelligence and his ability to pull ideas from across a wide universe while shaping a policy that suits his boss.

"He uses his access with her to be an honest broker with no preconceived agenda other than ensuring she has the best set of policy options to choose from," said Gene Sperling, a longtime economic adviser to Bill and Hillary Clinton who remains in her tight inner circle.

Mark Dubowitz, executive director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and a sharp critic of the Obama administration's nuclear talks with Iran, in which Mr. Sullivan played a big role, commends him for reaching out to those who dislike the direction of the negotiations.

"He engages with his critics, and that's rare," said Mr. Dubowitz, who added the administration should have done more to set a tough tone at the start of the talks, to allow for more concessions later.

Mrs. Clinton in 2012 sent Mr. Sullivan and another aide to Oman to meet secretly with Iran officials to gauge whether they were serious about potential compromises with the West. He concluded they were, setting the stage for the current talks.

On the economy, Mrs. Clinton has met with scores of experts on big issues such as income inequality and discrete topics including why states should publicize licensing rules for cosmetologists.

But the core brain trust is smaller. Besides Mr. Sullivan, who declined to comment through a campaign spokesman, prominent Clinton staffers include Ann O'Leary, who is developing proposals on education, health care and family issues, and Gary Gensler, a former Wall Street regulator who is the campaign's chief financial officer and who participates in economic-policy discussions as well. Maya Harris is charged with social policy such as immigration.

Outside the campaign's Brooklyn headquarters, two longtime Clinton aides are her most important economic advisers: Mr. Sperling and Neera Tanden, policy chief of the 2008 presidential campaign who is now president of the liberal think tank Center for American Progress.

Just a handful of other outsiders hold sway, according to people close to the process, including David Kamin, an expert on the federal budget and tax law at New York University's law school; Alan Krueger, a Princeton University economist who served as chairman of President Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisers; Jacob Hacker, an expert on the politics of health and social policy at Yale University; Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize-winning economist at Columbia University; and Heather Boushey, chief economist at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, a liberal think tank.

Mr. Sullivan, who also oversees foreign policy for the campaign, is hunting for someone to later handle economic policy, a campaign official said.

Few can match the level of trust he enjoys with the candidate. In her book "Hard Choices," Mrs. Clinton called him "earnest and brilliant," with credentials including a Rhodes scholarship, Yale law degree and Supreme Court clerkship. In 2008, he was a policy aide and ran debate preparation for Mrs. Clinton. He joined the Obama campaign for the general election.

Mr. Sullivan had planned to return to his Minnesota home to practice law and prepare for a likely run for Congress, but he was persuaded to join Mrs. Clinton at State, first as deputy chief of staff and then the youngest-ever director of policy planning. If Mrs. Clinton is elected president, Mr. Sullivan is seen as a potential national security adviser.

George W. Bush Hopes Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton 'Elevate the Discourse' // NYT // Amy Chozick – July 10, 2015

In his appearance in Texas with Bill Clinton on Thursday, George W. Bush called for an elevated political discourse in the 2016 presidential campaign, defended his difficult wartime decisions, and said he did not plan to

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campaign for his brother Jeb Bush.

Mr. Bush, speaking at an event with Mr. Clinton in Dallas, complained that the Internet "is a brutal place these days for political figures" and said it made the campaign discourse particularly nasty. But he attributed that to surrogates and not to the candidates themselves.

"I know Jeb and I'm confident Secretary Hillary will elevate the discourse," Mr. Bush said of his brother, a Republican, and Hillary Rodham Clinton, a Democrat. "I can't attest to their surrogates. I can attest to this surrogate: I'm not gonna be a surrogate."

Before announcing his presidential bid, Jeb Bush declared, "I love my father and my brother, but I am my own man," and much has been made about how much (or how little) he would rely on his brother as a campaigner, particularly given how George W. Bush is still very popular in pockets of the Republican Party, but remains a divisive figure to others.

The two former presidents, speaking to graduates of a jointly sponsored scholarship program at George W. Bush's presidential library, were both asked about their decision-making process. Mr. Clinton talked about the importance of postponing some critical decisions. "I'd say: 'Can I kill them tomorrow? Because I can't bring them back to life tomorrow.'"

Without directly commenting on the war in Iraq, Mr. Bush said the turbulent circumstances during his presidency (unlike the comparatively peaceful years in Mr. Clinton's two terms) "made it really imperative that you decide and decide decisively."

He said he "had to make decisions that protected the homeland — that was my goal and some of the decisions I had to make needed to be made pretty quickly because the enemy, that sadly still exists, doesn't really care whether a president agonizes over a decision or not."

Clinton plans Tuesday meetings with all Hill Democrats // Politico // Lauren French – July 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton will meet with the entire House Democratic caucus on Tuesday.

The former secretary of state was slated to meet with minority lawmakers from the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Asian Pacific caucus but added another stop at the party's weekly caucus meeting to her Washington swing.

Developing a strong relationship with House members will be key for Clinton's campaign. Lawmakers have often felt ignored by the White House during President Barack Obama's tenure and Clinton is already making an effort to help Democratic lawmakers feel like they have a stake in her presidential bid.

She is also slated to meet with Senate Democrats, many of whom she knows from her tenure as a senator from New York before her 2008 presidential bid against Obama.
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley tours a section of Baltimore on Thursday, May 21, 2015. O'Malley is considering a run for President of the United States.

The Capitol Hill meetings are the most direct engagement from the Clinton campaign since she announced earlier this year. Her senior aides held a series of meet and greets but Clinton has yet to engage with the entire congressional Democratic caucus personally.

The meetings are being billed as policy discussions.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Josh Kraushaar (7/10/15, 5:01 PM) – Rick Perry super PACs raise $16.8M. Strong tally for a candidate having a solid week.

Jennifer Jacobs (7/10/15, 5:41 PM) – Bernie Sanders' Iowa operation is growing FAST: 29 organizers; 7 field offices open now and 3 more open by Monday, aides tell me. #iacaucus

Teddy Schleifer (7/10/15, 6:16 PM) – Rand Paul raised more than $7 million in second quarter through his campaign and a joint committee, a spokesman says, confirming Breitbart.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton makes Bob McDonnel look like a chump // WaPo // Jennifer Rubin – July 10, 2015

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The Post reports, “A federal appeals panel court on Thursday unanimously affirmed the public corruption convictions against former Virginia governor Robert F. McDonnell, writing in an 89-page opinion that the onetime Republican rising star ‘received a fair trial and was duly convicted by a jury of his fellow Virginians.'” Of most relevance and interest to other pols, McDonnell’s attorneys argued he had not performed any “official acts” in exchange for bribes. The court nixed that complaint:

The appeals court panel disagreed, asserting that the government had “exceeded its burden” of proof on the topic of official acts. The opinion cited three particular ways in which McDonnell tried to use his office to help Williams: trying to get researchers to study Williams’s product, Anatabloc; trying to the state tobacco commission to fund studies of an ingredient in his product; and trying to get Anatabloc included in the health insurance plan for state employees.

So a mere favor for a donor, even to move along the bureaucracy, can be an official act. In that case, Hillary Clinton’s e-mails — both the destroyed ones and the ones turned over — raise the question: Why is McDonnell going to jail and Clinton going on the presidential trail?

One answer is that with McDonnell, the prominence of a single donor and the proximity of communications to the minor official acts made the case easier to prove. Clinton benefits from taking so much money for so many over such a long time. This, mind you, does not mean she did not do official acts for donors or that there was an implicit back-scratching arrangement; it means only that it is hard to prove. And second, Hillary Clinton is Hillary Clinton. She can lie about a subpoena, destroy potentially incriminating evidence, violate the terms of her disclosure agreement and take money for her family’s foundation from an “Iranian businessman accused by the U.S. government of violating sanctions” as well as woman-abusing Arab regimes and Donald Trump. Democrats yawn. The media cover it for a day or two and then move on.

I’m not suggesting Hillary Clinton has committed a crime and should take the cell next to McDonnell. For one thing, no one has bothered to investigate her as McDonnell was when gift revelations came to light. (Imagine if a Republican had been in the White House and no Justice Department investigation of McDonnell took place.) I am saying without knowing anything more that it is hard to argue based on what we have already seen that Clinton meets the character test for the presidency. But that is for the voters to decide.

Other pols should be wary, however. They are far more likely to be held to the McDonnell standard than the Clinton standard.

Hillary Clinton probably can’t get gun control passed. But she should talk about it, anyway. // WaPo // Paul Waldman – July 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton is talking about guns, and everyone seems surprised. After all, doesn’t she know the issue is a sure loser for Democrats?

The truth is quite a bit more complicated than that — in fact, pushing for measures like expanded background checks is likely to help Clinton in the 2016 election. But if she’s going to promise to make headway on this issue, she needs to offer some plausible account of how as president she could make real progress where Barack Obama couldn’t.

Let’s address the matter of the gun issue’s political potency first. As is the case on so many issues, the Republican position is more popular when the questions are vague, while the Democratic position is more popular when the questions are specific. If you look at polling on guns, what you see is that the country is split pretty evenly on the broad question of whether gun laws should be more strict or less strict. But particular measures to regulate guns get much more support, especially universal background checks, which as many as nine out of ten Americans endorse.

At some point in this discussion, someone will always say: “But what about the NRA? They’re so powerful!” The NRA’s power is real in some ways and illusory in others, and it’s important to understand which is which. When it comes to lobbying, the NRA is indeed hugely powerful. It has the ability to stop any legislation on guns, often before it even gets written. But elections are an entirely different story. Almost all the congressional candidates who win the NRA’s supposedly coveted endorsement are Republican incumbents from conservative districts who win their elections by huge margins. When Republicans have a good election, as they did in 2014 and 2010, the NRA rushes to reporters to claim credit, saying the election proves that voters will punish any candidate who isn’t pro-gun. But when Democrats have a good election, as they did in 2012 and 2008, the NRA is strangely silent.

Gun ownership has been steadily declining since the 1970’s, and guns are more concentrated among voters that Democrats already won’t win and don’t need. For instance, according to the Pew Research Center, whites are twice as likely as Hispanics to own guns. If winning over Hispanic voters is the sine qua non of a Republican victory, advocacy for loosening gun laws isn’t exactly going to be part of a winning formula for the GOP. The person most likely to be a gun owner is a married white man from the South — in other words, probably a Republican.

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When people argue that Hillary Clinton shouldn't touch the gun issue, watch out for comparisons to how Bill Clinton did in the Electoral College, because America's political geography is very different than it was two decades ago. For instance, I guarantee you that Senator Joe Manchin will at some point loudly advise that Clinton needs to tread carefully on guns if she's to win his home state of West Virginia like her husband did twice. But the truth is that Clinton is probably not going to win West Virginia no matter what she does, and she doesn't need to. Barack Obama's two comfortable Electoral College victories were built on combining Democratic strongholds in the Northeast and West with the more liberal states in the Midwest and the fast-changing Southwest, where Hispanic votes are key. Clinton will almost certainly seek to assemble the same map — and it's one where advocacy for the more popular gun restrictions will help her, not hurt her.

Still: if Clinton says it's vital to enact universal background checks and other "common-sense" gun laws, she has to explain how she's going to do it. Let's not forget that in the wake of the horrific Newtown massacre, a bipartisan measure to expand background checks failed to overcome a Republican filibuster in the Senate, falling six votes short of the 60 it needed. If a bill that had the support of 90 percent of the public couldn't make it past congressional Republicans just after 20 elementary school students had been murdered, how is Clinton going to convince them to vote for whatever she proposes?

But talking about gun measures in the presidential campaign could still have a practical impact, by elevating the issue and thereby making it more likely that more gun laws might be passed on the state level. And that's where all the action has been of late: since the Newtown shooting, there have been dozens of laws passed at the state level on the subject of guns, and they tell a story of red and blue America moving farther apart.

In Red America, one state after another has passed laws to expand who can get a gun and where you can take it. Last year Georgia passed a law allowing people to take guns into churches, government buildings, and bars. "Stand your ground" laws have proliferated in Republican-run states (despite the fact that research indicates that they increase the number of homicides).

Meanwhile in Blue America, dozens of laws have been passed to rein in guns. Legislatures in states like California, Maryland, and Connecticut expanded background checks, restricted access for those with mental illness or domestic abuse convictions, and made it harder to get assault weapons. In 2014, voters in Washington state passed a ballot initiative mandating universal background checks by a wide margin.

So when we talk about the gun issue, we have to keep three things in mind. First, the kind of restrictions Clinton is proposing are hugely popular. Second, there really are two Americas when it comes to guns. And third, one of those Americas has the ability and the desire to stop any gun legislation in Congress. If Hillary Clinton has a plan to deal with that last reality, it would be interesting to hear.

Jacob Lew: Americans Will Work Hard if Jobs Pay Decent Wages // WSJ // Nick Timiraos – July 10, 2015

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew waded into a political spat over the economy sparked Wednesday when Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush said Americans needed to work longer hours to boost economic growth.

Mr. Bush, the former Florida governor, said the comment referred to the elevated level of workers—some 6.5 million Americans—who have part-time jobs but desire full-time work. Democrats jumped on the comment earlier this week to portray Mr. Bush's comment in an unflattering light.

"It is a challenge for a lot of families to make ends meet. I don't think the problem is that Americans aren't willing to work hard," said Mr. Lew in response to a question Friday at an event in New York sponsored by Politico. "Americans are willing to work hard if there's work available to them and if they are paid a decent wage for that."

Mr. Lew said the government's job should be to provide anyone who is able and interested in working with the ability to get a job that can support a middle-class standard of living. He pointed to the White House's push to boost the federal minimum wage.

"If you work full time, you should not be below the poverty line in this country," he said.

Hillary Clinton bucks trend, confronts NRA // MSNBC // Steve Benen – July 10, 2015

In the three weeks since the mass shooting in Charleston, two notable statewide gun measures have been signed into law. In Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker (R) scrapped his state's 48-hour waiting period, and this week in Maine, Gov. Paul LePage (R) got rid of his state's concealed gun permit requirement.
The developments are a striking reminder about the politics of the gun issue. No matter how high-profile the shootings, and no matter how severe the public revulsion, proposals to scale back restrictions keep advancing.
At the national level, meanwhile, the massive Republican presidential field is largely unified on all gun-related questions, and recent history suggests the Democratic candidates will generally avoid the issue. But the

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Washington Post had an interesting piece overnight highlighting the degree to which Hillary Clinton is pursuing her own course.

[I]n a sign that the political environment on guns has shifted in the wake of recent mass shootings – and of Clinton's determination to stake out liberal ground in her primary race against insurgent Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) – Clinton is not only initiating a debate about gun control but also vowing to fight the National Rifle Association.

"I'm going to speak out against the uncontrollable use of guns in our country because I believe we can do better," Clinton said Tuesday in Iowa City.

A few days earlier, she said in Hanover, N.H.: "We have to take on the gun lobby.... This is a controversial issue. I am well aware of that. But I think it is the height of irresponsibility not to talk about it."

The Post piece makes the case, persuasively, that this isn't the norm for recent Democratic candidates. None of the party's recent nominees in "several decades," including President Obama, emphasized the issue at all while on the campaign trail.

Clinton, however, is trying something different. It's worth appreciating why.

Some of this may be the result of a unique primary rival – Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is running to Clinton's left on some issues, but guns are a notable exception. The Independent senator describes himself as aiming for "the middle" on the issue and he has a voting record that arguably puts him well to the right of many Democratic activists.

It's possible, in other words, that Clinton is stressing the issue at this point to help exploit a gap between Sanders and the Democrats' progressive base.

But chances are, there's even more to it than this. Practically all of the leading Democratic presidential candidates have shied away from the issue, for over a generation, fearing a fierce backlash from far-right groups like the NRA.

Clinton no doubt realizes, however, that as the NRA becomes more extreme, there's no placating the group – it goes after Democrats whether they try to make the group happy or not. Just ask former Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), who eagerly tried to keep the NRA happy, but who found that the NRA targeted him with a vengeance anyway.

To this extent, the NRA has given up its credibility. The group's message used to effectively be, "Play ball with us and we'll leave you alone." That's transformed into, "We're coming after you, whether you try to work with us or not."

Given those incentives, Clinton might as well speak her mind, confident that the attacks are inevitable either way.

Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sander's awkward lunch // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti and Jonathan Topaz – July 10, 2015

When Hillary Clinton travels to Capitol Hill on Tuesday as part of her lawmaker charm offensive, she could be in for a slightly awkward encounter.

Bernie Sanders — the Independent who caucuses with Senate Democrats — will be sitting there at the weekly lunchtime meeting, as he always does, while the front-runner talks to her former colleagues.

It's hardly unusual for rival presidential candidates to gather together on the Hill — four Republican senators are currently running against each other, and other candidates occasionally visit — but in Clinton and Sanders' situation, the tension is a tad thicker.

That's because Clinton has the support of 30 Democratic senators already — including Sanders' Vermont colleague, Patrick Leahy — in her latest White House bid, while her opponent has the backing of none. Clinton has yet to even acknowledge her main rival by name on the campaign trail — despite recent polling that shows Sanders nipping at her heels in Iowa and New Hampshire, and despite being asked about him directly twice in a CNN interview this week.

"As far as Senate caucus politics go, this is probably as awkward as it's going to get. There's nothing he can do about it. It is what it is," said Jim Manley, a former veteran aide to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid and Ted Kennedy.

Beyond Sanders, however, the room Clinton addresses will also likely contain a handful of influential unaffiliated liberal senators — including progressive icon Elizabeth Warren and Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown. Sanders recently said that he'd "love to have" Warren campaign with him, while the Massachusetts senator has said multiple times that it's premature to say whether she will.

But the meeting will also provide another reminder that, despite Sanders' huge crowds and scores of small-dollar donations, his candidacy remains mostly an afterthought at his place of business. Twenty-one members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus — Congress' leading caucus on liberal issues, in which Sanders is the lone senator — have endorsed Clinton, while none has endorsed Sanders. And Clinton's Tuesday swing across the Hill will include a meeting with that very group.

Sanders has had a similarly awkward reception with the party establishment back home in Vermont. In addition to Leahy, Gov. Peter Shumlin and Miro Weinberger, the mayor of Burlington — the city where Sanders served four

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terms as mayor and held his campaign kickoff — have also endorsed Clinton.

Clinton and Sanders have rarely crossed paths since they each announced their candidacies in April, save a chance run-in at New York's Penn Station last month. But Tuesday's encounter in Washington will likely be the second of at least three next week: they'll both appear in Kansas City at the National Council of La Raza conference on Monday, and they're both scheduled to speak at the Democrats' first cattle call of the cycle on Friday, the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame ceremony.

Clinton and Sanders overlapped for two years in the Senate before she left the Hill for Foggy Bottom, and they have a cordial relationship. But as the pair has emerged as the two leading candidates in the Democratic field, the apparent distance between them has grown: Sanders does not shy away from implicitly criticizing the front-runner on the stump, though he rarely goes after her by name.

Clinton, meanwhile, has started pressing harder on issues where Sanders is perceived as weak by the liberal base, such as gun control.

Nonetheless, tensions between the two aren't anything like the strained relations between Republican candidates, such as Sens. Lindsey Graham and Rand Paul, who frequently clash. Sanders sat in on a meeting of the Senate Democrats with Clinton's campaign chairman John Podesta and political director Amanda Renteria in late April, and his spokesman told POLITICO that the candidate "of course" planned to attend the event with Clinton herself. Clinton's campaign declined to comment for this story.

(Two other Democrats running for president — Lincoln Chafee and Jim Webb — are former senators, but they are not expected to attend the Senate caucus meeting.)

The former New York senator's Capitol Hill trip will also include meetings with the House Democrats and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

And while the meeting will come days after Sanders attends a weekend retreat with Senate Democrats in Martha's Vineyard, the timing is unlikely to soften the impact of Clinton's appearance.

"She's going to be walking down that hallway with her vast entourage, people are going to be screaming out questions, and she's going to walk into that room to a rock star reception," Manley said.

Jeb Bush: Hillary Clinton 'can't be trusted' // Politico // Nick Gass – July 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton's greatest vulnerability? According to Jeb Bush, it's Hillary Clinton.

Asked the question in a preview of an interview with Fox News' Bret Baier, Bush responded: "It's her — just this protective shield she wants to create around her candidacy. I just don't think it's going to work."

Clinton "can't be trusted," Bush continued. "There is never a straight answer. Whether it's the server, the emails, Benghazi, [she] just constantly validates this notion that there are two sets of rules."

The former Florida governor rejected the notion that a potential general election match-up of a Bush against a Clinton would deter voter turnout.

"I'm going to win the nomination, and I'm going to run a campaign that will inspire people that their lives can get better," he said. "And that'll drive turnout, particularly among people who are conservative and they just don't know it yet."

Clinton's ability to be trusted has been the subject of scrutiny in the polls. Quinnipiac University surveys conducted last month in Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania found wide skepticism of her trustworthiness.

But in an interview with CNN earlier this week, Clinton dismissed the idea that Americans have trust issues with her.

"People should and do trust me," she said, blaming a "barrage of attacks that are largely fomented by and coming from the right" for any perceptions to the contrary.

Hillary Clinton's union problem // Reuters // Luciana Lopez – July 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton's meeting with AFL-CIO leaders later this month will underscore just how much ground she has to make up with unions that are flatly angry at the presidential candidate over her recent policy stances (or lack thereof).

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Clinton can “absolutely not” take unions’ backing for granted, said RoseAnn DeMoro, the executive director of National Nurses United, the largest U.S. organization of registered nurses.

“I think that there was an assumption that whoever was anointed by the Democratic Party would be the candidate of organized labor. And I think that’s proven to be false,” she said.

In fact, DeMoro noted, “our values as a labor movement line up pretty clearly with the program of (Bernie) Sanders, the nurses’ values.”

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont has drawn crowds of thousands to recent events, surprising many political observers and suggesting a stronger than expected challenge to Clinton.

Sanders, along with former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley, will also speak to the AFL-CIO executive council at the July 29-30 meeting as part of the union’s endorsement process. All three candidates are Democrats; an endorsement is not necessarily expected this early in the road to the November 2016 election.

DeMoro also criticized Clinton and the Democratic Party on the Pacific Rim trade deal that the Obama administration is working on. Clinton has called for worker protections in any deal but has said little otherwise.

“It’s the elephant in the room,” DeMoro said.

Thomas Buffenbarger, president of The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, also called for greater regulation of the financial industry.

“The re-imposition of Glass-Steagall legislation would kind of break up the big banks and put some sanity into the thing,” he said.

The Glass-Steagall Act of the last century separated investment banks and commercial banks in an effort to reduce risk in the banking system.

Buffenbarger also noted that his union is worried about the U.S. Export-Import Bank, which was forced to halt business after its charter expired on June 30.

The bank helps finance purchases by foreign companies of U.S. exports.

The three Democrats all returned questionnaires to the AFL-CIO as part of the endorsement process.

But they’re not the only ones, said Buffenbarger: “The surprise was Mike Huckabee,” who Buffenbarger said also returned a questionnaire.

Modern campaigning: The Hillary Quilt Project **// CNN // Betsy Klein – July 10, 2015**

The group assembles every Tuesday, toting fabric, needles, the occasional rhubarb pie and their "Iowans Ready for Hillary" pins.

For two hours, they talk 2016 while stitching a very political quilt.

"This is a supporter quilt. It's kind of a way to say to Hillary, 'We've got your back,'" Iowan Clara Oleson said.

For Clinton supporters, this quilt has special significance: It's a sign of organization and momentum for a campaign that needs to ignite enthusiasm for Clinton during her second race in the Hawkeye State. In 2008, Clinton's bid for the presidency faltered here and never recovered.

Many Iowans said in interviews they had felt ignored by Clinton's campaign the last time around. Connecting supporters over shared interests such as quilting offers one way to excite and engage them.

Clinton's campaign in Iowa, the first-in-the-nation caucus state, has 27 organizers who have held over 2,500 meetings with Iowans. In addition to the Hillary Quilt Project, they've launched a morning swim group in Cedar Rapids, a Kayaking group in Benton County, and a group that is working on a community garden in Eastern Iowa.

It's a strategy, much like church small groups, that draws in supporters to connect beyond the more broadly labeled coalition-building of campaigns past (for example, "Teachers for Hillary").

"It used to be just strictly coalition-building. You'd get this wide swath of teachers for whoever your candidate was, or farmers, or business owners," said Iowa Republican strategist Tim Albrecht. "But now, you're really seeing this organizing at the micro level. If you can attract people around something they are already doing ... that's priceless."

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With these grassroots common interest groups, the Clinton campaign is harnessing micro-organization at a level unmatched by her competitors in Iowa and around the country.

There's a long history of quilting in American politics: Women gathered to stitch during the Civil War, supporters of the late 19th century temperance movement created quilts as fundraisers, and more recently, the AIDS Memorial Quilt has been growing since 1987 with more than 48,000 individual memorial panels.

In a state where the presidential campaign process is revered, quilts are also engrained in Iowa culture, Oleson explained. Quilts are made for momentous occasions: new babies, graduations, anniversaries, and now, a new presidential campaign.
When the Clinton campaign unveiled its H logo this spring, Oleson saw an opportunity.

"Boy, this would make a great quilt," Oleson wrote of the logo on Facebook.
Clinton campaign organizer Sarah Andrews also saw an opportunity -- and hours later, was in Oleson's living room.

The "Hillary Quilt Project" was born.

"If there's a common touch in democracy," Oleson said, "My God, it's a quilt."

Oleson, 73, is a retired lawyer and a prolific quilter -- just don't ask her how long she's been working on any particular quilt. On one week this summer, she led the men and women in the group as they went around the quilt circle, introducing themselves and choosing the color in the rainbow "H" logo of the quilt that they found most meaningful.

Ellen Heywood chose purple, the color of women's suffrage. Janean Arnold chose green for her concerns about climate change. Colleen Picek chose yellow, supporting the troops and hoping for an end to war.

Cameron Macaw-Hennick chose all of the colors together.

"All of the colors in the center are important to me because of the rainbow. Something that really stands out to me about Hillary, from the very get-go, is her unequivocal support of the LGBT community, which she didn't have several years ago. But just like everyday citizens, she grows and changes," he said as he stitched.

Macaw-Hennick is a campaign volunteer from Cedar Rapids who also happens to be a skilled quilter. He and his husband are ardent Hillary Clinton supporters.

"The day she announced, I was jumping up and down. My husband is super excited, as well... I said I have to be involved in this campaign."

Later, the group continued to stitch while supporter Julie Kline read aloud from the Gaza chapter of Clinton's 2014 memoir, "Hard Choices."

Participants in the Hillary Quilt Project range from veteran quilters to a few who had never even picked up a needle.

The quilt, Oleson said, exists in two worlds: physically in West Branch, and in "virtual reality," with its own Facebook page. Recently it was even featured on Clinton's official campaign Twitter account, which has nearly four million followers.

"It's good for quilting and it's good for Hillary," she said of the project.

"The dance of democracy in Iowa is a privilege and an honor," Oleson, who supported President Barack Obama in 2008, said.

"I've done it for 50 years and this is one of the most fun dances I've done. People working together, doing something they'd never do, and this campaign is open to that kind of an idea."

Once the quilt is done, the quilters and other Clinton supporters will sign their names on it. Oleson hopes the quilt will be signed and seen by many people, including Clinton herself.

"I want to see her standing in front of the quilt and giving a speech," she said. "You also make a quilt for the future, and sometimes you think about where is the quilt going to end up. It's not going to end up in somebody's closet -- it's going to hang on somebody's wall or in a presidential library."

CNN caught up with Oleson at Clinton's Monday town hall event in nearby Iowa City. Olseon had the opportunity to speak with Clinton following her speech.

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"She knows about the quilt," Oleson said proudly. "And she says it's beautiful."

Gowdy: 'Pulling teeth' to get info for Benghazi investigation // CNN // Daniella Diaz – July 10, 2015

House Select Committee on Benghazi Chairman Trey Gowdy said Friday that the Obama administration could speed up the Benghazi investigation if they turned over the requested relevant documents, but they haven't cooperated.

Gowdy told CNN's Brianna Keilar that his panel has been specific with the administration about the documents needed to be turned over for the investigation.

"They begged us to narrow it so we narrowed it," he said. "It's still like pulling teeth to get the information."

Gowdy told CNN that so far, the documents that have been turned over haven't been helpful toward their investigation into the 2012 Benghazi attack.

"You know what we got last week? We got 3,600 pages, half of which were press clippings, including articles about Richard Gere," he said. "So if that is their idea of complying with a congressional investigation, then we are going to be at this for a long time."

He also told CNN that Hillary Clinton was wrong when she said that she'd never had a subpoena in her interview with CNN.

"That is demonstrably false," Gowdy told CNN. "You have an obligation to preserve the public record."

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill told CNN that the former Secretary of State understood the question to be if she was under subpoena when the emails were deleted, this past December.

Gowdy said there were other subpoenas prior the one he issued to Clinton in March 2015 and that she has a "statutory obligation" to preserve public records.

"There are at least three separate legal obligations that should have informed and instructed her not to delete emails or wipe her server clean," he told CNN.

Hillary Clinton directs support for One Direction // CNN // Deena Zaru – July 10, 2015

British boy band sensation One Direction teamed up with charity Action2015 and asked their millions of fans or "Directioners" to share videos and pictures that reflect issues that are important to them, ahead of the United Nation's climate change summit in Paris this September.

Among the many fans who answered the foursome's call is Democratic presidential candidate and possible Directioner Hillary Clinton.

Clinton tweeted her support for the boy band's cause Friday, saying "the boys are right."

In a video released Wednesday, Harry Styles, Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson and Liam Payne called for action on "extreme poverty, inequality and climate change" — all of which are key focuses of the Clinton campaign.

This is not the first time that Clinton was linked to the young foursome.

In March, former One Direction member Zayn Malik's departure from the band devastated fans and erupted shock waves on social media. There was speculation over a possible fifth member of One Direction.

While hosting the MTV Movie Awards the same day that Clinton announced her presidential bid, comedian and actress Amy Schumer joked about the "big news" and announced that "after months of speculation, Hillary Clinton finally announced she's taking Zayn's spot in One Direction."

House Of Cards Creator: Hillary Clinton Is The Real Claire Underwood // BuzzFeed // Jim Waterson and Lynzy Billing – July 10, 2015

Lord Dobbs, the creator of House of Cards, is considering which real-life individual is closest to Claire Underwood, the ice-cold political wife played by Robin Wright in the Netflix series.

"Hillary [Clinton]," Dobbs says after a moment's thought. "She is a political figure in her own right – behind the scenes, but now increasingly in front of the scenes. That is much more of a Claire character than, for instance, Cherie [Blair], who as far as I'm aware didn't become actively aware in politics as such."

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It's not necessarily the endorsement the US presidential candidate would be after but Dobbs is obsessed with the character of the former first lady and how it'll affect her run for the top job.

"I'm fascinated by Hillary of course, because she comes with so much baggage," he tells BuzzFeed News, sitting on a bench outside parliament, dressed in a crisp white shirt and cufflinks. "That baggage is her strength but also her vulnerability. We just have to wait and see where the balance lies on that. Though it is bizarre that the system that was bred out of [rejection of a King] has produced the Bushes, the Kennedys, the Clintons, the Roosevelts…."

What about the real-life President Underwood? "More Tony Blair than Margaret Thatcher. Thatcher left behind something called Thatcherism, we all know what we stood for and I'm buggered if I know what Tony Blair stood for other than being in office."

And troubled political aide Doug Stamper? "In terms of focus and loyalty, apart from myself of course, it'd be Alastair [Campbell] in the UK."

Dobbs knows what he's talking about when it comes to political narratives. He first created House of Cards as a novel in the late 1980s. A former assistant to Thatcher, he was the first person to tell her that she had won the 1979 general election but was later sacked by his political idol, "She attacked me horribly and grossly unfairly". He turned to writing and watched as his creation became a BBC TV series, followed by a highly successful American reboot for Netflix in 2013. He's stayed actively involved all the way, offering advice to the production team and is currently promoting the DVD release of series three.

He's also a rare beast: a writer and an active parliamentarian – a believer in small government, he enjoys a "hugely disruptive and distracting" three days a week as a Conservative member of the House of Lords where he helped to lay the ground for the forthcoming referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union. However, Dobbs keeps his personal politics out of his writing because it bores the audience: "Once people start writing through political prejudice then it's not likely to be very successful.

In House of Cards, for instance, I defy you to remember a single bit of the actual politics that was written about. It's about the people in politics."

The first three series dealt with Underwood's rise from Congress to the top job, but despite the show currently at the end of Francis' first term as president, Dobbs dismisses suggestions the show necessarily has to come to an end any time soon. That's for the simple reason that there's always something else for the characters to do: "Some programmes have the ability to go on and on forever – those are the ones that are based around relationships. How long can a show go on that is focused on a relationship between two people – Francis and Claire – I don't know. But it's not just about power, it's also about their relationship which gives [the show] legs. It has is a global audience, there are more watchers in China than in America."

He talks with pride about the quality of the set and the people involved: "People have come from the White House to inspect the set and their jaws have dropped. Even the doors of the Oval Office close with the same quiet thud as they do. It's actually a third larger than the real Oval Office but everything is sourced to be just right in meticulous detail; even light switches and door knobs."

He's planning to keep working on the show as well as a new project with Adam Price, the creator of Borgen and a proposed work about Winston Churchill. He says he wouldn't ever write a character based on Ed Miliband ("certainly not as a lead figure") but he's optimistic about a political culture that is more engaged and less dependent on traditional sources of information: "People are beginning to bother again now and make up their own minds – The Sun Wot Won It? Not any more. It never did in the first place but certainly not any more. There are no secrets anymore, everything you do or say will come out eventually – the question is when and does it matter?"

At the same time, he wants to take an active role in the negotiations over a referendum on the UK's continued membership of the European Union, touring the country and speaking to the public.

But if he's willing to make that commitment, surely he already knows which way he'll campaign in the referendum?

"It depends! I will wait to see what the prime minister comes back with [from negotiations with EU leaders]. It would require returning some important powers, not just a standstill. Everyone in Europe knows the system is screwed and could be screwed magnificently over Greece. It is madness to put institutions before the people they are meant to serve. 50% youth unemployment in Greece is not their fault – that is the madness, Brussels thinks there is a way to make the Greeks to pay their debts back. There's no way of paying it back! They are bankrupt!"

So is he a libertarian? "Well, I'm not a great believer in big government: the more government promises, the less it delivers, that's been my entire experience. It'd be wonderful if we could find a way for people to say 'I want government less in my life and for me to get on with it more'. There are plenty of people who need government, it

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has got to a point where the system isn't working anymore."

Ultimately Dobbs credits his sacking from the 1980s Conservative government by Britain's first female prime minister as the moment that gave the world one of the greatest ever political dramas: "Politics is cruel. If you go into politics to be cuddled and be hugged the whole time then you're in the wrong business. That was the start of House of Cards."

"To that extent, I owe it all to Maggie."

Beghazi Committee Chairman: Clinton's Made "Maybe Half Dozen Demonstrably False Statements" // BuzzFeed // Andrew Kaczynski – July 10, 2015

Rep. Trey Gowdy, the Republican chairman of the House Benghazi Committee, said Hillary Clinton has made "maybe" a "half dozen" false statements about her compliance with the committee's requests and her exclusive use of a private email server during her time at the State Department.

"We're getting up near maybe half dozen demonstrably false statements," the South Carolina congressman said on the Mike Gallagher Show Thursday.

Gowdy said Clinton should turn her private email server over to the State Department's inspector general for review.

"Let the inspector general make sure that the public record was intact and not your own lawyers," said Gowdy.

Clinton turned over about 55,000 pages of emails to the State Department last December. Clinton's team decided which emails were personal and which were official government records that needed to be turned over to the State Department. Her lawyer told the Benghazi Committee in March that her server was wiped and the emails were deleted after they were turned over.

Clinton said in an interview with CNN she hadn't received a subpoena for emails from her time as secretary of state. A spokesperson for Clinton told CNN after the interview that Clinton was responding to the suggestion that she was under subpoena when her emails were deleted in December. Clinton was subpoenaed by the Benghazi Committee in March.

Clinton Foundation Donor Violated Iran Sanctions, Tried to Sells 747s to Tehran // Daily Beast // Michael Weiss and Alex Shirazi – July 10, 2015

An Iranian businessman accused by the U.S. government of violating sanctions on Tehran donated money to the Clinton Foundation, The Daily Beast has confirmed.

Vahid Alaghband's Balli Aviation Ltd., a London-based subsidiary of the commodities trading firm Balli Group PLC, tried to sell 747 airplanes to Iran, despite a federal ban on such sales. The company pleaded guilty to two counts of criminal information in 2010. In its plea agreement with the Department of Justice, Balli Aviation agreed to pay a $2 million criminal fine, serve five years corporate probation, and pay an additional $15 million in civil fines. The hefty sum was "a direct consequence of the level of deception used to mislead investigators," Thomas Madigan, a top Justice Department official, said at the time.

Alaghband is one of an array of questionable actors who've been found in recent months to give to the Clinton Foundation. The gifts – from foreign governments with human rights violations like Qatar, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and China as well as FIFA, soccer's corrupt governing body – have complicated Hillary Clinton's campaign for president and raised questions as to whether these entities were trying to curry favor with the former Secretary of State.

But Alaghband stands out from the rest, because the beneficiary of his firm's deals with Tehran was an Iranian airline accused by the U.S. government of working with the regime's foreign intelligence operatives and shipping arms and troops to Syria. Plus, if an agreement between Iran and the world's major powers is concluded in the coming days – as is widely expected – operators like Alaghband could stand to benefit. Hillary Clinton will be put in the awkward position of either defending the act of the Obama administration in which she once served or criticizing the culmination of a U.S.-Iran rapprochement effort, which her State Department began.

One of the two counts against Balli Aviation was that it "conspired to export three Boeing 747 aircraft from the United States to Iran," according to a Justice Department statement, without first obtaining the necessary export licenses from the U.S. government. The company then used its Armenian airline subsidiary to buy the 747s with financing obtained from Mahan Air, Iran's largest private airline, which is thought by the State Department to be controlled by former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

In 2011, the Treasury Department sanctioned the airline for "providing financial, material and technological

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support to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF)," or the expeditionary arm of the Islamic Republic's praetorian military division, now heavily active in both Syria and Iraq. At the time, the Treasury Department accused the Qods Force of "secretly ferrying operatives, weapons and funds" on Mahan flights.

On the Clinton Foundation website, Alaghband's company is listed as a donor in the $10,001 to $25,000 bracket. Moreover, on the website for Balli Real Estate, a property investment and development subsidiary also based in the UK, his personal bio describes him as a member of the Clinton Global Initiative.

This affiliation, along with his donation to the Foundation, came as a surprise to Alaghband.

"I am not a member of the Clinton Global Initiative," he told The Daily Beast from London. "I attended a few meetings. The last meeting was 10 years ago. I don't recall having ever made a contribution." Asked why he was listed as a member of the CGI on his own corporate website, he said: "I haven't seen this website recently. If attending a few meetings makes you a member, I don't know."

A source familiar with the Clinton Foundation told The Daily Beast that "Vahid Alaghband was never a member of CGI in a personal capacity." However, the source added, "In 2007, Balli Group paid a onetime CGI membership fee and they designated him as their delegate to the meeting."

Alaghband did recall giving money to another influential organization — the Washington, D.C.-based think tank the Brookings Institution. The donation he gave was to Brookings' former Middle East policy shop, the Saban Center, which had been named for its major benefactor, the Israeli billionaire Haim Saban. (Staunchly pro-Israel, Saban is also, coincidentally, an avowed supporter of Hillary Clinton's presidential ambitions.)

In 2007, Alaghband offered to give a $900,000 donation to run for three years to Brookings via the U.S.-based PARSA Foundation, "the first Persian community foundation in the U.S. and the leading Persian philanthropic institution practicing strategic philanthropy and promoting social entrepreneurship around the globe," as the foundation's website describes it.

Emails obtained in the discovery process of a separate libel case show that Alaghband, who had already donated at least $50,000 to PARSA, initially intended to make a pass-through donation via the foundation to Brookings.

But Alaghband says that he never ultimately used PARSA as a conduit for his donation; instead made his contribution directly to the Saban Center. He claims that the amount given was "far less" than $900,000 but declined to specify how much. Furthermore, he insisted, the money wasn't ear-marked for any specific project or research use. "Our donation went to the Saban Center and they had full discretion as to what to do with it," Alaghband said. "Martin Indyk had discretion over the use of the funds."

Indyk, who headed the Saban Center from 2002 to 2013, is today the Vice President and Director for Foreign Policy at Brookings. He also served— twice—as U.S. ambassador to Israel under the Clinton administration. In 2013, Secretary of State John Kerry named Indyk the U.S. envoy to the Middle East.

"When we took the donation nobody knew there were any problems with Alaghband," David Nassar, the Vice President of Communications for Brookings, told The Daily Beast, speaking on behalf of the think tank. Nassar also specified that the donation came from Balli Group bank accounts, not from Alaghband's personal accounts. (Full disclosure: Daily Beast executive editor Noah Shachtman previously did work as a non-resident fellow in Brookings' foreign policy division.)

Asked why he was listed as a member of the Clinton Global Initiative on his own corporate website, he said: "I haven't seen this website recently."
A former Brookings staffer with direct knowledge of the donation told The Daily Beast said that, on the contrary, Alaghband's problems with the U.S. government were known to the think tank at the time and that the money helped finance the work of Suzanne Maloney, a former State Department policy advisor and Republican advocate of U.S.-Iranian rapprochement.

Nassar told The Daily Beast that the suggestion that Alaghband's donation was intended to bolster Maloney's pro-rapprochement research was false. "The money was general funding for the Persian Gulf Initiative and not directed at any particular issue or any particular scholar," he said. Nevertheless, the Persian Gulf Initiative was a program run by the Saban Center and Maloney worked on it.

Maloney is married to Ray Takeyh, an Iran scholar who served in the Obama White House in 2009 and who, during that period, was one of the lead advocates of engagement with Tehran.

Since leaving the administration, Takeyh has emerged as a scathing critic of his former employer's nuclear diplomacy. But in 2008, Maloney and Takeyh jointly published a 34-page white paper with the Saban Center titled, "Pathway to Coexistence: A New U.S. Policy toward Iran." Arguing that the longstanding U.S. policy of

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containment "is actually obsolete because Iran is no longer an expansionist power," they called not for a mere "policy shift but for a paradigm change" in Washington.

In many ways, the paper essentially forecasted what Obama administration's approach to dealing with Iran, from the largely hands-off approach to Iran's bloody 2009 Green Revolution to the present-day compromises on its nuclear program.

Alaghband's legal troubles did not appear to affect his relationship with Brookings a year after Balli Aviation was hit by the U.S. Commerce Department with a temporary ban on his Iranian export business. In February 2009, he spoke at the U.S.-Islamic World Forum in Doha, where Brookings has another Middle East center, this one bankrolled by the Qatari government. The forum, in fact, was organized by the Saban Center on behalf of that government.

Alaghband, for his part, insists that he did nothing wrong, despite his company's guilty plea.

"The settlement [with the Justice Department] was one under which we did not have to accept liability. We just agreed to make a payment and settle out of court," he told The Daily Beast. "We had to establish a compliance program and do all of those things. The transactions we were engaged in was reviewed by and subject to a legal to a legal opinion both in the UK and U.S. about the compliance of with sanctions. We proceeded on this basis."

The settlement also represented the largest civil penalty ever imposed by the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security.

PARSA's second largest recipient of grants is the National Iranian American Council (NIAC), a Washington, D.C.-based lobby group close to the Iranian regime, which advocates an end to all U.S. sanctions on Iran. It received a total received a total of $591,500 from the foundation. Alaghband's brother, Hassan Alaghband, who is also the CEO of the Balli Group, spoke at a organized conference in Tehran by one of NIAC's founders in June 2007, at which he spoke about Western companies doing business in Iran and cited Balli's client, Caterpillar, as a case study.

The Balli Group PLC had once been the world's second-largest steel trader but it declared bankruptcy in 2013. A major reason for its folding? U.S. sanctions on Iran.

Hillary's Strategy Is Actually Brilliant // Daily Beast // Nick Gillespie – July 10, 2015

Has any future president been more misunderstood than Hillary Clinton?

As someone who cannot imagine any possible scenario in which I would cast a ballot for the former Secretary of State, U.S. Senator, First Lady, and Goldwater Girl, I note this with a heavy heart. But Clinton's deafening and widely criticized silence since announcing her candidacy isn't a weakness or a failing on her part. It underscores exactly the professionalism, strategizing, and discipline that explain why she is atop the polls.

She has nothing to gain and everything to lose from shooting off her mouth for at least the rest of the year. Like an aging boxer who survives more by smarts than by slugging, Clinton knows that the fight for the White House is a 15-round bout that will certainly go the distance. Only a showboating chump would punch themselves out in the early rounds.

Sure, over the past few weeks, she's lost some ground among Democratic voters to socialist Bernie Sanders. But she's still ahead of him, not to mention the ever-growing gaggle of Republican rivals. Sure, ever since announcing she was running for president, Clinton has stayed awfully quiet, popping up in Chipotle surveillance camera footage like Patty Hearst on the lam and eschewing actual public events for "intimate" meetings with vetted, handpicked supporters.

On the rare occasions when she does step out of her bubble, things have gotten hinky, like when she literally roped off the press during a Fourth of July parade in New Hampshire. The optics of that scene—photogs and journos being physically restrained from getting close enough to her highness to take good pics or ask embarrassing queries—would be shame-inducing if not suicide-inducing to most candidates.

But do we need to spell it out, really? Hillary Clinton is not most candidates.

Hillary is turning into a defensive master, but on her own terms.
She's learned from the acknowledged master—husband Bill, who can't even be bothered to flatly promise not to give paid speeches if he becomes First Dude—that there's never a reason to give in to common decency and slink off into the dark night of political oblivion. Hillary Clinton hasn't driven a car since 1996 and it's a safe bet that she hasn't felt shame for even longer.

Since announcing for president, Clinton has granted exactly one television interview, with CNN's Brianna Keilar,

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and smartly used the occasion to attack the Republican field for their weak-tea responses to Donald Trump's muy stupido assertion that Mexican immigrants are mostly rapists. Indicating that she was "disappointed" (read: elated) "in those comments," Clinton went on to note that her Republican rivals "are all in the same general area on immigration."

The worst part of that? She's absolutely right. Once the party of near-open borders (watch this video from 1980 in which Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush one up each other on praising the contributions of illegal immigrants), today's GOP, with minor exceptions, vilifies the wretched yearning to breathe free, at least when they come from Latin America.

In 2004, George Bush won 44 percent of the Hispanic vote. Eight years later, Mitt Romney—who counseled that illegal immigrants should practice "self-deportation"—pulled just 27 percent. In the GOP "autopsy" of Romney's failure in 2012, the authors wrote, "If Hispanic Americans hear that the GOP doesn't want them in the United States, they won't pay attention to our next sentence." Given the way that the current candidates have been non-reacting to Trump, that might be the best outcome the Republican Party could hope for.

Against such a backdrop, Clinton is right to keep mum, except when making easy layups against her opponents. Let Bernie Sanders whip Democrats into a progressive frenzy and then step in with vague nods toward equality and growth for all. She knows full well that Sanders is not her real rival—that will be the GOP nominee, not a frothing-at-the-mouth socialist from a state with a population smaller than Washington, D.C.

She also knows as well as anyone that her toughest challenge will be sweetening the air of inevitability that surrounds her like noxious second-hand smoke. No one outside of their immediate families wants to see a Clinton-Bush contest, but such a showdown is more likely than not. She may indeed be as "arrogant" as Commentary and a thousand other similar publications contend, but she's likely smart enough to realize that nothing humanizes her more than right-wing outlets foaming at the mouth about everything from blowjobs to Benghazi.

This is not to say that she's a perfect candidate. In fact, the roping off of journalists—on a day celebrating indepence, no less!—suggests Hillary Clinton is in many ways singularly off-putting. Her feminist bona fides were rightly called into question during her time as First Lady, her time as senator from New York was unmemorable, and her tenure as secretary of state nothing short of disastrous. When under attack, she's capable of mind-bogglingly stupid comments, like when she started talking about Bobby Kennedy's assassination during the end days of her 2008 run for the Democratic nomination.

This is why she is smart to be running rope-a-dope strategy, essentially letting her opponents (Democratic and Republican) punch themselves out in the early rounds. When they've taken their best shots and mostly exhausted themselves, she can come off the ropes and throw a haymaker or two. Along with forgoing shame, this is another great tactical advantage she's learned from her husband.

Bill Clinton outlasted his opponents—think Newt Gingrich and a gaggle of moralistic congressmen, many of whom had skeletons of their own to hide. Bill was like Muhammad Ali taking on George Foreman in the jungle heat, a personable motormouth who loved to talk and press the flesh (sometimes a bit too much, to be sure). Hillary is turning into a defensive master, but on her own terms. She's more like Floyd Mayweather, nobody's idea of a fun person to hang out with, but capable of taking huge amounts of punishment and coming off the ropes in the late rounds to secure victory.

If the eventual Republican nominee—whether it's Jeb Bush or Rand Paul or god help us all Donald Trump—wants a real chance at the crown, they'd do best to back away from Hillary and the anger-bear rhetoric that only makes her more sympathetic. The nominee would do well to outline an actually positive and inclusive message about how they plan to guide the country into the 21st century rather than constantly harp on last century's scandals, the need for even newer and bigger wars, and protecting us from the scourge of immigrants so desperate for a better life that they're willing to risk arrest to come to America.

A Republican employing positive rhetoric—which is exactly how Barack Obama toppled Clinton in 2008—would pull her out of her crouch and cause her to swing recklessly and wildly. In all that lunging, she'd be likely to knock herself out. But so long as the Republicans keep smacking themselves in the face, she's smart to hold her punches.

Clinton camp on Bush's fundraising: It should scare you // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – July 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign is looking to turn Jeb Bush's money into her own.

The Republican presidential candidate's super PAC announced Thursday a record-shattering $103 million fundraising haul, an astonishing number even in the post-Citizens United era. That's almost quadruple the amount of money every super PAC had raised by this point in the 2012 election cycle combined, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, and more than the pro-Obama super PAC Priorities USA, which is now backing Clinton, raised in two years during the last presidential election.

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Hillary Clinton's campaign is sounding the alarm, even as allies see a potential silver lining in Bush's haul.

On Friday, Clinton finance director Dennis Cheng sent an email to supporters pleading for contributions with the subject line: "Hillary needs you." In the email, Cheng said he had "bad news" and noted that Bush's campaign and super PAC had raised a combined $114 million. "If that number scares you, good. It should," Cheng warned.

"[T]here's a point at which it may be too much – when we can't make up for it by organizing better and spending our resources more wisely," Cheng continued. "We cannot hit that point, especially this early in the campaign."

But the Clinton campaign is hardly broke.

Last week, her campaign announced that it had raised $45 million since it launched – the most any primary candidate had raised in history. Priorities USA, that super PAC supporting Clinton, announced that it raised $15.6 millions so far this year, almost all of it coming in the previous four weeks.

Clinton has been on a break-neck fundraising spree since announcing her campaign in April, hopscotching across the country to attend dozens of $2,700 per head fundraises. Aware of Team Bush's goal of raising more than $100 million, Clinton's campaign pushed back her big kick-off rally in part to give her more time to fundraise. Donors reported intense pressure to get checks in early, and Clinton has gone hardly more than a few days between fundraisers.

Bush's haul is daunting, but not surprising since his campaign telegraphed their goal. And some Clinton allies insist it could actually help encourage their donors to pony up. "It's obviously an impressive number. But it could be good for us, it's not easy to raise money against nothing. We now have a real threat that should motivate our prospective donors to step up in a way most haven't yet," said one source in the pro-Clinton super PAC world, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

There are also downsides to Bush in raising most of his money via super PACs instead of campaigns. Super PACs are legally prohibited from coordinating with campaigns, so the candidate has little say in how the money is spent or what the super PAC does. For instance, Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley was recently forced to publicly denounce an ad made by the super PAC supporting him attacking Bernie Sanders on gun control.

And campaigns get a discounted rate not available to super PACs when it comes to purchasing TV ads, the main expenditure of super PACs. That means campaigns can run more ads for less money than super PACs, potentially paying huge dividends. Mitt Romney learned this the hard way when he and his super PAC outspent Obama by almost a third, but ended up running 50,000 fewer ads nonetheless.

"Hillary's $45m in campaign money is much more valuable to her campaign than Jeb's $100m in Super Pac money is to his," former Obama official Dan Pfeiffer said on twitter.

And Clinton allies note that Bush's super PAC may not be able to repeat its massive haul again. Bush himself led the PAC and made personal appeals to donors on its behalf, something he is now prohibited from doing since he's an official candidate. Enthusiasm could drop off if Bush is no longer involved.

But even setting aside the super PAC, Clinton could fall behind Bush. Bush's official campaign managed to out-compete Clinton's record-breaking haul in one key measure. Bush's campaign raised $11.4 million to Clinton's $45 million, but he did it just 16 days compared to Clinton's 81. That breaks down to $555,555 a day for Clinton, but $712,500 per day for Bush.

Bush's sprint could just capture the boost of enthusiasm any candidate receives after they announce, and his numbers could drop off afterwards. Meanwhile, he'll be preoccupied with the Republican presidential primary and will have to spend most of money bashing Republicans before he even makes it to the general election – if he makes it at all.

But it could also spell trouble for Clinton is she continues to be out-raised among both Bush's campaign and super PAC.

Medical Bill: Mystery donor picked up $150G tab for 2010 Clinton speech // Fox // Malia Zimmerman – July 10, 2015

It was a big coup when a nonprofit medical trade group landed Bill Clinton as a speaker at its 2010 annual conference in Chicago -- so big that some members wondered how the former president was being paid.

Not to worry, members of the Radiological Society of North America were told: An anonymous donor footed his bill.

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The $150,000 fee was a mere fraction of the $48 million Clinton took in from 215 speeches between 2009 and 2013, while his wife was secretary of state. Who paid Clinton and why they thought it was a fair bargain may never be known — but government watchdogs say it is a prime example of how elusive accounting can be for the ex-president's eye-popping earnings.

It was clear, however, that the husband of America's top diplomat was not chosen for his medical expertise.

“I think this is interesting that you would ask me to come and speak today to a group of people from all over the world, and everyone of you knows more about the subject than I do,” Clinton said at the beginning of his 45-minute address to an audience of 4,250.

Dr. Sam Friedman, a radiologist from Columbia, SC., said at first he was “peeved” when he heard Clinton was paid $150,000 for the “rambling” speech, during which Clinton took several “gratuitous shots” at Republicans and blamed U.S. doctors for many of the healthcare problems in third world countries. When he and like-minded members made their objections known to the organization, they were told the fee was paid by an “anonymous” donor.

Radiological Society of North America spokesman Marijo Millette told FoxNews.com the group “strives to provide compelling speakers that will satisfy the educational needs and special interests of a diverse audience.”

Millette would not comment on Friedman's claim, which was also reported by trade media, but said Clinton's fee and travel expenses were paid to the Harry Walker Agency, which represents Clinton. The organization’s 990 forms, filed with the Internal Revenue Service and required to maintain its 501(c)3 status, do not list any payment to Clinton or his representative. Neither the executive director nor three executive board members contacted by FoxNews.com would divulge who paid Clinton's fee.

Matthew Whitaker, executive director of the Foundation for Accountability & Civic Trust, a Washington-based, non-partisan campaign and ethics watchdog group, said the anonymous donation “opens up a Pandora’s box of questions including who funded this speech and what their motivations were.”

“This issue has to be resolved," Whitaker told FoxNews.com. "There has to be an answer as to who gave the money. “It has the smell of someone trying to move money through an organization to curry favor with the former president. It also calls into question almost every speech Bill Clinton as made and who the ultimate funder is.”

Neither Clinton's representatives at Harry Walker nor at the Clinton Foundation responded to a request for the name of the mystery sponsor. It was not clear if other speeches by Clinton were similarly funded by anonymous third parties.

Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, a Washington D.C.-based government watchdog foundation, said much of the $48 million Bill Clinton made from 215 speeches during the time Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State went to the Clintons' personal coffers, not to the foundation. Federal disclosure forms filed by Hillary Clinton for 2010 record her husband’s compensation as $150,000 from the Oak Brook, Ill.-based group, but critics say the lack of transparency about where the money really came from raises serious questions.

“Bill and Hillary Clinton are married, so under the law, paying him for a speech is like giving money directly to her – to the Secretary of State,” Fitton said. “I cannot think of a comparable ‘pay to play’ scandal.”

Clinton gave 542 speeches around the world between 2001 and 2013, earning $104.9 million, and delivered another 53 speeches between January 2014 and May 2015, earning an additional $13.5 million, according to reports by Fox News and the Washington Post. The former president's speaking fees have ranged from $28,100 for a 2001 talk at the London School of Economics to $750,000 for a 2011 appearance at an event for Swedish communications company Ericsson.

While Clinton's knowledge of world events and charm as a raconteur is well-documented, critics doubt the sky-high fees are doled out by anonymous parties for sheer entertainment value.

"These donors don't cut checks because they want to hear a brief speech," said Sean Davis, co- founder of The Federalist, a conservative online magazine. "They do it to gain access or favors from the Clintons. The Clintons owe voters a clear explanation of who is funneling them this money and why.”

Kudos To Sanders, With A Wink To Clinton, Too **// NPR // Ron Elving – July 10, 2015**

These are palmy days for Sen. Bernie Sanders and his improbable campaign for president. Thousands throng his events in Maine, Iowa and Wisconsin. He has raised $15 million in just a few months, and he polls better among Democrats than any one Republican is polling among Republicans.

At a minimum, the "independent socialist" senator has established himself as the insurgent to watch among

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Democrats in this cycle. So, we should salute the man. But we should also cast a smiling glance toward the other, possibly ultimate, beneficiary of his early success.

That would be Hillary Clinton.

Why? Because in the long run, "the Sanders summer" is likely to boost her bid for the White House. Indeed, from her perspective, Sanders may be the ideal rival en route to the nomination.

He's a man, he's 73, and he's well to her left on most issues. Moreover, he starts from a low base of national recognition, lacks conventional media appeal and hails from a tiny northeastern state that is totally lopsided politically. Did we mention he calls himself a socialist?

Clinton would have had far more to fear from the candidate dynamics had another senator, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, made the race. Even if Clinton prevailed, the inevitable wounds would be felt in the fall campaign.

Warren would have equal claim to Clinton's magic demographic wand: the prospect of being the nation's first female president. Warren is also eight years younger than Sanders, and two years younger than Clinton. She has heartland roots in Oklahoma, and the momentum from a late-blooming career and a scrappy battle to the top of Bay State politics. Her issue profile would match the economic equality mood of the moment without stretching the point.

Sanders, of course, goes further. He pleases crowds with full-throated proclamations about universal health care and Wall Street reform. He quickens the pulse of liberals and populists alike, including many who, like Sanders, have not been card-carrying Democrats.

Beyond that, he has earned his moment with his own brand of vitality and political punch. Brooklyn born and raised, Sanders is far more New York than Clinton will ever be, but even his combative nature carries a certain charm.

All this helps explain Sanders' rise to the level of respectable in national polls, including strong numbers in tuned-in Iowa and New Hampshire. But those polls also bespeak the hunger many Democrats feel for a choice in 2016. They may be "ready for Hillary," or resigned to her, but they feel entitled to a little competition first. It's just part of being a Democrat.

Sanders should benefit from this, tapping into the nostalgia of boomers who rebelled against the Democratic establishment decades ago, backing Eugene McCarthy in 1968 and George McGovern in 1972. Some also remember their enthusiasm for Howard Dean a dozen years ago. Those upstart candidates, too, made a virtue of lacking conventional charisma.

Taken together, these threads of political sentiment weave a ready-to-wear mantle for some Democrat plucky enough to put it on. Naturally, the Clinton camp has been watching keenly for years now to see who it would be.

Now, halfway through the critical pre-election year, the Democratic field consists of Clinton, Sanders and three other white males who have failed to make much of a dent. It is possible one of them will catch fire, but Sanders is in their way. It is also possible other candidates will emerge, but Sanders is in their way, too.

And that helps Clinton.

Ultimately, though, Sanders' greatest boon to Clinton may be in making her work harder to connect — both with the party's activist left and with its traditional lunch-bucket issues. Rooting her in what Dean liked to call "the democratic wing of the Democratic Party."

We always knew that Clinton could not be crowned the nominee in the presumptive manner of an incumbent president, or even an incumbent vice president. We always knew there needed to be, and would inevitably be, someone who mounted a challenge from within Democratic ranks.

Now that someone has emerged. He's Bernie Sanders, and he's doing very well, thank you.

Clinton should be grateful.

Hillary Clinton to Visit Senate Democrats at Lunch **// Roll Call // Niels Lesniewski – July 10, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is scheduled to attend the July 14 Senate Democratic caucus lunch, a senior Democratic aide told CQ Roll Call.

It is one of several meetings with congressional Democrats Clinton is expected to hold while in Washington, D.C., next week.

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But the visit with her former Senate colleagues, a good number of whom have already endorsed her presidential bid, is interesting because another person seeking the Democratic nomination in 2016, Sen. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., caucuses with the Democrats and serves as their ranking member on the Budget Committee.

Another Questionable Donor to the Clinton Foundation Emerges, and This One Could Tie in With the Pending Iran Deal // The Blaze // Fred Lucas – July 10, 2015

Additionally, the website for Balli Real Estate, a property investment and development subsidiary based in Britain, says that Alaghband is a member of the Clinton Global Initiative.

From the Daily Beast:

The company pleaded guilty to two counts of criminal information in 2010. In its plea agreement with the Department of Justice, Balli Aviation agreed to pay a $2 million criminal fine, serve five years corporate probation, and pay an additional $15 million in civil fines. The hefty sum was “a direct consequence of the level of deception used to mislead investigators,” Thomas Madigan, a top Justice Department official, said at the time.

Alaghband is one of an array of questionable actors who’ve been found in recent months to give to the Clinton Foundation. The gifts – from foreign governments with human rights violations like Qatar, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and China as well as FIFA, soccer’s corrupt governing body – have complicated Hillary Clinton’s campaign for president and raised questions as to whether these entities were trying to curry favor with the former Secretary of State.

But Alaghband stands out from the rest, because the beneficiary of his firm’s deals with Tehran was an Iranian airline accused by the U.S. government of working with the regime’s foreign intelligence operatives and shipping arms and troops to Syria. Plus, if an agreement between Iran and the world’s major powers is concluded in the coming days – as is widely expected – operators like Alaghband could stand to benefit. Hillary Clinton will be put in the awkward position of either defending the act of the Obama administration in which she once served or criticizing the culmination of a U.S.-Iran rapprochement effort, which her State Department began.

Interestingly, Alaghband, told the Daily Beast, “I am not a member of the Clinton Global Initiative.”

“I attended a few meetings. The last meeting was 10 years ago,” he said. “I don’t recall having ever made a contribution.”

As to why his own corporate website listed him as a member, he said: “I haven’t seen this website recently. If attending a few meetings makes you a member, I don’t know.”

A source close to the Clinton Foundation told the Daily Beast that Alaghband “was never a member of CGI in a personal capacity,” but added, “In 2007, Balli Group paid a onetime CGI membership fee and they designated him as their delegate to the meeting.”

One of the charges against Balli Aviation was that it “conspired to export three Boeing 747 aircraft from the United States to Iran,” without obtaining the necessary export licenses from the U.S. government, according to a Justice Department statement reported by the Daily Beast. It further used an U.S. airline subsidiary to buy 747s with financing from the Iranian-based Mahan Air – a company the State Department sais is controlled by former Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani. Mahan was sanctioned by the Treasury Department in 2011 for “providing financial, material and technological support to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF).”

‘House of Cards’ creator thinks Hillary Clinton is closest to a real life Claire Underwood // Business Insider // Jethro Nededog – July 10, 2015

It doesn't seem likely that Hillary Clinton would have gotten UK's "House of Cards" creator Lord Michael Dobbs' vote if her were able to cast a ballot in US elections.

Dobbs believes Clinton most resembles a real life Claire Underwood (Robyn Wright), the conniving and politically ambitious wife of president Frank Underwood (Kevin Spacey) on Netflix's adaptation of Dobbs' "House of Cards."

“[Hillary Clinton] is a political figure in her own right – behind the scenes, but now increasingly in front of the scenes." Dobbs told Buzzfeed of the similarities to Claire. "That is much more of a Claire character than, for instance, Cherie [Blair], who as far as I’m aware didn’t become actively aware in politics as such.”

Dobbs, who wrote the novel "House of Cards" after serving as an advisor to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, has a healthy obsession of Clinton.

“I’m fascinated by Hillary, of course, because she comes with so much baggage,” he told the online site. “That

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baggage is her strength but also her vulnerability. We just have to wait and see where the balance lies on that. Though it is bizarre that the system that was bred out of [rejection of a King] has produced the Bushes, the Kennedys, the Clintons, the Roosevelts…."

Dobbs' TV version of "House of Cards" ended after just four one-hour episodes aired on BBC in 1990. Netflix's adaptation will return with its fourth season next year.s

Don't believe Hillary Clinton's campaign – here's why they're not 'worried' about Bernie Sanders
// Business Insider // Maxwell Tani – July 10, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) is gaining momentum as a Democratic presidential rival to Hillary Clinton. But he's no threat just yet.

On Monday, The New York Times reported that Clinton staffers are becoming increasingly concerned that the Vermont senator is a serious threat to Clinton's campaign.

They point to his rising poll numbers and his large event turnouts — according to The Washington Post, Sanders drew 7,500 at a Maine event on Monday, a week after drawing a 10,000-person crowd in Wisconsin.

But Sanders' first problem is that, as political strategists and analysts told Business Insider, his candidacy at this point is more resembling that of former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean (D) in 2004 than Barack Obama in 2008.

His momentum is concentrated in the first two early-voting states, Iowa and New Hampshire. The general consensus among many left-leaning strategists and pollsters is that Sanders is best suited to win in those two states, where there are a sizeable portion of white, liberal voters.

"Sanders is certainly doing a lot better in Iowa and New Hampshire where voters are playing close attention than he is anywhere else," Tom Jensen, the director of Public Policy Polling, told Business Insider.

"I don't think that [Clinton campaign strategists] think that Sanders is going to win the nomination, but they probably take it seriously that he could win a state or two early," added John Hagner, a campaign strategist at Clarity Campaign Labs.

Hagner, a veteran of the former Democratic National Committee chairman Dean's 2004 presidential campaign team in New Hampshire, pointed to similarities between Sanders and Dean's momentous starts — and not just the fact that they're both from Vermont.

Hagner noted that Dean's team also garnered lots of liberal enthusiasm early on, raising millions in small donations from passionate primary voters. And he said Dean wasn't the only upstart to mount a challenge in New Hampshire. Former Vice President Al Gore almost lost the state to former Sen. Bill Bradley (D-New Jersey) in 2000.

"The similarities [between Dean and Sanders] is in the fan base and in the intensity. And there really are, particularly in New Hampshire, a lot of very progressive voters who enjoy uncertain candidates," Hagner said.

Analysts also told Business Insider that Sanders is benefiting from the disproportionate share of white voters in Iowa and New Hampshire. Though he's tried to outflank Clinton to the left on a number of issues like income inequality and taxes, Sanders has been less decidedly liberal on topics like immigration reform and gun control.

In 2007, he voted against an immigration-reform package in the Senate, teaming up with Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) to add restrictive amendments to the bill. Many Latino lawmakers don't believe that Sanders has immigration reform at the top of his agenda in the same way that Clinton does.

"It is not his priority," Arturo Vargas, the executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected Office, told CNN last month. "I think that is one of the challenges his campaign is going to have to confront."

Sanders also hasn't made many inroads with African-American voters. Jensen, the director of Public Policy Polling, told Business Insider that most recent polls put the former Secretary of State's support among African-American voters at around 70-80%.

"If Sanders wins Iowa or New Hampshire it will build a lot of momentum for him that will help in the states that follow, but he's still going to struggle in places like South Carolina with large black populations and Nevada with large Hispanic populations unless he improves his appeal to nonwhite voters," Jensen said.

Hagner said that if the Clinton campaign becomes legitimately nervous, they may start putting issues in the spotlight that historically resonate with black and Hispanic voters.

"Immigration and gun rights are going to be problems for him. If you start to see stories pop up that have some

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finger prints, we'll know they're taking it seriously," Hagner said.

hillary clintonL.E. BaskowPresidential candidate Hillary Clinton arrives at the Aria and greets workers before speaking at a conference in Las Vegas.

For its part, the Clinton campaign could also see the benefit in a strengthened Sanders.

Republicans have repeatedly slammed national Democrats for running a campaign that much more resembles an incumbent's. Clinton has long sought to avoid looking like she's taking her party's nomination for granted.

And campaigns always like to lower expectations in the early-voting states. And every candidate wants to be able to claim momentum, regardless of the reality on the ground.

Said Bill Burton, a former top adviser to Obama's 2008 campaign: "Hillary Clinton tried out inevitability as a message, and it was not successful."

No, Hillary Clinton Doesn't Need a Plan For Passing Gun Control Legislation // Mother Jones // Kevin Drum – July 10, 2015

Lots of political observers are surprised that Hillary Clinton is talking about guns. That's a loser for Democrats, isn't it? Paul Waldman isn't so sure:

The truth is quite a bit more complicated than that — in fact, pushing for measures like expanded background checks is likely to help Clinton in the 2016 election. But if she's going to promise to make headway on this issue, she needs to offer some plausible account of how as president she could make real progress where Barack Obama couldn't.

Allow me to impolitely disagree. Presidential campaigns are extended exercises in affinity marketing. No presidential candidate ever has to explain how they're going to enact legislation. The most they have to do is offer a bit of breezy blather about crossing the aisle and focusing on areas of agreement and Americans not really being as polarized as the media makes them out to be. That's plenty.

Oh sure, there are a few thousand annoying know-it-alls like Waldman and me who are going to write blog posts about how this or that promise ain't gonna happen because the politics are impossible. But hell, even we don't care. We're still going to vote for whoever we planned to vote for anyway. It's not as if any of the other candidates are going to work miracles either.

Now, it's true that some candidates run on a theme of competence, of "getting things done." Scott Walker is doing it this year. Michael Dukakis did it. But I don't think there's any evidence that even this pale shadow of "how I'm going to get things done" has much effect on voters. They just vote for the candidate who seems to be generally on their side, or generally most reasonable, or generally good to have a beer with. The details can be left to the wonks.

Ariana Grande's Manager Is Throwing a Big Fundraiser for Hillary Clinton // Mediaite // Jamie Frevele – July 10, 2015

It looks like Hillary Clinton definitely has the Canadian teenybopper vote, if they're old enough and not all Canadian! Scooter Braun, who manages musical acts including Justin Bieber and donut-licking America-hater Ariana Grande, announced that he and his wife Yael will host a fundraiser for the Democratic candidate in Los Angeles.

Billed as a "conversation" with Clinton, the event will take place at the Brauns' home on August 6 and will cost $2,700 to get in.

A fundraiser for Clinton at the Brauns' abode could be pretty fun, considering how Braun does pretty wicked impressions of Clinton's former boss, President Obama, and her husband, former President Bill Clinton. So that'll be a neat little party trick. Just maybe don't talk about the clients until this donut thing blows over. And let's not forget Bieber's previous run-in with a Clinton.

Hillary Clinton aligns herself with a surprising party // Elle // Alyssa Bailey – July 10, 2015

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton made a very strategic move last night, aligning herself with a party whose fan base is among the most active in the U.S. (and really world). Clinton casually tweeted this:

Throwing her support behind One Direction and its activism efforts: Genius. No word yet on her favorite member or song, but the campaign just started—and she's clearly courting the Directioner endorsement. Expect that Harry Styles-Hillary Clinton photo in the months to come.

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Bill and Hillary Clinton ordered to give depositions about emails in civil case // Washington Times // Kellan Howell – July 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, have been ordered to give depositions in a civil case investigating the pair's growing email scandal.

Mrs. Clinton will giver her deposition on the morning of July 28 in Washington, and Mr. Clinton will give his the following morning, according to copies of the notices of deposition reviewed by The Washington Times.

The case, filed by Freedom Watch founder and former federal prosecutor Larry Klayman, alleges the couple committed criminal violations under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).

According to a statement from Freedom Watch, the suit alleges Mrs. Clinton, the front-runner for the 2016 Democratic nomination, covered up these crimes by destroying her personal emails sent during her time as Secretary of State.

Mr. Klayman alleges in his lawsuit that the Clintons — through mail and wire fraud, and various false statements — misappropriated documents that he requested under the Freedom of Information concerning the Mrs. Clinton's involvement in releasing Israeli war and cyber-warfare plans and practices.

The lawsuit, filed in March, claims that Mrs. Clinton orchestrated the release to thwart Israeli plans to preemptively attack Iranian nuclear sites.

Mr. Klayman also requested Mrs. Clinton's and other State Department records pertaining to waivers that were granted for persons, companies, countries and other interests that do business with Iran, undermining economic sanctions.

"This is the first and only hard-hitting case to address the growing email scandal," Mr. Klayman said in a statement. "What Hillary Clinton, her husband, and their foundation have done is nothing new. It is simply part of a criminal enterprise which dates back at least 10 years, all designed to enrich themselves personally at the expense of the American people and our nation. It's time, however, that they finally be held legally accountable."

Chelsea Clinton to speak at World Food Prize // Des Moines Register // Donnelle Eller – July 10, 2015

Chelsea Clinton will speak at the World Food Prize symposium this fall about encouraging girls in the U.S. and developing countries to pursue math, science and technology educations as way to escape poverty.

Clinton is vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, the New York-based nonprofit focused on improving global health, creating economic opportunity, and increasing opportunities for women and girls. The group's founder is former President Bill Clinton.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's entry into the presidential race has prompted questions about the foundation, including foreign donations to it and potential conflicts of interest. The campaign has rejected those criticisms.

Ken Quinn, president of the World Food Prize, said he doesn't intend for the event to become political. But Timothy Hagle, a University of Iowa political science professor, said that might be hard to avoid.

"That might be difficult in Iowa, in the middle of a presidential cycle," Hagle said. "Even with an important issue, politics may intrude."

Quinn said he reached out to invite Chelsea Clinton months before her mother decided to take another run at the White House. "I've worked very hard to never have the World Food Prize seen as anyway involved in politics," said Quinn, a former ambassador.

Chelsea Clinton will receive no fee for speaking at the event, scheduled for Oct. 14-16. The World Food Prize will provide airfare and lodging, he said.

Encouraging the education of women and girls is a big push for the World Food Prize. This year's prize winner, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, is being honored for his work creating the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, focused on giving women the social and economic tools to help themselves and their communities.

Quinn said women play key roles in attacking hunger, improving health and incomes in developing countries. As small-holder farmers, they make many of the decisions about growing but often have limited access to education.

"Chelsea Clinton has been speaking a great deal, and the Clinton Global Initiative is focused on, girls' education

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and empowering women around the world," Quinn said.

Quinn said he also invited Lauren Bush Lauren, founder of FEED, a nonprofit that uses part of the sale of bags and accessories to help address hunger. Lauren, granddaughter of president George H.W. Bush and niece of president George W. Bush, was unable to attend the Des Moines event.

Chelsea Clinton will speak about the foundation's work, not politics, Quinn said. "I stressed that we are nonpartisan."

Hagle said even talking issues like STEM — science, technology, engineering and math training that many political leaders favor — could be viewed as Chelsea Clinton subtly pushing for her mother. "She will bring attention to the issue, but she could get some eyebrows raised and criticism," he said.

Quinn said other political figures have been honored and spoken at the World Food Prize in the past, without being political, including current Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee and former President Jimmy Carter, who is an honorary member of the council of advisers.

Quinn said it's unclear whether Chelsea Clinton will take the opportunity to be in Iowa to campaign for her mother. Campaign and foundation officials could not immediately say what her plans are while in Iowa.

Quinn said Chelsea Clinton's staff has indicated she wants to meet with young people to talk about the importance of education.

In addition to Clinton, Sheryl WuDunn, an author and Pulitzer Prize winner, also will speak about empowering women. She wrote her most recent book, "A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity," with her husband, Nicholas Kristof, a New York Times columnist.

Hillary Clinton campaign releases video about Confederate flag // Post and Courier // July 10, 2015

About an hour after the Confederate flag was removed from the Statehouse grounds today, the Hillary Clinton for South Carolina staff released a campaign video about the flag's removal being a good first step.

The video features interviews with South Carolinians discussing the historic significance of removing the flag as well as offering their views on the next steps that need to take place, such as action on issues like wages, prison reform, education, gun control, and poverty.

Clinton has commended state leaders for their action, a Clinton staffer said in a news release.

"Removing this symbol of our nation's racist past is an important step towards equality and civil rights in America," Clinton said. "There is still unfinished business in confronting and acting on the inequalities that still exist in our country. We can't hide from the hard truths about race and justice. We must do everything in our power to have the courage to name them and change them."

Hillary Clinton to make first Utah trip of 2016 race // Salt Lake Tribune // Robert Gehrke – July 9, 2015

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential front-runner, will make her first visit to Utah during her 2016 campaign next month, holding a fundraiser at a posh Park City home.

"I think it's always exciting to have a presidential candidate come to Utah and, of course, from my perspective, it's great to have a Democrat coming to Utah this early in the campaign," said Utah Democratic Party Chairman Peter Corroon. "I think it shows Utah is playing a more prominent role in politics."

The event, billed as a "Conversation with Hillary," is available to those who give between $500 and $2,700. It is being held at the home of Barry and Amy Baker, who have hosted the Clintons before.

Barry Baker is the former president of USA Networks and is a senior adviser to Lee Equity Partners, LLC, a private equity and venture-capital firm. Amy Baker spent 20 years at NBC News.

Clinton, the former secretary of state, U.S. senator from New York and first lady, holds a wide lead over the Democratic field and all of the Republican contenders in head-to-head polling.

But she is a polarizing figure reviled among Republicans.

"I'm sure she'll get a very positive reaction from most of the Democratic faithful. I'm not so sure the feelings will be the same on the Republican side," Corroon said.

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Utah Republican Party Chairman James Evans said he isn't surprised Clinton is coming to Utah — the Democratic candidates have in the past — and he doesn't expect her visit to stir up protests.

"They come to Park City several times and I would expect her to visit with the liberal elite, as she certainly is not connected to the everyday American," Evans said. "I don't think people are going to go out of their way to protest her. We'll be respectful because everybody knows who she is and what she's about. So there's nothing else to really say other than certainly she will be a disaster as president. I think people already know that."

Evans said he expects prominent Republican candidates to visit the state for fundraisers, possibly as early as next month.

Six of the Republican contenders already visited Utah last month — Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Ohio Gov. Jon Kasich, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham and businesswoman Carly Fiorina — for an annual Deer Valley retreat with donors and politicos hosted by Mitt Romney.

In April, Clinton became the first presidential hopeful to hire staff in Utah, engaging Ben Haynes, an American Fork native who worked to re-elect Salt Lake County District Attorney Sim Gill and on the Count My Vote initiative, to lead the Clinton campaign efforts in Utah.

In 2008, Clinton lost the Democratic presidential primary in Utah to then-Sen. Barack Obama, 57 percent to 39 percent, as Obama went on to win the nomination and the White House.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

Martin O'Malley Takes a Shot at Hillary Clinton Over 'Sanctuary Cities' Policy // WSJ // Peter Nicholas – July 10, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley took a veiled swipe at front runner Hillary Clinton on Friday, over the case of a convicted felon who had been deported multiple times and who has been charged with murdering a woman in San Francisco on July 1.

In an interview this week on CNN, Mrs. Clinton was asked about the San Francisco sheriff's office decision in April to release the suspect, Juan Francisco Lopez Sanchez, even though federal authorities had wanted him held with a view toward deporting him again.

The sheriff's office has said it was following procedures in keeping with San Francisco's status as a "sanctuary city" that provides protections for certain undocumented immigrants.

In the CNN interview, Mrs. Clinton said: "Well, what should be done is any city should listen to the Department of Homeland Security, which as I understand it, urged them to deport this man again after he got out of prison another time. You know, here's a case where we've deported, we've deported, we've deported. He ends back up in our country and I think the city made a mistake. The city made a mistake not to deport someone that the federal government strongly felt should be deported"

Mr. O'Malley, the former governor of Maryland, weighed in with a statement that defended the sanctuary cities policy. He did not mention Mrs. Clinton by name, but said: "It's lamentable that the senseless and tragic act of violence that occurred in San Francisco is prompting a rush to judgment and finger pointing: we can and should do better. Local governments should not be blamed for the federal government's inability to fix our broken immigration system nor should they be held responsible for doing the federal government's job."

Mr. O'Malley is competing for Hispanic voters as part of a larger strategy of appealing to liberal Democrats who might see Mrs. Clinton as too centrist for their taste. Thus far, though, he has lost ground to Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has been gaining on Mrs. Clinton in surveys of voters in Iowa and New Hampshire.

On student loans, do as O'Malley says, not as he does // WaPo // Michelle Singletary – July 10, 2015

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Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley surrendered — just like many other parents.

When his daughters were choosing their colleges, he let them have their way. He didn't want to crush their dreams, and he ended up with crushing debt.

Last week, O'Malley spelled out a proposal to help students graduate debt-free from public colleges and universities by increasing Pell Grants and automatically enrolling borrowers in income-based repayment plans. One key part of his plan calls for helping students and parents refinance their debt at lower interest rates.

O'Malley knows of what he speaks. In announcing his proposals, he revealed that his family has accumulated more than $339,200 in student loans, the bulk of which are parent PLUS loans. He and his wife borrowed to educate their daughters, Grace, 24, who attended Georgetown University and is a public school teacher in Baltimore, and Tara, 23, who attended the College of Charleston in South Carolina and is now an administrative assistant for the United Nations Foundation in the District. The couple still has two sons to get through college, William 17, and Jack, 12.

When O'Malley was governor of Maryland, he fought to have the state universities freeze tuition. Even with his vast political and legal experience, O'Malley couldn't win a key argument with his daughters that state schools were a good bargain.

"I'm blessed with strong-willed women in my life," he gently laughed during a phone interview while campaigning in New Hampshire. "I wanted them to go in-state. But I lost the vote."

I can empathize with O'Malley's dilemma. His father, a World War II veteran, graduated from Georgetown. His daughter pleaded to have the same opportunity, although his father went on the G.I. Bill. And once you allow the first child to go out-of-state, it's hard to deny the second.

We can second-guess the wisdom of the O'Malleys' decision, and I do. But now that they've made it, I hope the family — given their public platform — will use their experience as a cautionary tale that, for most families, it's not okay to cave to an 18-year-old whose dreams of a particular college will create decades of debt.

"I don't want to hold us up as a metaphor of every family," O'Malley said. "We are very lucky in that both of us are working and hopefully will continue to work. I think one thing that is true for all of us as Americans, it's not good for our country or our economy to saddle [families] with the sort of debt that we have. A lot of families don't have the ability to go into that sort of debt."

Total outstanding student loan debt has reached $1.3 trillion. When we talk about the student-loan crisis, we mostly focus on the amount of debt being accumulated by students. But there's not enough emphasis on the amount parents are borrowing. PLUS loans for parents have reached almost $69 billion, according to Department of Education data.

"Better we have the debt than [our children] have the debt," O'Malley said.

That's a sentiment many parents hold. And even as public servants, the O'Malleys (Katie O'Malley is a Baltimore District Court judge) may be able to manage the debt load. But are other families really thinking through whether they can?

As Consumers Union points out, PLUS loans, which are also available for graduate students, have much higher borrowing limits. The organization, in a letter urging the Department of Education not to lower borrowing standards for PLUS loans, made some important observations.

"Loans to graduate students are made on the promise that they will see an increase in salary from their educational attainment that enables them to repay the loans they borrowed," wrote Suzanne Martindale, a staff attorney for Consumers Union. "Parents, on the other hand, do not see an increase in their incomes from their children's education. . . . They have no guarantee that their children will help pay the loans back, or will even finish school. For these reasons, allowing parents to borrow many thousands of dollars in PLUS loans raises unique concerns."

We've heard promises on the campaign trail this year about helping families afford college. And we do need some legislative intervention so that many people won't be priced out of a college education.

But we also need to press upon parents and their children that dreams can come true without going to colleges that result in a heavy debt load.

As we wrapped up our conversation, I asked O'Malley an obvious question. What's the plan for their sons?

"I hope to make a compelling argument with them to choose more affordable options for their parents," he said. "I may put your column under their pillows."

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Hey, governor, I'm willing to do an in-person intervention.

Martin O'Malley's comeback plot // Politico // Jonathan Topaz and Gabriel Debenedetti – July 10, 2015

Martin O'Malley, stuck in low single digits in national and early-state polls, has embarked on an aggressive strategy to out-wonk his rivals, sending out a flood of super-specific policy proposals on Wall Street and climate change and more.

But fellow Democrats who themselves have slogged through long-shot campaigns aren't sold.

"It's not going to grab voters' attentions," said 2008 presidential candidate and former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, of O'Malley's policy proposals.

"Martin O'Malley's challenge is this: why him and not Hillary Clinton? There's no good reason," said Steve Murphy, who was Dick Gephardt's campaign manager in 2004.
The contrast between O'Malley and his rivals can be jarring.

On the same day that Bernie Sanders rallied nearly 8,000 raucous supporters in Portland, Maine, O'Malley was on Haitian radio discussing the humanitarian crisis in the Dominican Republic.

And while the political world had its eyes fixed on Hillary Clinton's first nationally televised interview this week, O'Malley was readying to detail policy proposals on debt-free college and financial regulation.

Running a distant third behind a popular, entrenched front-runner in Clinton and a surging liberal firebrand in Sanders, O'Malley — whose camp always assumed he would be the progressive alternative in the race — is hoping that he can grab voters' attention by staking out deeply specific and deeply liberal positions on issues other candidates have yet to weigh in on.

Last month, O'Malley released a white paper on climate change that vowed to transition to 100 percent clean energy by 2050 — a bold plan that earned the praise of billionaire Democratic donor and environmentalist Tom Steyer (who has longstanding ties to Clinton and already hosted a fundraiser for her).

On Wednesday, he put forth a plan to increase Pell Grants and offer debt-free public higher education within five years. A day later, he released a set of financial regulatory proposals that would, in part, put a greater emphasis on criminal prosecution on Wall Street and institute a three-year revolving door ban on regulators and Wall Street firms.

And early next week, the campaign — which has placed significant emphasis on immigration early in the campaign — will release a similarly detailed policy rollout on that issue.

Meanwhile, he has also pushed hard on a series of issues that are far from the front of Clinton's and Sanders' minds. His statement on providing some relief for Puerto Rico's debt crisis came days before Clinton or Sanders weighed in, and he remains the only candidate to talk about the crisis in the Dominican Republic. To his team, such issues are moral ones that distinguish O'Malley from his supposedly more poll-driven competitors.

O'Malley's advisers say his attempt to dig in on progressive policy will put him in a strong position in the early-voting states when it comes time for caucus- and primary-goers to actually make up their mind.

"We're going to be policy-heavy," said top O'Malley strategist Bill Hyers. "Our plan is to do a bunch of policy and have him in Iowa rolling out his plans — talking about them in Iowa and New Hampshire. That's where we'll grind it out."

Hyers concedes that the candidate is a virtual unknown — 70 percent of Iowa Democrats in a recent Quinnipiac survey said they didn't know enough about him to make an opinion.

The idea, then, is to continue to introduce the candidate to voters by staying the course and being specific on policy, especially as Clinton draws flak for her vague stances on issues like trade and the Iran deal. The campaign is also presenting O'Malley as more of a heavyweight than Sanders, who harbors a radical past.

"I lived through Howard Dean. Al Cranston won the Wisconsin straw poll in 84," added Hyers — an implicit jab at Sanders, whom several Democrats have compared to Dean and Cranston, who ultimately flamed out after hot starts. "Bruce Babbitt was hot in Iowa. It was Joe Biden at some point. That's the fun of it."

But Sanders has hardly been vague himself. Forcing specificity from Clinton was a core plank of his strategy from the start, as he — like O'Malley — has refused to go after the front-runner by name with attack ads.

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Sanders, for example, has said that he wants to raise top marginal tax rates to above 50 percent. He was one of the leaders in Congress leading against fast-track authority and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He has released a proposal on paid sick leave and a 40-hour work week. And since launching his candidacy, he's introduced legislation to break up so-called Too Big to Fail banks and provide tuition-free college at four-year public colleges.

Staking out his own position, O'Malley offered some criticism for the latter plan on Wednesday, saying — again without naming Sanders — that addressing tuition alone wasn't enough.

But the liberal former governor is hardly a red-in-the-face anti-establishment crusader like the Vermont legislator, despite his penchant for railing against Wall Street.
Having developed a name for himself back in Maryland as a data-driven executive, the policy roll-outs fit his style better than the massive rallies Sanders has been headlining across the country.

"Sanders is basically seen as the anti-establishment candidate," explained Richardson, who found himself far behind Clinton and Obama — not to mention John Edwards — early in the 2008 race. The New Mexican said he had reviewed O'Malley's climate plan, and that he has discussed foreign policy with the Marylander as recently as a month ago. "O'Malley is seen as the progressive establishment candidate," he said.

Unaffiliated Democratic strategists who've run previous long-shot campaigns aren't convinced that O'Malley's in a position to catch up to Clinton, or even Sanders. No number of wonky or lefty policy roll-outs can make up for his name recognition or polling deficits, they say — not to mention the fact that there's little room on the left as the front-runner continues to work to win over the liberal base. And O'Malley's organization in Iowa, where caucus mechanisms must be built months in advance, lags as well.

"Let's put it this way, this strategy would not get him a spot on the Republican debate stage," said Gina Glantz, who ran Bill Bradley's 2000 long-shot campaign against Al Gore.

"She's doing exactly the same thing," added Murphy, referring to Clinton. "She's addressing one issue after the other in comprehensive fashion."

Nonetheless, while many Democrats are skeptical of O'Malley's ability to pass Sanders anytime soon, Richardson counseled patience.

"Let the Bernie Sanders boomlet develop," he advised. "He can't stop it anyway, for now."

How O'Malley Would Let Private Lenders Back Into Federal Student Loans // Forbes // Jason Delisle – July 10, 2015

President Obama won a major victory by kicking banks out of the federal student loan program in 2010. It was no-brainer good policy. Now Governor Martin O'Malley is proposing to let the same banks into the program through the back door. And expensive colleges are likely to pick up a little cash as part of the deal.

O'Malley wants to let people with private student loans convert them to federal student loans. The plan is a little light on details (there's only one sentence on his campaign webpage) but we can assume it works like this. You have a private student loan. You file an application with the U.S. Department of Education to "refinance" your private loan into a federal loan. The federal government pays off your lender and issues you a new loan with the same balance. This loan now has a lower interest rate and you can repay it through income-based repayment or any other repayment plan the government offers.

Here is why expensive colleges will like the plan. It makes the limits lawmakers placed on the amount undergraduates can borrow each year in federal loans moot. The federal loan program doesn't let undergraduates borrow an unlimited amount of money for a variety of good reasons (Parent PLUS loans not withstanding). But under Governor O'Malley's plan students would max out federal loans and then take out even more private loans. Then they would promptly convert the private loans to federal student loans. That would allow them to enroll in income-based repayment and make progress toward having their erstwhile private student loan forgiven at the expense of taxpayers. Few policies would drive tuition up more.

Private lenders are big winners, too. Private lenders do not make loans to anyone at any school. They underwrite, trying to gauge who is likely to repay, who is a good bet, etc. But under Governor O'Malley's plan they can safely get out of the underwriting business and make loans to everyone. If a borrower gets behind on payments the lender can inform him of the wonderful benefits of refinancing his loan into the federal loan program. Heck, they might even pay him to do so. The federal student loan program can provide him no-questions-asked forbearance or loan forgiveness through income-based repayment.

In finance lingo, O'Malley is selling private lenders a put option on every loan they make — taxpayers bear 100 percent of the risk on each and every loan. Make a bad loan; put it to the government at face value. In fact, that's a

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lot like how the federal loan program used to work when banks made loans with full government guarantees.

Governor O'Malley may be the only progressive who wants taxpayers guaranteeing student loans again. Sadly, some Republican candidates might actually get behind this idea.

O'Malley to speak at candidate forum in Des Moines // Des Moines Register // Jason Noble – July 10, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley will speak in Des Moines on July 24 as part of a bipartisan series of candidate forums.

O'Malley is the former governor of Maryland and one of several declared candidates for the Democratic nomination.

He'll appear at 11:30 on July 24 at the State Historical Building in downtown Des Moines. He'll speak and take questions.

Attendees may RSVP ahead of the event, but are not required to do so.

The candidate forum series is organized by the Iowa Caucus Consortium, an initiative of several Des Moines area organizations — including the Des Moines Register — to provide educational and informational resources on the caucuses.

The consortium aims to bring Democratic and Republican candidates alike to Des Moines for free and open-to-the-public events in the months leading up to the Feb. 1 caucuses.

SANDERS

Bernie Sander's misleading characterization of a controversial gun law // WaPo // Michelle Ye Hee Lee – July 10, 2015

Jake Tapper: "One issue where your Democratic rivals are starting to hit you is the fact that you have, in the past, sided with the NRA on some gun issues. Earlier this year, the parents of one of the 12 innocent people killed during the Aurora movie theater shooting, they saw their lawsuit to hold ammunition sellers liable for the attack, they saw that dismissed. And one of the reasons was a law that you voted for, which protects manufacturers of firearms and ammunition from being sued. Why did you vote that way?"

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.): "Now, the issues that you're talking about is, if somebody has a gun and it falls into the hands of a murderer, and that murderer kills somebody with the gun, do you hold the gun manufacturer responsible? Not anymore than you would hold a hammer company responsible if somebody beat somebody over the head with a hammer. That is not what a lawsuit should be about."

— exchange during a CNN interview, July 5, 2015

Sanders's answer, which came after an aside about the low grade the National Rifle Association gave him and the need for a sensible debate on gun control, was circulated online amid growing attention to his record on gun issues. His vote on the 2005 law is one of the key criticisms from Democrats about his record.

Sanders, an Independent running for the Democratic presidential nomination, characterized the law as providing immunity for gun manufacturers from being sued when a gun is misused by a third party. It's as if a hammer manufacturer were to be held responsible if someone used the hammer to beat someone else, he said.

Clearly, there is a difference between using a gun and using a hammer as a weapon. Our goal is not to nitpick or play gotcha, but rather explore the types of protection a gun manufacturer has under this law that would not apply to other consumer-goods manufacturers — hammer or otherwise. How accurate is Sanders's characterization?

The Facts

Congress passed the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act in 2005 after a wave of lawsuits filed against gun manufacturers by municipalities and gun-control advocates. Some of this can get technical, so bear with us.

Victims accused manufacturers of creating "public nuisance" and not doing enough to ensure safe distribution of guns or prevent the flow of guns into illegal markets. They alleged that manufacturers were oversupplying the industry (and therefore knew that some of the guns would end up on the black market) and that they marketed the

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guns by promoting attributes that could be associated with criminal activities.

Advocates for gunmakers argued that these lawsuits threatened Second Amendment rights and that law-abiding manufacturers should not be held liable for criminal actions of individuals. They pushed for the 2005 law, which generally shielded manufacturers and sellers of firearms and ammunition from civil lawsuits "resulting from criminal or unlawful misuse" of their product by a third party.

The law's proponents, including the NRA, argued it was necessary to block baseless lawsuits that threatened to bankrupt the firearms industry. Opponents said it gave unprecedented blanket immunity and took away consumer rights. The Fact Checker takes no position on the law.

The bill passed the House (where Sanders was at the time) 223 to 140, with 59 Democrats voting with the majority.

Interestingly, just five years earlier, the Clinton administration had reached an unprecedented deal with a major gun manufacturer, Smith & Wesson, to adopt safety measures. The agreement nearly ruined the company, as revenues declined 40 percent within a year amid an NRA boycott and criticism from gun advocates.

The 2005 law does not guarantee blanket immunity, and it has some exceptions. Manufacturers or dealers can be sued if they knowingly sold a product that would be used to commit a crime. They can be sued if they were negligent in selling the product to someone they knew was unfit (i.e., a child or someone who was drunk). They can be sued for another technical negligence claim ("negligence per se") that relates to the violation of a safety statute. The law bars any other type of negligence claims against a gun manufacturer.

Still, it provides a unique federal legal shield that most consumer goods manufacturers do not have.

Negligence claims in tort law allow consumers to sue for negligence caused by carelessness, which doesn't always involve a violation of the law or knowingly entrusting someone unfit to handle the product, said Timothy Lytton, a Georgia State University law professor who specializes in tort law and gun policies. (For example, doctors can be sued for carelessness and negligence in medical malpractice. You can sue a supermarket if you slip and are injured, and the market did not display a "wet floor" sign.)

While the law allows victims to sue if there was a design defect or a malfunction with the gun, there have been exceptions. For example, the Illinois Supreme Court in 2009 cited the law in dismissing a case where a young boy playing with his father's gun accidentally shot and killed his friend. The victim's family sued the gun manufacturer, saying the gun did not have proper safety features or proper warnings. The court found the plaintiffs did not fit the technical definition in the exception.

"If the gun is defectively designed so that when fired it explodes and injures the shooter's hand, they can sue for that. The suit that's barred is by a crime victim who wants to say that a different design could have prevented or mitigated the crime," said Kermit Roosevelt III, a University of Pennsylvania constitutional law professor specializing in Second Amendment and gun-control laws.

Few industries have federal liability immunity. Vaccine manufacturers have limited protection from lawsuits if their vaccine led to an injury. The federal government enacted this immunity to encourage companies to produce more vaccines without the fear of lawsuits, for their benefit to public health. Another example is federal protection for the airline industry from lawsuits arising from the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. But unlike the gun law, both cases established a compensation scheme for victims to recover money for damages.

While the law provides protections that no other industry has, courts have been reluctant to impose liability on manufacturers for third-party misuse of the product, said John Goldberg, Harvard Law School professor who specializes in product liability. So the types of lawsuits that Sanders mentioned (for hammers or guns) didn't have a slam-dunk chance in court before this law came about. Instead, this law ensures that those types of lawsuits can't be brought against gun manufacturers.

Sanders's spokesman, Michael Briggs, said in a statement: "Bernie's position is that a manufacturer should not be held liable for the illegal and unintended use of its product."

The Pinocchio Test

As Sanders says, under the 2005 law, gun manufacturers are not held responsible if a murderer uses their gun to kill someone. But it does more than that. It gives broad protections to gun manufacturers, including for negligence, and can protect them from being sued in certain types of claims relating to the gun's design. The Illinois case is one example where this immunity was cited to dismiss a lawsuit over the safety features of a gun that was accidentally fired by a boy. That type of technical protection would not apply to someone using a hammer.

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Further, Sanders's comparison makes it seem as if this lawsuit came about solely because people were suing gun manufacturers for making guns that somehow fell in the hands of criminals. But that is not exactly the case. Advocates and cities were suing manufacturers alleging their actions were increasing the risk that guns would fall into criminal hands. The gun industry then responded with legislation to shut down those lawsuits. Sanders's statement is misleading and a simplification of this complex case.

Two Pinocchios

Sanders Makes Play for Caucus States // WSJ // Peter Nicholas – July 10, 2015

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has been showing up in unexpected places: Colorado, Maine and Minnesota, states that seldom see a candidate at this early point in a presidential-primary campaign.

Drawing large, boisterous crowds, Mr. Sanders's travel itinerary may seem a quixotic hunt for the most liberal pockets of the Democratic Party that relish his anti-Wall Street, pro-tax-and-spend messages. It isn't.

Mr. Sanders is making a play for caucus states rather than traditional primaries. His goal is to mobilize his passionate, grass-roots backers and rack up enough delegates to pose a real challenge to Hillary Clinton. It is a tactic President Barack Obama successfully used against Mrs. Clinton in 2008, which raises the bar for Mr. Sanders. Can he pull off a repeat?

"It's something we've thought about for a while," said Tad Devine, an adviser to the Sanders campaign. "A few thousand people can make a big difference in those early caucus states, so that's a big part of the strategy."

Of the 57 states and territories that will hold contests in the Democratic primary, about one-third use caucuses to determine the winner. Last month, Mr. Sanders spoke to almost 5,000 people in Colorado, a state tentatively set to hold its caucus on March 1. He addressed more than 7,500 people earlier this week in Maine, where a caucus is now set for March 6.

Craig Hughes, a Democratic strategist who served as a Colorado senior adviser to Mr. Obama's two presidential bids, said the Sanders strategy makes sense, though it isn't at all certain he can parlay the early enthusiasm into concrete support in the caucuses.

"What you saw in Denver was a very large crowd for Sanders, but I don't see much ability to grow that for him as I see the potential for Hillary here," Mr. Hughes said.

Iowa, the state that kicks off the nomination contests, is also a caucus state, and Mr. Sanders is spending ample time and money there, too. After collecting $15 million in campaign donations in the last quarter, he has hired 27 people in Iowa, compared with five in New Hampshire, which holds a traditional primary election. Mrs. Clinton, who raised three times as much as Mr. Sanders in that same time frame, has 47 organizers on the ground in Iowa.

In his book about the 2008 campaign, "The Audacity to Win," former Obama Campaign Manager David Plouffe wrote that "the Clinton campaign was essentially ceding caucus states."

Not this time, her advisers said.

One of her most important hires may turn out to be Jeff Berman, who helped execute the 2008 Obama campaign's strategy of capitalizing on the often arcane caucus rules to maximize his delegate take.

Asked to contrast the present-day Clinton campaign with the 2008 model, one senior campaign manager ruefully made the point that this time around, Team Clinton grasps that caucus states can't be ignored because—no less than states that hold primaries—they help candidates amass the delegates needed to clinch the nomination.

Paul Begala, a Democratic strategist who is now part of the pro-Clinton super PAC Priorities USA Action, recalled Mrs. Clinton's decision to fly around Iowa in a helicopter at one point in the 2008 race. "You couldn't have had a worse way to approach Iowans than flying around in a helicopter like the Queen of England," Mr. Begala said.

In April, after announcing her candidacy, Mrs. Clinton visited Iowa before any other state, eschewing a chartered helicopter and opting for a road trip from her New York home in a van she dubbed "Scooby-Doo."

In an interview with CNN this week, Mrs. Clinton said: "One of the things that I learned last time is it's organize, organize, organize." She now has a supporter in each of Iowa's 1,682 election precincts, the campaign said.

Still, Mr. Sanders's large crowds have raised worries inside the Clinton camp. Rightly so, said Troy Jackson, a Maine Democrat. In 2008, he backed Mrs. Clinton; now he supports Mr. Sanders. "Obama never had crowds like that," he said.

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Bernie defends Jeb's 'longer hours' comment // Politico // Nick Gass—July 10, 2015

Bernie Sanders on Friday defended Jeb Bush's remarks that Americans need to work longer hours, acknowledging that Bush was "absolutely correct" if he was referring to the need for more full-time jobs than part-time jobs.

"Well, of course we need full-time jobs rather than part-time jobs, but to suggest that people have got to work harder —Chris, here's the fact: People in the United States of America today are working the longest hours of a people of any major industrialized countries," Sanders said in an interview on CNN's "New Day" with Chris Cuomo.

Bush came under fire from his presidential race rivals, including Hillary Clinton and Sanders, for his comments late Wednesday, which reminded some of Mitt Romney's "47 percent" moment.

But Bush quickly clarified that he was referring the millions of people who want full-time employment and can't find it, and has found some success in defusing the situation.

In the interview on Friday morning, Sanders also acknowledged that he will not be able to avoid having every part of his personal life scrutinized as he runs for the Democratic presidential nomination. But politicians and the media should not turn it into a soap opera, he said.

The self-described democratic socialist candidate addressed a POLITICO Magazine article in which Sanders spokesman Michael Briggs confirmed that Sanders had his only son Levi in a relationship outside of his first marriage.

The United States, Sanders said, "faces enormous problems, and I think it's incumbent upon political leaders and the media to focus on those issues and not make politics into a soap opera."

He also partially defended Democratic rival Hillary Clinton against what he called "unjustified attacks," urging a focus on the issues rather than the people. At the same time, Sanders noted his policy differences with the former secretary of state and his former Senate colleague.

"I am prepared to break up the large financial institutions because I feel that Wall Street has too much power. She has not been clear on that. So you know, I'm not going to be beating her up and attacking her in personal ways," he said. "I like her."

The One Point on Which Bernie Sanders Agrees With Jeb Bush // Bloomberg // Arit John – July 10, 2015

News flash: Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders just said Republican presidential rival Jeb Bush is right about something. Sort of.

One day after saying Bush "does not seem to understand what is happening in our economy today," Sanders, Vermont's democratic socialist senator, grudgingly acknowledged Friday that he may actually agree on at least one aspect of the former Florida governor's views.

At issue: Bush's much-discussed interview with the New Hampshire Union Leader editorial board on Wednesday in which Bush said that improving the economy means "that people need to work longer hours and through their productivity gain more income for their families."

On Friday, CNN's "New Day" host Chris Cuomo asked Sanders if he'd been unfair, given that Bush seemed to be talking about the need for more full-time jobs, as opposed to part-time work.

"Of course we need full time jobs rather than part time jobs, but to suggest that people have gotta work harder..." Sanders said, adding that Americans work some of the longest hours of any major industrialized country. "So what we need to do is raise wages and income not force our people, who are already stressed out by long hours, to work even more hours."

Cuomo pushed him, and said that Sanders needed to be "consistent" if he wanted to stay above the board of dirty politics.

"Well if he is talking about the need for more full-time jobs rather than part-time jobs he's absolutely correct. That's what we have to do," Sanders said.

In an earlier statement released after Bush's comment, Sanders said that "[u]nfortunately ... Gov. Bush does not seem to understand what is happening in our economy today." Hillary Clinton also criticized Bush in a tweet:

Bush pushed back on Thursday. "You can take it out of context all you want, but high sustained growth means

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people work 40 hours rather than 30 hours and that by our success they have disposable income for their families to decide how they want to spend it rather than standing in line and being dependent upon government," he said.

Sanders was less willing to go after Hillary Clinton. Cuomo mentioned that Clinton has "trust issues"—specifically, a June CNN poll found that 57 percent of Americans don't consider her to be honest and trustworthy.

"Look, I have known Hillary Clinton for 25 years. I respect her. I like her," Sanders said. His criticism of her lies with her stances, or lack of stances, on issues like the Trans-Pacific Partnership and breaking up large financial institutions.

The interview also touched on a new Politico profile, which reports that Sanders has a son born out of wedlock. Cuomo asked Sanders if he thinks he can continue to run his campaign without opening up more about his personal life.

Sanders said he couldn't avoid it, but would rather focus on the issues, given the problems the country is facing. "I think it's incumbent on political leaders and media to focus on those issues and not make politics into a soap opera," he said.

Sanders dings Bush on work, ducks personal questions // CNN // Tom LoBianco – July 10, 2015

Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders hit Republican contender Jeb Bush for his comments on the productivity of American workers and said he was best positioned to take on the nation's "billionaire class" if elected president.

The Vermont senator, who identifies as a Democratic socialist, said that 85 percent of men and 65 percent of women are working more than 40 hours a week.

"So what we need to do is raise wages and income, not force more people, who are already stressed out by long hours, to work even more hours," Sanders said on CNN's "New Day".

Jeb Bush told The Union Leader in New Hampshire Wednesday that "people need to work longer hours", which quickly drew a blast from frontrunner Hillary Clinton, who accused Bush of not understanding how hard Americans already work.

The Bush team explained his comments were taken out of context and said he meant that more part-time workers need full time jobs.

When pressed on if he was twisting Bush's comments, which Bush has said were about the availability of good full time jobs an not about American work ethic, Sanders relented.

"If he is talking about the need for more full time jobs than part time jobs he is absolutely correct," Sanders said.

Sanders has been gaining ground on frontrunner Hillary Clinton steadily, as the liberal wing of the Democratic party has coalesced behind him. As he has inched forward, personal questions from his past have bubbled up in media.

Asked about a Politico story on the child he had out of wedlock almost 40 years ago, Sanders deflected, saying he wanted to focus instead on issues. CNN's Chris Cuomo asked Sanders if he believed he could avoid personal scrutiny while running for president.

"I'm not being naïve, I understand it, yes," Sanders said. "No, no, I don't think I can avoid it. But this this country faces enormous problems and I think it's incumbent upon political leaders and the media to focus on those issues and not make politics into a soap opera."

Bernie Sanders: The Cable Bill Is Too Damn High // HuffPo // Zach Carter – July 10, 2015

Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) sent a letter on Friday accusing big cable companies of using monopoly powers to muscle consumers into paying higher prices.

In the letter, addressed to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler, Sanders and Warren wrote that mega-mergers have left over 60 percent of Americans with no choice whatsoever when it comes to their cable and Internet providers. This state of things, they wrote, makes it possible for companies to jack up prices without losing customers to competition. Sens. Al Franken (D-Minn.) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.) also signed the letter.

"As the telecommunications industry becomes increasingly concentrated, this lack of choice has resulted in huge price increases and often poor service for consumers," the senators wrote. "There are now de facto telecommunications monopolies throughout the United States."

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The letter noted that a new merger between Time Warner Cable and Charter Communications would only exacerbate the problem, saying that recent Time Warner price increases suggest the cable giant is already insulated from normal market pressures. Modem rental charges for Time Warner have jumped 203 percent since they were introduced in 2012, according to the letter. The FCC has the power to block the TWC-Charter deal.

"Given the lack of incentive for companies to provide better quality service and competitive prices, it is no surprise that individuals rank cable and Internet providers last in customer satisfaction when compared to other companies in other industries," the senators wrote.

Sanders and his colleagues asked for the FCC to publish a host of cable and broadband pricing data, so consumers could see how much they pay compared to customers in other areas. They asked the FCC to provide average prices for each state and each cable provider, and also asked the agency to publicize the average prices in urban areas compared to those in rural markets.

Bernie Sanders: Income Tax Proposal To Come "In Two Or Three Weeks" **// BuzzFeed // Christopher Massie – July 10, 2015**

Bernie Sanders said on Friday that he would have a concrete proposal for an income tax rate on the highest earners "in two or three weeks."

The Democratic presidential candidate was discussing legislation he has introduced as a senator from Vermont that he says "would end this business of companies being able to store their profits in the Cayman Islands" and tax "Wall Street speculation," when he was asked to name his preferred tax rate on the upper echelon of individual incomes.

"We're working on that," Sanders said on a New Hampshire radio station. "Ask me that question in two or three weeks, I will give you a definitive answer. How's that?"

In late May, Sanders said that, under the Eisenhower administration, the top tax rate "was something like 90 percent," and said he didn't think that was necessarily too high a rate to reinstate.

In June, Sanders alluded to "a comprehensive tax package" his team was working on and said he suspected that it would, "for the top marginal rates, go over 50 percent."
In the interview on Friday, Sanders said that the plan to be released in the coming weeks would "ask the rich to pay a higher tax rate."

"In general, what I can tell you is that when Warren Buffett tells us that he pays an effective tax rate lower than his secretaries or lower than nurses, there's something wrong with our tax system," he said, after again refusing to give a specific number. "So yes, my proposal will ask the wealthiest people in this country, who, by and large, are doing phenomenally well right now, while the middle class is disappearing, yes, I will ask the rich to pay a higher tax rate."

Bernie Sanders Is The Left's Trump **// Daily Beast // Ana Marie Cox – July 10, 2015**

Bernie Sanders is the Left's Donald Trump.

Bear with me here. There is a lot they don't have in common, including where they stand in their respective party's polls—though Sanders' slow creep into a distant second is likely to be more sustainable. Still, they have both managed to disrupt their respective nomination races, and they've done that because they both have a similar appeal: They've tapped into anti-establishment passions with rhetoric that is a kind of wish-fulfillment fantasy for some voters. "He has the guts to say what others won't" could be the slogan for either of them.

I don't want to gloss over the content of that gut-driven bluntness. In Trump's case, just because he's saying what others won't doesn't mean what he's saying is true. And it's fair to point out that Trump's lowest-common-denominator xenophobia is a sugar high kind populism: it's cheap and easily reproduced but difficult to sustain. Sanders, on the other hand, offers a chewier and less visceral version of "us-versus-them": discussions about income inequality and financial regulatory policy don't create the same kind of direct line to voters' emotions that Trump's talk of rapists and thieves travels on.

The media is covering them in a similar fashion, too, though that's mainly a function of how the political media cover campaigns in general. The story is the process, not the messages or ideas. "Analysis" consists of asking, "What this will do the race?" and not, "What does it mean for voters?" Granted, only one of the candidates in question has ideas to cover. Indeed, Sanders reliance on a few big ideas—not personality, not easy outrage—is one of the reasons coverage of Sanders' rise has an element of arch bemusement. Note The New York Times: "Somehow, Bernie Sanders, the 73-year-old senator from Vermont, has emerged as a king of social media." Somehow!

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“I think we need to just cut to the chase and have a real libertarian/conservative go up against Elizabeth Warren or avowed socialist Bernie Sanders.”
Trump coverage, of course, is more straightforwardly mocking (I highly recommend the Trump Chrome extension). While everyone wonders what Trump’s rise might do to the GOP race, no one is wondering how it is he got as far as he did. Just ask any of the other, “more serious” candidates, whose reluctance to criticize Trump proves that his only real divergence from the Republican mainstream is stylistic, not substantive.

On the other hand, there are real policy differences between Sanders and the Democratic leadership—that’s why he wasn’t a Democrat until recently, after all. Moderate Democrats have been denouncing Sanders with a vigor conspicuously absent from the intraparty Trump conversation: Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill complained, “I very rarely read in any coverage of Bernie that he’s a socialist” and declared him “too liberal” to be president.

Put it another way: When Democratic base voters flock to Sanders, they are expressing dissatisfaction what current Democratic policies. When Republican base voters flock to Trump, they are expressing dissatisfaction with Republican rhetoric.

But I said I was going to talk about what they had in common, and that’s easy enough here: whether its rhetorically or policy-wise, Trump and Sanders supporters are asking their parties to move away from the center—or, perhaps more clearly stated, away from each other.

Indeed, there are those on both sides who long for a Trump-Sanders match-up. It would, on some level, be a battle of caricatures—as defined by the opposing side. And what about the Democrats who would love to see Trump get the nomination? And Republicans who’d like to see Sanders? They envision that contest as referendum more than an election, a chance to finally and fatally eject the other side from the political spectrum. As Glenn Beck put it recently: “I think we need to just cut to the chase and have a real libertarian/conservative go up against Elizabeth Warren or avowed socialist Bernie Sanders. This country could finally make up its mind based on two honest and completely different visions of the future of this country.”

A nation born of revolution is given to absolutes, of course. (“Give me liberty or give me death,” no middle ground, etc.) But the Founders never thought we’d be using those words against each other. Beck and others frame the prospect of two extremists as a contest of “visions” but both sides are actually color blind: Everything is black and white. One side is totally wrong; one side is totally right. This zero-sum mentality and vengeful nihilism threaten to turn government into just another WWE show, a cage match of ideologies.

Left unspoken in these hyperbolic hypotheticals is what happens if the other guy’s caricature wins. That 50-50 chance of total validation is just too blinding, I guess. But what happens if their own caricature wins, more often than not, is just as vague. It’s standard practice to snigger when asking a supporter of a fringe candidate (though neither Trump nor Sanders are really fringe) what will happen were their dream president actually to sit down in the Oval Office. The objectively ridiculous proposition of a President Sanders or a President Trump actually trying to govern is supposed to destabilize the fantasy.

But the attraction of a Sanders or Trump presidency for true believers isn’t the opportunity to govern all of us, but the chance to punish the rest of us.

In June, the South Carolina Highway Patrol honor guard carried the mortal remains of the murdered Sen. Clementa Pinckney up the State House steps and into the rotunda.

Members of the honor guard flanked the open coffin, spit polished and erect, eyes straight ahead in a silent show of respect as thousands of mourners filed past. A black cloth had been draped over one of the windows to spare anyone who might be offended by the Confederate battle flag flying out front.

A bill called the Heritage Act passed in this very building prevented the flag from being lowered even to half-staff, much less taken down without a two-thirds vote of the legislature.

But on Thursday, the legislature voted to do just that and set a 24-hour deadline on having it done.

On Friday, the honor guard returned, this this time to lower the Confederate battle flag, which had been designed by William Porcher Miles, a onetime mayor of Charleston who had been a prominent “fire-eater,” as the most ardent proponents of slavery and secession leading up to the Civil War were called.

The honor guard had performed countless other ceremonies, but this one was a little different. And they had not been given much time to work out exactly how it should go.

The flag was being taken down in the first place because it was seen by many people—African-Americans in particular—as a hateful symbol of slavery and oppression. Some rightly view it as a shameful banner of treason.

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“Nothing was said. I felt like that was appropriate.”
But it had been hoisted there in the first place because it is viewed by others—none of them African-Americans—as a symbol of an idealized heritage and history.

And the very fact that the honor guard had been chosen to lower it was an implicit nod to those people.

At the appointed time on Friday morning, the guard went about lowering the flag with the same ritualistic respect as it would with the Stars and Stripes.

Two of the officers took the lowered banner in their white gloved hands.

And for a moment, it seemed as if they might fold it as they would an American flag that had covered the coffin of a fellow cop or a U.S. solider who had made the supreme sacrifice.

Instead, they rolled it, presumably an echo of the way Confederate regiments furled their battle flags in surrender at the end of the Civil War.

A black sergeant was the one who then took the furled banner. He had done this at American flag ceremonies where race was not issue, but it was hard to believe that he had been chosen by chance in this instance.

He seemed to be an attempt to compensate for the bigotry associated with what he now carried so solemnly over to the State House steps. The director of the South Carolina Relic Room and Military Museum waited to receive it.

For a second, truly terrible moment, the ritual was too much like that performed when the flag from a hero’s coffin is presented to a grieving loved one along with the words, “On behalf of a grateful nation….”

Thankfully, the sergeant uttered not a word. The director, Allen Roberson, was also silent as he took the furled flag.

“Nothing was said,” Roberson later told The Daily Beast. “I felt like that was appropriate.”

Roberson was escorted up into the State House.

“I just wanted to make sure I didn’t trip when I was carrying the flag,” he recalled.

He then descended to the basement, where an armored car was waiting to transport the flag to the museum.

Upon arriving, Robeson brought the flag in through a back door. The flag was unrolled, smoothed and carefully folded.

“So it wouldn’t crease,” Roberson said.

The museum’s registrar, Rachel Cockrell, and an intern named John Faulkenberry placed it in an “acid-free textile storage box, padded with acid-free tissue.” The box was stored in the museum’s “secure, climate-controlled Artifact Storage area.”

“Locked and alarmed,” Roberson said.

150710-daly-confederate-embed
Courtesy of the SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum
Roberson dismissed as not entirely accurate reports that there had been a tacit agreement as part of a legislative compromise to store the flag in a multimillion-dollar facility funded by the taxpayers—which would include, necessarily, the descendants of slaves.

He allowed that there had been some brainstorming with various architects and planners, but nothing had been decided and whatever was ultimately done would not likely be so grand.

He noted that he has not been able to get added funding for anything in recent years.

“Our budget has not increased at all,” he said.

Back at the State House, the flagpole where the banner had flown was now bare, but a monument to the Confederate dead remained. The inscription on the north side reads:

“This monument
perpetuates the memory,
of those who

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true to the instincts of their birth,
faithful to the teachings of their fathers,
constant in their love for the State,
died in the performance of their duty:
Who
have glorified a fallen cause
by the simple manhood of their lives,
the patient endurance of suffering,
and the heroism of death,
and who,
in the dark house of imprisonment,
in the hopelessness of the hospital,
in the short, sharp agony of the field
found support and consolation
in the belief
that at home they would not be forgotten.
Unveiled May 13, 1879"

The fallen cause they glorified included sedition and slavery. The people at home included slaves who had suffered horrors that outdid even war.

There is also an inscription on the north side:

"Let the stranger,
who may in the future times
read this inscription,
recognize that these were men
whom power could not corrupt,
whom death could not terrify,
whom defeat could not dishonor
and let their virtues plead
for just judgment
of the cause in which they perished.
Let the South Carolinian
of another generation
remember
that the State taught them
how to live and how to die.
And that from her broken fortunes
she has preserved for her children
the priceless treasure of their memories,
teaching all who may claim
the same birthright
that truth, courage and patriotism
endure forever."

The truth is they died fighting to deny fellow human beings the right to life and liberty. Their legacy is racism and hate.

The flowery falsehoods on the monument remain, now that the flag has been taken down in somber ceremony with white gloved hands and tucked safely away by a very nice museum director in an acid-free box, locked and alarmed.

Bernie Sanders is the Ron Paul of 2016 **// The Hill // Eddie Zipperer – July 10, 2015**

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is the Ron Paul of the 2016 election — with his enormous crowds, a network of hardcore supporters and an iconoclasm that seems to transcend the politics-as-usual establishment.

But none of that will be enough to carry him to victory. The fringe candidate drawing huge crowds and surging in the polls because he appeals to the party base is nothing new. He'll strut and fret his hour upon the stage and then be heard no more — just like then-Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) in 2012.
Here's how Nina Malika Henderson summed up the state of the Paul campaign in The Washington Post on April 1, 2012: "[E]nthusiastic crowds who love Paul's fierce independence but fail to carry him to victory at the polls. After running in 30 states and gaining a scant 50 delegates, according to the Associated Press, Paul has learned a hard lesson: Crowds don't vote."

Sanders is going to learn the same lesson in a few months.

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Geoffrey Skelley, associate editor of Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball at the University of Virginia Center for Politics, had this to say about Sanders's crowds:

Most of the places we've seen him draw huge crowds are exactly the kinds of spots where we might expect it: whiter urban areas like Denver and Minneapolis (compared to most big cities), liberal college towns like Madison, Wis., and now most recently in very white Portland, Maine, the most liberal part of the Pine Tree State. National polling hasn't shown Sanders making in-roads with nonwhite voters, and much of his support is coming from whites who are particularly liberal.

Progressive media outlets will continue to cite enormous crowds, cherry-picked state polls and a general feeling of Bernie-mania in order to push the narrative that Hillary Clinton is being seriously challenged.

In late 2011 to early 2012, Paul had a media surge very similar to what Sanders is experiencing now.

When Paul spoke at UCLA to a crowd of 6,000 to 7,000 people jammed into an over-capacity stadium, one wire service reported that Paul fans who couldn't get in were "climbing nearby trees to see the speech."

Stories of Paul's rise in the Iowa polls were ubiquitous for weeks.

But you know how the story ends: with former Gov. Mitt Romney (R-Mass.) coasting over the finish line and beating Paul by a count of nearly 1,400 delegates.

Paul had niche appeal, but not mass appeal. Any argument that Sanders will be different — that he'll score the mass appeal that Paul lacked — is two parts hope and zero parts reality.

Sanders's power to rise in the polls is going to slam headfirst into the socialist ceiling. It makes no difference what the word "socialism" means to Sanders or his supporters. A Gallup poll from June 22 showed that while 74 percent of Americans would vote for a gay or lesbian presidential candidate, 73 percent would vote for an evangelical Christian and 60 percent would vote for a Muslim, only 47 percent of Americans would vote for a socialist presidential candidate.

Then, there's money. If the rest of Sanders's problems don't shut his campaign down, the money problem will. Michael Hagen, associate professor of political science at Temple University, points out that "Sanders's funding situation will make it difficult for him to let Democrats know who he is and what he stands for."

The largest differences between Paul and Sanders are the advantages Paul enjoyed, which Sanders does not.

In order for Sanders — a candidate on the party's fringe — to win, he would need serious challengers to divide and conquer the Clinton coalition. Former Gov. Martin O'Malley (D-Md.), former Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) and former Gov. Lincoln Chaffee (D-R.I.) are practically nonexistent. Vice President Biden puts a small dent in Clinton's lead (as we've seen when his name is removed from polls). But Sanders fanatics need Biden and a second establishment challenger to step in. Preferably a big-name Democrat who is within an ideological arm's length of Clinton.

My goal is not to pour cold water on the hopes of Sanders fans. It is simply to hold a mirror up to nature and present the reality of his situation — a reality being ignored by the left-wing media where many Sanders fans turn to for their news.

Partisan news sources are food for intellectual dishonesty. The real story about candidates like Ron Paul and Bernie Sanders is the same every four years: big crowds, big hype, big loss.

Sanders: 'We have got to apologize for slavery' // Washington Examiner // Barbara Boland – July 10, 2015

"As a nation, we have got to apologize for slavery" Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., said during a recent Sirius XM interview.

Host Joe Madison of Sirius XM's "The Black Eagle" asked Sanders, "If elected president of the United States, would you apologize for slavery?"

"You know, obviously, nobody in this generation is involved in slavery," replied Sanders. "But as a nation, slavery is one of the abominations that our country has experienced. There is no excuse. What can we say about it? It was horrific, it killed millions of people who never made it even across the oceans, and it destroyed just the lives of so many people."

"So as a nation – and I don't think as a president, but as a nation – we have got to apologize for slavery, of course," Sanders said.

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"So is that a yes or a no?" asked Madison.

"Well, it's ... I mean ... I'm not exactly sure what it means," replied Sanders haltingly. "As a nation, we have got to apologize for slavery; and of course, the president is the leader of the nation."

While a recent poll found that Sanders trailed Democrat rival Hillary Clinton by only 12 points in New Hampshire, Sanders garners the support of only 5 percent of black Democrats according to a poll by Fox News.

The latest RealClearPolitics poll shows Clinton leading Sanders in the Democrat nomination by 48 points.

Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders defends past votes on gun control measures // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – July 10, 2015

Bernie Sanders defended his past opposition to some gun control measures in a testy exchange Thursday night.

The Vermont senator and fast-rising progressive primary challenger to Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination doubled down on his past votes to block people from suing gun manufacturers and allow people to check guns in their baggage on Amtrak trains.

Sanders was confronted at an appearance by Honora Laszlo, the local chairwoman of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, who criticized him for his votes and statements opposing some gun control measures.

“If somebody has a gun and somebody steals that gun and shoots somebody, do you really think it makes sense to blame the manufacturer of that weapon?” Sanders said, before he and Laszlo began talking over one another.

“If somebody assaults you with a baseball bat, you hit somebody over the head, you’re not going to sue the baseball bat manufacturer,” Sanders continued. “There’s going to have to be some compromises on both sides. So I don’t apologize for that vote."

Sanders, a self-described Democratic socialist, is a hardline liberal on most issues. His economic populism has been earning him plaudits from progressives, generating enthusiasm with the liberal Democratic base and pumping up his poll numbers in early voting states. But he has a mixed record on gun control, and Clinton is to his left on an issue that’s crucial to many progressives.

The senator touted his votes to ban assault weapons, create instant background checks and close the gun show loophole, arguing that Democrats need to end the culture wars over guns to get “common-sense solutions” through.

“We can argue all that we want between Vermont and Montana and urban America about guns. We are not going to succeed,” he said.

Laszlo said she’d been a longtime Sanders fan and told the Daily News afterward that she arrived hoping he would walk away from his past positions because she’s not crazy about Clinton.

“He was dishonest in the way he talked about it. He is using this language that the NRA and their supporters use to polarize people,” she said. “I really hoped that if I gave him the chance to walk those statements back that he would, and instead he just really threw a bunch of smoke out.”

Bernie’s Big Break With the Left on Guns // US News and World Report // David Catanese – July 10, 2015

As a lifelong Bernie Sanders fan, Honora Laszlo was hoping for the best when she came to a forum here Thursday night to challenge the Vermont senator and presidential candidate on his gun control position.

The avowed socialist Sanders voted in 2005 to prohibit lawsuits against gun manufacturers when crimes are committed with their weapons. In the wake of the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, he told a home-state media outlet that stronger gun control legislation wouldn't have prevented the shootings.

This bothered Laszlo, a member of the local chapter for Gun Sense In America, who agrees with Sanders on virtually every other issue. So she stood up to pointedly pin him down on the matter, seeking a conversion or at least a concession. Instead, she got a confrontation – which illuminated Sanders' weakest spot with liberals in his long-shot quest for the Democratic Party nomination.

Laszlo first wanted to know how Sanders could claim that further gun control measures wouldn't prevent future mass casualty tragedies. She then pressed for an explanation on his 2005 vote.

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A defender of the Second Amendment from a rural state, Sanders explained he knows tens of thousands of his constituents who hunt and target practice safely and lawfully. He stressed he has voted for a ban on assault weapons, in favor of instant background checks and to close the gun-show loophole covering private sales.

But not unlike many conservatives from the heartland of America, Sanders asserted that it would be folly to make Burlington and Boston live under the same gun laws.

"The overwhelming majority of people who hunt know about guns and respect guns and are law-abiding people. That's the truth," he said. "We will not succeed on this terribly important issue if we continue the cultural warfare between urban America and rural America."

But his answer on why gun manufacturers should be shielded from civil lawsuits is what really irked Laszlo.

"If somebody sells you a baseball bat and you hit somebody over the head, you're not going to sue the baseball bat manufacturer," Sanders said, to a smattering of applause among a mostly liberal audience. "I don't apologize for that vote."

Afterward, Laszlo called that analogy "ridiculous" and felt Sanders was employing language that mimicked the "dog-whistling" of the National Rifle Association. (The lawmaker's current grade from the NRA is still an F.)

"[Baseball bats] have other uses. The guns we're talking about only are designed to kill a lot of people in a short amount of time," she says. "It's not about whether people like guns or don't. This honest conversation he's talking about is not at all rural versus urban because there's a lot of people that are killed in rural communities all the time."

Whereas Sanders posited that he had a balanced record on gun control that heeds to his state's culture but acknowledges the nationwide problem, Laszlo found his language as polarizing as some on the right.

"He reinforces the idea in people on the other side of the divide that this is about people hating them and about people hating guns. This is not. This is about safety," she says.

A super PAC supporting former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has also identified gun control as Sanders' weak spot, running an ad targeting the very issue concerning Laszlo. "Bernie Sanders is no progressive when it comes to guns," it blares.

Additionally, Hillary Clinton has been more vocal on gun violence in recent weeks, promising to speak out against the "gun lobby" and "uncontrollable use of guns in our country." She has yet to directly frame a contrast with Sanders.

But the line of attack hasn't gained serious traction yet, mostly because liberals have prioritized Sanders' withering message of economic inequality over all else.

"These Vermonters like their guns, but ya know, we go along with that," says Madi Green, a Sanders fan in the audience who also disagrees with his gun control stand. "You just say, 'OK, they're hunters,' you pardon them.'

But Laszlo isn't giving him a pass.

She was yearning for him to change her mind: "He absolutely could've, if he had talked about it in a different way."

Instead, she walked out of Thursday's forum unable to support him.

"A lot of us were super Bernie Sanders supporters before," she says. "We were all really disappointed to hear him talk about it in this way that is boilerplate NRA language."

Did Bernie Sanders vote against background checks and waiting periods for gun purchases? // PolitiFact // Linda Qiu – July 10, 2015

As hype around Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders grows, political opponents and media reporters are once again suggesting the socialist Vermont senator is a gun nut.

"One issue your Democratic rivals are starting to hit you with is the fact that you have, in the past, sided with the NRA on some gun issues," CNN's Jake Tapper said in a July 5 interview with Sanders, alluding to an attack ad paid for by a pro-Martin O'Malley group.

"Bernie Sanders voted against the Brady Bill -- background checks and waiting periods," said the attack, which first aired June 25. "Bernie Sanders is no progressive when it comes to guns."

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Sanders' record on guns has been the subject of liberal ire ("Bernie Sanders, gun nut") as well as conservative glee ("Sorry liberals, Bernie Sanders is a gun nut"). So we wanted to take a look at his vote on the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, a landmark piece of gun control legislation.

The Brady Act mandated that everyone who wanted to buy a handgun had to wait five days while local law enforcement ran criminal background checks. (After 1998, the firearm dealers became responsible for conducting the checks.)

But before Brady became law, it underwent many transformations. Sanders, elected to the House of Representatives in 1990, voted on it numerous times, virtually almost always in opposition:

• In May 1991, Sanders voted against a version that mandated a seven-day waiting period for background checks, but the bill passed in the House.

• The Senate decreased the waiting period to five days and the bill returned to the House. In Nov. 1991, Sanders voted against that version. Though it passed in the House, the Senate didn't muster enough votes. The Brady bill and its gun control stance remained in limbo during 1992.

• After some back and forth, a version of the bill resurfaced that reinstated the five day waiting period. In November 1993, Sanders voted against that version but for an amendment imposing an instant background check instead (seen by some as pointless, as the technology for instant checks didn't exist at the time).

• He also voted against an amendment that would have ended state waiting periods, and for an amendment giving those denied a gun the right to know why.

• The final compromise version of the Brady bill -- an interim five-day waiting period while installing an instant background check system -- was passed and signed into law on Nov. 30, 1993. Sanders voted against it.

According to Sanders' campaign manager Jeff Weaver, Sanders' reason for opposing the Brady bill was two-fold. First, he believed implementing a national waiting period was federal overreach. And second, he was doing his job.

"He wasn't opposed to states having (waiting periods) if they wanted to. The Republicans wanted to repeal waiting periods in states that had them, and Bernie voted that down," Weaver said. "He said he would be against waiting periods, and he kept his word to the people of Vermont."

In April 1991, Sanders' then-chief of staff Anthony Pollina echoed the idea that Sanders was simply representing the will of his constituents.

"Bernie's response is that he doesn't just represent liberals and progressives. He was sent to Washington to present all of Vermont," Pollina said. "It's not inappropriate for a congressman to support a majority position, particularly on something Vermonters have been very clear about."

The Green Mountain State, though left-leaning, has a high gun ownership rate and lax gun control laws (as well as a low homicide rate). That and Sanders' own personal views are reflected in his overall voting record, experts told us.

"As a rural state with a large number of hunters and other gun owners, Vermont has been less liberal on guns than on most other issues, historically," explained Bertram Johnson, a professor of political science at Middlebury College in Vermont. "He seems to support more regulation of guns than the U.S. presently has, but he recognizes his constituents' preferences so does not make gun control a priority."

"I think he has disappointed many progressives in Vermont with his gun positions, which sort of walk a middle line – and angering both sides through the years," said Chris Graff, the former Vermont Associated Press bureau chief. "Gun control is a tough issue in Vermont for all politicians."

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, whose 2004 presidential bid is often compared to Sanders' 2016 run, received high marks from the National Rifle Association. Vermont Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy also voted against the Brady bill. For his part, Sanders has voted to tighten gun control about half the time, and to protect Second Amendment rights the other half.

Here are his votes on key gun bills in his 25 years in Congress (bold reflects a pro-gun control position):

Sanders' moderate stance is noted by firearm enthusiasts and gun control advocates alike. Former NRA research coordinator Paul Blackman says the group doesn't consider Sanders "an anti-gunner," and he's received mixed marks from NRA ranging from a C- to F. Brady Campaign president Dan Gross says Sanders has shown suppleness and evolution since those first Brady votes and added he isn't a "gun lobby lapdog."

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Experts agreed that on guns, Sanders' views are to the right of his Democratic rivals.

"When it comes to guns, he's not Ted Cruz, but he believes federal policy should be less intrusive than Martin O'Malley or Hillary Clinton," said Eric Davis, who studies Vermont politics at Middlebury College. "Guns are not an important issue for him, because they don't fit into the class-based framework that Bernie looks at politics through."

Our ruling

An attack ad said, "Bernie Sanders voted against the Brady Bill -- background checks and waiting periods."

The Brady bill imposed a five-day waiting period for would-be purchasers of handguns. Between 1991 and 1993, Sanders voted against it five times. He did, however, vote for a version of the bill that imposed instant background checks, and against an amendment that repealed state background checks.

Experts noted Sanders' votes were representative of Vermont's gun owners and gun laws. Since the 1990s, his record on gun control is mixed.

We rate the ad's claim Mostly True.

GOP Officials Publicly Denounce Bernie Sanders' Obamacare Expansion, Quietly Request Funding // The Intercept // Lee Fang – July 10, 2015

he conventional wisdom on Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont is that he's a charming if impractical dreamer, a pie-in-the-sky socialist who's good at inspiring young people and aging hippies, but hopeless at the knife fighting that real-life politics requires.

Despite the inherent limitations of a self-described democratic socialist who eschews the norms of Beltway fundraising, the Democratic presidential candidate from Vermont has won legislative victory after victory on an issue that has been dear to him since his days as Burlington's mayor.

That issue is the simultaneously benign and revolutionary expansion of federally qualified community health clinics.

Over the years, Sanders has tucked away funding for health centers in appropriation bills signed by George W. Bush, into Barack Obama's stimulus program, and through the earmarking process. But his biggest achievement came in 2010 through the Affordable Care Act. In a series of high-stakes legislative maneuvers, Sanders struck a deal to include $11 billion for health clinics in the law.

The result has made an indelible mark on American health care, extending the number of people served by clinics from 18 million before the ACA to an expected 28 million next year.

As one would expect, the program was largely met with plaudits from patients and public health experts, but it has also won praise from even the biggest Obamacare critics on Capitol Hill. In letters I obtained through multiple record requests, dozens of Republican lawmakers, including members of the House and Senate leadership, have privately praised the ACA clinic funding, calling health centers a vital provider in both rural and urban communities.

To Sanders, the clinics have served as an alternative to his preferred single-payer system. Community health centers accept anyone regardless of health, insurance status or ability to pay. They are founded and managed by a board composed of patients and local residents, so each center is customized to fit the needs of a community. No two health centers are alike.

In rural North Carolina, ACA-backed health centers now provide dental and nutrition services, while in San Francisco, the clinics provide translation services and outreach for immigrant families. In other areas, they provide mental health counseling, low-cost prescription drugs, and serve as the primary care doctors for entire counties. They have also served as a platform for innovation, introducing electronic medical record systems and paving the way with new methods for tracking those most susceptible for heart disease and diabetes.

Author John Dittmer, in The Good Doctors, traces the history of the modern health center to the civil rights activists who ventured into the South during the early 1960s. The activists were seen as outside agitators, and local doctors refused to treat them. As a solution, volunteer bands of physicians were organized by a group called the Medical Committee for Human Rights.

Beyond treating the civil rights workers, the MCHR physicians were struck by the stark disparity in health services, encountering many African-Americans who had never seen a doctor before in their lives. The activist

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physicians returned to the South after the “Freedom Rides” to found a small clinic in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, and by doing so, began a movement to launch health clinics across the country in underserved areas. Winning support from President Lyndon Johnson’s Office of Economic Opportunity, the clinics became part of Johnson’s “War on Poverty.”

Over the years, health centers have gained support on a bipartisan basis. Health centers secured critical funding from the efforts of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and both George W. Bush and John McCain campaigned on pledges to expand them.

Sanders’s place in health clinic history will be remembered for his forceful role in the winter of the health reform debate. In December 2009, tensions ran high as Congress inched closer to a final health reform deal. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., tapped Sanders to help win support from liberals who thought the bill was too weak as well as from Democrats from rural states who were facing mounting pressure. More funding for community health centers, Sanders argued, was a win-win solution for both camps, since the program would ensure access to health care for even the most remote areas of the country while also helping those without insurance. Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., among others, held out to the very last moment.

Two days before the Senate voted to break a Republican filibuster of the bill, Reid called on Sanders to make his case on the Senate floor. Sanders, in typical fashion, said the legislation was far from perfect, but thundered about the common-sense need for health centers, citing the acute demand for more primary care doctors, the cost-savings from patients who would otherwise use the emergency room for the common cold, the patient-centered model of clinics, and so on. Senate Democrats rallied and overcame the Republican filibuster.

Another turning point came several weeks later, when Massachusetts Republican Scott Brown won a special election in an upset victory, ending the Democrats’ filibuster-proof majority. Brown’s election brought Democrats close to despair, because lawmakers could only use a procedure called reconciliation to pass the law. Such a move would keep chances for passage alive while foreclosing any chance of enacting the much stronger legislation that originated in the House of Representatives through a conference committee. For progressives, it was a painful blow that not only sealed the defeat of the Public Option insurance program but also removed many robust provisions they had worked hard to include. Again called upon to work out a solution with House liberals, with whom Sanders enjoys a strong working relationship, the Vermont senator forged a deal to build support for the bill by focusing on health clinics.

Daniel Hawkins, vice president of the National Association of Community Health Centers, recalls that in the end Sanders was able to negotiate with Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., to increase health clinic funding through a special technical amendment that could modify the reconciliation Senate bill through a simple majority vote. The technical amendment passed, with $9.5 billion targeted for health center operations and $1.5 billion for construction and renovation projects. The House passed the final Senate bill, and President Obama signed the legislation with $11 billion in health clinic funding into law on March 23, 2010.

“There was no one who played a more important role than Senator Sanders,” Hawkins says, remembering Sanders’s constant lobbying of other lawmakers to support the funding.

Although the health reform has transformed the funding of local health clinics, few patients even realize that the changes have occurred as a result of the law, because few aspects of the health reform are explicitly branded as being part of the ACA.

That relative invisibility has shielded health clinic funding from the hyper-partisan attacks faced by other provisions of the law. But it has also allowed Republican opponents of Obamacare to play a two-faced game. Every single congressional Republican has voted to repeal the entire bill, health center funding included. But many have taken credit for popular local health clinic programs funded by the ACA, without disclosing the source of the funds. Others have written letters expressing their support for the money.

As I reported previously for The Nation, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., among other Republicans, authored letters to the Obama administration to recommend ACA funding for local health clinics. Now, a new batch of letters, obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, shows other requests by GOP leaders.

Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., the House Republican whip, for instance, signed onto a letter with other members of the Louisiana congressional delegation to ask the Obama administration for health center funding in New Orleans. The proposed clinic, the letter noted, would build a graduate medical training program, a proposal that “will attract not only more citizens back to our community but provide critical training opportunities for our region’s future healthcare workforce.”

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, the number two leader in the Senate, wrote at least 17 letters to the administration asking for funding, in cities such as Lubbock and Houston, for a wide range of programs, including clinics devoted to low-income rural residents and Asian-Americans in Texas. Senators Mark Kirk, R-Ill., Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H.,

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David Vitter, R-La., Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Pat Toomey, R-Pa., made similar requests.

It's no wonder that politicians from rural states such as Texas would seek community health centers to better serve their constituents. A recent report from the Texas A&M School of Public Health found that only 9 percent of physicians practice in rural areas. Many rural Texans live in areas that are more than 30 minutes from the nearest hospital, which dramatically raises mortality rates in cases of medical emergencies.

Still, press releases from GOP officials have lashed out at the Affordable Care Act's health center funding as some sort of "slush fund."

Regardless of the politics, the success of health centers has been particularly satisfying for Sanders, who can simply point to his own state as a reminder of its impact. One in four Vermonters are now served by more than 50 health centers throughout the state, according to the senator's office. Just last month, a new federally qualified health clinic opened in Shoreham, Vermont, to provide dental care, physicals and medication for common diseases.

Though his own role in securing the funds for the ACA is barely mentioned on his Senate website, the image gallery is adorned with pictures of Sanders beaming a smile as he breaks ground and cuts ribbons for various health clinic openings in Vermont.

WEBB

Jim Webb arrives in the age of Sanders and Trump // The Hill // Bernie Quigley – July 10, 2015

Years ago, when I went to the Baptist South to work at a college, the country women who came down from the hills to work in our offices offered life advice as I, coming into the country from New York City, seemed likely to need it. Which I did. Like when our last child was about to be born, they would ask, "Did you get your girl yet?" Actually, no. All boys so far. "She'll come on the moon," they would say. And as I recall, she did come on the full moon. They would often advise, "When God closes a door, he opens a window," which was pretty metaphysical stuff but might be as accurate as any historical hypothesis: Things begin again where they end, and the world starts again right there as if from scratch.

It came to mind yesterday afternoon, when South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) announced that the Confederate battle flag would be removed from the State House. Fifty years ago it went up, not so much to respect the tradition of honor and bravery in America's most difficult and important moment, but to repudiate congressional passage of the civil rights efforts.
The Confederate flag, shorn of original intent, symbolically represented that counterforce and yesterday it ended. So it was an auspicious day for Jim Webb (D), former Virginia senator and secretary of the Navy under President Reagan, who announced last week that he will run for president, to make his public debut in a morning interview on "CBS This Morning."

The battle flag has "long been due to come down," he said. Webb had been criticized on comments recently on the history of the South and the Confederate flag. And it was a good interview. It slowed things down. Webb explained his thinking as the interviewers egged him on to speed it up and get to it: How you gonna beat Hillary, that's what we're talking about.

But that was not what Webb was talking about. When Webb cited statistics about slave ownership and participation of the Civil War, he explained himself, citing the master historian John Hope Franklin, bringing his own tempo to the discussion.

It may have been one of those days yesterday when the South awakened as if from a great sleep, or another day, possibly beginning a new era in which the South will fight for its life and our own. As oddly enough, history has turned in the last few weeks and Webb comes to us in that turning.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and celebrity entrepreneur and politico Donald Trump enter fate virtually at the same moment. The mainstream media tell us not to worry — they will soon go away (it is their job to say so) — but one can look with some disgust today at former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush on stage together, Bush declaring that former Gov. Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, both candidates for president, will "elevate the discourse." It is, as might be heard in the hills, "enough to gag a horse."

Instead, for whatever else might be said about these two, Sanders and Trump, they transcend the painful banality of Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush and awaken new energies. Energies, however, which suggest or approximate the formulation of the the last world more than a hundred years ago, when Leon Trotsky was writing his first dramatic prose in Russia and Gabriele D'Annunzio rode bareback on the beach to the rise of fascism in Italy.

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Sanders has hundreds of thousands of Facebook followers and has commandeered the millennials. Trump comes at a time when at least two dozen American states in the middle and north of Texas are looking for a dramatic, public figure to oppose the federal government on a garden variety of issues. They will not go away. It is Jeb Bush will go away. Hillary Clinton will go away. Like Haile Selassie, god king of Ethiopia, an old antique lost in the attic of history, they are suddenly caught in history's cross fires and will remain mystified to the very end about their sudden irrelevance.

Said here in The Hill recently, as the Confederate flag comes down, the Gadsden flag goes up. We face a coming era of civil disobedience, commentator Pat Buchanan writes this week, but this time it will be conservatives. Indeed, it is well underway as Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) brings an impressive posse of heartland governors to challenge the president's executive order on immigration. The idea has caught on. As The Hill reports, "State legislators around the country have introduced more than 200 bills aiming to nullify regulations and laws coming out of Washington, D.C., as they look to rein in the federal government."

This movement needs a dramatic (flamboyant) public spokesperson and it will be Trump. And New York Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) today rallies the major cities against the governors, in coordination with the president and the federal government. He likewise needs a dramatic, charismatic public figure as spokesperson and that surely is to be Sanders.

This is where Webb enters history, and he arrives with a sterling endorsement by one of the most respected scholars and commentators today, Andrew Bacevich.

Of all proposed candidates, writes Bacevich, "Only Webb has the bona fides to promote a serious debate that looks beyond bogus issues such as Benghazi."

Possibly it is nature that sends the single indispensable warrior to us at times like this, as the women of Appalachian hills will say, to open a window. That warrior is Jim Webb.

OTHER

Bill Clinton's Candid Views of the Political Press // NYT // Amy Chozick – July 10, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's relations with the political news media had been tense long before she declared her candidacy in April, and her campaign's efforts to try and improve those relations have backfired at times.

On Thursday, Bill Clinton provided a candid look at how the former first couple felt about the role the news media played in the presidential campaign.

At a joint event in Dallas alongside George W. Bush, Mr. Clinton said that part of the nation's problem was a news media driven by the belief that "conflict is better than concord."

Mr. Bush blamed the political divisiveness on candidates' impassioned surrogates and the Internet granting them a veil of anonymity to hurl nasty attacks. But Mr. Clinton ultimately put the blame squarely on the political press.

"Let's suppose we were in a campaign against each other," he said to his predecessor. "He would have his narrative and I would have mine and each of us would try to convince you that our narrative was better than the other. That's O.K.

"But the people covering the campaign, they develop a narrative, too, a storyline, and it's almost impossible for the real story to be the same as the storyline," Mr. Clinton said. "It's very hard for the American people to be well informed if the storyline swamps the real story."

Mr. Clinton did not specifically mention Mrs. Clinton's campaign (except for saying "I know who I want to win") and he did not discuss recent articles about her use of private email at the State Department and foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation.

His comments come just days after Mrs. Clinton tried to begin a more accessible phase in the campaign, by sitting down on Tuesday with CNN's Brianna Keilar in her first national interview.

In his remarks, Mr. Clinton also echoed a frequent and widely held complaint that the political press is too focused on the horse race of who is ahead in the campaign rather than policy and issues.

Latinos Gather For NCLR Conference Amid Political Spotlight // // NYT – Upshot // Griselda Nevarez – July 11, 2015

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An estimated 2,000 Latinos are expected to attend the National Council of La Raza's annual conference, which kicks off Saturday in Kansas City, Missouri.

NCLR prides itself as the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. The four-day conference is garnering the national political spotlight - the top three Democratic presidential candidates will address the Latino advocates and leaders gathered at the event.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is scheduled to speak Monday morning at a town hall forum. Also speaking Monday during a luncheon are former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is considered the Democratic front-runner in the race for president, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

The candidates are "expected to address issues vital to Latinos and all Americans: jobs and the economy, civil rights, immigration, education and more," according to NCLR.

Republican presidential candidates were invited to attend but none are scheduled to speak.

The conference comes several weeks after Republican presidential hopeful Ben Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, was the only Republican to speak at the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials' annual conference in Las Vegas. Sanders and Clinton also spoke at the NALEO conference.

It also comes as at a time when Latino leaders are urging Republican presidential candidates to counter remarks surrounding Donald Trump after his controversial comments that Mexico is sending "rapists" and "criminals" to the U.S.

The conference takes place in Missouri, a state which has experienced strong Latino growth over the last few years. Currently, Latinos make up nearly 4 percent of the state's population and 10 percent of Kansas City residents. Between 2000 and 2010, Missouri's Latino population grew by 79.2 percent, according to the U.S. Census.

DNC Chair Says Candidates Must Meet 'Threshold' For Debates, Though Criteria And Dates Still Unclear // HuffPo // Michael Calderone – July 10, 2015

Democratic presidential candidates will have to meet a certain "threshold" to participate in the party's six scheduled primary debates, Democratic National Committee Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz said Thursday, though she did not specify which criteria, such as state or national polling, will be used to determine who qualifies.

"It'll be a threshold that'll be expansive and allows for the maximum inclusion of our major party candidates," Wasserman Schultz told MSNBC's Ari Melber. She said the DNC hasn't "quite finished formulating the details" for the debates, including specific dates, locations and media sponsors.

The lack of clarity has been frustrating to both campaigns and major TV networks, the latter of which produce the debates and need to book venues and handle logistical details well in advance.

In May, the DNC announced plans to hold six primary debates, four of which would be held in the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada. The DNC said debates would begin in "the fall of 2015," though didn't specify when.

The first Republican debate, sponsored by Fox News, is scheduled to take place less than four weeks from now, with the second and third GOP contests planned for September (CNN) and October (CNBC).

The DNC's plan drew criticism from Democratic presidential contender Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who urged Wasserman Schultz to accelerate the schedule and start debates during the summer, as well as to consider including Republican contenders. "I believe we need to go beyond the bounds of traditional party debates," Sanders wrote in a letter.

It's understandable Sanders would want more debates given that national media exposure likely benefits him and any candidates not named Hillary Clinton. She already has worldwide name recognition, is a clear front-runner in the polls, and presumably has the most to lose by getting on the debate stage. Some Democrats have suggested the DNC is protecting Clinton by sanctioning only six debates.

In response to Sanders' request, a DNC spokeswoman reiterated on June 1 that the committee would continue with the six-debate framework and said more details would be provided "in the coming weeks."

The Republican schedule, meanwhile, has been settled since January. The Republican National Committee announced plans to hold nine debates, along with their locations, media sponsors and each month they'd take place. The RNC also announced that three additional debates could be sanctioned depending on the circumstances next year.

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Though the Republicans' schedule was rolled out smoothly, the debates haven't been without controversy. Fox News' decision to limit its primetime debate to only candidates ranking in the top 10 in national polls has drawn criticism from campaigns arguing that the barrier for entry is placing too much emphasis on national name recognition rather than early state campaigning.

Both the RNC and DNC are taking a firmer hand with the debate process by penalizing candidates who participate in non-sanctioned debates by not allowing them in sanctioned events. Candidates may attend forums in which they don't directly engage with one another.

Democratic candidates appeared in over two dozen debates in 2008, which included repeated verbal slugfests between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Republican candidates debated 20 times in 2012, a grueling process that party leaders want to avoid this cycle.

Hillary and her rivals to meet with union leaders // Washington Examiner // Sean Higgins – July 10, 2015

Front-running Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and her top challengers, Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, will meet privately with the AFL-CIO's executive council at the end of July.

Union leaders will press the candidates on their stances, particularly on international trade, at the meeting in Silver Spring, Md., Reuters reported.

That will be a tricky issue for Clinton, who has tried to stay above both the recent congressional fight over Trade Promotion Authority legislation and the looming one over the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-nation trade deal. Clinton has not taken definitive positions on either. Labor leaders strongly oppose both, and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka has said trade will be crucial to 12 million-member labor federation's presidential endorsement.

Sanders, I-Vt., has consistently and loudly opposed President Obama's trade agenda. O'Malley opposes both as well.

"There is no middle ground, and the time for deliberations is drawing to a close. In the 2016 campaign, there will be no place to hide for those who aspire to lead America," Trumka said in an April speech at the AFL-CIO's Washington headquarters on trade and the election.

Asked after the speech if he was calling on Clinton to issue a clear statement on Trade Promotion Authority, Trumka told the Washington Examiner, he was referring to "all candidates." He added later that Clinton "would have to respond like every candidate."

Clinton, nevertheless, did not issue a clear statement. Her status as the front-runner far ahead of all other Democratic candidates in the polls has made liberal groups reluctant to criticize her. Sanders has gained in recent polls, though, and the prospect of Vice President Joe Biden entering the race means she may not be able to count on that advantage forever.

Trade is treacherous territory for Clinton. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, used a version of Trade Promotion Authority to help secure passage of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement in 1994, but she voted against renewing the authority in 2002 when she was a New York senator.

Coming out in opposition of the Trans-Pacific Partnership would put Clinton at odds with the administration where she served as the top official on international relations and took part in the deal's negotiations. Supporting it would put her at odds with much of the party's base as she tries to lock down the party's presidential nomination with a minimum of drama.

She has tried to adopt a more skeptical position on trade in recent months, but has left open the possibility that she could support the administration's agenda.

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

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Jeb Bush Draws on Family Dynasty for Fund-Raising Efforts // NYT // Nicholas Confessore – July 10, 2015

The Bush people arrived by private plane, black car and finally old-fashioned trolley, shuttled in by the hundreds for a bonding ritual unlike anything else in contemporary politics.

They posed on the lawn for pictures with Barbara Bush, the former first lady. They dined on lobster rolls and burgers, traded business cards with eminent executives and former ambassadors, and basked in the inner sanctum of the most successful political dynasty in history.

“This is to the Bushes what Hyannis Port is to the Kennedys,” said Dirk Van Dongen, a lobbyist in Washington, making his first journey to the Bush family compound.

In his early months as a candidate, Jeb Bush seemed unsure of how tightly to embrace the family mantle, dodging questions about the record of his older brother, George W. Bush, as president, eschewing his surname on bumper stickers and declaring at his campaign kickoff that “not a one of us deserves the job by right of résumé, party, seniority, family or family narrative.”

But Jeb Bush is now seeking both advantage and refuge in the trappings of a dynasty, eagerly deploying the unique political assets of a family that has already supplied two United States presidents and that hopes to produce a third.

His father, his mother, his wife and even his son have raised money for the campaign or for his “super PAC,” tapping into a vast network of donors that began with the Bush family’s Christmas card mailing list. And the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport — for decades the ultimate V.I.P. room in Republican politics — is now Mr. Bush’s reward to bestow.

On Monday, the last Republican presidential candidate, Mitt Romney, dined there with Mr. Bush, hoping to soothe lingering hurt over what Mr. Romney’s supporters considered a desultory endorsement of their nominee in 2012.

And as the donors arrived here on Thursday for two days of cocktails and strategy briefings, Mr. Bush’s campaign and super PAC announced that they had amassed more money, and more quickly, than any presidential effort in history, easily outpacing his rivals for the Republican nomination.

Continue reading the main story
Money Raised So Far
The first Federal Election Commission filing deadline for presidential candidates is Wednesday, but some organizations have released their totals early. Below, the announced money raised by the campaigns, “super PACs” and nonprofits supporting each candidate.

“I think Jeb’s made clear that he’s not going to run away from his family,” said Eric J. Tanenblatt, who led the Georgia campaign efforts of George W. Bush during the 2000 presidential campaign.

Donor retreats have become a routine feature of presidential campaigns, all the more important as the price tag for a major-party candidacy breaches the $1 billion mark. They are curated to reflect some actual or projected essence of the candidate: Hillary Rodham Clinton gathered her top fund-raisers in May at a Brooklyn warehouse, for example, while Mr. Romney invited top donors for annual hikes and foreign policy lectures at the Stein Eriksen ski resort in Utah, a favorite destination of his family.

George W. Bush, a Texan who styled himself as a political outsider, pointedly eschewed the establishment trappings of Maine: Many of the donors in Kennebunkport recalled, with something less than fondness, their frequent meetings at Mr. Bush’s ranch in Crawford, Tex., huddled under a tent in 100-degree heat.

But few candidates, they said, could compete with the Bush family seat, a compound of a half-dozen homes on a rocky spit jutting into the Atlantic, one of them recently built for Jeb Bush and his family. The guests were greeted by Mr. Bush’s mother and ushered into the main house for drinks, where the elder George Bush made a brief appearance.

The veteran Bush donors had chosen their socks carefully, in tribute to the elder Mr. Bush, known for his taste in brightly colored ones. Later, they dined at a nearby luxury hotel, where Jeb Bush promised his guests that he would not let their hard work go for naught.

“You leave saying: Not only was the next president of the United States, but the most important American of my lifetime, George H. W. Bush, sitting at my table, making me feel comfortable,” said Ron Kaufman, who served as political director for the elder Mr. Bush.

Another top fund-raiser for Jeb Bush, who spoke on the condition of anonymity lest the Bush family think him

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crass, said, “For fund-raising, it is gold.”

“It’s not hauling these guys into a two-week rental in Martha’s Vineyard,” the fund-raiser said, adding that Kennebunkport was “a little bit more special than what Hillary can offer.”

The guests who trickled onto the compound were a microcosm of the financial operation that Mr. Bush is hoping will overwhelm his rivals. Robert M. Duncan, a former chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Woody Johnson, the owner of the New York Jets, are among the party’s leading fund-raisers. There was also new blood: a contingent in their 30s and 40s who one donor referred to as “P’s crowd,” referring to one of Jeb Bush’s sons, George P. Bush.

Some had served under, or raised money for, the last two Presidents Bush and fondly recalled their past visits to Maine. One guest, trying to convey the simplicity of the Bush home, described arriving on a past Kennebunkport visit and being offered a bowl of Fritos.

“All of you who are playing shrink to the Bushes these days overstate a lot of things,” Mr. Kaufman said. “The truth is, Jeb has always summered in Kennebunkport. This is his place. He loves it in his blood. This is him.”

That time Jeb Bush invited 300 top donors to his parents’ house // WaPo // Ed O’Keefe – July 10, 2015

One by one, nearly 300 of Jeb Bush's top donors, from New York, Washington, Miami — even Americans living abroad in China and Germany — climbed aboard a trolley here for a trip a mile and a half down Ocean Avenue.

There was Dina Powell, a Goldman Sachs executive and a former assistant secretary of state under George W. Bush. And Mike Duncan, the former Republican National Committee chairman. Several Floridians — including Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, former Republican Sen. George Lemieux and former Republican Gov. Bob Martinez. Younger faces like Jay Zeidman, a close friend of George P. Bush, were among a few dozen notably youthful benefactors.

Woody Johnson, Bush's national finance chairman, was one of the last people to board a trolley Thursday evening as the crowd traveled to the nearby Bush family estate. The owner of the NFL's New York Jets was carrying a white visor with the team's green logo.

Admiring a green sweater slung over the shoulders of a fellow donor, Johnson commented: "You can never have too much green."

The confab for some of the GOP's wealthiest donors came just hours after Bush's campaign and an allied super PAC announced that they'd donated more than $114 million to support the former governor — an unprecedented sum in American politics that gives him a sizable financial advantage over more than a dozen GOP rivals.

Bush had announced plans for the Kennebunkport donor retreat at the start of his campaign, dangling one of the most cherished chits in Republican politics -- a visit to his family's storied beachfront estate -- as an incentive to entice benefactors to deliver. Supporters who gave the maximum $2,700 to Bush's primary campaign, and were able to find at least 10 other people also willing to do so, were invited to attend.

Bush was asked by reporters on Wednesday night why he had decided to hold the retreat at his parents' estate, known as Walker's Point. He deflected the question by clarifying that "It's at the Colony, it's not at my parents' home, that would be a little overwhelming for them."

That was kind of correct.

The Colony Hotel is where most guests stayed and where closed-door briefings will be held with top campaign officials on Friday. But on Thursday evening, the family compound at Walker's Point was the main venue.

The gathering began at the hotel around 5 p.m., as attendees gathered at the Carriage House, with about a half dozen Secret Service agents looking on. Some in the crowd said that they'd just learned about Bush's fundraising total.

Once on the grounds of the estate, the crowd was split up in groups of 40 or 50 for a quick tour. Former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, were the main tour guides, leading people across the compound to their home on the southern tip. Elated at the invitation, some attendees quickly posted photos on social media.

"Incredible night in Kennebunkport! #allinforjeb," Fritz Brogan, a Washington-based donor and former aide to Jeb Bush when he was Florida governor, wrote on Facebook as he posted a photo of him alongside George H.W. Bush.

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Reporters were not allowed to attend the dinner, but could easily watch the proceedings from a public overlook about 1,200 yards to the west, where tourists and locals often gawk at the property.

Around 5:30 p.m., Jeb Bush was spotted entering his parents' home and came out a few minutes later, dressed in a dark blue sweater, to greet his donors. The entire party posed for a photo on the western lawn of the home around 6 p.m. Several attendees held campaign signs aloft as a photographer took shots of the crowd. Barbara Bush — with her infamous locks of white hair — was easily spotted from a distance standing in the front wearing a bright coral sweater.

After the photo and more mingling, the crowd was transported to the nearby Hidden Pond luxury resort. The mood was celebratory, as donors dined on lobster rolls and hamburgers and Bush touted their record-breaking fundraising effort. His wife, Columba, was on hand, smiling proudly.

"Money is great but votes matter a lot more. I will outwork everybody," Bush said, according to attendees, who asked to remain anonymous because guests were asked not to discuss details.

Already, the campaign is plotting ahead: Donors said there's talk of plans to have top donors help raise another $20,000 over the next 20 days in order to win an invitation to a campaign-sponsored party in Cleveland on Aug. 6 — the date of the first Republican presidential debate.

As the crowd mingled on the lawn of Bush home, tourists at the lookout watched unaware of why such a large crowd had gathered.

"They didn't invite us," quipped a woman who said she grew up in Kennebunkport and was visiting from Seattle, but declined to give her name.

As trolleys full of donors kept driving past, she turned to her daughter-in-law and said, "Those are trolleys full of Republicans. Because usually they never let trolleys in there."

Another man watching the reception unfold marveled at the scene: "Every time I come here I think: There's two people who spend time over there who know the contents of what's in Area 51."

Jeb Bush and Allies Raise More Than $114 Million in 2016 Race **// WSJ // Rebecca Ballhaus – July 10, 2015**

Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush's campaign and his allies have raised more than $114 million to back him in the 2016 race, surpassing expectations.

Jeb Bush's campaign and its allied super PAC raised more than $114 million in the first half of the year, surpassing expectations and far outstripping his Democratic and Republican rivals for the White House.

The Republican presidential hopeful's super PAC, called Right to Rise USA, said Thursday that it had received $103 million from more than 9,900 donors—a broad pool of supporters he could tap for yet more money for the super PAC and for donations to his campaign, which are capped at $2,700 per person for the primary. The campaign, meanwhile, took in $11.4 million in the two weeks between its launch and the end of June.

The only candidate positioned to keep up with Mr. Bush's fundraising is the Democratic front-runner, Hillary Clinton, who launched her campaign two months before he did. She has raised $45 million for her campaign and three groups backing her raised about $24 million, for a total of $69 million.

Mr. Bush's campaign fundraising also outpaced many GOP rivals who started raising money earlier in the year.

The rise of the super PACs and their expanding roles in presidential campaigns means any candidate with a wealthy backer, or a collection of them, can spend exponentially more on his or her candidacy and stay in the race longer than in prior presidential contests. There is a cost, though: The candidates can't control their friendly super PACs by directing where they spend their money and what messages they send to try to motivate voters.

Only one-tenth of Mr. Bush's haul went to his Miami-based campaign, with the rest going to the technically independent super PAC, which is based in California and is legally barred from coordinating its activities with his team.

The imbalance exists partly because the super PAC has been raising money since January, while Mr. Bush didn't launch his campaign until mid-June, only two weeks ahead of the second-quarter fundraising deadline. But since the super PAC can raise money without contribution caps, it is expected to continue to overpower the campaign.

In the 2016 presidential race, the balance of cash increasingly favors outside groups over campaigns, a shift political strategists say threatens to reduce the effectiveness of their political operations—or to turn some voters

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away.

“Candidates are going to have less control over the resources in their campaigns than ever before,” said Tony Corrado, a professor of government at Colby College and a campaign-finance expert.

Super PACs first began backing individual candidates in the 2012 election, following a 2010 Supreme Court decision that led to their creation. They are poised to play a much bigger role in the current election cycle.

Mr. Bush’s super PAC smashed all previous fundraising records set by such groups. In the 2012 election, the super PAC backing GOP nominee Mitt Romney raised just $12 million in the first half of 2011, and brought in $153 million over the course of the race. Priorities USA Action, the super PAC backing President Barack Obama, raised less than $80 million for the entire cycle.

As super PACs’ roles grows, campaigns and super PACs supporting the same candidate risk duplicating their activities, particularly voter mobilization and grass roots organizing.

“The question will be whether you will reach the point where voters are tired of having people at their door or picking up the phone,” Mr. Corrado said.

Kevin Madden, a GOP strategist who advised Mr. Romney, said there is a “strong advantage” to keeping field work under the campaign’s supervision.

“I’d want to have as robust a field operation under the auspices of my campaign as possible,” he said. “It’s the difference between losing and winning sometimes.”

Barred from coordinating with campaign leadership, super PACs also risk veering away from the candidate’s central message, even though many—including Mr. Bush’s—are being run by former top aides to the candidates themselves.

Mr. Madden recalls a moment when the Romney campaign was focused on neutralizing former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum while the super PAC was running ads attacking Newt Gingrich. “We were like, ‘What are they doing?’” he said.

In the current election cycle, super PACs have outraised the campaigns of at least three out of the four Republicans who have disclosed their fundraising totals so far. The super PAC backing the fourth, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, hasn’t yet released its fundraising haul.

Four super PACs backing Texas Sen. Ted Cruz have raised nearly $38 million, almost four times as much as the amount raised in the second quarter by his campaign, which launched in March.

Unlike many candidates, Mr. Bush and his supporters haven’t touted grass roots support from small donors.

Mr. Bush’s campaign didn’t provide an average donation size, while his super PAC disclosed that about 95% of its donors had given $25,000 or less. Mrs. Clinton’s campaign, by contrast, stressed that about 90% of its donations were for $100 or less.

As their share of funds grows, super PACs are expanding their roles to include tasks traditionally reserved for a campaign, such as compiling voter data and running field operations.

That marks a contrast from 2012, when super PACs were new to the scene and mostly focused on running advertisements.

The super PAC backing former Hewlett-Packard Co. chief executive Carly Fiorina has taken on some press operations and helped set up candidate events. Her super PAC said this week it raised $3.4 million, more than twice as much as her campaign.

Over the next month, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is slated to hold at least seven town hall events in Iowa, where he will speak about the “most important issues of the day,” according to the organizers. The events have the trappings of a traditional campaign event, but their host is Mr. Jindal’s super PAC, called Believe Again. Neither the campaign nor the super PAC has yet released fundraising details, but the totals for the super PAC that launched in January are virtually certain to be higher than those of the campaign, which began in late June.

On the Democratic side, super PACs seem to be operating more like they did in the 2012 election. Priorities USA Action, the main super PAC backing Mrs. Clinton, plans to limit its efforts to paid advertising on television and the Internet, according to people close to the group. It won’t do any organizing or field work, they say.

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July 10, 2015

Going where no candidate has gone before, presidential fundraising leader Jeb Bush is naming donor levels after the great NASA space missions of the past.

"The Mission Jeb 2016" levels: Voyager, for donors who raise $250,000; Endeavor for $150,000, and Apollo for $75,000.

Mr. Bush's team announced the categories Friday to the roughly 250 donors gathered for a two-day retreat at Kennebunkport, Maine. Donors are expected to hit up their business associates, friends and family members for maximum contributions of $2,700 to the campaign in order to reach the different levels.

Mr. Bush, a self-proclaimed "space guy" and the former governor of Florida, which hosts the Kennedy Space Center, has said he would increase funding for space exploration if elected president.

The retreat for donors who raised at least $27,000 in the first two weeks of Mr. Bush's campaign amounts to a victory party for a record-setting fundraising team. Mr. Bush's campaign and super PAC announced Friday they had raised more than $114 million since January.

On Friday night, the donors dined on burgers and lobster rolls at Walker's Point, where the Bush family has long vacationed. Former President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush offered tours of the family compound, where they are building a new home for their son as well as an artist's studio for his brother, former President George W. Bush.

George W. Bush was the candidate who pioneered the system of encouraging donors to bundle campaign contributions. Texans for Public Justice, a non-partisan non-profit, lists 940 people who achieved the status of Ranger (raising at least $200,000) or Pioneer (at least $100,000) in the 2000 and 2004 campaigns.

When Mr. Bush first began raising money earlier this year for his Right to Rise super PAC – which unlike the campaign can collect unlimited donations — he was encouraging donors to write checks or raise as much as $500,000. The campaign is required to disclose the names of its donors and the size of their contributions next week, while the super PAC's disclosure is due at the end of July.

According to donors who attended the dinner Friday, Mr. Bush told them that he planned to outwork all of his rivals.

Jeb to donors: You're not done // Politico // Eli Stokols and Anna Palmer – July 10, 2015

Less than 24 hours after Jeb Bush revealed an unprecedented war chest, he and his top campaign staffers gathered donors at the family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine, to let them know that $114 million is not enough.

This weekend's invitation wasn't just a reward for the roughly 200 major donors who helped Bush amass a just-announced record fundraising haul — although, as one attendee said, "there was lots of high-fiving."

It was a reminder that, with the Iowa caucuses still seven months away, this is just the beginning. Bush's operation doesn't plan to sit on its massive cash pile, but to keep adding to it.

According to sources who attended two days of meetings at the Bush family's picturesque seaside compound, the Bush team outlined a number of ambitious new incentives for donors including one called "Eight for Eight," tasking major bundlers with signing up eight new supporters to make a maximum $2,700 contribution by Aug. 8.

Donors learned Friday morning that the Right to Rise leadership PAC, a third fundraising entity,has hauled in $5 million, bringing the total combined war chest of Bush's campaign and supporting super PAC, which both announced their fundraising hauls Thursday, to $119 million.

Even though that's more than twice the total haul of any other presidential candidates (Ted Cruz sits in second place with a combined $51 million), Bush's team reminded donors that there's more work to be done, and laid out a near-term schedule of fundraisers and future meetings.

One highlight: cocktails with Columba. According to a one source, Bush's wife is scheduled to host a cocktail fundraiser in Washington, DC on July 22 with a minimum required contribution of $500.

The next gathering of Bush donors is likely to take place just days before the first GOP primary debate, scheduled for Aug. 6 in Cleveland; and the group is planning another get-together in Miami, where the campaign is headquartered, in the fall.

Even as his campaign is focused on introducing him apart from his presidential father and brother, Jeb Bush's

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robust fundraising machine is built in large part on the strength of his family's network, which started as his mother's Christmas card list and has been growing for more than 50 years.

While Jeb Bush will continue to assume the posture of a humble, hard-working candidate, careful to avoid giving off even a whiff of entitlement, his campaign's fundraising prowess is a signal of strength to undecided donors that should grease the skids for even more contributions.

Former president George H.W. Bush made a brief appearance Friday night during a welcome reception at Hunter's Point, the home he shares with his wife, Barbara Bush, who greeted donors as they arrived.

Among those attending: Ron Kaufman, Woody Johnson, Brian McCormack, Kimberly Fritts, Reg Brown, Al Cardenas, Jamie Wareham and Dirk Van Dongen.

Presentations from Jeb Bush, finance director Heather Larrison and campaign manager Danny Diaz took place Friday morning. Bush, according to sources, told donors that he is enjoying the campaign and sticking to his plan — and he promised not to squander their overwhelming financial support.

All of them were careful, sources said, not to talk about the Right to Rise super PAC, which Bush spent the first six months of the year raising money for but is now, as an official candidate, prohibited from coordinating or communicating with in any way.
Bush's fundraising numbers aren't just staggering for the amount of money raised but the breadth of his donor list. Nearly 10,000 individuals gave money to his super PAC; of those, 500 gave $25,000 or more. Such a diversified portfolio of donors allows Bush a huge cash advantage and the ability to compete in every state; and it helps establish his independence from any individual billionaire.

"It means he won't have any one person you can characterize as a co-investor," said Charlie Black, a GOP lobbyist who advised George W. Bush and Mitt Romney's presidential campaigns. "I think these others that have big super PAC donors are honest, sincere people, but it's a better perception for Jeb that he doesn't have one big sugar daddy."

Mike Murphy, who is running Bush's media operation through the super PAC, "has told donors a number he wants to hit by end of the year," a source said, without divulging what that number is.

For the last few weeks, even before the fundraising numbers were released Thursday, donors headed to Kennebunkport knew the initial effort had hit the mark, that the two days of meetings would be a chance to celebrate the early success and to lay out a path that will sustain it.

"If they hadn't hit their numbers, they'd have been on everyone's ass for the last several weeks," one donor said. "But that dog didn't bark, so we could all tell they'd gotten what they wanted."

Is Donald Trump Helping the Bush Brand? // Bloomberg // Michael C. Bender – July 10, 2015

While Republican Party mandarins wring their hands over Donald Trump's presidential bid, the celebrity real estate mogul's untethered political approach may actually be buoying Jeb Bush, the target of his most frequent attacks, and making the former Florida governor's moderate approach to immigration more palatable in the process.

That's the case for a least some New Hampshire voters who were impressed by Bush's performance at a town hall meeting this week and offered favorable — and unprompted — comparisons to Trump.

"He seemed to really get into the weeds talking about issues," Dennis Hogan, the Hillsborough County Attorney, said after listening to Bush. "And he says it in a sellable way. Not like Trump, where you're saying something and you're losing as many people as you're gaining. We don't need that in a nominee."

Trump announced his presidential campaign on June 16 by saying the country needs "somebody that can take the brand of the United States and make it great again." But following that speech and a series of interviews, Republican donors and elected leaders have worried about what damage he's doing to the party's brand.

NBC, Univision, Macy's and other companies cut ties with Trump as he defended his comments that many immigrants in the country illegally are rapists. Republican donor John Jordan told the Associated Press on Monday that GOP leaders should take steps to block Trump's access to the first presidential debate next month. Trump told CNN that Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Preibus asked him to "tone it down a little bit."

Much of Trump's invective has been targeted at Bush. Trump briefly posted on his Twitter page, followed by 3.14 million people, another person's comment that Bush "has to like the Mexican Illegals" (sic) because his wife is from Mexico. Trump called Bush's position on education standards "pathetic" and ridiculed the former governor

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for saying many immigrants illegally cross the border as "an act of love. "I mean what kind of stuff is that?" Trump said on Fox News this week. "It's baby stuff."

The comments have earned him media attention, and now the top spot in the Republican field, according to a new Economist/YouGov poll. The poll showed Trump with support of 15 percent of respondents, 4 percentage points ahead of Bush and Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky. A plurality of respondents, 29 percent, said they believed Jeb Bush would ultimately win the party's nomination.

Trump, who lives part-time in Palm Beach, Florida, has a long and complicated history with Bush, whose home is about 90 minutes south in Miami. The two helped raise money in 1990 for a Nicaraguan presidential candidate. Trump gave $50,000 to the Florida Republican Party while Bush was governor as he unsuccessfully pushed for Bush to expand gambling in the state. Trump has called Bush's brother, George W. Bush, "probably the worst president in the history of the United States," and repeatedly says that the "last thing we need is another Bush."

Just a few weeks ago, Bush was chuckling at criticisms from Trump. Now, he's taking it personally. "His views are way out of the mainstream of what Republicans think," Bush told reporters after marching in a pair of Fourth of July parades in New Hampshire.

On immigration, it can be difficult to define the mainstream of the party. Two of the four U.S. senators running for president backed a bipartisan bill that included a path to citizenship for many of the country'a 12 million undocumented immigrants. But House Speaker John Boehner, an Ohio Republican, couldn't get enough support for even a watered-down version in his chamber. "This has become the biggest political football I've seen in my congressional career, this whole issue of illegal immigration and what to do about it," Boehner told reporters on Thursday.

Bush has thrown himself into the immigration issue, and is attempting to persuade his party to take a more moderate position on immigration, arguing that legalizing undocumented workers will boost the economy and help the party.

"I want to win elections," Bush said while answering an immigration question on Wednesday at the New Hampshire town hall meeting. "And to win we better start figuring out ways to message our beliefs in a way that gives people hope that everybody will be included in the progress that comes with this."

Bush added a dose of humor. When one man started his question about border control by saying, "Me gusta Latinos y Mexicanos," Bush laughed. "Maybe you could talk to Donald Trump about that," Bush said. "I don't have his number, but I can find it for you. Give him a call."

Bush, who has led in most recent president polls of New Hampshire, is also figuring out ways to connect with Republican crowds as he pushes a plan legalize undocumented immigrants.

He earned applause from the audience when he said he'd campaign "in Spanish and English," and again for tough talk about the death of Kathryn Steinle, who prosecutors say was killed in San Francisco by a Mexican man who had already been deported five times. "We ought to eliminate sanctuary cities," Bush said. "We shouldn't provide law enforcement monies for cities like San Francisco until they change their policies."

On the border, Bush talked about stationing agents closer to the U.S.-Mexico line, building a "virtual wall," and using drones to patrol the area and "send a signal."

"Donald Trump is colorful, but Bush is trying to think of a solution," Valerie Morelli, a 69-year-old from Amherst said when asked why she was impressed with Bush's performance. "One thing I wish is that he (Bush) would still build a wall, even though he said there's other way to do it."

"I was impressed," said Ed Gorman, a 66-year-old from Londonderry who has concerns about illegal immigration. "He's the first candidate that I've heard actually say that we have a situation with illegal immigrants, that if you're not going to deport them wholesale, you've got to deal with them here. And it sounded like he's going to do that."

Gorman isn't totally sold yet. He brought up Trump's comments on immigration, saying "there's a smidgeon of truth there."

"The best people are not always coming over, but I'm not going to support anything he said," Gorman said of Trump.

Gorman said he was looking forward to seeing other Republican presidential candidates speak in New Hampshire before making his decision, mentioning U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker.

"I don't want to see Trump," he offered. "That's a waste of my time."

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Bush raises over $100 million to help his campaign // CNN // Theodore Schleifer – July 10, 2015

Jeb Bush and his allied super PAC raised $114 million to support his campaign, a massive fundraising haul made possible in part by rewriting the rules of how presidential campaigns raise money.

Bush's super PAC, Right to Rise USA, said Thursday it collected $103 million since January, money that it must spend independently to back Bush's presidential bid. Together, Bush's super PAC and campaign came close to raising as much money in the first half of 2015 -- a year before a general election -- as American Crossroads, the second biggest super PAC in 2012, did during the entire two-year cycle.

All groups will be required to file detailed reports by the end of the month, but the Bush super PAC raised two and a half times as much as its current closest competitor.

What enabled its size was an innovative strategy that some of Bush's GOP rivals chose to emulate: By not formally running for President, Bush could keep the independent group close by and help it grow into a political and financial juggernaut.

Fundraisers and strategists had questioned aloud whether or not Bush would succeed in raising the $100 million, a benchmark repeatedly swatted away by campaign aides looking to measure expectations. But it was never in doubt that the former Florida governor would lead the pack by a significant margin.

Though campaign-finance reformers scoffed at what they saw as Bush's feigned indecision, he was able to hire staff, travel the country and share strategy with advisers who soon would be off limits. And most critically of all, he was able to headline high-dollar fundraisers for the super PAC for six months, delaying his own campaign launch in order to ask donors for unlimited cash that gives him an unparalleled bank account entering the summer.

Bush eventually formally launched his campaign in mid-June, and the campaign itself said it raised $11.4 million in the 16 days between the launch and the end of the fundraising quarter in June. That haul -- at a clip of $710,000 a day -- is all eligible for spending in the primary, his campaign said.

"Jeb is encouraged and grateful for the tremendous early support and enthusiasm his candidacy has generated since he launched his campaign," New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, national finance chairman of Bush's campaign, said in a statement.

Yet it is the Los Angeles-based super PAC that will likely play the heavy in the Bush political shop. The Right to Rise super PAC made its first independent expenditures on Wednesday to bolster the campaign, releasing an advertisement that compared Bush's record on transparency with Clinton's.

The group, led by longtime Bush senior aide Mike Murphy, had over $98 million cash on hand and raked in contributions from 9,900 donors. Five hundred of those contributors gave in excess of $25,000.

Some campaign reformers reflected on the past six months by charging that Bush had made a mockery of the super PAC system. David Donnelly, the head of the advocacy organization Every Voice, said in a statement "that Bush attended dozens of fundraisers to help raise that cash while claiming he wasn't running for president is the political lie of the year so far."

Super PACs directly linked to candidates are playing a more central part in 2016 than the outside groups ever have before. And Bush's super PAC in particular is reported to be playing an even greater role than is traditionally done by outside groups, taking on more of the day-to-day functions typically run out of a campaign headquarters.

"We are grateful for the overwhelming response from the thousands of donors who have been drawn to Jeb's optimistic message of conservative renewal and reform," said Charlie Spies, the election lawyer who is advising Bush and helped Mitt Romney raise more than $150 million for Romney's super PAC in 2012.

The cash announced by Bush Thursday also does not include any money raised by an allied nonprofit group, Right to Rise Policy Solutions. That group won't be required to disclose its contributors.

Drawing on his family's vast network of experienced bundlers and deep-pocketed donors, the Bush fundraising operation is likely to well outperform its nearest competitors. But despite the campaign's opening attempt to convince rival Republicans to pass on the race by exclusively securing major donors -- a "shock and awe" salvo, as some allies described it -- Bush will be joined by 16 other Republicans in the race for the White House.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz posted a greater second-quarter fundraising total than Bush's campaign did, collecting $14.2 million, though he had much more time to raise the cash and that sum includes a small amount of money earmarked for the general election. His four linked super PACs claim together claim to have raised just under $38

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million, putting Cruz likely in second place in the fundraising competition.

And on the Democratic side, a set of groups backing Hillary Clinton say they have raised $24 million and her campaign has raised $45 million.

Other top raisers include Florida senator Marco Rubio, who has a nonprofit group and a super PAC that raised $16 million each. His official campaign has not yet said how much it raised in the second quarter.

Bush is currently in Kennebunkport, Maine, huddling with these top donors and bundlers.

Bush rips Obama over OPM hack, but had data issues of own in Florida // CNN // Chris Frates – July 9, 2015

After news broke last month that suspected Chinese hackers stole the sensitive personal data of millions of Americans from the federal government's human resources department, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush called for the agency's director to be fired.

But when a human resources company Florida hired compromised the personal information of an estimated 100,000 state employees, then-Gov. Bush didn't fire the contractor.

In fact, the state official who managed the contract, Bill Simon, is now helping Bush build his presidential campaign's policy team.

In 2006, the Florida Department of Management Services estimated that 108,000 then-current and former state employees may have been affected when their personal data, managed by Convergys Corporation, was improperly sent to India by a subcontractor, Computerworld reported at the time.

Bush spokeswoman Kristy Campbell said Thursday night that Bush's administration acted quickly to address the issue, including strengthening security measures, providing protection for potentially affected employees and tightening oversight of the program.

But Bush didn't cancel the company's $350 million contract.

Campbell argued that the recent Office of Personnel Management case and the Florida incident are not comparable.

"This was not a national security breach or threat," she said. "The OPM breach was just another example of President Obama's failed and flawed leadership."

When it comes to the federal government's data breach, the Republican presidential contender has had tough words for OPM Director Katherine Archuleta. On Thursday, the agency announced the breach compromised the data of 21.5 million Americans, about five times more people than originally estimated.

"The Office of Personnel Management head, a woman who was the political director of the Obama re-election campaign, a political hack, in charge of something of that responsibility, said 'No one was responsible at OPM for this. The Chinese government was responsible,'" Bush told a crowded VFW hall in New Hampshire Wednesday night. "No ma'am, you're responsible for it, and you ought to be fired for incompetence."

Asked by reporters Wednesday if it was appropriate to compare the OPM breach to the data compromise that occurred during Bush's governorship, he strongly pushed back.

"I'd say its a slight difference when you have up to 18 million records that are stolen by a foreign government where security clearances are jeopardized, where people are filling out 100-page forms sharing their whole life history to find out if they are qualified for a security clearance controlled by a foreign government," Bush said.

Jeb Bush's $114 million haul: By the numbers // MSNBC // Aliyah Frumin – July 10, 2015

When it comes to fundraising, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush has blown his GOP and Democratic competition out of the water. His campaign and its allied super political action committee announced on Thursday that they had, combined, brought in $114 million in the first half of the year.

Sure, the former Florida governor had a network of donors (via his brother and father, both former presidents) to tap into – and he essentially exploited a campaign finance loophole to raise such massive funds. Nonetheless, the haul is impressive.

To put into perspective just how big that sum is, let's take a look at what else the man who wants to be America's third President Bush could buy with that $114 million.

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28.5: The approximate number of 30-second Super Bowl commercials Team Bush could buy with its $114 million haul.

207,273: The approximate number of round-trip plane tickets the Republican could buy from his home state of Florida to the early voting state of New Hampshire.

28.5 million: The number of deep-fried Twinkies Bush could buy at next month's Iowa State Fair.

57: The number of months of television ads Bush could buy in the battleground state of Nevada.

9.5 million: The number of Jeb 2016 coffee mugs he could buy to hand out to his supporters

RELATED: The 2016 money race: What we know now and what to look out for

And more seriously, here is where Bush's money comes from, and how it stacks up to the competition:

$103 million: The amount Right to Rise, the super political action committee backing Bush, said it raised in the first half of the year.

$11.4 million: The amount Bush's campaign said it brought in between when Bush announced his White House bid on June 15 and the end of the second quarter on June 30.

$710,000: The amount Bush's campaign raised on average per day since he announced his candidacy.

1:9: The ratio of campaign money Bush's campaign brought in compared to his super PAC, which is supposed to be independent of any campaign but can accept unlimited funds in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision.

$98 million: The amount of cash Right to Rise now has on hand.

9,900: The approximate number of donors who contributed to the super PAC in the first half of the year.

9,400: The approximate number of donors who gave $25,000 or less to the super PAC.

$45 million: How much more cash Bush's campaign and his allied super PAC raised in comparison to Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton's campaign and the allied groups backing her.

$109.2 million: How much more cash Bush's campaign and his allied super PAC raised in comparison to GOP competitor Carly Fiorina's campaign and her super PAC. Fiorina has been struggling with fundraising.

$7 million: How much more Bush raised in the first half of this year than Mitt Romney managed in his total haul during his 2008 presidential primary effort.

$91 million—How much more Bush's super PAC raised in the first half of this year compared to the amount the super PAC allied with Mitt Romney raised in the first half of 2011.

$23 million– How much more Bush's super PAC raised in the first half of this year compared to the amount the super PAC supporting President Obama raked in during the entire election cycle four years ago.

Jeb Bush 'did it on his own'? **// MSNBC // Steve Benen – July 10, 2015**

Jeb Bush's presidential campaign operation has a variety of key goals, but as the cycle gets underway in earnest, the Florida Republican's first priority was simple: raise a ridiculous amount of money.
As of yesterday, it's mission accomplished. MSNBC's Aliyah Frumin reported that the former governor's super PAC has raised a staggering $114.4 million, on top of the $11.4 million Bush's campaign itself raised in the 16 days following his formal launch.
To put this in perspective, Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner, raised $45 million in the second quarter, on top of the $15.6 million haul for the pro-Clinton super PAC. Those totals were widely seen as pretty impressive – initially the best of any candidate in either party – though they pale in comparison to the Bush fundraising juggernaut.
The former governor's fundraising prowess is all the more impressive in light of the enormous field of Republican candidates – with 17 candidates vying for contributions from GOP donors, it's that much more difficult for one contender to dominate. Bush nevertheless has more than doubled the money raised by his next closest Republican rival.
But what struck me as funny about all of this was a quote in the Associated Press report about Bush's fundraising success.

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…Bill Kunkler, a Chicago private equity executive and Bush donor, said that while the Bush name may have opened some doors, it's Jeb Bush who closed the deal.
"People have been willing to take a look, and he's overcome the people who have said, 'Not another Bush,'" Kunkler said Thursday. "People are looking at him as a guy who did it on his own, and who stands on his own."
What's amusing about this is how wrong it is.
I'm not trying to take away anything from Bush's fundraising totals – they're genuinely impressive – but by no fair measure is he someone who succeeded and stands "on his own."
As regular readers may recall, the New York Times reported earlier in the year that Jeb Bush spent much of his adult life taking advantage of his family connections to advance his interests and ambitions. In Florida, people went out of their way to get close to Bush in the hopes that he'd relay messages and suggestions to his powerful relatives – which he routinely did.
When Bush decided to run for president, he quickly exploited a "wide network of donors who supported his father and brother." Indeed, when fundraising appeals started reaching GOP donors, they were sent directly from his father, mother, brother, and even his son (an elected official in Texas). It's consistent with a life filled with unique opportunities made available to Jeb because of his powerful last name and political legacy.
Maybe the voting public will care about this, maybe not. But either way, if "people are looking at him as a guy who did it on his own, and who stands on his own," those people are mistaken.

Paul Ryan Explains What Jeb Bush meant When He Said Americans Should Work Longer Hours // HuffPo // Michael McAuliff – July 10, 2015

Rep. Paul Ryan, who was Mitt Romney's vice presidential nominee in 2012, declined Friday to say whether 2016 contender Jeb Bush's recent declaration that "Americans need to work longer hours" was as damaging as Romney's infamous "47 percent" remarks.

"You're Huffington Post aren't you? What the hell?" the Wisconsin Republican joked at first.

But Ryan, a notorious data geek, did offer his interpretation of what Bush meant to say.

"I think what he's talking about is the fact that there are too many people in America who have part-time jobs who want full-time jobs. That's a problem; that's what he's talking about," Ryan said. "If you get into the labor force participation rates, inside of that, there's a lot of part-time workers who don't want to be part-time workers, who want to be full-time workers."

Bush was hammered over the remark by commentators and the campaign of Hillary Clinton, which noted that Americans are the most productive workers in the world, and that while productivity has kept on rising, it is pay that has lagged. On top of that, Gallup reports that American workers already average nearly 47 hours per week.

Still, part-time workers' share of the workforce has been slowly falling since it peaked at 20 percent after the recession. It still stands at 18.6 percent, a couple of points higher than before the recession.

Asked how many times Bush would now have to say it Ryan's way, Ryan said, "Welcome to politics."

Does Jeb Bush Understand Economics? // Newsweek // Kurt Eichenwald – July 10, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush set off a firestorm this week by appearing to say in a newspaper interview that Americans should work longer hours. Democrats pounced, even as the Bush campaign said his comments were taken out of context.

But everyone is missing the real story. Whether Bush's comment was a criticism of American workers or a lament about a weakened job market, his words demonstrated such a lack of knowledge of economics that it's virtually impossible to understand what was the context of his words.

Bush's full statement was: "My aspiration for the country and I believe we can achieve it, is 4% growth as far as the eye can see. Which means we have to be a lot more productive, workforce participation has to rise from its all-time modern lows. It means that people need to work longer hours and, through their productivity, gain more income for their families."

This word salad mixes together different economic terms as if they mean the same thing and reaches for statistics that are, quite simply, ridiculous. Perhaps Bush was just sloppy in his language, but whatever aide is prepping him on economics needs to do a better job–maybe by working longer hours.

The key terms in his statement are growth, workforce participation, productivity and income. His campaign insisted that when he said "people need to work longer hours," he was referring to them being able to obtain jobs that are full-time or offer close to full-time hours. Bush speaks of these economic concepts as if they are all interlinked; some are, some aren't.

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Start with 4% growth "as far as the eye can see." Lots of problems there. Constant growth at that rate has never been achieved in the history of the United States. In fact, the average from the boom of 1947 to this year is 3.26%. Even the Republican saint, Ronald Reagan, only achieved an average of 3.5%. The longest period during which the United States achieved 4% or greater growth was four years, under President Bill Clinton. So essentially, Bush has as his aspiration something that has no precedent in history.

But this part of Bush's comment has both a logical flaw and a sign he hasn't been paying much attention to political language over the years. As should be obvious, no one can see growth rates into the future, so the idea of growth "as far as the eye can see" is the kind of clumsy infelicity that should raise an eyebrow. "As far as the eye can see," though, is a common term used by politicians in reference to one element of economics: deficits.

The phrase was first popularized during the Reagan administration by David Stockman, then the director of the Office of Management and Budget. In a 1981 interview with the journalist William Grieder, Stockman let slip the dirty secret of the Reagan budgets: that there would be $200 billion deficits "as far as the eye can see." (Just $200 billion? Ah, those were the days.) Since then, politicians on both sides have used the term endlessly to refer to deficits. (John Boehner, the speaker of the House, said it just a few months ago.) Given that rapid deficit growth started under Reagan, reversed under Clinton and then exploded to astronomical heights under Bush's brother, using phrases that make no logical sense and are connected to huge economic blunders isn't smart.

Just as with the growth rates, Bush's original–and revised–statements about employees working more hours is statistical hooey. The average annual hours per worker has essentially been unchanged for many, many years. Let's take the best full economic year during the George W. Bush presidency–2005–and compare it to the worst under President Barack Obama–2011. Under Bush, American workers put in an average of 34.6 hours of work a week. Under Obama, they worked an average of 34.3 hours a week. That's a difference of 3 minutes and 36 seconds a day, which translates for the median worker salary to $1.62 (for minimum wage workers, it's 39 cents). The problem is that American business believes–unwisely–that using contractors and part-timers boosts profits. How does Bush plan to make economic growth rates translate into longer hours when that hasn't happened in the past 15 years? He doesn't–he's just saying things.

Bush's statement about workforce participation is correct–sort of. No doubt the low workforce participation rate signals a weak recovery. But unlike the unemployment rate, the participation rate is a complex amalgam of issues. According to a just-released report by the American Enterprise Institute–a respected center-right think tank in Washington–the meaning behind the statistics is much more complex than Bush implies. AEI says workforce participation has shrunk 3% since the Great Recession, but it cites a report from Barclay's attributing two points of that drop to the aging population. The report also notes that women have been dropping out of the workforce in a constant pattern since the mid-1990s. Still, there is no doubt that there are plenty of chronically unemployed people who have dropped out of the job market, so Bush gets a point.

But the rest of his comment makes him a loser in this game.

He says, "We have to be a lot more productive," and then later refers to productivity. This clearly demonstrates he has no idea what has been going on in the economy. Productivity means something in economics. As a comparison, it would be like saying the word "inflation" in an economic statement but then arguing you were referring to the expanding American waistline.

When it comes to productivity, American workers have been doing a great job. Productivity, which is the economic output per worker, has grown relentlessly since 1947 in almost a straight upward line. Implying that Americans aren't being productive enough is about the same as saying McDonald's doesn't sell enough hamburgers. How much is enough to Bush? If record productivity–with a cumulative growth of almost 300% since 1947–doesn't cut it, what does?

There is no context where "we have to be more productive" means anything other than "push yourselves past record levels, workers!" That is, unless Bush doesn't know what the word means.

But with this full statement, he has also demonstrated that he has no idea of the real problem facing American workers. No doubt, he is blaming them for their stagnant wages–all that's needed is more hours of work, and wages will improve significantly.

As history proves, that's hokum. America went through nearly a century where the profits generated by growth in worker productivity was shared–the more they produced, the more money everyone made. What Bush and far too many Republicans refuse to acknowledge is that wages and productivity became uncoupled around 1973: Productivity goes up, corporate profits go up, the rich get wealthier, but the financial benefits don't trickle down to workers. Since the great uncoupling, the only times there was significant percentage wage growth that even vaguely mimicked productivity growth were in the Carter and Clinton administrations. (Both George W. Bush and Obama had short periods of wage growth, but nothing to brag about.)

American history's most productive workers are not responsible for the fact that they aren't paid enough. Do Bush

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and his GOP cohorts really believe that the wealthy are sitting in their offices, twiddling their thumbs, waiting for workers to demand more money that will then be handed over gladly? Wages are growing at their lowest level since World War II. In fact, income inequality is worse today than it was in 1774, even when slavery is included in the numbers, according to a study by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

The bottom line: Folks are missing the real news in Bush's jumble of economic words. He doesn't know what is happening in the economy, he doesn't know what economic terms mean and he is willing to blame workers for their own stagnant wages by proclaiming all that is needed is for them to get more hours a week at the job. And what he leaves off the table? That the problem is his friends in corporate America, whose wages keep skyrocketing because of growing productivity per worker, which allows the companies to shed workers, creating a larger pool of labor going after a shrinking number of jobs, putting more downward pressure on wages–an unbreakable cycle that will continue as far as the eye can see. Add to that corporate outsourcing of jobs overseas, and Bush's simplistic "work more hours" blather–regardless of whether he meant what the Democrats says or his campaign says–is shown up for the nonsense it is.

Bush needs to–but certainly won't–take a new approach. Rather than telling employees that record workforce productivity needs to be even higher, he needs to let his wealthy friends know that record-high income is enough. Already, several of the super-rich have warned their compatriots that the type of massive economic inequality being experienced in the United States has never ended well throughout global history, and that policy changes are needed before mobs start slamming heads on pikes. Unfortunately, with his recent comment proving his feeble understanding of economics and his willingness to attribute low wages to largely irrelevant issues, Jeb Bush has proved he does not have the courage or the knowledge to lead that policy transformation.

RUBIO

Marco Rubio Calls Abortion Rights 'Indefensible' – and Knocks Down 'Pro-Abortion' Straw Man // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – July 10, 2015

At the National Right to Life Convention on Friday, Florida Senator Marco Rubio touted his opposition to abortion rights, long a prerequisite for being a viable Republican presidential candidate.

Speaking to the crowd in New Orleans, he hit all the necessary notes — legal abortion is "the taking of innocent life on a massive scale"; Roe v. Wade was an "egregiously flawed Supreme Court decision"; the case for abortion rights is "indefensible."

If an embryo is "not a person, what is it? Because if you left it alone, that's the only thing it can become," he said. "It can't develop into a pony!" Though he didn't mention it in his speech, Rubio has supported three exceptions to making abortion illegal—in cases of rape, incest and if the mother's life is at stake.

Also notable was his message of respect for proponents of legal abortion, uncommon for a cause that has sparked ugly clashes and divisive rhetoric between the opposing sides for generations. He knocked down a straw man by some of the more aggressive opponents of the cause, namely the notion that its supporters want more abortions.

"You can judge a cause by the arguments made on both sides. For example, I rarely meet anyone who's willing to say they're pro-abortion," Rubio said. "They'll say they're pro-choice, but almost everyone I've met says that they personally disagree with abortion. That alone tells us a little about the basic common sense the issue is built on."

Rubio's appearance at the National Right to Life Convention came fresh off a three-day swing in Iowa packed with speeches, during which he didn't mention abortion. On Friday, he connected his abortion message to his overall pitch for the presidency—about reviving a disappearing American Dream. "And it is fundamentally impossible," he said, "for America to reach her destiny as a nation founded on the equal rights of all if our government believes an entire segment of the human population doesn't have a right to exist."

Marco Rubio: Roe v. Wade Was 'Egregiously Flawed Decision' // HuffPo // Laura Bassett – July 10, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) laid out his strong anti-abortion views in a speech on Friday, calling the Supreme Court's landmark abortion rights decision in Roe v. Wade a "historically, egregiously flawed decision" that "has condoned the taking of innocent life on a massive scale."

"It is fundamentally impossible for America to reach her destiny as a nation founded on the equal rights of all if our government believes an entire segment of the human population doesn't have a right to exist," the 2016 presidential candidate said at the National Right to Life Convention in New Orleans.

The Supreme Court legalized abortion in the 1973 decision, ruling that states cannot prevent women from

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obtaining the procedure up until the fetus would be viable outside the womb, around 22 to 24 weeks of pregnancy. In the years before abortion was legal, it was common for women to land in the hospital after seeking illegal, "back-alley" abortions or attempting to self-induce. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in 1972, the year before Roe v. Wade, 130,000 women obtained illegal or self-induced procedures, and 39 of them died.

Republicans in Congress are currently trying to chip away at Roe v. Wade by banning abortion at 20 weeks of pregnancy. Rubio and nearly every other Republican presidential candidate has endorsed the legislation. Ten states have enacted similar abortion limits, and anti-abortion advocates hope one of the laws eventually makes its way to the Supreme Court and overturns Roe.

Rubio said Friday that the issue of abortion is "more than political or policy-related. It is a definitional issue about the kind of country we want to be."

According to a recent Gallup poll, half of Americans consider themselves "pro-choice," while 44 percent identify as "pro-life." But Rubio said he believes that nearly every American is personally opposed to the procedure, regardless of whether they think it should be legal.

“You can judge a cause by the arguments made on both sides. For example, I rarely meet anyone who’s willing to say they’re pro-abortion,” he said. “They’ll say they’re pro-choice, but almost everyone I’ve met says that they personally disagree with abortion. That alone tells us a little about the basic common sense the issue is built on.”

Rubio: Confederate Flag A “Deeply Painful Symbol” For Millions, Shouldn’t Be On Government Buildings // BuzzFeed // Andrew Kaczynski – July 10, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio on the Michael Medved Show Thursday said that although for some the Confederate Flag is a symbol of heritage, “we have to recognize that for millions of Americans, it is a deeply painful symbol and that’s why it shouldn’t be over government buildings, as it is not in Florida and it will now not be over in South Carolina.”

Here’s the full quote:

It was the right decision for South Carolina to make. I knew they would make the decision that was best for them. I had trust and faith in their process and in their leadership. And I felt strongly that outsiders should not be coming in and telling them what to do. That they knew what to do and they would do it. And I thought it would be counterproductive. Look, I know people who see the confederate flag as a symbol of their heritage, not as a symbol of racism. But I also know people, many people, who see it as a symbol of pain. For them, it’s a reminder of an era in which in this country human beings were enslaved. And so, that’s why in Florida and in many parts of the country, people have decided that the time has come for that flag not to be displayed in government buildings. And I think it’s, it’s, you’re — it is possible to say you agree with that decision, as I do, and also say that we recognize, that, for many people, the flag — the reason that they’re tied to it is not because of racism. They’re not racist, it’s a cultural attachment. But we have to recognize that for millions of Americans, it is a deeply painful symbol and that’s why it shouldn’t be over government buildings, as it is not in Florida and it will now not be over in South Carolina.

As Donald Trump Riles GOP Race, Marco Rubio Begins to Connect With Voters In Spanish // ABC // Ines de la Cuetara – July 10, 2015

On the campaign trail this week, Marco Rubio chatted with a woman from San Salvador. Claudia Steele, who is now an American citizen and a voter, eagerly told him she would do everything she could to support his presidential bid. Rubio thanked her, and the two discussed politics and family — all in Spanish.

When Steele told Rubio she was the only Latina member of her local Republican organization, Rubio answered, smiling, "Hay que cambiar eso.” (Translation: “We need to change that.”)

But this wasn’t downtown Miami. It was a western suburb of Des Moines, Iowa.

While Republicans worry recent comments by Donald Trump comparing illegal immigrants to rapists and drug dealers may harm the party’s chances with Hispanic voters during the 2016 election cycle, the 44 year-old Senator from Florida was welcomed with open arms — quite literally — by the Spanish speakers who came to meet him over the course of his three-day swing in Iowa. According to 2003 U.S. Census bureau, just 5.5 percent of the population of the Hawkeye State identifies as Hispanic or Latino, but more than a few found Rubio this week.

Steele said she thinks it’s important Rubio speaks Spanish. "It helps him communicate and connect with the community," she said in an interview with ABC News. (Fellow GOP candidate Jeb Bush is also a fluent Spanish speaker).

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At the same event Steele attended, held by the Westside Conservative Club in Urbandale, a waitress originally from Barcelona happily conversed with Rubio in Spanish, and later hugged him goodbye.

In Cedar Rapids, Sydney Speltz, whose mother is a Colombian immigrant, said she would definitely be voting for Rubio.

"It's just really inspiring to see a fellow Hispanic be so successful," said Speltz, who works at the Cedar Rapids Country Club, where Rubio hosted the Linn Eagles Lunch.

In Davenport, Morena Gonzales-Castro Hausuer, originally from El Salvador, showed up to hear the Florida senator and son of Cuban immigrants.

"I do believe that he is the one who has the right ideas, the right points about what is going to happen to our youth if we don't change our policies," she said.

This week — like many of his fellow candidates — Rubio was asked to address whether Trump's recent comments were hurting the Republican Party. He said he thinks voters are "capable of distinguishing between Donald Trump and the Republican Party."

"I obviously strongly disagree with him," Rubio told reporters at a campaign stop, reiterating that Trump's comments were "inaccurate, they're offensive, and they're divisive."

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, argued that all of the GOP candidates are "in the same general area on immigration." (Rubio dismissed Clinton's comments as "silly talk").

"We have a right to enforce our immigration laws," Rubio told reporters. "That's not hostility, that's sovereignty."

Gonzalez-Castro Hausuer agreed.

"I believe if someone wants to be in this country, they can come to this country, but they have to do it legally," she said, detailing the lengthy and costly immigration process she had to navigate in order to move to Iowa with her U.S.-born husband.

"But that is the way it should be," she added.

Steele, Gonzalez-Castro Hausuer, and Speltz all said what they liked most about Rubio were his ideas for higher education reform. Neither cited immigration as a top priority, but Speltz acknowledged she saw it as a kind of litmus test for candidates' general opinion of Hispanics.

"I feel that some Republicans are too tough on immigration, and don't show a lot of respect for people from Mexico and South America," she said, referring to Trump. "But I definitely don't think Republicans as a whole are anti-Hispanic."

Marco Rubio: I will absolutely roll back Obama Cuba policy // Guardian // Sabrina Siddiqui – July 10, 2015

Barack Obama's historic policy shift toward Cuba would be short-lived under a Marco Rubio presidency, the Florida senator has told the Guardian, one week after the White House made the final major step in renewing diplomatic ties with the Castro regime.

Rubio, a top contender for the Republican nomination for president, said he would "absolutely" reverse the unilateral steps Obama has taken thus far to normalize relations between the two countries – including closing down the embassies that are slated to open on 20 July – if he is elected to the White House in 2016.

"In fact, I think they're in violation of the law," Rubio said during an interview at the tail end of a three-day campaign swing through Iowa. "The statute passed by Congress specifically prohibits many of the things he [Obama]'s now undertaking. It says those things can only happen after certain conditions have been met, none of which have been met. As president, I will follow the law."

Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, has been the leading opponent in the US Congress of Obama's overtures to the island nation.

Ever since the president announced in December that the US would end a half-century diplomatic freeze with Cuba, Rubio has publicly castigated the administration at every turn – be it the lifting of certain commercial and travel sanctions, the removal of Cuba from a list of state sponsors of terrorism, and Obama's announcement last week on the reopening of embassies between Washington and Havana.

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In addition to saying he would reverse those steps, Rubio also defended his steadfast opposition to lifting the 50-year-old US trade embargo on Cuba – which critics argue has taken a significant humanitarian toll on the Cuban people while doing little to deter the grip on power of the Castro brothers.

Opponents of the embargo, Rubio said, "fundamentally misunderstand" its purpose.

"The purpose of the embargo was not to overthrow Fidel Castro – that's what the Bay of Pigs was about, that's what Operation Mongoose was about, but not the embargo," Rubio said, referring to the failed missions under President John F Kennedy in the early 1960s to help the Cuban people overthrow the communist regime.

The intent of the sanctions, Rubio argued, was to protect the property of Americans and other private owners and prevent stolen goods from being trafficked into the United States as well as to serve as leverage against the Castros.

"We could have used, and can use, economic sanctions through the embargo as a leverage to gain democratic concessions and openings for the Cuban people in exchange for alleviating some of these conditions, especially the diplomatic recognition and the removal of Cuba from the state sponsor of terrorism list," Rubio said. "The Cubans have basically achieved all of those concessions and in return have done nothing to change … The only thing that will change is the amount of money the regime will have access to."

Jeb Bush, regarded as one of Rubio's main rivals in a crowded pathway to the Republican nomination for president, has similarly opposed the Obama administration's Cuba policy but offered a less definitive response when asked if he would allow a US embassy in Havana to remain open.

"Probably not," Bush, a former governor of Florida, told the editorial board of the New Hampshire Union Leader newspaper this week. "I haven't given thought about undoing a work in progress."

Rubio has pledged to oppose whoever Obama nominates as ambassador to Cuba – a post that must be confirmed by the US Senate, where he sits on the influential foreign relations committee. Republican lawmakers in Washington have also refused to take up Obama's request to lift the trade embargo, which requires an act of Congress.

Rubio's unwavering position on US policy toward Cuba is a point of contrast in a presidential campaign built on the notion that he is a next-generation leader with fresh ideas to usher in what he has dubbed "a new American century".

In seven stops this week through different parts of the early battleground state of Iowa, the earliest-voting state in the primaries, the 44-year-old senator sought to convince voters that he is the candidate of the future while declaring that "yesterday is over" – an implicit dig both a Bush and at Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton.

But those in favor of rapprochement in US-Cuba relations see the 50-year policy upheld until Obama's reversal late last year as decidedly antiquated, and at odds with recent decades of bipartisan support for liberalizing international trade with the express purpose of expanding political and economic opportunity around the world.

Rubio himself referred to two such examples – China and Vietnam – in a Wednesday op-ed in the New York Times, but to make a counterpoint: that despite the opening up of economic pathways, both China and Vietnam remain notorious violators of basic human rights.

Asked if he believed the US should then no longer engage in trade with China or Vietnam, Rubio conceded there was a "geopolitical reality" that set the two apart from Cuba – especially with respect to China.

"It's the second largest economy in the world, it has nuclear weapons, it's the second largest military or the third largest on the planet," he said. "There's a reality there that doesn't exist with Cuba that we have to address. It just is what it is – we have to balance geopolitical reality."

Rubio added that concessions to China had nonetheless forced the US to go silent on human rights abuses there, and his broader point was that China, Vietnam and Burma disproved the argument that economic engagement will pave the way for a political transformation.

"It is proof that economic engagement alone does not lead a reluctant tyranny to open up democratically," Rubio said, before identifying the biggest difference, in his view, in the analogy. "China's half a world away, Vietnam is half a world away – Cuba is 90 miles from our shores. It is not in the national security interest of the United States to have a communist, anti-American tyranny 90 miles from our shores."

He said prerequisites necessary for him to consider engagement with Cuba would be free and fair elections, independence of the media, the right to organize political parties, freedom of assembly, and the release of political prisoners.

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Rubio further referenced reports of a crackdown last weekend in which nearly a hundred peaceful activists were detained by Cuban authorities, and prominent activist Antonio G Rodiles was beaten, to underscore his point that engagement at this juncture was futile.

The reports of the arrests were confirmed by the State Department earlier this week. A spokesman expressed concern, but argued that such behavior further reinforced "the need to move forward" with restoring diplomatic relations.

Obama acknowledged in his own remarks last week that "very serious differences" will continue between the two countries on freedom of speech and assembly, and access to information, while proposing engagement as the means through which change can occur.

"Nobody expects Cuba to be transformed overnight," Obama said in his speech on the reopening of embassies. "But I believe that American engagement through our embassy, our businesses and most of all through our people, is our best way to advance our interests and support for democracy and human rights."

Although the president did not mention Rubio by name, he criticized Republicans who have rejected his approach. Obama cited public opinion in both the US and Cuba showing a majority support for re-establishing ties, and urged Republicans to "listen to the Cuban people, the American people".

Asked for his response to polling putting the public at odds with his view – which includes a majority of Americans, as well as Cuban Americans, and residents of Cuba – Rubio was unfazed.

"I don't ever believe a president should conduct foreign policy on the basis of polls," he said. "A president's supposed to lead. A president's supposed to do what's right for the country even if it isn't popular, particularly when it comes to national security issues. A president needs to view things with a 20-, a 10- and a 5-year outlook, not what's immediately gratifying. One of the biggest failures of this administration is that it's tried to use foreign policy for domestic political considerations."

Rubio added that the opinion of Americans would shift if they were more informed on the implications of opening up ties with Cuba, which he said would be an "economic opening to the Cuban regime [that] controls the entire economy".

Although Rubio did not raise in detail his stance on Cuba while courting several packed rooms across Iowa this week, he drew heavily on his personal story, as he has since declaring his candidacy for the White House. He recounted how his parents left Cuba in the 1956 in search of a better future.

Their realization of the American Dream – Rubio's father worked as a bartender and his mother a maid – is what set the United States apart from the place his parents once called home he said.

The senator launched his presidential campaign in April from the Freedom Tower in Miami, Florida, which served for more than a decade starting in the early 1960s as the first stop for Cuban exiles seeking asylum in the United States.

Cuban Americans living in Florida who are registered Republicans continue to overwhelmingly oppose Obama's new Cuba policy.

"That combination has been steadfastly anti-Castro and pro-embargo," said Dr. Gregory Weeks, an expert on Latin America who heads the political science department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "This is how Cuban-American Republicans have been for many, many years and something that is very only slowly changing. That's how [Rubio has] developed politically. He also sees that as part of a package that includes relations with Iran, Russia and dealing with Isis, indicative of what he believes is a broader weakness of Obama's foreign policy."

But unravelling the steps the administration has already taken would be politically risky, according to Richard Feinberg, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and an architect of the first Summit of the Americas.

"Latin America as a whole would be outraged. It would be incredibly costly for Rubio's US policies throughout the region," Feinberg said. "Two years from now it's going to be difficult for any Republican to completely reverse the initiative of this administration."

Marco Rubio: The American Dream Is Really A Universal Dream? // Breitbart // Michelle Moons – July 10, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) addressed Freedom Fest attendees Friday night with a message centered around the idea of the American Dream, the story of his parents' immigration, and his own success.

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Rubio is one of two presidential candidates reaching out to a mix of about 2,000 conservative and libertarian-leaning conference goers. The other attendee is the new Republican frontrunner, real estate mogul Donald Trump.

Rubio recalled the story of his hard-working Cuban parents who immigrated to the United States in 1956. His father worked as a bartender, his mother mainly as a maid. He made it a point that he lived in Las Vegas for six years as a kid. The story, which he has told during many a speech, contrasts his father's work at the back of a room to propel Rubio's later ascension to a podium at the front of the room.

"We call it the American dream, but it really is a universal dream," Rubio declared. "People all over the world have this dream, they've had it for millennia, the desire not just to be better off and to earn a better life, but to leave their kids better off than themselves. Why they call it the American dream is because so many millions of people have been able to achieve it here and not enough places. That's the real American Dream.

"Here's the spiritual principal. Every human being, not every human being born in North America, every human being is born with certain rights, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"The road to the American Dream has gotten narrower" because of two things, Rubio said. He listed the globalization of the economy and advances in technology as those two obstacles.

"We now compete with people half way around the world for the best ideas, the best talent, the best innovations, the best jobs, the best companies."

It's the relaxing of protections for American workers that has been criticized, as American workers have been replaced by foreign H1B visa workers in instances such as the Disney layoffs. Rubio has come under continual criticism for lax stances on immigration, including his role in the "Gang of 8" immigration reform bill.

He went on to note that today, even bartender and maid positions require more advanced training and technology in the 21st century.

He seemed to pick up Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)96%'s "cartel" terminology, calling the traditional higher education system an "existing and stagnant cartel." Cruz has been emphasizing the idea of the "Washington Cartel" in his speeches and new book.

Rubio touched on a complicated, burdensome tax system and regulatory system.

He closed with "I have a debt to America I will never repay," and that the journey from the back of the room to the front of the room was the American Dream. "Whether we remain a special country or not will be determined by whether that journey is still possible for the people trying to make that journey now."

PAUL

Rand Paul's Fake Flat Tax **// NYT // Editorial Board – July 10, 2015**

Every four years, Republican candidates for the White House denounce the federal tax system — often advocating replacing it with a supposedly more equitable single tax rate — and this year is no exception. Senator Rand Paul has already come up with a flat-tax reform plan, and it shows clearly, once again, that this is a fundamentally flawed idea.

Mr. Paul has pledged to "blow up the tax code" by replacing all federal taxes with a flat 14.5 percent tax on personal and corporate income — except, that is, when his plan exempts income from taxation altogether by retaining popular write-offs. Mr. Paul proposes to continue deductions for mortgage interest and charitable donations, which would gut the supposed simplicity of a flat tax.

The Paul plan, like the flat-tax plans from previous campaigns, would fail to raise enough revenue to finance a modern government. Estimates by the conservative Tax Foundation found that it would reduce revenue to the Treasury by $1 trillion to $3 trillion over a decade. Citizens for Tax Justice, a more liberal advocacy group, estimates a 10-year loss of $15 trillion. Arguments about the proper role of government aside, a population and an economy that are growing in size and complexity cannot thrive with a shrinking government.

Rand Paul in Las Vegas last month, flanked by more than 74,000 pieces of paper meant to represent the size of the United States tax code. Credit Ethan Miller/Getty Images
The Paul plan also fails the basic test of progressivity. It promises a big tax cut for everyone, but analyses show it would be a big tax cut for high earners and businesses and basically a wash for everyone else. And that's being generous. If Mr. Paul were to cut federal spending to offset the plan's revenue loss, as he has promised to do,

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middle-class and lower-income Americans would be much worse off, because programs that benefit them would have to be reduced or ended. Contenders for the chopping block would include Social Security, health care, education and environmental protection.

Mr. Paul might be on to something if he were willing to acknowledge that his flat tax is essentially a value-added tax similar to those used in all market-oriented democracies except the United States. (With both a flat tax and a VAT, businesses deduct nonlabor expenses from gross receipts and pay taxes on the difference — the value added.)

Mr. Paul doesn't call his flat tax a VAT because anti-tax conservatives are opposed to VATs. So he has taken a baffling approach that would be prone to evasion. But a carefully conceived VAT could be exactly what the United States needs. Experience and research show that it can raise substantial revenue, is relatively easy to administer and is minimally harmful to economic growth. In fact, the reason it is loathed by anti-tax conservatives is that their real agenda is to hobble government.

The problem with a VAT is that it falls more heavily on lower-income taxpayers, who spend all of or most of their earnings, than on higher-income people, who can afford to save some or most of what they make. To offset that disadvantage, a VAT must be part of a progressive fiscal system that includes a graduated income tax; adequate spending on Social Security, Medicare and other government insurance programs; and ample government investment in education, roads, scientific research and other public goods and services.

Mr. Paul's plan heads the wrong way on all those fronts, providing less progressivity and more cuts to spending and investment. It is bad policy, and it does nothing to foster a meaningful debate about the economy or taxes.

Rand Paul's presidential campaign raises $7 million // WaPo // Katie Zezima – July 10, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul's presidential campaign has raised $7 million since its launch in April.

The overwhelming majority of Paul's contributions came through small-dollar donations. Eighty-five percent of Paul's haul came from contributions of $50 or less, and 96 percent from people who gave $100 or less. Paul's fundraising totals were first reported by Breitbart.com and confirmed by his presidential campaign.

More than 108,205 people gave to Paul's campaign, with the average donation coming in at $65. Super PACs supporting Paul have not released their fundraising totals. The money was raised through the presidential campaign and a joint fundraising committee where a portion of the money goes toward Paul's presidential campaign.

Paul, who has positioned himself as a grass-roots fundraiser, lags in the Republican money race. Jeb Bush's campaign raised $11.4 million; his allied super PAC raised more than $103 million between January and June. Sen. Ted Cruz's presidential campaign raised $14.2 million since Cruz announced in March; combined with his super PAC total, Cruz has raised more than $51 million.

Paul's campaign has raised, on average, $83,333.33 a day, putting him behind the campaigns of Ben Carson and ahead of Carly Fiorina. Bush's campaign has raised an average of $760,000 a day.

Paul's campaign attempted to capitalize monetarily on a nearly 11-hour speech he gave about surveillance on the Senate floor in May, peppering inboxes with fundraising pitches, and tried to focus his fundraising pitch on small-dollar, grassroots donations.

"When the media pores through my financial reports next week, they'll be scrutinizing every little detail. And that doesn't include just fundraising totals. They'll also be looking to see how far and wide my base of grass-roots support extends. If they discover my campaign has a grassroots army of supporters in every state and every city across the country, it's sure to make their heads spin," Paul's campaign wrote in a fundraising e-mail days before the end of the June 30 reporting quarter.

Rand Paul pulls in $7 million for presidential run // Politico // Daniel Strauss – July 10, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul pulled in $7 million for his presidential run during the last fundraising quarter, his campaign reported on Friday.

Included in that number are receipts from Paul's joint fundraising committee, and his campaign is able to point to a decently large number of contributors (108,205) with an average donation of $65.

The $7 million figure doesn't, however, include the money raised by the libertarian-ish candidate's super PAC, which is expected to significantly up his total haul.

While that makes comparisons tough, the initial figure pales in comparison to the eye-popping numbers trotted

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out by his Republican rivals in recent days. On Thursday, Jeb Bush's super PAC that it had exceeded its fundraising target, and had brought in $103 million. On top of that, Bush's campaign reported it had raised $11.4 million.

And Sen. Ted Cruz announced last week that his campaign and super PACs had brought in a total $51 million haul for the second quarter.

During the same fundraising period in the 2012 cycle, Sen. Paul's father, Ron Paul, raised $4.5 million.

Paul's overall fundraising numbers are expected to put him very much in the game, and his polling numbers have him in the upper middle of the field. A recent CNN poll found Paul with 8 percent support, tied with Ben Carson and trailing Bush and Donald Trump.
Breitbart.com first reported Paul's haul.

Rand Paul takes in $7 million in second quarter // CNN // Theodore Schleifer – July 10, 2015

Rand Paul raised $7 million in the opening months of his presidential campaign, sitting in the middle of the pack of Republicans who have so far released their fundraising numbers, his campaign said Friday.

Paul, powered by low-dollar "moneybombs" that catapulted him to the Senate in 2010 and helped his father win delegates in his 2012 presidential campaign, raised the millions from 108,000 donors who gave an average of $65.

The figures were first reported late Friday afternoon by Breitbart.

Paul is also considering running for re-election to the Senate, and the $7 million haul is split between the presidential bank account and a joint fundraising committee, which dedicates the first $2,700 of each donation to his presidential run and the next $2,700 to a potential Senate run. A Paul spokesman, Sergio Gor, declined Friday to say how much of the $7 million was raised by each committee.

The Kentucky senator's numbers show that he raised money at a slower clip than his competitors, raising about $85,000 a day.

Paul also has two major super PAC's backing him, one of which is led by several former Paul aides. But he reportedly has struggled to woo the big moneymen who are choosing instead to line up behind former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. The Kentucky senator has placed a particular emphasis on courting wealthy donors in Silicon Valley.

Unlike some of his competitors, Paul has had almost the full quarter, which began April 1, to raise money for his official campaign. Bush, who officially announced his candidacy about two weeks before the fundraising quarter closed, currently leads the Republican field in those hauls, gathering about $11 million. Cruz raised $10 million in the second quarter, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson cashed in $8.3 million and businesswoman Carly Fiorina and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry trailed the field with between $1 and $2 million.

Rand Paul Raises $7 Million in Second Quarter with Overwhelming Grassroots Support // Breitbart // Matthew Boyle – July 10, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)93% raked in an impressive more than $7 million in the last Federal Election Commission (FEC) fundraising quarter which includes receipts through the joint fundraising committee, his campaign told Breitbart News exclusively.

What's perhaps more impressive than the dollar amount, however, is just how successful Paul has been with grassroots supporters: the total number of donations is comprised of 108,205 individual donors with an average of $65.

What's more, a whopping 85 percent of all donations were for either $50 or less, and 96 percent of all donations were for $100 or less. Those numbers prove that Paul has raw grassroots support nationwide, and hardworking people who aren't part of the permanent political class—the folks who can't max out in thousands of dollars of donations to various political candidates—are doing whatever they can to help him out.

The numbers Paul's campaign released to Breitbart News exclusively also show he is outpacing the contributions of almost every 2012 Republican campaign and has the resources to build a national campaign capable of competing through the convention. The last quarter's $7 million of receipts come from the time frame of between April and June of this year. Paul announced he's running for president in April.

At this point in the 2012 Republican primary, Paul's father former Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) raised only $4.5 million, and only former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney raised more. Paul is on pace to raise almost double what his father and almost every other candidate garnered during the 2012 primary.

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Additionally, Paul's campaign's announcement of high levels of small dollar donors means he has strong support from real primary voters, not political insiders. His donors are activists who will continue to donate and, as engaged activists, they will drive others to give to and vote for Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)93%.

Polls continue to show Paul is the best-suited GOP candidate at this time when it comes to facing off against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a hypothetical general election. He leads the field against Hillary Clinton nationally, according to Real Clear Politics' average of polls. Also, he is the only candidate who polls ahead of Clinton in polls from key states Republicans need to win the White House, including Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Paul is running a grassroots campaign, unlike other candidates who must raise higher amount of funds to overcome monumental negatives. While donor class candidates like Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)80% or former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush will pump millions into efforts to assuage Republican voters they've infuriated, grassroots insurgent candidates like Paul will continue outside efforts like he's been doing.

In the past two months, Paul has rolled out countless local and national endorsements, opened offices in New Hampshire and Iowa, and focused on campaigning in areas where other Republicans dare not show up, such as liberal college campuses, minority areas throughout the nation, and Silicon Valley. There's also hardly any other candidates as good as Paul at gaining earned media and driving the political narrative—so he's able to, without having to purchase advertising, push the conversation he wants to talk about.

One of the first real tests of any presidential campaign is building an organization that is deep enough in the early states to build momentum and wide enough around the country to sustain the long slog that is a national campaign.

Paul has surpassed such expectations as, in addition to his energized and large grassroots following of liberty supporters, his early state operation has been flexing its muscle since the senator went on his five state announcement tour, packing the house at each spot. Since then, the Senator has announced 125 members to his New Hampshire leadership team, including 25 state representatives and two state senators. He's been lauded for operational efficiency in Iowa and amassed hundreds of volunteers in South Carolina.

And that's not to mention all the endorsements he's pulled together, from people like Congressman Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI)95% of Michigan or Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY)92% of his home state of Kentucky. Paul also has the endorsement of Senate Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)52%, even though the two have been somewhat at loggerheads with each other since earlier this year on issues like Obamatrade and government surveillance.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz hits the jackpot: A book war with the New York Times // WaPo // Philip Bump – July 10, 2015

Perhaps the only thing better for Sen. Ted Cruz's 2016 candidacy than seeing his book on the New York Times bestseller list is seeing the New York Times refuse to include it.

Politico reported Thursday night that Cruz's (R-Tex.) new book, "A Time for Truth," would be left off of the paper's bestsellers list. It does appear on the Publisher's Weekly list for the week, identifying that 11,853 copies were sold, landing it in fourth place between books from former Playboy bunny Holly Madison and enthusiastic facial-expression-maker Aziz Ansari.

At first, the reason that Cruz wasn't being included weren't clear. A spokesperson for the Times simply told Politico that the paper has "uniform standards that we apply to our best seller list, which includes an analysis of book sales that goes beyond simply the number of books sold. This book didn't meet that standard this week."

Eventually, though, the Times told Politico that "the overwhelming preponderance of evidence was that sales were limited to strategic bulk purchases" -- in other words, someone bought a lot of copies of the book so that Cruz would make it onto the bestseller list. Or, to put it more bluntly: Someone gamed the system.

Cruz's publisher denies that. In a statement to Buzzfeed, HarperCollins said that it had "investigated the sales pattern for Ted Cruz's book" and "found no evidence of bulk orders or sales through any retailer or organization." It went on to note that Nielsen Bookscan excludes bulk sales from its figures, which resulted in the 11,800 number above.

You will not be surprised to learn that the news of Cruz's omission was met with either gloating or fury directed at the liberal media, depending on observers' political leanings.

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For example:
Update, 4:00 p.m.: Cruz joins the fight. In a statement to Politico, spokesman Rick Tyler said, "The Times is presumably embarrassed by having their obvious partisan bias called out. But their response — alleging 'strategic bulk purchases' — is a blatant falsehood. The evidence is directly to the contrary. In leveling this false charge, the Times has tried to impugn the integrity of Senator Cruz and of his publisher Harper Collins."

If you're curious, that 11,800 in sales is substantially lower than the 86,000 first-week sales of Hillary Clinton's "Hard Choices" -- though that was backed up with a healthy public relations blitz. (It's closer to Clinton's fourth week, when she sold 17,000 copies.) It's also lower than the sales of Mitt Romney's 2012 book, "No Apology," which did 42,000 in sales in its first week.

Here is a prediction! The Times will soon include Cruz's book on its list, in part because the negative (or, depending on how you look at it, positive) publicity will help goose sales. When Costco axed Dinesh D'Souza's book from its shelves last summer for poor sales, the resulting outcry ensured so much demand that Costco quickly restocked it.

In which case Cruz gets the conservative cred of being blackballed by the Times and the PR bonus of being a Times bestseller. Win-win.

The Daily Cruz // Politico // Hadas Gold, Katie Glueck, and Kenneth P. Vogel – July 10, 2015

Ted Cruz has a media strategy. It's called Breitbart.com.

The Texas senator is firmly ensconced in the middle of the Republican presidential primary pack. But you wouldn't be able to tell from Breitbart.com.

From reader polls and the conservative website's near cheerleading coverage of the Texas Senator, to donor connections behind the scenes, Cruz likely has the Republican presidential field's deepest relationship with the Breitbart machine — a relationship he's seeking to parlay into more energized grassroots support.

Breitbart.com, which boasts of having 18.7 million unique users per month — almost all of them conservative firebrands — is funded in part by New York hedge fund manager Robert Mercer, whose family is bankrolling a pro-Cruz super PAC as well as a political data company called Cambridge Analytica that is working with Cruz's presidential campaign.

Breitbart.com insists it's independent, though proudly conservative, and attributes its often-favorable assessments of Cruz to the fact that his independent brand of conservatism is appealing to its readers.

But no one disputes the site's enthusiasm for Cruz.

The night before his campaign announcement, Cruz invited a Breitbart reporter to spend one-on-one time with him and his family — an item deemed an "exclusive" with photos of the "potential first family" as they got ready for bed.

A recent story about an AP photo that appeared to position a gun at the senator's head stated that while a Democrat would be incredibly offended by the image, Cruz's "feelings won't get hurt. He's a big boy."

And another blasted former President George W. Bush's senior aide Karl Rove for what the site characterized as "lying" over an exchange Cruz and Rove had during Cruz's run for Texas Attorney General.

"Karl Rove should probably read what he wrote in his own emails before he attacks the integrity of a U.S. Senator and presidential candidate again," the story's lead sentence reads.

The site, founded in 2007 by the now-iconic conservative journalist and activist Andrew Breitbart, can be an important starting ground for driving the conversation on the right — even if its reporting is not always on entirely solid ground. (The site has been known to misquote officials and misidentify others.)

In June, the site's editors said their 18.7 million unique users represented a 56 percent increase over the year before. And nearly all of the Republican presidential candidates regularly post op-eds and grant the site interviews or certain "exclusives," which can range from interviews to excerpts of their forthcoming books.

Cruz's distaste for the mainstream media is well known. Last week, the Texas senator told conservative host Glenn Beck that he once rebuked a young staffer for calling one member of the mainstream media "nice," telling the staffer all the media want to do is "filet" him across the front page. He once told a New York Times reporter he was going to kick around the publication and never give the reporter access.

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But conservative media is a different story. He has long used that avenue as a tool to engage conservative audiences. He even broke the news, in 2011, that he was planning to run for Senate in a conference call with conservative bloggers. Just weeks after Andrew Breitbart died at the age of 43 in 2012, a story on Breitbart.com said "The late Andrew Breitbart saw in Sen. Ted Cruz the future of the conservative movement," alongside a photo of Breitbart holding a Ted Cruz for Senate sticker.

And Cruz has gone to bat for Breitbart.com in the Senate. Cruz sent a letter to the IRS commissioner on Breitbart's behalf about the "highly questionable" audit of the company the agency was undertaking last September.

Meanwhile, he has offered toasts and remembrances to Andrew Breitbart and is a frequent guest at Breitbart.com events.

He nodded to Andrew Breitbart's legacy again when he endorsed Mike Flynn, a former editor at Breitbart.com who was running in a GOP congressional primary in Illinois (a race he lost on Tuesday), prompting puzzlement among observers for the spending of political capital on a candidate that was far from viable.

"When Andrew Breitbart launched BigGovernment.com to expose ACORN and fight back against the institutional left and the political class, he chose Mike Flynn as his lieutenant," Cruz said in a statement. "For six years, Flynn helped expose the media's lies and led many fights against the Obama administration."
Cruz spokesman Rick Tyler said that the senator considers Breitbart.com a source of "fair" coverage, its "center-right" perspective a corrective for the mainstream media's "center-left" bias.

"While most of the media covers the news from a center-left perspective, they cover from a center-right perspective, and their readers have been very supportive of Cruz," Tyler said of Breitbart.com. "It can be a vehicle to get covered fairly from a center-right perspective, to an audience that enjoys hearing from Sen. Cruz."

The love runs both ways. For the first time, the site is hosting its own regular online poll of its readers, and Cruz is far and away the favorite candidate. Of the approximately 55,000 responses from June, Breitbart said 33 percent voted in favor of Cruz, putting him in first place ahead of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who garnered 23 percent, and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul who brought in 10 percent. It's hardly a scientific poll — anyone can vote as often as they'd like — but the results match up with the site's favorable coverage of particular candidates.

"I don't think this is a surprise, the result that we have, based on sort of the voice of our site. It tends to favor the tea party grassroots type of conservatives, the independent-minded conservatives, people who don't identify with the Republican establishment," Alex Marlow, the site's editor-in-chief, said in an interview.

Behind the scenes there is perhaps an even more important connection between Cruz and Breitbart.

Breitbart executive chairman Steve Bannon has worked with Mercer on political projects including Cambridge Analytica, according to conservative finance operatives. They describe Bannon as something of a gatekeeper for Mercer, a New York hedge fund magnate who keeps a close circle of associates and has not publicly advocated for Cruz. According to the New York Times, Mercer is the main donor behind a network of four super PACs supporting Cruz's bid for president. Mercer's daughter Rebekah Mercer, who has helped steer the family's increasingly public investment in conservative politics, was an early Cruz supporter, hosting a fundraiser in April for the Texas Senator.

A spokesman for the Mercers decline to comment on their involvement in Breitbart.com or whether they have sought to shape the outlet's coverage of Cruz. Breitbart editors refused to comment on the Mercer connection saying they're a "private company and we don't comment on who our investors or backers are."

"Breitbart is perfectly content letting these nameless/faceless 'multiple places' as you put it speculate, gossip and exhaust their imaginations telling reporters tales of what they think they know," a Breitbart spokesperson said in a statement.

And Tyler, Cruz's spokesman, said that Mercer's involvement in Breitbart also had no effect on the Cruz campaign's dealings with the outlet.

"I answered the phone for you just like I would answer for Breitbart," he told a POLITICO reporter. "I don't stop and look at who POLITICO's investors are. I think we have open access to all the media outlets except the ones that have an agenda," which aren't real outlets, he said.

Marlow said Cruz's views often align well with those of the site's editors and readers, but that Breitbart.com been critical of him in the past.

"[Cruz] tends to have a lot of ideas that are supported by a lot of our readers ... but we've been critical of him in the past particularly when he went down to the border with Glenn Beck and brought soccer balls — we were pretty brutal there," Marlow said.

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Breitbart has published articles about how Cruz is "poorly matched to defeat Hillary." The site also hammered Cruz over his initial support for fast-track authority on the trade deal, a position he later reversed — through an op-ed posted at Breitbart.com. And, to be sure, Breitbart has also showered favorable coverage on the likes of Walker, Ben Carson, Mike Huckabee and, in the past couple of weeks, Donald Trump.

For Breitbart, the attention from candidates like Cruz is nothing but positive.

"There's a huge field in terms of Republican candidates who are vying for to become the nominee and this huge field has generated an intensity of interest," Breitbart News CEO Larry Solov said in an interview. "I think a lot of candidates realize our audience is the one that they will have to be capture in order to win the nomination. That's why they're paying attention."

Ted Cruz feuds with the New York Times – and loves it // Politico // Dylan Byers – July 10, 2015

The campaign gods are smiling down on Ted Cruz, gifting him a feud with conservatives' most despised news outlet at a time when most 2016 campaigns are gasping for Trump-free air.

At issue: The New York Times refuses to grant the Texas senator's memoir, "A Time for Truth," a place on its powerful list of bestselling books, despite his publisher's insistence that his numbers should vault him well ahead of other titles in the top 10.

News of Cruz's exclusion broke this week after HarperCollins, the book's publisher, sent a letter to the Times inquiring about its omission from the list, sources with knowledge of the situation told POLITICO, which first reported the story. The Times responded by telling HarperCollins that the book did not meet their criteria for inclusion.

On Thursday, a Times spokesperson said that the book was excluded because the paper had found its sales to be mostly "strategic bulk purchases" — a common practice among political authors, but a claim hotly disputed by Cruz's campaign.

"The Times is presumably embarrassed by having their obvious partisan bias called out.
But their response — alleging 'strategic bulk purchases' — is a blatant falsehood," Cruz campaign spokesperson Rick Tyler said in a statement Friday. "The evidence is directly to the contrary. In leveling this false charge, the Times has tried to impugn the integrity of Senator Cruz and of his publisher Harper Collins."

"We call on the Times, release your so-called 'evidence.' Demonstrate that your charge isn't simply a naked fabrication, designed to cover up your own partisan agenda," Tyler continued. "And, if you cannot do so, then issue a public apology to Senator Cruz and Harper Collins editor Adam Bellow for making false charges against them."

Tyler's blast came just minutes after HarperCollins announced it had found "no evidence of bulk orders or sales through any retailer or organization" — a statement that all but accused the Times of lying. The publisher also pointed out that 'A Time For Truth' "ranked high on other publishing industry bestseller lists including Nielsen Bookscan (#4) ... The Wall Street Journal (#4) and Barnes and Noble (#7)," all of which "omit bulk orders books from their rankings."

Cruz's camp is clearly relishing the controversy, which has been good for business.

"It's been a good week and a half with wall-to-wall coverage of the book, and yes, this latest unfortunate news courtesy of the New York Times is a chance to get yet more attention and drive readers to Senator Cruz's book," said Keith Urbahn, co-founder of Javelin, a D.C.-based literary agency and communications firm that represented Cruz on the deal and helped with his book rollout. "This controversy is already helping sales."
Several Cruz-linked Twitter accounts, including @TedCruz, also retweeted a Washington Post blog post with the headline, "Ted Cruz hits the jackpot: A book war with the New York Times."

Cruz is somewhat better positioned than many of his fellow 2016 rivals, who have struggled to get attention since real estate mogul Donald Trump entered the race.

Not Cruz. Not only is his book a success, giving him a second round of publicity after his May 23 launch, he also appears to be having little trouble raising funds. His campaign announced this week that he had raised at least $51 million split between the official campaign and four super PACs, putting him in second place in the money race behind former Florida governor Jeb Bush and well ahead of Marco Rubio and Scott Walker.

In that sense, Cruz's feud with the Times is a happy bonus.

Eileen Murphy, the Times spokesperson, said Friday that the paper was standing by her initial claim that the "overwhelming preponderance of evidence was that sales [of Cruz's book] were limited to strategic bulk

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purchases." Murphy did not respond to a request for comment regarding the Cruz campaign's statement.

In her initial response, Murphy said the Times had "uniform standards that we apply to our best seller list, which includes an analysis of book sales that goes beyond simply the number of books sold." She later added, "Our goal is that the list reflect authentic best sellers, so we look at and analyze not just numbers, but patterns of sales for every book."

The Cruz campaign called Murphy's initial explanation "cryptic," and her later claims about bulk purchases "false."

"Their decision to blackball Cruz's book suggests that the Times very much does not want people to read the book," the campaign said. "There were no 'strategic bulk purchases.' Cruz spent last week on a nationwide book tour, signing copies of his book at multiple locations. Booksellers at each event had long lines — sometimes over 400 people per event."

"A Time For Truth" was published on June 30 and sold 11,854 copies in its first week, according to Nielsen Bookscan's hardcover sale numbers. That's more than 18 of the 20 titles that will appear on the bestseller list for the week ending July 4, including Aziz Ansari's "Modern Romance," which is #2 on the list, and Ann Coulter's "Adios America," which is #11.

Cruz's memoir has also sold more copies in a single week than Rand Paul's "Taking a Stand," which has been out for more than a month, and more than Marco Rubio's "American Dreams," which has been out for six months.

That may partly be the result of much more aggressive promotion, and partly because Cruz's book is simply more interesting, with revealing anecdotes about his half-sister's drug overdose, his time looking at pornography while clerking on the Supreme Court, and his blistering attacks on his fellow Republicans.

"What will really make this book a long-term success is that Senator Cruz deliberately decided not to craft a boilerplate book of safe bromides, like most politicians do," Urbahn said.

A public brawl with The New York Times won't hurt, either. As the Post's Philip Bump noted, "When Costco axed Dinesh D'Souza's book from its shelves last summer for poor sales, the resulting outcry ensured so much demand that Costco quickly restocked it."

"It's important to look at a book like a campaign, setting the groundwork early and then seizing opportunities," noted Urbahn. "The New York Times, ironically, offered us exactly that."

HarperCollins disputes N.Y. Times on Ted Cruz book: 'No evidence of bulk sales' // Politico // Dylan Byers – July 10, 2015

The publisher HarperCollins is disputing the New York Times' claim that Ted Cruz's new book was disqualified from its bestseller list because its sales had been driven by "strategic bulk purchases."

The On Media blog reported Thursday that the Times was keeping Cruz's "A Time For Truth" off of its forthcoming bestsellers list, despite the fact that the book has sold more copies in its first week than all but two of the Times' bestselling titles. In an email, Times spokesperson Eileen Murphy attributed that decision to an "overwhelming preponderance of evidence... that sales were limited to strategic bulk purchases."

But on Friday, HarperCollins issued a statement declaring that it had found "no evidence" of bulk purchases.

"HarperCollins Publishers has investigated the sales pattern for Ted Cruz's book 'A Time For Truth' and has found no evidence of bulk orders or sales through any retailer or organization," the publisher said in a statement, first reported by BuzzFeed.

The statement also cited Murphy's quote about "strategic bulk purchases," then went on to note that "A Time For Truth" "ranked high on other publishing industry bestseller lists including Nielsen Bookscan (#4), a subscription service that tracks the vast majority of book sales in America, The Wall Street Journal (#4) and Barnes and Noble (#7). All these outlets omit bulk orders books from their rankings."

Reached by email on Friday, Murphy said the Times would continue to stand by her previous statement.

"Time For Truth" was published on June 30 and sold 11,854 copies in its first week, according to Nielsen Bookscan's hardcover sale numbers -- more than 18 of the 20 titles that will appear on the bestseller list for the week ending July 4, including Aziz Ansari's "Modern Romance," which is #2 on the list, and Ann Coulter's "Adios America," which is #11.

Ted Cruz is "proud to stand with Donald Trump" // Reuters // Alana Wise – July 10, 2015

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Two of the Republican Party's most controversial figures have struck up an unlikely alliance as they both vie for the 2016 Republican Party nomination.

Despite faring fairly well in the polls, Donald Trump and Ted Cruz are still considered long shots for the GOP vote. Both candidates have made enemies within their own party. In Cruz's case, he angered many of his Senate colleagues when he pushed a fight over Obamcare that led to a 16-day shutdown of the federal government.

Republicans such as 2016 White House rival Jeb Bush have distanced themselves from Trump, who described illegal immigrants from Mexico as "rapists" and criminals when he launched his presidential race last month. Trump promised if elected to erect a "great wall" between the U.S. and Mexico.

In the weeks since, Trump's comments cost him business partners and friends from every direction including ties with Macy's, NBC and NASCAR, in the past two weeks alone. All the while, fellow outsider Cruz has yet to jump ship.

"I'm pleased to welcome [Donald Trump] into the race for the 2016 GOP nomination for President of the United States…" Cruz tweeted after Trump's contentious announcement. On a later interview on "Fox and Friends," Cruz said he liked Trump and described the former "Celebrity Apprentice" host as "terrific."

Throughout the losses a growing number of professional relationships, Trump has maintained a poker face, writing them off as minor and took shots at Democrats and fellow Republicans alike, accusing them of taking his comments out of context.

But Cruz told Fox Business Network: "I am proud to stand with Donald Trump."

Presidential hopeful Cruz blasts N.Y. Times book off bestseller list // Reuters // Fiona Ortiz – July 10, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz says his book "A Time for Truth" is a legitimate bestseller and on Friday challenged the New York Times to prove its contention that the tome's high sales were due to bulk buying.

In a statement on his campaign website, the Texas senator said the New York Times should apologize or release evidence of its analysis. He said he was being kept off the bestseller list because the newspaper is politically biased against him.

HarperCollins Publishers said in a statement that it investigated sales of the book and "found no evidence of bulk orders or sales through any retailer or organization."

New York Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said the company stands by its statement on Thursday that Cruz's book did not meet the standards for its bestseller list, "which includes an analysis of book sales that goes beyond simply the number of books sold."

"In the case of this book, the overwhelming preponderance of evidence was that sales were limited to strategic bulk purchases," the statement said.

The book does not appear at all in the Times' top-20 non-fiction books.

Cruz's campaign denied there were any strategic bulk purchases and said booksellers at events on his campaign tour had long lines for people buying "A Time for Truth: Reigniting the Promise of America" and getting it autographed by the candidate.

HarperCollins said the book ranked high on other bestseller lists that omit bulk orders from their rankings, noting it was No. 4 on Nielsen BookScan's hardover nonfiction list, which is published on the Wall Street Journal and Publishers Weekly websites.

Barnes and Noble's website showed the book at No. 10 on its list of current affairs and politics bestsellers on Friday evening, but it was not in its overall top 100.

HarperCollins Refutes New York Times Claim That Ted Cruz Tried To Game Bestseller List // BuzzFeed // McKay Coppins – July 10, 2015

Publishing giant HarperCollins is publicly pushing back against the New York Times' claim that Ted Cruz's new book, A Time For Truth, was disqualified from its bestseller list because sales were limited to "strategic bulk purchases."

In a statement provided to BuzzFeed News, HarperCollins publicity director Tina Andreadis said the company

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looked into the matter and “found no evidence of bulk orders or sales through any retailer or organization.”

It is common practice for politicians to try to game the Times’ prestigious bestseller list by having their campaigns or political action committees buy up thousands of copies of their books. When Cruz’s book was left off the list this week despite outselling many of the entries that did make it, the paper’s spokesperson justified the omission by telling Politico they found an “overwhelming preponderance of evidence” that the sales numbers were being padded by bulk purchases.

By publicly refuting the Times’ claim , HarperCollins is taking on one of the most influential forces in the publishing industry — an exceedingly rare move for any large publisher.

Here is Andreadis’ complete statement:

HarperCollins Publishers has investigated the sales pattern for Ted Cruz’s book A TIME FOR TRUTH and has found no evidence of bulk orders or sales through any retailer or organization.

When questioned about the omission of A TIME FOR TRUTH from its bestseller list, the New York Times told Politico, “In the case of this book, the overwhelming preponderance of evidence was that sales were limited to strategic bulk purchases.”

A TIME FOR TRUTH ranked high on other publishing industry bestseller lists including Nielsen Bookscan (#4), a subscription service that tracks the vast majority of book sales in America, The Wall Street Journal (#4) and Barnes and Noble (#7). All these outlets omit bulk orders books from their rankings.

Is Ted Cruz A Bestselling Author Or Isn’t He? **// Daily Beast // Malcolm Jones – July 10, 2015**

Ted Cruz’s new book, A Time for Truth: Reigniting the Promise of America, is not on the New York Times bestseller list. It is on other lists, such as the Wall Street Journal’s and USA Today’s. Cruz partisans have been quick to assume that the liberal Times is smothering the news that Cruz’s book is selling well.

Trust me, it’s much, much weirder than that.

Nearly every news outlet that maintains a bestseller list uses a different methodology. Some rely on Nielsen BookScan for their sales information. Some collect their own data.

Some, like USA Today, mush everything into one list, so hardcovers and paperbacks and e-books all jostle for the same rankings. Others segregate their lists according to format (one for hardcovers, one for paperback, etc.).

The Times slices and dices its list about as finely as anyone. There’s a hardcover fiction list, an e-book fiction list, a paperback fiction list, a how-to list, and on and on. After J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter books took over the number one fiction spot for months on end, the Times created a separate list for children’s fiction.

The kids’ book list was in response, it was said at the time, to complaints from publishers that they couldn’t compete with Rowling’s success. As long as she dominated the fiction list, no one else was ever going to have a number one adult bestseller again.

And number-one bestsellers are important to publishers. A number-one bestseller gets pride of place in bookstores, and it gets better positioned on Amazon. Just the name of a book on a bestseller list is that much more free advertising. And down the road, a hardback’s bestselling status means more will be spent to promote the paperback edition when it comes out, and of course the paperback is bedecked with type proclaiming it a Times bestseller. When the author’s agent tries to sell the author’s next book, the bestselling status of the author’s previous book completely changes the conversation.

The Times takes its role in all this very seriously, which is to say, it knows how important the list is to publishers, and it doesn’t like being gamed.

If you’ve got deep pockets and want to make your book a best seller, you can do that. You can buy up books in bulk and make the list. To counter this, the Times weights the results of its tabulations from stores around the country. It also does this to keep, say, New York City or other big book markets from controlling the contents of the lists.

So, for example, if the Times sees that a significant number of the 11,854 copies of Cruz’s book sold so far this week come from one place or a handful of places, the newspaper does not give those sales the same weight it gives sales from other stores and online outlets.

Which is admirable, and also worrisome. Admirable because the Times wants its list to reflect what books readers actually bought, not what was snapped up in bulk by some company in the employ of a conservative interest group

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(some other day we'll undertake an examination of the closed circle in which conservative writers publish books with conservative publishing imprints, which are then promoted by conservative Fox News commentators to conservative viewers who loyally buy the books—if you doubt the effectiveness of such a loop, consider that nearly every mainstream publishing conglomerate has an imprint dedicated exclusively to books by and about conservatives). Worrisome because who ultimately decides what constitutes a legitimate sale? And a sale is a sale is sale, or isn't it? Well, no, clearly at the Times it is not.

Of course, however they are compiled, the nation's various bestseller lists do roughly reflect reality. John Grisham and James Patterson and Doris Kearns Goodwin really do sell a lot of books. Day in and day out, the books on various lists are largely the same and in more or less the same order from list to list. But if a publisher or an author or an author's rich associates want to "create" a bestseller, they can do that, too. So take what you see not as hard fact but as an approximation of fact.

Every few years some enterprising reporter exposes all the contradictions and problems associated with bestseller lists. And maybe there's some handwringing, and maybe someone comes along with a new innovation that will set everything right. USA Today's one-size-fits-all list was supposed to resolve disparities and let you see what was really the most popular book in a given week. BookScan was supposed to make everything about sales transparent. The changes get made, and yet essentially everything remains the same, because all the players have too much invested in the status quo. They know it's flawed. And yet …

It's like the joke Woody Allen tells in Annie Hall: "A guy walks into a psychiatrist's office and says, hey doc, my brother's crazy! He thinks he's a chicken. Then the doc says, why don't you turn him in? Then the guy says, I would but I need the eggs."

NTU: Cruz tried to reduce federal spending by $169 billion per year, while Hillary Clinton proposes $226 billion in new spending // Breitbart // Alex Swoyer – July 10, 2015

The National Taxpayers Union Foundation (NTUF) reports that GOP presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)96%
has supported measures to reduce federal spending by $169.4 billion a year during his time in Congress.

"Cruz's average tallies $10 billion more in spending cuts than his Republican colleagues. For every dollar of new spending, Cruz's agenda would cut $8.47 billion in spending," the press release states.

"Senator Cruz supported significant spending reductions like repeal of the Affordable Care Act and abolishing the IRS and income tax in favor of a sales tax," said Demian Brady, NTUF Director of Research. "Combined with very minimal spending increases, these make for a legislative slate big on savings."

NTUF's BillTally examined and analyzed the cost impact of Cruz's legislation he sponsored during the first session of the 113th Congress and found not only would it reduce federal spending by $169.4 billion each year, but also his repeal of Obamacare would cut federal spending by close to 64 billion dollars per year.

Cruz's plea to abolish the IRS and the federal income tax and replace it with a national sales tax would save 96.9 billion dollars over five years.

Brady added, "NTUF's data continues to provide a clear picture of the fiscal history of Members of Congress, helping to enlighten on the costs of the policies politicians support."

In contrast, the NTUF analysis found Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) pushed more than a one trillion dollar annual spending during his time in the Senate, and Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton proposed 226 billion dollars in new spending.

Cruz's fellow GOP presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)80%
proposed $330 billion in cuts while Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)93%
proposed on average a $484 billion spending reduction.

CHRISTIE

Christie's First Television Ad Goes Up for New Hampshire Viewers // NYT // Nick Corasaniti – July 10, 2015

Gov. Chris Christie will be showing his first television ad of the cycle in the same place he spent his first week as a candidate: New Hampshire.

The nearly $500,000 ad purchase will run in the Boston and Manchester, N.H., television markets, as well on

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cable, satellite and digital, over a four-week period.

With splices of Mr. Christie's announcement speech in New Jersey tracking under footage of people working in plants and hugging on doorsteps, the ad further builds on his campaign's central message: the Republican candidate's persona.

"I am not looking to be the most popular guy, who looks in your eyes everyday and tries to figure out what you want to hear, say it, and then turn around and do something else," Mr. Christie says in the ad.

The ad purchase in New Hampshire is yet another example of Mr. Christie's campaign staking its 2016 hopes on the Granite State.

Chris Christie releases first TV spot // Politico // Ryan Hutchins – July 10, 2015

Governor Chris Christie on Friday released the first television ad of his presidential campaign, drawing on his unscripted announcement speech and his new slogan, "tell it like it is."

The 30-second spot uses a clip from Christie's campaign launch, held last month at his former high school in Livingston, and attempts to sell the candidate himself—rather than an ideology—by declaring that "leadership matters."

"It matters for our country. And American leadership matters for the world," Christie says as the ad. "But if we're going to lead, we have to stop worrying about being loved and start caring about being respected again. I am not looking to be the most popular guy, who looks in your eyes everyday and tries to figure out what you want to hear, say it, and then turn around and do something else. I mean what I say, and I say what I mean. And that's what America needs right now."

The ad was first reported in POLITICO Playbook this morning. It is expected to run for one month on broadcast and cable stations in New Hampshire, where Christie has focused most of his efforts in hopes of turning his candidacy into a viable run for the presidency.

Christie Pushes Tough-Talking Image With Ads in New Hampshire // Bloomberg // Terrence Dopp – July 10, 2015

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is taking out his first television ads in New Hampshire as he targets the state with the first primary to build momentum in a crowded Republican field.

The $500,000 ad buy, produced by Strategic Media Partners, will air over four weeks across broadcast channels in Boston and Manchester, as well as cable, radio and digital across the Granite State, said Samantha Smith, a spokeswoman for Christie.

Footage was taken from Christie's June 30 presidential announcement in his hometown of Livingston, New Jersey. The two-term governor is pushing his tough-talking image as he fights for one of the 10 slots at the first Republican primary debate in August. He's currently near the bottom of the list of those who will make the cutoff, which will be based on the candidates' national poll rankings.

"If we're going to lead we have to stop worrying about being loved and start caring about being respected again," Christie says in the 30-second spot. "I'm not looking to be the most popular guy who looks in your eyes every day and tries to figure out what you want to hear; say it and turn around and do something else."

Christie is betting that New Hampshire holds the key to jump-starting an electoral effort that hasn't ignited the same kind of popularity that four years ago prompted business and political leaders to urge him to enter the race. He declined in 2012, saying he wasn't ready.

3 Questions African Americans Should Ask Chris Christie // NBC // Jason Johnson – July 10, 2015

As the number of candidates has grown from a group to a sports to team to what now resembles the crowd during the closing credits of SNL, it's getting harder and harder to distinguish which candidates really warrant much scrutiny.

Chris Christie became the 14th Republican candidate to declare and we can expect at least two more (John Kasich and Scott Walker) to announce this month.

If there's anyone in the GOP who should feel accountable to African American primary voters it's Christie. This is a particularly important constituency for him because unlike every other Republican contender, he boasts bringing in about 21 percent of the African American vote in his last re-election in 2014, a jump from only 9 percent in his first race in 2010.

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African Americans, a key constituency for any contender in 2016, have a special set of concerns and asks for anyone running for president that are seldom directly addressed. Throughout the 2016 campaign season NBCBLK will examine the candidates' statements, campaigns, and policies to find out what they have to offer the black community. Hopefully their campaigns will feel compelled to respond.

1. How will you implement criminal justice reform ?

Chris Christie has already been at the forefront of some criminal just reform measures in New Jersey. He fought for expanding drug courts that put offenders into treatment instead of prison (and this was over Democrats who actually wanted to delay the program). Governor Christie also dedicated a large part of his second inaugural address to criminal justice reform and pledged to make that a key part of his second term. However, as president he faces significant obstacles to such reform. African American voters should ask Christie how he would plan to improve or change criminal justice practices in the DOJ or the DEA if he were elected with likely are Republican Congress. This is especially important as Christie has remained silent on cases like the Zimmerman trial, he deferred on the Eric Garner case, and he pretty much gave a "no comment" on Ferguson.

2. What is the Chris Christie version of Washington bipartisanship ?

In his announcement speech yesterday Christie was in full 2012 mode, by chastising both political parties and decrying the lack of leadership in the Obama administration in foreign affairs. But within minutes he was back to talking about how he'd reach across the aisle to work on ideas that he and Democrats could agree upon. All of this sounds nice until you think of "Bridgegate." While the scandal didn't result in the kind of major charges against Christie that some expected African American voters should be wary of any candidate who has a reputation for being particularly punitive to those he disagrees with politically.

Bridgegate not only damages Christie's reputation as a straight shooter, but also labels him as a bully who will punish opponents regardless of how that may impact innocent citizen bystanders. Black folks are often collateral damage in battles between political elites and Christie should explain to voters how he won't let that happen under his presidency.

3. What about the Jobs?

During the last several years of the Great Recession, African American unemployment rates have slowly gone down to about 10 percent. (This is still worse than the 8.7 percent it was before Obama took office.) African American voters should ask Christie how effective he will be at helping to lift black voters out of poverty.

New Jersey has the fourth highest rate of long-term unemployment African Americans in the nation at 48.7 percent. (Mind you, New Jersey also led the nation in White long term unemployed people at 41 percent for 2013-2014, so Christie doesn't seem to be doing a good job of lifting anyone's status in the Garden State.)

An effective long term plan for getting America back to work would go a long way in establishing Christie not only as a legitimate contender for 2016 but also a viable competitor for African American voters.

Chris Christie releases first campaign ad for 2016 nomination: 'I mean what I say, and I say what I mean' // NY Daily News // Celeste Katz – July 10, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie rolled out his first ad of the fight for the 2016 Republican nomination for President on Friday — a mashup of his teleprompter-free kickoff speech in his hometown.

"Leadership matters. It matters for our country. And American leadership matters for the world," Christie says in the 30-second spot, which uses footage from his June 30 launch event.

"But if we're going to lead, we have to stop worrying about being loved and start caring about being respected again."

Team Christie says it is investing nearly $500,000 to air the inaugural spot in early-voting New Hampshire — the focal point of Christie's campaigning — for a month in broadcast TV, cable, radio and digital formats.

That timeline would bring Christie up to the first televised debate between the GOP candidates, which is scheduled for Aug. 6 in the battleground state of Ohio.

The "Leadership" ad captures Christie in one of his favorite campaign modes, one on which he's relied heavily both as governor and White House hopeful: addressing supporters directly on all sides in a town hall-style setup.

Footage and sound from Christie's launch speech is interspersed with images of a variety of people filmed working or gazing into the camera — including a one man who prominently wears both American and Mexican flag patches

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on his coat.

Christie, who's framing himself as the straight talker in the jammed Republican field with a "Telling It Like It Is" slogan, wraps with a signature line from his kickoff at his alma mater, Livingston High School.

"I am not looking to be the most popular guy, who looks in your eyes everyday and tries to figure out what you want to hear, say it, and then turn around and do something else," Christie says.

"I mean what I say, and I say what I mean. And that's what America needs right now."

Christie was once regarded as a major rising star in the GOP, with a featured speaking spot at the 2012 national convention and a 2014 turn as head of the Republican Governors Association.

But his image and popularity took a turn for the worse as he battled the fallout of the Bridgegate lane closure scandal, and voters in his own state have given him low marks for addressing unemployment and high taxes.

PERRY

Rick Perry's super PAC haul: $16.8 million // Politico // Katie Glueck – July 10, 2015

Three affiliated super PACs supporting Rick Perry's presidential bid have raised nearly $17 million, a PAC official confirmed Friday, while his campaign announced a $1 million fundraising haul.

Jordan Russell, a spokesman for the Opportunity and Freedom PAC, confirmed that the organization and its two affiliated groups, all under the leadership of prominent Mississippi operative Austin Barbour, among others, had raised $16.8 million for the former Texas governor.

"It looks like we're going to have the resources to help Gov. Perry compete in the early states and beyond, so we feel good about it," Russell said.

His official campaign said Friday afternoon that it had raised $1.07 million since announcing last month, but in a statement noted the independent super PAC figure, claiming close to $18 million in pro-Perry money.

Unlike some campaigns, where nearly the entire brain trust is housed under the super PAC, Perry has a robust campaign staff. But Opportunity and Freedom, led by Barbour and several longtime Perry advisers, has already bought up airtime in Iowa to run ads on behalf of the former governor and, as the better-funded arm, looks poised to play an active role in the race.

Perry is a longshot for the GOP nomination after his disastrous 2012 presidential run. Last time, he entered the race as a presumptive front-runner but quickly flamed out amid a series of embarrassing missteps, including major fumbles on the debate stage.

This time around, he lags enough in the polls that it's unlikely he'll qualify for the first debate. But he has spent the past year and a half seeking to rebrand himself, studying up on policy issues and spending significant time in the early states, particularly Iowa.

The super PAC haul, while far behind that of Jeb Bush's and Ted Cruz's, is in line with other candidates' totals.

The news of the super PAC haul was first reported by CNN.

Rick Perry super PACs raise nearly $17M // CNN // Sara Murray – July 10, 2015

A trio of super PACs supporting former Texas Gov. Rick Perry has raised neared $17 million, according to a senior adviser for the groups.

Two pro-Perry groups -- Opportunity and Freedom PAC and Opportunity and Freedom PAC I -- raised $12.8 million in the first half of the year. A third super PAC, which was created Thursday, collected a $4 million check from a single donor, bringing the full tally for the three groups to $16.8 million as of July 10, said Austin Barbour, the senior adviser to all three affiliated entities.

The total falls far short of the $103 million Jeb Bush's super PAC has raised, but it is competitive with others in the GOP field. That's a promising sign for Perry who has faced questions from GOP voters and donors alike about whether he can mount a comeback after his embarrassing 2012 presidential bid.

"Look nobody's going to compete with Jeb Bush, it's impossible. Congratulations to them," Barbour said. But, "we

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have enough money now to keep us competitive in this process for a long time."

Barbour said their robust fundraising lends his candidate additional credibility. It also gives bundlers an opening to circle back with hesitant donors and pitch them on supporting Perry or writing larger checks.

Wealthy Texas donors helped fuel the fundraising for the pro-Perry groups.

Kelcy Warren, a Dallas billionaire and chief executive of an energy company whose board of directors includes Perry, gave a $6 million contribution. Warren is also the finance chairman for Perry's presidential campaign.

Darwin Deason, another Dallas billionaire who founded an information technology company that was later acquired by Xerox Corporation, gave $5 million.

Brint Ryan, chief executive of tax services firm Ryan LLC, is serving as the finance chairman for all three groups, which have collected donations from dozens of contributors.

Barbour said he and other Perry allies organized three super PACs because high-dollars donors want to have more input in the process this election cycle than they did in 2012. For instance, many of his biggest contributors are eager to tout Perry's record of job creation in Texas.

"If they were going to give a million dollars or $5 million they really want to be able to participate," Barbour said. "They know that the final decisions on strategy and execution still lie with me and our team."

The super PACs still have most of their cash on hand, Barbour said, although they have spent more than $1 million already in paid television and digital advertising in Iowa.

"We made this decision a long time ago that we were going to go early in Iowa," Barbour said. "We feel like we have clean air," giving them an edge to reintroduce voters to the governor before the airwaves become too crowded.

The Perry campaign and super PACs are all betting heavily on a strong showing in Iowa and on the debate stage to carry the candidate further along in the process.

That's why the super PACs have also spent a "significant amount" to reach a large conservative audience nationally to try to boost Perry's polling and ensure he makes the debate stage, Barbour said.

Perry comes in eighth place with 4% support among Republicans in the latest CNN/ORC poll. Averages of recent national polls indicate he will likely qualify for the first debate.

As for the recent Donald Trump mania, Barbour said Perry's exchanges with the brash businessman over immigration policies are a welcome fight.

"If the conversation is about border security, nobody knows it better than Rick Perry," Barbour said.

New Super PAC Ad for Rick Perry Touts His Pro-Life, Gun Rights Record // Breitbart // Sarah Rumpf – July 10, 2015

The Super PAC supporting former Gov. Rick Perry (R-TX) in his bid for the Republican presidential nomination has released a new television ad, titled “Values,” and Breitbart News has an exclusive first look.

The 30-second spot begins mentioning how Rick Perry “learned life’s important values” growing up in the small town of Paint Creek, Texas, and “as Governor, he put those values to work,” supporting pro-life and Second Amendment causes.

As Governor of Texas in 2013, Perry signed into law a ban on abortions after 20 weeks. He backed the bill after former State Sen. Wendy Davis filibustered it by calling the legislature back for a special session to pass the bill. During a previous session, he signed a bill requiring parental consent for abortions.

Regarding gun rights, Perry is well-known as a Second Amendment advocate, and has an A+ rating with the National Rifle Association. The ad touts his support for a “castle law,” protecting the right to defend yourself at your home.

“You can talk about your values, or you can live them,” says the ad’s narrator, as the video shows scenes from Perry’s campaign launch in Addison last month.

“As Governor Perry says, this is a show me don’t tell me election,” said Jordan Russell, spokesman for Opportunity and Freedom PAC. “Governor Perry has the best pro-life record of any governor in Texas history and is an unwavering defender of the people’s right to keep and bear arms. His strong record on these issues is an

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important part of what makes Rick Perry the right choice for for president, and we want to make sure the people of Iowa know about it."

Russell told Breitbart News that this was a "significant buy," to be run on broadcast for major media markets and statewide cable.

This is the fourth ad that Opportunity and Freedom PAC will run in Iowa. The PAC has not yet released their fundraising numbers for the second quarter, but sources close to the PAC told Breitbart News they will release their numbers next week and are confident they will have the resources to help Perry be competitive in this race.

GRAHAM

Lindsey Graham: Trump's comments are going to 'kill the party' // Politico // Nick Gass – July 10, 2015

Donald Trump's statements on immigrants are going to kill the Republican Party, fellow candidate Lindsey Graham says.

"Well, I think he said something that has brought people who are frustrated about our immigration system to light, but he also said it in a way that's going to kill my party," Graham said in an interview with CNN on Friday. "I would prefer that Donald Trump bring his economic genius and his talents to the table in a more constructive way," he added, noting the billionaire's charity efforts with military veterans and their families.

Trump's comments, Graham said, reinforce a narrative between the GOP and Hispanics that will "destroy" any chance the party has of winning the 2016 presidential election.
"I think he should do better, because I think he's a better man than that," he said.

Graham is not the only candidate in the crowded Republican field to condemn Trump's comments that many immigrants from Mexico are "rapists" and "criminals." A number of other candidates, especially those ranking low in the national polls, have turned to Trump-bashing as they seek to boost their poll numbers ahead of the first debate on Aug. 6 in Cleveland.

If the first GOP debate were held today, Graham would not be on the stage, and two people who have never held elected office—Trump and Ben Carson—would be in.
And Graham has a beef about that, making sure to tell the network televising the first event just how he felt during an interview on Fox News on Friday, calling the top 10 format "a dumb way" to pare down the crowded GOP field.

It's all about money and celebrity he said, blasting the use of national polling averages to determine the 10 candidates who will appear on the debate stage.

Recent polling has Graham in the low single digits; his Real Clear Politics polling average sits at 1.3 percent. Trump's average is 6.5 percent, though he polled better in recent polls from CNN/ORC (12 percent) and Fox News (11 percent).

Brad Pitt would have a better chance getting in the debate at this point, Graham said.

"Anybody with any celebrity would be in the debate. I think this is a dumb way to weed out the field. I don't mind weeding out the field over time, but a national poll tests celebrity, big states have an advantage versus small states," the South Carolina senator and presidential candidate said. "People who have run before have an advantage over those who haven't."

"It's July, for god sakes. So a national poll is a lousy way, in my view, to determine who should be on the stage, and I quite frankly resent it," he said.

Graham placed the blame on the Republican National Committee and Fox News for the format, declining to name any other names.

"I would find a way for everybody who's filed and has got a viable campaign to be on the stage, and after a couple of debates, you could start weeding people out. It's not about me. It's about destroying the early primary process of Iowa and New Hampshire and South Carolina," he said. "At the end of the day, you're rewarding money and celebrity over the hard work in the early states."

Graham said he would decide later whether he would participate in the earlier afternoon forum of candidates who don't make the cut.

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SANTORUM

Rick Santorum Wants to Be More Than Just a Pro-Life Candidate // National Journal // Emma Roller – July 10, 2015

Rick Santorum is tired of being pigeonholed. At least, that's the message the two-time Republican presidential candidate gave to the attendees at an antiabortion conference on Friday.

Santorum, along with at least three other GOP presidential contenders, addressed the National Right to Life Conference on Friday. In his speech, he said that people who claim "the science is settled" on climate change but don't agree that life begins at conception are hypocrites. (For the record, Santorum called climate change "junk science" in 2011.)

"I do not believe life begins at conception. I know life begins at conception. This is not a matter of debate. It's not a matter of faith," Santorum told the crowd. "Every child at the moment of conception is both living—that embryo is metabolizing—and it is a genetically completely human."

He went on to complain that as soon as he started advocating against abortion, media outlets began labeling him as "ultraconservative," and reporters stopped caring about his stances on the economy or foreign policy.

"Because I led on this, and very few do, you get labeled, and you get put over there at the kids' table," he paused. "By the media."

This is part of a larger strategy for Santorum's campaign to rebrand its candidate as a populist reformer—whom his allies say is the "real Santorum." When Santorum was first elected to the Senate, it was as a candidate who appealed to Pennsylvania's blue-collar workers. But once he entered Congress, he began cementing his position as his party's champion against abortion and gay marriage. In 2003, he famously compared same-sex marriage to "man-on-dog" relationships, and forever earned the ire (and digital backlash) of gay-rights activist Dan Savage.

Santorum has been out of political office for more than eight years, and during that time, public opinion on social issues, particularly gay marriage, has shifted substantially. The more Santorum is painted as a social-issues candidate, the more he risks being depicted as a relic of the past compared with his Republican competitors.

There is some dramatic irony to Santorum's insisting that he is not a social-issues candidate at a gathering of pro-life activists. If he were speaking to the Atlantic Council or the American Enterprise Institute, his actions would reinforce his message. But so long as he continues to play to his base's social activists, all the while insisting that he is more than just a social crusader, his message will continue to get muddled.

Rick Santorum: The Supreme Court Doesn't Have the Final Say on Everything // The Blaze // Fred Lucas – July 10, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum reminded abortion opponents of two separate Supreme Court cases on partial-birth abortion bans as he talked about the high court's recent decision legalizing gay marriage nationwide.

In 2000, the justice struck down a Nebraska ban on partial birth abortion. Then a U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, Santorum said he fought efforts within the Republican Party to move on.

"We crafted a law and said the Supreme Court was wrong," Santorum said to applause Friday at the National Right to Life Convention in New Orleans.

A federal ban that Santorum led the way on was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003 and then upheld by the high court in 2007.

"When did it become the law of the land because the Supreme Court had the final say on everything?" Santorum said.

"The Supreme Court doesn't have the final say on everything. The American people have the final say on everything," he added to a rousing ovation.

Santorum was the runner-up to eventual Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney in 2012, winning 11 states. However, in this election cycle, he is not performing strongly in most polls ahead of the early-voting states.

Santorum told the crowd that 2016 "is not a time for the faint of heart" because the nation is undergoing sweeping social change.

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Santorum admitted that in his early years in Congress, he never talked about abortion, until finding out about the so-called partial birth abortion issue in the late 1990s. He became a leader on the issue, sponsoring a bill to overturn President Bill Clinton's veto of the federal ban. After he became a leader on the front lines of the abortion debate, he said, he was labeled by the media.

"My kids thought my first name was 'ultra'," he said, referring to "ultra-conservative" label.

"It's one thing to be pro-life – being a governor and signing bills, being a senator and voting," Santorum said. "If you stand up and fight, if you are identified as a leader on the issue, you pay a price."

HUCKABEE

Mike Huckabee cites infamous 'Daisy' ad for Iran nuclear deal // CNN // Jeremy Diamond – July 10, 2015

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee on Friday repurposed the controversial "Daisy" ad from 1964 that ominously raised the specter of a nuclear bomb explosion to warn about the dangers of the negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

The Republican presidential candidate's campaign released his version of the ad on Friday, playing the ad almost in its entirety in a web video. A little girl slowly picks petals off a daisy, counting as she goes, but once she picks all of the petals, a nuclear bomb explodes on screen.

In Huckabee's version, a message about the Iranian nuclear threat rolls on screen following the explosion

"A threat to Israel is a threat to America. Stand with Israel. Reject a nuclear Iran," reads the ad.

Huckabee posted the video as negotiators once again extended a deadline on Friday to continue working toward a final deal that aims to cut off Iran's path to a nuclear bomb through restrictions on its nuclear activity and thorough inspections, in exchange for relief from international economic sanctions.

Huckabee's ad is drawn from a campaign spot the Democratic National Committee ran in support of President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1964 presidential campaign. The ad only ran once because it was so controversial and it was widely panned as a prime example of fear-mongering. But many credit the ad with helping Johnson win that election.

Even Huckabee's campaign acknowledged in a press release that the ad is "controversial," but it noted that "the video highlights the threat posed by a nuclear Iran."

The video also urges supporters to sign Huckabee's letter to Secretary of State John Kerry, urging him to "reject a deal with Iran that will spark a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, threaten Israel's existence and unleash a wave of terrorism around the world."

Kerry, President Barack Obama and other U.S. officials have insisted this week that the U.S. will "walk away" from the negotiating table if Iran cannot meet the U.S.'s demands for a good deal that would cut off Iran's pathways to a nuclear bomb.

Huckabee: Trump can say what he thinks // Washington Examiner // Emilie Padgett – July 10, 2015

At least one GOP candidate has no qualms about Donald Trump airing his opinions.

Mike Huckabee, a fellow Republican 2016 presidential candidate, made clear on Friday that Trump should be able to say whatever he wants, despite the backlash against Trump for his controversial comments about Hispanic immigrants during his campaign kickoff speech.

Huckabee called the real estate mogul "unique," but when asked whether he was "hurting" the Republican name, he said, "I don't think so." The Arkansas governor said the attention Trump has received could be a good thing.

"He's capturing a lot of this space. My gosh, I wish I was getting as much attention as he is, because anybody getting that much attention certainly is going to soar in the polls," Huckabee said on Fox News Radio.

According to a recent poll taken by Economist/YouGov, Trump is leading the GOP field. Fifteen percent of respondents preferred Trump, which puts him four percentage points ahead of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Rand Paul, who are tied for second.

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Huckabee added that no one need worry about what Trump will say as the race for the White House continues.

"I don't think that people ought to wring their hands that Donald Trump is in there," he said. "He'll say things differently than most of us, he'll say things that maybe some of us wouldn't say, but he has as much right to be on the stage and speak his message as any of us."

The former Arkansas governor said that allowing candidates to speak their minds enables voters to reach their own conclusions, saying, "That's how the process works." Huckabee emphasized that whether or not he agreed with Trump's rhetoric, getting the billionaire to change his ways would be difficult.

"This notion that we need to ask him to tone it down, well, first of all, he's Donald Trump. He'll say what he wishes," Huckabee said. "And second of all, I think it's important for people to say what they really think. The voters then get a chance to decide. 'Is that who I want to support?'"

Despite the attention, the Economist/YouGov poll found that registered Republican voters believe Trump has a small chance of keeping his top spot as the race continues.

"I hope when [the voters] hear me say what I want to say, they'll like it. They'll want to support me," Huckabee said.

Huckabee has been ranking fifth in most national polls. That support should qualify both candidates for a place among the 10 allowed to participate in the first Republican debate next month.

CARSON

N.H. fans feel the passion for Ben Carson // Boston Globe // Akilah Johnson – July 11, 2015

There's just something about Dr. Ben Carson, some Republican voters here say.

They line up to buy copies of his books. They chase him down streets for photos. Sometimes, they just continue to stare with awe after he speaks.

"I'm just kind of overwhelmed," said Peter Rice, a retired volunteer firefighter, his newly acquired "I'm with Ben" button in hand. "This guy is a breath of fresh air."

There's liking a candidate — and then there's the particular passion that Carson seems to incite, despite the sometimes unusual statements that make him stand out among 2016's Republican White House hopefuls.

So what is it about the 63-year-old political neophyte, who often refers to himself in the third person as "Carson" during stump speeches, advocates for tax rates based on tithing, and compares the life-or-death plight of Revolutionary figures to today's politics?

He speaks with the aplomb of a superstar neurosurgeon and a highbrow history buff — yet also the raw candor overheard in a coffee klatch. While describing detractors' efforts to bring him down — including a reference to a years-old paternity suit — Carson revealed to a packed town hall Tuesday that, "I knew something they didn't know. I knew that the only woman I'd ever slept with in my life was my wife."

Supporters gush over what they call his "compelling personal story" and "common sense." He is the only African-American candidate – Democrat or Republican – and his resume is unlike the others. It includes his tenure as director of neurosurgery at John Hopkins University but no elected offices or previous flirtations with running for president.

'So far, he hits the nerve in my body that says treat people fairly, be respectable, do the right thing, love your country.'

There are pundits who say Carson's brand of religious conservatism will not win in New Hampshire, which polls show is one of the least religious states in the country.

A recent poll by the University of New Hampshire showed Carson barely registered when voters were asked who had the best chance of winning, which candidate best represented Republicans like themselves, and who would be the strongest leader.

Still, the university poll did show Carson had a high net favorability ranking, coming in second after US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida. And according to national polls, he would make the 10-candidate cut to be onstage if the

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first televised national debate were held today.

So the retired doctor and his supporters aren't worried about the naysayers.

"I'm in love with him," said Dianne Durkin, president and founder of an employment loyalty company. "His entire thing about . . . leadership is spot on."

Ben Carson greeted passersby as he campaigned in Portsmouth, N.H. earlier this week.

"So far, he hits the nerve in my body that says treat people fairly, be respectable, do the right thing, love your country," said Doug Bates, president of the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce.

Bates estimates he has heard eight candidates speak but only wanted his picture taken with one – Carson.

In a speech Tuesday morning to about 50 business leaders at Pease International Tradeport, Carson called for "stopping all this silly divisiveness" and class, race, gender, and age "warfare" — all distractions, he said, from the "radical Islamic jihadists" targeting America.

"We are falling for garbage. We are allowing ourselves to be colluded. You can't just go through life worried about who's on 'Dancing with the Stars,' " Carson said. "What are you willing to fight for? What are you willing to die for? "

Carson spent three days campaigning in New Hampshire, with its first-in-the-nation primary.

Last month, Carson grabbed national attention by calling out some of the other candidates who, he said, were slow to criticize the massacre at the Charleston, S.C., church as rooted in racism.

"But there are people who are claiming that they can lead this country who dare not call this tragedy an act of racism, a hate crime, for fear of offending a particular segment of the electorate," he wrote in an op-ed piece.

It was just two years ago that Carson burst into the political arena at the National Prayer Breakfast. He used humor and his personal story of growing up in an impoverished Detroit home to give a conservative critique on the country's state of affairs as President Obama sat nearby.

Some of his most scathing remarks focused on the Affordable Care Act, which he wants to replace with a health care system that gives people transferable health savings accounts.

Carson's single mother was determined her two sons would rise above their station in life, he said. She refused to accept public assistance and required regular book reports when he began doing poorly in school, even though she couldn't read them.

He would earn a scholarship to Yale University, where he met his wife, Candy, and continue to the University of Michigan's medical school.

Echoes of that speech come through when Carson addresses a crowd from the campaign trail — but not when he engages in retail politics. As he shook hands and greeted voters one-on-one along the streets of downtown Portsmouth with his wife of 40 years, she was talkative and personable while he was awkward and reserved.

Onstage, though, he seems to capture voters. In Bedford, after one of the must-stop "Politics & Eggs" forums, a woman murmured, "Love his message. He says it just right." At a town hall in Barrington, he concluded his speech by invoking Nathan Hale, famous for saying "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

"The baton of freedom is in the hands of we the people," Carson told the crowd of about 150.

It was a speech that might have earned Donna Callmeyer's support. The 72-year-old Milford resident said she, like so many Republicans, was looking "for one of the bazillion candidates that we can support."

Carson's intellect "totally impressed," her, as did "the fact that he answers questions so thoroughly," she said.

"He wasn't, like, in your face about it," interjected her 14-year-old granddaughter Asia Hanson.

"I won't walk away wondering what he thinks about immigration or the economy," Callmeyer continued. "I felt a genuine honesty. This is the first candidate I'm excited about."

Carson: 'Baby killers' capitalize 'on people's lack of knowledge' // Washington Examiner // Ariel Cohen – July 10, 2015

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Ben Carson warned against the growing power of the federal government and "baby killers" denying the humanity of fetuses during his keynote speech at the 2015 National Right to Life Conference in New Orleans.

"When I look there in particular out to the next generations. As we destroy them economically as we destroy them morally as we weaken our defenses as we do all the things that are necessary to bring down our nation," Carson said.

Carson's comments about government overreach came in reaction to the Supreme Court's recent decision upholding Obamacare subsidies for federal exchange customers. Carson said "the Affordable Care Act is the government saying we don't care what we the people think."

But Carson, a famed pediatric neurosurgeon, reserved his harshest criticism for people who support legal abortion. He said there are people who go to "great lengths to save spiders" but not fetuses between six and 10 weeks old.

"The baby killers, that's what they do, manipulate you into thinking this is not a human being," Carson said, adding they "capitalize on people's lack of knowledge." He added that technology was making more people pro-life, because ultrasounds showed them the truth about fetal development.

Many people in attendance at the National Right to Life Conference were evangelicals, a large bloc of voters to which Carson appeals. Carson called on them to speak up for their values.

"I think it's us the American people who will make the difference," Carson said. "It was Thomas Jefferson said this would happen. That we would become relaxed, and that the government would grow and it would infiltrate every aspect of our lives. But just before we turn into another form of government he said the people would waken and reassert themselves. I think now is the time we must do that if we are to save our nation."

In the last election, 30 million evangelicals did not vote, Carson claimed. He urged attendees to encourage their friends to go to the poll, saying "our strength is in unity and belief system."

JINDAL

Bobby Jindal's obsession with "colorblindness" is everything wrong wit h the GOP's racial politics // Salon // Eesha Pandit – July 10, 2015

A few years ago, the members of the Republican National Committee gathered for a retreat after the 2012 election, in which the Democrats held onto the White House and gained seats in both chambers of Congress. At that meeting in the winter of 2012, Bobby Jindal offered up some fiery words about what his party needed to do to win, including a rejection of its obsession with "identity politics," which he deemed "corrosive to the great American melting pot."

"We must reject the notion that demography is destiny, the pathetic and simplistic notion that skin pigmentation dictates voter behavior," Jindal said to applause.

To milder applause that night, Jindal called on Republicans to "stop being the stupid party" and to "stop insulting the intelligence of voters." And yet, just a few years hence we find Piyush "Bobby" Jindal, a Rhodes scholar who once led his state's university system, engaging in the most regressive of politics as he begins his bid for the presidency.

Just days after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected bans on gay marriage, Jindal's spokesman Mike Reed said, "We believe the U.S. Constitution, Louisiana Constitution, Louisiana's Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, as well as our Executive Order prevents government from compelling individuals to violate sincerely held religious beliefs. We will continue to fight to protect religious liberty." In practice, this means that the governor's administration issued an executive order to protect clerks and state employees who have moral objections to gay marriage and don't feel comfortable handing out licenses to same-sex couples.

As Jindal runs for president in the Republican primary, he is resorting to those very same regressive and divisive tactics that only a few short years ago he inveighed against — so much so, in fact, that many observers were taken in by a satirical article that quoted Jindal as saying, "the Confederate Flag is part of my heritage." (In fact, the governor has skirted the issue of the flag altogether, telling reporters that "now's the time for mourning.") Given Jindal's penchant for refusing to identify as an Indian American, saying that he's "just American," while hanging a portrait of himself in his office looking remarkably white, and raging against the need for hyphenated identities, it wasn't a stretch to imagine Gov. Jindal actually claiming the Confederate flag.

(And that's before we even consider his new campaign slogan — "Tanned. Rested. Ready." — which has been met

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with hostility in recent days by many in the Indian American community.)

In an Op-Ed in February, Gov. Jindal called for "The End of Race," going "all-in" on the melting pot idea of America and beseeching us all to give up on our racial identities for the sake of a singular American one. This is a very convenient solution for a party that refuses to address racial inequity and injustice, which are, in fact, bedrock values in America. We haven't ended up with a racialized system where black and brown residents and citizens of the U.S. suffer greater levels of violence, discrimination and institutionalized inequity simply by chance. Our country was founded on, and is grounded in, the belief of a racialized American exceptionalism. It's a deeply rooted racism that allowed the founders to displace and murder so many of the Native and First Nations people here before them, and to uphold and entrench a system of chattel slavery while talking about American freedom and independence. Today, Jindal's statements about colorblindness are a disavowal of that legacy and its ongoing aftermath. We are a country in which your race, and gender, are key determinants in whether you're paid fairly, whether you are likely to be unjustly incarcerated, whether you are likely to be killed by police officers, whether your children will get a good education, whether you will get care when you get sick, whether your babies will be born healthy, and how long you will live.

We do not live in a "colorblind" country, no matter how much Gov. Jindal wishes it were so, nor how much many of us would like to. We live in a hyper-racialized one. Calling for "colorblindness" is a ridiculous solution to a centuries-old racial hierarchy that has devastating results for communities of color. Colorblindness is anti-blackness. Colorblindness is racism. The solutions we need involve looking that truth in the eye and changing racist systems and structures, not turning away and deriding the question itself.

TRUMP

Event for Donald T rump in Phoenix Will Draw Thousands // NYT // Nicholas Fandos – July 10, 2015

Donald J. Trump, the real estate mogul who has tied Republicans in knots in recent weeks with his comments on immigration, will roll into Phoenix on Saturday to address the issue again, just after the head of the Republican Party supposedly asked him to tone down his words on the issue.

The planned speech is already attracting a storm of attention. Even as city leaders have asked Mr. Trump "to stage his hate-filled circus" elsewhere, ticket requests have been so high the campaign has moved the speech from the swank Arizona Biltmore hotel to the convention center downtown.

"Mr. Trump certainly has a First Amendment right to bluster as much as he wants, and even to pander to our worst instincts in a sad attempt to win votes at the expense of hard-working, honorable, law-abiding Latinos," Daniel Valenzuela, a Democratic councilman and the city's vice mayor, said on Thursday. "However, we should draw the line at allowing him to use the Phoenix Convention Center — a public building funded by all of our taxpayers' dollars."

Mayor Greg Stanton, also a Democrat, issued a similar statement condemning Mr. Trump and his remarks, but assured that the city would not try to prevent the candidate from speaking.

Mr. Trump's spokeswoman, Hope Hicks, said on Friday that 4,500 tickets had already been reserved for the speech, 3,500 more than initially expected.

Mr. Trump will appear onstage with Joe Arpaio, the long-serving sheriff of surrounding Maricopa County, whose tactics to track down and deport illegal immigrants have drawn national attention and a federal conviction for racial profiling in 2013.

Mr. Trump has attracted sharp criticism from business and political leaders since asserting in his campaign announcement that those crossing the United States-Mexico border illegally include rapists and criminals. The remarks led several businesses, including Macy's, Univision and NBC, to cut their ties with the developer.

Republicans will be watching the weekend swing through the desert closely to see if Mr. Trump tempers his language on the issue. This week, Reince Priebus, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, was said to have urged Mr. Trump in a phone call on Wednesday to soften his tone on immigration.

Mr. Trump is expected to start the day on Saturday in Las Vegas, where he will speak at FreedomFest, an annual libertarian-leaning gathering that bills itself as the "world's largest gathering of free minds." Ms. Hicks said he will also hold a press conference after the event.

Donald Trump Lied to Us // Politico // Antonio Rijerino – July 10, 2015

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As I protested Thursday afternoon in front of the Old Post Office Pavilion on Pennsylvania Ave in Washington D.C.—the building Donald Trump is turning into a hotel a few blocks away from another historical building he wants to take over, the White House—I thought about a meeting I had with Trump at his headquarters in New York two years ago to discuss my organization's programs, including the Hispanic Heritage Awards.

Once the meeting was set, I called immigration activists Estuardo Rodriguez and Gaby Pacheco to gather some young DREAMers to crash the meeting and try and change The Donald's mind on immigration reform and the DREAM Act. I didn't mention the tactic to his assistant coordinating the meeting, and figured I'd simply sneak the DREAMers in as my associates. We were met with bewildered and not-so-happy faces at the top floor of Trump Tower, but to his credit, Trump waved off his concerned staff and graciously got up from his desk, welcomed us individually, and proceeded to have a civil dialogue about immigration reform and the important role immigrants have historically played in the United States.

For over an hour, Trump listened intently, asked thoughtful questions, and gave us examples of Latino employees he held in high regard. He then asked each of the DREAMers to describe their journeys, which were compelling and mirrored every value each American shares: education, work ethic, community, faith and family. After I summed up the conversation with "immigrants are a value proposition to America," he stood up, waved his hands in dramatic Donald fashion and exclaimed, "You've convinced me!"

It was a great moment, but that's what entertainers do. They know their audience and give them what they want.

And now, this shameless opportunist is giving a very different audience what they want to hear—hate speech. An audience that has made him a cultural icon, a viable candidate for president and what is most worrisome, an audience that is responding favorably to his message. The no-filter, in-your-face, celebrity billionaire is now in second place behind Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker in Iowa according to a Quinnipiac University survey and in New Hampshire according to a CNN-WMUR poll. Apology from Trump? No way.

Yesterday, in defense of his now-infamous statement on Mexicans, Trump said he was simply "defending the people of the United States." I applaud Univision for being the first to send a message to Trump by breaking off their relationship with the Miss Universe Organization. Then NBC, Macy's, NASCAR and others including this afternoon my friend Chef Jose Andres sent a message. But the loudest message is being sent by many Americans who have supported Trump's xenophobic diatribe. And that's my biggest concern - he continues to pander to an audience that can potentially take his hateful words and turn them into hateful action.

"When Mexico sends its people, they're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists." That was Trump talking about Mexicans (let's face it, Latinos) taking over the country.

"You are raping our women and taking over the country." That was Dylann Storm Roof, the 21 year-old racist who murdered nine worshippers in cold blood at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Sound familiar?

Hate speech is the gateway to hate action and at some point in his life, Roof heard hate talk. Did he take it seriously? Sounds like he did. His words nourish myths of brown invaders crossing the border with hopes of ruining America like an updated Orson Wells prank. Or in Roof's case, Black villains. This isn't simply a case of the PC police attacking a spirited American as Trump-backers Sen. Ted Cruz , R-Texas, and, yes, Rep. Steve King of Iowa say. (Let's not forget that King was the reigning champion of ludicrous remarks about immigrants way before Trump when in 2013 he blustered, "They weigh 130 pounds and with calves the size of cantaloupes because they're hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert." King is still a Congressman representing a district in America where the majority supports his stances about immigrants.)

Attacks against Hispanics have more than tripled in a year, according to an official report released by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, The Hate Crime Victimization report. The Census-driven study shows an alarming rise in violent anti-Hispanic crime with anti-Hispanic crimes more likely in regions with higher immigration populations and new arrivals. Trump's words are dangerous not simply offensive and should be treated that way.

Trump: I'm still a birther // Politico // Nick Gass – July 10, 2015

Donald Trump is still not sure whether President Barack Obama was born in the United States.

In an interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper that aired Thursday night, the Republican presidential candidate said he was not that interested in talking about the issue, compared to other ones.

"Honestly, I don't want to get into it," Trump said.

Asked whether he thought Obama was born in the U.S., Trump responded: "I don't know. I really don't know. I don't know why he wouldn't release his records."

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In the interview, Trump also claimed that Hillary Clinton and John McCain were both birthers, and mentioned how he got Obama to release "something."

Obama released his long-form birth certificate in April 2011 after speculation from Trump and others that he might have been born elsewhere.

"Do you know that Hillary Clinton was a birther? She wanted those records and fought like hell. People forgot. You know that John McCain was a birther, wanted those records. They couldn't get the records. Hillary failed. John McCain failed," he said.

"Trump was able to get something. I don't know what the hell it was, but it doesn't matter. Because I'm off that subject. I'm about jobs, I'm about the military, I'm about doing the right thing for this country," he added.

Meanwhile, Trump signaled that his beef with the GOP establishment is far from over.
In an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity on Thursday night, he speculated that Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus might have leaked details of their call to The Washington Post.

"I just don't know how the story got out. Nobody called us for verification, and honestly, I can't blame him, unless he gave out the story, which is possible. Probably, he did," Trump said.

Trump also again declined to rule out a third-party bid on Thursday, telling the Post that he "would have to see who the nominee is" should he fail in his quest for the Republican nomination.

Donald Trump's immigration stance dividing GOP in Arizona // AP // Bob Christie - July 11, 2015

PHOENIX (AP) - Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is drawing larger crowds as he continues to criticize immigration policies in stark language that has revealed a deep divide between immigration hawks and moderates who are trying to avoid alienating Hispanic voters.

On Saturday, Trump was scheduled to campaign in Nevada and then in Arizona, a hub of immigrant and drug smuggling where the real estate developer and reality TV star has developed a large following. A rally in Phoenix was first planned at a posh resort that could handle about 1,000 guests, but organizers moved it to the city's convention center.

Trump's descriptions of Mexican immigrants bringing drugs and crime to the U.S. and being rapists have been roundly denounced as offensive. But his message about the broken border has resonated with many in the GOP, especially after an immigrant who was deported multiple times was accused of killing a woman on a San Francisco pier.

In Los Angeles for a rally Friday evening, Trump brought together people who said their relatives had been killed by immigrants in the U.S. illegally. "The illegals come in and the illegals killed their children," he said. "And we better get smart in the United States."

Arizona's major Chamber of Commerce group, both U.S. senators and a host of other GOP backers heaped their ire on Trump as the visit to Phoenix drew near. Republican Gov. Doug Ducey, who met presidential hopefuls Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker when they were in the state, is snubbing Trump. Protesters like the ones who greeted Trump in Los Angeles were expected.

Maricopa County's tough-on-immigration sheriff, Joe Arpaio, is set to speak before Trump at the convention center event.

Sen. Jeff Flake, who with Sen. John McCain sponsored a 2013 comprehensive immigration reform bill that stalled when it reached the House, said Trump's views "are coarse, ill-informed and inaccurate, and they are not representative of the Republican Party. As an elected Republican official, I'm disappointed the county party would host a speaker that so damages the party's image."

McCain, in a statement issued Friday, said, "If the Republican nominee for president does not support comprehensive immigration reform and border security policy, we have no chance of defeating Hillary Clinton and winning the White House in 2016."

But A.J. LaFaro, former head of the Maricopa County Republican Party, rejected those views. "With regards to McCain, Flake and the chambers, I don't respect any of those people anyway, so why would I care?" Lafaro said. "They're not representative of my conservative Christian values. I understand that Mr. Trump is saying what a lot of people here in the United States, I would like to think a majority of the people here in the Unites States, are thinking."

Trump's comments after a June 16 campaign kickoff speech helped revive immigration as a campaign issue but

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also prompted a series of cancellations from companies that do business with him or his companies.

Trump begins Saturday speaking in Las Vegas at the libertarian-minded gathering Freedom Fest. Nevada is 27 percent Hispanic and a key state for Republican candidates. His appearance at the conference, which bills itself as an egalitarian event for free-thinkers to discuss and celebrate liberty, was a recent addition to a lineup that includes Rubio on Friday night.

In Phoenix Speech, Donald Trump Won't Back Down On Immigration Comments // Bloomberg // Emily Greenhouse – July 10, 2015

On the eve of a Phoenix rally that he predicts will draw 5,000 people to hear him speak about illegal immigration, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump told Bloomberg's "With All Due Respect" that he has no intention of backing off the stands that have drawn him rebukes from some top-ranking political figures. "We have to stop illegal immigration," the billionaire businessman told interviewer Mark Halperin on Friday. "The country is being decimated by it.

Speaking about the wave of criticism he has received this week, he did not back down. "All I can do is talk the truth," Trump said. He declined to say that he has made any mistakes, or that anything had hurt his feelings. "No," Trump said, "because I'm a big boy."

Shortly after Trump made his comments, the senior senator of the state that he will be visiting for his Saturday rally issued a statement that, without naming the real estate mogul, clearly took issue with his rhetoric. "The circus currently surrounding the debate over illegal immigration sows division within our country and damages the Republican Party," said Arizona Senator John McCain, the Republican Party's 2008 presidential nominee. "If the Republican nominee for president does not support comprehensive immigration reform and border security policy, we have no chance of defeating Hillary Clinton and winning the White House in 2016."

Donald Trump on Campaign: It Really Is Intense

In his interview with Halperin, Trump acknowledged that the intensity of the presidential campaign had surprised him. When asked to name competitors in the Republican field whom he respects, he pointed to Texas Senator Ted Cruz and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who have come out in defense of his comments.

At one point, Trump said that he felt the week, in which he has been a major focus of national political coverage, had improved his chances of winning, though later stated that he wasn't entirely sure.

He made much of an Economist/YouGov poll that placed him Thursday in the lead of the presidential field.

Trump has received a spate of negative attention since his remarks on immigrants coming from Mexico at his official presidential campaign announcement on June 16th. Businesses including Univision, NBC, Macy's, plus a number of golf tournaments and celebrity chefs have moved to distance themselves from him. The Washington Post reported Wednesday that Reince Priebus, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, called Trump that day to encourage him to tamp down inflammatory comments on immigration. Trump has characterized the call differently.

Trump stressed his maverick status, twice telling Halperin, "I'm not a politician."

He said, "The politicians will never take us to the promised land," whereas he alone has the capacity to win the general election. "I am the only one that can beat Hillary Clinton," he said, "I will win the Hispanic vote."

He said that he will speak without a prepared text in his Arizona speech Saturday—"I have a very great memory"—and stressed how high the attendance will be in Phoenix, and at an event Friday evening in California.

"I believe in winning," Trump said.

Trump's Arizona Speech on Illegal Immigration Could Attract Thousands // Bloomberg // Ben Brody – July 10, 2015

Donald Trump is still talking immigration. And, unlike some in the Republican establishment, Arizona supporters seem to love it.

A speech "on illegal immigration and numerous other topics" by the real estate mogul and Republican presidential candidate had to be moved from a hotel to the Phoenix convention center "to accommodate the thousands of people expected to attend" the Saturday event.

The rally, which will also feature the city's anti-immigration Sheriff Joe Arpaio, already had 3,500 committed attendees Thursday evening when the campaign announced the venue change, according to the Arizona Republic

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newspaper. Arpaio has faced condemnation for his hard-line rhetoric on immigration and has been found by a federal judge to have violated the civil rights of Latinos.

Trump has faced weeks of fallout since he said in his presidential campaign announcement that some Mexican immigrants are "rapists." He has repeatedly doubled down on the assertion since then—and seen his polling numbers rise to top positions—even as he has lost business contracts and faced denunciations from both Democrats and Republicans.

The possibility of a Republican presidential candidate continuing to attack immigrants and stoking backlash among the large group of Latino voters angered Arizona Senator Jeff Flake, who said Trump's views don't reflect those of his party, according to the Washington Post. An immigration-reform supporter, Flake also asked the Republican Party of Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix, to withdraw its sponsorship of Trump's event, the Post said, but the party told the paper it is "thrilled" about the speech.

Arizona, a border state with a large immigrant population, has become an evolving case study on the subject. Arpaio's actions, along with those of former Governor Jan Brewer, who pushed through a tough anti-immigration law in 2010 only to have it struck down by the Supreme Court, have garnered nationwide attention. At the same time, the state's senators, Flake and John McCain, have supported immigration reform as Republican leaders worry about alienating Latino voters whom they hope to court, especially in 2016.

Trump's rhetoric was "offensive to not only Hispanic citizenry but other citizenry," McCain told MSNBC Thursday. "I guarantee you the overwhelming majority do not agree with his attitude that he has displayed towards our Hispanic citizens. We love them."

A spokesman for McCain also told Bloomberg that the senator and former Republican presidential nominee agreed with Flake's stance on the rally.

Don't Cry for the Trump Brand // Bloomberg // Caleb Melby – July 10, 2015

Judging by discounts on Donald Trump-labeled mattresses on Amazon.com, the billionaire's brand is hurting. But his overseas business partners don't seem to have noticed.

Trump's Macy's deal, and others, are gone after his incendiary remarks about Mexican immigrants. Still, selling shirts and ties was "a small business in terms of dollar volume," the real-estate mogul, reality TV star and Republican presidential contender said in a press release last week. His partners in international property licensing deals, a more lucrative business line, haven't joined in on the dog pile.

"So far as the Trump-Panchshil association is concerned, this stands unaffected and we will continue our association with the Trump Organization," Surbhi Gupta, a spokeswoman for Panchshil Realty, Trump's development partner in two condominium towers in Pune, India, said in an e-mail. The company declined to comment on Trump's remarks, "since we are unaware of the ground situation there, from a social and political context," the e-mail said.

Developers in the Philippines, Turkey, Panama, Canada, India, and Uruguay pay Trump millions in licensing fees to put his name on buildings he neither built nor owns, with an aim to sell condominiums and hotel rooms at higher prices. These deals provide nearly risk-less revenue streams for Trump, which, along with income from properties he owns, helps pay down existing debts and fund new projects.

"Mr. Trump is successful and wealthy and one of the great things about the empire he's built is that it's diverse—both geographically and across numerous business lines," said Alan Garten, general counsel for Trump. "It can withstand situations like this."

Construction cranes stand above Trump Towers Istanbul in Istanbul, Turkey.

In the United States, Trump's presidential campaign has so far prompted a stampede of disassociation: ESPN, NBCUniversal, NASCAR, Univision Holdings Inc. and Serta Inc. have cut ties with Trump after he described Mexican immigrants as criminals and rapists. A television company controlled by Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim, the world's second richest man, announced Monday it would cancel a project with Trump. Chef José Andrés said Wednesday that he'd be backing out of a deal to open the flagship restaurant at an upcoming Trump hotel in Washington. And even the Federal Aviation Administration got in on the act, announcing Thursday that its renaming three aerial navigation posts that had Trump-related monickers.

That Trump's remarks aren't registering outside of North America doesn't surprise Nick Andrews, a London-based senior partner and crisis management expert at public relations firm Fleishman-Hillard Inc.

"He's better-known as a celebrity than as a businessman outside of the U.S.," Andrews said. "And outrageous things are exactly what celebrities often say. Most people don't follow U.S. politics that closely anyway."

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The billionaire told Bloomberg his net worth was $10 billion on June 3. A document disclosed to reporters on June 16 put the number at $8.7 billion. The biggest line item, in his own estimation, is $3.3 billion for “real estate licensing deals, brand and branded developments.”

A Bloomberg assessment found Trump’s largest assets, including the commercial spaces at Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York, the leaseholds to 40 Wall Street and Manhattan’s Niketown, a partnership with Vornado Realty Trust in two office buildings, and his collection of golf courses and resorts, to be worth at least $2.4 billion.

The Trump fallout closely resembles one experienced by cooking personality Paula Deen, said Melissa Agnes, cofounder and crisis management consultant at Agnes & Day. Deen’s contract with The Food Network wasn’t renewed in 2013 after revelations that she’d used racial slurs.

“She’ll never be back to the same degree, but she did come back in some form,” Day said. “Donald Trump has proven to be extremely resilient over the years.”

Donald Trump moves immigration rally to larger venue // CNN // Tom LoBianco – July 10, 2015

Donald Trump's divisive comments about immigration have drawn a crowd, one bigger than even the blustery billionaire expected.

Trump announced late Thursday that his weekend rally in Phoenix, Arizona had been moved to the Phoenix Convention Center.

"Due to the overwhelming response for Saturday's Rally in Phoenix, Arizona the venue has been changed to accommodate the thousands of people expected to attend and the event will now take place at the Phoenix Convention Center," Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said in a statement.

The former reality TV star's theatrics have helped vault him near the front of the pack of a wide field of big name Republican candidates. But they have also cost him a seemingly endless string of business relationships, as major brands like Macy's, NBC and others have broken off ties with him.

Speaking with CNN Wednesday, Trump could not say whether any illegal immigrants were working on his new Trump Hotel being constructed just blocks from The White House. The Washington Post reported that many illegal immigrants, as well as legal ones, were working on the project.

Arizona has been a hotbed for conservative anger over illegal immigration for years, making political stars out of figures like Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

The Republican Party of Maricopa County and Arpaio are hosting Trump on Saturday. But the state's Republican establishment is largely snubbing him.

Sen. John McCain, the party's 2008 nominee, Sen. Jeff Flake and Gov. Doug Ducey are all skipping Trump's rally. Flake told The Arizona Republic that Trump's views are "coarse, ill-informed, inaccurate, and they are not representative of The Republican Party."

The Republican Party, meanwhile, has struggled with the issue. Trump and Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus spoke on the phone Wednesday and walked away with very different versions of what was actually said.

D.C.-Area Lawmakers Call For Boycott Of Donald Trump’s Businesses // HuffPo // Christine Conetta – July 10, 2015

Lawmakers and dozens of protesters came to the site of the future Trump International Hotel in the nation's capital Thursday to protest racist comments about the Latino community made by GOP presidential candidate and businessman Donald Trump and to call for a boycott of his businesses and products.

“He has put everyone into the category of rapists and drug dealers,” Maryland state Del. Ana Sol Gutierrez (D) said. “A position of hatred and xenophobia being expressed by a presidential candidate who wishes to lead this great nation in the future. How can that be tolerated?”

Politicians were wearing buttons that read "Dump Trump." Protesters showed up with signs that read “Trump is morally bankrupt,” and “Stand with immigrant workers.” They chanted, "We are in the fight.”

The backlash against the real estate mogul began after his presidential announcement speech last month, when Trump said Mexican immigration was bringing drugs, crime and "rapists" into the U.S.

A slew of companies, including Macy's and NBC, cut corporate ties

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with Trump after the comments. Most recently, Spanish-born celebrity chef José Andrés announced he will no longer open a flagship restaurant in Trump's Washington hotel.

Some D.C.-area lawmakers believe that boycotting businesses and products tied to Trump is the best way to fight back.

"We have huge economic power. Don't go to his hotels. Don't go to his restaurants. Boycott everything that's even closely related to Trump," Gutierrez said.

She even called on the Latino construction workers who are currently renovating the space to find another job, saying they don't need money that's "tainted" with hatred.

Another Democratic Maryland state delegate, Joseline Peña-Melnyk, echoed her fellow politician's sentiments.

"A lot of the people who work on this building are Latinos," she said. "He should not be the benefit of our hard work."

D.C. Shadow Sen. Paul Strauss (D), who also spoke at the protest, called on the federal government to stop the renovation of the Old Post Office Pavilion on Pennsylvania Avenue, the site of the future hotel.

"This is not a hotel that Mr. Trump built, bought or land that he owns. This is public space, federal land that belongs to the people of the United States of America," Strauss said. "We would like the Department of the Interior, who controls this scaffolding and who controls this space, to remove this logo, so long as it continues to be a symbol of hate speech."

Meanwhile, across the street from the protest, a small group gathered in support of Trump.

Alvin Whittaker, one of those present, admitted Trump "should've chosen his words differently," but doesn't think the comments will have "that much of an effect" in the long run.

Strauss disagrees and said he thinks continuing construction on the hotel is an insult to the diverse community that makes up the nation's capital.

"It's not just wrong and offensive, it's not something that we the taxpayers should be subsidizing in public space," Strauss said.

Donald Trump: Narcissist in Chief // HuffPo // Jim Wallis – July 10, 2015

Donald Trump is a real estate mogul for whom the word "egomaniac" is an understatement. But when America's narcissist in chief says he also wants to become commander in chief, the country pays attention. And that's what Trump wanted to have happen. Here is what Trump said in his announcement that he is running to add the presidency to his list of successes:

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. ...They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

When challenged on the inaccuracy, outrageousness and viciousness of his remarks, "The Donald" characteristically doubled down and claimed to be the nation's only truth-teller, then attacked everyone who dared to challenge him.

Nice of Trump to assume, I thought, that some of the 11 million undocumented immigrants who live such vulnerable lives in this country might be good people. But obviously Trump doesn't know any of them.

Jesus talks about immigrants when he refers to welcoming "the stranger," and says that how we treat them is how we treat him (Matthew 25:31-46). But everything about Donald Trump's life indicates that Jesus is a stranger to him, too. (Parenthetically, could somebody ask why Liberty University, a Christian school, asked this lover of money, luxury, and power -- and hardly an exemplar of sexual morality -- to deliver a convocation address in 2012? I still can't understand that.)

In a long and remarkable interview with Trump on Wednesday, NBC's Katy Tur pointed out some real truths -- including that undocumented immigrants in America actually have much lower crime rates that our natural born American citizens. Trump just insulted her, telling the journalist that she was "naïve" and didn't know what she was talking about.

It was hard to keep count of the number of individual people Trump attacked during this insane interview, including the other Republican presidential candidates, conservative columnists who were embarrassed or dared to raise questions about the facts of all his "truth-telling," or the businesses that are severing ties with Trump one

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after another for his idiotic, vicious and divisive comments. Trump called all of his opponents "stupid" and kept saying that nobody else can compare to his astounding "success."

Trump's ethics are very clear here -- or rather, his non-ethics. Trump's pride in his own success literally "trumps" everything else -- shutting out reason, respect, experience, maturity, truth, civility and certainly any sense of human compassion or empathy.

While it is unlikely that Donald's favorite word ("TRUMP") will ultimately be painted on the side of Air Force One, there are some important political questions to raise about the "success" Trump is having in the Republican and primary state polls -- second only to Jeb Bush at the latest reading.

Why did it take weeks for the other Republican presidential candidates to distance themselves from -- much less denounce -- Trump's ugly words about Mexicans? Late and tepid at first, Republican pushback is slowly growing stronger from some, while others like Ted Cruz are "saluting" Trump for focusing on "illegal immigration" and smiling over his "colorful language."

Republican courage and conviction in response to Trump's clearly racial comments has been sadly lacking, as has the party's alleged concern to become a bigger tent that can reach out to racial minorities and American Hispanics in particular. Why?

Because Donald Trump is a salesman. And that's really all he is. And the only product Trump really sells is the only thing he really believes in -- himself. He's made another calculation, another deal, that he can have success with a certain political segment of America. I think Trump has decided to reach down, and I do mean down, to the hard core of the Republican base, which is white, angry, and very right-wing -- a constituency that is especially active and indeed overrepresented in the primary phase of every presidential campaign.

Trump reached out to that same group in the last presidential election campaign when he decided to lead the "birther" movement challenging whether Barack Obama was an American or was really an "other" and not one of "us." That racial appeal against a black president was the very worst of American sentiments -- and is consistent with Trump's latest attack on immigrants from Mexico and other "foreign" people not like "us."

Trump certainly acts and sounds like a racial bigot. But whether he really is or not, there is a much deeper issue here -- Donald Trump is a salesman who sees that racial bigotry still works with a core base of the Republican Party.

Ever since the Democrats lost the south to the Republicans because of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Republican Party, which dominates the entire south, has faced a very deep ethical crisis and has some difficult choices to make. That hardcore white southern base of the Republican Party wants to be a white party, and the leadership of the Republican Party still panders to it. What's also clear is that Republican presidential candidates are afraid of that hardcore right-wing white base of their party--especially in the primary season.

That is exactly what happened to immigration reform, which passed in a bi-partisan way in the Senate in 2013 but was vetoed in the House of Representatives by the many Republican districts that have now been "white-washed" -- meaning designed to have no significant minority voters.

When members of the House Republican leadership met with several evangelical and Catholic leaders in 2014, they promised to our faces that they would bring serious immigration reform to the House floor for a vote. They failed to live up to that promise, deciding instead to cave to their white-washed right wing base. Some Republican members admitted to us that many of their constituents were expressing clear racial biases.

I believe Donald Trump is deliberately and directly appealing to that white racist core of the Republican Party, and that's why he is currently number two in the Republican polls. He is selling racism and he is winning.

I know and trust Republicans and conservative friends who reject such racism -- want to purge it from their party -- and long for a wider, more diverse Republican Party for the future. Indeed, the Republican votes, and even impassioned speeches, to take down the Confederate flag in South Carolina show a tale of two Republican parties -- and that is a hopeful contrast to the racist elements of the party to which Trump is selling himself.

It is time for them to stand up to Donald Trump and what he is selling.

They not only have my challenge -- they have my prayers.
Donald Trump Could Seriously Damage The Real Republican Efforts To Reach Latinos // BuzzFeed // Adrian Carrasquillo – July 10, 2015

No Democrats are quoted in this story.

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It's not that they don't want to be. There is no topic that fills them more with unbridled glee, outrage, or fake outrage than Donald Trump. His antics help Democrats who want the GOP to be seen as xenophobic and unable to discuss issues that deal with Hispanics, like immigration, in a respectful, measured manner.

But for those who have worked to improve the GOP brand with Hispanics, the last month of the Trump comedy spectacular, in which he has called Mexicans criminals and rapists and doubled down on those comments, has been deeply unsettling. More importantly, they worry it risks further damaging the party with Latinos and eroding gains they've already made — even as candidates like Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio put them in a potentially even better place.

Republicans have made real and concerted efforts, over a period of time, to engage Hispanics after 2012. The Republican National Committee's Growth and Opportunity project has been well-funded, successful in key 2014 races, and is ramping up for the presidential cycle, with the largest chunk of spending going toward Hispanic outreach.

Latinos on the left worry about the LIBRE Initiative, a Koch-funded project that's doing real on-the-ground work in Hispanic churches and communities, all while espousing conservative principles in literature and on Latino media. GROW Elect, an effort started in California and expanding to Southwest states, helped dozens of Latino Republicans get elected in 2014, often in Hispanic districts.

The goal with these projects is clear: showing that the Republican Party is not the enemy. And Trump, these Republicans worry, is ruining that.

"The greatest harm is to Trump himself — he says he can win the Latino vote, he's kidding himself," said Ruben Barrales, who leads GROW Elect and is the son of Mexican immigrants. "Now young Hispanics will be smashing Donald Trump piñatas at their birthday parties in celebration. He fails to recognize the harm on the Trump brand. But it's damaging not just to Republican Latino efforts, but to Republican efforts as a whole."

Barrales pointed to the campaign for California's Proposition 187, which took aim at undocumented immigrants and featured harsh ads about Latinos, as a moment when Latinos decided the GOP was against them.

Trump hasn't just dominated the mainstream media, but has been viewing nightly on Univision and Telemundo, the Spanish-language giants that reach Hispanic homes across the country.

"Trump has turned out to be Sheriff Joe Arpaio's replacement as the principal villain in what has practically become a new nightly telenovela on Univision and Telemundo," said MRC Latino's director, Ken Oliver-Méndez, whose organization monitors Spanish-language media's inclusion of conservative viewpoints.

Since his announcement, Oliver-Méndez said, Trump has been mentioned at least once or twice in practically every newscast with very few exceptions on the three major networks MRC Latino monitors: Univision, Telemundo, and MundoFox.

"It's a distraction, a major distraction," said LIBRE's executive director, Daniel Garza. "It's not the narrative you want driving the national news." But he said Trump has created a realignment within the immigration debate, where the bombastic businessman represents the extreme fringe and other presidential candidates are able to emerge as the adults in the room.

Still, Republicans have not just had to comment on Trump, but some have had to do so repeatedly. When Trump retweeted a comment by someone saying that Jeb Bush has to like the "Mexican illegals" because of his wife, Bush was forced to say, "You can love the Mexican culture, you can love your Mexican-American wife and also believe that we need to control the border."

Izzy Santa, former director of Hispanic media at the RNC, said Trump is the only person who disregards that tone, and rhetoric matters.

"Trump's comments hurt the Republican field for the next cycle because it portrays Republicans as out of touch when it comes to understanding Hispanic culture and the immigration debate," she said.

Republican officials have also pushed back against Trump. RNC Chair Reince Priebus reportedly called Trump and told him to "tone it down." House Speaker John Boehner condemned the use of immigration as a "political football."

Still, people maintain all's not lost. A prominent Hispanic operative advising a Republican campaign called Trump irrelevant and said he doesn't reflect the views of the party.

A Latino at a different campaign said the good news for Republicans is that it's 2015, not 2016. The operative said candidates who have had to engage Latinos in the past, like Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush, Rick Perry, and Chris Christie,

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know that they have to speak to Hispanic voters, who will be paying attention to how they respond to Trump and the immigration issue. "I think it's a defining moment for the Republican candidates on where they stand in regards to these comments," the strategist said, adding that Ted Cruz's embrace of Trump "has disqualified him as a serious general election candidate."
Trump, relishing his role as presidential troll, has made it clear that he isn't going anywhere.

On Saturday, Trump will hold a "Stand Up To Illegal Immigration" joint event with Arpaio in Arizona. The question now for GOP presidential candidates is even if they come out stronger to repudiate him, how can they stop Trump from being Trump, all the while representing their party?

Barrales said just as Republicans were leaders most recently in South Carolina to help take down the Confederate flag, they need to be here with Trump as well.

One prominent Latino operative who advises campaigns laid out the stakes, saying continued comments and a focus on Trump only endangers the work Republicans have been putting in for the last few years.

"Trump's divisive rhetoric and harsh tone is undermining those efforts and could potentially block Republican's path to the White House in 2016," the operative said.

Donald Trump Wanted T o Make Charlie Rangel HUD Secretary In 1999 // BuzzFeed // Christopher Massie – July 10, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said in November 1999 that, if elected president, he wanted to make Charles Rangel, the Democratic Congressman from New York, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

At the time, real estate magnate was considering running for president as a member of the Reform Party. Asked by CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer if he'd "given some thought to a potential Trump Cabinet," Trump mentioned Rangel as his top choice to lead HUD.
"Well, let's go — like HUD," Trump said. "I think Charlie Rangel is a terrific guy. He's a congressman from New York. He has been a powerful guy. Now the Democrats are not in power, but I think he'd be terrific at HUD."

Rangel has been a member of the House since 1971 and is still in office. His website touts his record promoting affordable housing in New York's 13th Congressional District.

Other Trump Cabinet picks would have included Colin Powell as secretary of state and General Electric CEO Jack Welch as treasury secretary. Trump said that John McCain would be "a very interesting candidate" for secretary of defense.

In the interview, Trump also predicted that, if he won the Reform Party's nomination, he would "take more votes away from the Democrats" than the Republicans in the general election. He ended up withdrawing from the race in February 2000.

T rump's Got the GOP by the Balls // Daily Beast // Michael Tomasky – July 10, 2015

Deflating as it is, the likely Donald Trump scenario is this: He burns hot for a little while longer; he says something really out there in the first debate that roils up the base but makes Reince Priebus and Karl Rove break out in canker sores; but by the time of the baseball playoffs maybe, his act gets old, and somebody else becomes the Herman Cain of October. Then, next year, the primaries will start, and he'll have to get votes. He's not going to be all that competitive in Iowa, so it's New Hampshire where he'll need to deliver something. And if he doesn't, he'll just go away.

That's the pattern anyway. I seem to recall that at this point in 2011, Michele Bachmann had a pretty good head of steam going. So maybe we shouldn't get too overheated about him.

But Trump is different from Bachmann, and even from fellow entrepreneur Cain, in one major respect: He doesn't give a crap about the Republican Party. He cares about Trump. And don't forget he has the power singlehandedly to make Hillary Clinton president. He knows it, and you better believe Priebus knows it, and it is this fact that establishes a power dynamic between Trump and the GOP in which Trump totally has the upper hand and can make mischief in the party for months.

How does he have the power to elect Clinton all by himself? By running as an independent. Two factors usually prevent candidates who lose nominations from running as independents. One, they lack the enormous amount of money needed to pursue that path (pay the lawyers to get them on 50 state ballots, etc.). Two, they have a sense of proportion and decency, and they figure that if primary voters rejected them, it's time to go home.

Well, Trump has the dough and lacks the decency. In an interview this week with Byron York, he left the door

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open a crack to such a candidacy. And that would be all it would take. Given his fame and name recognition, he'd likely hit the polling threshold needed to qualify for the fall debates. And with that kind of exposure, he'd do well—enough. All he needs to get is 5 percent of the vote in Florida, Ohio, Virginia, and Colorado, and the Republican, whoever it is, is sizzled. Another electoral landslide.

How does he have the power to elect Clinton all by himself? By running as an independent.
The question is would he, and the answer is who knows? To York, he expressed awareness of the obvious drawbacks, pointing to the spoiler role he says Ross Perot played in 1992: "I think every single vote that went to Ross Perot came from [George H.W.] Bush…Virtually every one of his 19 percentage points came from the Republicans. If Ross Perot didn't run, you have never heard of Bill Clinton." He is—shocker—wrong about this, but what matters for present purposes is that he believes it, so maybe that means he wouldn't follow through.

But he is an unpredictable fellow. Suppose Priebus and the GOP piss him off in some way, and he thinks the hell with these losers. Suppose he decides—and don't doubt the importance of this—that an independent run would be good for the Trump brand in the long run. And suppose he doesn't actually mind so much the idea of Hillary Clinton being president. We already know he retains a soft spot for old Bill. And he donated to Hillary Clinton's senatorial campaign.

All that's speculative. But even in the here and now this dynamic has consequences. It means the GOP can't afford to offend Trump. This is why Priebus's spokesman characterized the chairman's Wednesday evening phone chat with Trump as "very respectful."

And it's why the other candidates' criticisms of him have been a little, ah, restrained. Politicians aren't always real smart about any number of things, but one thing in my experience that they almost always have a very keen sense of is risk. Members of Congress, for example, generally know exactly what percentage of their electorate they're going to sacrifice by casting X vote. Jeb Bush's Trump criticisms are muted because he has a lot to lose by offending Trump and his supporters. Chris Christie, who's little more than an asterisk in the polls, has less to lose, so he's willing to be a bit more blunt. Same goes for Rick Perry.

We'll see if Trump has developed that politician's sense of risk. If he goes too far, one or certainly two more equivalents of "Mexican rapists," it'll be open season on him. He's at a point of maximum leverage right now, and if he wants to stay there, he's got to tuck it in about 10 or 15 percent and start employing the kind of racialized euphemisms that are not only tolerated but celebrated within the Republican Party—build the damn fence, no amnesty, Al Qaeda is storming the mainland through Obama's porous border, etc. That way, he'll hang around. And he'll build enough of a following that the threat of a viable independent candidacy remains a real one. And that is Trump's trump card. And it makes Reince Priebus a very nervous man.

Donald Trump, immigration and the GOP // Chicago Tribune // Editorial Board – July 10, 2015

Many of the candidates have been wary of staking out a position on an issue that has divided Americans for decades. Too bad.

The trick for Republicans is to appeal to their conservative base in the primary season without alienating the Latinos who are increasingly important in November. In 2012, Barack Obama got more than 70 percent of the Latino vote.

The takeaway from that election, supposedly, was that Republicans needed to get serious about immigration reform, including addressing the status of the 11 million — no, it's not 34 million, Mr. Trump — who are in the country illegally.

But here we are at the dawn of another presidential election cycle with no solution in sight, and a lot of ducking and weaving from candidates who don't want to take a position now that could hurt them later.

There's no ambiguity in Trump's stance, and so far it hasn't hurt him in the polls. (His business dealings are another matter.) On Thursday, for example, an Economist/YouGov poll had Trump first among 16 candidates, with 15 percent of the GOP vote nationwide.

That emboldened the hardliners to chime in when Trump blamed lax border security for the murder of a San Francisco woman. The man accused of shooting her had slipped into the country from Mexico and had been sent back five times.

To Trump, that's more evidence that the U.S. is a "dumping ground" for Mexico's most violent criminals. He's promised to build an "impenetrable" wall along the border, and send Mexico the bill.

The candidates have been careful to distance themselves from Trump's inflammatory remarks — "They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists"— while calling for more border security or stricter enforcement of existing laws.

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Some have focused on the role of "sanctuary cities," such as San Francisco (and Chicago), where local law enforcement officials do not routinely detain undocumented immigrants for the feds. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry both called for withholding federal funding from cities with sanctuary policies.

You don't have to agree with Trump to welcome a discussion that will help sort the throw-them-all-out candidates from the ones who recognize that a broader fix is in order.

The last thing Republicans need is a replay of the 2012 primaries, in which one candidate (Herman Cain) called for a 20-foot electrified border fence and another (Perry) was scorned for suggesting that kids who were brought to the U.S. by their parents ought to be allowed to stay and go to college.

Mitt Romney, the eventual nominee, favored a policy harsh enough to encourage undocumented immigrants to "self-deport." Look what that got him.

You need a score card to keep up with the shifting positions of this year's candidates.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio was one of the authors of an excellent bipartisan measure that passed the Senate in 2013. The bill balanced border security with a more flexible visa system and a path to earned citizenship for most undocumented immigrants. But Rubio backed away from that approach, which got nowhere in the House.

Bush proposed a legal status short of earned citizenship as part of a comprehensive fix in his 2013 book, "Immigration Wars: Forging an American Solution." Before and after that, he favored a path to citizenship.

It's frankly hard to tell where either of them stands at the moment, though we'd argue that they've both been in the ballpark most of the time. We'd also argue that flexibility isn't such a bad thing if it gets us to a solution.

Compromise is one thing. Waffling is another. How are voters supposed to tell the difference?

Republicans have to find a way forward on immigration reform. The candidate who can make that happen is the one who's willing to grab the megaphone from Trump, and lead.

Trump ups the ante on immigration, unfazed by criticism and protests // LA Times // Katie Linthicum, Richard Winton and Kurtis Lee – July 10, 2015

Donald Trump brought his Republican presidential campaign to Los Angeles on Friday, unrepentant over his inflammatory comments about Latino immigrants that have drawn national ire and pushback from businesses, celebrities and fellow party members.

In two appearances Friday, Trump drew praise from fellow opponents of illegal immigration and criticism from protesters angered by his comments that Mexican immigrants were drug dealers and rapists.

The business mogul seemed unfazed, even predicting he would win the Latino vote.

“When it’s all said and done, I will win the Hispanic vote,” Trump said at his first campaign stop at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. “I will win the Hispanic vote because I’m going to create jobs. I’m going to take them away from China.”

Trump appeared with several opponents of illegal immigration, including those whose family members were killed in accidents and crimes by assailants alleged to be in the country illegally. One of them was Brenda Sparks, who said her son was killed in a traffic collision with an immigrant in the country illegally.

She praised Trump for having “the guts to say what millions are thinking.”

"My taxpayer dollars are paying for all these illegals and their children,” Sparks said. “I’ve lost my child; how much more do I have to give?”

Don Rosenberg, whose son was killed in 2010 by an immigrant from Honduras who came to the country illegally but had been given temporary legal status, said his appearance at the event was not an endorsement of Trump's campaign. But he said he appreciated the candidate putting immigration at the center of the 2016 presidential race.

"I think that what he said he could have articulated better, but the general premise of what he said is true," Rosenberg said. "I’m happy that he brought the subject up because it needs to be talked about. Every crime an immigrant commits is an additional crime. Every crime they commit is a crime they wouldn't have committed otherwise."

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Trump drew a decidedly different reaction in Brentwood, where he addressed a group of entertainment industry conservatives at the Luxe Sunset Boulevard Hotel.

Hours before Trump's arrival, protesters began packing the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Church Lane, holding American flags and "Dump Donald Trump" signs. They yelled anti-Trump chants through megaphones in Spanish and English as some drivers of passing cars honked in support.

By 7 p.m., the crowd had swelled to more than 120. Organizers with the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles brought Trump pinatas stuffed with trash -- symbolizing, they said, the mogul's incendiary rhetoric.

Hilda Ramirez, a West Los Angeles resident, said Trump should keep his mouth shut. "When you open your mouth, a mess spills out.... You talk nothing but trash. Don't back Donald Trump!" she yelled through a megaphone.

Joshua Gonzalez, a 21-year-old Calabasas resident holding a sign depicting Trump in a pink wig, said he came to the protest to send a message that Californians won't put up with "his out-of-control antics."

He said Trump was hurting the Republican Party, which might otherwise appeal to conservative Latinos who believe in education and hard work.

"Donald Trump creates division among the races in California and across the nation," Gonzalez said. "He is trying to exploit divisions."

But about 20 feet away, about 40 Trump supporters gathered, many wearing red, white and blue and carrying signs reading, "Trump Tells the Truth." A man in a megaphone yelled, "Viva Donald Trump!"

At times protesters and supporters got in each other's faces. One man jabbed his "Trump for President" sign at protesters as a woman yelled back, "Racist!" and "Trump isn't welcome here!" Protest organizers and a security officer tried to keep the sides apart.

By 7:55 p.m., the protesters had disbanded -- missing Trump by a few minutes, as he was driven to the hotel entrance in a black SUV with two bodyguards. He was to speak to the Friends of Abe group, founded a decade ago by Hollywood actors including Gary Sinise and Clint Eastwood, which holds monthly gatherings with Republican speakers.

This election cycle the group has hosted several GOP presidential hopefuls such as Ben Carson, Carly Fiorina and Mike Huckabee. The events are private and not publicly advertised.

Even amid criticism from some party leaders and companies, such as NBC Universal and Macy's, that have cut business ties with him, Trump has escalated his anti-immigrant rhetoric since his campaign announcement last month.

In recent days, Trump has focused his criticism on San Francisco's sanctuary policies, under which a Mexican immigrant in the country illegally was released and subsequently charged with murder in a high-profile shooting July 1.

Immigration agents had asked the San Francisco Sheriff's Department to hold Juan Francisco Lopez Sanchez, but the county's policies prohibit law enforcement officers from transferring immigrants to federal authorities without a criminal warrant.

On Friday, Trump repeated his accusation that Mexico is sending "criminals" to the United States and pledged to build a wall along the southern U.S. border to keep them out.

"People came into the country illegally and killed their children," Trump said, referring to the families who stood alongside him at the Beverly Hills event. "The illegals come in and the illegals kill their children."

He acknowledged he has become a lightning rod, saying the head of the Republican National Committee called him recently and ask him to "tone it down."

"I don't want to tone down important issues," Trump said. "I'm so proud of myself for bringing this issue to bear, to the forefront.

"I must be doing something right," he added. "I'm No. 1 in the polls."

Indeed, several recent polls have showed Trump among the top GOP candidates. This week his campaign announced that an event Saturday in Phoenix with controversial Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio was being

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moved to a bigger location to accommodate more people.

But not all Republicans have embraced Trump's appearance. U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Arizona) called on the Maricopa County Republican Party not to host Trump.

"Donald Trump's views are coarse, ill-informed and inaccurate, and they are not representative of the Republican Party," Flake said in a statement. "As an elected Republican official, I'm disappointed the county party would host a speaker that so damages the party's image."

Still, some leaders of the local GOP have said they will welcome the real-estate mogul.

"In Maricopa County we believe deeply in Reagan's 11th commandment that 'Thou shall not speak ill of any other Republican,'" the party said in a statement. "It is disappointing when our Republican leaders do not share that same commitment to party unity and teamwork."

UNDECLARED

WALKER

Did Scott Walker's Twitter Account Get Ahead of His Campaign? // NYT // Patrick Healy – July 10, 2015

In what appears to be either a premature presidential announcement or a tease of one to get attention, the Twitter account of Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin sent word on Friday afternoon that he was seeking the 2016 Republican nomination for president.

Mr. Walker, who has been all but officially running for president for months, is scheduled make "an announcement" on Monday afternoon in Wisconsin about whether he will seek the White House. Friday's tweet said, "Scott is in. Are you? Join our team today" with a photo of Mr. Walker the features the words "SCOTT WALKER IS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT." Mr. Walker usually signs his personal tweets with his initials, but "SKW" is not on this one.

Scott is in. Are you? Join our team today. pic.twitter.com/JueJJKDdCt

— Scott Walker (@ScottWalker) July 10, 2015

Asked if the tweet constituted an official announcement, a spokeswoman for Mr. Walker replied by e-mail, "Stay tuned for Governor Walker's announcement on Monday at 5pm CT."

Is Scott Walker's Crossover Appeal Real? Turnout Data Raises Questions // WSJ // Dante Chinni – July 10, 2015

A major part of Republican Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's appeal, he reminds supporters in every stump speech, is his proven ability to win the governor's mansion in a highly-contested, Democratic-leaning state.

But with Mr. Walker set to launch his presidential candidacy on Monday, a closer look at the numbers shows a more complicated picture.

Results from four recent elections in Wisconsin suggest that while Mr. Walker can win in a low-turnout, off-year election, he could have more trouble in a presidential year, when more voters — especially more minority and young voters — come to the polls.

Since 2010, Mr. Walker has won three statewide elections, including the June 2012 recall, in a state that has not voted for a Republican presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan in 1984. On the surface, that is an impressive accomplishment that Mr. Walker's supporters say points to his ability to bring traditionally Democratic states into the Republican column in 2016. In fact, Mr. Walker's performance in the state looks a great deal like Democratic President Barack Obama's.
But those percentages only tell part of the story. Mr. Walker has never been tested by an electorate as large and diverse as that which turns out for presidential elections.

Compare the turnout in the races Mr. Walker won to the last two presidential races in the state.

Those are big differences. The drop between 2012's presidential race and the 2014 gubernatorial was more than

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600,000 votes – about 20%.

And there is more to the difference than simply the number of voters. Years of voter turnout data show Democrats are simply less likely than Republicans to vote in non-presidential elections, and that has been a big advantage for Mr. Walker. Look at Milwaukee County, the state's biggest Democratic stronghold.

In Milwaukee since 2008, the average decline in turnout from presidential to non-presidential years has been more than 115,000 votes – 24%. In the state's biggest GOP stronghold, Waukesha County, the falloff has been far less dramatic – only about 37,000 votes, or 16%.

That trend carries across the state. The counties that went for Mr. Obama in 2012 saw a drop of about 23% in the number of votes cast in the 2014 governor's race. The counties that voted for Republican Mitt Romney in 2012 saw a drop-off of just under 20%.

In total, the 35 Wisconsin counties that voted for Mr. Obama in 2012 accounted for 57% of the vote drop-off between the presidential election and the 2014 gubernatorial campaign. And Mr. Walker won 20 of those counties in 2014.

Taken together, these numbers suggest Mr. Walker's appeal to Democratic voters may be overstated, and that his ability to win in a Democratic-leaning state may be more the result of his timing than his ability to reach swing voters. His biggest advantage may have been that he was facing a smaller electorate.

Should he get the Republican nod in 2016, Mr. Walker would not have that off-year election advantage. He would be going against the bigger presidential voter pool, and his strength in Wisconsin and elsewhere could be very different.

Scott Walker tweets his presidential run // Politico // Katie Glueck – July 10, 2015

Scott Walker is running for president, he announced in what appeared to be an unintentional tweet on Friday.

The Wisconsin governor isn't expected to formally announce until Monday, but on Friday afternoon, the Republican appeared to tweet a black-and-white image of himself waving onstage that read, "Scott Walker is running for president."

The tweet was not available on his timeline later in the afternoon, but was still viewable under his account.

"Stay tuned for Governor Walker's announcement on Monday at 5pm CT," spokeswoman AshLee Strong said in an email, when asked for comment.

Late Friday, a Twitter spokesperson said, "We're looking into today's issue, and we've determined the Walker team was not at fault."

If the tweet was unintentional, Walker wouldn't be the first candidate to scoop himself on his own announcement: Earlier this year, a video of Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson saying that he was announcing his candidacy aired the night before his announcement — something he wasn't planning on, he said at the time.

Scott Walker's timely abortion victory // Politico // Kyle Cheney – July 10, 2015

Wisconsin Republicans gift-wrapped an Iowa talking point for Gov. Scott Walker this week, sending abortion restrictions to his desk just days ahead of his presidential announcement.

The legislation, which would ban nearly all abortions after 20 weeks, cleared the state Assembly Thursday on a party-line vote, four days before the governor intends to launch his presidential bid. Walker has indicated that he'll sign the measure.

Walker's win on the issue comes as he's introducing himself to Iowa Republicans, who tend to favor social conservative candidates in their first-in-the-nation caucuses. It also comes amid questions Walker has faced on the right about his commitment to conservative causes, like opposing same-sex marriage and limiting abortions.

Prominent anti-abortion advocates and social conservatives signaled that Walker's signature on the measure, which could come as early as Friday, would be a welcome gesture to kick off his campaign.

"Those things will basically give him that Good Housekeeping Seal, so to speak," said Bob Vander Plaats, president of the Family Leader, an influential conservative group in Iowa.

"I think it's great timing to benefit him," added Marilyn Musgrave, a former congresswoman and a leader of the conservative Susan B. Anthony List.

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Twenty-week abortion bans have been enacted in 11 states, according to the Guttmacher Institute, though in at least two — Arizona and Idaho — they've been struck down by courts. Proponents contend the bans are meant to prevent abortions after the point at which an unborn baby can feel pain.

Abortion rights advocates – backed up by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – contend that the science on pain doesn't justify the 20-week cutoff. The bill awaiting Walker's signature makes no exception for babies conceived by rape or incest, but it does allow doctors to act — while attempting to save the life of the baby — if any immediate health risks to the mother arise.

Republican leaders in Madison insisted the bill's timetable had nothing to do with Walker's ambitions. Yet, after Walker first publicly supported a 20-week ban in March, the legislature raced the bill to the governor's desk using a series of procedural shortcuts, from an expedited hearing process to an "extraordinary" July session of the Assembly to ensure the bill got to Walker ahead of his July 13 announcement.

State Sen. Mary Lazich, a Republican who said she used to carpool with Walker in the 1990s when Walker was in the Assembly, told POLITICO she led the drive for the measure – knowing that Walker would support it but without explicitly coordinating with his office, though she said it did occasionally come up in conversation.

"We're on the same wavelength, the same plane," she said.

State Rep. Jesse Kremer, who sponsored an identical bill in the Assembly, acknowledged that legislative leaders may have sped up the timetable, though he said he wasn't privy to any machinations on Walker's behalf. He added, however, that Walker's sudden interest in the legislation seemed like a shift.

"A year ago, he actually wasn't really interested in something like this and he changed his mind," Kremer said. "We probably wouldn't have brought it up if we knew he wouldn't [sign it]."

Walker has repeatedly pointed to his efforts to crack down on abortion — from defunding Planned Parenthood to requiring women to receive ultrasounds before undergoing the procedure to toughening requirements for doctors who perform abortions — as he inches closer to a presidential bid. But conservatives were angered last year when, in the midst of a tight re-election fight, Walker aired an ad calling a woman's decision on abortion "agonizing. And he borrowed language from abortion rights advocates in his message: "The bill leaves the final decision to a woman and her doctor."

"I didn't like the ad. You're using the other side's garbage and it's not helpful," said Penny Nance, president of Concerned Women for America, a conservative policy group.
Yet Nance said Walker's position on abortion was never in doubt. Though she and other conservatives still have issues with some of Walker's advisers who don't hail from the most conservative corners of the party, she says the governor has taken more steps to curb abortion than just about anyone else in the GOP field. The 20-week ban, Nance said, would just be additional confirmation.

"We're thrilled and happy that he's going to do this," she said. "This is policy whose time has come."

Oops: Scott Walker Scoops Himself Via Twitter // Bloomberg // John McCormick – July 10, 2015

The word broke late Friday afternoon on Scott Walker's official Twitter account: "Scott is in. Are you? Join our team today," along with picture captioned, "Scott Walker is running for president."

While the news wasn't particularly surprising — the Wisconsin governor has begun raising money through an exploratory presidential campaign committee and has conducted an elaborate pre-announcement vamping via social media — it did seem strange that he would deliver such momentous news late on a Friday afternoon, just two days before the Republican hopeful is scheduled to make a formal announcement in Wisconsin Monday.

Via e-mail, AshLee Strong, a spokeswoman for Walker's political operation, declined to say if the tweet, an be viewed in a web browse but it doesn't appear on his account's Twitter feed was intentional or accidental. "Stay tuned for Governor Walker's announcement Monday," she said.

Several hours later, Twitter released a statement: "We're looking into today's issue and we've determined that the Walker team is not at fault," it said.
Republican Scott Walker tweets that he is running for president // Reuters // Steve Holland – July 10, 2015

Republican Scott Walker tweeted the obvious on Friday, that he is running for president in 2016, days ahead of his official announcement in Wisconsin.

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"Scott is in. Are you? Join our team today," Walker said in a tweet accompanied by an image of him waving with the headline: "Scott Walker is running for president. Join the team."

The tweet was later deleted.

There was some question over whether Walker's tweet was inadvertently sent. A Twitter representative said in an emailed statement, "We're looking into today's issue, and we've determined the Walker team was not at fault."

Walker, a two-term governor of Wisconsin, is to announce his bid for the Republican presidential nomination on Monday in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

The Walker team did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But Walker's communications director, Kirsten Kukowski, tweeted what appeared to be a response to media questions about the Walker tweet.

"Happy Friday everyone, stay tuned for @ScottWalker's announcement at 5 p.m. CT Monday in Waukesha, WI," she said.

Scott Walker spars with GOP ahead of 2016 launch **// CNN // Tom LoBianco – July 10, 2015**

Gov. Scott Walker's famous brawls with Democrats and labor unions put him on the political map.

But squabbles with fellow Republicans here at the Wisconsin Statehouse are tripping him up as he prepares to formally enter the 2016 presidential race on Monday.

Republicans in Madison have worked overtime in recent weeks to find an elusive deal for the state's two-year, $73 billion budget. Just a few months ago, Walker optimistically said he would announce his White House plans after he finished all-important budget negotiations. But fights among Republicans over road funding, cuts in higher education spending and a new arena for the Milwaukee Bucks delayed talks to a point where Walker had to tamp down that expectation a few weeks ago.

With just five days left before the Walker announcement, the legislature inched toward a deal on Wednesday when the Senate narrowly backed the measure, sending it to the state Assembly for final approval.

And in a rare move that has his fiscal conservative backers frustrated, Walker has been pushing hard to find $250 million for a new arena to keep the Milwaukee Bucks from moving. That effort to include the Bucks deal as part of the bigger budget was scrapped amid concerns that GOP leaders in the legislature would not be able to find enough support from their rank-and-file.

For any governor running for president, it's a vexing problem. Walker's brand, like the other governors seeking the White House, is built on the promise that running their home state effectively makes them fit to lead the nation in a way that no senator ever could. But the national focus on Walker, who is scheduled to formally announce his White House bid Monday in the Milwaukee suburb of Waukesha, has shifted recently from what he accomplished between 2011 and 2014 to the intraparty struggles he has faced more recently.

Charles Franklin, a veteran Wisconsin pollster and director of the Marquette Law School Poll, said Walker might be a victim of his own success after clearing a litany of top conservative goals from the shelf in Wisconsin. The list includes starting a statewide school voucher program, privatizing the state's economic development arm (albeit one plagued questionable decisions currently) and making Wisconsin a concealed carry state.

"If you listed all of the things that have passed during Walker's tenure it's a long and impressive list," Franklin said. "The big and bold thing was Act 10 (labor measures from 2011), but to me all of the small ball things matter."

Walker still sits atop most polls of Iowa Republican caucus-goers, but that early lead has dwindled somewhat. The Koch brothers, who were among many billionaire donors to Walker's 2012 recall battle, meanwhile have indicated they will likely wait before throwing their resources behind a single candidate (if they select one at all, this cycle.)

Walker's meeting with state lawmakers this year hasn't carried the gravitas of the 2011 national labor fight. But he has pushed for some equally heavy conservative policies, many top priorities for the funders who could carry him through a very crowded Republican field.

In March, Walker signed a controversial "right to work" ban on mandatory union fees. In May, he announced he wanted to repeal the state's "prevailing wage," which establishes a minimum wage for construction workers on publicly financed projects. And a few days later, Walker said he would sign a new 20-week ban on abortions, even in cases of rape or incest.

Democrats are quick to point out that during the 2014 election, which Walker won by roughly 6 points, the governor made no mention of his support for any of the explosive issues and was often obtuse, as in an ad where

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he said that abortion should be a decision between a "woman and her doctor."

Walker's office points to myriad accomplishments he's had, both at the start of his first term and in his latest budget proposal offered this year. Spokeswoman Laurel Patrick pointed out a two-year freeze in student tuition at public universities, drug-testing for welfare recipients and other items this year.

"Since taking office, Governor Walker has bucked the status quo in Wisconsin. His bold, common-sense reforms are about empowering taxpayers and putting them in control. Giving Wisconsinites the freedom to control their own lives creates prosperity for our people, as well as our state," Patrick wrote in an email.

Behind the scenes at the Wisconsin Capitol, Walker has come under fire for spending too much time on the campaign trail, while major decisions linger.

Walker's focus on the campaign trail, including high-profile trips abroad to Canada and Israel dubbed "trade missions," has left the state unattended, said the Wisconsin Assembly Democratic Leader Peter Barca, who has scrapped regularly with Walker throughout his five year's in the governor's office.

"You just add up the time he's been away over the course of the past couple of months, on trade deals, not even to mention his political visits. I bet you he's been in 15-20 states in the last month alone," Barca said. "He's just obviously is not putting much attention here."

It's a different governor, Barca said, than the man who pushed through "Act 10" and the major overhaul in labor laws that would eventually make him a national hero among conservatives and Republican donors.

"He was very much hands on, he was here all the time and working it hard and talking to anyone he thought could help him have success," Barca said. "Wisconsin's in the rearview mirror, and it's getting more and more distant by the day."

Twitter: Scott Walker Presidential Announcement Tweet Wasn't His Fault // BuzzFeed // Katherine Miller – July 10, 2015

On Friday, a photo with the words “Scott Walker Is Running For President” was tweeted from Walker’s account.
On Friday, a photo with the words "Scott Walker Is Running For President" was tweeted from Walker's account.
The tweet, which did not appear in Walker’s timeline for much of the day but was still visible for hours at its permalink, was a weirdly timed surprise: Walker wasn’t supposed to formally announce his candidacy until Monday in Wisconsin.
A Twitter spokesman said Friday night that the tweet wasn’t the Walker campaign’s fault:

“We’re looking into today’s issue, and we’ve determined the Walker team was not at fault,” the spokesman said in a statement.
Twitter did not provide further information on what exactly happened.
On Monday, Walker is expected to announce his candidacy, which will be the culmination of a lot of early pre-official campaigning for most of the year.

Since Iowa Freedom Summit this winter, he has aggressively campaigned in early presidential primary states this year and is considered a top Republican contender for the nomination.
The Wisconsin governor is best known for his battles with public unions. After he passed a budget that required public workers to contribute more money to their pension plans and limited collective bargaining in the public sector, unions protested for weeks, and ultimately helped force a recall election in 2013, which Walker won decisively. Because of the recall, the Republican has won three statewide elections in a blue state.
Early on, Walker has focused on his conservative record and pitched himself as a slightly more populist alternative to many of the other prospective candidates.

Scott Walker On Hillary Clinton: “What Has She Accomplished?” // BuzzFeed // Andrew Kaczynski – July 10, 2015

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker says he’s the best person in the Republican presidential field to take on Hillary Clinton, who he says has no real accomplishments.

“I do,” Walker said when asked if he thought Clinton was going to be the Democratic nominee on the Charlie Sykes Show Friday. Walker is set to officially launch his presidential campaign on Monday.

“I think that provides a great contrast,” continued Walker. “I think it’s all the more reason why as Republicans we need to nominate a new fresh face. Someone definitely from outside of Washington with big bold ideas. I think most importantly someone who can more than talk who can actually deliver.”

Walker said he is from “the future” but Clinton, who is from Washington D.C., is from “the past.”

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"Cause that's the best contrast. Clinton's obviously not a new face, someone from the past is best taken on with someone from the future. Certainly she's someone from Washington, so someone from outside of Washington is helpful."

Walker added "for all her notoriety" Clinton has no accomplishments.

"Most importantly, for all of her notoriety, what has she accomplished? And so having someone who has real accomplishment I think is a great contrast."

Scott Walker Gets Schooled by His Neighbor // Daily Beast // Eleanor Clift – July 10, 2015

Wisconsin and Minnesota share a common cultural heritage that until recently included a healthy Midwestern strain of progressive politics. Elected in 2010, Governor Scott Walker upended a hundred years of liberal populism, charting a conservative path for Wisconsin that made him a darling of the Republican Right, but left his state with a serious budget shortfall and disappointing job growth.

Meanwhile, across the border in neighboring Minnesota, Governor Mark Dayton has relentlessly pursued liberal policies, embodying the tax-and-spend Democrat that Republicans love to caricature. The result, surprising to many, is that the Minnesota economy is going gangbusters while Wisconsin's job growth has fallen to 44th among the 50 states.

Dayton's success steering his state's progressive course has been a surprise. He was a middling senator at best, serving a single term from 2001 to 2007 before returning to Minnesota disillusioned with the way Washington operated. Time named him one of America's "Five Worst Senators" in 2006, and he was known mainly for his inherited fortune as the great-grandson of the founder of Dayton's department store, which became Target. As senator, he donated his salary to underwrite bus trips to Canada for senior citizens buying low-cost prescription drugs.

"Minnesota's gains are not because Mark Dayton has overpowered the state with his political acumen," says Lawrence Jacobs, a political science professor at the University of Minnesota. He describes the low-key Dayton as the "anti-politician," someone the voters trust because he's not smooth enough to fool them. "His skill is he has a clear agenda, and he's unyielding. This is not pie-in-the-sky Great Society adventurism."

Dayton has a majority Democratic legislature just as Walker has a Republican controlled legislature, bolstering the ongoing policy experiment in their states. The two governors have pursued agendas that mirror their respective party's core beliefs, and the results so far suggest that the starve-the-government, tax-cutting credo of conservative orthodoxy has run its course.

Dayton has raised the minimum wage, and he's significantly increased taxes on the top two percent of wage earners to close a budget shortfall and to raise money for investments in infrastructure and education. In the legislative session that just ended, some Democrats joined with Republicans to block his goal of expanding universal preschool. But he did get more scholarship money to educate four-year-olds.

"This is the largest tax increase we've seen in Minnesota, over $2 billion," says Jacobs. More than three-quarters of the new spending is on education, compared to Wisconsin, where education is on the chopping block, and Walker is at odds with professors and administrators alike at his state's flagship university system.

Minnesota has also passed the state's version of the Affordable Care Act (MNsure), and while its implementation has been rocky, it is in place and serving tens of thousands of people.

Dayton ran for governor in 2010 on an unapologetically liberal agenda, and won narrowly after a recount. He was reelected comfortably in 2014, and his approval rating in the latest Minneapolis Star Tribune poll is 54 percent. Contrast that with Walker's 41 percent, and you've got a clear picture of how each is faring in the eyes of voters.

Dayton's idiosyncratic style is in tune with the times, and at 68, he has no ambition for national office. Walker is running for president and touting hard right policies that play well with Iowa caucus goers. He opposed raising the minimum wage, has significantly weakened unions, reduced spending for education, cut taxes on the wealthy, and increased taxes on the middle-class in part to pay for the tax cut. According to the non-partisan Wisconsin Budget Project, Walker gave tax breaks that disproportionally favored upper income earners while cutting $56 million in tax credits for working families.

Faced with a budget shortfall and no way to plug it without additional revenue, Republicans in the Wisconsin legislature are rebelling against additional spending cuts. But Walker shows no sign of softening his stance against raising taxes or fees. Other Republican governors, notably Louisiana's Bobby Jindal, are in the same quandary.

"It seems like they've been backed into a corner and are just going forward with pure ideology and discounting any

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contradictory evidence," says David Madland, author of Hollowed Out: Why the Economy Doesn't Work without a Strong Middle Class.

As the Director of the American Worker Project at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank, Madland in his book takes on the premise that inequality is good in the sense that helping the rich get richer is going to help everybody else, that a rising tide lifts all boats. Trickle-down economics has gotten a bad rap and is rarely invoked as a phrase anymore, but the belief that tax cuts are the engine of economic growth remains the core of GOP ideology.

The fact that Minnesota's economy rallied under progressive policies while Wisconsin's has struggled is "one more data point proving that trickle down is wrong," says Madland. While it's tricky to attribute the wellbeing of a state's economy solely to its political leadership, Minnesota is experiencing much stronger growth than its neighbor. Dayton has also proved responsive to the business community, easing early fears that his liberalism might go unchecked.

Walker, on the other hand, has doubled down to the detriment of his state on policies that are backfiring. And if voters in his home state aren't buying what he's selling anymore, that doesn't bode well for his presidential campaign.

KASICH

Pro-John Kasich group raises $11.5 million // Politico // Adam B. Lerner – July 10, 2015

New Day for America, an advocacy group supporting John Kasich's presidential bid, announced Friday that it and allied organizations raised more than $11.5 million through the end of June.

Though the Ohio Republican has not yet announced his candidacy, the group's executive director, Matt Carle, said in a statement that "the response to Governor Kasich's message has been strong."

"In over eight weeks, we've exceeded our initial fundraising goal by over a million dollars," Carle said. "Supporters are looking for a record of accomplishment and someone who looks out for all Americans. That's what they are seeing when they look at Governor Kasich and why we've already received millions in additional commitments already pledged."

The fundraising announcement comes a day after the group began airing its first ads on television stations around Manchester, New Hampshire, and Boston. The group has purchased approximately $1.7 million in air time through July 13.

The Ohio governor plans to announce his candidacy for president on July 21. A former Republican congressman who is now serving in his second term as governor, Kasich plans to contest heavily in New Hampshire by highlighting his working-class background and work improving Ohio's economy.

Kasich's Early 527 Haul: $11.5 Million In Just Two Months // Bloomberg // Mark Halperin – July 10, 2015

Two 527 committees supporting John Kasich's presidential bid will report raising around $11.5 million dollars in just two months, an encouraging sign for the Ohio Republican governor's late-starting effort.

Part of that money is already being spent on a million-dollar television advertising buy that began this week, targeting New Hampshire voters, in advance of Kasich's expected formal announcement in Columbus on July 21.

According to a source familiar with the two committees, which share a version of the same name (New Day for America), the effort has focused on major donors, rather than grassroots contributions. The total includes thirty checks of $100,000 or more. The source said millions in additional donations are already in the pipeline.

Raising more than $10 million in eight weeks suggests that the Ohio Governor's backers can potentially compete on equal footing with the committees backing at least some of his rivals, which have raised more than Kasich, but over longer periods of time. A nonprofit backing Florida Senator Marco Rubio, Conservative Solutions Project (501(c)(4)), announced recently that it had raised $15.8 million to date since January. A group of Ted Cruz affiliated super-PACs said they raised a combined $37 million since early April. Yesterday, Jeb Bush's super-PAC, Right to Rise, announced it had raised a whopping $103 million since the beginning of the year.

"In just over 10 weeks, we've exceeded our initial fundraising goal by over a million dollars," said New Day for America Executive Director Matt Carle. "The response to Governor Kasich's message has been strong. Supporters

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are looking for a record of accomplishment and someone who looks out for all Americans."

Among those major contributors who have raised money for the committees as well as contributed were Phil Geier, former chairman and CEO of the Interpublic Group of Companies, and Gay and Stanley Gaines, longtime active Republican donors from Florida.

Kasich has long rubbed elbows with the kind of megarich donors who can kick in big checks to these types of organizations, first as a prominent member of Congress for many years, then as an investment banker, and in the last few years as the governor of one of the nation's most politically important states. Since he began to seriously consider running for president several months ago, he has put a premium on determining if he could raise sufficient money to be competitive and has spent a good deal of time courting wealthy backers.

Kasich's operation will also have to prove it can also raise money for the campaign itself if he is going to thrive within the large field of Republican candidates. Raising campaign money, with a limit of $2,700 per person for the nomination fight, is an extraordinarily time-consuming effort, one which Kasich will have to engage in while continuing his day job as governor of Ohio and meeting voters around the country.

Kasich and his supporters are eager to convince political elites and voters that he should be considered a top-tier candidate. With his meager poll standing, fundraising success is one of his best talking points to date to suggest the viability of his candidacy.

In the 2000 presidential cycle, when Kasich made a previous run, he proved to be an anemic fundraiser and withdrew from the race.

Kasich groups announce $11.5 million haul // CNN // Tom LoBianco – July 10, 2015

Two groups backing Ohio Gov. John Kasich announced Friday they had pulled in $11.5 million since May 1.

"The response to Governor Kasich's message has been strong. Supporters are looking for a record of accomplishment and someone who looks out for all Americans," New Day Executive Director Matt Carle said in a statement Friday.

New Day for America, Kasich's 527 group that can run political ads with unlimited individual and corporate contributions, as well as an affiliated organization, New Day for America Independent Media, touted the haul at a critical juncture for Kasich. The Ohio governor is not formally entering the race until July 21, but he faces the possibility he might not make it onto the stage for the first Republican debate next month.

To forestall that possibility, Kasich supporters spent $1.7 million to go on air in New Hampshire with the first major ad buy of the 2016 cycle.

Kasich's haul puts him near the middle of the Republican pack, based on announced fundraising tallies so far. The Jeb Bush apparatus leads the pack with an eye-popping $114 million and Sen. Ted Cruz drew in a surprising $51 million with the help of a string of super PACs. On the Democratic side, a set of groups backing Hillary Clinton say they have raised $24 million and her campaign has raised $45 million.

OTHER

Republican Candidates Appeal to Anti-Abortion Groups // NYT // Jeremy W. Peters – July 10, 2015

A half dozen Republican candidates for president reassured members of one of the most influential anti-abortion groups on Friday that they favored further regulation and restriction of the procedure and, if elected, would be strong leaders on the issue.

Some, like Jeb Bush of Florida and Rick Perry of Texas, both former governors, pointed to the various laws they signed when in office that made obtaining an abortion more difficult for women. Praising the "extraordinary work" of the National Right to Life Committee, Mr. Bush, speaking via a produced video that featured people testifying to his strong credentials on the issue, listed his work as governor.

"I'm strongly pro-life," he said. "I expanded adoption. We increased regulation over abortion clinics. We abolished this horrific procedure of partial-birth abortion. We limited late-term abortions. We required parental notification for teenage children."

Mr. Perry assured the crowd that no one has a better record than his. "That's a fact," he said. "We passed a parental notification law. I signed a parental consent law. I signed a sonogram law so mothers facing that agonizing

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choice can actually see."

One of those laws that Mr. Perry signed — it set a higher bar for standards that govern things like medical equipment and staffing and required that doctors have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital — has been put on hold while the Supreme Court decides whether to hear an appeal.

While abortion is not likely to dominate the 2016 election, its potency as an issue that can stir passions and fears among both conservatives and liberals will no doubt be a factor. And wIth movement on several fronts, including in state legislatures and the courts, the fight over abortion policy is already something that candidates of both parties are being forced to confront in more real and urgent ways compared with other recent presidential elections.

In Wisconsin this week, where Gov. Scott Walker is preparing to announce his campaign for the Republican nomination, lawmakers passed a bill that would ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Mr. Walker plans to sign it. But his shifting public statements on abortion illustrate how fraught the issue is, and the differences in running for office in a swing state and in running for the nomination of a party that has shown little tolerance for ambiguous stances on social issues.

When he was running for re-election last year, Mr. Walker insisted that making abortion illegal was out of his hands and a matter of settled Supreme Court precedent. He also produced an ad in which he said he supported legislation that "leaves the final decision to a woman and her doctor." Then early this year, as he was starting to more aggressively court the social conservatives he believes he needs to win the White House, he encouraged state legislators to send him a 20-week ban. Similar bans in several other states are now being challenged in the courts.

Abortion rights advocates have pointed out that the bill Mr. Walker intends to sign in Wisconsin has no provisions exempting women who are victims of rape or incest.

The possibility that the Supreme Court could take up a major abortion case next term forces the issue in another way that makes it very likely to persist well into 2016. The fact that the next president could appoint several new justices was never far from the minds of the speakers.

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida alluded to this when he condemned the "egregiously flawed" Roe v. Wade decision and told the crowd, "The White House needs an occupant who values and prioritizes life. And so my pledge to you is this: if you help send me to that place, I will never forget this place. And i will bring advocacy to the White House, and we will get things done."

Could a 2012 Rule Change Upend the GOP's 2016 Nomination Process? // WSJ // Patrick O'Connor – July 10, 2015

Close races can turn on small, often overlooked details. One detail getting some attention from Republican campaign strategists in the runup to 2016 is a rule requiring its presidential candidates to win more than half the delegates in eight states to qualify for the nomination. In a field as crowded as this one, that might prove trickier than usual.

The Republican National Committee adopted the rule ahead of its convention in 2012 at the insistence of allies to the last GOP nominee, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who wanted to insulate him from an insurgent challenge. The previous requirement was that a candidate win five states.

Some have suggested this rule might help winnow the field, as a de facto shortcut to winning the nomination, if the delegate math becomes a little blurry. But critics have argued the rule might prevent some candidates with a sizable share of delegates from qualifying for the nomination. Some go a step further, suggesting the rule may upend the entire nominating process if no candidate claims more than half the delegates in eight states, or if multiple candidates clear that bar.

The reality is that this rule, like just about every other rule in politics, can be changed. Members of the RNC rules committee can simply vote to change the number of states needed to qualify when they meet the week before next year's convention in Cleveland. They can raise or lower the threshold of states in which the eventual nominee needs a majority of the delegates. Or, they can scrap the requirement entirely. The candidate with the most delegates will control this process.

Of course, it may not be that simple. As anyone who has witnessed an RNC rules meeting can attest, even small tweaks can provoke a spirited backlash, especially if a presidential nomination is on the line. A small group of RNC agitators has been griping about this rule since the 2012 convention, with one committeeman vowing to use it to unravel the entire primary process no matter the results.

And, a fight over arcane procedural rules is the last thing party leaders or the eventual nominee wants a week

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before the 2016 convention, especially if the nomination remains up in the air.

These questions may seem a little silly and premature, but the smartest campaigns are already trying to game out scenarios like this one as they look for an edge in this historically crowded field that includes a half-dozen top-tier candidates but no obvious front-runner.

Just as the Obama campaign corralled delegates in smaller states and caucuses, don't be surprised if the savviest Republican campaigns start sending allies to Guam, Puerto Rico or the other territories that award delegates. For all the focus on Iowa and New Hampshire, the best-organized campaigns are already taking steps to collect the signatures necessary to qualify for contests in the 10 or so states that require them.

This, of course, is all a byproduct of the size of the field and the caliber of the candidates. Despite the heartburn this process may cause the party if the contest stretches deep into next year and turns on RNC rules and delegate math, for many Republicans, it's a welcome break from the last two GOP primaries in which no candidate generated significant early enthusiasm.

"When this rule change was made in Tampa, there was no way to anticipate four years later that there would be the largest number of Republican presidential candidates running all being on the varsity team," said Rick Hohlt, a prominent GOP fundraiser. "It is a serious problem, but a good one to have, if you are the RNC chairman."

Once allies, Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio in battle for Florida // Boston Globe // Matt Viser – July 10, 2015

With Florida's political elite gathered in the state Capitol, Governor Jeb Bush welcomed the next House speaker with a flourish, presenting Marco Rubio with a gold sword and a legend dredged from the annals of the Bush family.

The sword, Bush half-seriously explained to Rubio in the 2005 ceremony, once belonged to a mystical (and mythical) warrior named Chiang, "who believes in conservative principles, believes in entrepreneurial capitalism, believes in moral values that underpin a free society." The story was inspired by Bush's father, who used to joke about unleashing the wrath of the former anticommunist Chinese political leader Chiang Kai-shek against his opponents on the tennis court.

A decade after that humorous moment, the two Floridians, who have described their relationship as mentor and protege, are now rivals, locked in an intense battle for the Republican nomination for president. Both are near the top in national polls.

The battle for Florida — which votes March 15 and awards all 99 delegates to the winner — is shaping up to be one of the juiciest subplots of the GOP primary. Both Bush, 62, and Rubio, 44, established their public identities in the state's diverse and sprawling political culture and are now seeking to use their experience and records to catapult to the pinnacle of national power.

But for Rubio to win the nomination, political observers say, he must develop a strategy to sabotage his onetime mentor, creating tensions that are beginning to seep into view.

Bush supporters contend that Rubio should have been more deferential to Bush — waiting until he had more experience — while Rubio's supporters say he is just the type of generational leader to challenge Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton.

And that sword that Bush gave Rubio so many years ago? In the minds of some Bush supporters, the senator might as well be using it to stab his mentor in the back.

"Marco was supposed to be a good boy and wait his turn," said one Florida Republican with ties to both. "Jeb people are not happy at all with Marco getting into this race."

"Marco is a wonderful politician. He could very well someday make a decent president. But I don't know that time is now," said Juan-Carlos Planas, a Bush supporter who has known Rubio for decades and served with him in the state Legislature. "Marco may be many great things. But he's not Jeb."

Rubio is not-so-subtly suggesting the Bush name is a negative, talking up young new leadership and running against dynastic political families. In response, Bush allies are openly denigrating Rubio.

"Marco's four years into his first term in the Senate," said Mac Stipanovich, an influential Florida lobbyist and longtime Bush supporter. "The biggest thing he's ever managed is a 10-person House staff."

* * *

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It was 1998, and a 26-year-old Marco Rubio had just become the newest West Miami city commissioner. He was at City Hall celebrating when the phone rang. The man on the line had donated $50 to the campaign and wanted to share in the joy.

It was Bush, the soon-to-be-governor.

From the beginning of Rubio's career in politics, Bush was there to help. Although one is the scion of a storied political family and the other the son of a bartender and a maid, the two developed a bond out of their experiences in Miami.

"Did [Rubio] sit at Jeb's knee as Jeb taught him the way of the world? No," Stipanovich said. "But was he someone who liked and admired and aspired to be like Jeb, and probably learned a lot of his skills from watching Jeb? I think yes."

In an e-mail exchange with a supporter just after Rubio became speaker, Bush wrote, "I am so proud of Marco." In another, Bush called Rubio "a fine leader."

"I feel that our party can renew itself, something that I fret about at the national level," Bush wrote.

In his memoir, Rubio called Bush "the man I most admired in Florida politics."

"I was most influenced by the creativity and daring of Governor Jeb Bush, who was a one-man idea factory," Rubio wrote in the book, "An American Son: A Memoir."

* * *

Six years ago, during a high-profile race in Florida, Rubio was happy to wait his turn.

It happened two days before Christmas in 2008. News had just broken that Senator Mel Martinez was not going to run for reelection in 2010. Speculation was rampant that Bush would run, so Rubio drove to his business office at the Biltmore Hotel. Rubio, who was about to leave office because of term limits, wanted to run, too. But he wouldn't think of challenging Bush.

Jeb Bush was at the Biltmore Hotel when Marco Rubio won the US Senate seat.

They sat for an hour, and Rubio left convinced that Bush was going to seek the seat, according to a recounting in Rubio's memoir.

But about two weeks later, Bush called Rubio to tell him, "I'm not going to do it." Only then did Rubio begin planning to run himself in a race in which he started as the underdog. At one point, he was down by more than 50 points and contemplated getting out of the race. Jeb Bush encouraged him to stay in, according to a source familiar with their conversation.

In the end, Rubio's timing proved to be excellent. He burst onto the national scene with his Tea Party conservatism in 2010, when a health care backlash sweeping much of the country helped him pull an upset victory against Governor Charlie Crist, who ran as an independent, and Democratic Congressman Kendrick Meek.

And just as he had been there for him on an election night for Miami City Commission a decade earlier, Bush was at the Biltmore Hotel when Rubio won his US Senate seat.

"I'm so proud of Marco," Bush told the crowd. "I'm so proud of his high-voltage energy, I'm so proud of his enthusiasm. I'm so proud of his eloquence. And I'm so proud that he will be part of a next generation of leaders that will restore America. Marco Rubio is the right man at the right time."

* * *

The Senate race placed Rubio's name near the top of many lists for president — in 2012, Bush was publicly pushing Mitt Romney to tap Rubio as his running mate. Not only did Rubio hail from a big and important general election state, but his Hispanic heritage could help his party broaden its reach with a growing slice of the electorate.

In 2012, Jeb Bush was publicly pushing Mitt Romney to tap Marco Rubio as his running mate.

Rubio still feels like he is the right man at the right time. And this time, there was little deference paid to Bush. His career has been marked by underdog races in which he displays a willingness to take political risks. Like Obama, he also has shown that he's willing to jump into a race when he thinks he's ready — but when others say it's not his turn.

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"It's like, 'I like Jeb. But not as much as I like the idea of being president of the United States,' " said Steven Geller, who overlapped with Rubio and Bush as the Democratic leader in the Senate.

The strategy for Bush is to portray himself as an experienced manager who has a run the nation's third most populous state. Rubio, on the other hand, is presenting himself as a fresh face who doesn't hail from a dynastic political family.

"Yesterday's over," he declared as he announced his campaign in April, a swipe he made at Clinton that could also be interpreted as aimed at Bush.

* * *

Although Bush currently leads in most national polls, Rubio is seen as a likely alternative. When asked whether they could vote for certain candidates, 75 percent of probable GOP primary voters said they could vote for Bush and 74 percent said the same for Rubio, according to a recent NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll. Those results were significantly higher than any other candidate in the race.

In Florida, Bush leads with 20 percent of voters, followed by Rubio with 18 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released last month.

A key battle will be waged over Florida's Hispanic voters, not just in the fight to win the state but also to demonstrate who can best attract Latinos to the Republican Party nationally.

Rubio often talks about his Cuban heritage, and he was the first to deliver the State of the Union response in Spanish. Bush had a Cuban band playing during his announcement speech. He toggles between English and Spanish, and his friends are quick to point out that he speaks Spanish at home.

On some key issues, the two candidates offer a contrast.

On immigration, Rubio initially pursued a comprehensive overhaul that would both strengthen border security and provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. But under withering conservative criticism he backed away from that plan, saying changes should be done piecemeal.

Bush favors a comprehensive approach that would solve both issues at once, a solution that immigration advocates support and consider more politically realistic but also one that causes heartburn among conservatives.

Bush is also more steadfast in his support for Common Core and its national education standards. Rubio has talked about eliminating the Department of Education and in 2013 came out against Common Core.

For some Republicans in Florida and across the country, seeing one of their brightest young stars and a scion of one of their party's most enduring families compete is causing deep angst.

"As a friend of both, I don't like it. I wish it weren't so," said Ana Navarro, a Miami-based Republican who is supporting Bush. "But it is a fact, and there's not a damn thing anyone can do to change it."

OTHER 2016 NEWS

Presidential Race Takes Shape and Offers Hints of Things to Come // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 10, 2015

The presidential race, slow-forming for much of the year, sprang clearly to life this week with disparate events that could play a role in deciding the Republican nominee and the contours of the general election.

In one sphere is Donald J. Trump, the bombastic real estate developer and television personality. Skepticism remains about whether he'll stay in the presidential race through the fall, but he appears to be laser-focused on making it into the primary debates next month. And he is dominating the discussion in the Republican Party.

The slow reaction from party figures to his caustic remarks about Mexicans has again highlighted divisions over an immigration overhaul, two years after Republicans criticized Mitt Romney's tone on the issue in 2012.

Mr. Trump's remarks are already being used by Hillary Rodham Clinton to tar the Republican field, including Jeb Bush, the one party candidate who has long made overhauling immigration a cause.

Separately, Mrs. Clinton and her allies have pounced on a comment from Mr. Bush about people needing to "work

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longer hours" to improve the economy. The Clinton team has said the comment defines him as a clone of Mr. Romney, who was lampooned as out of touch by President Obama in the 2012 race.

Mr. Bush is certain to hear about that statement for weeks, but Mrs. Clinton's campaign is signaling clearly that they see him as the likeliest nominee. And he will be able to make that point to Republicans to try to galvanize support in a crowded field.

Finally, the economic turbulence in Greece and in Puerto Rico is a familiar pocket of uncertainty as the United States recovers from the Great Recession and moves toward a national election.

he Insiders: Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are experts at manipulating the media // WaPo // Ed Rogers – July 10, 2015

Besides the fact that they are both running for president in 2016, what do Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have in common? They both play the media like a fiddle. They use the mainstream media in the same way: They say something outrageous, whether it's an outright lie or a provocative statement, then wait for the media to come after them.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gestures and declares "You're fired!" at a campaign rally in Manchester, N.H., in this file photo taken June 17, 2015. (Dominick Reuter/Reuters) Donald Trump gestures and declares "You're fired!" at a campaign rally last month in Manchester, N.H. (Dominick Reuter/Reuters)
In Trump's case, he throws down the gauntlet and goads the media into pursuing him relentlessly. Trump relishes the chase, and it draws needed attention to his campaign. He knows perfectly well how to garner as much attention as possible with his incendiary comments.

Clinton throws down the gauntlet and intimidates the media into silence. She regularly stiff-arms the press but is available just enough to allow her apologists and her enablers to say she is not hiding from the media. She can say whatever she wants, true or not, and the media mostly go along with it or feign disappointment that there is not more to say.

The media like to pretend they are forced to cover Trump; they act as though he has thrust himself upon them and they wish they didn't have to talk about him. The media pretend they can't cover Clinton because she won't let them; they ask the obvious questions but rarely show any zeal for follow-up.

So what are we left with? The Trump coverage is forced and phony, yet it's exactly what he wants. Any substantive coverage of Clinton is practically nonexistent, which is exactly what she wants. The whole thing is a game, and we shouldn't pretend otherwise. Clinton and Trump are both manipulating the media, but the media are proving all too willing to be manipulated. Everyone seems perfectly willing to play his or her role and be compliant. As I have said before, the coverage of Campaign 2016 thus far has been a product of too much media chasing too little story.

The Truth Behind Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton's Twitter Spat // Bloomberg // Victoria Stilwell – July 10, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush and his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton got into an economic spat yesterday via the noblest form of debate: the Twitter argument.

As Bush campaigned in New Hampshire Wednesday, he bemoaned the nation's low labor force participation rate, telling the New Hampshire Union Leader editorial board "that people need to work longer hours" to help propel U.S. growth. The Clinton campaign quickly capitalized on the comment, tweeting:

A few hours later, Bush struck back:

Naturally, the issue is much more nuanced than either candidate is making it out to be. And harder to fit into 140-character dispatches.

Here's the context of Bush's now-infamous quote at the Union Leader editorial board.

"My aspirations for the country, and I believe we can achieve it, is for 4 percent growth as far as the eye can see. Which means we have to be a lot more productive. Workforce participation has to rise from its all-time modern lows. It means that people need to work longer hours and through their productivity gain more income for their families. That's the only way we are going to get out of this rut that we're in."

While that may make the "longer hours" comment more palatable, a 4 percent growth rate is ambitious to say the least. The last time the nation saw economic growth rates at that level or higher: 2000.

Bush is calculating that the growth rate can be goosed by upping labor force participation, the share of working-age people who are employed or actively looking for a job. In June, the share of Americans in that category was

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62.6 percent, the lowest level since 1977. That compares with a peak of 67.3 percent in January 2000.

What's debatable, however, is just how much participation can rise in the future. Much of the decline — about half by some estimates — has been driven by the mass exodus of retiring baby boomers from the labor force. There are also other long-term trends at play, such as more young people choosing not to work when they're in school.

And while there is a significant share of people who were sidelined from work by the recession, it's unclear how many are left waiting in the wings. At 5.3 percent, the unemployment rate is bumping up against the Federal Reserve's estimates for what full employment looks like. The number of discouraged workers — those who say the dearth of job prospects has driven them to give up looking — has been coming down steadily. And jobless claims are trending at levels consistent with a booming economy.

Still, most economists agree there's some amount of slack left. For one, wages have been slow to accelerate out of the 2 percent band they've tracked since the recovery started, which suggest employers aren't yet feeling the pressure to offer fatter paychecks to attract the best talent.

And, as Bush correctly notes (and Democratic-socialist presidential candidate Bernie Sanders agrees), the number of part-time workers is still elevated compared to before the recession. While Americans worked 34.5 hours on average per week in June, right in line with the trend for the two years' worth of Labor Department data that pre-date the recession, there are 6.5 million people in part-time jobs for an economic reason, like having their hours cut or being unable to find full-time work. That compares with an average 4.62 million in the 20 years leading up to the recession.

This is something that others are worried about too, such as Fed Chair Janet Yellen. She's pointed to this measure as one of several signs there's still room for the labor market to improve.

Bush says that's what he meant when he remarked "people need to work longer hours." More people working more hours will boost productivity, he reasons, which will in turn help them make more money. While that may seem like okay logic on the surface, it's more involved than that.

Productivity is measured by how much stuff a worker can churn out for every hour of labor. While it's fluctuated over the years, lately it's been pretty lousy since a decade-long boom ending in about 2004, according to Wells Fargo Securities LLC. So recent productivity trends haven't really looked as rosy as the chart that Clinton tweeted out, which dates to 1948 and ends around 2010. It's also worth noting that it was supplied by the Economic Policy Institute, which is partly funded by labor unions.

In fact, the anemic productivity numbers have economists concerned, including Yellen, who served in President Bill Clinton's administration. High productivity is the key to creating growth that doesn't spur rampant inflation. It boosts living standards for U.S. workers.

But simply having more people work more hours isn't enough to increase productivity. They've got to need to work more hours, for lack of a better word. If employees are working more hours, but there's not a commensurate increase in demand for their goods and services, their output will stay the same. That actually hurts productivity.

Additionally, there are long-lasting factors at work that have pushed down productivity. Companies haven't been investing in new capital like they used to -- equipment that could help their workers do their jobs more efficiently. Some economists think the heydays of productivity are long gone because new technology has become less revolutionary. It's what they call "secular stagnation."

So in summary, both Clinton and Bush left out really important details in this debate, cherry-picking data points that support their agenda. But I suppose we shouldn't be that surprised. That's politics, after all.

Republicans rename the GOP the 'Retrumplican Party' **// Reuters // Lena Masri – July 10, 2015**

The national Democratic Party has found a new nickname for the GOP: "The Retrumplican Party" — after Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

A video, released Thursday by the Democratic National Committee shows clips of Trump making defamatory statements about Mexican immigrants. The video connects his stands on immigration with Republican presidential hopefuls Rick Perry, Chris Christie, Jeb Bush, Carly Fiorina, Ted Cruz, Scott Walker and Marco Rubio.

"Donald Trump may be running for president," proclaims the video. "But his ideas are running the party."

In fact, most Republican presidential candidates — including those targeted by the DNC — have denounced

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Trump's controversial statements.

The head of the Republican National Committee, Reince Priebus, spent nearly an hour Wednesday on the phone with Donald Trump, urging him to tone down his comments about immigrants, according a report from The Washington Post.

'War horses' Bush, Clinton lay ground for 2016 race // USA Today // Susan Page – July 10, 2015

Bill Clinton and George W. Bush agree on this: Learning leadership skills is crucial in just about every worthwhile endeavor in American life, political and otherwise.

That said, they couldn't disagree more on who, exactly, would have the right leadership skills in 2016 to warrant winning the White House job they both have held.

In a rare joint interview, the two former presidents who share what may be the most complicated political relationship in modern times sat down with USA TODAY Thursday at the Bush Presidential Center. They were together for the graduation ceremony of the inaugural class of Presidential Leadership Scholars, a project sponsored by four presidential libraries that has offered leadership training for mid-career professionals who work for non-profit groups, private-sector firms, state and local agencies and in the military.

The participants aren't really politicians.

"People hear this and they say, 'You've got a Young Republicans Club' or 'Clinton's got a Young Democrats Club,' (but) that's not the intention at all," Bush said. "The intention is to take people who have shown good promise and let them learn some lessons about how decisions were made or how people collaborated."

"There might be nothing we can do anymore about how fractured America is politically and ideologically," Clinton said. "But in the end, people have to get together and make decisions and do things — not just in Congress and the White House, but I mean all over the country."

It was impossible to ignore the elephant in the room, or maybe the elephant and the donkey. That is: Clinton's wife, Hillary, is the clear front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016. Bush's brother Jeb is in the top rank of contenders for the Republican nomination.

Friends today, combatants tomorrow?

"He loves his brother; I love Hillary," Clinton said. If they win their respective presidential nominations, "he's going to vote for his brother; I'm sure going to vote for Hillary, and something will happen. But we'll still be friends."

"I know Jeb will treat Hillary with respect, and I'm confident Hillary will treat Jeb with respect," Bush said. "I'm not sure I can speak that highly of some of the surrogates they may have out there, but these two surrogates will" do that as well.

The two men sat side by side on a couch in Bush's private office at his presidential center on the campus of Southern Methodist University. They had just finished having a class photo taken with the program's scholars, and in a few minutes, they would head to the auditorium for a joint address to the group.

They seemed relaxed and at ease, friendly and deferential to one another. They discussed a challenge they had shared: how to raise confident daughters into adulthood. Bush reached over to touch Clinton's shoulder as he made a point; at another time, Clinton tapped Bush's arm.

"Sometimes the decisions we make have bigger consequences," Clinton said, describing how presidential leadership is in some ways different from other top jobs. "No question," Bush chimed in.

When Bush noted, "A president, it turns out, has to be prepared for the unexpected," Clinton nodded and said, "Yes," then enumerated the challenges Bush faced when the 9/11 attackers struck during the first year of his tenure.

They said neither believes a 2016 Clinton-Bush campaign would be waged any differently because of their friendship and collaboration — nor do they think it should.

"I don't think it's going to be different," Bush said flatly. "I think it's going to be a political campaign."

"If they win the nominations, it's going to be a very hard-fought campaign, and if it's like any other campaign, it'll be somewhat bruising, and the surrogates will be really tough, and they'll have hard debates, and we'll just live with it," Clinton said.

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His advice to the prospective candidates: "Make the choice clear: 'This is where I am; this is where he is.' Be as accurate as you can, and let it rip."

The two got to know each other under hostile circumstances, during what Bush called "the first Bush-Clinton race," which he wryly noted "didn't turn out that well" for his side. In 1992, Clinton defeated the elder George Bush in his bid for a second term. In 2000, the younger Bush defeated Clinton's vice president, Al Gore. Another contest between the families in 2016 would break new ground.

Though they differ in party registration and many policy positions, they share some fundamental characteristics, Bush said. "First of all, we're Baby Boomers, and the only two Baby Boomer presidents. Secondly, we were both governors of Southern states, Arkansas and Texas." He said both were "affable people; we're not zero-sum thinkers." And at this point, he said, both were "like two old war horses, put out to pasture."

Clinton became so close to the elder Bush over the years after their election showdown that the younger Bush jokes he is his "brother by another mother." Clinton made a similar reference when noting that Bush had turned 69 this week, a month ahead of Clinton. ("For one month a year, I'm the younger brother," Clinton said.)

"I just wrote him a birthday note because he just had a birthday," Clinton said. "So I said, 'Now we have a genuine family feud, maybe we ought to go get that guitar player from Deliverance and get him to play for us.' Remember that movie? I mean, the banjo player, the dueling banjos."

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

The Gloria Borger – Hillary Clinton Watch: Waiting for Insight // HuffPo // Kathleen Reardon – July 10, 2015

I've written a number of times about journalists citing "some people say," "some people think" and "it's been said" as support for their supposedly objective reporting. What was once a desire to protect important sources has deteriorated into a sign of journalistic laziness. When reporters covering presidential politics employ words they fully know will disparage female candidates -- or when they purport to discern dishonesty by examining candidates' facial expressions -- they are taking journalistic prerogative another step too far.

"Women are tested in ways that men are not," Senator Diane Feinstein recently observed about Hillary Clinton. It will be harder for a woman to win the presidency in 2016 than for a man and, Feinstein says, Secretary Clinton knows this. Clinton has been the target of facile, disparaging labels and categories -- ones that enter the general lexicon like lice on a host, becoming firmly attached to women unless people recognize and reject their misuse.

In 2008 CNN's Gloria Borger wrote the following about then-presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

But there is no joy in Hillaryville. In its place are anger (at the press, for being soft on Barack Obama), angst (at losing 11 straight contests), and apoplexy (at Obama, for daring to challenge a nomination that was supposed to have been wrapped up by now).
She added:

And so there is frost, not sun, in the Clinton campaign

The first line -- using the words "anger," "angst" and "apoplexy" -- is gratuitous, gender baiting alliteration. "Frost" used to describe Clinton's campaign was not idly chosen. We're all familiar with the ice queen image and other versions of coldness attributed to competent, assertive women.

Then there are Borger's "multiple faces" insults fanning the flames of the distrust theme promulgated by Clinton's detractors:

Multiple faces. But presidential choices are intensely personal. And so the Clinton campaign has decided to play a game of the blind man and the elephant: Present the multiple faces of Hillary, as if somehow each identity might attract a voter. Call it microtargeting her persona. Too bad the result of the groupthink often morphs into caricature. One moment, it's a scold ("Shame on you, Barack Obama"); the next, fuzzy praise ("honored to be here with Barack Obama"). And at the Ohio debate, Clinton seemed more whiny than presidential when she brought up a recent TV skit about journalists falling in love with Obama. "Well, can I just point out that in the last several debates I seem to get the first question," Clinton complained, wearing a false smile.

A "false smile" can be a tight smile, an unfinished smile, a sign of politeness or simply a means of dealing with difficult situations without anger. "Scold" is another loaded word, to say nothing of "whiny." This is how Borger and others like her surreptitiously attempt to poison Hillary's well.

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In an April interview with former Commerce Secretary and White House Chief of Staff Bill Daley, Borger did it again: "You know she comes with baggage. There are negative perceptions about the Clintons as paranoid, too protected, even arrogant." A woman who refrains from standing her ground on important issues is seen as lacking leadership potential. One who speaks affirmatively, risks being seen as difficult, arrogant -- a loose canon. Borger knows this. Such reliance on denigrating labels is cheap, shabby, sleight of hand "journalism."

If we ever hope to see a female shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling of the U.S. presidency, and give our daughters the same chance as our sons have had to lead our country, we must reject efforts to slither into the "news" the easy, derogatory categories so often applied to women in the workplace.

Hillary Clinton is not perfect. If there is a shield" around her, it's been constructed because any woman who gets ahead in her career knows that being one of the guys doesn't work. There is much about Secretary Clinton we don't know. Her communication style is occasionally stilted. But there is much we don't need to know of any candidate. Yet, Clinton will have to prove herself over and over and over because that is what's typically required of women who seek to break through professional barriers.

I, for one, won't sit back and watch people like Gloria Borger try to shape Hillary Clinton into a bitch, a brassy, bossy, distant, elusive woman simply because Borger won't do the hard work of a real journalist. When was the last time Borger gave us actual new information or a unique new insight on any topic or person? C'mon Gloria. Is the title of "Chief Political Analyst" for Wolf Blitzer's CNN program a code word for someone who is entitled to cast personal aspersions without providing hard data or at least hard-won reporting? Is it a code word for someone who relies on readily available, gender-specific, disparaging labels to provide "analysis"? It's one way to make and keep a career going, but it isn't journalism.

When Borger again dragged out the "Where's the real Hillary" theme in response to Clinton's recent interview with CNN correspondent Brianna Keilar, where was the "meat"? Nowhere to be found.

We see gratuitous excuses for reporting so often that the public has become jaded. It's time to let the press know that a presidential election is deserving of the best information and insights available from qualified journalists -- of whom a fair number are sitting on their hands thanks to the personnel efficiencies of media oligarchy. Journalists come out of a proud tradition, and many of them place their lives on the line every day to bring insightful news and analysis. Certainly accurate, well-researched election coverage can't be all that hard.

Kathleen also blogs about communication and politics here. More about communication that holds women back is in her re-release on Kindle of They Don't Get It, Do They?

Hillary Clinton's fibs // Chicago Tribune // Jonah Goldberg – July 10, 2015

Hillary Clinton lies.

This is a widely acknowledged fact among people who pay attention and aren't on her payroll. Nearly 20 years ago, New York Times columnist William Safire wrote: "Americans of all political persuasions are coming to the sad realization that our first lady — a woman of undoubted talents who was a role model for many in her generation — is a congenital liar."

Younger folks probably have little to no memory of the lies Safire had in mind, though some might have heard about Clinton's infamously implausible explanation for how she managed to make a 10,000 percent profit in cattle futures simply by reading The Wall Street Journal.

Suffice it to say that she's been honing her craft for decades. And that's turning into a problem for her, perhaps her biggest problem.

After ducking the press for months, Clinton sat down for an interview with CNN's Brianna Keilar. It was a savvy choice. Keilar covers the Clinton campaign and has every incentive not to offend her famously vindictive sources 16 months before the election.

The most discussed deception came in an exchange about her emails. Clinton declared emphatically that, "You know, you're starting with so many assumptions that are — I've never had a subpoena. ... Let's take a deep breath here."

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., chair of the committee investigating the Obama administration's response to the Benghazi attack, promptly produced a copy of the subpoena.

Team Clinton says she was responding to a specific allegation that she deleted emails that were under subpoena. It's a legalistically plausible defense given Keilar's muddled question and Stakhanovite effort to avoid asking meaningful follow-ups.

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Still, it was a classically Clintonian way of lying: Make a sweeping, definitive-sounding statement, and then when called on it, release a fog of technicalities.

Of course, the greatest example of this tactic was her husband's parsing of the word "is" when called out for saying things like "there is no improper relationship" with a White House intern. Only under oath did he explain that it was technically true if you understand "is" to be a statement about the present moment, unlike "was."

The rest of the CNN interview was a farrago of misleading statements, blame-shifting and deceptions. Hillary insisted she had only used "one device" for email, when we now know that's not true. Perhaps under oath she would clarify that she meant "one device at a time."

She proclaimed that she broke no rules by using a personal server and other email chicanery. The Washington Post's Fact Checker column gave her "three Pinocchios" (out of a possible four) on those claims.

Clinton even flatly denied that voters distrust her when polls clearly show Americans do, and — as usual — blamed all her problems on right-wing conspirators.

Reacting to the interview, Carl Bernstein, of Woodward and Bernstein fame, offered an odd analysis of Clinton's deceptions, conceding on CNN that Clinton has a "difficult relationship with the truth."

"We have to look at what politicians do generally in terms of fudging," Bernstein added. "It's endemic in the profession. She's become a kind of specialist at it."

He went on to explain that Clinton had to become a specialist because she's a victim of her husband's peccadilloes — what Bernstein called the "peculiarity of the Clinton situation." Because Bill catted around, "She's been in a difficult position."

It was a strangely forgiving argument from a reporter who made his career by exposing presidential deceit. And while it's certainly true Bill put Hillary in some awkward predicaments, his philandering doesn't explain why she lied on issues ranging from her cattle futures windfall to her stealth server.

But Bernstein is right about one thing: Hillary is a specialist at lying. And that's a problem for her. Her husband was — and is — a prodigy at deceit, a renaissance man of lying. If football were a game of lies, he could play every position on offense and defense.

Hillary Clinton, alas, is more like a veteran coach — she's adept at telling others how to lie on her behalf. But she's not a natural liar herself, and it shows. At a time when the Democratic base craves authenticity (hence the mobs at Bernie Sanders rallies), Clinton seems utterly fabricated (hence her inability to get a capacity crowd at her announcement speech last month in New York City). Her best hope now would be to stop pandering to Sanders' fans and instead explain where she and Sanders differ on policy. But that would require a level of political authenticity she's forgotten how to fake convincingly.

Not Feeling the Bern // US News and World Report // Matthew Dickinson – July 10, 2015

Can you feel the Bern? Maybe not.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign is "surging", according to multiple media reports. His campaign events have been attracting huge crowds, including 10,000 – the largest of the campaign season so far – at a Bernie rally last week in Madison, Wisconsin, and another 7,500 this week ago in Portland, Maine. He has also been raking in the cash – some $15 million in the first three months of his candidacy – via small campaign donations, a testament to his broadening appeal.

This surge has been reflected in his polls in Iowa and New Hampshire, the sites of the presidential campaign's first caucus and primary, respectively. In Iowa, Sanders has closed to within 19 percent of the front runner Hillary Clinton in the latest poll, up from a 40 percent deficit to her in earlier surveys. He's even closer to Clinton in New Hampshire, with the most recent poll showing him trailing by 8 percent, prompting one enthusiastic headline writer to proclaim they were in a "dead heat" in the Granite state. Nationally, Sanders has consistently ranked second in polls, with only Vice President Joe Biden, who so far has shown no evidence that he is interested in running, challenging him for this spot.

The combination of large crowds, more money and stronger polls has prompted the national media to give Sanders a second look. To their credit, this time they are focusing less on essays he wrote four decades ago or his aborted singing career and more on his stance on the issues. To be sure, they still seem skeptical that he can win, but they are now at least willing to acknowledge the possibility, however remote. In Sanders' home state, of course, belief that he is surging runs far deeper, with Vermont media outlets openly speculating whether (and no doubt secretly hoping) he can maintain his presidential momentum. Apropos that sentiment, a local reporter

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asked me today why, if Bernie wasn't a viable candidate, she couldn't find anyone in the state who wasn't supporting him!

So should Hillary Clinton be worried? The short answer is no. To be sure, as Clinton learned in 2008, it is wise never to take one's front-runner status for granted. Accordingly, she and her aides are saying all the right things by publicly acknowledging that Sanders is a serious candidate who poses a potentially significant threat to her bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. The reality, however, is that rather than exceed expectations, Sanders has done about as well as I expected he would to this point, given where he has positioned himself within the Democratic field.

My expectations were predicated in part on the existing distribution of preferences among likely Democratic voters, and how they matched up with Sanders' ideological leanings, but also on previous efforts by progressives to win the Democratic nomination. As I wrote when Sanders first announced his candidacy three months ago, he is not the first Vermont favorite son to set his eyes on the White House in recent years. In 2004, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean threw his hat in the ring, positioning himself, much like Sanders, as the progressive Democrat amid a cast of more centrist opponents such as John Kerry and Richard Gephardt. In Dean's case, there was no Clinton-like political heavyweight standing in his path to the White House and he initially attracted strong support in the polls and in media coverage based in part on his imaginative use of the Internet to organize online meetups of "Deaniacs" and to solicit small-dollar donations, much as Bernie has done. And yet Dean was never able to attract much more than 30 percent support in national polls and his candidacy peaked shortly before the Iowa caucus, where he subsequently imploded.

Despite the recent up swell in media coverage, the fact is that Sanders' road to the nomination is probably steeper than was Dean's. Keep in mind that, as of today, Sanders is still drawing less than 20 percent support nationally, compared to Clinton's almost 60 percent. So he has a way to go to even match Dean's showing, never mind threaten Clinton. To be sure, there are differences between Dean and Sanders. Although Dean attracted strong support among progressive Democrats based largely on his opposition to the Iraq war, on economic issues, such as income inequality, his liberalism was never truly as authentic or as deeply-rooted as Sanders'. But the reality is that for Bernie to win the Democratic nomination, he is going to need to expand his support beyond his natural constituency of aging Grateful Dead hipsters, environmentalists and professors.

In particular, he has to demonstrate some appeal among moderate and conservative Democrats. This includes the racial and ethnic minorities of low-to-middle socioeconomic standing who proved so crucial to Obama's ability to defeat Clinton in 2008. Right now Sanders is trailing Clinton by 40 percent in the crucial state of South Carolina, which holds its primary directly after New Hampshire. Among African-Americans, who make up about a quarter of the registered Democratic vote there, he's polling at an anemic 3 percent, compared to Clinton's more than 50 percent support.

He's not doing much better nationally among these key voting blocs, including racial minorities and older, more moderate Democrats. In the latest Economist/YouGov national survey of registered voters, Bernie receives only 10 percent support among African-Americans and 15 percent among Hispanics, compared to Hillary's 53 percent and 39 percent respectively. Keep in mind that in past elections racial minorities constituted more than a third of Democratic primary voters.

Perhaps more worrisome is the fact that he trails Clinton among self-identified liberals by 44 percent to 32 percent. His strongest support comes from those earning more than $100,000 a year, where he ties Clinton in support at 25 percent in the Economist poll, and among the18-29 year-old crowd which, not incidentally, is the least likely to vote in national elections. These results are consistent with other national polls in the field at approximately the same time. And while it is true that Sanders is attracting his fair share of campaign contributions, the fact remains that Clinton is outraising him three-to-one. Perhaps most tellingly from the Democratic Party's perspective, Clinton has taken an early lead in endorsements, including backing from Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin and the state's senior Sen. Patrick Leahy.

The bottom line is that Bernie's recent "surge" is largely a case of a candidate securing his natural coalition of support. But there's little evidence so far to suggest that he is going to expand his base beyond the Ben and Jerry's crowd and significantly cut into Clinton's larger and more diverse constituency. Of course, these facts won't stop pundits from engaging in the "what if" scenarios that are the staple of political talk shows, particularly if no other viable Democrat (Joe Biden, where are you?) arrives on the scene. The media loves a horserace, after all, even a lopsided one, and the thought of Clinton running roughshod across a weak Democratic field is not a particularly interesting narrative. So expect pundits to tout the Sanders' horse until a stronger ride appears. But the reality is that rather than exceeding expectations, Sanders, so far, is doing about as well as one would anticipate given his stance on the issues and the configuration of preferences among likely Democratic voters. And, barring an unexpected turn of events, that's probably not enough to secure the presidential nomination.

TOP NEWS

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DOMESTIC

Barack Obama to make historic visit to federal prison // Politico // Nick Gass – July 10, 2015

President Barack Obama will become the first sitting chief executive to visit a federal prison when he goes to El Reno, Oklahoma, next week to meet with law enforcement officials and inmates as part of the administration's push for criminal-justice reform.

"Next week the president will underscore the administration's focus on the need to reform and improve America's criminal justice system," White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said during Friday's news briefing.

Obama will speak to that on Tuesday when he addresses the NAACP conference in Philadelphia before stopping at the medium-security federal facility in Oklahoma on Thursday.

"While there, the president will meet with law enforcement officials and inmates and conduct an interview with Vice" for a documentary set to air later in the fall on HBO.
Vice founder Shane Smith, who will host the special, said the documentary is "going to be fascinating."

"Visiting El Reno with President Obama — the first-ever visit to a federal prison by a sitting president — will give our viewers a firsthand look into how the president is thinking about this problem, from the policy level down to one on one conversations with the men and women living this reality," Smith said in a statement.

Obama is also expected to issue executive orders next week commuting the sentences of non-violent drug offenders.

Confederate flag comes down for good at S.C. Statehouse // Politico // Ben Schreckinger – July 10, 2015
With thousands looking on, the Confederate flag at the South Carolina Statehouse came down permanently on Friday morning.

The flag was removed in a short ceremony by an honor guard of the South Carolina Highway Patrol as onlookers chanted "USA!" and "Take it down!" A small number of protesters were also present. Gov. Nikki Haley, civil rights activists, other state leaders and their families looked on from the Statehouse steps.

Calls to remove the flag had mounted in the wake of the June 17 deaths of nine black churchgoers, including beloved state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, in Charleston, when pictures emerged of the alleged shooter posing with a Confederate flag license plate and other racist symbols.

The lowering of the flag caps three weeks of soul-searching in the state that culminated with a dramatic early-morning vote in the South Carolina House on Thursday to pass a bill mandating the flag's removal. Haley signed the bill in a joyous ceremony at the Statehouse on Thursday afternoon.

Two other South Carolina governors, Republican David Beasley and Democrat Jim Hodges, have attempted to take down the flag, which was first flown from the top of the Statehouse dome in 1962 in defiance of federal desegregation efforts. Beasley failed to remove the flag after calling for it to come down in 1996, and lost his 1998 reelection as a result of backlash from white voters.

Hodges helped broker a compromise that moved the flag from the dome to a pole in front of a Confederate war monument on the building's north lawn, where it flew from 2000 until Friday morning.

On Thursday, an ebullient Beasley, who had returned to Columbia for the bill signing, told POLITICO, "Love transcends division. It's the most powerful weapon in the history of the world."

After it came down from the pole, the flag was carried in a side door of the Statehouse. It was to be placed in a van and moved to the Confederate Relic Room inside the nearby South Carolina State Museum.

OPM director resigns amid data breach scandal // Politico // Sarah Wheaton and T al Kopan – July 10, 2015

President Barack Obama accepted the resignation of OPM Director Katherine Archuleta on Friday amid widespread criticism of her office's handling of a massive data breach that exposed the personnel records of more than 22 million people.

The move was an abrupt reversal and a rare public punishment by a White House that has generally resisted political pressure the make speedy leadership shakeups. But as the official toll of the data breaches grew – up from around 4 million records in a single attack revealed last month to more than 22 million over two infiltrations — the

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bipartisan calls for Archuleta's ouster became overwhelming.

Archuleta resigned of her "own volition," White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Friday. "She recognizes, as the White House does, that the urgent challenges currently facing the Office of Personnel Management require a manager with a specialized set of skills and experiences."

Members of Congress cheered the move – even as experts in government management and cybersecurity questioned whether removing Archuleta would actually help fix the problem, which originated well before her tenure began in 2013.

"This is the right move for the agency and all those affected by the breach," said Senator Mark Warner, who became the most prominent Democrat to call for her removal on Thursday, in a statement. "The focus now needs to be on fixing the problem and protecting those impacted."

Warner's voice joined those of the top three Republicans in the House on Thursday, as well as Senator John McCain, in demanding that Archuleta step down after the administration revealed that hackers had gained access to background check information from almost everyone who has applied or taken a job with the federal government over the past 15 years. They joined a growing chorus of officials that began in June, after Archuleta deflected blame for the situation during a House Oversight Committee hearing in June, saying decades of neglecting government security systems was at fault.

"I am as distressed as you are about how long these systems have gone neglected," Archuleta said, adding that she had made upgrading the systems a priority and that the breaches were discovered as part of that upgrade process. "The whole of government is responsible and it will take all of us to solve the issue."

As late as Thursday night, the White House agreed with her, maintaining that the president still had confidence in her leadership.

But on Friday morning, Archuleta announced that she had "conveyed to the president that I believe it is best for me to step aside and allow new leadership that will enable the agency to move beyond the current challenges and allow the employees at OPM to continue their important work."

Her interim replacement will be Beth Cobert, currently the chief performance officer and deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget.

Archuleta had been popular with the bureaucratic rank and file, and the president of a top federal employees union predicted that the upheaval would make it more difficult to fix OPM's IT issues.

"Federal employees are kind of in a critical state of uncertainty," said National Federation of Federal Employees President William Dougan in an interview. "The volatility of the situation has kind of been escalated."
Cobert will take over as acting director Saturday.

INTERNATIONAL

Greece's Parliament Approves Prime Minister's Bailout Plan // NYT // Liz Alderman and Andrew Higgins – July 10, 2015

Setting the stage for a pivotal deal with Europe, the Greek Parliament early Saturday approved Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras's proposal for a three-year, $59 billion rescue package with harsh austerity terms that was remarkably similar to the one Greek voters rejected in a referendum less than a week ago.

With a Sunday deadline looming for a decision on the bailout, a crunch point that all sides see as Greece's last chance to avoid bankruptcy and stay in the euro currency zone, the plan passed by an overwhelming margin.

The final vote showed that 251 lawmakers voted for the plan, while the rest of the body's 300 members opposed it, abstained or were absent. But because 17 lawmakers from Mr. Tsipras's coalition did not support the plan — 2 voted no, 8 voted present and 7 were absent — a shuffling of the prime minister's government seemed likely, and some analysts said that it was possible that Mr. Tsipras might resign.

Fears persist that creditors will still doubt that a government with such internal rifts will be able to carry out the tough economic measures it has proposed.

Mr. Tsipras had said that he would resign if he lost the vote in Parliament, which required the support of 151 lawmakers to pass.

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The proposal must now win approval from European officials and institutions before negotiations can finally go forward on a comprehensive bailout package.

Alexis Tsipras. Credit Louisa Gouliamaki/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images
Lawmakers took up the measure after Mr. Tsipras decided to give in to most of the demands of Greece's creditors. In exchange, he won the chance to negotiate for the new bailout money, on top of about $270 billion Greece has received since 2010, and potential talks to reduce repayment terms on the debt. It might also allow Greece to avoid a catastrophic exit from the eurozone.

Yet even as the vote was debated in the Greek Parliament, influential voices in Germany and Eastern Europe expressed skepticism about whether Greece would follow through on pledges to be more fiscally responsible. And crowds gathered outside the Parliament building in Athens on Friday evening to protest Mr. Tsipras's abrupt U-turn, with many saying they felt betrayed after he had urged them to reject the bailout in the referendum last Sunday.

Mr. Tsakalotos in Parliament on Friday. At least 250 of the 300 members approved a rescue plan. Credit Louisa Gouliamaki/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images
One of the demonstrators, John Papageorgiou, 45, a math teacher, said he wanted Greece to drop the euro currency because he believed the euro benefited certain countries, like Germany, while putting others, like Greece, at a disadvantage.

Nonetheless, he said, he did not feel betrayed by Mr. Tsipras's compromise efforts, and he thought that the European leaders would recognize that Greece's debt was illegal. His friend Maria Antonopoulou, 44, who works for an electric company, interjected: "We love Tsipras. We needed him as Greeks. We have faith in him. Compared to what we had, he's clean."

The new proposal was given a swift thumbs-up by France and lifted hopes in Brussels that, after months of ill-tempered arguments and fruitless crisis meetings, Greece and its creditors could reach a deal by midnight on Sunday to prevent a fracturing of Europe's currency union.

The goal is not to seal a deal that would immediately provide Greece with new funding, but simply to get a formal green light to start what could be lengthy talks on a new bailout to replace one that expired on June 30. Just the signal to start talks, though, could lift a dark cloud of uncertainty, at least temporarily, and give the European Central Bank cover to perhaps expand recently frozen emergency cash for Greek banks, which have been closed since June 29.

The economy has been in disarray. People have been out of work for years. The banks have been running out of money. It sounds a lot like the Great Depression in the United States. But it is Greece – and in some ways, the situation is worse.

A final agreement is still far from a sure thing. A raft of actors — 19 eurozone finance ministers; 28 European Union leaders, who have been called to Brussels to discuss the crisis on Sunday; and the bureaucracies in Brussels — need to examine the proposal before giving their approval. And there is so much bad blood after months of insults, frustration and failure, there is little faith in European circles in Greece's pledges to carry out measures like tax increases and cuts in pension spending.

Representatives of the main creditors — the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the other European nations that use the euro — were poring over the Greek proposal on Friday. Their assessments will play a critical role in any decisions by the Eurogroup, an assembly of finance ministers from euro countries, which is to meet in Brussels on Saturday.

Even Mr. Tsipras's party, Syriza, which drafted the proposals with help from French experts, seemed confused, with members voicing concern over measures that the culture minister, Nikos Xydakis, described on Friday as "very tough." Many lawmakers from Syriza, a coalition of left-wing groups, had serious misgivings about the proposal. Mr. Xydakis said in an interview: "No, it's not a better deal. It's a tough deal and the only one we can get right now."

Speaking to members of Syriza on Friday, Mr. Tsipras said his government had a "mandate from the Greek people to bring a better agreement," but "we do not have a mandate to take the country out of the eurozone," an event that would follow a decisive rupture with creditors.

"For six months we fought an uneven war. We suffered losses, but we gained ground, too," he told lawmakers later. But, he conceded, "now a minefield lies ahead of us."

Mr. Tsipras, who last week vowed never to succumb to creditors' terms that he had condemned as the work of "extreme conservative forces," seems to have calculated that it was worth making concessions to secure the proposed three-year, $59 billion bailout loan and the possibility of negotiating easier terms for repayment of the

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nation's debt. When Syriza began negotiations with creditors after it came to power in January, the objective was a more modest unblocking of about $8 billion from an existing bailout program that has since expired.

"It is largely a capitulation on Tsipras's part to what creditors have been asking for, but is that enough?" asked Raoul Ruparel, co-director of Open Europe, a research group in London. "Germany and some others are very skeptical about anything the Greeks produce, and this goes back to the main problem — a total lack of trust."

While President François Hollande of France welcomed the new proposals as "serious" and "credible," Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and her key ministers kept silent on Friday, insisting that it was too soon to judge the suggestions now being reviewed by the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the I.M.F.

"We will wait until the institutions examine them and express their opinion," said Steffen Seibert, a spokesman for the German government.

But he repeated Germany's longstanding insistence that all 19 countries that use the euro must follow the rules, a position that has made Berlin resistant in the past to pleas from Greece that demands for tight budgets must be relaxed and debts restructured to prevent the country from suffocating.

Martin Jäger, spokesman for the German finance minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, said the outcome of the Saturday gathering remained "completely open." Both Mr. Schäuble and Ms. Merkel have ruled out writing off any of Greece's debt under what Ms. Merkel has called "a classical haircut," or debt write-down, but they have indicated they might be open to extending payment deadlines and reducing interest rates.

Some of Ms. Merkel's political allies and the governments of Eastern and Central European countries that have taken an even tougher line on Athens than Germany raised doubts on Friday about Greece's readiness and ability to deliver on its new promises, delivered Thursday just before a deadline fixed by creditors expired.

Hans-Peter Friedrich, a member of the Christian Social Union, which is part of Ms. Merkel's conservative bloc, noted the similarities between the new proposal and the one rejected by the Greek people. "That means there are two possibilities: Either the Greek government is tricking its own people, or us yet again," Mr. Friedrich told Deutschlandfunk radio on Friday.

Turkey Arrests 21 Suspected of Ties to ISIS // NYT // Ceylan Yeginsu – July 10, 2015

Under pressure from its Western allies to do more to combat Islamist extremists, the Turkish authorities arrested 21 suspected Islamic State members on Friday, the semiofficial Anatolian News Agency reported.

Among those arrested were three foreigners and two prominent Islamic State supporters known to have recruited fighters in Turkey, the local news media reported.

In early-morning raids in Istanbul and Sanliurfa Province, which borders Syria, the Turkish police seized automatic rifles, large ammunition packs and military uniforms, the agency reported.

Turkey is a NATO member and a longtime American ally, but it has been frequently criticized for its reluctance to play a more active role in combating the Islamic State. Western officials have accused Turkey of a degree of ambivalence toward the militant group, which now controls large parts of Syria and Iraq, and the Turks sometimes give the impression that they see Kurdish autonomy in Syria as a greater threat to their country than the extremists.

"They have a strong stake in things, in stability to their south," Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter said on Tuesday in Washington. "I believe they could do more along the border."

Thousands of foreign fighters have joined the ranks of the Islamic State over the past year, many of them traveling through Turkey to reach the extremists' self-declared caliphate in northeastern Syria and northwestern Iraq. Pressed by the West to stem the flow, the Turks have detained and deported about 1,500 people trying to reach Syria and have barred more than 14,000 others from entering the country, according to Turkish Foreign Ministry figures. And there have been at least seven smaller police raids across the country in the past two weeks against suspected Islamic State fighters.

Turkey has also stepped up its military presence along the porous Syrian border, deploying additional tanks and troops. But much of that was done after Kurdish forces took control of the Syrian border town of Tal Abyad from the Islamic State in June.

Mr. Carter's critique aside, other senior American officials said on Friday that Turkey's recent actions demonstrated the government's new commitment to fighting the Islamic State, though they said it was too early to say whether the Friday arrests were a major turning point or a symbolic gesture to fend off the Western criticism.

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“The Turks are actually trying to do more, and our collective work with them would be vastly aided if we’d stop criticizing them in public,” said one senior Obama administration official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss confidential assessments. “I don’t think this is a symbolic offering.”

Analysts said that the large-scale raids and arrests on Friday were something new, and were probably based on intelligence obtained from the United States. A delegation of American counterterrorism experts met with Turkish officials in Ankara this week to discuss the fight against the Islamic State.

“Turkey sees Daesh as a major threat, not just to our country but to the entire world,” a government official with knowledge of the issue said on Friday, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity in line with government protocol.

Addressing Western criticism that Turkey had been slow to act against the group, the official said, “Antiterrorist operations take time and require comprehensive intelligence gathering and logistics. This is why.”

Aaron Stein, a nonresident fellow at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based analytical institute, said Turkey might be stepping up its efforts now because it was worried about an Islamic State drive toward the border town of Azaz in northeast Syria.

But he was skeptical that the arrests signaled a major, new antimilitant resolve in Turkey. “The Ebu Hanzala detentions tell us that we have to be cautious,” Mr. Stein said, referring a cleric considered to be the “spiritual leader” of the Islamic State within Turkey, who has repeatedly been arrested and released.

“Much will be determined in the coming days, and whether those arrested face charges and are put behind bars,” Mr. Stein said of the latest raids.

In the Hacibayram neighborhood of Ankara, a known Islamic State recruitment hub, a resident said on Friday that two suspects who were arrested there last week were freed the next day. The resident would not allow his name to be used because he feared reprisals.

“They came back and celebrated the fact that they were only charged for drug abuse,” he said of the two freed suspects. “These arrests will only mean something if these men are locked up for good. They have gone and killed in Syria, then they come back and roam our streets. It’s terrifying.”

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From:	"Faiz Shakir" <FShakir@americanprogress.org>
To:	tmcguinness@progressivemediausa.org bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	6/25/2008 2:31:26 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Re: McCain Agreed That "This Is in Fact World War Three"

thanks. got it up

http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/25/mccain-wwiii-draft/

World War III Proponent McCain Says It Will Take 'All-Out World War III' To Re-Institute A Military Draft»

During a "tele-townhall meeting " last evening, John McCain was asked by a mother of two sons if he believes the nation will one day re-institute the military draft. It would take an "all-out World War III " to make that happen, McCain responded.

Indeed, if that's true, then a military draft may indeed be a possibility. McCain himself has suggested we are in a "World War III" confrontation with Iran.

In July 2006, McCain appeared on CNN's Larry King Live, where he was asked to respond to this quote from Newt Gingrich: "We're in the early stages of what I would describes as the Third World War and, frankly, our bureaucracies aren't responding fast enough." Here's how McCain reacted to that quote:

> KING: Senator McCain, do you agree?
>
> MCCAIN: I do to some extent. I think it's important to recognize that we have terrorist organizations which — who are dangerous by themselves, are now being supported by radical Islamic governments, i.e., the Iranians, which makes them incredibly more dangerous because they are trained, equipped, motivated and assisted in every way by the Iranians.

Last October, President Bush himself warned of a coming "World War III " with Iran. "I've told people that if you're interested in avoiding World War III ," said the President. "It seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from have the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

From: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com [mailto:bigcampaign@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Tara McGuinness
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2008 9:18 AM
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Subject: [big campaign] McCain Agreed That "This Is in Fact World War Three"

McCain agreed with Gingrich that we're already in World War III...

McCain Agreed That "This Is In Fact World War Three." During an appearance on CNN's "Larry King Live," Larry King asked John McCain if he agreed with Newt Gingrich's claim that, "You'd have to say to yourself this is in fact World War III." McCain said, "I do to some extent. I think it's important to recognize that we have terrorist organizations which -- who are dangerous by themselves, are now being supported by radical Islamic governments, i.e., the Iranians, which makes them incredibly more dangerous because they are trained, equipped, motivated and assisted in every way by the Iranians. So that it's the Iranians that gave them the rockets that they are reigning down on Haifa as we speak." [CNN, "Larry King Live," 7/17/06]

> GINGRICH: I believe, if you take all the countries I just listed that you've been covering, put them on a map, look at all the different connectivity; you'd have to say to yourself this is in fact World War III.

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(END VIDEO CLIP)

LARRY KING: Senator McCain, do you agree?

MCCAIN: I do to some extent. I think it's important to recognize that we have terrorist organizations which -- who are dangerous by themselves, are now being supported by radical Islamic governments, i.e., the Iranians, which makes them incredibly more dangerous because they are trained, equipped, motivated and assisted in every way by the Iranians. So that it's the Iranians that gave them the rockets that they are reigning down on Haifa as we speak.

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/17/2009 6:26:14 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Conservatives' Dangerous and Reckless Iran Response

Conservatives' Dangerous and Reckless Iran Response

Washington, D.C. - American conservatives are showing their true colors in their response to demonstrations in Iran. Despite the almost unanimous opinion of serious Iran experts that it would be very harmful to the demonstrators if the United States were seen as directly supporting them, conservative political leaders - such as Mike Pence, Eric Cantor, and John McCain - and thinkers - such as Robert Kagan - have insisted that the United States do just that. Ascertaining the motives of these conservatives is difficult - are they so blinded by ideology that they actually don't recognize that U.S. meddling would play into Ahmadinejad's hands and would potentially further endanger Iranian demonstrators; or are they simply trying to score cheap political points by attacking Obama. But what is clear is that their cries, recommendations, and critiques are reflective of a conservative movement that on foreign policy has run off the rails.

Calling for the United States to directly support the protests - even symbolically - could place the demonstrators in severe danger. The Iranian regime is feverishly attempting to label the demonstrators as western agitators backed by the United States - Iranian state television even used a clip from FOX News in an effort to make this point. Therefore the calls from Pence, Kantor, and McCain are not only just unhelpful but they are a total gift to Ahmadinejad. Furthermore, conservatives seem oblivious to their own record of failure to promote democracy under the Bush administration, as democracy failed to advance and even receded in much of the world. Aggressive sounding talk, threats of force, and an over emphasis on the mere holding of elections served only to strengthen hardliners and undermine the United States.

- **Iranians, Iranian Americans, journalists, and Iranian national security experts all agree that the last thing Iranian demonstrators need is U.S. interference.** There is an overwhelming consensus among journalists following Iran, experts on Iran, and Iranians themselves that U.S. interference in the current turmoil would strengthen hardliners, and put demonstrators in harm's way:
- **Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nick Burns:** "President Ahmadinejad would like nothing better than to see aggressive statements, a series of statements, from the United States which try to put the US at the center of this." [Former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nick Burns, 6/16/09]
- **National Iranian American Council President and Iran Expert Trita Parsi:** "I think it's quite reckless to turn this into a political football here in the United States. In reality, this can have severe repercussions on the streets of Tehran, if the protests are being casted as being orchestrated from the United States." [Trita Parsi, 6/16/09]
- **Iran Expert and Former NSC Official Gary Sick:** "Anything we do or say is going to be interpreted in Iran as interference in their domestic affairs and it will tarnish anyone who is in anyway seen as being supported by the United States." [Gary Sick, 6/15/09]
- **Carnegie Endowment Iran Expert Karim Sadjadpour:** "[W]e don't want to denounce these elections and insert ourselves into that political process which is playing out in Tehran. Historically, we have unwittingly hurt those whom we've tried to help in the past." [Carnegie Endowment Iran Expert Karim Sadjadpour, 6/15/09]
- **Spokesman for the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran Hadi Ghaemi:** "It is better for the U.S. not to comment and make itself part of the equation... By supporting one faction versus another, the U.S. would not be helpful at all." [Spokesman for the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran Hadi Ghaemi, 6/15/09]
- **Iranian Expatriate via Andrew Sullivan:** "I'm an Iranian living in Canada. A few hours ago I talked to my brother who is a student at Sharif University, he was at the big rally yesterday and they were only feet away from Karoubi when they marched from the university entrance to Azadi square. He asked what had Obama had said and I started reading the transcript. When I got to 'the United States can be a handy political football, or discussions with the United States [can be]' my brother sighed and said thank God this guy gets it." [Iranian expatriate reported by Andrew Sullivan, 6/16/09]
- **Washington Independent Reporter Spencer Ackerman:** "American rhetorical support will immediately become a cudgel in the hands of Ahmadinejad." [Spencer Ackerman, Washington Independent, 6/15/09]

Nevertheless, conservatives endanger protestors in Iran in order to advance narrow political objectives. Despite pleas from Iranians and insistence from experts, conservatives latched on to protests in Iran as a means of attacking the

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administration, putting both the protests and U.S. interests in jeopardy. Seizing on the instability in Iran as a means to score political points, Congressman Mike Spence (R - IN) introduced a resolution supporting Iranian dissidents, which read: "While the President may be 'troubled by the violence,' he has yet to express the unqualified support of the American people for those who are courageously risking their lives for free elections and democracy in Iran. If the President of the United States will not express our nation's solidarity with the dissidents in the streets of Tehran, then Congress must." Spence's resolution received the backing of conservative leadership, as second-ranking minority Member Eric Cantor (R - VA) issued a statement saying "The Administration's silence in the face of Iran's brutal suppression of democratic rights represents a step backwards for homegrown democracy in the Mideast. President Obama must take a strong public position in the face of violence and human rights abuses." Cantor and Spence's conservative colleagues in the Senate echoed these extreme positions. Long-time foreign policy hawk and occasional conservative ally Joe Lieberman (I - CT) proclaimed: "We as Americans have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with people when they are denied their rights by repressive regimes. When elections are stolen, our government should protest. When peaceful demonstrators are beaten and silenced, we have a duty to raise our voices on their behalf. We must tell the Iranian people that we are on their side." And, as the Politico reports this morning, Sen. John McCain (R - AZ) demanded on NBC that "that the United States should make clear that it backs anti-Mahmoud Ahmadinejad demonstrators in their battle against 'an oppressive, repressive regime.'" [Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN), 6/16/09 . Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA), 6/15/09 . Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), 6/14/09 . Politico, 6/17/09]

Conservatives' approach - which is based on dangerous ideology and ignorance of the situation in Iran - would endanger demonstrators and undermine broader U.S. objectives. Commentator Joe Klein remarked that the comments by McCain and his conservative colleagues are consistent with their "dangerous habit of making broad, extreme statements based on ideology rather than detailed knowledge of the situation in Iran and elsewhere." Even right-wing commentator Pat Buchannan condemned the approach taken by congressional conservatives, saying: "When your adversary is making a fool of himself, get out of the way... U.S. fulminations will change nothing in Tehran. But they would enable the regime to divert attention to U.S. meddling in Iran's affairs and portray the candidate robbed in this election, Mir-Hossein Mousavi, as a poodle of the Americans." Nico Pitney of the Huffington Post reported Iranian national television playing clips of FOX News to show that foreign press was trying to divide the Iranian people in order to take advantage of a weakened Iran. Trita Parsi explains their approach is not based on any familiarity with the situation in Iran: "They're [conservatives] coming out and saying that we should side with the opposition, with Moussavi. I'm really curious to know if they've been in contact with Moussavi, and asked him if he thinks that's a good idea. That's the test that we've failed to pass in the past, in the sense that we've made up our mind on what they should want, and then we act. And then, even when it doesn't work out the way that we hoped for, we think that it's their fault, that they did understanding, genuinely, how positive our intentions were. We can't do it this way." [Joe Klein, 6/16/09 . Pat Buchannan, 6/16/09 . Huffington Post, 6/16/09 . Trita Parsi, 6/16/09]

Conservatives claim Obama and progressives don't care about democracy promotion, but after Bush's eight years of failure they have no legs to stand on. Robert Kagan wrote in the Washington Post today that, "[t]he turmoil in Iran since last week's election has confused the foreign policy debate here in the United States in interesting ways. Supporters of President Obama, who until very recently had railed against the Bush administration's 'freedom agenda' and who insisted on a new 'realism,' have suddenly found themselves rooting for freedom and democracy in Iran... His [Obama's] strategy toward Iran places him objectively on the side of the government's efforts to return to normalcy as quickly as possible, not in league with the opposition's efforts to prolong the crisis." Contrary to the claims of Kagan, progressives railed against Bush's "freedom agenda" not because they oppose the promotion of democracy, but because Bush's efforts both totally failed and were pursued in ways that undermined democracy and hurt America's national interests. The invasion of Iraq is the most clear example of neoconservatives efforts to promote democracy through the barrel of a gun. Yet it was the Bush administration, by giving only insubstantial and inconsistent support for democracy promotion that damaged democracy promotion efforts abroad. When the Bush administration was not invading countries to promote "freedom," its democracy promotion efforts were almost solely based on calling for elections. In the Middle East, from Iraq to Lebanon to the Palestinian territories, the Bush administration pushed elections, while ignoring the need to support liberal institutions, individual rights, rule of law, and the role of civil society that are necessary to build long-lasting democracy. Meanwhile, President Bush kept silent on the various illiberal policies of nations like Russia and Pakistan, where the president preferred a policy based on personal relationships with the dictatorial leaders. [Robert Kagan, 6/17/09 . Washington Post, 8/20/08 . Washington Post, 8/27/08]

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/13/2015 12:55:29 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 5.13.15
Attachments:	H4A Clips 5.13.15.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 13, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Last night around 9PM five people died when a passenger train carrying 238 passengers and five crewmembers derailed in Philadelphia, PA, forcing Amtrak to shut down all service between New York City and Philadelphia. A sixth person was reported dead this morning and 8 remain in critical condition.

In political news the Senate voted Tuesday to block action on a crucial "trade promotion authority" bill, delivering a setback to President Obama, who strongly supports the bill. The Washington Post Editorial Board calls on Hillary Clinton to take a position on trade saying, her "performance on trade so far implies that it's just about winning the nomination."

Congressman Gowdy is expected to say whether he'll accept Hillary Clinton's offer to appear once before his committee next week. The likely answer will be 'no' and this will delay the process again.

A CBS News piece highlighted last week's CBS/New York Times poll that found that both Hillary Clinton's favorability ratings and the percent of people who see her as a strong leader have jumped in the month since questions about the Clinton Foundation began mounting. Her favorability rating leapt from 26 to 35 percent, and the number of people who see her as a strong leader jumped from 57 to 65 percent.

Bill de Blasio Elizabeth Warren have been labeled as the voice of the liberal opposition, and yesterday unveiled a "Progressive Contract With America" alongside dozens of fellow travelers in Washington, D.C. The Daily Beast characterized the Hillary Clinton campaign as "yawning" in response.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

NBC had a segment on Jeb Bush's support for the Iraq war discussing his controversial comments from earlier today. There was no 2016 coverage on ABC or CBS. They instead covered the American military helicopter with six marines, helping in the aftermath of the earthquake in Nepal, is missing; the NFL's lead investigator making critical statements about Tom Brady; Homeland Security agents raided a clothing drive that was a front for weapons trafficking.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton, MIA on trade // WaPo // Editorial Board - May 12, 2015

FORTY-FOUR senators in the Democratic caucus voted Tuesday to block action on a crucial "trade promotion authority" bill, delivering an embarrassing setback to President Obama, who strongly supports the bill — and, more importantly, sowing doubts about U.S. leadership among friends and foes around the world. Leaders of both parties swore that this would not be the final word, that they would find a face-saving exit from the arcane procedural conflict that Senate Minority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) is using as a fig leaf for the ascendant anti-trade agenda within his party.

As it happens, they are probably right, in part because there are still enough Democrats in the Senate (in addition to the one, Thomas R. Carper of Delaware, who had the guts to vote against Mr. Reid on Tuesday) who favor trade. Still, it's remarkable how much power the anti-trade left wing of the Democratic Party has come to wield within the Senate, which historically was a bastion of bipartisan pro-trade sentiment. Mr. Obama wants trade promotion authority — "fast-track" authority — to grease the legislative skids for his proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, a measure that would enhance U.S. exports to Asia, as well as security ties to key nations such as Japan. Progressives oppose the trade deal on the spurious grounds that it would kill American jobs.

So powerful has the opposition on the left become, in fact, that it has turned the party's presumptive presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton, into a quiet follower on the issue, rather than the forceful leader she once was — and still could be. While her opponents for the Democratic nomination populistically posture, all she has mustered are a couple of anodyne remarks. "Any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security," she said in a recent visit to New Hampshire.

Ms. Clinton's dash for the tall grass is transparently inconsistent with the position she embraced as Mr. Obama's secretary of state. "Our hope is that a TPP agreement with high standards can serve as a benchmark for future agreements — and grow to serve as a platform for broader regional interaction and eventually a free trade area of the Asia-Pacific," she wrote in an October 2011 cover story for Foreign Policy magazine. Indeed, given this well-known record, her avoidance now rather insults the electorate's intelligence.

With the president's agenda embattled in the Senate, this would be a good time for Ms. Clinton to abandon her political caution and speak up for what she said so recently were her principles. In refusing to take a stand, Ms. Clinton is not only abandoning the president she once served but also missing an opportunity to help define the values of the party she would lead in November 2016.

Do independent voters care about foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation? // CBS News // Jake Miller - May 12, 2015

Republican candidates are on the warpath against the Clinton Foundation, raising questions about whether Hillary and Bill Clinton sold influence to foreign entities in exchange for donations to their sprawling philanthropy.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul told Politico the Clintons accepted "thinly-veiled bribes."

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"Are you going to trust an individual who has taken that much money from a foreign source?" asked former Texas Gov. Rick Perry during a recent interview on CNN. "Where's your loyalty?"

"At the very least, these revelations present a clear conflict of interest," added Texas Sen. Ted Cruz last month in a statement. "I call on Hillary Clinton to return the donations from foreign governments. Until she does, how can the American people trust her with another position of power?"

Journalists have followed the money trail as well, examining whether Hillary Clinton took any actions as secretary of state that benefited donors to the Clinton Foundation. That question was thrust back into the media spotlight last month by a new book called "Clinton Cash: The The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich." The author of that book, conservative Peter Schweizer, has admitted he found no "smoking gun" pointing to tangible wrongdoing by the Clintons, but he's argued their "pattern of behavior" suggests a quid pro quo.

The Clintons themselves have strongly denied any wrongdoing and accused Republicans and the media of hyping unsubstantiated claims about a foundation that does a lot of valuable charity work around the world. Bill Clinton has argued the scrutiny shows he and his wife are held to a different standard than many other public figures.

If nothing else, though, the kerfuffle has presented a big political headache for Hillary Clinton as her 2016 presidential bid is taking flight. But with Clinton likely to seize the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, is there any indication the issue is resonating with the swing voters who will decide the election?

Thus far, it doesn't seem to be taking much of a toll. A CBS News/New York Times poll released last week found that both her favorability ratings and the percent of people who see her as a strong leader have jumped in the month since questions about the Clinton Foundation began mounting. Her favorability rating leapt from 26 to 35 percent, and the number of people who see her as a strong leader jumped from 57 to 65 percent.

It's still possible the issue could begin to erode her poll numbers, though - 55 percent of independent voters said they did not yet know enough about the foundation's fundraising to render an opinion on its integrity. If opinions among that bloc begin to harden, either for or against the Clintons, it could make an appreciable difference in the outcome of the 2016 election.

CBS News talked to twelve of those poll respondents - independent voters who have not decided how they plan to vote in 2016, and who have said they need to know more about the foundation before forming an opinion on the matter. During a follow-up conversation, these voters were asked whether they plan to investigate the issue further and whether any information they find will factor into their 2016 decision. The results, together forming a kind of virtual focus group, suggest the issue won't be too big a hurdle for Clinton come Election Day, barring a more scandalous revelation over the course of the campaign.

Most respondents seemed willing to give the Clintons the benefit of the doubt, disputing the idea that they would leverage their influence on behalf of foundation donors.

"I don't believe that a donation from a foreign country or dignitary will have that big of an effect on decision making for the country," said Jerome, a 63-year-old from California.

"If they were directly selling influence, you know, through the secretary of state's office, then yeah, that would probably be a deal breaker for me," said Michael, a 35-year-old Arizonan who works in the restaurant industry. That said, he added, there's a "lack" of a smoking gun. "A lot of it is based off of that book written by that author that has done nothing but trash the Clintons," he explained. "The snippets that I have read from his book, they're baseless. They basically connect a few dots that shouldn't be connected, you know. He uses a lot of, you know, just guessing, to connect two dots."

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Several suggested the whole episode is much ado about nothing, arguing there are more important considerations facing voters than charitable donations to the Clinton Foundation.

"There are bigger issues on the table," said Alex, a 35-year-old writer from Texas who said she's not seen any evidence of wrongdoing, and that she's "satisfied" all of her questions about the issue have been answered

"I don't see it being that big of an issue," agreed Andrew, a 28-year-old physician from Oklahoma who suggested other candidates have their own controversies. "It's politics and all politics has, you know -- it's always something."

"Of course if it's some enormous scandal or fraud or something, I'm sure that would affect me more," Andrew added.

Ruth, an 84-year-old from New York, said the issue would "certainly" play a role in her vote, though she did not indicate which way she's leaning. "There are questions about the funding and how it was used," she explained. "I think all that enters...into a judgment as to what kind of a person this is, how they use their funds."

Some voters suggested Hillary Clinton would be able to distance herself from any questions of impropriety -- that she couldn't be expected to monitor all the foundation's activities, and that her husband deserves more scrutiny on the issue than she does.

"This is more affecting what former President Clinton has done, for his charity, causes, and things like that, rather than what Mrs. Clinton, and how she's been involved with it. Because I think she's been more involved in government, more than what her husband has, since he's left office," said John, a 63-year-old retired chauffeur from New York. "One person doesn't know everything. To hold one person accountable for what goes on like in a foundation, that's unrealistic."

Others nodded at a reservoir of trust and goodwill that the Clintons have earned during their long time in public life. Mary, a 52-year-old nurse from Massachusetts, initially told the pollsters that she did not have enough information to render a verdict, but that she's since heard all she needs to know.

"I just saw something last night on TV and it was regarding Bill Clinton making a statement, so he brought me up to speed," she said. "I thoroughly trust the Clinton family, and I believe that that foundation is on the up and up, I never had a hint of thinking Hillary, or Bill, or [the foundation] would be other than the up and up. I have a good feeling of the Clinton family, and I don't think they'd ruin their integrity,"

Mary blamed the controversy on a "smear campaign" by Clinton's opponents and suggested it would "in no way" alter her opinion of Bill or Hillary. "I have a good feeling of the Clinton family, and I don't think they'd ruin their integrity."

Almost all of the voters said they were leaning toward supporting Clinton, though several allowed that subsequent developments could prompt them to reconsider.

"She's, in my mind, like the person I'd vote for given the other candidates, but, like I said, a lot can change between now and then," explained Andrew, the Oklahoma physician.

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"Unless someone else come into it, she's probably my best bet," said John, the retired chauffeur from New York. "Just because of her experience."

"I'm leaning towards voting for her, I would like to have Hillary in there just from hearing what she says - her views on everything," said Justin, a 31-year old from West Virginia who works in real estate and property maintenance. "But I need to figure out what this scandal is all about, and that will be the deciding factor for me."

"I would ultimately vote for her over pretty much any candidate you can name coming from the Republican Party," said Michael from Arizona.

"I'm leaning towards Hillary Clinton," agreed Alex from Texas. "I haven't seen any other candidate that suits my needs as a voter, that represents me."

Even voters who said they're leaning against Clinton suggested the questions surrounding the foundation are not foremost in their mind.

"As long as the money is going for what it's supposed to go for, I don't have a problem with that - the charitable work," said Kim, a 46 year old from Arizona. "There's bigger issues on the table. I probably would not be voting for her."

Of course, at this early stage in the election, the electorate is relatively tuned out - political geeks are following the story intensely, but most voters aren't political geeks.

"I'm really busy," said Andrew from Oklahoma. "I can't keep track of every single thing between now and 2016. You know, like I said I'll look at it close to that time and...make a decision then."

"Truthfully, I've read a little about it, but I couldn't care less," said William, a 24-year-old from New York. The election is "too far in the future, really. There are so many things that can happen."

Is New Hillary Clinton Super-PAC Pushing Legal Boundaries? // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein - May 12, 2015

A second, semi-official super-PAC is being formed to help Hillary Clinton, and in an unusual twist, has announced plans to coordinate with the Democratic presidential front-runner's campaign.

The move is the latest manifestation of a new trend in 2016 politics: the outsourcing of routine campaign functions to outside groups that are permitted to raise money in unlimited amounts. Candidate committees are limited to donations of $5,400 a campaign cycle from individuals. Last month, the Associated Press reported that all-but-declared Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will be running much of his campaign through a super-PAC.

Clinton's newest super-PAC ally, Correct the Record, is spinning off from American Bridge, another super-PAC that formed four years ago and that conducts opposition research on Republican presidential hopefuls. Correct the Record, which has been serving as a rapid-response team to defend Clinton since November 2013, is being recast as an independent super-PAC that will continue to serve as “a political research and communications war room,” the group said Tuesday.

What’s unusual is that Correct the Record plans to coordinate with the Clinton campaign and potentially other federal campaigns and Democratic party committees—something that quickly drew skepticism from watchdogs

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who find it difficult to see how the group can function without running afoul of campaign finance laws. Those laws are designed to prevent committees that collect big-dollar contributions from having direct contact with campaigns.

Correct the Record's plans to coordinate with Clinton's team amount, at the very least, to a "campaign finance law boundary-pushing" arrangement, said Paul S. Ryan, senior counsel at the Campaign Legal Center. As a super-PAC, the group "cannot make any contributions to a candidate directly or in kind," he said.

Correct the Record's communications director, Adrienne Watson, defended its approach, arguing that "FEC rules specifically permit some activity—in particular, activity on an organization's website, in email, and on social media—to be legally coordinated with candidates and political parties."

She added: "This exception has been relied upon countless times by organizations raising non-federal money." The group's lawyer, who declined to be named for the record, pointed to nonprofit issue-focused groups like the National Rifle Association and the Sierra Club, which can communicate with candidates and convey their views through press releases or on websites, as playing a similar role.

If Correct the Record follows through on its plans to bulk up its existing rapid response and research structures, it could allow Clinton campaign to outsource some of the functions that have typically been part of presidential campaigns to a group that can collect dollars in much larger denominations than she can legally. That could mean that Clinton's campaign committee could focus its more funds elsewhere.

A Democratic lawyer supportive of the Correct the Record-Clinton campaign alliance dismissed the argument that the group's work would amount to an in-kind contribution, saying it's no different than a state political party doing rapid response to defend a presidential candidate.

Correct the Record is the second super-PAC to largely focus on boosting Clinton. The other is Priorities USA Action, the group formed in 2012 to support President Barack Obama's re-election campaign. That group will not coordinate with the Clinton campaign but the candidate and her team have signaled that she welcomes Priorities' efforts. Clinton met last week with a few potential donors to Priorities and former Clinton staffers including her 2008 political director, Guy Cecil, are coming on board to balance the influence of the Obamans still there.

There's at least one preliminary hint that the new super-PAC has the Clinton campaign's blessing too: Correct the Record is represented by lawyers in the Washington office of Perkins Coie and the Clinton campaign's general counsel is Marc Elias, chair of the firm's political law practice.

Regardless of the legal precedents it cites for the coordination it plans with Clinton, Correct the Record will draw plenty of scrutiny. "We will be monitoring the activities of Correct the Record and the Clinton campaign very closely," Ryan said, and CLC will file complaints not only with the Federal Elections Commission but with the Justice Department, if it believes that campaign laws have been violated.

Gowdy vs. Clinton, no end in sight // Politico // Lauren French – May 13, 2015

Trey Gowdy and Hillary Clinton are locked in a high-stakes game of cat-and-mouse that is threatening to drag on deep into the 2016 campaign.

Depending on which side you talk to, it's either a search for truth in the death of four Americans or a partisan witch hunt to hobble the presumed Democratic nominee. On the ground, the tit for tat is more mundane — a dispute over when, how many times and in which forum Clinton will testify in what promises to be a media circus.

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The Republican chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi and the 2016 Democratic presidential candidate have become inextricably linked by the congressional investigation into the 2012 terrorist attacks and related to her use of an email account set up on a private server during her four years as secretary of state.

The latest twist could come this week, when Gowdy, a three-term congressman from South Carolina who was appointed a year ago to lead the Benghazi panel, is expected to say whether he'll accept Clinton's offer to appear once — but only once — before his committee next week.

The answer likely will be no: Gowdy and Republicans wanted Clinton to appear for a private interview with the committee but later offered two public hearings as a compromise.

"The fear was if she was to do two hearings, he would take the information from the first, which would probably be about the emails, and cherry-pick it and use it in whatever way was most advantageous," said Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), the top Democrat on the Benghazi panel. "This thing has gotten to be too much about Hillary Clinton and far away from what the parents of the victims (of the attacks) asked from us."

At the very least, Gowdy wants the State Department to turn over a trove of documents before scheduling a public hearing with Clinton.

As his negotiations with Clinton's high-powered attorney, David Kendall, continue, Gowdy is going out of his way to avoid the appearance of meddling in presidential politics — no easy task given who he's dealing with. The 50-year-old congressman, a federal and state prosecutor earlier in his career, is eyeing a federal judgeship and hates being tagged as an ideologue.

Since Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) tapped Gowdy to run the Benghazi panel, Gowdy has repeatedly stressed that he's unwilling to risk his reputation as a sincere legislator just to nab a Democratic heavyweight — even if the catch is the presumed Democratic nominee for president.

"This has always been about getting the facts … and the first thing you have to do is establish that you have all the relevant documents," a Republican committee aide said. "That is the only thing he is looking for. … It would probably be easier if he was trying to be political, but he isn't."

When Clinton does finally appear, she'll face a balancing act between the highly message-focused act of running for president and being forthright about the consequences of the Obama administration's decisions in Libya. Clinton's camp has known since the House voted to create the Benghazi select committee in May 2014 that the former secretary of state would be asked to testify — and her allies on the Hill had long predicted that her appearance would come after she announced her candidacy.

Clinton backers say the spectacle of Clinton testifying under oath again about the Benghazi attacks will backfire on Republicans.

"Rep. Gowdy reminds me of my old dog, Gus, who I had when I was a kid in Missouri City, Texas," said Paul Begala, a close Clinton ally. "Ol' Gus loved to chase cars. … Till one day he caught one. Or, rather, one caught him. Before you knew it, Ol' Gus had 5,000 pounds of 1977 Oldsmobile rolling over his head. If I were Mr. Gowdy, I'd be mighty careful. Hillary has the facts on her side, and I suspect the last thing the Republicans truly want are the facts."

Still, the former diplomat also needs to avoid another "What difference does it make?" moment. That animated

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retort — which came under tough questioning from Republicans during a Senate committee hearing in 2013 — was promptly turned into a sound bite by her adversaries.

Clinton's campaign did not return a request for comment.

Gowdy has been trying to schedule a Clinton appearance for weeks — making multiple offers to the former secretary of state to answer questions in public and private about Benghazi and her use of a non-official email account while at State. Clinton's team has steadfastly refused to appear for more than a single, public hearing.

The latest offer from Gowdy could come within days, after Kendall told the 12-member panel last week that Clinton was ready to appear as early as next week.

"The committee will call Secretary Clinton to testify once it is satisfied that all the relevant information has been provided by both the State Department and her," Gowdy said Friday. His statement came shortly after Kendall accused the Republican-led committee of having "no basis, logic or precedent" for multiple hearings.

Gowdy has zeroed in on outstanding requests for documents and emails from the State Department and Obama administration as the major sticking points in scheduling a hearing with Clinton. Without assurances from the State Department that they have the documents, congressional Republicans have been wary of agreeing to just one hearing.

Aides on the committee have pointed to the committee's discovery of Clinton's private email as proof that it would be ineffective to have her appear, only to discover new evidence later.

But Democrats have seized on the delay as evidence that Gowdy is only interested in damaging Clinton by pushing the probe further into campaign season. Cummings repeatedly has compared the Benghazi panel to the National Republican Congressional Committee.

"At every turn, the select committee comes up with a new excuse to further delay its work and then blames its glacial pace on someone else," he said. "Republicans are desperately trying to validate the $3 million in taxpayer funds they have spent over the past year, but they have nothing to show for it other than a partisan attack against Secretary Clinton and her campaign for president."

Hillary Campaign Yawns at de Blasio // Daily Beast // David Freedlander - May 12, 2015

During a Democratic primary season in which Hillary Clinton's putative opponents have pointedly declined to criticize her, Bill de Blasio has emerged as the voice of the liberal opposition, declining to endorse her on national television on the day she announced her candidacy, traveling to the early primary states to tout his vision for the Democratic Party, and on Tuesday unveiling a "Progressive Contract With America" alongside dozens of fellow travelers in Washington, D.C.

But if all that activity is supposed to rally the Democratic base to pull Clinton to the left, the Clinton campaign would like to thank de Blasio very much for his effort, but says it is unnecessary.

"For her entire career, Hillary Clinton has championed many of the issues included in this contract," said Karen Finney, senior campaign spokeswoman. "She has a long record of pushing for progress on issues like family leave, income inequality, and education, and she looks forward to continuing the conversation around these important topics as she lays out her own ideas in this campaign."

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Indeed, many of the nearly a dozen Clinton advisers and supporters contacted for this article said they welcomed de Blasio's forays into presidential politics, as so much of what he has been trying to do is create a constituency that dovetailed with Clinton's own record and platform. Most of the issues de Blasio touts in his Progressive Agenda to Combat Income Inequality, like a higher minimum wage and higher taxes on the wealthy, have been pushed by President Obama, to little avail, and Clinton has spoken out in favor of them.

"Hillary Clinton has a long career of advocating for progressive issues—the minimum wage, issues important to women," said Jack Rosen, a New York-based real estate executive and longtime donor to Bill and Hillary Clinton. "De Blasio has a right to speak out on issues he cares about, but Hillary Clinton doesn't need any advice. She has her own inner compass on this."

Tom Sheridan, a top D.C lobbyist and a donor to the Clinton campaign, said that by trying to pressure Clinton from the left, de Blasio was actually creating space for Clinton to position herself as palatable to the broad middle.

"He is giving her running room and new ways to position herself on these issues," he said. "I think it's all good, I really do. You have people trying to put pressure on the left wing and the right wing, and Hillary gets to show that she knows how to fly the plane, so to speak."

"If the purpose of this is to put pressure on our candidate, there are better ways to do it, and it's unnecessary anyway."

Polls show that Clinton remains strongly popular with even the most liberal elements of the party, though grassroots organizers continue to push Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren as a populist challenger to her. Robert Wolf, a former CEO of UBS Americas and friend of Obama who has already signed on to the Clinton campaign financial operation, predicted that the impact of de Blasio's press conference Tuesday on the Clinton campaign would be minimal, especially once Clinton flushes out more of her own agenda.

"To me the candidates that are talking about real issues like the secretary last week on immigration versus trying to rally the far left or the far right seem to get the most traction to the thoughtful person, as opposed to getting the most media hype of the day," Wolf told The Daily Beast.

Which isn't to say Team Clinton isn't a bit mystified at what de Blasio is doing. The New York City mayor owes his career in part to Clinton, having served as campaign manager for her 2000 run for the U.S. Senate, then parlaying that experience into his first political run. Bill Clinton inaugurated de Blasio as mayor, while Hillary Clinton looked on. "I am proud to come from the Clinton family," de Blasio told reporters after he won the Democratic nomination.

"If he were running for president, that would be one thing, but he is not," said Steve Elmendorf, a Democratic strategist and longtime adviser to both Clintons. "People who hold elective office like to get covered and like to be heard and like to be part of the conversation. I take him at face value."

People in and close to the Clinton campaign say they take de Blasio at his word, that he is not running for president (despite a New York Post report to the contrary). Rather, they assume he is trying either to elevate his national profile and capitalize on a Democratic base yearning for a standard-bearer, or trying to shore up his credentials with progressives in New York in the face of sinking poll numbers and what could be a potentially competitive reelection in 2017.

"I know Bill de Blasio like the back of my hand," said Manhattan borough president Gale Brewer, who served with de Blasio in the David Dinkins administration in City Hall and in the City Council, and who was one of the first New

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York City elected officials to endorse the Ready for Hillary super PAC that laid the groundwork for another Clinton run.

“He thinks this is part of his official duties as mayor,” she said. “Of course, you elevate yourself when you do that, but in his head it is about elevating the city.”

Brewer said she was supportive of the mayor’s efforts if it meant getting more resources to the city. If it also meant getting Clinton to tack left, well, good luck.

“I don’t think that is helpful,” Brewer said. “She is going to do what she needs to do to win the election. I don’t know too many people who are listening to what Bill de Blasio is saying about Hillary Clinton being to the left or not. They are judging Hillary Clinton on her own pluses and minuses.”

Much of the Democratic establishment backed Clinton long before she was even a candidate, even many of those who appeared alongside de Blasio at his press conference in Washington on Tuesday. If de Blasio’s non-endorsement on Meet the Press was a bit curious, few Clintonistas doubted that he would eventually come around.

“I was with Bill de Blasio in the 2000 Senate campaign. I bumped into him several times in Ohio in 2008 when he was campaigning for Hillary,” said Ann Lewis, a longtime Clinton adviser. “And I fully expect to be campaigning with him again.”

Former Rep. Anthony Weiner, a one-time de Blasio opponent—and whose wedding to a Hillary Clinton aide was officiated by Bill Clinton—agreed. He said de Blasio had every right to step out on the national stage as mayor of New York but that he was not sure exactly what the point of it all would be.

“It takes some hubris here to suggest that Hillary Clinton doesn’t understand the challenges of inequality or the challenges facing our country,” Weiner said. “So what are you going to do, say, ‘I am going to hold my breath until Hillary becomes a good Democrat?’ If the purpose of this is to put pressure on our candidate, there are better ways to do it, and it’s unnecessary anyway.”

SOCIAL MEDIA

Annie Karnie (5/12/15, 11:14 AM) @anniekarni : "If I were advising candidates I would say you’ve got to have a credible position on immigration reform," @BillClinton at Univision upfronts

Adrian Carrasquillo (5/12/15, 8:14 AM) @Carrasquillo : Bill Clinton brings up Eric Garner, says controversy can be lessened if there is dispute resolution by diverse community decision makers.

Chad Pergram (5/12/15, 2:59 PM) @ChadPergram : Senate blocks trade framework. Vote was 52 yeas to 45 nays. But needed 60. McConnell switched so he could call for revote.

Jeff Kaufmann (5/12/15 12:49 PM) @kaufmannGOP : We hope Governor Bush rethinks his decision and realizes that grassroots will only grow in Iowa if he waters them. (1/3); The RedState Gathering is a four day event and other candidates have already indicated that they will be attending both. (2/3); We don’t buy this excuse and neither will Iowans. (3/3)

Jeremy W. Peters (5/12/15 5:56 AM) @jwpetersNYT : @ananavarro says Jeb Bush told her he misheard Megyn Kelly's question about invading Iraq and answered accordingly.

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HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

GOP battles for Benghazi leverage // The Hill // Martin Matishak – May 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton and Republicans on the House Benghazi panel are battling for leverage surrounding the Democratic presidential front-runner's possible testimony on the deadly 2012 attack.

Both sides are determined to make sure that if and when Clinton testifies to the panel, it is on their side's terms.

Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) is due to consult with Republican leaders and his fellow panel members on Wednesday about how to best respond to a request by Clinton's camp to have her testify only once and not twice as he wanted.

One congressional aide predicted Gowdy would give his response to Clinton before the end of the week.

"I'd be surprised if that didn't happen," an aide said on Tuesday.

The former secretary of State has made it clear that she is willing to testify — but only once. She does not want the fight over the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, to cast a long shadow on her 2016 presidential campaign.

Republicans, for their part, have an obvious interest in extending the Benghazi battle, which could be a lingering distraction for Clinton's campaign.

Both sides face risks as they battle over when and how Clinton will testify.

If Republicans are seen as continually pushing off Clinton's testimony even as she agrees to appear before the panel, it will bolster allegations that the committee is all about politics.

Republicans firmly deny their probe is about politics, even as Democrats on the panel insist it is all about Clinton.

Gowdy "is not interested in the politics of this," the congressional aide said.

"He's made that clear from Day One," the aide said, adding that any possible long-term political risks to Clinton's presidential bid are "not a consideration he has made."

Rep. Elijah Cummings (Md.), the panel's top Democrat, rejected that argument. He said Republicans appear to want to drag the process out for as long as possible so that it remains a focus in 2016.

"It does appear we have a situation where Republicans are drawing this entire situation out," he told The Hill. "I think it would be very difficult to draw any other conclusion than it's all about Hillary Clinton."

A risk for Clinton is appearing as if she has something to hide. It's a risk magnified by the controversy over her use

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of a private email account while she served as secretary of State.

The former secretary of State has gone to lengths to make sure she does not come off as reluctant to appear before the panel.

Clinton, Cummings said, has been willing to “come forth and provide the truth and resolve any questions that the committee might have.”

“It seems like the Republicans can’t take yes for an answer,” he told The Hill.

Cummings, who said he has not been in touch with the Democratic front-runner’s campaign, said he was “sure it’s very frustrating for her to see the goal posts constantly being moved” over when she will testify and about what.

Gowdy has been careful to signal that, while his panel wants to hear from Clinton, its members must first have access to all of the information necessary to question her.

It’s an argument that hints at the controversy over Clinton’s private email server, a topic likely to dominate any appearance she makes before the panel.

An interim report from the Benghazi committee, released on Friday, said it would not call Clinton to testify until “it is satisfied that all the relevant information has been provided by both the State Department and her.”

The congressional aide said Gowdy has “hands down” placed a premium on getting emails from State Department principals, including Clinton, before her appearance.

The committee requested those communications in November and issued a subpoena for them in March.

Without those records “it becomes difficult to question because how do you close the loop?” the aide asked.

Despite the delays, Gowdy doesn’t plan on subpoenaing Clinton to appear.

“From his perspective, it hasn’t come to that, and he’ll cross that bridge if it’s necessary, but so far, it has not come to that. She hasn’t said she’s unwilling to come, so I don’t know why you would subpoena her,” the aide said.

Any impact the investigation might have on Clinton and her White House bid “would only be with regards to what the committee can determine are the actual facts.”

Cummings said he doesn’t know what the GOP wants, as Clinton has already agreed to testify.

“The question is, when does it end?” he asked.

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2015

In mid-April, Hillary Clinton announced she was running for President of the United States because everyday Americans and their families need a champion, and she wants to be that champion

Her life's work reflects her middle-class upbringing in Chicago, demonstrates that she is a hard-worker and listener, and proves that Hillary will stand strong for everyday Americans. She has consistently fought to help women and children, the middle class, and the African-American community because she knows that when our families are strong, America is strong.

Like all of us, Hillary is shaped by her parents and her upbringing. At a young age, Hillary's mother was abandoned, and understanding her struggle motivated Hillary's tireless efforts to become a champion for children and families. That's why when she graduated from law school, Hillary chose not to go to a large law firm in a big city. Instead, she knocked doors in New Bedford, Massachusetts for Marian Wright Edelman's Children's Defense Fund. Her on-the-ground work helped ensure that all children, including those with disabilities, had a fair shot at a good education.

Strengthening families and keeping loved ones together has been the bedrock of Hillary's work as a Senator on criminal justice reform, too. By promoting tough but fair reforms of probation and drug diversion programs, pushing an anti-crime plan to cut the number of repeat offenders and reduce the prison population, and championing community policing programs, Hillary has shown time and again that she will fight for fair treatment under the law.

As a co-sponsor of the End Racial Profiling Act of 2001, she fought to prohibit any racial profiling. And by proposing a strong Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring program, Hillary worked to ensure that new community police officers were trained to partner and work with the communities they serve. Bottom line: an important part of her career has focused on creating safe neighborhoods.

Important as well for the African-American community, and all Nevadans, is the feeling that while the economy has come back from collapse, many families still don't feel economically secure. We see those at the top benefiting from the growing economy while wages stagnate and the cost of living increases. Hillary has made clear she will work so that all middle-class families can thrive. So many Nevadans are waiting for it to be their turn; they want someone they can count on who can help them get ahead and stay ahead.

President Obama inherited an economy wracked by the financial crisis, but over the last six years he has made remarkable progress in turning our economy around. Over the last year, according to the Department of Labor, we have added an average of 269,000 jobs per month. The person we can count on to continue this progress is Hillary Clinton.

While we have started to bounce back, we cannot lose sight of the need to grow our economy for everyone. When the deck is stacked in favor of those at the top, we need to reshuffle that deck. CEO pay is through the roof, and yet everyday Americans are not sharing in the success. It is time for our everyday Nevadans to get ahead and stay ahead.

Hillary Clinton is focused on engaging every community, hearing our ideas, and working with us to find solutions. Our country, our state, and our community needs a champion. The middle class needs a champion. Hillary Clinton will be that champion. That's why I'm standing with her as she works to earn your vote.

Hillary Clinton's hedge on trade leaves Obama without political cover // WaPo // David Nakamura - May 12,

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2015

The United States' reputation in Asia was suffering under the weight of economic and political turmoil at home when Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Hong Kong in the summer of 2011 to reassure American business executives that the future was brighter.

Back in Washington, President Obama was locked in a budget dispute with Congress that would ultimately damage the nation's credit rating. But in remarks to the American Chamber of Commerce, Clinton painted a robust vision of U.S. economic leadership, anchored by an emerging free-trade deal that "will bring together economies from across the Pacific."

The goal of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, she explained, was to "create a new high standard for multilateral free trade," a pact that would cement the United States' standing in the world's fastest-growing region.

Four years later, with Obama making a desperate final push to complete that 12-nation pact, his former partner and most effective global advocate for the deal has gone quiet. As the president has scoured Capitol Hill for elusive Democratic support in recent weeks, Clinton has said virtually nothing about the TPP, other than to point out areas of the deal with which she has concerns.

Senate Democrats blocked legislation on Tuesday that would have given President Obama the power to grant "fast-track" authority to move trade deals quickly through Congress. (Reuters)

Clinton's silence on trade, coming at the worst possible time for Obama, dovetails with her transformation into a presidential candidate eager to align herself more squarely with the liberal wing of her party. In other areas in which Clinton has moved to the left — such as immigration reform and gay marriage — White House aides have been delighted that she has forcefully embraced the president's governing record.

But on trade, Clinton's hedge has left Obama without political cover in his increasingly bitter feud with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and other progressives, who have fiercely opposed the pact as a boondoggle for big business. On Tuesday, a bill to grant Obama "fast track" trade authority failed to clear a procedural hurdle in the Senate, with only one Democrat voting in favor of it. Republican leaders have vowed to try again, but it was an embarrassment for the president.

"One of the biggest proponents of the TPP in the administration now, as a candidate, picking on a couple of technical issues just looks like pure politicking," Ernest Bower, a Southeast Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said of Clinton.

White House aides have refused to criticize Clinton for remaining on the sidelines, noting that the trade pact has undergone changes since she departed more than two years ago. But she has been mocked by her political rivals on both sides of the aisle for her refusal to take a clear position.

"She can't sit on the sidelines and let the president swing in the wind here," House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) said on "Meet the Press" last week.

Clinton's campaign pointed to a statement from three weeks ago, in which her spokesman said any trade pact must "raise wages and create more good jobs at home" and strengthen national security. Clinton reiterated those criteria a few days later during an appearance in New Hampshire, her only public comments on the trade deal since launching her campaign.

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In many ways, the politics for Clinton are playing out in a fashion similar to 2008, when both she and Obama, competing for support in Rust Belt states during the Democratic primary, distanced themselves from the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement, signed by President Bill Clinton.

Longtime allies described Hillary Clinton as generally less inclined to support large, multilateral trade deals than her husband was. As a senator, she voted against the Central American Free Trade Agreement in 2005, as did Obama, then also a senator.

“Some people are generally pro-trade or anti-trade. She’s case-by-case on trade,” said Gene Sperling, director of the National Economic Council in both the Clinton and Obama administrations.

With manufacturing-heavy Iowa holding the first-in-the-nation caucuses — which she lost to Obama seven years ago — Clinton would be foolish to actively stump in favor of the president’s trade initiative, allies said.

But this time, the political calculus is complicated by her legacy as the nation’s top diplomat.

Foreign policy analysts have pointed to the Obama administration’s bid to shift U.S. attention and resources toward Asia to counter China as potentially one of Clinton’s most significant achievements as secretary of state.

From the start of her tenure, Clinton made Asia a priority; her first trip in office was a swing through Japan, Indonesia, South Korea and China. Early on, Clinton and her top aides endorsed the TPP to balance the Pentagon’s military buildup in the Asia Pacific region.

Clinton’s team helped elevate the trade pact as a pillar of what Clinton later described, in a Foreign Policy magazine cover story in October 2011, as the administration’s “pivot” to Asia.

“Clearly, we all saw this as strategic,” said James Keith, the U.S. ambassador to Malaysia from 2007 to 2010. Before the administration publicly unveiled its Asia strategy, “there was lots of talk of having to add meat to the bones, not just on security but on economics, too.”

Yet a primary concern Clinton has raised about the TPP after leaving office did not register alarms inside the State Department during her tenure.

In 2009, the agency oversaw a review of a component of U.S. trade policy, appointing a panel of business officials, labor leaders and academics to review the language in the United States’ “model bilateral investment treaty.” That treaty is used by U.S. negotiators in most trade deals.

During the review, which lasted six months, one of the primary disagreements centered on the standard inclusion of a dispute settlement mechanism that allows corporations to sue nations over policies that damage their profits. Under the provision, the cases are heard by an international tribunal that rules outside of domestic legal systems.

To the chagrin of the labor representatives, the dispute mechanism provision remained intact during the State Department review after the business representatives on the panel fiercely defended it.

“I had the feeling that we were a box that was just going to be checked off,” said Kevin P. Gallagher, an associate professor at Boston University who was on the panel. “It was a multi-stakeholder dialogue in which we did not

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agree with each other, so they just go with the old model."

Warren has made this arrangement — formally known as "investor-state dispute settlement" — a chief part of her objections to the TPP. She has argued that the mechanism potentially exposes U.S. taxpayers to massive monetary damages outside of U.S. courts if corporations sue the government over new laws to protect the environment or workers.

Obama has called her arguments "dishonest," noting that the United States has been sued just 13 times over the provision in previous trade pacts and never lost a case.

In her book "Hard Choices," published last year, Clinton raised concerns that echo Warren's. She cited a case in which the Asia division of tobacco giant Philip Morris sued Australia over a "plain packaging" law, employing the dispute settlement provisions in an Australia-Hong Kong trade pact.

"We should avoid some of the provisions sought by business interests," Clinton wrote.

Robert Hormats, a high-ranking State Department official from 2009 to 2013, oversaw the trade policy review and emphasized that Clinton was not involved in those types of granular policy discussions.

By the time she left office, the general framework for the TPP was already in place. During a speech in Australia in November 2012, Clinton referred to the pact as "the gold standard in trade agreements."

The risk now for Clinton is that if the trade deal fails, the Obama administration's "Asia pivot" strategy risks being viewed as more rhetorical than tangible, foreign policy analysts said, which could lead to a reevaluation of her legacy at the State Department.

"We saw it as a chance to make a difference," Hormats said, reflecting on the Clinton team's early embrace of the TPP. He added, "The weakness of the American economy in the financial crisis led many to assume the U.S. was backing off and incapacitated."

After he and other Clinton aides made trips to China in 2009, Hormats said, "we came back more resolute than ever that we had to do this."

Obama's war of words over trade deal puts pressure on Clinton // Yahoo News // Jon Ward - May 12, 2015

President Barack Obama's decision to escalate his fight with the Elizabeth Warren wing of the Democratic Party over a free trade deal with Asia is unwelcome news for Hillary Clinton.

Former secretary of state Clinton, who is now running for president, had been keeping her head down on the trade issue — and on the fast-track trade authority that Obama is seeking in order to execute the deal. Despite her past support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal, which she in 2012 called "the gold standard," she has remained noncommittal on it since announcing her presidential bid.

Labor and progressive groups are eager to see Clinton come out swinging against the deal. But Clinton would open herself up to charges of flip-flopping and cynical pandering if she did so now, given her past remarks and her generally pro-trade positions in the past.

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“What would be her reason for opposing it? She hasn’t laid the groundwork for that with any articulation of serious concerns about this trade deal,” said a senior-ranking Democratic congressional aide. “She probably wants fast-track authority if she’s going to be president.”

If Clinton were to vocally back the deal, however, that could give oxygen to one of the other declared or likely candidates for the Democratic nomination, such as Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) or former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, both of whom oppose the deal. And while Clinton at present far outpaces both men in polls, fighting members of her own party on the trade deal could pave the way for union endorsements for her opponents and give them strength on the ground in early-contest states.

“TPP is treacherous territory. It proves that … even without a dozen well-funded primary opponents, she’ll still have to navigate a bunch of tough issues that various segments of her base consider critically important — all without alienating swing voters for the general,” said Dan Newman, a Democratic consultant who is working for California U.S. Senate candidate Kamala Harris and the state’s lieutenant governor, Gavin Newsom.

Union and liberal organizer support for Clinton’s opponents would drain resources, time and energy from her campaign that otherwise could have gone to preparing for a general election.

“Whatever the merits of the TPP, this issue has become a surrogate within the party for a larger debate about corporate power and fairness, which puts her in a difficult spot,” said David Axelrod, a former top political adviser to the president.

“She was the [secretary of state] when these negotiations began, and the previous Clinton administration was closely identified with trade. But it is a volatile issue, and supporting it could add to fears on the left that she is too oriented toward big business and give additional impetus to a potential primary challenger,” Axelrod said.

“In the end, this is one where [Clinton] is going to have to take a gut check and choose. And she would probably do best by choosing the side in which she genuinely believes, even if it buys her some grief,” he noted. Obama “could relieve some of that pressure” on Clinton “by making a compelling case” for the trade deal, he said.

The president should stress “a cooling-off period for review before he signs and another before Congress votes, and specific standards for labor, human rights, and the environment, with the ability of Congress to rescind fast track if the standards are deemed not to be met,” Axelrod said.

When asked if he thought Obama was doing enough to make a “compelling case” for the deal, Axelrod said, “It’s a tough hill to climb. He just needs to keep climbing.”

Obama and the White House have been feuding with Warren for days over her opposition to the trade deal. But during the weekend, the president made his most pointed comments about the liberal Democratic senator from Massachusetts, inan interview with Yahoo News.

Obama told Yahoo’s Matt Bai that Warren is “absolutely wrong” in her opposition to the trade deal and that her warnings of a Republican president using authorities given to the executive in the deal to unwind Wall Street regulations are “made up.”

“It doesn’t make any sense,” he said of Warren’s objections to the bill.

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The president also suggested that Warren's opposition is motivated more by her own ambition than by righteous ideology. "The truth of the matter is that Elizabeth is, you know, a politician like everybody else, and she's got a voice that she wants to get out there."

Warren quickly responded on Monday morning, reiterating her concerns in detail to the Washington Post. It is a quickly intensifying intraparty squabble that will be increasingly hard for Clinton to ignore.

"Given how this is developing, I think she will need to pick a lane," said Iowa Democratic operative Jeff Link.

In Iowa, "we tend to support trade deals," he said, and so if Clinton were to support the deal, it would not hurt her in the first primary or caucus state.

But in the broader Democratic Party, there is money and organization that is poised to punish Clinton if she does step out and take a position in favor of the trade deal.

"Unless there is some miracle compromise to convert the bill's fierce opposition, it's a very risky thing for a candidate to support. Why wade into danger when you can promise to sign a better version as president?" asked Gil Duran, a California political operative who has worked for Governor Jerry Brown. "Any candidate who backs this turkey stands to lose some very important blocs of support."

A Clinton spokesman did not answer a question about whether Clinton would take a position on the issue. In roughly a month as a presidential candidate, Clinton hasanswered only eight questions from the media. She has not spoken with the press in almost three weeks.

Will Bill de Blasio and Elizabeth Warren be able to push Hillary Clinton to the left? // Slate // Jamelle Bouie – May 12, 2015

Thus far, the Democrats' anti-inequality agenda has focused on redistribution. Barack Obama wants free community college and tax credits for child care, congressional Democrats want a $12 minimum wage, and Hillary Clinton has endorsed paid family leave. But scholars at the forefront of the inequality battle want Democrats to go even further.

"To fix the economy for average Americans," writes Joseph Stiglitz and his team of fellow economists in a report for the left-leaning Roosevelt Institute titled "Rewriting the Rules: An Agenda for Growth and Shared Prosperity," "we need to tackle the rules and institutions that have generated low investment, sluggish growth, and runaway incomes and wealth accumulation at the top and created a steeper hill for the rest to climb. It would be easier, politically, to push for one or two policies on which we have consensus, but that approach would be insufficient to match the severity of the problems posed by rising inequality."

In an unequal economy, they argue, it's not enough to redistribute the gains of a tiny, wealthy minority. Even with more programs—more health care, more tax credits—the shape of the economy is the same: The wealthiest individuals and corporations receive the lion's share of national income. And that's by design. "Inequality has been a choice," writes Stiglitz and his team. "Beginning in the 1970s, a wave of deliberate ideological, institutional, and legal changes began to reconfigure the marketplace. ... Get government out of the way and the creativity of the marketplace—and the ingenuity of the financial sector—would revitalize society." Put differently, the "deregulation" of the 1980s and 1990s was really a "re-regulation"—"a new set of rules for governing the economy that favors a specific set of actors."

And it failed. Labor force participation sits at a 37-year low, public and private investment is weak, and tens of

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millions of Americans struggle with slow growth and low wages. Greater redistribution can ameliorate these problems, but it can't solve them.

For that, you need to rethink the markets themselves. You need new rules to build an economy that delivers more equal results before the government steps in to tax and spend. In short, Stiglitz and company recommend greater financial regulation—ending "too big too fail" and creating greater transparency in financial markets—incentives for long-term business growth (including a financial transaction tax to discourage short-term trading and "encourage more productive long-term investment"); higher taxes on capital gains, dividends, and corporate income; and a national commitment to full employment, through public works and monetary policy. And to deliver more gains to ordinary people, they call for stronger bargaining rights and lower barriers to unionization, criminal justice reform, pay equity, health care reform ("Medicare-for-all"), and a host of new programs for children (universal pre-K, child benefits), retirees, and homeowners (a public option for mortgages).

It is one thing to push Clinton on immigration and criminal justice reform; it's something else to push her toward a fundamental revamp of our economy.

The bulk of this plan is far afield from the mainstream of the Democratic Party. Which means it runs far afield from Hillary Clinton, who stands at the center of the Democratic coalition. What's more, from the Clinton administration to her time in the Senate, Clinton has held close ties to the Wall Street wing of the Democratic Party, which favors the kind of financial deregulation that produced yawning inequality and a catastrophic economic collapse. It is one thing to push Clinton on immigration and criminal justice reform—areas where the coalition has moved to the left. It's something different, and more difficult, to push her toward a fundamental revamp of our economy and its rules.

It helps, however, to have an ally. And the Roosevelt Institute has two in the form of Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. Both spoke at the Tuesday event for the new report, urging Democrats—and Republicans, for that matter—to rethink their economic assumptions. "This country is in real trouble. The game is rigged and we are running out of time," Warren said. "We cannot continue to run this country for the top 10 percent." De Blasio touted his agenda in New York City—including universal pre-K and paid sick time for all workers—but urged national action. "We in New York are doing all we can, but we cannot complete the mission without fundamental change in federal policy," he said. "There needs to be not only new debate in this country, but there needs to be a movement that will carry these ideas forward."

To that end, de Blasio took to the Capitol steps Tuesday afternoon to unveil his "Progressive Agenda to Combat Inequality," a deliberate echo to the 1994 "Contract With America" of Newt Gingrich and the congressional GOP. "These 13 progressive ideas," he said, "will make an enormous difference for families all over this country, for everyday Americans." Among the proposals are a minimum wage increase to $15 an hour, national paid sick and family leave, subsidized child care, and "closing the loopholes that allow CEOs, hedge fund managers, and billionaires to avoid paying their fair share in taxes."

There's no doubt Clinton will adopt this language—to an extent, she already has. But will she adopt the policies? Will she go beyond the agenda for redistribution to embrace structural change of the American economy?

The answer to this question depends on power. Is the left strong enough to budge Clinton from her ground in the corporate center of the Democratic Party? It's too early to say—the fight has just begun—but there are signs. Hours after the Roosevelt Institute unveiled its package, the Senate held a cloture vote for a bill that would give President Obama "accelerated power to complete a major trade accord with Asia." On this, Warren has been a strong opponent, denouncing the bill—and the accord itself—as a giveaway to corporate America. The vote failed. Warren peeled away enough Democrats to block cloture and continue debate, a blow to the president's standing.

If this is a fluke, then Clinton can resist the calls from her left. But if it's a sign of the times, then liberals can look forward to a Clinton campaign that sounds a lot like them.

Hillary Is Passing 2016's Biggest Test—and Jeb Is Flunking // The New Republic // Brian Beutler - May 12,

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2015

In America, in 2015, large swaths of people with wildly differing political ideologies—and, in some cases, wildly differing factual and analytical premises—are converging on a series of assumptions they didn't always share. The list is long, but it includes the following, timely opinions: that the drug war is a moral and practical failure; that three-strikes laws, mandatory minimum sentences, and myriad other aspects of our criminal justice system are flawed, racially biased, and in desperate need of reform; that the loosening of certain financial regulations in recent decades was disastrous; that the Iraq war never should have happened.

The political establishment hasn't caught up to all of these consensuses, or emerging consensuses, but in most cases the public has, and in each instance the public has outpaced its elected officials. And when you view the aforementioned left-right convergence in light of federal policymaking over the past 20 or 30 years, it reflects poorly on our country's most recent political leaders. Or at the very least, it suggests those political leaders made a number of very consequential decisions while they were in power without thinking past near-term politics. You might believe these errors stem from the inherent difficulties of governing, or from systemic institutional failures, or a mix of both. But the phenomenon is indisputable, and a reckoning with the causes is now inevitable.

Why? Because these issues have moved to the foreground of the country's political imagination just as the most recent president's brother and his predecessor's wife are running for president. In the absence of the Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush candidacies, a new paradigm could prevail without a great deal of bipartisan introspection. Instead, this election will force referenda on the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush presidencies. The coming Democratic and Republican primaries will to a great extent turn on how adeptly and convincingly Jeb and Hillary can explain away or atone for the country's biggest public policy failures in recent memory. Were these mistakes? Were they rational decisions that simply didn't withstand the test of time or have grown obsolete? Or, despite all appearances, is the jury still out?

From an elevated vantage point, the retrospective politics of the 2016 campaign should be easier for Hillary Clinton than for Jeb Bush to navigate. Whatever particular mistakes her husband made in office, the public generally remembers Bill Clinton's presidency fondly, as a time of relative peace and economic growth. He left office popular and has grown more so ever since.

George W. Bush's presidency, by contrast, is widely and correctly understood as a travesty—marred by debt-financed social policy, intelligence failures, the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history, grand-scale deception, a gruesome, losing war of aggression— which culminated in the country's worst economic crisis in nearly a century. He became historically unpopular and has only returned to parity, or near-parity, by dint of the afterglow that tends to accrete around presidents after they leave political office.

And yet despite these fundamental differences, both Hillary Clinton and her husband are publicly grappling with the shortcomings of his substantive record, while Jeb Bush, if anything, is embracing his brother's toxic record.

Jeb told funders in New York recently that when it comes to Middle East foreign policy, George is his lodestar. "If you want to know who I listen to for advice, it's him."

More damningly, Jeb told Fox News host Megan Kelly that he still supports the invasion of Iraq.

"Knowing what we know now, would you have authorized the invasion?" she asked.

"I would have," replied.

Jeb's full answer was actually more ambiguous than most political writers, including Washington Examiner's

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conservative reporter Byron York, are allowing. Though he appeared to suggest that the Iraq war was wise despite false pretenses, he added, “And so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody. And so would have almost everybody that was confronted with the intelligence they got.” But Jeb is painfully aware of the expectation that he’ll disavow George W.’s presidency. “[J]ust for the news flash to the world,” he told Kelly, “if they’re trying to find places where there’s big space between me and my brother, this might not be one of those.”

The Clintons are, by contrast, at pains to scrutinize their own records. Hillary's criminal justice speech last week, in which she called for an end to “the era of mass incarceration” was an implicit rebuke of her husband's former views and her own. Bill himself conceded that mass incarceration (and thus its attendant racial inequities) were partly attributable to a 1994 crime bill that he signed. Republicans, he said, insisted on incorporating the legislation’s tough-on-crime measures, but he was willing to accept them as the price of signing. “The problem is the way it was written and implemented,” Clinton told CNN’s Christiane Amanpour at the Clinton Global Initiative last week, “we cast too wide a net and we had too many people in prison. And we wound up… putting so many people in prison that there wasn't enough money left to educate them, train them for new jobs, and increase the chances when they came out so they could live productive lives.”

Hillary has had a more difficult time explaining how she landed on her belief that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right and explicating her position on free trade (which her husband supported unabashedly), but in both cases her current substantive views depart in obvious ways from her previous ones and thus constitute admissions that—at the very least—time hasn’t been kind to the Democratic orthodoxy of the 1990s, which she helped shape.

Though there’s a strangeness to the spectacle of Jeb embracing his unpopular brother while the Clintons break faith with their former selves, it’s also difficult to see how it could be any other way. Progressivism by its nature isn’t kind to old dogmas, which is why any politician who hopes to remain relevant in progressive politics for decades will have to evolve and atone. Conservatives, by contrast, are wary of precisely this kind of second-guessing. Republicans no longer zealously guard Iraq as a war of patriotic necessity, but they will sooner admit that Obamacare isn’t a complete failure than that Iraq was a mistake on its own terms.

And here the dynastic differences between the Bushes and the Clintons further complicate matters. Unlike the Bushes, the Clintons don’t have a political ancestry. You can believe that they admit error now because they learn from their mistakes or simply because it’s the path of least resistance to power, but they aren’t the reflexive defenders of Bill’s every decision the way the Bush family must be of George W.’s.

That’s partly attributable to the unusually bad record George W. amassed over eight years—it’s ironically easier for the Clintons to admit select errors when they can defend Bill’s record in general. But it’s also partly attributable the fact that the Clintons just aren’t like the Bushes. As The New Republic’s Rebecca Traister wrote recently, “There are big differences between being born into a position of political privilege and marrying someone who becomes politically powerful.” One of those differences is that you don’t have to treat the family name as if it’s a precious stone that must constantly be burnished.

A further irony is that these apparently liabilities—the dynastic heritage, the conservative reluctance to second guess—each work to Bush’s advantage in Republican politics. But when conservatives fret that nominating a Bush will neutralize one of Hillary Clinton’s only big weaknesses, this—the inherent awkwardness of squaring the recent historical record with the current state of public opinion—is exactly what they have in mind.

Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton and authorizing the war in Iraq // PolitiFact // Amy Sherman – May 12, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush’s comments on Fox News about the Iraq War brought up more questions than answers.

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Did Bush fully understood the question posed by Megyn Kelly on May 10? We'll go straight to the transcript.

Kelly: "On the subject of Iraq, very controversial, knowing what we know now, would you have authorized the invasion?"

Bush: "I would have, and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody, and so would almost everybody that was confronted with the intelligence they got."

Kelly: "You don't think it was a mistake?"

Bush: "In retrospect, the intelligence that everybody saw, that the world saw, not just the United States, was faulty. And in retrospect, once we invaded and took out Saddam Hussein, we didn't focus on security first, and the Iraqis in this incredibly insecure environment turned on the United States military because there was no security for themselves and their families. By the way, guess who thinks that those mistakes took place as well? George W. Bush."

His remarks drew considerable attention: Was Bush saying that even knowing the intelligence was faulty, even he and Clinton would have gone to war anyway?

After the interview aired, Kelly said, "I do think, in fairness to Gov. Bush, when I said 'knowing what we know now would you have invaded Iraq,' I think he was trying to answer the question: 'Do you think it was a mistake at the time?' " she said. "That was my take on it in the interview. He wasn't trying to say, 'Still today I don't there is an issue.' "

Bush went on Sean Hannity's radio show May 12 to clarify his remarks.

"I interpreted the question wrong, I guess," Bush said. "I was talking about, given what people knew then, would you have done it, rather that knowing what we know now. And knowing what we know now, clearly there were mistakes as it related to faulty intelligence in the lead up to war and the lack of focus on security. My brother has admitted this, and we have to learn from that."

Of course, it's impossible to know with certainty how people would have acted if history were different. But we suspect Clinton would have answered the question differently than Bush. How candidate Clinton and presidential contender Bush talk about the Iraq war will be a major foreign policy topic in the 2016 race, so we decided to take a look at their statements about the Iraq war.

Hillary Clinton

Clinton has said recently that she regrets her 2002 vote, which ended up being a stumbling block during her 2008 presidential campaign.

In her 2014 book Hard Choices, Clinton said this about her vote:

"While many were never going to look past my 2002 vote no matter what I did or said, I should have stated my regret sooner and in the plainest, most direct language possible. I'd gone most of the way there by saying I

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regretted the way President Bush used his authority and by saying that if we knew then what we later learned, there wouldn't have been a vote. But I held out against using the word mistake. It wasn't because of political expediency. After all, primary voters and the press were clamoring for me to say that word. When I voted to authorize force in 2002, I said that it was 'probably the hardest decision I have ever had to make.' I thought I had acted in good faith and made the best decision I could with the information I had. And I wasn't alone in getting it wrong. But I still got it wrong. Plain and simple."

On Meet the Press on Sept. 23, 2007, she said, "Well, I cast a sincere vote based on my assessment at the time, and I take responsibility for that vote. I also said on the floor that day that this was not a vote for pre-emptive war. ... Now, obviously, if I had known then what I know now about what the president would do with the authority that was given him, I would not have voted the way that I did." She made similar comments on the Today Show on Dec. 18, 2006: "Obviously, if we knew then what we know now, there wouldn't have been a vote, and I certainly wouldn't have voted for it."

Her decision in 2002 to vote for the Iraq war urged international co-operation and focused on Saddam Hussein's atrocities. She described Hussein as "a tyrant" who used weapons to kill more than 20,000 people and that he blocked weapons inspections in 1998.

"A vote for it is not a vote to rush to war; it is a vote that puts awesome responsibility in the hands of our president and we say to him -- use these powers wisely and as a last resort," Clinton said in a speech on the Senate floor. "And it is a vote that says clearly to Saddam Hussein -- this is your last chance -- disarm or be disarmed.

Jeb Bush's statements about the Iraq war

Bush showed strong support for his brother leading up to and during the war.

During a 2003 news conference in Pensacola, Bush said, "It is the last thing that a commander in chief, a president of the United States, wants to do. But in his heart, I know he is doing what he thinks is right, and I concur with him."

In April 2006, amid mounting criticism of how President Bush was handling the war, Gov. Bush visited Florida troops in Iraq for Easter.

"It is very important that we stay the course, that we provide support for these incredible people that are doing such a service for liberty around the world and protecting our freedoms here," Bush said upon returning.

Bush has been asked about the Iraq war several times since he left office in January 2007.

In March 2013, CNN's Candy Crowley asked Bush about polls showing that the American public thinks the war was a mistake: "Do you think that will ever change?"

Bush: "Yes. You know, a lot of things in history change over time. I think people will respect the resolve that my brother showed, both in defending the country and the war in Iraq. But history will judge that in a more objective way than today. The war has wound down now, and it's still way too early to judge what success it had in providing some degree of stability in the region."

As Bush has explored a bid for president, at times he has tried to avoid picking apart his brother's decisions about Iraq.

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At an event with his mother in Florida in February, Bush told reporters that he would not be addressing the war in Iraq or "re-litigating anything in the past."

But that's exactly what he has had to do.

In a February speech in Chicago, Bush said during the question-and-answer session:

"There were mistakes made in Iraq, for sure," Bush said, adding that the intelligence "that everybody embraced about weapons of mass destruction turned out to not be accurate."

Bush also faulted his brother's administration for failing to create "an environment for security" in Iraq after the removal of Hussein.

However, he called his brother's decision to deploy 20,000 additional troops into Iraq in 2007 "one of the most heroic acts of courage, politically, that any president's done because there was no support."

While in New Hampshire in March, Bush said that if Obama had kept 10,000 troops in Iraq, it would have prevented the rise of the Islamic State.

"The surge worked. We created a fragile degree of stability. The forces agreement the president could have signed, I think, would have avoided where we are today," Bush said, referring to a troop level increase that his brother had authorized. "But we are where we are."

He said the United States should "re-engage with some small force level who can help continue to train the Iraqi army, to be able to provide some stability."

In his most recent remarks on Hannity, Bush praised the surge again, but wouldn't say if he would have authorized the war, knowing what he knows now.

"Yeah, I don't know what that decision would have been," Bush said. "That's a hypothetical. But the simple fact is, mistakes were made. They always are in life and (in) foreign policy. So we need to learn from the past to make sure we are strong and secure going forward."

Our conclusion

Bush said regarding the Iraq invasion that both himself and Clinton would have authorized it.

"I would have and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody, and so would almost everybody that was confronted with the intelligence they got," he said.

Bush can't know what Clinton would have done if she had known that the intelligence was faulty. Here is what we do know: In 2002, Clinton supported the Iraq resolution, but by 2006 she said she regretted it.

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Bush was a supporter of the invasion at the time and stood by his brother. He has acknowledged that the intelligence was flawed but has still expressed support for his brother's decisions.

The 13 Questions Hillary Clinton Has Answered From The Press // NPR // Tamara Keith – May 13, 2015

It has been more than three weeks since Hillary Clinton has answered a question from reporters. There is always a tension between the press and the candidates they cover. Journalists want access, and want to ask questions. Campaigns want to control the message. Over time, that has especially been true with Hillary Clinton.

Since announcing her candidacy in a web video, there have been no press conferences and no sit-down interviews. It has been a month, and the candidate has answered just 13 reporter questions (at least that we've been able to find, building on the work of National Journal). And you can quibble about whether some of the answers were really answers.

Last week in Nevada, as Clinton posed for pictures, we in the press corps attempted to get her attention. All we saw was the back of her head as she walked out of the room, to applause from a small hand-selected group of participants and observers.

Clinton's campaign describes this as the ramp-up phase, where she listens to voters. Questions about when there will be interviews, or when she will make herself available to questions from reporters are deflected with something along the lines of: all in good time.

Now, this isn't to say the candidate hasn't answered any questions. She's answered plenty. But they've been generally friendly questions on comfortable topics from people invited to participate in round-table discussions with her.

Her campaign spokesperson, Nick Merrill responds in an email:

The focus of our ramp-up period is to hear from voters about the issues they care about. She's enjoyed engaging in hours of public question and answers sessions and, as the campaign progresses, looks forward to more engagement with voters and the press as well.

Until then, here are the 13 reporter questions Clinton has answered:

1. Strategy in Iowa

NBC's Kristen Welker caught up with Clinton outside of her very first campaign stop at an Iowa coffee shop:

"You lost Iowa in 2008. How do you win this time? What's your strategy?" Welker asked.

Clinton's reply, as she walked toward an open van door: "I'm having a great time. Can't look forward any more than I am."

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2. Liking Iowa

AP got in a question as Clinton walked into the Iowa State Capitol building to meet with lawmakers: "How are you liking Iowa?"

"I'm having a great time," Clinton answered.

3. Why are you running?

ABC's Cecilia Vega got a question in during Clinton's visit to a community college in Iowa. "What would you say to Americans who want to know why you are running?," she asked.

"I'm running to be the champion to Americans and their families, so that we can not just worry about treading water, but you can get ahead and you can stay ahead," she answered.

4-6. More liking Iowa, and opportunity structure

Clinton answered three other questions from reporters at the community college in Iowa.

One was "Is it good to be back out here again?"

Her response was: "Welcome. It is, it's fabulous. We're having the best time."

She was also asked what she learned during her visit, to which she responded, in part: "So much good information, so much great exchange about what works, what can work not just here in Iowa, but I think across the country."

She was also asked a question not caught in recordings of the event, and in response spoke about the start of the campaign and her visit to Iowa. "We're off and running, and I had a great drive across the country. One of the highlights was seeing spring, finally, once I got to Iowa, which I thought was a good sign. I saw daffodils and tulips and flowering trees. It was so beautiful. Just glad to be here," she said.

7-8. Campaign finance plan

A pair of Washington Post reporters spotted her outside of an unannounced event and asked about campaign finance reform. The answers weren't substantive.

According to the Post, she said "We do have a plan. We have a plan for my plan."

9. Importance of Iowa

Brent Roske, the host of the Iowa television show Roske on Politics worked his sources to figure out where the candidate would be.

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"I found myself basically the sixth car in the motorcade pulling into Mount Vernon, Iowa," he said.

He was in the right place at the right time and was able to ask a question.

"Secretary Clinton what do you think the importance of the Iowa caucus will be in the upcoming election?," Roske asked.

Clinton answered: "I think it's important because it's the first contest and I look forward to getting prepared for it next February."

Roske admits it was a softball question. But it's a question he asks all of the candidates he interviews, to get the conversation going. And Roske has interviewed a ton of candidates. His Clinton interview in the middle of the street as she headed into a closed door event has to go down as one of his shortest.

"Was hoping to get a minute or two with her and just got a very short exchange," he said. "I was hoping it would spark a bit more of a conversation. I didn't know at the time that she wasn't necessarily taking press questions on this tour."

10. Position on trade deal

In New Hampshire, Clinton answered four reporter questions. One was about trade. NBC's Andrea Mitchell asked Clinton about the trade deal, and whether that will hurt American competitiveness.

Clinton didn't answer immediately or directly. Instead she talked about an Intellitech machine assembled in Manchester. And then about 30 seconds later, she talked more broadly about trade deals. "Well any trade deal has to produce jobs, and raise wages, and increase prosperity and protect our security. And we have to do our part in making sure we have the capabilities and the skills to be competitive," Clinton said.

11. Response to Clinton Cash book

ABC's Vega asked Clinton for her response to the Clinton Cash book, specifically:

"Did foreign embassies receive any special treatment for making any kind of donations to foundation or your husband?"

"Well, we're back into the political season and therefore we will be subjected to all kinds of distraction and attacks. And I'm ready for that. I know that that comes, unfortunately, with the territory," Clinton answered. She went on to say she didn't know what the Republicans would talk about "if I weren't in the race."

12-13. Criticism of a staged campaign

And then a reporter from WMUR asked her to respond to criticism that the campaign is too staged.

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"This is exactly what I want to do. I want to hear from people in New Hampshire about what's on their minds," she said.

And the follow-up:

"Are you planning to answer reporter questions about some of the things that are coming up regarding the play for pay allegations in the latest book, emails back in 2012?" the reporter asked.

"Those issues are in my view distractions from what this campaign should be about. What I'm going to make this campaign about," Clinton responded.

But does avoiding questions or not answering them directly hurt her with voters?

"The premise of your question presupposes that the way that Hillary Clinton needs to reach voters is through the national media, and that's simply not the case anymore," said Steve Schmidt, a Republican strategist who was a senior adviser on John McCain's Straight Talk Express campaign back in 2000.

He argues a campaign as sophisticated Clinton's can bypass the media filter and target voters directly.

"The notion that real voters worried about real issues cares one whit about how often a presidential candidate talks to their traveling press corps or answers questions from them is just ludicrous. It's not the case," he said.

You can argue other candidates have to answer reporter questions. They need the free media. Clinton doesn't. And with minimal primary competition, she'd be happy to have much less media attention.

GOP candidate Carly Fiorina's campaign is keeping a running tally of all the questions she's answered. Since the last time Hillary Clinton answered a reporter question, Fiorina has answered 328.

Hillary Clinton Hasn't Answered a Press Question in 21 Days (And Her Opponents Are Taking Notice) // ABC News // Liz Kruetz - May 12, 2015

Today is the one month anniversary of Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign. It also marks 21 days since she has answered a question from the press.

During this "ramp up" phase of her candidacy, Clinton has kept her distance from the media, answering only a handful of questions from the reporters following her on the campaign trail.

As the days go by, Clinton’s opponents have begun to take notice and Clinton’s limited engagement with reporters is becoming an issue.

Likely Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush took a shot at Clinton for not taking questions, saying in an interview with Fox News Monday he wants to run a campaign where he doesn’t “have a protective bubble.”

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And last weekend, Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina rolled out a fresh attack line.

“Like Hillary Clinton, I’m also running for president, but unlike her, I’m not afraid to answer questions about my record," Fiorina noted at the South Carolina Freedom Summit. "She’s answered seven on-the-record questions since April 12th; I’ve answered over 200 on the record since Monday.”

Not surprisingly the press is also taking notice: The New York Times launched a new feature called “Questions for Hillary,” dedicated to posing hypothetical questions that it would ask Clinton (if the paper had the chance).

By ABC News’ count, Clinton has responded -- in one way or another -- to a grand total of nine questions from reporters since she launched her campaign last month. Most recently, on April 21 she answered a question from a reporter about her position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement.

Clinton has not answered any questions from reporters since, though she has fielded her fair share from voters in events her campaign has organized.

Here’s how Clinton campaign spokesman Jesse Ferguson explained the approach: “The focus of our ramp up period is to hear from voters about the issues they care about. She’s enjoyed engaging in hours of public question and answers sessions and, as the campaign progresses, looks forward to more engagement with voters and the press as well.”

Clinton has participated in multiple roundtable discussions and coffee chats with voters during campaign swings through Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada. But, in some instances, those voters were chosen by her own campaign.

Clinton is not the only 2016 hopeful who has been steering clear of inquisitive journalists lately. Wisconsin governor and likely Republican presidential candidate, Scott Walker, has largely ducked encounters with the media since he told the Washington Post in February he did not know whether President Obama was a Christian. This week, Walker is on a trip to Israel (the national press were not invited).

Even so, Clinton’s strategy differs from that of many other announced or likely presidential candidates such as Bush and potential Democratic rivals Bernie Sanders and Martin O’Malley, who have been doing regular television interviews and answering multiple questions on their campaign stops.

Clinton herself, however, has suggested things could change.

As reporters swarmed during her first official campaign stop last month in Iowa, Clinton dodged their questions but offered this: “We'll have lots of time to talk later.”

Hillary Clinton hasn’t answered a question from the media in 20 days // WaPo // Chris Cillizza - May 12, 2015

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton takes part in a roundtable of young Nevadans discussing immigration as she campaigns for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination at Rancho High School in Las Vegas, Nevada May 5, 2015. REUTERS/Mike Blake

Welcome to day 29 of the Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential campaign!

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In those 29 days -- including April 12, the day she announced, and today -- Clinton has taken a total of eight questions from the press. That breaks out to roughly one questions every 3.6 days. Of late, she's taken even fewer questions than that. According to press reports, the last day Clinton answered a question was April 21 in New Hampshire; that means that she hasn't taken a question from the media in 20 straight days.

Carly Fiorina, one of the many newly-minted Republicans running for president, is doing everything she can to shine a light on Clinton's close-mouthed approach with the press. This came from Fiorina deputy campaign manager Sasha Isgur Flores this morning:

In the last eight days, Carly has been interviewed almost 30 times and answered well over 300 questions. She continues to impress voters, pundits, and reporters alike with her willingness to share her thoughts and ideas – and to answer any question, from whether she likes hot dogs to how she would tackle the crisis in the Middle East....This is in stark contrast to many other candidates – and most especially to Hillary Clinton.

And, it's not just the Republican candidates attacking Clinton on her silence. The New York Times posted an item on its "First Draft" blog last week entitled "Questions for Hillary Clinton: Immigration" in which Timeswoman Amy Chozick wrote: "This is the first installment of a regular First Draft feature in which The Times will publish questions we would have asked Mrs. Clinton had we had the opportunity." And, late last month, I offered up seven questions Clinton should answer.

The Clinton campaign's response to all of this? Blah. Reporters whining -- like they always do. And, as every Clinton staffer is quick to note, she hasanswered questions from lots of regular people during her first month as a candidate -- holding roundtables in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada. They are also quick to note that she makes opening statements at these roundtables.

She's taking questions from voters! She's talking about policy! You guys just don't like it because she's not falling all over herself to jump through your hoops!

So, for roughly the billionth time, let me make two points in response to that way of thinking.

1. Making policy statements/opening statements does not remove the need to answer actual questions from reporters.

2. While answering questions from hand-picked audience members is not without value, no one could possibly think it is the equivalent of answering questions from the working press.

As I have written before, Clinton needs the press at this point in the campaign far less than someone like Carly Fiorina does. Clinton is not only universally known but also has a huge primary lead and is ahead of all Republican contenders in general election matchups as well. Fiorina, on the other hand, is known by roughly no one and to the extent anyone does know her, it's for the way she left HP.

Still, this is the new Clinton campaign, right? The one where she and the people around her pledged to deal differently with the press? Little did we know that "different" in this case meant "next to not at all."

Yes, we are one month into the campaign. And, yes, Clinton and her team wanted to start very low profile this time around -- to avoid making the mistakes she made in 2008. So, it's possible things could change. But, if past is prologue, I wouldn't bet on it.

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Here's a clock that counts the minutes since Hillary Clinton answered a press question // WaPo // Philip Bump - May 12, 2015

We have noted, as have others, that it has been three weeks since Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has answered a question posed to her by the press. (She's been an official candidate for a month as of today.) She's happy to talk with screened attendees of her events -- just not the media.

Last question answered: April 21, 2015, 3 p.m. (or so). Question and response on "Clinton Cash" book reported by WMUR in New Hampshire.

Journalists Try Shaming Hillary Clinton Into Speaking To The Press // Huffington Post // Michael Calderone - May 12, 2015

NEW YORK –- In the months leading up to the 2008 Iowa caucus, reporters covering Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign grew increasingly frustrated by their lack of access to the Democratic frontrunner. Such complaints make for easy Twitter fodder these days, but two election cycles ago, journalist grumbling was still largely confined to the back of the press bus.

Now, as the front-running Clinton again dodges the press, reporters are more than willing to publicly acknowledge the snub. A flurry of recent articles suggest they hope to nudge the press-averse candidate into engaging with them by highlighting how infrequently she does.

Clinton has taken questions from members of the public in controlled settings, but has only answered nine questions from the press in the month since she declared her campaign. She's avoided serious challenges from journalists on her policy positions and on recent controversies involving her exclusive use of a private email account while at the State Department and foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation.

"The focus of our ramp-up period is to hear from voters about the issues they care about," Clinton campaign press secretary Brian Fallon said in a statement. "She's enjoyed engaging in hours of public question and answer sessions and, as the campaign progresses, looks forward to more engagement with voters and press as well."

Meanwhile, Republican candidates like Sens. Marco Rubio (Fla.), Ted Cruz (Texas), and Rand Paul (Ky.), and likely candidate Jeb Bush, have done numerous interviews as Clinton has remained silent. Paul even joked in an interview with a New York Times reporter on Monday about how Clinton won't speak to the paper.

So political reporters, starved for answers from Clinton, have resorted to covering their lack of access to her instead

National Journal highlighted Clinton's lack of accessibility last month in a post aptly titled, "Here Are All Eight Media Questions Hillary Clinton Has Answered During Her Campaign."

Amy Chozick, who has been on the Clinton beat for The New York Times since the summer of 2013, launched a recurring post last week featuring questions the Times would've asked the candidate "had we had the opportunity."

On Monday, The Washington Post Chris Cillizza published a post titled, "Hillary Clinton hasn't answered a

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question from the media in 20 days."

And ABC News followed up Tuesday morning with, "Hillary Clinton Hasn't Answered a Press Question in 21 Days (And Her Opponents Are Taking Notice)."

Later on Tuesday, The Washington Post took the shaming up a notch by unveiling a countdown clock that tracks the time that has elapsed since Clinton last answered a question. (Fox News tried something similar in 2008 in hopes of getting then-candidate Barack Obama to appear on the network).

Clinton's 2016 campaign surely has its reasons for keeping the press at arm's length, and it may end up being a savvy move. But such a controlled media strategy could also lead to an uneasy relationship between reporters and a candidate they never really get to know, something Politico's Glenn Thrush described in a recent piece about the 2008 campaign.

"I was there, on the eve of the Iowa caucuses, when Clinton boarded the press bus for the very first time to offer a bag of Dunkin Donuts bagels as a peace offering after months of giving us the stiff arm," Thrush wrote. "The candidate was smiling, but her eyes said something different—and so did her feet, which never budged past the white line that separates bus driver from passenger. It is the only time I can ever recall a group of reporters happy to see a major newsmaker depart."

Super PACs rise in influence in 2016 campaign // AP // Ken Thomas and Steve Peoples - May 12, 2015

WASHINGTON (AP) - When Hillary Rodham Clinton takes the stage at fundraisers thrown by a group that wants to elect her president, she's not presented as a White House candidate. She's a "special guest."

When Jeb Bush raises money for a group preparing to run major parts of his all-but-certain presidential campaign, he doesn't ask for the cash himself.

And the hundreds of millions these groups will raise? They have to spend it without talking strategy with the candidates and campaigns they support.

The groups are called super PACs, and their influence in selecting the next president will be without precedent. Born out of two Supreme Court decisions in 2010, they are governed by rules some see as a game of winks and nods, enforced by an agency bedeviled by partisan gridlock.

As with most things in Washington, there's not even agreement on whether they are a problem to solve, or are a solution to celebrate.

"What's really going on largely is a breakdown of the enforcement system of the campaign finance laws," says Craig Holman of the left-leaning consumer group Public Citizen. "The Federal Election Commission is just broken."

Counters David Keating of the right-leaning Center for Competitive Politics, "I think this is overblown. The line has been drawn: It's the First Amendment. So if people want to speak, let them."

The primary benefit for campaigns of the super PACs is that they can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money

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to advocate for and against candidates, with only a few rules holding them back.

Among the rules is a ban on campaigns and super PACs working together. They cannot discuss political strategy or share key information such as internal polling. While candidates can attend super PAC events, they cannot technically ask for the unlimited donations that make the groups such a powerful force.

"Most of these super PACs that are going to be spending millions of dollars, I think they have a good understanding of what the law is," Keating said.

But even should they break the rules, there are questions about what price they might pay. The six commissioners of the Federal Election Commission are split evenly between Republicans and Democrats, and they have only once cited someone for breaking the rules. In February, the campaign manager for a failed Virginia Republican congressional candidate pleaded guilty to funneling money illegally from a super PAC to bolster his campaign.

Clinton has decried the existence of "unaccounted money" in politics and has suggested a constitutional amendment to overturn the case that helped usher in the new system. Yet during a California fundraising trip last week, she took her first steps to embrace Priorities USA Action, a Democratic super PAC that helped support President Barack Obama in 2012.

Like other candidates, Clinton cannot legally ask donors to give more than $5,000 to the group. But she can appear as a "special guest." Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, has headlined Priorities events in the past.

On the Republican side, Bush is taking it even further.

The former Florida governor is preparing to delegate many of the operations of his expected campaign to his allied Right to Rise super PAC, using the group to produce campaign ads, conduct voter data analysis and run get-out-the-vote efforts.

Mike Murphy, one of Bush's closest political advisers, is expected to lead the super PAC and is intimately involved in Bush's current operation, where he guides staffing decisions, courts donors and shapes political strategy. Bush takes care to say he's not yet a candidate, allowing him to work with Murphy and the super PAC in a way that won't be allowed once he's in the race.

A dozen White House prospects are already benefiting from allied super PACs, which are frequently led by former political advisers and business partners.

For example, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul will benefit from a super PAC run by his former campaign manager, who is also married to Paul's niece. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's college roommate is working prominently in a network of four allied super PACs, while a longtime friend and financial backer, Dathan Voelter, is the treasurer. Voelter said the pro-Cruz groups have already raised more than $31 million.

During his run for re-election in 2012, Obama never really warmed up to the super PAC world and the group supporting him, Priorities USA Action. He declined to appear at fundraising events even though his opponent, Republican Mitt Romney, frequently attended gatherings held by Restore Our Future, a pro-Romney super PAC.

Seeking to succeed Obama in the White House, Clinton and her allies have taken steps recently to strengthen Priorities USA Action. Among them: She will appear at the group's events and reach out to potential donors, something Obama declined to do.

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The group is also bringing aboard Guy Cecil, a former staffer on Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign who remains close to Bill Clinton and previously worked for a firm stocked with longtime Clinton advisers.

Hillary Clinton-Aligned Group Gets Closer to Her Campaign // New York Times // Maggie Haberman - May 12, 2015

Correct the Record, a group started by David Brock, a staunch ally of Hillary Rodham Clinton, is recreating itself as a stand-alone “super PAC” that has the ability to coordinate with her campaign.

Correct the Record, initially run by the opposition research group American Bridge 21st Century — another Brock-connected super PAC — had been focused loosely on the goal of defending all Democrats from attacks. Now its sole mission is helping Mrs. Clinton.

The new version will be run by Brad Woodhouse, a former spokesman for the Democratic National Committee who is now president of American Bridge. Burns Strider, a Clinton ally who runs Correct the Record, will stay on as senior adviser, with his role focused on reaching out to Democratic groups and campaigns.

Jessica Mackler, the chief executive of American Bridge, will become the new president of Correct the Record.

“Going forward, Correct the Record will work in support of Hillary Clinton’s candidacy for president, aggressively responding to false attacks and misstatements of the secretary’s exemplary record,” Mr. Brock said in a statement.

The group’s board includes Nina Turner, the former deputy minority whip for the Ohio State Senate; James Carville, the longtime adviser to Bill Clinton; Susie Tompkins Buell, a friend to Mrs. Clinton; and Freddy Balsera, national co-chairman of the Democratic National Committee’s Hispanic Leadership Council.

The new version of Correct the Record will be able to communicate with federal campaigns and party committees, as it is not involved with independent expenditures.

The old version of the group was involved in research that helped pick apart the book “Clinton Cash,” by Peter Schweizer, which raised questions about overlaps between donors to the Clinton Foundation, Bill Clinton’s paid speaking gigs and Mrs. Clinton’s tenure as secretary of state.

Hillary Clinton's damage control operation gets more troops // POLITICO // Annie Karni - May 12, 2015

Hillary Clinton’s campaign is getting more firepower to help with its damage control.

Correct The Record, an outside rapid response and research group dedicated to defending the records of Clinton and the other Democratic presidential candidates is reorganizing so it can coordinate with Clinton’s campaign and devote all of its resources to her.

Founded by Clinton ally David Brock in late 2013, Correct the Record is splitting off from its parent organization, the opposition research group American Bridge 21st Century, and registering with the Federal Election Commission as a stand-alone super PAC, the group announced Tuesday.

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Because the group will no longer be involved in paid media, it will be able to coordinate with the campaign and party committees. The change will go into effect by the end of the month.

Brad Woodhouse, who is taking a leave as president of American Bridge to become president of Correct The Record, said the time was right to split off the research group, now that Democrats are announcing their candidacies. He said the entity would be "aggressively responding to false attacks and misstatements of the Secretary's exemplary record."

A Clinton campaign spokeswoman declined to comment.

The Republican National Committee was quick to criticize the move. "Hillary Clinton is taking her hypocrisy on money in politics to interesting new heights, directly linking her campaign to a super PAC whose sole purpose is to play defense," the RNC said.

The change, first reported Tuesday by the New York Times, is good news for the Clinton campaign, which now can assert more control over the surrogates speaking on behalf of Clinton.

Until now, Brock and his team have been defending Clinton's record against attacks, most recently from the book "Clinton Cash" by Peter Schweizer. But it could not receive talking points from the campaign and created its own.

American Bridge will remain a separate independent expenditure group that purchases paid media, and is prohibited from coordinating with the campaign. Brock will remained involved with both American Bridge and Correct The Record, but there will be a firewall, sources said.

Brock is also a former board member of Priorities USA, an outside super PAC raising money for Clinton. Last February he resigned from the board, but has been expected to rejoin at some point.

Pro-Hillary Clinton Group Sets Novel Strategy to Back Presidential Hopeful // WSJ // Rebecca Ballhaus - May 12, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful and former U.S. Sectetary of State Hillary Clinton speaks in Keene, New Hampshire in April.

Andrew Burton/Getty Images

A pro-Hillary Clinton group formerly under the umbrella of Democratic opposition research group American Bridge is set to become its own super PAC in an effort to more forcefully push back on criticism of Mrs. Clinton.

The group, Correct the Record, launched in 2013 ahead of an expected presidential bid by Mrs. Clinton. At the time, its goal was to back all Democratic presidential candidates, though its primary focus remained on Mrs. Clinton. Now, it is explicitly allying itself with the former secretary of state's presidential campaign.

The group will employ an unusual strategy in doing so. Though it plans to register as a super PAC, a spokeswoman for the group says it doesn't plan to make independent expenditures, which are ads explicitly advocating for or against a candidate. Super PACs aren't restricted in how much money they can raise and spend, but are generally barred from coordinating with candidate campaigns.

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By not making independent expenditures, the group said there are no restrictions on its ability to coordinate with Mrs. Clinton's campaign. The group will spend money on activities that can legally be coordinated with a campaign, such as social media, the spokeswoman said.

It is unclear how the super PAC's interpretation of the rules will be met by the Federal Election Commission. The FEC defines super PACs as committees that can take uncapped contributions "for the purpose of financing independent expenditures and other independent political activity."

Correct the Record is expected to register with the FEC in coming days and begin operating as planned. If the FEC—a notoriously slow-moving operation—takes issue with the group's plan it could at a later point request changes in how it is registered or operates. A spokeswoman for the agency declined to comment on Correct the Record's plans.

The strategy "breaks new ground," said Kenneth Gross, former head of enforcement at the FEC. "Since this is uncharted territory it remains to be seen how this plays out," he said.

The new super PAC will be headed by Brad Woodhouse, previously the president of American Bridge, which is also a super PAC. He will be replaced by Jessica Mackler, who was previously the chief operating officer of American Bridge.

"Correct The Record is a strong brand in its own right and now that Democrats are announcing their candidacies, it's the right time to separate it from American Bridge, which focuses on opposition research," Mr. Woodhouse said. "Going forward, Correct the Record will work in support of Hillary Clinton's candidacy for president, aggressively responding to false attacks and misstatements of the secretary's exemplary record."

Burns Strider, a Clinton ally, will stay on as a senior adviser. The group's board will include Susie Tompkins Buell—who is often described as Mrs. Clinton's best friend and hosted a fundraiser for the candidate in her San Francisco home earlier in May—along with longtime Clinton strategist James Carville and David Brock, who founded the group.

The development is the latest in a series of efforts by the Clinton campaign to sharpen its response operation. Last week, Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta announced on Medium the launch of a new website called "The Briefing" to provide a "one-stop shop to provide the facts" about Mrs. Clinton's record.

The website's launch came amid a media frenzy over a book called "Clinton Cash," written by Peter Schweizer, editor-in-chief of a conservative news website. The book added fresh details to previous reporting about potential conflicts between Mrs. Clinton's charitable work with her family's foundation and her public activities as secretary of state.

US OK'd Most Bill Clinton Speech Requests Within Days // AP // Lisa Lerer and Stephen Braun - May 12, 2015

WASHINGTON — State Department officials under Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton moved quickly when aides to Bill Clinton asked them in March 2010 to approve plans for the former president to address clients of a multinational British bank, Barclays. Within four days, the department's ethics office signed off on the request — as it did for hundreds of others from the former president during his wife's four-year tenure leading the agency.

Its standard response, fired off in a short memo: "We have no objection."

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That decision remained unchanged even after the Justice Department announced just months later, in August 2010, that Barclays Bank agreed to pay nearly $300 million in penalties for violating financial sanctions against Iran, Cuba, Sudan, Libya and Burma. The long-running case had hardly been a secret: Barclays had openly acknowledged in its annual reports — as recently as the same month as Clinton's 2010 request — that it was under investigation by the Justice Department and others for sanctions violations, and it cautioned that the impact on its profits "could be substantial."

In November, the former president mingled with top Barclays executives and clients at a bank-sponsored question session in Singapore. A little more than two months later, he again joined Barclays officers and clients at an exclusive dinner in Davos, Switzerland. The two appearances for Barclays netted Bill Clinton $650,000.

During Hillary Clinton's tenure as the top U.S. diplomat, lawyers and other ethics officials in the State Department's Office of the Legal Adviser gave near-blanket approval to at least 330 requests for Bill Clinton's appearance at speeches, dinners and events both in the U.S. and around the globe. More than 220 paid events earned the family nearly $50 million, according to a review of State Department documents and Hillary Clinton's financial disclosure forms by The Associated Press.

Now, as Hillary Clinton moves forward with her presidential campaign, the ease with which her husband was repeatedly cleared to address companies and governments around the world highlights potential ethical complications that are likely to intensify if she becomes the country's next president.

"It's politically going to be very treacherous," said Jan Baran, head of the government ethics group at Washington law firm Wiley Rein LLP, who served as general counsel to the Republican National Committee. "It just becomes controversy all the time."

The potential "first dude" has said he intends to continue accepting speaking fees during the presidential campaign.

"I got to pay our bills," he said in an interview with NBC's "Today Show" last week.

Taken together, the State Department and financial disclosure documents show the agency sped through Bill Clinton's steady stream of requests for events while rarely raising concerns about potential conflicts. At the same time, the agency's ethics office, which had primary responsibility for the decisions, was hobbled by "strained program operations," according to a 2012 report by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, the government's top ethics agency.

State Department ethics officials gave quick approval, for example, for the two Barclays appearances and events paid by other international banks under legal scrutiny. Bill Clinton's $200,000 appearance in Florida for British-based HSBC in 2011 was cleared despite an ongoing federal money-laundering investigation that led to a 2012 settlement with prosecutors.

Five U.S. events in 2011 and 2012 earned the former president $840,000 from the wealth management unit of UBS Bank less than two years after the Swiss bank had acknowledged a massive tax evasion scheme aiding American clients and paid $780 million in penalties. The banks declined to comment about their dealings with the former president.

The State Department also green-lighted requests by foreign governments to hire the former president for events, despite potential complications for his wife's diplomacy at the time and for a future Hillary Clinton presidency. Similar concerns about foreign influence have been raised about the millions of dollars donated by foreign

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governments over the past decade to the Clinton Foundation, the Clinton family's global charity.

The former president was paid $600,000 to appear at a government-sponsored event in the United Arab Emirates in December 2011. The State Department also approved a 2010 Clinton event in Bangkok co-sponsored by a Thai government energy ministry and state gas firm, but despite news coverage of the speech there is no record of payment in his wife's financial disclosure. An aide to Bill Clinton said the Thai speech fee was donated to the Clinton Foundation.

Not all appearances were approved: A request for Clinton to speak in Shanghai in 2009 was rejected because of State Department hesitation that a prospective host might be an agent of the Chinese government. The former president's team withdrew the request.

The Clinton campaign declined to comment, referring questions to the State Department and Bill Clinton's private office.

State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said last week the agency was not "aware of any actions taken by Secretary Clinton that were influenced by donations to the Clinton Foundation or its offshoots or by speech honoraria and consultancies of former President Clinton." Another spokesman, Alec Gerlach, declined to address specific cases such as the Barclays events.

The State Department's scrutiny, which went beyond the standard ethics requirements for all federal officials, was the result of a voluntary process agreed to by both Clintons to avoid "even the appearance of a conflict of interest," according to a January 2009 memo sent by David Kendall, Bill Clinton's personal lawyer, to Jim Thessin, who oversaw the vetting in the State Department. Clinton's office agreed to provide the names of organizations hosting the former president at least 14 days before the event, according to the memo. Lawyers at the agency would then aim to complete their review within five days.

While most internal emails between State Department ethics officials about Bill Clinton's proposed appearances were redacted to protect internal legal considerations, snippets that survived the censoring depict a vetting process that appeared both strained by the workload and rushed by the former president's deadlines.

"This is overdue and our host needs a signed contract today," wrote Terry Krinvic, Clinton's director of scheduling, in a March 2, 2011, email to State Department officials. A State Department official working on a speech request described herself in a February 2011 email as "totally stressed out, but will do it this afternoon."

In another memo from June 2010, an agency official dashed off a memo warning: "URGENT RE: Clinton Foundation Issue." The official told a State lawyer: "I'd very much appreciate a turnaround this afternoon as former President Clinton is scheduled to arrive in Tanzania tomorrow and (diplomatic) Post needs to run out these details." The issue, not identified in the redaction, was left unresolved overnight. "Former POTUS Clinton is on the ground in Tanzania," the agency lawyer wrote the next morning. "We need guidance fairly urgently to still be relevant." The censored emails do not indicate whether the State officials resolved the issue in time. POTUS means "president of the United States."

As State Department officials processed Clinton's event requests in September 2012, the Office of Government Ethics warned that the State Department's office "has extremely limited capacity to respond to the increased demands on its program." It said it was "concerned about the lack of compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements in the areas of financial disclosure, annual training and ethics agreements."

Gerlach, the State Department spokesman, said the department's review of former President Clinton's speeches and consultancies was not within the scope of the review by the government-wide ethics agency.

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A former senior State Department official familiar with the vetting process in the early months of Hillary Clinton's tenure as secretary of state described the department as often shut out from both relevant internal department information and ongoing investigations at other federal agencies that might have aided their reviews. The former official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the department's ethics work.

On all sides, the process involved lawyers with long ties to the Clinton family — and each other. Cheryl Mills was Hillary Clinton's chief of staff at the State Department and was frequently included on the other end of emails during the State Department review of the requests. Mills was a former White House deputy counsel who collaborated with Kendall on Bill Clinton's impeachment legal defense before working for Hillary Clinton at the State Department.

Less than a month after Hillary Clinton was confirmed, a request to approve some of Bill Clinton's proposed private consulting work was sent by his long-time personal aide Doug Band, prompting Mills to prod the agency's deputy legal adviser to review the arrangement. Approval for the former president to enter into a consultancy arrangement with Band's corporate advisory firm, Teneo, came in 2011, allowing Clinton to offer "services regarding geopolitical, economic and social trends" for three years.

Only a handful of proposed arrangements appear to have been rejected. A consulting contract with Saban Capital Group Inc., a firm headed by major Clinton donor Haim Saban, was rejected because of what the State Department deemed Saban's active involvement in foreign affairs, particularly the Middle East.

Two other consulting contracts — one with longtime friend Steve Bing's Shangri-La Industries and another with Wasserman Investments GP — raised no such concerns. A corporate entity for Wasserman Investments GP could not be found, but California's Wasserman Media group is run by entertainment and sports executive and Democratic donor Casey Wasserman.

On Thursday, Saban hosted a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton's campaign at his Beverly Hills home, raising at least $1.2 million from 450 attendees.

Occasionally, the agency offered guidance to avoid a clear conflict. In the case of White & Case, an international law firm based in New York, a department lawyer signed off on the speech but noted for "situational awareness" that the firm was representing the 1979 U.S. hostages seeking damages from Iran — a case the State Department was trying to have dismissed. "We think it would be best to avoid being drawn into any discussion of the litigation," the lawyer wrote.

Bill Clinton's November 2010 appearance for Barclays in Singapore was one example of the potential for conflict posed by the frenetic stream of requests.

In March 2010, Krinvic forwarded a Clinton proposal to appear at two bank events, a Barclays Asia Forum in Singapore in November and Barclays dinner in Davos in January 2011. In Singapore, the plans called for Clinton to speak during a moderated question-and-answer session before 650 Asian investors and pose for photos. In Davos, Clinton would attend a similar session before 20 Barclays senior executives and 140 clients and their spouses.

Thessin replied on March 23, telling Krinvic that "we have no objection."

It was widely known by then that Barclays was under investigation by federal prosecutors for repeated illegal transactions with banks in Iran, Libya, Cuba, Sudan and Burma and for violating U.S. financial sanctions against those governments.

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Barclays had voluntarily disclosed four illegal banking transactions to federal and New York financial authorities in 2006. That led to an internal inquiry by the bank and investigations by federal and New York state prosecutors. The scrutiny resulted in Barclays' acknowledgement in federal court in August 2010 that it had violated U.S. sanctions. The bank also agreed to cooperate with the government under a deal that deferred prosecution for two years under supervision of a federal judge. Barclays agreed to pay $298 million in fines.

The same week in November 2010 that Barclays' lawyers submitted a status report to the trial judge overseeing their case, Bill Clinton appeared at the Barclays forum in Singapore and mingled with clients who also attended a golf tournament sponsored by the bank. There is no documentation in State Department files whether officials had reconsidered their approval after Barclays acknowledged violating U.S. laws. Barclays declined to comment about Clinton's appearances or the investigation.

"People admire the way he can take complex issues and break them down for a global audience," Barclays Plc CEO Robert Diamond said in an interview with Bloomberg News two days after Clinton addressed bank clients in Davos.

While the Treasury Department administers oversees the administration of U.S. financial sanctions, the State Department has its own Office of Economic Sanctions Policy, which is responsible for developing foreign policy-related sanctions to counter threats to national security.

The criminal case against Barclays also noted that the presidential orders for sanctions against Iran were authorized by the treasury secretary in consultation with the secretary of state.

While the State Department's lawyers concluded that most of Clinton's speeches did not violate foreign policy interests, some of his appearances could pose political risk for his wife's presidential bid by giving Republican opponents an opening to depict the couple as beholden to powerful interests.

Over a three-day period in November 2011, the Swedish telecom company Ericsson paid $750,000 for Clinton to address industry leaders in Hong Kong; Chinese executives paid $550,000 for a speech in Shanghai; and he made $260,000 addressing the annual meeting of HCL, an Indian outsourcing giant, at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. His total haul: $1.56 million.

While the former president traveled the world, efforts to assure the ethics of his itineraries bounced around the State Department. A request to speak at a climate change summit organized by an Abu Dhabi government environmental group prompted an email to the UAE desk officer asking whether "potential affiliation with it by high-level officials" would pose "any harm to foreign policy." The response: "No concerns here." Bill Clinton was paid $600,000 by the group, the Abu Dhabi Global Initiative.

When Clinton was invited to participate in the China Philanthropy Forum in November 2012, an event aimed at promoting Chinese charitable giving, the State Department raised concerns that the event's sponsor was an association made up of former and current senior Chinese government officials. "We will need to further consider this one," it said.

Clinton eventually spoke at the forum's annual conference — nine months after his wife left office.

Hillary Has Some 'Splainin' To Do About Clinton Foundation // Forbes // Robert W. Wood - May 12, 2015

Bill and Hillary Clinton can sometimes sound like Sargent Schulz on the old Hogan's Heroes show. "I know

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nothing!" As Mrs. Clinton remains largely mum, the former President said the Foundation had "never done anything knowingly inappropriate." He sounded annoyed, a little like his "I did not have sexual relations with that woman."

Mrs. Clinton had repeatedly promised disclosure and transparency, but then her private email server and preposterous 'single wireless device' excuse emerged. Oh well, 'mistakes were made. The acting CEO of the Clinton Foundation posted a statement acknowledging that the Foundation failed to separate government grants from donations. Oops, we're amending our tax returns, no harm done, the Foundation suggests. It is clear that the Foundation does good works. The 'no harm done' is somewhat less clear, and it isn't just the tax returns.

Clinton Foundation

Mrs. Clinton has done little to address the extensive donations or grants to her Foundation made by foreign governments while Mrs. Clinton was Secretary of State. Tens of millions of dollars in foreign government payments weren't reported in tax filings for five years. The Foundations acting CEO said they were on the website. But it turns out that is not true either, as the Foundation has belatedly acknowledged.

Foreign government funding has received particular scrutiny, and yet incredibly, precise totals for government grants to the Foundation for the last three years of Clinton's four-year tenure as secretary of state have still not been publicly disclosed. The parsing of 'is' worked for President Clinton, and perhaps it can for Mrs. Clinton too. Mr. Obama may not be mad, but perhaps he should be, since it appears that Mrs. Clinton violated his rules too.

The opaque Clinton Foundation tax returns make it look as if someone wanted to keep the embarrassing and conflict-triggering gifts quiet. Perhaps there are emails? The run-by-someone-else Foundation also came under additional scrutiny for failing to clear all foreign government donations through an agreed-upon State Department vetting process. The Foundation initially claimed that it was barred by Canadian law from revealing the names of donors, apparently a bogus excuse.

How much of Clinton Foundation donations go to overhead is a worry too. Upon becoming Secretary of State, Mrs. Clinton promised that the Foundation would stop accepting donations from foreign governments. There were exceptions, and the Foundation's IRS filings were less than transparent. Starting in 2010, the Foundation reported on its IRS tax return for three consecutive years that it received no donations from foreign government sources.

It wasn't as if they didn't know how. In prior years, the Foundation reported tens of millions of dollars in donations. The Foundation is now worrying over the accuracy of the IRS returns from 2010, 2011 and 2012. Refiling sounds responsible, but it may not fix everything. Indeed, it is clear that the Foundation did accept millions in donations from foreign governments in those years. It is clear that they overlapped with the time Mrs. Clinton served as Secretary of State. In fact, a whopping 181 donors lobbied the State Department while Mrs. Clinton was there. Amended tax forms aren't going to change that.

Uranium Investor- Turned Clinton Foundation Mega Donor Frank Holmes Grilled by CNBC // Breitbart News // May 12, 2015

Clinton Foundation mega donor Frank Holmes was grilled on Tuesday in a blistering CNBC interview when Holmes gave answers at odds with CNBC's own reporting about his investments in the highly controversial Uranium One—a company Hillary Clinton's State Dept. approved for a 2010 sale to the Russian government that resulted in the transfer of 20 percent of all U.S. uranium to the Russian government, according to the New York Times and Clinton Cash.

Nine Uranium One investors, including Frank Holmes, gave Hillary's foundation a combined $145 million.

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In a CNBC Squawk Box segment titled “The Clinton Cash Scandal: Frank Holmes,” U.S. Global Investors CEO Frank Holmes was asked when he invested and sold Uranium One. The exchange produced an embarrassing moment for Holmes, as his on-air statements directly contradicted the CNBC fact graphics displayed on the screen.

In a graphics box titled “From the New York Times,” the CNBC screen graphic stated: “Frank Holmes donated between $250-$500k to the Clinton Foundation—U.S. Global Investors held $4.7 million in Uranium Ones shares in Q1 of 2011.”

U.S. Global Investors’ own 2011 SEC filing further confirms Holmes’ company held Uranium One.

However, when CNBC host Joe Kernan asked Holmes when he bought and sold the uranium stock, Holmes’s answer contradicted CNBC’s fact box.

“We were long gone before 2008,” claimed Holmes.

“You didn’t own it when it was acquired by the Russians [2010]?” asked Kernan.

“Uh, by the, by what the date is. I bought it early and I sold it before 2008,” said Holmes, before adding that he gives money to orphanages.

“You sold the stock in 2008?” asked Kernan.

“We were long gone well before all that,” said Holmes.

CNBC’s chief international correspondent Michelle Caruso-Cabrera then jumped in to follow-up on Kernan’s line of questioning.

“But the suggestion is that you donated money to a foundation that was connected with the possibility of approval of a deal that you may have benefited from. Is that correct?” Caruso-Cabrera asked Holmes.

“No, that’s a lot of disinformation. That’s just a political battle this year,” said Holmes.

“But, still, the question is, were you in a position to benefit from approval of this deal at the same time that you were writing checks to the Clinton Foundation?” asked Caruso-Cabrera.

“No, there’s no, I had no idea any of those two events. There are two separate events,” said Holmes.

The CNBC hosts appeared stunned, before CNBC host Andrew Ross Sorkin jumped in.

“When people finish watching this interview, they’re going to say, it wasn’t unequivocal on your part and that

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there wasn't a lot of clarity," said Sorkin.

"I don't understand. I have no idea what—you're making—lots of conjecture," Holmes fired back.

"We'll give you one last shot at it," said Sorkin. "In a sentence or two, unequivocally, anything you want to say? Because right now it's all a big haze for us."

"There's no haze. I have a global investment company and I invest in many companies in many different countries and I give to a lot of charitable organizations," said Holmes.

"Unfortunately, I don't think it speaks to the answer. We'll leave it there," said Sorkin.

Hillary Clinton has yet to answer a single question surrounding the widening Clinton Cash scandals or her role in the transfer of 20% of U.S. uranium to the Russian government.

Inside the Univision-Clinton network // POLITICO // Hadas Gold and Marc Caputo - May 12, 2015

When former President Bill Clinton takes center stage at Univision's upfront presentation Tuesday, it will mark more than just one of his many paid appearances.

The relationship between the Clintons and Univision flows from top to bottom — from owner Haim Saban's unabashed support for Hillary Clinton's election effort to a partnership between Univision and the Clinton Foundation to the network's newscasts that have bashed Republicans and, most recently, praised Hillary's new position on immigration — putting her squarely in line with the network's stance on the issue.

The importance of Univision for the Latino electorate and 2016 is hard to overstate. It is by far the biggest Spanish-language media network in the United States when it comes to revenue, ratings and stations owned. In some markets, such as Los Angeles, the Univision-owned local newscasts are in the top one or two by ratings. On big nights for the Hispanic community, such as President Barack Obama's remarks on immigration in November, Univision raked in 4.8 million viewers, more than any other network. During the July sweeps last summer, Univision boasted the No. 1 spot in prime time among 18-to-49-year-old viewers for the second year in a row.

"You have to go to Univision to get to Latino voters," said Gabriela Domenzain, a liberal strategist who was a founding producer on Univision's Sunday news show "Al Punto" and who ran Obama's Hispanic media outreach in the 2012 election.

"Even though demographics are changing and more Latinos and young Latinos get their news from English language sites and media, Univision … has been front and center advocating for Latinos for 25 years," she said. "Maybe it's not the 18-25 voters who watches Univision, but their moms do and their grandmas do, and if not it's in the background. You can't disassociate the power of the older generation on the younger generation either."

Univision and the Clinton Foundation joined forces in 2014 for a multi-year early childhood initiative dubbed "Pequeños y Valiosos" (or "Young and Valuable"). The relationship proved of immediate value to Hillary Clinton, whose face was featured in five of seven slides on Univision's website promoting the initiative in February 2014. She also held a New York media event where reporters couldn't ask her questions.

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The initiative between the Clintons and Univision last year provoked a sharp response from the Republican National Committee, which accused the network of promoting Hillary Clinton ahead of her presidential campaign. The RNC, which has tussled with the network behind the scenes over its coverage of the GOP and immigration, made sure Univision did not host a presidential debate this year.

Univision spokesperson Monica Talan, however, emphasized the bipartisan nature of their initiative in an email, noting that its Leadership Council Members include Cindy McCain, former Sen. Bill Frist and George W. Bush's Under Secretary of Education Sara Martinez Tucker.

"As far as Pequeños y Valiosos, this is a Corporate initiative that is focused on children and is a partnership of Too Small To Fail, one of many foundations and partners we work with to promote education to our Hispanic community," Talan said via email. "As a Company we have been transparent, disclosing the partners in this initiative to our audiences. Our focus is on helping children in the Hispanic community, not on party affiliations."

But the connection to the foundation isn't always transparent on the network's nightly newscast, even in reports that are specifically about the foundation. There was no mention of the network's partnership with the Clinton Foundation in a May 4th segment on Univision's nightly news program about allegations that donations to the foundation affected Hillary Clinton's decisions during her tenure as Secretary of State.

Talan declined to respond specifically to questions about disclosing the network's relationship with the foundation in their reporting.

Domenzain said she thought the network should always note the partnership whenever covering the Clinton Foundation.

"Even if it's apolitical, for childhood education … given that foundation most likely will be a center theme in this campaign, that yes, these are alliances that should be put out in the open," Domenzain said. "When covering the political aspect of it, yes they should and they're going to be much more under the microscope because of that."

Then there's the subject of Univision owner, billionaire media mogul Saban, who purchased Univision in 2007 along with a group of investors. Saban has donated as much as $25 million to the Clinton Foundation and his wife sits on its board. He has said it's a dream of his to see Hillary Clinton elected. The week before Bill Clinton's Univision appearance, Saban hosted a fundraiser for Hillary in California.

"As much as is needed," Saban said in July when asked by Bloomberg Politics how much he'd give to the Clinton campaign. "I think she would be great for the country and great for the world."

Despite Saban's Clinton fandom, a firewall exists between editorial and corporate, Univision spokesperson Talan said in an email.

"As President and CEO, Randy Falco is responsible for maintaining separation between Haim Saban, any other Board member and our News division when it comes to news and editorial judgments. The News division must have complete editorial independence, and it does," she said.

Daniel Coronell, Univision News senior vice president told BuzzFeed in January that Saban is very respectful of the network's journalistic independence.

"He's not connected with our day to day; we're not in this to build his happiness," Coronell said.

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But a spirit of Republican-bashing has sometimes reared its head at Univision. Coronell's own assistant, for instance, was outed by The Miami Herald after she repeatedly trashed Sen. Marco Rubio on her Facebook page.

Republicans say that incident is emblematic of a culture at Univision, where employees don't have to be told to be biased. Many national Republicans don't trust the network. They're suspicious of Saban's ties to the Clintons. And some believe that any network's talk of balanced is just lip service designed to minimize friction and negative press as part of an effort to fetch a higher price for a planned initial public offering within the next year.

"Based on what we've seen so far, Univision's coverage of the Clinton campaign has been characterized by cheerleading more than anything else," said Ken Olivier-Méndez, director of the conservative-leaning Media Research Center's Latino division. "The extremely solicitous and practically acritical coverage Hillary Clinton has been receiving from Univision so far stands in stark contrast with the consistently tough coverage Republicans like Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and Rand Paul have been receiving on the network in recent weeks."

Rep. Carlos Curbelo, a Spanish-speaking Republican from Miami who watches Univision and is a moderate on immigration reform, said Univision needs to be more cautious.

"To preserve the integrity of its journalists, Univision should be more careful about identifying with political candidates and parties," he said.

Curbelo said he couldn't speculate too much about why there has been relatively little press coverage about Univision's relationship with the Clintons, but he said it would be hard to imagine Rupert Murdoch being treated the same way if he pledged to support a candidate who had a separate initiative that Fox promoted.

"He would be far more criticized and pilloried if he did something like that. Spanish-language networks probably don't draw as much attention. But when you're talking about Univision, it has high ratings. It does matter," Curbelo said.

"When you have the ownership of a network aggressively backing a presidential candidate – combined with advocacy journalism on some issues – it threatens the journalistic integrity of a news organization," he added.

The top "advocacy" issue: immigration. Last week (on Cinco de Mayo, no less) Clinton went beyond Obama on immigration, promising that as president she would use executive action to allow more undocumented immigrants to get legal protection and work permits. Jorge Ramos, Univision's star anchor and correspondent who is open about his feelings toward immigration reform, tweeted a day later that the debate over immigration might be over.

"I wonder how Republicans are going to respond to the immigration proposals by @HillaryClinton Maybe the debate is over already," he tweeted.

Ramos has also drawn criticism from some in the mainstream media, who say he strays form objectivity into advocacy. But Univision News President Isaac Lee — who has equated speaking truth in today's politics to speaking out against the Nazis during World War II — vigorously defends Ramos' journalist-activist role.

"He's entitled to his opinion. I don't think Jorge wants to be impartial, I think Jorge wants to be a responsible journalist," Lee said in April during the International Symposium on Online Journalism conference in Austin. "Univision's audience knows that Jorge is representing them. That he is not asking the questions to be celebrated as a fair and balanced journalist. He's asking the questions to represent them. He's going to ask the person

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whatever is necessary to push the agenda for a more fair society, for a more inclusive society and for the Hispanic community to be better."

To be sure, Ramos has been tough on both Democrats and Republicans. In an infamously testy interview with Obama late last year, Ramos accused Obama of not doing enough early in his term to stop deportations, telling him he "destroyed many families." But many Republicans remain wary of him and of Univision, though Domenzain said it was just an excuse to avoid tough questions.

"I think it's mostly an excuse to not go on. I can't tell you how many times we'd extend offers to Republicans and they wouldn't come," Domenzain said. "What they don't like is Univision's immigration editoiral line because it goes against their beliefs."

The feud between Univision and Republicans broke out in the open in 2011 after Sen. Marco Rubio and the network clashed. At the time, Rubio was a newly elected senator – and former Univision commentator – and the network wanted to spend a day with him and talk about immigration reform. At the time, Rubio wasn't ready. And his staff didn't trust the crusading Ramos to conduct a fair interview because he was such an advocate for the DREAM Act and, in the words of one Rubio adviser, "open borders." So Rubio's shop declined, but said it would be willing to participate in an interview with another Univision reporter from South Florida.

That's when things got strange. A reporter from Univision's investigative team soon cold-called Rubio's sister and asked about the 24-year-old drug bust of her husband. Rubio's staff said the senator – who was 16 at the time of the crime in question — was basically being pressured to submit to an interview or have his family embarrassed. Univision honchos denied the claim, but Isaac Lee later acknowledged to the New Yorker that the network offered the senator "options" regarding how the story of his brother-in-law would be reported. Rubio declined the offer of the "options," the story ran and Republicans flipped out when The Miami Herald reported the story of the discussions.

Led by Rubio's longtime friend, U.S. Rep. David Rivera, Republican candidates for president announced they would boycott a proposed debate that Univision wanted to host. Republicans felt even more justified in their decision when they read the reaction of Univision's chairman, Saban, in the New Yorker: "The fact that Rubio and some Republican Presidential candidates have an anti-Hispanic stand that they don't want to share with our community is understandable but despicable. So 'boycotting' Univision, the largest Spanish-language media company in the U.S., is disingenuous at best and foolish at worst."

Behind the scenes, Univision hired lobbyists tied to the GOP to smooth things over with the Republican National Committee. But at the same time, Republicans say, they grew more concerned about the network's coverage of Republicans, particularly with regards to immigration. Criticism of Rubio was rife in Univision's newsrooms. During the August 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa, an unknown person trashed Rubio via Univisión's official Facebook account, writing "beyond his ideology, Rubio is a mediocre politician who contradicts the values he says he represents. Jeb Bush is more Latino and talented than him," the Facebook posting said. Months later, a top assistant to a Univision news boss ripped Rubio on Twitter by calling him a "loser" and "a token slave boy."

Shortly after he announced his campaign for president in April, Rubio sat down for a relatively calm interview with Ramos and made news by saying he'd attend a gay marriage of someone he loved, but that he'd get rid of deferred action for children of illegal immigrants. But a report on Univision's morning show two weeks later included a title on the screen describing Rubio's comments on gay marriage (that it's "ridiculous" to believe there's a constitutional right to gay marriage) "postura radical" (a radical position). And last week, during a local Arizona broadcast on Univision, the network played up Rubio's refusal to talk with an immigration activist for the liberal group called "Mi Familia Vota."

Though BuzzFeed reports Univision is working to develop better relationships in both parties with internal "red" and "blue" teams, Republicans still have a hurdle when it comes to their relationship with Univision in the 2016 election. The network was already snubbed for a chance at hosting a GOP primary debate, with Telemundo

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picking up hosting duties instead.

"Regardless of those relationships what's really interesting this cycle is Fusion in particular and the Jorge Ramos show in Fusion has brought them onto the English language mainstream radar, so they're under much more pressure to be quote-unquote 'balanced,' however, the Univision editorial line on immigration is always going to be there," Domenzain said.

But for Hillary, things with Univision are looking good.

"Hillary's Cinco de Mayo Promise: path to citizenship for [undocumented], DACA and extended executive action. Of course we'll remember @HillaryClinton," Ramos tweeted last week.

State Dept. can't fulfill your FOIA because it's overwhelmed by Hillary e-mails // WaPo // Al Kamen - May 12, 2015

The State Department's latest defense on why it can't comply with your ancient Freedom of Information request for documents is: Blame it on Hillary.

The State Department says it is too overwhelmed by reviewing those 55,000 pages of e-mails former secretary Hillary Clinton turned over last year.

That apparently means other folks, who've waited years on their requests for State Department documents, are being told they'll have to wait even longer because of the Clinton review.

The National Security Archive, for example, filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in 2001 for records of phone conversations of former secretary Henry Kissinger, who left Foggy Bottom 38 years ago. The Archive filed suit in March.

The department on Friday asked U.S. District Court Judge Rosemary Collyer for a six-month extension to turn over the documents. State said there's been a huge "surge" in FOIA lawsuits in the last year alone, suits that "have grown increasingly burdensome and complex."

"These exceptional circumstances are compounded" — here it comes — "by the fact that a significant portion of [State's] FOIA-processing resources are currently devoted to reviewing for public release the collection of approximately 55,000 pages of emails that were recently provided to State by former Secretary Hillary Clinton. . . and to making those documents available to the public by posting them on a department website."

Clinton tweeted in March that the State Department "said they will review them for release as soon as possible." And Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters the agency would "undertake this task as rapidly as possible" — though another official cautioned the process could be time-consuming.

Call it the "Hillary Dodge?"

Clinton facing new ethics questions on role in Boeing deal // Fox News // Dan Springer – May 13, 2015

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When Hillary Clinton was America's top diplomat, she also appeared at times like a top salesperson for America's biggest airplane maker, Boeing.

Traveling abroad on official business as secretary of state, Clinton often visited Boeing facilities and made a pitch for the host country to buy Boeing jets. During one visit to Shanghai in May 2010, she boasted that "more than half the commercial jetliners operating in China are made by Boeing."

A sales plug in Russia in 2009, though, may have proved especially fruitful. While touring a Boeing plant, Secretary of State Clinton said, "We're delighted that a new Russian airline, Rossiya, is actively considering acquisition of Boeing aircraft, and this is a shameless pitch."

In 2010, Boeing landed the Russian deal, worth $3.7 billion. And two months later, the company donated $900,000 to the Clinton Foundation.

This chain of events is raising new questions for Clinton, and Boeing, as the former secretary of state launches her 2016 presidential campaign. The Boeing deal only adds to a growing list of business deals involving Clinton Foundation donors now coming under scrutiny.

Boeing shareholder David Almasi recently confronted CEO James McNerney about the ethics of it.

"That opens the door to charges of honest services fraud, that there was a quid pro quo between the Clinton Foundation, the State Department and Boeing," Almasi said.

In prepared answers to questions posed to Boeing by Fox News, a spokesman defended the company's actions.

"Our contribution to the Clinton Foundation to help the people of Haiti rebuild was a transparent act of compassion and an investment aimed at aiding the long-term interests and hopes of the Haitian people," the spokesman said. The company also pointed out that it gave the American Red Cross $1.3 million after the devastating 2010 earthquake.

Clinton defenders say there is no smoking gun. "There's zero evidence that Hillary Clinton went to bat for Boeing for any reason other than to benefit the U.S. economy and U.S. workers," said former Clinton/Gore adviser Richard Goldstein.

But the financial connections don't end there. Boeing also paid former President Bill Clinton $250,000 for a speech in 2012. It was a speech that was approved by the State Department's Ethics Office -- which according to an Associated Press report often approved the ex-president's speaking engagements within days.

And in another potential trouble spot, Boeing's chief lobbyist and former Bill Clinton aide Tim Keating hosted a fundraiser for Ready for Hillary, the political action committee raising money to help fund a run for the White House. Boeing took no issue with Keating doing so.

"Employees are free on their personal time and with personal resources -- as was the case here -- to support candidates and causes of their choice," Boeing wrote in its statement.

The Clinton campaign told Fox News in a statement, "She did the job that every Secretary of State is supposed to

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do and what the American people expect of them -- especially during difficult economic turmoil."

Bill Clinton: path to citizenship is just common sense // POLITICO // Annie Karni - May 12, 2015

Former President Bill Clinton on Tuesday promoted his wife's robust call for immigration reform during a paid appearance at the Univision upfront presentation.

"If I were advising candidates, I would say you've got to have a credible position on immigration reform," Clinton said in a brief Q-and-A session with Fusion anchor Alicia Menendez. "I think the only thing that makes sense is a path to citizenship and adequate support for children in a much more discriminating way than enforcing the law."

His comment came one week after Hillary Clinton, speaking at a campaign stop in Las Vegas, vowed to expand on President Obama's executive actions to allow millions of more undocumented immigrants obtain legal protection and work permits.

Hillary Clinton also challenged the entire Republican field for failing to support a path to citizenship. "When they talk about legal status," she said, "that is code for second-class status."

Bill Clinton has said he plans to continue giving paid speeches while his wife runs for president. The appearance before Univision, however, was the product of a long relationship between the Clintons and the Spanish language network. Haim Saban, who with a group of investors acquired Univision in 2007, is a Hillary Clinton megadonor, and threw her a fundraiser last week. Univision and the Clinton Foundation are also partners on an education program, "Too Small To Fail," and the network praised Hillary Clinton's stance last week on immigration.

Bill Clinton, fresh off a Foundation trip to Africa, spoke for about 15 minutes about how cooperation must triumph conflict as the country's population becomes more diverse.

"The only thing that makes sense is to have a policy of radical inclusion," he said. "If you look at the world today, everywhere people are practicing inclusive governance ... good things are happening. Everywhere people are practicing divisive politics, unequal economic opportunities, and unequal exclusive governance arrangements good things are not happening. This is not rocket science."

Speaking briefly about the criminal justice system, he evoked the death of Eric Garner last July, but appeared not to remember his name.

"Remember when the fellow was dying in New York, who was selling the illegal cigarettes in the street and he had a bunch of kids and he was very much overweight and was put in a chokehold and his cardio-vascular system failed," Clinton said.

He contrasted the tragedy of his death and the protests it sparked with the death of Ezell Ford, a civilian, by police hands in Los Angeles days later, where there were no protests because a system of "community decision makers" was instituted to review every police incident.

"There weren't riots," Clinton said. "People felt like they were part of a process that treated them like they mattered. That their children's lives were not insignificant...that's the big test of the entire world."

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His message to the growing population of millennial Hispanics: “be upbeat and relentlessly forward looking,” he said. “Every country, every company, every person needs to be in the future business. You may think that’s funny for a guy that’s older than everybody in this audience, but you have to live in the future.”

Clinton was the first former President to participate in the media company’s upfront presentation.

“I’m well aware I’m just a warm up act for Ricky Martin,” said Clinton. “At my age, you just take these changes when you get them.”

Another Busy Day for Bill Clinton, the Noncampaigning Campaigner // New York Times // Amy Chozick - May 12, 2015

Bill Clinton will not (repeat, not) be campaigning for his wife in the early stages of her 2016 presidential campaign.

He will, however, be discussing Hillary Rodham Clinton’s policies and vision for the country in front of live audiences of thousands of likely voters and in television interviews with the country’s most influential talk-show hosts.

On Tuesday, when Mr. Clinton discussed immigration reform, climate change, Middle East policy and economic policy before a crowd of nearly 2,000 people in New York, the fuzzy gray area of a preternatural campaigner who insists he is not campaigning began to come into focus.

“If I were advising candidates, I would say you’ve got to have a credible position on immigration reform,” Mr. Clinton said at a presentation to advertisers for the Univision network. He went on to endorse a path to citizenship and “adequate support for children,” policies that Mrs. Clinton presented at a campaign event in Las Vegas last week.

Later, Mr. Clinton planned to appear on CBS’s “Late Show With David Letterman,” as one of Mr. Letterman’s final guests (along with George Clooney and Oprah Winfrey) before the longtime host retires.

Both the late-night chat and the Univision question-and-answer session are unrelated to Mrs. Clinton’s campaign, and Bill Clinton’s camp insists he will not campaign or raise funds for the campaign this year. But any appearance by Mr. Clinton is intrinsically linked to his wife’s campaign, and his schedule on Tuesday gave the widely popular 42nd president an enormous platform to push policies Mrs. Clinton is advocating and to generally advance Brand Clinton.

Just before Mr. Clinton took the stage at the Lyric Theater in Times Square for the Univision event, the sultry salsa song “Suavamente Besame” blared. “I’m well aware I’m just the warm-up act for Ricky Martin,” Mr. Clinton joked of the former Menudo member who would perform later.

He’s the first former president to speak at a network upfront — the annual ritual of television networks pitching airtime to marketers — and Mr. Clinton was paid to participate in the event, a question-and-answer session with Alicia Menendez, an anchor on the Fusion channel.

(A Univision spokesman would not comment on how much Mr. Clinton was paid, but according to previous disclosures, similar corporate appearances generally pay upward of $200,000.)

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Then there were the less tangible upsides. Sitting in front was the media magnate Haim Saban, the biggest shareholder in Univision and a major donor to the Clintons' political and philanthropic causes. Last week, Mr. Saban hosted Mrs. Clinton at a fund-raiser at his Beverly Hills mansion.

Univision, the No. 1 network for Latinos, whose audience often surpasses English-language broadcasters among viewers 18 to 34, gives any candidate (or their spouse) enormous reach among a critical part of the electorate. Ms. Menendez pointed out that there are 59 million Latinos in the United States, compared with 29 million when Mr. Clinton was president. (According to people close to the former president, Mr. Clinton has become particularly fixated on the demographic and on how Latinos could affect his wife's political fortunes, particularly if she finds herself running against one of two Florida Republicans, Senator Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American, or Jeb Bush, whose wife is Mexican.)

Without mentioning Mrs. Clinton or her campaign, Mr. Clinton said a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants would improve the economy and alleviate poverty.

"Putting people in the workplace legally would raise their wages and it would make our overall economy more prosperous," he said.

The topics, in typical Bill Clinton manner, transcended immigration. On a day when an economic adviser to the Clinton campaign, Joseph E. Stiglitz, presented a proposal to make companies less focused on short-term profits, Mr. Clinton endorsed the idea and called for increases in profit sharing with employees.

"We need to move away from so much financial trading to more old-fashioned investing," he said.

Mr. Clinton also said he worried about climate change and that United States foreign policy should support Lebanon and Jordan as they welcome refugees who have fled the conflict in Syria. He said he worried about farmers in Africa if there was ever a global food supply shortage, and he expressed concern about the growing distrust of police officers in the United States ("By the way, the time that fellow died in New York who was selling illegal cigarettes on the street … ").

And, finally, when he started to talk about his recent visit to the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, where life is said to have begun some 200,000 years ago, when "man first stood up on our planet," Ms. Menendez cut him off. "President Clinton, I've been told we've got to wrap it up," she said.

The applause and music started just as the former president was in midsentence. An omniscient upfront voice chimed in. And just moments after Mr. Clinton departed the stage, lime-green money signs flashed against a black backdrop, and Univision's executive vice president of advertising sales took the microphone.

Hillary Runs to the Left of Bill on Immigration Reform // WSJ // Jason L. Riley - May 13, 2015

Hillary Clinton has spent her nascent campaign staking out positions to the left of where President Clinton stood on free trade, crime prevention and same-sex marriage. As of last week, we can add immigration reform to the list.

Bill Clinton, you might recall, was a vocal proponent of border enforcement. "We must say 'no' to illegal immigration so we can continue to say 'yes' to legal immigration," he remarked in July 1993 before asking Congress for an additional $172 million to launch Operation Hold the Line. Mr. Clinton said his multiyear plan would "protect our borders, remove criminal aliens, reduce work incentives for illegal immigration [and] stop asylum abuse." Within a year, the administration had erected miles of fencing and increased border patrols by 40% along the most popular corridors in California, Texas and Arizona.

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There was no emphasis on border enforcement when the former first lady sat down with illegal immigrants in Nevada last week. Mrs. Clinton said she would give comprehensive immigration reform a try if elected, but don't expect her to try very hard. She was more interested in emphasizing her admiration for President Obama's executive action approach. "If Congress refuses to act," she said, "as president I will do everything possible under the law to go even further" than Mr. Obama, who bypassed the legislative branch last year and unilaterally shielded millions of illegal aliens from deportation.

Mrs. Clinton claims to want to "work across party lines" on immigration, which is how her husband operated. But lawmakers have little incentive to deal with a president who announces publicly before negotiations even begin that Congress's input will have no impact on the outcome, which is how Mr. Obama has operated. She is promising to humor Republicans, not bargain in good faith. And when she is not humoring them, she will be painting them as anti-Hispanic. "When they talk about 'legal status,'" said Mrs. Clinton, describing Republican presidential candidates who may be open to allowing some illegal immigrants to live and work here without being eligible for citizenship, "that's code for 'second-class' status."

Of course, second-class status is exactly what Mr. Obama has offered undocumented immigrants through his executive action, which is legally suspect, temporary and easily reversible by the next president. The GOP candidates have an opportunity to respond to Mrs. Clinton's pandering with a more permanent bipartisan solution to the problem, but so far most of them don't see much urgency.

Whit Ayers, a Republican pollster and strategist, says merely attacking illegal immigration—which is viewed by many Hispanics as an attack on their entire community—isn't enough for a candidate, and that the GOP's immigration-reform complacency could be costly in 2016 and beyond.

"The demographics in our country are changing so rapidly—with whites declining and nonwhites increasing about three percentage points each presidential election—that it becomes exceedingly difficult to win a majority of the popular vote just by increasing the share of the white vote going to the Republican candidate," Mr. Ayers told Forbes last month. Trying to gain a larger share of a shrinking proportion of the electorate is a losing strategy, he added. "It makes far more sense—in 2016 and certainly for elections after that—for Republicans to focus on dramatically increasing their share of the nonwhite vote, especially among Hispanics who are the fastest-growing minority group."

Among the Republican front-runners, Marco Rubio has been the most outspoken and specific. Rather than passing one large bill dealing with border security, worker visas and the legal status of people already here, Mr. Rubio favors passing smaller chunks of legislation sequentially. This approach both bows to reality—larger bills, including one formerly backed by Mr. Rubio, have repeatedly stalled—and polls well with Republican primary voters in early states. Jeb Bush and Rand Paul seem open to a similar strategy but have offered fewer details. Too many of the other Republicans, however, including the otherwise impressive Scott Walker, seem to think that "No Amnesty!" will suffice as an immigration platform.

Hillary Clinton needs to distance herself from her husband's handling of illegal immigration two decades ago in order to accommodate a Democratic Party that has since moved much further to the left. But what the GOP ought to have learned from Bill Clinton's experience is that focusing on border enforcement to the exclusion of economic factors that affect illegal immigration has its limits.

Operation Hold the Line and similar efforts like Operation Blockade and Operation Gatekeeper initially were successful. Illicit border crossings fell in areas where physical barriers were erected and patrols were added. But after a spell, people from south of the border found new ways to enter undetected, often across less-forgiving terrain. The more difficult journey allowed human smugglers to increase their fees. The cost and difficulty of crossing the better-fortified border gave illegals an incentive to remain in the U.S. after the harvest instead of returning home as they had in years past. Between 1990 and 2000, the illegal immigrant population in the U.S. grew by 5.5 million.

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Illegal immigration is primarily a function of too many foreign nationals chasing too few work permits. Executive amnesties won't solve that problem, and neither will militarizing the Rio Grande.

Dear Hillary, Do Illegal Immigrants Pay More Taxes Or Get Bigger Refunds? // Forbes // Robert Wood – May 12, 2015

Hillary Clinton claimed at a roundtable in North Las Vegas that illegal immigrants pay more taxes than some big corporations: "In New York, which I know a little bit about because I represented it for eight years and I live there now, our undocumented workers in New York pay more in taxes than some of the biggest corporations in New York."

Even the Washington Post awarded Mrs. Clinton Four Pinocchios for her claim. To be fair, Mrs. Clinton was speaking generally. Plus, she can find some thin support in an opinion column that says corporate giants often get huge tax breaks. In contrast, poor, undocumented immigrants have paid billions in state taxes. Even so, WaPo tracks this back to the website of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and an Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy report.

It turns out that Mrs. Clinton's comparison conflates state and local taxes, including property and sales taxes, with federal income taxes. If you look at property and sales taxes, the big companies to which Mrs. Clinton alludes pay a lot, more, in fact, than undocumented individuals. WaPo mentions Verizon and Citicorp. Mrs. Clinton's spokesman Josh Schwerin stated that:

The point she was making is that undocumented immigrants pay more in state and local taxes alone than some of our biggest companies pay in either state or federal corporate income tax. That is a striking fact. And that's why she raised it.

Undocumented immigrants pay sales taxes. Moreover, one estimate says that illegal immigrants paid $12 billion in Social Security taxes in 2010–using false or duplicative Social Security numbers. Even companies that pay little or no federal income tax pay lots of other taxes. It is also not clear how much illegal immigrants take out. President Obama's aggressive executive action on immigration is still being litigated in the courts.

Tax refunds for the affected illegal immigrants have become controversial. The IRS says that illegal immigrants can file and claim refunds for the last three years under the Earned Income Tax Credit. That is the same refundable tax credit that is responsible for billions in fraudulent refunds. IRS Commissioner Koskinen confirmed this, explaining the seemingly bizarre result to Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa). What if you never reported any income or never filed a return?

Under President Obama's executive action, an illegal immigrant can: (1) get a Social Security number; (2) claim the Earned Income Tax Credit for the three open tax years; and (3) IRS sends three years of tax refunds. No matter that you never paid taxes, never filed a return, worked off the books, etc. The IRS says this is the way the Earned Income Tax Credit works. IRS Commissioner Koskinen says the IRS is following a 15-year-old opinion that "a taxpayer may claim the Earned Income Tax Credit for a taxable year using a Social Security number acquired in a later taxable year."

Calling the three year tax refund perk a mockery of the law, Senator Grassley noted that illegals would be able to claim billions of dollars in tax benefits. Sen. Grassley vowed legislation to overturn the IRS position. "The tax code shouldn't reward those who broke our immigration laws," he said. So far, the President hasn't backed down, so U.S. Rep. Patrick McHenry has introduced a bill to keep undocumented workers from receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit, a benefit for low- to moderate-income taxpayers.

"My bill is a direct result of the (IRS) announcement," said McHenry, a Republican who represents the 10th

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District, which includes Gaston County. “It’s very simple. If you’re not here legally, you should not be able to access the Earned Income Credit. It’s for the American taxpayers who are trying to make ends meet.”

Illegal immigrants in the U.S. covered by President Obama’s executive action can apply for tax breaks going back three years. Rep. McHenry thinks there is a great chance for fraudulent returns, noting that even if undocumented workers were employed in the past, many may have used Social Security numbers that didn’t belong to them. That in itself is fraud.

Rep. McHenry says illegal workers who broke the law should not benefit from the U.S. tax system. “If you’re here counter to the law, you should not be able to recoup from the taxpayer that which you were fraudulently getting,” he said. Rep. McHenry introduced the No Free Rides Act. The bill would not stop illegal immigrants from filing tax returns, but would prohibit those workers from using Earned Income Tax Credit.

“President Obama’s immigration action giving millions of illegal immigrants Social Security numbers marked an unprecedented executive overreach,” said McHenry. “Now, we learn that these same people, whose first act on American soil was breaking our laws, might be eligible for up to $24,000 in tax credits. This is simply unacceptable. By introducing the No Free Rides Act we ensure these illegal immigrants will not receive any more benefits intended to help American families.”

How Bill Clinton’s Library Promotes Hillary Too // TIME // Philip Elliott - May 12, 2015

Hillary Clinton worked to expand health care, improve failing schools and served as “America’s foremost ambassador.” And that was just during her time as First Lady.

That’s the portrait painted by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library, which despite the name has no shortage of material on Hillary. Around every corner of the Little Rock museum is another testimonial to Hillary’s role in his administration and a reminder that—as he put it in the 1992 campaign—voters got “two for the price of one.”

These days, Hillary Clinton is running as her own woman, stressing her time as U.S. Senator from New York and Secretary of State in the Obama Administration. She’s also moving away from her husband’s record on issues as varied as trade deals, gay rights and policing.

(Bill Clinton can hardly take offense. He even does a bit of that in his own library. In one display, the library tries to distance him from the now-scrapped Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy that barred gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. “The law was never applied as intended,” reads a placard.)

Throughout the modern and spacious library, Bill Clinton offers nothing but the predictably glowing account of his wife’s skills and experience as a public servant. Even in failure, as was the case in her push to overhaul the nation’s health care system, Clinton’s library pitches success. “The effort to expand coverage, led by the First Lady, set the stage for step-by-step improvements to our health care system over the next seven years,” reads one caption.

Similarly, Hillary Clinton was tapped to “spearhead” education reform. And in describing her landmark address in China, in which she declared women’s rights are human rights, the library’s displays lauded her: “As America’s foremost ambassador, she brought to Beijing a message of hope, empowerment and social development.”

An inquiry to the library about how the former First Lady is represented and how the exhibits might have changed since they opened in 2004 was referred to a public relations adviser, Jordan Johnson. He did not return phone messages.

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Yet not all depictions of Clinton are exactly flattering. After all, it isn't every museum that has depictions of a spouse on needlepoint or on a quilt. Or includes a pair of cream cowboy boots emblazoned with her initials in gold leather, a gift from a Houston admirer. Or a stitched blanket from a California supporter that includes not just the Clintons' October wedding date but also daughter Chelsea's birthday.

At the same time, the scandals of the 1990s are obviously whitewashed and political scores are settled, as is the case at most presidential libraries. The Clintons single out House Speaker Newt Gingrich as pushing the "politics of personal destruction." The museum reminds visitors that in 1994, shortly before becoming Speaker of the House, Gingrich publicly described Clinton Democrats "the enemy of normal Americans."

In describing the government shutdowns the followed GOP takeover of Congress, the Clinton library describes Republicans as "rejecting compromise" and bringing "an ideological agenda."

The library's take on independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who discovered Clinton's relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky? "A conservative activist who had never before prosecuted a case." The resulting impeachment had "no constitutional or legal basis."

And on the failed land deal known as Whitewater that set off the string of scandals that threatened Clinton's presidency, the library is terse: "No evidence of wrongdoing was ever found."

But there is no escaping some of the awkwardness that crept into the Clinton presidency amid the tumult. In a 1998 holiday portrait taken in the White House's formal Blue Room, the pair is not touching or even looking at each other. Bill Clinton admitted to having an affair with Lewinsky during the summer of that year.

By the following year, facing a shared Republican enemy and the threat of impeachment, the Clintons again were embracing and working as political partners, as the library is fond of portraying them.

Chelsea Clinton could take on role of first lady if Hillary wins, White House expert says // Daily Mail // Francesco Chambers - May 12, 2015

If the Clintons were to move back into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the first daughter, Chelsea, would presumably take on the traditional responsibilities of the first lady, an expert on the White House tells Daily Mail Online.

'There is a social function to the first lady's role, and that will not go away,' C-SPAN co-CEO Susan Swain said. 'Diplomacy' is conducted through social settings, 'and it is important to have somebody in that role.'

Several first daughters have filled the role of hostess in place of their mothers throughout American history, Swain, the producer of C-SPAN's acclaimed series on America's first ladies and the author of a book on the same subject, said, noting that there is precedent for such an arrangement.

'The best guesstimate with the Clintons is that Chelsea Clinton would take over that role,' Swain said.

The last White House to have a hostess who was not the wife of the president was exactly a century ago during the tenure of Woodrow Wilson.

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After Wilson's first wife, Ellen, died a year and a half into his presidency, their daughter, Margaret Woodrow Wilson, formally took on the role of first lady at age 28 for more than a year until the president remarried in 1915.

The only daughter of Benjamin Harrison, Mary McKee, also became the face of the East Wing after her mother Caroline died. She was 34 when she assumed the role, which she held until the end of her father's time as the nation's chief executive.

Likewise, Martha Jefferson Randolph's mother, also named Martha, had already passed away when her father, Thomas Jefferson, was elected to serve in the Oval Office. That left the 28-year-old daughter of the nation's third president to manage the East Wing.

In other instances, daughters-in-laws, sisters and even a niece fulfilled the duties of the first lady when the position was otherwise vacant.

A recluse who didn't want her husband to win his bid for the White House, Margaret 'Peggy' Taylor shunned the role of hostess and instead bestowed it on her daughter, Mary Elizabeth 'Betty' Bliss.

Hillary Clinton's first South Carolina campaign visit is May 27 // Post and Courier // Schuyler Kropf - May 12, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton will make her first campaign trip to South Carolina on May 27 - a Wednesday two weeks from now.

No list of sites or schedule of appearances was immediately released by the campaign, but Charleston and Columbia are likely to be included.

Both areas are home to large pockets of traditional Democratic voters.

“It will be the first of many conversations with South Carolinians about making sure the economy works for everyday Americans,” her campaign said in a news release Tuesday.

“As she has said before, Hillary Clinton will work to earn every vote, run hard in the 2016 South Carolina Primary and take nothing for granted,” the announcement also said.

In 2008, Clinton lost her previous primary run here by a wide margin when Barack Obama collected 55 percent of the vote in the multi-candidate field.

She finished a distant second, with 27 percent.

As a declared 2016 White House hopeful, Clinton has previously visited the other early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada. During those stops she mostly favored small-scale events, such as roundtables with local officials or students and other private gatherings.

But during her Las Vegas stop she gave her most comprehensive statement on immigration reform as a presidential candidate, advocating “a full and equal path to citizenship” for undocumented residents now in the U.S.

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In advance of her South Carolina visit, Clinton supporters have been meeting in grassroots events across the state. Nearly a dozen house parties are scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

On Wednesday, the Hillary for South Carolina campaign will host its first phone bank in the Midlands region, from 6-8 p.m.

Other house parties include Greenville on Saturday and Charleston on Sunday. More events will follow in Spartanburg, Columbia and Rock Hill in the next week, the campaign said.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Banks brace for Bernie Sanders // The Hill // Kevin Cirill - May 12, 2015

Wall Street is worried that Sen. Bernie Sanders's vigorous calls for banking industry reform will pull Hillary Clinton to the left, as the two presidential candidates battle for the 2016 Democratic nomination.

Sanders (I-Vt.) last week unveiled new legislation designed to break up the nation's largest banks, declaring that "if an institution is too big to fail, it is too big to exist."

Though it stands virtually no chance of passage in the GOP-controlled Congress, the bill has industry leaders fretting.

"The prospects of it becoming law are nil," said one banking lobbyist, who described Sanders's legislations as "shrill, bombastic and misaligned."

"But we care about whether this impacts Hillary and whether she'll try to pander to the far left."

Business and banking groups, and their lobbying forces on K Street, are quickly lining up against the legislation.

"Misses the mark," said Tom Quaadman, vice president of the U.S. Chamber Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness.

"I fully expect Senator Sanders's third attempt to break up banks to have the same impact as the previous two: zero," echoed Tony Fratto, a partner at Hamilton Place Strategies, which does communications work with big banks.

Despite the vocal opposition from the business community, Sanders's ability to activate progressive outside groups could mean he may be able to move Clinton to the left — even if, as conventional wisdom says, he poses no real threat to the former secretary of State's eventual nomination.

Sanders's rhetoric signals that, seven years after the 2008 economic collapse, progressives still see tapping into anger about the taxpayer bailouts to big banks as a winning political strategy.

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“When it comes down to it — he’s doing this not just because he’s trying to demonize the industry but this populist stuff is popular with his base,” a second banking lobbyist said.

Groups like MoveOn.org and Democracy for America (DFA) have already launched campaigns to get Clinton to adopt a more progressive platform and to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) into the race, despite her declarations that she’s not running for president.

Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Calif.), who is sponsoring similar legislation in the House, said that any criticism of the legislation is coming from “top executives who control the biggest banks.”

“This isn’t about an election cycle,” Sherman said. “I am much more interested in what Hillary Clinton does as president in office than in a campaign. Campaigns are fun but governing is what matters.”

Still, Sherman said that he hopes the legislation, which even he conceded isn’t likely to become law this Congress, might move the needle for his party.

“I’m hoping that some time in the next few years we will have ‘too big to fail is too big to exist’ policy either by using existing laws or by passing new statutes,” Sherman said.

Paul Merski, an executive vice president at the Independent Community Bankers Association, said many smaller community banks support Sanders’s effort.

“It may force [Clinton] to speak about ‘too big to fail,’ ” Merski said.

Clinton is under pressure from Sanders, Warren and other liberals to take a harder line on financial issues as she looks to rally Democrats behind her campaign. But at the same time, too forceful a stance could cause her a headache in the general election.

In other areas — such as immigration, gay marriage and campaign finance —Clinton has taken liberal positions on issues since launching her campaign.

But she has yet to release any specific type of economic policy agenda, something that she is certain to be asked about in the coming months.

Meanwhile, Warren, Sanders and other progressives have raised criticism about former President Bill Clinton’s economic policies during the late 1990s. Chief among them is his support for — and signature on — the repeal in 1999 of the Glass-Steagall banking law requiring commercial banks to split their investment banking operations.

Sanders was one of eight lawmakers to vote against Glass-Steagall’s repeal.

“Bernie Sanders is a long-time champion of these issues,” said Neil Sroka, spokesman for the DFA. “This is about Democrats putting forward very early on in the cycle big progressive ideas.”

Quaadman was less convinced.

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“Continuing to politicize the debate about our financial regulatory system will not produce the thoughtful, forward-looking leadership and smart regulation we need to grow our economy,” Quaadman said.

O'Malley plans 4 stops in NH Wednesday // WMUR // May 11, 2015

MANCHESTER, N.H. —Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley has four New Hampshire stops planned for Wednesday. The Democrat will begin the day with a diner stop in Manchester at a location to be announced, followed by a visit to the Alpha Loft, a business incubator, also in Manchester.

O’Malley will attend a private fundraiser for the New Hampshire House Democratic Caucus at midday and then attend a party at the Durham home of former executi

O'Malley Returns to New Hampshire this Week // Cocord Patch // Tony Schinella - May 12, 2015

Potential first-in-the-nation Democratic primary presidential candidate former Gov. Martin O’Malley, D-MD, will be in New Hampshire beginning on May 13, according to a statement.

O’Malley will be making a diner stop in Manchester at around 8:30 a.m. He’ll also be visiting Alpha Loft on Elm Street.

He’ll be participating in a private fundraiser for the House Democratic Caucus at the New Hampshire Democratic Party headquarters.

Later, he’ll be participating in a house party hosted by Dudley Dudley in Durham. O’Malley will then be campaigning with Maureen Mann, candidate for NH House of Representatives.

Bill de Blasio proposing national paid family leave that his own employees don’t get // WaPo // Reid Wilson - May 12, 2015

When New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio rolls out his liberal response to the Contract with America today in Washington, his 13-point plan will call for a $15 minimum wage, universal pre-kindergarten programs — and paid family leave.

That left some New York City employees scratching their heads: The half a million people who work for the city don’t receive paid maternity or paternity leave through their own health plan.

In fact, New York City’s health plan lags far behind even the most basic Affordable Care Act plans when it comes to maternity care. The health-care plan is one of a number of plans grandfathered into the ACA, which means it doesn’t have to meet standards the law requires of other plans.

So while the Affordable Care Act requires plans competing in Health Insurance Marketplaces to cover things like contraception, breastfeeding supplies and screenings for gestational diabetes and domestic violence, the grandfather clause allows New York’s health plan to avoid offering any of those.

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De Blasio has proposed broadening the city's health-care plan to cover those expenses, but the city council and the state legislature in Albany have yet to act.

"Mayor de Blasio supports a national paid family leave policy as the most comprehensive way to achieve this vital goal. We are also studying what we can do locally, including how best to provide paid family leave to City employees," Amy Spitalnick, de Blasio's spokeswoman, said in an e-mail.

In March, he signed legislation requiring companies with more than five employees to provide paid sick leave, a measure his office estimated will extend to about half a million New Yorkers working for the private sector.

The grandfathered rules in the Affordable Care Act were designed to protect health-care plans that existed before March 23, 2010, the day President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act. More than half of all companies offered at least one grandfathered plan in their range of options, according to a 2013 Kaiser Family Foundation survey.

But enrollment in those plans is dropping, from 56 percent of covered workers in 2011 to 36 percent in 2013, according to the Bell Policy Center.

GOP

New Hampshire Poll: 2016 Republican Pack Has No Breakout Candidate Yet // Bloomberg // Margaret Talev - May 12, 2015

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush may have money and name recognition, but voter enthusiasm for Senators Rand Paul and Marco Rubio and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker is fueling a wide-open contest in New Hampshire, nine months before the state's first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

More likely Republican primary voters in a new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire Poll said they had either a "very favorable" or "somewhat favorable" opinion of Paul than any other GOP contender, 62 percent. He's followed by Rubio at 60 percent, Bush at 59 percent, and Walker and Texas Senator Ted Cruz at 54 percent. Rubio's popularity with New Hampshire primary voters represents a surge, up from 52 percent in February, suggesting a good bounce off of his formal entry into the race last month.

Bush has the highest unfavorable rating from likely Republican primary voters among the party's leading contenders, with 35 percent saying they had either "somewhat unfavorable" or "very unfavorable" opinions of him. Paul's unfavorable rating is 27 percent among primary voters, while Rubio's is 18 percent and Walker's is only 14 percent.

Regardless of who wins the primary, the general election may pose problems for Republicans in New Hampshire. No Republican has a higher favorability rating among likely general-election voters than Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who stands at 46 percent.

The poll, conducted May 2-6 by Washington-based Purple Insights, found that the four leading Republican candidates are neck and neck: Paul and Walker each were the first choice of 12 percent of likely GOP primary voters, while Bush and Rubio took 11 percent. While Cruz scored a high favorable mark, he was the first choice of just 6 percent of GOP primary voters.

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“This is incredibly fluid, and all of these underlying numbers point to that fluidity,” said Purple Insights' Doug Usher.

“It's four people, all at about the same level, with no clear front-runner,” Usher said. “So the next question: Is one of them better liked? And the answer is, there are three of them who are better liked: Paul, Walker, and Rubio,” when their unfavorable ratings and the intensity of voters' favorable feelings toward them are taken into account.

When only the “very favorable” category is measured among likely Republican primary voters, Walker leads with 25 percent, followed by Rubio at 24 percent, Paul at 22 percent, and Bush, Cruz, and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 19 percent. Usher said Bush's perceived fundraising advantage may even out the dynamic to some degree.

“Jeb's got the money, and these folks have popularity. If you're Jeb and you look at these numbers, you're thinking, 'I've got to bolster my strength, and I've got to bring them down a peg.'”

Among likely general-election voters, Paul enjoys the highest favorability rating of the Republican contenders, with 40 percent expressing either “very favorable” or “somewhat favorable” opinions of him. Rubio and Bush follow, at 37 percent. Behind them are former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, at 34 percent; New Jersey Governor Chris Christie at 32 percent; Cruz at 31 percent; and Walker at 30 percent.

Many Republicans–including Paul and Bush–have higher unfavorable ratings than favorables among likely general-election voters.

Bush's unfavorable rating among likely general-election voters–53 percent–is the highest of the four leading Republicans. Only businessman and TV personality Donald Trump and Christie had worse unfavorables, at 64 percent and 54 percent respectively.

Among independent voters—a barometer of general-election dynamics—Paul again enjoys an advantage among the four leading Republicans, with a favorable-to-unfavorable ratio of 44 percent to 39 percent. Rubio also is in positive territory, 36 percent to 32 percent. Walker gets a 27 percent favorable rating from independents and a 29 percent unfavorable rating, while Bush's rating is 38 percent favorable to 51 percent unfavorable.

Underscoring the fluidity of the race, the poll found that the Republican presidential hopefuls have yet to distinguish themselves from one another when it comes to specific leadership traits.

Likely Republican primary voters were asked which of five candidates—Bush, Cruz, Paul, Rubio, and Walker—were best described by the phrase “cares about people like you.” Nearly half of the respondents didn't pick a specific candidate. Among the individual candidates, Walker fared best, at 15 percent.

Similar results for other questions on leadership, honesty, values, and vision suggest that all five have room to grow as the state's voters get to know more about them.

Les McKechnie, 68, of Freedom, N.H., a retired sales engineer and Army colonel who responded to the poll, said Rubio is his leading choice because “he's young; he's got new ideas.” But in a reflection of just how much opinions can change, McKechnie jokingly added: “That was last week.”

“You never know what's going to happen,” he said. “We're so far away from the ultimate determination.”

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The poll included 500 general-election voters as well as oversamples to have 400 Republican primary voters and 400 Democratic primary voters. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points on general-election questions and plus or minus 4.9 percentage points on primary-election questions. The margin of error in subgroups such as independents voting in the general election may be higher.

Jeb Bush Backpedals Again // New York Times // Maggie Haberman -May 12, 2015

Jeb Bush on Tuesday sought to arrest a chorus of criticism from Democrats and some conservatives after he told an interviewer that, knowing what history has since shown about intelligence failures, he still would have authorized the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Calling in to Sean Hannity's syndicated radio show, Mr. Bush said he had misunderstood a question that one of Mr. Hannity's Fox News colleagues, Megyn Kelly, had asked him in an interview shown on Sunday and Monday nights.

"I interpreted the question wrong, I guess," Mr. Bush said. "I was talking about, given what people knew then."

The attempt at mopping-up was quick, but it did not bring the controversy to an immediate end: When Mr. Hannity asked about the 2003 Iraq invasion again, in yes-or-no fashion, Mr. Bush said he did not know what the answer would have been, saying, "That's a hypothetical." Then, he seemed to go out of his way to absolve his brother, former President George W. Bush, who ordered the invasion: "Mistakes were made, as they always are in life," Mr. Bush said.

It was the third time in six weeks that Mr. Bush had to backpedal, offering a stark reminder that despite his deep political ties and his family's history in elected office, he remains a novice on the national campaign trail.

Allies believe that Mr. Bush, a former Florida governor, has had to contend with an unfair level of scrutiny that no other Republican has faced. Though his team still lacks formal structure, Mr. Bush is generally more visible than, say, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who entered the race for the Democratic nomination in mid-April but has not taken reporters' questions in three weeks.

But for Mr. Bush, the last six weeks have been a bracing reminder that helping a relative run for president is not the same as running yourself.

Mr. Bush, who is said to take a dim view of his Republican rivals' leadership qualities, prides himself on his candor, authenticity and ability to work without a script, and his skills as a candidate have noticeably sharpened. But he has repeatedly paid a price for straying from his briefing notes.

In a radio interview in late March, Mr. Bush praised an Indiana law billed as protecting religious freedom that was backed by Gov. Mike Pence, saying that if people read the law, they would find nothing discriminatory in it.

Less than 48 hours later, after a number of Republican donors complained to his advisers, Mr. Bush told donors in Silicon Valley that he believed Indiana would end up in "the right place" with a compromise fix that would offer greater gay rights protections.

People close to Mr. Bush later told allies that he had gone further than he had intended to in the radio interview.

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Also in late March, Mr. Bush incurred the wrath of pro-Israel hawks by refusing to step in to prevent James A. Baker III — the former secretary of state who is on a long list of foreign policy advisers to Mr. Bush — from appearing before the liberal pro-Israel group J Street. Fulfilling the predictions of Mr. Baker's critics, Mr. Bush has faced questions about the episode at closed-door meetings with donors and party activists ever since.

As late as last week, in a meeting in Manhattan with more than 40 foreign policy-minded donors organized by the hedge-fund executive Paul Singer, Mr. Bush called Mr. Baker a "good man" but added that he was 85 — a remark several people in the room took to mean that he believed Mr. Baker's worldview was dated.

Still, Mr. Bush conceded that his rollout of such a broad array of foreign policy advisers had been "a mistake." He had pleased no one by putting so many people on the list, he said, instead giving all corners of the party something to criticize.

Mr. Bush's botching of the question from Ms. Kelly on the Iraq invasion — one that was eminently foreseeable for a brother of the president who ordered it — was seized upon by commentators across the political spectrum.

"Jeb's statement is likely to resonate until he either changes his position or loses the race for the Republican nomination," wrote Byron York, the chief political correspondent for the conservative Washington Examiner.

Not long before Mr. Hannity's interview with Mr. Bush was broadcast on Tuesday, one of Mr. Bush's potential rivals, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, sought to draw a contrast between himself and Mr. Bush.

"I want to directly answer your question, because that's what I do," Mr. Christie told CNN's Jake Tapper. "If we knew then what we know now and I were the president of the United States, I wouldn't have gone to war. But you don't get to replay history."

Jeb Bush, Ana Navarro and the Question That May Have Been Misheard // New York Times // Jason Horowitz - May 12, 2015

MIAMI — The media's preferred expert on Jeb Bush's inner thoughts tried to explain on Tuesday morning the likely Republican presidential candidate's much discussed remarks to an interviewer that, even knowing what he knows now, he would have authorized the invasion of Iraq.

"I can tell you that I emailed him this morning, and I said to him, 'Hey, I'm a little confused by this answer so I'm genuinely wondering, did you mishear the question?'" Ana Navarro, an oft-quoted dial-a-zinger, said Tuesday on CNN, where she is a political pundit. "And he said, 'Yes, I misheard the question.'"

Ms. Navarro, 43, is often identified as a "confidante" of Jeb Bush or a "Republican strategist." But her chief qualification is that she, better than anyone in the 2016 presidential cycle, hits the sweet spot of the Republican Party's hunger for Hispanic female validators, the political media's craving for an aura of access, and the overall dearth of wit in the talking point echo chamber.

Who Is Running for President (and Who's Not)?

Well liked in political media circles, Ms. Navarro visits primary states and skewers Mr. Bush's potential opponents. ("I don't need her to drown me in estrogen every time she opens her mouth," she said of Hillary Rodham Clinton on CNN.) Her rollicking commentary and willingness to criticize Republicans on same-sex marriage and immigration issues make her a favorite of TV bookers.

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How much of a confidante she is of Mr. Bush, however, is open to question. She never worked as a strategist on any of his campaigns, and she had to leave a job as Florida's director of immigration policy when he was governor after it was discovered that she did not have a law license. Still, her connection to Mr. Bush has been decades in the making.

"She's a friend" who "hangs out in South Florida" and "had been around the political world," said Jeb Bush Jr., a son of the former governor. "We've known her for a long time," he said, adding that having "more Hispanic or Latina conservatives out there" is good "for any Republican, especially Dad."

Bush père et fils both keep offices in Coral Gables's Biltmore Hotel, the president of which is Ms. Navarro's boyfriend, Gene Prescott, 71, a Democratic fund-raiser. On a recent afternoon, Mr. Prescott sat in the courtyard of the hotel's Fontana restaurant scooping the froth off his cappuccino with a biscotto. Ms. Navarro herself talks often of her afternoons spent among the faux Grecian statues around the pool of the Spanish colonial-style hotel.

Ms. Navarro at first declined to comment for this article. "She said, 'Do Not Cooperate,' in big, bold flashing letters," said Donna Brazile, Ms. Navarro's Democratic counterpart on CNN, with whom she enjoys drinking wine and shooting back oysters-on-the-half–shell. But after her remarks on Tuesday morning, which were not authorized or entirely appreciated by Mr. Bush's nascent campaign, Ms. Navarro wrote: "I'm often described as Jeb's adviser. It's the opposite. Jeb has helped me and doled out words of wisdom and advice throughout my adult life. I am grateful for that."

The daughter of a Nicaraguan businessman who opposed the rise of the leftist Sandanistas, Ms. Navarro came to Florida in 1980 at age 8. She went on to graduate from the University of Miami and then St. Thomas University Law School. As an activist in the Nicaraguan community, she befriended Mr. Bush as he lobbied Congress on an immigration law to benefit others fleeing her home country. She joined Mr. Bush's transition team and then his administration.

"I am passing on your email to ana navarro who just came on as our immigration lawyer/advisor," Mr. Bush replied to a constituent in an email on Jan. 31, 1999.

Ms. Navarro said her initial job did not require a law license. But after being reassigned to another one that did, she left state government.

"We parted amicably," said Ms. Navarro, adding that Mr. Bush helped set her up with a public affairs firm. From that perch she communicated with him frequently, according to emails that have since become public.

In one email she told him that he was "looking verrrry gubernatorial" and asked him if he could make some remarks for a "primera pagina" Wall Street Journal article about a client of hers. She told him that the Ryder company, a major employer in Florida, was going through a rough patch that could lead to its scaling back in the state, and that the article could help the company avoid that. It would be "enormemente" appreciated, she wrote.

Mr. Bush wrote back, in an email peppered with sideways smiley faces, "I will speak highly about Ryder which I will do with gusto."

More emails sprinkled with Spanish and smiley faces followed, and Ms. Navarro became an expert at leveraging her access to the governor to benefit her clients. And she made sure her clients knew she had access. In 2002, she wrote to Mr. Bush explaining that she had helped persuade Nicaragua's president, Enrique Bolaños, to take in Cuban refugees intercepted by the American authorities at sea, in part by assuring him that such a measure would be appreciated by Mr. Bush and his brother, President George W. Bush.

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Hillary Clinton-Aligned Group Gets Closer to Her Campaign 3:27 PM ET

In the fall of 2003, she wrote to Mr. Bush that “all the commies are coming to town” for an event at the Biltmore Hotel promoting a normalization of relations with Cuba. She wrote that she had “persuaded” the Biltmore to allow her to stage a counterevent attended by prominent opponents of the Castro government.

“Ana, you are right on target with the counter event,” Mr. Bush replied. “I will try to make it.”

Mr. Bush’s senior staff was less enthusiastic. “Please tell me he is not doing????” Arlene DiBenigno, a top aide to Mr. Bush, wrote to his scheduler, adding, “bottom line I think everyone has agreed because they think Gov is going to be there.”

The Biltmore is a concrete connection between Ms. Navarro and Mr. Bush, but it was once a source of tension. In a 2004 email with the subject line “budget request,” Ms. Navarro asked Mr. Bush to look with a “very kind and generous eye” at proposed funding for the hotel.

But Mr. Bush later vetoed the item, prompting another email from Ms. Navarro.

“My boyfriend hates you,” she wrote, referring to Mr. Prescott.

If Mr. Prescott “hates me,” Mr. Bush wrote back, “I am sorry about that.”

Since then, Ms. Navarro has stayed active in politics.

She joined Senator John McCain’s presidential campaign as a leader of his Hispanic advisory council in 2008, and she made a name for herself by criticizing fellow Republicans, especially former Gov. Charlie Crist of Florida. She attacked Governor Crist for endorsing the Obama administration’s stimulus plan and once upbraided him on a plane.

During the 2012 presidential campaign, she supported former Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. of Utah and became a familiar face on television as a CNN political analyst, increasingly known for her candid assessments. That led in February 2014 to another job as a contributor to ABC News.

While Ms. Navarro has been a consistent and highly quotable booster of Mr. Bush in all places, she seemed to acknowledge that she had gone too far on CNN on Tuesday.

When pressed as to what Mr. Bush should have said regarding invading Iraq, Ms. Navarro answered, “That’s one for his spokesperson, not for me.”

But on this occasion, she seemed to have given Mr. Bush little choice about what to say.

“I interpreted the question wrong, I guess. I was talking about, given what people knew then,” Mr. Bush said in a Tuesday evening interview with Sean Hannity. He added, “Knowing what we know now, clearly there were mistakes.”

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Jeb keeps it all in the family // POLITICO // Roger Simon - May 12, 2015

Would you let Donald Trump tell you where to get a haircut? Would you take driving tips from Lindsay Lohan? Or ask Sarah Palin's advice about ... anything?

Whom we seek advice from reveals a lot about ourselves, our judgment, our common sense.

So it was a shock over the past week when presidential candidate in training Jeb Bush divulged that his closest adviser on Mideast and Israeli affairs is George W. Bush.

I actually blinked when I read that. George W. used to make jokes about his own intelligence. Or lack thereof. This was one of his favorite anecdotes:

"Don't try to be charming, witty or intelligent," Laura Bush told her husband as he began his campaign for president. "Just be yourself."

As the years went by, that got less and less funny. And today, many look at George W. Bush and see the man who launched a disastrous war in Iraq that killed thousands and squandered trillions.

But not his brother Jeb. "If you want to know who I listen to for advice, it's him," Jeb said of George W. last Tuesday at a secret meeting for fat-cat investors in New York.

Which leads me to wonder just how many times Jeb was dropped on his head as a child.

History will record that George W. Bush's most significant contribution to world history was invading Iraq under the totally false notion that Iraq had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraq War of 2003-11 resulted in 4,488 U.S. dead and 32,222 U.S. wounded, and cost more than $2 trillion.

According to the Costs of War Project by the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University, the war also "killed at least 134,000 Iraqi civilians and may have contributed to the deaths of as many as four times that number."

Well, stuff happens. You want an omelet, you've got to break some eggs. And at least we got something out of the war, right?

Well, not so much.

The Brown report said, "The United States gained little from the war while Iraq was traumatized by it. The war reinvigorated radical Islamist militants in the region, set back women's rights, and weakened an already precarious healthcare system.

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"Meanwhile, the $212 billion reconstruction effort was largely a failure with most of that money spent on security or lost to waste and fraud."

According to Robert Costa and Matea Gold of The Washington Post, one attendee of the fat-cat meeting in New York "was 'stunned' to hear Jeb Bush specifically mention George W. Bush as his go-to adviser. 'I started looking around and wondering if people were recording it. It was jarring,' the attendee said. 'If video of it got out, it'd be devastating.'"

Maybe. Maybe not. A few days after the New York gathering, Jeb Bush told Fox News' Megyn Kelly: "I would have [authorized the invasion of Iraq], and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody."

And "just for the news flash to the world, if they're trying to find places where there's big space between me and my brother, this might not be one of those," Jeb said.

Yeah, what the heck. It was just a war. And some really, really smart people were all for it. People like Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld.

When you're president, you pick the people you want around you and then you listen to them.

Some 71 percent of Americans believe the Iraq War "wasn't worth it," according to a June 2014 NBC/WSJ poll. But it's easy to criticize after the fact.

Back before the war started, it was the men and women gathered in the Situation Room and the Oval Office who advised the president on the war-or-peace, life-or-death decisions.

And choosing those people is one of the most important things a president does.

So to fully appreciate the importance of Jeb's revelation that George W. will be his chief adviser when it comes to the Mideast, you've got to keep in mind that Jeb's entire campaign is built around one selling point:

Jeb is the smart one in the family.

No Iowa Straw Poll for Jeb Bush // Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs - May 12, 2015

The likely Republican presidential candidate will instead attend a competing event, the RedState Gathering in Atlanta, the day of the Iowa event, GOP sources in Iowa told The Des Moines Register Tuesday. A spokesman for Bush confirmed the report.

Bush, a former Florida governor, is the first among the Republican 2016 presidential field to officially opt out of the straw poll, a nationally-renowned event that has drawn significant criticism over the years.

The Republican Party of Iowa, which hosts the Iowa Straw Poll, has been working to shore up the event's reputation and lure candidates by addressing some of the most prevalent complaints. Last week, Iowa GOP officials announced they'll provide free tent space and utilities for the campaigns. The straw poll has been bashed as having outsized importance, even to the point of having losing candidates drop out of the race. Campaigns

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sometimes spent hundreds of thousands of dollars at the straw poll as a sort of dry run for the Iowa caucuses.

But for the GOP presidential contenders, the straw poll provides more of a risk-reward analysis. For those who compete, the aim is to do better than expected. This cycle, some contenders have said, they intend to focus instead on the caucuses, which will take place in precincts across the state on Feb. 1.

Recent polling has shown that Iowa isn't exactly friendly territory for Bush. He ranked in seventh place out of 14 GOP contenders tested in a April 25-May 4 Quinnipiac University poll. When asked if there is any candidate they would definitely not support, 25 percent of likely Iowa GOP caucusgoers named Bush. That put Bush at the top of that negative list.

Late Monday, the founder of the RedState blog, Erick Erickson, announced that Bush, former CEO Carly Fiorina, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker would speak during the three-day RedState Gathering Aug. 6-8. The Register was first to report that Bush will address the GOP activists in Georgia on Aug, 8, the same day as the straw poll.

Fighting the Last War // Slate // John Dickerson - May 12, 2015

What does Jeb Bush think about Iraq? It's not clear. When he's asked about it, he is quick to note that it's an issue where people won't find much daylight between him and his brother George W. Bush. "Just for the news flash to the world, if they're trying to find places where there's big space between me and my brother, this might not be one of those," he told Megyn Kelly, the Fox News host.

There's no evidence that was what Kelly was going after, but there is an endless obsession with measuring him relative to his brother and father, so he's naturally wary. But he's also trying to twist any questions about his brother's foreign policy legacy in Iraq into gotcha journalism (see Mark Leibovich), making inquiries into the topic seem like a low-rent effort to sow filial discord. The implication is that if it weren't for that media fixation, there wouldn't be so much poking around on where he stands on Iraq.

That's obviously not the case. Or it shouldn't be anyway. Iraq and what went right and wrong are a part of any intelligent conversation about America's foreign policy posture, particularly the posture as Republicans see it. Republicans in the main believe that President Obama has been weak. GOP presidential candidates promise they will be strong. If Obama is at the weak end of the continuum, then George W. Bush's actions in Iraq and Afghanistan represent the opposite—resolute strength and risk-taking. So where do the various 2016 candidates fit on that continuum? That requires a thorough discussion of Obama's foreign policy—and also the policy he inherited.

These are the events that give shape and details to abstract discussions. We could allow ourselves to use vague words like weak and strong about the largest military intervention America has launched since the Vietnam War, but then we'd just blunder forward. So it's in everyone's interest to get specific, especially since we're going to spend so much time together in this presidential campaign.

It's hard to know what Bush believes not just because he doesn't seem to want to talk about Iraq, but when he does, it's confusing.

Knowing what he knows now, would Jeb Bush approve of the Iraq war? This is the question he was asked by Megyn Kelly. He seemed to answer a different one. Bush said, "I would," but then went on to say, "So would Hillary Clinton, by the way."

That's not quite right. Clinton would not. She has said that given what transpired after giving President Bush the

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power to go to war, she would not give him the authority again to wage it. She's said her vote was wrong. This raises questions about her judgment that she'll have to answer. Jeb Bush's answer suggested that perhaps he heard a different question than the one he was asked. He seemed to think he was asked to answer what he would have done in 2003 before the invasion. (A request for clarification from the campaign on Monday did not bring clarity, which suggests that the former governor will be revising and extending his remarks.)

So which does Bush believe? If there is no distance between Jeb and his brother, then he believes that the decision to invade was "the right decision," given all that has happened. That raises political and policy questions. First, the political one: What are voters going to think about this position given that the war's costs have been so high—nearly 4,500 Americans dead and 32,000 injured—and the promises of the invasion—a cache of weapons of mass destruction and democracy-spreading through the region—did not materialize.

Laura Ingraham, a conservative who is no Jeb Bush fan, found the claim outlandish. "You can't still think that going into Iraq, now, as a sane human being, was the right thing to do," Ingraham said on her radio show in response to Bush's remarks. In a recent piece in National Review, Jim Geraghty asked the question, "Regardless of how you feel about George W. Bush, the pre-war intelligence, Michael Moore and the anti-war left, or the opportunistic flip-floppers like Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, is there anyone who would argue that the price America paid in its battle in Iraq was NOT too high?"

In June of last year, a CBS News/New York Times poll found that only 18 percent of the country thought that the Iraq war was worth the cost. So a candidate who holds that view would seem to have some explaining to do if he is to convince voters that he should be the next commander in chief.

Given what we know now, if Jeb Bush believes that he would not have authorized the war, then he will find himself at odds with members of his brother's administration, such as Dick Cheney and Karl Rove, who say America should be proud of removing Saddam Hussein from power. In other words, that the war was still worth it. If Jeb Bush has a different view, then he'll be asked if the war was a mistake. Bush may want to put it in the category that Hillary Clinton now puts her own war vote: an error made in good faith. Though unlike Clinton, Bush doesn't have to defend whether he did his homework before making that mistake.

But let's leave aside the topography of views. As a policy matter, the Iraq war and a candidate's position on it raises a host of important questions. Bush has said in deflecting questions about Iraq that he doesn't want to relitigate the past. But explaining what we've learned from the past and how we understand it is central to human experience; it's not some gotcha question. Also, as a practical matter, Republicans don't want to treat the past as off limits; doing so would rob them of an iconic example of strength from the past: Ronald Reagan's treatment of the Soviet Union.

Republicans also have an interest in maintaining conversations about U.S. obligations to countries where we have had a hand in blowing things up. That's in part what justifies rigorous questioning of Clinton and the misadventure in Libya that led to the Benghazi attacks. The country is a mess. The former secretary of state should explain why it is and why that outcome wasn't inevitable given U.S. policy.

Candidates collude to avoid the type of hypothetical questions they must rigorously engage once they take office. When they go on foreign trips organized by their campaign staffs, they only learn things that affirm their existing beliefs, which is what happened when Obama, then a senator, went to Iraq in 2008. So there is a conspiracy among all politicians to show us very little about their thinking on foreign affairs. Questions about history are all we have to go on to investigate how a candidate understands the relationship between action and consequence.

The U.S. military has studied the last decade of war and found 11 enduring lessons. What does the Iraq war tell Jeb Bush or any presidential candidate about the limits of U.S. military power, the possibility of nation-building in the Middle East, or our ability to predict outcomes when large-scale operations are launched? What does it teach about the limits of U.S. popular support for a process that certainly will last longer than civilian patience, and what doctrine should emerge from these lessons that guides the United States in the future? The Bush brothers agree that the security vacuum in Iraq after the invasion created the conditions that led to destabilization. How did that

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happen? Didn't people predict that might happen before the invasion was launched? Why weren't they listened to? Where did the process break down?

It is possible that after doing a careful assessment one could conclude that the United States should never have gone to war in Iraq in 2003 and should not have withdrawn from Iraq in 2011. Arguing that position or any position that seemed the product of hard thinking would inform a lot of voters about a candidate's worldview. Then voters would know what to expect if that candidate ever gave one of those grim addresses from the Oval Office explaining the rationale for the next U.S. military action. If we knew what the men and women seeking the presidency really thought, then there'd be no gotcha questions left to ask.

Chris Christie hits Jeb Bush on Iraq War // CNN // Alexandra Jaffe - May 12, 2015

"I think President (George W.) Bush made the best decision he could at the time, given that his intelligence community was telling him that there was (weapons of mass destruction) and that there were other threats right there in Iraq," he told CNN's Jake Tapper on "The Lead."

"But I don't think you can honestly say that if we knew then that there was no (weapons of mass destruction), that the country should have gone to war," he said.

The comments were a direct response to Bush's support for the Iraq War during a Fox News interview. Though Bush was asked by host Megyn Kelly whether, "knowing what we know now," he would've authorized the war in Iraq, he responded affirmatively to a slightly different scenario.

"I would have (authorized the invasion), and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody. And so would almost everybody that was confronted with the intelligence they got," Bush said in the interview.

The remarks drew widespread criticism from Bush's left and right flanks, and caused a close ally, GOP strategist Ana Navarro, to backtrack on the comments, saying Bush told her he had "misheard" Kelly's question.

But the comments gave Christie -- who is actively contemplating a presidential bid, and would compete with Bush for establishment Republican support if both run -- an opening to differentiate himself from Bush, and an opportunity for attack.

Christie jabbed at the former Florida governor, who's brother and father have served in the White House, saying that Americans should "avoid ... continuing to go backwards in this country."

"We need a forward-looking foreign policy that talks about how to reassert American authority and influence around the world," he said.

Clinton's "pandering ... disgusts people"

Bush wasn't the only potential opponent that drew fire from Christie in the broad interview with Tapper conducted in New Hampshire, where Christie had delivered an economic speech and was planning a town hall meeting.

In response to a question on his own position on immigration reform, Christie took direct aim at former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, accusing her of "pandering" with her recent speech promising to go further than President Barack Obama in giving illegal immigrants legal and citizenship rights.

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"The pandering that's going on by Secretary Clinton is really the kind of thing that disgusts people about American politics," he said. "The fact is that, all of a sudden, she's had this epiphany: She wants to go to the left of President Obama. I didn't know there was room to the left of President Obama on an issue like this -- but that's apparently where she's headed."

Christie pointedly didn't answer whether he believes legal status for immigrants creates a second-class citizenship, promising to "give a thoughtful and complete answer on immigration" if he becomes a presidential candidate.

He also issued a veiled jab at Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul for his efforts to rein in government surveillance programs, arguing that a major lesson from the Iraq War was that "there is almost nothing more valuable to a strong national defense than a strong, empowered intelligence community."

"I'm very concerned about those who want to weaken our intelligence community. The President has done it already. And there are those that are running for president now that want to weaken the intelligence community even more," he said.

Can't be responsible for "people who wind up in your employ"

Despite his sharp words for his potential opponents, whether Christie will actually pull the trigger on a run remains an open question -- and political observers have increasingly begun to question his viability in the race. Three of his former associates were hit with criminal charges related to the scandal surrounding lane closures on the George Washington Bridge this month; New Jersey's economy continues to struggle and Christie has stalled in the polls.

Christie sounded unswayed from an expected run during his Tuesday interview with Tapper. He defended his economic record as one of improvement, declaring that in New Jersey he "inherited a wrecked ship and we've now made it seaworthy," and promising to "make it even better than that" by the end of his term.

Christie also insisted that the act of political retribution from his former allies that landed them criminal charges was not evidence of a cultural issue within his administration.

"I think, unfortunately, there are going to be times when people that work for me do things that are completely out of character," he said.

The governor also said he bore no responsibility for the situation, declaring, "You can't be responsible for the bad acts of some people who wind up in your employ."

Republican voters "could change their minds"

And he's continuing his preparations for a potential run, visiting New Hampshire this week to deliver an address on the economy, with another address on national security planned for next week.

Though a recent NBC News/WSJ survey showed 57% of Republican primary voters said they couldn't back Christie -- the highest opposition faced by any potential candidate in the field -- Christie told Tapper on Tuesday that his polling position has no bearing on his decision to run.

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"If you determine what your commitment is to your country by what your poll number is on any particular morning, then I'd suggest to you that you have no business running for President of the United States," he said.

That's because, Christie said, that 57% of Republicans "could change their minds."

"The job of campaigns -- if we were to engage in one -- is to change minds. And the job of leaders is not to follow polls, it's to change polls," he said. "If I decide to run for president, I'll run, and my job would be to convince people to vote for me."

Jeb Bush's eloquent defense of Christianity // WaPo // Kathleen Parker – May 12, 2015

It is nearly axiomatic that presidential contests tend to shine a harsh light on conservative Christians — inasmuch as they are viewed as the Republican Party's base and are, therefore, deemed fair game.

Of course, religious folks come in a variety of stripes, checks and polka dots. Many are Democrats. But it is the members of the Christian right — evangelicals and Catholics, especially — who are treated every four years to the sneers of lefties, academics, proud atheists (allow me to quote myself: "There's no dogma like no dogma") and certain but not all media.

Kathleen Parker writes a twice-weekly column on politics and culture. She received the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary In 2010. View Archive

Roger Ailes's Fox News has succeeded in no small part because he doesn't treat Christians as though they're Darwin's missing link.

Fortunately for Western civilization, Christianity has survived worse insults. Lately, conservative Christians in the country that codified freedom of religion have been placed on the defensive. Often viewed as obstructionists to progress, a secular world wonders: What's wrong with those people? Why can't they just get with the program?

Why can't the Little Sisters of the Poor suck it up and sign off on the Affordable Care Act's demand that their insurance policy include contraception funding? Ditto Hobby Lobby, the family-owned craft business that prevailed in its Supreme Court fight to not fund insurance covering contraception that destroys embryos.

Hobby Lobby detractors argued that the company was trying to impose its religious beliefs on others. In fact, the family was resisting the government's insistence that they render those beliefs unto Caesar. (The Supreme Court granted the Little Sisters an injunction pending their appeal in the 10th Circuit that protects them from enforcement.)

These issues, I'll admit, can seem arcane and are tiresome at times. But I'm convinced, as Alan Dershowitz and Ken Starr agreed during a debate last year on these two cases, that the state should always go to extra lengths to protect religious liberty whenever possible.

If only more Democrats and Republicans were as agreeable.

Recent history and more recent comments by the likeliest presidential candidates make it clear, however, that Democrats and Republicans will take very different approaches in future state/religion entanglements.

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If Hillary Clinton becomes president, she has more or less promised that the state's interests will crush the individual's as necessary to advance women's rights. Giving a fiery speech last month at Tina Brown's "Women in the World Summit," Clinton plainly said: "Deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed" so that women can have unfettered access to "reproductive health care and safe childbirth."

One would like to imagine that Clinton was speaking only about primitive cultures where children are forced into marriage and childbearing, or where genital cutting is common. But we know that she also meant religious conservatives closer to home whose beliefs get in the way. She explicitly criticized Hobby Lobby for not paying for its employees' contraception.

By contrast, Jeb Bush, who will become the GOP nominee if Republicans are smart, assumed a much different tone and direction in his recent commencement address at Liberty University.

"How strange, in our own time, to hear Christianity spoken of as some sort of backward and oppressive force," he said. "It's a depressing fact that when some people think of Christianity and of Judeo-Christian values, they think of something static, narrow and outdated. . . . I cannot think of any more subversive moral idea ever loosed on the world than 'the last shall be first, and the first last.' "

He also spoke of what our world would have been like without the "unalloyed compassion, such genuine love, such thorough altruism," as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. described Christianity.

It would be defined, Bush said, by "power without restraint, conflict without reconciliation, oppression without deliverance, corruption without reformation, tragedy without renewal."

In a culture more attuned to the grits-'n'-gravy style of a Mike Huckabee, it is rare to hear Christianity discussed in such elevated terms. Indeed, Huckabee can be expected to go after Bush as a blue-blooded elite who can't relate to everyday Americans. Well, yee-haw, one can hardly wait. But I suspect that even conservative Southern Christians, who can absorb more than one-syllable words, might appreciate hearing their beliefs so eloquently described as by Bush.

To be fair, Clinton likely would have reframed her comments — and maybe even her beliefs and accent — had she been speaking to a Christian audience. But her spoken words can't be deleted and her thinking is clear: Religious beliefs have to be changed.

Or else what, pray tell?

Paul opposes granting Obama fast-track trade authority // WMUR // John DiStasso - May 12, 2015

MANCHESTER, N.H. —Frustrated by being required to find his way to a private "dungeon" to read the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement, Rand Paul said Monday he is a "no vote" on a provision to allow President Obama to complete the deal on a fast track.

It may well be a first in the world of political tracking, the increasingly common practice of shooting and posting video of political opponents, trying to find a gaffe, a point of controversy or just an instant of vulnerability.

The Republican presidential candidate said in an interview in Manchester he will vote against granting Obama

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trade promotion authority, which limits Congress to only up or down votes on trade deals. A vote on “TPA” is expected as early as Tuesday on the Senate floor.

The Kentucky senator spent part of the day in New Hampshire before heading back to Washington for a late afternoon vote.

He held a town hall at the Londonderry Lions Club, an event that was at least partially overshadowed by a top New Hampshire staffer licking the camera lens of a pro-Democratic video tracker. The video of David Chesley quickly went viral on social media.

Paul told WMUR.com the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement “is being held under lock and key” by the Obama administration “because they’re afraid that if the public knows what we are going to vote on, that somehow that would destroy the republic.”

Members of Congress must go to office of the U.S. Trade Representative to see a copy of the agreement, but are not allowed to take notes, make copies or bring any members of their staffs.

“I’ve told leadership I’m a ‘no’ vote” on trade promotion authority, Paul said. “I’m hesitant to give blanket authority on stuff we haven’t seen. I’m not saying there wouldn’t be a time I could be for it, if I’d seen the trade agreement, and it’s fine,” Paul said.

“I still might vote for the trade agreement, but I hate giving up power. We give up so much power from Congress to the presidency, and with them being so secretive on the treaty, it just concerns me what’s in the treaty,” he said.

"The text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations has been available for members of Congress to read since 2012 at their request. Earlier this year, the administration took the additional step of placing copies of the text in the Capitol building for members of Congress to review at their convenience.

"Members of Congress can bring staffs and take notes when they review the document. A number of Senators have chosen to read the text. In addition, once the negotiations are complete, the full text of the agreement will be available for the public and members of Congress to review for two months before the president even signs the agreement in the first place and many more months before any vote in Congress is ever taken."

McAlvanah continued, "It is simply untrue that members of Congress must go to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to see the text. The procedures that are followed regarding TPP are consistent with the procedures of the Senate for handling other classified material.

"Trade Promotion Authority cedes no authority to the president whatsoever. It is a law that provides the adminstration instructions on what to negotiate, imposes requirements on the administration for congressional consultation, and reiterates that Congress must approve any agreement before it can enter into force.")

Paul supports court ruling on NSA

Paul has been a leader in the Senate to do away with the NSA’s power to engage in mass collection of phone data. Last week, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the program “exceeded the scope of what Congress has authorized” in the Patriot Act.

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Paul said he hopes the case eventually goes to the U.S. Supreme Court, although that is not certain based on the status of the case. He said it is significant that the appeals court did not rule on the constitutionality of the NSA collection program.

"They ruled it illegal, and that may be lost on people but it's a big difference," Paul said. "However, it's a pretty important ruling to be illegal. The court said the Patriot Act does not authorize this. But I also think the Constitution doesn't authorize this."

He said the Fourth Amendment requires specific names to be on warrants, "and you have to have probable cause and a judge has to sign it. So there are a lot of reasons to say this is an overstep by the government.

"But I would end it all," he said. "On day one if elected president, I would stop the bulk collection. And when people say, 'How would you stop terrorism?' I would say, 'The old-fashioned way. We'd use the Constitution.'"

The ability to "look into everyone's house and into everyone's records is antithetical to what our founders wanted," Paul said.

At the town hall, Paul said Republicans have been equally responsible as Democrats in increasing the national debt.

"We borrow $1 million a minute, and it's not pretty," he said. "It's going to end in calamity if we're not careful.

Paul also talked about his goal of broadening the GOP.

"You're going to have other Republicans who are conservative," he said. "But New Hampshire is a purple state now. Republicans don't always win. We need somebody who is going to bring new people into the party.

"People who are not just business owners, but the people who work for them,' he said. "People who are not just part of America's rich, but people who are poor or black or brown."

Paul said the United Nations "should not have any power or authority over anything that happens inside the United States.

"I'm not against having some type of international forum where we try to work things out rather than have war," said Paul. "I'm not against dialogue. I'm just against paying for people to come and attack America and tell us what a terrible country America is."

On immigration, Paul said, "Let's figure out a lawful way to do it. Let's figure out how many immigrants we can absorb each year and let's do it in as lawful manner. When you get past the politics of it, the only thing that will get us started in doing something about it is we have to have a will in the leader of the country, and we also have to have the laws to enforce the border and have border security."

Rand Paul tweets fake Hillary Clinton to-do list // POLITICO // Adam B. Lerner - May 12, 2015

Kentucky Republican Rand Paul continued his Twitter trolling of his rival presidential candidates with an attack

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on Hillary Clinton.

After the Clinton campaign tweeted an image of a “to do” list for campaign manager Robby Mook with a list of items for the next two months of the campaign, Paul tweeted his own fake “to do” list for Team Clinton.

The Clinton campaigns list included six relatively banal campaign functions like “Sign off on office contracts” and “Set staffing plans June-Dec.”

Paul’s note had four items: “Sign off on new private server location”; “Hire next stage of reporters to avoid real questions”; “Finalize plan to evade Benghazi testimony”; and “Final update of foreign ‘contributions’ list.”

The Kentucky Republican has played the role of Twitter troll on other occasions. He has directed jabs at Marco Rubio for wanting to “build a moat” around Cuba and at Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney who he joked have exchanged friendship bracelets.

He has also targeted Hillary Clinton before, once posting a fake recorded conversation between her and Jeb Bush in which the two discuss their families’ ambition to take turns occupying the White House.

Paul says he can run for White House and do day job, questions whether rivals can multi-task // NH1 // Paul Steinhauser - May 11, 2015

LONDONDERRY – Rand Paul says he can run for the White House and still do his day job in the U.S. Senate.

“I get paid by the taxpayer and I figure I need to vote, so I’m working very hard to do this and also vote at the same time,” the Republican from Kentucky and presidential candidate told NH1 News Monday in Londonderry, after wrapping up a town hall event.

Moments after speaking one-on-one with NH1 News, Paul jumped into a waiting vehicle, to rush to the airport for a flight back to the nation’s capital, and his job as senator.

“I think the job’s a pretty important job and taxpayers are paying me so I take it very seriously. I’ll not only be back there for voting this afternoon, I’ll be leading the vote and the effort against the Patriot Act, handling the vote to try and end bulk collection of your phone records,” Paul said.

Paul’s missed a lower percentage of votes than two other GOP senators also running for the White House, Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida, according to data compiled by GovTrack.US. Asked about his rivals voting track record, Paul appeared to question whether they could multi-task as well, saying “I think the people will have to judge that.”

Paul’s latest visit to New Hampshire came just a few days after a federal appeals court ruled that the National Security Agency’s collection of Americans’ phone records was illegal under the Patriot Act. Paul was happy to talk about Thursday’s ruling, saying “I sued the NSA about a year ago, and the President, because I think it’s illegal and unconstitutional. The fourth amendment says your name has to be on the warrant and you can’t put something like Mr. Verizon on a warrant and get all of the customers for millions of millions of phone records. I think that goes against the spirit and the letter of the fourth amendment.”

Asked if the ruling justified Paul’s actions, the senator said “the ruling justifies what I’ve said all along. It’s a message to the President. The President, if he’s serious, the court has now said it’s illegal. He should stop it. He started it by executive order. He can stop it tomorrow.”

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During the town hall, Paul took a shot at another rival, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Discussing the federal appeals court ruling on the NSA, Paul said "we have one candidate, I won't mention any names but he's a former governor of Florida, who says that the best thing the president is doing is collecting all of your phone records without a warrant. I say your phone records are yours. They're none of the government's business."

Last month, in a radio appearance on the Michael Medved Show, Bush said that "there has been a continuation of a very important service, which is the first obligation of our national government, which is to keep us safe. And the technology that now can be applied to make that so, while protecting civil liberties, are there and he's (President Barack Obama) not abandoned them even though there was some indication that he might."

The Paul campaign used the Londonderry town hall to announced the endorsement of 20 state representatives, with eight of those state lawmakers at the town hall. The event was the last of three stops on Monday for Paul in the first-in-the-nation primary state. He headlined a business roundtable at Aspen Insurance in Manchester and met separately behind closed doors with business leaders, state lawmakers and GOP activists.

A new poll released Sunday indicated Paul tied with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker at the top of a crowed pack of candidates and potential GOP contenders. According to a Bloomberg Politics/St. Anselm College survey, Paul and Walker were at 12% support among likely GOP primary voters in New Hampshire, with Bush and Rubio at 11% and Donald Trump at 8%, New Jersey Gov. Christie at 7% and Cruz at 6%. Everyone else tested in the survey stood at 5% or lower.

Rand Paul Promises To Fight On Against Patriot Act // NHPR // Josh Rogers - May 11, 2015

Campaigning in Londonderry, GOP presidential candidate Rand Paul went after fellow republican Jeb Bush on privacy issues, and said he will lead the filibuster effort against any extension of the Patriot Act.

The Kentucky Senator Paul ask voters to be wary of would-be presidents who, as he put it, don't support 'the entire bill of rights.'

"We have one candidate — we won't mention any names, but he was a former governor of Florida — who says the best thing the president is doing is collecting all of your phone records without a warrant, "I say your phone records are yours, they're none of the government's business."

Last week a federal appeals court ruled that the National Security Agency's bulk collection of phone records is illegal.

Paul told reporters he's the only candidate, Democrat or republican who said he'd end the program on day one. He also says he'll fight its reauthorization.

"I'll be leading the vote and the effort against the Patriot Act and also leading the vote to try to end bulk collection of your phone records."

Senate's majority leader, Mitch McConnell hopes to extend of the Patriot Act and is expected to put a bill before the senate to reauthorize bulk collection of phone records by month's end.

Paul calls for limited government in Londonderry visit // Eagle Tribune // Doug Ireland - May 12, 2015

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LONDONDERRY — Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is known for his outspoken support for a limited federal government.

He stopped off at the Londonderry Lions Hall on Monday afternoon to voice his opposition to the USA Patriot Act and the need to preserve Americans' constitutional rights.

But the Republican presidential candidate's visit was overshadowed by what quickly became known as "LickGate." It occurred just as Paul began to address the crowd of more than 100 people.

David Chesley, the New Hampshire political director for Paul's campaign, apparently licked the video camera lens of a tracker from the group American Bridge 21st Century. The video was widely circulated in the media and on social media.

Paul's stop in Londonderry came as his campaign announced that 20 Republican state representatives in New Hampshire, or 8 percent of the GOP caucus, are endorsing the senator for president.

Some of those supporters came to back Paul at the Lions Hall, including state Sens. Andy Sanborn of Bedford and Kevin Avard of Nashua.

On a wall in the background were signs that said "Unleash the American Dream" and "Defeat the Washington Machine."

Paul, 52, began by telling the crowd that Americans are asked to pay too much to the federal government in taxes.

"If I'm elected, I will let you keep your money in New Hampshire," he said. "We will send a lot less to Washington."

Rand Paul: Advocates for the Disabled Should Help Brainstorm Ways to Cut Social Security Spending // Bloomberg // David Weigel – May 12, 2015

Every election cycle, candidates who want to burnish their fiscal hawk credentials warn that entitlements are going to run out of money. This election cycle is different: The Social Security disability trust fund really is in danger of running low before it's over. According to Social Security's actuary, if nothing is done by late 2016, the fund that paid $141 billion to disability beneficiaries will be able to meet just 81 percent of its obligations.

Most Republicans want to use this crisis to reform Social Security, arguing that a disability system that's seen enrollment nearly treble over 30 years is simply unsustainable. Some have talked about this more elegantly than others. In a January visit to New Hampshire, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul half-joked that "over half the people on disability are anxious or their back hurts."

Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who is running a populist, pro-entitlement campaign– far out of step with most Republicans–said last week that the disability program needed to be treated sensitively. "We should approach it that people are innocent until proven guilty, not the other way around," he told Bloomberg. "You should make the government prove that a person isn't in need, rather than the person having to absolutely prove that they are."

"There are people who are truly disabled, so the program should first of all prioritize those who are truly disabled."

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Rand Paul

On Monday, after another event in New Hampshire, Paul expanded on his disability position by arguing that advocates for the disabled needed to collaborate on cost-cutting ideas.

"I think the first thing to acknowledge is that there's not money for all of these Social Security disability programs," Paul told Bloomberg in an interview. "It runs out of money this year. [The program does not hit a shortfall until late 2016, according to the actuary.]

"The overall Social Security system pays out more than it takes in. So I think it's really without question that all of these programs need to be reviewed to make them financially sound. There are people who are truly disabled, so the program should first of all prioritize those who are truly disabled."

Paul's solution: Persuade advocates to stop just clamoring for more funding and start thinking about efficiency. "I think it's important that all the advocates for disability realize that it's in their best interest to make sure that people who are disabled are receiving money," he said. "So, there's a lot of reforms that we've talked about–having more certainty in annual exams, having the exams done by doctors who have not seen the patient and can be objective in confirming the disability. There's a lot of reform we can do, and the key is getting the advocates involved."

Rand Paul tries to get younger voters in Granite State // Boston Herald // Chris Cassidy - May 12, 2015

LONDONDERRY, N.H. — GOP presidential contender Sen. Rand Paul is leaving nothing to chance in New Hampshire, a top campaign staffer told the Herald yesterday — lining up 20 state rep endorsements, with plans to open a Manchester campaign office in a few weeks and visit Granite State universities in the months ahead to mobilize college students.

“In any of the races I've worked on, people go, ‘Young people don't vote.' I go, ‘Oh no, they vote — they just don't vote for us.' Let's not mince words,” said Tammy Simmons, Paul's New Hampshire operations director, referring to the GOP's troubles attracting young voters. “We have to make sure they're voting for us this time.”

The campaign is seeing signs of support at liberal Dartmouth College, and also picking up Granite State backers of former Sen. Rick Santorum's 2012 campaign and are counting on those who backed his father, Ron Paul, previously, Simmons said.

In a “Live Free or Die” state stop yesterday, Paul took a shot at former Gov. Jeb Bush on civil liberties and vowed to fight a controversial extension to the Patriot Act.

“We have one candidate — we won't mention any names, but he was a former governor of Florida — who says the best thing the president is doing is collecting all of your phone records without a warrant,” the Kentucky senator told the crowd, which booed Bush. “I say your phone records are yours, they're none of the government's business.”

New Hampshire state Rep. Jim McConnell, who has endorsed Paul, said his candidacy has some GOPers on edge.

“There are at least a couple of Republicans in this race who are here because they can't stand him,” said McConnell, naming South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, New York Rep. Peter King and “probably” former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton. “If Lindsey Graham can't stand him, that's got to say a lot for him.”

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Both Santorum and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie are in New Hampshire today, and Donald Trump — who finished just 4 points off the lead in a poll released yesterday — will visit here Thursday.

The poll shows a razor-thin GOP race in New Hampshire with as many as six candidates within 5 points of the lead. Paul and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker both sit at the top, but barely, with 12 points. Right behind them are Bush and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio with 11 points. Trump finished with 8 points, and Christie came in with 7 points.

Christie defends use of $85,000 in public funds to entertain guests at sporting events // Boston Globe // May 12, 2015

AMHERST, N.H. (AP) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says he made the decision to stop billing taxpayers for the cost of entertaining guests in luxury boxes at three New Jersey sports venues in part because he was worried about the appearance of impropriety.

Records show that Christie spent $85,000 in public money to entertain in the boxes between 2010 and early 2012, when the state Republican party took over those expenses and reimbursed the state for those already incurred.

Speaking to reporters after greeting breakfast diners Friday in Amherst, New Hampshire, Christie said he thought it was "completely justifiable" to use a discretionary fund for the entertaining, but decided to end the practice so that nobody could accuse him of spending taxpayer dollars on politics.

"Quite frankly, in today's world where everything is kind of twisted and turned to look like it's something wrong when it isn't, I just said in 2012 to my folks, 'Listen, let's just have the state party pay for this, so to the extent there's anybody there who's political, people can't make the argument that we're using taxpayer money for anything that even looks like politics,'" he said.

The change was made less than a year after Christie came under fire for using a state helicopter to attend one of his son's baseball games and the year before he ran for re-election.

Christie, who is in the early-voting state as he prepares for a likely presidential campaign, said that most of his sports box entertaining is done at football games, and that he invites people from both parties and different interest groups to spend time speaking with him privately.

He said that since 2012, the state party has been paying for all entertaining done in the box — even it's not political.

"I just think it was just the right thing to do and that's why we decided to do it," he said.

The state money in question comes from an account, worth $95,000 a year, allocated to New Jersey governors to pay for official entertainment or other expenses associated with their job. Much of Christie's spending from the account is used to pay for entertaining at the governor's mansion.

Two Democratic lawmakers introduced a bill Thursday that would require the governor to file a written report with the State Ethics Commission about use of the funds each year.

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The spending details were obtained by The Associated Press via the state's open records law. The documents obtained by the AP cover expenses like food and drinks, but do not list at which events, including those at the sports venues, the governor was entertaining and who was present.

The expenses, which are allowed by state law, also do not include the cost of using the luxury boxes at MetLife Stadium, Prudential Arena and the Izod Center, which are provided to the state for use by the governor.

Christie, who says he'll make a decision about his 2016 plans by the end of June, has come under scrutiny in the past for not reimbursing the state for his security costs when he's traveling for political purposes and for accepting expensive gifts such as Dallas Cowboys tickets.

Rare NH visit for Rick Santorum // NH1 // Paul Steinhauser - May 12, 2015

CONCORD – The numbers tell the story.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania's made 13 trips to Iowa since the 2012 election.

Santorum, who fought eventual GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney deep into the 2012 primary and caucus calendar and who's all but certain to run again in 2016, has made one trip to the Granite State during the same time period.

That's the least visits to the first-in-the-nation primary state of any of the approximately 20 GOP presidential candidates and likely contenders. Last month, Santorum and famed neurosurgeon Ben Carson were the only two Republican White House hopefuls to not attend a major NHGOP summit that was held in Nashua.

Tuesday evening Santorum briefly returns to the Granite State, to keynote a major fundraising dinner for Cornerstone Action, a Granite State focused conservative group, which is celebrating it's 15th anniversary.

"He has one of the best family values focused messages being shared today," said Cornerstone director Bryan McCormack, in announcing that Santorum would headline their event.

The Santorum campaign spent a lot of time and money on his efforts in the NH primary four years ago. After narrowly edging out Romney in the Iowa caucuses, Santorum finished a disappointing fourth in the New Hampshire primary.

This time around it appears that Santorum, who's expected to announce his candidacy for president later this month, is devoting much more of his time and resources to Iowa, which kicks off the primary and caucus calendar, and South Carolina, which holds the first southern contest in the race for the White House.

But a source close to the Santorum campaign tells NH1 News that they are in the process of putting together a small campaign team in the Granite State. The hope, it seems, is to build on any momentum gained out of Iowa.

Fiorina Grabs Attention In Iowa // Oskaloosa News // May 12, 2015

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Waukee, Iowa- Hundreds of GOP activists recently descended on Waukee for the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition Freedom Summit. On hand that evening were a total of nine declared and possible presidential candidates. Of all the candidates who spoke, one in particular appeared to steal the show: former Hewlitt Packard executive Carly Fiorina.

Fiorina is no stranger to politics. She served as an advisor to 2008 GOP Nominee John McCain during his campaign for the White House, and in 2010 made her first bid for elected office when she challenged California Democrat Barbara Boxer for the US Senate. Despite a large democratic advantage in the state, Fiorina led in some polls but ultimately lost by 10 points on election day. Fiorina now is making her debut as a national candidate.

At the Freedom Summit, Fiorina started off by comparing herself to likely democrat nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton. “I too have traveled 1200 miles, but unlike Mrs. Clinton, I know mileage is not the same as going the distance,” Fiorina quipped.

Fiorina mentioned her improbable rise from secretary to CEO of one of the largest technology companies in the world. “Only in the United States of America is it possible for a young woman to start as a secretary and become CEO and maybe just maybe run for president,” Fiorina said.

Talking about faith, Fiornia told personal stories of her battle with cancer as well as her daughter’s battle with addiction. Fiorina said it was her faith in God that got her and her husband through that time. “It was my husband Frank’s and my personal relationship with Jesus Christ that saved us from a desperate sadness,” Fiorina said.

Talking about her convictions, Fiorina told a story of how she refused to back down from her pro-life stance as well as other conservative stances and not turn “towards the middle” after winning a tough GOP primary. Fiorina noted that she went on to win more democrat and independent votes than any other candidate in the nation, largely because of the size of California. “That race taught me something: only a conservative can unify this party and we do not have to change our beliefs and our convictions to reach independents and democrats either,” Fiorina said bring the crowd to their feet.

Fiorina said during her recent trip through Iowa she could “sense a deep disquiet.” Fiorina elaborated. “It’s not political and it is not partisan, but I think people are disquieted because they fear we are losing something. And I think they believe we are missing something.” Fiorina said that something is the limitless possibilities that have defined America. “We always knew that if something was worth doing, especially if it was hard to do, that we as Americans, we would do it,” she said. Fiorina said she had seen disquiet in business owners, saying the country is now for the first time ever destroying more businesses than it is creating. Fiorina cited taxes and other red tape as reasons why this was happening. “We are crushing the potential of this nation,” she said.

Talking about foreign policy, Fiorina said she had met more world leaders than any other candidate or possible candidate for President this cycle, with the exception of Democrat Hillary Clinton. “Unlike Hillary Clinton, I did not do photo ops,” Fiorina said. In regards to Israel relations, Fiorina said the United States should stop talking with Iran. “We should immediately impose as punishing a set of sanctions as

we can and we should not talk again until they submit to full and unfettered inspections,” she said to a roar of approval from the crowd. “The world is a dangerous place when the world does not stand with our allies and does not stand strong against our adversaries,” she also said.

Fiorina announced her candidacy for the Presidency on May 4th.

Rick Santorum: Odd man out? // POLITICO // James Hohmann - May 12, 2015

INDIANOLA, Iowa — In 2012, Rick Santorum came out of nowhere to win the Iowa caucuses.

In 2015, he’s back in nowhere again.

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Story Continued Below

As he prepares to announce his second run for president at the end of the month, he is staring up at many rivals for his base of religious conservatives, while many of his former senior staffers and high-profile supporters are working for rival campaigns.

A Quinnipiac poll of likely GOP Caucus goers last week showed him tied for 10th place, garnering just 2 percent, with social conservatives moving on to fresh faces like Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and former neurosurgeon Ben Carson or coming home to Mike Huckabee, who won the 2008 Iowa caucuses.

“It’s going to be extremely difficult for Rick,” said Iowa activist Sam Clovis, who backed Santorum’s 2012 bid and for whose own U.S. Senate campaign Santorum cut a commercial last year. “He’s been out here quite a bit, but I’m not sure that he has retained a lot of the infrastructure he built in ’12 … and this is a much stronger field.”

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. is questioned after a town hall meeting at the Loins Club hall with area residents, Monday, May 11, 2015, in Londonderry,

Clovis, who said he considers Santorum “a good friend,” nonetheless believes he has a steeper hill to climb than any other candidate. “It’s literally like starting over,” said Clovis. “It will be very difficult for him to make up ground here.”

Mike Biundo, his 2012 campaign manager, now works for Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul. So does John Yob, his national delegate director.

Jill Latham Ryan, his deputy campaign manager, and her husband, Nick Ryan, who ran the pro-Santorum super PAC, are now running the pro-Huckabee super PAC. Ryan said he decided to help Huckabee because, “He’s the best communicator in the Republican Party, and that’s what we need.”

Hogan Gidley and Alice Stewart helmed Santorum’s communications operation last time; this time, they have those roles on the Huckabee campaign.

When Santorum’s special needs daughter, Bella, was sick during the 2012 primaries, the Duggar family filled in for him at several events. The stars of the TLC reality show “19 Kids and Counting” were constantly at his side or caravaning in their RV as his surrogates. This time, they’re all in for Huckabee.

Nineteen members of the Duggar clan were in the audience at the former governor’s announcement in Hope, Arkansas, last week. “He has the communication skills of Ronald Reagan … and being a governor is like being a president of a state,” Jim Bob Duggar, who served in the state Legislature back then, said in an interview at the event. “You’ll probably see us helping out quite a bit.”

It’s a dreary picture that would prompt many politicians to take a pass, but Santorum — who turned 57 on Sunday — relishes the role of underdog. He likes to point out that he’s been written off repeatedly throughout this political career, only to resurrect himself.

“I certainly didn’t expect everybody who was with me last time to uniformly stay with me, because as you know, we had a lot of people who came in at the last minute,” Santorum said in a brief interview after an event at an ice cream parlor here recently.

He believes he has a reservoir of grass-roots support that doesn’t show up in polls, and by again outworking everyone else in the field, he will surge late, just like last time. “You don’t get committed volunteers by running TV ads or appearing on Fox News,” he said.

Still, there are constant reminders that 2016 will be much more difficult for Santorum than 2012 — despite all the exposure he gained last time around.

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At a cattle call in a Waukee church two weekends ago, the emcee recalled how Santorum became famous by traversing the state in “the Chuck Truck,” while other candidates flew private jets, in 2011. Chuck Laudner, who owns the now legendary pickup and who drove Santorum around, now works for Donald Trump’s presidential exploratory committee.

When Ted Cruz rolled out his Iowa Leadership Team last week, he announced Matt Schultz as chairman. The former Iowa secretary of state was the only statewide official who backed Santorum last time.

Santorum campaigned for Schultz during an unsuccessful bid for House last year.

Bob Vander Plaats, the evangelical leader who threw critical support behind Santorum in 2012 and Huckabee in 2008, said he’s told both men that “2016 is not 2008, and it’s not 2012.” His group, The Family Leader, has already hosted several events for other candidates. He expects to endorse someone around Thanksgiving and says the group might too; he worries that social conservatives will splinter among several candidates, empowering someone like Jeb Bush.

“Sen. Santorum has had a history of defying the odds, so maybe he’ll defy the odds again,” Vander Plaats said Friday, “but for Santorum and Huckabee, and maybe to a degree Gov. [Rick] Perry, they need to persevere during the early phase of the campaign when everyone’s attracted to the new car smell — and then, hopefully they’re willing to come back.”

After losing in 2008, Mitt Romney retained some of the key people he wanted to have back in senior roles for his 2012 bid, such as campaign manager Matt Rhoades. Partly because Santorum needed to make money, he didn’t use the past three years to build the same kind of campaign-in-waiting that Romney did.

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. is questioned after a town hall meeting at the Loins Club hall with area residents, Monday, May 11, 2015, in Londonderry,

To be sure, there are holdovers. John Brabender, Santorum’s highly respected chief strategist, has been with him since his first House bid in 1990 and will continue to play a top role in 2016. Rob Bickhart, who went to Penn State with Santorum, was finance director for his U.S. Senate campaign committee and PAC. Also on the senior staff will be Terry Allen, who has experience working for Oklahoma Republicans and advised Santorum during his 2012 victory in the state; Jessica Colon, a member of the national finance team last time, is now political director for Patriot Voices PAC; and Matt Beynon, deputy communications director in 2012 is now leading communications.

Brabender said in an interview that some of the people who are working for rival campaigns in 2016 were not invited back to join the Santorum team. Santorum’s PAC has about two dozen staff, and there will be some 30 employees or consultants signed on to the campaign, assuming he goes forward.

“One of the fortunate things about the campaign this time is that we have much greater demand and interest in working for our campaign at this stage,” Brabender said Monday. “There are a number of people who were with us last time who were invited back and accepted. … There are others we would like to have had but because of demand and, frankly, the pay scale, chose to go elsewhere. And then there are people who were with us last time who got replaced this time by people who are better at those jobs. So it’s a mixture.”

Santorum also retains the support of billionaire Foster Friess, the biggest donor to his 2012 super PAC, along with some of his most loyal grass-roots supporters. Kim Lehman, a former Republican National committeewoman, said she will stick with him because he’s proven.

“Sometimes people want to try out the new guy because they don’t see his weaknesses yet,” she said. “I’m going to stay by him because he’s been tried, he’s been tested and he’s true. He’s got that compass. As much as he would like to win, he doesn’t change his positions to win."

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Santorum himself has put in as much time as anyone else in the Hawkeye State. Since the start of this year, he's been to at least 16 of the state's 99 counties — including here in Warren County, a half hour outside Des Moines.

On a recent Saturday morning, Santorum sipped a chocolate shake from a Styrofoam cup as eight people gathered around a table in a corner sundry store. He spoke and took questions for more than an hour.

The county GOP chairman, Rick Halvorsen, introduced him by recalling how he emerged as the social conservative favorite in 2012. "It's a crowded field this time," he told the small group. "I hope Sen. Santorum can gain some traction."

Santorum, who has some gray hairs he did not have four years ago, gulped when he said this. He's still angry that the state GOP declared Mitt Romney the winner on caucus night in 2012, only to say nearly two weeks later that he actually had won.

The senator has convinced himself that if he had been declared the winner on caucus night, he would have gotten enough momentum to win the nomination and the White House. He told the group that his message would have resonated with blue-collar voters in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin, all of which were won by Obama in his race against Romney.

"They didn't want to run against me," Santorum said of Obama's reelection campaign.

Because there are so many socially conservative candidates this time, Santorum — a Catholic — is trying to broaden his appeal with greater emphasis on economic populism and foreign policy. He brags about appearing in an online magazine that ISIL publishes.

About 20 minutes after Santorum started into his spiel, two women excused themselves so that they could drive to Urbandale to check out Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's appearance at the Machine Shed restaurant.

Will Scott Walker's budget troubles hurt his potential 2016 bid? // WaPo // Jenna Johnson -May 12, 2015

As Gov. Scott Walker travels the country ahead of a likely presidential campaign, he boasts about how quickly he transformed this state's finances — weakening unions, eliminating a shortfall and pushing through $2 billion in tax cuts.

But back home in the State Capitol, a new round of partisan fighting has erupted over the lingering impacts of Walker's policies and the amount of time he is spending away from Wisconsin in preparation for his expected White House bid. The standoff could have repercussions in 2016 as Walker's fiscal record comes under scrutiny.

The promised revenues from Walker's previous budget moves have not fully materialized, leading Walker and GOP lawmakers to propose another round of reductions — including cuts in funding for public schools, the university system, health-care programs and a slew of other programs. The Republican-controlled legislature says it won't be raising taxes no matter what, though it might increase fees for registering a car or visiting a state park.

"We're all are going to have to scratch and claw and figure out how to get through this budget," said Wisconsin Senate President Mary Lazich, a Republican from the Milwaukee suburbs who once car-pooled with Walker. "When I listen to my constituency that elects me and puts me here, they see government as having plenty of money."

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Democrats are attempting to derail many of the cuts, and they accuse Walker of using the state's budget to advance his own political interests as a likely presidential candidate. They note that Walker wants to retain a tax break on manufacturers and farms and to issue $220 million in bonds for a Milwaukee Bucks basketball arena, even as he's pushing for cuts in education and health care.

They also complain that Walker — currently on a tour of Israel sponsored by political allies — spends too much of his time traveling in anticipation of a 2016 bid.

"He's running for president, and he has checked out of here and has used people here in this state to further his political ambition," said state Sen. Jon Erpenbach, a Democrat from Middleton. "He lands in Wisconsin, does his laundry, gets back on the plane and leaves."

Laurel Patrick, a spokeswoman for Walker, said the governor has continued to meet each week with legislative leaders and is in regular contact with lawmakers, his staff and others, regardless of his location.

"The bottom line is Governor Walker's focus is on making sure Wisconsin is a great place to live, work, and raise a family," Patrick said in a statement.

In the four years Walker has been governor, Wisconsin has become a petri dish for fiscally conservative policies. Walker campaigned using his daily brown-bag lunch as a symbol of how he and his family live within their means and that the state should do the same.

But during hours of budget-related hearings last week, Wisconsin Democrats argued that Walker's tax cuts for the wealthy, corporations and property owners have yet to help many middle- and working-class families or jump-start the state's stagnant economy.

Although Wisconsin's unemployment rate is well below the national average, its rate of private-sector job growth is one of the worst in the nation, and wages have remained stagnant while other states see substantial gains. A recent study by the Pew Charitable Trusts found that Wisconsin's middle class — those earning between about $34,500 and $103,000 — has shrunk at a faster rate than any other state in the country.

"When does this trickle-down economics kick in?" asked state Sen. Robert W. Wirch, a Democrat from southeast Wisconsin, during a hearing on repealing a law that helps set a minimum wage for state construction jobs. "Maybe it's time we try something else . . . . Your philosophy, with all due respect, is not working."

Republicans argue that the state's economy is doing much better than Democrats say it is and that Wisconsin's problems mirror a slow national recovery.

"When the economy does pick up across the country, I think we will really be able to kick it into gear and probably outpace a number of other states," said Sen. Stephen L. Nass, a Republican from southern Wisconsin.

Wisconsin sets its budget every two years, and Walker has said he will not make any announcement about running for president until after the task is done, likely in June. But his expected run has loomed large over the budget process — and several of Walker's initiatives are the type that could play well in early primary states.

Walker has proposed cutting $300 million over two years from the public university system, which some Republicans describe as too flush with cash and bloated with bureaucracy. He also calls for cuts to elderly prescription assistance, rural health centers, transportation projects and public schools — although lawmakers are

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hopeful they will find cash for the latter.

Meanwhile, Walker wants to allow an unlimited number of children to take their share of public school funding to a private school, an idea that lawmakers from both parties have been slow to embrace. Walker has called for major reforms to welfare programs, including mandating drug-testing for those who receive benefits, and says his primary goal is to continue to lower property taxes.

“Now, I get a kick out of this: In my state, I’m proud to say we’ve cut the tax burden on the hardworking people of our state by some $2 billion over the past couple years,” Walker said in a speech Saturday in South Carolina. “In fact, property taxes today in my state are lower today than they were four years ago. What governor can say that? ”

GOP lawmakers have reversed many of Walker’s cuts, ranging from funding for the removal of roadkill from the side of highways to money for groups that interview children who have been sexually abused.

Republicans had been holding out hope that tax revenue estimates were too conservative and that the state might collect more money than expected in coming years. But the state’s top budget analyst formally announced last week that more revenue is unlikely, prompting Republicans to scramble for a Plan B.

Walker took a break from tweeting about Hillary Rodham Clinton’s immigration policy and President Obama’s spending habits to write on Twitter: “In Wisconsin, we’ve lowered taxes by $2 billion for individuals, employers, and on property. #WIForward.”

The partisan acrimony was clear at one point last week when lawmakers on a newly formed welfare reform committee fought over Walker’s proposal to require recipients of state assistance to undergo drug testing. Democrats responded by introducing amendments to require the governor, legislators and chief executives whose companies receive tax breaks to undergo similar testing.

“If we want the people of Wisconsin to pee in a cup . . . we should pee first,” said Rep. Andy Jorgensen, a Democrat from southern Wisconsin.

Republicans quashed the effort by refusing to discuss the amendments, prompting Jorgensen to angrily accuse them of pursuing a “right-wing agenda.”

Rep. Mark Born (R), the committee chairman, said that Republicans are reforming the social welfare system because it’s a top priority for their constituents — not because it bolsters the governor’s résumé.

“What the governor is doing in the state or anywhere else, I don’t think that impacts what we’re doing here,” Born said. “There are some things where the governor is talking about them and that’s great, because we are working together on this stuff, but I don’t really view any of his other activities as impacting this.”

This Is Where Liberals Have Gotten Us // Medium // Marco Rubio - May 12, 2015

For conservatives especially, we are facing a defining moment. The failure of government-centered, command-and-control liberalism to lift the poor and sustain the middle class is apparent as never before. Whether we are able to step forward with our own solutions — and not simply rail against the expansion of the state — will determine our future as a movement.

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Our recent history in this regard is not encouraging. President Barack Obama was elected on a promise to fight for poor and middle-class Americas. During his campaigns for president, he talked directly to the American people about the girl who's worried she can't go to college because she can't afford it, about the dad who doesn't know if his wages will cover the winter heating bill, about the single mom who's stressed about what her children are doing after school while she's at work. Meanwhile, my party talked about tax cuts and waited for the American people to punish the president for the economy. They didn't. He won. We lost.

And yet seven years into his presidency, struggling Americans are — by every measure — worse off today than they were before he took office. Why has a president elected as a champion of the disadvantaged failed so miserably at helping them? Because, like most liberals, he doesn't understand the real causes of the erosion of equal opportunity we are experiencing today. He has raised taxes, increased regulations and taken over health care — all according to the outdated liberal theory that Americans struggle when government doesn't tax the rich enough and spend on the poor enough. But the results, such as they are, speak for themselves. After seven years of old-school liberalism, fewer Americans are working than at any time since the Great Recession in the first quarter of 2014.

It's getting harder for millions of Americans to get ahead, not because our taxes are too low or our government is too stingy. The poor and the middle class are struggling because while our economy is undergoing a dramatic and disruptive transformation, our policies have not changed with it. Our economy is no longer producing well-paying jobs, not enough people have the skills they need for better-paying jobs and the values needed for success are eroding at an alarming rate.

It's time for A New American Century. Join our fight and help lead American in a new direction.

Marco Rubio Shifts Rightward on Foreign Policy // TIME // Philip Elliott - May 12, 2015

Moderate-sounding views go by the wayside as Rubio shifts rightward to curry favor with GOP base

When Sen. Marco Rubio sat down for a Q&A session at a Council on Foreign Relations event, one participant noted that his differences on foreign policy with President Obama were "very modest" and asked where he disagreed. The Florida Republican chuckled in response.

On Wednesday, when Rubio returns to the Council on Foreign Relations three years later, that question won't be asked again.

Now a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, Rubio has traded in a moderate pitch on international affairs for an aggressive, hawkish approach. In his first policy speech as a declared White House hopeful, he will be pushing a muscular stance for the United States and trying to calm the worries of those who think he is too squeamish to use America's might.

For Rubio, its both a natural evolution on his thinking in an era of Islamic State fighters and new threats from Russia, as well as a shift rightward to match his party's demands of its next presidential nominee. Republican voters and caucus participants in early nominating states demand an orthodoxy from their presidential candidates, and Rubio's earlier flirtation with moderation—even if not entirely moderate—would prove disqualifying inside the party.

For instance, the now hawkish Rubio previously backed negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program in 2012. Now, as an increasingly vocal member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he unsuccessfully sought to derail Obama's still-gelling agreement with Tehran over its nukes. He unsuccessfully tried to attach one

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amendment that would have made it impossible for the United States to reach a final agreement with Iran; leaders in his own party kept the measure far away from the final bill that gives Congress oversight of any deal.

And in 2012, Rubio intimated that the United States has limited capacity to guide the world. “Let’s stop and remember that the world America made is better, but it is not perfect,” Rubio said. “But it is vastly more peaceful and prosperous than any other age in recorded history.”

Rubio’s rivals are hoping the charismatic, 43-year-old son of Cuban immigrants has already sullied his conservative credentials with such statements, along with acknowledging a role for the United Nations in foreign policy. As the crowded field of White House hopefuls lurch rightward over each other, Rubio’s earlier, moderate-sounding views are unlikely to win him many friends.

“Until recently, the general perception was that American conservatism believed in robust and muscular foreign policy,” Rubio said during a 2012 appearance at the centrist Brookings Institution. “That was certainly the hallmark of the foreign policies of both President Bushes and of President Reagan. But when I arrived in the Senate last year, I found that some of the traditional sides in the foreign policy debate had shifted.”

It proved to be a temporary shift, fueled in part by the libertarian-leaning Tea Party movement that gave the GOP great wins in 2010’s midterm elections.

Now, Rubio is facing a Republican electorate that is itching for a tougher stance against Vladimir Putin’s Russia, stronger sanctions against Iran and improved relations with Israel. Rubio’s advisers are looking at Wednesday’s speech to assure voters that he can deliver on that wish list.

Rubio offered a preview of it last weekend when he went before conservatives in South Carolina. Channeling Liam Neeson’s character in the film “Taken,” the senator promised an audience in Greenville he would have a tough message for America’s enemies: “We will look for you, we will find you and we will kill you.”

It’s quite the change from a figure who earlier in his career called for restraint in military engagements; he now backs unlimited authority for Obama to chase Islamic State fighters across the globe.

Rubio also shifted positions on military spending. In 2013, he said any increases to the military budget had to be accompanied by cuts to other spending. With the campaign approaching, Rubio in March called for more military spending without corresponding reductions elsewhere.

Rubio and his advisers are banking his foreign policy experience and interest will set him apart from a field that is likely to include Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey and Scott Walker of Wisconsin, as well as former Govs. Jeb Bush of Florida, Rick Perry of Texas and Mike Huckabee of Arkansas. Rubio tells crowds that senators are more qualified than governors when it comes to foreign policy.

“The next president of the United States needs to be someone that has a clear view of what’s happening in the world, a clear strategic vision of America’s role in it and a clear practical plan for how to engage America in global affairs,” Rubio told reporters in January. “And I think, for governors, that’s going to be a challenge, at least initially, because they don’t deal with foreign policy on a daily basis.”

In title for most conservative, Marco Rubio just misses top spot // Miami Herald // Chris Adams - May 12, 2015

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As they race for the Republican Party's presidential nomination, the senators in the running are also in a battle for the title of most-conservative.

Ted Cruz of Texas wins. But not by much.

The new legislative ratings by the American Conservative Union, a leading grassroots conservative organization, gave three senators perfect 100 scores: Cruz, Mike Lee of Utah and the just-retired Tom Coburn of Oklahoma.

Another five senators were bunched together with ratings of 96. Included were Marco Rubio of Florida and Rand Paul of Kentucky.

Cruz, Rubio and Paul are all declared candidates for president and will compete in a Republican primary season where conservative credentials will be a major selling point.

Another Republican senator who has all but declared a run, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, had a far-more moderate score of 74.

Florida's other senator, Bill Nelson of Orlando, was one of 16 Democrats to score a zero in the conservative group's rating system.

The group's ratings were based on an analysis of votes cast or positions taken on 25 key issues. The group's ratings are designed to test the issues and votes that "serve as a dividing line to help separate those members of the U.S. House and Senate who protect liberty as conservatives and those who are truly liberal."

Rubio only went afoul of the group's positions once: his vote against an amendment that would have phased in a reduction in government subsidies for flood insurance.

Lindsey Graham to Hold Senate Fundraiser Days After Planned Launch of White House Bid // WSJ // Reid Epstein – May 12, 2015

Senator Lindsey Graham, shown at the annual Milken Institute Global Conference in Beverly Hills, California, on April 27, would be joining a crowded field of Republican presidential candidates.

Patrick T. Fallon/Bloomberg News

Sen. Lindsey Graham is planning to announce his presidential campaign June 1. The next week he will be raising money for his Senate war chest.

Taking time from what will then be a nine-day-old presidential campaign to appear at a fundraiser for his Senate PAC may not indicate the South Carolina Republican is laser-focused on winning the White House.

"I don't know where the presidential campaign might go, but crazier things have happened," said Dave Barron, a volunteer for Mr. Graham who sent the invitation Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Graham's presidential campaign-in-waiting said he will appear at the June 10 fundraiser in Washington for the Fund for America's Future, his Senate leadership PAC. The fundraiser will be held at the Pennsylvania Avenue offices of the law firm Balch & Bingham LLP.

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Mr. Graham's presidential aspirations are no secret. In January he formed a presidential exploratory committee called Security Through Strength and is planning a June 1 campaign launch. Federal Election Commission rules limit the amount that can be legally transferred from his federal leadership PAC to a presidential campaign to $5,000 per year.

Brittany Bramell, a spokeswoman for Mr. Graham's presidential committee, said the Senate PAC fundraiser will not distract from his White House aspirations.

"The Fund for America's future is an organization that supports other Republicans running for office throughout the country in order to keep a Republican majority in Washington, which would surely help a Republican president in the coming years."

Mr. Graham is considered a longshot in the increasingly crowded field of Republicans running or considering running for the party's 2016 presidential nomination. Last month he told the Journal he needs to raise $15 million to be competitive in the early primary states and advance to the "final four" of candidates.

In an interview Tuesday, Mr. Barron said Mr. Graham could use the money raised on June 1 to support fellow Senate Republicans who share his hawkish foreign policy vision. He said none of the funds raised at the June 10 event would go toward Mr. Graham's re-election campaign.

"Regardless of what presidential path he takes, Lindsey will be involved in keeping and expanding a Senate majority and this fundraiser is to help us in that regard," Mr. Barron said. "If he's not president of the United States, in four years he'll be announcing for re-election in South Carolina."

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Senate Democrats vote to block Obama on trade // WaPo // Mike DeBonis and Steven Mufson – May 12, 2015

President Obama collided with his own party Tuesday when Senate Democrats stalled consideration of a trade measure that would give the administration greater authority to negotiate more freely with other countries.

The Senate vote was a sharp blow to the president's efforts to win approval for a new Asia-Pacific trade bill that has emerged as a top agenda item for Obama. Only one Democratic senator, Thomas R. Carper of Delaware, voted with the president Tuesday.

Administration officials and Republican leaders immediately said they would bring a measure back to the Senate floor.

But the setback highlighted the president's failure to convince Democratic lawmakers, labor union leaders and environmental groups that the 12-nation trade deal known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership would help the U.S. economy. Obama has argued that the pact would open markets, promote better labor conditions abroad and protect endangered species and the environment.

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Obama has made the trade deal one of his top priorities, and to bolster his ability to finish negotiating the still-secret terms of the accord, he has asked Congress to give him “fast track” trade authority. But a procedural motion to open up debate of the fast-track legislation failed by a 52-to-45 vote, falling short of the 60 votes needed to begin consideration of the complex Pacific trade accord.

Senate Democrats blocked legislation on Tuesday that would have given President Obama the power to grant “fast-track” authority to move trade deals quickly through Congress. (Reuters)

Ahead of the vote, White House press secretary Josh Earnest played down crumbling support for the legislation as a “procedural snafu” — a phrase he repeated 10 times — that could be worked out in the coming days. Earnest said fast-track authority was “critically important to the future of our economy.”

But in the Senate, the measure’s failure seemed to be more than a procedural glitch. The trade accord has sparked a Democratic revolt and laid bare a spat between Obama and liberal Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). And it has embittered labor union leaders who feel they helped elect Obama and have received little for their efforts.

Moreover, Senate Democrats — including the handful who have supported Obama’s trade push — said they were not inclined to move forward with debate unless Republican leaders provided assurances that related pieces of legislation would move in tandem.

[Obama, Warren feud breaks open as trade legislation blocked by Democrats]

That group included Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), who negotiated the trade package with top Republicans in the House and Senate and who has been a rare ally of Obama’s trade agenda inside the president’s party.

“Until there is a path to get all four bills passed,” Wyden said after a lunchtime meeting with fellow pro-trade Democrats, “we will — certainly most of us — have to vote no.”

As the vote was faltering in a midday roll call, the bloc of 10 Democrats willing to support the trade legislation was summoned to the White House for a meeting with Obama and top deputies to try to forge a compromise, according to congressional and administration officials. But it was too late.

As President Obama's trade legislation was facing likely defeat Tuesday on its first vote in the Senate, White House press secretary Josh Earnest was ready with a talking point: "procedural snafu." (Tom LeGro/The Washington Post)

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said Tuesday that Republicans were willing to attach “trade adjustment assistance” — which would provide funding authority for worker assistance programs — to the fast-track bill. But he made no pledge to include a trade enforcement bill — which would, among other things, take aim at alleged Chinese currency manipulation and is opposed by the administration — or a fourth bill concerning trade with Africa.

McConnell said those provisions could be attached by amendment to the bills under consideration.

“We want to pass this and get this to the president’s desk,” he said. “It’s the Democrats who are standing in the way of what is one of the president’s prime domestic policy plans for the economy of this country.”

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[Clinton hedge on trade leaves Obama without political cover in Warren feud]

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), one of the Senate's fiercest opponents of free trade, said late Monday that the vote to proceed would fail unless Republicans made a more solid commitment to take up the related bills.

"It's a betrayal of workers and small business in our communities to pass fast track, to put it on the president's desk without enforcement . . . and without helping workers," Brown said. "It's a betrayal of what we should be standing for."

But Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said Monday that there was "no compromise that can be reached that is going to link all four bills together."

Hatch, who for months negotiated with Wyden, the committee's top Democrat, over the trade legislation, betrayed frustration at the latest Democratic demands.

Moving all four trade bills in tandem, he said Tuesday, is "not what we agreed to, it's not what we went forth on, it's not what everybody understood, and it's strange to me that they would change their commitments at the last minute."

"Everybody will have a chance for their amendments within reason," Hatch added. "If they win on currency . . . that's the way it is."

[Why Obama went to Oregon to push Congress on trade agreements]

The challenge for Obama is not convincing anti-trade hard-liners such as Brown, but rather persuading a core group of pro-trade Democrats, such as Sen. Christopher A. Coons (D-Del.), to back trade promotion authority (TPA), the formal name for the fast-track bill. TPA gives the president the power to negotiate an international deal that Congress can either approve or reject, but not modify.

"I don't think today's vote is a death knell for TPA," Coons said Tuesday. "But it is a very strong warning shot to the majority leader and those who would advance TPA that without worker protections, without enforcement provisions, they will likely not move forward."

The provisions the administration is negotiating are difficult to assess. Although not open to the public, lawmakers are allowed to see them in a secure room without taking notes or electronic devices.

Nonetheless, the administration has dispatched Cabinet members and the president to a variety of staged public events around the country meant to highlight the benefits of increased trade. Obama has argued that the Trans-Pacific Partnership would make American goods and services more competitive by opening up markets such as Japan's auto market and improving labor conditions in places like Vietnam.

Still, a variety of unions and liberal groups hailed the president's defeat Tuesday. AFL-CIO President Richard L. Trumka said the trade bill "would have led to undemocratic trade deals that lower wages and eliminate jobs."

"I'm not sure they can fix it because I think the administration has indicated it is willing to go so far and no further in fixing the real problems of our trade agenda," said Bill Samuel, head of government relations for the AFL-CIO.

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“They need to demonstrate what they’re doing. They have asked people to take it on faith.”

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.), the majority whip, said the expected vote was a “failure” of the president’s influence, and he urged Obama to do more to convince wavering Senate Democrats.

“Does the president of the United States have enough clout with members of his own political party to produce enough votes to get this bill debated and ultimately passed?” Cornyn asked.

Earnest said, “I would withhold judgment about the president’s persuasion abilities until we’ve had a chance to advance this legislation through.”

McConnell was the only Republican to vote against proceeding, a tactical move giving him the ability to quickly hold another vote later if circumstances change. Whether that would happen later this week or whether the standoff could extend through next week and into a week-long Memorial Day recess remained unclear Tuesday.

Minority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) and his presumptive successor, Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), have tendered a compromise offer to Republican leaders, according to a Democratic aide who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal maneuverings. Under their proposal, the currency manipulation measure would be stripped from the broader trade legislation, but it would have to get a Senate vote before the rest of the package moved forward.

Schumer said in a news conference after the vote that he was “not insistent” that the currency manipulation provision be part of the fast-track bill. “But it ought to move together as a package, concurrently, alongside it,” he said.

Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.), the minority whip, said he doubted the trade impasse could be quickly overcome and noted other major pieces of legislation — such as a renewal of highway funding and a possible extension of telephone surveillance authority — must be addressed before month’s end.

“If you look how much has to be done, there’s not very much time left to do it,” he said.

At least 5 dead in Amtrak crash in Philadelphia // USA Today // Melanie Eversley - May 13, 2015

At least five people died Tuesday night when a passenger train carrying 238 passengers and five crew members derailed in Philadelphia.

The tragedy that took place some times after 9 p.m. EDT forced Amtrak to shut down all service between New York City and Philadelphia.

"It is an absolute disastrous mess," Mayor Michael Nutter said late Tuesday night. "Never seen anything like it in my life."

Fifty-three people with injuries were taken to hospitals and six people were taken to hospitals with critical injuries, officials said.

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The train appeared to go off the tracks, Paul Cheung, an Associated Press employee, said. Cheung said he was fortunate to be at the back of the train, and that the front of it "looks pretty bad." Cheung said he saw "some people mangled up."

Former U.S. representative Patrick Murphy tweeted that he was on the train, that he was OK, but that others were hurt. "Helping others. Pray for those injured," Murphy tweeted.

The effect that the accident will have on major rail traffic in the Northeast corridor remains somewhat unclear, but Amtrak did announce late Tuesday that it was canceling all traffic between New York and Philadelphia for the time being. Philadelphia is a major hub along the Northeast corridor, one of the most heavily traveled in the nation.

Shortly after 10 p.m. ET, Amtrak issued a statement saying that it was aware of the derailment involving Northeast Regional Train 188 and that it would provide updates as soon as they are available.

Emergency personnel work the scene of an accident, Tuesday, after an Amtrak train headed to New York City derailed and crashed in Philadelphia. (Photo: Joseph Kaczmarek, AP)

"It is a devastating scene down there," Nutter said during a late night news conference. "We walked the entire length of the train area. The engine completely separated from the rest of the train and one of the cars is perpendicular to the rest of the cars. It's unbelievable."

Police in Philadelphia issued a statement asking members of the public not to go anywhere near the scene of the derailment to allow first responders to do their jobs.

One person, a woman, was being transported to Temple University Hospital, and three other people were being taken to Jefferson University Hospital, according to 6ABC.

EMS reported that Temple advised it could take no more patients late Tuesday.

Others were being taken to Frankford Hospital-Torresdale Division, according to Philadelphia police.

Representatives at Amtrak's media relations line for emergencies could not immediately be reached late Tuesday.

No charges in Wisconsin police shooting of black teen // Reuters // Fiona Ortiz - May 12, 2015

A Madison, Wisconsin police officer will not face charges in the fatal shooting of an unarmed 19-year-old biracial man in March, the prosecutor said on Tuesday.

Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne said at a news conference that Matt Kenny, a veteran white police officer, used lawful lethal force when he shot Tony Robinson Jr. in the head, torso and right arm.

AOL, a Digital Pioneer, With Another Chance to Reshape Itself // New York Times // Emly Steel and Michael j. de la Merced - May 12, 2015

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Soon after Tim Armstrong was named chief executive of AOL in 2009, he started reading the management book "You're in Charge, Now What?"

Mr. Armstrong was 38 at the time, a charming, hard-charging Google ad sales executive who had never before been a chief executive, let alone the head of a company in complete disarray.

Six years later, he could write a management book of his own.

He has steered the company through its divorce from the media giant Time Warner, hundreds of millions of dollars of sales and acquisitions, management clashes, a proxy battle with an activist fund and cost-cutting measures that led to highly publicized public apologies by him. All those changes came as AOL continued a rocky transformation into an ad-supported digital media company from its roots as a subscription-based service for connecting to the Internet.

AOL had been the frequent subject of takeover speculation by Yahoo, another early giant of online media.Verizon Bets on Video Ads in $4 Billion Deal for AOLMAY 12, 2015

Pedestrians in Midtown, communicating the modern way.

On Tuesday, Mr. Armstrong announced that AOL was selling itself to Verizon for $4.4 billion, a deal that he billed as the creation of a next-generation media company but that also rescued AOL from having to continue its turnaround alone.

AOL, the one-time king of media, is a shadow of its former self. Its deal for Time Warner is regarded as the high-water mark of the dot-com bubble.

"I wasn't totally prepared for this," he said on Tuesday about taking on the top post at AOL, noting that his top three lessons as a first-time C.E.O. had been the importance of the right talent, the need for grit and persistence and the value of dedication to a long-term plan.

"The short-term bumps in the strategy don't matter as much as the long-term destination that you end up at," said Mr. Armstrong, a 6-foot-4 former captain of the Connecticut College lacrosse team who is known for peppering his speech with sports metaphors. "AOL has become a more valuable company because we stayed on strategy."

The value of AOL shares has increased nearly 120 percent since the company spun out from Time Warner in 2009, as it has steadily transformed into a digital-media and ad-technology company. But some analysts have questioned whether AOL's growth was sustainable on its own. Over the years, the company has gradually increased its advertising revenue, but its subscription group, which includes its Internet service, continues to provide almost all of AOL's profit.

Now, even with the Verizon merger, the prospect for transforming AOL into a 21st century media conglomerate remains an open question.

Mr. Armstrong, who is one of AOL's biggest individual shareholders outside of big investment firms, will see the value of his shares rise to about $84 million as a result of the Verizon deal.

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“He made the best of a hand that he was dealt,” said Anthony DiClemente, a media analyst with Nomura. “As an executive, he did the best job he could balancing the growth opportunity for shareholders and a business that definitely is declining.”

When Mr. Armstrong first stepped into the job, AOL had long since been cast aside as the dinosaur of the Internet. It was the pioneering company that in the 1990s introduced millions of people to the web. It was also the acquiring company in the colossal 2000 merger, in which AOL used its high-priced stock to buy Time Warner, which at the time was the smaller company, at least in terms of stock market value. That deal is now regarded as the biggest merger failure in history. But it struggled to adapt as consumers abandoned its dial-up Internet service for faster broadband connections.

A revolving door of high-profile executives had tried to turn AOL into a digital media powerhouse, but it had been eclipsed by new digital darlings like Google and Facebook. Questions loomed as to whether the company could be rescued at all.

At $4.4 billion, AOL is valued at a fraction of the worth of younger and more successful companies like Facebook or even WhatsApp, the messaging service that Facebook bought for $21 billion. Its price tag also values AOL at just a shade above Vice, the growing media power that has drawn adulation, and cash, from private investors.

Deal-making has featured prominently in Mr. Armstrong’s strategy. He has overseen roughly two dozen acquisitions, worth several hundred million dollars, aimed at bolstering the company’s media and ad-technology offerings.

“It is a totally different company than it was five or six years ago,” Mr. Armstrong said.

Most noteworthy have been the takeovers of content properties like TechCrunch, a technology news site. And none have surpassed the prominence of the news site The Huffington Post, for which AOL paid $315 million four years ago.

One of his most prominent missteps was Patch, a collection of local sites. Mr. Armstrong was a co-founder of the site and acquired the company weeks into his tenure. (He recused himself from the acquisition process.)

He was criticized by investors for pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into the struggling company, which some say he took too long to wind down.

Together, those properties have melded into what Mr. Armstrong has said he hoped would be a new-media empire that could command attractive advertising rates. The value of The Huffington Post alone has grown significantly since its acquisition, Mr. Armstrong said. (The single biggest acquisition that AOL has struck was its $405 million deal for Adap.tv, a specialist in video advertising.)

Yet the company has also been pressured to consider various deals. AOL agreed three years ago to sell a trove of patents to Microsoft for about $1 billion as it faced demands from an activist hedge fund, Starboard Value.

Perhaps the single biggest potential deal that has dogged Mr. Armstrong is one he has shown little interest in: Yahoo, another onetime Internet giant humbled by the dot-com bubble’s collapse.

The two companies have held multiple discussions about potential tie-ups over the years, and investors pushed for such a move as recently as last fall — though executives consistently said publicly that neither was truly

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interested.

Now with the Verizon deal, the fate of the digital-media content business that Mr. Armstrong built at AOL is up in the air.

Verizon's interest in keeping The Huffington Post and other prominent media brands is unclear. In recent months, AOL has considered spinning off The Huffington Post, according to people with knowledge of the plans who were not authorized to discuss them. Axel Springer, the German media group, and General Atlantic, the private equity firm, are among companies that have expressed interest.

Mr. Armstrong said that both AOL and Verizon were "big investors in content" and that "content is a huge part of the future."

Asked if Arianna Huffington, founder of The Huffington Post and an AOL executive, was planning to work for Verizon, Mr. Armstrong said, "Yes, definitely."

On Tuesday, Mr. Armstrong said that he also would stay on at Verizon and that he had signed a multiyear contract with the company. One friend has said that he aspires to be the Rupert Murdoch of the digital age. Mr. Armstrong said that he was living his dream now.

"If you want to talk about building the next great global media platform," he said, "the deal accomplished that goal, and that is what I am here to do."

INTERNATIONAL

Nepal earthquake: Rescue resumes after latest deadly tremor // BBC News // May 12, 2015

Rescue work has resumed to find victims and survivors of the latest deadly earthquake to hit Nepal.

At least 65 people died in Nepal and nearly 2,000 were hurt in Tuesday's 7.3 magnitude quake, with fears the figures could rise. At least 17 died in India.

A search continues for a missing US aid helicopter with eight people on board.

Thousands of Nepalis spent the night in the open. Many have not returned to their homes since a 7.8 magnitude quake on 25 April that killed over 8,000.

Tuesday's earthquake was centred about 76km (47 miles) east of the capital, Kathmandu, near the town of Namche Bazaar.

A second tremor of 6.3-magnitude hit Nepal 30 minutes later and numerous other aftershocks continued into Wednesday morning.

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The main quake was felt in northern India, Tibet and Bangladesh. India's home ministry said 16 people had been killed in the state of Bihar, and one more in Uttar Pradesh. Officials in China said one person was confirmed dead in Tibet.

Nepal's districts of Dolakha and Sindhupalchowk, east of the capital, were initially listed as the worst hit, with officials confirming 26 fatalities, 20 of them in the town of Charikot.

The latest earthquake in Nepal triggered a landslide in Dhunche near the country's border with China.

But the true extent of the casualties and damage remains unclear.

Home Minister Bam Dev Gautam said: "Many houses have collapsed in Dolakha... there is a chance that the number of dead from the district will go up."

Regine Kopplow, a German aid worker in Charikot said: "I saw a woman in the building opposite jump from the third floor who suffered injuries to her leg, elbow and hand.

"People stayed outside, the shaking continued. Some people were crying, hugging each other."

The US military said a Marine Corps Huey helicopter involved in disaster relief efforts had gone missing while working in the vicinity of Charikot.

The Pentagon said there were six US Marines and two Nepali soldiers on board. It said there was as yet no sign of a crash and the craft may have landed safely, amid reports of fuel issues.

The Red Cross said it had received reports of many casualties in the town of Chautara in Sindhupalchowk, where it has a hospital and which has become a hub for humanitarian aid.

Spokeswoman Nichola Jones said: "Hundreds of people are pouring in. They are treating dozens for injuries and they have performed more than a dozen surgeries."

At least two major buildings collapsed in Kathmandu, with at least three people rescued.

But there have been other reports of landslides and fallen buildings in towns and villages outside the capital.

Save the Children said Gorkha, close to the epicentre of the 25 April quake, had been hit by new landslides. A spokeswoman told the BBC its staff had been "dodging huge rocks rolling off the hillside".

At least two major buildings collapsed in Kathmandu, with fears people may have been trapped

Residents of Namche Bazaar said there was some damage there but no reports of deaths.

The BBC's Navin Singh Khadka says local officials in the Everest region report very few tourists are still in the area following the 25 April quake.

Many residents of the capital and other towns spent Tuesday night outdoors, too scared to return to homes.

Dipak Koirala, who lives in Ramechhap district, told AFP news agency: "I was thinking of moving to a rented

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room, but today was so scary I can't risk my family's life."

Sulav Singh, who lives in Kathmandu, told the Associated Press: "I thought I was going to die this time. Things were just getting back to normal, and we get this one."

Politicians on Tuesday fled Nepal's parliament chamber in Kathmandu as the quake hit.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said later: "At an hour of a natural disaster like this, we have to face it with courage and patience."

The BBC's Yogita Limaye, who was in Nepal's mountains when the latest earthquake struck, said: "The earth shook and it shook for a pretty long time.

"I can completely understand the sense of panic. We have been seeing tremors - it's been two-and-a-half weeks since the first quake. But this one really felt like it went on for a really long time. People have been terrified."

line

In April, we saw the fault boundary rupture eastwards for 150km (93 miles). And the immediate assessment suggests Tuesday's tremor has occurred right at the eastern edge of this failure.

In that context, this second earthquake was almost certainly triggered by the stress changes caused by the first one.

The US Geological Survey's modelling suggested there was 1-in-200 chance of a M7-7.8 event occurring this week.

Quake experts often talk about "seismic gaps", which refer to segments of faults that are, to some extent, overdue a quake. Tuesday's big tremor may well have filled a hole between what we saw on 25 April and some historic events - such as those in 1934, that occurred further still to the east.

China Lashes Out Over U.S. Plan on South China Sea // WSJ // Eva Dou And

James Hookway - May 13, 2015

Beijing strongly condemned on Wednesday a proposed U.S. military plan to send aircraft and Navy ships near disputed South China Sea islands to contest Chinese territorial claims over the area.

“Do you think we would support that move? We are severely concerned about relevant remarks made by the American side. We believe the American side needs to make clarification on that,” said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

The unusually strong comments came after U.S. officials said Defense Secretary Ash Carter had asked his staff to look at options to counter China’s increasingly assertive claims over disputed islets in the South China Sea. Those options, officials said, include flying Navy surveillance aircraft over islands and sending U.S. Navy ships within 12 nautical miles of reefs that have been built up in recent months around the Spratly Islands.

“We always uphold the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea,” Ms. Hua said. “But the freedom of navigation definitely does not mean the military vessel or aircraft of a foreign country can willfully enter the territorial waters or airspace of another country. The Chinese side firmly upholds national sovereignty and security.”

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Ms. Hua said Beijing urged “relevant countries to refrain from taking risky and provocative action.”

The proposed U.S. military maneuvers and China’s swift response have raised the stakes in an already tense regional showdown over who controls the disputed waters. Six governments–China, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines—claim the South China Sea waters, islands, reefs and atolls in whole or in part.

The Philippines, the country in the region that has taken the most confrontational stance against China, quickly welcomed the news of the U.S. plan.

The rest of Southeast Asia was holding its tongue, at least for now. Privately, many diplomats and leaders in the region say they worry about the potentially destabilizing impact of a confrontation between Washington and Beijing.

Manila has mounted a legal challenge of China’s claims at the United Nations, much to Beijing’s annoyance, and the country’s foreign secretary, Albert del Rosario, said Tuesday in Washington that the Philippines is seeking more help from the U.S. in pegging back China’s land-reclamation efforts in disputed waters.

“The Philippines believes that the U.S., as well as all responsible members of the international community, do have an interest and say in what is happening in the South China Sea,” said Charles Jose, spokesman for the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, early Wednesday, citing freedom of navigation and unimpeded flow of commerce among other factors.

The Philippines has tried to nudge the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations closer to a firmer stand against China’s continuing land-reclamation projects, but many countries are wary. A recent statement from Asean criticizing land-reclamation programs in the South China Sea, for instance, didn’t specifically name China.

ENLARGE

The biggest concern among some is that U.S. efforts to ensure free navigation in the region might be interpreted in China as an effort to contain Beijing’s growing influence, which could escalate tensions further.

Malaysia, which currently holds the rotating chairmanship of Asean, also lays claim to parts of the South China Sea, but officials there said it was too soon to say anything about the U.S.’s new direction.

Officials in Vietnam, another claimant, didn’t immediately respond to requests for comment.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop told The Wall Street Journal that Canberra doesn’t take sides on competing territorial claims in the South China Sea, but is in close contact with the U.S. on regional tensions.

“We are concerned that land reclamation activity by China and other claimants could raise tensions in the region,” Ms. Bishop said.

The expansion of South China Sea shoals has put Canberra in an uncomfortable position between Washington, its longstanding security ally, and China, its largest trade partner. Defense Minister Kevin Andrews is expected to

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discuss regional tensions with his U.S. counterpart, Ash Carter, in Singapore in a few weeks.

U.S. military commanders have in recent months urged Australia to consider joining multinational patrols in international waters north of Indonesia, while also increasing the frequency of U.S. warship and aircraft visits through Australian bases on the periphery of regional tensions.

Other U.S. allies in the region had little to say.

A South Korea Foreign Ministry statement expressed hope China and Asean would agree on a code of conduct in the South China Sea, saying, “A guarantee of security and rights of free navigation in South China Sea, a major maritime route, is a very important issue for South Korea, which relies heavily on trade.” A ministry official said it is inappropriate for Seoul to comment directly on South China Sea territorial disputes.

Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga refrained from commenting on the considerations by the U.S., its top ally, saying only that the Japanese government wasn’t aware of the matter.

Japan and the Philippines, which have beefed up security ties in response to China’s maritime assertiveness, on Tuesday conducted a joint naval exercise in the South China Sea. Japan sent two destroyers to participate in the drill, which it said took place in “the waters west of Manila.”

While the two navies have trained jointly before, the latest session featured for the first time an exercise focused on communications strategies to respond to “unplanned encounters at sea.”

Security experts are closely watching whether Japan will start sending surveillance planes and naval vessels to the contentious waters of the South China Sea to aid the U.S.’s efforts to patrol the region.

So far, Mr. Carter has only asked his staff to look into various ways to contest China’s claims to sovereignty in the South China Sea.

China, meanwhile, has consistently said it has uncontested sovereignty of the waters, which it maps out with a nine-dash line. It has also said that the reclamation projects are mostly for civilian purposes. U.S. estimates suggest that China has expanded the land it controls in the Spratlys chain to as much as 2,000 acres, up from 500 acres last year. Satellite images from defense intelligence firm IHS Jane’s also show that China has begun construction of an airstrip on one of the new artificial islands.

Manila’s challenge of China’s claims through a United Nations’ tribunal argues that the nine-dash line China uses has no legal basis. Beijing has said it “will neither accept nor participate” in U.N. arbitration.

Inspectors in Syria Find Traces of Banned Military Chemicals // NYT // Somini Sengupta, Marlise Simons and Anne Barnard - MAY 12, 2015

International inspectors have found traces of banned toxic chemicals in at least three military locations in Syria, four diplomats and officials said, less than two years after President Bashar al-Assad agreed to dismantle the country’s chemical arsenal.

Traces of sarin, a nerve agent, were found in drainage pipes and in artillery shells in two places, and traces of

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another banned toxin, ricin, were found in a third location, a scientific research center, according to a United Nations diplomat, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss confidential reports from the inspectors.

The discovery of the small amounts of banned materials, first reported by Reuters, comes as Syrian government forces are being accused of continuing to bombard insurgent-held areas with chlorine bombs.

Taken together, the recent events raised troubling questions for international inspectors about whether Damascus was violating the terms of a deal brokered by Russia and the United States in 2013 that forestalled an American military strike. The Syrian government was held responsible for a series of chemical weapons attacks, including a deadly sarin attack near the capital, before that accord.

A Western diplomat briefed on the findings by the inspectors from the global Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said that while there was no clear evidence of new use or production of forbidden chemicals, “the strong suspicion is they are retaining stockpiles which are being held back.”

“This, and the open defiance in using prohibited chlorine bombs, is indicative of bad faith from the beginning,” the diplomat said.

A violation of the deal struck to eliminate Syria’s chemical arsenal would undermine President Obama’s single claim to policy success in Syria, where four years of war has displaced nearly half the country, killed more than 200,000 people and shown no sign of abating. It could also embarrass Russia, Mr. Assad’s most powerful military and diplomatic patron.

Already there was mounting evidence that Mr. Assad’s forces had violated the terms of the international treaty banning use of chemical weapons — and signed as part of the deal facilitated by Washington and Moscow — by dropping jerry-built chlorine bombs on insurgent-held areas. While the Syrian government has denied using chlorine or any chemical as a weapon, only the government has access to the helicopters that witnesses say are being used, and rescue workers say the pace of such attacks has increased in some areas.

Now, inspectors are trying to determine the significance of the new findings of small amounts of banned agents, which do not necessarily indicate a lingering weapons program and were described by some diplomats as being perhaps less troublesome than the charges that the Syrian government is dropping barrel bombs loaded with chlorine. The inspectors, whose last tour ended on April 3, are expected to seek answers from Syrian officials during a visit beginning Sunday.

An investigation into both allegations could put even more pressure on Mr. Assad during a renewed push to find a negotiated settlement to the conflict that could lead to his removal from office. On Tuesday, President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, Mr. Assad’s most powerful ally, met with Secretary of State John Kerry in Sochi, Russia, to discuss Syria, and Staffan de Mistura, the United Nations special envoy for Syria, continued a new round of talks in Geneva. Both sets of talks are aimed at re-energizing the search for an elusive political solution.

At the United Nations, the Security Council has been hamstrung on chemical weapons, as Syria’s allies contend that the allegations are part of a political campaign against Mr. Assad by Western governments, including the United States, that have called for his ouster. Evidence of chemical weapons remains a fraught issue for global public opinion more than a decade after false claims of an Iraqi chemical weapons program were used to justify the American invasion that deposed Saddam Hussein.

The detection of traces of banned chemicals were revealed as the Security Council confronted the charges about the use of a more mundane chemical, chlorine, which is not a banned substance but whose use in weapons is forbidden under international law. Government opponents, doctors and rescue workers contend that Syrian forces are increasingly using chlorine in bombs dropped from aircraft.

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Inspectors found last year that chlorine had been used in battle in violation of international law. But with Syria's ally Russia wielding a Security Council veto, the joint mission of the global monitoring organization with the United Nations was not mandated to investigate who had used it. In recent days, the United States has sought to establish a United Nations mission to determine who is responsible.

As for the new discovery of traces of banned chemicals, it is not necessarily a ground for punitive action by the Security Council, officials said. There is no evidence that banned materials were used in weapons after Syria signed the treaty, or that Syria possesses sufficient quantities to use in future weapons.

What is clear is that the Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons, the international group that enforces the chemical weapons convention, has sent its team of inspectors eight times to Syria. The body is still seeking to clarify gaps in the government's required official declarations about the location and amounts of its toxic stockpiles and the nature and scope of activities at weapons sites.

What steps the Security Council might take depend on what the monitoring organization's inspectors conclude about why the traces were there.

"To have some gaps in the initial declaration is quite common," the diplomat said. "To have them persist after a year and a half I find a little odd. It should have been cleared up now."

At an executive council meeting of the international monitoring group on May 7 in The Hague, attendees were told that one or more facilities in Syria had not been inspected because the government said security problems prevented access, according to diplomats who attended.

The United States ambassador to the organization, Robert Mikulak, told the group that there were "gaps and inconsistencies" in Syria's declaration of its weapons, according to a copy of his speech.

"Progress continues to be agonizingly slow in destroying all of the remaining chemical weapons facilities," he said.

He added: "It is the duty of this council — and of its technical secretariat — to ensure that the facts about use of chemical weapons are determined and made known. Silent toleration is not an acceptable option."

Two other United States officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the reports, confirmed the United Nations diplomat's account that traces of two banned agents were used.

A former United States official added that small amounts of banned agents might be less problematic than large amounts of chlorine.

"Traces usually means just that — traces," the official said of the other banned chemicals.

A spokesman for the international monitoring organization in The Hague pointed out that the chemical weapons treaty, which Syria signed in October 2013, required Syria to declare the precise locations of facilities that were part of its chemical weapons program, as well as the nature and scope of the activities.

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The spokesman added that his colleagues were “continuing to work with the Syrian Arab Republic to clarify their declaration,” though he said he could not divulge details of the “operational verification matters” because of confidential provisions in the treaty.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Why Hillary Clinton Would Be a Weak Presidential Nominee for Democrats // Huffington Post // Eric Zuesse – May 12, 2015

If Hillary Clinton wins the Democratic Presidential nomination, then how strong a candidate will she be against a Republican nominee who, as a representative of the conservative party, is proudly and openly supporting conservative positions?

Taegan Goddard of The Week headlines on May 11th, "Is Hillary Clinton Flip-Flopping or Just Evolving?" and he notes several issues on which she has rhetorically veered to the left recently. He further notes that one of the things that probably shaved a crucial few percentage-points off the losers in previous Presidential general-election contests and caused them to lose, such as John Kerry and Mitt Romney, was the given candidate's primary-campaign rhetorical flip-flops that had been made during the Party's primaries in order to be able to wrap up that candidate's Party-base so as to win its Presidential nomination and so be able to become a participant in the general-election contest.

In other words, the record is clear: such flip-flops reduce the ardor of the given Party's voters to come to the polls and vote on Election Day. The opposite Party's nominee, who hasn't flip-flopped quite so blatantly, wins the general election because that Party's base then comes to the polls in droves on Election Day in order to ensconce into the White House someone whom they passionately want to be there, someone whom they strongly believe represents their values. Thus, George W. Bush and Barack Obama became Presidents, while Al Gore, John Kerry, John McCain, and Mitt Romney didn't.

Whereas today, some Republicans might not consider George W. Bush to have been a really conservative President, they strongly did believe him to be a really conservative Presidential nominee, both in 2000 and in 2004. And whereas today, some Democrats might not consider Barack Obama to be a really progressive President, they strongly did believe him to be trying and doing his best to be so against the ferociously conservative Republican congressional opposition, both in 2008 and in 2012.

So: in order for Hillary Clinton to be credible in the general election against whomever the Republicans end up nominating, she will need to out-compete that nominee on consistency, and not only on ideology. Polls show that the two Parties are overall fairly-equally close to the viewpoints of the American electorate on ideology; but, in the final election, what makes the decisive difference is usually instead the passion-factor: the devotedness of the given nominee's followers, and this means mainly the Party (but also independents who respect the given person's consistency or "honesty"). Flip-floppers don't get it, and they never can, especially when things become closer and closer to Election Day and the voters become more concerned about the issues than they were at the contest's start (i.e., before the debates and the advertisements).

The stakes at the end of a Presidential contest are more stark than they ever were before. The key factor then becomes trust: if you don't trust your Party's nominee, you're a lot less likely to go to the polls to vote for him or her. That's a major reason why the U.S. has one of the lowest of all nations' voter-participation rates.

If Hillary Clinton becomes the Democratic nominee, then how will she be able to attack the Republican nominee for being a tool of Wall Street -- which she will have to do (and do convincingly) in order to beat the Republican?

Here's her record, and here are its results:

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How many Democrats will be too disheartened even to show up and vote? And how many of them will even be wondering whether perhaps some of the "private" emails that Ms. Clinton had wiped off her computer's (even off of her server's) hard drive, might have been emails with some of the Wall Street bigs (and their law and accounting firms) who were on that list of her top campaign contributors? Even the legality of her having destroyed those emails is far from clear. So: how will she be able to motivate her Party-base, when that final moment arrives?

If Hillary Clinton becomes the Democratic nominee, then trust will be the killer campaign-issue, even if it's not an issue that's being discussed in the campaign. The closer and closer to Election Day, the bigger and bigger that issue will be. We're as far from it now as we can be, but, with Hillary Clinton, it's already rising, and no one has any suggestion of a way in which it will likely recede. And this is only the start.

Regardless of whom Democratic voters select to become the Democratic nominee, and regardless of whom Republican voters select to become the Republican nominee, it would not be going out on a limb to predict, right now, that the Democratic nominee will be campaigning in the general election for the issues on which polls show that the public agrees mainly with the Democratic positions, and that the Republican nominee will be campaigning in the general election for the issues on which polls show that the public agrees mainly with the Republican positions. The silent but decisive killer-issue will be trust.

In primary elections, it's smart for voters to be concerned about ideology. But, if they really want to be voting for the next President of the United States, then the smartest voters in the primary elections will be even more concerned about trustworthiness. When the final election comes, that tends to be the determining issue -- more than ideology, more than "experience," more than anything else.

Time for a Conversation about Paid Sick Leave // Huffington Post // Jonathan Cohn - May 12, 2015

You've got a nasty head cold, or maybe your kid is home with the flu. If you're a waitress and you call in sick, should the law forbid your employer from withholding your day's wages?

A big debate over that question is taking place in Pennsylvania, pitting conservative state lawmakers in Harrisburg against liberal city officials in Philadelphia. It's the latest in a series of such clashes that have taken place across the country. Underscoring the high stakes of the outcome, the battle is also drawing attention from high-profile Democrats, including Hillary Clinton, in what could be the early stages of an argument that will play out during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Earlier this year, Philadelphia enacted an ordinance that will allow employees to earn up to five full days of paid sick time per year. Under its terms, employees can claim the days for their own illnesses or for those of direct family members, or they can use the days to deal with domestic violence incidents. The law goes into effect next week. Once it does, workers begin accruing paid sick time -- one hour for every 40 that they work -- as soon as they've been on the job for at least three months.

The law doesn't apply to seasonal employees or interns, or to companies where workers have unions. Companies with fewer than 10 employees must provide the time off, but not salary. Even so, as many as 200,000 Philadelphians who didn't have paid sick days before will now get them, according to the law's supporters. When Mayor Michael Nutter signed the measure in February, after vetoing two previous ones, these advocates were ecstatic.

"It's a great day for all of our workers and all of our businesses," said Marianne Bellesorte, an official with

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Pathways PA, a nonprofit service and advocacy group that works on issues for women, children and families.

But city officials may not have the last word on the matter. As far back as 2013, when Nutter was still blocking the ordinance, conservative lawmakers in the state were talking about passing a law that would invalidate local sick day laws altogether. The clear target of that effort was Philadelphia, since it was the only city considering such a measure and, because of a quirk in the state's constitution, it may be the only city that has the legal authority to do so.

"I think we have an inherent problem with government trying to tell private business what they should do with their employees," John Eichelberger, a Republican state senator, told The Huffington Post in an interview last year. Eichelberger co-sponsored a preemption bill that the Senate passed last month; a similar measure is now before the state's House of Representatives. Tom Wolf, the newly elected Democratic governor, has promised to veto such legislation -- and that's where things stand now. It's not clear whether Republican leaders in the legislature could muster the votes to override him

.

A Familiar Fight With Familiar Faces

This isn't the first time conservatives have tried to leverage their superior numbers in state government to block or undermine paid sick days legislation in big cities, where liberals typically hold large majorities. Using a legislative template supplied by the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and working closely with employers who oppose paid sick days mandates, conservatives have tried to enact preemption laws in more than a dozen other states. In Arizona, Georgia and nine other states, they have prevailed.

Perhaps the most highly publicized fight took place in Florida starting in 2012, after organizers in Orange County obtained the 50,000 signatures necessary to put paid sick leave up for a countywide vote. They faced stiff opposition from local employers, including Disney and Red Lobster, as well as from the county commission, whose members refused to put the measure on the ballot.

Although a judge eventually forced the commissioners to back down, the delay gave the Republican-controlled state legislature a chance to pass a preemption law -- which it did in April 2013. The delay was apparently the plan all along: In a text message later made public through state disclosure laws and reported in the Orlando Sentinel, the head of the Orange County Republican Party had urged county commissioners to find some way of slowing the local initiative's progress, so that state lawmakers could deliver their "kill shot" first.

The Central Florida debate put the human impact of paid sick time into sharp relief, since so many people work low-paying jobs in or at least tied to the big theme parks there. Nationally, more than 40 million Americans -- or roughly four out of every 10 private-sector workers -- have no paid sick days, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. But it's people working in those low-paying hotel and restaurant jobs who by far have the least access to paid sick days.

That's rough on them, because they are the ones who can least afford to go without a day's pay. But it also has consequences for customers, who end up using the facilities and eating the meals these people are cleaning and preparing -- even while they may have contagious illnesses. In one survey sponsored by supporters of sick day legislation, more than 60 percent of cooks and waiters reported serving food while sick.

If the restaurant and hospitality industries are worried about this prospect, they haven't shown it. In Pennsylvania, Florida and pretty much every other part of the country where this debate has come up, these two industries have led the charge against paid sick days laws. Along with their conservative allies, they've made their case primarily on economic grounds, arguing that paid sick days are too costly -- and too burdensome -- for many employers to administer.

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The result of paid sick day requirements, business lobbyists and their conservative allies insist, will inevitably be some combination of higher prices and fewer jobs. Before New York City enacted its paid sick days law last year, opponents warned it would be a “de facto half-billion-dollar tax on small business.”

Proving or disproving such claims is difficult because most of the available evidence on the economic impact of paid sick days consists of employer or employee surveys, which are frequently unreliable. But while there are certainly some for whom paid sick days create real problems, there’s no sign of serious damage to business in cities like San Francisco, which has had a law requiring paid sick days in place for several years.

The evidence on the benefits of paid sick days laws is a bit clearer. One peer-reviewed study, published in the American Journal of Public Health, has shown that people with access to paid sick days are less likely to suffer on-the-job injuries -- perhaps because with prompt medical attention, nagging medical problems don’t get worse. A 2012 study from the same journal found that during the H1N1 crisis of 2009, workers without paid sick days were more likely to go to work while feeling flu-like systems, exposing co-workers to whatever illnesses they had.

In 2014, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report on the sources of foodborne norovirus outbreaks -- and found that contamination from infected restaurant workers was a major cause.

Aron Hall, the study’s lead author and director of viral diseases at the CDC, said, “Some food service workers understandably fear losing their job and also leaving co-workers short staffed if they don't go to work when they're sick. That's why it's so important that businesses consider using measures that encourage workers to stay home when they're sick. That includes paid sick leave and a staffing plan that includes on-call workers.”

Coming Soon To The Presidential Campaign

Whatever the policy reality -- and whatever the outcome of the political fight in Pennsylvania, which will likely drag on for at least a few weeks while the House considers legislation -- the issue of paid sick days is unlikely to fade away soon. In November, Massachusetts voters approved a ballot initiative guaranteeing most workers paid sick leave, making it the third state -- after California and Connecticut -- to do so. Vermont may be next, since the state House just passed a bill and its Democratic governor, Peter Shumlin, has said he supports the measure.

Those are all liberal states. But, in Washington, D.C., President Barack Obama has called for a national paid sick days law that would cover all states. Last month, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) introduced a budget amendment designed to test support for the concept. It got 61 votes.

Murray's proposal wasn’t an actual piece of legislation. A more detailed bill that made the costs and benefits explicit probably couldn’t get through the Senate, let alone the (even more conservative) House. But paid sick days are likely to generate more discussion in the coming months -- maybe even in response to the Pennsylvania debate.

When Nutter signed that measure in his state, Hillary Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, hailed it as an achievement. On Monday, campaign spokesman Josh Schwerin told HuffPost that Clinton was "disappointed to learn of the effort to overturn this hard-fought victory." Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to President Obama, has also spoken out against the Pennsylvania preemption effort -- calling it "dreadful."

Clinton has hinted during the campaign that she will support a national paid sick days law, similar to what Obama has proposed. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who is Clinton’s lone declared Democratic rival, has already co-sponsored such a bill in the Senate. As for the Republicans, the three presidential candidates who had a chance to vote on Murray’s amendment -- Ted Cruz, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio -- all voted no. Representatives of the campaign for Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, did not respond to questions about paid sick days laws.

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That leaves Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who hasn't taken a public position on either Philadelphia's ordinance or a national proposal. But Walker has a history on the issue of paid sick days, and it's from an episode that looks a lot like the fight in Pennsylvania.

The very first statewide effort to preempt a local paid sick days law took place in Wisconsin in 2011, in response to an ordinance that voters in Milwaukee approved. Walker signed that law, saying "patchwork government mandates stifle job creation and economic opportunity." When asked to offer more detail on why he signed that bill -- or what he thought of the fight in Pennsylvania -- his press secretary, Laurel Patrick, said that Walker wanted "to ensure Wisconsin has a statewide standard for family and medical leave. This provides clarity and certainty for businesses operating across the state."

Of course, a national law guaranteeing paid sick days would eliminate the problem of "patchwork" regulations and provide the "clarity" that Walker and other opponents of local ordinances say they want. But it's possible that these conservatives will raise a more fundamental problem with legal requirements to provide paid sick days: They may oppose such laws on principle, no matter where the statutes apply. The 2016 campaign should help settle that question, maybe sooner rather than later.

America Doesn't Need Another 'Contract With America'—Not Even a Liberal One // The New Republic // Elspeth Reeve - May 12, 2015

ill de Blasio says he wants to do what Newt Gingrich did in 1994, but for progressives. Maybe he should stop saying that.

The New York mayor, joined by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and economist Joseph Stiglitz, rolled out his Progressive Agenda in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday; it's a 13-point plan calling for a higher minimum wage, universal pre-kindergarten, and higher taxes on the wealthy. De Blasio has explicitly compared it to Gingrich's 1994 "Contract with America," a set of legislative proposals often credited with helping Republicans win a majority in Congress for the first time in 40 years in those midterm elections, and which gave them the appearance of a sweeping national mandate for specific conservative legislation. On MSNBC's "Morning Joe" last week, de Blasio said, "I obviously disagree with Newt Gingrich on many things. But in 1994, he put forward the Contract with America. It had a crystallizing effect for his party and for conservatives. It was a clear, sharp set of ideas about how to change America—in my view, in the wrong direction. But as an organizational tool it was very effective."

That depends on your definition of "effective." The 1994 Contract was very effective in getting attention from the press. It was very effective in making Newt Gingrich famous. It was effective at setting the legislative agenda of Congress. It was kind of effective at getting legislation passed. It was kind of effective at making conservatives happy. It was not effective in electing Bob Dole president in 1996. And it was definitely not effective at solving many of the long-term social trends it was supposed to address.

De Blasio (and maybe Gingrich, too) might hope we don't go back and look at what the Contract with America actually proposed, because a lot of it is awful. Sometimes sifting through newspaper archives from just 20 years ago feels like you're stumbling through the remnants of an ancient barbaric civilization. What was wrong with you people? In the primitive writings of these strange humans (Americans in the '90s) we can find many lessons for today's progressive mayor of New York.

De Blasio suggests that "on the ground" it's clear there's a popular movement toward more progressive policies, a demand Washington address income inequality. There's a lot of evidence to suggest that's true. And that's what makes the comparison to the 1994 Contract a little uncomfortable. The Contract with America was designed to include only issues that had the support of 60 percent of the public—it was supposed to be a unifying agenda of things Americans with good common horse sense agreed on. Today, that good common horse sense looks dumb.

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The Contract with America had ten planks, and Republicans promised to vote on all ten in their first 100 days in office. The Personal Responsibility Act had many measures for reforming welfare, but the one clearly designed to capture the public's attention was the one that would punish poor teen girls for having sex: Women who had kids before they turned 18 would have been banned from welfare for life. Here's how the Heritage Foundation approvingly analyzed the political calculation of the Contract in 1995:

The items in the Contract were carefully selected in terms of issues that were of fundamental policy importance but also were "doable," that could be accomplished rather quickly because of the broad support they engendered.

The Personal Responsibility Act of the Contract sought to fundamentally revamp the role of the state in welfare policy by developing policies to reduce teenage pregnancies and illegitimate births by prohibiting aid to mothers under 18 who give birth out of wedlock and requiring them to name the fathers of their children, who would be held accountable for their actions. Such women would be required to live at home to receive any aid and would not get housing subsidies to set up their own apartments. The Act also required that aid be cut off if recipients did not work.

As if a teen would ever tell her boyfriend, "You are a good boyfriend who is sexually attractive and also nice. However, we cannot have sexual intercourse because if I were to get pregnant, I would not be eligible for government assistance in raising the child." Teen pregnancy did drop steadily in the '90s and the decades after. But it was not because of the Contract with America (the above provision never became law). It was because of sex education and greater birth control options. It turns out that shaming poor women for having sex works less well than low-cost long-term contraceptives.

Another major plank of the Contract with America is especially relevant right now: The Taking Back Our Streets Act. The legislation is kind of an All-Time Worst Hits of Law Enforcement, as it called for longer prison sentences and more prisons. States that could prove felons served at least 85 percent of their sentences would get more money. It would be harder to appeal a death sentence, and easier to admit evidence collected unconstitutionally in criminal prosecutions.

Again, these ideas were very popular at the time. The Washington Post noted on October 11, 1994, that "virtually all polls [are] showing that crime has replaced the economy as the top public concern." ("What is so wrong with giving the public what it wants, just for once?" GOP pollster Frank Luntz, who worked for Gingrich, said in the same Post story.) Then-President Bill Clinton had passed a 1994 crime bill; in 1995, the new Republican majority tried to make it tougher. In August 1995, Florida Rep. Bill McCollum of Florida told The New York Times, "If you can get these violent criminals to serve more time, you will inevitably reduce the violent crime rate... Anyone who is locked up will not commit a crime."

This turned out to be very bad analysis. Crime had peaked in 1991, and, as the Brennan Center's Inimai M. Chettiar wrote in The Atlantic in February, it was not because of the prison boom. Only about 5 percent of the drop in crime is attributable to increased incarceration, and the "growth of incarceration had no observable effect on violent crime in the 1990s or 2000s." Clinton has renounced his own crime bill: "We have too many people in prison."

So we are somewhat lucky, because the Contract with America failed to produce much new crime law, aside from making death penalty appeals more difficult. Despite all the polling on crime and the buzz about Gingrich, Republican changes to Clinton's crime bill faltered amid congressional bickering over funding for more police officers. Other parts of the 1994 Contract have been largely abandoned, or addressed inside baseball stuff about how Congress works, like term limits for members of Congress and rules about seniority on congressional committees.

Did conservatives get what they wanted out of the Contract? Not really. Edward H. Crane wrote in Forbes in November 2000:

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There will always be a party that believes the coercive mechanisms of the state are the appropriate means for ordering societal affairs. The Democrats fill this role by instinct. But these days it appears the GOP has grown into it.

Consider: Over the past three years the Republican-controlled Congress has approved discretionary spending that exceeded Bill Clinton's requests by more than $30 billion. The party that in 1994 would abolish the Department of Education now brags in response to Clinton's 2000 State of the Union Address that it is outspending the White House when it comes to education. My colleagues Stephen Moore and Stephen Slivinski found that the combined budgets of the 95 major programs that the Contract with America promised to eliminate have increased by 13%.

The obvious point is the popular thing is not always the right thing. De Blasio is responding to years of middle class wage stagnation and a widening wealth gap. And he's got great enemies—last week The Wall Street Journal noted that society types are annoyed de Blasio's wife won't go to fancy socialite charity galas. (A publicist told the Journal, "They have made themselves socially irrelevant. It is a major shortcoming not to mingle with all classes.") What could possibly go wrong? Well, Gingrich and his fellow Republicans were also responding to troubling long-term social trends with popular proposals to punish the bad guys; it's not as if they called for 1.5 million black men to go "missing" due to early death or prison. Critics of de Blasio and other progressives say they are cynically trying to whip up a pitchfork-wielding mob, and their populist policies could have unintended consequences while failing to address the problems they're designed to solve. Imitating Newt won't dispel that.

The only thing the Contract has a rock-solid record on is the publicity it brought its author. Gingrich, naturally, is relishing the attention de Blasio's Progressive Agenda has given him after a few years out of the spotlight. On Twitter, he offered to debate contracts with the mayor. On Facebook, he said in a short video, "I look forward to debating him, and I think it's very important to recognize the original Contract with America had big ideas that were real, backed up by real legislation, that led to real change." Gingrich even wrote an op-ed in the New York Post, offering "advice" for de Blasio: "I'm flattered, Mr. Mayor. But allow me to offer a few cautionary thoughts. ... It's impossible for Mayor de Blasio to create a document in the mold of the Contract with America—ideas supported by large majorities of Americans—if it is based on far-left ideas."

On this count, the liberal Contract with America is clearly working for him. According to Topsy, de Blasio got a surge of mentions on Twitter after news broke of his Progressive Agenda. He appeared on MSNBC, his plan was discussed on NPR, and it got a "SIREN!" headline from Politico's Mike Allen. If that's what de Blasio wants for himself, following Gingrich's path is a fantastic idea. If he wants to lessen income inequality or pass laws or satisfy progressives or just generally make America a better place, he should try something else.

The Aggressive, Sometimes Bizarre Progressive Campaign Against Obama's Trade Agenda // BuzzFeed // Evan McMorris-Santoro - May 12, 2015

Behind the scenes, the tension is even higher: Progressive trade opponents have followed a pro-trade Democrat home to his house, sent anonymous emails to Hill staffers some thought came from the administration, leveraged political money in a way that's upset even their allies and suggested trade deals like the one favored by the president were among the causes of the civil unrest in Ferguson, Missouri.

The White House and its allies have been very aggressive, too. But the administration side of this fight is well-documented — partially because the toughest attacks on the left have come from the man with the loudest voice in the country: Obama, who recently flew to Oregon to attack progressive trade critics in a high-profile speech from Nike's global headquarters (a move unpopular with his critics: "I was appalled the president would go to Nike," said Larry Cohen, president of the Communications Workers of America). Obama is now openly sparring with Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Those White House allies argue, however, that they are not alone here. The progressives, they say, have essentially gotten away with their incendiary tactics against the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the proposed Asian trade deal, and the fast-track authority that would limit Congress to simple up-or-down votes on trade deals.

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An often-cited example is the treatment of Sen. Ron Wyden. The Oregon Democrat has been a long-time progressive on many issues, most notably his ongoing attacks on the administration's domestic use of bulk surveillance. But he supports Obama on trade. And since he said that, the left has gone after Wyden hard. Protesters have taken their efforts to Wyden's house in southeast Oregon, his family home in New York City, and the bookstore owned by his wife there, The Strand. The groups were small — never approaching a dozen people, according to someone familiar with them — but protesting a politician at his home did not impress even Obama's trade opponents back in Washington.

"I wouldn't pick that tactic, honestly. I do think that in democracy, people have a right to do things, but that wouldn't have been a tactic we would have suggested," Cohen said. "On the other hand, the president going to Nike? And giving the speech that he gave? … Ron Wyden and his connections to Nike is a lot more troublesome to me than the fact that some people may have gone overboard at his house. I mean, they didn't go overboard, but even showing up there. I don't think that that's a tactic that's going to build broad-based support."

For his part, Wyden hasn't publicly said the protests bothered him. But many of his and Obama's allies point to them when complaining about the progressive attacks.

"I have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with activists over and over again to push our government in a more progressive direction and stand up for Americans' rights, so I welcome their work to have their voices heard, even when we don't agree," Wyden told BuzzFeed News in a statement provided by his Senate office.

Wyden said the protesters' cause is already included in the current trade debate, a point Obama has tried to argue in his public statements lately.

"When it comes to trade, Activists have made valid points about the secrecy of trade agreements and a lack of enforcement, among other things," he said. "That's one of the reasons the president and I pushed so hard to ensure today's trade agreements are very different from those of the 1990s."

Cohen himself has upset pro-trade Democrats with his often impassioned rhetoric on the president's trade plans. Back in January, he drew a line between the '90s trade deals, the decline of Detroit, and the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri.

"Every one of our members in Detroit, high-tech or low-tech, know that the trade policies that devastated Detroit devastate their lives also — that they can't get a raise when people don't have a job," Cohen said at a Capitol Hill press conference with prominent trade opponents. "Our members in St. Louis and Ferguson know that the root causes of Ferguson lie in the shutdowns in St. Louis. And so we connect the dots in this coalition and with these members of Congress."

At the time, the comment drew little press scrutiny, but it got the attention of trade-supporting Democrats. "Obama administration officials were 'taken aback' by the level of rhetoric from Thursday's anti-fast track press conference," read a tiny item buried in a Jan. 9 Politico newsletter. The claim that trade policy can adversely affect communities of color pre-dates the Ferguson unrest. A policy brief on the CWA website, "TPA A Worry For Communities Of Color," made the case that fast track could hurt black workers in June 2014.

Months later, though, Cohen's argument that the "root causes" of Ferguson were in trade is still is angering pro-trade Democrats, who cast the comment as over-the-line at best, and illustrative of the progressive attacks.

Cohen doesn't think much of the controversy.

"I think the right [connection to trade] to make is Ferguson as a part of St. Louis, not Ferguson itself," he said.

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"The president himself said that the loss of all the factory jobs in Baltimore is directly related to this. That's a quote from the president. He just doesn't tie it to trade."

Hilary Shelton, a St. Louis native and senior official at the NAACP, said the Ferguson comment was "just a little bit hyperbolic," but said his group also worries about the potential for trade policy to adversely affect communities of color.

Labor's full court press on trade has upset even their political allies. A freeze on all political spending by the AFL-CIO announced in March wasn't supported by all the unions in the labor confederation, and Democratic allies on the Hill say the move was a step to far.

"I think it was unnecessary, I don't think the labor unions needed to make that kind of nuclear threat to their friends. And we are their friends," said Rep. G. K. Butterfield, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and a no vote on fast track. "It rises to the level of a nuclear threat and I think some of them have had second thoughts about making that statement."

Elsewhere in Washington, other antics have grated on the Democrats backing Obama. Public Citizen, the progressive activist group originally founded by but now longer officially associated with Ralph Nader, has been at the center of generating progressive talking points, opposition research, op-eds and other material often cited by lawmakers opposed to the trade deals. The group also has a 16 foot-tall horse-shaped parade float labeled "Trojan Horse Trade Agreement." In February, the group combined those two ideas into an email lobbying campaign that pro-trade Democrats labeled downright odd, and embarrassing for the TPP-opponents side.

On the Friday before Valentine's Day, an email from "michaelfromanustr@gmail.com " landed in the inbox of dozens of trade-focused Democratic legislative assistants across Capitol Hill. Michael Froman is the U.S. Trade Representative, Obama's top negotiator on the TPP trade deal, and if not the progressive enemy number one, probably somewhere between two and four. The email had no signature and directed to readers to an anonymous website, fromantics.com , which consisted of "Mike" begging forgiveness for having "not been faithful in this relationship."

Dearest Member of Congress,

Will you be my Valentine? If I have betrayed your trust, I am sorry that you feel that way. I've been so focused on convincing you to take the Fast Track trip with me and buy those trade deals I love, I've said some things that, in retrospect, were not true. :(Will you give me another chance? Will it help if I come clean with a little Valentine's Day poem for you and some sweet nothings on a special website just for you?

Neither the website or the email listed Public Citizen.

"There was lot of confusion at first about, 'Where did this come from?'" recalled one senior pro-trade Democratic Hill staffer. They asked the USTR, "Are you guys sending us candygrams right now?"

The anonymous email with the USTR-focused valentines was odd, the staffer said. "This falls in the more outlandish category," the staffer said. "Usually you get a letter with 6,000 groups signed on to it or something."

Lori Wallach, the director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch and a veteran of the trade wars stretching back decades, was behind the email. Her name was on the domain registration of the Fromantics website too, though neither her name nor Public Citizen's was anywhere on the site itself. Wallach was happy to discuss it in detail in an interview, and laughed off congressional staff who may have been confused.

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Staff at Public Citizen were actually worried no one would open their email, not that many people would and would then be fooled.

"We were thinking we would have to print out paper Valentine's and bring them to the individual offices because basically anyone with any internet sanitation protocols would not think that was from the USTR and as a result they would not open the dang link," she said.

It was not the first time Wallach had heard congressional staff were surprised by the email.

"With that email, it did not cross our minds that anyone would think it was from Mike Froman. But in retrospect, I guess next we do what we thought was not a very subtle joke, we'll have to actually specifically say, 'this is not from USTR Froman!'" she said. "It didn't seem subtle to us. I mean for one thing, if we wanted to hide it, we wouldn't have sent it from here. You can track it back to us."

In some ways, this political dynamic was expected: Obama's allies in Washington have said all along that passing trade deals with Republican support is traditionally the way trade deals are done, and that the sometimes awkward fight amongst Democrats was always an expected part of the trade push. But pro-trade Democrats have clearly been impressed by the way the left has rallied, and stayed rallied, against the Obama trade agenda. On the Hill, Obama's allies watched in dismay as the left started applying real pressure against fast track while the White House focused its defense on a strategy of what one ally called "Let's get people facts and information." That meant dry and policy-heavy briefings many members didn't attend. And it certainly did not mean anything like a 16-foot-tall horse.

Now that Obama has fully engaged, really calling on his base to trust him on trade and to believe that he's not going to send a trade deal to Congress that runs counter to the rest of his agenda, his allies are starting to get more confident that he's rallied enough Democratic support to get his trade agenda through. Pro-trade Democrats recently sent around an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll showing growing support for trade among Democratic voters, including big jumps among Latino and black voters.

Progressives say they've done enough damage to keep fast-track authority from passing the House, certainly. They've definitely quieted many Democrats when it comes to crossing them publicly: Democratic critics of progressive trade strategy contacted by BuzzFeed News generally preferred to stay off the record or speak without attribution about the groups that may prove to be valuable allies in future legislative fights.

Pro-trade Democrats say the progressives shot themselves in the foot with tactics and rhetoric — threats of primaries, an aggressive "you're with us or against us" mentality — that have turned many Democrats off.

"The sense is absolutely that the attacks cross the line," the pro-trade aide said. "It's frustrating to a lot of members when they really do want to get in the room and shape policy and make trade agreements more progressive."

Progressives say they don't mean to scare anybody off, and they're not trying to be in your face for in your face's sake. They just don't see room for wiggle room.

"This vote on fast-track and the TPP, it's not a close call. So if there is an issue where it's a sincere 'on the one hand, on the other hand' moment, then the kind of really pressured, pointed tactics and messages that apply for this campaign wouldn't be appropriate," Wallach said. "But in this instance, it's not a close call."

Lawmakers stuck in the middle of the fight between the White House and progressives don't see the heated rhetoric fading quickly from memories. Butterfield, the Congressional Black Caucus chair, has been lobbied by the president directly as well as all the progressive groups pushing to keep Democrats from standing with Obama on

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trade. For now, he's standing with the progressives. But he said the tactics of both sides have left a mark.

"The president feels very strongly about TPA and TPP. I haven't seen him this determined since the whole Affordable Care Act debate back in '09. He is fully invested in this debate, because he is convinced that he's right," he said. "This is not one of those issues that's a come and go issue. I've lived through and seen many of those, that seem kind of clenching but at the end of the day it passes over. But this is one of those that's going to be with us for a while. The proponents and opponents feel very strongly about their positions."

Sabotage! Will Bill Save Us from Hill? // PJ Media // Roger Simon - May 12, 2015

The more we read of the escapades or listen to the remarks of William Jefferson Clinton, the less it seems he wants his wife to be president. Even the court eunuchs at the Washington Post are starting to worry.

Now naturally, Bill cannot come out and say as much, not even to himself in the small hours of the morning. But the way he's behaving under fire — "I gotta pay our bills!" – does the talking for him.

As attractive as a Third Clinton Presidency may be in fantasy, I'd wager the reality of being First Man gives Bill Clinton the heebie-jeebies. What a crimp in his lifestyle — and that's not even the half of it.

Of course, that wasn't the agreement. Back when he humiliated Hillary in public, yet again, and to such an extraordinary degree, with that now middle-aged TED speaker "Miss Lewinsky," Hill didn't run off – like a "good feminist" or even a moderately self-respecting human being — into the welcoming arms of a celebrity divorce lawyer. Instead, she played the game, mouthing such howlers as blaming her husband's (serial) infidelity on the "great rightwing conspiracy." The deal was — I back you and you back me.... and back me... and... and... and...

But that was then and this is now, now being years into the Clinton post-presidency,a gaudy cocktail of goody-goody causes, multi-million dollar corporate shenanigans, various Hollywood star assignations (yes, I live here and there are rumors), not to mention myriad private jets of the 727 variety. (No namby-pamby Gulf Streams for our Bill. Power to the People! Right on!)

And of course there was and is the speechifying at 500K a pop and upwards. One wonders if at those rates he recycles old speeches (as most on the circuit do) or comes up with a new one for the occasion. If this is Tuesday, it must be Kazakhstan. (Who's the dictator in this joint and have you made your uranium deal already, Harry?)

Then there's the matter of Jeffrey Epstein, the king of teenage orgies, now once more on the loose. If Bill were in any way serious about a Hillary presidency he would have stayed on the far side of Pluto from that dude. What could he possibly see in Epstein? Intellectual stimulation? Perhaps a new reading of the Upanishads.

Now the drill is that this is all irrelevant. The mainstream media will not only cover for Bill and Hill as Bonnie and Clyde, as Peggy Noonan dubbed them in her column, they'd cover for them if they were Gilles de Rais and Elizabeth Báthory. And the American public is so anesthetized taking selfies while watching the Kardashians that the outcome of the election is nowhere near as important as when Bruce Jenner will make that final decision. Just keep the free goodies flowing.

Well, maybe.

But that's good and bad news for Bill. Can you imagine him sitting around the White House? I think he'd take ambassador to the Netherlands, if people wouldn't laugh. Amsterdam is his kind of town and it's only an hour

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from the Hague. And then there's always a possible posting to Bangkok….

But he can't do it. He's trapped. And trapped, And trapped…. and he knows it. Poor Bill, a prisoner of his own making. And he doesn't even get to give the orders. She does that.

And that's the unfortunate part. Much as we hate to admit it, even the most right wing of us would prefer Bill to Hillary. But that's who were stuck with now.

Keep your fingers crossed that Bill will finally step over the line and sabotage her. He may be our only hope. Don't just sit there. Encourage him!

Read more: http://pjmedia.com/diaryofamadvoter/2015/05/12/sabotage-will-bill-save-us-from-hill/#ixzz3Zz02991i

The Center-Right Moment // New York Times // David Brooks - May 12, 2015

The most surprising event of this political era is what hasn't happened. The world has not turned left. Given the financial crisis, widening inequality, the unpopularity of the right's stances on social issues and immigration, you would have thought that progressive parties would be cruising from win to win.

But, instead, right-leaning parties are doing well. In the United States, Republicans control both houses of Congress. In Israel, the Likud Party led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pulled off a surprising win in an election that was at least partly about economic policy. In Britain, the Conservative Party led by Prime Minister David Cameron won a parliamentary majority.

What's going on here?

Well, there are some issues in each election specific to that country, but there are a few broader trends to be observed. The first is that the cutting-edge, progressive economic arguments do not seem to be swaying voters.

Over the past few years, left-of-center economic policy has moved from opportunity progressivism to redistributionist progressivism. Opportunity progressivism is associated with Bill Clinton and Tony Blair in the 1990s and Mayor Rahm Emanuel of Chicago today. This tendency actively uses government power to give people access to markets, through support for community colleges, infrastructure and training programs and the like, but it doesn't interfere that much in the market and hesitates before raising taxes.

This tendency has been politically successful. Clinton and Blair had long terms. This year, Emanuel won by 12 percentage points against the more progressive candidate, Chuy Garcia, even in a city with a disproportionate number of union households.

Redistributionist progressivism more aggressively raises taxes to shift money down the income scale, opposes trade treaties and meddles more in the marketplace. This tendency has won elections in Massachusetts (Elizabeth Warren) and New York City (Bill de Blasio) but not in many other places. Ed Balls, the No. 2 figure in the Labour Party in Britain, co-led the group from the Center for American Progress that wrote the most influential statement

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of modern progressivism, a report on “inclusive prosperity.” Balls could not even retain his own parliamentary seat in the last election.

The conservative victories probably have more to do with the public’s skepticism about the left than with any positive enthusiasm toward the right. Still, there are a few things center-right parties have done successfully.

First, they have loudly (and sometimes offensively) championed national identity. In this era of globalization, voters are rewarding candidates who believe in their country’s exceptionalism.

Second, they have been basically sensible on fiscal policy. After the financial crisis, there was a big debate over how much governments should go into debt to stimulate growth. The two nations most associated with the “austerity” school — those who were suspicious of debt-based stimulus — were Germany and Britain. This will not settle the debate, but these two nations now have some of the strongest economies in Europe and their political leaders are in good shape.

Third, these leaders did not overread their mandate. Cameron in Britain promised to cut the size of government, and he did, from 45.7 percent of G.D.P. in 2010 to 40.7 percent today, according to The Economist. The number of public-sector jobs there has gone down by 1 million.

But he made these cuts without going overboard. Public satisfaction with government services has gone up. And there have been some sensible efforts to boost those at the bottom. As The Economist pointed out, “The richest 10 percent have borne the greatest burden of extra taxes. Full-time workers earning the minimum wage pay a third as much income tax as in 2010. Overall, inequality has not widened — in contrast to America.”

The British electorate and the American electorate sometimes mirror each other. Trans-Atlantic voters went for Reagan and Thatcher together and Clinton and Blair together. In policy terms, Cameron is a more conservative version of President Obama.

Cameron’s win suggests the kind of candidate that would probably do well in a general election in this country. He is liberal on social policy, green on global warming and pragmatically conservative on economic policy. If he’s faulted for anything, it is for not being particularly ideological, though he has let his ministers try some pretty bold institutional reforms to modernize the welfare state.

Globally, voters are disillusioned with large public institutions. They seem to want to reassert local control and their own particular nationalism (Scottish or anything else). But they also seem to want a slightly smaller public sector, strong welfare state reform and more open and vibrant labor markets as a path to prosperity.

For some reason, American politicians are fleeing from this profile, Hillary Clinton to the further left and Republicans to the right.

A Million Missing Black Voters // The Atlantic // David A. Graham - May 12, 2015

Quick, what are the most racially charged elements of voting? There is a familiar roster of complaints: felon disenfranchisement, which, given the racial disparities in the justice system, disproportionately affects minorities. Voter-ID laws and other restrictions on voting hours. Gerrymandering, which concentrates minority voters into districts.

But what about mortality rates? It’s not something that enters the political discussion much, but a new paper,

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"Black lives matter: Differential mortality and the racial composition of the U.S. electorate, 1970-2004," argues that the racial gap in mortality rates could have a major impact on national politics.

The premise of the paper, by researchers at Mathematica Policy Research, the University of Michigan, Stanford, and Oxford, is simple: Unless you live in Chicago, you can't vote when you're dead. Since overall black health outcomes are worse than white ones, and life expectancies are lower for black Americans, that must have an effect on the results of elections. The team crunched the numbers from 1970 to 2004 and calculated "excess deaths" among African Americans:

The total number of black deaths would have been reduced from 8.5 million to 5.8 million if blacks faced the same mortality schedules as whites. Thus, 1 out of every 3 black deaths occurring within this time period was an excess death.

Of the 2.7 million black excess deaths, we project a total of 1.87 million hypothetical survivors to 2004, 1.74 million of voting age, about 1 million of whom would have been voters.

For comparison's sake, and to see how significant that is, 1 million is also the number of African Americans who have served time but remain disenfranchised, according to a 2010 analysis.

What effect would that have on elections? The researchers assumed those 1 million extra voters would have behaved similarly to the surviving black population in terms of both turnout and partisanship, controlling for gender, age, and geography. Their votes wouldn't have changed the outcome of the 2004 presidential election between George W. Bush and John Kerry—although Kerry would have netted more than 86 percent of the votes they cast. (As Andrew Prokop notes, but the authors do not, the 2000 election was close enough that the missing black voters would likely have swung the outcome in Florida and, with it, the national electoral vote.)

Black Turnout Matters

But it would have helped Democrats beat Republicans in seven close Senate elections and 11 close gubernatorial elections between 1970 and 2004. That would have handed Democrats continuous control of the Senate between 1986 and 2002—a pretty large impact.

One of the interesting things here is who the missing voters are. Although media attention has rightly focused on the deaths of young black men like Freddie Gray, the big difference in mortality has nothing to do with violent deaths from street violence, police brutality, or drugs. "In fact, the predominant and persistent driving force behind US black/white mortality disparities is the unequal distribution of chronic morbidity among young through middle aged adults," the paper notes:

Age of Death by Race

The 40-65 range highlighted in the graph above also happens to match up with the peak age of voting. (Naturally, the longer someone lives, the more opportunities they have to vote.)

There's a public-policy catch-22 at work here. The authors note that there is a range of factors that help determine racial disparities in mortality. Residential segregation and lower levels of public investment in black neighborhoods reduce lifespans. Black neighborhoods tend to have greater exposure to pollution, are less pedestrian-friendly, have higher food costs, and see more tobacco and alcohol marketing. Access to healthcare is also sharply divided by race. In short, there is a range of problems that could be addressed by public policy. But altering public policy requires voting, and the present policies have combined to remove a chunk of the voting-age population that would otherwise have benefited from their repeal.

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Of course, there's an element of parlor game in this study—you, too, can play along at home, as long as you've got access to the General Social Survey, exit polls, and Microsoft Excel. There are all sorts of ways to design a different electorate. What if the voting age returned to 21? Or what about differences in mortality rates based purely on socioeconomics? Better-educated and wealthier people tend to live long. What if mortality rates among (more conservative) poor southern white voters were the same as those for (more liberal) wealthy Manhattanites?

But black votes are a particularly interesting and important area of focus, both because of the long history of efforts to prevent or suppress black voting, and because of the partisan homogeneity of African Americans. Electoral impact isn't the only reason to worry about racial disparities in health outcomes, much less the best one, but the vicious public-policy cycle described here makes a compelling case that mortality rates deserve more attention in conversations about race and voting.

Hillary 'Rewrites' the Economic Debate // Huffington Post // Richard Brodsky – May 12, 2015

One reason Hillary Clinton is a formidable politician is that she's very smart and very comfortable with ideas. Another reason is an uncanny ability to ignore the past, and its mistakes.

Both assets are now on display in the highly public effort by economist Joseph Stiglitz to "rewrite" the economic policies of the past 35 years, all in the name of reducing income inequality and revitalizing an economy that works for everyone.

Stiglitz is even smarter than Hillary. His particular ability is to fashion concrete policies that embody a more wishful and emotional sense that the American middle class is eroding. Even Republicans agree we have a problem. But there's been little out there other than tax the one percent and spend more on infrastructure and jobs.

The Stiglitz agenda has plenty of that, but it's got a whole bunch of interesting specifics that will extend the debate and put Hillary at the center of it.

New slogans abound. An end to "short-termism". That turns into policies that discourage rapid buying and selling of stocks, or corporate stock buybacks rather than expansionary investment. A much tougher take on finance and banking maneuvers as hurtful to free markets. Hmmmm.

"Pre-distribution" rather than "redistribution". Ending tax preferences that benefit the one percent, but do nothing for most working families. Also, hmmm.

The specifics are intriguing and worth a healthy debate. It's been more difficult than thought to put meat on the economic bones of a progressive agenda. Now, as Portnoy said, we can begin.

Sitglitz also goes head on into the interesting criticism that he and the Clintons were part of the failure of economic thought over the last 35 years. Sitglitz was Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers during Clinton I. Hillary was around too, I think.

Never mind. "I was there when some of the decisions were made, and some of them were made in good faith," Mr. Stiglitz said. "But, here we are, and let's not point fingers."

That kind of amnesia is fine, but ought not to be selective. (Imagine what happens when Jeb Bush revisits the Iraq

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War decision. Wait, he just did and is getting roasted.)

Hillary could pull this off. Austerity economics have failed miserable all over the world and in the U.S. There's been no competing set of ideas. Now there is. They will be tested intellectually and politically, as they should. But, if they make as much sense as they seem to make on first impression, she can end her Elizabeth Warren/Bernie Sanders problem and then smack the Republicans over the head for the next 18 months.

This is why it's a mistake to underestimate Hillary. And it may be reason to hope for an end to 35 years of economic policies that have created concentrated wealth and power in ways that are truly un-American.

--
Alexandria Phillips
Communications | Press Assistant
Hillary for America
https://www.hillaryclinton.com

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
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To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/1/2015 12:24:34 PM
Subject:	Daily Media Report 7.1.15

National:

-- Discussion about HRC's relationship with Sidney Blumenthal; used footage of HRC talking about Blumenthal on May 19th in Iowa; discussion about Blumenthal; shifted into report about David Axelrod's comments about HRC's emails; shifted into report that 25 of HRC's emails were classified or contained classified information; Juan Williams noted the released emails had nothing to do with Benghazi; Greg Gutfeld said Blumenthal would matter because he was probably the one who came up with pushing the video narrative; Williams pointed to HRC beating Republicans in the polls. Fox News' The Five , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Juan Williams HRC emails not related to Benghazi.mp4

-- Report on the State Department's release of HRC's emails; panel with Paul Begala and Katie Packer; Jake Tapper notes that one of the emails in the cache was from Begala asking for talking points for a segment on CNN; showed footage from the segment for which Begala asked for a briefing on HRC's accomplishments as Secretary of State; Tapper read tweet that said Begala couldn't name any of HRC's accomplishments from her first 100 days as SOS; Begala said the first 100 days HRC was SOS that he was busy focusing on the economic crisis; Tapper noted HRC and Sidney Blumenthal spoke regularly, said HRC cared about her image; Tapper said none of what was in HRC's emails seemed incriminating or disqualifying; Packer said HRC pretty much ignored the White House on Blumenthal. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Tapper and Begala on HRCs State emails.mp4

-- Interview with Doug Wilder; Neil Cavuto asked Wilder about HRC's strategy of avoiding the press; Wilder said Americans want to see leadership, "Get out and show the public that you're there." Fox News' Your World With Neil Cavuto, 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Doug Wilder on HRC and leadership.mp4

--Report on HRC supporting Obama: Kristen Welker commented on President Obama's attempt to fix relations with Cuba. Welker spoke about the decision to reopen a U.S. Embassy in Cuba. Welker stated that HRC expressed her support for President Obama and U.S. and Cuba relations. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Cuba.mp4

--Report on HRC and Healthcare: Josh Barro spoke about what HRC's position will be on healthcare during the 2016 campaign. Barro claimed that HRC will talk about healthcare the way Republicans spoke about it in 2010. Barro claimed that Republicans will now have to talk about the laws, and how they will repeal Obamacare, and what they would replace it with. Barro reported that it will be easier for HRC and other Democrats to speak about this issue. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC on healthcare issue elections.mp4

--Report on HRC email scandal: Shepard Smith spoke about HRC's private email server, and how White House aides knew about her private email as early as 2009. Smith claimed that it was unclear whether or not officials knew that this server was at her home or outside NYC. Smith also spoke about HRC's troubles with understanding how a fax machine works. Critics have called this a security risk. HRC claimed that there were security measures in place on her private email server. Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting .2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC email scandal.mp4

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--Report on HRC's email usage: Ed Henry reported that HRC was definitive in saying that she never sent classified information on her private server in New York. Henry claimed that within the last few hours, the public was made aware that in this batch of emails, about 25 emails were held back by the State Department because those emails are now seen as classified. John Kirby commented on how the emails that were once not classified are now classified, and that HRC did not necessarily do anything wrong because the emails were not classified at the time she sent them. Clinton campaign officials maintained that the emails were not classified. Henry commented on Sid Blumenthal's association with HRC and the email server. Henry claimed that officials at the White House did not want Blumenthal to be working in association with White House officials or other administrative members. Henry claimed that Blumenthal was working for Clinton in an unofficial manner. Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting. 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC email classified.mp4

--Report on HRC emails and fundraising: Alix Steel and Scarlet Fu speak about HRC's email release with John Heilemann. Heilemann claimed that the emails are fascinating and quite humorous. Heilemann spoke about how HRC is very image conscious, and that there were several emails dealing with Sid Blumenthal. Heilemann commented on White House Chief of Staff asking for HRC's email address in the email release. Heilemann claimed that, overall, the emails were not very interesting or scandalous. Heilemann spoke about HRC's fundraising. Heilemann claimed that HRC is a very successful fundraiser, and that no one expects HRC to be short on funds. Bloomberg's Bloomberg Markets .2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC fundraising emails.mp4

--Report on Karen Finney and HRC: Karen Finney was interviewed in regards to HRC's email scandal. Finney claimed that the emails released had the exact same information that was previously mentioned. There were no surprises. Finney commented on the fact that during the time the emails were sent, many that are now seen as classified, were not classified during the time they were sent out. Finney spoke about how the rules would not change for government emails if HRC was to become president. MSNBC's Now with Alex Wagner . 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC emails.mp4

--Report on Chuck Todd and Michael Steele on HRC emails: Todd claimed that the only problem with the emails is the idea that HRC was not as forthcoming with letting everyone know she had a private email server as she should have been. Todd claimed that HRC has a habit of not being transparent. Steele claimed that the Clintons must stop giving the impression of not being transparent. Because of not being transparent, the public is having trust issues with HRC. Todd claimed that there must be a system in government where records are more transparent and preserved. MSNBC's Now with Alex Wagner . 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC email transparency.mp4

-- Report on CNN/ORC poll; Brooke Baldwin noted that HRC clobbered the GOP candidates in head-to-head matchups; interviewed Michael Smerconish; Smerconish said Jeb Bush's GOP opponents weren't much farther behind HRC than Bush; Baldwin noted HRC raised $45 million in the first quarter. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Brooke Baldwin, 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Brooke Baldwin noted HRC raised $45 million 1st Q.mp4

-- Report on the State Department's release of HRC's emails; angle is that HRC's emails highlight HRC's efforts to control the media; reported HRC was promised full veto power over a profile by a veteran NYT reporter; interviewed Catherine Herridge; Gretchen Carlson asked what Sidney Blumenthal's role was; Herridge said Blumenthal was HRC's point man on Libya; Herridge said reporters were able to confirm that there were about two dozen emails that were fully redacted because they said it was retroactively classified information; Herridge said she saw more retroactive classification with the HRC emails than at any other point she covered her beat. Fox News' The Real Story With Gretchen Carlson , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Catherine Herridge reviews HRCs State emails.mp4

-- Report on Cuba and the US reopening embassies; Kristen Welker noted that HRC tweeted her support. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Kristen Welker noted HRCs Cuba tweet.mp4

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-- Report that Jeb Bush released his tax returns; interviewed Jon Allen; Allen said Bush did this to contrast himself against HRC who had disclosure issues with her email server that was wiped clean. MSNBC's Live With Thomas Roberts, 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush, Clips, National, Jonathan Allen on Bush tax returns pressuring HRC.mp4

-- Report on CNN/ORC poll; interviewed David Chalian; Wolf Blitzer said HRC continued to dominate the Democratic field; Blitzer said HRC leads all of the Democrats by huge numbers; Blitzer noted Sanders drew large crowds but was behind Joe Biden; Chalian said he expected Biden supporters to move over to HRC if Biden announced he was not running. CNN's Wolf , 2015 07 01Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, Clips, National, David Chalian said Biden voters would go to HRC.mp4

-- Report that the US would open an embassy in Cuba; Peter Alexander (guest host) mentioned that HRC tweeted about the US opening an embassy; panel with Chuck Todd and Andrea Mitchell; Alexander asked Mitchell whether HRC's position was in line with her position as senator, secretary of state, and First Lady; Mitchell said it was in line with HRC's stance as SOS but not her stance as senator or First Lady; Mitchell noted WJC signed legislation that codified the Cuban embargo. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Andrea Mitchell on HRCs Cuba stance over time.mp4

-- Report on the State Department's release of HRC's emails that showed HRC was getting advice from Sidney Blumenthal in 2009, reported that White House officials knew of HRC's private email setup; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry said HRC wanted today to be about her record fundraising haul raising $45 million in the first quarter, said no candidate had ever done that; Henry said GOP members on the Benghazi Committee said they didn't know if HRC turned over all of her emails; showed clip of Lynn Westmoreland interview from Fox News on Wednesday; Henry said that HFA said this was all about politics, mentioned the HFA "Charade" video that said Gowdy was spending $8,000 per day and coming up with nothing new; showed part of HFA's "Charade" video; Henry mentioned David Axelrod's email to HRC, brought up Axelrod's denial of knowing about HRC's emails; panel with Chris Plante; Plante said Sidney Blumenthal was being paid by the Clinton Foundation but was working for HRC at the State Department; shifted into report that IRS lawyer in charge of Lois Lerner case emails is now in charge of HRC's emails; Fox News' Outnumbered , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Donald Trump, Commentary, National, Outnumbered on HRC emails part 1.mp4, Fox News' Outnumbered, 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Donald Trump, Commentary, National, Outnumbered on HRC emails part 2.mp4

-- Report that HFA announced it raised more than $45 million in the first quarter; interviewed Brianna Keilar; Keilar said HRC put up a bigger number than BHO; Keilar said this was a record for the opening quarter of a presidential campaign; Keilar said "This is huge"; Keilar said HRC's done about 50 fundraisers all over the country from California to Minnesota to Indiana to Missouri to DC and New York; Keilar said HFA was trying to put to rest rumors that the campaign was having difficulty raising money; John Berman noted that by coming out with a number now that HRC won't look second best if Jeb Bush comes out with a bigger number; Keilar said HFA was feeling pretty good about HRC's numbers. CNN's At This Hour With Berman and Bolduan , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Brianna Keilar on HRCs first quarter fundraising.mp4

-- Report that HRC held double-digit leads over her GOP rivals; panel with Donna Brazile; Brazile was asked whether this cemented HRC's status as a frontrunner, said HRC has said over and over again that she's going to earn every vote; Brazile said Democrats had a very strong field, said HRC had formidable lead because she's someone who's taken tough stances on critical issues like immigration reform, the economy, criminal justice reform, voting rights, and campaign finance reform. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Donna Brazile lists issues HRCs talking about.mp4

-- Report on CNN/ORC poll that showed HRC beating all Republicans in head-to-head races; panel with Ed Rollins and Joe Trippi; Rollins said national polls don't matter much at this point because we're not running a national race right now; shifted into question about Jeb Bush releasing his tax returns; Trippi said it puts pressure on candidates including HRC. Fox News' America's Newsroom , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips,

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National, Joe Trippi said Bushs tax returns pressure HRC.mp4

-- Report that HRC tweeted that opening up relations with Cuba was a good step; Andrea Mitchell said HRC had been against this in the past but changed her position over the last couple of years as have a number of Democratic politicians. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRCs tweet about Cuba.mp4

-- Report that more networks were dropping Donald Trump; Peter Alexander reports; Alexander said Trump was suing Univision for half a billion dollars, said Trump's suit said that Univision's decision to pull the Miss USA pageant was politically motivated since Univision's owner supports HRC. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Clips, National, Donald Trump sued Univision said it backed HRC.mp4

-- Report that the State Department released a second batch of HRC's emails; interviewed Chris Stirewalt; Stirewalt said people were not going to find a smoking gun because HRC got to pick what she handed over; Stirewalt said the emails provided more data points so that we could look for differences in witness' testimony; Stirewalt said it seemed like HRC was running a government within a government; Stirewalt said David Axelrod needed to go back on MSNBC and clarify his comments about not knowing anything about HRC's server since he emailed about HRC's email address; Stirewalt said HRC received emails from Mark Penn and Sidney Blumenthal bagging on BHO; Stirewalt said HRC's emails seem like someone who may have wanted to run in 2012; shifted into conversation about Benghazi emails, read email from HRC to Cheryl Mills from 10/19/12 about Tripoli station chief cable on 9/12; Stirewalt said HRC's emails show someone who is disconnected; Stirewalt said the emails clarify the dysfunction of the BHO administration, said the emails clarify that HRC solicited emails from Blumenthal. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Chris Stirewalt on HRC email release and Axelrod.mp4

-- Report that HRC got advice from Sidney Blumenthal as early as 2009; said the State Department released 3,000 emailsTuesday night; said HRC received advice from Sid Blumenthal as early as 2009; interviewed Ed Henry; Henry said BHO banned Blumenthal from joining HRC's State Department; Henry said HRC's emails reveal that Blumenthal was secretly advising HRC on very sensitive information; Henry said there were a few emails that show the White House Chief of Staff did not know HRC's email address in September 2009; Henry said there were more questions about the emails; Martha MacCallum said it looked like HRC was running her own show. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Ed Henry on HRCs State email dump.mp4

-- Report on CNN/ORC poll that showed Jeb Bush and Donald Trump in the lead among GOP candidates; panel with Paul Begala and Kevin Madden; Begala said polling shows HRC withstood a withering barrage and seems to still be standing tall; Begala said "they have whole congressional committees that do nothing but harass Hillary Clinton and attack her," said that hasn't hurt HRC.CNN's New Day , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush, Donald Trump, Clips, National, Begala said HRC unhurt by Benghazi committee.mp4

-- Report on CNN/ORC poll that showed Jeb Bush and Donald Trump in the lead among GOP candidates, said neither beats HRC in a head-to-head matchup; interview with Brianna Keilar; Keilar said Bush was becoming a humble frontrunner; showed poll of Democratic candidates; showed HRC head-to-head with GOP candidates. CNN's New Day , 2015 06 30 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Brianna Keilar on HRC strong poll showing.mp4

-- Report on CNN/ORC poll that showed Bush and Trump in the lead among GOP candidates, said neither beats HRC in a head-to-head matchup; panel with Ryan Lizza and Steve Adubato; Adubato said Christie had enough Republican support in New Jersey to be able to beat HRC in NJ, said 40 percent of New Jersians do not trust HRC; showed HRC leading GOP candidates in head-to-head matchups. CNN's New Day , 2015 07 01 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, HRC beating GOP in CNN ORC poll.mp4

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States:

Iowa:

--Report on HRC emails: State Department releases emails from HRC's private server. Reporters claim that the emails touched on a broader realm of topics from her time as Secretary of State. Reporters claim that HRC wants the emails released as soon as possible. KCCI-DM(CBS)'s KCCI 8 News at Noon , Des Moines (IA). 2015.07.1, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC email release.mp4

--Report on HRC emails: Reporters claim that HRC has used a private account versus a government account for private emails. Reporters claim that the State Department has released its second round of emails. KWWL-IOW(NBC)'s KWWL News at Noon , Iowa City (IA) . 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC email private second batch.mp4

--Report on HRC emails: Reporters claim that HRC emails show another side of her. Reporters claim that there were nearly 2,000 messages written either by or to HRC. Reporters claim that many of the emails are very routine, such as daily activities, scheduling phone calls with foreign dignitaries, etc. Reporters claim that House officials knew of the private email address because they could not track down her email in the government directory. Reporters highlight her visit to Hamptons, Chinese carpet, and request for iced tea. WOI-DM(ABC)'s Local 5 News Midday, Des Moines, (IA). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC emails.mp4

New Hampshire:

--Report on HRC email usage: Reporters claim that after this second batch of emails, White House officials were aware of HRC using a private server as early as 2009. However, advisors claim that they were unaware of HRC's email server being at her private residence. WMUR-MAN(ABC)'s News 9 at Noon , Manchester (NH). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC private sever.mp4

--Report on HRC and New Hampshire: HRC will be at the Fourth of July parade in New Hampshire. WFXT-BOS(FOX)'s FOX 25 Morning News, Boston (MA). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in NH July.mp4

--Report on HRC emails: Reporters claim that White House aides knew about HRC's private email usage. WFXT-BOS(FOX)'s Fox 25 Morning News, Boston (MA). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC aides.mp4

Nevada:

--Report on HRC emails: Controversy erupted when HRC used a personal email account. Obama aides, including David Axelrod knew about the address. This is an issue that the Republicans will not ignore. Jindal claims that China and Russia may already have those emails. Jindal claims that hackers could have easily accessed them, and that the U.S. may be the last to find these emails. KRXI(FOX)'s Mornings on Fox 11, Reno (NV). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jindal on emails.mp4

--Report on State Department revealing emails of HRC: Reporters claim that the emails were stored on a private server in Clinton's home.KRNV(NBC)'s News 4 Today, Reno (NV). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Clinton emails.mp4

--Report on HRC's State Department release: HRC's emails have become a campaign issue for Clinton. The scandal around HRC's emails show HRC's personal emails. There are notes from Sid Blumenthal. HRC's daily agendas, phone calls, and personal requests. Rahm Emanuel was asking for HRC's email. White House claims that they did not know HRC was not complying with policy, and that they did not know of her private email. KOLO(ABC)'s Good Morning Reno 6am , Reno (NV). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC White House.mp4

--Report on HRC and Bon Jovi: Bon Jovi is hosting a fundraiser for HRC. However, he claims that he has friends so he remains bipartisan. He also allowed Chris Christie to use one of his songs. KSNV(NBC)'s Wake Up with the Wagners, Las Vegas (NV). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton; Jeb Bush, Clips, National, Bon Jovi.mp4

--Report on HRC in poll numbers: HRC is still leading amongst her Democratic and Republican counterparts. KTNV-LV(ABC)'s Good Morning Las Vegas at 5am , Las Vegas (NV). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Leading.mp4

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--Report on HRC in poll numbers: HRC is still leading amongst her Democratic and Republican counterparts. KTNV-LV(ABC)'s Good Morning Las Vegas at 5am , Las Vegas (NV). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Leading.mp4

South Carolina:

-- No HRC coverage.

Bernie Sanders:

--Report on Bernie Sanders in Iowa: Reporters claim that Sanders will be attending a town meeting on Thursday at 7:30 pm. He will also be visiting Morningside College Olsen Student Center in Sioux City. KTIV(NBC)'s News 4 Today, Sioux City (IA). 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders in Sioux.mp4

--Report on Sanders and HRC: Sanders is gaining a commanding position on HRC. Reporters claim that with Sanders and the email scandal, HRC may have problems ahead of her. Fox News' Outnumbered . 2015.07.01., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders leading HRC.mp4

--Report on Sanders as a strong opponent: Reporters claim that HRC is a very strong candidate, but that she also has very strong Democratic opposition in Sanders. Reporters claim that even though she has a tough field, she is still in the lead and will stay in the lead. CNN's CNN Newsroom with Carol Costello . 2015.07.01., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC on Sanders.mp4

--Report on Sanders losing polling: Reporters show CNN/ORC Poll in which Joe Biden has taken second place, making Sanders third on the Democratic side, if Biden were to run. CNN's New Day . 2015.07.01., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders poll.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders' tax rates: Reporters claim that Sanders tax rates on the rich are "preposterous". CNBC's Squawk Box . 2015.07.01., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders preposterous.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders' crowds: Rachel Maddow claims that Bernie Sanders is gaining the largest crowds of any candidate. Maddow claims that HRC is incredibly liberal and is gaining a large fan following. Maddow claims that this may not be a great threat for HRC, but Sanders is appealing to liberals. MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show. 2015.07.01., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders crowds.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders supporting HRC: Sanders has claimed that he will support HRC if she is the nominee. MSNBC's The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell. 2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders supporting HRC.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Warren support: Elizabeth Warren claimed that it is too early for her to support Sanders. However, she claims that she is a fan of what Sanders is speaking about, and believes that he is endorsing and amplifying issues that need attention. MSNBC's The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell, 2015.07.01., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders Warren.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM in Independence: MOM will be in Western and Central Iowa this week. KGAN-IOW(CBS)'s CBS This Morning, Iowa City (IA).2015.07.01., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, MOM in Iowa.mp4

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From: "Jonathan Garthwaite" <THeditor@TownHallmail.com>
To: Friend <JohnPodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/2/2016 8:21:33 AM
Subject: Super Tuesday: What Went Down

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Super Tuesday: TRUMPets Blare Throughout The South, Clinton Pretty Much Seals The Deal For Democrats

Matt Vespa



Super Tuesday has come and gone. Trump and Clinton dominated the South, with the billionaire magnate on track to become the Republican nominee, while Clinton struggled in the Midwest and Western parts of the country; Sanders won Colorado, Oklahoma, and Minnesota (of course, he won Vermont).
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Leah Barkoukis



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Mitt Romney will be giving a speech about the state of the presidential race on Thursday, his office has confirmed.
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Jonah Goldberg



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Star Parker



Government Case Against Apple is "Pure Applesauce"
Bob Barr



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Matt Vespa

Ohio Gov. John Kasich isn't going to be anyone's vice president pick.
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Cortney O'Brien

The U.S. has been the only country to give what is promises"
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Matt Vespa

Aboud is a Syrian refugee who has a lot to share about the unending and near hopeless war that appears to have no clear victor.
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Ted Cruz Wins Alaska

Katie Pavlich

Texas Senator Ted Cruz has officially been declared the winner of the Alaska primary, pushing him to three victories on Super Tuesday.
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Analysis: Just How Super Was Tuesday For Trump?

Guy Benson

Super Tuesday's nominating contests went...roughly as expected, actually, with a notable twists and turns along the way.
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Hillary Clinton Wins Massachusetts

Christine Rousselle

Massachusetts.
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Date: 11/29/2007 9:30:24 AM
Subject: State Clips, 11/29/07

State Clips
Thursday, November 29, 2007

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To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	1/28/2015 1:43:14 PM
Subject:	HRC Clips | 1.28.15 [3PM Edition]
Attachments:	20150128 HRC Clips [3PM].docx

Attached and below is the afternoon update to this morning's clips, which for the moment we'll do every weekday. You'll find new clips at the top followed by original clips from the morning so it's all in one place. Pasted below and attached.

Any questions/feedback/recommendations-on-preferred-fonts, let me know.

HRC Clips

January 28th, 2015

3pm Update

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Mitt Romney to hit Hillary Clinton on jobs (WaPo)

By Jose A. DelReal

January 28, 2015

The Washington Post

Former GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney on Wednesday will lodge some of his sharpest attacks yet against likely Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

His comments, which come as speculation over a third Romney White House bid grows, suggest a strong push to orient his next campaign around economic issues facing the poor and to tie Clinton to the Obama administration's economic policies.

"Short term, our economy is looking up. But it is a lot better for the few, and pretty darn discouraging for the many," Romney will say in a speech at Mississippi State University Wednesday, according to a copy of his prepared remarks. "How can Secretary Clinton provide opportunity for all if she doesn't know where jobs come from in the first place?

Romney's comments appear to reference a Clinton stump speech from October, in which the former secretary of state dismissed "trickle-down" economic theory.

"Don't let anybody tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs. You know that old theory, trickle-down economics. That has been tried. That has failed," Clinton said in a speech in October.

Critics seized upon her comments to paint her as anti-business and her team later said that she had intended to make a comment about tax cuts for corporations. Critics pointed to the botched line as evidence that Clinton would run into trouble appealing to the growing populists voices in her party.

This isn't the first time Romney has gone after Clinton on middle class issues. Earlier Wednesday, Romney's team criticized Clinton's "lifestyle of the rich and famous" in an effort to downplay the extent to which his own wealth may factor into another White House run.

"It's going to be hard for Hillary Clinton to make Mitt Romney's wealth a fruitful line of attack, with her multi-million dollar mansions in Georgetown and Chappaqua and her jet-setting lifestyle of the rich and famous," a Romney aide told the Boston Globe.

On Wednesday, Romney will also hit Clinton on her tenure as secretary of state, experience which Clinton touted in her most recent book, Hard Choices," and which will likely become a linchpin in her rationale for her White House run.

"Secretary of State Hillary Clinton cluelessly pressed a reset button for Russia, which smiled and then invaded Ukraine, a

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sovereign nation. The Middle East and much of North Africa is in chaos," Romney is expected to say. "Doesn't the President understand that some of what we are seeing in the world is in part the result of his timid foreign policy. … Strong American leadership is desperately needed for the world, and for America."

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Romney aims at Clinton, Obama in Mississippi speech (USAT)

By Catalina Camia

January 28, 2015

USA Today

Mitt Romney plans to swing at possible rival Hillary Rodham Clinton and President Obama when he speaks Wednesday night at Mississippi State University.

The once-and-possibly-future presidential candidate will criticize Clinton and Obama on foreign policy, and jab at the former secretary of State on economics. In one line, Romney will make reference to remarks on job creation that Clinton had to clarify during the 2014 midterm elections.

“How can Secretary Clinton provide opportunity for all if she doesn’t know where jobs come from in the first place?” Romney will say, according to excerpts provided to USA TODAY. “We need a president who will do what it takes to bring more good paying jobs to the placement offices of our college campuses.”

At a campaign event in Massachusetts, Clinton suggested corporations and businesses don’t create jobs when making a point about the impact of trickle-down economics. She later said she “shorthanded” her point and was not clear in denouncing tax breaks for corporations that outsource jobs or stash their profits overseas.

The speech at Mississippi State University is only Romney’s third public appearance since the 2012 GOP presidential nominee told donors that he’s seriously considering a 2016 campaign for the White House. In the excerpts, Romney touches on foreign policy, economic opportunity and poverty — the topics he says that have concerned him the most since his 2012 campaign.

On foreign policy, Romney plans to hit Clinton on tense relations with the government in Moscow and say she “cluelessly pressed a reset button for Russia, which smiled and then invaded Ukraine, a sovereign nation.”

As he did in the 2012 campaign, Romney will charge that Obama has mishandled a wide range of threats in the Middle East. He’ll also criticize Obama for misreading the danger of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State, also known as ISIS.

“The president’s dismissal of real global threats in his State of the Union Address was naive at best and deceptive at worst,” Romney will. “ISIS represents a new level of threat, given its oil revenues, vast territory and ability to recruit even in the West. I don’t know how the president expects to defeat the jihadists if he won’t even call them what they are.”

Romney also plans to make the case that a new set of policies are needed to help end “chronic generational poverty” as a way to help people who find themselves in a cycle that goes from one era to the next.

“It’s finally time to apply conservative principles that improve America’s education system, promote family formation and

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create good-paying jobs," he will say, according to his speech excerpts.

Romney speaks at 7 p.m. ET as part of Mississippi State's global lecture series. He also plans to take questions after the event.

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Republicans Have Finally Found Their Answer to Hillary Clinton (VICE)

By Kevin Lincoln

January 28th, 2015

VICE

America, we have our Benghazi candidate. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina endeared herself to the right wing by invoking that most beloved of conservative hobbyhorses, positioning herself as the GOP's response to the Democratic heir apparent.

"Like Hillary Clinton, I too have travelled hundreds of thousands of miles around the globe. But unlike her, I have actually accomplished something. Mrs. Clinton, flying is an activity, not an accomplishment," Fiorina told activists at the Iowa Freedom Summit Saturday. "I have met Vladimir Putin and know that it will take more to halt his ambitions than a gimmicky red Reset button," she boasted. "I know Bibi Netanyahu and know that when he warns us, over and over and over again, that Iran is a danger to this nation as well as to his own, that we must listen."

And then the kicker: "Unlike Hillary Clinton, I know what difference it makes that our ambassador to Libya and three other brave Americans were killed in a deliberate terrorist attack on the anniversary of 9/11 and that the response of our nation must be more forceful that the arrest of a single individual a year later."

It was a ballsy move for a potential candidate whose name is so far down the list of Republican 2016 favorites that most voters don't even know who she is, much less that she's thinking about running for president. But it worked: In a party desperate for female faces, Fiorina might be the Mitt Romney–Hillary Clinton hybrid conservatives have been waiting for.

Fiorina's origin story is a good one: Stanford-educated wanderer who ends up working as a secretary, then, with a little hard work and ingenuity, ascends the corporate ladder to take over Hewlett Packard in 1999, becoming the first woman in history to run a Fortune 20 company—a glass-ceiling milestone Time magazine described as "arguably more important" than "America's women winning the soccer World Cup." The parallels to Clinton and her own glass-ceiling-breaking are obvious—they even picked matching memoir titles.

But for Fiorina, unlike Clinton, the summit proved harder than the climb. Her career at HP was mired in corporate soap operas, during which time the company's stock lost more than 50 percent of its value and thousands of employees lost their jobs. Fiorina, meanwhile, became a CEO celebrity and an outspoken cheerleader for outsourcing, developing a reputation as an autocratic manager and generally terrible boss. She was eventually forced out in 2005, leaving HP with a $21 million golden parachute and an unenviable legacy. (InfoWorld listed Fiorina as one of "Tech's All-Time Top 25 Flops," calling her the "anti-Steve Jobs.")

Five years after being ousted, Fiorina attempted a comeback, running for Senate in California against veteran Democratic incumbent Barbara Boxer. This initial foray into electoral politics was a disaster, highlighted by what's known as the "Demon Sheep Ad," a breathtaking piece of incoherence that compared Fiorina's primary opponent to a demonic sheep. It's one of the worst/best political advertisements of all time, and it put Fiorina on national radar, at least until Boxer obliterated her in the statewide election.

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If Fiorina does decide to run for president, this is the record she will have to spin for voters: a controversial career as a real-life Bill Lumbergh, and a Senate campaign that reached its zenith by dressing a man up as a farm animal. But judging by her speech in Iowa and the elated response from right-wing activists, the idea of a Carly 2016 campaign may not be quite as ludicrous as it sounds.

Conservatives have always fantasized that the president is just "America's CEO," and Fiorina, despite her very mixed record as a business executive, seems to fill that role, at least for the kinds of people who show up at the Iowa Freedom Summit, a right-wing circus that exists mostly for the economic benefit of the state's Tea Party cottage industry. In addition to her Benghazi drum-beating, she staked out territory as a fervent opponent of abortion—"liberals believe that flies are worth protecting," she told the audience, "but that the life of an unborn child is not"—and a free-market conservative. Recently, she even went so far as to write an op-ed for the Washington Post defending corporate victims like Royal Dutch Shell, the 11th-biggest company in the world, against Greenpeace's "climate-change pressure campaigns."

The truth is, Republican voters have fallen for a lot worse. Herman Cain, for example. Or Fred Thompson. In time, Fiorina will almost certainly meet the same fate as these other Republican one-night-stands. But as the only potential female candidate in a vast sea of old, mostly white men, she's uniquely positioned to bash Hillary Clinton from the right—a priceless trump card that could give this Benghazi lemon more juice than anyone imagined.

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An unnoticed part of Hillary Clinton's record -- her work for foster kids (PennLive.com)

By Ann F. Lewis

January 28, 2015

PennLive.com

What do Hillary Clinton, former Republican Whip Tom DeLay, and the founder of Wendy's have in common?

Hint: It isn't politics. This unusual coalition worked together to make a better life for children in orphanages and foster care; work that has made a real difference for tens of thousands of young people.

Orphans and foster care children are not exactly a high-powered political group in Washington.

There were no lobbyists calling on their behalf, no one demanding Hillary take this on. I was working in the White House at the time, so I got to watch up close – but otherwise I might never have known!

So why did she do it? Because Hillary believed it was the right thing to do.

From working at the Children's Defense Fund right after law school to her efforts to expand early learning for children today, Hillary Clinton has worked throughout her adult life – in and out of public office – to improve the lives of children. Her work on behalf of orphans and foster care children is not an exception, but an important example.

Orphans and foster care children are not exactly a high-powered political group in Washington.

As First Lady, Hillary made adoption and foster care one of her priorities. She worked across the partisan aisle, with two unlikely partners: former Republican Minority Whip Tom Delay of Texas and business leader Dave Thomas of Wendy's, a lifelong Republican.

Together, they held events at the White House to raise awareness, and built support for legislation that would encourage adoptions, provide more aid for foster families, and help foster children find permanent, safe, loving homes.

The first piece of legislation was the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, which provided support and services for adoptive families, and increased foster adoptions by 64 percent by 2002.

It's no wonder the Washington Post called the law "the most significant change in federal child-protection policy in almost two decades."

The second piece of legislation, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, was focused on children who "age out" of the foster care system when they turn 18.

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Too often, these children leave their foster home with only a green plastic bag of their belongings – and too little hope.

The purpose of this legislation was to make the transition easier for these kids and to give them, as President Clinton said, "the tools they need to make the most of their lives."

Access to healthcare, education, housing assistance, and counseling services are just some of the tools this law provided to give these kids the chance they deserve.

Hillary introduced legislation in the Senate to help interested adults learn more about adoption.

She was also a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and partnered with Democrats and Republicans alike to remove barriers to adoption and support the adoption of children in foster care.

At the State Department, Secretary Clinton brought the issue to the world stage. She appointed the first ever special advisor on international children's issues and worked with other countries to improve foster care programs worldwide.

Adoption and foster care are not likely to be an issue in any political campaign. They aren't hot button issues or ones that gather big headlines; but they're important to Hillary Clinton.

That is what her life has been about: building coalitions, working with partners, doing whatever it takes to make a real difference on issues that make a real difference in people's lives –beginning with the very youngest among us.

That's the Hillary Clinton I know.

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Yes, Michelle Obama Didn't Cover Her Hair In Saudi Arabia, But Neither Did Laura Bush Or Hillary Clinton (The Gloss)

By Samantha Escobar

January 28th, 2015

The Gloss

While visiting Saudi Arabia to pay respects to the late King Abdullah, the Obamas found themselves at the center of a scandal. Well, actually, it was first lady Michelle Obama–who is not an elected official–drawing the world's focused on as a result of her hair. Rather, the fact that her hair remained out and about while in Saudi Arabia, a country wherein women are expected to conceal their heads with scarves or other coverings.

The Associated Press explains:

Under the kingdom's strict dress code for women, Saudi females are required to wear a headscarf and loose, black robes in public. Most women in Saudi Arabia cover their hair and face with a veil known as the niqab. But covering one's head is not required for foreigners, and some Western women choose to forego the headscarf while in Saudi Arabia.

Numerous Saudi officials shook hands with President Barack Obama, and while some also shook hands with the first lady, many simply nodded her way. After photos began surfacing that showed her not wearing a scarf in Saudi Arabia, Twitter exploded, with many Arabic users picking a hashtag that roughly translates to "#MichelleObamaImmodesty." The tweets ranged from rage to disappointment to cheering, but some simply pointed out the most important issue here: Michelle Obama is not the first American political figure to go scarf-free in Saudi Arabia.

Yuuuup. Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, Condoleeza Rice–they all skipped the headscarf. Oh, but it's totally disrespectful and un-American and practically the same as murdering puppies when Michelle Obama does it, right?

Yeahhhh, remember that whole thing? But I guess if he now makes paintings at the same level as a third grader, all is forgiven.

If a woman wants to wear a hijab, niqab, burqa, abaya, or other covering, she should be able to. She should not be critiqued or told she's "brainwashed" by American self-declared saviors who believe they are know better than she does what she should wear. Nothing good comes from telling women–or anyone, for that matter–what to wear or what not to wear. However, that goes both ways; focusing on what Michelle Obama did or didn't wear while visiting any country is only distracting from (yet simultaneously emphasizing) the stark contrast between how male and female bodies are treated all over the world, including in Saudi Arabia and the United States.

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Romney to Slam Hillary Clinton on Foreign Policy, Economy (NBC News)

By Kelly O'Donnell and Carrie Dean

January 28, 2015

NBC News

Potential presidential candidate Mitt Romney will take explicit aim at possible rival Hillary Clinton on both economic and foreign policy issues in an address at Mississippi State University Wednesday night, according to excerpts from his prepared remarks.

And he appears ready to outline his case for another likely run for the president, declaring that "strong American leadership is desperately needed for the world, and for America."

"Secretary of State Hillary Clinton cluelessly pressed a reset button for Russia, which smiled and then invaded Ukraine, a sovereign nation," he will say, according to text provided to NBC News by aides. "The Middle East and much of North Africa is in chaos. China grows more assertive and builds a navy that will be larger than ours in five years. We shrink our nuclear capabilities as Russia upgrades theirs."

Romney, who lost the general election to President Barack Obama in 2012, will also paint the Republican Party as better equipped than Clinton's Democrats to address issues of income inequality and poverty.

"How can Secretary Clinton provide opportunity for all if she doesn't know where jobs come from in the first place?" he'll add.

The former Massachusetts governor, a onetime CEO with a highly-publicized net worth in the $250 million range, was painted by his Democratic foes in 2012 as out of touch with the problems of regular Americans.

His remarks at Mississippi State University appear squarely aimed at challenging that label - and at blunting the Obama administration's claims that the economic recovery has been successful.

"Short term, our economy is looking up," he'll say. "But it is a lot better for the few, and pretty darn discouraging for the many. Incomes haven't gone up in decades."

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Hillary Clinton vs. Elizabeth Warren Could Be a Dream Match, for Republicans (NYT)

By Amy Chozick

January 28, 2015

The New York Times

They have called Senator Elizabeth Warren “an extremely attractive candidate” in the 2016 presidential campaign. They have said that she is the “hottest commodity” in the Democratic Party and that she has demonstrated the “passion and intensity” that Hillary Rodham Clinton lacks.

Those glowing compliments are not from the liberal activists who are trying to persuade Ms. Warren to challenge Mrs. Clinton, who is expected to be the party’s leading contender in 2016. They come from conservatives who are eager to drum up a contentious Democratic primary and who see Ms. Warren, a first-term senator from Massachusetts, as best positioned to weaken, and potentially defeat, Mrs. Clinton.

On cable television and in private strategy sessions, conservatives are steadily stoking the flames of a movement to recruit Ms. Warren, who has said she will not run but whose anti-Wall Street economic message resonates with the liberal base of the Democratic Party.

Hillary Rodham Clinton speaking in December in New York. As she prepares for a likely presidential campaign in 2016, the cottage industry that opposes her is evolving to attack her on new grounds.Clinton Opponents Hone New Barbs and Attacks as 2016 Campaign NearsJAN. 23, 2015

Among the Republicans who have been vying for a chance to, they assume, take on Hillary Rodham Clinton is Senator Rand Paul.G.O.P. Hopefuls Honing Attacks Against Hillary ClintonDEC. 13, 2014

“Please give us Elizabeth Warren. Please, God, let us have Elizabeth Warren,” said Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas who is considering a presidential bid.

“I respect her because she has the courage to speak her convictions,” Mr. Huckabee said on Fox News.

Former Representative Michele Bachmann, a Tea Party Republican from Minnesota, told CNN that Ms. Warren would be “an extremely attractive candidate.” Mrs. Bachmann also said that if she were Mrs. Clinton, she would be “extremely concerned.”

The tactic says much about the 2016 landscape for Republicans. A crowded field of people who say they are considering running for president — including Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and former Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts — has emerged. That means the party is expecting a bruising ideological battle for the nomination.

Mrs. Clinton, a former secretary of state and 2008 presidential candidate, could emerge from the primary season relatively unscathed. Other Democrats — including Senator Jim Webb of Virginia, former Gov. Martin O’Malley of Maryland and Senator Bernard Sanders, independent of Vermont — may also run, but at this early stage none is expected to have the funding or political apparatus to pose a serious threat to Mrs. Clinton.

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An easy path to the nomination would allow Mrs. Clinton to potentially enter a general election with more funding than the Republican nominee, who would have had to spend heavily to beat a wide field of competitors. Ms. Warren represents Republicans' best hope for an expensive, prolonged battle for the Democratic nomination, weakening Mrs. Clinton along the way, political operatives on both sides say.

That desire appears to trump the fact that Ms. Warren's views about taxation, regulation and the role of government are so at odds with Republican tenets. "There is nobody in this country who got rich on his own," she famously said in 2011.

Ms. Warren told Fortune magazine this month that she would not run to succeed President Obama, but that has not stopped speculation.

"Elizabeth Warren says, 'I'm not running, I don't want to be president,' " the radio host Rush Limbaugh said recently. "Translation: 'I can't wait and I am running. But I'm just not going to admit it right now.' "

Republicans said Ms. Warren would deliver a perfect "trifecta" in diminishing Mrs. Clinton. She attracts young, liberal supporters who view Mrs. Clinton as too centrist. A Warren candidacy would take away a central theme expected of Mrs. Clinton's campaign — that it is time to elect a female president. And Ms. Warren's presence in the primary season could push Mrs. Clinton to adopt liberal positions that might turn off independents in a general election.

It first became apparent that Ms. Warren could be an effective tool in moving Mrs. Clinton off message when the two appeared at a joint rally in October for Martha Coakley, the Democratic nominee for governor of Massachusetts.

In her speech, Mrs. Clinton tried to channel some of Ms. Warren's populist zeal, but flubbed a variation of the senator's controversial line about the roots of success. "Don't let anybody tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs," Mrs. Clinton said.

She later said she had misspoken and was referring to certain tax policies that stifle job creation, but Republicans had already pounced, portraying the comment as evidence that Mrs. Clinton was pandering to liberal voters.

"You could just see it gets in Secretary Clinton's head when she has to compare herself vis-à-vis Senator Warren," said Tim Miller, executive director of America Rising, a conservative "super PAC." He added, "From that perspective, a food fight could be good."

R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr., editor in chief of The American Spectator and a longtime critic of Mrs. Clinton and her husband, said her comment in Massachusetts could help inform younger voters about how she shifts opinions based on what is popular. "She pulled a line from Obama and Elizabeth Warren to try to make a very au courant crony-capitalist or socialist statement," Mr. Tyrrell said.

At the same time, a groundswell of support for Ms. Warren among liberal activists has aided Republicans' behind-the-scenes efforts.

In December, the liberal group MoveOn.org said it would spend $1 million on a campaign to draft Ms. Warren into the 2016 race.

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Liberals cheered Ms. Warren this month after Antonio Weiss, a Wall Street banker whom Mr. Obama had picked as a Treasury Department official, eliciting vehement objections from Ms. Warren, asked Mr. Obama to rescind his nomination.

Ms. Warren is still largely unknown even in Iowa, where the draft-Warren movement has focused its efforts. In a poll of likely Democratic caucus goers conducted in early October by The Des Moines Register and Bloomberg Politics, 44 percent said they had a favorable opinion of the Massachusetts senator, compared with 76 percent for Mrs. Clinton.

While many Republicans are engaging in mischief as they promote Ms. Warren, some of her populist positions resonate across the political aisle. During debates over the Wall Street bailout, Ms. Warren and Representative Darrell Issa, Republican of California, often agreed on objections to parts of the Troubled Asset Relief Program and in their criticism of former Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner.

“It was almost like the enemy of my enemy is my friend,” Kurt Bardella, a former spokesman for Mr. Issa, said. The tendency for Republicans to align with Ms. Warren is particularly strong among those who emphasize libertarianism.

Brian Darling, a senior aide to Mr. Paul, said he would like to see a 2016 general election between Ms. Warren and the Kentucky senator to hear the fresh ideas that the matchup might yield.

“She hates Wall Street for a very different reason than libertarians,” Mr. Darling said. “Yet they both would agree that the bailouts of Wall Street were a gaming of the system.”

Tucker Carlson, a libertarian political pundit, said Ms. Warren has an authenticity that resonates with both sides. “She has this spark of genuine ideological fervor, and I mean that as a compliment,” he said. “It’s not just pure opportunism.”

Ms. Warren, of course, has given the anti-Clinton movement plenty of fodder. She frequently says that income inequality is due, in part, to the economic and trade policies of President Bill Clinton. In her 2003 book, “The Two-Income Trap,” written with her daughter, Amelia Warren Tyagi, Ms. Warren accused Mrs. Clinton of snapping at her staff and of shifting her position on bankruptcy legislation when she became a New York senator in order to appease her Wall Street donors.

“As New York’s newest senator, however, it seems that Hillary Clinton could not afford such a principled position,” Ms. Warren wrote. Republicans could not have said it better themselves.

Romney home-building may clash with talk of income gap ; Costly projects began after last race ended (Boston Globe)
January 28, 2015

The Boston Globe

LA JOLLA, Calif. -- On a recent weekday, a half-dozen construction workers crowded onto a small plot of land in this pricey community, banging away on an 11,000-square-foot house with expansive oceanfront views that will soon replace one a fraction of the size.

There’s a large master suite, a room for all the beach gear -- and a car elevator. Outside, scrawled in graffiti on a wall separating the property from the beach, was a message touting Mitt Romney for president.

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Two years ago, Mitt Romney didn't think he would run for political office again. And in the aftermath of his bitter defeat in the presidential campaign, he embarked on something of a real estate spree. He simultaneously began building two multimillion-dollar homes, one here on the Pacific Ocean and another outside Salt Lake City. He also bought a third, a slopeside ski chalet in Park City, Utah.

For the first time in more than a decade, unencumbered by political considerations, the two-time presidential candidate and former private equity executive was free to spend his many millions without concern of how it might look. But now that he's considering a third presidential bid, the monuments of his wealth could become a political inconvenience, particularly as one of his key themes has been America's growing income divide.

Romney is traveling on Wednesday to Mississippi State University, a campus in the country's poorest state, where aides say he will outline his vision for a better America.

Romney, whose last presidential bid was hampered by his image of excessive privilege and insensitivity, may recognize the trouble his real estate holdings could cause in another campaign.

He is taking steps to shed some of his property, including retaining a broker who is currently showing the La Jolla home to potential buyers, according to a Romney aide. The aide would not disclose the asking price or explain why the former Massachusetts governor and his wife, Ann, want to sell the home after more than four years of city permitting, hearings, and construction.

In all, Romney has four homes. All of them are at least twice as large as the average home in the United States. They contain spas and hot tubs, and garages to hold up to four cars. They've built kitchens and dining rooms large enough to accommodate their large, sprawling family (5 sons, 5 daughters-in-law, and 23 grandchildren and counting).

"He wants to be close to his family," said Ron Kaufman, a longtime Romney confidant. "There's nothing more important to him than his kids and grandkids. . . . And if you could afford a house, and you're as close as the Romneys are to their kids, that's what you do."

Romney's plans to tear down and rebuilt his home in La Jolla were already underway during his last campaign. But since he lost the 2012 election, Romney has also purchased a six-bedroom home that was listed for $8.9 million in Park City, Utah, and he's built another 5,900-square-foot home 30 miles away near Salt Lake City.

He still has his New Hampshire vacation home on Lake Winnipesaukee, but last year sold his condominium in Belmont for $1.2 million, cutting his remaining ties to Massachusetts and raising questions about whether his 2016 campaign would again be headquartered in Boston.

"During the campaign neither Ann nor I had any time to think about home projects," Romney said in an interview a year after the 2012 election. "But now that the campaign is over, we have a little more time."

The new home in California includes an infamous "car elevator," first reported in 2012 by Politico and used by Romney's opponents to cast him as out of touch. A May 2013 planning document described it this way: "The proposed garage will have the appearance of a two- car garage, but will include a lift inside that will rotate two cars below grade to the basement area."

Building the home was the culmination of a long battle, which at times became heated with neighbors who said Romney's new home -- much larger than his former one -- was out of character with the neighborhood. Some neighbors also complained that he was incorporating square footage from a beach long believed to be public in order to build a larger home. Romney's home is on a street where houses are clumped together on small lots, with cherished views of the Pacific Ocean.

"It was contentious," said Anthony A. Ciani, a local architect and the chief opponent of Romney's expansion. "The issue was the bulk of it compared to the houses right next to it. It's not compatible with the gingerbread houses that are immediately adjacent. It's two, three times bigger than those."

A group of neighbors appealed to the state, but local and state officials ruled in the Romneys' favor, a process followed by the Los Angeles Times. Their former 3,000-square-foot home has been demolished -- except for a swimming pool and spa -- and a new one is under construction.

Planning documents call for a first floor that includes a library, and a large combined living room and dining room. The basement includes an exercise room, recreation room, and a room to hold the beach gear. Outside there will be a wraparound

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porch, as well as several palm trees, and a mixture of shrubs -- boxwoods, coffeeberry, and California blue sage -- to cover the property.

The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year, although it is unclear whether the Romneys will move in or find a buyer.

“Mitt and Ann’s plans are firm,” Matthew Peterson, the Romneys’ San Diego-based attorney, said in an e-mail. “They will be completing the construction of the home by the end of the year, but no decision has been made at this time whether to keep it, or sell it.”

He said that the home has been shown to potential buyers already, but “it is the Romneys’ expectation that if the home were to be sold, it would best be sold after it is completed.”

Romney’s wealth defined him in 2012, with a mixture of inadvertent comments, a reluctance to talk about his successful business career, and a video showing him disparaging 47 percent of Americans who rely on government assistance.

In a Washington Post-ABC News poll taken shortly before the 2012 election, 53 percent of likely voters said that Romney’s policies would favor the wealthy, with only 34 percent saying he would favor the middle class. Romney often seemed more comfortable talking with donors than he did in diners.

But those close to Romney have long described him as far more frugal than the caricature of him suggests. He frequently flies in coach, carrying his own bags. He repairs winter gloves with duct tape, refuses to spend money on apps for his iPad, and has a go-to meal that consists of a home-made peanut butter and honey sandwich.

Romney is donating his $50,000 honorarium from Wednesday’s speech to charity, a contrast with Hillary Rodham Clinton, who collects fees that are five times higher. Clinton, too, has struggled in talking about her wealth, saying she was once “dead broke” while in her $5 million home.

“It’s going to be hard for Hillary Clinton to make Mitt Romney’s wealth a fruitful line of attack, with her multimillion dollar mansions in Georgetown and Chappaqua and her jet-setting lifestyle of the rich and famous,” said a Romney aide, who declined to be identified.

But even if he is modest in some of his personal spending decisions, one area Romneydoes splurge on is real estate. His properties are all close to where his five sons are living. Every summer, they all gather at the home in Wolfeboro, N.H., and they spent last Christmas at the home in Deer Valley, where the massive stone fireplace was large enough to hold stockings for nearly two dozen grandchildren.

In August 2013, a holding company managed by Ann Romney purchased the home in Park City that had been listed at $8.9 million. The 8,730 square-foot home -- which has six bedrooms, eight bathrooms, an outdoor hot tub and a sauna -- was once featured in Architectural Digest, showcasing blond wood, two-story windows, and a chandelier made from antlers.

A Romney aide said that he co-owned the home with L.E. Simmons, a prominent Romney donor who runs a Houston-based private equity firm.

The Romneys also bought property in Holladay, Utah, where they tore down a smaller home and built a 5,900-square-foot house that features a fountain, terraces, a gazebo, a fire pit, and a spa, according to plans reviewed by the Salt Lake Tribune.

The plans also called for a hidden room, an 11-foot-long area masked by a bookshelf that swings open. But Romney told the Globe that it was much less mysterious than initial news reports suggested.

“It’s a closet where we plan on keeping the copying machine, and the printer, and paper,” he said, laughing. “Not even a lock on the door. It’s hardly a secret room.”

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A burst of Democratic ideas (LAT)
By Doyle McManus

January 28, 2015

Los Angeles Times

Only a few months ago, it looked as if Republicans had recaptured their old claim to be the party of ideas, especially on the economic issue that has seized the attention of most Americans: the stagnation of middle-class incomes.

The GOP's former vice presidential nominee, Rep. Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), unveiled proposals to help the struggling middle class. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), another conservative hero, inveighed against income inequality. Even Mitt Romney, the once and perhaps future presidential candidate, has started saying it is time to get serious about poverty.

Meanwhile, Democrats seemed like an extinct volcano. Many of them campaigned for November's midterm election without any clear economic message at all. It didn't turn out well.

In politics, nothing concentrates the mind like electoral defeat -- unless it's the low roar of an oncoming presidential campaign.

And so, in the last few weeks, the Democratic volcano has erupted with ideas. President Obama listed dozens in his State of the Union speech, beginning with a tax increase on the top 1% to pay for child-care and education benefits for the middle class. House Democrats went further, proposing a tax on financial transactions that would allow for broader tax cuts for workers. And a think-tank task force co-chaired by former Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers proposed tax breaks for middle-income folks as well as tax incentives to push companies toward sharing profits with their workers.

"Stagnation in wages and income is a choice, not a necessity," Summers said. "A different choice is possible."

You probably haven't seen much about, much less read, his report; It's 160 pages long and stuffed with serious economic analysis of why most Americans' incomes haven't grown much in real terms since -- ouch -- 1973.

But its prescriptions are serious, and they are probably close to what Hillary Rodham Clinton's economic platform will be, when we get to see it. The report was sponsored by the liberal Center for American Progress, whose founder, John Podesta, is expected to become chairman of Clinton's presidential campaign. The think tank's president, Neera Tanden, was Clinton's chief policy advisor in 2008.

And the report isn't coy about its political purpose; it sets out to update the centrist Democratic policies Bill Clinton ran on in the 1990s. "The world has changed," Summers said.

The core argument is that economic growth alone isn't enough to ensure sustained prosperity any more. Unless profits are broadly shared, the argument goes, the economy won't generate enough domestic spending to keep growth going -- or alleviate the widening gap between rich and poor.

Most of the solutions would be on almost any Democrat's wish list: more spending on education and training, more spending on roads and bridges and airports, paid parental leave for both fathers and mothers, and paid sick and vacation days for all.

And there's that corporate reform: legislation to push employers to share more of their growing profits with their employees, and to shift financial incentives for executives from short-term stock price increases to long-term growth.

The report calls for strengthening the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law, including tougher punishment for financial crimes beginning with mandatory "clawbacks" of bonuses paid to executives who are found responsible for malfeasance.

That sounds like a bow to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and others on the Democratic left who have long complained that Wall Street got away with too much in the Great Recession. But the Summers report doesn't call for breaking up or shrinking big banks, as Warren has proposed, so it's unlikely to satisfy every progressive.

It won't make every centrist Democrat happy, either. The Progressive Policy Institute, a think tank spawned by Bill Clinton's New Democrat movement, began work this week on a list of policies focused on promoting private sector growth. "We need to expand our growth agenda to attract voters who may not agree with us," the group's president, Will Marshall, told me.

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And what does Hillary think? She's not saying. As the prohibitive front-runner in a race she hasn't formally joined, she can let the arguments percolate.

She's given clues, of course -- but in all directions. She said she loved "watching Elizabeth [Warren] give it to those who deserve to get it." In Canada last week, she struck a less populist note, saying the pressing problem is "small- and medium-sized business formation."

And she has offered terse tidbits of policy via Twitter, warning Congress that "attacking financial reform is risky and wrong" and praising Obama's State of the Union address -- but adding: "Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class."

But for Democrats who worried that their party's idea shortage might be chronic and disabling, the eruption of economic prescriptions must come as a relief. There's a debate underway, and the front-runner even has a draft platform in hand. The Democrats won't have to wage another campaign without an economic message after all.

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Democrats see new chance to attack Kochs after $1 billion spending announcement (WAPO)
By Anne Gearan and Sean Sullivan

January 28, 2015

Washington Post

Forget Jeb, Rand and Ted. For Democrats, it's all about Charles and David.

The announcement this week that the vast political network backed by the wealthy industrialist Koch brothers aims to spend nearly $1 billion on the 2016 elections has reignited Democratic hopes of casting the brothers as electoral villains and linking them closely to Republican candidates.

It's a campaign strategy that yielded little success for the party in 2014, a banner year for the GOP. But Democratic officials and operatives say they are hopeful that their anti-Koch message will have more potency in a presidential election year.

Groups supporting potential Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as the House and Senate Democratic campaign arms, plan to single out the Kochs in their advertising and fundraising efforts.

"I think the Koch brothers dumping a billion dollars on the elections is definitely something the American people are interested in learning about," said Rep. Ben Ray Luján (N.M.), chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

He said the DCCC plans to mention the brothers in online fundraising efforts. The DCCC raised $70 million in the last election cycle.

David Brock, founder of the pro-Clinton American Bridge political action committee, said his group will be retooling a 2014 war-room operation called "Real Koch Facts," which he acknowledged did not achieve big results. The project aims to educate potential voters about what Democrats say is the Kochs' largely hidden agenda and to attempt to shame recipients of Koch money.

Said Peter Kauffmann, a spokesman for the pro-Clinton Priorities USA Action super PAC: "Will Priorities USA Action talk about the Koch brothers' attempt at a hostile takeover of the government of the United States? Stay tuned."

But former House speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), who ran for president in 2012, compared Democratic attacks against the Kochs to failed GOP efforts to tar Democrats for receiving support from organized labor.

"The fact is we never got anywhere trying to explain to the country all of the extra advantage they got, for example, from labor unions," Gingrich said. "It's too indirect an argument."

The Koch-backed network's plan to spend $889 million on the 2016 elections was announced Monday at a Rancho Mirage, Calif., event hosted by Freedom Partners, a tax-exempt organization that serves as the nerve center of the political operation supported by the brothers and several hundred other conservative donors. Not all of the money will be put toward shaping elections; it will cover advertising and policy work as well as education and academic research, among other things. Much of the spending will be cloaked in secrecy.

James Davis, a Freedom Partners spokesman, said in an e-mail: "Democrats' past attempts to divide America by demonizing job creators didn't work too well. We remain focused on advancing free-market principles."

In 2014, Democrats made a concerted effort to make the Kochs into bogeymen. Then-Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) routinely used Senate floor speeches to castigate them. Democratic groups ran TV and radio ads tying the Kochs to GOP candidates and presenting them as polluters and job outsourcers who were out of touch with the middle class.

"The oil billionaire Koch brothers are showering millions on Thom Tillis like he's one of the family," said an ad from the Democratic-aligned Patriot Majority USA.

But Tillis is now a U.S. senator from North Carolina, part of a wave of Republican wins that cost the Democrats their majority.

"It clearly didn't work in 2014," said Darrell West, vice president and director of governance studies at the center-left

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Brookings Institution. “That election was a disaster for Democrats. It seems to me they need to recalibrate the message.”

He said Democrats would need to tie their anti-Koch rhetoric to “substantive issues in a way that resonates with voters.”

Most voters don’t know who the Kochs are. Sixty-four percent of voters said they had no opinion or a neutral impression of them, according to an NBC News-Wall Street Journal poll conducted about a month before the November midterms. But among those who did, attitudes were overwhelmingly negative.

“The Koch brothers are not going to be a household name overnight, but our goal of making them a political liability for the people they are funding will continue,” Brock said.

The newly announced spending goal is unlikely to affect Clinton’s plans to begin her formal campaign in early April, strategists said. The goal is for her to raise an impressive total for the fundraising quarter that begins April 1.

But the early flurry of activity could apply pressure on mega-donors such as billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer and former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, a former Republican and staunch gun-control advocate who has donated mostly to Democratic candidates. The two were among the biggest givers in 2014.

Adviser Chris Lehane said Steyer will be looking at “where he can have the biggest impact” in 2016.

Like many Democrats, Lehane subscribes to the view that an anti-Kochs attack strategy could work better in 2016 than it did in 2014. “There will be a better voter pool, the Senate states will be more blue states than red states, and the media interest will be even bigger,” he said.

Campaign finance reform advocates also say the Koch-backed spending plan is a fresh opportunity to push for revamping laws that allow well-funded independent groups to dominate elections, often without revealing their donors.

“There is just no matching this amount of wealth directed in this way,” said Rep. David E. Price (D-N.C.), who introduced a bill this week that would create a matching system for small donations and seek to limit the influence of super PACs. “Of course, nobody should have to match it. We should have a system that keeps spending within reasonable limits.”

But Price acknowledged that it would be difficult to pass such reforms in a Republican-controlled Congress. In the meantime, he said, raising the Kochs as an electoral issue isn’t a bad idea.

“I think in some cases it does work to dramatize the issue and make it more real,” Price said.

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Fight the Temptation to Pay Attention to Polls (NYT)
By Brendan Nyhan

January 28, 2015

New York Times

Public service announcement: For now, you should ignore surveys testing potential Democrat/Republican matchups for the 2016 presidential election.

I'm referring to polls like The Washington Post-ABC News survey released last week, which made headlines with the finding that Hillary Clinton enjoys a big lead against Republicans like Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney. Other media organizations have also been releasing head-to-head polls like this, and more are sure to follow in the coming months.

I realize it's tempting to believe that these head-to-head polls have at least a little bit of meaningful information in them. Poll numbers are irresistible to political obsessives like me, but it's just too early for them to be useful in forecasting the general election.

Take the case of Mrs. Clinton's husband, Bill. In October 1991, Mr. Clinton, then the little-known Arkansas governor, pulled in only 20 percent of the vote in a prospective head-to-head matchup against President George H.W. Bush. His standing in the polls against Mr. Bush averaged only 34 percent as late as January 1992. But in the months that followed, Mr. Clinton gained stature while winning the Democratic nomination, and Mr. Bush's numbers plunged as his Gulf War-induced surge in approval dissipated. The campaign eventually brought the electoral fundamentals into focus: an electorate ready for change after 12 years of Republican control of the White House, a relatively weak economy, and an unpopular president. Mr. Clinton went on to beat President Bush by more than five points, winning 53.5 percent of the major-party vote in a three-way contest that also featured the eccentric billionaire H. Ross Perot.

The polls are likely to be even less accurate further from Election Day. In polls conducted in January 2003, for example, President George W. Bush led Democratic Senator John Kerry by 8 and 17 percentage points, but Mr. Bush's final margin of 2.5 percent of the popular vote was the narrowest of a re-elected president since Woodrow Wilson in 1916.

The political scientists Robert S. Erikson and Christopher Wlezien have shown that this pattern of early inaccuracy is consistent across the post-World War II era. Trial heat polls measuring support for potential general election candidates even 300 days from an election have virtually no predictive power in forecasting the final vote. (We are currently more than 650 days away.) It's not until near the end of primary season — mid-April of 2016, or approximately 200 days from Election Day — that polls start to be useful predictors, they find.

Why are polls so inaccurate for so long? The reality is that ordinary people pay very little attention to politics most of the time. Their responses to early survey questions are unconsidered and reflect factors like name recognition. Over time, however, the campaign eventually brings the state of the country into focus, drawing people's voting intentions into line with their partisanship and their perceptions of the state of the economy. As a result, the polls tend to converge toward the result predicted by forecasting models based on the fundamentals.

A key post-primary turning point, Mr. Erikson and Mr. Wlezien show, are the nominating conventions, which effectively deliver party messages to voters, helping influence independents and reel back in wayward partisans. By that point, the polls are almost as predictive as they will be at the end of the campaign. (The debates, by contrast, provide conflicting flows of information that rarely move the polls appreciably despite all the media coverage they attract.)

For all of these reasons, Mrs. Clinton's giant lead wouldn't hold up in an actual election contest. Her public standing has been artificially inflated by her tenure as secretary of state, which largely removed her from the partisan fray. A campaign would remind many Americans why they used to have unfavorable views of her. The winner of the Republican nomination will gain in stature and consolidate the support of the party in the first part of next year — the reason that the performance of G.O.P. candidates against Mrs. Clinton right now is not especially instructive in analyzing their prospective appeal. (At this point in January 2011, for instance, a McClatchy/Marist poll found President Obama leading Mitt Romney, 51 percent to 38 percent, but Mr. Romney ultimately attracted 47 percent of the vote and narrowly lost the race.)

Moreover, despite Mr. Obama's recent uptick in approval, approximately half of all Americans disapprove of his performance in office. While the growing economy is likely to continue to improve his standing and strengthen the prospects for a Democratic successor, any competent Republican would be expected to outperform the 39-41 percent mustered by G.O.P. candidates in The Post's polls.

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Ultimately, all we can do is wait. We know head-to-head polls won't be useful for more than a year. Until then, your time is better spent following the direction of the economy — the most important predictor of presidential election outcomes — and the battle among G.O.P. candidates, who are already contesting the invisible primary that will help determine which candidate Mrs. Clinton or some other Democrat will face in November.

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Hillary Clinton's diversity problem ; It's a lot like Obama's diversity problem (WAPO)
By Nia-Malika Henderson

January 27, 2015

Washington Post

When I first read the list of top campaign staffers with whom Hillary Rodham Clinton will surround herself in her presumed 2016 campaign for the White House, I had two thoughts.

One, that's a lot of white men. (Over at the Daily Beast, Tim Mak had the same reaction, wondering if Clinton needs "binders full of women.")

But my second thought was this: Of course it's that way.

Of the six people named in Anne Gearan and Philip Rucker's story, every single one is a white man. Now, in fairness, it's still early, and Karen Finney, Dennis Cheng, Jennifer Palmieri and the DNC's Mo Elleithee have been floated as options for top jobs. And Clinton's standing cast of advisers is also fairly diverse, with Huma Abedin and Cheryl Mills among her closest counselors and aides. Clinton picked Patti Solis Doyle as campaign manager in 2008.

But in filling out the top slots, Clinton has drawn from Obama's campaign circle, and that group of people is largely white and male. The frustration among black staffers and strategists has been that rather than creating and growing a new class of black politicos, Obama has surrounded himself with a cast of mostly white men. Obama and Clinton have relied on what academics call "path dependence," a theory that could explain everything from why the majority of labor secretaries over the last 25 years have been women to why women who appear on television have a similar look.

The person who has the job gets the same job again and looks like the person who had the job before. (Robert Gibbs. Jay Carney. Josh Earnest.) But in political campaigns, which are dynamic -- especially in the age of Twitter -- this kind of stasis can be a drawback.

Typically, surface diversity has been an easy thing to achieve. It's akin to the one-drop rule. If you have one black/Hispanic/Asian/woman in a group of white men, then, presto, you've achieved diversity. Obama's race came with expectations of more diversity, but it also shielded him from public complaints. He was sometimes the one drop, and that was often enough.

Clinton, who will bank big on women and minorities, will have to do much more than simply follow Obama's path. She will have to create something new and different that matches the times and her profile, rather than absorb Obama's inner circle into her own.

"I love Barbra Streisand," said Donna Brazile, in an interview with The New York Times Magazine, "but Beyoncé is what's happening now. I love Peter, Paul and Mary, but she needs to be Justin Timberlake. She can't afford to kick people out, but she can afford to let new people come in. I realize that's uncomfortable."

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Hillary Clinton and Her Detractors: Reporter's Notebook (NYT)
By Amy Chozick

January 27, 2015

New York Times

Hillary Rodham Clinton's presumed 2016 presidential campaign is already drawing a lot of criticism. That may not be a surprise. But Amy Chozick, a political reporter, is finding that the attacks against Mrs. Clinton have a new angle. She describes the challenge of reporting fairly on this subtle shift and what it may mean.

The cottage industry of attacking Hillary Rodham Clinton is not new, but I noticed over the past several months that the attacks that landed in my inbox struck a very different tone than those that Republicans used when she was first lady and later when she ran for president in 2008.

Remember when she was portrayed as the embodiment of bra-burning feminism? Then, in 2008, there were a lot of attacks that seemed based on gender, like an anti-Hillary website that called her a witch.

But ahead of the 2016 presidential campaign, the groups trying to stop Mrs. Clinton instead focus on her paid speeches, her response to the attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, and her comments last summer that her family was "dead broke" when leaving the White House. Instead of being the 1960s radical, she is portrayed as an elitist who is overly centrist.

The tricky thing in reporting this type of story is that you don't want to dismiss legitimate questions about her record as partisan "hating." Every political candidate faces attacks and should be thoroughly vetted if they're running for president. George W. Bush and other Republicans have certainly faced intense partisan attacks from the left.

But for some reason, Mrs. Clinton has always sparked a different level of ire. Mrs. Clinton's supporters largely believe the level of ire she sparks has to do with her being the first woman with a real chance to become president. Others point to how polarizing she is; polls show the country is almost equally divided in opinions about her.

Whatever the reason, I can't think of another candidate who has prompted an entire industry of kitschy items — like a "Hillary nutcracker," "No way in Hellary" aprons, and "Even Bill Doesn't Want Hillary" bumper stickers.

All this is a good way to rally Republicans, but it remains to be seen how much impact it would have on Mrs. Clinton's presumptive campaign.

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Can Hillary Clinton Get Along With the Press? (Bloomberg)
By Joshua Green
January 27, 2015
Bloomberg

Last week, I was speaking with a veteran Republican strategist for a likely presidential candidate about what factors would shape the 2016 race that weren't already being obsessed over by the press. He replied, with grim satisfaction, that Hillary Clinton would have to endure more hostile press coverage than Barack Obama did and that this would redound to the GOP's benefit. For this strategist, as for many Republicans, it has long been an article of deep, almost cult-like faith that Obama's electoral success owed in no small part to the media's fawning coverage of his campaigns—and that this supposed bias will not be extended to Clinton.

Evidently, Clinton agrees. In a blockbuster piece in Monday's Politico, Mike Allen reports that a major component of Clinton's soon-to-emerge presidential campaign is a new approach to dealing with the press, which "Hillaryland," radiating the conviction of its principal, has generally abhorred and treated with hostile disdain. It seems those feelings haven't changed. "Advisers know that Clinton doesn't like or trust the press," Allen reports. But he quotes one of them conceding that open hostility toward the press hasn't been a successful strategy and that Clinton is ready to try something different. "You do see what works, and address what works the next time around," the adviser tells Allen. "The default isn't toward the pit-bull mentality." The campaign is apparently even searching for someone who could play the role of "good cop."

If anything, Allen undersells his scoop. Clinton's relationship with the press isn't some minor campaign detail along the lines of who'll run Iowa or who'll shoot her ads. It's what's shaped her as a politician. As Allen's colleagues Glenn Thrush and Maggie Haberman detailed last summer, Clinton's relationship with the press has been caustic throughout her career.

Over the 25 years Hillary Clinton has spent in the national spotlight, she's been smeared and stereotyped, the subject of dozens of over-hyped or downright fictional stories and books alleging, among other things, that she is a lesbian, a Black Widow killer who offed Vincent Foster then led an unprecedented coverup, a pathological liar, a real estate swindler, a Commie, a harridan. Every aspect of her personal life has been ransacked; there's no part of her 5-foot-7-inch body that hasn't come under microscopic scrutiny, from her ankles to her neckline to her myopic blue eyes—not to mention the ever-changing parade of hairstyles that friends say reflects creative restlessness and enemies read as a symbol of somebody who doesn't stand for anything.

This has instilled a resentment that her closest allies consider unshakeable. "Look, she hates you. Period," a Clinton adviser tells Thrush and Haberman. "That's never going to change." Of course, these bad feelings toward the press are not entirely unjustified. In addition to the deranged and misogynistic attacks Thrush and Haberman lay out, Clinton has also been raked through the coals over more serious matters, such as Whitewater, that never merited such treatment and inflicted real damage. What both Clintons learned, and what eventually got her into trouble, was that attacking the press allowed them to survive scandals both real (Monica Lewinsky) and imagined (Whitewater).

This bred a kind of paranoid hubris that was the hallmark of Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. My own experience in the Clinton crosshairs stands as a good example of why her "old" approach to the press often backfired.

In 2007, I was writing a story for GQ on the inner workings of the Clinton campaign. The Clinton campaign was unhappy about this. At the time, Clinton was presumed (by herself and nearly everyone else) to be the inevitable Democratic nominee and likely future president. This gave her a great deal of power and the illusion that she could control how the press covered her. So a Clinton aide threatened to withdraw Bill Clinton's cooperation to be the magazine's "Man of the Year" cover model if GQ didn't kill my piece. GQ killed my piece. (Full story here, via Ben Smith.)

The problem with this strategy, as anyone outside the Clinton bubble would easily recognize, is that it created more problems for her than it solved. Information wants to be free—especially juicy tales of Clinton campaign turmoil. When the story inevitably leaked, it drew far more attention than it otherwise would have, deepening the impressions of Clinton as imperious and entitled and her campaign staff as goonish extras from House of Cards. The stories they'd tried to squelch simply wound up in a different magazine (here, for anyone interested).

Can Clinton really let bygones be bygones and try a new approach? It would make all the sense in the world, since the lack of competition in the Democratic primaries means she'll have to contend with a bored and restless press corps. But it would also require her to willingly give up a measure of control at a time when she is even more powerful and inevitable-seeming than she was before. (For what it's worth, I haven't yet been invited to tea.)

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That’s a pretty tall order. Allen doesn’t mention it, but a New York Times story last week raises some doubts. Amy Chozick and Michael Cieply report that Bill Clinton has broken off cooperation with a Martin Scorsese documentary for HBO that would have been released during his wife’s campaign. Clinton wanted to control the interview questions and the final cut of the film, according Chozick and Cieply, and Scorsese refused.

This doesn’t mean that Clinton’s desire to reset her relationship with the media isn’t sincere, or at least a sincere recognition of her self interest. Nor does it mean the effort is doomed. But it is a reminder that old habits die hard.

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Obama Is Setting Up Hillary Clinton to Fail (National Journal)
By Joshua Kraushaar
January 27, 2015
National Journal

President Obama delivered his penultimate State of the Union with renewed confidence, eager to take credit for the economy's recent growth spurt. He offered few olive branches to Republicans for their landslide victory two months earlier; articulated a panoply of liberal proposals that stand little chance of passing through Congress; and took the rosiest possible view of the economy and international landscape—even in the face of contrary evidence. In the moment, it's a savvy political play: Claim credit for an improving public mood and force Republicans on the defensive.

But despite the hoopla, recent polling shows that the public is much more in sync with the GOP's agenda than the White House's. This month's NBC/WSJ survey illustrated a striking disconnect between the president's improving approval rating (at 46 percent, up 2 points since November) and the top priorities of the American electorate. In the survey, 85 percent of voters rank "creating jobs" as a top priority, followed by defeating and dismantling ISIS (74 percent), reducing the federal deficit (71 percent), securing the border with Mexico (58 percent), and addressing Iran's nuclear program (56 percent). The last four are core GOP strengths; polls consistently show Republicans with an edge on those issues.

The items at the bottom of the priority list are all top administration priorities: closing the Guantanamo prison camp (24 percent rate as top priority), addressing the issue of climate change (34 percent), creating a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants (39 percent), and increasing the minimum wage (44 percent). It wasn't just Obama's assessment of the international stage that was disconnected from reality. It was also his assessment that the American people are with him on his agenda.

That disconnect will be driving the upcoming presidential election, which will provide a decisive verdict on the sustainability of Obama's accomplishments. Obama, as he ad-libbed in the State of the Union, couldn't help but brag that he won two elections as proof of his mandate. The GOP also won a historic number of seats in Congress, capitalizing on public anger over his policies. Rather than move to the middle and compromise with Republicans, Obama appears intent on playing to his party's progressive base in the run-up to the 2016 elections – and pass along that legacy to Hillary Clinton's nascent campaign. It's a gamble that will determine whether his landmark legislation will remain law, or be rolled back by a new Republican president.

Obama should recognize how much of his post-election bump is being driven by forces outside of his control. The president is eagerly taking credit for the improved economy, even though little has passed legislatively in recent years. It wasn't long ago that he was blaming GOP intransigence for the slow growth. Now he's betting his remaining political capital that the encouraging economic trends will continue into next year—hardly a guarantee, given the history of false starts in the past.

"We're going to have to see sustained growth in the number of middle-class jobs and an increase in median income before we really see attitudes about the economy turn around," said Republican pollster Whit Ayres, who is advising potential presidential candidate Marco Rubio. "Debates on how to get the economy going to get more well-paying middle-class jobs will remain one of the very top issues in the next presidential campaign. The depth of middle-class anxiety is so widespread."

Obama's own emphasis on "middle-class economics" demonstrated that, despite his optimism, he recognizes that many Americans are still struggling to make ends meet. But his solutions were oddly disconnected from both the economic and the political realities he faces.

Consider the lack of creativity from the administration in its signature initiative from the State of the Union: free community college tuition for everyone. For most low-income Americans, the tuition is already free or heavily subsidized. There's not a groundswell of middle-class households whose goal is to receive an associate degree. The plan wasn't accompanied by a more ambitious approach to, say, help community colleges teach certain skills that aren't taught at traditional four-year colleges. (Rubio, for instance, has proposed expanding access to career and vocational education as part of his detailed educational blueprint.)

It's merely a tuition giveaway, one that originally was partly paid for by the very middle- and upper-middle-class families that are saving money for the four-year colleges that Obama has called essential for a successful career. The plan proposed getting rid of the tax exemption on 529 college savings accounts, which have been growing in popularity, to help parents prepare for their childrens' rising education expenses. That provision was so politically tone deaf that the White House withdrew it just one week after the president introduced it.

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The proposal smacked of the very redistributive schemes that dogged Democrats throughout the 1980s.

Anytime a politician promises to “lower the cost to zero,” as Obama did in his address, it’s worth remembering the economic maxim “there’s no such thing as a free lunch.” And it directly puts a squeeze on the very middle-class constituency that Obama claims to be courting. Hillary Clinton will certainly want to echo a message centered on educational opportunity, but she’s probably not eager to alienate a sizable group of voters who will be up for grabs in the next election.

Clinton has been publicly supportive of the president, but he’s boxed her into a corner. She can’t afford to publicly break with a president whose fortunes align closely with hers. Yet she’s undoubtedly aware that her odds of winning the Democratic nomination are very strong, and moving away from the center won’t help her in a general election.

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Palin receives plaudits from pro-Hillary Clinton group (AP)
January 27, 2015

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sarah Palin is picking up an unexpected title: top fundraiser for a group promoting a potential Hillary Rodham Clinton campaign for president.

During a speech in Iowa last weekend, the former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee held up a Ready for Hillary car magnet as she talked about ways for Republicans in Iowa to stop a Clinton campaign. Ready for Hillary, the super PAC backing a possible Clinton campaign, used the moment as a fundraising tool and said they raised more than $25,000.

Adam Parkhomenko, Ready for Hillary's executive director, sent an email to supporters saying: "By raising $25,000, Sarah officially qualifies as a co-chair of our National Finance Council. (We will wait until Sarah calls before officially adding her name to the list.)"

Palin appeared alongside several potential GOP presidential candidates at the weekend event organized by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa. On the question of whether anyone can stop Clinton, she borrowed a phrase from the Obama campaign and said, "Yes we can."

A SarahPAC official did not immediately comment on the Ready for Hillary email.

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Gowdy: Benghazi investigation 'incomplete' without Clinton testimony (WAPO)
By Colby Itkowitz

January 28, 2015

Washington Post

Whether she runs for president or not, Hillary Rodham Clinton is probably not done answering questions about Benghazi, Libya.

The House panel investigating the deadly attacks on the Benghazi mission in September 2012 met Tuesday in a fiery public hearing where Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), who is chairing the 12-member select committee, said he would "ratchet up" the investigation and claimed the administration wasn't cooperating.

After the hearing, Gowdy told reporters he planned to call on Clinton to testify, saying a Benghazi investigation would be "incomplete" without questioning the former secretary of state.

"Every witness who has relevant information needs to be talked to," Gowdy said, according to ABC News.

Gowdy said he is waiting for pertinent documents from the State Department before calling Clinton to appear before the committee. Clinton has said she doesn't think the committee's investigation is necessary — other independent panels have not found any wrongdoing by the Obama administration — but has also said she would testify if asked.

But Democrats accused Gowdy of delaying the invitation to coincide closer with the 2016 election. At the hearing, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) said the committee, which was created eight months ago, is at risk of becoming a "partisan fishing expedition, or it'll be drawn out to affect the presidential election cycle."

At Gowdy's request, ranking member Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) said he asked Clinton back in September if she would willingly testify, and she offered to come in December or January.

"She said I'll do it, period. The fact is she was very clear. She did not hesitate for one second," Cummings said. But Gowdy has yet to formally invite her to come testify, citing the need for additional documents.

Clinton appeared before Senate and House committees during back-to-back hearings on Benghazi as one of her final acts as secretary of state in January 2013. She defended the White House's response and famously lost her patience at one point, asking a Republican "what difference does it make" when pressed on the White House's initial explanation of why the attack occurred.

A year ago, Clinton said the attacks were her "biggest regret" during her years at State.

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Congressman: Hillary Clinton agrees to testify to House's Benghazi panel (CNN)
By Dan Merica

January 27, 2015

CNN

Washington (CNN) - Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has agreed to testify to the House's select committee investigating Benghazi, the panel's Democratic ranking member told CNN on Tuesday.

Rep. Elijah Cummings said that Clinton agreed to testify before the committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attack in December after he contacted her months earlier.

"The chairman asked me back in September to inquire as to whether Secretary Clinton would testify," Cummings said. "She immediately said she would and that she wanted to come in December, but if December did not work, she would come in January. She said I'll do it, period. The fact is she was very clear. She did not hesitate for one second."

The U.S. consulate in Libya was attacked on Sept. 11, 2012. Four Americans, including the U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens, were killed. Initially, the attack was thought to be perpetrated by an angry mob responding to a video made in the U.S. which mocked Islam and the Prophet Mohammed, but was later determined to be a terrorist attack.

Nick Merrill, the former first lady's spokesman, declined to go into detail about why Clinton agreed to testify and when she might do so.

"I'm going to leave it to the committee to address their plans," said Merrill.

Cummings' comments on Tuesday revealed the clearest indication to date that Clinton was willing to show up before the committee, though many details remain to be agreed upon and the appearance could well never happen.

While touring the country selling her new memoir in June 2014, Clinton was asked whether she would be willing to testify before the House committee.

"We'll see," she told NBC in an interview. "I'm not going to prejudge it."

Clinton added that she took a lot of notes during the attack, but declined to say whether she would hand over the notes.

"Let's see if it's on the level or not. I don't want to be part of anything that in any way politicizes or demeans the sacrifice that we saw happen there," Clinton said.

The attack has remained a political issue for Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, since 2012. As the former first lady eyes a potential presidential bid, a number of Republicans have signaled that Benghazi will be a main line of attack against Clinton.

Sen. Rand Paul has said the attack should disqualify Clinton from higher office.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, the chairman of the Benghazi committee, told reporters on Tuesday that he still intends to have Clinton testify as part of the investigation.

"Every witness who has relevant information needs to be talked to," he said.

According to The Hill, Gowdy is prepared to hear from Clinton 30 days after receiving "all the [State Department]

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documents” on the attack.

Clinton testified for more than five hours before another House committee investigating Benghazi in January 2013, shortly before she left the State Department. At the time, Clinton acknowledged a “systemic breakdown” but said that her department was taking additional steps to increase security at U.S. diplomatic facilities.

Since then, Clinton has said her biggest regret a during the four years she served as America’s top diplomat was the Benghazi attack.

“My biggest regret is what happened in Benghazi,” Clinton said in January 2014. “It was a terrible tragedy losing four Americans, two diplomats and -- now it is public so I can say -- two CIA operatives.”

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Clinton willing to testify before Benghazi panel, Democrat says (Hill)
By Martin Matishak

January 27, 2015

The Hill

Hillary Clinton is willing to testify before the House Select Committee that is investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya, according to the panel's top Democrat.

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) on Tuesday said he has spoken to Clinton about the possibility of testifying at the request of Rep. Trey Gowdy (S.C.), the panel's Republican chairman, and she "did not hesitate for one second."

"She said ... I'll do it, period," Cummings said after the committee's third hearing.

Cummings said Clinton, who was secretary of State at the time of the Benghazi attacks, indicated to him last year that she "wanted to come in December" to testify but could also come in January.

"The fact is that she was very clear," Cummings said.

The possibility of an appearance from Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016 if she makes a bid, has loomed as the biggest question for the Benghazi panel since its formation last summer.

Gowdy first floated the possibility of Clinton testifying late last year, creating the potential for a dramatic confrontation with the former secretary of State over a security failure that some Republicans argue should disqualify her from the presidency.

Clinton is "a witness that we would like to talk to. I cannot tell you when," Gowdy said in December.

With the race for the White House set to erupt soon, Democrats could be maneuvering to accelerate the work of the Benghazi panel so that it is not investigating Clinton while she is running for the presidency.

Gowdy, a former prosecutor, on Tuesday said he and Cummings had initially agreed last year that Clinton should be brought before the panel.

But after that discussion, Gowdy said, Cummings had an unexpected change of heart.

"The deal I had with Mr. Cummings is we will bring her before the committee within 30 days of receiving all the [State Department] documents responsive to our request," Gowdy said.

He said the State Department must hand over the information the panel is seeking, including potentially some of Clinton's emails, before Clinton testifies.

"If I were to conclude this investigation having not talked to the secretary of State at the time it would be an incomplete investigation," Gowdy said. "But I can't talk to her until I have the documents that would make that conversation productive. I'm not interested in having a conversation where old allegations are repeated or a shouting match."

"I want to ask specific questions rooted in documents," he added.

Gowdy said he would be "happy to take her in January, February, March, whenever" but that it was up to the panel's Democrats on "how quickly" they get to her testimony.

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“I’m willing to work with them on the timing. I’m willing to do it sooner rather than later,” Gowdy said. “What I’m not willing to do is do it in a vacuum where I don’t have access to the documents.”

Cummings disputed that he changed his mind about having Clinton appear.

“That’s not true. I don’t know how he could say that because we’ve never been against it. He asked me to check with her. I did that she said she was willing to come so it was a non-issue,” Cummings said.

“If the committee wants her to come, she’s willing to come,” the Democrat added.

The spat over Clinton’s testimony comes at time of rising partisan tensions on the select committee, with members clashing over how the panel is conducting its investigation.

On the eve of an open hearing Tuesday, Cummings released letters in which he accused Republicans of conducting witness interviews in secret and withholding information from the Democratic members of the panel.

“I am saddened to report today that there are major, major problems with this committee and its work,” Cummings said in his opening statement, adding that its work is moving at a “glacial pace.”

Gowdy fired back that the criticism was “interesting” coming from Democrats, given that they fought the creation of the panel and have repeatedly threatened to boycott its work.

But Gowdy saved most of his ire for the State Department, taking it to task for failing to comply with requests for witness testimony and documents.

“This is not a political exercise for us,” Gowdy said. “We’re going to ratchet it up because I need access to the documents and the witnesses and we need to be able to conclude our work.”

The House created the select committee last May to investigate the 2012 Benghazi attacks. Republicans argue a new probe was needed to explore unanswered questions about the administration’s response to a terrorist assault that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

Democrats have accused the GOP of launching a “witch hunt” against Clinton, and on Tuesday portrayed the panel as a partisan exercise.

“Now, more than ever, I’m convinced that my colleagues are in search of a mythical creature — a unicorn, that is, a made-up conspiracy that does not exist,” said Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-Calif.).

Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) said the Republican majority on the committee made no document requests between May and December, adding that Gowdy’s comments about wrapping up their work “boggles the mind.”

Republicans dismissed the complaints as “ridiculous” and said the five Democrats’ on the panel were hypocrites because they have not suggested any witnesses or requested any documents for the probe.

“The happiness of the Democrats was never my objective in the first place,” Gowdy said after the hearing.

“They’re looking for a reason to leave.”

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/18/2008 4:15:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Employee Town Hall 07/18/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately, our tracker was turned away at the door from today's town hall meeting. It was a closed employee-only event. But here's the good news: We captured the event streaming online. Below are our notes.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Touts the Volt / electric cars as 'the future'; says green technology will be a boon to American economy
- Brings up his comments that the old automotive jobs aren't coming back to Michigan, "but new jobs are coming back"
- Says "I'm not too much of an expert" on WTO arbitration on free trade
- Promises that the next toy that comes into USA from China with poison/arsenic on it "will be the last toy" that comes to USA from China.
- Walks back rhetoric on safety of offshore drilling
- Says in Iraq "We have succeeded--I'm not saying we are succeeding--we have succeeded"
- Repeats "I know how to win wars"
- Woman asks McCain about pre-emptive strike, decision to invade Iraq, was "bomb bomb Iran" a joke, etc.
    - McCain says we were justified to invade Iraq because we thought Saddam had WMDs *but* that was history, and that's for historians to debate.
- Says A-lQaeda will increase "spectacular attacks" 'as we get into the campaign season'
- Hits Obama for this being the "first time" he's sat down with Petraeus, gone to Afghanistan; continues to hit him for advocating a strategy that would have lost us Iraq
- OTHER TOPICS: Offshore drilling, abortion, cap-and-trade, housing crisis, health care crisis, free trade

Warren, MI - McCain Employee Town Hall 07/18/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

BACKGROUND DETAIL

- Cong. Candace Miller gives introductory remarks: praises GM, comments on Chevy Volt, the "future" of GM
    - 'Here, after WWII, which the Sen knows very well...'
    - 'We know he loves America more than he loves himself or anything else', praises McCain's "optimistic vision" for America
- At Tech Center at GM
- Closed event, employees and credential press only

Opening Remarks

- thanks Cong. Miller and audience, asks technicians to turn up lights so he can see the participants
- town halls are super-important; thanks
- thank you for being in heartland, you made history in WW2 when you literally became the "arsenal of democracy"
- now we face another challenge: radical Islamic extremism. We're sending $$$$ to people who don't like us, a lot of that to pay for what we put in our cars
    - jokes Mr. Lutz not a very good briefer, also not a very good pilot. I probably shouldn't say anything about that.

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- Volt is the future. We have to eliminate our dependence on foreign oil. We can, we have the best and most hard-working workers in the world in the US and in Detroit.
- That's not the only step we need to take.
- I call it the Lexington Project, it has to do with alternative energy, the Volt, conservation, we've got to drill offshore. 'Is there someone here who doesn't believe we should exploit our own oil' sources? [someone raises hand] ok, we can have that discussion.
- When President lifted exec order, the futures price went down.
- I'm glad Mr. Pickens is advertising here. I share his values and belief in his program. Not exactly but.
- MI generates 26% of its energy from nuclear power plants. It is safe. We've never had an accident on the Navy ships. Do we store and reprocess sent nuclear fuel? The French reprocess it. It was a decision by Carter that said we wouldnt reprocess it. Is it the answer? No, but it's clean and it won't take us as long to reprocess it as theyre saying. The French are doing it in 5; why would it take us 10?
- A key part will be that over there [the Volt]. We should give them a tax credit for that purchase, because we need to encourage.
- We need to unlock the gridlock in Washington. Yesterday Congress went into recess; they never miss recess or a pay raise. In Senate, they're gridlocked on offshore drilling. Pelosi has announced there won't be a vote on it. If you want a voice in Washington, you don't have one because they've put partisanship over it. Congress approval at 9%. And Americans have figured it out, they're working for their party and each other and putting their country above. I will do that. I put country first, that's why I wasn't voted Ms. Congeniality: on climate change, on torturing people in our custody, on campaign finance.
- There'll be times when we disagree on issues. Most likely: trade. I believe in free trade, but I also believe in education and re-training. We need to put programs into community colleges. We all know a job is more than a job. If it's an older worker, I'll subsidized their income while they take a lower-paying job and get re-trained. We cannot have people's lives end at too early a stage.
- I came here early in the campaign and said the automotive jobs aren't coming back. But I said new jobs are coming back. This new technology will create 10s of thousands of jobs over time because there are going to be imitators all over the world. We can't let the arsenal of democracy disappear into the mist.
    - This new breakthrough, this new technology--"I run out of hyperbole obviously"
- I know how to win wars and I hate wars because I have experience with them. I know how to make this nation secure and prosperous. And this is going to be a tough campaign.
- And we may be up late on the East Coast saying the results from MI aren't in yet and the election might turn on it.
- We'll often disagree, but that's good, healthy.
- And I put my country first. And i once had the opportunity-- in the POW camp, I had a choice to go home early because my father was a high-ranking admiral. But there was a Mexican-American, Everett Alvarez, and he was there first, and I couldn't leave early. I put my country first.

Question & Answer

- 1Q) Different states trying to set standards for fuel economy vs. national standards?
    - MCCAIN: I'm torn. I'm a federalist. E.g. on offshore drilling--states should decide. But it's complicated because every state doesn't manufacture cars and they don't stay within state. I want Rick and the Big 3 to sit down and come up with a proposal. I support states being able to do that but I don't see why we can't work this out. In Congress, we feel it's our role to set mileage standards. I think that the Volt may make this discussion academic.
- 2Q) As a catholic male, I'm adamantly pro-life. Can I count on you to fight for the rights of the unborn (mentions embryonic stem cell, cloning, abortion, etc)?
    - MCCAIN: Yes you can. The noblest words "All of us are created equal... happiness" which applies to rights of unborn. I have a long and consistent record of supporting them. When Sen Obama was in IL state legislature, he voted against a ban on partial-birth abortion, "one of the most gruesome" procedures. I have a long record of voting and advocacy. "I'm proud to be called right-to-life."
- 3Q) When is the govt going to stick up for us in the automotive industry, who stood up for the people after 9/11?

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- MCCAIN: First, I support a tax credit for people who buy a Volt and other things that put us on path to energy independence. Govt should invest in pure R&D, especially in development of a battery. Straight-talk: you can't compete with other manufacturer if you lay people off and pay them for the rest of their life. So I will do everything I can. I will do what I can to make this technology better-refined and less expensive. The problem with the Volt is it's too expensive. The cell phone had that problem though. The market fixes that. I will do what I can with education and re-training. Americans are sitting around the kitchen table worried about getting laid off. And one of the reasons I supported the gas tax holiday is because it's the lowest-income Americans that are paying the most, driving the furthest in the least-efficient cars. This industry and this company in particular can compete with any in the world. They're the "best of America"

- 4Q) GM produces most E85 cars, which is super-efficient. What would you do to support and make more available?
  - MCCAIN I'd like to see us make every car in America flex-fueled. Brazilians have done that. They use sugar cane. I don't support ethanol subsidies becuase it distorts the market. I'm all for encouraging flex fuels in all cars, that every gas station has a pump has a E85 on it, I'm for having sugar, ethanol, corn, etc. I didn't support imported ethanol.

- 5Q) Is climate change really proven? And how will cap-and-trade hurt GM?
  - MCCAIN: I think there's significant evidence to show that climate change is happening. Even if I'm wrong--and I think that I'm not because of what I've seen and the preponderence (vs unanimity) of scientific evidence... and I've traveled aroudn the world usually at your expense--then we go ahead with the Volt, which BTW will create 700k new jobs. It's my view that the new light bulb, that nuclear power, that green technologies (incl. solar--which now are paper-thin... there are enormous advances in technology). They've developed an electric automobile. It costs $100k, but the next will cost $60k. Point is part of the future is based on green technologies, we're the best. Cap-and-trade won't be bad: We'll still improve the economy. Green tech will help us lead economically.
  - FOLLOWUP: If we start to regulate CO2 emissions, in the short-term a place like this will suffer, no? Other technologies yes will leave us cleaner, but what about the short-term?
  - MCCAIN: I've had numerous convos, and I think we need to adjust those standards so it doesn't kill off the manufacturers. We had another emissions problem: acid rain. The cap-and-trade system worked there. The Europeans used it and made massive errors, and I think we can avoid those.
  - three options (1) status quo-- not an option (2) carbon tax-- everyone will see a rise in taxes and I don't want that or (3) cap and trade-- I'd rather see competition than tax. Whenever you see that 3-letter word t-a-x, run the other way and grab your wallet

- 6Q) - Gas prices has risen and so has fuel economy. Housing market hasn't seen the same advancements. What about energy conservation in people's houses?
  - MCCAIN: Government could increase standards in federal buildings. Govt should offer tax credits to people or builders who make more energy efficient homes. Govt also needs to encourage energy conservation. Also, we need to make sure people can stay in their homes--I want you to be able to get a 30-year FHA guaranteed fixed-interest loan at the new value of your home. Then incentivize energy efficiency.
  - FOLLOWUP: I built a new home, I can't sell my old home and was forced into a jumbo loan, which is impossible to pay. MI passed a law, but you need to make all jumbo loans the same rate.
  - MCCAIN: You need to be able to make payments at your home's new rate. If we dont' keep people in their homes, then that's the essence of the American dream. Also, we need to fix the system? 60-page documents-why? Why shouldn't we go after predatory lenders? Those people ought to be punished.

- 7Q) Health care. 16 years ago there was little out-of-pocket expenses and not there's a ton. What would you do about heatlh care crisis? and what do you think about socializing health care (e.g. Canada)?
  - MCCAIN: This is one of the most compelling issues for long-term solutions. It's not the qualithank you of health care, but cost and availability. In Canada or England or whatever, the wealthy people come here for procedures. We need outcome-based treatment for chronically ill patients. We need medical malpractice reform, community clinics, GAPs for uninsurables (federal govt make a significant contribution and states join together to establish risk pools and get people insurance they deserve).
  - And finally, fitness and wellness; rising rates of child obesity. I met a kid in FL who lost 97lbs on Shaq's plan. I'd like to see athletes to go around and encourage kids, parents should know school lunch and PE programs. Government should reward people for doing things like joining health clubs.
  - I'm confident will wean off foreign oil. I think we can do the same thing with health care. There are too many without insurance-- some of them by choice, but not most, and that's not right.

- 8Q) When we source to a Canadian supplier, Canadian law requires that they must go to a Canadian source to get secondary parts and that doesn't seem fair? What would you do to help us in that area of free trade?
  - MCCAIN: I would take them right to those arbitration panels. I think it might be in violation of WTO panels too, but "I'm not too much of an expert" in that area. I don't believe that people should have advantages over American workers and products. I also want to tell you that the next toy that comes into USA from China with poison/arsenic on it will be the last toy that comes to USA from China.

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- --lady prepares to ask question about offshore drilling. MCCAIN jokes "boooo"
- 9Q) You keep proposing alternative energy but you're peppering it with comments about offshore drilling.
    - MCCAIN: There are offshore drilling sites off TX and Louis. that have done very well against hurricanes. I'm not saying there will never be another oil spill, we all remember Santa Barbara and Exxon Valdeez. I think we can do it well without killing our environment. Drills can go in at a slant. And i think we need to balance it against the security threat of sending money to foreign oil powers.
    - FOLLOWUP: I'd like to see more emphasis on the renewable resources that we have out there.
    - MCCAIN: I'm supportive of and the govt is doing a lot of R&D on wind and solar, etc. But we cant be as reliant on that as Mr. Pickens thinks. It doesn't meet our energy demands.

- 10Q) We preemptively went into Iraq and not 1 terrorist came from Iraq. And now there's Iran. And you made the joke "bomb bomb bomb Iran"--I hope that was a joke. And OSama's still running around. How do you feel about preemptive strikes? Going into countries where we don't like the leader? Iran? N Korea? And you said you know how to win wars. We lost Vietnam, you were there. And do we want a President who wins wars; is that a goal?
    - MCCAIN: Thank you. You ask a very profound question and I appreciate it. Al Qaeda is active all over the world--some evidence there's some in America, definitely some in Europe. They're an evil that's hard to encompass. they behead people and post the video. and they're dedicated to destroying everythign we stand for. I believe we were justified going into Iraq based on the intelligence we had at the time and Saddam's history. But that was history, and that's for historians to debate. But we had a losing strategy and I went over and said we had to change it. And they said I was going to end my campaign, and that strategy has succeeded. And I'd be happy to give you all the data ot back that up. Is this a final victory? no. They're on their heels but theyre not gone; "We have succeeded--I'm not saying we are succeeding--we have succeeded" and we will win--if we don't do what Obama wants us to do which is set up an arbitrary timetable. Obama is now sitting down with Petraeus FOR THE FIRST TIME and going ot afghanistan FOR THE FIRST TIME and i am "astonished" that he would propose his policy BEFORE going on the mission. If we had done what obama had wanted, we would have a wider war. Now he says he'll assess the situation--there wouldn't be a situation to assess because we wouldve lost the war, if we had done what obama wanted, which was not to do the surge.
    - Iran is dedicated to extinction of Israel. I want sanctions, but Russia is blocking them in the UN. So we need to get together with our European allies including France and do it. Their economy is weak. WE can never allow a 2nd holocaust. We can modify their behavior. And we need to consider every possible option before we consider a military option.
    - America has made great sacrifice and it grieves us all. If US failed and were defeated, we'd face that . {Matthew Stanley story} I make that same commitment to the 4000 other families that have sacrificed. I put my coutnry first. I knew it was hard to send 30k more
    - "I hope that at least partially answers your question." Thank you. [doesn't offer a follow-up]

- 11Q) What would you say to people that say that there were never WMDs in Iraq (my son is there now)? And what about McClellan's views?
    - MCCAIN: Every intelligence nation in the world believed he had them. So you can't say its some massive conspiracy. And Saddam had said he was intent on acquiring them. And there were humanitarian concerns. I agree with Petraues. But that success could be reversed very easily. I believe that as we get into the campaign season they will step up and do more of these "spectacular" attacks, suicide bombs. They'll try to undermine Maliki government. People who are saying that the Maliki government isn't working--which it is--are the same people that said that the surge would fail. I will make sure that we get out according to the conditions on the ground. I've been through many wars and I have the judgment and experience to lead our country through us.

- Thank you for leading us through this great experiment. There will be others--electric cars and hybrids--but this is one of the greatest. I'm proud of you and I will do everything to make sure you succeed, not just for you but for the good of the country and of the world.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 5/8/2015 12:39:56 AM
Subject: News Update - May 8, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, May 8

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **With Fragile Coalition, Netanyahu Seeks to Expand Cabinet**
- **Netanyahu Faces Dissent From Within Likud**
- **Herzog: "New Government is Dangerous, I Will Not Join It"**
- **Significant Achievements Obtained by Bayit Yehudi**
- **Ban Ki-moon: "Time for Renewing Negotiations w. Palestinians"**
- **Abbas: "Israel Must Choose Between Settlements and Peace"**
- **Joint List MK: "Demolition of Arab Homes is Declaration of War"**
- **US Senate Asserts Right to Review Final Iran Nuclear Deal**

Commentary:

- **Washington Post: "Netanyahu's Shaky Base"**
  - By David Ignatius
- **Washington Post: "Will Israel Miss its Moment?"**
  - By Fareed Zakaria

Ha'aretz

With Fragile Coalition, MP Seeks to Expand Cabinet

In a move that underscores the fragility of his new 61-member coalition, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to have the Knesset repeal a law limiting the size of the cabinet even before informing members of his Likud party which jobs they will have in the new government. "Netanyahu is afraid the disappointed ones won't show up for the vote," a senior Likud member explained. "In the vote to expand the cabinet, Netanyahu must have 61 supporters, because otherwise, it isn't possible to change the existing law. In this situation, every disappointed MK who leaves to go to the bathroom can sabotage the government's functioning." Currently, the law limits the cabinet to 18 ministers. Netanyahu plans to have the Knesset abolish that ceiling on Monday.

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Ynet News

Netanyahu Faces Dissent From Within Likud

After agreeing a coalition deal with Bayit Yehudi and announcing the formation of a government with a razor-thin majority, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may face dissent from within his own ranks on Thursday. In the afternoon, Likud MK Ayoob Kara told the Knesset Channel: "If I am not made a minister – there will be surprises." MK Kara emphasized that Israel's Druze population was not only a resource for the IDF but part of the fabric of the state. "The Druze were not born solely to make war, they were also born to sit at the cabinet table. And a government will not be formed that does not have a Druze minister – We want this to pass a clear message that we are a part of this country."

Channel 2 News

Herzog: "Government is Dangerous, Will Not Join It"

Netanyahu hinted several times he intends to expand the narrow government he managed to set up last night, but the chairman of the Zionist Union, Isaac (Buji) Herzog, firmly rejects the political assessments regarding the possibility of his party joining the government. In his interview he makes clear he has no intention of being part of Netanyahu's coalition, and he calls on the PM to return his mandate to the President. "I will lead the opposition," clarifies Herzog. "I have no intention of joining this government. I have said it once and again, and I will repeat it in English and in Italian, if I have to." "This is a dangerous government," he added. "I would like to suggest to Netanyahu to go to the President and return his mandate. I can form a different government, a better one."

Jerusalem Post

Significant Achievements Obtained by Bayit Yehudi

Following the bitter and rancorous coalition negotiations between Bayit Yehudi and the Likud, details of the deal began to emerge on Thursday. As well as obtaining the Education Ministry for party chairman MK Naftali Bennett, the Justice Ministry for MK Ayelet Shaked, and the Agriculture Ministry for MK Uri Ariel, the party also received the deputy defense minister position, which is likely to be filled by MK Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, while MK Bezalel Smotrich will likely become deputy speaker. The party also gained the chairmanship of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee.

Israel Radio News

Ban: "Israel Should Renew Process w. Palestinians"

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that after the swearing-in of the new government in Israel, he would examine with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu the practical options for renewing the negotiations on a two-state solution. In a statement issued by Secretary-General Ban, he expressed deep concern regarding the plan to build another 900 housing units beyond the Green Line in East Jerusalem.

Ha'aretz

Abbas: "Israel Must Choose; Settlements or Peace"

The Palestinians have slammed Israel's new government, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed a coalition deal Thursday with Habayit Hayehudi leader Naftali Bennett. The new coalition will have to choose between settlements and peace talks, said Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh. "The Palestinians will continue to briskly peruse its activity on the international stage, by joining international organizations and drafting new proposed resolutions for the UN Security Council, especially in light of the right-wing-settler character of the government," he said.

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Jerusalem Post

Joint List MK: "Demolition of Arab Homes is War"

Some 50,000 Israeli homes are at risk for demolition by the state, Joint List and Balad MK Basel Ghattas told The Jerusalem Post on Thursday. That "would be like destroying an entire city like Nazareth – it would be a declaration of war," he said. "If there is not an immediate halt of these criminal acts of destruction, the situation among the Arab population would be on the verge of explosion," Ghattas warned. "Instead of solving the housing shortage in Arab society, the government is destroying homes under the guise of [demolishing] 'illegal construction,'" he charged. The Balad MK called for the rebuilding of homes that are destroyed and demanded that demolitions be frozen until the governmental authorities provide the necessary permits to legalize the structures.

Al Monitor

US Senate Asserts Right to Review Final Iran Deal

The US Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation giving Congress the right to review and perhaps even reject any nuclear deal with Iran, the culmination of weeks of wrangling over how to hold Tehran to account. The bill passed 98-1 after overcoming initial objections from President Barack Obama. It comes amid intense negotiations between world powers and Iran on a deal intended to prevent Tehran's development of a nuclear weapon in exchange for lifting of economic sanctions. "We worked hard to create a great bipartisan balance," said the measure's chief author, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Bob Corker. Republican Tom Cotton was the lone member voting in opposition to legislation that would give lawmakers at least 30 days to review any final Iran accord. The bill now heads to the House of Representatives, where it has the support of the chamber's Republican leaders. According to White House spokesman Eric Schultz, Obama "said he would sign the legislation in its current form."

Washington Post – May. 8, 2015

Netanyahu's Shaky Base

By David Ignatius

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been a dominating political figure in the United States this year, seemingly invincible as he hurled thunderbolts at President Obama and other adversaries. But here in Israel, not so much.
After winning a narrow election victory in March, Netanyahu formed a fragile government late Wednesday with a bare one-vote margin in parliament. Israeli analysts, left and right, are questioning whether the government can last long. Netanyahu said Thursday that he had been leaving the foreign-minister position vacant for Labor Party leader Isaac Herzog, in hopes of broadening his base, but Herzog rejected the offer.

"Bibi has no agenda, other than challenging President Obama on Iran," argues Aluf Benn, editor of the liberal newspaper Haaretz, using the prime minister's nickname. One sign of Netanyahu's problems was the last-minute defection by his previous foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman.

Netanyahu has been such a strong voice in the United States that it's easy to overlook his political problems back home. But these difficulties were highlighted by a range of analysts during a conference here this week organized by the Israeli Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) and Harvard University's Belfer Center, where I'm a fellow.

Israeli analysts note that Netanyahu's congressional speech blasting the Iran deal, which was so prominent and polarizing in the United States, didn't matter much in the Israeli election. He benefited from a late surge among conservative

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voters who were scared by his election-day warning of a massive Arab turnout. But these gains seem to have come partly at the expense of other conservative parties.

Yehuda Ben-Meir, a conservative former politician, argued in an analysis published by the INSS that Netanyahu's core bloc of right-wing and religious parties has actually been shrinking, falling from 65 parliament seats in 2009 to 61 in 2013 and 57 this year.

"Benn contends that the real winners in March were two minority groups that stand outside the Zionist mainstream, the ultra-Orthodox and the Israeli Arabs. He worries because these groups don't generally support the Israeli military.
To bolster his frail government, Netanyahu tried to woo his chief rival, Herzog, into a broad "national unity government." The two are said to have discussed such a pact over the past few weeks, but Netanyahu wasn't willing to offer concessions on the Palestinian issue that Herzog wanted. Netanyahu instead opted to lean further right by allying with Naftali Bennett's party, which adamantly opposes a Palestinian state. That chilled this week's negotiations with Herzog, but the idea of a broad coalition may return.

The U.S.-Israeli relationship is likely to be rocky for the remainder of Obama's presidency, assuming that Netanyahu continues his drive to scuttle the Iran agreement. This tension contrasts sharply with the U.S.-Arab fence-mending that is expected to take place next week at Camp David when Obama discusses with Gulf leaders a common strategy to curb Iranian meddling. It's a peculiar reversal of roles, in which the Gulf Arabs (who also criticize the Iran nuclear deal) are becoming the responsible and conciliatory opposition, while Netanyahu, who leads a country that is traditionally the United States' closest Mideast ally, remains at loggerheads with Obama.

Many Israeli analysts worry that the friction with Obama is eroding bipartisan support in the United States for Israel. But it's not a zero-sum game: An obvious potential beneficiary is the Republican Party. With Netanyahu's help, the Republicans may be attempting a realignment that seeks to convince pro-Israel voters that their natural home is the GOP, rather than a Democratic Party that keeps pressuring Israel for concessions. The GOP pulled off a similar realignment a generation ago in persuading white Southerners to abandon the Democrats.

A sign that conservative Americans and Israelis are seeking such a realignment would be pledges by GOP presidential candidates to work with Netanyahu to overturn the Iran deal. Obama, too, could drive a political wedge if he pushes for a new U.N. Security Council resolution that codifies the "parameters" of t he peace deal that Secretary of State John F. Kerry tried unsuccessfully to negotiate last year.

Netanyahu's camp hopes for a new opening with Gulf Arab states that share mistrust of Iran. A top Israeli official argues that the Jewish state is the only reliable partner for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries in a region dominated by Iran-backed Shiite radicals, a Turkish-led Muslim Brotherhood bloc, and jihadists of al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. An Israeli-Arab alliance against Iran is intriguing. But like much else about Netanyahu's fledgling government, it's more an aspiration than a practical agenda. Netanyahu, so potent in the United States, has a shaky base at home.

Washington Post – May, 8, 2015

Will Israel miss its moment?

By Fareed Zakaria

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Israel's new coalition government, formed with the slimmest possible majority in its parliament, likely means that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will act even more cautiously than he has in the past. This is a tragedy, because Israel faces an extraordinary strategic opportunity.

At first glance, it might seem absurd to speak hopefully about opportunities for Israel. The Middle East is in turmoil, Islamic radicalism is invading once-stable lands, Hezbollah and Hamas are active, and the Iranian nuclear danger persists. Add to this the repulsive anti-Semitism that is on the rise around the world — tolerated and encouraged in too many Muslim communities — and it looks like a very dangerous time for the Jewish state. That is what Netanyahu implied when explaining to NBC's Andrea Mitchell why he had backtracked on his support for a Palestinian state. "What has changed," he said, "is the reality." Reality has changed, but look beyond the headlines. On closer examination, one can see that it has changed dramatically in Israel's favor.

First, there is the disappearance of the Arab threat. From its first day in existence, Israel has faced the danger of extinction by Arab armies. This is the threat against which the Jewish state has planned, armed and trained for most of its national life. Today, it's gone.

The armies from Israel's main strategic adversaries — Iraq, Syria, Egypt — are in disarray, while the Israeli armed forces have become the region's superpower, in a league ahead of the rest. More important, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the smaller Gulf states find themselves in a tacit alliance with Israel against Iran. In Gen. Abdel Fatah al-Sissi, Israel is dealing with perhaps the most anti-Hamas (and tacitly pro-Israeli) president in Egypt's history.

To understand the depth of this strategic shift, consider this: It has been reported that Arabs are thinking about creating a combined armed force. The last two times that happened, in 1948 and 1967, the purpose was to wipe Israel off the map. Today, the aim is to fight Israel's main foe, Iran, which is why, one Haaretz commentator notes, "Not only is Israel not alarmed, it is actually ecstatic."

Second, Israel's major enemies are under greater pressure than ever before. Iran and Hezbollah are committed to defending the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria — a daunting challenge, given that Assad represents the Alawites, who account for less than 15 percent of the country. Reports vary on how costly this support has been for Tehran — the Economist has cited a $15 billion figure, which would be the equivalent of about one year's total defense budget for Iran. Hezbollah has become bogged down in Syria, with hundreds of its fighters having died there. The Syrian conflict will likely continue to occupy and drain Iran and Hezbollah for years, a crippling problem with the price of oil having fallen, and with it, Iran's revenue.

Watching the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, one cannot but think that Israel's main enemies — Shiite and Sunni extremists — are busy killing each other.

Of course, there is Iran's nuclear program, though it has significantly slowed for now. Whatever the outcome of nuclear negotiations, it is worth remembering that Israel has a powerful deterrent, by some accounts as many as 200 nuclear warheads, many of them on submarines. Similarly, it has built a wall that reduced terrorist attacks against Israel to virtually zero, and its Iron Dome defense system has blunted the threat from Hamas and Hezbollah rockets.

And there is Israel's economy, which continues to surge forward, outstripping the others in the region. As its waves of technological innovation and productivity continue, Israel finds itself courted by countries from China to India, which were once reluctant to even publicly acknowledge relations with Jerusalem.

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So while it faces real dangers, Israel has policies to fight them with force and effectiveness. The danger for which it has no defense is that it continues to have control over Gaza and the West Bank, lands with 4.5 million people who have neither a country nor a vote. The feeling on the Israeli right, which now rules the country, seems to be that if the Palestinian problem is ignored, it will somehow solve itself. But it won't, and the tragedy is that this is the moment, with so many stars aligned in Israel's favor, when enlightened leadership could secure Israel permanently as a Jewish democratic state and make peace with its neighbors. It is a golden opportunity, and it is staring Netanyahu in the face.

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S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Tuesday, November 10

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Netanyahu to Obama: Haven't Given Up on Two-State Solution**
- **White House Says PM's Comments 'Encouraging'**
- **At Least Four Killed by Gunman at Jordan Training Center**
- **Russian Weapons Chief: S-300 Deal with Iran has Been Signed**
- **Security Experts: Iranian Hackers Targeted IL Nuclear Scientists**
- **Zoabi: What is Happening in Israel is Worse than Germany**
- **Ya'alon: High Probability that a Bomb Caused the Plane Crash**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Obama and Bibi Will Talk, but Won't Say Anything"**
  - By Nahum Barnea
- **Ynet News: "Amos Oz, BDS's Man of the Year"**
  - By Ben Dror Yemini

Ynet News

Netanyahu to Obama: Haven't Given Up on Two-State Solution

Prime Minister Netanyahu and US President Obama exchanged platitudes in their first face-to-face meeting in over a year on Monday. Netanyahu declared he has not given up on peace with the Palestinians, while Obama stressed that Israel's security is one of his top foreign policy priorities. Speaking to reporters ahead of their private meeting, Obama said he would seek Netanyahu's thoughts on ways to lower tensions between Israelis and Palestinians and get the parties "back on a path towards peace." "I want to be very clear that we condemn in the strongest terms Palestinian violence against innocent Israeli citizens. And I want to repeat, once again, it is my strong belief that Israel has not just the right, but the obligation to protect itself," Obama said. "I want to make it clear we haven't given up on our hope for peace," Netanyahu told Obama, stressing he supports a two-state solution, with a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes the Jewish state.

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Times of Israel

White House Says PM's Comments 'Encouraging'

White House Spokesman Josh Earnest said Netanyahu's comments were "encouraging, but what matters is the follow through." He said Israel and the Palestinians must take a series of confidence-building measures, including a "reduction, if not an end" to the violence and the incitement and "a willingness on both sides to engage constructively." In addition, Earnest said that settlement construction is "counterproductive." The White House spokesman added it's unlikely that a peace deal — or peace talks at all — will be renewed in the last 4 months of Obama's term.

See also:* *"Top Obama Adviser: Israel to Face Growing Pressure Over Settlements, Peace Process Impasse" (Ha'aretz)

Ha'aretz

At Least Four Killed by Gunman at Jordan Training Center

A Jordanian officer shot dead two U.S. government security contractors, a South African trainer and a Jordanian translator at a U.S.-funded police training facility near Amman on Monday before being killed in a shootout, authorities said. U.S. officials have stated that the death toll is as high as eight, but gave no further details. The Jordanian government has denied the higher count. U.S. President Obama said he was treating the attack very seriously and a full investigation was under way.

Times of Israel

Russian Weapons Chief: S-300 Deal with Iran has Been Signed

Russia and Iran have signed a contract on Moscow's delivery of the advanced S-300 missile defense system to the Islamic Republic, Sergei Chemezov, chief executive of Russian state-owned defense conglomerate Rostec, said Monday. The contract on delivery of S-300 to Iran has not only been signed by the sides but has already entered into force," Chemezov said at the Dubai Airshow-2015, according to Russian media. One of the most sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons in the world, the S-300 is capable of tracking multiple planes at once, and some versions have an interception range of up to 200 kilometers.

Reuters

Security Experts: Iranian Hackers Targeted IL Nuclear Scientists

European authorities have taken action to take down a cyber espionage campaign believed to be linked to Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard, which has targeted 1,600 high-profile targets, including Israeli nuclear scientists, NATO officials and Iranian dissidents, according to security researchers. The hacker group - dubbed "Rocket Kitten" by security experts who have been hunting the outfit since early 2014 - has mounted cyberattacks on high-profile political and military figures globally since that time, according to researchers from several cyber security firms who have monitored its activities. The action could hamper Tehran's efforts to gather sensitive intelligence from rivals including Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United States which were among the nations targeted. "We have discovered the inner workings of a cyber espionage campaign," Shahar Tal, research group manager for US-Israeli security firm Check Point Software, told Reuters.

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Jerusalem Post

Zoabi: What is Happening in Israel is Worse than Germany

Coalition MKs blasted Joint List Mk Haneen Zoabi (Balad) on Monday after she compared Israelis to Nazis at a Kristallnacht commemoration event in Amsterdam on Sunday. "Kristallnacht didn't suddenly fall from the sky, come out of nowhere, it was the result of a development over time. We can see a similar development happening in Israel over the last several years," Zoabi said Sunday afternoon. Zoabi's appearance was organized by Platform Stop Racism and Exclusion, a far-left group that is shunned by local Jews for its members' perceived animosity toward Israel and sympathy for Hamas. About 200 people attended the event. In response to the speech, Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely responded saying her appearance at an event commemorating Kristallnacht was a "mockery." "Haneen Zoabi uses the tragedy of the Jewish people in order to spread her lies and slander, while she herself encourages terrorism and the murder of Jews."

Channel 2 News

Ya'alon: High Probability that a Bomb Caused the Plane Crash

The investigation of the Metro-Jet plane crash in the Sinai Peninsula continues to occupy the Defense and Intelligence agencies around the world. In a briefing to reporters on Monday, Defense Minister Moshe (Bogi) Ya'alon estimated that an explosive device caused the crash. "We understand that there is very high probability that it was an attack," said Ya'alon. "We are not part of the investigation, but it seems we're talking about an explosive device which exploded inside the airplane." At the same time Ya'alon refused to comment on the CNN report according to which Israeli Intelligence is the source of the information that ISIS planted the bomb in the plane. Israel is concerned about the success of the ISIS branch in Sinai to carry out an attack of this magnitude, indicating high operational skills. This is a prestigious attack which may be followed by a transfer of a large sum of money and weapons from the ISIS leadership in Iraq. In recent days, since the plane crash, the Egyptian army has launched a significant assault on ISIS terrorists in northern Sinai.

Yedioth Ahronoth – November 9, 2015

Obama and Netanyahu Will Talk, but Won't Say Anything

The prime minister has embarked on a trip to Washington in order to meet with the American president, however the meeting will amount to nothing due to their non-existent relationship.

By Nahum Barnea

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu departed for Washington on Sunday afternoon, and is set to meet with President Barack Obama at the White House on Monday. It will most likely be a business-like meeting: Obama will likely pay off the debt of promises he made to Democratic senators in exchange for their votes to approve the Iran deal; this debt includes advanced military equipment for Israel, and maybe even some funds. But nothing more – no defense pacts, no guarantees.

Netanyahu held up his end of the deal: He promised the White House that his speech against the Iran deal at the UN General Assembly meeting would be his last on the matter; and he has kept his word. The threats to urge Republicans in Congress to enact new sanctions have all but disappeared, as if they were never

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uttered.

Netanyahu is convinced that Obama is a disaster for America, and an enemy of Israel; Obama is convinced that Netanyahu is a pathological liar, and a disaster for Israel. Nothing they will say in public will change that reality.

In a meeting between leaders, after the cameras have been shooed out of the room, a sense of intimacy normally takes hold. Most politicians have similar domestic problems: They can vent about them to each other. They can maintain eye contact. President Bush once said that he learned the nature of a leader by looking into their eyes. He looked into Putin's eyes and believed him. There is no chance that Obama will experience this sense of intimacy in his meeting with Netanyahu. Regardless, they have things to discuss.

For example, the issue of Jordan. The Americans know of the tear between Netanyahu and King Abdullah, and they are concerned with its possible outcome. The king has refused Netanyahu's calls and has leveled some serious criticism against him. The reason for this has been the recent tensions over the Temple Mount. The Temple Mount is Jordan's last true outpost in the territories. The Muslim world tasked the King of Jordan with safeguarding the holy sites. The government of Jordan pays the salaries of the Islamic waqf's workers, and influences their actions.

At the height of the clashes on the Temple Mount, Netanyahu agreed that Jordan would be responsible for security cameras that will be placed at every corner of the Temple Mount. The government of Jordan's announcement of the deal was supposed to make Amman appear as an active party in all happenings in the West Bank, while beating back domestic criticism over its *peace with Israel.*

Right wing officials in Israel protested Netanyahu's compromise. Why would Israel agree to weaken its hold on the Temple Mount? It would be a surrender to the forces of terror. Why Jordan? Netanyahu reneged.

The king was then seen as a liar and collaborator. The anger was great. Under pressure, Netanyahu backtracked on rejecting the deal. Now he is ready to approve the deal, while leaving the details up for negotiation, hoping that the issue will be all but forgotten by the time the negotiations convene. He would be all too happy to have Obama or Kerry mend his ties with Abdullah.

The two could discuss the Palestinian issue. Obama will say that he whole-heartedly supports Israel's right to defend itself, but asks himself what will happen the day after. Does Israel have anything to offer? Netanyahu will talk about terrorism, incitement, and Abbas' inciting speeches. In light of that, he will say that he is ready to renew peace talks without preconditions, anywhere, even tomorrow. Obama will smile: He has already heard this speech time and again. He is convinced that Netanyahu's version of negotiations only serves the purpose of playing for time.

Obama will then say that Kerry had convinced Abbas to hold off on any diplomatic steps until Netanyahu's visit to Washington. What can Kerry say to him now?

Netanyahu will repeat his tired speech. Negotiations, at any time, even tomorrow. "I even froze settlement construction," he will add. "Sadly, that's just not enough anymore," Obama will say.

"Will the US veto the resolution that New Zealand plans to put to a vote at the Security Council?" Netanyahu will ask. Any resolution that talks about 1967 borders will complicate the situation. It's doubtful that Obama will commit to anything. He would prefer to let Netanyahu sweat a bit.

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"What do you think about the state of the Palestinian Authority?" Obama will ask. If they still had any trust between them, Netanyahu would tell Obama that officials within the Israeli defense establishment have grown frustrated with the Authority, and place their trust on Hamas. Hamas is popular today, both in the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinian Authority is seen as a weakened and corrupt actor, which does not care for the good of the Palestinian people. The future belongs to Hamas. All the better that Hamas is less effective against Israel within the international organizations. Netanyahu will almost surely be content with raising objections to Abbas' speech.

They could talk about Syria and Hezbollah, or ISIS. They will talk, but they won't really say anything. "It was a good meeting," the White House spokesman will say to the media. "The two discussed all the issues on the agenda." "Excellent meeting," Netanyahu will say.

Ynet News– November 9, 2015

Amos Oz, BDS's Man of the Year

It's okay to criticize the government in a way which can be accepted by most Israelis, but when this 'criticism' is mainly used by the campaign for Israel's destruction - you become part of it.

By Ben Dror Yemini

Amos Oz will win the BDS campaign's man of the year award. It's strange, because the Israeli author is against the BDS movement. But he recently announced that he would boycott state-sponsored events around the world.

There is nothing original about this move. Oz is joining a new trend of a small and noisy minority among US Jews: We love Israel, we are Zionist, but we are basically joining the boycott against Israel. It's true that the leaders of the boycott campaign are against peace, it's true that they are against two states, it's true that they object to the actual existence of the State of Israel, it's true that they mainly identify with Hamas - but does that really matter? Intellectuals, as much as others, must join trends. Now Oz is one of them, and it's sad.

It's sad because the Zionist Oz - an Israel lover, not an Israel hater - symbolizes the tragedy of the Israeli Zionist left.

During Operation Protective Edge, Oz made sensible comments which angered the radical left. Oz delivered two important lectures this year and combined them into one article, in which he laments what we are going through. He does not share the left's illusions on the Palestinians. He does not disregard the right's fears over what will happen here if there is an agreement. And he reaches the conclusion that there is no escape from pursuing an agreement and a separation. For our sake, he argues, for our sake. It's a national interest. I support almost every sentence in the article. Occasionally, maybe not as often as I should, I write it myself.

And this is where the tragedy lies: Because the voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. You can't make rebuking comments of a loving person, which can be accepted by most Israelis, including a large part of right-wing voters, and at the same time join Israel haters' operation pattern.

And that's the exact story of a large part of the Israeli left: It's okay to criticize the government. It's okay to warn of wrongs. It's okay to equip hundreds of Palestinians with cameras, so that once in a few months someone will be able to

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catch a soldier beating or cursing a Palestinian. But when this "criticism" is mainly used by the campaign for Israel's destruction - you become part of it.

Worse: The Palestinians have repeatedly turned down serious offers for an agreement, but instead of condemning them you have excused and justified them. You are not bringing the reconciliation closer. You are turning Israel into a monster. And if Israel is a monster, then BDS is the right answer.

Now it's Oz. He loves Israel but is basically supporting BDS. What will intellectuals invited to cultural events at an Israeli embassy say? Like Oz, they love Israel, but are critical towards it. If one of the most important writers in Israel boycotts the embassy, why should they act any differently? They too will explain their move in the important newspapers. And the explanation, as we know, will be based on the publications of the propaganda of lies, which are turning Israel into a fascist and criminal state.

It's true that NATO, UN, British and US soldiers have hurt civilians in conflict areas, in a relative and absolute manner, much more than IDF soldiers have hurt the Palestinians (I present these figures from every possible stage). It's true that the Palestinians have repeatedly turned down any offer based on two states for two people. It's true that they are not stopping the incitement campaign for a moment. But that doesn't really matter, as long as Breaking the Silence activists run from one campus to another to recruit more people.

I feel sorry for Amos Oz. I feel sorry for the camp which used to be a peace camp. It has failed to bring peace closer, but has succeeded in bolstering the Palestinian rejectionist camp and the campaign for Israel's destruction.

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News as of January 22nd, 2016

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

- **Three days until the first primary votes are counted!**
- U.S. Economy slowed to 0.7% growth rate in the last 3 months of 2015
- Fed expresses doubts on raising interest rates
- Shortage of drugs causing doctors to ration or withhold medication for U.S. patients
- Saudi Arabia proposes oil-producing countries trim output, causing 3% hike in oil prices
- UN criticizes Israeli settlement activity in occupied Palestine territories

Polls

New NBC News poll has Clinton leading Sanders by just 3 points — within the margin of error — just 4 days before the Iowa. Clinton 48%, Sanders 45%, O'Malley 3%. *NBC News*

Trump up 7 points in Iowa, with 32% to Ted Cruz's 25%. Rubio has 18%, Carson has 8%, Bush 4%, no one else tops 2%. *NBC News*

2016 Campaign

Monday, Feb. 1 is game day in Iowa!

An Iowa win might make the Trump train unstoppable: "A top official of a rival GOP campaign... said: 'If **Donald Trump** wins Iowa, I think he has won-period. **Ted Cruz** is supposed to win Iowa. If **Trump** wins, he'll be on a trajectory to come out of the SEC primaries [March 1] with close to triple the delegates of anyone else.'" **Eli Stokols,** *Politico*

Trump GOP debate strategy worked: "The real reason **[Trump]** skipped out was to create a circular GOP fire squad - with **Ted Cruz** at the center. And it worked.... It was the worst possible time - on the eve of the deadlocked Iowa caucuses - for Cruz to stumble." **Glenn Thrush**, *Politico*

GOP leaders want to take down Cruz: "Many are trying to salvage the campaign of **Sen. Marco Rubio** (or any other more-mainstream alternative)...Republican leaders detest Cruz so much that they're willing to run the risk an unelectable Republican will glide to the nomination." **Josh Kraushaar**, *Nat'l Journal*

Kochs launch new group to 'revitalize' society: The organization, known as Stand Together, is engaging in 'venture philanthropy' that seeks to strengthen American society. **Fredreka Schouten**, *USA Today*

Sander's & Clinton's foreign policy may be their only major difference: However, neither wants to address these differences. "**Hillary** doesn't want to highlight her relative hawkishness in a Democratic primary and **Bernie** doesn't really want to highlight what his dovishness would mean in practice." **Conor Friedersdorf**, *The Atlantic*

Clinton's ties to Obama may cost her Latinos' support: "[W]hen the stakes involve whether [DREAMers'] loved ones could be torn from their families, it's a grudge they won't soon forget. ...disillusionment, particularly among young Latinos, matters." **Amanda Sakuma,** *MSNBC*

Rising star Julian Castro (TCG Speaker) campaigning for Clinton: "Any presidential ticket could benefit from a qualified Latino to help win votes from the nation's fastest-growing demographic." **Kate Linthicum**, *LA Times*

Inside the pro-Sanders independent groups aiming to compete with the organizational muscle behind Clinton: "[The

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groups are] employing professional political tactics such as use of entities that can raise and spend unlimited sums of money on campaigns…Although these entities can accept massive checks… [they are] relying instead on small donations from grass-roots supporters." **Matea Gold,** *Wash Post*

Sanders at crossroads - attack Clinton or stay positive? Some **Sanders** advisers think he must draw sharp contrasts with her as **Clinton** pulls slightly ahead in Iowa polling. The **Sanders** campaign has prepared an ad that takes aim at **Clinton**'s Wall Street ties. **Jason Horowitz and Yamiche Alcindor**, *NY Times*

More super PAC money has been spent so far in express support of Bernie Sanders than for either of his Democratic rivals, including **Hillary Clinton**, according to Federal Election Commission records. **Nicholas Confessore**, *NY Times*

Equal pay litigant Lilly Ledbetter (TCG Awardee) endorses Hillary Clinton. Anne Gearan, *Wash Post*

The Economy

US economy slowed to 0.7% growth rate in the last 3 months of 2015: This is just the second time in almost two years that the nation has registered growth under 1%. "Tepid global growth is exposing new weaknesses in the nation's long and sluggish recovery." **Chico Harlan**, *Wash Post*

Survey reflects boosted American consumer confidence for 2nd month in a row: The survey shows "more people planning to buy homes in the next six months for the first time since December 2013... and the highest number of respondents expecting higher interest rates over the next year since 2006." *Chicago Tribune*

Wary Fed keeps options open: "Fed officials expressed renewed worry about financial-market turbulence and slow economic growth abroad, leaving doubts about whether the central bank will raise interest rates as early as March." **Jon Hilsenrath** & **Ben Leubsdorf**, *WSJ* "Fed officials have emphasized that their policy decisions will depend on the health of the recovery. If it proves stronger than expected, the central bank may raise rates more quickly than forecast. But if the economy stumbles, the Fed could draw out the process even longer." **Ylan Q. Mui**, *Wash Post*

Anti-Fed two-step: "It's a very dubious claim that the Fed could have prevented the crisis with more aggressive policy in 2008; it's three-card monte to transmute that into the claim that the Fed caused the crisis." **Paul Krugman (TCG Speaker)**, Op-Ed, *NY Times*

The Russian energy minister said Saudi Arabia proposed that oil-producing countries trim output: "Oil prices were nearly 3% higher in first oil 3-day win streak of 2016." The first global deal in over a decade could help "clear a glut that has depressed prices for over a year and a half." *CNBC*

African-Americans were more likely to start a new business in the years following the recession, while white-owned businesses grew smaller in number. "However, in contrast to this trend, the average worth of a white-owned business was almost three times greater than its black counterpart," according to a new report. **Kate Davidson,** *WSJ*

Obama proposes a new plan that allows small businesses to be part of multi-employer pension plans. "These businesses would receive greater tax breaks if they met certain standards for their offered retirement plans." **Jonnelle Marte,** *Wash Post*

Concerns over the accuracy of China's reported economic statistics are heightening: Experts say China's economic growth might not be as much as reported as " the government's attempts to prevent social unrest and China's recent history of inflated investment figures." **Keith Bradsher,** *NY Times*

Bank of Japan adopts a negative interest-rate strategy to spur banks to lend in the face of a weakening economy: "[According to Governor Kuroda] the BOJ won't hesitate to add further monetary stimulus if needed." **Toru Fujioka** & **Masahiro Hidaka,** *Bloomberg*

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Sweden, one of Europe's most welcoming nations for migrants, may expel up to 80,000 asylum seekers in coming years. Kim Hjelmgaard, *USA Today*

Top 13 national security issues of 2016: Beacon Global Strategies, *Bloomberg*

UN criticizes Israeli settlement activity in occupied Palestine territories: Ban Ki-moon along with other ambassadors spoke up about their disagreement with Israel's settlements within occupied Palestine lands, stirring discussions within the UN regarding Israeli Palestine situation. **Peter Beaumont,** *The Guardian*

Human Rights Watch's annual report shows European governments trend to promote fear regarding terrorism and the migration crisis: "This is in contrast to their expected commitment to civil rights and liberal ideas." **Sewell Chan,** *NY Times*

French justice minister resigns as pressures for passing a terror policy is raised: **"[Christiane Taubira]** expressed doubts about controversial plan to strip people convicted of terrorism of their French citizenship." **Angelique Chrisafis,** *The Guardian*

Putin is out to undermine Merkel: "Russia is tapping into Germany's community of 1.2 million ethnic Russians to criticize Merkel's policies and boost those who are unequivocally against Germany taking in refugees." **Judy Dempsey,** *Newsweek*

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Iran's comeback to the world's economy: After international economic sanctions were lifted in Jan. 16, Iran has made a quick comeback to the world's economy, as president **Hassan Rouhani** made several business trips to European countries. *NY Times*

Secretary John Kerry (TCG Speaker) urges China, North Korea's biggest trading partner, to use its leverage to pressure North Korea into giving up its nuclear arsenal: "The Americans would like China to curb exports of oil, including aviation fuel, that help keep the bare-bones North Korean economy afloat. It has also asked China to crack down on its banks and businesses." **Jane Perlez** & **David Sanger,** *NY Times*

Domestic Affairs

Shortage of drugs causing doctors to ration or withhold medication for US patients: "Doctors and hospitals often do not tell patients about shortages and the resulting rationing because they do not want them to worry." **Sheri Fink,** *NY Times*

Multiple states clear Planned Parenthood of criminal charges: 11 states that had investigated Planned Parenthood's work reached the conclusion that they did not illegally sell fetal tissue. **Steve Benen**, *MSNBC*

CDC is not worried about Zika virus in US: Past experience with other mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue and chikungunya, leave health specialists less worried about the virus' spread. **Peter Sullivan,** *The Hill*

White House kicks off cancer-fighting task force headed by Vice President Biden: "The effort will be called the White House Cancer Moonshot Task Force – a reference to Biden's speech...calling for a "moonshot" to cure the disease that led to his son's death." **Sarah Ferris,** *The Hill*

Professor who helped uncover the Flint lead water crisis has been asked to fix it: Michigan Gov. **Rick Snyder** appointed **Marc Edwards** to a 17-person committee aimed toward finding a lasting plan to address the water crisis. **Colby Itkowitz,** *Wash Post*

Books & Film

New HBO documentary, *"Homegrown: The Counter-Terror Dilemma,"* takes a look at the changing face of terrorism in the US. almost fifteen years after 9/11. *Trailer*

This Sunday on 60 MINUTES "Anonymous, Inc.": The US is becoming a hotspot for crooked foreigners to launder money." *CBS Scoop*

"13 Hours" & "B ig Short" capture why Sanders & Trump voters are furious: "Both films chronicle failures of the government. Both films are deeply critical of the status quo without doubling as overly partisan broadsides." **Sonny Bunch,** *NY Post*

The Birth of a Nation: "Star **Nate Parker** writes, produces and directs a vital American history chapter that's more relevant than ever. It's the biography of slave Nat Turner, who, in 1831, led a violent revolt in the South." *Variety*

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Rt. Honorable Lord Christopher Patten, Chancellor of Oxford University

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Common Good Forum on "Security and Opportunity in Turbulent Times"

Friday, May 20, 2016, 8am-4pm, Sessions all day on national and economic security

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff, Isabelle Lehner, Emily Samuels, and Isaac Getlan, and our interns Emily Abrams, Juliet Kirk, Uzma Azhar, Daniela Gutierrez, and Grace Ewing.

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The Common Good · 115 East 57th St · Suite 1010 · New York, NY 10022 · USA

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From:	"Furman, Jason L." <Jason_L_Furman@cea.eop.gov>
To:	"Furman, Jason L." <Jason_L_Furman@cea.eop.gov>
Date:	3/2/2016 1:42:47 PM
Subject:	Prepared Testimony for Hearing on "The 2016 Economic Report of the President"
Attachments:	20160302_jec_testimony.pdf

Please find attached and below my prepared testimony for a hearing on "The 2016 *Economic Report of the President*" before the Joint Economic Committee.

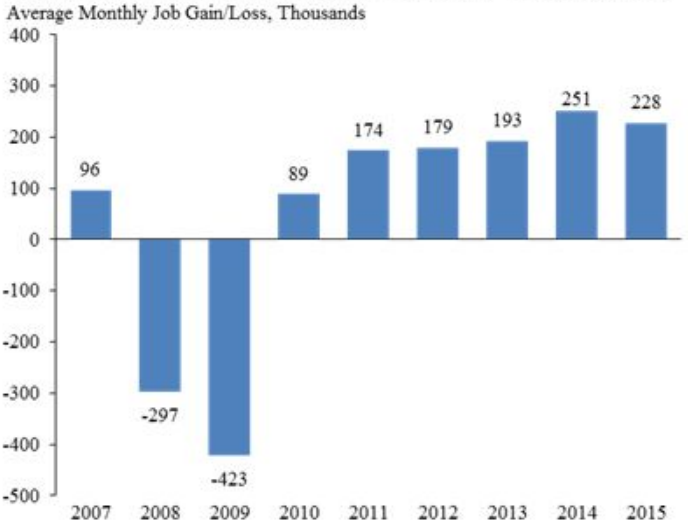
Prepared Testimony:

Chairman Coats, Vice Chairman Tiberi, Ranking Member Maloney, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear here today to discuss the 70th annual *Economic Report of the President*, which the Council of Economic Advisers released last week. This year's *Report* reviews the substantial progress that the U.S. economy has made in recent years, describes the headwinds posed by the global economic situation, and outlines a number of key areas to promote robust, sustainable, and shared long-run growth.

As we note in this year's *Report*, 2015 was a year of continued strength in the domestic economy despite substantial headwinds from abroad. This was particularly clear in the ongoing robust recovery in our labor markets. At the end of 2015, the United States marked the strongest two years of job growth since the 1990s (Figure 1) and the largest two-year decline in the unemployment rate since the 1980s, all while continuing the longest streak of monthly private-sector job growth on record.

Figure 1
Average Monthly Total Nonfarm Job Growth by Year, 2007–2015



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics.

As of January, the unemployment rate stood at 4.9 percent, its lowest level since February 2008. As recently as 2014, many economists expected that the unemployment rate would remain above 5.0 percent until at least 2020 (Figure 2). At the same time, the labor force participation rate was relatively stable over the past year, as improving economic conditions partially offset the drag on participation from the retirement of the Baby Boom generation. And perhaps most importantly, over the past six months, nominal hourly earnings for private-sector workers have grown at their fastest pace since the Great Recession—although more work remains to boost wages and middle-class incomes. As the labor market continues to improve, we will not need to maintain the same pace of job growth to keep unemployment low. In fact, CEA estimates the break-even rate of employment growth—the rate needed to maintain a constant unemployment rate over the next year if the labor force participation rate moves in line with demographic trends—at 78,000 jobs per month.

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Figure 2
Actual and Consensus Forecast Unemployment Rate, 2008–2020



Note: Annual forecasts are current as of March of the stated year. Black dashed line represents December 2015 value (5.0 percent). Shading denotes recession.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey; Blue Chip Economic Indicators.

Other indicators also point to continued strength in the domestic economy in 2015. Over the past four quarters, multiple survey measures of consumer confidence reached highs not seen in over a decade. Real domestic demand grew, with personal consumption and fixed investment increasing 2.7 percent over the four quarters of 2015, bolstered by solid growth of real disposable personal income, continued potential for residential investment growth, and record-setting investment in research and development. Finally, CEA estimates that the economy saw a modest direct positive boost from the recent steep decline in oil prices, as the benefits to consumers exceeded the costs to domestic energy producers.

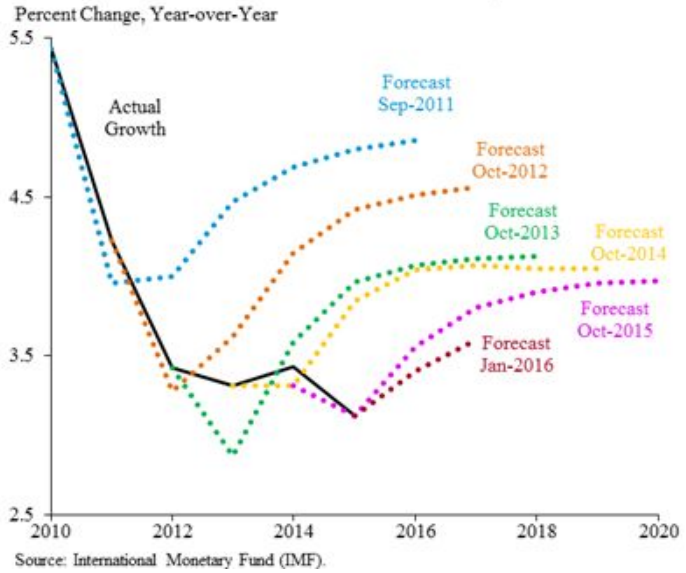
The United States has had the strongest productivity growth of any of the G-7 economies over the past ten years, but this growth has lagged our historic performance. As a result, while U.S. job growth has outperformed expectations, real GDP growth has failed to do so. CEA analysis, discussed in this year's *Report*, finds that a substantial portion of the slowdown in productivity growth reflects diminished investment in the wake of the Great Recession. To the extent that investment rebounds, and to the extent that the economy benefits from the rapid growth of private research and development—currently at its highest-ever level as a share of the economy—stronger productivity growth would be expected in the future. Continued monitoring of this important aspect of the economy will be important in the years ahead.

Our domestic progress is all the more notable in light of the substantial headwinds that the United States faces from the global economy. The International Monetary Fund estimates that global economic growth was 3.1 percent on a year-over-year basis in 2015, the slowest since 2009 and a continuation of downgrades to the global growth forecast (Figure 3). The United States had the highest growth rate of any major advanced economy, and growth in the euro area is estimated to have picked up slightly, but slowing growth in a number of large emerging markets weighed heavily on the global economy in 2015. On a year-over-year basis, China, for example, saw its slowest real GDP growth in decades, while both Brazil's and Russia's economies contracted sharply.

Weak growth abroad served as a drag on U.S. exports, with exports subtracting 0.1 percentage point from real GDP growth in 2015, down from a positive annual contribution of 0.5 percentage point in 2013 and 2014. This decline in exports was a key reason that U.S. GDP growth slowed to 1.9 percent during the four quarters of 2015 after growth of 2.5 percent in both 2013 and 2014. The Administration expects continued headwinds from the global economy in the year ahead, and we will continue both to monitor these developments and to engage with our key trading partners across both advanced economies and emerging markets to work to improve global growth.

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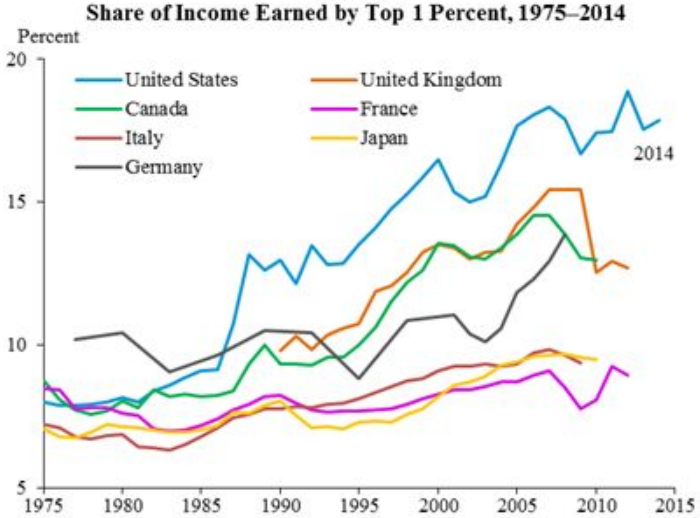
Figure 3
IMF World Real GDP Growth Forecast, 2010–2020



Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Particularly in light of both recent global productivity data and these adverse developments in global demand, it is important that we work to strengthen domestic growth by boosting productivity and dynamism in the U.S. economy. It is also critical that we work to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are shared broadly, and, to this end, the 2016 *Economic Report of the President* lays out the President's agenda for "inclusive growth." Despite progress since the Great Recession, the highly unequal distribution of income, wealth, and opportunity remains one of the greatest challenges facing our economy. While the problem is not unique to the United States, inequality in the United States is higher and, in recent decades, has risen faster than in other major advanced economies (Figure 4).

Figure 4
Share of Income Earned by Top 1 Percent, 1975–2014



Note: Data for all countries exclude capital gains.
Source: World Wealth and Income Database (Alvaredo et al. 2015).

Some of this increase is a natural consequence of competitive markets—a result of differences in productivity as technology evolves. But some of the increase may reflect the rising influence of "economic rents," income captured by companies and workers beyond what their productivity justifies. The apparent increase in rents in recent decades and their increasingly unequal distribution have contributed to overall inequality without boosting productivity, providing opportunities to improve both efficiency *and* equity in the U.S. economy.

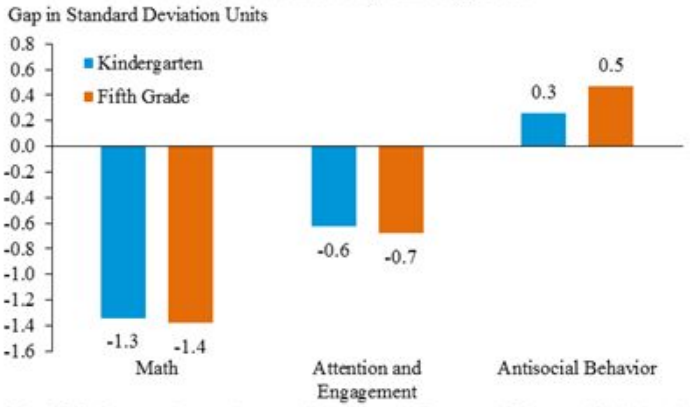
The President's agenda for inclusive growth addresses both sources of inequality, making competitive markets work better by increasing opportunity and by combatting the trend of rising, unequally divided rents. Competition most effectively promotes economic growth when it is open to the widest pool of talent—so the President supports promoting equality of opportunity by investing in education, supporting children in low-income families, and ensuring a fair criminal justice system. And the President supports policies to make markets more competitive by reducing overall economic rents—through promoting more open and competitive markets, balanced intellectual property rules, and a smarter approach to occupational licensing regulation, among other policies—and policies to ensure those rents are divided more fairly, by encouraging worker voice and raising the minimum wage. This agenda for inclusive growth can help ensure that the benefits of our resurgent economy are shared with all American households.

Other sections of this year's *Report* lay out additional steps we can, and should, take to ensure a strong domestic economy that

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benefits all Americans. One chapter focuses on disparities in opportunity that appear at an early age and the long-run benefits of investment in the education, health, and well-being of children. Comparisons show persistent, large gaps in early health and cognitive skills of young children across households of different income levels, different races and ethnicities, and different family structures (Figure 5). Research demonstrates that direct investments in children can help to close gaps in these important outcomes and can have lasting, positive effects.

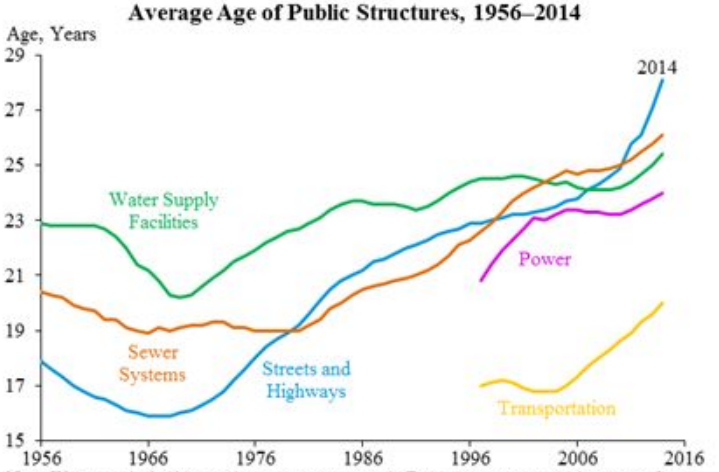
Figure 5
Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills SES Gaps are Mostly Established by Kindergarten



Note: SES refers to socioeconomic status. Calculations by Duncan and Magnuson (2011) based on data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Kindergarten Cohort. Kindergarten test scores were measured in 1998—1999; fifth grade test scores for the same students were measured in 2004.
Source: Duncan and Magnuson (2011).

Another chapter highlights the critical importance of infrastructure to economic growth and productivity. The quality of U.S. infrastructure has deteriorated since the mid-2000s, and the age of our public structures has increased in recent years (Figure 6). Efficient infrastructure investment boosts the productive capacity of our economy and can also protect the environment by shifting users towards cleaner forms of transportation, like public transit, and supporting the use of clean and renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions.

Figure 6
Average Age of Public Structures, 1956–2014



Note: Water supply facilities and sewer systems exclude Federal structures—which account for at most 6 percent of the value of their combined capital stock—because disaggregated Federal data are unavailable. Data for power and transportation fixed assets begin in 1997 because disaggregated data are unavailable for years prior to 1997.
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The *Report* also discusses a variety of developments in innovation, with attention to recent technological changes and their implications for productivity growth and for American workers. On the occasion of CEA's 70th anniversary, this year's *Report* also takes a look back at several key moments in the Council's seven-decade history and reviews CEA's role in economic policymaking across twelve Administrations.

I look forward to discussing these and other topics with you all today.

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From:	"Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com>
To:	hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	4/27/2015 2:20:07 AM
Subject:	Fwd: First Read: 'Clinton Cash' Author Speaks Out

Conservative author admits evidence on Hillary Clinton is circumstantial

In back-to-back interviews over the past 24 interviews, conservative author Peter Schweizer admits he doesn't have direct evidence that Hillary Clinton intervened to assist individuals and entities because they donated large sums of money to the Clinton Foundation. On ABC yesterday, Schweizer was asked if he had proof that Hillary Clinton directly took action to benefit a Clinton Foundation donor from the sale of a uranium mining company. "No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, ... this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is afoot." In an interview with NBC's Savannah Guthrie this morning , Schweizer said, "What we have is a pattern of behavior," adding that this pattern consistently shows Clinton Foundation donors benefiting from Hillary Clinton's State Department. More Schweizer: "I think it should be [criminally] investigated... I don't think a quid-pro-quo needs to be a standard," citing the charges that brought down former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell. When Guthrie asked him about his ties to the conservative movement and GOP politics, Schweizer said, "I am not claiming to be neutral," though he also stated that he's taken on conservatives, too.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: First Read from NBC News <email@mail.nbcnews.com >
Date: Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 9:14 AM
Subject: First Read: 'Clinton Cash' Author Speaks Out
To: Joshschwerin@gmail.com



First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter brought to you by NBC News' Chuck Todd, Mark Murray and Carrie Dann.

FIRST READ: 'CLINTON CASH' AUTHOR SPEAKS OUT

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter

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Clinton Foundation: "Yes, we made mistakes"

Meanwhile, in a blog post on Sunday , the Clinton Foundation's acting CEO, Maura Pally, acknowledged that the Clinton Foundation made mistakes in its filings of 990 tax forms. "Our total revenue was accurately reported on each year's form - our error was that government grants were mistakenly combined with other donations... So yes, we made mistakes, as many organizations of our size do, but we are acting quickly to remedy them, and have taken steps to ensure they don't happen in the future." Pally also explained why some Clinton Foundation-related donations weren't disclosed like others were -- because they were to a Canadian offshoot. "[T]he Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership (Canada) is publicly listed as a donor on our website. But as it is a distinct Canadian organization, separate from the Clinton Foundation, its individual donors are not listed on the site. This is hardly an effort on our part to avoid transparency - unlike in the U.S., under Canadian law; all charities are prohibited from disclosing individual donors without prior permission from each donor."

Why is the Clinton Foundation STILL taking foreign donations?

But here's a big question that we have as Hillary Clinton has begun her presidential candidacy and as she stands a decent chance of sitting in the Oval Office in 2017: Why is the Clinton Foundation taking ANY foreign money at all? As we wrote last week, and as Pally confirms in her blog post, the Clinton Foundation still receives foreign money from six foreign countries -- Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the U.K. A Clinton Foundation official has told NBC News, "You just can't pull the plug" on existing programs, especially when they involve multi-year grants. But in a world where appearances do matter, should the Clinton Foundation be receiving those donations anymore?

Jeb: I've raised more money in 100 days than any GOP operation in history

The New York Times : "Jeb Bush told donors [in Miami] that he believed his political action committee had raised more money in 100 days than any other modern Republican political operation, according to those who heard him." Of course, there's one hitch with any record: The money Jeb is raising is through his Super PAC, which is able to raise unlimited amounts of money. And while the Clinton Foundation money is legitimately receiving attention, so should the loophole that Jeb Bush is exploiting in campaign finance law -- that presidential candidates can't coordinate with Super PACs. But since Jeb TECHNICALLY isn't a presidential candidate, he's raising all of this money for his Super PAC.

George W. Bush comments on his brother's campaign, Obama's Iran policy

Over the weekend, it turned out Jeb Bush's older brother -- former President George W. Bush -- made some news. The Washington Post : "At a closed-door dinner Saturday night before nearly 800 members of the Republican Jewish Coalition, the 43rd president noted that it could hurt former Florida governor Jeb Bush if he campaigned alongside another Bush who served in the White House, according to several attendees. 'He said that one of the challenges his brother is going to have is that the country doesn't like dynasties,' recalled David Volosov, a RJC member from Silver Spring, Md. 'People are going to say, "Oh, here comes another Bush." His response is that he is going to stay as far as way as he can. He is going to stay away from the whole process.'" More from the New York Times : "Mr. Bush voiced skepticism about the Obama administration's pursuit of a nuclear deal with Iran. Although he had begun the diplomatic effort to press Iran to give up its nuclear program, Mr. Bush questioned whether it was wise to lift sanctions against Tehran when the Islamic government seemed to be caving in, and suggested that the United States risked losing leverage if it did so."

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FIRST READ'S MORNING CLIPS

OBAMA AGENDA: A different Abe (Shinzo) to address Congress

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be the first Japanese leader to address a joint session of Congress this week -- and he'll talk about his nation's role in global security. The Wall Street Journal: "When Shinzo Abe goes to Washington for a pomp-filled visit this week, the Japanese leader faces a delicate balancing act: selling Americans on his vision of the future-a newly vibrant, muscular, more equal Japanese partner-while trying to quell doubts stoked by his views of the past."

The New York Times explores the administration's efforts to take its cybersecurity pitch to a skeptical Silicon Valley.

The Washington Post ed board backs Obama on trade. "With a furious political battle over trade looming on Capitol Hill, it's high time Mr. Obama personally and aggressively took on the phony arguments that "progressives" are marshalling in a desperate attempt to block trade

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measures whose merits would withstand honest scrutiny."

In rare comments on global issues, George W. Bush took on Obama's foreign policy, criticizing the Iran deal and his efforts to counter the Islamic State, writes Bloomberg.

CONGRESS: Will GOP amendments doom bipartisan Iran legislation?

"A bill to give Congress a voice in the nuclear deal with Iran is now endangered by Republican amendments that would peel away bipartisan support for a measure begrudgingly accepted by the White House this month," writes the New York Times.

More, from POLITICO : "Republican and Democratic leaders, who back the review bill, plan to muster enough votes to block any seriously problematic amendments while still allowing their members to take some political potshots. If they let through any bombshells that significantly undermine the White House's negotiations, they risk losing Democratic support and the veto-proof majority that Corker has painstakingly assembled.

The odd media story around Harry Reid's New Years Day accident continues with this, from the Las Vegas Sun: "A Las Vegas man claims he started a false rumor that the injuries suffered by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid several months ago were the result of an attack by Reid's brother, not an exercise accident."

OFF TO THE RACES: GOP struggling to adjust to gay-marriage landscape

Here's the Des Moines Register's wrap of the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition's Saturday cattle call.

Big picture, in the New York Times : "Republican presidential candidates are struggling to adjust to a rapidly changing legal, political and cultural landscape this primary season, as the Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments Tuesday on whether same-sex marriage is a constitutionally protected right."

BUSH: In Miami Beach, Jeb Bush told super PAC donors that they've raised more money in the organization's first 100 days than any other Republican operation in history.

CLINTON: Hillary Clinton writes a Des Moines Register op-ed: "When I came to Iowa, I wanted to do something a little different. No big speeches or rallies. Just talking directly with everyday Iowans. Because this campaign isn't going to be about me, it's going to be about Iowans and people across our country who are ready for a better future. It's not enough to just get by, you deserve to get ahead and stay ahead. And everywhere I went, I met Iowans with great ideas for how we can get there."

The acting chief executive of the Clinton Foundation admits that the organization "made mistakes" in how it disclosed donors.

More, from the Washington Post : "Nevertheless, the foundation explained for the first time publicly that one of its affiliates - a Canada-based charity that bears Bill Clinton's name - would continue to keep its donors secret because of restrictions in Canadian law."

Here's Savannah Guthrie's interview with "Clinton Cash" author Peter Schweizer.

CRUZ: The gay businessman who hosted an event for Ted Cruz has apologized for showing "poor judgment."

RUBIO: He detailed his immigration philosophy to the Des Moines Register ed board.

WEBB: He attended a private event with veterans in Des Moines.

And around the country...

CALIFORNIA: The New York Times looks at the divide between rich and poor in drought-stricken California.

PROGRAMMING NOTES.

*** **Monday's "News Nation with Tamron Hall" line-up:** Tamron Hall speaks with Nick Cienski survivor of the avalanche at base camp at Mount Everest, Kenji Yoshino, Chief Justice Earl Warren Professor of Constitutional Law at NYU Law School about SCOTUS taking up same sex marriage, Parker Molloy, transgender rights advocate and Upworthy.com trends writer about Bruce Jenner, and Tim Smith, Jerel Maddox, and Kentrell Collins of Oxygen's new show: "The Prancing Elites".

*** **Monday's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" line-up:** NBC's Kristen Welker is filling in for Andrea and will have the latest on the Nepal earthquake with USAID Director of Foreign Disaster Assistance Jeremy Konyndyk and the United Nations World Food Programme Chief Spokesperson Bettina Leuscher, NBC's Pete Williams and Brian Mooar, Clinton campaign surrogate Ann Lewis, Fmr. RNC Chairman Michael Steele, the Washington Post's Chris Cillizza

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and Bloomberg Editor Jeanne Cummings.

PROP 8 ATTORNEYS: MARRIAGE EQUALITY COMING SOON

The lawyers who argued in favor of overturning California's same-sex ban in front the Supreme Court said Sunday they believe the votes exist for the Supreme Court to rule in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage in all 50 states.

David Boies and Ted Olsen said on Meet the Press that based on a previous ruling that struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act - which prevented legally married same-sex couples from receiving federal benefits - the Court will rule to overturn the ban.

"If you read what the Supreme Court said in that case, there's really no other way for the Supreme Court to come out in the case that's up for argument on Tuesday," Ted Olson said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"The first part of that case is whether states have to recognize the rights of individuals who wish to get married in that state. I think that will end the debate right there."

They said that the impact of the ruling will be based on the number of justices voting one way or the other.

"I think civil rights cases ought to be decided 9-0 or 8-1, the way the racial and civil rights decisions were largely made," David Boies said in the same interview.

"It sends a message that this country doesn't tolerate discrimination. So, I think the more justices that sign on, the better."

However, the likelihood of a unanimous or near-unanimous decision is unlikely based on the votes of other cases. "We were hoping that all nine justices would fall in line once the case finally was decided because of the inherent rights of individuals," Olson said.

"I'm still optimistic it'll be more than five votes. But we can count the justices that already decided the Defense of Marriage case and their explanation for why they decided that."

Public opinion on same-sex marriage, which has changed rapidly in the last five years, will also influence the justices. At the time California's same-sex marriage ban was overturned, less of the country was in favor of legalization, Boies said.

"Now overwhelmingly it's taken over the country," he said. "Just in the last couple of years, we've seen a tremendous movement that I think makes it easier now for the Supreme Court to make that total decision."

WHAT HILLARY CLINTON CAN LEARN FROM TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Presidential Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin explains how Hillary Clinton could take a page out of Teddy Roosevelt's book to deal with the "Clinton Cash" issue.

#NERDSCREEN: AGREEMENT ON TRADE?

While the two parties don't agree on much - trade is one place where overall, they do agree.

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LATEST NEWS

- First Read: 'Clinton Cash' Author Speaks Out
- Turkish Rescuers Pull Out Man Alive From Kathmandu Wreckage
- Dawen On Making Music And A Home in Taiwan
- First Read's Morning Clips
- Three New Fitness Trends to Spice Up Your Workout



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Josh Schwerin
Cell: 518-369-5469

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com
David@db-research.com
Date: 4/24/2015 12:03:44 PM
Subject: RE: Initial Economic Questions for Republicans

I think these are the main ones.

We should also check how many of them supported Rand Paul's budget

From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2015 2:52 PM
To: jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com; David@db-research.com
Cc: john.podesta@gmail.com; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; re47@hillaryclinton.com; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Initial Economic Questions for Republicans

On economic issues, I know Jake and his team will come up with a good list, but there are already two proposals on the table that I think we should try to get all GOPers to weigh in on:
--Rubio's tax plan that includes dropping the top rate for those making over $400k from 39.6 to 35.
--Rand Paul's 17% flat tax.
Also, it would be great to get:
--Dodd/Frank -- repeal? CFPB repeal?
--repeal of carried interest tax break
--repeal of oil company tax breaks
We already have the Senators' votes on Elizabeth Warren's student loan refinancing bills. We might get the other candidates too.
We might also get reaction to paid leave.

thx

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
To: David Binder <David@db-research.com >
Cc: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Thu, Apr 23, 2015 9:43 pm
Subject: Re: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Thanks. We do have some ideas on this, will discus in am.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2015, at 9:33 PM, David Binder < David@db-research.com > wrote:

> One thing I think we need to push, that was effective in our groups, is to remind people of the wonderful things that the Clinton Foundation has done around the globe. In the midst of all this incoming stuff, can we remind the world what has been accomplished? In addition to confronting the accusations, do we also have an opportunity to insert the message below that was an effective response in our vulnerability research:
>
> Hillary Clinton's opponents are trying to start a controversy where none exists. The Clinton Foundation is a totally non-political charity whose work saves and improves lives at home and around the world. Because of charitable contributions to the Foundation and its programs, 8 million people have benefited from lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 6,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to fight childhood obesity; 28,000 African farmers have improved their crops; and 248 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced in cities worldwide. The Clinton Global Initiative brings together people from business, labor, government, and the non-profit world to solve problems without politics or gridlock. Republican opponents want to confuse voters about the Clinton Foundation and its donors because all this good work is proof that what Hillary cares about most is helping hard-working people and families build better lives.
>
> **From:** Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:56 PM

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

To: John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; John Anzalone; David Binder; Robby Mook; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

For our eight am call tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> From: Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
> To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com >, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24
>
> Stories for tomorrow:
>
> - Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
> - New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
> - ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
> - Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
> - WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
> - Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
> - Bloomberg- Laureate
> - NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed
>
> Story Lines:
>
> 1. Nervous Dems
> 2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue
> 3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/18/2008 1:36:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/18

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 18th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

9am McCain: Speech in Orlando, Fl
- Tracking scheduled for this event
11am McCain: Round table and Press Statement in Cocoa, FL

4pm McCain: Fund Raiser in Atlanta, GA

News Clips:

MCCAIN FAITH FORUM NEWS

Despite Assurances, McCain Wasn't in a 'Cone of Silence' (NYT 8/18/08)
By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
Senator John McCain was not in a "cone of silence" on Saturday night while his rival, Senator Barack Obama, was being interviewed at the Saddleback Church in California.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/18/us/politics/18mccain.html?_r=1&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin
See CNN blog's "Warren: McCain did not violate 'cone of silence'": http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/18/warren-mccain-did-not-violate-cone-of-silence-2/

Dept. of pre-emptive outrage (Politico blog 8/18/08)
By Ben Smith
...McCain's camp confirms he wasn't in the cone of silence, though there was no TV in the car. (There were, presumably, blackberries; though in fact, no evidence has emerged that McCain had the (obvious!) questions early, and Warren, not McCain, made the claim that he was in a sealed room.) Meanwhile, Nicole Wallace plays the POW card to swat down the suggestion McCain cheated: "The insinuation from the Obama campaign that John McCain, a former prisoner of war, cheated is outrageous," Ms. Wallace said.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/Dept_of_preemptive_outrage.html?showall
See McCain campaign blog's "Saddleback: McCain Wins, Obama Camp Whines": http://www.johnmccain.com/mccainreport/Read.aspx?guid=86cd988c-66ce-4416-951e-489c30596ee1#

Obama slams Thomas; McCain slip may haunt (Politico 8/18/08)
By: Carrie Budoff Brown
...For one night, at least, Warren may have achieved his desired goal of comity. Neither candidate spoke critically of the other. And perhaps most tellingly, their campaign's rapid response teams fell silent for the night.
...As the candidate who often appears less at ease discussing his faith, McCain appeared comfortable as he wove bits of his religious views into his answers. He joked more often than Obama and told stories about the adoption of his 17-year-old daughter from Bangladesh and his captivity in Vietnam.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=CEB0BD8F-18FE-70B2-A8CD1332576E434D
See ThinkProgress's "McCain Jokes About His Definition Of The Rich: 'How About $5 Million?'": http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/17/mccain-defines-rich/

McCain and Obama try to navigate the politics of abortion (LA Times 8/18/08)
By Michael Finnegan
Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church draws out the candidates, who had steered clear of the contentious issue.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-abortion18-2008aug18,0,5209641.story?track=rss
See Washington Times's "Obama, McCain air moral, ethical views": http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/17/obama-mccain-air-moral-ethical-views/

Key Constituency Is at Play At Candidates' Faith Forum (Washington Post 8/17/08)
By Shailagh Murray and Perry Bacon Jr.; A01
Barack Obama and John McCain made their first joint appearance of the general election Saturday night, breaking away from the debates over national security and the economy that have dominated the campaign in recent weeks to court evangelical voters at an Orange County megachurch.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/16/AR2008081602322.html?nav=rss_email/components
LINK TO TRANSCRIPT: http://thepage.time.com/partial-transcript-of-saddleback-forum/
See "Halperin's Saddleback Forum Scorecard: Grades": http://thepage.time.com/halperins-saddleback-forum-scorecard-grades/
See "Halperin's Saddleback Forum Scorecard: McCain": http://thepage.time.com/halperins-saddleback-forum-scorecard-mccain/
See "Halperin's Saddleback Forum Scorecard: Obama": http://thepage.time.com/halperins-saddleback-forum-scorecard-obama/

Differences surface in McCain-Obama Christian forum (USA Today 8/17/08)
By Cathy Lynn Grossman
Sen. Barack Obama, frequently leaning on Bible passages, and Sen. John McCain, sharply delineating his opposition to abortion, sought to burnish their Christian credentials with voters Saturday night in a civil forum at a California megachurch.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2008-08-17-forum-experts_N.htm?csp=34
See CNN blog's "Analysis: Same tough questions, different approaches": http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/17/analysis-same-tough-questions-different-approaches/
See WSJ's "Candidates Give Preview of Presidential Debates in Church Talk": http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121892743501547243.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

McCain Comes up Big at Faith Forum (Brody File 8/17/08)
By David Brody
...Overall, I thought John McCain helped himself tremendously. The money line was the following: "I will be a pro-life President and this presidency will have pro-life policies. That's my commitment to you." Evangelicals have been waiting to hear John McCain say that for quite some time.
http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/429350.aspx

McCain's "Cross In The Dirt" Story (Atlantic Online 8/17/08)
By Andrew Sullivan
I've now heard it countless times. McCain has used what appears to be an intensely personal moment in a prison camp as a reason to vote for him in a campaign ad. As he tells it today, it was the pivotal moment in his struggle to survive in the Hanoi Hilton. And yet, in his first thorough account of his time in captivity, in 1973, the story is absent. The story is also hauntingly like that recounted by Solzhenitsen, as told in Luke Veronis, "The Sign of the Cross"
http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2008/08/mccains-cross-i.html
See DailyKos's ""Cross in the Dirt" story stolen from Solzhenitsyn": http://www.dailykos.com/story/2008/8/17/122230/161/239/569299
See HuffPo's "Is McCain Lifting Passages From Solzhenitsyn?": http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/17/is-mccain-lifting-passage_n_119453.html

McCain cites questionable story on 'evil' (Politico blog 8/17/08)
By Ben Smith
...The horrifying story that terrorists used two women with Down Syndrome to carry bombs was a sensation in February, but The New York Times later suggested it hadn't happened that way:
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/McCain_cites_questionable_story_on_evil.html?showall

Despite Request, McCain Resorted to Stock Answers at Faith Forum (CBS blog 8/17/08)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Ryan Corsaro
There was one rule evangelical pastor Rick Warren wanted to make clear about his questions to both candidates during his forum on Saturday night, and he said it more than once. "Don't give me your stump speech on these." ...John McCain, who has been deemed a "maverick" for years, played the part well and seemed not to play by Warren's guideline. Instead, he took the opportunity during the discussion, carried live by cable news networks, to stick hard to the message he's been driving across the country since running for president.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/17/politics/fromtheroad/entry4356216.shtml

Rick Warren Questions McCain (The Page 8/16/08)
The Senator sits down with Rick Warren, to answer questions similar to the ones posed to Sen. Obama. McCain did not hear the questions Warren asked Obama. First asked to name three wise people he would rely on: answers David Petraeus, John Lewis, and Meg Whitman. Says he would NOT have nominated Justices Ginsburg, Souter, Breyer or Stevens. Says his greatest moral failing was the failure of his first marriage. Gets strong audience reaction to emotional tellings of Vietnam POW stories and his position on abortion and gay marriage.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/~3/366897698/S
See McCain Camp Memo on His Support for Faith-Based Initiatives: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-camp-memo-on-his-support-for-faith-based-initiatives/
See Jonathan Martin's "A strong McCain closes with "America first"": http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/A_strong_McCain_closes_with_America_first.html?showall

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain OK with aide's lobbying past (USA Today 8/18/08)
By Matt Kelley and David JacksonPresumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain told USA TODAY on Sunday that he has no problem with his top foreign policy adviser Randy Scheunemann's past lobbying work.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-17-mccain-adviser_N.htm

John McCain aide's dual roles intersect (LA Times 8/17/08)
By Bob Drogin
Randy Scheunemann is a former lobbyist for Georgia, a country the candidate strongly supports in its crisis.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-advisor17-2008aug17,0,2107575.story?track=rss

McCain evolves into a supply-sider (Washington Times 8/18/08)
By Stephen Dinan
At a religious values forum this weekend, Sen. John McCain was asked about his biggest flip-flop of the past decade. He pointed to his newfound support for offshore drilling, but his biggest change might have come during the forum itself, when he completed his transformation from class warrior to supply-side tax cutter.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/18/mccain-evolves-into-a-supply-sider/

McCain protests NBC coverage (Politico 8/18/08)
By: Mike Allen
Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) campaign manager Rick Davis asked Sunday for a meeting with Steve Capus, the president of NBC News, to protest what the campaign called signs that the network is "abandoning non-partisan coverage of the presidential race."
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=D36EE494-18FE-70B2-A86C5574411FC5E7

McCain, Obama, Bush: A nation at war (Orlando Sentinel blog 8/18/08)
By Mark Silva
John McCain, Barack Obama and President Bush line up for the VFW.
http://weblogs.orlandosentinel.com/news/politics/blog/2008/08/mccain_obama_bush_a_nation_at.html

McCain Gets Briefing on Tropical Storm Fay (AP 8/18/08)
By PHILIP ELLIOTT
John McCain on Sunday was briefed on Tropical Storm Fay, which scuttled a political fundraiser and is threatening to reach Florida as soon as Monday. ...Speaking to a pool of reporters, he was optimistic that local and federal officials will work together if the storm strikes.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1833566,00.html
See CBS blog's "Tropical Storm Fay Forces McCain to Change Plans": http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/17/politics/fromtheroad/entry4356424.shtml
See CNN blog's "Fay beginning to impact campaign trail": http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/17/fay-beginning-to-impact-campaign-trail/
See Miami Herald blog's "McCain: Sorry kid, but there's a storm brewing": http://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2008/08/mccain-sorry-ki.html

Dems use McCain's voting record on vets issues against him (Miami Herald blog 8/17/08)
Turning to the same tactics they used two months ago when John McCain visited the Everglades, Democrats on Sunday began sniping at the GOP candidate in advance of his address to a major convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Orlando on Monday by using his record on veterans issues against him.
http://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2008/08/dems-use-mccain.html

Response to 9/11 Offers Outline of McCain Doctrine (NYT 8/17/08)
By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
Senator John McCain arrived late at his Senate office on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, just after the first plane hit the World Trade Center. "This is war," he murmured to his aides. The sound of scrambling fighter planes rattled the windows, sending a tremor of panic through the room. Within hours, Mr. McCain, the Vietnam War hero and famed straight talker of the 2000 Republican primary, had taken on a new role: the leading advocate of taking the American retaliation against Al Qaeda far beyond Afghanistan. In a marathon of television and radio appearances, Mr. McCain recited a short list of other countries said to support terrorism, invariably including Iraq, Iran and Syria.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/17/us/politics/17mccain.html?_r=1&hp=&pagewanted=all&oref=slogin

No more hugs as Obama tears into McCain (AP 8/17/08)
By BETH FOUHY
So much for hugging in church. A day after Barack Obama and John McCain exchanged an embrace during a faith forum at a California megachurch, Obama called the U.S. economy a disaster thanks to "John McCain's president, George W. Bush," and chided his Republican rival's campaign team for trying to make him look unpatriotic and weak.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5isOFwdbq0tsqatW6vJpkDRTI1gMgD92KC8F00

McCain's two favorite wise men (Politico blog 8/17/08)
McCain was asked last night at Saddleback to name three people whose wisdom he would rely upon if president. He rattled off: Rep. John Lewis, former eBay CEO Meg Whitman and Gen. David Petraeus. ... But I think it's pretty clear who his two go-to's would be. Sen's Lieberman and Graham, who are soon to visit Georgia on McCain's behalf, joined their friend at a briefing on the impending hurricane in Florida tonight.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/McCains_two_favorite_wise_men.html

Rivals Differ (a Bit) on Financial Market Rules (NYT 8/16/08)
By JACKIE CALMES
Modernizing the nation's New Deal-era defenses against financial disaster is not high among the priorities that either Barack Obama or John McCain list for the next president. But events could well plop the issue right in the middle of the winner's plate. After a string of financial scandals and crises, a quarter century of deregulation and free-market experimentation is giving way to a new round of big-government financial regulation, regardless of who captures the White House, experts say.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/16/us/politics/16regulate.html?pagewanted=print

McCain catches heat over apparent comment on Corsi's 'Obama Nation' (LA Times 8/16/08)
By Seema Mehta
Democrats say McCain is endorsing the much-criticized book after he responds to a question about it with, 'Gotta keep your sense of humor.' But aides say he misheard and was speaking of a campaign ad.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-obamabook16-2008aug16,0,2750318.story?track=rss

To Drill, or Not to Drill: Will McCain change his mind about Alaskan oil? (Weekly Standard 8/16/08*)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

by Stephen F. Hayes
*Print Date 8/25/08
Republican presidential candidate John McCain says that he's taking another look at the possibility of drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, and as part of that assessment McCain says that he plans to talk to the nation's most prominent advocate of drilling in ANWR, Alaska governor Sarah Palin.
http://www.weeklystandard.com/Utilities/printer_preview.asp?idArticle=15427&R=13BB01979E
See Jonathan Martin's "McCain still mulling ANWR": http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/McCain_still_mulling_ANWR.html?showall

McCain to crash Obama's party (Washington Times 8/16/08)
Joseph Curl
Will run ads during breaks of network DNC coverage
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/15/mccain-to-crash-obamas-party/

McCain Tackles Russia, Energy in Radio Address (The Page 8/16/08)
In his weekly message, the Republican again suggests invasion of Georgia shows Russia is becoming "a threat to the peace." Also tags Obama for offering "half measures or no measures at all" on energy. Address lacks the sharply negative tone of previous recordings.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/~3/366464828/
Link to audio: http://www.johnmccain.com/downloads/081608_english.mp3
Link to transcript: http://thepage.time.com/mccains-weekly-radio-address-3/

McCain Hits Back on DHL Deal With New TV Ad (The Page 8/16/08)
Thirty-second spot slams Obama on taxes while denying denying Obama's claim that McCain has endangered Ohio jobs. Also continues "celebrity" attack line:"Maybe the applause has gone to his head… Saying John McCain cost Ohio jobs, though it's just not true." ... Spot will air in Ohio, ad buy size yet to be determined.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/16/mccain-hits-back-on-dhl-deal-with-new-tv-ad/
Link to video of ad ("Maybe"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiDVRvzjZLA
Link to script: http://thepage.time.com/script-for-mccain-ad-maybe/

New Ads: 1, 2, 'Punch' — and Punch Back (NYT blog 8/15/08)
Between the two campaigns, three new ads have debuted over the past two days, with one from each on taxes (both focusing on Senator Barack Obama's proposals). Starting Monday, "Three Bedroom Ranch" will run nationwide on cable and during the Olympics. It offers his "economic blueprint," almost literally, in outlining his plan for the middle class as a house is being constructed.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/15/new-ads-1-2-punch/
Link to video of Obama ad ("Three Bedroom Ranch): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktlbQRQGi6Y
Link to video of McCain ad ("Taxman"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tZQRXTrRKs
Link to video of Obama Ohio ad ("Punch"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBTs6_PJjic

McCain Sides With Nevada GOP on Convention Delegation (The Page 8/16/08)
Deputy Campaign Manager Christian Ferry says in a Saturday statement: "The McCain campaign is disappointed in the decision of the contest committee and stands by the Nevada Republican Party…" Citing flaws in the selection process, a key RNC panel on Friday recommended neither of Nevada's two dueling delegations be seated at the party's national convention in September.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/~3/366928061/

Old legal feuds divided, linked McCain and ex-wife (AP 8/16/08)
An old lawsuit on record at the city courthouse reveals a moment of friction between John McCain's mother and his ex-wife. Years later, McCain and his former wife presented a united front in a lawsuit of their own. McCain, the Republican candidate for president, calls the first lawsuit a mistake and says he never authorized the second. Both legal actions were settled out of court before they went to trial.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-16-McCain-lawsuits_N.htm?csp=34

McCain Meets With T. Boone Pickens, Dodges Question About Anti-Obama Book (CBS blog 8/15/08)
By Ryan Corsaro:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

T. Boone Pickens was waiting for John McCain in a small conference room at the Aspen Meadows Resort, where the two, according to Pickens, were going to be "talking about the Pickens plan." "We're going to have a good visit," he added.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/15/politics/fromtheroad/entry4352927.shtml

McCain's, Adviser's Ties To Georgia Questioned [includes audio] (NPR "All Things Considered" 8/15/08)
by David Greene
... For McCain, the conflict between the former Soviet republic of Georgia and Russia... has provided an opportunity to stress his foreign policy credentials ... But as the week progressed, McCain began to face questions about whether he was using the crisis for political gain and about the origin of his ties to Georgia.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=93631243&ft=1&f=1102

McCain has kind words in spite of 'whiners' remark (AP 8/15/08)
By CHARLES BABINGTON
In exile from the McCain campaign since calling the U.S. "a nation of whiners," former Sen. Phil Gramm appears to be back in John McCain's good graces. McCain singled out Gramm, among others, at a dinner Thursday night honoring more than 200 people who have raised at least $100,000 for his campaign.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MCCAIN_GRAMM?SITE=INEVA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain Adviser Was Arrested For Carrying A Shotgun To Work At The Capitol (TPM 8/15/08)
By Andrew Tilghman
As if helping to plan the Iraq war wasn't troubling enough, now we learn that Randy Scheunemann, John McCain's top foreign policy adviser, has been personally arrested at the Capitol for carrying an illegal weapon.
http://tpmmuckraker.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/mccain_adviser_was_arrested.php

'McCain's mansions:' Union-label video (Orlando Sentinel blog 8/15/08)
by Jill Zuckman and Mark Silva
The AFL-CIO is sending mailers to targeted voters asking how Sen. John McCain can understand the needs of working people when he and his wife are rich. And now Brave New Films, working with the AFL-CIO and Service Employees International, plans to roll out a Web video on Monday featuring "McCain's mansions."
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/08/mccains_mansions_unionlabel_vi.html

McCain, Obama pushed pet projects in letters (Washington Times 8/15/08)
By Jim McElhatton
More than a year before launching his White House campaign, Sen. John McCain wrote a letter urging the Bush administration to set aside tens of millions of dollars to build a new port of entry in Arizona to allow more trucks to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. ...The letters from both presidential candidates, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, reveal a side of the budget process largely overshadowed by the "earmarking" practice that Mr. McCain frequently assails on the campaign trail. With increasing negativity surrounding earmarking, by which members of Congress slip pet projects into broader bills, lawmakers frequently push for projects in their home states by sending requests directly to federal agencies.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/15/mccain-obama-pushed-pet-projects-in-letters/

McCain Raises $27 Million in July (AP 8/15/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
John McCain raised $27 million in July, his largest one-month fundraising haul since clinching the Republican presidential nomination, while the Republican National Committee brought in nearly $26 million.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1833092,00.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain's New Hope (Washington Post 8/18/08)
By Michael Gerson; A11
It is now clear why Barack Obama has refused John McCain's offer of joint town hall appearances during the fall campaign. McCain is obviously better at them. ...The Candidate Shines at Saddleback Forum
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/17/AR2008081702075_pf.html

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Worlds Apart (Washington Post 8/18/08)
By Sally Quinn; A11
McCain's Clarity vs. Obama's Nuance
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/17/AR2008081702080_pf.html

Showdown at Saddleback (NYT 8/18/08)
By WILLIAM KRISTOL
While normal people were out having fun Saturday night, I was home in front of the TV. But I wasn't enjoying the Olympics. Your diligent columnist was dutifully watching Barack Obama and John McCain answer the Rev. Rick Warren's questions at Saddleback Church. Virtue is sometimes rewarded. The event was worth watching — and for me yielded three conclusions.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/18/opinion/18kristol.html?pagewanted=print

The Candidate We Still Don't Know (NYT 8/17/08)
By FRANK RICH
...So why isn't Obama romping? The obvious answer — and both the excessively genteel Obama campaign and a too-compliant press bear responsibility for it — is that the public doesn't know who on earth John McCain is. The most revealing poll this month by far is the Pew Research Center survey finding that 48 percent of Americans feel they're "hearing too much" about Obama. Pew found that only 26 percent feel that way about McCain, and that nearly 4 in 10 Americans feel they hear too little about him. ...What is widely known is the skin-deep, out-of-date McCain image.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/17/opinion/17rich.html?pagewanted=print

A Race McCain Could Win (Washington Post 8/17/08)
By George F. Will; B07
Last August, John McCain's campaign was a guttering candle, out of money but flush with half-baked ideas that were unlikely to be improved by further baking. Anyway, to have many ideas is to have too many for a campaign's concluding sprint, and McCain's revival has not been robust enough to bring him even with Barack Obama. Now McCain's rejuvenated hopes rest on his ability to recast this election, focusing it on who should lead America in a world suddenly darkened by Russia's war of European conquest.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/15/AR2008081503101_pf.html

Editorial: Team Innuendo (Philadelphia Inquirer 8/17/08)
Hillary Clinton resisted smearing Barack Obama as unpatriotic, but John McCain is showing no such reluctance. The latest person to unleash this underhanded tactic by Team McCain was none other than Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I., Conn.), the former vice-presidential nominee of the Democratic Party.
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20080817_Editorial__Team_Innuendo.html

The Export of Jobs (Washington Post 8/17/08)
Mr. Obama's remedy could hurt more workers than it helps.... BARACK OBAMA says that he would "end tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas" and blasts John McCain for refusing to condemn such loopholes. But the offshoring issue is more complicated than Mr. Obama's rhetoric suggests. Indeed, while there's no doubt that some individuals and communities are hurt by corporate decisions to shift manufacturing or other operations overseas, overall job creation may well benefit.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/16/AR2008081601768_pf.html

Empty, grandstanding talk from McCain (Boston Globe 8/17/08)
IN SPEAKING out about the armed conflict between Georgia and Russia, John McCain appears to have been acting in his own best interests and without concern about the best interests of the nation.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/letters/articles/2008/08/17/empty_grandstanding_talk_from_mccain?mode=PF

How About the Home Front? (NYT 8/16/08)
By BOB HERBERT
It's fair to say that America's mayors are not thrilled with the way the presidential campaign has unfolded so far. Domestic issues? An urban agenda? Rebuilding the nation's aging infrastructure?

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http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/16/opinion/16herbert.html?pagewanted=print

BUSH NEWS

Ties With Russia Are Reassessed (WSJ 8/18/08)

By JAY SOLOMON, NEIL KING JR. and SIOBHAN GORMAN

As the West presses Russia to withdraw its troops from Georgia, the Bush administration and its European allies are also exploring actions that could alter their post-Cold War relationship with Moscow.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121902781572548823.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Bush warns Russia over disputed Georgian provinces (AP 8/16/08)

President Bush sent a stern warning to Russia on Saturday that it cannot lay claim to two breakaway provinces in neighboring Georgia, a U.S. ally. "No room for debate on this point," the president said.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-16-bush-russia_N.htm?csp=34

OTHER TOP NEWS

Russia Vows Pullout as Troops Dig In (Washington Post 8/18/08)

By Jonathan Finer; A01

Russia pledged Sunday to begin removing its troops from Georgia on Monday, but the streets of this occupied city reflected a broadening, not a waning, of Russia's military incursion.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/17/AR2008081702586_pf.html

See Bloomberg's "Russia to Begin Pulling Troops From Georgia Today": http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aSjMT.V5zr8Y&refer=home

Musharraf says he will resign Pakistan presidency (CNN 8/18/08)

By Reza Sayah and Saeed Ahmed

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf announced his resignation Monday after weeks of pressure to relinquish power. Musharraf told the nation in a televised address that he would step down -- nearly nine years after he seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999.

http://edition.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/08/18/musharraf.address/index.html

Republicans Are Skeptical Of Pelosi's Offshore-Drilling Proposal (WSJ 8/18/08)

By IAN TALLEY

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's proposal Saturday to make expanded offshore drilling part of a new Democratic energy bill got a skeptical reaction from Republicans, who said they suspect it will contain other provisions unacceptable to the minority. The result may be that Congress remains deadlocked on the potent election issue.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121889978439847053.html?mod=todays_us_page_one

Oil: What the drilling advocates say (CNNMoney.com 8/17/08)

By Steve Hargreaves

Supporters say there could be much more oil offshore than the government predicts as they fight for access to new supplies to lower the price of oil.

http://money.cnn.com/2008/08/13/news/economy/offshore_drilling/index.htm?postversion=2008081718

Soldiers: Mold infests Okla. barracks for wounded (USA Today 8/17/08)

By Gregg Zoroya,

Mold infests the barracks that were set up here a year ago for wounded soldiers after poor conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center triggered a systemwide overhaul, soldiers say. Twenty soldiers, who spoke to USA TODAY early last week, said their complaints about mold and other problems went unheeded for months. They also said they had been ordered not speak about the conditions at Fort Sill.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2008-08-17-mold_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

DNC raises $28 million in July (Politico blog 8/15/08)

By Ben Smith

As wealthy Obama backers start writing big checks to the DNC, the committee and its joint fundraising committees raised $27.7 last month, and has slightly more than that on hand. The DNC says it's the first time since October, 2004 it's outraised the RNC.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/DNC_raises_28_million_in_July.html?showall

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TV remains top source of news even as online grows (AP 8/17/08)
By JEREMY HERRON
Fewer Americans are reading newspapers and are instead getting their news online, but television remains the leading source of news in the country, according to a survey released Sunday.
http://news.wired.com/dynamic/stories/N/NEWS_CONSUMPTION_SURVEY?SITE=WIRE&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-08-17-18-36-16

POLLS

McCain pulls into a tie in new polling (Washington Times 8/18/08)
Donald Lambro
One week before Democrats gather to nominate Sen. Barack Obama to be president, polls show the Illinois lawmaker locked in a dead heat with Republican Sen. John McCain, who now leads among white voters overall and has gained among Republicans, evangelicals and white working-class people. Although the Pew Research Center survey was largely conducted before the military hostilities precipitated by Russia's Aug. 8 invasion of neighboring Georgia, its findings underscored the mostly favorable reviews that defense analysts gave to Mr. McCain's response to the crisis.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/18/mccain-pulls-into-a-tie-in-new-polling/

McCain reopens the national security gap (Politico 8/18/08)
By: David Paul Kuhn
Less than two years after Democrats finally bridged the decades-long gap between the parties on national security issues, Republicans have opened it right back up — a shift likely tied to the party's new standard-bearer John McCain and the perception of improvements in Iraq. The reemergence of the national security gap comes amid the first headline-grabbing world conflict of the 2008 campaign — the Russian invasion of Georgia that highlights the potential for a dramatic military event to upend the political landscape, and likely aid McCain. July's NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll found that three in four Americans believe McCain can "handle" the role of commander in chief, while only 19 percent said he "cannot," compared to a 50 percent to 42 percent split for Obama.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=D28C985A-18FE-70B2-A8CB9DA2021E12AE

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To: Friend <JohnPodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/19/2016 11:05:54 PM
Subject: Townhall Daily - March 20 - Derek Hunter, Ken Blackwell, Debra J. Saunders, Bruce Bialosky, Paul Jacob and More

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Christine Rousselle



John Kasich: Republican Senators Should Sit and Meet With Obama's SCOTUS Pick
Justin Holcomb



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Political Cartoons



Bearing Arms

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Tastes Like John Browning: Images of Kurt Cobain's Shotgun Released. | Bob Owens

When A Sandy Hook Family Lies About AR-15s | Bob Owens

Gunsite Academy: Defense Against Street Crimes | Bob Owens

Shooting is a Perishable Skill | Jenn Jacques

Political News

Lawyer Amal Clooney talks human rights in Mideast speech | AP News

IS suffers blows in Iraq, Syria but still launches attacks | AP News

Stuck in hostels, Spain's new wave of politicians lament deadlock | Reuters News

Benin rivals face off in hotly contested presidential run-off | Reuters News

Spain: Some killed, injured in bus crash on coastal highway | AP News

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/4/2014 8:49:25 AM
Subject: Mexico: Electoral Reform Threatens the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples

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Mexico: Electoral Reform Threatens the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples

Renata Bessi and Santiago Navarro F.: The political-electoral reform recently approved by Mexico's National Congress is a step backward for indigenous towns in Mexico. It does not recognize the legitimacy of their traditional electoral procedures, nor does it guarantee their self-determination.

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Israel and Palestine Can Never Be Secure Until Both Are Secure

Michael Nagler, Truthout: When Israelis and Palestinians understand that their own security depends on the security of the other, there will be no more room for violence. Awareness needs to be built of those delivering this message.

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The Inside Baseball of Football Players' Right to Unionize at Northwestern

Ellen Dannin, Truthout: Big Ten football is a big moneymaker, and its players have organized a union to protect themselves and give themselves a fair share of the money their hard work produces.

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Latest G-7 Declaration Against Russia Over Ukraine Heightens War Threat in Eastern Europe

Roger Annis, Truthout: The G-7 statement expressing concern over the "ongoing threat" by the Russian government to the "territorial integrity" of Ukraine is a coded demand that the Russian government police the autonomy movement and pressure it to surrender.

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Overcoming Continuous Nuclear Dangers and Japan Prime Minister Abe's Unconstitutional Coup

Joseph Gerson, Truthout: Despite the dangers of a

BuzzFlash

Global Warming Caused by the Transportation Sector Could Devastate It

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: As the worldwide transportation industry seeks to maximize profits, it may be racing toward its own demise.

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A Toxic Algae Scare Has Left 500,000 People in Ohio Without Drinking Water

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Some Facts That Poverty-Deniers Don't Want to Hear

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nuclear war by great powers on display in Ukraine, the political coup in Japan that has shredded its Constitution, and the nuclear powers' apparent lack of commitment to disarmament, progress on abolishing nuclear weapons is being made.

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The United States' Farm-Grown Terrorism

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Meat producers and sellers across the country need to say "no" to more superbugs. No animals on factory farms should ever be given antibiotics, unless diagnosed as sick by a veterinarian. We have a right to eat food that's not going to kill us.

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Dean Baker | Inflation Hawks: The Job Killers at the Fed

Dean Baker, Truthout: Many in the financial industry couldn't care less about unemployment. They don't want to risk any inflation that could erode the value of their wealth. Their voices are being heard at the top levels of the Fed.

Read the Article

Rania Khalek | Israel Uses Palestinians as Human Shields but US Lawmakers Condemn Hamas

Rania Khalek, Electronic Intifada: Both houses of the US Congress are considering a resolution that condemns Hamas for using human shields despite not having any evidence to prove Hamas is employing this tactic.

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Taking a Bite Out of Overtime Abuse

Jenny Brown, Labor Notes: UPS, with its growing package business, isn't refusing to hire because it's hurting. On the contrary, business is booming. Like other chronic overtime abusers, such as lucrative television production companies and Verizon, with its fat franchise agreements, UPS does it because it can.

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Indigenous Seed Savers Gather in the Andes, Agree to Fight Climate Change With Biodiversity

Erin Sagen, YES! Magazine: As climate change makes it more difficult to practice agriculture in their ancestral homelands, indigenous communities are exchanging seeds in hopes of finding the hardiest varieties.

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On the News With Thom Hartmann: Lawmakers, Lobbyists Are Conspiring Against Clean Energy, and More

In today's On the News segment: Lawmakers and lobbyists are conspiring against clean energy; according to a new study, man's best friend gets jealous of other dogs that divert their owners' attention; Greenpeace wants LEGO to break up with Shell Oil; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Tom Engelhardt | The Rise to Power of the National Security State

Tom Engelhardt, TomDispatch: For the "Fourth Branch," this remains the age of impunity. Hidden in a veil of secrecy, bolstered by secret law and secret

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courts, surrounded by its chosen corporations and politicians, its power to define policy and act as it sees fit in the name of American safety is visibly on the rise.

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From: Creamer2@aol.com
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
can@americansunitedforchange.org
Date: 10/10/2009 9:29:36 AM
Subject: [big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer -- Obama's Nobel Peace Prize

Obama's Nobel Prize Is Really a Tribute to American Voters

President Obama's Nobel Peace Prize is more than anything else a tribute to America's voters. In making the award, the Nobel Committee said, "The question we have to ask is, who has done the most in the previous year to enhance peace in the world, and who has done more than Barack Obama?"

Of course the most important thing Obama did to enhance peace in the world, was to win the election – and once elected, to chart a course for American foreign policy that is fundamentally different, in both substance and tone, from that of the Bush-Cheney years.

Obama greeted the news of the award by saying it was a "call to action," and there is no doubt that it creates an even higher expectation for him to live up to in the years ahead. But more than anything else, this award celebrates the fact that American voters chose a President committed to progressive values – committed to strengthening international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples instead of pre-emptive war and the Neo-Con theories of unilateral action.

In its statement, the Committee said he had "created a new climate in international politics…. Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future." It continued, "his diplomacy is founded in the concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world's population." That is, in other words, a true commitment to democracy.

To fully appreciate the importance of Obama's election to the prospects of peace in the world, return with me to the thrilling days of yesteryear when Bush and Cheney still stalked the political earth. Think of the damage that they did in eight short years – to world peace, and to the respect and power of the United States.

* A disastrous pre-emptive war in Iraq that destroyed America's reputation, drained our treasure, cost the lives and limbs of tens of thousands of young Americans, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi's, displaced millions more, and strengthened Iran.

* Neglect for the economic, political and military needs of the struggle in Afghanistan – leaving us with no truly good options there eight years after 9/11.

* Demonization of the United Nations that went so far that they appointed a U.N. Ambassador more interested in destroying the institution than using it for diplomacy.

* Virtual neglect of the festering problem of peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

* Abandoning the Clinton policy of engagement with North Korea that had prevented that country's development of nuclear weapons. That worked so well that North Korea got those weapons on the Bush-Cheney watch.

* Abandoning the Geneva Conventions, due process of law and the shared values of the civilized world, and instead embracing torture, rendition, the debasement of prisoners at Abu Graib, and detention without trial.

* For all of their tough talk about strengthening our military, they stretched it to the breaking point, so it became more difficult for America to take military action if it really were needed to maintain world peace.

* And for those who love America, one of their worst sins was that Bush and Cheney turned our country into one that polls showed – rightly or wrongly – many people in the world believed was the "greatest threat to world peace." Astounding.

The Nobel Committee gave the prize to Barack Obama because he gave the world hope that its most powerful, wealthy nation would once again provide humankind with inspiration and leadership that can be trusted and admired.

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Since his election, President Obama has launched a worldwide campaign to eliminate all nuclear weapons – recognizing that controlling the proliferation of nuclear weapons is a practical impossibility unless we work to eliminate them from the globe. He has rededicated America to cope with the massive threat of climate change. He has reset our relationship with the Muslim world. He has rededicated America to the world's international institutions. And, he has begun to use all of the tools available to our country – including diplomacy – to create a more just and peaceful planet.

All of this is just the beginning of a long journey. But at least we have once again begun that journey down the right road. In and of itself that has made America safer, restored our respect in the world, and has begun to build a foundation for peace in the world over the long term.

Americans may not fully appreciate how completely they changed our relations to the rest of the world when they voted to elect Barack Obama last November. The rest of the world does. We should consider Barack Obama's Nobel peace prize as a giant gesture of gratitude.

Robert Creamer is a long time political organizer and strategist, and author of the recent book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com.

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <ewhitbeck@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/15/2008 5:22:34 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 05/15/08

Main Topics: McCain's 2013 Speech, Bush's Remarks Before the Knesset, The Republican Brand

Summary of Shift: Bush's speech before the Knesset was a major subject today. His remarks on appeasement elicited responses from Obama, Clinton and McCain. McCain's speech in Ohio envisioning a world at the end of his first term took up the remainder of the media's time drawing commentary from all sides. Disasters, natural and manmade, received residual attention.

Highlights

1. McCain's vision for the future
   a. McCain's speech contains Bush-like optimism
   b. Olbermann looks at McCain's speech point-by-point
   c. Cafferty refers to McCain's proposals as "political crap," suggests they're rosy but light on details
   d. McCain denies that he's proposing a timeline
   e. Speech perhaps an attempt for McCain to minimize the age issue
2. Bush's Knesset appeasement remarks
   a. Biden counters Bush and McCain's appeasement attacks
   b. Charlie Black discusses Bush-Obama "appeasement" flap
   c. Bush doesn't leave politics at the water's edge
   d. Zakaria suggests "bellicose" McCain is the same as--if not worse than--Bush today and in their foreign policy
   e. Hume: McCain echoed Bush in swipe at Obama
3. The Republican Brand
   a. Republicans on the whole not distancing themselves from Bush
   b. McCain should try to separate himself from the brand, not save it
   c. Resentment of George Bush bleeds over to McCain
   d. McCain finds himself closer to Bush as he pursues the McDifferent line
   e. McCain's attempts to distance himself from Bush are more stylistic than substantive
4. McCain and Bush raise Obama concerns among Jewish voters
5. McCain's age more of a problem with older voters
6. *Newsweek* runs into trouble for non-pro-McCain articles
7. Hagee apologizes but remarks remain offensive

Clips

Highlight #1

CNN Panel Reacts to McCain's Speech, Discuss Timetables, Bush-like Optimism (CNN 05/15/08 8:24pm)

CAMPBELL BROWN: […] McCain has been adamant that there would be no timelines for getting out of Iraq. But today it basically sounded like troops are out by 2013. […] How can that not be a timetable?

TARA WILLIAMS: […] Well it's not a timetable. You could argue that it is a timetable, but that's—I think, he's not putting it down on paper, he's saying this is a vision of what I see could happen. Look at the tone of his speech. […] There are a lot of lofty things there that we'd all like to see. I think it's trying to lift our spirits right now. We're in a down period right now, lot of frustration. He's trying to lift the spirit of Americans, the same way George Bush did when he first came into office, inherited a recession, 9/11, corporate scandals. And say, listen, we can get through this, we're gonna push ahead. And the only thing about whether this will come back to haunt him is that he hasn't locked down anything concrete, […] he hasn't said anything tangible. It's a rosy picture of where we'd like to be.

[…]

MICHAEL CROWLEY: It's a well-worn theory of American politics that optimism sells, optimism works. […] And look, what other choice does McCain have? He can't promise to continue Bush's policies, so he's gotta make an

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omelet out of broken eggs and say look things are so bad I'm gonna get us back to the way things were before they were that bad. […] When you look especially at the domestic agenda, it really does seem like a fantasy because McCain is not going to have a Republican Congress.
[…]
ED SCHULTZ: Can I play the violin music with John McCain on this? The country's not with McCain on Iraq! He's got an image problem. He's a warmonger […] And now he's trying to reinvent himself like hey! We're actually gonna have a timetable, and 2013 is what we're looking at. The fact is, this is the same guy that has called Democrats on the carpet for possible surrender, for cut-and-run, for appeasement—he's gone right down the list. The problem is you can't trust John McCain. The American people aren't thinking about 2013, they're thinking about 2009. Theyr'e thinking about $12billion a month and the loss of life, and he has no end in sight, he has no plan in sight. It's just a dart board, it's a guessing game. […] It's a sad foreign policy. It's more Bush.

BROWN: […] More generally, I mean, the speech was all rhetoric. It's not like he talked in any detail about how he'd do any of this. And he's always criticizing Obama for doing nothing but providing rhetoric.
[…]
SCHULTZ: Then why don't you get us out of it?! McCain offers no exit strategy whatsoever to get us out of it. That's the bottom line. It's more Bush. It's more of the same. There's no getting out of Iraq with John McCain. You can't trust him on it. He is a warmonger!

McCain's 2013 Speech Point-By-Point (MSNBC 05/15/08 8:50pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: There will still have been no terrorist attacks since 9/11. The war in Iraq is won. Osama bin Laden is dead, or in custody. The world food crisis is over. The economy is growing robustly. Kids are smarter, and thinner. All over, America's problems are already solved or being solved . . . Sen. McCain's vision of Bush's third term. I'm sorry, of his first term . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: It's important that the candidates who seek to lead the country after the Bush administration to find their objectives and what they plan to do and what they plan to achieve. Not with vague language but with clarity.

OLBERMANN: What followed from Sen. Dole, I'm sorry, Sen. McCain was a twenty minute wish-list for the next four years with absolutely no specifics on just how he might achieve any of it.

[. . .]

OLBERMANN: Maintaining a military presence in Iraq. Meaning permanent bases, so we could stay there for a hundred years after he spent so much time insisting that that was not his plan?

[. . .]

OLBERMANN: As to the economy:

JOHN MCCAIN: The alternate minimum tax is being phased out with relief provided first to middle-income families.

OLBERMANN: That would be the same alternate minimum tax proposal phase out that *Newsweek* points out would cost as much as $1.6 trillion dollars in ten years. And those middle class families? To McCain that means people earning more than $200,000 a year.

[. . .]

JOHN MCCAIN: . . . congress has not sent me an appropriations bill containing earmarks for the last three years.

OLBERMANN: Those would be the same earmarks that paid for the Jersey City Liberty Science Center in New Jersey, the Ferry in Gee's Bend, Alabama and the Naval Air Station Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida all stops on Sen. McCain's current campaign swing.

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[. . .]

JOHN MCCAIN: Healthcare has become more accessible to more Americans than at any time in history. . .

OLBERMANN: Of course the McCain healthcare plan takes away the tax break given to those who buy insurance from their employer meaning the number of Americans who might be forced to find new insurance will be 158 million. And in pushing people towards individual insurance he leaves the 56 million people who have chronic conditions, like his own, vulnerable to the whims of the insurance companies.

In Speech Laying Out Vision for His First Term, McCain Sounds Like McSame, Lacks Details (CNN 05/15/08 6:16PM)
WOLF BLITZER: If you listen to his speech, if you read his speech, Jack, he paints a very beautiful picture in the year 2013.

JACK CAFFERTY: All we have to do is follow the Yellow Brick Road, right? And we'll get to some pla— You know, I hope he can do it. That'd be great. I'd love to see Osama bin Laden dead and democracy in Iraq and all the troops home and the rest of the things he talked about. The devil, of course, is in the details. And he didn'texpel out exactly how we're going to do that. An earlier piece on this show said that there's been no actionable intelligence on the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden since Tora Bora, which was a number of years ago. But I wish him well. […]

JEFFREY TOOBIN: I think it's an honorable way to run for President. […] I think the Iraq stuff is very difficult because if you listen to what he said, it sounded almost exactly what George Bush has—like what George Bush said 2 years ago, 3 years ago, 5 years ago; and we appear to be no closer to that goal. So it will remind people of how the promises about Iraq have not been fulfilled. But I think McCain does deserve credit for putting himself out on the line.

CAFFERTY: […] Political promises are a dime a dozen. […] The public's up to their eyeballs in broken promises. This garbage about Iraq is the same bill of goods that we've been sold by the Bush administration since we invaded that country: 'we'll be greeted as liberators,' 'we'll set up a functioning democracy, all good will come to the Middle East, they'll pay for the war with their oil. It's garbage! It hasn't happened, it ain't gonna happen. The tribal animosities that fuel the violence in that part of the world date back centuries! They are not gonna adopt a Western-style democracy next year or in 2013 or 100 years from now. So you know, it's just more political crap!

Cameron Reports: McCain Denies That He's Proposing a Timetable; Shows Temper, Frustration with Press (FNC 05/15/08 6:09pm)
CARL CAMERON: On his campaign bus, McCain repeatedly denied that predicting that most troops will have been welcomed home and the Iraq War will have been won amounts to a timetable.

[begin video clip]
JOHN MCCAIN: I'm not putting a date on it.
[end clip]

CAMERON: After reporters asked him basically the same question 11 times, McCain grew impatient.

[begin video clip]
JOHN MCCAIN: I'll try to repeat again exactly what I just said. And I will repeat it over and over again. I'll be glad to do that for you there. I believe that the surge is succeeding. I believe that victory is coming about.
[end video clip]

CAMERON: Behind the scenes, the McCain campaign is becoming increasingly frustrated with mainstream media coverage. For years, McCain's criticism of Republicans—and willingness to talk about it with reporters a lot—made him something of a media darling. But now that he's criticizing Democrats and principally Barack Obama, the tone has changed dramatically, and Mr. Straight Talk is no longer finding the press as friendly nor willing to cut him the slack it once was.

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Krauthammer Suggests Speech Was Attempt to Minimize Age Issue for McCain (FNC 05/15/08 6:53pm)
CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER: Look this speech, which was a great speech, is not about Iraq. It's not about education. It's not about health care. All of which he summarized well. It's about the age issue. What he did is he frames it in a way—he speaks about the year 2013. He knows that Americans remember that Reagan in the second term in the end looked weak—and afterwards he developed Alzheimers—and McCain […] doesn't want Americans thinking of him at 80. He wants Americans thinking of him in the first term: he's strong, vigorous, active right now, and plausibly will be for the next 4 years. So he frames all of this within the 4 years. He doesn't announce he's only going to have one term—that would be a disaster, he'd be a lame duck. But he's implying in that speech—you've got all kinds of hints in that speech about not worring about reelection. On the day I'm sworn in until the day I leave office, I want to accomplish all this. He's talking about a frame of time, which is a way to blunt the age issue, which is a serious issue. It can't be eliminated, but I think this is a way to at least minimize it.

Highlight #2
Biden and Matthews Deflate McCain and Bush's Double-Team of Barack (MSNBC 5/15/08 5:10pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: [John McCain] responds to what President Bush said, it sounds like they're doing an alley-oop play . . . they're working together because here's Sen. McCain basically underlining the shot against Barack.

JOHN MCCAIN: He does bring up an issue we'll be discussing with the American people. And that is, why does Barack Obama . . . want to sit down with a state sponsor of terrorism? What does he want to talk about with Ahmadinejad who said that Israel is a skinking corpse, who said that he wants to wipe Israel off the map, who's sending the most explosive devices into Iraq, killing Americans? What does he want to talk about with him?

MATTHEWS: Well it seems like it's alley-oop play in the NBA, Senator, the president threw the ball up near the basket and John McCain put it in . . .

JOE BIDEN: I'll tell you what he wants to talk about. He wants to talk about the same thing Secretary of Defense Gates wants to talk about. He wants to talk about the same thing that Condi Rice wants to talk about. Both of whom are saying we should be talking. . . and since when does a president or John McCain think that "no" does not exist in the vocabulary of an American president. Talking doesn't mean you agree. Why would you talk? You would talk to enhance America's interest and change behavior. . . the same reason why the President of the United States is . . . talking with . . . Kim Jong-Il, the same reason he corresponded with . . . Qaddaffi who we labeled a terrorist in a terrorist state. Why? To stop their conduct. I find this so disappointing . . .

MATTHEWS: It seems to me that a couple of times in history we failed to talk to our enemies and we caused ourselves big trouble. We didn't talk to the head of North Korea when Atchinson suggested that the line of defense didn't include North and South Korea. We did make a mistake when April Glasby talked to Saddam Hussein and didn't tell him we'd fight for Kuwait. It seems to me that there examples in the past of when you oughta talk to the bad guys and tell them where the line is drawn.

JOE BIDEN: There's a great quote from . . . President John Kennedy . . . he said, "We should never negotiate out of fear but we should never fear to negotiate." . . . tell me how as President of the United States you say we should be in full-blown direct discussions with North Korea, a proliferator of nuclear technology . . . , who have missile technology and nuclear capability, how can we talk with them and negotiate with them and say it is appeasement to even attempt to broach a discussion with the Iranians . . .

Charlie Black Discusses Bush-Obama 'Appeasement' Flap, McCain's "Optimistic" Vision for America (FNC 05/15/08 5:11pm)
BILL HEMMER: […] Here's the Obama response to McCain backing up George Bush from earlier today: […] "It is the height of hypocrisy for John McCain to deliver a lofty speech about civility and bipartisanship in the morning and then embrace George Bush's disgraceful political attack in the afternoon." Your chance to react to that now, Charlie.

CHARLIE BLACK: Well you know the Obama campaign is in a bad way today. The President made a speech, he

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didn't say anything about Barack Obama. But if the shoe fits, wear it. They obviously reacted and said the shoe fit them and got into a fight with the President. Now of course the President is right. And of course Senator McCain is right that when Senator Obama said that he would meet with Ahmadinejad without pre-conditions, head-of-state to head-of-state, that that was naive and inexperienced and showed a lack of judgment about foreign policy. Ms. Rice was just trying to change their position and say there would be conditions and other preparations made, but that's not what the candidate said and it's not what's on their website. And it just shows their lack of judgment and experience, and the more he wants to talk about it the better.

HEMMER: […] Sen McCain had a 30-minute speech in Columbus, Ohio. Lays out his vision of what the world would like like after four years in the white house. Watch here on Iraq, first.

[clip of McCain]

HEMMER: So that's a big list […] Is that a platform or is that what Democrats call a wish list?

BLACK: Well, here's what it is. Senator McCain believes that candidates for president should present their vision of the future and then lay out specific policies of how they would achieve that vision. Senator McCain has been laying out detail-specific policies for a year and a half: national security, foreign policy, economic policy, health care. What he did today is to say: here is my vision, the policies I have outlined if I get cooperation from congress and we can work in a bipartisan fashion, this will be the result. this is what America will look like after four years of my presidency. i think it's exactly the kind of optimistic vision that the American people are looking for.

HEMMER: You know, when a candidate lays out a speech like this, you hope to get a lot of air time and a lot of headlines. did the news out of Jerusalem and what happened within the Democratic Party and Barack Obama knock some of these headlines off the front pages today, Charlie?

BLACK: Well, I don't think so. Fox and a couple of your competitors covered the entire speech live this morning, so we're happy about that. And we're still talking about it. But this vision speech by john McCain will have lasting effect. Americans will be reading it, thinking about it. They will understand where he wants to take the country, the hopeful optimistic vision that he can achieve and they will be comparing it to Senator Obama or Senator Clinton who only think things are bad and getting worse and are offering a very cynical pessimistic view of the future. We're optimistic and hopeful.

Bush Doesn't Leave Politics at the Water's Edge (MSNBC 05/15/08 8:30pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: He'll take Bush at his word that he did not mean Sen. Obama. That does not mean however that he himself will not attack Sen. Obama in the exact same way, raising him a Neville Chamberlin.

JOHN MCCAIN: I will debate this issue with Sen. Obama throughout this campaign. I believe in peace through strength. And, peace through strength is the way that we have succeeded in the past. And yes there have been appeasers in the past and the President is exactly right. One of them was named Neville Chamberlin.

OLBERMANN: Neville Chamberlin, who, like Sen. McCain was a conservative . . . what happened to the leave your differences at the border US policy that they threw down on President Carter like a ton of bricks when he went abroad and criticized the government. Why does Bush get to get away with blatant partisanship, and historical revisionism by the way, and, I don't know, get allowed back in the country?

DANA MILBANK: I suspect that the Justice Department has drafted some opinion saying that just as the president is exempt from the Geneva Accords, he is exempt from the politics at the water's edge thing.

Zakaria Suggests "Bellicose" McCain is "Doubling Down on Every Bad Bed that George Bush Has Made" (CNN 5/15/08 5:41pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Here's how John McCain reacted today to what the President said in Jerusalem. [Rolls video clip of McCain on the bus] He was—he minced no words at all. What do you think about that?

FAREED ZAKARIA: […] It is again ahistorical. […] Most recently, let's remember that Gen David Petraeus has

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talked to the Sunni insurgents and terrorists who were killing Americans only months earlier. And that a large part of the success of the surge has been the willingness of Petraeus and the American military to talk to the people who they once called terrorists and insurgents.

ZAKARIA: McCain gave a speech in which he said that the United States should mount a campaign to kick Russia out of the G8, to then expand the G8 […] to include Brazil and India but not China. And it struck me that this policy of effectively drawing a line and creating a kind of new Cold War—between the United States on one hand and China and Russia—was really unprecedented. No had ever proposed something like this before.
[…]
BLITZER: So it would be a resumption of the Cold War, that's what you're saying?

ZAKARIA: It would be a resumption of the Cold War, except this time with the economy that's going 3 times as fast as the United States- in China's case. And in Russia's case, with one of the largest oil producers in the world.
[…]
BLITZER: It sounds like you believe McCain doesn't have—isn't on board this vision that you have. But the Democratic candidates[…]—do they understand what's going on?

ZAKARIA: Obama seems to understand what's going on. […] McCain, I fear, while a very intelligent man who I have a lot of respect for, has kind of reverted to a very bellicose foreign policy that seems to be doubling down on every bad bet that George Bush has made.

Hume: McCain Echoed Bush in Swipe at Obama (FNC 05/15/08 5:04pm)
BRIT HUME: […] John McCain obviously thought this was a good fight for his side to have, which is why he, after days of trying to distance himself from President Bush on a number of issues, jumped in essentially on the same side as President Bush today.

Highlight #3
Republicans on the Whole not Distancing Themselves from Bush (MSNBC 05/15/08 8:41pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: Ok, to the point of McCain . . . Sen. McCain would presumably be unhappy that he was bigfooted here by President Bush on this of all topics, then why, you know, sort of, throw your chips in with him, calling Obama an appeaser and now eliminating any chance that this is not about Obama by throwing in Neville Freakin' Chamberlin . . . McCain might've been better served by saying, "I don't know who George Bush is," wouldn't he?

RACHAEL MADDOW: I think though that the Republicans surprise us over and over again by the degree that they do not distance themselves from George W. Bush. It's kind of the constant political common wisdom and it has been since George Bush's approval ratings went south a very long time ago. That kind of for other Republicans to succeed they really need to divorce themselves from George W. Bush and run as an anti-George Bush Republican. We haven't seen any successful Republican effort to do that. Everybody keeps saying that they will start doing that but we're only seeing John McCain do that on things that are essentially style points. Saying, I promise that I'll have lots of press conferences, I promise I will admit my mistakes, I promise that you can buy eco-friendly t-shirts from my website. It's style points. They stick together on the big issues. None of them have yet thrown Bush under the bus.

The Struggling Republican Brand (MSNBC 05/14/08 5:38pm)
DAVID SHUSTER: Today in Columbus Ohio John McCain delivered his latest effort to rebrand the Republican party and create separation from President Bush. First, McCain vowed to end the Iraq war in under five years. Under his vision:

JOHN MCCAIN: By January 2013, Americans welcome home most of the servicemen and women. The United States maintains a military presence in there, but a much smaller one and it does not play a direct combat role.

SHUSTER: Gone, of course, was any talk of a hundred year commitment. Second, McCain promised to change the Republican White House governing style.

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MCCAIN: I will ask Democrats to serve in my administration. My administration will set a new standard for transparency and accountability. I will hold weekly press conferences.

SHUSTER: McCain even pledged to let members of congress question him the same way the British House of Commons does with Great Britain's Prime Minister.

[. . .]

MCCAIN: When we make errors, I'll confess them readily and explain what we intend to do to correct them.

SHUSTER: McCain's efforts to change perceptions about Republican leadership and acknowledge public concerns about the duration of the Iraq War come at a crucial time. Thanks largely to voter frustrations over Iraq, fears about the sputtering US economy and anger over high gas prices. President Bush's disapproval rating has reached 71%. That's the highest disapproval rating of any president in modern history. Higher even than Richard Nixon. And Republicans in congress are getting crushed. Tuesday night marked the third straight special election where a strong Republican district was won by a Democrat.

[. . .]

SHUSTER: McCain may find it easier to separate from the Republican brand than to save it. Still, efforts like today bring their own problems. McCain's pledged to get out of Iraq by 2013 is the kind of declaration that he used to attack, raising new questions and putting McCain on the defensive.

REPORTER: You're not setting a date but, you're predicting it'll be by 2013.

MCCAIN: H-,h-,how many times can I say—

REPORTER: There was a specific date in the speech you just gave.

MCCAIN: I said by the end of my first term.

SHUSTER: Democrats charge that McCain is now engaged in the same kind of word games as President Bush. It's a reminder that for all the Republican efforts to create a new image, Democrats are just as focused on trying to make sure that the current image of a GOP marching in lock-step with President Bush stays the same . . .

McCain needs to Distance Himself not only from Bush but the Republican Brand Also (MSNBC 05/15/08 5:41pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Bob [Herberts], it seems to me that he was cauterizing the wound there. Hundred year war? No. We'll end in 2013. Very clearly a mathematical correction to a mathematical problem.

BOB HERBERTS: I'm getting hints here of a little bit of triangulation going on with McCain, jumping on some of these Democratic issues, maybe looking for an end game in terms of the war. He's out there talking about global warming. He went down south and kicked off a little bit of a poverty tour. It's very interesting, the way he's running. And probably smart.

[. . .]

TUCKER CARLSON: Nixon '68. Peace with honor. Of course. He's the one guy who can do it. Look, no one's going to question his patriotism, of course. No one's going to question his knowledge of military matters. No one's going to question his commitment to winning the Iraq war. He's the perfect vessel for this message . . . which is, "Only I can do it in a way which makes you proud of America." . . .

MATTHEWS: Well, is he going to be like Nixon going to China, DeGaulle ending up the war in Algeria, is that what he's offering? A dramatic shift? Or is he offering a pretense of that? Is he going to change Bush policy or not?

CARLSON: He's offering what Nixon offered in 1968 . . . the implied message was, "You know the war's not

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going well but you're not with the long haired freaks who want to embarrass America."

MATTHEWS: Nixon was very smart, he said we need new leadership . . . let me ask you about this rebrand . . .

HERBERTS: . . . when I was out in Pennsylvania for the primary, I was really surprised, I was talking about Hillary vs. Obama and talking to these blue collar workers . . . and spontaneously, this vehement hostility to George Bush would enter the conversation . . . and what I thought was especially interesting . . .is that that was bleeding over into McCain and so many of them said that McCain would just continue Bush's policies. That's just a knee-jerk feeling that they have and that can't be a good thing.

MATTHEWS: The fact that the President jumped in, apparently on his side today, with regard to appeasement and dealing with Ahmadinejad. I mean you don't want to be the Doublemint Twins if you're McCain, do you? With President Bush?

CARLSON: No. It was actually McCain I believe jumped in and second President Bush.

MATTHEWS: Yeah, he joined him.

CARSLON: Right. He compared any effort to talk to our enemies abroad to Chamberlin's efforts to appease Hitler or whatever. Invoking the dread Hitler analogy which is never appropriate in any circumstance in my view.

As McCain Persues McDifferent he Finds Himself Closer to Bush (MSNBC 05/15/08 5:55pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: . . . You know, this seems to be working at cross purposes, the Republicans are generally more organized than the Democrats but today you have John McCain trying to separate himself from the very unpleas-, unpopular war in Iraq by saying he'll get us out of there by 2013 in large part. Obviously trying to get rid of that 100-years comment he made a while ago. And at the same time he jumps in and supports President Bush's attack on Barack Obama, sort of creating a Doublemint twin situation on the Republican side.

How Can McCain Distance Himself from Bush? (MSNBC 05/15/08 6:45pm)
DAVID GREGORY: You can tell from McCain's language who he's talking about when he says he will admit to mistakes readily.

RICHARD WOLFE: Yeah, look, he's obviously got a personal contrast with President Bush and a tone of speaking which is different that President Bush's. But if he really does want to go after the national security agenda as opposed to the economic one, then he's going to have to stress something different. Not going after Iran, do the warmongering thing, say he's tougher than Obama on Iran. He's actually got to talk about diplomacy in a way that Bush never did. If he can tie that to one of his core messages, which is about national service . . . then he has an agenda on foreign policy which would sound and look different than President Bush's.

GREGORY: . . . if he can combine stalwart support, even for the war in Iraq . . . and couple that with the morality stances he took on issues like torture, that could be a winning combination.

RACHAEL MADDOW: Except he lost . . . the torture argument when he voted for the CIA being allowed to continue to use those other tactics recently . . . I tend to agree with Richard on this, I think, but slightly from a different angle. I think that McCain will not really divorce himself from Bush on substantive issues. He'll try to make the distinction on style points essentially . . .

Highlight #4
McCain/Bush Together Raise Concerns about Obama Among Jewish Voters (CNN 05/15/08
ED HENRY: […] The President's broadside before the Israeli Knesset, in which he stressed his Administration's close ties to Israel could raise more concerns about Obama with Jewish-American voters, especially since the President also used a reference to the Holocaust to suggest some people do not understand the grave threat posed by Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah […] Senator McCain already stoked those concerns among Jewish-American voters by charging that Obama is the favorite candidate of Hamas.

Highlight #5

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Older People less Comfortable with McCain's Age (MSNBC 05/15/08 5:43pm)
BOB HERBERTS: . . . but let me also agree with Tucker on the age issue . . . when I was out in Pennsylvania that was another thing that came up spontaneously, I wasn't interested in it, I was not asking about it. And people would just say again and again, "I think the guy's too old" or "my mother-in-law thinks the guy's too old."

CHRIS MATTHEWS: How old were they?

HERBERTS: They were middle aged, family people, I'd say they were in there 40s or 50s, most of them.

[. . .]

TUCKER CARLSON: . . . we know that from polling already . . . you look at the numbers on this, people over 65 . . . the numbers show, old people don't want an old president.

Highlight #6
Straight Talk Express Unaccepting of Criticism (MSNBC 05/15/08 8:48)
KEITH OLBERMANN: . . . Mark Salter, emerging as the chief media manipulator of John McCain's campaign. First he was critical of *Newsweek's* coverage. It was not pro-McCain, thus, in his opinion, it must have been pro-Obama. Now, *The Wall Street Journal* reports, Salter quote, "threatened to throw the campaign reporters off the campaign bus and airplane according to people familiar with the matter. Mr. Salter says he expressed the campaign's displeasure and is talking to the publication about future access." Your Straight Talk Express in action, surpressing freedom of the press.

Highlight #7
Hagee Apologiezes but his Comments Remain Offensive (CNN 05/15/08 5:32pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Candidates hope endorsements will bring them votes but for John McCain, one endorsement has brought a lot of headaches . . . that would be the endorsement of the evangelist Pastor John Hagee. Mary Snow is looking into the story . . .

MARY SNOW: Well Wolf, John Hagee is here in New York and this afternoon he held a private meeting. . . in his latest effort to make peace with catholics.

JOHN MCCAIN: I'm very honored by Pastor John Hagee's endorsement . . .

SNOW: . . . Hagee met today with one of his most vocal Catholic critics . . . the Catholic league blasted Hagee and put pressure on McCain after the endorsement. The Catholic League's president called a truce after Hagee wrote a letter that said, quote, "express my deep regret for any comments that Catholics have found hurtful." . . .

BILL DONAHUE: Yes, I absolutely accept his apology . . .

SNOW: Sen. McCain called the apology laudable.

[. . .]

SNOW: Another Catholic group says it welcomes Hagee's apology but:

JAMES SALT: The problem is that there has been a longstanding pattern of offensive and problematic rhetoric from John Hagee.

SNOW: Like suggesting Hurricane Katrina was punishment from god because of a gay pride parade.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	8/12/2014 7:14:19 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday August 12, 2014 Afternoon Roundup



Correct The Record Tuesday August 12, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton worked to create “thousands of American jobs” which “have been vital” to the Phoenix-area economy. http://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2014/08/08/gpec-pursuing-creative-solutions-to-regional-challenges/#ixzz3A5v0Rt34 …[8/12/14, 8:40 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@MayorWolcott wrote about how @HillaryClinton worked to “improve the lives of the people” of Arizona. http://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2014/08/08/gpec-pursuing-creative-solutions-to-regional-challenges/#ixzz3A5v0Rt34 … [8/11/14, 8:25 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@MayorWolcott : @HillaryClinton was an “advocate for American businesses while she served as secretary of state”http://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2014/08/08/gpec-pursuing-creative-solutions-to-regional-challenges/#ixzz3A5v0Rt34 … [8/11/14, 7:00 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: HRC launched an energy partnership that addressed sustainable energy in the Caribbean #HRC365 http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-protecting-the-environment/ … [8/11/14, 5:30 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

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Bloomberg opinion: Megan McArdle: "When Obama Beat Hillary, We All Lost"

"I think that Hillary Clinton would have been more cautious when dealing with Republicans, and therefore ultimately more successful in some ways."

National Journal: "The Audacity to Be Authentic: Hillary Clinton's Risky Hedge Against Obama"

"It may be that we've just witnessed a rare and risky act of authenticity."

Vox: "How Hillary will try and distinguish herself from Obama"

"Judging by an interview posted Sunday by the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, mostly on foreign policy, she'll argue for the necessity of restoring America's greatness."

Bloomberg: "Axelrod Fires Back at Clinton on 'Don't Do Stupid Stuff'"

"All seemed forgiven in 2013, though, when Clinton headlined a fundraiser for the epilepsy-research charity and Axelrod called her the organization's 'patron saint.'"

Politico: "Axelrod swipes at Clinton over Iraq"

"David Axelrod, the longtime top adviser to President Barack Obama, has taken to Twitter to slam Hillary Clinton in the wake of her comments rejecting the core of the Obama administration's self-desribed foreign policy principle."

CNN: "David Axelrod smack-tweets Hillary Clinton"

"David Axelrod, former adviser to President Barack Obama, hit back Tuesday against Hillary Clinton's recent criticism of Obama's foreign policy."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Obamaworld isn't taking Hillary Clinton's foreign policy critique lying down"

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“The tweet, of course, is a reference to Clinton having voted for the Iraq war.”

Time: “Obama Ally Knocks Hillary Clinton Over Iraq War Vote”

“A close confidant and former senior adviser to President Barack Obama took a not-so-veiled shot at Hillary Clinton on Tuesday for voting to authorize the Iraq War, in apparent push-back to the former Secretary of State’s criticism of Obama’s foreign policy.”

Vox: “Hillary Clinton’s Atlantic interview show she’s not inevitable”

“The most important unanswered question about Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign (which she more or less confirmed to Jeffrey Goldberg in an Atlantic interview) is how she's changed since 2008. The answer is that she hasn't — at least not on foreign policy.”

Bloomberg opinion: Al Hunt: “Calculating Hillary Gets the Math Wrong”

“It makes her look calculating -- probably unfairly -- when she already faces some skepticism about her authenticity.”

New York Magazine: “Good Hillary, Bad Hillary”

[Subtitle:] “What’s worse than being depicted as a bloodthirsty power-monger with a filthy mouth? Depicting yourself so blandly that no one cares.”

BBC: “The US, IS and the conspiracy theory sweeping Lebanon”

“He was referring to the latest talk of the town: the United States is behind the creation of the Islamic State group (formerly known as Isis, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) and Hillary Clinton admitted it in her book ‘Hard Choices’.”

Haaretz opinion: Peter Beinart: “Israel’s new lawyer: Hillary Clinton”

“It’s Hillary Clinton. In her interview on Sunday with Jeffrey Goldberg, Clinton offered the most articulate,

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sophisticated, passionate defense of Netanyahu's conduct I've heard from a government official on either side of the Atlantic. Unfortunately, important chunks of it aren't true."

Mediaite: "RNC Chairman: I 'Prefer' a Hillary Run in 2016"

"Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus is 'ready for Hillary' in 2016."

Articles:

Bloomberg opinion: Megan McArdle: "When Obama Beat Hillary, We All Lost"

By Megan McArdle

August 11, 2014, 2:33 p.m. EDT

For journalists, the dog days of August are the worst. Nothing happens because Congress and the rest of you are all on vacation. So now is the time for whatever quirky column has been niggling at the back of one's mind, waiting for a break in the news cycle. Unfortunately, even if nothing has been niggling, your deadline still beckons. So it's also the time for thumb-suckers about America in the 21st century, homages to parenthood, wild speculations about what sort of electronic devices our grandchildren will use, or anything else that will fill the requisite inches.

One of my favorite members of this genre is the counterfactual: Would Hitler have won World War II if he had left Russia alone? Would Medicare exist if JFK had lived? What would 20th-century literature have looked like if Ernest Hemingway had been shot while driving that ambulance? There's no way to tell, but how much fun to debate!

Well, Kevin Drum tickled my counterfactual fancy this morning with the following aside: "I don't have any problems with Hillary's domestic policy. I've never believed that she 'understood' the Republican party better than Obama and therefore would have gotten more done if she'd won in 2008, but I don't think she would have gotten any less done either. It's close to a wash."

I'm actually going to disagree a bit here. I think that Hillary Clinton would have been more cautious when dealing with Republicans, and therefore ultimately more successful in some ways. At the very least, she would not be facing the same level of vehement opposition in Congress.

I think liberals really do not understand emotionally the extent to which the Tea Party was created by the Affordable Care Act and the feeling that its government was simply steamrolling it. From the Tea Party's perspective, you had an unpopular program that should have died in the same way, and for the same reasons,

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that Social Security privatization did: because sensible politicians saw that, no matter how ardently they and their base might desire it, this was out of step with what the majority of the country wanted (and no, you cannot rescue the polls by claiming that the only problem with the law was that it wasn't liberal enough; when you dig down into what people mean when they say that, the idea that there was ever a majority or a plurality that was secretly in favor of Obamacare collapses).

The rage was similar to what progressives felt as they watched George W. Bush push the country into a war in Iraq. That defined and animated the anti-war movement (which is why said movement collapsed when Bush left office, and not, say, when Bush agreed to a staged withdrawal of our forces). Yes, those people would still have hated Republicans, even if there had been no Iraq War. But they would not have been as passionate, as organized or as powerful without it.

Liberals tend to write off this anger as racism, as irrational hatred of Barack Obama, or as perverse joy in denying health care to the poor, but at its root, it's the simpler feeling that your country is making a mistake and you can't stop it because the people in charge are ignoring the obvious. Yes, a lot of money and energy was poured into the Tea Party by rich backers, but rich backers cannot create a grassroots campaign unless the underlying passion is there in the voters (paging Karl Rove and Crossroads). The Obama administration created that passion with Obamacare.

I think that Hillary Clinton would have pulled back when Rahm Emanuel (or his counterfactual Clinton administration counterpart) told her that this was a political loser and she should drop it. I've written before about how my Twitter feed filled up with comparisons to 1932 the night that Obama took the presidency, and it's quite clear to me that the Obama administration shared what you might call delusions of FDR. It thought that it was in a transformative, historical moment where the normal rules of political caution didn't apply. The administration was wrong, and the country paid for that.

That's not to say that Republicans would have somehow been all kissy-kissy with Clinton -- they weren't very nice to her husband, after all. She would of course still have faced stiff opposition in Congress, because the partisan divide in this country is getting wider and congressional districts are getting more polarized, which makes it harder and harder to do deals across the aisle, or even treat each other with a modicum of decency. But I doubt she would have had the debt ceiling debacle or the deep gridlock of the last four years, because it was Obamacare that elected a fresh new class of deeply ideological Republicans who thought they were having their own transformative political movement, and they were willing to do massive damage to their party, their own political fortunes and, in my opinion, to the country in order to take a stand against "business as usual" -- business that included legislating or paying our bills.

Of course, in my counterfactual, Hillary also probably wouldn't have proposed ambitious health-care reform; she'd have done something more modest, like a Medicaid expansion. Progressives might well say that they'd rather have the first two years of the Obama administration, followed by gridlock, than steadier but more modest achievements by a Hillary Clinton administration. And that doesn't even get us into foreign policy, where the differences were deeper and more passionate.

To my mind, however, that would have been a much better outcome for everyone. So there's my counterfactual for the summer: If Hillary Clinton had won, Obamacare wouldn't have happened, and Democrats -- and the country -- would be better off.

National Journal: "The Audacity to Be Authentic: Hillary Clinton's Risky Hedge Against Obama"

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By Ron Fournier

August 12, 2014

[Subtitle:] Conventional wisdom says it's smart to attack an unpopular president. Conventional wisdom may be wrong.

The rap against Hillary Clinton is that she's a cynical and conniving public figure who hardly takes a breath without calculating the political advantage of a sigh. That caricature fueled coverage of Clinton's public break from President Obama on global affairs. "The benefits to Clinton are clear," wrote Juliet Eilperin, channeling convention wisdom for The Washington Post.

But I'm not so sure the former secretary of State has helped herself politically. It may be that we've just witnessed a rare and risky act of authenticity.

To review, Clinton told Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic that Obama failed in Syria by refusing to back rebel forces, as she had advised. Clinton also dismissed Obama's emphasis on avoiding mistakes overseas that might lead to military confrontation—a philosophy he privately labels, "Don't do stupid shit." Echoing the president's critics, she told Goldberg, "Great nations need organizing principles—and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

On one level, this is a sensible move for a likely 2016 presidential candidate. Her former boss's job-approval rating hovers meekly around 40 percent, and an even smaller percentage of Americans appreciate the way he's handled the spate of global crises.

"It's in her political interest to begin to distance herself from an unpopular president and to drive home the fact that she's risk-ready while Obama's risk-adverse," Aaron David Miller, vice president for new initiatives at the Wilson Center, told Eilperin.

Another keen observer, Mark Landler of The New York Times, wrote that Clinton is suggesting she would project American power much differently than Obama. "His view is cautious, inward-looking, suffused with a sense of limits, while hers is muscular, optimistic, unabashedly old-fashioned."

Setting aside the obvious fact that "unabashedly old-fashioned" is the exact opposite of Clinton's ideal campaign slogan, I wonder whether underscoring her hawkish ways is, in the long run, more helpful or hurtful. Remember, there was a time early in the 2008 presidential cycle when conventional wisdom dictated that 1) supporting the Iraq War was the smart political move and; 2) Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton would easily win the Democratic presidential nomination.

Her immediate problem is with the Democratic base, which has always viewed Clinton warily as an interventionist. Michael Cohen, a fellow at the progressive Century Foundation, told Politico that Clinton's approach was "out of touch with Democrats in 2008, and it's out of touch now."

Influential liberal writer Joan Walsh of Salon.com called Clinton's remarks "sobering" and fired a warning shot. "Clinton may think she can write off the anti-interventionist left—again—and win the White House this time," she wrote. "But she may find out she's wrong this time, too."

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Clinton needs to brace for stiff challenges in 2016, from inside and outside her party. There will be no coronation. The next several election cycles are going to be wildly unpredictable, as an electorate buffeted by titanic economic and sociological shifts grows to demand the sort of disruption of political and governmental institutions that they've witnessed elsewhere, most prominently in the retail, media, and entertainment industries.

OK, bashing Obama causes problems with the Democratic base. But she's triangulating away from both Obama and President Bush to appeal to independents in the general election, right? I'm not so sure. Polls suggest that Obama is far more connected to public sentiment than Clinton is.

A recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll showed that 47 percent of respondents called for a less-active role in world affairs, a larger share than in similar polling in 2001, 1997, and 1995. Last year, the Pew Research Center reported that a record 53 percent of Americans want their country to "mind its own business internationally."

The public is of two minds about Obama. They agree with his America-first, don't-rush-to-war philosophy; they just don't like how he's projecting it. He dithers and waffles, and seems to be a mental step behind adversaries like Russian President Vladmir Putin.

If I'm reading the public correctly, Americans aren't clamoring for a muscular and old-fashioned hawk as much as they want a pragmatic leader, somebody they can be proud of, who puts them first and keeps them safe. They want what Obama promised to be.

Clinton may be aiming for that sweet spot between Bush's belligerence and Obama's neglect—what Karl Rove called the "Goldilocks of foreign policy." But I could think of safer, more calculated, ways of going about it than stiff-arming the Democratic base and beating war drums over Syria.

In her memoir, Hard Choices, Clinton apologized for her support of the Iraq War, but she has made no secret of her interventionist streak. She wanted more troops in Afghanistan than Obama, for example, and was not "swept up in the drama and idealism" of the Arab Spring like other, younger White House aides.

Call me naïve, but maybe Clinton is simply being honest. After all, that's really want Americans want in a leader.

Vox: "How Hillary will try and distinguish herself from Obama"

By Andrew Prokop

August 12, 2014, 8:00 a.m. EDT

One fact that Hillary Clinton must be extremely aware of is that presidential candidates from a party that's held the White House for two or more terms tend to lose: they've only won 2 of 9 such elections in the postwar period. Even when incumbent presidents have been quite popular in their final years — as Dwight Eisenhower was in

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1960, and Bill Clinton in 2000 — their would-be successors only managed about a tie in the popular vote, and lost the electoral college. This time around, President Obama is unpopular, Congress is unproductive and polarized, the economy remains underwhelming, and the headlines from overseas grow grimmer by the day. So how is Clinton going to try and make the case that Democrats should keep the presidency?

Judging by an interview posted Sunday by the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, mostly on foreign policy, she'll argue for the necessity of restoring America's greatness.

"Great nations need organizing principles," she said. For her, those principles would be "peace, progress, and prosperity" — which happens to be a slogan her husband's White House used to describe its record. "We don't even tell our own story very well these days," she said. When Goldberg offered that "defeating fascism and communism is a pretty big deal," she exclaimed, "That's how I feel!" She added, "This might be an old-fashioned idea — but I'm about to find out, in more ways than one."

This effort would involve extensive and active US "engagement" overseas. "In the world in which we are living right now, vacuums get filled by some pretty unsavory players," she said. She argued for "containment" of jihadist groups, staked out a position a bit to Obama's right on Iran (though she still supports the ongoing nuclear negotiations), and emphasized that she supported arming rebels in Syria, something Obama has resisted.

But Clinton emphasized that economic prosperity at home would be necessary to sell the American public on a major overseas role. "Americans deserve to feel secure in their own lives, in their own middle-class aspirations, before you go to them and say, 'We're going to have to enforce navigable sea lanes in the South China Sea,'" she said. "You've got to take care of your home first."

Deciding what to say about Obama, who is broadly unpopular while still well-liked by Democrats, will be a challenge for Clinton's campaign. But even many core Democratic supporters will admit to a sense of disappointment and malaise. During the interview, Clinton seemed to float one possible way she'd handle this — she'd argue that Obama was a competent, hard-working steward during very difficult times.

"I think he is cautious because he knows what he inherited, both the two wars and the economic front, and he has expended a lot of capital and energy trying to pull us out of the hole we're in," she said. She continued: "The economy is not growing, the middle class is not feeling like they are secure, and we are living in a time of gridlock and dysfunction that is just frustrating and outraging."

Her implication, on both foreign and domestic policy, is that Obama didn't finish the job — and that she's the person who can do it. Clinton is clearly worried about being too closely associated with an administration the public increasingly views as a letdown. And she knows very well that when the public thinks things aren't going well, a prospective presidential candidate has to be able to promise change.

Every candidate running in difficult times has to make a case about how they'll fix what ails America — whether it's through inspirational rhetoric or a new policy agenda. While Clinton has suggested a few different foreign policies, she seems set to argue that it's mainly her leadership that's needed to put the US back on track. The question is — will anyone believe her?

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Bloomberg: "Axelrod Fires Back at Clinton on 'Don't Do Stupid Stuff'"

By Jonathan Allen

August 12, 2014, 12:53 p.m. EDT

President Barack Obama's longtime political adviser fired back at Hillary Clinton over her recent criticism of the commander-in-chief's foreign policy doctrine of avoiding messy entanglements.

"Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff' means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision," David Axelrod tweeted today. Obama aides often have been quoted in news stories using that mantra to describe the president's guiding principles.

In an Aug. 10 interview with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, Clinton said: "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

Axelrod's response on Twitter escalates an already tense fight between a White House eager to defend its foreign policy at a time of global chaos and a Clinton operation equally eager to separate the former secretary of state from Obama decisions she fell in line to support. Her efforts to do that could hurt her with Democratic primary voters should she run for president in 2016 and help her with independents and national-security-minded Republicans in a general election.

Clinton told Goldberg that she advocated arming moderate Syrian rebels in 2012 and was rebuffed by Obama. The Islamic State, a militant force now sweeping across Iraq, took root in the Syrian conflict. A Clinton aide said in an e-mail that what Clinton said in the interview was no different than what she'd written in her book.

Results Unknown

Clinton didn't make public her disagreement on Syria policy while she served in government, and she told Goldberg that she couldn't say for certain that her approach would have yielded any different outcome.

The timing of her remarks caused discomfort for the White House because of the crisis in Iraq. In addition, Clinton and the president are scheduled to appear together tomorrow night on Martha's Vineyard at a birthday party for Ann Dibble Jordan, wife of Vernon Jordan, the former president of the National Urban League and a confidant of both Obama and former President Bill Clinton.

The anti-war base of the Democratic Party has long mistrusted Hillary Clinton's support for a muscular foreign policy. Obama used her vote as a U.S. senator to authorize the Iraq war as a cudgel in defeating her in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, and some of her political critics are re-emerging.

Political 'Frenemies'

"Secretary Clinton, and any other person thinking about seeking the Democratic nomination in 2016, should think long and hard before embracing the same policies advocated by right-wing war hawks that got America into Iraq in the first place and helped set the stage for Iraq's troubles today," Ilya Sheyman, executive director of the political action arm of MoveOn, a Democratic group, said today in a statement.

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Clinton and Axelrod have been political “frenemies” for many years. She has appeared at fundraising events for the charity that Axelrod and his wife created to fight epilepsy, a disorder that afflicts their daughter. Clinton and Axelrod grew apart during the 2008 campaign as he led Obama’s messaging campaign against Clinton.

All seemed forgiven in 2013, though, when Clinton headlined a fundraiser for the epilepsy-research charity and Axelrod called her the organization’s “patron saint.”

Politico: “Axelrod swipes at Clinton over Iraq”

By Maggie Haberman

August 12, 2014, 10:39 a.m. EDT

David Axelrod, the longtime top adviser to President Barack Obama, has taken to Twitter to slam Hillary Clinton in the wake of her comments rejecting the core of the Obama administration’s self-desribed foreign policy principle.

In an interview with The Atlantic, Clinton said the White House doctrine of “Don’t do stupid stuff” is “not an organizing principle.”

“Just to clarify: ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision,” read the tweet from Axelrod. He declined to expound on the tweet when reached over email by POLITICO.

As a senator during the presidency of George W. Bush, Clinton voted to authorize the use of force in Iraq, a vote that played a major role in costing her the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008.

Axelrod’s astonishing public swipe against Clinton revealed the extent to which Obama allies are furious over her comments to The Atlantic’s Jeffrey Goldberg, in which the former secretary of state also allied herself tightly with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and called the decision not assist Syrian rebels early on a “failure.”

Several sources close to the White House described Obama aides as angered by Clinton’s critiques, which her team had warned them was coming but which landed as the president is grappling with a string of crises globally.

The Axelrod tweet took what had been a simmering rift and blew it open. Between that and Clinton’s comments, the sense of unity that her team had tried to establish with the White House has broken down.

Obama was a major critic of the war in Iraq during the 2008 campaign, and that message helped give rise to his candidacy. In her book, “Hard Choices” Clinton finally wrote that she was “wrong” for the vote, but she has said

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very little about the process of arriving at that conclusion.

CNN: “David Axelrod smack-tweets Hillary Clinton”

By Ashley Killough, David Chalian, Dan Merica, Jim Acosta, and Kevin Liptak

August 12, 2014, 11:32 a.m. EDT

David Axelrod, former adviser to President Barack Obama, hit back Tuesday against Hillary Clinton's recent criticism of Obama's foreign policy.

In an interview with “The Atlantic” published over the weekend, Clinton argued the decision not to arm Syrian rebels early on had led to Islamic militants taking over swaths of territory in the region.

The former secretary of state also took a swipe at an oft-repeated phrase Obama uses to sum up his foreign policy choices - “Don’t do stupid stuff.”

"Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle," Clinton said.

In his tweet, Axelrod appears to be knocking Clinton's 2002 vote as U.S. senator in favor of the Iraq War. (Of course, his tweet can also be aimed at Republican hawks who support a harsher response to the current situation in Iraq.)

The PAC for the progressive group MoveOn also tweaked Clinton.

“Secretary Clinton, and any other person thinking about seeking the Democratic nomination in 2016, should think long and hard before embracing the same policies advocated by right-wing war hawks that got America into Iraq in the first place and helped set the stage for Iraq’s troubles today,” Ilya Sheyman, the PAC’s executive director, said in a statement Tuesday.

Clinton later said she regretted supporting the authorization of the Iraq war.

"I thought I had acted in good faith and made the best decision I could with the information I had," Clinton writes in her new book. "And I wasn't alone in getting it wrong. But I still got it wrong. Plain and simple."

The recent tension between Clinton and Obama's team invokes memories of their 2008 battle for the Democratic presidential nomination, when the two candidates butted heads over foreign policy.

A White House official said Monday that the White House is not getting amped up over Clinton's interview. They

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don't see this as her break-away moment, according to the source, though they anticipate she will move away from Obama over time.

The President and his former chief diplomat will have a chance to talk things out Wednesday night; the two are expected to attend the same event in Martha's Vineyard.

Clinton is also getting hit by the Republican National Committee, which accuses Clinton of playing politics on the issue.

"You can't distance yourself from this administration's foreign policy when your job for four years was to lead its foreign policy," RNC spokesman Sean Spicer said.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Obamaworld isn't taking Hillary Clinton's foreign policy critique lying down"

By Aaron Blake

August 12, 2014, 10:55 a.m. EDT

Unfortunately for the former secretary of state, attempting to do so in as blunt a fashion as she did carries with it significant risks. By paraphrasing Obama's own attitude toward foreign policy — "Don't do stupid [stuff]" — and turning it against him, she has understandably touched a few nerves in Obama-world.

Case in point: David Axelrod. The top former Obama adviser tweeted this broadside Tuesday morning:

[TWEET]

The tweet, of course, is a reference to Clinton having voted for the Iraq war. That issue just happens to be the one which really opened the door for a guy named Barack Obama to beat her in the 2008 primary. In other words, Axelrod's rejoinder is about as personal and pointed as Clinton's initial criticism of Obama's foreign policy. In neither case were Clinton or Obama actually named, but the targets are unmistakable in both cases. And in both cases, the messages were broadcast in strikingly public ways.

In addition, it's pretty clear that administration officials are only so happy to try and undercut Clinton's attempts to distance herself from Obama. Witness this New York Times story from late Monday, in which anonymous administration officials suggest that Clinton doth protest too much when it comes to certain foreign policy issues:

"Still, when Mrs. Clinton says that 'the failure to help build up a credible fighting force' against President Bashar al-Assad in Syria 'left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled,' the suggestion is that Mr. Obama's refusal to arm the rebels might end up being a singular misjudgment. But at the time of the Obama administration's internal debate over that decision, several officials said, Mrs. Clinton's advocacy was far less thunderous: The United States had tried every diplomatic gambit with Syria, she said, and nothing else had

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worked, so why not try funneling weapons to the moderate rebels."

And this:

"At the end of her tenure, for example, Mrs. Clinton wrote a memo to Mr. Obama recommending that the United States lift its half-century-old trade embargo against Cuba. It was not a position that she seriously advocated while at the State Department, officials said."

If you think it's any coincidence that anonymous "officials" are speaking out in ways that make Clinton look hypocritical is any coincidence, we have some oceanfront property in Arizona to sell you. No, it's pretty clear that feelings have been hurt and battle lines have been/are being drawn.

As in relationships, sometimes when you want a clean break, you need to be a little harsher than you'd like to be. Unfortunately for Clinton, that means the other person is much more liable to hold a grudge. And when that person is the incumbent president of the United States, things can get messy.

Time: "Obama Ally Knocks Hillary Clinton Over Iraq War Vote"

By Zeke Miller

August 12, 2014, 11:18 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] A flashback to 2008 campaign as Clinton tries to distance herself from Obama

A close confidant and former senior adviser to President Barack Obama took a not-so-veiled shot at Hillary Clinton on Tuesday for voting to authorize the Iraq War, in apparent push-back to the former Secretary of State's criticism of Obama's foreign policy.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," Clinton told the Atlantic in an interview published this week, as she attempts to distance herself from the President ahead of a possible 2016 White House run. White House aides use a more profane version of the phrase "Don't do stupid stuff" to characterize Obama's foreign policy vision.

"Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff" means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision," David Axelrod wrote on Twitter, in clear reference to Clinton's vote in favor of the Iraq War in 2002—a vote Obama said he opposed.

The critique was a rare rebuke of Clinton from Obama's inner circle, just as Clinton is starting the tricky balancing act of distancing herself from her increasingly unpopular former boss. Many Obama political aides, including 2012 campaign manager Jim Messina, have thrown their support behind a Clinton candidacy in 2016. The flare-up is also something of a flashback to the 2008 campaign, when Obama, with Axelrod's help, maneuvered to secure the Democratic nomination in a bitter fight largely by tying Clinton to the unpopular war.

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And it also highlights the lingering frustration among liberal groups over the Iraq War vote as Obama has reengaged American forces in an aerial campaign in that country, as well as the deep divisions that have emerged in the Democratic Party over the role of America in the world.

MoveOn, the liberal group that was organized largely around opposition to the Iraq War, blasted Clinton in a statement Tuesday: “Secretary Clinton, and any other person thinking about seeking the Democratic nomination in 2016, should think long and hard before embracing the same policies advocated by right-wing war hawks that got America into Iraq in the first place and helped set the stage for Iraq’s troubles today.”

Vox: “Hillary Clinton’s Atlantic interview show she’s not inevitable”

By Ezra Klein

August 12, 2014, 11:00 a.m. EDT

1. The most important unanswered question about Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign (which she more or less confirmed to Jeffrey Goldberg in an Atlantic interview) is how she's changed since 2008. The answer is that she hasn't — at least not on foreign policy.

2. Read the interview and you quickly see Clinton's strength as a candidate: she is more fluent, informed and authoritative in affairs of state than any of her plausible challengers. In the 2008 race, she famously posed the 3am phone call test: did voters trust her or naive, inexperienced Barack Obama to answer the kinds of calls that wake the president at 3am? She lost that campaign, but her subsequent experience as Secretary of State has only widened her lead on that question.

3. Read the interview, however, and you also see Clinton's weakness as a candidate: she is more hawkish than the post-Iraq Democratic Party. She is upset that she lost the internal administration debate over whether to intervene in Syria. She's focused on the expansive ambitions of radical jihadists. She takes a hard line on Iran's nuclear ambitions. She's frustrated that Obama thinks more about the dangers of action than the dangers of inaction. She's dismissive of Obama's shorthand foreign policy principle "don't do stupid stuff". She wants the country that defeated fascism and communism to develop a grand — and more interventionist — strategy to guide its leadership of the world. She sounds like a Democrat from 2002 rather than 2014.

4. She presents Democrats, to a surprising degree, with the same choice they faced in 2008. There's no doubt that Clinton is more prepared to answer that 3am call. But they may not like the call she makes immediately after. There are a lot of liberals out there who would prefer a nuclear Iran to a war with Iran. Many of them believe, rightly or wrongly, that President Obama quietly agrees with them. Clinton does not agree with them, and they're going to know it.

5. I remain skeptical that Rand Paul can win the Republican nomination for president. But if he does, it will set up a race in which the Republican is significantly more dovish than the Democrat. That will scramble political coalitions in unusual, and possibly significant, ways. For instance, Millennials have swung hard towards Democrats in recent years, but they're also much more dovish than older generations. Seniors, on the other hand, have become more Republicans, and are also more hawkish.

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6. There is a pattern that has emerged in almost every recent interview Clinton has given: liberals walk away unnerved. She bumbled through a discussion of gay marriage with Terry Gross. She's dodged questions about the Keystone XL pipeline. She's had a lot of trouble discussing income inequality. I initially chalked some of this up to political rust. I am quickly revising that opinion.

7. In general, people underestimate the convictions politicians have and overestimate the cynicism of their positions. The interview with Goldberg is being analyzed as a calculated gamble on Clinton's part to distance herself from the Obama administration, and perhaps it is. But it matters because it's also much more than that: this is what Clinton really believes. It's what she believed before the Obama administration, it's what she fought for inside the Obama administration, and it's what she believes after leaving the Obama administration. This is insight into the kind of president Clinton would be, not just the kind of candidate she would be.

8. Political campaigns are decided not just by what candidates say but by which of their statements supporters believe to be true. One advantage Obama had in the Democratic primary was that even when he rhetorically moved towards the middle his liberal base didn't really buy it; his repeated assertions that he opposed gay marriage were never taken very seriously by his supporters, for instance. Clinton will have the opposite problem — and, potentially, the opposite advantage: She has clear and substantive disagreements with the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, and so her efforts to move to the left during the primary will often be viewed skeptically. But those disagreements will make it harder for Republicans to paint her as a liberal who's exactly like Barack Obama.

Bloomberg opinion: Al Hunt: “Calculating Hillary Gets the Math Wrong”

By Albert R. Hunt

August 12, 2014, 11:26 a.m. EDT

Picture the ad, either in the Democratic primaries or from a liberal independent candidate: Hillary Clinton -- a pro-Wall Street buckraker, a foreign policy interventionist -- championing George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq and looking like a lukewarm supporter of President Barack Obama.

Clinton's break last week with some of Obama's unpopular foreign policies, in an interview with my colleague Jeffrey Goldberg in the Atlantic, is going to cause her political problems.

It makes her look calculating -- probably unfairly -- when she already faces some skepticism about her authenticity. And her hawkish, interventionist stance is at odds with the country and especially the base of the Democratic party, of which she remains a formidable favorite to lead in the 2016 presidential race.

She said Obama's failure to aid the Syrian rebels last year contributed to the rise of the radical jihadists, Islamic State, threatening parts of Syria and Iraq today. She went a little further in her new book, "Hard Choices." She even suggested the administration lacks any overarching foreign policy vision.

Her support from Wall Street and the huge speaking fees she has taken from financial institutions since

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departing as secretary of state have already set off alarms with the Elizabeth Warren-loving populist wing of her party. Even in the country at large, Wall Street is about as popular as Congress, slightly ahead of toxic dump sites.

In the Atlantic interview, she essentially re-stated previous positions; she has long advocated an activist foreign policy. For good measure, she seemed to suggest she'd be more supportive of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu than Obama has been.

This at a time when little is going well for the president on the international front. Voters, by 60 percent to 36 percent, disapprove of the president's handling of foreign policy, according to last week's Wall Street Journal-NBC News poll.

Yet, as Politico's Maggie Haberman, a premiere Hillary watcher, reported, while it was her "furthest, most public step away" from Obama, the interview was scheduled well before the latest Islamic State-induced crisis, and the Hillary camp warned the White House about it.

In 2008, then-Senator Clinton ran against Obama as a backer of a muscular foreign policy who had voted for the Iraq invasion; it hurt her in that losing quest. She subsequently said she was mistaken on the war, yet now she's urging a greater American involvement in the region.

On Libya, she gets a bum rap from Republicans who hold her responsible for the killing of Americans in Benghazi two years ago. But she was the champion of American intervention in Libya to overthrow Muammar Qaddafi. When he was toppled, she thought it would be her signature achievement as secretary of state. Yet as that country has disintegrated into chaos, it's no longer a point of emphasis.

Clinton also hinted at further breaks with Obama policies. That's natural, yet she has to walk a delicate line, not looking too contrived. Surveys show Americans give her good marks for competence, intelligence and experience, but not so good on integrity and candor. And while Obama's popularity is low, his hardcore base remains loyal.

Clinton is an overwhelming favorite to win the Democratic nomination in two years, but her evolving positions may well encourage potential challengers who could be damaging. Think Pat Buchanan and the Republicans in 1992, or even Gene McCarthy and the Democrats in 1968.

New York Magazine: “Good Hillary, Bad Hillary”

By Frank Rich

August 12, 2014

[Subtitle:] What’s worse than being depicted as a bloodthirsty power-monger with a filthy mouth? Depicting yourself so blandly that no one cares.

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Thirty years ago, Michael Kinsley, then with The New Republic, sought to prove his theory that few of Washington's elites actually read the highfalutin best sellers that they dutifully buy and profess to admire. At a local bookstore, he slipped a note with his phone number deep into the pages of hot new books by the likes of the foreign-policy hand Strobe Talbott and the political pundit Ben Wattenberg, promising a $5 reward to anyone who read that far. Kinsley reported that no one called.

In the digital age, we have the technology to address this same question on a national scale. This summer, a University of Wisconsin mathematician, Jordan Ellenberg, created a small stir by inventing what he called the "Hawking Index" in honor of Stephen Hawking's much-praised, if not necessarily much-read, A Brief History of Time. Using Amazon's posted lists of the top five "popular highlights" in books notated by Kindle readers—and the page numbers those highlights fall on—Ellenberg crafted a quasi-scientific formula to compute how thoroughly best sellers were being consumed. At the high end by far was Donna Tartt's novel The Goldfinch, which scored an anomalous 98.5 percent on the Hawking Index. Among nonfiction books, Michael Lewis's Flash Boys was a leader, at 21.7 percent. At the bottom, breaking Hawking's previous low (6.6 percent), was the most-written-about best seller of the year, Thomas Piketty's Capital in the Twenty-First Century, at 2.4 percent. It didn't take long for a wiseass at the Washington Post to note that another best seller fell still lower than Piketty on the Hawking scale, at 2.04 percent: Hillary Clinton's Hard Choices.

It has been an unexpectedly hard summer for Hard Choices—and, by implication, for its author. The book had a dream rollout worthy of J. K. Rowling: a prime-time ABC special with Diane Sawyer, Good Morning America with Robin Roberts, a CNN town hall with Christiane Amanpour, Jane Pauley on CBS, The Daily Show, online Q&As at Facebook and Twitter, even a respectful interview with Greta Van Susteren and Bret Baier at Fox News. But the book tour was stalked by controversies—Clinton's tone-deaf complaint about being "dead broke" after leaving the White House in 2001, her fumbled answers to questions about her astronomical speaking fees. And much of the press was unkind to Hard Choices itself. You know a Clinton book is in trouble when one of its few partisans is a Fox News personality—Van Susteren, who called it "a fun read." John Dickerson of Slate spoke for many of those hardy few who actually read the book from cover to cover when he described it as "the low-salt, low-fat, low-calorie offering with vanilla pudding as the dessert." The only news in Hard Choices was not to be found in its 656-page ocean of prose but in the subtext. Despite Clinton's disingenuous claim in the epilogue about 2016 ("I haven't decided yet"), no one in her right mind would write a fat book this dull, this unrevealing, and this innocuous unless she were running for president.

The ultimate indignity arrived soon after publication: Following a brief reign as a No. 1 best seller, Hard Choices was toppled by Blood Feud: The Clintons vs. the Obamas, by Edward Klein, whose loathing of the Clintons is exceeded only by his loathing of the Obamas. Klein had no big book tour, no broadcast-network interviews, and almost no reviews. Yet once Blood Feud had usurped Hard Choices, Clinton never returned to the top of the Times list.

In terms of cumulative sales, the best-seller-list pecking order is a red herring. Hillary will easily outsell Klein in the final accounting; so large were her sales in that first week before word-of-mouth took its toll that it is statistically unimaginable that he could catch up. Nonetheless, the showing of Hard Choices is disappointing by Clinton standards—far below the benchmark set by her 2003 memoir, Living History. Extrapolating charitably from the sales figures tracked thus far by Nielsen BookScan, half of the 1 million copies in the "sold out" hardcover first printing may be returned by booksellers for a refund. By the time of publication, it was reported that signed copies of Hard Choices were selling for close to $400 on eBay. By last week, they were going begging by the score at $79.95.

The Clinton camp was sufficiently stung by the perception of failure to try to spin the numbers. Finally, spokesmen for all three Clintons were moved to release a joint statement attacking Klein and a couple of other anti-Clinton authors whose new titles have less successfully competed with Hard Choices this summer. Their books, the statement said, "should be reserved for the fiction bin, if not the trash … Legitimate media outlets who know with every fiber of their being that this is complete crap should know not to get down in the gutter with them and spread their lies."

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But the disappointing trajectory of Hard Choices and the concurrent rise of Blood Feud say more about Hillary Clinton, her own book, and the vulnerabilities of her potential presidential run than they do about the media or the commercial durability of Clinton bashers. Aside from money, which she does not need, and publicity, which she also does not need, what is the motivation to write and strenuously promote a memoir that obscures more than it tells and that is not so much a personal statement about the hard choices she has faced as a string of uncontroversial position papers salted with upbeat anecdotes? It's safe to assume that the readers who bought Hard Choices, a sizable group when compared with the audience for most books, admire and in many cases revere Hillary Clinton. They hunger to get to know her better. What is to be gained—whether now or in 2016—by selling them a book whose main value is as a sleep aid?

As it happens, Klein's book is complete crap, but it is relatively amusing crap (Hawking Index: 19.7 percent) next to Hillary's slog through seemingly every engagement on her official secretary of State calendar. According to the Times, "Some publishing industry insiders" believe that Blood Feud, despite being a "barely sourced account full of implausible passages," was selling not just to the usual Clinton haters but to liberals and "readers who are simply looking for irresistible entertainment." If you've read Hard Choices, you can't blame them for seeking comic relief—and possibly seeking a different Hillary.

"Before we are Republicans or Democrats, liberals or conservatives, or any of the other labels that divide us as often as define us, we are Americans, all with a personal stake in our country," the Hillary of Hard Choices writes, typically, early on. You fear you've wandered by accident into a "for kids" edition aimed at lower-school readers, but no such luck. The entire book is crafted to avoid startling children and adults of all ages. Hardly do we encounter its uncontroversial thesis—"Our choices and how we handle them shape the people we become"—than we get a disclaimer: "Of course, quite a few important choices, characters, countries, and events are not included here." And so it goes. Hillary can't begin a paragraph with the sentence "I am not alone in feeling so personally invested in Israel's security and success" without starting the subsequent paragraph with "I was also an early voice calling publicly for Palestinian statehood." In chapters like "Iran: Sanctions and Secrets" and "Climate Change: We're All in This Together," she tells us what we already know, larded with an excess of superficial and sometimes self-aggrandizing detail as well as bullet points from various official proposals and hefty excerpts from speeches and town-hall meetings. There's lots of name-checking ("I always enjoy seeing Ehud") and lots of firsts. "No previous U.S. Secretary of State had ever visited the organization's headquarters" (ASEAN, if you're asking) … "No Secretary of State had ever visited this city before" (Chennai, India) … "I would be the first Secretary of State to visit in more than half a century" (Burma). Quantity always trumps quality.

Some of us don't expect (or want) to hear about the Clintons' private lives. But if Hillary insists on taking us to Chelsea's wedding anyway, she might include a little personal revelation to go along with the generic Hallmark sentiments. Instead the occasion is repurposed for political branding: "This, I thought, is why Bill and I had worked so hard for so many years to help build a better world—so Chelsea could grow up safe and happy and one day have a family of her own, and so every other child would have the same chance."

The only touching passages in Hard Choices can be found in Hillary's generous and humorous portrait of the one-of-a-kind diplomat Richard Holbrooke, who died tragically while trying to stave off incoming fire from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the antagonists in the Obama White House (unnamed, of course) who tried "to force him out of the job." Next to Holbrooke, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama emerge as ciphers in Hard Choices. Hillary's trusted aide Huma Abedin is more vividly present, but the public spousal scandal that proved a major distraction to both her and the nation during her service at State goes unmentioned. Also "not included here" are the hard choices—a.k.a. bad choices—that hobbled Hillary's 2008 presidential campaign. To her credit, she does finally call her 2002 Senate vote to authorize the Iraq invasion "a mistake," though the blame is deflected from her own faulty judgment and political cowardice to the Bush administration's phony case for war. The candor of this overdue admission, however, is negated by an account of her 2011 speech in Geneva championing LGBT human rights in which she schooled foreign leaders that "leadership, by definition, means being out in front of your people when it is called for." Given that the Clinton administration's "leadership" record included being out front in supporting "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act, you might expect at least a mini mea culpa, or some circumspect grace note of irony, but Hillary just leaves out that embarrassing history entirely. No wonder she bristled when Terry Gross challenged the timing of her tardy evolution on gay marriage in a book-tour interview for NPR's "Fresh Air."

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If Clinton could be flummoxed by NPR, it only followed that her camp would hyperventilate about Ed Klein. Blood Feud is patently ridiculous, but despite the Clinton statement chastising “legitimate media” for spreading its “lies,” the “legitimate media” is doing no such thing. Neither has the “illegitimate media” (the pro forma Drudge headlines aside) or conservative media. It’s not just that the Times, the Washington Post, and Slate either ignored or ridiculed Blood Feud. The Weekly Standard and National Review didn’t bother to review it either; the Murdoch imprint that originally bought the book dropped it. (The boutique right-wing house Regnery stepped in.) On his radio show, no less a Hillary hater than Rush Limbaugh said he found “some of the quotes” in Klein’s book “odd in the sense I don’t know people who speak this way.” He also questioned the credibility of the book’s two pivotal confrontations between the Clintons and the Obamas: a couples dinner in the Obama White House’s private residence that could be an outtake from Meet the Fockers, and a fateful golf game where Obama supposedly assented to a deal to support Hillary in 2016 in exchange for Bill’s supporting him in 2012.

Limbaugh was just the latest to join the many on the right who have bailed on Klein. When Klein’s first Clinton hit job, The Truth About Hillary, was published in 2005, John Podhoretz famously wrote: “Thirty pages into it, I wanted to take a shower. Sixty pages into it, I wanted to be decontaminated.” In that book, Klein had claimed that Chelsea Clinton had been conceived in an incident of marital rape and that Hillary was a (nonpracticing) lesbian, or in any case had lesbian friends, or closeted lesbian friends, or whatever, as an undergraduate at Wellesley College. Bill O’Reilly refused to book Klein on his Fox News show then, a snub he repeated for the new book. Even a host on the rigidly party-line Fox News morning show Fox & Friends was skeptical about Blood Feud, joking that the only possible source for one of the book’s Bill-Hillary exchanges would have had to be Chelsea.

That Blood Feud has sold so well can’t be attributed to the salaciousness of its breathless “revelations.” No rape this time, and none of Klein’s weirdly self-revealing sapphic fantasies. We must settle instead for the news that Hillary may have had some “work” done, and that she may have some routine health concerns that require monitoring, a condition she shares with basically every other 66-year-old in America. There’s a moment where Hillary jabs Obama with her finger to argue a point and Obama later tells Michelle that “it hurt.” But Klein himself doesn’t lay a finger on Hillary. Indeed, he absolves her of the biggest crime the right holds against her—an alleged Benghazi cover-up. In contrast to Hillary’s lengthy and defensive rehash of that incident in Hard Choices, Klein just blames the supposed subterfuge on Obama. The president, it turns out, had concocted a cover story and ordered his secretary of State to disseminate it. When Hillary recounts her plight to Bill, he replies, “Those bullshit talking points manufactured in the White House sausage factory aren’t going to hold up … Eventually, the lie is going to be exposed, and you’ll take the fall for it. Then, believe me, Obama will dump you.” Say what you will about Limbaugh, he knows bogus dialogue when he hears it.

Blood Feud is padded with recyclings from Klein’s previous anti-Obama book, The Amateur, and citations from-mainstream-media Obama reporting by writers like Jodi Kantor and Ryan Lizza. What makes the book enjoyable is the self-parodistic overkill of Klein’s writing (a Rahm Emanuel anecdote ends with him hitting “his forehead with the heel of his hand” and saying, “Oy vey!”); the sheer absurdity of his conspiracy theories; and, against all odds, the unexpected, perhaps even unintentional, emergence of a likable Hillary.

Unlike The Truth About Hillary, which mustered the fig leaf of footnotes, Klein doesn’t bother with that pretense this time around and instead cloaks all in “what journalists call ‘deep background.’ ” And so, delightfully, anything goes. We learn that Valerie Jarrett runs the White House with an iron fist and is plotting an Illinois Senate bid by Michelle Obama against the stroke-impaired Republican incumbent, Mark Kirk. Bill commissions a “secret poll” in 2012 showing that Hillary is more popular than Barack Obama and urges her to lead an intraparty insurrection against the sitting president. The Obamas hate the Clintons so much that the president wants to renege on his promise to back Hillary in 2016 and support Joe Biden or possibly John Kerry or an unspecified Obama “mini-me” instead. (Lately, Klein has been identifying the mini-me in New York Post “exclusives” as Elizabeth Warren; she’s not even mentioned in his book.) Klein’s blood-feud thesis, culminating in a chapter titled “ ‘There Will Be Blood,’ ” is so nonsensical that he is compelled to write: “At this point, some readers might raise an objection: How was it possible for Bill Clinton to campaign all-out for Barack Obama [in 2012] while wishing to see him lose? How does that make sense? It only makes sense if we stop to remember that politicians are different from you and me.” Got it!

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The cumulative bottom line of this narrative is that next to Barack Obama, who is portrayed as an incompetent mobster, and Bill Clinton, who is always turning red with anger when he's not cruising waitresses in close proximity to his presidential library in Little Rock, Hillary is by far the most appealing character, a foulmouthed, independent-minded executive you'd like to have that proverbial beer with. You can't fault a reader for wanting to spend time with Klein's two-fisted Hillary rather than the often robotic self-censoring bureaucrat of Hard Choices. Both these Hillarys are in essence fictional creations crafted for the marketplace—one embellished with camp to sell books, the other embalmed with civic virtue to win votes—so in the end, it all comes down to which kind of fiction you prefer. The real Hillary, whomever she may be, is scantly visible in either book. But with all due respect to Greta Van Susteren, it's Klein's who turns out to be "fun."

One of the several shopworn themes of Hard Choices is that when you make a mistake, you learn from it. No doubt the 2016 Clinton-campaign-in-waiting is learning, as many have reported, that its candidate is rusty after her years above the political fray as secretary of State and that she and her enforcers still don't know how to deal with a press corps they despise. Hillaryland reacted to the mishaps of the book tour, the disappointing sales, and the nuisance of a gnat like Klein with an overkill that recalls its ham-fisted efforts to cope with the Obama insurgency in 2008.

Now as then, the case for a Hillary victory is overwhelming: a more-or-less unified Democratic Party; the lack of a gangbusters opponent in either party; a fractious and self-immolating GOP that seems determined to drive away women, minorities, and young people; and an ability to raise tons of money. But as we all know, Hillary was inevitable in 2008 too. Anything can happen in the next two years.

The continued failure of Benghazi (or, for that matter, any foreign-policy issue on Hillary's watch) to gain traction with the public has lately spawned an alternative line of attack by potential Republican opponents: Hillary is a "20th-century candidate." As a recent fund-raising appeal from Mario Rubio's PAC had it, "Clinton's ideas are from the days of the Macarena, Prodigy Internet, and the Y2K scare." That's a big step forward from the 19th-century ideas championed by the GOP's anti-government and xenophobic base, but the orchestrated rollout of Hard Choices nonetheless reeked of old-school Establishment political culture: the inevitable hype about how the D.C. "superlawyer" Robert Barnett secured a multimillion-dollar advance, the prepublication press embargo to build suspense, the leaks of selected passages to friendly media, the breathless accounts of which television name would be awarded the "get" of the first interview with the author, the fiercely stage-managed book signings. It was all reminiscent of the stately, too-big-to-fail corporate culture of Hillary's 2008 presidential campaign.

A bigger issue raised by Hard Choices is a more fundamental one—the assumption by Hillary and her handlers that the Hillary Clinton portrayed in its pages is the one voters want: a cautious, unspontaneous caretaker of all things good and true who will never run a yellow light or frighten the horses. Not a Hillary who knocks back a drink stronger than Chardonnay, not a Hillary who will fire back at the partisan congressional committee running a Benghazi witch hunt with a rightly intemperate "What difference at this point does it make?"

The blandness of the Hillary presented in Hard Choices was a political, not a literary, choice. It is what created the vacuum that a nimble opportunist like Klein could fill—and that conceivably an opposing candidate might fill, much as Obama did. It's a book that made no effort to entice, let alone win over, voters who weren't Hillary fans in the first place. On the other hand, Blood Feud just might attract some new adherents. One of my favorite moments in Klein's fantasia occurs when Bill Clinton tells his wife that he wants her to get plastic surgery because "dowdy and old doesn't win the White House these days." To which, in the author's inimitable style, Hillary responds, "Fuck you. Get your own face-lift." I am sure that the Clinton camp is correct and this deplorable, trashy scene never happened. But tell me: Wouldn't you be more enthusiastic about voting for Hillary Clinton if it had?

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BBC: “The US, IS and the conspiracy theory sweeping Lebanon”

[No Writer Mentioned]

August 11, 2014

[Subtitle:] Is America behind the creation of the Islamic State? The BBC's Suzanne Kianpour, in Beirut, looks at the latest conspiracy theory doing the rounds in Lebanon.

"In the Middle East, conspiracy theories are in our blood," one former Lebanese official said over lunch in a restaurant in central Beirut.

He was referring to the latest talk of the town: the United States is behind the creation of the Islamic State group (formerly known as Isis, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) and Hillary Clinton admitted it in her book "Hard Choices".

As Islamic State (IS) militants advanced into Lebanon last week - spreading terror into the village of Arsal, bordering Syria, and driving hundreds out of their homes - whispers pinned the blame for their actions on the US.

Horrific videos of IS atrocities against Lebanese Armed Forces circulated on the internet. So did the theory that America is behind the existence and emboldening of the group.

To back up their claim, conspiracy theorists online pointed to a powerful piece of "proof": the word of Hillary Clinton - the former US secretary of state widely expected to make a bid for the presidency.

Dispelling rumours

Screenshots of supposed "excerpts" from her book spread far and wide on social media in Lebanon, claiming the US created IS to instil instability in the region for American gain.

The rumour even prompted the Lebanese foreign ministry to summon US Ambassador to Lebanon David Hale.

Furthermore, to try and quash the gossip, the US embassy in Beirut issued a statement on Facebook:

"Any suggestion that the United States ever considered recognising the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant as anything other than a terrorist organization, or had any role in its creation, is patently false. Allegations circulating in Lebanon to the contrary are a fabrication."

Instead, what Hillary Clinton has said is that the failure to help Syrian rebels led to the rise of IS.

It's not completely shocking that such a theory may have started, given America's history of supporting militant and guerrilla groups; the mujahideen in Afghanistan, from which al-Qaeda emerged, quickly comes to mind. The

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fact that US allies in the Gulf are accused of supporting IS also doesn't help their case.

"Such theories abound, largely because Washington has shown a propensity for outsourcing regime change. Support for insurgent groups in that context is certainly not a new practice and, as of late, has not been a particularly effective one," says Octavius Pinkard, a Brussels-based specialist in foreign policy analysis and Middle East politics, who has been conducting fieldwork in Beirut.

Tarnished image

Rumours like these risk harming US interests in Lebanon - a nation where they have a keen interest in maintaining soft power. Symbolic confrontation and proxy battles for clout with another group also seeking to win over the Lebanese people, Hezbollah, are nothing new.

But a theory that America is to blame for beheadings and the barbaric acts attributed to IS can be severely damaging to the US image - leaving them at risk of losing support and the tide turning against them.

Recently, the narrative on the streets of Beirut has increasingly been that Hezbollah won't let IS get to the Lebanese capital, not "America will help us."

"Most people here believe the US and Saudi are one and when it comes strictly down to oil money, the ultimate benefactor from the whole IS debacle is Saudi/the US. As history has taught us, it is usually the benefactors who are the instigators," says Amer Murad, a native of Beirut.

"An important development that we have seen is the collaboration between the Lebanese Army and Hezbollah in their efforts to protect Lebanon from threats posed by the Syrian civil war spilling over into Lebanese territory," Octavius Pinkard says.

As the conflict in Syria/Lebanon evolves, so does the perception of Washington. And it appears the Hezbollah/Damascus/Tehran trio is winning the propaganda battle.

However, when Obama announced airstrikes against IS in Iraq on Thursday, love for the US returned to Facebook.

"I've never been happier for American intervention," one Lebanese user posted.

Perhaps it may be too soon to say if US popularity in Lebanon might recover based on their progress in Iraq, but at the moment, America appears to be suffering a PR crisis among the people normally supportive of it.

Haaretz opinion: Peter Beinart: “Israel’s new lawyer: Hillary Clinton”

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By Peter Beinart, The Atlantic

August 11, 2014, 5:24 p.m.

[Subtitle:] She sees the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through Bibi's eyes, which could be the reason she gets so much wrong.

Who's the Israeli government's best spokesperson? Ron Dermer? Michael Oren? Bibi himself? Nope. It's Hillary Clinton. In her interview on Sunday with Jeffrey Goldberg, Clinton offered the most articulate, sophisticated, passionate defense of Netanyahu's conduct I've heard from a government official on either side of the Atlantic. Unfortunately, important chunks of it aren't true.

Let's take her claims in turn.

In his first term, Netanyahu moved towards a Palestinian state

Clinton began her defense of Bibi by noting that in his first term, in the late 1990s, he had "give[n] up territory" and "moved in that direction [towards a Palestinian state], as hard as it was."

That's extremely generous. It's true that in 1997, Bibi withdrew Israeli troops from most of the West Bank city of Hebron (though they can reenter any time Israel wants) and the following year signed the Wye River Accords, under which Israel was supposed to hand over 13 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority (though Bibi's government fell before it could do so).

What Clinton leaves out is that Bibi only agreed to these withdrawals to forestall the far larger ones envisioned under the Oslo Accords he inherited from Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. In 1993, when Oslo was signed, Bibi publicly compared it to Neville Chamberlain's surrender of the Sudetenland to Adolf Hitler.

He accepted Oslo in the 1996 election campaign only because he couldn't repudiate a process endorsed by the Israeli center and championed by the United States. So Bibi sabotaged Oslo by accelerating settlement growth and minimizing the amount of land Israel relinquished. "Before I took office," he later boasted, "the conception was to give away everything except for two percent [of West Bank] while I turned everything around and gave just two percent to [full control] of the Palestinian Authority." Or as he told settlers after leaving office, "I stopped the Oslo Accords."

The Clinton administration officials who dealt with Bibi in his first term understood this all too well. "Neither President Clinton nor Secretary [Madeleine] Albright believed that Bibi had any real interest in pursuing peace," writes Dennis Ross in The Missing Peace. Ross' deputy, Aaron Miller, adds in his memoir that, "all of us saw Bibi as a kind of speed bump that would have to be negotiated along the way until a new Israeli prime minister came along who was more serious about peace."

That's a far cry from what Hillary told Goldberg. Then again, Ross and Miller aren't running for president.

Bibi agreed to a settlement freeze but Abbas wouldn't negotiate

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Fast-forwarding to the Obama years, Clinton claims that, “I got Netanyahu to agree to the unprecedented settlement freeze… It took me nine months to get Abbas into the negotiations even after we delivered on the settlement freeze.”

What’s striking, again, is what Clinton leaves out. The settlement freeze was indeed, unprecedented. Unfortunately, it didn’t actually freeze settlement growth. It’s not just that, as Clinton admits, the “freeze” exempted East Jerusalem. Even more importantly, it exempted buildings on which construction had all ready begun. This loophole proved crucial because, as the Israeli press reported at the time, settlers spent the months preceding the “freeze” feverishly breaking ground on new construction, on which they continued to build during the ten month “freeze,” before breaking new ground once it expired. As a result, according to Peace Now, there was more new settlement construction in 2010 - the year of the freeze - than in 2008. As Obama administration envoy George Mitchell admitted to Palestinian negotiator Saab Erekat, the Obama administration had wanted a freeze that truly stopped settlement growth but “we failed.”

Clinton’s claim that Abbas refused to negotiate until the last minute is disingenuous too. In fact, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met repeatedly during the “freeze.” In January 2010, just over a month after it began, veteran Israeli columnist Ben Caspit reported that, “In the past weeks, Israeli representatives, including Netanyahu, have repeatedly rejected official documents that their Palestinian counterparts have tried to submit to them, with details of the Palestinian positions on all the core issues. The Israeli representatives are completely unwilling to discuss, read or touch these documents, not to speak of submitting an equivalent Israeli document with the Israeli positions.”

While reporting my book, The Crisis of Zionism, I heard four different Obama officials confirm this account. During the settlement “freeze,” the Palestinians submitted to Netanyahu and his aides the same positions they had submitted to Netanyahu’s predecessor, Ehud Olmert. These included a Palestinian state on the 1967 lines with a 1.9 percent land swap for territory inside Israel proper, Israeli control of all the Jewish neighborhoods of East Jerusalem, international troops in the Jordan Valley and the return of 150,000 Palestinian refugees over ten years. The Netanyahu government, by contrast, steadfastly refused to discuss the parameters of a Palestinian state.

In her interview with Goldberg, Clinton never mentions that.

Netanyahu’s views on Palestinian statehood resembled Ehud Barak’s.

Given the evidence that during her time as secretary of state, Bibi refused to discuss territory, Clinton’s claim that “I saw Netanyahu move from being against the two-state solution to…considering all kinds of Barak-like options” is bizarre. Whatever you think of Ehud Barak’s offer at Camp David in July 2000, it was a detailed offer. Netanyahu, by contrast, refused put forward a territorial proposal not merely during Clinton’s term, but during John Kerry’s far more aggressive effort to broker a deal. During the Kerry negotiations, according to Haaretz’s Barak Ravid, Netanyahu “flatly refused to present a map or even to discuss the subject theoretically…throughout the nine months of the talks Netanyahu did not give the slightest hint about the scale of the territorial concessions he would be willing to make.”

It’s too bad Goldberg didn’t press Clinton on what kind of “Barak-like options” she heard Netanyahu propose, because the best reporting we have suggests he offered no territorial “options” at all.

Netanyahu is right to demand indefinite control of the West Bank

Most remarkable of all, Clinton tells Goldberg that, “If I were the prime minister of Israel, you’re damn right I would

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expect to have security [control over the West Bank].” What makes this statement so remarkable is that earlier in the interview, Hillary praised the Clinton parameters outlined by her husband in December 2000. Those parameters permit Israeli troops to remain in the Jordan Valley, along the West Bank’s border with Jordan, for three years. Later in the interview, Clinton claims that she convinced Abbas to agree to allow Israeli troops to remain for “six, seven, eight years” and that she “got Netanyahu to go from forever to 2025” as a date for their withdrawal. Even this, from a Palestinian perspective, represents painful backsliding from the position outlined by Hillary’s husband. But as Hillary must know, Bibi three weeks ago said that in light of regional developments, “there cannot be a situation, under any agreement, in which we relinquish security control of the territory west of the River Jordan.” Which is to say that, as of now, Bibi’s position really does seem to be “forever.” Yet rather than challenge that stance, Clinton endorses it.

Why does Clinton again and again endorse Netanyahu’s view of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict even when it contradicts long-standing American positions? Because she’s so willing to see the world through his eyes. Notice how she begins her statement about security control of the West Bank: “If I were the prime minister of Israel.” There’s nothing wrong with that. U.S. officials should understand, and empathize with, Israeli leaders, even right-wing ones. But what’s missing from Clinton’s interview is any willingness to do the same for Palestinians. If it’s so easy to understand why some Israelis might want perpetual military control of the West Bank, why can’t Clinton understand why Palestinians - after living for almost fifty years under a foreign army - might not want it to indefinitely patrol their supposedly independent state.

One of the hallmarks of Barack Obama’s statements about Israel and Palestine, going back to his 2008 presidential campaign, has been his insistence on giving voice to the fears and aspirations of both sides. Writing about his trip to Israel in The Audacity of Hope, Obama wrote that, “I talked to Jews who’d lost parents in the Holocaust and brothers in suicide bombings; I heard Palestinians talk of the indignities of checkpoints and reminisce about the land they had lost.” In Jerusalem last March, he spoke movingly, and in detail about the Jewish story, but also asked Israelis to “put yourself in their [the Palestinians] shoes. Look at the world through their eyes.” In her interview with Goldberg, that’s exactly what Clinton does not do. Her interpretations of recent Israeli-Palestinian history reflect from a deep imbalance: a willingness to see reality through Israeli eyes and an almost total refusal to do the same for Palestinians.

“For far too long,” wrote Aaron Miller in 2005, “many American officials involved in Arab-Israeli peacemaking, myself included, have acted as Israel's attorney, catering and coordinating with the Israelis at the expense of successful peace negotiations.” From the beginning, Barack Obama has tried to avoid that. Although he hasn’t brokered Israeli-Palestinian peace, he has tried to make good on his campaign promise to “hold up a mirror” to both sides. In Hillary Clinton, by contrast, at least judging from her interview on Sunay, Israel has yet another lawyer. And a very good one at that.

Mediaite: “RNC Chairman: I ‘Prefer’ a Hillary Run in 2016”

By Eddie Scarry

August 12, 2014, 10:54 a.m. EDT

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus is “ready for Hillary” in 2016.

Preibus said in a new interview with Real Clear Politics that though he think former secretary of state Hillary Clinton is “sending mixed signals” about her political ambitions, he would be okay with Republicans facing her in the next presidential election.

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“I think her favorables are way too low for someone that’s supposed to be inevitable,” Priebus said. “I think that she’s exhibited an uncanny ability to make mistakes politically and she completely unifies the Republican Party. And all I’m telling you is, politically, that’s not a bad place. I actually would prefer it.”

Priebus has said in the past that Republicans have a “truckload” of opposition research to use against Clinton in the event that she runs. He has also said he would use her husband’s extramarital affair with Monica Lewinsky against Clinton.

Priebus said in his interview with RCP that he has doubts, however, that Clinton will run. “Does she really want to go through with all of this?” he said. “Does she really want to deal with the politics and the grind of a primary for the next two years?”

Clinton has seen a drop in her popularity of late, due in large part to several awkward encounters and comments she made while promoting her new memoir.

Watch via RCP:

[VIDEO]

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From: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Lauren Peterson" <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 8:39:39 AM
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Is this happening?

From: Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 1:04 PM
To: Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Katie Dowd <kdowd@hillaryclinton.com >; Jenna Lowenstein <jlowenstein@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

ok by me

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 1:02 PM, Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> I vote for just replying directly with no period before the @ - people will see this and it will get pickup. We do need to shorten though - here's my attempt:
>
> @ marcorubio That's backwards—engagement's a threat to the Castros, not a gift. Embargo hasn't worked for 50 yrs. Cuban ppl deserve better -H
>
> On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:41 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > + Nick and Lauren.
> >
> > **From:** Brian Fallon [mailto:bfallon@hillaryclinton.com]
> > **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:39 PM
> > **To:** Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Cc:** Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> > **Subject:** Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> >
> > Like this (w the handle). Lets do it
> >
> > On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:35 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I like including his handle.
> > >
> > > .@marcorubio you've got it backwards: Engagement isn't a gift to the Castros -- it's a threat to the Castros. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Cuban people deserve better.
> > >
> > > On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.
> > > >
> > > > **From:** Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
> > > > **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
> > > > **To:** Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > **Cc:** Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > **Subject:** Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> > > >
> > > > Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.
> > > >
> > > > On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

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I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

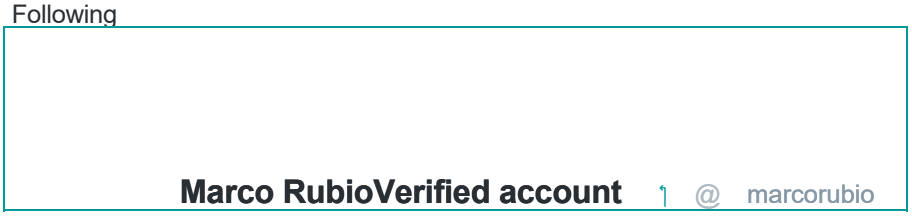
Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
> **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
>
> Here we go...
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: **Jeremy Massey** <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
> Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
> Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
>
> User Actions
> Following
>
> 
>
>
> After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.
>
> https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872
>
> --

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Jeremy Massey
Research Department

847 736 9211
JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Nikki Budzinski" <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Trevor Houser" <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com>
Date: 8/23/2015 10:09:34 AM
Subject: Re: KXL

Sounds good. Thanks again.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 23, 2015, at 5:07 PM, Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com > wrote:

> Thanks Nikki, we'll huddle and get back to you.
>
> On Aug 23, 2015, at 1:58 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Hi guys
> > Ok, some feedback for your consideration regarding the Op Ed and fact sheet. Would you be willing to let me know if any of these suggestions you think are possible? I'd appreciate knowing where you finally land. I think with the trades one of the most important things is to provide them a heads up, even if we're going to be in different places. I'd like to be able to do that when appropriate.
> >
> > Not surprising I know, but the trades are going to go nuclear (so to speak) on the Administration once this announcement comes out. They will likely attack around the argument that this decision will lead to increased energy prices for those on fixed incomes. They will also point out that if his rationale is increased CO2 exposure, HRC's State Department said there will negligible traces. Just a fyi.
> >
> > 1. Thank you Trevor for breaking it down, that was really helpful. I do think the grid piece and the pipeline infrastructure piece will be liked.
> > 2. Could we include the terminology around "current baseload needs" in the current energy economy in both the fact sheet and Op Ed? This will at least tip the hat to where we are today with the acknowledgement that we are transitioning to green.
> > 3. When we talk about infrastructure standards, could we please mention prevailing wage and project labor agreements as one good set of standards?
> > 4. Could we beef up the mentioning jobs? O'Malley made the mistake with the trades of stating that energy jobs are temporary. They really bristle at that. Could we mention that these are "jobs and careers" for many workers and as we transition HRC wants to create more careers within the new energy economy? Careers is their buzz word.
> > 5. As I mention above, the Trades will attack Obama on raising energy prices, could HRC's OpEd and Fact sheet mention that she wants to see protections for consumers for those potential rising prices?
> >
> > The Op Ed will be read as very celebratory, and maybe that's it. But I think if we could incorporate a little of these suggestions above and tone, it could be helpful.
> >
> > I'd love to hear what you think and if anything is possible. Thank you again for the heads up. I appreciate it.
> >
> > Thanks
> > Nikki
> >
> > On Sun, Aug 23, 2015 at 4:06 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > Ideally to get passed the Sept 9 meeting with the Building trades would be a personal god-send.

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Will we move forward with the op Ed and fact sheet with or with Obama KXL action?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 23, 2015, at 3:52 PM, Pete Ogden <progden@gmail.com > wrote:

> Good to know. Maybe they decided to push it until after the Canadian election on 10/19.
>
> On Aug 23, 2015, at 3:47 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> Now I am hearing it's back to late October. So this may again end up as just an HRC answer to a q. John, you hearing otherwise?
>
> On Aug 22, 2015, at 5:46 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Got it. Will do.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Aug 22, 2015, at 5:43 PM, Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > That should work for us. Earlier in the evening is better if possible.
> > >
> > > On Aug 22, 2015, at 2:42 PM, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > Thank you Trevor. Very much appreciated. Is feedback by tomorrow evening ok for you? Or are you moving on a quicker timeline?
> > > >
> > > > Sent from my iPhone
> > > >
> > > > On Aug 22, 2015, at 5:37 PM, Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > Amanda and Nikki,
> > > > >
> > > > > Attached is the current draft of an op-ed on KXL and our overall energy infrastructure package and a detailed fact sheet on the latter. Remains to be seen whether the op-ed will be released before or after the President decides on the pipeline so it's been drafted both ways.
> > > > >
> > > > > A few things to flag from the fact sheet that should help soften the blow to the Building Trades of the KXL decision:
> > > > >
> > > > > 1. **National Infrastructure Bank** – HRC mentioned this in her launch speech but it's called out more specifically here (positive for all the trades).

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2. **Modernizing our Pipeline System –** A pledge to repair or replace thousands of miles of outdated pipeline by the end of her first term, through a new "Pipeline Partnership" that supports rate relief for states, cities and rural communities that accelerate replacement of outdated pipes (good for LiUNA and UA).

3. **Increase Rail Safety** – Accelerate the phase-out of outdated tank cars and repair track defects (will create jobs for affiliates with exposure on the tank car manufacturing and track repair fronts, though the Teamsters may be negative if they see it as slowing oil-by-rail volumes).

4. **Enhance Grid Security** - Provide new tools and resources to states, cities and rural communities to make the investments necessary to improve grid resilience to both cyber-attack and extreme weather events (positive for IBEW).

5. **Expanding Consumer Choice:** Offer financing tools for grid investments that support the integration of distributed energy resources and for gas pipeline investments that enable households and businesses to switch away from heating oil and other petroleum products (the trades won't love the distributed energy piece but the expanded natural gas pipeline network to enable replacement of old fuel oil furnaces with natural gas furnaces is positive for LiUNA, UA and the Boilermakers) .

6. **Transmission Investment:** Ensure the federal government is a partner in getting low-cost wind and other renewable energy to market through improved federal coordination and cooperation with local governments and power companies (positive for IBEW).

7. **Transportation Funding:** Work with Congress to close corporate tax loopholes and increase invest investment in transportation solutions that expand transit access and reduce congestion, commute times, oil consumption, and pollution (positive for IBEW, ironworkers and other public transit-exposed trades).

More broadly, we are calling for a North American Climate Compact that would provide a coordinate, continent-wide energy and climate framework so we don't have to keep battling it our pipeline-by-pipeline and can provides infrastructure investment certainty. That section of the factsheet includes the following line, which the trades should like:

Infrastructure Standards: Develop common, world-class standards for North American infrastructure that create good jobs and ensure energy transportation across the continent is clean, safe, reliable and affordable.

Happy to discuss this weekend if you'd like. I'm at 917-755-5446 .

Best,

Trevor

From: Amanda Renteria [mailto:arenteria@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 8:09 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Maya Harris <mharris@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com >; Trevor Houser <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: KXL

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Can we make sure that Nikki sees the statement before it goes out? Just want to make sure we don't catch anyone by surprise. We are so close to getting bldg trades and if we do this right, it will be ok even though they won't like it.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 20, 2015, at 6:02 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Your in trouble, girl. Seriously, doubt we'll say we "encouraged" but assume we'll support if it goes that way.
>
> On Thursday, August 20, 2015, Nikki Budzinski <nbudzinski@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Hi guys
> >
> > The Building Trades are flagging for me that they hear the Obama Administration will deny KXL on Monday. I just wanted to try to politically get ahead of this and where we are on the issue if this in fact happens. The trades are also hearing that HRC will put out a statement stating that she encouraged Obama to take this position. Politically with the building trades, this would be a very dangerous posture. Just curious what your thoughts will be if the situation goes this way on Monday.
> >
> > Appreciate it.
> >
> > --
> >
> > Nikki Budzinski
> >
> > Labor Outreach Director
> >
> > Hillary for America
> >
> > 646-854-1442 (direct)

<08.21 Modernizing infrastructure fact sheet - 3pm.docx>

<08.21 KXL oped draft - 3pm.docx>

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--
Nikki Budzinski
Labor Outreach Director
Hillary for America
646-854-1442 (direct)

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From: "Andres Moreno" <andres@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/29/2008 6:51:40 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Palin Speech in Dayton, OH 08/29/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Kelli, on the ground in Dayton, OH. She was unable to film the event, though we were able to capture it via online streaming video. Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights

John McCain's Speech:

- Crowd sung "Happy Birthday"
- Said his VP choice was ready to be president
- focused on her history of being anti-corruption and anti-wasteful spending
- Mentioned her energy credentials

Sarah Palins Speech:

- Theme: Reform, Energy
- Entire first third of Palin's speech focused on her family
- Speaks of Son who enlisted into the Army and is deploying Sept 11 to Iraq.
- Highlighted her attempts to fight corruption, stand up to big oil and fight the good o' boy network
- "I Told congress thanks but no thanks on that bridge to nowhere, if our state wanted a bridge, I said, we'd build it ourselves"
- Says McCain has a "servants heart"
- Highlighted McCain's POW story
- Says McCain is the only candidate in this election who has truly fought for America
- Spoke on Foreign issues including Russia, Iran
- Congratulated HRC and Geraldine Ferraro

Dayton, OH: McCain and Palin Speech - VP announcement 08/29/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- Basketball stadium on college campus.
- Homemade signs were preplaced in empty seats prior to event.
- Signs read "Happy Birthday" and "maverick" as well as "I Love McCain".
- Guests were not allowed to bring in their own signs, food, water, cameras and spiked jewelry.
- Three foot high stage in the middle of the floor. Teleprompter. Local marching band seated on upper balcony.
- Huge banner "Country First" behind stage.
- People with VIP tickets were sat in chairs on the floor. The rest of the audience sat in upper sections.
- The venue was filled and a handful of guests were struggling to find seats.
- Tickets did not seem to be available at door.
- VERY tight security.
- About 50 demonstrators outside main entrance. Chanting four more years and holding McSame signs and McCain hearts NAFTA. SEIU and Pink shirts in the mix.

Speech Highlights:

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McCain's Remarks:

McCain introduced with Cindy and Lindsay
Thank you thank you

Crowd singing happy birthday

Thanks for reminding me

Twice is enough
That's three times

Very happy today to spend my birthday today and make a historic announcement in day to on good people. Industrial Midwest contributes to America. Understand what you're going through in these hard times. I'm running for POTUS to fight for you.

Spend last couple months looking for running mate to help me shake up Washington. Many good people to pick from. Continue to rely on their support and advice.
I could only choose one. I have found the right one to stand up with me. For your needs before their interests. Outstanding reputation, fought against corruption, wasteful spending, executive experience, tackling tough problems, reached across aisle, fighting spirit deep compassion

Decent hard working middle class family. Parents both worked in school. Taught children to excel in sports. Was a union member and is married to a union member. Mortgage payments and health care. PTA, city council, mayor, and now a governor. Beat the long odds to win an election. In the week we celebrate women's suffrage. A devoted wife and a mother of five. She's not from these parts or Washington you'll be impressed. Common good.

She knows where she comes form and who she works for doesn't let anyone tell her to sit down. Fought oil companies and party bosses and buearocrats. She's exactly what I need and what this country needs

To help me fight the same old Washington the next vp of the united states, governor Sara Palin of the great state of Alaska.

[Joins McCain on stage with her family]

Thank you so much.
And I thank senator McCain and Cindy. I am honored

I will be honored to serve next to the next potus I know that when he gave me this opportunity he had a list of great choices. I am honored.

First there are a few people I would like you to meet. Husband todd, it's our anniversary 25 years promised todd a little surprise and I did deliver. He's a commercial fisherman, production operator snow machine racer, we met in High school. Still the man I admire most. Our son is in the army, Trac now serves in the infantry, will soon be deployed to iraq. We are so proud.

Crowd chants USA

Our daughters piper, willow, son trig

Never set out to be in public affairs, grew up working with our hands, average hockey mom in Alaska. Got involved in the PTA then city council, then mayor, I wanted to lower govt spending, then onto ethics committee, fought corruption hard, a long with fellow reformers I stood up to politics as usual, oil companies and good ole boy network. I sent a large share of oil revenues back to citizens of Alaska, building pipeline to energy independence. Ethics, appointed dems and indeps to my cabinet. Said no to ridge to nowhere. If we wanted a

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bridge we'd build it ourselves.

A ship In harbor is safe but that's not why the ship is built, the people of America expect us to seek public office and serve for the right reason, challenge the status quo, common good.

Govern with integrity, now no leader in America has shown these qualities more than john McCain. Always been there to serve his country not just his party. My running mate is a man who has shown those qualities in the darkest of places and in serving his country. That man did things not many people could make it through. I'm going to make sure no one forgets that in this campaign.

This is a moment when great causes can be won and great threats defeated, Iran nuclear weapons. It was John McCain that warned long ago about Russian threat to Georgia. As the commander of the Alaskan national guard that's the kind of man I want as commander in chief. Profiles of courage are hard to find. When we nominate john McCain next week we are putting one on the ballot.

88 years almost to the day since women were given the right to vote. I think today of two other women. Honor Geraldine and hillary Clinton showed such grace. It was rightly noted that hillary left 18 million cracks. Women are not done. We can shadder that ceiling after all. So for my part the mission is clear. I will go to every part of this country. If you want change if you have hope, come join our cause. And help our country to elect a great man. God bless America.

--
Andres Moreno
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
ProgressiveAccountability.org (PAO)
202-609-7688 (office)
703-501-6566 (cell)
andres@progressiveaccountability.org

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Cassandra Butts" <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com>
Date: 9/24/2008 8:18:51 AM
Subject: Re: Energy and EPA names

One more for epa dianna farrell of mckinsey global.

On 9/24/08, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
> Gee, pershing are asst sec types not higher. Holstein maybe as deputy
> not top job. Jackson has a good rep, AA woman, should be considered.
> Immelt seems impossible to me. Maybe commerce but very unlikely at
> energy.
> I'd add Tom Steyer, Farallon Capital, Tim Wirth, maybe mayor
> hickenlooper of denver.
> At epa 3 more katie mcginty, just left pa enviro office, ian bowles,
> mass epa, dan esty at yale.
>
>
> On 9/24/08, Cassandra Butts <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com> wrote:
>> John, to follow are some of the names that have come us as we have
>> consulted
>> on top candidates for Energy and EPA. We'd appreciate your thoughts and
>> additions. Needless to say, your name has come up repeatedly in our
>> consultations. Best, Cassandra
>>
>> Energy
>>
>> -Frampton, George
>> -Gee, Robert W.: From 1997 to 2000 he served as Assistant Secretary for
>> Policy and International Affairs and as Assistant Secretary for Fossil
>> Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy; oversaw the operation of the
>> Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and the national research program to develop
>> and demonstrate advanced clean coal, natural gas, and petroleum
>> technologies.
>> -Jackson, Shirley Ann: Former chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;
>> current president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
>> -Holstein, Elgie
>> -Immelt, Jeff
>> -Pershing, Jonathan
>> -Schwarzenegger, Arnold
>> -Schweitzer, Brian
>>
>> EPA
>>
>> -Bloomberg, Michael
>> -Gregoire, Christine
>> -Grumet, Jason
>> -Hayes, David
>> -Learner, Howard: executive director of the Environmental Law and Policy
>> Center, a Chicago-based environmental legal advocacy group that has been a
>> key player in setting up the region's cap-and-trade program for global
>> warming.
>> -Sebelius, Kathleen
>> -Stern, Todd

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>>
>
> --
> Sent from Gmail for mobile | mobile.google.com
>

--
Sent from Gmail for mobile | mobile.google.com

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/18/2015 2:03:23 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 7.18.15
Attachments:	7.18.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips
July 18, 2015

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In Iowa, the first faceoff between Clinton, Sanders and other rivals // WaPo // Philip Rucker – July 17, 2015 9

SOCIAL MEDIA..... 11

Mark Murray (7/17/15, 6:10 AM) - Yes, Hillary camp spent $18.7M in her 1st Q, but Obama camp spent $11M in his 1st Q in '11 - and that was w/o single event by the principal..... 11
Jon Ralson (7/17/15, 2:08 PM) - Jeb also, even when I pressed, left no daylight possible on a path to citizenship. No way. No how..... 11
Dave Wasserman (7/17/15, 1:34) - Basic math: if the GOP nominee simply did 3% better than Romney with ALL groups (30% w/ Latinos vs. 27%, for example), he/she would win..... 11
Dave Wasserman (7/17/15, 1:39) - In addition, Electoral College is biased against Latinos. They made up 10% of national '12 vote, but averaged just 6.9% in key swing states..... 11
Dave Wasserman (7/17/15, 1:40) - In fact, even if ZERO Latinos had voted in 2012, Obama would have won the Electoral College with 283 votes (while losing popular vote)..... 12

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Job at Hillary Clinton's 'Super PAC' Didn't Assure a Campaign Post // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 17, 2015 12
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Democrats eager to exploit contrast between Trump, Clinton // Boston Globe // Sean Sullivan – July 17, 2015 46

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Clinton Campaign Spending: Big, and Different // NYT // Derek Willis – July 17, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's initial primary campaign spending total, $18.7 million, is a lot of money. And she is using it very differently from her rivals.

While others spend their money to raise more money, she has built a campaign organization with an eye toward the general election. Her campaign's "burn rate," the amount spent divided by what is raised, was just a little less than 40 percent through June 30. That's only a bit higher than the campaigns of Barack Obama and Mitt Romney at the same point four years ago, and very close to the 38 percent burn rate of Mr. Obama's campaign in the first half of 2007. But comparing Mrs. Clinton's spending with those of her rivals is complicated, because she is running a different campaign so far.

Most of the presidential candidates have emphasized spending money to raise more money, whether online or through direct mail, over other kinds of spending. Ted Cruz, a Republican, reported spending $835,798 on postage and an additional $678,730 on fund-raising phone calls. Ben Carson, another Republican hopeful, spent $1.47 million on his digital efforts and $788,114 on printing and postage. Still, Mrs. Clinton isn't ignoring fund-raising; she spent more than $2.5 million on "direct marketing" and additional amounts on events and catering.

She has spent millions of dollars on staff, advertising and polling, establishing a much broader campaign at this point than any other 2016 presidential candidate. Much of the money has gone toward mounting an effective operation in the early primary and caucus states, and for building the foundation for a broad general election campaign should she become the Democratic nominee. Her $3.7 million in staff salary expenses (not including payroll taxes and service fees) is more than 10 times the amount of Mr. Cruz, who has the next-largest campaign in terms of staff payments.

The 20 percent Mrs. Clinton spent on staff dwarfs that of all but the campaigns of the Republican Mike Huckabee (21 percent) and the Democrat Martin O'Malley (20 percent). Mrs. Clinton's campaign employed 343 people, according to Federal Election Commission data. The address of nearly all campaign workers listed in F.E.C. records is the New York campaign headquarters, which is a tactic that Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee, used. That makes it harder to tell exactly how much of a footprint the campaign has in say, Iowa, where it has paid $64,369 in rent.

As of June 30, the Clinton campaign paid at least 58 field organizers, had spent more than $1 million on online advertising and paid a total of $370,000 to state parties in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina for voter data.

Jeb Bush, who spent just more than $3 million, devoted much of it to travel and other expenses related to "testing the waters" for his candidacy. He did spend $372,647 on IT equipment and consulting services.

The campaign of Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator who is also seeking the Democratic nomination, put its largest investment into digital advertising and consulting, spending $1.3 million. Its payroll expenses were just $61,045, although Mr. Sanders's campaign has not been operating as long as Mrs. Clinton's. Overall, the Sanders campaign spent 20 percent of the money it raised through June 30.

In Iowa, the first faceoff between Clinton, Sanders and other rivals // WaPo // Philip Rucker – July 17, 2015

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — The full field of candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination assembled for the first time here Friday night, with a trio of them giving fiery speeches sounding populist economic themes.

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Much of the focus was on Hillary Rodham Clinton, the dominant front-runner for the Democratic nomination, and two underdog candidates challenging her from the left, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley.

One by one, they vowed to fight income inequality, take on the big banks and institute a progressive agenda on a range of issues including the minimum wage, climate change and gay rights. They were joined onstage by two other candidates, with all five getting equal billing to give back-to-back speeches before about 1,200 Democratic activists at a dinner hosted by the state party.

In a tough, partisan speech, Clinton looked past her primary opponents to go after the leading Republican candidates and brought Democrats to their feet.

"I'm never going to let the Republicans rip away the progress we have made," she vowed. "Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s. It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair. I lived through it — there are photographs — and we're not going back."

Friday night's Iowa Democratic Party Hall of Fame celebration dinner, which drew about 1,200 party activists, amounted to the first faceoff between Clinton — who leads in fundraising, polling and establishment backing — and Sanders, the self-described independent socialist who has drawn thousands of people to his rallies by leading the fight against big banks and rich corporations.

Polling shows Clinton and Sanders as the two leading candidates, but O'Malley made a case for his own stock to rise here with a commanding and well-received speech that focused on his record of executive achievements in Maryland. He also laid out an ambitious platform of progressive ideas that drew sustained applause across the ballroom.

"We didn't just talk about it," O'Malley said of same-sex marriage, a state Dream Act for immigrants, a minimum-wage increase and expanded family leave. "We got it done."

Each of the candidates is trying to seize the role of the party's standard bearer in the post-Obama era, and Friday night's Iowa Democratic Party dinner was one of the first opportunities for activists to compare the rivals.

When all five candidates walked onto the stage, some people in the crowd chanted "Bernie! Bernie!" When Clinton took the lectern to give her speech, her supporters chanted, "Hill-a-ry! Hill-a-ry!" And O'Malley had a loud and enthusiastic cheering squad as well.

In her remarks, Clinton ticked through a string of recent Democratic victories, including the Supreme Court's rulings to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide and to uphold President Obama's signature Affordable Care Act.

She took aim at Republicans, attacking by name three leading GOP candidates: former Florida governor Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and businessman Donald Trump.

"We've heard a lot recently from the new Republican front-runner, Donald Trump — finally a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine," Clinton said, drawing laughter from the crowd. "But there's nothing funny about the hate he is spewing about immigrants and their families. It really is shameful."

She said some critics ask why she talks about such issues as paid sick days, the minimum wage and child care. "There she goes again with the women's issues," Clinton said, mocking her critics.

"Well, I'm not going to stop," Clinton said. "So get ready for a long campaign."

Sanders delivered an impassioned call for a "political revolution" that he said would shake up "the billionaire class."

"Enough is enough," Sanders thundered. "The greed of the billionaire class has got to end — and we are going to end it for them."

Repeating a theme that has resonated with liberal activists across the country, Sanders said, "The issue of wealth and income inequality is the great moral issue of the time, the great economic issue of our time, the great political issue of our time."

At that, one man in crowd yelled out, "Preach!"

Sanders notably included in his speech more messages aimed at blacks, Latinos and other minority groups that make up the Democratic coalition than he has had in the early months of his campaign. He drew applause, for instance, when he said he envisioned an America in which young black men can walk in the streets without fear of

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being shot.

Former Virginia senator Jim Webb and former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee also spoke at the dinner.

Chafee highlighted his executive experience, as a former mayor and governor, as well as legislative experience in the Senate.

“I have tried to earn a reputation for courage and honesty,” Chafee said. “I also have shown strong convictions, sometimes under enormous political pressure.”

Webb, who spoke last and joked that he was “here to turn the lights out,” highlighted his work on criminal justice, his extensive military experience and his foreign-policy vision.

Had he been president at the time, Webb said, he would not have invaded Iraq. But Webb also said he had “grave concern” about the nuclear agreement that the United States and five other nations reached with Iran this week.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mark Murray (7/17/15, 6:10 AM) - Yes, Hillary camp spent $18.7M in her 1st Q, but Obama camp spent $11M in his 1st Q in '11 - and that was w/o single event by the principal

Jon Ralson (7/17/15, 2:08 PM) - Jeb also, even when I pressed, left no daylight possible on a path to citizenship. No way. No how.

Dave Wasserman ↰ (7/17/15, 1:34) - Basic math: if the GOP nominee simply did 3% better than Romney with ALL groups (30% w/ Latinos vs. 27%, for example), he/she would win.
Dave Wasserman ↰ (7/17/15, 1:39) - In addition, Electoral College is biased against Latinos. They made up 10% of national '12 vote, but averaged just 6.9% in key swing states.
Dave Wasserman ↰ (7/17/15, 1:40) - In fact, even if ZERO Latinos had voted in 2012, Obama would have won the Electoral College with 283 votes (while losing popular vote).

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Job at Hillary Clinton’s ‘Super PAC’ Didn’t Assure a Campaign Post // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 17, 2015

In Hillary Rodham Clinton’s thick campaign finance report for the first three months of her 2016 race, more than 300 people were paid for work on her second national run.

Fewer than 15 of them appear to have come from the ranks of Ready for Hillary, the “super PAC” that tried to harness early energy behind Mrs. Clinton and develop a list of supporters in the two years before she became a candidate and which dominated much of the early chatter after she left the State Department.

The group has been a source of mixed emotions with Mrs. Clinton’s circle of advisers. Several people close to Mrs. Clinton were chagrined when the group came into existence, believing that, among other concerns, it would only make people view her through a political lens well before she was ready to announce a decision about a 2016 bid.

But others, including people like the long-serving Clinton adviser Minyon Moore, saw value in the group’s work, and Mrs. Clinton came to embrace it. The group’s supporter list was acquired by the campaign six weeks after Mrs. Clinton announced her candidacy.

In the spring, the campaign brought on Adam Parkhomenko, the Ready for Hillary co-founder and a former aide from Mrs. Clinton’s Senate office, to work on a grass-roots job. Another handful of people were hired at that time as well.

At the time, a campaign aide made clear that some people from the political action committee would be interviewed, but not all could expect jobs. Still, several people involved with the super PAC, which wound down its work once her campaign began, had hoped to work on the race in some capacity. At the time, the expectation among Ready for Hillary supporters was that most of them would play a role.

The number of Ready for Hillary staff members who tried to get jobs and didn’t is unclear.

Among those who interviewed early for a job was Seth Bringman, who handled day-to-day press for Ready for Hillary. After waiting for many weeks to hear back, Mr. Bringman ultimately moved back to Ohio, where he had worked before, and is now a public relations consultant there. Mr. Bringman declined to comment but confirmed he had moved.

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Mrs. Clinton's aides declined to comment.

Also absent from the filings is Craig Smith, a former political director from Bill Clinton's White House who joined Ready for Hillary as a senior adviser in the first half of 2013, and who was seen as lending a more senior voice to the group early. Mr. Smith declined comment, but is said to be in discussions with the campaign about a role of some kind.

Another senior adviser to Ready for Hillary, Tracy Sefl, has been a surrogate for the campaign and currently lives in Chicago, advising other clients.

The group played a role in lining up support from elected officials behind Mrs. Clinton, including in Iowa, where she received two endorsements on Friday.

Jerry Crawford, an Iowa operative who worked with Ready for Hillary and has informally helped the current campaign, said the group was "phenomenal."

"If there are people who worked for Ready for Hillary who can help her become president, they'll be hired," Mr. Crawford said.

David Brock, Key Hillary Clinton Ally, to Work More Closely With Her Campaign // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 17, 2015

In the world of outside supporters to Hillary Rodham Clinton, no one has a more visible, and singular, role than David Brock, her former critic-turned-guardian.

Mr. Brock created the opposition research-focused "super PAC" American Bridge, the liberal watchdog group Media Matters, and the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record, which is now coordinating with Mrs. Clinton's presidential campaign. He is also on the board of Priorities USA, the super PAC that hopes to raise large sums of money in support of Mrs. Clinton.

The question of how Mr. Brock would carry out roles with groups that have different legal definitions has come into clearer focus this week, as he is moving to the so-called coordinated side, working with Correct the Record alongside Mrs. Clinton's campaign.

Mr. Brock confirmed the move, saying that the legal restrictions on his activities if he had remained on the so-called independent expenditure side of the groups were "impractical." Such groups are forbidden from coordinating their work with the campaign.

He declined to get into specifics as to why, but people who have spoken with him say he was focused on paying attention to the activities of Correct the Record and Media Matters, which will play the biggest role in defending Mrs. Clinton throughout the campaign. Media Matters and another outlet that Mr. Brock is involved with, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, are nonpolitical 501c3 groups, which don't make independent expenditures.

What he will be missing out on is directing the opposition research functions at American Bridge, which will be training its army of staff members on mining the speeches and activities of the Republican candidates. Correct the Record can have access to the research that American Bridge produces, but Mr. Brock can't lead that group's efforts.

Still, had he remained on the independent expenditure side of the aisle, he would have been prohibited from working with any federal campaign or party committee.

As for Priorities USA, which Mr. Brock left and then returned to amid a shakeup in leadership, he will be able to serve on the board but has to be walled off from being involved in programmatic decisions by the group. His role is now basically limited to fund-raising.

Mr. Brock, who was a critic of Mrs. Clinton in the 1990s, has become one of her favorite defenders in the last 10 years. She is said to put a premium on loyalty, but his abilities as a fund-raiser have also become a valued asset.

Top Hillary Clinton Fundraisers Also Big Donors to Foundation // WaPo // Rebecca Ballhaus – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton has turned to a familiar source to find supporters willing to raise more than $100,000 each for her presidential campaign: major donors to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

Twenty of the campaign's so-called Hillblazers, or supporters who promise to raise $100,000 each for her campaign, have also given a total of at least $54 million to her family's charitable foundation, according to a Wall

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Street Journal review of disclosures by the campaign and the foundation.

Media billionaires Haim Saban and Fred Eychaner, venture-capitalist Jay Robert Pritzkerand Esprit founder Susie Tompkins Buell were among the list of more than 150 "bundlers" Mrs. Clinton identified on Wednesday as having raised more than $100,000 in contributions for her primary election since she launched her campaign in April. They are also among some of the largest donors to her family's foundation, illustrating the overlap between Mrs. Clinton's charitable and political interests.

Among these 20 bundlers examined by the Journal, Mr. Eychaner has given more than $25 million to the Clinton Foundation, according to its disclosures. Mr. Saban's family foundation has given between $10 million and $25 million, and foundations linked to Mr. Pritzker and Ms. Buell have each given between $5 million and $10 million. All of these 20 bundlers who were also large donors to the Clinton Foundation donated some portion of their funds in 2014.

"It shouldn't come as a surprise that people who care about making the world a better place and support philanthropic work, including the Clinton Foundation's programs, also think Hillary Clinton would be a great President," said Josh Schwerin, a spokesman for her campaign. An official with the foundation also noted that it has more than 300,000 donors.

At least two dozen other Hillblazer bundlers also gave to the Clinton Foundation, but the Journal analysis focused on these 20 large donors.

Mrs. Clinton has faced criticism in recent months from Republicans and from members of her own party who have suggested that the foundation offered wealthy donors an avenue to curry favor with a former secretary of state and a possible future president. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, created the foundation after leaving the White House, and in 2013, when Mrs. Clinton left the State Department, she added her name to the organization.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus called the foundation's fundraising "shady" in a recent statement and said Americans think Mrs. Clinton is "untrustworthy and dishonest."

Mrs. Clinton has said she is proud of the charitable work the foundation does, and the Clintons have said their political activities are separate from the foundation's work. "Nobody even suggested it or talked about it or thought about it until the political season began and somebody said, well, what about this?" Mr. Clinton said in a recent CNN interview, referring to suggestions that donors received special favor from Mrs. Clinton at the State Department.

Among the parties who are major bundlers and large donors to Clinton Foundation, the Wasserman Foundation, run by Clinton bundler Casey Wasserman, gave between $5 million and $10 million to the Clinton Foundation. Elizabeth Bagley, an attorney and former ambassador, has given between $1 million and $5 million. Nassau County, N.Y., Democratic Chairman Jay Jacobs, another bundler, gave between $500,000 and $1 million to the foundation, as did Gerald and Elaine Schuster, a longtime Democratic donor and philanthropist.

David Axelrod: Hillary Clinton and Democrats can win the Iran debate // WaPo // Greg Sargent – July 17, 2015

Ever since the Iran deal was announced, it has been widely presumed — by Republicans, and some neutral observers — that the battle over it in Congress will inevitably be a political winner for the GOP. The Iran debate just seems risky for Democrats — it involves negotiating with the enemy! — and Beltway punditry often assumes that debates over national security always favor Republicans, because, well, partly because Republicans are very good at saying so.

But in an interview with me, David Axelrod — the chief strategist of Barack Obama's two successful presidential campaigns — made the opposite case. He said the Iran debate actually could favor Hillary Clinton and Democrats, and put the GOP presidential nominee in a politically untenable spot. That is, if Democrats prosecute it correctly.

"Broadly, I don't think it's at all clear that Americans are opposed to this," Axelrod said. "Americans recognize that a verifiable agreement is a better option than war."

"The key question here is, If you walk away from this, then what?" Axelrod continued. "It's the responsibility of every single politician, Republican and Democrat, to answer the what's-the-alternative question. And 'let's go to tougher sanctions' is not a real answer."

As many Democrats remain undecided about the substance of the deal, some also appear skittish about the politics of backing it. One exception has been Clinton, who spoke positively about the deal after it was announced. In so doing, she may have offered a template for how Dems should talk about it, hailing it as an "important first step" while stressing that "the agreement will have to be enforced vigorously, relentlessly," an apparent nod to worries

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that Iran might try to cheat.

Nobody knows how the debate over the deal will play throughout the hot month of August, and both sides are gearing up to spend huge sums to pressure lawmakers back at home. It will also come up repeatedly for the presidential candidates. Asked whether it was reasonable for some Dems to be skittish about the politics of the deal, Axelrod said he thought Dem lawmakers were mostly worried about offending donors, not voters. And he suggested — perhaps counterintuitively — that its very riskiness could play Clinton's favor.

"For her it's very advantageous to stand by this agreement," Axelrod said. "There is a perception of risk associated with that position. Her standing strong for it will strengthen her with the Democratic base. And I think it will strengthen her generally, because the picture of her taking on an issue that may have some risk, and standing by her principles on it, will help dispel some of the attacks on her."

In the 2012 presidential race, Mitt Romney seemed to appreciate the public's war-weariness, sometimes downplaying GOP hawkishness. But since then, the international outlook has changed, and Republicans won in 2014 partly by attacking Dems as weak on ISIS and Russia, which suggests perhaps they could win the argument over foreign policy in 2016, too.

Axelrod acknowledged the changed environment, but still said Americans would ultimately support diplomacy with Iran.

"In 2012 you didn't have ISIS, Russia was more cooperative, it was a different environment," Axelrod said. "But I still don't think this means people are eager for military engagement with Iran. I think that the logic of a tough, verifiable agreement, as opposed to military action, is going to be the majority opinion in this country."

Axelrod added that the Iran debate could end up hurting the eventual GOP nominee, who will be required by the base to promise to undo the deal during the primary — and then struggle to explain that position in the general.

"Iran is like the health care debate for Republicans," Axelrod continued. "They're filled with rage but not with ideas. There hasn't been anyone who has articulated a generally viable alternative. They can get away with thundering outrage in the primary, but when you get to the general, you're going to get scrutinized more closely."

"The Republican nominee is going to be faced with, 'okay, what are you going to do?'" Axelrod also said. "There is no surgical way to take out the Iran nuclear program. You're talking about a major military commitment. So I think it becomes a risky proposition for the Republican nominee."

But it's not inevitable that the American mainstream will see the situation as nothing more than a choice between the Iran deal and war. Couldn't Republicans muddy those waters and create the impression that there's a third way?

"That is the challenge for Democrats — to expose the fact that there is no third way," Axelrod said. "If Republicans muddy the waters, that's a dereliction on the part of Democrats. There is no third way. The emptiness of that argument needs to be exposed repeatedly and aggressively."

Clinton reserves nearly $8 million in TV time for fall advertising blitz // WaPo // Dan Balz – July 17, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton, in a move that suggests she is taking little for granted in the early states of Iowa and New Hampshire, has reserved nearly $8 million in television time for a fall advertising blitz, a campaign official confirmed Friday.

The advertising could begin as early as the first week of November.

Once on the air in those states, Clinton is prepared to stay on almost continually through the first votes of the 2016 primary-caucus season.

Iowa's caucuses are scheduled for Feb. 1, 2016, and the New Hampshire primary is likely to be held eight days later, on Feb 9.

Politico first reported the news of the ad buy.

Despite a hefty lead in national polls, Clinton has seen her margins in Iowa and New Hampshire beginning to shrink somewhat, with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) rising. The advertising buy sends a signal that Clinton will be prepared to wage a costly campaign to fend off her rivals.

The campaign has reserved about $3.6 million in television time across eight Iowa media markets. The remainder of the $7.7 million expenditure is devoted to a statewide buy in New Hampshire. Most of the money aimed at

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Granite State voters will be spent in markets that blanket the southern part of the state, where the population is concentrated.

The ad buy is the latest major expenditure of the Clinton campaign, which raised more than $45 million in the second quarter of the year.

The June 30 financial report filed by the campaign revealed that she also had spent $19 million in that period.

Television advertising time, especially in New Hampshire, can be costly, and ad rates rise as the primary nears. With 16 or 17 Republican candidates, five Democratic candidates and an abundance of super PACs, the airwaves will become extremely crowded later this year and in January and early February.

Iowa and New Hampshire are potential stumbling blocks even for a candidate who starts with the financial and political advantages of Clinton. Eight years ago, her third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses launched then-senator Barack Obama toward his eventual victory in the Democratic nomination contest.

Though Clinton won a comeback victory in New Hampshire, she was not able to prevail despite the advantages with which she started that campaign. This time, she enjoys even more advantages. But campaign officials have said from the beginning that they expect a competitive contest again, and they are prepared to spend more on TV ads in those states, if they are deemed necessary.

In Clinton's shadow, Democrats meet for first 2016 face-off // AP // Lisa Lerer – July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Democratic presidential candidates are descending on Iowa for the first face-off of their 2016 primary, a contest that remains dominated by the outsized political influence of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

All five Democratic primary candidates are on the program for a dinnertime fundraiser sponsored by the state party in Cedar Rapids, creating an opportunity for her challengers to confront Clinton before more than 1,200 influential party activists in the crucial caucus state.

Three months into what seems like an all-but-inexorable march to the nomination, Clinton has already built a vast campaign infrastructure, establishing a multistory headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, and placing hundreds of staffers across the country.

But her first joint event with her primary rivals comes amid signs that she has yet to win over her party's most passionate supporters, the activists and small-dollar donors that will form the base of her support in the general election.

At a town hall meeting in New Hampshire on Thursday, liberal environmental protestors broke out into chants after Clinton refused to promise an immediate halt to all fossil-fuel development.

"I totally respect the passion and the urgency," she said, attempting to calm the crowd. "I understand it."

An Associated Press-GfK poll released this week found her standing falling among Democrats, with about 70 percent of Democrats giving Clinton positive marks, an 11-point drop from an April survey. Nearly a quarter of Democrats now say they see Clinton in an unfavorable light.

"I don't like seeing that, obviously," Clinton said of the poll, speaking to reporters on Thursday. "But I think people know that I will fight for them. I'll fight for their jobs, I'll fight for their families, I'll fight on behalf of better education and health care."

She added: "I'm very pleased with the support I have."

Just 17 percent of the $47 million that Clinton raised since announcing her campaign came from contributions of $200 or less. In comparison, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has fueled his insurgent challenge to Clinton with small donations, pulling in three-quarters of his more than $15.2 million haul from smaller amounts.

In recent weeks, Sanders has packed arenas with voters eager to hear the message of the self-described socialist, who's become Clinton's chief rival. So far, he's refused to directly criticize Clinton, though he's questioned her positions on issues like trade, Wall Street regulations and the Keystone XL pipeline.

"I like her. I respect her," Sanders said on Tuesday, after joining his fellow Senate Democrats at a luncheon with Clinton on Capitol Hill. "It is not necessary for people to dislike each other or attack each other just because they're running for office."

Besides Sanders and Clinton, the forum includes former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee. Each candidate will deliver 15 minutes of remarks.

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Clinton Focuses on GOP at First Primary Face-off of 2016 // AP // Lisa Lerer – July 17, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton avoided any mention of her primary opponents in the first Democratic face-off of the 2016 presidential campaign, opting instead to focus her fire on an expanding field of would-be Republican contenders.

All five Democratic primary candidates were on the program for the Friday fundraiser for the Iowa state party, creating an opportunity for Clinton to confront her challengers before more than 1,300 influential party activists in the crucial caucus state.

Instead, she explained her White House bid as a "deeply personal" quest, vowing she would never let Republicans "rip away the progress" made during the Obama administration. In a fiery address, she slammed the economic policy of former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, joked that Donald Trump is "finally a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine," and attacked Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker for targeting union power.

"Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s," Clinton said, evoking Republican policy from the Reagan era. "It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair. ... We are not going back to that."

The dinnertime event came as the Democratic primary fight — long assumed to be little more than a coronation of Clinton — appeared to be heating up into a slightly more serious contest.

In recent weeks, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has risen in the polls and packed arenas with voters eager to hear the message of the self-described socialist who's become Clinton's chief rival. So far, he's refused to criticize Clinton directly, though he edged closer to an attack Friday, questioning whether she would back the kind of tough regulation on Wall Street that's becoming a rallying call for liberals.

"You'll have to ask Hillary Clinton her views on whether we should break up these large financial institutions," he said, during an afternoon appearance in Cedar Rapids. "I do."

The Clinton campaign has signaled that it considers Sanders to be a legitimate challenger who will be running for the long haul, noting the $15.2 million he's raised, largely from small donors, in the first three months of the race. They believe he will find a measure of support in Iowa, where the caucus system typically turns out the most passionate voters, and New Hampshire, given Sanders' many years representing neighboring Vermont in Congress.

On Friday, Clinton's campaign said it bought $7.7 million worth of television advertising time in early voting states, its first ad buy for the 2016 contest. In Iowa, the campaign paid $3.6 million for time in all eight media markets that serve the state. An additional $4.1 million of airtime was purchased in New Hampshire, which holds the first primary.

But so far the Clinton team has resisted any direct engagement with Sanders, fearing such an exchange might alienate the activists and small-dollar donors who will form the base of support in the general election if Clinton should win the nomination.

"You can see that Democrats are united, we are energized, and we are ready to win this election," Clinton said, opening her remarks before a cheering audience.

Besides Sanders and Clinton, the forum featured former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

Clinton wasn't the only candidate who shied away from attacks on fellow members of the Democratic party.

Even Chafee, who opened his quixotic self-fueled bid for the White House with attacks on Clinton's support for the war in Iraq, now opted against targeting the frontrunner.

"We have a choice in 2016, prosperity through peace or endless war," he said. "We need to reject once and for all the belligerent advocates of conflict."

Unlike her rivals, Clinton has already built a vast campaign infrastructure, run from a multistory headquarters in New York City, with hundreds of staffers across the country.

Sanders said he has "no illusions" about her political clout.

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"We are going to be outspent in this campaign, but I think people all over this country are responding to a very simple message and that is that it is not acceptable that the middle class is continuing to disappear," he said.

Clinton campaign touts endorsements ahead of Iowa cattle call // Politico // Nick Gass – July 17, 2015

Two top Iowa officials announced their support for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton ahead of the first major cattle call of the Democratic primary in the state.

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and state Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald endorsed Clinton, according to a press release from the campaign, as Clinton goes before heavy establishment crowds in the Hawkeye State on Friday. The endorsements also come amid signs of surprising strength for Bernie Sanders, the independent Vermont senator, in both Iowa and New Hampshire.

“Hillary Clinton will build an economy for tomorrow that raises incomes for working Americans, ensures that students don’t graduate with crushing debts and provides affordable childcare options for working families. She’ll strengthen our families by fighting for commonsense policies like comprehensive immigration reform, equal pay for women and criminal justice reform,” said Miller said in a statement.

In his endorsement, Fitzgerald praised Clinton for her “commitment to growing our economy so that everyday Iowans can get ahead and stay ahead is what Iowa Democrats believe to our core.”

“I’m proud to support Hillary Clinton and look forward to working with her to organize and win in Iowa and next November,” he said.

Clinton will meet with Iowa campaign organizers in Cedar Rapids later Friday before attending a kickoff party and the state Democratic Party’s Hall of Fame Dinner.

Hillary Clinton bundlers get inside look at campaign workings // Politico // Annie Karni – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton’s bundlers — individuals who raised at least $100,000 in primary dollars since April — were treated to four hours of face time with top campaign officials Thursday in Brooklyn, sources told POLITICO.

The meeting, at the Marriott hotel in downtown Brooklyn, marked the first meeting for bundlers, known as “Hillblazers,” and was designed to give them a sense of the state of the race, as well as a peek at the inner workings of the campaign. About 70 people attended, a source said.

Speakers at the meeting included vice chairman Huma Abedin, campaign chairman John Podesta, and campaign manager Robby Mook, who all participated in a “wrap-up” panel discussing the state of play. Communications director Jennifer Palmieri also spoke, along with top policy gurus Jake Sullivan and Maya Harris, and national political director Amanda Renteria, among others.

The first campaign filings released Wednesday evening showed Clinton struggled to attract small donors. Less than 20 percent of the $47.5 million Clinton raised between April and July was from individuals contributing $200 or less. A source said engaging small donors was part of a bigger conversation at Thursday’s meeting about grassroots engagement, including how to reach out to millennial voters.

The Clinton camp released the names Wednesday night of over 100 bundlers who together make up the campaign’s finance committee, which included longtime Clinton donors, Obama allies, and some elected officials

Included in the roster are former Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh; Rep. Joaquin Castro; Rep. Grace Meng; Rep. Jim Hime; longtime supporter and Clinton Foundation donor Lynn Forester de Rothschild; Sean Eldridge and New Republic owner Chris Hughes; media mogul Fred Eychaner; billionaire venture capitalist J. B. Pritzker; Morgan Stanley executive Tom Nides, who served as part of Clinton’s brain trust at the State Department; megadonor and Univision owner Haim Saban; Steve Rattner; and Democratic National Committee member Robert Zimmerman, among others.

A Clinton campaign spokesman declined to comment about the meeting.

Clinton campaign mocks press coverage // Politico // Nick Gass – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton’s campaign is deploying a new weapon in its running battle with the press: withering sarcasm.

“If you believe the mood and headlines from some of the press, it’s been a pretty rough week for Hillary Clinton,” wrote campaign communications director Jennifer Palmieri in a Medium post published Friday. “While there was

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widespread and substantive coverage of the rollout of her economic agenda, politically, it's a different story,"

Clinton has so much trouble, a decidedly tongue-in-cheek Palmieri wrote, that one poll showed that "she only had a higher favorability number than any other candidate it tested." In fact, she added, Clinton is polling a "disastrous" 68 percent in approval among Hispanic voters (according to a Univision poll out Thursday), and "only leads her closest competition," Jeb Bush, by a mere 37 points in that survey.

The post also touted Clinton's record fundraising and cash on hand.

"It's true," Palmieri wrote. "Hillary is left in the terrible position of having the most resources of any candidate and being voters' top choice to be the next President of the United States."

Exclusive: Hillary's first ad buy // Politico // Glenn Thrush – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton is reserving time for her first major ad buys of the 2016 campaign — shelling out $7.7 million of TV spots in Iowa and New Hampshire for the fall, a campaign official told POLITICO.

The ad buys would allow Clinton to go on the air as early as the first week in November and stretches through Election Day in each state — Feb. 1 for the Iowa caucuses, Feb. 9 for the New Hampshire primary.

It's possible Clinton could buy additional time in either state sooner, the official emphasized, but she wanted to lock down the dates before the corroded GOP field and related super PACs drove up advertising rates.

"It's smart to do now," the official said.

In Iowa, the campaign is cutting checks worth $3.6 million to reserve space in eight media markets statewide; In New Hampshire, they are buying several slots with a high percentage of the cash going to the expensive Manchester/Boston market in the southern part of the state, and neighboring Burlington, Vt.

Clinton raised $45 million for the Democratic primary as of June 30, and the Brooklyn-based campaign burnt through $18.7 million during its first quarter, much of the cash going to polling, salaries and ramping up operations in early primary states.

The Next Phase of Hillary Clinton's Presidential Campaign Has Begun // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – July 17, 2015

The relaunch of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign wasn't on Roosevelt Island in June, or when she sat down for her first nationally televised interview last week.

It happened on Thursday in New Hampshire, in the auditorium of a municipal building and the backyard of an old house, as she threw what others might call caution—and her advisers have insisted was intentional planning—to the wind.

After months of limited questioning from screened panelists or a handful of reporters on a pre-written list, she just started calling on people.

She called on 36 people in all over the course of the day, including nine members of the media.

In a steamy, cavernous room at the Dover Municipal Building, she spent close to 70 minutes answering questions. Though she began with a short version of her stump speech and tacked on a proposal to offer tax credits to companies that share profits with their employees that her campaign announced Thursday, she let the conversation go where the voters in the room wanted it to go, which didn't include profit sharing.

Instead, she fielded questions on the Iran deal, climate change, student debt, the criminal justice system and federally funded space exploration. It might be a typical range for Bernie Sanders or Jeb Bush or Marco Rubio but for Clinton, who spent the beginning of her campaign staying self-consciously on message, it was something new and marked the dawn of a new more open phase of her 2016 White House bid.

Asked about banning the extraction of fossil fuels from public lands by a young woman who demanded a yes-or-no answer, Clinton struck her own course."The answer is no until we get alternatives into place," she said, acknowledging that her response might not satisfy the questioner but was the only realistic way for her to respond.

Later, Clinton called on another young woman, who posed the same question. "I'm going to be honest, I was disappointed by the answer that you gave before about climate change," the woman said, adding that she wondered if Clinton's unwillingness to act was influenced by her campaign donors from the fossil fuel industry. "No. No it is not," Clinton said, offering up a similar response to her first one until the woman, a few dozen yards away from Clinton, shouted "act on climate" and a handful of others, including the first woman, joined in. Two

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men unfurled a banner reading “ban extraction on public lands.”

“You know what, I have said in this campaign I am going to tell you what I believe. Some people may like it and some people may not like it,” Clinton said. “I totally respect the passion and urgency,” she added, and “I would urge you to run for office and have your voices heard.”

Others had more personal—and unexpected—concerns.

One woman launched into an extended plea for help stopping the flood of telemarketer calls to her without changing her number and Clinton took it in stride.

“I have to tell you that’s the first time I’ve been asked that. And I don’t know the answer but I will try to find out if there is an answer,” she said, before promising that a campaign staffer would reach out to the woman and try to help.

Aides say this is where they had planned to be at this point in the campaign, past the initial listening-heavy phase of the campaign and onto the next step, sharing her views while still engaged in a back-and-forth with voters.

Still, there was a clear shift even from early last week, when Clinton took questions from several audience members at the Iowa City Public Library. In all, she took 16 questions at the Dover event, the first that her campaign’s billed as a town hall.

Later, after working her way through the crowd and posing for a long line of photos, Clinton spoke to the press. Traveling press secretary Nick Merrill was the traffic cop, calling on reporters as some tried to shout over others, but unlike at other recent press availabilities, he wasn’t calling on people based on a pre-written list of names. cut off the back-and-forth while some reporters were still clamoring for their own shot at her. But Merrill and Clinton did cut off the back-and-forth while some reporters were still clamoring for their own shot at her.

Just before sunset, an organizing house party held in the buggy backyard of an old home in Windham, Clinton spent more than half an hour calling on people in the crowd, touching on many of the same issues as she had earlier in the day.

After finishing her response to the tenth questioner and with it clear that she was running out of time, she struggled for a moment before passing along the responsibility of calling on the final questioner to someone else, her Midwestern-polite roots showing through.

Earlier in the day, though, she’d shown that she could be more casual.

“How do I address you? As ambassador or secretary or just Hillary?" one man asked her in Dover.

"Hillary is fine with me,” she said.

Hedge Fund Titans Choosing Hillary Clinton Over Top Republicans // Bloomberg // Saijel Kishan and Rebecca Spalding – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton received donations from some of the biggest names in the hedge fund industry, including Paul Tudor Jones, even as the presidential candidate wants to boost their tax rate.

Jones, the billionaire founder of Tudor Investment Corp., Jamie Dinan, who started York Capital, and Neil Chriss, who runs Hutchin Hill Capital, each contributed the maximum $2,700 to Clinton’s bid for the White House, according to Federal Election Commission filings for the second quarter.

Clinton, who’s made closing the wealth gap the centerpiece of her campaign, lured more donations from boldface industry names than Republican candidates 16 months before the election. Hedge fund managers, their employees and family members donated at least $54,000 to Clinton, a Democrat, according to the FEC. Republicans Jeb Bush got at least $27,000, Marco Rubio took in at least $10,800 while Carly Fiorina received at least $4,200.

“Something is wrong when CEOs earn more than 300 times than what the typical American worker earns and when hedge fund managers pay a lower tax rate than truck drivers or nurses,” Clinton said in May.

The candidate’s populist rhetoric didn’t dissuade many managers from supporting her. They include Frank Brosens, co-founder of Taconic Capital Advisors, Mitchell Julis, co-founder Canyon Partners, David Shaw, the billionaire founder of D.E. Shaw & Co., BlueMountain Capital Management Managing Partner James Staley, Jake Gottlieb, who runs Visum Asset Management, and Richard Perry, who heads Perry Capital.

Bush, Rubio and Fiorina drew a smaller cohort of top hedge fund managers.

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Bush drew support from Dan Loeb, the billionaire founder of Third Point, Scott Kapnick, who runs Highbridge Capital Management, and Robert Pohly, founder of Samlyn Capital. Hudson Bay's Sander Gerber and Bracebridge Young, chief executive officer of Mariner Investment Group, also donated to the candidate.

Rubio got contributions from Paul Singer, the billionaire investor who runs Elliott Management, and Greg Jensen, co-CEO of Bridgewater Associates. Fiorina won the backing of billionaire John Paulson of Paulson & Co.

Julis of Canyon Capital donated to both Clinton and Fiorina, while Omega Advisors' Steve Einhorn gave money to Bush, Rubio and Fiorina.

Jonathan Soros, the son of billionaire George Soros who runs his own firm, JS Capital, also gave money to Clinton.

Hillary Clinton's Biggest Campaign Bundlers Are Fossil Fuel Lobbyists // HuffPo // Paul Blumenthal and Kate Sheppard – July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON -- Nearly all of the lobbyists bundling contributions for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's campaign have at one time or another worked for the fossil fuel industry.

A list of 40 registered lobbyists that the Clinton camp disclosed to the Federal Election Commission on Wednesday revealed a number of Democratic Party lobbyists who have worked against regulations to curb climate change, advocated for offshore drilling, or sought government approval for natural gas exports.

Clinton, the former secretary of state, has called climate change the most "consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and a world" and says it would be a major focus of her administration if she wins the White House. But having so many supporters who have sold their services to fossil fuel companies may complicate her emphasis on pro-environment policies.

Scott Parven and Brian Pomper, lobbyists at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, have been registered to lobby for the Southern California-based oil giant Chevron since 2006, with contracts totaling more than $3 million. The two bundled Clinton contributions of $24,700 and $29,700, respectively. They have helped Chevron over the years resist efforts to eliminate oil and gas tax breaks and to impose regulations to reduce carbon emissions.

The two Clinton bundlers also were part of a much-criticized campaign by Chevron to manipulate Congress into inserting language into the Andean Trade Preferences Act that would require Ecuador to dismiss a longstanding lawsuit against the company for polluting the Amazon jungle. Democratic lawmakers pushed back against the campaign and the lawsuit is continuing.

One prominent lobbying topic embraced by Clinton bundlers is the expansion of liquefied natural gas exports and federal approval of new LNG terminals.

Ankit Desai, vice president for government relations at top LNG exporter Cheniere Energy, bundled $82,000 to the Clinton camp, with much of it coming from Cheniere Energy executives. Cheniere executives, including Desai, have donated $38,800 to Clinton's campaign.

The company has lobbied hard in Washington and maintains close ties to the Obama administration. The company won the first approval to export gas to countries outside of U.S. free-trade agreements. The company is seeking approval to open additional terminals to export LNG, and will likely need a friend in the White House come 2017.

ML Strategies' David Leiter lobbied in 2014 on behalf of Sempra Energy when the company received approval for its LNG export facility in Hackberry, Louisiana. Leiter, who bundled $36,550 for Clinton's campaign, also is a lobbyist for ExxonMobil. Steve Coll noted in a New Yorker article derived from his book on the oil giant, Private Empire, that Leiter, an ex-staffer to former Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), was retained, along with a host of others, to increase the company's reach into the Democratic Party it had ignored for years.

ExxonMobil's top lobbyist in Washington, Theresa Fariello, may not be a bundler for Clinton's campaign, but she is a donor. Fariello, who was a Department of Energy official in President Bill Clinton's administration, gave $2,700 to Clinton's campaign. Another Washington-based Exxon lawyer, Judith Batty, donated $2,700.

Clinton also got contributions from others involved in the fossil fuel business. Her campaign received $2,700 from BP America's Mary Streett, formerly the top lobbyist for the nuclear power utility Exelon. Anadarko Petroleum lawyers Amanda McMillan and Richard Lapin each gave $2,700. Sarah Venuto and Martin Durbin, both lobbyists for America's Natural Gas Alliance, the top gas industry lobbying group, gave $2,910 and $1,000, respectively. Celia Fischer, an America's Natural Gas Alliance representative who is not a lobbyist, gave $2,700.

Aside from lobbyists currently working to advance fossil fuel interests, there is one Hillblazer bundler -- the name for Clinton boosters raising more than $100,000 -- who stands out.

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Bundler Gordon Giffin is a former lobbyist for TransCanada, the company working to build the controversial Keystone XL pipeline. Giffin sits on the board of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, an investor in the pipeline. The Canadian bank paid Clinton $990,000 for speeches in the months leading up to her presidential announcement. Another Canadian financial institution with an interest in Keystone XL, TD Bank, paid her $651,000 for speaking engagements.

Clinton's position on Keystone XL -- or lack thereof -- may prove the biggest challenge for her in gaining support from progressive activists. Whether to grant a permit for the leg of the pipeline that crosses the Canadian border into the U.S. is up to the State Department, which has been considering it since Clinton's time as secretary of state. In October 2010 remarks, Clinton said the department was "inclined" to sign off on the pipeline, a statement that enraged environmental groups working to stop it. On the campaign trail, Clinton has largely evaded questions about the pipeline.

But the issue has dogged Clinton. The speaking fees from Canadian banks came to light in May. In June, Clinton's campaign announced the hiring of former TransCanada lobbyist Jeff Berman as a consultant.

The issue of campaign donations from fossil fuel interests has become a topic in the Democratic Party primary, as both Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley have pledged they will not accept contributions from oil, gas or coal companies. Clinton has not signed that pledge.

Fossil fuel campaign contributions came up at a town hall event Clinton hosted in New Hampshire on Thursday.

"I'm disappointed about the answer you gave to climate change," Giselle Hart, an activist with 350 Action, told Clinton. I'm wondering if your answer ... is due to contributions from the fossil fuel industry to your campaign."

Activists unfurled banners and demanded that Clinton support a ban on fossil fuel extraction on public lands. Clinton responded that she would phase out extraction over time, though not immediately. "We still have to run our economy, we still have to turn on the lights," she said.

Reached for comment, a representative for the campaign simply pointed HuffPost to Clinton's remarks at the Thursday's town hall.

Bill Clinton Is Sorry For A Lot Of Things // HuffPo // Marina Fang and Amber Ferguson – July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON -- As president, Bill Clinton was wrong about Wall Street deregulation and various elements of his foreign policy, pushed trade policies that painfully drove up drug prices around the world, sowed chaos in Mexico through his prosecution of the drug war and exacerbated the problem of mass incarceration through an overly punitive approach to sentencing.

It may be a harsh judgment, but it's one that carries weight considering the source: former President Bill Clinton.

Unlike a lot of politicians, Clinton has shown a willingness to own up to his mistakes. Earlier this week, he offered a mea culpa around sentencing at the NAACP convention. Here's an incomplete list of policies he pursued as president that he has since acknowledged were not the best choices.

Criminal justice

Clinton's 1994 omnibus crime bill included mandatory minimum sentences, even for minor offenses such as drug crimes. It also contained a federal "three strikes" provision, which imposed life sentences for anyone convicted of a violent felony after two or more previous convictions.

Addressing the NAACP convention on Wednesday, Clinton admitted that his tough crime laws led to swelling prison populations.

"I signed a bill that made the problem worse," he said. "And I want to admit it."

In April, Clinton acknowledged in an introduction to a book of essays about criminal justice that these policies were "overly broad instead of appropriately tailored."

"Some are in prison who shouldn't be, others are in for too long, and without a plan to educate, train, and reintegrate them into our communities, we all suffer," he wrote.

He again referenced his mistake in May, telling CNN that "we had too many people in prison" and that criminal justice policies did not place enough emphasis on rehabilitating criminals and supporting them once they were out of prison.

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“We wound up … putting so many people in prison that there wasn't enough money left to educate them, train them for new jobs and increase the chances when they came out so they could live productive lives,” he said.

Financial deregulation

As president, Clinton turned a blind eye to big banks when he repealed FDR’s Glass-Steagall Act, which separated commercial and investment banking. This allowed big banks to merge, becoming “too big to fail.” Clinton also signed the Commodity Futures Modernization Act, which prevented derivatives from being regulated, opening the door for risky business on the part of banks. Finally, he passed policies that made it easier for banks to practice predatory lending and give risky mortgages to low-income homebuyers. All of these policies eventually wrecked havoc on the global economy in the form of the 2007-08 financial crisis.

In 2010, Clinton said his decision to exempt derivatives from regulation was shortsighted and that he should not have listened to his economic advisers, who urged him to do it.

"On derivatives, yeah, I think they were wrong, and I think I was wrong to take [their advice],” he said. "Now, I think if I had tried to regulate them, because the Republicans were the majority in the Congress, they would have stopped it. But I wish I should have been caught trying. I mean, that was a mistake I made."

The drug war

While speaking in Mexico in February, Clinton apologized for the U.S. war on drugs that led to drug smuggling, which led to corruption, crime and violence across Central America. Though it began under President Ronald Reagan, the drug war escalated as a result of the NAFTA treaty championed by Clinton. Free trade benefitted drug cartels and enabled more drug trafficking.

“I wish you had no narco-trafficking, but it’s not really your fault,” Clinton said. “Basically, we did too good of a job of taking the transportation out of the air and water, and so we ran it over land. I apologize for that.”

Marriage equality

In 1996, Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, defining marriage to be between a man and a woman. Though he had reservations about the bill and understood its impact on LGBT couples, he feared that not signing it would cost him the 1996 election.

In the years since, his public stance has evolved on marriage equality. When the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case to overturn DOMA in 2013, Clinton admitted the law was a mistake and urged the court to rule against it.

Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell

A political compromise was the reason Clinton signed Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, which required LGBT military members to keep their sexual orientation a secret. The House had voted for an outright ban on gays in the military, while Clinton supported completely allowing gays to serve.

When asked in 2010 if he regretted the policy, he said: “Oh yeah, but keep in mind, I didn’t choose this policy. The reason I accepted it was because I thought it was better than an absolute ban.”

Rwandan genocide

Clinton has said that one of his biggest regrets as president was not intervening in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Administration officials knew of the potential magnitude of the genocide but chose not to send troops to support the relatively small and ineffective United Nations peacekeeping force.

In 2006 while on a trip to Rwanda, he was blunt in his assessment of how he handled the situation. “The United States just blew it in Rwanda,” he said.

"If we'd gone in sooner, I believe we could have saved at least a third of the lives that were lost,” he told CNBC in 2013. “It had an enduring impact on me."

Haitian rice tariffs

As president, Clinton called for Haiti to eliminate tariffs on imported, subsidized U.S. rice, which crippled Haiti’s rice farmers, a major contributor to the country’s economy. He became a UN special envoy to Haiti in 2009, and after the devastating earthquake in 2010, Clinton called the tariff decision “a devil’s bargain.”

“It was a mistake. It was a mistake that I was a party to. I am not pointing the finger at anybody. I did that,” he

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said. “I have to live every day with the consequences of the lost capacity to produce a rice crop in Haiti to feed those people, because of what I did. Nobody else.”

HIV/AIDS & drug prices

HIV/AIDS experts have criticized Clinton for not doing enough to fight the global AIDS epidemic as it grew in the 1990s. Worse than what he didn't do was what his trade office did do: fought hard for trade policies that strengthened and extended pharmaceutical patents, driving up prices worldwide, making not just HIV medications unaffordable. "It was wrong," Clinton later said of the patent push. In the 15 years since his presidency, he has committed himself to the AIDS cause through the Clinton Foundation, working to undo the damage.

Monica

Yeah, that famous apology.

Here Are The Celebrities Contributing To Hillary Clinton's Campaign // HuffPo // Paul Blumenthal – July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON -- The Democratic Party and Hollywood have a long history together, and former secretary of state and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is making the most of it. She has already received financial backing from celebrities big and small.

In May, Clinton swung through southern California to attend fundraisers hosted by entertainment industry producers Haim Saban and Steven Boccho. Those events were populated with a raft of celebrities who cut maximum $2,700 checks to the Democratic front-runner's campaign account. Actor Tobey Maguire later hosted Clinton for a fundraiser at his Los Angeles home in June.

Celebrity money did not just come from the West Coast, but also from New York. Clinton attended a fundraiser hosted by music producer L.A. Reid in May that made news when a photo of pop star Beyoncé Knowles with the candidate showed up online.

Contributions from celebrities aren't just fodder for entertainment. These donors work in industries that have very particular interests that a president (or any other politician) could influence.

Hollywood and the music industry were the primary supporters of anti-piracy legislation variously known as the Stop Online Piracy Act and the Protect IP Act. These bills would have clamped down on online piracy of movies, music, television and many other files, but in an incredibly broad manner that brought intense opposition from Silicon Valley companies and open Internet activists. The bills stalled in Congress after a grassroots campaign against them combined with a blackout of some of the largest websites, including Facebook and Wikipedia.

Musicians have personally battled Silicon Valley on another front -- royalty payments from streaming services and online music stores. Music streaming sites like Spotify and Pandora pay artists infinitesimal amounts per stream and have cut deeply into the amounts artists can earn. This affects big-name acts like Taylor Swift, who famously pulled her music from Spotify and fought Apple for royalty payments from their streaming service and won, as well as smaller indie acts trying to make a living. The streaming sites and tech companies that own them have lobbied Congress to help them reduce royalty payments to artists.

Clinton donor Beyoncé and her husband, rapper and businessman Jay-Z, were among a list of music stars, including Madonna and Daft Punk, who launched a streaming service called Tidal to provide better royalty payments to artists.

Celebrities also use the free media they get to promote policy issues they want to see action on. Singer John Legend, who donated to Clinton's campaign, launched a campaign in April to support criminal justice reform and an end to the era of mass incarceration.

And then there are the policy priorities of the increasingly influential Hollywood executives and producers. Take Haim Saban, a $100,000-plus bundler to Clinton's campaign. The Israeli-American television producer is a major Israel booster and promotes the policies of the Middle Eastern country.

Recently, Saban has joined forces with right-wing casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson in an effort to stamp out a boycott, divestment and sanction campaign (known as BDS) seeking to use economic pressure to end Israel's occupation of and control over the 4.4 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

After Saban hosted Clinton for a fundraiser at his home in May, the former secretary of state penned a letter to the billionaire Hollywood producer detailing her opposition to BDS.

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Hillary Clinton Has An Office // HuffPo // Jason Linkins – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign has an office. It's in Brooklyn, a New York City borough famed for its high rents, like all New York City boroughs. People work in that office, at desks, with laptops, doing campaign stuff. When asked, those people all express a willingness to be there.

That's basically the "too long; didn't read" version of this week's important race to chase the big story, in which Bloomberg and Politico competed to be the first organization to get "exclusive" access to Clinton's campaign digs. The race ended in a draw. Why was the existence of a campaign office, and the need to be temporarily embedded within its prosaic confines, of such importance to these institutions? Therein hangs a semi-boring story!

See, a few weeks ago, a great hue and cry was raised after a reporter at a Clinton campaign event in New Hampshire were corralled by Clinton campaign staff in an actual rope, held by those staffers for the purpose of keeping the press at arm's length from the campaign. This was, justly, a moment of marginal embarrassment for the Clinton campaign, as it reinforced an already existing meme about Clinton as a politician: that she is press-averse, and that this aversion has led to a toxic relationship with the media.

All of this happened over the Independence Day holiday weekend. Also happening that weekend: Hillary Clinton was meeting with the New York Times reporter and This Town author Mark Leibovich, a gifted profiler of public figures and media professionals. Leibovich's piece, which was published in the New York Times Magazine less than two weeks later, specifically burrowed into this meme, capturing Clinton as a veteran politician striving for a fresh start both with voters and with the media.

I think that part of the fun of being Mark Leibovich is getting to see what part of his article becomes the thing that everyone decides is "the big takeaway" and being amused by this decision. This time out, he was surely not disappointed. Upon the profile's publication, the hive mind of the political media, which broadcasts its collective unconsciousness on Twitter, decided there were two things worth remembering about Leibovich's story. The first thing was that Hillary Clinton had once eaten moose stew. And then there was this part:

In June, I visited Clinton’s Brooklyn Heights headquarters to interview Robby Mook, her 35-year-old campaign manager. The meeting had been arranged through Jesse Ferguson, a campaign press minder, who in advance of my arrival sent me an email that said the following: "The ground rules we’ve had with others in our office is that the office itself is OTR," meaning off the record. "I don’t want to get into a contest of people tweeting pic from our office to show they were there."

I wrote back that I was not abiding by any "office is off the record" provisions and that it was not clear to me how you could declare a 40,000-square-foot space off the record. I did agree not to tweet.

Ferguson came back asking me if I would "embargo" anything that I saw in the office until the time my article was published. He made it sound as if I were gaining access to the Situation Room. "Regardless when the story runs," he wrote, it "still means you’re the first reporter who can report anything from the office."

And that's how "visiting Hillary Clinton's Brooklyn campaign office" suddenly took on paramount importance with some campaign journalists. Which is weird! As Leibovich warned in his piece, "the office ... basically resembled a large insurance company." There's a great irony there, because political reporters could probably learn a lot more about contemporary American life and the people living it if they actually did visit the offices of a large insurance company.

Unfortunately for everyone involved, Bloomberg and Politico visited the Clinton campaign office instead, where they learned that "campaign offices" are full of eager people who come ready to dispense pleasing bromides about civic duty and the importance of playing a part in a big presidential campaign. Or, as Bloomberg's Mark Halperin enthused as he began a broadcast of his show "With All Due Respect" live and exclusive from Clinton HQ, "They've got it all ... computers, telephones, partial wall dividers."

Maybe I'm wrong to say that this battle of who could care the most about something insignificant ended in a draw, because I suppose that it is objectively "cooler" to get to broadcast your Internet television show from a previously well-guarded aerie than it is to merely tour the office and shoot still photographs, as Politico did. On the other hand, no one at Politico has to work for Michael Bloomberg, who is rumored to have taken a very dim view of Halperin's antics. So I guess it's a wash either way you look at it.

Politico's Annie Karni, who drew the assignment of wandering through Clinton's office, looking for meaning, comes home with a slideshow of images, documenting the existence of several offices and three sets of cubicles into which varying "teams" of the Clinton campaign have settled themselves. Clinton's communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, tells Karni that everyone who heard that reporters were not welcome at the office just got the wrong idea:

“We want to make sure people can do their work, but otherwise we’re happy to have people come check it out,”

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Palmieri said.

The original policy of prohibiting journalists from reporting on the campaign headquarters, she said, was misinterpreted as overly controlling. “When people come in for meetings, you want the operation to continue to function and that if something is overheard, or a memo is seen, it’s not going to get reported on,” Palmieri said. “It seems like that was received the wrong way.”

There is very little of interest that Politico discovers in the Clinton campaign office. Maybe the only interesting thing is that in campaign chairman John Podesta's office, there is "a dark painting of two suited men holding plates and silverware in preparation to eat another man, who appears to be dead."

"POLITICO was not allowed to document the memos and papers on his desk," Politico reports, in case anyone out there thought that this sort of thing would ever be tacitly allowed by anyone working in any office, anywhere.

Karni describes this visit as "part of a new effort [from the Clinton campaign] to engage with the national media that follows on the heels of Clinton’s first national television interview last week." Considering that this was just a guided tour of an office, conducted by Clinton's communications director -- the only person quoted in the piece -- this would seem to be an exercise in low-bar clearance.

Halperin seems to fare better in his foray into the Clinton office, as he and his cohost Margaret Talev at least get to speak to a number of fresh-faced Clinton campaign workers (including former Winter Olympian Michelle Kwan), all of whom seem to be well-prepared (probably because they were specifically prepped) to offer cheerful homilies about working on the Clinton campaign.

The centerpiece of the "With All Due Respect" broadcast is a sit-down interview in which Halperin and Talev talk shop with Clinton political director Amanda Renteria and campaign "director of states" Marlon Marshall, each of whom capably responds to each question with an array of safe platitudes. Asked about the "ethos of this particular campaign," Renteria offers, "It's interesting, it's creative, we really are trying to push the envelope of 'give us your ideas and let's try it out.'" They "work together, not in silos." They are "very deliberate about culture."

I'll say! When Halperin asks if they require the younger members of the campaign team to follow any specific "political rules," Renteria says that everyone is told, "Don't forget why you're here" and "Look around and breathe in and enjoy it." This probably goes without saying, but these aren't "political rules" -- they're "stuff people put on motivational posters."

Halperin asks about the success Sen. Bernie Sanders has had, making headway in the primary race while Clinton's other Democratic rivals haven't. "Can he beat Clinton in either Iowa or New Hampshire or both?"

Clinton campaign states' director Marlon Marshall responds: "First of all, we always expected a competitive primary --"

Halperin cuts him off: "I've heard that line."

"I'm repeating it," said Marshall. "It's a true line."

OK, well, we're really making headway now.

Here are other things I learned, thanks to Bloomberg and Politico:

The Clinton volunteers "work hard."

They have a board that lists who rode around on the campaign bus.

"Each team has come up with its own slogan, which flies above the team’s seating area. The communications team, for instance, calls itself 'sources close to the campaign.' The policy team is known as 'wonks for the win.'"

They have an old, brown refrigerator.

When asked, the people who work on the Clinton campaign can briefly summarize their particular jobs.

Campaign manager Robby Mook's office has a "standing desk" and a "cheerful flowering plant," in case you thought he maybe had a really sulky flowering plant.

That brown refrigerator is apparently "infamous."

There is one "off-message" moment, in which Renteria seems to imply to Halperin that she'd punch Donald Trump if she ran up on him in the streets. Should that happen, The Huffington Post will cover it in our Entertainment

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section.

This one guy made an edible arrangement with berries that looked like the Clinton campaign logo and put it on Instagram, and this is "social media."

Halperin works really hard to get to the bottom of the whole berry thing. Where did they come from? Why berries? A dogged pursuit of the truth, about berries.

The brown refrigerator was donated, maybe?

"It's like a family."

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is the "Brooklyn of the Midwest."

Per Politico, this is the most important thing I learned:

Clinton herself does not keep an office at the Brooklyn HQ -- she typically works out of a separate Midtown office and so far has visited the Brooklyn office just once.

So, that brown refrigerator has actually been a greater presence in this office than the candidate. Good thing all this effort was made to gain access to it. And yes, we have to thank Mark Leibovich for all of this:

Anyway, this was a nice trick. Candidate wants a fresh start with the press. The press sets terms: Let us into your office. This turns out to be the easiest, no-risk thing in the world for the candidate. So after a bit of prep and spit-shining (but not too much spit-shining -- that old brown refrigerator stands in testament to the campaign's middle-class frugality, after all!), the reporters enter, gather their quotes and depart, firm in the knowledge that they have done something special.

So what if the reader is left with no insight into the candidate or her policy preferences? So what if the content generated from these escapades ranges from poll-tested platitudes to annotated interior decoration? The point of this exercise is that the campaign press believes that they have a sacred role to play and that the Clinton campaign had sinned by not honoring that role with sufficient solemnity.

In the end, everyone got what they wanted. Quite cheaply, at that.

When Donald Trump Praised Hillary Clinton // TIME // Zeke J. Miller – July 17, 2015

Republican presidential candidate and reality television star Donald Trump has been deeply critical of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as he has embarked on his campaign, but it wasn't always so.

The real estate magnate has a long history of delivering admiring comments about the woman he now calls the "worst Secretary of State in the history of the United States," and a "desperate" and "sad" candidate.

When Clinton last ran for office, Trump was torn between supporting her and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. " They're both terrific people, and I hope they both get the nomination," he told CNN in 2007, adding that he thought Clinton would surround herself with good people to negotiate a deal with Iran. A year later, Trump wondered publicly why Clinton wasn't chosen as President Obama's running-mate.

In 2012, as Obama was running for re-election, Trump called Clinton "terrific" again in an interview with Fox News, saying she performed well as Secretary of State.

"Hillary Clinton I think is a terrific woman," he told Greta Van Susteren. "I am biased because I have known her for years. I live in New York. She lives in New York. I really like her and her husband both a lot. I think she really works hard. And I think, again, she's given an agenda, it is not all of her, but I think she really works hard and I think she does a good job. I like her.

And on Fox and Friends on Wednesday, Trump explained why he donated to Clinton's campaigns.

"I'm a businessman. I contribute to everybody," Trump said. "When I needed Hillary, she was there. If I say 'go to my wedding,' they go to my wedding."

Would Hillary Clinton's Profit-Sharing Plan Put More Money in Your Pocket? // TIME // Pat Regnier – July 17, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Thursday outlined a plan to encourage companies to share more of their earnings with workers. It's a tax credit companies could get for two years if they set up a profit-sharing plan tilted toward the lower- and middle-income employees on the payroll. (The tax credit would phase

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out for higher-paid workers.) In an example used by the campaign, if an employee was paid $5,000 in a profit-sharing bonus, the company would get a tax break of up to $750.

At least at first, the plan has generally been interpreted as part of Clinton's tilt toward the progressive side of the economic debate. "Veering left…" is how the insider political paper The Hill put it.

Clinton herself has fit profit sharing into her broader message about fixing economic inequality. Here's a graphic from the campaign website that illustrates the story Clinton is telling about what's driving inequality. Companies are doing great and getting more productive, but they haven't haven't been sharing those gains with workers:

But even though profit sharing has the word "sharing" in it, it's a pretty business-friendly solution. Lots of companies like the idea of paying their people more only when the business is doing well; the flip side is they can pay less in fallow years. In the jargon of human resources, other names for profit sharing are the much less warm and fuzzy sounding "pay-at-risk" and "variable pay." Wal-Mart, a company that's famously tough about holding down its labor costs, used to be well-known for profit sharing.

At qz.com , writer Alison Shrager worries that more profit-sharing would just shift more pay out of steady wages and into up-and-down bonuses, adding another source of instability to the finacial lives of low-and middle-income workers. The Clinton campaign told Vox.com that companies would only be able to get the credit for profit sharing above regualr wages—presumably meaning they couldn't cut salaries and then get a credit for adding a profit-sharing plan. But over time, as companies gave out regular raises and made new hires, or as new firms started up, the mix of pay might still shift toward variable bonuses. (Profit sharing eligible for the credit would be capped at 10% of salary.)

If Clinton's proposal became law, it would really be just one more of several tax policies that shape how companies structure their pay. If you get health insurance at work or a 401(k) match, that's because the tax code makes it appealing for companies to pay you that way. You pay less tax on $1 of health insurance or $1 of a 401(k) match than you do on $1 of straight cash pay, so companies like to offer those benefits; similarly, it would be slightly cheaper for a company to give you $1 of profit sharing than to give you $1 of a raise. As an economist will tell you, the health insurance you get at work isn't a free gift on top of your pay. It's part of your overall compensation. If companies didn't offer health coverage, they'd have to pay us more. (Of course, then we'd still have use that money to buy insurance.)

So perhaps Clinton's plan would largely move money from one line in your pay stub to another. But it might be better than a zero-sum game. For one thing, it's effectively a tax cut on pay, which the Clinton campaign says is worth $10 billion to $20 billion over ten years (not huge as these things go.) Though companies would get the credit directly, to the extent that it encouraged companies to make more money available for profit-based bonuses, the tax break should flow through to workers.

And there's at least some evidence that companies with profit sharing actually do pay more overall. An influential think-tank policy paper on "inclusive prosperity," which the Clinton campaign is reported to be be drawing from, points to a study of the effects of profit sharing by the economists Joseph Blasi, Richard Freeman, and Douglas Kruse. Drawing on surveys of workers, it found that pay was generally as high or higher among companies that gave workers some kind of stake in company performance. (That includes not just profit-sharing bonuses but employee stock options and other programs.)

Why? Partly it may be because you have to give people a shot at higher total pay to compensate for the risk that they might not do as well in some years. Or, the economists write, it could be that people are getting paid more because profit sharing spurs them to be more productive. That looks like a win-win, but its not exactly money for nothing. Maybe profit sharing works because it improve morale and gives people an incentive to worker smarter and more creatively. Or perhaps anxiety over losing a bonus scares people into working harder and faster.

But the wage stagnation of the past several decades isn't mainly a productivity problem—just look at the Clinton campaign's own graphic above. People with jobs these days are already working smart and working hard.

Profit-sharing tax credits might nudge some companies to share more of the gains from that productivity with people outside the C-suites. But the story of the last several years is that it's taken employment a long time to climb back from the hit it took in 2008. One thing that really helps people get more pay—whether it's in cash, bonuses, stock option, pensions, or insurance—is full employment and a hot labor market, where companies have to do everything they can to get the workers they need. That's something Washington has had a hard time delivering.

Elizabeth Warren Sends Hillary Clinton a Message // TIME // Sam Frizell – July 17, 2015

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren drew a bright red line on Friday for 2016 presidential candidates, calling for them to commit to end the so-called "revolving door" between Wall Street and the Cabinet.

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The firebrand populist said specifically that all the presidential candidates should support Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin's bill introduced this week that would prohibit bonuses for Wall Street executives who take government jobs.

"Anyone who wants to be President should appoint only people who have already demonstrated they are independent, who have already demonstrated that they can hold giant banks accountable," said Warren, speaking in Phoenix at Netroots Nation, a convention of liberal activists.

While the call to action was aimed at everyone running in 2016, its clearest target was Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton, who is courting the very types of progressive activists in the audience in both the primary and general election.

While Warren declined to run for president, her supporters give her credit for pushing Clinton to the left and setting the liberal standard on a host of issues.

Clinton has already gone at least part of the way to satisfying Warren's demands. During a speech Monday on her vision for the American economy, Clinton called for greater regulation of financial institutions.

"I will appoint and empower regulators who understand that Too Big To Fail is still too big a problem," Clinton said on Monday. She outlined plans to rein in Wall Street and "go beyond Dodd-Frank."

Baldwin's bill is aimed at addressing what progressives see as a profound governmental problem: that government finance appointees often have close ties to Wall Street. In her speech, Warren pointed out that three of the last four Treasury Secretaries, the vice chair of the Federal Reserve and other key government officials have had close ties with Citigroup, a major Wall Street bank.

"Elizabeth Warren offered a framework for how Democratic presidential candidates can reduce Wall Street influence in key appointments," said Stephanie Taylor, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee after Warren's speech.

Unhappy with President Obama's less aggressive approach to Wall Street, the Democratic left has searched for a liberal champion who can address issues like income inequality and campaign finance reforms and found some of its voice in Warren, a former Harvard law professor and consumer protection advocate.

While Clinton has rhetorically embraced much of Warren's logic, she has not gone as far as her fellow Democratic presidential candidates, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

In her speech Friday, Warren spoke about a surging progressive movement across the country, calling Washington, D.C., out of touch with the rest of America.

She ticked off a litany of issues that she said Americans are further to the left on than elected officials, including raising the minimum wage, reducing the cost of college, requiring paid sick leave, increasing social security benefits, and enacting campaign finance reform.

"I'm here to make an announcement to insider Washington: America is far more progressive than you are," Warren said.

It's a message Warren is counting on resonating in the 2016 election. Warren added that the economic crisis in 2008 would have been different if there had been left-leaning economists in high governmental positions instead of Wall Street alums.

"How would the world be different today if, when the economic crisis hit [in 2008], Joe Stiglitz had been Secretary of the Treasury?" Warren said.

Stiglitz is now advising Hillary Clinton.

Hillary Clinton's Digital Team Likes Barack Obama's Style **// TIME // Sam Frizell – July 17, 2015**

Democratic U.S. presidential hopeful and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks to members of the media July 14, 2015 on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

Hillary Clinton campaign's deputy digital director said Friday that the White House's online outreach is a model for how public figures can connect with voters, offering a hint into how the Democratic frontrunner will Instagram, Tweet, and email during the 2016 race.

Speaking during a panel at Netroots Nation, a convention of liberal activists in Phoenix, Jenna Lowenstein pointed to the increasing importance of using the web to create a feeling of intimacy with voters.

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"You can have a candidate who everyone loves and wants to sit down and have a drink with them, 99% of people aren't going to be able to do that. Digital is an opportunity," Lowenstein said "to be a proxy of that."

Lowenstein said the White House has been notably effective at different kinds of digital outreach, pointing to Obama's hour-long interview with Marc Maron, and the president unveiling his proposal for free community college in a nine-second Vine.

"When the president rolled out free community college, they did it in this Vine and it was the perfect delivery mechanism," said Lowenstein. "It was kind of this badass moment where the president was sitting on Air Force One and in 9 seconds explained the policy."

The Clinton campaign has projected its candidates' persona online as personable, funny, and approachable. Clinton's first Instagram was a photo of pantsuits with a tongue-in-cheek hashtag of the title of her book, "Hard Choices," and the campaign has frequently posted childhood pictures of Clinton.

Hillary Clinton 1, Protesters 0? Climate hecklers m ay have a point // MSNBC // T ony Dokoupil – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton delivered a dose of self-styled climate change real talk to some silly college kids on Thursday. But the content doesn't hold up well against the facts. And it certainly won't silence the likes of Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley, Clinton's fellow presidential hopefuls and her two most potent critics on the left.

The confrontation occurred during open questions at Clinton's first New Hampshire town hall appearance. A young woman asked the former secretary of state if, as president, she'd ban fossil fuel extraction on public lands. Clinton said no: "The answer is not until we've got the alternatives in place. That may not be a satisfactory answer to you but I think I have to take the responsible answer."

Then a second young woman stood up, and said she was "disappointed" in the first answer. She wondered if Clinton's "refusal to take leadership on climate change" was because of big campaign donations from the fossil fuel industry. "No. No, it is not," Clinton said, adding that the feel good response — "you bet I will ban extraction on public lands" — would have also been a reckless one. "We still have to run our economy, we still have to turn on the lights."

You can expect this to be a popular line in 2016. With a sigh and shrug, it allows politicians to distance themselves from fossil fuels without actually curbing them in the slightest. But while it used to have the added virtue of being true, we don't really need fossil fuels to keep the lights on and run the economy.

Not anymore.

The alternatives are in place. They've won the sprint against fossil fuels, according to data presented this spring at the Bloomberg New Energy Finance annual summit in New York.

The world is adding more capacity for renewable power each year than coal, natural gas, and oil combined. And there's no going back. The age of fossil fuel is ending.

This wasn't the case just a few years ago.

And there remain's a lot that's right about Clinton's answer. We get about 30% of our energy from fossil fuel extracted from federal land and waters, according to an analysis this year by the Center for American Progress and The Wilderness Society. The Powder River Basin of southeast Montana and northeast Wyoming alone supplies coal for some 200 power plants.

That's about 40% of the market. And it's lashed together and superglued by leases and contracts, courts and lawyers. It obeys the natural law of profits and loss: if billions are invested, billions must be made.

But this is a slow motion scandal for environmentalists. The single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U. S. isn't planes or cars. It isn't fracking or meat farming. It's coal harvested from that federally owned land—land that belongs to everyone.

The extraction of fossil fuels from taxpayer owned land is responsible for a quarter of national carbon emissions, the stuff that scientists say warms the atmosphere and harms the planet. That's why many people see this as an an issue worthy of heckling the former first lady. It's an extension of the divestment movement, a push for intellectual honesty by people who support action on climate change.

It's also more than a protest position. Increasingly, scientific research and real world examples show that the next president could responsibly ban this extraction on federal land. In other words, counter to her answer Thursday,

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Clinton could deliver the applause line. And she could do it without the layoffs, recessions, and blackouts she suggested.

Here's the math behind it: renewable sources of energy account for about 10% of total U.S. energy consumption and 13% of electricity generation, according to federal data. We'd need to just about triple our use to offset the 30% of our energy currently generated off federal lands. Impossible? Hardly. Unheard of? Not at all.

More than a dozen countries get more than 30% of their electricity from renewable sources, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency. Most of that would need to be solar, which President Obama will happily tell you is already adding jobs at 10 times the rate of the rest of the economy. Thanks to Elon Musk, the world even has a way to store solar and wind. We can now save it up for when the sun don't shine and the wind doesn't blow.

What we need now is the infrastructure to actually tap all this renewable potential. Mark Jacobson, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University, has been saying it for years: "You could power America with renewables from a technical and economic standpoint."

What we need is the will to do it. So the question remains: does Hillary Clinton have it?

Hillary Clinton's campaign wrote a sarcastic blog post mocking reporters critical of her poll numbers // Business Insider // Colin Campbell – July 17, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign publicly rolled its eyes at the media this week.

Clinton's communications director, Jennifer Palmieri, wrote a sarcastic blog post mocking reporters for trying to draw a narrative that Clinton is sinking in recent polls.

In the Thursday piece — titled, "Hillary Clinton's No Good, (Record-Breaking, Poll-Winning), Very Bad Week" — Palmieri argued that the latest polls actually were full of good news for Clinton.

"If you believe the mood and headlines from some of the press, it's been a pretty rough week for Hillary Clinton. While there was widespread and substantive coverage of the rollout of her economic agenda, politically, it's a different story. One poll showed so much trouble for Hillary that she only had a higher favorability number than any other candidate it tested," she wrote.

Though Palmieri didn't name the media outlets she was criticizing, she linked to several polls that were widely covered in the press. On Thursday, The Associated Press covered its own AP-GfK survey by focusing on Clinton's drop among Democratic voters, for example.

"Clinton's standing is falling among Democrats, and voters view her as less decisive and inspiring than when she launched her presidential campaign just three months ago," the AP reported. "The survey offers a series of warning signs for the leading Democratic candidate. Most troubling, perhaps, for her prospects are questions about her compassion for average Americans, a quality that fueled President Barack Obama's two White House victories."

However, Palmieri was clearly not convinced. Her blog post went on to sarcastically lament "even worse" polls showing Clinton leading potential Republican opponents in key demographics.

"Even worse, multiple polls released this week show that she leads every candidate running in head-to-head matchups," she continued. "While it is widely known that the growing Hispanic electorate is critical in deciding the election, new polling shows that Hillary Clinton has a disastrous 68 percent approval rating among Hispanic voters and only leads her closest Republican competition (Bush) by 37 points, 64% to 27%."

Palmieri also took shots at the media for focusing on the Clinton campaign's burn rate in its Wednesday finance report. The AP and other outlets led their stories by noting she "spent more than $18 million hiring hundreds of employees in the first three months of her presidential campaign."

Palmieri fired back by pointing to the size of the campaign's overall fundraising haul.

"Not only that, she raised a record amount of primary money for a candidate in their first quarter, with only $8 million (a sum larger than most Republican campaigns raised in total) in donations of less than $200. Hillary also spent too much money building her organization and was only left with more cash on hand than any other campaign raised and more in the bank than the top three Republican campaigns combined," she wrote.

"It's true," Palmieri concluded. "Hillary is left in the terrible position of having the most resources of any candidate and being voters' top choice to be the next President of the United States."

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"Act on climate!": Hillary Clinton gets heckled by protestors who want her to crack down on fossil fuels // Salon // Lindsay Abrams – July 17, 2015

Calling climate change "the most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face as a nation and a world" may not be enough for Hillary Clinton to convince climate hawks she's ready to rise to challenge.

The Democratic presidential candidate temporarily lost control of the crowd at a New Hampshire town hall event Thursday after an audience member called her out for not giving a satisfactory answer to an earlier question about fossil fuel extraction.

"I know what the right answer, in terms of getting votes, would have been," Clinton responded. "The right answer would have been, 'You bet I will ban extraction on public lands.'"

"We have to change our energy policy," Clinton continued. "I have been clear about that; I will continue to be clear about that." But she went on to explain why she's not willing to give the answer the audience member wanted to hear, explaining, "we also have to do it in a way that doesn't disrupt our economy."

The question of how committed Clinton is to fighting climate change is a major one: President Obama set the stage for (mostly) strong executive action on the issue, and the platforms of fellow candidates Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley are to her left on most climate issues. In her formal campaign launch speech, Clinton did propose "using additional fees and royalties from fossil fuel extraction to protect the environment." But Sanders co-sponsored a bill this spring that would end tax breaks and other subsidies for the oil, gas and coal industries, while O'Malley's called for an end to all fossil fuels by 2050. If that's perhaps not as politically feasible as Clinton's proposals, it at least demonstrates what it looks like for a candidate to recognize the necessity of "substantial and sustained" reductions in emissions.

Clinton's town hall questioner also brought up the contributions made to her campaign by the fossil fuel industry, suggesting that may be the reason why the candidate is unwilling to commit to stronger climate action. Sanders and O'Malley both signed a pledge promising to "neither solicit nor accept campaign contributions from any oil, gas, or coal company;" Hillary has not. And all 40 of the registered lobbyists bundling contributions for her campaign, the Huffington Post reported, have in the past worked to advance the interests of the fossil fuel industry.

Clinton dismissed the implication that fossil fuel backing influenced her refusal to say she'd ban oil and gas extraction on public lands. But she lost the crowd as a group of protestors began loudly chanting, "Act on climate! Act on climate!"

"That's okay, that's okay, that's okay," Clinton shouted over them. "I am all in favor of acting on climate."

Hillary Clinton Thinks Telemarketers Are 'Really Annoying,' Too // ABC // Liz Kreutz – July 17, 2015

Apparently, even Hillary Clinton gets calls from telemarketers. (And yes, just like the rest of us, she can't stand them).

During a town hall at the Dover City Hall on Thursday, Clinton commiserated about telemarketing scams with a voter who stood up to ask what the Democratic presidential candidate could do to stop them.

"It's really annoying. It's really annoying. I know," Clinton said. "I mean, we have the same issue at home. It's really so annoying when you've told somebody 'I'm not interested, please don't call me,' and they just kind of go through the cycle and they call you again and call you again, and all the rest of it."

The voter told Clinton that she was getting robocalls up to 20 times a day, despite putting her number on the national "Do Not Call" list, and was desperate for some help.

"I've tried everything," the woman said. "Short of me changing my phone number that everybody knows. I really don't want to do that. We have elderly, we have sick relatives, we have children that need to reach us, and this phone is constantly bouncing across the country."

Clinton, who said she had never before been asked about telemarketing, assured the woman she would look into it.

"I don't know the answer, but I will try to find out if there is an answer," Clinton said.

Even so, the image of Clinton answering a telemarketing call over and over in her Chappaqua, New York, apparently left an impression.

Democrats eager to exploit contrast between Trump, Clinton // Boston Globe // Sean Sullivan –

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July 17, 2015

DOVER, N.H. — Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton spent 15 minutes here Thursday calmly unveiling a corporate profit-sharing plan as part of her proposal to grow middle class incomes and rein in the power of Wall Street banks.

Later in the afternoon, about an hour's drive up State Highway 11, Donald Trump held a rowdy campaign rally where he lashed out at opponents in both parties and stressed his controversial immigration positions. There were no concrete policy ideas.

The contrast highlighted a development that thrills Democratic operatives even as it unsettles their Republican counterparts: Trump, long seen as a political sideshow, is surging in the polls — offering Clinton a plum chance to boost her preferred image as a serious, seasoned alternative to a chaotic field of Republican presidential hopefuls now headlined by the brash billionaire.

"The juxtaposition of the two — your head may explode," said Kathy Sullivan, a former New Hampshire Democratic Party chair, who is backing Clinton.

Holding her first town hall meeting of the campaign, Clinton made a detailed pitch for her plan to spur more companies to share their profits with employees by offering a two-year tax credit as an incentive. The credit would be equal to at least 15 percent of profit sharing distributions and the profit sharing would be capped at 10 percent on top of current employee wages.

"Everybody running on the other side has a different economic philosophy," Clinton said at the town hall, which came the same week she gave a speech laying out her economic message. "They really still believe if you cut taxes on the wealthy, if you lift regulations on corporations, that somehow economic activity will trickle down to all the rest of us."

Trump's explosion onto the Republican campaign has complicated the Republican effort to counterpunch. It's hard to get people to focus on middle class pocketbook issues when the headline-grabbing mogul is on the trail boasting of his vast wealth, offending neighboring nations and tangling with critics in both parties.

In a sweltering room in Laconia, Trump took swipes at a laundry list of foes, from Clinton and President Barack Obama to GOP rival Jeb Bush, as supporters cheered him on. He stood by his recent remarks that illegal immigrants from Mexico are "rapists" who are bringing "drugs" and "crime" into the country.

"It turns out I was right," Trump said, citing an illegal immigrant who allegedly killed a woman in California, and a Mexican drug kingpin who escaped from prison.

Later in his remarks, Trump summed up his candidacy: "The American dream is dead, but I'm going to make it bigger and better and stronger than ever before."

While Trump's Republican primary opponents were initially slow to critique him, some have recently become more forceful.

"I have a message for my fellow Republicans and the independents who will be voting in the primary process: what Mr. Trump is offering is not conservatism, it is Trump-ism - a toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense," said former Texas governor Rick Perry, a Republican, in a Thursday statement.

Still, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who huddled with Trump on Wednesday, has praised his blunt tone. Other presidential contenders have shown reluctance to openly bash him.

"Donald Trump can speak for himself, and I'm not going to put words in the mouth of any candidate, him or anybody else out there," said Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican who also campaigned in New Hampshire on Thursday.

Trump, who has flirted with running for president in past elections, is diving deeper into the race with each passing day. He has launched an full-fledged campaign, hired early state staff and on Wednesday said he filed a financial disclosure with the Federal Election Commission, though he did not release a copy of that disclosure.

National polls show him to be a top-tier candidate. But many Republicans remain unconvinced he is committed for the long haul.

"I don't think he is looking at all like serious candidate," said former New Hampshire Republican Party chairman Fergus Cullen. "There are some trappings of a serious campaign, but this is a Potemkin effort at best."

His effort may not be built for the long haul — his campaign's burn rate, a comparison of money raised with money

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spent, was an astounding 74 percent, highest in the Republican field. But some Republicans worry that even a primary season Trump candidacy may cost them next year, as a new Univision News Poll shows that 70 percent of Hispanic voters say they have an unfavorable impression of him.

The Clinton-Trump roadshow isn't over yet: Trump is the feature speaker at a Republican dinner on Friday in Arkansas, where Clinton — whose husband, Bill Clinton, was the state's governor — will speak Saturday at a Democratic dinner.

8 things to watch for at Iowa Dems' Hall of Fame dinner // Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs – July 17, 2015

1. Friday night's Hall of Fame Celebration in Iowa will be the first time the cast of five current Democratic presidential hopefuls has shared a stage.

The audience will be most interested in Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, predicted Bret Niles, chairman of the Linn County Democrats.

"The crowd reaction will be a big thing: How are people going to react to Bernie with Hillary there as well?" Niles said.

Niles speculated that ticket holders at the state party fundraiser would be a more monied, moderate crowd that might not be as receptive to Sanders as crowds at his solo events.

A strong performance by Sanders, a Vermont U.S. senator who is calling for a progressive people's revolution, would go a long way to impress upon politics watchers that he's not a flash in the pan but a real contender, said Democratic operative Grant Woodard.

2. Who will deliver the best-received anti-Republican line?

The Democratic candidates are unlikely to go after each other explicitly — it would be notable if they did — but will likely hit the Republicans hard.

Political operatives said they expect to see jabs toward: 1. Donald Trump. 2. Ted Cruz. 3. Steve King.

Those three Republicans have given the Democrats plenty of material.

Trump has taken heat since saying in his June 16 presidential announcement speech that Mexico is deliberately sending drug smugglers, rapists and other criminals illegally into the United States.

Cruz, the only presidential candidate to send a news release saying he was "pleased to welcome Donald Trump into the race," later saluted Trump "for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration."

And King, an Iowa congressman famous for his own remarks about canteloupe-calved Mexican drug smugglers, told the National Journal this week that Trump is "riding a good wave and right now if the caucus were held today, he'd probably come out on top."

Trump topped the GOP field in a recent USA Today/Suffolk University poll of national primary voters, but fared the worst against Clinton among seven GOP competitors tested in a survey of adults nationwide last Thursday through Sunday.

3. Can Clinton's pre-event rally match the crowd size and energy that Sanders has been seeing?

Sanders has been making headlines nationally for attracting audiences of thousands, including a raucous crowd of 2,500 in Council Bluffs in early July.

The most Clinton has drawn so far was about 700 to her debut Iowa rally, held June 14, the same day as Iowa's biggest gay pride parade.

For the Hall of Fame dinner, party officials capped the number of tickets each campaign could purchase at 200 to prevent any single camp from dominating the 1,200-seat room.

All the tickets sold out in less than three weeks, which left some activists locked out.

Clinton's Iowa staff decided to do a free pre-rally, set for 3:45 p.m. Friday in the armory at the nearby Veterans Memorial Building, which can accommodate about 600.

"Hillary Clinton has some great supporters in Cedar Rapids, and we wanted to make sure they all got a chance to

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see her during Friday's visit, regardless of whether they were able to buy a ticket to the dinner," Iowa spokeswoman Lily Adams said.

Expectations are high for Clinton to have a packed house bursting with energy, since she's the undisputed frontrunner in Iowa and has the largest campaign staff here. She has amassed more than 60 paid staff and a phalanx of volunteers.

4. Will either Jim Webb or newcomer Lincoln Chafee make a dent?

This is the first Iowa visit for Lincoln Chafee, a longtime Republican who served as a Rhode Island U.S. senator, then led the state as an independent-turned-Democratic governor.

Webb, a former U.S. senator from Virginia and secretary of the U.S. Navy under President Ronald Reagan, has done 25 events in Iowa this presidential election cycle, but remains little known.

Iowa Democrats, if they've even heard of them, said they're mystified about why they're running.

Cedar Rapids Democrat Linda Langston, a county supervisor, said she mentioned during a conference in Washington, D.C., that Iowa would feature all five candidates on one stage.

"People said, 'Five? Five Democrats? Who else is in?' And these are people in D.C.," she said.

Webb, who was a Republican for most of his political career, said on "Fox News Sunday" last weekend that the Democratic party "has moved way far to the left. That's not my Democratic party in and of itself." And he made headlines recently for urging thoughtfulness during the emotional debate over Confederate flag symbolism, saying the Civil War had a "complicated history."

"Webb's comments regarding the Confederate flag are beyond odd coming from someone that showed so much promise in the party at one time," Woodard said.

5. Will Martin O'Malley break through?

O'Malley, a former Baltimore mayor and Maryland governor, will also have a pre-rally, at 5:15 p.m. at White Star Ale House in Cedar Rapids.

Webb and Chafee are "fringe characters who I don't think will gain much traction — I just don't think there's a lane for them," said Douglas Burns, an opinion columnist at the Carroll Daily Times Herald who frequently attends Iowa campaign events.

But O'Malley checks all the boxes: He's viewed as less radical than Sanders, he appeals to populists and progressives, and he has some of Clinton's establishment appeal, Burns said.

His organizers filled all of their 200 seats, an effort that could signal a foothold, Iowa insiders said.

6. Will the messages motivate Iowa activists worried about boredom?

Iowa activists said Clinton and the other contenders need to show they can overcome frustration with Democratic losses in 2014 and general boredom on the Democratic side in 2016.

"All of the candidates on the same stage? I want to say what's on my mind and that's: 'So what?'" Steven Lynch, chairman of the Chickasaw County Democrats told the Register. "I mean, the caucuses are Feb. 1."

Lynch said he doesn't want to hear crowd-pleasing quips from the Democratic contenders; he wants them to reassure him they know how to fix the economy.

"The Republicans clobbered us statewide and nationally in 2014. I'm concerned that we have the right message on the economic growth of our nation," he said.

7. Will the party chairwoman make inroads with activists looking for governor candidates?

The presidential candidate appearances will follow introduction of seven Hall of Fame inductees and other speeches, one of them from Iowa Democratic Party Chairwoman Andy McGuire.

McGuire is considered a possible candidate for governor in 2018, and this will be her first time publicly handling the reins of the party. If activists believe she's organizing properly for the caucuses, it could boost her stature.

8. How will national and world news outlets showcase post-flood Cedar Rapids?

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When the Cedar River swamped 10 square miles of the city in June 2008, it forced 22,000 people from their homes, and walloped about 1,100 businesses and 300 governmental facilities, causing more than $7 billion in damage.

The flooded convention center was replaced with the $76 million Convention Complex, where the Hall of Fame dinner is being staged.

“It’s a monument to coming back from the flood,” said Cedar Rapids Democrat Monica Vernon, who is making her second bid for Congress and is seeing key Democrats coalescing behind her.

A massive infusion of state and federal grants and disaster relief funding also gave Cedar Rapids a new $50 million library, two new fire stations for $35 million, a $36 million public works building, a $44.5 million school district headquarters, a $7.5 million riverside amphitheater and other projects.

Altogether, Iowa was awarded or eligible for more than $4.7 billion in flood recovery money.

Cedar Rapids’ Czech Village and the New Bohemia district, reached by going south on Third Street from the convention center, are areas that tell the post-flood victory story, said state Sen. Rob Hogg, a Cedar Rapids Democrat exploring a bid for U.S. Senate.

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About the event

What: Iowa Democratic Party’s Hall of Fame Celebration

Who: Five Democratic presidential candidates — former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Virginia U.S. Sen. Jim Webb — will speak in that order, alphabetically by last name. Each has been told they get 15 minutes. Iowa Democrats will also induct seven activists into their Hall of Fame.

When: 7 p.m. — 10 p.m. Friday. Party leaders are encouraging guests to arrive as soon as the doors open at 5 p.m. because they’ll need to pass through Secret Service security checkpoints. Clinton, as a former first lady, is the only candidate with this high-level protection at this stage of the race.

Where: Cedar Rapids Convention Center, 350 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids

Tickets: Sold out

News reporters expected: More than 100

Tom Miller, Michael Fitzgerald endorse Clinton // Des Moines Register // Tony Leys – July 17, 2015

Two of Iowa’s top elected Democrats are endorsing Hillary Clinton for president.

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and State Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald have both decided to back the front-runner over her challengers.

Both men supported then-Sen. Barack Obama over Clinton early in the Iowa campaign in 2007. Their endorsements in February of that year helped Obama gain a foothold among Iowa Democrats and upset Clinton in the 2008 caucuses.

Miller said in an interview Thursday that he always admired Clinton. “Barack was just an exceptional candidate. … Had he not been in the race, I would have been for Hillary all the way.”

He said Clinton has continued to grow in the past eight years, including during her service as Obama’s secretary of state. He said she has the intelligence, experience and judgment to be a good president. He also is impressed with the formidable organization her campaign has already built in the state.

Miller said he likes Clinton’s Democratic rivals, including the surging populist Bernie Sanders, “but I think she’s the strongest candidate in the field.”

Fitzgerald echoed Miller’s thoughts in a prepared statement Thursday.

“Hillary Clinton is the candidate that is boldly speaking out on the fundamental issues facing our country, and her

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progressive vision for our country is exactly what we need to keep our country moving forward," Fitzgerald wrote. "Hillary Clinton's commitment to growing our economy so that everyday Iowans can get ahead and stay ahead is what Iowa Democrats believe to our core."

Clinton says U.S. can't afford GOP's economics // Des Moines Register // Tony Leys – July 17, 2015

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia. – Hillary Clinton fired up supporters here Friday by vowing that her Democratic presidential campaign would highlight the stark differences she has with Republicans, especially on the economy.

"We already know what the Republicans stand for, because we have seen it, we understand it," she told about 500 cheering voters at Cedar Rapids' Veterans Memorial Building. "We know they still believe in what they call trickle-down economics. We have been trickled-down enough. And it's time to say we're not going back there."

Clinton stressed that she would push to raise incomes of everyone, not just wealthy people who have benefited in the past from Republicans' tax cuts.

She said her husband, former President Bill Clinton, and President Barack Obama both were left with economies that had been crippled by Republican policies. Both Democratic presidents managed to turn the economy around, she said. "President Obama deserves more credit than he's been given for saving us from a Great Depression," she said to applause. She added that she would build on Obama's progress to bring stronger growth for everyone.

The afternoon rally was designed to energize Clinton's troops before she took the stage with her Democratic challengers at the Iowa Democratic Party Hall of Fame Celebration on Friday evening. The room was only about three-quarters full for the rally, but participants gave Clinton an enthusiastic reception.

Tom Hennessey, a retired union construction worker who attended the rally, said he was impressed by Clinton's performance. He backed her when she ran in 2008, and he's glad she's running again. "My opinion has not changed one bit — she's still the same strong-willed woman," said Hennessey, 72, of Cedar Rapids.

Hennessey said he's not bothered by the surge of support liberal challenger Bernie Sanders is seeing among Democrats in Iowa and elsewhere. Competition should sharpen Clinton, he said, and help draw off some conservative fire. "At least she's not the only target on the target range," he said, chuckling.

Earlier Friday afternoon, Clinton greeted several dozen young staffers and volunteers at the "Need Pizza" restaurant in downtown Cedar Rapids.

Clinton recalled how much she learned by volunteering to sign up Democratic voters in Texas in 1972. She urged her young supporters to embrace the voters and other volunteers they meet.

"I can't tell you how pleased I am that not only are you working for me here in Iowa, but that you're having these experiences," she said. "And I hope you really cherish that. I mean, people that I met in Texas are still the closest of friends, and now we're exchanging pictures of our grandchildren, that's how long it's been. ... I am thrilled that you have chosen to come work for me, but also that you're part of this process."

Clinton aims most of her fire at Republicans // Des Moines Register // Tony Leys – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton struck back at Republican ideas and candidates Friday in her speech at the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame dinner.

The former senator and secretary of state chided Republican candidate Jeb Bush for saying that Americans need to work more hours. "Americans don't need lectures. They need raises," she said to applause.

She also hit Donald Trump, first with a joke: "Finally, a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine!" Then she called Trump out for suggesting immigrants are criminals. "There's nothing funny about the hate he's spewing toward immigrants and their families. It really is shameful," she said. "And so is the fact that it took weeks for most of his fellow Republican candidates to stand up to him."

Clinton mocked Republicans for claiming they can't take a stand on climate change because they're not scientists. "I'm not a scientist either," she said. "I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain."

She drew some of her strongest applause for calling out Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, a Republican, for recently vetoing millions of dollars for schools and a plan to keep open two mental hospitals he had decided to close. "Iowa families don't need a standoff. They need solutions," she said.

AT THE EVENT

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QUOTE: "Trickle-down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the 1980s. It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair."

BEST MOMENT: Clinton closed by talking about her vision for a strong, safe country and world for her granddaughter to grow up in. "I'm running to make our country work for you and for every American, the struggling, the striving and the successful. ... I am running for everyone who has been knocked down but refused to be knocked out."

AUDIENCE REACTION: As she took the stage, Clinton was greeted by chants of "Hillary, Hillary, Hillary," from her many fans in the crowd. She drew several standing ovations from large portions of the crowd.

California donors have given more to Clinton than all other presidential hopefuls combined //
LA Times // Kurtis Lee and Sahil Chinoy – July 17, 2015

California donors have provided strong backing to several candidates in the crowded field of Republican presidential hopefuls, although none have come close to the cash pile amassed here by Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Hewlett-Packard Chief Executive Carly Fiorina raised significant chunks of their fundraising totals from donors dotting Orange County, the Central Valley and other traditionally Republican areas, according to fundraising reports the campaigns released this week.

California has long bankrolled presidential campaigns, and 2016 is shaping up to be no different.

The state's money has constituted 16% of all itemized contributions so far in the 2016 presidential race. That's more than any other state – followed by New York and Texas at 13% each, based on a Times analysis of fundraising reports.

The totals reflect only money given directly to candidates' campaigns – contributions that are limited to no more than $2,700 from each donor for the primary races. The really big contributions – to the "super PACs" that are theoretically independent from the campaigns, but in practice closely allied with them – won't be publicly disclosed until the end of the month.

Dollars given directly to a campaign can stretch farther than money raised by super PACs, in part because campaigns get a preferential rate for television advertising and in part because the money is directly controlled by the candidates, making it easier for them to focus their message and marshal get-out-the-vote efforts.

"The state is critical in presidential elections and will continue to be critical," said Paul Seamus Ryan, senior counsel at the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan group that tracks campaign finance and laws that regulate it. "California and New York are where the money is ... no question when it comes to national politics."

Both Rubio and Perry got 22% of their itemized contributions from California, $1.5 million in Rubio's case and just short of $219,000 for Perry.

Clinton has raised more than $8 million for her campaign committee in California so far, just over 20% of her total. Her campaign took in more from California than all the other presidential candidates combined.

Her strongest challenger, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a self-described socialist, raised $806,000 from the state – about 25% of his itemized haul.

Fiorina, a former California resident who ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in 2010, is most dependent on California. More than 40% of her contributions came from the state.

By contrast, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who has raised more than any of the GOP hopefuls, received less than 7% of his contributions from California. He has been in the state for several days this week raising money in Los Angeles and Silicon Valley.

Of Southern California's donations, 65% went to Clinton.

More than 40% of the money donated from California came from Los Angeles, and about 33% from the Bay Area, according to finance reports.

Among Republicans, Los Angeles and Bay Area donors supported Rubio the most, doling out $664,000 and $280,000 respectively to his campaign.

On the Democratic side, Clinton dominated both portions of the state, raking in $3.8 million in itemized contributions from Los Angeles and $3.1 million from the Bay Area.

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Ryan, who works for the Campaign Legal Center, notes that the super PAC filings will be when many of the big-money donors are revealed, since these committees can receive unlimited contributions.

"A lot of campaign fundraising is being outsourced to super PACs because that's really where the money is raised," he said.

Clinton campaign rebuilds from a digital meltdown // LA Times // Michael A. Memoli – July 17, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton wound down her political operation in 2008 with 2.5 million email addresses in her campaign database. Seven years later, when campaign officials turned on the lights in April, they were stunned to find fewer than 100,000 still worked.

Campaign aides learned the bad news in much the same way a reunion organizer trying to reconnect with old friends might, albeit on a much larger scale: an in-box clogged with bounce-back messages on the day Clinton announced her campaign and sent messages to supporters.

The savvy tech strategy fueling Bernie Sanders' upstart 2016 campaign

The huge attrition of valuable data is not unique to Clinton -- a typical email list will lose 1 in 5 subscribers each year, said Jordan Cohen, chief marketing officer for Fluent, which specializes in email list acquisition. But it created one of the first big challenges for the campaign's growing digital team and sparked a response that illustrates the high priority campaigns now place on acquiring digital data.

"It wasn't like we all had time to retreat to a local bar and drown our sorrows," said Teddy Goff, the Clinton campaign's digital director – a role he also filled for President Obama's reelection campaign. "It was an instantaneous recognition on the part of a lot of us that we had a bigger challenge ahead of us than we realized."

Rebuilding that digital infrastructure became one of the most critical goals that campaign officials set this year, prompting what became known as the "Hillbuilder" program.

During the campaign's first all-staff meeting, on the day before Clinton's public campaign launch on Roosevelt Island in June, campaign manager Robby Mook identified building the email list as one of the top three goals in the year's third quarter. On the cubicle walls of the offices used by the digital staff, a sign asks: "What are you doing to grow the list today?"

In 2012, Obama's reelection campaign, which boasted 30 million addresses at its peak, raised $485 million – more than 40% of its total haul – through its endless, and often parodied, email appeals, according to a former campaign official who provided the internal fundraising data on condition of anonymity. The rest of the fundraising total was split equally between major donors and direct marketing through traditional mail and phone contacts.

Clinton and Bush lead in early campaign fundraising

Increasingly sophisticated methods for analyzing large amounts of data have made emails more and more valuable to campaigns, and not just as a vehicle for direct communication. The ability to track a user's online experience helps the campaign develop a profile that is then used to send more-targeted communications.

"The campaigns are looking at not just 'are they going to contribute $1, $10 when I send them an email,' but 'are they opening, are they clicking, are they forwarding this email to their friends. Are they taking the email and posting it onto social,'" Cohen said. "There is just inherent value in having engagement that will lead, hopefully, into votes."

The Clinton campaign's digital handicap wasn't limited to its email lists. The former secretary of State had no Facebook page, no Instagram account and only 3.3 million Twitter followers at her launch date (President Obama's campaign-run account has more than 60 million today, by comparison).

The campaign would not disclose how much its list has grown since April. But it has reached 5 million followers across its accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Spotify and Pinterest, officials said.

The campaign launched each of those platforms over the last few months, with a goal of reaching would-be supporters where they normally spend time online and creating a ripple effect that would expand their contact lists.

One early, successful tactic was to create a daily, rapid-response-style newsletter that supporters could subscribe to called "The Briefing," launched to coincide with a new book critical of the Clinton Foundation.

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The campaign also sought to build suspense around the Roosevelt Island rally by promising exclusive details about the event to those who signed up on Clinton's website. And last week, Clinton emailed supporters inviting them to tell her when their birthdays are, so she – or her digital avatar, at least -- can send a note when the day arrives.

"We're part of a team together," the email read. "We're going to work hard and have a lot of fun through it all. Part of that is taking some time to celebrate and appreciate each other, and that's what I'd like to do on your birthday."

The idea, Goff said, grew out of the fact – attested to by her own, now public, emails – that Clinton has always gone out of her way to offer birthday wishes to those around her. A successful digital effort, he noted, depends on the authenticity of each communication.

"That's a true thing about her that reflects something that we think people are going to enjoy that can also be turned into an online program that's going to help us build our community," he said.

Expanding the digital infrastructure isn't just happening organically, of course. The campaign also engaged in more transactional efforts, including exchanging active contacts with the Ready for Hillary organization. They have also already spent $2 million on an online advertising campaign that has helped add names to the list.

"The core of what we're trying to do is serve people with an experience that they're going to enjoy, that's going to enlighten them and hopefully inspire them to get more deeply involved in the campaign," Goff said.

Hillary Clinton visits home in Windham // Eagle-Tribune // Breanna Edelstein – July 17, 2015

WINDHAM — Last night, Hillary Clinton brought her campaign to the Windham home of Susan and Henri Azibert. Several hundred locals gathered in the backyard of the 240 year old house in support of the presidential hopeful.

"This house was built the same year that the Declaration of Independence was signed," Henri Azibert said. "And we are honored to be hosting this event here tonight."

Clinton was introduced to the crowd by Laura Aguilar, the campaign's Salem-area organizer. She shared the story of her immigrant parents, their hard work and her resulting graduation from Harvard University two months ago.

"Secretary Clinton is fighting for the idea of getting ahead and staying ahead," Aguilar said.

Drawing on the theme of Aguilar's personal story, Clinton began the night by discussing, "the creation of a ladder that every American should have."

"The center of my economic plan would be raising incomes for the middle class," Clinton said. "Paychecks should reflect the hard work and productivity of Americans."

The crowd's applause was continuous as Clinton worked her way through a range of topics, from the heroin problem plaguing the Granite State, to worldwide climate change.

Michelle Hare and her daughter, Amanda Hare, who live two doors down from where the event was hosted on Lowell Road, went to show their support.

"This is the first time I'll be voting," said the 16-year-old. "And I'm very excited about that."

Her mother said, "tonight is a chance to show my daughter a good example of a strong woman."
Also in the crowd was State Rep. Benjamin Baroody, D-Hillsborough.

"She certainly knows how to campaign," he said. "I think she will follow in her husband's footsteps in that he didn't forget the people who got him places."

When Clinton wrapped up her speech and asked for any questions, almost every hand was raised. Clinton answered several questions about caring for veterans and seniors.
Tom Thibeault of Manchester has been one of Clinton's volunteers on the campaign trail.

"I'm a Vietnam veteran," he said. "So these issues hit close to my heart. New Hampshire is one of the only states without a VA hospital."

Thibeault was among many who got to express their concerns and pose questions to Clinton directly.

"Thank you for coming out here and talking to us like this," a spectator yelled.
Earlier in the day, Clinton's campaign hosted a similar event in Dover.

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How Clinton and Bush Agree and Diverge on Workplace Discrimination // National Journal // Ronald Brownstein – July 17, 2015

As Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush took voters' questions on opposite coasts on Thursday, they sharpened a key difference between them in the next front of the gay-rights debate.

In a New Hampshire town hall, Clinton pledged that as president she would seek to pass federal legislation barring workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; such legislation died in Congress two years ago. In a meeting with employees at a technology company in San Francisco, Bush declared flatly that he opposed such discrimination but then said the issue should be left to the states.

In November 2013, the Senate, then controlled by Democrats, passed the Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that barred workplace discrimination against homosexual or transgender workers across the nation. But the legislation failed when the Republican-controlled House of Representatives refused to consider it.

Without a national standard on the issue, states have divided.

Currently, 22 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws barring workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation; 18 of those states and D.C. have mandated equal rights based on gender identity. The remaining states without laws ensuring equal workplace treatment include almost all of the Republican-leaning red states across the South, the Plains, and the Mountain West.

The sharp difference between Clinton and Bush over federal action makes clear that the recent Supreme Court ruling establishing a nationwide right to same-sex marriage is not likely to eliminate debate on issues relating to the rights of gay and transgender Americans in the 2016 general election. More broadly, it shows how Democrats, confident that they now command majority support, have taken the offense on most cultural differences between the parties.

Bush has generally sought to mute contrasts on questions relating to gay rights in the campaign's early stages. While Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker reacted to the Supreme Court decision by calling for a constitutional amendment that would allow states to ban gay marriage, Bush said he would not support an effort to overturn the decision (although he criticized the Court for reaching it).

Speaking Thursday in San Francisco at Thumbtack, a firm that helps consumers find services, Bush said flatly: "I don't think you should be discriminated because of your sexual orientation. Period. Over and out," as Time magazine reported. But when pressed by an employee who identified himself as gay about whether he would support legislation barring such discrimination in employment and housing, Bush said: "I think this should be done state by state, I totally agree with that."

Asked if that response meant Bush opposed federal legislation to provide workplace protections for gays and transgender workers, a campaign spokesperson said, "Governor Bush's answer speaks for itself. He believes this issue should be left to states."

By contrast, Clinton, at a town-hall meeting in Dover, New Hampshire, pledged to revive the federal legislation ensuring workplace protection for gay and transgender workers if elected. When a questioner who identified herself as a high school student asked Clinton what she would "do about anti-discrimination laws in the workplace," Clinton responded: "You put your finger on what the next big challenge is, and that is discrimination. And when I was in the Senate, I supported the ENDA law to end discrimination against people based in—those days, we used to say in sexual orientation. And I think we do have to do more to make sure we end discrimination in the workplace in particular."

Clinton continued: "So I am committed to that. I will work for that. And as president, I will do everything I can to get that enacted into law."

The Senate passed the ENDA law in 2013 with support from all 52 Democrats who voted, independents Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Angus King of Maine, and 10 Republicans, including Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, Mark Kirk of Illinois, Rob Portman of Ohio, and Patrick Toomey of Pennsylvania—four incumbents in blue or swing states who are seeking reelection in 2016.

Can Hillary Clinton Really Get Away With Skipping Netroots? // National Journal // S.V. Dáte – July 17, 2015

PHOENIX, Arizona – The annual Netroots Nation conference has attracted thousands of liberal activists, the core of the Democratic Party's base, to the 100-degree-plus desert heat. It attracted its latest hero, Elizabeth Warren. It has attracted two Democratic presidential candidates.

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But someone it could not attract: Hillary Clinton, the person most likely to need its attendees' help at the top of next November's ballot.

"Major unforced error. Showing up is important," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, which three years ago raised more than $1 million to help Warren win a Republican-held Senate seat in Massachusetts. "It's important that people address those whom they expect a lot from. So, it's unfortunate."

The Democratic presidential frontrunner is instead speaking at a state party dinner in Arkansas, where she was once first lady, but which is unlikely to go her way in 2016. "It wasn't working with her schedule," said Clinton's communications director Jennifer Palmieri. "There are lots of opportunities that we aren't able to do, but that (the Arkansas dinner) had already been locked in."

It's unclear what will be the long-term consequences, if any, of Clinton's choice. As the most dedicated of the party's activists, participants here are highly unlikely to support a Republican over Clinton, should she wind up the nominee. Yet her absence, and the hard feelings it is causing, once more point to Clinton's difficult relationship with her party's base.

Her last appearance at a Netroots conference was 2007. She was booed, in part over her vote supporting the Iraq war. Her problems with progressives that year created room for fellow Sen. Barack Obama to overcome her enormous advantages and win the nomination in 2008.

Eight years later, in her second run, a continued lack of enthusiasm for Clinton first led to an effort to persuade Warren to run for the White House, and is now fueling much of the excitement behind the huge crowds and impressive small-donor fundraising for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"I love Bernie because he's a man of integrity," said Elizabeth Cloud, a 68-year-old retired schoolteacher who wore a Sanders button. She and the other 3,000 participants have shelled out an average $300 in registration fees, on top of travel expenses. "Hillary is a political animal," Cloud said. "I think she's a bit of a political opportunist."

Both Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley are scheduled to attend a Saturday morning "presidential town hall." Sanders added to his trip a campaign rally Saturday evening at the same Phoenix Convention Center venue, except, his campaign says, in a larger room to accommodate the expected crowd.

And Warren's appearance Friday morning had conference goers lining up for a half hour prior to her speech to get close-in seats, even though she has unequivocally said she is not running. When in her remarks she noted: "We have a presidential election coming up," a voice in the cavernous hall shouted "Run!" which brought prolonged applause.

The Clinton campaign has so far declined to discuss any of her Democratic opponents, other than to say it has always assumed it would face a competitive primary. Campaign officials also argue that Clinton is getting somewhat of a bum rap when it comes to her record.

They point out that in 2007, even before the financial crisis, Clinton pushed for a crackdown on the trade of subprime mortgages, favored regulating derivatives, and even introduced legislation on executive compensation.

"She has a long track record as a senator from New York," said Jake Sullivan, a senior policy adviser to Clinton's campaign and a former top aide to her when she was secretary of state. "I think there is a sort of general misunderstanding that somehow Sec. Clinton was silent on these issues in 2008 and now she's speaking about them."

Palmieri said Clinton also bears the burden of her husband's record. Many liberals believe former President Bill Clinton frequently abandoned the party's principles in order to gain and hold power, and Palmieri said people assume Hillary Clinton always shared his views.

"I think it's understandable why there's a tendency to go compare back to her husband's administration, but -- this is part of the point she's trying to make -- that was 20 years ago," Palmieri said. "A lot of the things that she advocates for, child care, paid leave, et cetera, the sort of workforce issues, are things that she's advocated for a long time."

As to the timing of Clinton's recent calls for changes to the tax code, criminal prosecution of Wall Street bankers who engage in fraud, or profit sharing, Palmieri said the speeches rolling out these ideas are part of a long-term plan, not a reaction to Sanders and Warren.

The Progressive Change Campaign's Green said he has been heartened to hear Clinton's new ideas, but is convinced the change in the Democratic Party was the main factor driving it. "That might be something that she

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genuinely believes, but it took shifts in the environment for her to get to that place," he said. "And that's why the activism that we're doing both on Capitol Hill and on the campaign trail as well as voices like Bernie Sanders are playing a critical role in moving the Democratic Party in an economic populist direction."

In any event, Green said, if Clinton can continue filling in the details on her new ideas, she will find a party base eager to listen. "I don't think people dislike her. People want to believe in someone, and are looking for her to embrace this economic populist moment in a real way," he said.

And many in attendance, while wishing Clinton had made an appearance and could be as full-throated a liberal as Sanders, allowed that they will enthusiastically support her when the time comes.

"I wish she was here, but I can kind of understand why she isn't," said Dee Austin, a Democratic researcher from Omaha, Nebraska. "To us, this is a really big deal. But she's a really big deal, too, and has got a lot of things to do.... I think we will support whoever the nominee is. If we're smart we will."

Iowa Democrats throw support behind Hillary Clinton as she prepares to meet rivals on stage // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton rolled out endorsements from Iowa's only two statewide elected Democrats Friday morning, a show of strength in the Hawkeye State just hours ahead of the first time she'll share the stage with her primary rivals.

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald threw their support behind Clinton, a boost in her quest to win the first-in-the-nation caucuses.

"Hillary Clinton is the candidate that is boldly speaking out on the fundamental issues facing our country and her progressive vision for our country is exactly what we need to keep our country moving forward," Fitzgerald said in a statement.

Miller said Clinton "will build an economy for tomorrow that raises incomes for working Americans."

The former secretary of State has held wide leads in recent polling of the state and nationally, though Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has been gaining hard on her in the last month.

The two will meet onstage Friday night in Cedar Rapids at the Iowa Democratic Party Hall of Fame celebration, the first time they've appeared publicly together since the campaign began.

Clinton is building a huge campaign team in Iowa, eager to avoid a repeat of her 2008 fate, when she was out-organized on the ground and finished a disappointing third place behind President Obama and then-Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.).

Hillary Clinton Returns To A Very Different Arkansas // NPR // Lauren Leatherby - July 18, 2015

Hillary Clinton and her husband, Bill Clinton, celebrate his victory in the Democratic runoff for Arkansas Governor on June 8, 1982 in Little Rock, Ark. Clinton defeated former Lt. Gov. Joe Purcell.

Hillary Clinton may find you can't go home again when she returns to Arkansas Saturday night.

The 2016 hopeful returns to Razorback State for the first time since she announced her second bid for president, keynoting the Arkansas Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner in Little Rock.

But the state is hardly politically recognizable to the one that first launched the Clinton name to national political prominence and where she served as first lady for 12 years.

After serving as the state's governor for a decade, Bill Clinton carried the state by wide margins in both the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections.

But that Arkansas is gone. As recently as 2008, the state had a Democratic governor, both senators were Democrats and so were three of the four House members. Today, in a total sweep, Republicans control the governor's mansion, the state legislature and every Senate and congressional seat.

"Just compare 2008 to 2012, and you'll leave the room with a windswept look," said Janine Parry, a political science professor at the University of Arkansas and director of the Arkansas Poll. "It's pretty wild. I keep wanting to measure it, but I'm 99 percent sure that no state at any time in history has made a transformation this dramatic this swiftly."

Unfortunately for Clinton, this change means if she wins the nomination, a general election win is likely out of

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reach in the place she called home for nearly two decades.

When matched up against a generic Republican presidential candidate in Arkansas, Hillary Clinton would only take home 33 percent of the vote, compared to 50 percent for the Republican nominee, according to a June 2015 poll.

Those numbers are a far cry from her well-loved husband's performance.

"[Bill Clinton] sits well within a long line of Arkansas politicians who are affable, accessible, smart, and they have extraordinary charisma," Parry said.

Though Hillary Clinton certainly still enjoys residual goodwill in the state, she had to work harder to enjoy the support that seemed to come naturally for her husband, a magnetic Arkansas native.

"I think it took some time for her to adjust to Arkansas and for Arkansas to adjust to her, but I think eventually that did happen to a considerable extent," said Hoyt Purvis, founder of the Fulbright Institute for International Relations at the University of Arkansas, who first met Bill Clinton when Clinton worked for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as a Georgetown undergraduate.

More important, though, than the personality difference between Clinton and her husband is the wider political shift that has swept the South in the last few decades.

The South used to be home to the "yellow-dog Democrats" — voters who claimed they would rather vote for a canine than a Republican. Arkansas and the states of the Deep South went nearly a century without electing a Republican governor, and only nine of the 115 Senators who served in those states during the 20th century were Republicans.

Near the turn of the century, a new breed of Southern Democrats had emerged — Blue Dog Democrats who embraced more centrist positions on fiscal and social issues, often bridging the gap between the two parties.

But in 2014, Georgia Rep. John Barrow's loss marked the last of the once-powerful bloc of white Democrats representing the Deep South in the House. Republicans now control every governor's mansion and Senate seat from Texas to the Atlantic Coast, with the exception of Senator Bill Nelson from Florida.

For some time, even as its neighbors shifted to the right, Arkansas still clung to its Democratic roots. It was still represented by Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor and Gov. Mike Beebe until this year.

The state's eventual shift to the right may have been a long time coming, but Parry attributes the swiftness of its switch to two main factors: the effect of President Obama's presidency and the massive amounts of money in elections all the way down to the county level.

"Arkansas is overwhelmingly white and rural, and Barack Obama is neither of those things," Parry said. "He's just foreign to folks here, and they just can't identify. And that's particularly in a state where people are used to being able to identify with candidates."

Additionally, the increasing amount of money in politics has meant that elections that were once largely protected from fierce partisanship are now much more influenced by national politics.

For decades, Arkansas Democrats touted themselves as different from national Democrats, speaking a language that Arkansans understood. But the influx of national money into state politics in the past few years nationalized races in a way they could no longer overcome.

"Parties have become much more important," Purvis said. "I think what we've seen is that candidates in some cases got elected almost exclusively on the basis of if they had an 'R' after their name. It has just been a tidal wave of Republican support that has really taken hold in the last four or five years."

Despite the legacy of Arkansas Democrats setting their own course, the increased money flowing into the state has finally brought the national polarization to a state that had, for the most part, avoided it.

"Post-Citizens United, there has been really strategic investment by Republican allies," Parry said. "It's just completely changed the game so that Arkansas can't be the holdout that it was, and charisma and contact with the candidates just matters much less than it did now that you can have all these high-dollar advertisements and glossy flyers arriving in people's mail in Piggott, Ark."

A prime example of this is Republican Sen. Tom Cotton's overwhelming defeat of Pryor. The Democrat and his family had been longtime fixtures of the Arkansas political scene, and the Pryor name had been on Arkansas ballots for nearly 50 years. Even as recently as 2012, only 20 percent of Arkansans disapproved of his record.

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An Arkansas native, Cotton had lived outside Arkansas — attending law school, working for law firms, management consulting, and serving in the military — for the majority of the years that Pryor was in the Senate.

As a House freshman, Cotton upset many Arkansans when he voted against federal funding for the Arkansas Children's Hospital and voted twice against the farm bill. It also ruffled feathers when Cotton skipped events like the Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival, often considered the unofficial kickoff of the Arkansas general election season.

Still, Cotton thumped Pryor in 2014 by 17 points.

"He was such a packaged, glossy campaign by the Republicans and by the well-endowed Republican allies that they could run someone who doesn't do all the things that Arkansans have demanded for 100 years from their candidates," Parry said. "And it wasn't even close. I think he's a really emblematic case of how much the state has changed and how quickly that's happened."

And it doesn't seem like the trend of Arkansas going red will reverse itself any time soon.

In addition to the changing party landscape of Arkansas, it doesn't help that many of Hillary Clinton's policy positions conflict with Arkansas residents' viewpoints. For instance, while Clinton embraced the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage decision, only 21 percent of Arkansans believe same-sex couples should be allowed to marry, according to 2014 polls.

Clinton still has plenty of friends in her former dwellings of Fayetteville and Little Rock, Ark., but don't count on her making many stops to see them on her campaign trail. Arkansas and its neighbors don't look to turn back to their blue roots anytime soon.

Hillary Clinton happy to hear Jeb Bush's Uber driver would vote for her // NY Daily News // Celeste Katz – July 17, 2015

Hillary uber Jeb.

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton cheered Friday after learning she's likely to score the vote of an Uber driver who chauffeured rival Jeb Bush in California.

"Thanks for the support, Munir!" the ex-secretary of state tweeted over a link to a story about Bush's Thursday journey to visit a startup company in one of the ride-hail hawker's cars.

Bush tweeted a photo of himself in San Francisco with Munir Algazaly at the wheel, reporting, "Rode shotgun in @Uber this morning to @Thumbtack here in SF. 5 stars for Munir."

Algazaly told reporters he hadn't realized the tall passenger who sat up front with him was the former Florida governor and 2016 GOP presidential hopeful.

The driver, who described himself as a 35-year-old Yemeni immigrant, said he doesn't usually vote, but would probably support Clinton, according to Time.

Hillary Clinton ignores Democratic primary opponents in first onstage appearance with them, slamming the GOP instead // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – July 17, 2015

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA - Hillary Clinton ignored her Democratic opponents in her first time sharing the stage with them Friday, focusing her ire on the GOP in a fiery speech aimed at showing she's ready to take the fight to the other side.

"I'm never going to let the Republicans rip away the progress we have made," she said to cheers from the 1,300 Democratic activists in the key early-voting state.

She made a point to call out her GOP opponents by name, with Donald Trump high on her hit list.

"Finally a candidate whose hair gets more attention than mine," she said to laughs. "But there is nothing funny about the hate he's spewing towards immigrants and their families."

Clinton, speaking alongside Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and their three other primary opponents, repeatedly sought to portray herself as the candidate of the future, pushing back on concerns that she's been around too long.

"We Democrats are in the future business... They may have some fresh faces but they are the party of the past," she said before accusing Republicans of sticking to economic policies that haven't worked since they were first

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introduced.

"Trickle down economics has to be one of the worst ideas of the '80s. It is right up there with New Coke, shoulder pads and big hair," she said to big cheers and laughs.

Clinton also slammed former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on economic issues before hitting the GOP field for using the excuse that they're not scientists for refusing to say climate change is real.

"I'm not a scientist either. I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain, and I'm not going to let them take us backwards," she thundered, drawing a standing ovation.

While Clinton ignored her opponents, some of them made some clear contrasts with her in a state where she finished a damaging third place three years ago. Iowa Democrats have long been more economically populist and dovish than the party as a whole, two areas where Clinton has at times struggled with the base.

Many of the others highlighted votes or early opposition to the Iraq War, an issue that was her undoing last time around, as well as their fights against the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement hated by unions that Clinton has avoided taking a firm stand on.

Sanders has been coalescing liberal voters who aren't crazy about Clinton, and delivered a stem-winder that got strong applause.

"The greed of the billionaire class has got to end, and we're going to end it for them," he said to roars from his backers, some of whom clinked silverware against their glasses at every applause line to deafening effect.

But while his calls for a "political revolution" drew loud cheers from his supporters in the audience, many gave a more tepid response to some of his zingers, a sign of his appeal likely has a ceiling in the party.

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley got a big response from his speech as well a sign that he shouldn't be written off as a player down the line despite his poor standing in the polls and weak fundraising. He drew strong contrasts with Clinton, getting big applause.

"We didn't just talk about it, we got it done," he said before rattling off his accomplishments including raising the minimum wage, legalizing gay marriage and implementing gun control.

Doting Grandpa Bill! Former President Clinton Takes Baby Charlotte to an N.Y.C. Kids Concert / / People // Kathy Ehrich Dowd – July 17, 2015

He might be busy campaigning for his wife and making public appearances as a former President of the United States of America, but that doesn't mean Bill Clinton is too busy to squeeze in some granddaughter bonding time.

The former Leader of the Free World was spotted taking granddaughter Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky to a children's concert in Manhattan's Madison Square Park Thursday morning.

Clinton, 68, could be seen holding on to baby Charlotte, 9 ½ months, as the duo bopped along to the music of Songs for Seeds, a music class put on by Apple Seeds, an indoor play space mom Chelsea Clinton and daughter Charlotte enjoy.

"They were dancing along to the music, moving to the beat," says an observer. "He has the most present, positive energy and he was exuding that to her. He seemed like a very, very happy grandfather."

The sweet outing comes just after Clinton gushed about his role as grandpa during a Texas event alongside another former president and current grandfather: George W. Bush.

"When we started this program, he said to me that when you becomes a grandfather, you fall in love all over again," Clinton said while sitting next to Bush at the graduation of the inaugural class of the Presidential Leadership Scholars program in Dallas last week. "And that's what happened."

He also got giddy talking about how Charlotte reached a milestone that lit up his life.

"[Last night] my granddaughter – 9 ½ months – for the first time when I walked to her room, [Hillary] said "Oh, there's your granddad," and she turned around and pointed at me," said Clinton. "That was worth more than anything anybody has said or done."

Hillary Clinton's New York State of Mind // NY Observer // Will Bredderman and Jillian Jorgensen – July 17, 2015

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Out-of-town reporters whined in advance about Roosevelt Island's supposed inaccessibility, but it might have been the ideal location for Hillary Clinton to launch her presidential campaign.

Four Freedoms Park offered the kind of green space typical of a more Middle American city as well as a plum view of Manhattan's skyline. More importantly, it gave Ms. Clinton ample opportunity to compare herself to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the last president from New York.

In her speech, Ms. Clinton seemed at pains to evoke F.D.R.: from the location to her "Four Fights," which paralleled one of Roosevelt's most famous speeches.

The Broadway-worthy production raised questions that the Illinois-born Ms. Clinton has faced since she moved to Chappaqua in 1999: is she a New Yorker—and what does that mean for her candidacy?

"Of course she's a New Yorker," said attorney and Clinton fundraiser Jerry Goldfeder. "She lives here, she votes here."

But when she first arrived here to run for Senate, her presumptive opponent, Rudolph Giuliani, answered unequivocally "no." To underscore the point, Mr. Giuliani scheduled a fundraiser in Arkansas and asked locals whether they considered him an authentic Arkansan. But 16 years later, the architect of that stunt, former Giuliani aide Bruce Teitelbaum, has come around.

"Back then, I think people raised questions about her connections to New York, and about her reasons for moving to New York. Those were legitimate questions," he said. "Anyone who would raise those same questions today would be unfair and unreasonable. She's a New Yorker at this point in her life."

Political hands, including officials in early voting states, doubt whether Ms. Clinton's affiliation with New York will matter much to voters.

Tom Henderson, chairman of the Polk County Democrats, recalled watching Ms. Clinton declare Chicago her hometown when the Windy City hosted the Democratic convention in 1996. He argued that Ms. Clinton is not a product of New York or Illinois or Arkansas—or any state. "She's more cosmopolitan than that," he told the Observer, suggesting that Ms. Clinton's roles as first lady and secretary of state have elevated her above any one region.

Some experts said New York roots could prove a problem in New Hampshire—if you're a Republican. GOP candidates from our area run muscular state governments—causing them to struggle when wooing primary voters in libertarian New Hampshire.

But Democrats in New York aren't much different than Democrats in New Hampshire, said Dante Scala, author of Stormy Weather: The New Hampshire Primary and Presidential Politics. And if you asked a New Hampshire voter to list characteristics about Ms. Clinton, he thought New Yorker would be low on the list.

"She's much more of a national politician than a regional politician hoping to step up," Mr. Scala said, adding she's also a well-known entity to locals. "We've had Clintons up here campaigning for president for two decades, not just Hillary but Bill as well."

Ms. Clinton's persona, noted prominent Democratic pollster Mark Mellman, "transcends any one place."

Part of that transcendence might be her lack of a strong regional accent—something that distinguished her from Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Brooklyn native whose decades in Vermont have not dulled his Kings Highway inflections.

"This might be a problem for some politicians, who sound like a New Yorker … She doesn't," said Larry Sabato, founder of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

In this way, she again echoes Roosevelt, whose voice conveyed to a troubled nation a patrician paternalism—in contrast to the previous New Yorker to seek the White House, Gov. Al Smith. His accent, wrote Herbert Mitgang in the Times, "was no asset when he talked about 'woik' on the 'raddio.'"

"He was thought the embodiment of New York, and the campaign was something of a referendum on the city," historian Michael Wallace said by email of Smith. "His enemies saw Gotham as the anti-U.S.: an offshoot of Europe, home to Catholics, communists, Tammanyites, anti-prohibitionists, gangsters, blacks, Jews, a plethora of immigrants, religious liberals, feminists, antiracists."

New York's image is now rosier in the rest of the country. In fact, New York City repeatedly ranks atop the Harris' annual poll of cities Americans want to live in. But the city's toned-down image is also a less forceful presence on the national scene.

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As Mr. Wallace pointed out, "I don't think [Ms. Clinton's] identification with New York, if she chooses to stress that—which I doubt she would—would make a great deal of difference one way or the other."

Hillary Clinton's 'natural instincts' lean toward 'hiding the truth,' six in 10 voters say // Washington Times // David Sherfinski – July 17, 2015

Nearly six in 10 voters say former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's natural instincts lean more toward hiding the truth, and a third say they lean more toward telling the truth, a new poll said.

Fifty-eight percent of voters said they believe Mrs. Clinton's "natural instincts lean toward hiding the truth," and 33 percent said they believe her natural instincts lean toward telling the truth, said a Fox News poll released Thursday.

Among Democratic primary voters, 61 percent said her natural instincts lean toward telling the truth, while 29 percent of Democrats said she's more prone to hide the truth.

Forty-seven percent of voters overall said Congress should continue to investigate her handling of the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attack on a U.S. consulate in Benghazi that claimed the lives of four Americans, while 49 percent said Congress should move on.

Mrs. Clinton, a 2016 presidential candidate, was still the first choice of 59 percent of Democratic primary voters, with Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont in second at 19 percent and Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., who has not yet indicated his plans, in third at 8 percent.

Last month, Mrs. Clinton was at 61 percent to Mr. Sanders' 15 percent and Mr. Biden's 11 percent.

The survey of 1,019 registered voters was taken from July 13-15 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, with a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percent for the smaller subset of Democratic primary voters.

Hillary Clinton's plan for the minimum wage: low on details, big on going local // The Guardian // Jana Kasperkevic – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton might have rolled out her economic policy on Monday, but many specifics of what she intends to do as president of the United States remain unclear. Among them: the federal minimum wage.

The former secretary of state and current frontrunner for the Democratic party's presidential nomination has so far declined to say what she thinks would be the ideal national minimum wage. While campaigning in New Hampshire this week, she implied that the ideal wage might differ depending on location.

"I support the local efforts that are going on that are making it possible for people working in certain localities to actually earn $15," Clinton said in a response to a question from a BuzzFeed News reporter on Thursday while campaigning in New Hampshire.

"I think part of the reason that the Congress and very strong Democratic supporters of increasing the minimum wage are trying to debate and determine what's the national floor is because there are different economic environments. And what you can do in Los Angeles or in New York may not work in other places."

Democrats in Congress have put forward proposals in the House and the Senate to raise the federally mandated minimum wage to $12 an hour by 2020. The federal minimum wage has been $7.25 since July 2009. While she has previously said that US wages need to be higher, Clinton has not yet revealed whether she is more inclined to support a national minimum wage of $12 an hour that of $15 an hour.

Among those opposing raising the federal minimum wage are businesses big and large. As she has campaigned the past few months, more than once Clinton has said she wants to be a small-business president, and referring the issue of minimum wage increases to local government could be just the way to win them over.

Other Democratic presidential candidates have a different approach.
"I strongly support the national movement to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour, because it will lift millions of families out of poverty and create better customers for American businesses," said former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley. "Some people will say this is hard to do. And it will be. But leadership is about forging public consensus – not following it. On this issue, we must lead with our progressive values to rebuild the American Dream."

Earlier this week, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders pointed out that he, too, supports raising the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour – an issue that he says Clinton "has not been quite so clear on".

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And while Clinton might be taking heat from her own party, those on the other side share a similar sentiment – that the minimum wage should be left to the individual states. In March, while speaking at a campaign stop in South Carolina, Jeb Bush said that the raising of wages should be left to the private sector and local governments.

"We need to leave it to the private sector. I think state minimum wages are fine; the federal government shouldn't be doing this," he said.

"I'm sure, on the surface, without any conversation, without any digging into it, people say: 'Yeah, everyone's wages should be up.' But the federal government doing this will make it harder for the first rung of the ladder to be reached, particularly for young people. Particularly for people that have less education."

At that time, the Democratic National Committee criticized Bush for siding with big corporations instead of working families.

Berlin Rosen, a public relations consulting firm that represents the Fight for $15 movement and many of the working families that would be affected, declined to comment on Clinton's remarks when reached by the Guardian.

Shortly after, however, the agency issued a statement on a Thursday vote by the Kansas City council to raise the city's minimum wage to $13 an hour by 2020. The press release said that such an increase would not have happened without the Fight for $15 movement and added that $13 an hour did not go far enough.

"Even though $13 is a decent start, it doesn't go nearly far enough. Workers in Kansas City need $15 to support our families and we can't wait," Osmara Ortiz, who works at Burger King and earns $8.30 an hour, said in the press release. "Across the country, $15 is fast becoming the new baseline minimum wage."

Elizabeth Warren Challenges Hillary Clinton to Stop the Revolving Door // National Journal // David Dayen – July 17, 2015

At the Netroots Nation convention on Friday, Senator Elizabeth Warren delivered a direct challenge to Hillary Clinton and all Democratic presidential campaigns to support legislation that would end the "revolving door" between top government positions and corporate America.

"Anyone who wants to be president should appoint only people who have already demonstrated they are independent," Warren said to the progressive convention-goers, "who have already demonstrated that they can hold giant banks accountable, who have already demonstrated that they embrace the kind of ambitious economic policies that we need to rebuild opportunity and a strong middle class in this country."

This is the first time Warren has decided to engage in the presidential election, which activists tried for months to get her to enter. Instead of asking candidates to endorse one of her particular policies on bank reform or student loans, Warren is focusing on the personnel who will implement those policies. It's a notable choice that dovetails with Warren's interest in ensuring that executive branch appointments will not tip the scales in favor of Wall Street or private industry, seen most directly in the fight to block Antonio Weiss from the No. 3 position in the Treasury Department. Warren raised the profile of Weiss, a longtime bank executive, enough for the administration to revoke his nomination.

"Sure, laws matter. But it also matters who interprets those laws, who enforces those laws," Warren said. "Think of it this way: How would the world be different today if, when the economic crisis hit, Joe Stiglitz had been secretary of the Treasury and Simon Johnson and Robert Reich had been key economic advisers?"

Hillary Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, has struggled with a perception from the liberal wing of the party that she has close ties to Wall Street, fueled by big bank donations to the Clinton family foundation and speeches she's made at places like Goldman Sachs. While Warren doesn't mention Clinton by name, the implication is clearly to force her to embrace ending the revolving door.

Specifically, Warren challenged all presidential candidates to endorse a bill introduced this week by Senator Tammy Baldwin and Representative Elijah Cummings called the Financial Services Conflict of Interest Act, which would change a variety of ethics laws around presidential appointments. The bill would ban the golden parachutes for government service given by financial services firms to executives who leave for jobs in the White House or regulatory agencies. Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, and other firms have handed out these bonuses, which provide incentives for bank executives to get hired for positions regulating the industries they came from.

The Baldwin-Cummings bill would also increase prohibitions on former executive branch officials from lobbying the government, from one to two years. It expands "lobbying contact" to close loopholes and cover any lobbying activities. Finally, the bill requires executive branch personnel to recuse themselves from any official activities that would directly benefit their former employers, or clients they might have worked for as a lobbyist. "Wall

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Street insiders have enough influence in Washington already without locking up one powerful job after another in the executive branch of our government," Warren said.

While the Baldwin-Cummings legislation faces long odds of passage in a Republican Congress, they can serve as a model for an incoming Democratic President. Warren is trying to use those new rules as a benchmark of conduct, and signaling that she would work just as hard to torpedo any nominations that diverged from this standard.

Most recently, Warren has helped to stop the nomination of Keir Gumbs, a lawyer with corporate law firm Covington and Burling, whom the Obama administration sought to install on the five-member panel of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Gumbs ran a seminar for corporate clients on how to dodge taxes, in particular through shifting their headquarters overseas in a corporate "inversion."

The Obama White House has plucked many of its top regulatory officers from the corporate world, or from the Robert Rubin wing of the Clinton administration. It has been difficult for progressives and financial reformers to build an experienced bench, and often people like Warren have to play defense. But these anti-revolving door principles would provide a forcing mechanism for future presidents to look elsewhere to fill their administrations, such as academia or progressive advocacy organizations.

These issues aren't always a major focus of progressive activists, and Warren wants to change that. "The only way that candidates for president—or for any office—will slow down the revolving door, the only way candidates will say 'enough is enough' is if you—YOU—demand that they say it."

Adam Green of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee responded to Warren's remarks by saying they "offered a framework for how Democratic presidential candidates can promise to reduce Wall Street influence in key appointments." The PCCC added that they would "ask all Democratic presidential candidates to make specific commitments—and to make down payments on that promise by ensuring progressive economic thinkers are on their campaign policy teams."

Planned Parenthood Pours Cash to Clinton // Free Beacon // Bill McMorris – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton is the presidential candidate of choice for Planned Parenthood employees, according to campaign financial records released Wednesday.

The former secretary of state collected nearly $10,000 from nine individuals who work for the country's largest abortion provider, including from several high ranking executives at the billion-dollar operation. The first quarter fundraising total nearly matches the amount Clinton received over the course of her previous three political runs.

She received far more from Planned Parenthood employees than her Democratic rivals, the former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I., VT), the former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee, and the former Virginia senator Jim Webb. Webb, O'Malley, and Sanders have perfect pro-abortion voting records, while Chafee scored a 90, according to NARAL rankings. But Clinton raised 20 times as much money from Planned Parenthood employees. Sanders was the only other candidate to receive money from the abortion provider, garnering two donations totaling $500.

Vicki Cowart, the CEO of Planned Parenthood Rocky Mountains, Melissa Flournoy, the state director of Louisiana Planned Parenthood, and Catherine Valentine, general counsel for the San Jose-based Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, all contributed the primary maximum of $2,700 to Clinton's campaign. Clinton led the entire presidential field with more than $46 million in total fundraising.

The FEC disclosures were released one day after video emerged of a top doctor from Planned Parenthood discussing the harvesting of organs from aborted babies. The non-profit Center for Medical Progress released footage of a nearly three-hour lunch two activists had with Dr. Deborah Nucatola, who ate salad and sipped wine during the conversation.

The organization's president, Cecile Richards, apologized on Thursday for Nucatola's tone while defending the practice.

Nearly every Republican candidate, including the pro-choice former New York governor George Pataki, condemned the video and Planned Parenthood following the release. No Democratic candidate for president has publicly addressed the controversy.

Planned Parenthood has supported the Democratic party in the past. It poured $18 million into outside spending groups in 2014 and 2012, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Most of its nearly $6 million in direct contributions since 1990 have gone to Democrats. Every Democratic candidate except for Webb has benefitted from this cash influx at the federal level. Sanders and Chafee have received nearly $25,000 combined over the course of their careers.

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The Washington Free Beacon reached out to the Clinton campaign asking whether the cash-rich frontrunner planned on returning Planned Parenthood donations, as she did contributions from the pornographer Larry Flynt. A spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

Clintons Facilitated Donor's Haiti Project that Defrauded U.S. Out of Millions // Free Beacon // Alana Goodman – July 17, 2015

A federal agency rushed to approve funding for a Clinton donor's sham Haiti recovery project that ended up defrauding the U.S. government out of millions, according to court transcripts and internal government documents obtained by the Washington Free Beacon.

Miami businessman Claudio Osorio, who is currently serving 12 years in federal prison on fraud charges, leveraged his relationship with Bill and Hillary Clinton to help his company InnoVida obtain a $10 million loan from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) for a Haiti housing project in 2010.

OPIC is an independent government agency that submits its annual budget requests through the State Department and works closely with the agency.

Bill Clinton helped arrange for a high-powered Florida law firm to represent Osorio during loan negotiations with OPIC, according to court testimony. An internal OPIC memo said Hillary Clinton was prepared to marshal State Department resources to assist with the donor's project.

InnoVida was supposed to use the funding to build houses in Haiti after the earthquake, but it defaulted on the loan and the homes were never built.

After InnoVida went bankrupt in 2011, a court-appointed investigator said it appeared that over $30 million of its funds had been diverted to foreign bank accounts and were not retrievable.

Osorio was later accused of using the company to run a Ponzi-like scheme, bilking government and private investors out of a collective $40 million and using their money to fund his lavish lifestyle—making payments on his Miami Beach mansion, buying a Maserati and maintaining his Colorado ski chalet.

He pleaded guilty to wire fraud and money laundering in 2013.

Much of the media coverage of InnoVida has focused on Jeb Bush's involvement as a consultant and board member. But previously unreported government documents and testimony from the 2013 fraud trial of InnoVida's chief financial officer reveal that Osorio's relationship with the Clintons played a central role in InnoVida's efforts to obtain OPIC funding for the house-building scam.

The OPIC official who helped approve the InnoVida loan wrote in a 2010 internal memo that "secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, has made available State Department resources to assist with logistical arrangements" for the project and "Former president Bill Clinton is personally in contact with the company [InnoVida] to organize its logistical and support needs."

The memo added that the Clinton Global Initiative had agreed to purchase "6500 homes in Haiti from InnoVida within the next year."

During the loan process, Osorio repeatedly emphasized his connections to the Clintons during conversations with OPIC officials, boasting about taking a trip to Haiti with the former president after the earthquake and telling an OPIC manager that he had a direct line to Hillary Clinton.

He also brought members of the Clintons' inner circle on board with the project. InnoVida brought on Jonathan Mantz, Hillary Clinton's 2008 finance director and currently the senior financial adviser at the Clinton-supporting Priorities USA PAC, to lobby OPIC for the loan. The company's board included Chris Korge, a top Clinton moneyman who has raised millions for them, and close ally Gen. Wesley Clark.

InnoVida also retained top Florida law firm Shutts & Bowen to help negotiate the loan agreement with OPIC.

An attorney at Shutts & Bowen testified that Bill Clinton asked the firm to represent InnoVida in the negotiations. One of the Clintons' top bundlers, Alexander Heckler, was a partner at the law group.

A spokesperson for Hillary Clinton did not respond to request for comment.

OPIC officials denied in court testimony that they approved the loan under political pressure. They also said they never tried to verify Osorio's claims that the Clintons were assisting him with the Haiti project, even after OPIC used this information to justify the loan approval and began dispensing millions of dollars to his company.

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InnoVida's loan request was approved by OPIC after just two weeks. The process typically takes months or years, agency officials testified. The loan was also approved before InnoVida had turned over its financial statements.

In a rare move, OPIC waived a requirement that the company provide an independently audited financial report up-front, even though Osorio had previously run a company that was sued for manipulating its stock prices.

The National Legal and Policy Center, a government watchdog group that has spent months investigating the documents related to this case, told the Free Beacon that it was "a textbook example of a corrupt pay-to-play scheme" and called for an investigation of OPIC.

"This case represents a new low in the misuse of public funds by Clinton allies," said NLPC chairman Ken Boehm. "There must be an investigation into why this Clinton donor was using a law firm recommended by Bill Clinton and one of Hillary Clinton's top fund raisers to improperly obtain millions from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation."

A spokesperson for OPIC did not respond to request for comment.

Osorio's relationship with the Clintons dates back to at least 2007. That fall, Osorio hosted a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign at his Star Island mansion in Miami Beach. Bill Clinton gave a speech at the event and "explain[ed] to an audience that Osorio planned to build 10,000 houses at $5,000 apiece for impoverished Haitians," according to an NPR report.

Osorio contributed between $10,000 and $25,000 to the Clinton Foundation in 2009. His company InnoVida followed up with another $10,000 to $25,000 donation. The foundation returned the money in 2013, after a court-appointed receiver sued to recover funds for swindled investors.

InnoVida approached OPIC in late 2009 through its lobbyist Mantz, according to an OPIC email. Initially the company said it wanted the loan to build a panel manufacturing facility in Haiti. OPIC reportedly expressed interest in the idea, but InnoVida allegedly neglected to pay a $20,000 retainer and dropped out of contact that December.

On Jan. 13, 2010, the day after the earthquake in Haiti, Osorio reached out again to OPIC's renewable energy director Lynn Tabernacki, this time with a proposal to build houses on the island.

After that discussion, Tabernacki said her team rushed to approve the project, working "day and night and weekends to make sure that we followed all of our credit policies and procedures to get it done as quickly as possible."

Tabernacki helped InnoVida's chief finance officer write the loan application, telling him in a Jan. 19 email to "[p]lease let me know when you've finished so that I can immediately send it to our policy group."

Two days later, Tabernacki and another OPIC official flew to Miami to visit the InnoVida offices. During the meeting, Osorio reiterated to Tabernacki he was in close contact with Bill Clinton and that he had Hillary Clinton's "ear" at the State Department.

Five days later, on Jan. 26, Tabernacki sent a memo to her supervisors at OPIC requesting approval for the InnoVida loan.

She wrote that InnoVida was "well placed to support the recovery efforts in Haiti," noting its relationship with the Clinton Global Initiative and "U.S. persons of political influence that are able to assist in advancing the company's plans."

"Former president Bill Clinton is personally in contact with the company to organize its logistical and support needs," added Tabernacki. "[InnoVida board member] Wesley Clark is arranging for military transport of the initial structural panels. Steven Green (former CEO of Samsonite Corporation and former ambassador to Singapore) will provide barge space on ocean vessels, when necessary, to ship the factory components. And secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, has made available State Department resources to assist with logistical arrangements."

Tabernacki later testified that this memo was based on claims from Osorio, and she did not take any steps to corroborate the information. However, she said the part about Hillary Clinton was accurate.

"The Hillary Clinton aspect was true, because at that point, we had—not myself, but there were others within OPIC that had been making arrangements with the State Department for the activities that were going on the ground [in Haiti]," said Tabernacki.

InnoVida was the only company to receive an OPIC loan for a Haiti-related project in 2010, according to the

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agency's annual report.

Senior OPIC officials green-lighted the InnoVida loan the same day Tabernacki sent the approval request. At the time, the company had yet to turn over any financial statements. Lawyers for OPIC and InnoVida had still not negotiated certain contractual terms.

While OPIC typically requires companies to turn over audited financial information before receiving a loan, it granted InnoVida a six-month extension. The company turned over an unaudited financial statement—reportedly based on questionable numbers—on January 28, two days after the loan was approved.

Tabernacki testified that the agency expedited the approval process because it was trying to expand relief efforts in Haiti after the earthquake.

The defense attorney who cross-examined Tabernacki was not available to comment because he died shortly after the case ended. His client, InnoVida's CFO Craig Toll, was sentenced to four years in prison for his role in the company.

The NLPC said an investigation into OPIC is necessary.

"When a criminal like Osorio steals money meant for earthquake victims, the public is entitled to answers," said Boehm.

Hillary Clinton Doesn't Even Maintain an Office at Brooklyn Headquarters // Free Beacon // Morgan Chalfant – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton does not maintain an office at her campaign headquarters at 1 Pierrepont Plaza in Brooklyn, New York, electing instead to work exclusively out of an upscale midtown Manhattan office when she visits the state.

According to Politico, a recent tour of the two floors of office space occupied by the Clinton campaign in Brooklyn revealed that Hillary has no literal place in the headquarters despite the fact that the Democratic presidential candidate has demonstrated her enthusiasm for the less pricey New York neighborhood.

"Greetings from Brooklyn, USA!" Clinton tweeted in May, including a photo of her posing with a New York license plate with the lettering "BKLYNUSA." The campaign has also released video of Clinton introducing herself to Brooklyn residents as their "new neighbor."

However, the Democratic presidential candidate has forgone an office in the Brooklyn neighborhood for one in a Manhattan space near Times Square. The seven offices on the 27th floor of an office building on West 45th Street are paid for by the Clinton campaign, the rent for which amounts to about $25,000 per month.

She has visited the Brooklyn space a single time.

The midtown office also houses 10 to 15 campaign staffers, though the majority of individuals working on Hillary's presidential campaign — including chairman John Podesta and manager Robby Mook–hold offices and work regularly out of the Brooklyn office space.

The Clinton campaign, known for its frugality, has spent $18.7 million since its launch in April.

Clinton campaign fails to disclose bundler actively lobbying for Morocco // Free Beacon // Brent Scher – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign failed to list a registered lobbyist for Morocco in its legally required disclosure of all bundled fundraising done by lobbyists, according to a Washington Free Beacon analysis.

Edward Gabriel, who was named U.S. Ambassador to Morocco by former President Bill Clinton in 1997, now runs the Gabriel Company, a Washington, D.C., lobbying firm that has had the government of Morocco as a client since 2002 and has been paid more than $3.7 million by the nation since that point.

Though Gabriel appeared on a list posted to the Clinton campaign website on Wednesday afternoon of all the bundlers that have raised over $100,000, his name is absent from documents filed to the Federal Election Commission listing all the other registered lobbyists that have been fundraising for the campaign.

All contributions bundled by registered lobbyists must be disclosed to the FEC each quarter.

A search conducted on Friday afternoon using the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) database found that the Gabriel Company is still an active registrant. Edward Gabriel signed its most recently filed continuation. FARA requires all groups hired to lobby on behalf of a foreign government to register with the Justice Department.

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Gabriel was one of the many listed members of Clinton's National Finance Committee that had raised over $100,000 for the campaign. He also contributed to the Clinton Foundation, to which he has contributed as recently as 2014 and given between $100,001 and $250,000.

Although the fact that Gabriel has been fundraising for the campaign was disclosed through her campaign website provided list, significantly less information is made available on that list than would be made available through the FEC filing.

The list of "Hillblazers," as the campaign has dubbed them, only provides a name and a city of residence without disclosing any information about how much each has raised. Each entry on the FEC filing of lobbyist bundlers, however, is required to include name, address, employer, and the exact amount that has been raised.

Gabriel is not Clinton's only bundler that is registered to lobby for foreign governments.

It was reported on Thursday by Buzzfeed's Andrew Kaczynski that two of Clinton's listed bundlers, Matthew Bernstein and John Merrigan of DLA Piper, are also both registered to lobby for foreign governments. Bernstein has lobbied for the United Arab Emirates and the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz, while Merrigan is registered to lobby for the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Both Bernstein and Merrigan are listed on Clinton's official FEC disclosure.

The Clinton-Gabriel relationship extends to before he was named ambassador in 1997. Gabriel was a donor to Bill Clinton's 1996 presidential campaign and maxed out his contributions to Hillary Clinton's failed presidential campaign in 2008.

Money from Morocco has flowed toward the Clintons as well. On the day that Clinton announced her current presidential campaign, it was reported that the Clinton Foundation would be paid at least $1 million to hold a May event in Marrakech.

The event was paid for by OCM, the state-owned energy company that is despised by many in Morocco.

"Hillary Clinton sold her soul when they accepted that money," a former miner for the company told Politico's Ken Vogel in Morocco. "We are concerned that if Hillary Clinton wins the presidency of the United States of America, she will take the side of Moroccans even more."

The Clinton campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

PolitiFact: Hillary Clinton addressed financial regulations early in crisis // Tampa Bay Times // Lauren Carroll – July 17, 2015

The statement

Says she "called for addressing risks of derivatives, cracking down on subprime mortgages and improving financial oversight" early on in the financial crisis.

Hillary Clinton, July 13, in remarks in Manhattan

The ruling

Clinton used to be the senator from New York, the home of Wall Street. She has a history of campaign backing from the finance industry and of delivering high-priced speeches to finance firms, such as Goldman Sachs. And her husband, former President Bill Clinton, signed the repeal of a bank break-up bill, the Glass-Steagall Act — a deregulation that some critics think contributed to the financial crisis.

So we questioned Hillary Clinton's record of addressing financial regulations. Did she address derivatives, subprime mortgages and financial oversight so early in the crisis?

While the financial crisis came to a head in summer 2008, problems with housing started to bubble up in 2007 during Clinton's ill-fated presidential primary campaign. On the trail, Clinton addressed these nascent issues — particularly the mortgage crisis — as early as March of that year.

Clinton, still a senator at the time, delivered a speech on the volatility of the subprime mortgage market on March 15, 2007. She said too many people were ignoring warning signs.

"The subprime problems are now creating massive issues on Wall Street," Clinton said. "It's a serious problem affecting our housing market and millions of hard-working families."

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She gave specific proposals for addressing subprime mortgages, including expanding the role of the Federal Housing Administration, more borrowing options for underprivileged and first-time home buyers, more safeguards against predatory lending practices and policies intended to prevent foreclosures.

In August 2007, she delivered a similar speech about dealing with problems from subprime mortgages. There, she reiterated earlier proposals, and also suggested laws establishing national standards and registration for loan brokers, as well as regulations on lenders.

"I think the subprime market was sort of like the canary in the mine," she said. "You know, it was telling us loudly and clearly, 'There are problems here.' "

It didn't become law, but Clinton sponsored a bill to implement these policies in September 2007.

The first time she mentioned derivatives was in a November 2007 speech in Iowa. (A derivative is a financial product that allows investors to hedge against price fluctuations in an underlying asset.)

"We need to start addressing the risks posed by derivatives and other complex financial products," she said. "You can't let Wall Street send the bill to your street with the bright ideas that just don't work out. Derivatives and products like them are posing real risks to families, as Wall Street writes down tens of billions of dollars in investments. Companies are taking the loss of a billion here and a billion there simply because the securities they own are worth less than they thought."

In the same speech, she spoke again of the risky lending that led to the subprime mortgage crisis, adding that she called on then-President George W. Bush to convene a conference to find a solution.

And she also pushed for more oversight of financial markets: "So as president, I will move to establish the 21st century oversight we need in a 21st century global marketplace. I will call for an immediate review of these new investment products and for plans to make them more transparent."

At the tail end of her campaign, in March 2008 — still before the financial crisis hit a peak later that summer — Clinton released a six-point plan to increase financial regulation. The plan included, in part, more oversight of derivatives and other new financial products, establishment of mortgage standards and strengthening of some consumer protections.

After becoming secretary of state in 2009, Clinton made noticeably fewer comments on domestic policy and financial regulation. But the record shows that establishing policies to address the then-nascent financial crisis was a key point of her campaign platform in 2007 and 2008.

We rate her claim True.

Clinton's campaign claims to be small donor driven; facts show otherwise // Daily Caller // Derek Hunter – July 17, 2015

In an email to supporters, John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman and founder of the pro-Clinton Center for American Progress, warned Republicans were out-fundraising the former secretary of state.

Podesta also declared the campaign to be under "a ferocious onslaught of dark money" from Republicans, but that Hillary is funded by grassroots Americans who've "chipped in $1, $5, or $10." An examination of the facts shows something different.

The email, under the subject line: "A ferocious onslaught of dark money," says, "Republicans are out-raising us 4 to 1. If we win the Democratic nomination for president and this pace keeps up, we are in for a ferocious onslaught of dark money, regardless of who the nominee is on the other side." But what does that "4 to 1″ margin mean?

The Clinton campaign took in $46.7 million in its first quarter of existence, no small sum. Even NBC News called it a "Huge Fundraising Haul." The next highest total for a campaign was another Democrat, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders raised $15 million. Sen. Marco Rubio came in third with $12 million. So where does the "4 to 1″ come from? Turns out it's creative math.

The Clinton campaign combined the totals each of the current top-tier Republican campaign raised, $53 million, with the money raised by Super PACs associated with them, $203 million, for a total of $256 million for the GOP. Clinton's super PACs raised $24.3 million. If you add that to her total, as she does with the GOP, her total is $71 million. That's roughly 3 to 1, not 4 to 1, but it's still a false number.

The Clinton camp combines all the money raised by GOP candidates, but ignores the money raised by Sanders.

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If you add in the money Sanders raised, the Democrats' total increases to $86 million, closer to 2.5 to one. But Clinton's team created a false equivalence — one against all. Clinton's campaign, by itself, has raised more than the top four GOP candidates combined — $46 million to $43 million.

The Clinton email also attempts to give the impression of a grassroots movement. It reads, in part:

> We're running a different kind of race. More than 250,000 people have chipped in $1, $5, or $10 because they care enough about this election to have a financial stake in it.

The wording is a deliberate attempt to mislead the reader into thinking the Clinton campaign is funded by small dollar donors, average Americans simply "chipping in" what they can. But again, math tells a different story.

If each of Clinton's 250,000 donors "chipped in" all the low dollar amounts listed in the email — $1, $5, $10, for a total of $16 each — that would total $4 million. That leaves $42 million unaccounted for.

The Washington Post reports only 17 percent of Clinton's haul, or $7 million, came from donations of $200 or less, which leaves $39 million from high dollar donors. Not exactly the grassroots "different kind of campaign" Podesta is telling supporters.

Add further fudging to the numbers, the New York Post reported the Clinton campaign made concerted effort to attract $1 donations from as many people as possible to dilute the high dollar donor numbers.

17 Things Hillary Says She Will Change About the Economy // Newsweek // Ken McIntyre – July 17, 2015

In a speech designed to float ideas for raising incomes for "hardworking Americans," Hillary Clinton says she'd make some changes if elected president.

Clinton, considered the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, used her appearance July 13 at the New School in New York's Greenwich Village to outline an economic message organized by what she called "strong growth," "fair growth" and "long-term growth."

"We can't create enough jobs and new businesses without more growth, and we can't build strong families and support our consumer economy without more fairness," she said, adding:

> The defining economic challenge of our time is clear: We must raise incomes for hardworking Americans so they can afford a middle-class life. We must drive strong and steady income growth that lifts up families and lifts up our country.

Much of what Clinton advocated—from family-friendly leave to equal pay for women—reflected familiar liberal or progressive goals, including tweaks of programs installed by President Barack Obama.

Here are 17 specific things the former first lady and secretary of state said she would do if she returns to the White House as president:

1 Achieve "comprehensive immigration reform" as an engine of growth. "Bringing millions of hardworking people into the formal economy," she said, "would increase our gross domestic product by an estimated $700 billion over 10 years."

2 Set up an "infrastructure bank" that channels public and private funds to finance "world-class airports, railways, roads, bridges and ports."

3 Spend more on "scientific and medical research that spawns innovative companies and creates entire new industries."

4 Provide "quality, affordable child care" as a "growth strategy." Clinton said it could be done "in a way that doesn't impose unfair burdens on businesses—especially small businesses."

5 Change "the current rules for our economy" so that jobs such as "actually building and selling things" don't pay so much less than work such as financial trading. She would not only raise the minimum wage but "go further," Clinton said. "I'll crack down on bosses who exploit employees by misclassifying them as contractors or even steal their wages."

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6 Propose ways to “encourage companies to share profits with their employees.”

7 Ensure that tax reforms target “hugely successful companies,” which “should not be able to game the system and avoid paying their fair share.” She decried the fact that “companies who can’t afford high-price lawyers and lobbyists end up paying more.”

8 To reverse the decline of unions in the private sector, “stand up to efforts across our country to undermine worker bargaining power.”

9 Ensure that, in the next 10 years, every 4-year-old has access to “high-quality preschool.” She added, “I want to call for a great outpouring of support from our faith community, our business community, our academic institutions, from philanthropy and civic groups and concerned citizens, to really help parents, particularly parents who are facing a lot of obstacles.”

10 To revitalize poor neighborhoods, embrace conservative ideas such as “reviving the New Markets Tax Credit and Empowerment Zones” to create greater incentives for private investors.

11 Promote “clear-eyed capitalism,” which she said is not charity. “Many companies have prospered by improving wages and training their workers that then yield higher productivity, better service and larger profits.” One proposal: a $1,500 apprenticeship tax credit for every worker trained and hired by an employer.

12 Change capital gains taxes “to reward longer-term investments that create jobs more than just quick trades” and propose other ways “to help CEOs and shareholders alike focus on the next decade rather than just the next day.”

13 Impose regulations on financial institutions that “go beyond Dodd-Frank” and “rein in excessive risks” identified by the government. “Too many of our major financial institutions are still too complex and too risky,” she said.

14 Appoint regulators “who understand that [the philosophy of] ‘too big to fail’ is still too big a problem” and who will “ensure that no firm is too complex to manage or oversee.”

15 Prosecute individuals and companies suspected of fraud or “other criminal wrongdoing” and funnel any recovered damages into a trust fund “to benefit the public.”

16 “Make sure Washington learns from how well local governments, business and non-profits are working together in successful cities and towns across America.”

17 “Drive progress” without passing bills and making rules. “As president, I’ll use the power to convene, connect and collaborate to build partnerships that actually get things done.”

Nah-nah: For Clinton, 'It's easy to get attention in mainstream media' // Washington Examiner **// Paul Bedard – July 17, 2015**

Not that they're bragging or anything, but Hillary Clinton's campaign team says it's so easy to get the attention of the mainstream media that they are also focusing now on getting the eyeballs of the rest of America that doesn't follow the general press.

While most other candidates are media-starved, Clinton's campaign spends much of its time fielding questions from big city newspapers and network TV. The coverage was so heavy during July 4, for example, that a rope was used near the candidate to prod reporters along.

At a media breakfast this week hosted by the Christian Science Monitor, campaign communications boss Jennifer Palmieri said with such a wealth of mainstream media coverage, the challenge is getting others not plugged in to pay attention.

"The folks around this table are particularly focused on our campaign, there's a lot of interest, so it's easy to get attention in the mainstream media world and that's a big part, a majority of what we do," she told the reporters.

"But you can't just talk to audiences following mainstream media and think you've done your job, so I don't look at as going around the media, you just can't talk to just the media and not utilize these other platforms," namely social media, she added.

Not so for so many other candidates, especially among the second tier of 15 GOP candidates.

Take former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum for example. He won the 2012 Iowa straw poll and was among the last to challenge Mitt Romney for the Republican nomination.

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When he did the same breakfast this week, he arrived on foot with just one aide, no ropes. And about a third of the number of reporters showed up to hear the presidential candidate than Clinton's aides.

Santorum said he is confident, but wouldn't mind a little more press coverage. He spoke the truth about the impact of the media:

"What's driving national [poll] numbers is news coverage, that's what drives national numbers. If you folks had written as many stories about Jeb Bush as you have Lindsey Graham, my guess is that Bush's numbers wouldn't be anywhere near what they are today," he said.

How often do Clinton campaign staffers really ride the bus? // Washington Examiner // Ariel Cohen – July 17, 2015

Despite reports that Hillary Clinton's campaign is skimping on transportation costs by relying on buses, Federal Elections Committee reports show that the Democratic front-runner's campaign spent more money on train rides and air travel.

In this first quarter of the election cycle, the Clinton campaign spent $42,397.98 on Delta airline trips, $8713.10 on Amtrak rides, but only $661 on bus rides from Best Bus and BoltBus. The FEC fact sheet showed no Greyhound trips, MegaBus rides or jaunts on the Vamoose Bus.

In early June, the Washington Post published a story reporting the Clinton campaign was making an effort to cut costs by sending stafferson buses between their New York City and Washington, D.C., offices. The piece was headlined "How Cheap is Hillary Clinton's campaign? This cheap." Reporter Anne Gearan rode the Vamoose bus from NYC to D.C. with Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta, as he spoke of how "staffer must schlep on the bus."

"The expectation is that if you're going to D.C., you're supposed to take the bus," press secretary Brian Fallon said in the article.

But the average bus ticket from D.C. to NYC is $30, so at $661, the Clinton campaign appears to have only paid for about 11 bus tickets over the past two and a half months.

The Clinton campaign says these numbers don't tell the whole story, however.

"The low cost of a bus ticket is both the reason we encourage staff to take it and the reason it doesn't add up as quickly as significantly more expensive train tickets.," Hillary for America spokesman Josh Schwerin told the Washington Examiner. "Bus tickets are so cheap they don't always meet the threshold of being itemized expenses on a report and staffers can also be reimbursed for their travel rather than the campaign paying the vendor up front."

In 2008, Clinton's campaign was criticized being too flashy, using devices such as the "Hill-a-copter" to transport the candidate between events. This time around, the campaign chose a black van, fondly referred to as "the Scooby Van," to transport Clinton around states.

This time around, the campaign has boasted a more tight-fisted image. A late June New York Times article described lower level staffers having trouble finding an apartment and paying rent in New York City, where Clinton's headquarters are located. A recent email to donors begged supporters to open up their homes to staffers with "a spare room — or just a spare couch!" as they struggle to find affordable housing on the Clinton payroll.

Bill Clinton to attend Starkey gala in St. Paul honoring George W. Bush // MinnPost // Joe Kimball – July 17, 2015

President Bill Clinton is now on the guest list for the July 26 Starkey Hearing Foundation Gala in St. Paul. He joins President George W. Bush, who is being honored at the annual event this year for his contributions to the foundation's charitable work.

Katy Perry is the headline entertainer at the event at St. Paul's RiverCentre, which always features many celebrities. Last year, it raised nearly $9 million.

Foundation officials say Bush helped provide customized hearing devices to 222 people in Tanzania.

In announcing that Clinton will attend next week's gala as a special guest, officials said he'd been honored by the foundation in 2011 and that he has joined many global hearing missions, including work in Zambia, Rwanda and Kenya.

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New institute to carry on work of HIV pioneer and MH17 victim Joep Lange // Science Magazine / / Martin Enserink – July 17, 2015

AMSTERDAM—One year ago today, the missile attack on Malaysia Airlines flight 17 (MH17) ended the life of Joep Lange, a towering figure in the world of HIV/AIDS and global health. But Lange's work will live on in a new institute that aims to bring his characteristic combination of research and on-the-ground action to bear on health problems in developing countries.

The Joep Lange Institute was formally announced on Wednesday, along with a new, rotating chair and fellowship program at the Academic Medical Center, where Lange was a professor and founded the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development. The new institute will open its doors in Amsterdam later this year, supported by some $20 million from various private sources in the United States. A spokesperson declined to name these benefactors but says they will be announced later this year. The Joep Lange Chair and Fellows program will be partly funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lange died while traveling to an international AIDS conference in Melbourne, Australia, along with his partner and co-worker Jacqueline van Tongeren and 296 other people on board MH17. Their plane was shot down in eastern Ukraine while en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

In the global health community, Lange is remembered as a scientist who didn't just study problems but also tried to solve them. For instance, he was instrumental in convincing pharmaceutical companies in the mid-1990s that a cocktail of drugs was the best way to fight HIV, said David Cooper, the head of the Kirby Institute for infection and immunity in society in Sydney, Australia, in an interview last year with ScienceInsider.

Once those cocktails had proven successful and had been widely introduced in Western countries, Lange became a passionate and effective advocate for bringing them to the millions of HIV-infected people in developing countries, which many at the time deemed impractical or impossible. In a video tribute released on Wednesday, former U.S. President Bill Clinton recalled that Lange was one of the first partners of the Clinton Health Access Initiative, with programs to dramatically increase access to HIV medication in South Africa and Tanzania.

In the last decade of his life, Lange became interested in increasing access to health care in general—by setting up health insurance plans in Africa, for instance—and driving down poverty. "Joep was a true hero in the world of health and development. Always ahead of this time, always a driving force for innovation and inclusive economics," Clinton said. "I am very grateful for the creation of the Joep Lange Institute so that his legacy will live on."

Four others involved in the fight against HIV, all headed for the Melbourne meeting, died a year ago: Glenn Thomas, a spokesman for the World Health Organization; Pim de Kuijer and Martine de Schutter, who both worked for STOP AIDS NOW!, a Dutch advocacy group; and Lucie van Mens, an advocate for the use of female condoms at the Female Health Company.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

O'Malley-aligned super PAC hiring dozens of organizers in Iowa // WaPo // John Wagner - July 17, 2015

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley is joined by his wife Katie O'Malley as he announces his intention to seek the Democratic presidential nomination during a speech in Federal Hill Park in Baltimore on Saturday, May 30. (Jim Bourg/Reuters)
A super PAC backing Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley says it has hired nearly 50 staffers so far to do on-the-ground organizing in Iowa and could add as many as 100 more in advance of the state's first-in-the-nation caucuses.
Ron Boehmer, a spokesman for the Generation Forward PAC, said the effort will include knocking on doors, phone banking and holding events to promote O'Malley's candidacy -- functions typically taken on by a campaign itself.
By law, the super PAC can't coordinate with O'Malley's campaign, so there is bound to be some overlap as the group's activities get underway later this month, Boehmer said.
"Our view is that if people get touched by both us and the campaign, that's positive," he said."Every campaign in Iowa will be working to find caucus voters, build a relationship with them and get them to caucus for their

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candidate. O'Malley will have two organizations working to do that."
Iowa is crucial to the fate of the former Maryland governor, who in early state polls is lagging far behind Hillary Rodham Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). O'Malley's campaign is counting on a much stronger-than-anticipated showing in Iowa to propel his candidacy forward early next year.
In a memo to "interested parties" released Friday, Jake Oeth, O'Malley's Iowa director, argued that his candidate would be well-positioned in the state because of the amount of time O'Malley is spending on "retail politics, where a hand-shake and an honest conversation matter far more than even the largest rally." Oeth said that by the end of summer, O'Malley's campaign will have "hired staff across the state, who call thousands of Iowans and meet one-on-one with caucus goers every day."
Generation Forward is led by several relatively young supporters and former staffers of O'Malley. The group has not disclosed how much it has raised so far. O'Malley's campaign reported taking in a relatively modest $2 million during the first month after formally declaring his candidacy.
Unlike campaign organizations, super PACs can accept unlimited contributions from donors.
Boehmer, a former O'Malley press aide, said the PAC has already opened an office in Des Moines and is planning to open at least two additional offices, in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.
O'Malley was in Iowa on Thursday promoting a plan on immigration that he released earlier this week in New York. On Friday night, he plans to speak at a Democratic dinner in Cedar Rapids along with four others seeking the party's nomination: Clinton; Sanders; former Virginia senator Jim Webb; and former Rhode Island governor and senator Lincoln Chafee.
Generation Forward plans a late-night social gathering nearby that will include live music, an open bar and desserts, Boehmer said.

Martin O'Malley finances: Solid pensions, modest assets // AP // Jeff Horwitz - July 17, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley's time in public office in Baltimore and Maryland has left him with limited assets but valuable public pensions, according to new financial and tax records O'Malley released Wednesday.
O'Malley and his wife, Catherine Curran O'Malley, a district court judge in Baltimore, have earned solid salaries in recent years as public officials, together bringing in nearly $270,000 in wages last year, supplemented by an additional $61,000 in pension payments stemming from O'Malley's sixteen years as a Baltimore mayor and councilman.
O'Malley will begin collecting in 2018 an additional pension from his time as governor — which will be $90,000 a year based on the current governor's salary. As a state judge, his wife is also in line to eventually receive a pension as well. O'Malley's pensions alone, converted into the form of an annuity, would be worth well over a million dollars.
But the O'Malleys have little savings aside from their pensions, a circumstance that his campaign said reflects the cost of Catholic school for the couple's four children and college tuition for two of them so far. O'Malley's financial disclosure lists at least $300,000 in student loan from the children's education.
"They made sacrifices and took on debt to invest in something they really believe in - the best education possible for their daughters," spokeswoman Haley Morris wrote in an e-mail.
In addition to the educational debt, the O'Malleys list a personal line of credit between $100,000 and $250,000, and a mortgage of undisclosed size. Other public records indicate O'Malley took out a 30-year mortgage for $494,100 in December 2014 for the family's Baltimore home, which they purchased for $549,000.
By law, presidential candidates must file a statement of their finances with the Federal Election Commission — but O'Malley additionally released the last five years of tax returns. Both the relatively straightforward nature of the O'Malley's finances and the release of the tax returns contrast with the disclosures by Hillary Rodham Clinton, the heavily favored contender for the Democratic nomination.
Since leaving office, O'Malley has more than replaced his salary as governor with fees from speaking engagements, a salary for a visiting professorship at John Hopkins and a seat on the board of directors of Barcoding Inc., a Baltimore-based technology company. Speaking fees account for the majority of that income, with fees ranging from $5,000 for an event hosted by JetBlue to $147,000 for a series of speeches delivered to Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc., a California-based geo-location and data company. During his time as Baltimore's mayor, O'Malley championed the increasing use of such data to guide government services and policy decisions.
O'Malley's speaking-fee income — while lavish by most Americans' standards — pales next to that of Bill and Hillary Clinton. Hillary Clinton's financial disclosure form, released in May, showed that the Clintons earned more than $25 million in speaking fees since the beginning of 2014.

Super Pac backing Democrat Martin O'Malley could have 150 staffers in Iowa // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs – July 17, 2015

A Super Pac supporting former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley's campaign for the Democratic party presidential nomination could have more than 150 staffers on the ground in Iowa.

Ron Boehmer, a spokesman for Generation Forward, a pro-O'Malley Super Pac confirmed to the Guardian that his organization had already hired 45 staffers to do on-the-ground organizing for the Iowa caucuses and was planning on hiring between 50-100 more staffers in the state.

The group has already opened an office in Des Moines and is planning to open at least two more offices in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City on behalf of the underdog Democrat.

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Boehmer told the Guardian that while they can not legally coordinate with the O'Malley campaign, they are not worried about duplicating efforts. He thought it wouldn't be a problem "if we [contact] people two or three times and not just once.". Boehmer maintained "we're not doing robo calls, we're going up and having conversations" which will not hassle or bother Iowa Democrats.

The question is how that interaction between the campaign and the Super Pac will work. O'Malley has already built a strong and well-respected campaign apparatus in Iowa and led by experienced operatives and there are major two parallel campaigns supporting the same candidate to work in tandem without legally being allowed to communicate. An O'Malley spokesperson said the campaign was not affiliated with the outside group and declined to comment further.

In an op-ed in Thursday's Des Moines Register, Generation Forward's chief executive Damian O'Doherty described the group as one that "won't be focused on the Super Pac politics of the past". Instead, he pledged that "rather than thinking about what a Super Pac can do, we want to show what a Super Pac should do".

Generation Forward would not disclose how much money it had raised in advance of the 15 July deadline for campaigns to disclose money. This was a step taken by the Super Pac's affiliated with a number of other presidential campaigns. O'Malley had a relatively disappointing fundraising quarter, raising just over $2m, $13m less than Bernie Sanders and $43m less than Hillary Clinton. Only 4% of O'Malley's donations came from small donors.

The Iowa caucuses are currently scheduled to be held on 1 February 2016 and O'Malley currently polls at around 3% among likely Democratic caucus-goers.

Martin O'Malley: US should 'probably' arm Kurdish forces against Isis // The Guardian // Ben Jacobs - July 17, 2015

Martin O'Malley on Thursday appeared to differ from the Obama administration on a key question of Middle East policy.
In Iowa on Thursday, in response to a question from the Guardian about whether the White House should take further steps towards arming Kurdish forces fighting Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, the former Maryland governor and 2016 Democratic candidate said: "Probably, yes."
The Obama administration has long hesitated over directly arming Kurdish militias in the north of Iraq, for fear of further aggravating sectarian tensions.
In testimony to Congress earlier this month, the secretary of defense, Ashton Carter, said: "When we provide arms to the Kurds we do it with the consent of the Iraqi government in order to indicate that we support the idea of a single Iraqi government in Baghdad."
Turkey, a significant regional partner of the US, has long been wary of any effort to arm Kurdish militias.
Doug Wilson, a top foreign policy adviser to O'Malley, made clear that the candidate "was not unilaterally proposing that we step up additional arms to the Kurds". Instead, Wilson said, O'Malley would only do so "if it was determined by the US military that it was appropriate to up the arms to the Kurds".
O'Malley, who in polls of the Democratic field for 2016 is some way behind frontrunner Hillary Clinton and second-place Bernie Sanders, has rarely deviated significantly from the Obama administration on foreign policy.
His initial reaction to the Iran nuclear deal, for example, was relatively positive.
O'Malley told reporters on Tuesday: "I still haven't reviewed the agreement, but I am of the belief that a negotiated agreement, provided it's verifiable and enforceable, is the best path to a nuclear-free Iran. So I think that the initial news is promising."
In response to a question from the Guardian on Thursday, O'Malley refused to follow some opponents of the deal and criticize the White House for leaving four Americans held captive in Iran.
"I understand why the president and his negotiating team in their judgment would want to have their negotiations concluded which were complicated enough in a siloed basis," O'Malley said.
He added: "I think all of us are right to demand that our government continue to advocate for the release of those Americans in Iran."

Fact Checker: Was O'Malley on the money for wind jobs? // The Gazette - July 17, 2015

"Clean energy is a job creator, pure and simple. Iowa and Maryland prove it. Both of our states set standards and targets to encourage investment in renewable fuels. Iowa did this first among states, and now is a leader in biofuel production and wind generation. Last year, the number of Iowans working in the wind industry increased by 50 percent."
Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, in a guest opinion in The Des Moines Register
A representative with O'Malley's campaign named an April Register article citing a 2014 American Wind Energy Association report as the original source for O'Malley's statement.
A quick look at the numbers shows O'Malley's claim actually understates last year's growth in Iowa wind-power jobs, which roughly doubled from the 3,001-to-4,000 range in 2013 to the 6,001-to-7,000 range last year, according to figures provided by AWEA. This could have been as simple as a math error when looking at job

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growth.
However, looking back a few years further shows the number of wind jobs in Iowa has merely returned to similar levels present in 2011 and 2012, when jobs first reached that 6,001-to-7,000 range.
Mike Prior, executive director of the Iowa Wind Energy Association, said the roughly 7,000 jobs counted are directly related to the industry, specifically in operation and maintenance. Indirect jobs in education, development or construction would push that number higher, he added.
Jobs in the wind industry dropped significantly in 2013 due to layoffs following the expiration of the Federal Production Tax Credit for wind energy — an inflation-adjusted per-kilowatt-hour tax credit that was ultimately renewed at the close of 2012.
“There was quite a bit of uncertainty in that time frame,” Prior said.
A December 2014 Iowa Advanced Energy Employment Survey indicated Iowa’s wind-power workforce in 2014 represented a decline of as much as 50 percent of jobs achieved in 2011 and 2012.
“This decline occurred during a sharp downturn in the U.S. wind industry associated with the expiration, followed by renewal, of the federal production tax credit (PTC), which resulted in a 90 percent drop in wind industry revenue in 2013,” according to the survey.
Enacted in 1992, the PTC has traditionally been renewed every one or two years, but the extended delay in its 2012 renewal caused manufacturing jobs for wind power to drop nationwide, said David Ward, deputy director in strategic communications for AWEA.
“New orders that would have started but didn’t because of the uncertainty, a lot of those jobs would have been lost at some point,” Ward said. “Once the PTC was extended and new orders could start coming in 2013 ... they kind of restarted the industry in a way.”
However, the lull in production carried down the pipeline, affecting jobs in development, operation and maintenance across the industry. Wind power jobs are coming back, but the industry itself still hasn’t reached the levels of 2012, Ward said.
Nationwide, there were 73,000 wind jobs last year, compared to 85,000 in 2012, according to AWEA.
While specific data was unavailable, Ward and Prior said it is safe to say a portion of the jobs added last year represented investors from previous years returning to the industry following the PTC’s renewal.
Wind energy jobs are again in a state of flux, as the PTC expired at the end of last year, which means manufacturing jobs are projected to again see a lull in production, with the bigger effects more noticeable next year.
“There will be more installation at the end of this year, but then you’ll start to see kind of a leveling off if there’s no extension,” Ward said.
While added context in Iowa’s wind industry trends better explain the large increase in jobs last year, O’Malley’s claim on job growth remains accurate, albeit a little off on the numbers, according to data.
The background helps us see that many of those jobs are likely investors returning to the market following the PTC renewal, and not entirely new growth.
O’Malley may have made a simple math error when looking at Iowa’s wind-power growth, but we give his comment an A.

O'Malley vows to lead on immigration // Washington Examiner // Ariel Cohen - July 17, 2015

DES MOINES, Iowa — Sitting in a crowded church basement, Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley touted his recently released immigration platform, calling for amnesty and healthcare for all illegal immigrants as well as a new White House agency to handle immigration.
Asked about Hillary Clinton's recent push on immigration, the former Maryland governor stated that he hadn't seen enough of the other candidates' plans on the issue to pass judgment but left no doubt that he believed he was at the forefront.
"I haven't seen her plan or any of the other candidates' plans," O'Malley said. "I can tell you from my part I intend to lead with policy initiatives and ideas that serve our national good ... and I believe that immigration reform is one of those things we must do to get wages to go up again. One of the biggest drags you can have on wages is having an underground economy."
In Maryland, O'Malley made it easier for illegal immigrants to attend college, along with other legislation. Today he argues that by bringing 11 million people out of the shadows, American wages will go up. He often calls illegal immigrants "New Americans.”
"This is a political challenge. In the past we doomed ourselves to failure by treating immigration as if it is some political check-off," O'Malley said.
Only two dozen people, not including media and those running the event, came out to see O'Malley Thursday, but those who did attend could be seen clapping and nodding in agreement throughout the 50-minute discussion.
"I think he's pretty darned with this assessment and ways of dealing with it," Iowa resident Tom Leffler said. "I think the other candidates haven't addressed it as fully as Governor O'Malley, but we'll see.”

Cronyism in Maryland // CATO Institute // David Boaz - July 17, 2015

Martin O’Malley, the former governor of Maryland and Democratic presidential candidate, is no Bill and Hillary Clinton, who have made more than $100 million from speeches, much of it from companies and governments who just might like to have a friend in the White House or the State Department. But consider these paragraphs deep in a Washington Post story today about O’Malley’s financial disclosure form:

> While O’Malley commanded far smaller fees than the former secretary of state – and gave only a handful of

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> speeches – he also seemed to benefit from government and political connections forged during his time in public service.
>
> Among his most lucrative speeches was a $50,000 appearance at a conference in Baltimore sponsored by Center Maryland, an organization whose leaders include a former O'Malley communications director, the finance director of his presidential campaign and the director of a super PAC formed to support O'Malley's presidential bid.
>
> O'Malley also lists $147,812 for a series of speeches to Environmental Systems Research Institute, a company that makes mapping software that O'Malley heavily employed as governor as part of an initiative to use data and technology to guide policy decisions.

I scratch your back, you scratch mine. That's the sort of insider dealing that sends voters fleeing to such unlikely candidates as Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.
These sorts of lucrative "public service" arrangements are nothing new in Maryland (or elsewhere). In *The Libertarian Mind* I retell the story of how Gov. Parris Glendening and his aides scammed the state pension system and hired one another's relatives.
In some countries governors still get suitcases full of cash . Speaking fees are much more modern.
Martin O'Malley Trails Rivals in Fundraising with $2 Million Haul // PPP Focus // River Gaines - July 17, 2015

O'Malley, who said he purposefully chose New York, the home of the Statue of Liberty, for this particular announcement, is expected to talk more about his immigration plan later this week in early-voting Iowa.
Presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley told Fusion's Jorge Ramos today that Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric had risen to the level of "hate speech".
Immigration is a hot button issue for the 2016 presidential campaign and Martin O'Malley is trying to play it to his advantage.
"Now, to continue to attract the next generation of strivers, dreamers and risk-takers and to be true to the values we hold dear, we must pursue a dynamic, modern approach to immigration policy as a nation", he wrote.
In the latest of a series of detailed policy papers from his campaign, the former Maryland governor said he would expand President Barack Obama's controversial deferred action program to "all individuals" covered by a sweeping and bipartisan immigration bill approved by the Senate in 2013.
"Comprehensive immigration reform will help all families – by lifting wages, creating new jobs, growing our economy, expanding our tax base and improving standards for all workers", according to O'Malley. "We are moving toward a more connected, compassionate, and generous place".
"Unlike other candidates of both parties, Governor O'Malley's immigration platform is bold and has concrete details, particularly that he will commit to executive action first year of office", the Dream Action Coalition said in a statement.
"What the hell kind of sense does that make?" to ban undocumented people from buying health insurance even if they can afford it, O'Malley asked. Clinton is far and away the leader, while O'Malley's campaign has been overshadowed in recent weeks by the growing popularity of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders.
O'Malley is now behind in the Democratic primary, getting only one to two percent in the most recent polls.
In the interview, O'Malley stressed his executive experience and said his accomplishments set him apart from his opponents. He helped push legislation through Annapolis in 2011 that provides in-state tuition at state universities for young immigrants brought to the country illegally, and he also ushered in a system that allowed undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers licenses.

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders and Third Parties // NYT // Oliver B. Hall - July 17, 2015

Todd Gitlin's vivid account of Bernie Sanders's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016 conveys the impression that 1960s-style "radical politics" is now — or at least should be — practiced only within the Democratic Party. Except for Senator Sanders, the only radicals Mr. Gitlin cites with approval are Democrats. He broadly dismisses third-party politics as not "popular on the left" since Ralph Nader ran for president as the Green Party candidate in 2000.
But if "radical politics" signifies anything, apart from the "countercultural baggage" to which Mr. Gitlin alludes, surely it includes a willingness to challenge existing power structures, including the two major political parties. That's what the progressives thought who first championed the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, the minimum wage, a progressive income tax, the 40-hour workweek and many other reforms that originated with third parties.
Mr. Nader's presidential campaigns carried on that tradition by advancing a platform that Democrats wouldn't touch. It included, for example, cracking down on corporate crime, supporting single-payer health care and opposing the war in Iraq.
Bernie Sanders Presses Hillary Clinton on Her Views on Banks // NYT // Jonathan Martin – July 17, 2015

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CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont edged closer on Friday to directly attacking Hillary Rodham Clinton, pointedly asking whether the Democratic presidential front-runner would support measures to break up the country's largest financial institutions and reinstate a firewall between commercial and investment banking.

Mr. Sanders, whose campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination has galvanized liberal activists driven by questions of economic fairness, highlighted his efforts to cut down the so-called too big to fail banks and restore Glass-Steagall, the Depression-era banking law repealed under President Bill Clinton. "You'll have to ask Hillary Clinton about her views on whether she thinks we should break up these large financial institutions. I do," Mr. Sanders, an independent, said at a news conference here. "You will have to ask her views on whether we should re-establish Glass-Steagall."

He boasted that he had not received financial contributions from Goldman Sachs, which he said sought "undue influence" in American politics, but stopped short of calling on Mrs. Clinton to reject the nearly $50,000 in donations she has received from employees of the Wall Street firm. "That's her decision," Mr. Sanders said, after pausing for a moment to consider the question.

Mr. Sanders spoke the afternoon before the Iowa Democratic Party's annual fund-raising dinner, the first event this year at which all of the party's five presidential candidates appeared together. Mrs. Clinton addressed her supporters at an early evening rally before the banquet, but trained her fire entirely on Republicans, making no mention, direct or implied, of Mr. Sanders.

The banquet illustrated the populist fervor coursing through the Democratic base, offering an explanation for Mr. Sanders' early success. Mrs. Clinton received ovations for her attacks on some of the Republican presidential hopefuls and gender-oriented appeals, but Mr. Sanders and Martin O'Malley, a former Maryland governor, found booming applause for their full-throated attacks on Wall Street and free-trade deals.

Asked whether Mrs. Clinton would seek to break up the country's largest banks or reinstate Glass-Steagall, an aide to Mrs. Clinton said she would speak in more detail about both issues in the coming weeks. (Alan Blinder, an economist who is advising Mrs. Clinton, said this week that she would not attempt to revive Glass-Steagall.)

While some leading Iowa Democrats believe that Mr. Sanders's rise will ultimately help Mrs. Clinton restrain expectations here, where she was defeated by Barack Obama in the 2008 caucuses, Mr. Sanders's growing support in the polls, vast base of small-dollar contributors and sizable crowds have prompted some of Mrs. Clinton's backers to make not-so-subtle comments about the importance of nominating a candidate who can capture the White House.

"We've got to nominate somebody that can win and Hillary is a winner," Michael Fitzgerald, Iowa's state treasurer, said at the Clinton rally.

"I don't have a lot of time to mess around like I used to, I want to win," said Dale Todd, a Democratic activist from Cedar Rapids, who also spoke before Mrs. Clinton took the stage.

Privately, Mrs. Clinton's backers are blunter, dismissing the possibility that Mr. Sanders, a 73-year-old self-declared socialist, would be a viable general election candidate. Yet the sheer size of his crowds, in Iowa and beyond, is creating awkwardness for Mrs. Clinton.

She added the rally to her schedule, her campaign said, to give local supporters who had not purchased a ticket for the dinner a chance to see the former secretary of state. She has been doing more such large-scale events in part because they are crucial to organizing. To that end, every attendee was asked to sign a caucus commitment card upon entering the basement hall, one side of which was lined with a surefire crowd builder: boxes of free pizza.

These gatherings also, though, represent an effort to show that Mrs. Clinton is herself capable of luring big audiences. But the rally served to highlight her inability for now to attract crowds on the same scale as Mr. Sanders, whose Iowa events have drawn more people than any other presidential candidate has in either party. Mrs. Clinton drew a few hundred people to her event here — her campaign pegged it at 500 — while Mr. Sanders was met by about 2,500 at an event in Council Bluffs this month. The Vermont senator did not seek to compete with a head-to-head rally, but he joined a group of veterans Friday afternoon upstairs in the same building where Mrs. Clinton spoke.

Standing beneath a giant, Grant Wood-designed stained glass window honoring three centuries of American soldiers, Mr. Sanders recounted his work as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, solemnly recounting "the cost of war." But he turned notably more energetic when he took questions about his campaign.

"I think that there is a growing frustration all over this country for establishment politics, for establishment economics," he said before inveighing against what he called "a corrupt system."

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Bernie Sanders isn't Barack Obama, and 2016 isn't 2008 **// WaPo // Dan Pfeiffer – July 17, 2015**

Hillary Clinton is once again campaigning for president as the prohibitive front-runner, and once again, she faces a challenge from an insurgent progressive outsider with grass-roots support. And once again, while Clinton (re)introduces herself to voters in a low-key listening tour of sorts, her challenger is drawing huge audiences — 10,000 in Madison, Wis., 8,000 in Portland, Maine, 5,000 in Denver and overflow crowds in Iowa's small towns and elsewhere.

Eight years ago, Clinton led in the polls for most of 2007, only to lose the Iowa caucuses — and, eventually, the Democratic nomination — to a favorite of the party's progressive base. It's feeling a bit like deja vu. "If she doesn't change the terms of the race, she's going to lose. Again," former Mitt Romney strategist Stuart Stevens warned in the Daily Beast this month.

It may be tempting to compare the race between Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) to the epic race between Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama: Sanders, like Obama, has consolidated a good portion of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. Sanders, like Obama, is raising millions from small-dollar donors on the Internet. Sanders, like Obama, is channeling the anger and frustration of some in the party; then, it was about the Iraq war, now, it's about Wall Street.

But that's where the similarities end. From the perspective of someone who worked on his campaign and in his White House, it's clear that Obama's race against Clinton is not a useful example. Understanding the dynamics at play in the 2016 primaries requires looking further back at history. And unfortunately for Sanders, history shows that there are only two types of Democratic insurgent candidates: Barack Obama and everyone else.

The current system for selecting nominees in the Democratic Party is less than 50 years old. After the disastrous 1968 campaign and nominating convention in Chicago, the party abandoned the smoke-filled rooms of yore and shifted to a series of primaries and caucuses. The 1972 nomination went to the grass-roots favorite, Sen. George McGovern (S.D.), who used the new rules to edge out establishment picks Hubert Humphrey and Henry "Scoop" Jackson. (McGovern won only Massachusetts and the District of Columbia in the general election against Richard Nixon.) In nearly every election since then, an anti-establishment figure has sought the nomination.

Sanders is merely the latest such challenger to make some early noise in a Democratic primary race. He's not even the first one from Vermont: In 2004, former governor Howard Dean rode his opposition to the Iraq war to the top of the field before eventually finishing a distant third in Iowa. That, combined with his famous caucus-night scream, was effectively the end of his candidacy. Dean followed in the footsteps of others, such as then-Sen. Gary Hart (Colo.) in 1984 (and briefly in 1988), California Gov. Jerry Brown in 1976 and again in 1992, and former senator Bill Bradley (N.J.) in 2000. Obama played this role in 2008. The most famous and most successful post-McGovern, pre-Obama challenge came from Sen. Ted Kennedy (Mass.) in 1980, when he almost defeated Jimmy Carter, the incumbent president of his own party.

All of these challengers had their moments, rising in the polls, firing up the grass roots and going from unknown underdogs to legitimate contenders. But every one of them, except Obama, ultimately came up short. Their early successes all had some similar explanations. First, the most liberal voters tend to tune in sooner and engage more actively, giving an initial boost to progressive candidates. Second, the overriding bias in political press coverage is toward a competitive race, which means that challengers often receive media attention that exceeds their chances of winning. Finally and perhaps most important, skepticism of the establishment is woven into the fabric of the Democratic Party — if the party leadership, the donors and the pundits are all for one person, many in the rank and file start to explore other options.

Of course, every election is different, and every historical parallel is imperfect. Each of these candidates did things right and wrong in their races; some made gaffes, and others ran out of money. But ultimately, similar factors played into their defeats.

Presidential campaigns are massively sophisticated, expensive operations. Insurgent challenges all start as underfunded, fly-by-night operations, with just enough resources to gain attention in the early days. But when it comes to actually turning out voters, particularly in the very complex Iowa caucus system — which requires a candidate to have at least 15 percent support to get any delegates and gives no extra points for winning by big margins in liberal precincts — you need a campaign organization worthy of that task.

Even if organizers manage to set up a strong operation, many challengers still falter under the intense klieg lights that are attracted to a viable contender for the United States presidency. Lifelong politicians who are first-time presidential candidates think they are ready for the scrutiny, and they are almost all wrong. Finally, every anti-establishment challenger except Obama failed to expand his base beyond the left wing of the party. Bradley and Dean, for instance, did very well with liberal, white Democrats. That can be enough to win key states such as Iowa and New Hampshire, especially in a multi-candidate field, where you may only need a third of the electorate to come out on top. But getting sufficient delegates to win the nomination requires a very broad base of support. It

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means building a wide coalition of voters, including moderate Democrats and even independents, as well as African Americans and the growing number of Latinos in the party.

Obama's campaign succeeded where everyone else's failed for two main reasons. His tremendous popularity with African American voters was critical. Although Obama won the black vote by margins as high as 9 to 1 in some states, this was not preordained. Clinton led Obama among African American voters in most polls until after he won Iowa. Obama also found a way to hold his liberal base while simultaneously attracting the enthusiastic support of self-identified independents and moderates. In 2008, we did best in open contests, which allowed anyone to participate regardless of party registration.

Essentially, Obama benefitted from two separate phenomena: liberal frustration with the Democratic Party establishment for supporting the Iraq war and moderate disenchantment with President George W. Bush over Iraq, Hurricane Katrina and a host of other issues. Getting the support of those independents and Republicans was key for us in a number of caucus states, including Iowa.

So far, at least, there's little reason to think Sanders can duplicate what led Obama to victory. Yes, he's surged in the polls to be the clear challenger to Clinton, a remarkably rapid and impressive feat for a senator from a small state who has never run for national office before in order to seek the nomination. If his momentum continues, and if former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley and others can take chunks of the vote, Sanders could win Iowa and even New Hampshire.

But Sanders still looks likely to follow in the tradition of Bradley and Dean. Polls show that he's doing well with liberal voters and struggling everywhere else, and he has negligible support and limited name identification among black and Latino voters. There is no doubt that Sanders has lit the progressive wing of the Democratic Party on fire by speaking out boldly against inequality and excess on Wall Street. But he faces real challenges that Obama did not in expanding his base of support. Sanders is from a small state with very few minority voters, while Obama had deeper relationships to build on, especially with the African American community.

Sanders's campaign is growing rapidly, but even with new field offices opening fast, it is still less than half the size of Obama's organization at a similar juncture in our race: In July 2007, Obama had 80 paid staffers working in 25 offices in Iowa. Obama was able raise more early money for his campaign; that, coupled with his potential to make history as the nation's first black president, attracted a very experienced set of political operatives with deep knowledge of how to run a sophisticated campaign. While Sanders has decided to play the role of the liberal challenger to Clinton, pushing her to the left at every opportunity, Obama ran a much less ideological campaign, which allowed him to build a broader base of support from the outset.

If 2008 is not the best parallel for Sanders vs. Clinton, what is? Probably the 2000 contest between Vice President Al Gore and Bill Bradley. That contest, like this one, was about who would get a chance to succeed a two-term Democratic president. That contest, like this one, was essentially a two-person race (though this could change in the coming months). And in that contest, like this one, the Democratic Party was looking to redefine itself for a new era. Bradley made a surprisingly strong challenge to a sitting vice president, forcing Gore to shake up his campaign, move his headquarters from D.C. to Nashville and retool his entire effort. Ultimately, though, Bradley could not broaden his base of support, and he ended up losing all 50 states to Gore.

History says that Clinton is likely to be our nominee and that Sanders is doomed to repeat the fate of Bradley and the rest. Of course, history said the same thing about Obama, and there's a reason that people say "anything is possible in politics." But the odds are that by this time next year, the 2008 campaign will remain the exception, not the rule.

Bernie Sanders says July 29 is the most important day of his campaign // WaPo // Aaron C. Davis - July 17, 2015

As a crush of millennials crowded into a brewery near Nationals Park on Thursday night, a young man setting up a loudspeaker for Sen. Bernie Sanders took the microphone. "Testing. One. Two. Three. The political revolution is here."
The septuagenarian socialist who is disrupting the Democratic presidential race soon arrived and refined the message. The revolution is still coming, Sanders (I-Vt.) said. Hopefully on July 29.
On that Wednesday night, six months before the Iowa caucus, Sanders will livestream his case for the presidency to more than 1,500 simultaneous gatherings planned in bars, coffee shops and living rooms nationwide. The candidate's address will be followed by an organizational meeting for anyone who wants to stay online and discuss joining his campaign.
In only his third fundraiser since announcing his candidacy in April, Sanders on Thursday night cast his campaign to a room full of 20-somethings in D.C. as a proxy for registering deep dissatisfaction with the state of American politics and the nation's growing income inequality.
"Our job is to ask why," Sanders said. "Why are we living in a society in which for the last 40 years the middle class in this country has been disappearing and almost all of the wealth and income are going to the people on top?"
Win or lose, Sanders said, "that's the question we have to ask, that's what this campaign is about."

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Whether Sanders can use the Internet to build an effective campaign remains to be seen, and the effort will not come without stiff competition. Hillary Rodham Clinton has hired a Google executive to lead her digital campaign, and in many ways she is building on the extraordinary success of President Obama's online organization.
But there are signs Sanders has a base online to work from. In the first 24 hours of his campaign, 35,000 people donated an average of less than $44 apiece through his campaign Web site. After less than three months, he raised a total of $15 million, mostly from online donors who gave less than $200.
And the bulk of expenses for Sanders campaign so far have been to build up his online presence. He's spent $1.3 million on digital consulting and online advertisements.
Sanders aides say that it's all been building up to an event like the one on July 29 — something the Vermont Independent has long dreamed of.
Sanders has more than once paced his Senate office muttering to staffers that the only way a long-shot candidate like himself could reach enough people to be taken seriously would be to "beam himself into every living room" through the Internet, said Kenneth Pennington, a Senate aide who is now Sanders's digital director.
For a candidate who has called for a $1 trillion public works plan and eliminating college tuition, he cast his campaign's digital ambitions in no smaller terms, either. He said July 29 could be the country's biggest online political event and his message could transcend political parties
"What we are trying, as part of creating a political revolution, is creating a grass-roots movement of millions and millions of people," Sanders said. "On July 29 of this month, we will be holding what we believe will be the largest digital organizing event in the history of this country.
"We hope to have tens of thousands of people coming together to determine how they can develop movements in their local community," he said.
"This campaign is not simply about electing me, I hope we accomplish that, but that ain't the most important thing," Sanders said. "The most important thing is building a political movement in which millions of people who have given up on the political process, including a lot of young people, get involved?"

Warren inspires Netroots Nation — even those wearing Sanders T-shirts // WaPo // John Wagner – July 17, 2015

PHOENIX — There were plenty of reminders here Friday of why progressive Democrats have been pining for Elizabeth Warren to run for president.

In a fiery speech at Netroots Nation, the country's largest gathering of progressive activists, the senator from Massachusetts railed against Wall Street "banksters" who deserve to be in jail. She decried an economic system "rigged for the rich and powerful." And she vowed to fight an "insider Washington" that doesn't realize how progressive the country really is.

Tucson software engineer Dirk Arnold responded with a standing ovation, joined by most of the 3,000 others in attendance.

Arnold, who wore a Warren T-shirt, said he was mindful of what could have been if his hero had acquiesced to those trying to draft her to run for president. But, he added, he's moved on.

"My switch has flipped over to Bernie," Arnold said, referring to Sen. Bernie Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist from Vermont who has emerged as the leading alternative to Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination.

That seemed to be the sentiment of many former Warren boosters here for a four-day gathering that Sanders and fellow Democratic candidate Martin O'Malley, a former Maryland governor, are scheduled to address Saturday. (Clinton is skipping the conference).

While Warren won't be on the debate stage, her influence on the race is still being felt, leading progressive activists here argued.

"Progressives are looking for a candidate speaking Elizabeth Warren's rhetoric and embracing her policies," said Stephanie Taylor, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, a Washington-based group whose agenda overlaps with Warren's on issues such as debt-free college, expansion of Social Security benefits and Wall Street reform.

Taylor said that Warren's "role right now is agenda-setting, policy-setting. When she picks a fight, it's a signal it will be a major one, not only for her but for the party."

In recent months, Clinton — the overwhelming Democratic favorite — has borrowed some Warren catchphrases, including her declaration that the economic system is "rigged" against working families.

But Adam Green, the other co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, said it remains to be seen whether Clinton will move beyond slogans to champion bold policies.

Warren made no mention of specific presidential candidates during her speech Friday. But she issued them all a

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challenge.

“I think anyone running for that job . . . should say loud and clear that they agree: We don’t run this country for Wall Street and mega-corporations,” she said. “We run it for people.”

More specifically, Warren said, the candidates should be asked if they support a bill introduced by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) that would prevent Wall Street banks from giving multimillion-dollar bonuses to executives who are departing for government jobs.

Within the hour, O’Malley’s campaign released a statement pointing out that he had already issued a comprehensive plan to crack down on Wall Street that includes his own ideas on “closing the revolving door.”

A spokesman for Sanders said that he “of course” supports Baldwin’s legislation and added that Sanders is co-sponsoring a Warren bill in the Senate that would reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act. The legislation aims to prevent commercial banks from engaging in risky investment schemes.

While many former Warren boosters at the conference said they had found a suitable alternative in Sanders, others were less certain. Several suggested that they’d prefer a female nominee, and some said Warren’s age — she’s 66 — would be less of an issue than Sanders’s age, 73.

But a noticeable number of people wore Sanders T-shirts, and several groups handed out Sanders stickers.

“I think [Warren] would have been an amazing first woman president instead of Hillary,” said Belen Sisa, a 21-year-old activist from Gilbert, Ariz. But Sisa said that she would be happy with either Warren or Sanders as the nominee — and that pairing them on the same ticket would be ideal. “I guess that would be la-la land,” she added with a sigh.

Austen Levihn-Coon, a Washington-based political consultant, said he feels a kinship with Sanders on most issues. But, he said, it remains to be seen whether Sanders can “pull together the machinery to run on a national stage and present himself as a serious candidate.”

As for Warren: “Maybe we’ll see her next time around,” said Levihn-Coon, 30, whose consulting firm specializes in issue-oriented campaigns.

Even as she has passed on a White House bid, Warren has become increasingly influential in the Senate, said Jim Dean, chairman of Democracy for America, a group that was part of the unsuccessful “Run Warren Run” recruitment effort.

“She was, frankly, the go-to person for raising money in the last cycle,” he said. “She’s built power that way.”

Former congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who did not attend the conference, said Warren would have had little to gain by running for president in a field that includes Clinton.

“If Senator Warren had run for president, she would almost certainly not have got the nomination,” Frank said in a phone interview. “Had she got it, it would not have been worth much after all that bloodshed.”

As things stand, Frank continued, Warren “is now in an extraordinary situation. She’s one of the most influential junior members of Congress, and she can make these critiques that get national attention. . . . People listen to her. She’s an enormously influential person.”

Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), who attended the conference, said both Sanders and Warren stood to benefit from their respective decisions about entering the race.

“Their role is to articulate the frustrations and the hopes of the vast majority of the American people,” Ellison said in an interview. “Their role is to speak to people’s pain and what they’re hoping for.”

In This Money Race, Bernie Sanders Wins **// WSJ // Peter Nicholas – July 17, 2015**

Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton won the fundraising competition, but rival Bernie Sanders snagged the award for running the more frugal operation, campaign finance reports filed this week show.

Sen. Sanders of Vermont has been waging a campaign with a fraction of Mrs. Clinton’s overhead.

The Clinton campaign payroll dwarfed that of Mr. Sanders, who is running second in the Democratic field. Mrs. Clinton spent nearly $3.7 million on campaign salaries; Mr. Sanders, $112,000.

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Her campaign spent more than $900,000 on polling in the quarter that ended June 30th; Mr. Sanders, $0.

And on it goes.

The Clinton campaign, headquartered in Brooklyn, N.Y., spent about $464,000 on rent – more than 10 times what the Burlington, Vt.-based Sanders campaign laid out in rent payments.

Mr. Sanders, who has been seen traveling through Iowa in a rented Chevy, spent $47,000 on campaign travel; Mrs. Clinton, nearly 10 times that sum.

The Clinton campaign is managed by Robby Mook, who prides himself on being something of a skinflint. Campaign aides have been taking the bus between New York and Washington, D.C., rather than spring for the pricier Amtrak ticket.

Still, a Clinton campaign was bound to be a more expensive proposition than that of a self-described Democratic socialist from Vermont whose speeches are laced with unsparing attacks on billionaires and wealthy corporations.

She is a former first lady, secretary of state and U.S. senator who travels in motorcades complete with Secret Service protection. Her payroll includes the digital wizards needed to run a sophisticated, data-driven race, along with a phalanx of loyal advisers who've been by her side for years.

"Hillary Clinton's first quarter in the race was defined by early, smart investments aimed at building a strong foundation for our campaign," said a spokesman, Josh Schwerin. "Those investments include essentially rebuilding email lists, hiring organizing staff, and key investments in our digital capabilities."

By contrast, the Sanders campaign is a seat-of-the-pants affair. Mr. Sanders's aides estimate they spent a few thousand dollars on office furniture, compared with about $43,000 laid out by the Clinton campaign.

Michael Briggs, a Sanders spokesman, said when it came time to outfit the Burlington office, a few people drove a U-Haul to a Vermont store that sells government surplus.

The campaign used Craigslist to find office furniture for Mr. Sanders's campaign office in Washington D.C.

"It's a shoestring operation," Mr. Briggs said.

The Sanders campaign has been adding staff, though, as the senator draws large crowds at rallies across the country and tries to capitalize on what supporters call "Bernie-mentum."

National surveys show Mrs. Clinton enjoys a large lead over the best of the Democratic field. Of late Mr. Sanders is gaining ground, notably in New Hampshire where a recent poll showed him trailing Mrs. Clinton by just 8 points.

Mrs. Clinton, a proven fundraiser, has outraised Mr. Sanders in the last quarter by about $47 million to $15 million.

But Mr. Sanders has one advantage: If he can continue to keep costs down, he won't need as much money.

Socialist Sanders on low end of earners among candidates // AP - July 17, 2015

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - As you might expect of a candidate who labels himself a Democratic socialist, Bernie Sanders is at the low end of earners among candidates for president in 2016.
But the Vermont independent, a candidate for the Democratic nomination, earns a $174,000 Senate salary that puts him among the top 5 percent of Americans in income.
A new financial disclosure form indicates that Sanders got less than $2,000 total for three speaking appearances since last fall, including $850 for appearing on the HBO talk show "Real Time With Bill Maher." He reported donating his speaking fees to Vermont charities.
Sanders also got a $5,000-a-year pension from the city of Burlington for his time as mayor.
His wife, Jane O'Meara Sanders, holds retirement fund accounts worth between $194,000 and $735,000.

Bernie Sanders backs big bank breakups, in contrast with Hillary Clinton // Politico // Burgess Everett - July 17, 2015

Bernie Sanders is backing a bill to break up big banks after advisers to presidential rival Hillary Clinton made clear earlier this week she will not support reinstating the Glass-Steagall Act.
Noting that he's long supported reimposing a firewall between investment and commercial banks, the Vermont senator said he's officially rejoining an effort led by Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) to break up the big banks, saying, "If we are truly serious about ending too big to fail, we have got to break up the largest financial institutions in this country."
"Allowing commercial banks to merge with investment banks and insurance companies in 1999 was a huge

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mistake. It precipitated the largest taxpayer bailout in the history of the world. It caused millions of Americans to lose their jobs, homes, life savings and ability to send their kids to college," said Sanders, who said that change in the financial world "substantially increased wealth and income inequality."
Earlier this week, a Clinton campaign adviser told Reuters that "you're not going to see Glass-Steagall." Clinton was also interrupted by a heckler on Monday who challenged her to revive the depression-era policy, though she did not answer the question.
By moving quickly to reassert his support for a proposal from liberal superstar Warren, Sanders is highlighting the differences between his platform and Clinton's more centrist positions on financial regulations, a major issue among progressives. Sanders actually cosponsored a version of the bill in 2013, well before he began challenging Clinton for the Democratic nomination, and in a press release reminded reporters of a speech he gave in 1999 as a House member.
"Sixteen years ago, I predicted that such a massive deregulation of the financial services industry would seriously harm the economy. I would give anything to have been proven wrong about this, but unfortunately, what happened seven years ago was even worse than I predicted," Sanders said.
In 1999, Congress passed legislation rewriting the financial rule book for banks, and it was signed by President Bill Clinton.

14 things Bernie Sanders has said about socialism // Politico // Michael Kruse - July 17, 2015

Socialist has never been a complimentary term in American political discourse, but it has reached a particularly high level of toxicity during the past six years of President Barack Obama's administration.
While the president and his defenders have spent a great deal of time parrying that attack, Bernie Sanders is using the socialist label to his advantage, packing venues around the country and establishing himself as Hillary Rodham Clinton's leading challenger for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.
Sanders, 73, has been preaching socialism for nearly half a century, and he cites Eugene Debs, the five-time presidential candidate of the Socialist Party of America, as his hero. But he hasn't always embraced the label.
"I myself don't use the word socialism," he said in 1976 in the Vermont Cynic, a student publication at the University of Vermont, "because people have been brainwashed into thinking socialism automatically means slave-labor camps, dictatorship and lack of freedom of speech."
Even when Sanders ran for mayor of Burlington in 1981, "Bernie never mentioned the word 'socialist' in his campaign," according to Greg Guma, a longtime Sanders watcher and the author of "The People's Republic: Vermont and the Sanders Revolution."
When he won, though, it wasn't Sanders' choice anymore.
"The media probably made that label stick," said Alan Abbey, who covered Sanders at the time for the *B*urlington Free Press. "It makes for good headlines."
"I've stayed away from calling myself a socialist," Sanders said in the Boston Globe in the aftermath of his win in '81, "because I did not want to spend half my life explaining that I did not believe in the Soviet Union or in concentration camps."
Two months later, in the Boston Phoenix, he said he didn't want to be "a spokesman for socialism."
It's what he's become. And even though less than half of Americans say they would vote for a socialist for president (47 percent, fewer than would vote for an atheist or a Muslim), Sanders is sticking with it.
Here, then, are 14 things Sanders has said about socialism since the '80s:
1. In the summer 1986 issue of a now-defunct magazine called Vermont Affairs: "All that socialism means to me, to be very frank with you, is democracy with a small 'd.' I believe in democracy, and by democracy I mean that, to as great an extent as possible, human beings have the right to control their own lives. And that means that you cannot separate the political structure from the economic structure. One has to be an idiot to believe that the average working person who's making $10,000 or $12,000 a year is equal in political power to somebody who is the head of a large bank or corporation. So if you believe in political democracy, if you believe in equality, you have to believe in economic democracy as well."
2. In Vermont Affairs: "... I certainly did not know what the word socialism meant growing up, because I was brought up in a very nonpolitical family. My brother was somewhat active, but my parents were not. But I think some people tend not to accept what almost everybody has accepted as true. Many people go to school, but most of them don't challenge the basic assumptions of their teachers or of the system. And I always have. You reach a certain age when you start reading reasonably widely, and you find ideas that reflect your gut feeling about something. I think that's usually the process — you find what you're looking for. I had that feeling when I first read Eugene Debs, for example. If you read what Debs said about the goals of socialism, it's no different from what I've been saying — that all socialism is about is democracy."
3. From the 1988 dissertation of Steven Soifer, a professor of social work at the University of Memphis, who wrote about Sanders' time as mayor of Burlington: "What being a socialist means is ... that you hold out ... a vision of society where poverty is absolutely unnecessary, where international relations are not based on greed ... but on cooperation ... where human beings can own the means of production and work together rather than having to work as semi-slaves to other people who can hire and fire."
4. In an interview with Catherine Alison Hill for a master's thesis she wrote at Cornell in 1989: "Socialism has a lot of different messages to different people. I think the issue of socialist ideology and what that meant or means is not terribly important. I think the positive of it is that it indicates to people that I am not a conventional politician. If they are not happy with the status quo, then that is a positive thing. The negative of it obviously is that there are people who equate it with totalitarianism and the Soviet Union."
5. In a speech he gave at the National Committee for Independent Political Action in New York City on June 22,

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1989, reprinted in the December 1989 issue of the socialist publication Monthly Review: “In Vermont, everybody knows that I am a socialist and that many people in our movement, not all, are socialists. And as often as not — and this is an interesting point that is the honest-to-God truth — what people will say is, ‘I don’t really know what socialism is, but if you’re not a Democrat or a Republican, you’re OK with me.’ That’s true. And I think there has been too much of a reluctance on the part of progressives and radicals to use the word ‘socialism.’”
6. In his NCIPA speech: “Yes, it is true that a result of the tremendous political ignorance in this country created by the schools and the media, there are many people who do not know the difference between ‘socialism’ and ‘communism.’ Yes, on more than one occasion, I have been told to ‘go back to Russia.’ But, if we maintain a strong position on civil liberties, express our continued opposition to authoritarianism and the concept of the one-party state, I am confident that the vast majority of the people will understand that there is nothing incompatible between socialism and democracy. That has been the case in Vermont and I believe, with proper effort, that it can be the case nationally. Further, given the fact that in Burlington we have almost doubled voter turnout and have significantly increased citizen participation, it is very hard for our opponents to argue that we are not ‘democratic.’”
7. In an interview with The Associated Press in November 1990: “To me, socialism doesn’t mean state ownership of everything, by any means, it means creating a nation, and a world, in which all human beings have a decent standard of living.”
8. In the book he wrote with Huck Gutman, Outsider in the House, published in 1997: “Bill Clinton is a moderate Democrat. I’m a democratic socialist.”
9. In an interview with the Guardian in November 2006: “Twenty years ago, when people here thought about socialism they were thinking about the Soviet Union, about Albania. Now they think about Scandinavia. In Vermont people understand I’m talking about democratic socialism.”
10. In an interview with The Washington Post in November 2006. “I wouldn’t deny it. Not for one second. I’m a democratic socialist. … In Norway, parents get a paid year to care for infants. Finland and Sweden have national health care, free college, affordable housing and a higher standard of living. … . Why shouldn’t that appeal to our disappearing middle class?”
11. In an interview with Democracy Now in November 2006: “In terms of socialism, I think there is a lot to be learned from Scandinavia and from some of the work, very good work that people have done in Europe. In countries like Finland, Norway, Denmark, poverty has almost been eliminated. All people have health care as a right of citizenship. College education is available to all people, regardless of income, virtually free. I have been very aggressive in trying to move to sustainable energy. They have a lot of political participation, high voter turnouts. I think there is a lot to be learned from countries that have created more egalitarian societies than has the United States of America.”
12. To Democracy Now: “I think it means the government has got to play a very important role in making sure that as a right of citizenship, all of our people have health care; that as a right, all of our kids, regardless of income, have quality childcare, are able to go to college without going deeply into debt; that it means we do not allow large corporations and moneyed interests to destroy our environment; that we create a government in which it is not dominated by big money interest. I mean, to me, it means democracy, frankly. That’s all it means. And we are living in an increasingly undemocratic society in which decisions are made by people who have huge sums of money. And that’s the goal that we have to achieve.”
13. In an interview with the Des Moines Register this month: “If you look at the issues — you don’t have to worry about the word ‘socialist’ — just look at what I’m talking about. If you go out and ask the American people: Is it right that the middle class continues to disappear while there has been a massive transfer of wealth from working families to the top one-tenth of 1 percent? Trillions of dollars in the last 30 years have flowed from the middle class to the top one-tenth of 1 percent. And the American people say, ‘No, that’s not right.’ And if you ask the American people: Do you think it’s right that despite an explosion of technology and an increase in worker productivity, the average worker is working longer hours for low wages? They say no. And what the American people are saying pretty loudly and clearly is they want an economy that works for ordinary Americans. For working people. Not an economy where almost all of the income and all of the wealth is going to the top 1 percent. That’s what we have now.”
14. In an interview with The Nation this month: “Do they think I’m afraid of the word? I’m not afraid of the word.”

Bernie Sanders Says Goldman Wants 'Undue Influence' // Bloomberg // Arit John – July 17, 2015

As all five Democratic presidential candidates descended on Cedar Rapids, Iowa to share a stage for the first time, Senator Bernie Sanders cited his rival Hillary Clinton's support from Goldman Sachs as one of the factors that distinguish them.

In the city's Veterans Memorial building where he held a press conference the senator, who is the top-ranking Democrat on the Veterans Affairs committee, talked about care for retired members of the military. But reporters focused on Clinton.

Asked about the $50,000 Clinton received from Goldman Sachs employees. “Obviously I didn’t get any money from Goldman Sachs," said the Vermont socialist, who has been campaigning against the "billionaire class."

"I don’t take corporate PAC money, never have, don’t want it," Sanders added.

Asked what he thought Goldman Sachs expected to gain by donating to Clinton, Sanders said: “Obviously what

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Goldman Sachs wants, what corporate America wants, what the Koch brothers want, is undue influence over the political process."

Question: should she give the money back?

"You ask her."

Shortly afterwards, in an interview with Bloomberg outside the hall where Cedar Rapids Democrats are hosting the presidential candidates for a dinner, where each will get to deliver a 15-minute speech, Sanders faulted presidents of both parties for their "heavy reliance on Wall Street" and said heads of investment firms would be barred from a Sanders Cabinet. Asked whether he'd consider a Treasury Secretary like Robert Rubin, who served in the job for President Bill Clinton, Sanders said, "he would be the last person" he would pick. "He was one of the architects of the deregulation of Wall Street," he added.

At his press conference, Sanders said people are working longer hours for lower wages, and the U.S. has higher levels of childhood poverty and income inequality than in past decades. "One of the reasons has to do with the greed, the recklessness, and the illegal behavior of the people on Wall Street," he said.

The senator noted that he had just co-sponsored support a measure to reinstate the Glass Steagall Act, which kept commercial and investment banks separate and was repealed by a bipartisan vote of Congress and President Bill Clinton.

"Now you'll have to ask Hillary Clinton about her view of whether she thinks we should break up these large financial institutions," he said. "And you'll have to ask for her views about whether we should re-establish Glass Steagall." Earlier this week, Alan Binder, an economist advising her campaign, told reporters that a new Glass Steagall act would not be part of her economic platform.

But at both the press conference and later, Sanders steadfastly refused to attack Clinton personally. "I like her and respect her," he told Bloomberg's Mark Halperin. "We just disagree on a whole lot of issues."

Why Rapper Killer Mike's Endorsement of Bernie Sanders Spells Trouble for Hillary Clinton // HuffPo // H. A. Goodman - July, 17 2015

Polls are ever-changing, but Americans will never long for a king or queen. When Run the Jewels rapper Killer Mike tweeted "I cannot support another Clinton or bush ever," he echoed the sentiments of Americans throughout the country tired of entrenched political factions in Washington. As for why political dynasties are ruinous to any democracy, the Atlanta rapper says , "I am beginning to see American political families like monarchs and I have no affection for monarchs." This sentiment, in addition to the reasons Killer Mike has endorsed Bernie Sanders for president , can't be accurately assessed by opinion polls or political wonks.
In fact, it could spell trouble for the Clinton campaign and Democratic strategists enamored with poll driven forecasts. When a recent analysis says that Bernie Sanders is popular primarily among "white liberals," the aggregate data used to make such a claim ignores the fact that black children face a 38% poverty rate and African-Americans as a group face a 27% poverty rate . This analysis questioning Sanders's appeal to minority voters also ignores a finding from Pew Research that states , "In 2011, the typical white household had a net worth of $91,405, compared with $6,446 for black households."
In terms of wealth inequality, one candidate in 2016 has been referred to by *POLITICO* as "Wall Street Republicans' dark secret," while the other "Goes Biblical" on income inequality. As for tackling Wall Street and income equality, Hillary Clinton for some reason hasn't endorsed a renewed Glass-Steagall Act, while Bernie Sanders has long supported a reinstatement of Glass-Steagall. Therefore, it's safe to say that voters experiencing the injustice of economic disenfranchisement might side with Killer Mike's choice of candidates in the long run; especially when more people become aware of the differences in economic policy between Clinton and Sanders.
Also, the fact that an artist known not only for his music (he's been on *Real Time with Bill Maher* , CNN, and has been vocal about politics) but also for his stances on Baltimore, Ferguson and racial injustice in America has endorsed Bernie Sanders illustrates an awakening in American politics that numbers can't accurately assess. The fact that Killer Mike posted a photo on Instagram of Sanders and Clinton (one was a civil rights advocate and the other was a Young Republican and "Goldwater Girl," but eventually a supporter of Eugene McCarthy) in the 1960's highlights a willingness to dig deeper into the true nature of opposing politicians. It also illustrates a growing discontent among many Americans about a political class that shrugs its shoulders regarding Ferguson, yet expects 45 million Americans to still vote Democrat.
First, Killer Mike's statements about dynasties aren't a fringe viewpoint. Martin O'Malley recently declared , "Let's be honest here, the presidency of the United States is not some crown to be passed between two families." In addition, Gary Hart agrees with this assessment and in a *Time* article titled *Dare We Call it Oligarchy?*, the former Colorado Senator explains how electing political families could be viewed as detrimental to democracy:
If the presidency were to pass back and forth between two or three families in any Latin American nation we would call it an oligarchy...
Our Founders created a republic and, being keen students of the history of republics beginning with Athens, they knew that placing special and narrow interests ahead of the common good and the commonwealth was the

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corruption that destroyed republics. They feared this kind of corruption as the greatest danger to America's success and survival...
By this standard, today's American Republic is massively corrupt. Every interest group in our nation has staff lobbyists and hires lobbying firms...
The net affect of the money machine -- lobbyists, fund raisers, and campaign consultants -- is to severely narrow the field of those who can compete for office, especially national office. If the national presidency were to pass back and forth between two or three families in any Latin American nation we would call it an oligarchy.
When political power in America is seen as a monolith that functions under the guise of a two party system, observers like Gary Hart, Killer Mike, and people weary of dynastic control of politics begin to wonder if America could lead one day to oligarchy. Symbolizing a counterforce to the entrenched political establishment in both parties, Bernie Sanders's ascent during this recent election cycle now has cultural voices like Killer Mike singing his praises -- a phenomenon that jaded political strategists could never imagine might influence an election.
So what, you might say?
Well, when Hillary Clinton waits nearly three weeks after the Ferguson protests, long after the flames had subsided, to issue a statement on this polarizing moment in U.S. history (causing a *POLITICO* reporter to tweet, "Notable that after weeks of rest in the Hamptons, Clinton's come out swinging. The #Ferguson comment was prepared"), many onlookers see such hesitancy as political opportunism. Clinton might very well have been the political equivalent of Iggy Azalea; eager to benefit from the support of African-Americans, but not so eager to risk sacrificing a carefully crafted image in the quest for such support. This lack of loyalty to a group that votes consistently over 90% for Democratic presidential nominees, also comes years after a controversial "3 AM commercial" (Harvard sociologist Orlando Patterson wrote in *The New York Times* that after watching the commercial, "I couldn't help but think of D. W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation") and Bill Clinton responding "I am not a racist" after comments on the 2008 campaign trail.
In America, political wonks and number crunchers fuel the soap opera of elections, but rarely provide an accurate forecast for when the first African-American president will be elected, or when millions of voters have grown weary of political dynasties. It's difficult to place too much faith in opinion polls when a 2007 Quinnipiac poll showed Hillary Clinton far ahead of any challenger and Barrack Obama battling Rudy Giuliani in approval rating. Fast forward to 2014 and a poll from NBC News/ *Wall Street Journal* noted that Hillary Clinton was the early 2016 frontrunner with 50% of Americans willing to vote for the former Secretary of State.
Now in 2015, questions about trust have begun to affect the Clinton campaign and another Quinnipiac poll shows that while 6 in 10 voters felt Clinton had "strong leadership qualities," a majority of those same voters (53%) according to *The Washington Post* believed "she was *not* honest and trustworthy." Also, CNN revealed that a Quinnipiac Swing State Poll finds that "voters in Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania are skeptical of Clinton's trustworthiness." Recent findings in the erosion of Clinton's image as the clear-cut Democratic nominee also relate to other surveys.
A July 16th AP-GfK Poll states, "Americans View Clinton, Republicans Unfavorably" and a July 15th GOP poll finds that "Clinton trails in battleground states." Within this same time period, a Monmouth University poll explains that Bernie Sanders continues to narrow the gap and Salon noted that, "Bernie Sanders narrows the gap as Hillary Clinton's lead declines by double digits." What was once thought of as an impossibility is taking place, even as naysayers say it might be short-lived, and Bernie Sanders can't possibly continue to stun the experts.
Furthermore, some things can't be forecasted by number crunchers, political strategists, and pundits eager to jump on the bandwagon of political power. When grass roots organizations supporting Bernie Sanders in 2016 have names like Limbaugh's Hometown ("if we can organize in hometown of Rush Limbaugh nothing can stop us"), support for the Vermont Senator is coming from politically astute voters cognizant of the partisan divides in American politics. It says something about the upcoming election that Bernie Sanders has raised 15 million in just two months, without the help of billionaires or a super PAC, and primarily from people who contributed $250 or less.
As a result of a groundswell of enthusiasm that money can't buy, Sanders has surged in both Iowa and New Hampshire, cut into Clinton's lead (something unimaginable even several months ago), and can realistically win both the Iowa Caucus and New Hampshire Primary, as well as the presidency. Killer Mike's endorsement of Sanders might not be part of any aggregate data and number crunching used to forecast election results, but it represents something far more relevant. Many voters are tired of Republicans and Democrats who vote for the same wars, support the same drones that often times kill innocent people, and look the other way when it comes to income inequality. These people will be searching for alternatives to political dynasties and vapid, carefully crafted promises in 2016. They might eventually be searching for the same candidate endorsed by Killer Mike and Americans filling arenas and venues throughout the nation: Senator Bernie Sanders.

Here's Some Real Talk From Bernie Sanders // HuffPo // Dhyana Taylor and Jacob Kerr

Between his large crowds at campaign events and surging poll numbers, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has so far been the biggest surprise in the race for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination. In the past few months, Sanders has gone from "virtually having no chance" to causing concern for frontrunner Hillary Clinton's campaign.
A self-described democratic socialist who has a lot of ideas and a brash demeanor, Sanders can make some interesting statements. We've collected a few of his most intriguing and most provocative words on a wide range of issues, including marijuana and income inequality.
Here are some of the most notable things Sanders has said since announcing his White House run:
On Youth Unemployment

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"We got to put young people to work, we got to give them an education, rather than putting them in jail," Sanders said in an interview on MSNBC's "The Ed Show" .

On The Middle Class

"Ordinary people are profoundly disgusted with the fact that the middle class is being destroyed and income going to the top 1 percent," Sanders tweeted .

On Gun Control

"Folks who do not like guns [are] fine. But we have millions of people who are gun owners in this country -- 99.9 percent of those people obey the law. I want to see real, serious debate and action on guns, but it is not going to take place if we simply have extreme positions on both sides. I think I can bring us to the middle," Sanders said in a CNN interview .

On Free Tuition

"It is insane and counter-productive to the best interests of our country, that hundreds of thousands of bright young people cannot afford to go to college, and that millions of others leave school with a mountain of debt that burdens them for decades. That must end," Sanders said during his campaign announcement .

On Wanting Top Marginal Tax Rate Over 50 Percent

"In the last 30 years there has been a massive -- we're talking about many trillions of dollars being redistributed from the middle class to the top one-tenth of 1 percent. It is time to redistribute money back to the working families of this country from the top one-tenth of 1 percent," Sanders said on PBS's "Charlie Rose ."

On Marijuana

"I coughed a lot, I don't know. I smoked marijuana twice -- didn't quite work for me," Sanders told Yahoo .

On Universal Health Care

"So I do believe that we have to move toward a Medicare-for-all, single-payer system. I think it's not going to happen tomorrow, but that certainly should be the goal," Sanders said on ABC's "This Week. "

On Police Reform

"We've got to demilitarize the police -- we don't need tanks, you don't need heavy military equipment in the communities of the United States. We gotta pay attention to the African-American communities, to poverty so these kids get the education and job training they need," Sanders told Yahoo .

On His American Citizenship

"Well, no, I do not have dual citizenship with Israel. I'm an American. I don't know where that question came from. I am an American citizen, and I have visited Israel on a couple of occasions. No, I'm an American citizen, period," Sanders said in an interview with a D.C. NPR affiliate .

On Health Care And Education

"Please don't tell me that the United States of America, our great country, cannot guarantee health care to all people. Don't tell me that every person in this country should not be able to get all the education that they need regardless of their income," Sanders said in Portland, Maine .

On Campaign Finance Reform

"A major problem of our campaign finance system is that anybody can start a super PAC on behalf of anybody and can say anything. And this is what makes our current campaign finance situation totally absurd," Sanders said to the Burlington Free Press .

On Undocumented Immigrants

"Despite the central role that undocumented workers play in our economy and in our daily lives, these workers are too often reviled by many for political gain and shunted into the shadows," Sanders said at the National Association of Latino Elected Officials conference.

On Bank Bailouts

"If a bank is too big to fail, that bank is too big to exist," Sanders said in Denver, Colorado .

On Raising The Minimum Wage

"Our goal as a nation is that if somebody works 40 hours a week, that person will not be living in poverty," Sanders said in Iowa .

On The War On Drugs

"What I can tell you is this: We have far, far, far too many people in jail for nonviolent crimes, and I think in many ways, the war against drugs has not been successful, and I think we've got to rethink that," Sanders told Yahoo News' Katie Couric.

Sanders makes play for black vote // The Hill // Niall Stanage - July 17, 2015

Bernie Sanders is making a push for support from black and Hispanic voters as he seeks to intensify his challenge to Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont, has made a number of comments recently aimed at rebutting the suggestion that his backing will be limited to white progressives.

"As a nation, we have got to apologize for slavery," he said during an appearance on a black-oriented Sirius XM radio show hosted by Joe Madison last week. In an interview published this month in *The Nation*, he described police brutality against African Americans as "a huge issue," adding, "How do you have police departments in this country that are part of their communities, not oppressors in their communities?"

Speaking to the Hispanic organization La Raza on Monday, he noted that "racism has plagued this country for centuries" and drew on his own experiences as the child of an immigrant who "came to this country from Poland at the age of 17 without a nickel in his pocket."

Sanders' embrace of minority concerns and sensibilities can hardly be called opportunistic. His involvement with civil rights stretches back to his youth, when he attended the 1963 March on Washington where Martin Luther

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King gave his most famous speech, organized financial support for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and was arrested for protesting segregation.

But the Vermonter's recent statements come against a mixed backdrop for his campaign. Even as he performs better than many expected in terms of poll ratings and the size of the crowds he attracts, he lags badly in the battle for non-white support.

A CNN/ORC poll released in June showed Sanders' support among non-whites to be about half the level of his backing among the nation as a whole. *The New York Times* noted that another survey, from NBC and the *Wall Street Journal,* found that 95 percent of non-white Democrats said they could see themselves backing Clinton for the nomination whereas only around one-quarter said the same about Sanders.

The lack of significant support from the African-American community, which is so vital in a Democratic primary, complicates the story Sanders would prefer to tell about how he is the candidate of the liberal grassroots seeking to oust the establishment choice, Clinton.

Goldie Taylor, a commentator and former election strategist who is African-American, said that current chatter among progressives included both admiration for the issues that Sanders is raising and concerns "about the homogenous nature of the crowds" at his rallies.

Many, including Taylor, do not doubt Sanders' bona fides. Instead, they suggest that his long history in the politics of Vermont — one of the whitest states in the union — has shaped his priorities in terms of the topics he most frequently raises.

"You have to be intentional about building a diverse coalition of support," she said, "and that is not something Bernie-Sanders-the-candidate has had to do during his political career."

Sanders aides don't entirely dismiss that critique, even as they emphasize his long history of engagement with civil rights issues.

"He doesn't come from a state with a large African-American population, he doesn't come from a party of the country where African-American politics are a daily part of political life," said Tad Devine, a senior adviser to the Sanders campaign. "But he understands it is a very important part of pulling together a campaign for the nomination of the Democratic Party."

Sanders' history also has an interesting footnote in terms of race and the politics of Vermont. In 1988, Sanders, then mayor of Burlington, endorsed Jesse Jackson for president. Jackson went on to win the state's Democratic caucuses, despite the demographic challenges he faced.

Devine noted that Sanders intended to soon tour parts of the United States afflicted by poverty and alienation, including inner cities, and that he was still in the process of being introduced to significant parts of the electorate that knew little, if anything, about him.

"A very important part of that introduction is his commitment to civil rights activism. To Latinos, [an important part is] that he is the son of an immigrant, who grew up in an immigrant-rich community, in Brooklyn. These things allow people to see him in a different light," the aide said.

Even so, however, Clinton has longstanding connections with black elected officials. Despite the tensions that came to the surface during her epic 2008 struggle for the Democratic nomination with President Obama, she is also popular among the African-American community writ large.

In a Pew Research Center poll conducted this spring, a striking 74 percent of Democratic or Democratic-leaning black voters said there was "a good chance" that they would support Clinton for the nomination — a significantly stronger showing for the former secretary of State than the 54 percent of whites who said the same thing.

Strategists who are skeptical that Sanders can even make the nomination battle competitive note just how arduous Obama's path to victory was in 2008, despite his status as the most credible black presidential candidate ever, and the overwhelming African-American support that he received.

"Anyone would have a tough row to hoe to make inroads with African-American voters vis-a-vis Hillary Clinton," said Earl Ofari Hutchinson, an activist, broadcaster and the author of several books about the black American experience.

Sanders, he added, "has got a great track record, historically on civil rights, protest, support — we can't take that away. But the problem is he's still coming up against those connections, the ties, that Hillary has, which makes it hard."

Goldie Taylor acknowledged that the 2008 campaign threw up some painful moments between Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton on one side, and President Obama and his supporters in the black community on the other.

"But I think the Clintons will recover from that," she said, "and I don't think there is a candidate standing in their way."

How Bernie Sanders can hammer Hillary Clinton on the Democrats' top issue // The Week // Ryan Cooper - July 17, 2015

Over the past year or so, the Democratic Party has begun settling on a big new policy goal: beefing up family support programs. Now that ObamaCare has started the work of making health care available for all, support for children and parents is the major remaining hole in the U.S. safety net.

Though she has not yet released a formal proposal, Hillary Clinton has made family policy a centerpiece of her campaign, consistently positioning herself as a pro-family candidate. She focused sharply on the subject during her recent policy address , touting the benefits of sick leave and maternity leave, and the economic benefits of women in the workforce.

Bernie Sanders, her strongest challenger in the Democratic primary, can do her one better, however. In keeping with his blunt, forthright campaign, he can challenge Clinton where her orthodoxy makes her policy weaker — in particular, her mindless valorization of work.

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As I said, we don't know exactly what Clinton will advocate yet, but it's likely that her campaign will roughly follow the proposals coming out of the Center for American Progress (closely tied to both Clinton and the Democratic Party). In a recent paper , CAP analysts Heather Boushey and Alexandra Mitukiewicz outlined a maternity leave policy taken from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's FAMILY Act . It would create a new branch of the Social Security Administration and a small payroll tax increase to provide up to 60 days of paid family leave for parents.

A second plank of the policy is likely to be some kind of sick leave mandate in line with the proposed Healthy Families Act, which would require employers with more than 15 employees to provide one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum requirement of seven full days per year. (Employers can always go higher if they want, of course!)

A third plank is likely to be some sort of quasi-universal pre-K program in line with Sen. Bob Casey's recent proposal.

All this is a good start, particularly in the design of the family leave program. Paid family leave should definitely be a social insurance benefit rather than an employer mandate. As Matt Yglesias explains , opting for the latter design (which resembles what the U.S. did with health insurance before ObamaCare) inevitably leaves out a great many workers, and then becomes nearly impossible to overhaul. It's critical to get the initial policy right, so further expansions are built on a sound foundation.

Sanders can provide three valuable additions (on top of what he's already proposed). First, he can simply aim higher. Sixty days of family leave isn't bad compared to the current zero, but it's pitiful compared to Sweden's 480 days (split between both parents, mostly as they like). America can easily afford 120 days or more, and Sanders ought to be planting his flag in aggressive territory. Instead of seven days of sick leave, 14. Instead of the smallbore pre-K program, a robust and fully universal one .

Second, he can add a universal child allowance. This can be achieved by folding all the various bizarre child tax credits and so forth into a single monthly allowance , distributed on a per-child basis until age 16. By scrapping parts of the welfare state that only benefit reach people, such as the mortgage interest deduction, it can be strengthened further. A $300 per month allowance, for example, would cut child poverty in half at a stroke.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Sanders can challenge Clinton's overall framework. Though she explicitly disavowed Jeb Bush's idea that Americans simply need to work more, she consistently valorized work throughout her recent address . She presented family programs as a way to keep women in the labor force, so as to produce more growth and economic output. She generally presented work, which appeared 57 times in the speech, as a major good in itself.

But while more jobs are surely a good goal in the short term, there are reasons to think that Americans actually work way too much. Matt Bruenig recently came up with a clever way to visualize this . As nations become richer, they generally choose to work less, since they can produce more with the same amount of work. In other words, most nations take some of the fruits of productivity growth in the form of leisure — but the U.S. has not . Since 1970, America's GDP produced per hour has doubled, but we have cut average hours worked by only 6 percent. Compared to peer nations on the economic productivity ladder (like France, which cut its hours by 26 percent over that period), America does more unnecessary work than any other nation on Earth.

Just as Sanders challenged the primacy of economic growth , when all income gains are immediately sucked up by the 1 percent, he could challenge the idea of work as always and everywhere good.

This raises a deep question: What is the economy *for*? Not, one would hope, simply ratcheting up total GDP to make the number go higher. It turns out America is a very rich nation still flogging itself to work like a middle-income one. We can easily afford a great many more days off — all we need to do is make that choice.

Sanders' "small donor" base: How the fundraising numbers break down // Salon // Zaid Jilani - July 17, 2015

Last night was the deadline for the Federal Election Commission's requirements that presidential candidates report how much they raised in the second quarter of 2015. On the Republican side, this includes sizable hauls that were matched by much larger super PAC fundraising that acts as a sort of loophole to allow billionaires to give whatever they want to the political process.

For the Democrats, the two leading candidates are Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. Sanders raised about $13.7 million. When added to money from his last Senate campaign, this brings him to over $15 million. Clinton raised almost $48 million.

But it is the nature of that fundraising that is perhaps most interesting. The FEC segregates donations into two levels that can be easily deciphered: under $200, typically referred to as "small donors," and over $200. Nearly 81 percent of Sanders' donors fit into this small donor category, making him the candidate who has raised the most from these donors on either side (Ben Carson comes in second at around 80.2 percent).

Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump: Straight Talk on Steroids // U.S. News & World Report // David Catanese - July 17, 2015

The most meaningful moment of Donald Trump's spectacle of a presidential campaign thus far may have come during a solemn evening news conference last Friday in Los Angeles, when he stood silently behind the family members of crime victims.

One after another, a father or mother or aunt spoke emotionally about the death of a son or nephew at the hands of someone who was in the country illegally.

"Nobody wants to hear from us," lamented Don Rosenberg, whose 25-year-old son was struck and then run over three times by a car driven by an unlicensed man from Honduras. "We get ignored constantly."

Lupe Moreno, a Hispanic woman who wore a button with a photograph of her deceased nephew, Ruben Morfin,

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fought back tears while describing his death: Gunned down at age 13 in Salinas, California, by an immigrant without the proper legal documents.

"Our children are dying every day. They're being raped. They're being brutalized," Moreno said in raw remarks that echoed Trump's controversial missive about Mexican immigrants last month. Her sister had gone to Capitol Hill 20 years ago to deliver congressional testimony she hoped would spur action to move against those who broke the law to get to the U.S. They're still grieving, and still waiting.

Moreno thanked Trump for speaking hard truths. Then, with a pained look on her face, she scolded the reporters in the room for failing to adequately cover the deaths or describe the perpetrators' legal status: "You're not helping at all; those other candidates aren't helping, either. I wish they had the cojones of our forefathers."

Whatever one thinks of the cannon of vitriol The Donald has spewed at his rivals, the media and his former business partners during the past four weeks, the stories of these families were not only heartbreakingly moving, they helped explain Trump's expeditious rise in the Republican race for president.

His direct, brash and unfiltered rhetoric may seem more suited for a pro wrestling ring than a presidential debate stage, but to party members filled with angst and disillusionment about career politicians and empty promises, he simply sounds real and ready to act.

"In our community, we love Mr. Trump," said Althea Shaw, whose nephew was murdered in 2008 by an immigrant in the country illegally who mistook him for a rival gang member. "We're happy. Because we know he spoke up and said something."

With Trump, there's no convoluted nuance, parsing of words or adhering to politically correct norms. There's definitely no filter. Call it a "Straight Talk Express" on steroids.

And while a gulf separates the two ideologically, the same could be said of Bernie Sanders, the Vermont socialist who's attracting a similar intensity level in the Democratic presidential primary.

Like Trump, Sanders' potential candidacy was once dismissed as negligible, even laughable.

But this summer, the two are drawing the largest, most passionate crowds of anyone in the 2016 fold. Sanders drew nearly 10,000 supporters in Madison, Wisconsin, and 7,500 in Portland, Maine, while Trump pulled in more than 4,000 for a wild rally in Phoenix.

What's more, their poll numbers are swelling: While he still trails Hillary Clinton by double digits nationally, Sanders has come within 8 points of her in New Hampshire and has solidified himself as her chief rival. Trump, meanwhile, has completely consumed the last month of the GOP race, riding his wave over Jeb Bush and to the top of the heap in the latest Suffolk University national survey of support for the Republican candidates.

"They are both mavericks who play to different drummers than the others," says Ed Rollins, a former presidential campaign chief for Republicans Michele Bachmann and Mike Huckabee. "Free media helps their cause along."

Sanders describes the nation as swerving dangerously toward oligarchy. He says college tuition should be free and two weeks of vacation should be mandatory, and offers a straightforward plan to close the deficit: Boost taxes on the wealthy and large corporations.

Compare that with Clinton, who when asked by CNN whether she'd be willing to raise taxes, deflected and then punted down the road to another day.

Sanders doesn't couch his language – and the most fervent liberals love it.

When he told a gathering of about 500 at a recent town hall meeting in Arlington, Virginia, that he would pay for college students' tuition with a "tax on Wall Street speculation," the crowd erupted with 15 seconds of sustained applause.

When he declared that "the Republican Party is literally a fringe party," conservatives blew their tops, but it was music to the ears of the diehard left.

"It's always nice to have an avowed social Democrat out actually talking to people and not hiding under and peeking out," says Madi Green, an attendee who put her hands over her head and tucked it into her shoulder to visually demonstrate the timidity of traditional Democrats.

Pat Mulloy, a local Democratic committeeman in Alexandria, Virginia, says he sensed a pent-up demand among people he knew who were starving for someone to articulate their economic frustration without caveat or equivocation.

"Here's a guy that talks straight with the people. He doesn't have all these people taking polls on what to say. He's telling you what he really thinks is going on. And I think that's very refreshing for the country," Mulloy says of Sanders.

For Marion Stillson of Reston, Virginia, Sanders makes her feel proud to be a liberal again.

"It's nice to attend an event where you know the views aren't mainstream and everybody who's in here agrees with you," she says.

Of course, it's this irrepressible, unguarded approach that will likely disqualify both Sanders and Trump from having a true shot at becoming their respective party's nominee. (Even Sen. John McCain's milder version of the "Straight Talk Express" didn't prove successful in his 2000 White House run.)

What Trump and Sanders do represent, though, is an outlet for the super-engaged, highly ideological party factions who rarely find a way to get inspired by conventional politicians.

And their ascent is validation for a sliver of the populace (Sanders and Trump are capturing between 15 and 17 percent of their party's national electorates) that often feels maligned – or even worse, ignored – by mainstream forces.

At the Sanders event, Jane Touchet had already signed on to organize for the candidate in her county because of the "ridiculous salaries and ridiculous benefits" being accumulated on Wall Street.

She shakes her head unenthusiastically when prompted about Clinton. "I dunno. She's Bernie light," Touchet says.

When Trump said Mexican immigrants are "bringing crime" and are "rapists" in his June 16 announcement, that

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didn't even go far enough for Jamil Shaw, whose son was slain by the gang member in California.
"To me, he was being nice," Shaw said at last week's news conference. "I would've said they're murderers. My son was murdered. So what he said was really going easy."
Mickey Kaus, an outspoken activist against illegal immigration, says Trump's "willingness to offend comes to be seen as a marker for 'he won't sell out like the others have.'"
That seemed to be Shaw's line of thinking as he watched the pile-on of Trump metastasize.
Other Republicans began to carve out distance from Trump, repudiating his comments and referring to "political optics" as the next general election approaches.
To Shaw, that just meant "they weren't going to do nothing."
"The only person I can see [taking action] is Mr. Trump," he said.

Bernie Sanders Is Turning Crowds Into Volunteers in Iowa // National Journal // Emily Schultheis – July 17, 2015

DES MOINES—The walls in Bernie Sanders's brand-new Des Moines headquarters—nestled between a Hy-Vee supermarket, a liquor store, and a Vietnamese restaurant—are full of the standard field-office fare: district maps of the state, quotes from the candidate, and campaign signs in the window.

But when it comes to Sanders's chances here in Iowa, it's the details that are important: posters on the wall implore supporters to "Sign up to host an organizer," "Sign up to phone bank," and "sign up to canvass."

At an office-opening event Thursday night, the space was humming with activity as about 100 supporters filed into the room, grabbing snacks from a table of hodgepodge items and sitting down in chairs arranged in a circle in the center of the room. Each supporter was asked to fill out a small card with his or her name and contact information and to check boxes about how to "take action" ("Support Bernie," "Recruit 5 Friends to Caucus for Bernie," "Be a Precinct Captain for Bernie ... let's meet!"). Around the walls were the names of neighborhoods or towns—Urbandale ("Bernie-dale," as it was dubbed), Altoona, Waukee—and activists were encouraged to sit near their hometown. Staffers in light blue "Bernie" shirts walked around with clipboards, making sure everyone's information was taken down.

"Bernie's drawing big crowds," Sanders's Iowa director, Robert Becker, told the crowd to applause. "Now it's time to organize ... this is about building an army."

Sanders, the self-described socialist in the Democratic race, may be the last person national political observers expected to emerge as the chief Democratic challenger to Hillary Clinton. But even still, he's drawing massive crowds to rallies across the country and has seen his standing rise rapidly in the polls. To capitalize on the enthusiasm surrounding his campaign, he'll need to do more than just draw crowds—and his team is quickly putting an operation in place in Iowa to take advantage of the people coming out to support him.

In mid-May, shortly after Sanders launched his campaign, Iowa coordinator Pete D'Alessandro was the lone staffer in Iowa, tasked with putting together a team that could give Sanders a shot at winning next February's caucuses. Now, D'Alessandro is just one of 31 staffers—including 24 field organizers—who are on the ground here. That number is expected to rise to 40 by the end of the month, the campaign says.

And as of mid-July, the campaign has 10 field offices across the state, including in all the major cities—the same number as Hillary Clinton's campaign.

"Sanders is impressing everybody with the crowds he's had ... but the next step is actually mobilizing them into real assets for the campaign instead of just chairs," said Grant Woodard, an Iowa-based Democrat who worked for Clinton in 2008 but is unaffiliated in the 2016 race. "Right now, a lot of people are wondering whether this is just a flash in the pan—so I think they need to start demonstrating that this is not a flash in the pan, it's real, lasting power."

Sanders's team has been able to hit the ground running in part because three of the campaign's regional field directors—and half a dozen Iowa staffers overall—came over directly from "Run Warren Run," the effort to draft Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren into the race that called it quits earlier this summer. These organizers had spent months reaching out to potential caucus-goers on Warren's behalf, and with the Warren draft efforts endorsing Sanders his aides say they're a natural fit for his campaign.

"If you meet a candidate in July or August but don't hear from [their] people with a fair degree of frequency, what are the odds that you're going to have your ardor drive you to a caucus site on a cold evening in February?" said Kurt Meyer, the chairman of the Tri-County Democrats in northern Iowa. "Without an organized effort, a lot of that enthusiasm evaporates."

What Sanders is up against isn't just any well-organized opponent: Iowa Democratic activists say it will be difficult for anyone to catch up to Clinton's team, which has had field organizers in place since the campaign launch in mid-April and now has a total staff of 60 in the state.

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On Wednesday evening in Iowa City, a Democratic stronghold in the eastern part of the state, Clinton's team held the 10th and last of its field office "open house" events across the state.

When Clinton came to town last week to attend several organizing events, her campaign touted its outreach metrics in Iowa—including the fact that it has a committed supporter in each of the state's 1,682 precincts, and that it has held more than 3,000 one-on-one meeting with voters—as proof that they are taking the primary seriously. And on Friday morning, it announced endorsements from two top statewide officials: Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and state Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald.

At the Iowa City office, the level of organization—and the extent to which Clinton's team has set up shop across the state—was clear: four Iowa City-based organizers spoke, introducing local elected officials and asking their organizing fellows to raise their hands (there were at least a half-dozen).

"We have the best staff," said state Rep. Mary Mascher. "With our help, we're going to carry her past the finish line."

For former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, the challenge is quite different: to build up name identification by talking to as many potential voters as possible. The campaign's second-quarter filing with the Federal Election Commission shows just four staffers paid in Iowa by the end of June. But since then, the team has grown rapidly; though the O'Malley campaign would not say how many staffers it has in Iowa, operatives close to the campaign have pegged it at at least 30, with staffers in multiple cities across the state.

Also working in O'Malley's favor is the super PAC supporting him, Generation Forward. Unlike other pro-candidate super PACs on the Democratic side, Generation Forward is planning to play an active role in the field side of the O'Malley effort: The group has already opened a Des Moines office, hired a field director and three full-time regional field directors, and has brought on a total of 45 part- or full-time organizers to bolster canvassing efforts, said Communications Director Ron Boehmer. It plans to open additional offices in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, as well as adding an additional 50-100 organizers.

Osceola County Chairwoman Kathy Winter referred to Clinton, Sanders and O'Malley as the "big three" when it comes to organizing. By comparison, activists around the state say they've heard less from former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia—and virtually nothing from former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee. Webb has two staffers focused on Iowa, but at this point does not have office space in the state.

For Sanders, the test now will be what those organizers do now that they're in place.

Conservative Media Erroneously Attribute Military Base Gun Policy To Clinton Administration // Media Matters // Timothy Johnson and Kate Sullivan – July 17, 2015

Conservative media are claiming that President Bill Clinton enacted a policy that bans guns at military bases in the wake of the mass shooting at a military facility in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In fact, the policy was enacted in 1992 during the administration of George H.W. Bush and does allow guns to be carried on base under some circumstances.

Gunman Kills 4 Marines, Injures 3 Others In Attack On Chattanooga Military Sites

Gunman Opens Fire On Two Military Sites, Killing Four. On July 16, a gunman opened fire on a military recruiting center, then drove to a second military site in Chattanooga, TN, where he killed four U.S. Marines and injured three other people, according to The New York Times. [The New York Times, 7/16/15]

Conservative Media Blame Military Base Gun Policy, Incorrectly Claiming It Began Under President Bill Clinton

Fox Guest: Clinton Executive Order "Took Away The Rights For Service Members To Carry Concealed [Weapons]." On the July 16 edition of Fox News' Happening Now, guest Chad Jenkins stated, "Unfortunately the executive order put in place by President Bill Clinton back in the '90s took away the rights for service members to carry concealed and to protect themselves here on the homeland." [Fox News, Happening Now, 7/16/15]

Fox's Doocy: Gun Free Zones "Started With Bill Clinton." On the July 17 edition of Fox News' Fox & Friends, host Steve Doocy claimed that former President Bill Clinton banned guns on military bases:

> DOOCY: The recruiting facility behind you, on the door, next to the bullet holes is a sign that says gun-free zones. The President of the United States with an executive order could end that policy that started with Bill Clinton. [Fox News, Fox & Friends 7/17/15]

Fox's John Roberts: Military Base Gun Policy "Was Enacted In 1993 When President Clinton Took Office." On the

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July 16 edition of Hannity, Fox News correspondent John Roberts falsely reported that the policy regulating guns on military bases was not "enacted" until the Clinton administration:

> ROBERTS: A 1992 directive from February of 1992 that was enacted in 1993 when President Clinton took office severely limits the presence of firearms in military facilities, including recruiting centers. However, there are some provisions in that directive that allow weapons to be held on military facilities. [Fox News, Hannity, 7/16/15]

Washington Examiner: "Policy Implemented By" Clinton "Ma[de] Military Bases 'Gun-Free Zones'." The Washington Examiner wrote, "Pistol-packing GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump ripped a policy implemented by former President Bill Clinton making military bases "gun free zones," declaring that as president bases would no longer be defenseless against terror attacks." [The Washington Examiner, 7/16/15]

Breitbart's Pamela Geller: "Bill Clinton Instituted A Ban On Armed Military Personnel." Pamela Geller, an anti-Muslim activist, claimed in a July 16 Breitbart post that, "Years ago, Bill Clinton instituted a ban on armed military personnel." [Breitbart.com, 7/16/15]

Fox Host: "President Clinton Passed A Ban On Soldiers Being Able To Protect Themselves." In a July 16 blog post, Outnumbered co-host Stacey Dash wrote: "Well, apparently, we have Bill Clinton to blame. President Clinton passed a ban on soldiers being able to protect themselves." [Patheos.com, 7/16/15]

Department Of Defense Policy, Which Allows Guns On Bases, Actually Dates To The Administration Of George H.W. Bush

Policy Was Not "Enacted" Under Clinton, Instead It Was "Effective Immediately" In 1992. From the February 25, 1992 directive:

> This Directive is effective immediately. Forward one copy of implementing documents to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence) and the Inspector General, Department of Defense within 120 days. [Department of Defense, 2/25/92]

Department Of Defense Policy: Guns May Be Carried On Military Bases "When There Is A Reasonable Expectation That Life Or DoD Assets Will Be Jeopardized If Firearms Are Not Carried." Rather than making military bases "gun-free zones," the 1992 directive issued by the Department of Defense instead describes the circumstances under which guns can be carried on military bases:

> To limit and control the carrying of firearms by DoD military and civilian personnel. The authorization to carry firearms shall be issued only to qualified personnel when there is a reasonable expectation that life or DoD assets will be jeopardized if firearms are not carried. Evaluation of the necessity to carry a firearm shall be made considering this expectation weighed against the possible consequences of accidental or indiscriminate use of firearms. DoD personnel regularly engaged in law enforcement or security duties shall be armed. [Department of Defense, 2/25/92]

The New Republic: Directive "Was By No Means A 'Ban' On Firearms At Military Installations." Following the 2013 mass shooting at Washington D.C.'s Navy Yard facility, The New Republic debunked the claim that the 1992 directive made military bases "gun-free zones":

> What's more, that directive--signed by Donald J. Atwood, George H. W. Bush's deputy secretary of defense -- was by no means a "ban" on firearms at military installations. It explicitly authorizes DOD personnel "to carry firearms while engaged in law enforcement or security duties, protecting personnel, vital Government assets, or guarding prisoners," and simply aims to "limit and control the carrying of firearms by DoD military and civilian personnel. The authorization to carry firearms shall be issued only to qualified personnel when there is a reasonable expectation that life or DoD assets will be jeopardized if firearms are not carried. Evaluation of the necessity to carry a firearm shall be made considering this expectation weighed against the possible consequences of accidental or indiscriminate use of firearms." [The New Republic, 9/17/13]

Support for Sanders Grows in Unions // Labor Notes // Dan DiMaggio - July 17, 2015

Bernie Sanders' campaign for president is drawing impressive crowds to rallies across the country—from 7,500 in

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Burlington, Vermont, to 300 in Birmingham, Alabama.

And it's no wonder that many union members are part of this groundswell of support, or that he's already won endorsements from a number of locals and support resolutions from the Vermont and South Carolina AFL-CIOs.

"It would be hard to find many other elected leaders in state or national office who have supported the issues of working families, working people, the working poor, and workplace justice any more than Senator Sanders," said nurse Mari Cordes, a member of Vermont's Teachers (AFT) local.

Sanders' platform includes a $15-an-hour minimum wage, guaranteed vacations and sick leave, lifting the payroll tax cap on Social Security, and single-payer health care. He's a vocal opponent of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the latest corporate-friendly trade deal. He rails against income inequality and how the "billionaire class" dominates politics.

"It's clear that Bernie, like Elizabeth Warren, has been out there speaking about the issues that are boiling up in union halls across the country," said Larry Hanley, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union.

While he and the ATU have backed Hillary Clinton for years, Hanley said, "Hillary thus far has not offered us the path that Bernie has."

So endorsements pose a strategic dilemma. "We don't want to bruise Hillary so much in the process that she can't win. We don't want to lead our members down a dark alley," he said.

"But at what point do we get our share? At what point do workers get what we had 30 years ago? We don't just get that by saluting the status quo."

An invitation-only event in D.C. on July 13, hosted by leaders of Postal Workers (APWU) and former CWA president Larry Cohen, drew presidents or their designees from 22 international unions to hear the candidate speak.

A similar number showed up for a Clinton event the next night at the home of her campaign manager, John Podesta.

"Bernie Sanders has been a champion of postal workers and consumers, and raising the question of $15 for all as a minimum wage," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein. "On that basis our union will give him serious consideration."

Organizers of Labor for Bernie—a grassroots effort to build labor support for the Sanders campaign—say one goal is to discourage the AFL-CIO from making an early Clinton endorsement.

They argue labor has little to gain from an early endorsement. And they want more time for pro-Sanders activism to raise union members' expectations on the issues being highlighted in his campaign.

They want 5,000 signatures on their Labor for Bernie statement before the AFL-CIO executive council meets July 29-30. As of July 15 they had 3,500.

Sanders, Clinton, Maryland ex-Gov. Martin O'Malley, and Arkansas ex-Gov. Mike Huckabee are all expected to attend the meeting, where the council could endorse a candidate or decide to hold off. Hanley said the ATU opposes an early endorsement.

Presidential endorsements are the national AFL-CIO's prerogative, as President Richard Trumka reminded state and local bodies in a recent memo after the Vermont and South Carolina federations passed resolutions backing Sanders.

AFL-CIO bylaws stipulate that these bodies may not "introduce, consider, debate, or pass resolutions or statements that indicate a preference for one candidate over another." The rule also applies to personal statements by local and state officers.

But Labor for Bernie organizers hope that state and local fed bodies and officers are willing to flout the rules.

So far Sanders has the backing of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2222 in Massachusetts, IBEW Local 159 in Madison, Wisconsin, the Vermont National Education Association (NEA), and Lithographers Local One-L (a Teamsters' affiliate), among others.

"We were really happy he decided to run, because it gave us an alternative," said Myles Calvey, Local 2222's business manager. "Elected Democratic officials have it in their minds that labor has no place to go."

Calvey contrasts Sanders with Democrat John Kerry. Just a few weeks after CWA and IBEW settled a hard-fought contract with Verizon in 2012, he said, Kerry was sharing seats in the press box at a Patriots game with CEO Lowell McAdam.

The Electrical Workers (UE) executive board has also issued a statement supporting Sanders, urging "members and locals to take a serious look at Bernie Sanders's campaign and to consider their active participation in it."

Clinton picked up a big endorsement July 11, when the executive council of the 1.6 million-member Teachers (AFT) became the first major national union to announce it would support her in the primaries.

President Randi Weingarten has close ties to Clinton, and serves on the board of the pro-Clinton super PAC, Priorities USA.

An AFT press release said members had supported Clinton 3 to 1 in a poll. But many members condemned the endorsement on social media, calling the process flawed and shallow.

"I was really flabbergasted. I think it seems so premature," said Candi Peterson, vice president of the Washington Teachers Union, Local 6. She'd never heard about the union's telephone town hall meetings or its "You Decide" website.

"It was the best-kept secret in town," said Peterson, whose local is based in D.C., like the national union. "And that's not typical of the AFT—we get bombarded with information."

"It feels like the leadership did a 'we know what's best,' that their influence with people in power is more important than the members," said Jia Lee, a chapter leader of the United Federation of Teachers in New York City. "The top campaign contributors to Hillary Clinton are the same groups that support privatization of public education."

The other big teachers union, the NEA, opted not to endorse early at its July convention. The Vermont chapter

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sent a delegation outfitted in Bernie T-shirts, with a box full of placards and stickers.
"People came up to us as soon as they saw our shirts and signs," said President Martha Allen, "and they spread throughout the entire room. We ran out of all our stuff."
The NEA could still issue an early endorsement in October, through its board and PAC council, or in February. Vermont NEA, meanwhile, will encourage members to knock doors for Sanders in New Hampshire's early primary.
Cohen, who stepped down as CWA president in June, is now working as an unpaid Sanders volunteer.
The TPP is among the issues motivating him. Sanders has been a leading opponent of the trade deal, while Clinton refuses to take a position.
"What we learned from the trade fight," Cohen said, "is the gap between what people say when they campaign for the Iowa caucuses and what they then do. I don't think anybody's worried about any gap like that for Bernie Sanders."
For Donna Dewitt, former president of the South Carolina AFL-CIO, the key is for Sanders' message to reach deeper into the Democratic party base and non-voters.
A Sanders event in Columbia, South Carolina, last year drew local leaders from CWA, the Auto Workers, and the Steelworkers. "But the majority [of participants] were young Black workers with the Raise Up campaign, fighting for $15 an hour," Dewitt said.
"[Bernie] was most impressed with them. The Democratic Party is expanding their base in the minority community, but nobody's reaching these young workers. None of these people have ever voted before."
Teacher Susan Sadlowski Garza won a tight race for alderman this year in Chicago's 10th Ward, after Sanders came out to rally with her, mayoral candidate Chuy Garcia, and Chicago Teachers President Karen Lewis.
"His message is basic things: people before money, working-class people are getting the shaft," Garza said. "He speaks exactly what we feel. I know people that are staunch Republicans that are swinging toward Bernie, conservatives. His message resonates and crosses party lines."
Hanley said the ATU is figuring out a process to promote more member involvement in deciding on the presidential endorsement.
"If you don't do that, you're just another logo put on somebody's campaign," he said. "Our real leverage is in, first, organizing our members around a set of beliefs—and then, through our members, organizing the public around those beliefs."

Bernie Sanders is the future of the Democratic Party // The Detroit News // David Harsanyi - July 17, 2015

"The rise of Bernie Sanders is proving awkward for the Democratic Party," contends Politico in a recent piece about the surprisingly popular socialist presidential candidate.
Well, maybe it's not that surprising. And it's probably not that awkward. Politico could have just as easily declared: The rise of Bernie Sanders is a completely predictable outcome of the Democratic Party's trajectory. Or, maybe: The rise of Bernie Sanders portends a socialistic future for the Democratic Party.
After all, while the press had fun detailing every rightward lurch of the conservative movement, not only has the "socialist surge" been a restive force within Democratic Party politics during the Obama Age, but it's been making tremendous policy progress.
Although we rarely frame politics in these terms, as a philosophical matter, we've often been engaged in a debate that pits the theories of 18th-century liberalism — the kind that brought us the Constitution and limited government — against ideas first embraced in 19th-century Marxism. Is there any doubt the left's grassroots is driven by the latter, whether it's intuitively or on purpose?
So Sanders is polling at 35 percent in one recent CNN poll of New Hampshire, even though he is supposedly operating far outside the norms of American political debate. Sanders can draw 10,000 fervent fans at a campaign event in Wisconsin — a number that would be envied by most presidential candidates this cycle. Sanders correctly points out that his positions on higher minimum wage, pay equity and other state interference in markets enjoy high approval ratings with most voters. "It is not a radical agenda," he says. "In virtually every instance, what I'm saying is supported by a significant majority of the American people."
This is almost true.
What is wholly true is that big majorities within the Democratic Party support these policies, and they would probably go a lot further if they could. Hillary Clinton is lucky there isn't a more compelling and charismatic candidate making a more comprehensive socialistic case to Americans, as there was the last time around. The difference between her adopted position and his real one is scope.
That's not to say Democrats are unadulterated socialists sitting around studying communist theorists in their spare time, any more than small-government conservatives are opposed to every state-run program. But today, many prefer policies that would be referred to as socialist anywhere else in the world. And the stigma attached to the word is slowly, and fittingly, disintegrating.
According to a YouGov poll, 52 percent of Americans hold favorable views of capitalism, while only 26 percent have a favorable view of socialism. When broken down further, 43 percent of Democrats hold sympathetic views toward socialism. Democrats are just as likely to have a favorable view of capitalism as they do collectivism. The future does not bode well for free-market fans. According to a Pew poll, 49 percent of those between ages 18 and 29 say they have a positive view of socialism — with only 43 percent having a negative view. Considering the history and connotation of the word, that's quite extraordinary.
Sanders will not win the Democratic Party nomination. I'm skeptical he's even as popular as polls claim. Still, he's moved to the ideological center of the Democratic Party without changing at all. So will his ideas. Democrats will

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not pull back once they get their $10 minimum wage. They will not be content once universal pre-K is passed. They will not be satiated after the next round of unilateral Environmental Protection Agency intrusions into the energy markets are instituted. And liberals will never concede that health care is now working and so we won't need any more government involvement.

Sanders might be treated as an outlier. But really, it's more likely he's the future.

Liberals Roar As Bernie Sanders Joins Elizabeth Warren On Bill To Reinstate Glass-Steagall // Politicus USA // Jason Easley - July 17, 2015

Two of the most prominent liberals in the Senate have joined forces to take on the big banks as Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) has announced that he is teaming up with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) to co-sponsor her bill that would reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act.

In a statement, Sanders said:

I strongly support Sen. Elizabeth Warren's bill to reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act.

On July 1, 1999, while Congress was voting on the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to permit commercial banks, investment banks and insurance companies to merge, then-Rep. Sanders said: "I believe this legislation, in its current form, will do more harm than good. It will lead to fewer banks and financial service providers; increased charges and fees for individual consumers and small businesses; diminished credit for rural America; and taxpayer exposure to potential losses should a financial conglomerate fail. It will lead to more mega-mergers; a small number of corporations dominating the financial service industry; and further concentration of economic power in our country."

Allowing commercial banks to merge with investment banks and insurance companies in 1999 was a huge mistake. It precipitated the largest taxpayer bailout in the history of the world. It caused millions of Americans to lose their jobs, homes, life savings and ability to send their kids to college. It substantially increased wealth and income inequality and it led to the enormous concentration of economic power in this country.

I am proud to have led the fight in the House against repealing the Glass-Steagall Act in 1999. Sixteen years ago, I predicted that such a massive deregulation of the financial services industry would seriously harm the economy. I would give anything to have been proven wrong about this but unfortunately what happened seven years ago was even worse than I predicted.

Today, not only must we reinstate this important law, but if we are truly serious about ending too big to fail, we have got to break up the largest financial institutions in this country. If an institution is too big to fail, it is too big to exist.

The legislation to reinstate Glass-Steagall was introduced by Democratic Senators Warren and Cantwell (D-WA) along with Republican John McCain earlier this month. At the time, Warren said , "Despite the progress we've made since 2008, the biggest banks continue to threaten our economy. The biggest banks are collectively much larger than they were before the crisis, and they continue to engage in dangerous practices that could once again crash our economy. The 21st Century Glass-Steagall Act will rebuild the wall between commercial and investment banking and make our financial system more stable and secure."

It is at this point that the obvious must be stated. Despite the support of McCain, Senate Republicans are going to squash this bill. However, the point of this legislation isn't passage. Congressional liberals have quickly become experts as using their minority status to introduce publicly popular legislation that raises the profile of important issues while putting Republicans on the hot seat by forcing them to defend positions that place them in opposition to a majority of the public.

The judging of proposed legislation based on odds of passage promotes a myopic view that ignores long-term goals and the big picture. Liberals are trying to change the public discussion on issues like the big banks and financial reform, but to begin that conversation the public must have the opportunity to become aware and informed. Republicans thrive when voters and constituents are uninformed.

The repeal of Glass-Steagall was signed into law by former President Clinton, who has continued to defend his deregulation. Glass-Steagall could be a thorny issue for Hillary Clinton on the Democratic primary campaign trail.

The post-Great Recession era is not the go-go 90s. Senate liberals are fighting to keep the country from repeating the economic mistakes of the recent past.

Republicans Terrified As Texas Demand For Bernie Sanders Forces Rally To A Bigger Venue // Politicus USA // Jason Easley - July 17, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders has a message that is so popular that he was forced to move a rally in Texas to a larger venue to accommodate the growing crowd.

The Sanders campaign announced the change in venue for the Democratic candidate's Houston, TX rally on July 19, "With turnout projections mounting, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders' campaign has shifted the location of Sunday's town meeting in Houston, Texas, to the Hofheinz Pavilion."

These events were intended to be town hall meetings, but demand is so high that format has been getting changed to a campaign rally. I anticipate that the Houston event will also be more of a rally than a town hall.

Demand has also forced the campaign to move a Saturday rally in Phoenix to a larger venue, as the big crowds are showing no signs of diminishing for Bernie Sanders.

Republicans should be terrified of Bernie Sanders' popularity because Texas is the heart of the Republican Party. The state is demographically changing, but the reason Republicans should be worried about Sanders is that he is demonstrating the power of a liberal populist economic message in red states.

Bernie Sanders, the candidate, isn't what Republicans should be concerned about. The message that Sanders is bringing is what should strike fear into the GOP. Sanders talks about creating jobs, repealing Citizens United,

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raising wages for working people, equal pay for women. The Sanders message is that it is time to stand up to the billionaires and corporations and return the government back to the people.
If this message can find support in red states like Arizona and Texas, it can be successful all across the country. Bernie Sanders is demonstrating that there is and huge demand among red state liberals for their candidates. Democrats and liberals in red states are often unfairly forgotten and lumped in with Republicans. Sen. Sanders is making an effort to campaign in front of these voters and ask for their support.
Be afraid Republicans, because Bernie Sanders is showing the country the potential power of liberal populist ideas in red states.

UNDECLARED

OTHER

In Iowa, the first face-off between Clinton, Sanders and other rivals // WaPo // Phillip Rucker – July 17, 2015

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — The two leading candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination came here Friday for their first face-off of the 2016 presidential race, sounding populist economic themes as they tried to win over the liberal voters likely to sway the Iowa caucuses.

Front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton and insurgent Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) campaigned near each other — although they stopped short of directly attacking one another — ahead of a dinner for hundreds of Democratic activists at which all five candidates for the Democratic nomination are to give keynote speeches.

At an afternoon rally to pump up a few hundred supporters, Clinton sharpened her attack against Republicans. She decried decades of what she called GOP "trickle-down" economics of tax cuts for wealthy people and corporations.

"I love it when the Republicans attack me" over her economic proposals, Clinton said. "I'm just sitting there thinking, 'You have a lot of nerve. We would never had been in that ditch if it had not been for those terrible economic policies and that lack of accountability that you all promoted.' "

Clinton scored one of her biggest bursts of applause when she praised President Obama as turning around the economy after the last recession.

"President Obama deserves more credit than he's given for saving us from the great depression," Clinton said at the rally, held in the basement of the historic Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Cedar Rapids.

Clinton was trying to gin up enthusiasm ahead of the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame celebration dinner, which will be one of the first opportunities for activists here to compare her and Sanders. Her campaign served pizza and opened a bar. One introductory speaker called it "Happy Hour with Hillary." A DJ played pulsating dance music, including "Let's Get Loud," by Jennifer Lopez.

A couple hours earlier, in the grand lobby of the same building, Sanders held a news conference in which he vowed to break up the country's biggest financial institutions and condemned the influence of corporate money, especially contributions from banks such as Goldman Sachs, in politics.

Sanders refused to go after Clinton directly, even when prodded by reporters, but the contrast he was making to her record and campaign was clear nonetheless.

Sanders attributed what he described as the erosion of the middle class, rising poverty and a growing divide between rich and poor to "the greed, the recklessness and the illegal behavior of the people on Wall Street." When one reporter noted that the Clinton campaign had reported receiving at least $50,000 from employees of Goldman Sachs, Sanders was quick to state, "I didn't get any money from Goldman Sachs."

"I don't want Wall Street's money," he added. "You have — and let me underline the word — a corrupt campaign finance system. And obviously what Goldman Sachs wants, what corporate America wants, what the Koch brothers want, is undue influence over the political process."

Sanders also told reporters that earlier in the week he had signed on as a sponsor, along with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), of a bill to reestablish the Glass-Steagall Act, a 1930s-era law restricting banking activities that was repealed in 1999. Progressives have urged Clinton to back such legislation, but despite toughening her

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rhetoric about taking on big banks, she has not taken a position on Glass-Steagall.

Sanders told reporters that with the six largest banks having assets equal to more than half of U.S. gross domestic product, "We have got to break them up. They are too powerful, they have too much control over the economy, and I fear very much another 'too big to fail' situation, that the middle class will have to bail them out."

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, former Virginia senator Jim Webb and former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee also are expected to speak at the Iowa Democratic dinner.

Democratic presidential hopefuls to share a stage in Iowa // Miami Herald // Anita Kumar - July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON - For the first time this campaign season, the five Democrats vying for president will share the stage.
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Senator Jim Webb and Lincoln Chafee, a former governor and senator from Rhode Island, will speak at the sold-out Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame dinner Friday night in Cedar Rapids.
Hundreds of Democrats will be listening to hear what the candidates talk about and how they react to each other.
O'Malley was the keynote speaker at last year's dinner, which is an annual fundraiser for the party. Clinton and O'Malley are holding nearby pep rallies before the event.
Ahead of the dinner, two statewide Democrats announced their support for Clinton: Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald. Both were early supporters of Barack Obama in 2007.
"It takes grassroots organizing to be successful in Iowa," Miller said. "I'm proud to lend my support to Hillary Clinton's Iowa organizing efforts. Conversations happening in coffee shops, living rooms and field offices about why Hillary Clinton is the champion working families need are going to make the difference on caucus night and put us on the path to victory in November."
The campaigns of the 15 announced Republican candidates will participate in a United Iowa rally Friday to show that they are united to work together to elect a conservative to the White House.
"For the first time all campaigns are coming together to make it crystal clear that we are ready for 2016 and will all work together to make sure one of our candidates is elected to the White House," said Jeff Kaufmann, chairman of the Iowa Republican party. "There are 481 days until the election, and we're already laying the groundwork for success."
On Saturday, 10 Republican candidates are expected to speak in Ames, Iowa at an event sponsored by The Family Leader, a conservative Christian organization.

Big stakes for 2016 Democrats as they meet together for first time // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – July 17, 2015

For the first time, the entire 2016 Democratic presidential field will gather together in one place Friday night in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. All five candidates, from prohibitive frontrunner Hillary Clinton to self-funding longshot Lincoln Chafee, will make their pitches at the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame dinner.

It will be first chance for committed activists in the key presidential state to consider their options. And it will also be the first chance for candidates themselves to size each other up, since they're likely to meet backstage and are expected to stick around and watch the other speeches. Candidates will not debate each other, but instead give back-to-back remarks.

Tickets are sold out and the stakes are high, though each candidate will have a different to-do list going in to Friday's dinner.

Clinton, whose strength belies questions about her supporters' enthusiasm, wants to demonstrate that she can captivate the Iowa grassroots and capture widespread support from the party.

Iowa derailed Clinton's presidential ambitions in 2008, and it's the place rivals think she is vulnerable again, though polls show she remains very strong. Ahead of the dinner Friday morning, her campaign took the rare step of announcing two big endorsements, from Iowa's attorney general and treasurer.

Meanwhile, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has emerged as Clinton's top rival, want to show that he's more than just a passing fad with a low ceiling of support, as rivals have contended. Sanders will need to pull support from beyond his traditional base of educated liberals if he hopes to the win the Democratic nomination.

Friday night, that means appealing winning over stalwart party activists, who have dedicated years of their life to the Democratic Party and may not take kindly to an independent who has criticized the party and done less than most to help its candidates get elected.

But perhaps no one has more on the line than former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is going all-in on Iowa, even though his candidacy remains mired in the single digit in polls.

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O'Malley has positioned himself as more progressive than Clinton, more electable than Sanders, and with more executive experience than anyone in the race. So far, voters haven't responded and he remains largely unknown, but he'll try to lay the groundwork for a turnaround Friday night.

Rounding out the field is former Sen. Jim Webb, who is more conservative than the rest of the field and ha broken with President Obama and his party on everything from the Iran nuclear deal to the Confederate flag.

Webb's first Iowa director quit not long ago, and he has to hope his idiosyncratic message resonates with some party activists if he hopes to be seen as a serious contender.

That imperative is even truer for former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, who announced his long shot presidential bid by calling for a transition to the metric system. Chafee has so far funded his campaign with his personal wealth, raising only $29,000 from contributors since announcing in June.

He's yet to identify a real constituency or rationale for running, so will be looking to find supporters Friday. Like Sanders, Chafee may face questions from the party faithful since he only became a Democrat in 2013.

The event also underscores the dramatic difference between the Republican and Democratic sides of 2016. While the GOP has had numerous so-called cattle calls, where candidates give back-to-back speeches, the Democratic race has been off to a much slower start with a much smaller field.

Democrats showcase all 5 candidates in their field // Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs – July 17, 2015

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia. – Friday night's big Democratic party fundraising dinner was considered a bellwether for where the early energy might go in the presidential race in Iowa.

Outside the 2015 Iowa Democratic Party Hall of Fame Celebration, there was a showdown between just two camps — fans of Hillary Clinton and fans of Martin O'Malley. The mostly youthful cheer squads stood on opposite sides of the street, chanting slogans and jumping up and down with campaign signs, trying to out-spirit each other.

The pack of cheerleaders for O'Malley, a former Maryland governor, was slightly outnumbered by those for Clinton, a former U.S. secretary of state.

"But we have more of the vibe," said Kyle Gradford, 16, of Des Moines, who explained that he's a passionate O'Malley supporter "because he supports things I was taught in my household — like nothing's wrong with gay marriage. And he's really personable and everybody can connect with him."

None of the Clinton cheerleaders would speak to reporters, saying that they "weren't allowed."

The five presidential candidates had yet to deliver their speeches by The Des Moines Register's deadline. But all five candidates briefly took the stage to wave at the audience at the start of the event, serenaded by a soundtrack of "We Take Care of Our Own" by Bruce Springsteen.

It was the first time all five — Clinton; O'Malley; former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee; Bernie Sanders, an independent U.S. senator from Vermont; and former Virginia U.S. Sen. Jim Webb — have spoken at a single event. Noticeably absent was Vice President Joe Biden, who is still mulling whether to run for president. He was last in Iowa in October 2014.

It was the hottest ticket in the state for Democratic Party faithful. The seats, many priced at $50 each, sold out in less than three weeks.

The dinner was an opportunity for the four underdogs in the race to try to gain an edge on Clinton, who is running for president for the second time and is the strong front-runner in polling in Iowa.

Despite the cheer squads out front, the real showdown Friday night was expected to be between Clinton and Sanders, who has been climbing in the polls and attracting audiences far bigger than the former first lady's.

Sanders said in an interview with Bloomberg Politics before the dinner that his goal was to win over every guest. "I want all 1,200 people, including Hillary Clinton's supporters, to come out and put on my (campaign) pins," he said.

Sanders has resisted attacking Clinton personally, but said Friday that they part ways on many issues.

"I've known Hillary Clinton for 25 years. I like her and respect her," he said. "We disagree on a whole lot of issues, but we are going to have a civil, intelligent campaign."

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Republicans will take their turn in the Iowa spotlight Saturday when they audition 10 presidential candidates — Scott Walker, Donald Trump, Rick Santorum, Marco Rubio, Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal, Mike Huckabee, Lindsey Graham, Ted Cruz and Ben Carson — during Christian conservative activist Bob Vander Plaats' 8½-hour Family Leadership Summit in Ames.

Clinton, Democratic rivals share a stage in Iowa for 1st time // McClatchy DC // Anita Kumar – July 17, 2015

For the first time this campaign season, the five Democrats vying for president shared the same stage.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia and Lincoln Chafee, a former governor and senator from Rhode Island, spoke at the sold-out Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame dinner Friday night in Cedar Rapids.

Instead of attacking one another, they stuck to attacking Republican candidates for president.

"I am never going to let the Republicans rip away the progress we have made," Clinton said. "They may have some fresh faces but they are the party of the past."

Clinton singled out three of the most prominent Republican candidates Jeb Bush, Scott Walker and Donald Trump, for their views on U.S. workers, abortion and immigration. "Finally someone whose hair is getting more attention than mine," she cracked about Trump.

Clinton's speech was one of her most aggressive since she launched her campaign, earning her a standing ovation, sustained applause and chants of "Hill-a-ry."

Sanders, too, was fiery. He started his speech with his voice raised, denouncing the "disastrous" trade agreement pushed by Barack Obama and the billionaire class.

"Enough is enough," he said. "This country belongs to us and not a handful of billionaires!"

His supporters repeatedly interrupt him to agree and bang on the tables. "Yeah!"

"No president can bring about the changes that we need in this country unless there is a political revolution," he said.

Hundreds of Iowa Democrats crowded into the Cedar Rapids Convention Complex to hear the candidates.

The lesser-known candidates were just trying to get noticed. None of them were aggressive in the way Clinton and Sanders were but O'Malley did blast Republicans and big business. "Main Street struggles while Wall Street soars," he said.

The rivals came on the stage together, introduced in alphabetical order, at the start of the program. They sat at separate tables in the ballroom during the dinner and spoke one at a time.

Before the event, large groups of Clinton and O'Malley supporters gathered outside, chanting and holding signs. Some were paid by Clinton's campaign and by Generation Forward, a political action committee supporting O'Malley. Many said they were not allowed to speak to the media.

Mama Lynne, a community activist from Des Moines who said she was being paid by Generation Forward, a Super PAC supporting O'Malley, said she is not worried about his low name recognition at this stage. "Others have been down in the polls," she said.

Clinton remains far ahead in Iowa Democratic polls, but Sanders is gaining.

A Quinnipiac University poll late last month put Clinton ahead, 52 percent to 33 percent. A month earlier, Clinton had a 60-15 lead.

No one else came close last month. Vice President Joe Biden had 7 percent, followed by O'Malley with 3 percent and Webb with 1 percent. Chafee had less than 1 percent.

Clinton, Sanders and O'Malley have all begun organizing staff in Iowa, but Clinton has far surpassed them with offices and staff across the state. Inside, all five candidates except Chafee had tables to set up to sign up volunteers.

Ahead of the dinner, two statewide Democrats announced their support for Clinton: Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller and Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald. Both were early supporters of Barack Obama in 2007.

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"It takes grassroots organizing to be successful in Iowa," Miller said. "I'm proud to lend my support to Hillary Clinton's Iowa organizing efforts. Conversations happening in coffee shops, living rooms and field offices about why Hillary Clinton is the champion working families need are going to make the difference on caucus night and put us on the path to victory in November."

Eager to get their say, the campaigns of the 15 announced Republican candidates held a rally Friday to show they are united to work together to elect a conservative to the White House.

"Our message is clear to Democrats in Iowa and across the nation: The Republican Party is unified and ready to put a Republican back in the White House," Jeff Kaufmann, chairman of the Iowa Republican Party, said at the rally. "These campaigns, which are all working to be the next Republican nominee, took the time to be here today in unity. We are the party of innovation and progress, and we will lift up all Americans with a victory in 2016."

On Saturday, 10 of the Republican candidates are expected to speak in Ames, Iowa, at the 2015 Family Leadership Summit, designed to educate conservatives about the most pressing issues facing America's families.

GOP

DECLARED

BUSH

Jeb Bush's father and brother have a security detail. Now he does too. // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe – July 17, 2015

Out on the campaign trail, Jeb Bush eagerly engages voters looking for a hug, a handshake or a photo. Usually he works a room with just one aide by his side and travels with a team that can fit into one SUV.

At multiple stops in recent days, there's been a new member of Bush's entourage: A bodyguard.

Being the son and brother of former presidents doesn't afford Bush U.S. Secret Service protection -- but given his family ties, the desire for some security perhaps isn't surprising.

According to campaign finance reports released this week, Bush's campaign has paid $9,892.85 to U.S. Safety & Security LLC for security services. Campaign aides confirmed that the money was spent on security, but declined to say if there have been specific threats made against him.

In San Francisco on Thursday, a private security agent dressed in a suit and tie kept his distance, but watched as Bush arrived and spoke at a morning campaign event. Recently in New Hampshire while marching in two Independence Day parades, a different man wearing dark sunglasses and a black, short-sleeved, button-downed shirt kept just a few paces away from Bush and at one point stepped in with other aides to keep a hectoring climate change activist from blocking the candidate's path.

Bush's security firm of choice is based in Severna Park, Md. and provides protection for corporate and political clients, including security at large events, bodyguards for top executives, consulting for large hotels or stadiums and disaster management. Guards employed by the firm provided security for 2012 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney before he picked up U.S. Secret Service protection as the GOP nominee.

Company president Joseph Funk did not respond to a request for comment.

So far, Bush's security costs are significantly less than several other candidates who travel with security details -- often at taxpayer expense.

Former first lady and secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton remains under the protection of Secret Service agents. She travels in armored vehicles and is always flanked by agents. People attending Clinton campaign events must undergo checks similar to airport security screening. When Clinton marched in an Independence Day parade in New Hampshire, campaign aides kept reporters behind a moving rope line, saying later that the Secret Service had requested the move.

Four Republican governors running for president -- Chris Christie (N.J.), Bobby Jindal (La.), John Kasich (Ohio) and Scott Walker (Wis.) -- also travel with small teams of state police officers, whose services cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

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Christie has faced the most scrutiny for his security costs. Records released last week show that travel expenses for his security detail cost more than $184,000 in state funds over the first three months of the year. Christie's out-of-state security bill in 2014 cost $492,420, according to state records.

Christie has acknowledged the taxpayer costs, but so far has no plans to reimburse the state. Aides have noted that there is no state law allowing him to do so.

Walker usually travels with a team of two or three burly state troopers. In several instances, the men quickly have formed a muscular wall between the governor and reporters at campaign stops or if an attendee suddenly asked a tough question. Earlier this year, Walker's political entity, Our American Revival, started paying for Walker's political travel, including his security team. But in 2014, Wisconsin taxpayers spent roughly $2.4 million on security for Walker, his family and the lieutenant governor when they traveled out of the state.

Aides to Kasich have refused to say who is paying for the highway patrol officers that travel with him on political trips outside of Ohio.

"For the safety of the governor, his family and those with him, we simply never discuss security procedures or resources," Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols told the Northeast Ohio Media Group last week.

Jindal's security costs appear to be among the largest. In March, the head of the Louisiana State Police said his agency had spent $2.2 million on travel expenses for the security detail during the most recent fiscal year. In January, it cost $73,000 for seven state troopers to protect Jindal and his family during a 10-day trade mission to Europe.

Rick Perry, the former Texas governor, traveled with a state police detail until he left office earlier this year. His campaign expense report showed that four individuals were paid a total of $975. A campaign spokeswoman said that the four guards only provided protection during Perry's campaign launch at an airplane hanger outside Dallas in early June.

Besides Bush, at least one other Republican presidential candidate is also employing private guards: Donald Trump.

The real estate magnate travels with several guards who wear dark suits and radios and earpieces to communicate. On their lapels, the guards wear small white buttons with "TRUMP" written in black letters.

Trump's campaign spending report shows two line items listed as "Security" for $1,000 each. A campaign spokeswoman didn't return requests for comment about the fees.

Jeb Bush: I wouldn't roll back Obama's Iran deal on Day One // Politico // Eli Stokols – July 17, 2015

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Jeb Bush took a tough but nuanced foreign policy stance during an appearance here Friday morning, calling for reversing the ban on concealed weapons at military installations and calling out his Republican rivals for hollow promises to repeal the Iran nuclear agreement on their first day in office.

Bush, looking to position himself as an electable conservative in a sprawling primary field thrown into turmoil by the unexpected rise of Donald Trump, reiterated his opposition to the Iran agreement, which will ease economic sanctions on the country in exchange for a decade of limitations to its nuclear program.

But he stopped well short of promising he'd undo the deal and basically dismissed other Republicans who've done so as panderers, telling reporters that it's unlikely he — any president, really — would take such a drastic step immediately upon taking office.

"At 12:01 on January, whatever it is, 19th [2017], I will not probably have a confirmed secretary of state; I will not have a confirmed national security team in place; I will not have consulted with our allies. I will not have had the intelligence briefings to have made a decision," Bush said. "If you're running for president, I think it's important to be mature and thoughtful about this."

That comment marked a subtle shot across the bow at Scott Walker, who said in his announcement speech Monday, "We need to terminate the bad deal with Iran on the very first day in office."

Bush, who said he'd never have negotiated with Iran in the first place, told the crowd of roughly 100 people at the town hall that he doesn't discredit President Barack Obama for doing so, but for not negotiating harder.

"I'm deeply worried about this agreement because I think it's going to create the possibility of nuclear proliferation in the region and a much more unstable Middle East that will impact us," he said.

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Bush opened his town hall Friday with a moment of silence for the Marines killed in a shooting Thursday at a recruiting center in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and then slammed Obama for a foreign policy approach that, he argues, has left the Middle East in tatters, apparently linking the accused 24-year-old, Kuwaiti-born gunman with Islamic terrorism, even though FBI officials have yet to confirm any ties to terrorist organizations.

"We're living in times that are quite perilous," Bush said. "Now we see what happens when we pull back. These threats spread over the Internet all around the world including our own country. I, for one, we believe we need to reengage with the rest of the world, fight barbaric Islamic terrorism in the Middle East and also do what we need to do to protect the homeland, using all the tools available to make it so, protecting civil liberties along the way but make sure, make sure that we keep this country safe."

Bush then pivoted to another issue that'll play well in this western, largely libertarian state, arguing that members of the military should be allowed to carry guns on their bases and at recruiting centers.

"These are symbols of American might — they're targets," Bush told reporters after the town hall event that drew more than 100 people. "This is how you garner attention, you go to places where there's vulnerability; and it's a very powerful symbolic attack on our country and Marines lost their lives. We should be saddened by it but also resolved to create better security apparatus around our own country.

"If Marines were armed, I think other people would have known that and had they known that, they might not have come in."

Bush also took the opportunity to remind his audience of how he greatly expanded gun rights during two terms as Florida governor and argued that allowing more people to carry concealed weapons is connected to a drop in his state's violent crime rate.

"Law-abiding citizens that have the right to self-defense creates a safer place as well," Bush said, drawing loud applause.

A day after taking questions of a decidedly liberal bent from an audience of young tech entrepreneurs in San Francisco, Bush was more at ease in a room full of older, more conservative Nevadans. Before opening himself up for questions on a range of topics, Bush made a direct appeal for their support in next February's caucuses.

"I think you're looking at the next president of the United States," he told the crowd. "And I won't let you down."

He also offered a tongue-in-cheek update on the health of his father, former President George H.W. Bush, who remains hospitalized after a fall earlier this week that resulted in a broken bone in his neck.

"When he starts telling semi-dirty jokes to the nurses, you know he's on the rebound," Bush quipped.

Jeb Bush Says Laws on the Books Already Ensure Equal Pay // TIME // Zeke J. Miller – July 17, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush indicated Thursday that he thinks existing laws sufficient to ensure men and women are paid equally for the same work, but that he would back legislation in the states to prevent workplace and housing discrimination against LGBT Americans.

Speaking to employees at San Francisco tech startup Thumbtack, Bush faced questions from the audience about a range of issues where Republicans break with the city's largely liberal and libertarian ethos, including equal pay legislation, LGBT issues and gun control.

The first question to Bush came from a former Floridian and gun owner who praised Bush's record on education, but said he disagreed with his position on gun control legislation. "That should be driven by the states," Bush said in reply, adding that he and the questioner would likely have to agree to disagree on the question.

"Wages should be equal, and there are laws to make it so, and they should be enforced," Bush said in response to a subsequent question from one female employee, implying he thought that existing statutes were effective at making it so. The employee cited the oft-used statistic that by some measures women are paid 79 percent of what men make for the same work. Bush interrupted her to ask whether that was the case at the startup.

She replied, "Not in this office," prompting Bush to proclaim, "Thank goodness."

An employee who identified himself to Bush as being gay asked about Bush's position on legislation to ban discrimination of LGBT Americans. "I don't think you should be discriminated because of your sexual orientation. Period. Over and out," he replied.

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Bush continued: "The fact that there wasn't a law doesn't necessarily mean you would have been discriminated against." He added that in the wake of the Supreme Court decision to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide, the country must work to carefully balance the rights of those seeking to marry and the religious beliefs of those who oppose those unions.

Citing the frequently-used example by religious freedom advocates, Bush said that in the case of a florist approached by a gay couple, "you should be obligated to sell them flowers, doing otherwise would be discriminatory." But he said that the objecting florist should not be required to participate in the wedding, a fine line that he hopes will appeal to all sides of the debate.

When the employee followed up to ask specifically whether he would support anti-discrimination laws for LGBT Americans for their housing and employment—the next target for gay rights marriage advocates—Bush said he would at the state level.

"I think this should be done state-by-state, I totally agree with that," he said.

Bush 'woefully misinformed' on overtime policy // MSNBC // Steve Benen – July 17, 2015

With Congress unwilling to pass meaningful economic measures, President Obama's recently unveiled overtime policy is one of the year's biggest stories on the domestic economy. Jeb Bush, not surprisingly, doesn't like it, but he may not fully understand it, either.

To briefly recap, under the status quo, there's an annual income threshold for mandatory overtime: $23,660. Those making more than that can be classified by employers as "managers" who are exempt from overtime rules. The Obama administration's Labor Department has spent the last several months working on the new plan, which raises the threshold to $50,440 – more than double the current level.
The policy doesn't just nibble around the edges; its scope includes roughly 5 million American workers. NBC's Kristin Donnelly reported the administration's move constitutes "the most ambitious intervention in the wage economy in at least a decade."
Campaigning in Iowa this week, Jeb Bush said the policy would result in "less overtime pay" and "less wages earned." The Guardian did some fact-checking.

> Numerous economists attacked Bush's statement, calling him woefully misinformed. And several studies on the rule contradict Bush's assertion that the overtime rules would "lessen the number of people working".
>
> Daniel Hamermesh, a University of Texas labor economist, said: "He's just 100% wrong," adding that "there will be more overtime pay and more total earnings" and "there's a huge amount of evidence employers will use more workers".
>
> Indeed, a Goldman Sachs study estimated that employers would hire 120,000 more workers in response to Obama's overtime changes. And a similar study commissioned by the National Retail Federation – a fierce opponent of the proposed overtime rules – estimated that as a result of the new salary threshold, employers in the restaurant and retail industries would hire 117,500 new part-time workers.

The Economic Policy Institute's Ross Eisenbrey added that Bush "should be embarrassed about how misinformed he was." Noting that the Republican presidential candidate also said Obama's policy would also prohibit many bonuses, Eisenbrey added, "All of that is exactly wrong – and pretty much nonsense."

On a surface level, it's problematic that Bush would flub the issue so poorly, but it's even more significant in the context of related confusion about economic policy.

Remember, the Florida Republican remains deeply committed to 4% GDP growth – a target no president has reached in the post-WWII era – despite the fact that the number was basically pulled out of thin air.

The former governor still sees himself as some kind of economic expert, thanks to Florida's growth in the 1990s, but as we've discussed before, whether Bush is prepared to admit it or not, Florida's economic growth during his two terms was the result of a housing bubble. In fact, Paul Krugman accurately described it as "the mother of all housing bubbles – and when the bubble burst (luckily for Jeb! just after he left office) it promptly wiped out 900,000" of the 1.3 million jobs created when Bush was in the governor's office.

The economy, in other words, is not Bush's strong suit.

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Jeb Bush: Hillary Clinton's good intentions aren't enough to fix the economy // Yahoo News //
Jon Ward – July 17, 2015

SAN FRANCISCO – Jeb Bush walked out of the offices of a tech firm here Thursday surrounded by a crush of TV cameras and reporters, handed his iPhone 6 to the young aide who travels with him, Raul Henriquez, and asked him to call an Uber.

"You wanna turn this on and get our next car before it's illegal?" Bush said to Henriquez, a wry smirk on his face.

It was a crack meant to argue a larger point: that Hillary Clinton — if elected president — would be bad for Silicon Valley and the new tech-based economy.

Clinton doesn't oppose services like Uber, but she did raise questions about the nature of the "gig economy" in her first major policy speech earlier this week. The Uberization of many industries is "raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future," she said.

Clinton sought to position herself as the protector of the financially stressed worker in the new economy, but Bush, in an interview with Yahoo News, said that her approach would stifle innovation.

"Her approach and the approach of the progressive left in this country is all top-down," Bush said. "And if we're going to empower anybody, it ought to be the individuals that are striving for success."

Bush spoke exclusively with Yahoo News after touring Thumbtack, a 5-year-old company that builds software to connect self-employed workers and small businesses with customers who are looking for their services. During a tour of the building with Thumbtack's founders, he told them he had looked at their website and saw that it "works spectacularly." But he joked that he might not sign up for it, "because I've got this unique life I live now where I'm not sure I want a massage therapist coming to my house."

He later spoke to employees and answered questions from them on a range of topics, from protections for LGBT Americans to net neutrality to his record on gun laws while governor of Florida.

He dismissed Clinton's argument that economic growth must be paired with an emphasis on fairness for the greatest number of Americans to benefit. Clinton's speech was based on the idea that economic growth cannot happen without a middle class that feels secure, and that stagnation in wages — as well as the continued lack of family-friendly workplace policies such as paid maternity and sick leave — have left too many Americans feeling like they are one mishap away from falling into poverty.

She also has said she will crack down on companies that don't treat their employees fairly, and spoke in New Hampshire on Thursday about the need for companies to do more to share profits with their employees, though she has yet to give many specifics about how she would address the issues she has flagged.

Bush applauded the emphasis on greater growth and prosperity but argued that Clinton's approach would be counterproductive.

"Look, the best of intentions aren't going to be enough here. It's OK to say we want to fill the gaps, but every time you propose another rule, another requirement, another way to protect people, you make it harder and harder for people to rise up, you make it harder for the first rung of the ladder to be reached," he said.

Bush, like Clinton, has yet to go into great detail on how he would meet his target of 4 percent economic growth as president or what he means when he says that as president he would "start disrupting to create better services and empowering people to make more decisions for themselves." He plans to offer some details in a speech Monday in Tallahassee.

Though it looks like the age-old disagreement between government-centric liberals and free-market conservatives, their disagreement this week played out against the fresh backdrop of the new economic realities. Both Bush and Clinton are battling to seize the mantle of the forward-looking candidate of the future, casting the other as a figure stuck in the past and using the new language of the app-driven moment as they do it.

Clinton, during her speech on Monday, tagged Bush for supporting "trickle-down" economics and a Wild West type of economy in which the rich get richer and regular working-class Americans get left behind.

During his opening remarks to the employees at Thumbtack, Bush countered that expecting government action to fix what ails the economy was going about things backward.

"My personal belief is the interactions of all of us together in a fair and just society with as few rules as possible — not more rules, but fewer rules — will create more prosperity, more innovation, more benefits than the command-and-control, old approach of hierarchical regulations and large government trying to solve problems for us," Bush

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told the 100 or so Thumbtack employees.

Bush stood on the ground floor of the sleek, many-windowed Thumbtack offices in the hip South of Market neighborhood, next to a large, open kitchen, where a “culinary staff” fixes daily meals for employees. A few feet to his right, a refrigerator housed health drinks and water, but also bottles of craft beer such as Lagunitas IPA and Dogfish Head 90 Minute Imperial IPA.

“The government today in Washington looks more like General Motors in 1975. The government of the future needs to look more like Thumbtack, to be honest with you: lower cost, higher quality, focused on outcomes, really committed to the citizens — in your case the customers,” Bush said.

Democrats countered Thursday by hitting Bush on a series of social and cultural issues. A group created to support Clinton, Correct the Record, called him “stuck in the past” and “anti-Silicon Valley,” based on his positions or past statements on Obamacare (Bush opposes it), equal pay for women (he says he supports it but has shown a lack of familiarity with legislation on the topic), climate change (Bush believes it exists but does not think it is an imminent threat), gay marriage (he opposes it) and immigration (Bush favors a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants but not citizenship).

Asked about the support Uber’s founder, Travis Kalanick, has voiced for President Obama’s health care law, Bush said, “If Mr. Kalanick looked, if he was going to create the system that would be optimal for the people that are taking advantage of his platform, it would be one where there’s nonmandated exchanges, where you have the scale that comes from exchanges, but portability is the driver of it.

“And you have low-premium catastrophic coverage being the norm, and it goes with the person that has it,” Bush said.

Bush spoke forcefully against the deal struck between the U.S. government and the Iranian government to halt its development of a nuclear weapons program in exchange for lifting sanctions. He has already said this week that Obama should have insisted that Iran abandon, not delay, its march toward a bomb. But Obama has said that was not possible. Bush, however, said the painful economic sanctions the Obama administration cobbled together with international partners could have been sustained, despite the argument that many nations in the coalition would not have continued to hold off buying Iranian oil or trading with Tehran for much longer.

“You could have kept the pressure on through meaningful sanctions,” Bush said. “The sanctions that have been in existence now for a pretty long time were enhanced in the last five years, and had they been kept — with the lower energy prices that we were seeing — I think Iran eventually would have negotiated to where the United States wanted them to be,” he said.

“If they wanted to create a civilian nuclear program, fine. If they want to build, if they want to become a nuclear threshold state, no. And now they are, and we’ve legitimized them,” Bush said.

He added that he was outraged by the work of the Iranian government to arm and fund attacks on American troops in Iraq.

“We also have a situation that is deeply troubling to me, which is there’s blood on their hands with American military men and women in Iraq,” Bush said. “And to legitimize a regime that killed hundreds of American soldiers without any consequence, without any recognition that that’s something that should be troubling, is deeply disturbing to me.”

Bush disputed reports that he has been focused on prepping to respond to businessman Donald Trump in the primary debates that begin next month.

“I haven’t been preparing. But clearly he’s going to be in the debates. And I’m going to have to deal with it for sure. My guess is I’ll be a target, but it doesn’t bother me a bit,” Bush said.

Bush said that support for Trump is coming from Americans who are “legitimately angry” about the lack of immigration enforcement in sanctuary cities like San Francisco, where many local authorities do not turn over undocumented immigrants to federal law enforcement. A 32-year-old woman was shot to death last week in San Francisco by an immigrant who had already been deported five times.

“I totally respect and get why people are upset about this, completely. My heart goes out to the family of this precious, beautiful girl that was killed,” Bush said. “But we should solve this problem. This has been lingering now for how long? Immigration reform needs to start with border control and move on beyond that. I have solutions for these things.

“And my campaign will be about leadership, not about trying to prey on people’s fears, which I think is what Donald Trump is doing,” he said.

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Bush also said he would support the Pentagon if it decides to allow transgender Americans to serve in the military openly.

“The first priority ought to be the morale of the troops. So if you can accommodate people who are transgendered and deal with making sure the military is comfortable with this, and making sure that the overriding principle ought to be, ‘How do we create the highest morale for the greatest fighting force the world has ever seen?’ — if you can accommodate those two concerns, then fine,” he said.

Jeb Bush Says LGBT Non-Discrimination Should Be A States’ Rights Issue // Think Progress // Josh Israel – July 17, 2015

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush (R) no longer believes that it should be legal to discriminate against LGBT people in employment and housing — but he still does not back federal legislation to remedy the problem.

Bush was asked by a gay employee at a San Francisco tech startup he visited on Thursday about his position on legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, Time reported. Bush responded by denouncing discrimination in general, but also diminishing the need for legal protections and saying they should be only enacted at the state level.

“The fact that there wasn’t a law doesn’t necessarily mean you would have been discriminated against,” Bush told the worker. Studies have shown that between 15 percent and 43 percent of gay people have experienced some form of discrimination and harassment in the workplace and 90 percent of transgender workers reported experiencing some form of workplace harassment or mistreatment.

Bush then invoked the “religious liberty” argument made by anti-LGBT organizations, suggesting that while a florist should have to sell flowers to everyone, they should not be obligated to do so for a same-sex wedding.

Pressed on whether he would back new legislation to address the fact that 28 states lack laws protecting against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and 31 lack laws protecting against discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression, Bush suggested that this issue should not be a federal one. “I think this should be done state-by-state, I totally agree with that,” the former governor responded. In January, he made a similar “states rights” argument, suggesting that states should not be obligated to allow same-sex marriages.

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, of course, gives Congress the power to pass laws that regulate interstate commerce precisely to insure uniformity. The U.S. Senate passed an LGBT employment non-discrimination law in 2013, but House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) blocked it from getting a vote in the House of Representatives.

Over Bush’s eight years as governor of Florida, he consistently opposed LGBT protections in his own state. In 1994, he wrote that “we have enough special categories, enough victims, without creating even more,” and that “sodomy” should not “be elevated to the same constitutional status as race and religion,” comparing gay people with “polluters, pedophiles, pornographers, drunk drivers, and developers without proper permits.”

Earlier this year, Bush’s spokeswoman told BuzzFeed that his sentiment “from 20 years ago does not reflect Gov. Bush’s views now, nor would he use this terminology today.”

Jeb Bush 'should be embarrassed' by his overtime pay claims, economists say // The Guardian // Steven Greenhouse – July 17, 2015

Jeb Bush has created a flap with another statement about American workers. In an appearance in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on Tuesday, he said Barack Obama’s proposal to expand overtime pay to millions more managers and white-collar workers would result in “less overtime pay” and “less wages earned”.

Numerous economists attacked Bush’s statement, calling him woefully misinformed. And several studies on the rule contradict Bush’s assertion that the overtime rules would “lessen the number of people working”.

Daniel Hamermesh, a University of Texas labor economist, said: “He’s just 100% wrong,” adding that “there will be more overtime pay and more total earnings” and “there’s a huge amount of evidence employers will use more workers”.

Indeed, a Goldman Sachs study estimated that employers would hire 120,000 more workers in response to Obama’s overtime changes. And a similar study commissioned by the National Retail Federation – a fierce opponent of the proposed overtime rules – estimated that as a result of the new salary threshold, employers in the restaurant and retail industries would hire 117,500 new part-time workers. The study also warned that the overtime change could cost the increased US retail and restaurant industries $9.5bn a year, unless those industries made money-saving changes in response.

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During his remarks on Tuesday, Bush criticized Obama's proposed overtime rules, which would extend overtime coverage to managers earning below $50,440 a year. Under current rules, employers can deny overtime pay to "exempt" salaried managers earning more than $23,660 a year. This meant that a $25,000-a-year fast-food assistant manager working 60 hours a week might not receive any overtime pay. (US law generally requires time-and-a-half pay for all hours worked above 40 per week.)

"It's this prescribed top-down approach that is the wrong approach," Bush said. "The net effects of the overtime rule will be, if history is any guide, there will be less overtime paid, less wages earned."

Jared Bernstein, former chief economist for vice-president Joe Biden and a senior economist with the liberal Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, said employers might reduce the number of hours many managers work to minimize or avoid any overtime pay.

"If employers want to avoid overtime pay, they hire more workers on straight time and that creates new jobs," Bernstein said. "Even staunch opponents agree with that and disagree with Mr Bush."

In his Iowa remarks, Bush said the new rules would prohibit many bonuses. "If you want to give a bonus to a manager in your store or in your company, instead of requiring higher pay, this law won't allow it," he said.

Ross Eisenbrey, a vice-president of the Economic Policy Institute, a left-of-center research group, said: "Bush should be embarrassed about how misinformed he was." Eisenbrey said the proposed rules do nothing whatsoever to bar employers from paying bonuses. "All of that is exactly wrong – and pretty much nonsense," he said. Eisenbrey and Bernstein wrote a seminal article that helped persuade the Obama administration to change overtime rules.

Bush stumbled into hot water for another comment last week, when he said American workers "need to work longer hours" to earn more. When that statement was widely attacked by those pointing out that low-wage earners already work quite a bit, Bush insisted he was referring to part-time workers only. And many economists have said his statement that he could achieve 4% annual economic growth by increasing hours worked is pie in the sky.

According to the Labor Department, the new rules would expand overtime pay to 5 million additional workers and increase pay nationwide by at least $1.5bn a year.

Some conservative economists have argued, however, that the changes will result in no overall increase in earnings. They say companies would cut the salaries of exempt managers so that with their new overtime pay factored in, their compensation would remain unchanged.

Bernstein acknowledged that employers might reduce the base pay of some managers. But he added: "It's wholly unrealistic to think companies will go to 5 million managers and say 'We're cutting your pay.'

"There will definitely be more wages earned," he continued, "some by incumbent workers and some by new workers who will be working straight time."

Economists agree that many managers will be assigned less overtime because companies dislike paying time-and-a-half. The result: many managers will have more leisure time.

Michael Strain, a labor economist at the right-of-center American Enterprise Institute, sympathized with Bush's sentiments on the overtime rule. "In general what he seems to be saying is that this will place restrictions on firms, how they operate and how they structure their compensation packages," he said. "In some cases the impact will be positive, and in some cases, negative."

Strain acknowledged that the proposed changes could result in more employment – fast-food managers might have their hours cut to 40 a week from 60, and additional workers might be hired for 20 hours a week to handle some of their responsibilities.

Jeb Bush Is Beating Hillary Clinton in the Goldman Sachs Primary // Mother Jones // Russ Choma - July 17, 2015

Over the past three months, Goldman Sachs employees have donated more than $147,000 to Jeb Bush's presidential campaign, helping him to an early lead in what might be called the Goldman Sachs primary. But winning the biggest share of contributions from the controversial, economic-crash-enhancing investment firm isn't going to be a cakewalk for Bush. At least three other major presidential candidates—including Hillary Clinton, who has longstanding ties to the Wall Street giant—have bagged money from Goldman, with two of them using Goldman Sachs lobbyists to raise money for their campaigns.

Bush's biggest rival in the Goldman money chase is his fellow Floridian, Sen. Marco Rubio. Rubio's campaign

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snagged just over $60,000 from Goldman Sachs. And Rubio has a Goldman insider hitting up his own network of wealthy friends for contributions. One of the three registered lobbyists bundling donations for Rubio is Joe Wall, a vice-president for government affairs at Goldman Sachs. Wall has so far reported bundling more than $90,000 for Rubio.

Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, places third in in the Goldman sweepstakes. Her campaign reported raising at least $49,000 from Goldman Sachs donors. Like Rubio, she has a registered Goldman Sachs lobbyist drumming up donations on her behalf. According to the campaign's filings, Steve Elmendorf, a major name on K Street, has bundled more than $141,000 for Clinton. Elmendorf's many clients include Churchill Downs, the NFL, and the Human Rights Campaign—and Goldman Sachs. Clinton also has a history of raising big bucks from Goldman-ites. In 2008, her presidential campaign brought in more than $407,000 from the firm.

At the back of this pack is Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), who has raised a mere $10,100 from Goldman Sachs employee. That's something of a surprise, given that Cruz has a personal connection to the bank. His wife, Heidi Nelson Cruz, is a managing director at Goldman Sachs, though she has taken unpaid leave from the bank for the duration of her husband's campaign. Even so, Cruz's senatorial campaign previously raised $69,000 from Goldman Sachs employees, making the investment bank the fourth largest source of cash for the campaign that brought him to Washington and the national stage.

Among the other top-tier candidates, neither Rand Paul nor Bernie Sanders had any identifiable donations from a Goldman Sachs. (Scott Walker hasn't filed any campaign disclosure forms yet.)

RUBIO

Pro-Rubio PAC Reserves South Carolina Airtim e in Primary Lead-Up // Bloom berg // Ben Brody – July 17, 2015

A political action committee supporting Florida Senator Marco Rubio's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination have bought nearly a quarter-million dollars in ad time in South Carolina in the weeks preceding its key 2016 primary, filings with the Federal Communications Commission show.

Conservative Solutions PAC executed its buys between Tuesday and Thursday, revealing part of the PAC's far-reaching media strategy even as the Rubio campaign announced lackluster fundraising results.

That strategy, detailed in FCC filings aggregated by the transparency project Political Ad Sleuth, show an aggressive push in South Carolina, which traditionally hosts the nation's third nominating event, after the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary. The primary, which is likely to take place February 20, 2016, is considered a Republican bellwether. The state's voters often have picked the party's eventual nominee.

The PAC executed the "significant pre-buy" to make sure it could get airtime at the end of 2015 and "ensure efficient use of resources," said Jeff Sadosky, an adviser to the PAC, in an email.

The group's ad buyer, Target Enterprises of California, reveals in communications attached to the filings that it plans to target viewers over age 55 in "all markets" in the three primary states, as well as some in adjacent states, at the end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016.

Although Conservative Solutions is a super PAC that legally can't coordinate with the Rubio campaign, shorthand used in some of the ad paperwork refers to the group as as "Rubio PAC." Conservative Solutions PAC has said it raised more than $16 million through June 30.

PACs and campaigns are generally not allowed to coordinate strategy or spending, meaning a PAC, which can accept unlimited donations, can give a bump to a candidate whose campaign is otherwise fundraising less successfully. In 2012, a single mega-donor, casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, largely propelled former House Speaker Newt Gingrich to a win in the South Carolina primary through huge donations despite issues in the campaign.

The specific pro-Rubio ads that will appear don't appear to have been determined, but the time has been paid for, with 286 spots for January and February, mostly during news shows, costing $244,000.

Conservative Solutions is making reservations so far out that some stations aren't ready to accept them yet. An worksheet for a 27-spot, $36,000 buy at station WYFF an NBC affiliate in Greenville, South Carolina carries a station employee's note that the "order has not been accepted at this time" and will be reevaluated "at a date closer to the election."

Rubio: Iran deal without release of Americans 'unacceptable' // The Hill // Jordain Carney – July

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Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) slammed the administration on Friday for agreeing to an Iran nuclear deal that didn't include the release of three Americans currently held in the country, calling the agreement "unacceptable."

The Florida Republican and 2016 presidential contender sent a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry that said he was "disturbed" their release wasn't part of the agreement. He pressed Kerry to "use every tool at your disposal to secure their freedom."

"It is unacceptable that the United States has reached a final agreement with Iran while innocent Americans languish in the most brutal conditions of Iranian jail cells," wrote Rubio, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. "I am disturbed by how the administration has missed an opportunity to make the freedom of these Americans a priority in your negotiations with Iran."
The administration has repeatedly argued that the release of Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian, Saeed Abedini and Amir Hekmati, as well as getting the Iranian government to help locate former FBI agent Robert Levinson, is an important but separate matter from the talks on Iran's nuclear program.

But Rubio pointed to non-nuclear parts of the deal, which include the ability to lift the arms embargo for conventional weapons after five years, saying that Iran got "non-nuclear concessions... that will aid its efforts to sow terror and instability throughout the Middle East."
Friday's letter is hardly the first time the Florida Republican has pressed the administration about guaranteeing the release of the Americans currently held in Iran.

In a letter to Kerry in March, Rubio and 18 other Senate Republicans pushed Kerry to "demand their unconditional release as you engage in discussion with Iranian officials."

Rubio, and other Republicans, tried to tie the release of the Americans to the review legislation passed overwhelmingly earlier this year, but were ultimately unsuccessful.

Democrats warned that if that or other "poison pill" amendments had been successful, it could have either killed the legislation, or derailed the nuclear talks.

Cuba celebrating reopening of D.C. embassy; Marco Rubio shouldn't wait for invite // Fox News Latino – July 17, 2015

Havana – Cuba announced details of the ceremony that will mark the reopening of its embassy in Washington, D.C. after more than 50 years of Cold War enmity.

The current Cuban Interests Section on 16th Street in the Adams Morgan neighborhood will become the Cuban Embassy on July 20, an occasion for which a delegation of some 30 people – headed by the island's foreign minister, Bruno Rodríguez – are traveling from Havana.

"The reopening of the embassy," Gustavo Machin, assistant director for North America at the Cuban Foreign Ministry, told a group of reporters in Havana on Thursday, "will be a significant event. After 54 years of broken relations, the Cuban flag will be raised again."

The date of any similar celebration at the American Embassy in Havana is still to be announced. Secretary of State John Kerry, who will meet with Rodríguez during his trip, is expected to be on hand for the Havana event.

Machin said that Rodríguez and about 30 Cuban officials – which will include former diplomats and representatives of sectors such as culture, education, health care and science, along with other organizations and the Cuban Council of Churches.

Also attending the ceremony will be around 500 people in the United States – members of Congress, NGOs, businessmen, representatives of activist groups with an interest in the island and members of various U.S. churches.

Asked whether Cuban-American lawmakers like Sen. Marco Rubio and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen who fervently oppose normalizing relations with Cuba, were expected at Monday's ceremony, he said, "No, they aren't invited."

"You don't invite into your home people who want to harm you," he added.

Machin said that the ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. and Rodríguez – the first Cuban foreign minister to visit the United States in more than half a century – will deliver the main speech.

With the re-establishment of diplomatic ties, the current heads of the Cuban and U.S. Interests Sections, José Ramón Cabañas and Jeffrey DeLaurentis, respectively, will become charges d'affaires until the two countries

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name ambassadors.

Marco Rubio to John Kerry: 'Unacceptable' that Iran deal reached with Americans still in jail // Washington Times // David Sherfinski - July 17, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida has written a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry saying it is "unacceptable" the United States has reached an agreement on Iran's nuclear program "while innocent Americans languish in the most brutal conditions of Iranian jail cells."

"I am profoundly disappointed that the agreement with Iran did not ensure the unconditional release of American citizens: Jason Rezaian, Pastor Saeed Abedini and Amir Hekmati, as well as any progress in obtaining information about the fate of my constituent former FBI agent Robert Levinson," wrote Mr. Rubio, a 2016 GOP presidential candidate, in a letter dated July 17.

Mr. Kerry said Friday morning on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that "there was not a meeting that took place, not one meeting that took place — believe me, that's not an exaggeration — where we did not raise the issue of our American citizens being held."

"And in fact, it was the last conversation that I had with the foreign minister at the Vienna center right before we went out publicly," Mr. Kerry said. "We remain very, very hopeful that Iran will make a decision to do the right thing and to return those citizens to the United States, and we are consistently, constantly even now continuing to work on that."

Rubio calls for more intelligence efforts // Des Moines Register // Mackenzie Ryan – July 17, 2015

SIOUX CITY, Ia. – A day after four Marines were gunned down in Tennessee, Marco Rubio warned of the threats of radical jihadists — and called for more intelligence measures to root out and stop domestic terrorism plots.

"This country has lost access to valuable intelligence at a time when we can least afford it, and yesterday is an example of it," the Florida senator said Friday in Sioux City.

"There are people living inside the United States, some whom have never even left this country, who are being radicalized online. Radicalized not to crash a plane into a building. Radicalized to take a gun and kill four Marines at a recruitment station," Rubio said. "And that's the one we know about."

Rubio warned that there are hundreds of such plots, and that probably not all will be disrupted.

"This is a real risk," he said. "Radical jihadists have reached our own country, and they are reaching it online and they are radicalizing people here. And we need to know as much about them as possible to prevent future attacks, or we're going to have more of them."

Rubio said that concerns about domestic intelligence gathering — sometimes criticized as an overreach and an invasion of privacy — are unfounded.

"When you hear of people out there telling you that the government is spying and listening to your phone calls, No. 1, I promise you, that isn't true," Rubio said. "I'm a member of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee. For the last four years I've had access to the most sensitive information available to the government. I promise you, if someone is doing that, they should be prosecuted."

Rubio also said terrorists have been allowed to organize in Libya, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The more territory they control, the more money they will have. And the more money they will have, the more they'll be able to attack and the more they'll be able to crucify children and sell women into slavery and behead Christians," he said. "These are real risks, and that's just one of the risks we face."

Rubio also cited threats posed by Russia, China and Iran — going so far as saying that the United States is on the "verge of Cold War II."

"The next president of the United States has to be someone that's committed to continuing to have the strongest military in the world, not one that's undertaking dramatic cuts," Rubio said. "The next president of the United States has to be committed to intelligence programs, to cyber defense capabilities, someone that's committed to a strong foreign policy in which our allies trust us."

Thursday's attack "reminded us of how dangerous the world has become," Rubio said. But he also said the United States — with the right leaders and right policies — can rise to the challenge.

"These are our challenges, and they are a lot," Rubio said. "But here's the good news: There's isn't a country in the

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world that I would trade places with."

AT THE EVENT

SETTING: Lunch at Uncle Buck's Grill in the Bass Pro Shops in Council Bluffs, a town hall at McCarthy & Bailey's in Sioux City and a visit to the Decker Truck Line in Fort Dodge.

CROWD: About 60 people in Council Bluffs drew a mix of Iowa and Nebraska residents, and more than 100 people attended in Sioux City, where it was standing-room only.

REACTION: The audience was friendly in Sioux City, and applauded multiple times, but asked pointed questioned about immigration, abortion and cyber security.

WHAT'S NEXT: Rubio will speak at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames at 10:20 a.m. Saturday.

PAUL

Signs of Stress Build for Rand Paul Campaign // WSJ // Reid J. Epstein - July 17, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul had counted on building from the grass-roots base of his father, former Rep. Ron Paul, and winning enough support from the Republican mainstream to compete for the party's 2016 presidential nomination.

Instead, the Kentucky lawmaker is slipping in the polls, lagging in fundraising and losing some of his father's loyalists over foreign-policy disagreements. Campaign metrics suggest he's no longer a first-tier candidate after falling behind the front-runners on all those measures.

The crowded Republican field—Ohio Gov. John Kasich will be the 16th major candidate when he announces his campaign next week—and Donald Trump's surge in recent polls have made it tougher for Mr. Paul to win media attention. No billionaire donor has emerged to singularly fund his super PAC, leaving Mr. Paul more dependent than any other GOP candidate on small donors.

Paul campaign officials said they are meeting their fundraising goals and are satisfied with their current standing in the polls because he is still among the top candidates in Iowa and New Hampshire, home to the nation's first two nominating contests. Though Mr. Paul has lost ground in national polling, he remains likely to qualify for the first two presidential debates. Those platforms will give a broad audience of voters an unfiltered look at their candidate. Mr. Paul's aides declined to make him available for an interview.

Like his father, Mr. Paul finds the sort of schmoozing required to court big donors unpleasant. While his top rivals spent the past year making inroads with wealthy Republicans who are now helping their campaigns, Mr. Paul didn't. "He finds the fundraising distasteful and hasn't put in the investment," said a source familiar with Mr. Paul's political operation.

The result was a second-quarter fundraising number that has Mr. Paul looking more like his father's idealistic-but-doomed-to-lose campaign than a serious contender for the nomination.

He raised $2.1 million in this year's second quarter from donors who gave $200 or more, less than the $2.3 million his father received in same period in 2012. Mr. Paul also transferred $1.6 million from his Senate campaign accounts to boost his total fundraising to $6.9 million.

"Rand Paul should be doing much better," conservative pundit Erick Erickson wrote Thursday. "He actually has positions that set him apart from the GOP field. He has a built in base of support from his father. But remarkably it appears Rand Paul will be less a factor on 2016 than his dad was in 2012."

Mr. Paul's campaign maintains it is less critical for him to match the fundraising pace set by others because of his small-donor base. That was the bright spot in his financial disclosure report that showed he received $3.2 million from donors who gave less than $200. That is about $1 million more than his father raised during the same period four years ago from an army of small donors who ultimately generated $41 million for his 2012 race.

"Rand's fundraising surged with grass-roots supporters because average Americans know he's the candidate who will stand up to the Washington machine. His median donation was $25 because he's funded by Main Street, not the special interests," said Chip Englander, Mr. Paul's campaign manager.

Still, with such a crowded field, competition for even the smallest checks is fierce. Rand Paul's take was $2.5 million less than that of retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who began his campaign a month after Mr. Paul did.

Drew Ivers, who was the Iowa chairman for Ron Paul's 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns, is uncommitted so far in the 2016 race. He said Rand Paul has lost a substantial portion of his father's following because he has deviated from his father's isolationist foreign-policy view.

While Ron Paul backs the nuclear agreement with Iran, Rand Paul is opposed. Ron Paul called for decreasing military spending; Rand Paul is for increasing the military's budget. Ron Paul blames the U.S. and European powers for the troubles in Ukraine; Rand Paul last year wrote an op-ed in Time magazine saying "Putin must be punished."

"Rand needs to be articulating the negatives of our foreign policy. But he has chosen not to articulate that," Mr. Ivers said. "These kinds of things would energize his base but he has moved away from them."

While other candidates saw their standings jump after formally entering the campaign, Mr. Paul didn't after his

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April announcement. The Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll last month found 45% of Republican primary voters couldn't see themselves backing Mr. Paul, the third-most negative reading in the survey behind Mr. Trump and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie .
He's also seen a steep drop in other polls. Mr. Paul was drawing support in double figures throughout 2014. His support now is consistently below 10%, and a USA Today poll released this week showed him at just 4% among likely 2016 Republican primary voters
Mr. Paul is tied for second in Iowa with Mr. Bush in the Real Clear Politics polling average. The same measure of New Hampshire polls shows Mr. Paul in fourth place.
"He is going to have to change something in order to turn his campaign around," Mr. Ivers said. "Right now there doesn't appear to be a recognition by his national staff of the need to correct course."
Paul campaign officials declined to respond to those comments.

Rand Paul may hold up highway bill over Planned Parenthood // Politico // Heather Caygle - July 17, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul is the latest lawmaker to throw a wrench into delicate transportation bill negotiations, suggesting he might hold up the legislation over the controversial Planned Parenthood video that surfaced this week.
The Kentucky Republican and presidential candidate released multiple statements Friday promising to use "all legislative vehicles" to "defeat and defund Planned Parenthood" next week. The statements on his Senate and campaign websites don't directly mention the pending highway and transit legislation, but it is the next big-ticket item on the Senate's to-do list, with a procedural vote set for Tuesday.
"The recent revelation that this taxpayer-funded organization is selling body parts of the unborn further proves that this agency deserves our scorn not our tax dollars," he said in a statement. "I plan to do whatever I can to stop them and will introduce an amendment to pending Senate legislation to immediately strip every dollar of Planned Parenthood funding."
Paul is just the latest Republican to weigh in on the controversy, which has riled up the GOP base after abortion-rights opponents released an undercover video that allegedly shows an executive of the health care nonprofit talking about the sale of fetal tissue from terminated pregnancies.
Planned Parenthood has denounced the video as "heavily edited" and says the executive was talking about donations of fetal tissue for medical research, and adds that the organization does not profit from the donations.
But the group has also apologized for the lack of "compassion" the executive showed in the video, in which she's shown eating salad and drinking wine while discussing dollar figures.
Other GOP lawmakers have threatened to hold up the infrastructure bill over concerns that Democrats will use it as a vehicle to bring back the Export-Import Bank.

Rand Paul Campaign: Christie's Chattanooga Shooting Comments "False," "Shameful" // Buzzfeed // Christopher Massie – July 17, 2015

The chief strategist for Rand Paul's presidential campaign told BuzzFeed News on Friday that Chris Christie's comments linking Paul's position on government surveillance to the shootings in Chattanooga, Tennessee were "disgusting," "shameful", and patently false."

The New Jersey governor and Republican presidential candidate said Thursday's shooting in Tennessee that left four Marines dead was an example of "why I've been arguing against the rollbacks in our intelligence capability that Senator Paul has advocated for."

Asked for comment, Doug Stafford of Paul's campaign said it was "disgusting" for Christie "to seek to use a tragedy like this."

"From transportation to national security, Gov. Christie has a long record of political stunts and cheap shots," Stafford wrote in an e-mail. "It is disgusting for him to seek to use a tragedy like this to launch a shameful and patently false attack."

Paul vows push to defund Planned Parenthood next week // The Hill // Peter Sullivan - July 17, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said Friday that he will demand a vote next week on defunding Planned Parenthood after a viral video, setting up a possible fight on the issue.
A statement from Paul's office says that he will "use all legislative vehicles at his disposal" and the timeframe is the "coming week."
That declaration raises the prospect that Paul, a presidential candidate, could seek to attach the measure to must-pass legislation like an extension of the federal highway program ahead of the July 31 deadline.
Democrats are sure to seek to block attempts to cut off federal funding for Planned Parenthood.
However, Republicans think they have momentum after the release of the video this week, which shows a Planned Parenthood executive candidly discussing the donation of fetal organs.
The group's president, Cecile Richards, apologized for the official's tone on Thursday, but defended the group's actions. She said the group helps with the donation of fetal tissue for medical research, does not profit from it, and follows the law.

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Republicans, though, have strongly denounced the video and are planning to move up the timeline for a 20-week abortion ban in the Senate after the August recess.
"The continued disregard and disrespect for human life at Planned Parenthood, a partially taxpayer-funded organization, is shocking and appalling," Paul said. "Recent video revelations, involving potentially criminal activity, make it more obvious than ever that this organization has absolutely zero respect for the sanctity of human life and is an affront to the most basic human dignity enshrined in our founding documents."
He vowed to cut off federal funding.
"Not one more taxpayer dollar should go to Planned Parenthood and I intend to make that goal a reality," he said.
'What the hell happened to Rand Paul?' // MSNBC // Anthony Terrell and Mark Murray - July 17, 2015

Just a year ago, if he wasn't considered a leading prospective presidential candidate, he certainly was an interesting one — given his libertarianism and less-hawkish views on foreign policy. But now that the presidential contest is well under way, Rand Paul has gone missing — both figuratively and literally — from a big part of the 2016 conversation.
"What the hell happened to Rand Paul?" asked prominent conservative writer Erick Erickson.
But Paul's campaign team argues that this absence from the campaign conversation is by design — to play the long delegate game, and to avoid sharing the crowded space with other Republican presidential candidates.
For Paul, there have been two kinds of absences. The first has been away from the candidate "cattle calls" other presidential hopefuls have attended.
For instance, back in June, seven GOP hopefuls (Scott Walker, Marco Rubio, Rick Perry, Mike Huckabee, Ben Carson, Carly Fiorina, Lindsey Graham) were in Iowa attending Senator Joni Ernst's Roast and Ride, but Paul ditched the event to be in New Hampshire to host four "Stand with Rand" meet and greets across the Granite State.
Later in the month, Walker, Perry, Huckabee, Carson, Santorum, Pataki were in Colorado at the Western Conservative Summit, but Paul was fundraising and meeting with winners of his campaign's "Hackathon" in Monterey, California.
And this Saturday, Paul will be a no-show — again — at the Family Leader summit in Iowa, where Walker, Rubio, Carson, Ted Cruz, Huckabee and Donald Trump will speak. Instead, Paul will be attending a fundraiser in Houston.
Why the different campaign scheduling? According to multiple conversations with the Paul campaign, the candidate is playing the long delegate game — thus campaigning in states beyond the early contests of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.
Indeed, advisers point to his non-traditional campaign stops in Michigan, Colorado, Illinois and California.
The second absence for Paul has been away from the political conversation of the day, especially on subjects tricky for the libertarian-leaning candidate who wants to reach out to minorities, and who holds less hawkish foreign-policy views in an increasingly hawkish Republican Party.
He was late to weigh in on removing the Confederate flag from South Carolina's statehouse grounds (he eventually said it should be removed); on the Supreme Court's opinion legalizing gay marriage (he eventually said government shouldn't be in the marriage business at all); and on President Obama's Iran nuclear deal (he eventually said he opposed it).
Yet Paul's team says its strategy is standing apart from the pack. While the responses to various events from rival Republican candidates get lumped together in articles and television segments, the campaign believes that Paul's responses (despite being delayed) get their own coverage — without having to share the page or screen time with rivals.
It also stresses that there's an advantage to taking time to respond to complicated issues.
"No one takes bolder stands than Senator Rand Paul," said Doug Stafford, the Paul campaign's chief strategist. "Whether it's scrapping the entire tax code, taking on the Washington machine, filibustering for his principles, Sen. Rand Paul has led on issue after issue during his time in DC."
Stafford added, "He also believes in being thoughtful, reading bills or decisions, and generally not reducing complicated policy matters to knee-jerk reactions or bumper-sticker solutions. There's something to be said for making sure he has both the right diagnosis and prescription on an issue, instead of racing to see who can tweet about it first."
Still, maybe Paul's biggest challenge in the GOP presidential field is being considered a more dovish foreign-policy candidate in an increasingly hawkish Republican Party.
In fact, an April NBC News/Wall Street Journal found that the top priority for national GOP primary voters was national security and terrorism — ahead of job creation and the deficit.
"The issue set for him hasn't been good," said a GOP operative from a rival campaign. "More than health care, the president's record on foreign policy is one thing that really unifies Republicans."
In other words, a Rand Paul in the Age of ISIS might not have the same punch inside his party that Paul in the Age of Edward Snowden did back in 2013 and 2014.
Rand Paul — Missing in Action? // NBC // Anthony Terrell and Mark Murray – July 17, 2015

Remember Rand Paul?

Just a year ago, if he wasn't considered a leading prospective presidential candidate, he certainly was an interesting one -- given his libertarianism and less-hawkish views on foreign policy.

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But now that the presidential contest is well under way, Rand Paul has gone missing -- both figuratively and literally -- from a big part of the 2016 conversation.

"What the hell happened to Rand Paul?" asked prominent conservative writer Erick Erickson.

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And this Saturday, Paul will be a no-show -- again -- at the Family Leader summit in Iowa, where Walker, Rubio, Carson, Ted Cruz, Huckabee and Donald Trump will speak. Instead, Paul is campaigning Friday in Houston.

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Still, maybe Paul's biggest challenge in the GOP presidential field is being considered a more dovish foreign-policy candidate in an increasingly hawkish Republican Party.

In fact, an April NBC News/Wall Street Journal found that the top priority for national GOP primary voters was national security and terrorism -- ahead of job creation and the deficit.

"The issue set for him hasn't been good," said a GOP operative from a rival campaign. "More than health care, the president's record on foreign policy is one thing that really unifies Republicans."

In other words, a Rand Paul in the Age of ISIS might not have the same punch inside his party that Paul in the Age of Edward Snowden did back in 2013 and 2014.

Rand Paul: "We Have Had No Shortage Of Money" // Buzzfeed // Rosie Gray – July 17, 2015

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HOUSTON — Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul downplayed his lackluster fundraising on Friday, arguing that he is polling well and that his campaign has "plenty of money."

"We're raising plenty of money and I think there'll be a crescendo as we get into debates and can separate ourselves from the others," Paul said in an interview with BuzzFeed News after a campaign rally in downtown Houston. "We have had no shortage of money."

Paul's campaign reported $6.9 million raised in the latest fundraising totals released after the FEC's second quarter deadline. The main super PAC supporting his bid has not yet released its numbers. By contrast, rival candidate Ted Cruz has raised $14 million and Marco Rubio $12 million. While Jeb Bush raised just $11 million for his campaign itself, his super PAC raised a staggering $100 million.

The disappointing haul has been taken as a sign that Paul's iconoclastic bid has stopped creating as much buzz as it once did. "What the hell happened to Rand Paul?" conservative writer Erick Erickson wrote this week. "Rand Paul should be doing much better. He actually has a good story. He actually has positions that set him apart from the GOP field. He has a built in base of support from his father. But remarkably it appears Rand Paul will be less a factor on 2016 than his dad was in 2012."

NBC News led with the following on a story about Paul on Friday: "Remember Rand Paul?"

There are hopeful signs for Paul in the money race, particularly when it comes to grassroots support. Nearly half of his total — $3.2 million — came from small-dollar donors giving $200 or less.

"There's something to be said for having hundreds of thousands of donors that are small donors who can give again," Paul told BuzzFeed News. "When I ran for Senate I had someone who gave me thirteen dollars and 66 cents every two weeks for two years. So I've had people who are working class, making thirty, forty thousand dollars a year, become a maximum donor by giving a little bit out of each check.

"We have a really committed crowd," Paul said. "On a workday here, we have 800 people, which is pretty impressive."

However, Paul hasn't been able to bag a benevolent moneyman like the other top tier candidates. His network has looked to Silicon Valley as a potential fount of big money, but so far, key potential donors like Peter Thiel and Sean Parker haven't come through. And his positions on national security alienate the pro-Israel donor class from considering him.

Paul believes he's doing well regardless.

"We actually think we're in a great place," he said. "In poll after poll after poll we've been in the top tier. We've led some national polls, they go up and down, there's a new leader each week."

Paul is in Texas, his home state, this weekend for the rally in Houston and fundraisers and private meetings.

In wake of video, Paul renews call to cut off Planned Parenthood funding // USA Today // Tom Loftus - July 17, 2015

Responding to a controversial video released by an anti-abortion group this week, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul on Friday renewed his call to end federal funding of Planned Parenthood.
"The recent revelation that this taxpayer-funded organization is selling body parts of the unborn further proves that this agency deserves our scorn, not our tax dollars," Paul said in a news release from his presidential campaign. His Senate office released a similar statement.
Paul's statements refer to a video released by the California-based Center for Medical Progress that show a Planned Parenthood official talking about parts of aborted fetuses. The Center for Medical Progress says the video documents that Planned Parenthood sells fetal tissue for profit.
But Planned Parenthood says the charge is false. "The allegation that Planned Parenthood profits in any way from tissue donation is not true. Our donation programs, like any other high quality health care provider's, follow all laws and ethical guidelines," said Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, says in statement posted on the Planned Parenthood website.
Richards apologized for the tone of comments made in the video by a Planned Parenthood official – a tone she said that does not reflect "the compassionate care that we provide."
Paul joins a chorus of conservative elected officials who have denounced Planned Parenthood because of the controversial video. Paul said that next week he will introduce an amendment to pending legislation "to immediately strip every dollar of Planned Parenthood funding." He said Planned Parenthood received about $528 million in taxpayer funding in 2013-14.

After sagging in fundraising, Rand Paul 2.0 reboots campaign // Los Angeles Times // Lisa Mascaro - July 17, 2015

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When Rand Paul began charting his presidential run, the Ray-Ban-wearing senator and heir apparent to a libertarian legacy rebranded himself to suit more mainstream Republican tastes.

He rejected his famous father's isolationist foreign policy, voted for more military spending and even campaigned in front of an aircraft carrier. He invited a Christian broadcasting network into his home and spoke against gay marriage, famously pronouncing himself "libertarian-ish."

But it turned out that Rand Paul 2.0 had a glitch: Appeal was limited.

After flatlining in the polls and lagging rivals in fundraising, Paul's campaign heeded a market lesson repeatedly applied in American politics. They brought back the original.

The Kentucky senator has pivoted back to his familiar stomping grounds among the outliers of Republican politics.

In May he infuriated some fellow Republicans by delivering a 10½-hour speech to protest Patriot Act provisions on NSA domestic spying. Last month he became the first presidential candidate to openly court money from the legalized marijuana industry and shared a moment with Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, known for his standoff with federal agents in 2014 and for his divisive comments about minorities.

"Out of necessity he's moving back to his base, which is a sign the strategy he adopted was the wrong strategy," said Aaron Day, chairman of the New Hampshire chapter of the Republican Liberty Caucus, a nationwide libertarian-leaning organization within the GOP. "He needs the grass-roots — and they know this now."

Rand's campaign denied any rebooting of his message or positions, and insisted that he never intended to replicate the campaigns of his father, the former Texas GOP congressman and presidential candidate Ron Paul. "There has been no change, no pivot," said campaign manager Chip Englander. "He has the same view he's always had."

But as Paul tried to navigate a more crowd-pleasing course, he ended up in no-man's land, disappointing core activists while failing to generate enthusiasm from the party's mainstream.

The result left him "on an island," said one strategist from a rival Republican campaign who did not want to be identified speaking about Paul. "He's played this footsie game with … the establishment for so long and you can see him make this pivot back."

The challenge now facing Paul in the crowded GOP field is whether he can reignite the spark among libertarians who feel betrayed by his shifts, without alienating those Republicans potentially receptive to his call for limited government.

"That's the line he has to walk here," said Tom Rath, a Republican strategist in New Hampshire. "He strays too far and you get people saying, 'Who are you?'"

The stakes are even higher as other candidates pile into the race, eager to portray Paul's libertarian-leaning views as extreme. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, in particular, is targeting Paul on the campaign trail, saying the senator's filibuster-like maneuver, which temporarily prevented the National Security Agency from accessing Americans' telephone records, resulted in a dangerous surveillance lapse that put the country at risk.

Fundraising for Paul has been lackluster, especially because his team has not lassoed a big-dollar donor like the billionaires bankrolling other candidates.

The campaign reported $7 million for the quarter ended June 30, compared with about $14 million for Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), $12 million for Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and $11 million for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. A "super PAC" backing Paul had hoped that his marathon Patriot Act speech would produce a high-value Silicon Valley donor, but one has failed to materialize.

So, while outside groups for Bush pushed his overall second-quarter haul to more than $114 million, followed by Cruz at $52 million and Rubio at $44 million, the main super PAC supporting Paul has not yet released its fundraising totals.

Paul's campaign acknowledges that his libertarian base is his top priority even as he tries to build a new coalition, much the way President Obama turned out first-time younger voters and minorities. That means that even as Paul popped into a West Michigan happy hour with tea party Congressman Justin Amash, he also spent time in Detroit with African American civic leaders, "taking our message to places where the GOP usually doesn't go," said campaign spokesman Sergio Gor.

With 15 GOP candidates already in the race, Paul's campaign is betting it's better to be loved by a few than liked by many, particularly in a fractured field.

But recapturing the imagination of libertarian-leaning voters who have grown skeptical of Paul is proving more difficult. In New Hampshire, a state that Paul's campaign hopes will catapult his bid, the liberty caucus leaders are openly fretting that celebrity candidate Donald Trump has emerged as a top of choice for many in their wing, a concern also raised by some in Nevada, once prime Paul territory.

Paul's May talk-a-thon against the government's surveillance program went a long way toward restoring his appeal and reenergize fans, and his new flat-tax proposal could please both mainstream and tea party camps in the GOP.

But his June marijuana industry fundraiser in Denver, where pot entrepreneurs paid a minimum of $2,700 to hear him speak, may not go over well with Republicans in Iowa, who tend to be more socially conservative. His friendly rapport with rancher Bundy — who once speculated that "the Negro" was better off under slavery — could give voters pause in other states.

"There's going to be some trickiness in satisfying everyone who was your father's supporter," said Craig Robinson, a former Iowa Republican Party political director who now runs a popular blog. "When you start going down those libertarian rabbit trails too far, it's going to be trouble."

Polling shows that Paul still ranks in the top 10 among the Republican presidential hopefuls; he tied for second behind Trump earlier this month in an Economist/YouGov poll. His campaign points to other surveys showing him competitive with Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton, beating her in Iowa in a Quinnipiac

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University poll shortly after he announced his candidacy in April.
Nick Gillespie, editor of the libertarian Reason.com, said Paul does best when he stakes out classic libertarian positions to distinguish himself from the other candidates.
"All of the moments where he stands out — where he captures not just the political imagination, but the public American imagination — are the most libertarian," Gillespie said.
Paul to host Houston rally, book signing today // Chron // Rebecca Elliott - July 17, 2015

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul is bringing his presidential campaign to Houston Friday, where he's set to host a "Stand with Rand" rally and book signing.
According to his campaign, Paul will address "the importance of protecting the entire Bill of Rights, and being boldly for conservative ideals that limit the power of the Washington Machine."
The first-term senator from Kentucky, a Texas native , will also be fundraising while in Houston.
Paul's rally begins at 2:45 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency, downtown.
Rand Paul Bringing Abortion Politics to Highway Bill Debate // Roll Call // Niels Lesniewski - July 17, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul appears to be plotting to bring the debate over abortion to the highway bill.
The Kentucky Republican's presidential campaign said Friday he would be seeking an amendment vote on blocking federal funding for Planned Parenthood next week.
"The recent revelation that this taxpayer-funded organization is selling body parts of the unborn further proves that this agency deserves our scorn not our tax dollars. I plan to do whatever I can to stop them and will introduce an amendment to pending Senate legislation to immediately strip every dollar of Planned Parenthood funding," Paul said in a campaign statement.
The pending business before the Senate next week is a bipartisan surface transportation bill, a measure expected to be open for amendment. And unlike the House, the Senate has no general germaneness requirement, so Paul should have the opportunity to at least make a stand to get his vote.
"The continued disregard and disrespect for human life at Planned Parenthood, a partially taxpayer-funded organization, is shocking and appalling," Paul said through his Senate office. "Recent video revelations, involving potentially criminal activity, make it more obvious than ever that this organization has absolutely zero respect for the sanctity of human life and is an affront to the most basic human dignity enshrined in our founding documents. Not one more taxpayer dollar should go to Planned Parenthood and I intend to make that goal a reality."
Paul's Senate office said the Kentuckian was prepared to use any available procedural tools to ensure his measure gets a vote on the floor.
While Paul's views are often described as libertarian, he has consistently opposed abortion rights. The new push comes in response to a video from the anti-abortion advocacy group Center for Medical Progress about what Planned Parenthood has done with organs and tissue from aborted fetuses — something that's received a flurry of attention on Capitol Hill.
Another Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, is the lead sponsor of the Senate's legislation to bar abortions after 20 weeks into a pregnancy. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell , R-Ky., pledged in June that the measure would get a vote before the Senate, but no action has been scheduled.
Rand Paul to mount fight to defund Planned Parenthood // Washington Times // David Sherfinski - July 17, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky is planning a push next week to fully ban federal funding for Planned Parenthood, with his office saying the 2016 GOP presidential contender will use "all legislative vehicles at his disposal" to ensure immediate action.
"I am more appalled than ever by Planned Parenthood's complete disregard for the sanctity of human life," Mr. Paul said. "The recent revelation that this taxpayer-funded organization is selling body parts of the unborn further proves that this agency deserves our scorn, not our tax dollars.
"I plan to do whatever I can to stop them and will introduce an amendment to pending Senate legislation to immediately strip every dollar of Planned Parenthood funding," he said.
Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, has apologized after an undercover video was released earlier this week showing Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director of medical services at Planned Parenthood, describe how she performs abortions to preserve fetal organs.
Ms. Richards also defended the practice of fetal tissue donation and said the Center for Medical Progress, which released the video, made "outrageous claims" about such practices.
Congressional Republicans have called for an investigation, and other Republican presidential contenders have spoken out against Planned Parenthood in the wake of the video.
Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, for example, said Congress should investigate and renew its efforts to fully defund the group. And Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal directed the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to investigate the group's activities.
Rand Paul: Cut funding for Planned Parenthood // The Courier Journal // Tom Loftus - July 17, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul on Friday joined the chorus of conservative elected officials blasting Planned Parenthood based on the comments of one of its officials in a controversial video released this week by an anti-abortion group.
"The recent revelation that this taxpayer-funded organization is selling body parts of the unborn further proves

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that this agency deserves our scorn, not our tax dollars," Paul said in a statement released by his campaign for the Republican nomination for president.
Paul was referring to a video released by the California-based Center for Medical Progress that shows a Planned Parenthood official talking about parts of aborted fetuses. The Center for Medical Progress says the video documents that Planned Parenthood sells fetal tissue for profit.
But Planned Parenthood says the charge is false. "The allegation that Planned Parenthood profits in any way from tissue donation is not true. Our donation programs, like any other high quality health care provider's, follow all laws and ethical guidelines," Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, says in statement posted on the Planned Parenthood website.
Richards does apologize in her statement for the tone of comments in the video by a Planned Parenthood official — a tone that Richards said does not reflect "the compassionate care that we provide."
Paul said that next week he will use "all legislative vehicles at his disposal" to force a Senate vote "to immediately strip every dollar of Planned Parenthood funding." He said Planned Parenthood received about $528 million in taxpayer funding in 2013-14.
On Thursday the controversial video prompted Indiana Republican Gov. Mike Pence to direct Indiana's Department of Health to investigate Planned Parenthood in cooperation with the state attorney general. But Planned Parenthood's affiliate for Kentucky and Indiana does not participate in any tissue donation program, said Betty Cockrum, chief executive of Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky.
Rand Paul: Defund Planned Parenthood // Washington Examiner // Paige Winfield Cunningham - July 17, 2015

Sen. Rand Paul has threatened to seek "legislative action" next week to defund Planned Parenthood.
The Kentucky Republican and GOP presidential candidate didn't clarify his exact plans, but the legislative action he referred to could involve an attempt to attach a defunding bill to highway-funding legislation the Senate is trying to pass before a July 31 deadline.
Paul said Planned Parenthood has "absolutely zero respect for the sanctity of human life," referring to an undercover video released by an anti-abortion group this week showing one of Planned Parenthood's top directors discussing fetal organ donations.
He also called the group's participation in organ donations "potentially criminal."
"Not one more taxpayer dollar should go to Planned Parenthood, and I intend to make that goal a reality," Paul said in a statement released Friday by his congressional office.
The footage, which shows Planned Parenthood Director of Medical Services Deborah Nucatola describing how doctors obtain fetal organs during abortions to donate them for medical research, has prompted House Republicans to start an investigation into the group.
It's not illegal to donate the tissue of aborted fetuses for medical research. But the video's makers say Planned Parenthood is performing illegal partial-birth abortions to obtain the organs and is profiting from their sale.
Planned Parenthood has denied any wrongdoing and has apologized for the seemingly crude way Nucatola discussed the sensitive topic.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz's second quarter donors had some loyalty issues // WaPo // Philip Bump - July 17, 2015

One of the more interesting aspects of campaign fundraising is how frequently donors give to multiple candidates. Sometimes, it's because they change their minds about who they're backing. Often, it's because they want to establish a relationship with one or more of the candidates -- and a large subset of those people are just hedging their bets. (A large subset of those people are also quite wealthy, making the process of cutting multiple $2,700 checks not such a big deal.)
With second quarter numbers in hand, we thought we'd take a look at how often double giving happened among 2016 contenders. Given that comparing all 216 million candidates against one another seemed unfeasible, we focused on the same candidates who we'd mapped on Thursday: Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Bobby Jindal, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio for Republicans and Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders for Democrats. (A note: Jindal's figures don't include small donors -- under $200 -- who don't legally have to be reported.)
It can be tricky to do this comparison. We're talking about a lot of people, comparable on name, address and occupation. If names are spelled differently or if the address is slightly different, it adds uncertainty. So we looked at all the instances that the first name, last name and ZIP+4 matched for a person who gave to more than one of the aforementioned candidates.
In our analysis, it was Ted Cruz whose donors were most likely to give to other people; we tallied 370 who did so. Next was Ben Carson, who had 301 people give to other candidates, including 148 who gave to Cruz. In total, nearly 700 people gave to more than one candidate. There were 51 who gave to three, six who gave to four, and one enthusiastic South Carolina woman who gave to five.
But that's not the weirdest one.
The weirdest is someone in St. Louis who gave $2,700 to Hillary Clinton -- and another $2,700 to Bobby Jindal. Now *that* is hedging your bets.
Super PACs to Cruz: Focus on 'wedge issues' // WaPo // Patrick Svitek - July 17, 2015

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The super PACs supporting Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) believe he should focus on so-called wedge issues as he carves an unflinchingly conservative path to the White House, according to a presentation that surfaced late Thursday.
The strategy would not be a surprising approach for Cruz, who has made clear he believes the way to win the presidency is by standing firm on a host of issues that excite the GOP base. But the presentation, found on the Web site of the Keep the Promise super PACs, offers the most revealing look yet at how — and why — Cruz's supporters believe he can achieve that goal.
The 51-slide pitch — titled "Can He Win?" — is particularly harsh on 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, whom it calls a "terrible candidate with a terrible campaign." Part of Romney's problem, according to the presentation, is that he had "NO WEDGE OR MAGNET ISSUE" to drive up Republican turnout against President Obama.
Cruz, on the other hand, ranks as the Republican Party's best shot at exploiting wedge issues against presumed Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, according to the super PACs. The presentation lists five issues on which it suggests Cruz would be the most competitive GOP nominee in a general-election matchup with Clinton: "Common Core," "Immigration," "Future Not Past," "National Security" and "Foreign Money."
In unambiguous terms, the presentation identifies former Florida governor Jeb Bush as Clinton's weakest potential opponent on wedge issues. "The Establishment Never Learns," reads the title of one slide, followed by text that says, "For 2016 they have chosen, Jeb Bush."
A spokesman for the super PACs, treasurer Dathan Voelter, did not immediately respond to a request for comment late Thursday. The presentation, which was first reported by CNN then obtained by The Texas Tribune, was last modified Sunday, according to information on the PowerPoint file, which identified a "Chris Sipes" as the author.
One plausible explanation for the presentation is to telegraph strategy to Cruz's official campaign, which cannot coordinate with the super PACs under federal law. In recent election cycles, campaigns and super PACs have gained notoriety for stretching the boundaries of that rule.
The presentation itself reads like an appeal to pro-Cruz donors, who have already given just under $38 million to the four super PACs supporting him. To that end, the presentation confirms what has long been rumored: Cruz is receiving support from the three of the top 10 donors to conservative super PACs in 2012. They are New York hedge-fund manager Robert Mercer, Boston investor John Childs and Houston Texans owner Robert McNair.
While the presentation echoes many Cruz talking points -- evangelicals are not turning out, for example — it does seem to prod Cruz to focus more on Hispanic voters, something he and his campaign have not signaled is a top priority. Under a slide titled "Republican Must Do's for 2016," the presentation says the party must "perform better with Latino voters in Florida, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada."
The presentation also directs attention to the results of a May survey that portray Cruz as a well-known candidate who ranks toward the top of the field in "potential growth." The only two candidates ahead of him in that category of the poll are Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.
The primary calendar, which is "really different," is also helping Cruz, according to the presentation. The super PACs argue the calendar favors Southern states and conservative voters more than usual, a perfect mix for Cruz to capitalize on wedge issues.
His campaign's assets, meanwhile, are listed as "Small Dollar Donors," "Large Super PAC," "Social Media Followers," "Grassroots Support" and "Sophisticated Data Analysis." Unsurprisingly, the presentation indicates Cruz's campaign beats five other campaigns listed on one slide: those of Bush, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, Rubio and Walker.
Despite the harsh words for Bush, the super PACs say they plan to roll out a "positive campaign" around the first GOP presidential debate, which is scheduled for Aug. 6 in Ohio. In the meantime, the presentation suggests donors should do anything but retreat, saying "fundraising success breeds fundraising success."

Insiders: Ted Cruz hurt most by Trump candidacy // Politico // Katie Glueck - July 17, 2015

Donald Trump's turn in the national spotlight is mainly taking a toll on Ted Cruz, the Texas firebrand running as an uncompromising, anti-establishment conservative.
That's the assessment of this week's POLITICO Caucus, our weekly survey of the leading strategists, activists and political operatives in Iowa and New Hampshire.
Roughly a third of Iowa and New Hampshire Republican insiders pointed to Cruz as the candidate who is damaged the most in their states by Trump's rise in the polls and emergence as a media-grabbing protest candidate.
"The Trump Circus is no doubt having the biggest impact on Ted Cruz. Cruz, the incumbent proxy for the disaffected GOP "Hell No!" Caucus, has been virtually starved of oxygen since Trump entered the race," said an Iowa Republican, who, like all POLITICO Caucus participants, was granted anonymity in order to speak freely.
"Cruz needs to consolidate the rage-against-the-machine, anti-establishment block of Caucus votes (both the harder-edged evangelicals and tea party types) as his Iowa Caucus foundation upon which to build," said another Iowa Republican. "Trump is sucking all the oxygen out of the room. While I seriously doubt most of those folks will ultimately caucus for Trump, his message is scratching their anti-establishment itch at a time when Cruz needs to start showing some momentum."
In New Hampshire, where Chris Christie's hopes are riding on a strong finish, roughly a quarter of Republicans believe the brash and straight-talking New Jersey governor is also put at risk by Trump's emergence in the field.
"Christie is the "tell it like it is" candidate, but he certainly can't hang with Trump in that regard," a Granite State Republican said. "Without the oxygen of a niche, Christie is rudderless and grasping at straws."
"Christie has placed all his eggs in New Hampshire's basket, but Trump is right now occupying the "tell it like it is"

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lane with gusto," added another New Hampshire Republican. "Same thing with Ted Cruz. If you're a voter looking for the most conservative alternative, it's hard to see you landing anywhere but Trump."
Republicans in both states are also fretting that the controversial real estate mogul is tainting their party — and Democrats agree: more than one-third of Democrats viewed Trump as a problem for the entire GOP field, as opposed to a single candidate.
"He is damaging our brand," said an Iowa Republican, who said Trump is hurting all of the GOP candidates.
Yet it's Cruz, the Texas senator, who is seen by insiders as particularly damaged by Trump's ascendancy because the real estate mogul has emerged as a candidate who is equally steadfast on hot-button issues like immigration — and he can deliver the message with more heated rhetoric. That gives him an advantage with the hardest-right pockets of the GOP base, insiders said, who might otherwise naturally align with Cruz.
Several Caucus participants expected that Trump will push the immigration debate further to the right for those candidates who rely on the support of the staunchest conservative activists. "Watch for other candidates to step up their rhetoric or continue to be crushed by Trump in the polls," predicted one Iowa Republican.
So far, the Texas senator is the only candidate in the GOP field to make overtures to Trump: the two had a meeting on Wednesday at Trump Tower, where they dished about other Republican contenders. Cruz has also been by far Trump's biggest defender among the Republicans running for president, refusing to condemn several of Trump's more incendiary statements on immigration, and instead praising him more broadly for raising the issue. That relationship could also come in handy for Cruz in the event support for Trump's bid collapses and his backers look for another lightning rod conservative candidate to get behind.
A handful of participants noted that Trump distracted from Scott Walker, the Wisconsin governor who announced his presidential bid this week and leads in Iowa polls.
Walker is "barely registering in voters' minds because The Donald is such a compelling blend of hair, media catnip, and voter rage" even during his announcement week, said one Iowa Republican.

Ted Cruz Is Vowing To Block A Bunch Of Obama's Nominees ... Again // HuffPo // Jennifer Bendery – July 17, 2015

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has raised $3.7 million to kickoff his underdog bid for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, including $1.5 million he moved from his U.S. Senate campaign account.

But Graham, who proved an effective fundraiser in his 2014 U.S. Senate re-election bid, lags far behind the fund-raising leaders in the presidential nominating race.

Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton has raised more than $47 million since entering the race for her party's nomination. Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas leads the GOP, having raised $14.3 million for his campaign.

However, Graham of Seneca led the pack in his home state, which holds a key early primary next February.

Graham raised $858,080 – roughly $1 of every $4 that he brought in – from S.C. donors, out-raising all other presidential hopefuls, Democrats and Republicans combined, in the Palmetto State.

The campaign fund-raising totals are not the only measure of a candidate's potential for success, Citadel political scientist Scott Buchanan cautioned.

The "big money" goes to super political-action committees that can receive unlimited cash from donors as long as the PAC does not coordinate its activities with a candidate or a campaign.

Candidates are restricted to accepting $2,700 from a single donor during the primary cycle, making it more difficult to raise cash quickly for their campaigns.

Still, a candidate's fund-raising successes are valuable, especially early on in a race, Buchanan added.

Candidates use the amount that their campaigns raise as "a barometer for the excitement for their campaign and their candidate."

For example, a candidate who receives lots of small donations can tout winning buy-in from regular people, he said.

Is U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham South Carolina's 'favorite son?' A look at the top 10 Republican and Democratic candidates ranked by the amount that they have raised from S.C. donors through June:

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) – $858,080

Former U.S. Sec. of State Hillary Clinton (D-NY) – $237,800

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) – $109,809

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Ben Carson (R-Md.) – $78,265

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R-Fla.) – $62,660

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R_Texas) – $50,076

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) – $28,436

Former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) – $20,300

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) – $12,917

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R-Ark.) – $7,671

Ted Cruz Has Money to Burn the GOP // Bloomberg // Francis Wilkinson - July 17, 2015

Texas Senator Ted Cruz sure has a lot of money. Cruz's presidential campaign raised $14.3 million in its first quarter. In addition, a network of super-PACs allied with Cruz raised $38 million. That makes $52 million in a matter of months. To put that in context, former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum dogged Mitt Romney in the 2012 Republican primaries, lasting all the way until April , on about $20 million less than Team Cruz has already collected.

CNN yesterday reported on a leaked PowerPoint presentation on Cruz's path to the White House titled "Can He Win?" Given the origin of the presentation, which was birthed by a pro-Cruz super-PAC, the answer wasn't in doubt. Nor, really, was the strategic path it envisions.

Cruz's advantage, according to the presentation, is his ability to exploit "wedge" issues much more effectively than a wimpy GOP establishment candidate such as Mitt Romney. The Texas Tribune, which also wrote about the presentation, said :

The presentation lists five issues on which it suggests Cruz would be the most competitive GOP nominee in a general-election matchup with Clinton: "Common Core," "Immigration," "Future Not Past," "National Security" and "Foreign Money."

The first two -- Common Core and immigration, just happen to be issues on which Jeb Bush (did we mention that establishment candidates are wimpy?) is crosswise with many Republican base voters. "Future Not Past" is already a theme of Young Marco Rubio's regular digs at Bush. On national security, Cruz is busy working to secure the far right of the Republican argument, more or less promising to bomb Iran at his earliest convenience. And while "Foreign Money" presages attacks on contributions to Hillary Clinton's family foundation, it might also give pause to a certain GOP candidate who began his international business career in the anti-American environs of Caracas. With his Mexican wife.

While Republican worthies fret about Donald Trump's tics, Cruz, who stands to inherit many Trump supporters when Trump teeters, may be the more dire threat. Since joining the Senate in 2013, Cruz has exhibited a steady disregard for the broader interests of his party. Indeed, he seems not only willing but even eager to damage his party in pursuit of personal advantage.

What does a man like that do with an opening bid of $52 million and the support of both small donors and some fabulously rich men?

Bush probably won't be Cruz's first target. The most pressing business for Cruz is to consolidate support on the party's right, which will require reducing Scott Walker from Destroyer of Unions to just a guy who talks out of both sides of his mouth. Walker's inconsistency on key issues -- darned if we don't encounter immigration and Common Core again! -- is the sort of story that can be easily explained in 29.5 seconds. And Cruz's money will buy a lot of 29.5-second blocks to tell it.

If Cruz succeeds in dispatching the unreliable Walker, he can inherit some of Walker's support and turn either to Marco Rubio, if Rubio has gained traction, or to the main event: Bush.

The beauty of Cruz's positioning is that it insulates him from lesser claims on his virtue -- such as calls for partisan loyalty or Senate collegiality. If he annihilates Walker, Rubio and/or Bush -- any of whom is likely to be more electable than Cruz -- they will only be incidental casualties, the kind of sacrifices required of a true patriot. Some Republicans might wish that Cruz loved his country, or himself, just a little bit less.

Cruz: Chattanooga shooting 'an act of war' // The Hill // Mark Hensch - July 17, 2015

The mass shooting at military facilities in Chattanooga, Tenn. constitutes an act of war by radical Islamists, Sen. Ted Cruz said Friday.

The Texas senator and Republican presidential candidate linked the massacre to a broader extremist campaign against the United States

“Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez was there to carry out jihad, an act of radical Islamic terrorism,” he said in a statement.

“An act of war, in which those four brave Marines lost their lives, while at least two others were wounded.”

Four Marines died when Abdulazeez opened fire on Thursday morning at two military facilities in Chattanooga. Abdulazeez, who was a naturalized citizen from Kuwait, died in the second attack.

Cruz said the gunman was not a “lone wolf” attacking American troops at random, and said the nations needs to rid itself of “two dangerous delusions” about terrorist threats.

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"First and foremost that a 'lone gunman' — as President Obama described the shooter — is somehow isolated from the larger threat of radical Islamic terrorism," Cruz said.
"In the modern world, no one acts in isolation," he added.
"Through social media ISIS, al Qaeda and other groups are infiltrating our nation with impunity while our government will not even admit that radical Islamic terrorism is a problem."
Cruz also charged on Friday that the Chattanooga slayings are not independent of earlier attacks on U.S. military installations.
"The second delusion is that this attack is somehow isolated from previous episodes, notably those in Little Rock, Arkansas and Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009 – both of which were attacks on American military facilities," he said.
"We need to see with clarity right now what has happened."
Reports emerged on Thursday evening that Abdulazeez had blogged about Islam before striking Chattanooga, though little is known about his motive for the shooting.
He first opened fire at a recruitment center before driving to a U.S. Naval and Marine Reserve Center.
Investigators believe that Abdulazeez and all four of his victims died during shooting at the Reserve Center.

Ted Cruz: Chattanooga Shooting Shows Need for Immigration Overhaul, Arming Military on Bases // National Review // Alexis Levinson - July 17, 2015

Ted Cruz on Friday called for congressional hearings toward allowing members of the armed services to carry guns in military facilities, in the wake of the shooting at a military recruitment center in Chattanooga, Tenn., and said the shooting illustrated the need to fix the immigration laws.
On Thursday, four Marines were killed and three other people were injured when Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez opened fire on two military facilities in Chattanooga.
In a statement, Cruz called Abdulazeez's actions "an act of war," and said he "was there to carry out jihad, an act of radical Islamic terrorism."
"While we might wish it otherwise, the forces of radical Islam are at war with us — here and now," Cruz said, faulting President Barack Obama for describing the shooter as a "lone gunman."
"In the modern world," Cruz said, "no one acts in isolation. Through social media ISIS, al Qaida and other groups are infiltrating our nation with impunity while our government will not even admit that radical Islamic terrorism is a problem."
Cruz said the shooting needs to be acknowledged as a terrorist attack immediately, and called for actions to be taken to allow members of the armed forces to protect themselves against such situations.
"We need to see with clarity what has happened," Cruz said. "We can immediately call for Congressional hearings on the need for our enlisted men and women to have the right to be armed in military facilities."
What's more, Cruz said, the shooting illustrated the need to tighten immigration laws. According to CNN, Abdulazeez was born in Kuwait and had citizenship in Jordan, but had become a naturalized U.S. citizen.
In response, Cruz said, Congress should "pass the Expatriate Terrorist Act that would allow our government to stop Americans who travel overseas to train with terrorist groups from coming back to attack us at home. We can thoroughly overhaul our broken immigration system that is allowing this type of individual to gain citizenship."
Read Cruz's full statement below:
Yesterday, members of our armed services in Chattanooga, Tennessee, went to work in the service of our nation. Some went to a recruiting center to assist the young people who, like so many before them, would walk through the door on any given Thursday morning and volunteer to defend the United States of America. Four brave Marines went to a Naval Reserve Center to perform their duties to the Tennessee National Guard.
But one of the young people who visited two of those facilities was not like the others. He was there not to volunteer to serve America, but to attack America. Mohammod Youssuf Abdulazeez was there to carry out jihad, an act of radical Islamic terrorism. An act of war, in which those four brave Marines lost their lives, while at least two others were wounded.
In the wake of this vicious attack on our nation we need to rid ourselves of two dangerous delusions, first and foremost that a "lone gunman"–as President Obama described the shooter–is somehow isolated from the larger threat of radical Islamic terrorism. In the modern world, no one acts in isolation. Through social media ISIS, al Qaida and other groups are infiltrating our nation with impunity while our government will not even admit that radical Islamic terrorism is a problem.
The second delusion is that this attack is somehow isolated from previous episodes, notably those in Little Rock, Arkansas and Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009—both of which were attacks on American military facilities. The Obama administration was woefully reluctant to call either an act of radical Islamic terrorism, instead suggesting "workplace violence" as a justification for the killings. Finally, after years of effort, the victims of Fort Hood were properly recognized as victims of attacks by foreign terrorists when they received Purple Hearts on April 15, 2015. Likewise, the victim of the Little Rock attack received a Purple Heart on July 1, 2015.
We cannot afford wait six years to recognize what happened yesterday in Chattanooga for what it was. We need to see with clarity right now what has happened. We can immediately hold hearings in the Senate Armed Services Committee on the need for our enlisted men and women to have the right to be armed in military facilities. Congress can pass the Expatriate Terrorist Act that would allow our government to stop Americans who travel overseas to train with terrorist groups from coming back to attack us at home. We can thoroughly overhaul our broken immigration system that is allowing this type of individual to gain citizenship. And we can accept the reality that while we might wish it otherwise, the forces of radical Islam are at war with us.

Cruz-backing super PAC reveals victory plan; the dangers of Donald Trump // The Dallas Morning News // Sylvan Lane - July 17, 2015

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WASHINGTON–The super PAC backing Sen. Ted Cruz's presidential run released a 51-slide victory plan that closely aligns with the way he's been pitching himself and his vision for the country.
First reported by CNN , Keep the Promise's "Can he win?" presentation touts Cruz's consistent and rightward political stances and "the most complete portfolio of campaign assets" of any 2016 Republican candidate.
Through charts, graphs and talking points, the victory plan underpins Cruz go-to answer when he's asked if he can win: Republicans fail when they nominate moderates from the "mushy middle," and only a true conservative like himself can rally enough support to take back the White House.
Cruz has been critical of 2012 Republican candidate Mitt Romney–mainly of his poor performance with Hispanics and "47 percent" comments–but still called him an honorable and decent man. Keep the Promise, which cannot coordinate with Cruz, isn't as kind, calling Romney a "terrible candidate" with a "terrible campaign" and no wedge issues to separate him from President Barack Obama.
The report also highlights Cruz's impressive fundraising haul and digital team, arguing that the two put him in good position to win the primary and general elections.
The trouble with Trump
Cruz and Donald Trump are close personally and politically–maybe too close.
About one-third of political insiders surveyed by Politico this week said that Trump's candidacy poses the biggest threat to Cruz of all 2016 Republican nominees. Both are running as blunt, unapologetic conservatives committed to dismantling big government–even if only one has a record of actually trying to do that.
"Trump is sucking all the oxygen out of the room," one Iowa Republican told Politico. "While I seriously doubt most of those folks will ultimately caucus for Trump, his message is scratching their anti-establishment itch at a time when Cruz needs to start showing some momentum."
Trump has led most polls since he's official campaign entrance, sucking support from Cruz in some cases. Even so, Cruz is one of the best positioned candidates to court Trumpites if the mogul's campaign falls apart.

Ted Cruz Sets Hearing on 'Supreme Court Activism' // National Law Journal // Mike Sacks - July 17, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, will preside over a Judiciary Committee hearing next week to address what he has called the "judicial activism, plain and simple," of the U.S. Supreme Court after its decisions this term in favor of the Affordable Care Act and same-sex marriage .
Cruz started the conversation late last month in the National Review, where he proposed a constitutional amendment to force retention elections for Supreme Court justices.
"Every justice, beginning with the second national election after his or her appointment, will answer to the American people and the states in a retention election every eight years. Those justices deemed unfit for retention by both a majority of the American people as a whole and by majorities of the electorates in at least half of the 50 states will be removed from office and disqualified from future service on the court," Cruz wrote.
Next week's hearing , titled "With Prejudice: Supreme Court Activism and Possible Solutions," will feature three panelists. The Republican invitees are Ed Whelan , president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, and John Eastman, the Henry Salvatori Professor of Law and Community Service at Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law. Neil Siegel , the David W. Ichel Professor of Law at Duke Law School, accepted the Democrats' invitation.
Whether any one of them agrees with the solution offered by Cruz, chairman of the Judiciary Committee's 15-member subcommittee on oversight, agency action, federal rights and federal courts, remains unclear.
"I support his call for doing something to restrain the judiciary," Eastman said Friday. "I have not come down on the particular proposal he's got out there for now."
Whelan and Siegel declined to comment before their testimony.
Cruz's call to action has gained little traction within the legal community. Erwin Chemerinsky, the dean of University of California-Irvine School of Law and liberal commentator, wrote in The New Republic that Cruz "has the right intention." But elections are not the right call, Chemerinsky said. Chemerinsky supports 18-year, nonrenewable term limits that former Texas Gov. Rick Perry—Cruz's old boss during his tenure as the Texas solicitor general— suggested during Perry's presidential campaign in 2011's Republican primaries.
Elections would "endanger the independence of the court, rather than bolster it," Chemerinsky wrote.
Ted Olson , a partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and former U.S. solicitor general under George W. Bush, was less charitable in his disagreement with Cruz's suggestion.
"A constitutional amendment to change Article III of the Constitution in this fashion has virtually no chance of succeeding," Olson told The Washington Post in an e-mail . "I would think that most graduates of the Harvard Law School know that."

Upset with #IranDeal, Ted Cruz Vows for the Fourth Time to Block Obama Nominees // Politicus USA // Hrafnkell Haraldsson - July 17, 2015

Chad Pegram, who covers Capitol Hill for Fox News, tweeted yesterday afternoon,
White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz immediately pointed out that this is not the first time Cruz has stomped his little feet and held his breath to get what he wants:
Oops. Done this before, huh Ted? Maybe you should threaten to light yourself on fire next time.
Schultz tweeted newspaper editorial after newspaper editorial yesterday, all showing support of the president's Iran deal, including a Haaretz op-ed asking that the nuclear agreement be given a chance. He pointed also to an article by Dafna Linzer on MSNBC: On Iran, no need to speculate about the alternative. We've already lived it .

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Though Jeb Bush condemns the Iran deal , calling it "appeasement," it was his own brother, as Alan Rappeport points out in The New York Times, who brought the United States to the negotiating table nine years ago. Since Jeb says Dubya is his key advisor, there must be a memory lapse going on there somewhere. Given the intellects involved, that's hardly a leap, however convenient for Jeb.

You would think this would all be self-evident. It's all part of the record. Furthermore, you would think it would be obvious to even ideological hidebound Republicans in Congress that editorials aside, polling shows the American people do not want to go to war over Iran. We don't even want to go back into Iraq to clean up the mess Bush left there, a mess called the Islamic State.

To listen to Republicans, war is the only option:

Given widespread support for diplomacy, something that will neither kill a lot of Americans or destroy our economy – AGAIN – it is difficult to see what Republicans think they can get out of opposition to the nuclear deal, but that is presuming that Republicans are thinking at all. After all, what could be more amusing than listenig to the right wing media claim Obama's actions will lead to war, when war is what the Republicans are demanding? Can the GOP get more absurd?

We have to remember that it is not only the nuclear deal they are opposing and Israel they are supporting: If Obama is for it, they are against it. In fact, given the history of the past six-and-a-half years, it is difficult to imagine they would support the Iran deal even if Israel did.

The Republican Party, when the results of Election night 2008 came in, swore to do all in their power to nullify our first black president, to oppose him at every turn, and they have done that. They have shut down the government, they have refused to create a single job or to participate in any meaningful way in the business of government. If anything, identical election results in 2012 just made their reaction worse.

This is the party, after all, which, having lost the presidential election, acted like the president now had to do exactly what the House of Representatives said, as though the Executive Branch – the abode of the "decider" when a Republican occupies it – was suddenly an adjunct to the Legislative Branch. How much less significant a president when both houses of Congress are Republican?

And no, they haven't read the United States Constitution, or they would see that is not how this works. It is not how any of this works. The Republicans have all history back to the ratification of the Constitution in 1789 to look for examples of how the government works – three independent branches, executive, legislative, and judicial – balancing each other out to prevent tyranny. But they are too busy listening to David Barton and Fox News invent facts to actually figure out what their job is.

And it is not to nullify the presidency as a branch of government. While Cruz claims the president is trying to circumvent Congress, Obama has the authority , and what is actually happening is that Cruz is trying to circumvent the executive branch.

Ted Cruz's stunts are all part of their sworn opposition to all things Obama, just another excuse to refuse to do his job as an elected official and to put himself in the spotlight. The grandstanding Ted Cruz is a disgrace to the United States Senate, and to the United States of America.

Ted Cruz: Tennessee shootings 'an act of war' // Washington Times // David Sherfinski - July 17, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas on Friday called the killings of four Marines in Tennessee "an act of war."

Mr. Cruz said in a statement that members of the armed services went to work Thursday, including "four brave Marines" who went to a naval reserve center to perform their duties.

"But one of the young people who visited two of those facilities was not like the others," said Mr. Cruz , a 2016 GOP presidential candidate. "He was there not to volunteer to serve America, but to attack America. Mohammod Youssuf Abdulazeez was there to carry out jihad, an act of radical Islamic terrorism. An act of war, in which those four brave Marines lost their lives, while at least two others were wounded."

Authorities are looking into possible ties to terrorist groups that Abdulazeez, reportedly born in Kuwait, might have had before he attacked two Navy facilities Thursday, killing four Marines and injuring several other people.

Mr. Cruz said the Obama administration was "woefully reluctant" to label 2009 attacks on military facilities in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Fort Hood, Texas, acts of radical Islamic terrorism and noted that Purple Hearts were awarded to the victims of the attacks this year.

"We cannot afford to wait six years to recognize what happened yesterday in Chattanooga for what it was," Mr. Cruz said. "We need to see with clarity right now what has happened."

Mr. Cruz said hearings can be held on the need for enlisted men and women to have the right be armed in military facilities — an idea top lawmakers said Friday they will address in this year's defense policy bill — and said Congress can pass legislation he's pushed to strip U.S. citizenship from Americans who travel overseas to train with terrorists.

"We can thoroughly overhaul our broken immigration system that is allowing this type of individual to gain citizenship," he said. "And we can accept the reality that while we might wish it otherwise, the forces of radical Islam are at war with us."

Ted Cruz's book cracks New York Times' bestseller list // PPP Focus // River Gaines - July 17, 2015

Over the last week presidential candidate **Ted Cruz** has gleefully duked it out with the New York Times, waging a very public battle against the paper arguing that it purposely excluded his new memoir from its bestseller list. Cruz's campaign said that was "a blatant falsehood", noting Cruz's book had sold more copies than 18 of the 20 books on the list at that time. "In order to avoid compromising that process, we do not disclose who reports sales

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to us", she said.
Cruz's publisher, HarperCollins, denied that there were bulk sales.
Barnes & Noble: Nope, no evidence of bulk sales. The decision led to speculation about whether Cruz had tried to cheat the system and shed some light on the *Times'* still-secretive criteria for their bestseller list.
The Times, though, defended the omission, claiming they saw evidence of "bulk purchases" and suggesting the system was being manipulated.
Amazon: Nope, no bulk sales.
"As of yesterday, "*A Time for Truth*" was the number 13 best-selling book, and there is no evidence of unusual bulk purchase activity in our sales data", Sarah Gelman, Amazon's director of press relations, said in an email.
Forbes published an article two years ago called "How You Buy Your Way Onto *The New York Times* Bestsellers List", about a San Diego marketing firm that guaranteed clients a place for a hefty fee.
"That process involves a careful analysis of data, and is not influenced in any way by the content of a book, or by pressure from publishers or book sellers", alleged spokeswoman Eileen Murphy.
"We call on the Times, release your so-called 'evidence, '" declared Cruz campaign spokesperson Rick Tyler in a statement Friday.
The Times has resolutely stood by its claim, and has refused to reveal its methodology on the grounds that doing so might threaten the integrity of the process.
While Wilson must see some advantage for Cruz in polls that fit **all** his categories, the fact that he's protesting now about Fox's standards would also bolster a later argument that the whole process was illegitimate in the event Cruz doesn't make the cutoff. Talk about a fundraising and bookselling boon!
"I'm sure you are aware, the standards set by Fox News for the first GOP Presidential debate are unclear and, it would appear, undefined", Wilson writes in the memo.
I look forward to the answer.

Ted Cruz emerges as hero as Gawker is blasted for article that outs Condé Nast executive // Chron // John-Henry Perera - July 17, 2015

It's a bit of a doozy, but Gawker is catching enormous amounts of digital flak for running a story that essentially outs the sexuality of a Condé Nast executive who happens to be related to Tim Geithner, President Barack Obama's former treasury secretary.
Writer Jordan Sargent received a series of text messages and emails from a male escort named "Ryan." Those documents detail a sexual rendezvous with Ryan and that business executive and the following extortion attempt.
While initially a simple tryst, things escalated when Ryan figured out his customer's identity and attempted to coerce him into helping out with a housing dispute. Apparently Ryan is a war veteran who suffers from PTSD and was allegedly kicked out of his Texas luxury apartment home due to owning a service dog, according to legal documents, although Ryan claims it was because his landlord learned he was a gay porn star.
Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, was also involved in Ryan's housing dispute. Ryan had sought the freshman senator's help earlier, and on April 7, 2015, Cruz's told him they had begun discussions with the landlord on his behalf.
Unfortunately, nothing could be done but Cruz has maintained contact with Ryan.
"He says that an employee of Cruz's called him this afternoon to say that the senator had personally called the HUD director on his behalf," Sargent writes. "It seems as if Cruz, in the midst of his Presidential campaign, sees an opportunity to help a veteran with PTSD who has been crushed by Washington bureaucracy."
Ryan's customer backed out of their arrangement when Ryan emailed him the details of his situation. Feeling slighted, Ryan reached out to Gawker who went ahead and published the story. For his part, Ryan claims he simply wants to publicize his dispute with his landlord. The former customer says he does not know who Ryan is, despite evidence to the contrary, and says this is nothing more than a shakedown.
After publishing, Twitter outrage peaked all around because, in their thinking, Gawker aided a person's blackmail attempt and they outed someone who wouldn't otherwise be considered a public official or celebrity. Gawker's editor-in-chief Max Read defended their story on Twitter.
"[sic] given the chance gawker will always report on married c-suite executives of major media companies ****** around on their wives."
There's no word yet if Cruz's office has severed ties with Ryan because of last night's article. Still, it is funny to think Cruz has emerged a hero in Gawker, which is typically left-leaning. Perhaps that should have been Sargent's first warning that his article would bomb with everyone.

New York Times Finally Adds Ted Cruz Book to Bestsellers List // iFree Press - July 17, 2015

Times spokesperson Eileen Murphy said the memoir, "A Time for Truth", will be listed as number seven on its non-fiction list.
Murphy said the Times made no changes to its selection process, Politico reports, and its seventh-place spot most likely resulted from strong sales since Cruz slammed the paper.
After a lengthy battle with the Ted Cruz campaign over whether or not his book sales were boosted by bulk purchases, The New York Times will include his newest book on their bestsellers list.
"That process involves a careful analysis of data, and is not influenced in any way by the content of a book, or by pressure from publishers or book sellers", she continued.
Cruz acknowledged public attention had helped propel his book onto the list. This despite the fact that A Time for Truth was among the top ten best sellers on Amazon among all books, not just hardcover nonfiction.
The Texas senator, who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, mounted a fierce campaign against the Times, which excluded his book because of bulk sales that did not meet its standards.

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Cruz's campaign blasted the newspaper last week for the book not being initially included on the list, describing the Times' explanations for its omission as "cryptic" and "false". Last week's list did feature conservative authors like Ann Coulter, for "Adios America!" "If the Times said that it didn't list Cruz's book because its 'sales were limited to strategic bulk purchases, ' while knowing that this statement was untrue or having no grounds to believe it true, HarperCollins could very well have a cause of action against the Times, should the publisher choose to pursue it".
"What's transpired at The New York Times in the last two weeks raises troubling questions that should concern any author", he said.
Cruz's campaign said that was "a blatant falsehood", noting Cruz's book had sold more copies than 18 of the 20 books on the list at that time.
Essentially, that's when a publisher or organization buys up copies of the book in strategic locations in an attempt to artificially inflate sales numbers. "If they want to be credible journalists, the public editor needs to investigate their methodology and see if they are discriminating against authors they have different political views from them".

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie stands by path to citizenship for immigrants // CNN // Tom LoBianco – July 17, 2015

Washington (CNN)New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who is searching for some footing in a wide-open field of Republican contenders, said he stands by comments he made in 2010 that immigrants should have a path to citizenship.

"We have to have Congress come together and deal with this. They haven't done that yet. The President has done it by executive order, he hasn't brought people together on it yet," Christie told CNN's Alisyn Camerota in an interview that aired Friday.

Christie said that illegal immigration should be curbed by hitting employers who hire undocumented workers with fines.

"We've got to penalize employers who hire people who are here illegally," Christie said in the interview. "Because the fact is that that shouldn't happen and it's exploiting American workers. But in addition to that, it's exploiting many of those people who are here illegally because they're being paid less money. So we need to make bigger fines to make sure that those employers who violate the law are being held accountable."

Immigration has become a flashpoint in the race ever since Donald Trump burst onto the field last month with his proclamation that Mexican "rapists" were flooding the border.

Trump has won widespread attention for that and other wild remarks, but he has also taken a major hit financially, as NBC, Univision, Macy's and many other businesses have cut their ties with him.

The other Republican candidates, meanwhile, have walked carefully on the issue, which has long become a wedge for the party as it looks to hold onto conservative white voters angry over immigration while attracting Hispanic voters, a growing demographic who helped carry President Barack Obama into office twice.

Congressman To Chris Christie: Stop Using My Intern's Murder For Political Gain // HuffPo // Amanda Terkel – July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON -- New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) went after the failure of "liberal policies" Thursday during a speech on criminal justice, saying they failed to prevent the death of Kevin Sutherland, a 24-year-old who was murdered on the Washington, D.C. metro on July 4.

The reference to Sutherland's death left Rep. Jim Himes (D-Conn.) disgusted. Sutherland was an intern for Himes in late 2013, and the congressman said in a statement Friday that he deserved better than to be used for partisan shots.

"Kevin Sutherland was a friend of mine," said Himes. "He was an intern on my campaign and in my Congressional office. I am friends with his parents. By speaking about Kevin Sutherland and his family in this way, Christie has once again shown himself nothing more than a pure opportunist with no sense of decency and a severely distorted idea of right and wrong."

"To use Kevin's death to score political points is vile. Kevin was empathetic, kind, and wanted to create a better America and world by lifting up those around him," he added.

Christie, a 2016 presidential candidate, said in his remarks that it was important to "focus on keeping dangerous

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and violent offenders behind bars" in order to keep the streets of America safe, citing his time as a U.S. attorney.

"And lately we've seen what happens instead when you don't have that focus," said Christie.

"On July 4, Kevin Sutherland got on to a subway train in Washington, D.C. Kevin was a bright young man with a promising future, a former congressional intern," he said. "And now all his parents can do is mourn. Because Kevin was stabbed to death on that train -- right in front of people -- by a man who had been arrested just two days earlier for violent robbery."

Jasper Spires, the suspected murderer, was freed after that arrest while awaiting trial. He has now been charged with first-degree murder for killing Sutherland.

"Well here's a question I want to ask all those mayors and defenders of a broken system," said Christie. "How much compassion did liberal policies show for the families of Kevin Sutherland and Kathryn Steinle?"

Steinle, 32, was fatally shot on July 1 in San Francisco, allegedly by an undocumented immigrant with seven felony convictions who had been deported five times. Her murder prompted both Republican and Democratic politicians to question the policies of sanctuary cities, which limit their cooperation with federal immigration officials.

"The fearmongering and thinly veiled racism evident in Christie's speech reveal that he knew nothing about Kevin and his family or what they believed in, and he should be ashamed. Although, at this point, I find myself doubting if shame is something he's capable of," said Himes in his Friday statement.

The congressman also said Christie was being hypocritical in his criticism of San Francisco and Washington, D.C., saying the governor has "slashed state aid to cities, cut funding for neighborhood revitalization, called for the elimination of Urban Enterprise Zones, and led a budget that has caused police layoffs."

"If Christie wants to spout his particular brand of hate-filled nonsense to whomever is unfortunate enough to be in earshot, that's his right," added Himes. "But when he uses the memory of a beloved friend and son in such a grossly disrespectful way, it's our duty to stop listening, move on to more serious topics and people, and continue the work that Kevin believed in."

Christie's campaign did not return a request for additional comment.

On July 8, Himes paid his respects to Sutherland on the House floor.

UPDATE: 4:39p.m. -- Sutherland's parents also criticized Christie Friday.

"The fact that Gov. Chris Christie would invoke my son's name in a politically motivated speech just three days after our family laid him to rest shows that he cares little about the grief my family is feeling," said Douglas and Terry Sutherland in a statement to Hearst Connecticut Media.

Devon Puglia, spokesman for Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy (D), said the governor was "disappointed" with Christie's remarks as well.

"We're very disappointed that Governor Christie would choose to politicize the death of this young man -- to make an intellectually backwards point, no less -- at a time when important conversations nationwide about criminal justice reform are taking place," said Puglia.

Chris Christie: Bill Cosby situation 'is just sickening' **// Washington Times // Jessica Chasmar – July 17, 2015**

Republican presidential candidate Chris Christie said Friday that the wave of sexual assault allegations against Bill Cosby "is just sickening" and that the disgraced comedian should be prosecuted if he's guilty.

"Let's focus on what's really important here, which is the conduct. And the conduct is reprehensible," the New Jersey governor said on CNN. "As the father of two daughters, it makes me sick."

"You don't want to always change laws just to deal with one circumstance," he continued. "But the fact is, if the law permits prosecution and the evidence is there, he should be prosecuted. And if it doesn't, then we need to examine those laws on a going forward basis and see what we may need to do.

"The thing that I focus on the most as a father is just how incomprehensible it is to me that someone, if what he did and what's alleged is actually what he did, that someone in a position of authority and influence and esteem in this country — I watched 'The Cosby Show.'

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"The fact that he would engage in that kind of conduct, if that's what he did, is just sickening," Mr. Christie added.

Chris Christie: Donald Trump would be 'frustrated' as president // Market Watch // Robert Schroeder – July 17, 2015

The president doesn't get to say "You're fired!"

That, writes Bloomberg, is Chris Christie's message for Donald Trump as the billionaire sees his standing grow in the 2016 Republican presidential field. The New Jersey governor, himself a GOP White House aspirant, invoked the line used by Trump on the show "The Apprentice" when speaking to a town hall in New Hampshire on Thursday. "I know he says he tells it like it is, too. I tell it like it is from the standpoint of having actually done these jobs," Christie said. "I think quite frankly Donald would be a little frustrated if he became president of the United States."

Trump leads another poll: There's a reason Christie and other Republican hopefuls are talking about Trump. Another poll, released Thursday night, showed him leading the Republican field. This time, it was a Fox News survey showing the billionaire with 18% support from GOP primary voters. Earlier this week, a USA Today/ Suffolk poll had Trump in the lead — though he was the weakest against Democrat Hillary Clinton among the top seven GOP candidates.

PERRY

Why the Rick Perry Super PAC Is Spending $1 Million to Get Their Candidate Into a Debate // ABC // Louise Simpson – July 17, 2015

Backers of Rick Perry are strategizing to try to secure him a spot in the first Republican presidential primary debate next month, and they are spending some major cash to do it.

Only 10 GOP candidates will be allowed to participate in the Aug. 6 debate, which will be hosted by Fox News. Right now there are 15 candidates crowding the GOP field with two more on the way, and Perry may not make cut based on the network's polling criteria.

So, Perry's sanctioned super PAC, Opportunity and Freedom, is stepping in, unveiling a sweeping advertising campaign to target audiences across the country, running ads on Fox News, conservative talk radio and the Web. "Our goal is to make sure he's standing on the debate stage," said Austin Barbour, senior adviser to the Opportunity and Freedom super PAC.

A spot in the August debate would give Perry a second chance of sorts after suffering a famous memory lapse at a 2011 Republican primary debate, which has become known as the former Texas governor's "oops" moment.

Barbour said his group plans to spend just under $1 million on the advertising campaign.

One of the television ads the group has produced shows photos of a determined-looking Perry on a Texas Highway patrol boat as he talks about deploying the Texas National Guard to secure the border. A radio ad makes a similar point.

"When there was a crisis on our southern border, Rick Perry did more than talk," a narrator in the spot says. "He took action."

Both use the sound bite of Perry saying, "Mr. President, if you do not secure this border, Texas will."

Barbour noted the radio advertisements will run on the conservative Salem radio network, which boasts an estimated 10 million listeners a week and includes talk shows hosted by Bill Bennett, Hugh Hewitt and Mike Gallagher.

He said the ads were aimed at reaching a "really dedicated, loyal group of conservative activists, and it's really important we reintroduce Perry to them."

Rick Perry is the only GOP candidate brave enough to call out Donald Trump (and that's terrifying) // Salon // Heather Digby Parton – July 17, 2015

It was inevitable that among the huge field of Republican presidential candidates, a second-tier contender would take advantage of the opening provided by the Donald Trump phenomenon and position him- or herself as the anti-Trump. It's not easy to stand out in that huge crowd, and this might just offer someone a chance to get some

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positive press and separate themselves from the pack.

It's obvious why the first tier sees no upside in angering the Donald. As this article in the New York Times made clear, they need his fans to vote for them:

> Since the start of Mr. Trump's presidential campaign, a vexing question has hovered over his candidacy: Why have so many party leaders — privately appalled by Mr. Trump's remarks about immigrants from Mexico — not renounced him?
>
> It turns out, interviews show, that the mathematical delicacy of a Republican victory in 2016 — and its dependence on aging, anxious white voters — make it exceedingly perilous for the Republican Party to treat Mr. Trump as the pariah many of its leaders now wish he would become.
>
> [W]hat remains so appealing to many of the white voters who like Mr. Trump is his perceived willingness to tell hard truths about delicate issues — racial and otherwise — that, to their mind, the party establishment is too timid to discuss.
>
> "There are a lot of people who are very angry at the grass-roots level and who are convinced the Republican leaders in Congress are not doing everything for the conservative cause," said Charlie Black, a former adviser to John McCain in 2008 and Mr. Romney in 2012. Mr. Trump, he said, holds undeniable appeal to such voters.
>
> A poll released by the Pew Research Center in May found that 63 percent of Republican voters view immigrants as a "burden" who compete for jobs, housing, and health care compared with 32 percent of Democrats.

These top candidates — Bush, Walker, Rubio, Paul, Huckabee, etc. — are undoubtedly being advised by their campaign strategists to tread very softly, lest they alienate the xenophobic majority. But one of the current also-rans, who just want a chance to get into the debates, might be able to coax enough of the GOP minority who aren't Trump followers to make the cut. It looked for a while as if Lindsey Graham would be the one to seize the day, with his strident declaration that Trump is a "wrecking ball" who is going to "kill the party." But his point wasn't that Trump was wrong in what he said, but that him saying it was making the GOP look bad, which isn't the same thing at all. One might have thought that Rick Santorum, winner of the Iowa caucus in 2012 and the last man standing in the primaries after Mitt Romney, would step up with a strong moral condemnation of Trump's degrading comments about Mexicans. But all Santorum could muster was this tepid criticism:

> "While I don't like the verbiage he's used, I like the fact that he is focused on a very important issue for American workers and particularly, legal immigrants in this country."

Actually, Trump isn't focused on American workers; he's focused on undocumented "rapists," who he says the Mexican government is somehow "sending" here as an act of aggression against the United States. And most of the other second-tier candidates have good things to say about Trump, which one can only assume means that they genuinely agree with him.

But this week one of the candidates did decide to take a courageous step of wooing some of those non-bigoted Iowans by taking on Trump directly. It was former Texas Governor Rick Perry who threw caution to the wind, saying:

> "I have a message for my fellow Republicans and the independents who will be voting in the primary process: what Mr. Trump is offering is not conservatism, it is Trump-ism – a toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense."

Now it must be noted that he was actually punching back after being slammed earlier by one of Trump's roundhouse punches:

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> "When he was governor of Texas he could have done a lot better in terms of securing the border. The job he did in terms of border security was absolutely terrible."

Them's fighting words, for sure. But it doesn't take away from the fact that Perry addressed his comments explicitly to voters, which indicates that he saw a strategic advantage. Needless to say, the billionaire blowhard didn't take Perry's words lying down:

> .@GovernorPerry failed on the border. He should be forced to take an IQ test before being allowed to enter the GOP debate.

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 16, 2015
He later tweeted that Perry doesn't know what the word "demagoguery" means, which is funny coming from Trump.

Now one might assume that Perry was just defending his honor, rather than deciding there was something to be gained by sparring with Trump. After all, the party as a whole is petrified to say anything too aggressive, lest he decide to take his billions and run as a third party candidate — something he refused to rule out. Perry is a Party Man. But there is more to his strategy than just getting free press from the Trump show.

This has also been reported:

> Unless candidates can raise their name identification and popularity in national polls, they won't make the cut for the first Republican debate, scheduled for Aug. 6.

> "We've made the decision to spend some serious money to reach a more national audience to introduce the governor, because we want to see him on that debate stage," said Austin Barbour, adviser to a group of "super PACs" backing former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas.

> The super PACs, known as Opportunity and Freedom, are investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in advertising on the Fox News Channel and other cable channels to raise Mr. Perry's profile.

This ad-buy gambit was predicted some time back when people realized that there was a ton of money floating around along with a necessity to gain a national profile in order to be allowed into the debate. Perry is simply doing what Fox News demands — which is give lots of money to Fox News. Funny how that worked out.

Whether this will work for him remains to be seen. He's a much more controlled and professional candidate than he was last time. Meanwhile, his foreign policy agenda is downright bloodthirsty and he has a compelling domestic record as Governor of Texas, both of which should be reasons for Republican voters to find him very attractive if they have a chance to hear about them.

It's quite a comment on our time that a successful Texas Governor (by GOP standards, at least) with plenty of money and establishment support has to get into a public exchange of insults and give millions of dollars to Fox News in order to even have a chance at standing on the debate stage — with Donald Trump. It's as if the Republican primaries have become a form of crude hazing and rank blackmail rather than a democratic process.

In a sense, it's actually more like "The Apprentice" isn't it?

Donald Trump tweeted at Rick Perry again and hilarity ensued // Houston Press // Dianna Wray– July 17, 2015

Donald Trump is running for the GOP nod for president. Somehow the rich guy with the worst toupee/combover/what-the-hell-is-that-on-his-head has become a "frontrunner" in the already crowded race. Meanwhile, former-Gov. Rick Perry is also out in the field trying to finagle the Republican nomination for himself. The two began clashing earlier this month as they traded digs from TV, Twitter and online video.

That's all par for the course in this crowded field of Republican presidential contenders, but somehow Perry has managed to get the best of Trump in these exchanges as we've previously noted. The man who made that infamous "Oops" in 2012 even managed to come off as presidential in a video issued last week refuting all things Trump. But Trump — possibly emboldened by his new best buddy-ship with fellow wanna-be Sen. Ted Cruz — wasn't willing to let well enough alone. On Thursday he waded back into the snarky fray of social media with this little gift horse of

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a Tweet:

Donald J. Trump ✓@realDonaldTrump
.@GovernorPerry failed on the border. He should be forced to take an IQ test before being allowed to enter the GOP debate.

The Twitter response to his social media bon mot was exactly what the rest of us would expect from Twitter, i.e. the responding Tweets were soon gloriously packed with snark. That's when things got good. There were those who simply defended our longest serving governor, because he's from Texas, and Trump is so not:

Michael Hagood @mlhagood
@realDonaldTrump @GovernorPerry I don't know about others from TX, but I don't care much 4 some NYC jackass blowhard criticizing my state.

Meanwhile, some with the classic smarty pants response:

Pedro Angel @pangel1960
@realDonaldTrump @GovernorPerry whats your IQ, Donald? I bet both Obama and Bill Clinton beat you.

This one just made us clap our hands with glee:

Simon Maloy @SimonMaloy
.@realDonaldTrump okay now do Rand Paul

And then there were people really making a point about how frightening the prospect of President Trump actually is:

Kay Reindl @KayReindl
.@realDonaldTrump I don't know about anyone else, but I think it's time for a President who spends his day fighting on Twitter.

End of the day, we get why Perry is replying and using this stuff to his best advantage — Trump is truly the gift that keeps on giving as far as Perry is concerned — but we're utterly stumped as to why Trump keeps trying a tactic that only makes him look like an idiot, while simultaneously bringing up lots of questions about whether the Trumpmeister himself has ever had an IQ test. We're really curious about that one now.

Rep. Joe Barton endorses Rick Perry for president, spearheads Congressional outreach // The Dallas Morning News // Sylvan Lane – July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON–Sometimes college buddies come in handy.

Rep. Joe Barton, R-Arlington, will spearhead Congressional outreach for former Gov. Rick Perry, according to a Friday morning statement from the campaign

“I have known Rick Perry since we were classmates at Texas A&M University, and he has always been a man of character,” said Barton in the release, citing Perry’s economic record as governor. “Americans deserve the kind of principled leadership he would bring to Washington.”

Barton, the longest-tenured current Texas congressman, is the former House Energy and Commerce Committee chairman with ties to the tea party movement. He has consistently supported oil and gas industry-friendly policies throughout his Congressional career and apologized to BP after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, accusing the White House of a “shakedown.”

Barton later walked back the apology.

“I think BP is responsible for this accident, should be held responsible and should, in every way, do everything possible to make good on the consequences that have resulted from this accident,” he said.

Perry called Barton a leading energy policy expert in Congress and a faithful proponent of conservative principles.

“I am grateful to have Joe’s support and look forward to working with him to help solve our country’s greatest challenges,” said Perry.

Barton is the first member of Congress to endorse Perry’s presidential campaign.

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Five other Texas congressmen have endorsed Sen. Ted Cruz: Reps. Louie Gohmert of Tyler, John Culberson of Houston, John Ratcliffe of Heath, Michael Burgess of Lewisville and Brian Babin of Woodville.

HUCKABEE

Huckabee's $8M pile only goes so far, observers say // Arkansas Online // Sarah D. Wire – July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON -- The $8 million raised for former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's 2016 campaign is more than he raised in the early stages of his 2008 bid, but it's dwarfed by his competitor's hauls.

His presidential campaign has raised $2 million, according to reports filed this week with the Federal Election Commission. Coupled with $6 million raised by pro-Huckabee political action committees and nonprofit groups, Huckabee's initial funding notably exceeds that of his previous attempt, but it may not be good enough, several Arkansas political experts said Thursday.

Many candidates have announced the amounts raised by supportive groups such as super political action committees, nonprofits and other groups that can raise unlimited money but cannot coordinate with the campaigns.

With the inclusion of money raised by such groups, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush topped Republicans' fundraising with more than $114 million. Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and her allied groups eclipsed the other Democratic candidates, with more than $62 million.

"Certainly Mike Huckabee has raised a decent amount of money compared to where he was in 2007, but when you compare him to Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton, they are just blowing him out of the water," said University of Arkansas political science assistant professor Karen Sebold.

A half-dozen Republican candidates have more money when their allied organizations are included in the fundraising totals. U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas has more than $51 million, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida has more than $40 million, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal has $9 million.

Huckabee's spokesman Alice Stewart pointed to how Huckabee did in in regard to the 2008 campaign, when he raised less money.

"The nearly $8 million raised to date is well over three times as much as Gov. Huckabee raised in the first three quarters combined of our 2008 campaign, when we were outspent 10-to-1. I'll remind you that Gov. Huckabee won the Iowa caucuses and seven other states," she said.

Sebold also cautioned against writing Huckabee off, citing his 2008 wins.

"Huckabee is one of those candidates I wouldn't count out early in the game. He is not at the front-runner status, but he does have enough to get a ground game going in Iowa," she said. "A couple million dollars of hard donations, $6 million in [unregulated] donations can float a candidacy in Iowa, can help you get that very imperative ground game going where you get people knocking on doors, you get signs out."

Hal Bass, a political science professor at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, said less money could mean a hard slog through the primaries, with fewer television, radio and Internet ads than his competitors. The Iowa caucuses are six months away.

"Huckabee has yet to demonstrate that he can raise the kind of money that's necessary to compete on the national level," he said. "It's going to turn on his own personal campaign skills, which are formidable, but it's difficult to run a national campaign without sufficient financial resources."

Bass said that how much money a candidate has doesn't determine success but that it helps a candidate build credibility.

"It matters in the sense that it legitimates a candidacy. It shows that serious financial resources are available for the campaign going forward," he said. "Those who can demonstrate their capacity to generate that financial foundation are able to demonstrate their campaign credibility."

Gary Wekkin, a political science professor at the University of Central Arkansas, said that with so many candidates in the race, donors have a lot of Republicans to choose from.

"There are so many Republicans that the people who are bringing up the rear are going to be getting in each other's

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way, especially when it comes to fundraising and polling," he said.

Arkansas was the greatest source of Huckabee's contributions for the period between April 1 and June 30, with $383,051 coming in.

He brought in $148,938 over three days in early June when he held fundraisers in El Dorado, Jonesboro, Little Rock and Texarkana.

Among his notable early donations from Arkansans are:

• $2,700 from Craig Campbell, vice chairman of The Stephens Group LLC in Little Rock.

• $2,000 from Southern Arkansas University President David Rankin. His daughter, Beth Ann Rankin, who worked as a policy adviser when Huckabee was governor, also gave $1,000.

• $1,000 from U.S. Rep. French Hill, a Republican from Little Rock. He is the only donor from the state's congressional delegation. Hill was Huckabee's 2008 national finance chairman.

• $1,000 from Assistant Director of the Arkansas Heritage Commission Marynell Branch, who played keyboard in Huckabee's band Capitol Offense.

• $500 from state treasurer's office Chief of Staff Jim Harris, who is Huckabee's brother-in-law and worked on his 2008 campaign.

• $500 from Land Commissioner John Thurston's campaign committee.

• $250 from Attorney General Leslie Rutledge. She was legal counsel on his 2008 campaign.

• $250 from Chief Deputy Attorney General Julie Benafield, who was a state insurance commissioner under Huckabee.

Huckabee's campaign headquarters is in Little Rock, and he made his official campaign announcement May 5 in his hometown of Hope.

His FEC report reflected payments made to several Arkansas businesses for campaign services, such as $2,750 to the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, where he held his announcement, $1,072 to Doe's Eat Place in Little Rock for a dinner with reporters and $297 to Whole Hog Cafe in Little Rock for meals.

Quote of the Day: Mike Huckabee Wants American Wars to Last Ten Days Max // Mother Jones // Kevin Drum – July 17, 2015

From noted national security expert Mike Huckabee:

Here is what we have to do: America has to have the most formidable, fierce, military in the history of mankind. So when we have a threat, whether it is ISIS, Boko Haram, Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, the Iranians, whatever it is, we make it very clear that we plan to push back and destroy that threat to us. And we won't take 10 years doing it, we hopefully won't even take 10 months, it will be like a 10 day exercise, because the fierceness of our forces would mean that we can absolutely guarantee the outcome of this film. That's how America needs to operate in the world of foreign affairs, and foreign policy.

Damn! If only we'd known this before. If we took this shit a little more seriously, we could have wiped out all these guys in a short series of ten-day bloodbaths. No more Al-Qaeda. No more ISIS. No more Hamas or Hezbollah. Even the entire country of Iran would apparently have fallen to our fierceness in ten days or so. Booyah!

Generally, speaking, I try not to obsess over each and every Idiocy of the Day™, since they fly fast and furious during campaign season. But I have to assume that Huckabee is being more than astonishingly ignorant here. He's also channeling the beliefs of a lot of base conservatives, who figure if we stopped pussyfooting around and spending all our time worrying about PC crap like gay soldiers and whatnot, we could unleash the full might of America and destroy our enemies in a matter of days or weeks. And that would be that.

I wonder how many people are out there who believe this? More than we think, probably. Maybe someone should take a poll.

Road to White House Paved on Path of Smoothies, Mattress Stores, and Outside Spending // NY Mag // Jaime Fuller – July 17, 2015

2016 presidential candidates have finally revealed how many people are giving them money so far — and where

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they've decided to spend it. As you might have expected, Hillary Clinton is in the lead, Senator Bernie Sanders has raised more small donations than anyone else (and Jeb Bush raised hardly any money from small donors), Republican candidates' super PACs are significantly outpacing their traditional fund-raising, and hardly anyone wanted to give Lincoln Chaffee or George Pataki any money.

Hillary Clinton received donations from a bunch of celebrities — Leonardo DiCaprio, Reese Witherspoon, and Ben Affleck — and Chuck Norris managed to find one Republican candidate he likes above all others: Mike Huckabee. Danny DeVito gave money to Martin O'Malley, and Bobby Jindal received financial support from Duck Dynasty stars. Sixty-three people actually gave more than $250 to Donald Trump — who bragged earlier this week that he was worth more than "TEN BILLION DOLLARS." One donor joked to the Daily Beast that he "was probably drunk" when he made the donation.

And what have the candidates done with all that money? This early in the race, money mostly goes into staffing up in the first primary states, an endless number of meet-and-greets, and spending money to raise money. Clinton has spent about 40 percent of her haul — and she still has more money on hand than any other candidate.

Traveling around the country constantly for months leads to some deliciously weird purchases, too. Listed out of context on a Federal Election Commission form, this campaign spending would work well as a writing prompt in a freshman writing seminar. Why did Mike Huckabee spend $2,657.81 at Mattress Firm, and what did "Tim the Balloonman" do with the $100 Ben Carson gave him? Why did Senator Marco Rubio list a 43-cent expense? (And in 2015, what can you actually buy for 43 cents?) Was the $6 that the Donald Trump campaign spent at Beignet Done That in Davenport, Iowa, well spent? What does $3,000 buy at Possum Holler Catering? Did the Bernie Sanders campaign buy smoothies or more at Minnesota Smoothie & More — and how nice is the office furniture his campaign bought on Craigslist?

CARSON

FIORINA

Fiorina: Obama 'pallid' on Chattanooga shooting **// The Hill // Mark Hensch - July 17, 2015**

GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina has been underwhelmed so far by President Obama's response to Thursday's mass shooting in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Fiorina argued Friday that Obama is not treating the attack with the dignity it deserves.

"I think the president's response, as usual, has been a bit pallid," Fiorina told host Dana Loesch on The Blaze's "Dana." "This is an unbelievable tragedy."
"Whether this guy turns out to be ISIS-inspired or not, it's clearly an attack on the homeland and an American military installation, and not the first, as you point out," she added.
Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez, 24, killed four Marines by opening fire on two military facilities in Chattanooga on Thursday morning.

Police confirmed later that evening he also died during the attack.

Fiorina on Friday said arming personnel at U.S. military installations would prevent future incidents from claiming innocent lives.

"Of course we need to permit these fighting men and women to defend themselves," she said.

"I mean, think about it — these are Marines, who stormed battlefields in Ramadi and Afghanistan," she said.

"And they're killed by a coward driving by in his car and they have no way of defending themselves," Fiorina added. "It is outrageous."

"I would change the policy immediately, and I am very disappointed from the lack of action from this president."

Fiorina said the ban on arming U.S. military facility personnel is outdated because of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

"Immediately this policy should have been changed when we learned that ISIS was going to target military facilities, military men and women and their families," she said.

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Reports emerged Thursday night that Abdulazeez had blogged about Islam before striking two locations in Chattanooga.

He first targeted a recruitment center on Lee Highway before next setting his sights on the U.S. Naval and Marine Reserve Center on Amnicola Highway.

Abdulazeez was a naturalized Kuwaiti who reportedly lived in Hixson, Tenn., mere miles from the scene of the crime.

Carly Fiorina records 'If men were treated like women in the office' video // Washington Times // David Sherfinski – July 17, 2015

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO and GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina, who has spoken about the sexism she's faced in the corporate world, turned the tables a bit in a new video she recorded with Buzzfeed.

"How do you walk in those shoes?" she asks a man wearing sneakers at the beginning.

"You like to bake — how about you handle the cake for Gina's birthday?" she asks later.

Ms. Fiorina, who announced her candidacy in early May, has been an aggressive critic of former Secretary of State and 2016 Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton and gave a speech at the Competitive Enterprise Institute last month about the state of women in America.

"A feminist is a woman who lives the life she chooses," Ms. Fiorina said. "A woman may choose to have five children and home-school them. She may choose to become a CEO or run for president."

The only female candidate in the Republican presidential field, Ms. Fiorina might not make it onto the stage at the first RNC-sanctioned GOP debate Aug. 6. The debate is limited to the top 10 candidates in an average of recent national polls. She was just outside the top 10 at 1 percent in a Fox News poll released Thursday.

With Buzzfeed video, Carly Fiorina continues her millennial outreach // Washington Examiner – July 17, 2015

In a video for Buzzfeed, Republican presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina took on the differences between how men and women are treated in the workplace.

I'll admit that I laughed multiple times throughout the video. On the surface, the lighthearted video is yet another example of Fiorina's grasp of the importance of reaching people on different platforms. It also showed Fiorina's willingness to address difficult topics that might appeal to a broad spectrum of voters.

But after finishing the video, I concluded that it was just another attempt to divide people. Amy Miller at Legal Insurrection said Fiorina's attempt to connect was "pandering."

"Carly is funny, engaging, and smart — but she used that power for evil. She walked into a young, modern, progressive venue, and threw her own womanhood under the bus in an effort to pander to a base that will never vote for her," Miller wrote. "Fiorina has defined herself as a businesswoman, CEO, and force to be reckoned with; she should not have to — and should never (NEVER) — have to play into the hands of liberals who work every day to manufacture divides in our society."

Let's go point-by-point on each issue raised in the video:

1. "How do you walk in those shoes?"

I laughed out loud at this part. The idea of a man in sneakers being asked this just tickled me.

I also don't find this question particularly sexist. High heels are difficult to walk in for a lot of women and are very painful. Other women — not men — are the ones who usually ask me if a shoe is difficult to walk in. I have asked this question myself with the ultimate goal of hoping the woman I'm asking has some simple secret to heel-wearing that makes them comfortable that I don't know about. That's never the case. You're either comfortable in heels or you're not.

On the flip side, I've also always wanted to ask people walking on stilts how they do that, but they are too high up to hear me.

2. "Getting talked over"

This one I've experienced. Maybe it's sexism, maybe I didn't speak up loudly enough. I've had people steal my

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ideas — and my jokes — because I wasn't heard and they were. One example of this occurred at one of my previous jobs — but I can't conclusively say that it was due to the fact that I am woman and not, say, the fact that I was new to politics and knew very little compared to the people around me (I definitely lacked confidence due to that).

The video suggests that this is just the way women are treated in the workplace, as if no woman has ever had her ideas heard because a man always steps in to steal them. That happens; it also happens to men. Certain bosses take credit for their subordinate's ideas, regardless of whether the subordinate is a man or a woman.

3. "Being defined by family"

Fiorina asks a male "coworker" in the video how he handles the work-life balance. I have no doubt that women with children get asked this question more than men with children.

The difference here reflects poorly on both sexes. When women are asked this, the implied question seems to be: "Why don't you spend more time with your children?" At the same time, not asking this question of men comes with the undertone that men don't need to be there for their children, or simply don't need to care about them.

The best idea here would be not to ask this question, especially of an acquaintance. I'm always amazed by people who are able to pack a lot of activities into a single day or week — even if those activities don't involve children. I don't think it is wrong to be curious about how they are able to do this — I simply want to know how they do it so that maybe I can be more active one day too (never going to happen, but I can dream).

4. "Getting assigned domestic tasks"

This one could be an error in the script, because Fiorina asks a male coworker: "You like to bake, how about you handle the cake for Gina's birthday?"

If she had said, "hey, you're a man, which means you must like baking, right?" I would have thought it was sexist. But what's wrong with asking someone who likes to do something if they would be willing to do that thing for others?

"Hey, Ashe, you know how to ride horses, would you be willing to teach my child to ride?" HOW DARE YOU ASK ME SUCH A QUESTION.

I don't see the harm in asking. If I were asked because it was assumed I know how to horseback ride because of my sex, that would be another story. But that's not how it was asked in the video.

The flip-side of this section of the video is the potential for hurt feelings if you bought a cake when — ohmygod! — you knew your co-worker Taylor loves to bake for everyone. What, you don't think Taylor's cakes are good enough? The opportunities to offend are endless.

5. "Being defined by family (again)"

I'll again give Buzzfeed this one. Fiorina asks her male coworker if work is less of a priority for him now that he has a family. Women could very well be asked this more often than men are after a child is born — I don't know, I've never heard of the question being asked at all. But it's plausible that women are more likely to get that question.

6. "(And again)"

"Does your wife help with the kids?" Fiorina asks her male coworker. Again I could see this question asked of either sex, but probably being asked more of women. I also think this question is asked more of women who don't work outside the home than of those who work in an office.

7. "Commenting on your food"

I actually have a big problem with this one. Not the problem brought up in the video — that women apparently are questioned about their food choices. Rather, my problem is that I ask people about their food. It's a personal problem that stems from having the palate of a child. I tend to inadvertently insult other's perfectly normal food choices. I'm working on it. I simply say nothing now.

I also think the question Fiorina asks about portion is actually more likely to be asked of men. I've never been asked this question and I'm always the person who loads her plate up with food. But I have seen men asked this question when they're embarking on what appears to be "Man versus food"-worthy proportions.

Though just because it's never happened to me doesn't mean it doesn't happen. I would venture to guess that it's women asking the question of other women rather than men asking the question.

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8. "Being talked down to"

Fiorina suggests not having "too many men" working on the same project because they might get "catty." This is another one of those statements I have never heard made about women. I've been working for only a decade, so maybe I've just been lucky.

The main problem with the video is that it implies that all the issues raised are commonplace. But that's simply not true. These things might happen in certain divisions of certain companies, but it's wrong to suggest that they're the norm.

The only people I hear suggesting otherwise are liberals.

9. "Being defined by your gender"

Fiorina tells her male coworker that she didn't know men could be funny. I would buy this statement more than any other that's presented in the video. Although I don't believe it's so much an issue in the workplace as in society in general. Well, unless your workplace is a comedy club, perhaps.

JINDAL

Bobby Jindal should just shut up: His simple-minded, dishonest Chattanooga comments make things worse // Salon // Sean Illing – July 17, 2015

Among the first GOP candidates to comment on the tragic shooting in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was Bobby Jindal. His response was every bit as trite and empty as you'd expect it to be. In an exclusive interview with Breitbart.com, Jindal said:

> "It's time for the White House to wake up and tell the truth…and the truth is that Radical Islam is at war with us, and we must start by being honest about that. There have been many bad things that have happened under President Obama. One that stands out to me was the horrible shooting at Ft. Hood…which was clearly an act of terrorism by a Radical Islamist. Yet the White House labeled that horrible act as 'workplace violence.' This is grotesque. You cannot defeat evil until you admit that it exists."

This statement is remarkably simpleminded and dishonest. In what sense has the White House failed to "tell the truth" about terrorism? Like so many Republicans, Jindal is obsessed with the superficial; he's intentionally oblivious to what Obama has actually done. Obama has made it fairly clear that we're at war with terrorists, especially Islamic terrorists. He's been far more effective, in fact, than the previous Republican administration at finding and killing said terrorists (remember bin Laden?).

What's dishonest about Jindal's statement is the implication that what happened in Chattanooga is a policy failure on the part of Obama. That's not at all the case. A man decided to sacrifice his life in order to kill other people. Just as the officer at Fort Hood decided, on his own, to kill innocent people. The truth is that there's no real defense against that. Life in a free society involves certain risks. All the armies in the world can't stop a lone gunman before he fires the first shot. This notion that if we dropped more bombs abroad or tightened immigration standards, we'd somehow be immune from attacks of this kind is a Republican fantasy, one no thinking person believes.

When something like this happens, our response should be simple: deal with it and carry on. Terrorism is a tactic — it's not defeatable. The best we can do is limit the conditions that breed terrorists while fighting them when and where we must, which is what Obama has done since taking office. Exaggerating every isolated attack into an apocalyptic threat plays perfectly into the enemy's narrative. Yet that's exactly what Jindal does. Indeed, he warned that yesterday's shooting (again, perpetrated by one man) is a reminder that we're being colonized by Muslims.

"What's not acceptable is people that want to come and conquer us. That's not immigration, by the way, that's colonization," Jindal said. This is preposterously stupid on every level. Yes, we're in a real war. Yes, there are Muslim extremists that want to kill us. And yes, we have to take that seriously. But America isn't being colonized. Suggesting otherwise is dangerous and needlessly alarmist.

The worst thing we can do, the thing Republicans often do, is blame a single person or party for a terrible and ultimately unavoidable attack. Republicans understand this when it's the other way around. The logic Jindal uses to pin this attack on Obama applies equally to Bush during 9/11. Indeed, by any measure, the Bush administration was infinitely more responsible for that incident, as it involved dozens of people and months of preparation to

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which they remained blind. Can you imagine the GOP's response if a Democratic candidate for president said, the day after 9/11, that it was Bush's fault, that 3,000 people died because he failed to take terrorism seriously? True or not, they'd have considered that treasonous, at the very least.

One of the luxuries of not being responsible for anything is that you can propose to do everything without explaining how you'd do it. This is what Jindal — and other Republican candidates — will likely do in the coming days. They'll talk about their plans to conquer terrorists and terrorism without, you know, mentioning strategy or tactics or the complexities of geopolitics. They can do this because they're not president, because they don't have any actual ideas, and because they're more interested in tossing red meat at their base than in mitigating terrorism.

Which is why no one should give a damn what they have to say about it.

TRUMP

Trump's Appeal? G.O.P. Is Puzzled, but His Fans Aren't **// NYT // Jeremy W. Peters – July 17, 2015**

LACONIA, N.H. — There are many, many things Donald Trump would like you to know about how he would run the country. As he told a standing-room-only crowd here the other night, turning America around would be a lot like running the Trump National Doral golf club in Miami, which he bought when it was in bankruptcy in 2012.

He is really smart. "I'm really smart," he boasted in Phoenix last weekend before rattling off his résumé highlights. "Went to the Wharton School of Finance. Even then, a long time ago, like the hardest, or one of the hardest, schools to get into."

People like him, clamor for him, must see him. Describing for an audience in Las Vegas how demand to see him at a recent event was so high, he said the venue managers had panicked and called, "begging us not to be there."

He is not wrong on this last point — even if he does sometimes embellish the size of his following, as he did here in New Hampshire. He declared that of the 300 or so people who packed a suffocatingly hot banquet hall, there must have been three times as many outside. There were not. And by the end of his speech, that estimate had ballooned to "thousands of people outside."

But the question that is giving so many Republicans heartburn today is how a man so few took seriously is suddenly a leading presidential contender.

Listening to Mr. Trump as he campaigned across the country over the last week, and talking to the people shouting "U.S.A! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" who crammed into halls and ballrooms by the hundreds and sometimes thousands, shed some perspective on his appeal, and on the void he is filling in Republican politics.

Mr. Trump is not, as many Republicans have suggested, merely a renegade agitator who sneaked up on the party establishment and threatens to spoil its plans for a tidy, civil primary. Rather, Mr. Trump has become the new starring attraction for the restless, conservative-minded voters who think the political process is in need of disruption.

Some align themselves with the Tea Party movement. Others call themselves independents or Republicans who are just fed up. The praise they heap on Mr. Trump — "He speaks the truth," "He's fearless," "He's not politically correct" — echoes the words conservatives have used to describe others, like Sarah Palin and Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, who have stirred their passions before.

"I think he means what he says," said Kristi Eglody, 63, a retired school counselor from Manchester. "He loves America, and he wants it to be better. And that's what I love about him."

Jerry DeLemus, 60, of Rochester, N.H., said he liked the idea of voting for a candidate who had not been in politics very long and found Mr. Trump's swagger inspiring. "You won't leave confused about where he stands," he said. "And how fun would it be to watch him debate Hillary Clinton?"

"We need the truth," Mr. DeLemus went on. "We don't have to like the truth. But we need it."

The adulation that Mr. Trump is enjoying now can be a complicated, paradoxical gift. Voters like Mr. DeLemus, who said he tended to vote Republican and identifies with the Tea Party movement, often draw motivation from outsize personalities like Mr. Trump. But they have also generally rejected any singular figure as a leader. And in that sense, Mr. Trump could find his moment fleeting, the latest showman to lead a movement that has so far refused to be led.

Mr. Trump has found success by putting a sharper edge on a popular conservative message: that the United States

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is an exceptional nation run by unexceptional people who are fundamentally altering what it means to be American.

In Las Vegas, he lamented: “We don’t have victories anymore. We used to have victories. We used to be great.”

In Phoenix, he said: “We have stupid leaders. The American dream is dead. But I’m going to make it bigger, better and stronger.” To chants of “U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!” he vowed: “Don’t worry, we’ll take our country back. Very soon.”

The implication is that he will take the country back from incompetent leaders and undocumented immigrants. And this is where there is a darker side to his promises to make America great again, one that many critics, including Republicans, say feeds on xenophobia and racist caricatures of immigrants.

To reinforce his claims that Mexico is sending rapists and murderers across the border in droves, he has been traveling the country with people whose relatives were killed by immigrants who entered the country illegally. He has them share their stories with his audiences.

“The illegals come in, and the illegals killed their children,” he said at a news conference in California recently as he introduced the victims’ family members. One man talked about how his son had been crushed to death under the car of an undocumented immigrant. A woman accused the news media of hiding the nationalities of the people committing crimes like these. “They never tell you what nationality they are,” she said. “Most of them are Mexican.”

Mr. Trump’s attacks on Mexicans seems politically short-sighted, many Republicans say. Every month for the next two decades, 50,000 Hispanics turn 18 and will be eligible to vote.

And some of his supporters acknowledge that he has gone too far with some of his comments, though they still believe he makes valid points about illegal immigration. “He probably didn’t really think about how that was going to come out,” said Paula Borbotsina, 69, of Manchester, who said she liked Mr. Trump mostly because she believes he would not feel beholden to anyone. “But a lot of bad people are coming over.”

But many of Mr. Trump’s followers acknowledged in interviews deep suspicions about Mexico. Some said they doubted whether President Obama was a citizen, a misrepresentation Mr. Trump himself has reinforced repeatedly.

“Finally here’s somebody who has some common sense and is not just pandering to people,” said Tom Mosier, 77, of Bisbee, Ariz., which is along the Mexican border. Both he and his wife, Ginger, drove up to hear Mr. Trump in Phoenix and said they believed the president was a Muslim and was not born in the United States.

Mr. Trump brushes off the charges that he is race-baiting and swears he has nothing but respect for Mexico — mostly because, he often says, their leaders are “much sharper, smarter and more cunning” than ours.

“I love Mexico!” he insists. Same for the Chinese. “I love China! I sell apartments for $10 million, $15 million, $25 million to people from China,” he said in Las Vegas.

Mr. Trump’s events are drawing the committed and the curious. And the large crowds he attracts seem to be a mix of people who want to do more homework for voting, and others who just want proximity to a celebrity and a picture. While many say they are attracted to Mr. Trump’s candor and his success, there are also many others who are not quite sure they can see themselves voting for him.

Bill Davies, 53, was on vacation in New Hampshire this week and decided to drive with his wife to Laconia because they were both intrigued by Mr. Trump. Mr. Davies, from Boston, said he was impressed but not quite sold.

“No one else is that direct,” he said. “No one else is going to speak their mind like that. But he’s a bit of a cartoon character, you have to admit.”

A lot of Republican voters agree with Donald Trump. What does that mean? // WaPo // Greg Sargent – July 17, 2015

Does the Donald Trump boomlet reflect widespread agreement among Republican voters with his views on immigration in their rawest, ugliest form? Or does it reflect something else that no one has been able to put a finger on yet?

At first glance, a new Fox News poll would seem to suggest the former:

Recently, presidential candidate Donald Trump called for a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. He said

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> Mexico is quote, “sending people that have lots of problems…they’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.” Setting aside how Trump worded his comments, do you think he’s basically right on this or not?

Seventy percent of Republicans said Yes, versus only 27 percent who said No. Americans overall said Trump is wrong by 53-44; independents said the same by 61-36.

As I’ve argued, the GOP’s problem with Latino voters goes a lot deeper than Trump’s rhetoric. That problem is rooted in the fundamental underlying difference between the two parties’ views on immigration. Most Democrats believe the 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country have something positive to contribute, while most Republican lawmakers either don’t believe that or cannot accept legalization under any circumstances, because it would reward lawbreaking.

The new Fox finding perhaps comports generally with that. But this shouldn’t be taken too far. Other numbers from the Fox poll cast doubt on the idea that GOP voters are in the grip of unrelenting xenophobia. Large chunks of Republican voters agree that legal immigrants bring some positives to the country, such as new ideas and entrepreneurial spirit. This is in line with the view expressed by some GOP pollsters that Republican primary voters can be won over on immigration: their initial instinct is to lash out at the idea of legalization but they change their views when they are led through the moral and practical complexities of the problem. I like to think this is true. Indeed, I believe the instinct of many conservatives against rewarding lawbreaking should be engaged seriously, even if I disagree with it.

Still, how to explain the Trump boomlet? One GOP operative suggests an explanation for what’s motivating Trump’s supporters. “They seem to be galvanized by a notion that Washington is hopelessly corrupt – and you need somebody who is completely outside of the process to go in there and shake things up,” this operative says. “For a lot of these folks, I think immigration speaks more broadly to a federal government that’s not doing its job as effectively as they think it should be or could be.”

Perhaps. Alternatively, it could just be name-recognition, or something else still. As it happens, there is one way this question might be settled. Many Republicans expect an epic showdown between Trump and Jeb Bush on immigration, perhaps at the coming GOP debate. It’s possible that Jeb, who has challenged Republicans to accept that the 11 million are more than mere criminals, may try to call out Trump’s views for what they are before a high profile audience. If so, the reaction from GOP voters across the country will tell us a lot.

Donald Trump says he’s 10 times as popular as anyone else on Google. Nope. // WaPo // Philip Bump – July 17, 2015

If it's a day that ends in "y," it must be time to evaluate a hyperbolic claim from Donald Trump!

In an interview with Bloomberg News, Trump responded to a claim that he'd lied in his financial filing with the Federal Election Commission. (Which, as we noted this week, he doesn't need to do anyway.) "Could you imagine me signing a false document?" Trump told Bloomberg New's Mark Halperin. "Me? Right now the most high-profile guy in the world. More Google hits than anybody in the entire world by a factor of 10."

That, we can check! And, surprising no one, it's not true.

Google offers up a great deal of data on what people are searching for through its "Trends" tool. It allows you to see the frequency with which people are searching for particular terms, such as "Donald Trump."

Here's the last 90 days of searches for Trump. The scale at the left is proprietary; "100" is the peak amount of search for whatever terms are being considered.

The place where Trump has been searched the most? Mexico.

Notice that Trump is actually off his personal peak, which came at his announcement. But, being generous, we'll peg the "more popular by a factor of 10" to that peak. According to Trump, no one else should be getting above about a four.

So let's compare him with President Obama.

Oops. Obama generally engenders more interest than Trump, and his speech in Charleston put him well over Trump's maximum.

And that's just politics. If you throw in entertainers, who, we will note, count as "anybody in the entire world," Trump seems downright pedestrian.

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There's Justin Bieber...

... and, of course, the queen of the Internet, Kim Kardashian.

We had to check whether or not Kardashian met the famous John Lennon metric of popularity: Was she more searched than Jesus? Yes.

(An aside: Google allows you to narrow your query to focus on a particular topic. So if you were searching for "airplane," it might ask if you meant the vehicle or the 1970s movie. The clarifying term to pick out the correct Bieber is "singer-songwriter." For Kardashian, "television personality." For Jesus? "God.")

There you have it. Trump is pretty popular on the Google. But he's nowhere near 10 times as popular as everyone else.

Guys, we're starting to think that he exaggerates.

Donald Trump is now essentially guaranteed a spot on the debate stage // WaPo // Philip Bump – July 17, 2015

Donald Trump shouldn't be excoriating Univision on Twitter. He should be thanking them.

On June 30, Trump was at 4.2 percent in the Real Clear Politics polling average, good enough for eighth place. In our assessment of who would and wouldn't make the stage at the upcoming Fox News debate -- calculated by averaging the five most recent national polls -- Trump was on the bubble. Maybe in, maybe out.

Then Univision called him out for his anti-immigrant comments about Mexicans at his presidential announcement. In the new Fox poll released on Thursday, the Trump surge that resulted continues. His RCP average is now 15 percent -- half a point shy of the leader, Jeb Bush. And given that there have been only three polls taken this month and that the Fox debate is on August 6, there's basically no chance that enough new polls can emerge showing Trump doing badly enough that he won't make the top ten.

Here's our assessment, as it stands right now.

Alert! For the first time since we started doing this in late May, there's a change in the top ten. Rick Perry has dropped out of the top ten, and Rick Santorum has made the cut. (So zero net change on the first names on the stage. (If this is what it looks like in August, with a candidate left out because of a 0.1 percent difference, you can expect a lot of fury from the left-out parties.)

But back to Trump, he said with a sigh.

Since Fox News' June survey, Trump and Scott Walker are the only leading candidates to see an improvement. (On the chart below, anything outside of the gray area is a net plus for the candidate.) Jeb Bush dropped; Ben Carson dropped more.

So where did Trump's gains come from? All over the place. On the graphs below, Trump's is the largest, hugest, classiest, most luxurious dot. He picked up 15 points with people earning under $50,000 a year, 12 points with men, 13 points with evangelicals. No doubt to the massive frustration of Ted Cruz, Trump even gained 8 points with conservatives, despite holding some ... not conservative views.

For Trump to not make the stage at this point, one of the following things would have to happen.

1) Trump drops out.
2) Trump's poll numbers crumple and there are five new polls that reflect it. (Even if Trump loses all support in the next four polls, his average would be 3.6 points -- certainly enough to make the cut.)
3) Fox bars him on a technicality. Given that Fox is in the ratings business, that seems unlikely.

So that's about it. Look forward to Donald Trump on your television next month. Maybe he will say his catchphrase, "I suddenly appear to possibly be a viable candidate for the presidency!" Everyone loves that line.

Trump says building a U.S.-Mexico wall is 'easy.' But is it really? // WaPo // Jerry Markon – July 17, 2015

For centuries, societies have erected walls and fences to separate themselves from their neighbors, from the Great Wall of China through the Berlin Wall right up to the barrier that today divides Israel from the Palestinians on the West Bank.

The United States has debated putting up security barriers of its own along the Southwest border and has spent

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billions of dollars in recent years fencing one-third of it.

Now, Donald Trump is proposing to go even further, vowing to build a massive, impenetrable wall along the U.S.-Mexico frontier to keep out illegal Mexican migrants. “Building a wall is easy, and it can be done inexpensively,” the Republican presidential candidate said in an interview. “It’s not even a difficult project if you know what you’re doing.”

The wall has become the signature proposal of Trump’s campaign, which has stirred widespread controversy over its focus on illegal immigration and his comments about immigrants.

Any wall-building effort would cost billions of dollars and encounter a variety of obstacles, according to experts, documents and federal officials, including some of the same difficulties that bedeviled the federal government as it spent more than $7 billion on border fencing. The hurdles include environmental and engineering problems; fights with ranchers and others who don’t want to give up their land; and the huge topographical challenges of the border, which runs through remote desert in Arizona to rugged mountains in New Mexico and, for two-thirds of its length, along rivers.

“It’s extremely challenging to put a brick-and-mortar wall along the Southwest border for any number of reasons,” said Richard Stana, who wrote multiple reports on border security for the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office before retiring in 2011. “It seems very simplistic.”

If such a barrier could be erected, experts and government officials agreed that making it impenetrable would be virtually impossible, as is completely securing the entire 1,954-mile border. The Department of Homeland Security is already spending millions of dollars a year to maintain existing fences and to repair breaches, according to government reports and officials, while drug traffickers and smugglers are increasingly using tunnels to pass underneath.

While a wall along much of the border might theoretically be possible, said Thad Bingel, a former senior U.S. Customs and Border Protection official, “is it desirable? At what cost, and what do you give up to pay for that?”

Bingel — who was involved in border fence-building during the George W. Bush administration and is now a partner at Command Consulting Group in Washington — added: “Every wall can be circumvented. People can go under it, they can go over it. . . . No one should go into this with the idea that if you just build the right kind of wall, no one will get through.”

Trump disputed that, saying that a wall “would be very effective” in deterring illegal migrants and that seismic and other equipment could detect and stop any underground tunnels. “A wall is better than fencing, and it’s much more powerful,” he said. “It’s more secure. It’s taller.”

The veteran builder acknowledged that environmental impact studies would be difficult but said he is the one person who can rise to the challenge. “I’m considered a great builder, by everybody,” he said, adding that cost is irrelevant because he would force Mexico to pay for the structure. Asked whether that was realistic, Trump said: “It’s realistic if you know something about the art of negotiating. If you have a bunch of clowns negotiating, it’s not realistic.”

Trump’s vision

Trump has emerged as a leading GOP candidate partly because of his strong statements about immigration, which have included describing Mexicans entering the country illegally as “rapists” and “murderers.” He has suggested at times that his proposed wall would be extensive and would cover nearly the entire border, but said in the interview: “You don’t have to build it in every location. There would be some locations where you would have guards, where you don’t need it because the topography acts as its own wall, whether that’s water or very rough terrain.”

The concept of a wall or fence along virtually the entire border has bubbled up occasionally in the nation’s immigration debate, with some Republicans supporting the idea. Today, there are more than 45 such walls and border fences worldwide, perhaps most prominently Israel’s West Bank barrier.

While Israeli officials say it has reduced attacks, security specialists say that barrier, slated to be more than 400 miles long when finished, is not comparable to what would be required along the far more extensive U.S. Southwest border. The Israelis, they add, supplement the physical concrete barrier with a mix of border police and technology, much as the Department of Homeland Security does in the United States.

The U.S. government began building border fencing near San Diego in 1990. As DHS cracked down on illegal immigration after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, President George W. Bush dramatically expanded the effort. Spending on border fencing and related infrastructure such as lighting shot up from $298 million in 2006 to $1.5 billion the following year, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

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Overall, more than $7 billion has been spent to build what is now almost 653 miles of Southwest border fencing — costing nearly $5 million per mile in some spots — nearly half in Arizona.

The costs could rise substantially if extensive new fencing was built, since it would be in increasingly remote regions without roads and in mountainous terrain, said Marc Rosenblum, deputy director of the U.S. immigration policy program at the Migration Policy Institute. Adding even more to the expense, he said, would be acquiring private land near the border and maintaining existing fencing.

Trump's wall would probably cost far more than fencing, Stana said, given the greater needs for construction materials and labor.

A broader strategy

While current and former DHS officials say the fencing has been effective in deterring illegal immigration, they say it is only one part of a broader border strategy that includes expanded sensors, drones and other technology, along with growing numbers of Border Patrol officers.

"Our southern border is a mixture of winding river, desert and mountains. Simply building more fences is not the answer," DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson said in an October speech.

The government's difficulties in erecting fences highlight the challenges of building a wall, experts said. The fencing mandated by Congress in 2006 was beset by delays, surging construction costs and disputes with private property owners, mostly in Texas, DHS officials have said. The biggest failure was the virtual fence, a Bush administration effort to cover the border with a high-tech surveillance system.

"It's a huge effort to construct anything at the border," said one DHS official, who has worked in Republican and Democratic administrations and spoke on the condition of anonymity because Trump's plan is part of a political campaign. "You have lots of requirements to do construction: the environmental piece, engineering assessments. And a private landowner might not want fencing."

Wayne Cornelius, director of the Mexican migration field research program at the University of California at San Diego, called Trump's proposal "ludicrous. . . . Any physical barrier can be tunneled under or climbed over or gotten around. There will always be gaps, and smugglers and migrants will seek out those gaps and go through."

Donald Trump seizes on Chattanooga shooting // Politico // Nick Gass – July 17, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is calling to eliminate gun-free zones on military bases in the United States in the wake of Thursday's shooting attacks at two military centers in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Muhammad Youssuf Abdulazeez opened fire at two civilian military facilities on Thursday, killing four Marines and injuring three others, according to officials. Abdulazeez was killed in a subsequent gunfight with police, reports said.

"Get rid of gun free zones. The four great marines who were just shot never had a chance," Trump tweeted Friday. "They were highly trained but helpless without guns."

In an interview with Fox News' Bill O'Reilly on Thursday night, Trump also decried President Barack Obama and others for not calling the shootings acts of "Islamic terrorism."

Terrorism is only going to get worse in the U.S., Trump told O'Reilly, because "people don't respect our law enforcement, and I think they don't respect our country and we're taking power away from the police."

"Whether it's Islamic or anything else, it's getting worse. We're losing law and order. They don't respect — you look at what's happening in Detroit, you look at what's happening in Baltimore or Chicago, it's getting worse all the time," Trump said.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam said it's ultimately up to the U.S. military to decide on any new protection measures at civilian facilities, adding in an interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that it's still "awfully early to try to come to a new conclusion about that."

The Republican governor said he was not concerned about the potential for reprisals against Muslims in Chattanooga and Tennessee, saying that people in his state "are both sickened and saddened" by Thursday's events.

Donald Trump: My supporters aren't 'crazies' // Politico // Nick Gass – July 17, 2015

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Donald Trump says the people who came out to see him last weekend in Phoenix weren't "crazies," as Arizona Sen. John McCain claimed in a recent interview.

In fact, Trump declared in a telephone interview with MSNBC's "Morning Joe," the five-term senator will lose his primary next year "if the right person runs against him."

"They weren't crazies. They were great Americans, and I know crazies, believe me," Trump said.

These people "wanted to know about illegal immigration. It's killing them," he added.

"And when he called them crazies—I think he will lose in the primary," Trump predicted, with the caveat: "If the right person runs against him."

McCain's comments came in an interview with The New Yorker's Ryan Lizza published Thursday, in which the Arizona senator said Trump "fired up the crazies" with his rally.

The mystery of the Trump coalition // Politico // Ben Schreckinger and Cate Martel – July 17, 2015

Last weekend, Donald Trump added to his long list of bold claims by declaring himself the champion of a new "silent majority" of Americans.

While 17 percent of Republican voters isn't a majority, and the 4,000 raucous supporters cheering him in Arizona were anything but silent, Trump has hurtled to the top of several recent GOP primary polls. Apparently, he speaks for some Americans. So who are they and where did they come from?

As it turns out, the Trump coalition looks a lot like the rest of the Republican Party. Other than a spike in support in the Northeast, there is little in recent polling data to distinguish Trump's supporters from the heart of the GOP primary electorate. Even immigration hardliners support him at the same rate as the rest of the Republican Party.

"It's a strange coalition of people," said Patrick Murray of Monmouth University. "We can't pin them down demographically. … It appears he's cherry-picked individual voters."

Interviews with Trump supporters at a rally on Saturday in Phoenix and in New Hampshire, where he was among the first candidates to hire staffers, suggest he is attracting Republicans from many corners of the party who are drawn to his image as a straight-talking businessman who would shake up politics as usual.

"The issues that are driving the average Trump voter are, first and foremost, that he's not a politician. Secondly, he is self-funding his campaign, so he can't be bought," said Steve Stepanek, Trump's New Hampshire co-chairman, who supported Newt Gingrich in 2012 and Rudy Giuliani in 2008.

"People today are looking for plainspoken people who say what's on their mind," said Lou Gargiulo, a New Hampshire activist and Trump's Rockingham County co-chair who supported Mitt Romney in the 2008 and 2012 Republican primaries.

Trump voters skew older, whiter and more male, but no more so than the rest of the Republican primary electorate.

In a Monmouth poll released on Monday that put Trump in second place and a Suffolk University/USA Today poll released on Tuesday that put him in first, the real estate mogul fared better among somewhat conservative voters and very conservative secular voters than he did among moderates and religious conservatives.

At least in that way, said Murray, they really are like Richard Nixon's silent majority of middle Americans. "They're in the middle of the Republican Party. They're not evangelicals. They're not hardline social or fiscal conservatives. They're also not on the liberal side of the party," he said.

Because Trump had flirted with running for president before without jumping in, many observers doubted he would do so, and most polls before mid-May did not include his name.

Trump's rise came so suddenly and unexpectedly, and Republican voters are divided among so many candidates, that the data to fully understand the Trump coalition does not yet exist, said Quinnipiac University pollster Peter Brown.

What Murray can say definitively about Trump is that he is an anomaly. In a Monmouth poll released a month ago, Trump had the worst favorability rating of any Republican candidate among Republican voters, 20 percent favorable to 55 percent unfavorable, a fact cited by many political observers in pooh-poohing his viability. In the poll out this week, Trump's favorability has pulled nearly even at 41-40. The swing was even more dramatic

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among self-identified tea party voters, who went from viewing him unfavorably, 55 percent to 20 percent, to viewing him favorably 56 percent to 26 percent.

“I’ve never seen a candidate who’s so well known who was able to suddenly turn around people’s opinions of him,” Murray said.

Even as Republican elites decried his claims about the alleged criminality of undocumented Mexican immigrants (which defy all available evidence) and brands cut ties with him, a large chunk of GOP primary voters were evaluating him in a positive light.

Joan Riscki, 67, a Phoenix resident and retiree, is an independent who voted for Mitt Romney in the general election in 2012. “I usually vote for Democrats, but it’s a bad situation now,” she told POLITICO outside Trump’s rally on Saturday. “They’re all liars anyways. I try not to listen to the news. I listen to KFYI,” a local conservative talk radio station.

Matt Bates, 52, a property manager from Scottsdale, who remains uncommitted to a presidential candidate, said he found out about the Trump event from his in-laws, who had heard about it on Fox News. “He’s not a politician, he’s a businessman,” Bates said of Trump’s appeal.

His wife, Stephanie, 52, a grocery store manager, said she supports Trump. “His views are similar to the GOP, but he’s not in anybody’s pocket,” she said. “You can’t trust the rest of them.”

Hazel Powell, 68, also of Phoenix, is a retired Peace Corps volunteer (she felt the need to leave the country after Obama’s election) and a fan of “The Apprentice,” Trump’s reality show on NBC. “I’ve always liked Donald with his television shows, his aggressiveness. He just speaks the truth,” she said.

The crowd in Phoenix was overwhelmingly white (as is the Republican primary electorate), and Trump’s fellow Republicans have condemned his comments about undocumented immigrants as racist, but Powell said he would eventually win over Latinos. “The Latinos are going to support him because they’re smart enough to know: He’s going to get them jobs.”

Trump has made the same claim, saying that “tens of thousands” of Latinos have worked for him over the years and that they “love” him.

In New Hampshire, Trump is currently polling second to Bush.

Greg Moore, the state director for the Koch-backed group Americans for Prosperity, which lost several staffers to Trump’s Granite State effort, has gotten an up-close look at the mogul’s supporters. His offices share a building with Trump’s campaign. He said he sees a lot of unfamiliar faces coming and going from Trump’s New Hampshire headquarters — not the state’s typical Republican activist crowd.

“They seem to be galvanized [by] a notion that Washington is hopelessly corrupt – and you need somebody who is completely outside of the process to go in there and shake things up,” he said. “Immigration really isn’t an issue in New Hampshire, but for a lot of these folks, I think immigration speaks more broadly to a federal government that’s not doing its job as effectively as they think it should be or could be.”

Despite Trump’s recent success capitalizing on widespread discontent with Washington, establishment Republicans say they aren’t worried his support will make him a viable candidate.

“I don’t think in the end, people when they vote in the primary will throw their vote away,” said Judd Gregg, a former senator and New Hampshire governor. “They’re not going to vote for somebody who isn’t a legitimate candidate for the nomination who can win the nomination and can govern.”

Trump brings his bluster to Bill Clinton's hometown // Politico // Annie Karni – July 17, 2015

Hot Springs, Ark. — A large highway sign on the drive to the Hot Springs Convention Center advertises the town proudly as the “boyhood home of President Bill Clinton.”

But Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was the big name in town here Friday night, where he keynoted the state’s annual GOP dinner, and reminded a crowd of about 1,000 attendees: “By the way, Hillary Clinton, with her husband, deserted Arkansas.”

The state has changed politically since the Clintons were the stars of the Democratic Party here. The state that was once reliably blue has turned red — President Barack Obama lost Arkansas by 24 points in his 2012 reelection campaign. The changing tide was on display in the large, enthusiastic crowd that gave Trump a warm welcome.

Hillary Clinton, who is headlining a Democratic Party dinner in Little Rock on Saturday evening, seemed to be

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worth no more than a few throw-away insults for Trump, who lumped her together with former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush as a politician beholden to donors and special interests. “I don’t need money,” he said, “so the real thing is, I don’t owe anybody any favors.”

Trump wasn’t even beholden to a teleprompter or any prepared notes.
In a 40-minute speech, the real-estate mogul and former television personality rambled about his favorite subjects: his high poll numbers (“as you know, I’ve been No.1 in all the polls”); the Iran deal (“disgusting, done by rank amateurs”); the Mexican border (“people are just flowing in”); China (“when was the last time you saw this country beat China in a trade deal?”); and, of course, his personal wealth (over $10 billion!”).

Throughout his stream-of-consciousness remarks, he had one overarching theme: all other nations have smart leaders, and America has inept leaders — but he could change that.

“The Persians are great negotiators,” he said of the Iran deal. “I watched this negotiator on television, after watching for about four minutes, I said there’s no way that [Secretary of State John] Kerry and our people can deal with this guy, he’s too smart.”

Closer to home, “the problem is the Mexican leaders are much sharper and more cunning than our leaders,” he said. “They’re much more cunning!”

He dinged “the genius pundits, who are really dumb people,” for doubting he would really run for president.

“We need smart people,” he said of the Republican Party. “We have to be wise … People are tired of watching us get ripped off. They’re tired of stupidity … I’m, like, this person who knows how the system works, and I made lot of money.”

He criticized Kerry for not pushing harder to bring home the American prisoners still held in Iran, while negotiating a nuclear deal.

“Complicate the deal?” he said, “Hey, we want four people, that’s complicated?”

In Trump’s world view, all his competitors are too inept to “make this country great again.”

“Bush will never have a clue, and Hillary will never have a clue, that I can tell you,” he said. “Who would you rather have negotiating against China or Mexico: Bush, Hillary, or Trump?”

Unlike most presidential candidates, who view the media as second to the voters they are in town to meet, Trump held a 15-minute press availability before his speech. There, he didn’t answer questions so much as use them as prompts to launch into his talking points blasting Obamacare and illegal immigration.

The convention center was teeming with a surprisingly diverse crowd for a Trump dinner just before his arrival. But all of the African American attendees, it became clear, were on site to attend a Jehovah’s Witness conference taking place next door. Trump’s crowd, in the end, was almost completely white.

And the attendees — some of whom paid $350 for dinner and a photo op with Trump — were taken with him.

“I would vote for him today,” said Darich Nations, who works for Arkansas State Parks, and bought a “Trump for President” t-shirt on her way out. “He’s honest. He’s not afraid to say what he’s thinking. He’s not afraid of big government, of foreign governments, of PACs, he’s not owned by anybody.”

Jane Phillips, who works for two local magazines, said she was impressed with his record in New York City, “the hotels, the jobs, creating them in New York,” she said, “It’s really quite amazing.”

Huffington Post Can't Make Trump Go Away by Ignoring Him // Bloomberg // Will Leitch – July 17, 2015

As of this precise second–and this might well change by the time I finish this sentence–there are 21 people running for President. Twenty have officially announced, and one (Gov. John Kasich) is expected to join the race soon. Some of them will be weeded out by the first debate, some will vanish by Iowa, all but two (probably) will be gone by next summer and eventually one of them will actually become the 45th President of the United States. Some of those 21 people are more likely to reach that level than others, but no one has cast a single vote, and no one will for another 199 days. We’re all just guessing.

These things tend to go crazy. At this point four years ago, Michelle Bachmann was rising in the polls and would end up winning the Iowa straw poll, knocking out two candidates right then and there. Over the next few months, Herman Cain, Rick Santorum, Rick Perry and Newt Gingrich would all surge and fall in the polls; Cain, a man who was running for public office for the first time, even reached the cover of Newsweek magazine. Cain never ever

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had a realistic shot of becoming President, and it seems quite possible, in retrospect, looking at that smoking ad, that he was maybe insane.

This cycle, Donald Trump is the elephant in the room.

But you couldn't wish away Herman Cain just because he made terrifying campaign ads. You can't ignore polls just because you want to.

Which brings us, as everything tends to do these days, to Donald Trump. This morning, the Huffington Post announced that it will no longer cover the "campaign"–those air quotes are theirs–of Trump, saying "Trump's campaign is a sideshow. We won't take the bait. If you are interested in what The Donald has to say, you'll find it next to our stories on the Kardashians and The Bachelorette." Now it's worth noting that as I type this, the Huffington Post politics page has this story placed directly below one titled "Donald Trump's 1990 Nazi Nightstand," one of four Trump stories on the page. But those could just be grandfathered in. Let's take them at their word. Let's assume they're done.

I am sure everyone at Huffington Post Politics felt better about themselves this morning when they posted that statement. People who cover politics take a lot of pride in covering something of consequence. Reporting can be a demoralizing job where you spend every day hounding people who don't want to talk to you, getting called horrible things by strangers, making less money that your college friends who gave up and went to law school, and watching your current colleagues lose their jobs all around you at an increasingly alarming rate. The upside is the self-importance that comes with covering Politics, capital P. You can tell yourself you are writing the first draft of history. You're not recapping reality television or captioning celebrity sex tapes. You have prestige.

For some journalists, Donald Trump seems to trample this prestige. People don't go into covering politics to write about people like Trump; he's what they got into this to avoid. And I get it. It can be frustrating to do your best to explain to your readers the complexities of the Iran deal and have them care more about what Donald Trump's favorite Vegas stage show is. (Not Penn & Teller, in case you were wondering.) Donald Trump can make you feel worse about your job.

But, you know, the job's a job. Just because you believe Donald Trump shouldn't be a legitimate candidate for President doesn't mean he actually isn't. Wringing your hands about the fact that Trump is starting to actually lead in national polls may make you feel better about yourself, but for a political journalist, it's a questionable impulse. Imagine a sports reporter not including Patriots' scores because they don't like Bill Belichick, or an entertainment reporter refusing to mention Transformers box office results because Michael Bay is destroying America. You can have these thoughts–I might even agree with you–but that doesn't mean you get to cover your eyes and plug your ears and wish away facts, however distasteful.

Well, Trump isn't going to win, this is all a stunt, you say. Well, yeah, probably not: I don't think Donald Trump is going to be elected President in November 2016 either. (I actually just shuddered typing that.) But what, exactly, makes Trump a less viable candidate than George Pataki, or Bobby Jindal? Sure, they've won elected office and he hasn't ... but, in the Fox poll, they have zero percent of voters picking them as a first choice. Surely being in first place in a poll gives one some legitimacy? And even if Trump doesn't win, it doesn't mean he's not going to matter. He has clearly galvanized a certain percentage of the Republican electorate, and other candidates are already strategizing as to how to respond to Trump, and his voters. Those votes will count, even if other candidates are able to pry them away from Trump; the section of the electorate that Trump has worked up is a substantial, real one. They exist. Politicians will go after them. That all looks a heckuva lot like politics to me. What is HuffPo going to do when Trump is on stage at the debate? "Bush responded to [NAME REDACTED] accusation that was a 'loser' with a frown."

This campaign cycle, Trump is the elephant in the room. He's ridiculous, sure. The only thing sillier is pretending he's not there.

A Note About Our Coverage Of Donald Trump's 'Campaign' // HuffPo // Ryan Grim and Danny Shea – July 17, 2015

After watching and listening to Donald Trump since he announced his candidacy for president, we have decided we won't report on Trump's campaign as part of The Huffington Post's political coverage. Instead, we will cover his campaign as part of our Entertainment section. Our reason is simple: Trump's campaign is a sideshow. We won't take the bait. If you are interested in what The Donald has to say, you'll find it next to our stories on the Kardashians and The Bachelorette.

Why Donald Trump is surging in the polls // CNN // Sara Murray – July 17, 2015

Laconia, New Hampshire (CNN)Donald Trump, surging in the polls, arrived at this lakeside enclave and trained his ire on perhaps the only target that aggravates his supporters as much as the Obama Administration: Republicans.

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"They're all talk, they're no action," Trump said, revving up his fiery takedown of politicians.

"I'm more disappointed in many ways with the Republicans," Trump said. "They have this great indignation, whether it's Benghazi or the emails... nothing ever happens."

Trump is enjoying a summer surge as takes the lead in a poll of Republican presidential contenders released on Friday. The billionaire businessman is offending Hispanics and irking his GOP competitors but it's clear that his in-your-face demeanor and willingness to take on President Barack Obama -- then just as quickly turn his sharp tongue toward members of his own party -- is winning over Republican voters.

"Even though I'm a Republican and I'm obviously voting that way, I'm very disappointed in the Republicans in the House. There's weakness there," said Julie Pagliarulo, a 56-year-old resident of Belmont, New Hampshire, who arrived hours early to see Trump speak. "Donald just says it like it is. I love it."

Friday's Fox News poll found Trump leading with support from 18% of Republican primary voters nationwide, compared to 15% for Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and 14% for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Statistically speaking, the top three candidates are within the margin of error, and therefore tied -- a point Trump tends to leave out of his speeches.

Belknap County, nestled in New Hampshire's picturesque southeastern lakes region, is home to 60,000 predominantly white residents. They tend to be middle class, with a median household income of nearly $59,000, according to Census data. The unemployment rate in May stood at a modest 3.3%, well below the 5.5% national rate that month.

Each summer, Laconia -- where Trump held his rally -- plays host to one of the nation's largest gatherings of motorcyclists. The town is more than 2,000 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border.

Grievances

On a recent muggy summer evening, residents here were angry about everything from border security and the economy to Benghazi, Obamacare and more. Trump was speaking to their grievances, an approach that helps explain his rise in the polls.

Bert Hansen, 74 years old, joined hundreds of voters jammed into an overheated community center in Laconia waiting to see Trump. The soft-spoken veteran believes Obama is "incompetent" and bristles when recalling a relative who once said he was racist because he doesn't like the president. In fact, Hansen said, he's a big fan of GOP presidential candidate Ben Carson, who is black.

"There's some pent up frustration in the population right now that's ready to explode," Hansen said said. "That's why Trump's doing so well."

New Hampshire voters said Trump spoke to their broad range of concerns. But his greatest appeal may be that they see him as authentic and unfiltered. The opposite, voters said, of even the Republicans they elected to serve them in Congress.

"When he talks, he talks like them. He has the same frustrations they do," said Craig Robinson, a GOP activist in Iowa and editor of The Iowa Republican website. "They still want someone who's just going to turn Washington on its head."

Brenda Connolly, a 73-year-old independent voter, said she's disillusioned by politics these days.

"I don't think they're standing up to the president," she said of Republicans in Washington. "I voted for them as an independent and I expected them to do a lot more."

As for Trump, "I'm not even saying he's going to be the president, but I think he makes Republicans aware of what middle America wants," she said.

It appears voters' views of Trump are not yet set in stone even though he's well known. Some polls show his favorability numbers climbing among Republicans. The majority of Republicans -- 57% -- had a favorable view of Trump and 40% had an unfavorable view or him in the latest Washington Post/ABC News poll. That's a big shift from late May, when the same poll found 65% of Republicans had an unfavorable view of Trump.

Limits to Trump's appeal

There are limits to the billionaire's appeal in the context of a potential general election. More than six in 10 Americans viewed Trump negatively in the Post/ABC poll. And despite Trump's vow to win the Hispanic vote, his

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controversial comments about illegal immigration and America's relationship with Mexico are tarnishing him in the eyes of Latinos. More than seven out of 10 registered Hispanic voters said they had an unfavorable view of Trump, according to a Univision News poll. Univision recently cut ties with Trump and abandoned plans to air his Miss Universe Pageant.

The former "Apprentice" star's media savvy has helped his bid as well. Trump has pounced on a number of recent news events -- the San Francisco killing of Kate Steinle by an undocumented immigrant and drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's escape from the most secure prison in Mexico -- to bolster his argument that the U.S. needs to secure the border and take a tougher line in its relationship with Mexico.

Meanwhile, other GOP presidential contenders are trying to reclaim the mantle of Beltway outsider. Bush plans to deliver a speech Monday on how to reform Washington. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has tried to pitch himself as the straight talker in the field.

Christie's performance so far hasn't impressed Bill Borrebach, a 68-year-old resident of Sandwich, New Hampshire, who makes it his business to see as many candidates as he can in this first-in-the-nation primary state.

"I don't know if he has the wherewithal to go to Mrs. Clinton and say we're tired of all her stuff," he said of Christie.

Borrebach flashed a Trump bumper sticker he had tucked into the pocket of his floral shirt. Breaking into a smile, he added, "it's going to drive my neighbors nuts."

Donald Trump is Dominating Facebook Chatter in Iowa // TIME // Charlotte Adler – July 17, 2015

Donald Trump is monopolizing the conversation in Iowa, at least on social media.

According to data from Facebook, Trump's name has appeared in over 200,000 Facebook interactions between 66,000 people in the early-voting state in the last week. That's more than double the interactions of the next-most-talked about candidate, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who was the subject of 86,000 interactions between 31,000 people.

Trump also dominated the Facebook conversation compared to his Republican rivals. The next-most-talked-about GOP hopeful is Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, with 37,000 interactions among 14,000 people. Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush's name came up 23,000 among 12,000 people. Facebook measured the data between July 10 and July 16, just among Iowa voters.

Facebook has no way to know whether the mentions of Trump are positive or negative, and social media buzz does not necessarily translate into votes. And since computer algorithms are notoriously bad at distinguishing between sarcasm and sincerity, it's hard to know whether the flood of Facebook mentions means Trump is being widely praised or widely mocked. As the 2016 presidential campaign swings into gear, campaigns and data analysis firms are looking for ways to reliably interpret this flood of data and use it to target potential voters, Reuters reports.

Trump and the myth of a Mexican crime wave // The Hill // Raoul Lowery Contreras – July 17, 2015

We have seen how Donald Trump insults Mexicans by his tone and his misstatement of facts on business and trade. He goes even further in insulting Mexican immigrants by suggesting they are criminals and rapists.

Yes, some Mexicans are criminals but not, as he implies, all. One need not believe Trump said that on June 16, but he did imply that; I watched him live, I've read the transcript. He implied all or at best, most, because he did say "some" Mexicans were nice people.

Also disagreeing with Trump's implication is former Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R), who debunks Trump — and he should know. Perry declares that Trump knew exactly what he was saying when he said it.

Trump's June 16 announcement about Mexicans, crime and building a "great wall" on the Mexican border and having the Mexicans pay for it is pure demagoguery said only to appeal to low-information voters.
Remember, Trump did not say "illegal alien Mexicans" in his June 16 statement. He said: "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best ... They're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists, and some, I assume, are good people."

Let's prove Trump wrong. There is no crime wave by illegals from Mexico. There is crime, yes, but not a crime wave and he has no authentic statistics to support his claim. He has anecdotes. Even the San Francisco story is an anecdote.

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Where are official statistics from law enforcement agencies? They are not produced because the Trumps of the world depend on anti-immigrant nongovernmental organizations that puff up phony stats to suit their and Trump's anti-Mexican-immigrant passion.

Let's look at real numbers. California has the largest number of illegal aliens: 2.5 million, maybe more. It also has the second most prison inmates (Texas is No. 1).

California's latest official prison numbers, from 2013, are 133,390 prisoners. Of the 133,390 prisoners, there were 13,010 Mexican-born prisoners, less than 10 percent. And of those, 9,605 had actual or potential "holds" assigned by the federal government for possibly being illegal aliens.

Note: Being Mexican-born is not proof of illegal presence in the U.S. as Mexico has been the largest source of legal immigration for decades.

Seven percent of the California prison population might be illegal aliens from Mexico — some crime wave, Mr. Trump.

Trump and his supporters will point to the federal prison system, which has 33,000 Mexican-born inmates, 16 percent of the total population of 159,000. Wow! That's horrible — except that most are not there for violent crimes, for murder, for rape, for aggravated assault; they are there mostly for immigration violations and smuggling of cigarettes, marijuana and other illicit substances. Trump won't say that, even if he knows it, because that would derail his tirade.

Even the anti-immigrant Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) hasn't found proof to support Trump. Jessica Vaughan, CIS director of policy studies, has said that connections between illegal immigrants and crime are hard to make. She studied crime and illegal immigrants and has said: "We didn't find any evidence to support the idea that either immigrants are more prone to crime or less prone to crime than ... legally resident Americans. ... It's very tricky."

Not as tricky as Donald Trump, however.

Trump calls off his bet with MSNBC host **// The Hill // Mark Hensch – July 17, 2015**

GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump is calling off his bet of one year's salary with MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell over the accuracy of Trump's financial disclosure forms.

"Well, I'm very disappointed because I was really all set to go after him this morning," Trump said Friday on "Morning Joe." "But it's hard to do that now. And now I feel guilty if I do that."

Trump issued the bet on Thursday after O'Donnell accused him of lying about profits he made making "The Apprentice," his former NBC show.
The real estate mogul cemented his 2016 presidential bid Wednesday by filing his personal financial disclosure paperwork with the government.

He told the Federal Election Commission that he made more than $200 million for 14 seasons of work on his popular reality television series.

O'Donnell challenged that amount on Thursday, arguing that other shows were more profitable than Trump's.

"It's a lie, Joe, a complete and total lie," O'Donnell told host Joe Scarborough on MSNBC that morning."Let me explain something to you, Donald Trump didn't even make a million dollars in his first year."

"Trump has been one of the lowest-paid people to have an hour-long show," he added.

Trump then bet O'Donnell a year of the MSNBC host's salary over his comments, but O'Donnell expressed remorse during Thursday evening's broadcast of "The Last Word" for doubting Trump's sincerity about his earnings.

"I don't want the prize for the guy who uses the meanest words in the debate," O'Donnell said that night.

"So no, Donald, there won't be any bet because I would never bet about anything," O'Donnell added. "And I might be wrong."

"He is wrong. He is wrong," Trump insisted Friday. "I mean, these are certified numbers."

"OK, I will not issue a challenge," Trump told Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski on "Morning Joe" after hearing O'Donnell had apologized. "Let's get on to more important things."

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Donald Trump making biggest splash on Facebook in Iowa // The Hill // David McCabe – July 17, 2015

Donald Trump is dominating Facebook in Iowa, as many presidential candidates travel to the first-in-the-nation caucus state.

He generated more interactions — which the company defines as shares, likes, comments and posts — than any other candidate in the field in the last week.

From Friday, July 10 until Thursday, July 16, 66,000 people generated 206,000 interactions about Trump. He was followed by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (D), who generated 86,000 interactions from 31,000 people.
Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) rounded out the top three, with 17,000 people generating 57,000 interactions.

Of the candidates who generated measurable data, businesswoman Carly Fiorina (R) and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) made the smallest impact during the time period examined by Facebook. Both got only 3,000 interactions from 2,000 individuals.

The numbers may indicate who is attracting the public's attention as the presidential race heats up. But they do not show whether users are saying positive or negative things about the candidates.

Fifteen presidential candidates will be in Iowa this weekend, according to The Des Moines Register, thanks to two major events that gather the contenders together.

Facebook has become a highly valued tool of campaigns in recent years. In 2012, President Obama's reelection team accessed the Facebook profiles of supporters — with their permission — to allow them to target their friends who might also be supportive of the candidate.

Fox News Poll: Reshuffling of GOP field, many agree with Trump on immigration // Fox News // Dana Blanton – July 17, 2015

The latest Fox News national poll finds another reshuffling in the race for the 2016 Republican nomination, as Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker gets a post-announcement bump and businessman Donald Trump claims more of the spotlight.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton still dominates the Democratic race. Yet the poll also warns trouble may be ahead for her.

Among Republican primary voters, Trump captures 18 percent. He's closely followed by Walker at 15 percent and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush at 14 percent. No one else reaches double-digits.

Support for Trump is up seven percentage points since last month and up 14 points since May. He's also the candidate GOP primary voters say they are most interested in learning more about during the debates.

Walker's up six points since he officially kicked off his campaign. That bump gets him back to the support he was receiving earlier this year. In March, he was also at 15 percent.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul gets eight percent, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio receives seven percent, former neurosurgeon Ben Carson comes in at six percent, and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee get four percent a piece.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie launched his campaign June 30. Even so, he comes in at three percent -- mostly unchanged from his two percent last month (June 21-23). Ohio Gov. John Kasich (who is announcing Tuesday) and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum each get two percent. Businesswoman Carly Fiorina, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former New York Gov. George Pataki each receive one percent or less.

On the Democratic side, Clinton captures 59 percent among Democratic primary voters compared to 19 percent for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Last month, 61 percent backed Clinton and 15 percent Sanders (June 21-23). Eight percent would like to see Vice President Joe Biden as the nominee (he's undeclared). Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb each get one percent.

But here's the possible trouble for Clinton in the general election: 70 percent of voters overall say that a candidate who is sometimes less than honest is a "deal breaker" for their vote -- and a 58-percent majority believes Clinton's natural instincts lean more toward "hiding the truth" than "telling the truth" (33 percent). Democratic primary

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voters are more likely to think her natural instincts lean toward telling the truth (61 percent) -- but even here, 29 percent say Clinton is more prone to hide the truth.

The Fox poll also asks voters their second choice candidate, which allows us to look at what happens to the lineup if someone were to drop out. For example, if Trump decides to get out, Bush moves to the top spot at 19 percent, followed by Walker at 16 percent, Paul at 9 percent, Rubio at 8 percent, Carson at 7 percent, Cruz at 6 percent, Huckabee at 5 percent, Christie and Perry at 3 percent, and Fiorina, Kasich and Santorum get 2 percent.

Trump's June 16 announcement speech included provocative comments on illegal immigration that people are still talking about a month later, including the suggestion that the Mexican government is sending criminals and rapists to the United States. Whatever the blowback, his views resonate with many: 44 percent of voters think Trump is "basically right" on the issue. A 53-percent majority disagrees. Among Republican primary voters, 68 percent say he is right.

Immigration

There's been a major shift in the last five years in how voters want to handle illegal immigrants currently working in the United States. Today 64 percent favor setting up a system for them to become legal residents, up from 49 percent in 2010. And now 30 percent favor deportation, down from 45 percent five years ago.

Compared to 2010, support for setting up a system for legalization is up 21 points among Democrats, 11 points among independents and 8 points among Republicans.

The top concerns about illegal immigration are strain on the government and, increasingly, crime. The poll shows 55 percent of voters are very concerned about illegal immigrants overburdening government services. That's down from 61 percent who felt that way in 2006.

Fifty percent are very concerned about increased crime associated with illegal immigration. That's up from 39 percent almost 10 years ago. Views are about the same when voters are asked about illegal immigration leading to an increase in terrorism: 50 percent are very concerned, up from 34 percent in 2006.

People also see significant benefits to the country from legal immigration: 43 percent say adding needed skills is a major benefit and another 43 percent feel that way about immigration adding to the entrepreneurial spirit of the U.S. About a third thinks a major upside is that legal immigrants perform jobs that Americans mostly don't want (35 percent) and bring new cultures (34 percent).

Pollpourri

Voters are divided over whether Congress should continue to investigate then-Secretary of State Clinton's handling of the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi that killed four Americans. Nearly half -- 47 percent -- want lawmakers to keep investigating Clinton. A slightly larger number -- 49 percent -- think it's time for Congress to move on.

Most Republicans (74 percent) say continue investigating, while most Democrats (74 percent) say move on. Views among independents split: 47 percent investigate vs. 48 percent move on.

After being on the campaign trail for about a month, how do voters feel about the Donald? Fifty-four percent dismiss him as "just a loud mouth." Yet just over a third -- 34 percent -- admire Trump because "he's got guts." That jumps to 59 percent among GOP primary voters.

By a 15-point margin, Republican primary voters (82 percent) are more likely to say they are extremely or very interested in the upcoming election than Democratic primary voters (67 percent).

The Fox News poll is based on landline and cell phone interviews with 1,019 randomly chosen registered voters nationwide and was conducted under the joint direction of Anderson Robbins Research (D) and Shaw & Company Research (R) from July 13-15, 2015. The full poll has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points. The margin of error is higher among the subgroups of Democratic (+/-5%) and Republican primary voters (+/-4.5%).

Donald Trump has rocketed to the top of another new poll // Business Insider // Brett Logiurato – July 17, 2015

Real-estate magnate Donald Trump is at the top of another new poll of Republican primary voters nationally.

A Fox News poll released Thursday showed the Republican presidential candidate Trump leading a crowded GOP primary field, with 18% of the vote.

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who announced his entry into the race this week, also saw a bump. He came in

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second behind Trump, with 15% of the vote. Former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida is third with 14%.

Trump and Walker made the biggest advances in the Fox poll over the past month. In a June poll released just before Trump officially announced his candidacy, he garnered 11% of the vote. Walker last month grabbed 9% of the GOP vote.

Trump has been at the center of a media firestorm since announcing his candidacy last month, when he commented that the Mexican government was sending "rapists" and drug runners to the US. He has since doubled, tripled, and quadrupled down on those comments — and more — even as several businesses and organizations have severed ties with him.

But he has spent much of the past month rocketing up in both national and key early-state polls, and he now finds himself at or near the top of several of them.

"I am incredibly pleased that my message is resonating with people all over the United States," Trump said of the Fox News poll in a statement. "There are so many Americans that are ready to make our country great again, and I am the only one who can make it happen. We will bring back the jobs, bring back the money, and bring back the spirit!"

The Fox News poll also found that 44% of all voters — including 70% of Republicans — said they thought Trump was "basically right" that Mexico was sending "rapists" and other criminals to the US. And 59% of Republicans said they admired Trump, compared with 28% who said he was "just a loudmouth."

The new Fox News poll will most likely be the final one from the network before it hosts the first Republican presidential debate on August 6. The top 10 in an average of five recent national polls will make the debate stage.

Rounding out the top 10 in the GOP primary field:

US Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky — 8%
US Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida — 7%
Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson — 6%
US Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas — 4%
Former Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas — 4%
Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey — 3%
Gov. John Kasich of Ohio and former US Sen. Rick Santorum — 2%

The Trump Bump Will Fade **// U.S. News & World Report // Jean Card – July 17, 2015**

Prediction: By summer's end, Republican presidential candidate and real estate mogul Donald Trump will be back where he belongs – at the bottom of the polls. Bless his heart.

Perhaps more importantly, as the presidential race matures, so will voters' tastes. A firebrand like Trump may seem delicious at first bite. There is a frustration and anger among voters, a desire to speak truth to power, flout the rules and get something done, and Trump has tapped into those emotions.

Indeed, it is always invigorating to hear someone say the things you've been thinking or feeling, maybe just a little, but were too polite or shy to say out loud. It's why comedians make us laugh: They say what many of us have noted or thought, deep down. They allow us to release the thought or observation, air it out and then move on. Perhaps move forward, to a better or more grown-up place. Ahem.

Trump's intolerant words felt empowering to many people these last few weeks. People want to throw a punch – at criminals, at China – but they can't, so they thought that maybe Trump would do it for them.

But the moment is more likely to be looked back on as one that released some pressure, allowing voters and commentators to move on to a more productive dialogue or debate. Because here's the thing: In the real world, people don't actually follow the guy who throws the punch. We don't think the guy who escalates the bar fight is a leader. We prefer the guy or gal who has the maturity and strength to step in and stop the bar fight. We want to follow and support the person who convinces the brawlers to cool off.

It's also worth reminding, for some perspective on the Trump Bump, that this isn't the first time something like this has happened. Many is the presidential season that has featured an inflammatory, outlier candidate or two. They burn hot for moment, then fade away. Remember Gene McCarthy. George Wallace. Pat Buchanan. Jesse Jackson. Howard Dean. Now add Donald Trump to that list.

Each candidate offered at least one thing that made voters stand up and say "Yeah!" for a moment. And it felt good. But it didn't last for any of those guys, and it won't last for Trump.

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It is now the challenge of the other Republican candidates to learn from the Trump phenomenon. What does his moment of popularity say about what Republican voters might want from a candidate? The great fear, stirred up by some in the media, is that it means Republican voters might want an intolerant firebrand. But I don't think that's right. I think Republicans are interested in someone who doesn't play by the establishment's rules, and there are plenty of ways to do so that aren't offensive. They may also be interested in someone who speaks candidly, not in talking-point-ese, and to that, I simply say hallelujah.

Republican voters also likely admire the way Trump shakes off media scrutiny and politically-correct hand-wringing. The man doesn't care that the media thinks he's a bigot, just as he doesn't care that they constantly pick on his ridiculous hairstyle. In these ways, he embodies confidence. And confidence – in moderation – is a leadership trait.

Smart, mature candidates will recognize that Trump hit a nerve, then figure out a way to put that page in their own playbook. Over-eager candidates will try to imitate Trump or disavow him too aggressively. Both tactics are likely to fail or at least fall flat, which could narrow the field. And wouldn't that be interesting?

Donald Trump says a U.S.-Mexico border wall is 'not even a difficult project' **// The Week // Sarah Eberspacher – July 17, 2015**

Donald Trump says Donald Trump is "considered a great builder, by everybody," and the GOP presidential hopeful does have a few towers to his name. So why not add a comprehensive U.S.-Mexico border wall to the portfolio?

"It's not even a difficult project if you know what you're doing," Trump told The Washington Post in a Thursday interview. "And no one knows what they're doing like I do."

Trump's calls for tighter border security have recently landed him in hot water: During his campaign kickoff speech in June, Trump described Mexican immigrants as "rapists," and said they are responsible for rising drug and crime rates in the United States. But Trump later told NBC News that despite his rhetoric he has a "great relationship with the Mexican people" — which should serve him well in his plan to pay for the proposed border wall.

"[Convincing the Mexican government to pay for the wall] is realistic if you know something about the art of negotiating," Trump told the Post. "If you have a bunch of clowns negotiating, it's not realistic."

While a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border might be more, well, realistic, Trump says a wall is better.

"It's much more powerful," he explained. "It's taller."

Who, exactly, is voting for Donald Trump? **// The Week // Becca Stanek – July 17, 2015**

Even pollsters are baffled by who, exactly, is supporting Donald Trump. The real estate mogul has risen to the top of GOP polls in recent weeks, earning the support of 17 percent of Republican voters. Thing is, while the rise of Trump supporters is pretty clear, it's hazy where these supporters are from and who they are. "It's a strange coalition of people," Patrick Murray of Monmouth University told Politico. "We can't pin them down demographically. ... It appears he's cherry-picked individual voters."

As Politico puts it, "The Trump coalition looks a lot like the rest of the Republican Party." It might skew more white and more male, but not notably so. A recent Monmouth University poll reveals, if anything, Trump supporters tend to simply be "middle Americans." "They're in the middle of the Republican Party. They're not evangelicals. They're not hardline social or fiscal conservatives. They're also not on the liberal side of the party," Murray explained.

So then, what's driving Trump's appeal? Trump's New Hampshire co-chairman, Steve Stepanek, says it can be broken down into two things: "The issues that are driving the average Trump voter are, first and foremost, that he's not a politician. Secondly, he is self-funding his campaign, so he can't be bought." For people tired of Washington spin, they like that Trump simply says what's on his mind.

Donald Trump: 'John McCain was very disloyal to me,' 'made a big mistake' **// Washington Times // David Sherfinski – July 17, 2015**

Donald Trump on Friday said Sen. John McCain of Arizona was "very disloyal" to him and predicted Mr. McCain would lose in a GOP primary if the right challenger runs against him.

"Well first of all, let me tell you, I supported John McCain. He let us down because he lost but, you know, it was a hard one after what had happened with the economy," Mr. Trump said via phone on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." "But I supported him, raised a lot of money for him ... and I'm a loyalist. I'm a person that ... if somebody is with

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me, I'm with that person. And John McCain was very disloyal to me, number one, this is the first time I've spoken to him in a long time."

Mr. McCain, the 2008 GOP presidential nominee, spoke about Mr. Trump's recent rally in Arizona in a interview published in The New Yorker this week.

"This performance with our friend out in Phoenix is very hurtful to me," Mr. McCain said. "Because what he did was he fired up the crazies."

Mr. Trump, who is leading the 2016 GOP presidential field in two recent polls, said he had 15,000 people come to the recent rally in Arizona and said that "they weren't crazies — they were great Americans."

Local reports pegged the crowd actually inside at the Phoenix Convention Center at several thousand, but Mr. Trumptweeted July 12: "Convention Center officials in Phoenix don't want to admit that they broke the fire code by allowing 12-15,000 people in 4,000 code room."

"I know crazies, believe me — these were great Americans,"
Mr. Trump said Friday. "And they wanted to know about illegal immigration. It's killing them. Illegal immigration is really hurting these people, especially when you're talking about Arizona and Phoenix, and we had an amazing group of people, and when he called them crazies, I think he will lose in the primary."

"If the right person runs against him, they'll win. ... He's not very popular there, anyway," Mr. Trump continued.

GOP State Sen. Kelli Ward announced earlier this week she is challenging Mr. McCain, who handily defeated former U.S. Rep. J.D. Hayworth in a 2010 primary.

A McCain spokesman said in response to Ms. Ward's announcement that "Arizonans know that John McCain will never stop fighting for Arizona and America, as he has his entire adult life, both in uniform and in Congress."

"Senator McCain looks forward to this campaign, and to discussing his strong record of protecting America's national security, standing up for veterans, and growing Arizona's economy," spokesman Brian Rogers said.

Mr. Trump also went after Mr. McCain's academic record at the U.S. Naval Academy, tweeting on Thursday: "@SenJohnMcCain should be defeated in the primaries. Graduated last in his class at Annapolis — dummy!"

"We ended up with 15,000 people and they were great Americans, they were great people, and John McCain calls them crazies. I think it's inappropriate," Mr. Trump said.

"So, of course, I brought up a point that very few people know that he was just about or last [in his class] at Annapolis, and why not? He was very nasty to me," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump has also traded barbs recently with fellow presidential contenders former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

"My attitude is this: if a person is nice to me, I will go out of my way to be nice to that person," he said, pointing to Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, one of his rivals in the presidential race who has backed him up on the issue of illegal immigration, as an example.

"Ted Cruz came out totally and strongly in favor of me. I don't forget things like that. I think it was very nice," Mr. Trump said.

"John McCain made a big mistake," he said. "I think John McCain will lose in the primary if somebody good runs against him."

Inside the Mind of a Trump Donor: 'I Was Probably Drunk' // The Daily Beast // Olivia Nuzzi – July 17, 2015

You learn a few things, calling the 63 individuals who donated more than $250 to Donald Trump's presidential campaign—helping him pull in a total of $96,000 in the 29 days since his June 16 announcement, according to the financial disclosure he released Wednesday evening.

You learn, for instance, that President Obama, who is an African-born Muslim, wouldn't help you if you were kidnapped in Iran, that not all undocumented Mexican immigrants are rapists but many of them may be, that it's unfair to expect billionaires to use their own money to run for office when less wealthy candidates aren't expected to, and that the willingness to file for bankruptcy multiple times is a sign of a great businessman. But what you learn, most of all, is that the characters propelling America's greatest political curiosity upward in the polls are a lot like the man himself.

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The day started with Francine Aton, 62, Michigan, retired.

“You work for The Daily Beast—which is a more left-wing web-magazine,” she began. “I don’t want something to come out that’s slanted.”

Aton, who said she has a degree in journalism, has little patience for reporters and detects liberal bias in the most innocuous of statements.

Asked why she supports Trump (to the tune of $250), she said, “Because he speaks the truth, he’s honest, and he can’t be bought.” So she likes him, I said, because he’s wealthy and that means—“Listen to how you just slanted that question!” she cut me off. “Is Hillary wealthy? Yes, she is!” Well, what I meant was—“Just say what you mean! You’re slanting your story.”

I explained that all I was trying to do was figure out why she supports Trump. “Why do you support him?” she asked. Uh, I don’t, I said. “Donald speaks the truth. Thank you, goodbye.”

She hung up.

Next was Timothy Doody, 51, Colorado, real estate appraiser.

“I don’t know,” he said when I asked why he donated $500 to Trump. “I don’t know why I do half the things I do. I was probably drunk.”

He laughed. “I’m just kidding. I just think it’s refreshing…I just wanted to make a statement, that’s all.”

Doody explained that he’s a “conservative-leaning person” but a registered Democrat. Mostly, he sighed, “I just am fed up with politicians. I do know [Trump’s] negatives and I do know what he’s done as far as supporting Democrats via his corporations and supporting both parties.” But at the end of the day, Doody said, he liked that Trump could “rabble-rouse” and “make waves.”

Trump’s position on immigration, Doody admitted, was the central reason he made the donation, but he also believes Trump is the best person to repair the economy and to change the course of American foreign policy for the better.

And speaking of immigration, “The other candidates totally took his words out of context,” Doody said, referring to Trump’s claim that undocumented immigrants coming into America from Mexico are “rapists.” Doody said he listened to Trump’s statement “probably 10 times” to see if he had missed it, but in the end came to the conclusion that “he didn’t call all Mexicans rapists.”

In Trump’s absence, Doody guessed he could find another candidate to support. “Probably Ted Cruz, Governor Walker, maybe, and Rand Paul…I don’t understand Jeb Bush.”

Then came Damien Drab, 41, New York City, CEO of Loughlin Management, a company that “delivers a broad range of operational and financial consulting services with a results-oriented approach,” as opposed to all those consulting firms who strive for no results at all.

I told Drab I wanted to talk about his $500 donation to the Trump campaign. He laughed. “Good, I hope that helps with my golf club membership.”

Is he a member of a Trump golf club? “Uh, I can’t comment on anything, really,” he said. “I have one statement and that’s: Why should anyone use their personal money for public affairs?”

Further, Drab went on, it is “unfair” and “ignorant” to tell Trump he needs to use his personal wealth for his race when “everybody else who runs gets contributions.” Because “there’s no inherent personal wealth risk for people who run,” Drab said, there shouldn’t be one for a billionaire, either. Whether he needs the money is irrelevant, Drab argued, because “if you believe in Trump, you should contribute.”

Next was Mike McNerney, 73, California, funeral service provider.

“He’s the greatest thing running,” McNerney said when I asked about his $500 donation to Trump, which he called “just a show of support.”

“I think he’s gonna win,” he told me. “I think he has a pretty good chance. I mean, people are outraged at the way Obama Hussein has run this country.”

McNerney said he likes Trump “because he’s nonpolitical. He tells it like it is. He’s truthful, and he has more

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experience than being a short-term senator before he became president." What kind of experience does Trump have, I asked. "At life and management, and I'm sure he has more foreign experience, which Obama Hussein has ruined."

McNerney agrees with Trump on immigration "absolutely, 1,000 percent," and believes those expressing disapproval of his statements are "manipulating the press for the benefit of opposition against any sensible immigration policy that comes along."

I asked McNerney, who repeatedly referred to the president as "Obama Hussein," if he thought Obama was Muslim. He said, "I know he is." I asked if he thought Obama was born in America. He replied, "No, I don't. Probably Africa." Where in Africa, I wondered. "Wherever his father and his white mother were living." Kenya? "You got it," he said.

And Dr. Dane Wallisch, 64, Pennsylvania, radiologist.

"Why did I do it?" Wallisch said when I asked about his $2,700 check to Trump's campaign. "I think he would be a very strong leader, and I think that's what we need now. I have very similar beliefs to Donald Trump. I agree with him on just about everything."

Wallisch agreed with Doody that "the immigration thing, I think, the media took that way out of context."

He explained that having lived in Mexico for a time, he knows that the government there is corrupt. "Of course there's good Mexican people, but there's bad with the good," he said. And the unsecured border, he told me, is "an open door for terrorists, as well."

"Trump just speaks what's on his mind and I like that," he said. "I think it's refreshing. It's time people say what they felt rather than just what people want to hear." Wallisch apologized for "getting on my soapbox here," but admitted it was hard to avoid when talking about Trump. "I like him and I hope he becomes president."

Why donate to a billionaire, though, I wondered. It's not like he needs it. "True, probably true," Wallisch said. "But that was my way of saying, 'I support you.'"

Without Trump, Wallisch said he was sure he could find another candidate to support. "I think there's a lot of good people running this year. I like Ben Carson—you know who Ben Carson is, right? I like Rand Paul, but he won't make it. Scott Walker. Bush is all right, but three Bushes? I don't know. Makes me a little leery."

Donald Trump Campaign Headquarters Illustrates Complicated Campaign Finance Rules // IB Times // Ginger Gibson – July 17, 2015

WASHINGTON -- There is really only one place that anyone could imagine Donald Trump would headquarter his campaign: the Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York City. The 68-floor skyscraper bears his name in bold letters. It's the set of his reality television show. It's where he rode the escalator to deliver his announcement speech. And it's one of the most iconic -- or at least most emphatically branded -- buildings in the city.

But having Trump's small campaign staff working out of his building isn't all that simple. Federal campaign finance laws don't allow a candidate to use office space without paying rent, even if they own the company that owns the building. It's clear that Trump's campaign and company are closely intertwined. The phone number to contact Trump's campaign is the same number that has appeared on several of his real estate company's press releases.

"It's unusual in the sense in that you have a candidate who owns this much property, but the law does deal with the issue of a candidate owning a building and renting themselves office space," said Lawrence Noble, a former FEC general counsel who is now senior counsel at the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center. "The scope of this may be unusual."

The Trump campaign says they're following all the rules. "We pay fair market value for our office space," campaign manager Corey Lewandowski told International Business Times.

That would appear to create an unusual circle of payments.

So far, Trump's campaign has largely been dependent on his own money. According to his FEC filings, Trump has loaned his campaign $1.8 million. There is no limit on how much a candidate can donate or lend to his own campaign. His campaign, in turn, is making monthly payments to Trump Tower Commercial for an expense marked "rent" at a rate of $9,583.33 a month. Trump's company is a privately held operation, so after expenses and taxes, presumably some of that rent goes back to Trump in the form of profits.

But if Trump's campaign weren't paying rent to his company, he would be in violation of the rule. Simply allowing the campaign to use the office space free of charge would be considered an in-kind contribution and violate

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prohibitions on corporate donations.

(If Trump -- or any candidate -- used his own home for his campaign headquarters, he wouldn't need to pay himself rent: That would be considered a personal in-kind donation and subject to no limits under campaign finance laws.)

“If a campaign uses the facilities of a corporation or labor organization, the campaign must reimburse the organization within a commercially reasonable time and at the usual and normal rental charge,” FEC spokeswoman Judith Ingram explained. “Use of facilities may include, for example, the use of telephones, typewriters or office furniture. It is also advisable that payment be made to the corporation or organization in advance in order to avoid a prohibited contribution from the organization.”

Trump's surge to the front of the polls has likely brought campaign donations into his coffers. He could eventually pay rent to his own company with donor money.

That's not unheard of. Congressional candidates frequently rent space that their businesses own to their campaigns, said Noble. Candidates must simply pay the market rate for the space. If the campaign pays too little, then use of the space can be considered an in-kind donation. If the campaign pays too much, the candidate could be accused of using donor money for personal gain.

The going rate for commercial real estate in Trump Tower is between $75 and $100 a square foot, according to Michael Cohen of the real estate company Colliers International. Those rates can vary according to a number of factors, including condition, views, floor level and length of the lease. Trump's campaign HQ staff consists of only a couple of people so the space involved may be relatively small.

Other candidates also have to deal with real estate issues and FEC compliance, of course. Hillary Clinton's campaign is renting office space in Brooklyn, opting not to add any additions to the shabby interior to keep costs down. Jeb Bush's campaign headquarters is in Miami. With a much larger staff than Trump, his campaign has made one rent payment for $77,739.76. The campaign also made a $145,308 deposit for his rent.

But Trump is one of the few presidential candidates to still be actively running a corporation. Mitt Romney had left business by the time he ran for president. The last active business leader to run for president was Ross Perot, who ran in 1992 and 1996 -- before the 2002 McCain-Feingold law placed stricter limits on “soft money” in campaigns.

Donald Trump Tops Third GOP Poll This Month // Slate // Josh Voorhees – July 17, 2015

Another national poll, another pole position for Donald Trump. The once-and-future reality television star is in first place in a new Fox News survey that was released Friday. With the support of 17 percent of Republican primary voters, Trump led Scott Walker by 3 points and Jeb Bush by 4 in the survey. The poll's margin of error, though, was plus or minus 4.5 points, so the GOP establishment can take some solace in the fact that all three men are in a statistical tie for the top spot. The full results:

1.) Donald Trump, 18 percent

2.) Scott Walker, 15 percent

3.) Jeb Bush, 14 percent

4.) Rand Paul, 8 percent

5.) Marco Rubio, 7 percent

6.) Ben Carson, 6 percent

7t.) Ted Cruz, 4 percent

7t.) Mike Huckabee, 4 percent

9.) Chris Christie, 3 percent

10t.) John Kasich, 2 percent

10t.) Rick Santorum, 2 percent

12.) Rick Perry, 1 percent

Lindsey Graham, Bobby Jindal, and George Pataki were all shut out.

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Trump's up 7points from where he was in the same poll taken three weeks earlier (in which he was second to Bush). His strong showing in the survey comes on the heels of a USA Today/Suffolk University poll released earlier this week that had him in first place with 17 percent support to Bush's 14 percent, and a YouGov/ Economist poll released last week that had him with a 4-point lead, 15 percent to 11 percent, on both Bush and Rand Paul. Trump's lead in both polls was also within the surveys' respective margins of error.

In the current RealClearPolitics polling average (which does not include the YouGov survey), Trump sits in second place with 15 percent, a half-point behind Bush and 6 full points ahead of Walker. In the Huffington Post's rolling average, meanwhile, Trump sits in first place with 17.4 percent, 3.1 points ahead of Bush and 9.4 points ahead of Walker.

Outside of Internet comment sections, no one thinks The Donald's lead will last. But when combined with his required (although not necessarily expected) release of his FEC financial disclosure this week, it does mean he is now pretty much a lock to make it onstage at the first GOP presidential debate, which will be hosted by Fox News in Cleveland on Aug. 6.

The Case for Covering Trump // Slate // Josh Voorhees – July 17, 2015

First things first: Donald Trump is a vitriol-spewing, media-manipulating, self-aggrandizing, bigoted publicity hound who has no realistic chance of winning the Republican nomination next summer or any other. While a growing number of national polls currently have the once-and-future reality television star atop a historically crowded GOP field, Trump's candidacy is destined to fade away just as countless other novelty candidates have in primaries past.

None of that, however, is any reason for the media not to seriously cover Trump's campaign today. The Donald may be a Twitter troll in a $5,000 Brioni suit, but he's also the avatar of choice for a significant subset of the American electorate who sees themselves in his particular brand of belligerence. That view and those voters won't disappear when Trump does. The press ignores that fact at its own peril—and at the public's own loss.

Advertisement
On Friday, the Huffington Post announced that from this point forth it will relegate its coverage of all things Trump to its entertainment section. "Our reason is simple: Trump's campaign is a sideshow. We won't take the bait," editorial director Danny Shea and Washington bureau chief Ryan Grim wrote in a note to readers of one of the largest news outlets in the nation. "If you are interested in what The Donald has to say, you'll find it next to our stories on the Kardashians and The Bachelorette."

The Huffington Post so far stands alone in officially declaring itself above Trump as a news story, but it's clear there are plenty of working journalists who would be happy if their bosses made a similar decision. Politico's Ben White, to pick but one example, made his feelings known Thursday. "Trump's time in the lead will fade as the debates begin and the Republican Party starts to get serious," White argued. "And then all this coverage of the big-mouth billionaire will be exposed as largely ridiculous." (As someone who is paid to write about the campaign every day, I've been guilty of my own type of Trump dismissal; I began much of my early coverage of Trump's campaign with the word Ugh, a knowing wink meant to make it clear that I, too, would prefer to be writing about more traditional candidates.)

Such arguments against spilling digital ink on Trump are built on the idea that he can't win the nomination. That premise is correct, but the conclusion that follows—The media shouldn't waste its resources covering him—is false. For evidence, we have to look no further than those very same candidates that Trump dismissers rightly point to as proof that his time leading the GOP field will be short lived: Herman Cain and Sarah Palin.

Both Cain and Palin spent time at or near the top of national polls four years ago but flamed out soon after. Does the fact that the pair ended up with zero primary or caucus victories between them mean the media should have ignored them from the get-go? Hardly. Their rise was an important story line in the 2012 election. They provided clear evidence of conservative skepticism of Mitt Romney, while also reminding the GOP establishment that primary voters crave simplicity in message. For Cain, reforming the U.S. tax code was as simple as "9-9-9"; for Palin, addressing the nation's energy needs was as simple as "Drill, baby, drill." Four years later, Trump has surged past the establishment favorites by adding his own simplistic policy plank to the conservative platform: the promise of solving our immigration problems by building a fence along the Mexican border that we won't even have to pay for.

Cain, meanwhile, is a particularly helpful example of why these flash-in-the-pan candidates require immediate coverage. It was the increased scrutiny that the press provided that ultimately spelled his downfall. (The same could be said for Palin's disastrous vice presidential run in 2008.) Without that all-in coverage, voters would have never known that Cain was unable to answer basic foreign policy questions or that he faced a series of troubling sexual harassment allegations. It was only by treating the former Godfather's Pizza CEO as a legitimate candidate that the press was able to prove that he wasn't one.

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Similar vetting of Trump has yet to erode his support, but without it his faulty and xenophobic claims about immigrants would have gone unrefuted, and his hypocritical business dealings would have remained unrevealed. Yes, the deluge of free press is responsible for some of Trump's rise, but in the long run it will also be what is responsible for his demise. Meanwhile, intentionally ignoring Trump—who had the support to qualify for the Fox News debate even before the current media storm—would risk having the opposite of the intended effect: A lack of serious scrutiny from the mainstream media wouldn't cut short Trump's ongoing infomercial—it would prolong it.

If the media took as its mission the task of only covering candidates who have a realistic shot at winning their party's nomination, then countless more legitimate candidates would also need to be ignored as well. Sorry, Ted Cruz. See you later, John Kasich. This if-they-can't-win-we're-not-covering-them logic doesn't seem to have been applied to conservative candidates in the past either and for good reason. Ron Paul was never going to win the GOP nomination in 2008, yet his campaign was one of the first clear signs of the emerging strength of the libertarian wing of his party.

Likewise, a similar dynamic is playing out this year on the opposite end of the spectrum: first with Elizabeth Warren and now with Bernie Sanders. The former was adamant she was never going to run for the Democratic nomination, and the latter has almost no shot of defeating Hillary Clinton in the primary. Yet what they do and say on the stump clearly matters for the future of the Democratic Party.

The press might not like it, but Trump, too, is already shaping the 2016 election. He's now a lock to crash the first Republican presidential debate, where he'll force establishment favorites like Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio outside of their comfort zones on immigration. Both men can still play the grown-up card, but how they choose to interact with Trump will help decide whether they ultimately win over the immigration hardliners in their own party and if they're even willing to try.

Trump's current surge also raises interesting questions about what it is the GOP base wants the face of its party to look like; his popular retrograde rhetoric is a counterpoint to the argument that voters want Republicans to rediscover their compassionate sides. And in the longer term, his rise embodies the larger challenge facing the Republican Party: Will it evolve in the face of inescapable demographic trends? Or will it continue to ignore them? It stands to reason that those questions are ones that campaign journalists would be interested in.

None of that is to say all Trump coverage is good Trump coverage. When TV reporter after TV reporter after TV reporter asks Trump whether he wants to apologize for branding Mexican immigrants as rapists and murderers, they're not hoping he backs down, and they aren't setting him up for a fact-based challenge either. They're simply hoping he says something even more jaw-dropping, handing them a viral video clip in the process. Of course the media fails when it goes chasing clicks only for the sake of clicks. But we can't fix a series of smaller journalistic errors by committing a larger one.

WALKER

Republican Doublethink on Mass Shootings: Scott Walker Edition // NYT // Andrew Rosenthal – July 17, 2015

Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who recently joined the Republican primary carnival in an "official" way, says the government should reauthorize the Patriot Act in response to the murder of four Marines in Chattanooga, Tenn., by a 24-year-old gunman.

And he suggested that changing a policy that stops military personnel from carrying weapons in certain civilian areas would have prevented the attack. Those policies "are outdated," Mr. Walker said on Fox News, because the United States is "at war and radical Islamic terrorism is our enemy."

After a career criminal who had illegally entered the United States killed a San Francisco woman on July 1, Bill O'Reilly demanded that Congress pass a law that would impose mandatory sentences on people who repeatedly enter the country illegally and members of the right-wing Republican caucus in the House eagerly responded.

The idea was that such a law, along with another proposal to strip cities of federal funds if their police are not required to turn over all undocumented people to the federal government, would prevent shootings like the one in San Francisco.

This leaves me a little confused.

After any highly publicized killing – like the murders in Charleston, or Newtown, or in any number of other places — advocates of gun control call for greater restrictions on the sale and use of firearms. And people on the right,

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like Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Walker, reliably respond by saying that no law could have prevented those killings.

So, which is it? Can no law stop a determined person from killing another human being? Or can laws do that? It would be inconsistent, if not hypocritical, to take both positions, so there must be some logical explanation.

Mr. Walker and the Fox host Megyn Kelly tut-tutted about the fact that President Obama did not immediately call the Chattanooga killer a Muslim terrorist. They had no idea at the time whether that was true, but the point of the exchange was to attack Mr. Obama. They used it to revive another favorite talking point – that the president did not quickly label the attack on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi as a terrorist attack (even though he actually did).

Oddly enough – or maybe not oddly at all – Mr. Walker called the murder of nine African Americans in a Charleston church a "racist" and "evil" act, but neither he, nor any other Republican candidate or public figure that I can find called it an act of terrorism, which is precisely what it was.

Senator Lindsey Graham, another Republican presidential poser, called it "racial jihadism," but that was mainly to deflect attention from the real motivations for the murders and toss that "jihad" word out there.

I'm sure there is a logical explanation for that, too.

One Subject Scott Walker Won't Talk About: Donald Trump // WSJ // Reid J. Epstein – July 17, 2015

DAVENPORT, Iowa – A lot of people are talking about Donald Trump, but Scott Walker is determined not to be one of them.

The Wisconsin governor, kicking off a three-day tour of Iowa, continued to parry questions about the billionaire New York developer's strident anti-illegal immigration rhetoric, which has propelled Mr. Trump to the top of the 2016 Republican presidential polls. While attention-starved lower-tier candidates like Rick Perry and Lindsey Graham – along with former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who is making a concerted appeal to Hispanic voters — have condemned Mr. Trump's remarks, Mr. Walker affirmed Friday that he won't take the bait.

"What I've said is that Donald Trump can speak for himself," Mr. Walker told reporters after addressing supporters at a minor league ballpark here. "I'm going to answer questions about my positions, not about Donald Trump's or Jeb Bush's or Marco Rubio or anybody else out there."

Plenty of others are speaking about Mr. Trump. Facebook data released Friday showed twice as many Iowans discussing Mr. Trump on the social network than any other 2016 presidential candidate. Nearly five times as many Iowans are talking about Mr. Trump on Facebook than Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker made it clear he would not share his thoughts about Mr. Trump's rise.

"If you want to ask me again, I'll give you the same answer 50 more times," Mr. Walker said. "So if you want to waste your time on that question, go ahead."

Earlier, during a brief interview at the nearby Quad City International Airport across the Mississippi River in Moline, Ill., he expressed surprise at recent polls.

"Who would have thought this week's polls would be where they're at a couple months ago," Mr. Walker said. "A lot of things are going to be surprising throughout the next year. Our key is we just want to get our message out. If we do that we'll be in the thick of it no matter who else is in it."

Donald Trump continues rise, Scott Walker gets bump // CNN // Tom LoBianco and Jennifer Agiesta – July 17, 2015

Washington (CNN)Republican voters' support for real estate mogul Donald Trump continues to grow, according to a new national poll out Friday.

Trump led the pack of 16 major-name Republican candidates with 18 percent of likely Republican primary voters saying they would vote for the blustery billionaire and former reality TV star, up from 11% who supported him in a June survey. The Fox News poll, conducted earlier this week, also saw Wisconsin Gov. Scot Walker jump to second place in the field, following his formal announcement this past Monday, with support from 15 percent of likely voters.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush maintained a steady following, holding 14 percent of support from voters. While the rest of the candidates polled in the single-digits, 9 percent of voters said they were still undecided and 4 percent chose none of the above.

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Aside from simple jockeying, polling has a more immediate function in this contest: it will decide which 10 candidates make it on stage for the first Republican debate and which seven are shuffled off to a second-tier debate.

Fox News, which will host the first Republican debate next month in Cleveland, has said it will pick the top 10 candidates based on an average of the five most recent national polls. But it has not said precisely which polls will be used.

Trump currently ranks among those who would most likely appear onstage if the debate were held today, and the poll finds he's the candidate Republicans are most likely to want to see on the stage. When asked which of the GOP candidates they are most interested in learning about during the debates, 18% chose trump, 12% Walker, 11% Bush and 8% Marco Rubio.

Among the field, Trump has been the most willing to blast fellow Republicans, most vociferously Bush -- jabbing repeatedly, with assertions like Bush "couldn't negotiate his way out of a paper bag."

In the Democratic primary, the Fox poll found Hillary Clinton continues to hold a comfortable lead over liberal insurgent Bernie Sanders. Among likely voters in the Democratic primary, 59 percent picked Clinton and 19 percent backed Sanders. Other Democratic contenders, including former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee and former Sen. Jim Webb, are still struggling to find any traction in the field.

The poll came from cell phone and landline telephone interviews with 389 likely Republican voters July 13-15. On the Democratic side, Fox News spoke to 382 likely Democratic primary voters.

Walker Expectations High as He Tours Iowa This Weekend // Bloomberg // John McCormick – July 17, 2015

Near a mighty river that shares its banks with his neighboring state, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker launched his first Iowa campaign swing as a declared presidential candidate with a Winnebago and high expectations for his performance there.

No state is more critical to Walker's future than Iowa, where strong early polling has built expectations to the point that anything short of a win in the state's lead-off Feb. 1 caucuses could be viewed as a loss.

Underscoring its importance, the Republican from the other bank of the Mississippi River is spending three days in the state -- triple that of any other he visited during his campaign rollout week. On Sunday, he plans to visit his boyhood community of Plainfield, Iowa, a not-so-subtle reminder to the state's Republicans that he considers himself one of them.

During a speech to about 200 people at a minor league baseball stadium in Mississippi River town of Davenport, Walker showed he's learned some Iowa political slang, while also demonstrating he has more to learn.

"We're going to do the Full Grassley," he said in a nod to his commitment to visit all of the state's counties, something U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley typically does every year.

"We're going to visit all 99 counties in this state between now and the caucus next year," Walker added, using the singular instead of the plural caucuses that locals typically use in describing the individual meetings in more than 1,700 precincts.

Walker also retold an anecdote he first used in mid-May that now provides him a first-class political pander to Iowans. It's about how the Plainfield city hall lacked an Iowa flag when he was growing up in the mid 1970s, prompting him and his brother to raise money for one. Walker's mother kept the original flag and a photo of her boys with it.

"Aren't moms great?" Walker asked the audience.

Walker said his brother, David, plans to join him for part of the Iowa tour. Also along for the ride, as they have been since his Monday announcement in Wisconsin, are his wife, Tonette, and sons, Matt and Alex.

Asked if he has any concerns about expectations being too high for him in Iowa, Walker brought up his experience as a high-school track runner.

"My coach used to say it's a lot easier to win if you're ahead," he said. "In the end, we know there's a lot of time, a lot can happen between now and then. We're just going to stay focused, day by day, week by week, getting our message out."

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Walker said he hopes to "at least to be first, second or third" in all the early states.

A Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa Poll in May showed Walker backed by 17 percent of likely Republican caucus participants, well ahead all others in the field.

Beyond Iowa, Walker is also starting to build a plan for a Republican primary that goes past February and the initial contests in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. On Wednesday, he visited Georgia, a state that will host a March 1 primary. Plans are also in the works for visits to Tennessee and other states that hold contests on that date.

Scott Walker Inquiry Shows the Danger of Secrecy // Bloomberg // Megan McArdle – July 17, 2015

In 2010, Wisconsin convened a "John Doe" investigation into the misuse of funds in the Milwaukee county executive's office. In the state, a judge can allow prosecutors to carry out a John Doe investigation, requiring secrecy from everyone involved. Stuart Taylor explains: "This 'gag order' provision, almost unique in American law, effectively disables targets or witnesses from publicly defending themselves or responding to damaging leaks." In 2012, this somehow spawned a second John Doe probe of Wisconsin conservative groups, who were accused of illegally coordinating with Governor Scott Walker's campaign, as he tried to hold his office during the recall election.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has finally ended that investigation, which has been stalled for many long months as its targets sued their way through the courts. The ruling mostly relied on technical legal questions: Was the campaign finance statute upon which prosecutors relied unconstitutionally vague? (Yes.) Did Judge Gregory Peterson, the second judge to supervise this investigation, step outside of his remit when he quashed subpoenas and effectively ended the investigation? (No.) Did the judges and prosecutor act wrongly when they accepted their jobs running this investigation? (Also, no.)

But the summation is brutal. It seems clear that the Wisconsin Supreme Court would like to make a broader ruling targeting the behavior of the prosecutors (which you can read about here), and the court's decision fires a few well-placed shots in that direction:

> It is utterly clear that the special prosecutor has employed theories of law that do not exist in order to investigate citizens who were wholly innocent of any wrongdoing. In other words, the special prosecutor was the instigator of a "perfect storm" of wrongs that was visited upon the innocent Unnamed Movants and those who dared to associate with them. It is fortunate, indeed, for every other citizen of this great State who is interested in the protection of fundamental liberties that the special prosecutor chose as his targets innocent citizens who had both the will and the means to fight the unlimited resources of an unjust prosecution. Further, these brave individuals played a crucial role in presenting this court with an opportunity to re-endorse its commitment to upholding the fundamental right of each and every citizen to engage in lawful political activity and to do so free from the fear of the tyrannical retribution of arbitrary or capricious governmental prosecution. Let one point be clear: our conclusion today ends this unconstitutional John Doe investigation.

I found myself nodding along at every word. This investigation never should have taken place. This would be true if conservatives are correct that the investigation's amoeboid spread and pattern of selective leaks indicate a politically motivated prosecutor doing his best to take down a controversial Republican governor. It would still be true if we are looking at merely one more instance where a special prosecutor roamed out of control, dizzy with a superheroic mandate to hunt down all malefactors wherever they might be found. Either way, the fundamental problem is the same: Government power gone wildly beyond the limits of common sense.

I am not quite libertarian enough to think that there is no place for secret investigations in our legal system. Is the FBI investigating a terrorist cell that is likely to steal softly and silently away into the night if they are notified that their banker is onto them? Will publishing the warrants in open court reveal intelligence "sources and methods" that will degrade our ability to keep track of terrorists? OK, there is probably a case for some sort of secrecy. Are you investigating a cartel that might start shooting witnesses at any moment? I grant you the need for discretion. Do you need a 48-hour gag order so that the very dangerous people you are targeting will not be able to destroy all the evidence of their wrongdoing? Fair enough.

But what possible reason can there be for be for slapping gag orders on people who are accused of ... possibly coordinating their issue ads too closely with a governor's office? And doing so after you have already broken down the doors of their homes with battering rams to collect every scrap of paper or electronics in sight? You can almost hear the prosecutors' logic: "These suspects' dangerous allies must not be allowed to find out about the case, lest they smite our great citizenry with white papers and YouTube videos and strongly worded billboards!"

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If prosecutors truly thought the investigation needed to be secret, they would have kept it secret -- not allowed news of it to leak out. Conveniently in time for Democrats to use it in their campaign materials. This is one of the dangers of making investigations like this secret: Individuals who know of the case have the power to hurt the targets by leaking, but the targets have no ability to publicly defend themselves. That gives prosecutors a perverse power, even when they have weak evidence and a weak case, to elicit guilty pleas from innocent suspects or otherwise do them harm.

But that's far from the only problem. As I've written before, when it comes to criminal justice investigations, the process itself is a punishment. That's why the process needs to be carefully scrutinized. Judicial supervision is not sufficient, except possibly in some of those moments I mentioned above. In almost every case, the public also has to have eyes on the whole thing. Otherwise, investigations all too easily degenerate into"general warrants," the legal instrument allowing officials to search anywhere, for anything -- and quite properly forbidden by the Fourth Amendment because no one wants to be at the mercy of the unchecked whims of government investigators.

The real problem, in other words, is not the investigation, but the law. And the judge who permitted this use of the law. I come very close to thinking special prosecutors and similar roles should simply be abandoned, given how frequently those appointed seem to get distracted from the crimes they were asked to investigate. (Remember the Clintons? How exactly did an investigation into Whitewater lead to Bill Clinton lying under oath about his sexual relations with White House interns?) But if we do not abandon the whole "special prosecutor" approach, we should be clear when they are appointed: Secrecy is an option only when it's clear lives are at stake.

There are worse things than campaign finance violations. One of them is living in a nation where law-abiding citizens don't know if they're safe from ambitious prosecutors -- especially prosecutors who can silence their targets at will.

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Scott Walker tries to prove he's a national contender for president // LA Times // Noah Bierman - July 17, 2015

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As he rumbled through South Carolina this week, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker told his favorite story about shopping for clothes at Kohl's department store and cobbling together so many discounts that "they're paying me to buy the shirt."

The tale drew chuckles from some of the 200 Republicans who came to see him at a Harley-Davidson dealership in North Charleston. But the details, including references to the "Kohl's cash" coupons found in his wife's purse, did not spark the same knowing nods that they did during his announcement speech in Wisconsin, where the chain is based and is a more entrenched symbol of middle-class culture.

The stump-speech anecdote points to one of Walker's challenges as he opened his campaign for president by embarking on a whirlwind tour: proving he is a national contender who can win states beyond his Midwestern base.

He is investing time, money and organizational resources in Iowa, which holds the nation's first presidential nominating contest and borders his home state. But to rise above other leading Republican candidates, he needs to show strength in other regions of the country that have early primaries, including South Carolina.

"Fifty percent of the people in South Carolina, you show them a picture of Scott Walker and they don't know who he is," said Moye Graham, chairman of the Republican Party for a state district that covers 15 counties north of Charleston. "He probably has the least face recognition of the major candidates."

Walker, hoping to remedy that problem, pursued an aggressive schedule in early primary states for his first week, with stops in Nevada, South Carolina, Georgia, New Hampshire and Iowa, followed next week by trips to Tennessee, California and North Carolina, and a return trip to New Hampshire for a motorcycle tour. Walker was hoarse during his first appearance in South Carolina after going without a bed for more than 24 hours.

Trying to save money and reinforce his Everyman credentials, he and his staff flew commercial but ran into delays caused by weather, including an unexpected stop in Memphis, a missed connection in Atlanta and a 3 a.m. ride in a rented van to South Carolina.

Polls have suggested Walker can compete in South Carolina and other early states. And many GOP activists in South Carolina, where Republican primary voters are especially conservative, also say he has a shot. But several have said he will have to visit more often — something he pledged to do this week — and distinguish himself from a crowded field that includes Sen. Lindsey Graham, who represents South Carolina, and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who has a strong network in the state. Other very conservative candidates, including Dr. Ben Carson, real estate magnate Donald Trump and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, are also mentioned favorably by activists here.

"There's just so many candidates," said Brian Grant, a 47-year-old pharmacist from Charleston who came to check Walker out at the Harley-Davidson event. "Nobody's narrowed it down."

And South Carolina voters do not always honor the winners of other early primaries with a bounce. Newt Gingrich, the former speaker of the House, won the primary here in 2012, stanching the momentum of Rick Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, who won Iowa.

"He was completely reliant on the bump. It will help, but it never really works," said Brandon Newton, a party chairman from a district based along the border with North Carolina. "It's really who does the ground game in South Carolina."

That's where money and organization help candidates like Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor who has mainstream support and leads by a substantial margin in fundraising through outside groups.

"Your biggest challenge is time," said Rick Wiley, Walker's campaign manager, marking as the most difficult logistical hurdle a stretch of 26 contests in the first two weeks of March that will probably determine the party's nominee.

Walker tries to connect with crowds, and draw a contrast with Bush, by emphasizing his humble roots, including a job at McDonald's and his grandparents' lack of indoor plumbing for a time. He wore jeans, rolled-up sleeves and motorcycle boots in South Carolina, one of three states where he scheduled events at Harley-Davidson dealerships, a nod to another Wisconsin-based company and to his hobby of motorcycle-riding that suggests a renegade streak. In North Charleston he stood before a backdrop of motorcycles stacked three stories high.

Many who took pictures and sought autographs from him after his speeches were eager to talk about their Wisconsin ties -- a few wore Green Bay Packers jerseys or carried the team's mug.

Walker is one of the most polarizing candidates in the field, loathed by Democrats and union activists and admired by conservatives for defeating a recall effort after his rollback of collective bargaining rights for public employees

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in Wisconsin. That fight is the centerpiece of Walker's speeches and the issue party activists know most about him.

"We took on the unions and we won," Walker said in Lexington.

Walker has tried to move still further to the right to court social conservatives. His work to curtail abortion rights drew some of his loudest applause here, along with his boast of passing a voter-ID law and his fight to require welfare recipients to take drug tests.

Walker has tiptoed around issues that could risk alienating conservative voters, even if they are less controversial with moderates.

He has mostly sidestepped questions about whether South Carolina should have removed the Confederate flag from the capitol, calling it a state issue. That allowed him to avoid taking sides on a topic that remains divisive among the state's Republicans.

To reporters, he praised Republican Gov. Nikki Haley for "bringing together a broad coalition to get the job done."

Walker's impulse to please cultural conservatives has prompted some awkward moments. On Tuesday, he was quoted as saying that he believed gay people should be barred from leading Boy Scout troops because the policy "protected children and advanced Scout values."

But speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Walker downplayed his comment.

"It's up to the Boy Scouts," he said. "All I pointed out was the policy was perfectly fine when I was there and I thought they should be protected from all the political and media controversy about it."

Liberals Lose to Scott Walker in Wisconsin Again // The Daily Beast // Betsy Woodruff – July 17, 2015

The gods are smiling on Scott Walker.

And by the gods, I mean four of the six Badger State's supreme court justices, who just put the kibosh on a lengthy and secret "John Doe" investigation that targeted some of the governor's top allies and like-minded groups.

The investigation was sparked over allegations that outside independent groups who supported Walker secretly coordinated with Wisconsin Republicans during the run-up to the 2012 recall vote.

John Doe refers to a Wisconsin law that lets prosecutors investigate suspects to determine whether or not they have probable cause, according to Marcus Berghahn, of Hurley, Burish, and Stanton Law Firm.

This particular John Doe proceeding—conducted in secret—investigated got kicked off in 2012 because, as the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel notes, prosecutors suspected that Walker's gubernatorial campaign illegally coordinated with the Wisconsin Club for Growth.

The special prosecutor referred to it as an "a criminal scheme" and to prove it, investigators pointed to documents that seemed to show Walker urging donors to contribute to the advocacy groups, according to the Wisconsin State Journal.

The court's decision—split 4-2 along ideological lines—ruled that the state's anti-coordination law is too broad and vague to comply with the First Amendment.

But even though Team Walker won and progressives lost, Wisconsinites on both sides are not ready to move on. And prosecutor Francis Schmitz has indicated he may try to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Progressives say the justices should have recused themselves, because they benefited from issue-advocacy ads.

"The four justices whose opinion halts an investigation and possible prosecution of Walker's campaign and allies and orders records to be destroyed were the beneficiaries of at least $10 million in campaign spending by parties named in the investigation," said a statement from progressive group One Wisconsin Now issued after the decision.

As you might expect, conservatives strongly back the state's top court—and are univocal in their support of the conservative justices who moved to call off the secret investigation. Rick Esenberg, the president of the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, said the four made the right call by choosing not to recuse themselves. His group filed an amicus brief for the side that ultimately won.

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"I don't think it can be the case that the mere fact that somebody has spent money on issue advocacy means that you can never hear a case in which they're involved," he said.

The John Doe investigators targeted a number of members from throughout Wisconsin conservatives' infrastructure in the state—an infrastructure whose operations that has been remarkably efficient and effective.

"They issued subpoenas or search warrants to virtually every conservative or libertarian 501(c)4 advocacy organization in the state," he continued. "So they were all involved, in a way, almost every one of them."

To assert that investigating conservative advocacy organizations means conservative justices can't rule on the case, Esenberg argues, is unfair.

"It's a little bit like the guy who kills his parents and then pleads for clemency because he's an orphan," Esenberg said. "They don't get to remove one side of the political spectrum from the bench because they've attacked the entire advocacy structure on that side of the political spectrum."

And investigators' use of SWAT teams and no-knock raids drew criticism from both ends of the ideological spectrum. Salon's Heather Digby Parton called the no-knock raids "disturbing."

Matt Kittle, the editor-in-chief of the conservative news site Wisconsin Watchdog, characterized the investigation as Nixonian.

"This was, based on our investigation over the last few years, one of the more abusive probes in our lifetimes in the state of Wisconsin, and I think it goes up against any nationally," he said. "This was politically motivated, the court made that clear today."

But Wisconsin progressives argue that that all misses the point.

State Senator Chris Larson said the ruling is "the definition of corruption."

"If you asked the average person on the street, 'Draw me a picture of what a corrupt system looks like,' this would be too obvious to them," he said. "This is it. This is what they would draw."

"This is our state," he continued. "And hey, if Walker keeps going, this will be the country."

Scott Walker: All You Need To Know **// Newsweek // James M. Lindsay – July 17, 2015**

Twelve Americans have become president without having earned a college degree. (Two of them are on Mount Rushmore.) Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, who studied at Marquette University but left before graduating, hopes to make that number thirteen—and the first since Harry Truman.

Walker announced on July 13 what has been long expected: he is running for president. He is the fifteenth prominent Republican to declare for the White House and the seventh governor. He won't be the last one on either score.

The Basics

Name: Scott Kevin Walker
Date of Birth: November 2, 1967
Place of Birth: Colorado Springs, Colorado
Religion: Evangelical Christian
Political Party: Republican Party
Marital Status: Married (Tonette)
Children: Matthew (20) and Alex (19)
Alma Mater: Marquette University (attended)
Career: Governor of Wisconsin (2011- present); Executive of Milwaukee Country Executive (2002-2010) Wisconsin State Assembly (1993-2002); Marketing and Fundraising, American Red Cross (1990-1994)
Twitter Handle: @ScottWalker

Campaign Announcement

Walker announced his run for the White House at the Waukesha County Expo Center in Waukesha, Wisconsin, a suburb of Milwaukee.

He began his speech with a sure-fire winner of an opening line: "I Love America."

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Like many presidential candidates before him, Walker used his announcement to recount his biography and his accomplishments, and to mention people who have inspired him along the way. When he turned to policy matters, he was long on criticism and promises and short on specific policy measures. He summarized his platform in three words: "I'm for Reform. Growth. Safety."

The "safety" part of Walker's platform deals with foreign policy. He argues that President Obama has left Americans imperiled:

> Today sadly, under the Obama/Clinton doctrine, America is leading from behind and we're headed toward a disaster.

> We have a president who drew a line in the sand and allowed it to be crossed. A president who call ISIS the JV squad, Yemen a success story and Iran a place we can do business with. Iran…think about that.

Walker went on to vow that he would terminate the nuclear deal with Iran, help "our Kurd and Sunni allies reclaim land taken by ISIS," stand by Israel, stand up to Putin, resist Chinese aggression, spend more on defense and "fight to win."

Walker's Story

Walker was born in Colorado but moved to Plainfield, Iowa at age three when his father became a pastor at a local Baptist Church. Seven years later the Walkers relocated to Delavan, Wisconsin, a small town located roughly fifty miles southwest of Milwaukee. As a teenager, Walker was an Eagle Scout, and he occasionally gave sermons in his father's church. But rather than following his father into the ministry, he chose a career in politics.

Walker ran his first campaign for public office in 1990, but he lost his bid for the State Assembly. He has been on a winning streak ever since. In 1993, he won a State Assembly seat in a more conservative district. He stayed in the State Assembly until 2002, when he won a special election to be Milwaukee County Executive. He subsequently won two regular elections. He stood out during his time as county executive; most of the members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors were Democrats.

Walker launched an ill-fated run for governor in 2005. After a year of campaigning, he dropped out of the race before any votes were cast. He had more success on his second try, winning the governorship in November 2010.

Shortly after taking office in 2011, he proposed legislation limiting collective bargaining rights. That triggered an epic political donnybrook. More than one hundred thousand protesters swarmed Madison, Wisconsin's capital city. Democrats in the Wisconsin Senate staged their own kind of protest: they left Wisconsin in an effort to prevent the quorum needed to act on the bill. Republicans legislators still managed to pass it. The move made Walker a hero to conservatives and a villain to the labor movement. Walker survived a bitterly fought recall election in 2012, and he was reelected governor in 2014.

Walker's Message

Walker admires Ronald Reagan. He often invokes the 40th president when discussing issues, particularly when it comes to foreign policy. He also likes to compare himself to Reagan, who was "a fellow governor who cut taxes and as a leader who proved his mettle by staring down organized labor." He will likely continue to invoke Reagan's name as he positions himself in the 2016 campaign as an unabashed conservative who will stand by his principles and "who will fight and win for America."

Foreign Policy Views

As with most governors who seek the presidency, Walker has limited foreign policy experience. As he puts it, foreign policy is "not an area that governors typically look at." He urges voters to worry less about specific foreign policy experience and more about leadership abilities, because foreign policy is:

> Something that's not just about having PhDs, or talking to PhDs—it's about leadership.

When Senator Marco Rubio, one of Walker's rivals for the GOP nomination, said that "there is no way" a governor can be ready "on Day One to manage U.S. foreign policy," Walker retorted: "I think he's questioning how Ronald Reagan was ready."

General Foreign Policy Worldview

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Walker's general approach to foreign policy mirrors that of most other GOP presidential candidates. (Rand Paul is the obvious exception.) He thinks that President Obama has been weak in his handling of foreign policy and unwilling to recognize threats like ISIS:

> When you have an administration … who doesn't take seriously the threats, who doesn't invest the resources needed to take those threats seriously, you open the door to chaos.

He promises to provide strong, tough leadership that will deter America's adversaries and rally its friends and allies:

> The world needs to know that there is no better friend and no worse enemy than the United States of America.

Overall, however, Walker has tended to limit his public comments on foreign policy. That reluctance to speak about foreign policy became an issue in February when he spoke in London at Chatham House, Britain's leading international affairs think tank. The moderator not surprisingly asked him several foreign policy questions, which Walker declined to answer. He defended his reluctance to speak by saying:

> I just think for me, commenting on foreign policy or, in this case, economic policy in a country where you're a visitor is not the politest of things.

When Walker has waded into foreign policy discussions, the results haven't necessarily been what he wanted. Shortly after returning from London, he answered a question at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference about international terrorism by saying:

> I want a commander-in-chief who will do everything in their power to ensure that the threat from radical Islamic terrorists does not wash up on American soil. We will have someone who leads and ultimately we'll send a message that not only will we protect American soil, but do not, do not take this upon freedom-loving people anywhere else in the world. We need a leader with that kind of confidence. If I can take on 100,000 protesters, I can do the same across the world.

Critics complained that he had equated union members exercising their constitutional right to protest with international terrorists. Former Texas Governor Rick Perry, now Walker's rival for the GOP presidential nomination, called the remark "inappropriate" and "a mistake." Walker insisted that he was not equating protesters with terrorists, but rather was offering up "the closest thing I have in terms of handling a difficult situation, not that there's any parallel between the two."

Days later, Walker triggered criticism with a different set of remarks. At the close of a speech for the Club of Growth, a conservative advocacy group, a questioner said that many people viewed the Chatham House performance as a sign Walker was "not prepared to speak about foreign policy" and then asked what he was doing to prepare for the White House. In his answer, Walker said Ronald Reagan's decision to fire striking air traffic controllers in 1981 was, "the most significant policy decision of my lifetime."
He added:

> Years later, documents released from the Soviet Union showed that…The Soviet Union started treating [Reagan] more seriously once he did something like that. Ideas have to have consequences. And I think [President Barack Obama] has failed mainly because he's made threats and hasn't followed through on them.

Whether Reagan's decision was the most significant act in recent history is a matter of opinion and not fact. But there is no evidence that the documents Walker referred to exist. Reagan's own ambassador to the Soviet Union dismissed the claim as "utter nonsense."

The Middle East

How does Walker's general foreign policy worldview translate into specific steps to respond to specific challenges and opportunities? In terms of radical Islamic terrorism, which Walker has identified as "the greatest threat to

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future generations," it means relying more on military power:

> I think aggressively, we need to take the fight to ISIS and any other radical Islamic terrorist in and around the world, because it's not a matter of when they attempt an attack on American soil, or not if I should say, it's when, and we need leadership that says clearly, not only amongst the United States but amongst our allies, that we're willing to take appropriate action.

Walker believes that Obama withdrew U.S. troops too hastily from Iraq, thereby sowing the seeds for the rise of the self-proclaimed Islamic State. To deal with that threat, Walker says"I'd rather take the fight to them than wait for them to bring the fight to us." He would do so by going beyond airstrikes and drone strikes:

> We have to be—go beyond just aggressive air strikes. We have to look at other surgical methods. And ultimately, we have to be prepared to put boots on the ground if that's what it takes.

When asked whether that means he favors ordering U.S. troops to return to Iraq, as Senator Lindsey Graham has argued, Walker says he is "not arguing that's the first approach." He thinks for now the United States can roll back the ISIS threat with more modest steps:

> We have a capacity to reclaim Iraq with the Iraqi forces that are there as long as we unleash the power that's already there by the American armed forces.

To that end, he proposes "lifting the political restrictions on our military personnel in Iraq" so that they can better help Iraqis defeat the Islamic State.

Overall, Walker's insistence on keeping all military options on the table may have less to do with an enthusiasm for military action and more to do with a conviction that it is a mistake to put limits on what the United States might do:

> Once we start saying how far we're willing to go or how many troops we're willing to invest, we send a horrible message, particularly to foes in the Middle East who are willing to wait us out.

The political risk in that position, of course, is that voters might see only the prospect of new wars and not a broader deterrent tactic.

Iran

Walker wants a tougher U.S. policy on Iran. He responded to the news that a nuclear deal had been struck with Iran by issuing a statement denouncing the agreement:

> President Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran will be remembered as one of America's worst diplomatic failures. The deal allows Tehran to dismantle U.S. and international sanctions without dismantling its illicit nuclear infrastructure—giving Iran's nuclear weapons capability an American stamp of approval. In crafting this agreement, President Obama has abandoned the bipartisan principles that have guided our nonproliferation policy and kept the world safe from nuclear danger for decades. Instead of making the world safer, this deal will likely lead to a nuclear arms race in the world's most dangerous region. What's worse, the deal rewards the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism with a massive financial windfall, which Iran will use to further threaten our interests and key allies, especially Israel.
>
> I call on all congressional leaders and presidential candidates, including Secretary Clinton, to repudiate this agreement. Iran's Supreme Leader should know that a future American president will not be bound by this diplomatic retreat. Undoing the damage caused by this deal won't be easy. But when the United States leads, and has a president who isn't eager to embrace Iran, the world will follow. In order to ensure the safety of America and our allies, the next president must restore bipartisan and international opposition to Iran's nuclear program while standing with our allies to roll back Iran's destructive influence across the Middle East.

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Before entering the race, Walker vowed to repudiate the deal if he made it to the White House. When asked if he would do that even if it meant breaking with U.S. allies, Walker's answer was succinct: "Absolutely." That prompted Obama to say:

> It would be a foolish approach to take, and perhaps Mr. Walker–after he's taken some time to bone up on foreign policy–will feel the same way.

Walker responded to Obama's jab by reiterating his critique of the president's foreign policy:

> President Obama's failed leadership has put him at odds with many across the country, including members of his own party, and key allies around the world. Americans would be better served by a president who spent more time working with governors and members of Congress rather than attacking them.

Walker's criticism of the Iran deal is tied to his belief that "the current administration is not giving Israel the support it needs…the president is making bad deals with a country that wishes to wipe Israel off the map." Walker vows that during his presidency there will be "no daylight" between the two countries. As Middle East hands like to point out, though, political daylight between the United States and Israel is not unique to Obama's time in office; it happened, for instance, during the presidency of Walker's favorite politician, Ronald Reagan.

Russia and Ukraine

Walker wants to get tough with Vladimir Putin. He said in his campaign announcement speech:

> We need to stop the aggression of Russia into sovereign nations. Putin bases his policies on Lenin's old principle: probe with bayonets, if you encounter mush, push; if you encounter steel, stop.
>
> With Obama and Clinton, Putin has encountered years of mush. The United States needs a foreign policy that puts steel in front of our enemies.

To that end, he favors intensified sanctions on Russia and the provision of lethal military aid to Ukraine "so they can defend themselves against Russian aggression." He also wants the United States to provide more support for Ukraine's anti-corruption initiatives and to declare that NATO will permanently station troops in Eastern Europe and the Baltics.

China

Walker visited China on a trade mission in 2013, but he hasn't said much about U.S. policy toward Beijing. He does want the United States to take a tougher line against China, particularly with respect to its activities in the South China Sea:

> A serious American response is necessary. The most important step is to reestablish U.S. military strength. We must increase the size of our Navy, strengthen the self-defense capabilities of our regional partners, and regularly engage in freedom-of-navigation patrols throughout the Pacific. Boosting our trade relations with friendly Pacific nations will fortify our economic presence in one of the world's most consequential regions.

Increasing the size of the Navy is an expensive proposition; Walker hasn't identified what he would give up to accommodate the additional spending. The other items on his to-do list are things the U.S. government is currently doing.

Trade

Walker says he is "a strong advocate for free and open trade." Like most governors, he has participated in many overseas trade missions, in his case trying to drum up business for Wisconsin's exports and to encourage foreign firms to invest in the state. He went to Europe twice in the first half of 2015, using it as an opportunity to flag the potential benefits of the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which would create free trade between the United States and Europe.

He also supports the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He urged Republican members of Congress to pass trade promotion authority because it would "allow the Republican-controlled Congress to hold this president

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accountable for presenting a bad trade agreement" by giving them the chance to block it.

Immigration

Walker's views on immigration have shifted. As Milwaukee county executive, he signed resolutions applauding the contributions that undocumented immigrants make and calling for federal action to grant them legal status. As late as 2013, he argued that it "makes sense" to create a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and to make it easier for people to immigrate legally into the United States. He also argued that immigrants in the United States legally should get "first preference" and doubted that there would be a need for "border security and a wall and all that…if you had a better, saner way to let people into the country in the first place."

More recently, he has opposed a path to citizenship. For example, in March he said publicly, ""I don't believe in amnesty." (Participants at a meeting Walker held for business leaders a few weeks later reported that he told them that undocumented immigrants should not be deported and that he would support allowing some of them to become citizens. Walker's spokesperson disputed those claims.)

The shift in Walker's public comments on immigration prompted Fox News's Chris Wallace to press him to admit he had changed his position. Walker did just that:

> And my view has changed. I'm flat out saying it….
>
> I look at the problems we've experienced for the last few years. I've talked to governors on the border and others out there. I've talked to people all across America.
>
> And the concerns I have is that we need to secure the border. We ultimately need to put in place a system that works. A legal immigration system that works.

Walker now stresses that immigration reform should be "based on, first and foremost, protecting American workers and American wages." Some conservative scholars and activists have criticized that claim, noting that ample economic research shows that undocumented workers do not hurt the economy or take jobs from native workers.

Climate Change

Walker has not said whether he thinks climate change is real and the result of human activity. He has signed a pledge to oppose any tax or fee increases intended to combat climate change.

More on Walker

Walker summarized his worldview in his 2013 book, co-authored with Marc Thiessen, in Unintimidated: A Governor's Story and a Nation's Challenge.

The New York Times has "Things You May Not Know About Scott Walker." The Washington Post has "Five Things You Might Not Know About Scott Walker" and "Scott Walker on Issues of 2016 Campaign." NPR has "5 Things You Should Know About Scott Walker." CBS News also has "Five Things to Know About Scott Walker." USA Today has "Six Things to Know About Scott Walker." MSNBC has "5 Things We Learned About Scott Walker in 2015." MTV has "15 Things You Should Know About Scott Walker, Who Just Announced He's Running For President."

Scott Walker Push For Milwaukee Bucks Arena Subsidy Could Benefit His Fundraising Chief // IB Times // David Sirota and Andrew Perez – July 17, 2015

In the year leading up to the announcement of his presidential campaign, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker championed a high-profile proposal to spend a quarter of a billion dollars of taxpayer money to help finance a new Milwaukee Bucks arena -- all while pushing to slash roughly the same amount from state funding for higher education. One of those who stands to benefit from the controversial initiative is a longtime Walker donor and Republican financier who has just been appointed by the governor to head his presidential fundraising operation.

Real estate mogul Jon Hammes, who has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Republican candidates and causes, is a prominent member of the investor group that owns Milwaukee's NBA team. Last week CNN reported that he also will serve as the Walker campaign's national finance co-chairman. Days after that appointment, Walker's Republican allies in the Wisconsin state Senate backed the governor's proposal to spend public funds on

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a new arena for the Bucks.

In his speech announcing his presidential candidacy, Walker presented himself as a free-market conservative and derided what he called a "top-down, government-knows-best approach" to economic policymaking. Hammes serves on the board of a conservative think tank called the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute that says "competitive free markets, limited government, private initiative and personal responsibility are essential to our democratic way of life."

But under Walker's proposal, the government would redistribute taxpayer money to a project benefiting Hammes and other Bucks investors.

A representative for Walker defended the proposal, saying in a statement: "Governor Walker's focus is on protecting Wisconsin's taxpayers from the negative financial impact of losing the Bucks, while balancing state and local support."

A Walker campaign aide additionally asserted that it was "a dangerous leap" for International Business Times to ask about the propriety of subsidizing a deal in which Hammes could benefit. "The stadium deal has been in the works much longer than he has been involved with the campaign," the aide said.

However, before Walker proposed the arena deal, Hammes had donated more than $15,000 to his gubernatorial campaigns, according to state campaign finance data. Federal records also show that over the last decade, Hammes has donated almost $280,000 to Republican candidates and third-party groups -- including more than $14,000 to the Wisconsin Republican Party. He also contributed $500 to Walker while he was a Milwaukee county executive.

Hammes became one of the part owners of the Bucks in 2014. A little more than three months later, Walker unveiled his proposal to spend a quarter of a billion dollars on a new arena for the team. The team currently plays at BMO Harris Bradley Center in Milwaukee.

A Hammes Company representative declined to say what percentage of the team he owns.

Hammes' financial interest in Walker's arena subsidy package may not be limited to just his stake in the team. According to local news reports, his real estate firm also also bought parcels of downtown land near the location of the proposed new arena. Hammes' firm also was contracted by the local chamber of commerce to evaluate new stadium proposals. The company has expertise in that area, having been involved in the construction of the New York Giants' stadium and the renovation of the Green Bay Packers' home at Lambeau Field in Wisconsin.

Walker's administration has justified the expenditure as a means of safeguarding Wisconsin's economy, which has seen the largest decline of its middle class of any state in the country.

"This plan protects taxpayers from the loss of $299 million if a new stadium is not built and the NBA moves the Milwaukee Bucks to another state," Walker's spokeswoman, Laurel Patrick, told IBTimes.

The Bucks have claimed the new arena would be a boon for Wisconsin, saying in an advertisement that the entire state would feel a "ripple effect."

A widely cited 2008 study by Econ Journal Watch found an "overwhelming preponderance of evidence that no tangible economic benefits are generated by these heavily subsidized professional sports facilities."

While Walker's arena financing proposal passed the state Senate with bipartisan support, some Republican and Democratic legislators decried the initiative.

Democratic Sen. Tim Carpenter of Milwaukee said that "the burden of paying for the construction of the new arena should fall on those who would benefit from its construction." Republican Sen. Rob Cowles said, "I think it is incredibly unfair that my constituents in northeastern Wisconsin are being asked to pay for a sports arena in Milwaukee."

As Scott Walker takes national stage, some home-state constituents cry foul // Christian Science Monitor // Sarah Caspari – July 17, 2015

If Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) has been divisive among his constituents in the past, his recent presidential candidacy announcement has drawn more critical eyes.

Governor Walker has come under fire for neglecting his gubernatorial duties in favor of the presidential campaign trail, as well as for his political moves, which have always caused controversy.

"We don't blame him for running, but he still has to do his job as governor," said a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

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editorial published Tuesday. “There were signs during the recent debate over the state budget that Walker was AWOL at times.”

The Journal Sentinel criticized Walker for attempting to “win over” Republicans by “bragging” about his legislation to slash collective bargaining rights for public employee unions – an act that “cleaved the state in two” and inspired “angry protests.”

Walker’s approval rating in Wisconsin is down to 41 percent as of an April poll, though he is leading in all-important Iowa.

The Journal Sentinel editorial also criticized Walker’s delivery on promises regarding job creation saying he has lagged behind other Midwestern states and could not “come close” to the 250,000 jobs he vowed to create in his first term.

The Journal Times of Racine also noted in an editorial Monday the role Walker’s office played in the ill-received Republican attack on Wisconsin’s open records law, as well as its subsequent haste to pass the buck onto other Republicans:

> A spokeswoman for Walker said on July 8 that legislative leaders notified the governor's office they were interested in making changes to the state's open records laws.
>
> Then on Friday, Walker pointed the finger at Republican lawmakers directly while speaking on a WTMJ talk-radio program: ‘I think it was a mistake to even think about it in the budget, even though it didn't come from us.’ Walker's office earlier in the week acknowledged it helped draft the changes.

The Wisconsin GOP as a whole is also drawing attention for its accusations that the Government Accountability Board is biased against Republicans.

A Sunday Wisconsin State Journal editorial said there was “little evidence” to support the claims and criticized Republicans for citing the board’s secret investigation of Walker’s recall election campaign in 2012 as proof of anti-Republican sentiment.

The Journal noted that two out of four attorneys who approved the investigation were Republicans themselves, and the special prosecutor in charge has said he voted for Walker.

Now On The National Stage, Scott Walker Is Still A Guy From Delavan // NPR // Don Goneya – July 17, 2015

Drive into Delavan, Wis., and you immediately notice the giant circus animals downtown. A giraffe towering over a small grassy park, and an elephant rearing up on its hindquarters. They're statues, actually — here to commemorate the town's quirky history as home to circus companies that needed a place to winter over.

They began arriving in the mid 1800s — P.T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth was founded in Delavan. But the last of the circuses pulled out of the town three decades ago.

You might also spot the small green road sign that reads: "Welcome to Delavan. Population 8,463." And in script, "Hometown of Governor Scott Walker."

As Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's presidential campaign officially begins, he has something no other 2016 hopeful has — close personal ties to three states Republicans would love to capture in the next presidential election. Walker was born in Colorado, lived in Iowa, then moved to Wisconsin. And that's where the young Walker got the political bug.

Here in solidly Republican Walworth County, Walker's backers look forward to updating that sign to "Hometown of President Scott Walker."

"I call him Scott. I don't call him Gov. Walker. That's the way I look at Gov. Walker — as a friend," said Mel Nieuwenhuis, who has been mayor of Delavan for 14 years.

Walker hasn't lived here since he left to go to college in the mid-1980s, but he gets back on occasion. These days, when local residents see him, it's probably on television.

I asked the mayor whether, when he sees the governor and candidate now, does he still see that guy from Delavan?

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"I do, I think so," he said. "Because to me, Scott, he speaks at my level. He doesn't talk down to you. He's just a regular guy."

Walker was 10 years old when his father became pastor at the First Baptist Church in Delavan and moved his family from the even smaller town of Plainfield, Iowa. You can still walk around the back of the church and see the project Walker completed to earn Eagle Scout honors. There's a small but steep hill there, and Walker and some fellow scouts built a retaining wall using old telephone poles. It worked.

People who knew him back when say he was already developing leadership qualities.

It's evident in the pages of his 1986 high school yearbook, which library director Anita O'Brien opens to the index. There's a long list next to Scott Walker's name: Foreign Language Club, the Library Club, Pep Club, Student Council, Varsity Club, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Track, Swing Choir, Concert, Pep Band, String Ensemble.

One photo shows him with the choir performing songs from the musical Cats. There's one of him playing drums in the high school band. In the varsity football team photo, he sits front row to the left wearing the number 32.

In another photo, he sports the classic hairstyle of the day — a mullet. The caption underneath reads: Scott K. Walker — the Desperado. There's no further explanation.

Following Walker's junior year of high school he took part in a decades-old Wisconsin tradition — an American Legion-sponsored program called Badger Boys State, which brings together about 800-900 young men from across the state of Wisconsin. Most high schools send one to three students, said Thomas Skrenes, who has been a staffer at these annual gatherings for decades. He also said Walker actually made it in as an alternate, when one of those selected from Delavan couldn't make it.

But Skrenes says Walker stood out for being "very poised, very articulate, very well-read ... and he was very interested in politics and history."

During the week at Badger Boys State, participants form a government, run for office, debate issues. Then, at the end, two students are selected to attend Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. Walker was chosen.

In a video on the American Legion website, Walker spoke about the program, saying: "In and of itself, [it] just transformed me. I was totally taken, not just by the politics and the running for office and the government, but just about the public service."

Twenty-five years after attending Boys Nation, he was elected governor of Wisconsin. In that job, Walker has had many battles — he took on the public employee unions, including teachers, stripping them of most of their collective bargaining rights. That led to a recall attempt two years into his term. But he survived, and was re-elected in 2014.

His campaigns have been bruising affairs, and even in Delavan, you can feel the aftereffects. Some around town can be reluctant to talk about him.

Nieuwenhuis, the Delavan mayor, had a theory on that: "I think either you love Scott Walker or you hate Scott Walker — depending on which side you're on."

It's a small town, he said, so why risk getting your neighbor mad at you?

As for Walker himself, these days when he talks about Delavan, he talks about the conservative values he learned there.

"When I was growing up in Delavan, not a one of my classmates ever said to me, 'Hey, Scott, someday when I grow up, I want to become dependent on the government.' Right? Nobody every wrote in my yearbook, 'Scott, good luck becoming dependent on the government,' " he said to laughs at a speech he made in New Hampshire.

It isn't a laugh line for everyone, though.

One lifelong Delavan resident — and Democrat — says such comments are divisive.

"It does kind of offend me a little bit," said Ryan Schroeder. "You know, divide and conquer. I just don't agree with those statements. And unfortunately we've seen that happen here in the state and I think it would be very unfortunate to see it nationwide."

It may rub Schroeder the wrong way, but Walker's message has been welcomed by conservatives across the country. Republicans have noticed that he has won — repeatedly — in a state their party hasn't carried in a

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presidential year since the 1980s.

As Walker himself often notes, the last Republican to win Wisconsin's electoral votes was a guy who grew up just across the state line in another small town called Dixon, Ill. He became a governor, too — and his name was Ronald Reagan.

Can Walker Hit South Carolina's Sweet Spot? // NPR // Jessica Taylor – July 17, 2015

Scorching temperatures near the triple digits weren't driving away the 325 people gathered to hear Scott Walker speak at a Lexington, S.C., barbecue joint Wednesday.

Packed under an open-air porch with fans that were hardly helping, the heat didn't seem to affect the enthusiasm for the Wisconsin governor on just his second day as an announced presidential candidate — and it's the type of excitement he'll need to generate to win the important South Carolina GOP primary.

Clad in his Harley boots, jeans and a button-down shirt, Walker bounded onto stage that afternoon to Dierks Bentley's "I Hold On."

That may have been the motto for the day for Walker, who was running on no sleep since 4 a.m. the day before, thanks to flight snafus and cancellations.

"Holding on" could also be the Wisconsin governor's maxim in the traditionally rough-and-tumble Palmetto State politics. He's at the top of very early polls there, but the Southern prize is wide open, even with one of its sitting senators running.

With Iowa considered a must-win for Walker, and lesser hopes in moderate New Hampshire, a victory in South Carolina in 2016 could secure Walker's place atop the GOP field.

The state is looking to reclaim its streak of picking presidential nominees, and Walker could be just the candidate who can bridge its divide — appealing to both conservative and establishment coalitions across the state's diverse Republican Party as a recipe for a win.

Running On Adrenaline

There was no weariness in Walker's stride, though, as he barreled from one end of the Palmetto State to the other. The Republican was feeding on pure adrenaline as he delivered his stump speech three times — and at the final stop even had to do an abbreviated version in the parking lot (again, with temperatures reaching into the 90s) to an overflow crowd of 500 at Mutt's BBQ in Mauldin, S.C.

"In case you hadn't heard, I'm Scott Walker, I'm running for president, and I'm asking for your vote," he said to roars at the trio of stops, starting early that morning at 8 a.m. in North Charleston at a Harley-Davidson store.

"Americans want to vote for something and for someone, so give me a few minutes and I'm going to tell you what I'm for."

He ticked off his own record, which most in the crowd are familiar with — "we took on the unions, and we won," and his three victories in four years in a blue-leaning state.

When asked what they know about Scott Walker or why they came out to see him, most in the crowds said it's his fight with labor that impressed them and left them wanting to know more.

"I know that he instituted some pretty major changes in Wisconsin, had a lot of pushback from a lot of people but was able keep what I think were positive changes in place," Nancy Nicodemus of nearby Summerville said at his North Charleston event.

To fill out the rest for voters, Walker runs down his history of tax cuts and social credentials. Another top reminder is that he worked to defund Planned Parenthood — particularly resonant in this socially conservative state a day after a controversial video that allegedly showed a top staffer discussing the sale of parts of aborted fetuses to researchers.

He's against Common Core education standards — unpopular with conservatives in South Carolina — and gets lots of cheers for his push to reform welfare in Wisconsin, including mandatory job training enrollment and drug testing.

But the main crux of Walker's stump is his humble roots — a not-so-subtle jab at wealthier, more privileged candidates in the race like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and billionaire businessman Donald Trump. He's the son of a Baptist minister and a part-time secretary, whose grandparents didn't even have indoor plumbing while his

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mother was growing up. He talks of how his first job was as a dishwasher but he later was hired to flip burgers at McDonald's. He doesn't mention his own time in college, though, and the fact that he never finished his degree at Marquette University.

"We did not inherit fame or fortune from our family," said Walker. "What we got was the belief that if you work hard and you play by the rules you can do and be anything. That's the American dream, and that is worth fighting for."

Another anecdote he tells to drive that point home is of how his family shops at Kohl's department store — but on the discount rack, and armed with coupons and "Kohl's cash."

It's an illustration he ties into tax cuts and spending. Arguing that Kohl's can afford such deep discounts because of the volume it produces, Walker says the federal government should mimic that idea.

"The government could charge higher rates, and a few of you could afford it. Or we can lower the rates, broaden the base and increase the value of people participating in the economy," said Walker, renaming Ronald Reagan's "Laffer curve" the "Kohl's curve."

Gaming A South Carolina Win

For Walker, he'll have to use a unique balancing act to win the Palmetto State. Except for the state's wrong pick in 2012 of former Speaker Newt Gingrich, South Carolina had a perfect streak of picking the eventual GOP nominee since 1980.

Past nominees won by crafting winning coalitions across the state — appealing to the Upstate's sizable evangelical population while also wooing more "country club Republicans," military veterans and retirees in the Lowcountry. That's how George W. Bush got a win in 2000, securing his place. The foe he defeated, Arizona Sen. John McCain, was able to bridge the divides and win in 2008, though.

South Carolina GOP consultant Chip Felkel says his then-college professor Whit Ayres — now a national pollster for Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's campaign — summed up the state like this: "In the Upstate they want to know where you go to church, in the Midlands they want to know where you work, and in Charleston they want to know what you want to drink."

Felkel, who is unaligned in the 2016 race, says Walker could have the right mix for South Carolina. After he jolted into the national conversation after a fiery Iowa speech in January, his nascent campaign had some growing pains and stumbles. On his announcement tour at least, those appeared to have been fixed.

"He's got that blue collar appeal, and his messaging seems that he's going to try to play to that hilt," said Felkel. "I think in certain parts of the state he's got the potential to do pretty well, but he's got to prove he's ready for prime time."

For John Borkowski of Mt. Pleasant, Walker might just be the sweet spot for him and other South Carolinians — not too moderate, not too conservative, but just right.

"I think a lot of folks around here are tired of the establishment, of the Jeb Bushes of the world. We love [Texas Sen.] Ted Cruz, but sometimes he just talks too much, he's just out there to be heard," Borkowski said at the North Charleston stop. "Scott Walker, when he says something, he does it. He took on the unions and he beat them. He took on the schools and the teachers and beat them. He took on the recall and won. He's a worker — he says what he does and does what he says."

UNDECLARED

OTHER

The GOP field is set; here's how they rank // McClatchy DC // David Lightman – July 17, 2015

The Republican free-for-all is about to become a 17-candidate scrum.

Never in modern times has a major political party had so many prominent candidates vying at once for its presidential nomination. The 2016 field is all but set, as Ohio Gov. John Kasich will formally join the race Tuesday morning and former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore plans an early August announcement.

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So far, familiarity and intrigue with some new players have boosted a handful of candidates to the top. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is the brother and son of presidents. Real estate mogul Donald Trump is classic Internet click bait. Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida, Ted Cruz of Texas and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker are younger upstarts whose success in swing states rates them close looks from insiders.

As the race begins in earnest, here's where the candidates stand:

TOP TIER: The Front-runners

JEB BUSH

Pros: The former Florida governor and his supporters have raised $114 million, more than double any other Republican. He can keep tapping the loyal family network that's won the White House three times.

Con: Too tight with big donors. Plodding campaign style. And that network last won 11 years ago.

MARCO RUBIO

Pros: At 44, the senator from Florida has the look and vigor of a new generation's leader. Hispanic heritage is a big advantage. Stirs intrigue among the party establishment.

Cons: Backed a bipartisan path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in 2013, then took a tougher stance. A first-term senator who could be seen as too inexperienced to be commander in chief.

SCOTT WALKER

Pros: The Wisconsin governor successfully battled state public employee unions. Won three statewide elections in four years. First governor in the nation to survive a recall effort.

Cons: No foreign policy or Washington experience. Can be awkward in unscripted settings. Hasn't proven widespread appeal outside Midwest.

SECOND TIER: Potential, but . . .

DONALD TRUMP

Pros: The real estate billionaire's stardom and bluster attract big, adoring crowds and media attention. His demands that the U.S. get tougher with illegal immigration is popular in conservative circles.

Cons: Unusually high negatives. Critics deride his immigration views as intolerant. Alienates many in his own party.

TED CRUZ

Pros: The senator from Texas' passionate style is a big hit with conservative audiences, particularly evangelical voters. He and backers raised $51 million this year, second only to Bush among Republican presidential candidates.

Cons: Polarizing figure, disliked by many Republicans. Once called a "wacko bird" by 2008 GOP presidential nominee John McCain.

RAND PAUL

Pros: The senator from Kentucky inherits his father's libertarian following. Has strong views on individual rights and a less intrusive foreign policy. Has made efforts to reach out to minority voters.

Cons: His father's libertarian following and those strong views.

BEN CARSON

Pros: The retired neurosurgeon has a strong grassroots network. His low-key, thoughtful style plays well with conservative voters.

Cons: No government experience. Has made controversial statements. Gentle style may be too gentle in a 17-person brawl.

TIER THREE: Struggling

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RICK PERRY

Pros: The former Texas governor's down-to-earth manner plays well with voters. Strong on issues he's familiar with, notably economics and border security.

Cons: One of the 2012 presidential campaign's biggest flops. Under indictment for abuse of power. Not sharp when unfamiliar with issues.

JOHN KASICH

Pros: Popular governor in Ohio, the nation's premier swing state. Approachable and eager to talk issues at length. Carried 86 of Ohio's 88 counties in November election.

Cons: Too moderate for national Republican electorate. Regular-guy demeanor doesn't seem presidential. Entering the race late.

CHRIS CHRISTIE

Pros: The New Jersey governor's tough talking, brutally frank and popular with audiences eager for an unscripted candidate. Won twice in a Democratic state, did well with minority voters.

Cons: Hurt by George Washington Bridge scandal. Bombastic style gets tiresome and is sometimes marred by flashes of temper. Too centrist and culturally distant for Southern and Midwestern Republicans.

BOBBY JINDAL

Pros: The Louisiana governor won statewide office twice. Strong background on health issues. Talks passionately about his deep religious beliefs.

Cons: Talks passionately about his deep religious beliefs, a turnoff for mainstream voters. Highly unpopular back home, as fiscal policy has proven shaky.

MIKE HUCKABEE

Pros: The former Arkansas governor is a vigorous, entertaining campaigner, popular with Christian right audiences. A pastor with solid evangelical credentials.

Cons: Views on moral issues such as same-sex marriage are toxic to many Republican voters. Won the 2008 Iowa caucus, then fizzled fast.

TIER FOUR: The unpredictables

RICK SANTORUM

Pros: The former senator from Pennsylvania won the 2012 Iowa caucus. Strong Christian right following. Tireless one-on-one campaigner.

Cons: Had his shot in 2012. Too many others vying for the same constituency this time.

CARLY FIORINA

Pros: The retired business executive wows crowds with her energetic style and pointed criticism of Hillary Clinton. Only woman in the Republican race.

Cons: Lost 2010 U.S. Senate race in California by 10 points. Opponents raise questions about layoffs during her time at Hewlett-Packard.

TIER FIVE: Who?

LINDSEY GRAHAM

Pros: The senator from South Carolina is an expert on military and national security matters. Strong one-on-one campaign skills.

Cons: Lagging in money, barely known. Unclear whether he can even win his own state's critical primary.

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GEORGE PATAKI

Pros: The former New York governor won three terms in a Democratic state. Helped lead state's recovery from 9/11 attacks.

Cons: Too moderate for conservative electorate. Barely known outside New York.

JAMES GILMORE

Pros: The former Virginia governor has a solid political resume. Former Republican Party chairman. Headed terrorism policy advisory panel under two presidents.

Cons: Last won political office in 1997. Crushed in 2008 Senate bid.

New data suggest GOP 2016 nominee will need to win nearly half of Latino vote // LA Times // Lisa Mascaro – July 17, 2015

New research out Friday shows that Republicans will need a larger slice of Latino voters than previously thought if they hope to win the White House in 2016, creating an even tougher hurdle for the eventual nominee.

Thanks to changing demographics, the conventional math that once said the GOP would need to win a minimum of 40% of the Latino electorate no longer holds.

Now, data suggests that Republicans will need as much as 47% of Latino voters -- nearly twice the share that Mitt Romney is believed to have captured in 2012.

Put another way: 47% is the new 40%. And it is a daunting number.

"It's very, very, very basic: Every single year, you need a little bit more of the Latino vote," said Matt Barreto, UCLA political science professor and co-founder of the polling firm Latino Decisions. "It's just math."

The research is based on demographic changes and voter preferences emerging at a time when older, white voters who have powered Republican nominees are fading. The growing Latino electorate is expected to surpass 10% of all voters in 2016, and younger white voters are trending toward Democrats.

The findings are likely to scramble Republican strategy circles, because the top Republican candidates are currently performing no better than Romney among Latinos -- a problem compounded by celebrity candidate Donald Trump's disparaging comments about Mexican immigrants.

Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, does best with Latinos, at 27%, according to a Univision poll this week, closely trailed by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) at 25%.

The new thinking unveiled Friday largely mirrors that of Republican pollster Whit Ayres, who has argued that the party's 2016 nominee will need more than 40% of the Latino vote. He has been tapped by Rubio's campaign.

A look at past elections shows the rough road ahead for the GOP amid the demographic shift.

The last Republican nominee to hit the 40% threshold was George W. Bush in 2004, who was popular with Latino voters. He went on to win the White House with 58% of the white vote, at a time when Latinos were 7% of overall voters.

Romney and John McCain trailed in Latino support and lost the presidency.

Republicans could stem their reliance on Latino voters if the party's nominee performed better among whites -- as some GOP strategists are hoping to do.

But that strategy could force the candidate to favor more conservative positions on immigration and other issues for little gain, as history also shows that the party's attempt to grow its support among white voters has its limits.

The party's high-water mark with white voters came when Ronald Reagan won 66% of the white electorate in the 1984 landslide.

By 2012, Romney won 59% of white voters against President Obama.

If the GOP nominee won 60% of the white electorate in 2016, the candidate would need 42% of the Latino vote to win the White House, the research shows.

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But if the candidate again topped out at 59% of white voters in 2016, he or she would need 47% of the Latino vote to make up the difference, the research said.

Barreto, who conducted the research for America's Voice, a leading immigration advocacy group, acknowledged he had been using the old thinking until he ran the numbers.

"We were blind to this," he said at a briefing Friday in Washington. "We shouldn't use the 40% anymore."

Republicans' crush on Silicon Valley not returned // Politico // Tony Romm – July 17, 2015

SAN FRANCISCO — Jeb Bush this week gushed with love for Silicon Valley, hanging in the offices of Thumbtack, causing a spectacle with his pre-announced Uber hail, and flashing around his Apple Watch, as he talked about how Washington needs to learn a few things from the Silicon Valley way.

It's not really a mutual relationship.

Despite Republican candidates' high-profile outreach to the Bay Area, most tech industry bigwigs are throwing cash at Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

Clinton's campaign in the second quarter counted big checks from a variety of tech executives, including Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, Google Chief Internet Evangelist Vint Cerf, YouTube leader Susan Wojcicki and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, according to a fundraising report filed this week. Sandberg, Cerf and Wojcicki each gave $2,700, while Musk gave $5,000.

By contrast, Bush, Marco Rubio and Rand Paul collected just a handful of donations from Valley elite. The Republicans did receive support from many lower-level Silicon Valley employees, particularly Paul, who attracted a large number of small dollar donations.

All three GOP candidates have sought to make inroads in the region with a message of keeping government from getting in the way of innovation.

Paul, starved of Wall Street cash, has made a big effort to court Silicon Valley and the larger tech community. He's traveled regularly to California, set up an office in San Francisco and previously made his case to the industry at the annual South by Southwest summit in Texas, while broadcasting his travels on Meerkat.

Bush also has been ratcheting up his pitch, telling employees at a town hall on Thursday, "The government of the future needs to look more like Thumbtack, to be honest with you: lower cost, higher quality, focused on outcomes, really focused on citizens, or in your case, the customers." Rubio, for his part, traveled to a startup incubator in Chicago to talk about innovation earlier this month.

It's still early in the race for the White House, but as the latest filings show, the GOP has plenty of ground to cover if it hopes to dislodge Democrats' firm grasp on the industry's wealthiest donors.

"President Barack Obama set a record for level of engagement with the tech community," said Garrett Johnson, the co-founder of Lincoln Labs, a Republican tech group which is holding its Reboot conference this weekend. "We've been engaged by the Democratic Party for at least the past eight years … whereas you don't have that track record for anyone on the GOP side."

Tech executives showered Obama with support during both his 2008 and 2012 runs. By his re-election campaign, the incumbent even had in place a campaign apparatus — Technology for Obama — that raised cash from executives at Google, Salesforce and other Internet firms.

Of the $28 million contributed by the communications and electronics sector during the 2012 presidential race, more than $18 million went to Obama, according to data compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics.

And while some love has been lost over the Edward Snowden revelations, Democrats have only solidified their cultural advantage in Valley. For all the region's libertarian tendencies, it is resolutely socially liberal — and on some of the most prominent national issues, such as same-sex marriage, Bay Area donors find themselves in total alignment with Clinton.

The result is evident in the latest round of fundraising reports.

Clinton snagged checks from Lisa Jackson, the newly elevated policy chief at Apple; Mark Pincus, the CEO of Zynga; Drew Houston, CEO of Dropbox; and Aaron Levie, the leader of Box. Each gave $2,700. The campaign also received donations from a number of Facebook executives and two top venture capitalists at Andreessen Horowitz.

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Republicans, by contrast, had a more sparse showing from the tech industry.

Bush did snag checks from Yahoo Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Goldman ($2,700), and Raj Shah of Palo Alto Networks ($2,700). Rubio saw support from some Oracle executives, after former CEO Larry Ellison held a fundraiser for him at his Woodside, Calif., home. Rubio also got a donation from Cisco CEO John Chambers, another fixture in Republican fundraising. Carly Fiorina, a former Hewlett-Packard CEO, attracted checks from more old-school tech types, including Ann Livermore.

Paul, who famously set up an outpost in the Valley to help recruit tech talent and support, didn't attract donations from major industry executives, although he was popular with many tech firm employees.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

Today in Politics: Organizers Build Up Events in Iowa, and the Candidates Come // NYT // Alan Rappeport – July 17, 2015

The Iowa caucuses are more than six months away, but party activists in the state will get the chance to size up several Republican presidential candidates at one time this weekend.

Saturday brings the Family Leadership Summit meeting, the annual gathering in Ames intended to "inspire, educate and motivate" conservatives.

The lineup will include Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, Rick Perry, Mike Huckabee, Rick Santorum, Ben Carson and Donald J. Trump.

Breaking from the traditional cattle call, organizers will do away with speeches, and the candidates instead will each field about 20 minutes of questions from Frank Lutz, a conservative pollster.

Drew Zahn, a spokesman for the gathering, said that the themes of the day would include national security, economics and religious freedom.

There should be plenty to talk about after the recent Supreme Court decisions regarding the Affordable Care Act and same-sex marriage that have rankled many conservatives. The candidates will also have a better idea of where they stand on the fund-raising front now that the campaigns have released their latest financial disclosures.

Mr. Trump's attendance at the event will most likely create additional buzz, as the billionaire businessman's contentious comments on immigration have become a litmus test for his fellow Republicans and have brought a sense of disorder to the process. For Mr. Trump, who has been married three times and has liberal views on some policy issues, it will be a chance to reintroduce himself to the religious conservative crowd at a time when he has been at or near the lead in several opinion polls.

Obama's Donors Flocking To Sanders, Romney's Going To Rubio // U.S. News & World Report – July 17, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks to reporters after the Senate Democrats' policy luncheon at the Capitol on Tuesday.

Bernie Sanders is drawing more of Barack Obama's 2012 campaign donors than Hillary Clinton.

And Marco Rubio is scoring the biggest share of Mitt Romney's contributors thus far.

These are the findings of Crowdpac, a San Francisco-based political data-mining firm which analyzed the July presidential campaign finance reports.

The Vermont senator has already received contributions from 24,582 of Obama's donors; whereas Clinton has only tapped just over 9,000 of them. Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, has grabbed 383 Obama donors.

That means Sanders has nabbed 72 percent of the 34,340 Obama donors who have given to a candidate in 2016, according to Crowdpac.

Ever since Mitt Romney dropped his flirtation with another White House bid last winter, the rush has been on to court his moneymen and women.

Rubio's winning that charge.

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Crowdpac found that the first-term Florida senator has nabbed the greatest number of Romney donors so far – 2,891.

Perhaps more surprising. though, is that Ted Cruz is landing more of Romney's donors (1,840) than Jeb Bush (1,562).

Ben Carson is fourth in the GOP chase for Romney's contributors with 1,285.

Overall, of the 9,302 Romney donors who have doled out money to a candidate in 2016, Rubio has snagged about 31 percent of them.

Another instructive nugget inside the Crowdpac data is the slow crawl of Ron Paul's donors to his son, Rand Paul.

Crowdpac found that just 816 of the father's donors have given to the son, though just 1,133 of Ron Paul's donors have doled out money so far. (By comparison, Rand has drawn 511 Romney donors.)

Cruz has picked off 316 of Rick Perry's 2012 donors in their budding intrastate rivalry. Just over 1,000 of Perry's 2012 donors have engaged in the 2016 race.

And then there's the surprising.

There's 276 Romney donors who have given to Sanders, and 280 who have given to Clinton.

And just to show the dizzying breadth of some people's choices, Crowdpac discovered that five contributors to Michele Bachmann – one of the most conservative candidates in the 2012 GOP field – sent money to Sanders, the self-avowed socialist.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Capitalism for the Rest of Us // NYT // Joseph R. Blasi, Richard B. Freeman and Douglas I. Kruse – July 17, 2015

IN her most detailed economic policy address so far, Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday that she wanted “to give workers the chance to share in the profits they help produce” through a two-year tax credit that would encourage profit-sharing. As social scientists who have studied the issue for years, we were glad to see it get attention.

The stagnation of earnings for most Americans, despite rising productivity, and the shrinkage of the middle class, because of soaring inequality, are without precedent in our economic history.

Capital’s share of national income has risen, while labor’s share has fallen — even though it includes lavish compensation of executives who are paid disproportionately through stock grants, options and bonuses. To restore prosperity for all, we need to spread the benefits of economic growth to entrepreneurial citizens through profit-sharing and the ownership of capital. This isn’t some radical notion; it has a long tradition in America.

Many of the founders believed that the best economic plan for the republic was for citizens to own land, which was then the main form of productive capital.

Washington signed into law tax credits to help revive the cod fishery destroyed by the British during the revolution, requiring that everyone had a share in the profits, from the cabin boy to the captain. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 offered land cheaply to settlers. Jefferson concluded the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 to help further the notion of “an empire of liberty” through broad land ownership. Lincoln’s landmark Homestead Act of 1862 gave federal land grants to settlers. (As a result of the Civil War, it was passed without representatives of the South, where land was concentrated in the hands of slaveholders.)

As America industrialized in the late 19th century, the economy became dominated by big corporations. And yet some family-run businesses, and entrepreneurs who were concerned about the place of workers in an economy dominated by gigantic enterprises, sought to extend the benefits of capitalism to employees. Companies like Pillsbury, Kodak and Procter & Gamble introduced widespread profit-sharing and employee stock ownership.

The economic boom after World War II solidified the view that regular increases in fixed wages and benefits could carry the burden of “sharing the wealth.” Sadly, since the 1970s, wages have stagnated, and the idea of profit-sharing has been largely forgotten in public debates.

It’s time to revive it. The United States already has more extensive profit-sharing and employee share ownership

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than many other advanced economies. In the European Union in 2010, fewer than 10 percent of workers own company stock and fewer than 30 percent have profit-sharing (except Sweden, where the figure is 36 percent).

In the United States last year, close to 20 percent of private-sector employees owned stock, and 7 percent held stock options, in the companies where they worked, while about one-third participated in some kind of cash profit-sharing and one-fourth in gain-sharing (when workers get additional compensation based on improvement on a metric other than profits, like sales or customer satisfaction). An exemplar was Southwest Airlines, which paid $355 million of its more than $1 billion in corporate profits last year to union and nonunion workers and managers, on top of salaries.

Our research found that these programs, when combined with worker participation in solving problems, and increased training and job security, raise productivity and benefit workers. In every year, about half the winners in Fortune's list of 100 Best Companies to Work For have some type of broad-based profit or gain-sharing or stock ownership for regular workers. Google, Intel and Starbucks all have broad-based stock grants or options for their employees. Wegmans has profit-sharing. W. L. Gore, the maker of Gore-Tex, and Publix Super Markets, which operates in the Southeast, are owned by employee stock ownership plans, wherein a workers' trust typically borrows money to buy shares that are paid out of company revenues.

Some scholars have worried that employee-share ownership is too risky when workers buy the stock with their wages or 401(k) retirement savings; Enron is the classic example. We agree. We favor only ownership policies that emphasize grants of stock (as in the case of employee stock-ownership plans), restricted stock (which has to be held on to for a certain period of time, incentivizing workers to stay) or stock options.

How do we achieve this? First, the notion needs more powerful advocates from business and politics, like Mrs. Clinton. In New Jersey, lawmakers are finalizing legislation to expand tax incentives for small-business owners to sell their businesses to their employees and managers; Iowa has adopted similar legislation.

Second, we need to reform a little-known tax loophole, Section 162(m), of the Internal Revenue Code. In the early 1990s, in an attempt to reform executive pay, Congress changed that section to limit corporate income tax deductions to $1 million for the top five executive salaries, but allowed virtually unlimited deductions for a variety of top-executive performance-based pay, including equity and profit-sharing. Corporations, which have exploited this loophole to offer lavish compensation packages, should get these deductions only if they offer a profit-sharing or share-ownership plan to all employees.

Finally, all levels of government — federal, state and local — should offer incentives to companies that implement profit-sharing and employee-share ownership. Such incentives should include tax breaks, tax incentives and preference in the awarding of government contracts.

Spreading around profit-sharing and the ownership of capital is not the only answer to solving the challenge of soaring inequality in America, but it's a critical step that will help rather than hurt economic performance. If the middle class is to survive, we must move toward a more inclusive capitalism.

As Clinton Moves Further Left on Regulations, Jobs Go Away // The Fiscal Times // Diana Furchtgott-Roth – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton's support for rules classifying workers can do harm to the economic recovery.

It's no coincidence that in the space of a month, California declares Uber drivers to be employees, Hillary Clinton attacks the sharing economy, and the Labor Department issues guidelines on when to classify workers as employees, who are entitled to fringe benefits, or independent contractors, who are not.

What all three have in common is this: They are trying to stem the growth of independent contractors, the largest source of job growth in the United States, according to the American Staffing Association. California, Clinton and the Labor Department want companies to hire individuals as employees rather than as independent contractors. Although those people would get benefits as employees, their cash wages would decline.

According to the latest Employment Cost Index data published by the Labor Department, benefits make up 30 percent of compensation costs, and wages and salaries the remaining 70 percent. If independent contractors were reclassified as employees, their cash wages would decline and they would receive benefits such as health insurance, vacation, pension contributions and sick leave.

Someone who is earning $50,000 as an independent contractor might be paid about $35,000, plus fringe benefits, as an employee. Of course, as an independent contractor, he would owe the employer's share of Social Security and Medicare, $3,750, as well as the employee's share, the same amount. But he would have more cash in hand.

Some might value those benefits, but many others prefer to get more cash and to buy the benefits themselves.

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Alternatively, some might get benefits through another working family member, and so cash might come in more useful.

Both the new Labor Department guidance and the proposed overtime revisions would reduce workplace flexibility, especially important to women and millennials, who want the freedom to work flexible hours in locations of their own choosing without having to punch a time clock.

The Obama administration wants to require employers to hire workers as employees because they prefer to have workers in an employer-employee relationship rather than in a contractor relationship. Forcing people into an employer-employee relationship gives the government more control over the workforce and more work to do, enforcing its regulations that apply to employees.

Take the Affordable Care Act, for instance. The Internal Revenue Service levies penalties on employers who do not offer the right kind of health insurance to their employees. Penalties are severe — $2,000 per worker per year for not offering the right kind of health insurance, $3,000 per worker who gets subsidies on the health-care exchanges and $36,500 per worker per year, effective this month, on employers who reimburse workers for their health-insurance premiums. Those penalties are not levied on workers who are independent contractors. More employees, more revenue for the IRS.

The new guidelines hit particularly hard those firms that contract out some tasks — such as payroll or janitorial services — to avoid hitting the 50-person limit at which the Obamacare penalties apply.

Then, take the Family and Medical Leave Act. Employers are required to give 13 weeks of unpaid leave annually to employees for maternity and paternity care, as well as for chronic illness. Independent contractors do not have to receive this leave. Nor do they have to receive any other kind of leave.

When workers are employees, rather than independent contractors, it is easier to force them to join unions against their will. The Supreme Court has just agreed to take the case of Rebecca Friedrichs vs the California Teachers Association, and decide whether Friedrichs has the right to opt out of paying agency fees to the union. More employees broaden the potential pool of union members, with higher potential revenue from dues. Unions are major contributors to Democratic political causes, so just follow the money.

The Labor Department ties itself up in knots with its new guidelines. It opens by saying that “misclassification of employees as independent contractors is found in an increasing number of workplaces in the United States,” but offers no statistical evidence for the claim. Nowhere does the department appear to be concerned with the reverse scenario — independent contractors being misclassified as employees.

Then, the department lists factors to help courts make the distinction between “whether the worker is economically dependent on the employer (and thus its employee) or is really in business for him or herself (and thus its independent contractor).” But this is a false distinction. Just because you are in business for yourself does not meanA that you are not economically dependent on your clients.

Lawyers, landscaping firms, defense contractors — they are all in business for themselves, but they are economically dependent on their clients for business.

The new guidelines add another layer of regulations to the enforcement pot. Different government agencies have different criteria for whether workers are independent contractors or employees. The Labor Department has a six-pronged test, the Internal Revenue Service has a 20-factor test, and antidiscrimination laws have their own common-law test. Plus, states have different criteria for unemployment, workers compensation, wage and hour rules, and state taxes. It is practically impossible for small businesses, which rarely have legal departments, to stay out of trouble.

But wait ... there’s an app for that. The law firm Littler Mendelson, working with Neota Logic, a technology company, has developed the ComplianceHR Independent Contractor application. That enables employers to enter data on characteristics of their workers and find out whether someone is supposed to be classified as an employee or an independent contractor. The app applies logic based on tests under federal and state law and analysis of 1,500 independent-contractor cases. It produces an answer based on questions from an online questionnaire.

Tammy McCutchen, a principal at Littler Mendelson, told me: “The administration is locked in a 1930s-era industrial economy and simply refuses to acknowledge that the 21st-century economy works differently. The law needs to reflect the reality of how the modern economy works.”

The reality is that the sharing economy is growing, no matter how hard Hillary Clinton, the state of California and the Labor Department try to stand in the way.

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Ryan Cooper – July 17, 2015

Over the past year or so, the Democratic Party has begun settling on a big new policy goal: beefing up family support programs. Now that ObamaCare has started the work of making health care available for all, support for children and parents is the major remaining hole in the U.S. safety net.

Though she has not yet released a formal proposal, Hillary Clinton has made family policy a centerpiece of her campaign, consistently positioning herself as a pro-family candidate. She focused sharply on the subject during her recent policy address, touting the benefits of sick leave and maternity leave, and the economic benefits of women in the workforce.

Bernie Sanders, her strongest challenger in the Democratic primary, can do her one better, however. In keeping with his blunt, forthright campaign, he can challenge Clinton where her orthodoxy makes her policy weaker — in particular, her mindless valorization of work.

As I said, we don't know exactly what Clinton will advocate yet, but it's likely that her campaign will roughly follow the proposals coming out of the Center for American Progress (closely tied to both Clinton and the Democratic Party). In a recent paper, CAP analysts Heather Boushey and Alexandra Mitukiewicz outlined a maternity leave policy taken from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's FAMILY Act. It would create a new branch of the Social Security Administration and a small payroll tax increase to provide up to 60 days of paid family leave for parents.

A second plank of the policy is likely to be some kind of sick leave mandate in line with the proposed Healthy Families Act, which would require employers with more than 15 employees to provide one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum requirement of seven full days per year. (Employers can always go higher if they want, of course!)

A third plank is likely to be some sort of quasi-universal pre-K program in line with Sen. Bob Casey's recent proposal.

All this is a good start, particularly in the design of the family leave program. Paid family leave should definitely be a social insurance benefit rather than an employer mandate. As Matt Yglesias explains, opting for the latter design (which resembles what the U.S. did with health insurance before ObamaCare) inevitably leaves out a great many workers, and then becomes nearly impossible to overhaul. It's critical to get the initial policy right, so further expansions are built on a sound foundation.

Sanders can provide three valuable additions (on top of what he's already proposed). First, he can simply aim higher. Sixty days of family leave isn't bad compared to the current zero, but it's pitiful compared to Sweden's 480 days (split between both parents, mostly as they like). America can easily afford 120 days or more, and Sanders ought to be planting his flag in aggressive territory. Instead of seven days of sick leave, 14. Instead of the smallbore pre-K program, a robust and fully universal one.

Second, he can add a universal child allowance. This can be achieved by folding all the various bizarre child tax credits and so forth into a single monthly allowance, distributed on a per-child basis until age 16. By scrapping parts of the welfare state that only benefit rich people, such as the mortgage interest deduction, it can be strengthened further. A $300 per month allowance, for example, would cut child poverty in half at a stroke.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Sanders can challenge Clinton's overall framework. Though she explicitly disavowed Jeb Bush's idea that Americans simply need to work more, she consistently valorized work throughout her recent address. She presented family programs as a way to keep women in the labor force, so as to produce more growth and economic output. She generally presented work, which appeared 57 times in the speech, as a major good in itself.

But while more jobs are surely a good goal in the short term, there are reasons to think that Americans actually work way too much. Matt Bruenig recently came up with a clever way to visualize this. As nations become richer, they generally choose to work less, since they can produce more with the same amount of work. In other words, most nations take some of the fruits of productivity growth in the form of leisure — but the U.S. has not.

Since 1970, America's GDP produced per hour has doubled, but we have cut average hours worked by only 6 percent. Compared to peer nations on the economic productivity ladder (like France, which cut its hours by 26 percent over that period), America does more unnecessary work than any other nation on Earth.

Just as Sanders challenged the primacy of economic growth, when all income gains are immediately sucked up by the 1 percent, he could challenge the idea of work as always and everywhere good.

This raises a deep question: What is the economy for? Not, one would hope, simply ratcheting up total GDP to make the number go higher. It turns out America is a very rich nation still flogging itself to work like a middle-income one. We can easily afford a great many more days off — all we need to do is make that choice.

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TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Chattanooga Gunman Spent Time in Jordan, Official Says // NYT // Richard Fausset, Eric Schmitt and Richard Pére – July 17, 2015

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Federal investigators on Friday began examining the background of the 24-year-old gunman who killed four Marines in an attack on two military sites here, going through his computer and cellphone and focusing on a seven-month trip he made last year to Jordan.

A senior intelligence official said that investigators, led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, were trying to determine whether the gunman in the shooting rampage here Thursday, identified as Mohammod Youssuf Abdulazeez, had been in touch with any extremist groups in Jordan before or during the trip.

Edward W. Reinhold, the agent in charge of the F.B.I.'s Knoxville division, did not address specific trips abroad by Mr. Abdulazeez, but said at a news conference on Friday, "We are exploring all travel he has done, and we have asked our intelligence partners throughout the world to provide us with any information they may have as to travel and activities."

Before his stay in Jordan last year, Mr. Abdulazeez, who made the trip on an American passport, had traveled at least four other times to the country, said federal law enforcement officials, who were not authorized to speak about the investigation. He was in Jordan in the last weeks of 2005, in the summer of 2008, the summer of 2010 and the spring of 2013, officials said. Those stays ranged from two weeks to two months.

In 2013, he also spent some time in Canada, returning to the United States in May, these officials said. They offered no information about a reason for the trips.

"This attack raises several questions about whether he was directed by someone or whether there's enough propaganda out there to motivate him to do this," said the senior intelligence official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation was still underway.

Federal agents took Mr. Abdulazeez's computer and cellphone back to Washington, to comb through them for evidence about who he had been in contact with, and about what.

Officials often look at international travel in terrorism cases because training in terrorist camps in Pakistan or Afghanistan has been seen as a crucial step in developing a plot. But a federal official said there was no indication that Mr. Abdulazeez's trips were connected with the plot, and the attack in Tennessee would have required no specialized training, he said.

"It would be premature to speculate on exactly why the shooter did what he did," Mr. Reinhold said. "However, we are conducting a thorough investigation to determine whether this person acted alone, was inspired or directed."

Authorities in Jordan said Mr. Abdulazeez traveled there last year to visit a maternal uncle, and the tiny, arid country — though squeezed into a volatile region, bordering Syria, Israel, Iraq and Saudi Arabia — is not considered a training ground for terrorism groups.

Jordan's monarchy heads the Arab world's most unflinchingly pro-American government and one of two that have standing peace treaties with Israel. Its security services are pervasive and their clampdowns on dissent played a role in keeping the country stable through the Arab Spring uprisings and the subsequent unrest that has rocked many Arab countries.

While Jordan has little internal militant activity, it is home to several prominent Qaeda-linked ideologues, and parts of the country are bastions of ultraconservative Islam. Abu Musbab Al-Zarqawi, who led Al Qaeda in Iraq before being killed in an American airstrike in 2006, hailed from the town of Zarqa, from which hundreds of young men have left more recently to join jihadists factions in Syria and Iraq.

Born in Kuwait in 1990, Mr. Abdulazeez became an American citizen in 2003 through the naturalization of his mother, federal officials said. Because he was a minor at the time, he did not have to apply separately for citizenship. When they came to live in the United States, both his mother and father were citizens of Jordan "of Palestinian descent," a law enforcement official said. His father is also a naturalized citizen.

Although counterterrorism officials had not been investigating Mr. Abdulazeez before Thursday's shooting,

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federal officials familiar with the inquiry said that his father had been investigated years ago for giving money to an organization with possible ties to terrorists.

Representative Michael McCaul, Republican of Texas, the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said the elder Mr. Abdulazeez had been put on a watch list preventing him from flying. “I believe there was a preliminary investigation,” Mr. McCaul said, “but there was no derogatory information, and he was taken off the list.”

In fact, father and son were able to travel together to Jordan in recent years, a law enforcement official said.

A United States official said that American intelligence officials were contacting authorities in Kuwait and Jordan to see if they had any information about the gunman, or whether he had been under surveillance or came up in any investigations while he was there.

The Defense Department said Friday that the general security level had not been raised at military installations around the country in the wake of the shooting, but that individual station commanders might take added precautions. In May, the military command raised the terrorism precaution level at its domestic installations to “threat condition alpha,” the lowest of four steps above normal, because of the general possibility of attacks inspired by the group calling itself the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, and it has remained there.

Except for those assigned to police and security work, or engaged in certain kinds of exercises, military personnel generally are not armed when at military facilities. Reserve centers of the kind attacked Thursday, which provide training and other services, are sometimes on bases, but others, like the one in Chattanooga, stand alone, sometimes in places that are fairly public.

In addition, there are thousands of military recruiting offices in shopping centers and office parks, each staffed by only a handful of people, and those are especially vulnerable, said Brian Michael Jenkins, a security expert who is senior adviser to the president of the RAND Corporation.

“They’re supposed to be convenient; they’re supposed to be easily accessible,” Mr. Jenkins said. “They’re virtually no more protected than a shoe store in a shopping mall.”

“There have been continuing exhortations by both Al Qaeda and ISIL over the years to attack American military personnel, so if you were determined that that was your mission, then the most readily available, accessible, unprotected target is going to be a recruiting office,” he said.

The gunman fired on an armed services recruiting center here, and then, pursued by Chattanooga police officers, raced to a naval reserve facility and opened fire there. It was at the second location, a fenced-in campus with a building and a tree-lined parking lot, where the Marines and the gunman died.

“All indications are that he was killed by fire from the Chattanooga police officers,” Mr. Reinhold said of Mr. Abdulazeez.

“He did have at least two long guns,” meaning rifles or shotguns, “and he did have one handgun that we’re aware of,” the agent said, but he declined to be more specific. He said the gunman did not have body armor, but wore a vest with multiple ammunition magazines.

Mr. McCaul said he had been told that the gunman’s main weapon was an AK-47-style assault rifle.

Fred Fletcher, the Chattanooga police chief, said that when one of the first officers on the scene was shot in the ankle, the others there “put their hands on him, dragged him from the gunfire, and bravely returned fire.”

The separate rampages here were together the highest profile episode of violence at domestic military installations since April 2014, when three people were killed and more than a dozen wounded at Fort Hood, Tex. And the killings here came less than one month after another mass shooting, in which nine people were killed inside a church in Charleston, S.C.

After the shootings here Wednesday, the police in New York City ratcheted up security at military installations around the city. Officers with special weapons and training were deployed to those and other sensitive locations, said John J. Miller, the police department’s deputy commissioner of intelligence and counterterrorism.

About a dozen uniformed police officers stood outside the famed armed services recruitment center in the middle of Times Square on Friday, several of them carrying semiautomatic rifles and wearing helmets, and some with police dogs on leashes. These were members of “Hercules” teams, which are dispatched around the city to exhibit a show of force, often near landmarks or in busy commuter areas like Grand Central Terminal.

They were an incongruous presence on the busy pedestrian plaza, where tourists rested at bright red public tables

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or pulled rolling suitcases along the pavement. While some tourists stopped to have their pictures taken with people dressed as Elsa and Olaf from the movie “Frozen,” a steady stream of them also posed for photos showing them next to the heavily armed police.

The only run-in Mr. Abdulazeez had with local law enforcement appears to have been an April 20 arrest on a charge of driving while intoxicated, for which he posted a $2,000 bond, and was due to appear in Hamilton County court on July 30. The arrest record listed him as 6 feet tall and weighing 200 pounds.

According to a police affidavit filed in the case, officers spotted him weaving through downtown Chattanooga after 2 a.m., in a gray 2001 Toyota Camry, and when they pulled over, they smelled alcohol and marijuana, and he failed a field sobriety test. They said his eyes were bloodshot, his speech was slurred, he was “unsteady on his feet,” and he had “irritated nostrils and a white powdery substance/residue” under his nose, which Mr. Abdulazeez claimed came from snorting crushed caffeine pills.

3 states launch investigations of Planned Parenthood, which says senior official reprimanded // AP // David Crary – July 17, 2015

The governors of Georgia and Indiana and Ohio's attorney general on Thursday ordered investigations of Planned Parenthood facilities in their states to determine if organs from aborted fetuses were being sold.

The state investigations — as well as probes announced Wednesday by three Republican-led congressional committees — come in response to the release of an undercover video made by anti-abortion activists. The video shows Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Planned Parenthood's senior director of medical services, discussing procedures for providing fetal body parts to researchers.

Planned Parenthood officials said Thursday that Nucatola has been "reprimanded." They did not elaborate. The organization's president, Cecile Richards, apologized for the tone of some of Nucatola's recorded statements.

Nucatola is heard in the video referring to fetal hearts, lungs and livers and to efforts to retrieve these organs intact rather than crush them during an abortion procedure. She also is heard giving a range of monetary estimates for their procurement.

The commercial sale of fetal tissue is outlawed. Planned Parenthood, which provides abortions and other reproductive health services, says it legally helps women who want to make not-for-profit donations of their fetus' organs for scientific research.

According to Planned Parenthood, the monetary sums mentioned by Nucatola were for reimbursement of the clinics' costs in handling the tissue donations. "Nobody should be 'selling' tissue. That's just not the goal here," Nucatola says at one point.

The video, made covertly last year, was produced by the Irvine, California-based Center for Medical Progress, which released it with the support of several national anti-abortion organizations. It shows a lunchtime conversation between Nucatola and anti-abortion activists posing as potential buyers for a human biologics company.

On Thursday, GOP Govs. Nathan Deal in Georgia and Mike Pence in Indiana and GOP Attorney General Mike DeWine in Ohio ordered probes of Planned Parenthood clinics. DeWine said he'll investigate whether Planned Parenthood may have violated its nonprofit status and made money from the sale of fetal organs.

But in a video, Richards describes as "outrageous" the claims that Planned Parenthood clinics were breaking the law by selling fetal tissue for profit. "Our donation programs — like any other high-quality health care providers — follow all laws and ethical guidelines," she said.

However, she said some of Nucatola's remarks heard on the undercover video did not reflect Planned Parenthood's commitment to "compassionate care."

"This is unacceptable, and I personally apologize for the staff member's tone and statements," Richards said. "If there is any aspect of our work that can be strengthened, we want to know about it, and we take swift action to address it."

In Congress, House Speaker John Boehner said Planned Parenthood has embraced "gruesome practices" and he voiced skepticism at the suggestion that its procedures were legitimate.

"If you saw the video, it certainly didn't strike me that way," he said. "I could talk about the video, but I think I'd vomit ... It's disgusting."

Two Democratic congressmen, Reps. John Conyers of Michigan and Steve Cohen of Tennessee, criticized the

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launching of congressional investigations.

"House Leadership is using a sensationalist and heavily edited video as an opportunity to attack one of the nation's leading providers of high-quality health care for women," they said in a joint statement.

Dems float com promise linking Confederate flag to voting rights // The Hill // Mike Lillis – July 27, 2015

House Democrats are floating a legislative deal linking the thorny Confederate flag debate with expanded voting rights.

Republican leaders last week were forced to scrap a vote on an Interior Department spending bill — and suspend their appropriations schedule indefinitely — over a partisan disagreement about displaying the Confederate flag in national cemeteries.

Rep. James Clyburn (S.C.), the third-ranking House Democrat, said Thursday that Democratic leaders will drop their push to attach flag-related amendments to appropriations bills, freeing Republicans to pursue their spending agenda, if GOP leaders will agree to consider an update to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, a central part of which was gutted by the Supreme Court in 2013.

"I'm here to say to you that the members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the full Democratic Caucus are willing to sit down with the Speaker and work out a way for us to allow the proper display and utilization of ... the flag in certain instances if he would only sit down with us and work out an appropriate addressing of the amendments to the Voting Rights Act," Clyburn said during a press briefing in the Capitol.

"We believe that there's a proper place for all of us to honor our heritage, and nothing is more of a heritage to African-Americans than the right to vote."

The Democrats have been pushing a VRA update unsuccessfully for two years. With their new strategy, they're hoping the high-profile controversy surrounding the Confederate flag — which has only deepened since last month's racially charged killing of nine parishioners at an historic black church in Charleston, S.C. — will give them leverage in that fight.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) alluded to the Charleston massacre Thursday, suggesting that House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and other GOP leaders need to do more to address institutional racism than attend funerals in the wake of tragedies.

"There has been an opportunity for the Republican majority not just to send a condolence card or show up at a service but to translate that into action," Pelosi said. "And we are now segueing from the conversation about the flag to a conversation about voting rights now."

The voting rights issue has been under the spotlight since June of 2013, when the Supreme Court struck down a VRA formula defining which states required federal approval before changing their election procedures. The law had applied on a blanket basis to nine states — most of them in the South — with documented histories of racial discrimination.

Writing for the 5-4 majority, Chief Justice John Roberts argued that, while the federal government has the authority to monitor elections for fairness, the coverage formula is outdated and therefore unconstitutional. He invited Congress to update the parameters.

"Our country has changed," Roberts wrote, "and while any racial discrimination in voting is too much, Congress must ensure that the legislation it passes to remedy that problem speaks to current conditions."
The ruling has had immediate practical implications, as a number of conservative states — including Texas, North Carolina and Alabama — have since adopted stricter voting requirements that had been on hold under the old VRA.

Supporters of the tougher laws, which include new photo ID and proof-of-citizenship requirements, say they're necessary to fight voter fraud and ensure the integrity of the election process.

Critics counter that problems of fraud are exaggerated, and the tougher rules are just a Republican gambit to discourage minority and other vulnerable voters, who tend to side with the Democrats.

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), who was savagely beaten during a landmark civil rights march that led directly to the VRA's passage in 1965, said Thursday that the tougher state requirements are a naked conspiracy to disenfranchise certain groups.

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"Across the country, there's a deliberate, systematic attempt to make it harder and more difficult for the disabled, students, seniors, minorities, the poor, and rural voters to participate in a democratic process," Lewis said. "We must not let that happen."

In February, Reps. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), the former chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and John Conyers (D-Mich.), the ranking member of the panel, introduced legislation to update the VRA's coverage formula. Lewis and Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.) have introduced similar bills.

GOP leaders have declined to move the legislation, arguing that the current VRA offers sufficient voter protections — a message amplified by Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) in response to questions Thursday.

"While the Supreme Court struck down the old coverage formula that required certain states to pre-clear their voting rule changes with the federal government, the Court left in place other important tools in the Voting Rights Act, including the section that allows federal judges to place jurisdictions under a pre-clearance regime if those jurisdictions act in an unconstitutional and discriminatory manner," Goodlatte said in an email.

"So, strong remedies against unconstitutional voting discrimination remain in place today."

A GOP leadership aide noted only that, "Any action on the VRA would begin at the Judiciary Committee."

To Avoid Another Crash, Hillary Clinton Should Reinstate Glass-Steagall // Newsweek // Robert Reich – July 17, 2015

Hillary Clinton won't propose reinstating a bank breakup law known as the Glass-Steagall Act—at least according to Alan Blinder, an economist who has been advising Clinton's campaign. "You're not going to see Glass-Steagall," Blinder said after her economic speech on July 13 in which she failed to mention it. Blinder said he had spoken to Clinton directly about Glass-Steagall.

This is a big mistake.

It's a mistake politically because people who believe Hillary Clinton is still too close to Wall Street will not be reassured by her position on Glass-Steagall. Many will recall that her husband led the way to repealing Glass-Steagall in 1999 at the request of the big Wall Street banks.

It's a big mistake economically because the repeal of Glass-Steagall led directly to the 2008 Wall Street crash, and without it we're in danger of another one.

Some background: During the Roaring '20s, so much money could be made by speculating on shares of stock that several big Wall Street banks began selling stock alongside their traditional banking services—taking in deposits and making loans.

Some banks went further, lending to pools of speculators that used the money to pump up share prices. The banks sold the shares to their customers, only to have the share prices collapse when the speculators dumped them.

For the banks, it was an egregious but hugely profitable conflict of interest.

After the entire stock market crashed in 1929, ushering in the Great Depression, Washington needed to restore the public's faith in the banking system. One step was for Congress to enact legislation insuring commercial deposits against bank losses.

Another was to prevent the kinds of conflicts of interest that resulted in such losses, and which had fueled the boom and subsequent bust. Under the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933, banks couldn't both gamble in the market and also take in deposits and make loans. They'd have to choose between the two.

"The idea is pretty simple behind this one," Senator Elizabeth Warren said a few days ago, explaining her bill to resurrect Glass-Steagall. "If banks want to engage in high-risk trading, they can go for it, but they can't get access to ensured deposits and put the taxpayers on the hook for that reason."

For more than six decades after 1933, Glass-Steagall worked exactly as intended. During that long interval, few banks failed and no financial panic endangered the banking system.

But the big Wall Street banks weren't content. They wanted bigger profits. They thought they could make far more money by gambling with commercial deposits. So they set out to whittle down Glass-Steagall.

Finally, in 1999, President Bill Clinton struck a deal with Republican Senator Phil Gramm to do exactly what Wall Street wanted, and repeal Glass-Steagall altogether.

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What happened next? An almost exact replay of the Roaring '20s. Once again, banks originated fraudulent loans and sold them to their customers in the form of securities. Once again, there was a huge conflict of interest that finally resulted in a banking crisis.

This time, the banks were bailed out, but millions of Americans lost their savings, their jobs, even their homes.

A personal note. I worked for Bill Clinton as secretary of labor, and I believe most of his economic policies were sound. But during those years, I was in a fairly continuous battle with some other of his advisers who seemed determined to do Wall Street's bidding.

On Glass-Steagall, they clearly won.

To this day, some Wall Street apologists argue Glass-Steagall wouldn't have prevented the 2008 crisis because the real culprits were nonbanks like Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns.

Baloney. These non-banks got their funding from the big banks in the form of lines of credit, mortgages and repurchase agreements. If the big banks hadn't provided them the money, the nonbanks wouldn't have got into trouble.

And why were the banks able to give them easy credit on bad collateral? Because Glass-Steagall was gone.

Other apologists for Wall Street blame the crisis on unscrupulous mortgage brokers.

Surely mortgage brokers do share some of the responsibility. But here again, the big banks were accessories and enablers.

The mortgage brokers couldn't have funded the mortgage loans if the banks hadn't bought them. And the big banks couldn't have bought them if Glass-Steagall were still in place.

I've also heard bank executives claim there's no reason to resurrect Glass-Steagall because none of the big banks actually failed.

This is like arguing lifeguards are no longer necessary at beaches where no one has drowned. It ignores the fact that the big banks were bailed out. If the government hadn't thrown them lifelines, many would have gone under.

Remember? Their balance sheets were full of junky paper, nonperforming loans and worthless derivatives. They were bailed out because they were too big to fail. And the reason for resurrecting Glass-Steagall is we don't want to go through that ever again.

As George Santayana famously quipped, those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. In the Roaring 2000s, just as in the Roaring '20s, America's big banks used insured deposits to underwrite their gambling in private securities and then dumped the securities on their customers.

It ended badly.

This is precisely what the Glass-Steagall Act was designed to prevent—and did prevent for over six decades.

Hillary Clinton, of all people, should remember.

Chattanooga shooting renews debate over military gun-free zones // NY Daily News – July 17, 2015

The image shows a stark contrast: the front window of a military recruiting center riddled with bullet holes. Jutting out from behind the shattered glass, a poster: Firearms prohibited in this facility.

That photograph from Chattanooga, Tenn., where four unarmed Marines were gunned down, has launched a political debate over the merit of a federal policy limiting guns at military facilities.

Since 1993, weapons have been banned at recruiting centers. Only military police can carry weapons at military bases and reserves centers.

Gun-free zones were launched to reduce the use of deadly force unless absolutely necessary at military facilities, according to the 1992 directive under President George H.W. Bush. The policy was modified under President Bill Clinton a year later.

"We go by that policy. Right now it is a political discussion, but we don't get into the political discussions," Kelli

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Bland, public affairs chief for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Center, told the Daily News Friday.

Gen. Ray Odierno, chief of staff of the Army, pledged to review security procedures at military bases and recruiting centers Friday. He did not detail what will happen to gun-free zones.

Gun-rights supporters argue lives could have been saved if soldiers were permitted to have weapons.

Donald Trump was one of the first to ridicule the policy after the shooting, calling for the end of gun-free zones.

"The four great marines who were just shot never had a chance," the bombastic presidential candidate wrote on Twitter. "They were highly trained but helpless without guns."

Trump's voice was one in a cacophony of gun-rights supporters claiming soldiers could stop mass shooters in their tracks if they were allowed to pack heat — a point debated after shootings at Fort Hood in 2009 and the Washington Navy Yard in 2013.

Even if soldiers couldn't have ended Muhammed Youssef Abdulazeez's attack as he ambushed them from a car, the sight of weapons could have deterred him, John R. Lott Jr., president of the Crime Prevention Research Center, told The News.

"Even just the threat of somebody pointing a gun will get them to stop the attacks," Lott said. "Without having to fire a gun, you could distract a killer, who may have to go and look for cover himself."

Military police often can't respond to an attack instantly, and those few minutes could mean the difference in how many people survive, Lott said.

The gun-free policy also makes military facilities bigger targets, he said.

"It's explicit these attackers go and pick places where victims aren't able to go and defend themselves," Lott said.

Lott pointed to the notebooks of Aurora theater shooter James Holmes, which showed he plotted his target after weeding through places with light security.

Recruiting centers don't allow weapons because they need to be "welcoming," Bland said.

"They are in public spaces. Applicants need to feel comfortable," she said. "They're not there to get a rehearsal to join the Army."

Bland noted soldiers are trained "when it comes to active shooter scenarios," regularly receiving guidance on safety procedures. She declined to detail what the specific protection measures are.

Dan Gross, the president of the Brady Campaign against Gun Violence, said the group "will leave it to the military to review their safety procedures at bases and recruitment facilities in consultation with law enforcement."

"This is a very unsettling time for the brave men and women who serve in the military and law enforcement, as well as their families," Gross said.

INTERNATIONAL

ISIS Has Fired Chemical Mortar Shells, Evidence Indicates **// NYT // C. J. Chivers – July 17, 2015**

The Islamic State appears to have manufactured rudimentary chemical warfare shells and attacked Kurdish positions in Iraq and Syria with them as many as three times in recent weeks, according to field investigators, Kurdish officials and a Western ordnance disposal technician who examined the incidents and recovered one of the shells.

The development, which the investigators said involved toxic industrial or agricultural chemicals repurposed as weapons, signaled a potential escalation of the group's capabilities, though it was not entirely without precedent.

Beginning more than a decade ago, Sunni militants in Iraq have occasionally used chlorine or old chemical warfare shells in makeshift bombs against American and Iraqi government forces. And Kurdish forces have claimed that militants affiliated with the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, used a chlorine-based chemical in at least one suicide truck bomb in Iraq this year.

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Firing chemical mortar shells across distances, however, as opposed to dispersing toxic chemicals via truck bombs or stationary devices, would be a new tactic for the group, and would require its munitions makers to overcome a significantly more difficult technical challenge.

Chemical weapons, internationally condemned and banned in most of the world, are often less lethal than conventional munitions, including when used in improvised fashion. But they are indiscriminate by nature and difficult to defend against without specialized equipment — traits that lend them potent psychological and political effects.

In the clearest recent incident, a 120-millimeter chemical mortar shell struck sandbag fortifications at a Kurdish military position near Mosul Dam on June 21 or 22, the investigators said, and caused several Kurdish fighters near where it landed to become ill.

The shell did not explode and was recovered nearly intact on June 29 by Gregory Robin, a former French military ordnance disposal technician who now works for Sahan Research, a think tank partnered with Conflict Armament Research, a private organization that has been documenting and tracing weapons used in the conflict. Both research groups are registered in Britain.

The tail of the shell had been broken, Mr. Robin said by telephone on Friday, and was leaking a liquid that emanated a powerful odor of chlorine and caused irritation to the airways and eyes.

It was the first time, according to Mr. Robin and James Bevan, the director of Conflict Armament Research, that such a shell had been found in the conflict.

In an internal report to the Kurdish government in Iraq, the research groups noted that the mortar shell appeared to have been manufactured in an “ISIS workshop by casting iron into mold method. The mortar contains a warhead filled with a chemical agent, most probably chlorine.”

Conflict Armament Research and Sahan Research often work with the Kurdistan Region Security Council. Mr. Robin and Mr. Bevan said the council had contracted a laboratory to analyze residue samples removed from the weapon.

“Soon we should have an exact composition of the chemical in this projectile, but I am certain it is chlorine,” Mr. Robin said.

He added, “What I don’t know is what kind of burster charge it had,” referring to the small explosive charge intended to break open the shell and distribute its liquid contents. The shell had not exploded, he said, because, inexplicably, it did not contain a fuse.

Whether any finding from tests underwritten by Kurdish authorities would be internationally recognized is uncertain, as the Kurdish forces are party to the conflict.

The week after Mr. Robin collected the shell, on July 6, another investigator found evidence that the research groups said indicated two separate attacks with chemical projectiles in Kurdish territory in the northeastern corner of Syria.

Those attacks, at Tel Brak and Hasakah, occurred in late June and appeared to involve shells or small rockets containing an industrial chemical sometimes used as a pesticide, the investigators said.

In the incidents in Syria, Mr. Bevan said, multiple shells struck in agricultural fields near three buildings used by Kurdish militia forces known as the Y.P.G., or Peoples Protection Units, in Tel Brak. More shells, he said, landed in civilian areas in Hasakah; at least one struck a civilian home.

Late on Friday, the Y.P.G. released a statement denouncing what it called “criminal actions” and said that in the last four weeks its forces had captured gas masks from Islamic State fighters.

The attacks at Tel Brak sickened 12 Y.P.G. fighters, who suffered many symptoms, including headaches, breathing difficulties, nausea, vomiting, eye irritation, disorientation, temporary paralysis and, in some cases, loss of consciousness, said a Western investigator for Conflict Armament Research who asked that his name be withheld for security reasons.

The investigator said he examined two impact craters at Tel Brak and also a hole in a reinforced concrete wall at Hasakah where the munitions had landed. The odor, he said, was strong, unfamiliar and soon became a painful irritant.

“It smelled like a spicy onion smell,” he said. “It was strange; it wasn’t something I could put my finger on immediately.”

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He added, “We were there for perhaps 30 seconds when it started burning the nose; more than 90 seconds and the throat started to burn.”

Based on laboratory results provided by Kurdish medical officials in Qamishli, where the afflicted fighters were treated and tested, the research groups said they tentatively concluded that the shells contained phosphine, a chemical sometimes used to fumigate stored grains.

A document from the medical authorities, translated by The New York Times, referred to the laboratory tests but did not describe their methodology or show specific results.

Mr. Bevan also noted that tests so far were not conclusive.

No direct samples of the substance in the shells had been independently gathered, he said, in part because the field investigator, who did not have chemical protective equipment, experienced the onset of symptoms while working near the impact craters and had to leave the area.

Some of the shells’ characteristics from the incidents in Syria, based on photographs of the fragments, did not appear consistent with chemical weapons, including that the shell walls appeared to be thick; chemical weapons often have thinner metal skins than weapons designed to fragment.

But both Mr. Robin and the field investigator said it was possible that the attacks were tests of new weapons from the Islamic State’s makeshift munitions production lines.

The field investigator noted that at Tel Brak, the Kurdish fighters pulled back from the front-line positions after the attack, and that their former squad-sized outpost was now an observation post with fewer fighters.

“My guess is that this is going to happen again,” he said, “because it was effective.”

In an internal report provided to Kurdish officials in Syria, the two research groups recommended that Kurdish forces improve their readiness for chemical warfare incidents.

Kurdish forces “require immediate training and equipment to identify and counter chemical IED threats,” the report noted, using the acronym for improvised explosive device. It continued: “This capacity will be fundamental in maintaining civilian confidence, given the enhanced psychological impact of chemical weapon use.”

U.S. Sought ‘El Chapo’ Extradition Before Escape **// NYT // Azam Ahmed – July 17, 2015**

Less than three weeks before Joaquín Guzmán Loera, the infamous drug kingpin known as El Chapo, escaped from Mexico’s highest security prison, the United States issued a formal request for his extradition, according to a statement by the Mexican attorney general late Thursday night.

The request, issued on June 25, was made public after testimony by the attorney general, Arely Gómez González, before senators and representatives of the country, raising fresh questions about the relationship between the two nations.

The United States government has been frustrated by the Mexican authorities, who have delayed a decision on whether to accept an American offer of unconditional support to track down Mr. Guzmán — including the use of drones, advanced intelligence equipment and a special task force.

Long before the escape, Mexican officials also appeared resistant to the idea of extraditing Mr. Guzmán, who faces indictments in at least seven American federal courts on charges that include narcotics trafficking and murder. In October, a new indictment in Federal District Court in Brooklyn linked him and his associates to hundreds of acts of murder, assault, kidnapping and torture.

But the Mexican government indicated it would keep the prisoner in its custody, wanting to prosecute and imprison Mr. Guzmán in what many viewed as a show of sovereignty. In January, Mexico’s previous attorney general, Jesús Murillo Karam, suggested that Mr. Guzmán would never serve time in the United States.

“El Chapo must stay here to complete his sentence, and then I will extradite him,” Mr. Murillo Karam was quoted as saying at the time. “So about 300 or 400 years later — it will be a while.”

Mr. Guzmán escaped from prison on the night of July 11, using a mile-long tunnel burrowed into the floor of his bathroom that experts says took more than a year to dig.

The Mexican government has struggled to explain how Mr. Guzmán managed to pull off such an elaborate prison

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break from what was meant to be the country's most secure facility. The Mexican president, Enrique Peña Nieto, said last year following the drug lord's arrest that losing him again — Mr. Guzmán had escaped Mexican custody once before — would be unforgivable.

Whether Mr. Guzmán had been warned about the American extradition request, or whether that had any influence on the timing of his escape, is unclear. Extraditions can take years to occur.

The Americans did not formally request the extradition of Mr. Guzmán after his arrest in February 2014, an operation conducted by Mexican forces with American help.

It is unclear why, nearly a year and a half later, the American government decided to formally request Mr. Guzmán's extradition.

"It is the practice of the United States to seek extradition whenever defendants subject to U.S. charges are apprehended in another country," said Peter Carr, a Justice Department spokesman.

The statement from the Mexican attorney general's office indicated that Ms. Gómez González gave orders for her office to review the extradition request to ensure that it complied with all legal requirements and then submit them to the nation's Justice Department for consideration.

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From:	"Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	8/15/2008 8:21:51 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] John McCain Tracking Video: Week In Review 08/15/08
Attachments:	WeeklyYouTube 08-15-08.doc

In case you missed it, check out the top clips we captured this week at McCain town hall meetings:

- *McCain: Gitmo "May Be One of The Nicest Places In the World To Live In"*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQZP7hrCS4I
- *McCain on Social Security: "I Have To Be Against Tax Increases ... As People Go In With Positions":* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylJ9wJq1y68
- *McCain: "I Haven't Missed Any Crucial Votes" On Energy*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwFIbxY8wtw
- *Alzheimer's McCain?: "In the 21st Century, Nations Don't Invade Other Nations":* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeHpXffvGvY
- *McCain Says "We've Never Had a Serious Accident" On a Nuclear Sub, Brushes Off Three Mile Island and Chernobyl*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNjaSnCdeqc
- *McCain Says "I Will Bring the Peace," We Will Be "Largely Out" Of Iraq In Four Years*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGtyFaEc2SA
- *Lieberman: "It's Great To Be Here With Rocky McCain"* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT0Rj9O5yCU
- *McCain Flips, Now Says Gas Prices Will Not Decrease, Due To Demand From India And China*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqfhTTgKTTE
- *McCain Warns "Important Strategic Interests At Stake In Georgia" Like the BTC Pipeline:* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aV7f3hM9Vc
- *McCain Spends 7 Minutes Explaining Situation in Georgia at PA Town Hall*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlINb_8VypE
- *McPander Tells GE Crowd He Will "Do Everything In [His] Power" To Get A New Amtrak Order*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53kj3jSchmY
- *McCain: Both Candidates "Pledge To End This War And Bring Our Troops Home... I Intend To Win It First"*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUJ0SGXLCWA
- *Demonstrators from Planned Parenthood and local bricklayers outside McCain town hall in York, PA:* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOjKrFJxu28

Blast from the Past:
Riddle: If McCain is "all of the above" with offshore drilling, nuclear, clean coal, and wind, tide and solar, but he's not for wind, tide and solar; what's he for?
JOHN MCCAIN: "When you say wind solar and tide, most every expert that I know says that, if you maximize that in every possible way, the contribution that that would make given the present state of technology is very small, is very small. It's not a large contribution. It's wonderful, it's great to have it, I encourage it everywhere. I hope everyone will, for Christmas, buy their family a solar panel. But, that would be exciting. But they, but, I'd be glad to send you the figures that there's the amount of--even if we gave it the absolute maximum, uh, wind, solar and tide, uh, etc. The clean tech - the truly clean technologies don't work."
(Town Hall Meeting; Portsmouth, NH 12/04/07)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-UuP1UUsZk
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/091fncusk4

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Enjoy!
Sara

--
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PS. Here are the full transcripts:

VIDEO with FULL TRANSCRIPTS
McCain: *Gitmo "May Be One of The Nicest Places In the World To Live In"*
WALTER ISAACSON: Are you historically in favor of closing Guantanamo?

JOHN MCCAIN: Yes I am. [...] So I'm for closing Guantanamo Bay because it's become a symbol. It, it may be one of the nicest places in the world to live in, but it has become a symbol and we need to close Guantanamo.

ISAACSON: Then why were you so furious at the Supreme Court decision saying that they had the rights to appeal to courts?

MCCAIN: Because I think they have certain rights. And I think we've just seen in this most recent case that the process can move forward. And it's years too late, and the process should have moved forward. And I wasn't happy, frankly, with the decision. [...] From what the evidence that I had, he probably should've spent more time in prison. But we had a system set up [...] There's a tradition for that--the Nuremberg trials and other war crimes trials--where they're given a trial and a judicial proceeding but it is not all of the rights that are guaranteed American citizens. Because under the Geneva Conventions, they are defined as illegal combatants.

[...]

MCCAIN: I think what the Supreme Court said was that they deserve certain rights, and, actually, also wanted to go back to Congress for more clarification in their decision.

ISAACSON: But you called that the worst decision in history?

JOHN MCCAIN: No I didn't. No, no-- Sometimes I'm given to a little hyperbole as you--

[audience laughs]

ISAACSON: Ok, Ok, I'll let you off the hook then.

MCCAIN: --As you, as you've already noticed. I thought it was a bad decision. But I also think we can fix it, and I think we may have been able to prove to the courts, if we can move forward with these judicial proceedings--which some in the media described as a "blow to the Bush administration" because it was a light sentence. I thought it was justice. And so I hope we can move forward with more trials and that way convince the Court. [...] I do believe that the Court voiced frustration in their decision that we hadn't moved forward with these cases, that here these people had been sitting in a prison for five, six, whatever number of years that it's been. And I hope we can show the courts that by moving forward with this process that we can--and maybe with additional legislation, in a bipartisan nature for a change--we can fix this problem.
(Speech; Aspen, CO 08/14/08)
To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQZP7hrCS4I
To Download: https://issuealliance.box.net/shared/djzrsjfilf

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McCain: Social Security "Isn't That Complicated!"
McCain: Social Security "Isn't That Complicated!"
WALTER ISAACSON: This is the 73rd anniversary of Social Security... you called the funding mechanism a disgrace recently. How would you change it?

JOHN MCCAIN: ... It's a pay as you go system. [...] As you know, we have the trustees of the Social Security system. And they are the people appointed to give us an evaluation every year of the condition of Social Security [...] and the trustees have stated repeatedly, and David Walker, who now works for the coalition, who was once head of the government accountability office, I think is the best talking about this. There's gonna come a time, and there's argument about when that year is, but it's not that far away. When there's more money goin out than comin in. And when there's no money left. [...] The situation today is that younger workers who are contributing to the system, the way it was designed, will not receive the same benefits as present day retirees. That's not fair. [...] [...] Congress is at a gridlock on everything [...] One of our earliest memories was 1983, Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neil, the liberal Democrat from Massachusetts,[...] And Ronald Reagan sat down together with the benefit of a Greenspan study. And they said "Okay, we're gonna fix social security." And they walked out in the rose garden, stood next to each other. Now it may not have been the solution that I wanted, [...] or anyone else, but it was a solution, and we saved Social Security for about 25 or 30 years. It was about to go bankrupt. Now, why can't we do that again? [...] It isn't that complicated. A little straight talk. Medicare is complicated, my friends, it's a complex issue, credibly complex. Social security- there have been study after study after study. And we have to do this.

ISAACSON: But shouldn't it be like the energy policy, where everything is on the table, we do a little of everything?

MCCAIN: Yes, and as you know, I am opposed to tax increases [...] I think we can fix this without it. And I am confident that I can convince the people on the other side of the table that we do not need tax increases.

ISAACSON: […] Does that mean tax increases, though, are on the table? I'll do the follow-up. You opened it up. You gotta put it on the table in order to argue against it.

MCCAIN: I have to be against tax increases, as you know. Just as people go in with positions. Anyway.
(Speech; Aspen, CO 08/14/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylJ9wJq1y68
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/xmu0z6cqrz

McCain: "I Haven't Missed Any Crucial Votes" On Energy
WALTER ISAACSON: [...] Tom Friedman's column mentioned that you haven't been there supporting the tax breaks that need to be extended for wind and solar. Do you support those breaks, and will you keep pushing for--will you push for it at some point?

JOHN MCCAIN: Yes, and I have, and I have a long record of that support of alternate energy. [...] I've always been for all of those and I have not missed any crucial vote. But my citizens in Arizona know that when I'm running for the President of the United States I have to be out campaigning. [...]
(Speech; Aspen, CO 08/14/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwFIbxY8wtw
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/chzn9hl1th

Alzheimer's McCain?: "In the 21st century, nations don't invade other nations":
QUESTIONER: [...] You said that heightened security for the Baltic states and Poland might be in order. Can you talk a little bit more about what shape that might take?

JOHN MCCAIN: Well, [pauses] when I say that I, I think that we need to make sure that our NATO allies are work closely with us. I think it's important that everyone recognize throughout the world that in the NATO alliance, an attack on one is viewed as an attack on all. But I, I don't think we're gonna reignite the Cold War here with Russia. I think this is a very serious situation. But I don't see this as a return to nuclear standoffs, et cetera et cetera. I want to have a dialogue with the Russians, I want them to get out of Georgian territory as quickly as possible. And I am interested in good relations between the United States and Russia. But in the

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21st century, nations don't invade other nations. And we, we will decide in subsequent days as whether degree of provocation and what, who was right and who was wrong. But you cannot justify the extent and the degree of the Russian intervention in Georgia. [...] So my point is that all of us show solidarity together and do whatever we can to make sure that behavior in the 21st century is one of respect for the sovereignty and independence of nations. And that includes the country of Georgia. That's what I meant by that in my response. Yes, sir. Yes, maam.
(Media Avail; Birmingham, MI 08/13/08)
To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeHpXffvGvY
To Download: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/lhfq5md6md

McCain Says "We've Never Had a Serious Accident" On a Nuclear Sub, Brushes Off Three Mile Island and Chernobyl
JOHN MCCAIN: I want to say a word about nuclear to you. And I'm very familiar with Three Mile Island, and I'm very familiar with Chernobyl. But I'm also familiar, as I hope you are too, that we've been sailing Navy ships around the world for 60 years with nuclear power plants on them, and we've never had an accident. We've never had a serious accident! So we need to store spent nuclear fuel, and we need to reprocess.

[...] You know, you pick up the paper and you listen to these various pundits and all that, and they says we can't solve the nuclear problem, we can't reprocess, we can't store it; we can't develop a electric car that'll take someone 200 miles or 100 miles before you have to plug it in. We can't. Everybody's saying we can't. That's not America! America's a country that has met and overcome every challenge we have ever faced, and we can do this one. We have the ability, innovation and the technology that we will become independent of foreign oil.
(Town Hall; York, PA 08/12/08)
To view: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNjaSnCdeqc
To download: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/r5fjb6gdkz

McCain Says "I Will Bring the Peace," We Will Be "Largely Out" Of Iraq In Four Years
QUESTIONER: For those of us who are headed into military service, how will our benefits look for the next four years?

JOHN MCCAIN: Pardon me?

QUESTIONER: For those of us headed into military service . . . how are things going to look for us for the next four years?

MCCAIN: . . . in the end of the next four years we will be largely out of Iraq and we will be out because we have won [cheers] not because of a date for withdrawal. We will have won in Iraq [ovation becomes standing]. But that withdrawal will be based on conditions on the ground, not according to a set date for withdrawal [applause]. That's the important point here.

MCCAIN: Now, one of the big differences between myself and Sen. Obama is that Sen. Obama said the surge wouldn't work, voted not to fund the men and women who were serving and fighting over there. He said it wouldn't work, couldn't work and incredibly, still fails to acknowledge that the surge succeeded. Remarkable. And, he hadn't been there in over 900 days. And he gave a speech announcing his policy before he left. Before he left. That's hard to believe. [grumbling] So, there is a significant difference between myself and Sen. Obama. He wanted us out by last March, his original plan. The surge has succeeded. Gen David Petraeus is one of the great military leaders in history [applause]. [...] And finally, let me say again, we have succeeded. It's not 'we are succeeding'-- we have succeeded and we are winning. And we have other challenges. And my friends, if we had had this conversation two weeks ago, we probably wouldn't have consumed the beginning of our conversation about a little country that most Americans had never heard of. My point is, we live in a dangerous world, we live in a world where we're not sure what's going to happen around in the future and it's hard to see around the corner of history. But, I have been in wars, I know how to win wars, I hate war, no one hates war more than the veteran because no one feels more keenly the loss of a comrade than the veteran. So I will, at the end of four years, bring the peace. Bring the peace to America. Thank you.
(Town Hall; York, PA 08/12/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGtyFaEc2SA

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Lieberman: "It's Great To Be Here With Rocky McCain
JOE LIEBERMAN: Ladies and gentleman. Hey, it's great to be here with Rocky McCain! [cheers] The winner! I'm Senator Joe Lieberman and I'm proud to be here with John McCain!
(Town Hall; York, PA 08/12/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CT0Rj9O5yCU
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/1hx9eag1bb

McCain Flips, Now Says Gas Prices Will Not Decrease, Due To Demand From India And China
QUESTIONER: Well, I just had a question about the mass transit in this country like high-speed rail, electric, this kind of stuff that families could use to commute east and west, north and south and do it cheaply.

JOHN MCCAIN: "[...] I think what you're doing here [at GE] is a natural extension of what you're going to see as an explosion of mass transit in America. Yeah. I can't tell you that I think the price of a barrel of oil is gonna come down dramatically. I'm happy to see, as you are, that it's come down some recently, but, to somehow think that the price of a barrel of oil is gonna be very inexpensive again, ignores the reality of two major economies--China and India--that are also competing for a finite resource. I mean, it's just a fundamental of economics and so I think that mass transit is gonna be a very, very big factor. A lot of the cities are doing it.
(Employee Town Hall; Erie, PA 08/11/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqfhTTgKTTE
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/7rxupcucn6

McCain Warns "Important Strategic Interests At Stake In Georgia" Like the BTC Pipeline
JOHN MCCAIN: "We have other important strategic interests at stake in Georgia, especially the continued flow of oil through the Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan pipeline, which Russia attempted to bomb in recent days; the operation of a critical communication and trade route from Georgia through Azerbaijan and Central Asia; and the integrity and influence of NATO, whose members reaffirmed last April the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Georgia."
(Media Availability; Erie, PA 08/11/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aV7f3hM9Vc
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/eqz5czjzyb

McCain Spends 7 Minutes Explaining Situation in Georgia at PA Town Hall:
JOHN MCCAIN: I want to speak briefly to your about the issues that are at stake in this election and about the events that took place this week. And we have to be serious for a few minutes [...] as you know, over the past several days, we have seen that international aggression is tragically not a thing of the past. We thought we'd put a lot of that behind us in the 20th century but we see it rearing its ugly head in the 21st. The small nation of Georgia has been subject to Russian attacks that threaten its very existence. Americans [...] may wonder where Georgia is, or why we should care [...] it's after all a small and remote and obscure place but history is often made in remote, obscure places [...] Georgia itself, my friends, has a long and remarkable history [...] it's been part of the grand sweep that compromises western civilization [...] their history hasn't been easy. Through the centuries, it's seen invasions and attacks [...] the were part of the Soviet Union [...] and were able to achieve their independence when the Soviet Union disintegrated [...] they're at a strategic crossroads. There's a pipeline, an oil pipeline, Baku-Tblisi and Ceyhan. It brings oil from the Caspian to points west and traverses Georgia. That's the very pipeline that the Russians tried to bomb. And I don't have to tell you about the price of oil and disruption of oil supplies. In this country, it's that little country, a country's territorial independence, integrity and sovereignty, NATO countries reaffirmed at their summit in April that terrible violence has occurred. On Friday, Russian tanks and troops moved through the Roki Tunnel, across an international recognized border and into the Georgian province of South Ossetia. Two years ago, I traveled to South Ossetia, my friends, and we went through this barricade [...] there was this huge billboard and it said, "Vladmir Putin, our president." Have no doubt about Russian ambitions in this area. The Russian government stated it was acting only to protect Ossetians and yet on Saturday, it's bombing campaign encompassed the whole of Georgia [...] yesterday, before the weekend ended, Russian troops drove the Georgians out of South Ossetia and stepped up their offensive in the region of "Kabkazia" [Abkhazia]. Abkhazia is another area that the Russians have controlled in violation of Georgian territorial integrity and Georgia asked for a cease fire and Russia responded by bombing

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the Tblisi airport [...] in 2006, I visted Senaki and reviewed the Georgian troops who had served with honor beside American soldiers in Iraq [...] President Medvedev has stated he has halted the offensive but reports indicate that Russian military forces have continued attacks [...] Foreign Minister Lavrov announced that Russia seeks regime change in Georgia [...] it's the responsibility of the leading nations of the world to ensure that history continues to reform and make progress towards respecting the values and security of all free people. This is the situation in Georgia as we meet here [...] the impact of Russian actions goes beyond their threat to a Democratic Georgia. Russia has used violence against Georgia to send a signal to any country that chooses to assciate with the west and aspire to our shared political and economic values. My friends, we learned at great cost the price of allowing aggression against free nations to go unchecked [...] we must stand in united purpose to ask the Russian government to withdraw its troops from Georgia. There must be an independent, international, peacekeeping force in the separatist regions [...] and we must make clear to Russia leaders that the benefit they enjoy from being part of the civilized world require their respect for the value of stability and peace for that world. [applause] [...] I know from speaking this morning to the President of Georgia [...] who I have known for many years, that he knows that the thoughts and prayers and support of the American people are with that brave little nation [...] he wanted me to say thank you to you [...] [applause] [...] I told him I know I speak for every American when I told him that today, we are all Georgians. [applause] [...] the energy crisis that we're in derives in part from the fact that we get much of our energy from that part of the world. The small nation of Georgia has an oil pipeline that delivers oil from the Caspian sea to other markets [...] another reminder that we get serious about our energy crisis and stop sending $700 billion a year overseas [applause] to countries that don't like us very much and stop this massive transfer of wealth. [standing ovation]
(Town Hall; York, PA 08/12/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlINb_8VypE
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/8qvjjag589

McPander Tells GE Crowd He Will "Do Everything In [His] Power" To Get A New Amtrak Order
AUDIENCE MEMBER: We could use another Amtrak order.

JOHN MCCAIN: Another Amtrak order. Yessir. We'll--I will do everything in my power [laughter from the audience] because I would like to tell you that, in all due respect, to the airlines, if you're trying to get from our nation's capitol to New York City, as happens to me quite frequently, and you have to try to get on the shuttle, if there's a could in the sky, it's very likely that it's gonna be a long time about sometimes for many, many hours. Our air traffic control system, as you know, is broken and it's gotta be fixed. It just has to be fixed.

So I believe that you're gonna see Amtrak and the Acela, before its time, was a good technological step forward. Now it's time for another one. Now it's time for another one.
(Employee Town Hall; Erie, PA 08/11/08
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53kj3jSchmY
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/jknb2nu8c1

McCain: Both Candidates "Pledge To End This War And Bring Our Troops Home... I Intend To Win It First"
JOHN MCCAIN: Though victory in Iraq is finally in sight, a great deal still depends on the decisions and good judgment of the next president. The hard-won gains of our troops hang in the balance. The lasting advantage of a peaceful and democratic ally in the heart of the Middle East could still be squandered by hasty withdrawal and arbitrary timelines. And this is one of many problems in the shifting positions of my opponent, Senator Obama.

With just three months to go before the election, a lot of folks are still trying to square Senator Obama's varying positions on the surge in Iraq. First, he opposed the surge. Then he confidently predicted that it would fail. Then he tried to prevent funding for the troops who carried out the surge. Not content to merely predict failure in Iraq, my opponent tried to legislate failure. This was back when supporting America's efforts in Iraq entailed serious political risk. It was a clarifying moment. It was a moment when political self-interest and the national interest parted ways. For my part, with so much in the balance, it was an easy call. As I said at the time, I would rather lose an election than lose a war.

Thanks to the courage and sacrifice of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines and to brave Iraqi fighters the surge has succeeded. And yet Senator Obama still can't quite bring himself to admit his own failure in

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judgment. Instead, he commits the greater error of insisting that even in hindsight, he would oppose the surge. Even in retrospect, he would choose the path of retreat and failure for America over the path of success and victory. Behind all of these claims and positions by Senator Obama lies the ambition to be president. What's missing is the judgment to be commander in chief.

In short, both candidates in this election pledge to end this war and bring our troops home. The great difference is that I intend to win it first.(Speech; Las Vegas, NV 08/09/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUJ0SGXLCWA
TO DOWNLOAD: [tba]

Demonstrators from Planned Parenthood and local bricklayers outside McCain town hall in York, PA
Demonstrators from Planned Parenthood and local bricklayers outside McCain town hall in York, PA
(Outside McCain Town Hall; York, PA 08/12/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOjKrFJxu28
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/eu7atlqvj8

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 7/2/2015 3:50:01 AM
Subject: Re: here is the latest

Stu -- will discuss this with her. I acknowledge the risk you point out, but I also worry about her being seen trying to have it both ways.

On Thu, Jul 2, 2015 at 9:29 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

Please see my edits below. Of course, we must see the final agreement. But I am very concerned that a complete embrace of this deal, without any expression of reservations, will leave her open to serious attack not just from Republicans, but from many Democrats, and from many of the key signatories of the Washington Institute letter, including Howard Berman, Dennis Ross, and people whose opinions on nuclear issues one needs to respect, like Robert Einhorn, and other non-proliferation experts like David Albright. She can certainly make clear her opposition to Congress overturning the deal, which would weaken the President greatly.

Best wishes,

Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2015 8:09 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Subject: here is the latest

I took some of your concepts but left out the specifics.

The deal between six world powers and Iran offers the best path forward to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, despite its deficiencies. With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this deal will make the United States, Israel, and the region safer and more secure. I applaud President Obama and Secretary Kerry for this important accomplishment.

[I would have preferred an agreement that provided access to all of Iran's nuclear sites, including its military facilities; that allowed the IAEA inspectors the opportunity to interview all people they believe

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necessary to establish Iran's past and ongoing Possible Military Dimensions; and that sequenced sanctions relief to documented performance of Iran's obligations. However, this agreement is better than no deal at all, which would leave Iran the unfettered opportunity to a full-scale march to a nuclear weapon, without any of the constraints of this agreement in place.]

As President, I would use every tool in our arsenal to compel rigorous Iranian compliance. Neither Iran nor any other country would have a veto over our enforcement. And I would never permit Iran to interpret this deal to allow it to evade its obligations to the IAEA or to place any suspicious site off limits to inspectors. The response to any violation must be immediate and overwhelming -- starting with the return of sanctions but taking no options off the table, including, if necessary, the use of force.

The message to Iran should be loud and clear: We will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement – never.

Today's agreement is the culmination of an effective strategy of pressure and engagement executed over many years. By the end of the Bush administration, Iran was rapidly expanding its nuclear centrifuge capacity despite unilateral American sanctions. The Obama administration took a different approach, working with Congress and our allies and partners around the world. As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That unprecedented pressure shattered Iran's economy and forced its representatives to the table – starting in Oman in 2012 -- to negotiate a deal that can put a nuclear weapon out of reach.

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Going forward, we have to be clear-eyed when it comes to the broader threat Iran represents. Even with an agreement that cuts off its nuclear ambitions, Iran still poses a direct challenge to the United States and our allies, especially Israel. It continues to destabilize countries from Yemen to Lebanon, while exacerbating conflict in Syria. It is developing missiles that can strike every country in the Middle East. And it fuels terrorism throughout the region and beyond, including through direct support to Hamas and Hizballah. We have to oppose and raise the costs for Iran's destabilizing activities, insist on the return of U.S. citizens being held in Iranian prisons, and strengthen security cooperation with our allies and partners. Sanctions for terrorism, and other non-nuclear sanctions, should remain in place.

Israel has to be confident that the United States will always defend its security and ensure its Qualitative Military Edge in the region. I would invite the senior Israeli leadership to Washington for early talks on further strengthening our alliance. We should also deepen our security relationship with Arab partners who are threatened by Iran's ambitions.

I support this deal because it blocks Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon and gives us tools to catch Iran if it tries to cheat. Ultimately, the alternatives were worse for America. Imposing new, unilateral sanctions, or engaging in military force at this juncture, would risk fracturing the world consensus we have painstakingly built, undermining our maximum leverage at a time when Iran is at its most vulnerable.

So we should proceed with wisdom and strength in implementing a deal born out of strong American leadership.

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From: "Eric Schmeltzer" <eric@schmeltzerpr.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/13/2010 6:30:16 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Vets Run Three Strong Election TV Ads

Three strong ads from VoteVets.org today – Pennsylvania Senate, Pennsylvania 8th District, and Nevada Senate. Releases on all the ads are pasted below, but for your convenience, here's the links to the ads, and the releases on the web. Feel free to pass along.

PENNSYLVANIA SENATE – Negative on Toomey, Vote Against Troop Bonuses

Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j48SB88Prtw
Release - http://votevets.org/news?id=0373

PENNSYLVANIA 8TH DIST – Negative on Fitzpatrick, Vote Against Survivor Benefits

Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmIsJ2uxKME
Release - http://votevets.org/news?id=0373

NEVADA SENATE – Positive on Reid, 90 Second Bio Ad

Video - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xa3fRarzoIQ
Release - http://votevets.org/news?id=0374

VoteVets.org The Voice of America's 21st Century Patriots

About VoteVets.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 13, 2010

CONTACT: ERIC SCHMELTZER, ERIC@VOTEVETS.ORG , 646-290-8586

VETERANS LAUNCH NEARLY $1 MILLION IN ADS IN PENNSYLVANIA,
CRITICAL OF TOOMEY, FITZPATRICK ON FAILURE TO SUPPORT TROOPS AND VETS

Ads call for defeat of Toomey, Fitzpatrick for voting against troops and veterans

PHILADELPHIA, PENN. – VoteVets.org, a national veterans organization, is today launching nearly $1 million in hard-hitting broadcast and cable ads in Pennsylvania, critical of the veterans' record of Senate candidate Pat Toomey and Eighth House District candidate Mike Fitzpatrick. Each of the ads features veterans from the state.

The Toomey ad can be viewed here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j48SB88Prtw

The Fitzpatrick ad can be viewed here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmIsJ2uxKME

The scripts of both ads are below.

TOOMEY AD – "EXPECT"

The ad on Toomey hits at his vote against a $1500 combat bonus for troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. It features Anthony Rakoczy, a Marine veteran from Levittown, John Hanczaryk, an Army veteran from Yardley, and Bruce Gerstemeier, an Army veteran from Scranton. All three served in Afghanistan.

In the ad, the veterans rotate lines, saying, "As a soldier in Afghanistan, I was trained to expect the worst. At home, I thought it would be different. But, Congressman Toomey voted against a $1500 combat bonus. And, Congressman Toomey supports letting Wall Street execs keep every penny of their bonuses. Toomey said that money for troops was 'wasteful spending.' Bonuses for Wall Street are fine? But bonuses for troops are wasteful? I expected the worst in Afghanistan. I expected better from Congressman Toomey."

Indeed, Toomey did vote against an amendment offered by Rep. Bart Stupak in 2003 that would

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have given combat troops a $1500 bonus for their service in war. This June, when asked, Toomey said at a press conference of that vote, "Now there are times when some of these measures are [used] as an excuse to undermine the fiscal stability of our country. That's very bad policy. And, we shouldn't hold military and veteran needs hostage to wasteful spending."

VoteVets.org says it is spending $400,000 on airing the ad on broadcast and cable. It comes on the heels of a $500,000 canvassing effort in the state supporting Joe Sestak, announced earlier in the month.

FITZPATRICK AD – "SACRIFICE"

The ad on Fitzpatrick is critical of his vote to allow families of the fallen to claim their rightful survivor benefits from the government. The ad features Jared Baker, an Army Iraq veteran from Doylestown.

In the ad, Baker says, "I proudly served as a soldier in Iraq. Thousands of American troops lost their lives and we counted on our leaders back home for support. But, we didn't get that kind of support from Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick failed those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. He actually voted against giving rightful survivor benefits to families of fallen service-members. Mike Fitzpatrick voted against our troops, and their families. Now, it's time to vote against him."

In 2006, when in Congress, Fitzpatrick voted against a motion to stop the Department of Defense from reducing military death benefits for surviving spouses by the amount received in Veterans Affairs dependency and indemnity compensation. That vote affirmed a policy that cuts Survivor Benefit Plan annuity payments by the amount of VA compensation.

VoteVets.org says it is spending $500,000 to air the ad on broadcast and cable in the Philadelphia market.

VoteVets.org is a pro-military organization of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, dedicated to the destruction of terror networks around the world, with force when necessary. It primarily focuses on education and advocacy on issues of importance to the troops and veterans, and holding politicians accountable for their actions on these issues.

# # #

VoteVets.org *The Voice of America's 21st Century Patriots*

About VoteVets.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 13, 2010

CONTACT: ERIC SCHMELTZER, ERIC@VOTEVETS.ORG , 646-290-8586

VETERANS BACK HARRY REID IN MOVING NEW TELEVISION AD

LAS VEGAS, NV – VoteVets.org, a national veterans organization, is launching a moving new television ad today, narrated by a veteran from the state, urging Nevadans to re-elect Senator Harry Reid. The group said it was spending $400,000 to air the ad on statewide broadcast and cable.

The ad can be viewed here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xa3fRarzoIQ

Titled "Highway," the ad shows a young man hiking along the road, just as Harry Reid did once a week as he went back and forth to school. Narrated by Anthony Funches an Air Force veteran from Las Vegas, the ad chronicles how Harry Reid has always beat the odds, including his leadership to provide care and benefits to our nation's veterans. The full script of the ad is below, with backup.

"Harry Reid has always been there for us," said Jon Soltz, Iraq War veteran and Chairman of VoteVets.org. "This ad truly encapsulates how we feel about him and the dogged leadership he's provided, especially when it comes to veterans. In very many ways, veterans coming home face the same kind of challenges that Harry Reid has always conquered – getting an education, working our way up the ladder. So not only are we thankful for his leadership, and respect it, but we identify with his character. That's why

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we've chosen to run an ad like this."

VoteVets.org is a pro-military organization of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, dedicated to the destruction of terror networks around the world, with force when necessary. It primarily focuses on education and advocacy on issues of importance to the troops and veterans, and holding politicians accountable for their actions on these issues.

# # #

Ad Script	Script Back-Up
High school was forty-six miles away, they said going would be impossible. So, he walked & hitched his way. Forty-six every Monday, forty-six back come Friday.	"Finding someplace to go to high school took money some people just didn't have. Some young men kicked around or went into the mines or other such jobs. Others went to school in Needles California, some to Boulder City or Las Vegas. Following the good example of my brothers Don and Dale, who had both gone to Basic High School, I stuck my thumb at age thirteen and hitchhiked the 45 miles north to Henderson." [Harry Reid, *The Good Fight*, p.100]
Asked his girlfriend's father for her hand, he growled; and said impossible. Five children and sixteen grandchildren later, he and his girlfriend are still holding hands.	"'We're married,' Landra told [her parents]. 'I wanted to give you the address of where we're going.' 'This is not what we wanted. I did everything I could to stop it, and that was my right,' Earl Gould told his daughter. 'But now it's done. You are our only daughter. We're going to try and make this thing work.'" [Harry Reid, *The Good Fight*, p.125] "In 1961, their first child and only daughter – Lana – was born. Son Rory was born in 1962, and three more brothers followed - Leif, Josh, and Key…Today, Senator Reid and Landra are the proud grandparents of 16 grandchildren." [Official Biography, Reid.Senate.gov, accessed 10/11/10]
Everyone knows a nobody could never get elected to office. Impossible? He proved 'em wrong again.	"As a small boy he would accompany his father, Harry Reid Sr., for long days deep underground in the mines. His father was a hardrock miner with an eighth grade education and his mother never completed high school; yet the youngest of Harry and Inez Reid's four sons would go on to achieve the American dream." [Official Biography, Reid.Senate.gov, accessed 10/11/10]
A nobody from Nevada could never become the most powerful man in the Senate.	"Reid became the most powerful man in the Senate after Democrats won the Senate majority in 2006." [*Washington Post*, WhoRunsGov.com Sen. Reid profile, January 2007]

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Never single-handedly stop Yucca Mountain.	"Reid is surely the most influential senator Nevada has sent to Washington since it became a state 146 years ago. He has delivered millions of dollars in aid and almost single-handedly blocked the federal government from turning Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Vegas, into a national nuclear-waste repository." [*New York Times*, 1/12/10]
Never bring Nevada thousands of jobs…	**HIRE Act – 69,254 Jobs** "The Senate on Wednesday easily approved a $15 billion plan to spur job creation, a vote that lawmakers hoped would show that they were taking steps to improve the nation's employment outlook." [*New York Times*, 2/24/10] "Some **69,254 people in Nevada were hired** under an incentive program that provides tax breaks for hiring unemployed workers [the HIRE Act], the Treasury Department said Monday." [*Las Vegas Review-Journal*, 8/3/10 , emphasis added] **CityCenter – 22,000 Jobs** "Last year, MGM Resorts International was close to shuttering CityCenter, the largest private construction project in the nation's history. Financing had dried up in the wake of the financial industry's collapse. At MGM's request, Reid and his Republican counterpart Sen. John Ensign called the CEOs of the company's lenders urging them not to ignore the project. **Without that intervention, Reid argues, 22,000 workers would be without jobs** and the Strip would be stuck with a cluster of partially built hotels." [*Las Vegas Sun*, 7/9/10 , emphasis added] **Wind Turbine Plant – 1,000 Jobs** "A consortium of companies announced plans today to develop a plant in the Las Vegas area that would **employ about 1,000 people for manufacturing wind turbines**…In today's announcement, the partners credited Sen. Harry Reid for their decision to locate the plant in Nevada. They also cited affordable real estate in Nevada, the state's skilled workforce and Nevada's business-friendly climate." [*Las Vegas Sun*, 3/11/10 , emphasis added] **Travel Promotion Act – 40,000 Jobs**

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	"President Obama Thursday enacted legislation to promote international travel to the United States by establishing a national tourism board that would coordinate advertising and other efforts to encourage foreigners to visit the United States…Advocates of the law say it would help attract 1.6 million new international visitors, $4 billion in new spending and more than $300 million in tax revenue each year. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nev.), who faces a tough re-election battle this year, was a strong backer of the bill…" [*Washington Post*, 3/4/10] "'It's been a tough year, particularly for domestic U-S travelers to come to Las Vegas,' says Gary Selesner, the President of Caesars Palace. 'The one segment growing has been international.' But international tourists are in high demand. Since 9-11, 68 million fewer visitors have come to this country. That's partly why the travel promotion act was created, so the U-S can market itself. 'We collectively can no longer leave it to the states or corporations,' says MGM Mirage Marketing Director Bill Hornbuckle. 'Everyone needs to participate.' 'This is a great assist for us, because we're going to have millions of dollars of advertising helping convince tourists to come to this country and by extension, Las Vegas,' adds Selesner. Local politicians like Senator Harry Reid and Senator John Ensign were instrumental in pushing this bill through Congress. They say attracting 1.6 million more visitors a year should result in **40,000 new jobs** nationwide." [*Las Vegas Review-Journal*, 3/9/10 , emphasis added]
… or be the one to demand that our veterans be treated with dignity and honor. For those would be impossible.	**"Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee announced its endorsement of Nevada Senator Harry Reid for his tireless commitment on behalf of Nevada's veterans such as securing the $540 million in funding needed to complete a new VA Hospital in Southern Nevada, passing the 21st Century GI Bill of Rights and supporting the end of unfair concurrent receipt policies." [VFW-PAC endorsement via Harry Reid.com, accessed 10/11/10 ; VFW-PAC endorsement list, 9/24/10]**
Re-election? Some say darned close to impossible, throw 'em all out. But in this day, this time of worldwide distress, we think Nevada needs him and that determination more than ever.	

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So, let's send him back, where he'll keep quietly, patiently, doggedly doing what he's always done for us. Yep, the impossible.	

–
Eric Schmeltzer

Public Relations

www.SchmeltzerPR.com

646-290-8586

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 5/13/2008 11:54:24 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Environmental Round Table in North Bend, WA

Hello Big Campaign,

Unfortunately, we were not able to get a tracker into today's Environmental Round Table in North Bend, WA today. The event was closed to the public and staffers were checking a pre-made list.

The good news is we were able to capture video of the event from online streaming video and we have that available upon request. Below are the notes we took from that video.

NORTH BEND, WA: McCain Environmental Round Table

Highlights: McCain was asked whether his age is a legitimate political issue and responded "anything is fair." McCain also staked out his differences from Bush on the environment, and he said that Hagee's apology--and his coming-together with Bill Donohue to help reconcile with the Catholic community--are "laudable."

BACKGROUND DETAILS:

- Roundtable held at the Cedar River Watershed Educational Center
- Panelists include
  - Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland
  - Bruce Williams, chairman and CEO of HomeStreet Bank and vice chairman of Cascade Land Conservancy,;
  - Jim DiPeso, policy director of Republicans for Environmental Protection;
  - REI CEO Sally Jewell;
  - West Mathison, a fifth-generation farmer with Stemilt Growers, Inc.;
  - Chris Bayley, the former Republican King County prosecutor and chairman of Stewardship Partners;
  - Eagle Scout and high school senior Will Mentor;
  - Mercer Island City Councilman Steve Litzglow.
  - Former Gov. Dan Evans is the moderator.

INTRO: from moderator, former Gov. Dan Evan

MCCAIN SPEAKS

thanks Governor – Native American issues – they're stewards of large amounts of land, so we need to have their "active partnership" in environmental initiatives

thanks Slade Gorton, …, Rob McKenna

not new to this issue, but I'm always learning on this issue

"I traveled, I traveled around the globe - usually at your expense" to learn about climate change: the Artic, Greenland's erosion of the ice pack, Brazilian rain forest, Great Coral Reef – "these are the miners' canaries of what's going to happen to our planet"

cap-and-trade. Other option is carbon tax – just going to be passed onto consumer. Europeans have a cap and trade system, so we're not inventing the wheel here – we're trying to put free-enterprise, market-based incentives for how to deal with this great threat to Americans.

Citing Blair, suppose all we think we know about climate change is wrong and we accept green technologies, then all we've done is handed off a cleaner world to young Americans. But if we are right, this will stoke innovation and we must stewardship. Wind energy. Firmly and fastly rejects the notion that this will be somehow harmful to the economy. We can use alternative-energy technologies to reduce greenhouse gases. "Do I have some passion about this? Yes" younger Americans are largely on my side; "we've got a few old geezers we've got to convince."

ROUNDTABLE

MCCAIN: Tees off roundtable with Will, congratulates Eagle Scouts.

- WILL MENTOR: Has seen the effects of climate change on his hikes as a Boy Scout and if we

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don't combat this issue, it has the potential to destroy a lot of things Northwesterners hold important: streams, salmon. If there were more of an opportunity for people his age to get involved in all this, it would make a big difference.

- MCCAIN: If I were to make an obvious suggestion, best thing to do is plant another tree. Best way to lower CO2.

MCCAIN asks SALLY JEWELL: How does REI contribute to this fight?

- SALLY JEWELL: We have to lead. Business and private enterprise have to take a significant role. REI launched a goal to be climate neutral. It's difficult but it's important. Part of the problem is that children have a lack of connection to the outside world (too much time inside) – a concern. Working with Retailers like WalMart, Target, BestBuy and Loews. Working on sustainable packaging coalition. Working with paper companies to make sure they're coming from responsible sources. Using recycled materials in REI's products.
- MCCAIN: give you a comparative disadvantage?
- SALLY JEWELL: it's expected to be green but people don't want to pay more.

MCCAIN: What do you want me to do?

- SALLY JEWELL: there's no federal incentives to be green. Find ways to incentivize businesses and individuals to reduce
- MCCAIN: If you can sequester carbon and cut down on methane—we've got to provide those incentives. Research and innovation. Once you've developed it, you hand it off to private enterprise.
- MCCAIN: Education. We've had some on recyclable (struggles with word) materials. Recycling is a very important aspect. Public education problem on how important these small steps are.
- "I'm a little wary – I have to give you some straight talk—about government subsidies… I opposed the [ethanol] subsidies because I thought they'd distort the market" b/c of unintended consequences. In the 70s- the last time there was a gas crisis- we over-subsidized some of the solar industry and we turned out to have some pretty shoddy material, incl. in AZ. Americans will respond, as they have to
- SALLY JEWELL: if not subsidies, then find ways to do the right thing and penalize those doing the wrong thing. Then these cleaner energy sources will take off.

DOUG SOUTHERLAND— as federal govt starts national cap-and-trade program, make sure local/ regional systems aren't penalized.

- MCCAIN: in other words, you want us to establish a system where you get some credit for systems you've established in the past, rather than have everyone start at same point?
- DOUG SOUTHERLAND: I think each of the states should be able to make some decisions on how it's going to be run.
- Forest health is also a problem (i.e. strategic burning to minimize risk of fire). MCCAIN agrees – forest fires have been devastating.

STEVE LITZGLOW: issue of money. We're trying to move to hybrids, but how do you kickstart to get over that level to get to the hybrids? Battling priorities – wants to be green, but... Says he has sinking fund, which helps, but hard to get to long-term goal.

- MCCAIN: Got an idea, Chris?

CHRIS BAYLEY: Government should give money to landowners who know how to take care of their land. From regulatory paradigm. landowner-based and cooperative paradigm.

MCCAIN: What about PILT (payment in lieu of taxes)? That's a good one?

- DAN EVANS: As former county exec, PILT, especially in those communities that have been affected by the loss of harvesting on federal lands – those communities that are dependent on forest industry don't have funds to meet their needs – education, etc. either we have to get out of our analysis paralysis or find a way to help them survive. PILT has been one of those issues.

BRUCE WILLIAMS:

- (1) land use – may sound like a local issue removed from fed govt, but has an impact in terms of climate change. When we did a carbon footprint of our bank, a lot of it came off of employees commuting – need to be aware of it in developing great cities.
- (2) waste management – we don't have a good national plan and we'd like to see that taken care of before we create more of it. Hantford.
- (3) worry that cap-and-trade system will penalize hydropower.
  - MCCAIN – would need to be accounted for in credit system.
  - MCCAIN – maybe make mass transportation green.
  - MCCAIN – on nuclear power, BRUCE WILLIAMS, why have European countries come up with solutions that people approve of? E.g. France – they re-process. We have to do both. I

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understand the dangers. We have a whole lot more to do than we thought we had to do at the beginning of the exercise. We don't have the capability or certainly anything that's affordable. If other countries are able to make use of nuclear power and address the issues of spent nuclear fuel, I don't understand why USA can't do it. We've never had a nuclear accident when we've sailed ships around. We ought ot be able to address the issues of transportation, storage, reprocessing and new technologies which reduce the amount of spent nuclear fuel. I'm all for clean coal technology – right now it's too expensive, but I'm confident it will become less expensive. In the meantime, we can't afford an increase in greenhouse gases.

SALLY JEWELL (REI): on transportation. Worst is airplane travel – we can buy offsets, but not ideal. Electricity consumption – we've been able to buy from more responsible compnaies. On employee commuting – one of the things the fed govt has done and I would encourage it - the provision and transportation funding for alternative forms of transportation, e.g. connected bike path. One of the positive consequences of gas hike has been threw-the-roof sales of bicycles. If you find ways to support bike routes, e.g., people will use it and it'll have positive consequences. But if you don't have support from state, local and federal, not going to happen.

MCCAIN – anecdote – Meg Whitman asked employees how to reduce impact. Suggested that have cleaners come in and clean during the day and shut down completely at night – saved on energy costs. So we should ask Americans how they think we should help.

WEST MATHISON – I've had retail execs say they hear "sustainability" and reach for their wallet. But global marketplace is full of low-cost producers. In American agriculture, we've applied technology (organic, microirrigation) that any way we can help support agriculture in the USA – keep food in US, not outsource. MCCAIN quips, "which means you're in favor of free trade?"

MCCAIN to WEST MATHISON: how have gas prices affected your business?

- WEST MATHISON: the only way we'll be sustainable is market-based solutions. Maybe tax incentives with pre-determined sunsets will help. We're starting to see trend of businesses asking question how can we be profitable and how can we do right? We're just scratching the surface – so anything we can do to incentivize that is going to be great. Keep economic stimulus in this country with the production of food, agriculture is a great way to sequester carbon…

MCCAIN to SALLY JEWELL: is there a concern that people worry they're not getting the best quality product with recycled materials?

- SALLY JEWELL – our competitors aren't other sustainable orgs but TV, video games and overscheduled people. Sustainability is a team sport, it is not competitive advantage. We're trying to create a market – we're trying to create the demand.

MCCAIN to CHRIS BAYLEY: how can we help at fed level?

- Landowner incentive programs fuel voluntary work and the agricultural production. Fed govts role in enviro should be incentive-based, using the engine of volunteers and the power of landowners who want to save their land and create new habitat.

Steve – you want to keep the fed govt from inhibiting people from finding solutions. We don't need govt to tell us what we need to do – but to encourage people to find systems that work. Like internet 10 years ago – a lot of options look good right now, but you need to let the marketplace figure out what's going to work. E.g. biodiesels and plug-ins – don't know which is going to work, and so natural selection is critical in finding best what's going to work.

MCCAIN – enviro not just green thing – it's a national security and an economic concern (fillin up gas tank of fixed income people). Natl security since we are dependent on more than $400b / year in imported oil to countries that don't like us very much and some of that money ends up in hands of terrorists. Trade deficit - we're borrowing from China. Needs to be bipartisan issue – sit-down with bankers and consuemrs and all of us as Americans and address this issue. Honored to be in presence of Slade Gordon and to be at this facility that does so much to provide arguably cleanest drinking water in the world and I promise not to do anything that would affect this state and local govt working together to provide this service. You renew my enthusiasm in the lord's work in the city of Satan.

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

- MCCAIN: Cedar River Watershed is beautiful. The environment here and in AZ important. I will be a Pres for the environment, I have a long record of advocacy for environment. I have a plan of action that will restore our environment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and relieve our dependence on foreign oil. We can have good environmental record and a good economy, namely through innovation and green technology. This can be a bipartisan effort. It is a nexus of compelling issues.

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- Q: – Obama and Clinton have nearly identical cap and trade plan but more modest goals. Why should voters listen to your plan versus theirs?
    - MCCAIN: I have a long history in this – they don't. People will trust my stewardship not only because of my background and knowledge but also my vision for the future. My plan is doable. You can dictate a lot of things, but you have to unleash the entrepreneurial power of Americans in order to accomplish these things. This is one element of my environmental record and plan of action.
- Q: did you influence or support Hagee's decision to issue letter of apology to Catholics? How will this change? Will it be enough to silence his critics?
    - MCCAIN: Hagee and Donohue are joining together and reconcile with the Catholic community. I have long sought to reconcile – with antiwar movement, with David Ifshin, with the Vietnamese in interest of healing the wounds of war. Donohue's and Hagee's coming together is a "laudable thing and a testament to their Judeo-Christian values."
- What do you say to people who say global warming isn't real?
    - MCCAIN: I'll be glad to continue the debate. We continue to amass scientific evidence, e.g. from NASA. I pose the question again: the consequences if we're wrong vs. consequences if we're right about climate change happening.
    - I've made some Republicans mad – but my duty is to do what I think is right.
- Do you feel more comfortable accepting Hagee's endorsement now?
    - I again say that I accept his endorsement but not everything he says. The fact that he apologized was helpful. I think it's always laudable for someone to apologize for something they did that was wrong.
- Q: Given mounting evidence of harmful effects of military sonar testing on marine animals, are you going to take away the military's practice of that?
    - MCCAIN: there's a balance that can be achieved of conducting these tests so they're not harmful. I'd be glad to continue to work on that.
- Q: GOP base would like to know – do you believe that climate change is manmade or natural occurrence?
    - MCCAIN: I think evidence has indicated that human activity has had major impact on buildup of greenhouse gases. I trust the assessment of National Assoc of Science
- Q from European journalist: Are you going to present different approach then what we've had?
    - MCCAIN: Yes the President and I have had a "long-standing, significant, deep" difference between Pres and I in our policies on this. Going back to 2002. We can learn from the Europeans, from their mistakes (e.g. with cap and trade).
- Q: Fair for your age to be an issue?
    - MCCAIN: "Oh, anything is fair. This isn't beanbag." [How old *is* John McCain?? Beanbag??] This is a question that was raised in the primaries. I look forward to that. I look forward to bringing my 96-year-old mother everywhere I go. Maybe hiking too.
- Q: why weren't you in DC for vote about cutting off deliveries for petroleum reserve? Obama and Clinton were there.
    - MCCAIN: Because I'm out campaigning. With a 97-to-1 vote it doesn't matter. The people of AZ understand.
- Q: Points out examples of problems with nuclear, e.g. Hantford. Why should we trust anyone who advocates nuclear?
    - MCCAIN: I understand the enormous challenges we've faced in trying to clean up, I understand the skepticism. I'd like to point out the European example. They've dealt with problems, they've made progress. I will have to make sure Americans convinced that nuclear power will be safe and secure and we will avoid these problems.
- Aide says we're out of time. MCCAIN asks if he can take a few more questions.
- Q: Were you or your campaign involved in brokering Donohue-Hagee peace?
    - MCCAIN: I certainly wasn't.
- Q: How do you respond to protests about hurting Boeing?
    - I have the greatest respect for Boeing workers. I was part of investigation that ended up with Boeing workers in prison and costing Americans money. I did everything possible to make sure everything after that was a fair and open process. I'm open to Air Force review. But my first obligation to the American people is the careful stewardship of their dollars. And I'm proud of my record there.
- Q: Would you make cap and trade bill a priority in your first 100 days? Is it important to make progress on this bill even if it doesn't pass?

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  - o MCCAIN: Lieberman-Warner is a good bill but doesn't go far enough with nuclear. It will be a top priority.
- Q: If elected, would you commit to attending the next round of UN climate talks?
  - o MCCAIN: I'd have to assess where other countries are. But I will lead this country and the world to address this issue. America can lead and not obstruct.

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	7/12/2014 8:22:50 AM
Subject:	Correct the Record Saturday July 12, 2014 Roundup

Correct the Record Saturday July 12, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

Will Republicans Stand by the Benghazi 'Stand-Down Order' Conspiracy?

“The White House is pleased with the news, because it backs up the view that the military's decision to remain in Tripoli and protect Embassy personnel there, rather than fly to Benghazi after all the Americans had already been evacuated, made a whole lot of sense. What's more, it makes GOP Rep. Darrell Issa, who has suggested Hillary Clinton personally gave this alleged conspiratorial ‘stand-down order,’ look particularly silly. (As secretary of State at the time, Clinton wasn't even in the chain of military command.)

But it isn't just Issa and pundits on Fox News who've bolstered this theory. It's also been promoted by serious-minded Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., chairman of the somewhat newly minted select committee investigating Benghazi, along with the majority of Republicans serving on it.”

AP: WHAT THE MILITARY DID WHILE BENGHAZI POST BURNED

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Rubio: I can beat Hillary

"'I'd ask her: You were the secretary of State during the first four years of the Obama administration, name one significant foreign policy achievement, now or after you left?', [Rubio] said."

CBS News: Hillary Clinton's book sales barely edging out Ben Carson's

"Despite the hubbub surrounding the release last month of Hillary Clinton's memoir 'Hard Choices,' new data shows it's barely edging out Ben Carson's 'One Nation' in book sales. Nielsen Bookscan figures provided to CBS News for the week ending July 6 show the former secretary of state clocking in at 177,000 copies sold; Carson has sold 162,000 copies."

Huffington Post Blog: How the Republicans Could -- But Won't -- Beat Hillary Clinton in 2016

"The most obvious way to neutralize this advantage is for the Republicans to nominate a woman for president. Nominating a woman for president is something very different from finding a previously obscure female politician, putting her on the ticket at the last minute and hoping for the best. This is what John McCain did in 2008 and what the Republican nominee, whoever he is, will likely do in 2016. This strategy will not work against a Democratic ticket that will be led by a woman, particularly a woman with the experience and appeal of Hillary Clinton."

Clinton takes hit in NH poll, but still leads Dems

A Granite State/WMUR poll released Thursday found 59 percent of Democratic voters there prefer Clinton over other party contenders. That number stood at 74 percent in January, a drop that reflected in other recent polling.

Articles:

Will Republicans Stand by the Benghazi 'Stand-Down Order' Conspiracy?

Lucia Graves

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July 11, 2012

One of the many threads in the tapestry of Benghazi conspiracy theories is the contention that, faced with a terrorist attack on the U.S. Consulate there, the American military didn't do what it could have to save lives. Specifically, that a "stand-down order" was issued from on high that prevented the use of military assets that could have saved the four Americans who died the night of Sept. 11, 2012.

But hours of transcribed interviews with nine military leaders, conducted by the House Armed Services and Oversight and Government Reform committees—and made public for the first time Wednesday night—have yielded some news. Namely, that this contention appears to be a bunch of hooey, according to a close examination by the Associated Press.

"The senior military officer who issued the instruction to 'remain in place' and the detachment leader who received it said it was the right decision and has been widely mischaracterized," the report found. (More details about why that's the case are laid out nicely in the AP's report.)

The White House is pleased with the news, because it backs up the view that the military's decision to remain in Tripoli and protect Embassy personnel there, rather than fly to Benghazi after all the Americans had already been evacuated, made a whole lot of sense. What's more, it makes GOP Rep. Darrell Issa, who has suggested Hillary Clinton personally gave this alleged conspiratorial "stand-down order," look particularly silly. (As secretary of State at the time, Clinton wasn't even in the chain of military command.)

But it isn't just Issa and pundits on Fox News who've bolstered this theory. It's also been promoted by serious-minded Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., chairman of the somewhat newly minted select committee investigating Benghazi, along with the majority of Republicans serving on it.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, who has discussed the "stand-down order" as if it were fact, is perhaps the most pronounced example of this. "We had proximity, we had capability, we had four individuals in Libya armed, ready to go, dressed, about to get into the car to go in the airport to go help their fellow countrymen who were dying and being killed and under attack in Benghazi, and they were told to stand down," Chaffetz said over a year ago. "That's as sickening and depressing and disgusting as anything I have seen. That is not the American way."

Politifact rated that claim as patently false in May of 2013.

But it didn't stop Gowdy, who has been praised by House Speaker John Boehner for his "zeal for the truth," from alluding, albeit more cryptically, to the same unsupported points later that same month. "I think I'm asked about [Benghazi] because it kind of involves what we believe about our Republic," he explained in an interview with the Daily Caller, "which is that we're not gonna send anybody into harms way, under our flag without adequate protection, and if they get in trouble we are gonna go get 'em. We're gonna save 'em. Or at least we're gonna make a heck of an effort to do it. So Benghazi kinda undercuts that."

And it didn't stop Rep. Mike Pompeo, R-Kansas, from suggesting to Hugh Hewitt that the military "had the opportunity" to take action, but didn't. Nor did it discourage Republican Rep. Peter Roskam of Illinois from suggesting in a press release that the military was up to something fishy.

"We all want to believe that our government would do everything to come to the aid of Americans under threat abroad," said Roskam, before transitioning to why he couldn't.

Another member of the Benghazi select committee, Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, suggested that during the attack,

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there was little effort to fight back, according to The Columbus Dispatch. "Why weren't we running to the sound of the guns?" he asked.

Never mind that a House Armed Services subcommittee report from several months earlier had found there was no way the U.S. military could have responded in time to save the four Americans killed in Benghazi. GOP Rep. Martha Roby of Alabama still delivered the subcommittee's report—which, by the way, also found that no "stand-down order" was issued—with a hint of conspiracy. "We did a very thorough job," she told the Montgomery Advertiser, "but we did leave the door open when we said this was an interim report and that if information surfaced that there were others we needed to talk to, we would."

Asking whether these new military testimonies (which largely just confirm what's been found previously) will change these Republicans' rhetoric feels something akin to asking what it takes to end a conspiracy theory. A better conspiracy, perhaps?

AP: WHAT THE MILITARY DID WHILE BENGHAZI POST BURNED

By Connie Cass

July 12, 2014, 9:41 AM

One by one, behind closed doors, military officers explained what they did and didn't do the night the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, burned.

Together their 30 hours of testimony to congressional investigators gives the fullest account yet of the military's response to the surprise attacks that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans the night of Sept. 11, 2012, and early the next morning.

Transcripts of the interviews, with some names and classified information blacked out, were released Wednesday

The nine officers, including retired Gen. Carter Ham, then the head of the military's U.S. Africa Command, described making on-the-fly decisions with only sparse information about the crisis unfolding at a diplomatic post and the nearby CIA compound.

None of them was in Benghazi. The closest? Some were 600 miles away in Tripoli, the Libyan capital; others gave orders from command headquarters in Germany or Washington.

They did not witness what went on in the White House or at the State Department. Ex-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and others have testified about Benghazi. More hearings are coming.

The nine officers shed light on the nature of the attacks; speculation that the military was ordered to "stand down" from helping Americans; suggestions that the U.S. should have rushed jets or a special operations team to Benghazi; and early misperceptions that the attack began as a protest over an anti-Islam video.

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Some lingering questions about the Benghazi attacks and what the officers told the House Armed Services Committee and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee this year:

DID MILITARY LEADERS INITIALLY BELIEVE THE TROUBLE RESULTED FROM A STREET PROTEST?

Some heard that, some didn't; nothing was clear about events on the ground at first.

One of the earliest reports came from Ambassador Chris Stevens, who told his deputy in a phone call cut short: "We're under attack."

"We started calling it an attack from inception," said Army Lt. Col. S.E. Gibson, who was at the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli. "We never referred to it as anything else."

Another military official in Tripoli, whose name was withheld, said he wasn't sure how to interpret that word — "attack" — at first.

He had heard about protesters who scaled the walls of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo earlier that night. "It could be, you know, vandals are attacking," he said.

Retired Vice Adm. Charles "Joe" Leidig Jr., deputy commander of AFRICOM, said he was awoken in the night at his headquarters in Germany with word that "there had been protesters, and they had overrun the facility in Benghazi."

But Ham, who was alerted while visiting the Pentagon, said he heard no mention of protesters.

So he's sure he didn't pass on anything like that when he informed Panetta and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, of the attack. Dempsey and Panetta personally took word to President Barack Obama at the White House.

Speaking for the Obama administration, then-U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice appeared on Sunday talk shows five days later and suggested the attacks were born from regional protests against an anti-Islamic video. The administration later recanted that position but never thoroughly articulated what they believe happened. Republicans say Obama soft-pedaled a terrorist attack to protect his re-election.

Over the two days when the attacks were occurring, there was "very, very little discussion that I can recall about why did this happen." Ham said. "There just wasn't time for that, frankly."

WAS A FOUR-MAN TEAM HEADED FOR BENGHAZI ORDERED TO STAND DOWN?

Technically, no, the team was not ordered, as some have asserted, to stand by as militants attacked Americans 600 miles away. But they were told not to go to Benghazi and instead to stay and protect personnel in Tripoli. In hindsight, the attacks were over by then, anyway.

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The special operations officer leading that team and the commander who gave him the order both told investigators that it was the right decision.

The team, led by Gibson, was in Tripoli to help train Libyan special forces. When the Benghazi attack began, Gibson's first duty was to protect the embassy in Tripoli amid fears that it also would be targeted. He helped evacuate the staff to a classified, more-secure location. Once he felt they were safe on the morning of Sept. 12, Gibson was ready to rush to Benghazi to help.

One Libyan plane carrying a six-man U.S. security team already had taken off. Gibson wanted his group on the second chartered flight. He called the special operations command center for Africa to say they were heading to the airport.

He was told, "Don't go. Don't get on that plane."

"Initially, I was angry," he recalled. "Because a tactical commander doesn't like to have those decisions taken away from him. But then once I digested it a little bit, then I realized, OK, maybe there was something going on. Maybe I'm needed here for something else."

Rear Adm. Brian Losey, who gave the order, said he needed Gibson's team in Tripoli in case trouble started there.

Although some Republican lawmakers have suggested the team might have helped repel attackers in Benghazi, their flight would have arrived after the final assault that killed two CIA contractors.

Losey dismissed the notion that the foursome could have been much help in Benghazi, where Americans already were moving to the airfield for evacuation with the aid of Libyan forces and the U.S. security team from the first plane. Losey noted that Gibson's group consisted of a communications specialist, a medic and a weapons operator with his foot in a cast.

"That's not a security team," Losey said. Sending them in "didn't make a lot of sense."

Gibson said if his group had flown to Benghazi, their flight would have crossed paths with the first plane as it returned bearing wounded Americans. Because they stayed, his medic was there to meet two seriously injured people at the Tripoli airport. The medic is credited with saving one's life.

RIGHT OR WRONG, WASN'T THAT AN ORDER TO "STAND DOWN"?

Not according to Losey and Gibson.

Civilians might say that Losey ordered Gibson to stand down from his race to the scene. But Losey and Gibson say in their military parlance, standing down means ceasing operations.

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"It was not a stand-down order," Gibson said. "It was not, 'Hey, time for everybody to go to bed.' It was, you know, 'Don't go. Don't get on that plane. Remain in place.'"

"It was never an order to stand down," Losey said. "It was an order to remain in place and continue to provide your security role in Tripoli."

DID CLINTON GIVE A "STAND DOWN" ORDER, AS SOME REPUBLICANS HAVE THEORIZED?

"No," said Losey.

"I never received any orders from the secretary of state or heard of any orders from the secretary of state," said Leidig, also based in Stuttgart, Germany.

"No," said Ham, who commanded the Africa operations. "And we would not receive direct communications from the secretary of state."

Ham said no one else ordered him to stand down, either, and no one tried to stop him from helping the Americans in Benghazi any way he could.

"The conversation really was more along lines of, you know, 'What do you need? What can we do?'" he said. "And every request for forces that I asked of the secretary of defense was approved."

WHAT DID THE MILITARY DO TO HELP?

Following the first report of trouble about 9:40 p.m. local time on Sept. 11, officials began looking for military planes that could head to Benghazi for evacuations. None would be available for hours.

An unmanned drone already in Libya was quickly sent to survey the situation at the diplomatic post. Nighttime darkness limited its usefulness.

Two military members — both from Special Forces — were in the six-man team that flew from Tripoli to Benghazi aroundmidnight and aided with the defense and evacuation of the CIA base.

An Air Force C-17 transport plane flew the Benghazi evacuees from Tripoli to Germany the night of Sept. 12, about 24 hours after the attacks began.

A U.S. anti-terror team sent from Spain arrived in Tripoli after the evacuees had gone.

Two military teams — one in Croatia and the other in the U.S. — prepared to go but, as the situation changed, weren't brought to Libya. They would have arrived too late.

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Not until the morning of Sept. 12 was the 31st Fighter Wing in Aviano, Italy, ordered to get four F-16 jets and four pilots ready to respond if needed. The call to Benghazi never came.

WHY DIDN'T THEY SCRAMBLE THE F-16 FIGHTERS?

Military leaders decided early on that jets armed with 500-pound bombs were unsuited for the chaotic crisis in an urban area.

"Ultimately, it was my decision that said no, not the right response in this circumstance," Ham said.

He didn't have anyone on the ground to provide target information for airstrikes. He didn't want to harm innocent people or risk inflaming more Libyans to join the attack. He believed some militants had missiles capable of downing a plane.

"Had I made a different decision, had strike aircraft deployed, we don't really know what the outcome would have been," Ham said. "Maybe it would have been positive, but maybe it would have got shot down. Maybe it would have killed civilians."

Brig. Gen. Scott Zobrist, then the wing commander at Aviano, had similar worries. He said that, even if called right away, it would have taken 20 hours to get jets to Benghazi from the base in Italy normally used for training flights.

Pilots would have to be recalled from their homes, bombs loaded onto planes, the 1,000-mile route planned. The jets would need refueling along the way, which meant coordinating with tanker planes stationed in England — something that typically takes days to plan.

COULD THE MILITARY HAVE DONE MORE?

Perhaps.

In hindsight, Ham said, he should have reached out to his Libyan contacts and other U.S. officials to get Americans evacuated from Benghazi faster. That might have saved the two lives that were lost hours after the first attack at the diplomatic post.

While the evacuation from Benghazi was being planned by the embassy and the CIA, Ham said, he switched his focus toward gearing up a possible hostage rescue mission, because the ambassador was still missing.

Meanwhile, surviving U.S. personnel were gathered at the CIA base in Benghazi. Ham said he believed they were relatively safe. He and other military leaders said they weren't told that the CIA compound already had come under gunfire and rocket-propelled grenade attacks in the middle of the night.

The U.S. security team that arrived at the Benghazi airport after midnight was detained by Libyan officials for several hours. That delayed the evacuation, Ham said, and "allowed sufficient time for the second attack to be organized and conducted."

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During that attack, around 5 a.m., mortar fire killed two CIA security contractors on the roof and wounded other Americans.

Less than an hour later, the evacuation of all American personnel from Benghazi began.

Clinton's Potential 2016 Rival: We Can't 'Send Children Back to Death'

By Zeke Miller

July 11, 2014

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley broke publicly with President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary ClintonFriday, calling for a more humane policy toward the tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors who have illegally crossed into the United States.

"It is contrary to everything we stand for to try to summarily send children back to death," the Democratic lawmaker told reporters. O'Malley also criticized the "kennels" in which those who have been detained are being kept and calling for the children to be placed in "the least restrictive" locations, including foster homes or with family members in the U.S.

"Through all of the great world religions we are told that hospitality to strangers is an essential human dignity," O'Malley said. "It is a belief that unites all of us. And I have watched the pictures of young kids who have traveled for thousands of miles. I can only imagine, as a father of four, the heartbreak that those parents must have felt in sending their children across a desert where they can be muled and trafficked or used or killed or tortured. But with the hope, the hope, that they would reach the United States and that their children would be protected from what they were facing at home, which was the likelihood of being recruited into gangs and dying a violent death."

Speaking to reporters on the margins of the National Governors Association, O'Malley, who is weighing a bid for the Democratic nomination for president in 2016, declined to talk about his political future. Still, his response was a clear effort to distinguish himself from his leading rival and the incumbent president. Clinton told CNN last month that most of those detained should be sent back.

"They should be sent back as soon as it can be determined who responsible adults in their families are," she said. President Barack Obama said Wednesday that the parents of the migrants need to know that "it is unlikely that their children will be able to stay."

O'Malley went so far as to call the children "refugees," a term with legal weight that would allow most of them to remain in the U.S. He called on Congress and the President to avoid modifying the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008. That measure requires that children who are not from Canada or Mexico who have crossed the border to be given an opportunity to see an immigration judge to make their case for amnesty. Lawmakers on both sides, as well as the White House, are reviewing ways to amend that law to ease deportations of the tens of thousands of migrant children, who are largely from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

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O'Malley said "the whole world is watching" how the U.S. responds to the humanitarian crisis.

"We have to do right not just by these kids but by our kids and protect the children who are here, put them in the least restrictive settings, get them out of these detention centers and these kennels where they are being cooped up, and operate as the good and generous people that we have always been," he added.

"That's what's at stake here, as well as the lives of these kids."

Rubio: I can beat Hillary

By Rachel Huggins

July 11, 2014, 7:59 PM

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) believes he can beat Hillary Clinton in the race for the 2016 presidency.

"Multiple people can beat her. Hillary Clinton is not unbeatable," the GOP presidential hopeful told radio host Hugh Hewitt in an interview Friday.

When asked whether he's concerned about Clinton's extensive foreign policy background if he or another Republican candidate ran against her, Rubio quickly slammed the potential Democratic frontrunner.

"I'd ask her: You were the secretary of State during the first four years of the Obama administration, name one significant foreign policy achievement, now or after you left?", he said.

"The reset with Russia has been a disaster, the Middle East is more unstable today than it's been in I don't know when, our relationships with Latin America and democracy have deteriorated…our partners around the world view us as less reliable."

The Florida lawmaker also weighed in on Lebron James' surprise move back to the Cleveland Cavaliers after four seasons with the Miami Heat.

"I read the article he wrote in Sports Illustrated and it's actually very compelling. And I have a lot of respect," he said.

"The way I view it, he gave us four extraordinary years in Miami, a very special experience and on a personal note he allowed me, along with his teammates, to share with my sons memories they'll treasure for the rest of their lives."

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CBS News: Hillary Clinton's book sales barely edging out Ben Carson's

By Lindsey Boerma

July 11, 2014, 12:27 PM

It's not 2016 yet, but the early frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination and one favorite being ardently recruited by Republicans are already contending for the top spot - on the bookshelf.

Despite the hubbub surrounding the release last month of Hillary Clinton's memoir "Hard Choices," new data shows it's barely edging out Ben Carson's "One Nation" in book sales. Nielsen Bookscan figures provided to CBS News for the week ending July 6 show the former secretary of state clocking in at 177,000 copies sold; Carson has sold 162,000 copies.

"One Nation," released May 20, has been on the market about three weeks longer than Clinton's chronicle. But considering the discrepancy in name brand as well as the flourish and fanfare that led Clinton's ultimately tumultuous book tour out of the gate, the marginal sales gap is striking.

Simon & Schuster reportedly shelled out a $14 million advance for Clinton's account of her time at the State Department, which critics have largely written off as safe and "stodgy."

The figures are good news for Carson, the neurosurgeon credited as the first person to successfully separate twins conjoined at the head.

Carson saw his star rise in 2013, when he openly lashed out against President Obama while standing several feet away from him. Ever since, conservatives starved for diversity have been building the case for the African-American doctor as a grassroots option for a 2016 White House bid, going so far as to mount a "Draft Ben Carson" movement.

As for Clinton, who's been unsuccessfully fending off speculation that her book tour is merely a soft rollout for her own anticipated presidential run, the relatively sluggish sales could be an indicator that she's not quite the stimulating public figure she'll need to be if she expects to win the Oval Office.

Another, somewhat ironic, red flag: On Friday, "Hard Choices" was bumped from first to second place on the New York Times bestseller list by Edward Klein's "Blood Feud: The Clintons vs. the Obamas," a garish if sensational telling of the alleged tensions between Bill and Hillary Clinton and the current first family.

Huffington Post Blog: How the Republicans Could -- But Won't -- Beat Hillary Clinton in 2016

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By Lincoln Mitchell

July 11, 2014 2:21 PM

Hillary Clinton's increasingly likely candidacy for president in 2016 must be extremely frustrating for Republican strategists. Clinton is a strong candidate, but she is not invincible. If Clinton runs, she will face nominal opposition within her own party, but obviously a Republican will run against her. The most recent polls show her defeating any Republican challenger by between 7 to 9 points.

What makes Clinton's candidacy frustrating for Republicans is that while the formulas for beating her are relatively straightforward, the party is unable to implement them. Much of Clinton's strength comes from her support among white women, a constituency that Mitt Romney carried in 2012. Clinton does not, and probably will not, win a majority of these voters in 2016, but if she comes close, her victory will be all but certain.

The most obvious way to neutralize this advantage is for the Republicans to nominate a woman for president. Nominating a woman for president is something very different from finding a previously obscure female politician, putting her on the ticket at the last minute and hoping for the best. This is what John McCain did in 2008 and what the Republican nominee, whoever he is, will likely do in 2016. This strategy will not work against a Democratic ticket that will be led by a woman, particularly a woman with the experience and appeal of Hillary Clinton.

With the first primaries only about 18 months away, it is hard not to notice that there are no women in the field of likely Republican candidates for president. This reflects the failure of the Republican Party, over the last decade in particular to recruit and elect women to high level offices. For example, of the 20 women in the senate, only four are Republicans. Although there are four Republican governors who are women, none have made any indication of interest in the presidential race. Although a woman might provide the best chance for the Republicans to defeat Clinton, it is unlikely that a strong female candidate will emerge between now and the primary season, meaning that Clinton's vulnerability from another female candidate will almost certainly not be exploited by the Republicans in 2016.

Clinton's second vulnerability is not so much a vulnerability, but a potential Republican strength that is unlikely to be used in 2016. To win in 2016, the Republicans will have to get a lot of things right. One of these will be repositioning themselves by moving away from the far right on every issue and promoting a more libertarian brand of conservatism. There is increasing support among the American people for a less interventionist approach to foreign policy and a great deal of anger at the government that could be harnessed by the right conservative politician. These sentiments are particularly strong among younger voters.

The problem for the Republican Party is that they remain, at least on the surface, dominated by social conservatives. This, if left unchecked, will drag down the Republican Party regardless of its positions on the economy and foreign policy. The party of opposition to marriage equality, draconian drug laws, limiting access to contraception and abortion will have a very difficult time broadening its appeal, particularly among younger voters in 2016 or beyond.

It is unlikely that a Republican candidate will emerge who has the courage and resources to challenge the social conservatives who are so influential in the party. The only candidates among the front-runners who might be able to do this are Chris Christie and Jeb Bush who are, in the context of their peers, moderate Republicans, and Rand Paul. Paul's libertarian views, not surprisingly, do not extend to issues involving women's reproductive health. Christie and Bush will have to exhibit the kind of political courage that Romney could not summon, and take on the social conservatives during the primary season. If they don't do this, they will cede the center, on these issues, to Clinton.

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A woman or even a man with moderate views on social issues would be a formidable candidate against Clinton. In that campaign, Clinton's record would be scrutinized more vigorously because of the presence of a legitimate and viable opponent. Finding a candidate like that who at the very least could make a serious bid for the nomination should not be too difficult for the Republican Party, but this Republican Party will not be able to find such a candidate, very likely paving the way for a victory by a strong Democratic candidate, but one who is a creature of the political establishment and conventional policy thinking at a time when anti-government views are quite strong. This will be a missed opportunity for the Republicans, and probably a win for Clinton and the Democrats in 2016.

Clinton takes hit in NH poll, but still leads Dems

Mario Trujillo

July 11, 2014, 7:16 AM

Hillary Clinton remains the favorite for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination in the early primary state of New Hampshire — but her rating has dropped 15 percent since January, according to a new poll.

A Granite State/WMUR poll released Thursday found 59 percent of Democratic voters there prefer Clinton over other party contenders. That number stood at 74 percent in January, a drop that reflected in other recent polling.

Clinton, who has been making a series of media interviews to promote her new book, is still by far the favorite candidate on the Democratic side. Some 14 percent of Democrats prefer Vice President Biden, and 8 percent favor Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.).

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) receives 3 percent and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo receives 1 percent. Another 9 percent say they are undecided.

The race is much closer on the Republican end. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie leads, with 19 percent of Republicans saying they prefer him. He is trailed by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul (14 percent) and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (11 percent).

All other candidates receive less than 10 percent, including Florida Sen. Marco Rubio (8 percent).

Fifteen percent say they are undecided.

The poll surveyed 669 New Hampshire residents from June 19 to July 1. On the Democratic side, it has a margin of error of 6.1 percent. On the Republican side, it has a margin of error of 6.2 percent.

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From:	"Andrew Baumann" <ABaumann@gqrr.com>
To:	ic2008 <ic2008@gqrr.com> "Ana Iparraguirre" <anai@gqrr.com> "Bryan Fisher" <BFisher@gqrr.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Kristi Fuksa" <kfuksa@gqrr.com> "Paul Begala" <pbegala@hatcreekent.com> "Stan Greenberg" <sgreenberg@gqrr.com> "Susan McCue" <susan@one.org> "Tara McGuinness" <tara.mcguinness@gmail.com> "Tom Matzzie" <tom@zzranch.com>
Date:	2/20/2008 5:47:21 AM
Subject:	Joe Klein: McCain Soft on al Qaeda

In case anyone hasn't seen this, this was quite a piece by Joe Klein on Time.com today:

http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/02/mccain_soft_on_al_qaeda.html

McCain: Soft on Al Qaeda?

A curious passage from John McCain's victory speech last night:

"Or will we risk the confused leadership of **an inexperienced candidate who once suggested invading our ally, Pakistan,** and sitting down without pre-conditions or clear purpose with enemies who support terrorists and are intent on destabilizing the world by acquiring nuclear weapons?"

In time, I'm sure, Barack Obama will explain that any meetings with Iranian leaders will be fully prepped by staff in advance, including advance meetings at the ministerial level...but what about the first part of the quote? **Utter nonsense**. Here's what Obama actually said:

"I understand that President Musharraf has his own challenges. But let me make this clear. There are terrorists holed up in those mountains who murdered 3,000 Americans. They are plotting to strike again. It was a terrible mistake to fail to act when we had a chance to take out an Al Qaeda leadership meeting in 2005. If we have actionable intelligence about high-value terrorist targets and President Musharraf won't act, we will."

And, in fact, Obama was merely saying that he supported current U.S. policy. A month ago, for example, a bomb launched from a CIA predator drone killed the Al Qaeda leader Abu Laith al-Libi *in Pakistan*. Was McCain opposed to that?

The point is, McCain's loose, inaccurate talk continues a sad pattern he has shown on national security matters, particularly with regard to Iraq, where he is a loose cannon, firing off hot-button words like "victory" and "surrender"--words that his hero General David Petraeus has never and would never use. As it now stands, McCain believes that Iraq, where 150,000 U.S. troops are chasing after 3,500 Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia terrorists, is the "central front" in the war against terrorism--and he is on the record opposed to taking military action against the *real* Al Qaeda, which is actively working to destabilize Afghanistan, and Pakistan, and may be planning the next 9/11 in the mountains of Waziristan. Indeed, the election results in Pakistan this week may lead to further instability, perhaps a military coup, which could make U.S. action--action, not invasion--to root out Al Qaeda all the more necessary.

A central foreign policy discussion in the general election should be: Are our troops deployed appropriately to meet the threats we are facing? Should we have more in Afghanistan and fewer in Iraq? (McCain, like Bush, has already ceded his authority as Commander-in-Chief on that decision to Petraeus, whom, he says, should have the last word on troop levels in Iraq--an abdication of authority that raises deep questions about McCain's ability to conduct a coherent national security policy.)

In sum, John McCain, who claims to take national security seriously, made a foolish statement to score political points last night. At the very least, I hope he retracts it and joins Obama in the effort to defeat Al Qaeda.

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Andrew Baumann
Analyst

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www.greenbergresearch.com

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From: "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/10/2008 3:26:16 AM
Subject: [big campaign] NSN Daily Update: McCain's Bad Week on Foreign Policy

NSN Daily Update: John McCain's Bad Week on Foreign Policy

10/10/08

This week, John McCain's positions on critical foreign policy issues such as Iraq, Iran Afghanistan, and Pakistan have all been undermined by the assessments of our intelligence community and members of the military leadership. In a rejection of McCain's statements that "victory" in Iraq is near, reports indicate that a new National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) has found that security gains are precarious, and long-standing political and ethnic grievances could cause the country to erupt in violence. Moreover, in a speech this week, General David Petraeus contradicted McCain's positions on using our Iraq strategy in Afghanistan and on negotiating with our enemies. Even more damaging to McCain were troubling reports that a second NIE - this one on Afghanistan – will indicate a "downward spiral," further indicting McCain's previous neglect of the issue and his past remarks that it would be enough to "muddle through". Finally, in a damaging critique of the Senator's bellicosity toward Russia, former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Schultz cautioned that U.S. interests demanded a strong effort to ease tensions with a resurgent Russia. From his premature declarations of Victory in Iraq, to his plan to use the Iraq strategy in Afghanistan, to his refusal to engage with enemies, to his reckless, adversarial approach for dealing with Russia, this week found John McCain on the wrong side of every issue.

National Intelligence Estimate directly undermines McCain's premature proclamations of victory in Iraq. McCain has repeatedly declared victory in Iraq, saying in 2007 "we've succeeded militarily," and more recently that "victory in Iraq is finally in sight." But just this week, McClatchy reported that a new National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) warned "that unresolved ethnic and sectarian tensions in Iraq could unleash a new wave of violence, potentially reversing the major security and political gains achieved over the last year." "The findings seem to cast doubts on McCain's frequent assertions that the United States is "on a path to victory" in Iraq by underscoring the deep uncertainties of the situation despite the 30,000-strong U.S. troop surge for which he was the leading congressional advocate." [John McCain, 11/24/07 . John McCain, 8/17/08. McClatchy, 10/07/08]

Statements by General Petraeus undercut McCain. Earlier this week, General David Petraeus delivered a speech at the conservative Heritage Foundation that undermined several positions held by Senator McCain. Petraeus first undercut McCain's fervent support for using the "same strategy" in Afghanistan that was used in Iraq, by saying bluntly, "every situation is unique." "Petraeus also came out unambiguously in his talk at Heritage for opening communications with America's adversaries, a position McCain is attacking Obama for endorsing. Citing his Iraq experience, Petraeus said, 'You have to talk to enemies.'" Finally, on Pakistan, an area where McCain has criticized rival Barack Obama for stating his intention to strike at al-Qaeda safe-havens, Petraeus addressed "the need to 'take away and hold the strongholds and safe havens' possessed by Al Qaeda in Iraq during 2007 and 2008, saying that without doing so, the rest of the counterinsurgency strategy 'won't work.'" For McCain, who for months has "wrapped himself in the mantle" of General Petraeus, the speech was damaging." [Washington Independent, 10/8/08 . General David Petraeus, 10/08/08]

Grim Intelligence Estimate on Afghanistan warns of dire consequences of American neglect and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs agrees. Talking about Afghanistan Admiral Mullen said yesterday, "The trends across the board are not going in the right direction. . . I would anticipate next year would be a tougher year." A draft National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Afghanistan found that the country is in chaos. The deteriorating conditions addressed in the report extend well beyond those covered by John McCain's simplistic plan to apply the Iraq strategy to Afghanistan. Beyond the escalation of extremist attacks, the report assesses "that many of Afghanistan's most vexing problems are of the country's own making," according to intelligence officials. "[R]ampant corruption within the government of President Hamid Karzai" and "the destabilizing impact of the booming heroin trade, which by some estimates accounts for 50 percent of Afghanistan's economy" have contributed to the deteriorating situation. Afghanistan's "downward spiral" is a direct result of the Bush Administration's obsession with Iraq, a fixation John McCain bolstered when he said in 2001 that "nobody threatens us in Afghanistan," and when he declared in 2003 that we could afford to "muddle through." [NY Times, 10/9/08]

Kissinger-Shultz op-ed contradicts McCain's confrontational approach toward Russia. Following the Russia-Georgia Crisis, John McCain adopted an aggressive posture toward Russia, steadily ratcheting up the rhetoric of confrontation. Instantly taking sides, saying "we are all Georgians," McCain escalated tensions further by calling the affair the most "serious crisis internationally since the end of the Cold War**."** In the weeks that followed, his running-mate

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appeared willing to risk war with Russia, and both Presidential debates featured McCain using cold-war language, saying that the country has "basically a KGB apparatchik-run government." This bellicosity was rejected this week by McCain's own advisor, Henry Kissinger, who, in an op-ed written with fellow former Secretary of State George Shultz, argued: "This drift toward confrontation must be ended. However appropriate as a temporary device for showing our concern, isolating Russia is not a sustainable long-range policy. It is neither feasible nor desirable to isolate a country adjoining Europe, Asia and the Middle East and possessing a stockpile of nuclear weapons comparable to that of the United States." [John McCain, 8/12/08. John McCain, 8/14/08 . Sarah Palin, 9/11/08. John McCain, 9/26/08 . John McCain, 10/07/08 . Henry Kissinger and George Shultz, 10/08/08]

Quick Hits

Global stock markets "dive ," down almost 10% and the U.S. market was down dramatically at the opening bell today. President Bush will meet with G-7 finance ministers at the White House tomorrow, ahead of scheduled IMF and World Bank meetings next week, to consider a global solution to the crisis. Iceland continues to collapse.

Amid the financial crisis, **the defense industry starts to worry about cutbacks**.

Former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari won the Nobel Peace Prize for years of "for his important efforts in several continents and over three decades to resolve international conflicts." In 2007 Ahtisaari started negotiations between Sunni and Shia factions in Iraq , spearheading the drive to political reconciliation.

At the deadline for the withdrawal of Russian forces from the buffer zones around the Georgian separatist provinces, the drawback is "not complete," but France's Foreign Minister "did not criticize the Russians and seemed generally happy with [the] progress made."

The United States appears to be preparing to remove North Korea from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, hoping to halt the breakdown of negotiations over the North Korean nuclear program.

Two former military intercept officers separately alleged that the NSA is inappropriately eavesdropping on the conversations of Americans abroad, including aid workers, and wasting resources that were intended to target terrorists.

IAEA inspectors are investigating whether a Russian scientist provided nuclear aid to Iran.

Baghdad's blast walls are being torn down, opening commerce and the "most visible sign of fundamental change" toward peace in Baghdad.

However, a roadside bomb killed a Shiite legislator in Baghdad, a member of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's political movement. Sadr's supporters blame the United States for the attack.

Cindy McCain denied that Senator John McCain ever suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms, saying "Oh, no, no, no, no, no. My husband, he'd be the first one to tell you that he was trained to do what he was doing. **The guys who had the trouble were the 18-year-olds who were drafted**."

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From: "King & Spalding" <update@kslawmail.com>
To: "Odesta, Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 1/19/2016 6:23:42 AM
Subject: King & Spalding Client Alert: Implementation Day Arrives For Iran Agreement

KING & SPALDING

Client Alert

International Trade & Litigation Practice Group

Implementation Day Arrives For Iran Agreement

On January 16, 2016, the International Atomic Energy Agency ("IAEA") announced that Iran has fully implemented its nuclear-related commitments described under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action ("JCPOA") bringing about Implementation Day under the agreement. The JCPOA is an agreement between the EU, the P5+1 countries (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany) and Iran under which the EU and the P5+1 countries provided Iran sanctions relief in exchange for commitments from Iran to scale back its nuclear program. Implementation Day, the second stage of the JCPOA, obligates the United States and the EU to cease the application of a number of nuclear-related sanctions against Iran. More »

Contact(s)

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Mark T. Wasden
Jane Y. Cohen
Shannon Doyle Barna
Marcus Sohlberg

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date:	6/1/2015 4:34:46 AM
Subject:	June 1 Morning Cable News Roundup
Attachments:	6.1.15 Morning Cable News.docx

Document attached, 2016 highlights below:

CNN's *New Day:* CNN reported extensively on the expiration of key provisions in the Patriot Act this past Sunday, and discussed Rand Paul's role in forcing that expiration. CNN quoted the White House, other Senate Republicans, and interviewed Angus King. Coverage seemed mostly negative of Rand Paul in the early segments. CNN also reported on John Kerry's biking injury, and that he might be unable to participate in key nuclear talks with Iran, and coordinating meetings with allies against ISIS. CNN also mentioned Dennis Haskert's indictment, and Beau Biden's death. Inside Politics focused mainly on Rand Paul successfully forcing key provisions of the Patriot Act to expire: coverage was very critical of Paul, suggesting he was using the Senate floor merely as a way to promote his presidential campaign and raise money. Pundits also discussed Lindsay Graham entering the Presidential race, and O'Malley's inability to outdraw Bernie Sanders in Iowa, and his inability to whip up enthusiasm among Iowa voters so far.

Fox News' *Fox and Friends:* Phone call with Donald Trump; Trump said Rand Paul got his way; Trump said he didn't know if security was going to be better or not better; Trump said he didn't trust our government unless we were encountering a security situation; Kilmeade pointed out that Paul was blending being a Senator and being a candidate; Trump said what Paul was doing was not politically popular; Trump said he was going to be announcing his 2016 decision on June 16; Trump said his best trait would be security. Report on the Senate's failure to reach a deal on the Patriot Act; used footage of Rand Paul speaking on the Senate floor about the Patriot Act on Sunday; interviewed Mike Huckabee; Huckabee said it was a reflection of a dysfunctional environment in Washington; Huckabee said the President should have engaged; conversation shifted to Paul; Huckabee said that you should do the job you have – and if you want another job then quit your job and pursue the other job; Huckabee refused to impugn Paul, said Paul's been consistent on privacy; Huckabee said the Freedom Act passed by the House was better than the Patriot Act.

MSNBC's *Morning Joe:* Lindsay Graham is running for president and is launching it later today. He is down in the polls and his home state papers questioned his chances. He comes from the other side of the party as Rand Paul which shows how divided the party is. Martin O'Malley announced his presidential run this weekend as well. Showed footage from announcement of O'Malley saying the president of Goldman Sachs said he'd be okay with Bush or Clinton "royal families." Report stating that Bernie Sanders got a massive turnout in Minneapolis while he's facing questions about a controversial essay he wrote in 1972. New Bloomberg poll shows HRC at 57%, Sanders at 16% and Walker at 17% in the lead although he is still not an official candidate. Hunt says Sanders may prove to be the perfect "protest candidate" and is more trouble to HRC than people realize. Panel said they would not be surprised to see a poll closer to Iowa Caucus with Sanders in single digits of HRC.

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From: "Tom Matzzie" <tom@zzranch.com>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/23/2008 3:16:47 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Dallas Billionaire, McCain bundler, is anti-Obama group's backer

http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0808/Dallas_Billionaire_McCain_donor_is_antiObama_groups_backer.html

August 22, 2008
Categories: Barack Obama

Dallas Billionaire, McCain bundler, is anti-Obama group's backer

The spokesman for the American Issues Project , the independent group whose ad is the most negative of the cycle and links Obama to terrorism, says the group just filed a report naming its sole donor.

The donor, spokesman Christian Pinkston said, is Dallas billionaire Harold Simmons, who made his first fortune in chain pharmacies and is now listed as the 73rd richest person in the world, with a net worth estimated by Forbes at $2.1 billion.

Simmons, a major Republican donor, gave maximum $2,300 contributions to Senator John McCain last year, as well as to former Governor Mitt Romney and to former Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

He's listed as a bundler for the McCain campaign on McCain's website , which says he's raised between $50,000 and $100,000 for the Republican candidate.

He's also contributed to Rep. Chet Edwards, the Texas Democrat who has been mentioned as a possible Obama running mate.

Simmons was reportedly a major donor to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth in 2004.

He's also a backer of a controversial plan to store nuclear waste in West Texas, which his waste management company would administer.

By Ben Smith 05:27 PM

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 4:56:46 PM
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

Yeah
Suggested we try to add in a few without junking it up

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:55 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

I wonder if we should try a version of the DMR spot with our endorsement groups too. Planned Parenthood, HRC, Labor, LCV, Gabby Giffords etc -- something that gives a big sense of momentum

I think these groups actually have more impact on voters than the DMR (a lot of good they did us in 2008!)

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >
To: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; David Dixon <david@dixondavismedia.com >; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com >; John Rimel <john.rimel@gmmb.com >; jandrews <jandrews@jacompany.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Sent: Sat, Jan 23, 2016 6:40 pm
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

You're such a nice guy Anzo .... But yeah probably right

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:23 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

I would let that part go. I think it is more insulting than helpful for our message contrast.

John Anzalone
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
334-387-3121. Office
@AnzaloneLiszt

On Jan 23, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

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DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Programthat provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more fromher on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

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Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.



Buy Photo

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

Buy Photo

Fullscr









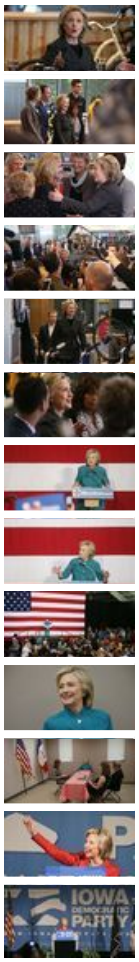
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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <events@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	7/26/2015 10:15:04 AM
Subject:	Upcoming Events: Sen. Cotton on the Iran Nuclear Deal, Maritime Security Challenges, and more

From: "The Navajo Nation" <summitinfo@navajobusiness.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/25/2016 4:47:49 PM
Subject: Request for Economic Development Bids

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Location: TWIN ARROWS CASINO RESORT

Twin Arrows Navajo Casino

22181 Resort Blvd, Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Contact: 928.817.6547/6544 (Virgie)

www.navajobusiness.com

www.discovernavajo.com

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Window Rock, AZ | 86515 US

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/4/2014 1:00:27 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday December 4, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday December 4, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Roll Call: Burns Strider: Attacking Hillary's Strengths: Lame Duck GOP Oughta Take a Holiday Break

"Clinton's decision-making process is demonstrative of the leadership she will bring to our presidency if she decides to run: thoughtful, critical and with the best interest of our country in her heart. We know this because she has approached her entire lifetime of public service in such a manner."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Pro-Clinton group hits back against paid speeches attacks"

"The memo, from Correct the Record executive director Isaac Wright, indicates that some Clinton supporters feel the need to respond to the talk of Clinton's speaking fees and travel requirements."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "As Hillary Clinton ponders 2016, Clinton-themed super PACs seek a piece of the action"

Adrienne Elrod: "Organizations in support of Hillary Clinton and her vision of how to move our country forward have come together organically in an unprecedented and united front,' she said in a statement. 'The right wing has certainly made early and intense efforts to dissuade her from running, because they know that Hillary Clinton's focus on advancing the middle class and moving our country forward is one that excites Americans."

Washington Post: Mary Landrieu, Deep South's last Senate Democrat, must fend for herself

"Landrieu's only reinforcements have come from some modest ad buys by a handful of groups, and some individual fundraising efforts, including one in New York on Monday headlined by former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton."

Associated Press: "Obama, Hillary Clinton 'catch up' in Oval Office"

“The White House says Obama and Clinton met for about an hour in the Oval Office ‘to catch up and enjoy an informal discussion on a wide range of issues.’ The White House did not say which issues were discussed.”

Politico: “Clinton in the void”

“In 2006, when Clinton last prepared for an almost-certain campaign, she was a sitting senator with existing infrastructure and the predictable rhythms that come with a legislative office. This time, her circumstances are different.”

Washington Examiner: “Journalists claim 'Hillary fatigue,' but keep asking if she'll run”

“Richard Grenell, a media critic and former foreign policy adviser to 2012 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, told the Examiner that the Clinton ‘fatigue’ is a product of the culture among the Washington, D.C., press corps. ‘The D.C. political media is insular, parochial and functioning like a high school clique these days,’ Grenell said. ‘Regardless of whether or not they are bored with Hillary Clinton, they should grow up and do their job by treating her like a serious candidate. Hillary Clinton deserves their respect and serious attention, as does anyone who runs for office.’”

Politico: “#Hillary, #TedCruz rule social media”

“Social media has no doubt who the most buzzworthy potential presidential candidates are at the moment for 2016: Hillary Clinton and Ted Cruz together accounted for 40 percent of the discussion on Facebook and nearly half — 47 percent — of mentions on Twitter among 10 top presidential possibilities in the past three months, according to new data provided to POLITICO by Facebook and Twitter.”

Washington Post: “Hillary Clinton appears to support U.S.-secured civilian havens in Syria”

“Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday appeared to back the imposition of civilian refuge zones inside Syria, as the White House considers whether to enforce havens for rebel fighters or refugees.”

CNN: “Hillary Clinton's 2016 announcement date a moving target”

“If you feel like you've been hearing different dates about when Hillary Clinton will announce her run for the presidency, it's not just you.”

Associated Press: “Ex-Va. Dem Sen. Webb to decide soon on 2016 race”

“At the AP event, Webb declined to comment on Clinton or the role she could play in a Democratic primary. But he said his own experiences in the Senate, the military and leadership roles ‘have helped me understand the issues in a way that I believe I could effectively lead.’ ‘I just don't want to be seen as attacking Hillary Clinton,’ Webb said in an interview with The AP following the question-and-answer session with reporters.”

The Daily Beast: “Is Gay Marriage Going Away in 2016?”

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"Christie, Walker, and Paul have all argued that the marriage issue is one better left to the states. Their position is identical to the one held by Hillary Clinton, a fact that delights Gregory T. Angelo, the head of the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay rights GOP group."

Washington Post column: Dana Milbank: "Hillary Clinton has lost that 'new car' smell"

"There was nothing new-car in Wednesday's appearance, where Clinton gave a brief exposition on her 'smart power' theme and often lapsed into the bureaucratic and the banal."

Articles:

Roll Call: Burns Strider: Attacking Hillary's Strengths: Lame Duck GOP Oughta Take a Holiday Break

By Burns Strider
Dec. 4, 2014, 5 a.m.

The holiday season has arrived and Americans are decorating trees, taking toys for their children out of layaway and planning holiday parties. Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will be celebrating the holidays for the first time with her brand new grandbaby. 'Tis the season for family, reflection and worship. Republican operatives, though, are busy attacking Hillary Clinton. They are stuffing their stockings with hopes that Clinton will decide not to run for president.

They oughta take a holiday break.

Clinton's decision-making process is demonstrative of the leadership she will bring to our presidency if she decides to run: thoughtful, critical and with the best interest of our country in her heart. We know this because she has approached her entire lifetime of public service in such a manner.

She deserves and requires the space to make this decision on her own. And, really, the American people deserve this type of thoughtful and sincere leadership.

But the right wing has set itself to attacking her during this lame-duck session of Congress following the midterm elections and the new Republican congressional majorities.

Potential Republican presidential candidates, including those in Congress, are attempting to disparage Clinton's enduring and resilient strengths. The right wing is propping up lines of attack attempting to tear down Clinton's message of renewing American upward mobility. These attacks, which lack any substance, derive from their fear of Clinton's ability to connect to the middle class and their lack of any coherent message.

Clinton's passion for ensuring the American dream is alive and well for every person comes from her own personal journey and fundamental understanding that opportunity and upward mobility must be real in the lives of Americans. The approaching Republican Congress would do quite well to join in this message instead of unleashing its hounds with more petty, partisan politics.

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Clinton made 45 campaign stops for Democrats in the last 60 days before the 2014 election. She proudly fought for and stood with Democrats in every region of our nation because she believes in her fellow Democrats and embraces the values and principles of the Democratic Party as being distinctly good for America, distinctly American.

With so many people excited about a potential Clinton presidential run, the crowds at her events were huge. More importantly, Clinton's message and commitment to building a strong middle class, where work is rewarded with opportunity, resonated. Women, for example, supported Democrats more in 2014 than they did in 2010, and in many states — including Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire and North Carolina — the increase in women's support for Democratic candidates occurred after Clinton campaigned for those candidates.

Americans know her mission is one of empowering families, valuing our communities and making the American Dream real for every single citizen. Hillary Clinton works hard, stands up for families and communities, seeks common ground for the common good and believes in a Democratic Party that is empowered to be as strong and good as the America we all want to build.

Clinton will make a decision based on what is best for her family and her country; for our future. Americans applaud real leadership like this. And, as is the usual case, our fellow Americans are correct.

'Tis the season for hope.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Pro-Clinton group hits back against paid speeches attacks"

By Peter Sullivan

December 3, 2014, 2:22 p.m. EST

A pro-Clinton group is hitting back against a focus on Hillary Clinton's paid speeches and lifestyle, arguing that she is in fact a champion of the middle class.

The memo, from Correct the Record executive director Isaac Wright, indicates that some Clinton supporters feel the need to respond to the talk of Clinton's speaking fees and travel requirements.

"It is important, now more than ever, not to cede one of Clinton's greatest strengths—her passion for advancing the middle class and renewing American upward mobility—to the right-wing talking points factory and its efforts to sow seeds of mistrust on the left," the memo states.

Clinton has faced scrutiny over paid speeches and the travel requirements around them. The Washington Post reported last week on the details of Clinton's speech to UCLA in March, where she was paid $300,000, a sum that went to the philanthropic Clinton Foundation.

The report detailed that Clinton's staff had detailed requirements, rejecting the podium the university first planned to use and calling for hummus and sliced fruit backstage.

BuzzFeed reported last month that Democrats spent at least $700,000 to fly Clinton on a private jet to her midterm campaign appearances this year.

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Conservative groups like America Rising PAC have seized on these reports to paint Clinton as out of touch, and the narrative could fuel calls on the left for a more populist candidate like Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

"The right wing is propping up lines of attack on Clinton's speaking engagements and other points in an attempt to tear down Hillary Clinton's message of renewing American upward mobility," the memo states. "This is a classic Karl Rove strategy of attacking an individual's strength, rather than a weakness."

A major question ahead of a likely Clinton campaign is what her central message will be. The memo points to Clinton's "emerging themes of economic opportunity and advancing the middle class."

It points to Clinton's work on expanding health insurance as first lady, and support for measures like raising the minimum wage and progressive tax policies as a senator.

"Hillary Clinton was raised in a middle-class, suburban home in Illinois," the memo states, pointing to a life story that Clinton herself also highlighted on the midterm campaign trail.

In June, after Clinton came under fire for saying she was "dead broke" upon leaving the White House, former President Bill Clinton defended her.

"She's not out of touch," he said.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "As Hillary Clinton ponders 2016, Clinton-themed super PACs seek a piece of the action"

By Matea Gold

December 4, 2014, 7:00 a.m. EST

Hillary Rodham Clinton may not yet be ready to announce whether she'll launch a bid for the White House in 2016 just yet, but a growing crowd of political operatives are ready to to get in on the action of her expected candidacy right now.

Along with high-profile outside groups being run by Clinton allies such as Priorities USA Action and Ready for Hillary, there are more than a dozen other Clinton-specific super PACs registered with the Federal Election Commission – including three set up in the past six weeks.

Most have raised paltry sums or have not filed finance reports, but several are pulling in sizable donations and mobilizing supporters in support of -- or opposition to -- her potential presidential bid. Some have launched slick websites and started selling Clinton-themed merchandise, giving them the trappings of other well-established groups.

Their independent activities could contribute to a chaotic political environment for Clinton, who as a candidate would not be able to coordinate with super PACs working on her behalf.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill declined to comment.

The expanding cottage industry of pro-Clinton super PACs includes groups such as Faith Voters for Hillary, Hillary 2016 and Hillarypac.

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The latest entrant, Stand With Hillary, says it will use social media to promote her image with Latinos and working families.

The California-based group is the project of Daniel Chavez, a longtime Democratic political operative, and media producer Miguel Orozco, who wrote a series of Latin-flavored songs celebrating Barack Obama in the 2008 election.

The super PAC's Web site features a three-minute music video of a country ballad called "Stand With Hillary," written by Orozco. In the video, a young cowboy plays guitar and gazes lovingly at his wife and young daughter, as images of Clinton through the years flash by. At one point, he sings, "Let's smash this ceiling," and takes a sledgehammer to a large glass panel spray-painted with "2016."

Chavez, who worked as a field organizer for Clinton's 2008 campaign, said that he was inspired to start the super PAC by his wife and 32-year-old daughter, who are both also huge Clinton fans.

"She motivates my daughter to look for greater avenues to have a voice — that kind of inspiration is priceless," he said.

Chavez said he also supports groups such as Ready for Hillary, but wanted to have his own venture.

"I'm pretty independent in how I like to work," he said. "We just thought we could control our message."

The operatives behind some of the other new Clinton-themed groups remain a mystery.

On its website, Blue Answer calls itself "a rapid-response communications PAC" set up by "a team of experienced marketing and communications professionals" to "combat the lies being spread by the conservative media."

Its only apparent project is "Hillary Today" — a page featuring a large photo of Clinton and a request for supporters to donate between $20 and $500.

"Your contribution will be used to reach thousands of people and to help get Hillary elected," says a statement on the donation page.

The super PAC's treasurer, Jennifer May, declined to comment on who is running the group and what it plans to do. Blue Answer's founders did not respond to requests for comment The Washington Post relayed through May.

Blue Answer appears to be trying to fashion itself as a version of Correct the Record, a project of the Democratic super PAC American Bridge.

Adrienne Elrod, a spokeswoman for Correct the Record, declined to comment on the new group.

"Organizations in support of Hillary Clinton and her vision of how to move our country forward have come together organically in an unprecedented and united front," she said in a statement. "The right wing has certainly made early and intense efforts to dissuade her from running, because they know that Hillary Clinton's focus on advancing the middle class and moving our country forward is one that excites Americans."

A large share of the early super PAC activity hasn't sprung from Clinton's supporters -- it's being driven by the deep animosity on the right toward the former Secretary of State. A new group, Veterans Against Hillary, was formed on Nov. 25, set up by a well-known GOP political compliance firm based in Georgia.

"There is nothing better for the conservative movement than Hillary Clinton, because she is such a robustly disliked character," said Dan Backer, a Republican campaign finance attorney who is helping run one of the biggest anti-Clinton groups, Stop Hillary PAC.

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The super PAC, which formed last year, has raised $1 million so far and says it has a database of 600,000 activists.

“Our whole focus has been to build a massive digital army to keep her from getting the nomination or winning the election,” Backer said.

Washington Post: Mary Landrieu, Deep South’s last Senate Democrat, must fend for herself

By Sean Sullivan and Karen Tumulty
December 3, 2014

BATON ROUGE — There remains the formality of a runoff election on Saturday — but as far as the national Democratic Party is concerned, three-term Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana is presumed dead.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee canceled its plans to buy ads and is not lifting a finger — or writing a check — to save her. Nor are any of the heavy-hitting Democratic outside groups.

“I am extremely disappointed,” she said Tuesday of the DSCC’s decision. “You know, they just walked away from this race.”

So with the odds stacked heavily against her, Landrieu soldiers on virtually alone — this year’s political equivalent of those holdout Japanese infantrymen who were discovered waging war on remote Pacific islands decades after World War II had ended.

“The political true bloods have moved on to 2016,” said Brad Dayspring, a spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

It wasn’t supposed to be this way. There was a time when both parties thought control of the Senate might hinge on the results of the Bayou State runoff election.

But whatever happens Saturday will not change the balance of power on Capitol Hill. By comfortably winning a majority on Election Day, Republicans turned the contest between Landrieu and her challenger, Republican congressman Bill Cassidy, from a campaign firefight into a footnote.

And whether she wins or loses, her Energy Committee chairmanship — the gavel she touted as Exhibit A of her indispensability to this oil-producing state — will be handed to the Republicans in January.

Emphasizing her clout as a chairman “was a short-sighted strategy, and when it was removed, they were left with nothing,” Dayspring said.

Her expected defeat would mark the end of an era. Landrieu — whose father is a former mayor of New Orleans and whose brother is the current one — is the last statewide Democratic elected official in Louisiana, a state her party once was presumed to own in perpetuity. If she loses, there will be no Democratic senator from the Deep South in the new Congress.

Landrieu’s home-state supporters are doing their best to gin up enthusiasm.

“It’s the fourth quarter!” bellowed Louis Reine, a feisty union leader rallying support for Landrieu as dusk settled over this city Tuesday evening. “We’re on the 10-yard line! We have a great quarterback! Will you call in the reserves? Will you get the team on the field?”

Landrieu dropped her right arm back and brought it forward as if to throw a football down the field. Supporters assembled steps from City Hall that crisp evening cheered her on.

But national Democrats speak — not for attribution, of course— as though they have already left the field and headed for the locker room. Their dispirited donors, they say, are tapped out and unwilling to open their wallets for a lost cause.

All along, Landrieu’s biggest hurdle has been the political climate, which helped the Republicans take eight other Democratic-held Senate seats.

Party strategists also fault her campaign for disregarding advice from Washington and spending virtually all of its war chest on the November election, in hopes of avoiding a runoff. She got just over 42 percent of the vote in the eight-candidate field — eight percentage points shy of the showing she needed to win outright.

Now Cassidy is expected to consolidate most of the support of those who voted for the other six candidates.

Turnout could also be a problem for the Democrat. African American voters supported Landrieu overwhelmingly in the Nov. 4 all-party primary. But early-voting tallies suggest that the electorate will be whiter and more conservative in the runoff.

The DSCC canceled its reservations for ad time in Louisiana shortly after the Nov. 4 sweep. Senate Majority PAC, which spent millions trying to save Democrats, has not run a single spot in the runoff. Landrieu’s only reinforcements have come from some modest ad buys by a handful of groups, and some individual fundraising efforts, including one in New York on Monday headlined by former secretary of state Hillary Rodham

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Clinton.

Though Republicans have also scaled back their efforts in Louisiana — in their case, a sign of confidence — Landrieu is still being heavily outspent.

Pro-Cassidy groups are on pace to air more than $5.65 million worth of ads in the runoff, including more than $1.4 million from the National Republican Senatorial Committee, records show.

An analysis of data by Kantar Media/CMAG for the Center for Public Integrity found that outside groups allied with Cassidy have put up about 6,000 ads during the runoff period. That compares with fewer than 100 by those supporting Landrieu, whose most active supporter has been the Humane Society Legislative Fund.

The lack of a national rallying cry has driven Landrieu to frame the race as a local contest, highlighting her record on jobs, education and disaster relief.

At a sun-soaked rally across the Mississippi River from New Orleans on Tuesday morning, with the sound of pile drivers echoing in the background, Landrieu's standard stump speech — delivered partly in the past tense — seemed to sound an almost elegiac note. "It has been my joy to represent you, to fight for you and to win for you in Washington," she said.

"When we heard that the national Democratic Party pulled out, it really kind of stunned us," said Harriet Jones of Baton Rouge, who backs Landrieu. "When we thought about it, we thought, you know, they've just given up on us. It's disappointing."

On her own, Landrieu has flailed, veering from one issue to another. Last month, she spearheaded a push to pass a measure pressuring President Obama to construct the Keystone XL pipeline. It fell short in the Senate by one vote thanks to her own party's opposition. But it passed in the House, where Cassidy's name was strategically attached to it.

More recently, Landrieu has been hammering Cassidy over his work as a part-time physician and teacher at Louisiana State University. After a local blog revealed details about Cassidy's time sheets that raised questions about the amount of time he put in and whether it overlapped with congressional work, LSU said it would look into the matter. Cassidy, who has kept a lower profile than Landrieu in the final week of the race, has denied wrongdoing.

In contrast with Landrieu, he has leaned heavily on a less muddy — and more potent — line of attack: He has tied Landrieu to Obama, using the same argument that helped propel Republicans to victory across the country.

"Senator Landrieu represents Barack Obama. I represent you," he said Monday at the candidates' final debate.

According to Nov. 4 exit polling, Obama's job approval rating in Louisiana was just 39 percent. Fifty-nine percent of voters disapproved.

In response, Landrieu has tried to strike a tricky balance between distancing her candidacy from the president and defending him.

"This isn't about whether you like Bill Clinton as president or George Bush as president or Barack Obama as president," she told reporters.

Yet Landrieu has also run a radio ad geared at African American voters who support Obama that suggests Republicans would try to impeach the president if Cassidy wins — an idea GOP leaders have not embraced.

This week, Landrieu accused Cassidy of being "disrespectful" to Obama. Asked what she meant by that, Landrieu said: "He refers to him by his last name. Constantly."

She added: "If you are going to refer to the president of the United States, he's at least earned the title that the people gave him when they elected him."

If an unpopular president has brought her to this lonely moment, Landrieu is making a long-shot bet that he might help pull her through it.

Associated Press: "Obama, Hillary Clinton 'catch up' in Oval Office"

[No Writer Mentioned]

December 3, 2014, 5:20 p.m. EST

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama has met privately at the White House with his former secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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The White House says Obama and Clinton met for about an hour in the Oval Office "to catch up and enjoy an informal discussion on a wide range of issues." The White House did not say which issues were discussed.

Obama and Clinton have met occasionally since she left the administration shortly after the 2012 election. Wednesday's meeting comes as Clinton is weighing a decision on whether to pursue another bid for the White House. She lost the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination to Obama.

Obama recently said Clinton would make a "great president" but added that he thought Americans would want a "new car smell" in the 2016 election.

Politico: "Clinton in the void"

By Maggie Haberman

December 3, 2014, 5:46 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] She faces a challenge in how to spend her time before a 2016 decision

She's not going to announce her 2016 plans for at least another six weeks — possibly longer.

So the question for Hillary Clinton has become how to fill the space between the midterms, when she made dozens of appearances on behalf of embattled Democrats, and the launch of her own presidential campaign, should she decide to run.

Clinton's camp clearly hopes to delay the window in which she is treated like a candidate. But with a sprawling shadow campaign effort in effect for more than 18 months, Clinton will be viewed through a political lens regardless.

The tension she faces was on display Wednesday at Georgetown University, where the former secretary of state delivered a brief speech on "smart power" at the Institute for Women, Peace and Security, which she founded three years earlier.

The theme of the appearance wove Clinton's work at the State Department into her infamous 1995 speech on women's rights at a United Nations conference in Beijing. Her work on the No Ceilings project at the Clinton Foundation, a massive data-gathering effort to document women's participation globally, was also referenced.

But the appearance was announced only a few days ahead of time and came during the last week of classes for the semester, and Gaston Hall, where she has spoken before and has packed the room, was barely half-full. Republicans seized on pictures of the empty balcony during her speech.

Clinton delivered a short address, then engaged in a brief question-and-answer session with her close adviser and friend, Melanne Verveer, who is the executive director of the institute, and another speaker. Overall, Clinton's comments and the event broke little new ground at a time when she has been avoiding making news.

The Georgetown event fell two days after Clinton was the featured speaker at a League of Conservation Voters dinner in Manhattan, where her sweeping speech on the environment was largely pleasing to the audience, but covered no new ground and was similar to a speech she gave about energy in Las Vegas in September.

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Taken together, the two events highlighted the challenge Clinton faces in this stretch of time: She's a non-elected official who is still viewed as an incumbent. And while she became deeply political again in the fall due to the midterms, she is downshifting back into neutral territory now as her own likely campaign has been pushed into early next year.

People close to Clinton stress that although she is expected to run for president, she hasn't firmly made a decision. But not being a candidate has meant, for instance, that there have been relatively few calls for her to comment on issues dominating headlines, like the grand jury decisions in fatal cases involving unarmed black men and police in New York and Missouri.

But in 2006, when Clinton last prepared for an almost-certain campaign, she was a sitting senator with existing infrastructure and the predictable rhythms that come with a legislative office. This time, her circumstances are different.

It's like watching the movie theater employee in charge of the projector try to entertain the audience while changing the film reels.

"This is the first such institute of its kind at a leading American university," said Clinton, adding that the goal was to make women "fully integrated into the process of making peace and keeping peace."

Women "are not just victims of conflict, they are agents of peace and agents of change," she said.

"Smart power" was Clinton's organizing principle while she was secretary of state, and it's a theme she's explored many times since leaving Foggy Bottom.

But the event felt much more like those Clinton held in her early days after leaving State than those she's held in the last six months, when she answered questions about the news of the day at a string of interviews promoting her book, "Hard Choices."

On Wednesday, she took two questions from students that had been written down ahead of time.

She discussed issues such as the military situation in Ukraine. In her speech, she mostly spoke without looking at her notes. She was late, beginning about 20 minutes after the anticipated start time because of what were described as "weather delays."

Washington Examiner: "Journalists claim 'Hillary fatigue,' but keep asking if she'll run"

By Eddie Scarry

December 3, 2014, 2:48 p.m. EST

Many in the political news media are suffering from "Hillary fatigue," they say. Then they sit up and type out a story or do a TV hit speculating when she'll announce her 2016 intentions.

It's proving to be a cycle that serves as a placeholder until former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton officially declares or declines her candidacy.

Jonathan Capehart, a liberal columnist for the Washington Post, believes that to be the case. "The media is tired of her because they've been talking about Hillary 2016 since the day after the Obama 2012 re-election," he told the Washington Examiner. "We won't know if the general public is tired of Clinton until she officially announces. And that's still a big if."

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The latest CNN poll shows Clinton remains a clear favorite among U.S. adults who describe themselves as Democrats or who lean Democratic. Support for her potential candidacy is at 65 percent. At a distant second is Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts with 10 percent.

“If Clinton's book tour is a prologue, then we know there will be renewed interest,” Capehart added.

A recurring pattern is for an individual commentator or journalist to write or talk about Clinton shortly before or after mentioning the “fatigue.”

In his latest column, Politico’s Roger Simon says, “Hillary needs to announce for the presidency. Soon. The media have moved from Hillary fatigue to Hillary exhaustion, and this is not helping her.”

That comes four months after he said that Clinton is “not comfortable in her own skin.” And three months after he wrote on “why Hillary hates Iowa.” And just two months after listing “four things Hillary can do to win” in 2016.

“Three columns in two months does not seem a lot to me when it comes to Hillary Clinton,” Simon told the Examiner. “In any case, I don't shy away from a subject because of how many columns I have done on it in the past.”

He admitted, though, that the news media “play a role” in Clinton fatigue. “But Clinton's book tour, her speeches around the country, and now her plans for a listening tour are all designed to generate attention.”

Donny Deutsch, a regular talking head on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” said in late October there’s “Hillary fatigue” across the nation. The next month on the same show, he advised how Clinton should run her potential 2016 campaign (“[W]hen you're on top, run it as if you're going out of business”).

As far back as summer 2013, CBS Political News Director John Dickerson said, “the issue lurking behind Clinton drama is really one of Clinton fatigue.”

After Clinton’s memoir Hard Choices came out, Dickerson wrote a column dissecting the book as if it were a 2016 pamphlet: “As a campaign document, 'Hard Choices' presents the picture of a methodical, hardworking public servant.”

That’s not to say there hasn’t been a saturation of Clinton coverage since last year. The New York Times in August 2013 appointed reporter Amy Chozick as its full-time correspondent covering the Clintons, “particularly Hillary.”

Politico has its own de facto Clinton correspondent in Maggie Haberman. Eight of her most recent 10 stories are about Clinton, one of which was featured Wednesday on the website’s homepage. The Washington Post’s Wednesday print edition also featured a front-page story on Clinton. Haberman declined to comment for this article and Chozick never got back to the Examiner.

Richard Grenell, a media critic and former foreign policy adviser to 2012 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, told the Examiner that the Clinton “fatigue” is a product of the culture among the Washington, D.C., press corps.

“The D.C. political media is insular, parochial and functioning like a high school clique these days,” Grenell said. “Regardless of whether or not they are bored with Hillary Clinton, they should grow up and do their job by treating her like a serious candidate. Hillary Clinton deserves their respect and serious attention, as does anyone who runs for office.”

Grenell added that "the political media’s inability to aggressively report on policy issues and leadership skills, and instead focus on shallow inconsequential issues, is part of the dysfunction in Washington.”

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Politico: "#Hillary, #TedCruz rule social media"

By Hadas Gold

December 4, 2014, 5:34 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Social media grows as platform with political reach.

Social media has no doubt who the most buzzworthy potential presidential candidates are at the moment for 2016: Hillary Clinton and Ted Cruz together accounted for 40 percent of the discussion on Facebook and nearly half — 47 percent — of mentions on Twitter among 10 top presidential possibilities in the past three months, according to new data provided to POLITICO by Facebook and Twitter.

Meanwhile, Jeb Bush's big name didn't spark much chatter at all. He garnered only 3 percent of the Facebook mentions and 2 percent of tweets, fewer than nine other would-be contenders.

The mentions cut both ways, including negative comments as well as positive ones. But they reflect the extent to which Clinton, a long-standing subject of debate, and Cruz, who casts himself as a conservative renegade, have dominated the conversation at a time when others are trying to gin up some grass-roots energy.

"Imperfect as it is, [Facebook] is probably the biggest trove of data of what actual human beings outside of Washington, D.C., are talking about day to day and that makes it intrinsically important, and these platforms are actually important for reaching people and motivating them," said Teddy Goff, partner at Precision Strategies and former digital director for Obama's reelection campaign.

"Anything that gives indication as to who's sort of breaking through and seems to be of interest and topical among the gigantic sampling of Americans is important," he added. "To the extent it's correlated to who is going to have the ability to mobilize people, that's going to have actual outcomes."

Barack Obama proved in both his presidential campaigns that social media can be a major component of an effective grass-roots campaign. And heading into 2016, some campaign data experts believe social media will be an even more powerful tool than traditional media as a way to get a message out to millions, mobilize activists and target swing voters.

Of the 27 million Facebook posts, comments and content likes related to the potential White House candidates between Aug. 22 and Nov. 22, Clinton and Cruz each were mentioned in 20 percent of the posts, according to Facebook's data scientists. Clinton topped Cruz though in the number of people talking about her with 2.3 million people making 5.6 million interactions, while Cruz had 1.8 million users referencing him in 5.6 million interactions. (POLITICO provided the list of contenders to Facebook and Twitter.)

Of the 15.9 million mentions of candidates' names or Twitter handles between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1, Cruz snagged 4.6 million mentions, or 29 percent, while Clinton garnered 2.9 million mentions, or 18 percent.

Some 185 million Americans are on Facebook, and nearly half of adults who use the site say they read political stories in the past week, according to a recent Pew report. Far fewer people use Twitter on a regular basis — Twitter estimates 65 million monthly active users in the United States — and only 9 percent say they use it to find political news, according to the same Pew report.

Nickie Titus, the digital director for the Ready for Hillary campaign, said the group has been using its social media presence to mobilize Clinton supporters in the absence of any official campaign.

"What matters is [Clinton is] part of the discourse. [It's] about having conversations and amplifying a message," said Titus. "One of the things that's really great, particularly on Twitter, is a way to amplify the message, then people can keep spreading it which you see with her hashtag or when

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people are retweeting her handle. It's helping her spread her word."

Following Cruz and Clinton on Facebook are Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, each tied for 11 percent of the conversation, or 2.9 million interactions. Perry had 1.1 million people talking about him, while Walker had 1 million. Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) follow with 8 percent for 2.1 million interactions each, though Warren beats out Paul with 900,000 people talking about her, compared with 800,000 people for Paul.

"These numbers are important because they help determine reach," said Vincent Harris, who until last month helped run Cruz's digital strategy before taking up the role of chief digital strategist for Paul's RANDPAC. "Because of how Facebook's algorithm works, engagement equals reach, so people who are not asking for engagement and aren't focused on engagement are not getting the reach they need to."

Going further down the Facebook list, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a favorite of grass-roots liberals, had 6 percent for 1.7 million interactions, just ahead New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie with 5.5 percent, or 1.5 million interactions, according to Facebook. At the bottom of the list were Florida's potential hopefuls, both Republicans — Bush at 3 percent, or 700,000 interactions, with 300,000 people talking about him, and Sen. Marco Rubio with 1 percent, or 200,000 interactions, and 100,000 people talking about him.

On Twitter, mentions were counted for the politician's full name and official Twitter handles. Paul came in third with 12 percent of total mentions, or 1.9 million mentions, while Christie followed with 11 percent, or 1.81 million. Rubio fared far better on Twitter than on Facebook with 9 percent, or 1.37 million, mentions. Perry had 7 percent of the mentions on Twitter, or 1.06 million, while Walker, Warren and Sanders each held about 4 percent of the mentions, at 715,000, 690,000 and 630,000, respectively. And similar to his placement on Facebook, Bush came in last with just 2 percent of mentions, or 310,000. For the full list of mentions and search criteria on Twitter, click here.

But the high numbers on social media don't necessarily correlate to a candidate's standing in the polls — a recent CNN poll showed that among Democrats, Clinton tops the list for president versus an eighth-place finish for Cruz among Republicans.

"Looking at mentions is a topline number," said Joe Rospars, founder and CEO of Blue State Digital and Obama's former chief digital strategist. "Are people sharing mainstream press stuff, are people saying things on their own, and then, are people sharing the actual content produced by that person — which I would argue is probably the better of those three. Ultimately, it's about the reach of what the candidate or organization or in this case PACs or Senate offices are trying to accomplish."

Not surprisingly, social media mentions surge with specific news events.

Clinton's name skyrocketed on Facebook three times in the past three months. The first came about the time of her appearance at Sen. Tom Harkin's steak fry in Iowa on Sept. 14. Clinton's mentions also jumped around Oct. 26, when she tried to walk back an earlier comment, "Don't let anybody tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs." Her third and biggest spike came around Election Day.

Cruz experienced two significant bumps in the past three months on Facebook. The first was on Sept. 10, when he was booed off stage after making pro-Israel remarks at a Middle Eastern Christian conference. The second and largest was on Nov. 10, when Cruz called net neutrality "Obamacare for the Internet."

A spokesperson for Clinton did not respond to requests for comment, though Titus said Clinton's high numbers despite the lack of an official page proves the power of her presence.

"She's Hillary Clinton, you know? I think that the interesting thing about Facebook and Twitter is you don't have to have an official presence. It's an opportunity for people to talk with their networks about what they care about and that's everything from the picture of your friend's baby to Hillary Clinton and what she's saying about equal pay or Jeanne Shaheen. It's great, right? It's the modern-day kitchen table in some ways," Titus said.

Cruz's digital operation has put an emphasis on outreach and engagement with the user, especially through entertainment, Harris said.

"I believe in persuasion by entertainment and I believe at the end, it's when people go in and they want to be entertained and what they want is to have interesting and unique content given to them. That's something I've been proud to work on with Sen. Cruz's team, that's what they've been doing for past 3½ years," Harris said.

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"[Cruz] is someone who has an ability to stir up and motivate and mobilize a certain fringe community within American politics," Goff said. "It doesn't surprise me that someone who has thrown red meat to an audience who feels very passionately about what they feel will see a lot more chatter … Cruz has a particular ability to irritate a broad swath of American people."

Unlike Clinton, Cruz has a robust Facebook presence, boasting more than 1 million likes on just one of his two Facebook pages. His most popular recent post was on Nov. 20, criticizing Obama's executive action on immigration. The post, which directs readers to a website called stopobamasamnesty.com (and subsequently asks for your name, email and ZIP code), had 79,694 likes, 16,576 shares and 12,610 comments by the first week of December.

On Twitter, where she has an official account, Clinton boasts more than 2.48 million followers. Cruz has more than 697,000 followers between his two Twitter accounts @SenTedCruz and @TedCruz.

The data provided to POLITICO by Facebook also included topics discussed related to each contender. For Clinton, the No. 1 topic of conversation was what Facebook termed Government Ethics, mostly about Benghazi, followed by Foreign Policy, Jobs and the Economy, Money in Politics and Economic Equality and Mobility.

For Cruz, the most discussed topic was Foreign Policy, followed by Jobs and the Economy, Health Care, Public Safety (mostly Ebola-related) and Immigration.

To see the full list of topics for the other contenders, click here.

"It's striking the extent to which these topics largely reflect the broader media narrative and messaging by these candidates — for instance, Elizabeth Warren and income inequality, or Jeb Bush and education," said Patrick Ruffini, partner and co-founder at Echelon Insights, a Republican research and analytics firm.

"That tells me there's something real in these numbers," he added. "And if people are talking about the candidates in relation to something that's not yet part of the media narrative, then that might be an early warning that something is up, and to monitor and respond accordingly."

This type of digital data is widely expected to become an even larger part of the 2016 campaign than in previous cycles. BuzzFeed's editor-in-chief Ben Smith in November went so far as to say that "Facebook is on the cusp — and I suspect 2016 will be the year this becomes clear — of replacing television advertising as the place where American elections are fought and won."

Ruffini agreed that the 2016 election will very likely see the digital mediums converge with traditional methods.

"Different research tools are good at different things. Polling is good at asking a series of structured questions, and social media analysis is better at understanding emerging topics and what people find important, in their own words," he said. "In 2016, I expect to see these two disciplines coming together."

Washington Post: "Hillary Clinton appears to support U.S.-secured civilian havens in Syria"

By Anne Gearan

December 3, 2014, 6:32 p.m. EST

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday appeared to back the imposition of civilian refuge zones inside Syria, as the White House considers whether to enforce havens for rebel fighters or refugees.

The former secretary of state and potential presidential candidate also told a Georgetown University audience that the conflict in Syria has ceased to be a fight only to oust President Bashar al-Assad and is now also a scramble for territory among multiple groups and factions.

“Part of what we have to do in continuing to try to combat the depredations and criminal conduct of a group like ISIS, and continue to put pressure on Assad, is probably first and foremost a protective humanitarian approach,” Clinton said, using one of the acronyms for the Islamic State terrorist group.

That suggests wider U.S. military involvement to establish safe areas — variously called humanitarian buffers or corridors — inside Syria, or an even more comprehensive “no-fly zone.” Clinton did not elaborate on which of those options she might prefer.

A spokesman for Clinton did not immediately respond to a request for clarification on whether she would support the kind of buffer zones along the Turkish border that are under review.

The fight against the Islamic State has become the chief foreign policy challenge for President Obama and one he is likely to hand off to his successor.

If she runs for the White House in 2016, Clinton is expected to play up her experience handling national security crises. Her credentials as a relative hawk within the Democratic Party could be considered an asset in a general election contest with a Republican.

Turkey has long sought a safe zone across its long southern border with Syria, partly in hopes that some of the Syrian refugees who have crossed into Turkey could return to their country. A buffer created by the United States would primarily serve a military purpose, but the area also would surely be considered an invitation to refugees inside and outside of Syria.

“There is a lot of discussion going on,” Secretary of State John F. Kerry told reporters Wednesday in Brussels. “But it is premature to suggest at this moment of time that we are close to making a decision or moving forward with any form of a safe zone or a buffer zone.”

“We are continuing our discussions with our Turkish allies in order to have conversations about how we best bolster security in the region and deal with the problem of Syria,” Kerry said.

Any safe zone would be established without the consent of Assad and probably would bring American warplanes into more direct confrontation with Syrian aircraft.

Refugee advocates for years have sought humanitarian refuges, and a debate about whether such zones could be secured by outside air power took place during Clinton’s time as the top U.S. diplomat. Since leaving office in 2013, Clinton has gone public about being on the losing side of an administration debate over whether the United States should arm the rebels and become more deeply involved in the Syrian conflict.

The war is well into its fourth year, with no end in sight. It was not clear from Clinton’s comments Wednesday that she would back a major military expansion in Syria, which the Pentagon has long warned would be required to establish an effective no-fly zone and protect civilians or rebel fighters from Assad’s warplanes.

Obama chose to launch airstrikes and greatly expand U.S. support for the rebels after Clinton left office. The war had changed by then to become one in which the Islamic State had seized huge amounts of territory and beheaded captured Americans and Britons.

“Syria is now a multi-sided conflict,” Clinton said during a discussion of women in conflicts and peacemaking. She cited the Assad government, “propped up by Iran,” and Hezbollah and the proliferation of outside extremist groups such as Islamic State as among the players. Assad is also still getting money and weapons from his old patron Russia, she charged.

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“It’s not only now a fight against Assad, it is a fight to seize and hold territory and to establish their own governance, if you will,” Clinton said.

A United Nations effort to inaugurate peace talks between Assad’s government and rebel-backed political opponents fell apart almost as soon as it began last year. U.S. officials privately acknowledge that the Syrian leader is not leaving soon and that the U.S.-led air war actually helps him remain in power.

The buffer zone along the Syria-Turkish border that is under review would open a new front against the Islamic State in Syria. It would be part of the effort to push back militants along the western part of Syria’s border with Turkey and create a relatively safe zone for U.S.-backed Syrian rebel forces to move.

CNN: “Hillary Clinton's 2016 announcement date a moving target”

By Dan Merica

December 3, 2014, 4:25 p.m. EST

If you feel like you've been hearing different dates about when Hillary Clinton will announce her run for the presidency, it's not just you.

Democrats -- some who are close to Clinton, have been close to Clinton or want to be close to Clinton -- are willing to talk about it, even if very few people besides the former secretary of state actually know.

This variable has made the when-will-she-announce question a moving target for reporters this fall.

Most recently, Politico reported Wednesday that Clinton is not expected to form an exploratory committee "until well after January 1" and that her "speech schedule indicates 2016 announcement may be months away."

This comes shortly after organizers announced last week that Clinton has added a number of seemingly paid speeches to her calendar, including two in Canada for late January and one in Silicon Valley in February. It's unlikely that Clinton would announce her candidacy before or during the midst of those paid speeches.

Here's a sampling of reports from the moving target that is Clinton's announcement date:

The New York Times, Nov. 6: Midterms, for Clinton Team, Aren't All Gloom - "Over the past few days, a consensus formed among those close to Mrs. Clinton that it is time to accelerate her schedule ..."

The Hill, Nov. 12: Clinton in no hurry to announce 2016 plans - "Sources in Clinton World say while there's been some chatter about an earlier-than-expected announcement, given the Democratic midterm thumping, Clinton is likely to stick to the timeline of making her plans known early next year."

NBC News, Nov. 17: Democrats Ready for Post-Holiday Clinton Announcement - "Hillary Clinton is expected to announce in January that she will run for president, Democratic sources say. ... She is expected to begin preparation for a campaign over the next two months."

And CNN has received similar reports from inside Clinton's circle.

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Some sources tell CNN that if Clinton runs -- many still include this caveat -- her announcement will come in January 2015, much like she declared in January 2007 for her 2008 run. Others have said, however, that the former secretary of state is likely to wait later into the cycle to declare because there is no upside to getting in early.

"If she hasn't said no by January, it will be a sign she is running," said one former Clinton aide at last month's Ready for Hillary strategy session in New York, suggesting that if she had plans to get out of the race she would want to give Democrats enough time to ready other candidates.

"I think she has the time as she makes her decision," said Stephanie Schriock, head of Emily's List and a woman reportedly on the shortlist to be Clinton's campaign manager.

Clinton has also given an array of answers on the issue.

In Ottawa in October Clinton said that she will "think hard about it in a way you make a decision until after these elections," referring to the midterms. Earlier in the year, Clinton said she would make her decision "after the first of the year."

Associated Press: "Ex-Va. Dem Sen. Webb to decide soon on 2016 race"

By Alan Suderman and Ken Thomas

December 3, 2014, 4:08 p.m. EST

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Former Democratic Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia said Wednesday he is considering running for president because his party has splintered into a series of interest groups and failed to address the economic concerns of middle class Americans.

But for now, he's limiting his critique to the party, not Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"The Democratic party has lost the message that made it such a great party for so many years, and that message was take care of working people, take care of the people who have no voice in the corridors of power, no matter their race, ethnicity or any other reason," Webb said at a Virginia legislative preview organized by The Associated Press. "The Democratic party has basically turned into a party of interest groups."

Webb, who last month announced a presidential exploratory committee, said he would make a decision in the next few months on whether to compete for the Democratic nomination in 2016. He is one of a handful of potential Democratic candidates who have been overshadowed by Clinton, who has yet to decide but remains the dominant figure in the early campaign to succeed President Barack Obama.

The 68-year-old Vietnam War veteran and Navy secretary under President Ronald Reagan said he was concerned about the direction of the country and advocated reorienting national security and foreign policy while addressing the country's economic challenges.

"I'm not a career politician. This is not a planned trajectory," Webb said, pointing to his unlikely Senate run in 2006 that unseated GOP Sen. George Allen. "If I commit to something I will see it though."

At the AP event, Webb declined to comment on Clinton or the role she could play in a Democratic primary. But he said his own experiences in the Senate, the military and leadership roles "have helped me understand the issues in a way that I believe I could effectively lead."

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"I just don't want to be seen as attacking Hillary Clinton," Webb said in an interview with The AP following the question-and-answer session with reporters.

Democrats have represented interest groups rather than "working people" and those without political power, Webb added. He pointed to the lack of support in the fall elections among "white working people" for Senate Democrats like Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Kay Hagan of North Carolina. Landrieu faces an uphill challenge in Saturday's Senate runoff race while Hagan was defeated by Republican Thom Tillis.

"The very people who would have a natural affinity for what the Democratic party used to offer feel alienated," he said.

Webb offered a mix of concerns about the country's direction, citing the need to reshape U.S. national security and foreign policy, which he said had been "on autopilot" since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He said the Obama administration's decision to use unilateral military force in Libya was improper and expressed concern about domestic surveillance by the National Security Agency.

The former senator said he plans to decide about a presidential campaign in the next few months.

"If we get the right kind of support and the right kind of financial backing we'll move forward," he said.

The Daily Beast: "Is Gay Marriage Going Away in 2016?"

By David Freedlander

December 4, 2014

[Subtitle:] Would Rob Portman's presence on the GOP primary debate stage have pushed his fellow candidates to support same-sex marriage? We'll never know—and now the issue may be off the table.

In the long sweep of LGBT equality, it could have stood as a seminal moment.

Rob Portman, the well-respected Ohio senator and former Bush administration official, and someone well within the mainstream of the GOP establishment, could have been the first serious Republican presidential candidate to be an avowed supporter of same-sex marriage. He was not likely to win—Portman's charisma deficit has made him a perennial also-ran in the vice-presidential sweepstakes—but he probably would have done well enough to prove that being pro-same-sex marriage was not disqualifying for a Republican candidate.

As it stands, candidates do not have much of an incentive to come out in favor of same-sex marriage. Those most likely to do so, like Chris Christie or Rand Paul, already are facing suspicion from conservatives, and so are seeking to show their hard-right bonafides in the run-up to a campaign. But once Portman made room on the debate stage for an idea that has broad acceptance seemingly everywhere but among GOP primary voters, it is easy to imagine that others would have jumped on board. It's already happened in the Senate, after Portman, citing his college-age son who had recently come out as gay, wrote in a Columbus Dispatch op-ed in 2013: "I have come to believe that if two people are prepared to make a lifetime commitment to love and care for each other in good times and in bad, the government shouldn't deny them the opportunity to get married." Seemingly before the ink was dry, three other Republican senators—Mark Kirk of Illinois, Susan Collins of Maine, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska—declared their support, as well.

But on Monday Portman said that he would not run for president, choosing to seek reelection in Ohio. Which prompts the question: In a GOP field minus Portman, what role will same-sex marriage play? Presidential primaries have a way of bringing out issues that later become policy or law. In 2008, trying to get to the left of Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama proposed withdrawing from the war in Iraq. In 1968, Richard Nixon touted his plan to end the war in Vietnam in the face of a challenge from the anti-war George Romney.

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Without any diversity of opinion, candidates tend to bunch together as much as possible. In 2012, without any countervailing force to his left, Mitt Romney was forced to advocate for the “self-deportation” of undocumented immigrants, describe himself as “severely conservative,” and along with the rest of the field raise his hand at a Fox News debate when asked whether he would not raise taxes for even 10 times the amount of spending reductions.

Some polls show that as many as 59 percent of Americans favor full marriage equality, a figure that rises as the age of those polled goes down, with up to 81 percent of millennials supporting the legalization of gay marriage. But in a GOP presidential primary, “If someone takes that position, it raises trust concerns about their other core beliefs,” said Gary Marx, a Republican strategist and former head of the Faith and Freedom Coalition. “The old adage was that if you couldn’t trust somebody to do what they said they were going to do on taxes, how could you trust them to be pro-life? You are looking for a consistent conservative across the board when you are considering candidates in a presidential primary.”

In the 2012 GOP presidential primary, same-sex marriage did not come up much, in part because the candidates were all in agreement, not only with each other but with President Obama, who did not announce his own evolution on the issue until the Republican contest was all but settled. This time around, some social conservative strategists think the issues could be muted again, since the pressing questions on same-sex marriage reside mostly with the courts. In the first in the nation primary state of New Hampshire, 54 percent of Republicans favor allowing gays and lesbians to have legal civil marriage. In the first in the West caucus state of Nevada, the state Republican Party has dropped opposition to same-sex marriage as part of its platform.

But the presence of evangelical primary voters, especially in Iowa and South Carolina among the early states, means that some candidates will press their advantage.

“You could easily see a situation where a Rick Santorum or a Mike Huckabee are pressing this issue, and you hope that the rest of the field just leaves it to them,” said one pro-same-sex marriage GOP strategist.

“Traditionally, the Republican Party supports traditional marriage,” said Alice Stewart, a GOP strategist allied with Huckabee. “If Governor Huckabee were to enter the race, he has supported traditional marriage. He always has and he always will.”

Evan Wolfson, the president of Freedom to Marry, one of the nation’s foremost same sex marriage advocacy groups, said that even without Portman in the race, it is too early to tell if the GOP field will be without a marriage equality candidate, considering how fast public opinion—and with it, public officials—are moving on the matter.

“2016 is still a long time away,” he said. “Who knows what will happen?”

Wolfson pointed to a number of Republican governors who already at the very least have chosen not to fight the issue out in their states where courts or the legislature acted, including Christie and Wisconsin’s Scott Walker, who once county clerks began issuing marriage licenses said, “For us, it’s over.”

Christie, Walker, and Paul have all argued that the marriage issue is one better left to the states. Their position is identical to the one held by Hillary Clinton, a fact that delights Gregory T. Angelo, the head of the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay rights GOP group.

“Hillary Clinton has a position on marriage that is to the right of everyone else in her party,” he said. “Part of me cannot wait to see her twist herself into contortions explaining why her position is different from her party’s platform.”

In other words, expect the marriage matter to be a bipartisan affair.

“That is a fact we are certainly going to be reminding Democrats about,” Angelo said.

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Washington Post column: Dana Milbank: "Hillary Clinton has lost that 'new car' smell"

By Dana Milbank

December 3, 2014, 5:08 p.m. EST

There was something in the air before Hillary Clinton addressed Georgetown University students Wednesday, but it definitely wasn't a new-car smell.

It was a faint but unmistakable whiff of indifference.

When the front-runner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination spoke in the same place a year ago, the room was reportedly packed. When she spoke in October, Gaston Hall again "was filled to capacity," the campus newspaper reported; some students lined up overnight and others were turned away.

But when it was time for Clinton's appearance to begin Wednesday morning, half of the 700 seats in the place were empty. After a half-hour "weather delay," diplomats and VIPs filled a few more chairs, but more than 300 remained vacant when the former secretary of state and first lady walked in wearing a robin's-egg-blue jacket and her signature pants.

Roughly half a dozen people rose to applaud, and for a terrifying moment it appeared they might be the only ones standing. But slowly, lazily, most of the others struggled to their feet.

Maybe it was just overexposure. Clinton began by joking that she'd been to Georgetown more in the last couple of years than her husband, who is an alumnus. This got a polite chuckle. A spokeswoman for the university said that this is the last week of classes, so students may be busy preparing for final exams.

But it has to be a worrisome sign for Clintonistas as they prepare to launch her 2016 juggernaut. President Obama, talking to ABC News's George Stephanopoulos last month about Clinton's efforts to distance herself from the unpopular president, said "the American people, you know, they're going to want that new-car smell." Doug Schoen, whose polling firm worked for Hillary Clinton's 2008 campaign and who now is a Fox News regular, contributed his view that his former client lacks that particular scent.

The students who did show up Wednesday did not seem dazzled. They gave another polite chuckle for her reference to Harvard as "that small university up in Cambridge, Massachusetts," but they were dead quiet during most of her speech. A few took photos with their phones; others fiddled with their hair. Several began trickling out before the 40-minute appearance was over. The main applause line Clinton generated was her reference to another woman joining her on the stage, Norwegian Defense Minister Ine Eriksen Soreide, who, Clinton said, "belongs to a small but fierce club of women who are proving they can defend their countries as well as any man."

Those who bothered to listen could have heard the rationale for Clinton's candidacy as she spoke about the need for women to play a greater role around the world in war-fighting and diplomacy. "We know when women contribute in making and keeping peace, entire societies enjoy better outcomes," she said. "Women leaders, it has been found, are good at building coalitions across ethnic and sectarian lines and speaking up for other marginalized groups. . . . They act more as mediators to help foster compromise and to try to organize, to create the changes they seek."

This is a smart way for Clinton to position herself. Last time, she largely avoided campaigning on her potential to be the first female president, until her famous "glass ceiling" concession speech. The bad news is she's now tied to Obama's foreign policy at a time when the world seems to be falling apart.

She has tried, haltingly, to draw distinctions between her hawkish views and Obama's dovish ways. But there was nothing new-car in Wednesday's appearance, where Clinton gave a brief exposition on her "smart power" theme and often lapsed into the bureaucratic and the banal.

"I'm a big believer in trying to make decisions based on evidence wherever possible," she reported. She also spoke, numbingly, of her "commitment

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to launch a series of practical discussions on the implementation of national action plans," and of her effort "to call for the institution of a representative to the secretary general to begin at the U.N. level to try to implement what were the sentiments and the aspirations behind these actions."

There was supposed to have been a Q&A following Clinton's remarks, but the moderator, former Clinton adviser Melanne Verveer, said there was no time for that and instead read Clinton a single question about Syria and Ukraine. Clinton ventured her opinions that Ukraine will have to "rebuild its military forces" and that "Syria is now a multi-sided conflict."

The ride and handling were stable. The acceleration and braking were adequate. But this car was not new.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 5 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Saban Forum (CNN)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From: "Nico Pitney" <nico.pitney@gmail.com>
To: nico.pitney@gmail.com
Date: 6/19/2008 6:47:59 PM
Subject: [big campaign] New Questions Over McCain Campaign Chief's Ties To Ukraine

Rick Davis's Ukrainian adventure expands -- he apparently bragged about lucrative real estate he owns in the country.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/20/new-questions-over-mccain_n_108204.html

New Questions Over McCain Campaign Chief's Ties To Ukraine

How much does John McCain know about his campaign manager's lobbying history and potential current business interests inside Ukraine -- and when did he know it?

The stakes of the answer to that question are increasing, due both to the lobbyist problem that has thus far nagged at McCain's second presidential run, as well as the race among reporters to uncover the connection between McCain campaign manager Rick Davis and the global business and political interests in Ukraine represented by the lobbying firm that bears his name -- Davis-Manafort.

Davis's lobbying firm has long been reported as having offered political consulting services to the pro-Russian "Party of Regions" inside Ukraine. That party was on the wrong side of the 2004 "Orange Revolution" that captured many a heart in the West (including John McCain's). Since then, the firm, which Davis co-founded, has been described as instrumental in organizing a political comeback for the once-discredited Party of Regions, which emerged victorious in 2006 legislative polls.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer told The Huffington Post that, in between the Party of Regions' 2004 loss and its 2006 victory, there was "an influx of the Davis-Manafort team." Pifer was not on the ground in Ukraine for the 2006 polls, but he recounted that "there was more of an American air" to the Ukrainians working with Davis-Manafort, and that they presented a more refined, media-savvy image.

What Pifer did witness was a subsequent event in Washington, D.C., during which the new Ukrainian prime minister was seen with Davis's lobbying partner Paul Manafort among his entourage. Pifer said he noticed with interest that the new prime minister's presentation was "polished and confident...and was tuned to have resonance with Americans."

And while McCain claimed in 2007 not to have known about the work of his campaign manager's firm in Ukraine until December 2006, a Washington Post report from earlier this year described how the non-profit Reform Institute, which McCain helped start up, actually shared office space with Davis-Manafort in January of 2006 -- the precise time the lobbying outfit was preparing for the March 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

Moreover, the New York Times reported last week that a National Security Council official contacted McCain's Senate office in 2005 "to complain that Mr. Davis's lobbying firm was undercutting American foreign policy in Ukraine." The Ukrainian candidate being aided by Davis-Manafort had close ties to then Russian president Vladimir Putin, and both McCain and President Bush supported his opponent.

Given this backdrop, and with the idea of lobbyists on presidential campaigns having acquired something of a foul air (thanks to the good-government noises from both presumptive nominees), the McCain camp has been steadfast in denying that its campaign manager had any association with his own firm's Ukrainian operation.

"He [Davis] was not involved in any work his firm did on Ukraine," McCain spokesman Brian Rogers told ABC News in response to the report published last week.

That denial -- which shoots past the question of whether Davis merely worked with politicians in Ukraine to the point of denying any business activity in the country whatsoever -- is now being questioned by another American consultant who served as an adviser to a Ukrainian business group during 2004. This source, who requested

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anonymity from The Huffington Post in order to protect his business interests, said that Davis bragged to him in 2007 about the continuing profitability of real estate investments that he held in Ukraine.

Multiple emails to top officials within the McCain campaign on Thursday asking about Davis's investments in Ukraine were not returned.

These new ties linking Davis to Ukraine, if true, could prove a problem for McCain, who tasked Davis with instituting a rigorous policy for all campaign workers in which lobbying positions and all compensation flowing from them are supposed to be forfeited during the course of the campaign. The very first dictum in that policy reads: "No person working for the Campaign may be a registered lobbyist or foreign agent, or receive compensation for any such activity."

Davis himself has already quit his own lobbying firm to work for McCain -- though if he is still receiving compensation from investments which stem from lobbying that the campaign claims Davis never had anything to do with in the first place, the potential for the appearance of hypocrisy is obvious.

At a minimum, the lack of transparency and continued speculation regarding the lobbying activities of McCain's campaign chief could smudge the portrait of integrity and reform that the Arizona Republican is trying to paint. However, the situation -- for all its complexities -- is not hopelessly convoluted. As part of his own questionnaire for employees, Davis instructed all McCain staffers to reveal the following:

> "All personnel must complete the attached questionnaire and return it Ryan Bradel in the Legal Department. It is the personal responsibility of each employee, consultant and volunteer to disclose all previous lobbying employers and clients to the Campaign and to identify issues and clients that could be embarrassing for the Senator and the Campaign."

In short: if Rick Davis is profiting from investments in Ukrainian real estate that were developed during the course of any lobbying activities there by his firm, John McCain should already know about it.

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GTalk/MSN: nico.pitney@gmail.com
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Ryan Anderson" <ryaneanderson@gmail.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/23/2009 3:14:20 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tom Andrews: Congress Needs to Hear From Us Today on Afghanistan

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-andrews/congress-needs-to-hear-fr_b_219465.html

Congress Needs to Hear From Us Today on Afghanistan

Tom Andrews
June 23, 2009

This week Congress is set to authorize $550 billion in defense spending and, with it, an additional $130 billion to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite a Democratic President and a Democratic majority in Congress, the military industrial complex is once again running up the score: the House Armed Services Committee wants to shower the Pentagon with even more federal dollars than George W. Bush ever requested. And the flood gates of federal dollars are once again wide open for a war without end in Afghanistan.

But there is some good news. Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA) is trying to squeeze a bit of common sense into the bill with an amendment that calls on the Administration to develop what President Obama told a national television audience we need: an exit strategy from Afghanistan. Unable to get this proposal included in the Supplemental Defense Appropriation bill a few weeks ago, Rep. McGovern has since introduced it as a bill that has already attracted 89 Congressional co-sponsors. Now he intends to propose it as an amendment to the House Armed Services Committee bill when it makes its way to the floor of the House tomorrow.

But Rep. McGovern needs our help. Call your Representative today at (202) 224-3121 and:

1. **urge her/him to co-sponsor Rep. McGovern's Afghanistan Exit Strategy bill H.R. 2404, and**
2. **vote for Rep. McGovern's amendment to the Defense Authorization bill (H.R. 2647).**

I realize how hard it may seem for Congressional Democrats to require the Obama administration to develop an exit strategy as a condition for continued funding. After all, this is *our* guy, right? The last thing our guy needs is a Democratic Congress second guessing, making demands, and putting conditions on the war.

But this is exactly what we and the administration need *precisely because he is our guy.*

Unlike Mr. Limbaugh, we want and need President Obama to succeed. The very real prospect of the United States embedded in an endless war in Afghanistan would undermine everything this administration is trying to do while imperiling the very Congressional Democrats President Obama needs to move his agenda.

Continuing our military presence in Afghanistan without an exit strategy is a bad idea for many reasons. As I've noted before, the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan unites our opponents within the country and region and makes cooperation by key regional players like Iran, Russia and China far less likely with the prospect of tens of thousands of US troops on their border. As for those with the most at stake - Afghan people - over 80% oppose an escalation of American troops in their country.

Despite the heated rhetoric you're hearing from the right-wing echo chamber, exit strategies are an important and useful part of military planning. President Obama knows this, and that's why he has gone on the record to say that we need one for the US military in Afghanistan.

The Win Without War coalition has been working closely with Congressman McGovern and other Congressional allies on this important amendment. Coalition member organizations have stepped up: MoveOn.org, USAction/TrueMajority.org and Peace Action all sent alerts last week to their membership asking them to call Members of Congress in support of this bill. With your help today, we can easily push the number of co-sponsors from 89 to over 100. Call your Member of Congress, ask if she/he is a co-sponsor and if she/he intends to vote for the McGovern amendment to the Defense Authorization bill on

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Wednesday. If not, why not? And, if so, can she/he take an active role to encourage their colleagues to support it as well.

There is not a lot of good news in the Defense Authorization bill. Let's do something about that today before the votes are cast in Congress tomorrow.

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Clinton, Press Office \(Clinton\)" <Press_Office@clinton.senate.gov>
To:
Date: 11/23/2007 1:54:42 AM
Subject: Clips: Fri 11/23

Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Friday, November 23rd, 2007

Front Pages

The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/pages/pageone/scan/index.html

Daily News: http://www.nydailynews.com/front/covers/

New York Post: http://www.nypost.com/frontback

Albany Times Union: http://www.timesunion.com/news/frontpage/

HRC Articles/Mentions

A Campaign Of Constant Work *Concord Monitor*
http://concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071123/FRONTPAGE/711230321

Clinton Hits Rough Patch As Iowa Showdown Nears *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119577999706601663.html

Clinton Favors Future Human Spaceflight *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201359_pf.html

China Objects To 'Slander' After Clinton Blasts Toy Exports *AFP*
http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hfSiPSnYz8-P8s-QWVsUdxklvYEA

Clinton Wins Business Survey *Bloombgerg*
http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-p2Politics_22Nov..ART.State.Edition1.2a493aa.html

Clinton Wins Surprise Support From Former French First Lady *Reuters*
http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSL2257338920071122

Hillary Criticized For Press Strategy *Washington Times*
http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071123/NATION/111230084/1001

Democrats Rework The Rhetoric *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119578411527201740.html

Muted Ad Messages In Vogue *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201362_pf.html

Where The Votes Are, So Are All Those Calories *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/us/politics/23food.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Column: **Will Character Be Destiny? By Kimberly Strassel** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119577308176701478.html

Column: **Hil Has Iowa Trouble; Rudy's New Hampshire Bubble Bursts By Josh Greenman** *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2007/11/23/2007-11-23_hil_has_iowa_trouble_rudys_new_hampshire.html?print=1&page=all

NY Sun Editorial: **Hillary's Common Ground**
http://www.nysun.com/pf.php?id=66875&v=7393285911

Blog Post: **Playing The Ace** *Left Coaster*
http://www.theleftcoaster.com/archives/011381.php

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Blog Post: **4 Years Ago** *MyDD*
http://www.mydd.com/story/2007/11/21/224445/59

New York

City Homicides Still Dropping, To Under 500 *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/nyregion/23murder.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Oil Spill Near Jones Beach Gets Broad Response *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/nyregion/23spill.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

MTA Could Save Millions With Common Sense, Union Cooperation, Officials Say *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/11/23/2007-11-23_mta_could_save_millions_with_common_sens-3.html?print=1&page=all

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Cellphone Tracking Powers On Request *WP*
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Surge Brings New Immigration Backlog *NYT*
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So What's So Bad About Corn? *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201442_pf.html

Insurers Shift Cost Burdens To Homeowners *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/business/23insure.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Trying To Break Cycle Of Prison At Street Level *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/us/23mapping.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Court Splits Abortion And Fetus Murder *AP*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/us/23texas.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Abortion Foes' Strategy Advances *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-na-egg23nov23,1,4569441.story?coll=la-headlines-frontpage

ICBM Crews' Work Largely Unchanged Since Cold War *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201294_pf.html

NYT Editorial: **The Immigration Wilderness**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/opinion/23fri1.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Op-ed: **Made In China On The Sly By Dana Thomas** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/opinion/23thomas.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Column: **Banks Gone Wild By Paul Krugman** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/opinion/23krugman.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

WP Editorial: **No Rescue Here**
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201082_pf.html

WSJ Editorial: **Airport Solutions**
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119577299015701443.html

Column: **Tattered Dream By Eugene Robinson** *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201090_pf.html

Column: **Stem Cells, The Right Way By Michael Gerson** *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201093_pf.html

Op-ed: **Stem-Cell Breakthrough By Maureen Condic And Markus Grompe** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119577446016301525.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

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Op-ed: **Second-Amendment Showdown By Mike Cox** *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB119577460419701535.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

Political/Administration/Capitol Hill/Media

Bush's Economic Challenge *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-bushecon23nov23,1,4102780,print.story?coll=la-news-a_section

Energy Bill's Chances Growing *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119578531748301794.html

Justice Stevens And The Tipping Point *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-stevens23nov23,1,5155886.story?coll=la-news-a_section

WSJ Editorial: **Gone In 60 Seconds**
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119577274579401442.html

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Is Obama's Iowa Surge For Real? *Time*
http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1686633,00.html

Candidates Pour On The Ads As Presidential Voting Nears *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119579048299601937.html

Column: **The Real Rudy By David Brooks** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/opinion/23brooks.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

LAT Editorial: **Who Would Giuliani Nominate?**
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-ed-justices23nov23,1,7903799.story?coll=la-news-comment

Iraq/Afghanistan

Troops Receive A Presidential Thank-You *AP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201256_pf.html

Plan Increases Role Of G.I.'s In Iraq Training *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/world/middleeast/23training.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Gunmen Dressed As Iraqi Troops Kill At Least 11 In Village Near Baghdad *NYT*
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Returnees Find A Capital Transformed *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201568_pf.html

Column: **On Iraq, A State Of Denial By Charles Krauthammer** *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201089_pf.html

International

Pakistan Alerted U.S. It Planned Emergency Rule *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119571716709101193.html

Court Loyal To Musharraf Clears Re-Election Path *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/world/asia/23pakistan.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Pact Unlikely Before Talks In U.S., Palestinian Insists *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/world/middleeast/23mideast.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Nuclear Agency Wants More From Iran *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/world/middleeast/23nuke.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Critique Of Iranian Leader Reveals Political Rift *NYT*

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http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/world/middleeast/23iran.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

NYT Editorial: **Digging In Deeper In Pakistan**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/opinion/23fri2.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Op-ed: **Needed: A Cease-Fire With Hamas, Now By Yossi Beilin** *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/22/AR2007112201099_pf.html

NYT Editorial: **New Numbers On AIDS**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/23/opinion/23fri3.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/6/2015 1:08:58 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: The futher he slips, the more Bernie Sanders sharpens his attacks on Hillary Clinton

View The Daily 202 on the Web

PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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The futher he slips, the more Bernie Sanders sharpens his attacks on Hillary Clinton



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Bernie Sanders looks at New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner yesterday before singing papers in Concord to be on the nation's earliest presidential primary ballot. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Losing some steam in both national and early state polls, Bernie Sanders has gone after Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton a little harder every day this week. Yesterday, he made clear that he will not go quietly and plans to really take the gloves off.

After filing his paperwork to appear on the New Hampshire primary ballot as a Democrat, someone yelled: "You ready to kick some Republican butt, Bernie?" Sanders yelled back, "There's some earlier butt we have to deal with."

The Post's John Wagner reports from Concord that the remark prompted some nervous laughter in a room packed with reporters and supporters, but it comes as Clinton's camp has increasingly tried to suggest that the senator and his team have been treating her in a sexist fashion.

Speaking to the Boston Globe editorial board yesterday, Sanders declared: "I disagree with Hillary Clinton on virtually everything." He specifically hit her for the flip-flop on trade and her delay in coming out against the Keystone XL Pipeline: "How many years do you have to think about whether or not we excavate and transport the dirtiest fuel in the world?" he said, per Annie Linskey. "It didn't take me too long to think about that."

In a Wall Street Journal interview the day before, Sanders said the FBI should fully investigate his rival's use of a private e-mail server. Though he declared "enough about your damn e-mails" during the last debate, the Vermont senator complained to reporter Peter Nicholas: "You get 12 seconds to say these things. There's an investigation going on right now. I did not say, 'End the investigation.' That's silly. … Let the investigation proceed unimpeded."

Sanders will spend this weekend in two states where he's struggled to appeal to minority voters. First, in South Carolina, he'll address African-Americans. Then, in Nevada, he will try to improve outreach to Latinos and show he can build an organization that can compete with Clinton's. Unlike Iowa and New Hampshire, the democratic socialist

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has trailed far behind in polls of the third and fourth states to vote in the nominating process.

Looking ahead, the AP reports this morning that “Sanders’ campaign is considering a speech, possibly in New York, to provide more details on his economic policies, including how he would seek to structure tax rates to pay for his domestic policy agenda and seek to regulate Wall Street. Other topics he plans to address are how he would serve as commander-in-chief and a domestic policy agenda that will include proposals on family and medical leave, a Medicare-for-all health care system and an expansion of Social Security benefits.”

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Bernie Sanders at a rally yesterday after filing paperwork to get on the New Hampshire primary ballot in Concord. (Photo by Scott Eisen/Getty Images)

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Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:



Chris Christie, seen here at the CNBC debate, will be at the kids table for the next one. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, File)

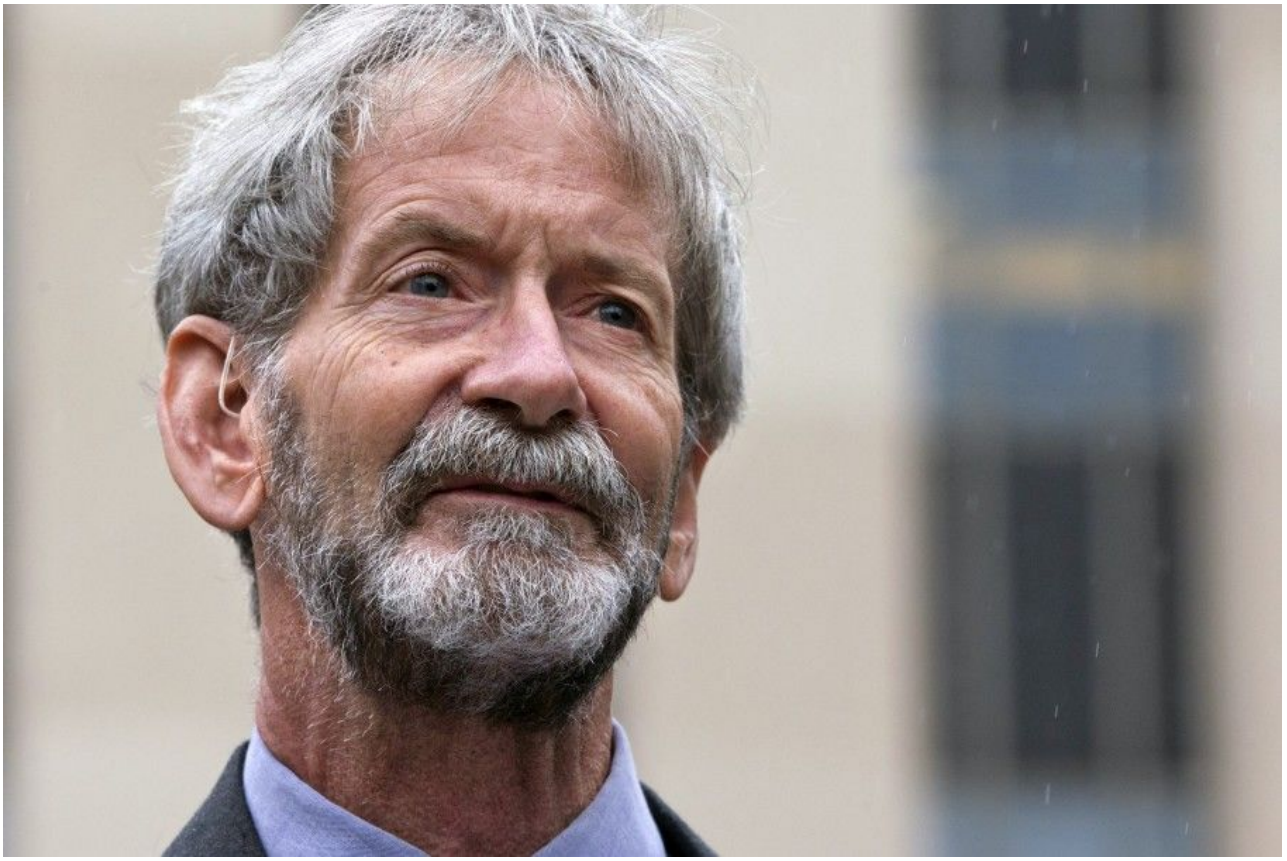
— Chris Christie and Mike Huckabee have been kicked off the main stage for next Tuesday's GOP debate sponsored by Fox Business and the Wall Street Journal; Lindsey Graham and George Pataki are not even being allowed into the undercard. David Weigel : "Thirteen Republican presidential campaigns had started the week in a kind of solidarity, brainstorming ideas to make the cable news debates more fair. They ended the week in pathos and disarray, after Fox Business announced that two candidates would be shunted from prime time to an 'undercard' debate, and two mainstays of the undercard debate would not make it to the Nov. 10 forum at all." How they are reacting:

- Lindsey Graham: "It is ironic that the only veteran in the race is going to be denied a voice the day before Veterans Day," said campaign manager Christian

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Ferry. “In the end, the biggest loser is the American people and the Republican Presidential primary process that has been hijacked by news outlets.”

- @JebBush said that Graham should be allowed in the debate: “His foreign policy message is an important one in particular.”
- Christie defiantly tweeted #BringItOn. “It doesn’t matter the stage, give me a podium and I’ll be there to talk about real issues like this,” he wrote, linking to a Facebook video of him talking about addiction.
- Mike Huckabee: “I’m happy to debate anyone, anywhere, anytime. We are months away from actual votes being cast and neither the pundits nor the press will decide this election, the people will. Washington is stealing from seniors, punching American workers in the gut, and bankrupting our kids and grandkids. I refuse to let that stand.”



Douglas Hughes speaks to reporters in May after appearing in federal court. (AP Photo/ Jacquelyn Martin, File)

— The Florida mailman who flew a gyrocopter around restricted airspace before landing it in front of the Capitol will plead guilty to a felony that could carry three years in prison. Prosecutors had charged Douglas Hughes with enough crimes that he could have spent nine-and-a-half years behind bars for his protest against the corrosive power of money in politics. His attorney told the AP that they’ll enter the plea deal on Nov. 20 in federal court in Washington.

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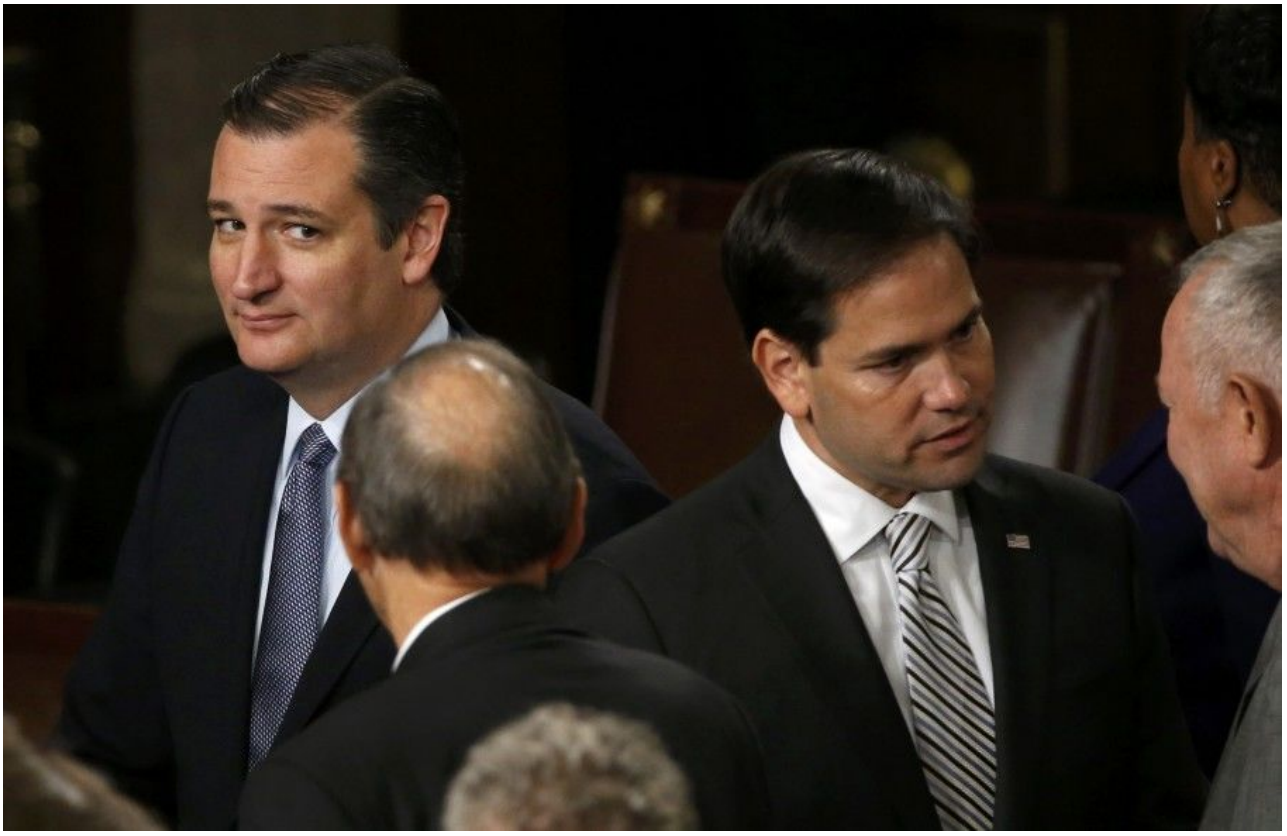


Ran Baratz at Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 2013 (Reuters/Olivier Fitoussi)

— Bibi picks a vehemently anti-Obama professor as his lead spokesman. Benjamin Netanyahu, who is coming to Washington to meet with Barack Obama on Monday and to ask Congress for billions of dollars in U.S. military aid, appointed a new media adviser who has called the president an anti-Semite and said that Secretary of State John Kerry has the intelligence of a 12-year-old. The Post's William Booth reports from Jerusalem: "Unless he is fired before he is officially hired, which Netanyahu hinted is adistinct possibility, Baratz will serve as the prime minister's media adviser and director of public diplomacy, a position far more central and intimate than mere spokesman: The person is tasked with shaping and selling Netanyahu's policies at home and abroad." It's especially bad timing since the point of his visit next week is to shore up liberal support for

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Israel. He's even going to speak at the Center for American Progress, and advisers have said he plans to emphasize how accepting his country is of gays as part of the charm offensive. Obama yesterday acknowledged that brokering a peace deal between Israel and Palestine won't happen during his presidency, but he said he will continue to pressure Netanyahu to keep open the possibility of a two-state solution, per Steven Mufson.



Ted Cruz looks over at rival candidate Marco Rubio after Pope Francis' address before a joint meeting of Congress on Sept. 24. (Reuters Photo/James Lawler Duggan)

— Ted Cruz calls Marco Rubio a moderate and says the Republican primaries will come down to a two-way race between a conservative and a moderate: "Historically, there have been two major lanes in the Republican primary," the Texas senator told CNN's Jake Tapper last night. "There's been a moderate lane and a conservative lane. And, in past cycles, there's been a consensus moderate choice early on…Look, I think Marco is certainly formidable in that lane. I think the Jeb campaign seems to view Marco as his biggest threat in the moderate lane. And so I think they're going to slug it out for a while. But, when you look at the conservative lane, what I'm really encouraged by is that conservatives are consolidating behind our campaign… And once it gets down to a head-to-head contest between a conservative and a moderate…I think the conservative wins."

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Donald Trump signs copies of his new book, “Crippled America: How to Make America Great Again,” at Trump Tower. (AFP Photo/Kena Betancur)

— Donald Trump stumbled again on national security questions last night, possibly confusing the B-3 bomber and the F-35. Hugh Hewitt asked The Donald if he could name anyone who would be on his defense team yet. Trump didn’t answer directly, but he congratulated himself for identifying Osama bin Laden as a threat in a book he wrote in 2000. “Well, no, but I’ve been really, you know, I’ve been pretty good in terms of that stuff. If you look at my book, in the year 2000, I said Osama bin Laden … And that was before I had aspirations politically, believe me, long before,” he told Hewitt. The conservative radio host also asked what Trump thought of the massive contract won by Northrop Grumman to produce the B-3 bomber. Trump answered by referring instead to the F-35 strike fighter, saying some pilots like the old plane better than the proposed new one. Listen to the interview here .

GET SMART FAST:

1. The gap in life expectancy between whites and African-Americans has narrowed by 2.3 years since 1999 because of bigger drops in blacks’ death rates for heart disease, cancer and HIV. (Lenny Bernstein)
2. New York’s attorney general is investigating whether Exxon Mobil misled the public and investors about the risks of climate change, serving a subpoena to the company for documents related to its own internal research. (Chris Mooney)

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3. The Justice Department charged four Ohio men with trying to fund al Qaeda operations in Yemen. (Wall Street Journal)
4. Chemical weapons, namely mustard gas, were allegedly used in Syria again. (Reuters)
5. The House overwhelmingly passed an amended version of the National Defense Authorization Act, but the White House would not rule out a second veto. John McCain wants the Senate to vote on the bill with no amendments. (Karoun Demirjian)
6. Hundreds of protesters at Yale confronted the dean about the university's botched handling of race-related problems on campus, citing the fraternity that allegedly barred African-American girls from entering a party last weekend and a professor's e-mail criticizing students for being too politically correct. (Yale Daily News)
7. Mormon leaders decreed that children of gay couples are banned from joining the church until they are 18 years old and that people involved in same-sex marriages are apostates. (Sarah Pulliam Bailey)
8. Meanwhile, a couple whose court challenge helped paved the way for legalized gay marriage nationally has adopted five kids. (Elahe Izadi)
9. 46,471 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2013, the most recent year of data available. More than half of those were specifically attributable to prescription painkillers and heroin. A DEA report notes that this is more than the 35,369 who died in car crashes and 33,636 who died from guns. (Read the National Drug Threat Assessment)
10. A new study suggests that doctors who provide the most expensive care are less likely to be sued than their counterparts. It's a good window into why there is so much defensive medicine practiced in our litigious society, which is one of the reasons health care costs continue to gobble up a larger share of our economy. (Reuters)
11. "There is a chapter titled 'Cyber Operations' in DOD's first-ever 'Law of War Manual,'" NextGov reports . "The manual lays out three sample actions the Pentagon deems uses of force in cyberspace: 'trigger a nuclear plant meltdown; open a dam above a populated area, causing destruction; or disable air traffic control services, resulting in airplane crashes.'"
12. Mexico's Supreme Court ruled 4-1 that possessing and smoking marijuana is a human right. (Christopher Ingraham)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Ben Carson and Donald Trump will soon get Secret Service details to protect them. (Carol Leonnig)

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2. Trump, after relying on free media coverage, is spending $300,000 to air radio ads in the first three primary states. They tout his business prowess, attack career politicians and reiterate his promise to build a border wall. He still hasn't aired any TV commercials. (Listen to the spots here .)
3. Rand Paul's latest book sold fewer than 500 copies in the two weeks that it has been on shelves, a reflection of just how much air has come out of the Kentucky senator's presidential balloon. (BuzzFeed)
4. Hillary Clinton raised more than $1 million dollars at a fundraiser hosted by Christina Aguilera in Beverly Hills. (Billboard)
5. Jim Webb's aides are doing a "feasibility study" to see how hard it would be to get on the ballot in all 50 states as an independent candidate, a spokesman told CNN .
6. Obama encouraged people to sign up for health insurance during open enrollment in a series of radio interviews with local stations, including in Atlanta and Florida . His topline talking point: "Shopping is the most powerful way for you to drive down costs."
7. The president also told a Seattle station that there could have been a bomb aboard the Russian plane that crashed over the Sinai Peninsula.
8. Chakah Fattah Jr., the son of the current Philadelphia Democratic congressman, was convicted on 22 of 23 counts of misspending government funds as a schools subcontractor. Chaka Fattah Sr., the lawmaker, was charged this July in an unrelated and still pending case with racketeering, money laundering and other crimes.
9. Civil rights leader Wade Henderson will retire as president at the Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights. (USA Today)
10. Martin O'Malley was labeled as an "unidentified man" in a Wall Street Journal photo cutline that showed him alongside Hillary and Bernie before going on stage at the Iowa Democrats' J-J dinner. (John Wagner)

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This is the Oct. 24 photo that the WSJ described as including Clinton, Sanders and “an unidentified man.” It appears to have been a joke by the editorial board. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:



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George H. W. Bush on July 30 (Office of George H. W. Bush via AP)

— "Father's recollections open breach among Bushes, " by Ed O'Keefe and Dan Balz: "For as long as they have been in the public eye, members of the Bush family have been known for fierce loyalty, protective of one another in the face of attacks from the outside. Rarely have they engaged in a public quarrel among themselves — until revelations this week from a forthcoming biography of former president George H.W. Bush. In the book, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham, the 41st president makes clear his displeasure with two of the leading figures in the administration of his son, former president George W. Bush — and both the 43rd president and his brother, who would like to be the 45th, were forced rather awkwardly to take sides." Here's a round-up of the most significant reactions :

- Donald Rumsfeld: "Bush 41 is getting up in years and misjudges Bush 43, who I found made his own decisions."
- George W. Bush: "I am proud to have served with Dick Cheney and Don Rumsfeld. Dick Cheney did a superb job as vice president and I was fortunate to have him by my side throughout my presidency. Don Rumsfeld ably led the Pentagon and was an effective secretary of defense."
- Jeb Bush: "My brother is a big boy. His administration was shaped by his thinking, his reaction to the attack on 9/11 I think my dad, like a lot of people that love George, want to try to create — a different narrative perhaps … just 'cause that's natural to do, right? But George would say…, 'This is under my watch, I was commander in chief. I was the leader. And I accept personal responsibility for what happened, both the good and the bad.' And I think that's the right way to look at it."
- Dick Cheney: "I took [being called *iron-ass*] it as a mark of pride. He said 'I was aggressive in defending, in carrying out what I thought were the right policies' in response to 9/11."
- Mark McKinnon: "The lion in winter still has claws."

— "Obama's far-reaching trade deal would lower tariffs on meat, cars and dairy," by David Nakamura: "President Obama proclaimed that the Pacific Rim free trade pact is the 'highest-standard trade agreement in history,' but opponents seized on specific provisions to argue that the final deal does not live up to promises. … The agreement calls for a phase out of subsidies some governments now give operators in fisheries that are either overfished or overcapacity, as well as an end to subsidies for vessels engaged in illegal fishing. The parties to the treaty account for a quarter of the global seafood trade, and countries such as Japan have traditionally helped offset the cost of fishing for their domestic industry. The Sierra Club blasted the environmental chapter, calling

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it 'rife with polluter giveaways that would undermine decades of environmental progress, threaten our climate and fail to adequately protect wildlife because big polluters helped write the deal.'"

THE WORLD IS A DARK PLACE, illustrated by four stories:

— A Philadelphia woman got life in prison for locking mentally disabled people in a "dungeon" so that she could collect their disability benefits. "The victims, prosecutors said, lived in the dark and in isolation, and were fed food laced with drugs to keep them sedated; they were brutally punished if they tried to escape," per Elahe Izadi, who has more on this act of pure evil .

— Gang members in the South Side of Chicago lured a 9-year-old boy into an alley and executed him in order to punish his father, who is a member of a rival gang, police believe. The Chicago Tribune reports that Tyshawn Lee, a fourth-grader at Joplin Elementary School, was walking to his grandmother's house when it happened. He was shot repeatedly, and a basketball he always carried with him was found nearby.

— The University of California-Merced student who stabbed four classmates on Wednesday planned on killing a police officer and then using his gun to kill two others, according to the local sheriff . He was angry over being kicked out of a study group, according to a manifesto found on the perp's body. Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said this is not terrorism, just a step above a high school grudge, but that "the suspect did praise Allah in his writings," according to the San Francisco ABC affiliate. The sheriff also said that a bomb squad recovered Mohammad's backpack, which contained hand-cuffs, night vision scope, duct tape and petroleum jelly, which the sheriff described as s a "poor man's C-4."

— After police killed a six-year-old autistic boy in Louisiana, the superintendent of the Louisiana State Police said there's no evidence that the father who led marshals on a chase ending in a hail of gunfire from officers had a weapon in his vehicle or that anyone besides law enforcement shot weapons during the encounter, according to The Advocate of Baton Rouge.

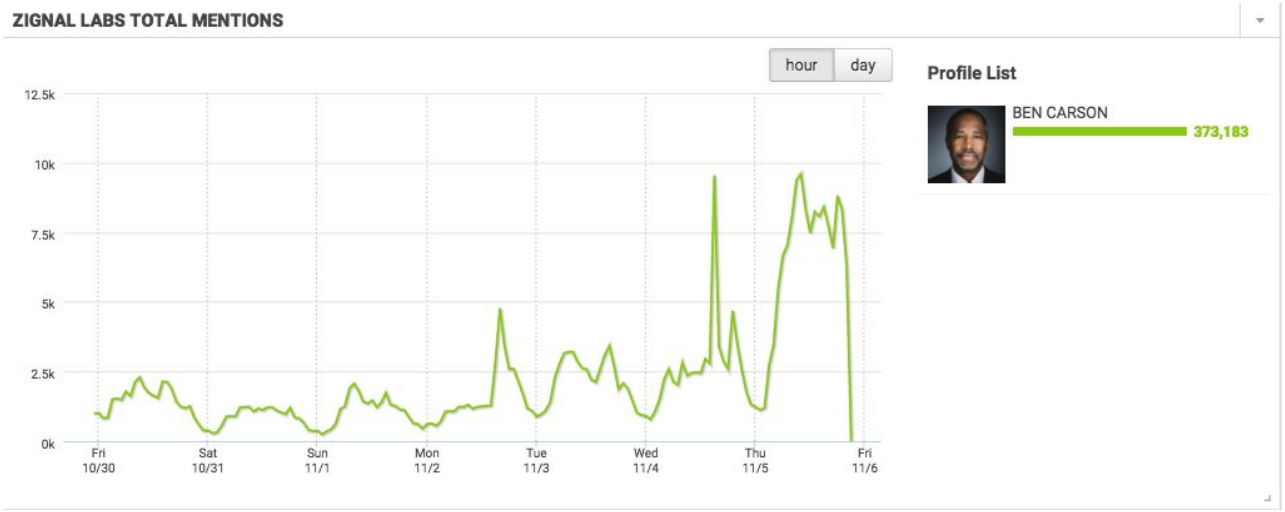
SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ, Curated by Elise Viebeck (@eliseviebeck)

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Ben Carson is getting a good taste of the scrutiny that comes with being a frontrunner: Many of the stories that the retired neurosurgeon has told about his upbringing in the past are now being called into question. A story about hitting a classmate in the head and his narrative about trying to stab an acquaintance — which has

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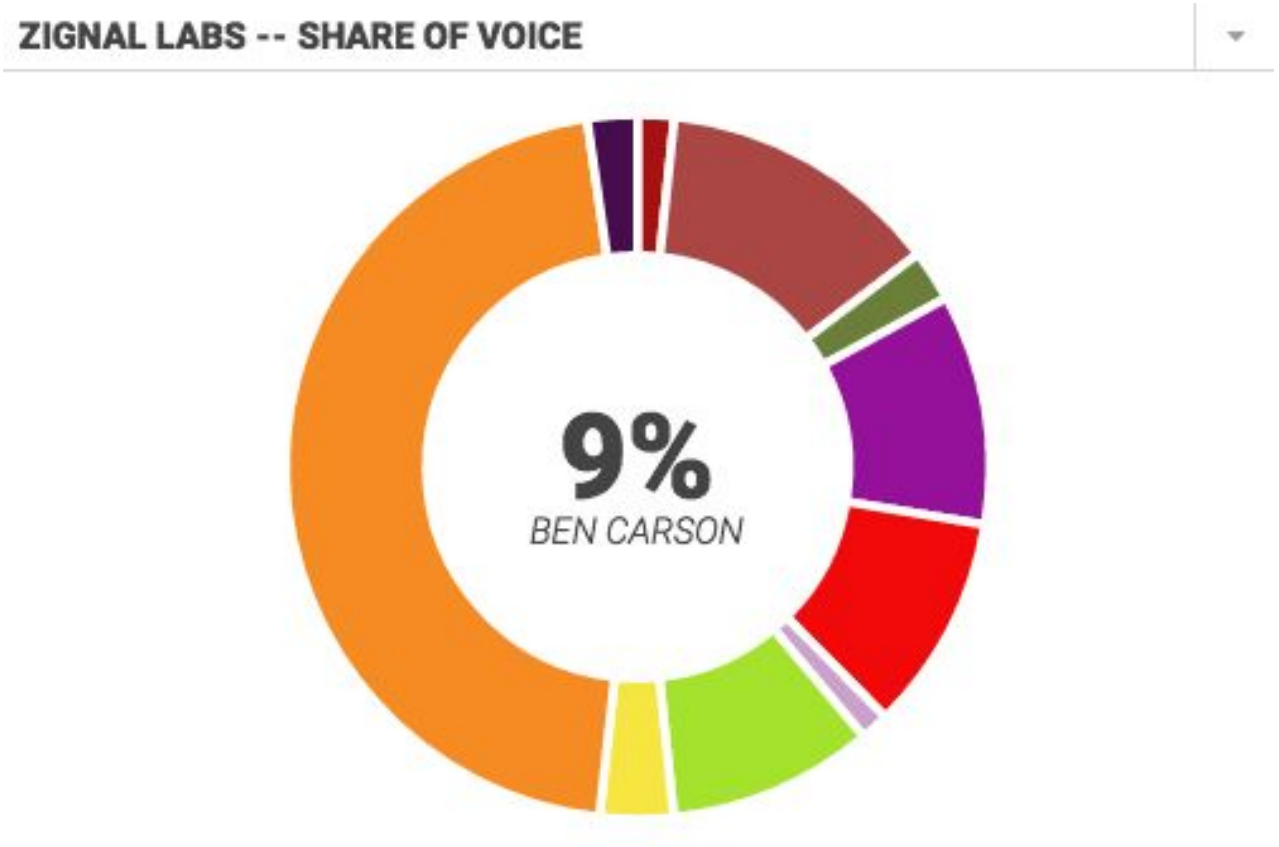
changed several times in his own telling — could not be corroborated by any of the nine friends and witnesses who were contacted by CNN reporters. He's getting criticized for comments about falling asleep at the wheel numerous times while driving over the years. His theory that the Egyptian pyramids were built to store grain was mocked yesterday by Rand Paul, who quipped that his theory is that aliens built the pyramids. He's been saying out-there stuff for months, but it's gotten less attention. Recall his recent statement that the Holocaust could have been prevented if Jewish civilians had guns.

Our analytics partners at Zignal Labs visualize the degree to which Carson has finally come under the klieg lights. Look at how press coverage of Carson has spiked over the last week. Mentions of Carson increased five-fold on Thursday over his daily average at the beginning of last week:

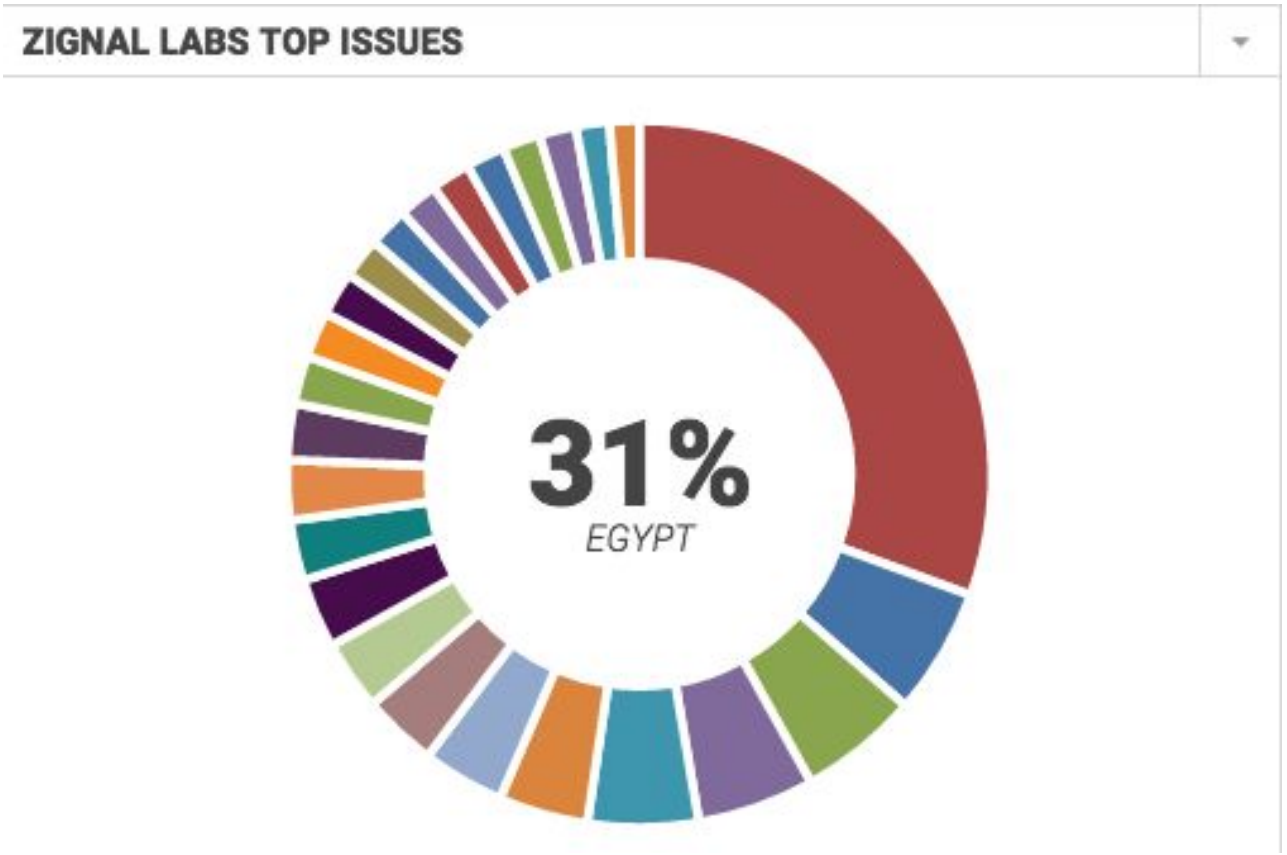


This GIF shows how Carson has occupied an increasingly large share of the Republican chatter and coverage over each of the last seven days, going from 9 percent a week ago to 31 percent now (That means one in three mentions of the GOP presidential candidates is about Carson):

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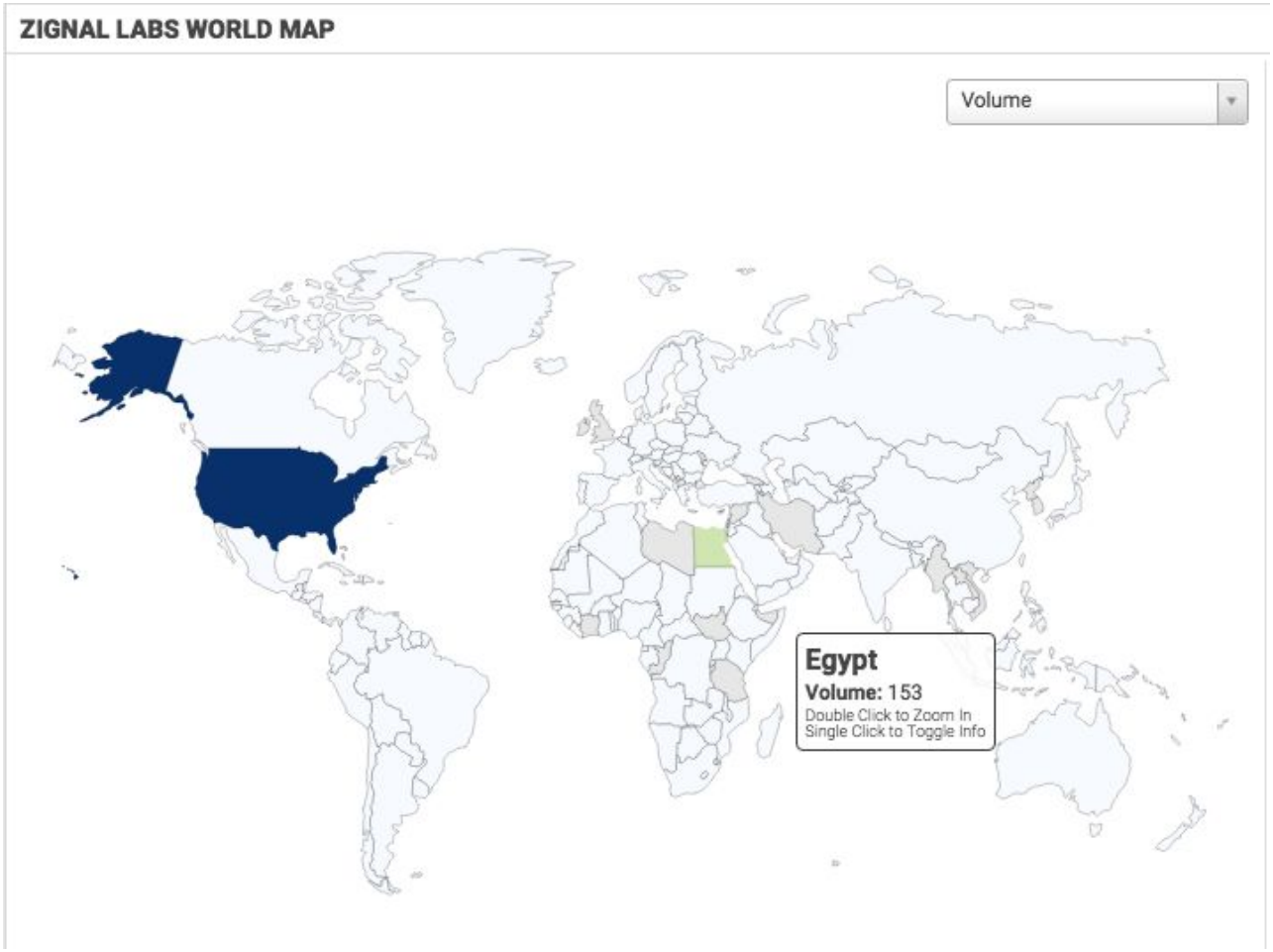


The pyramid gaffe dominated yesterday's social media mentions of Carson. One-third of the above Carson mentions also mentioned Egypt!



The news has even broken through in Egypt! Since Tuesday, Zignal has tracked more than 120,000 Geo-coded Tweets about Ben Carson. About 150 of those came from Egypt. That's more mentions than any other candidate, including Trump.

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–Pictures of the day:

Ahead of Trump’s appearance on SNL tomorrow night, here’s a flashback to when he hosted in 2004:

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(nbcsnl)

That’s Hillary Clinton at her Dolly Parton-themed birthday party in 1995:

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(hillaryclinton)

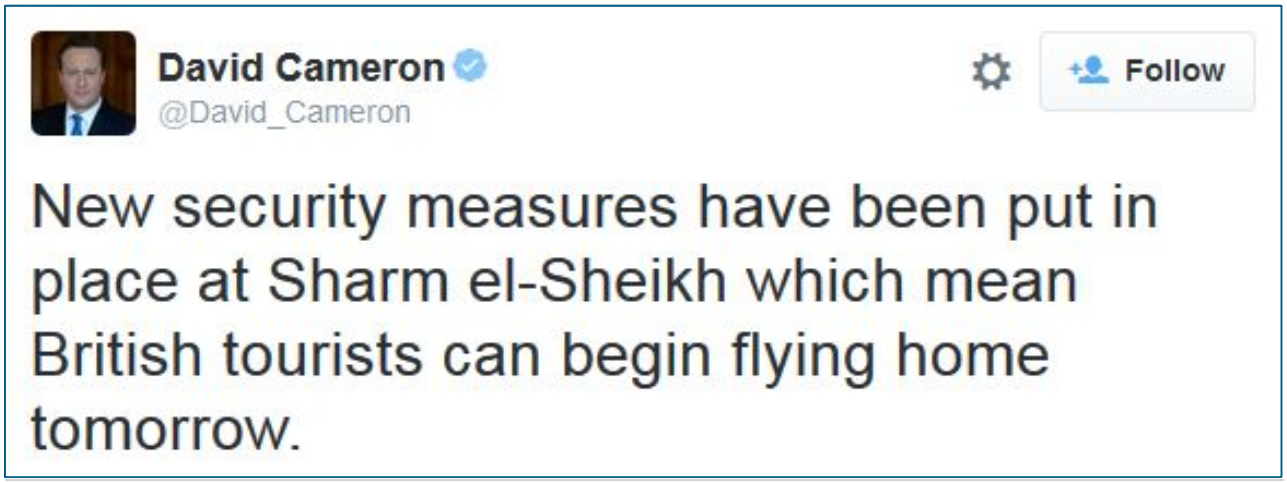
Check out the crowds that showed up for Bernie Sanders as he filed for the New Hampshire ballot:

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(@kailanikm)

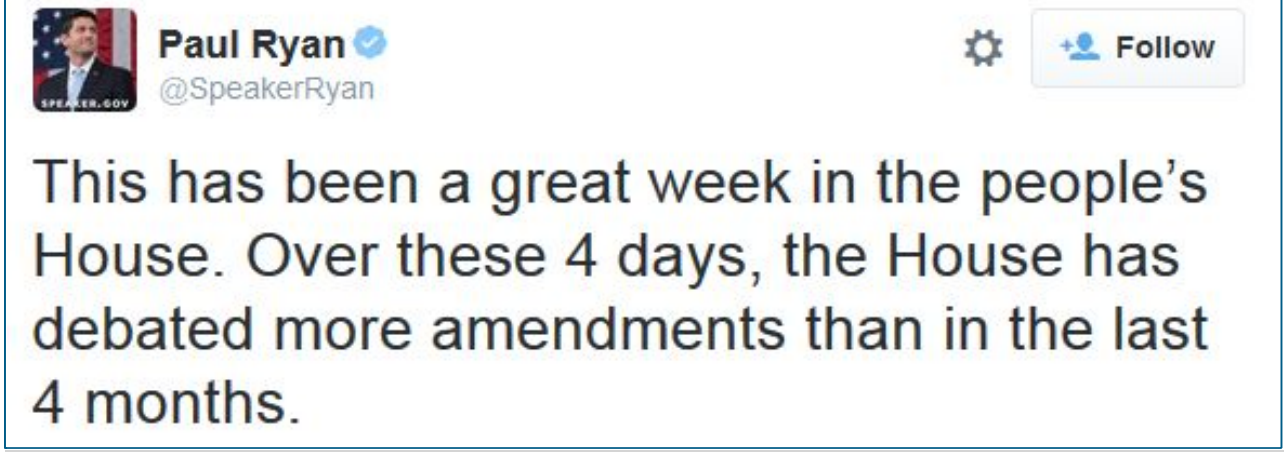
–Tweets of the day:



(@David_Cameron)

Speaker Paul Ryan congratulated the House on its progress this week:

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(@SpeakerRyan)

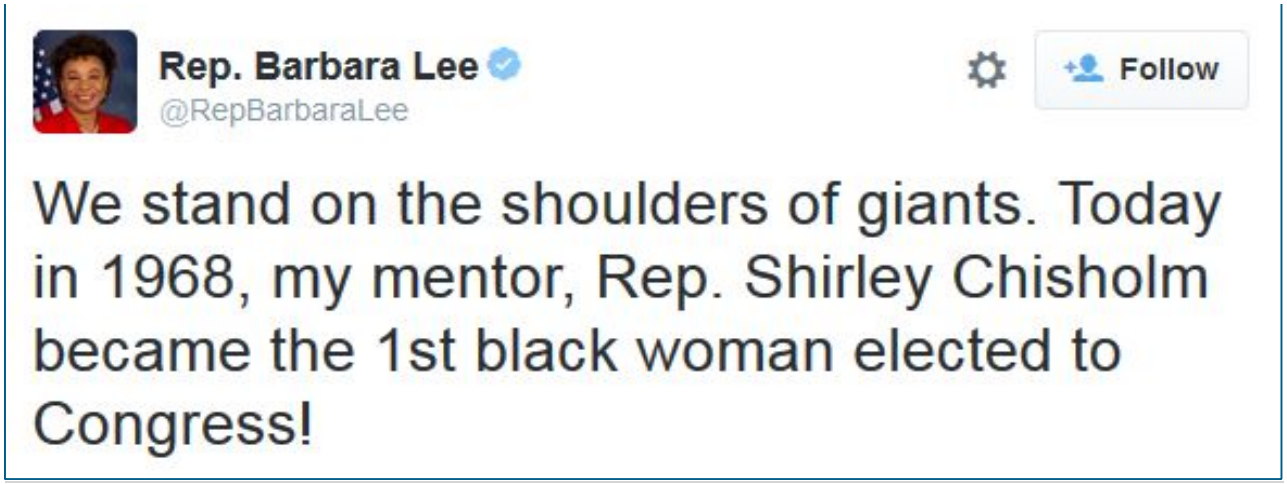
Ohio Republican Sen. Rob Portman's staff was all ready for the Bengals vs. Browns game in Cincinnati:



(@senrobportman)

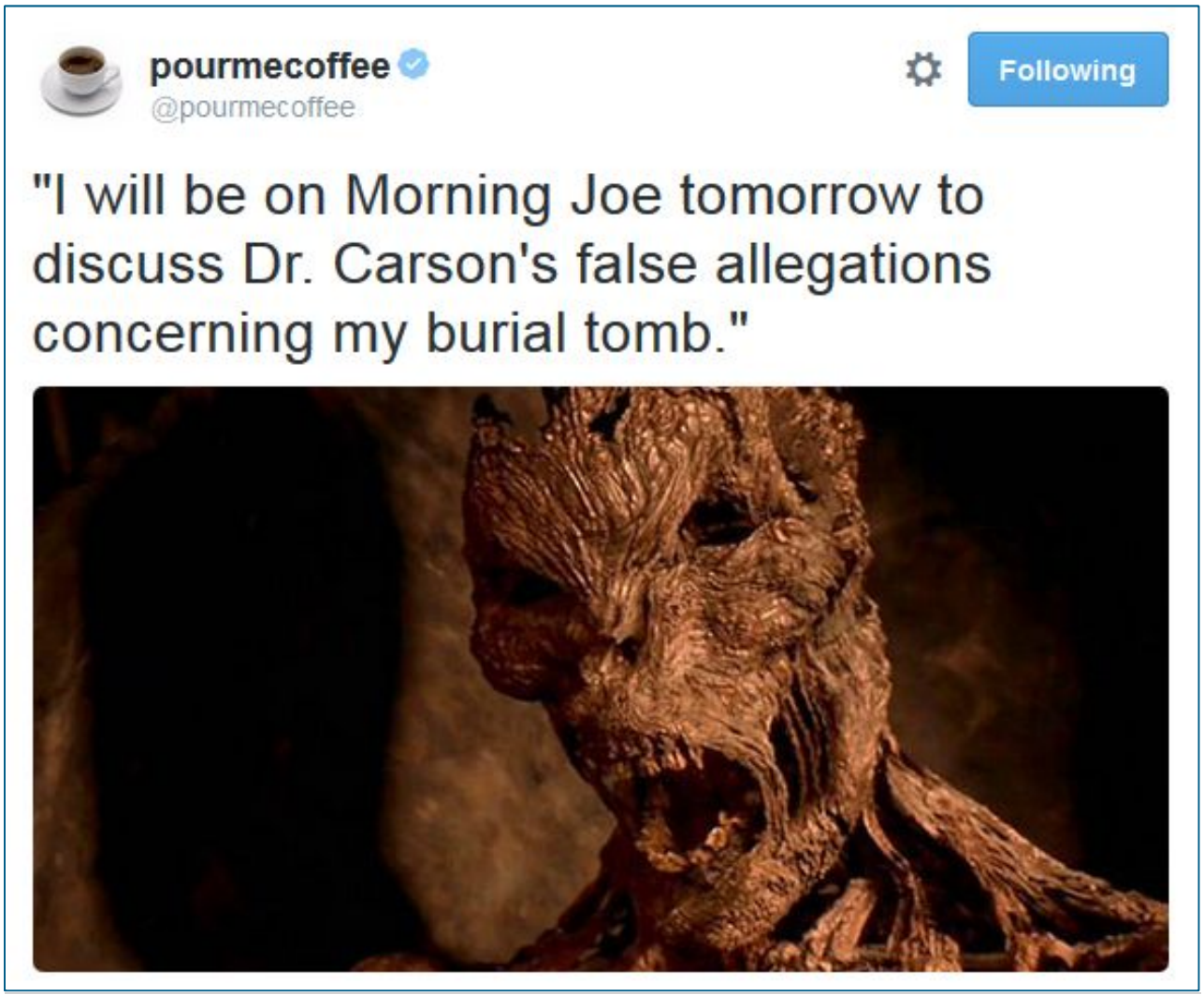
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) marked an important anniversary:

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(@RepBarbaraLee)

A humor account poked fun at Ben Carson's theory that the pyramids held grain, not the tombs of Egyptian leaders:

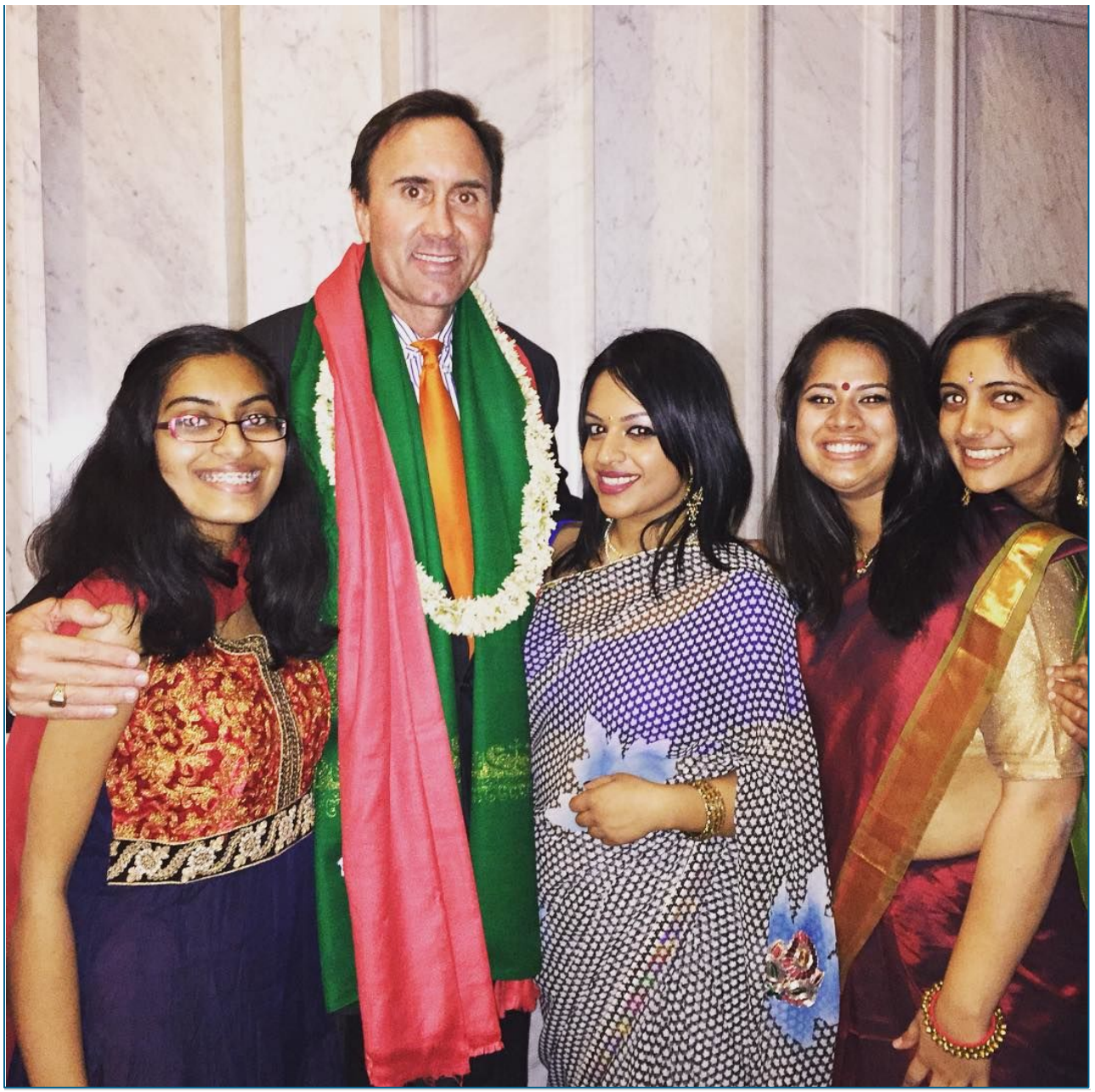


(@pourmecoffee)

–Instagrams of the day:

Rep. Pete Olson (R-Texas) celebrated Diwali in Washington, D.C.:

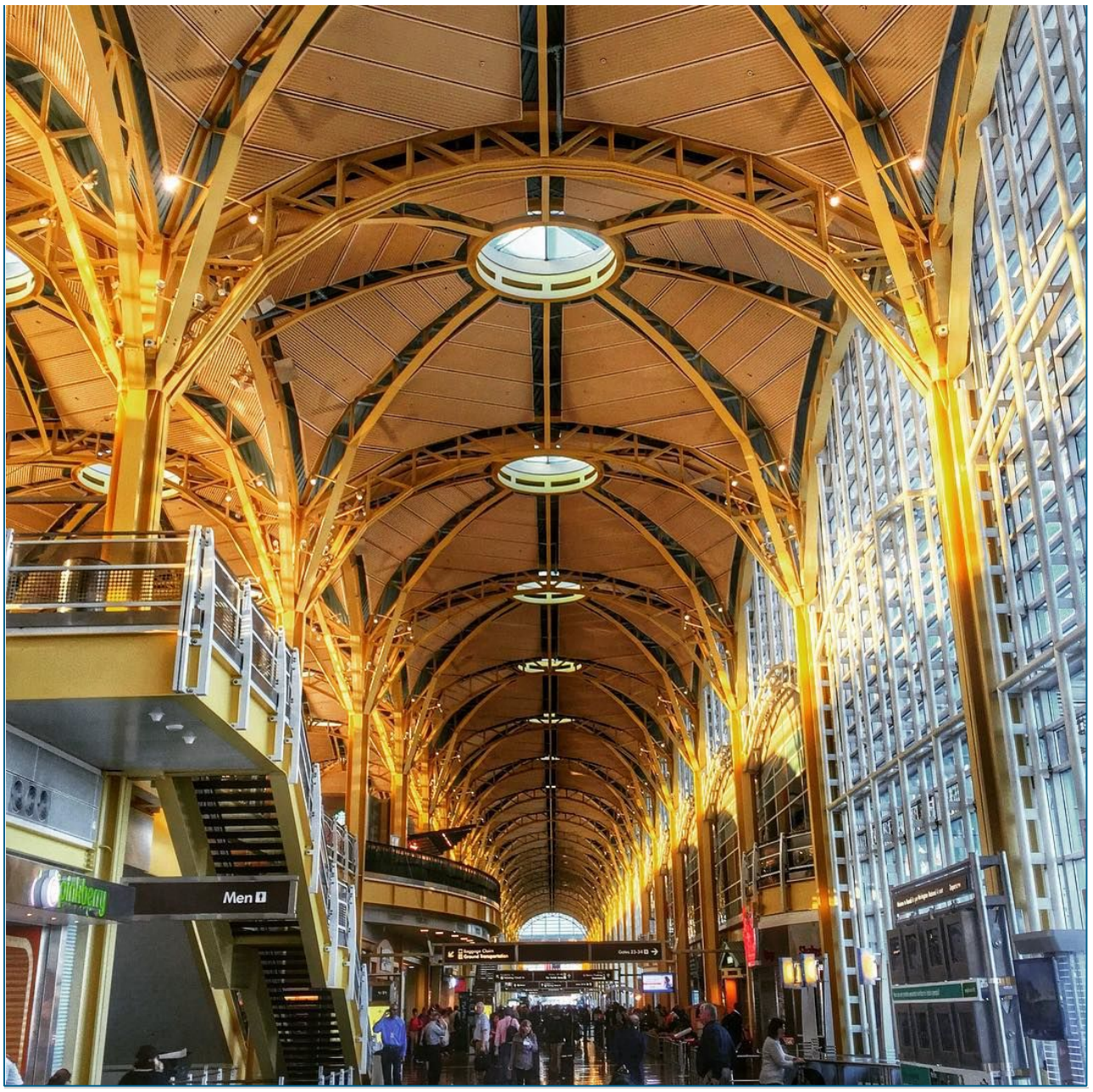
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(reppeteolson)

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) reflected on the architecture at Reagan National Airport, calling the building a “cathedral of transportation.” “Sometimes, it’s a good idea to slow down and just look up,” King wrote on Instagram:

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(senangusking)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— CNN, "GOP warns Arkansas senator: Step it up or lose a key seat ," by Manu Raju: "The Arkansas Senate seat shouldn't be much of a concern to Republican leaders. The state has grown increasingly red during the Obama era. Mitt Romney romped to a victory there in 2012. And Tom Cotton last year unseated a scion of a powerful Democratic family, strengthening the GOP hold in the state. Then there's John Boozman. The 64-year-old Republican, facing re-election to a second term next year, has prompted growing concern from party elders who fear he risks a repeat of past election debacles — where GOP candidates in Indiana, South Dakota, Kansas and Mississippi ran shoddy campaigns, forcing a last-ditch rescue attempt by the party establishment to try to save an endangered seat. Mitch McConnell has recently had a serious conversation with Boozman about the state of his campaign, sources said, and plans to headline fundraisers for the

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Arkansas Republican to help fill his coffers." *The NRSC reportedly told him that they're not going to spend a dime on his race. Polls show him in trouble. And the Democrats have fielded a good candidate who is running an aggressive campaign.*



Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., off the Senate floor last year (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

— New York Times, "U.S. to share criminal records with Native American police," by Erich Lichtblau: "The Justice Department moved to fix what it described as 'an information gap' that has allowed offenders living on Native American reservations to buy guns illegally and for years has blocked tribal police from access to important criminal records. The flaws in the system were on stark display last year after a 14-year-old boy from a reservation in Washington State used his father's handgun to kill four classmates and himself. Investigators determined that a prior restraining order against the father should have prohibited him from buying the gun, but the order was never entered in the federal database. In an announcement timed with the Tribal Nations Conference at the White House, the Justice Department named 10 Native American tribes around the country to share criminal and civil records with the federal government through a trial program expected to cost about $1 million. Officials hope to expand the program to other tribes.

— New York Times, "Ben Carson appeals to black voters, but his campaign doesn't yet," by Jonathan Martin: "Carson has already been to Ferguson, Mo., and Baltimore this year — sites of unrest after the police-related deaths of African-Americans —

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as well as other black hubs such as Harlem. On Friday, his campaign will begin airing a rap-infused ad on black-oriented radio stations in several cities, and he will visit a youth center in Florida and speak to a black Republican club in the state. Later in the month, he is scheduled to attend a forum on criminal justice at the historically black Benedict College, in Columbia, S.C. Yet if Carson's potential for bringing black voters into the Republican primary illustrates a unique possibility, his efforts to win them over highlight his limitations as a candidate. Though he raised over $20 million during the third quarter of this year and primary votes will be cast in less than three months, his campaign operation has not caught up to his standing in the race. He has, for example, yet to hire a staff member dedicated to turning out black voters."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Bernie Sanders: Climate change is a 'major planetary crisis.' From Think Progress : "Sanders told reporters that President Obama should reject the Keystone XL pipeline before the United Nations' conference on climate change starts at the end of the month. 'It's imperative that we not just talk the talk but walk the walk, that the United States lead the world in combating climate change,' Sanders said."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Bill O'Reilly slanders Ronald Reagan. From George F. Will in The Washington Post: "Because of its vast readership, 'Killing Reagan: The Violent Assault That Changed a Presidency' by Fox News's Bill O'Reilly and his collaborator, Martin Dugard, will distort public understanding of Reagan's presidency more than hostile but conscientious scholars could … The book's perfunctory pieties about Reagan's greatness are inundated by its flood of regurgitated slanders about his supposed lassitude and manipulability."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: The South Carolina Democratic Party and Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) host a forum for Democratic presidential candidates at

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Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., while Rand Paul campaigns in Spartanburg, S.C. In New Hampshire, Carly Fiorina stops in Manchester, Milford and Dover; Chris Christie holds events in Somersworth, Concord and Hanover; and John Kasich files for the ballot in Concord and holds a town hall in Hopkinton. In Iowa, Mike Huckabee, Bobby Jindal and Ted Cruz attend the National Religious Liberties Conference in Des Moines. Huckabee and Cruz also speak at the Iowa Renewal Project.

–On the Hill: The House and Senate are in recess.

–At the White House: No public events are scheduled.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "If I looked like Senator Thune, I'd be president of the United States." — John McCain told students of his South Dakota colleague (Via Roll Call)

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— Shorts weather today will turn into umbrella and coat weather as we progress through the weekend. The Capital Weather Gang forecasts : "With enough sunshine, we could eke out record warmth today, before cloudy, showery, and cooler conditions take over tomorrow. At least Sunday promises sunny autumnal glory. We have something to look forward to, although it is a bit of a roller coaster weekend, one could argue. Slightly warmer conditions are possible as we start the workweek."

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Washington Nationals manager Dusty Baker poses at the park yesterday (Photo by John McDonnell/The Washington Post)

— New Nationals manager Dusty Baker made a really good first impression on our sports reporters who went to see him yesterday. “Baker’s hopes for getting the Nationals back into the playoffs, after a disappointing season that cost Matt Williams his job, relies on a philosophy he developed talking to Bill Russell and Bill Walsh,” James Wagner reports. “Both told him a team has to be close, from the janitor to the administrative assistants to the owners to the players. After a season that included a dugout fight between Bryce Harper and Jonathan Papelbon, and fractured relationships between the clubhouse and manager’s office, Baker’s style could be needed.”

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Paul J. Wiedefeld is the new general manager for WMATA. (Barbara Haddock Taylor)

— Metro finally picked a new general manager, ending a year-long search. Paul J. Wiedefeld is the former head of the Maryland Transit Administration and Baltimore-Washington Marshall International Airport. (Paul Duggan)

— With a 4-1 win over the Boston Bruins, the Capitals tied their best start in franchise history with 18 points in their first 12 games. (Isabelle Khurshudyan)

— Less than half of Montgomery County high school students are ready for college, newly released English and algebra test scores show. (Donna St. George)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Jeb Bush opened up about his daughter Noelle's struggle with drug addiction in an interview with the Huffington Post . The story is accompanied by a powerful and humanizing 5-minute video :

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(The Huffington Post)

Midshipmen at the Naval Academy saluted Annapolis, Md., with a spoof of Bruno Mars's "Uptown Funk":

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(Nickle2e)

Ben Carson spoke about his radio rap ad in an interview with Fusion's Jorge Ramos (listen to the full ad here) :

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(Fusion)

In a scrum, Carson defended his theory that the Egyptian pyramids held grain against “secular progressives”:

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(tpmtv)

Aziz Ansari impersonated Bobby Jindal on Jimmy Fallon's show. Watch here .

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The Washington Post

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From:	BB <bbnanna11@gmail.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	9/18/2015 9:16:01 AM
Subject:	Follow up 2

Hillary has so many accomplishments. here is my view of the top three.

1. Being a constant champion for children, women and families all her life.

2. Organizing the countries of the world to support heavy economic sanctions on Iran to get them to the table to end their nuclear weapons program.

3.Working and fighting for first responders after 9/11 and to bring financial and moral support to New York City and all of those affected by that tragic terrorist attack.

Sent from my iPad

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From:	"Rick Hegdahl, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	12/31/2015 5:27:23 PM
Subject:	Bumping General Clark's email



John -

I wanted to make certain you had a chance to read General Clark's email before tonight's midnight deadline.

As an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran who relies on the VA medical system for my primary health care, the stakes are high next election cycle. But if we stand together, I know that we will not only elect a president who will protect our health care, education, and job benefits -- but also a new generation of progressive veterans like Tammy Duckworth, Jason Kander, and Joe Sestak who understand our needs.

Please make your $3 contribution to VoteVets before the clock strikes midnight. It is important.

Thank you for standing with VoteVets as we approach the final official FEC fundraising deadline of the year.

All of my best,

Rick Hegdahl
Iraq War Veteran
VoteVets

From: General (Ret.) Wesley Clark
Date: December 31, 2015
Subject: A personal message

I entered the service over 50 years ago, and it is hard for me to remember a more important election for veterans and military family members than the one ahead.

Almost every Republican candidate for president promises to continue, or even escalate, the cycle of endless war in the Middle East. One of them has even threatened to use nuclear weapons in the region. Meanwhile, a multi-million dollar Koch-connected effort is pushing hard to privatize veterans' health care.

And then there's Donald Trump. Thankfully, the American people have consistently defeated demagogues like Donald and relegated them to the dustbin of history. But this time, it will be veterans leading the way.

With all this at stake, I want to ask you an important question:

Can I count on you to contribute to VoteVets before tonight's final FEC fundraising deadline of the year? It's important.

If you've saved your payment information with ActBlue Express, your donation will go through immediately:

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EXPRESS DONATE: $10
EXPRESS DONATE: $25
EXPRESS DONATE: $50
EXPRESS DONATE: $100
DONATE ANOTHER AMOUNT

I've been a VoteVets advisor since their launch in 2006, and I can't imagine a progressive organization better suited to meet the challenges of the coming election cycle.

Thank you for contributing before their final fundraising deadline of the year. It's important.

Thank you,

General (Ret.) Wesley Clark
VoteVets

Contribute

PAID FOR BY VOTEVETS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org>
To: "Molly Elgin-Cossart" <melgincossart@americanprogress.org>
"Peter Ogden" <pogden@americanprogress.org>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/22/2015 5:32:55 PM
Subject: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version (+JDP edits, +Molly edit re NDB)

Good point, ideally NDB would be included in any sustainable investment standards initiatives. Updated below with Molly's edit:

*****
As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. Increasing financing for sustainable development and decreasing financing for projects that add considerable climate risk will be essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals. That will require applying high environmental and social standards to our investments going forward. China will host the G20 next year in the midst of a growing international dialogue on sustainable investment standards. What is China's strategy for leveraging the G20, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the South-South Cooperation Fund, the Silk Road Fund, the New Development Bank (NDB) and other bilateral and multilateral forums to help establish common global standards in financing for sustainable development?

*****

I'll hold until 11:00pm tonight in case folks have additional thoughts/edits. If no one else pipes up with additional changes I'll send this version out at 11pm tonight.

Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
Director for China Policy
Center for American Progress
Direct Line: (202) 741-6359
Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Molly Elgin-Cossart
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 8:22 PM
To: Peter Ogden; John Podesta
Cc: Melanie Hart; John Norris; Eryn Sepp; Eryn Sepp (EG)
Subject: Re: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version

I like it. Might be good to add the New Development Bank (better known as the BRICS Bank) to the list at the end - China has considerable leverage there and standards remain an open question.

From: Peter Ogden
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:50 PM
To: John Podesta
Cc: Melanie Hart; John Norris; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Eryn Sepp; Eryn Sepp (EG)
Subject: Re: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version

I like it, especially the use of "decreasing," which would get them pointed in the right direction (but also provide enough flexibility that they might go for it).

On Jun 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Looks good. One change I wouldn't use sustainable financing. Could be misinterpreted. I'd use financing for sustainable development in the two positive references and maybe decreasing financing for projects that add considerable climate risk in the negative reference
What do others think?

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On Jun 22, 2015 1:36 PM, "Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org > wrote:

Hello John,

Below is the refined question you just conveyed via phone:

*****
As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. Increasing sustainable financing and decreasing unsustainable financing will be essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals. That will require applying high environmental and social standards to our investments going forward. China will host the G20 next year in the midst of a growing international dialogue on sustainable investment standards. What is China's strategy for leveraging the G20, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the South-South Cooperation Fund, the Silk Road Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral forums to help establish common global standards for sustainable financing?

*****

Will hold on sending until I receive either a green light or additional edits.

Background notes of potential interest:

Last Friday Zhang Gaoli attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia and delivered remarks re China's plans for the 2016 G20. His speech was very general but did contain some positive indicators: he said G20 nations should develop new driving forces for sustainable growth of the global economy. He also focused on China's Silk Road initiative, which he welcomed other countries to join. That suggests they are at least thinking about linking these other programs in with G20.

Terminology re China hosting G20: Turkey currently enjoys talking about the fact that they hold the "G20 presidency" but thus far Chinese state press is using the term "chair" instead of presidency.

The 2015 G20 summit will be November 14-15 in Turkey. Then Turkey hands the baton to China. The 2016 summit will be in Hangzhou, China (likely next fall, exact date TBD).

Thanks,
Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
Director for China Policy
Center for American Progress
Direct Line: (202) 741-6359
Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Molly Elgin-Cossart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Re: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

Makes sense to combine - and perhaps leading with G20 will draw out some responses about that, too.

- I wonder whether it's useful to nail down any specifics on high quality, e.g. investing in sustainable technologies and services, in ways that comply with high social and governance standards - the downside is the risk of getting too focused on a back and forth on governance, though could be interesting to specify each component to see if he responds to each.
- In the SDG financing world, China's official position is that ODA is still the main vehicle, so may be useful to say something to the effect of "increasing sustainable development financing, including harnessing a broader range of sources towards sustainable development is essential ". (REF recent official Chinese gov position paper on post-2015 which states: "Development financing should be enhanced with North-South cooperation serving as the main channel." This statement is a pure political play, since domestic resources are the main vehicle of SD financing and drove China's own rise, not to mention ODA is not terribly sustainable, but this line plays well with developing countries.) This may be adding too much into a single question, but thought it worthwhile to flag.

Cheers,
Molly

From: Melanie Hart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris

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Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: RE: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

John and team,

Pete combined the G20 questions into one shorter one and added a separate one on finance. Here's some updated suggested text from Pete:

(1) As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. How will China use its G20 presidency next year to drive further progress on these two issues?

(2) Relatedly, increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

I think Pete's finance language is excellent. My one concern is that if we send 2 questions, they might pick what is easiest to respond to rather than what we would find most interesting. One option would be to combine further, perhaps as follows:

As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. It is in this environment that China is taking on the G20 presidency, and many observers around the world will be watching next year to see how China leverages the G20 to drive further progress on these two issues. Observers will also be monitoring whether and to what degree China leverages the AIIB to achieve these important goals. Increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

Additional thoughts/reactions from the team?

Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
Director for China Policy
Center for American Progress
Direct Line: (202) 741-6359
Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Eryn Sepp [mailto:esepp@equitablegrowth.org]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 12:55 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com '; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang
Importance: High

Hi Everyone—

John wants to respond on here to you all. He thinks we need to combine the two questions into one, and put a high standards sustainable finance question in.

Melanie, do we know who else is getting to ask questions?

John, the plain text is below:

To: John Podesta
From: Melanie Hart, Erin Auel, Molly Elgin-Cossart, Pete Ogden, John Norris
Re: **Quick Response Needed – Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang**
Date: June 19, 2015

You are attending the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) think tank summit in Beijing June 26-27. There will be a side meeting with Li Keqiang. Around 40 guest scholars and officials will attend. **You are one of the high-level**

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conference speakers invited to attend the Li Keqiang meeting. You have also been invited to ask Premier Li a question. In that meeting only four people will ask questions (yourself included). CCIEE tells us the questions must be submitted in advance, no later than Monday evening (June 22) U.S. time. We should treat this as a hard deadline.

We suggest posing the following question:

Next year China will host the G20. Many nations around the world will be watching to see how China handles its G20 presidency and what that tells us about how China's rise will impact multilateral institutions. What does the Chinese government currently consider to be its top priorities for China's 2016 G20 presidency? As you know, 2015 is a very big year for sustainable development and climate change. We hope to see big progress this year on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Paris. Is the Chinese leadership thinking about how China can use its G20 presidency to unify and strengthen G20 support for implementing multilateral agendas on sustainable development and climate change?

Please share your thoughts asap (and no later than Monday evening) so that we can pass your preferred question on to Premier Li's team.

Additional meeting details below.

I. Meeting Format

Li will lead the meeting and do most of the talking. He has selected four people, including you, to ask questions. There is no pre-set theme for the meeting, but we have been told you are welcome to ask questions on topics including sustainable development, think tank cooperation, and economic issues.

II. Potential Participants

The meeting hosts have invited about 40 guest scholars and officials to attend the meeting. That group includes:

BAN Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (video speech)
Romano PRODI, President of the Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation, Professor at China Europe International Business School, Former Prime Minister of Italy
Danilo TURK, Professor of International Law, Former President of Slovenia
Kevin RUDD, President of the Asia Society Policy Institute, Former Prime Minister of Australia
Sir Don MCKINNON, Chairman of New Zealand China Council, Former Commonwealth Secretary General, Former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand
Grzegorz W. KOLODKO, Founder and Director of Transformation, Integration and Globalization Economic Research, Former Deputy Premier of Poland
Thomas SARGENT, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor of Economics at New York University
WU Hongbo, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations
William BURNS, President of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Nubuo TANAKA, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Former Executive Director of International Energy Agency

III. Biography of Li Keqiang

<image001.jpg>Li Keqiang (Ke-chung) is the second-highest ranking official in the CCP. He is currently a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, premier of the State Council and secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. From 2008-2013, he was vice premier of the State Council and deputy secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. In this role, he oversaw a portfolio of issues including economic development, price controls, finance, climate change, and macroeconomic management. During that time, he also directed the Three Gorges Project Construction Committee and of South-to-North Water Diversion Construction Project Committee. In 2013, he became Premier of the State Council. He has focused on economic development and meeting China's growth targets. He has also led efforts to set targets for reducing energy intensity, cap coal use, and boost renewable capacity. At a meeting of the National Leading Group on Climate Change on June 12, 2015, he backed China's commitments through the UNFCCC, stating "China stands ready to work with all other parties to ensure a comprehensive, balanced and strong agreement at the upcoming Paris Conference."

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/25/2014 9:28:37 AM
Subject: Aviva Chomsky | The Real Story Behind the "Invasion" of the Children

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Aviva Chomsky | The United States' Continuing Border Crisis: The Real Story Behind the "Invasion" of the Children

Aviva Chomsky, TomDispatch: The "crisis" of Central American children crossing the US-Mexican border is now fading from the news. The media stories have been legion, and yet, as attention shifts elsewhere, the real factors that would have made sense of what's been happening remain untouched.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | Truth Has No Place in the Attack of Inflation Hawks

Dean Baker, Truthout: There is a push by inflation hawks to get the Fed to raise interest rates. They

BuzzFlash

Police Officer Caught on Tape Boasting of Racism Is Relieved of Active Duty in St. Louis County

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: It would be hard to believe that many members of the Ferguson and St. Louis County police forces are not infected with the cancer of racism - and intoxicated with the license to kill.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

For Sale: Systems That Can Secretly Track Where Cellphone Users Go Around the Globe

Read the Article at The Washington Post

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argue that inflationary pressures are picking up steam, and we'll soon be caught in an inflationary spiral. We should recognize that they're not willing to rely on honest arguments.

Read the Article

Gazans in the US Suffer the Horrors of War From Abroad

Pam Bailey, Truthout: Palestinians from Gaza living in the United States speak out about what it's like to be here when their hearts, and families, are there. Separated from their parents, siblings, children and spouses after leaving the Strip to study or work, they have watched the news with horror.

Read the Article

Poverty Is Not Inevitable: What We Can Do Now to Turn Things Around

Dean Paton, YES! Magazine: Having poor people in the richest country in the world is a choice. We have the money to solve this. Plenty of other ideas for democratizing wealth exist now, all of which can start small and scale up to large, even national enterprises that provide well-paying jobs. But do we have the will?

Read the Article

How to End the Criminalization of US Mothers

Sarah Jaffe, Mariame Kaba, Randy Albelda and Kathleen Geier, The Nation: Nightmarish stories about the criminalizing of motherhood have been making headlines of late. Other countries provide social programs and income support for poor single mothers; in the United States, we arrest them. What is driving the United States' assault on mothers, and what is the remedy?

Read the Article

We Won't Go Back: March on Staten Island for Eric Garner

Palina Prasasouk, Truthout: Thousands of people - streaming off caravans, buses and ferries - marched nonviolently with Staten Island residents on August 23, joining the families of Eric Garner and Michael Brown. The march took place on the 25th anniversary of the death of Yusef Hawkins, an African-American 16-year-old killed by a Caucasian mob.

Read the Article and View the Photos

Marjorie Cohn | National Lawyers Guild, Other Legal Organizations Urge International Criminal Court to Investigate War Crimes by Israeli, US Leaders in Gaza

Marjorie Cohn, Marjorie Cohn's Blog: The National Lawyers Guild, Center for Constitutional Rights, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Arab Lawyers Union and the American Association of Jurists sent a letter on Friday to the International Criminal Court, urging an investigation of war crimes and genocide committed by Israel in Gaza.

Read the Article

Russia's Humanitarian "Invasion"

Ray McGovern, Consortium News: Official Washington's war-hysteria

Thousands Gather in St. Louis for Michael Brown's Funeral

Read the Article at New York Magazine

Some Numbers for the "Entitlement" Bashers

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Detroit Resumes Water Shutoffs

Read the Article at The Detroit News

The US Incarceration System Ruins the Lives of the Poor and Favors the Wealthy

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

"Widespread Methane Leakage" From Ocean Floor Off US Coast

Read the Article at BBC News

Vermont Quits War on Drugs to Treat Heroin Abuse as Health Issue

Read the Article at Bloomberg Businessweek

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machine is running at full speed again after Russia unilaterally dispatched a convoy of trucks carrying humanitarian supplies to the blockaded Ukrainian city of Luhansk.

Read the Article

The World Watches Ferguson, but Racial Discrimination is a Health Issue Across the US

Lekeisha Sumner, The Conversation: In the United States, African Americans account for a disproportionate share of many of the leading health conditions, and, according to the Institute of Medicine and Centers for Disease Control, ethnic discrimination plays a role in these health inequities.

Read the Article

Not Nearly Enough: Why Bank of America Record $17 Billion Settlement Is a Rip-Off

Lynn Stuart Parramore, AlterNet: Some experts hold that unless a fine is big enough to potentially force a company out of business when it commits abuse at an epic level, the fine is, by definition, too low. Bank of America's punishment does not fit the crime.

Read the Article

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From: "Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/7/2015 10:21:09 AM
Subject: Re: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request

Done.

On Thu, May 7, 2015 at 5:13 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Can you get this to Anita. Thx.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun" <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu >
Date: May 7, 2015 3:29 PM
Subject: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu >
Cc:

Dear Mr. Podesta,

I am contacting you with a somewhat unusual request and the hope that you might be able to convey this wish by my children to an appropriate staff person for President Obama in spite of the short notice.

Thank you. And thank you so much for the work you have been doing. I hope you are able to encourage Hillary Clinton to come out strongly to address dangers from Climate Change.

Sincerely,
Pam Vergun, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Dear Mr. President,

I hear that you are coming to our hometown of Beaverton tomorrow down the street from where my children were in a two-way Spanish immersion public school. I know this is a long shot, but I would like to tell you about the work my children and I are doing to help you stop Climate Change in case you would like to meet them.

Also, months ago, my son, who is also one of your fans, asked me to invite you to his Bar Mitzvah. Although we just learned that you will only be in Beaverton during the morning, I'm sure you would like Isaac's D'Var teaching will be on taking even more serious action on Climate Change.

My son is African-American, my daughter was born in the Marshall Islands, and my husband and I are European-American, and together we are doing all we can to impact policies especially the ones most needed to protect our planet. My son has been talking with the City of Beaverton about his petition to Mayor Doyle regarding fossil fuels and nuclear power. The links below are to the little websites I made for their Mitzvah projects, so Miko and Isaac can speak for themselves. Please glance at them to see if you could use them to inspire or highlight your own work as you have inspired us.
Miko's: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

Thank you so much.
With Love and Blessings to you and Michelle and your daughters,
Pam Vergun

Sent from my iPhone

Dr. Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, M.P.A.

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Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun
vergun@alumni.stanford.edu
3545 NW Ashland Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Hm: 503-645-6642
Mo: 503-332-7633

Wherever you live, sign Isaac's petition to the City of Beaverton's Mayor Doyle and the City Council:
https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-the-city-of-beaverton-from-fossil-fuels-and-nuclear-power
Thanks!
And, for more on Miko and Isaac's work to help protect our planet, please visit their websites:
Miko: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

--
Eryn M. Sepp
Cell: 818-456-2881

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From:	"Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To:	"Eric Schultz" <eric_h_schultz@who.eop.gov> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	5/9/2015 12:10:29 AM
Subject:	Obama blasts liberals on trade

Good thing I do not have a column on Sunday, because if I did, I would blast the living crap out of Obama for what he said about liberals at Nike, and where he said it, and why he did it. And you can quote me. Maybe I will calm down by my next column deadline. Then again, maybe I will not.

SIX YEARS OF THIS HAS SO DEPRESSED THE DEMOCRATIC BASE THAT PART OF OBAMA'S LEGACY WILL BE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC BASE IN TWO MIDTERM ELECTIONS THAT LED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC HOUSE AND DEMOCRATIC SENATE, AND THE CREATION OF A REPUBLICAN SENATE AND REPUBLICAN HOUSE.

I am sending a visible copy of this to John Podesta, because the biggest danger to Hillary Clinton is not what Republicans say, and not what Peter Schweizer writes, but that she ultimately takes liberals too much for granted and ends up like Miliband in Britain, Herzog in Israel, and Harry Reid losing the Senate in 2014.

For Obama to be insulting Harry Reid and Elizabeth Warren right now on trade is the most politically stupid and maladroit move in my memory from any Democratic president---for
Obama to be insulting labor unions and progressives right now on trade is not only politically stupid for his own position but it hurts Hillary Clinton by inflaming the very Democrats who have doubts about her that liberals such as myself are trying to remedy even though I---- unlike many who travel in your circles---have no desire to get another high level job in government and no desire to become a lobbyist for banks or consultant to British conservatives or give paid speeches to oil companies.

For Obama to keep a trade negotiation secret and then tell liberals they don't know what they are talking about on a trade policy that is being kept secret from them is absurd and Orwellian and the kind of contemptuous language and attitude that is the greatest single reason that Democrats lost the House and Senate---and this attitude is the greatest single threat to Hillary Clinton's candidacy after Miliband and Herzog and Harry in 2014 learned the hard way what happens when too many liberal voters stay home.

And for Obama to say this at Nike, of all places, demonstrates his cultural and psychological ignorance of how a majority of Democratic voters and activists view trade trade policy and trade politics.....

I read portions of this note to two Democrats whose names you know and told them I would be sending to it people who could---if they chose----send this to Obama and Clinton and they told me send it, send it, and if they don't read it, write it publicly because they need to hear it.

Others will be seeing this, and Eric, you're a good guy and because you handle the press, I am alerting you to the fact that I might well be writing it publicly soon because I am fed up to the gills with the attitudes Obama's comments convey and crony capitalist mentality that so permeates a Democratic establishment and did so much damage to what was once the Democratic Congress.

I am no protectionist, but I'lll be damned if I'll keep working to help Democrats who insult me like this----and insult so many Democrats like this----you can bet your ass that I know what I am talking about, and so does Elizabeth, and so does Harry, and what Barack Obama has

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still not learned is that these insults of Democrats are the greatest single reason his presidency has been lobotomized because he now must sit across the table with Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader McConnell.

Today I write this privately; I make no promises about tomorrow.

Sent from my iPad

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/25/2015 12:45:29 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Backlash brews against erasing Woodrow Wilson's name from Princeton

View The Daily 202 on the Web

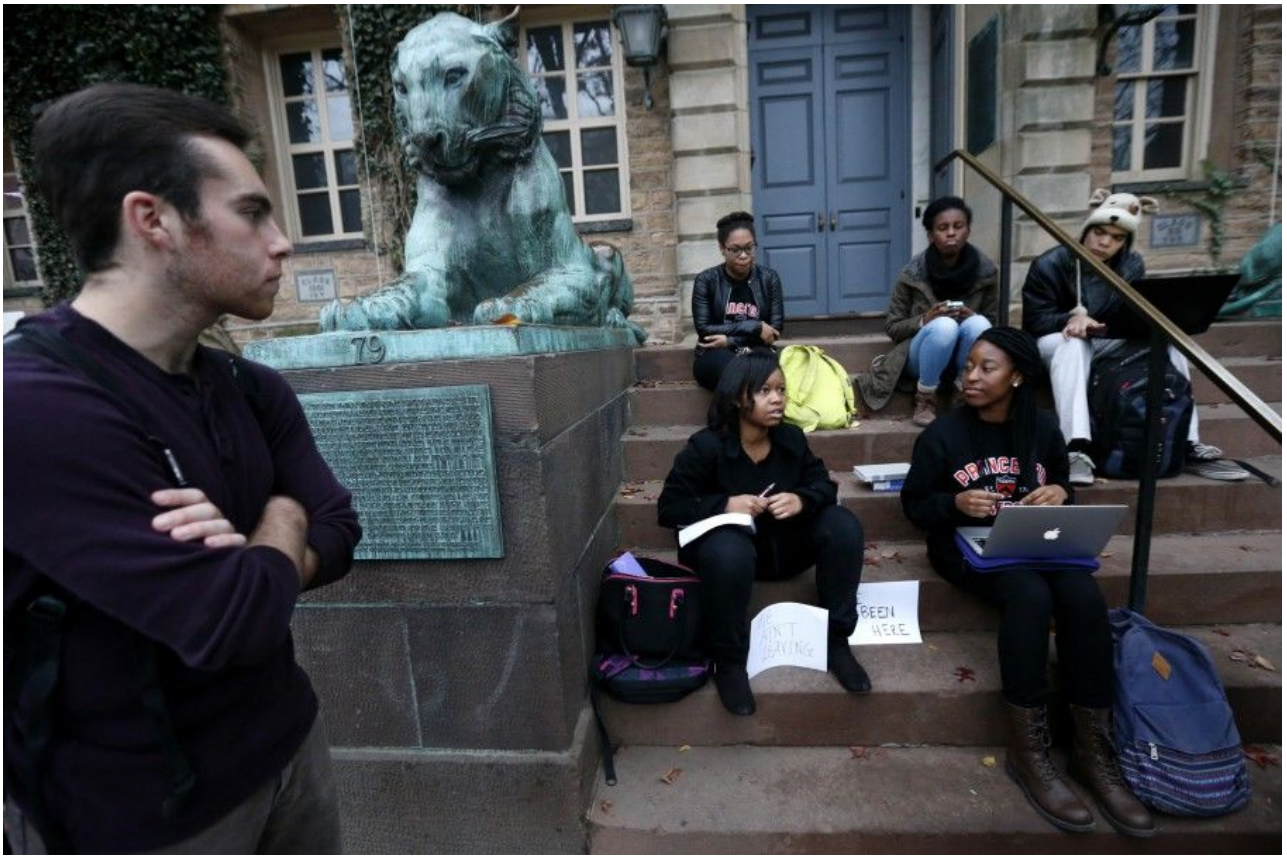
PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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Backlash brews against erasing Woodrow Wilson's name from Princeton



Students from the Black Justice League protest at Nassau Hall last week to demand the school remove Woodrow Wilson's name from programs and buildings because of his racist legacy. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Many alumni of Princeton think that student protesters have jumped the shark by demanding the removal of Woodrow Wilson's name from campus because of his racist attitudes a century ago.

After activists from the Black Justice League occupied the university president's office for 32 hours last week, he agreed to consider such a move. The Board of Trustees has now formed a subcommittee to evaluate whether the former president (of both the university and the United States) should be expunged, including from the distinguished school of public policy that bears his name.

Several prominent Republicans connected to the Ivy League institution are decrying the process, which will include public meetings in the spring, as political correctness running amok.

"I am disappointed in the Administration and their reaction to it," Chris Christie, who as New Jersey's governor is an ex-officio member of Princeton's board of trustees, told the 202 in a statement.

New Jersey Republican Rep. Leonard Lance, who earned a master's from Princeton in 1982, faulted Wilson for re-segregating the federal workforce in the 1910's but said it's stupid to ignore the rest of his legacy because of it.

"George Washington owned slaves. Slavery is an indelible stain on the American nation. But I do not favor renaming the capital jurisdiction," Lance said. "This has to be taken in the context of his entire public service."

Former Rep. Jim Leach (R-Iowa), who taught at the Wilson School after three decades in Congress, suggests that the university endow a new chair for W.E.B. DuBois to defuse the controversy.

"Clearly in the resume of Woodrow Wilson, there is a weakness," said Leach, who graduated from Princeton in 1964. "To me, it's not a credible response to completely eliminate the name of Wilson."

Leach noted that James Duke made his fortune selling cigarettes, Leland Stanford used

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Chinese labor to become a railroad baron, and Thomas Jefferson, the father of the University of Virginia, impregnated one of his slaves.

He added that Wilson welcomed Jewish faculty to Princeton at a time when they were still actively discriminated against at Harvard.

“Let’s acknowledge the blind spots and go forward without erasing history,” Leach said by phone from Iowa.

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Woodrow Wilson during his second term (Library of Congress)

— Conservatives find it deeply ironic that they are coming to the defense of one of the fathers of modern progressivism.

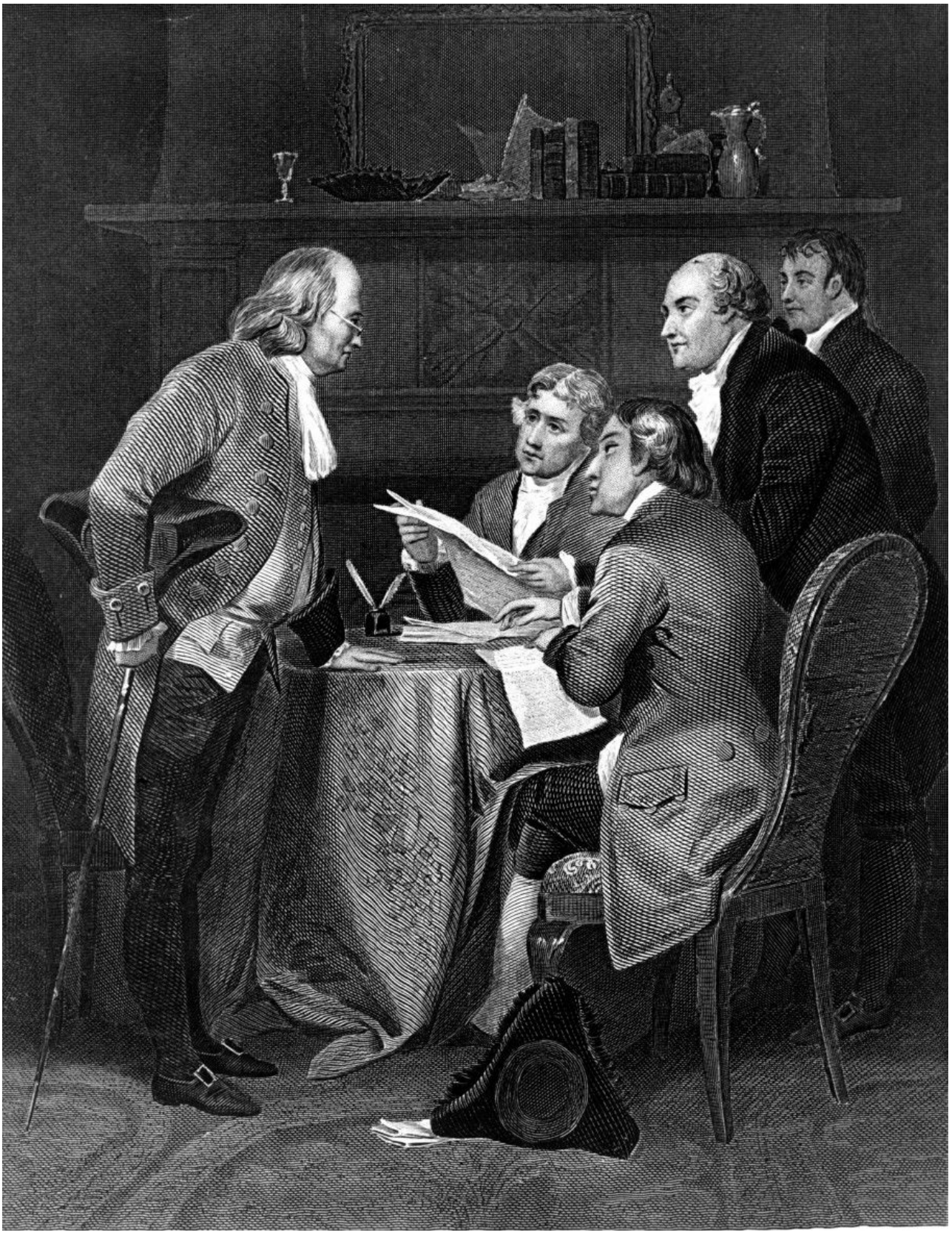
Colorado Republican Rep. Ken Buck, class of 1981, quipped in an e-mail: “Instead of fighting dead, racist Democrats, these students should be fighting against the worst part of

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Wilson's legacy: an overbearing federal government that denies opportunity to young Americans."

Lance and Buck are two of six Princeton graduates in the House. There are two alumni in the Senate. Ted Cruz, class of 1992, declined to comment.

MSNBC host Joe Scarborough, a former GOP congressman from Florida, tweeted that the push to remove Wilson's name is "insanity."



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Thomas Jefferson and the committee chosen to draft the Declaration of Independence are shown at work in this 19th century engraving. (AP Photo)

— Where does this end? The Black Lives Matter movement has spawned similar pushes at campuses across the country. The faculty of Amherst College recently voted to remove "Lord Jeff" as the school's unofficial mascot. Jeffery Amherst, as a British general in the 1760s, advocated infecting Native Americans with smallpox. The school will still keep its name, however. Georgetown announced two weeks ago that it will rename two buildings named for school presidents who organized the sale of Jesuit-owned slaves to help pay off campus debt in the 1830s.

— Jefferson is the next target on campuses. Inside Higher Ed reports that, at both the University of Missouri in Columbia and at the College of William & Mary, critics have been placing yellow sticky notes on Jefferson statues, labeling him — among other things – a "rapist" and a "racist." It's hard to see such a movement catching on at the University of Virginia, overlooked by Monticello.

— Several columnists have weighed in against expunging Wilson this week:

The Post's Alexandra Petri explains that "history is a grey area": "When you erase the ugly parts of history, you run the risk of forgetting that someone lousy can do something worthy of honor. You divide the past into obvious heroes and obvious villains. And that's dangerous. Then you forget what good and bad people are capable of. Then you forget that most good and bad things are not unmixed."

Richard Cohen argues that "we have an obligation to place historical figures in the context of their times and to accord them what they, in some instances, did not accord others: understanding." He calls Wilson "a transformational progressive" in many ways: "He advocated women's right to vote (the 19th Amendment) and the eight-hour workday, and he supported the Clayton Antitrust Act as well as the creation of the Federal Reserve and the Federal Trade Commission. He also backed the implementation of the federal income tax, a progressive way for the government to raise funds. In foreign affairs, he took the country into World War I and helped create the League of Nations, which the United States, to his painful regret, did not join. He formulated an internationalism we now call 'Wilsonian' that has influenced U.S. foreign policy ever since."

Franklin Roosevelt interned 120,000 U.S. citizens of Japanese descent, Christine Emba of The Post's In Theory blog notes, but no one thinks he shouldn't be honored. At least not yet. "We can acknowledge the contributions of even greatly flawed individuals," writes Emba, who notes that she is a black Princeton graduate who studied at

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the Woodrow Wilson School.

Bill Scher, executive editor of LiberalOasis, complains that Wilson is "already a woefully under-analyzed and under-appreciated figure." He argues on Real Clear Politics that, "Removing his name from his intellectual home would not just condemn him; it would condemn us to a poorer understanding of our own history. For Princeton to contribute to American ignorance would be an unconscionable act for a premier university."

The Newark Star-Ledger published an editorial urging Princeton protesters to "learn the entire history": "If we were to erase tributes to every historical figure with a repellant quality, there would be no names left on any building, bridge, airport, school, river, park, statue or boulevard in the land … We can't name everything after Mother Teresa."

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

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Bishop Octavio Cisneros at Holy Child Jesus Church in Queens posted a picture of the child on Facebook.

— A four-hour old baby with his umbilical cord still attached was found alive in a New York church's nativity scene. Police say they have video of a woman entering the church with a baby and leaving without one. Thankfully, the baby is in good condition. (Yanan Wang)

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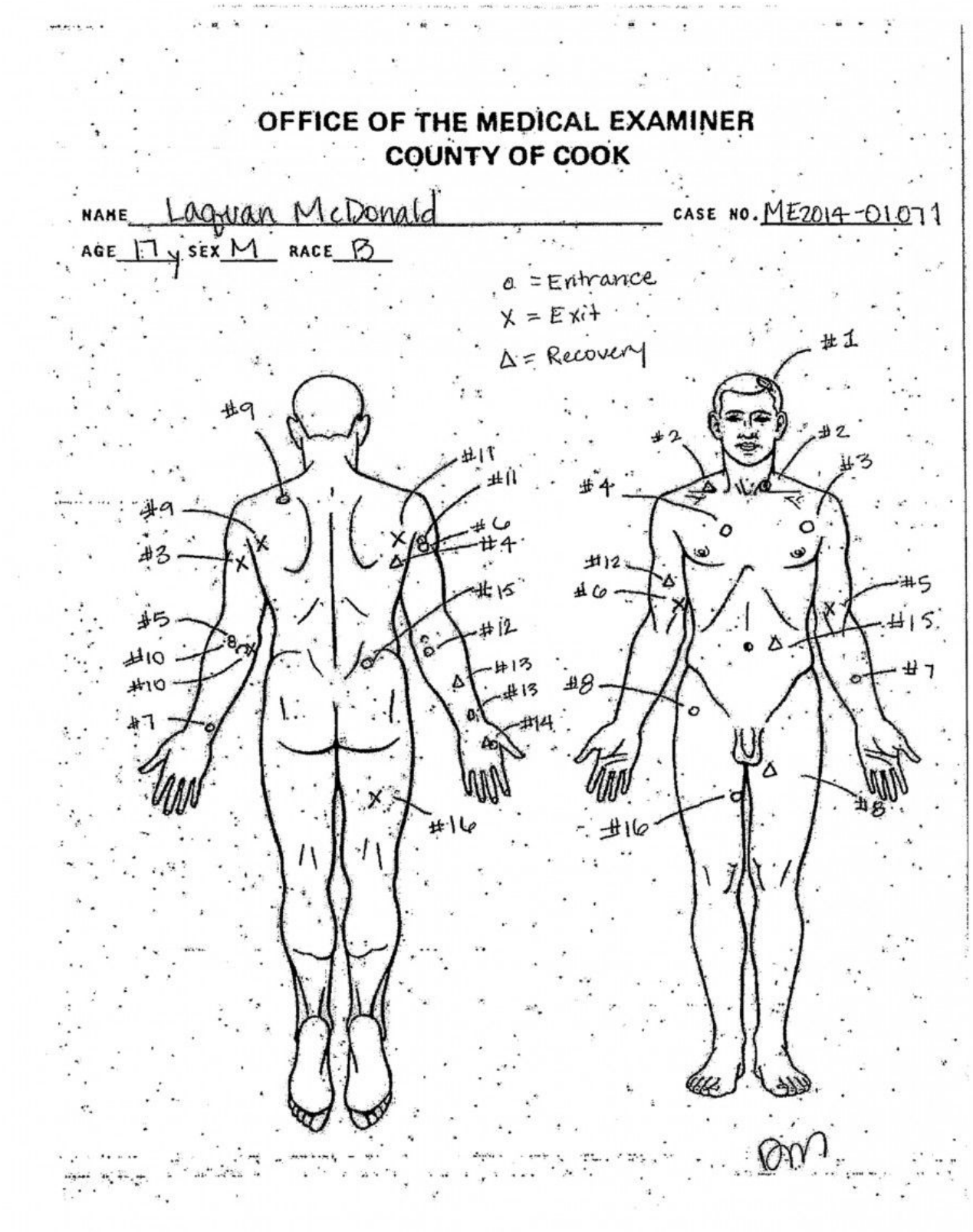
— Unrest in the Midwest: Thousands marched in Chicago after the city released dashcam video of a white police officer fatally shooting a 17-year-old black teenager. Jason Van Dyke, a 14-year veteran of Chicago's police force, was charged yesterday with first-degree murder. He has been accused of misconduct 17 times before. (It's graphic, but you can watch the footage here . Read the full story here .)



Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke, accused of fatally shooting a black teenager, arrives at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse yesterday. He was charged with first degree murder in the killing of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald. (Antonio Perez/Chicago Tribune via AP)

Here is an autopsy diagram provided by the Cook County Medical Examiner's office, showing the location of wounds on the body of victim Laquan McDonald. Sixteen shots were fired at the 17-year-old, who was wielding a knife:

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(Cook County Medical Examiner via AP)

— Meanwhile, protests in Minneapolis were peaceful after three white men in their 20's were arrested in connection with the shootings of five Black Lives Matter protesters the night before. (Alex Baumhardt, Wesley Lowery and Mark Berman)

— St. Louis Rams wideout Stedman Bailey is in "critical, but stable condition"

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after being shot twice in the head. (Fred Barbash)



Donald Trump appeared with his wife Melania, son Baron, and daughters Ivanka and Tiffany at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center last night. (AP Photo/Willis Glassgow)

— Campaigning in Myrtle Beach, Trump claimed for a fourth straight day that he watched a large number of Muslims in New Jersey cheering, tailgating and "dancing in the streets" on 9/11, an urban myth discredited by state officials years ago. Trump said "the liberal media" is hiding evidence and claimed he's received "hundreds of phone calls" this week from people who say they, too, saw the celebrations.

Jenna Johnson, our reporter following Trump, relays that the rally wasn't all doomsday: "At one point, Trump invited onto the stage a guy in the audience who dressed up like him. 'This is what I call a real supporter,' Trump said. 'Wow. Thank you, man. Are you married?' The guy nodded and pointed out his wife in the audience. 'Are you happy with your husband?' Trump asked. 'She said yes! She fantasizes that he's really the real Donald Trump!'" *Eew…*



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A panoramic view of the crowd for Donald Trump in South Carolina last night. (@wpjenna)

GET SMART FAST

1. Costco's chicken salad is responsible for an E.Coli outbreak affecting at least 19 people in several western states. (Lena H. Sun)
2. The GDP grew by 2.1 percent in the third quarter, according to a revised estimate, up from 1.5 percent. (CNBC)
3. Tunisia declared a month-long state of emergency after a bomb exploded on a bus, killing 12 officers of the presidential guard, in the heart of the capital. (Erin Cunningham)
4. A U.S. military report said faulty targeting led to an unintentional strike on the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Afghanistan. The target was a nearby Taliban compound. (Wall Street Journal)
5. The suspected mastermind of the Paris attacks, Abdelhamid Abaaoud, went by the scene of the crime as police were responding to see the devastation, according to cell phone records. (NBC)
6. The French military reports a 40 percent year-over-year spike in applications, a trend that began with the Charlie Hebdo attacks. (Rick Noack)
7. Employees of the airbag manufacturer Tanaka raised questions internally for a decade about the company covering up testing failures and misleading the public about their product's reliability. (Wall Street Journal)
8. Four men in drought-stricken California were arrested in connection with vandalizing a dam resulting in 50 million gallons of water being lost into San Francisco Bay. (Los Angeles Times)
9. The judge in the Freddie Gray trial in Baltimore rejected a request by defense attorneys to sequester the jurors. (Lynh Bui)
10. The Golden State Warriors, defending NBA champions, thrashed the Lakers to start the year 16-0, the best start to a season in league history. (Mercury News)
11. Clemson, Alabama, Oklahoma and Iowa are the top four teams in this week's College Football Playoff rankings. (Chuck Culpepper)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

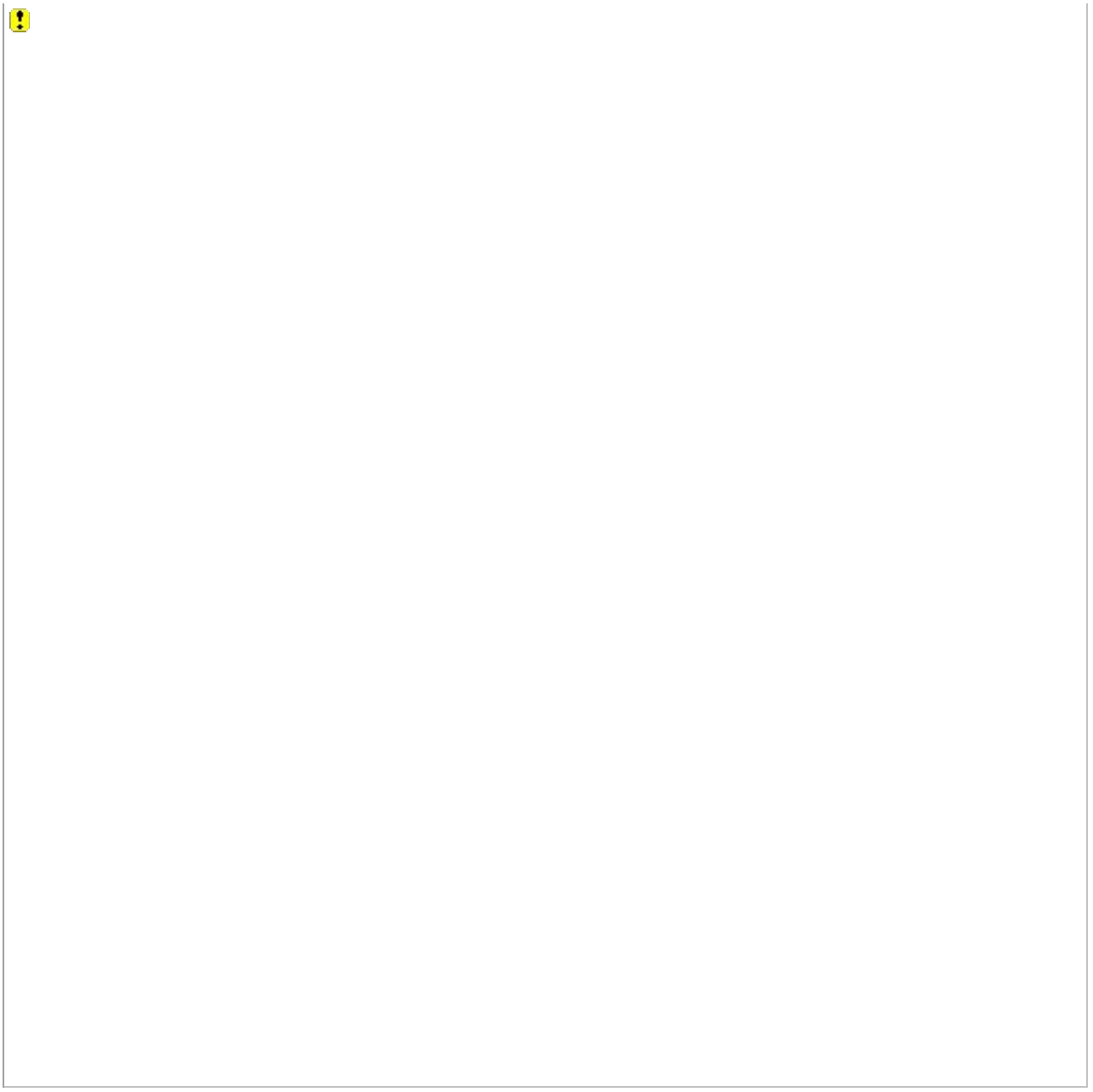
1. Bernie Sanders unveiled a plan that would allow undocumented immigrants in the country for five years to stay without worrying about deportation. (John Wagner)
2. Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) is leading a charge to renew the NSA's bulk phone data collection program in Paris' wake after the provision expires Nov. 28. (Karoun Demirjian)

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3. Marco Rubio, pandering in Iowa, voiced his support for continuing the Renewable Fuel Standard until 2022. (Des Moines Register)
4. A Quinnipiac poll of likely Iowa GOP caucusgoers puts Trump in the lead, with 25 percent, but finds that Ben Carson has lost 10 points (putting him at 18) and Ted Cruz has gained 13 points (at 23) since last month.
5. Outgoing Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear (D) signed an executive order allowing most nonviolent criminals to vote and hold public office following prison release. (Elahe Izadi)
6. Hillary Clinton accepted an endorsement from the Laborers' International Union of North America in Colorado. (Anne Gearan)
7. Obama-appointed federal judge Randolph Moss, who worked in Bill Clinton's Justice Department, will oversee the wrongful termination and defamation suit filed against Rep. Trey Gowdy by a former investigator for the House Benghazi Committee. (MSNBC)
8. For the first time in four decades, and just months after his son's death, Joe Biden will not spend Thanksgiving in Nantucket, electing this year to head to Europe for meetings with international leaders. (New York Times)
9. The vice president also met with Martin O'Malley at the Naval Observatory yesterday.
10. Republican focus group guru Frank Luntz will have dinner with the House Democratic Caucus after Thanksgiving. (Politico)
11. Pope Francis begins his African trip with a stop in Kenya. (Kevin Sieff)
12. Leading climate change denier Sen. Jim Inhofe is considering crashing the Paris climate summit starting next week. (Elise Viebeck)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

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A burning Russian fighter jet plummets from the sky after being shot down near the Turkish-Syrian border yesterday. (Handout from the Ihlas News Agency, via AFP/Getty Images)

— "NATO faces new Mideast crisis after downing of Russian jet by Turkey," by Hugh Naylor and Andrew Roth: "NATO faced being thrust into a new Middle Eastern crisis on Tuesday after warplanes from member state Turkey shot down a Russian jet that Turkish officials said had violated their country's airspace on the border with Syria. The incident marked a serious escalation in the Syrian conflict that is likely to further strain relations between Russia and the NATO alliance. Russian officials confirmed that a Russian Su-24 attack aircraft was shot down Tuesday morning but insisted it had not violated Turkey's airspace. Russia's Defense Ministry said one of at least two pilots probably died during the incident, and a marine also was killed by apparent Syrian insurgent fire during a helicopter rescue operation to retrieve the downed airmen. The downing brings renewed attention to a scenario feared for months by the Pentagon and its partners: a potential conflict arising from overlapping air missions over Syria — with Russia backing the

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government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and a U.S.-led coalition conducting airstrikes against the Islamic State." Read a quick historical primer on Turkish-Russo relations here .



President Obama and French President Francois Hollande hug after delivering joint statements at the White House. (petesouza)

— "U.S., France to press allies for more assets in fight against the Islamic State," by Karen DeYoung: "The Obama administration is using the current moment of extreme anger and anxiety in Europe to press allies for sharp increases in their contributions

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to the fight against the Islamic State. Suggestions include more strike aircraft, more intelligence-sharing, more training and equipment for local fighters, and deployment of their own special operations forces. The message has already fallen on willing ears, at least in the case of France, whose president met with President Obama on Tuesday to plan strategy in the wake of the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in Paris. 'There is a new mind-set now,' French President François Hollande said during a White House news conference. They agreed, Obama said, that 'our nations must do even more together.' While the two leaders spoke in generalities, a senior administration official said that both Obama and Hollande would be 'working the phones' with other members of the U.S.-led coalition — and with potential new members — to insist that now is the time for 'those who could bring more assets to the table' to do so."



Bernie Sanders in Columbia, South Carolina, on Saturday (Melina Mara/The Washington Post)

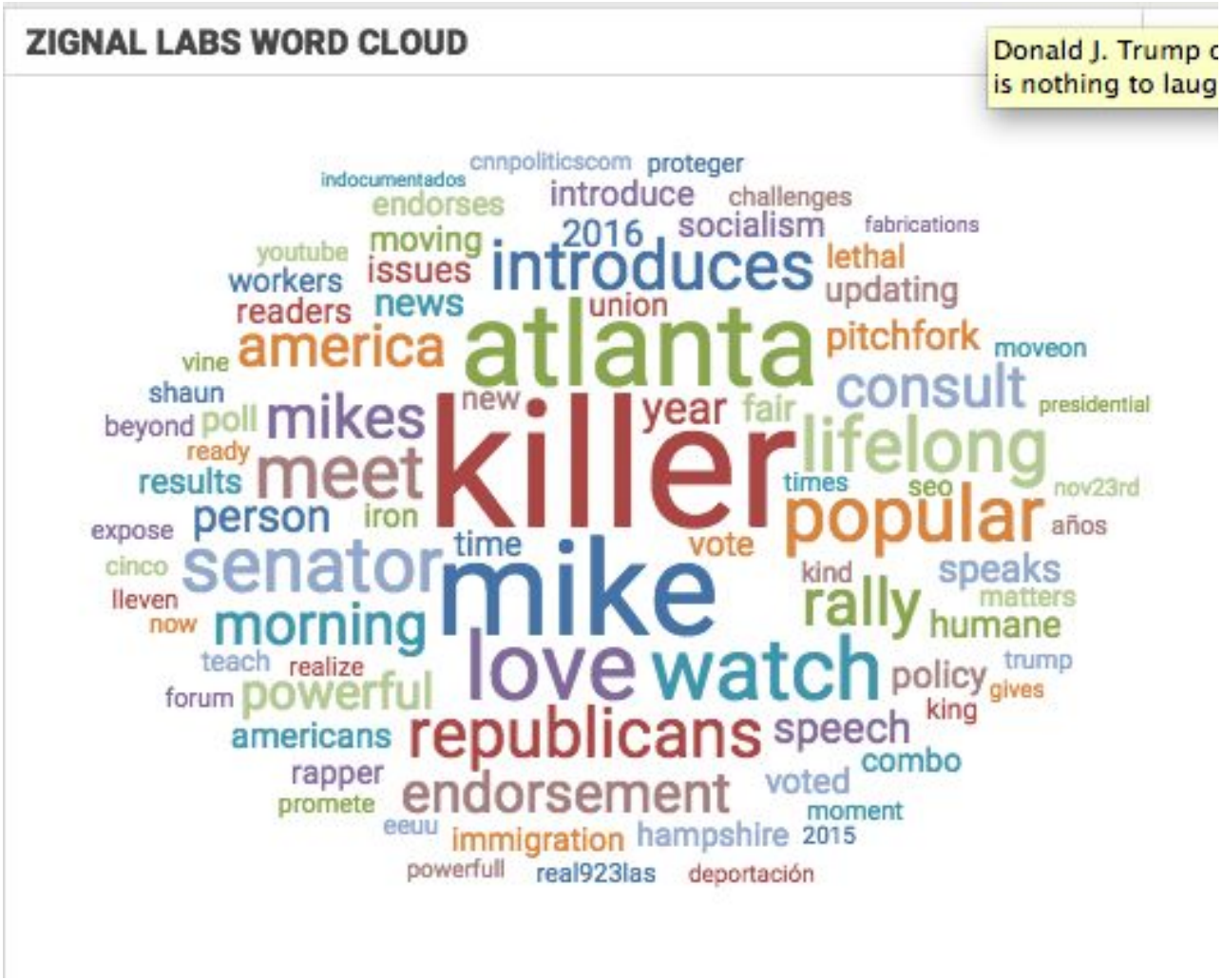
— "After Paris, Sanders sticks to script — and it doesn't say much about fighting terrorism," by John Wagner in South Carolina: "The Democratic presidential hopeful ticked off an expansive agenda for improving the lot of those struggling to get by, touched on climate change and devoted some extra attention to issues of racial justice and policing. But by the time the senator from Vermont had wrapped up his speech, which clocked in at 59 minutes, there was one topic that hadn't merited a single mention: foreign policy. The omission Sunday was striking, given the marked shift in tone of the presidential race… Many of the Republican candidates have recast their pitches altogether, and the

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other Democrats, including former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, have pushed their plans for defeating the Islamic State to the top of their agendas. The post-Paris-attacks Sanders campaign looks remarkably similar to the pre-Paris-attacks Sanders campaign."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Bernie Sanders was mentioned about twice as much online as Hillary Clinton on Tuesday. Here's a word cloud visualization of Sanders mentions to show what everyone was talking about:



A plug from rapper Killer Mike, an Atlanta native and member of hip-hop duo Run The Jewels, drove the social media story around the Vermont senator. In all, our analytics partners at Zignal Labs relays that Killer Mike was mentioned more than 15,000 times in stories and tweets that also mentioned Sanders. That's about 20 percent of the senator's total mentions for the day.

Mike endorsed Sanders at an Atlanta rally, in a speech that received widespread attention in the music press. "Before I was a rapper I was a son of Atlanta," he said. "Before I ever wrote one rhyme and word on paper, before that, I was a black man in America. And before I ever learned how to dance to jig, I gave a damn about

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American politics, I gave a damn about the people of America, and I took to the streets and I advocated. … I am here as a proponent for a political revolution that says 'healthcare is a right of every citizen.' I am here because working class and poor people deserve a chance at economic freedom, and, yes, if you work 40 hours a week you should not be in poverty. That's why I'm here."

"I didn't come here to lollygag 'cause I rap," he added. "This could be y'all's last time seeing me 'cause I got tours to go on, I got jets to fly on, and I ain't lyin. But while I'm here I have to tell you that in my heart of hearts I truly believe that Senator Bernie Sanders is the right man to lead this country." Watch the full speech here:



(Bernie 2016)

–Pictures of the day:

President Obama awarded the Medal of Freedom to Willie Mays, Barbra Streisand, Gloria Estefan, Barbara Mikulski, Steven Spielberg and James Taylor, among others:

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President Obama presents the Medal of Freedom to baseball legend Willie Mays in the East Room yesterday afternoon (Reuters/Carlos Barria)

You can watch the video of the full 45-minute ceremony here :



(The White House)

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Trump got a visit from country star Brad Paisley (“a really nice and talented guy”):



(realdonaldtrump)

The wreaths are up at Union Station:

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(@kjon)

Can you spot what is wrong with the viral photo below? Oh, Paul Krugman:



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(@woodruffbets)

It's hard to see, but a cat has been photo-shopped in next to Hillary and Denis McDonough. Krugrman updated his post to say: "Yes, I know there's a cat in the picture; I took it from Slate, 'The Cats of War .' I've used that image before, to lighten things up slightly. Apparently I didn't succeed."

–Tweets of the day:

The Thanksgiving celebrations are already starting for members of Congress, including

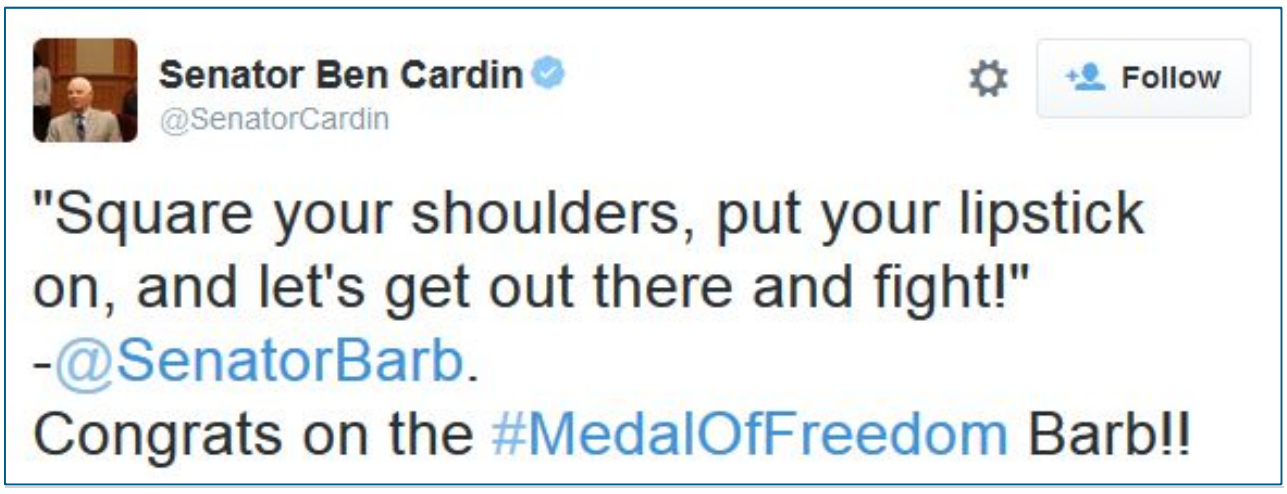
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Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.):



(@cbrangel)

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) congratulated his senior senator, Mikulski, on her Presidential Medal of Freedom:



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(@SenatorCardin)

Speaker Paul Ryan gave an update on how he's redecorating his office:



(@SpeakerRyan)

Actor Liev Schreiber, who plays The Post's Marty Baron in the new movie "Spotlight," endorsed an Esquire piece that argues he might be the best editor ever:

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(@LievSchreiber)

–Instagrams of the day:

Jeb Bush took a selfie with the Peachoid in Gaffney, S.C.:

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(jebbush)

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) took time for a weekend deer hunt:

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(repkevinmccarthy)

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) captured a Vermont sunset from his farm in Middlesex:

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(senatorleahy)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "Donald Trump's shortcuts and salesmanlike stretches, " by Maggie Haberman: "Here are some of Donald J. Trump's favorite ways to deal with a difficult question: Asked what he would do on issues like trade deals or terrorism, he warns that bad things are happening 'all over the place.' His policies as president might or might not include the subject at hand 'and a lot of different things.' All ethnic groups will 'love' a Trump presidency. Here is what you may almost never hear Mr. Trump say: 'I'm not familiar with that,' or 'I misspoke.' No one ever expected Mr. Trump to turn himself into the issues expert of the Republican presidential field. Yet the verbal shortcuts and salesmanlike stretches that he has relied on for months — generalities used to dodge questions, and questionable recollections — are tripping him up as the tenor of the campaign has grown more serious."

— New York Times, "In renovation of golf club, Donald Trump also dressed up history," by Nicholas Fandos: "Between the 14th hole and the 15th tee of one of the club's two courses, Mr. Trump installed a flagpole on a stone pedestal overlooking the Potomac, to which he affixed a plaque purportedly designating 'The River of Blood.' 'Many great American soldiers, both of the North and South, died at this spot,' the inscription reads. 'The casualties were so great that the water would turn red and thus became known as 'The River of Blood.' The inscription, beneath his family crest and above Mr. Trump's full name, concludes: 'It is my great honor to have preserved this important section of the Potomac River!' Like many of Mr. Trump's claims, the inscription was evidently not fact-checked. 'No. Uh-uh. No way. Nothing like that ever happened there,' said Richard

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Gillespie, the executive director of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, a historical preservation and education group devoted to an 1,800-square-mile section of the Northern Virginia Piedmont, including the Lowes Island site."

— Los Angeles Times, "Inside the Southern California factory that makes the Donald Trump hats," by Christine Mai-Duc: "Donald Trump's hats have quickly become a signature totem of the 2016 campaign, a kitsch magnet that serves ironic hipsters and sincere supporters alike. The red-and-white caps are emblazoned with the real estate mogul's oft-repeated slogan, 'Make America Great Again.' But look around the factory floor where these hats are being made by the thousands, and you'll find faces that don't seem to fit into Trump's America. Yolanda Melendrez is one of them. Melendrez, an immigrant from Mexico who was brought to the United States by her parents when she was a baby, has worked at the Carson-based Cali-Fame headwear company since 1991. 'When we first got the order [for the Trump hats], I said to myself, 'Just wait until he sees who's making his hats. We're Latinos, we're Mexicans, Salvadoreños.'"

— Wall Street Journal, "Many GOP voters favor Trump despite limited foreign policy credentials," by Reid J. Epstein: "In interviews during a weekend Iowa candidate forum, many voters pointed to Trump as the nation's best chance to contain Islamic State militants. 'Obviously, with all the business knowledge that Trump has, he has to have international knowledge that would be useful,' said Kathy McCammant of Grinnell, Iowa, who attended the forum. Mr. Trump wasn't one of the seven candidates at the event. Ms. McCammant's husband, Dale, said Mr. Trump's lack of government experience would be a benefit. 'He doesn't play the political game as much as the other candidates,' he said. …Post-Paris public opinion polling shows the McCammants are hardly alone. A Suffolk University/Boston Globe poll found a plurality of New Hampshire Republicans said terrorism and national security are the most important issues facing the country. The same survey found Mr. Trump with twice as much support in New Hampshire as any other GOP candidate."

Even Republicans wary of Trump admire his style: "Nobody in Iowa wants Donald Trump for president," said Dave Tyree, a preacher at the Church of Christ in Chariton, Iowa. "But everybody in Iowa wants somebody like Donald Trump for president."

— Forbes, "Strange but true: Dark matter grows hair around stars and planets," by Ethan Siegel: "It's a lot like the way a magnifying glass can focus sunlight into a single point: by bending the various rays together in a stream behind the lens. In the case of dark matter and a planet, however, it's the mass of the planet itself — and the force of gravity — that causes the dark matter to come together in a caustic stream, referred to by

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Prézeau as a “hair,” that has such a significant density enhancement. For the Earth, the hair’s root starts about a million km behind the Earth as it moves through the galaxy, and has a density enhancement of about 1,000,000,000 over the normal dark matter density, whereas Jupiter’s root starts 10 times closer to the planet and offers an enhancement of an extra factor of 100 over Earth.”

HOT ON THE LEFT

Hillary Clinton pledges to stop using the phrase “illegal immigrant.” From TPM : “Facing an onslaught of criticism from the immigrant community as well as former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, Clinton said Tuesday during an online Facebook event that she will no longer refer to immigrants who enter the the country illegally or overstay their visas as ‘illegal immigrants.’” She said it was a “poor choice of words” when she did so recently.

HOT ON THE RIGHT

NOAA chief: No one will “coerce the scientists who work for me.” From The Washington Post: “The Obama administration is continuing to resist efforts by a top House Republican to gain access to the internal deliberations of federal scientists who authored a groundbreaking global warming study the lawmaker is investigating. In response to a threat from House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Tex.) to subpoena Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, the head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration told Smith in a letter Friday that her staff will not be influenced by political interference.”

DAYBOOK:

— At the White House: President Obama meets with his national security team, pardons the National Thanksgiving Turkey and participates in a service event with his family.

— What’s happening today on the campaign trail: Marco Rubio meets voters in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

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— On the Hill: The Senate and House are in recess.

— Programming note: There will be no 202 tomorrow or Friday. We'll return Monday. In the meantime, know that everyone over here at The Post is thankful to *you* for reading.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Todd Bosnich's lies were incredibly painful, smeared my reputation, and ultimately derailed our congressional campaign. Although no length of sentence can ever undo the damage he has done, what matters is that Bosnich was unmasked as a liar and is now a convicted felon." — Failed GOP congressional candidate Carl DeMaio responding to a former aide being sentenced to five years of probation related to fabricating stories of sexual harassment

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "With high pressure in firm control, it's a terrific travel day across the vast majority of the Eastern U.S.," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. "Here in the D.C. area, we've got mostly sunny skies and temperatures right around average, reaching afternoon highs in the mid-50s. Winds are light and variable in direction."

— The Indiana Pacers crushed the Wizards 123-106. (Jorge Castillo)

— Fairfax County passed an ordinance that restricts dog owners from tethering their pets unsupervised for more than an hour a day, with a $500 fine for a first-time violation. (Antonio Olivo)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

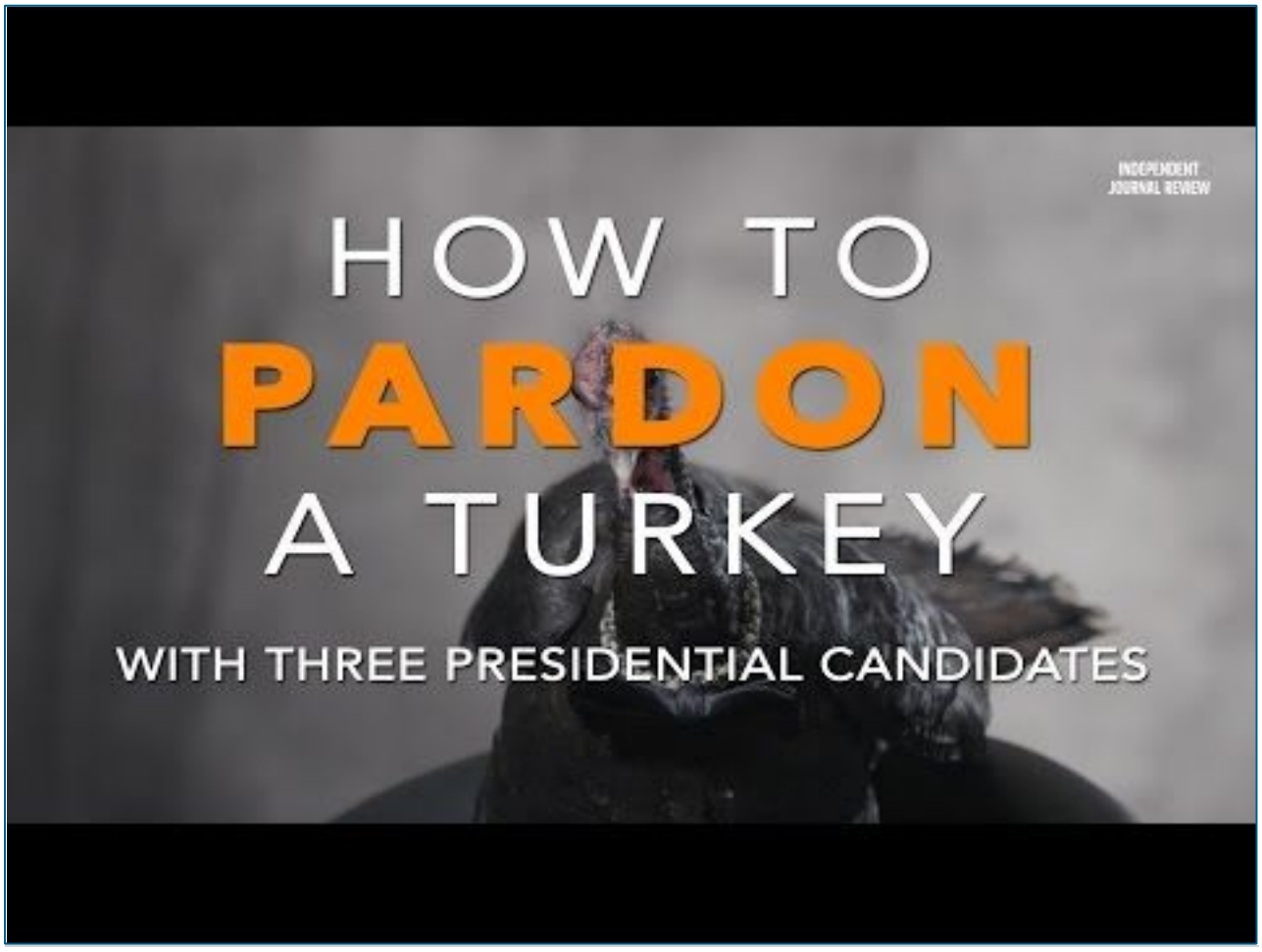
Here's a roundup of the best moments from President Obama's past turkey-pardonings:

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(The Huffington Post)

Marco Rubio, Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina show how they would pardon turkeys:



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(IJ.com)

And in case you were wondering, Thanksgiving dinner for NASA astronauts will feature pouches of smoked turkey and candied yams.



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From: "German Marshall Fund" <executiveintern@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/8/2015 8:38:39 AM
Subject: GMF Event: Russian Expansion-A Reality or Fiction: A Conversation with Elmar Brok

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Russian Expansion - A Reality or Fiction: A Conversation with Elmar Brok

Tuesday, July 21, 2015
12:30 - 1:30 pm

A Light lunch and refreshments will be available at 12:00

Introductions

Dr. Karen Donfried, President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)

Dr. Lars Hänsel, Director, Washington Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Speaker

Elmar Brok, Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs

Moderator

Dr. Stephen Szabo, Executive Director, Transatlantic Academy

Location

The German Marshall Fund of the United States 1744 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

RSVP

If you have any questions, please contact Gabriel White at +1 202 683 2926 or fpintern2@gmfus.org .

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With the Minsk II ceasefire in eastern Ukraine looking increasingly shaky, Europe risks a frozen conflict for years to come. However, is Russian President Vladimir Putin finished in Ukraine? Can the United States and Europe expect more aggression from the Kremlin or is consolidation Russia's strategy now? What do the future of Russian relations with the European Union and Germany look like and what role do sanctions play in this calculation? Elmar Brok, chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, wil answer these questions and provide analysis of U.S.-European views toward Ukraine and Russia. GMF, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the European Parliament Liaison Office are pleased to jointly host this conversation.

Elar Brok is the chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET). A member of the European Parliament since 1980, Brok is also a member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, the Conference of Committee Chairs, a member of the Delegation for Relations with India, a deputy member of the Delegation for Relations with the United States, and a co-chairman of the Transatlantic Legislator's Dialogue. A German Christian Democrat, Brok is the spokesman on external affairs for the European Parliament's Group of the European People's Party (EPP) and a member of the Federal Committee of the German Christian Democratic Union (CDU). Brok has received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and was recognized as "Commander of the Gregorius-Order" by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

Dr. Stephen F. Szabo is the executive director of the Transatlantic Academy (TA). As executive director, he works with the partners of the TA to shape the research content of each term, to assist in the recruitment and selection of Fellows and to manage the Academy. Prior to joining GMF, Szabo had been with the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, where he served as academic and interim dean as well as professor of European studies. Prior to that, he had served as professor of National Security Affairs at the National Defense University and chairman of west European studies at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State. He has written on German foreign and security policies, generational politics in Europe, and transatlantic security and political relations.

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Subject: Top Ten Things Congress Should Get Done This Fall (and Beyond)

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Top Ten Things Congress Should Get Done This Fall (and Beyond)

Jasmine Tucker, Truthout: Lawmakers return to work on September 8 after a five-week recess - many campaigning for re-election in November. Congress has a lot on its plate and only a dozen legislative days before the election to get them done. Here are 10 things lawmakers should tackle this fall.

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The United States Was Welcoming to White European Immigrants, But Not to Peoples of Color

Mark Karlin, Truthout: In her book that explores the history of unfair US immigration policy, *Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal*, Aviva Chomsky explains how prejudice and the exploitation of inexpensive labor has increasingly shaped immigration law and lives.

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St. Louis Police Shot 16 Before Michael Brown in 2014

Paul Gottinger and Ken Klipperstein, Truthout: Ferguson area police shot 16 people before shooting unarmed teenager Michael Brown. In most cases in which race was known, the victim was black.

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Cashing In on Carbon: How Taxpayer Dollars Greenwash Dirty Energy

Anna Simonton, Oil Change International: The strategy of capturing carbon emissions only to unearth more fossil fuels has paradoxically made its way to the forefront of the federal government's plans for tackling climate change, thanks in part to support from a plethora of pollutive industries.

Read the Article

Climate Alarms Ringing, UN Fails To Act

Margaret Flowers and Kevin Zeese, Popular

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Atlanta School Cheating Trial Has Teachers Facing Prison

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Resistance: There is no question that the climate crisis is here and is accelerating at a faster pace than predicted. Its effects are widespread and dangerous, yet real solutions are being suppressed.
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Fast Food Strikes Are Back, Bigger Than Ever

Terrance Heath, Campaign For America's Future: Last week, workers in 150 cities took to the streets to demand livable wages for themselves and their families, the right to organize and a better economy for all of us.
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Michael Sam: Out of the Closet, Out of the NFL?

Dave Zirin, The Nation: While the NFL's first openly gay player, Michael Sam, has been picked up by the Dallas Cowboys, the league's teams had shown hesitance to sign the talented defensive end, supposedly fearing his presence would create a "distraction."
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The New York Times

In Shadow of Oil Boom, North Dakota Farmers Fight Contamination
Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

Hillary Clinton Praises a Guy With Lots of Blood on His Hands
Read the Article at Mother Jones

Big Banks Still a Risk
Read the Article at The New York Times

Health and Hierarchy

Josh Davis, Grassroots Economic Organizing: Science shows that rigid hierarchies are bad for the health of everyone in them - except those at the very top. But the good news is, cooperative values and cooperative action are the prescription for combatting these negative effects.
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The Socialist Alternative to a World of Injustice

Danny Katch, Socialist Worker: For a more fair and equitable world free of the brutality of racism and disasters like climate change and constant war, we need to struggle for a different world.
Read the Article

Today's Air Force Would Have Rejected Pat Tillman and Jesus?

Mikey Weinstein, AlterNet: The US Air Force made it mandatory to recite "so help me God' in its official reenlistment and commissioning oaths, i.e. officers had better repent and swear an oath to "God" or be gone.
Read the Article

This week in SpeakOut:

Joshua Weiner reports Lyme patients will hold a silent vigil at the New York Times headquarters to protest media silence about Lyme disease; **Lawrence Davidson** candidly asks whether Israel's government policies are good for the Jews; **Glyn Moody** describes Guatemala's challenge to the so-called "Monsanto Law" written into a trade agreement with the US; **Andrew Smolski** discusses Latin America as the growing force challenging US global hegemony; **Robert Neustadt** reflects on how his students have observed the overlap of music and the human tragedy at the US-Mexico border; **Jubilee USA** announces the UN will vote on a convention that could stop predatory hedge funds from interfering with countries' financial policies; **Graham Peebles** reports on the unjust detention and treatment of Ethiopian activist and British citizen Andargachew Tsige; **Jan Lundberg** decries the modern American celebration of Labor Day as a joke given the decline in workers' rights and organizing; and more.
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To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/14/2015 11:24:24 AM
Subject: Fwd: NYT: Zoo Animals on the Loose in Tbilisi After Flooding

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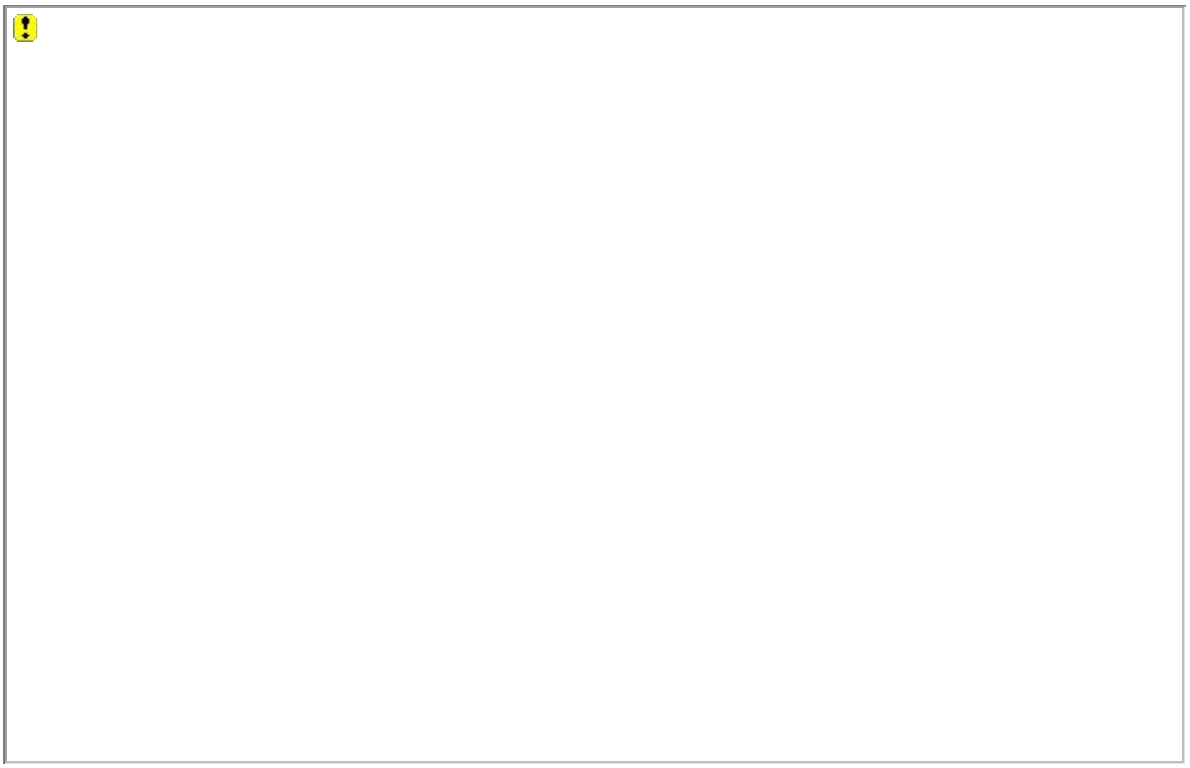
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gregory A. Maniatis" <gmaniatis@gmail.com >
Date: June 14, 2015 at 6:58:24 PM GMT+2
To: Undisclosed recipients:;
Subject: NYT: Zoo Animals on the Loose in Tbilisi After Flooding

Zoo Animals on the Loose in Tbilisi After Flooding

Photo



A hippopotamus in Tbilisi, Georgia, on Sunday, one of dozens of animals to escape after flooding destroyed the enclosures of the city's main zoo. Credit Beso Gulashvili/Reuters

MOSCOW — The Georgian capital, Tbilisi, became the city where the wild things are on Saturday night, with lions, tigers, bears and other carnivorous animals roaming the streets after catastrophic flooding destroyed the enclosures of the main zoo.

Residents were warned to stay indoors after heavy rains and roiling waters inundated the center of the city. At least three zoo workers were dead, according to local press reports, which quoted the mayor, Davit Narmania, as saying that at least eight people had been killed and that

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search and rescue operations were continuing for about 10 more missing.

It was not immediately clear how many animals were on the loose and how many had been killed in the floods.

Images from the city underscored the animal anarchy — one showed a group of people herding a hippopotamus along a street choked with mud, after it had been hit by a tranquilizer dart. Others showed the corpses of animals amid the debris of wrecked cars and buildings.

A special police unit was dispatched to the neighborhoods around the zoo to hunt for the roaming animals, according to Rustavi 2 television.

Some of the animals were killed when they could not be captured, the report said, including six wolves found on the grounds of a children's hospital as well as a bear and a hyena. Some residents expressed indignation at those killings, but officials said various animals were too aggressive to be captured.

Helicopters were swooping low over the city to try to spot the animals. Those missing after the flood included 20 wolves, eight lions, and several tigers and jaguars, Interfax reported. Only three of 17 penguins survived, the Russian news agency said.

One zoo worker who died while trying to save the animals, Guliko Chitadze, a 25-year veteran of the Tbilisi Zoo, had her arm amputated in late May after she was attacked by a tiger, Interfax said.



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From:	"Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com>
To:	HRCrapid@googlegroups.com
Date:	4/14/2015 11:33:24 AM
Subject:	Fwd: POLITICO Breaking News

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: POLITICO Breaking News <breakingnews@politico.com >
Date: Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 6:31 PM
Subject: POLITICO Breaking News
To: Joshschwerin@gmail.com

Hillary Clinton has named three senior policy advisers to lead the development of an agenda for her presidential campaign. The team leaders are: Maya Harris, a former senior fellow at the Center for American Progress; Ann O'Leary, a former legislative director to Clinton when she was in the Senate; and Jake Sullivan, a top aide to Clinton while she was Secretary of State and a former national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden.

The announcement is an early indication of the policy themes Clinton is likely to emphasize as she launches her campaign. Harris has a background in human rights, while O'Leary specializes in early childhood education and headed the children and families program at Next Generation, the Tom Steyer-funded advocacy group.

Sullivan, meanwhile, was a key player in laying the groundwork for the talks that led to the Obama administration's tentative agreement on Iran's nuclear program.

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From:	"Burns Strider" <bstrider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	8/15/2014 3:57:33 AM
Subject:	CTR Friday August 15, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Happy Weekend. Tennessee Williams said, "Time is the longest distance between two places." True. But, that distance can feel shorter, sometimes, because we communicate in real time, across any geographic distance... Immediacy for its own sake. Time is also a blessing, a gift, and its August; the dog days. Live this time in the moment, with family and friends. Forward!

Let's go get 'em...

Correct The Record Friday August 15, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: In the Senate, @HillaryClinton fought to expand gay rights and protect LGBT people from abuse and discrimination. http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2014/08/14/op-ed-hillary-ready-us … [8/15/14, 9:05 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton passed bill protecting wildlife, promoting sound water management in Great Lakes #HRC365 https://beta.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/45/cosponsors … [8/14/14, 9:58 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "Hillary has always stood with ... the entire LGBT community. And she always will." @AllidaBlack in @TheAdvocateMag http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2014/08/14/op-ed-hillary-ready-us … [8/14/14, 6:01 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton 's actions establish her as one of the "most visible and heartfelt supporters of the LGBT community."http://www.advocate.com/commentary/2014/08/14/op-ed-hillary-ready-us … [8/14/14, 5:15 p.m. EDT]

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New Republic: “Here's Another Sign That Hillary Clinton's the New Boss in Town”

“Brock now controls not only CREW, but also the Democrat-backing nonprofits and Super PACS Media Matters, American Bridge, American Independent Institute, and Correct the Record.”

Washington Post opinion: Aaron David Miller: “If Hillary Clinton had won in 2008, what would her foreign policy have looked like?”

“Clinton could never have become Obama’s top diplomat and functioned so well in that job had they not been largely on the same page in terms of how they saw the world and what America should do about it. They both are transactors, not ideological transformers — smart, pragmatic centrists largely coloring inside the lines in a world of long shots and bad options. In other words, there’s no need for them to ‘hug it out’ on foreign policy.”

Politico Magazine: “Is Hillary Too Hawkish to Win in 2016?”

“Today, the friction between the Clinton and Obama camps has attracted most of the recent media attention. But while Clinton and Obama have their differences, they only represent different strains within the liberal interventionist school.”

Talking Points Memo: “The Clintons Might Already Be Wooing A 2016 Veep Candidate”

“President Bill Clinton invited incoming Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro to dine at the Clinton's private D.C. home last week, the Washington Post reported, making it impossible for the media to ignore the 2016 implications.”

CBS News: “Hillary Clinton's lead over potential 2016 GOP foes shrinks: Poll”

“In the new survey, the former secretary of state outpaces Gov. Chris Christie, R-N.J., by seven points, 48 to 41 percent. In April. though, McClatchy found her ahead of Christie by 11 points, 53 to 42 percent. And in February, the gap between the two was a yawning 21 percent.”

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Articles:

New Republic: “Here's Another Sign That Hillary Clinton's the New Boss in Town”

By Jason Zengerle

August 14, 2014

Wednesday night, Politico’s Ken Vogel broke the news that David Brock, right-wing-hitman-turned-Hillary-Clinton-bodyguard, is taking over the government watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics (CREW). That means Brock now controls not only CREW, but also the Democrat-backing nonprofits and Super PACS Media Matters, American Bridge, American Independent Institute, and Correct the Record. It’s a veritable empire of liberal third-party groups! All of which prompted Vogel to write on Twitter, immediately after his CREW scoop came out, that Brock is now the Democrats’ version of Karl Rove.

It’s a title Brock has been gunning for since at least 2010, when, in the wake of the Republican rout in the midterm elections, he announced his plans to start American Bridge. Brock, who at the time only counted Media Matters as a jewel in his crown, initially positioned American Bridge as the liberal analogue to Rove’s American Crossroads group, the outside conservative group that played such a key role in the GOP’s 2010 efforts. In Brock’s vision, American Bridge would be a behemoth that raised and spent millions of dollars, primarily on television ads, to benefit Barack Obama and other Democratic candidates in 2012. As he boasted to The New York Times at the time:

“My donor base already constitutes the major individual players who have historically given hundreds of millions of dollars to these types of efforts…. They just need to be asked, and I have no doubt they will step up at this critical time.”

But then a strange thing happened. Brock’s donors didn’t step up. Although they were happy to continue to fork over money to Media Matters, they didn’t want to contribute to American Bridge.

This was partly because they primarily viewed Brock as a media watchdog, not a political strategist. (After all, they’d come to know him as the repentant right-wing hit man.) But it had more to do with the fact that Obama’s political operation—which, in the wake of the 2010 elections, put out word that it now welcomed Democratic independent-expenditure groups—didn’t want Brock, who during the 2008 Democratic primaries had been one of Hillary Clinton’s most diehard supporters, to be in charge of the I.E. effort.

As one Obama-affiliated Democratic strategist told me at the time, “Do you think David Plouffe and David Axelrod are going to let David Brock go out and build an empire to explain Barack Obama’s policies and worldview to voters?”

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In the end, American Bridge was scaled back to be an opposition-research outfit, while Priorities USA, helmed by former Obama aide Bill Burton, became the leading Democratic Super PAC for the cycle.

But now, whatever qualms the Obama people might have about Brock are irrelevant. They're not making the decisions for 2016; the Clinton people are. And the Clintons love David Brock. Although there are people in Hillary's orbit who remain wary of him, Hillary and Bill themselves are big fans. Brock tells a great story of visiting the former president in his Harlem office back in 2002 and noticing an entire cabinet filled with copies of Brock's book Blinded by the Right, which Clinton was famous for pushing on friends.

And so Brock's ascension to Rove-like status can be taken as yet another sign that, as today's Times puts it, "Obama is fast becoming the past, not the future, for donors, activists and Democratic strategists." It's Hillary Clinton's—and, by extension, David Brock's—world now; the rest of the Democratic Party is just living in it.

Washington Post opinion: Aaron David Miller: "If Hillary Clinton had won in 2008, what would her foreign policy have looked like?"

By Aaron David Miller, a vice president at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, has served as a Middle East adviser for Republican and Democratic secretaries of state. He is the author of the forthcoming "The End of Greatness: Why America Can't Have (and Doesn't Want) Another Great President"

Hillary Rodham Clinton seems hung up on smart and stupid.

During her term as secretary of state, Clinton talked a lot about "smart power" — elevating diplomacy and development alongside military might. Now, she is distancing herself from the foreign policy of the president she served, telling the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg that "great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

But what if she had been the one in the Oval Office since 2009? How different would her foreign policy be from President Obama's? These questions are clearly more than a thought experiment. If she runs in 2016, potentially the first secretary of state since James Buchanan to ascend to the White House, voters will want to know the answers.

There would certainly be stylistic differences between Clinton and Obama. Even on the campaign trail, Clinton seemed more passionate about foreign policy than Obama, more enthusiastic about creating relationships with world leaders and playing the politics of diplomacy. She is more sensitive to America's image as an indispensable power. And though she's no reckless warrior, she is perhaps more inclined to consider using force under carefully tailored circumstances.

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But on substance, Clinton's policies would probably not have diverged fundamentally from the ones the president pursued while she was his secretary of state or those he has embraced subsequently. Indeed, Clinton could never have become Obama's top diplomat and functioned so well in that job had they not been largely on the same page in terms of how they saw the world and what America should do about it. They both are transactors, not ideological transformers — smart, pragmatic centrists largely coloring inside the lines in a world of long shots and bad options. In other words, there's no need for them to "hug it out" on foreign policy.

Iran

Obama and Clinton were never the Bobbsey twins when it came to Iran. Clinton has pressed for tough sanctions since she was a senator from New York. During the presidential debates, she jumped on candidate Obama's idea to engage with the Iranians without preconditions. She says in her memoir "Hard Choices" that she regretted the president's refusal to take a harder line with the mullahs in response to their crackdown on the Green Revolution in 2009. And in the Atlantic interview, she was adamantly against the idea that Iran has a right to enrich uranium: "The preference would be no enrichment. The potential fallback position would be such little enrichment that they could not break out." The U.S. team currently negotiating with Tehran has conceded some enrichment as a practical matter, with limits to be negotiated.

But if Clinton had been president, she probably would have struck the same deal and followed a similar approach, first seeking an interim accord and then testing the possibilities through another year of negotiations before getting to a final agreement. After all, it was she who set the current talks in motion. She and Obama had agreed on a dual-track strategy of pressure and engagement. That meant sustained and tougher sanctions, with the door left open for diplomacy. After the sultan of Oman offered Clinton a back channel for secret bilateral diplomacy, it was her State Department, specifically Bill Burns and Jake Sullivan, that staffed it on the U.S. side.

A President Clinton, understanding that the alternative to a deal might be war — either an Israeli military strike or even a U.S. one — would probably have gone to great lengths to make sure that every possibility had been explored before resorting to force. Negotiators get attached to their negotiations and don't want to fail. And so Clinton would have probably authorized the same concessions to Iran as the current negotiating team has.

Arab-Israeli peace

Clinton, perhaps with 2016 in mind, has been less critical than Obama of Israeli policies, especially the military response to Hamas. And unlike Obama, she has long-established relationships with the players in the peace process. I accompanied her, when she was first lady, to Leah Rabin's funeral and watched her charm and magnetic impact on Israelis regardless of party. She also has a better sense than Obama of how to deal with Benjamin Netanyahu — learned in part from watching her husband. "Who's the f---ing superpower here?" President Bill Clinton exploded to aides after his initial encounter with the Israeli prime minister. And still, Bill Clinton reached two agreements with the Likud leader. A President Hillary Clinton might have tried harder than Obama has to cement a bond with Netanyahu. And there might not have been so much broken crockery in the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

Still, it's hard to imagine that Clinton would have taken a different course in pursuing a two-state solution — or achieved different results. Given the lack of trust between Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the wide gaps on the core issues and the impossibility of pursuing a more modest interim deal, the only option available was the one Obama authorized John Kerry to take: try to mediate a "framework agreement" that leaves many of the details on core issues such as Jerusalem unresolved. And even then, failure was virtually guaranteed.

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How would Clinton have handled the latest confrontation in Gaza? In 2012 she played an important role in facilitating a cease-fire there, though it was then-Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi who delivered Hamas. More than likely, this time around she would have found herself — like Kerry — without a win. She might have had more influence over Netanyahu. But with Hamas willing to continue the fight, the odds of a U.S.-brokered success would still have been low.

(It's also worth noting on Egypt that as secretary of state, Clinton was wary of Obama's efforts to force Hosni Mubarak out too quickly. But in the wake of Morsi's disastrous presidency, as president she would have almost certainly backed the Obama/Kerry decision to improve relations with the new Egyptian president, the former supreme military commander.)

Russia and Ukraine

Clinton has a reputation for being tough on Russia. Indeed, Putin accused her of orchestrating the 2012 demonstrations against him.

And yet, it's hard to believe that, as president, the pragmatic Clinton would have initially pursued something other than a reset policy. U.S. relations with Russia were at rock bottom after the Georgia war and the preceding squabbles over Kosovo, missile defense and NATO expansion. With the ascendance of the seemingly forthcoming Dmitry Medvedev, any American president would have tried to identify issues on which the United States and Russia might cooperate — and would have shown resolve if the Russians pushed back on others.

As president, Clinton might have pivoted sooner to a hard line when it became clear in 2011 that the reset had run its course. She told the New York Times' John Harwood as much.

But it's unlikely that would have made much difference. None of the recommendations on Russia contained in her parting memo to Obama — including rejecting Putin's invitation to a presidential summit and avoiding flattering him with high-level attention — would have changed Putin's strategy. He simply has more cards and the will to play them.

As for Ukraine, put Clinton in Obama's shoes during the past several months of Putin's adventurism in Crimea and his meddling in eastern Ukraine, and it's hard to see what she might have done differently to impose greater costs on Russia, let alone to counter and reverse Putin's support for pro-Russia separatists. Military force isn't an option. So Clinton, like Obama, would have fallen back on some package of steps, including marshaling the Europeans, nonlethal military assistance to Ukraine, tough rhetoric and sustained sanctions.

Syria

In the Atlantic interview, Clinton asserted that the "failure to help build up a credible fighting force [in opposition to Bashar al-Assad] left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled." Clinton called Obama on Tuesday to say that she didn't mean to attack his policies. But the two have long had differences in how to approach the Syrian civil war. As early as 2012, Clinton wanted to do more to weaken Assad. But more — training and equipping carefully vetted elements of a dysfunctional and divided opposition — wasn't all that far from what

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Obama eventually came to accept in 2013.

To change the balance on the battlefield, a President Clinton would have had to win backing for a more comprehensive military strategy involving not just arming rebels but also creating no-fly zones and authorizing direct U.S. military strikes against Syrian regime targets. It's by no means clear that she would have gone that far, let alone whether the risk-averse Pentagon would have supported it.

On the question of chemical weapons, Clinton's policies would probably have been very much in line with Obama's. As secretary of state, she echoed Obama's red line. And although she had stepped down by the time of the Assad regime's August 2013 attack that killed 1,400 people, she publicly supported Obama's decision to seek a congressional vote before launching a strike. If she'd been president, she might have been more reluctant to go to Congress and more skeptical that a deal brokered by the Russians would successfully eliminate Syria's chemicals. But as Clinton rightly describes in her memoir, Syria was a "wicked problem." I'm not at all sure that as president she would have done much better in trying to deal with it, let alone resolve it.

This is not in any way to undermine her talents and capacities when it comes to foreign policy. It is, however, to underscore a critical point these days when it comes to America's role in the world. To paraphrase Marx, men and women make history. But they rarely do so as they please. No matter how determined she may have been to assert U.S. leadership or to push her concept of smart power, the cruel and unforgiving nature of the world would have imposed the same severe constraints. Not every problem today has a solution that is amenable to U.S. military or diplomatic power — or to Clinton magic.

Politico Magazine: "Is Hillary Too Hawkish to Win in 2016?"

By Bill Scher

August 15, 2014

[Subtitle:] Or is Rand Paul too dovish?

Hillary Clinton, after her wide-ranging foreign policy interview with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg roiled both the White House and the anti-war left, reached out to President Barack Obama to tamp down speculation of a rift between the two.

She may have hugged it out with the president, but she has not done the same with the anti-war left.

Clinton does not seem terribly concerned with MoveOn.org scolding her to "think long and hard before embracing the same policies advocated by right-wing war hawks." Or with The Nation slamming her for "hawkish, even neoconservative-influenced views." Or with The New Republic warning that her "blunder" could open the door to a strong primary challenge. Her lack of interest in winning over these critics suggests this is a fight she is comfortable waging—and is not worried about losing.

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If so, then 2016 might feature an unusually grand bipartisan foreign policy debate, with an interventionist Clinton squaring off with her party's dovish wing, while the isolationist-leaning Sen. Rand Paul sparks a parallel debate with the militaristic hawks that have long dominated the Republican Party. In some ways, the discussion recalls the one that occurred in each party three quarters of a century ago before World War II, with Clinton cast as the interventionist Franklin Roosevelt facing down cautious Democrats and Paul playing the part of the isolationist Robert Taft, who took on Wendell Willkie, a more internationalist Republican rival, in the fight for the 1940 GOP nomination. Taft lost that battle to Willkie, moving the country away from its post-World War I isolationism and freeing up Roosevelt to take the controversial step of compulsory military service without jeopardizing his campaign for an unprecedented third term.

Today, the friction between the Clinton and Obama camps has attracted most of the recent media attention. But while Clinton and Obama have their differences, they only represent different strains within the liberal interventionist school. Syria, for instance, may highlight Obama's relative reluctance to use force, and Iran may indicate the limits of Clinton's confidence in diplomacy. But their views converged on the Libyan intervention and presumably the recent strikes in Iraq, because they both believe America should play a leading role on the world stage expanding freedom and protecting human rights beyond our borders. And they believe that role can include the use of military force, even though liberal interventionists don't turn to it as quickly or as unilaterally as their neoconservative counterparts.

Neither takes the view that America should generally stay out of other nations' affairs, an increasingly prevalent view across the partisan spectrum. As the Pew Research Center found in its December poll, "Majorities or pluralities of Republicans (52%), Democrats (46%) and independents (55%) think the U.S. does too much to try to help solve world problems, and agree that the U.S. should mind its own business internationally (53%, 46% and 55%, respectively)." The distance between Clinton and these poll numbers is probably far bigger than the distance between her and Obama.

Yet Clinton's interview blows past such poll-driven concerns and practically dares a fellow Democrat to try to seize an opening on her foreign policy left. That may seem like a foolish risk for a frontrunner to take so soon in the campaign season, but her remarks are only a "blunder" if she can't defend them from attacks by a yet-to-materialize primary challenger.

She may sense she has history on her side, as Democratic interventionists have usually held the upper hand over their intraparty opponents despite the party's anti-war reputation. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson won a major legislative battle over military preparedness with William Jennings Bryan, his former secretary of state-turned-isolationist antagonist, allowing Wilson to lead a unified party in his successful re-election campaign. In 1946, President Harry Truman took the dramatic step of firing Commerce Secretary Henry Wallace, FDR's former vice president, after Wallace delivered a high-profile speech breaking with Truman's anti-communist foreign policy. Truman was reluctant, worried that he would cause a party split. But the fear was unfounded as Wallace's third-party challenge fizzled two years later.

More recently, President Bill Clinton's bombing campaigns in Bosnia and Iraq passed without causing a rift with the left, nor did Obama's first-term intervention in Libya and protracted involvement in Afghanistan complicate his re-nomination for a second term. In fact, when the foreign policy objective is in the compassionate global interest, and not raw national interest, a considerable portion of the left is routinely willing to shelve its reluctance to use the military.

But is Hillary Clinton going against a current tide of rising isolationist sentiment? Not necessarily in her own

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party. The “blunder” argument from the New Republic’s Noam Scheiber is based on the notion that “opposition among Democrats to overseas interventions, particularly in the Middle East, remains so strong and raw” and “polling overwhelmingly shows the country, not just Democratic voters, to be weary of foreign-policy interventionism.”

There may, however, be more to the polling numbers than the top line. True, the Pew numbers showing support for America “mind[ing] its own business” are at a striking 50-year high. But the recent spike is driven almost solely by Republicans and independents (a group that leaned right of the political center in 2012), not Democrats. The percent of Republicans and independents that want America to mind its business more than doubled from 2002 to 2013. Among Democrats, the number ticked up only six points, remaining under 50 percent.

In other words, foreign policy attitudes among Democrats haven’t changed much. Absolutely—there was and is a significant anti-intervention wing. It’s just not necessarily dominant. Nor is it as rigid as you might think: Some intervention skeptics will likely give a deeply respected Democrat such as Hillary Clinton ample latitude in explaining the nuances of her positions. If she chooses to take the intra-party foreign policy debate head-on, following the path of Wilson, FDR and Truman, she could earn a firmer mandate.

Meanwhile, the massive and abrupt shift in attitude among Republicans presents an opening for Senator Paul to revisit a debate on Republican foreign policy principles that hasn’t been seriously engaged since the interventionist General Dwight D. Eisenhower swiped the 1952 presidential nomination from—once again—the isolationist Taft, then known as “Mr. Republican.”

Paul would probably bristle at the comparison to Taft, but he has been pushing his party to rethink its worldview, though rapidly moving events have complicated his task. In February, a few days before Russia forcibly seized control of Crimea, Paul told the Washington Post, “Some on our side are so stuck in the Cold War era that they want to tweak Russia all the time and I don’t think that is a good idea.” Soon after Crimea, Paul’s tone shifted, urging sanctions and other measures intended to hurt Russia economically, such as building the Keystone pipeline.

In June, Paul wrote an oped for the Wall Street Journal titled, “America Shouldn’t Choose Sides in Iraq’s Civil War,” one week after Islamic State militants took over key Iraqi cities. Paul chastised Obama’s favoring of the Syrian rebels, saying it “indirectly aided al Qaeda and ISIS [the Islamic State] in Syria—the very group some now propose to counter with U.S. troops [in Iraq].” And he questioned the value of airstrikes, though stopping short of ruling them out: “What would airstrikes accomplish? We know that Iran is aiding the Iraqi government against ISIS. Do we want to, in effect, become Iran’s air force?”

That sparked an op-ed skirmish with potential 2016 rival Gov. Rick Perry, who replied in the Washington Post: “Paul’s brand of isolationism (or whatever term he prefers) would compound the threat of terrorism even further.” Paul gleefully engaged, taking to Politico Magazinelast month to tweak Perry’s call for ground forces in Iraq: “[In 2012] Perry urged the United States to return troops to Iraq to act as a balance against Iran … Does Perry now believe that we should send U.S. troops back into Iraq to fight the Iranians—or to help Iran fight ISIS?”

But after Obama launched airstrikes against the Islamic State last week, Paul refrained from criticizing the move, saying on Monday he has “mixed feelings about it” while reiterating his claim that the United States “protected” ISIS in Syria. Now, instead of debating the merits of the military action, he is focusing on another one of his foreign policy principles: asserting Congress’ authority to declare war under the Constitution and demanding a vote.

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Paul's hesitancy to criticize Obama over Iraq tracks the latest Fox News poll, which found that 65 percent of Americans support the air strikes, including 73 percent of Republicans, a stunning turnaround from the disastrous polling that greeted Obama's September 2013 threat to strike Syria. These numbers should hearten Hillary and make Paul pause. America's isolationist moment may be just that—a moment—if voters conclude that specific global threats and humanitarian crises require an American response. Moreover, the rapid rise of Republican isolationism in the Pew poll may prove to be a knee-jerk reaction against Obama, not a fundamental shift away from the hawkish foreign policy that has defined the party for 70 years.

Of course, the uncertainty of future events cuts both ways. For example, Clinton's vocal skepticism of a nuclear deal with Iran may look myopic if such a deal is struck and helps reduce tensions throughout the Middle East. If military operations in Iraq drag on and test American voters' patience, Paul remains better positioned than any other Republican to take advantage. The festering crisis of Syria could develop in a myriad of different ways – the fight with the Islamic State could expand and enmesh Obama into the Syrian civil war, a friendlier Iran could push the Assad government toward a settlement – and however Syria looks in 2016 will be stacked against Clinton and Paul's past statements.

The volatile nature of foreign policy, along with its lack of direct impact on voters' wallets, often prompts presidential aspirants to de-emphasize the subject. That is one reason why the provocative remarks by Clinton and Paul are so unusual. The other reason is that for decades neither party has had a presidential frontrunner challenging its own fundamental foreign policy principles.

For one party to pursue such a debate risks driving the losing faction into the arms of the other (Sen. John McCain has already hinted he may prefer Clinton to Paul; Ralph Nader vice-versa). For both parties to pursue it simultaneously raises the possibility of a partisan realignment, with Democrats claiming Ronald Reagan's mantle of "Peace Through Strength" and Republicans adopting George McGovern's call of "Come Home, America."

That might seem strange to imagine. But Democrats' comfort with military action in pursuit of liberal ends has long been part of their history. And if military action is increasingly perceived as intertwined with liberal ends, and government incompetence, the Republican Party may reconnect with its isolationist past. That didn't work out so well for Robert Taft. But Rand Paul can hope that Rick Perry is no Wendell Willkie, and Hillary Clinton is no General Eisenhower.

Talking Points Memo: "The Clintons Might Already Be Wooing A 2016 Veep Candidate"

By Dylan Scott

August 15, 2014, 9:31 a.m. EDT

President Bill Clinton invited incoming Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro to dine at the Clinton's private D.C. home last week, the Washington Post reported, making it impossible for the media to ignore the 2016 implications.

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Castro, former San Antonio mayor and 2012 Democratic National Convention keynote speaker, was nominated by President Barack Obama to head HUD in May. The New York Times noted at the time that he "has often been mentioned as a potential vice-presidential candidate for the Democrats." The move to HUD was thought to help bolster Castro's national profile.

The veep speculation is mostly a matter of connecting the dots. Castro is a young (39) and charismatic Hispanic politician, as is his twin brother Joaquin, a freshman Texas congressman.

Now Bill Clinton is inviting Castro over for dinner so they can get to know each other better and Hillary Clinton also spoke with a close Castro friend at a private lunch in March about Castro's political aspirations, according to the Post.

Even anonymous sources close to situation are stoking the fire.

“The Clintons are keeping the Castros very close to them," a confidante told the Post.

Official spokespeople, of course, dismissed the 2016 conjecture.

“Secretary Castro and former president Clinton had a discussion about ways the agency can expand on the partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative to make public housing more energy-efficient,” HUD spokeswoman Betsaida Alcantara told the Post.

"They didn't talk about 2016," a Clinton aide said.

CBS News: “Hillary Clinton's lead over potential 2016 GOP foes shrinks: Poll”

By Jake Miller

August 15, 2014, 11:15 a.m. EDT

The good news for Hillary Clinton in a new McClatchy-Marist poll is that she's still ahead of all of her potential Republican challengers.

The bad news is that her lead has shrunk - and quickly - as her book tour and other public events have carried her back into the center of the political fray.

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In the new survey, the former secretary of state outpaces Gov. Chris Christie, R-N.J., by seven points, 48 to 41 percent. In April. though, McClatchy found her ahead of Christie by 11 points, 53 to 42 percent. And in February, the gap between the two was a yawning 21 percent.

Against former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Clinton holds on to a seven point lead, 48 to 41 percent. In April, she was ahead of Bush by 16 points, 55 to 39 percent.

And matched against Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., Clinton earns 48 percent to Paul's 42 percent, but in April, she bested Paul by 14 points, 54 to 40 percent.

Lee Miringoff, the director of Marist's polling institute, blamed Clinton's flagging numbers on the increased publicity generated by her tour promoting her memoir "Hard Choices," along with a few gaffes she committed along the way.

Critics pounced in June when Clinton said she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, left the White House in 2001 "dead broke." While the Clintons did leave the White House with a pile of legal debt, they quickly earned millions from book deals and speaking fees. Clinton later expressed regret for the comments, calling them "inartful."

"Misstatements, starting with we left the White House broke, aren't headline grabbers, but they're noticeable," Miringoff, said, according to McClatchy. "With Hillary Clinton, there's no preseason. She needs a Super Bowl-like performance from start to finish."

Before any of the Republicans can take the fight to Clinton, though, they have to emerge from their own scrum - and according to this new poll, that's going to be no small feat.

Bush and Christie lead the pack at 13 percent apiece, with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz close behind at 10 percent. The others are mired in single digits, with Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., at 9 percent, Paul and Gov. Rick Perry, R-Texas, at 7 percent, and Gov. Scott Walker, R-Wis., at 4 percent. Twenty-three percent are undecided.

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From: "Tara McGuinness" <tara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/5/2008 3:51:57 AM
Subject: [big campaign] DON'T MISS THIS!! Important Research on the new Anti-Obama Books...

I wanted to make sure that everyone saw this is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT research by Media Matters.

We need more than the facts though (we had those in 2004 about Corsi and the Swift Boat guys) we need a coordinated PLAN to make sure this doesn't get traction.

With the authors of two new anti-Obama books hitting the airwaves to promote their latest works of fiction, I wanted to make sure people had access to the research we've published thus far on Jerome Corsi's *The Obama Nation: Leftist Politics and the Cult of Personality* and David Freddoso's *The Case Against Barack Obama: The Unlikely Rise and Unexamined Agenda of the Media's Favorite Candidate*. Thus far both authors have been on FOX News' *Hannity & Colmes*. They are also actively hitting the right-wing talk radio circuit. Corsi was on MSNBC this morning and Contessa Brewer used our research to push back against his claims and ask why he should be taken seriously when so many mistakes have been found in his book. We are still combing through both books which we obtained before publication. This is how the Swift Boat attacks began in 2004 (Corsi was co-author of *Unfit for Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry*), it is extremely important that these authors are pushed back against forcefully with facts that discredit their claims.

Karl Frisch
Media Matters for America
kfrisch@mediamatters.org

Unfit for Publication: Corsi's *The Obama Nation* filled with falsehoods

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808040005

Summary: In its preface, Jerome Corsi compares his new book, *The Obama Nation*, to his 2004 book *Unfit for Command*. The comparison seems apt: Just as *Unfit for Command* contains false attacks on Sen. John Kerry's military service, a *Media Matters* review finds that *The Obama Nation* similarly contains numerous falsehoods about Sen. Barack Obama.

On three *Hannity* programs, Corsi offered another falsehood: Obama supports abortion "[a]fter a child's born"

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808020004

Summary: Jerome Corsi, author of the book, *The Obama Nation*, falsely claimed on *Hannity's America* that Sen. Barack Obama said, "Even if a child was born ... the woman still had the right to kill the child in an abortion." Corsi similarly falsely asserted on *Hannity & Colmes* that "[a]fter a child's born, Obama ... in the [Illinois] state Senate, wanted the child killed if the mother desired an abortion," and on Sean Hannity's radio program, said that "Obama's on record as let's kill the baby if that's what the mother wants." In fact, Obama has never supported giving people the right to kill their children.

Publisher's promotional materials for Corsi's *Obama Nation* echo falsehood and baseless charge in book

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808020003

Summary: Simon & Schuster's promotional materials for Jerome Corsi's book, *The Obama Nation*, echo Corsi's false claims and baseless charges about Sen. Barack Obama's Global Poverty Act and his views on nuclear weapons.

Misinformation in Freddoso's anti-Obama book comes early

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808010005

Summary: The introduction and first few pages of David Freddoso's forthcoming book, *The Case Against Barack Obama*, are marked by false and misleading assertions about Obama, accompanied by dubious citations.

On *Hannity & Colmes*, another Corsi falsehood about Obama

http://mediamatters.org/items/200808010003

Summary: On *Hannity & Colmes*, author Jerome Corsi claimed that in his upcoming book, *The Obama Nation*, "I do a great deal of analysis of [Sen. Barack Obama's] autobiography." Corsi then asserted, "Obama first presents his father as a great hero, and the truth was, his father was a polygamist and a alcoholic." However, contrary to Corsi's suggestion that Obama

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did not address these issues in his memoir *Dreams From My Father*, he discusses his father's alcoholism and polygamy in multiple passages in the book.

First reported allegation in Corsi's Obama attack book is false

http://mediamatters.org/items/200807310003

Summary: A WorldNetDaily.com article about author Jerome Corsi's forthcoming book, *The Obama Nation*, asserts that the book "points out" that "Barack Obama admitted using drugs in his autobiography but never revealed if or when he stopped." In fact, Obama wrote in his autobiography, *Dreams from My Father*, that he "stopped getting high" shortly after moving to New York City to attend Columbia University.

In covering forthcoming anti-Obama books, will media repeat Swift Boat coverage mistakes?

http://mediamatters.org/items/200807300005

Summary: Two books attacking Sen. Barack Obama are scheduled to be released in early August: T*he Obama Nation*, by Jerome Corsi -- co-author of *Unfit for Command,* which contains false and baseless attacks on Sen. John Kerry's military service -- and *The Case Against Barack Obama*, by David Freddoso. Regnery, publisher of *The Case Against Barack Obama*, touts the book as having the same "goal" as *Unfit for Command*, which Regnery also published. The overt connections between the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth's scurrilous campaign against Kerry and the two forthcoming books raise the question for the media: Will they have absorbed the lessons of their highly flawed Swift Boat coverage and give more immediate and more thorough scrutiny to these forthcoming books?

Politico: Anti-Obama book to be released by conservative press that published Swift Boat smear book

http://mediamatters.org/items/200806230005

Summary: David Freddoso's upcoming book, *The Case Against Barack Obama*, will be published by Regnery, which reportedly "likens the goal of [the Obama] book to that of 'Unfit for Command,' " a widely discredited book containing numerous false and baseless attacks on John Kerry's military service.

MMFA investigates: Who is Jerome Corsi, co-author of Swift Boat Vets attack book?

http://mediamatters.org/items/200408060010

While much has been written about the identity and history of John E. O'Neill -- one of the authors of the forthcoming Regnery book *Unfit for Command : Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry* (whose links in the GOP go back to his days as "protégé of Nixon-era dirty trickster Charles Colson") -- little has been said about his co-author, Jerome R. Corsi, PhD.

- **Corsi on Islam:** "a worthless, dangerous Satanic religion"
- **Corsi on Catholicism:** "Boy buggering in both Islam and Catholicism is okay with the Pope as long as it isn't reported by the liberal press"
- **Corsi on Muslims:** "RAGHEADS are Boy-Bumpers as clearly as they are Women-Haters -- it all goes together"
- **Corsi on "John F*ing Commie Kerry":** "After he married TerRAHsa, didn't John Kerry begin practicing Judiasm? He also has paternal grandparents that were Jewish. What religion is John Kerry?"
- **Corsi on Senator "FAT HOG" Clinton:** "Anybody ask why HELLary couldn't keep BJ Bill satisfied? Not lesbo or anything, is she?"

Karl Frisch
Communications Director

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Media Matters for America is a progressive research and information center dedicated to monitoring, analyzing, and correcting conservative

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misinformation in the media.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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From:	David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	7/24/2008 3:10:26 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] McCain Cancels Louisiana Trip Amid Massive Oil Spill--Where Will Energy Misses Tour Go Next?

Sent out last night:

http://action.sierraclub.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=64741.0

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 24, 2008
CONTACT: Josh Dorner, 202.679.7570 (m), 202.675.2384 (w)

McCain Cancels Louisiana Trip Amid Massive Oil Spill

Where Will Greatest Energy Misses Tour Take McCain Next?

(Embedded image moved to file: pic25996.jpg)

Washington, D.C.—Amid a spill of some 419,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil into the Mississippi River, John McCain canceled a planned trip to Louisiana Thursday—a trip during which McCain was slated to visit offshore drilling platforms and tout his misguided offshore drilling plan. Following a collision of a tanker and a barge, the massive spill caused a slick approximately 12 miles long and closed a 29 mile stretch of the Mississippi River.

Statement of Cathy Duvall, Sierra Club Political Director

"It comes as no surprise that the McCain campaign blamed the cancellation of their trip to Louisiana on the weather. Apparently hundreds of thousands of gallons of spilled oil, dead fish, and oil-covered birds aren't ideal conditions for peddling a misguided plan for more offshore drilling. Unfortunately, the risk for such spills—and far worse—would only increase if John McCain and George Bush get their way and allow Big Oil to begin the 'exploitation' of our coasts.

"It's a shame that John McCain is going to miss the opportunity to see first-hand just how damaging an oil spill can be.

"After going straight to Houston to tell Big Oil he was their new best friend, it looks like John McCain has decided to embark on a tour of our country's greatest energy misses. He's already been to Santa Barbara, he

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then told the people of Nevada how he wants to stick them with more than 70,000 tons of dangerous nuclear waste, and Lousiana was the site of the biggest offshore oil spill in our nation's history. Maybe next he'll visit Prince William Sound or Three Mile Island?"

McCain's Greatest Energy Misses Summer 2008 Tour

1. Houston, Texas—June 17

McCain announced his flip-flop on offshore drilling and received a standing ovation from the Big Oil fat cats that have given over $5 million to his campaign and the Republican National Committee. A 1979 offshore well blowout in the Bay of Campeche spilled more than 126,000,000 gallons of oil —coating beaches in Texas and Mexico with crude.

2. Santa Barbara, California—June 24

McCain pushed his misguided offshore drilling plan at the site of a 1969 oil spill from an offshore well that coated the beaches of Santa Barbara with at least 3,234,000 gallons of oil.

3. Las Vegas, Nevada—June 25

John McCain went to Nevada to push his plans to build 100 new nuclear power plants and stick the residents of the state with more than 77,000 tons of highly dangerous nuclear waste at the unsafe and unproven Yucca Mountain site.

4. Louisiana—July 25 CANCELED

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita resulted in more than 9,000,000 gallons of oil being spilled off-shore and at related facilities onshore. Louisiana is also the site of the nation's largest ever offshore oil spill, the 1967 Humble Oil spill that spewed at least 6,726,000 gallons of oil from an undersea pipeline.

5. Prince William Sound, Alaska--???

The 1989 ExxonValdez disaster spilled 10,800,000 gallons of oil into the Pristine Waters of Prince William Sound. Mere months after the tragic spill, John McCain voted against requiring double-hull tankers. McCain also wants to appoint more Supreme Court justices like Alito and Roberts, who recently decided to cut ExxonMobil's punitive damages to just $500 million—the same amount the company paid former CEO Lee Raymond during his final year with the company.

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6. Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania—???

Site of the nation's worst nuclear accident, 1979 partial meltdown of one of the station's two reactors. John McCain wants to build 100 new nuclear reactors, a plan that by utilities' own estimates could cost AT LEAST $1 TRILLION.

John McCain's Truthiness on Offshore Drilling

McCain Myth #1: Offshore drilling is safe and is getting even safer

Reality: Offshore oil spills increased 64 PERCENT over the past decade.

"From 1998 through 2007, offshore producers released an average of 6,555 barrels of oil a year, according to the Minerals Management Service, which tracks spills of 50 barrels or more. That was 64 percent more than the annual average during the previous 10-year period…Last year, the industry spilled 2,256 barrels of oil, fuels and chemicals, and during the first half of this year, offshore operators are on a similar course, having spilled 1,114 barrels in five incidents."

(Source: Houston Chronicle, 07/19/2008)

McCain Myth #2: No spills happened as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Reality: Over 9,000,000 gallons of oil were spilled as a result of the two storms.

(Source: U.S. Coast Guard)

http://www.uscg.mil/npfc/docs/PDFs/osltf_report_hurricanes.pdf

McCain Myth #3: Oil rigs "very successfully" survived the impact of hurricanes

Reality: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita alone "totally destroyed" 113 offshore oil platforms.

One platform drifted 66 nautical miles before running aground on a beach in Alabama. Hurricane Dennis in 2005 nearly destroyed the then brand-new, state-of-the-art $1 billion Shell Thunder Horse platform—the largest of its kind in the world.

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(Source: Minerals Management Service)

http://www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2006/press0501.htm

# # #

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----- Forwarded by Josh Dorner/Sierraclub on 07/23/2008 06:46 PM -----

"Josh Dorner,
Sierra Club"
<josh.dorner@sier To
raclub.org> josh.dorner@sierraclub.org
cc
07/23/2008 06:44
PM Subject
McCain Cancels Louisiana Trip Amid
Massive Oil Spill--Where Will
Please respond to Energy Misses Tour Go Next?
"Josh Dorner,
Sierra Club"
<josh.dorner@sier
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Having trouble receiving our e-mail? Try adding us (
sierra.news@sierraclub.org) to your Address Book.
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	(	FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 24, 2008	(
	E	CONTACT: Josh Dorner, 202.679.7570 (m), 202.675.2384 (w)	E
	m		m
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	d	McCain Cancels Louisiana Trip Amid Massive Oil Spill	d
	d	Where Will Greatest Energy Misses Tour Take McCain Next?	d
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	i	(Embedded image moved to file: pic19866.jpg)Oil Rigs After	i
	m	Hurricanes	m
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	v	Washington, D.C.—Amid a spill of some 419,000 gallons of heavy	v
	e	fuel oil into the Mississippi River, John McCain canceled a	e
	d	planned trip to Louisiana Thursday—a trip during which McCain was	d
	t	slated to visit offshore drilling platforms and tout his misguided	t
	o	offshore drilling plan. Following a collision of a tanker and a	o
	f	barge, the massive spill caused a slick approximately 12 miles	f
	i	long and closed a 29 mile stretch of the Mississippi River.	i
	l		l
	e		e
	:	Statement of Cathy Duvall, Sierra Club Political Director	:
	p		p
	i		i
	c	"It comes as no surprise that the McCain campaign blamed the	c
	1	cancellation of their trip to Louisiana on the weather. Apparently	2
	7	hundreds of thousands of gallons of spilled oil, dead fish, and	3
	4	oil-covered birds aren't ideal conditions for peddling a misguided	1
	3	plan for more offshore drilling. Unfortunately, the risk for such	9
	7	spills—and far worse—would only increase if John McCain and George	5
	.	Bush get their way and allow Big Oil to begin the 'exploitation'	.
	g	of our coasts.	g
	i		i
	f		f
	)	"It's a shame that John McCain is going to miss the opportunity to	)

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		see first-hand just how damaging an oil spill can be.	
		"After going straight to Houston to tell Big Oil he was their new	
		best friend, it looks like John McCain has decided to embark on a	
		tour of our country's greatest energy misses. He's already been	
		to Santa Barbara, he then told the people of Nevada how he wants	
		to stick them with more than 70,000 tons of dangerous nuclear	
		waste, and Lousiana was the site of the biggest offshore oil spill	
		in our nation's history. Maybe next he'll visit Prince William	
		Sound or Three Mile Island?"	
		McCain's Greatest Energy Misses Summer 2008 Tour	
		1. Houston, Texas—June 17	
		McCain announced his flip-flop on offshore drilling and received a	
		standing ovation from the Big Oil fat cats that have given over $5	
		million to his campaign and the Republican National Committee. A	
		1979 offshore well blowout in the Bay of Campeche spilled more	
		than 126,000,000 gallons of oil—coating beaches in Texas and	
		Mexico with crude.	
		2. Santa Barbara, California—June 24	
		McCain pushed his misguided offshore drilling plan at the site of	
		a 1969 oil spill from an offshore well that coated the beaches of	
		Santa Barbara with at least 3,234,000 gallons of oil.	
		3. Las Vegas, Nevada—June 25	
		John McCain went to Nevada to push his plans to build 100 new	
		nuclear power plants and stick the residents of the state with	
		more than 77,000 tons of highly dangerous nuclear waste at the	
		unsafe and unproven Yucca Mountain site.	
		4. Louisiana—July 25 CANCELED	
		Hurricanes Katrina and Rita resulted in more than 9,000,000	
		gallons of oil being spilled off-shore and at related facilities	
		onshore. Louisiana is also the site of the nation's largest ever	
		offshore oil spill, the 1967 Humble Oil spill that spewed at least	
		6,726,000 gallons of oil from an undersea pipeline.	
		5. Prince William Sound, Alaska--???	
		The 1989 ExxonValdez disaster spilled 10,800,000 gallons of oil	
		into the Pristine Waters of Prince William Sound. Mere months	
		after the tragic spill, John McCain voted against requiring	
		double-hull tankers. McCain also wants to appoint more Supreme	
		Court justices like Alito and Roberts, who recently decided to cut	
		ExxonMobil's punitive damages to just $500 million—the same amount	
		the company paid former CEO Lee Raymond during his final year with	
		the company.	
		6. Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania—???	
		Site of the nation's worst nuclear accident, 1979 partial meltdown	
		of one of the station's two reactors. John McCain wants to build	
		100 new nuclear reactors, a plan that by utilities' own estimates	
		could cost AT LEAST $1 TRILLION.	
		John McCain's Truthiness on Offshore Drilling	

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		McCain Myth #1: Offshore drilling is safe and is getting even	
		safer	
		Reality: Offshore oil spills increased 64 PERCENT over the past	
		decade.	
		"From 1998 through 2007, offshore producers released an average of	
		6,555 barrels of oil a year, according to the Minerals Management	
		Service, which tracks spills of 50 barrels or more. That was 64	
		percent more than the annual average during the previous 10-year	
		period…Last year, the industry spilled 2,256 barrels of oil, fuels	
		and chemicals, and during the first half of this year, offshore	
		operators are on a similar course, having spilled 1,114 barrels in	
		five incidents."	
		(Source: Houston Chronicle, 07/19/2008)	
		McCain Myth #2: No spills happened as a result of hurricanes	
		Katrina and Rita	
		Reality: Over 9,000,000 gallons of oil were spilled as a result of	
		the two storms.	
		(Source: U.S. Coast Guard)	
		http://www.uscg.mil/npfc/docs/PDFs/osltf_report_hurricanes.pdf	
		McCain Myth #3: Oil rigs "very successfully" survived the impact	
		of hurricanes	
		Reality: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita alone "totally destroyed" 113	
		offshore oil platforms.	

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/9/2008 9:58:38 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain/Palin Rally in Lancaster, PA 09/09/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with Lee, on the ground in Lancaster, PA. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights
[Palin highlights]

- Palin alludes to Bittergate, following up on warm-up act
- mostly repeat of earlier lines
- Repeats 'thanks but no thanks' to Bridge to Nowhere

[McCain highlights]

- McCain blames Fannie/Freddie mess on "croneyism" and special interests in DC
    - Says we need to keep ppl in their homes but we cant let this be a bailout of "Wall St speculators and irresponsible executives"
- Says tmrw will mark 1-yr since Petraeus testified for the surge, Obama voted against it and we were 1 vote away from cutting off funding
- Says change is coming in Jan and we are the ones that'll change DC, like Palin changed Alaska
    - promises to use "old ink pen" to veto every earmark porkbarrel bill
- Says wasteful earmark spending takes away from your ability to fill gas tank and pay mortgage

Lancaster, PA: McCain/Palin Rally 09/09/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- est. 5-6000 ppl in audience; auditorium at capacity
    - 20-25% audience were college students (Event held at Franklin & Marshall college), the rest were mostly middle-aged and white; lots of women
- crowd extremely enthusiastic, but more so for Palin than McCain
- lots of signs, mostly campaign-made, some homemade, e.g. "Guns, Religion and Lipstick," "Palin Power"
- arena stage in middle of auditorium surrounded by ppl on all sides
- before candidates speak, they showed series of biopics of McCain and Palin
- Announcer yells out: Pls welcome the next VPOTUS, Sarah Palin, Todd; and next POTUS, JM
    - "Sarah Palin may not be 6 ft tall but she's a self-made giant"
- tracker didn't see any demonstrators (but 9/11 truther got kicked out before event after he held up a sign "9/11 was an inside job")
- 45min of pre-event fanfare: cheerleader, band, boy scouts did pledge, preacher did a prayer, mccain chair speaks

Speech Highlights
Palin speaks

- First Dude, Todd Palin
- we tend not to like ppl who talk about us 1 way in Lancaster and then not another way in SF
-

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- [feed cuts out]
- about a yr ago, things were going badly in iraq. defeat wouldve had terrible consequences. Many in DC assumed there was no hope in Iraq and no hope for a candidate who said he would rather lose an election than a war in Iraq. but they forgot the determination resolve and sheer guts of
- he doesn't run with Washington herd -- willing to shake things up -- 1 more reason to take maverick of Senate and put him in WH
- JM has called the 2 of us a team of mavericks -- we did that in AK -- took on the good ol boys -- reminded ppl that govt not always the answer, too often govt is the problem
- so we got back to basics, put govt back on side of ppl: eliminated taxes on personal property; eliminated property taxes on
- we came to office promising major ethics reform and today thats the law of the state
- as mayor and gov, i tried to lead by example: voluntary paycut, gov- cut the personal chef from the budget-- i put the state govts checkbook online for all to see (bureaucrats not thrilled)-- and that luxury jet, i put it on ebay
- i came to office promising to control spending, by request if possible, by veto in necessary - today budget in control, i returned the surplus
- we suspended our state fuel tax -- surplus -- i returned a chunk of that surplus back to ppl of Alaska b/c they can spend it better than govt can spend it for them - and in these tough times across USA, im ready to help JM bring tax relief to all of you
- we championed earmark reform to stop Cong from wasting money on things that dont serve teh public interest - i told congress thx but no thx on bridge to nowhere
- just teh other day, our opponent brought up earmarks, and considering his record, im surprised he'd even want to go there -- in 3 yrs our opponent has requested almost $3b in earmarks -- while our opponent was requesting $3b as senatorial privilege, i was vetoing about $half Billion as exec responsbility
- im going to help Pres. JM end these corrupt practices once and for all
- as gov i used competition to help build a gas pipeline that cost $40m to get us off foreign oil that dont have our best interests in mind
- we're going to use alternative energy and drill now to get us off foreign energy (Drill baby drill!)
- its a matter of natl security and it's for our prosperity: American energy sources by Am ingenuity and Am workers
- my running mate wont say it on his own behalf so i will: there's only 1 man in this election that has ever fought for you (crowd roars)
- friends, in PA, pls know he is the only great man in this race, the only ready to serve as 44th potus. im honored to intro to you the next POTUS (crowd roars) -- McCain waves (USA! USA!)

McCain speaks

- TY, TY (crowd cheers) for this marvelous turnout. you convince me more and more we will win the state of PA.
- and i cannot tell you how happy i am to be intro'd by Gov Palin today, but i cant--wait, i cant wait to intro her to Wash DC (crowd roars)
- let there be no doubt - a little advanced warning to the old bigspending, donothing, me-first-do-nothing Washington crowd, Change is coming and it's coming next Jan! we will reform! We are the ones tahtll change DC, she changed AK! we'll restore trust and confidence in govt
- Obama has never gone against anyone in his own party, we're proud that for the good of the Am ppl, we have
- and what maverick really means--what this team of mavericks means is that we understand who we work for: we'll work for you and the Am ppl
- a couple of issues quickly--
    - 1-- we will stop spending $700B to countries that dont like us very much and some of that money ends up in the hands of terrorists (crowd roars)-- its gonna stop-- its gonna be all of the above, its also going to be nuclear power. and yes, in the meantime, yes we're going to drill offshore and we're gonna drill now! and we'll fight for energy independence - and we're oging to get our economy moving again, and we'll create millions of job- and we'll invest in clean coal technology, which will help in PA
    - my opponent opposes nuclear and offshore

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    - 2- spending- its out of control adn it has corrupted Wash DC. ive got an old ink pen and im going to take it and veto every earmark porkbarrel bill that comes across my desk-- we'll shame them! we're never going to spend $3m again to study the DNA of bears in MT (i dont know if that was a paternity issue or criminal)- we've got to stop it. that money takes away your ability to fill your gas tank and make your mortgage payment. it hurts us and erodes our confidence and trust in govt. we can stop it b/c america's best days are ahead of us

- one more wd about todd palin-- 2000mi in sometimes 40below in a snowmobile across AK winter--my friends he's not afraid of DC-- we can take them on -- 4time world champion, and a wonderful father (crwod cheers)
- a little straight talk -- these are tough times, we know that-- worried about jobs, paying for food, stayin in home--- this wk we're looking at taking on a costly govt-led restructuring of our home-loan agencies -- we need to keep ppl in their homes but we cant allow this to turn into a bailout of Wall St speculators and irresponsble executives -- this action was required b/c of croneyism and special interests in Wash DC - all you ever asked of govt is to stand on your side not in your way and thats what i intend to do
- ill keep your taxes low, open new mkts, cut govt spending. my opponent believes in higher taxes, govt spending - the differences are very clear
- we're going to reform the way business is done in DC
- Prob in DC is not Dems or GOPS, it's that they're working for themselves and not for you. we need to reach across the aisle, i have a record of that, obama doesnt
- tmrw will mark a yr since Petraeus testified before Cong on surge -- we were 1 vote away from cutting off funding and Obama voted against it
- quick story-- one 4ht of July. Sen. L. Graham and i were in baghdad and Petraeus invited us to join ceremony where 688 brave americans had reenlisted when they could have gone home-- i was deeply moved to be in the presence of brave young Ams who were willing to continue to serve b/c it wasnt just for the frdm of Iraqis but for our security. the consequences couldve been terrible -- and btw, the temp was about 117 degrees, these young ppl put on 40lbs of body armor and went out defending iraqi ppl
- on the way back, i said we cant afford to surrender or lose this war. yes im running for pres, but we have to win this war. we went on No Surrender tour. Dems and some GOPs wanted to surrender. pundits said we were finished. ill say it again-- id rather lose a political campaign than see USA lose a war. why do i feel that way? because ive had the great honor of serving in the company of heroes. i know what the threats are to America and security today. everytime im in the company of vets, im honored and theyre here today. pls raise your hands. (crowd cheers-- palin waves)
- let me promise: we will fulfill our obligations to care for those who have served, we will give you the benefits you deserve and care you need
- after i came back, wolfboro, NH, Matthew Stanley's mom gives mccain bracelet for KIA son to make sure his death was not in vain. i take that charge very seriously. yes i want to be POTUS but i also believe i can motivate and inspire a generation of Ams to serve a cause greater than selfinterest. i want to assure you that my entire life ive had the opportunity to put my country first. with the help of this great running mate, we will always put country first. TY, we need your support and god bless america. (crowd roars-- SP, TP and JM wave; walk off stage)

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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From:	"Maura Pally" <mpally@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	4/8/2015 7:53:54 AM
Subject:	RE: Re:
Attachments:	2015-04-08 Foundation Policy Adjustments - DRAFT (2) - answers for TinaMP.docx

We could say this:
foreign governments who have funded or are funding the work of the Clinton Health Access Initiative and the Clinton Foundation programs Clinton Climate Initiative, Clinton Development Initiative, and Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership.
Instead of what is currently written:
foreign governments who have funded or are funding the work of the Clinton Climate Initiative, Clinton Development Initiative, Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, and Clinton Health Access Initiative.
Revised option attached.

From: Bruce Lindsey
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:22 AM
To: John Podesta
Cc: Tina Flournoy; Cheryl Mills Contact; Bari Lurie contact; Maura Pally
Subject: Re:

Yes CHAI should be separate.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2015, at 10:05 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> I'm having a hard time seeing what the back and forth is on my phone. Do we have to adjust foreign contributions section to reflect two organizations CF and CHAI. Currently reads as though CHAI is a program of CF.
>
> On Apr 8, 2015 9:55 AM, "Tina Flournoy" <Tina@presidentclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > thanks. On the last point - I get the point but think we can delete the "who have funded" - but don't feel strongly about it
> >
> >
> > On Apr 8, 2015, at 9:44 AM, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > responses to Tina's comments
> > >
> > > On Wed, Apr 8, 2015 at 9:25 AM, Tina Flournoy <Tina@presidentclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > some comments here
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > Begin forwarded message:
> > > >
> > > > **From:** Hartina Flournoy <tflournoy11@gmail.com >
> > > > **Date:** April 8, 2015 at 9:25:43 AM EDT
> > > > **To:** Tina Flournoy <tina@presidentclinton.com >
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > <2015-04-08 Foundation Policy Adjustments - DRAFT (2) - answers for Tina.docx>

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From:	"Embassy of India, Washington DC" <info2@indiagov.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	11/20/2014 5:04:29 AM
Subject:	India, U.S. Sign Pact to Collaborate on Infrastructure | Embassy bulletin on Key Policy Decisions and High-Impact News

To read online, Click here!



Welcome to the November 20, 2014 bulletin of key policy decisions and high-impact news from India, presented by the Embassy of India, in Washington D.C.

Key Policy Decisions

India, U.S. Sign Pact to Collaborate on Infrastructure

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Department of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Government of India and the U.S. Commerce Department to establish an Infrastructure Collaboration Platform. Under the agreement, both governments will facilitate U.S. industry participation in Indian infrastructure projects.



READ MORE

India, U.S. Agree on Food Reserves, End WTO Impasse

Paving the way for implementation of trade facilitation pacts at WTO, India and US have resolved an impasse over food security related issues while safeguarding interest of Indian farmers. With the US agreeing to support India's proposal on public stockpilin g of food, it would now go for ratification by the WTO General Council to facilitate signing of Trade Facilitation Agreement that has been stalled for months. Announcing the breakthrough, Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that India and the US have successfully resolved their differences on the public stockholding issue for food security purposes in WTO.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

READ MORE READ MORE

National Industrial Corridor Development Authority to be Set Up

The Government is creating a National Industrial Corridor Development Authority to carry out project development activities, appraise and approve projects and implement and coordinate all central efforts for industrial corridor development. "Renewed efforts are now being made to not only cover the existing gaps in physical infrastructure but going much beyond that and creating a world-class physical infrastructure," Additional Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion Shatrughna Singh said.

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Corporate Affairs Ministry Gives Clarity on Foreign Currency Bond Issuance

Provisions related to prospectus and allotment of securities under the new Companies Act will not be applicable to foreign currency bonds that are issued exclusively to persons living outside India. The clarification from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, which is implementing the Companies Act, has come after consultations with the Finance Ministry and Securities and Exchange Board of India.

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India Sets Up Committee to Expedite Investment from Japan

India has set up a special committee to expedite Japanese investment in India - in addition to the Japan Plus team constituted last month -- to research, promote and facilitate Japanese businesses seeking to invest in India. In September, Prime Minister Modi visited Japan and urged businesses there to set up shop in India and turn the country into a manufacturing hub.

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High-Impact News

India-U.S. Joint Effort to Derive Non-Food Biofuels by 2017

In a significant step toward generating biofuels from non-food plant sources, the U.S.-India joint consortium for the development of sustainable advanced lignocellulosic biofuel systems will spearhead research in the production of commercially viable biofuels. Set up by both governments, the Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center by 2017 will work to deliver a model for their production using non-food feedstock crops - energy sorghum, bamboo, pearl millet and switch grass.

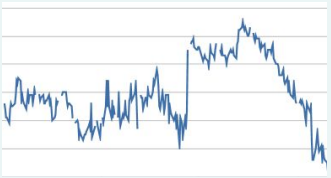
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India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue Wraps Up

The recent India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue held in New Delhi explored collaboration between the two countries, especially regarding community colleges, massive open online courses, student and faculty exchange and skill development.

Inflation Drops to 5-Year Low

The wholesale price index-based inflation dropped for the fifth straight month to 1.77 percent in October, the lowest in more than five years on the back of softening food and fuel prices. Factory output posted a moderate 2.5 percent growth in September, up from two consecutive flat months.



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OECD: India Only Major Economy to See Improved Momentum

India is the "only major economy" that is projected to see a pickup in growth momentum whereas mixed trends are predicted for the developed world, Paris-based think-tank OECD said. Most of the major economies -- developed and developing -- including the U.S., Brazil, China and Russia, are expected to witness stable growth momentum.

Cisco to Invest $1.7 Billion in Indian Digital Drive

Nearly three months after Cisco Chairman & CEO John Chambers said he will "bet big on India," the world's biggest computer networking company detailed plans to invest about $1.7 billion in a year, becoming the first multinational to make such a commitment since the Modi Government took over
.

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	8/29/2014 7:52:40 AM
Subject:	8.29.14 Weekend TPs Package
Attachments:	8 29 14 Weekend Package Final.docx

Hi all,

Here's the weekend talking points package for Correct The Record. Thanks and have a wonderful Labor Day!

8.29.14 Weekend Package

1. Breaking Glass: Women's Economic Empowerment TPs and Record Analysis
2. Secretary Clinton Stemming the Tide of Climate Change TPs and Record Analysis
3. Hillary Clinton Comments on Ferguson: Highlights
4. Community Policing and Hillary Clinton
5. Hillary Clinton Foreign Policy: CTR Response to Rand Paul and Interview With Jeff Goldberg TPs

BREAKING GLASS: WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

"The United States is committed to advancing opportunities for women as entrepreneurs and business leaders. We view it as both a moral and strategic imperative for the 21st century." – Hillary Clinton, 11/1/11

Background: **Sec. Clinton championed women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, and investment in women's economic potential.** As Secretary of State, she followed through on a lifetime of championing women's causes by expanding women's economic prospects, initiating programs dedicated to entrepreneurship around the world. Through international partnerships, Sec. Clinton elevated women's political and economic prospects and raised the profile of women's issues abroad.

Hillary Clinton brought together women entrepreneurs to make the case that empowering women is a key to progress and prosperity and peace.

- Secretary Clinton launched the WEAmericas initiative to help women in Latin America and the Caribbean start and grow small businesses by providing access to training, networks, markets and finance.

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- Secretary Clinton's State Department created the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program to provide women with tools and skills to implement African Growth and Opportunity Act.

- Hillary Clinton helped found the U.S. – Pakistan Women's Council to promote economic opportunities for women in Pakistan.

- Under Secretary Clinton's leadership, the Invest for the Future program improved women's economic situations across Southern and Eastern Europe and Eurasia by bringing together women entrepreneurs, educators, policy-makers, and civil society leaders.

- Hillary Clinton held a conference to connect women entrepreneurs with mentors.

Secretary Clinton created programs to help women achiever greater empowerment.

- Secretary Clinton launched the Equal Futures Partnership to fight for women's political and economic empowerment.

- Secretary Clinton's Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society project brought Middle East and North African activists together to discuss ways to advance women's political and economic engagement.

- Under Clinton, the Asian-Pacific member nations of the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) agreed to the "San Francisco Declaration," an agreement to take concrete actions to better economically empower women.

Hillary Clinton sought to increase global security and prosperity by elevating the importance of political and economic empowerment for women and girls.

- Secretary Clinton worked to raise women's issues at all international economic forums including the G20.

- Hillary Clinton said that empowering women means a stronger, more stable world economy.

Breaking Glass: Women's Economic Empowerment

Sec. Clinton championed women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, and investment in women's economic

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potential. *As Hillary Clinton states in Hard Choices, creating opportunity for women and girls throughout the world "directly supports everyone's security and prosperity, and should be part of our diplomacy and development work." As Secretary of State, she followed through on a lifetime of championing women's causes by expanding women's economic prospects, initiating programs dedicated to entrepreneurship around the world. Through international partnerships, Sec. Clinton elevated women's political and economic prospects and raised women's issues "at all international economic forums."*

Elevated Political and Economic Empowerment for Women and Girls

Sec. Clinton worked "to raise women's issues at all international economic forums." According to an op-ed by former Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer in the Christian Science Monitor, "Clinton worked to raise women's issues at all international economic forums - from APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) to the G20 to the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). She launched regional networking and training programs for women entrepreneurs and formed many robust public-private partnerships to promote women's economic empowerment." [Melanne Verveer, Christian Science Monitor, 3/8/13]

Sec. Clinton told delegates of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Women and the Economy Summit that empowering women meant a stronger, more stable world economy. According to San Jose Mercury News, "Empowering women means a stronger, more stable world economy, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday to the largest diplomatic gathering in the Bay Area since the United Nations charter was signed here in 1945. And although the past half-century has seen tremendous progress, there's still much to be done to ensure women have the opportunity, information, resources and legal rights they need for economic success, Clinton told delegates to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Women and the Economy Summit." [San Jose Mercury News, 9/16/11]

Sec. Clinton: "The United States is committed to advancing opportunities for women as entrepreneurs and business leaders." According to video remarks at an event for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Sec. Clinton said, "Businesses owned by women make considerable contributions to national economies. But too often, their growth is limited by unfair barriers. The United States is committed to advancing opportunities for women as entrepreneurs and business leaders. We view it as both a moral and strategic imperative for the 21st century. That's why we are helping women entrepreneurs with business training and mentoring; and support policies that improve women's access to finance, technology, and networks." [Remarks at OECD Event on Women's Entrepreneurship, state.gov , 11/1/11]

Created Programs to Achieve Greater Empowerment for Women

Sec. Clinton launched the Equal Futures Partnership to fight for women's political and economic empowerment. According to a White House fact sheet on the Equal Futures Partnership, "A growing body of evidence shows that women's political and economic empowerment are critical to fostering international peace and security, growing vibrant market economies, and supporting open and accountable governance. Recognizing that no country can realize its potential if half its population cannot reach theirs, President Obama issued a challenge before the United Nations General Assembly in September 2011 to break down barriers to women's political and economic empowerment. […] In response to this challenge, on September 24, 2012, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton launched the Equal Futures Partnership on behalf of the United States along with 12 other founding members (Australia, Benin, Bangladesh, Denmark, Finland, Indonesia, Jordan, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, and Tunisia; as well as the European Union)." ["Fact Sheet: The Equal Futures Partnership to Expand Women's Political and Economic Participation," whitehouse.gov , 9/24/12]

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Under Sec. Clinton, the Asian-Pacific partners of APEC agreed to the "San Francisco Declaration," an agreement to take concrete actions to realize the full economic potential of women. In 2011, Secretary Clinton brought together representatives from APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) nations to agree to the "San Francisco Declaration." The Declaration stated, "We, APEC ministers and senior government officials, along with private sector leaders, met in San Francisco, California, September 16, 2011 for the High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy, under the Chairmanship of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. [...] In 2011 and beyond, APEC economies will take concrete actions to realize the full potential of women, integrate them more fully into APEC economies, harness their talents, remove barriers that restrict women's full economic participation, and maximize their contributions towards economic growth." In 2012, Sec. Clinton traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, where she "led the U.S. Delegation to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's Women and the Economy Forum (WEF). During this event, participants focused on leadership and skills and capacity building, two main areas of the San Francisco Declaration on decreasing barriers to women's economic participation, as they relate to innovation, STEM, entrepreneurship, and healthy lifestyles." [APEC.org,9/16/11 ; state.gov , 6/30/12]

Sec. Clinton's Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society project brought activists in the Middle East and North Africa together to discuss "how to further women's political and economic engagement." According to a press release from the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan, "Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer arrived on a four-day visit to Jordan today. While in Amman, Ambassador Verveer will host a regional convening of the Working Group on Women's Empowerment. Under Secretary Clinton's Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society, the Working Group brings together activists from across the Middle East and North Africa to discuss how to further women's political and economic engagement in the region." [U.S. Embassy Jordan, 6/24/12]

Promoted Women's Entrepreneurship around the World

Sec. Clinton launched WEAmericas to help women in Latin America and the Caribbean start and grow small businesses. According to a State Department fact sheet on WEAmericas, "Recognizing that investing in women is not only the right thing, but also the smart thing, President Obama announced and Secretary Clinton launched the Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas (WEAmericas) initiative at the Summit of the Americas in April 2012. WEAmericas leverages public-private partnerships to increase women's economic participation in Latin America and the Caribbean by reducing barriers women often confront in starting and growing SMEs: access to training and networks, access to markets, and access to finance." ["Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas (WEAmericas)," state.gov , 10/12/12]

Sec. Clinton's State Department created the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program to "provide women with the tools and skills" to implement the African Growth and Opportunity Act. According to a State Department report on women's and girls' issues, "In conjunction with the 2010 AGOA Ministerial (African Growth and Opportunity Act), the Department created the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program to provide women with the tools and skills they need to more successfully implement AGOA and its benefits for building businesses and markets. The Department secured $200,000 from Exxon-Mobil to fund follow-up entrepreneurship training to support building businesses." ["Sidebar on Women's and Girls' Issues," state.gov , 11/15/10]

Under Sec. Clinton's leadership, the Invest for the Future program focused on improving women's entrepreneurship and economic situations across Southern and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. According to the Invest for the Future website, "The Invest for the Future program was initiated by the US Department of State under the leadership of Secretary of State, [Hillary] Clinton and Global Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verveer. IFTF was conceptualized to focus on improving the economic situation for women across Southern and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Through a series of events it brought together women entrepreneurs, educators, policy-makers, and civil society leaders to foster development and overcome barriers to fully realize the promise of gender equality and 'smart economics', as investing in women profits all of society." [Invest for the Future, accessed 2/4/14]

Sec. Clinton founded the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council with American University and the Organization of

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Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America "to promote economic opportunities for women in Pakistan." In her remarks at the Equal Futures Partnership launch, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "I'm pleased to announce that the State Department and American University, along with the Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America and our counterparts in Pakistan, are founding the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council to promote economic opportunities for women in Pakistan. The Council will connect businesses, universities, and individual donors in both the United States and Pakistan. And I'm very pleased that Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States is here with us today." [Remarks at the Equal Futures Partnership Launch, state.gov , 9/24/12]

Sec. Clinton held a conference for women entrepreneurs through the Pathways to Prosperity program. According to her remarks at the Pathways to Prosperity Women Entrepreneurs Conference, Sec. Clinton said, "Part of what we are trying to do here in the State Department with all of you is to make the case that empowering women is a key to progress and prosperity and peace. Bringing together the mentors and the entrepreneurs is one way of creating even more support for all of you in business to be able to spread the benefits of women taking leadership roles. I've heard about some of the work that you are doing in your own lives, and I am very touched by the courage and the commitment that so many of you have already shown." [Remarks at the Pathways to Prosperity Women Entrepreneurs Conference, state.gov , 10/9/09]

SECRETARY CLINTON STEMMING THE TIDE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

"It took a lot of work by a lot of people to create the problem of climate change over the last centuries. And it will take our very best efforts to counter it." – Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton looked to the future, planning for our generation and the next generation of Americans when she prioritized the fight against climate change as a matter of foreign policy.

- Secretary Clinton appointed a Special Envoy for Climate Change to serve as an advisor on international climate change policy.

- She established the Bureau of Energy Resources to address the threat of climate change posed by the world's energy consumption.

Secretary Clinton led the way through partnerships and developed incentives to encourage cooperation and progress toward reducing our footprint on the environment.

- Secretary Clinton helped negotiate an unprecedented agreement between all major economies to commit to curb carbon emissions through 2020.

- She launched the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, a thirty-seven country partnership that is making important strides to reduce methane emissions all over the world.

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○ Recognizing that dirty cookstoves kill nearly 2 million people a year and are harmful to the environment, Secretary Clinton took action and launched the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves in order to save lives and protect our planet.

○ She signed an agreement with Brazil to strengthen cooperation as the U.S. and Brazil work together to meet the grave challenge of global climate change.

Stemming the Tide of Climate Change

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton spearheaded global action to fight climate change, building international partnerships to counter its threat. Sec. Clinton worked actively to protect the planet and its inhabitants by making climate change apriority in U.S. foreign policy and built partnerships to mobilize the international community to mitigate climate change and its adverse effects. Recognizing the clear and present danger of climate change, Sec. Clinton emphasized the need forAmerican leadership in tackling this ever-growing global issue.

Made Climate Change an American Foreign Policy Priority

Sec. Clinton changed the way the U.S. approached climate change. According to the New York Times, "Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton wrapped up her first diplomatic mission to Asia yesterday with climate change experts praising her for putting global warming at the center of U.S. foreign policy… Kenneth Lieberthal, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and co-author of a new blueprint on how to bring China and the United States into cooperation on climate change, said he thinks Clinton sent a powerful signal that was 'fundamentally different' from the one sent by the Bush administration over the past eight years. He noted that Clinton chose [Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd] Stern as her travel companion -- and not a Treasury Department official, a nonproliferation expert or an envoy on any number of other top-tier foreign policy issues. 'Climate change is one of these existential threats that the U.S. and other countries face, and we do not have the luxury of procrastinating anymore. I think that's the message that Hillary Clinton brought to China,' Lieberthal said. 'She's saying, "We have changed the U.S. approach to this in a huge way. We want you to know that, and we want you to know the door is wide open for serious communication,'" he said." [New York Times, 2/23/09]

Sec. Clinton appointed a Special Envoy for Climate Change to "serve as a principal advisor on international climate policy and strategy." According to Sec. Clinton's remarks announcing the appointment of Todd Stern as Special Envoy for Climate Change, "The Special Envoy will serve as a principal advisor on international climate policy and strategy. He will be the Administration's chief climate negotiator. He will be leading our efforts with United Nations negotiations and processes involving a smaller set of countries and bilateral sessions. Because the main cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuel and because the solution rests with our ability to shift the global economy from a high to a low carbon energy base, the Envoy will be a lead participant in the development of climate and clean energy policy. He will participate in all energy-related policy discussions that, across our government, can have an impact on carbon emissions, and will be looking for opportunities to forge working alliances." [Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern, state.gov , 1/26/09]

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Sec. Clinton established the Bureau of Energy Resources because "how the world uses energy is a key factor" to addressing the threat of climate change. According to Sec. Clinton's remarks on delivering on the promise of economic statecraft, "Next, on energy. We know energy can be a source of healthy competition, with countries racing to develop new technologies and renewables. But it can also be a source of conflict, fueling corruption and instability. And how the world uses energy is a key factor as to whether we will finally address the threat of climate change. So we have created at the State Department a new Bureau of Energy Resources, and made this issue a priority in our diplomacy." [Remarks on Delivering on the Promise of Economic Statecraft, state.gov , 11/17/12]

Sec. Clinton viewed U.S. leadership on climate change as both "a responsibility we should accept and an opportunity we should seize." In her book *Hard Choices*, Secretary Clinton wrote, "In our meeting in Copenhagen, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia told me that the world was looking to the United States to lead the way on climate change. I believe this is both a responsibility we should accept and an opportunity we should seize. After all, we're still the largest economy and the second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide. The more serious the effects of climate change, the more important it will be for us to lead." [*Hard Choices*, pg. 504, 2014]

Advanced International Partnerships on Climate Change

Sec. Clinton expanded U.S. efforts to assist developing countries hit hardest by climate change. In her remarks on the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, Sec. Clinton said, "A year ago, President Obama proposed this partnership as a forum for sharing ideas and devising solutions. And through consultation with many of the countries here today, we identified five critical areas of engagement: energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner fossil fuels, energy poverty, and infrastructure. And today, I propose we add two new areas to help advance the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and to be prepared for the next conference in Cancun. Those are: sustainable forestry and land use, and adaptation to assist developing countries that have been and are being hardest hit by climate change." [Remarks on the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, state.gov , 4/15/10]

Sec. Clinton launched the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, which has 37 countries working to reduce methane emissions. In her book *Hard Choices*, Secretary Clinton wrote, "I held an event at the State Department with the Environmental Ministers from Bangladesh, Canada, Mexico, and Sweden, the Ambassador from Ghana, and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa Jackson, to launch the Climate and Clean Air Coalition. In 2014, there are thirty-seven country partners and forty-four nonstate partners, and the Coalition is making important strides toward reducing methane emissions from oil and gas production and black carbon from diesel fumes and other sources." [*Hard Choices*, pg. 501, 2014]

Sec. Clinton launched the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves to negate the "serious health risks" of dirty cookstoves and to reduce their contribution to climate change. According to Sec. Clinton's remarks on the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, "The World Health Organization considers smoke from dirty stoves to be one of the five most serious health risks that face people in poor, developing countries. Nearly 2 million people die from its effects each year, more than twice the number from malaria. And because the smoke contains greenhouse gasses such as carbon dioxide and methane, as well as black carbon, it contributes to climate change. […] I know that maybe this sounds hard to believe, but by upgrading these stoves, millions of lives could be saved and improved. This could be as transformative as bed nets or even vaccines. So today, I am very pleased to announce the creation of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves." [Remarks on the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, state.gov , 9/21/10]

Sec. Clinton helped drive an unprecedented deal between major economies, developed and developing, to curb carbon emissions. According to Foreign Affairs, "Obama and Clinton barged into a meeting at the 2009 global climate change talks in Copenhagen and forced the Chinese president to agree to a nonbinding pact under which rich and poor countries alike pledged to curb their carbon emissions." In her book *Hard Choices*, Secretary Clinton wrote, "Sitting [in Copenhagen] next to President Obama in the small leaders' meeting he and I had just forced our way into, I hoped that we might finally be getting somewhere. I looked across the table at Wen Jiabao, then at the leaders of India, Brazil, and South Africa. […] In the end, after lots of cajoling, debating, and compromising, the leaders in that room fashioned a deal that, while far from perfect, saved the summit from failure and put us on the road to future

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progress. For the first time all major economies, developed and developing alike, agreed to make national commitments to curb carbon emissions through 2020 and report transparently on their mitigation efforts. The world began moving away from the division between developed and developing countries that had defined the Kyoto agreement." [Foreign Affairs, May/June 2013 ; *Hard Choices*, pg. 499, 2014]

Sec. Clinton signed an agreement with Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim to "strengthen bilateral cooperation" on climate change efforts. According to a State Department fact sheet, "Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim today signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation Regarding Climate Change' that will strengthen bilateral cooperation between the United States and Brazil as we work to meet the global climate and clean energy challenge. This Memorandum of Understanding launches a new 'Climate Change Policy Dialogue' to discuss key issues, including: The implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and ways to build on the Copenhagen Accord as quickly as possible; Strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; Joint efforts on research, development, deployment and dissemination of clean energy technologies; Adaptation; Cooperation on climate change scientific research; and Capacity-building in sectors related to climate change." [Announcement of Increased Cooperation on Climate Change, state.gov , 3/3/10]

Urged Global Cooperation in the Fight against Climate Change

Sec. Clinton called for a cooperative international effort to implement climate change action plans "in individual countries, in regions and globally." According to Sec. Clinton's remarks at the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, "All of us participating today must cooperate in developing meaningful proposals to move the process forward. New policy and new technologies are needed to resolve this crisis, and they won't materialize by themselves. They will happen because we will set forth an action plan in individual countries, in regions, and globally. It took a lot of work by a lot of people to create the problem of climate change over the last centuries. And it will take our very best efforts to counter it." [Remarks at the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, state.gov , 4/27/09]

Sec. Clinton: "No solution" to the climate problem "is feasible without all major emitting nations joining together and playing an important part." According to Sec. Clinton's remarks announcing the appointment of Todd Stern as Special Envoy for Climate Change, "As the President has made clear, he is committed to enacting a far-reaching new energy and climate plan. As we take steps at home, we will also vigorously pursue negotiations, those sponsored by the United Nations and those at the sub-global, regional, and bilateral level that can lead to binding international climate agreements. No solution is feasible without all major emitting nations joining together and playing an important part." [Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern, state.gov , 1/26/09]

HILLARY CLINTON COMMENTS ON FERGUSON: HIGHLIGHTS

BACKGROUND: Today, Hillary Clinton spoke at a summit in San Francisco and discussed the situation in Ferguson, Missouri. Below are some highlights from her remarks:

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"Watching the recent funeral for Michael Brown, as a mother, as a human being, my heart just broke for his family because losing a child is every parent's greatest fear and an unimaginable loss."

"This is what happens when the bonds of trust and respect that hold any community together fray. Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone, not in America. We are better than that."

"We cannot ignore the inequities that persist in our justice system. Inequities that undermine our most deeply held values of fairness and equality."

"Imagine what we would feel and what we would do if white drivers were three times as likely to be searched by police during a traffic stop as black drivers, instead of the other way around. If white offenders received prison sentences ten percent longer than black offenders for the same crimes. If a third of all white men – just look at this room and take one-third – went to prison during their lifetime. Imagine that. That is the reality in the lives of so many of our fellow Americans and so many of the communities in which they live."

"I applaud President Obama for sending the Attorney General to Ferguson and demanding a thorough and speedy investigation. That's both appropriate and necessary to find out what happened, to see that justice is done, to help this community begin healing itself."

"It was 51 years ago today that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called us to live out the true meaning of our creed, to make the dream real for all Americans. And that mission is as fiercely urgent today as when he stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the hot August sun all those years ago. So we have a lot of work to do together."

Community Policing & Hillary Clinton

Community policing is a means of partnering residents and law enforcement to build safer, more prosperous communities and to avoid or deescalate tensions between law enforcement and the communities which they are charged with serving. Hillary Clinton has a long record of supporting community policing and working to implement and expand it across the country. Her record includes strong support for COPS(Office of Community Oriented Policing Services), a Department of Justice program which advances community policing at many different levels of law enforcement.

Community Policing: Engaging Law Enforcement & Communities to Find Solutions

The COPS program "advances the practice of community policing in America's state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies." "COPS — the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services is the office of the U.S. Department of Justice that advances the practice of community policing in America's state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies. COPS does its work principally by sharing information and making grants to police departments around the United States." [U.S. Department of Justice, Accessed 8/25/14]

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Missouri Highway Patrol Captain Ron Johnson said community policing is "getting out in the community and shaking hands and talking and hugging and smiling and enjoying the community." The following exchange took place between Missouri Highway Patrol Captain Ron Johnson and MSNBC host Al Sharpton on the television show Politics Nation: Al Sharpton: "Let me ask you this. One thing that struck me as I saw footage of people actually walking up and hugging you, embracing you, and talking with you like you have a personal touch, something we don't see. We certainly didn`t see it this week before you in Ferguson. But we don't see it often around the country. Explain to me that personal touch and whether that's something you recommend law officers around the country try and develop or try in some way to have that kind of rapport with the people they police." Capt Ron Johnson, Missouri Highway Patrol: "I think we have to have that. You know, we talk about community policing. Policing is getting out in the community and shaking hands and talking and hugging and smiling and enjoying the community. So that's a part of what community policing is." [MSNBC'S Politics Nation, 8/15/14]

Al Sharpton called the recent work of Captain Johnson the "true meaning of community policing." MSNBC host Al Sharpton said the following on the television show Politics Nation: Al Sharpton: "Despite over a week of confusion and turbulence in Ferguson, every day we are seeing some acts of kindness. People coming together to support their community and set an example for their children. Early this morning, Captain Ron Johnson told the story of three highway patrol officers who found a way to pitch in." Ron Johnson, on pre-recorded video: "Today on Elson Drive, much of the conflict, there were three Missouri state troopers who noticed a basketball hoop without a net. There was no basketball. The troopers decided [they] wanted to do something for the kids in the neighborhood. They used their own money and bought a net and basketball. As they installed the net, some neighbor children came out of their homes and asked what the troopers were doing. They told the kids they wanted them to have a net and a basketball. As those troopers drove off, the children were playing basketball. That's the true meaning of community policing." (End Video Clip) Sharpton: "True meaning of community policing. That story stands in contrast to some of the images we saw just a week ago. I applaud the officers behind this generous act. And I hope those kids get out and play." [MSNBC'S Politics Nation, 8/21/14]

"Community Policing 101" is being used to reduce tensions in Ferguson, Missouri. "St. Louis Police Sergeant Robert Ogilvie was getting off work late when he got the call from his boss to come join the new night patrol in this riot-ravaged suburb. After days of protesters clashing with local police after the shooting of Michael Brown, an 18-year-old African American, the governor had directed the state Highway Patrol to take over security in Ferguson. The Highway Patrol is headed by Ron Johnson, who enlisted Ogilvie's boss, Major Ronnie Robinson, to bring order to the suburb where a majority of the population is black and much of the city's power structure, including the police department, is white. Johnson, Robinson and Ogilvie are African American. So at 6 p.m. Thursday, Ogilvie and Robinson set out on foot in Ferguson to diffuse racial tension, one bystander at a time. 'It's not always showing force,' said Ogilvie, a trim 48-year-old officer with shaved, graying hair and a thick mustache. 'Sometimes you have to show compassion.' This is what Ogilvie and Robinson had learned to do at the police academy where they were classmates 23 years ago: Walk with the people, listen to their problems, let them set the agenda. Community Policing 101." [Los Angeles Times, 8/15/14]

One of community policing's pioneers believed that an intimidating police presence would invite confrontation. "One of the pioneers of community policing — a form of policing that stresses interaction over reaction, deescalation over brute force, and that police should have a stake in the communities they serve —is Jerry Wilson, who was appointed police chief for Washington, D.C. in 1969. Wilson was of course appointed during a very turbulent time in America, and he took office just after the riots following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. had ripped the city apart. But Wilson went to great pains to recruit police officers from the city's residents, and to try to make the police force more reflective of the city. He also took a much different approach to protest. I interviewed Wilson for my recent book on police militarization. Here's a passage from the section about Wilson's approach to protest: 'Wilson believed that an intimidating police presence didn't prevent confrontation, it invited it. That didn't mean he didn't prepare, but he put his riot control teams in buses, then parked the buses close by, but out of sight of protesters. Appearances were important. In general, instead of the usual brute force and reactionary policing that tended to pit cops against citizens—both criminal and otherwise—Wilson believed that cops were more effective when they were welcomed and respected in the neighborhoods they patrolled. 'The use of violence,' he told Time in 1970, 'is not the job of police officers.'' It's worth noting that during Wilson's tenure, not only did Washington, D.C. not see the level of rioting and protest violence we saw in other parts of the country, crime actually fell in the city, even as it soared across the rest of the country." [Washington Post, 8/14/14]

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COPS Program in the 1990s

Noting the reduction of crime in the 1990s, Senator Clinton touted community policing and COPS program. "One of the great victories of the 1990's is that we drove the crime rate down and you know what? It didn't happen by accident. Bill has that great saying, 'If you find a turtle on a fencepost, it didn't get there by accident.' Well if you drive the crime rate down to the lowest levels in 30 years, it didn't happen by accident. It happened because we had a really good strategy, a DLC inspired strategy. A strategy that said, 'Ok, let's look at this now: at the end of the 1950's we had 3 police officers on the street for every felony. By the end of the 1980's we had 3 felonies for every police officer.' That was a clear indication that we were being out-gunned and out-manned by the criminals. So the idea arose, let's have the so-called COPS program, let's use federal resources to put 100,000-plus police on the street, let's use new community policing and comsat techniques to be able to find criminals before they commit crimes." [Senator Clinton speech at DLC National Conversation, 7/29/02 (via archive.org)]

Opposing Budget Cuts to the COPS Program

Senator Clinton criticized the Bush administration for cutting funds "from police, from fire, from local law enforcement." "[W]hat is the administration's response? Well, let's see, this was a good idea that the DLC and Bill Clinton promoted; therefore we've got to get rid of it. I mean, that's basically the thinking. So their budget would cut the COPS program. So while we're having to prepare for new kinds of attacks, we're seeing money cut from police, from fire, from local law enforcement. It will be no surprise if crime starts to rise again because we are committing an act of unilateral disarmament if we give up these police funds. And all of you who are in local areas and have made use of this and have seen the crime rate fall, please let your Senators and members of Congress know that you're going to fight to continue the COPS program, the law enforcement block grant, the SAFER program so we are prepared to take care of criminals as well as terrorists." [Senator Clinton speech at DLC National Conversation, 7/29/02 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton said her budget amendment would restore cuts to first responders and set aside $8 billion for security. "This amendment restores cuts to traditional first responder programs and it sets aside $8 billion dollars for each of the next ten years. And it does something that is desperately needed in this budget when it comes to homeland security: it doesn't take money away from the existing law enforcement and fire fighting programs, and move it over into another category and say 'we've now provided homeland security.' It's the oldest shell game in the world. This budget cuts the COPS program, cuts the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, cuts the Byrne Act, cuts the FIRE act, cuts the SAFER Act. I don't think we, in good conscience, can cut the programs that keep the police on the street and the fire fighters in the fire houses to do what they have to do everyday. Then turn around and with their additional responsibilities claim that we have given them the resources for these new burdens, these new challenges. These resources must come in addition to, but not at the expense of, these other critically necessary law enforcement and fire fighting programs." [S.Amdt.299, 3/20/03 ; Senator Clinton floor speech on the Schumer-Clinton Amendment to the Budget, 3/20/03 (via archive.org)]

Sustaining the COPS Program

Senator Clinton pledged to introduce a budget resolution to restore $4.3 billion in resources for programs supporting law enforcement. "At the press conference, Senator Clinton also said she will introduce a budget resolution to restore $4.3 billion in resources for the COPS program, the Fire Act, the Byrne Act, the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants, and the SAFER Act. Funding restorations that communities are depending on to address increased spending associated with both the day-to-day work of first responders as well as homeland security costs." [Senator Clinton press release, 3/3/03 (via archive.org)]

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Senator Clinton fought for full funding for the COPS program, the Byrne Act, and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Act. "Senator Clinton is an original cosponsor of legislation to reauthorize the COPS program and has fought for full funding for the program. She has also fought for full funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Act ('Byrne' Grant program) and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Act ('LLEBG') program, including having authored an amendment to provide for full funding for these programs for Fiscal Year 2004." [Senator Clinton press release, 9/24/03 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton "fought to retain and fully fund the COPS program." "'The COPS program is an essential source of direct funding to our local law enforcement agencies. That's why I have fought to retain and fully fund the COPS program and other programs like it because I believe that especially in times of fiscal hardship we must do everything we can to support our first responders,' Senator Clinton said. Senator Clinton is an original cosponsor of legislation to reauthorize the COPS program and has fought for full funding for the program. She has also fought for full funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Act ('Byrne' Grant program) and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Act ('LLEBG') program, including having authored an amendment to provide for full funding for these programs for Fiscal Year 2004." [Senator Clinton press release, 9/15/03 (via archive.org); S. Amdt. 418 to S. Con. Res. 23, 3/25/03]

Senator Clinton secured $5.48 million from the Department of Justice, through the COPS program, for the Buffalo Police Department. "Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today welcomed the news that the Buffalo Police Department will receive $5.48 million from the U.S. Department of Justice through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. In July of 2002, Senator Clinton wrote the Justice Department, urging it to approve the request and to grant the Buffalo Police Department a waiver of the 25% matching requirement. Both of these requests were granted. As a result, Buffalo will be able to hire 32 full-time police officers without needing to satisfy the program's matching fund requirement. 'Good news travels fast, especially when it is $5.48 million for the City of Buffalo to hire more police officers,' said Clinton. 'For 8 years, the COPS program has helped the City of Buffalo patrol its streets and protect its citizens. This much-needed grant is welcomed news as the city continues to meet its new homeland security needs and close its budget deficit. Every federal resource matters and I will continue fighting to help Buffalo get the federal funding it needs to keep police on the beat and the streets safe from crime.'" [Senator Clinton press release, 6/4/03 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton announced that the Department of Justice awarded $83,363 in grants to the Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department. "Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today joined the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services' (COPS) in announcing that it had awarded $83,363 in Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants to the Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department under the COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP). The TRGP is set up to enable Native American Communities to hire new officers and purchase equipment and technology. 'I am pleased to announce these grants today, because I believe that now more than ever we need to support our police officers, sheriffs, and other law enforcement, who work hard every day, trying to prevent crimes and catch criminals while also protecting us from terrorist threats. These grants will enable the Regis Mohawk Tribal Police Department to hire an additional law enforcement officer - which this community justly deserves,' Senator Clinton said." [Senator Clinton press release, 9/10/03 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton announced that the Department of Justice awarded a $400,000 COPS grant to the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today joined the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services' (COPS) in announcing that it had awarded a $400,000 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant to John Jay College of Criminal Justice under the COPS Regional Community Policing Institutes program (RCPI), which is set up to support a national network of 31 law enforcement training centers. 'Last week our nation commemorated the second anniversary of the September 11th attacks. Now more than ever, as we remember the tremendous acts of valor, bravery and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, we are also reminded of the need to provide them with the resources, training and funding they need to save lives and protect our community,' Senator Clinton said." [Senator Clinton press release, 9/15/03 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton joined the Department of Justice to announce over $11 million in Community Oriented Policing

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Services grants to police departments around New York State. "Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today joined the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services' (COPS) in announcing over $11,000,000 in Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants to police departments around New York State. The grants are part of the COPS Homeland Security Overtime Program (HSOP), designed to help law enforcement agencies pay for overtime costs that are related to homeland security and other crime fighting activities, and include an estimated grant of $9,000,000 to the New York City Police Department. Over $59,000,000 in grants to 294 law enforcement agencies nationwide were announced today." [Senator Clinton press release, 9/24/03 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton announced $375,000 in Secure Our Schools funding for four New York cities. "Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today joined the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services' (COPS) in announcing $375,000 in Secure Our Schools (SOS) funding for four New York cities. The COPS Secure our Schools (SOS) program provides funds nationwide to improve security at schools and on school grounds. The funding was part of $4.9 million in SOS grants to 27 states. 'Our educators need to be free to educate,' Senator Clinton said. 'The more the burden of maintaining a safe and secure environment for teachers and pupils is removed from the teachers themselves, the more time they will have to focus on the pupils' education. Our children spend more time in schools than almost any other place outside the home, time that must be absolutely safe. A safe environment is a productive environment, and these funds will help provide schools with that assurance.'" [Senator Clinton press release, 10/1/03 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton announced $150,000 in COPS grant funding for the Town of Newburgh to hire two new law enforcement officers. "Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today joined the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) in announcing that it had awarded a $150,000 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant to The Town of Newburgh under the COPS Universal Hiring Program (UHP), which will help pay the salary and benefits for two new law enforcement officers. 'I am pleased to announce this grant today, because I believe that now more than ever we need to support our police officers, sheriffs, and other law enforcement personnel, who work hard every day, trying to prevent crimes and catch criminals while also protecting us from terrorist threats,' Senator Clinton said." [Senator Clinton press release, 3/10/04 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton announced $6.25 million in COPS funding to allow New York City schools to hire an additional 50 resource officers. "Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY) announced today that United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) would provide $6,250,000 in funding to allow New York City to hire an additional 50 law enforcement officers to work in the city's schools. 'Our educators need to be free to educate,' Senator Clinton said. 'The more the burden of maintaining a safe and secure environment for teachers and pupils is removed from the teachers themselves, the more time they will have to focus on the pupils' education. Our children spend more time in schools than almost any other place outside the home, time that must be absolutely safe. A safe environment is a productive environment, and these funds will help provide schools with that assurance.' The grants were awarded under the COPS in Schools program, which funds the hiring of community policing officers to work in schools. The grants provide up to $125,000 to pay for the salary and benefits of each new officer over three years. COPS also provides school safety training for the officer and an administrator from the school to which the officer will be assigned." [Senator Clinton press release, 9/8/04 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton announced $375,000 in COPS funding for Goshen, Lyons, and Medina to hire additional law enforcement officers to work in their schools. "Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) announced yesterday that United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) would provide a $125,000 federal grant to the Village of Goshen, the Village of Lyons and Medina so that they may each hire an additional law enforcement officer to work in their schools. 'Our educators need to be free to educate,' Senator Clinton said. 'The more the burden of maintaining a safe and secure environment for teachers and pupils is removed from the teachers themselves, the more time they will have to focus on the pupils' education. Our children spend more time in schools than almost any other place outside the home, time that must be absolutely safe. A safe environment is a productive environment, and these funds will help provide schools with that assurance.' The grants were awarded under the COPS in Schools program, which funds the hiring of community policing officers to work in schools. The grants provide up to $125,000 to pay for the salary and benefits of each new officer over three years. COPS also provides school safety training for the officer and an administrator from the school to which the officer will be assigned." [Senator Clinton press release, 9/9/04 (via archive.org)]

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Police Community Relations

Senator Clinton on law enforcement: "I believe that bad relations with the community is not a necessary cost of doing business." In a speech on building crime-free communities, Senator Clinton said, "There are police officers who are members of religious congregations just like this one all across New York - who know that they are feared by the people they risk their lives to protect, and who want so badly to restore trust with the communities they serve. I know there are many rank-and-file police officers who feel like they are caught in the middle. They see the community anger, and they want to respond. Yet the leadership in this city refuses to reach out - to work with a community that is in pain. To even acknowledge that there is a problem. I believe that bad relations with the community is not a necessary cost of doing business." [Senator Clinton speech on Building Communities Free of Crime and Full of Respect, 3/5/00 (viaarchive.org)]

- **Senator Clinton: "I reject the false choice between effective policing and mutual respect."** In a speech on building crime-free communities, Senator Clinton said, "I reject - with all my heart - the notion that falling crime rates demand the rising mistrust between communities and police. I reject the false choice between effective policing and mutual respect. It is a false choice to say that we cannot cut crime and have better community relations. It is a false choice to say that we cannot have safer streets and greater trust and confidence in the police. That we don't is a 'lost opportunity', as former Commissioner Bill Bratton has said." [Senator Clinton speech on Building Communities Free of Crime and Full of Respect, 3/5/00 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton supported expanding the Department of Housing and Urban Development's "'Officer Next Door' Program, which helps officers afford homes in inner-city neighborhoods." In a speech on building crime-free communities, Senator Clinton said, "And there is no better way for police officers to understand that community they serve than to move in and become homeowners in those neighborhood. That's why I support and would fight to expand initiatives such as HUD's 'Officer Next Door' Program, which helps officers afford homes in inner-city neighborhoods." [Senator Clinton speech on Building Communities Free of Crime and Full of Respect, 3/5/00 (via archive.org)]

Fighting Racial Profiling

Senator Clinton argued that racial profiling increases "mistrust" between law enforcement and the people. "We are so pleased to be joined by representatives of the law enforcement community today, including Chief Bruce Chamberlain, an esteemed and experienced member of the law enforcement community nationally. He is the Chief of Police in Cheektowaga, New York. He and others, including the experts at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, know that racial profiling is not an effective law enforcement tool. The vast majority of African Americans and Hispanics who are stopped or searched have committed no crime. Rather than serving as an effective law enforcement tool, racial profiling achieves one thing and one thing only – increasing the level of mistrust between those who enforce the law, and those whom the law seeks to protect." [Senator Clinton speech on the End Racial Profiling Act of 2001, 6/6/01 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton touted legislation, which she cosponsored, to end racial profiling. "Rather than serving as an effective law enforcement tool, racial profiling achieves one thing and one thing only – increasing the level of mistrust between those who enforce the law, and those whom the law seeks to protect. Our legislation works to do the opposite. It works to build trust between law enforcers and the communities they serve. It works to end racial profiling by building alliances between citizens and police. It works to end racial profiling by using training and technology and communication to enhance the capacity of police to do their difficult jobs while avoiding practices that single out individuals solely because of their race, ethnicity or national origin. In so doing, I believe our bill will do more than end racial profiling. It will help us do an even better job fighting crime." [Senator Clinton speech on the End Racial Profiling Act of 2001,6/6/01 (via archive.org); S.989, 6/6/01]

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Stop and Frisk

Senator Clinton: "Too many African-American and Latino men in [New York City] have suffered the inconvenience - and the indignity - of being stopped and searched by police for no apparent reason, reasons they do not understand." In a speech on building crime-free communities, Senator Clinton said, "Let us start by recognizing that crime is down dramatically -- and lives have been saved in this city - because every day brave men and women put on a uniform and place themselves in harm's way to protect us. And let us also recognize that far too many people believe they are considered suspect simply because of the color of their skin. Too many African-American and Latino men in this city have suffered the inconvenience - and the indignity - of being stopped and searched by police for no apparent reason, reasons they do not understand. For every 16 African Americans stopped and frisked, only one is arrested. Today people of color worry if they will be next. And many white New Yorkers worry that the price we are paying is too high." [Senator Clinton speech on Building Communities Free of Crime and Full of Respect, 3/5/00 (via archive.org)]

Faith-Based Outreach

Senator Clinton criticized the "false division or debate about the role of faith based institutions." "But I ask you, who is more likely to go out onto a street to save some poor, at-risk child than someone from the community, someone who believes in the divinity of every person, who sees God at work in the lives of even the most hopeless and left-behind of our children. And that's why we need to not have a false division or debate about the role of faith based institutions, we need to just do it and provide the support that is needed on an ongoing basis. You know, sometimes it gets a little bit rarefied in the air in Washington and these discussions lose track of what's really at stake. What's really at stake are the faces of these children that we've been seeing on the screens all evening. We know that many thousands of children have been turned away from violence, have been given a chance at a new and better future for themselves. Children need adult support, supervision, guidance, attention, discipline, and love. There is no substitute for it. No government program can provide it, no institution can offer it. It has to come from inside each and every one of us." [Senator Clinton speech to the Ten Point National Leadership Foundation, 1/19/05 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton: "There is no contradiction between supporting faith-based institutions and upholding our constitutional principles." "There is no contradiction between supporting faith-based institutions and upholding our constitutional principles, and what I hope is that the careful balance that not only has been but can be struck, will enable us to look for more ways to engage people in the important work of reaching out and lifting up each other." [Senator Clinton speech to the Ten Point National Leadership Foundation, 1/19/05 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton noted the Clinton administration balanced faith-based initiatives with the U.S. Constitution. "During the Clinton Administration, we tried to strike that balance, we tried to support the work of faith-based organizations while at the same time recognizing the very important tradition and constitutional principle of the separation of church and state. We can do that, and we can ensure that successful programs are open to all people and give people a chance to grow and develop and lift themselves up out of the conditions that have dragged them down. We cannot come in, through the government, and dictate to faith-based organizations how they should best minister in their streets, and in their churches, and in their synagogues, and mosques. We have to recognize and honor the expertise and the courage of people who have shown up, who have refused to turn their backs on neighborhoods that many would not even go into today." [Senator Clinton speech to the Ten Point National Leadership Foundation, 1/19/05 (via archive.org)]

Youth Crime

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Senator Clinton on youth violence: Americans could all "point to tragic issues that make the headlines and those we know about in our own lives." In remarks at Oyster Bay Boys' and Girls' Club, Senator Clinton said, "As you can see we've got a wonderful group of people to talk about some important issues. I don't think it is any surprise for any parent or teacher or any citizen really in New York or in our country today. We're going to be focusing on the topic of youth violence and some of the specific things we think we can do about youth violence. It has been all too much in the news and there are so many tragic incidents that each of us can point to those that make the headlines and those we know about in our own lives." [Senator Clinton remarks at Oyster Bay Boys' and Girls' Club, 12/21/99 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed "a new initiative to support partnerships between faith-based institutions and police to steer troubled youth away from gangs and violence, and to promote mutual respect and understanding." In a speech on building crime-free communities, Senator Clinton said, "In so many communities, no institution has more influence than the neighborhood church, mosque or synagogue. We must tap into this potential in New York. So I do propose a new initiative to support partnerships between faith-based institutions and police to steer troubled youth away from gangs and violence, and to promote mutual respect and understanding. I have spoken with many clergy, political leaders, and law enforcement professionals in the last weeks and months and I know that they all are anxious to be partners in this effort. You know, it can start with just one meeting, if the will is there. The efforts in Boston started just that way." [Senator Clinton speech on Building Communities Free of Crime and Full of Respect, 3/5/00 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton supported "youth police academies in our high schools, programs modeled after the ROTC program that would bring police training to students in poorer, minority neighborhoods." In a speech on building crime-free communities, Senator Clinton said, "We must also improve efforts to recruit and train police--a police force that truly reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of this city. You know, of all the ten largest cities in America New York's police department is the third least racially diverse of all ten. The 9th and 10th cities have a larger white population. Now that's a problem. That is why I support youth police academies in our high schools, programs modeled after the ROTC program that would bring police training to students in poorer, minority neighborhoods. Police officers can mentor these students - and help them understand the rewards and responsibilities of police work. And young people who never thought of becoming police officers might just be inspired to join this crucial profession." [Senator Clinton speech on Building Communities Free of Crime and Full of Respect, 3/5/00 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton: "I believe one of the best anti-crime and anti-poverty programs is a world class public education." In a speech on restoring trust in communities, Senator Clinton said, "You know we have to keep our eyes on the prize of a better, safer future for all of our children. I believe one of the best anti-crime and anti-poverty programs is a world class public education. We should be spending our energy on working together to make sure that every child has the opportunity to learn and to reach his or her greatest God-given potential." [Senator Clinton speech on Restoring Trust Within Our Communities, 3/20/00 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton: Stereotypes about young people "are just as disruptive as the stereotypes based on race, or ethnicity, or religion, or any other kind of status." "I have spent a lot of time in the last years going, speaking with groups of young people and trying to draw attention to what I know to be a fact, which is that I think we have the finest generation of young people in the history of our country. But, too often, that is not the way you are portrayed or viewed. And the stereotypes about young Americans are just as disruptive as the stereotypes based on race, or ethnicity, or religion, or any other kind of status. So part of the reason I'm pleased to be here is to demonstrate clearly to as many people who would care to watch or follow this that I have a lot of confidence in our future because I have a lot of confidence in all of you." [Senator Clinton speech on education, 3/21/00 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton: "[We] have to pay more attention to what troubles our children before they ever pick up a weapon or start a fight." In a speech on gun violence, Senator Clinton said, "Now as I said earlier, I believe that guns play a major role in the violence and the deadly effects of violence. But we have to pay more attention to what troubles our children before they ever pick up a weapon or start a fight. It's no secret to any of us that there's a lot of confusion and alienation out there. Now some of it is normal development as many parents here can attest. But some of this angst, and an increasing amount of it, is more serious." [Senator Clinton speech on Keeping Our Children Safe from Gun Violence,5/9/00 (via archive.org)]

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Supporting Police Funding

Senator Clinton supported raising police salaries and providing better training "so that the best-trained and prepared officers will keep us safer." In a speech on building crime-free communities, Senator Clinton said, "We must also help New York attract and retain the best and the brightest of our young people by bringing salaries and compensation into line with what the opportunities are outside the police world. We should raise salaries and provide better training so that the best-trained and prepared officers will keep us safer and deserve those better salaries." [Senator Clinton speech on Building Communities Free of Crime and Full of Respect, 3/5/00 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton criticized President Bush for "reducing funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program by 17% and eliminating grants to states to fight drug abuse in public housing." "Schumer and Clinton criticized Bush's budget for reducing funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program by 17% and eliminating grants to states to fight drug abuse in public housing. Since its inception, the COPS program has brought over $773 million to New York communities, helping to place and fund almost 11,000 new police officers on the streets of cities and communities across the state. The Bush Budget reduces funding for the COPS program from $1.042 billion in FY 2001 to $865 million in FY 2002. Last year, New York State received $103 million in COPS awards, almost 12% of all the COPS grants given out in the entire nation. Schumer and Clinton said that the smaller allotment of overall funding for the program could reduce New York's share of COPS money this year." [Senator Clinton press release, 4/9/01 (via archive.org)]

- **Senator Clinton considered legislation to restore the funding the Bush Administration cut from the COPS program.** "A new study unveiled today by US Senators Chuck Schumer and Hillary Clinton and Congressman Anthony Weiner shows that proposed budget federal cuts could cost New York City hundreds of police officers and thousands in the tri-state area. Schumer, Clinton and Weiner discussed legislation that would prevent the cuts proposed to the federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and keep police officers on the beat." [Senator Clinton press release, 6/9/02 (via archive.org)]

- **Senator Clinton: "Local law enforcement officers have lowered the crime rate nationwide - we owe them a debt of gratitude, not a cut in their funding."** "I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues, and mayors and police chiefs from New York and America to say loudly and clearly that national security begins at the local level. And that means making sure that our local law enforcement officers, who are on the frontlines of our defense against crime, have the resources they need to continue protecting every family, in every home, in every community in America. […]Local law enforcement officers have lowered the crime rate nationwide - we owe them a debt of gratitude, not a cut in their funding." [Senator Clinton press release, 3/14/02 (via archive.org)]

- **Senator Clinton worked to secure "nearly $1.4 billion" in funding for COPS and other state and local law enforcement grants.** "I am working in the Budget Committee to secure funding totaling nearly $1.4 billion for COPS and state and local law enforcement grants -- almost $1.2 billion above the President's budget -- for these critical programs." [Senator Clinton press release, 3/14/02 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton lauded the Justice Department for its support to law enforcement through the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. "In addition, Senator Clinton lauded the Department of Justice for distributing funds to provide up to half the cost of bullet-resistant vests to communities in New York and around the country through the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. The program helps state, county and local law enforcement and corrections agencies to purchase over 190,000 bulletproof vests this year. This year, New York State received $1,424,586 through this program -- funding for nearly 10,000 vests for law enforcement officers." [Senator Clinton press release, 5/15/01 (viaarchive.org)]

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Senator Clinton called on the Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to take immediate steps to protect police officers who were driving Crown Victoria police vehicles. "Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today released a letter calling upon the U.S Department of Transportation (DOT) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to take immediate steps to protect the thousands of police officers - across the state and the country - who are currently driving Crown Victoria police vehicles. In a letter sent last week to DOT Secretary Mineta and NHTSA Administrator Runge, Senator Clinton expressed her concerns about the safety of the Crown Victoria vehicles and asked that both agencies work with law enforcement to address such issues as vehicle lighting, safety shield installment and impact safety standards." [Senator Clinton press release, 3/3/03 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton: "We should do all we can to ensure that as our law enforcement officers do their jobs, they are not put unnecessarily in harm's way." In a letter to Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Senator Hillary Clinton wrote, "Every hour of every day, hundreds of thousands of men and women in law enforcement put their lives on the line to protect us from harm. We should do all we can to ensure that as our law enforcement officers do their jobs, they are not put unnecessarily in harm's way." [Senator Clinton press release, 3/3/03 (via archive.org)]

2008 Crime Proposals

Senator Clinton called for more cops on the street and increased funding for community policing. "In a major speech to the National League of Cities today, Hillary Clinton called for putting more police officers on America's streets by restoring funding to the nation's community policing program after a report last week showed violent crime rising over the last two years." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 3/13/07 (via rchive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed more than doubling funding for Community Oriented Policing Systems. "'As funding for the COPS program has gone down, crime has gone up,' Clinton said. 'By boosting funding for community policing we can put more cops on the beat and make our communities safer.' [...] With crime rising in cities across America, Clinton said she would more than double funding for Community Oriented Policing Systems (COPS) to Clinton administration levels of more than $1 billion. President Bush's proposed budget slashes COPS funding by 94%, from $541 million in 2007 to $34 million in 2008, and provides no money to hire new police officers." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 3/13/07 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed these measures as a means of deterring crime. "I will work to deter crime by re-investing in our communities, re-invigorating the COPS program, and putting 100,000 new officers committed to community policing into neighborhoods across America. Studies have shown that the COPS program deters crime." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 2/28/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton's campaign touted her anti-crime agenda. "At a speech in Philadelphia today, Hillary Clinton unveiled an ambitious new anti-crime agenda that would cut the murder rate in big cities in half and put 100,000 new police officers on America's streets. Through her plan called 'Solutions for Safe and Secure Communities Now,' Hillary would also invest $1 billion competitive grant program to reduce the number of repeat offenders and the size of the population in prisons and juvenile lock-ups nationwide. In addition, Hillary will partner with states and communities to support early intervention programs that would prevent at-risk youth from engaging in criminal activity. [...] Hillary also calls for additional funds to stop online crimes such as child exploitation and identity theft. Hillary will direct the Attorney General to make online child exploitation and harassment a major federal priority, and vigorously prosecute identity theft, particularly theft of children's identities. She will strengthen and vigorously enforce federal laws against online child exploitation, and she will dramatically increase funding for state Internet Crimes Against Children task forces." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed a plan to cut the urban homicide rate in half. "Hillary will work with cities across the country where murder is a particular challenge to cut their murder rate in half, by building partnerships between

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these cities and the Department of Justice. This proposal builds on local efforts, such as Mayor Michael Nutter's pledge to cut the homicide rate in Philadelphia, and seeks to replicate successes like we have seen in New York City, where homicides have fallen from more than 2,000 per year in the early 1990s to less than 500 in 2007. Hillary will task the Deputy Attorney General with overseeing this initiative." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed creating Gang Violence Reduction Grants and supported anti-gang programs. "The Gang Violence Reduction Grant would help cities implement a locally tailored version of the anti-gang/anti-violence model first developed in Boston and refined in cities like Chicago and Cincinnati. The model involves community-oriented police working in close partnership with community leaders – including faith leaders – and social service agencies, sending a clear signal to gangs and potentially violent offenders that their own communities reject violence, that violence would be met with clear, predictable, and certain consequences, and that alternatives would be available to those who would take them. Gang Violence Reduction Grants will allow communities to address the other ills that accompany gangs, including drug trafficking and extortion. In addition to grant awards, DOJ will help cities retain experts to work with them on implementing proven tactics and will fund a national framework for research and information- sharing. School districts can also apply through this grant program for funding to address early onset of youth violence. Boy's and Girl's Clubs are one of the best anti-gang programs we have." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed establishing a Drug Market Elimination Grant to close "overt drug markets." "A new Drug Market Elimination Grant to close overt drug markets and reduce violent crime and homicide. Overt drug markets – street sales, drug houses, and the like – drive violence, disorder, and recidivism in large and small cities nationally. This new Drug Market Elimination Grant would help cities implement a locally tailored version of the drug market strategy first developed in High Point, North Carolina and refined in cities like Providence and Rockford, Illinois. The model involves disrupting local drug markets, sending serious and violent offenders to prison, and working with communities, families, service providers, the faith community, and local government to redirect low-level offenders while law enforcement ensures that any further drug activity is met with immediate consequences." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton called for renewing the Assault Weapons Ban. "To reduce the number of dangerous weapons on our cities' streets, Hillary will: Renew the Assault Weapons Ban to take the most dangerous categories of firearms and magazines off the streets." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed facilitating a partnership between ATF andlocal law enforcement to stop gun trafficking. "To reduce the number of dangerous weapons on our cities' streets, Hillary will: [...] Repeal the Tiahrt amendment, which limits ATF's authority to share federal gun-trace data with local law enforcement for investigatory purposes. Direct ATF to initiate partnerships with local law enforcement to coordinate and enhance tracking of crime guns and investigate and prosecute gun traffickers. Collaborations like New York City's Joint Firearms Task Force with ATF may be used as a model. [...] Hillary will make sure that federal government law enforcement – including the FBI – has the resources it needs to serve as an effective partner with states and local communities, including developing and sharing intelligence on drug trafficking and gangs that operate across state and national borders." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton called for supporting local efforts to stem gun trafficking and assist detectives. "To reduce the number of dangerous weapons on our cities' streets, Hillary will: [...] Encourage police agencies to use COPS hiring grants to open or expand independent Firearms Investigation Units, and award technology grants to local law enforcement to build ballistics imaging analysis systems that enhance detectives' efforts." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed a "COPS 2.0" to fund the hiring and training of 100,000 community police officers. "Hillary is proposing a new, strengthened COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) hiring grant program. COPS 2.0 will provide funding for 100,000 new community police officers and ensure that they are trained, equipped and deployed in the most effective ways to work in partnership with communities to prevent violent crime. The program will focus on hot spots of criminal activity, in big cities and elsewhere. It will promote intelligence-led

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policing – the strategic gathering, analysis and sharing of intelligence to identify and target the most serious threats and dangerous criminals – as a complement to community policing. It will also make available personnel grants to fund counter-terrorism cops as well as community police officers." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton's "COPS 2.0" would encourage the use of advanced technologies and tactics. "COPS 2.0 will award both a five-year personnel grant and an accompanying TAT (technology and tactics) grant to local governments, updating and upgrading the original COPS personnel and technology grants. Strategic use of manpower resources to maximize impact, through hot spots policing; the creation of 'hot lists'; sensible, constitutional zero-tolerance enforcement; and other proven methods. Commissioner Kelly's 'Operation Impact' provides a good model that can be replicated in other jurisdictions. Strategic use of data, intelligence, mapping, and other analytical approaches to back up the police on the beat. Most violent crime emanates from a few neighborhoods and centers around a small number of individuals. Intelligence-led policing, mapping, and data mining can help in pinpointing sources of crime and can produce leads about shootings and other crimes in minutes that once took days or weeks to establish. Strategic use of the most advanced technologies available, from surveillance cameras to gunshot detectors to laptops and cameras in police cars." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton's "COPS 2.0" would encourage strategic community cooperation. "Even as it encourages new technologies and tactical innovations, the program will maintain the premise of the original COPS program that there is no substitute for a uniformed police officer on patrol to reduce crime. COPS 2.0 will help communities field an increased police presence and implement a mixture of the following approaches: Strategic partnerships with local leaders, community organizations, and social service agencies. COPS 2.0 will stress the 'community' in community policing, and will call upon local jurisdictions to adopt proven partnership-driven strategies to address challenges facing at-risk youth. […] Strategic cooperation and information-sharing with other agencies and jurisdictions, including benchmarks for assessing performance and results. School-based partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to combat gun violence, gangs, drug activities, and other challenges." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed establishing a "Vets to Cops" program, reserving five percent of "COPS 2.0" jobs for vets. "Police departments have been hit hard by call-ups of officers to active duty in the Armed Forces. Returning veterans often seek job opportunities where they can use their skills and serve their country. As part of COPS 2.0, Hillary will establish a 'Vets to Cops' initiative that sets aside up to 5% of the COPS positions over the next five years for members of the Armed Forces, Reserves, and National Guard. Building on the 'Troops to Cops' program of the 1990s, Hillary will direct the Justice Department to actively recruit returning veterans to continue their public service by joining local police forces." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed $250 million annually for hiring and training community prosecutors. "Community-oriented prosecutors have a key role to play in reducing crime, just as community-oriented police do – and they need federal funding and support, just as community oriented police do. Community prosecutors focus not just on closing cases and clearing dockets, but on reducing crime and improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods to which they are assigned. Hillary will allocate $250 million per year to help local district attorneys hire and train community prosecutors." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

Senator Clinton proposed restoring funding to crime-fighting and local law enforcement aid programs. "Hillary will reverse the funding cuts to the Byrne Justice Assistant Grant program and restore funding to other DOJ local law enforcement assistance programs. Of course, all of these grants will be subject to audit by the Inspector General to prevent and deter waste, fraud and abuse. Hillary will also make permanent and fully fund the Bulletproof Vest Program." [Hillary Clinton '08 campaign press release, 4/11/08 (via archive.org)]

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CTR Statement on Response to Rand Paul

"Rand Paul's extremist views abroad and at home are dangerous. His belief in extreme isolation as a global neighbor and his extreme opposition to raising the minimum wage and to giving a hand up to hard-working Americans are wrong for our country, our people and our place in the world. Secretary Clinton's work for American families at home and abroad speaks for itself. Her vision and focus on our future is what Americans want."

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON INTERVIEW WITH JEFF GOLDBERG

BACKGROUND: *In a story published Sunday in The Atlantic, Jeffrey Goldberg writes about his extensive interview the week before with Hillary Clinton regarding foreign policy, including the situation in Syria.*

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

· "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle. It may be a necessary brake on the actions you might take in order to promote a vision," said Hillary Clinton.

· According to Clinton, Obama's statement was "a political message…it's not his worldview." She explained that Obama was simply "trying to communicate to the American people that he's not going to do something crazy…He's thoughtful, he's incredibly smart."

· Asked what her organizing principle is, Secretary Clinton said, "Peace, progress, and prosperity."

· "If we don't restore the American dream for Americans, then you can forget about any kind of continuing leadership in the world."

· Asked whether the situation with ISIS would be different if we'd done more to support the Syrian opposition, Clinton said: "I know that the failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad…the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled….I totally understand the cautions that we had to contend with, but we'll never know."

SECRETARY CLINTON'S STATEMENTS ARE SIMILAR TO WHAT SHE HAS PREVIOUSLY SAID ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SYRIA:

· "Wicked problems rarely have a right answer; in fact, part of what makes them wicked is that every option appears worse than the next. Increasingly that's how Syria appeared." ["Hard Choices," CBS News, 6/5/14]

· "I recommended that we do more in the very beginning to support the moderate opposition, because I believed, at the time, that they would be overwhelmed by Assad's military force and that they would open up the door to extremists coming in." [Politico, 6/17/14]

· Regarding whether to arm the Syrian rebels, Clinton said, "The risks of both action and inaction were high. Both choices would bring unintended consequences. The Presidents' inclination was to stay the present course and not take the significant further step of arming rebels." ["Hard Choices", CBS News, 6/5/14]

· "No one likes to lose a debate, including me. But this was the President's call and I respected his deliberations and decision. From the beginning of our partnership, he had promised me that would always get a fair hearing. And I always did. In this case, my position didn't prevail." ["Hard Choices", CBS News, 6/5/14]

· "I could not have predicted the extent to which ISIS was effective in seizing cities in Iraq and taking over the region." [The Hill, 6/12/14]

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From:	"Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	efarkas@aol.com
Date:	2/21/2016 1:24:32 PM
Subject:	Re: Following up from Tony's brunch - Ethnic surrogate work for HRC

Thanks so much Evelyn! I'll connect you separately with the folks on the campaign who are running point on our ethnic outreach and surrogate work.

On Sun, Feb 21, 2016 at 3:25 PM, <efarkas@aol.com > wrote:

> John,
> As I mentioned, as a second-generation (parents came here in '56) Hungarian-American, I'd love to do surrogate work for HRC with the ethnic Eastern European communities, in addition to the foreign policy work with Jake and Laura.
>
> Let me know what I need to do to get it going. As of now I have trips planned to give lectures in the spring in Newport, RI and Seattle and London next week (I did participate in a Munich fundraiser with Melanne V. the week before last and could do something like that again.) I also do a lot of media, mainly right now on Russia and the Middle East -- Amanpour probably next Monday, BBC radio tomorrow am.
>
> Attached is more info about me than you could ever need! - Evelyn

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From:	"Wilson Center - Middle East Program" <mep@wilsoncenter.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	6/24/2015 1:26:38 AM
Subject:	INVITATION: 7-9 "Middle East Energy: Beyond an Iran Nuclear Deal"

To view this email as a web page, click here

Middle East Program | Wilson Center

Middle East Energy: Beyond an Iran Nuclear Deal

Iran hopes that the pending nuclear framework agreement will lead to much needed foreign investment in its oil and gas sector. Insofar as eased sanctions permit, billions of dollars will be needed to reverse production declines and re-establish production growth. How realistic are Iran's aspirations to attract such investment, and what increased production and exports can be reasonably expected over the near to medium term?

In turn, what will be the impact of increased Iranian exports on its neighbors, notably Iraq and Saudi Arabia, and their desire to secure a larger share of the global market? How will the Saudis and other Gulf monarchies react to Iranian moves? What are the implications of changes in Saudi national and energy leadership and of Kurdish moves to produce and export separately from Baghdad? What is the effect of these regional changes on the global energy balance?

Energy experts will explore these issues in this eighth event in the Wilson Center's Regional and Global Energy Series .

Speakers:

David L. Goldwyn
President, Goldwyn Global Strategies LLC

David Gordon
Senior Advisor, Eurasia Group

Julia Nanay
Principal, Energy Ventures LLC

Jean-Francois Seznec
Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Moderator:

Jan H. Kalicki
Wilson Center Public Policy Fellow and Energy Lead

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mep@wilsoncenter.org

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: H <hdr29@hrcoffice.com>
Date: 1/20/2016 7:41:12 PM
Subject: Re: Speech for tomorrow

MS, I've received more feedback from the team and have given a close read to your Toledo transcript. Below is a revised draft (also sent to Connolly) that I think has a bit more texture and richness. Will keep at it.
Dan

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

"WE CAN'T WAIT"

INDIANOLA, IOWA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

- Hello, Indianola! I'm so excited to be with you today. We're energized, we're organized, and we're ready to go win a caucus! I want to thank [*name*], our terrific organizer here. She's doing a great job.
- And I want to thank all the precinct captains, union members, and volunteers who are here. Raise your hand if you've made a phone call or knocked on a door for this campaign… You are our heart and soul -- and you're why we're going to win on February 1st.
- I am so grateful to all of you who've already decided to support me in the caucus. If you haven't yet, I hope you'll fill out one of our blue commitment cards. If you're still deciding who to support, I'm glad you're here and I hope I can earn your vote.
- Democrats have an important choice to make. I have a lot of respect for Senator Sanders and Governor O'Malley and it's good that we're having a spirited debate.
- But let's not forget -- our differences pale compared to what we see on the other side. One party is becoming defined by paranoia, prejudice, and greed. The other is focused on creating good-paying jobs and holding Wall Street accountable. That's why I'm proud to be a Democrat.
- Republicans want Americans to suffer from collective amnesia. Well, we're going to remind people of the facts – that the economy does a whole lot better when there's a Democrat in the White House.
- We're going to build on the progress we've made and help more families get ahead and stay ahead. Because when families are strong, America is strong.
- For me, this is about more than politics. I feel so blessed to have been born in this country to wonderful parents who gave me a great start in life. I went to wonderful public schools with teachers that inspired me. I had the opportunity to go to college, which my mother never had. America has given me so much. And I feel passionately that it's our responsibility to make sure future generations have even greater opportunities.
- I know what it's like to be knocked down. I've had a few hard times in my own life. I doubt there's anybody here who hasn't had their share. But I learned from my mom and my faith that it's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get back up. And I've gotten back up time and time and time again… because as long as there's work to do and people to help, I'm not going to quit.
- You know why I'm so determined? Because of you. Because of the people I've met all across Iowa. You've shared your hopes and your heartaches. I've heard the problems that keep you up at night and the dreams that get you up in the morning.
- I met a gentleman the other day in Cedar Rapids who told me that his prescription drug costs had tripled. I met a mom at that same event who said that her son has diabetes and even insulin is getting much more expensive – insulin's not some fancy new drug, it's been around forever. The only reason is greed.
- Last month in Waterloo, a worried husband named Larry told me his wife Brenda spends hundreds of dollars each month on medicine for arthritis and osteoporosis. When they see hedge fund tycoons buying

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drug companies and raising prices by 4000 percent overnight, they just want to scream.

- Something is wrong when your paycheck has barely grown in years, but corporate profits and CEO pay are at near-record highs. Something is wrong when you can do everything right, but still not get ahead. Like Brandi from Des Moines, who was laid off six years ago. She went back to school, worked hard, got her degree. Now she's a supervisor in a restaurant, but still only makes $9.50 an hour. That's not enough, especially with kids.
- Brandi needs a raise. Larry and Brenda need lower drug prices. People across Iowa need more good jobs, help with their student debt, a more secure retirement.
- These are the problems I'm focused on. I get up every day thinking about how we're going to make a difference for people and families who really need it.
- That's what I've done my whole life, starting with my first job going door-to-door for the Children's Defense Fund. Whether it was working with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to create the Children's Health Insurance Program that now covers 8 million kids, or securing a treaty with Russia that reduces the threat we face from nuclear weapons – for me it's always about getting results. I'm not interested in ideas that sound good on paper but will never make it in the real world. What I care about is making a difference in your life.
- That gets us to the choice you have to make in this caucus. I have nothing but admiration for Senator Sanders, but we do have different records and different ideas about how to drive progress.
- Take health care, for example. I want us to defend and build on the progress we've made under President Obama, especially the Affordable Care Act.
- Remember what it was like before Obamacare? The insurance companies were in charge and free to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions. They charged women more for the same coverage. And 44 million Americans didn't have any coverage at all.
- I don't think President Obama gets the credit he deserves for taking on this fight and getting the job done. Today, more than 90 percent of Americans are insured. I want to build on that progress. Keep expanding coverage to more people. Lower your out-of-pocket costs with a new tax credit. Cap what you have to pay each month for prescription drugs. Finally let Medicare negotiate better prices.
- We can get this done without another divisive debate on our entire health care system or giving Republicans an opening to come in and tear down everything we've achieved. We can make real progress right now for people and families who need it.
- Senator Sanders has a different approach. He cares deeply about covering more people, as I do. But rather than build on the progress we've made, he wants to start over from scratch with a whole new system. In theory, there's a lot to like about his ideas. But "in theory" isn't enough. A President has to deliver in reality.
- Senator Sanders has been in Congress for 25 years and he's introduced his health care plan again and again. But he never got even a single vote in the House or a single Senate co-sponsor. Not one.
- You hear a promise to build a whole new system, but that's not what you'll get. You'll get gridlock …and an endless wait for advances that will never come.
- The people I've met in Iowa can't wait. The grandmother who has to choose between paying for medicine and paying the rent can't wait. The single mom who desperately needs a raise can't wait. The student with a mountain of debt can't wait. You can't wait and neither can our country. We need to roll up our sleeves and start making progress right now.
- More gridlock in Washington won't help anyone. Except maybe the Republicans who are looking for any opportunity to take us backwards. We just can't take that risk.
- Across the board, we have to defend the progress we've made under President Obama and go even further.
- My economic plan will raise incomes and create good-paying jobs right away.
- First of all, I'll fight for more fairness in our economy. Let's make those at the top pay their fair share. Because multi-millionaires and companies that ship jobs overseas shouldn't get tax breaks – you should.
- Let's stop the abuse on Wall Street and make sure that if you break the law, it doesn't matter who you are,

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you're going to jail. Let's enforce our trade rules and stop letting countries like China take advantage of American workers and businesses.

- In America, if you work hard, you deserve to see the rewards. So let's raise the minimum wage, expand Social Security for those who need it most, and finally guarantee equal pay for women.
- And we can't stop there. More fairness is essential, but it's not enough. We also need more growth in our economy – more jobs, more new businesses, higher wages.
- We have to invest in advanced manufacturing so we're making and building things here, not somewhere else. Modernize our roads, bridges, ports, and airports. Create the clean energy jobs of the future—because it's going to be China or Germany or us, and I want it to be us. Iowa already gets a third of its energy from renewables, mostly wind. If you can do it, so can America.
- We can do this. We can make our economy stronger and our country fairer. But we have to do it together.
- The truth is, too many people today feel left out and left behind. That's not the America we want to be.
- Instead of demonizing hard-working immigrant families, we should be giving them a real path to citizenship. Instead of a school-to-prison pipeline that keeps communities of color down, we need a cradle-to-college pipeline that lifts people up.
- We have to end discrimination against LGBT Americans wherever it exists. And I'll always defend Planned Parenthood. Republicans may say I'm playing the gender card. Well, if fighting for women's health and women's rights is playing the gender card – then deal me in.
- We also can't turn our backs on working-class families in struggling rural communities and crumbling Appalachian towns… in Coal Country and Farm Country… families who for generations worked their fingers to the bone keeping our lights on and our factories running and our crops growing.
- So many are hurting right now. In a lot of places, people are dying younger than their parents. The substance abuse I hear about everywhere I go in Iowa and across our country is a big part of it. But you know what my husband said to me the other day? He said folks feel the American Dream slipping away -- and they're dying of a broken heart.
- I think Bill's right. I hear it in the voices of parents who don't know how they're going to give their kids the opportunities they deserve. I see it in the eyes of people who don't expect anything to come easy but wonder why it has to be quite so hard.
- We're going to give the American Dream back to them. We're going to make this economy work for everyone – the struggling, the striving, and the successful. That will be my mission as President, from the first day to the last.
- Now, we're not just picking a President, we're also choosing a Commander-in-Chief. I'm the only candidate on either side with the experience and judgment to keep us safe at home and strong in the world.
- The Republican candidates keep asking about my accomplishments, so I sent them all a copy of my book, "Hard Choices." I figured there were so many of them, they could start a book club.
- They could read about how I got Russia and China to agree to tough new sanctions on Iran. Or how I brokered a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel that stopped terrorist rockets from falling on Israeli homes. Maybe they'd be interested in how you push for a global agreement on climate change… oh who are we kidding, they don't care about that at all!
- Well, it's all in the book. But I didn't get a single thank you note. And based on what they're saying on the campaign trail, it doesn't seem like they learned very much.
- Promising to carpet bomb until the desert glows doesn't make you sound strong – it makes you sound like you're in over your head. Bluster and bigotry are not credentials for becoming Commander-in-Chief. And it would be a huge mistake to send U.S. combat troops into another costly ground war in the Middle East.
- Now, Senator Sanders doesn't talk very much about foreign policy. But when he does, it raises concerns, because sometimes it sounds like he's hasn't really thought it through. For example, he suggested we invite Iranian troops into Syria. That's like asking the arsonist to be the firefighter. As terrible as things are in Syria, more Iranian troops are only going to make things worse.
- The world a President has to grapple with is beyond complicated, both at home and abroad. That's why

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this is the hardest job in the world. I've seen it up close and personal. And I know what it takes.

- I know how to find common ground and how to stand my ground. I teamed up with Republicans like Tom Delay to improve our foster care system and Lindsey Graham to extend health benefits for our National Guard and Reserves. We had deep disagreements. But we found a sliver of common ground. And that made life better for a whole lot of people.
- You can also count on me to stand my ground. Like how I'm taking on the gun lobby in this campaign. We're losing an average of 90 Americans every day to gun violence. It's wrong, it has to stop, and I won't back down no matter what they throw at me.
- But I can't do any of this alone. I need you. On February 1st, it's up to you. You have to decide who you trust to make a real difference in your lives. So I need you knocking on doors and making phone calls. I need you caucusing on February 1st. And I need you standing with me every day as President, working to build that better America.
- Please join me. You can text JOIN to 4-7-2-4-6 right now. And then visit hillaryclinton.com . Talk to your friends and family. Talk to your neighbors. Make sure they're all going to caucus on February 1st.
- The pundits might be surprised that this race is close, but I'm not. I never doubted that I'd have to work for every vote. I never doubted that I'd face tough attacks.
- I don't care how hard Karl Rove or the Koch Brothers hit us. I've spent my life working for children, families, and our country… from the kitchen table to the peace table… working to even the odds for people who have the odds stacked against them. And I'm just getting warmed up.
- I believe that progress is possible in America because I've seen it. I remember going to the Children's Hospital in Cleveland during our battle for health care reform in the '90s. I met with a group of parents who could not get insurance for their sick children because of their pre-existing conditions. One father of two little girls, both of whom had cystic fibrosis, told me the insurance company said, "Sorry, we don't insure burning houses." He looked at me with with tears in his eyes and said, "They called my little girls burning houses." Today, because of the Affordable Care Act, those kids can get the coverage they need.
- Democrats started fighting for universal health care under Harry Truman and we never quit. That's how progress gets made. You keep going. When you get knocked down, you get back up and push even harder. Step-by-step, day-by-day, you keep going, keep building.
- That's what our next President has to do. I know how to build on the progress we've made. My opponent's ideas are a recipe for gridlock, not action. The American people can't afford that. You shouldn't have to wait for results. You shouldn't have to wait for lower drug prices. You shouldn't have to wait for higher wages or help with college loans. You shouldn't have to wait to start that small business or to enjoy a secure retirement.
- You brought our country back from the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes. Now it's your time to get ahead. And, you know what? America succeeds when you succeed.
- So, I want to thank you and all the people of Iowa. I've had the opportunity to listen to thousands of Iowans. You've shared your concerns, your worries, your hopes, your dreams. Thanks to you, if I become President, I will be a better one, a more informed one, someone who really understands first hand from you what we have to do in our country. For that, I thank you. For all you have meant to me and all you have taught me.
- Iowa, I'm listening to you, I'm fighting for you, and, with your help, as President I'm going to deliver.

###

On Wed, Jan 20, 2016 at 10:03 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Madam Secretary, following up on the outline from yesterday, here is a full draft. (Also sent to Connolly for printing.) The core argument remains that you have the experience to get results while Sanders' ideas are a recipe for gridlock, and Americans can't afford to wait. As much as possible, I've drawn from language that you've used either on the stump or in speeches like the Wing Ding or in debate prep, especially lines that got good applause in the past. This also reflects the conversation I had with your husband yesterday and what he said in NH today. Nick also shared a little of what you said at your event this evening and I will get that transcript shortly.

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This draft is still something of a work in progress and the rest of the team is reviewing as well, but I know time is short and I wanted to get to you as soon as possible. So will be standing by for your thoughts and also continuing to edit back here.
Thanks
Dan

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From: "American Security Project" <info@americansecurityproject.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 7/31/2015 8:07:01 AM
Subject: Retired Senior Officers Make Joint Statement on Climate Change

ASP affiliated military officers call for action on climate change. View this email in your browser



July 31, 2015

ASP Senior Officers Statement on Climate Change



July 30, 2014 - Today, retired senior officers from across the services, all members of ASP's Consensus for American Security, issued the following statement calling for action on climate change.

Today, the United States faces a looming threat to national security: climate change. As our service in all four branches of the military taught us, we must prepare for all threats, even those that are over the horizon.

We see that our armed forces are already acting to address the very real risks posed by climate change. They must be ready to conduct missions in a rapidly changing operational environment, and they must manage the consequences of climate change.

As the military says, climate change will be a “threat multiplier” or “accelerant of instability” around the world. That means it will make already existing threats like political instability, ethnic tensions, food insecurity, or poverty worse and more dangerous.

The worsening effects of climate change around the world will cause resources like food, water, and energy to become scarcer; states will seek to secure resources for their own populations at the expense of neighbors. Specific threats to security vary around the world depending on both the

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climate and on the society. While conflict is not inevitable, it is possible.

This is not just the future we are talking about. Extreme weather events are already demanding a military response. Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines with maximum sustained winds estimated at 195 mph – the highest in recorded history. Over 13,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines from the *USS George Washington*'s battle group responded – and they saved lives.

Climate change threatens the U.S. homeland as well – and the military will be called to respond: "Defense Support to Civil Authorities" is a growing military mission. In 2012, Active Duty and National Guard troops responded to New York and New Jersey after Superstorm Sandy.

For those who question the science, we note that reducing greenhouse gases while implementing measures to adapt to the effects of climate change is basic risk management. Military planners routinely operate under uncertainty and make decisions based on incomplete information.

While the military is planning to respond to climate change, our political leaders need to act now to reduce emissions in order to prevent the worst effects. It is appropriate to have a vigorous debate about how to effectively reduce emissions. The EPA is expected to finalize a rule soon that will be an important step forward in addressing the challenges of climate change. Congress can, and should, also work to consider and pass legislation that would reduce emissions.

The United States cannot act alone – carbon dioxide emitted from China, Russia, or Brazil is just as dangerous as pollutants from here. We must enlist international partners to ensure that all countries do their fair share. Negotiations in Paris this year should come to an agreement on a system that reduces global emissions in a way that is measurable, equitable, reportable, and verifiable.

If we fail in addressing climate change we know that our military will have to respond to more disasters, terrorists will have more recruits to draw from, the world will see more conflicts over increasingly scarce resources, and ordinary Americans will pay the price.

It is time that we all take a lesson from the military in risk management: we need to plan for the long term, prepare for the future, and reduce risks now.

As former members of the United States Armed Forces, we support the above statement:

- Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard Jr., USA (Ret.)
- Lieutenant General Arlen Jameson, USAF (Ret.)
- Lieutenant General Claudia Kennedy, USA (Ret.)
- Lieutenant General Norman Seip, USAF (Ret.)
- Lieutenant General James Thompson, USA (Ret.)
- Major General Paul D. Eaton, USA (Ret.)
- Brigadier General John Adams, USA (Ret.)
- Brigadier General Steven M. Anderson, USA (Ret.)
- Brigadier General Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret.)
- Colonel Richard L. Klass, USAF (Ret.)
- Colonel Mark Mykleby, USMC (Ret.)

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- Lieutenant Colonel Chris Kremidas-Courtney, USA (Ret.)

For more on ASP's Climate work, see www.americansecurityproject.org/climate-security/.

About the American Security Project

The American Security Project is a non-profit, nonpartisan public policy and research organization dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of a range of national security issues, promoting debate about the appropriate use of American power, and cultivating strategic responses to 21st century challenges.

American Security Project

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jroberts@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/22/2008 9:17:34 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 06/22/08

Main Topics: Fundraising, offshore drilling, 527 attack ads, GOP albatross

Summary of Shift: Every network and cable station made sure to cover a recent competition to find America's ugliest dog. Saudi Arabia blames high prices on oil speculation and offers to increase supply without specifications as to how much. Roundtable discussions revolved mainly around Obama's change of positions on public finance. (Nina Totenberg: "They're both flip-floppers! That's what politicians do!") News segments also contained several side-by-side comparisons of Obama's and McCain's energy policies.

Highlights:
1) McCain surrogates on the airwaves
   a. Lindsey Graham debates Joe Biden
   b. Holtz-Eakin: Bush has disappointed Americans for eight years
   c. Carly Fiorina alleges MoveOn is currently airing McCain
2) McBush on offshore drilling
3) McCain's huge GOP obstacles

Clips:
Highlight #1
Graham and Biden Debate over Drilling, Iraq and NAFTA on "Meet the Press" (NBC 06/22/08 10:46am)
LINDSEY GRAHAM: It means his word is broken forever on this issue. […] You tell people you're going to change this country. […] Senator McCain supported campaign finance reform, to his detriment, with Senator Fiengold on our side. It did not go over well but John did it anyway. He took a beating to try to change the campaign finance system. Senator Obama […] literally signed his name to I will accept public finance. And know for whatever reason he has broken his word. And is it 1.4 million donors that allow you to break your word. This is reinforcing everything that is wrong with politics. […]

JOE BIDEN: Obama did say, I'm going to be a game changer. He has been a game changer. Big money is not influencing his campaign. […]

GRAHAM: I would argue that MoveOn.org has played him like a fiddle on Iraq. He said we will never to cut off funding. It was a mistake to go into Iraq, but they're there and they need the equipment. MoveOn.org laid down the law and the next supplemental, there should be times tables for withdrawal. Within two or three days he's changed his position on Iraq. He has played very much to the left. He has been told what to do by the hard left. There are a million times […] how he is captive to the left.

BIDEN: That is not true.

BRIAN WILLIAMS: […] On campaign fundraising, you say he did this for whatever reason. We know the reason it's because the Internet appeal. That his campaign found out half way through.

GRAHAM: He can out raise John.

WILLIAMS: Had that been the McCain campaign wouldn't it have been just as easy […] to make this same decision?

GRAHAM: John supported campaign finance reform and paid a heavy political price […] the bottom line about Barack Obama whatever the position, whether it be Iraq, campaign finance reform or public financing.

[…]

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BIDEN: We haven't even gotten to John's flip-flopping yet. Wait till we get to oil. Talk about big influence.

WILLIAMS: […] What's broken about NAFTA?

BIDEN: No Environmental protection […] and not giving the workers in Mexico […] to work for very little wages without protection giving another advantage that not only hurt the Mexicans but hurts American workers […]

GRAHAM: I don't want anyone running for president telling the Unions what they want to hear […] it hurts the United States for us, someone in his position to be telling our neighbors we're going to withdraw from this deal. America doesn't do it that way.

BIDEN: […] this has nothing to do with Unions; this has to do with middle class jobs. […]

WILLIAMS: Positions mostly similar between John McCain and President George W. Bush. […] Senator John McCain called for an end of the Federal ban on offshore oil drilling. His announcement is a reversal […] The environmentalist came out […] they see this as a gift, this current energy crisis, $4 a gallon at the pump, a gift given to the United States to change the way the country does business. […]

GRAHAM: […] I think it gets you some immediate relief. […] The democratic solution here is to tax at home and get Saudi Arabia to drill more. […]

BIDEN: This is a gift. A gift to the oil companies from John McCain. […] 79% of all the offshore oil available […] lies within those acres that they now have. Why are they not pumping? […] Why are these greedy fellows deciding they want to go beyond that? They want to get it in before George Bush leaves the presidency. They're not pumping the oil to keep the price up. […]

GRAHAM: […] If you're looking for a difference on energy between Obama and Senator McCain he will allow American companies to go extract off our coasts with state consent. […] To get this country into energy independence and reduce the price of gas.

BIDEN: They can do that already!

GRAHAM: No they can't. There's a Federal moratorium on off coast drilling.

BIDEN: NO NO No! This is off coast. Where do you think the 40 million acres are Lindsey? They are off the coast. Off the coasts. 40 million acres off the coasts. They want to get to the other 600 million acres that are not included in that. 79% of the reserves they already have access to.

[…]

BIDEN: You're entitled to your own opinion but not your own facts. […]

[…]

[Visual of Graham's Quote against drilling from 2005]

"The Senate . . . may consider lifting bans on exploring for oil and natural gas along the East and West coasts of the United States. … 'I feel terrible about that,' Graham said 'the worst thing we can do as a nation is taking the easy way out. … If you start opening up offshore drilling, then you are buying time and you are not addressing the fundamental problem with fossil fuels.' "

GRAHAM: […] $4 a gallon has changed my mind.

[…]

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WILLIAMS: […] We are just back from Afghanistan. […] More than one American commander, while I was there, showed me what they call a HAV a High value target and then said right now I don't have […] the assets, the fighters, the bombers, the predators to go get these high value targets in Afghanistan because, as they put it, the resources are going to the other war. […]

BIDEN: […] The commanding General in Afghanistan said to me "I do not have the forces I need here to deal with where Al Qaeda lives, where Al Qaeda resides, where the real threat of terror exists." […] John McCain is viewing this like he is the commander and chief of Iraq. The President of the United States has larger security concerns than just Iraq. And there needs to be a balance here […]

GRAHAM: The central battlefront of the war on terror according to General Petraeus is Iraq. […] NATO is in charge of Afghanistan. […]

Holtz-Eakin: Bush is an Eight-Year Disappointment to Americans (CNN 06/22/08 11:15am)
WOLF BLITZER: […] John McCain is warning that Barack Obama's economic policy would take the United States back to the 1970s and the troubles of Jimmy Carter's administration. […] this is a major reversal on the part of John McCain who earlier had opposed offshore drilling off the coast of Florida and California and elsewhere [and] now supports it. Is that right?

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN: John McCain's always supported the state's ability to make this decision. When the states had no protection he wanted the federal moratorium in place. Now that there has been a deal, Louisiana has some drilling in the Gulf, Florida wants some protection, he thinks it's appropriate to get the Feds out of the way entirely and let the states make this decision.

BLITZER: How long after they start drilling off the coast of California and elsewhere, how long would it be before there was a real significant additional supply that could have an effect? Because Senator Obama and others say it could be ten years. Is that we're talking about?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Well, it would take about five years to get the oil on shore and begin getting the real impacts in the supply and demand but it will send a signal to the world markets and send a signal to the futures markets and will send a signal, in particular, to futures markets that the United States is going to take control of its energy destiny and not have to go as the Bush Administration has hat in hand to the Saudis and ask for more oil.

The truth is Barack Obama has no plan in energy He's opposed to lowering gas taxes. He's opposed to additional exploration. He's opposed to nuclear power. He thinks higher gas prices are just fine. The just happened too quickly for his taste.

BLITZER: Well you heard [on an earlier segment] the whole litany of what Governor Richardson just said [Obama] wants to do to reduce America's addiction on imported oil.

HOLTZ-EAKIN: It's important. John McCain believes that we have to get rid of the strategic weapon that is oil. We have to stop being held victim to this around the world so what do we do? We take care of our business. Control a little bit at home and then move on to more nuclear power, renewables, alternatives. He's laid this all out.

BLITZER: The Saudis announcing they will increase oil production, oil exports, is that something you welcome?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: It's important to have greater global supply, but it would be better if the United States controlled its energy destiny. That's what John McCain wants to do.

BLITZER: Are you concerned about the United States simply going to become even more addicted to Saudi and other foreign oil sources?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: We've seen a bipartisan failure for 30 years, you know. In the 1970s we imported 30% of our oil and now we import 60% of our oil and our national security is at risk. Our economy is at risk and our environment is at risk. It's time to have some bipartisan leadership, take control of our destiny.

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BLITZER: Would it be wise, because Iraq is now exporting a lot and pumping a lot of oil, much more than it was with a relative quiet that's developed in certain parts of the country over the past year. They are exporting and pumping more oil. Should the Iraqis be selling oil to the United States at a discounted price?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Oil should occur on the world market at market prices.

BLITZER: Why not—given the hundreds of billions of dollars the United States has spent to rebuild that country and try to bring some stability to the Iraqis, why not have them export oil to the United States at a reduced price? They would still make some money, but they wouldn't make as much as they are making right now.

HOLTZ-EAKIN: As Senator McCain, who has gone there and seen the conditions on the ground eight times correctly pointed out, we had to bring a new strategy to Iraq. We had to get some peace, a path to prosperity for the Iraqis, but that path doesn't lie in the U.S. being dependent on Middle Eastern oil. The entire strategy was built around getting the United States to be able to exit with peace and build energy security for ourselves at home.

BLITZER: So Senator McCain believes the Iraqis should export oil to the United States at the going international price, which right now is about $135 a barrel?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Senator McCain believes there should be an international oil market but believes the United States should not leave itself dependent on that from the Iraqis or anyone else.

BLITZER: Here's the latest A.P./Ipsos poll asking this question: 'Which track is the economy heading?'76% of the American people said the U.S. is heading in the wrong economic track and 17% said they are heading in the right track. That's a pretty disproportionate number. Give me an example of what—other than pork barrel spending ear marks—a different strategy that John McCain would take on economic policy than President Bush is taking right now?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Well, this is more than the Bush Administration which has disappointed Americans for eight years. This is about a democratic congress that cannot address great issues. It's about Washington being broken.

BLITZER: What would Senator McCain do differently, in the short term, if he were President of the United States, differently than what's already being done by President Bush, and I know you're going to say he would find ways to eliminate pork barrel spending, the so-called ear marks, but beyond that what would he do?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Well that would be step one in reforming Washington. Senator McCain is a person who reached across the aisle that needed judicial appointments and got it done. When we recognized the importance of immigration he stood with Senator Kennedy [and] tried to solve this great problem. We'll see someone who wants to actually help America, not pursue partisan politics.

[…]

HOLTZ-EAKIN: Well, Senator Obama has a problem with his own in that he talks a lot about taxes, says he's going to cut taxes for 95% of Americans.

BLITZER: Is this true, the suggestion that he's saying you want to give a huge tax break to those Americans making $2.8 million a year and more. That's true, right?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: No. Senator McCain, if you examine the facts on the ground, right now the top marginal tax rate in America is 35%. Under Senator McCain's plan it would be 35%. Dividends, capital gains, the access for capital to small businesses: right now [is] 15%. Under Senator McCain's create jobs first plan 15%. Mr. Obama is talking about tax cuts for the wealthy. They're not anywhere.

What John McCain would do is reduce the corporate tax rate that Is sending jobs with pension benefits and health benefits and important security for Americans, he's cutting rates—

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BLITZER: You want to cut capital gains rate.

HOLTZ-EAKIN: 15%.

BLITZER: You want to cut it?

HOLTZ-EAKIN: It'll be 15% under John McCain. This is flowing rhetoric but reality on the ground is that John McCain wants to create jobs in this country, he doesn't want to burden small businesses, he wants to keep jobs from going overseas. He's got a plan to do that.

Senator Obama, the one person who will raise taxes in this race is going to tax small businesses, put employer mandates on for health insurance they can't afford and really threaten the jobs that Americans need right now. John McCain has jobs first. Senator Obama has talk first.

Fiorina and Richardson Square off on Candidate 'Flip-Flops' (CBS 06/22/08 10:36am)
CARLY FIORINA: I think the record is pretty clear that Barack Obama has, in fact, said that all along he would accept public financing and now he's changed his mind. He certainly has the right to do that. [...] The truth is there are more 527s gearing up and currently attacking John McCain than exist to attack Barack Obama [...].

[...]

FIORINA: [...] John McCain is on the record as having asked a couple of 527s to stand down and it's been well-documented, just in the last week, that there are far more 527s gearing up and already announcing, for example, they're gonna spend $53million to attack John McCain. MoveOn.org is the one I reference. [...]

[...]

FIORINA: I think a good leader is influenced by the facts on the ground. Whether those facts are in Iraq or those facts are right here in the United States and the reality is we have never before faced a situation where a gallon of gas is over $4 and is likely to remain over $4. We've never before faced a situation where the price of a barrel of oil has doubled in the last 12 months.

So what John McCain has said is that we now need to take control of our own energy future and that involves, among other things, tapping our own resources whether that's clean coal or natural gas (Barack Obama would tax both coal and natural gas) or whether it's approaching the subject of offshore drilling in a sensible way. [McCain] would continue to maintain that ANWR is a pristine wilderness that shouldn't be touched but we have very sizable reserves of oil off our shores and now is the time to take control of our own energy future. We must. It's a matter of national security, economic security and environmental security as well.

Highlight #2
Reliable Sources Scrutinizes Media Response to McBush Endorsement of Offshore Drilling (CNN 06/20/08 10:18am)
HOWARD KURTZ: [...] The first time John McCain ran for president [...] he opposed offshore oil drilling and blamed Washington special interests for pushing the idea. Three weeks ago he said it would be temporary fix, at best, for our energy problems. This week McCain flipped, coming out for offshore oil-drilling and joined the next day by President Bush. The media's reaction kind of seemed to be a collective yawn: 'Ho-hum, he changed his position.'

ANN KORNBLUT: Well, I think the national media's reaction might have been that. My understanding is that the local media reaction in places like Florida where this has obviously been a big deal was somewhat greater but [...] it's another example of an issue that seems to be very policy, detail-oriented that people don't really care about [...].

KURTZ: And McCain trying to position himself as not the typical republican on the environment and

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yet comes out with this position on offshore oil-drilling, which […], if you're in California or, if you're in Florida, it's a local issue. […] Is this the wrong scorecard to be using? Politicians are entitled to change their positions as new facts come in or they re-think something but what bothers me is they never admit changing their positions. They always try to rationalize it with some excuse.

LOLA OGUNNAIKE: Because, if they admit changing their positions, they're vilified. […] So they decide they'd rather dance around the subject then address it straight on.

KURTZ: Why are they vilified? Because the media likes to play gotcha? You said this then and you're saying this now and therefore you're not sincere?

OGUNNAIKE: Exactly. There's no room for evolution of thought. There's no room for, 'You know, I might have just changed my mind. Upon further investigation I've decided this as opposed to this.' There's no room for that. It's very black and white. There's no room for shades of grey anymore in the media at all.

KURTZ: Do reporters go a little easier on McCain, on issues like this because of the coziness that's built up among those who are riding the Straight Talk Express?

JULIE MASON: I think there is. I mean, I certainly think there's the perception that there is, which exacerbates the fact that there is some of that. Now there appears to be a lot of that.

In the case of this flip-flop, you know, Bush did come out the next day and endorse that plan, which sort of blew that second-day story out of the water, which would have been the flip-flop. You know, that would have made a nice second-day follow on McCain's story, which he made in Houston, which was a huge story for us [at the *Houston Chronicle*]. Then Bush comes out and endorses the plan and that becomes the story and then the debate becomes offshore drilling or not offshore drilling instead of McCain flip-flop?

KURTZ: Wasn't it your sense and [for] people at the *Houston Chronicle* that this was all very orchestrated. The president was going to come out the day after [the] republican nominee suddenly changes his position on offshore oil drilling?

MASON: Yes! Yes! Absolutely. Sure. Yeah, there was a clear sense of that.

KURTZ: And yet I have the impression that more attention was paid to Cindy McCain's cookie recipe, which was ripped off by an intern and turned out to be from some food network site.

KORNBLUT: […] That's easier to summarize in 30 seconds than to talk about the merits—pro and con—of offshore drilling and what the effect will be on gas prices 30 years from now, but nonetheless, there actually was a treatment of a serious issue. The campaign certainly took it seriously and we even heard the Obama campaign describing the McCain campaign as 'the Double-Talk Express,' trying to re-brand the Straight Talk Express. So I think actually that something has changed with this position this week, even if it didn't dominate the news coverage.

Highlight #3
May Be "Impossible to Believe that Another Republican Could get Elected" (NBC 06/22/08 10:09am)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: The situation right now, it really does take a Houdini to get out of. It's almost like he is belted up with all these chains around him and he's in some safe at the bottom of the Atlantic. He's got to get out of the gas tax problem and defend that. He's got to defend himself against a recession, against a dollar that's worth like an Old Portuguese escudo right now. He's got every problem in the world economically, your laughing but its true. Everything is wrong and he's gonna say you think this is bad.

KATTY KAY: Every single number is going in the wrong direction. And at a time win 82% of American's think the country's on the wrong track it is almost impossible to believe that another Republican could get elected. But here is his silver lining, the Republican's ratings are going down but John McCain's ratings in comparison to his party are doing pretty well.

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MATTHEWS: How do you masquerade yourself as not the defender of status quo if you're John McCain? How do you just avoid all the hell that just comes with just being in the incumbent party this time?

KATHLEEN PARKER: Well he is clearly no longer the Maverick. He's the mainstream candidate. But I think what McCain is trying to do is paint Obama as the Jimmy Carter candidate and he's trying to leapfrog over Bush and over Clinton to Reagan, and attach himself to that legacy. And he's likely to do that well because he does have a taxpayer friendly economic plan. The problem is getting hurt at all. Because even if you say that the class warfare is over Obama's platform is being perceived as the poor people vs. the rich people. He wants to make it hard on corporate America. He's going to raise the taxes on corporate America. Which does, 140 million American's go to work in corporate America every single day.

KAY: But there are plenty of Republican's that don't trust John McCain on taxes either. Look how long it took Grover Norquest, the tax cuter of the Republican Party to come out and support John McCain. It took him a pretty long time. It's not as if John McCain is a completely solid pro-business candidate anyways. [...]

JIM CRAMER: Not at all, No one trusts him.

[…]

ANDREW SULLIVAN: The conditions are so overwhelming that it's very hard for him to get out of this Republican taint. But as a said before I do think the fear, the fear of a new young president raising taxes is an important fear […]

MATTHEWS: […] John McCain has to pay the piper for the bad times.

KAY: I just keep coming back to this 82% number, and I just find it very had to see how there is another term of the same party when so many people in the country, across the board, and these are Democrats and Republicans, are both saying that its going in the wrong direction.

MATTHEWS: Speak for the investor class […]

CRAMER: Investor class is sick of it. Investor class is sick of Republicans. They're sick of them. We have stagflation, it's the worst. It's the worst for the rich, it's worst for poor, It's worst's for the middle class. We need a new broom.

MATTHEWS: […] If Obama wins does the stock market go up?

CRAMER: Yes. […]

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Jacob Roberts
Media Analyst
PMUSA
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To:	hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	4/13/2015 12:02:33 PM
Subject:	McClatchy: Severing ties with foundation won't insulate Clinton from past donations

http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2015/04/13/263033/severing-ties-with-foundation.html

For example, the International Business Times reported last week that Clinton refused to stand up against the government of Colombia after its military rounded up union organizers during a strike against the country's largest oil company in 2011 and threatened them at gunpoint if they failed to disband. Instead, it said, the State Department publicly praised the South American country's progress on human rights.

At the same time, Pacific Rubiales, a sprawling Canadian oil company that was involved in the labor impasse, and its founder, Frank Giustra, were pledging millions of dollars to the Clinton Foundation, the Business Times reported.

Severing ties with foundation won't insulate Clinton from past donations

BY GREG GORDON

McClatchy Washington BureauApril 13, 2015 Updated 16 minutes ago

US NEWS HILLARYCLINTON 8 ABA

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton, vice chair of the Clinton Foundation.

OLIVIER DOULIERY — MCT

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton's announcement that she's stepping down from her family foundation's board of directors while running for president was well received, but that won't shield her from the roiling controversy over the foundation's acceptance of tens of millions of dollars from foreign governments.

The boards of the Clinton Foundation and the affiliated Clinton Health Access Initiative are scheduled to meet this week to consider additional actions as a result of her candidacy, possibly including new curbs on foreign donations.

That won't hush the brouhaha, either, but it could, at least, shut off new attack avenues for rivals seeking to capitalize on her financial entanglements – likely the most extensive web of connections to private and foreign donors of any politician in modern times.

The former secretary of state has faced a barrage of questions and criticism in recent weeks about the foundation's acceptance of $2 billion in donations since 2001, especially those from Arab nations that engaged in human rights abuses or union-busting tactics.

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Until 2013, the foundation was run by Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton. But many observers believe that some donors contributed in hopes of winning favor with Hillary Clinton, who led the State Department from 2009 to 2013 and has long been considered the front-runner in the 2016 Democratic presidential race.

Now that she's formally a candidate, Clinton is likely to become the focus of even more intense scrutiny from the news media, as well as from conservative groups and Republican committees seeking to sully her image.

She resigned from the foundation's board in an email Sunday, saying she was stepping down "to devote myself to this new, all-encompassing endeavor."

Her decision "is not unexpected and is an appropriate step to avoid any potential conflicts now that she is a presidential candidate," said Anthony Corrado, a professor of government at Colby College in Maine. However, it will change little with regard to the campaign, he said.

Foundation officials, who lacked authorization to speak for the record, said that directors of both the Clinton Foundation and the Clinton Health Access Initiative would consider changes to their donor policies, including whether to more frequently identify their contributors and "other changes."

Foundation officials have said its policy of accepting foreign donations would be reviewed if Hillary Clinton became the Democratic nominee. Before she became secretary of state, the foundation did agree to restrict foreign donations so that no foreign government could give "materially" more than in prior years, a policy that enabled countries like Qatar and Oman to continue to give.

But Sheila Krumholz, executive director of the Washington-based Center for Responsive Politics, said that "what's important is that the relationships with these high-rolling donors are already established, and the money's already raised."

As Hillary Clinton attempts to mold her image for her presidential bid, she likely will be confronted again and again about those financial connections, including the foreign donations that put her in awkward positions as secretary of state.

For example, the International Business Times reported last week that Clinton refused to stand up against the government of Colombia after its military rounded up union organizers during a strike against the country's largest oil company in 2011 and threatened them at gunpoint if they failed to disband. Instead, it said, the State Department publicly praised the South American country's progress on human rights.

At the same time, Pacific Rubiales, a sprawling Canadian oil company that was involved in the labor impasse, and its founder, Frank Giustra, were pledging millions of dollars to the Clinton Foundation, the Business Times reported.

No family has tapped so much money from companies, wealthy individuals and foreign countries as the Clintons, putting Hillary Clinton in uncharted waters even if she winds up winning the Democratic nomination.

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Besides the foundation donations, Clinton and her husband have already raised billions of dollars in three presidential campaigns. Hillary Clinton has run two expensive New York Senate races. And after he left the White House and she left the State Department in 2001 and 2013 respectively, Bill and Hillary Clinton have together likely reaped as much as $120 million in fees for speaking engagements around the world.

“They have an extraordinary number of relationships developed around fundraising,” dating back more than 20 years, Krumholz said. “I think it’s fair to say that this is a dynastic family like the Bushes that has been courting very powerful interests and wealthy donors for decades and decades.”

Read more here: http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2015/04/13/263033/severing-ties-with-foundation.html#storylink=cpy

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From: "Berning, Nick" <NBerning@foe.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/16/2008 10:58:53 AM
Subject: [big campaign] 'Exxon John' McCain pushes off-shore drilling

http://action.foe.org/t/4027/pressRelease.jsp?press_release_KEY=382

For Immediate Release:
June 16, 2008

For more information contact:
Nick Berning, 202-222-0748

'Exxon John' McCain Turns Back on Planet, Pushes Off-Shore Drilling

McCain gimmick is not solution to energy crisis; focus must be on affordable alternatives

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Friends of the Earth Action President Brent Blackwelder had the following statement in response to John McCain's plan to announce an off-shore drilling proposal tomorrow:

"If John McCain were looking for a way to prove he's running for George Bush's third term, he couldn't do better than this. Maybe we should start calling him 'Exxon John.'

"More drilling is not the answer to our energy crisis. Fortunately, Barack Obama is focusing on real solutions that are good for the planet *and* will ease pain at the pump. Obama is talking about fuel-efficient cars, expanded passenger rail, mass transit, and other clean ways of reducing demand for oil that can lighten the burden on Americans' pocketbooks immediately. That's the type of leadership we need."

Friends of the Earth Action endorsed Obama in May after he rejected a gas-tax holiday gimmick proposed by McCain. The group has also opposed McCain's efforts to award massive amounts of pork to the nuclear industry, and aired national network TV ads encouraging McCain to abandon this position before Earth Day. Those ads can be viewed at: http://www.foeaction.org/McCain/

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Friends of the Earth Action (www.foeaction.org) provides extra muscle to our sister organization, Friends of the Earth, in legislative battles affecting our environment. FoE Action and our affiliated PAC also serve as Friends of the Earth's political arm, making thoughtful political endorsements, providing direct support to candidates, and placing environmentalists in the field on critical campaigns. Friends of the Earth Action's mission is to promote a clean, healthy and just world and to ensure that we have lawmakers who will work to protect the environment.

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To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/24/2015 6:35:54 AM
Subject: Reminder: GMF Event: Transatlantic Talk with General Breedlove

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Invitation

NATO's Next Steps: Warsaw and Beyond

A Transatlantic Talk with NATO Supreme Allied Commander General Philip Breedlove

Monday, September 28, 2015
1:00 - 2:15 pm

An RSVP is required, as space is limited.
The on-the-record conversation will begin promptly at 1:00 pm.

Introduction

Dr. Karen Donfried, President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Speaker

General Philip Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, NATO Commander, U.S. European Command

Moderator

Helene Cooper, Pentagon Correspondent, *The New York Times*

Location

The German Marshall Fund of the United States, 1744 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

RSVP

If you have any questions, please contact Chelsea Catsam at +1 202 384 2677 or fpintern@gmfus.org .

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GMF invites you to a Transatlantic Talk with NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander of U.S. European Command General Philip Breedlove. The focus of the discussion will center on the upcoming NATO Summit in Warsaw in July 2016 and how NATO will adapt to shifts in the new security environment. This will include discussion on potential key outcomes of next year's summit, how the summit can balance allies' concerns between the East and South, how NATO can consolidate ongoing initiatives while looking ahead to its next steps of adaptation, and how NATO will deal with the threat that Russia poses overall. The conversation will be on-the-record and moderated by Helene Cooper, Pentagon correspondent of *The New York Times*.

General Philip Breedlove assumed the duty of commander of U.S. European Command and as supreme allied commander, Europe of NATO in 2013. Prior to that, Breedlove served as commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe; commander, U.S. Air Forces Africa; commander, Air Component Command, Ramstein; and director, Joint Air Power Competence Centre, Kalkar, Germany. He has been assigned to numerous operational, command, and staff positions, and has completed ten overseas tours, including two remote tours. Additionally, he has served as operations officer in the Pacific Command Division on the Joint Staff; executive officer to the commander of Headquarters Air Combat Command; the senior military assistant to the secretary of the Air Force; and vice director for strategic plans and policy on the Joint Staff. Breedlove has flown combat missions in Operation Joint Forge/Joint Guardian. Breedlove earned his a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1977, a master's in aeronautical technology from Arizona State University in 1991, and a master's in national security studies from the National War College in 1995.

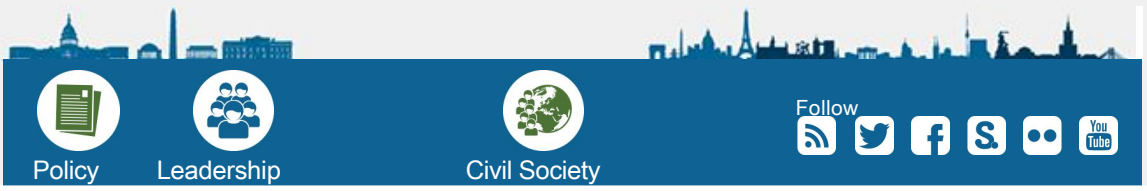
Helene Cooper is the Pentagon correspondent for *The New York Times*. She covered the White House from 2008 to 2012, and has also served as the chief diplomatic correspondent and assistant editorial page editor. Cooper previously worked for the *Wall Street Journal*, where she was a foreign correspondent, reporter, and editor, working in the London, Washington, and Atlanta bureaus. Born in Monrovia, Liberia, Cooper has won numerous awards for reporting and is the author of *The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood*, a *New York Times* best seller, and a National Books Critics Circle finalist in autobiography in 2009. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

GMF's Transatlantic Talks series pairs high-level government officials from one side of the Atlantic with journalists from the other side to discuss the issues most relevant to the transatlantic community. The wide-ranging series centers on foreign and security policy issues and questions immediately facing the transatlantic partnership. The on-the-record discussion format provides a platform for a moderated back-and-forth conversation between government officials, journalists, and the policy/think-tank community.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan.

GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation.

Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.



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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/13/2014 2:08:51 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday August 13, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Wednesday August 13, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Politico: "Hillary Clinton to Barack Obama: Let's hug it out"

"Hillary Clinton called President Barack Obama on Tuesday to 'make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him' when she recently discussed her views on foreign policy in an interview with The Atlantic, according to a statement from a Clinton spokesman."

Associated Press: "Clinton and Obama to Party and Maybe Even Hug"

"Clinton called the president at his vacation home Tuesday to tell him she wasn't trying to attack him. And her spokesman says she plans on 'hugging it out' with Obama when both are scheduled to attend an island party Wednesday night for Ann Jordan, wife of Democratic adviser Vernon Jordan."

CNN: "'Hugging it out': Hillary Clinton calls Obama to calm tensions"

"Hillary Clinton reached out to President Barack Obama on Tuesday to tell him that headline-grabbing comments she made about his foreign policy were not meant as a political attack."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton to 'Hug It Out' With Obama Amid Foreign-Policy Flap"

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“The back and forth represented one of the early cracks in the relationship between an unpopular president and a former Cabinet member positioning herself for a likely campaign to succeed him.”

National Journal: “Hillary Clinton Looks Forward to 'Hugging It Out' With President Obama”

“Now, the Clinton camp is fighting back against coverage that suggests she's trying to distance herself from the president she served under as secretary of State.”

Politico: “Obama and Clinton: The rivalry returns”

“A split between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama was inevitable. Now that they’ve made peace, keeping it will be the challenge.”

MSNBC: “Hillary Clinton promises to ‘hug it out’ with Obama”

“As Hillary Clinton works to repair relations with President Obama following an interview in which she criticized his foreign policy, the progressive anti-war left that helped sink her 2008 presidential ambitions are threatening a return to barricades.”

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: “Vernon Jordan to Host Obama-Clinton Rendezvous Wednesday”

“The president and Mrs. Clinton will cross paths on Martha’s Vineyard, where both plan to attend a party at the home of Vernon Jordan, who served as an adviser to former President Bill Clinton.”

The Atlantic: “Two Ways of Looking at the Hillary Clinton Interview”

“If the former interpretation is right, Hillary Clinton is rustier at dealing with the press than we assumed. Rustier in taking care with what she says, rustier in taking several days before countering a (presumably) undesired interpretation. I hope she's just rusty. Because if she intended this, my heart sinks.”

Politico: “Cocktail chatter with Barack and Hillary”

“In that huggable spirit, here are some subjects that might be safe for Obama and his former presidential rival and secretary of state.”

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Mother Jones blog: Kevin Drum: "How is Robin Williams Like Hillary Clinton?"

"That's, um, quite a segue. I wonder if there's anything left in the world that doesn't remind Dowd of Hillary Clinton?"

New Yorker: "The Hillary Doctrine: 'Smart Power' or 'Back to the Crusades'?"

"What really stands from the [Atlantic] interviews is the strident tone that Clinton adopted in her comments on Gaza and radical Islam."

Bloomberg View: Jonathan Bernstein: "Hillary Clinton Wouldn't Have Stopped the Tea Party"

"I think it's wrong because, as Kevin Drum described it awhile ago, the Tea Party response is pretty much what happens every time a liberal Democrat is elected, from Roosevelt to Kennedy to Clinton to Obama."

The Weekly Standard: "Cheney: Not Sure Hillary Will Be Democratic Nominee"

"Vice President Dick Cheney tells radio host Hugh Hewitt that Hillary Clinton might not be the Democratic presidential candidate in 2016."

U.S. News & World Report: "Perry: Clinton Close to Right on Syria"

"Rick Perry agrees with Hillary Clinton. Or at least, pretty close to it."

The Hill: "Benghazi hearing set for September"

"Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) on Tuesday laughed off the idea that the House select committee investigating the events surrounding the 2012 Benghazi, Libya, attack would finish its work before the midterm elections."

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Articles:

Politico: “Hillary Clinton to Barack Obama: Let's hug it out”

By Maggie Haberman

August 12, 2014, 2:56 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton called President Barack Obama on Tuesday to “make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him” when she recently discussed her views on foreign policy in an interview with The Atlantic, according to a statement from a Clinton spokesman.

The statement comes amid tension between the Clinton and Obama camps in the wake of the interview. It also comes as Obama and Clinton, his former secretary of state, are due to cross paths at a social gathering Wednesday night in Martha’s Vineyard.

In the interview, Clinton dismissed the Obama administration’s self-described foreign policy principle of “Don’t do stupid stuff.” And while she also praised Obama several times, Clinton nonetheless called his decision not to assist Syrian rebels early on a “failure.”

Earlier Tuesday, longtime top Obama aide David Axelrod took a swipe at Clinton on Twitter, writing: “Just to clarify: ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision.”

The statement from Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill noted that although Obama and Clinton have had disagreements, she has discussed these differences publicly before, including in her memoir, “Hard Choices.”

“Secretary Clinton was proud to serve with President Obama, she was proud to be his partner in the project of restoring American leadership and advancing America’s interests and values in a fast changing world,” said the statement, shared with POLITICO. “She continues to share his deep commitment to a smart and principled foreign policy that uses all the tools at our disposal to achieve our goals. Earlier today, the secretary called President Obama to make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership.

It continued: “Secretary Clinton has at every step of the way touted the significant achievements of his presidency, which she is honored to have been part of as his secretary of state. While they’ve had honest differences on some issues, including aspects of the wicked challenge Syria presents, she has explained those differences in her book and at many points since then. Some are now choosing to hype those differences but they do not eclipse their broad agreement on most issues. Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when ... they see each other tomorrow night.”

Clinton has always been more of a hawk than Obama; her vote in favor of authorizing the use of force in Iraq haunted her on in the Democratic primary against Obama when they were running for president in 2008, and she only recently, in her book, has said she was wrong to vote that way.

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Now pondering a 2016 White House run, she spoke at length on a variety of foreign policy issues with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, a preeminent establishment foreign policy writer who frequently writes about Israel.

She talked extensively about the situation in Gaza, aligning herself tightly with Israel, and spoke in tough tones about Iran's nuclear program. When asked about Syria's civil war, she reiterated her past position that the U.S. should have assisted the Syrian rebels sooner, the efficacy of which Obama has rejected as a "fantasy." And as far as the "Don't do stupid stuff" mantra, she said it was not "an organizing principle" — something that "great nations" need.

Despite her pains to praise Obama in the interview — and the fact that her positions on the issues were already publicly known — her comments were widely interpreted through a political prism that casts her as a calculating figure, and that therefore this must have been part of an intentional calibration away from the increasingly unpopular Obama.

Several Clinton supporters have stressed that she is entitled to her own views, and that she is in a bind — either criticized as overly calculating if she stays silent or faulted for being candid about what she thinks.

One of the criticisms about her interview relates to its timing: It comes as Obama is attempting to get his arms around a number of overseas crises, from Ukraine to Gaza to Syria.

Associated Press: "Clinton and Obama to Party and Maybe Even Hug"

By Nedra Pickler

August 13, 2014, 3:25 a.m. EDT

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass. (AP) -- Hillary Rodham Clinton is making her presence felt on President Barack Obama's summer vacation - in more ways than one.

The potential 2016 presidential candidate happens to be holding a signing of her memoir from her time as Obama's secretary of state Wednesday on Martha's Vineyard, where her former boss is on a two-week getaway from Washington.

And while the commander in chief has been trying to balance leisure time while engaging in global crises, Clinton weighed in with a magazine interview that distanced herself from some of his handling of foreign policy.

Clinton called the president at his vacation home Tuesday to tell him she wasn't trying to attack him. And her spokesman says she plans on "hugging it out" with Obama when both are scheduled to attend an island party Wednesday night for Ann Jordan, wife of Democratic adviser Vernon Jordan.

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The White House initially said Obama didn't plan to see Clinton while she was on the island. But after Clinton's critical interview was published, the White House said Obama decided to go to the party.

Clinton, who carried out Obama's diplomacy in his first term, described a different approach she would take in places like Syria and the Mideast and rebuked Obama's cautious approach to global crises.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and `don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she told The Atlantic, referring to a version of the phrase Obama and his advisers have used privately to describe his approach to foreign policy.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said Clinton has frequently touted Obama's achievements and was honored to be part of his team, despite some differences.

"Some are now choosing to hype those differences but they do not eclipse their broad agreement on most issues," Merrill said in a written statement Tuesday. "Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when they see each other tomorrow night."

Clinton's signing of "Hard Choices" is scheduled at the Bunch of Grapes bookstore, an independent shop that Obama often visits to pick up some vacation reading.

CNN: "'Hugging it out': Hillary Clinton calls Obama to calm tensions"

By Dan Merica

August 12, 2014, 4:37 p.m. EDT

Washington (CNN) – Hillary Clinton reached out to President Barack Obama on Tuesday to tell him that headline-grabbing comments she made about his foreign policy were not meant as a political attack.

The potential presidential candidate called Obama to "make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership," Nick Merrill, a spokesman for the former secretary of state, said.

In an interview with the Atlantic published Sunday, Clinton dramatically distanced herself from Obama's approach to foreign policy.

In it, she trashed his self-coined mantra for a cautious foreign policy: "Don't do stupid stuff."

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," Clinton said.

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She later labeled Obama's decision not to arm Syrian rebels, something she disagreed with, a "failure."

According Merrill, though, Clinton "was proud to serve" with Obama.

"While they've had honest differences on some issues, including aspects of the wicked challenge Syria presents, she has explained those differences in her book and at many points since then," Merrill said. "Some are now choosing to hype those differences but they do not eclipse their broad agreement on most issues."

David Axelrod, Obama's former top adviser who now acts as his biggest defender outside the White House, rebuffed Clinton with a tweet that knocked her for her 2002 vote to authorize the Iraq War.

Clinton said in the interview that "don't do stupid stuff" did not really reflect Obama's big-picture thinking.

"I think that that's a political message. It's not his worldview," Clinton said. "I've sat in too many rooms with the President. He's thoughtful, he's incredibly smart, and able to analyze a lot of different factors that are all moving at the same time. I think he is cautious because he knows what he inherited."

Clinton's comments put into sharper focus an effort to put more space between herself and Obama, something she's been doing slowly in speeches and interviews since releasing her book, "Hard Choices," in June.

Obama's poll numbers are slipping and Clinton, who is widely considered the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, needs to separate herself from the negative numbers.

In her book, Clinton outlines how she and Obama disagreed on arming Syrian rebels. And during the book's promotional tour, she has drawn small divisions with him over second-term leadership and partnering with Iran to combat extremism in Iraq.

But the reaction to Clinton's comments, which inflamed the left, show how careful she has to be when trying to separate herself from her fellow Democrat while he's still in office. It's a task made even more complex by the fact that she served as America's top diplomat under him for four years.

MoveOn.org, a liberal advocacy and organizing group, also warned Clinton about taking too hawkish a tone, something it accused her of doing when she ran for president in 2008.

Clinton's call to Obama care a day before they were expected to attend the same party at the Martha's Vineyard home of Vernon Jordan, a former close adviser and golfing buddy of her husband.

"Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when they see each other tomorrow night," Merrill said.

A White House official declined to comment, saying they will leave it to Clinton's aides to handle this for now.

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Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Hillary Clinton to 'Hug It Out' With Obama Amid Foreign-Policy Flap"

By Beth Reinhard

August 12, 2014, 3:44 p.m. EDT

Q: What can generate nearly as much buzz as a quote from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton taking a swipe at President Obama's foreign-policy record?

A: A tweet from a former adviser to Mr. Obama, David Axelrod, appearing to take a swipe at Mrs. Clinton's foreign-policy record.

The back and forth represented one of the early cracks in the relationship between an unpopular president and a former Cabinet member positioning herself for a likely campaign to succeed him.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton called President Obama "to make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership," according to a spokesman, Nick Merrill.

"Secretary Clinton has at every step of the way touted the significant achievements of his presidency, which she is honored to have been part of as his Secretary of State," Mr. Merrill added in a written statement. "While they've had honest differences on some issues, including aspects of the wicked challenge Syria presents, she has explained those differences in her book and at many points since then. Some are now choosing to hype those differences but they do not eclipse their broad agreement on most issues. "

Mrs. Clinton "looks forward to hugging it out when they see each other tomorrow night," he said, "like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye."

Mr. Obama and and Mrs. Clinton are expected to cross paths Wednesday at a party at the home of Vernon Jordan, who served as an adviser to former President Bill Clinton.

The dustup started Sunday with an interview in which Mrs. Clinton suggested Mr. Obama should have intervened earlier to prevent the violent takeover of parts of Iraq and Syria by Islamic militants. "The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," Mrs. Clinton said in an interview with the Atlantic magazine.

Mrs. Clinton was also asked about Mr. Obama's foreign policy mantra, "Don't do stupid s___." She replied: "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

Her comments didn't sit well with close allies of Mr. Obama, including Mr. Axelrod. He posted Tuesday on Twitter: "Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff' means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad

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decision."

The remark was a sharp reminder of Mrs. Clinton's 2002 vote as a U.S. senator in favor of the war in Iraq, a stance that cost her during the 2008 primary against Mr. Obama. More broadly, Mr. Axelrod's online grenade toss served as a warning shot to Mrs. Clinton as she promotes her new memoir and weighs a presidential bid.

"If the purpose of her book was to embrace and own a piece of the president's foreign policy, to go out in her book tour and draw a strong line of demarcation was a bit bizarre," said one top campaign adviser to Mr. Obama. "It's not clear if this was an interview gone wrong because it seems at odds with the book itself, which embraced most of the president's policy in lockstep. Her interview deserved a response, though a certain level of distancing during a presidential campaign from the predecessor is inevitable."

Mr. Axelrod didn't respond to requests for clarification about what he said on Twitter, leaving his 140-or-fewer-characters up for grabs for the opposition party to use to advance its own agenda. The chairman of the Republican National Committee, Reince Priebus, said on Twitter: "Looks like David Axelrod is on @hillaryclinton push-back duty/legacy protection patrol." Tim Miller, a spokesman for the America Rising super-PAC, added, "About time somebody brushed her back."

At a time when polls show approval of his foreign policy at a record low, Republicans are eager to yoke the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination in 2016 to the current administration. A "memo" to reporters covering Mrs. Clinton from the RNC on Tuesday stated, "According to the State Department website, state.gov , "The Secretary of State, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, is the President's chief foreign affairs adviser."

National Journal: "Hillary Clinton Looks Forward to 'Hugging It Out' With President Obama"

By Emma Roller

August 12, 2014

[Subtitle:] "Don't do stupid stuff" can pertain to PR blunders, too.

Over the weekend, The Atlantic published a wide-ranging interview between Jeffrey Goldberg and Hillary Clinton about U.S. foreign policy. The nugget that gained the most attention was when Clinton appeared to deride President Obama's foreign policy mantra, "Don't do stupid stuff."

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," Clinton told Goldberg.

David Axelrod, a former White House senior adviser, snapped back at Clinton's comment on Tuesday. "Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff' means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision," Axelrod tweeted, in an allusion to Clinton's vote to authorize force in Iraq in 2002.

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Now, the Clinton camp is fighting back against coverage that suggests she's trying to distance herself from the president she served under as secretary of State.

"Earlier today, the secretary called President Obama to make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership," a Clinton spokesman told Politico's Maggie Haberman. "Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when she they [sic] see each other tomorrow night."

The "frenemies" narrative between Obama and the Clintons is well-trodden territory. Most recently, Ed Klein has made hay of it with his salacious-yet-shoddily-sourced book, Blood Feud. But despite the Clinton camp's best efforts to "hug it out," we can look forward to a lot more of this narrative as speculation about her 2016 bid ramps up. A Clinton Burn Book may be in order.

Politico: "Obama and Clinton: The rivalry returns"

By Maggie Haberman and Carrie Budoff Brown

August 12, 2014, 11:18 p.m. EDT

A split between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama was inevitable. Now that they've made peace, keeping it will be the challenge.

The Obama and Clinton camps tried to mend their differences Tuesday, but certain dynamics won't be as easy to overcome in the months ahead as Clinton mulls a White House bid: Some advisers around both politicians have a hard time letting bygones be bygones. The press is determined to continue to dissect the relationship. And Obama and Clinton have genuinely different interests and instincts on some big questions facing the country.

The tiff began when, in an interview with The Atlantic, Clinton dissed the president's foreign policy philosophy and called his early approach to Syria a "failure."

White House aides then groused anonymously to The New York Times that Clinton was far more muted on areas of disagreement when she was actually serving in Obama's Cabinet. And hours later, longtime Obama adviser David Axelrod escalated the situation, swiping at Clinton on Twitter for her Iraq war vote years ago.

By Tuesday afternoon, Clinton had called Obama as part of a very public attempt to kill the ugly headlines.

Obama aides and some Clinton allies downplayed the 72-hour episode with dismissive complaints about a voracious media that have been looking for fissures between the two camps since the 2008 Democratic primary, and both sides made it clear they wanted to move on.

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“To me, this story is a classic August self-licking ice cream cone,” said Tommy Vietor, a former Obama aide who assisted Clinton with the rollout of her recent memoir, “Hard Choices.”

But the maneuvering nonetheless demonstrated how the Obama-Clinton alliance, long viewed as mutually beneficial, will be tested repeatedly.

Obama has a record and a legacy to solidify in the public’s mind before leaving the White House. The shot by Axelrod underscored that the president’s allies aren’t going to take the criticism without some kind of fight.

Clinton, who served as secretary of state under Obama, faces the challenge of having to separate herself from an unpopular president but not so much that she looks inauthentic or opportunistic. Obama may have middling job approval numbers, but he still maintains a deep reservoir of support among constituencies that Clinton won’t want to alienate.

And while Clinton wants to shed the long-held public view of her as overly cautious and poll-tested, being candid also comes with a price. At the same time, her comments to The Atlantic’s Jeffrey Goldberg underscore that Clinton has never been a natural politician, remains far more gaffe-prone than many believe and has a rail-thin political operation with no master strategist.

The relationship between Obama and Clinton is so sensitive that few Democrats wanted to touch the issue Tuesday, particularly after Axelrod’s tweet. Many White House aides and allies declined to comment or ignored requests to talk about it.

Longtime Clinton ally James Carville, normally a chatty political observer, dodged by cheerfully saying, “There’s a town in Texas called El Paso. And I’m gonna El Paso” on this one.

Others tried to downplay the episode.

Ben Rhodes, a White House deputy national security adviser, told CNN late Tuesday afternoon that the Obama-Clinton relationship is “very resilient.” “They have been through so much together,” Rhodes said. “They agree about far more than they disagree about.”

Vietor, meanwhile, dismissed the notion of a growing rift. “The president and Secretary Clinton are extremely close,” Vietor said in an email. “So are their staffs.”

Clinton has spent months creeping away around the margins from the president, while primarily highlighting the areas where they agree.

In “Hard Choices,” which she was promoting in the interview with Goldberg, Clinton devoted a chapter to the mess in Syria, a topic that was one of her key policy differences with Obama. Shortly before she left the State Department, she and then-CIA head David Petraeus advocated a plan to arm Syrian rebels fighting President Bashar Assad’s regime — a plan Obama nixed.

In the Goldberg interview, however, she used more pointed language than in the past, describing Obama’s decision against aiding the rebels as a “failure.” But her toughest words were about Obama’s overall approach on foreign policy, which some of the president’s advisers have described as “Don’t do stupid sh—,” or “Don’t do stupid stuff.”

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“Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle,” she said.

It was that remark that ricocheted in the hours after the interview was posted Saturday night, dominating news coverage by Monday morning.

Some Clinton allies were thrilled that she was so upfront. “I loved it,” emailed one Clinton supporter.

Another described it as a “a trial balloon for the authentic Hillary. And if the Democrats won’t accept that then fine — maybe she won’t run.”

Through it all, Clinton’s aides stayed mum when asked to clarify the comments, or to explain the backstory of the interview, saying only that it was part of her book tour and that Goldberg had been a long-planned target.

But Clinton’s decision to call Obama on Tuesday underscored that her comments in the interview were not a planned attack — though at no point did the statement mentioning her outreach to the president suggest she was backing away from the substance of her remarks.

Clinton allies also pointed out that she praised Obama throughout the interview, threading her more pointed critiques with defenses of his approach. But the rule of politics is that the negatives will always get more attention.

Even as some White House aides faulted the media for the coverage, Clinton aides were clearly well aware of the time bomb the interview represented — they warned the White House after it took place, and before it ran.

With 2016 looming, White House aides have acknowledged that there would need to be a high tolerance for delineating differences with the president.

They want the Democratic nominee to win, no matter who it is, and if that means creating distance, that’s fine. But they didn’t expect that to happen for a while because they assumed Clinton would want to show that she was part of a successful presidency, and undercutting Obama wouldn’t help.

Several sources described Obama aides as angered by Clinton’s critiques, particularly because they came as the president is grappling with a string of global crises, from Ukraine to Iraq to Gaza. “I don’t think [they] expected her to say it while he’s in the middle of trying to resolve it,” said one of the Clinton backers.

The low-grade grumbling blew into the open when Axelrod aired his grievance on Twitter. “Just to clarify: ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision,” read the tweet from Axelrod. The tweet was an apparent swipe at Clinton’s vote to authorize the use of force in Iraq back when she was a senator, a vote she has described as the wrong choice in her memoir.

Axelrod declined repeated requests to explain his tweet. Meanwhile, sources said that Clinton’s call to Obama on Tuesday was in the works before Axelrod took to Twitter.

If anything, the overall flap has illustrated Clinton's challenge in being viewed as authentic. The broad assumption among political elites was that, in making the comments to The Atlantic, Clinton, whose calculated approach to politics bedeviled her in 2008, was making a deliberate, quick pivot away from a president whose poll numbers are sinking.

But Clinton has never been a natural performer — her muscle memory for politics is weak, and throughout her campaigns, she's had a window of re-engaging before working out the kinks. What's more, she has a skeleton political staff right now and has had difficulty switching toward a discussion of domestic policies. Because her memoir is about her time at the State Department, her views on foreign policy have been getting more attention.

Considering the chaos in the Middle East now, including with the rise of the Islamic State terrorist group in Iraq, Clinton appeared to be having a moment of vindication for her more hawkish views, which some derided as too bellicose in her 2008 primary against Obama. And many of her supporters forcefully noted that she was merely articulating long-held, and publicly known, differences of opinion with Obama.

The publicity over the tensions between the two camps seemed headed for overdrive in the lead-up to a cocktail party Wednesday night in Martha's Vineyard that both Obama and Clinton are expected to attend. The president is vacationing on the Massachusetts summer retreat, and Clinton will be signing books at a local store. Both are friendly with Vernon Jordan, the host and Democratic Party fixture.

In the statement revealing that Clinton had reached out to the president to assure him her comments to Goldberg were not meant as an "attack," her spokesman emphasized how well Clinton regards Obama.

"Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye," spokesman Nick Merrill said, "she looks forward to hugging it out when she they see each other tomorrow night."

But while the call to the president may have effectively de-escalated this particular confrontation, it's not likely to be the last.

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton promises to 'hug it out' with Obama"

[No Writer Mentioned]

August 12, 2014, 5:42 p.m. EDT

As Hillary Clinton works to repair relations with President Obama following an interview in which she criticized his foreign policy, the progressive anti-war left that helped sink her 2008 presidential ambitions are threatening a return to barricades.

The interview with The Atlantic magazine sparked tensions between the otherwise friendly Obama and Clinton camps, which spilled into public Tuesday morning when Obama confidante David Axelrod took a thinly veiled

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shot at Clinton on Twitter. Both sides have worked hard since Clinton's loss in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary to present the politicians as close allies and like-minded policy thinkers.

Clinton's team moved to try to smooth things over Tuesday, even after saying previously they would not comment on the fracas. The president and potential future 2016 candidate will both be on Martha's Vineyard this week, where "she looks forward to hugging it out" with Obama Wednesday, according to a statement from a Clinton spokesperson first reported by Politico. Clinton called Obama Tuesday to "make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership," spokesperson Nick Merrill added.

But progressives, which have been quietly eyeing Clinton's re-emergence onto the political stage, may not be as quick to make up. After a long period of relative detente between the left and Clinton, the honeymoon appears to be over as numerous groups opened fire on Clinton. The response was slow in coming, with conversations happening behind the scenes Monday before gaining traction Tuesday afternoon.

Democracy for America, the grassroots organizing group founded by former presidential candidate Howard Dean, told msnbc in a statement that Clinton needs to decide which side of the party she represents, both on foreign policy and economic issues.

"The entire progressive movement is trying to figure out how Hillary Clinton has changed from the last election," said Neil Sroka, the group's communications director. "If she hasn't changed her stance on the foreign policy issues which she was disastrously wrong on in 2008, how are we to believe she's evolved on the issue that will define the 2016 election, income inequality?"

Obama's victory over Clinton in 2008 is widely credited to his vote against the Iraq War.

Stephen Miles of the Win Without War coalition told msnbc that Clinton's comments "confirmed suspicions" long held by the left. "It's not a surprise that once again we're finding out that she's more hawkish than the base of the party is. And it's going to give people a lot of deja vu and a lot of angst remembering some of the uncomfortable feelings they had back then," he said.

Miles added that the constant in Clinton's international posture is that it reflects the foreign policy consensus in Washington, but is "disconnected with the worldview of people outside the Beltway."

Meanwhile, MoveOn.org, which was founded to defend the Clintons in the late 1990s and then became a key figure opposing the Iraq War in the Bush era, fired a shot over Clinton's bow in a statement Tuesday. She needs to "think long and hard before embracing the same policies advocated by right-wing war hawks that got America into Iraq," said Ilya Sheyman, the executive director of the group's political arm.

Murshed Zaheed, the deputy political director of the liberal grassroots group CREDO Action and a former staffer to Harry Reid said on Twitter that "Hillary Clinton's Republican-lite neocon comments on foreign policy already making me nostalgic re. Obama presidency." On the social media site, it's easy to find rank-and-file liberals dismissing Clinton as a dreaded "neoconservative."

Gerry Condon, the vice president of the board of Veterans for Peace told msnbc that "as veterans who have experienced the horror and futility of war, we are quite concerned that Hillary Clinton seems to be promising an ever more aggressive foreign policy."

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Indeed, Robert Kagan, the veteran Washington scholar of interventionist foreign policy, approved of Clinton's foreign policy in a recent interview.' "It's something that might have been called neocon, but clearly her supporters are not going to call it that; they are going to call it something else" he told The New York Times.

Polls show liberal Democrats overwhelming support Clinton. And as she considers a presidential bid, the standard line from progressive activists is that they would be happy to support her as long as she comes down the right way on a few key issues. So they've been mostly happy give her a pass when they could have attacked, such as when she skipped Netroots Nation in July, to wait and see what she does.

The question is whether this week is an aberration or marks the beginning of more open conflict from the left, and if she will offer the progressive base anything like hug she plans to give Obama.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Vernon Jordan to Host Obama-Clinton Rendezvous Wednesday"

By Colleen McCain Nelson

August 12, 2014, 6:04 p.m. EDT

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass. — Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's critique of President Barack Obama's foreign policy had many speculating that the two Democrats might want to keep their distance. But a scheduling quirk will bring them face to face Wednesday evening.

The president and Mrs. Clinton will cross paths on Martha's Vineyard, where both plan to attend a party at the home of Vernon Jordan, who served as an adviser to former President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Obama is vacationing on the well-heeled island off the coast of Cape Cod, and his former secretary of state plans to do a book signing here before Wednesday night's social engagement.

The encounter comes just days after Mrs. Clinton suggested in an interview with the Atlantic magazine that the Obama administration contributed to the rise of militants such as the Islamic State by declining to do more to aid Syrian rebels as the uprising took hold. Mrs. Clinton also jabbed at the phrase the administration has used to describe its approach to foreign policy, saying, that "great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' isn't an organizing principle."

Her pointed remarks seemed to portend potentially awkward cocktail-party conversation. But on Tuesday, both camps released statements predicting a pleasant evening.

"The president and first lady are very much looking forward to the occasion and seeing former Secretary Clinton," a White House official said.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman, for Mrs. Clinton confirmed Tuesday in a statement that the former secretary of state

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had called the president to underscore that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies or his leadership. He said that Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton have disagreed on some topics such as Syria but that those differences don't eclipse their broad agreement on most issues.

"Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when she they see each other tomorrow night," Mr. Merrill said.

The Atlantic: "Two Ways of Looking at the Hillary Clinton Interview"

By James Fallows

August 12, 2014, 5:46 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Whichever way you look, the presumptive Democrat nominee has shown us something significant.

On return from a long spell away from the Internet, I was going to recommend that you read Jeffrey Goldberg's interview with Hillary Clinton, and not just the setup but the transcript as a whole. But such a recommendation is hardly necessary, since for several days the interview has been making news worldwide.

There are two ways to think about the political and policy implications of Hillary Clinton's deciding to say what she did, during this strange limbo period when she is clearly preparing to run for president but has more to lose than gain by officially saying so.

• One approach would be to think that we're primarily witnessing a media event—journalists doing what journalists do. It's in our nature as reporters, even when representing an institution as august as a 157-year-old magazine, to highlight what has changed rather than what's constant, what is controversial rather than what's agreed on, the one juicy, taken-in-isolation sentence that will make people stop and say, Did you see that? And it is in nature of the political commentariat to seize on any sign of rancor or big-shot melodrama.

Therefore if our Atlantic site runs a headline suggesting that Hillary Clinton is all but blaming Barack Obama for the ISIS/ISIL menace ("Hillary Clinton: 'Failure' to Help Syrian Rebels Led to the Rise of ISIS"), or if we emphasize the few places where she departed from his policy rather than the many more where she supported it, maybe we're just revealing the way we journalists think. When politicians start complaining that some comment was "taken out of context," this is the point they're trying to make. And in fairness, anyone who reads the whole transcript will find that the tabloid version of her comments—weakling Obama lost Syria!—is cushioned in qualifiers and complexities.

If this is the way the Clinton camp feels about our presentation of the interview, they are perfectly well versed in all the the formal and informal ways of getting that message across. Indeed, just this afternoon, a little while after I started typing this item (but several days after the interview ran), the first such indication appeared, in a "no criticism intended" story via Politico.

• The other approach is to think that Hillary Clinton, as experienced a figure as we now have on the national scene, knew exactly what she was saying, and conveyed to an interviewer as experienced as Goldberg exactly

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the impression she intended to—including letting the impression sink in through several days' worth of op-ed and talk-show news cycles before beginning to offset it with an "out of context" claim.

That impression is a faux-respectful but pointed dismissal of Obama's achievements and underlying thought-patterns. It's a picture of the president approximating that of a Maureen Dowd column. It also introduces into Democratic party discourse the “Who (re)-lost Iraq?” “Who lost Syria?” “Who lost Iran?” and “Who is losing the world?” queries that the Republicans are perpetually ready to serve up. All this is presumably in preparation for Sec. Clinton's distancing herself from a "weak" Obama when she starts running in earnest to succeed him.

If the former interpretation is right, Hillary Clinton is rustier at dealing with the press than we assumed. Rustier in taking care with what she says, rustier in taking several days before countering a (presumably) undesired interpretation.

I hope she's just rusty. Because if she intended this, my heart sinks.

It sinks for her, that she thought this would make her sound tough or wise; it sinks for the Democratic party, that this is the future foreign policy choice it’s getting; and it sinks for the country, if this is the way we’re going to be talked-to about our options in dealings with the world.

The easiest and least useful stance when it comes to foreign policy is: Situation X is terrible, we have to do something. Or its cousin: Situation X is terrible, you should have done something. Pointing out terribleness around the world is not even half of the necessary thought-work in foreign policy. The harder and more important part—what constitutes actual statesmanship—is considering exactly which “something” you would do; and why that exact something would make conditions better rather than worse; and what Pandora’s box you might be opening; and how the results of your something will look a year from now, or a decade, when the terribleness of this moment has passed.

Eg: Yeah, we should have “done something” in Syria to prevent the rise of ISIS. But the U.S. did a hell of a lot of somethings in Iraq over the past decade, with a lot more leverage that it could possibly have had in Syria. And the result of the somethings in Iraq was … ? A long story in the NYT tells us that the current leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the caliph himself, drew his political formation from America’s own efforts to “do something” in Iraq:

“He was a street thug when we picked him up in 2004,” said a Pentagon official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters. “It’s hard to imagine we could have had a crystal ball then that would tell us he’d become head of ISIS.”

At every turn, Mr. Baghdadi’s rise has been shaped by the United States’ involvement in Iraq — most of the political changes that fueled his fight, or led to his promotion, were born directly from some American action. And now he has forced a new chapter of that intervention, after ISIS’ military successes and brutal massacres of minorities in its advance prompted President Obama to order airstrikes in Iraq.

Of course everyone including Hillary Clinton “knows” that you should only do something when it’s smart and not when it’s stupid. In her books and speeches, she is most impressive when showing commanding knowledge of the complexities and contradictions of negotiating with the Russians and Chinese, and why you can’t just “be tough” in dealings with them. In those specifics, she can sound like the description I just came across, in Christopher Clark’s The Sleepwalkers, about some pre-World War I Balkan leaders: “It is a characteristic of the most skillful politicians that they are capable of reasoning simultaneously at different levels of conditionality. [One Serbian figure] wanted peace, but he also believed — he never concealed it — that the final historical phase of Serbian expansion would in all probability not be achieved without war.”

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But in this interview — assuming it's not "out of context" — she is often making the broad, lazy "do something" points and avoiding the harder ones. She appears to disdain the president for exactly the kind of slogan—"don't do stupid shit"—that her husband would have been proud of for its apparent simplicity but potential breadth and depth. (Remember "It's the economy, stupid"?) Meanwhile she offers her own radically simplified view of the Middle East—Netanyahu right, others wrong—that is at odds with what she did in the State Department and what she would likely have to do in the White House. David Brooks was heartened by this possible preview of a Hillary Clinton administration's policy. I agree with Kevin Drum and John Cassidy, who were not. Also see Paul Waldman.

But really, go read the interview. Either way, the presumptive nominee has under Jeffrey Goldberg's questioning shown us something significant.

Politico: "Cocktail chatter with Barack and Hillary"

By Katie Glueck and Nicholas P. Fandos

August 13, 2014, 5:00 a.m. EDT

Ann Dibble Jordan's birthday party just got a lot more interesting.

Two of the guests — President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton — have hardly been seeing eye-to-eye on foreign policy of late. So the big question is whether they can employ their expert political skills to diminish any awkward moments. In fact, Clinton's team says the two will be "hugging it out" Wednesday evening.

In that huggable spirit, here are some subjects that might be safe for Obama and his former presidential rival and secretary of state:

"Hey, we've been through worse, right?"

In any event, at least they aren't meeting as challengers, as they did during the 2008 presidential primary — or worse, as the vanquisher versus the vanquished.

While on tour to promote her memoir of her time at the State Department, "Hard Choices," Clinton has laughingly described a meeting with Obama after she dropped out of the contest in 2008 as akin to "an awkward first date." Now, they know each other well after serving together for Obama's first term. The president has even said that he and Clinton are now "buddies."

Sure, the meeting comes just days after Clinton dinged elements of Obama's foreign policy in an interview with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg, complete with dissing as a "failure" the early decision not to assist some Syrian rebels. And yes, her comments were seen by some as an attempt to create space from an unpopular White House. But she's already called Obama to assure him that her remarks weren't meant as an attack.

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“[T]hey’re friends and human beings first,” said Tommy Vietor, formerly a veteran aide to Obama who also worked on Clinton’s book tour.

“There’s less than meets the eye,” said former Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.). “This is not going to be a difficult meeting between the two of them.”

With the benefit of hindsight, maybe they’ll be able to laugh it off.

“Ready to be a grandma?”

Clinton’s daughter, Chelsea, is pregnant — and Clinton has said repeatedly that she wants to try out being a grandmother before making any decisions regarding 2016. Luckily, Obama loves babies.

“One of the best perks about being president is almost anyone will hand you their baby,” Obama said earlier this summer as he reminisced about taking care of his own daughters. “… I get this baby fix, like, two or three times a week.”

And if Clinton needs a break from the president, plenty of other attendees will want to talk grandkids.

“I would not be surprised at all if she spent time talking to grandmothers about what it’s like to be a grandmother,” said William Galston, a former aide to President Bill Clinton.

“Stanford or Berkeley?”

Chelsea Clinton grew up in the White House and attended the prestigious Sidwell Friends School, just as Obama daughters Sasha and Malia do now, so that always offers a conversation out. Reports indicate that Malia also toured Stanford — Chelsea’s alma mater — and Berkeley, but according to a report in the San Francisco Chronicle, preferred the latter.

If that’s the case, a West Coast-centered, good-natured rivalry could take the focus off the appearance of policy differences.

“How’s John?”

Clinton’s interview in The Atlantic included a hefty section on Israel, one area in which she was perceived as using more hawkish language than her successor at Foggy Bottom, John Kerry. The interview also posted amid a slew of international crises embroiling places from Iraq to Gaza to Ukraine.

Amid all that, she could check in on how the current secretary of state is holding up, although some observers expressed doubt that the pair would wade into a big foreign-policy discussion. Vietor passed along a semi-serious list of nine hypothetical discussion topics, from the kids and spouses, to “beloved pets” and “hilarious movies,” with foreign policy and politics clocking in last.

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And Galston said he would be “astounded if it became anything like a foreign policy seminar, let alone an argument.”

“And Joe?”

Vice President Joe Biden has not ruled out a presidential bid of his own, and Obama has been careful to toe a fine line in discussing both Biden and Clinton — the former secretary of state could use the party as a time to gauge whether Obama is still maintaining that balancing act.

“I don’t know what she’s going to decide to do, but I know that if she were to run for president, I think she would be very effective at that,” Obama said in a television interview in May. “I’ve been blessed to have some people around me like her, and Vice President Biden, and my chief of staff who are just great, hardworking, effective people, and I love them to death.”

“Know any good Realtors?”

The Clintons live in Chappaqua, N.Y., not far from New York City, from which they run their family foundation. Obama has indicated interest in both a similar kind of foundation and in moving to the Big Apple, once his presidency wraps up.

Both the Clintons and the Obamas could be spending some time in Brooklyn in 2016 — some prominent Democrats are making a big push for the borough to host the Democratic National Convention.

“Great party Vernon’s throwing”

The main event at the Farm Neck Golf Club is the 80th birthday party of Ann Dibble Jordan, who, along with her husband, former Bill Clinton adviser Vernon Jordan, is considered a friend of both Obama and Clinton.

“They will talk about Vernon and Ann, who are mutual friends,” said longtime Democratic strategist Bob Shrum. “I don’t think there will be heavy political conversation at all.”

“Come here often?”

Obama is on vacation on Martha’s Vineyard, while Clinton and her husband are out in the Hamptons — though the Clintons have also spent summers on the Vineyard.

“They are both frequent visitors to the island, so I imagine they would have a lot to talk about, comparing places, as islanders usually do,” said Molly Coogan, store manager of Bunch of Grapes bookstore, where Clinton is slated to do a book signing on Wednesday, ahead of the birthday party.

“How about that weather?”

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“Maybe the president will look at Hillary Clinton and say, ‘Nice weather we’re having, huh?’” Shrum said. “That’s what you talk about when you don’t want to talk about other stuff.”

Wednesday’s forecast doesn’t look so good. Showers, with thunderstorms possible after 2 p.m., according to the National Weather Service on Tuesday. Wind gusts possible up to 33 mph. “Chance of precipitation is 100 percent.”

Mother Jones blog: Kevin Drum: “How is Robin Williams Like Hillary Clinton?”

By Kevin Drum

August 13, 2014, 12:39 a.m. EDT

Tonight's Maureen Dowd column begins with an anecdote about an interview she once did with Robin Williams:

“As our interview ended, I was telling him about my friend Michael Kelly’s idea for a 1-900 number, not one to call Asian beauties or Swedish babes, but where you’d have an amorous chat with a repressed Irish woman. Williams delightedly riffed on the caricature, playing the role of an older Irish woman answering the sex line in a brusque brogue, ordering a horny caller to go to the devil with his impure thoughts and disgusting desire.

“I couldn’t wait to play the tape for Kelly, who doubled over in laughter.

“So when I think of Williams, I think of Kelly. And when I think of Kelly, I think of Hillary, because Michael was the first American reporter to die in the Iraq invasion, and Hillary Clinton was one of the 29 Democratic senators who voted to authorize that baloney war.”

That's, um, quite a segue. I wonder if there's anything left in the world that doesn't remind Dowd of Hillary Clinton?

New Yorker: “The Hillary Doctrine: ‘Smart Power’ or ‘Back to the Crusades’?”

By John Cassidy

August 11, 2014

This past weekend, Tom Friedman, of the Times, sat down with President Obama, and Jeffrey Goldberg, of the Atlantic, posted online a long interview with Hillary Clinton. With the grim events in Iraq, Gaza, and Ukraine

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dominating the news, it's fascinating to compare and contrast what the two former colleagues (and 2008 election rivals) had to say.

Goldberg, in a post introducing the interview, highlighted Clinton's claim that the Obama Administration's "failure" to build up a credible opposition in Syria created a vacuum that was filled by Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), the Al Qaeda offshoot that U.S. warplanes are now bombing in northern Iraq. Other stories focussed on Clinton's apparent dismissal of a phrase Obama has reportedly used to describe his approach to foreign policy: "Don't do stupid stuff." A Bloomberg headline blared, "HILLARY CLINTON FAULTS OBAMA FOR 'STUPID STUFF' POLICY." Politico's Maggie Haberman wrote, "Hillary Clinton has taken her furthest, most public step away yet from President Barack Obama, rejecting the core of his self-described foreign policy doctrine."

By Monday, speculation had turned to Clinton's motives. Does this mean that she's definitely running? (That was Goldberg's interpretation.) Was it a cynical effort to distance herself from an unpopular President? Is she already looking beyond the Democratic primaries to appeal to independents and to moderate Republicans?

For folks inside the Washington politics-and-media bubble, these are endlessly fascinating questions. But what really stands from the interviews is the strident tone that Clinton adopted in her comments on Gaza and radical Islam. In defending the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's deadly response to Hamas's rocket attacks, she sounded almost like a spokesperson for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. In talking about the threat of militant Islam more generally, her words echoed those of Tony Blair, the former British Prime Minister, who has called for a generation-long campaign against Islamic extremism—a proposal that one of his former cabinet ministers dubbed "back to the Crusades."

Let's take Gaza first. When Clinton noted that Israel has a right to defend itself from Hamas attacks, Clinton was merely restating what President Obama has said numerous times. But, when she passed on the opportunity to condemn the Israeli strikes on U.N.-operated shelters, which killed dozens of people, she was conspicuously failing to follow the example of her former colleagues in the State Department, who described one of the attacks as "disgraceful." Clinton did acknowledge that the deaths of hundreds of children in the four-week-long military campaign was "absolutely dreadful." But, rather than put even a bit of the blame on the Israel Defense Forces for its aggressive tactics, she pointed the finger at Hamas, saying, "There's no doubt in my mind that Hamas initiated this conflict and wanted to do so in order to leverage its position…. So the ultimate responsibility has to rest on Hamas and the decisions it made."

Another area where Clinton entered the realm of AIPAC talking points was in accusing Hamas of "stage-managing" the conflict and criticizing the media for going along with it:

"What you see is largely what Hamas invites and permits Western journalists to report on from Gaza. It's the old PR problem that Israel has. Yes, there are substantive, deep levels of antagonism or anti-Semitism towards Israel, because it's a powerful state, a really effective military. And Hamas paints itself as the defender of the rights of the Palestinians to have their own state. So the PR battle is one that is historically tilted against Israel."

These statements will have delighted Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, whom Clinton defended several times in the interview. She even endorsed Netanyahu's recent suggestion that Israel would never give up security control of the West Bank, a statement that some analysts have seized upon as the death knell for the two-state solution. "If I were the prime minister of Israel, you're damn right I would expect to have control over security," Clinton said of the West Bank, citing the need to "protect Israel from the influx of Hamas or cross-border attacks from anywhere else."

Even for a former New York politician, these were contentious statements. But what is their ultimate import?

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The cynical view is that Clinton is simply trying up shore up her reputation as a staunch ally of Israel. Earlier in Clinton's career, pro-Israeli groups accused her of getting too close to the Palestinian cause. In 1999, a picture of her kissing Suha Arafat on the cheek ended up on the front page of the New York Post, under the headline "SHAME ON HILLARY." After moving to New York in 2001 and running for senator, she adopted the default stance of most elected officials from the Empire State: unstinting support for Israel. As Secretary of State, in 2009-2010, she took part in efforts to restart the peace process, which, partly as a result of Israel continuing to expand its settlements, didn't go anywhere. Unlike President Obama, however, Clinton maintained a reasonably cordial relationship with Netanyahu, and that was reflected in her supportive remarks to Goldberg.

If Clinton is courting the pro-Israel lobby, it wouldn't be exactly surprising. With the Republican Party busy trying to make inroads among wealthy Jewish campaign donors, it hardly behooves her to adopt a more critical approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict shortly before announcing a run for President.

If you study Clinton's words, though, there seem to be more to them than pandering. For one, she clearly believes that the best way to exert pressure on Israeli politicians, such as Netanyahu, is to win their confidence. Implicit in her comments is the suggestion that President Obama, by not making much of an effort to hide his dislike of the Israeli Prime Minister, or to win over the Israeli public, made another error. Referring to the failed negotiations at the end of her husband's Presidency, the last occasion on which the Israelis and Palestinians came close to making peace, the former Secretary of State said, "Bill Clinton is adored in Israel, as you know. He got Netanyahu to give up territory, which Netanyahu believes lost him the prime ministership"—in his first term—"but he moved in that direction, as hard as it was." A bit later in the interview, Clinton emphasized the point: "Dealing with Bibi is not easy, so people get frustrated and they lose sight of what we're trying to achieve here."

In this instance, the difference between Clinton and Obama is a tactical one on how to achieve a goal that they share. There is a bigger issue, however, which rises to the level of foreign-policy ideology. Ever since taking office, Obama has conspicuously tried to avoid making generalizations about Islamic extremism, or lapsing into loose talk about a clash of civilizations. In his interview with Friedman, he described the turmoil in the Middle East in terms of history and economics rather than religion. "I do believe that what we're seeing in the Middle East and parts of North Africa is an order that dates back to World War I starting to buckle," the President said. More specifically, he pointed to the rise of a disaffected Sunni population, stretching from Baghdad to Damascus, that was politically alienated and economically isolated: "Unless we can give them a formula that speaks to the aspirations of that population, we are inevitably going to have problems."

Clinton, by contrast, placed the threat of radical Islam front and center, and she didn't shy away from describing it. "One of the reasons why I worry about what's happening in the Middle East right now is because of the breakout capacity of jihadist groups that can affect Europe, can affect the United States," she said. "Jihadist groups are governing territory. They will never stay there, though. They are driven to expand. Their raison d'être is to be against the West, against the Crusaders, against the fill-in-the-blank—and we all fit into one of these categories."

The key issue, Clinton went on, is how to contain the jihadi threat, and the appropriate analogy, in her view, is the long battle against Marxism-Leninism. "You know, we did a good job in containing the Soviet Union," she said. "We made a lot of mistakes, we supported really nasty guys, we did some things that we are not particularly proud of, from Latin America to Southeast Asia. But we did have a kind of overarching framework about what we were trying to do that did lead to the defeat of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Communism. That was our objective. We achieved it."

Rather than explicitly calling for a new Cold War focussed on radical Islam rather than on Communism, Clinton talked about exercising "smart power" and about engaging an American public that is now instinctively hostile toward foreign entanglements. But, reading the interview as a whole, that appears to be what she is advocating—a sustained global campaign targeting radical Islam (some, doubtless, will call it a "crusade") that encompasses all of the options at the disposal of the United States and its allies: military, diplomatic, economic, political, and rhetorical.

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As I said, the similarity to Blair's recent call to arms is striking. If Clinton continues with this line of argument, she will inevitably be compared to Henry (Scoop) Jackson, the anti-Communist Democratic senator from the state of Washington who became a hero to the neocons. She will also be compared to modern-day Republican interventionists, such as John McCain. Judging by what she said to Goldberg, Clinton won't necessarily mind the comparisons: "Great nations need organizing principles," she said. "And 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

Bloomberg View: Jonathan Bernstein: "Hillary Clinton Wouldn't Have Stopped the Tea Party"

By Jonathan Bernstein

August 12, 2014, 5:19 p.m. EDT

My Bloomberg View colleague Megan McArdle floats a counterfactual history of the last few years: If Hillary Clinton had defeated Barack Obama, the Affordable Care Act would have died, with all sorts of positive consequences:

"I think that Hillary Clinton would have pulled back when Rahm Emanuel (or his counterfactual Clinton administration counterpart) told her that this was a political loser and she should drop it. … I doubt she would have had the debt ceiling debacle or the deep gridlock of the last four years, because it was Obamacare that elected a fresh new class of deeply ideological Republicans who thought they were having their own transformative political movement, and they were willing to do massive damage to their party, their own political fortunes and, in my opinion, to the country in order to take a stand against 'business as usual' -- business that included legislating or paying our bills."

I think this logic (Obamacare and thus Tea Party) is mostly wrong, for a number of reasons. First of all, the Tea Party preceded the ACA; the original Tea Party mobilization was a response to the economic stimulus package in spring 2009, a few months before health-care reform became the crucial issue (Steve M. has the timeline).

But more broadly, I think it's wrong because, as Kevin Drum described it awhile ago, the Tea Party response is pretty much what happens every time a liberal Democrat is elected, from Roosevelt to Kennedy to Clinton to Obama. Basically, the 2010 Republican landslide was a function of a depressed economy (which hurt Democrats) and a liberal Democratic president (which brought out a particular type of Republicans). There is some evidence that health-care reform in particular cost Democrats some seats, turning a landslide in the House into a debacle (although I still am very skeptical of that finding), but there's very little chance that avoiding health care would have produced dramatic change. It's worth noting, too, that quite a few House radicals (Louie Gohmert, Michele Bachmann, Steve King) were in place before 2010. A radical-infested Republican Party simply wasn't new in 2010.

As for the other half of McArdle's alternate history, I think it's highly unlikely that Clinton, who ran on health-care reform just as much as Obama did, would have abandoned the No. 1 long-term priority of the Democratic Party after an election in which Democrats won a huge landslide. The odds are strong that she would have rolled out almost exactly the same plan that Obama tried, and that the initial reaction would have been practically identical: strong support from mainstream liberals, cautious but real support from moderate Democrats, and blanket opposition from Republicans.

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The thing is that once the train was moving, there never really was any good place for the president to get off. Yes, Obama's chief of staff apparently advised cutting a deal, but Obama never had anyone to deal with or a logical deal to cut. McArdle suggests that perhaps Clinton would have settled for only Medicaid expansion, but it's unlikely that she could have found Republican votes for it (given that it would have to have been bundled with a pay-for such as the actual ACA Medicare cuts or increased taxes which Republicans were eager to run against), and it would have been easy to exploit as "distribute the wealth" program that had nothing for middle class voters.

No, once the president and congressional Democrats moved to the ACA, the least-bad option was always to pass it as long as that was possible, and as it moved through Congress passage always seemed, and in fact was, possible. That was particularly the case after the Scott Brown's Massachusetts victory in January 2010. By then every Senate Democrat and most House Democrats had already voted for reform; at that point, as they eventually realized after the shock wore off, they already had taken the plunge, and retreat would leave them equally vulnerable without at least salvaging the enthusiasm of partisan Democrats. Is it certain that Clinton would have accepted that logic? I suppose not, but it sure seemed obvious to me at the time.

What's a lot harder to know is whether small changes around the margins might have made a difference. With Clinton in office instead of Obama, would Arlen Specter have defected? Would Clinton have made any difference in the pace of the bill through Congress? Would she have been able to prevent Brown's victory? My general feeling is that Obama performed better than par on Specter, right at par on the pace of the bill, and worse than par on replacing Ted Kennedy. Any of those, and presumably several other small things, might have either made passage somewhat easier or impossible, and perhaps presidential skills really did matter.

But on the big point? No, the 2010 election results and the post-2010 Republican Party were probably cooked in regardless of which president the Democrats nominated in 2008. As long as it wasn't John Edwards, at least.

The Weekly Standard: "Cheney: Not Sure Hillary Will Be Democratic Nominee"

By Daniel Halper

August 12, 2014, 7:29 p.m. EDT

Vice President Dick Cheney tells radio host Hugh Hewitt that Hillary Clinton might not be the Democratic presidential candidate in 2016.

"Can Hillary Clinton be beaten?" Hewitt asked the former vice president. "And if so, how?"

"Well, I think she can. I'm not at all pessimistic about our prospects there. I think she's got a lot of things she'll have to answer for, a lot of baggage. She's got to explain why serving as Barack Obama's Secretary of State, she shouldn't be held accountable for being the one who implemented those policies such as they are. I don't think it's a slam dunk for her by any means. I'm not even sure that it's guaranteed she'll get the Democratic nomination. I think there's a lot to answer for – Benghazi and many other points that I think will be arguments against her," Cheney responded, according to a transcript sent out by Hewitt's show.

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HH: But she has always eluded tough questions. Will the D.C.-Beltway-Manhattan elite ever ask her the tough questions?

DC: I don't, boy, I wouldn't want to make a wild guess there. Obviously, she's been very successful politically, as has her husband, but I think her performance in the last few months hasn't been all that sterling. You know, the book tour got her in a fair amount of trouble. She hasn't been as smooth an item as one might expect. And you know, she's, I think there are a lot of wannabes over on the Democratic side who are holding back, because she's still sort of occupying the space as the expected preferred option, but I'm not at all sure that'll be sure two years from now.

Elsewhere in the interview, Cheney had this to say about Hillary:

HH: Is it credible for Hillary Clinton to be attacking Barack Obama, Mr. Cheney?

DC: I don't know. She's lived with Bill for a long time. Maybe some of that rubbed off, too. You know, I'm sure she's as interested in putting distance between herself and Obama as are an awful lot of the Democratic candidates running for office this year. You know, they don't want to be associated with the abject failure that he apparently is turning out to be.

U.S. News & World Report: "Perry: Clinton Close to Right on Syria"

By David Catanese

August 12, 2014, 4:07 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] He's with her on earlier intervention and its impact on Iraq.

DES MOINES, Iowa – Rick Perry agrees with Hillary Clinton.

Or at least, pretty close to it.

Asked Tuesday at the Iowa State Fair whether he agreed with the former secretary of state's assessment that a lack of prior U.S. intervention in Syria emboldened jihadists to penetrate Iraq, the GOP governor of Texas found some daylight with the potential future presidential rival.

"I think on that issue she was closer to being right than she has been on some other ones," he replied.

In an interview with The Atlantic published over the weekend, Clinton said the failure of the U.S. to assist the rebels in Syria "left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled."

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Perry, on the final day of a four-day Iowa swing, recalled that he supported a no-fly zone in Syria back in the fall of 2011, when he was running for president. He maintained Tuesday that would have been a step in the right direction.

“If you allow [the Islamic State group] to continue to gobble up and take over areas – in this case, Kurdistan, northern Iraq – it’s going to cost us more. Early intervention in these areas, from my perspective, would’ve been wiser for us, would’ve been less costly and it would’ve gone substantially farther to pacify that part of the world,” he said.

Perry stopped short of calling for boots on the ground to curb Islamic State aggression, without entirely ruling it out, either.

He told reporters he began his day with a briefing on the situation in Iraq from a team of national security advisers. Aides declined to name who the advisers were.

The Hill: “Benghazi hearing set for September”

By Mario Trujillo

August 12, 2014, 1:50 p.m. EDT

Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) on Tuesday laughed off the idea that the House select committee investigating the events surrounding the 2012 Benghazi, Libya, attack would finish its work before the midterm elections.

"No. Heavens no," said Gowdy, who is chairman of the committee, in an interview with ABC News. "I have decided that I would rather be right than first. So we are going to do it methodically, professionally."

Gowdy said the committee would hold its first public hearing in September, after members return from the August recess.

It will touch on the State Department's Accountability Review Board recommendations, and how well they have been implemented in the wake of the attack that killed three Americans, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

Gowdy said there will be other public hearings, but the committee would do most of its work in private.

"I can get more information in a five-hour deposition than I can [in] five minutes of listening to a colleague asking questions in a committee hearing," he said.

He added: "My view of public hearings — if there is a factual discrepancy, then the jury or our fellow citizens need to hear both sides, and they can determine where the greater weight or credibility is. But if there is a

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consensus on a point, there really is not any reason to litigate that in public."

Democrats considered boycotting the process after the committee was created in May. They perceived it to be politically motivated to damage former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and motivate their GOP base ahead of the elections.

However, the issue has fallen largely outside public view lately, as the committee works behind closed doors.

In June, a poll found only about two in 10 people were closely watching the committee.

"You want to get on the news, go rob a bank," Gowdy said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bunch of Grapes (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton attends Ann Dibble Jordan's 80th birthday party (Politico Playbook)

· August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Cammie Croft" <cammie@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/9/2008 10:13:02 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall Meeting Portsmouth, OH 07/09/08

Hello All,

Just off the phone with our tracker Sara who is on the ground today in Portsmouth. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cindy McCain takes to the stump, says her husband is a man that can inspire young people
- McCain said we need to stop accusing each other of a lack of patriotism (referring to Obama)
- Woman who lost both her parents to cancer from the local nuclear factory in Piketon, OH asked McCain the first question about the safety of such a "toxic industry"
- McCain asked about being a third term of Bush
- MCain gives 'straight talk' to crying woman who is losing her job, saying it's 'in fact, unlikely' her job is coming back
- During a question about No Child Left Behind, McCain said he his grateful he and Cindy had the 'money' to send his children to private schools; he quickly corrects the 'money' part
- McCain calls 16 year old man "attractive"
- McCain says he is afraid that if there's an outbreak of conflict with Iran that 'Americans will be drawn into it'

Portsmouth, OH - McCain Town Hall Meeting 07/09/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details:
- 500+ people in attendance; venue filled to capacity, but no overflow
- Audience noticeably more enthusiastic and supportive of McCain than at previous events
- Two large signs at venue reading "Southern Ohio Welcomes John McCain: Reform, Prosperity, Peace"
- ONE and Divide We Fail in the audience
- One woman holding a 'No Nukes' sign; tracker did not see any other demonstrators inside or outside event
- 8-10 local press people in attendance, plus pool camera and all the national press
- Light security, tracker had no problem gaining entry
- Pre-event show included Rob Portman (former Ohio congressman) giving remarks and warming up crowd, a local Reverend spoke, the American Legion brought out flags, choir came on and sang patriotic songs (God Bless America, etc.)
- Terry Johnson gave opening remarks
- Cindy McCain introduced McCain -- after saying he is a man that can inspire young people.

FULL Remarks:
LINK: http://thepage.time.com/full-text-of-mccains-remarks-in-portsmouth-ohio/

Before I take your questions, I want to begin by talking about the issue in this campaign that Americans worry the most about – the American economy.

All of us know what is happening to the economy. It is slowing. More than 400,000 people have lost their jobs since December, and the rate of new job creation has fallen sharply. Americans are worried about the security of their current job, and they're worried that they, their kids and their neighbors may not find good jobs and new opportunities in the future. To make matters worse, gas is over $4 a gallon and the price of oil has almost doubled in the last year. The cost of everything from energy to food is rising.

I have a plan to grow this economy, create more and better jobs, and get America moving again. I have a plan to reform government, achieve energy security, and ensure that healthcare is available and affordable for all. I believe the role of government is to unleash the creativity, ingenuity and hard work of the American people, and make it easier to create jobs.

At its core, the economy isn't the sum of an array of bewildering statistics. It's about where Americans work, how they live, how they pay their bills today and save for tomorrow. It's about small businesses opening their doors, hiring employees and growing. It's about giving workers the education and training to find a good job and

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prosper in it. It's about the aspirations of the American people to build a better life for their families; dreams that begin with a job.

There are many things the next president must do to get our economy running at full strength again, and to create the good jobs Americans need. But no economic challenge today is more urgent than strategic energy independence.

Our dangerous dependence on foreign oil has been thirty years in the making, and was caused by the failure of politicians in Washington to think long term about the future of the country. By 2030, America's demand for energy will rise by nearly twenty percent. Our jobs, our way of life, and our security depend on the next President beginning to solve this challenge.

Two weeks ago, I announced the Lexington Project. This project – named for a place where Americans asserted our independence once before – will secure our energy future, and it will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs for Americans.

We have billions of barrels of oil available to us in the United States, and vast reserves of natural gas as well. So we will begin by producing more of both, to send a message to the market and result in lower prices for oil and gas.

We will develop more clean energy. Nuclear power is the most dependable source of zero-emission energy we have. We will build at least 45 nuclear plants that will create over 700,000 good jobs to construct and operate them.

The development of clean coal technology will create jobs in some of America's most economically disadvantaged areas. Clean coal demonstration projects alone will employ over 30,000 Americans. Ohioans get 86 percent of all their electricity from coal. Your energy future and this economy require us to find and deploy a clean coal technology.

My proposal to help automakers design and sell new generations of cars that don't depend on gasoline will re-invigorate that struggling industry. In the development and manufacture of hybrid, flex-fuel, and electric cars, jobs will grow at auto plants, parts manufacturers, and in the communities that support them.

My plan to develop wind and solar power and renewable technologies will drive innovation and create high tech jobs. Ohio alone has more than 60 companies in the wind turbine supply chain, and wind and solar energy can become a research mission for the state's universities, and a new focus for Ohio's manufacturing base.

My opponent's answer to the Lexington Project is no; no to more drilling; no to more nuclear power; no to research prizes that help solve the problem of affordable electric cars. For a guy whose "official seal" carried the motto, "Yes, we can," Senator Obama's agenda sure has a whole lot of "No, we can't."

To achieve full economic recovery, we need to think as well about the leading job creators in America. Small businesses have created 233,000 jobs so far this year while other sectors are losing jobs. Small businesses are the job engine of America, and I will make it easier for them to grow and create more jobs. My opponent wants to make it harder by imposing a healthcare mandate on small business that will add a crushing $12,000 to the cost of employing anyone with a family. That means new jobs will not be created, existing jobs will be cut, and small-business employees who keep their jobs will likely have their wages cut to pay for this mandate. My plan attacks the real problems of health care – cost, availability and portability.

We also need to keep the IRS from taking more of your income and making life harder for small business. If you believe you should pay more taxes, I am the wrong candidate for you. Senator Obama is your man. The choice in this election is stark and simple. Senator Obama will raise your taxes. I won't, because jobs are the most important thing our economy creates. And when you raise taxes in a bad economy you eliminate jobs. I'm not going to let that happen.

If you are one of the 23 million small business owners in America who files as an individual rate payer, Senator Obama is willing to raise your tax rates. If you have an investment for your child's education or own a mutual fund or a stock in a retirement plan, your taxes could be higher. He will raise estate taxes to 45 percent. I propose to cut them to 15 percent. And for those of you with children, I will double the child deduction from $3,500 to $7,000 for every dependent, in every family in America.

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My opponent also believes America would be better off by foregoing opportunities to sell in growing foreign markets. I disagree. Twenty-five percent of all jobs in this country are linked to world trade. In just five states – Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Colorado – over five million jobs depend on open markets. To promote job creation, I will expand foreign markets for our goods and services.

Because the vast benefits of a global marketplace come at a cost for many, we have an obligation to help our workers receive the training they need when plants close and jobs are lost. Under my reforms, we will use our community colleges to help train workers for specific opportunities in their hometowns. And for older workers who have lost a job that won't come back, if they move rapidly to a new job we'll help make up the difference in wages between their old job and the new one.

To promote job creation, we must also get government's fiscal house in order. Government has grown by 60 percent in the last eight years, because this Congress and this Administration have failed to meet their responsibilities. When I'm president, I will order a stem to stern review of government, modernize how it does business and save billions of dollars. I will veto every single bill with wasteful spending. We aren't going to continue mortgaging this country's future for things Americans don't want or need.

My opponent has a very different record on this issue. He voted for an energy bill stuffed with give-aways to oil companies at a time of record profits. I voted against it. He supported the $300 billion pork-laden agricultural subsidy bill. I opposed it. As for earmark spending, I have never asked for a single earmark in my entire career. In his Senate career, Senator Obama has requested some $930 million for earmark projects. That comes to more than a million dollars in pork for every working day since he became a United States Senator. There is never a good time to put your parochial and political interests above those of the nation – and least of right now, during an economic downturn.

For many, it is a very tough time. But my friends, we've been through worse, and beaten longer odds. Even in these difficult days, we must believe in ourselves. Nothing is inevitable in America. We've always been the captains of our fate. All you've ever asked of government is that it stand on your side, not in your way. I intend to do just that: to stand on your side; to help business and not government create jobs; to fight for your future and not the personal ambitions of politicians and bureaucrats.

We have much work to do if we are to end the self-interested partisanship that prevents us from fixing problems that need to be fixed and changing government to keep this country prosperous and at peace. I make you one promise I will always keep, no matter what.

In war and peace, I have been an imperfect servant of my country. But I have been her servant first, last and always. Whenever I faced an important choice between my country's interests or my own interests, party politics or any special interest, I chose my country. Nothing has ever mattered more to me than the honor of serving America, and nothing ever will. If you elect me President, I will always put our country first. I will put its greatness; its prosperity and peace; and the hopes and concerns of the people who make it great before any personal or partisan interest. I will keep that promise every hour of every day I am in office. And I will ask you to help me convince Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to keep that promise as well. There is nothing beyond our ability to achieve. We are Americans, and we don't hide from history. We make history. All we need is to believe in ourselves as we always have, and to cherish the beautiful country we are so blessed to call home.

Question and Answer:

1 Q) [holding a no nukes sign] My father worked at the Piketon plant and him and my mother died of cancer. I want to clean-up the area. I don't want other people to work in a very toxic industry.

MCCAIN: I believe that nuclear power is and can be safe. As you know, I've served in the Navy. And we've sailed nuclear ships around the world for 60 years -- and there's no report of people getting sick. I know about Three Mile Island and Chernobyl. I do believe nuclear power is safe. I think other energy sources aren't safe -- greenhouse gas emissions are also harming us. The evidence I have is that nuclear power is safe and nuclear energy needs to be part of our solution.

FOLLOW-UP: Workers going into the plant need to be protected. I've contacted the authorities on this matter and no one is getting back to me.

MCCAIN: One, I will take information from you and two, I will try to help track down that information for you. I'll be back in contact with you. And again, please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother and father. I promise you I will learn and read the information you send me.

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2 Q) [College Student] What's your stance on TRIO funding -- it's support for the upper-bound programs for college.

MCCAIN: Yes. I strongly support it.

MCCAIN: Thanks members of Divided We Fail.

3 Q) [Divided We Fail member] Health care is a major issue for every American -- especially here in rural Appalachia. Also the issue of financial security for all of us in our older years -- but young people too. I like your bipartisan approach to things. Can you talk about that?

MCCAIN: Americans are sick and tired of being sick and tired of the partisan politics in Washington. The approval rating of Congress is now in the single digits -- 9%. The last time Social Security was on the brink of disaster, what happened? There was a liberal Democrat, Tip O'Neil and Ronald Reagan sat down at a table together and worked it out. And the fixed Social Security for awhile. And that's what Americans want to happen. I will sit down with Harry Reid or Nancy Pelosi. It's time to put partisanship behind and get things done. We will sit down together and fix that system. I have a history of reaching across the aisle.

MCCAIN: One other organization here I'd like to highlight -- ONE.

4 Q) [ONE volunteer] Thank you Mr. McCain and your wife Cindy. We have 60,000 members in OH dedicated to the issue of global poverty. You played a huge role in helping us pass legislation. You spoke about malaria - what will you do to make eradicating malaria a priority as president?

MCCAIN: I'd like to commend this administration for their work to eliminate AIDS in Africa. I would obviously support organizations like yours and others. Also, clean water -- that's important. I believe when the economy's of these nations are better, they will be able to solve their problems better. I commend ONE.

5 Q) Divorce rates are high and marriage rates are low. How can we fix our economy if we can't even fix our families?

MCCAIN: I think that families are the foundation and strength of our nation. The two-parent family organization, statistics show are better. The president did a good job with his faith-based program. But I also think we need to protect the rights of the born and the unborn. It's one of the big differences between me and my opponent. Obama voted against a partial-birth abortion ban. Every life is precious and there's a family in America for every child. If we inspire Americans to serve a cause greater than their self-interest, I think its obvious that families and America is strengthened because of it. I do think all the time how we can strengthen our values and nation -- but I'll think more about it now because or your question.

6 Q) We hear that you're not the third-term of Bush. I know you're not. When are you going to say, read my lips I am not the third term of Bush?

MCCAIN: I've agreed and disagreed with the president. I respect him. But I believe we need change. We have to stop the out of control spending -- pork-barrel spending. It's your money, not our money. I will veto all those bills and make famous those sponsoring them.

When this war was conducted and we succeeding initially, I went over there and said things aren't working. We need a new strategy. And that wasn't popular. And I said, I'd much rather lose a political campaign than a war. [standing ovation] We've got a strategy that is working, a great general and the best men and women fighting. If we set a date of withdrawal, we could erase all of our success. We should realize the benefits of winning. Our troops should come home, but with victory and honor, not in defeat.

Senator Obama has said now after 900 days he is going to Iraq. I'm glad he's finally going and finally sitting down with the commander. I offered to go with him. We do not want a situation where we have to send our soldiers back again because we haven't seen this through.

7 Q) I never knew a farmer to ask for a handout. Why don't we take the restrictions off the farmers and not pay them subsidies not to grow?

MCCAIN: I'm with you. Congress just passed a bill with tons of money for asparagus subsidies and ethanol subsidies. I voted against that, Obama voted for it. It's hard to vote against something called the Farm Bill because we all love farmers. But as president, I would veto that bill.

We need to repeal the death tax. Farmers should be able to hand down their farms.

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8 Q) How can we speed up the process to get relief from gas prices?

MCCAIN: We need to lift the ban on offshore drilling. Can we get it immediately? No. Some say it could take 5-10 years, but imagine if we had started it 5-10 years ago. Clean coal we need to do. And nuclear power, the French are doing it and it's working for them. We should not be sending 700 billion dollars a year overseas and sometimes to terrorist organizations. This is a national security issue.

9 Q) [hospice founder] DHL is closing that airpark -- we're losing 80,000 jobs. [crying] Will you investigate this? Will you come to Wilmington and accept our petition with 10,000 signatures?

MCCAIN: This is a terrible blow. I believe it was 8,600 jobs. If there are anti-trust issues associated with this, I will have that investigated fully. We have to offer people the opportunity of job training programs I gotta look you in the eye and give you some straight talk -- I don't know if I can stop this, in fact it's unlikely. But we have to give people another opportunity and give them programs to retrain for other jobs. We need to retrain the workers that need it and deserve it. My heart goes out to you.

10 Q) What is your feeling about No Child Left Behind?

MCCAIN: Cindy was in special education -- that honest line of work before I took her out. Thank you for being a teacher. I think that NCLB needs to be fixed. However, I think it was the right beginning. I think we need to be able to test and measure performance across the board. I think we need to have goals and measure that. But we also need to fund the things that aren't being funding -- like special education. I'm for choice and competition. We had the money to send our children to private school. I want every American to have a choice. Charter schools are good. Competition is good.

11 Q) Proud to be a navy guy like you. Do you agree with the timetable it takes for a veteran to get his benefits?

MCCAIN: Clarify please.

QUESTIONER: Details injuries from Iraq. As of today, I get medically disqualified for jobs now and I am only 40% qualified to get my benefits.

MCCAIN: Walter-Reid situation -- we passed legislation after that to fix the problems there. I believe it's going to take awhile to implement those changes. And we should be taking care of our soldiers for the sacrifices that they've made for us.

12 Q) You are trying to inspire college students, young people. I come from a small school where the College Republican's have shrunk because they are not happy with the direction of the party. How can you address the concerns of the people of my age?

MCCAIN: A lot of Republicans are upset because of the out of control spending. The first thing I need to do is go to the venues where the young people are. And then, use as effectively as possible -- we have a lot of work to do -- use the internet effectively because that is where young people are communicating. There's nothing that convinces young people like other young people. I understand the challenge we face. And this election about your generation -- and I believe I have the inspiration that young people are looking for.

13 Q) Thank you Senator for the opportunity. PENAC - wrote a document. Can you tell us about your role in the organization related to PENAC and is this ... [9-11 conspiracy question] ...?

MCCAIN: Lieberman and I sponsored legislation to make a commission to assist with the 9-11 aftermath. I am proud of what the 9-11 commission did. I will stand by their recommendations and conclusions and I am proud to have been one of those who established the 9-11 commission.

14 Q) I'm a school bus driver. I paid into a pension plan. My husband worked and paid into Social Security. He's passed and now I can't afford to retire, because I'm not going to get social security. Do you think that's fair?

MCCAIN: No you should not have to be penalized because of the death of your husband. Please accept my sympathy for your husband's passing.

15 Q) Can we take Ahmadejinad seriously? Would you consider a 16 year old running mate?

MCCAIN: If he is as attractive and articulate as you, then yes. I worry that the president of Iran's comments are not just crazy talk. We all know they just tested a missile. I worry when any leader says they want to wipe Israel off the map. They are sending into Iraq the most explosive devices to kill our young men and women. We should enact sanctions against the Iranians. If there's an outbreak of conflict, I worry that

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Americans will be drawn into it. I'm all for diplomacy. I'm not going to sit down with the head of Iran until he adheres to certain conditions. If anyone is concerned that we don't have communications with Iran -- that is not a problem. We have an ambassador that speaks to them.

Conclusion

Ohio is a battleground state. I gotta be hear a lot -- I need your help and support. We need to drive around this state and stop in every town. You can help me in that. I will never let you down. And I will always, always put you first.

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/17/2015 9:23:09 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: Snap, crackle, pop

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.



Skimm for August 18th

Skimm'd over sweet potato fries.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Would you be able to put a wee blind girl [on] top?" — Autocorrect fail. A mom texted this to the baker who made her daughter's birthday cake. She meant "blonde girl." And ended up with this .

SKIMM THIS

THINGS PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

BANGKOK

THE STORY

Yesterday, a bomb exploded at a busy tourist site in Thailand's capital. At least 20 people were killed.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

The pipe bomb went off during evening rush hour in front of a popular Hindu shrine. No one has claimed responsibility, but police are now looking for a suspect seen in a surveillance video. It shows a man carrying a backpack near the shrine at the time of the explosion. It's been a rough year for Thailand: last year, after months of unrest, the prime minister was kicked out in a military coup . She was popular with the rural poor majority, but not so much with the upper class. Things have mostly calmed down since then. Until yesterday. Officials say the attack was "intended to destroy the economy."

theSKIMM

This is the worst bombing in Thailand in years. And many are worried it could make tourists pause before booking their trips. Not good, since tourism is a critical part of the otherwise shaky Thai economy.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

THE STORY

Last year, Northwestern University's football team got the go-ahead to unionize. Yesterday they were told 'nope, never mind.'

EXPLAIN.

Schools like Northwestern make big $$$ on their sports teams (think: broadcast deals and ticket sales). But athletes don't see a lot of that upside. Last year, Northwestern's football team said it wanted to form a union to bargain for things like medical care and other benefits. A director at the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) gave them the A-OK, saying that athletes with scholarships should be considered "employees" under US law.

BUT...?

Yesterday, the NLRB decided that allowing Northwestern's team to form a union would open a sort of Pandora's box in college sports. Meaning, some schools might be at a competitive disadvantage if they don't offer the same benefits as a unionized school. So now, Northwestern's football team is back where it started: the athletic department's friend without benefits.

:heSKIMM

Yesterday's decision shuts the door on one team's fight for student athletes to have a seat at the table. Northwestern football players aren't the only ones who want benefits…so this won't be the last time you hear about this.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT COFFEE SPILL ALSO GOT ON YOUR NEW SHOES...

This is worse than I thought. Welcome to the IRS. Earlier this year, it came out that hackers accessed the tax info of more than 100,000 Americans. Then yesterday, the IRS said great news: it was actually more than 300,000 Americans, and the hack started earlier than everyone thought. The hackers – who were allegedly in Russia — got into a system that houses tax returns. Nyet good. In order to get into the system, the hackers needed to know a few little things, like a taxpayer's Social Security number, address, and birthday. Really nyet good. The goal? To cash in on these people's tax returns, according to the IRS. Cue Uncle Sam taking a shot of vodka. To the face.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR FRIEND WHO WENT TO BOARDING SCHOOL...

Did you hear about St. Paul's? The New Hampshire prep school with a distinguished alumni list (think: John Kerry) is involved in a not-so-distinguished scandal. Yesterday, a 19-year-old former student went to trial for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl while he was a senior. He pleaded not guilty. But in a previous interview with police, he mentioned a competition at the school called the "senior salute" – which sounds like a plot line out of a very bad version of "American Pie." It's a contest to see how many younger girls senior guys can hook up with. Except in this case, the girl says it wasn't consensual. Now, the former student is standing trial and there's expected to be a big ol' spotlight on the 'sexual culture' at the boarding school. You're going to keep hearing about this one.

WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR CO-WORKER WHO'S ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A DEAL...

Retailers love a sale too. Yesterday, Liberty Interactive – the company that owns home shopping network QVC – said it's buying e-commerce site Zulily for $2.4 billion. Zulily is a shopping site that's basically like Gilt for new moms...meaning it's all about that flash sale. Its growth has slowed recently, but it still has a younger customer base – women from 25-45 – that QVC wants access to. Badly. Done and done.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU NEED TIME TO THINK OF A COMEBACK...

Jeff Bezos knows the feeling.

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THING TO KNOW

Beefsteak vs. Roma Tomatoes: Because being tomato-literate is a summer necessity. Beefsteak are the large, watery ones that come on your BLT. Roma are the small, dense ones in your spaghetti sauce.

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SKIMM GIFT

Nice guys do come out on top. When we're talking Nice, France. We want to send you there for five nights. Travel and $500 for restaurants included. Say 'bonjour.'

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Sharing theSkimm gives you endorphins. Endorphins make you happy. Share here .

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To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Doug Band - PC" <doug@presidentclinton.com>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Bari Lurie" <blurie@clintonfoundation.org>
	"John Podesta \(john.podesta@gmail.com\)" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	3/23/2012 10:44:19 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 3.23.12.docx

Hannah,
Attached and below is the latest biweekly report for President Clinton.
Thanks,
Zayneb

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Clinton Economic Opportunity Initiative

The second workshop for the current Philadelphia Round of the Clinton Foundation/Inc. Magazine Entrepreneur Mentoring Program was held on March 15. The workshop was hosted in partnership with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, and provided participants with strategies to navigate the tax and legal issues they will face as they grow their businesses. The workshop presenter was Barbara Weltman, an attorney, author, and trusted expert in the field of small business tax law. Ms. Weltman is also a guest columnist for *The Wall Street Journal* and a contributor to American Express OPEN and SBA.gov.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

Harvesting of commercial soya on Mpherero Farm has begun. Deliveries from the farm to the contract buyer, Senwes, will begin next week.

The President of AGRA, Dr Namanga Ngongi, visited with AGRA project smallholder farmer partners. He has asked the CDI team to write a brief outlining our approach to assisting smallholders in increasing yields and improving market access for higher selling prices.

A second sale of carbon credits through The Carbon Trade Exchange has been completed for the Trees of Hope project. CDI is negotiating two additional possible sales—one with an Italian ceramics manufacturing business, and another with a group of 20 hotels in Sweden.

Rwanda (CHDI)

Things are moving well on the Mount Meru Soyco Ltd. factory site. A temporary office block has been established for the CEO, and leveling of the site is on track—including the purchase of a JCB (a type of bulldozer). The access road is complete and progress is being made on some of the interior roads. Shipping documents for the equipment have started to arrive, signifying that the equipment will begin to arrive in approximately three months.

At the fruit nursery, a new seed bed is being installed in order to produce more grafted fruit seedlings. New fruit seedlings are expected by the end of August.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

CGSGI management is meeting with Colombian and Peruvian ministers to identify possible opportunities for cooperation in developing scalable job creation and income-generation opportunities for low-income populations. Meetings have been conducted over the past two weeks with the Ministers of Agriculture and Housing in Peru and with the Ministers of Work and Agriculture in Colombia.

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William J. Clinton Foundation
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T: 917.720.0295 | M: 646.873.0244
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/7/2015 6:40:53 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Saturday February 7, 2015 Roundup



Correct The Record Saturday February 7, 2015 Roundup:

Headlines:

Fusion: “Hillary Clinton is in much better shape with a key demographic than she ever was in 2008”

“The 18-34 age group is the one that appears most firm about voting for Clinton in a 2016 Democratic primary.”

MSNBC: “Behind Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign launch window”

“Campaigns want as much time as possible to show strong results in those end-of-the-quarter reports, so an ideal launch window opens on the first day of every new quarter, and begins closing at the end of that month it gets closer and closer to the deadline for reporting fundraising figures.”

The Hill: “Sanders promises 'clash of ideas' with Hillary Clinton if both run in 2016”

“Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said Saturday morning that voters will see stark differences between himself and Hillary Clinton if the two both decide to run for the White House in 2016.”

Washington Post: “Healthy economy forces Republicans to rethink Obama-skewering strategy”

“‘When Hillary Clinton runs, she’s going to say, ‘The Republicans gave us a crappy economy twice, and we fixed it twice. Why would you ever trust them again?’’ said Kevin Hassett, a former economic adviser to GOP nominees Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney. ‘The objective for the people in the Republican Party who want to defeat her is to come up with a story about what’s not great’ in this recovery, especially wage growth, he said.”

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Des Moines Register: “Sources: Biden to make Iowa trip next week”

[Subtitle:] “The vice president will be in Des Moines Thursday, sources familiar with event planning told The Des Moines Register”

Washington Post blog: The Fix: “New Hampshire, and the case for Hillary Clinton not quite being ‘inevitable’”

“There are plenty of reasons to keep an eye on the Granite State when it comes to Clinton's supposed ‘inevitability’ as the Democratic nominee.”

Articles:

Fusion: “Hillary Clinton is in much better shape with a key demographic than she ever was in 2008”

By Brett LoGiurato

February 6, 2015

One of the potential hiccups with an all-but-certain Hillary Clinton campaign for president in 2016 is a perceived problem with young voters.

There’s good precedent for this perception: In 2008, the last time she ran for president, Clinton was walloped by President Barack Obama among youth voters in the Democratic primary. He tripled her share of the youth vote in Iowa, prompting a top Clinton adviser to famously say, “Our people look like caucus-goers and his people look like they are 18.”

But a new poll released Friday finds that, so far, Clinton is avoiding that trip heading into 2016. The poll, from the University of New Hampshire and WMUR, shows Clinton with not only a commanding lead among young voters in the state. It also shows young voters as her biggest supporters.

The 18-34 age group is the one that appears most firm about voting for Clinton in a 2016 Democratic primary. Three-quarters of that group says they would vote for her if the Democratic primary were held today. Just 9 percent choose Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts), a liberal firebrand who has repeatedly said she won’t run for president. And 4 percent would vote for Vice President Joe Biden.

The results align with those from Fusion’s Massive Millennial Poll, which surveyed 1000 people aged 18-34 about everything from politics to dating to race issues. The poll found 38 percent of the millennials surveyed — including 57 percent of millennial Democrats surveyed in the poll.

Clinton has bigger problems — if they can be called problems — with the 50-and-over crowd of the possible Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire, who carried her to a surprise victory there in 2008. That year, more than two-thirds of Democratic primary voters were over the age of 40. She beat Obama by at least 9 points among the age 40-49, 50-64, and 65-and-over age groups.

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This time, according to the UNH/WBUR poll, her lead is smaller than with young voters. But she still leads Warren by at least 30 points in each age group.

Some liberal groups have continued their efforts to push Warren into the race, even as she has become more firm in saying she will not challenge Clinton. This week, the "Run Warren Run" campaign — which is being led by the groups Democracy for America and MoveOn.org Political Action — announced the opening of a field office in New Hampshire.

The group, which already has offices in the early-caucus state of Iowa, said it plans to open more offices in New Hampshire. It also hired a New Hampshire state director for its campaign. It's being led mostly by younger activists who want Clinton to face a primary challenge.

MSNBC: "Behind Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign launch window"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

February 6, 2015, 3:06 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton is running for president, so when does she plan to tell the world? It's one of biggest questions in politics right now. Speculation originally focused on January, before turning to April, and now even July – but why not anytime in between those months?

Launching a presidential campaign is like launching a rocket – there's a ton of careful preparation and you have to wait for a window to open before conditions are right. But instead planetary movements, a campaign launch window is determined by the cyclical nature of federal elections laws and the power of money in modern American politics.

Every four months, presidential campaigns are required to report their fundraising hauls for the previous quarter to the Federal Election Commission. Campaigns want as much time as possible to show strong results in those end-of-the-quarter reports, so an ideal launch window opens on the first day of every new quarter, and begins closing at the end of that month it gets closer and closer to the deadline for reporting fundraising figures.

That's why, when Clinton ruled out a January (the beginning of the first quarter) campaign launch, advisors and outside speculation immediately turned to April, which is the beginning of the second quarter. And when some of Clinton allies recently started urging another postponement, speculation immediately turned towards July, the beginning of the third quarter. Launching in, say, June would be malpractice, insiders say, since her campaign would have only half as much time to raise money.

This also helps explain why Clinton's potential primary opponents are almost all saying they'll make a decision on their own runs in March or "spring," in time for the April launch window.

For Republican hopefuls, who are a facing a fluid and crowded presidential primary field, other considerations might be more important than maximizing their first fundraising window.

But for Clinton, who has time on her side and can set the pace of the Democratic primary at her leisure, insiders say the reporting window is critical. She knows all too well just how important a presidential campaign's first finance report can be.

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During her 2008 presidential bid, the first major sign that Clinton was in mortal trouble came from her first fundraising report to the FEC. To great fanfare, her campaign unveiled that they had raked in a whopping $36 million in the first four months since Clinton announced her candidacy in January of 2007. It turned out that only about $20 million of that was actually raised during the previous quarter for the primary campaign, though even that number was still seen as impressive.

But four days later, Obama stunned the political world with his own eye-popping number: $23.5 million. For a first-term senator who, despite all his natural talents, was not given much of a chance when it came to fundraising against the Clinton juggernaut, the number was a sign of unexpected strength that immediately put him on the same level as the far more experienced Clinton.

Voters are hardly paying attention this early in the race, and probably don't care how much a campaign raises in their first four months of operation, but early fundraising is key to the so-called "invisible primary," when candidates jockey for money and endorsements. A strong number that surpass expectations can open new doors (and checkbooks) for an underdog candidate, while a weak number can pull the rug out from under a frontrunner.

Clinton does not want a repeat of 2008 this time around.

Fortunately for Clinton, she has a massive network of eager donors ready to open their checkbooks the moment she gets in the race. Unfortunately for her, even if none of her potential 2016 primary opponents raise anywhere near the money Obama did, the high expectations that come from her prohibitive frontrunner status mean Clinton is under pressure to report an enormous figure in her first haul.

While allies are loath speculate about specific numbers, some worry that anything less than historic will be seen as a disappointment.

The Hill: "Sanders promises 'clash of ideas' with Hillary Clinton if both run in 2016"

By Ben Kamisar

February 7, 2015, 10:29 a.m. EST

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said Saturday morning that voters will see stark differences between himself and Hillary Clinton if the two both decide to run for the White House in 2016.

"Trust me, there will be a real clash of ideas," Sanders said on MSNBC's "Up with Steve Kornacki."

"I happen to like and respect Hillary Clinton, but I suspect on issues like massive investments in infrastructure, on real tax reform, on the need to deal in a very bold way with the planetary crisis of climate change, with the transpacific partnership, I suspect we will have some real differences."

Sanders is flirting with entering the 2016 Democratic presidential primary, but Clinton is a prohibitive favorite. Despite her huge lead for the nomination in opinion polls, however, there are signs of discontent among progressives, especially when it comes to Clinton's economic worldview.

If Sanders runs, he'd likely trumpet the goals of the progressive wing of the party, which wants bold policies aimed at addressing rising income

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inequality.

“I think we need a political revolution in this country, we need to get people once again actively involved in the political process and take on the people who have the real power in America,” Sanders said. He added that income inequality is at its starkest since 1929 and that, since the 2008 recession, the vast majority of all new income generated has gone to the wealthiest one percent.

His wish-list includes robust infrastructure spending, raising the minimum wage and a “national health care program that guarantees health care” to all.

His proposals would both increase government spending and expand the bounds of government more generally — neither of which are things that Republicans are likely to support. But Sanders said that if progressives can rally a majority of Americans behind their message, they could force change in Congress.

“If some of us are successful in mobilizing the American people and in a sense, giving the Republicans an offer they can’t refuse, yes, we can be successful,” he said.

“We may not get everything we want, I think we can push the Republicans to raise the minimum wage a lot higher than it is right now.”

Washington Post: “Healthy economy forces Republicans to rethink Obama-skewering strategy”

By Chico Harlan and Jim Tankersley

February 6, 2015, 10:10 p.m. EST

A robust economy marked by a boom in jobs and a plunge in gas prices is threatening the longtime Republican strategy of criticizing President Obama for holding back growth and hiring, forcing the GOP to overhaul its messaging at the beginnings of a presidential campaign.

On Friday, the government announced that 257,000 jobs had been created in January and that wages over the past year had increased 2.2percent. The bump in wages, together with the sharp decline in gas prices, is providing financial relief that could be worth as much as $2,000 a year to an average worker.

The unemployment rate ticked up by one-tenth of a point to 5.7percent, largely because a wave of people reentered the workforce — or resumed job hunts — after years of discouragement.

“We’re finally getting to that point where a self-sustaining recovery is going on,” said Jeremy Lawson, chief economist at Standard Life Investments, an asset management firm.

The improvement may mark a turning point in the nation’s seven-year-long debate over the state of the economy. Obama came to office amid a financial crisis, promising to turn the economy around. Republicans repeatedly — and, in the 2014 midterm campaign, successfully — argued that he had fallen short, with an economy suffering slow growth and unnecessarily high unemployment.

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But a broad consensus among economists that the economy has come to life in recent months appears to be turning that GOP strategy on its head. Some leaders, such as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, have acknowledged and sought to claim credit for the improvement, which has coincided with Republicans taking control of both houses of Congress.

Other Republicans, while agreeing that the economy is improving, focused on the most glaring problems in the labor market, criticizing Obama for not accomplishing enough.

“We need to build on this recent momentum and continue closing the Obama recovery’s private-sector jobs gap when compared to average recoveries,” Rep. Kevin Brady (R-Tex.), the top House Republican on the Joint Economic Committee, said Friday.

Republican economic strategists say that the economy’s improvement poses a tough challenge for the GOP, potentially undermining the party’s hopes of recapturing the White House in 2016 if they don’t have a message that goes beyond assailing Obama.

“When Hillary Clinton runs, she’s going to say, ‘The Republicans gave us a crappy economy twice, and we fixed it twice. Why would you ever trust them again?’” said Kevin Hassett, a former economic adviser to GOP nominees Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney. “The objective for the people in the Republican Party who want to defeat her is to come up with a story about what’s not great” in this recovery, especially wage growth, he said.

Some in the party have already started to do that, acknowledging the economy’s improvements and tailoring their critiques to an issue more frequently championed by Democrats: the failure of the recovery to adequately boost wages for middle- and low-income workers.

“What you can argue is, yes, right now the economy has the wind at its back,” said Kevin Madden, a former Romney adviser who is a partner at Hamilton Place Strategies in Washington. “Let’s seize this opportunity to deliver broader, sustained growth.”

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush, considered a leading candidate to win the GOP nomination next year, began testing a message this week in Detroit, speaking directly to the struggles and frustrations of the middle class.

McConnell, House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, have all said in television interviews that the recovery is not lifting ordinary Americans in the way that it should.

Meanwhile, Obama said on Friday that the stronger economy is a case for his vision of economic populism.

“My number one priority is making sure the American peoples’ wages and incomes are going up, because right now the stock market has gone up [and] corporate profits are at an all-time high,” Obama said.

“At a time when the economy is finally picking up steam, we’ve got to work twice as hard in Washington,” he said.

The U.S. economy has created more than 1 million jobs over the past three months, the best stretch of hiring in 17 years. That job growth, along with improved consumer confidence and spending, suggests the recovery has finally found a higher gear, more than five years after the Great Recession officially ended.

Most economists expect that 2015 will be the best year for American workers since the recession. Less important than the pace of hiring is the emergence of solid wage growth, an indicator of full labor market health that comes when employers feel pressured to fight for workers.

The average hourly worker saw a 12-cent-per-hour raise in January, the best one-month increase since 2007. Since the Great Recession, real

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wages have remained stagnant, but this is slowly beginning to change. Over the past year, wages have risen 2.2percent. Meantime, consumer prices are seeing inflation below 1percent, because cheaper oil has caused gasoline prices to plummet.

“The pickup in average hourly earnings gains was a belated Christmas present,” Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West, said in an e-mail. “It should help the Fed look past a temporary drop in inflation this year and keep their eye on gradually normalizing interest rates.”

The typical 40-hour-per-week American worker, according to government data, makes about $1,100 more than he did one year ago. Meantime, savings from gasoline could prove just as important. The typical American spent some $2,400 at the pump in 2013, when prices averaged $3.44 per gallon, according to a government survey of consumers. If gas prices hold steady at the current $2.01, Americans will save $1,000 for the year.

It remains unclear how long gasoline prices will stay low — oil has rallied slightly over the past week — but they’ve already helped drive a psychological change in the way Americans view the economy. Consumer confidence is at a post-recession high, and in January, a wave of people reentered the job hunt after months or years on the sideline. As a result, January’s data showed at least some evidence that these workers are again looking for work. The labor force participation rate — which tracks the proportion of Americans holding or seeking a job — nudged up from 62.7 to 62.9percent.

“When I look at this report, I see a confident economy,” Department of Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez said Friday in an interview. “Companies that are bullish. New job seekers who are more optimistic. And when you factor low gas prices and wage growth, that adds up to money in people’s pockets, a greater hop in their step.”

Des Moines Register: “Sources: Biden to make Iowa trip next week”

By Jennifer Jacobs

February 6, 2015, 3:48 p.m. CST

[Subtitle:] The vice president will be in Des Moines Thursday, sources familiar with event planning told The Des Moines Register

Joe Biden, the vice president and an underdog in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, is scheduled to be back in Iowa next week, The Des Moines Register has learned.

Biden will speak in Des Moines on Thursday, according to sources familiar with preparations for his trip.

The news comes in the wake of the release this past weekend of a new Iowa Poll that shows Biden trails both Hillary Clinton and Elizabeth Warren in the horse race for most popular presidential pick among likely Democratic caucusgoers.

Biden's timing suggests he wants to keep his name in circulation as presidential material - any time top-shelf politicians make a trip here it reinforces the notion that they harbor aspirations for the top job. He is currently in Belgium, meeting with European leaders in part to talk about sanctions against Russia and security and aid to Ukraine. He'll also attend a security summit in Germany.

Democrats generally think the 2016 Democratic nomination is Clinton's if she wants it, although she has yet to announce an official candidacy. In September, Biden made headlines for chasing Clinton here just three days after she made her Iowa comeback after a seven-year absence; she

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spoke before an audience of 10,000 and a horde of media at the Harkin Steak fry.

Biden's event Thursday, like the one in September, will be an official White House trip to talk about the Obama administration's economic policies. Biden remarks in September, with the Iowa Capitol in the background, had the air of a campaign stump speech, as he called for raising the minimum wage and making life better for the middle class.

Biden, 72, was here more recently, in late October, to campaign in Davenport for two Iowa Democrats running for federal office, Dave Loebsack, who was re-elected to Congress, and Bruce Braley, who lost his bid for U.S. Senate.

This will be Biden's fourth post-2012 trip here. He spoke at the 2013 Harkin Steak Fry, and he did a private event with invited guests at Des Moines' ballpark, Principal Park, beforehand.

Biden has a network of connections in Iowa after running for president here in both 1987 and 2007, then campaigning extensively with President Barack Obama in 2012.

Known as a champion for the middle class and an expert on foreign policy, Biden has been described by Iowa Democrats as forceful, engaging and direct, but also has a reputation for long-windedness and verbal gaffes collectively known as Bidenisms. An Iowa Poll in September 2012 found that 47 percent of Iowans considered Biden a drag on the ticket.

Among Democratic activists, opinions of him are high, the new Iowa Poll shows. He's viewed favorably by 78 percent of likely 2016 Democratic caucusgoers, the Jan. 26-29 poll found. Just 20 percent have a negative view of him.

That means his popularity among those core Democratic voters is almost as high as Clinton's (84 percent favorable). But he's the first choice of just 9 percent of likely caucusgoers, while Clinton is the top choice for 56 percent. Warren, a U.S. senator from Massachusetts, is the first choice for 16 percent.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: “New Hampshire, and the case for Hillary Clinton not quite being ‘inevitable’”

By Scott Clement

February 6, 2015, 2:30 p.m. EST

New Hampshire has been very good to the Clintons, making Bill Clinton the "comeback kid" in its 1992 primary and helping Hillary Clinton to a badly needed victory after Barack Obama won Iowa in 2008. And Hillary Clinton is a strong favorite there again this year -- as she is nearly everywhere.

But as we enter the 2016 campaign, it's worth remembering that New Hampshire likes to surprise us. And there are plenty of reasons to keep an eye on the Granite State when it comes to Clinton's supposed "inevitability" as the Democratic nominee.

Despite vast coverage of Clinton's dominance in lining up for a presidential run, three in four likely New Hampshire Democratic primary voters in a new WMUR Granite State Poll say they're "still trying to decide" who they'll vote for in the state's 2016 primary. Just 7 percent say they've "definitely decided."

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The widespread lack of commitment in the poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire, is unsurprising roughly one year before voting. But it is a reminder there's ample room for volatility in a Democratic race which thus far has looked like a looming Clinton rout. People are at least open-minded.

Between the courting of top strategists and Democratic donors, polls asking how Democrats would vote "if the election were held today" have found Clinton dominating other hopefuls. Indeed, 58 percent in the same sample of Democrats said they would support Clinton today, with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) in a distant second at 14 percent and Vice President Biden at 8 percent. This does not imply much hemming and hawing, but the "still trying to decide" number assures she hasn't put the Democratic nomination on ice just yet (nor should we expect her to have done so).

The lack of final decision is not itself worrisome for Clinton; voters simply don't decide this early. At this point in 2011, the Republican field was in a very similar situation, with 78 percent of Republican likely voters in February 2011 survey still trying to decide who to support -- even as Mitt Romney held a 30-point lead over other potential contenders in a state he wound up dominating in 2012. Romney won by 16 points over Ron Paul, smaller than his initial edge but still a no-doubted from the beginning.

But the survey offers other clues as to Clinton's vulnerabilities among primary voters and makes clear Democratic voters are not thrilled about their options so far. Fewer than one in five Democrats say they're "very satisfied" with the choice of candidates for the Democratic nomination (18 percent); 63 percent take poll choice equivalent of "meh," saying they are "somewhat satisfied." And despite nearly six in 10 preferring her to other Democrats, just 32 percent say she is the most likable and 31 percent say she's the most believable. No other candidate, though, beats her on these attributes.

The rest of the poll is gravy for Clinton's prospects, and bodes particularly poorly for Joe Biden, one of her strongest potential rivals. More than eight in 10 have a favorable impression of her (83 percent) and just 9 percent are unfavorable -- by far the best favorable-unfavorable margin (+74). Others like Warren and Sanders are similarly well-liked by those who know them, but aren't as well-known.

Biden's image is weaker according to the poll. His favorability margin is a modest +23 (53 percent favorable/30 percent unfavorable), which far weaker than Warren or Clinton and worse than surveys by the same pollster in October and July (+32 and +47 favorability margins, respectively.) Biden is less popular in New Hampshire than Iowa, where a Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics poll found a 78/20 percent favorable/ unfavorable split on general impressions.

The poll underscores how much Clinton's candidacy banks on other Democrats failing to make strong impression ahead of primaries this fall, and the importance of maintaining her own positive image. When New Hampshire voters do begin to decide, she'll want voters' opinions to look a lot they do right now.

The WMUR Granite State poll was conducted on landline and cellular phones Jan. 22 to Feb. 3 among a random sample of 297 likely voters in the 2016 New Hampshire Democratic primary. The margin of sampling error is 5.7 percentage points.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

- February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)
- March 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by EMILY's List (AP)
- March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)
- March 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to keynote Irish American Hall of Fame (NYT)
- March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)
- March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From:	"David Hayes" <dhayes@law.stanford.edu>
To:	"Peter Ogden" <progden@gmail.com>
	"Trevor Houser" <tghouser.hrc@gmail.com>
	"Ben Kobren" <benkobren@gmail.com>
	"Jake Sullivan" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	7/31/2015 4:50:35 AM
Subject:	Re: Coal Policy

+ John

On Wed, Jul 29, 2015 at 10:14 PM, David Hayes <dhayes@law.stanford.edu > wrote:

FYI: The Hill ran my op-ed on coal reform this morning.

Here's the link, and the text:

http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/249442-the-case-for-reforming-the-federal-coal-program

July 29, 2015, 06:00 am

The case for reforming the federal coal program

By David J. Hayes

President Obama has overseen the most sweeping and successful reforms of federal energy policies in recent memory. From strengthening environmental standards for oil and gas drilling and cutting pollution from power plants to accelerating the construction of large-scale solar and wind projects on public lands, the Obama administration has worked to modernize nearly every element of U.S. energy policy.

The remaining exception is the federal coal program.

No element of the federal government's energy program is more outdated, more unfair to taxpayers, and more inconsistent with our nation's energy and environmental goals than the Department of the Interior's coal leasing policies.

Forty percent of U.S. coal is mined on taxpayer-owned public lands, primarily in the Powder River Basin. Through a fundamentally non-competitive process that has been criticized by independent investigators, coal companies are able to buy the rights to strip-mine taxpayer-owned coal for about a dollar per ton. Taxpayers are shortchanged a second time when coal companies use loopholes to dodge royalty payments that are owed from production.

What's more, when this artificially cheap federal coal is burned in power plants, it contributes to respiratory illness, distorts U.S. energy markets, and is a major source of climate change – accounting for one-tenth of all U.S. greenhouse gas pollution.

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell is absolutely right: it is time to reform the federal coal program.

In a landmark speech this spring, Secretary Jewell called for "an honest and open conversation about modernizing the federal coal program," citing concerns about fairness to taxpayers and climate change.

Starting today, this conversation will unfold in a series of listening sessions in Washington DC, Billings, Montana, Gillette, Wyoming, Denver, Colorado and Farmington, New Mexico. It will be the first time in more than thirty years that the Department of the Interior has conducted a high-level review of how it manages taxpayer-owned coal.

At these listening sessions, the Obama administration will undoubtedly hear the coal industry's case for the status quo, and the continuation of policies that are intended to maximize production with little regard to external costs or the fair return that is owed to taxpayers.

The Interior Department will also hear from reformers: ranchers in Wyoming who worry about who will clean up the mines in their backyards; sportsmen who are seeing development cut up big game and other wildlife habitat; Western mayors who know that fewer loopholes and higher royalties will bring much-needed revenues to their communities; and taxpayer advocates who argue for parity between coal royalties and other federal energy policies.

Jewell should use the listening sessions to develop a clear and comprehensive plan for reform that incorporates the best ideas that were heard. A top appointee should present this plan to the Secretary within 60 days of the end of the Interior Department's public comment period for coal reform.

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Four ideas, in particular, deserve consideration in this reform plan.

First, the Obama administration should modernize the revenue policies for federal coal to ensure taxpayers get a fair return and account for coal's carbon costs. Interior should establish a minimum bid required to buy a coal lease and increase the royalty rate for surface mining production from 12.5 percent to a minimum of 18.75 percent – the rate applied to offshore oil and gas drilling. Payments by companies mining taxpayer-owned coal also need to account for its high carbon content and climate change impacts.

Second, the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should rethink how it conducts lease sales in the Powder River Basin to restore competitiveness among companies and to clearly identify areas that are too special to mine. No comprehensive environmental and economic review has been undertaken in more than 30 years; BLM and the Department of Energy should launch one now.

Third, the Interior Department should immediately evaluate whether coal companies that are mining on federal lands have adequate resources to pay to clean up their own mines. With some coal companies facing financial troubles – largely as a result of competition with natural gas – there is growing concern that taxpayers could be left to foot the bill if there are defaults or bankruptcies. Help also is needed for coal communities who are bearing the brunt of the falling demand for coal.

Finally, and importantly, the Interior Department should call a time-out from selling new coal leases or renewing old leases until it completes its internal review of the program and announces a comprehensive suite of reforms. Taxpayers deserve a fair deal from any new coal leases that are sold on their public lands.

To be sure, the task of reforming the federal coal program will not be easy nor will it be met with enthusiasm from the coal industry. The reality is, however, that America's energy markets are changing fast and – like the federal government's oil, gas, and renewable energy programs – it is time to bring federal coal policy into the 21st century.

Hayes is the former deputy secretary of the Department of the Interior. He is a visiting senior fellow at the Center for American Progress.

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From: Tikkun <magazine@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 8/25/2014 6:24:45 AM
Subject: Holocaust Survivors Condemn Israeli Assault on Gaza

Tikkun { tē-kün } to heal, repair, and transform the world

Editor's Note: The ad below appeared in the *New York Times.* While I do not agree that the appropriate response to Israel's actions in Gaza is a blanket boycott of Israel (though I do support boycotting firms providing support for Israel's Occupation of the West Bank and non-Palestinian firms that operate in the West Bank and help Israeli settlements there), I believe that it is important to publicize the growing sentiment of revulsion at the consequences of the Occupation, the blockade of Gaza, and the destruction of Gaza and its people among Jewish people who are unwilling to subordinate their ethical sensibilities to blind support for the policies of the current government of Israel. Below that letter we reprint a disturbing article from the Israelis newspaper *Ha'aretz* about growing racism among Israeli youth. While in my view the article is overblown and doesn't give enough attention to counter-tendencies among some Israeli youth, it nevertheless does describe an aspect of Israel society that is deeply troubling. --Rabbi Michael Lerner

Jewish survivors and descendents of survivors of Nazi genocide unequivocally condemn the massacre of Palestinians in Gaza

As Jewish survivors and descendents of survivors of the Nazi genocide we unequivocally condemn the massacre of Palestinians in Gaza and the ongoing occupation and colonization of historic Palestine. We further condemn the United States for providing Israel with the funding to carry out the attack, and Western states more generally for using their diplomatic muscle to protect Israel from condemnation. Genocide begins with the silence of the world.

We are alarmed by the extreme, racist dehumanization of Palestinians in Israeli society, which has reached a fever-pitch. In Israel, politicians and pundits in The Times of Israel and The Jerusalem Post have called openly for genocide of Palestinians and right-wing Israelis are adopting Neo-Nazi insignia.

Furthermore, we are disgusted and outraged by Elie Wiesel's abuse of our history in these [NY Times] pages to promote blatant falsehoods used to justify the unjustifiable: Israel's wholesale effort to destroy Gaza and the murder of nearly 2,000 Palestinians, including many hundreds of children. Nothing can justify bombing UN shelters, homes, hospitals and universities. Nothing can justify depriving people of electricity and water.

We must raise our collective voices and use our collective power to bring about an end to all forms of racism, including the ongoing genocide of Palestinian people. We call for an immediate end to the siege against and blockade of Gaza. We call for the full economic, cultural and academic boycott of Israel. "Never again" must mean NEVER

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AGAIN FOR ANYONE!

Signed,
Survivors

1. Hajo Meyer, survivor of Auschwitz, The Netherlands.
2. Henri Wajnblum, survivor and son of a victim of Auschwitz from Lodz, Poland. Lives in Belgium.
3. Renate Bridenthal, child refugee from Hitler, granddaughter of Auschwitz victim, United States.
4. Marianka Ehrlich Ross, survivor of Nazi ethnic cleansing in Vienna, Austria. Now lives in United States.
5. Irena Klepfisz, child survivor from the Warsaw Ghetto, Poland. Now lives in United States.
6. Karen Pomer, granddaughter of member of Dutch resistance and survivor of Bergen Belsen. Now lives in the United States.
7. Hedy Epstein, her parents & other family members were deported to Camp de Gurs & subsequently all perished in Auschwitz. Now lives in United States.
8. Lillian Rosengarten, survivor of the Nazi Holocaust, United States.
9. Suzanne Weiss, survived in hiding in France, and daughter of a mother who was murdered in Auschwitz. Now lives in Canada.
10. H. Richard Leuchtag, survivor, United States.
11. Ervin Somogyi, survivor and son of survivors, United States.
12. Ilse Hadda, survivor on Kindertransport to England. Now lives in United States.
13. Jacques Glaser, survivor, France.
14. Norbert Hirschhorn, refugee of Nazi genocide and grandson of three grandparents who died in the Shoah, London.
15. Eva Naylor, surivor, New Zealand.
16. Suzanne Ross, child refugee from Nazi occupation in Belgium, two thirds of family perished in the Lodz Ghetto, in Auschwitz, and other Camps, United States.
17. Bernard Swierszcz, Polish survivor, lost relatives in Majdanek concentration camp. Now lives in the United States.
18. Joseph Klinkov, hidden child in Poland, still lives in Poland.
19. Nicole Milner, survivor from Belgium. Now lives in United States.
20. Hedi Saraf, child survivor and daughter of survivor of Dachau, United States.
21. Michael Rice, child survivor and son and grandson of survivor, aunt died in Auschwitz and cousin in concentration camp, ALL 14 remaining Jewish children in my Dutch boarding school were murdered in concentration camps, United States.
22. Barbara Roose, survivor from Germany, half-sister killed in Auschwitz, United States.
23. Sonia Herzbrun, survivor of Nazi genocide, France.
24. Ivan Huber, survivor with my parents, but 3 of 4 grandparents murdered, United States.
25. Altman Janina, survivor of Janowski concentration camp, Lvov. Lives in Israel.
26. Leibu Strul Zalman, survivor from Vaslui Romania. Lives in Jerusalem, Palestine.
27. Miriam Almeleh, survivor, United States.
28. George Bartenieff, child survivor from Germany and son of survivors, United States.
29. Margarete Liebstaedter, survivor, hidden by Christian people in Holland. Lives in Belgium.
30. Edith Bell, survivor of Westerbork, Theresienstadt, Auschwitz and Kurzbach. Lives in United States.
31. Janine Euvrard, survivor, France.
32. Harry Halbreich, survivor, German.
33. Ruth Kupferschmidt, survivor, spent five years hiding, The Netherlands.

Children of survivors

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34. Liliana Kaczerginski, daughter of Vilna ghetto resistance fighter and granddaughter of murdered in Ponary woods, Lithuania. Now lives in France.
35. Jean-Claude Meyer, son of Marcel, shot as a hostage by the Nazis, whose sister and parents died in Auschwitz. Now lives in France.
36. Chava Finkler, daughter of survivor of Starachovice labour camp, Poland. Now lives in Canada.
37. Micah Bazant, child of a survivor of the Nazi genocide, United States.
38. Sylvia Schwarz, daughter and granddaughter of survivors and granddaughter of victims of the Nazi genocide, United States.
39. Margot Goldstein, daughter and granddaughter of survivors of the Nazi genocide, United States.
40. Ellen Schwarz Wasfi, daughter of survivors from Vienna, Austria. Now lives in United States.
41. Lisa Kosowski, daughter of survivor and granddaughter of Auschwitz victims, United States.
42. Daniel Strum, son of a refugee from Vienna, who, with his parents were forced to flee in 1939, his maternal grand-parents were lost, United States.
43. Bruce Ballin, son of survivors, some relatives of parents died in camps, one relative beheaded for being in the Baum Resistance Group, United States.
44. Rachel Duell, daughter of survivors from Germany and Poland, United States.
45. Tom Mayer, son of survivor and grandson of victims, United States.
46. Alex Nissen, daughter of survivors who escaped but lost family in the Holocaust, United States.
47. Mark Aleshnick, son of survivor who lost most of her family in Nazi genocide, United States.
48. Prof. Haim Bresheeth, son of two survivors of Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen, London.
49. Todd Michael Edelman, son and grandson of survivors and great-grandson of victims of the Nazi genocide in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, United States.
50. Tim Naylor, son of survivor, New Zealand.
51. Victor Nepomnyashchy, son and grandson of survivors and grandson and relative of many victims, United States.
52. Tanya Ury, daughter of parents who fled Nazi Germany, granddaughter, great granddaugher and niece of survivors and those who died in concentration camps, Germany.
53. Rachel Giora, daughter of Polish Jews who fled Poland, Israel.
54. Jane Hirschmann, daughter of survivors, United States.
55. Jenny Heinz, daughter of survivor, United States.
56. Jaap Hamburger, son of survivors and grandchild of 4 grandparents murdered in Auschwitz, The Netherlands.
57. Elsa Auerbach, daughter of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, United States.
58. Julian Clegg, son and grandson of Austrian refugees, relative of Austrian and Hungarian concentration camp victims, Taiwan.
59. David Mizner, son of a survivor, relative of people who died in the Holocaust, United States.
60. Jeffrey J. Westcott, son and grandson of Holocaust survivors from Germany, United States.
61. Susan K. Jacoby, daughter of parents who were refugees from Nazi Germany, granddaughter of survivor of Buchenwald, United States.
62. Audrey Bomse, daughter of a survivor of Nazi ethnic cleansing in Vienna, lives in United States.
63. Daniel Gottschalk, son and grandson of refugees from the Holocaust, relative to various family members who died in the Holocaust, United States.
64. Barbara Grossman, daughter of survivors, granddaughter of Holocaust victims, United States.
65. Abraham Weizfeld PhD, son of survivorswho escaped Warsaw (Jewish Bundist) and Lublin ghettos, Canada.

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66. David Rohrlich, son of refugees from Vienna, grandson of victim, United States.
67. Walter Ballin, son of holocaust survivors, United States.
68. Fritzi Ross, daughter of survivor, granddaughter of Dachau survivor Hugo Rosenbaum, great-granddaughter and great-niece of victims, United States.
69. Reuben Roth, son of survivors who fled from Poland in 1939, Canada.
70. Tony Iltis, father fled from Czechoslovakia and grandmother murdered in Auschwitz, Australia.
71. Anne Hudes, daughter and granddaughter of survivors from Vienna, Austria, great-granddaughter of victims who perished in Auschwitz, United States.
72. Mateo Nube, son of survivor from Berlin, Germany. Lives in United States.
73. John Mifsud, son of survivors from Malta, United States.
74. Mike Okrent, son of two holocaust / concentration camp survivors, United States.
75. Susan Bailey, daughter of survivor and niece of victims, UK.
76. Brenda Lewis, child of Kindertransport survivor, parent's family died in Auschwitz and Terezin. Lives in Canada.
77. Patricia Rincon-Mautner, daughter of survivor and granddaughter of survivor, Colombia.
78. Barak Michèle, daughter and grand-daughter of a survivor, many members of family were killed in Auschwitz or Bessarabia. Lives in Germany.
79. Jessica Blatt, daughter of child refugee survivor, both grandparents' entire families killed in Poland. Lives in United States
80. Maia Ettinger, daughter & granddaughter of survivors, United States.
81. Ammiel Alcalay, child of survivors from then Yugoslavia. Lives in United States.
82. Julie Deborah Kosowski, daughter of hidden child survivor, grandparents did not return from Auschwitz, United States.
83. Julia Shpirt, daughter of survivor, United States.
84. Ruben Rosenberg Colorni, grandson and son of survivors, The Netherlands.
85. Victor Ginsburgh, son of survivors, Belgium.
86. Arianne Sved, daughter of a survivor and granddaughter of victim, Spain.
87. Rolf Verleger, son of survivors, father survived Auschwitz, mother survived deportation from Berlin to Estonia, other family did not survive. Lives in Germany.
88. Euvrard Janine, daughter of survivors, France.
89. H. Fleishon, daughter of survivors, United States.
90. Barbara Meyer, daughter of survivor in Polish concentration camps. Lives in Italy.
91. Susan Heuman, child of survivors and granddaughter of two grandparents murdered in a forest in Minsk. Lives in United States.
92. Rami Heled, son of survivors, all grandparents and family killed by the Germans in Treblinka, Oswiecim and Russia. Lives in Israel.
93. Eitan Altman, son of survivor, France.
94. Jorge Sved, son of survivor and grandson of victim, United Kingdom
95. Maria Kruczkowska, daughter of Lea Horowicz who survived the holocaust in Poland. Lives in Poland.
96. Sarah Lanzman, daughter of survivor of Auschwitz, United States.
97. Cheryl W, daughter, granddaughter and nieces of survivors, grandfather was a member of the Dutch Underground (Eindhoven). Lives in Australia.
98. Chris Holmquist, son of survivor, UK.
99. Beverly Stuart, daughter and granddaughter of survivors from Romania and Poland. Lives in United States.
100. Peter Truskier, son and grandson of survivors, United States.
101. Karen Bermann, daughter of a child refugee from Vienna. Lives in United States.
102. Rebecca Weston, daughter and granddaughter of survivor, Spain.
103. Prof. Yosefa Loshitzky, daughter of Holocaust survivors, London, UK.
104. Marion Geller, daughter and granddaughter of those who escaped, great-granddaughter and relative of many who died in the camps, UK.
105. Susan Slyomovics, daughter and granddaughter of survivors of Auschwitz, Plaszow, Markleeberg and Ghetto Mateszalka, United States.
106. Helga Fischer Mankovitz, daughter, niece and cousin of refugees who fled from

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Austria, niece of victim who perished, Canada.
107. Steinberg, daughter of survivors and grand daughter of victim killed in Auschwitz as well as all his family of Poland, France.
108. Michael Wischnia, son of survivors and relative of many who perished, United States.
109. Arthur Graaff, son of decorated Dutch resistance member and nazi victim, The Netherlands.
110. Johanna Haan, daughter and granddaughter of victims in the Netherlands. Lives in the Netherlands.
111. Aron Ben Miriam, son of and nephew of survivors from Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Salzwedel, Lodz ghetto. Lives in United States.

Grandchildren of survivors

112. Raphael Cohen, grandson of Jewish survivors of the Nazi genocide, United States.
113. Emma Rubin, granddaughter of a survivor of the Nazi genocide, United States.
114. Alex Safron, grandson of a survivor of the Nazi genocide, United States.
115. Danielle Feris, grandchild of a Polish grandmother whose whole family died in the Nazi Holocaust, United States.
116. Jesse Strauss, grandson of Polish survivors of the Nazi genocide, United States.
117. Anna Baltzer, granddaughter of survivors whose family members perished in Auschwitz (others were members of the Belgian Resistance), United States.
118. Abigail Harms, granddaughter of Holocaust survivor from Austria, Now lives in United States.
119. Tessa Strauss, granddaughter of Polish Jewish survivors of the Nazi genocide, United States.
120. Caroline Picker, granddaughter of survivors of the Nazi genocide, United States.
121. Amalle Dublon, grandchild and great-grandchild of survivors of the Nazi holocaust, United States.
122. Antonie Kaufmann Churg, 3rd cousin of Ann Frank and grand-daughter of NON-survivors, United States.
123. Aliza Shvarts, granddaughter of survivors, United States.
124. Linda Mamoun, granddaughter of survivors, United States.
125. Abby Okrent, granddaughter of survivors of the Auschwitz, Dachau, Stuttgart, and the Lodz Ghetto, United States.
126. Ted Auerbach, grandson of survivor whose whole family died in the Holocaust, United States.
127. Beth Bruch, grandchild of German Jews who fled to US and great-grandchild of Nazi holocaust survivor, United States.
128. Bob Wilson, grandson of a survivor, United States.
129. Katharine Wallerstein, granddaughter of survivors and relative of many who perished, United States.
130. Sylvia Finzi, granddaughter and niece of Holocaust victims murdered in Auschwitz, London and Berlin. Now lives in London.
131. Esteban Schmelz, grandson of KZ-Theresienstadt victim, Mexico City.
132. Françoise Basch, grand daughter of Victor and Ilona Basch murdered by the Gestapo and the French Milice, France.
133. Gabriel Alkon, grandson of Holocaust survivors, Untied States.
134. Nirit Ben-Ari, grandchild of Polish grandparents from both sides whose entire family was killed in the Nazi Holocaust, United States.
135. Heike Schotten, granddaughter of refugees from Nazi Germany who escaped the genocide, United States.
136. Ike af Carlstèn, grandson of survivor, Norway.
137. Elias Lazarus, grandson of Holocaust refugees from Dresden, United States and Australia.
138. Laura Mandelberg, granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, United States.
139. Josh Ruebner, grandson of Nazi Holocaust survivors, United States.
140. Shirley Feldman, granddaughter of survivors, United States.

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141. Nuno Cesar Ferreira, grandson of survivor, Brazil.
142. Andrea Land, granddaugher of survivors who fled programs in Poland, all European relatives died in German and Polish concentration camps, United States.
143. Sarah Goldman, granddaughter of survivors of the Nazi genocide, United States.
144. Baruch Wolski, grandson of survivors, Austria.
145. Frank Amahran, grandson of survivor, United States.
146. Eve Spangler, granddaughter of Holocaust NON-survivor, United States.
147. Gil Medovoy, grandchild of Fela Hornstein who lost her enitre family in Poland during the Nazi genocide, United States.
148. Michael Hoffman, grandson of survivors, rest of family killed in Poland during Holocaust, live in El Salvador.
149. Sarah Hogarth, granddaughter of a survivor whose entire family was killed at Auschwitz, United States.
150. Tibby Brooks, granddaughter, niece, and cousin of victims of Nazis in Ukraine. Lives in United States.
151. Dan Berger, grandson of survivor, United States.
152. Dani Baurer, granddaughter of Baruch Pollack, survivor of Auschwitz. Lives in United States.
153. Talia Baurer, granddaughter of a survivor, United States.
154. Evan Cofsky, grandson of survivor, UK.
155. Annie Sicherman, granddaughter of survivors, United States.
156. Anna Heyman, granddaughter of survivors, UK.
157. Maya Ober, granddaughter of survivor and relative of deceased in Teresienstadt and Auschwitz, Tel Aviv.
158. Anne Haan, granddaughter of Joseph Slagter, survivor of Auschwitz. Lives in The Netherlands.
159. Oliver Ginsberg, grandson of victim, Germany.
160. Alexia Zdral, granddaughter of Polish survivors, United States.
161. Mitchel Bollag, grandson of Stanislaus Eisner, who was living in Czechoslovakia before being sent to a concentration camp. United States.
162. Vivienne Porzsolt, granddaughter of victims of Nazi genocide, Australia.
163. Lisa Nessan, granddaughter of survivors, United States.
164. Kally Alexandrou, granddaughter of survivors, Australia.
165. Laura Ostrow, granddaughter of survivors, United States
166. Anette Jacobson, granddaughter of relatives killed, town of Kamen Kashirsk, Poland. Lives in United States.
167. Tamar Yaron (Teresa Werner), granddaughter and niece of victims of the Nazi genocide in Poland, Israel.
168. Antonio Roman-Alcalá, grandson of survivor, United States.
169. Jeremy Luban, grandson of survivor, United States.
170. Heather West, granddaughter of survivors and relative of other victims, United States.
171. Jeff Ethan Au Green, grandson of survivor who escaped from a Nazi work camp and hid in the Polish-Ukranian forest, United States.
172. Noa Shaindlinger, granddaughter of four holocaust survivors, Canada.
173. Merilyn Moos, granddaughter, cousin and niece murdered victims, UK.
174. Ruth Tenne, granddaughter and relative of those who perished in Warsaw Ghetto, London.
175. Craig Berman, grandson of Holocaust survivors, UK.
176. Nell Hirschmann-Levy, granddaughter of survivors from Germany. Lives in United States.
177. Osha Neumann, grandson of Gertrud Neumann who died in Theresienstadt. Lives in United States.
178. Georg Frankl, Grandson of survivor Ernst-Immo Frankl who survived German work camp. Lives in Germany.
179. Julian Drix, grandson of two survivors from Poland, including survivor and escapee from liquidated Janowska concentration camp in Lwow, Poland. Lives in United

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States.

180. Katrina Mayer, grandson and relative of victims, UK.
181. Avigail Abarbanel, granddaughter of survivors, Scotland.
182. Denni Turp, granddaughter of Michael Prooth, survivor, UK.
183. Fenya Fischler, granddaughter of survivors, UK.
184. Yakira Teitel, granddaughter of German Jewish refugees, great-granddaughter of survivor, United States.
185. Sarah, granddaughter of survivor, the Netherlands.
186. Susan Koppelman, granddaughter of survivor, United States
187. Hana Umeda, granddaughter of survivor, Warsaw.
188. Jordan Silverstein, grandson of two survivors, Canada.
189. Daniela Petuchowski, granddaughter of survivors, United States.
190. Aaron Lerner, grandson of survivors, United States.
191. Judith Bernstein, granddaughter of Holocaust victims in Auschwitz, Germany.
192. Samantha Wischnia, granddaughter and great niece of survivors from Poland, United States.
193. Elizabeth Wischnia, granddaughter and grand niece of three holocaust survivors, great aunt worked for Schindler, United States.
194. Daniel Waterman, grandson of survivor, The Netherlands.
195. Elana Baurer, granddaughter of survivor, United States.
196. Pablo Roman-Alcala, grandson of participant in the kindertransport and survivor, Germany.

Great grandchildren of survivors

197. Natalie Rothman, great granddaughter of Holocaust victims in Warsaw. Now lives in Canada.
198. Yotam Amit, great-grandson of Polish Jew who fled Poland, United States.
199. Daniel Boyarin, great grandson of victims of the Nazi genocide, United States.
200. Maria Luban, great-granddaughter of survivors of the Holocaust, United States.
201. Mimi Erlich, great-granddaughter of Holocaust victim, United States.
202. Olivia Kraus, great-grandaughter of victims, granddaughter and daughter of family that fled Austria and Czechoslovakia. Lives in United States.
203. Emily (Chisefsky) Alma, great granddaughter and great grandniece of victims in Bialystok, Poland, United States.
204. Inbal Amin, great-granddaughter of a mother and son that escaped and related to plenty that didn’t, United States.
205. Matteo Luban, great-granddaughter of survivors, United States.
206. Saira Weiner, greatgranddaughter and niece of those murdered in the Holocaust, granddaughter of survivors, UK.
207. Andrea Isaak, great-granddaughter of survivor, Canada.

Other relatives of survivors

208. Terri Ginsberg, niece of a survivor of the Nazi genocide, United States.
209. Nathan Pollack, relative of Holocaust survivors and victims, United States.
210. Marcy Winograd, relative of victims, United States.
211. Rabbi Borukh Goldberg, relative of many victims, United States.
212. Martin Davidson, great-nephew of victims who lived in the Netherlands, Spain.
213. Miriam Pickens, relative of survivors, United States.
214. Dorothy Werner, spouse of survivor, United States.
215. Hyman and Hazel Rochman, relatives of Holocaust victims, United States.
216. Rich Siegel, cousin of victims who were rounded up and shot in town square of Czestochowa, Poland. Lives in United States.
217. Ignacio Israel Cruz-Lara, relative of survivor, Mexico.
218. Debra Stuckgold, relative of survivors, United States.
219. Joel Kovel, relatives killed at Babi Yar, United States.
220. Carol Krauthamer Smith, niece of survivors of the Nazi genocide, United States.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

221. Chandra Ahuva Hauptman, relatives from grandfather's family died in Lodz ghetto, one survivor cousin and many deceased from Auschwitz, United States.
222. Shelly Weiss, relative of Holocaust victims, United States.
223. Carol Sanders, niece and cousin of victims of Holocaust in Poland, United States.
224. Sandra Rosen, great-niece and cousin of survivors, United States.
225. Raquel Hiller, relative of victims in Poland. Now lives in Mexico.
226. Alex Kantrowitz, most of father's family murdered Nesvizh, Belarus 1941. Lives in United States.
227. Michael Steven Smith, many relatives were killed in Hungary. Lives in United States.
228. Linda Moore, relative of survivors and victims, United States.
229. Juliet VanEenwyk, niece and cousin of Hungarian survivors, United States.
230. Anya Achtenberg, grand niece, niece, cousin of victims tortured and murdered in Ukraine. Lives in United States.
231. Betsy Wolf-Graves, great niece of uncle who shot himself as he was about to be arrested by Nazis, United States.
232. Abecassis Pierre, grand-uncle died in concentration camp, France.
233. Robert Rosenthal, great-nephew and cousin of survivors from Poland. Lives in United States.
234. Régine Bohar, relative of victims sent to Auschwitz, Canada.
235. Denise Rickles, relative of survivors and victims in Poland. Lives in United States.
236. Louis Hirsch, relative of victims, United States.
237. Concepción Marcos, relative of victim, Spain.
238. George Sved, relative of victim, Spain.
239. Judith Berlowitz, relative of victims and survivors, United States.
240. Rebecca Sturgeon, descendant of Holocaust survivor from Amsterdam. Lives in UK.
241. Justin Levy, relative of victims and survivors, Ireland.
242. Sam Semoff, relative of survivors and victims, UK.
243. Leah Brown Klein, daughter-in-law of survivors Miki and Etu Fixler Klein, United States
244. Karen Malpede, spouse of hidden child who then fled Germany. Lives in United States
245. Michel Euvrard, husband of survivor, France.
246. Walter Ebmeyer, grandnephew of three Auschwitz victims and one survivor now living in Jerusalem, United States.
247. Garrett Wright, relative of victims and survivors, United States.

Israeli teenagers: Racist and proud of it

Ethnic hatred has become a basic element in the everyday life of Israeli youth, a forthcoming book finds.

By Or Kashti in *Ha'aretz*

"For me, personally, Arabs are something I can't look at and can't stand," a 10th-grade girl from a high school in the central part of the country says in abominable Hebrew. "I am tremendously racist. I come from a racist home. If I get the chance in the army to shoot one of them, I won't think twice. I'm ready to kill someone with my hands, and it's an Arab. In my education I learned that ... their education is to be terrorists, and there is no belief in them. I live in an area of Arabs, and every day I see these Ishmaelites, who

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pass by the [bus] station and whistle. I wish them death."

The student's comments appear in a chapter devoted to ethnicity and racism among youth from a forthcoming book, "Scenes from School Life" (in Hebrew) by Idan Yaron and Yoram Harpaz. The book is based on anthropological observations made by Dr. Yaron, a sociologist, over the course of three years in a six-year, secular high school in the Israeli heartland – "the most average school we could find," says Harpaz, a professor of education.

The book is nothing short of a page-turner, especially now, following the overt displays of racism and hatred of the Other that have been revealed in the country in the past month or so. Maybe "revealed" isn't the right word, as it suggests surprise at the intensity of the phenomenon. But Yaron's descriptions of what he saw at the school show that such hatred is a basic everyday element among youth, and a key component of their identity. Yaron portrays the hatred without rose-colored glasses or any attempt to present it as a sign of social "unity." What he observed is unfiltered hatred. One conclusion that arises from the text is how little the education system is able – or wants – to deal with the racism problem.

Not all educators are indifferent or ineffective. There are, of course, teachers and others in the realm of education who adopt a different approach, who dare to try and take on the system. But they are a minority. The system's internal logic operates differently.

Much of the chapter on racism revolves around the Bible lessons in a ninth-grade class, whose theme was revenge. "The class starts, and the students' suggestions of examples of revenge are written on the blackboard," the teacher told Yaron. A student named Yoav "insists that revenge is an important emotion. He utilizes the material being studied to hammer home his semi-covert message: All the Arabs should be killed. The class goes into an uproar. Five students agree with Yoav and say openly: The Arabs should be killed."

One student relates that he heard in the synagogue on Shabbat that "Aravim zeh erev rav" ["Arabs are a rabble," in a play on words], and also Amalek, and there is a commandment to kill them all," a reference to the prototypical biblical enemy of the Children of Israel. Another student says he would take revenge on anyone who murdered his family, but would not kill them all.

"Some of the other students are outraged by this [softer stance]," the teacher reported. "The student then makes it clear that he has no love for Arabs and that he is not a leftist."

Another student, Michal, says she is shocked by what she is hearing. She believes that the desire for revenge will only foment a cycle of blood; not all Arabs are bad, she adds, and certainly they don't all deserve to die. "People who decree the fate of others so easily are not worthy of life," she says.

Yoav himself claims to have heard Michal say: "Too bad you weren't killed in a terrorist attack."

"The students all start shouting," the teacher says, according to Yaron. "Some are personally insulted, others are up in arms, and Michal finds herself alone and absorbing all the fire – 'Arab lover,' 'leftist.' I try to calm things down. The class is too distraught to move on to the biblical story. The bell rings. I let them out and suggest that they be more tolerant of one another."

In the corridor during the break, the teacher notices that a crowd has gathered from all the ninth-grade classes. They have formed a human chain and are taunting Michal: "Fie, fie, fie, the Arabs will die." The teacher: "I contemplated for five seconds whether to respond or keep going down the corridor. Finally I dispersed the gathering and insisted that Michal accompany me to the teachers' room. She was in a state of shock, reeling

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under the insult, with tears to come instantly."

Six students are suspended for two days. The teacher reports on his conversation with Michal: "She continues to be laconic. This is what always happens, she says. The opinions are racist, and her only regret is speaking out. I just want to hug her and say I'm sorry I put her through this trauma. I envy her courage to say aloud things that I sometimes am incapable of saying."

Leftists as 'Israel-haters'

In his research, Yaron spoke with Michal and Yoav, with other students in the class and with the homeroom teacher and the principal. The multiplicity of versions of the goings-on that emerge suggest a deep conflict and a lack of trust between the educators and the pupils. Each world functions separately, with the adults exercising little if any influence on the youngsters. It's hard to believe that the suspension, or the punishment inflicted on some of the students – for example, to prepare a presentation for the ninth-grade classes on the subject of racism – changed anyone's opinion.

The same goes for the principal's unequivocal declaration that, "There will be no racist comments in our school." Even the essay Michal was asked to write on the subject was soon forgotten. "The intention was to launch an educational program, but in the meantime it was postponed," the homeroom teacher admits.

A year later, however, the incident itself was still remembered in the school. The same student who told Yaron that she won't think twice if she gets the opportunity "to shoot one of them" when she serves in the army, also said, "As soon as I heard about the quarrel with that leftist girl [Michal], I was ready to throw a brick at her head and kill her. In my opinion, all the leftists are Israel-haters. I personally find it very painful. Those people have no place in our country – both the Arabs and the leftists."

Anyone who imagines this as a local, passing outburst is wrong. As was the case with the girl from the ORT network vocational school who alleged earlier this year that her teacher had expressed "left-wing views" in the classroom – in this case too a student related that he cursed and shouted at a teacher who "justified the Arabs." The students say that workshops to combat racism, which are run by an outside organization, leave little impression. "Racism is part of our life, no matter how much people say it's bad," a student said.

In the concluding discussion in just one such workshop, the moderator asked the students how they thought racism might eradicated. "Thin out the Arabs," was the immediate reply. "I want you to leave here with the knowledge that the phenomenon exists, for you to be self-critical, and then maybe you will prevent it," the moderator said. To which one student shot back, "If we're not racist, that makes us leftists."

The moderator, in a tone of despair: "I'd like it if you took at least something small from this workshop." A student responds to the challenge: "That everyone should live the way he wants, that if he thinks he's racist, let him think what he wants, and that's all."

As an adjunct of racism and hatred, ethnic identities – Mizrahi (Jews from Middle Eastern and North African countries) and Ashkenazi – are also flourishing. Yoav believes that there is "discrimination between Mizrahim and Ashkenazim. We were severely punished for the incident [with Michal], but if it were the other way around, that wouldn't have happened." Yoav later told Yaron that he found the common saying, "What's this, an [open-air] market?" offensive, because his whole family works in the local produce market.

"Our business has existed since the state was established," he said. "I am proud of my father, who is a man of the market. What are they trying to say, that my father isn't cultured? When people say something about 'Arabs,' it's considered a generalization, but when they say 'market,' that's alright. When people say 'market,' they are actually

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talking about Mizrahim. We need to change the prejudices about the market and about the Mizrahim. People say I am a racist, but it's just the opposite."

"There is no discussion about the topic of racism in the school and there probably will not be," the principal admits. "We are not prepared for the deep, long-term process that's necessary. Even though I am constantly aware of the problem, it is far from being dealt with. It stems in the first place from the home, the community and the society, and it's hard for us to cope with it. You have to remember that another reason it's hard to deal with the problem is that it also exists among the teachers. Issues such as 'human dignity' or 'humanism' are in any case considered left-wing, and anyone who addresses them is considered tainted."

Threat of noise

Prof. Yoram Harpaz is a senior lecturer at Beit Berl Teachers College and the editor of Hed Hahinuch, a major educational journal. Recalling the recent promise of Education Minister Shay Piron that classes in the first two weeks of the coming school year will be devoted to "emotional and social aspects of the summer's events," including "manifestations of racism and incitement," Harpaz observes that schools in their present format "are incapable of dealing with the racist personality and identity."

He adds: "The schools are not geared for this. They can only impart basic knowledge and skills, hold examinations on them and grade the students. In fact, they have a hard time doing even that. In classes of 40 students, with a strict curriculum and exams that have to be held, it is impossible to engage in values-based education."

Yaron, a senior lecturer in sociology at Ashkelon Academic College, emphasizes how important teachers and the principal (and the education system in general) feel it is to stick to the curriculum and the lessons schedule – two islands of quiet amid a risk-laden reality.

"Doing this makes it possible for the teachers not to enter a dynamic sphere, which obligates openness and is liable to open a Pandora's box, too," he notes. "The greatest threat to the teacher is that there will be noise – that someone will complain, that an argument will break out, etc. That danger looms especially large in subjects that interest young people, such as sexuality, ethnicity, violence and racism. Teachers lack the tools to cope with these issues, so they are outsourced, which only emasculates educational personnel even more."

The demand for quiet in the schools is not only an instrumental matter, deriving from the difficulty of keeping order in the classroom. There is also an ideological aspect involved. In general, there is a whole series of subjects that are not recommended for discussion in schools, such as the Nakba (or "catastrophe," the term used by Palestinians to denote the establishment of the State of Israel), human rights and the morality of Israeli army operations. This was one of the reasons for the warnings issued by Tel Aviv University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev during the fighting in the Gaza Strip about "extreme and offensive remarks."

Harpaz: "In Israel, the most political country there is, political education has not been developed as a discipline in which high-school students are taught how to think critically about political attitudes, or the fact that those attitudes are always dependent on a particular viewpoint and on vested interests."

What, then, can be done? According to Harpaz, the solution will not be found in discussions between the homeroom teacher and the students. Nor is a condemnation, however late, by the education minister sufficient. A more radical change is needed.

"Values and outlooks are acquired in a lengthy process of identification with 'significant others,' such as teachers," Harpaz explains. "This means that every aspect of the schools – patterns of teaching, evaluation methods, curricula, the physical structure and

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the cultural climate – has to change in the direction of becoming far more dialogical and democratic."

And he has one more recommendation: not to flee from political and moral dilemmas, or from possible criticism. "Our leaders are so fearful of criticism, but they don't understand that critical education is what generates close ties and caring. We get angry at those we love."

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From: "Aniello Alioto" <anielloa@gmail.com>
To: anielloa@gmail.com
Date: 8/2/2009 11:27:50 AM
Subject: [big campaign] GUARDIAN: We'll talk with US but Cuba s tays socialist, insists Raúl Castro

The tides are changing...

http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/aug/02/castro-cuba-usa-diplomatic-relations

We'll talk with US but Cuba stays socialist, insists Raúl Castro

• Scorn for idea president will restore capitalism
• Speech comes amid grim economic news

Cuba 's president, Raúl Castro, has offered to talk to the US and ease half a century of enmity following olive branches from the Obama administration .

Castro said he wanted to respond to Washington's effort to recast diplomatic relations but insisted Cuba's communist system was solid and would not be diluted. "We are ready to talk about everything but not to negotiate our political and social system," he told the national assembly on Saturday.

The 78-year-old leader, who formally succeeded his ailing brother Fidel last year, made the announcement amid grim economic news which will curb spending on health and education, twin pillars of the 50-year-old revolution.

The government warned of further austerity in the wake of hurricane damage and a sputtering economy, a sharp contrast to glimmers of diplomatic detente.

Castro said there was a chance for negotiations now that the White House had toned down Bush-era hostility towards Havana. "It's true there has been a diminution of the aggression and anti-Cuban rhetoric on the part of the administration."

Barack Obama has slightly eased the draconian US embargo against the island, a policy from the Kennedy administration, and made symbolic gestures such as stopping the electronic ticker from the US mission in Havana which used to taunt Cuba's rulers with pro-democracy slogans.

Castro noted however that the embargo remained in effect and he rejected comments by the US secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, linking improved relations with concessions from Havana.

"I have to say, with all due respect to Mrs Clinton ... they didn't elect me president to restore capitalism in Cuba, nor to hand over the revolution. I was elected to defend, maintain and continue perfecting socialism, not destroy it," he said to a standing ovation.

He scorned those who believe the Cuban regime would crumble once he, Fidel and other ageing figures from the revolution died, saying: "If that's how they think, they are doomed to failure."

The US used to look forward to a so-called "poof moment" when the communist system 90 miles off Florida collapsed upon Fidel Castro's death. But when illness sidelined him three years ago his younger brother seamlessly took over.

Raúl Castro has offered to talk to Washington before, but doing so in a national assembly address gave the words added weight. There was no immediate response from the state department.

"What we have here is an important and continuing effort by Raúl to signal that discussions with the US are something he very much wants," said Larry Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs thinktank.

"Raúl is conducting himself like someone who wants to be accepted as a serious discussion partner. He has been non-judgmental in his relations with the US and on occasion been relatively warm. From the US viewpoint

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Cuba has been on good behaviour."

The US is the only country in the hemisphere to not have diplomatic ties with Havana, a position many critics consider anachronistic and self-defeating.

Obama has authorised the resumption of talks over migration and disaster preparedness, low-level contacts which were severed during the Bush administration.

European diplomats, and many US commentators, are impatient for bolder moves and call Cuba a "low-hanging fruit" ripe for engagement in contrast to recalcitrant regimes in Iran and North Korea. The Cuban-American community which once lobbied for complete isolation of the Castros is now split, with a new generation urging closer ties with Cuba.

Havana, once a pariah, has returned to the international fold and recently hosted leaders from Latin America, Asia, Russia and the EU.

But that diplomatic shine contrasts with a darkening economy which has seen growth projections for this year slashed form 6% to 1.7%, with even the lower figure considered optimistic.

Castro said the government cut its budget for the second time this year to confront Cuba's worst financial crisis since the "special period" of the 1990s when the end of Soviet Union subsidies left the population close to starvation.

Tropical storms last year caused £6bn worth of damage and since then the global slowdown has hit nickel exports and tourism revenues. "We've been forced to renegotiate debts, payments and other commitments with foreign entities," said the president.

Spending on education and health care, which are free and universal, would be cut, he said, without much elaboration.

Many Cubans grumble that schools and hospitals have already degraded because teachers and doctors prefer to hustle on the parallel economy than work for monthly state salaries of just £12.

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From:	"Michael Huttner" <michael@huttner.org>
To:	michael@huttner.org
Date:	7/8/2008 12:27:43 AM
Subject:	Great coverage re McCain visit

Dear Board+,

Below is share of our coverage in print, radio, tv and the blogs re our press event during McCain's visit. We were on channel 2 KWGN and Fox 31 as well as on 850 KOA and major national blogs including HuffingtonPost, MyDD and OpenLeft. and the #2 recommended diary on DailyKos, the largest political blog with almost 600 comments as of 11:00 last night.

We are connecting this morning with attorneys whether we have a case to defend this woman against her trespassing citation and keep this story alive.

mike

Protester outside McCain event ticketed

By Joey Bunch
The Denver Post
Article Last Updated: 07/07/2008 09:04:40 PM MDT

A 60-year-old librarian received a trespassing ticket today after a liberal group's protest outside a John McCain town hall meeting Monday.

Clutching a sign that read "McCain = Bush," Carol Kreck was removed from the atrium at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts by four Denver police officers.

Kreck, a former Denver Post reporter who works part-time as a librarian for an education think tank, said she was removed as she quizzed a police officer about whether he could deny her free speech "on city property" by taking away her sign, while McCain supporters wore buttons inside.

Jenny Schiavone, a spokeswoman for the performing arts center, said the venue is city-owned rental property, but is not legally defined as public

Extras

- Watch video of a protester wearing a pea-pod suit who greeted Sen. John McCain in Denver.
- Discuss: Do you think holding a political sign on city-owned property constitutes trespassing? Tell us in West Watch.

property.

The liberal group ProgressNowAction had called before the event and asked about being inside the atrium, she said. The group was told it would have to rent space or use previously designated protest areas along the street, Schiavone said.

Michael Huttner, who organized the rally, said Progress NowAction was not told to rent space or stand anywhere.

A Youtube video of Kreck's removal, posted by Progress NowAction, shows a performing arts center security officer asking Kreck to put down her sign, noting he had asked her and other protestors to do so earlier. In the same video, a police officer tells her she can attend the event if she gets rid of the sign.

A McCain spokesman said no one, including McCain supporters, were allowed to carry signs.

Detective John White, a spokesman for the Denver Police Department, said officers acted as they would for any complaint on private property.

"Our officers received a signed complaint from a security guard at a private event and acted accordingly," he said.

Tom Kise, a spokesman for the McCain campaign, did not know about Kreck's ouster, but said the town hall-style meeting was open to supporters and opponents.

"All the campaign asked for is a respectful dialogue," Kise said.

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At a speech at the University of Denver in May, war protesters interrupted McCain four times until they were removed from the event.

Joey Bunch: 303-954-1174 or jbunch@denverpost.com

Pea Pod Protesters at McCain event: Ditch signs or get arrested

By Jason Kosena 07/07/2008 | 5 Comments

Protesters with ProgressNow outside today's John McCain town hall meeting in Denver were told to throw their signs away or risk being arrested for trespassing.



McCain's secret service detail told the Denver Police that if the three protesters, one dressed in a pea costume with pictures of President Bush and McCain on it, were told to shut their protest down about an hour before the campaign event began.

"McCain's secret service has told us we can't exhibit our first amendment rights of free speech," said Michael Huttner, executive director of ProgressNow.

The protesters were not told to leave the premises but were told they couldn't display their signs.

McCain is expected to speak on the economy at today's town hall meeting at the Denver Center for Performing Arts starting today at noon.

McCain pledges tax relief, job growth during Denver visit

By Lynn Bartels , Rocky Mountain News (Contact)
Originally published 06:25 p.m., July 7, 2008
Updated 08:14 p.m., July 7, 2008



Photo by Matt McClain
169 Members of Progress Now Action, James Duncan, second from left, Blake Couch, center, and executive director, Michael Huttner, second from right, are asked to leave by Denver Police officer, Matt Canino, right, after being informed that the secret service thought the protesters were too close to a John McCain.

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Presidential contender John McCain focused on the economy at rowdy town hall meeting in Denver on Monday, where he pledged to make government "a catalyst for growth and good jobs."
"I have a plan to grow this economy, create more and better jobs and get America moving again," the Republican candidate said.
"I have a plan to reform government, achieve energy security, and ensure that health care and a quality education are affordable and available for all."
McCain also pledged to give bigger tax breaks for families with children.
"At a time of increasing gas and food prices, American families need tax relief and I, not my opponent, will deliver it," McCain said in a 30-minute speech before about 325 people at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.
The Arizona senator took several jabs at Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, the presumed Democratic nominee.
"If you believe you should pay more taxes, I am the wrong candidate for you. Sen. Obama is your man," McCain said. "The choice in this election is stark and simple. Sen. Obama will raise your taxes. I won't."
Several people outside the complex held signs that said "McCain = Bush" and at least one person was asked by security to leave.
The McCain campaign said it does not screen town hall participants. And during the question-and-answer period, the candidate found himself defending his record on various issues, from veterans to immigration. His backers said McCain did great.
"I'd like to see Barack Obama come here and take 20 unscripted questions and see how he does," said former GOP Gov. Bill Owens, who attended the event with son Brett and daughter Monica.
But Colorado Democrats ripped McCain after the meeting.
"It's part of his 'I'm exactly like George Bush — or worse — economic tour,'" said Pat Waak, chairwoman of the Colorado Democratic Party.
"It's the same old stuff he's been talking about. He says he's going to balance the budget but stay in Iraq. How is he going to do that?"
The town hall event began at noon as scheduled with music from the soundtrack of the movie Rudy playing as McCain and his wife, Cindy, entered the room.
Beth Isern of Bethany Manufacturing in Nederland introduced Cindy McCain, who got a laugh when she talked about Denver's weather.
"In the McCain family, rain is good luck," Cindy McCain said.
John McCain referred to Isern in his opening remarks.
"Beth tells me it gets harder every year, not because of the market and competition, but because of government regulations, taxes and the cost of health care," he said. "Beth, I promise you, if I'm elected president, we're going to remove these obstacles to your continued success, and make government a catalyst for growth and good jobs."
McCain also mentioned another Colorado company, Crocs, maker of the funky footwear, in talking about free trade.
"This former small business now employs 600 people in Colorado alone, and sells over 50 percent of its products in 90 countries around the world," McCain said. "Building barriers to Crocs or any American company's access to foreign markets will have a devastating effect on our economy and jobs, and the prosperity of American families.
"I understand free trade is not a positive for everyone. If a worker loses a job we must retrain them and prepare them for 21st century jobs."
McCain's only reference to the president was unflattering.
"Government has grown by 60 percent in the last eight years. That is simply inexcusable," McCain said. "We aren't going to continue mortgaging this country's future for things Americans don't want or need."
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No beans about it, the silly season is upon us

By Cara DeGette 07/07/2008

John McCain is coming to Denver today to talk about the economy, and the liberal group Progress Now has vowed not to disappoint, this time by trotting out a giant eight-foot pea pod to deliver a message that when it comes to the economy, McCain and George W. Bush are “two peas in a pod.”

Meanwhile, over the weekend the McCain campaign announced that it has begun to run TV ads — the first major buy of the presidential campaign — questioning Barack Obama's commitment to energy reform. The ads will run in four battleground states, though not in Colorado.

As the WashingtonPost.com’s Chris Cillizza writes in his blog The Fix, this is about how the McCain ad goes:

"Record gas prices, a climate in crisis," says the ad's narrator. "John McCain says solve it now." The spot then details McCain's "balanced" plan on

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energy and notes that the Arizona Senator is "pushing his own party to face climate change."

Obama, on the other hand, says nothing but "no" when it comes to addressing the energy problems the country is facing. "He just says no to lower gas taxes ... No to nuclear ... No to more production," says the narrator before concluding: "No new solutions. Barack Obama: Just the party line."

The response from the Obama campaign, Cillizza reports, is “stunned skepticism.”

At least they don’t have Obama depicted in the ad as an energy efficient light bulb — or even a wind turbine.

Which brings us back to Progress Now’s planned publicity stunt for today. The guys and gals who’ve brought us nicknames for GOP candidates, including Big Oil Bob (Schaffer), and perpetuated nicknames for others, including Both Ways Bob (Beauprez), is planning its giant Pea Pod Political Theater to coincide with McCain’s visit to Denver.

The idea, according to the group’s executive director Michael Huttner, is to lay claim that, when it comes to economic policy, McCain and Bush are “obviously two peas in a pod.” They also plan to hand out pea pods to people who plan to attend McCain’s town hall meeting, which begins at 10 a.m. at the Denver Center Performing Arts downtown.

"No matter how many green beans you eat, Bush and McCain's economic policies are bad for America," Huttner says, mixing his vegetable metaphors in a press release.



_____
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303-991-1900
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From:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@smorodsky.onmicrosoft.com>
To:	Undisclosedrecipients:
Date:	2/2/2015 11:55:19 AM
Subject:	UABA Press Release: UABA Statement in support of H. RES. 50 and S. RES. 52 calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko
Attachments:	15-02-01 Savchenko Statement.pdf

Ukrainian American Bar Association

PDF copy attached
Press Release; February 1, 2014

UABA Statement in support of H. RES. 50 and S. RES. 52 calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko

On January 26, 2015, Congressional Representatives Mr. Levin, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Quigley, and Mr. Pascrell submitted House Resolution H. RES. 50 "*Calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014*." On January 28, 2015, a similar resolution – S. RES. 52 - was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Cardin and Mr. Wicker; both resolutions were referred to the respective Foreign Relations Committees in both chambers of Congress.

The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) strongly urges that these proposed resolutions be expeditiously reviewed and approved in their respective committees, and placed on the floor for a full vote by the Senate and House. Swift and affirmative passage of these resolutions will show the world that the United States stands behind its pronouncements in support of international rule of law and respect for human rights. Speedy adoption of these resolutions will also signal to Russia that its aggression against Ukraine will not go unnoticed, cannot continue, and will be rebuked accordingly by the international community.

Nadiya Savchenko, a former military pilot in the Ukrainian Air Force, serves as a current member of the Parliament of Ukraine, and a Delegate from Ukraine at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

In the middle of June 2014, she was captured by Russians in the Luhansk region of Ukraine – the area where Russian troops and Russia-supported terrorists and mercenaries are fighting against the Ukrainian army and Ukrainian civilian volunteers. Russians illegally and forcibly transported Savchenko across the border into Russia, with a bag over her head, while handcuffed. In Russia she was falsely accused of, and charged with, the alleged killings of two Russian members of the press. These members of the Russian press appear to have died in shellfire, and not at the hands of Ms. Savchenko as Russian propaganda machine would want the world to believe. According to Ms. Savchenko and her attorneys, not only was Ms. Savchenko nowhere near the area where the two members of the Russian press died, but they actually died AFTER the Russians had captured Savchenko and brought her over to Russia from Ukraine.

Ms. Savchenko is being kept in a Russian prison, undoubtedly on direct orders from Putin, without proof of having committed any of the alleged crimes with which she has been charged, without trial and without due process of any kind. According to her attorneys, Messrs. Mark Feygin, and Nikolai Polozov, Ms. Savchenko has an irrefutable alibi that proves her innocence and the falsity of the Russian charges against her.

She has been held in solitary confinement in prison, with no access to mail. Her two attorneys have had very limited and sporadic access to Ms. Savchenko in prison. Often times her attorneys are not allowed to visit her in prison for several days on end despite repeated requests and attempts.

Putin pays no attention to repeated demands for release by Ms. Savchenko's attorneys, or by various organizations. Attorney Feygin has recently published his open letter to Putin online, appealing to reason and demanding that Putin release Nadiya Savchenko. The US Department of State has twice called on Russia to release Ms. Savchenko. Memorial Human Rights Center has declared her to be a political prisoner in Russia. PACE has demanded that Savchenko be released. Needless to say, Ms. Savchenko is still in prison. It is clear that Putin is keeping Savchenko imprisoned as his bargaining chip in his negotiations with the West.

In protest against her unlawful and groundless detention while Putin ignores International calls for her release, Ms. Savchenko began a hunger strike in prison on December 13, 2014.

Ms. Savchenko has continued her hunger strike for over 50 days now and is in poor, rapidly deteriorating health. She has lost catastrophic and life-threatening weight. According to her attorneys, she is facing a virtually certain death in prison very soon, if she is not released from detention immediately. She shows no desire to stop her hunger strike protest against her unlawful detention. Putin will not release her from detention until he has obtained some concessions from Europe.

PACE issued emergency request to release Ms. Savchenko, a PACE Delegate from Ukraine who has diplomatic immunity, in order for her to participate in the PACE session that started this week. On January 28, 2015, PACE issued a resolution to free Savchenko, within 24 hours, and to return her to Ukraine, or to hand her over to a third country.

Putin continues to ignore PACE. The Russian delegation at PACE, however, hinted at a possibility of Savchenko's release in exchange for reactivation of Russia's voting rights at PACE, which were stripped from it on January 28, 2015 pursuant to PACE's resolution of the same date. Russia went as far as demanding the removal of all of the Council of Europe's sanctions against Russia

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in exchange for Savchenko's release. These demands by Russia demonstrate that the real reason for detention of Ms. Savchenko is as a bargaining chip by Putin in his negotiations with Europe.

Last week, the Russian Federal Security Service (the FSB) initiated yet another trumped-up charge against Savchenko. The new charge alleges Ms. Savchenko illegally crossed the Ukraine-Russia border. Please note, as mentioned above, that Nadiya Savchenko was kidnapped by Russians in Ukraine, and was transported across the border into Russia by force with a bag over her head. This is yet another attempt by Putin to ensure that Ms. Savchenko will continue to be detained, perhaps realizing that the original false charges against her that were probably concocted in a haste and cannot stand up to scrutiny in light of the timing of the alleged offense and Savchenko's strong alibi defense to the original charges.

Please make no mistake that it is Putin, and he alone, who decides the fate of Nadiya Savchenko, not a Russian court. Thus, the only way Savchenko may be released from the Russian prison is if Putin decides to release her. Putin's pocket courts in Russia have no say in the matter. Presumption of innocence does not travel very far in Russia. The only way Putin may be forced to relent in his unlawful detention of Savchenko, will be if extreme pressure and condemnation is put on him by the civilized world and the international community as a whole.

The US Congress must forcefully denounce Putin's unlawful detention of Nadiya Savchenko by passage of H. RES. 50 and S. RES. 52. We urge you and every progressive citizen of the world to take a stand against Putin by demanding the immediate release of Nadiya Savchenko.

The United States of America, its European allies, and the international community must stand up together to Putin's tyranny. He must be made aware that there is a heavy cost associated with keeping innocent victims as political prisoners for his own gains. We must not remain silent. We must achieve the immediate release of Nadiya Savchenko.

This statement was authored by Sergei Orel, Esq. a member of the UABA sorel@sergei-orel.com

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For further information, please contact
Myroslaw Smorodsky, Esq.
Communications Director of the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA)
Tel: 201-507-4500; Email; myroslaw@smorodsky.com ; Website; www.smorodsky.com

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From: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/4/2015 3:08:44 PM
Subject: Rick Perry announcement speech

Friends,

I wanted to flag Rick Perry's announcement speech. Admittedly, he reminds us throughout the speech that he is extremely conservative. However, I was struck by his talk on the economy. Similar messages & themes.

Thank you. I was born five years after the end of a global war that killed more than 60 million people.

I am the son of a veteran of that war, who flew 35 missions over war-torn Europe as a tail gunner on a B-17.

When dad returned home, he married mom, and they started a life together.

They were tenant farmers.

They were raised during a time of great hardship, and had little expectation beyond living in peace, putting a roof over our heads and putting food on our table.

Home was a place called Paint Creek. Too small to be called a town, but it was the center of my universe.

For years we had an outhouse, and mom bathed us in a number two washtub on the back porch. She also hand-sewed my clothes until I went off to college.

I attended Paint Creek Rural School, grades one through 12. I played 6-man football. I was a member of Boy Scout Troop 48, became an Eagle Scout, and went off to Texas A&M where I was a member of the Corps of Cadets and an animal science major.

I was proud to wear the uniform of our country as an Air Force officer and aircraft commander.

After serving, I returned home to the rolling plains and big skies of West Texas, and I returned to farming.

There is no person on earth more optimistic than a dryland cotton farmer. We always know a good rain is just around the corner, no matter how long we'd been waiting.

The values learned on my family's cotton farm are timeless: the dignity of work, the integrity of your word, responsibility to community, the unbreakable bonds of family, and duty to country.

These are enduring values. Not the product of some idyllic past, but a touchstone of American life in our small towns, our largest cities, our booming suburbs.

I have seen American life from the red dirt of a West Texas cotton field, from a campus in College Station, from the elevated view of a C-130 cockpit, and from the Governor's office of the Texas Capitol.

I served a small rural community in the Texas Legislature, and I led the world's 12th largest economy.

I know that America has experienced great change, but what it means to be an American has never changed: we are the only nation in the world founded on the power of an idea that all "are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Our rights come from God, not from government, and our people are not the subjects of government, but instead government is subject to the people.

It has always been the case that there has been a social compact between one generation of Americans and the next: to pass along an inheritance of a stronger country full of greater promise and possibility.

And that social compact has been protected at great sacrifice. This was never more clear to me than when

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I took my father to the American cemetery that overlooks the bluffs at Omaha beach.

On that peaceful, wind-swept setting, there lie 9,000 graves, including 45 pairs of brothers, 33 of whom are buried side by side, a father and a son, two sons of a president. They all traded their future for ours in a final act of loving sacrifice.

In that American Cemetery, it is no accident each headstone faces west: west over the Atlantic, towards the nation they defended, the nation they loved, the nation they would never come home to.

It struck me as I stood in the midst of those heroes that they look upon us in silent judgment. And that we must ask ourselves: are we worthy of their sacrifice?

The truth is we are at the end of an era of failed leadership.

We have been led by a divider who has sliced and diced the electorate, pitting American against American for political purposes.

Six years into the so-called recovery, and our economy is barely growing. This winter, it actually got smaller.

Our economic slowdown is not inevitable, it is the direct result of bad economic policy.

The president's tax and regulatory policies have slammed shut the door of opportunity for the average American trying to climb the economic ladder, resigning the middle class to stagnant wages, personal debt, and deferred dreams.

Weakness at home has led to weakness abroad.

The world has descended into a chaos of this president's own making, while his White House loyalists construct an alternative universe where ISIS is contained and Ramadi is merely a "setback" – where the nature of the enemy can't be acknowledged for fear of causing offense, where the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran, can be trusted to live up to a nuclear agreement.

No decision has done more harm than the president's withdrawal of American troops from Iraq.

Let no one be mistaken, leaders of both parties have made grave mistakes in Iraq. But in January, 2009 – when Barack Obama became Commander-in-Chief – Iraq had been largely pacified.

America had won the war. But our president failed to secure the peace.

How callous it seems now as cities once secured with American blood are now being taken by America's enemies, all because of a campaign slogan.

I saw during Vietnam a war where politicians didn't keep faith with the sacrifices and courage of America's fighting men and women, where men were ordered into combat without the full support of their civilian commanders.

To see it happen again, 40 years later, because of political gamesmanship and dishonesty, is a national disgrace.

But my friends, we are a resilient country. We have been through a Civil War, we've been through two world wars, we've made it through a Great Depression – we even made it through Jimmy Carter. We will make it through the Obama years.

The fundamental nature of this country is our people never stay knocked down. We get back up, we dust ourselves off, and we move forward. And we will again.

I want to share some important truths with my fellow Americans, starting with this truth: we don't have to settle for a world in chaos or an America that shrinks from its responsibilities.

We don't have to apologize for American exceptionalism, or western values.

We don't have to accept slow growth that leaves behind the middle class, and leaves millions of Americans out of work.

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We don't have to settle for crumbling bureaucracies that target taxpayers and harm our veterans.

And we don't have to resign ourselves to debt, decay and slow growth.

We have the power to make things new again. To project American strength again, to get our economy going again.

And that is why today I am running for the presidency of the United States of America.

It is time to create real jobs, to raise wages, to create opportunity for all. To give every citizen a stake in this country. To restore hope, real hope to forgotten Americans, millions of middle class families who have given up hope of getting ahead, millions of workers who have given up hope of finding a job.

Yes, it's time for a reset, time to reset the relationship between government and citizen.

Think of the arrogance of Washington, DC, representing itself as some beacon of wisdom, with policies smothering this vast land with no regard for what makes each state and community unique. That's just wrong.

We need to return power to the states, and freedom to the individual.

Today our citizens and entrepreneurs are burdened by over-regulation and unspeakable debt.

Debt is not just a fiscal nightmare, it is a moral failure. Let me speak to the millennial generation: massive debt, passed on from our generation to yours, is a breaking of the social compact.

You deserve better. I am going to offer a responsible plan to fix the entitlement system, and to stop this theft from your generation.

To those forgotten Americans drowning in personal debt, working harder for wages that don't keep up with the rising cost of living, I come here today to say your voice is heard.

I know you face rising health care costs, rising child care costs, skyrocketing tuition costs, and mounting student loan debt. I hear you, and I am going to do something about it.

To the one in five children in families on food stamps, to the one in seven Americans living in poverty, to the one in ten workers who are unemployed, under-employed or given up hope of finding a job: I hear you, you are not forgotten.

I am running to be your president.

For small businesses on Main Street struggling to just get by, smothered by regulations, targeted by Dodd-Frank: I hear you, you're not forgotten. Your time is coming.

The American People see a rigged game, where insiders get rich, and the middle class pays the tab.

There is something wrong when the Dow is near record highs, and businesses on Main Street can't even get a loan.

Since when did capitalism involve the elimination of risk for the biggest banks while regulations strangle our community banks?

Capitalism is not corporatism. It is not a guarantee of reward without risk. It is not about Wall Street at the expense of Main Street.

The reason I am running for president is I know for certain our country's best days lie ahead. There is nothing wrong in America today that cannot be fixed with new leadership.

We are just a few good decisions away from unleashing economic growth, and reviving the American Dream.

We need to fix a tax code riddled with loopholes that sends jobs overseas and punishes success.

We have the highest corporate tax rate in the western world. It is time to reduce the rate, bring jobs home and lift wages for working families.

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By the time this Administration has finished with its experiment in big government, they will have added more than 600,000 pages of new regulations to the Federal Register.

On my first day in office, I will issue an immediate freeze on all pending regulations from the Obama administration. That same day, I will send to Congress a comprehensive reform and rollback of job-killing mandates created by Obamacare, Dodd-Frank and other Obama-era policies.

Agencies will have to live under strict regulatory budgets. And health insurers will have to earn the right to your money, instead of lobbying Washington to force you to hand it over.

On day one, I will also sign an executive order approving the construction of the Keystone Pipeline.

Energy is vital to our economy, and to our national security. On day one, I will sign an executive order authorizing the export of American natural gas and oil, freeing our European allies from dependence on Russia's energy supplies.

Vladimir Putin uses energy to hold our allies hostage. If energy is going to be used as a weapon, I say America must have the largest arsenal.

We will unleash an era of economic growth, and limitless opportunity. We will rebuild American industry. And we will lift wages for American workers.

It can be done because it has been done in Texas.

During my 14 years as governor, Texas companies created almost one-third of all new American jobs.

In the last seven years of my tenure, Texas created 1.5 million new jobs. Without Texas, America would have lost 400,000 jobs.

We were the engine of growth because we had a simple formula: control taxes and spending, implement smart regulations, invest in an educated workforce, and stop frivolous lawsuits.

Texas now has the second highest high school graduation rate in the country and the highest graduation rates for African-American and Hispanic students.

We led the nation in exports, including high-tech exports. We passed historic tax relief, and I was proud to sign balanced budgets for 14 years.

We not only created opportunity, we stood for law and order.

When there was a crisis at our border last year and the president refused my invitation to see the challenge that we faced, I told him, "Mr. President, if you won't secure the border, Texas will."

Because of the threat posed by drug cartels and trans-national gangs, I deployed the Texas National Guard.

The policy worked. Apprehensions declined by 74 percent. If you elect me your president,
I will secure this border.

Homeland security begins with border security. The most basic compact between a president and the people is to keep the country safe.

The great lesson of history is strength and resolve bring peace and order, and weakness and vacillation invite chaos and conflict.

My very first act as president will be to rescind any agreement with Iran that legitimizes their quest to get a nuclear weapon.

Now is the time for clear-sighted, proven leadership. We have seen what happens when we elect a president based on media acclaim rather than a record of accomplishment.

This will be a "show-me, don't tell me" election, where voters look past the rhetoric to the real record.

The question of every candidate will be this one: when have you led? Leadership is not a speech on the

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senate floor, it's not what you say, it's what you do.

And we will not find the kind of leadership needed to revitalize the country by looking to the political class in Washington.

I have been tested. I have led the most successful state in America. I have dealt with crisis after crisis – from the disintegration of a space shuttle, to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, to the crisis at the border, and the first diagnosis of Ebola in America.

I have brought together first responders, charities and people of faith to house and heal vulnerable citizens dealing with tragedy.

The spirit of compassion demonstrated by Texans is alive all across America today. While we have experienced a deficit in leadership, among the American People there is a surplus of spirit.

And among our great people, there is a spirit of selflessness – that we live to make the world better for our children, and not just ourselves.

It was said that when King George the Third asked what General Washington would do upon winning the war, he was told he would return to his farm and relinquish power. To that, the monarch replied, if he did that, he would be the greatest man of his age.

George Washington lived in the service of a cause greater than self.

If anyone is wondering if America still possesses the character of selfless heroes, I am here to say, "Yes, I am surrounded by such heroes."

They are of different generations, but they are woven together by the same thread of selfless sacrifice.

They are heroes like Medal of Honor Recipient Mike Thornton, who survived an ambush by enemy forces in Vietnam, and made it back to the safety of a water rescue, only to find out a fellow team member had been left behind, presumed dead.

He didn't leave though, he returned through enemy fire and retrieved Lieutenant Norris who was still alive – and then swam for two hours keeping his wounded teammate afloat until they were rescued.

Heroes like Marcus Luttrell, who survived a savage attack on the side of a mountain in Afghanistan, losing his three teammates and 16 fellow warriors shot down trying to rescue him.

He is not just the lone survivor, to Anita and me he is a second son.

And Taya Kyle, who suffered the deep loss of her husband Chris, an American hero. When I think of Taya Kyle, I think of a brave woman who carries not just the lofty burden of Chris' legacy, but the grief of every family who has lost a loved one to the great tragedy of war, or its difficult aftermath. Anita and I want to thank her for her tremendous courage.

America is an extraordinary country. Our greatness lies not in our government, but in our people.

Each day Americans demonstrate tremendous courage. But many of those Americans have been knocked down and are looking for a second chance.

Let's give them that chance. Let's give them real leadership. Let's give them a future greater than the greatest days of our past.

Let's give them a president who leads us in the direction of our highest hopes, our best dreams and our greatest promise.

Thank you, and God bless you.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
Date: 5/7/2015 10:13:08 AM
Subject: Fwd: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request

Can you get this to Anita. Thx.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun" <vergun@alumni.stanford.edu >
Date: May 7, 2015 3:29 PM
Subject: Our President's Visit to Our Hometown of Beaverton—and My Children's Request
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu >
Cc:

Dear Mr. Podesta,

I am contacting you with a somewhat unusual request and the hope that you might be able to convey this wish by my children to an appropriate staff person for President Obama in spite of the short notice.

Thank you. And thank you so much for the work you have been doing. I hope you are able to encourage Hillary Clinton to come out strongly to address dangers from Climate Change.

Sincerely,
Pam Vergun, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Dear Mr. President,

I hear that you are coming to our hometown of Beaverton tomorrow down the street from where my children were in a two-way Spanish immersion public school. I know this is a long shot, but I would like to tell you about the work my children and I are doing to help you stop Climate Change in case you would like to meet them.

Also, months ago, my son, who is also one of your fans, asked me to invite you to his Bar Mitzvah. Although we just learned that you will only be in Beaverton during the morning, I'm sure you would like Isaac's D'Var teaching will be on taking even more serious action on Climate Change.

My son is African-American, my daughter was born in the Marshall Islands, and my husband and I are European-American, and together we are doing all we can to impact policies especially the ones most needed to protect our planet. My son has been talking with the City of Beaverton about his petition to Mayor Doyle regarding fossil fuels and nuclear power. The links below are to the little websites I made for their Mitzvah projects, so Miko and Isaac can speak for themselves. Please glance at them to see if you could use them to inspire or highlight your own work as you have inspired us.
Miko's: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

Thank you so much.
With Love and Blessings to you and Michelle and your daughters,
Pam Vergun

Sent from my iPhone

Dr. Pamela Bea Wilson Vergun, M.P.A.

Pam and Rob and Miko and Isaac Vergun
vergun@alumni.stanford.edu

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3545 NW Ashland Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Hm: 503-645-6642
Mo: 503-332-7633

Wherever you live, sign Isaac's petition to the City of Beaverton's Mayor Doyle and the City Council:
https://campaigns.gofossilfree.org/petitions/divest-the-city-of-beaverton-from-fossil-fuels-and-nuclear-power
Thanks!
And, for more on Miko and Isaac's work to help protect our planet, please visit their websites:
Miko: https://shalvahalizah.wordpress.com
Isaac: https://yitzchakadin.wordpress.com

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From:	"Emily Aden" <eaden@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	4/20/2015 12:12:36 PM
Subject:	April 20th Nightly News
Attachments:	042015 Nightly News.docx

Document attached. NBC and ABC covered Clinton Cash. Thanks Courtney and Vas!

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From:	EJM <monizEJ@Hq.Doe.Gov>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	4/4/2015 2:31:36 PM
Subject:	RE: Congratulations

Thanks John. It was pretty intense, but worth it for outcome.

I also missed SEAB, but John says it was a very good meeting. Feel like getting back to SEAB? Would love to have you.

One frustration following your departure has been the painful process of getting QER converged. The principal conclusion/recommendations are little changed from the meeting you were in at Jeff's office late January. We miss having you as a closer. We are pissing away an opportunity for a little bipartisan work with Congress as they have grown tired of waiting. On the plus side, we did get the defense nuclear waste out. Cheers.

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta [john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2015 03:47 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: EJM
Subject: Congratulations

Glad you are getting some well deserved credit. Hope you are getting some rest. On to China.

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From: "Theodore Waddelow" <twaddelow@albrightstonebridge.com>
To: Undisclosedrecipients:
Date: 5/27/2015 6:56:34 AM
Subject: Sandy Berger in Politico on a policy to defeat both ISIL and Iran

Hello,

We thought you would be interested in the op-ed that Sandy published today in *Politico* along with Stephen Hadley, James Jeffrey, Dennis Ross, and Robert Satloff. It addresses threats to the state system in the Middle East from ISIS and Iran, and a U.S. strategy to preserve it.

Below is the link to the article, as well as the full text.

Link: http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/05/a-policy-to-defeat-both-isil-and-iran-118299.html#.VWVHXib3bCR

A Policy to Defeat Both ISIL and Iran
By SAMUEL BERGER, STEPHEN HADLEY, JAMES JEFFREY, DENNIS ROSS and ROBERT SATLOFF

The Middle East today is consumed by conflict, driven primarily by struggles over identity and interest. Individually, these struggles threaten the survival of states across the region, including Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Collectively, they risk the collapse of the entire Middle East state system.

This distant phenomenon has direct impact on U.S. interests. The weaker the states in the Middle East become, the easier it is for terrorist groups and terrorist-supporting states to plan, recruit and operate against the U.S. and its partners. Should this loss of control continue, the U.S. more and more will be forced to contend with plots against not just its friends but also against the American homeland.

There are two main external threats to the Middle East state system. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as ISIS or the Islamic State, embodies the most direct threat, particularly with its declaration of a caliphate designed to replace existing states. The Islamic Republic of Iran also constitutes a threat, perhaps not as blatant in its assault but no less real. It uses its militia proxies to undermine states and deny them authority throughout their territory, a process that has already given Tehran leverage over four Arab capitals — Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut and Sanaa.

Compounding these two challenges are profound governance issues — from political leadership to economic management, from social inequities to educational development. These could threaten even the most homogeneous states in the region, such as Egypt. A comprehensive U.S. strategy that addresses the external threats will give the United States greater leverage to focus effectively on these internal problems.
On ISIL, President Barack Obama has made clear that the challenge is more than a military one, although providing military support to governments fighting ISIL on the ground is critical. But military action is only one dimension; ISIL cannot be defeated unless it is also discredited. Only Muslims can undermine ISIL's fanatical ideology, and they must take the lead in doing so. Ultimately, U.S. strategy depends on inflicting setbacks on ISIL while building a broad coalition of partners in support of Arab-based efforts to defeat it. The loss of Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's Anbar province, underscores the enormity and the urgency of this challenge.

Some see such a coalition as offering the possibility of bringing the Iranians and the Saudis together in their common enmity toward ISIL. Although the traditional view that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" might apply to Sunni readiness to cooperate covertly with Israel, it does not work for the Saudis, Emiratis, Bahrainis and others when it comes to the Iranians. They see their struggle against Iran in existential terms, and the more the Iranians seem to be intent on encircling Saudi Arabia, the more the Saudis and other Arabs will position themselves to counter Tehran. This objective is so fundamental to them that Saudi Arabia, Egypt and others have now agreed to mobilize an Arab force — not to fight Israel but to counter Iran-backed militias and, perhaps, jihadi forces.

We, too, have to judge the Iranians based on their behavior. Iran will surely fight to prevent ISIL's domination in Syria and Iraq, an arena in which our objectives converge and our operations may sometimes run in parallel. But while tactical points of convergence are possible, the Iranian strategic view of the region is fundamentally at odds with ours.

Perhaps this outlook could be different if economic integration with the outside world and internal aspirations cause Iran to alter its strategic objectives in the region. But we need to judge Iran on how it acts.

The most powerful elements in Iran today still see the United States as their enemy. This is not simply because of a conspiratorial mind-set about American determination to subvert the Islamic Republic, but also because they see America as the main impediment to their domination of the region. Even if the U.S. seeks to reassure them about its aims, they are highly unlikely to believe it unless the U.S. is prepared to acquiesce in their regional hegemony. The combination of their interest in weakening the state structures of their Sunni adversaries and the belief of our traditional friends that they are locked in an existential conflict with Iran should give us pause about partnering with the Iranians and the Iran-backed Shiite militias in the fight against ISIL.

Ultimately, if the U.S. hopes to mobilize Sunni Arab populations of Iraq and Syria in opposition to ISIL — an essential element to

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marginalizing it — Iran cannot be seen as a presumed ally. That would pre-empt any serious Sunni effort to delegitimize ISIL, put the Sunni states on the defensive and, worst of all, increase the prospect that ISIL will present itself as the only real protector of the Sunnis.

To be sure, the Saudis have a history of playing a negative role in proselytizing the ideology of Sunni extremism. Today, however, they recognize they have a stake in combating its most radical elements. And unlike the Iranians, the Saudis also see the danger of undermining the state system in the Middle East.

While Iran cannot be a partner in discrediting ISIL, a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran, nonetheless, could make sense if it allows Iran a peaceful nuclear energy program but denies it the capability of becoming a nuclear weapons state. Every conflict that Iran touches today would be much more difficult and more dangerous in the future should Iran acquire a nuclear weapons capability.

An agreement, however, would feed Saudi and other Arab concerns about the Iranian threat and require that the U.S. manage their reactions and invest in reassuring them. This needs to include pushing back on Iran throughout the region. Ironically, if the Iranian leadership sees that the U.S. will raise the cost of Iran's aggressive behaviors even while remaining open to opportunities, this may make cooperation with Iran on specific issues more likely; perhaps, over time, it will even alter Iran's political calculation.

Here, a change in American policy toward Syria is critical. The administration has understood that ISIL cannot have a safe haven in Syria if the U.S. is to be able, in time, to defeat it in Iraq. But the Assad regime is exploiting American attacks on ISIL and often carries out dramatically more bombing runs against its non-ISIL opposition than the U.S. conducts against ISIL.

To restore U.S. credibility and make it possible to build a more cohesive opposition that could change the balance of power on the ground, there needs to be a different kind of safe haven inside Syria — one that would make it possible to house refugees inside the country and to allow a legitimate, credible opposition to become more politically and militarily relevant within the country.

The ultimate aim is to make a political settlement possible by showing that Assad cannot win. Assad's backers, especially Iran, will surely hate this and could choose to react. But the Iranians need to see that the U.S. will compete and that the costs for them will only go up without a political settlement.

With vanishing borders, a tangled web of transitory alliances and transnational groups — both Sunni and Shiite — operating outside the constraints of state power, the Middle East state system is under relentless pressure. A strategy to preserve it requires a long-term vision for shoring up U.S. allies, rolling back ISIL and countering the Iranians. The United States will not define the future for the region, but it has a distinct national interest in preventing the collapse of its state system.

Samuel Berger, Stephen Hadley, James Jeffrey, Dennis Ross and Robert Satloff are co-authors of a new Washington Institute report, "Key Elements of a Strategy for the United States in the Middle East ."

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From:	"Michael Werz" <mwerz@americanprogress.org>
To:	"John Podesta (john.podesta@gmail.com)" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	11/11/2015 11:40:42 AM
Subject:	JDP closing keynote_Food Security
Attachments:	Podesta's Closing FCR Speech as delivered.docx

John and Milia,
Attached (and below) the version as delivered—with an intro we will use to frame it on the game project site. See: http://foodchainreaction.org/
Please let me know if OK to post.
M.

Michael Werz PhD
Senior Fellow
Center for American Progress
Office +1 202 478-6358
mwerz@americanprogress.org

Title: "Serious cooperation on issues like food security, climate change, and environmental preservation serves all of our interests"

Food Chain Reaction put the fate of the world's food supply on the shoulders of 65 private and public sector leaders. The players were transported to the year 2020 and a burgeoning global food security crisis. Over the course of two days, they collaborated, negotiated, and played out how the world would respond over the next ten years. The biggest takeaway was how their individual decisions could set off a chain reaction of effects in halls of government, boardrooms and communities around the globe.

But in reality, food security is no game. The players were passionate about how they will carry forward the lessons they learned through the game to real life. That call to action was echoed in a keynote address by John D. Podesta, founder of the Center for American Progress, one of the partners responsible for *Food Chain Reaction*. His remarks energized players, reminded them of the urgency to find solutions, and encouraged them to continue to find innovative ways to solve this critical global issue.

Remarks by John D. Podesta, as delivered
November 10, 2015 | Washington, DC

It is really a pleasure to be here.

First, I want to thank you all for joining the Food Chain Reaction and giving us two full days of your time, your attention, and your expertise. We know how busy you all are – you've come from all parts of the world to do this – and the fact that you've all come here demonstrates the importance of the issues you've grappled with over the course of the game.

I'd like to thank the people who worked so hard to make this event happen. This exercise was the product of a remarkable collaboration by experts across a really diverse coalition of organizations – including the World Wildlife Fund, CNA, Cargill, Mars, of course the Center for American Progress, and many others who came together to put this on. CAP's first effort at gaging the effects of climate change started in 2008 when we brought together again a similar collaboration to think about the direct effects of climate change and what policy needed to change, both here in the United States and globally. I think it had a direct impact, I can say that as someone who ran President Obama's transition, and many of the

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people who participated in that game have had a role in participating in the Obama Administration. I think the teachings, the learnings, the experience gave them the ability to really contemplate these global scenarios – a really important step in being able to plan and move policy forward. Indeed, I think the accomplished and diverse group of people gathered here tonight is a testament to the growing importance of the food security as a challenge for policymakers worldwide.

You spent your time grappling over the last couple of days with crises that the world is already confronting, and likely to be more frequent, and potentially more devastating, as I'm sure you experienced. The cascading crisis in our global food supply chain: water shortages, food scarcity, price disruptions, all combined with population growth and political instability— these are the ruptures that can truly shake societies and governments.

So let me be clear, social disruptions can be traced directly to at least the acceleration that comes from climate change. Globally, 9 of the 10 warmest years on record have occurred this century. July was the hottest month in what has so far been Earth's hottest year on record. I don't need to explain to the people in this room how the added stress of climate change will come to bear on our global agricultural system, on our stressed out oceans, and on the billions of people they support.

Here in the United States, we lost 9 million acres to wildfires this year alone. In the past 3 decades, ocean acidification has cut in half the number of corals covering the Great Barrier Reef. I could go on and on. The scientific news just keeps pouring in.

This week, the World Meteorological Organization reported that average levels of carbon dioxide exceeded 400 parts per million in early 2015. That's an increase of 43 percent over pre-industrial levels. Again, in the spring as the Northern forest began to take some of that carbon, it dipped below 400 parts per million, but they are fully expecting that coming into the new year we will see the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere exceed 400 parts per million and stay there.

In a separate report just hours later, the Met Office and Climatic Research Unit at Britain's University of East Anglia reported that the Earth's average temperature has crossed the symbolically important 1-degree Celsius warming mark, with temperatures over the first nine months of 2015 surpassing historic norms by exactly 1.02 degrees Celsius. I think these reports only compound the evidence that 2015 is almost certain to surpass 2014 as the hottest year in recorded history.

Dramatic changes in weather patterns are often associated with immediate consequences, particularly when extreme weather events are compounded by poor governance and poor policy choices. Political instability, social unrest, and in extreme cases armed conflict, as you grappled with, these secondary and tertiary impacts are really devastating.

Extreme weather events force farmers large and small to adapt their techniques and their crops. Declining fisheries exacerbate already-increasing tensions in maritime trade. Washed-out roads prevent movement of people and goods. Armed conflict destroys critical infrastructure. These changes lead to food scarcity or sudden and unsustainable price increases. And that's why we call it the *Food Chain Reaction*.

In 2010 and 2011, we saw what could be just the future that is coming for us. We saw the impacts of

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climate change, of environmental degradation, and political instability converge. As many of you will remember, a series of cataclysmic weather events drove the price of wheat from $4 to $9 a bushel in less than a year. Record rainfall in Canada, the world's second-largest wheat exporter, cut the country's harvest by nearly a quarter.

Drought and brushfires in Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan cut those countries' wheat production by a third. The U.S., Australian, Argentinean and Chinese crops were also damaged by drought and storms.

But when the Arab Spring Awakening began, few people asked the question—isn't it strange that these social uprisings are happening just at the moment that the world food prices hit record highs?

But, in hindsight we can appreciate that the Arab awakening was driven not only by political and economic factors, but by environmental, migratory and climate stressors as well. If we continue to focus only on the former, that is the political factors, and not the latter, the environmental factors, that lead to mass migration, that lead to environmental degradation, that lead to food insecurity, we will never be able to effectively stabilize societies in crisis.

So I hope that this game has underlined those core points and perhaps clarified some new issues for further study. That is why we are here. There is a simple reason: We have to begin to prepare for the inevitable next crisis. When disaster strikes the people gathered in this room tonight will have critical roles to play as leaders and decision-makers.

I believe that in most crises there is opportunity. Hopefully this simulation has shown that, too. That cooperation can overcome conflict.

Now, the past decade has been a tough one for multilateralism. From the wars in Iraq and Syria to the slow pace of climate negotiations, multilateralism and global cooperation can sometimes seem out of reach.

But over the past two days, in this exercise, we saw the risks we face when nations go it alone, and the effort to secure resources becomes competitive rather than cooperative. We also saw the benefits we all accrue when we come together to build a more effective response and more cooperation.

So as we approach the new climate negotiations in Paris, I have hope that our leaders finally recognize that cooperation is indeed imperative. We have achieved success in the past – 15 years ago the world's nations came together to create the millennium development goals, which had a set a hugely ambitious targets to improve humanity the world over.

We didn't achieve all of these goals and we didn't achieve them in all places, but we made a big difference by working together. The rate of people living in extreme poverty was cut in half 5 years ahead of the 2015 deadline, mainly thanks to efforts of China, India, and Brazil. The world is also on track to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger this year.

The debate about the Millennium Development Goals proved that multilateralism can reshape our world for the better. I had the privilege to help shape the "first draft" of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. As Marcia noted, I served on the Secretary General's high-level panel that spent over a year in an intensely consultative process listening to people from around the globe, particularly

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very poor people, young people, and learning about their aspirations for a new set of global goals. And I can tell you with absolute conviction that the opportunity for real progress on these issues is still there, and the multilateral ideal is alive and well.

I had the privilege of working with Paula Caballero who worked in that enterprise, and I think she would agree with my assessment from what we saw in the high level panel. But more importantly, what we saw in September when Pope Francis kicked off the new SDG special meeting of the UN General Assembly and the new SDG's were approved by a unanimous vote of the United National General Assembly.

At their core, the new SDG's call for a new global partnership with a commitment to ending poverty, within a framework of sustainability. The goals established global commitments, leaving no one behind, particularly women and girls – thank you Kathleen for raising that.

I think that everyone can see themselves and their efforts in these universal goals, from a young child, to a farmer, to a street vendor, to a business owner, to the President of the United States. That ideal, building a new global partnership, will again be put to the test in just a few weeks when the world gathers in Paris to negotiate a new global climate deal. The deal that must help address many of the challenges you have faced in this simulation over these past two days. I think these enterprises at the international level really link.

In order to build the kind of resilience that we are going to need, that you discussed over the past two days, we need to focus on the goals that are embedded in the SDG's and build new forms of sustainable economies, but we also need to tackle the climate challenge. Paris is obviously the moment when the world could come together to do that, to negotiate that new global climate deal, a deal that must help address these challenges.

We have not yet crossed the finish line on a global climate agreement. But there have been some big diplomatic breakthroughs that make me optimistic about the prospects for success in Paris, the foremost being the U.S.-China joint announcement of mutual action and emission reduction, which galvanized the commitment to put forward ambitious INDC's. China committed to deploy an additional 800-1,000 gigawatts of nuclear, wind, solar, and other zero emission generation capacity by 2030. That's a lot of clean energy – equivalent to total current electricity generation capacity in the United States. The U.S. pledged to double the pace of its GHG reductions and keep on a path to deep de-carbonization by midcentury, which as I understand it, what the group agreed to at the end of the fourth turn of this game.

But as we know, reducing emissions won't be enough. We need to ensure that resilience and adaptations are also key pillars of the agreement in Paris. Without focusing on how climate change and environmental degradation will impact the livelihoods of the most vulnerable, we're completely ignoring the full scope of the challenge. So as world leaders gather in Paris, they must build an agreement that reflects both of those 21st century realities.

First, all of the world's major polluters must act to cut their baseline greenhouse gas emissions, and at the same time they must stay focused on helping the most vulnerable. We must not only help them weather the impacts of climate change, but we must help them martial resources to build, as I noted, sustainable, resilient economies for the future that are inclusive. That bring in the extreme core that

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connect them to the societies, to the politics, and to the economies of their countries.

Such an agreement is achievable, but we cannot fall back on old habits that pit region against region, North against South, or rich against poor.

There will invariably be moments of frustration, brinkmanship, and even crisis. That is how such talks always seem to go when there is a great deal at stake. I would only urge that in those moments, negotiators of the countries that will attend the meeting in Paris remember that billions of people around the globe are looking to them to work in a spirit of collaboration, cooperation, and partnership to shape the world we all want—for our children, our economies, and our societies.

Put simply: we can't afford to wait, we can't afford finger pointing, and we can't afford half measures.

You've seen over the past few days the potential for decisions by big players to interact in unanticipated ways. And you've seen how the negative impacts often fall upon the most vulnerable. The Africa team has seen the importance of increasing its influence in the global policy arena. The United States, Europe and India have proven that they can successfully cooperate when it comes to increasing research and establishing funding streams to address pressing issues, put a price on carbon.

The last two days have also shown that although traditional security challenges that we face today will not disappear, the Cold War-era thinking will not provide the solutions that we so desperately need. By broadening the discourse over what constitutes "security," we will diminish distrust between countries and mobilize powerful civic and corporate partnerships.

Perhaps this seems Pollyannaish in today's context, but I hope you will all take away the belief that serious cooperation on issues like food security, climate change, climate security, and environmental preservation serves all of our interests across the globe. Providing safe, affordable food supplies to a growing population is of course not a new problem, but it's never been more challenging than it is today. Population growth, rapid urbanization, eroding infrastructure, climate change, extreme weather, ocean degradation, ocean acidification, new strains of crop disease, political instability and conflict are only making it more difficult for us to feed the world, in particular our most vulnerable.

If we focus on the challenges of human security, livelihood protection, and sustainable development, I believe we all stand to benefit greatly. If we can revise our traditional conceptions of security to more reflect the world we live in today, we can hope to mobilize greater resources in times of crisis. And if we work together to address the root causes of conflict and instability, we just might be able to insulate the most vulnerable states and societies against these threats.

As I spoke with some of you after the game, I heard a lot of great ideas. Molly already went through some of them. I particularly like that "blue sky science" model – that's a particular passion of mine. Some were focused on improving or better-resourcing our existing multilateral framework for addressing these issues. Some put forward ideas for entirely new institutions meant to fill existing gaps. Some put forward ideas about how we resource challenge in front of us. That is, produce the funds necessary to make the right investments and produce those sustainable economies.

Here is what I'm going to ask all of you: Take them home with you. Keep working on those ideas and expanding them. Talk about this exercise and the lessons you learned from it. And keep talking to each

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other – I hope this is the beginning of a great global food security network. All of our work is strengthened by maintaining these ties and continuing to work outside and across our areas of expertise.

So with that: thank you all for gaming with us. Thank you all very much for your time, your expertise, and your contributions. Most of all, thank you for your commitment to solving what will be the future generations' most important security challenge. Thank you for taking these two days and taking time to do something I couldn't think of as more important than the enterprise of ideas and the solutions that you hopefully have been able to map out in your two days. Thank you very much.

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To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/25/2016 6:00:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: Is Europe's Foreign Policy Under Threat from its Economic Dependence?

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Is Europe's Foreign Policy Under Threat from its Economic Dependence?

Hans Kundnani January 26, 2016

BERLIN—As Europe struggles to deal with the refugee crisis, it seems like a long time ago that Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras threatened to undermine EU sanctions against Russia. His flirtation with Russian President Vladimir Putin last year was widely seen as a way for Greece to increase its leverage in negotiations with its eurozone partners and the International Monetary Fund, which were reaching a critical stage in the spring. In the end, a deal was struck in the summer that prevented a default and allowed Greece to remain in the single currency, though it is unlikely to do much to solve Greece's deeper economic problems — and Greece remained supportive of European policy toward Russia.

However, as I argue in a new GMF policy brief , the situation of an EU member state seeking external help — or coming under external pressure to undermine an EU policy — is likely to recur in the future. Long-term changes in the structure of global trade are transforming the economic basis of the EU's external relations. In particular, for nearly all EU member states, trade with other member states is decreasing as a share of total trade. Intra-EU exports have declined as a share of the EU's overall exports from 68 percent in 2000 to 63 percent in 2014. This shift away from intra-EU trade raises difficult questions about the future of European integration...

FULL ARTICLE

Hans Kundnani is a senior transatlantic fellow with GMF's Europe program, based in Berlin.

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To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/16/2015 12:17:48 AM
Subject:	H4 News Clips 7.16.15
Attachments:	7.16.15 H4A News Clips.docx

H4A News Clips
July 16, 2015

LAST NIGHT'S EVENING NEWS

CBS and ABC did not report on 2016 issues. NBC reported that Donald Trump filed his FEC report; says it was "difficult" because, his campaign reports, the forms are not meant for someone of his "massive wealth," and that forms left many questions answered but stated in all caps that he's worth $10 billion. His campaign said Trump's income last year was $362 million, stock gains were over $27 million, and salary from 14 seasons of 'The Apprentice' was $213.6 million but released very little information on assets or debt. Commentators say that he might actually be worth less than he asserts.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Reports Raising Almost $47 Million for Primary Campaign // NYT // Nicholas Confessore – July 15, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton raised $46.7 million for her primary campaign, more than half of it from women, according to campaign officials and reports filed on Wednesday with the Federal Election Commission.

Mrs. Clinton had $28 million in cash on hand at the beginning of July after spending more than $18 million since starting her campaign in April, as she moved rapidly to establish infrastructure in key primary states after months of waiting to enter the race. And while her campaign has focused on raising contributions for the primary, Mrs. Clinton accepted $824,620 in money earmarked for the general election should she win the Democratic nomination.

About one in six dollars of the almost $47 million Mrs. Clinton raised came from donors giving less than $200, a smaller proportion than some Democratic and Republican rivals, such as Senators Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Ted Cruz of Texas. Mr. Sanders raised far less than Mrs. Clinton overall — about $15 million, including money transferred from his Senate account — though more than two-thirds of it came from smaller donors.

"Thanks to the more than 250,000 Americans who have stepped up to support Hillary Clinton's campaign, we have had the ability to make critical investments in our organization that will put us in position to win the primary and the White House," Robby Mook, Mrs. Clinton's campaign manager, said in a statement. "With Republicans tapping their billionaire backers for unlimited sums of money, we are glad to be able to have such broad support to be able to show why Hillary Clinton is the only candidate who will fight for policies that allow everyday Americans to get ahead and stay ahead."

An earlier version of this article misstated when Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign finance reports were filed with the Federal Election Commission. They were filed on Wednesday, not Monday.

Female donors help Hillary Clinton bring in $47.5 million in second quarter // WaPo // Matea Gold – July 15, 2015

The $47.5 million Hillary Rodham Clinton raised during her first two and half months as a presidential candidate this year was boosted by a predominantly female donor base, her campaign said Wednesday.

Of the more the 250,000 contributors who donated to Clinton, 61 percent are women. That puts her on track to outstrip the presidential high-water mark set by President Obama in 2012, when 47 percent of donors who gave him more than $200 were women, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

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The surge of female-driven contributions for Clinton could fuel a partisan divide when it comes to gender and political money. In 2012, women gave 52 percent of their federal donations to Democratic candidates, a slight edge the party has held since 1998, according to the Center.

All but $824,000 of Clinton's war chest is money raised for the Democratic primary contest. Her campaign entered July with nearly $29 million in cash on hand.

Donations under $200 made up just under 17 percent of Clinton's total raised. That was in sharp contrast with Republican Jeb Bush: Just 3 percent of the $11.4 million he raised came from such low-dollar donations.

Clinton's small-donor base is larger than it was in her first quarter of fundraising in the 2008 race, when just 9 percent of her money came from contributions under $200, according to data analyzed by the Campaign Finance Institute. But it is smaller than that of then-candidate Barack Obama, who raised 22 percent of his money that same quarter from small donors.

It is also dwarfed by that of primary season rival Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). Nearly 76 percent of the $13.5 million in individual donations he received were under $200.

“With Republicans tapping their billionaire backers for unlimited sums of money, we are glad to be able to have such broad support to be able to show why Hillary Clinton is the only candidate who will fight for policies that allow everyday Americans to get ahead and stay ahead," campaign manager Robby Mook said in a statement.

Clinton also released the names of 122 fundraisers who have bundled at least $100,000 for the campaign. In all, they have raised at least $12.2 million since April 12, 2015.

The Clinton bundler list included many familiar and longtime Democratic Party fundraisers, as well as some of the Clinton’s biggest long-time donors. Haim and Cheryl Saban, who built a fortune marketing the “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” and other entertainment offerings, were on the list as they have been for past Clinton presidential, Senate and foundation activities.

Longtime donor Fred Eychaner, a reclusive Chicago business and media titan, is on the list. In 2012, he was one of the largest donors to Democratic outside spending groups, and has been particularly supportive of same sex marriage legislation.

The list also includes many familiar Washington names, including Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, longtime Democratic donor and former ambassador to Portugal, and veteran Clinton adviser Minyon Moore. Washington lobbyist Steve Elmendorf – who worked on the presidential campaigns of Richard Gephardt, John Kerry and Hillary Clinton – was listed, along with Tom Nides, who was Hillary Clinton’s deputy secretary of state before joining Morgan Stanley as a top executive.

Other notable Wall Street bundlers listed include hedge fund magnate Orin Kramer and Marc Lasry.

Unlike Obama, Clinton is allowing lobbyists to bundle for her campaign. Among those raising money for Clinton were former Sen. Robert Torricelli of New Jersey and K Street power Heather Podesta. Others included David Leiter, a lobbyist who served as former chief of staff to John Kerry; and Jackson Dunn, a managing director at FTI Consulting who served as an aide to President Bill Clinton and other national figures.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Alex Moe (7/15/15, 1:03 PM) – INBOX: Speaker Boehner Calls for Hearings on Grisly Abortion Practices, Says President Obama Should Denounce Them

Ryan Lizza (7/15/15, 2:57 PM) – Curious why Obama doesn't take the HRC approach to this issue: support the deal but pivot to very hawkish position on Iran's meddling in ME.

Nick Confessore (7/15/15, 4:42 PM) – Wow: Out of $15 million Bernie raised, $11 million came from donors giving less than $200.

Marco Rubio (7/15/15, 5:48 PM) – .@mav213 I will give Iran a choice: change your behavior, or face the collapse of your economy due to U.S. pressure.

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton Lags in Engaging Grass-Roots Donors // NYT // Nicholas Confessore and Maggie Haberman – July 15, 2015

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Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign has been slow to harness the fund-raising power of the Democratic Party's legions of grass-roots donors, according to reports filed Wednesday, a weakness that her campaign is racing to combat.

Of the $47.5 million that Mrs. Clinton has raised, one-fifth has come from donors giving less than $200. That is a far smaller proportion than that of her Democratic and Republican rivals who have excited grass-roots donors on the left and right, such as Senators Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Ted Cruz of Texas. While Mr. Sanders raised far less than Mrs. Clinton over all — about $15 million, including money transferred from his Senate account — about four-fifths of that amount came from smaller donors.

The slow response of grass-roots donors is a consequence, Mrs. Clinton's aides and advisers said, of the deliberately low-key approach she has taken on the campaign trail — with few of the big rallies and campaign events that can help build voter lists and drive donations — along with the challenge in persuading some donors that Mrs. Clinton, who is far ahead in primary polls, needs their money.

The deficit could represent a financial and strategic liability for Mrs. Clinton if she were to win the nomination. The pool of Republican donors willing to write the maximum $2,700 check has grown so large that no Democrat, not even Mrs. Clinton, is likely to be able to match a mainstream Republican nominee on high-dollar fund-raising over the long term. In 2012, President Obama and his party were able to match the Republican candidate, Mitt Romney, only by raising far more money than Mr. Romney from small donors.

"Given the prodigious amount of money on the Republican side, the Democratic nominee absolutely has to overperform" among small donors, said David Axelrod, who advised Mr. Obama's two successful presidential campaigns.

Campaign officials said that operational hurdles and administrative delays also have impeded her outreach to small donors. On the day that Mrs. Clinton sent out emails in April announcing her presidential bid, a campaign official said, many of the messages bounced back. Fewer than 100,000 of the 2.5 million email addresses collected during her 2008 campaign, it turned out, were still active. The campaign did not gain access to a huge list of supporters, built over two years at substantial expense by a pro-Clinton "super PAC," Ready for Hillary, until a month and a half after Mrs. Clinton's announcement.

Some of Mrs. Clinton's allies acknowledge that Mr. Sanders has done a better job of engaging small donors on the left. "The small donors right now are very much attracted to what Bernie is saying," said Ed Rendell, a former Pennsylvania governor and a Clinton supporter.

Mrs. Clinton's campaign has responded with a new program, the Hillbuilder Initiative, intended to build a more robust online presence and harvest the grass-roots money and enthusiasm that can come with it. But the slow start has bewildered some longtime supporters, who recall small-donor enthusiasm as a crucial piece of Mr. Obama's win over Mrs. Clinton in 2008.

Relying more heavily on large donors could also present an unwanted contrast not only to other candidates, like Mr. Sanders, but with Mrs. Clinton's own statements about fighting for those who feel locked out of the economy. Mrs. Clinton has attended 46 fund-raisers since she entered the campaign, many of them for donors giving the largest possible check. Mr. Sanders has attended two.

"We're spending our time talking to people, rather than sitting around in small rooms talking to very wealthy people," Mr. Sanders said in an interview on Wednesday, as he prepared for a campaign rally in Phoenix. "These are working people, middle-class people who are making these contributions."

Wednesday's campaign filings underscored not only how small donors have powered insurgent candidates, but how the growing world of super PACs and outside spending have upended conventional measures of fund-raising strength.

Mrs. Clinton's campaign has taken in three times more money than any of her Democratic or Republican rivals, according to Federal Election Commission data filed by the 2016 candidates on Wednesday.

But super PACs and other outside groups set up by allies or former aides to the Republican candidates have dwarfed the top Democratic super PAC — as well as most of the Republican campaigns — collectively raising in excess of $200 million and startling some in Mrs. Clinton's camp.

Jeb Bush's super PAC, Right to Rise, raised more than $103 million, on top of $11 million raised by his campaign, giving him an effective war chest twice as large as Mrs. Clinton's. Priorities USA, the lead Democratic super PAC, has raised $15 million, and Mrs. Clinton's allies are struggling to persuade her wealthiest backers to make seven- and eight-figure donations to the group.

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The only silver lining, Democrats said, was the knowledge that much of the Republican super PAC money would be used to savage other Republicans, in what is likely to be a long and hard-fought primary campaign.

“What it means is that they are going to tear each other apart in the primary season,” said Mr. Rendell, who predicted that Mrs. Clinton’s small-dollar fund-raising would grow substantially in the months ahead.

Some Democrats privately said that Mrs. Clinton’s campaign fund-raising is less impressive than it appears. Aside from Martin O’Malley, the former Maryland Governor, who reported raising $2 million for his campaign, Mrs. Clinton has no competition for the Democrats’ big-donor establishment, which handed out a combined $80 million to a crowded Democratic primary field during the equivalent fund-raising period in 2007, the last open primary.

She also has been slow to seize the chance to raise money jointly with the Democratic National Committee. Under legislation passed in December, the party can accept up to $334,000 from each donor every calendar year — 10 times the amount in past years. One leading Democratic donor, who asked not to be identified so as not to damage his relations with Mrs. Clinton, estimated that the Democrats could be leaving $60 million to $70 million on the table.

While some Clinton allies say they are not concerned about the campaign’s potential to excite small donors, the difficulty that Mrs. Clinton has faced presents a paradox of her position as a kind of de facto incumbent in the fight for the Democratic nomination. Without a pitched primary battle — like the one she faced against then-Senator Barack Obama eight years ago — it is far more difficult for Mrs. Clinton to create urgency among her financial and political base this early in the campaign.

But an all-out fund-raising blitz, or a campaign built around larger events, could stoke the aura of “inevitability” that she is determined to avoid.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, Josh Schwerin, said the campaign was “thrilled to have 250,000 donors in our first quarter in the race, and our Hillbuilder program is already paying off with a rapidly growing list that is active and engaged.”

The fallacy of the ‘real Hillary Clinton’ **// WaPo // Philip Bump – July 15, 2015**

Hillary Clinton has been campaigning either for herself or her husband since 1991, with the exception of the four years she served as secretary of state (and including time in office, which one should). That's 20 of 24 years, which is why Mark Leibovich's New York Times coverage of the latest effort necessitates several extra "re-"s before "reintroducing Hillary Clinton."

Leibovich argues that the drip-drip release of e-mails from Clinton's time as secretary of state has inadvertently helped the campaign achieve that dream goal of every candidate: Presenting the real Hillary Clinton. None of this what-I-read-in-the-papers stuff about who Clinton is and what she's like, but the real, unfiltered, only slightly sanded-down Hillary Clinton that her friends and family know. And heck, they'd all vote for her in a heartbeat!

Those old enough to remember back to 2012 will remember another candidate who bemoaned that his realness was sheltered (and, of course, he features in Leibovich's very next sentence). If only people had known the real Mitt Romney, the thinking goes, they'd have voted for him in a heartbeat. This was son Josh's stated goal in 2012, to "help voters to get a different side of him ... to really see the real Mitt Romney."

Between January 2012 and January 2014, there were at least 1,400 news articles talking about the "real Mitt Romney," according to Nexis — a wave cresting with the release early that year of the documentary "Mitt." Here, at last, was the real Mitt. (But somehow, when he talked about running for president a third time earlier this year, people were still only lukewarm.)

Here's the thing, though. This "get to know the real so-and-so" thing is not new.

The day after the 2004 debate, Newsweek's Evan Thomas figured the debate helped John Kerry's chances because George W. Bush's allies "made him just a flip-flopping, effete, sherry-sipping, windsurfing joke, and when the American public finally saw the real John Kerry" he was "pretty good." The Lowell (Mass.) Sun spoke to Kerry's neighbors, folks that "had a chance to watch the real John Kerry, up close and unguarded." A syndicated column that went around before the election asked the real Kerry to "please stand up," perhaps marking Eminem's recent influence on the culture. Scores of articles between 2004 and 2006 demanded or revealed the "real" John Kerry.

Just as, four years earlier, scores had looked for the "real Al Gore."

"Whatever he does, he has to be real," pollster John Zogby advised shortly before the 2000 election. "Who is the real Al Gore?" After the first debate, CBS' Russ Mitchell figured that viewers had seen him. Maybe. "If there is

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such a thing, though, as a real Al Gore, then voters probably saw him last night," he said. And on and on.

The same concern didn't seem to surround George W. Bush that year. Far fewer people worried about uncovering the real Dubya than the real Gore or Kerry. In 2008, there was a lot of handwringing about the real Barack Obama, but some of that was of the birther variety.

In 1984, it was Walter Mondale's turn. The Washington Post spoke with his team as the election approached. "Mondale's advisers also are trying to bring out a 'real Mondale,' " we reported, "who they say is, among other things, really a 'pragmatic, progressive Midwest politician' — not the ultra-liberal Reagan decries." Mondale offered the same — unsuccessful — advice to Michael Dukakis for his — unsuccessful — 1988 bid. "He's just got to go out and show us the real Dukakis and tell us where he wants to take the country," Mondale told the Times. "Don't worry about advisers. I didn't at this point. I said things my way." And how'd that work out?

What's really being said, of course, is usually that the candidates are too candidate-y — that they seem as though they're trying to leverage their communications sophistication to hide who they really are. Kerry wasn't hiding a bubbly, easygoing persona when he ran in 2004; he doesn't really have one. Voters saw the real Al Gore and the real John Kerry. Voters in 2008 saw the real Hillary Clinton. Sure, they're all nice and easy-going sometimes, but who isn't? Sometimes, like when they're campaigning, they aren't.

Or, look at it another way: Is the you that you offer on Facebook "the real you"? Of course not. The "real" us is never really knowable by another person. What candidates who want you to know the "real" them are really saying is, "I know you don't like me, but trust me that you would."

Often, as we've seen, that sales pitch doesn't work.

Democrats release now-abandoned hearing schedule for Benghazi committee // WaPo // Colby Itkowitz – July 15, 2015

Former defense secretaries Leon Panetta and Robert Gates, then-U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice and, of course, former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton were among the high-level witnesses who Republicans intended to call to testify this year about the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

Democrats on the special House committee investigating those attacks made public Wednesday a list of witnesses and hearings they claim Republicans outlined as part of a 2015 schedule for the committee.

In a letter to Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), and distributed widely, the Democrats accuse him of abandoning the investigation in favor of skewering Clinton during her presidential run.

According to the Democrats, Panetta and Gates were supposed to testify in April for a hearing entitled, “Why were we in Libya?” Rice, who famously was the White House mouthpiece in the days after the attacks, was to be summoned in July to discuss the “motivation of the attackers, as well as what was said after the attacks.”

And Clinton was going to come before the committee in May to discuss “How did we respond?”

Gowdy has previously blamed the committee’s slow walking the investigation on the State Department not turning over documents fast enough. He has said they can’t hold hearing until they have all the relevant facts.

But the Democrats wrote in their letter that it doesn’t explain why no hearings, except for one in January, have been held. Particularly ones focused on other agencies like Defense, which shouldn’t be dependent on State documents.

An Associated Press story Tuesday said the committee has “devolved from an investigation into the deaths of four Americans in Libya into a political fight over Hillary Rodham Clinton’s emails and private computer server.”

The conclusion was that the purpose of the committee’s work is to uncover Clinton’s wrongdoings, not how and why the Benghazi attacks occurred.

2016 Campaign Cash Flowing to Clinton and Bush // AP // July 16, 2015

WASHINGTON — The major parties' top presidential candidates in the fundraising race — Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republican Jeb Bush — are collecting cash in the huge amounts needed to fuel the extensive political organizations they are building for the 2016 campaign.

Their financial backers have poured more than $176 million into their campaigns and the super PACs specially designed to boost them.

Clinton's campaign is spending money at a rapid clip, according to initial fundraising reports filed Wednesday with

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federal regulators. The former first lady and front-runner in the Democratic race has paid out 40 percent of the $47 million in donations that she amassed by the end of June, employing some 364 people and building infrastructure across the country in preparation for next year's general election.

Bush, the former Florida governor and son and brother of ex-presidents, spent more than one-quarter of the $11.4 million in fundraising that he collected in the final 16 days of June, according to the reports. The campaign invested heavily in payroll and policy consulting.

The Federal Election Commission reports cover financial activity between April 1 and June 30, a period when almost all of the 22 presidential hopefuls jumped into the race, and list the names of everyone who gave at least $200. The maximum contribution for the primary is $2,700.

The FEC documents also showed how candidates are spending — or saving: In the crowded Republican field, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio started July with almost $10 million, just ahead of Bush and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, and in front of the rest of the GOP pack.

Yet a candidate's own campaign is just one page in the money story. Super PACs, which are required to file similar documents at the end of the month, can accept contributions of any size. They're limited on how closely they can work with the campaigns but are often staffed with close confidants of the candidates. In many cases, the candidates themselves have "blessed" the super PACs and pitched in with their fundraising.

These and other powerful outside groups account for about two-thirds of the roughly $400 million raised so far for the presidential election, according to an Associated Press tally of FEC documents and financial totals provided by the groups that haven't yet reported.

No current candidate has made as much use of super PACs and their unlimited-donation potential as Bush. Before he officially declared his candidacy, he spent the first six months of the year raising huge sums of money for Right to Rise. That group says it has raised a record $103 million.

Outside groups are furthering the ambitions of at least four other Republican presidential aspirants: Rubio, Cruz, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Ohio Gov. John Kasich. In each case, the fundraising for those entities is outpacing the fundraising for their campaigns.

Rubio's overall take from donors — $44.7 million to his campaign and two outside groups — includes $15.8 million for a nonprofit that won't file any public budget information until at least next year and keeps its donors secret.

Some donors are secret for another reason: They're too small. The FEC only requires names and identifying information for people who give more than $200.

These kinds of contributors are underwriting Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' Democratic presidential campaign, FEC reports show, accounting for more than three-quarters of the $13.7 million in contributions he collected. Sanders also transferred $1.5 million from his dormant Senate campaign account.

Also doing well on the small-donor front is Republican retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson. About 68 percent of his $10.6 million raised this year was in contributions of $200 or less. Carly Fiorina, a California technology executive also seeking the GOP nomination, raised 43 percent of her $1.7 million this way.

Because the money is coming directly to those candidates, they have tighter control over how it is used.

By comparison, 3 percent of Bush's campaign cash and 17 percent of Clinton's came from small donors.

A few major Republican candidates are missing from the initial campaign finance reports. Kasich hasn't officially launched his campaign yet. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie made their campaigns official too recently to file second-quarter FEC reports, although a Christie-allied super PAC said on Tuesday that it has raised $11 million. The first look at their campaign numbers will come in mid-October.

Hillary Clinton Spends $18 Million, Hires Hundreds // AP // Lisa Lerer and Julie Bykowicz – July 15, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton spent more than $18 million and hired hundreds of employees in the first three months of her presidential campaign, creating a national operation that vastly outpaces her rivals in both parties.

She has the money for it, having raised more than $46 million for the Democratic primary contest.

But building a campaign Goliath hasn't come cheap. Clinton spent more than $5.9 million on 343 employees, $700,000 on computers and other equipment, and nearly half a million renting offices, including her 80,000-

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square-foot Brooklyn headquarters.

Beyond paying for salaries and space, her campaign purchased lists of voters in four early primary states, paid six figures to a super PAC devoted to defending her record and spent heavily on building a digital team, according to campaign finance documents filed Wednesday with federal regulators.

It's a strategy aimed at a contest that's nearly a year away. The overwhelming favorite for her party's nomination, Clinton's team has set its sights on building the massive infrastructure they'll need for the general election.

The outlay is nearly four times what Clinton spent in the first three months of her last presidential campaign, when she faced a far more competitive primary race against then-Sen. Barack Obama.

During that 2008 campaign, Clinton and her team faced charges from donors that they were wasting money on ineffective strategic choices — like spending nearly $100,000 for party platters and groceries before the Iowa caucus, a contest she lost.

This time, her staff has emphasized its "cheapskate" mentality — particularly to contributors. At her first national finance meeting in May, top donors were instructed to purchase their own lunches and fund their own transportation to various gatherings in Brooklyn.

Campaign aides like to brag about taking the bus from New York to Washington, rather than the more expensive Acela train. Even so, her campaign spent at least $8,700 on train tickets and just a few hundred dollars on bus fare, the Federal Election Commission report shows.

All told, Clinton has spent a far greater portion of her early funds during this campaign than she did eight years ago.

During the first three months of her 2008 bid, Clinton spent 14 percent of the $36 million she raised, according to FEC documents. In the launch of this campaign, she's burned though nearly 40 percent of what she has taken in.

Her campaign also reported that Clinton received more than 250,000 contributions, with an average donation of $144.89. About 17 percent of her contributions were $200 or less.

By comparison, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has fueled an insurgent challenge to Clinton with small donations. He pulled in more than $15.2 million through the end of June, and three-quarters of his donations were $200 or less.

Though they've highlighted their lower-dollar contributions, Clinton's team also released a list of campaign bundlers who each raised more than $100,000 for her primary bid.

Some of the donors included Clinton's most ardent financial backers, including Hollywood media mogul Haim Saban; Susie Tompkins Buell, a wealthy California investor who was a major donor to the Ready for Hillary super PAC; Las Vegas publisher Brian Greenspun, a longtime friend and college classmate of Bill Clinton; billionaire J.B. Pritzker of Chicago; and Alan Patricof, a New York-based financier who served as Clinton's finance chair when she first ran for Senate in New York.

Clinton's team also successfully courted some of Obama's biggest backers, including New York financiers Marc Lasry, Charles Myers and Blair Effron.

Others included former Clinton aides like Minyon Moore, Tom Nides and Lisa Caputo, former Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, and current members of Congress like Reps. Jim Himes of Connecticut and Grace Meng of New York.

Hillary Clinton’s not-so-cheapskate campaign // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti and Annie Karni – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton’s cheapskate campaign is sure spending a lot of cash.

The Democratic front-runner, who has pledged to run a thrifty operation, started off with a historically lucrative fundraising quarter, but it’s also gone through campaign funds at a rate surpassing any of her rivals in either party.

Racing against a Republican field full of highly funded campaigns and super PACs, the Clinton machine spent more than $18.7 million since launching in mid-April — that’s more than the rest of her Democratic rivals raised, combined, according to filings released on Wednesday.

It could afford to do so after raising roughly $47.5 million — including $46 million in primary money, the most of any campaign in its first quarter, ever.

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The report, which came in late Wednesday as the federal filing deadline loomed, showed a campaign investing heavily in organizing, but also in a large staff around the country.
It also showed an operation heavily reliant on a handful of large donors: Just $8 million of its haul came from donations of $200 or less, though the campaign said 94 percent of its contributions were less than $250.

In a bid for transparency, the campaign voluntarily disclosed its bundlers of over $100,000 — a long list that included several stand-by Democratic megadonors and a handful of elected officials.

But, for a campaign that has publicly promoted its allegedly frugal ways, the report also showed a few particularly large or eyebrow-raising expenditures and liabilities.
Hillary for America reported a debt of $574,000 for the first three months of its campaign since its April 12 launch, including over $553,000 owed to pollster John Anzalone's firm.

When Clinton last ran for president, in 2008, her campaign finished in debt, and the candidate used nearly $13 million of her own dollars — circumstances the operation has been keen to avoid repeating. So far this time, Clinton herself donated about $279,000 to her own 2016 campaign.

And while the campaign has highlighted how it encourages even its top staffers to take the cheap Bolt Bus to travel along the Northeast corridor, the filing showed the campaign has also spent more than $8,700 on Amtrak.

Much of the campaign's money was spent on payroll and organizing expenses, but some expenditures — such as nearly $180,000 for a charter plane company — stood out.

Other noticeable expenditures included a $500 payment to former Rep. Anthony Weiner — husband of top aide Huma Abedin — for office furniture, and over $387,000 in legal fees.

The campaign did spend considerably in the early-voting states, including $370,000 for voter files in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. And it has spent almost $815,000 on services from pollster Joel Benenson's firm.
Background=istockphoto

Clinton has been raising money aggressively in a bid to raise $100 million in primary election money by the end of December. Much of her fundraising pitch to donors has been based around her likely Republican rivals' own campaign cash, including Jeb Bush's super PAC haul of over $100 million.

But Clinton's filing on Wednesday covered only her campaign, not its supportive groups. The main pro-Clinton super PAC, Priorities USA Action, raised over $15 million in the first half of the year despite raising money particularly actively in only recent weeks.
"With Republicans tapping their billionaire backers for unlimited sums of money, we are glad to be able to have such broad support to be able to show why Hillary Clinton is the only candidate who will fight for policies that allow everyday Amerians to get ahead and stay ahead," said campaign manager Robby Mook.

Clinton's total puts her miles ahead of her Democratic rivals, including Bernie Sanders — who raised north of $15 million — and Martin O'Malley — who brought in $2 million. In fact, Clinton spent more than the rest of the Democratic field raised, combined.
Her three-month haul was larger than that of any Republican's official campaign, but super PAC numbers will not fully be reported until the end of the month.

At this point in 2007, Clinton was already in her second quarter as a candidate, and she reported a $27 million haul that July, with $45 million cash on hand. In that bid, less than 10 percent of her contributions came from people donating $200 or less.
The campaign on Wednesday noted that over 250,000 individual donors contributed this time, and that over 60 percent of its donors were women.

It voluntarily disclosed a list of over 100 top bundlers — the National Finance Committee members known as "Hillblazers" — which includes a mix of major Obama backers in 2008 and Clinton standbys, as well as a handful of current and former lawmakers.

Included in the roster are former Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh; Rep. Joaquin Castro; Rep. Grace Meng; Rep. Jim Hime;, former Clinton press secretary Lisa Caputo; longtime supporter and Clinton Foundation donor Lynn Forester de Rothschild; Sean Eldridge and New Republic owner Chris Hughes; media mogul Fred Eychaner; billionaire venture capitalist J. B. Pritzker; Morgan Stanley executive Tom Nides, who served as part of Clinton's brain trust at the State Department; megadonor and Univision owner Haim Saban; Steve Rattner; and Democratic National Committee member Robert Zimmerman, among others.

Below is a breakout of the campaign's finances as of the end of June:

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Total raised: $47.5 million

Total spent: $18.7 million

Total cash on hand: $28.85 million

Total debt: $574,000

Republican field walloping Clinton in money race // Politico // Daniel Strauss – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton, the dominant front-runner in the Democratic field, is facing a massive pile of money on the Republican side, with early numbers showing that the GOPers have outraised Clinton more than four times over.

So far, the 15 candidates vying for the Republican nomination have raked in more than $280 million to Clinton's $69 million, through a mix of campaign fundraising, super PAC donations, and other money groups.

Yes, the field is lopsided, but that doesn't diminish this fact: Hillary's squaring off against a lot of Republican cash.

Federal Election Commission numbers are trickling in on Wednesday, the deadline for candidates to provide their official campaign figures. The numbers provide an initial snapshot of the cash dash, with 16 months still to go before Election Day.

But there was already a pretty good money picture before the deadline. Over the past couple weeks, the 2016ers have leaked, announced and — in some cases — boasted about their fundraising hauls.

Among the sea of numbers, one has stood out: Jeb's.

Bush's Right to Rise super PAC, which will take on an unprecedented role in tandem with his presidential campaign, announced last week that it had banked $103 million in the past six months, exceeding its own ambitious goal of $100 million.

On top of that, Bush's official campaign announced it raised $11.4 million over 16 days since he announced his bid for the White House (Bush's camp confirmed that in its filing on Wednesday). A third money group raised $5 million, bringing his total amount to a formidable $119 million.

The figures showed Bush's prowess on the fundraising front. In two weeks, his campaign raised more than some of his rivals have over several months, and the super PAC's take is unprecedented in American politics.

The numbers confirmed some of the worries among Clinton supporters, who believe now is the time for the pro-Clinton super PAC Priorities USA Action to get its act together and start becoming a fundraising machine that can counter the Jeb juggernaut.

But Bush is not the only Republican who has successfully flexed his fundraising muscle.

Sen. Ted Cruz was not far behind with a $51 million pull, while Sen. Marco Rubio's combined haul was $43.8 million.

The rest of the field drops off from there, at least from initial reports. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry's war chest stands at roughly $18 million (he reported $1.1 million in official campaign fundraising on Wednesday), groups backing Ohio Gov. John Kasich (who will announce his candidacy next week) raised $11.5 million, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's super PAC has reported bringing in $11 million, and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson's campaign said it raised $10.5 million.

Others have so far raised in the single-digit millions. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal was the first to have his paperwork appear on deadline day, reporting on Wednesday that his campaign had raised just under $579,000 during the seven days before the June 30 deadline. An adviser for the governor's super PAC said later on Wednesday that pro-Jindal groups have raised nearly $9 million.

On the Democratic side, Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is shunning super PAC money, comes in a not-close second with $15.2 million, while former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley brought in roughly $2 million during his first month as a candidate.

Clinton, meanwhile, has set off on a solid clip of fundraising, with $45 million in campaign money during her first three months as a candidate (a primary record, her campaign notes), and an additional $24 million through pro-Clinton super PACs.
Stuart Roy, who formerly advised a pro-Rick Santorum super PAC in 2012, said the GOP's numbers looks huge

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against Clinton, but cautioned against reading too closely into the numbers.

“The Republican spin doctor inside of me wants to tell you that Hillary Clinton is going to get crushed but I really don’t think that July of this year that it’s terribly indicative of the general election. Most of the donors that are giving now are early donors and are giving because they believe in the candidate and you’re not getting too much of the momentum money which is what you get when people believe you can win.”

Poll: Hillary Clinton’s lead shrinks among Democrats // Politico // Nick Gass – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton is still leading the Democratic field for 2016, but her lead has shrunk in recent months, according to a Monmouth University poll out Wednesday, as independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders continues to make steady gains, despite trailing by a wide margin.

Among Democrats and those leaning toward the Democratic Party, Clinton picked up the support of 51 percent, down from 57 percent in June and 60 percent in April.

Sanders came in second with 17 percent, followed by former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb with 1 percent each. Lincoln Chafee, the former governor and senator from Rhode Island, registered no support.

If Vice President Joe Biden were to run, however, the results suggest that he would take some votes from Clinton. He has not announced his intentions, but poll respondents backed him with 13 percent, just behind Sanders.

Among voters who said they were likely to vote for Biden in the event of his candidacy, 68 percent said they currently support Clinton, while 18 percent said they are backing another candidate, with 14 percent undecided.

Clinton continues to have the best favorability ratings among her Democratic rivals in the Monmouth poll (74 percent favorable to 17 percent unfavorable), though Biden is close behind (67 percent to 17 percent).

The poll was conducted via landlines and cellphones from a larger July 9-12 survey, which sought the opinions of 1,001 adults nationwide. This particular sample included 357 registered voters who identified themselves as Democrats or leaning toward the Democratic Party, carrying a margin of error of plus or minus 5.2 percentage points.

3 Charts That Show Why Hillary Clinton Wants to Increase Profit-Sharing // Bloomberg // Andrew Feather – July 15, 2015

In a speech at the New School in New York City on Monday, presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called for building a “growth and fairness economy.”

“Hard-working Americans deserve to benefit from the record corporate earnings they helped produce,” she said, adding that "studies show profit-sharing that gives everyone a stake in a company’s success can boost productivity and put money directly into employees’ pockets.”

The philosophy behind Clinton’s proposals is sometimes called inclusive capitalism. Rather than focusing on higher tax rates for the rich, Clinton is proposing reforms that would change the incentives of the current economic system in hopes of making it more equitable. Unlike Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, her presidential rival, and a self-described socialist, Clinton is looking to amend the rules of the game, not toss the board up into the air. The following charts help explain why she is promoting profit-sharing:

The one-percent

The percent of wealth controlled by the top one percent now hovers near 20 percent, double where it was in the 50s, 60s and 70s.

Skin in the game

Clinton says she would incentivize businesses to share profits through the tax code. By increasing profit sharing, the plan would give more employees a stake in the business’s growth and put that growth directly into employees' pockets.

An increase in the share of income lower level employees take home could decrease inequality, but it may not make up for the structural inequality created by improvements in technology, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Defining issue of our time

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Few deny that inequality has risen dramatically over the last thirty years, though its causes are disputed. Even low tax republicans like Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio are making it a central issue of their campaigns.

Hillary Clinton Takes in $46.7 Million from 250,000 Donors // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign raised close to $47 million in primary money during its first quarter and has $28.85 million in cash on hand, according to a report filed Wednesday with the Federal Elections Commission.

The Democratic front-runner is focused on raising money for the primary, and brought in more than $46.7 million—including in-kind contributions of nearly $280,000 from Clinton, who financed the testing-the-waters pre-campaign phase with her own money—once all the checks for the second quarter of 2015 were totaled. The campaign is not actively soliciting general-election money but still took in close to $825,000 that can only be spent if she becomes the Democratic nominee.

More than 250,000 people from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories gave to support Clinton's candidacy, the campaign said in a statement, and 94 percent of donations were of $250 or less. The average donation was $144.89 and, showing Clinton's appeal to female voters, 61 percent of donors were women.

“Thanks to the more than 250,000 Americans who have stepped up to support Hillary Clinton’s campaign, we have had the ability to make critical investments in our organization that will put us in position to win the primary and the White House,” Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said in a written statement.

While Clinton's team touted broad-based support, the breakdown by dollars is slightly less kind, with about $8 million—just under 17 percent—of Clinton's haul coming in contributions of $200 or less.

The campaign was the first to voluntarily disclose a list of major fundraisers, and posted on its website the names of 122 individuals or groups that bundled at least $100,000 for Clinton. Many of those people hosted fundraisers for Clinton, including Facebook cofounder and New Republic owner Chris Hughes and his husband Sean Eldridge; Chicago media mogul Fred Eychaner; and Avenue Capital Group CEO Marc Lasry and his wife Cathy.

Texas Reprepsentative Joaquin Castro—the twin brother of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, a possible Clinton vice presidential pick—is listed as a bundler, as are Connecticut Representative Jim Himes and New York Representative Grace Meng. A few former Hillary Clinton staffers, including Minyon Moore and Lisa Caputo, are also listed as bundlers.

The campaign reported $2.1 million in donations bundled by registered lobbyists, including FTI Consulting's Jackson Dunn, who raised the most at $231,554, and former New Jersey Sen. Robert Torricelli, who raised $28,000. Campaign chairman John Podesta's brother Tony Podesta raised $74,575, while Tony Podesta's ex-wife Heather raised $31,150.

More than a dozen Hollywood stars and moguls gave the maximum $2700 to the campaign, including Leonardo DiCaprio, Bryan Cranston, Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Richard Gere, Kate Hudson and Stephen Spielberg, who has also written a big check to the pro-Clinton Priorities USA Action super PAC.

Clinton's second-quarter primary haul, which her campaign had initially estimated at $45 million, beats the record-setting $41.9 million that President Barack Obama's reelection campaign brought in during its first quarter in 2011.

While the campaign's expenses were sizable—disbursements totaled just under $18.7 million, more than any other campaign has even raised—aides insist that they were focused on making smart investments for the rest of the campaign, including starting off with a substantial number of staffers working in a large Brooklyn office, hiring dozens of staffers in early primary and caucus states, and buying voter files and e-mail lists outright rather than in installments.

The campaign spent its funds at a rate of about $230,000 per day and its overall burn rate is about 40 percent, much faster than the 20 percent rate of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders or the 27 percent rate of former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

Even so, the $28.85 million in cash on hand exceeds any of her opponents from either party by more than double. Still, there's plenty of financial pressure on Clinton and the outside groups backing her, which in total raised about $70 million during the second quarter.

The campaign spent more than $900,000 on polling, with just over $800,000 going to Benenson Strategy Group, run by top Clinton adviser Joel Benenson. David Binder's polling firm was paid $90,000 by the campaign. The campaign ended the quarter owing $553,113.66 to another polling firm, Anzalone Liszt Grove Research.

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While the campaign has sought out media attention for its thrift – especially on travel expenses – the numbers are less generous. The campaign's filing details $661.50 spent on Bolt Bus and Best Bus, and $8,700 spent on much pricier Amtrak trips. (There are also plenty of reimbursements to staffers for travel expenses which could of course include ground transportation.) Clinton initially relied on commercial flights to get to campaign stops but has increasingly been using private planes as her travel schedule has picked up, and disclosures show nearly $180,000 paid to just one aircraft company, Executive Fliteways.

The campaign spent $463,656.63 on rent, including $105,875.34 a month for its Brooklyn headquarters at 1 Pierrepont Plaza.

“With Republicans tapping their billionaire backers for unlimited sums of money, we are glad to be able to have such broad support to be able to show why Hillary Clinton is the only candidate who will fight for policies that allow everyday Americans to get ahead and stay ahead," Mook said in his statement.

Groups supporting Jeb Bush brought in $114.4 million during the first half of 2015—including $11.4 million raised by his official campaign between its launch in mid-June and the end of the second quarter. The Clinton team is "without a doubt" worried about being outraised by the efforts backing Bush and more broadly by the flow of massive amounts of money to super PACs backing Republican candidates, Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri said Wednesday on Bloomberg's With All Due Respect.

"I am concerned that Democrats aren't taking it seriously enough and they should be really worried about this," she said. "We are really worried about this. We are still going to be outspent—we still think [Clinton] can win—but this is a big threat."

Democratic House Members Accuse Benghazi Panel of Abandoning Duty // Bloomberg // Billy House – July 15, 2015

The five U.S. House Democrats on the special committee investigating the 2012 attacks in Benghazi on Wednesday criticized Republicans for not planned hearings this year, accusing their colleagues of instead focusing on partisan attacks against Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state now running for the Democratic nomination for president.

"It appears that much of the Select Committee's work has been shelved while Republicans pursue every possible avenue of political attack against Secretary Clinton," states a letter sent by the Democrats to committee chairman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina. It's the latest salvo in a partisan battle over the work of the committee, formed to look into the State Department's handling of the 2012 terror attacks in Libya that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens.

In the Wednesday letter, the panel's Democrats, led by Elijah Cummings of Maryland, said their Republican colleagues had initially provided them with information about plans to hold 11 hearings between January and October on a wide range of topics relating to the Benghazi attacks.

Since then, however, the letter states Republicans "have completely abandoned this plan — holding no hearings at all since January and instead focusing on former Secretary Hillary Clinton.

"Amazingly, the last eight press releases on the Select Committee's webpage deal entirely with Secretary Clinton," the letter adds.

There was no immediate response from Gowdy and Republicans on the committee.

The letter goes on to specify topics of hearings that were promised, but never held. Those include:

- A January hearing with State Department eyewitnesses to the attacks to address the question of what happened in Benghazi;
- A February hearing with non-State Department eyewitnesses to the attacks to address the question of what happened in Benghazi;
- A March hearing with State Department witnesses to address the question of "Why were we in Libya?"
- An April hearing with former Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Secretary Leon Panetta as witnesses to address the question of "Why were we in Libya?"
- A May hearing hearing with Clinton as the planned witness to address the question of "How did we respond? ";
- A June hearing with former Deputy Director of the CIA Michael Morrell as the witness to address intelligence matters related to Libya, specifically about what was said after the attacks;
- And a July hearing with former U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice as the witness to address the motivation of the attackers, as well as what was said after the attacks.

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The letter states that the committee has not only postponed its hearings with Clinton and other State Department witnesses, "but it has abandoned all of its other hearings as well, including those examining other agencies like the Department of Defense and the CIA.

"In the entire 14 months since the Select Committee has been in existence, the Select Committee has not conducted a transcribed interview or deposition of even a single Defense Department employee," the Democrats contend, adding: "In the past, Republicans have attempted to blame the Select Committee's glacial pace on Secretary Clinton and the State Department. But it seems difficult to understand how they could be responsible for the Select Committee abandoning every single hearing it had planned to hold since January."

Republicans have acknowledged that the the findings of the Republican-led committee investigating Clinton's response to the deadly 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, likely will not be released until next year, just months before the 2016 presidential election.

Democrats have previously noted there there already have been as many as seven congressional inquiries into the fatal Sept. 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. compound in Libya. Clinton was secretary of state at the time, and her Republican critics contend that she failed to bolster security before the assault and should share blame for what they say is the Obama administration's initial, erroneous account that the attacks were spontaneous and not the result of a terror attack.

Hillary Clinton Far Outpaces Democratic Rivals in Spending // TIME // Sam Frizell - July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton's campaign spent $18.7 million since its launch on expenses ranging from payroll to voter files and office furniture, as the Democratic frontrunner sought to build a huge national operation that includes staff in all 50 states.

Her campaign has spent more money than both her Democratic rivals have raised.

"Thanks to the more than 250,000 Americans who have stepped up to support Hillary Clinton's campaign, we have had the ability to make critical investments in our organization that will put us in position to win the primary and the White House," said campaign manager Robby Mook.

Some of the campaign's more significant expenditures included $370,000 for the New Hampshire, Iowa, Nevada and South Carolina Democratic party voter files, nearly $2 million outsourcing its direct marketing to a Washington, D.C.-based firm, and millions of dollars in payroll for the campaign staff of nearly 350.

The campaign also spent around $440,000 on legal fees, according to filings, including $163,000 to the law firm of the campaign's lawyer, Marc Elias.

The campaign can afford to spend, having raised $46.7 million since mid-April, according to filings with the Federal Election Commission. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, another contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, raised about $15 million in the first quarter. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley brought in around $2 million.

The spending represents some 40% of the money Clinton has raised since her official launch.

The campaign has taken a famously cheap approach, with staff forced to take buses, fly commercial and buy minimal office furniture and supplies. Some of that was reflected in the expenditures: in the month of June, for example, payroll expenditures to campaign manager Robby Mook totaled just $4,910, according to the filings, though Mook holds one of the most senior positions on the campaign.

The average donation to the Clinton campaign was $145, and the campaign said that 61% of its donors were women.

Celebrity donors to the campaign included Steven Spielberg, YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki, Disney Chairman Alan Horn, and Dreamworks CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg. Notably, neither Chelsea Clinton nor Bill Clinton donated to the campaign, while the Bush family has already maxed out its contributions to Jeb's campaign.

Nearly 33,000 people have purchased items from Clinton's online store, which includes tongue-in-cheek items like a "Chillary" koozie and a "pantsuit tee."

Warren pushes for return of Glass-Steagall after Clinton adviser said she won't back measure // CNN // Dan Merica – July 15, 2015

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Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren pushed for the reinstatement of a major Depression-era banking law on Wednesday, emailing her large list of supporters to push for the measure.

The plea from the progressive icon comes two days after an economic adviser to Hillary Clinton's campaign said the presidential candidate wouldn't reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act if elected.

"Wall Street spent decades -- and millions of dollars -- to repeal the original Glass-Steagall Act, and you can bet they'll do whatever it takes to keep it from being reinstated," Warren wrote in an email titled "Let's get real." "We need grassroots support from all across the country if we're going to fight back to make our financial institutions smaller and safer."

The email asked supporters to sign a petition supporting Warren's "21st Century Glass-Steagall Act," which was introduced by the senator -- along with Republican Sen. John McCain -- last week.

The Glass-Steagall Act was a Depression-era law passed in 1933 that separated commercial and investment banking. The law was in place for more than 60 years until President Bill Clinton, with the backing of Congressional Republicans, repealed the law in 1999.

On Monday, Clinton outlined her economic vision for the country in a speech at the New School in New York. The former secretary of state promised to get tough on Wall Street and called lifting middle-class wages the "defining economic challenge of our life."

After the speech, Alan Blinder, an economist who the Clinton campaign says is advising the former first lady, told Reuters that Glass-Steagall was not going to be part of the candidate's economic platform.

"You're not going to see Glass-Steagall," Blinder said.

A Clinton aide, however, refuted Blinder on Wednesday.

"She will be announcing her ideas for dealing with the continuing problem of 'Too Big To Fail' in the coming weeks, and nothing has been taken off the table," the aide said.

In a 2013 interview with CNN, Bill Clinton blamed deregulation -- and the repeal of Glass-Steagall -- on Congressional Republicans.

"The American people gave the Congress to a group of very conservative Republicans," he said. "When they passed bills with the veto-proof majority with a lot of Democrats voting for it, that I couldn't stop, all of a sudden we turn out to be maniacal deregulators. I mean, come on."

The reinstatement of Glass-Steagall has become something liberal -- and some conservative -- leaders have championed since its repeal and the market crash of 2008.

Clinton's top progressive challengers in the 2016 Democratic field, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, have pushed for the law to be reinstated. And Sens. Warren, McCain, Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, and Angus King, I-Maine, proposed reinstating the law in 2013.

The next year, the group wrote that "reinstating and strengthening the wall between federally insured commercial banks and investment banks would discourage the largest financial institutions from exploiting regulatory loopholes in order to take excessive risks at taxpayer expense."

Clinton has spent 40% of campaign funds **// CNN // Dan Merica – July 15, 2015**

Hillary Clinton's campaign filed it's first report with the Federal Election Commission on Wednesday, stating that they raised a substantial $47 million, but spent roughly 40% of that.

Clinton, whose campaign has been focused on raising money for the primary, brought in $46,725,329.13, according to the report. Some donors, however, sent the campaign money twice the $2,700 primary donation minimum, leading the campaign to raise $824,620.51 in general election contributions.

The campaign has spent heavily, though. While they have about $29 million in cash-on-hand, they spent about $19 million in their first quarter as a campaign, giving the campaign a burn rate of 40%.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, by comparison, spent 22% of the money his campaign raised.

Clinton's 40% burn rate is far higher than her first quarter as a candidate in 2007. During that quarter -- from January to March in 2007 -- Clinton raised $36 million and only spent about $5 million, giving that campaign a 14% burn rate.

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In the second quarter of 2007, Clinton's campaign brought in $27 million and spent about $13 million, giving it a 47% burn rate.

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook said thanks to their 250,000 donors, the campaign has "had the ability to make critical investments in our organization that will put us in position to win the primary and the White House."

"With Republicans tapping their billionaire backers for unlimited sums of money, we are glad to be able to have such broad support to be able to show why Hillary Clinton is the only candidate who will fight for policies that allow everyday Americans to get ahead and stay ahead," Mook said.

A release from Clinton's campaign said 94% of their donations were $250 or less, with an average donation of $144.89. Sixty-one percent of the donors, the campaign said, came from women.

Clinton and her team have focused intently on raising money during their first quarter, criss-crossing the country at a frenetic pace. Clinton personally headlined 58 fundraisers in 18 states in the three-month quarter, a sizable number for a frontrunner. Her campaign aides headlined a number of other fundraisers.

Hillary for America's high burn rate smacks against campaign aides's claims of being thrifty. For much of the quarter, aides joked and bragged about spending little money, providing journalists with anecdotes about taking the bus, not the train, and not being given business cards.

"It is a big dollar number," an aide said Wednesday as the FEC report was filed. "But we have more cash on hand than any other campaign by far. We feel good about where we are. Robby and the whole team made a plan and executed on that plan and it was about spending smartly and spending in ways that make sense. We are very comfortable with where things are and how we are moving."

Despite the burn rate, Clinton still far outpaces her Democratic opponents.

Sanders raised about $14 million during the quarter, $1.5 million of which came from his Senate committee, according to his campaign's FEC report. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who was a candidate for 30 days this quarter, raised $2 million, according to his campaign.

Hillary Clinton video pushes pathway to citizenship **// CNN // Tanzina Vega – July 15, 2015**

Hillary Clinton continued to amplify her support for a pathway to citizenship, particularly for young Latino immigrants commonly known as DREAMers, in a new campaign video released Wednesday morning.

In the video, called "Sueños" or "Dreams," Clinton is seen meeting with a small group of young Latino immigrants at a roundtable discussion she held at Rancho High School in Las Vegas who are telling her about their goals for the future. One young woman, Betsaida Frausto, who arrived in the United States when she was two, tells Clinton she wants to go to Yale and become a doctor but won't be able to fully realize her dream because she is not a citizen. Another young man, Rafael Lopez, who arrived when he was one, tells the story of how his parents were deported after being in the United States for 15 years.

"I'm not about to let anybody who can make a contribution to our economy and our society get thrown away," Clinton tells the group.

In addition to scenes from Clinton's meeting with the DREAMers, the video contains scenes from a Clinton campaign rally where a young woman addresses the crowd in Spanish.

The Clinton campaign released the bilingual video one day after Clinton addressed a crowd of thousands of Latinos at the National Council of La Raza in Kansas City. In her speech there, she called for a clear path to citizenship for young immigrants and highlighted economic inequities Latinos face in the United States including the millions of Latino youth that cannot find work and the fact that Latinas make just 56 cents on the dollar compared to white men.

Clinton also called out Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush for comments he made about Americans having to work harder.

"He should tell that to the farmworkers breaking their backs picking fruit in Southern California," Clinton said to a rousing applause from the crowd.

Bush aides have argued that his comments were taken out of context and said he meant that more part-time workers need full-time jobs.

In addition to her speech at La Raza, the largest Latino civil rights group in the country, Clinton has also met with

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officials in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Last month Clinton addressed the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials in Las Vegas where she accused the entire GOP field of seeking to relegate immigrants to "second-class status."

Hillary Clinton campaign's 'highest priority': Getting email addresses // CNN // Dan Merica – July 15, 2015

A lot changes in seven years. Just ask Hillary Clinton's campaign.

When Clinton launched her campaign in April, her staff -- armed with the list of 2.5 million email addresses from the former secretary of state's failed 2008 campaign -- hit send on their first 2016 message.

The realization they received shortly after that stunned them: Less than 100,000 of Clinton's 2008 emails addresses were still active and usable.

Teddy Goff, Clinton's top digital strategist, had thought going into the campaign that around 1 million of the 2008 emails would still be active. But the realization that only a fraction of those emails still worked was a slightly sour point on an otherwise "successful" day for the campaign, he said.

"It wasn't as if we all kind of retreated into a bunker to drown our sorrows or anything like that," Goff said Wednesday. "In the midst of that day, discovering that we were really rebuilding a list virtually from scratch, it was a realization that there was going to be a tough road ahead."

To respond to this problem, Goff and the campaign launched what they dubbed The "Hillbuilder Project," an internal campaign push that urged all staff members to think about and act on how they could build the campaign's email list. Goff called building the email list the "the single highest priority, for now" on the tech and digital side of the campaign.

Signs were put up around the Brooklyn headquarters that read, "What are you doing to grow the list today?" Organizers in New Hampshire, Iowa and other states were urged to get emails from everyone they spoke with and add them to the database. And at an all staff meeting on June 12, the day before Clinton's first big rally in New York, campaign manager Robby Mook included list building as one of the campaign's top three priorities for the summer.

"This is not just a digital thing," Goff said, "this is a campaign priority."

The campaign's goal, Goff added, was to provide "relevant content" and allow people to connect with the campaign so that they can "provide an experience that people are going to like."

Part of that is content that taps into the news of the day. Most campaigns do this: A big news event happens, so the team blasts out an email and post social media content that looks to build their list.

When the Supreme Court decided to make same sex marriage legal in all 50 state, Clinton's campaign sent an email -- subject line: "Full Hearts" -- that asked people to "celebrate history" by adding their name to a list. The campaign made similar pitches on Twitter and Facebook, including a video titled "Equal" about gay marriage that received more than 3 million views on Facebook.

The goal of these emails and lists is to make people who support Clinton feel like they are missing out by not being on the list, campaign aides have said about their digital strategy.

Another way Clinton's campaign grew the list was by swapping with other groups, including Ready for Hillary, the super PAC that spent 2013 and 2014 urging Clinton to run. While the super PAC had a number of priorities, including engaging grassroots organizers who wanted to support Clinton, Ready for Hillary's top aides long said that their main focus was building a sizable list of current and engaged Clinton devotees.

The campaign gained access to the Ready for Hillary email list in May and started to use it for fundraising and other pitches shortly thereafter. But Goff said Wednesday that while the list was helpful, it couldn't make up for name generated by the actual campaign.

"I think all of us are very appreciative of Ready for Hillary and what they did," Goff said. "It has been valuable, but at the same time, it is incumbent on us to build our own community."

He added, "The fact of the matter is an email address that an entity acquired on its own either by a petition or by an online ad is always going to be a little bit more active and engaged than an email address that is acquired by the way of a swap."

The biggest reason email lists matter is fundraising. Previous presidential campaigns, including President Barack

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Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns, have raised huge sums of money through email and online fundraising. Goff was the digital director of President Obama's 2012 reelection bid.

Like other campaigns, Clinton's operation will release their first FEC report on Wednesday. Campaign aides have already previewed that they raised over $45 million in primary money during their first quarter, part of that through digital fundraising. The FEC report, however, will not itemize what money came on line, however, and what came through other venues.

Campaign aides also would not disclose the current size of their list or goals they have for the list building project. Goff did say, however, that the campaign is "more concerned with the output of the list than with the size of the list."

"We would rather have a couple million really good email addresses by election day," he said, "than 15 million really bad ones."

Clinton campaign rebuilds from a digital meltdown // LA Times // Michael A. Memoli – July 16, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton wound down her political operation in 2008 with 2.5 million email addresses in her campaign database. Seven years later, when campaign officials turned on the lights in April, they were stunned to find fewer than 100,000 still worked.

Campaign aides learned the bad news in much the same way a reunion organizer trying to reconnect with old friends might, albeit on a much larger scale: an in-box clogged with bounce-back messages on the day Clinton announced her campaign and sent messages to supporters.

The huge attrition of valuable data is not unique to Clinton -- a typical email list will lose 1 in 5 subscribers each year, said Jordan Cohen, chief marketing officer for Fluent, which specializes in email list acquisition. But it created one of the first big challenges for the campaign's growing digital team and sparked a response that illustrates the high priority campaigns now place on acquiring digital data.

"It wasn't like we all had time to retreat to a local bar and drown our sorrows," said Teddy Goff, the Clinton campaign's digital director – a role he also filled for President Obama's reelection campaign. "It was an instantaneous recognition on the part of a lot of us that we had a bigger challenge ahead of us than we realized."

Rebuilding that digital infrastructure became one of the most critical goals that campaign officials set this year, prompting what became known as the "Hillbuilder" program.

During the campaign's first all-staff meeting, on the day before Clinton's public campaign launch on Roosevelt Island in June, campaign manager Robby Mook identified building the email list as one of the top three goals in the year's third quarter. On the cubicle walls of the offices used by the digital staff, a sign asks: "What are you doing to grow the list today?"

In 2012, Obama's reelection campaign, which boasted 30 million addresses at its peak, raised $485 million – more than 40% of its total haul – through its endless, and often parodied, email appeals, according to a former campaign official who provided the internal fundraising data on condition of anonymity. The rest of the fundraising total was split equally between major donors and direct marketing through traditional mail and phone contacts.

Increasingly sophisticated methods for analyzing large amounts of data have made emails more and more valuable to campaigns, and not just as a vehicle for direct communication. The ability to track a user's online experience helps the campaign develop a profile that is then used to send more-targeted communications.

"The campaigns are looking at not just 'are they going to contribute $1, $10 when I send them an email,' but 'are they opening, are they clicking, are they forwarding this email to their friends. Are they taking the email and posting it onto social,'" Cohen said. "There is just inherent value in having engagement that will lead, hopefully, into votes."

The Clinton campaign's digital handicap wasn't limited to its email lists. The former secretary of State had no Facebook page, no Instagram account and only 3.3 million Twitter followers at her launch date (President Obama's campaign-run account has more than 60 million today, by comparison).

The campaign would not disclose how much its list has grown since April. But it has reached 5 million followers across its accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Spotify and Pinterest, officials said.

The campaign launched each of those platforms over the last few months, with a goal of reaching would-be supporters where they normally spend time online and creating a ripple effect that would expand their contact

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lists.

One early, successful tactic was to create a daily, rapid-response-style newsletter that supporters could subscribe to called “The Briefing,” launched to coincide with a new book critical of the Clinton Foundation.

The campaign also sought to build suspense around the Roosevelt Island rally by promising exclusive details about the event to those who signed up on Clinton’s website. And last week, Clinton emailed supporters inviting them to tell her when their birthdays are, so she – or her digital avatar, at least -- can send a note when the day arrives.

“We're part of a team together,” the email read. “We're going to work hard and have a lot of fun through it all. Part of that is taking some time to celebrate and appreciate each other, and that’s what I’d like to do on your birthday.”

The idea, Goff said, grew out of the fact – attested to by her own, now public, emails – that Clinton has always gone out of her way to offer birthday wishes to those around her. A successful digital effort, he noted, depends on the authenticity of each communication.

“That’s a true thing about her that reflects something that we think people are going to enjoy that can also be turned into an online program that’s going to help us build our community,” he said.

Expanding the digital infrastructure isn’t just happening organically, of course. The campaign also engaged in more transactional efforts, including exchanging active contacts with the Ready for Hillary organization. They have also already spent $2 million on an online advertising campaign that has helped add names to the list.

“The core of what we’re trying to do is serve people with an experience that they’re going to enjoy, that’s going to enlighten them and hopefully inspire them to get more deeply involved in the campaign,” Goff said.

Hillary Clinton's campaign raised nearly $47 million in first quarter // CBS // Julianna Goldman and Steve Chaggaris – July 15, 2015

Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton has filed her first fundraising report to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and her campaign says that she raised $46.7 million in primary dollars, a record for an opening quarter in a campaign.

She has also spent a sizable amount - among the expenditures is $18.6 million on gearing up for the campaign ahead - voter files for the first four early-voting states - a one-time cost - plus organizers, technology and list-building. Still, Clinton had plenty of cash on hand at the end of the fundraising period, about $28.8 million.

The Clinton campaign says that more than 250,000 contributors representing every state and Washington, D.C. donated and 94 percent of the donations were $250 or less, with the average donation coming in at just under $145. Sixty-one percent of the donors were women.

Clinton herself made $278,000 in in-kind contributions, mostly to pay staff working with her during the testing-the-waters, including Huma Abedin, Robby Mook, and Nick Merrill)

The previous record for primary money raised in a candidate's first quarter was set by President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, which pulled in $41.9 million during three months in 2011.

The fundraising total does not include the money raked in by a number of Clinton-friendly outside groups, like super PACs, non-profit organizations, and others.

Clinton's campaign fundraising may be record-breaking, but its super PAC numbers - which have not been released yet - are not expected to be as robust for the second quarter, a Clinton campaign official told CBS News.

Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner in 2016, formally launched her campaign in mid-April.

Hillary Clinton comes out in favor of Obama’s Iran deal // CBS // Stephanie Condon – July 15, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Tuesday night clarified that she supports the agreement that President Obama's administration and its world partners have reached with Iran to freeze its nuclear program.

"I support this agreement because I believe it is the most effective path of all the alternatives available to the U.S. and our partners to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon," she said.

Her statement Tuesday night went a step further than her remarks earlier in the day, when Clinton she stressed

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she needed to learn more about the deal's details. She said Tuesday morning that based on what she knew at the time, the deal was "an important step in putting the lid on Iran's nuclear program."

GOP 2016 candidates put onus on Congress, Hillary Clinton to reject Iran deal
In her latest statement, Clinton added that she is still "studying the details."

"But based on the briefings I received and a review of the documents, I support the agreement because it can help us prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon," she continued. "With vigorous enforcement, unyielding verification, and swift consequences for any violations, this agreement can make the United States, Israel, and our Arab partners safer."

Given Iran's past behavior, she said, "the highest priority must be given to effective enforcement of the agreement. Signing is just the beginning."

She argued that her experience shaping the deal as secretary of state will help her enforce it if she wins in 2016.

"As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history," she said. "That unprecedented pressure delivered a blow to Iran's economy and gave us leverage at the negotiating table, starting in Oman in 2012. I know from experience what it took to build a global effort to get this done; I know what it will take to rally our partners to enforce it."

While Clinton signaled her endorsement of the deal earlier in the day, the Republican National Committee (RNC) suggested the Democratic frontrunner was trying to keep an ambiguous position. The RNC spotlighted one report in which a reporter asked Clinton's staff whether she fell "somewhere on a spectrum between support and opposition."

Clinton's spokesman responded, "Everybody lives somewhere between support and opposition."

Meanwhile, as Republicans work to thwart the deal, the RNC continues to refer to it as the "Clinton-Obama nuclear agreement."

Is Hillary Clinton all talk, no substance on climate policy? // MSNBC // Tony Dokoupil – July 15, 2015

“She spoke on climate. She is into it,” enthused one lawmaker.

“She was incredible,” swooned another, a climate-minded senator.

“Hillary Clinton wants to run on climate. And she thinks Democrats should too,” blared a headline in National Journal.

By Wednesday afternoon, word of Hillary Clinton’s closed-door luncheon this week with House and Senate Democrats was everywhere. But while the Democratic presidential candidate covered a long list of hot-button issues, her climate change policy — quite literally the hottest issue of all — seemed to dominate the political reactions.

The only problem is, well, Hillary Clinton doesn’t actually have a climate change policy.

There are precisely five mentions of the word on her entire campaign website, none particularly illuminating. There’s talk of “adapting for tomorrow” with “domestic action” and “intensive global engagement” on “the global threat of climate change.”

How exactly will all this happen? Clinton doesn’t say.

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Her competitor Bernie Sanders brought up that lack of detail in his own impromptu press conference in the Capitol on Tuesday. For the socialist junior senator from Vermont, it’s unacceptable for Clinton to smile-and-wave her way through issues of “planetary” importance. All the major environmental groups are likely to feel the same way.

“Our movement is looking for a candidate who has the political courage to move us off fossil fuels in time to avert catastrophic global warming,” Karthik Ganapathy, a spokesperson for 350 Action, said in an email. “Given her murky history on this issue, Hillary Clinton needs to do a lot to show us that’s her.”

“We aren’t going to give her a demerit for failing to give a big climate speech by this date,” added Michael Brune, the executive director of the Sierra Club. “But we are looking for an agenda that’s bold, ambitious, and – hopefully

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– coming soon."

There's no doubting that Clinton appreciates the problem. She's called climate change "one of the defining threats of our time," and suggested she'd like to take more money from carbon polluters and funnel it toward clean energy. In a statement to Politico, a spokesperson for Clinton promised there would be more details to come.

For now, however, the best we can do is return to the rare details that she's already put down on the record. There is good news and bad news for environmentalists, and it all starts with a simple fact: Hillary Clinton is very likely to be a third term of President Barack Obama when it comes to climate policies.

Her campaign chair is John Podesta, one of Obama's closest advisers on climate policy. She also defends Obama's controversial policies on coal-fired power plants, which he has pursued without congressional support. That's the good news for the greens.

Hillary Clinton is very likely to be a third term of President Barack Obama when it comes to climate policies.

Obama has been aggressive when it comes to cutting carbon emissions, and Clinton has said she'll not only protect his legacy but extend it. Here's a passage environmentalists can love from her speech last December at the League of Conservation voters:

"You pushed for and rallied behind President Obama's use of the Clean Air Act to set the first ever federal limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants, which are driving the most dangerous effects of climate change. As you know so well, power plants account for about 40% of the carbon pollution in the United States, and therefore must be addressed. And the unprecedented action that President Obama has taken must be protected at all cost."

That's a big deal. Obama's proposed regulations have already been attacked by Republicans, and a Republican president would almost certainly weaken or repeal them. The battle to preserve Obama's policy is important because it will help determine how many coal plants close in the near future.

The more coal plants that close, the better chance we have of lowering U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 17% by 2020, and as much as 28% by 2025. The more that we lower those emissions, the more likely it is that other nations will follow. In turn, the more likely it will be that world will really — seriously, no joke — slow the rise of the oceans and help the planet correct its course before it's too late.

If Clinton is a third-term of Obama, however, there's also a lot still to be desired. She supports clean energy, for instance, but like Obama she seems to favor an "all of the above" approach to energy production. That means expanded offshore drilling, which Clinton supported as a senator in 2006.

It also means more use of hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, to slurp up previously trapped oil and natural gas. She promoted the practice abroad when she was secretary of state, according to reporting by Grist and Mother Jones. That's a deal-breaker for some voters, no matter how well she eventually defines her "smart regulations."

The biggest deal-breakers of all, however, are all still pending. What is Clinton's position on continued drilling in the Arctic? What does she think about the proposed construction of the Keystone XL pipeline? She hasn't taken a stance on either project yet. But activists have come out in force to fight both, and unless Clinton falls in line — and soon — they might end up fighting her as well.

Hillary Clinton Releases Campaign Fundraising Report // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald - July 16 2015

Clinton Stops Short of Fully Supporting Iran Deal, Calls It An 'Important Step' 0:39
Women made it rain for Hillary Clinton in the first three months of her presidential campaign — representing more than 60 percent of the donors who supported the former secretary of state.

The campaign had already announced that it raised $45 million for the Democratic primary as of June 30, but a new campaign finance report made public Wednesday evening sheds new light on the campaign's haul.

More than 250,000 people contributed to Clinton, according to the campaign, and 61 percent were women. That's especially notable since men typically make up the vast majority of campaign donors — just over 70 percent, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

The campaign also raised almost $825,000 in money that can only be used for the general election. That brought the total haul to more than $46 million.

But the campaign also spent heavily, burning through $18.7 million in the second quarter of the year, leaving the campaign with $28.85 million in the bank. A campaign aide defended the spending, telling msnbc that it included large upfront investments that won't need to be repeated in coming months on items that most campaigns wait to

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invest in until later in the cycle.

While Clinton held dozens of high-dollar fundraisers across the country, her small-dollar fundraising operation also proved successful. According to the campaign, 94 percent of donations were for $250 or less, and the average donation was $144.89.

Clinton herself contributed in-kind more than $275,000 to her campaign, mostly from staffers she paid before the campaign officially kicked off, the aide said.

Women open wallets for Hillary Clinton // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – July 15, 2015

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Hillary Clinton enjoys a warm welcome in Washington // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – July 14, 2015

So far on the trail of her second presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton has spent days meeting with bowling alley owners in Iowa and passing out ice cream cones in New Hampshire.

But on Tuesday, she took her campaign to Washington, where Clinton returned to the playing field where she may be at her strongest – marble floors, behind closed-doors. Hoping to lock down support from Democratic lawmakers and labor unions, Clinton showed her strength at playing the inside game.

Her whirlwind day in Washington began early with breaking news on Iran's nuclear program, did not relent as she met with Democratic members of Congress – including her top rival for the Democratic nomination – and continued into the evening with an audition before leaders of the nation's largest organized labor group.

As the nation's capitol was processing the national security breakthrough, Clinton returned to Capitol Hill with a cadre of heavyweight political aides in tow for six separate meetings with various groups of Democratic lawmakers.

In between, she spoke to reporters about her position on the Iran deal, calling it an "important step." After that, between more meetings with House Democrats, she dialed into a conference call with three current cabinet officials and several former secretaries of state to learn more about the deal, a briefing made available to her by her status as a former secretary of state.

And after she left the Capitol, Clinton headed to the offices of the AFL-CIO to pitch herself to the executive council of the massive labor federation, hoping to earn their endorsement.

It's unclear when – or if – Clinton even had time to eat. By the time she made it across the Capitol to meet with Senate Democrats during their weekly luncheon, she had missed the meal. "She got there late, she didn't get lunch," said Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid.

One Senate Democrat left the room early. It was Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is challenging Clinton for the Democratic nomination, but has found more enthusiastic support at large rallies in places like Madison, Wisconsin

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than among his colleagues in the halls of Congress.

“I have known Secretary Clinton for 25 years, since she was first lady. I served with her in the Senate. I like and respect Hillary Clinton,” he told reporters at a press conference. “But there are differences of opinion that we have which should be the basis for a serious discussion.”

“I helped lead the effort to stop the deregulation of Wall Street. I believe the biggest banks should be broken up and that Glass-Steagall financial regulations should be reinstated. To the best of my knowledge, she isn’t for either one,” he said.

Sanders was respectful inside the luncheon and stood and applauded for Clinton other senators said. Meanwhile, Clinton has already secured the support of almost two-thirds of Sanders’ Democratic colleagues, according to one tally.

That’s a stark contrast to last time Clinton ran for the presidency, when the caucus split and many of her fellow senators were supporting her then-colleague, Barack Obama.

The defectors included leaders like Reid – who declined to endorse Clinton today out of loyalty to Vice President Joe Biden – and some of the lawmakers who hailed Clinton’s visit today. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi quietly supported Obama then, but exchanged kisses with Clinton today in front of the cameras, and said she couldn’t wait for the candidate to enter the White House.

Among others, Clinton received almost uniformly positive reviews, even from lawmakers who have been skeptical of her in the past.

“She expressed values that are very consistent with the Progressive Caucus,” said Rep. Keith Ellison, the chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, who had hoped Sen. Elizabeth Warren would throw her hat in the ring.

“No matter where people end up gong, they’re two awesome progressives, in our view,” said Ellison of Clinton and Sanders.

Clinton had initially not scheduled a meeting with the Progressive Caucus, but added it later. Thirty-eight of its liberal members turned out to meet the candidate, according to a congressional aide.

After a different meeting, Rep. Louise Slaughter, a Clinton ally who represents New York was asked if she thought Democratic lawmakers might side with Sanders. “Bernie Sanders is running as an independent, I think, isn’t he?” she told reporters. “I remember quite well hearing he was not a Democrat, so I’m not exactly clear why he’s running on our ticket to be honest with you.”

Clinton twice led a stampede of reporters through the entire length of the Capitol building, as she moved from the House to the Senate and back again.

The train behind grew as more staffers and reporters attached themselves, meandering through a throng of iPhone-wielding tourists in rotunda who screamed for selfies with the candidate. But Clinton kept a brisk pace as her entourage pressed itself through narrow stairwells.

The former secretary of state was not the only fair-haired celebrity allegedly spotted in Congress today. Rumors swirled that singer Taylor Swift, in Washington for a two-night stand, had come to the Hill.

A persistent lack of sighting of the pop star did not stop some – including members of Congress – from hoping for a selfie of the two. “Staff tell me @taylorswift13 is roaming Capitol Hill. @HillaryClinton can you confirm? We could do a selfie,” tweeted Rep. Debbie Dingell.

Hillary Clinton’s Resurrection // New Yorker // Nicholas Lemann – July 15, 2015

The twenty-first-century boom in new translations of the great nineteenth-century Russian novels has not encompassed one significant work: the last of Leo Tolstoy’s three full-length novels, “Resurrection,” originally published in 1899. The English translation of “Resurrection” that is easiest to find is the first, from 1900, by the Tolstoy acolyte Louise Maude, and there hasn’t been a new one in decades.

It’s easy to see why this is so. Both “War and Peace” and “Anna Karenina” have Tolstoy-like characters—Pierre Bezukhov and Konstantin Levin—who chafe at the self-satisfaction, relentless social striving, and oppressive economic underpinnings of the Russian aristocracy into which they were born. Both are drawn to reformist spiritual and political ideas. But in “Resurrection” the main character, Dmitri Nekhlyudov, another landowning aristocrat, goes a step further, into what appears to be full-bore rejection of his world and its values. He institutes land reform on his estates, and leaves the Russia of cities and country homes to undertake a long eastward journey to Siberia, where a household servant he seduced and abandoned years earlier has been unjustly imprisoned.

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Where “War and Peace” and “Anna Karenina” presented the life of a corrupt society with astonishing richness and subtlety, “Resurrection” is relentlessly preachy, prudish, and joyless.

There is a strain of American liberalism that offers government as a sensible, useful way to make society function better than it does now—as a problem-solving instrument that conservatives are too stubbornly prejudiced to employ. That is Bill Clinton’s liberalism. And then there’s the Tolstoyan strain, in which it’s evident that society works well only for a fortunate minority, whose elaborately enjoyed well-being may even have come at the expense of the majority. Tolstoyan liberalism is, like its namesake, élite liberalism—more Franklin Roosevelt (who grew up on an American inherited dacha farmed by peasants) than Eugene Debs, or for that matter Elizabeth Warren. Tolstoy offers a harsh critique, but from an insider’s perspective; it treats the system as deeply flawed, but not as utterly alien. In her 2016 Presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton has been publicly flirting with Tolstoyan liberalism.

Long before she announced her candidacy, Clinton surrounded herself with advisers from the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, and banished the centrists who controlled her last campaign. Her April announcement video and first campaign speech last month hinted at a left-populist direction that continued, with more bite, in her first big economic-policy address this week. This wasn’t where her husband had ever gone, or where she had been in 2008.

Has she decided never again to be in the thankless position of running as a moderate in a Democratic primary campaign, no matter how prohibitive her lead? Is Bernie Sanders’s surge in the first two primary states pushing her leftward? Is she seeing research that indicates, or just concluding instinctively, that the financial crisis changed the way Americans think about the economy? Does she finally feel free to express what have always been her opinions?

This week’s speech left the answers to such questions where they usually are with Clinton—tantalizingly uncertain. She left all but a few specifics of her economic policies to be unveiled in speeches to come, and she made sure to praise small business, entrepreneurship, and investment. But she criticized Wall Street by name and by specific practices (her Web site has a section called “Rein in Wall Street”), and criticized Uber and AirbnB, sacred causes in Silicon Valley, without naming them, by saying that their advent is “raising hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future.” This demonstrates a willingness to risk alienating the subcultures where some of the Democratic Party’s biggest donors dwell. (On Friday, President Obama will appear at a fund-raiser at the San Francisco home of Shervin Pishevar, one of Uber’s founding investors.) And there was no commensurate implicit challenge to organized labor, which both Clintons and Obama have tangled with in the past.

It felt as if Clinton were crossing a line, policy specifics or no, in the way she was choosing to frame economic questions. First, she made it clear that the traditionally safe zone for American political discourse about the economy—calling for equality of opportunity, not equality of result—was no longer sufficient for her. Her target is “strong and steady income growth” for ordinary working people, which can presumably be measured only by how much money people wind up with, not how fair a chance they had to make it. And second, she at least toyed with the theme of resentment of the rich—another area Democratic politicians of the past generation, including Clinton herself, have generally avoided—as when she responded to Jeb Bush’s exhortation to Americans to work longer hours by saying, “Let him tell that to the nurse who stands on her feet all day or the trucker who drives all night. Let him tell that to the fast-food workers marching in the streets for better pay. They don’t need a lecture—they need a raise.”

Tolstoy, even though he was deep into his final holy-moralist phrase, didn’t quite know what to do with Nekhlyudov at the end of “Resurrection.” Having set out on his Siberian journey resolved to give everything away and to marry his wronged former mistress, the hero is perhaps relieved to learn that she refuses to marry him. He’s free, and it seems possible that he might return to some version of the former life he had been determined to reject. He still seems more comfortable at a dinner party than in the company of the political prisoners he encounters in the proto-gulag.

Hillary Clinton wasn’t born an aristocrat, but she functions as one now, and, assuming she becomes a major-party nominee, she can only take her new and rather profound critique of how well American society functions so far. She won’t, and can’t, run, or live, as a radical. So it’s a question of finding the right equipoise. The practice of American politics almost always requires rhetorical optimism; the practice of liberal American politics now seems also to require just the right measure of opprobrium directed at the way our country is run. What’s interesting about Clinton’s struggle to find the balance is that she is struggling to find it, as she hasn’t in the past. And it will be even more interesting to see what she does with it, if she gets the chance to govern.

Hillary Clinton Becomes First 2016 Candidate To Release Bundler Names // HuffPo // Paul Blumenthal – July 15, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton released the names of 159 campaign bundlers on Wednesday, the first 2016 contender to disclose big-money fundraisers.

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The bundlers include many of the names appearing on fundraising invitations sent out over the past three months by the Clinton campaign. Many of these people were bundlers for Clinton's last presidential bid in 2008.

Clinton is the first candidate in the crowded 2016 race to disclose bundlers. Two Republican candidates, Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, said they will disclose their bundlers in October. Republican Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Ted Cruz (R-Texas), won't voluntarily disclose their bundlers.

Clinton's list of bundlers was limited to those who had helped raise $100,000 or more. The campaign also reported on Wednesday that it had raised $47.5 million and spent $18.7 million since its launch on April 4. The minimum total amount raised by her bundlers was $15.9 million.

Among the names are Esprit founder Susie Tompkins Buell; Comcast lobbyist David Cohen; hedge funders Blair Effron, Orin Kramer and Marc Lasry; Chicago billionaires J.B.Pritzker and M.K. Pritzker; Hollywood honcho and Israel booster Haim Saban; trial lawyer and medical marijuana proponent John Morgan; and The New Republic owner Chris Hughes and his husband Sean Eldridge.

Lynn Forrest de Rothschild is back as a Clinton bundler in 2016. After Clinton's loss to Barack Obama in the 2008 primary, de Rothschild flipped her support to Republican presidential candidate John McCain. She backed former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman in the 2012 Republican primary, and Mitt Romney in the 2012 general election.

A number of members of Congress, current and former, are among Clinton's bundlers. They include Reps. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas), Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), Jim Himes (D-Conn.) and former Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.).

One notable bundler is Gordon Giffin, a former lobbyist for the Canadian company working to build the Keystone XL pipeline. Giffin is also on the board of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, which paid Clinton $990,000 for speeches she gave immediately before announcing her presidential campaign.

Clinton also disclosed, in a filing with the Federal Election Commission, a list of 40 registered lobbyists who had raised a combined $2 million for her campaign. The lobbyists included some, like Steve Elmendorf, who appeared on her list of $100,000-plus Hillblazers, and others, like former senator-turned-lobbyist Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), who did not.

The top lobbyist bundlers were FTI Consulting's Jackson Dunn, with $231,554; Elmendorf, with $141,815; Capitol Counsel's David Jones, with $120,675; and McGuireWoods's Andrew Smith and Jim Hodges, with $133,350 and $106,750, respectively.

Clinton In 2011: Iran Only Has Right To Enrich After Nuclear Weapons Program "Irreversibly Shut Down" // BuzzFeed // Christopher Massie – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton said in 2011 that it was her and the Obama administration's position that Iran would not have a right to enrich uranium until it had "irreversibly shut down its nuclear weapons program."

On Tuesday, as a Democratic presidential candidate, Clinton endorsed a deal that would restrict Iran's nuclear fuel for 15 years, while allowing it to continue to enrich uranium at levels well below bomb-grade, in exchange for the removal of economic sanctions.
At a hearing of the House Committee of Foreign Affairs on March 1, 2011, Ohio Congressman Steve Chabot asked then-Secretary of State Clinton whether the administration believed that "the current regime should be allowed to enrich or reprocess domestically."

Clinton did not specifically answer the question with regard to the regime of the time, which, below Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, was led by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was widely seen as less open to compromise than current President Hassan Rouhani. Clinton did, however, say that Iran would have such a right "sometime in the future," if it met certain conditions, such as the irreversible shutdown of its nuclear weapons program.

"Well, Congressman, it has been our position that, under very strict conditions, Iran would sometime in the future, having responded to the international community's concerns and irreversibly shut down its nuclear weapons program, have such a right under IAEA inspection," she said. "I think that is the position of the international community, along with the United States."

Months before, in December 2010, Clinton said to the BBC that the administration had told Iran "that they are entitled to the peaceful use of civil nuclear energy," once they had "restored the confidence of the international community," but did not mention an irreversible shutdown of their weapons program as a prerequisite for that.

On the other hand, in a story published in August 2014, Clinton told Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic that "I've always been in the camp that held that they did not have a right to enrichment" and that the assertion of such a

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right was “absolutely unfounded.”

Of the deal reached on Tuesday, which is now awaiting Congressional action, Clinton said, “I support this agreement because I believe it is the most effective path of all the alternatives available to the U.S. and our partners to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.”

Bill Clinton apologized for his 1994 crime bill, but he still doesn’t get why it was bad // Vox // Dara Lind – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton is campaigning on, among other things, an end to the era of mass incarceration. Awkwardly, Bill Clinton, former president of the United States, signed a law in 1994 that did a lot to accelerate mass incarceration.

Bill Clinton has been doing a lot to demonstrate that he has seen the error of his ways, and supports his wife's reform efforts. He's made several statements acknowledging the errors of the 1994 crime bill he passed. And speaking to the NAACP on Wednesday, July 15, Clinton put it as bluntly as he ever has: "I signed a bill that made the problem worse. And I want to admit that."

He's right. But does he understand how it made the problem worse? He didn't in May, when he told The Hill:

"We have too many people in prison. And we wound up spending — putting so many people in prison that there wasn’t enough money left to educate them, train them for new jobs and increase the chances when they came out that they could live productive lives."

That was a problem! But that is not the problem that Clinton's bill made worse.

There were two big reasons the prison population rose so drastically from the 1980s to the late 2000s. One of them was, yes, that more people went to prison. But the other was that the people who went to prison were going for longer.

This chart is a little hard to read, because the red line for murder sentences is so bright and distracting. But there were very few murder sentences compared to other crimes. Instead, check out the more gradual, but definite, sentence increases for other crimes:

The 1994 crime bill Clinton signed was a big reason for the second trend: longer prison terms. The law used funding for new prisons as a way to pressure states to get rid of parole and adopt "truth-in-sentencing" laws that required prisoners to serve out their sentences. Since states are responsible for much more incarceration than the federal government, this was one of the more influential things the federal government could do.

And it worked. When Clinton signed the bill, five states had truth-in-sentencing laws. In 1995, 11 new states passed them. Another 13 states passed truth-in-sentencing laws in the next five years. (Many of these states didn't explicitly say they were doing it to go after federal funding, and some of them didn't ask for it.)

That didn't just end up taking up money that could have been used for prison programming, to help people "live productive lives" when they got out. It deliberately forced them to spend more of their lives in prison. They had less of a chance to live productive lives after release, because they had less of their lives to live.

A lot of the progress that's been made at the state level over the past several years has been aimed at reducing the length of prison sentences — in other words, undoing what states had done during the Clinton era. The Clinton crime bill doesn't deserve all the blame for the push for longer sentences. But that is its lasting legacy.

The Clintons are politicians, and it makes sense that they've shifted their positions in response to the demands of the public and their party. In the 1980s and 1990s, Democrats were afraid of being seen as "soft on crime," and felt that cracking down on crime might help African-American communities; today, Democrats are responding to growing awareness that mass incarceration perpetuates a lot of the problems it's supposed to solve, and a grassroots movement protesting police killings of young, often unarmed black men. Their party is now more worried about policing and prison than swing voters are about crime.

But when it comes to actually proposing solutions, a politician has to do more than understand that something is a problem. That leads to exactly the same kind of "do something" politics that got us into this mess to begin with. Understanding what the solutions will be — and why they might have to include politically difficult measures, like reducing sentences for violent crime — requires understanding why it's a problem.

Lobbyists, lawmakers rake in cash for Hillary // The Hill // Megan R. Wilson – July 15, 2015

More than 100 individuals each helped bundle together $100,000 or more for Hillary Clinton’s presidential run since April, according to an announcement from the campaign Wednesday evening.

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Reps. Jim Himes (D-Conn.) and Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) made the list, in addition to lobbyists David Jones of Capitol Counsel and Steve Elmendorf of Elmendorf|Ryan.
The website does not include the exact amount that individuals raised.

Former Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), who now works as a partner at McGuireWoods, also appears. Bayh, his wife and the firm's political action committee hosted a fundraiser for Clinton last month.
"We had a fantastic turnout and the event was a huge success raising more money than we had expected," L.F. Payne, president of McGuireWoods Consulting, said in a statement.

The Clinton campaign says it raised about $47.5 million in the second quarter — which spans from April to June. It spent about $18.7 million and still has $28.9 million cash on hand.
Bundlers play a key role, especially in presidential races, proving to a candidate that they can bring in much-needed cash needed to keep the expensive operation running.

Campaigns are not required to disclose their bundlers unless they are registered lobbyists, although Clinton and GOP contender Jeb Bush vowed to do so.
Also on Clinton's big bundler list: abortion rights group EMILY'S List, billionaires M.K. and J.B. Pritzker; her campaign's treasurer Jose Villareal, who also works at top law and lobby firm Akin Gump; Morgan Stanley executive and former Deputy Secretary of State Tom Nides – and many others.

More than 250,000 individuals donated to the Clinton campaign, it said in a release Wednesday evening, and 94 percent of those people gave $250 or less.
In the release, campaign manager Robby Mook blasted Republican candidates, saying they had relied on "billionaire backers for unlimited sums of money."
"We are glad to be able to have such broad support to be able to show why Hillary Clinton is the only candidate who will fight for policies that allow everyday Americans to get ahead and stay ahead," he said.
Clinton has two super PACs raising money to support her — Ready PAC and Priorities USA — but they have not yet released the amount they have raised.
The super PAC supporting former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's bid for the White House recently announced $103 million in donations.

Bush raised $11.4 million in the second quarter, according to newly released reports.

Dems: Benghazi panel has 'abandoned' its work to focus on Hillary // The Hill // Martin Matishak – July 14, 2015

Democrats serving on the House Select Committee on Benghazi say the panel's GOP chairman has "abandoned" plans for hearings to shift the focus of the investigation to Hillary Clinton.

"At the beginning of this year, Select Committee Republicans provided Democrats with detailed information about their plans to hold 11 hearings between January and October on a wide range of topics relating to the Benghazi attacks," the panel's five Democrats wrote Wednesday in a letter to chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.).

"Since then, however, Republicans have completely abandoned this plan — holding no hearings at all since January and instead focusing on former Secretary Hillary Clinton," they added.

The missive gives an outline of the hearings the panel was supposed to convene, including: one in April with former Defense secretaries Robert Gates and Leon Panetta to examine why the U.S. had an outpost in Benghazi, Libya; another in May with Clinton to discuss the same topic; another in July with former U.N. ambassador Susan Rice; and finally one in October to hammer out specific oversight recommendations to help prevent a similar attack from happening in the future.

Gowdy and panel Republicans have maintained that the probe into the 2012 attacks that killed four Americans cannot move forward until the State Department hands over all emails Clinton's top aides.

They have also argued that Clinton should give the private email server she used while in office — which the presidential contender's attorney says has been wiped clean of data — to a third-party to determine if any information can be recovered.

Democrats are upset that no work on the panel has been completed recently.

"The Select Committee has not only postponed its hearings with Secretary Clinton and other State Department witnesses, but it has abandoned all of its other hearings as well, including those examining other agencies like the Department of Defense and the CIA," according to Democrats.

They say the Republican-controlled panel "has not conducted a transcribed interview or deposition of even a single Defense Department employee" and waited until April before sending a document request to the CIA.

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"In the past, Republicans have attempted to blame the Select Committee's glacial pace on Secretary Clinton and the State Department. But it seems difficult to understand how they could be responsible for the Select Committee abandoning every single hearing it had planned to hold since January," Democrats said.

"It appears that much of the Select Committee's work has been shelved while Republicans pursue every possible avenue of political attack against Secretary Clinton," they added.

Democrats said the actions by the select committee "which lack any legitimate basis — serve only to delay its work further into the election season and subject it to increasingly widespread criticism for its highly partisan actions."

Clinton's fundraising surpasses $47 million // USA Today // Fredreka Schouten – July 15, 2015

Democrat Hillary Clinton drew more than $47.5 million in donations since announcing her presidential campaign in April and swiftly spent nearly 40% of the money to build her staff and infrastructure in early primary states, figures released Wednesday show.

The vast majority of Clinton's haul — $46 million — is reserved for the primary election, a record amount of primary dollars for a candidate at this point in the election cycle. She started July with nearly $29 million in cash reserves.

Clinton and other presidential candidates filed reports Wednesday detailing their fundraising and spending with the Federal Election Commission. Clinton also voluntarily released a list of 122 individuals and couples who raised money for her campaign, becoming the first 2016 candidate to disclose her bundlers.

The lists includes long-time allies, such as Esprit clothing co-founder Susie Tompkins Buell, and prominent political figures, such as Washington lobbyist Steve Elmendorf and former Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh.

The former secretary of State spent nearly $279,000 of her own money during the "testing the waters" phase of the campaign to help underwrite travel and staff expenses, the filings show.

Clinton, who has not run for office since her 2008 unsuccessful presidential bid, sought to quickly ramp up her political operation this year, buying voter files in the early states and hiring staff to rally voters in states such as Iowa and her Brooklyn, N.Y., headquarters.

In a news release, her aides touted the size of her contribution base, noting that 250,000 donors had given to Clinton. The campaign said six in 10 were women.

The filings show that 17% of her money came in amounts of $200 or less. More than 80% came from donors who gave $2,700 or more, the maximum amount an individual can donate for the primary.

"Thanks to the more than 250,000 Americans who have stepped up to support Hillary Clinton's campaign, we have had the ability to make critical investments in our organization that will put us in position to win the primary and the White House," campaign manager Robby Mook said in a statement.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders posted the second-largest haul among Democratic presidential candidates. He raised $15.2 million, more than two-thirds of which came from donors who gave in small amounts.

Republican field is outraising Democrats, boosted by independent groups that can collect unlimited sums. A super PAC supporting Republican Jeb Bush, for instance, has raised more than $103 million. Outside groups backing Clinton have trailed behind, drawing about $24 million.

Hillary Clinton says she called for Wall Street regulations early in the financial crisis // PolitiFact // Lauren Carroll – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton has a reputation for being cozy with Wall Street -- but in her 2016 campaign, she's been striking populist tones.

Clinton introduced her plan for a variety of economic issues in a speech at the New School in Manhattan on July 14, 2015. As president, she said, she would go "beyond Dodd-Frank" -- the regulations on financial institutions that took hold in 2010, following the economic crisis of 2007-08.

She said she had been calling for financial regulations since the very early stages of the crisis.

"As we all know, in the years before the crash, financial firms piled risk upon risk, and regulators in Washington either couldn't or wouldn't keep up," she said. "I was alarmed by this gathering storm and called for addressing risks of derivatives, cracking down on subprime mortgages and improving financial oversight."

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Clinton used to be the senator from New York, the home of Wall Street. She has a history of campaign backing from the finance industry and of delivering high-priced speeches to finance firms, such as Goldman Sachs. And her husband, former President Bill Clinton, signed the repeal of a bank break-up bill, the Glass-Steagall Act -- a deregulation that some critics believe contributed to the financial crisis.

So we questioned Hillary Clinton's record of addressing financial regulations. Did she address derivatives, subprime mortgages and financial oversight so early in the crisis?

The 2008 primary campaign

While the financial crisis came to a head in summer 2008, problems with housing started to bubble up in 2007 during Clinton's ill-fated presidential primary campaign. On the trail, Clinton addressed these nascent issues -- particularly the mortgage crisis -- as early as March of that year.

Clinton, still a senator at the time, delivered a speech on the volatility of the subprime mortgage market on March 15, 2007. She said too many people were ignoring warning signs.

"The subprime problems are now creating massive issues on Wall Street," Clinton said. "It's a serious problem affecting our housing market and millions of hard-working families."

She gave specific proposals for addressing subprime mortgages, including expanding the role of the Federal Housing Administration, more borrowing options for underprivileged and first-time homebuyers, more safeguards against predatory lending practices and policies intended to prevent foreclosures.

In August that year, she delivered a similar speech about dealing with problems from subprime mortgages. There, she reiterated earlier proposals, and also suggested laws establishing national standards and registration for loan brokers, as well as regulations on lenders.

"I think the subprime market was sort of like the canary in the mine," she said. "You know, it was telling us loudly and clearly, 'There are problems here.' "

It didn't become law, but Clinton sponsored a bill to implement these policies in September 2007.

The first time she mentioned derivatives was in a November 2007 speech in Iowa. (A derivative is a financial product that allows investors to hedge against price fluctuations in an underlying asset.)

"We need to start addressing the risks posed by derivatives and other complex financial products," she said. "You can't let Wall Street send the bill to your street with the bright ideas that just don't work out. Derivatives and products like them are posing real risks to families, as Wall Street writes down tens of billions of dollars in investments. Companies are taking the loss of a billion here and a billion there simply because the securities they own are worth less than they thought."

In the same speech, she spoke again of the risky lending that led to the subprime mortgage crisis, adding that she called on then-President George W. Bush to convene a conference to find a solution.

And she also pushed for more oversight of financial markets: "So as president, I will move to establish the 21st-century oversight we need in a 21st-century global marketplace. I will call for an immediate review of these new investment products and for plans to make them more transparent."

This November speech angered some of Clinton's Wall Street donors, according to the New York Times.

At the tail-end of her campaign, in March 2008 -- still before the financial crisis hit a peak later that summer -- Clinton released a six-point plan to increase financial regulation. The plan included, in part, more oversight of derivatives and other new financial products, establishment of mortgage standards and strengthened some consumer protections.

After becoming secretary of state in 2009, Clinton made noticeably fewer comments on domestic policy and financial regulation. But the record shows that establishing policies to address the then-nascent financial crisis was a key point of her campaign platform in 2007 and 2008.

Our ruling

Clinton said she "called for addressing risks of derivatives, cracking down on subprime mortgages and improving financial oversight" early on in the financial crisis.

The crisis hit a peak in summer 2008, though it started to gain traction in 2007. Clinton began addressing the

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subprime mortgage issue in her appearances in March 2007. Later that year, she took on derivatives. She also proposed specific plans for solving these problems and increasing oversight of financial institutions.

Her statement is accurate, and we rate her claim True.

Clinton's Model Staffers // National Journal // Emily Schultheis – July 11, 2015

Half a dozen Hillary Clinton staffers lounged on a backyard patio in Brooklyn's Bushwick neighborhood one afternoon in June, sporting campaign T-shirts as they chatted and laughed. Communications staffer Ian Sams stood by the barbecue, wearing sunglasses, skinny black jeans, and an apron emblazoned with a play on his boss's name: "More Like Grillary Clinton." Sams watched hot dogs sizzle on the grill as he talked with Amanda Renteria, the campaign's political director, whose son, Diego, played nearby. Others sat around a table that had been set with place mats and plates.

A midsummer staff get-together? Not exactly. The occasion was a photo shoot for Clinton's online campaign store. Launched in May, the store has everything from bumper stickers and T-shirts featuring the campaign's "H" logo to branded grilling spatulas and beer koozies that say "Chillary Clinton." And every single model on the website works for the campaign or, in the case of the children, is related to someone who does.

The barbecue scene, which now tops the campaign's store page, was shot over the course of about an hour in the Bushwick backyard of a Clinton staffer's friend. (There was no food budget; an aide picked up the hot dogs at a nearby convenience store.) But most of the photos on the site were taken by staff photographers at the campaign's Brooklyn Heights headquarters, in a glass-walled conference room that gives other campaign workers a chance to peer in and cheer on their colleagues as they pose.

For some, the practice has added a new—and unexpected—dimension to working for Clinton. Communications staffer Jesse Lehrich says he was used to being behind the scenes and modeling had never crossed his mind—until the campaign solicited volunteers for a photo shoot, and someone from the merchandise team handed him a shirt from the campaign's "Pride" collection. "What can I say? I'm a team player," he tells me. "Our photog grabbed me and asked me, and between my willingness to do anything for the campaign and the room full of people egging me on, I capitulated." (A photo of the blue-eyed, bearded Lehrich rocking a tank top adorned with a rainbow version of the campaign logo went up on the site in June.) Others are more openly enthusiastic about their moment in the sun: "My family was very excited to see me modeling items in the store," says Alexandria Phillips, a press assistant with springy brown curls and a broad smile, who on the website wears a purple T-shirt that says, "Women's rights are human rights." "Even my grandmother, our family matriarch and last Republican holdout, had to admit that she thought I made the Hillary items look good!"

But the arrangement has earned the staffer-models a certain amount of good-natured ribbing as well. Political operatives and reporters have recognized the aides in question and teased them on Twitter about their moonlighting. The photos have even popped up in snarky articles. One post from New York magazine, titled, "Hillary Knows Exactly What Kind of Dumb Beach-Themed Merch You Want," featured a large photo of Ian Sams in the "Grillary Clinton" apron. (He didn't get to choose his apparel either, he tells me: The merchandise team gave him the apron and that's what he wore.) "I never thought I'd be compared to an Urban Outfitters model by New York magazine," he says. "But cross that off the bucket list."

No other 2016 campaign is using staffers to show off its apparel in quite this way; the closest is Rand Paul's, which has several photos of young people—some of whom are staffers—in "Rand 2016" gear at the top of its merchandise page. But individual items aren't displayed on models, professional or otherwise.

The Clinton campaign's official answer for why it went this route was that using in-house talent was a cost-cutting measure cribbed from Obama 2012. But they could have done without the human mannequins entirely, as most other campaigns have. Cost-consciousness aside—and with Clinton's record $45 million fundraising haul from her first quarter in the race, she's not exactly hurting for cash at the moment—the decision to use staffers as models is also, clearly, a marketing move. The question is: What does this marketing move actually communicate?

"Everyday items made by everyday Americans" is the tagline of the store, and the phrase "everyday Americans" is one that Clinton frequently invokes on the stump. As a group, however, these young, Brooklyn-based Democratic operatives give off more of a hipster vibe; they seem, in short, like the kind of people you're likely to see hanging out at a Bushwick barbecue.

Meaghan Burdick, who ran merchandising for the 2012 Obama campaign and herself modeled for the Obama store (as a redhead, she frequently showed up in the St. Patrick's Day—or O'Bama—apparel section), says the site "shows youthful energy" and is in keeping with the campaign's efforts to cultivate a looser, more laid-back image. "It's the whole, 'This is fun,' trying to take the edge off the serious aspect of it, I think," she says. Sean Duffy, a brand marketing expert, says it's about projecting diversity and youth: "There's the obvious demographic thing going on: a more or less youthful group of people, racially diverse, you've got kids, so it hints at the family thing. For me ... it just said she's trying to portray this kind of young normalcy." Jasmine Sandler, a digital marketing

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strategist, looked at the photo of Sams and said it brought to mind "a techie dad, who is as comfortable managing the grill as he is his tech team at work. He has a sense of domestic stability to him and good employment."

Will the strategy sell shirts? The campaign wouldn't talk about how many apparel items had been purchased thus far, or whether the images on the site were getting as much attention from potential buyers as they were on social media. But some have their doubts. "I keep saying, they may have saved money by using me as a model," says Lehrich, "but there ain't nobody that's going to buy that tank top now."

Hillary Clinton Has Already Spent $18.7 Million // National Journal // Shane Goldmacher – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton spent a massive $18.7 million in her first quarter as a presidential candidate, an enormous sum that is more money than any of her rivals, Democratic or Republican, have even raised.

The spending amounts to roughly $230,000 for every day since she declared her candidacy on April 12, an incredible pace at a time when Clinton was not purchasing expensive television ads. Instead, the funds have gone toward building a national political apparatus helmed by campaign manager Robby Mook.

"We have had the ability to make critical investments in our organization that will put us in position to win the primary and the White House," Mook said in a statement.

Despite the spending, Clinton still ended the quarter with roughly $28 million in primary cash, according to the campaign and reports filed with the Federal Election Commission. She raised a total of $46.7 million, including $824,000 in general election contributions.

Clinton also released a list of 122 of her bundlers Wednesday that have raised at least $100,000 for her campaign. One name that stands out is Rep. Joaquin Castro, the twin brother of Julian Castro, the secretary of Housing and Urban Development who is often listed as a potential Clinton running mate.

The Clinton campaign said that it had received money from more than 250,000 people, with an average-sized contribution of $144.89. Her campaign said 61 percent of her donors were women and that 94 percent of donors had given $250 or less. Earlier on Wednesday, her chief Democratic rival in the polls, Sen. Bernie Sanders, revealed he had 284,000 contributors who had given an average of $35.

All told, Clinton's fundraising dwarfs that of Sanders, who reported raising $15.2 million, including $1.5 million he transferred from his Senate committee, and spent roughly $3 million in the second quarter. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has not yet filed his disclosure.

Clinton's new FEC filing suggests that her campaign's spending choices this time are informed by her previous run, when she also began as the prohibitive favorite to win the nomination.

In that first run eight years ago, Clinton found herself nearly out of cash by the time of the Iowa caucuses, despite having raised $100 million and having started her ground operation relatively late, compared to rivals Barack Obama and John Edwards.

In the second quarter of 2007, Clinton spent a total of $2.5 million on salaries and $1.1 million on travel and $237,000 on polling.

In 2015, she has spent $3.8 million on salaries, plus another $391,000 on "organizing services," while keeping travel costs to $465,000. The amount spent on polling, meanwhile, nearly quadrupled, to $905,000.

S.V. Dáte contributed to this article.

Hillary Clinton campaign raises $46m, with women 60% of donors // The Guardian – July 15, 2015

FEC filing shows hundreds of staff hired and big online operation built up, but does not include money being accumulated by super PACS

Hillary Clinton’s campaign has detailed $46m worth of fundraising activities to the FEC.

Hillary Clinton has spent nearly $19m and hired hundreds of staff during the first three months of her presidential campaign. In total, Clinton’s official campaign raised more than $46m from more than 250,000 contributors, according to records filed with the FEC, the US election finance watchdog.

About 60% of donors were women, the Clinton campaign said, and 94% of the donations came in amounts of $250 or less. The average donation was $144.89.

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Clinton's spending underscores her early effort to build a national campaign, even as aides say she is focused on the primary contest. Beyond paying salaries for 343 new employees, her campaign purchased lists of voters in four early voting states and spent heavily on building up a digital team.

Her campaign also released a list of campaign bundlers, donors who each raised more than $100,000. Some of the donors included Clinton's most ardent financial backers, including Hollywood media mogul Haim Saban; Susie Tompkins Buell, a wealthy California investor who was a major donor to the Ready for Hillary super PAC; Las Vegas publisher Brian Greenspun, a longtime friend and college classmate of Bill Clinton; billionaire JB Pritzker of Chicago; and Alan Patricof, a New York-based financier who served as Clinton's finance chair when she first ran for Senate in New York.

Clinton and Republican Jeb Bush account for almost half the roughly $390m that official presidential groups for all the expected 22 candidates say they have raised. Most campaigns, including Clinton's and Bush's, were required to file their initial reports with the Federal Election Commission by midnight on Wednesday.

The FEC reports cover financial activity between 1 April and 30 June and list the names of everyone who gave at least $200. The maximum contribution for the primary is $2,700. The FEC reports also show how candidates are spending their money on consultants, office space, advertising, polling and more.

Wednesday's reports provide only a glimpse of all the money that donors are handing over. The candidates also benefit from "super PACs" – political action committees – usually created specifically to help them. Those groups, which accept contributions of any size and are subject to legal limits on how closely they can work with the campaigns, file their FEC reports at the end of the month.

The pro-Clinton Priorities USA Action, a super PAC that counts on seven-figure donors and previously backed Barack Obama, raised an additional $15m, according to an Associated Press assessment.

The AP found that donors have handed over nearly $400m, more than two-thirds of it to outside groups rather than to official campaigns. That total is more than the presidential candidates raised for the entire primary election of 2000, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, a group that tracks election spending.

Since announcing her White House bid in April, Clinton has positioned staff in all fifty states with the majority working out of a large and pricey Brooklyn headquarters.

The overwhelming favorite for her party's nomination, Clinton and her team have set their sights on building the massive infrastructure they will need for the general election.

The outlay is nearly four times what Clinton spent in the first three months of her last presidential campaign, when she faced a far more competitive primary race against Barack Obama.

During that 2008 campaign, Clinton and her team faced charges from donors that they were wasting money on ineffective strategic choices like spending nearly $100,000 for party platters and groceries before the Iowa caucus, a contest she lost.

This time, her staff has emphasized its "cheapskate" mentality particularly to contributors. At her first national finance meeting in May, top donors were instructed to purchase their own lunches and fund their own transportation to various gatherings in Brooklyn. Campaign aides like to brag about taking the bus from New York to Washington, rather than the more expensive Acela train. Even so, her campaign spent at least $8,700 on train tickets and just a few hundred dollars on bus fare, the Federal Election Commission report shows.

All told, Clinton has spent a far greater portion of her early funds during this campaign than she did eight years ago. During the first three months of her 2008 bid Clinton spent 14% of the $36m she raised, according to FEC documents. In the launch of this campaign she has used up nearly 40% of what she has taken in.

By comparison Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has fueled an insurgent challenge to Clinton with small donations. He pulled in more than $15.2m through the end of June and three-quarters of his donations were $200 or less.

Hillary Clinton Wants to Run on Climate. And She Thinks Democrats Should Too. // National Journal // Clare Foran and Jason Plautz – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton isn't afraid to talk about global warming—and she wants her fellow Democrats to join her.

In closed-door meetings with House and Senate Democrats Tuesday, Clinton jumped at the chance to discuss the hot-button topic in political terms, numerous lawmakers said. Clinton delivered a clear message: Democrats must convince the American public that action to combat Earth's rising temperatures is urgent, and her party can make

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that case by tailoring their message to different kinds of voters.

"She was incredible," said Sen. Ben Cardin. "She really relates [climate change] to the current political communities and how we have to do a better job. We know the policy, but we have to do a better job on the politics."

Clinton wants Democrats to grasp the importance of Paris climate negotiations later this year and speak about global warming in a way that resonates with millennials, according to several Senate Democrats. That would be an easy way for Democrats to draw a clear contrast with a GOP presidential field dominated by climate skeptics.

She wants to keep her left flank clear as well, delivering a message guaranteed to appeal to the party's progressive wing. Clinton framed global warming as a pressing and serious threat and touted the climate credentials of John Podesta, the chairman of her 2016 campaign and a former climate adviser to President Obama.

But Clinton doesn't want Democrats to run too far to the left. According to several senators, she cautioned members of her party that Democrats can't forget that coal country is an important part of America and can't be left behind in the fight to tackle global warming.

"She pointed out to those of us who are passionate about climate change that it's a big country, and a lot of our previous economic growth was dependent on coal country, and that as we pursue a transition to a clean-energy economy, that it's not like Americans to leave folks behind. So we have to really think deeply about how we help folks who are experiencing challenges during this transition," said Sen. Brian Schatz in an interview.

That message offers up an olive branch to moderate Democrats who have felt spurned by the Obama administration's climate agenda, and it could help the party win over centrists in purple states.

"She was very much concerned," said Sen. Joe Manchin, a moderate Democrat from West Virginia. "She said people need to realize what coal has done for this country. ... People don't realize that; they just want to condemn it now, and she was very compassionate about that." Manchin added that he invited Clinton to visit West Virginia so that she can see coal country up-close.

Environmentalists have been frustrated by what they view as a lack of specifics from the Clinton campaign when it comes to climate change and energy, even though Clinton has spoken of the need to act on climate change in campaign speeches. Many progressive green groups worry that Clinton's ties to Wall Street will discourage her from taking a strong stand in the fight against global warming, and they are concerned about the fact that she has not come out firmly against the Keystone XL pipeline—an issue that congressional Democrats did not press her on when she met with them on Tuesday.

But rather than interpreting Clinton's silence on Keystone and sympathy for coal country as suspect, progressive Democrats were encouraged and energized by her remarks.

"I thought it was pretty solid," Rep. Raul Grijalva, one of the cochairs of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said after hearing Clinton speak. "Some of the progressive issues and members have kind of been crying in the wilderness for a while, and now these issues like climate change, income inequality, and the jobs agenda are resonating with the public. And I think that Hillary understands that. ... The fact that the progressive causes and organizations feel more in touch with and included with Hillary now is a mark that she understands that."

"I think she recognizes that the politics of the legislative branch are stuck, and you have got to have an understanding of what people are going through if you're going to get to a 60-vote threshold to have legislative success," Schatz said. "I think she is trying to cobble together a coalition that can actually do something."

Of course, even if Clinton's climate agenda wins over Democrats, it will be difficult for her to match the progressive record of her biggest challenger on the Left: Sen. Bernie Sanders. Sanders was quick to remind reporters of that, holding an impromptu press conference on Tuesday in the Capitol, where he touted his record on energy and the environment as one of many areas where he could break away from Clinton.

"I have helped lead the opposition against the Keystone pipeline. I don't believe we should be excavating or transporting some of the dirtiest fuel on this planet," Sanders said. "I think Secretary Clinton has not been clear on her views on that issue."

Benghazi Republicans slam 'one-way letter war' of committee Dems // Washington Examiner // Sarah Westwood – July 15, 2015

Republicans on the House Select Committee on Benghazi slammed Democrats on Wednesday for refusing to assist the majority in the investigation of the 2012 terror attack.

"Unlike committee Democrats, who believe all has been asked and answered, and who have never made a single

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document request of the administration during the entirety of the existence of this committee, committee Republicans continue to doggedly pursue getting all the facts regarding Libya and Benghazi," said Jamal Ware, the majority's spokesman, in response to a Democratic letter accusing Chairman Trey Gowdy of diverting the committee's focus to Hillary Clinton.

"To the extent the Committee has had to focus on Secretary Clinton to try to recover relevant portions of what should have been her public record, we would not be here today had Clinton decided the right thing instead of the 'convenient' thing to do was to use the official State Department system," Ware said.

The select committee discovered earlier this year that Clinton had shielded all of her government communications on a private email server, undermining claims that the formation of the committee would merely retrace the steps of several previous congressional investigations.

"We would not be here had Clinton answered a letter from Congress two years ago that explicitly asked about her use of personal email to conduct official public business," Ware added. "We would not be here had she not found it convenient to keep her emails on her server for more than 20 months and only then to wipe it clean after the Committee came asking for records."

Relations between the select committee's Democrats and Republicans have soured in the days since Clinton announced her campaign for president.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the committee's top Democrat, and its four other Democratic members sent a letter to Gowdy on Wednesday morning blasting what they saw as a dereliction of the committee's duties in favor of partisan attacks on Clinton.

Democrats published a tentative schedule that indicated the committee had planned to hold 11 hearings between January and October, none of which had occurred.

But Ware countered the notion that Republicans had allowed their investigative efforts to lapse.

"The Select Committee has conducted more than 30 transcribed interviews to keep the focus on uncovering facts," he said. "These initial witness interviews centered on State Department and CIA witnesses because they were the eyewitnesses to the attacks and many have never before been interviewed by any committee of Congress."

Witnesses from the Pentagon, the National Security Council and even the White House are slated to be interviewed before the committee, Ware added.

Several of these interviews have been hampered by the government's reluctance to hand over documents related to the Benghazi attack.

The committee said Monday it had not been given a pair of emails in which Clinton and her top aides discussed controversial talking points in late September 2012.

State Department officials have withheld documents on three separate occasions without providing justification, although committee members have twice written to ask why the records were not disclosed.

Gowdy and the Republicans on the committee have long criticized the minority for what they see as a failure to exert pressure on agencies that stonewall their congressional requests.

Democrats have frequently accused the majority of using its platform to weaken Clinton's presidential prospects.

Earlier this month, Cummings blasted Republicans for leaking "doctored" documents to the press in an attempt to smear the Democratic frontrunner.

Gowdy later released a statement in which he instructed his staff not to spend time responding to the minority's public missives.

"If Democrats insist on continuing to write, hopefully next time it will include what they are doing to bring an end to State Department stonewalling and to help the majority enforce subpoenas that have been outstanding for months," Ware said.

Why Hillary Clinton should take a tougher stance on banks // CS Monitor // Robert Reich – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton won't propose reinstating a bank break-up law known as the Glass-Steagall Act – at least according to Alan Blinder, an economist who has been advising Clinton's campaign. "You're not going to see Glass-Steagall,"

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Blinder said after her economic speech Monday in which she failed to mention it. Blinder said he had spoken to Clinton directly about Glass-Steagall.

This is a big mistake.

It's a mistake politically because people who believe Hillary Clinton is still too close to Wall Street will not be reassured by her position on Glass-Steagall. Many will recall that her husband led the way to repealing Glass Steagall in 1999 at the request of the big Wall Street banks.

Recommended: How is money reshaping American politics? Take our quiz.
It's a big mistake economically because the repeal of Glass-Steagall led directly to the 2008 Wall Street crash, and without it we're in danger of another one.

Some background: During the Roaring Twenties, so much money could be made by speculating on shares of stock that several big Wall Street banks began selling stock along side their traditional banking services – taking in deposits and making loans.

Some banks went further, lending to pools of speculators that used the money to pump up share prices. The banks sold the shares to their customers, only to have the share prices collapse when the speculators dumped them.

For the banks, it was an egregious but hugely profitable conflict of interest.

After the entire stock market crashed in 1929, ushering in the Great Depression, Washington needed to restore the public's faith in the banking system. One step was for Congress to enact legislation insuring commercial deposits against bank losses.

Another was to prevent the kinds of conflicts of interest that resulted in such losses, and which had fueled the boom and subsequent bust. Under the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933, banks couldn't both gamble in the market and also take in deposits and make loans. They'd have to choose between the two.

"The idea is pretty simple behind this one," Senator Elizabeth Warren said a few days ago, explaining her bill to resurrect Glass-Steagall. "If banks want to engage in high-risk trading — they can go for it, but they can't get access to ensured deposits and put the taxpayers on the hook for that reason."

For more than six decades after 1933, Glass-Steagall worked exactly as it was intended to. During that long interval few banks failed and no financial panic endangered the banking system.

But the big Wall Street banks weren't content. They wanted bigger profits. They thought they could make far more money by gambling with commercial deposits. So they set out to whittle down Glass-Steagall.

Finally, in 1999, President Bill Clinton struck a deal with Republican Senator Phil Gramm to do exactly what Wall Street wanted, and repeal Glass-Steagall altogether.

What happened next? An almost exact replay of the Roaring Twenties. Once again, banks originated fraudulent loans and sold them to their customers in the form of securities. Once again, there was a huge conflict of interest that finally resulted in a banking crisis.

This time the banks were bailed out, but millions of Americans lost their savings, their jobs, even their homes.

A personal note. I worked for Bill Clinton as Secretary of Labor and I believe most of his economic policies were sound. But during those years I was in fairly continuous battle with some other of his advisers who seemed determined to do Wall Street's bidding.

On Glass-Steagall, they clearly won.

To this day some Wall Street apologists argue Glass-Steagall wouldn't have prevented the 2008 crisis because the real culprits were nonbanks like Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns.

Baloney. These nonbanks got their funding from the big banks in the form of lines of credit, mortgages, and repurchase agreements. If the big banks hadn't provided them the money, the nonbanks wouldn't have got into trouble.

And why were the banks able to give them easy credit on bad collateral? Because Glass-Steagall was gone.

Other apologists for the Street blame the crisis on unscrupulous mortgage brokers.

Surely mortgage brokers do share some of the responsibility. But here again, the big banks were accessories and

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enablers.

The mortgage brokers couldn't have funded the mortgage loans if the banks hadn't bought them. And the big banks couldn't have bought them if Glass-Steagall were still in place.

I've also heard bank executives claim there's no reason to resurrect Glass-Steagall because none of the big banks actually failed.

This is like arguing lifeguards are no longer necessary at beaches where no one has drowned. It ignores the fact that the big banks were bailed out. If the government hadn't thrown them lifelines, many would have gone under.

Remember? Their balance sheets were full of junky paper, non-performing loans, and worthless derivatives. They were bailed out because they were too big to fail. And the reason for resurrecting Glass-Steagall is we don't want to go through that ever again.

As George Santayana famously quipped, those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. In the roaring 2000's, just as in the Roaring Twenties, America's big banks used insured deposits to underwrite their gambling in private securities, and then dump the securities on their customers.

It ended badly.

This is precisely what the Glass-Steagall Act was designed to prevent – and did prevent for more than six decades.

Hillary Clinton, of all people, should remember.

Wealthy Donors and Lobbyist Bundlers Are Largely Bankrolling Hillary Clinton's Campaign // Mother Jones // Russ Choma – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton hauled in $47.5 million in the first three months of her campaign, besting both Republican Jeb Bush, who raised $11.4 million, and her surprising Democratic challenger, Bernie Sanders, who racked up $15.2 million. According to her campaign, she had more than 250,000 donors, of whom 61 percent were female, an unprecedented number of female donors. But what Clinton did not highlight was that she had relied on wealthy donors and lobbyists to pull together most of her money.

Clinton reported raising $8 million—or 16.8 percent of her total—from small donors who gave $200 or less. Many politicians raise far less from small donors. Jeb Bush, for example, raised just 3 percent of his campaign cash from small donors. But Sanders blew Clinton out of the water when it came to grassroots fundraising, taking in $10.4 million (or 68 percent) of his warchest from $200-or-less donors.

The bulk of Clinton's campaign funds came from an elite, wealthy class of donors—those who can afford to give the maximum donation. In 2014, roughly 0.04 percent of Americans made the maximum donation for a primary campaign of $2,600 (adjusted to $2,700 in this election cycle). Bush's campaign raised more than 80 percent of its cash from this upper-crust of donors, and Clinton raised 64 percent. Clinton may well have had 250,000 donors—but just 11,400 of them accounted for almost two-thirds of her total fundraising.

Clinton also got a big boost from her bundlers—supporters who tap their personal and professional networks to amass donations for the campaign. Candidates are only required to list the names of registered lobbyists who have bundled for them, and Clinton did go above and beyond that by releasing on her website the names of 122 people who had raised $100,000 or more for her campaign. With much less fanfare, she also disclosed to the Federal Election Commission the names of 40 registered lobbyists who bundled just over $2 million for her campaign.

By comparison, Bush's campaign listed the names of eight registered lobbyists who bundled $228,000 for his campaign. Sanders had no registered lobbyists fundraising on his behalf.

The top lobbyist bundling for Clinton was Jackson Dunn, who represents Mastercard, Dow Chemical, Pepsico, and Noble Energy, a Houston-based oil and gas company. Dunn bundled more than $231,000 for the campaign. He wasn't the only lobbyist with ties to the oil and gas sector who went to work fundraising for Clinton. Lobbyist Ankit Desai, who works for natural gas company Cheniere, raised $82,000. Theresa Fariello, of ExxonMobil, raised $21,200 for the campaign.

Hillary Clinton spends nearly $19M during first three months of presidential campaign // NY Daily News // Cameron Joseph – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton spent almost a whopping $19 million in her first three months as a candidate, a sign she's investing heavily in building out a huge campaign organization.

That leaves Clinton with just under $29 million cash on hand, more than any other candidate's direct campaign,

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after raising almost $48 million in total with all the checks counted. All but $1 million of that money is earmarked for the primary.

"Thanks to the more than 250,000 Americans who have stepped up to support Hillary Clinton's campaign, we have had the ability to make critical investments in our organization that will put us in position to win the primary and the White House," said campaign manager Robby Mook in a statement.

Clinton's high burn rate was a problem for her in 2008, when she spent heavily early on in the campaign on high salaries and unnecessary expenses. Her team insists that this time around the money is being put to better use in ways that will help her down the line: heavy investments in building a big digital presence and strong ground game. The Clinton campaign made big investments in analytical teams, technology and field, according to a campaign spokesman.

Her main primary rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has $12 million in the bank after raising $15 million in the same time period, from approximately the same number of donors. Clinton's team says 94 percent of her donors gave $250 or less, even higher than the 76 percent of donors to Sanders who gave less than $200.

Clinton loaned her campaign $280,000 while she was in the unofficial "testing the waters" phase of her campaign.

While Clinton raised the most direct money for her campaign than any of her rivals in either party, that figure is lower than Jeb Bush's total haul. His super-PAC alone raised more than $100 million in donations, and $11 million more in direct contributions.

Clinton staff are sounding the alarm about those hauls as they look to spur up more donations from scared Democrats. Clinton Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri predicted Wednesday afternoon that Clinton will be outspent in the general election.

"People need to be more worried about the Republican super-PACs," Palmieri said on Bloomberg TV. "This is a big threat."

Clinton's high burn rate was a problem for her in 2008, when she spent heavily early on in the campaign on high salaries and unnecessary expenses.
Clinton also released a list of the more "Hillblazers," campaign bundlers who helped her raise $100 million apiece.

That list includes Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas), the twin brother of secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro, who is rumored to be a top possibility to be Clinton's eventual running mate.

Roughly one third of Clinton's bundlers are from the New York City area, including Facebook founder Chris Hughes and his husband Sean Eldridge, Citigroup Vice President Lisa Caputo, Morgan Stanley vice chairman and former deputy secretary of State Tom Nides, Lynn Forester de Rothschild, and Reps. Jim Himes (D-Conn.) and Grace Meng (D-N.Y.).

Hillary Clinton campaign raises $46m, with women 60% of donors // Guardian // July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton has spent nearly $19m and hired hundreds of staff during the first three months of her presidential campaign. In total, Clinton's official campaign raised more than $46m from more than 250,000 contributors, according to records filed with the FEC, the US election finance watchdog.

About 60% of donors were women, the Clinton campaign said, and 94% of the donations came in amounts of $250 or less. The average donation was $144.89.

Clinton's spending underscores her early effort to build a national campaign, even as aides say she is focused on the primary contest. Beyond paying salaries for 343 new employees, her campaign purchased lists of voters in four early voting states and spent heavily on building up a digital team.

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During that 2008 campaign, Clinton and her team faced charges from donors that they were wasting money on ineffective strategic choices like spending nearly $100,000 for party platters and groceries before the Iowa caucus, a contest she lost.

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All told, Clinton has spent a far greater portion of her early funds during this campaign than she did eight years ago. During the first three months of her 2008 bid Clinton spent 14% of the $36m she raised, according to FEC documents. In the launch of this campaign she has used up nearly 40% of what she has taken in.

By comparison Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has fueled an insurgent challenge to Clinton with small donations. He pulled in more than $15.2m through the end of June and three-quarters of his donations were $200 or less.

Hillary Clinton Has Spent $18M Of Over $46M In First 3 Months Of Her Presidential Campaign // **IB Times // Sneha Shankar - July 16 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton hired hundreds of employees and spent more than $18 million in the first three months of her presidential campaign in an effort to outpace her rivals. Clinton had raised over $46 million for the Democratic primary contest, the Associated Press (AP) reported on Wednesday.

Clinton reportedly spent over $5.9 million on 343 employees, $700,000 on computers and other equipment, and half a million on renting offices, including her 80,000 square feet headquarters in Brooklyn. According to campaign finance documents filed on Wednesday, Clinton also purchased lists of voters in four early primary states, paid a political action committee six figures to defend her record, and spent massively on building a digital team, the AP reported.

The report also analyzed that the outlay for this year's campaign is nearly four times what Clinton spent in the first three months of her last presidential campaign against then-Sen. Barack Obama in 2008. During that campaign, Clinton and her team faced accusations that they wasted a lot of money on strategies that did not work, including nearly $100,000 on party platters and groceries before the Iowa caucus. Clinton lost that contest.

At the first national finance meeting in May, Clinton's team reportedly asked top donors to buy their own lunches and fund their own transportation to gatherings in Brooklyn. While campaign aides bragged about traveling from New York to Washington in a bus, and not the more expensive Acela train, Clinton's team still spent at least $8,700 on train tickets and just a few hundred dollars on bus tickets, the AP reported, citing the Federal Election Commission report.

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During the 2008 campaign, Clinton spent 14 percent of the raised $36 million in the first three months, but this time she has reportedly spent nearly 40 percent of the raised amount in the same period. Clinton also reportedly received over 250,000 contributions and only about 17 percent of the donations were less than $200 dollars. A list of campaign bundlers, each of whom helped raise over $100,000 for her primary bid, was also released by Clinton's team.

Some of the donors included Hollywood media mogul Haim Saban; Susie Tompkins Buell, a wealthy California investor; Las Vegas publisher Brian Greenspun; billionaire J.B. Pritzker of Chicago; and New York-based financier Alan Patricof, the AP reported. Her team also managed to attract some of Obama's biggest backers, including New York-based financiers Marc Lasry, Charles Myers and Blair Effron.

DC Rep Says Hillary Wants To Make DC The 51st State // Daily Caller // Josh Fatzick – July 15, 2015

After speaking with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, D.C.'s Delegate to Congress Eleanor Holmes Norton said she got Clinton's personal support for the D.C. statehood movement.

Norton had been following Clinton to various Capitol Hill Meetings and after the pair left a Congressional Black Caucus meeting, Norton popped the D.C. statehood question. A spokesman for Hillary Clinton did not immediately return a request for confirmation of Clinton's support for D.C. statehood.

In June, Norton, along with Democratic colleagues in the Senate, introduced legislation that would turn the district into the 51st state and give residents a real voice in Congress.

Currently, the district has a similar position in Congress to Puerto Rico, with Norton serving as a non-voting delegate. Norton is not allowed to vote on the House floor, but she can introduce legislation and serve on committees.

The issue, according to Norton, is that D.C. residents pay taxes just like everybody else in America, but they do not have a real say in how that money is spent by Congress. In a statement, Norton said she has known Clinton since her husband was in the White House, so she was not surprised by Clinton's support for D.C. statehood.

"President Bill Clinton was the first president to support statehood for the District of Columbia, and President Obama has followed in endorsing D.C. statehood," Norton said. "President Clinton made phone calls that helped get Democrats to support my statehood bill when I first came to Congress."

President Barack Obama joined the fight for D.C. statehood last year during a town hall meeting when an audience member asked him about the movement.

"I'm in D.C., so I'm for it," he said. "It's not as if Washington, D.C. is not big enough compared to other states."

With roughly 650,000 residents in the city, D.C. is on par with states like Wyoming, Vermont, North Dakota and Alaska, which have populations between 570,000 and 730,000, and each posses one vote in the House.

It's no surprise Obama and other Democrats want to see D.C. become a new state. 75 percent of registered voters in the city are Democrats, with Republicans at just 6 percent, right behind "No Party," which has slightly more than 17 percent.

If D.C. were to become a state, Democrats would most certainly pick up two new Senate seats and another House seat, and hold them indefinitely.

As Described By NYT's Mark Leibovich, Reporters Covering Hillary Are A Bunch Of Monsters // Daily Caller // Betsy Rothstein – July 15, 2015

New York Times Magazine writer Mark Leibovich paints a bleak picture of the press covering Hillary Clinton's every move in her quest to win the White House in 2016.

They're vultures, bullies and shouters. They're self-aggrandizing.

They care about stupid things — like what she ate for lunch at a Chipotle in Ohio — and seem to cause Clinton, in turn, to ask absurd questions while touring a microbrewery in New Hampshire. She wanted to hold grain in her hands. She asked, "Where does the Barley come from?"

But it's a vicious circle isn't it?

In his story, Leibovich describes a press team surrounding Hillary that says things that force a reporter to reveal the ridiculous depths her staff will plunge to in order to control her image.

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When Leibovich visited her Brooklyn campaign headquarters to meet with Robby Mook, her campaign manager, a press aide, Jesse Ferguson informed him that the office space would be off-the-record. Leibovich refused to honor it. Hilariously, Ferguson said he didn't want guests devolving into a tweeting contest (you know, with the throngs of people who want to visit the building and brag on social media that they were there).

Ferguson ultimately wanted anything Leibovich saw "embargoed" until his piece published. Embarrassingly, he even buttered the reporter up by telling him that this "still means you're the first reporter who can report anything from the office." (Oh boy, really?)

Leibovich abided by a no-tweeting rule, but refused to keep a 40,000-foot space off record. That said, he didn't really see anything juicy there unless you count spotting President Obama's former body man Reggie Love. (A little Zzzzzzz.)

Even the way the NYT writer landed the interview became part of his lengthy profile.

"Her campaign at first declined to make her available for an interview. It did offer me an 'off the record' meeting, which is highly irregular: an off-the-record sit-down with a profile subject who happens to be running for president, and who is not exactly new to these rodeos. (I demurred on the off-the-record sit-down, at least at first.)"
Leibovich ultimately agreed to an off-the-record meeting and ultimately landed his partial on-the-record interview.

On one hand he shows FNC's Ed Henry bragging about getting Hillary to finally answer questions from reporters to shouts of "DO YOU HAVE A PERCEPTION PROBLEM?" But on the other, he depicts Hillary's handlers as people who regularly treat members of press like "cattle" that they literally corral with rope.

The writer makes fun of the notion that this was somehow appalling. He also notes that the national media made sure it became the day's big news.

"That image became the day's takeaway, at least in the national media: proof, supposedly, of Clinton's running scared from the 'tough questions,' thwarting press freedom on this day of our independence."
But maybe it isn't reporters who occasionally deserve to be treated like animals.

The most startling scene comes at a fourth of July parade when a smiling Hillary walks a parade route and telling a reporter what a "great time" she's having. Meawhile, there's Leibovich watching her face down Benghazi signs and shouts from complete strangers calling her a "LIAR" and a "CARPETBAGGER."

Clinton, Dem Hopefuls Silent on Planned Parenthood Organ Sales Video // Free Beacon // Bill McMorris – July 15, 2015

The Democrats vying for the 2016 presidential nomination were silent about a new video showing a top Planned Parenthood doctor outlining plans to sell body parts from aborted babies.

The undercover sting video shot by the non-profit Center for Medical Progress appears to show Dr. Deborah Nucatola, the senior director of medical services at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, talking about reselling body parts of babies subjected to abortions. Nucatola brags about the techniques Planned Parenthood doctors use to preserve valuable body parts as she eats lunch with two actors posing as prospective buyers.

"We've been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I'm not going to crush that part, I'm going to basically crush below, I'm going to crush above, and I'm going to see if I can get it all intact," she says in an eight-minute video pulled from a nearly three-hour conversation that the group also posted online.

Nucatola said that Planned Parenthood doctors enlist the help of ultrasound to make sure they don't damage organs as they remove pieces of the baby from the womb.

Planned Parenthood has called state ultrasound bills "cruel" in the past.

"A lot of people want liver," she says pausing to bite her salad. "And for that reason, most providers will do this case under ultrasound guidance, so they'll know where they're putting their forceps."

The Washington Free Beacon reached out to the campaigns of all five Democrats running for president: former Secretary of State and frontrunner Hillary Clinton, insurgent socialist Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee. None responded to questions about whether they condemned the practice of organ harvesting, whether Democrats should distance themselves from Planned Parenthood, or return campaign donations from the group.

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Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion provider, performing around 300,000 abortions per year. It has received nearly $200 million taxpayer dollars since 2012 including $27 million in grants alone in 2015, according to a Washington Free Beacon analysis.

Planned Parenthood has in turn spent major money supporting the Democratic Party, including nearly $18 million in outside spending in 2014 and 2012, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Nearly all of its nearly $6 million in direct contributions since 1990 have gone to Democrats.

Each Democratic candidate enjoys a close relationship with Planned Parenthood and the abortion lobby. Lincoln Chafee, the former governor of Rhode Island, is the only one without a perfect rating from the pro-abortion group NARAL. He has a 90 percent approval score.

Clinton won Planned Parenthood's Margaret Sanger Award in 2009. She received more than $10,000 from the organization during two Senate runs and failed 2008 primary against President Barack Obama. She opposes limits on late-term abortion. As president, Bill Clinton vetoed a ban on partial birth abortion methods that Nucatola appeared to discuss in the video.

"The overarching mission of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the cause of reproductive freedom that you continue to advance today is as relevant in our world now as it was 100 years ago. So, I thank you," Clinton said in a release upon winning the award. A campaign spokesman did not return a request for comment.

O'Malley has also been honored by the organization, winning Planned Parenthood Maryland's Betty Tyler award in 2014. "We are building a stronger future for all of our children and grandchildren. I am honored to receive this recognition from Planned Parenthood Maryland for Maryland's hard-won progress," he said in a release.

Martin O'Malley receives awardMartin O'Malley receives award
Sanders received $5,500 from Planned Parenthood between 2012, a steep increase from the $1,500 he received between 2004 and 2006, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

Chafee received more than $18,000 in 2000 and 2006 when he served in the U.S. Senate, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Webb received no money from Planned Parenthood in his 2006 Senate run, though he still enjoys a perfect pro-abortion rating from NARAL.

Neither O'Malley, Sanders, nor Webb returned a request for comment.

Carly Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard, was the first presidential hopeful to respond to the video, posting a link to her Facebook page.

"I am proudly pro-life. I believe that every human life has potential and that every human life is precious. This latest news is tragic and outrageous. This isn't about 'choice.' It's about profiting on the death of the unborn while telling women it's about empowerment," Fiorina said.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who announced his presidential run in June, launched an investigation into Planned Parenthood operations in his state following the video's release.

"The systematic harvesting and trafficking of human body parts is shocking and gruesome," Jindal said in a statement. "This same organization is seeking to open an abortion clinic in New Orleans. I have instructed Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals to conduct an immediate investigation into this alleged evil and illegal activity and to not issue any licenses until this investigation is complete."

Jindal called on the Democratic field to return campaign donations and to condemn Planned Parenthood.

"Even the most hardened liberal must feel some pang of conscience watching the callousness with which [Nucatola] discusses the dismemberment of defenseless babies. How could anybody, regardless of political party, refuse to condemn such barbarism?" Jindal told the Washington Free Beacon. "I hope those who oppose efforts to encourage a culture of life watch this video."

Rick Perry, the former governor of Texas, said in a statement that these types of concerns led him to defund Planned Parenthood in his state.

"The video showing a Planned Parenthood employee selling the body parts of aborted children is a disturbing reminder of the organization's penchant for profiting off the tragedy of a destroyed human life," he said in a statement. "It is because of stories like this that I signed legislation defunding Planned Parenthood in the state of Texas—to protect human life and the health and safety of Texans."

The call to defund Planned Parenthood stretched beyond pro-life politicians. A campaign spokesman for George Pataki, the former governor of New York and the only pro-choice candidate in the GOP field, endorsed cutting off

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taxpayer dollars to the organization.

“The video is abhorrent and Governor Pataki would support ending federal funding for Planned Parenthood,” said David Catalfamo, a spokesman for Pataki, in a statement.

Planned Parenthood defended the practice as “ethical,” referring to the harvested body parts as “tissue.” It claimed to receive “no financial benefit.”

“We help patients who want to donate tissue for scientific research, and we do this just like every other high-quality health care provider does—with full, appropriate consent from patients and under the highest ethical and legal standards,” it said in a release. “In some instances, actual costs, such as the cost to transport tissue to leading research centers, are reimbursed.”

Nucatola alluded to the fact that local clinics stand to gain in the harvesting of organs and other body parts.

“For affiliates at the end of the day, they’re non-profits. They want to break even, and if they do a little bit better than break even and do so in a way that seems reasonable, they’re happy to do that,” she says in the full video.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, a 501(c)(4) non-profit that supports pro-life candidates, said that Nucatola’s statements mirrored the actions of the abortion doctor Kermit Gosnell, who kept jars of body parts in his Philadelphia clinic. Gosnell was convicted of multiple counts of first-degree murder in 2013 for stabbing babies born alive.

“This barbarity is only a natural outcome for an organization that, according to their own annual reports, destroys more than 300,000 children a year and wounds that many women. Trafficking is the grotesque collateral damage following a gross violation of human life,” she said of the video.

Dannenfelser said enacting safety regulations and signing 20-week abortion bans could cut back on such practices. She said such legislation would put pro-life politicians on offense as the measures have received more than 55 percent support in several polls.

“The best way to end [harvesting] is to protect these distinct and unique human lives from destruction. This is why 15 states have enacted laws to put an end to abortion after five months, when the baby can feel pain,” she said.

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who kicked off his 2016 campaign on Monday, is expected to sign a 20-week abortion ban in the coming weeks, while Sens. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) and Rand Paul (R., Ky.) have sponsored similar prohibitions on late term abortion in the Senate.

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton Give Middle Finger to Israel and Jewish People // The Blaze // Wayne Root – July 15, 2015

Don’t look now, but President Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton just gave a collective middle finger to Israel and the Jewish people.

Obama just agreed to an Iranian nuclear deal that is as dangerous and deadly to the Jewish people as any treaty in world history. It is the Neville Chamberlain agreement of our time. Neville appeased Adolf Hitler. That didn’t work out so well for the world. Neither will this deal.

Even Iran points out it won this negotiation. They will be placed under limited arms deal restrictions for only five years. Then it’s off to the races. In the meantime Iran gets to continue it’s nuclear research and development and keep two key enrichment plants.

“Its not a ceiling, but a solid foundation” said their foreign minister.

Great job of negotiating, John Kerry!

But this deal isn’t just bad news for America and deadly for Israel. It’s also deadly for the Democrat Party. This deal is the kiss of death in 2016 for any Democrat candidate that signs on. It’s a wrecking ball. It’s a, excuse the irony, nuclear bomb. Any Democrat that puts their name beside this terrible and tragic treaty will face devastating attacks by the GOP and pro-Israel groups, as well as the loss of Jewish donors.

But the real story here is Hillary Clinton endorsing the deal. The smart move was for Hillary to oppose this deal as “not good for America, American interests or Israel.” She should have said she would negotiate a much tougher deal as president. That would have made Hillary look smart, tough and independent.

Instead she looks like a political hack. And she has badly damaged her relationship with Jewish voters and donors. Why? Why would Hillary make such a serious miscalculation?

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One can only guess. But we know it's dangerous to embarrass Obama. Ask Donald Trump. Ask Dinesh D'Souza. Ask retired Gen. David Petraeus.

Or study the case of Democratic U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey – who dared to oppose and publicly criticize Obama on this very same Iranian deal months ago – and suddenly wound up indicted on federal charges.

What did Obama offer Hillary to convince her to support a deal that makes it likely that Israel will one day face a nuclear holocaust? We know Obama plays by the rules of "Chicago Thug Politics." So let me make an educated guess on the conversation. Clearly Obama must have intimidated Hillary. My educated guess is he told her:

"Embarrass me by opposing this Iranian deal and I will see to it that you never get the Democrat presidential nomination. All of my support will go to Joe Biden or Martin O'Malley or a late entry by Elizabeth Warren. I'll throw my weight behind ABH – Anyone But Hillary. I'll cut off your donors…

And for good measure, I'll ask my Justice Department to open a criminal investigation against you and the Clinton Foundation for accepting bribes from foreign governments while secretary of state. This investigation will last through the 2016 election. No matter the outcome, your political career is over.

But stand behind this Iran deal and my team will elect you president of the United States. I'll put the old Acorn team on your side. I'll teach you how to register millions of illegal aliens to vote in states with weak voter ID laws. I'll show you how to stuff the ballot box in friendly districts, so you get more votes than registered voters. I'll show you how to arrange hundreds of millions of dollars of donations from foreign donors – all under the $200 reporting threshold. I'll twist the arms of corrupt frauds like Jon Corzine to become Hillary bundlers.

Just make sure after the election you reward them with another another billion dollar stimulus bill and more corrupt green energy loans."

That's a typical Obama conversation. Intimidation is his calling card. It's his way, or the highway. And that highway is build with union slush funds.

Support Obama or the dogs of hell are unleashed upon you: Personal attacks; insinuations; slander; investigations and indictment by the IRS, DOJ, FBI, or Securities and Exchange Commission will suddenly appear out of nowhere.

Or…

You can take what's behind door number two: Support Obama and loads of money, media and manpower suddenly appear.

How bad is this Iranian deal?

First it all but guarantees that one day in the future Israel, or Paris, or New York will be hit by a nuclear bomb. Remember this date: July 14, 2015. It is a day that will live in infamy. It is the day a nuclear attack was set in motion by Barack Obama and the Democrat Party.

But even more frightening and tragic is the immediate terrorism nightmare this appeasement will enable. This deal ends sanctions and reopens Iran's oil spigots. It gives Iran hundreds of billions of new petro dollars that they will use to spread terrorism all over the world. They will use this expanded income stream to support Hamas, Hezzbollah, and Al Qaeda (to name just a few of America's worst enemies).

This blood money just injected by Obama into the Iranian economy will be used to kill Israelis, Jews, Christians and Americans across the globe.

This deal is a middle finger to the Jewish people. But there is a one silver lining. That makes it a nuclear bomb to the historic relationship between Jewish voters, donors and the Democrat Party. This will not end well for Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Rep. Marcia Fudge endorses Hillary Clinton's presidential bid // Cleveland.com // Sabrina Eaton – July 15, 2015

Warrensville Heights Democratic Rep. Marcia Fudge announced Wednesday that she backs Hillary Clinton's presidential bid.

Fudge described her as "the fighter that everyday Americans need."

"We are at a point in our nation's history when the right leadership is needed more than ever," said a statement

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from Fudge. "Hillary has spent her life advocating for poor and working class families.

"Hillary will help build an economy for tomorrow and beyond; strengthen America's families; defend our country and its core values; and revitalize our democracy. In other words, she gets it. Hillary understands the issues that matter to people in my district and around the country, like income equality, women's rights and universal voter registration. Hillary is the best candidate for the job."

Ohio Democrats in Congress who previously endorsed Clinton include Rep. Tim Ryan of the Niles area and the Columbus area's Joyce Beatty. According to a tally by "The Hill," more than 100 Democratic lawmakers in Congress have announced they're backing Clinton. Former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland also supports her.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

DECLARED

O'MALLEY

Martin O'Malley Raises $2 Million for Presidential Bid // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 15, 2015

Former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland, who has explored a Democratic presidential campaign for the last two years, raised about $2 million in the month after he announced his candidacy.

The amount was reported in campaign finance filings on Wednesday that covered the second fund-raising quarter of the year, the first when Mr. O'Malley was formally a candidate.

Mr. O'Malley's aides portrayed the dollar figure as a sign of his ability to connect with the grass roots. Yet the former governor has been heavily outpaced by another Democratic hopeful, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who raised $15 million in the filing period.

But a bigger obstacle for Mr. O'Malley, a former Democratic Governors' Association chairman who had donor contacts around the country, is Hillary Rodham Clinton, who raised $45 million, much of it in increments of $2,700, the maximum amount allowed in the primary.

Mr. O'Malley is "the only candidate who has actually gotten results on the issues progressives care about," his senior adviser, Bill Hyers, said in a statement.

It was not immediately clear how much has been raised for a "super PAC" created by Mr. O'Malley's allies. The former governor is trying to sell himself as the true policy wonk of the race, and the one with the most appeal to progressives.

O'Malley raised $2 million during first month of presidential campaign, he tells donors // WaPo // John Wagner – July 15, 2015

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley raised $2 million in the month after launching his presidential campaign, he told donors during a conference call Wednesday morning.

His take is well short of two other Democrats: Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose campaign raised $45 million since mid-April; and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), whose campaign took in about $15 million since he joined the race in late April.

O'Malley, who formally entered the race May 30, is positioned ahead of another Democratic hopeful, former Vermont senator and governor Lincoln Chafee, who reported this week that he had raised just $30,000 from donors, in addition to lending his campaign $364,000.

Former Virginia senator Jim Webb, who is also competing for the nomination, did not have to file because he did not officially declare his candidacy until after the quarterly reporting period had closed June 30.

The conference call with O'Malley and aides was described by three donors who participated. They requested anonymity to more freely discuss the call, in which O'Malley also provided an update on other aspects of his long-shot campaign.

An e-mail advertising the call from O'Malley's national finance director, Michael Kurtz, described the past quarter as "successful."

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O'Malley Raised $2 Million in June, Putting Him in Rear of Money Race // WSJ // Rebecca Ballhaus – July 15, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley raised $2 million in the month since he launched his campaign, a haul that places him far behind his rivals for the party's nomination in the early money race.

Hillary Clinton, the frontrunner for the nomination, raised $45 million in the 11 weeks after she announced her campaign, making her the second-most prolific fundraiser in the 2016 race, after Republican Jeb Bush. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders raised $15 million in the two months after launching his campaign, exceeding expectations.

These figures, including that of Mr. O'Malley, do not include funds raised by outside groups backing the candidates. The super PAC promoting his campaign, Generation Forward, will announce its fundraising numbers later this month.

"We're thankful for the support we've received from donors across all 50 states who are ready for the new leadership, progressive values, and track record of getting things done that Governor O'Malley brings to the race," Bill Hyers, the campaign's senior strategist, said in a statement Wednesday.

The campaign is required to file a disclosure revealing its donors and its expenses with the Federal Election Commission by midnight Wednesday. That filing will offer numbers the campaign left out of its statement, including how much money the campaign has in the bank and how much money it has spent.

A survey last month of 72 top fundraisers for President Barack Obama in 2012 found that Mr. O'Malley had been making an aggressive push to win their allegiance. Wednesday's filing will offer a window into how successful that effort has been.

O'Malley campaign raises $2 million for Democratic contest // AP // Julie Bykowicz – July 15, 2015

Martin O'Malley's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination says the former Maryland governor has raised $2 million.

O'Malley is one of five candidates in a field dominated by Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former secretary of state.

Clinton, who began her campaign in mid-April, raised $45 million through the end of June. O'Malley's bid began May 30, and his supporters contributed $2 million in 30 days.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders raised $15 million, while former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee is financing most of his campaign out of his own pocket. The fifth candidate, Jim Webb, a former Virginia senator, only recently became a candidate.

Most of the presidential contenders are due to file their initial fundraising reports to federal regulators by midnight Wednesday.

Martin O'Malley campaign raises $2 million in the first month // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti – July 15, 2015

Martin O'Malley's presidential campaign raised roughly $2 million in its first month, a person familiar with its fundraising told POLITICO on Wednesday.

The former Maryland governor's haul lags far behind that of Hillary Clinton — whose campaign raised $45 million — and Bernie Sanders — whose campaign raised $15 million — the party's two leading candidates in early-state and national polling.

The campaign confirmed the numbers in a release on Wednesday afternoon, noting that donations came from contributors in all 50 states.

O'Malley informed donors of the numbers on a conference call on Wednesday morning, which was first reported by the Washington Post.

The candidate's campaign will also be supported by a super PAC, Generation Forward, which has yet to report how much it has raised. The campaign is required to file its fundraising disclosure paperwork with the Federal Election Commission by the end of the day Wednesday.

Martin O'Malley raises $2 million; lags behind Clinton, Sanders // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – July 15, 2015

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Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley raised $2 million dollars since announcing his presidential campaign a month ago, his campaign announced Wednesday ahead of the deadline for campaigns to file their financial disclosure reports with the Federal Elections Commission.

"We're thankful for the support we've received from donors across all 50 states who are ready for the new leadership, progressive values, and track record of getting things done that Governor O'Malley brings to the race," said O'Malley Senior Strategist Bill Hyers. "And he is the only candidate who has actually gotten results on the issues progressives care about."

The number puts O'Malley behind both Hillary Clinton (who raised $45 million) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (who raised $15 million), though both had significantly more time to fundraise before the report was due. O'Malley has so far languished in the single digits in polls, but is hoping for a late-game surge.

Fellow Democratic candidate Lincoln Chafee announced he raised about $390,000, though the vast majority if came from a loan the candidate loaned to his campaign. Former Sen. Jim Webb will not have to declare his fundraising numbers until October because he waited until after the end of the second quarter to announce his presidential run.

Martin O'Malley Trails Rivals in Fundraising with $2 Million Haul // TIME // Sam Frizell – July 15, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has raised $2 million in the first month of his campaign, his campaign announced Wednesday, trailing far behind his rivals for the Democratic nomination in fundraising efforts.

The two-term governor's campaign said Wednesday that its total haul through the end of the first quarter on June 30 was $2 million, averaging about $65,000 per day since he announced a month earlier.

"In his first 30 days as a candidate, Governor Martin O'Malley held 15 public events in Iowa and New Hampshire and raised $2 million for our grassroots campaign," said Bill Hyers, the senior campaign strategist on the O'Malley campaign. "He is setting the standard on key issues like climate change, debt-free college, Wall Street reform, and immigration by proposing bold, progressive ideas on how to rebuild the American Dream."

O'Malley's total haul reveals just how far he'll have to go to win the nomination. A recent poll shows him with just 1% support in national polls, even as Sanders gains on Clinton.

O'Malley's competitors for the Democratic nomination have far outpaced him in fundraising. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has raised $45 million, or well over $500,000 per day since launching her campaign in mid-April, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has brought in $15 million, or around $250,000 per day. Sanders raised $1.5 million in a single day of fundraising after announcing his campaign.

O'Malley on Wall Street: 'If you slap a bank robber on the arm, he's going to rob the bank again' // Business Insider // Hunter Walker – July 15, 2015

Former Gov. Martin O'Malley of Maryland has made Wall Street reform a central component of his Democratic presidential campaign.

Last week, O'Malley released a white paper detailing his plan to bring a mix of structural changes including the reinstatement of Glass-Steagall and strengthened regulations to the financial industry.

On Tuesday, O'Malley sat down with Business Insider for his first interview about his Wall Street-policy push.

In that conversation, he railed against what he described as "lawbreakers" in the industry, whom he likened to bank robbers.

O'Malley also discussed several aspects of his push for Wall Street reform including:

- His thoughts on Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton's policies and how he believes she should "be forced to" weigh in on Glass-Steagall.
- The fact he believes Wall Street wants Clinton and former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida (R) to win their presidential primaries.
- His desire to have a "sit-down" with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts).

O'Malley's fiery rhetoric about clamping down on what he describes as the "dangerous activities" of "megabanks" has caused some to brand him an "enemy" of Wall Street.

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In his conversation with Business Insider, O'Malley said he didn't mind that label and would also be content if taking on Wall Street were seen as his major issue in the presidential campaign.

"I don't mind," he said. "Look, there's a lot of really good and decent people who work in the financial industry in our country, and the vast majority of them are just as saddened at the sort of reckless behavior and the inability — the utter lack of any sort of restraint and what it's done to our economy.

"So, I'm going to continue to speak truthfully about what I believe is in our country's best interest. And if that makes me the enemy of a small clique of CEOs of a small handful of big megabanks, so be it. I don't really care. I'm running to be president of the United States. I'm not running to be, you know, wined and dined."

Overall, O'Malley characterized his efforts as an extension of a vow made by the Democratic Party after the financial crisis.

"People are rightly angry that we as a party haven't followed through on what they thought was the commitment and the promise we made to institute Wall Street reform," O'Malley said. "We got part of the way there with Dodd-Frank. We didn't get all the way there. It makes no sense to think that an industry where this much money is at stake would police itself. You know, if you slap a bank robber on the arm, he's going to rob the bank again. The same holds true with people in suits."

Even if O'Malley, who is polling behind Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) in the Democratic primary, manages to make it to the White House, there are questions about just how much he would be able to change Wall Street without congressional support.

O'Malley told Business Insider he was confident he could make a difference. Specifically, he cited his desire to appoint federal prosecutors who would be willing to pursue cases against the industry.

"Some of it comes down to the personnel appointments and the people that we'd put in place at the SEC and the Justice Department," O'Malley said. "I think that is something that will have a huge impact regardless of what Congress does or doesn't do."

O'Malley also suggested he hoped to turn the 2016 elections into something of a referendum on Wall Street.

"I also think it should be stated pretty clearly that the biggest impediments to Wall Street reform have been Republicans in Congress," O'Malley said. "I'm not saying that there aren't a few Democrats that have become weak-kneed as well, but the biggest impediment is Republicans in Congress. This national campaign, with the higher turnout numbers that are generally in national elections, is an opportunity for people to make a change and to make a change in their Congress as well."

Additionally, O'Malley hinted that he would force other candidates to address this issue in the Democratic primary debates.

"I'm not going to assume people aren't interested. I know they're interested," O'Malley said. "Other candidates who think they can just gloss over this and go back to business as usual ... I think that that attitude will only last until the first debates."

O'Malley also issued a warning to anyone on Wall Street who wasn't worried about meaningful regulations coming about as a result of the 2016 election. He predicted there would be "a pretty abrupt awakening" for the industry's "lawbreakers" if his bid is successful.

"People that actually do business and do it honestly on Wall Street would have nothing to fear," O'Malley said, adding, "I think the habitual lawbreakers will be in for a pretty abrupt awakening here. We need to restore deterrents. We need to put prosecutors in place and people that are willing to take cases criminally when the facts justify a criminal prosecution."

Wall Street donors are generally an important source of campaign cash for presidential candidates. O'Malley, however, said he was not concerned about his Wall Street crusade hurting his war chest.

"I really don't care. I'm running my narrow path," O'Malley said. "It's the path of putting the national interest first and putting it ahead of powerful wealthy special interests. I know the path is narrow. I know that it's probably the steepest path, but I also know it has the greatest audience, and I know that that's what people are looking for. They want a president that's going to fight for them, that's not going to compromise the national good for the sake of well-connected elites."

Warren, the Massachusetts senator, is the most prominent advocate of Wall Street reform on the political scene. Her office has not responded to requests for comment on O'Malley's plan.

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O'Malley, however, said he was eager to "sit down" with Warren to discuss his platform.

"I've met her before," O'Malley said. "We were together at a fundraiser up in Baltimore when she came in to campaign for the DCCC, and I had occasion to meet her there and hear her speak.

"I'd like to have the opportunity to sit down with her, and I hope I'm able to do that in the not-too-distant future," he added. "I think she speaks very clearly, which is hugely helpful to building a consensus on this issue."

Right now the politician O'Malley should be most concerned with is Hillary Clinton, who remains the overwhelming front-runner in the Democratic primary.

Clinton unveiled her economic "agenda" on Monday. At that speech, she faced a heckler who challenged her to say whether she supported reinstating the Glass-Steagall Act.

Glass-Steagall, which was passed in 1933 and repealed in 1999, separated commercial banks and investment banks. Last week, Warren joined a bipartisan group of senators who are pushing to restore Glass-Steagall. Both O'Malley and Sanders support its reinstatement, but Clinton has not made her position clear.

In his conversation with Business Insider, O'Malley said Clinton and all 2016 presidential hopefuls should be "forced to answer" questions about where they stand on Glass-Steagall.

"I think it's a pretty important issue," O'Malley said. "I mean, for 70 years we protected our common good against reckless behavior by mega-speculation banks on Wall Street ... Wherever you stand, you should state where you stand.

"I have stated I am very much in favor of reinstituting Glass-Steagall. I believe in doing the things that work, and in the hindsight of history, I think most people recognize that repealing Glass-Steagall was a mistake and enabled this sort of reckless behavior ... and the crash that ruined so many families. So, I'm very much in favor of reinstating it, and I think that all candidates in both parties are going to be forced to answer that question."

O'Malley's first major broadside against Wall Street came in his announcement speech in May, where he suggested Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein wanted Clinton and Jeb Bush to win their respective primaries.

That claim has been called into question, but O'Malley doubled down on it in his conversation with Business Insider and predicted other major Wall Street executives feel the same way based on Clinton and Bush's "positions."

"I thought it was pretty widely reported that Lloyd Blankfein sent word to his people that they'd be just fine with either Bush or Clinton," O'Malley said. "I don't think I would be on their short list. That's what I believe.

"I mean, given what we know now about the candidates' positions. And then, as I said at announcement day, I bet Lloyd Blankfein would be just fine with either Bush or Clinton. My guess is that probably Jamie Dimon would feel the same way."

Creating a 21st Century immigration policy // The Gazette // Martin O'Malley – July 14, 2015

My great grandparents came to this country from Ireland. My great grandfather, his name was also Martin O'Malley, had no money, and his first language was not English. But the hopes and dreams he had for his children were purely American.

We are a nation of immigrants — whether our ancestors came from Ireland or from Mexico, or whether they immigrated generations before us or brought us to the United States. But today, the very essence of our country, the diversity that makes us great and rejuvenates us with each new arrival, is being eroded.

Iowa knows well the importance of immigration and the need for reform. As a state economy leading the way in agriculture, immigration reform means greater economic success for Iowans. And as the state that has been home to some of the largest immigration raids in the country, you've seen families torn apart and thrown in a detention center in Waterloo. It's not only heartbreaking, it's disruptive to the workforce as well.

Our outdated immigration laws aren't meeting our economic needs, our national security imperatives, or our values.

So here's my goal: use bold executive action to provide immediate relief to the millions of new Americans waiting for Congress to act, while forging a new consensus for comprehensive immigration reform. Comprehensive reform must create a pathway to citizenship to help rebuild the American dream for us all.

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I offer not words, but action. As governor of Maryland, I signed the Maryland DREAM Act, allowed undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses and broke with national leaders and offered young children who had come across the border a home in Maryland. I stood up to the Obama Administration on deportation of unaccompanied minors, and have stood with President Barack Obama on his executive actions on DACA and DAPA.

Now, to continue to attract the next generation of strivers, dreamers and risk-takers, and to be true to the values we hold dear, we must pursue a dynamic, modern approach to immigration policy as a nation.

As president I will take immediate action to extend administrative relief to millions of new American families, so that all of the people who would have become eligible for legalization can continue to work and support their families. I would also make common sense reforms to keep families together, make sure that DACA and DAPA-recipients have access to affordable health care, and limit detention to only those who pose a clear threat to public safety.

Most importantly, I will use my executive experience to finally secure comprehensive immigration reform legislation that creates a pathway to citizenship and builds a 21st century immigration system.

Our current immigration system hasn't changed much over the past 60 years. It's not responsive to the hiring needs of employers, whether they're looking for computer programmers or agricultural workers. And it tears families apart. My plan as president will be to overhaul the US immigration system by creating an independent agency to set immigration policy based on the real-time needs of our economy. That way, we won't be in the position of having to fight for immigration reform again.

Comprehensive immigration reform will help all families — by lifting wages, creating new jobs, growing our economy, expanding our tax base, and improving standards for all workers. With new leadership, we can and will come together to make immigration reform a reality so that the enduring symbol of our nation will forever be the Statue of liberty and never become the barbed wire fence.

SANDERS

The Bernie Sanders campaign, brought to you by small-dollar donors // WaPo // Jose A. DelReal – July 15, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders (I-Vt) has raised more than $15 million for his presidential campaign, according to a Federal Election Commission document that reveals the vast majority of those contributions totaled $200 or less.

The Sanders campaign reported to the FEC Wednesday that it raised nearly $10.5 million in small contributions, and an additional $3 million in donations of more than $200 each. That $13.5 million fundraising haul -- which accounts for money he has raised since he announced his candidacy in late May -- was bolstered by an additional $1.5 million he transferred from his Senate campaign account.

The campaign is likely to use the larger-than-expected fundraising tallies, particularly his impressive haul among the grassroots, to reinforce the senator's claim to speak for Democratic Party base.

In addition to his strong support among small donors, the second quarter FEC filing reveals the campaign has spent around $3 million. The bulk of those expenditures have gone to digital consulting and media advertising, on which the campaign spent about $1.3 million. Besides spending $350,000 on printing and mailing services, the campaign's remaining costs have been primarily operational.

There's a new super PAC for Bernie Sanders. It wants billionaire donors. // WaPo // Colby Itkowitz – July 15, 2015

A cornerstone of Bernie Sanders's presidential campaign is extracting billionaire influence from politics.

So imagine our surprise when a Sanders supporter seemed to miss that point and filed with the Federal Election Commission on Wednesday a super PAC called "Billionaires for Bernie."

Putting aside the fact that Eric C. Jacobson, the Los Angeles lawyer behind the effort, will have to change the name because unaffiliated PACs can't bear the name of the candidate, the goal of "Billionaires for Bernie" is exactly as it sounds.

Jacobson is a self-described progressive, who likes Sanders because he's "unbossed and unbought." But to get Sanders to the White House means competing at the levels of a Hillary Clinton or Jeb Bush.

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And in today's politics, that takes money.

Jacobson believes liberals' general position against unlimited contributions in politics is limiting their ability to compete.

"I'm hoping to facilitate a level playing field where a billionaire of conscious can write a check … and I'm going to encourage them to do it," Jacobson told the Loop. In his view, there are plenty of "well-heeled" liberals who should get in the big money game.

He's on the hunt now for those billionaires. He already has one in mind, Ronda Stryker, a Michigan philanthropist. He doesn't know where her allegiances are, but he knows she cares about progressive causes.

Too bad in 2013 Stryker was quoted in the Kalamazoo Gazette disparaging partisan politics.

"I don't have a passion for politics," Stryker said then. "I don't like what it does to people. I'm always disappointed."

But she did give $50,000 to President Obama's first inauguration, so maybe she can be persuaded?

Now, no one at Sanders campaign responded to our inquires about this new "Billionaires for Bernie" endeavor, but the Vermont socialist has made clear he does not want super PAC help.

The Citizens United "decision is undermining American democracy. I do not believe that billionaires should be able to buy politicians," he said on "Face the Nation" in May.

But Jacobson is not deterred. It will be a "very unaffiliated effort," he told us.

"There's going to be full-court press to outspend the Sanders camp — the Hillary billionaire drown out," he said. "This is about First Amendment freedoms. … I'm a pretty true believer in this and I think it can make a difference."

Brought to you by Billionaires for Bernie.

Bernie Sanders' official haul: $15.2 million **// Politico // Jonathan Topaz – July 15, 2015**

Bernie Sanders' campaign reported Wednesday that it had brought in more than $15 million during the second quarter of this year.

Part of that total was a $1.5 million transfer from his Senate campaign committee, meaning that the presidential campaign had raised $13.7 million in contributions during the quarter.

Just under $10.5 million — more than 76 percent of his donations — were $200 or less, while he received about $3.3 million in donations that were more than $200.
The campaign announced that it had received 390,730 donations from 284,062 individuals, with an average contribution of just over $35.

The total is still far behind the $45 million that front-runner Hillary Clinton's campaign is expected to announce later Wednesday. But it shows the significant grassroots backing of Sanders' liberal insurgency, which has garnered huge crowds and is surging in the polls as he challenges Clinton from the left.

Sanders also spent more than $3 million in the quarter — a large amount for an insurgent campaign and one that outpaces what many candidates on both sides raised in total.

The candidate's filing shows that the campaign spent $1,265,000 on "digital consulting and ad buy" from Revolution Messaging, the group helping to lead the senator's digital fundraising and social media effort and led by several digital strategists for Barack Obama's 2008 campaign. Sanders — an ardent campaign finance reform critic who has shown little interest in fundraising and refuses to have a super PAC — has placed a significant emphasis on small-dollar online contributions and social media.

It also spent more than $380,000 on printing — not to mention $822.46 for an in-kind contribution of ice cream to Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield of Ben and Jerry's used at his launch in Burlington.

Sanders finds himself well ahead of other challengers such as former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who told donors that he had raised roughly $2 million in his first month.

Sanders announced his campaign on April 30. Below is a breakout of the campaign's finances as of the end of June:

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Total raised: $15,247,353.43

Total spent: $3,085,615.76

Total cash on hand: $ 12,161,737.67

Total debt: $0

'Billionaires for Bernie' Group Is Formed, With Neither Billionaires Nor Bernie // Bloom berg // Zachary Mider – July 15, 2015

Bernie Sanders, the liberal Vermont senator seeking the Democratic nomination for president, has repeatedly discouraged the formation of super-PACs supporting his candidacy. That hasn't stopped some political activists from doing it anyway.

The latest is Eric C. Jacobson, a Los Angeles lawyer who filed papers today with the Federal Election Commission to form a super-PAC he calls Billionaires for Bernie. Jacobson, 60, describes himself as a public-interest lawyer and activist who once volunteered on Gary Hart's campaigns. He says he's never met Sanders and doesn't have any billionaires lined up yet, but he already has some ideas for whom to contact, such as Michigan heiress Ronda Stryker.

Unlike many liberals, Jacobson celebrated the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision to loosen restrictions on big money in political races, and he's not troubled that Sanders himself is discouraging such efforts.

"If it was good enough for the Founders to pledge their fortunes to found the country," he said, "how could it be wrong for the well-heeled people of our time to pledge their fortunes to affect the destiny of our country?"

Jacobson's first task may be to come up with a new name. It's illegal for super-PACs to use the name of the candidates they support.

"Thank you for the heads up," Jacobson said when asked about the legality of the name, adding that he would check with the FEC. "That is something I probably should have caught if it's true."

The Bernie Sanders Archive Is Bustling With Mysterious Young Men // TNR // Michael Tracey – July 15, 2015

July is a sleepy time on the University of Vermont campus in Burlington, and ordinarily the basement of the Bailey/Howe Library would be sleepier still. However, in recent weeks it has been bustling—not with students conducting academic research, but outsiders conducting political research. They have all come with one purpose: to dig through the Bernie Sanders archive.

Some are national journalists, but others are more mysterious figures. A reporter for local alt-weekly Seven Days recently speculated that "two casually dressed twentysomethings" at the archive were opposition researchers for Hillary Clinton—which her camp later denied, though not before Drudge Report picked up the story. Ever since then, a retinue of young men has streamed through the library basement. They refuse to identify themselves, and the librarians on duty do likewise, citing Vermont privacy statutes and their own code of ethics.

These men work for Sanders's presidential campaign, the headquarters of which is a stone's throw away, and they have been tasked with digitizing the entire archive—a gargantuan effort that left the librarians flummoxed when staffers announced their plans last week. It's a vast trove of some 30 boxes of documents chronicling Sanders's eight-year mayoralty of Burlington and other early political activities. As material is not allowed to leave the special collections room, Bernie's workers sit for hours on end, scanning every last leaf of paper onto thumb drives.

They say little, but in a rare moment of candor, one did ask me whether I was "with Hillary." Otherwise they refuse to engage, operating under strict orders not to speak with media under any circumstances. Asked if these men are paid Sanders staffers, campaign spokesman Michael Briggs said, "Interns are staff, and staff are paid." Otherwise he declined to comment on their task, what prompted their arrival, or how many there are. Campaign manager Jeff Weaver said of them, "Just collecting information for ads and to document his record of effective leadership as Mayor of Burlington."

Sanders's ad hoc 2016 operation in some sense is a reflection of the Vermont senator himself, who famously eschewed neckties until first entering elective office and reliably projects an image of rumpled earnestness. The campaign is powered thus far more by passion than structure, lacking the hyper-organized, corporatized polish of the Hillary Clinton juggernaut. Whatever the upsides of such an approach, the goings-on in Bailey/Howe Library suggest that the campaign might have been unprepared for the sudden surge of interest in Sanders' past.

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The digitization of the Sanders archive began about a week ago, and that his campaign apparently only thought to do so now could indicate a refreshing lack of paranoia. But it's potentially a tactical misstep, too. As much as Sanders might have evolved since his leadership role in the Vermont's renegade Liberty Union Party during the 1970s, his records from that period are housed in the UVM archive for all to see—and might require a bit of contextualization from his campaign, lest an opportunistic opponent portray them unflatteringly.

Notwithstanding Politico Magazine's claim that "Bernie Sanders Has a Secret," no bona fide bombshells have emerged yet from the archive or elsewhere. Much of the material is fairly unremarkable to those schooled in Cold War-era socialist discourse, especially given that Sanders today is a self-identified democratic socialist. Nonetheless, his past statements could feasibly cause some disquiet among the culturally conservative working men and women whom Sanders hopes to court.

To wit: Sanders described himself as "clearly anti-capitalistic" in a 1976 interview with the Cynic, UVM's weekly student newspaper.

"Contrast what the young people in China and Cuba are doing for themselves and for their country as compared to the young people in America," he said. "It's quite obvious why kids are going to turn to drugs to get the hell out of a disgusting system or sit in front of a TV set for 60 hours a week."

Television's enervating influence was a recurrent theme for Sanders in those days; in 1972, he wrote a letter to FCC chairman Dean Burch denouncing as "banal" such classic Americana as "I Love Lucy" and "Gunsmoke."

"How many programs do we see which reflect what is really going on in this nation?" Sanders asked. "Where is the weekly T.V. network series which deals with the worker who is unable to find a job and who is drinking himself to death as a result?"

In the Cynic interview, Sanders was asked to expound on the nature of socialism, a question that continues to arise 40 years later. But in something of a departure from his typical response today, Sanders confessed ambivalence about the term's connotations. "I myself don't use the word socialism because people have been brainwashed into thinking socialism automatically means slave-labor camps, dictatorship, and lack of freedom of speech," he said. "The [Liberty Union Party] more strongly than any other party in the State of Vermont defends civil liberties."

That defense of civil liberties included a commitment to unfettered gun ownership: The party, while Sanders served on its executive committee, adopted a platform in 1972 that called for the "abolition of all laws which interfere with the Constitutional right of citizens to bear arms." This may suggest that Sanders's relatively permissive views on gun ownership, already the subject of much consternation among liberals, could be rooted in sincere principle—not simply in the practical realities of winning election in rural Vermont. While this position might irk the average Democrat, it could ultimately serve to broaden his appeal: Sanders has said he wants to forge a coalition that can "cross traditional liberal-conservative lines."

Other documents in the archive may help in that effort, such as those documenting his consolidation of municipal services as Burlington mayor, as well as his disdain for property taxes. During his Liberty Union years, Sanders endorsed the total elimination of "the very regressive property tax system," to be replaced by a much more steeply progressive income tax. By his 1986 bid for governor, he had adopted "Vote tax relief" as a campaign slogan. You might even say he ran the municipal government as a fiscal conservative.

All of which is to say, there's a lot to mine in the archive, for both the good and ill of the campaign. Sanders, who did not respond to an interview request, probably has as little patience for discussing the contents of those 30 boxes as his campaign leaders do. But his small army of digital archivists have no choice but to be patient as they toil their summer away in a library basement—scanning, scanning, forever scanning. As I overheard one of them lament, "My grandchildren will be working on this."

The savvy tech strategy fueling Bernie Sanders' upstart 2016 campaign // LA Times // Evan Halper – July 15, 2015

Bernie Sanders is more likely to sport a rumpled suit than a hoodie, has no affinity for geeking out on the gadgets of Silicon Valley and may prefer the company of protesters over programmers — yet no candidate running for president is more successfully leveraging technology.

The liberal Vermont senator's rapid rise from a token leftist to a rival with the potential to disrupt Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton's path to the nomination confirms that technology, as political data wizards like to say, has become an equalizer in modern campaigns.

"It is extraordinary how this has revolutionized politics in America," Sanders said in an interview. He is the first to admit that he is no techie. "I consider myself smart enough to hire excellent people who know its importance."

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The Sanders ascent is built on deft use of the campaign tools first developed a decade ago by fellow Vermonter Howard Dean. During his 2004 campaign for president, Dean also was not particularly tech-savvy, but his message resonated with those who were.

Sanders is the same. Recently, he overtook Clinton in the number of people searching for his name on Google. His Senate Facebook page has 1.3 million followers, more than any other senator.

An online effort to get volunteers to throw house parties in support of Sanders on a day this month has so many people signing up that the campaign is trying to figure out how to coordinate it all.

“Can you imagine 20 years ago anyone thinking you could sit down in front of your computer and talk to tens of thousands of people in America at once and do it at such a reasonable cost?” Sanders said.

Nobody doubts Sanders’ ability to draw a crowd. But until recently, a fiery liberal like him would have had considerable difficulty creating a durable campaign operation out of the large groups of peaceniks, environmentalists and college professors turning out to see him in liberal towns like Madison, Wis., and Iowa City, Iowa.

Now, off-the-shelf technology is available to build detailed profiles of the thousands who come to rallies and use the data to find many thousands more just like them in early-voting states. Sanders’ staff can tap into a massive voter file the Democratic National Committee makes available to candidates to pinpoint with precision which people who show up at a rally are prospective precinct captains in Iowa.

And instead of a balky, in-house online fundraising tool, Sanders can lean on the transformative liberal fundraising website ActBlue. Thousands of Sanders enthusiasts are playing the role of “microbundler,” enticing their friends to the Web page where making donations is as intuitive and addicting as shopping on Amazon.

Most of these tools were not available until recently, at least not at a price affordable to a grass-roots candidate like Sanders, who disavows corporate money and refuses to launch a "super PAC."

“We were trying to do this with bubble gum and Scotch tape,” said Joe Trippi, who managed the Dean campaign. “There is a Ferrari out there now for Bernie Sanders to use. He is doing well with it and can do even more than he has been. It can go even faster and a lot further. We will see where he takes it.”

Trippi cautions, though, that technology will only get Sanders so far. Like other strategists, he says the appeal of the democratic socialist drops off considerably once he is no longer competing in parts of the country where primary voters share the demographic profile of those in his home state, Vermont — overwhelmingly white, very liberal and older.

Still, only weeks ago, there was little talk that Sanders could actually win in New Hampshire or Iowa or both. Now victory in those states is at least conceivable, particularly after about 250,000 mostly small-dollar donors sent the Sanders campaign $15 million during his first quarter as a candidate, an amount that far exceeded the expectations of operatives in Washington.

Sanders’ staff is cagey about particular technologies they are using. But unlike the days of Dean, when the software had to be created on the fly, progressives now have a deep pool of experienced political data-miners from which to draw.

The techies working for Sanders are veterans of President Obama’s wildly successful digital team. Among them is Scott Goodstein, who was external director for Obama ’08.

“We were looking for a candidate … who could inspire a movement,” he said in a statement.

Sanders may be no techie, but the gruff independent with the thick Brooklyn accent has a cult of personality that spawns clicks.

In a campaign where strategists are competing with one another to come up with the most clever “404 error” page — the page that comes up when you hit on a bad link within a website — Sanders bested his rivals with a video message that mocks his Internet aptitude.

Standing awkwardly before the camera in an unfashionable suit and tie, speaking too loudly and with the cadence of a grandparent trying to explain something extremely important and complicated, Sanders directs visitors on how to use the website. Swiping a meaty hand in front of the camera, he says, “Just scoot down to the bottom of the page and you will find your way back home to where you should be.”

The Vermonter’s success at harnessing social media defies convention.

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"What we do not do," the senator said, "is say, 'Hi, I walked my dog this morning. What a beautiful day. And then tweet it out." Not even close. Sanders writes detailed ideas about such concepts as America's "grotesque level of income inequality" and the "moral responsibility we must accept to transform our energy system," and his people push it out to his growing mass of followers.

"In some cases, we will quote other people," Sanders said. "Like the pope.... I am a big fan of the pope."

Digital strategists have seen this before.

"Howard Dean was thought of as a conservative Democrat who did not know much about the Internet," said John Hagner, a partner at the tech firm Clarity Campaign Labs in Washington and a veteran of the Dean campaign. "People who had a lot of technical sense opposed the Iraq war, and they liked what he was saying. He fit the zeitgeist."

The Bernie Sanders Surge Is About Bernie, Not Hillary // Five Thirty Eight // Nate Silver – July 15, 2015

"The recent rise of Bernie Sanders," wrote Vox's Jonathan Allen last week, "points as much to [Hillary] Clinton's vulnerability as Sanders's strength." Allen went on to argue that Joe Biden should run for president. "The Sanders surge shows that Democratic activists want an alternative to Clinton," he explained.

We've seen this idea before. For at least a year, journalists have been urging, sometimes almost begging, Biden to enter the race. The more elaborate versions of the idea liken the 2016 campaign to 1968, a year in which the incumbent president, Lyndon B. Johnson, withdrew after the liberal, anti-war candidate Eugene McCarthy finished a close second in the New Hampshire primary. The nomination was eventually won by Johnson's vice president, Hubert Humphrey, after Robert F. Kennedy (who had entered the race after New Hampshire) was assassinated. In the 2016 narrative, Clinton is Johnson, Sanders is McCarthy and Biden is some composite of Kennedy and Humphrey.

But these comparisons suffer from a fatal flaw. Unlike LBJ, who (mostly because of the Vietnam War) had approval ratings only in the mid-50s or low 60s among Democrats during the 1968 campaign, Hillary Clinton is beloved by voters in her party. In national polls, her favorability ratings among Democrats usually exceed 80 percent.

Nor do Sanders's gains in Iowa and New Hampshire say much about Clinton's vulnerability. This is easy enough to test. When a candidate gains relative to another, it could be because he is growing more popular, or because his opponent is becoming less popular. Horse-race polls, in which voters reveal only their first preference, won't always be able to distinguish between these causes.

Favorability ratings allow us to say more. If Allen's assertion is right — that Sanders's gains represent an "anybody but Hillary" vote that could go to Biden — we should have seen a significant deterioration in Clinton's favorability ratings. That's not what we see, however. In the charts below, I've compiled all the favorability rating polls I could find among Iowa and New Hampshire Democrats since the start of the year. In Iowa, there's been no change at all in Clinton's ratings. Her favorability rating is about 85 percent, and her unfavorable rating is around 10 percent, right where it was in January.

silver-feature-berniehillary

Perhaps you can perceive a slight downturn in Clinton's favorability numbers among Democrats in New Hampshire — they're now in the high 70s instead of the mid-80s, while her unfavorable ratings have grown by a few percentage points. Her ratings are still very good, however, and (given the noise in the polling) the change isn't statistically significant.1

Instead, it's the Vermont senator's ratings that have shifted dramatically. In Iowa, Sanders's favorability rating has grown from about 35 percent at the start of the year to 60 percent now. And in New Hampshire, it has improved from around 45 percent to 65 percent. Some of that is from improved name recognition, but Sanders's unfavorable ratings haven't increased even as he's become better known, remaining at about 10 percent in each state.

The Bernie Sanders surge, in other words, has a lot more to do with Bernie Sanders than with Hillary Clinton. More specifically, it has to do with his left-populist politics. We're going to break some news here: It turns out that some Democrats are really liberal, and they like a really liberal candidate like Sanders. Right now, Sanders is winning about half the support of white liberal Democrats, but little support from other groups within the party. That works out to around 25 or 30 percent of the vote in Iowa and New Hampshire but more like 15 percent among Democrats nationally.

It's possible that Sanders's standing will continue to improve. If he goes from winning half of the white liberal vote

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to most of it, he could win Iowa and New Hampshire, though not very many other states.

But he could also encounter some headwinds. Sanders's name recognition is now 70 to 80 percent in Iowa and New Hampshire, so he doesn't have that much more room to grow on the basis of improved name recognition alone. And while he's an appealing choice to some very liberal Democrats, Democrats who describe themselves as "somewhat liberal" may instead prefer Clinton. The policy differences between the Democrats aren't all that profound; Clinton is pretty liberal herself, and she and Sanders voted together 93 percent of the time in the two years they spent in the Senate together.

Sanders may also be benefiting from media coverage of his campaign, which has been favorable to him recently. Polls that show him gaining in Iowa and New Hampshire receive lots of press coverage, whereas those that show him stalling out, like this one released late last week, are all but ignored. Meanwhile, it was described as a "game-changer" when Sanders announced he'd raised $15 million in the spring, even as Clinton raised $45 million during the same period.

Some of this has to do with the longstanding antipathy between the Clintons and the news media (a phenomenon that Allen has written about). But the media have another incentive to paint Sanders's candidacy in a favorable light, the same one that encourages them to call for a Biden candidacy: Coronations are boring. They'd rather see a competitive Democratic primary, which means more to talk about and analyze, and thus more viewership and traffic. This isn't an anti-Clinton thing, necessarily; in the past, the dynamic has sometimes worked toward Clinton's benefit. The 2008 Democratic nomination was portrayed as anyone's race until the bitter end, for instance, even though Barack Obama's substantial lead in delegates made it difficult for Clinton to win.

Ordinarily, Democrats might push back against what they perceived to be unfair or inaccurate coverage about Clinton. But Democratic activists and commentators are more liberal than Democrats as a whole. Many of them like Sanders's policy positions — and even though they may also like Clinton, they'd like to see her pulled further to the left before the general election gets underway.

What about the Clinton campaign itself? So long as Clinton retains 80 percent favorable ratings among Democrats, she has little reason to deflate the Bernie bubble. Sanders may satiate the media's desire for a "competitive" Democratic primary without really making her vulnerable. Clinton has plenty of ammunition, however, including her money and the endorsements she's received from her fellow Democrats (including many Democrats who are almost as liberal as Sanders). That's likely enough to secure her the nomination without her going negative. If needed, she could also press concerns about the electability of Sanders, a 73-year-old self-described socialist who hasn't run a national campaign before.

In the meantime, you're likely to see journalists misunderstand the reasons for Sanders's gains, attributing them incorrectly to criticisms of Clinton. Her email scandal, for example, has received plenty of press coverage, but it isn't likely to weigh her down in the primary. While only 42 percent of Americans overall say that Clinton is honest and trustworthy — a potential concern for her in the general election — 73 percent of Democrats think she is. And 80 percent of Democrats say Clinton cares about people like them.

There isn't much of a market among Democrats for an "anybody but Hillary" candidate, in other words. And it's particularly illogical to argue that Biden might serve as a better foil to Sanders. Biden has lower favorable ratings and higher unfavorable ratings than Clinton and by statistical measures is further to the right.

So if you're going to speculate about a new candidate entering the race, at least do it in a way that's consistent with the evidence. Since Sanders's surge is mostly about Democrats liking a really liberal candidate, you could argue that Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren should run for president. She's also extremely popular with liberals but carries less baggage than Sanders.2 But it's going to be hard for any Democrat to beat Clinton as long as she has an 80 or 85 percent favorability rating within her party.

WEBB

Jim Webb Becomes Sole 2016 Democrat to Question Iran Deal // WSJ // Peter Nicholas – July 14, 2015

Former Sen. Jim Webb became the sole major Democratic presidential candidate to voice objections to the Iran deal struck by the Obama administration, telling an interviewer on Wednesday, "I have a lot of concerns about this deal."

Mr. Webb said the agreement means the U.S. is effectively "acceding" to Iran eventually developing a nuclear weapon.

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He spoke about the Iran deal on the Diane Rehm radio show, a day after the landmark agreement was announced. His four main rivals for the Democratic nomination – former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, ex-Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee – all spoke favorably about the agreement in the hours after it was announced.

A Wall Street Journal poll last month showed Mr. Webb in third place with 4% of registered voters who said they would vote in the Democratic primary. Mr. Sanders was in second place with 15%; Mrs. Clinton was in first with 75%. Both Mr. O'Malley and Mr. Chafee trailed Mr. Webb.

This was not the first time Mr. Webb has taken a position that put him at odds with his rivals.

As leaders of both parties called for the removal of the Confederate flag from the South Carolina state capitol grounds, Mr. Webb posted a statement on his Facebook FB +0.65% page last month that struck a contrarian note, calling on people to acknowledge "the complicated history of the Civil War." He wrote that "honorable Americans fought on both sides of the Civil War."

Last week, though, he said in a TV interview that he approved of the South Carolina legislature's decision to remove the flag.

In the radio interview, Mr. Webb said that in the long-running negotiations over its nuclear program, Iran did well for itself.

He said he has asked himself "What does Iran get out of this?"

"And they get a lot out of this," he said. "They get immediate lifting of sanctions and over a period of 10 years they are going to be able to say they can move forward with a nuclear weapons policy with the acceptance of the U.S. and the other countries" involved in the negotiations.

Asked what the U.S. achieved, Mr. Webb laughed and said: "That's what I've been trying to figure out." He said the U.S. had secured only "vague guarantees" that Iran will scrap efforts to develop a nuclear weapon.

For his part, President Barack Obama has said the deal was a diplomatic victory, compelling Iran to abandon its nuclear weapons program without the use of military force.

"Today, because America negotiated from a position of strength and principle, we have stopped the spread of nuclear weapons in this region," Mr. Obama said in a statement from the White House on Tuesday.

Congress is now set to review the nuclear deal.

Mr. Webb, who served one term as senator from Virginia, said if he were still in office he would be "very skeptical" of the deal.

"We cannot send a signal to this region that we will in any way accept the eventual acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran," he said.

Jim Webb breaks from 2016 Dems in Dinging Iran deal // Politico // Nick Gass – July 14, 2015

Jim Webb on Wednesday broke with fellow Democrats running for the White House, calling the nuclear agreement with Iran a signal to the Middle East that the U.S. is accepting the eventuality that Iran will one day acquire a nuclear weapon.

"My concern really is that at the bottom line of the agreement, here is what we have. We have Iran having their sanctions lifted, having a number of these other issues with respect to their activities not addressed and having the rest of the region receiving a signal that we, the United States, are accepting the eventuality that they will acquire a nuclear weapon," Webb said Wednesday on "The Diane Rehm Show" on NPR.

The former Virginia senator and Navy secretary's remarks are in contrast with those of Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Lincoln Chafee, the former Rhode Island senator and governor, all of whom praised the agreement to varying degrees on Tuesday.

"So, however you get through the checks and the measures as the agreement moves forward … that's where we end up after 10 years, even if everything works," Webb told Rehm. "The bottom line is: Even if it all works, is this where we want to be in that region as a country with Iran having been so empowered in recent years," he said, noting that he has been a proponent of improving relations with Iran and removing sanctions in a measured way that keeps regional balances in check.

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"We should, with respect to the situation with Iran right now, we do not want to be signaling in the region right now that we have accepted that Iran would have a larger role in this balance than would be good for the region," Webb said.

Webb skeptical of Iran deal, worries Dem s bow to interest groups // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald – July 15, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Jim Webb said Wednesday that he is "very skeptical" of the deal Western nations recently struck with Iran over its nuclear program, and said he worries the Democratic Party has become "less inclusive" and too focused on social issues.

In an interview with public radio host Diane Rehm, Webb says he thought Iran gets "a lot out of this" deal while he was still "trying to figure out" the American interest in the agreement to halt Iran's nuclear program struck Tuesday. "I have a lot of concern about this deal," he added, explaining that he thought the deal would result in Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon and that Congress should have had more oversight.

That puts Webb at odds not only with President Obama, but with all four other Democratic presidential candidates, who have said they support the deal.

That's a comfortable position for the former senator and Navy Secretary, who touted himself as an "independent voice" Wednesday and is used to charting his own course. Later in the interview, he criticized his party for prioritizing "social issues."

"I worry that the Democratic Party's message has has become less inclusive even that is as it has become more focused on different interest groups," he said. "If you look at the [20]10 elections and [20]14 election, you will see the Democratic Party, I believe, needs to open up and be more inclusive to the people who traditionally part of the basic message of the Democratic Party."

On Sunday, Webb told Fox News that he thought his party had moved too far to the left. "That's not my Democratic Party in and of itself," he told Fox News Sunday.

CHAFEE

Lincoln Chafee Bankrolls His Campaign // WSJ // Rebecca Ballhaus – July 15, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Lincoln Chafee and his wife, Stephanie, had income of as much as $5.5 million in 2014 and are worth as much as $34.9 million, according to his financial disclosure report released Tuesday.

The bulk of the former Rhode Island governor's assets are held in a trust owned by his wife, a multimillionaire philanthropist whose family founded the Rhode Island School of Design in the 19th century. The trust holds between $19 million and $27.5 million, according to the disclosure. The couple also owns as much as $4 million of real estate in Rhode Island, Maine and New Hampshire.

Hillary Clinton Transcript: Building the 'Growth and Fairness Economy'
Mrs. Chafee's trust has stakes topping $1 million in companies including Amazon, Intel and AH Belo, a media company that owns the Dallas Morning News and formerly owned the Rhode Island-based Providence Journal.

The Chafees have no liabilities.

Mr. Chafee also reported this week that his longshot campaign for the Democratic nomination raised $392,743 in the first half of the year—$364,000 of which he loaned to his own campaign. The campaign has $329,000 in the bank.

In Mr. Chafee's successful gubernatorial bid in 2010, his wife donated about $1.8 million—about two-thirds of all the money raised.

Candidates are required to disclose details of their personal income after launching their campaigns. Mr. Chafee's wealth puts him at the upper end of the spectrum of 2016 candidates. Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton is worth as much as $52 million, and Republican Carly Fiorina has a net worth of $59 million.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush earlier this month released tax returns showing his total net worth to be between $19 million and $22 million. And Donald Trump told the crowd at his campaign launch that he is "really rich," citing $9.2 billion in assets.

Literally No One Supports Lincoln Chafee In Latest Poll // HuffPo // Sam Stein – July 15, 2015

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Running for president can be a humbling experience. And former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee is testing the depths of a candidate's psychological endurance.

The one time Republican-turned-Independent-turned Democrat barely raised any money for his White House bid, reporting less than $30,000 on hand. And on Wednesday morning came a new poll from Monmouth University that shows him with zero percent. As in, there is no registered support for him.

Were this a one-time thing, perhaps Chafee could chalk it up to the variance of public polling. But, in fact, he's been hovering at 0.0 percent for some time now, according to the Huffpost Pollster averages. His campaign did not immediately return a request for comment.

Chafee is contending with some of the same variables that have kept others in the field way down at the low rungs of public support. Eclipsed by the star power of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and unable to tap into the same type of grassroots support as Sen. Bernie Sanders, there really hasn't been much space to operate on the trail. Both former Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Sen. Jim Webb registered at 1 percent in the Monmouth poll.

Chafee has the type of liberal record that would suit a Democrat well in a presidential year. But his odd campaigning style, his complete lack of money or infrastructure, and his virtually non-existent name recognition have left him, basically, alone

Lincoln Chafee's Presidential Bid has Zero Support, New Poll says // TIME // Nolan Feeney – July 15, 2015

Plenty of Democratic presidential hopefuls are trailing Hillary Clinton in polls, but no candidate seems to be trailing more than former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee, who has literally zero support according to new data from Monmouth University.

The numbers, released Wednesday, show that the percent of people who say they'd back the little-known Chafee for the Democratic nomination stood at zero in both June and July. Clinton, meanwhile, is currently pulling 51% of support in the poll, down from 57% last month, and Bernie Sanders has 17% of support, up from 12% last month.

The sample of 1,001 adults has a margin of error of 5.2 percentage points, so maybe Chafee's just getting unlucky with the polls two months in a row. But even fellow candidates Jim Webb and Martin O'Malley each garnered support from 1% of poll participants this month.

UNDECLARED

OTHER

Bernie Sanders throws shade at Hillary Clinton during Senate visit // AP // July 15, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was escorted by fellow Democrats, her way smoothed by uniformed officers and her every pre-planned step tracked by a pack of chroniclers as she made the rounds of private meetings in the Capitol.

It was more than enough for Bernie Sanders, the independent senator from Vermont who is Clinton's closest Democratic presidential rival in the polls. Emerging from one such meeting on Tuesday, Sanders strode, fast-paced and trailed by a couple of aides, to a collection of nearby television cameras.

"Let me welcome Secretary Clinton back to the Senate," he said, although in fact, the greeting could more fairly be described as brisk and bracing, rather than warm.

His rival was behind closed doors with Democratic senators elsewhere in the Capitol when Sanders said that trade deals negotiated over the past two decades have been disastrous. "Secretary Clinton, I believe, has a different view on that issue," he said, although he omitted that as president, her husband had negotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"I strongly opposed the war in Iraq," he added. He didn't mention that Clinton supported it, but said, "sadly, tragically, much of what I predicted in fact took place."

Moving on to energy, Sanders said he has "helped lead the opposition to the Keystone pipeline." He added dryly,

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“I think Secretary Clinton has not been clear on her views on that issue,” referring to her unwillingness to state a position on the proposal despite repeated requests that she do so.

While not exactly unplanned, Sanders’ appearance at the microphones was a reminder of the type of opportunistic campaign he is running as an underdog. The cameras were there in anticipation of comments by other lawmakers, but he made use of them.

As a result, he got his say — and on a day that Clinton’s aides had designed to highlight her role as a front-runner conferring privately with Democrats who may well share the 2016 ballot with her.

The news that the United States and other world powers had reached a deal with Iran to limit its nuclear program only added to her standing.

“She’s one of two of the most important, most influential voices in this debate, the other being President Obama,” said New York Rep. Steve Israel, who attended one of the closed-door meetings with the former secretary of state.

Not surprisingly, given Clinton’s experience as secretary of state and their similar views on the deal, it wasn’t an issue Sanders dwelt on.

Proceeding down his checklist, the Vermont senator said he believes large financial institutions should be broken up, adding that to the best of his knowledge, Clinton does not agree with him.

Raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour and spending $1 trillion to rebuild roads and bridges is another case, he said, where Clinton has been “less than clear about her views.”

Finally, he said he favors a transition tax on “Wall Street speculators,” with the proceeds going into paying the cost of public college and university expenses for students. “The secretary’s position, I think, is unclear,” he said, avoiding mentioning that Clinton once represented New York and Wall Street in the Senate.

His “welcome” nearly done, Sanders added of Clinton, “I like her. I respect her. … It is not necessary for people to dislike each other or attack each other just because they’re running for office.”

A spokesman for Clinton’s campaign had no immediate response to Sanders’ comments.

Bernie Sanders gets his say on Clinton’s day in Capitol // AP // David Espo – July 15, 2015

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A spokesman for Clinton's campaign had no immediate response to Sanders' comments.

Bernie Sanders narrows the gap as Hillary Clinton's lead declines by double digits // Salon // Sophia Tesfaye – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton's lead among Democrats is shrinking, dropping nine points since April, according to a new Monmouth University Poll released today.

Clinton still holds an enormous lead over her nearest competitor, Independent Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, with 51 percent of the vote to Sanders' 17 percent, but just last month, Clinton led 57 percent to 12 percent in the same poll.

Increasingly, Democrats are supportive of a Democratic challenger to Clinton — with 53 percent agreeing that it would "be better if there was an active primary challenge," up from 48 percent last December. But Clinton continues to have the best favorability ratings among her Democratic rivals — 74 percent favorable to 17 percent unfavorable.

15 percent of voters are undecided, besting the 13 percent of voters who indicated they are still holding out hope for a Joe Biden run. Biden holds the second highest favorability ratings in the Democratic field with 67 percent of Democratic voters viewing him favorably.

For his part, Sen. Sanders' favorability ratings have surged as more Democratic voters are introduced to his campaign. 36 precent of respondents held a favorable view of the self-described democratic socialist, up from 29 percent last month.

The results in this poll release are based on a subsample of 357 registered voters who identify themselves as Democrats or lean toward the Democratic Party from a larger, national random sample of 1,001 adults age 18 and older. The poll was conducted July 9 to 12, 2015 with a margin of error of plus or minus 5.2 percentage points.

Bernie Sanders gaining on Hillary Clinton, with Biden looming // Washington Times // David Sherfinski – July 15, 2015

Sen. Bernie Sanders, Vermont independent, has gained some ground against former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton over the past few months in the race for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, though Mrs. Clinton still has a firm grasp on the top spot, according to a new poll.

Mrs. Clinton was the first choice of 51 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters in the new survey from Monmouth University — down from 57 percent in June and 60 percent in April.

Mr. Sanders was well back at 17 percent, but his numbers have increased since his 7 percent showing in April and his 12 percent support in June.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia were both at 1 percent, while former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee registered no support and 15 percent said they were undecided.

Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., who unlike the other candidates has not yet officially indicated his 2016 plans,

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was at 13 percent, with an additional 12 percent of Democratic voters saying they would be very likely to consider supporting Mr. Biden if he enters the race and another 31 percent saying they would be somewhat likely to consider it.

Among those who say they'd be likely to support Mr. Biden if he runs, 68 percent are Clinton backers, 18 percent are supporting another candidate and 14 percent are undecided.

"Most people seem to be focusing on a Sanders surge among the liberal wing of the party. But the bigger threat to Clinton may come from a Biden candidacy, where the two would be fighting for the same voters," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

A slight majority, 53 percent, said it would be better if Mrs. Clinton faced an active primary challenge, compared to 36 percent who said it would be better if the party got behind Mrs. Clinton early on.

Seventy-four percent of Democratic voters held a favorable opinion of Mrs. Clinton, compared to 17 percent who held an unfavorable view.

Mr. Biden had a 67 percent/17 percent favorable/unfavorable split among Democrats, while Mr. Sanders had a 36 percent/12 percent split.

Fewer than 30 percent of Democrats had an opinion on the rest of the field.

The survey taken from July 9-12 of 1,001 adults had a subset of 357 registered voters who identified as Democrats or leaning Democratic, with a margin of error of plus or minus 5.2 percent for that subgroup.

Hillary Clinton's Lead is Shrinking, and a New Poll Shows Growing Support for a Dark Horse Candidate // IJ Review // Kyle Plantz – July 15, 2015

Hillary Clinton is leading in most national polls for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, but that lead has been slipping in recent months as Bernie Sanders continues to make a splash in the race.

The latest Monmouth University poll released Wednesday has Clinton leading with 51% among Democrats and those leaning toward the Democratic Party. However, this number has dropped from 57% in June and 60% in April, according to previous polling from the institute.

Sanders continues to trail Clinton at a sizable margin, but his support has steadily grown to 17%, an increase from 12% in June and 7% in April.

Martin O'Malley garners just 1% of support and Jim Webb, who threw his hat into the ring earlier this month, also earns 1%. Lincoln Chafee registers no support in the poll and another 15% of Democrats remain undecided.

Vice President Joe Biden has not announced his intentions for 2016 yet, but the poll suggests that he earns 13% of support from voters currently, just behind Sanders.

But the Monmouth poll shows that Biden's support would grow if he entered the race. About 12% of Democratic voters said they would be "very likely" to support Biden and an additional 31% said they would be "somewhat likely."

Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute, said in the press release of the poll that most of this support would come at the expense of Clinton:

"Most people seem to be focusing on a Sanders surge among the liberal wing of the party. But the bigger threat to Clinton may come from a Biden candidacy, where the two would be fighting for the same voters."
Among the voters who said they would support Biden if he decides to run, 68% are currently supporting Clinton, 18% are supporting another candidate and 14% are undecided.

The Democratic National Committee has not released its Democratic primary debate schedule yet but said the first one might come as early as August.

GOP

DECLARED

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BUSH

Jeb Bush to Release Names of His Fund-Raisers // NYT // Nicholas Confessore – July 15, 2015

Jeb Bush will disclose the names of his "bundlers," or volunteer fund-raisers, his campaign said on Wednesday.

The announcement, which comes as Mr. Bush and other presidential candidates are preparing to submit detailed financial information to the Federal Election Commission, makes Mr. Bush the first — and so far only — Republican candidate to pledge to disclose his bundlers.

"Governor Bush is committed to transparency," said Kristy Campbell, a spokeswoman for Mr. Bush. "We plan to release a list of individuals bundling donations for the campaign for the first two quarters by the time we file our next F.E.C. report."

Bundlers are the financial heart of any presidential campaign, which requires hundreds of volunteer fund-raisers to tap into networks of friends, family and business associates, each of whom can only give $2,700 for any one election.

Federal law does not require candidates to disclose the names of bundlers unless they are registered lobbyists. But some major party candidates have done so voluntarily, including President Obama, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and former President George W. Bush, Mr. Bush's brother. Doing so makes it possible for voters to known who candidates rely on the most to raise money and what industries and interests those people represent.

A spokeswoman for Senator Ted Cruz of Texas said he would not voluntarily disclose the names of his bundlers. Officials at several other campaigns, including Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, did not respond to emails seeking comment.

Lobbyists bundle nearly a quarter million dollars for Jeb Bush // WaPo // Catherine Ho – July 15, 2015

A key group of fundraisers for the 2016 presidential election, lobbyist bundlers, raised $228,400 for Republican candidate Jeb Bush during the second quarter, according to FEC filings submitted by his campaign on Wednesday.

Bush also drew the financial support of top lobbyists at a number of Fortune 500 companies, including Microsoft, Verizon, Goldman Sachs and Hewlett-Packard.

People who raise more than $17,600 from friends, family and colleagues are known as bundlers and campaigns are required to disclose their names if they are federally registered lobbyists. Campaigns are not required to disclose the names of all bundlers, but both Bush and Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton say they will do so.

While the amount of money raised this way may be dwarfed by the unlimited sums that can be contributed to super PACs — hundreds of thousands of dollars compared to millions — it nonetheless offers a glimpse into who on K Street may have access and influence on a potential future president.

Eight lobbyist bundlers raised a collective $228,400 for Bush during the second quarter of 2015. The top bundlers were William P. Killmer of the Mortgage Banking Association, who raised $36,200; Dirk Van Dongen of the National Association of Wholesalers, who raised $33,900; and Ignacio Sanchez, co-chair of the lobbying practice at DLA Piper, who raised $32,400.

Former congressman Tom Loeffler, now a lobbyist at Akin Gump, raised $31,500 for the campaign. Al Cardenas, former chairman of the Republican Party of Florida and now a lobbyist at Squire Patton Boggs, raised $18,900.

A number of lobbyists, though not bundlers, contributed the individual limit of $2,700 to Bush's campaign. They include Kirk Blalock of Fierce Government Relations, David Beightol and Brian Sailer of Flywheel Government Solutions, Dave Boyer of BGR Group and Josh Holly, Kimberley Fritts, David Marin and Matt Johnson of Podesta Group.

Bush also drew support from top lobbyists within major corporations, including Maria Cino of Hewlett-Packard, Ed Ingle of Microsoft, Tim McBride of United Technologies, Matt Niemeyer of Goldman Sachs and Woody Simmons Jr. of Verizon Communications. They all contributed the individual limit of $2,700.

Jeb Bush reports $11.4 million campaign haul // WaPo // Jose A. DelReal and Anu Narayanswamy – July 15, 2015

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush's campaign raised more than $11.4 million during the second fundraising quarter, according to a Federal Election Commission report, just a fraction of the $114 million total money he

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raised when factoring in his enormous super PAC haul.

The $11 million figure was first disclosed by the Bush campaign last week and confirmed Wednesday, the formal FEC filing deadline for the second fundraising quarter. Bush's allied super PAC, Right to Rise USA, disclosed last week that it has raised $103 million in 2015 so far. With another $5 million from his leadership PAC, Bush's total haul is an unprecedented $119 million.

The report reveals that Bush's campaign received $368,000 from small donors – less than the $390,000 the candidate himself donated to his own campaign. About $228,000 came from bundlers who are registered federal lobbyists, including $36,000 raised by William Killmer of the Mortgage Bankers Association and nearly $34,000 by Dirk Van Dongen, president and lobbyist for the National Association of Wholesale Distributors.

The campaign has spent slightly more than $3 million since Bush formally announced his campaign in mid-June, primarily on operational fees. The biggest amounts of money spent by the campaign was for travel, campaign equipment, political strategy consultants and payroll. The campaign also spent around $400,000 on legal consulting fees.

Bush donated $388,720 to his own campaign for “testing the waters” activities, covering travel, legal fees, polls and consulting done before he declared his bid in mid-June. Advocates for stricter campaign finance rules have argued that the former governor skirted reporting requirements by spending months traveling and raising money for his allied super PAC, all while maintaining that he had not decided yet whether to run. Bush aides said Wednesday that his donation to the campaign showed that he was following the rules.

"Jeb 2016’s first report affirms what we have publicly stated over the past few months — that if Governor Bush engaged in any testing-the-waters activities that they would be paid for appropriately, and that if Governor Bush decided to run for office that any testing-the-waters expenses would be reported at the required time," spokeswoman Kristy Campbell said in a statement. "In the interest of transparency, the campaign has voluntarily identified all testing-the-waters expenses as such on this first report."

All the expenditures are dated June 5 — 10 days before he announced he was running.

Jeb Bush to release names of campaign bundlers, joining Hillary Clinton // WaPo // Matea Gold – July 15, 2015

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush plans to voluntarily release the names of fundraisers bundling contributions for his presidential bid, going further than 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney.

Bush aides said Wednesday that he will release a list of bundlers who have helped raise donations for his campaign by Oct. 15, when campaigns must file reports about their fundraising and spending during the third quarter of the year with the Federal Election Commission.

"Governor Bush is committed to transparency," said spokeswoman Kristy Campbell.

Bush's move puts the pressure on his GOP rivals to follow suit. Aides to Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said earlier this week that he has no plans to disclose the names of bundlers. Other campaigns have not yet responded.

Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to release the names of her campaign bundlers quarterly beginning with today's FEC filing deadline, officials said. That follows the practice of President Obama, who released information about his top fundraisers in 2008 and 2012.

The 2008 Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, also shared details about his bundlers. But in 2012, Romney only released the names of lobbyists who bundled for his campaign as required by law.

Bundlers play a key role in helping amass large sums for campaigns, which can only raise $2,700 per person for the primaries.

Bush has already laid out big goals for his fundraisers as part of a program dubbed "Mission 2016 JEB," embracing a NASA theme that hearkens to his home state of Florida.

To qualify for the first tier, called Apollo, bundlers need to bring in $75,000. The second tier, called Endeavour, is for fundraisers who reach at least $150,000. Top-flight bundlers will reach the Voyager level as they help rake in at least $250,000.

Wall Street Donated Generously to Jeb Bush, Filing Shows // WSJ // Beth Reinhard and Christopher S. Steward – July 15, 2015

Republican former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush’s first 15 days as a presidential candidate show Wall Street’s heavy hand,

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with nearly $145,000 in campaign contributions coming from employees at Goldman Sachs GS +0.38% and nearly $114,000 from four other big banks.

Another large batch of contributions totaling $63,100 came from employees of the financial firm Neuberger Berman, run by his cousin George Herbert Walker IV, who previously worked at Goldman Sachs, according to campaign financial disclosure reports released Wednesday.

During his six years as an adviser for the defunct Wall Street bank Lehman Bros. and later at Barclays BCS +0.81% PLC, Mr. Bush said he earned, on average, between $1.3 million and $2 million. Employees of Barclays have donated $29,700 so far.

Other large contributions came from employees of companies on whose boards Mr. Bush served following his governorship, building a fortune of at least $19 million. Employees of timber company Rayonier Inc.RYN -0.54% gave $3,950 while those of hospital operator Tenet Healthcare contributed at least $30,500.

Mr. Bush also filed a form disclosing lobbyists who have bundled at least $17,600. The top bundler was William Killmer of the Mortgage Bankers Association, who collected $36,200, followed by Dirk Van Dongen of the National Association of Wholesale Contributors, who collected $33,900.

Some companies whose employees contributed large sums have longtime connections to the Bush family, including the private-equity firm Freeman Spogli & Co, whose employees donated $5,400 and whose chairman Brad Freeman raised millions for George W. Bush's 2004 re-election.

Mr. Bush said Wednesday that he will release the names of donors who are bundling contributions for his campaign when he files his next campaign fundraising report in three months.

"This display of transparency is consistent with the high level of disclosure he has practiced during his life in public office and, frankly, should be expected from public servants," said Allie Brandenburger, a spokeswoman for Mr. Bush.

Not surprisingly, the former two-term governor of Florida received the biggest chunk of money from his home state: $2.56 million. New York came in second place with $1.27 million. Texas, home to his brother, former President George W. Bush, and his father, George H.W. Bush, contributed $1.18 million.

Mr. Bush had previously announced raising $11.4 million for his campaign, along with $103 million by his super PAC and another $5 million from a related political committee. That makes him the far-and-away fundraising leader in the 2016 field. Mr. Bush also loaned his campaign $388,720 for "testing the waters" expenses before he was an official candidate, according to a spokesman.

Mr. Bush's campaign spent more than $3 million in its first two weeks, leaving him with $8.35 million. His biggest expense was $372,647 for computer equipment, followed by $308,687 for media production and political consulting, $280,835 for air charter and $259,201 for event production and travel. Of the $2,107.83 the campaign paid for "taxi fare," $1,396.40 went to Uber.

Jeb Bush's Iowa Travels Take Him East and West, Left and Right // WSJ // Beth Reinhard – July 15, 2015

As Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush hustled between eastern and western Iowa this week, there were signs of the political divide between the moderate and conservative parts of the state, reinforcing the challenges of the nation's first nominating contest.

As one eastern Iowan who supports Mr. Bush put it, "Iowans can stand nose to nose and never see eye to eye."

Mr. Bush's first stop Monday was in Sioux City, which is represented by Rep. Steve King, one of the best known immigration hardliners in Congress. Mr. King created a furor two years ago for saying many border crossers are drug mules with "calves the size of cantaloupes" from hauling marijuana.

Mr. Bush then traveled east to a local Republican Party dinner at a picturesque winery in Ames, which is near the capital of Des Moines and considered "liberal" by Iowans in the more rural west.

"Mr. Bush appeals to the moderate crowd, the disaffected Democrats and the disaffected Republicans," said Norman Rudi, the former local GOP chairman, proudly holding a bumper sticker that had been signed by Mr. Bush, his father and his brother. "Sooner or later we have to realize that electability is the key."

On Tuesday, Mr. Bush was back west in Council Bluffs, disparaged by some eastern Iowans as backwater "Counciltucky." He was greeted by half a dozen protesters holding signs that said "Illegal Alien is not an Immigrant" and "No More Bushes." Mr. Bush is at odds with conservatives over allowing illegal immigrants to

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earn legal status. He also supports the Common Core academic standards, which some conservatives view as a federal incursion into local schools.

"This side of the state is the conservative side," said one of protesters, Craig Halverson, the former statewide chairman of a border control group called the Minutemen Patriots. "We're not for liberals or RINOS. We're for our country."

Mr. Bush didn't tailor his remarks to the geography of his audience, however, giving essentially the same stump speech in all three locations. Inside a packed Council Bluffs pub, Mr. Bush began his remarks by taking on Republican rival Donald Trump, who has come under fire in recent days for referring to illegal immigrants as rapists.

"On our side there are people that prey on people's fears and their angst as well. I don't know about you, but I think it is wrong," he said. "Whether it's Donald Trump or Barack Obama, their rhetoric of divisiveness is wrong. A Republican will never win by striking fear in people's hearts."

He was asked about Common Core by a man who said "the folks in the Midwest aren't particularly fond of that." Mr. Bush, who has fielded this question many times, reiterated his belief in high academic standards, driven by state and local officials. "What the federal government role should be is none," he said to applause.

Mr. Bush repeatedly referred to himself as a "happy warrior" during his two-day Iowa swing. He said he would campaign by "hugging and kissing" and said he was not a "grievance candidate."

That's message that the more moderate Republicans in eastern Iowa seem to like, but it could slow down Mr. Bush in the western part of the state, where voters seem to be itching for a fight against a political establishment they view as too ideologically squishy.

"We could improve him," quipped Betty Lou Law, who came to the Sioux City event. Her husband, retired farmer Verle Law, disagreed, saying, "I think he's conservative enough."

The first question Mr. Bush fielded in Sioux City was from a man upset about Central Americans illegally crossing the border. Mr. Bush sought to empathize but noted the impossibility of building a fence across the Rio Grande. And when another a man thanked him for coming to western Iowa, Mr. Bush made a promise: "I'll be back, too."

Jeb's official haul: $11.4 million // Politico // Theodoric Meyer – July 15, 2015

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's campaign reported on Wednesday that it had raised more than $11.4 million during the second quarter of this year. Bush announced his candidacy June 15, giving his campaign just over two weeks to raise funds before the June 30 deadline.

When combined with the super PAC supporting him, Right to Rise — which announced two weeks ago that it had raised $103 million — Bush's war chest far exceeds any of his Republican rivals.

His campaign's per-day fundraising total was just under $714,000. Below is a breakout of the campaign's finances as of the end of June:

Total raised: $11,429,897.64

Total spent: $3,078,087.31

Total cash on hand: $8,351,810.33

Total debt: $401,104.53

Goldman Bankers Are Jeb Bush's Biggest Backers for White House // Bloomberg // Max Abelson – July 15, 2015

Important people at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. want Jeb Bush to be the next U.S. president. And they're giving him a lot of money to make it happen.

More than 50 Goldman Sachs executives and employees gave the Republican more than $144,000 in the second quarter, with most of them sending $2,700, the maximum allowed, according to Federal Election Commission filings.

The company that was the next-best source of money for the former Florida governor, Neuberger Berman, is run by George Walker, Bush's second cousin. Employees at the money manager gave more than $63,000. It once was part of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., where Bush was an adviser.

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Goldman Sachs management committee members who gave to Bush include investment management co-heads Eric Lane and Timothy J. O'Neill, investment banking co-head David Solomon, mergers and acquisitions co-head Gene Sykes, risk chief Craig Broderick and merchant banking head Richard Friedman. Dina Powell, the head of the firm's foundation, and Robert Zoellick, the chairman of the company's international advisers and a former head of the World Bank, both donated to Bush.

Goldman Sachs isn't the only Wall Street firm with employees hoping to see a third Bush in the White House. Credit Suisse Group AG, Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan Chase & Co. also were among the top sources of donations.

No Goldman Sachs employees were listed as donors during the second quarter to Vermont's Bernie Sanders. The Democratic senator has called for breaking up the biggest banks.

Republican Bush raises $11.4 million for 2016 presidential bid: filing // Reuters // Luciana Lopez – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush raised $11.4 million for his 2016 campaign in the quarter ended June 30, his campaign said in a Federal Election Commission filing on Wednesday.

His campaign had released that same total earlier in the month.

A Super PAC backing Bush brought in a record $103 million, the group, Right to Rise, previously said in a statement.

The total haul means that Bush will have a considerable war chest as he goes through a potentially contentious primary season. With a large Republican field, fundraising figures are also a way for candidates to separate themselves from the pack, and Bush has so far outstripped rivals such as senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio.

Bush announced his bid for the White House on June 15, leaving his campaign only 16 fundraising days until the end of the quarter.

The former Florida governor is one of 15 candidates, so far, who are formally seeking the Republican nomination for the November 2016 election.

Jeb Bush to release list of campaign bundlers // CNN // Ashley Killough – July 15, 2015

In an effort to help build a brand of transparency, Jeb Bush's team announced Wednesday that it plans to reveal a list of bundlers who helped raise money for his White House bid in the first two quarters.

Bundlers are volunteer fundraisers who encourage their own circles of colleagues and friends to donate to a certain candidate, with a maximum contribution of $2,700 allowed by federal election law. Bundlers typically get credit or special access to a candidate if they cross a specific threshold of money raised.

The former Florida governor is among the first 2016 candidates to announce such intentions, taking on a voluntary task that his brother George W. Bush was known for starting during the 2000 presidential campaign. For her part, Hillary Clinton will announce her bundlers quarterly. She also revealed her bundlers when she ran for president in 2008, as did President Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain during their White House bids.

"This display of transparency is consistent with the high level of disclosure he has practiced during his life in public office and, frankly, should be expected from public servants," said Allie Brandenburger, a spokesperson for Bush, in a statement.

Plans to release the list were first reported by The New York Times.

Later on Wednesday, a spokeswoman for Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said the newly minted presidential candidate also plans to disclose his bundlers.

Election law doesn't require candidates to name these fundraisers -- unless they are lobbyists. Representatives for other candidates said their campaigns don't plan to reveal that information.

"We'll disclose what the law requires us to, but we don't discuss our strategy beyond that," said Alex Conant a spokesman for Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who also gave the same quote to the Times.

A spokeswoman for Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas also confirmed that he will not disclose his bundlers.

Bush's campaign says it aims to release the list by the time it files its next report with the Federal Election

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Committee, which will be mid-October.

Bush announced last week that his campaign raised $11.4 million by the end of June, while a super PAC supporting his bid said it raised $103 million since January.

CNN reported that Bush has no plans to let his fundraising momentum stall, starting a new push called "8 by Eight" where bundlers who get eight people to donate the $2,700 maximum by the end of July will be invited to some special events in Cleveland next month and to a dinner with the candidate in Coral Gables on July 29.

Only 3 Percent of Jeb Bush's Campaign Cash Came From Small Donors // National Journal // Shane Goldmacher – July 15, 2015

Jeb Bush is a fundraising powerhouse among the Republican Party's biggest donors, but he is struggling among smaller donors. Of the $11.4 million his campaign raised during its first two weeks, only 3 percent came from donors who gave less than $200.

Small contributors gave Bush only $368,023, the campaign's federal filings show. Donors who gave the legal maximum of $2,700 accounted for more than 80 percent of Bush's total haul.

For comparison's sake, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz raised $1.8 million from small donors during the first week of his campaign back in March, nearly half of his campaign's total. And, on the Democratic side, Sen. Bernie Sanders said Wednesday that more than 76.5 percent of his fundraising ($10.5 million) came from small donors.

Bush had 12,334 donors between June 15 and June 30, his campaign said. That means his average contribution was $926. The average Sanders contribution? $35.

The new figures will likely only further fuel the perception among conservative activists that Bush is a candidate of the wealthy GOP establishment who is unable or unlikely to connect with the grassroots. In fact, the $368,000 in small-donor fundraising is less than Bush himself spent on the campaign during the brief, 10-day period in early June when he was formally "testing the waters" for a campaign.

When the $103 million his super PAC has raised is factored in, Bush's fundraising from small donors is almost surely less than the 3 percent he reported for the campaign itself on Wednesday, and likely well below 1 percent. The super PAC said last week that it had a total of 9,900 donors—which would mean its average donor contributed more than $10,000. The super PAC said roughly 500 of its donors gave $25,000 or more.

The new report does show Bush's tremendous appeal among the moneyed class of donors. In a remarkable static, the most common denomination for a donor to Bush was the legal maximum of $2,700. More than 3,400 donors gave Bush a maximum-sized contribution.

Clinton And Foundation Raked In Cash From Banks That Admitted Wrongdoing // IB Times // Andrew Perez and David Sirota – July 15, 2015

On the campaign trail, Hillary Clinton is selling her version of economic populism, including calls for Wall Street executives who engage in financial wrongdoing to be held accountable more than they have been under President Barack Obama. She has pushed that message hard as she seeks to win support from the Democratic Party's liberal base, with a speech Monday and a follow-up statement from her campaign the next day.

"Yesterday, Hillary said that when Wall Street executives commit criminal wrongdoing, they deserve to face criminal prosecution. Not a slap on the wrist, not a fine paid by their employers -- prosecution," said an email to supporters from Gary Gensler, a former Goldman Sachs executive-turned-government regulator now serving as a top Clinton campaign official.

Raking In Donations

Clinton's outrage, though, did not stop her family's foundation from raking in donations from many of the same banks that secured government fines rather than face full-scale prosecution. The Clinton Foundation has accepted $5 million worth of donations from at least nine financial institutions that avoided such prosecution -- even as they admitted wrongdoing. These include Barclays, HSBC and UBS, all of which entered into agreements with the Justice Department that allowed their employees to avoid criminal charges. The Clintons also personally accepted nearly $4 million in speaking fees from those firms since 2009.

Neither the Hillary Clinton campaign nor Clinton Foundation responded to International Business Times questions about why her family and their foundation accepted money from firms that settled financial fraud cases and avoided the kind of prosecution Clinton now says is needed.

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Last week, former Attorney General Eric Holder said the Justice Department's treatment of banks was "appropriately aggressive" and told Financial Times that assessing fines was a better strategy than "trying to make examples of people" by prosecuting individual executives. On Monday, Clinton seemed to disagree. In a speech at the New School in New York City, she pressed for prosecutions and slammed regulators' tolerance of lawlessness from financial firms like HSBC -- a bank that two years ago admitted to helping Mexican drug cartels launder money in its banks, and allowing transactions by customers in countries subject to U.S. sanctions. While HSBC paid a $1.9 billion fine, none of its employees went to jail.

"Stories of misconduct by individuals and institutions in the financial industry are shocking," Clinton said. "HSBC allowing drug cartels to launder money, five major banks pleading guilty to felony charges for conspiring to manipulate currency exchange and interest rates. There can be no justification or tolerance for this kind of criminal behavior."

Money After Wrongdoing

But in 2014, two years after HSBC admitted to major violations of U.S. laws, the firm was the top sponsor at a Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) event, paying at least $500,000 to the Clinton Foundation. Earlier, in 2011, HSBC paid former President Bill Clinton $200,000 for a speech he gave in Florida.

The HSBC relationship -- taking money from a bank after the firm admitted wrongdoing -- was not unique. In 2009, UBS avoided prosecution by the Justice Department when it agreed to pay a $780 million fine and admitted to defrauding the United States by allowing American citizens to hide income from the IRS. The Swiss bank has since entered into two more agreements with the Justice Department -- one for rigging the municipal bond market and the other for manipulating global interest rates. UBS has paid former President Bill Clinton more than $1.5 million for speeches since 2009, and the firm has given more than $550,000 to the family's foundation.

In 2010, the British banking firm Barclays entered into a settlement agreement with the Justice Department, and admitted to violating U.S. sanctions by making transactions for customers in countries such as Libya, Sudan and Myanmar. Weeks later, Barclays was a sponsor at the annual CGI event. Barclays has remained a CGI sponsor in the years since, even after the bank paid more fines under a new agreement with the Justice Department for manipulating worldwide interest rates. Barclays has paid the Clinton family $650,000 for speeches since 2009. The firm has given at least $1.5 million to the Clinton Foundation.

RUBIO

Marco Rubio Has Missed Most Votes This Year of Senators Running for President // NYT // Jeremy W. Peters – July 15, 2015

If you were absent from work a third of the time, you'd probably be fired.

But among the many perks of being a United States senator is that you are your own boss and can set your own schedule. Nobody knows this better than the five senators running for president.

On average, senators miss about 3 percent of their votes, or have an attendance rate of 97 percent.

But Senator Marco Rubio, the Florida Republican, has a 70 percent attendance rate this year, meaning that for the 30 percent of the days he was out, he missed 69 votes.

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, another Republican, isn't very far behind, with 55 missed votes, or 77 percent attendance.

Both senators have been on fund-raising binges in the weeks since they announced their presidential campaigns, trying to rake in as much as possible before the June 30 deadline that marked the end of the second quarter.

But their colleague, Senator Rand Paul, Republican of Kentucky, has managed to miss just three votes, giving him a 99 percent attendance record. Mr. Paul must factor in one thing that Mr. Rubio and Mr. Cruz do not: He is asking Kentuckians to re-elect him as senator this year while at the same time running for president.

Mr. Rubio has decided not to seek re-election, while Mr. Cruz's term ends in 2018.

Mr. Paul's record is about the same as Senator Bernie Sanders, the independent of Vermont, who is running for the Democratic nomination and has missed six votes so far this year. The fifth senator seeking the White House, Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, has missed 45 votes.

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WALKER

A Sleep-Deprived Scott Walker Barnstorms Through South Carolina // NYT // Patrick Healy – July 15, 2015

Scott Walker worked off little sleep on Wednesday during the first barnstorming trip of his presidential campaign.

On a one-day, three-city swing through South Carolina, Mr. Walker tried to sell himself to voters as down-to-earth and easy to relate to by commiserating about commercial flight delays. Mr. Walker, the governor of Wisconsin who entered the race for the Republican presidential nomination on Monday, told a lunchtime crowd here that he had been awake for the last 31 hours because his flight from Las Vegas to Atlanta on Tuesday night had been diverted to Memphis because of bad weather.

When he and his campaign team finally reached Atlanta, he said, they had missed their flight to Charleston, S.C. They opted to rent a van and make the five-hour drive, stopping at a Burger King in the wee hours Wednesday before reaching North Charleston for an 8 a.m. event at a Harley-Davidson dealership.

“I tried to sneak in a few z’s, but it’s hard when your head is up against an armrest,” Mr. Walker said in Lexington.

The lack of sleep doesn’t seem to have fazed him: Mr. Walker stayed on message during his first two campaign events. He has had a little coffee, aides say, but is drinking plenty of water.

His stop at a Lexington barbecue restaurant was the second of Mr. Walker’s four events on Wednesday, the last of which will be a fund-raiser in Atlanta before boarding a flight to New Hampshire for a couple of campaign stops there on Thursday.

Scott Walker, in South Carolina, Skirts Gun Control and Flag Issues // NYT // Patrick Healy – July 15, 2015

Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, in his first visit to South Carolina since nine people died in the church shootings, chose to address the massacre by praising the people of the Charleston region for their unity rather than discussing the gun control issues or the Confederate battle flag debate that arose afterward.

And Mr. Walker, who officially declared his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination on Monday, made a point of not giving any attention to the man charged in the killings, Dylann Roof.

“I’ll never say his name,” Mr. Walker said, as he briefly addressed the shootings before a crowd of about 200 people at a Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealership.

“It was amazing to see the kind of leadership you provided for this country in what could have been a negative not just for you all, but for this country,” Mr. Walker said of the peaceful and discerning responses to the massacre. “You all showed how to bring people together in this community and this region and this state and in turn you did it for this country.”

He also hailed the leadership of “my friend Nikki Haley,” the state’s Republican governor, who he cites frequently as an ally during his campaign visits to South Carolina. He did not touch on her successful effort to remove the Confederate flag from the state capitol grounds after the shooting.

As a newly announced candidate, Mr. Walker has not had time yet to give policy speeches on issues like gun control or government responses to the mass shootings that have been occurring in the United States. He often mentions his support for gun owners and for laws allowing them to carry concealed weapons.

Scott Walker Tries to Clarify Remarks on Gay Scout Leaders // NYT // Patrick Healy – July 15, 2015

Gov. Scott Walker, who recently expressed support for a ban on gay Boy Scout leaders because it “protected children,” said on Wednesday that he did not mean that children needed “physical protection” from gay scoutmasters – but rather protection from the debate over the ban.

In comments published on Tuesday by The Independent Journal Review, a news website that is popular with young conservatives, Mr. Walker said, “I have had a lifelong commitment to the Scouts and support the previous membership policy because it protected children and advanced Scout values.” But during a brief press conference in South Carolina on Wednesday, Mr. Walker said the decision on the ban was “up to the Boy Scouts” and added that his earlier remarks were not about protecting children from gay people.

“The protection was not a physical protection,” he said, but rather about “protecting them from being involved in

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the very thing you're talking about right now, the political and media discussion about it, instead of just focusing on what Scouts is about, which is about camping and citizenship and things of that nature."

Staking out increasingly conservative positions has emerged as a key part of Mr. Walker's strategy to compete for votes against the 14 other Republicans running for president. He has been vocal in his opposition to same-sex marriage and his support for amending the United States Constitution to allow states to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

In response to another question, Mr. Walker indicated that he would consider Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina as a vice-presidential running mate if he won the Republican Party's nomination, though he repeatedly emphasized that the notion was premature.

"Certainly Nikki's a friend of mine, she has been a very capable governor, and there will be a long list of people like her, but again, like I said, it's premature," Mr. Walker said.

He did sketch out the kind of person he would seek as a running mate, if he earned the nomination: "Primarily someone who is capable of being an outstanding president if god forbid something were to happen to me," as well as someone who "shares my values and my concerns."

Scott Walker Using Harley-Davidson to Burnish 'Fighter' Image // NYT // Nick Corasaniti – July 15, 2015

He could have been any one of the roughly 400 people gathered here. Clad in a black Harley-Davidson shirt, slim jeans with a slight fray and bike-ready boots, the only aspect distinguishing Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin from the rest of the crowd was he was holding the microphone, and running for president.

"I ride a 2003 100th anniversary Road King, so I'm kinda thrilled to be here," he told the crowd gathered at Red Rocks Harley-Davidson, a local dealership, minutes after taking the stage where he also introduced his wife and children.

Indeed, in his initial swing through the first four nominating states, one thing is constant for Mr. Walker and his campaign: the Harley-Davidson.

From holding his first campaign event as an announced candidate at a dealership in a nondescript mall miles from the glitz of the Las Vegas Strip, to the events planned at dealerships in New Hampshire and South Carolina, Mr. Walker is placing the revered Harley-Davidson motorcycle alongside Kohl's department store shirts as key brands in his efforts to further burnish his Everyman persona.

Holding events at Harley-Davidson dealers helps to "show his personality," said Kirsten Kukowski, a spokeswoman for the campaign. She said they're part of a larger effort to reintroduce Mr. Walker to the country, a sharp contrast to the more button-down attire of some of his rivals.

To that end, Mr. Walker, speaking under a giant plastic American flag and surrounded by shiny, five-figure Harleys – most of them Road Kings, as Mr. Walker noted in his remarks — repeatedly referred to himself as a "fighter," a characteristic he wants voters to see as evident from his battles with unions during his first term as governor and his subsequent recall election. He said the word "fight" or "fighter" nearly a dozen times in his speech and news conference afterward.

The line is not exclusively directed at bikers, but for some in this audience, it reverberated with common themes in the motorcycle-riding community, hinting at a proud individualism and even a little rebellious spirit.

"I like what he's done in his home state," said Darwin Rockantansky of Las Vegas, a motorcyclist – although not a Harley rider — who was proudly sporting a Sons of Liberty jacket. "In the local environment, there is a Spanish word 'cojones.' It has two meanings. One some people smile at, but the other means 'courage.' This particular candidate shows courage, and fortitude, and all those wonderful things."

Timothy Cashman, one of the co-owners of dealership hosting the event, said he thought Mr. Walker's use of the brand further burnished his persona as an Everyman.

"Harley-Davidson is pure American," he said, having to speak a little louder as the rumble of a revving motorcycle spun in the background. "And that's what a presidential campaign is about, speaking to the American people."

Mr. Walker will eventually step out of the dealers and hit the open road on a bike to do just as Mr. Cashman said. He had already promised to ride around New Hampshire and South Carolina and Wednesday, he promised to tour Nevada on a bike as well.

But Mr. Walker, a veteran rider who says he has put over 20,000 miles on his personal motorcycle, knew that

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might have to wait a bit.

“I’m gonna come back to Nevada, but I’m going to be wise, I’m going to wait till October or November before I ride,” he told the crowd, to a few knowing nods.

And he is indeed eager to ride as much as possible before the election, because, as he put it: “They tell me, if I’m successful, I don’t get to ride a Harley anymore.”

Unbending (and unexcitable) // WaPo // Michael Fletcher – July 14, 2015

He tells the story without a dose of excitement or flash of charisma. Scott Walker is standing on the stage of a Denver convention center, shirt sleeves rolled up, microphone cradled in both hands. Before him is an eager audience of more than 4,000 Republican activists at the Western Conservative Summit.

In a slightly nasal, Midwestern monotone, the Wisconsin governor talks about the furor he created. He describes how 100,000 protesters descended on the State Capitol to denounce his plan to curtail collective bargaining for public employees. And he shares, in the least fiery way possible, how he forged ahead with other polarizing policies, overcoming a precipitous slide in the polls and a fevered recall effort that inspired headlines asking whether he had become “Dead Man Walker.”

The bruising fights once threatened his political career. But he survived a recall campaign and was reelected after that. By prevailing, Walker transformed his battles into his calling card. He says one supporter summed up his appeal in a tweet: “I like Walker because he wins without caving.”

At 47, Walker’s polite unwillingness to bend, his placid determination to stand his ground at all cost, both animates and complicates his presidential candidacy. Partisans love hearing about how he decimated Wisconsin unions, cut taxes, defunded Planned Parenthood and required photo identification at the voting booth - all while calmly staring down political opponents. It has helped catapult him to the first rank of Republican presidential hopefuls.

The question is whether voters will see his style as evidence of clear vision or the mark of a man unwilling to compromise. And how far can he go without backing down as he enters an arena where the issues are more complex and the politics more treacherous?

Already, there are cracks. Speaking to farmers in Iowa earlier this year, he endorsed the federal ethanol mandate, a reversal of his previous position. Years ago, as Milwaukee County executive, he supported a plan that would create a path to legal status for the nation’s 11 million undocumented immigrants. He said in March, “My view has changed.”

But Walker is betting that voters want an unwavering, unflappable leader who knows exactly where he want to go and won’t stop until he gets there. He tells audiences he refused to back off on making change in Wisconsin even in the face of death threats, including against his wife, Tonette, and their children.

“It is a myth that winning the center requires moving to the center,” he wrote in his autobiography. “The path to a conservative comeback lies not in abandoning our principles but in championing bold, conservative reforms and having the courage to see them through.”

Pleasant. That’s even how Walker’s bitterest political foes describe him.

In the heat of the state’s showdown with its union four years ago, Rep. Peter Barca, the Wisconsin State Assembly’s top Democrat, publicly denounced the governor at protests across the state. “You know, Governor Walker, you have defiled our heritage,” Barca said at one rally. “You have disregarded our values.”

But Walker, who declined to be interviewed for this article, never took it personally. “I’d give a speech in front of 50,000 protesters saying, ‘Walker’s got to go,’ “ Barca says, “and you’d see him the next day and you’d think I just sent him a coffeecake or something.”

Barca is part of a small group of leaders who meet regularly with Walker during the legislative session, but Barca said those gatherings are almost never satisfying. “Generally, when you meet with him on the major issues, you don’t feel like it’s a dialogue,” he says. “We get along just fine. He is sort of chitchatty. He exchanges pleasantries, makes some jokes. But you just feel like that on the big issues he is just there to tell you, ‘Here’s what I am going to do.’”

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker speaks in March at a high school in Concord, N.H. For this series, Washington Post photojournalists used a phone app with filters to capture the candidates as potential voters might. (Matt McClain/ The Washington Post)

The roots of his immovability may lie in what he calls being a “P.K.” - a preacher’s kid.

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In the tiny farming community of Plainfield, Iowa, where Walker moved when was 2, his father, Llewellyn Walker, was pastor at First Baptist Church and served on the city council. His mother, Patricia, was head of the Sunday school. The family, which would soon include Walker's younger brother, David, lived in a parsonage next door to the church.

Walker credits his no-frills upbringing and parents' example for imbuing a deep religious belief and a clear moral vision that has guided him for as long as he can remember.

He relied on that resolve, he says in his 2014 book, "Unintimidated," even as tens of thousands of protesters marched on his office in Madison and, at times, outside his home in Wauwatosa.

"It wasn't always easy," he writes. "What gave me the inner strength to go on was my faith."

Classmates, teachers and friends say Walker has always been earnest, the kind of guy people used to call a "straight arrow."

As a young boy, he founded a "Jesus USA" club. He was so concerned that Plainfield's city hall did not have a state flag that he grabbed an old container, punched a hole in it, and started collecting donations. Before long, he had enough money to buy a flag that he presented to the city.

"Scott has a very strong sense of right and wrong," says Stephen Satran, who was in an antiabortion group with Walker in college.

In 1977, his family moved to Delavan, Wis., an agricultural town about an hour's drive southwest of Milwaukee. There, he was active in just about everything. He whittled down model wooden cars to compete in the Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby. On Sundays, he stood next to his parents greeting parishioners at First Baptist Church. As he got older, he would at times step to the pulpit and deliver sermons himself.

"It was a biblically based church, but not fire and brimstone," says Chris Stebnitz, who attended First Baptist. "The sermons were very conversational. They always had a tie-in to the Bible and how these teachings relate to everyday life."

Walker was focused and busy as a teenager. Yearbooks from his days at Delavan-Darien High School are filled with pictures of Walker in his numerous and varied roles: on the track, cross-country, basketball and football teams; playing percussion in the pep and symphonic bands; as a member of the foreign-language club; and performing the "Stray Cat Strut" with the Swing Choir. The book from his senior year features a photo of Walker with his black hair grazing his shoulders. The caption reads, "Scott K. Walker - the Desperado"- even if the wildest thing friends remember him doing back then was painting his bedroom deep red, with a black-and-white checkerboard ceiling.

"He was very responsible for his age," says Russell Draeger, Walker's high school principal. ". . . He came from a great family. His mother would bring cookies to sporting events, and she would cut out newspaper photos of high school athletes and send notes congratulating kids for their achievements."

He became an Eagle Scout after completing a project that used old telephone poles to shore up a steep slope behind his father's church. He also worked part-time jobs washing dishes at a local restaurant and later flipping burgers at McDonald's.

But the unyielding determination that has come to define Walker as governor was not evident the first time he ventured to the nation's capital in 1985 to attend Boys Nation, the mock-government program run by the American Legion. In those days, Walker stood out as someone adept at forging compromise.

"The dichotomy is he is no longer the person I knew then. He was an intelligent, compassionate young man who seemed to care about solving problems and bringing people together," says Scott Adrian, who as a youth counselor recommended Walker for Boys Nation and now works as a Democratic staffer in the Wisconsin legislature. "Time sure changes a lot of things."

Scott Walker when he was a member of the Delavan-Darien High School marching band and with his parents, Llewellyn and Patricia, at home on his graduation day in 1986. (Photos courtesy of the Scott Walker campaign via Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel)

Walker returned from Boys Nation with a new sense of purpose. Seeing the capital's monuments and being able to confer with the nation's youth leaders in Washington was mesmerizing. "As someone who loved history, that just blew me away," Walker said in a 2014 American Legion video.

At Marquette University, a Jesuit school in the heart of Milwaukee, Walker dove into student politics with much

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more enthusiasm than he hit the books. He helped lead a campus antiabortion group and won a seat on the student Senate, heading an investigation that ended up with student leaders resigning for charging a lavish dinner to organizational accounts.

As a sophomore, he ran for student government president. Walker, who was known to wear suits to class, cited the job he did with the student Senate investigation, as well as his status as an Eagle Scout and his opposition to abortion. The campaign turned bitter, with charges and countercharges about election violations by both sides, and Walker lost.

For some young men, a defeat might have ended any political aspirations. But not for Walker.

“It’s funny - his friends were the ones losing their minds about the election,” says Satran, who supported his candidacy. “He was not upset. It was almost weird. He accepted it as God’s will.”

Walker left Marquette without graduating, and soon after he made his first attempt at public office. He ran for an Assembly seat against Democratic incumbent Gwen Moore, now a member of Congress. He pushed an anti-crime message and papered the district with handouts. The odds were stacked against him in the heavily Democratic district, and he was trounced.

Again, the defeat did little to curb Walker’s political ambitions. He volunteered in the campaigns of other Republican candidates and kept an eye peeled for future possibilities.

Soon Walker moved to Wauwatosa, the close-in Milwaukee suburb that he still calls home. He ran again for an Assembly seat, and he won.

Democrat Sheldon Wasserman, a Milwaukee doctor and former member of the State Assembly, says that, at first, Walker was a typical backbencher in all ways but one: He would not budge on the issues.

At one point, Republican leaders wanted to raise the state gasoline tax to cover the cost of a new road construction. Walker had joined a group of Republicans who opposed the legislation, causing the leadership to turn up the heat.

“They started working him over,” Wasserman recalls. “Leaders were coming over telling him: ‘You are part of the team. You have to do this.’ Some were yelling at him. Scott just sat there like a stone, with a little smile on his face. He never got upset. He just shook his head no, no, no. He was not going to change.”

By the time Walker decided to run for Milwaukee County executive, his unbending political style was in full effect. In 2002, he saw an opening in the heavily Democratic county because of a pension scandal that prompted the incumbent to resign. Walker ran as fiscally conservative reformer. Although he was by then the father of two sons, he promised to return nearly half his salary as county executive. He won.

Finally, he had a chance to put his ideas into action. He moved to privatize services, cut social service programs and reduce taxes. He pushed to lay off unionized county workers, although often the unions blunted his efforts.

Members of the county’s Board of Supervisors, which was controlled by Democrats, recall an annual budget ritual in which Walker would propose a series of tax cuts and offer a series of spending reductions. The board would undo many of the changes. Walker would then veto the budget, and the board would override his veto.

“We overrode more than 80 percent of his vetoes,” says Michael Mayo (D), a county supervisor. “He is a nice person, very pleasant. But he was determined.”

Early in his tenure, Walker moved to eliminate some bus routes in the district of Supervisor John F. Weishan, a Democrat. Concerned, Weishan met with Walker to propose a more palatable alternative. He says Walker listened carefully and promised to think about rescinding the changes. Later that morning, Weishan was stunned when Walker’s office released a statement saying the routes would be cut.

“With him, it was total warfare on everything,” Weishan says.

Despite the pitched battles, Walker was reelected twice, and he took credit for reducing the county workforce by 20 percent. And in 2010, his uncompromising posture helped him win election as Wisconsin’s governor.

Even when he encounters resistance in his family, he does not back down. He blasted the Supreme Court’s ruling on same-sex marriage last month as a “grave mistake,” despite the wishes of his two sons, who support gay marriage as well as their father’s candidacy.

Now Walker is running for president with his trademark brand of bland but unshakable certainty.

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"The closer you get to being at the point of running," he tells a Washington Post reporter in Wisconsin when she asks what's fueling him, "the more you realize you have got to be crazy to want to be president of the United States. The only reason you should do it is you feel called."

Walker invokes all that he and his family have endured the past four years: the union protests, the death threats, the bitter recall, the tough reelection campaign.

"If we made it through all that," he says, "maybe it's a little bit of God's providence to say . . . this is what we are supposed to do."

Scott Walker: Boy Scouts should decide if they want gay leaders, not me // WaPo // Jenna Johnson – July 15, 2015

Scott Walker is no longer openly criticizing the Boy Scouts of America for taking steps toward allowing gay leaders.

Walker said in comments published Tuesday that the Boy Scouts should keep its blanket ban on openly gay leaders because the policy "protected children and advanced Scout values." The comment quickly attracted criticism from LGBT rights activists, who accused the governor of suggesting that gay leaders are a threat to children.

On Wednesday, Walker said the decision is up to the Boy Scouts, not him. It was another example of the governor appearing to back away from a controversial stance, even as he presents himself on the campaign trail as being a steadfast conservative not afraid of an unpopular fight.

"That's up to the Boy Scouts," Walker said of the proposed policy change, following a campaign stop at a barbecue restaurant. "I'm an Eagle Scout... All that I pointed out was that the policy was perfectly fine when I was there and I thought they should be protected from all of the political and media controversy about it. There's nothing more to it than that. It's their decision."

When asked by a reporter if he supports or opposes allowing gay Boy Scout leaders, Walker replied: "I'm not running for president of the Boy Scouts."

Another reporter then pressed Walker on what he meant in saying that the previous policy protected children. At first Walker refused to answer the question, saying that he had already done so. But he relented.

"The protection was not a physical protection," he said. "The policy protected them from being involved in the very thing that you're... talking about right now, the political and media discussion about it instead of just focusing on what Scouts is about, which is about camping and citizenship and things of that nature."

Gay rights has become a mine field for Walker, who launched his presidential campaign on Monday and is aiming to win the Iowa caucuses, which are often dominated by social conservatives. Walker called the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision allowing gay marriage in all 50 states a "grave mistake," frustrating some prominent East Coast supporters who worry he has gone too far to the right. Walker's two college-aged sons, Matt and Alex Walker, have said they don't agree with their father's stance and support gay marriage.

The governor also called for a constitutional amendment that would allow states to decide if they want to allow gay marriage or not -- although he has yet to add it to the list of things he would do soon after becoming president, like repealing the Affordable Care Act and getting rid of excess regulations.

This is not the first time this year Walker has appeared to back down from an issue when faced with opposition. In February, Walker introduced a budget that proposed massive reforms for the University of Wisconsin System, including changing its storied mission statement to focus on work force preparation instead of the pursuit of knowledge. University officials, alums and others erupted in protest. Walker quickly abandoned that idea and distanced himself, with an aide calling it a "drafting error."

Earlier this month, as lawmakers scrambled to finish the state budget, Republicans added a provision that would greatly restricted the types of documents reporters and others could request under the open records law. Such a change would have shielded Walker as he jumps into the presidential race and faces greater scrutiny. Amid a burst of angry protest from both liberal and conservative groups, Walker and top Republican leaders quickly issued a statement essentially killing the proposal. Although Republican leaders said Walker's staff helped to draft the language, Walker said in a radio interview that the idea was "a huge mistake" that "didn't come from us."

In South Carolina, battle flag not an issue for Walker // AP // Bill Barrow – July 15, 2015

Republican Scott Walker pledged Wednesday to scrap the Obama administration's nuclear deal with Iran if elected president.

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The Wisconsin governor also vowed to repeal the federal health care law, mocked climate change and railed against "union bosses" in a visit to South Carolina. But Walker did not mention the Confederate battle flag, even as he praised South Carolinians for their response to the murders of nine worshippers at a historic black church.

Welcome to the new paradigm for the South's first 2016 primary.

Walker is the first high-profile presidential candidate to campaign in South Carolina since the Civil War era battle flag was removed from the Statehouse grounds last Friday. The result of an emotional vote in the Republican-controlled Legislature, the withdrawal of the flag from the premises came in response to the killings at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church; pictures of the accused gunman showed him displaying the banner that is still commonly seen throughout the Old Confederacy.

Walker praised the assembly for how South Carolinians have reacted. "You all showed how to bring people together for this region, this state and, in turn, you did it for the country," said Walker, who formally entered the Republican presidential contest earlier in the week.

He is among many Republican White House hopefuls who have tread cautiously on the flag issue, a political flashpoint for years. The state's influential conservatives have long viewed it as a symbol of Southern pride, while many minorities viewed the banner as a symbol of hate.

The debate played out most conspicuously in the bitter 2000 primary between George W. Bush and John McCain.

South Carolina leaders struck a compromise that year to move the flag from atop the Capitol dome to a ground-level pole where it remained until last week. Bush and McCain both declared that flying the banner was an issue of "state's rights," a buzz phrase that traces back to the pre-Civil War debate over slavery. Bush won that primary and the nomination; McCain later went on to disavow his position, writing in a memoir that he should have opposed its public unfurling.

As Gov. Nikki Haley — a politician who once avoided questions on the flag as well — pushed for the flag's removal in recent weeks, presidential candidates including Walker avoided taking a firm position. Walker's stock answer was to say he wouldn't address it until after the victims were properly mourned.

Cindy Costa, a Republican National Committee member from Charleston, said Wednesday it is "absolutely a good thing" that the flag is down. She called it "the right thing to do" at "a sensitive time in our state's being," but she also celebrated that the removal dulls a political attack "that Democrats used against us."

The debate comes as the GOP works to win over minority voters who are becoming a more powerful voice in national politics.

A Democratic leader in the Legislature summed up the GOP challenge.

Haley did "the right thing," said state Rep. Todd Rutherford of Columbia, adding that she is "saving the Republican Party from itself — stopping all the presidential candidates from sounding silly saying the flag is a state's rights issue and not a human rights' issue."

For her part, Haley even gives a nod to the politics. Recalling a recent conversation she had with Walker, she said, "I said if you have any uncomfortable things (regarding the flag), we'll help you get through it, but I'm going to take care of this."

Walker supporters Wednesday said they were more excited to hear the Wisconsinite's pitch on national issues anyway.

"He's a fighter, not an establishment Republican, and that will play very well here," said Edward Lynch, a self-employed security contractor.

Walker was thin on details, including offering no explanation of how his promise of "crippling economic sanctions" on Iran would differ from the sanctions that have been in place for years leading up to the Obama administration's Iran deal. The pact offers trade aid and sanctions relief in exchange for Iran giving up most of its enriched uranium and granting inspections of its nuclear operations.

But Lynch said those details don't matter. "I'm tired of the go-along-get-along politicians," he said. "He's got guts."

Scott Walker backtracks on reaction to gay Boy Scout leaders // Politico // Adam B. Lerner – July 15, 2015

Scott Walker stumbled over his own prior comments Wednesday, saying that when he called on the Boy Scouts to

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reinstate a ban on gay leaders because it "protected children," he meant the ban protected them from media scrutiny.

"The protection was not a physical protection," Walker said Wednesday at an event in South Carolina, according to The New York Times. Rather, the Wisconsin governor continued, he was referring to "protecting them from being involved in the very thing you're talking about right now, the political and media discussion about it, instead of just focusing on what Scouts is about, which is about camping and citizenship and things of that nature."

The Wisconsin Republican added that, ultimately, whether or not to reinstate the ban is "up to the Boy Scouts."

The comments came after the Independent Journal Review reported Tuesday that Walker supported the Boy Scouts' "previous membership policy because it protected children and advanced Scout values."

"I was an Eagle Scout, my kids have been involved, Tonette [Walker] was a den mother," Walker told the IJ Review. "I have a lifelong commitment to the Scouts."

The Boy Scouts of America reversed a ban on gay youths in March 2013. On Monday, the Scouts adopted a resolution to allow gay Scout leaders; the resolution is expected to be ratified later this month.

The group's leader, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, a Republican, called for an end to the ban at the group's national meeting in May.

Walker, the son of a Baptist minister, obtained the Boy Scouts' highest rank of Eagle Scout as a child.

A social conservative, Walker opposes same-sex marriage and has called for a constitutional amendment that would reverse the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage decision and leave states to decide on the definition of marriage they would like to apply in their legal system.

Waiting for Scott Walker // Politico // Eli Stokols – July 15, 2015

When Scott Walker's campaign was sketching out his post-announcement swing through New Hampshire, talks between his camp and the Strafford County GOP hit a snag. Local organizers suggested something simple and familiar to most candidates: a town hall meeting.

But the Wisconsin governor's camp, according to three people familiar with the conversations, wasn't interested in taking questions. They simply wanted to deliver a speech and meet people afterwards.

The event fell through.

That interaction, as much as anything else, provides some insight into why the clear front-runner in Iowa is merely a middle-of-the-pack candidate in New Hampshire. When Walker arrives in the Granite State Thursday, three days after launching his presidential campaign, it will be a rare appearance — his first New Hampshire sighting since May. According to figures compiled by U.S. News and World Report, only one Republican has been to the state less than Walker — Rick Santorum.

Over the July 4 holiday weekend as GOP rivals paraded down Main Streets here, not only was Walker absent – his campaign didn't bother to have surrogates march in his absence.

Walker's post-announcement tour of the early states — touted by his campaign as "the most aggressive of all the 2016 hopefuls" — includes 16 stops in five states. That includes six cookouts, four stops at motorcycle showrooms and a town hall in Iowa, where his campaign swing culminates this weekend with a three-day road trip across the state.

But in New Hampshire, he'll be in and out in under 24 hours, shaking hands and making small talk at a diner in Amherst and a Portsmouth Harley Davidson dealership, before heading down Interstate 93 to a fundraiser in Boston Thursday night.

The locals, accustomed to higher level of attention, have noticed. Chris Christie and Carly Fiorina, for example, have both done close to 10 town halls each already, following the template of John McCain, who did 150 of them on his way to winning the primary here in 2008.

"It sounds like the trip really isn't to New Hampshire," said Renee Plummer, a prominent GOP activist in Portsmouth. "It sounds like the trip is a fundraiser in Boston with a couple stops tacked on."

Walker's absence from the state has cost him in the polls. As recently as April, he led the field in New Hampshire, with support from close to a quarter of those surveyed. But in the most recent Suffolk University/USA Today poll released Tuesday, Walker was in the third place behind Donald Trump and Jeb Bush.

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"New Hampshire people want to be able to look you in the eye, shake your hand and ask you the question," said Sharon Carson, a Republican state senator from Londonderry who is backing Fiorina. "And if you can't do that, you're not going to do well here."

For some in New Hampshire, a moment during Walker's last trip to the state in May serves as a metaphor for his campaign. Walker spoke to 500 Republicans aboard a 23-foot cruise boat as it sailed around Lake Winnipesaukee, but what some attendees remember is that the captain had to return to shore, mid-trip, to pick him up since he arrived late and, initially at least, missed the boat.

"I've had a lot of conversations with people here about: 'Where is Scott Walker?'" said Jamie Burnett, a GOP strategist from Concord who just signed on as a supporter with Bush's campaign. "I personally was interested in him early on but he just hasn't been here."

Gregory Slayton, a New York venture capitalist and part-time New Hampshire resident who is advising Walker's effort in the state, remains confident that Walker will win over local voters.

"Walker just connects extremely well with people," said Slayton. "He's a great retail politician. He's great at town halls."

Slayton, who President George W. Bush tapped to serve as ambassador to Bermuda, said Walker hasn't done any town halls in New Hampshire yet because he's been focused on budget negotiations at home.

"He's got a day job," Slayton said. "He's not a blowhard former governor from decades ago."

While local Walker supporters say the governor, who is planning to do a town hall in Iowa over the weekend, will do one in New Hampshire eventually, some wonder if it might be too late.

"When you've done more than a dozen trips to Iowa and four or five to New Hampshire, people are going to say, 'Why don't you just go on to South Carolina?'" said Matt Mayberry, the vice chairman of the state GOP. "People are taking note. The day of reckoning is going to come."

"The key to winning New Hampshire is being here now," notes Steve Duprey, the state's RNC committeeman. "By September, people here will be getting postcards inviting them to events every day. The candidates who work the hardest now will receive a disproportionate dividend."

After a six-week absence, it won't be easy for Walker to jumpstart his campaign in New Hampshire, where so many other candidates have been busy campaigning as if it's the only state that matters.

"He better answer the questions," said Plummer, who hosted Walker at her business roundtable in March but has been disappointed in his New Hampshire effort since then. "I would think he reads the news and sees what happens with the Hillary campaign and people being furious that she won't answer questions. You've got Jeb and Carly and Christie here saying, 'ask me anything'."

Scott Walker: Gay Troop Leader Ban Protected Scouts From 'Political Media Controversy' // Bloomberg // Ben Brody and John McCormick – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Scott Walker said Wednesday that he had been misunderstood when he said the Boy Scouts' now-defunct ban on gay troop leaders "protected children."

"The protection was not a physical protection," Walker told reporters in Lexington, South Carolina, two days after announcing his campaign for president. "It's a protection [from] discussion about the policy—protected them from being involved in the very thing you're about to talk about right now, political and media discussion about it, instead of just focusing on what Scouts are about, which is about camping and citizenship and things of that nature."

The Wisconsin governor's remarks come as he seeks to court social conservatives in Iowa and other early nomination voting states. The 47-year-old is an Eagle Scout himself. The executive committee of the Boy Scouts of America unanimously approved a resolution this week that would end a ban on gay adult leaders and let local troops set their own policies.

Walker told the conservative news outlet IJReview on Tuesday that he supported "the previous membership policy because it protected children and advanced Scout values." The Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group, slammed the comments as "offensive, outrageous, and absolutely unacceptable" and said his "comments imply that [gays and lesbians] represent a threat to the safety and well-being of young people."

The policy should be "up to the Boy Scouts," Walker said Wednesday. "The policy was perfectly fine when I was

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there and I thought they should be protected from all the political and media controversy."

"I'm not running for president for the Boy Scouts," he added.

Asked in 2013 whether gay people should be allowed into the organization, Walker declined to comment, saying he had "enough troubles and challenges dealing with what I have in state government to take on anybody else's challenges," according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Scott Walker Confronts the Rigors of t he Presidential Campaign T rail // Bloom berg // John McCormick – July 15, 2015

The brutal reality of a presidential campaign hit Scott Walker somewhere in the sky over the southern U.S. late Tuesday.

The Wisconsin governor's commercial flight had been circling amid thunderstorms on its way to Atlanta, where he and his entourage were to catch a connecting flight to Charleston.

The pilot informed the flight's passengers that they were running low on fuel and needed to divert to Memphis. After hours on the ground there, Walker resusmed his flight to Atlanta, and arrived at about 1:30 a.m., where he missed his connection by minutes.

Walker's aides decided the only way they could get him to his 8 a.m. event Wednesday at a Harley-Davidson dealership in North Charleston would be to drive. About five hours later, the newly minted Republican presidential candidate arrived with a smile on his face, taking it all in stride and telling his audience of about 250 people that he hadn't slept in more than 24 hours.

But it quickly became clear on Wednesday that Walker's challenges during his presidential announcement rollout week wouldn't involve just weather and delayed flights.

For the second day in a row, reporters pressed him on his statements in opposition to a resolution unanimously approved by the executive committee of the Boy Scouts of America this week that would end a ban on gay adult leaders. Initially, Walker had stated that the earlier policy "protected children," but after facing criticism from gay rights groups, he sought to clarify his remarks.

"The policy was perfectly fine when I was there and I thought they should be protected from all the political and media controversy," Walker said Wednesday.

The topic served as a distraction at a time Walker wanted, as much as possible, to stick to a message of resolute leadership and conservative accomplishment that he'd outlined in his announcement speech Monday in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

On Thursday, he's likely to face questions about an expected Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling. That ruling will answer the question of whether a criminal investigation can move forward into whether Walker's 2012 recall campaign illegally coordinated with outside groups exempt from donor disclosure laws.

Despite the distractions, Walker drew good-sized crowds at his stops Wednesday. A sprawling parking outside a barbeque restaurant where he spoke in Lexington was at capacity and beyond with cars double-parked and hundreds there to see him.

"I've liked Scott Walker since the media started attacking him a few years ago," said Louie Cameron, 59, an insurance agent who drove more than an hour to attend the North Charleston event. "That's always a sign of a great leader."

At that same event, Phil Schoonover allowed Walker to break one of his fundamental tenants when it comes to talking about and selling Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

"We normally don't bring politics or religion into it," said Schoonover, who for 36 years has owned Low Country Harley-Davidson.

As part of a five-state tour this week, Walker is using Harley dealerships as campaign props for four of his stops. They offer free space and help burnish his everyman image.

"We get a free doughnut and some coffee," said Schoonover, a Republican still surveying his party's presidential field.

Ahead of Walker's appearance, Schoonover's workers busily polished the dealership, moving roughly 40 motorcycles off the showroom floor to make room for Walker's stage and audience.

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A Walker political operative had stopped in on the 5th of July, a Sunday, to ask about using the space for a possible event, Schoonover said.

Given the fact that the company he represents is based in Walker's Wisconsin, Schoonover said he didn't feel like he could say no. "My franchise is with Harley-Davidson, which has its home office in Milwaukee," Schoonover explained.

Besides, Schoonover said he figured it would mean some free publicity for his business and brand. "We sell everything from baby bibs to dog toys. We sell a lifestyle," he said.

Other than his history of confronting unions and the fact that he rides a Harley, Schoonover said he doesn't know much about Walker and isn't necessarily going to support him in February's South Carolina primary.

"I think he's a balanced budget guy and that appeals to me," said Schoonover, adding that he's also intrigued by the candidacy of former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina.

Walker, who owns a 2003 Road King, has for years used his Harley to connect with rural voters, veterans and other riders.

"They tell me, if I'm successful, I don't get to ride a Harley anymore," he said Tuesday at a Harley dealership in Las Vegas.

It was an apparent reference to limits the Secret Service might place on a future President Walker. That said, the rookie national candidate has many storms, canceled flights and controversies ahead of him before that could happen.

Flight Delays Add Exhaustion to Scott Walker's Rollout Marathon // Bloomberg // John McCormick – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Scott Walker said Wednesday he hasn't slept for more than a day after thunderstorms wreaked havoc on the commercial flight schedule his campaign created to stress his everyman persona and save some money.

The Wisconsin governor arrived just a few minutes late to his 8 a.m. stop in the early primary state of South Carolina, after driving through the night from Atlanta following a missed connection there.

Joined by his three family members and aides, Walker was trying to get to South Carolina from Las Vegas, where he'd made his first campaign appearance Tuesday after announcing his presidential bid Monday in Wisconsin.

“Finally, when they got us into Atlanta, we had missed our flight to here by about five minutes.”

"Because of the storms last night, we were diverted to Memphis for a while," Walker told about 250 people gathered at a Harley-Davidson dealership in North Charleston. "Finally, when they got us into Atlanta, we had missed our flight to here by about five minutes."

The journey then continued by rental car.

"A little before three o'clock this morning, we left Atlanta and drove here because we didn't want to let you down because we knew there was a great crowd," Walker said.

The newly minted candidate hit all his standard lines during a 26-minute speech to those gathered on the dealership's sales floor, although his eyes did look weary.

On a more serious note, Walked praised South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and the state's residents for how they reacted to the shooting deaths of nine people at a historic black church in Charleston last month.

"Thanks to everybody in this region and this state for showing the nation about how to become united when something tragic happens," he said. "Obviously, what happened was something we denounce, not only the action, but the beliefs of the person involved. I will never say his name."

It could be a long day for Walker. He has two additional stops in South Carolina, a drive back to Atlanta, and an evening appearance there. On Thursday, Walker heads to New Hampshire before starting a three-day tour of Iowa on Friday.

Scott Walker Sues Feds Over Food Stamp Drug Testing // HuffPo // Arthur Delaney – July 15, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, one of many Republicans seeking their party's presidential nomination, is suing the federal government over his plan to make some food stamp recipients pee in cups to prove they're not on drugs.

Federal law doesn't give states much room to impose new conditions on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. The program is known informally by its former name, food stamps, and in Wisconsin it's called FoodShare.

“This lawsuit seeks to provide clarity that the State of Wisconsin has the authority to require drug testing for FoodShare recipients,” Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel said in a press release on Tuesday.

While federal law doesn't allow states to impose drug tests on SNAP recipients, it does allow states to drug test and in general make up their own rules for the much smaller Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which serves about 4 million Americans. Roughly 46 million Americans receive SNAP benefits.

The Wisconsin lawsuit appears to hinge on whether the state can treat SNAP recipients like TANF recipients. The state evidently thinks it can: The new law that calls for drug tests also claims that an "individual who is a recipient under the food stamp program is considered to be a welfare recipient."

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is the program most commonly called "welfare," though Republicans have used the term to describe most means-tested safety net programs.

In its press release about the lawsuit, Wisconsin says the state's position is that "FoodShare recipients are 'welfare recipients' and therefore may be tested and sanctioned for the use of controlled substances."

By any measure, TANF and SNAP are very different programs. SNAP is an entitlement that gives monthly food vouchers (in the form of debit cards) to anyone poor enough to qualify, with some restrictions on able-bodied adults without dependents and not too many differences across state lines. TANF, meanwhile, is generally for single mothers who meet a range of requirements that can vary widely by state. Annual federal spending for TANF is capped at about $16 billion, while annual spending for SNAP has surged to nearly five times that amount in the wake of the Great Recession.

Republicans in Congress and on the presidential campaign trail have frequently called for bringing "welfare reform" to food stamps and Medicaid, since the major welfare reform legislation of 1996 stunted TANF spending and enrollment.

When Georgia tried to drug test food stamp recipients last year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said no.

"Requiring SNAP applicants and recipients to pass a drug test in order to receive benefits would constitute an additional condition of eligibility, and therefore, is not allowable under law," the USDA told Georgia.

Unions: This time, we’ll defeat Walker // The Hill // Tim Davaney – July 15, 2015

Labor groups are gearing up for another fight with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) now that he has entered the presidential race.

After a failed recall bid in Wisconsin, unions are determined to make sure Walker never sets foot in the Oval Office. But organized labor’s opposition could play well for Walker in the GOP primary because it appeals to his conservative base.

Some of the biggest unions are still formulating their plan of attack against Walker, even as they signal they will dip into their coffers to go after him. The strongest signal came from AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “Scott Walker is a national disgrace,” Trumka said in a six-word statement rebuking the Wisconsin governor.

Walker has clashed with unions since taking over as governor of the Democratic-leaning Wisconsin, a state with strong union roots, pushing policies that have weakened public and private sector unions.

Critics paint Walker as a union buster. “You can’t actually outlaw unions, but he did everything in his power to weaken unions in Wisconsin,” one labor official told The Hill.

Walker raised the stakes for unions on Monday as he announced his bid for the presidency.

“Since I’ve been governor, we took on the unions and won,” Walker said. “If our reforms can work in a blue state like Wisconsin, they can work anywhere in America.”

Shortly after taking over as governor in 2011, Walker signed legislation that severely weakened the collective bargaining rights of public sector employees such as teachers. Under the bill, state and local government workers — excluding police officers and firefighters — can only bargain for raises up to the point of inflation. Unions argue

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this move holds down wages throughout the state.

This led unions to attempt to recall Walker in 2012, which he ultimately survived.

Walker again targeted unions earlier this year after he was reelected, this time going after private sector unions. He signed right-to-work legislation that gives workers the choice to not join a union even if they indirectly benefit from the union's collective bargaining agreements.

Walker's campaign, which did not respond to a request for comment, is touting his record of standing up to Big Labor, but unions see it as a threat to their survival.

The back-and-forth with unions will only help raise Walker's profile among potential Republican voters, said GOP strategist Ford O'Connell.

"This is political gold for Scott Walker in the Republican primary," O'Connell said. "The fact that unions are attacking him and that he even won a recall election shows conservative voters that he's a fighter who doesn't back down and gets results."

Walker's announcement that he is running for president fired up labor activists, who are churning out stories from local union leaders in Wisconsin to "warn" the country of what's at stake.

"A Scott Walker presidency is a scary, scary thing for America," said Phil Neuenfeldt, president of the AFL-CIO's Wisconsin branch.

Sheila Cochran of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council called Walker's labor policies "idiotic."

"Labor has really taken a serious beating by the governor in this state," she said. "He looks at us as if we're trying to totally derail corporate America."

"It concerns me that he's hit the national stage," Cochran added. "I pray he never becomes president. This is a man that just cannot lead this country. I would be terrified."

Michael Bolton, the district director for the United Steelworkers in Wisconsin, said unions must "make sure that all workers in America understand Scott Walker is not a friend of the working person."

"We're going to talk about what he has done to the state and what we believe he plans to do to the country if he were elected," Bolton said.

Labor activists plan to use aggressive social media tactics to spread the word about Walker's treatment of unions in Wisconsin.

"Scott Walker has made it his mission to crush the ability of workers to come together, stick together, have each other's backs and have a meaningful voice at work through their union," said Stephanie Bloomingdale, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO's Wisconsin branch.

"The concern is that is a blueprint for what he would do as president," a labor official told The Hill.

Walker's tough talk against labor generally plays well for him with many business-friendly Republican voters, but he faced backlash even from his own party earlier this year when he compared union protesters to terrorists.

The governor had been asked about how he would handle the situation with ISIS. "If I can take on 100,000 protesters, I can do the same across the globe," he responded.

Labor groups have not forgotten the comment.

"That's pretty much the most offensive thing he could say that working people who are standing up for their rights are equivalent to terrorists," one labor official told The Hill.

"I've talked to a lot of first responders who were there on 9/11, and they've also been to union rallies — and they don't look anything alike," the official added.

Scott Walker tells Laura Ingraham he doesn't believe abortion should be between a woman and her doctor // Capital Times // Jessie Opoien – July 15, 2015

In his more than 20 years in politics, Gov. Scott Walker has never wavered on his stance on abortion issues. But he has demonstrated flexibility in the way he frames it.

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The most illustrative example of this was his 2014 re-election campaign, running against Democrat Mary Burke.

After being repeatedly slammed by pro-choice groups like Emily's List, NARAL Pro-Choice America and Planned Parenthood for signing into law a bill that requires women to undergo ultrasound exams before getting abortions, Walker ran an ad that described the decision of whether or not to end a pregnancy as "an agonizing one."

"That's why I support legislation to increase safety and to provide more information for a woman considering her options," Walker said, looking directly into the camera. "The bill leaves the final decision to a woman and her doctor. Now, reasonable people can disagree on this issue. Our priority is to protect the health and safety of all Wisconsin citizens."

The ad was knocked by some pro-life advocates for sounding too soft on the issue and by pro-choice groups who said it misrepresented his position. But Walker won the election, continuing a long streak of victories.

That ad has continued to come up as Walker parlays his experience in Wisconsin into a presidential bid. A recent New York Times article reported that Walker "went on to write and design the commercial himself."

"I didn't like the ad. You're using the other side's garbage and it's not helpful," Concerned Women for America president Penny Nance told Politico earlier this month.

Nance told Politico despite her displeasure with the ad, she never doubted Walker's position on the issue. She said she was "thrilled" he would soon sign into law a 20-week abortion ban.

But despite the conservative cred earned with the 20-week ban, Walker was asked about the ad once again by conservative radio host Laura Ingraham on Wednesday.

Ingraham told Walker she knows where his heart is on the issue, then played audio from the ad and asked why the ad included a line about leaving the decision to a woman and her doctor.

"Because we wanted to make the point — you had the pro-abortion, the NARAL, and Emily's List, and Planned Parenthood and others out there tying to twist our ultrasound language into something that it wasn't. We wanted to make the case, this is all it does, it doesn't do anything else for all them complaining about this, it doesn't change that decision," Walker said. "I still believe that you're talking about an unborn child as a human being, and I believe that, and I have articulated that for more than 20 years, all the way back — a lot of the people you were sitting with are folks I worked with at Marquette Students for Life when I was a student in college. I've always had a strong pro-life position, I've always defended that. But, for us, it made it able to wipe that issue right off the table because we pushed back and said, what we were proposing was a positive, strong common sense thing to do to get people information."

Ingraham responded: "But you don't believe — I just want to clarify this, governor ... you don't believe the final decision should be between a woman and her doctor—"

"No," Walker replied. "I believe it's an unborn child. My point was, in pointing that out, is the bill, all it does, is require an ultrasound. It didn't change what the law is."

PAUL

Rand Paul's official haul: $7 million // Politico // Katie Glueck and Jonathan Topaz – July 15, 2015

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul's presidential campaign took in about $7 million in the second quarter.

The libertarian-leaning Republican, who is currently running for Senate re-election as well, transferred $1.6 million from his Senate campaign committee to his presidential committee, meaning that his White House bid raised $5.3 million in the quarter.

About 60 percent of contributions from individual donors came from those providing $200 or less to the campaign. The only GOP campaign with a greater percentage of small-dollar donations in the second quarter was Ben Carson.

Below is a breakout of where Paul's campaign finances stood as of the end of June:

Total brought in: $6,932,779.14

Total spent: $2,771,264.00

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Cash on hand: $4,161,515.14

Debt: $716,442.99

Rand 2015 Runs From Rand 2007 On Iran // Daily Beast // Olivia Nuzzi – July 15, 2015

In 2007, Rand Paul gave his first interview to Alex Jones, the conspiracy theorist radio host and founder of Infowars.com.

Paul was helping his father, then-Congressman Ron Paul, campaign for the Republican presidential nomination and, Jones said, the entirety of his audience helped to make up the elder Paul's base of fervent supporters.

Jones was struck by the younger Paul's similarity to his father. "You know, talking to you, you sound so much like your dad," Jones said. "This is great! We have, like, a Ron Paul clone!"

When Jones noted that the elder Paul was the only anti-war candidate, Rand replied, "I tell people in speeches, I say you know, we're against the Iraq war, we have been since the beginning, but we're also against the Iran war—you know, the one that hasn't started yet. You know, the thing is I think people want to paint my father into some corner, but if you look at it, intellectually, look at the evidence that Iran is not a threat."

As evidence of this, he said, you needn't look further than the fact that

"Iran cannot even refine their own gasoline."

And further, Paul said, "even our own intelligence community consensus opinion now is that they're not a threat. My dad says, they don't have an air force! They don't have a navy! You know, it's ridiculous to think that they're a threat to our national security. It's not even that viable to say they're a threat to Israel. Most people say Israel has 100 nuclear weapons."

Eight years later, Paul's beliefs are very different.

"Even our own intelligence community consensus opinion now is that they're not a threat." Rand 2007
In response to the agreement reached Tuesday between Iran, the United States, the UK, France, China, Russia and Germany to diminish Iran's nuclear program, Paul, now the junior Senator from Kentucky and candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, released a statement outlining his opposition.

"The proposed agreement with Iran is unacceptable for the following reasons:

1) sanctions relief precedes evidence of compliance

2) Iran is left with significant nuclear capacity

3) it lifts the ban on selling advanced weapons to Iran

I will, therefore, vote against the agreement. While I continue to believe negotiations are preferable to war, I would prefer to keep the interim agreement in place instead of accepting a bad deal."

Asked how Paul's position had shifted so dramatically since he was campaigning for his father, Doug Stafford, his senior campaign adviser, said, "Foreign policy should reflect events and events change. Senator Paul has always thought Iran getting a nuclear weapon was a bad idea and dangerous. But over the last eight years, as Iran has made progress in their nuclear enrichment program, it's become more of a threat. Not allowing your opinions to reflect changing threats would be foolish."

But it's just frankly not true, as the Alex Jones interview demonstrates.

What is true is that the Iran deal places Paul in an impossible bind. Paul's positions are usually so nuanced that they escape criticism of flip-flopping, but his shift on Iran is unusually clear—even if it was gradual.

Whether compromise is a wise strategy for Paul in the primary is uncertain. Paul is currently polling at 6.6 percent—behind Jeb Bush, Donald Trump, Scott Walker, Marco Rubio, Ben Carson and Mike Huckabee. Paul is not going to vault back into the top tier by siphoning off votes from more establishment candidates, whose supporters will never buy him as one of their own. And he won't mobilize his libertarian base by taking them for granted.

In April, reporter David Weigel, outlined in detail Paul's transformation for Bloomberg Politics. In 2011, while in the Senate, Paul was still vocally opposed to war, telling reporter Zaid Jilani he wanted to "influence" Iran instead. In 2012, while again campaigning for his father, he reiterated their anti-war position while clarifying that Ron Paul

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"doesn't want Iran to nuclear weapons…But should they get nuclear weapons, he thinks that there are some choices." A few weeks later, Paul explained to CNN that when it came to preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, "I did finally come down to the conclusion that doing something was better than doing nothing."

By 2013, Paul was saying that "the most pressing issue of the day" was how to contend with Iran's nuclear program, and said that although he still did not want war, if he were in the White House while a deal collapsed, "I would say all options are on the table, and that would include military."

Back in March, Paul was faced with a choice: sign the open letter penned by his Senate colleague, Tom Cotton, which Cotton explicitly said was designed to halt negotiations, or be the only presidential contender in the Senate to not sign it, and risk losing support in the fallout.

Despite the fact that Paul had maintained—and continues to maintain—that he favors negotiations, he compromised and opted for the first choice, contorting himself uncomfortably in his effort to explain his decision and irking some of the longtime libertarian supporters he inherited from his father in the process.

He has pursued a similar strategy with the deal.

The Atlantic's David Frum made what on its face felt like a reckless prediction on Tuesday: "The Rand Paul Candidacy for the Republican Nomination Is Over." Frum's case was that throughout the course of his short Senate career, Paul has been able to carve out space for himself within his party by mostly focusing on the issue of domestic surveillance, which comfortably placed him in opposition to the hawks he bemoans and to President Obama. The deal presented for Paul a no-win: Were he to support the deal, however, Frum argued, he would "find himself isolated with the old Ron Paul constituency," but were he to oppose it, he would vanish amid a sea of similar voices in the primary field.

The best explanation for Paul's new position may come from Paul himself.

In an interview with The Today Show's Savannah Guthrie in April, the same day two attack ads were released tying him to Obama on the issue, Paul said, "2007 was a long time ago and events do change over long periods of time. We're talking about a time when I wasn't running for office, when I was helping someone else run for office."

So when the facts change—be they the facts of the issue at hand or the facts of Paul's personal political objectives—Paul changes his mind.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz makes New York Times' list // Politico // Dylan Byers – July 15, 2015

Five days after accusing The New York Times of bias, secrecy and foul play, Ted Cruz is finally getting what he wanted: a highly coveted spot on the paper's bestseller list.

Cruz's memoir, "A Time For Truth," will appear at No. 7 on the Times' list for hardcover nonfiction, reflecting its second-week sales, a Times spokesperson confirmed on Wednesday. The Texas senator's book had not been included on the list for its first week, on the grounds that its sales had been driven by "strategic bulk purchases."

Times spokesperson Eileen Murphy said that the newspaper made no changes to its selection process, and so the fact that Cruz's book is being included now suggests a rise in individual purchases, spurred by his public battle with the paper.

"This week's NYT best seller list was arrived at using the same process as last week's - and the week before that," Murphy wrote. "That process involves a careful analysis of data, and is not influenced in any way by the content of a book, or by pressure from publishers or book sellers."

Both HarperCollins, the book's publisher, and Amazon, the largest Internet retailer in the country, said last week that they had found "no evidence" that bulk purchases drove the book's sales numbers. On Friday, Cruz campaign spokesperson Rick Tyler accused the Times of "obvious partisan bias," and called on the paper to reveal its methodology or else publicly apologize.

The Times has resolutely stood by its claim, and has refused to reveal its methodology on the grounds that doing so might threaten the integrity of the process.

"Our approach serves Times readers by authenticating broadly popular books through the confidential reporting of a wide range of retailers," Murphy said Wednesday. "In order to avoid compromising that process, we do not disclose who reports sales to us."

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"A Time For Truth" was published on June 30 and sold 11,854 copies in its first week, according to Nielsen Bookscan's hardcover sale numbers -- more than 18 of the 20 titles that appeared on the bestseller list for the week ending July 4.

Cruz's campaign. is expected to comment shortly. We will update here if and when they do.

Ted Cruz challenges Fox debate standards // Politico // Alex Isenstadt – July 15, 2015

Ted Cruz's campaign is leading a charge to pressure Fox News into raising their standards for the national polls that will decide who gets into the first Republican presidential debate.

In a memo sent to fellow GOP campaigns on Wednesday, Chris Wilson, who serves as director of research and analytics for the Cruz campaign, called Fox News's standards for deciding which national polls are used in its debate entry process "unclear." Wilson asks the other campaigns to "consider joining with us" in encouraging the network to impose additional polling standards. As it stands, Fox News is allowing the top 10 contenders, based on an average of the five most recent national polls, into the Aug. 6 debate.

"I'm sure you are aware, the standards set by Fox News for the first GOP Presidential debate are unclear and, it would appear, undefined," Wilson wrote in the memo.

Among the Cruz campaign's suggestions: That polls included in the national average must have at least 1,000 interviews with primary voters and must be done by telephone (not online). However, no telephone poll conducted this year has surveyed that many GOP primary voters.

Wilson also suggests that, for a survey to be included in the national average, it must not be conducted on a Friday or Saturday — when fewer voters are home to answer the phone.

By almost any averaging of recent national polls, Cruz would make the cut for the top 10. But his position in the top 10 is less certain than many other candidates.

"I'm very open to other criteria, so please let me know your thoughts," Wilson writes. "Once I hear back from you, and the other campaigns, we will put together a joint letter to sent to Fox."

Wilson did not immediately respond to a request for comment, neither did a spokesperson for Fox News.

Ted Cruz owes donor's firm $556k // Politico // Kenneth P. Vogel and Katie Glueck –July 15, 2015

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's presidential campaign burned through more than half of $10 million he raised in the past few months and also ran up nearly $620,000 in debt — mostly to a data firm owned by a top donor — according to a report filed Wednesday with the Federal Election Commission.

Cruz's campaign reported owing $556,000 to Cambridge Analytica for "survey research" and "donor modeling." The firm is owned by the family of New York hedge fund magnate Bob Mercer, POLITICO revealed last week. Mercer and his family are among the biggest donors to a network of super PACs supporting Cruz that combined to raise $37 million. At least one of the super PACs is in discussions with Cambridge Analytica about retaining the firm's services.

The firm, which is relatively new to the competitive world of U.S. political data, provides nontraditional "psychographic" voter analyses to try to win them over with narrowly targeted micro-messages. The Cruz campaign's FEC report reveals now payments to the firm, just debt.

The debt total would seem to indicate that Cruz is relying heavily on the firm for critical data work, but it also is an unusually large debt for a campaign to owe a single vendor early in the cycle.

Cruz, a favorite of conservatives, announced his run for president a week before the first-quarter filing deadline. He had raised $4.3 million before that deadline. In the second-quarter fundraising period covered by Wednesday's report, he raised another $10 million but also spent $5.5 million, leaving him with $8.6 million in the bank.

Around 40 percent of his intake came from individual contributors donating $200 or less.

A cluster of four super PACs supporting Cruz also claims a fundraising haul of nearly $38 million. They are due to file by the end of the month, but the overall pro-Cruz total estimate puts the candidate in the top tier of presidential fundraisers, even though his poll numbers place him in the middle of the pack.

Below is a breakout of the campaign's finances as of the end of June:

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Total raised in the second quarter: $10,043,380.09

Total spent: $5,450,051.61

Total cash on hand: $8,527,595.93

Total debt: $618,006.57

Ted Cruz threatens highway bill filibuster to block Ex-Im renewal // Politico // Seung Min Kim – July 15, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz on Wednesday raised the prospect of blocking a must-pass highway bill because the measure could be used to revive the Export-Import Bank, which expired at the end of June.

Cruz, who is running for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016, vigorously opposes the bank, which helps some U.S. exporters sell their goods overseas. At a news conference with other conservative GOP lawmakers and outside groups Wednesday, Cruz vowed to use “any and all procedural tools” to stop an Ex-Im reauthorization, particularly if it were attached to the highway bill later this month.

“I am willing to use any and all procedural tools to stop this corporate welfare, this corruption from being propagated,” Cruz (R-Texas) said Wednesday when asked whether he would be willing to filibuster the highway bill.

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) agreed, adding: “I think those of us who oppose it will continue to use any and all procedural tools at our disposal in order to oppose it.”

The controversial export agency’s charter expired, making it impossible for the agency to underwrite new loans. But supporters of the Ex-Im Bank — mostly Democrats and business-aligned Republicans — have pushed to reauthorize it by attaching it to the highway bill that must pass Congress before the end of July.

A test vote last month showed that 65 senators — a clear filibuster-proof majority — favor reauthorizing the export agency. But opposition to the bank runs deeper in the more conservative House.

Cruz also took a subtle dig at Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), openly musing that the Republican majority has not scored “conservative victories” even with a GOP-dominated Capitol.

“It’s interesting. With a Republican majority, we haven’t had a lot of conservative victories. This is one,” Cruz said, referring to Ex-Im’s expiration. “We’re here today to praise Mitch McConnell and John Boehner. They have the opportunity to deliver on their campaign rhetoric, and I am hopeful that actions follow words and every person here will gladly celebrate strong Republican leadership if we, in fact, have strong Republican leadership.”

Ted Cruz Forsees Military Action Against Iran // Bloomberg // Kathy Kiely – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz thinks the proposed nuclear deal with Iran could force the next president to use military force and says he's prepared to make that decision.

"I think the odds are very high the next president is going to confront an Iran on the verge of having nuclear weapons," the Texas senator said in an interview that aired Wednesday on PBS' Charlie Rose.

Asked what he would do were he to find himself in that position, Cruz replied, "I would do whatever is necessary to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons."

While Cruz did not specify his military strategy, he elsewhere in the interview expressed a preference for bombs over boots on the ground. Discussing the Obama administration's tactics against the Islamic State, Cruz called for "overwhelming air power."

"Right now, we're engaged in what I call photo-op foreign policy," he said. "We drop a bomb here, a missile there but the rules of engagement are so strict, from ISIS' perspective, they're winning." He said he disagreed with his Senate colleague and presidential rival, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who has called for sending 10,000 U.S. troops to fight the Islamic State.

In the interview, Cruz alluded frequently to his new book, A Time for Truth, which, according to Politico, is going to be included on the New York Times bestseller list this week, after the senator accused the paper of deliberately excluding it.

He’s Ba-a-a-ack: Ted Cruz Hints He’ll Filibuster Ex-Im Bank // Bloomberg // Heidi Przybyla – July

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15, 2015

Texas Senator Ted Cruz signaled today he may be about to return to his favorite battlefield -- the Senate floor -- to fight efforts to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

Ex-Im's charter expired June 30, but Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican who opposes the reauthorization, has said an upcoming bill to extend highway funding past July 31 would be an "obvious" vehicle for supporters to try to revive it. Asked Wednesday if he plans to filibuster the legislation, Cruz told reporters he plans to use "any and all procedural tools" to block the it.

Cruz's use of Senate parliamentary procedure, including the filibuster, has turned the first-term Republican into a Tea Party sensation and bolstered his 2016 presidential bid. He portrays himself as a crusader against a "Washington cartel" of lobbyists, lawmakers and big business that, in the senator's view, works against the best interests of average Americans. The Ex-Im battle gives him another opportunity to sound those themes.

The Ex-Im fight has pitted two traditionally Republican constituencies against each other. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has pushed hard to keep the bank, provides loans, loan guarantees and insurance to aid overseas sales by U.S. companies. Supporters argue that it supports American jobs by providing financing for American companies to sell goods abroad. Small-government groups like Club for Growth argue that it should go because it interferes with the free market by choosing which deals receive financial backing.

"There are a lot of campaign conservatives in the U.S. Congress," Cruz said during the press conference. "If John Boehner and Mitch McConnell stand up and say 'we simply will not allow the Export-Import Bank to be reauthorized, that will ensure this corporate welfare goes away.'"

He also accused Republican leaders of making a "corrupt deal" in agreeing to allow a vote to reauthorize Ex-Im in exchange for Democratic support of trade legislation last month. "If there's no corrupt deal, then congressional leadership should stand with Senate conservatives and House conservatives," and block attempts to reauthorize the bank, Cruz said.

T ed Cruz relish silver m edal standing on fundraising at confab // CNN // T heodore Schleifer – July 15, 2015

Presidential campaigns are releasing their fundraising numbers on Wednesday, but Ted Cruz's top moneymen already had their moment to be giddy.

A week after announcing they had raised $52 million, the Texas senator met in Colorado Springs with about 45 of his top bundlers this weekend at The Broadmoor, a luxury resort at the foot of the Cheyenne Mountains, to celebrate the haul.

Thanks to a mix of grassroots donors and a few billionaires, Cruz's supporters boast a position few anticipated: Second place in the crowded and competitive GOP fundraising race.

In between expeditions of fly fishing and horseback riding (with Cruz himself taking part), the donors said they came to realize that the vaunted fundraising operations of their opponents aren't the juggernauts they once believed.

"We dominated everybody in the field when it comes to hard money, and everybody when it comes to soft money except Jeb, and I think that surprised people," said Houston investor and summit attendee Christopher Zook, contrasting the so-called hard money raised by official campaigns with the soft money raised by outside groups that support the campaigns.

Some Cruz loyalists acknowledge they need to keep the celebratory confidence from creeping into arrogance when sizing up others' fundraising potential. Fundraisers got a pep talk in Colorado, but one they hardly need as they hold a silver medal in a crowded field. The dollars have not translated as of yet to polling: Cruz still trails the top tier of candidates -- he got 3 percent of support from Republicans in the most recent CNN/ORC poll.

Still even observers who weren't fans of Cruz admitted they were impressed. Small online donations powered that fundraising operation, and are powering this one too: 175,000 donors gave an average contribution of $81. Carla Eudy, a top fundraiser for John McCain who is no fan of Cruz, cautioned that his backers shouldn't get ahead of themselves despite their success.

"It is better than what you consider 'a top-tier candidate' did," said Eudy, who knew Cruz would raise the small donations but thought he'd only bring in $15 to $20 million to his super PAC. "Look, you got to give hats off to the guy," adding, "which I hate to admit."

Cruz allies raised $14 million for the campaign and an additional $38 million for its super PACs, which can collect

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checks of unlimited amounts but cannot coordinate spending with the campaign. As the first presidential campaign to launch and open an official bank account, Cruz raised more money for his campaign than any Republican rival. And while outside groups supporting Cruz raised far less than the groups backing Jeb Bush -- which raised $103 million -- they edged out those supporting any other Republican.

So at briefings, receptions and dinners back in Colorado Springs, senior Cruz aides -- including his wife Heidi Cruz, a Goldman Sachs executive who is playing a leading role in the finance operation -- projected confidence to their donors that the race remained theirs to win.

They introduced a new adviser, Ronald Reagan speechwriter Anthony Dolan, who is expected to help the oratorically gifted Cruz. And they advised that they would have the money to go the distance -- there's no need to be the "last-man standing" and merely exist as other Republicans make errors, said one person familiar with the campaign's message this weekend.

That's especially so given other Republicans' fundraising, which both the Cruz campaign and its invited donors, who pledged to raise $100,000, see as underwhelming and not up to par. The outside groups backing Scott Walker, who announced his campaign on Monday, are expected to unveil a $20 million haul. And Marco Rubio and his allied groups raised a total of $44 million -- a sum that Cruz associates said they expected to surpass their own.

As for Bush -- who has more cash than any other Republican aspirant -- top Cruz fundraisers charge that his official campaign is too poor relative to the super PAC that supports it, which has nearly ten times as much money. And they drew comparisons between Bush and David Dewhurst, the Texas millionaire who Cruz dethroned in a come-from-behind victory in the Texas senate election in 2012.

Cruz donors heard this weekend from leaders like finance director Willie Langston and campaign manager Jeff Roe about polling, crowd sizes and the path to victory. But some Cruz donors expressed the most excitement about the data vendor employed by the Houston-based campaign, Cambridge Analytica, that uses "psychographic" profiling to predict potential supporters. The targeting, a brainchild of Cruz analytics director Chris Wilson, sifts voters into six personality types and tailors campaign messaging based on that profile.

The campaign has modeled each state's electorate through March 15, having identified three times as many potential Cruz supporters in Iowa than the total number of expected voters in the state's Republican caucus, according to spokesman Rick Tyler.

Donors ate it up.

"Everyone's got their own little agendas," said Lawrence Gelman, a Cruz donor from Texas who said he was amazed at the targeting's "sophistication" in how it could put its finger on the pulse of each voter's thinking. "I guess they tried to find it,"

Contributors like Gelman weren't given fundraising targets for the next quarter -- just to raise more and more.

The best way for donors to help the campaign might be to give to the super PAC run by longtime Cruz friends. But because the group is not allowed to coordinate with the campaign, no mention was made of the outsized power except merely to nod to it in appreciation.

Ted Cruz: 'If you think Washington is going great...then I ain't your guy' // MSNBC // Emma Margolin – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz fully assumed the role of Washington outsider, aspiring change agent, and — potentially — anti-establishment victor on Wednesday in New York City. While speaking to a group of hedge funders, the Texas senator once again aligned himself with fellow White House hopeful Donald Trump and went after big business just as much as big government.

"If you think Washington is going great, that we just need someone to fiddle around the edges, then I ain't your guy," Cruz told the crowd at the CNBC Delivering Alpha conference in New York.

Speaking onstage with CNBC's John Harwood, the 44-year-old Cruz again defended Trump's controversial remarks on illegal immigration — though he conceded when pressed that the real estate mogul "speaks in a way that I wouldn't speak." Over the past few weeks, Trump has been under fire for describing undocumented immigrants as "rapists" during his presidential announcement and for saying that "when Mexico sends its people," they bring drugs and crime.

Nearly every member of the GOP presidential pack has criticized those remarks — including Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. But Cruz has repeatedly stood by Trump, telling reporters as recently as Wednesday morning that he's a "big fan" of "The Donald."

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Cruz reportedly met privately with Trump on Wednesday, though the reasons for that sit-down remain a mystery.

“I think it’s important to highlight illegal immigration,” said Cruz, whose father came to the U.S. legally from Cuba as a teenager. He added during Wednesday’s conference: “I don’t think it’s appropriate to be impugning the integrity of other candidates.” Cruz did, however, accuse those now “smacking” Trump of “vigorously, vocally” advocating amnesty for many years — only to just switch their positions when politically convenient.

“In politics, sometimes verb tenses matter,” Cruz said. “In every election, people become campaign conservatives.”

In addition to potentially alienating some in his own party, Cruz also seemed unconcerned with alienating big business, long viewed as a reliable source of campaign cash for Republicans. The fast-changing landscape on social issues has started to change that relationship, however, and Cruz didn’t seem eager to want to stop it.

“I think the Democrats are the party of the rich, and big government, and cronyism,” Cruz said. Earlier in the day, he praised Congress’ decision to allow the charter for the Export-Import Bank to expire, criticizing the 81-year-old institution — which acted as the U.S. government’s export credit agency — for disproportionately serving big business.

Cruz also stood by what many in his own party have characterized as an extreme response to the Supreme Court’s recent decision that made marriage equality the law of the land. Shortly after that ruling came down, he vowed to propose a constitutional amendment that would subject justices to periodic retention elections — a clear violation of Article III in the Constitution, and one that stands virtually no chance of passing.

Yet Cruz, who once clerked for former Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, did not back down from that position Wednesday.

“Under the Constitution, from the beginning of our nation, marriage has been a question for the states,” he said. “I don’t think it makes sense to have every major policy issue decided by five unelected judges.”

Several Hours Of Ted Cruz B-Roll And Interviews With Family Members Just Went Online // BuzzFeed // Megan Apper and Andrew Kaczynski – July 15, 2015

Several hours of b-roll was uploaded to YouTube Wednesday morning featuring long interviews with families members of Republican presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz.

The hours of interviews uploaded by “Ted Cruz for Senate” feature interviews with Cruz’s wife Heidi, his mother, his father, his aunt, and several nieces and nephews.

The interviews feature some interesting tidbits about Cruz: His family dressed him as a bald eagle one 4th of July. Cruz’s cousin made him play with Barbie dolls. His dad says Cruz was once bit by an octopus at the beach.

It is unclear why the videos were uploaded.

Campaigns legally can’t coordinate with PACs but often avoid the law by posting hours of b-roll of interviews and soundless footage of the candidate doing things like walking around and meeting with voters to get around the law.

CHRISTIE

Christie picks up 2016 endorsement from Maryland governor // AP // Brian Witte – July 15, 2015

Chris Christie has picked up the presidential endorsement of Maryland's governor.

Republican Larry Hogan says Christie tells it like it is and most politicians don't — and that the New Jersey governor can work with Democrats and independents.

Hogan made the endorsement Wednesday during a stop at a diner near the Maryland Capitol in Annapolis.

It's a bit of political payback.

Christie was a strong supporter of Hogan's underdog campaign for governor last year in a state where Democrats outnumber Republicans 2-1.

Christie led the Republican Governors Association and made several campaign appearances in Maryland for

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Hogan. The association spent $1.2 million in the final weeks of the campaign on Hogan's behalf.

Christie has been wearing a "Hogan Strong" bracelet since the Maryland governor's cancer diagnosis was announced last month.

Chris Christie Says Obama 'Lied' to American About Iran Deal // Bloomberg // Elise Young – July 15, 2015

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said President Barack Obama "lied" to Americans about a deal among U.S. allies to ease economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for regulation of the nation's raw materials for nuclear weapons.

"He lied to the American people," Christie, the 52-year-old Republican presidential candidate, said in a Wednesday interview on the Hugh Hewitt radio show. "He put his entire support of this agreement, as you heard yesterday, on verification. We're not trusting anybody, and he said that we have 24/7 access to Iran's nuclear facilities, and that we could inspect anytime, anywhere. Every reading of this agreement shows that all Iran has to do to stop inspections is ask.

Christie also said Obama should have predicated any agreement on the release of four Americans held against their will in Iran. "He knows this is a bad deal," Christie said of the president.

Obama on Wednesday delivered an exhaustive news conference in which he took on critics of the deal, and argued that without the accord, the Islamic Republic "could move closer to a nuclear bomb."

Christie told radio host Hugh Hewitt that Iran could back out with a request to end inspections of nuclear facilities. An arbitration panel then could take as long as 24 days to restore the reviews—time enough, Christie said, for Iran to spirit evidence of weapons manufacturing around the country.

The U.S. Congress has 60 days to review the agreement, which also involves China, Russia, the U.K., France and Germany, Obama said at a news conference at the White House on Wednesday, a day after the deal was signed. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu criticized the policy as a danger to the Jewish state, a key Middle East ally for the U.S.

"The protection of the state of Israel has to be a top priority of the president of the United States of America," Christie said. "What I would do as president is immediately meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu and try to repair this relationship that this president has so callously broken."

Christie, scheduled on Thursday to appear in Camden, New Jersey, for a national policy speech on criminal-justice reform, then will head to New Hampshire for two days of campaign stops.

Gov. Chris Christie bags 2016 endorsement from Gov. Larry Hogan // MSNBC // Aliyah Frumin – July 15, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie picked up an endorsement for president from fellow blue state, Republican Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland on Wednesday.

Outside the Double-T Diner in Annapolis, Hogan promised to "go anywhere and do anything" to help Christie –who has fallen towards the back of the emerging GOP field – win the party's nomination. "My primary mission today is to officially and enthusiastically endorse Gov. Christie for president. I happen to believe he's exactly the leader we need. I think he should be the next president and I think he will be the next president," he said.

The endorsement makes sense, as Christie, chairman of the Republican Governors Association last year, was a big supporter of Hogan during his underdog bid for governor in 2014. Christie made four campaign stops in Maryland before the general election and the RGA shelled out $1.2 million on Hogan's behalf during the final month of the race.

Christie has also shown support for Hogan—who was recently diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma—since his win, sporting a "Hogan Strong" wristband on the campaign trail.

During the announcement, Hogan pointed to Christie's loyalty, noting when "nobody believed in our race he came here four different times." He also said Christie was the first to call him to offer advice and help when riots broke out in Baltimore over the spring and has offered him continued support as he battles cancer.

Speaking about his health, Hogan said "I feel great. I feel really good. They tell me it might not always be that way," noting he underwent his first round of chemotherapy and has six more rounds to go. "I'm fighting this with everything I got," he added.

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After the announcement, Christie took questions from reporters and skewered the Iran nuclear deal announced by Obama on Tuesday. The governor argued the announcement was "just another in a series of lies that he's told the American people." He took particular issue with the nuclear inspection part of the agreement.

"When [Obama] said yesterday that inspections will happen in Iran anytime anywhere, the agreement itself undercuts the president's position we want to inspect someplace in Iran, we have to give them notice, they could say no, it goes to an arbitration panel that they're a part of and they have 24 days to make a decision, well if they're playing around and cheating on this agreement and they have 24 days to clean up the evidence of the cheating. How's that anytime anywhere Mr. President?" asked Christie.

He also took aim at Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton who has backed the deal. "Well you know, Secretary Clinton, I've said all along she owns the foreign policy of this administration. And now she owns the second term foreign policy of this administration as well even though she's left to run for president," declared Christie.

Earlier this month, Christie also received an endorsement from Maine Gov. Paul Le Page. Christie on Wednesday called the governors' endorsement "incredibly important" because both LePage and Hogan are the leaders of political infrastructure of states and will be able to help raise money.

Separately, the super political action committee backing Christie's presidential bid announced this week that it raised $11 million since February, a haul the group says is more than double its initial goal—but one that's still significantly less than the candidate's GOP competition.

Christie has a busy week ahead. On Thursday morning, he'll go Camden, N.J. to deliver what's being billed by the campaign as a major policy speech on criminal justice reform. Later that evening, he'll be in New Hampshire, where he'll hold a town hall meeting in Franklin and another one in Milford on Friday.

PERRY

To help get Rick Perry into debates, super PAC advertises on conservative talk radio // WaPo // Philip Rucker – July 15, 2015

More than many other candidates, Rick Perry's presidential chances depend on his debate performances. The former Texas governor is determined to erase memories of his disastrous turns on the debate stage in the 2012 campaign and prove that he is a worldlier and better prepared candidate this time around.

Yet Perry is among eight or nine candidates who are on the bubble of qualifying for the first Republican primary debate, scheduled for Aug. 6 in Cleveland. So to boost his popularity and ensure he stays in the top 10 in national polls, Perry's sanctioned super PAC, Opportunity and Freedom PAC, has begun an aggressive, $1 million national advertising campaign on cable television, conservative talk radio and the Internet.

Over the next month, the super PAC will run ads promoting Perry during the nationally syndicated radio shows of Hugh Hewitt, Bill Bennett, Michael Medved, Mike Gallagher, Dennis Prager and other conservative commentators, according to Austin Barbour, the super PAC's senior adviser.

The super PAC currently is running a 60-second spot that highlights Perry's upbringing in rural Paint Creek and his leadership record and will soon switch it out for an ad focused on his work as governor to secure the border with Mexico, Barbour said. The ads with Salem Broadcasting are expected to reach 10 million listeners per week, Barbour said.

"That's a significant radio audience throughout the country, and obviously the vast, vast majority are conservative Republican voters, whether they're in Iowa or somewhere else in the country," Barbour said.

Barbour said the radio advertising was "the hidden gem" in the super PAC's advertising plan because of the built-in audience of loyal and politically active conservative listeners. Barbour would not disclose how much the super PAC is spending on radio ads other than to call it a "very deep and thorough buy."

Overall, Barbour put a $1 million price tag on the super PAC's national advertising push over the next month. The group also is running ads on Fox News Channel, the most-viewed cable network, which was first reported Tuesday by The New York Times.

In addition to the TV and radio buys, the super PAC has a series of micro-targeted digital videos and banner ads designed to reach Republican voters online. Barbour said that people who care about social conservative views will be met by an ad about Perry's faith and record on abortion and guns; those who care about veterans issues will see an ad about Perry's military career; and those who care about immigration will be targeted with an ad about his

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work to secure the border.

The ads were created by Vinny Minchillo, a Texas-based ad man who worked with Barbour on Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign.

The super PAC's strategy is simple: Promote Perry with conservative voters who are most likely to respond favorably about Perry if pollsters call them for surveys.

Currently, Perry ranks far back in the field of 16 declared or likely Republican candidates. The Real Clear Politics average of national polls puts Perry tied for ninth place with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Fox News, which is hosting the first debate, will only allow the top 10 candidates to participate. As of today, Perry would qualify. But polling has been rather fluid and a number of factors would squeeze Perry out — such as if Ohio Gov. John Kasich makes a big splash when he announces his campaign next Tuesday. or if technology executive Carly Fiorina finds a creative way to boost her standing, or if Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (S.C.) harnesses the media attention he has received over the Iran nuclear deal to climb in the standings.

"It's obviously very important that Rick Perry participates in that first debate," Barbour said. "We have to do what we feel helps Governor Perry the most — and spending this money this way helps him the most."

Rick Perry's official haul: $1.1 million // Politico // Katie Glueck – July 15, 2015

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry's presidential campaign on Wednesday announced that it had raised a little more than $1 million in the second fundraising quarter of the year.

Perry, who ran unsuccessfully for president in 2012, launched his second attempt at White House bid, a long-shot effort, in June. He spent about half of the money he took in this quarter, with much of that going to a firm that appears linked to Perry's campaign manager, Jeff Miller. The firm, Abstract Communications, LLC, doesn't have to further disclose its spending, and so could make strategic spending choices on campaign expenditures without the knowledge of other campaigns.

Below is a breakout of his campaign's finances for the second quarter of the year.

Total raised: $1,139,366.89

Total spent: $597,542.44

Total cash on hand: $883,913.12

Total debt: $0

The bulk of Perry's intake comes from donors who gave more than $200. Only about 8 percent of his individual donors would count as "small dollar" donors, contributing $200 or less.

Perry dismisses Trump on border policy // CNN // Theodore Schleifer – July 15, 2015

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry said he was the only presidential candidate with the relevant experience to secure the border, casting his Republican rivals as talkers, but not doers.

"We know how to secure the border, and rhetoric's not going to do it," Perry, who is seeking the Republican nomination for the second time, told CNN's Wolf Blitzer on "The Situation Room."

Perry also said the plan submitted by Donald Trump -- also a 2016 Republican presidential candidate -- who is calling for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border is impractical.

"A wall without personnel there means nothing," he said.

Perry has looked to parlay his executive experience from 14 years as governor to distinguish himself from his Republican rivals. As a border state governor, he's also highlighted his own record boosting the presence of patrolmen in the Rio Grande Valley.

In recent weeks, Perry has also emerged as one of the sharpest critics of Trump's comments about undocumented immigrants from Mexico. When asked if Trump was qualified to be president, Perry declined to answer, only saying that he himself is "the most qualified."

Trump was meeting in New York with Perry's fellow Texan, Sen. Ted Cruz, when speaking to Blitzer. Perry took a shot at his fellow presidential candidate when asked if he had any thoughts on the tete-a-tete.

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"Everybody gets to pick who they hang out with, so I have no idea whats going on," Perry said.

Rick Perry: Obama Is 'A Very, Very Naïve Man' **// HuffPo // Marina Fang – July 15, 2015**

Republican presidential hopeful Rick Perry on Wednesday called President Barack Obama "very, very naive" for supporting the historic nuclear deal with Iran.

"What I saw out of this president today, and this is of great consternation to me, it's of great concern, I saw a very, very naive man who does not know how the world works, who cannot put the dots together, and stood in front of the American people and said, 'I really don't care if Congress likes this or not, I'm going to do it,'" Perry told Hugh Hewitt, the conservative radio host.

Perry, the former Texas governor, was commenting on Obama's press conference earlier Wednesday, in which the president vehemently defended the U.S. pact with Iran and five other world powers.

Perry compared Obama's defiance of an adversarial Congress with the president's earlier efforts to pass his signature health care law. Perry and many other Republicans have continually claimed that Obamacare symbolizes what they see as the president's executive overreach.

"It's a continuation of actually what we saw, Hugh, going all the way back to Obamacare, and forcing something through," Perry said.

As soon as the nuclear agreement was announced on Tuesday, Republican presidential candidates issued statements of condemnation, accusing the U.S. of ceding too much to Iran and creating the potential for more tensions in the Middle East. Perry told Hewitt that he feared the deal would strengthen rather than weaken Iran's nuclear capability.

"They are celebrating today in the streets of Tehran because of this agreement," Perry said. "They know that they just got a 'get out of jail free pass' from the president of the United States."

In Washington, congressional Republicans vowed to obstruct approval of the deal. On Wednesday, Obama implored them to read the details of the deal and put aside politics.

"I'm hearing a lot of talking points being repeated about this is a bad deal," Obama said to reporters. "What I haven't heard is, what is your preferred alternative?"

"My hope is that everyone in Congress also evaluates this agreement based on the facts -- not on politics, not on posturing, not on the fact that this is a deal I bring to Congress as opposed to a Republican president, not based on lobbying, but based on what's in the national interest of the United States of America."

GRAHAM

Lindsey Graham's official haul: $3.7 million **// Politico // Katie Glueck – July 15, 2015**

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham's presidential campaign will report Wednesday night that it raised $3.7 million during the second quarter of the year, his first as a 2016 candidate.

Graham, who announced for president at the beginning of June, is a long-shot candidate, but he is generally respected within his own party as a prominent voice on national security, an issue that animates many of his donors.

Below is a breakout of Graham's presidential finances as of the end of June, according to his campaign:

Total raised: $3,709,552.93

Total spent: $1,126,733.82

Total cash on hand: $2,582,819.11

Total debt: $0

SANTORUM

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So Far, Little Reflection in His Fundraising of Rick Santorum's 2012 Success // WSJ // Reid J. Epstein – July 15, 2015

Four years ago, Rick Santorum ran a low-budget campaign for president because he was a little-known former senator trying to win the hearts of social conservatives in Iowa.

Winning 11 states in the 2012 primary season hasn't helped Mr. Santorum's fundraising this time around. The former Pennsylvania senator, who now lives in Virginia, raised $607,617 in the quarter ending June 30 – just $25,000 more than he raised in the second quarter of 2011.

Mr. Santorum's fundraising figure places him near the bottom of the 2016 Republican presidential contenders. Only Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal raised less, and he formally launched his campaign with a week left in the second quarter. Mr. Santorum began his campaign in late May.

Mr. Santorum's financial supporters include Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt and Wyoming investment manager Foster Friess, who each gave the maximum $2,700 contribution for the primary season. Mr. Hunt gave an additional $2,700 for the general election, which Mr. Santorum cannot access unless he becomes the GOP's presidential nominee. Mr. Friess bankrolled a super PAC backing Mr. Santorum in 2012 and is supporting him again this year. Super PAC reports aren't due until the end of July.

The Santorum campaign also reported a $1,000 contribution from Mr. Santorum's mother, Catherine Santorum of St. Augustine, Fla. Mr. Santorum himself did not make a contribution or loan to the campaign.

Mr. Santorum's campaign reported $232,018 cash on hand.

Rick Santorum's official haul: $607,000 // Politico // Theodoric Meyer – July 15, 2015

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum's presidential campaign reported on Wednesday that it had raised about $607,000 during the second quarter of this year. But Santorum had already burned through more than 60 percent of that haul, giving him only $232,000 in cash on hand as of June 30.

Santorum, a social conservative who won the Iowa caucuses in 2012, who is currently polling just outside the top 10 candidates, making it uncertain whether or not he will be on stage during the first GOP debate in Cleveland on Aug. 6.

He announced his candidacy May 27, giving his campaign a little more than a month to raise funds before the June 30 deadline. He pulled an average of about $17,360 per day. Below is a breakout of the campaign's finances as of the end of June:

Total raised: $607,617.07

Total spent: $375,598.81

Total cash on hand: $232,018.26

Total debt: $124,638.55

Rick Santorum Suggests Planned Parenthood Is Just As Racist As The Confederate Flag // HuffPo // Matt Ramos – July 15, 2015

Former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) on Tuesday equated his fight against Planned Parenthood with recent efforts to remove Confederate symbols from public buildings.

"You want to go back and take down the Confederate flag? Let's take down Planned Parenthood," Santorum said in an interview with Simon Conway, an Iowa-based talk radio host.

The 2016 hopeful appeared on the "Simon Conway Show" to discuss his presidential campaign. The conversation changed tone when Conway voiced his disgust with a recently released sting video allegedly showing Dr. Deborah Nucatola, the senior medical director of Planned Parenthood, discussing the sale of fetal abortion tissue. The mention of the video led Santorum to go off on a tangent about Planned Parenthood's founder Margaret Sanger, whom conservatives often portray as a racist.

"If you want to scrub all racism from America," Santorum said, "let's start with Planned Parenthood because it was started by a racist named Margaret Sanger, who was a eugenist, who was someone that believed in the separation of the races, someone that started Planned Parenthood for the purpose of culling out the undesirables, including blacks in America."

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While it's true that Sanger wrote about eugenics, the claim that she "started Planned Parenthood for the purpose of culling out the undesirables" has been proven largely false. An examination of her papers indicates she used the word "race" to refer to the human race more generally. Sanger did not suggest that certain races were inferior; in fact, her work earned the support of civil rights activists from multiple eras, including W.E.B. Du Bois and Martin Luther King Jr.

Santorum railed against Planned Parenthood in his interview on Tuesday, echoing the widely debunked claims from the video.

"Planned Parenthood has continued to do disgusting things, from killing little children in the womb, to now selling their body parts and harvesting them," he said.

The video that went viral on Tuesday is an edited version of footage that was recorded almost a year ago. The full version makes it clear that the director was discussing the reimbursement cost for tissue donation. After the edited video was released, Eric Ferrero, vice president of communications at Planned Parenthood, was quick to point out that tissue donation is done under the highest ethical and legal standards and that donors do not profit.

That didn't stop Santorum from calling for government action against Planned Parenthood.

"If local prosecutors are not going to do anything about it, then clearly the state legislature and the Congress can try to hold hearings and force public pressure about the case," he said Wednesday.

Santorum's wish may now become a reality, as House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) announced Wednesday that Congress will look into investigating Planned Parenthood.

While Santorum was quick to bring up federal action with regard to Planned Parenthood, he's been cautious about taking an equivalent stance on the Confederate flag issue. Last month, he told ABC's Martha Raddatz that the decision about removing the flag should be left to individual states.

"I don't think the federal government or federal candidates should be making decisions on everything and opining on everything," he said.

As a staunch social conservative, Santorum frequently attacks pro-choice organizations, and has specifically targeted Planned Parenthood. In 2012, the Sunlight Foundation found that Santorum said the word "abortion" more than any other senator between 1996 and 2007.

HUCKABEE

Mike Huckabee's official haul: $2 million // Politico // Jonathan Topaz – July 15, 2015

Mike Huckabee's presidential campaign reported on Wednesday that it had raised about $2 million during the second quarter.

But the 2008 Iowa caucus winner had already spent more than $1.1 million of that total in the quarter, leaving him with less than $900,000 on hand as he tries to ensure his spot in the first presidential debate in Cleveland on Aug. 6.

The former Arkansas governor also owes more than $11,000 in debts.

Huckabee received just over $580,000 in contributions of less than $200 or less — about 29 percent of his total haul. He announced his candidacy on May 5.

Earlier this week, a senior Huckabee adviser said super PACs supporting the former governor raised $6 million so far, giving him an $8 million total that puts him well behind many of the top Republicans and behind some long-shot candidates such as Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal.

Total raised: $2,004,360.63

Total spent: $1,118,991.72

Total cash on hand: $885,471.01

Total debt: $11,334.25

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Mike Huckabee Calls Children Of Gay Parents "Little Guinea Pigs" In His 2011 Book // BuzzFeed // Andrew Kaczynski – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee called the children of gay parents "little guinea pigs" in his 2011 book, A Simple Government.

Huckabee used the phrase in his chapter on gay parents titled, "Gay Parenthood: A Social Experiment."

"Still, I believe that we're in denial about potential problems as we see more and more homosexual couples raising families," writes Huckabee.

"Essentially, these are experiments to see how well children will fare in such same-sex households. It will be years before we know whether or not our little guinea pigs turn out to be good at marriage and parenthood."

Here's the full section:

I have often been criticized for my outspoken views on gay marriage and homosexuality, so let me be clear. I have no doubt at all that homosexual men and women love their children deeply. Just as deeply as heterosexuals love theirs. But love alone cannot always provide what children need. If that sounds harsh, bear with me for a moment. My main concern here is that the children, most of whom are heterosexual, will not, and really cannot, get critical early-life lessons in how a heterosexual family functions successfully. In general, men and women bring different outlooks and temperaments to the task of parenting. Those male/female dynamics that make themselves evident in parenting—including even the conflicts and inconsistencies that are likely to arise—teach a child about how men and women relate to each other. In the home with two gay parents, where is that learning going to come from? It's already challenging enough to grow up, even when the parents are more conventional role models. Of course, I'm certainly not saying that all heterosexual parents provide, or are even able to provide, a good example to their children. I know that very well from years of conversations in my pastoral study, if not from just walking through a mall. Still, I believe that we're in denial about potential problems as we see more and more homosexual couples raising families. Essentially, these are experiments to see how well children will fare in such same-sex households. It will be years before we know whether or not our little guinea pigs turn out to be good at marriage and parenthood.

CARSON

Ben Carson's official haul: $8.5 million // Politico // Jonathan Topaz – July 15, 2015

Ben Carson's presidential campaign reported on Wednesday that it had raised about $8.5 million during the second quarter, bringing his grand total since he started exploring a run to just over $10.6 million.

He did it largely with the backing of small-dollar contributors.

The retired neurosurgeon — who launched an exploratory committee in March and announced his candidacy in early May — raised nearly $5.7 million from donors contributing $200 or less, which amounts to 67 percent of his quarterly haul.

That figure is significantly higher than the other Republicans that have filed their Federal Election Commission reports so far. Liberal insurgent Bernie Sanders, who has focused almost exclusively on small-dollar donations and grassroots organizing, raised 76 percent of his total dollars from donations of $200 or less.

Still, Carson's campaign had spent more than $5.4 million this quarter — roughly tied with Sen. Ted Cruz for the largest amount of any reported candidate to date and more than $2 million more than former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who outraised Carson.

The filing reveals that Carson has spent a large amount on fundraising expenses and less crucial ones — large salaries for the staffers on his payroll and, for example, more than $60,000 to private-jet company Starbase Jets for travel and more than $60,000 for musical entertainment.

He has more than $4.7 million on hand and still has not repaid a $25,000 loan he made to his campaign.

The strong total is another sign that Carson — who has never held elected office and whose campaign has gone through some early turmoil — is resonating with grassroots voters. He currently sits fifth in national polling according to the Real Clear Politics average — ahead of Rand Paul and Mike Huckabee — and does well at conservative gatherings. In May, he won the Southern Republican Leadership Conference straw poll.

And he has outperformed other conservatives such as Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and the past two Iowa caucus

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winners, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, with his fundraising totals.

Below is a breakout of the campaign's finances as of the end of June:

Total raised: $8,469,048.33

Total spent: $5,416,772.63

Total cash on hand: $4,745,312.13

FIORINA

Why Aren't More Women's Groups Fighting to Get Carly Fiorina Into the GOP Debate? // **Bloomberg // Emily Greenhouse – July 16, 2015**
Yes, the presidential election is more than a year out, but how quickly now do we approach the first winnowing. On Aug. 6, 10 Republican candidates will take the stage in Cleveland for the first primary debate of the 2016 election cycle. Fox News, which is hosting the debate with Facebook, says it will determine which 10 candidates will participate based on an average of five as-yet-unspecified national polls.

There is a top tier of candidates we can safely say will be there: former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, for instance, and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. But below the handful of front-runners, as Bloomberg's Steven Yaccino wrote last week, many microphones are up for grabs. Single percentage points may decide the fates of contenders such as New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, former New York Governor George Pataki, and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina.

Fiorina is the only woman in the jam-packed GOP presidential field. She has worked at every step of the process to situate herself in direct opposition to Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee and the woman treated practically like a presidential incumbent. Fiorina has found that she can talk to (and about) Clinton as no other Republican can. And yet she may not pass the threshold to get onto the debate stage—which would make the event "all men in dark suits," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. Imperfect optics, for a party trying to show how inclusive it is.

"What purpose does a quota serve in a general election?"

Ann Stone
Yet little strategizing seems to be taking place that would help ensure a woman's place under the debate-stage lights: a gender-blind approach or an aperture in Republican strategy, depending on where you're standing.

"Everybody's taking a very hands-off approach," said Ann Stone, a longtime GOP political operative and founder of Republicans for Choice, a pro-abortion rights political action committee.

"The Republican Party prides itself on not siding with people for their gender, their race, etcetera—not siloing people." Stone said. "Anything that smacks of quotas, no matter how strongly people feel, we want people to be on the stage for their own merit."

"What purpose does a quota serve in a general election?" she said. "They need to be able to generate their own support."

Read more about the wide Republican field angling for the 10 available spots in the upcoming debates.

Party infrastructure

On the Democratic side, women's groups have become a large and increasingly powerful voice. EMILY's List, a political group committed to electing female Democrats who support abortion rights, has five times as many members today (3 million) as it did in 2008 and twice as many donors, according to the New York Times.

The Republican landscape is somewhat more scattered. Terri Hauser, political director of the National Federation of Republican Women—a group that was founded in 1938 and boasts a headshot of Fiorina on its homepage—declined to comment, as did spokespeople for Iowa Senator Joni Ernst, Iowa's first female Senate or House member, and Representative Mimi Walters, the sole female Republican member of Congress in California, the state where Fiorina ran for Senate in 2010. Maggie's List, a political action committee that works to elect fiscally conservative women to Congress, did not respond to e-mails.

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“One of the reasons that there aren't more elected women on the Republican side is that there hasn't been a strong infrastructure pushing Republican women forward,” Walsh said. “That infrastructure exists on the Democratic side and that has made a difference.”

EMILY's List press secretary Rachel Thomas sees a deeper problem. “The Republican Party can try to appeal to women voters all they want,” she said, “but as long as they prioritize policies that hurt women and families—such as restricting women’s access to health care, refusing to support raising the minimum wage, and failing to advocate for stronger equal pay laws—they will continue to have this problem.”

Kay Bailey Hutchinson, a former Republican senator from Texas, emphasized her party's commitment to women politicians, even as she acknowledged it takes a different tack than the Democrats.

Fiorina’s base “is the same as the Republican base,” Hutchinson said. “I think that our women candidates have been very supported by the party. Recruitment of candidates has been very focused on getting women. And when there are strong women the party apparatus is very supportive. That’s the way we have worked, and that’s how we have increased our numbers. And we have been very supportive of new women that have emerged and encourage them to run.”

She added, “I’d say we do it in a different way from EMILY’s List.”

Fiorina's optimism

Campaign spokeswoman Anna Epstein elided the possibility that Fiorina might not make it to the top 10.

“Carly is confident she'll make the cut for the first debate in August,” Epstein said by e-mail. “She is continuing to work hard to meet this goal and introduce herself to voters, whether it's through meeting with Americans across the country or taking numerous questions from the media.” Epstein did not respond to questions about advocacy from other groups.

Katie Hughes, a spokeswoman for pro-Fiorina super-PAC CARLY for America, spoke energetically of her group's work to gain endorsements and help elect Fiorina. But she would not specify gender as a superlative reason for considering, or boosting, Fiorina. “Yes, she is a female so that does differentiate her,” Hughes said, “but she is a Washington outsider, she’s a cancer survivor who lost a child—she has a wide range of experiences in her life to draw from that differentiate her in the field.”

'Let Carly debate'

Mallory Quigley, the communications director for Susan B. Anthony List, a group that works to elect anti-abortion women, pointed to a recent op-ed by Marjorie Dannenfelser, the group’s president, and Frank Cannon, the head of the American Principles Project, in which they called limiting the number of participating candidates “undoubtedly a mistake.” They wrote, “It’s true that the large number of candidates presents some challenges, but voters are ill served by debates that include, for example, a national celebrity such as Donald Trump but exclude Carly Fiorina or Lindsey Graham or Rick Santorum.” Nothing further.

Only one group I encountered seemed to be working actively to promote Fiorina as a woman: Smart Girl Politics, which was founded in 2008 by Teri Christoph and Staci Mott, “two stay-at-home moms turned activists” who, according to their website, were “disgusted by the poor treatment of Sarah Palin and other conservative women in the public arena.”

Smart Girl Politics launched a petition called “Tell Fox News: Let Carly Debate” that found fault with the eligibility criteria. It reads:

Since poll numbers are notoriously flawed—just ask President Mitt Romney—this is an imprecise way to measure a candidate’s performance on the campaign trail.

Carly Fiorina has been impressing audiences (and the media!) on the campaign trail with her forthright manner and passionate approach to campaigning. She is hitting out—and outsmarting—presumptive Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton in a truly impressive manner. She is in a unique position to set the narrative as we head into primary season … and beyond.

Carly Fiorina’s voice needs to be heard.

Were the debate to be held today, Carly might not be allowed to participate. And because the GOP field is so crowded, and getting more crowded every day it seems, good candidates like Carly might not have a spot on the debate stage.

Christoph said she put forward this position chiefly because Fiorina, “being the only Republican female in the

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race, would add a diversity of thought and experience to the debate stage."

"We're not advocating for her merely because she's a woman," she said, then added, "Let's face it, as a woman she can talk to certain issues—and certain candidates—in a way that a man simply cannot."

The petition, which they hope to personally deliver to Fox News, has a couple hundred signatures to date, Christoph said. That's not many, and it's no match for money Fiorina or her supporters could use to buy television ads that might nudge her national poll numbers upward.

Stone acknowledged a tension between her desire to have a female candidate and her party's hesitance to treat women in politics as special, for fear of behavior that might resemble affirmative action. "The male leadership in the party isn't sexist," she stressed. She offered an analogy by way of illustration. "They're so gender-blind they're like the nerds at the party standing in the corner with pocket calculator, they don't know how to ask the girls how to dance. That's how the men in the party are, they don't know how to engage. That's why they try to bring women in the party to try to reach out to women."

(Relative to these "kind of clueless" Republicans, Stone compared Democratic men to "the cool guys who can talk women into anything, if you catch my drift.")

For its part, the Republican National Committee, which sanctioned the debate calendar, says it supports the thresholds set by Fox and CNN, which will hold the second debate on Sept. 16 and similarly use polling to help narrow the stage to 10 candidates. (Both networks will host forums for lower-polling contenders as well.)

"While by law the networks set the criteria, we are very proud that both CNN and FOX will be holding the most inclusive debates in the history of either party," RNC spokeswoman Allison Moore said.

Carly Fiorina's official haul: $1.7 million // Politico // Hadas Gold – July 15, 2015

Carly Fiorina's campaign raised $1.7 million in the second fundraising quarter of the year.

Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard executive and the only woman currently in the Republican primary, reported that her campaign spent just over $714,000, and has just over $990,000 cash on hand.

Around 43 percent of Fiorina's contributions, $728,423, came from small donations of $200 or less.

Robert Mercer, the New York hedge fund manager and his wife Diana, both donated to Fiorina's campaign. Mercer also provided the lion's share of the $37 million raised by the super PACs supporting Sen. Ted Cruz's campaign.

Below is a breakout of Fiorina's campaign's finances for the second quarter of the year:

Total raised: $1,704,703.74

Total spent: $714,044.94

Total cash on hand: $990,658.80

Total debt: $0

JINDAL

Bobby Jindal, a Late Entry, Reports Campaign-Finance Fillings // NYT // Maggie Haberman – July 15, 2015

Bobby Jindal, the Louisiana governor who is running for president, raised about $579,000 in the week since he entered the race, he reported in campaign-finance filings on Wednesday.

The amount is smaller than many other Republican candidates in the primary field. But it comprises only a week from June 24 through June 30, the last seven days of the filing quarter. Mr. Jindal was one of the last entrants to the race.

Struggling to overcome low polling, Mr. Jindal nonetheless is being bolstered by outside groups, including a "super PAC" and a nonprofit organization, which are reported to have raised about $8 million in the last six months.

jindal, allies report $9 million take for presidential bid // AP // Julie Bykowicz – July 15, 2015

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Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a Republican presidential candidate, has raised about $579,000 for his campaign, while his outside allies say they've collected $8.7 million more to help spread his message.

Jindal announced his candidacy June 24 and raised most of his campaign money in about a week. Documents filed with the Federal Election Commission show he is drawing most of his contributions from a base of supporters in Louisiana and spent about $65,000 by the end of June.

Like each of the 17 expected GOP presidential contenders, Jindal also benefits from outside allies.

There's a super PAC, a nonprofit policy shop and a third fundraising group — each of which can accept checks of any size from donors. That trio raised a collective $8.7 million, said Brad Todd, a senior strategist to the super PAC, Believe Again. Almost half of the total can't be confirmed because it went to America Next, a nonprofit that keeps its donors secret and doesn't have to disclose any fundraising information to federal regulators until next year.

Most presidential candidates must file their initial fundraising reports with the FEC by midnight Wednesday.

Bobby Jindal's official haul: $579,000 // Politico // Jonathan Topaz – July 15, 2015

Louisiana. Gov Bobby Jindal's campaign reported on Wednesday that it had raised just under $579,000 during the second quarter of this year. Jindal, a long-shot candidate currently polling outside the top ten candidates in the field, announced his candidacy June 24, meaning that his campaign launched seven days before the June 30 deadline. Below is a breakout of the campaign's finances as of the end of June.

Total raised: $578,759.51

Total spent: $65,043.87

Total cash on hand: $ 513,714.64

Total debt: $0

Jindal's total fell short of what several GOP candidates — including Rand Paul, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz — raised in their first 24 hours.

Just over 10 percent of Jindal's contributions were for $200 or less. Notable donors include CenturyLink CEO Glen Post and Louisiana state Rep. Gordon Dove, who both gave the maximum contribution of $2,700.

TRUMP

Donald Trump Claims His Wealth Exceeds 'TEN BILLION DOLLARS' // NYT // Gerry Mullany – July 15, 2015

Donald J. Trump's wealth is rising with his polling numbers, if his characterization of his own net worth is to be believed.

Mr. Trump issued a statement Wednesday saying that his net worth was now in excess of $10 billion, more than the $8.7 billion he said he was worth when he announced his presidential candidacy a month ago.

The statement noted that Mr. Trump had filed his financial disclosure report with the Federal Election Commission, a requirement of presidential candidates, and the commission confirmed his filing. The Trump statement was full of the bombast often associated with Mr. Trump, including an all-capitalization declaration of his wealth:

"Mr. Trump's net worth has increased since the more than one year old financial statement produced at his presidential announcement. Real estate values in New York City, San Francisco, Miami and many other places where he owns property have gone up considerably during this period of time. His debt is a very small percentage of value, and at very low interest rates. As of this date, Mr. Trump's net worth is in excess of TEN BILLION DOLLARS."

But Mr. Trump's characterizations of his wealth have drawn skepticism in many quarters, partly fueled by his own statements.

"My net worth fluctuates, and it goes up and down with markets and with attitudes and with feelings — even my

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own feelings — but I try," he once said.

Mr. Trump continues to do well in polls of the Republican field, with a nationwide survey released Tuesday putting him in a statistical tie for the lead with former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Mr. Trump declared that he had an income of $362 million in 2014, not including dividends, interest, capital gains, rent and royalties. And he said that he had made $213 million during his 14 seasons hosting NBC's "The Apprentice." NBC recently ended its relationship with Mr. Trump after remarks he made during his presidential announcement speech in which he referred to Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and "murderers."

In filing his financial disclosure, Mr. Trump apparently followed through on a pledge that he made on June 16 when he announced his campaign, saying he would be making the submission without requesting extensions. "We don't need extensions," he said at the time.

During his speech announcing his candidacy, Mr. Trump waved a document that he said was a report on his finances, prepared by a large, respected accounting firm, reporting the $8.7 billion figure as his net worth. (He noted then that an updated accounting would probably show his net worth higher than $10 billion.)

He said that figuring out his finances was complicated. "My accountants have been working for months, because it is big and complex," he added. Of his money, he said much was earning through real estate. "I made it the old-fashioned way," Mr. Trump said.

The Trump campaign included in its news release a summary of stock transactions dating to January 2014, trumpeting Mr. Trump's prowess as a stock-picker. The records showed that Mr. Trump had gains from sales of numerous stocks, including making $6.7 million on Bank of America and $3.9 million on Boeing Co.

Mr. Trump's current investment portfolio, according to his campaign, including investments in a series of hedge funds, including some managed by John Paulson.

The Trump campaign did not release on Wednesday the actual disclosure that it said was filed with the Federal Elections Commission. A spokesman for the F.E.C. could not immediately confirm that Mr. Trump had filed a disclosure. The F.E.C. has up to 30 days to make such a disclosure public.

So, Donald Trump looks like he's serious about running for president // WaPo // Amber Philips – July 15, 2015

Update: Trump is making progress toward becoming an official, legitimate presidential candidate, so much so that we pretty much had to rewrite this whole story since posting it after his June 16 announcement.

We honestly thought Donald Trump running for president was going to be kind of like that kid in high school who says his girlfriend lives in Canada and can't make it to the prom but shows you a picture of his girlfriend in front of a maple leaf flag to prove she's real (and Canadian).

So we made a list of official candidacy-things Trump would have to do to prove to us he was serious -- like disclose the details of his finances -- with the make-or-break dates of when he'd have to get it done by. And sure enough, one by one, he dutifully checked off four of the five things on the list, all on time.

Wednesday marked the biggest news of all: Trump actually shared with us his personal finances.

Maybe Trump's fake-Canadian girlfriend is real after all? We're not quite sure. Trump assures our own Robert Costa and Philip Rucker that his girlfriend is indeed real ... er, that he's in it for the long haul.

So back in June, we thought we'd help him. Here, Mr. Future President Trump, is exactly what you had to do to prove you're serious.

1. Spend $5,000 on your candidacy

Once you do this, according to the Federal Election Commission, the law considers you a candidate. You can also receive $5,000 for your campaign to become a candidate. Mr. Trump, we know you said you'll finance your own own election -- "I'm rich," you reminded us when you announced -- and we're pretty sure your elaborate announcement at New York's Trump Tower where you rode down an escalator to wave to tourists you lured from the streets to cheer you on and rambled for 1,700 words in front of America-blue TRUMP signs cost more than $5,000.

So, Mr. Trump, you have probably already passed this threshold. Well done.

Make or break date for Trump: Done. The start of your candidacy was June 16, FYI.

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2. Fill out a form

As The Fix's own Philip Bump noted, the next step to running for president is to simply fill out a form with the FEC.

There are 396 people who have filled out the FEC Presidential 2016 Form. Mr. Trump, you played by the rules here, too. You had 15 days from his announcement to file your statement of candidacy, which your did on June 20 -- ten days ahead of schedule.

Make or break date for Trump: June 30. Done.

3. Make a Trump for President committee

Within 10 days of filing your presidential form, you need to put together a campaign committee and announce its organization to the FEC. We see you've done that as well, Mr. Trump.

Make or break date for Trump: July 10. Done.

4. Share your finances

We must admit, this is the one we thought you'd never really do, Mr. Trump. A lot of other people tried to call your bluff, too: As you started surging in the polls, Fox News decided to limit its Aug. 6 debate to the top 10 candidates who actually filed their personal finance disclosures.

You had 30 days after declaring your candidacy to to file these forms -- which require you to list all your sources of incomes and all your assets and liabilities. (But lucky for you, the forms were created by members of Congress, who also have to file them, so they're pretty vague. You can list your assets and liabilities in ridiculously broad ranges, like from $500,000-$1 million.)

We really thought you'd just say "I'm rich" or announce to the media you have $9 billion in assets which, as Bump notes, is far from having $9 billion in actual cash you can spend willy nilly to become president, and just call it a day.

But on Wednesday, July 15th, you released those. "This report was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth," your staff said. And they're kind of right: Anything worth $50 million or more simply gets listed as $50 million+, Bump notes. So you told us you're worth $10 billion, much of that in intentionally vague real estate. And that's all we'll know for now.

Make or break date for Trump: July 22. Surprisingly, done.

5. Get on the ballot in all the states

This is the hardest part of running for president. The GOP field is competitive (especially since you're in it), so again, here's some free advice, Mr. Trump: You'll probably need to be on the ballot for the Republican primaries and caucuses in all 50 states if you want to win enough delegates to move on to the general election.

Why is this so hard? Each state has its own set of rules for how to go about that. They're designed to make it tough for random people to run for president -- not that that's you. In California in 2012, for instance, Bump reported candidates for president had to get "either 1 percent or 500 signatures (whichever was lower) from Democrats in each of the state's 50-plus congressional districts. They had two months to do so."

In 2012, Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich, who finished second and third in the Republican nominating contest, both nonetheless failed to qualify for the ballot in some states.

Make or break date for Trump: The dates vary. Consult with a really good campaign finance lawyer. We're sure you can afford it.

Donald Trump says he's worth $10 billion. But we still won't really know. // WaPo // Philip Bump – July 15, 2015

When he announced that he was finally, actually running for president, Donald Trump held up a sheet of paper that outlined how much he was worth. "I have assets," he said, clenching a sheet compiled by a "big accounting firm, one of the most highly respected," of "9 billion, 240 million dollars." Less $500 million in debt, his net worth was a tidy, precise $8,737,540,000 (if you don't mind his accepting his contention that his "brand" and licensing was worth a third of that total).

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That was on June 16. On Wednesday, less than a month later, he issued a press release stating that he'd filed a more detailed list with the Federal Election Commission. His net worth now, after being dropped by sponsors and battered in the press? $10 billion.

No, there's not a billion dollars in fast money to be found in anti-immigrant rhetoric. Trump claims that the difference stems from the real-estate valuations that he used in June being a year out-of-date. Then, the big accounting firm pegged the value of the properties he owned at about $4.3 billion. Since then, it's apparently jumped a billion dollars in value. (Which, to be fair, he vaguely alluded to in his speech.)

The line in Trump's release that has garnered the most -- completely justified -- snickering is the declaration that the FEC's report detailing income and assets "was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump‟s massive wealth." Un-humblebrag though it is, it is also demonstrably true. And that's why Trump's team was very careful to note that the new $10 billion figure comes from real estate. Because the vagueness of the form means that most of Trump's value will remain out of sight.

Here's Mitt Romney's disclosure from 2011, via the Center for Responsive Politics. (Trump's actual disclosure isn't yet available online.) Notice the highlighted categories for valuations. Anything worth $50 million or more simply gets flagged as "over $50 million." So if a building is worth, as Trump's press release suggested, $1.5 billion, it's listed as "over $50 million."

Notice that this always works in the other direction. If Trump's investment in a building is not worth $1.5 billion, but is instead worth, say, $50,000,001, it goes in the same category. Once the full form is released, Trump wants us to assume that he's worth far more than the sums displayed. One might as generously assume that he's not.

In light of his assertions about real estate, all of the other details he released today -- Trump getting $213 million from NBC for 14 seasons of "The Apprentice," and his $27 million in stock deals -- are peanuts. One not assumed to view his assertions generously might consider them a bit of hand-waving, a look-at-these-big-numbers move meant to be the focus of attention.

The FEC form was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's willingness to assert massive wealth. He could eliminate any questions by releasing details of the precise valuations of his property using some other mechanism. But for Trump, that "over $50 million" loophole probably feels more than comfortable enough.

Individuals give money to billionaire Trump and more from his FEC report // WaPo // Colby Itkowitz and Rosalind S. Helderman – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump has filed his first presidential campaign filing. He's raised $1.9 million since entering the race in mid-June, of which $1.8 million was a loan from himself. He burned through most of his money, spending $1.4 million or 74 percent, leaving his campaign with $487,736 on hand.

He also gifted his campaign $4,049. The loaned amount he could hypothetically get back.

In his campaign announcement speech, Trump had declared he wasn't "using donors." Still, around 60 individual donors (who include a spice importer and a self-employed artist) from all over the country gave the billionaire's campaign $53,075, including nine who gave the maximum $2,700 contribution.

We reached one of those top Trump supporters, Jim Shore, a figurine artist from York, South Carolina.

Shore, who already gave Trump the maxed $5,400 - half for the primary and half for the general - acknowledged that Trump, who claimed Wednesday that he is worth $10 billion, is a wealthy man who might not need his money. Still, he noted that running for president is expensive--Hillary Clinton, he said, is wealthy but will fundraise for her campaign.

Plus, being a contributor is more likely to give him a voice in the campaign, he reasoned.

"I figured early on that I'm going to contribute support to the one that I want to win. It didn't matter how they're otherwise funding their campaign," he said. "If at some point I want to make a suggestion or have someone's ear, it helps if you're participating contributor."

Shore, 65, said he decided to donate to Trump after carefully researching the candidates and determining Trump's business background would make him a good president.

He has followed Trump's careers, through his ups and downs, and has admired his ability to bounce back from past missteps. "I admire anybody who has faced adversity and has overcome it," he said.

Regarding the controversy around Trump's remarks about illegal immigration, Shore said they'd been misinterpreted and that Trump was right that illegal immigration was a problem.

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"The perception was 'oh he's anti immigrant, he's a xenophobe, he hates immigrants'," he said. "The truth of the matter is that he is probably the only who's standing up and saying something that protects our immigrant community."

Other fun snapshots from Trump's FEC report:

Trump's Iowa campaign manager, veteran GOP activist Chuck Laudner, was paid $11,605 since April. There had been rumors that he was paid as much as $30,000 a month, but Trump insisted he was paying the going rate.

Meanwhile, his New Hampshire state director, Matthew Ciepielowski earned more than $33,680 in that time and Iowa advisor Chris Hupke earned $20,000.

Big Mac or Fish Filet? Trump's campaign spent $457.72 at McDonalds.
More than $66,645 went to Trump-related business entities, mostly for rent and hotel stays at his properties.

Two days before Macy's cut off its business relationship with Trump because of his incendiary remarks about Mexicans, his campaign spent $94.85 in "event supplies" at the department store.

He spent $506,486 on Tag Air, Inc., a private aviation company.

Donald Trump claims he's wroth more than $10 billion // WaPo // Rosalind S. Helderman and Tom Hamburger – July 15, 2015

Celebrity mogul Donald Trump says his net worth now exceeds $10 billion, a figure more than $1 billion higher than he estimated when he announced his presidential candidacy last month.

Trump campaign officials said his wealth includes $362 million earned in 2014 alone and they estimated that he earned more than $213 million from NBC for his involvement with 14 seasons of "The Apprentice" television show.

The disclosures came as his campaign said he had filed his legally required personal financial disclosures with the Federal Election Commission, defying expectations from many who said Trump's campaign was a vanity project and he would resist legal requirements to detail his wealth.

However, his campaign did not immediately release a copy of the disclosure form. The FEC has up to 30 days to review the form before releasing it publicly.

According to the campaign, the disclosure shows that Trump is involved with 500 different business entities and is sole owner of 91 percent of them.

Just a few weeks ago, Trump estimated his net worth at $8.7 billion. But, his campaign indicated his net worth has increased since those financial documents were prepared a year ago. They also complained that the presidential disclosure form, which requires candidates to disclose assets, income and liabilities in broad ranges, is "not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth."

"For instance, they have boxes once a certain number is reached that simply state $50 million or more," the campaign said in a statement. "Many of these boxes have been checked."

The millions Trump indicated he has earned from NBC provides some measure of the potential cost to him of his recent controversial remarks on the Republican presidential trail about immigrants. The network announced earlier this month that it was "ending its business relationship" with Trump over his comments that many Mexican immigrant who come to the United State are criminals and rapists.

In his statement Wednesday, Trump offered another view on the ending of his NBC work.

The statement said that "Mr. Trump decided to turn them down in order to run for President of the United States."

Trump has long been dogged by private sector complaints that he overstates his wealth, as part of his larger-than-life celebrity persona as a successful developer and entrepreneur. One reason longtime Trump watchers had doubted he would ultimately submit the form is it requires swearing to the accuracy of its contents.

Financial disclosure reports submitted to the Federal Election Commission "should show the full range of assets in which he has ownership," said Karl Sandstrom, a former FEC commissioner who is part of the campaign law practice at the Perkins Coie law firm in Washington. Sandstrom is accustomed to warning clients about the serious criminal penalties that can result from knowingly filing a false report with the federal government.

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“Whether through commission or omission,” a false disclosure subjects filers to serious federal penalties, he said. A federal statute governing “destruction, alteration or falsification” of records would subject filers to fines and prison for up to five years. Separately, the Sarbanes-Oxley financial reform legislation makes it a criminal offense to file false financial information with the federal government.

Trump has tangled in the past with analysts who have indicated he is worth less than he claims. In 2006, he sued New York Times reporter Timothy L. O’Brien for asserting in a book on the mogul that several people close to Trump had estimated his worth as somewhere between $150 million to $250 million. The suit was dismissed in 2009.

In 2011, he threatened to sue MSNBC host Lawrence O’Donnell after the O’Donnell insisted Trump was worth less than $1 billion. He never actually filed suit, prompting O’Donnell to respond that Trump’s true secret was that he could not afford to sue him.

In a statement, Trump acknowledged the doubters, noting he had filed the form within 30 days of announcing his candidacy, without even taking advantage of extensions allowed under law. “I look forward to the challenge of winning the presidency and doing a fantastic job for our country.”

Donald Trump claims ‘most people’ read his book. No one we talked to at Trump Tower has. // WaPo // Philip Bump – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump's campaign is diverse in its complaints and unified on the one necessary solution: Everything bad in America would be fixed if only we didn't keep getting out-negotiated. In his interview with "Morning Joe"'s Mika Brzezinski on Wednesday, Trump revisited that argument in his favorite way. The deal with Iran is bad, he said, because the negotiators "didn't read 'The Art of the Deal,'" Trump's 1987 bestseller about, well, deals.

"Most people did," Trump continued. "They didn't. It's a ridiculous deal."

"Most people" read it he says, in the vague/impressive/vaguely impressive way that we've all grown accustomed to with Trump. In the past, he's implied that "The Art of the Deal" is the best-selling business book of all time, which Politifact rated "false." Data from Nielsen BookScan puts the two paperback versions of the books at 168,000 in sales since 2001, when the data-tracking began. In that same time period, the 1936 book "How to Win Friends & Influence People" has sold over two million copies.

I figured there was another way to measure whether or not "most people" had read the book. I headed to Trump Tower in Midtown Manhattan and asked people there whether or not they'd cracked its spine. I asked 15 people: businesspeople, tourists, people who worked in the building.

Of the 15, precisely none had ever read it.

Like most residents of New York City, I'd never been inside Trump Tower. Having watched the campaign announcement, the space beside the escalator that Trump descended at the bottom of the building's atrium seemed surprisingly small. Normally, on days like today, there's a restaurant down there.

One level up, at street level, you find elevator banks and a little pop-up "Trump Store," selling a variety of Trump-branded merchandise. They have "The Art of the Deal," which sells for $19.95. They also have Trump: Make America Great Again campaign t-shirts -- $15 -- which seems like it probably crosses some campaign finance line. When I arrived, the cheerful woman tending the shop was folding the shirts; while I was there, I didn't see any sales.

Chris, from Wyoming, hadn't read Trump's book, but still liked him as a candidate. "Out of all the choices, I actually am for Donald Trump," Chris said. "His views on immigration are similar to mine, and it's nice to see someone who doesn't back down. He stands for what he wants and doesn't sway back and forth."

Stanca, sitting up on the second level near the Starbucks, agreed on Trump's immigration position but was a bit more skeptical on the candidate. "I don't know if I should take it seriously," he said. A few yards away, Rodi from New Jersey was a bit more enthusiastic. "We've had two Bushes, the last one for eight years. Why not Trump?" she said. "He cannot be worse than Bush." (Neither had read the book.)

Larry Mortimer, in from Connecticut on business, hadn't read the book either -- but he did have a quick story about it. His father-in-law had written a business book called "Swim with the Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive" which came out shortly after Trump's. When Mortimer subsequently ran into Trump, he pointed out that "Sharks" was (at the time) outselling "Deal." Trump's response? "I know him! I want him to market my book!"

That was it on supporters (and semi-supporters). (Though two people who worked in the building offered "no comment"s when asked about the candidacy.)

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Some of the detractors were generous in their assessments. Charlie (hadn't read it) said that Trump seemed like a "very intelligent person, but not as refined as someone would expect from someone of his caliber." One man who didn't want to be named ("it's a small town"; Editor's note: No, it's not) declared that Trump seemed like an "extraordinary businessman and entertainer." When he trailed off, I commented on his decision not to add any other titles. "Dot-dot-dot," he added with a grin.

Some of the detractors, however, were not generous. The first group of people I met, right by the Trump store, were tourists in from Idaho, Nebraska and Hawaii. None had read Trump's book. Brian, the one from Hawaii, added, "Nor do I plan on it."

"He's playing games," Brian said. "He's a buffoon. Why's he even bothering?" The others with him nodded. "And that's coming from three Republicans."

I asked why the three were at Trump Tower in the first place. "Because our wives are enamored with the building," Brian said. He wasn't happy about it, and showed me a text he'd just sent to his spouse.
It's easy to pinpoint what went wrong for Brian. When debating with his wife about where they should spend the day, he got out-negotiated. The irony of Brian having a book so close by that could have taught him how not to have had to visit Trump Tower at all appears to have been lost on him.

Donald Trump, middle finger of the Republican base **// WaPo // Chris Cillizza – July 15, 2015**

When I left two weeks ago for vacation, Donald Trump was everywhere. I assumed by the time that I got back, he would be nowhere — or at the very least, that the massive amount of attention he was drawing to his presidential candidacy would have receded significantly.

Boy, was I wrong.

On Tuesday, USA Today and Suffolk University released a new national poll that put Trump at 17 percent and (gulp) at the front of the 2016 GOP field. New numbers from The Washington Post/ABC News out this morning show that almost six in ten Republicans have a favorable view of Trump — an unbelievable turnaround from a May poll by WaPo/ABC that had Trump's unfavorables at 65 percent. I have never seen such a reversal in poll numbers in such a short period of time. Never.

There are, obviously, a few possible answers to that question. Trump would say he is tapping into what the American people really want: a brashness and boldness that makes us (America) the good guys and everybody else the bad guys. He tells it like it is and people respond. That the political establishment and media are so surprised at his rapid rise speaks only to how out of touch those groups really are.

Then there's the explanation that in a very crowded field, name ID matters hugely — and that's something Trump has no shortage of. Philip Bump made that case here — and it's a compelling one.

I think there may be a psychological element to add to the technical explanation offered by Philip. Put simply: I do think Trump's name ID plays a role in what's happening in polls, but I don't think that's all that's at work. Everyone knew Trump's name a month ago but he wasn't at or near the top of the polls then. So what's happened? What's led to such a stunning reversal in how he's perceived among Republican voters? And what makes someone (or 17 percent of someones) say, "Yes, I think Donald Trump is the best Republican candidate for president"?

Here's my working theory: Trump's rise has very little to do with "Donald Trump" and very much to do with what Trump represents at the moment to voters.

What is that? Someone who doesn't sound or, frankly, look like other politicians. Trump's willingness to say impolitic things (Mexican/rapists etc.) actually bolsters his appeal among a certain segment of the Republican electorate, not solely because they happen to agree with his hard-line views on immigration, but because they see him as being willing to say uncomfortable things and shake up the system.

Trump's purposeful(?) positioning as the ultimate anti-politician is perfectly suited to the consequence-free mindset that dominates among likely Republican primary voters at the moment. The election is a million miles away to the average voter, so what's the harm in telling a pollster you like Trump right now? You almost certainly won't stick with him when it's time to actually vote — just 41 percent of Republicans view Trump as a "serious" candidate for president in a new Gallup poll — but he is a great vehicle to send a message to the political establishment that you're sick of them.

Think of it this way: You're single. You're in your 20s. You start dating a bad boy/girl who makes you laugh/kind of scares you/your parents hate with the white-hot passion of 1,000 suns. You are not planning to marry this person. In fact, if he/she did happen to pop the question — they wouldn't because they are a bad boy/girl and "don't like to be tied down" — you would almost certainly say no. You are going out with this person because it's

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fun and it's different and you are tired of the squares — is that a word people still use? — you've dated up to this point. Sure, you'll probably settle down with one of those squares (I am just going with it) but not just yet.

The tendency in politics — particularly among the journalistic and consultant classes — is to overthink things. And so it is with Trump. But I think his appeal may actually be very, very simple: He's different — and different, at least right now, is intriguing for Republicans. My strong belief is that as the election gets closer and Trump goes from colorful oddball to "Hey, wait a minute, he believes what?!?" his support will slip — probably considerably.

For now, Trump represents a middle finger from a segment of Republican voters directed at the GOP establishment. Which seems about right.

Donald Trump word cloud: Nazism and consumerism // WaPo / James Hohmann – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump spent Tuesday in the political sweet spot between Nazism and consumerism.

Our Zignal Labs partners, who measure what people are talking about across social and traditional media, showed that the chatter about the reality TV star and businessman revolved around two main themes: a tweet (later deleted) that included images of Waffen-SS solders and his ongoing dispute with Macy's about pulling his merchandise. "Retaliation" also factored big into the equation.

On the first point, the controversy began when The Donald tweeted an image of himself emblazoned on an American flag, with soldiers in the background. Only, it turned out, those soldiers came from Waffen-SS stock images, according to Internet sleuths.

As for Macy's, TMZ reported on Tuesday that 30,000 customers were so angry that the store refused to carry Trump ties that they were cutting up their credit cards as a result. The store, the website said, was "taking it in the shorts" for breaking with The Donald over his comments about Mexicans.

Recently escaped Mexican drug lord "El Chapo," in a Twitter account reportedly linked to him, threatened Trump in a profanity-laced tirade on Twitter. "I'm better than them," El Chapo wrote.

Trump took the threat seriously, increasing his security and saying he's alerted the FBI. "We have officials all over the place, including right outside hanging out in trees," Trump told reporters during an appearance at a Virginia winery, according to the New York Post.

So the word "retaliation?" Seems like it could apply to any of the above disputes.

The best of Donald Trump on 'Morning Joe' // WaPo // Elise Viebeck – July 15, 2015

Sometimes it's best to let Donald Trump's quotes speak for themselves.

Trump, now surging in the polls, joined MSNBC's "Morning Joe" on Wednesday to discuss the Iran deal, his position in the Republican field and his previous comments on immigration. He also weighed in on Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), the Hispanic vote, Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush.

Enjoy the best quotes below:

Trump on the Iran deal and "The Art of the Deal":

They [U.S. negotiators] didn't read The Art of the Deal. Most people did, they didn't. It's a ridiculous deal ... I have seen the deal. I have seen it broken down in every newspaper you can imagine, and I have, I think I know the deal quite well because other people, I assume, are going into it in great detail. I have seen every newspaper article you can. I have seen the good points and the bad points and the good points are not very strong. That I can tell you.

Trump on President Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin:

If you had a president that was a leader, he would be able — he can't even talk — when you look at where we are with countries, as an example, with Russia, they can't even talk together, Putin can't stand him. In all fairness, he can't stand Putin, but Putin doesn't respect him.

Trump on Hillary Clinton and the Hispanic vote:

Hillary was the worst secretary of state in the history of our country. I think that the person she doesn't want to run against is me because I say it, and [Jeb] Bush doesn't say it, nobody says it ... I would beat Hillary and I'll tell you what, a vote that I will win is the Hispanic vote ... I'll create jobs, and I'll get the Hispanic vote ... the Hispanics love me.

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Trump on why he's meeting with Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.):

Ted Cruz called me and I don't know why I'm meeting him, to be honest, but I do have respect for him. I respect the fact that, along with a couple of others, he came out and he came out very strongly and agreed with what I said on illegal immigration ... I like him. He called me, he wanted to meet, and we are going to meet. What it's about, I have absolutely no idea.

Trump on Iranian nuclear capabilities:

I'd hate to inherit the deal [with Iran] ... Ultimately, they're going to have the nukes all over the place.

Trump on illegal immigrants:

Illegal immigrants are causing tremendous problems coming in ... There's crime, it's a crime wave, it's a disaster ... I have hundreds and hundreds of Mexicans working for me. I love Mexican people, I love their spirit ... Mexico is sending a lot of their people over that they don't want, and that includes people that should be in Mexican prisons, and you know it and I know it and nobody wants to talk about it.

Trump on how he knows Mexico is "sending a lot of their people" over who belong in prison:

I heard from five different sources ... I'll reveal my sources when you reveal your sources, Mark [to Mark Halperin of Bloomberg Politics]. I have a lot of information on it and so do — so does everyone else, and you probably do, too, and for some reason they don't want to put out this information.

Trump on Jeb Bush and his fundraising numbers:

We have grossly incompetent leadership. That is the one overriding theme, and [voters] don't see it any better with Bush. He doesn't have the energy, he's not going to produce, and I will tell you that when he raises $100 million ... every single person that he gave every single dollar is expecting something for that money. Every single person ... So the $100 million that he raised is a bad thing, not a good thing.

Trump Files Disclosure, Touts $10 Billion Net Worth // WSJ // Heather Haddon – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump boasted his net worth has grown to more than $10 billion as he filed his personal financial disclosure, removing a potential barrier for eligibility in the GOP debates.

"First people said I would never run, and I did. Then, they said, I would never file my statement of candidacy with the FEC, and I did," Mr. Trump said in a statement. "They said I would never file my personal financial disclosure forms. I filed them early despite the fact that I am allowed two 45 days extensions."

In a statement laden with bravado released Wednesday, the real-estate developer and entertainer said that his net worth had been boosted by rising property values in New York, San Francisco, Miami and elsewhere, and nodded to gains in the stock market as well. A one-page sheet summary released by his campaign previously showed total assets of $9.2 billion and liabilities of $502 million.

In Wednesday's statement, the campaign said that the FEC's disclosure forms couldn't capture Mr. Trump's full value, as maximum worth of assets in certain categories were set to a range of simply above $50 million. The value of some of Mr. Trump's buildings well exceeded that, the campaign said.

"This report was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth," his campaign stated.

The campaign didn't immediately release a copy of the disclosure Wednesday. A FEC spokesman said Wednesday that the agency was in receipt of Mr. Trump's financial disclosure form. The spokesman couldn't immediately say when the FEC would made the filing public. The commission has 30 days to do so.

Filing the personal financial disclosure removes one of the largest hurdles for Mr. Trump to go forward with a full-scale presidential bid, including appearing in televised debates.

Some of Mr. Trump's rivals had pushed Republican officials and television networks hosting the debates to exclude him if he didn't file the lengthy disclosures first. Fox News and CNN host the first two GOP debates, and the networks have chosen to contain the main debates to the candidates placing in the top 10 in an average of national polls. Lower tier candidates have been angling for ways to boost their national standing leading into the debates.

Mr. Trump, who has become a lightning rod for criticism after labeling some Mexican immigrants "rapists," said during a television appearance on MSNBC "Morning Joe" Wednesday morning that he would put out the forms

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Wednesday or Thursday. A spokeswoman for the campaign said they weren't yet certain if they would release the full report or allow those interested to go through the FEC.

Mr. Trump's income last year was $362 million, not including investments, rents or royalties, according to the campaign. The campaign didn't release figures on his debt, but said it was "a very small percentage of value, and at very low interest rates."

The campaign released a list of 45 stocks that Mr. Trump sold last year, saying their sale earned him $27 million. Bank of America, Alcoa, Best Buy and Facebook accounted for the largest number of shares in the portfolio, according to the list.

The gains came "even though stock market purchases are not something that Mr. Trump has focused on in the past," the release stated.

Mr. Trump also said he held assets in 11 market funds valued at $90 million, with the largest amount of purchased shares in the Obsidian Fund LLC, Baron Funds and Oppenheimer, according to the list.

Whether Mr. Trump would go through in making the detailed filing required by those running for president has been a source of speculation since the mogul announced his candidacy last month. Mr. Trump has never disclosed a detailed accounting of his wealth.

Trump campaign sets his personal fortune at $10 billion // AP // Jeff Horwitz – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump filed financial documents with federal campaign regulators on Wednesday and set his personal fortune at more than $10 billion with an annual income of more than $362 million.

Members of his staff had said that Trump would release the financial documents themselves, but they issued only a press release that announced the filing and included a few financial details. It provided little information about how he calculated his net worth.

The $10 billion figure — up nearly 15 percent since the previous year, by Trump's calculation — would make him the wealthiest person ever to run for president, far surpassing previous magnates like Ross Perot, business heirs like Steve Forbes or private-equity investors like Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP nominee.

Among the sources of Trump's income has been $214 million in payments from NBC related to 14 seasons of the business reality television show "The Apprentice." NBC recently cut its ties with Trump following his controversial remarks about Mexican immigrants.

Trump is relying almost exclusively on his personal wealth to fund his White House bid. His fortune could help maintain his status as a major player in the Republican presidential primary, much to the dismay of GOP officials who worry that his hardline immigration statements could alienate Hispanic voters.

Filing a personal financial disclosure with the Federal Election Commission is one of the requirements, set by the hosts, to participate in next month's televised GOP debate.

Trump's statement Wednesday noted that a hypothetical Trump building worth $1.5 billion would be reported as simply worth in excess of $50 million on the federal forms, which offer broad ranges for asset values.

Previous reviews of Trump's real estate holdings by both Forbes Magazine and commercial real estate trade publication The Real Deal did not identify any single property with a valuation in excess of $1 billion.

His campaign noted that Trump held stakes in almost 500 business entities and said the federal forms are "not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth."

"I have a Gucci store worth more than Romney," Trump told the Des Moines Register last month, referring to the fashion company's flagship store in New York's Trump Tower.

Trump also valued his personal brand and marketing deals at $3.3 billion when he announced his candidacy.

Forbes Magazine, however, valued his brand at just $125 million. And that was before Trump's comments about Mexican immigrants cost him business partnerships with companies such as Macy's and Univision, which experts on brand valuation said have at least temporarily tarnished the value of his name in corporate sponsorship deals.

While the Forbes estimate is likely low, "the spread between Forbes $125 million and his own estimate of $3.3 billion is explained primarily by hubris," said Weston Anson, chairman of Consor Intellectual Asset Management, a California-based consulting firm.

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Anson said it was too early to evaluate the effect of Trump's comments on value of his name, but noted the rapid cancellation of partnership and sponsorship deals. The notoriety could also likely erode Trump's ability to charge a premium for his real estate, Anson said.

Trump in the past has taken umbrage at suggestions he might not be as fantastically wealthy as he says. In 2009, he sued author Timothy O'Brien for defamation after O'Brien wrote that Trump's net worth might be as low as $150 million.

Trump lost the suit and a subsequent appeal. In a deposition, the panel of appellate judges noted, Trump conceded that his public disclosures of his wealth depended partly on his mood.

"Even my own feelings affect my value to myself," Trump said.

Trump indeed funding own presidential bid: $1.8 million loan // AP // Julie Bykowicz – July 15, 2015

When he announced his Republican run for president a month ago, billionaire businessman Donald Trump said he didn't need the help of donors. That's proved true.

Federal documents Trump filed Wednesday show that he has lent his high-profile campaign $1.8 million. In a press release, he set his net worth at more than $10 billion.

The documents show that Trump has not solicited any money for his campaign, collecting only $92,000 from other people. At of the end of June, Trump had about $488,000 left in his campaign account.

Trump is vying with 16 others for the Republican nomination.

British Open waits on Turnberry call after Trump remarks // AP // July 15, 2015

British Open organizers are biding their time before deciding whether Turnberry should be removed from the championship rotation following comments by the course's owner, Donald Trump, about Mexicans.

Trump, a Republican candidate for U.S. president, is facing a backlash after saying some Mexican immigrants to the U.S. bring drugs and crime, and some are rapists.

Trump recently purchased Turnberry, a links resort on the west coast of Scotland that has hosted the British Open four times.

Asked if Trump's comments compromised Turnberry's place on the Open rotation, Peter Dawson, chief executive of the R&A, said: "We'll just let a bit of time pass, and future championship committees will deal with them at the time."

The PGA of America announced last week it will move the Grand Slam of Golf from Trump's course in Los Angeles.

The Women's British Open is to be played this month at Turnberry, and organizers have said there are no plans to change the venue.

Turnberry last staged the British Open in 2009, when Stewart Cink beat Tom Watson in a playoff, and is one of nine courses on the rotation. Royal Portrush will be added in 2019.

"It's had a lot of publicity, hasn't it?" Dawson said about Turnberry and its links with Trump. "We don't have any decisions to make about Turnberry for quite some time."

Donald Trump: 'A vote that I will win is the Hispanic vote' // AP // July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump says he's confident he could win substantial Hispanic votes if he's the party's nominee.

Brushing aside the controversy over labeling Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and "criminals," Trump argues "the Hispanics love me."

He tells MSNBC: "I employ thousands of Hispanics."

Trump also says he's not worried about any lack of support in the Latino community and argues he hasn't been hurt politically by his calls for clamping down on illegal immigration.

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Trump has refused to soften his stand on immigration, even after a plea by Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus (ryns PREE'-bus) that he tone down his remarks.

The GOP fared poorly with the Hispanic community in the 2012 presidential election.

5 things to know about Donald Trump's personal fortune // AP // Jeff Horwitz – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump says his personal fortune is more than $10 billion, making the businessman the wealthiest person to ever run for the White House.

Five things to know about Trump's wealth:

TRUMP IS ALMOST CERTAINLY THE RICHEST PERSON EVER IN A PRESIDENTIAL RACE

His net worth claim eclipses that of Ross Perot, the billionaire Texas entrepreneur who ran a third-party campaign in 1992. Aside from Perot, no other candidate has reached the $1 billion dollar mark, including publishing empire heir Steve Forbes (roughly $400 million) or private equity titan Mitt Romney ($250 million.)

IT'S GOOD TO START OFF RICH

Trump has cited his ability to become rich as an important qualification for public office. Though he has earned a huge sum of money, Trump started off in the upper reaches of the 1 percent. His grandfather, Fred Trump Sr., was a successful builder. His father, Fred Trump Jr., earned a fortune estimated at several hundred million dollars through building solid-but-modest housing in the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens — sometimes with government support.

TRUMP HASN'T BEEN BANKRUPT, BUT HIS COMPANIES HAVE — FOUR TIMES

"Stop saying I went bankrupt!" Trump demanded on Twitter last month, a sentiment he expresses regularly. The confusion stems from the difference between personal and corporate bankruptcy.

Various arms of Trump's hotel and casino business underwent Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganizations in 1991, 1992, 2004 and 2009. But only in the first instance — where Trump had personally guaranteed a vast debt owed by the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, New Jersey, — was Trump's personal fortune at risk.

In the other bankruptcies, his exposure was limited to just his stake in the particular venture. While plenty of other entities with Trump's name on them have failed, including the Trump International Golf Club in Puerto Rico this week, those were just companies that were renting Trump's name.

HE TALKS UP RISK-TAKING, BUT HIS CURRENT PORTFOLIO IS QUITE CONSERVATIVE

Setting aside Trump's $3.3 billion valuation of his personal brand, most of Trump's wealth is in the form in the real estate. Yet the summary of his finances he presented at his campaign kickoff last month lists more than $4 billion in mature, fully-owned assets, with less than $500 million in debt.

That's extremely safe — and completely out of keeping with the heavy borrowing that is standard for owners of marquis commercial real estate.

In his book "The Art of the Deal," Trump extolled such borrowing: "Leverage: Don't make deals without it."

CAVEATS ABOUT HIS WEALTH MAY BE WARRANTED

Doubting Trump's fortune can be hazardous. In 2006, Trump sued author Tim O'Brien for citing anonymous Trump insiders lowballing Trump's net worth in the book "TrumpNation: The Art of Being the Donald."

Precisely valuing a fortune such as Trump's is difficult, subjective work under the best of circumstances.

Trump lost his lawsuit against O'Brien on First Amendment grounds, but the panel of judges who killed the case in 2011 noted Trump's history of claims, such as asserting that a 72-story building with tall ceilings was actually a 90-story building. Because of numerous caveats, the judges declared that even a 2004 financial statement authored by Trump's accountants had "limited value as an accurate representation of Trump's net worth."

Trump campaign to reveal wealth details: 'I'm really rich' // AP // Jeff Horwitz – July 15, 2015

As other presidential candidates fight to raise money, Donald Trump is reminding everyone he's already got a lot of it.

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The celebrity businessman's campaign is expected to reveal details Wednesday of his fortune, which he estimated last month at nearly $9 billion when announcing his Republican presidential candidacy.

If accurate, that number would make Trump the wealthiest person to ever run for president, far surpassing previous magnates like Ross Perot, business heirs like Steve Forbes or private-equity investors like Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP nominee.

"I have a Gucci store worth more than Romney," Trump told the Des Moines Register last month, referring to the fashion company's flagship store in New York's Trump Tower.

On an appearance on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" Wednesday, Trump said the personal financial disclosure forms will be filed Wednesday or Thursday.

"The numbers will be far in excess of what anybody thought," he said. "I built a great company."

How much the personal financial disclosure form will reveal is uncertain. Personal financial disclosures generally require candidates to list the value of their assets within broad ranges, with "above $5 million" as the top bucket. Many of Trump's holdings, such as Trump Park Avenue in New York, or the hundreds of millions he says he holds in cash, would far exceed that upper limit.

Even if Trump were to include a detailed summary of his assets and debts, skepticism about his net worth will likely remain.

Trump, for example, valued his personal brand and marketing deals at $3.3 billion when he announced his candidacy. Forbes Magazine, however, valued his brand at just $125 million. And that was before Trump's comments about Mexican immigrants cost him business partnerships with companies such as Macy's and Univision.

Trump in the past has taken umbrage at suggestions he might not be as fantastically wealthy as he says. In 2009, he sued author Timothy O'Brien for defamation after O'Brien wrote that Trump's net worth might be as low as $150 million.

Trump lost the suit and a subsequent appeal. In a deposition, the panel of appellate judges noted, Trump conceded that his public disclosures of his wealth depended partly on his mood.

"Even my own feelings affect my value to myself," Trump said.

Donald Trump grows up // Politico // Ben Schreckinger – July 15, 2015

In a matter of days, Donald Trump has gone from flame-throwing insurgent to statesmanlike front-runner, at least in his own mind.

As national polls continued to roll in showing Trump in first or second place in the Republican presidential primary, he showed restraint and message discipline in a phone interview with POLITICO on Wednesday, passing on multiple opportunities to level his trademark insults at political opponents and steering the conversation instead towards the economy and “making America great again.”

Trump’s ego remains intact — “I have been victorious against China on numerous occasions” he bragged minutes before his campaign forwarded a statement claiming he is now worth more than “TEN BILLION DOLLARS.”

But during the interview, away from the cameras and the packed crowds, Trump’s tone was markedly different from Saturday, when he ranted for over an hour against everyone from Jeb Bush to “Lyin’ Brian Williams” and the brands that had cut ties with him at a raucous campaign rally in Phoenix, Arizona.

Even the accent had softened from Queens to Westchester.

In Arizona, Trump cracked of Bush, “How can I be tied with this guy? He’s terrible.”

On Wednesday, he was more measured. “I think Jeb Bush is a very nice person, but I think he’ll be a terrible president in terms of negotiating trade deals with China. They’re just too tough and too smart,” said Trump, framing his critique of Bush in a way that that pivots to his own carefully crafted image as an expert negotiator, crystallized in, “The Art of the Deal,” the book he promotes relentlessly in campaign appearances.

When asked which of his opponents would make the worst president, Trump responded, “I don’t want to say that, because that would be disrespectful.”
Of Republican elites, who have been fretting out loud that Trump is tarnishing the party’s brand, especially among

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Hispanic voters, Trump said, “I know the elites. Many of them are friends of mine. They’re fine. They go with whoever’s going to win.”

When asked about the possibility that he could run as a third-party or independent candidate in the general election, a nuclear option that could make him a spoiler for the eventual Republican nominee, Trump said, “Everybody wants me to run as a third-party candidate but my sole focus is running as a Republican because my best chance to take this country back … is for me to run as a Republican.”

On Sunday, Trump taunted the notorious Mexican drug trafficker Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, who escaped from prison over the weekend, tweeting that he “would kick [Guzman’s] ass!” only to receive back a threatening tweet from the drug lord’s account. On Wednesday, Trump said only, “Law enforcement is very strong. It’s really in the hands of law enforcement right now, ” before steering the question of his personal safety back to his campaign theme: “Making our country great again is much more important than me as an individual.”

A Suffolk University/USA Today poll released on Tuesday that showed Trump in first place with 17 percent support solidified what polling began to show last week: that Trump and Bush are currently neck-and-neck among Republican voters nationally.

Trump’s campaign announced on Wednesday that he had filed a personal financial disclosure with the Federal Election Commission, a step required of all candidates before they can participate in the first Republican debate next month and one that many political observed predicted Trump was not willing to take.

Many commentators continue to dismiss Trump’s viability in the Republican primary, pointing out that in the last presidential election former Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann and former Godfather’s Pizza CEO Herman Cain both achieved front-runner status in Republican polls before voters ditched them for candidates with more sober temperaments and traditional backgrounds in the actual primaries and caucuses.

But Trump isn’t the only one taking Trump seriously this week. On Wednesday evening, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz walked over to Trump tower in Manhattan to pay the mogul a visit.

A person with knowledge of the meeting described it as “very, very amicable” and said the two candidates discussed media coverage of Scott Walker’s Monday presidential launch, Jeb Bush’s fundraising prowess, Cruz’s own impressive fundraising haul, and Trump’s view that Bush does not enjoy campaigning.

They also discussed border security, the national debt, and the October 2013 government shutdown in which Cruz played a leading role, according to this person, who said the two left the door open to future meetings.

Unlike other Republican candidates, Cruz has defended Trump’s comments about the alleged criminality of undocumented Mexican immigrants. “I like Donald Trump. I think he’s terrific, I think he’s brash, I think he speaks the truth,” Cruz said of Trump last month on Fox News, calling NBC’s decision to cut ties with the mogul “silly.”

Trump for his part on Wednesday backed off of questions he’s raised previously about Cruz’s fitness for the presidency. When asked whether the fact that the Texas senator was born in Canada should affect his eligibility, Trump told POLITICO, “I don’t know. I mean I haven’t looked at it. I have not looked at it at all.”

When asked about the issue by a New York-based Fox affiliate in March, Trump had said, “It’s a hurdle. Somebody could certainly look at it very seriously. He was born in Canada. If you know and when we all studied our history lessons, you are supposed to be born in this country, so I just don’t know how the courts will rule on it.”

But Trump has apparently concluded that times have changed, and so will his tone, at least for now and to a degree: “No matter how good you are, timing is so important, and some people have timing and some people don’t, and I have it.”

Donald Trump snipes at Karl Rove **// Politico // Adam B. Lerner – July 15, 2015**

Donald Trump went on the attack against Karl Rove on Wednesday.

“Why do people listen to clown @KarlRove on @FoxNews?” the real estate mogul and Republican presidential candidate tweeted. “Spent $430M & lost all races — a Bushy!”

Later, he added, “.@FoxNews should not put @KarlRove on — he has no credibility, a bush plan who called all races wrong.”

Trump and Rove have been feuding in recent works, and the tiff shows no sign of dying down.

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On Wednesday morning, Rove appeared on Fox News and downplayed recent poll results that show Trump surging in the GOP 2016 presidential primary.

"The fundamentals matter a lot and Mr. Trump's fundamentals are not good," Rove said on "America's Newsroom," adding that as the campaign goes on he believes Trump will be exposed as a fundamentally unserious candidate.

Trump has previously bashed Rove for incorrectly predicting the results of the 2012 presidential election, and for what he perceives as ineffective spending by the Rove-linked American Crossroads super PAC, but Wednesday was the first time he specifically called on Fox News to take Rove off the air.

Rove, a longtime aide to George W. Bush, wrote an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal on July 8 under the headline "Trump and Sanders, the Disrupter Brothers."

In it, Rove wrote that "Trump could become the 2016 version of Missouri Rep. Todd Akin, who tarnished the GOP brand in 2012 with an offensive statement about rape."

How Barack Obama Created Donald Trump // Politico // Keith Koffler – July 15, 2015

It is an unassailable doctrinal truth in the modern Republican Party that Ronald Reagan was a great president and that the United States can be restored to its former glory—i.e., the 1980s—if he is resurrected and returned to earth in the form of someone just like him who claims the GOP presidential nomination and then wins the general election.

That is, someone who, like Reagan, combines genial optimism with disciplined strength. Someone with longstanding, core conservative convictions based in a comprehensive ideology that he or she can articulate convincingly to the masses. And someone with wit, charm and never-ending charisma.

In other words, someone who is the opposite of Donald Trump.

And yet today millions of conservatives are swooning for The Donald, nothing less than the anti-Reagan. They ignore Trump's surly, intolerant suggestions that illegal immigrants are largely rapists and other types of miscreants. They tolerate his meanness, boastfulness and vengefulness against those who have crossed him. And they believe his fantastical claims, like that he can build walls atop the Mexican border and make Mexicans pay for it.

And yet I am here to tell you that despite what you've read in the media, even some outposts of the conservative media, these Trump acolytes in general are not racist against Latinos and they have not been seized by madness.

They are, however, angry. Very angry. And many are agonizingly fearful about the future of the nation. They believe that vast changes to the country are being wrought in ways that are undemocratic, dishonest and perhaps even illegal.

Trump, who seems perpetually angry, is an expression of the angst of conservatives who believe the United States has gotten so deep into a mess that a little extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. What they adore about Trump is that he is a pugilist who has emerged at a time when someone needs to start throwing punches.

His blunt promise to stop illegal immigration touches on perhaps the conservatives' deepest concern of all: that their culture and the Constitutional order are disintegrating with such rapidity that they hardly recognize the country they are living in. There is a sense of desperation that is fueling support for a proven achiever and fearless confrontationalist like Trump.

As the editor of a conservative website, I am in contact with the Republican base every day. I read their voluminous comments on my website, and I exchange emails with them about their concerns.

Many of them right now genuinely, and even passionately, support Trump. They are happy to contradict me when I write that Trump is a self-aggrandizing demagogue who lacks a coherent agenda—conservative or otherwise—unless a scattered list of personal grudges and obsessions can be considered an agenda. In a poll last week on my website he won easily, cornering 25 percent of the vote.

Though I disagree with them, these comments make complete sense to me. Because I share much of the worldview that is animating support for Trump.

Let's start with immigration. America is, as President Barack Obama and his "immigration reform" allies like to say, a land of immigrants. But it is not a land of endless immigration from one culture that is different than ours and in many ways far less successful. Most immigrants from Mexico, no doubt, are good, hardworking people seeking a chance to better their circumstance in America. But they are not Americans. And in the numbers they

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are coming, the serious concern is that they are not easily assimilated.

Other cultures are supposed to augment ours, not replace it.

What's more, so many of these immigrants have, as their first act in this country, broken the law by coming here illegally. This indisputable fact is so minimized that it has become politically incorrect to call them "illegal immigrants." They are to be termed "undocumented," as if their lack of papers were a clerical error. This is a big problem for conservatives, who feel the rule of law is eroding fast under Obama.

Obama attempted to give millions of illegal immigrants legal status by simply not enforcing the law. This recourse to "prosecutorial discretion" is a shocking development, an effort to circumvent Congress and write de facto law out of the West Wing.

Many conservatives understand that millions of people cannot just be carted back to Mexico. But they want to be sure that this would be the final amnesty, unlike the last final amnesty, a law ironically enough signed by Reagan in 1986 that was supposed to mitigate illegal immigration. They don't trust Obama to enforce immigration reform that would block further illegal immigration, since he has a habit of not enforcing laws. And they believe their own Republican Party leaders are captive to business interests ravenous for cheap labor.

That is why Trump's unequivocal promise to build a wall has such resonance. They believe he'll do it. And most likely, put his name on it.

But Trump fever is about much more than immigration.

Obama's immigration fiat—which is thankfully running into trouble with the judiciary, which has halted it for now—is apiece with other solo measures he has taken that seem to many conservatives designed to dispense with the inconvenience of our system of check and balances. All in the name of doing what is "correct" as perceived by one side of the debate. The unilateral imposition of a certain viewpoint is exactly what the Constitution was designed to prevent.

Many were shocked when Obama peremptorily decided the statutory due dates of the Affordable Care Act were not to his liking and simply changed them. They were aghast that the president misled everyone about the consequences of the law, saying that people would be able to keep their doctors and health plans when they could not.

The law itself, perhaps the most sweeping legislation in half a century and a wholesale change in the way health care will be administered in this country, was rammed through Congress not by any consensus, but in a partisan vote that defied the will of the people, who opposed it. Norms were sacrificed to advance an agenda, contrary to how a republic is supposed to operate.

Meantime, the president is set to implement carbon emissions reductions that he could never get the people's elected representatives to approve. He decided on his own that the Senate was not in session and appointed judges the senate didn't approve. The IRS targeted the president's opponents, while Obama's secretary of State employed her own email server and then, after releasing what she wanted from it, erased it.

The president who cynically pretended to be "evolving" on the issue of gay marriage and then simply jettisoned beliefs supposedly grounded in his religious faith.

This president, who sold himself as "post-political," is seen by conservatives as very political, and more accurately described as "post-Constitutional."

The climate of Constitutional disorder perpetrated by Obama paves the way for demagogues like Trump to gain traction. With the rules of the game already being violated, there is greater tolerance for a man doesn't seem temperamentally inclined to obey any rules at all.

In many ways, Trump is the creation of Barack Obama.

Society, many conservatives feel, is simply unraveling.

The administration informs Americans that Obama has fixed the economy, even as it slogs along about around two percent growth. The nation debt soars skyward without anyone even faking that they have a plan to stop it—not even the supposedly budget-conscious Republican Congress. Even the Republican presidential candidates have mostly failed to explain how they will curb entitlement benefits to retirees that have been promised but cannot possibly be provided.

The institution of marriage—the foundation of society—is collapsing, as the out-of-wedlock birth rate explodes, with what conservatives fear are dire consequences for children and for women who have to raise their kids alone.

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Even so, the Supreme Court—at Obama's urging—unilaterally redefines marriage to include members of the same sex instead of allowing people to democratically change the status quo and—if they like, sometime in the future—change it back.

Men can now be women and women can now be men simply if they choose to, no matter what's actually in their pants. The Court's notion that personal desires and an individual conception of "dignity" is the basis of the right to marriage surely opens the door to polygamy.

Culture seems to be falling apart—and society seems to be coarsening. Art and music alone aren't good enough anymore for commercial success; a good chanteuse today needs in her arsenal of skills a talent for twerking. Police are becoming hesitant to do their jobs lest they be accused of racism, and the murder rate in major cities is rising.

Overseas, a new terror threat in the form of ISIL is permitted to emerge and metastasize throughout the Middle East. Its virulence may soon be coming to a skyscraper near you. Iraq, which had been stable, is in pieces, as are other portions of the Middle East. China pushes up islands out of sea as it prepares for future conquests. A deal struck this week to prevent the extremist, expansionist and possibly insane leaders of Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon will actually allow them to do so within 15 years. Israel, one of our closest friends, is treated like a foe.

It is into this leadership void that Donald Trump has stepped. Say what you will about The Donald—and people certainly say plenty—but no one doubts that he's decisive and confrontational.

A strong hand like that wielded by Trump is seen as one that can help piece the seething disorder back together. That is always the promise of demagogues, who convey a sense of certainty during bewildering times, and who blame "others" and foreigners—in Trump's case Mexico and China—for the ills besetting the homeland.

What conservatives who support him are missing is that he too is a unilateralist who will only carve further cracks into the foundation of the republic.

But it is understandable that they are fooled by him. Because they are just not sure that temperate, compromising people can save the country. And in this, given how far we have fallen, they may be right.

Donald Trump: I'm getting richer // Politico // Ben Schreckinger – July 15, 2015

If Donald Trump is worried about the financial toll of his inflammatory comments on the campaign trail, which have caused many major American brands to cut ties with him, he isn't showing it.

He now claims to have a net worth greater than $10 billion.

Or as, Trump's campaign put it in a statement on Wednesday, "As of this date, Mr. Trump's net worth is in excess of TEN BILLION DOLLARS." The statement attributes Trump's supposed gain in net worth to rising property values over the past year in American cities where he owns real estate.

Trump's net worth has long been a matter of contention. In recent public statements, he's claimed to be worth nearly $9 billion, while Forbes magazine, which has been tracking his net worth for more than 30 years, pegs it at $4 billion. Much of that difference can be attributed to the value of his personal brand. Trump values his brand at more than $3 billion, while Forbes believes it is worth less than $150 million.

In the statement, Trump claimed an income of $362 million in 2014 on top of $27 million in profits from selling stocks last January. He filed a personal financial disclosure with the FEC on Wednesday, a prerequisite for participating in the first Republican primary debate next month.

Trump's official haul: $1.9 million // Politico // Katie Glueck – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump, the real estate mogul, reality TV star and Republican presidential candidate, took in nearly $2 million in the second quarter of this year — nearly all of which was a loan from the candidate himself.

Trump, who has sparked controversy with several inflammatory remarks but appears to be gaining in some polls, loaned the campaign $1.8 million; overall the campaign took in about $1.9 million. Below is a breakout of the campaign's finances as of the end of June.

Total raised: $1,902,410.45

Total spent: $1,414,674.29

Total cash on hand: $487,736.16

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Total debt: $1,804,747.23

Trump claims $213M payout for 'Apprentice' // Politico // Dylan Byers – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump claims that NBCUniversal paid him more than $213 million for his work on "The Apprentice," the reality show that Trump hosted up until the launch of his presidential campaign this year.

The total figure -- $213,606,575, over the course of 14 years -- was included in a news release announcing that Trump had filed his personal financial disclosure statement with the Federal Election Commission, making him eligible to run for president.

"NBC/Universal renewed, at the upfronts this year, The Apprentice (for a 15th season), but Mr. Trump decided to turn them down in order to run for President of the United States. NBC was not happy," Trump's office wrote. "During the 14 seasons of The Apprentice, Mr. Trump was paid $213,606,575."

An NBCUniversal spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for confirmation of that figure.

Trump's office claimed that the real estate magnate's total net worth is 'in excess of ten billion dollars," and added that the FEC report "was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth."

Trump himself used the opportunity to strike back at critics who dismissed his presidential run as a charade.

"First people said I would never run, and I did. Then, they said, I would never file my statement of candidacy with the FEC, and I did. Next, they said I would never file my personal financial disclosure forms. I filed them early despite the fact that I am allowed two 45 days extensions," Trump said in a statement.

"Now I have surged in the polls and am fighting to Make America Great Again," he continued. "I look forward to the challenge of winning the presidency and doing a fantastic job for our country. I will make the United States rich and strong and respected again, but also a country with a big heart toward the care of our people."

Trump finished first in the most recent Republican presidential primary poll, conducted by USA Today and Suffolk University. He finished second, to Jeb Bush, in previous polls conducted by Monmouth University, CNN/ ORC and Fox News.

Poll: Trump's favorability increasing, but not with Hispanics // Politico // Nick Gass – July 15, 2015

Americans have increasingly positive views of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump since his remarks on immigration, though many more still dislike him by nearly a 2-to-1 margin, according to a new ABC News/ Washington Post poll released Wednesday.

Thirty-three percent of those surveyed said they had a favorable view of the billionaire real-estate mogul, while 61 percent said they did not. Still, that is an improvement from the last ABC News/Washington Post poll conducted in May before Trump's campaign announcement, when 71 percent viewed him unfavorably and just 16 percent said they had a favorable impression of him.

Among Hispanics, however, his negatives are soaring. Just 13 percent said they have a positive opinion of Trump, who last month decried undocumented immigrants who are "rapists" and "killers" coming across the border from Mexico and other countries. More than eight-in-10 (81 percent) of Hispanics said they have an unfavorable impression of him.

The only groups that see Trump favorably are Republicans and strong conservatives, according to the poll. Republicans view Trump favorably by a margin of 57 percent to 40 percent, while those identifying as very conservative view him favorably, 55 percent to 37 percent. Among all whites, 53 percent see him unfavorably, along with 74 percent of nonwhites, 58 percent of independents and 60 percent of moderates.

Among Democrats, Hillary Clinton's favorability rating (52 percent to 45 percent) tops that of Bernie Sanders' (27 percent to 28 percent), though a plurality (45 percent) of those surveyed said they had no opinion of the independent Vermont senator.

The poll was conducted July 8-12 via landline and cellphones in English and Spanish, surveying a random national sample of 1,011 adults. The results carry a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3.5 percentage points.

The Trump Litmus Test // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur – July 14, 2015

In the course of 24 hours, two of Donald Trump's Republican presidential rivals have said two very different things about him that had the benefit, for both, of attracting a bit of the media attention that follows the self-

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described billionaire candidate.

Jeb Bush has generated quite a bit of chatter with a comparison he made Tuesday at a campaign stop in Council Bluffs, a city on the western edge of Iowa.

"We need to stop tearing—separating ourselves by race and ethnicity and income. We need to focus on the things that tie us together. And whether it's Donald Trump or Barack Obama their rhetoric of divisiveness is wrong," the former Florida governor told the crowd. "A Republican will never win by striking fear in people's hearts."

Ted Cruz had a markedly different take. While in New York on Wednesday for a financial conference, the Texas senator planned to meet with his Republican competitor. Before the session, he described to NBC himself as "a big fan" of Trump and adding: "I think he brings a bold, brash voice to this presidential race."

The real estate mogul has drawn widespread condemnation for recently likening Mexican immigrants to "rapists" that are "bringing drugs; they're bringing crime" to the United States. His unrestrained attacks on illegal immigration have poured gasoline on an already explosive debate that has divided the party. Some conservatives have praised his focus on an issue they say the Republican Party isn't sufficiently concerned about.

The Trump schism reflects the divide within the crowded Republican field—Bush fares best among establishment figures and moderate Republicans who detest Trump and fear his ascent will damage the party. Many of his rivals, meanwhile, are competing the for the anti-establishment conservative base that Trump is effectively channeling. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina—who have said favorable things about Trump tapping into anger about illegal immigration.

Bush's broadside wasn't an off-the-cuff moment. His campaign clipped a 45-second video of those remarks and distributed them widely to reporters.

But by comparing Trump to Obama, Bush is leveling a critique calculated to resonate with conservatives. Among Republicans, it's an article of faith that Obama is one of the most divisive presidents in history, if not the most divisive. Their evidence for this generally focuses on his calls for upper income people to pay higher taxes. To his critics, that amounts to "class warfare." So the assertion is hardly novel. But the comparison to Trump—loved and hated for his incendiary, unrestrained rhetorical style—certainly is. Bush's campaign didn't respond to a message asking how he ranks Trump's divisive rhetoric against Obama's.

"The strategy is to show just how negative Trump is with his campaign and in order to effectively lead, there must be a positive vision going forward," said Ron Bonjean, a Republican operative who isn't working for any of the presidential candidates. "It's effective because it calls out how negative Trump really is with his sensationalist comments and takes it a step further by tying him to Obama's anti-Republican rhetoric."

One Democratic strategist speculated that Bush was trying to disqualify Trump with Republican voters by comparing him to Obama. That's more likely to sway Republicans than labeling Trump a racist, the theory goes.

A poll by Suffolk University and USA Today released Tuesday, the same day Bush made his remarks, found Trump leading the Republican primary field with 17 percent. Bush came second with 14 percent.

Donald Trump Claims Net Worth Over $10 Billion as He Files Disclosure // Bloomberg // Richard Rubin – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump claimed a net worth exceeding $10 billion and a 2014 income of $362 million as he filed his financial disclosure with the U.S. government.

"This report was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth," his campaign said in a news release. "For instance, they have boxes once a certain number is reached that simply state $50 million or more. Many of these boxes have been checked."

Trump, a real estate developer, property owner and media personality, claimed a net worth of $8.7 billion last month. In Wednesday's statement, Trump's campaign said that number was actually more than a year old.

The Trump campaign didn't release the actual form that he filed with the Federal Election Commission, and campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks referred a reporter to the FEC. The FEC has 30 days to release forms publicly after they are filed and reviewed. It won't confirm whether Trump's has been received.

When it's released, the form will show that Trump has "almost 500 business entities" and that 91 percent of them are fully owned by him, according to the campaign statement.

The $8.7 billion statement from last month included an assumption that Trump's brand was worth more than $3 billion. That was before companies including Macy's Inc. severed ties with Trump over his comments calling

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immigrants from Mexico “rapists.”

Real Estate

“Real estate values in New York City, San Francisco, Miami and many other places where he owns property have gone up considerably during this period of time,” the campaign said. “His debt is a very small percentage of value, and at very low interest rates.”

Wednesday’s statement didn’t include a precise number, instead describing his net worth as “in excess of TEN BILLION DOLLARS.”

The campaign also released a list of stock transactions, showing that Trump made $6.7 million in profits from selling shares of Bank of America Corp. and $3.9 million from Facebook Inc.

It also said that Trump has more than $9 million invested in hedge funds run by Paulson & Co.

The Trump campaign said he made $213,606,575 from NBC during the 14 years that his show “The Apprentice” was aired.

“First people said I would never run, and I did,” Trump said in the statement. “Then, they said, I would never file my statement of candidacy with the FEC, and I did. Next, they said I would never file my personal financial disclosure forms. I filed them early despite the fact that I am allowed two 45 days extensions.”

Donald Trump Says He'll Release Financial Disclosure by Thursday // Bloom berg // Ali Elkin – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said Wednesday that his personal financial disclosure form will come out by Thursday, and “the numbers will be far in excess of what anybody thought.”

Calling into MSNBC's Morning Joe show, Trump also confirmed he plans to meet with primary rival Ted Cruz. The Texas senator called him asking for the meeting, Trump said, and he doesn't know what it will be about.

“I respect him, I like him,” Trump said of Cruz, noting the senator's support during the fallout from Trump's comment about Mexican immigrants being “rapists.” (The Washington Post first reported on plans for the meeting, set for the Trump Tower in New York, citing Republicans familiar with the campaigns. Cruz aides declined to comment for that report, according to the newspaper, and his campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday.)

Also on Bloomberg Politics: Just How Rich Is Donald Trump, Exactly?

During the interview, Trump also derided the Iran nuclear deal as a “disgrace” and, turning to immigration, said he had five sources supporting his claim that the Mexican government intentionally sends criminals across the border.

Asked by Bloomberg Politics' Mark Halperin to name those sources, Trump said, “I'll reveal my sources when you reveal your sources, Mark.”

Trump edged out former Florida Governor Jeb Bush for the top spot in a nationwide USA Today/Suffolk University poll of Republicans released Tuesday.

Donald Trump: I’m worth $10 billion // CNN // MJ Lee – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump -- to quote the businessman himself -- seems to be a "very rich" man.

His campaign boasted Tuesday that the Republican presidential candidate's net worth is "in excess of TEN BILLION DOLLARS," and that his income in 2014 was $362 million.

The campaign sent out a release to press Tuesday afternoon saying it had filed Trump's financial disclosure with the Federal Election Commission -- the FEC confirmed receipt of the disclosure. When asked for a copy of the full disclosure, campaign officials told CNN to request it from the FEC.

For Trump, who has never held public office, his financial disclosure would offer the most comprehensive public look yet into his massive wealth. Submitting this document to the FEC is also a requirement for any presidential candidate that intends to participate in the first GOP primary debate hosted by Fox News in August.

"This report was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth," the press release said. "As an example, if a building owned by Mr. Trump is worth $1.5 billion, the box checked is '$50,000,000 or more.'"

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The amount of cash Trump has on hand will be particularly significant, showing how much money Trump has at his disposal to potentially put towards his own campaign.

His campaign previously released a summary of Trump's finances as of June 2014. It put Trump's net assets at $9.2 billion, and with approximately $500 million in liabilities, the businessman's net worth was stated as $8.7 billion.

"[T]hey said I would never file my personal financial disclosure forms. I filed them early despite the fact that I am allowed two 45 days extensions," Trump said in a statement. "Now I have surged in the polls and am fighting to Make America Great Again."

Trump's White House campaign, now just a month in, has been a costly affair.

His controversial comments that some people illegally crossing into the United States from Mexico are "rapists" and "criminals" have drawn widespread backlash. Numerous corporations including Macy's and NBC subsequently announced that they were severing business ties with Trump.

Macy's said earlier this month that it is phasing out the Trump-brand menswear line. And with NBC, there's more than one business venture at risk: Trump was the host of the popular reality TV show "The Apprentice," and the network also decided it would no longer broadcast the Miss USA pageant, which Trump partly owns.

Tuesday's press release claims that Trump was paid $213 million over the course of 14 seasons of "The Apprenftice."

Trump's business deals with the city of New York have also come under scrutiny: Mayor Bill de Blasio said he is reviewing the real estate mogul's contracts with the city, including for a recently opened Trump golf course in the Bronx.

But Trump has downplayed whatever financial hit he's taken so far.

"Here's the good news. I'm very rich," Trump told CNN's Anderson Cooper earlier this month. "The money you're talking about is a lot but it's peanuts for me."

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's campaign and a pro-Bush super PAC announced raising more than $114 million.

Donald Trump claims he's worth $10 billion // MSNBC // Carrie Dann – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump's campaign claims that he is worth over $10 billion and that he made $362 million in income last year.

His campaign made the estimate in a press release announcing that he has filed his personal financial disclosure information with the FEC. But in the statement, Trump's campaign itemized only about $50 million of his assets, including profits from stock sales and hedge and mutual fund investments.

Trump's team also made a point to lament that the FEC's personal financial disclosure form doesn't allow for a full reflection of Trump's cash.

"This report was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth," the press release stated. "For instance, they have boxes once a certain number is reached that simply state $50 million or more. Many of these boxes have been checked. As an example, if a building owned by Mr. Trump is worth $1.5 billion, the box checked is "$50,000,000 or more."

Trump did not make the entirety of his personal financial disclosure available to the public or to NBC News, although his campaign indicated that it was filed to the FEC Wednesday. The FEC has 30 days to release the information to the public.

When he announced his presidential candidacy last month, Trump cited his net worth as $8.7 billion. The campaign says that figure was out of date and that the increase is due in part to increasing real estate values in New York City, San Francisco and Miami.

But analysts have suggested that the real number is likely much less than that. Forbes, which has been tracking his finances for more than 30 years, estimates that his net worth is closer to $4.1 billion, less than half of Trump's figure.

CPAC Chairman: Trump a plausible president // MSNBC // Jesse Bergman – July 15, 2015

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In his some of his strongest language defending Donald Trump's candidacy, the head of the influential American Conservatives Union says Trump has a reasonable shot for the Oval Office.

When asked by "Hardball's" Chris Matthews if Trump is a "plausible President," Matt Schlapp, the chairman of the American Conservatives Union, said "Yeah. Definitely. Definitely."

"Being an outsider at this particular time in American politics sure seems to be an advantage," said Schlapp, who also serves as the chairman of CPAC.

Trump has risen to the top of the polls for the Republican Presidential primary. Whether his candidacy has staying power has been the subject of debate among analysts.

According to Trump, rival candidate Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) called him requesting a meeting. Cruz responded in a joking tone when asked by John Harwood at CNBC's "Delivering Alpha Conference" if his motive for the meeting was to inherit Trump's followers in the event of a campaign collapse.

"I'm running to win," Cruz said. "I expect everyone to collapse and I want to inherit everyone's votes, so at the end of the day, I will readily plead guilty to that."

Former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown echoed a sentiment expressed by many Democrats that Trump's candidacy would be a boon to Hillary Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee.

"I think Mrs. Clinton is just hoping the Republican Party continues with its insanity towards Donald Trump, and nominates Donald Trump, that will almost ensure that we'll have the first woman President in the history of the country," Brown said on "Hardball".

In response to Schlapp's argument that Trump's outsider status is an advantage in the current political environment, Brown said that in order to be taken seriously, a candidate must show talent, skill, humanity and common sense.

"Trump provides none of those things," Brown said.

Donald Trump's Team Says His 'Massive' Net Worth Is More Than 'TEN BILLION DOLLARS' // HuffPo // Igor Bobic – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump usually can't go more than a minute without reminding everyone about his huge crowds, his huge poll numbers and his hugely opulent wealth. And on Wednesday, the day presidential candidates were required to disclose their fundraising with federal regulators, Trump's campaign issued perhaps the biggest brag yet about the real estate mogul.

In a statement announcing his filing with the Federal Election Commission, Trump aides said that the FEC report "was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth."

"For instance, they have boxes once a certain number is reached that simply state $50 million or more. Many of these boxes have been checked," the statement says. "As an example, if a building owned by Mr. Trump is worth $1.5 billion, the box checked is '$50,000,000 or more.'"

During his presidential announcement in New York last month, Trump estimated his own net worth to be nearly $9 billion, adding that it was probably even higher. However, financial experts, including those at Forbes, have cast doubt on that claim, because Trump had evidently not factored in his estimated $5 billion in liabilities.

Trump's campaign said Wednesday that when the candidate initially brought up the $9 billion figure, it was based on data that was, in fact, more than a year old. Trump's net worth has gone up since then, the campaign's statement said, possibly because of higher property values on Trump's holdings in several cities.

"His debt is a very small percentage of value, and at very low interest rates. As of this date, Mr. Trump's net worth is in excess of TEN BILLION DOLLARS," the statement reads.

The Huffington Post has not been able to verify that claim, because Trump's official form is not yet available on the FEC's website.

Trump has risen steadily in the polls since he announced his bid for president in June, despite widespread public condemnation of his remarks about undocumented immigrants. A USA Today/Suffolk University poll released Tuesday showed the celebrity hotelier in first place among a very crowded Republican presidential field, with 17 percent support from likely GOP voters. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) trails Trump with 14 percent.

Trump touted his own ascent in the statement provided by his campaign, and thumbed his nose at critics who'd

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been skeptical about his presidential run.

“First people said I would never run, and I did. Then, they said, I would never file my statement of candidacy with the FEC, and I did. Next, they said I would never file my personal financial disclosure forms. I filed them early despite the fact that I am allowed two 45 days [sic] extensions," he said in the statement. "Now I have surged in the polls and am fighting to Make America Great Again. I look forward to the challenge of winning the presidency and doing a fantastic job for our country. I will make the United States rich and strong and respected again, but also a country with a 'big heart' toward the care of our people.”

Trump loaned his campaign more than $1.8 million since announcing his bid for the White House, according to an FEC report that was posted online Wednesday evening. He raised a mere $96,298, while spending more than $1.4 million of the total sum on operating expenditures. His campaign has $487,736 cash on hand.

Donald Trump Exaggerates Crowd Size At Phoenix Rally // HuffPo // Jacob Kerr – July 15, 2015

Despite Donald Trump's assertion that the crowd at his Saturday campaign event in Phoenix was the largest of any presidential candidate so far in the race, all other estimates put the number of attendees significantly below what the Trump campaign said.

The campaign moved the rally from the Arizona Biltmore hotel to the Phoenix Convention Center to allow more people to attend. When Trump arrived at the podium, he claimed the crowd was larger than those at Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-Vt.) presidential campaign events.

"This blows away anything Bernie Sanders has gotten," Trump said.

By comparison, Sanders' largest crowd was 10,000 in Madison, Wisconsin.

In a tweet, which has since been deleted, Trump said he was "[s]peaking to 20,000+ patriots in Arizona." A post on his Facebook page claimed 15,000. After the event, a campaign press release also had the crowd at 15,000 and called the event "the largest campaign event of any presidential candidate this cycle."

But the Washington Post report on Trump's event put the audience at 4,200 individuals, less than a third the size of Trump's estimate. The Phoenix Fire Department said the crowd was capped at that number in accordance with the fire code for the ballroom.

Trump, who is now leading opinion polls in the Republican presidential primary race, has a theory on why no one agrees with his estimates.

This isn't the first time Trump's crowds have come under question. After his announcement speech last month, a Hollywood Reporter article said Trump paid audience members $50 to cheer for him.

Donald Trump’s ‘Miss USA’ Pageant Earns Record-Low Ratings // HuffPo // Gabriel Arana – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump’s "Miss USA" pageant has set a record -- but, uh, not a very good one.

The show, which networks Univision and NBC recently dropped after the Republican presidential candidate decided to stake out a position about Mexican immigrants being rapists, garnered its lowest ratings ever after airing on the little-known Reelz channel on Sunday.

A mere 925,000 people tuned in to the pageant, according to the ratings agency Nielsen. For Reelz, which reaches less than 60 percent of TV-watching homes, that's actually a pretty good number. But it’s a far cry from the roughly 5.5 million viewers who tuned in to the pageant on NBC last year. It's even a major step down from 2013, when the show’s viewership reached a then-record low of 4.6 million people.

Trump, who is currently kicking up dust on the Republican primary field, has sued Univision for $500 million for dropping the show.

The larger question here, as The Onion recently pointed out, is why, nearly a century after women won the right to vote, we still have these pageants where they're paraded around like farm animals at an auction -- and why any network would be willing to air them.

That Time Im 1988 Trump Told Oprah What Was Wrong With America’s Foreign Policy // BuzzFeed // Ilan Ben-Meir – July 15, 2015

In the final months of Ronald Reagan’s presidency, Donald Trump appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show to discuss the advertisement criticizing U.S. foreign policy that he spent nearly $100,000 to place in three major

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newspapers the previous fall — and the possibility that he might run for president, himself.

Trump told Winfrey in April of 1988 that he was "tired of seeing what's happening with this country," and said that America was supporting its foreign allies at the expense of its own citizens' well-being.

Winfrey began by asking Trump about the "open letter" to the American public that he had paid to place in the New York Times, Washington Post, and Boston Globe a few months before, at a time when some were speculating that Trump was planning to enter the race for the Republican nomination to succeed Reagan in 1988.

Trump's advertisement was a sharp critique of American foreign policy, including the claim that "[t]he world is laughing at America's politicians as we protect ships we don't own, carrying oil we don't need, destined for allies who won't help."

After Winfrey pointed to the advertisement to ask what Trump would "do differently," the tycoon reiterated many of the arguments contained in the letter, telling Winfrey that he would "make our allies pay their fair share."

"We're a debtor nation," Trump said. "Something's going to happen over the next number of years with this country, 'cause you can't keep going on losing 200 billion."
Trump argueed that the Japanese "are beating the hell out of this country," because "[t]hey come over here, they sell their cars, their VCRs, they knock the hell out of our companies" — all while taking advantage of American largesse.

The solution, he suggested, was to require countries like Japan and Kuwait to pay the United States for it's ongoing support.

When Winfrey asked Trump if he would consider a run for the White House, the billionaire said he "probably" wouldn't do it.

"I just probably wouldn't do it, Oprah," said Trump, "I just don't think I really have the inclination to do it. I love what I'm doing, I really like it."

"But I do get tired of seeing what's happening with this country," Trump continued. "And if it got so bad, I would never want to rule it out totally, because I really am tired of seeing what's happening with this country — how we're really making other people live like kings, and we're not."

Trump offered praise for all three of the major candidates in the race.

"I think that probably George Bush has an advantage, in terms of the election," said Trump. "But I think Jesse Jackson's done himself very proud, I think Michael Dukakis has done one hell of a job. [...] I think people that are around all three of those candidates can be very proud of the jobs they've done."

Asked by Winfrey if he believed he could win, Trump said he "would have a hell of a chance."

"I would say that I would have a hell of a chance of winning, because I think people — I don't know how your audience feels — but I think people are tired of seeing the United States ripped off," Trump argued, promising that if he were in charge, "[t]his country would make one hell of a lot of money from those people that for twenty-five years have taken advantage" of the United States.

Trump concluded by insisting that he would abandon an unacceptable status quo.
In Donald Trump's America "[i]t wouldn't be the way it's been," Trump declared. "Believe me."

Trump To USA: Look How Rich I Am! **// Daily Beast // Olivia Nuzzi – July 14, 2015**

On Wednesday, Republican frontrunner Donald Trump announced in a press release that he was too rich for the Federal Election Commission forms but he filed them anyway.

"This report was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth," the release began, lest you had forgotten that Trump is, in his own words, "really rich."

"For instance," the release helpfully explained, "they have boxes once a certain number is reached that simply state $50 million or more. Many of these boxes have been checked. As an example, if a building owned by Mr. Trump is worth $1.5 billion, the box checked is '$50,000,000 or more."

Prior to his campaign, pundit wisdom surrounding Trump was that he would never really run for office because if he did, it would mean admitting he wasn't as rich as he said he was. That was why, it was believed, he'd chickened out of formally announcing for close to twenty years.

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But, according to the press release, the pundits were wrong.

The financial disclosure is not yet available from the FEC, but Trump claims his net worth "is in excess of TEN BILLION DOLLARS." (Caps his, of course).

He also claims that in 2014 he made "$362 million (which does to include dividends, interest, capital gains, rents and royalties)."

Trump's compulsory declarations of wealth are his defining characteristic.

During his June 16 announcement, he made sure to clarify "I'm really rich."

"Now I have surged in the polls and am fighting to Make America Great Again. I look forward to the challenge of winning the presidency and doing a fantastic job for our country."
In total, he uttered the words "rich," "money" and "net worth" 30 times in 45 minutes. He also claimed his exact net worth was $8,737,540,000.

Trump, whose corporations have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy over 10 times, is highly sensitive to accusations that he is not as wealthy as he claims.

In 2006, when Trump claimed to be worth $2.7 billion, he sued Timothy L. O'Brien, author of TrumpNation: The Art of Being the Donald and its publisher, Warner Books, for saying Trump was worth $150 million to $250 million. The suit was dismissed.

In 2011, when MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell mocked Trump by suggesting he was worth fewer than $1 billion, Trump responded on Twitter by threatening a lawsuit and claiming to be worth "substantially more than 7 billion dollars" with "very low debt, great assets."

In an interview with The Daily Beast about the downfall of Atlantic City in 2014, Trump declared, without prompting, "I made a lot of money in Atlantic City" over half a dozen times—five of which made their way into print. At one point, he said, "I hope you can say in your article that Mr. Trump sold out a long time ago and did well. I made a lot of money."

Having defied expectations, the tone of Trump's release was jovial.

"First people said I would never run, and I did," he said in a statement. "Then, they said, I would never file my statement of candidacy with the FEC, and I did. Next they said I would never file my personal financial disclosure forms. I filed them early despite the fact that I am allowed two 45 day extensions. Now I have surged in the polls and am fighting to Make America Great Again. I look forward to the challenge of winning the presidency and doing a fantastic job for our country. I will make the United States rich and strong and respected again, but also a country with a 'big heart' toward the care of our people."

GOP Gives Up on 'Dump Trump' // Daily Beast // Tim Mak – July 15, 2015

Republican grief over Donald Trump's all but assured presence on the debate stage next month seems to be entering it's final stage: acceptance.

Whether it's the winery-owning mega donor, or the Koch-backed Hispanic outreach group or the former head of the American Conservative Union, there is a distaste for the abrasive reality television star and businessman.

But although there was preliminary chatter about finding a way to marginalize Trump or keep him off the debate stage in Cleveland, Ohio, the unhappiness with his recent insulting comments about Hispanics has yielded to mere condemnation and an unhappy acquiescence to his presence in the race.

"They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people," Trump said recently.

John Jordan, the multi-millionaire winery owner and the third largest donor to super PACs in the country in 2013, had originally contemplated gathering signatures to keep Trump off the debate stage.

"Someone in the party ought to start some sort of petition saying, 'If Trump's going to be on the stage, I'm not going to be on there with him,'" Jordan told the Associated Press last week. "I'm toying with the idea of it."

But several days later, Jordan was thinking differently. He told The Daily Beast that he would not be putting together a petition effort.

"I'm content right to let the process play out, that is for the party and the candidates to figure out," Jordan said. "I

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have one concern, and one concern only, and that is next November. I want to make sure that the nominee has the possible chance to win."

"He's a lunatic, but we've had other lunatics run for president. The problem is not that he's on stage—it's if you don't respond and rebuke him," Alfonso Aguilar said.
Al Cardenas, the former chairman of the American Conservative Union and Florida's first Hispanic GOP state chairman, said he hoped the primary process would naturally weed out Trump's candidacy, rather than a top-down effort to push Trump out.

"[A]s distasteful as his comments have been to me, we should let the process play out. Hopefully, it's the rejection by the voters, not a group of party leaders ,that should determine his fate as a presidential candidate," Cardenas said. "I respect the feelings of a number of our colleagues who feel differently—and strongly—about this and argue that his continuation in the race is detrimental to our party and to our brand. And they may be right, but the end does not justify the means in this case."

"It's a mild form of censorship to say that because we disagree with his tone or comments about the immigrant community, [he] should leave the race," added Daniel Garza of the Koch-backed Libre Initiative, which seeks to appeal to Hispanic voters. "You allow him to mouth off… He has the right to speak, and we have the right to disagree with him… calls to have him leave the race are ludicrous."

Alfonso Aguilar, the head of the conservative American Principles Project's Latino Partnership, views Trump's "insulting and baseless" comments as creating pressure on other presidential candidates to step up their Hispanic outreach.

"Instead of seeing him as a problem, I see it as an opportunity—but one that requires strong leadership," he told the Beast. "He's a lunatic, but we've had other lunatics run for president. The problem is not that he's on stage—it's if you don't respond and rebuke him."

"He has shaken up the primary in a way that might not be welcome. But now that you have it, if you're smart and astute, maybe you can use it in your favor," agreed Garza. "Obviously you have to draw the contrast. If Donald Trump is showing how not to do Latino outreach, you show the way to do it effective."

As for the Republican National Committee, it wants no part in any effort to sideline Trump. RNC Chairman Reince Priebus had called Trump to preach civility after the businessman's controversial comments—then got mired into a he-said, he-said with the Donald over the contents of the call.

Asked about whether Republicans or big-dollar donors were making an effort to keep Trump off the debate stage, an RNC official merely said that, per Federal Election Commission guidelines, the networks and debate sponsors were responsible for setting up the guidelines for the presidential debates.
Meanwhile, a small plurality of Republican voters are favoring Trump. In a USA Today/Suffolk University poll released this week, Trump leads the field with 17%. Former Florida governor Jeb Bush is close behind him with 14%.

Two polls out last week showed him leading the field of Republican 2016 candidates, receiving 15 percent in a Economist/YouGov poll and 16 percent in a PPP poll.

Aguila, who was in Arizona to counter-message an event Trump was having with Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, said the key to convincing Republican primary voters to steer clear of Trump, was to point out the businessman's prior positions like Trump's praise of Bill Clinton and his donation to the Clinton Foundation.

"Before he was friends with Hillary, now he's friends with Joe Arpaio," he said. "Are you really sure he's conservative?"

Donald Trump Claims $10 Billion Net Worth After Filing Election Forms // TIME // Zeke J. Miller – July 15, 2015

Business mogul Donald Trump claimed a personal net worth of over $10 billion after filing a personal financial disclosure form with the Federal Election Commission, a key procedural hurdle for his presidential campaign.

The filing clears the way for Trump to appear on the first GOP debate stage on Aug. 6 in Cleveland, and comes as he has risen to the top of polls of Republican voters. Trump reported earning more than $362 million in 2014, according to his campaign — dwarfing the rest of the GOP field's net worth by a significant margin.

In typical Trump fashion, the campaign released a statement full of braggadocio to commemorate the occasion.

"This report was not designed for a man of Mr. Trump's massive wealth," his campaign said "For instance, they have boxes once a certain number is reached that simply state $50 million or more. Many of these boxes have

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been checked. As an example, if a building owned by Mr. Trump is worth $1.5 billion, the box checked is "$50,000,000 or more."

The filing reportedly shows that Trump is affiliated with nearly "500 business entities of which 91% are owned 100% by him." According to his campaign, he earned $213,606,575 during the 14 seasons of The Apprentice, the NBC reality show which was renewed in May without Trump's participation.

Last month, Trump filed a preliminary financial statement claiming a net worth of about $8.7 billion.

"Mr. Trump's net worth has increased since the more than one year old financial statement produced at his presidential announcement," his campaign said. "Real estate values in New York City, San Francisco, Miami and many other places where he owns property have gone up considerably during this period of time. His debt is a very small percentage of value, and at very low interest rates. As of this date, Mr. Trump's net worth is in excess of TEN BILLION DOLLARS." (Emphasis theirs.)

In a statement, Trump needled those who said he would never file the official forms, which must be certified by the candidate as "true, complete and correct to the best of [their] knowledge."

"First people said I would never run, and I did," Trump said. "Then, they said, I would never file my statement of candidacy with the FEC, and I did. Next, they said I would never file my personal financial disclosure forms. I filed them early despite the fact that I am allowed two 45 days extensions. Now I have surged in the polls and am fighting to Make America Great Again. I look forward to the challenge of winning the presidency and doing a fantastic job for our country. I will make the United States rich and strong and respected again, but also a country with a 'big heart' toward the care of our people."

Heat on GOP Candidates Paul, Rubio to Derail Iran Pact // Real Clear Politics // Caitlin Huey-Burns and Rebecca Berg – July 14, 2015

As the Obama administration and most Democrats celebrated a nuclear deal with Iran as a historic achievement, Republicans running for president uniformly denounced it as a historic failure.

The swift opposition was expected; it's become something of a rallying cry on the campaign trail as part of slamming the administration's foreign policy and, by virtue, Hillary Clinton's, as weak and caving. But the formalized terms place a spotlight on the presidential pool's contenders from the U.S. Senate, particularly Rand Paul and Marco Rubio, whose hopes of standing apart from a crowded field rest in part on their foreign policy bona fides.

The freshmen senators both sit on the Foreign Relations Committee, which will take the first crack at the Iran deal, and have publicly sparred over their differences in this arena, most notably over the administration's thawing of relations with Cuba. Paul, the libertarian from Kentucky, has focused more on domestic policy issues like government surveillance and privacy, but has also mostly maintained a more anti-interventionist view. Rubio, from Florida, has taken an approach to foreign policy that has been among the most hawkish in the GOP field.

In a sign of how politically untenable support for this particular deal is in this Republican primary, the two senators came out on the same side on this issue.

"It will be very hard for the GOP candidates to support this deal and still argue they are tough on national security," said Danielle Pletka, senior vice president for foreign and defense policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute. "It is not simply that Hillary Clinton's resume is foreign policy heavy -- it is the fact that this president will bequeath a world in such disorder that any pretense of comfort with the world Barack Obama built will be viewed by voters as an abdication of leadership."

While Paul has said he would be open to diplomacy with Iran regarding its nuclear capabilities instead of waging war, he ultimately opposed the deal that will come soon before Congress for review. But he was not as quick with a response as his rivals.

In a statement, Paul argued that sanctions would expire before evidence of compliance and that it still leaves Iran with significant nuclear capability. Additionally, Paul said, the agreement will lift an arms embargo with Iran (the administration argues that the ban will remain for the next five years).

"While I continue to believe that negotiations are preferable to war, I would prefer to keep the interim agreement in place instead of accepting a bad deal," Paul said, noting he would vote against it.

For Rubio, who has staunchly opposed an agreement with Iran from the start, the deal presents an opportunity to further elevate rhetoric he has embraced on the campaign trail for months.

In March, Rubio was among 47 Republican senators, along with Paul, who signed an open letter to Iranian leaders

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noting that “the next president could revoke … an executive agreement with the stroke of a pen.” That same month, during a political event in New Hampshire, Rubio suggested that the proliferation of Iranian weapons might even warrant military intervention by the U.S.

“We may have to decide at some point what is worse: a military strike against Iran or a nuclear-armed Iran,” Rubio said, according to a Politico report at the time. “I am not cheerleading for war. I don’t want there to be the need to use military force, but a nuclear Iran is an unacceptable risk for the region and the world.”

On Tuesday, Rubio indicated in a statement that he would undo the agreement with Iran if he were elected president.

“It will then be left to the next president to return us to a position of American strength and re-impose sanctions on this despicable regime until it is truly willing to abandon its nuclear ambitions and is no longer a threat to international security,” Rubio said.

And, almost immediately, Rubio’s political network sprang into action to capitalize on the deal. An ad released Tuesday by a nonprofit group supporting Rubio for president said he “is leading the fight” in the Senate against the deal with Iran, and pressed people to urge their senators to ”join Marco Rubio and defeat Obama’s deal with Iran.

In large field of candidates, a rivalry has emerged between executive-minded governors and legislatively experienced senators. The difference becomes especially relevant, the senators argue, when it comes to foreign policy, as congressional lawmakers have more intimate knowledge and experience with classified information and international affairs.

While the GOP field is largely united around foreign policy — with Rand Paul as an outlier — the nuances lie in style and past experiences.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham has also made his foreign affairs experience a centerpiece of his campaign. He came out in perhaps the starkest of terms against the Iran deal in various cable news interviews on Tuesday, calling it “the most dangerous and irresponsible step I’ve ever seen” and one that would ensure that Iran becomes “a nuclear nation.” Graham said he fears “that we’ve set in motion a decade of chaos.”

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz also vehemently condemned the deal that he argued “legitimized” Iran’s nuclear program, taking special objection to the fact that the negotiations did not bring about the release of three American captives held in Iran.

“We owe it to our fellow Americans to elevate, not ignore, their plight, to demand their swift and unconditional release by the implacably hostile regime that holds them,” Cruz said in a statement.

Relative to the former and sitting governors running for president, Republican senators will be able to more directly affect the party’s path forward on this issue from their perch on Capitol Hill. That might lend some advantages, but also adds the responsibility of potentially presenting some legislative alternative to the agreement with Iran.

“Your Iran policy can’t just be issuing the most hyperbolic press release,” said Tommy Vietor, a former spokesman for the president on national security. “If you disagree, you need to propose a viable alternative that can unite the international community the way Obama has and actually move us closer to preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.”

Vietor added, “I haven’t heard any of these guys articulate a viable alternative.”

On the Democratic side, Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator challenging Hillary Clinton for the nomination, called the deal “a victory for diplomacy over saber-rattling.” He said it “could keep the United States from being drawn into another never-ending war in the Middle East.”

Sanders crossed paths with Clinton on Tuesday as she spent the day on Capitol Hill meeting with Democrats, with a special focus on Iran. For her part, Clinton, who worked to bring the negotiations about as secretary of state, called the agreement “an important step in putting the lid on Iran’s nuclear program.” Clinton, who will play a key role in persuading lawmakers to support the agreement, also said the deal will enable the United States in further negotiations over Iran’s other “bad actions,” including the detainment of American citizens, threats to Israel, and state-sponsored terrorism.

Lawmakers have 60 days to review the agreement before voting on it. With Republicans opposed and a handful of Democrats with constituent ties to Israeli interests skeptical of the accord, the president will have to work to win over his party and get enough support to sustain a veto if need be.

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President Obama will make a public address on Wednesday about the Iran deal, while Vice President Joe Biden will go to Capitol Hill to discuss the agreement with Democratic lawmakers. Administration officials warned that stepping away from the accord would only unravel the sanctions placed on Iran: “A vote to kill this deal could potentially be a vote to kill the sanctions regime.”

Trump Swears He’s Not Running For President As A Democratic Plant // TPM // Catherine Thompson – July 15, 2015

Real estate mogul Donald Trump on Wednesday brushed off speculation that the Democratic Party orchestrated his presidential run to disrupt the GOP primary process.

Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) said in a recent local radio interview that he thought there was a "small possibility" Trump could be a Democratic plant in the Republican presidential field.

"I think there's a small possibility that this gentleman is a phantom candidate," Curbelo said, as quoted by The Miami Herald. "Mr. Trump has a close friendship with Bill and Hillary Clinton. They were at his last wedding. He has contributed to the Clintons' foundation. He has contributed to Mrs. Clinton's Senate campaigns. All of this is very suspicious."

Trump shot down that theory on Fox News' "Fox & Friends."

"Believe me -- from Hillary's standpoint, the one person she doesn't want running against her is Donald Trump," he said of the Democratic presidential frontrunner.

The former reality TV star argued that contributing to the Clintons and others was just the price of doing business prior to entering the political arena.

"I'm a businessman. I contribute to everybody," Trump said. "When I needed Hillary, she was there. If I say 'go to my wedding,' they go to my wedding."

In his presidential announcement speech, Trump had emphasized his ability to self-fund his campaign and eschew donors.

"That's part of the problem with our system," he said on "Fox & Friends." "They're going to do for me and all their donors things that aren't necessarily good for the country, but that are good for their donors."

Republican Voters Like Trump More Than Boehner, McConnell // Morning Consult // Reid Wilson – July 15, 2015

Republican voters have a higher opinion of billionaire real estate magnate Donald Trump than they do of their party leaders in Congress, according to a new Morning Consult survey.

Forty-nine percent of self-described Republican voters said they view Trump favorably, higher than the 36 percent who have a favorable view of House Speaker John Boehner and the 31 percent who said they see Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in a favorable light.

But Trump’s favorable ratings have actually slipped in the month since he announced he is running for president — both among Republican voters and the electorate as a whole. In an early June survey, 54 percent of Republican voters said they viewed Trump favorably, five points higher than his rating today.

And the number of those who see Trump in a very unfavorable light has spiked, from 14 percent of Republicans in June to 26 percent today. The number of registered voters who view him unfavorably is also up considerably, from 34 percent a month ago to 46 percent today.

Still, Trump is running high among Republican primary voters. A new Suffolk poll conducted for USA Today show he leads the Republican field with 17 percent. The Morning Consult poll also showed Trump as the top choice of 17 percent of Republican primary voters, up from 5 percent the previous month, though running second behind former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R), who took 19 percent.

Bush and Trump run far ahead of the rest of the Republican field, in which no other candidate tops 10 percent. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) finishes a distant third, at 9 percent, just ahead of Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), at 8 percent. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) clocks in at 7 percent, with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R), Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) clustered at 6 percent. Thirteen percent of the 762 Republican voters surveyed said they didn’t know who they would support.

While Trump’s presidential candidacy has led the national news for weeks, Boehner and McConnell have gone about their work more quietly. Consequently, fewer Americans have formed an opinion about the two most

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powerful men in Congress.

Among all registered voters, Boehner's favorable rating sits at just 23 percent, while 48 percent view him unfavorably. Even among Republicans, 31 percent don't know enough about the three-term speaker to have formed an opinion.

McConnell, who took over as Majority Leader after Republicans won control of the Senate last year, is even less well-known. Just 19 percent see him favorably, while 39 percent see him unfavorably, and 41 percent of voters – including 44 percent of self-identified Republicans – don't know enough about him to form an opinion.

The Morning Consult survey polled 2,019 registered voters between July 8-13, for a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percent.

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Paul Singer, Top Republican Donor, Is Still on the Sidelines // NYT // Alexandra Stevenson – July 15, 2015

The billionaire Paul E. Singer, one of the most sought-after donors in the Republican Party, said Wednesday that he was not committed to any political candidate yet.

Speaking at hedge fund conference in Manhattan, Mr. Singer said he was "not on the verge of committing to anyone," adding that he liked several candidates, including Senator Marco Rubio and former Gov Jeb Bush, both from Florida, and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, who formally announced his presidential campaign on Monday.

Mr. Singer also added, "We like Carly Fiorina, as well."

In recent months, Mr. Singer, founder of the $26 billion investment firm Elliott Management, has held a series of dinners to introduce associates to the vast array of Republican candidates.

Candidate Forum Planned in New Hampshire Before First Republican Debate // NYT // Alan Rappeport – July 15, 2015

Local news outlets in states with early primaries are teaming up to hold a Republican candidate forum in early August amid complaints that subsequent full-fledged debates are excluding candidates based merely on polling.

The New Hampshire Union Leader, along with news organizations in Iowa and South Carolina and C-Span, are sponsoring a candidate forum in Manchester, N.H., on Aug. 3. The forum, which will give each candidate five minutes to respond to questions, would come before the Aug. 6 debate hosted by Fox News, which is limiting the stage to the 10 Republicans leading in recent national polls.

"Fox says only the 'top' 10 candidates, as judged solely by national polling, will be allowed on its stage," the news organizations said in a joint statement. "That may be understandable later, but the first votes are half a year away and there are a lot more than 10 viable candidates."

The forum is not technically a debate but is expected to give candidates an opportunity to stand next to one another on stage and spontaneously answer questions.

With 15 Republican candidates currently announced, television networks and the Republican National Committee have been fearful that early debates will become chaotic unless participation is limited. However, lower-tier candidates worry that they will not have the chance to showcase themselves if they are shut out from competing so early in the election cycle.

So far Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey; Ben Carson; Senator Ted Cruz of Texas; Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana; Carly Fiorina; Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina; Gov. John Kasich of Ohio; and former Gov. George Pataki of New York have agreed to attend the forum. Representatives for Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky said they did not yet know if they could make it.

Allison Moore, a spokeswoman for the R.N.C., said the party was allowing the forum because the candidates would be speaking one at a time.

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Sniping Intensifies Between Donald Trump and Jeb Bush // NYT // Alan Rappeport – July 15, 2015

Donald J. Trump and former Gov. Jeb Bush have been deadlocked in recent polls and sniping between the two Republican presidential candidates is getting increasingly personal.

Mr. Trump said on Wednesday that the former Florida governor lacks energy and will not deliver on his promises because he is beholden to the big donors who are filling his campaign war chest.

“Somebody that’s reliant on all of these lobbyists and special interests and donors, they have no power,” Mr. Trump said on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.”

He added, “The $100 million that he raised is a bad thing, not a good thing.”

Mr. Bush is leading the crowded Republican field in fund-raising so far, and Mr. Trump, a billionaire businessman, argues that his personal wealth empowers him as a candidate. He also said that he will file the required personal financial disclosure forms on Wednesday or Thursday.

“Every single person is expecting something for that money and that’s not good for the country,” Mr. Trump said of Mr. Bush. “That means you can’t make deals that are good for the country.”

Mr. Bush has taken issue with Mr. Trump’s comments in recent weeks, particularly his remarks that undocumented immigrants from Mexico are criminals and “rapists.” Mr. Bush also took offense to Mr. Trump’s suggestion that he has an affinity for Mexicans because his wife is Mexican-American.

“A Republican will never win by striking fear in people’s hearts,” Mr. Bush said in Iowa on Tuesday, suggesting that his rival was preying on people’s angst.

Mr. Trump continues to stand by his remarks, but said that they have been distorted and blown out of proportion. He vowed again on Wednesday that he will win the Hispanic vote because he employs thousands of them and knows how to create jobs.

“The Hispanics love me,” he said.

Trump, Carson, and Santorum burn through campaign cash fastest // WaPo // Tom Hamburger and Anu Narayanswamy – July 15, 2015

The so-called burn rate -- comparing money raised with money spent -- showed Trump in the lead, spending 74 percent of the campaign funds he has raised so far in his official campaign account. The New York real estate and entertainment magnate is running ahead of other candidates in recent polls.

Carson, the Baltimore neurosurgeon, burned through 64 percent of the money he has raised to date, putting him close to Rick Santorum, who had a 62 percent burn rate, according to numbers filed Wednesday with the Federal Election Commission.

Trump spent heavily on travel and staff, including more than $506,486 on private jet services. In total, Trump's campaign reported spending about $1.5 million dollars as of June 30 from his mostly self-funded campaign.

Typically candidates hold on to the funds they raise early in a campaign. But this year there is enormous pressure on candidates to maintain visibility and credibility in an unusually crowded GOP field.

Despite Trump's recent rise in polls, burn rate is not necessarily an indication of success. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who also ranks at the top of recent polls, reported a burn rate of 27 percent.

The Bush campaign spent slightly more than $3 million in the two weeks after Bush announced his campaign in mid-June, primarily on operational fees, including around $400,000 on legal consulting fees. Expenditure reports showed large payments went to political consultants, including more than $350,000 to FP1 Strategies, the firm founded by Bush campaign manager Danny Diaz. Senior adviser Sally Bradshaw was paid $25,550, including $13,300 for her work while Bush was “testing the waters.”

Bush, who touted support for Uber in face of warnings from Hillary Clinton about economic questions raised by the "sharing economy," spent $1,396 on Uber rides.

Hillary Clinton's filing revealed a burn rate of 39 percent compared with 20 percent for her nearest challenger, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.
Clinton, who raised the largest sums of any official campaign, was quick to start spending money. Her committee

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raced through nearly $19 million in less than three months, even before beginning expensive TV buys. Millions went to hire hundreds of staffers, a sign of how rapidly it has sought to ramp up a national infrastructure.

A quick review of spending by Carson and Santorum showed that the three were spending a lot on fundraising efforts.

This spending appears to have paid off in one way way for Carson, who reported a large number of small donors. All told, Carson received $5.7 million from donors contributing less than $250 each. His high proportion of small donors was exceeded only by by Sanders, whose small-donation haul topped $10.4 million, about 68 percent of his entire campaign receipts. Overall, Sanders reports show a burn rate of 20 percent.

Another GOP candidate, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, collected a little more than $2 million this cycle, and spent $1.1 million, giving him a burn rate of 56 percent.

Huckabee's spending for his 2016 run so far includes consulting fees and salaries for a lot of familiar names from his 2008 bid. Other than the campaign's American Express bills, Huckabee paid the Wickers firm, where his son-in-law Bryan Sanders is a partner, the biggest single check: $55,586 for media consultant services.

Firm CEO Bob Wickers is Huckabee's political and media consultant. Huckabee's daughter, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, is managing her father's campaign this time around. She advised Tom Cotton in his winning Senate campaign last year and managed John Boozman's 2010 Senate bid against incumbent Blanche Lincoln.

Another sizable payment went to the Political Law Group, Doug Chalmer's political law firm in Georgia, which received $52,773. Next came Unisource Direct, a Wisconsin firm, which collected $39, 459 for direct mail services. The campaign also wrote checks totaling $20,107 to J. Hogan Gidley and $18,524 to Alice Tadlock, both of whom worked on Huckabee's 2008 campaign and are leaders in Huckabee's 2016 communications strategy. Gidley also directed HUCK PAC, Huckabee's political action committee.

Huckabee's close rival for support from Christian conservatives, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, was behind Huckabee in his rate of spending with a burn rate of 54 percent.

Rubio, who filed late in the evening Wednesday, showed a burn rate of 35 percent and a hefty total of $9.9 million cash on hand.

As Jindal and Huckabee struggle with fundraising, super PACs bolster tallies // WaPo // Jose A. DelReal – July 15, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's campaign raised just $579,000 in the second quarter, according to a Federal Election Commission filing submitted Wednesday, an underwhelming campaign finance report that in past elections would have seriously called into question his ability to finance a national campaign.

But that meager sum is bolstered by more than $8.7 million raised by his allied outside groups this year – including a super PAC and a political nonprofit organization – which dwarfed his campaign's fundraising tally while highlighting the disproportionate role allied campaign committees are already playing in the 2016 election.

So it goes in the 2016 election: with bottom-tier candidates struggling to fundraise among broad bases of voters, astronomical super PAC hauls can prop up candidates as they find their footing in an exceptionally crowded 2016 presidential field. And the campaigns and their allies have gladly publicized those numbers alongside each other -- either through closely staggered media disclosures or blatantly coordinated press releases -- to demonstrate they have the money they need to compete.

Jindal's fundraising is particularly striking: his allied super PAC raised $3.7 million throughout 2015, according to a report published Wednesday by the Washington Examiner. In addition to that sum, an allied political nonprofit – classified as a tax-exempt 501(c)4 by the IRS -- raised an additional $4 million. Yet another group, American Future Project, a 527 political committee, raised an additional $1 million.

That brings the governor's war chest to more than $9 million, of which about 5 percent actually came from official campaign. His allies' decision to release the numbers at the same time serves the goal of silencing criticism over his fundraising power.

That approach has become the strategy du jour for campaigns. Former Texas governor Rick Perry last week reported raising $1 million around the same time his super PAC disclosed it had released $17 million. And it's not just back-of-the-pack candidates; financial frontrunner Jeb Bush's campaign and super PAC released their tallies on the same day, prompting stories about his unprecedented $114 million haul that combined both sets of numbers.

The coordinated release of fundraising records has raised eyebrows among campaign finance watchdogs but does

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not necessarily indicate any wrongdoing. Although super PACs -- which can accept unlimited sums of money -- are legally barred from coordinating on strategy with campaign officials, they are not specifically prevented from communicating directly. In that sense, conversations between outside groups and official campaign advisers frequently fall into grey zones that even legal experts disagree over. The 2016 is in that sense the wild west on campaign finance reform, with campaigns and outside groups continually pushing the boundaries of what is appropriate and what is questionable.

Consider former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, whose advisors on Tuesday night released the campaign's total contributions alongside tallies for several outside groups, which also included a super PAC and a political nonprofit. That moved Huckabee's fundraising tally from $2 million to a significantly more robust $8 million.

The key importance super PACs are playing this cycle has run amok of laws that prohibit coordination between campaign committees and super PACs in other areas. The Post's Matea Gold reported some examples last week:

Before former Florida governor Jeb Bush (R) announced his bid in mid-June, the Right to Rise super PAC filmed footage of him that the group plans to use in ads. Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign is collaborating directly with Correct the Record, a super PAC providing the Democratic hopeful's team with opposition research.

Top advisers to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) have been positioned at two big-money groups as they await his presidential announcement next week. GOP candidate Carly Fiorina has gone even further, outsourcing core functions such as rapid response and event preparation to her allied super PAC, the aptly named CARLY for America.

As Matea noted last week: It's bold, but it's legal.

2016 fundraising shows power tilting to groups backed by wealthy elite // WaPo // Matea Gold – July 15, 2015

A small cadre of super-wealthy Americans are dominating the fundraising for the 2016 Republican presidential nominating contest, doling out huge sums to independent groups that overwhelm total contributions to the candidates.

Nearly $4 of every $5 raised so far on behalf of GOP White House contenders has gone to independent groups rather than the official campaigns. Outside groups have already amassed more than $235 million — more than four times the $60 million raised collectively by the Republican field through June 30, according to reports filed Wednesday with the Federal Election Commission.

So far, the dynamic is different on the Democratic side, with 80 percent of the nearly $78 million raised so far to support Hillary Rodham Clinton and her competitors flowing to their campaigns.

The lopsided war chests on the right underscore how the financing of political campaigns has been fundamentally rewired in the five years since federal courts loosened restrictions on political spending by corporations and rich individuals.

Those decisions triggered a rush of big donations and political operatives to independent groups that can accept unlimited donations, a trend that has dramatically accelerated this year. This election cycle has already seen bolder collaboration between super PACs and campaigns than previous races, as well as a proliferation of nonprofit groups aligned with individual candidates.

The 2016 elections are now poised to mark a tipping point: the first time outside groups outstrip the clout and resources of many campaigns.

"It's pretty clear that the super PACs are playing an unprecedented role," said Michael Malbin, executive director of the nonpartisan Campaign Finance Institute, which tracks political contributions.

"This whole development to me is staggering," he said. "You're in a fundamentally different system than 12 years ago or eight years ago."

The huge pack of well-funded independent groups flanking the Republican candidates has fueled anxiety among party elders that the GOP is in for a drawn-out, bloody primary fight — one that could possibly roll into the nominating convention in July.

"It could end up with the Republican vote split up in a lot of different ways," said Ron Weiser, a former finance chairman of the Republican National Committee, who is neutral in the 2016 race. "No one is going to go away if they have a lot of money in their super PAC."

"There are people who are concerned that this could end up a long and very extensive primary that could allow

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the opponent to gain substantial advantage," Weiser added.

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush is far aheada of his rivals in the money race with $119.4 million raised by various entities supporting his bid. In second place, Sen. Ted Cruz is being bolstered by $51.2 million raised by his campaign and aligned super PACs, while supporters of Sen. Marco Rubio have donated $45 million between his campaign, a super PAC and a nonprofit.

Strip away their outside allies and the top contenders are more evenly matched. Cruz, who jumped in the race first in late March, has raised $14.2 million for his campaign. Rubio pulled in about $12 million, while Bush collected $11.4 million in just two weeks as a declared candidate. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson is not far behind, with $10.5 million.

Even longer-shot candidates are able to tout big fundraising hauls by their outside allies. Former Texas governor Rick Perry raised just $1 million for his campaign, but has generated more than $16 million in super PAC money, largely from three wealthy backers. The biggest sum came from his campaign finance chair, oil pipeline executive Kelcy Warren, who donated $6 million.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who pulled less than $600,000 during his first official week as a candidate, will benefit from three different groups — a super PAC and two nonprofits — that have collected more than $8 million so far.

Brad Todd, the GOP strategist running the pro-Jindal Believe Again super PAC, said an expanding universe of donors has helped fuel the big takes.

"It used to be that once you went through the Bush ambassador list, you were at the end of the rainbow," he said. "But there are people who are very engaged in this presidential contest who were never a Ranger or a Pioneer," the titles given top bundlers for former president George W. Bush.

The biggest campaign haul in the second quarter was by Clinton, who pulled in $45 million in 2-1/2 months. Priorities USA Action, a super PAC backing her, raised another $15.6 million.

One of her challengers for the Democratic nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, also posted a strong showing, raising $15.3 million — the vast majority from small donors who gave less than $200.

But other contenders on the left lagged behind. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley announced he pulled in $2 million, while former Rhode Island senator and governor Lincoln Chafee reported that he had raised just $30,000 from donors, in addition to lending his campaign $364,000.

Several contenders — including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie — declared their runs after the close of the last quarter, so will not file their finance reports until mid-October.

The Trump-Bush feud: Frontrunner edition **// WaPo // Jose A. DelReal – July 15, 2015**

Last week, Jeb Bush said he was done talking about Donald Trump. What he meant was "done for the week": on Tuesday, he took a major swing at the mogul, who has surged to the top tier in recent GOP national polls.

Trump, of course, never pledged to hold his fire. On Wednesday, he again took aim at Bush.

"[Bush] doesn't have the energy, he's not going to produce, and I will tell you that when he raises $100 million -- nobody knows about campaign contributions more than me because I've probably given more than almost anybody," Trump said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" Wednesday morning. "When you give $100 million to Bush, he's got his $100 million sitting there, every single person that he gave every single dollar is expecting something for that money. Every single person."

He added: "And that's not good for the country. You know, that's a problem.

Bush on Tuesday jabbed Trump by name during a Tuesday event in Iowa, suggesting that the presidential candidate's brand of politics are toxic and saying he doesn't "want to be associated with the kind of vitriol that he's spewing out these days."

"On our side, there are people that prey on people's fears and their angst. I don't know about you, but I think it is wrong," he said. "I believe we need to unify our country. ...And whether it's Donald Trump or Barack Obama, their rhetoric of divisiveness is wrong. A Republican will never win by striking fear in people's hearts."

Later, Bush's campaign highlighted the comments about Trump, emailing them to reporters and posting a clip of those remarks to the Web. Bush himself didn't seem to mind either, as The Post's Ed O'Keefe reported:

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On Tuesday, the same day a Suffolk University/USA Today survey showed Trump atop the fractured Republican presidential field, Bush walked into an overheated sports bar here and took a direct shot at his surging rival.

With a group of Trump supporters picketing outside, Bush seemed to relish the chance to call out the mogul's attacks on Mexican immigrants and to cast himself as an adult alternative.

Trump, for his part, said Wednesday that Clinton and Bush are worried about his surge in the polls and insinuated they are in cahoots to play down his candidacy.

"Look, Hillary was the worst secretary of state in the history of our country. I think that the person she doesn't want to run against is me because I say it, and Bush doesn't say it, nobody says it. I don't know if they have, like, a deal, these politicians...they don't speak truly about others. But they have some kind of a deal," he said.

Trump also said he wasn't sure exactly why Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), one of the only presidential candidates to speak in his defense in the wake of his controversial comments about Mexican immigrants, was coming to visit him at Trump Tower Wednesday.

"Ted Cruz called me. And I don't know why I'm meeting him, to be honest, but I do have respect for him," Trump said. "I respect the fact that along with a couple of others, he came out and he came out very strongly and agreed with what I said on illegal immigration. And he came out very strongly and he came out early, and I respect that. I like him."

Earlier this year, Trump took a more skeptical stance on Cruz, saying there were real questions about the Canadian-born senator's eligibility to run for president, despite his U.S. citizenship and U.S.-born mother.

"[His birthplace is] a hurdle. Somebody could certainly look at it very seriously," he told a Fox affiliate in March. "He was born in Canada. If you know, and when we all studied our history lessons, you are supposed to be born in this country, so I just don't know how the courts will rule on this."

Trump also hinted that one of Cruz's main campaign themes was borrowed. From him.

"The line of 'Make America great again' -- the phrase, that was mine, I came up with it about a year ago and I kept using it, and everybody's now using it, they are all loving it," Trump said then. "I don't know, I guess I should copyright it. Maybe I have copyrighted it."

Bush, Walker to reveal top presidential money-raisers // AP // Julie Bykowicz – July 15, 2015

Jeb Bush's campaign is promising to reveal the names of top money-raisers in October, making him the first Republican presidential candidate since 2008 to take such a step.

Called "bundlers," these fundraisers gather up many $2,700 checks — the maximum legal limit for the primary contest — from fellow donors, making them critical players in any campaign. There's no legal requirement to make bundler names public, except in the case of registered lobbyists.

After Bush announced his plan, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's campaign indicated he'll also disclose bundlers. The other Republican candidates have either declined to follow suit or not responded to requests for comment.

The Republican moves come after Democratic frontrunner Hillary Rodham Clinton said she'll be releasing names of top fundraisers on Wednesday.

Cruz sets meeting with Trump, praises 'bold, brash voice' // AP // Erica Werner – July 15, 2015

Two of the most outspoken Republican presidential candidates on illegal immigration — Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and businessman Donald Trump — are set to talk.

Cruz, who requested the Wednesday meeting, told reporters at the U.S. Capitol that Trump "is bringing a bold, brash voice to this presidential race."

"One of the reason you're seeing so many 2016 candidates go out of their way to smack Donald Trump is they don't like a politician that speaks directly about the challenges of illegal immigration," said Cruz.

"Many of the politicians who are running out of their way to smack Donald Trump have for years or even decades been vocal advocates of amnesty," he said. "I for one am grateful that Donald Trump is highlighting these issues, they're critical issues, they're issues I've been fighting for a lot of years."

Trump has drawn controversy for calling immigrants arriving illegally from Mexico "criminals" and "rapists."

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Many GOP contenders including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio have criticized the comments, and Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus called Trump to ask him to tone it down, which Trump said he would not do.

Cruz declined to offer details on the purpose of the meeting. Trump said earlier in an appearance on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that he doesn't know what the meeting is about.

"He came out very strongly and agreed with what I said on illegal immigration, and he came out very strongly and he came out early, and I respect that," Trump said. "I like him. He called me, he wanted to meet, and we are going to meet. What it's about, I have absolutely no idea."

Early-state newspapers plan GOP forum before Fox debate // AP // Kathleen Ronayne – July 15, 2015

A trio of newspapers in the early presidential nominating states is pushing back against the plan by Fox News to allow only 10 Republican candidates on stage in its Aug. 6 debate, the first of the 2016 campaign.

The New Hampshire Union Leader plans to host a candidate forum Aug. 3 at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, in partnership with The Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, and The Gazette of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The event will be live on C-SPAN as well as TV stations in Iowa and South Carolina and a New Hampshire radio station.

All 15 candidates now in the Republican pack have been invited to participate and about half have committed so far.

The Union Leader initially threatened to host a forum on the same day as the Fox debate after more than 50 prominent New Hampshire Republicans wrote to Fox protesting the network's debate format.

Fox plans to limit its debate to 10 candidates based on their national polling averages. Most contenders at risk of not making the debate stage have committed to the newspaper event, including South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former New York Gov. George Pataki and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who has yet to declare his candidacy. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, former neurosurgeon Ben Carson, former technology executive Carly Fiorina, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie also are coming, according to the Union Leader. No details were released about the format.

The publishers of the three newspapers said it's important for early-state voters to have a look at each candidate on a level playing field.

"There are a lot more than 10 viable candidates," they said in a statement. "The early primary process gives all candidates a chance to be heard. If networks and national polls are to decide this now, the early state process is in jeopardy, and only big money and big names will compete."

The Republican National Committee has authorized nine debates, from August through March. It is up to the organizations holding the debates to decide the entry criteria and format. Party rules say any candidate who participates in an unapproved debate will not be eligible for the approved ones. Allison Moore, speaking for the committee, said participation in the New Hampshire newspaper forum will not exclude candidates from the authorized debates.

The campaigns of other candidates — among them former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul — did not immediately say whether those candidates would join the New Hampshire forum.

The first presidential caucuses are in Iowa. The first primaries are in New Hampshire and South Carolina respectively.

Charleston massacre, flag debate put Haley in 2016 spotlight // AP // Bill Barrow and Meg Kinnard – July 15, 2015

From her public statements of grief to removing the Confederate battle flag from outside her Statehouse office, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has drawn wide praise since the massacre of nine black churchgoers from a historic Charleston congregation.

Now the 43-year-old looks to her next role as the self-described host of a key early presidential primary, with the national attention feeding chatter about her potential as a running mate and as a voice for a Republican Party that needs more votes from women and minorities.

Just how prominent she remains in 2016, though, depends on factors well beyond this latest chapter in Haley's intense, complicated rise from state representative to her tenure as South Carolina's first female and minority

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governor, a five-year stretch that has rankled many of her fellow Republicans.

"There are sometimes events in an elected official's life that transcend politics, and this certainly was one for Gov. Haley," said Ted Newton, who helped lead the research team that vetted vice presidential prospects for Mitt Romney in 2012.

Newton praised Haley's "skill and grace" in recent weeks. Yet, he said, "The fact that she's in the headlines briefly doesn't guarantee anything. If she stays on a short-list (for vice president), it will be because she survives more intense scrutiny."

Besides, he said, more often than not, the deciding factor for a nominee picking a running mate is quite simple: personal and political compatibility.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was campaigning Wednesday in South Carolina for the first time since formally launching his bid, the first out-of-state Republican candidate to visit since the Confederate flag came down Friday.

According to her aides, Haley has met in recent months with Walker, Rick Perry, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Bobby Jindal, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, and her hometown senior Sen. Lindsey Graham, fully 10 of the GOP's 15 prominent declared candidates.

Haley refuses to discuss the massacre at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in the context of her future, and she maintains that her change of heart on the battle flag — she had steadfastly sidestepped questions about the banner despite longstanding calls for its removal — was not a political calculation.

"If people are talking about that, then I'm not working hard enough to talk about the (Emanuel) families," Haley said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "I don't want to think about it or talk about it or even acknowledge it at this point."

South Carolina's place as the first Southern presidential primary next February, weeks after Iowa and New Hampshire open the nominating process, offers a different reality.

"Everybody was going to covet Nikki's endorsement already," said Katon Dawson, a former state Republican Party chairman who backs the White House candidacy of Perry, the former Texas governor. "Now business is really going to pick up for her."

Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, first garnered national attention in 2010, when she won a bruising Republican primary and a competitive general election.

She has sought to define her administration on job creation, primarily through the decisions by BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo, Boeing and a host of tire makers to establish or expand plants in South Carolina. But she's also had to fend off ethics complaints and routinely battles with her fellow Republicans in the Legislature on tax and budget issues.

In the weeks leading up to 2012 presidential primary, Haley endorsed Romney, who went on to lose South Carolina. The move angered tea party conservatives critical to Haley's 2010 election, but established her as a team player for the national party.

State Rep. Rick Quinn, who has aligned with Haley in her fiscal fights, said the governor faces "jealousy" in the Republican-controlled state. But he said presidential candidates should take note of the governing skill she demonstrated in cajoling lawmakers to remove the battle flag.

"To get 170 politicians to come along with her was a tough task," Quinn said, adding, "She did a lot more than just go have press conferences. She brought us in. ... She showed that she's more than just a talking head or a mouthpiece."

The decision also helps presidential candidates who now won't have to answer uncomfortable questions about the banner, as candidates have faced in previous election years.

Recalling a conversation she had with Walker about the flag after the church attack, Haley said she told him, "If you have any uncomfortable things, we'll help you get through it, but I'm going to take care of this."

GOP candidates slam Iran deal, but will it play in 2016? // AP // Nicholas Riccardi – July 15, 2015

Republican White House hopefuls are already vowing to overturn President Barack Obama's deal with Iran.

The stance may help Republicans score political points among the conservatives who dominate the GOP presidential primary electorate. But Tuesday's unanimous opposition could be less effective among general

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election voters in the fall of 2016.

Politically speaking, experts predict the issue could be a wash.

Republicans are seizing on American voters' deep distrust of Iran, while Democrats say that the deal is much better than another war in the Middle East.

The contrast was clear as Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton quickly embraced the deal. At the same time, several Republican candidates, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush vowed to rescind the agreement.

Officials say Cleveland on track for 2016 GOP convention // AP // Mark Gillispie – July 15, 2015

Organizers say Cleveland must secure 4,000 more hotel rooms and raise an additional $25 million to meet its money commitment for the 2016 Republican National Convention next July, but preparations are nevertheless on pace.

About 50,000 people, including 15,000 members of the media, are expected to attend the convention and more than 1,000 related events.

Officials from Cleveland 2016 Host Committee see the four-day event as Cleveland's opportunity to show the world how the city has been transformed in the past decade. Mayor Frank Jackson said at a news conference Wednesday that the hope is to "present Cleveland in the greatest light that we can."

MILLIONS TO BE RAISED

Cleveland's winning bid included a commitment to raise $64 million in cash and in-kind services to pay for convention-related expenses. Most of the money will be spent preparing Quicken Loans Arena for the convention, David Gilbert, head of the host committee, said in an interview last week. Cleveland has raised about $39 million, mostly from within Ohio. Fundraising efforts will now focus nationally on corporations and individuals, Gilbert said. Philadelphia is expected to raise $84 million for next year's Democratic convention.

GIVE THEM SHELTER

The host committee's effort to secure the 16,000 hotel rooms required by the RNC stumbled in recent months after some hotels reneged on voluntary agreements to provide about 1,500 rooms. Those rooms, Gilbert said, represent a big chunk of the 4,000 rooms that still need to be secured. Gilbert said some of the hotel rooms could be located outside the 35-mile radius from Quicken Loans Arena established in the host committee's agreement with the RNC.

THE BUS STOPS HERE

Gilbert is mindful of the transportation problems that plagued the 2012 Republican convention in Tampa, Florida. Some delegations had to endure long waits for buses taking them to and from the convention site. A transportation consultant is being hired to help Cleveland figure out how best to move thousands of people in and out of downtown. Gilbert hopes that the 5,000 downtown hotel rooms will help reduce traffic snarls. Parking will be at a premium and shuttle buses will be needed for lots situated outside of downtown, he said.

SECURITY MINDED

The city will be responsible for administering a $50 million federal grant to pay for a security plan created by the U.S. Secret Service. A good chunk of that money will be spent on uniforms, housing and food for thousands of law enforcement officers who will be hired for the convention. A security perimeter will be established around Quicken Loans Arena where only those with credentials will be allowed inside. An area will be established outside that zone for protesters.

LONG-TERM BENEFITS

While the convention will result in hundreds of millions of dollars being spent in Cleveland in the coming months, local officials like Gilbert, who is also president and CEO of the region's tourism agency, see the convention as a prime opportunity for the city to shine. Roads are being resurfaced and streetscapes are being gussied up. A $30 million makeover of iconic Public Square is expected to be completed. Gilbert said the convention's biggest benefit would be a boost in tourism and convention bookings that will help sustain the city and region for years to come. "We want people to understand that it's not only about that one week," he said. "We think this will position us incredibly well for the future."

George Pataki's official haul: $256k // Politico // Ben Schreckinger – July 15, 2015

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Former New York Gov. George Pataki's campaign reported on Wednesday that it had raised just under $256,000 in the second quarter of this year.

Pataki, who launched his campaign on May 28, is a long-shot candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. His hopes are pegged to New Hampshire, where his more moderate stances on issues such as gun control and the environment might be better received than in Iowa.

He is currently not polling among the top 10 candidates and is not expected to make the cut for the first nationally televised Republican debate next month.

Below is a breakout of the campaign's finances as of the end of June:

Total raised: $255, 794.96

Total spent: $48,174.71

Total cash on hand: $207,620.25

Total debt: $0

Donald Trump changes tune on Cruz // Politico // Ben Schreckinger – July 15, 2015

All of a sudden, Donald Trump is a lot less willing to question Ted Cruz's fitness for the presidency.

After raising questions in March about the Canada-born senator's eligibility to run for president, Trump told POLITICO on Wednesday that he didn't know if Cruz's birthplace affected his eligibility and had not paid attention to it.

Trump's remarks came hours before he was set to hold a private meeting with the Texas senator.

"I don't know. I mean I haven't looked at it. I have not looked at it at all," Trump said in an interview, when asked whether Cruz, who was born in the Canadian province of Alberta, should be eligible for the presidency.

When asked in March by a local New York television station about Cruz's birthplace, Trump said, "It's a hurdle. Somebody could certainly look at it very seriously. He was born in Canada. If you know and when we all studied our history lessons, you are

While many Republican candidates have condemned Donald Trump's comments about the alleged criminality of undocumented Mexican immigrants, Cruz defended Trump recently on Fox News, saying, "I like Donald Trump. I think he's terrific, I think he's brash, I think he speaks the truth." Cruz also took issue with NBC's decision cut ties with Trump over the comments, calling it "silly" and "wrong."

On Wednesday, Trump told POLITICO that he appreciated Cruz's defense of his comments. "I have great respect for him," said Trump.

Cruz was born to an American mother, making him a United States citizen at birth. Most experts agree that this means he meets the Constitution's requirement that the president be a "natural born citizen," though the Supreme Court has not ruled definitively on the question.

Trump has been a leading proponent of the theory that President Obama was born in Kenya, despite the overwhelming evidence that he was born in Hawaii.

Cruz called the planned Wednesday evening meeting with the real estate magnate, but Trump said Wednesday morning that he did not know the purpose of the sit-down.

Donald Trump: I don't know why I'm meeting Ted Cruz // Politico // Nick Gass – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump is meeting with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in Manhattan on Wednesday, though he claimed in an interview on MSNBC that he does not know why.

"Ted Cruz called me. And I don't know why I'm meeting him, to be honest, but I do have respect for him," Trump said on "Morning Joe" in a wide-ranging interview in which the Republican presidential contender commented on issues foreign, domestic and everything in between.

"I respect the fact that along with a couple of others, he came out and he came out very strongly and agreed with what I said on illegal immigration. And he came out very strongly and he came out early, and I respect that. I like

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him," he added.

Asked about Tuesday's announcement of a nuclear agreement with Iran, Trump said "it's a ridiculous deal" and "a disgrace." The United States, he said, "should have doubled up the sanctions."

"Well, they didn't read The Art of the Deal. Most people did; they didn't," he said. "I have seen the deal. I've seen it broken down in every newspaper you can imagine, and I think I know the deal quite well," he added, when pressed about whether he had read the deal himself.

Trump also had harsh words for the political media discussing his first month on the campaign trail.

One thing he has learned is "how dishonest ... some of the political media" is, in contrast to the financial journalists with whom he normally interacts.

"They don't want to print the truth. They don't want to say what you said. They don't want to say what you mean. They know what you said, they know what you mean, and they put it in totally different words. It's like you didn't say it, it's incredible to me," Trump said, noting that he has become "more careful" in dealing with some people in the media as a result.

One such media distortion, Trump said, stemmed from the reaction to reports of his remarks about undocumented immigrants coming to the U.S. illegally from Mexico. Trump cited "five different sources" at the border telling him that Mexico is sending its worst. "They're almost crying," he said.

Pressed to provide the sources by Bloomberg Politics' Mark Halperin, Trump demurred.
"I'll reveal my sources, Mark, when you reveal your sources," he countered.

He also took the opportunity to slam Republican rival Jeb Bush on jobs and once again claim that he would win the Hispanic vote.

"The Hispanics love me," Trump said, adding that he would open up more jobs for everyone in the economy. "Jeb Bush wouldn't know where to go to create a job," he declared, telling host Joe Scarborough that Bush "only can follow you or a pollster. I can only go with what's right."

Trump, who came out on top of a recent Suffolk University/USA Today poll of GOP contenders, also trailed former secretary of state Hillary Clinton badly in a head-to-head matchup.

"I think that the person that she doesn't want to run against is me," he said.

Rivals Cruz, Trump play nice en route to 2016 **// CNN // Eric Bradner – July 15, 2015**

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Donald Trump and their wives were scheduled to have lunch in New York City in June, before the real estate mogul became a candidate for president.

Senate votes intervened and Cruz couldn't make it and the two postponed.

A month later, the two Republican presidential candidates -- this time, without their wives -- finally got together Wednesday afternoon at Trump Tower. Trump said Cruz had called him Tuesday to ask for the meeting.

And in that time, what would have been a low-key meeting took on new importance. Trump surged to first place in the GOP primary polls, and Cruz's warm words toward Trump separated him from a crowd of candidates denouncing the real estate mogul over his controversial remarks about undocumented immigrants.

From the outside, Wednesday's meeting made it look like a calculating Cruz was actually betting against Trump -- cozying up to him in hopes of earning an endorsement if Trump's campaign ultimately collapses.

But after the meeting, Cruz said that wasn't happened at all.

"We had a conversation about the race," Cruz said. "He's running, I'm running and we both agreed that we started out as friends and will end as friends."

"Donald and I have gotten together and visited a number of times before he was a presidential candidate, and it was a good visit. It was the first time we've really sat down since he launched, and so we had a good conversation," Cruz said. "And I enjoy Donald. He's one of a kind."

The two have praised each other on the campaign trail in recent weeks.

Before heading to New York, Cruz said on Capitol Hill Wednesday that he's "a big fan of Donald Trump."

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He praised Trump as a "bold, brash voice" and criticized -- though not by name -- other GOP contenders who "go out of their way to smack Donald Trump."

Republican pollster Kellyanne Conway said the fact that the two got together -- despite other GOP candidates like Jeb Bush turning against Trump -- shouldn't be surprising, since during the 2012 campaign most Republican candidates, and some non-candidates like Sarah Palin, sought meetings with Trump.

"They are both anti-Establishment candidates unafraid to shake up the system," Conway said. "Cruz's approach is different. He has said he will level no personal insults against other candidates. Clearly, in going foursquare after Jeb and (Karl) Rove, Trump has not made a similar promise."

Trump had met with many other GOP presidential hopefuls, including Cruz, in the months before he decided to launch his own bid. Trump also donated $5,000 to Cruz's political action committee last year.

Other political observers said Cruz's meeting -- highly publicized after Trump announced it would happen during an appearance on MSNBC -- was a savvy play for conservative hardliners' support in case those voters ultimately decide against supporting Trump.

"Politically this is a smart move by Cruz. While no one can know for sure, there is a fair to good chance Trump will drop out or cease active campaigning at some point," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia.

"Who will inherit Trump's backers? Certainly not Jeb Bush. And Trump has criticized others by name, too," he said."Should Trump leave the field, Ted Cruz would be a likely beneficiary. He is considered an immigration hardliner, like Trump. And Cruz is showing Trump respect, and Trump has already shown us that he has a good memory for respect and slights."

Donald Trump meeting with Ted Cruz on Wednesday // CNN // Jeremy Diamond – July 15, 2015

Donald Trump will meet Wednesday with fellow Republican presidential contender Sen. Ted Cruz.

Trump said Wednesday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that Cruz called him to set up the meeting, but said he didn't know what the Texas Republican wanted to discuss.

The meeting comes amid Trump's rise in the polls to second and first place in the latest national polls and as Cruz has played weeks of defense for Trump amid the billionaire's controversial comments likening some Mexican immigrants to "killers" and "rapists."

"I do respect the fact that along with a couple of others he came out very strongly," Trump said of Cruz's backup on the illegal immigration saga.

Cruz and Trump have both locked heads with the Republican establishment, with Cruz fighting the status quo in Congress with unorthodox tactics, while Trump has locked horns with party elites over whether his comments about illegal immigrants have hurt the party's outreach to Latino voters.

Trump had met with many other GOP presidential hopefuls, including Cruz, in the months before he decided to launch his own bid.

Trump also donated $5,000 to Cruz's political action committee last year.

Cruz's campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

Cruz defends Trump's 'bold, brash voice' ahead of private meeting // MSNBC // Emma Margolin – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz again defended fellow White House hopeful Donald Trump's controversial remarks on illegal immigration Wednesday, though offered no details about what the two will discuss in a private meeting later in the day.

"I'm a big fan of Donald Trump's," Cruz told reporters in Washington, D.C., Wednesday, following a press conference on the Export-Import Bank of the United States. "I think Donald Trump is bringing a bold, brash voice to this presidential race."

Among the crowded GOP presidential pack, Cruz was virtually the only one to not condemn Trump's remarks on immigration – specifically that "when Mexico sends its people," they bring drugs and crime. Quite to the contrary, Cruz said on Fox and Friends last month that Trump "speaks the truth" and later "salute[d]" him on Meet the Press

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"for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration."

Trump said on msnbc's "Morning Joe" Wednesday morning that Cruz had called him for a meeting, but that he didn't know what it would be about. The Cruz campaign has not responded to msnbc's request for comment or confirmation, but Trump's spokesman told msnbc the sit-down in New York City would be private.

Cruz is also scheduled to sit down Wednesday afternoon with CNBC's John Harwood at the network's Institutional Investor Delivering Alpha conference in New York City. Earlier in the day, Cruz appeared alongside fellow Republican lawmakers in Washington, D.C., to praise Congress' decision last month to allow the charter for the Export-Import Bank of the United States to expire. The 81-year-old institution, commonly known as Ex-Im, acted as the export credit agency for the U.S. government and has been criticized for disproportionately supporting big business.

Cruz called Ex-Im a "classic example of corporate welfare" and vowed to use "any and all procedural tools" to ensure it stays dead.

"When it comes to campaign season, every Republican is a conservative," Cruz said. "Well now, when push comes to shove, we discover if people are merely 'campaign conservatives,' or if they actually are going to be practicing conservatives, consistent conservatives."

Asked about his meeting with Trump, Cruz demurred: "Let's keep the questions on Export-Import bank."

Following the press conference, however, Cruz was more receptive to speaking about Trump, whom he suggested was being unfairly maligned by fellow White House hopefuls.

"One of the reasons you're seeing so many 2016 candidates go out of their way to smack Donald Trump is they don't like a politician that speaks directly about the challenges of illegal immigration. They don't like a politician who speaks directly about sanctuary cities about the law enforcement and safety and security issues that are raised," Cruz said. "Indeed, many of the politicians who are running out of their way to smack Donald Trump have for years or even decades been advocates of vocal amnesty. I for one am grateful that Donald Trump is highlighting these issues."

Cruz dodges question on mysterious Trump meeting // MSNBC // Em ma Margolin – July 15, 2015

Republican presidential candidate and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz has a busy day ahead of him on Wednesday, delivering public remarks on two separate occasions followed by a mysterious meeting with fellow White House hopeful Donald Trump.

"Ted Cruz called me. And I don't know why I'm meeting him, to be honest," Trump said on msnbc's "Morning Joe" Wednesday. "I do have respect for him," he added.

The Cruz campaign has not responded to msnbc's request for comment or confirmation on the meeting, but Trump's spokesman told msnbc the sit-down in New York City would be private.

Among the crowded GOP presidential pack, Cruz was virtually the only one to not condemn Trump's controversial remarks on immigration – specifically that "when Mexico sends its people," they bring drugs and crime. Quite to the contrary, Cruz said on "Fox and Friends" last month that Trump "speaks the truth" and later "salute[d]" him on NBC's "Meet the Press" "for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration."

In addition to his alleged meeting with Trump, Cruz is scheduled sit down Wednesday afternoon with CNBC's John Harwood at the network's Institutional Investor Delivering Alpha conference in New York City.

Earlier in the day, Cruz appeared alongside fellow Republican lawmakers in Washington, D.C., to praise Congress' decision last month to allow the charter for the Export-Import Bank of the United States to expire. The 81-year-old institution, commonly known as Ex-Im, acted as the export credit agency for the U.S. government and has been criticized for disproportionately supporting big business.

Cruz called Ex-Im a "classic example of corporate welfare" and vowed to use "any and all procedural tools" to ensure it stays dead.

"When it comes to campaign season, every Republican is a conservative," Cruz said. "Well now, when push comes to shove, we discover if people are merely 'campaign conservatives,' or if they actually are going to be practicing conservatives, consistent conservatives."

Asked about his meeting with Trump, Cruz demurred: "Let's keep the questions on Export-Import bank."

How much m oney have Bobby Jindal and Mike Huckabee raised for 2016? // CBS // Reena Flores

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– July 15, 2015

During his first week as a presidential candidate, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal hauled in nearly $579,000 in direct donations -- though outside groups backing the 2016 contender say they have another $8.6 million to add to that number. He only spent $65,044 in that first official week, leaving him with over half a million cash on hand at the end of the second quarter fundraising period.

Jindal, who entered the White House race in the last week of the fundraising period, drew in $578,758 from just over 2,000 individual donors, according to a Washington Examiner report. About 87 percent of donations were under $100 each.

But with the support of a super PAC, a 501(c)4 nonprofit, and a 527 committee, the Louisiana Republican's presidential treasure chest is effectively much larger. Jindal's super PAC, Believe Again, has raised $3,7 million since January, while the America Next nonprofit has raised nearly $4 million. That's in addition to Jindal's 527 group, the American Future Project, which has raised $1 million.

Meanwhile, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee will report raising $2 million in this past quarter, with related super PACs drawing in an additional $6 million.

The $8 million dollars nearly matches Huckabee's fundraising numbers from his first White House bid in 2008. His last presidential campaign, which predated the arrival of the super PAC on the political scene, only had $9 million to spend.

In the Republican presidential field, the fundraising totals of other candidates easily dwarf the money raised by Huckabee's and Jindal's operations. In the second fundraising quarter alone, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio announced that his campaign had raised $12 million, with a leadership PAC bringing in $1.2 million. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, meanwhile, has just over $50 million from his presidential committee, with $37 million from outside PACs. At the top of the pack, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has raised a whopping $103 million since January, via his Right to Rise super PAC.

Republican Presidential Candidates To Disclose Bundlers For First Time Since 2008 // HuffPo // Paul Blumenthal – July 15, 2015

For the first time since 2008, two Republican presidential candidates will publicly disclose the names of campaign bundlers raising money for them.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, according to The New York Times, and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, according to The Associated Press, will disclose their bundlers in October. They join former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a Democratic presidential candidate, in agreeing to disclose the big-money fundraisers who collect contributions for the campaigns.

The decision by Bush and Walker to disclose their bundlers comes after no Republican candidates in the 2012 presidential election volunteered to reveal the identities of their top fundraisers. In 2008, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), a proponent of campaign finance reform, released names of his bundlers. George W. Bush revealed bundler names in both the 2000 and 2004 elections.

Other Republican presidential candidates, however, are not on board with transparency. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), won't voluntarily disclose their bundlers, spokespeople told the Times.

It isn't yet clear how much information the candidates who will disclose their bundlers will reveal. In 2008 and 2012, President Barack Obama released bundler names in ranges, from a low of $50,001 to $100,000, to $500,001 and above. When Clinton disclosed her bundlers in the 2008 Democratic primary, she released only those raising $100,000 or more.

Ted Cruz Defends Donald Trump On Immigration Before Their Dinner Date // HuffPo // Michael McAuliff and Elise Foley – July 15, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on Wednesday offered another passionate defense of Donald Trump, while also attacking a number of fellow Republican presidential hopefuls who have criticized the real estate mogul's views on immigration.

"I'll say this: I think Donald Trump is bringing a bold, brash presence to this presidential race," Cruz told reporters on Capitol Hill. "It's one of the reasons you're seeing so many 2016 candidates go out of their way to smack Donald Trump. They don't like a politician who speaks directly about the challenges of immigration. They don't like a politician who speaks directly about sanctuary cities, about the law enforcement and safety and security issues that are raised."

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Trump drew condemnation from both sides of the political spectrum when he suggested during his presidential campaign launch that undocumented Mexican immigrants were criminals and rapists. Among the GOP presidential candidates who spoke out against Trump's remarks were Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

"Indeed, many of the politicians who are running out of their way to smack Donald Trump, have for years or even decades been vocal advocates of amnesty," Cruz said on Tuesday, likely referring to Rubio's and Bush's criticisms. Rubio helped craft an immigration reform bill that offered a pathway to citizenship, and anti-immigration conservatives accuse Bush of favoring "amnesty."

"I, for one, am grateful that Donald Trump is highlighting these issues," Cruz continued. The senator made similar remarks last month, saying he didn't think Trump "should apologize for speaking out against the problem that is illegal immigration."

Cruz's defense of The Donald appears to have won him some love from the big-mouthed billionaire: The two candidates are expected to dine together later on Wednesday at Trump Tower in New York.

The conservative Texas senator went on to blast the Obama administration's immigration policies and to suggest that Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton should answer for them. Cruz repeated claims -- which fact-checkers deem "half-true" -- that the administration inappropriately released some 36,000 criminals in 2013 who were undocumented immigrants.

"One question anyone should ask President Obama, or especially Hillary Clinton: Does Hillary Clinton think it is appropriate for the federal government to release 116 murderers who are illegal aliens? I don't," Cruz said. "Does Hillary Clinton think it's appropriate that in 2013 the Obama administration released over 15,000 illegal aliens who had drunk driving convictions?"

Cruz was citing figures from a 2014 report from the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for reducing immigration levels. The report said that Immigration and Customs Enforcement released 36,007 convicted criminals in fiscal year 2013, including about 16,000 people with convictions for driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

ICE officials have said their hands are tied with regards to releasing some undocumented immigrants. Some are released by court order, while others are set free because of a 2001 Supreme Court ruling that the government can't hold people for deportation indefinitely when another country refuses to take them back.

In fiscal year 2014, ICE carried out 177,960 deportations of convicted criminals. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson defended the agency's record on Tuesday.

"It is a fiction to say that we are not enforcing the law," Johnson said.

Cruz did not concern himself on Wednesday with the laws requiring releases. "People are fed up with this," he said, "and I think that frustration with politicians in both parties who say one thing and do another -- I think that's going to be front and center in the 2016 election."

It's true that Democrats are likely to focus on Trump's comments during the election season -- though not for the reason Cruz predicted. The remarks are almost certain to come up time and again as Democrats make the case to voters that the Republican Party is hostile toward Latinos.

This, Democrats believe, should encourage Latinos to get out and vote. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) said on the House floor Tuesday that the 4.5 million Latinos who are eligible for citizenship but have not yet applied should fill out their paperwork so they can vote against Trump.

"Let me fill you in on a little secret: With fee waivers for up to 20 percent of those applying, it is absolutely free," Gutierrez said. "Becoming a citizen for free so you can make it clear that you are offended by Donald Trump. It is poetic and patriotic."

C-SPAN to preempt first GOP debate // The Hill // Jonathan Easley – July 15, 2015

C-SPAN is partnering with a handful of regional newspapers in early-voting states for a nationally televised forum with the Republican presidential candidates just days before Fox News Channel's first scheduled debate.

The network has invited all 17 of the GOP presidential hopefuls to the Aug. 3 Voters First Forum in New Hampshire.

Publishers at the New Hampshire Union Leader, South Carolina Post and Courier, and Iowa Gazette say the forum was prompted in part by Fox News Channel's controversial decision to cap the number of candidates in their Aug.

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6 debate at 10.

“Fox says only the ‘top’ 10 candidates, as judged solely by national polling, will be allowed on its stage,” the publishers said in a joint statement. “That may be understandable later, but the first votes are half a year away and there are a lot more than 10 viable candidates.”

“The early primary process gives all candidates a chance to be heard,” they continued. “If networks and national polls are to decide this now, the early state process is in jeopardy and only big money and big names will compete.”

The statement reflects the concerns of many Republicans, who say the national media and unreliable early polls shouldn’t play a role in determining the top tier of candidates in a year when the GOP has a deep and diverse field.

So far, Ben Carson, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, businesswoman Carly Fiorina, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Sen. Lindsey Graham (S.C.), and former New York Gov. George Pataki have committed to the C-SPAN forum.

Of those, only Carson is currently a lock to participate in the Fox News debate. The rest of the candidates will be scrapping to raise their poll numbers to qualify for the final spots on the debate stage.

The C-SPAN forum will be hosted by WGIR radio’s Jack Heath, who hosts the “New Hampshire Today” show. The candidates will take turns answering questions in five minute segments.

To accommodate for those who will be left off the stage, Fox News will hold a nationally televised forum earlier in the day for those who don’t qualify.

The Republican National Committee has sanctioned nine debates and signed off on the formats, but it’s been a struggle for the national party to deal with the huge number of candidates running for the presidential nomination.

The C-SPAN event is not a sanctioned RNC debate, but rather one of more than a dozen forums and cattle calls this cycle that have materialized as demand for access to the candidates has skyrocketed.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

What Campaign Filings Don’t Show: Super PACs’ Growing Sway // NYT // Eric Lichtblau and Nicholas Confessore – July 15, 2015

Presidential contenders are set to provide a glimpse inside their campaign war chests on Wednesday, releasing financial statements that will give the first detailed accounting of how the candidates are raising and spending hundreds of millions of dollars in pursuit of elected office.

But while the reports, to be filed with the Federal Election Commission, provide an early look at the campaigns’ financial operations, they promise to tell only part of the story because they do not include any of the money being raised by the “super PACs” and other outside groups supporting many of the candidates. In many cases, the money raised by those groups is likely to dwarf what the campaigns bring in.

The Republican presidential candidates are almost uniformly relying on these groups, which can tap unlimited corporate and individual contributions, to amass the financial firepower they need to break through a crowded primary field, as long as they do not coordinate with candidates. This is a stark departure from past campaigns and has made most of the candidates deeply reliant on a small handful of ultra-wealthy donors.

The new fund-raising model has already altered the landscape of a campaign that is still months away from the first votes.

Without super PACs, four Republicans — Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz and Ben Carson — would have raised roughly the same amount of money, between $10 million and $12 million during the second quarter of 2016. A fifth, Rand Paul, would be close behind, while several others, including Rick Perry, would be trailing.

Instead, the field has rapidly separated into three distinct financial tiers. Mr. Bush has raised about $114 million with the help of a super PAC. Mr. Cruz, Mr. Rubio and their super PACs occupy the next-highest tier, with each having raised more than $40 million.

Lagging them is a third tier of candidates, including several who declared their bids near or after the end of the fund-raising quarter and others who have been slow to raise money.

Mr. Perry, who began a second presidential bid in June, provides another illustration of the imbalance.

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A fund-raising powerhouse during his years as Texas governor, Mr. Perry has not yet lived down his aborted 2012 campaign, and many big Republican donors who supported him in the past have not yet flocked to get behind him for 2016. His campaign announced last week that in about a month of fund-raising, he brought in just over $1 million from regular donors, leaving him near the back of the Republican pack. Individual donations are capped at $2,700.

But a constellation of super PACs backing Mr. Perry brought in many times that amount from megadonors — almost $12.8 million through the end of June, according to Austin Barbour, a senior adviser to the groups. Another $4 million check — four times what Mr. Perry's campaign raised — came in a few days later, he said.

More than half the group's total came from just two donors: Kelcey Warren, an energy company executive who is also the finance chairman of Mr. Perry's campaign, and Brint Ryan, a Dallas businessman.

"Rick Perry's had an impressive few months," Mr. Barbour said. "Some of the hesitation I know has softened up a lot."

On the Democratic side, the picture is the reverse. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is far outpacing her rivals on the fund-raising front, has raised almost four times as much as the super PAC supporting her candidacy. Her campaign expects to report raising about $45 million so far in her White House bid.

The 2016 campaign could prove to be the most expensive on record, with the candidates, political parties, super PACs and special-interest groups spending perhaps $10 billion under fund-raising rules made much looser by the United States Supreme Court's Citizens United decision in 2010. That ruling paved the way for the emergence of super PACs.

The early fund-raising hauls have already prompted complaints to the election commission and the Justice Department from citizen watchdog groups. One of them, the Campaign Legal Center, charges that Mr. Bush and other candidates skirted the law by raising large amounts of money before they officially declared their candidacies.

Paul S. Ryan, senior counsel for the watchdog group, said he will be looking at the filings on Wednesday to determine whether the candidates complied with the law.

"If not," Mr. Ryan said, "the Campaign Legal Center will be filing complaints."

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are set to barnstorm New Hampshire. Here's what to watch. // **WaPo // Sean Sullivan – July 16, 2015**

MANCHESTER, N.H. -- The clear front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination and the Republican candidate who has become a headache for many in his own party as he surges in the polls will descend on this key early voting state on Thursday, giving voters here a glimpse of two contenders who have received widespread attention in recent weeks.

Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton (D) will make two campaign stops here as she looks to expand on ideas she offered in her Monday economic policy speech: an early afternoon town hall in Dover then an organizing event in Windham. The town hall meeting will be Clinton's first of the campaign.

Not far away will be Donald Trump (R), the real estate mogul who has become a sharply polarizing figure in Republican circles. Trump will hold a campaign rally and field questions in Laconia.

Two other candidates will also be in the state to campaign: Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R). Walker, who officially kicked off his campaign on Monday, is sweeping through the early voting states this week.

But the presence of Clinton and Trump here presents each party with key early tests in the first-in-the-nation primary state.

For Clinton, who has faced criticism for Republicans that she has not opened herself up to enough scrutiny, the town hall will serve as a chance to field questions from voters in an unscripted setting. It's also a chance for Clinton to speak in more detail about the corporate profit-sharing proposal she spoke about in general terms in her Monday speech.

An impressive showing could blunt some of the momentum Clinton's Democratic rival from neighboring Vermont, Sen. Bernie Sanders, has picked up in recent weeks. But a rocky one could spur more interest from voters here in the liberal firebrand.

Trump, who comes to New Hampshire as polls show he has climbed into the top tier of Republican hopefuls, will

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have a chance to to address criticism from those who say he is hurting his own party. His visit is a chance to convince skeptical Republicans in a crucial state that he is a serious candidate for president -- or to fall flat trying.

Some Republicans have praised Trump's blunt style, but others have expressed concern that his brash rhetoric and controversial comments about illegal immigrants from Mexico -- he said they are "rapists" who are bringing "drugs" and "crime" into the country -- have harmed the Republican Party, which has struggled in recent elections to win Hispanic voters.

Those looking to see Clinton and Trump in the same state will have another chance the next two days. Trump is the feature speaker at a Republican dinner on Friday in Arkansas. On Saturday, Clinton will speak at a Democratic dinner in the state, where she was first lady when husband Bill Clinton was governor.

Bush, Clinton dominate early 2016 presidential fundraising // AP // Julie Bykowicz – July 15, 2015

The two presidential candidates whose immediate families include former presidents loom large in early fundraising for 2016.

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jeb Bush account for almost half the roughly $377 million that presidential groups for all the expected 22 candidates say they've raised. Most campaigns, including Clinton's and Bush's, were required to file their initial reports with the Federal Election Commission by midnight Wednesday.

Those document financial activity between April 1 and June 30 and will list the names of everyone who gave at least $200. The maximum contribution for the primary is $2,700. The FEC reports also will show how candidates are spending their money — on consultants, office space, advertising, polling and more.

Wednesday's reports provide only a glimpse of all the money that donors are handing over. The candidates also benefit from super PACs created specifically to help them. Those groups, which accept contributions of any size and are subject to legal limits on how closely they can work with the campaigns, file their FEC reports at the end of the month.

Ahead of the deadlines, many candidates and their super PAC boosters have publicized their fundraising totals.

The AP tallied those numbers and found that donors have handed over a third of a billion dollars. That's more than the presidential candidates raised for the entire primary election of 2000, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, a group that tracks election spending.

Dominating the cash haul are Clinton and Bush.

Clinton, the Democratic front-runner, has raised $45 million in checks of $2,700 or less for her campaign. Priorities USA Action, a super PAC that counts on seven-figure donors, raised an additional $15 million.

Bush's money looks different. Before he officially declared his candidacy, the former Florida governor spent the first six months of the year raising huge sums of money for Right to Rise, a super PAC that's boosting his bid to win the Republican nomination. That group says it has raised a record $103 million. Bush's presidential campaign, which officially began on June 15, collected $11.5 million from contributors.

Outside groups are furthering the ambitions of at least four other Republican presidential aspirants: Cruz, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Ohio Gov. John Kasich. In each case, the fundraising for the outside groups helping them is outpacing the fundraising for their own campaigns.

Rubio's overall take from donors — $44.7 million to his campaign and two outside groups — includes $15.8 million for a nonprofit that won't file any public budget information until at least next year and keeps its donors secret.

Meanwhile, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, a conservative GOP candidate, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a liberal candidate seeking the Democratic nomination, have harnessed grassroots enthusiasm to fill campaign coffers with small donations. Carson's campaign says it has raised more than $10.4 million, and Sanders has brought in $15 million. Because the money is coming directly to them, they have tighter control over how it is used.

Wednesday's filings will shed more light on how the others are doing with small donors, defined as individuals who give $200 or less. On the other side of the spectrum, the end-of-July super PAC filings will provide a snapshot of who's doing the best with the biggest donors, those writing six-figure checks or more.

By mid-day Wednesday, campaigns for just two of the major presidential candidates had filed their reports, Republican Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Democratic former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee. Both are

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longshots who reported six-figure fundraising totals. Chafee is mostly funding his own bid.

A few major Republican candidates will be missing from the initial campaign finance reports. Kasich, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie made their campaigns official too recently to file second-quarter FEC reports, although a Christie-allied super PAC said on Tuesday that it has raised $11 million. The first look at their campaign numbers will come in mid-October.

Fundraising - and spending- shatter records // Politico // Kenneth P. Vogel and T arini Parti – July 16, 2015

The crowded field of 2016 presidential candidates spent $48 million through the first half of the year –nearly twice as much as their counterparts had at this point in the 2012 cycle – reflecting the new realities of fast, expensive campaign launches.

The dramatic spending spike – detailed in Wednesday's reports to the Federal Election Commission covering the beginning of April through the end of June – was underwritten mostly by fewer donors each giving more money.

But overall, fundraising increases did not keep up with spending inflation, leading to spending ratios that in past elections might have provoked worry among campaign finance operatives. Such early-campaign "burn rates" appear to be becoming more common in an age when races start earlier, pivotal digital and data tools cost more, consultants fetch huge salaries and campaigns rely on mega-donor-funded super PACs to fill many traditional functions.

A handful of Republican presidential candidates who brought in at least $1 million-a-piece in the last three months each spent more than half of their haul – from the mid-50-percent burn rates of Ted Cruz, Rick Perry and Mike Huckabee to the 74-percent rate of Donald Trump.

All but Trump, who provided nearly his entire $1.9-million haul from his own pocket, are expecting big-money super PACs to come to their aid. Reports detailing the unlimited contributions and spending of super PACs aren't due with the FEC until the end of July.

But perhaps no candidate personified big early spending like Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton. Her campaign, which cast itself as a penny-pinching operation that relied heavily on small donors, revealed itself to be something quite different in its FEC report.

While the campaign brought in $47.6 million – three times more than the next most prolific fundraiser and more than any other presidential campaign had posted in its first quarter – it also spent more than three times as much as the next biggest spender, $18.7 million, amounting to a burn-rate of 39 percent.

In fact, Clinton's juggernaut spent more on payroll for her massive staff – $6 million – than any other candidate spent in total. Her staff worked out of more than 20 offices for which the campaign paid $540,000 in rent – including about $106,000 for a Manhattan office space where Clinton herself often works, miles from her main campaign headquarters in hip Brooklyn.

It also spent heavily on cutting-edge campaign tactics, including investing $276,000 in an envelope-pushing relationship with a supportive super PAC called Correct the Record, which plans to coordinate research activities with Clinton's campaign. The campaign also spent nearly $500,000 on voter data and data services, and $1.4 million on online advertising through a firm Bully Pulpit Interactive that shaped the pioneering digital marketing effort behind Barack Obama's 2008 campaign.

Unlike Obama's 2008 bid, which at first leaned heavily on low-dollar online contributions and boasted that it was ushering in a small-donor revolution in American politics, neither Clinton, nor the GOP's top fundraising presidential candidate, Jeb Bush, raised significant portions of their cash from small donors.

Only 17 percent of Clinton's cash came from donors contributing $200 or less, while 65 percent of it came from donors who gave the primary maximum of $2,700 or more.

Of the $11.4 million Bush raised since announcing his campaign in mid-June, 3.2 percent came from donors who gave $200 or less. An overwhelming 85 percent came from donors who gave $2,700 or more.

Both leaned on networks of well-connected donors to collect, or bundle, collections of checks from other donors. Clinton's campaign voluntarily released a list of more than 100 top bundlers. including Democratic mega-donors like billionaire media moguls Fred Eychaner and Haim Saban and a handful of current and former lawmakers such as Reps. Joaquin Castro, Grace Meng and Jim Himes. Bush's bundlers included lobbyist power players like Al Cardenas, Dirk Van Dongen and former Rep. Tom Loeffler.

Clinton and Bush also helped seed their own campaigns as they considered entering the race, reporting spending

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$279,000 and $389,000, respectively, from their own pockets on staffing and services. And both made use of private jets to hop-scotch the country. Clinton paid nearly $180,000 to a charter plane company and Bush paid $281,000 for private jet use, including $153,000 to "The Johnson Co.," apparently for the use of mega-donor Woody Johnson's jet for a European trip.

Both Clinton and Bush – as well as Cruz, Marco Rubio and other candidates – have deep-pocketed super PACs that raised tens of millions to support their campaign.

On the far other end of the finance spectrum is the campaign of Democratic insurgent Bernie Sanders, which is not supported by a super PAC and has not courted big donors, yet managed to raise the second-biggest haul of the second quarter: $15.2 million.

An overwhelming 76 percent of Sanders' money came from donors giving $200 or less, while only four percent came from max donors – perhaps unsurprising from a candidate whose campaign centers partly on reducing the influence of big-money in politics.

Yet, more than populist zeal is powering Sanders' impressive fundraising. His campaign paid $1.3 million for digital consulting and advertising services from Revolution Messaging, which has helped lead the senator's digital fundraising and social media effort.

Other candidates also seemed to view data as the key early-campaign investment. Cruz spent more than $1.4 million renting voter and email lists from a handful of digital consulting firms, including Campaign Solutions, Mustard Seed Media, Pinnacle List Co., Targeted Victory, Lukens Co. and Active Engagement. The Texas senator also reported owing $556,000 to Cambridge Analytica for "survey research" and "donor modeling." The firm is owned by the family of New York hedge fund magnate Bob Mercer, POLITICO revealed last week. Mercer and his family are among the biggest donors to a network of super PACs supporting Cruz that combined to raise $37 million and at least one of the super PACs is in discussions with Cambridge Analytica about retaining the firm's services.

The firm, which is relatively new to the competitive world of U.S. political data, provides nontraditional "psychographic" analyses of voters to try to win them over with narrowly targeted micro-messages. The Cruz campaign's FEC report does not reveal any payments to the firm, just debt. The total owed would seem to indicate that Cruz is relying heavily on the firm for critical data work, but it also is an unusually large debt for a campaign to owe a single vendor early in the cycle.

Other candidates carrying significant debts included Clinton (who owed $574,000, including more than $553,000 to pollster John Anzalone's firm), Bush (who owed $401,000, including $148,000 to a Michigan firm for a list he purchased) Republican Rick Santorum (who owed $125,000 after raising only $608,000).

Not including the debt, the candidates who finished June with the most in the bank were Clinton ($29 million), Sanders ($12 million), Rubio ($10 million), Cruz ($8.5 million), Bush ($8.4 million), Carson ($4.7 million), Rand Paul ($4 million) and Lindsey Graham ($2.6 million).

Burn rates:

Donald Trump 74.30%

Ben Carson 64.00%

Rick Santorum 61.80%

Mike Huckabee 55.80%

Ted Cruz 54.20%

Rick Perry 52.40%

Carly Fiorina 41.90%

Rand Paul 39.97%

Hillary Clinton 39.32%

O'Malley 34.50%

Lindsey Graham 30.40%

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Jeb Bush 26.93%

Marco Rubio 23.80%

Bernie Sanders 20.20%

Bobby Jindal 11.20%

Chart: The 2016 Presidential Candidates' Time in Elected Office, Ranked // Bloomberg // Andrew Feather – July 15, 2015

In poll after poll, Americans say they want their presidents to have experience.

But what, exactly, is experience, and does it extend to work history outside of elected office? Should, for instance, Donald Trump's real estate and reality television success count?

In a 2013 survey conducted by Des Moines Register pollster J. Ann Seltzer, voters said they prefer business experience to experience in any political office. However, Selzer says whether or not experience matters depends on the candidate and how effectively he or she is able to sell what experience they do have.

"It is a piece of the puzzle," Selzer said. "It is not the puzzle all by itself, and really depending on the candidate's ability to make the case why he comes to run for the presidency with a unique history."

Although voters say they value experience, the frontrunners in both parties have had some of the shortest terms in elected office. While some of the longest serving candidates have struggled to gain traction in the polls.

Candidates Show First Glimpse in Historic 2016 Money Race // Bloomberg // Zachary Mider – July 15, 2015

If money equals speech, then in the U.S. presidential race right now it's millionaires and billionaires who are doing most of the talking.

The campaign fundraising efforts of the 22 major declared or all-but-declared contenders are coming into focus this week as campaigns and related groups disclose the amounts they've raised so far, and the numbers point to a historic shift. For the first time in decades, contributions of unlimited size from deep-pocketed donors—as much as $6 million from a single person—are eclipsing the amounts raised from thousands of smaller contributors.

Today is the day when most candidates are required to disclose to the Federal Election Commission the fundraising totals for their official campaigns if they haven't already done so. Super-PACs don't have to report until the end of the month, although many of them have already allowed their numbers to trickle out, along with the names of some of the biggest contributors.

The Republican primary, where 17 candidates are seeking the party's nomination, may end up being financed mostly by a handful of wealthy donors. Some $235 million has been raised by super-PACs and other unlimited-contribution groups backing particular GOP candidates, a still-incomplete tally shows, compared with only $58 million raised in smaller amounts by the campaigns themselves.

"Outside money has been taken to a new level, beyond, I think, anybody's reasonable expectations," said Kenneth Gross, a political-law partner at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom who has counseled campaigns for both parties.

With the exception of Donald Trump, a billionaire who has said he plans to pay his own way, every major Republican contender has an allied outside group working on his or her behalf. By comparison, at this point in 2011, only one of the 12 Republican contenders had a super-PAC. That was Mitt Romney, whose super-PAC's $12 million haul was less than the $18 million raised by his official campaign at that point. Super-PACs never represented more than a small fraction of the total spending in the race.

American elections are being transformed by a series of court rulings, including the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in Citizens United, which loosened decades-old limits on money in politics by declaring that political spending was a form of speech protected by the First Amendment. For proponents of the changes, the current fundraising cycle is a sign of a reinvigorated democracy, and may help explain why so many candidates are throwing their hats in the ring.

"More speech freedom means more candidates, and more choices for voters," said the Center for Competitive Politics' David Keating, who helped bring about another key court decision, Speechnow V. FEC, that laid the groundwork for super-PACs in 2010. "We may end up with best informed primary electorate ever."

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But Gross called the prominence of the outside groups “unhealthy” to the system. “Candidates who are not viable can be propped up by a handful of donors,” he said.

Thanks to the court rulings, super-PACs can raise unlimited amounts from individuals and corporations, and can spend money directly on campaign advocacy, as long as they don't coordinate spending with a candidate. (Direct campaign contributions are still limited to $5,400 between the primary and general election.) Although some super-PACs were around in the 2012 race, they were newer and campaign lawyers were cautious about using them. This time around, they are not only starting earlier and with better funding, but in some cases they are taking over functions traditionally handled by campaigns, such as fielding press inquiries and organizing volunteers in early primary states.

The head of the PACs so far is Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, who founded and raised millions for his super-PAC months before he officially declared his candidacy. The PAC's $103 million haul is about 9 times what his actual campaign has raised.

Bush faces a field of GOP contenders with similarly deep-pocketed backers. Groups backing Scott Walker, the Wisconsin governor, and Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz have all indicated they've got $25 million or more to spend.

“In the era of super-PACs, as long as you have even just one or two donors who are willing to write large checks to support a candidate, that may be enough to keep a candidate in the race,” said Anthony Corrado, a professor of government at Colby College in Maine. He said this year's Republican field is the largest for either party since at least the 1970s.

The story is different on the Democratic side, where front-runner Hillary Clinton has focused her fundraising efforts on her official campaign. She's raised $45 million, compared with about $24 million gathered by allied outside groups. Bernie Sanders has discouraged super-PACs from backing his campaign and has raised about $15 million through traditional means.

Former hedge-fund manager George Soros, the media mogul Haim Saban, and the DreamWorks Animation CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg are among those mentioned in media reports as having written large checks to groups backing Clinton. The Florida car dealer Norman Braman, the pipeline billionaire Kelcy Warren, and the hedge-fund executive Robert Mercer are among those said to be already backing various Republicans.

The only Republican candidate unlikely to be dependent on outside money is Trump, the real-estate mogul and television personality who pegs his own net worth at almost $9 billion. “I'm not using donors,” he said when he declared as a candidate last month. “I don't care. I'm really rich.”

Trump's Popularity Rises, Still 2-1 Negative, While Clinton Regains Positive Territory **//ABC //**
Gregory Holyk – July 15, 2015

Positive views of Donald Trump have doubled since his controversial comments on immigration, although many more Americans still dislike rather than like him, now by nearly a 2-1 margin — and his negatives have soared among Hispanics, a sought-after group in national politics.

Thirty-three percent of Americans see Trump favorably; that’s doubled from 16 percent in a pre-candidacy ABC News/Washington Post poll in late May. Sixty-one percent see him unfavorably, down from 71 percent but still leaving him deeply under water in popularity overall.

Among Hispanics, negative views of Trump have jumped by 21 percentage points, from 60 percent in May to 81 percent today. That’s a potential challenge for the Republican Party, which has struggled to win support among racial and ethnic minorities, with Hispanics a prime target.

Trump’s not alone with popularity challenges. While Republican fundraising leader Jeb Bush has gained some ground, just 38 percent of Americans see him favorably – a scant 5 points more than Trump’s rating — while 47 percent rate Bush unfavorably.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton’s favorability rating has improved to a majority after a sustained fall from her heights as secretary of state. The much less well-known Bernie Sanders, while drawing crowds on the campaign trail, gets a split decision, 27-28 percent.

Trump’s positive ratings are up very sharply among Republicans and strong conservatives, by 34 and 30 points, to 57 and 55 percent, respectively. He’s also gained 26 points among seniors and 24 points among whites, to 38 and 42 percent in this poll, produced for ABC by Langer Research Associates.

That said, Republicans and strong conservatives are the only groups in which majorities see Trump favorably. He’s seen unfavorably, for example, by 53 percent of whites, rising to 74 percent of nonwhites; 58 percent of

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independents; and six in 10 political moderates. And far more people strongly dislike than like Trump, 45-14 percent.

Fifty-two percent see Clinton favorably, up 7 points from late May, while 45 percent see her negatively – putting her popularity back above water, if not broadly so. The result reverses a 22-point drop in favorability from her peak in January 2013.

Clinton's improved the most since May among minorities, including Hispanics (up 17 points) and blacks (+12 points), as well as a mix of other groups, including Northeasterners (+16), "somewhat" conservatives (+14) and young adults (+12).

Positive ratings of Bush are up 6 percentage points from late May, albeit just to 38 percent; the 9-point gap between his favorable and unfavorable ratings has narrowed from 19 points in late May. Still, Bush has been stuck in the 30s in favorable ratings all year.

His improvement is broadly based, highlighted by 18- and 11-point advances in favorable scores among Midwesterners and Westerners and double-digit gains among Hispanics (+14 points), Democrats (+12), conservatives (+10) and men (+10).

Sanders, for his part, remains little known: Forty-five percent of Americans have yet to form an opinion of him. As noted, he breaks even among others, 27-28 percent, favorable-unfavorable, with his best ratings among liberals (45 percent), high-income earners (42 percent), college graduates (41 percent) and Democrats (36 percent).

Groups

Clinton's popularity in a comparatively uncluttered Democratic field reflects her better performance relative to Bush and Trump among her partisan and ideological base, as well as some key demographic groups. She's viewed positively by 82 percent of Democrats, for example, while 63 and 57 percent of Republicans like Bush and Trump, respectively.

Further, while Clinton's seen favorably by 76 percent of liberals, there are greater ideological divisions on the GOP side. Bush is seen favorably by just 43 percent of strong conservatives (vs. 52 percent of somewhat conservatives). That flips for Trump – 55 percent favorability among strong conservatives vs. 40 percent among somewhat conservatives.

Clinton essentially breaks even among independents, while Bush and Trump are under water by 13 and 23 points, respectively, in this group. Bush is much closer to Clinton among moderates, while Trump's popularity is well behind.

Clinton also gets at least as good a favorability rating as Bush or Trump among men, whites and seniors — more GOP- than Democratic-leaning groups — as well as scoring much better among women, nonwhites and young adults. Notably, two-thirds of Hispanics view Clinton positively, compared with 46 percent for Bush and, for Trump, 13 percent.

Bernie Sanders Won't Accept Money From Billionaires. Donald Trump Donated $100,000 to Hillary Clinton. // HuffPo // H.A. Goodman – July 15, 2015

American politics today is a battle for the trust and loyalty of not only rank and file Democrats or Republicans, but also for the ever-elusive swing voter. In 2016, Colorado, Ohio, Florida, Nevada and Virginia will be what POLITICO refers to as "super-swingy states" and with their total of 75 electoral votes up for grabs, the next president will have to convey an image of trustworthiness before reaching the White House. Therefore, it's tough to say "Basta" when it comes to rhetoric, but not around $100,000 from a controversial billionaire. According to The Clinton Foundation, Donald Trump is listed as contributing somewhere between $100,000-$250,000, making it difficult to believe (if one correlates values to refusing money from people they oppose ideologically) the verbal sparring match between Clinton and Trump.

In terms of honesty from a new perspective in American politics, POLITICO published a piece titled "Bernie Sanders Doesn't Follow the Money" and quotes Vermont's Senator as boldly stating, "I don't want money from the billionaires." Sanders wants to break up the banks, enact a modern-day Glass Steagall, thinks that we've entered an era that could lead to oligarchy, and believes the "Billionaire Class" has too great a control of our political system.

The man is honest. He says things that simply aren't said in today's jaded political environment. Furthermore, not since the days of Theodore Roosevelt or William Howard Taft has a political figure spoken and acted in such a bold manner towards Wall Street and big business. Speaking of Roosevelt, the University of Virginia's Miller Center describes the Republican icon in the same manner people today speak of Bernie Sanders:

At the turn of the 20th century, Americans had begun to look for ways to address some of these problems. As

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chief executive, Roosevelt felt empowered by the people to help ensure social justice and economic opportunity through government regulation.
One of Roosevelt's central beliefs was that the government had the right to regulate big business to protect the welfare of society.

Judging by America's wealth inequality, it seems that we have more in common with the Gilded Age than Clinton, Trump, or Bush would like to admit. Also, comparing Roosevelt to Sanders is not only apt, but also addresses the key issues that make Vermont's Senator so popular. It's also important to note that if Fox News were around during Roosevelt's time, the conservative news station would refer to TR as a "socialist."

Sanders speaks his mind, and his actions back up both his value system and political philosophy. If it's too big to fail (even after the horrendous 2008 financial crisis), then it's too big to exist. For this reason, Bernie Sanders raises money primarily from his website and not investment banks like other candidates.

Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, will not propose a new Glass-Steagall, her foundation is linked to ethical scandal, and Mother Jones estimates that Clinton has earned $5 million from speaking engagements to "corporate heavyweights." In terms of Donald Trump's latest xenophobic comments, it's admirable that Clinton has condemned the Donald's racist remarks, but donations from the billionaire raise questions as to the sincerity of their recent sparring match. According to a Daily Caller article titled Donald Trump Donated At Least $100K to Clinton Foundation, the same people claiming to vehemently disagree with one another seemed to have agreed in the past on campaign donations:

Potential 2016 Republican presidential candidate and attention-seeking businessman Donald Trump has donated at least $100,000 to the Clinton Foundation, despite his criticism of the foundation's dealings.

...What Trump neglected to mention was his own donations to the foundation. Trump is listed on the Clinton Foundation's donor page as having given somewhere between $100,001 and $250,000.

Perhaps the donation shouldn't be so shocking considering Trump also donated to Hillary Clinton's New York Senate campaign, before selling himself as conservative firebrand.
The Washington Post states that not only did Trump donate to Clinton, but "The biggest recipient of all has been the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee of New York."

As for the history between both Trump and Clinton, POLITCO published a piece titled Donald Trump has spent years courting Hillary and other Dems, and while they might be sparring politically at the moment, they've had a political association in the past:

Clinton, the Democratic front-runner and former New York senator who had some say over policy that could have impacted Trump's vast business dealings, received donations from both him and son Donald Trump Jr. on separate occasions in 2002, 2005, 2006 and 2007, according to state and federal disclosure records.

Trump has also been generous with the Clinton Foundation, donating at least $100,000, according to the non-profit.

...Trump defended his donations to New York Democrats in an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity that April, proclaiming that in the state, "everyone is Democratic" and implying that to donate otherwise would be waste of his money.

In 2016, there's one question that all voters should ask: Why would Trump imply "that to donate otherwise would be waste of his money," and what utility did he derive from not "wasting" his money and donating to Clinton and other Democrats?

On the other side of the political spectrum, Bernie Sanders doesn't need the money of billionaires, since most likely they'd be "wasting" money on donating to his campaign. After all, Sanders is quoted in The Washington Post as saying things that no other politician in America would dare utter during an election cycle:

The American people do not want an economy dominated by a handful of gigantic Wall Street firms who live in their own world... These guys have engaged in a whole lot of illegal activity and highly complicated financial tools designed to enrich themselves. That has gotta be broken...

Let me give you some interesting news. I announced yesterday. In 24 hours, 100,000 people have signed up to join the campaign. We have received 35,000 donations. You know what the average donation was? $43. We raised a million and a half dollars in 24 hours with an average donation of $43.

That is where most of our money is going to come from...I will not be part of any Super PAC.

Throughout my career I have not taken any corporate PAC money. That will remain for this race as well.

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Can I raise a billion dollars? Probably not. But the question is, can I raise enough money to run a grass roots campaign and utilize millions of people? I think we can raise that kind of money.

In contrast to Clinton, Bush, Trump and America's political establishment, Bernie Sanders sounds more like the protagonist in an old Hollywood film than a jaded politician eager to cater to all sides of the political spectrum.

Bernie Sanders can easily defeat any GOP nominee because he stands for the exact opposite of Jeb Bush or Donald Trump. For the Clinton campaign, donations from Trump and Wall Street could be a factor in why CNN published a piece titled Clinton's honesty and trustworthy problem extends to swing states. While Clinton, Bush and others will have to be all things to all people, Bernie Sanders simply needs to be himself.

For swing voters in swing states like Ohio or Florida, the trustworthiness of our future president will be partially linked to how they finance their campaigns. It's 480 days from Election Day, and Bernie Sanders has already stunned Washington's establishment and the country. It's likely that his refusal to accept money from people like Donald Trump will continue to help him, especially in swing states. It might also send an invaluable precedent and enable him to achieve a title once thought impossible for Vermont's Senator: Mr. President.

Bush Hails Uber, While Clinton Criticizes **// TIME // Jay Newton-Small – July 15, 2015**

Uber hitched an unexpected ride on the 2016 campaign trail this week.

During a rollout of her economic plan Monday, Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton took companies like Uber to task for not giving drivers benefits. On Friday morning, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush plans on hailing an Uber in San Francisco to show his support for the ride-sharing company and others like it.

For some Republicans, the contrast made Clinton an easy target.

Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, the youngest woman ever elected to Congress, argued the former Secretary of State was out of touch with the younger generation. “If you look at millenials, we love those companies [like Uber], we love consumer choices,” she said. “It’s a big mistake, I think, that Secretary Clinton chose to go after those companies that are really disrupting those industries for the better.”

But the politics of Uber aren’t so clear cut for either side.

While Republicans love the idea of breaking taxi unions, GOP support for the sharing economy isn’t so clear-cut. Most of the sharing economy vanguard—companies like Uber, AirBnB and Lyft—were born in California, a big blue state, and their corporate blueprints assume the kind of large social safety net favored by Democrats.

As Uber CEO Travis Kalanick told reporters in Washington in November, the Affordable Care Act was “huge” for his company because the “democratization of those types of benefits allow people to have more flexible ways to make a living.” In other words, his company didn’t have to provide health insurance because drivers could buy it on their own through Obamacare. (That was eight months before a California court ruled that Uber drivers are, in fact, employees and thus were owed typical benefits, a decision the company is appealing.)

Democratic Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, who built a fortune in cell phone technology, calls it “the gig economy.” Part-time or temporary workers already account for 40.4% of the workforce, up from 35.3% in 2006. Many of these workers have several jobs doing things like driving for Uber, renting out their couch through Airbnb or doing freelance journalism, software coding or videography. These jobs provide workers with flexibility and give them an alternative to unemployment, but the drawback is that they don’t come with the standard package of benefits most full-time workers have long enjoyed.

Despite Clinton’s harsh words for Uber, Jake Sullivan, one of her top policy advisors, told a group of Washington journalists at a breakfast Tuesday organized by the Christian Science Monitor that there’s no easy answer. “It’s a huge question and a very hard one,” he said.

While Clinton faces the risk of looking uncool by criticizing Uber, Bush faces an even tougher question. After all, repealing Obamacare is at the top of every 2016 Republican candidates’ list. It’s one thing to ride in an Uber, but quite another to figure out how to fix its business model if the safety net shrinks.

But if the 2016 candidates are just skirting around the edges of the issue, Congress has barely touched it.

A self-described pro-business moderate, Warner is just about the only one on Capitol Hill thinking about these issues. He’s exploring legislation that would help freelancers, such as creating an Obamacare-type program for retirement benefits or building off the model that some trade unions have for contract workers to receive benefits. He also is looking to revamp the tax code to create a category for “dependent workers,” a hybrid between a contractor and a full-time employee that would end the debates, if not the legal challenges, on exactly what kind of

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an employee gig economy workers are.

But Warner is months, if not years, away from legislation and little is likely to pass before the election, regardless. Which leaves the issue open for debate among the 2016 field. Where should workers in the gig economy get benefits: from their employers or the government?

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Jim Webb: A respectable alternative to Hillary Clinton // Newsday // July 15, 2015

Jim Webb, a former Democratic senator from Virginia, likes to joke that he is probably the only person ever elected to statewide office in the Old Dominion who has "a union card, two Purple Hearts and three tattoos."

Now, as the fifth candidate to vie for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, Webb is aiming to become the first commander in chief with those possessions -- along with many other credentials. The highly decorated combat veteran, who led a Marine Corps platoon and company in Vietnam, went on to serve as assistant defense secretary and secretary of the Navy. His other medals include the Navy Cross, the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars. He has also written 10 books (including six novels), taught literature at his alma mater (the United States Naval Academy), won an Emmy Award in 1984 for reporting he did on U.S. Marines in Beirut in as a journalist for PBS, and earned a law degree at Georgetown University. He's the real deal.

Yet, when I was asked recently by a television producer what I thought Webb brought to the presidential race, the last thing on my mind was his resume. Rather, what occurred to me were the various constituencies -- including Democrats and independents -- that Webb might appeal to that are being ignored, feel they have no voice or haven't found a candidate they can support.

The media don't get it. The narrative I've seen is that Webb speaks for "Southern whites" -- the kind of folks who, the rest of the country assumes, want to roll back affirmative action and save the Confederate battle flag.

It's much more complicated than that. There are at least five different constituencies that might embrace someone like Webb:

-- Blue-collar workers. If you're in a union and you worry about being pushed out of your job by a trade deal that undermines American workers or you fear having to compete with newly legalized immigrants who take jobs and lower wages, then you're going to be leery of Hillary Clinton and the Democratic establishment. You want someone who fights for you. Webb could step into that role.

-- Those who want a "Plan B." Even if you support Clinton, you might still worry that she can't go the distance. Polls show that many Americans don't trust her, which is a likely response to multiple scandals involving everything from deleted emails to questions surrounding the killing of four Americans in Benghazi, Libya. If you feel like the revelation that torpedoes the Clinton campaign is just around the corner, you might consider Webb a safer bet.

-- Conservative Democrats. While our politics are polarized, we used to have liberal Republicans and conservative Democrats. Webb is the latter. Among Democrats, Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont are racing to the far left. Conservative Democrats might feel as if they have no good choices. Webb gives them an option to stay in the party.
Opinion

-- The ABH ("Anyone But Hillary") crowd. There are Democrats who are not anxious to usher in another Clinton era. They want fresh blood, and so they're now supporting other candidates. For Democrats who are tired of dynasties and think the way to beat someone like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is to nominate a candidate who believes the presidency should be merited not inherited, Webb could be appealing.

-- Finally, the strategists. In 2012, Democrats defined Mitt Romney as rich, privileged and detached from reality. Now, if Clinton wins the nomination, it will be the Democratic candidate who -- with her husband -- is estimated to be worth between $100 million and $200 million. Meanwhile, on the Republican side, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida is the son of a bartender and hotel maid. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is the son of a pastor and part-time secretary. And Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina had parents who ran a restaurant and pool hall. Democrats need a candidate who can counter the populist appeal that this crop of Republicans could generate. That's not Clinton. It could be Webb, who grew up in a military family.
For the media to ignore all this, and boil down Webb's candidacy to crass racial politics and an attempt to give voice to Southern whites is an insult -- not just to Webb but to the remarkable country that he has spent much of his life serving and defending.

Dem ocratic poll shows Nevada Senate race a dead heat, Hillary up in the state // Ralston Reports

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// Jon Ralston – July 15, 2015

The U.S. Senate race in Nevada is a dead heat while every Republican candidate would lose today to Hillary Clinton in Nevada, according to a poll conducted by a Democratic-leaning pollster for a Democratic SuperPAC.

The numbers for the Senate Majority PAC actually make sense despite what some will criticize as the source, especially because the partisan breakdown is reasonable (the pollster used the actual 39-34, D-R split, although performance usually favors the GOP to cut into that edge) and past crosstabs have shown the pollster, Public Policy Polling, knows the state. PPP, though, has had mixed results in Nevada, botching last cycle's LG race but besting other pollsters at times, including during the 2010 U.S. Senate race that most others had Sharron Angle winning.

Here's what the numbers show from this month, with a margin of effor of just under 5 percent:

►Catherine Cortez Masto, 42 percent; Joe Heck, 41 percent

►Clinton is up 48/43 on Marco Rubio, 48/42 on Donald Trump, 48/41 on Scott Walker, and 49/37 on Jeb Bush.

Six points on Trump! My God.

Those presidential numbers are not that surprising, considering the voter registration edge (55,000-plus) the Democrats have and the performance in 2008 and 2012 here.

The survey also shows the federal minimum wage could be an effective wedge issue for the Democratic contender, as you will see from the memo below.

By the way, the PPP poll is much more credible than the U.S. Chamber survey that showed Heck winning in a landslide and had questionable demographics. (The chamber, which started running ads for Heck this week, also refused to release any more information when I asked.)

Also, let's be clear: Any poll taken in July of 2015 does not mean all that much, and its release is designed to help fundraising and little more. Also, this race has always been destined to be close unless something unforeseen occurs, and the presidential contest in Nevada is a mystery wrapped in a conundrum surrounded by an enigma until we see who the nominee is.

And did I mention the election is 481 days away?

Here's the polling memo:

From: Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Nevada Senate Race Tight; Clinton Well Positioned in State

Date: July 15, 2015

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that the open race for the Senate in Nevada is a toss up, with Democrat Catherine Cortez Masto leading Republican Joe Heck by a single point. Meanwhile Hillary Clinton is well positioned in the Presidential race, leading the top Republicans by 5-12 points in the state. Key findings from the survey include:

-For now the Senate race is about as close as it can be, with Cortez Masto leading Heck 42/41. There are indications within the numbers of Cortez Masto having more room for growth though- the undecideds voted for Barack Obama by 24 points in 2012 and they support Hillary Clinton over the trio of Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, and Scott Walker by an average of 11 points. Those folks are likely to end up voting Democratic for the Senate too in the end.

-Hillary Clinton is the clear favorite for President in Nevada, and her coattails are likely to benefit Cortez Masto in the Senate race as well. Clinton’s up 48/43 on Marco Rubio, 48/42 on Donald Trump, 48/41 on Scott Walker, and 49/37 on Jeb Bush. If Clinton’s winning the state by those kinds of margins, she’s likely to bring Cortez Masto along with her.

One issue that gives Cortez Masto a decided advantage over Heck is increasing the federal minimum wage. 59% of voters support doing that to only 34% who are opposed. Heck’s conservative stance on that issue may prove untenable in a state that’s becoming increasingly Democratic in Presidential elections.

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The Nevada Senate race starts out about as tight as it can be. But Hillary Clinton's strength in the state and the continued growth of voters in Democratic friendly demographic groups leave Catherine Cortez Masto pretty well positioned for next year.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 677 Nevada voters on July 13th and 14th on behalf of Senator Majority PAC. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.8%. 39% of those surveyed were Democrats, 34% were Republicans, and 27% were independents or members of other parties.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Senate clears way for final vote on No Child rewrite // AP // Jennifer C. Kerr – July 14, 2015

The Senate has cleared the way for a vote by Thursday on a bipartisan bill to rewrite the George W. Bush-era No Child Left Behind education law.

Lawmakers have been considering the bill since last week. They voted Wednesday to limit additional debate on further changes to the legislation and move forward to a vote on final passage.

The bill, sponsored by Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., would narrow the federal role in public schools by giving states and school districts more control over assessing the performance of schools, teachers and students.

It would keep No Child Left Behind's requirement for annual math and reading tests but prohibit the federal government from requiring or encouraging specific sets of academic standards, such as Common Core.

Common Core was drafted by the states with the support of the Obama administration, but the standards become a rallying point for those who want a smaller federal role in education

Senators intended to spend the next day discussing dozens of amendments before a final vote. Any bill that emerges from the Senate would then have to be reconciled with a more conservative version that the House passed last week.

The House bill, sponsored by Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., also lessens the federal role in education policy by turning more power over to the states to assess school performance and by preventing the administration from pushing Common Core on the states.

This bill also allows federal money to follow low-income children to public schools of their choice, an issue known as portability. Democrats do not support it.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan has said the White House would veto the House measure. Duncan has been more supportive of the Senate bill, but has urged changes that would require states to identify their lowest-performing schools and require those schools to have plans for improvement.

No Child Left Behind, which had bipartisan support and was signed into law by Bush in 2002, mandated annual testing in reading and math for students in grades three through eight and again in high school. Schools had to show student growth or face consequences. But critics complained there was too much testing and the law was too punitive on schools deemed failing.

The law has been up for reauthorization since 2007.

Obamacare Fines Paid by 6.6 Million Taxpayers, More Than Planned // Bloomberg // Anna Edney – July 15, 2015

About 6.6 million U.S. taxpayers paid a penalty imposed for the first time this year for not having health insurance, about 10 percent more than the Obama administration had estimated -- though a portion didn't need to.

The penalty of as much as 1 percent of income was implemented under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, and was meant to encourage people to sign up for health insurance. The Treasury Department had said in January that as many as 6 million taxpayers would pay the fine.

The average penalty was $190, the Internal Revenue Service said Wednesday in a report. About 300,000

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taxpayers overpaid the penalty by a total of $35 million. Most should have been exempt for their low income, according to the agency.

The average overpayment was a little more than $110. The IRS hasn't decided yet whether to issue a refund for the overpayments.

"Since the majority of taxpayers use paid tax-return preparers, most would probably spend more than the roughly $110 average overpayment amount in preparer fees if amended returns are required," the agency said.

About 10.7 million taxpayers filed for an exemption from the penalty.

For those who did gain health-care coverage under new marketplaces created by Obamacare, 2.6 million filed for premium tax credits to help them afford insurance, adding up to $7.7 billion in subsidies. The average tax credit was $3,000, the IRS said.
About 8 million people purchased health coverage through the government-run marketplaces in 2014.

INTERNATIONAL

Clearing Hurdles to Iran Nuclear Deal With Standoffs, Shouts and Compromise // NYT // David E. Sanger and Michael R. Gordon – July 15, 2015

One by one, the roadblocks to a nuclear accord between Iran and the United States had been painstakingly cleared. But as the negotiations went into their third week in the neoclassical Coburg Palace hotel this month, a major dispute lingered: whether a ban on Iran's ability to purchase conventional weapons and missile technology would remain in place.

The American delegation, led by Secretary of State John Kerry, insisted on extending the ban. But Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Iranian foreign minister and his country's chief negotiator, was opposed. Backing him were the Russians and Chinese, equal parties in the talks, who saw a lucrative market in selling arms to Tehran.

A compromise was struck that fully satisfied neither side: a five-year ban on the sale of conventional weapons and an eight-year ban on ballistic missiles.

As Mr. Obama made clear again Wednesday, the alternative he saw to the deal was a steady slide toward another war — perhaps, aides thought, in just a year or two as Iran's nuclear abilities accelerated. Throughout the talks, he had one goal: to diminish the prospect that Iran could develop an atomic bomb — or could race for one before the United States and its allies could react.

For the president, everything else — Iran's support for terrorism, its imprisonment of dissidents and even some Americans, its meddling in Iraq and Syria, its arms trade — was secondary.

For the Iranians, this was a negotiation first and foremost to get rid of what Mr. Zarif often called the "unjust sanctions" while trying to keep their nuclear options open. But while they treasured their nuclear program, they treasured the symbolism of not backing down to American demands even more. But Mr. Zarif was walking his own high-wire act at home. While he had an important ally in Iran's president, Hassan Rouhani, hard-liners did not want to reach any deal at all; many were making a fortune from the sanctions because they controlled Iran's black markets.

And conservatives around the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, were looking for any signs that their Americanized chief negotiator, who studied at the University of Denver, was ready to give away too much nuclear infrastructure without getting Iran the sanctions lifted in return, as the ayatollah had decreed.

There was no single event, no heart-to-heart conversation between adversaries or game-changing insight that made the Iran deal happen. Instead, over a period of years, each side came to gradually understand what mattered most to the other.

For the Americans, that meant designing offers that kept the shell of Iran's nuclear program in place while gutting its interior. For the Iranians, it meant ridding themselves of sanctions in ways they could describe to their own people as forcing the United States to deal with Iran as an equal, respected sovereign power. And it happened because a brief constellation of personalities and events came into alignment:

A sultan in Oman who convinced the White House that he could establish a back channel to the Iranians. The election of Mr. Rouhani, who Mr. Obama thought would be more receptive to his overtures than Iran's aging supreme leader. A series of insights from the Energy Department's nuclear laboratories that allowed the physics of enrichment to create new space for compromise among the political leaders. And the presence of two top

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diplomats, Mr. Kerry and Mr. Zarif, driven by the conviction that they could break an ugly 35-year history.

At one point last week the simmering tension between the two negotiators boiled over when Mr. Zarif felt his American counterpart was pressing too hard. “Never threaten an Iranian!” he shouted. At the other end of the table Sergey V. Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, who has had his share of disputes with Mr. Kerry, tried to break the tension. “Or a Russian!” he said, as the room broke out in nervous laughter.

But during a break on one particularly discouraging March day in Lausanne, Switzerland, where negotiations were held before adjourning to Vienna, Mr. Zarif struck a different tone as he invoked the names of the key figures on two sides, including Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and the top energy officials of the United States and Iran, Ernest J. Moniz and Ali Akbar Salehi.

“We are not going to have another time in history when there is an Obama and a Biden and a Kerry and a Moniz again,” he said, according to notes of the conversation. “And there may be no Rouhani, Zarif and Salehi.”

Barack Obama came to office hoping for a dialogue with Tehran but focused on the problem of nuclear proliferation. After Ayatollah Khamenei responded to Mr. Obama’s private letters with long diatribes about America’s efforts, the president turned to squeezing the country economically.

“Obama seemed very comfortable with the shift to sanctions after the Iranians failed to reciprocate to his overtures,” Gary Samore, then a senior White House aide. He pressed the Russians to delay selling the S-300, a sophisticated air defense system, to Iran, and sent a delegation to persuade Beijing to reduce China’s purchases of oil.

But when an offer to help get secret talks started with the Iranians came from Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman, the president was intrigued. Eventually the White House turned to a trusted ally to tease out the possibilities: Mr. Kerry, then a senator from Massachusetts. Meeting in Oman on Dec. 7, 2011, the sultan said an accord could be reached.

There was a high likelihood, the sultan said, that a deal could be reached if the Obama administration showed its seriousness about a diplomatic solution. But making a point that would recur time and again — down to the last days of the Vienna talks — he said that a way would need to be found to allow the Iranians to “keep their honor.”

It took seven months — until July 2012 — before secret envoys sent by Mr. Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with the Iranians, and that meeting went poorly. Then, in June 2013, came the election of Mr. Rouhani, whom the supreme leader had allowed to run, largely on a platform of ridding Iran of the sanctions that were squeezing the elite and middle class.

“The president said we had to work up a letter to him right away,” one of Mr. Obama’s senior aides said. “He sensed it was a moment we had to seize.”

As Mr. Obama’s aides sketched out how the negotiations might play out, they faced a threshold decision: Would they abandon the Bush administration’s mantra that “not one centrifuge spins,” a position they knew the Iranians would never accept? Or were they willing to allow a token Iranian program — a face-saving one — if the trade-off was two decades or so of restrictions?

A consensus quickly emerged that a contained program was far better than a smoldering confrontation that seemed headed toward a military strike. “The idea was that if we accepted enrichment it would be at a very small level,” said Dennis B. Ross, who served on the National Security Council during Mr. Obama’s first term. “By being very limited, it would be a manifestation that they really had a peaceful nuclear program.”

But it became clear that Iran envisioned something different: a sizable nuclear infrastructure that would take a pause of a few years, the price of ending sanctions, but then resume its march to “industrial scale” uranium enrichment. The gap between the American numbers of acceptable centrifuges and the Iranian numbers seem unbridgeable.

Looking for a way to break the deadlock without forcing the Iranians into a corner, the nuclear experts at the Energy Department began to present other, more complex options. The focus, they suggested, should not be simply on the number and type of centrifuges, but the “breakout time,” the amount of time it would take for Iran, under a “best reasonable” estimate, to produce a single weapon’s worth of material. Put simply, Iran could have centrifuges running if it agreed to a far smaller stockpile of fuel.

“There were many intense meetings on this,” recalled Antony J. Blinken, Mr. Obama’s deputy national security adviser at the time, and now the deputy secretary of state. “We had to present a lot of permutations to the president to meet his bottom lines.”

The military said it could live with a “breakout time” of a year; that was plenty of time to launch a strike to destroy

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Iran's production facilities. But the optics of allowing thousands of centrifuges to remain was not good.

"Throughout this process," Mr. Blinken said, "we've been faced with a choice between what is politically feasible and what is practically necessary."

It would be the first of many such choices.

Progress Is Halting

A series of secret negotiations with the Rouhani team, led by Mrs. Clinton's top aide, Jake Sullivan, and one of America's most experienced diplomats, William J. Burns, explored the possibilities.

"I have about six months to get this through," Mr. Zarif said in New York in September 2013, on his first trip to the United Nations as foreign minister after many years of academic exile. After that, he feared, the opponents of dealing with the United States would rise again. He was wrong: It turned out the process went on for another 22 months.

A first agreement, just to get Iran to freeze its current nuclear activity and blend down some stockpiles of fuel that the West feared was approaching weapons-grade, took months to negotiate. Then came halting progress, as the Americans began to realize that at every stage the Iranians were fighting to preserve every major nuclear facility. "It was all about perception," one negotiator said. "They fought to keep the buildings and tangible equipment. It was easier for them to give up fuel or parts of the equipment people didn't see." That preserved a narrative that nothing had been surrendered.

Last summer, Iran's supreme leader made the problem even harder, pronouncing in a speech (which took Mr. Zarif by surprise) that Iran should eventually have an industrial-scale enrichment program — with 190,000 centrifuges — to provide fuel for power reactors. The logjam was not broken until several extensions of the talks, and a marathon set of meetings in Lausanne, where a critical treaty had been negotiated at the end of World War I. By this time, Mr. Moniz and Mr. Salehi, a former foreign minister and now head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, joined the talks to work out the nuclear details — in a less political, more scientific environment.

The officials working under Mr. Salehi "were mostly hard-liners, and they would give on nothing," one American official said. But when Mr. Salehi, who got his nuclear training at M.I.T. before the Iranian revolution, showed up and developed a rapport with Mr. Moniz, the secretary of energy and a former chairman of the M.I.T. physics department, the Iranian bureaucrats were often sidelined, or overruled. (Mr. Moniz played the connection to the hilt, showing up one day with M.I.T.-logo baby gifts for Mr. Salehi's first grandchild.)

Over intense days, in which proposals were sketched out on rolling white boards so that nothing was on paper, where it might have to go back to Tehran for approval, they worked out a framework.

The two scientists found ways to achieve the one-year breakout time, at least for the first 10 years, by reducing low enriched uranium stocks to a mere 660 pounds, down from about nine tons that Iran has now produced. In return, Iran would be allowed over 6,000 centrifuges, and an agreement to keep 1,000 of them in Fordo, the deep underground enrichment site that worried Israeli officials because it was impermeable to Israeli bombing. But no fissile material — the stuff of enriched uranium — would be allowed at Fordo, and last week the Iranians agreed to pull most of the piping out of the facility, making it even harder to restart operations.

Still, Mr. Obama had talked about the need to close the facility when he revealed its existence in 2009. There were other compromises. One Western diplomat said an initial hope among some of the nations involved in the talks was that the central provisions of an agreement would last 20 years. They got 10, with restrictions on how much of a stockpile Iran could maintain that last for 15 years.

"By the time we left Lausanne, most of the nuclear issues were solved, we just had to work out the specific wording," one of the negotiators said.

But tellingly, in the ensuing two and a half months, the two sides described their agreements in very different terms. Mr. Kerry described an Iranian capability that had been neutralized; the Iranians a capability that had been preserved. That set up a collision course for the last negotiations, in Vienna.

Political Requirements Differ

Mr. Kerry arrived in Vienna on June 28, hobbling on crutches after breaking his femur in a bicycle accident in France. His chief negotiator, Wendy Sherman, a tenacious, detail-oriented diplomat who had broken two or three bones of her own during the negotiations, had already been in Vienna for a week.

The Iranians, she reported, were intent on getting bigger, faster relief from sanctions, claiming Mr. Rouhani's

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political survival depended on it.

The United States also had its requirements. On the nuclear side, it needed to cut off all three of Iran's pathways to a bomb: obtaining uranium, producing plutonium and the covert manufacture or purchase of a weapon. Each of those carried enormous complexities. Politically, it needed to show that Iran met all its major obligations before sanctions were lifted, and that there was a mechanism to reimpose them quickly if Tehran stopped cooperating.

Mr. Obama had already given ammunition to critics of a deal when he said in an April interview that after year 13 of the accord Iran's breakout time could be down to nearly zero. That seemed to acknowledge the main critique of the emerging agreement — that it constituted the medium-term management of the Iranian program, not its elimination.

American negotiators believed the deal was better than that, but to constrain Iran's ability to emerge from the accord as a nuclear threshold state they had to pin the Iranians down on some of the technical details, including the development of more efficient centrifuges.

The problem was that the principal Iranian interlocutor for settling precisely that issue, Mr. Salehi, was missing: He had undergone three abdominal operations in the previous two months, and on a conference call a few weeks before Mr. Moniz thought he sounded weak. "We didn't know if Salehi was reluctant to come, or too weak," said one senior American official. But without him, "we were getting nowhere."

Two days after Mr. Kerry arrived, Mr. Zarif took a quick trip to Tehran, ostensibly for consultations. Most important, he returned with Mr. Salehi on his plane. The atmosphere at the Coburg Palace was tense. But on July 4, the Iranians broke the ice by inviting the Americans for lunch, at which Mr. Zarif complained about ads in Tehran that were inveighing against the deal. Mr. Kerry talked about complaints he was getting from critics at home, who he said were attacking an agreement without even bothering to learn the details.

But the talks dragged on.

The Iranians appeared to think they could exploit a deadline for submitting a finished accord to Congress for a 30-day review. The deadline was July 9. "It was working against us," one diplomat said. "The Iranians saw that deadline and they were convinced we would give in on key details to avoid the longer review."

At the White House, Mr. Obama, monitoring the talks every few hours, was getting concerned about a narrative that he and Mr. Kerry wanted a deal too much — three mornings in a row Mr. Obama reminded his aides, "I don't need this." They were not certain what he meant, but they had a theory: After big victories in the Supreme Court on health care and the gay rights, he could afford to be patient.

The days ticked by, with halting progress. Mr. Moniz finished the nuclear details, often in meetings in the impressive stone basement of the Coburg, built from the ramparts of old Vienna. The Iranians called it Fordo — because, if you ignored the 60,000 wine bottles, it looked like their underground enrichment center.

The last stretch was taken up largely with the wording of a United Nations Security Council resolution that would lay out the terms of the arms embargo. Finally, on Tuesday, the agreement was announced.

When the photo ops were over, the seven foreign ministers who had negotiated it met for the last time. Each spoke briefly about the importance of the moment. Mr. Kerry spoke last, but then added a personal coda. Choking up, he recalled going off to Vietnam as a 22-year-old naval officer and said he never wanted to go through that again. He emerged committed, he said, to using diplomacy to avoid the horrors of war.

Greece, Its Back to the Wall, Adopts Austerity Steps // NYT // Suzanne Daley and James Kanter – July 15, 2015

Under threat from the nation's creditors to move quickly or lose any chance of obtaining a desperately needed new bailout package, Greece's Parliament approved painful new austerity measures early Thursday, virtually guaranteeing that life would get harder for millions of Greeks.

With banks closed and the economy on the verge of collapse, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras had urged the adoption of the measures, saying that while it was a difficult deal the creditors were offering, it was the only one available and would avert a humanitarian and fiscal disaster.

The measures passed easily, with a vote of 229 to 64, with six abstentions. Yet much of the support came from opposition parties. Thirty-two members of Mr. Tsipras's own Syriza party voted no, including three of his ministers, throwing the stability of his left-wing coalition government into question.

The vote came a day after the International Monetary Fund signaled that it might not back the new bailout unless the pact substantially reduced the debt burden on Athens. That stance aligned it with Mr. Tsipras on the question

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of debt reduction and provided him with new ammunition to argue that the bailout plan did not do enough to get the Greek economy back on its feet.

But with the country teetering on the edge of insolvency, Athens moved ahead with the vote. It needed to begin unlocking the aid necessary to meet a debt payment on Monday, put its banks on sounder footing and negotiate a three-year package that would provide it with as much as 86 billion euros, or about $94 billion, in assistance.

Mr. Tsipras was given only two days to begin to pass the creditors' proposals. And as the vote neared, many in his party expressed profound dismay that they were being asked to approve measures that would reduce pensions and raise a wide array of taxes. One minister resigned before the vote.

In his address to the deputies, the prime minister made no secret of his unhappiness with the offer, which had forced him to backtrack on virtually every campaign promise he made and which many leading economists have condemned as unworkable.

But Mr. Tsipras said the alternative — exile from the eurozone — was the greater evil.

"We took on powerful opponents, we clashed with international financial system," he said. "And in that sense it was an uneven battle. But I'm proud of our fight."

But some members of his party had argued earlier that more austerity betrayed all that the party stood for and could not be accepted, especially after 60 percent of Greek voters had already rejected less harsh terms in a referendum just 10 days before.

"The people spoke," said one Syriza member, Zoi Konstanpopoulou, the speaker of Parliament. "We have a duty to defend their decision because our power is sourced from them."

Whether Mr. Tsipras will have to fashion a new coalition is unclear. Some party members suggested that with no one calling for a vote of confidence or a new election, he might be able to hang on.

Other analysts said that he would no doubt eventually have to form a new unity government with other parties.

While Mr. Tsipras signed an agreement with his creditors on Monday, there are still many potential pitfalls, including the fact that the accord must win parliamentary approval in each of the other eurozone countries. France has already given its approval, and German legislators could take up the issue by Friday. On Thursday, finance ministers are to discuss bridge financing for Greece until the terms of a longer agreement can be worked out.

Members of Syriza welcomed the I.M.F. report. Dimitrios Papadimoulis, a member of the European Parliament who is close to the prime minister, said that the fund's position could be helpful in the long run but that did not make Wednesday's parliamentary vote any less urgent.

He said the fund's position had provided an "additional argument" for reducing his country's debt payments, but that right now Greece needed to "stay alive" and approve the measures demanded by its European creditors.

The I.M.F.'s signal on Tuesday that it supported steps like forgiving some of the debt or putting a three-decade moratorium on debt payments put it in conflict with Greece's European creditors.

Under the terms of the agreement, reached after a weekend of contentious negotiations, the creditors would not forgive any debt and offered only a general assurance of further discussions about reducing annual debt payments by stretching out payment periods or reducing interest rates.

The bailout would be the third for Greece in five years and would involve new loans from the other countries that use the euro, the European Central Bank and the monetary fund.

The fund's decision to go public with its position suggested that the draft agreement would be only the starting point for further negotiations about the sustainability of the debt and the willingness of lenders to recognize that they might not get all their money back.

In Athens, tensions flared as Parliament prepared to vote. When the controversial former finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis, took the floor to compare the deal reached over the weekend in Brussels to the Treaty of Versailles, which imposed harsh conditions on a defeated Germany after World War I, one member of the center Right Democracy Party interrupted him to shout, "You ruined the country." Mr. Varoufakis, who along with Mr. Tsipras had taken a confrontational stance with the creditors, said he would not vote for the legislation.

Opposition party members took turns blaming Mr. Tsipras for the current state of affairs, but vowed to vote for the measures anyway. Harry Theoharris, of the centrist To Potami party, said that 10 years from now students

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would be studying the events of today and “how we shot ourselves and then started whining for a disability benefit.”

If nothing else, Greeks took some solace from the idea that the I.M.F. report would help keep attention focused on the issue of the debt, which Greece had long maintained was so heavy a burden that it choked off hope of any economic recovery and forced unjustifiably deep cuts in government spending.

“Certainly this issue is also going to be part of the discussions, negotiations when we’ll be discussing the memorandum of understanding, when we will be really preparing the third Greek program,” Valdis Dombrovskis, a vice president of the European Commission responsible for the euro, told the news media in Brussels.

The I.M.F.’s position highlighted a rift between European countries. Some, including Germany, are adamantly against writing off any of Greece’s debt of more than €300 billion, or about $330 billion. Others, including France, have stressed the need to reduce Greece’s debt payments to a more realistic and sustainable level, if not by forgiving any of the debt then by extending the payment schedule or cutting interest rates.

The French government, which has played a central role in efforts to keep Greece in the eurozone, said it welcomed the fund’s comments.

“The I.M.F. is saying the same thing that we are,” Michel Sapin, the French finance minister, told BFM television on Wednesday. “That we have to help Greece, but that we can’t do it if we maintain the same repayment burden on the Greek economy.”

Wolfgang Schäuble, the German finance minister, has been one of the most hard-line opponents of debt relief for Greece.

He indicated on Tuesday that there was continued resistance in the German government to the deal forged last weekend and a willingness to consider whether it might be better for Greece to leave the eurozone.

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany has ruled out writing off any of the Greek debt, but has left the door open to renegotiating the terms for paying it back, suggesting that there remain grounds for a compromise.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/4/2015 4:14:06 PM
Subject: New News! (12/04/15)

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

News as of December 4, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community
CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS at the end

- Homegrown terrorists with ISIS sympathies kill 14, wound 17 in San Bernardino, CA
- Gunman attacks Planned Parenthood Clinic in Colorado
- EU's Mario Draghi announces extension of quantitative easing
- Job growth report, consumer spending and other indices up in 3rd quarter
- Highway bill passed, FED funds to be used to pay for it in controversial move
- Women will serve in all combat roles

Domestic Affairs

First possible ISIS-inspired attack on US soil: The F.B.I. is now investigating the San Bernardino shooting by a husband and wife that killed 14 and wounded 21 as an act of terrorism, intensifying fears that terrorists are preparing to wage a Paris-style attack on American soil. **Damian Paletta, Devlin Barrett** and **Tamara Audi**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Shooter's family attorney denies shooter was linked to terrorism. His co-workers made fun of the shooter's beard. **CNN** **[More]**



Interactive map shows that there have been at least 1,042 mass shootings since Sandy Hook in December 2012. **German Lopez** and **Soo Oh,** *Vox* **[More]**

The motive behind the Colorado Planned Parenthood shooting: News reports cite unnamed law-enforcement sources as saying **Robert Lewis Dea**r, the gunman who attacked a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado and killed 3 people, strongly opposed abortion and Planned Parenthood's activities. **Krishnadev Calamur,** *The Atlantic* **[More]**

Women now allowed to serve in all US combat positions: This decision overrules Marine Corps objections and ends decades of exclusion from front-line jobs. "The change will open almost 220,000 reconnaissance, infantry, and special-operations positions that were not previously available to women." **Justin Sink,** *Bloomberg* **[More]**

Congress divided on Puerto Rico debt crisis, unlikely to take action: Obama administration and Puerto Rico want Congress to provide a pathway to alleviate an economy in recession since 2006 and $72 billion in debt. However, Republicans think it would set a dangerous precedent for states. WIthout an "acute humanitarian emergency"Puerto Rico, there is no urgency for Congress to intervene. **Nick Timiraos** and **Aaron Kuriloff**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

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Senate votes to repeal Obamacare, defund Planned Parenthood, and against tougher restrictions on firearms: "But the decision by Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** (R-Ky.) to allow a vote on such charged issues is likely to come back to bite moderate Republicans in states that tend to vote Democratic in presidential years." **Kelsey Snell,** *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Report reveals that the Secret Service now 'in crisis': The report points to a decline in staff and its failure to fix problems exposed last year amid several well-publicized security incidents "including the agency's halting response to a 2011 shooting at the White House and an incident last year in which an armed man with an arrest record was able to board an elevator with Obama." **Carol D. Leonnig**, *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Defense Department to deploy more special forces to Iraq in the fight against ISIS: Defense Secretary **Ashton Carter** announced that the US, with the Iraqi government's permission, will send special-operations troops to assist Iraqi and Kurdish Peshmerga forces in their fight against Islamic State. Carter said that this team will be able at some point to "conduct raids, free hostages, gather intelligence, and capture ISIL leaders," as well as "conduct unilateral operations" in Syria. **Marina Koren**, *The Atlantic* **[More]**

Friedman: Putin's Syrian misadventure: "In sum, Putin's "crafty" Syrian chess move has left him with a lot more dead Russians; newly at odds with Turkey and Iran; weakened in Ukraine; acting as the defense lawyer for Assad — a mass murderer of Sunni Muslims, the same Sunni Muslims as Putin has in Russia; and with no real advances against ISIS." **Thomas L. Friedman**, Op-Ed, *The New York Times* **[More]**

UK launches first airstrikes in Syria, Cameron calls opponents to airstrike in Syria "terrorist sympathizers": "You should not be walking through the lobbies with Jeremy Corbyn and a bunch of terrorist sympathizers," said Cameron with reference to the leader of the opposition Labour party whilst urging members of his Conservative Party to support his push for airstrikes in Syria. The debate, described as "a brawl over a peculiarly post-9/11 schoolyard taunt," saw many calls for an apology for the accusation, but Mr Cameron would not. **Griff Witte**, *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Segment of Iraqi population believes US is in cahoots with ISIS: Iraqi fighters and citizens claim to have seen videos or know people who have witnessed US helicopters airdropping weapons to ISIS militants. While military officials find this far-fetched, this perception is among Iraqis is "widespread across the country's Sunni-Shiite sectarian divide, and it speaks to more than just the troubling legacy of mistrust that has clouded the United States' relationship with Iraq since the 2003 invasion." **Liz Sly,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

US to lift sanctions on Iran after IAEA finds no "credible evidence of recent atomic weapons activity:" After a 5 month probe of Iran's past activities, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) found "there were no credible indications of nuclear-weapons-related activities in Iran after 2009." Despite the IAEA report finding that Iran provided little or misleading information, the Obama administration remains confident that it is aware of Iran's past weaponization activity. **Laurence Norman** and **Jay Solomon,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

US gives $24 million to UN refugee agency to help refugees arriving in Europe. **Bradley Klapper**, *U.S.News* **[More]**

Leaders from around the world meet in Paris for climate talks: Almost 200 countries are represented at the two-week long COP21 meeting, which aims to reach a new deal on reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. Such a deal could allow each country to set its own target and richer countries to pay poorer ones to incentivize limiting their emissions. **Krishnadev Calamur**, *The Atlantic* **[More]**

Slaughter: Create new refugee homelands: "Individuals seeking refuge from a toxic and deadly environment could be welcomed not into camps, but rather proto-cities where the "global community" ...can encourage hope of a different, more secure life by nurturing positive seeds of knowledge, capital, and liberal self-government." **Anna-Marie Slaughter**, Op-Ed, *Project Syndicate* **[More]**

The Economy

Growth in US economy in 3rd quarter: The US added 211,000 jobs and consumer spending grew 3%. Because the economy is improving, people have a higher purchasing power than usual and could mean more room for consumers to spend money on interest rates. Fed's **Yellen** indicated that even job growth slightly below 100,000 would probably be sufficient to justify a rate hike. **Lucia Mutikani**, *Reuters* **[More]**

Europe announces more QE, while the US awaits its end here: To take care of too-low inflation the ECB will extend quantitative easing until at least March 2017 ... and broaden the assets purchased to include local and regional debt, ECB President **Mario Draghi** said on Thursday. The Governing Council earlier reduced its deposit rate by 10 basis points to minus 0.3 percent." **Jeff Black** and **Maria Tadeo,** *Bloomberg* **[More]**

Fall of oil prices create pressure on the Energy industry: The US oil market is vulnerable to rise of oil output by Saudi

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Arabia and is receiving support by banks so their market does not collapse. Companies had to make budget cuts and 250,000 have lost their jobs world-wide but, a counter argument shows that costs of oil should stay low because there is not a large scale "flush-out". Cuts have been made to the point where prices are below break-even levels. **Nicole Friedman,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Poll

Cruz rises & Trump is even higher at the top again, while Carson declines: Donald Trump has 36% support (up 9 points), followed by **Ted Cruz** 16% (up 12 points), **Ben Carson** 14% (down 8 points since October), and **Marco Rubio** 12% (up 4 points). **Jeb Bush** at 3% -a campaign in freefall. Other candidates have less than 5% each.

Carson, **Bush** and **Paul** have lost the most ground since the last CNN/ORC poll, conducted in mid-October. **Cruz** and **Trump** are the greatest beneficiaries of those declines. *CNN/ORC* **[More]**

Hillary Clinton leads **Bernie Sanders**, 60% to 30%. **Martin O'Malley** trails both at 2%. *Quinnipiac* **[More]**

2016 Campaign

Private memo details how GOP would deal with Trump as the nominee: Written in September by National Republican Senatorial Committee Executive Director **Ward Baker** and leaked this week, the memo envisions a 2016 with **Trump** as the nominee, and urges candidates in next year's races to embrace many of **Trump**'s tactics and issues, while avoiding and condemning his more controversial statements. **Robert Costa** and **Philip Rucker**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Putting Republican polls in perspective: Lakshmi Ketineni and **Randy Yeip** of the *Wall Street Journal* compare polling averages for current GOP presidential candidates with those of the past two elections, showing that pre-voting frontrunners aren't necessarily poised to win the nomination. **[More]**

Christie is trying to seize the "national security" moment: Chris Christie has begun to rise again, buoyed by the rise of "terror and security" to the "top of American's list of concerns." Although his poll numbers are still low, he is now gaining traction in New Hampshire, and is able to play to his strengths as a former federal prosecutor in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. **Gerald Seib**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Former Defense Secretary Bob Gates: The kind President we need: "[B]uilding coalitions and making compromises are the only ways anything lasting can get done. Primal screaming may be good therapy, but it is a poor substitute for practical politics. Arch-conservatives may want little government and arch-liberals may want a lot, but many functions of government are critical to our well-being, and they can be carried out effectively only if Congress and the president work together…" **Secretary Robert Gates,** Op-Ed, *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Books & Film

Paul Krugman (TCG Speaker) reviews *Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few* by **Robert B. Reich. "**Reich makes a very good case that widening inequality largely reflects political decisions that could have gone in very different directions." **Paul Krugman,** *The New York Review of Books* **[More]**

Killing a King: The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the Remaking of Israel by **Dan Ephron.** In an electrifying narrative, Rabin's attempt to-negotiate peace is juxtaposed with his assassin's plan to thwart it by killing him. **[More]**

Congratulations to **Ari Berman (TCG Speaker)** whose book, *Give Us the Ballot,* was listed as one of the best books of 2015 according to the *New York Times.* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ambassador Melanne Verveer
Empowering Half the World
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm
RSVP

Malcolm Nance & Ribal al-Assad
Reckoning after Paris: Understanding the Terrorist Threat and Options in Syria
Thursday, December 17, 2015
Luncheon & discussion: 12:15-1:45pm
RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband
Fallout: Ramifications of the Great Refugee Crisis
Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

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RSVP

The Rt. Honorable Lord Christopher Patten

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner and Isaac Getlan, and our interns and volunteers: Samar Nadi, Lawrence Robinson, and Andrea Noel.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/23/2008 4:46:51 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Wilkes-Barre, PA 07/23/08

Hello All,
Just off the phone with our tracker Ryan who is on the ground today in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Background was a huge "ENERGY SOLUTIONS" banner
- Repeats Obama 'would rather lose a war and win a campaign'
- Again says "I know how to win wars! I know how to win wars!"
- Pledges $2billion / year in research and development of clean coal technology
- McCain says he still supports McCain-Feingold
- Other main topics: Middle East, gas tax holiday, NCLB, draft, Social Security

Wilkes-Barre, PA: McCain Town Hall 07/23/08

Background Details:

- Signage: giant flag and giant "ENERGY SOLUTIONS" banner--smaller print at the bottom reads "Lexington Project" and has campaign website
- About 400 people: mostly older white people
- McCain speaking from a theater stage -- venue NOT at capacity - entire balcony was empty
- No protesters outside the event
- Hackett (PA 10 Congressional candidate) gives Introductory remarks--
    - Obama has moved so far to the right we've started to invite him to our fundraisers
    - Obama doesn't want to drill on OCS -
    - Obama and Congress so beholden to special interests - McCain is called a maverick for a reason
    - McCain will veto wasteful spending
    - People of all political stripes are moving to McCain's position -- that's leadership
    - PA is key to McCain's win. Get involved in McCain's campaign.
    - McCain not typical politician-- he's on time today.
- 15 minutes later-- Announce that McCain will be out shortly
- Sen. Lisa Baker gives introductory remarks-- notes that this is McCain's first visit to PA and northeast PA; paints McCain as a "straight-talk"ing maverick; physically and spiritually tested
    - flubs-- McCain has the steel of spirit that a "divisive"--corrects "decisive leader needs"

Speech Highlights:

- TY for coming out -- I know everybody has something else to do today. Town halls are the essence of USA.
- Americans are facing major challenges in this country. We're all going to have to come together--Dem and GOP--and put our country first.
- USA has faced greater challenges in the past and we may again in the future.
- Right now we know in the past we have overcome those: we went to the moon faster than anyone had anticipated, we defeated the Nazis.
- Price of gas hurting every one. "Every time you go to the gas station you are shocked by the price of a gallon of oil" Lowest-income Americans hurting the most, that's why I wanted to give them a little gas tax holiday. You know what might happen? We might not be able to fund some of those pork-barrel projects that Congress loves spending money on, or build a bridge to nowhere. [awkward: 'You might-- you might-- you might--!"]
- This is an economic, national security, energy issue.

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    - We are sending money to people who don't like us very much.
    - Largest transfer of wealth
    - I believe greenhouse gas emissions are real, climate change is real.

- We need wind, solar, nuclear. Navy hasn't had an accident in 60 years. The problem is that we don't store or re-process the spent fuel. We always want to imitate the French. So what do they do? Reprocess it! We can store and re-process it. It will have an immediate impact on our demand for foreign oil.
- A week or so after the Prez lifted the federal moratorium on dirilling"We need to drill off shore! We need to get our resources that are off shore and get them into our market!" So that the world will know we're on our way to being independent.
- US sits on one of greatest . I'm willing to spend $2B / year on R & D for clean coal technology. think about how many jobs that would generate
- It takes French 5 years to build a nuclear power plant. why should it take us 15? I want 45 new plants by 2030.
- Obama doesn't want to drill. Obama's presidential seal said in Latin something like 'yes we can.' I think it should say 'No we won't'
- I was recently in Detroit and saw this new car they're trying to get out by 2010. We need to have flex fuels (use ethanol) cars, hybrids, cars with batteries that will take them 200 mi. If people want to buy that car, I will give them up to a $5k tax credit.
- I call it the Lexington Project. You can call it anything you want.
- We have faced greater challenges. There are people here who have served in teh military. They were able to emerge victorious and I'm sure USA can follow in their footsteps.
- One more issue-- this on-going debate about the war in Iraq. We won a very easy initial strategy. Then we employed a very bad strategy that almost lost us this. I knew it was bad, I fought against it, and I was called disloyal by GOPs. I knew the strategy we had to take, we switched strategy and we found the great Gen. Petraeus to lead us. It's called a surge, but it's more-- it's basically a counter-insurgency strategy. Petraeus has troops going into neighborhoods, stay, and make sure they can do all the things that are part of a normal life. First, they had to fight back AQI. This strategy has succeeded. And we are winning this conflict.
- The benefits of this success are that we would restrain Iranian influence--btw, Iranians are still importing IEDs killing Americans. It would prevent AQI from establishing solid base in Iraq. And consequences of defeat would be terrible. If we lost
- I knew all this. I knew then and I know now.
- Obama said the strategy was doomed to failure, that there would be an increase in sectarian violence. This shows a tremendous failure to understand facts on the ground. "He would rather lose a war and win a campaign" He favors an unconditional withdrawal, which could lead to our failure and our return to IRaq. With me, we won't have to come back. because we will have won and we are succeeding. Obama says if we lose that we may have to go back. And we may.
- [Matthew Stanley story-- Make sure my son's death was not in vain.
- I want to be POTUS because I believe I can inspire a generation of Americans becuase I believe I can inspire a generation of young Americans to serve a cause greater than myself. Many years ago I had an opportunity to leave POW camp early because my father was a high-ranking admiral. But there was a Mexican-American named Everett Alvarez who had been there 2 years earlier. And I chose my country first. [enthusiastic applause]
- We may disagree on specific issues. Adn we can talk about them--well I hope not, I hope we agree on everything! Debate is healthy.
- (1) I need your support. PA will be battleground again. And I will always appreciate that support. (2) I will always put my country first and I will never let you down.

Question and Answer

- [jokes: We have work-release program
- 1Q) What are your feelings about Israel right now? Them having to give back land to the Palestinians? Status of Palestinians?

    - MCCAIN: That's a matter to be dealt with within Israel. Israel is probably under greatest threat since

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their independence--there is ample evidence that Iranians developing nuclear weapons and Russia is preventing us from imposing UN sanctions; but European democracies willing to help us. We have Hezbollah and Hamas on their borders. There's some disruption in Israel political process itself. Mostly I'm concerned about Iran's nukes, with leader claiming to wipe Israel off the map before the UN. US once said that we will never allow a second holocaust.

- 2Q) [lifelong Democrat--but independent-minded] Our country will have to monetarily support our troops. But will you continue to pour money into Iraqi government--they're not using their oil revenues. (2b) The $0.18 rebate doesnt amount to much.
    - MCCAIN: I'd like to introduce you to the guy that drives the diesel truck. For the lowest-income Americans it means a lot. Congress's approval is 9%. What would you rather have your tax dollars doing? Helping the low-income Americans or going to bridges to nowhere. It's not the answer. It's just a bit of a break. And we need to give them some breaks.
    - FOLLOWUP: I kind of get that, but it doesn't make a big difference.
    - MCCAIN: A lot of people I talk to say I want a little break. I'm not saying it's the answer. As soon as the Prez announced he was lifting the fed moratorium, the price of oil went down.
    - MCCAIN: Iraqis are taking up more of their responsible. There's corruption--it's not terrible, in Afghanistan its worse. They are paying for their oil production. And as American troops withdraw--and they will--that'll cut down our expenses there. Some straight-talk: a resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and we're going to have to send more troops there. Good news is that it's a NATO operation, though we will have to take the lead.

- 3Q) How will you address mandating and not funding for education?
    - MCCAIN: I think it's the worst thing they can do, because it leaves the burden on local governance. I think you're referring to NCLB--good idea but we never provided the funding. We need to fix it. I think it's been a great change in education because it allows us to assess. I believe in choice, I beliEeve in charter schools, rewarding good teachers, vouchers. That every family should have opportunity Cindy and I did when we sent our kids to Catholic school--and I'm not Catholic. Cases in point: NYC (when a school has a bad grade, parents move their kids to another school); NOLA (they had to start from square 1; they have over 30 charter schools. choice and competition "duh"). I think it's the civil rights issue of this generation providing every American with quality education.
    - FOLLOWUP: How do we control size of classes?
    - MCCAIN: I think too large class size degrades quality of education. But I believe you should have some flexibility in dealing with that situation. If your student grades can make progress, then good. If not, then you should pay a penalty.

- 4Q) What's your plan vs. Obama's on how you see the future of the economy within our nation and then across the world?
    - MCCAIN: Americans are hurting badly, especially downward spiral for homeowners. The energy crisis has been a double whammy, with the increased price of gas hurting plus increased inflation for food prices. This is a time of great challenge for America. We have to address energy crisis. WE have to be able to keep people in their homes: I want everyone to be able to get FHA 30-year mortgage for their homes at their NEW value and then pay that because the value of their homes has gone down. We have to stop the spending in Washington.
    - A little straight-talk: We GOPs when we came to Congress let spending get out of control. And I fought it every step of the way. I have never asked for or received a single earmark for my state of AZ. Obama has asked for tons. There is a difference. I will veto every earmark pork-barrel bill that comes across my desk. The last bad news is that it hasn't stopped in Washington even in these hard times--still the spending.

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- 5Q) My son is at Drexel on a wrestling scholarship. My concern is if you needed to instate a draft, what would be your protocol?
    - MCCAIN: First of all, wrestling is great. ... Remind me of your question. I don't need we need to reinstate a draft. Our military today is the greatest, best-trained. But it's simply not big enough. And the PA Guard and Reserve have done magnificently. They've given and given and given. I served when there was a draft--it was unfair. The poorest Americans served and the wealthiest avoided it. The military today is so highly-trained that it doesn't do well with the short period of a draft. I want Americans to have the opportunity to serve, not be forced to. One of the biggest problems with after 9/11 is that we shouldnt have asked Americans to shop, but to serve.

- 6Q) What's your comment on Bush's remarks 'say bye to the world's #1 polluter? Why is it taking Iraqis so long to take control of their country?
    - MCCAIN: on 2nd question-- Because we mishandled it for nearly 4 years. We sent people from bases to fight and kill people and then they went back to the base. The new strategy isn't just more troops--they stayed, they lived and ate and slept along with the Iraqis. They had never known of a noncommissioned officer with real power. And then we got Petraeus and it turned it around in a relatively short period of time. It's succeeding and it's succeeded. And it means schools running and markets going without fear someone's going to run and cut off their heads. There are still going to be spectacular attacks and suicide bombs, but if you look at the overall stats, it's a success--but it's a fragile. Obama wanted us out last March. Can you imagine?! "I know how to win wars!" 2x
    - FOLLOWUP: I agree there's been progress. But sometimes Americans have problem admitting they made a mistake, e.g. Bush. And there are American soldiers lost! And Walter Reed!
    - MCCAIN: There's a great difference in the war in which I fought and this war. In the war I fought, vets were mistreated. Now Americans are divided, but they are treating the vets right. We need to improve our medical abilities to treat the wounds, we need to treat the PTSD. For routine health care needs, vets shouldn't ahve to stand in line at the VA, but should get a card and go to a doctor of their choice and get treated.
    - The issue of pollution will come up in another question because we covered a lot of ground. I think we can address it in a economic and efficient way.

- 7Q) On SS: Am I contributing to a program that will retire before I do?
    - MCCAIN: Unless we fix it. A great unjustice done to your generation is that this system is going to go broke adn you're not going to receive the benefits you're paying into. We know there's a set of solutions to restore the fiscal health. We need to sit down together. In 1983, SS was going broke. Reagan and O'Neill said we're gonna fix it. That's what's missing in America today in Congress. I'm committed to doing exactly that. I'll tell Pelosi and Reid, I'll give you all the credit. But I want to put Americans' interests first.

- 8Q) As GOP candidate for POTUS, do you have second thoughts on McCain-Feingold?
    - This meeting is adjourned. I do not. I believe that special interests outweigh the voice of those without the money and lobbying. There's corruption. I will continue to stand up against them. I voted against the energy bill, Obama didn't. The farm bill, incl the ethanol subsidies. I'll continue to work to clean up adn reduce the influence of special interests in DC. I'd like to tell you in DC today that your interests are uppermost, but I dont think they are. We'll have to continue to work. And our citizens should express their voice at hte ballot box.

- 9Q) How could you influence Congress to stop the spending?

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- MCCAIN: First, get enacted a version of the line-item veto that is Constitutional. 43 of 50 governors have it. States have to balance their budget, fed doesn't have to. We need to increase the transparency. I'd like to do something like the British PM going back and forth with Parliament. Anything that gets Americans more involved. The day I'm elected--not inaugurated--is call Speaker and say I'm going to be in town next week. Let's get together and set priorities. And I promise you, I'll give you all the credit. We have to do it. This country deserves so much better than what it's got today. And you in PA will probably play a very large role in determining that.
- I strongly believe our best days are ahead of us. We talk about the problems. But I believe in the fundamentals of America. Every time I travel around the world, I am so happy to come back. God bless America. I need your vote!

--
Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
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410-967-7306 (cell)

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Gottemoeller, Rose E" <GottemoellerRE@state.gov>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	4/28/2014 4:04:52 PM
Subject:	Nonpro team

Dear John:

Forgive me for a direct approach, but I wanted to put a bug in your ear. The Nonproliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting started today April 29 in NYC. It's going to be a tough one, thanks to Russian misbehavior and myriad other issues. I would really like our nonpro team to be in place by then, to strongly represent the United States and show our leadership on these issues.

The team is made up of Adam Scheinman, who is slated to be our NPT envoy and delegation head, Robert Wood as Conference on Disarmament Ambassador, and Frank Rose, Assistant Secretary for Arms Control. If we can get them through Senate confirmation as a team in the next week or so, it would be extremely helpful to the President's Prague agenda, continuing to show strong leadership at a time of dire challenge to the nonproliferation regime.

Thanks in advance for your consideration,
Rose

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From: "Hannah Brown, ActBlue" <replies@actblue.com>
To: John <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/28/2016 11:59:10 AM
Subject: Rash

ActBlue

Dear John,

Donald Trump turned the Republican debates into a clown show. It's a race to the bottom.

And now he's reached his very lowest point (yet). Trump started a childish feud with Megyn Kelly, whom he has referred to as a "bimbo," claiming that her questions about his sexism aren't "fair," and refuses to participate in tonight's debate.

The man who hopes to become our president — and has the numbers to actually become the Republican nominee — decided to pull the nuclear option because he couldn't handle a journalist's question.

It'd be comical if he didn't have real support — and not from big-dollar donors, but from voters. It's going to take a powerful, people-driven movement to counter Trump's popular insurgent campaign.

At ActBlue, we're working hard to make sure Democrats build strong grassroots campaigns, so they're able beat Trump and his down-ballot conservative cronies.

Will you chip in $15 a month to help us expand our servers and handle the millions of contributions it'll take to win?

Because you've saved your payment information with ActBlue Express, your donation will go through immediately:

Express Donate: $15 a month

Express Donate: $25 a month

Express Donate: $50 a month

Express Donate: $100 a month

Or donate another amount:

https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/nuclear

Even without Trump onstage, the Republican debate stage is going to be full of reckless leaders. Republican voters' second choice, Ted Cruz, was the one who shut down the government in 2013, after all.

With just four days until the Iowa caucus, and Trump and Cruz far ahead of the rest of the pack, it looks like the Republicans are going to nominate a rash, impulsive, ultra-right candidate.

If we want to protect our government, and help build a better future for every American, it's vital that we elect Democrats up and down the ballot.

And that can only happen if they're building strong, people-powered campaigns to

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counter Trump's huge number of supporters and Cruz's big-dollar donors. At ActBlue, we build the fundraising tools to make those campaigns possible.

Will you chip in $15 a month to help us scale up our tools, so we're ready for all the contributions we'll be handling in 2016?

Because you've saved your payment information with ActBlue Express, your donation will go through immediately:

Express Donate: $15 a month

Express Donate: $25 a month

Express Donate: $50 a month

Express Donate: $100 a month

Or donate another amount:

https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/nuclear

From all of us at ActBlue, thanks.

— Hannah, Eric, Kim, and the rest of the team

ActBlue is the nation's largest source of funds for Democrats. Launched in 2004, ActBlue created and deployed the next generation of online fundraising tools, enabling individuals and groups to raise money for the Democratic candidates of their choice at secure.actblue.com .

Wondering how you can make the most of ActBlue? We're always happy to help. Email us at info@actblue.com.

If this email has reached you in error, we apologize.

This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. To unsubscribe from the ActBlue email list, please click here

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From:	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To:	jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com David@db-research.com
Date:	4/24/2015 7:51:38 AM
Subject:	Initial Economic Questions for Republicans

On economic issues, I know Jake and his team will come up with a good list, but there are already two proposals on the table that I think we should try to get all GOPers to weigh in on:
--Rubio's tax plan that includes dropping the top rate for those making over $400k from 39.6 to 35.
--Rand Paul's 17% flat tax.
Also, it would be great to get:
--Dodd/Frank -- repeal? CFPB repeal?
--repeal of carried interest tax break
--repeal of oil company tax breaks
We already have the Senators' votes on Elizabeth Warren's student loan refinancing bills. We might get the other candidates too.
We might also get reaction to paid leave.

thx

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: David Binder <David@db-research.com>
Cc: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Thu, Apr 23, 2015 9:43 pm
Subject: Re: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Thanks. We do have some ideas on this, will discus in am.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2015, at 9:33 PM, David Binder < David@db-research.com > wrote:

> One thing I think we need to push, that was effective in our groups, is to remind people of the wonderful things that the Clinton Foundation has done around the globe. In the midst of all this incoming stuff, can we remind the world what has been accomplished? In addition to confronting the accusations, do we also have an opportunity to insert the message below that was an effective response in our vulnerability research:
>
> Hillary Clinton's opponents are trying to start a controversy where none exists. The Clinton Foundation is a totally non-political charity whose work saves and improves lives at home and around the world. Because of charitable contributions to the Foundation and its programs, 8 million people have benefited from lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 6,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to fight childhood obesity; 28,000 African farmers have improved their crops; and 248 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced in cities worldwide. The Clinton Global Initiative brings together people from business, labor, government, and the non-profit world to solve problems without politics or gridlock. Republican opponents want to confuse voters about the Clinton Foundation and its donors because all this good work is proof that what Hillary cares about most is helping hard-working people and families build better lives.
>
> **From:** Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:56 PM
> **To:** John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; John Anzalone; David Binder; Robby Mook; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin
> **Subject:** Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24
>
> For our eight am call tomorrow
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:

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From: Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com >, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Stories for tomorrow:

- Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
- New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
- ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
- Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
- WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
- Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
- Bloomberg- Laureate
- NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed

Story Lines:

1. Nervous Dems
2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue
3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/15/2016 4:55:37 PM
Subject: New News! (1/15/16)

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

News as of January 15th, 2016

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

- Global markets continue falling... U.S. suffers worst year opening in 109 years
- Bernie Sanders gains momentum in Iowa and overtakes Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire
- The GOP is essentially down to final four: Trump, Cruz, Rubio, and Christie
- Confrontation between Saudi Arabia and Iran stalls peace efforts
- Obama gives final State of the Union

The Economy

U.S. stocks plummeted again Friday, capping another volatile week of trading amid continued concerns that a slump in the global economy could spread to American shores. "All of the major indexes were down more than 3%, including the Dow Jones and Standard & Poor. The tech-heavy Nasdaq fell the most, nearly 4%. That wipes out all of their gains from Thursday's rebound and leaves U.S. markets in the red for the week." **Renae Merle** and **Jonnelle Marte,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

World's richest lose $194 Billion in first trading week of 2016. **Brendan Coffey** and **Jack Witzig**, *Bloomberg* **[More]**

The cure for the world's malaise: government investment: "The obstacles the global economy faces are not rooted in economics, but in politics and ideology. The private sector created the inequality and environmental degradation with which we must now reckon. Markets won't be able to solve these and other critical problems that they have created, or restore prosperity, on their own. Active government policies are needed." **Joseph Stiglitz,** Op-Ed, *Project Syndicate* **[More]**

Why China's economy is slowing down: "First, the global economy is slowing, and so their export markets aren't as robust as they've previously been. But secondly, China is becoming less competitive as a global economy in part because they are trying to transition from a manufacturing and export economy into an economy that's focusing on innovation and higher-end products. And as they do that, as their cost of production goes up, they are competing with high-end economies like the United States, Japan, Germany, Korea." *NPR* **[More]**

Polls

Neck-and-neck 2016 primary races: Trump and **Ted Cruz** are neck and neck in Iowa, while **Hillary Clinton** and **Bernie Sanders** are also locked in a tight race." **Mark Murray,** *NBC News* **[More]**

Bernie Sanders is gaining momentum: Iowa: **Hillary Clinton** holds a 48%-to-45% lead over **Sanders**.

New Hampshire: **Sanders** edges **Clinton**, 50% to 46%. **Patrick O'Connor** , *Wall Street Journal*

[More]

2016 Campaign

The GOP's Final Four - Cruz, Trump, Rubio & Christie: "**Rubio** amped up his anger in talking about ISIS, **President Obama**'s

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executive order on guns, and **Hillary's Clinton**'s qualifications for higher office. **Christie's** prosecutorial approach played well with the South Carolina crowd, particularly his jibes at Obama as a dictator and petulant child. **Cruz** is a natural performer who opened the debate by channeling deep anger among conservatives over **Obama**'s defense of Iran after the seizure of American military personnel. **Trump** was, well, **Trump**." **Josh Kraushaar**, *National Journal* **[More]**

The mutually beneficial campaign detente between Trump and Cruz came to an end on Thursday's debate: "They went so far as to question each other's fitness to govern." **Karen Tumulty** and **Philip Rucker** **[More]**

"The Republican Party is facing a historic split over its fundamental principles and identity, as its once powerful establishment grapples with an eruption of class tensions, ethnic resentments and mistrust among working-class conservatives who are demanding a presidential nominee who represents their interests… Republicans are expressing a growing fear that the coming election could be shattering for the party." **Patrick Healy** and **Jonathan Martin,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Bruni: Obnoxiousness is the new charisma: At least so it would seem for Republican front runners **Cruz** and **Trump**. **Frank Bruni,** Op-Ed, *New York Times* **[More]**

Will: Rubio's record of misjudgment: "His strengths include intelligence, articulateness and, usually, cheerfulness. His misjudgments involve, in ascending order of importance, the Senate immigration bill of 2013, sugar, Libya and S. 590. Together these reveal a recurring penchant for ill-considered undertakings." **George Will,** Op-Ed, *New Hampshire Union Leader* **[More]**

Should Clinton be favored to beat Trump? Not necessarily. **Donald Trump** is above all a salesman... **Trump** would adapt, pivot, and do anything to make his next deal; winning the general election...**Trump** would enter the general election running a breath away from **Hillary Clinton**, a candidate with a hard base, a low ceiling, and same worn, thin Washington-elite agenda most voters have outgrown." **Alex Castellanos,** Op-Ed, *Politico* **[More]**

As the race tightens, Clinton paints Sanders as out of step on gun control: The new point of contention that aims to put Sanders on defense: his 1993 vote on the "Charleston Loophole." "It's expected to become a new tack in Clinton's argument... intended to erode Sanders' popularity with Democratic primary voters." **Gabriel Debendetti,** *Politico* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Political backlash after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps detain 10 US sailors: "The incident spilled over into the U.S. presidential campaign, where Republicans are critical of the nuclear deal Iran forged with six world powers and due to take effect soon. At a campaign rally, Republican presidential front-runner **Donald Trump** described the detention of the sailors as "an indication of where the hell we're going." **Bozorgmehr Sharafedin** and **Phil Stewart**, *Reuters* **[More]**

Turkish army shells ISIL in response to Istanbul blast: "Turkish ground forces have heavily shelled ISIL positions in response to a suicide attack blamed on the group that killed at least 12 people in Istanbul." *AL Jazeera* **[More]**

The talks to negotiate peace in Syria are "dead" as a result of the new Saudi-Iran confrontation. David Hearst , *Huffington Post* **[More]**

The fight between Iran and Saudi Arabia "will play out not in Saudi Arabia or Iran, but in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen" with little chance of any diplomatic breakthrough. **Ian Bremmer** and **Cliff Kupchan** , *Huffington Post* **[More]**

ISIS profiting from looted antiquities: 15 countries on the U.N. Security Council have promised to help block the trade in antiquities and oil, after the U.S. State Department's failed efforts. **Steven Lee Myers** and **Nicholas Kulish**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Egypt's President turns to religion to bolster authority: "The public blessings of the religious establishment may give **President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** a certain legitimacy in the eyes of many Egyptians. But there are also signs that his approach may irk younger Egyptians.... 'Already there is no democracy, and now they are telling us where to pray.'" **Declan Walsh**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Why Russia and China won't curb North Korea: "Russia's and China's stances on North Korea are not so much different from how the United States treats Saudi Arabia -- a brutal regime sponsoring the ideology of violent jihadism, but one with which Washington needs to maintain friendship for realpolitik reasons." **Artyom Lukin**, *Huffington Post* **[More]**

Japan and South Korea reached a historic agreement on WWII "comfort women" Former U.S. House Intelligence Committee chair **Jane Harman** writes, "the two countries made a strong statement that diplomacy can be a positive-sum game." **Jane Harman**, *Huffington Post* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Obama closes final State of the Union with a long discussion of polarization: The fascinating, unresolved question about polarization… is whether the bitter atmosphere is an artifact of politics alone, or whether the country itself is more deeply split. **Benjamin Wallace-Wells,** *The New Yorker* **[More]**

Flint wants safe water and someone to answer for its crisis: "Flint's water was found to have elevated levels of lead that were reflected in children's blood, but state reaction has been slow." **Mitch Smith**, *New York Times* **[More]**

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How to fix the country's ailing schools: Success in Union CIty compared to false starts in Newark. **David L. Kirp**, Op-Ed, *New York Times* **[More]**

Battle over unions signals Supreme Court role at center of political debate: "On the docket are abortion, affirmative action, the rights of religious objectors to opt out of legal obligations, and a clutch of election-law disputes that could benefit one political party over another. The court will probably soon add a review of President Obama's [immigration] executive actions." **Robert Barnes**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

"El Chapo Speaks: A secret visit with the most wanted man in the world." Sean Penn, *Rolling Stone* **[More]**

Oklahoma earthquakes leads to calls for the governor "to make changes to oil and gas drilling regulations and reduce seismic activity scientists link to the energy industry. Two large earthquakes were recorded in northwest Oklahoma on Wednesday, including a magnitude 4.8 quake." **Heidi Brandes**, *Reuters* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband - The Great Refugee Crisis

Wednesday, January 27, 2016; Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable Lord Christopher Patten, Chancellor of Oxford University

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Common Good Forum on "Security and Opportunity in Turbulent Times"

Friday, May 20, 2016, 8am-4pm, Sessions all day on national and economic security

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff, Isabelle Lehner and Isaac Getlan, our intern Emily Abrams, and our volunteer Emily Samuels.

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/23/2015 11:45:12 AM
Subject:	Daily Media Report 6.23.15

National:

-- Report on how presidential candidates were talking about the Charleston church shooting; reported that HRC was having a discussion about race near Ferguson, Missouri; showed footage of HRC talking about race in Missouri today; reported that HRC addressed segregation in schools in America; panel with Michael Eric Dyson and Charles Ogletree; Dyson said what HRC was doing is "exceptionally good" because she was talking about structural realities; Ogletree said he appreciated that HRC would move beyond the issues and have a deep discussion about race; played footage of HRC talking about the Confederate flag. MSNBC's The Ed Show, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Michael Eric Dyson Charles Ogletree HRC race talk.mp4

-- Discussion about the SC Confederate flag controversy; Eric Bolling said he had a problem with who was weighing in on the controversy; Bolling mentioned HRC said she was against the flag in 2007 when she ran for POTUS; Bolling said HRC was in the White House (sic) as First Lady when WJC signed a bill in Arkansas to create the top star on the Arkansas flag that was a hat tip to the Confederacy; Bolling asked where HRC was then. Fox News' The Five , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Eric Bolling on WJC and the Confederate flag.mp4

-- Discussion about how GOP contenders responded to the SC Confederate flag controversy; panel with SE Cupp and Bill Burton; Cupp mentioned that HRC has the added burden of explaining to voters why Democratic policies over the last seven years helped blacks while by almost every metric life for blacks has gotten worse. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, SE Cupp on HRC and black voters.mp4

-- Roundtable discussion about South Carolina getting closer to moving the Confederate flag off the State Capitol grounds; panel included Nick Confessore; Alex Wagner read an excerpt from HRC's Missouri speech, "We can't hide from hard truths on race. We have to name them, own them, and change them;" Wagner reported that HRC has been speaking to young people, people of color; Wagner said it would seem that the Confederate flag would be a good issue for HRC to take up; Confessore said he didn't think the flag would last long as an issue for HRC's campaign, said HRC's platform on social problems would be what attracted young people and people of color to HRC's campaign; Wagner said the flag gives HRC a central locus to unite other issues she's been talking about behind. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 23, Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Nick Confessore on HRC and the Confederate flag.mp4

-- Roundtable discussion about South Carolina getting closer to moving the Confederate flag off the State Capitol grounds; panel included Jess McIntosh; McIntosh said she was concerned we would turn our focus to symbols and less on the effects of the evil institution of slavery; McIntosh briefly noted that HRC talked in her speech about everything from income inequality faced by African Americans to the higher rates of asthma among African American kids. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 23Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jess McIntosh on HRC and racial inequality effects.mp4

--Report on HRC and Race Relations: HRC talking about race relations at a church near Ferguson, MO. Jake Tapper questions whether she is genuine in her interest in race or whether she is just trying to gain support for her bid at the presidential nomination. CNN's The Lead with Jake Tapper . 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Jake Tapper on HRC.mp4

--Report on HRC in Missouri: Brooke Baldwin speaks about HRC giving a speech in Florissant, Missouri. Clips of HRC giving her opinion about the Confederate flag as a symbol of racism that existed in our country in Florissant, MO. South Carolina is agreeing to debate on removal of the Confederate flag and no longer issuing the Confederate flag emblem on license plates and other items. CNN's CNN Newsroom with Brooke Baldwin.2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Brooke Baldwin on HRC speech.mp4

--Report on HRC's Poll Numbers: David Asman claims that HRC's poll numbers have not gone down despite her negative coverage. Asman claims that HRC may be in trouble with socialist, Bernie Sanders, pushing her more to the left. Fox's Fox After the Bell. 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, HRC poll

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numbers.mp4

--Report on HRC and Her Presidential Run So Far Compared to Nixon: Abby Huntsman claims that HRC has focused on speaking to the public in her campaign, but she has not focused on speaking to the media. For this reason, a new WSJ OP-ED has compared HRC to President Richard Nixon. In the OP-ED, Nixon and HRC both see enemies everywhere and is not a good campaigner. According to Evan Thomas, Nixon was shy and awkward, but fear of his enemies drew him into the White House. Thomas claims that HRC tries to manipulate the press, and it will not work because it did not work for Nixon. Nixon and HRC share personality flaws. Evan Thomas claims that she will have small scandals that will constantly come back to her. Thomas claims that she is not the person she positions herself as, and that she has a husband who has committed a number of scandals himself. Ari Melbur claims that it is not proactive to compare anyone to Nixon, and that HRC has not done anything that is relatable to Nixon's impeachment or wrongdoings while in office. Melbur claims that HRC has not done anything that could compare her to Nixon in a negative light. Evan Thomas claims that Nixon plays on fears, and that it is important to look at what Nixon did versus what he said and then compare to HRC. Thomas claims that he integrated Southern public schools. Thomas claims that Nixon would have taken the Confederate flag down. Nixon was pro affirmative action. Evan Thomas claims that when he governed, he was similar to HRC. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC compared to Nixon.mp4

--Report on HRC's Faults in Her Last Run for Presidency: Howard Fineman claim that HRC followed in the footsteps of WJC. Now, she is running as the heir of BHO's coalition. Fineman claims that now she is especially going after race as an issue to keep BHO's supporters. Fineman claims that HRC must appeal to racial justice, cultural justice, and social justice. Abby Huntsman asks whether Bernie Sanders pushing HRC to the left will cause people to vote for Jeb Bush, who is more moderate. Fineman claims that HRC will be more hesitant on economic and trade issues during the general election. Fineman claims that HRC's strategy is to be appealing through social issues and hesitant on economic issues. MSNBC's The Cycle .2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Fineman on HRC.mp4

--Report on HRC and the Dynasty Issue: Howard Fineman speaks about the dynasty issue. Fineman claims that the number one concern about politics is not dynasty politics but the money in politics. Fineman claims that the public is more worried about the huge floods of money coming into politics and corporations. Fineman claims that name recognition and name familiarity is generally a good starting point. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Dynasty.mp4

-- Report that HRC would speak in Missouri near the scene of the Michael Brown shooting; said HRC would participate in a community meeting; reported that an HFA statement said HRC's conversation would address the massacre in Charleston and broader issues around strengthening communities; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said HRC was leaning very far in on race; Seitz-Wald said this would be the third time HRC addressed race in a week, said this would be the keystone speech; Seitz-Wald said HRC was trying to repair some damage from 2008; Tamron Hall said HRC may be trying to repair some damage from her delay in commenting on Ferguson. MSNBC's News Nation . 2015.06.23, HRC in Missouri and race.mp4

-- Report on NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Anne Gearan and Alex Seitz-Wald; Gearan said the numbers were very good news for HRC; Gearan said as much as HFA's strategy had been criticized that something is working; Andrea Mitchell also noted that the numbers would tell HFA that their strategy was working for HRC. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports. 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC poll.mp4

-- Report on HRC's speech on Tuesday at a church near Ferguson; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said HRC was "leaning way in on race"; noted HRC was going to meet with local elected officials in a private meeting about an hour before her main event; noted two pastors would participate in HRC's main event, said that HFA officials told him that it was HRC's idea to do this; shifted into a report about the NBC/WSJ poll; ASW said HRC is talking about voting rights and criminal justice reform to get black voters to go to the polls. MSNBC's Live with Thomas Roberts, 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in MO.mp4

-- Report on the WSJ/NBC poll; angle is that HFA is trying to tamp down expectations as Bernie Sanders pulls in big crowds; Andrea Tantaros noted that Maria Cardona said she wouldn't be surprised if Sanders won Iowa or New Hampshire, said that was a sign HFA is trying to keep expectations low; Tantaros said HRC needed the base to think HRC didn't have the primary in the bag so they would show up for her; guest Taya Kyle said HRC was good at twisting the facts, said that HRC lacked morality; guest Charles Payne said HRC would be devastated if HRC lost Iowa or New Hampshire. Fox News' Outnumbered , 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC and reporters lash out.mp4

-- Report on BHO's decision to allow families to pay ransoms in international hostage situations; guest Taya Kyle; Kyle said HRC saying that people die in America every day was in the face of what it was like for the family member of a hostage; Kyle said if Chelsea was in a hostage situation that she didn't think HRC would have the same take on it. Fox News' Outnumbered . 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC and Benghazi.mp4

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-- Report on HRC and Confederate flag; discussion about HRC's tweet that the Confederate flag should come down. Fox News' Outnumbered .2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC confederate flag tweet.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Eliana Johnson and Betsy Woodruff; Johnson said HRC was doing well in polls due to name recognition because Marco Rubio and Scott Walker are still unknowns to most Americans; Woodruff said the percentage of Democratic primary voters who could see themselves voting for HRC has gone up since March; Johnson said Democrats weren't excited about HRC. Fox News' Happening Now , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Eliana Johnson w Betsy Woodruff on HRCs good polls.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Kasie Hunt; Hunt said Bernie Sanders is getting a lot of crowds in many places, said she was not convinced that anyone was convinced that Sanders would be nominated over HRC; Hunt said she thought the early states represented the biggest risks for HRC given their small size and unpredictable natures, said HRC was still the really strong frontrunner at this point. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Kasie Hunt on HRCs front-runner status.mp4

-- Report that candidates embraced the removal of the Confederate flag after hedging; panel with SE Cupp; Cupp mentioned that she hoped HRC got the same amount of questions as the Confederate flag as the GOP candidates given that WJC celebrated Confederate flag day as Governor of Arkansas and signed a bill that allowed one of the stars on the Arkansas flag to stand for the Confederate States. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, SE Cupp on HRC and Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report that HRC planned to speak at a Missouri church near Ferguson; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said he expected HRC to address race and policing; Seitz-Wald said this would be the third time in a week that HRC talked about race; Seitz-Wald said the black voting block was important for HRC in the primary and the general election "if she makes it there." MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Alex Seitz-Wald on HRCs race and policing stances.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with ; reported that the majority of Democrats wanted there to be a competitive primary; showed footage of Lincoln Chafee on "Your World" on Monday; Mark Hannah and Rich Lowry; Lowry said Sanders is nipping at HRC's heels in some of the early states; Hannah said people were curious about Sanders because no one knew who he was six months ago; Hannah noted that 92 percent of Democrats said they could support HRC; Lowry said HRC tacking left was a general election strategy to motivate her base; shifted into report about HRC's answer about The Clinton Foundation to WMUR on Sunday; Hannah said HRC has faced media scrutiny and the GOP candidates have taken HRC to task but HRC's favorability is still hire than her unfavorability. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Mark Hannah and Rich Lowry on HRCs good polls.mp4

-- Report on how politicians responded to SC governor's call for the Confederate flag's removal from the State Capitol; mentioned that HRC tweeted that Nikki Haley was right to call for the removal of the Confederate flag. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Report on HRCs tweet about SC Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report on GOP grappling with Confederate flag issue; panel with Paul Begala and Tara Setmayer; Chris Cuomo mentioned that HFA pointed to HRC's comment on South Carolina's display of the Confederate flag in 2007; Cuomo asked Begala whether HRC had to answer for her time as FLOAR when WJC stood by the Arkansas flag; Begala said yes, said times change; Begala mentioned that Zell Miller with WJC's help tried to get the Confederate flag off the Georgia flag; Setmayer noted that WJC and HRC celebrated Confederate Flag Day in Arkansas; Setmayer said HRC have to explain her evolution like Republicans do; shifted into report on the NBC/WSJ poll; Setmayer said the polls were what she'd expect at this time because the election is so far away; Cuomo asked Begala whether Biden or Kerry would be a bigger threat to HRC; Begala dodged, said there would be a tough primary battle but HRC would win. CNN's New Day , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Paul Begala on HRC and Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report on HRC's comments about the Russian uranium deal; interviewed Laura Ingraham; Ingraham said HRC passed off good questions as partisan drumbeating; reported on Peter Schweizer's NY Post op-ed; reported that HRC said there were nine agencies involved in the decision; Ingraham asked rhetorically who in the BHO administration would not do what HRC asked them to do if she wanted something done; shifted to report on the NBC/WJC poll that showed 67 percent of voters were satisfied with a Bush-Clinton election; Ingraham said Democrats were happier with that pairing than Republicans. Fox News' Fox and Friends ,2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Laura Ingraham on Peter Schweizer and HRCs polls.mp4

-- Report on BHO using the "N" word during a podcast interview; panel with Nia-Malika Henderson and Sara Murray; Henderson said the question was how other Democrats pick up the conversation of race; Henderson noted that HRC gave a major speech on Saturday about race, said HRC would have more conversations about race in Missouri; shifted into report about the NBC/WSJ poll; Murray said HRC was able to gain a lot of ground

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since the relaunch; Murray said the relaunch was optically very good for HRC; Murray said the poll shows the panic surrounding HRC may have been overblown; Chris Cuomo said Joe Biden was not in the race, said Biden's potential entry could give people on the Left pause for concern. CNN's New Day , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, NiaMalika Henderson Sara Murray on polls and race.mp4

-- Report that Bernie Sanders drew 5,500 people to his event in Denver; panel with Daniel Halper and Jessica Tarlov; Tarlov said people are interested in Sanders but will absolutely not vote for him; Halper said Sanders is the heart and soul of the Democratic Party; Halper said Sanders could win Iowa and New Hampshire; Tarlov questioned how Sanders could win Iowa when he was 40 points behind; Halper said Democrats rejected HRC last time around and could do it again this time; Halper brought up John Kerry, Al Gore, Elizabeth Warren, and Deval Patrick as people who may jump in if they weren't satisfied with HRC; Tarlov said the only person who could shake up the primaries would be Warren. Fox News' Fox & Friends , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Daniel Halper and Jessica Tarlov on HRCs polls.mp4

-- Report that HRC was expected to talk about race on Tuesday when she campaigned in Missouri; noted that HRC dominated the NBC/WSJ poll; Joe Scarborough said this poll was out-of-line from most of the polls over the last month or two; Scarborough said it would likely be an all-nighter if HRC and Bush face one another in the general election; Brzezinski said she thought there was a real disconnect between the conversation inside Washington and America on HRC; Brzezinski said Americans ("they") will just vote for HRC, "they go crazy"; Mike Barnicle noted that HRC is on her own clock. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Brzezinski said Americans go crazy for HRC.mp4

-- Report on HRC's answer from WMUR on Sunday about the 20% of uranium that was transferred to Vladimir Putin; Ed Henry (guest host) said Peter Schweizer thought HRC's comments about people wielding the partisan axe were about him; reported on Schweizer's op-ed in the NY Post; reported that nine of the investors who profited from the uranium deal donated to The Clinton Foundation; Henry said now that HRC's coming out with specifics that Schweizer's come back in this op-ed and refuted HRC's statements line-by-line. Fox News' Fox and Friends, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Peter Schweizer oped about HRC Russia uranium deal.mp4

States:

Nevada:

--Report on HRC on Confederate Flag: HRC tweets about Confederate flag. Several other 2016 presidential candidates also tweeted about this controversy. KTNV(CBS)'s *Channel 2 Morning News* , Reno (NV). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag controversy.mp4

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC and flag: HRC's campaign claims that HRC wanted the Confederate flag to be removed since 2007. WTAT-CHS(FOX)'s *Morning News at 7* , Charleston (SC). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag.mp4

--Report on HRC and racism: HRC will join with church members near Ferguson Missouri. She will address race and strengthening communities. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s *WOTC News at Daybreak 7A* , Savannah (GA). 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC race church.mp4

--Report on HRC support: Reporters claim that HRC is ahead of the Democratic candidates by a land slide. Reporters also claim that HRC has a lead in terms of her Republican counterparts as well. WMBF (NBC)'s WMBF News at 11, Myrtle Beach (SC).2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC leading Democrat and Republican.mp4

Iowa:

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--Report on HRC and flag controversy: HRC tweets about Confederate flag and Charleston, South Carolina, shooting. Reporters claim that HRC wants the flag removed, according to her campaign. KMEG(CBS)'s *Siouxland News at Sunrise* , Sioux (IA). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag campaign.mp4

--Report on HRC in Missouri: Reporters claim that HRC will be making a campaign stop in Missouri, her first stop there since she became a Presidential Candidate. HRC will make statements about Michael Brown and race, according to reporters. KTVO(ABC)'s *KTVO News at 5* , Ottumwa (IA) . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in Missouri.mp4

New Hampshire:

--Report on HRC polls: According to the NBC News/Wall Street Journal polls, HRC is in the lead on the Democratic side with 75%, 15% for Bernie Sanders, 4% for Jim Webb, and 2% for MOM. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New Englan* d, Boston (MA) .2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC leading in polls.mp4

--Report on HRC in NH: HRC and her campaign have claimed that it is difficult for any candidate to get more than 50 percent of the vote in a New Hampshire state primary. WBIN's *NH1 News Tonight* , Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in NH.mp4

Bernie Sanders:

--Repot on Bernie Sanders and Flag Controversy: Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders tweeted about the flag controversy in support of removing the flag. KTVN(CBS)'s *Channel 2 Morning News* , Reno (NV). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders flag.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New England*, Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new poll.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WHO-DM(NBC)'s *Early Day*, Des Moines (IA). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new WSJ poll.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WMBF(NBC)'s WMBF *News at 11*, Myrtle Beach (SC). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new WSJ poll.mp4

--Report on Sanders as opposition: Bernie Sanders came in second in a recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll. HRC won with a massive percentage over Sanders. Reporters claim that Sanders will only be useful for some competition, but he will not win the Democratic nomination. MSNBC's *The Rundown with Jose Diaz Balart*. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders; HRC, Clips, National, Sanders and HRC in new poll.mp4

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--Report on Sanders and HRC stances: Reporters claim that Sanders might pull HRC to the left, and this leftist stance may hurt her in the general election. Fox Business Network's *Varney & Company* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, HRC and Sanders leftist.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and HRC: Reporters claim that Sanders is inching up on HRC in some of the early states such as Iowa and New Hampshire. CNN's *New Day* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders and HRC early states.mp4

--Report on new NBC/WSJ Poll: Bernie Sanders comes in second with 15% of primary voters claiming they would vote for him in the primaries. MSNBC's *Morning Joe* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders WSJ.mp4

--Report on Sanders likelihood of success: Reporters claim that sanders does not have that presidential persona to do well; however, despite these facts, he is doing well and drawing numbers of crowds. Reporters claim that because Sanders is doing well in Iowa and New Hampshire, he will do a decent job in the primaries. Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor* . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders' success.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Obama: Sanders claims that what President Obama has done is not enough, and that as president, more must be done in terms of economy and taxes. Fox Business Network's *Cavuto: Coast to Coast*. 2015.06.23, Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on Obama.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Trade Deal: Sanders claimed that he is differentiating himself from other candidates. Reporters showcase Sanders speaking out on the trade deal in the Senate. Al Jazeera America. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on Trade.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and African American vote: Reporters claim that Sanders comes from a dominantly Caucasian state. Therefore, he may have difficulty getting this vote. HRC stands as the strongest for this group of voters. MSNBC's *Live with Thomas Roberts* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders on the African American vote.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders as a Threat: David Asman claims that it is possible that Sanders could win New Hampshire. Ed Henry claims that there is anger on the left because HRC is seen as a centrist. Henry claims that HRC must declare herself on trade and taxes because Sanders is appealing largely to the left. Henry claims that this leftist approach might hurt her in the general elections. Fox Business Network's *After the Bell*. 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Sanders on HRC.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders interview on The Ed Show: In an interview with Bernie Sanders, Sanders claims that he is grateful for the support that he has gotten from Elizabeth Warren's supporters. Sanders claims that today in Congress was a major defeat and a setback. Sanders claims that the trade agreement is the cause of major setbacks in our economy and for jobs for American people. MSNBC's *The Ed Show* . 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Sanders intereview.mp4

Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM and WSJ/NBC poll: MOM comes in at last place with 2% on NBC/WSJ poll. *CNN's New Day*. 2015.06.23., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM poll.mp4

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--Report on MOM and African American Vote: Reporters claim that MOM will not do well with the African American vote because he has “baggage” with African Americans after the Baltimore unrest. MSNBC’s *Live with Thomas Roberts*. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders on the African American vote.mp4

--Report on MOM and Flag Controversy: MOM tweeted saying that the Confederate flag should be removed from South Carolina.WTAT-CHS(FOX)’s *Morning News at 7,* Charleston (SC) . 2015.06.23., Martin O’Malley, Clips, National, MOM Flag Controversy.mp4

--Report on MOM and New Poll: 2 percent say that they would support MOM in the primaries. WHDH-BOS(NBC)’s *7 News Today in New England* , Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Martin O’Malley, Clips, National, Polls.mp4

--Report on MOM in New Hampshire: MOM will be in New Hampshire and speak to the Greater Dairy London Dairy Chamber of Commerce on July 8. WMUR-MAN(ABC)’s *News 9 Tonight* , Manchester (NH) . 2015.06.23., MOM in NH.mp4

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From: "Clinton, Press Office \(Clinton\)" <Press_Office@clinton.senate.gov>
To:
Date: 12/5/2007 1:31:57 AM
Subject: Clips: Wed 12/5

Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Wednesday, December 5th, 2007

Front Pages

The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/pages/pageone/scan/index.html

Daily News: http://www.nydailynews.com/front/covers/

New York Post: http://www.nypost.com/frontback

Albany Times Union: http://www.timesunion.com/news/frontpage/

HRC Articles/Mentions

Immigration, A Relentless Issue, Confronts Democrats In An Iowa Debate *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/05/us/politics/05debate.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Clinton Rivals Hammer Her Iran Vote During Iowa Radio Debate *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/04/AR2007120401429_pf.html

In Muted Debate, Rivals Jab Clinton Over Iran Vote *WSJ*
http://online.wsj.com/article_print/SB119679775283713406.html

In Iowa Debate, Democrats Rip Policy On Iran *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-debate5dec05,1,7689883.story?coll=la-news-a_section

Abortion, Iran Dominate Radio Debate *USAT*
http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20071205/a_democrats05.art.htm

Democrats Trade Barbs Over Abortion, Iran *Newsday*
http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/ny-usdems055488091dec05,0,711939,print.story

Taking Fire From Rivals, Clinton Defends Vote On Iran Resolution *Boston Globe*
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2007/12/05/taking_fire_from_rivals_clinton_defends_vote_on_iran_resolution/?rss_id=Boston.com+%2F+News+%2F+National+news+--+Boston+Globe+--+Boston.com

NPR Debate Kept Quiet, Stays Civil *Politico*
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=A7AE60FF-3048-5C12-000681AAAA5A0C60

Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama Play Nice During NPR Democratic Debate *NY Daily News*
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Hillary Clinton HQ 'Bomber' Hoped Police Would Kill Him *NY Daily News*
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Afghan Bomber Hits NATO Convoy *NYT*
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Column: **Time To Talk To Iran By Robert Kagan** *WP*
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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/25/2014 7:26:09 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | Merry Iconoclastic Christmas

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Merry Iconoclastic Christmas

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: There may very well have been a guy born in Bethlehem who spent three years preaching against the order of his day until he was executed for it, but the gross manipulation of that alleged event definitely happened at the hands of people not seeking piety but power. So much of our culture has been shaped by the aftermath of the arrogance of the righteous, and we are all the poorer for it.

Read the Article

Video Games Gave Cultural Cachet – so Recognize Their Place in Society and History

Ashok Ranchhod and Vanissa Wanick Vieira, The Conversation: The UK's video games trade association has called for the products to be treated like other creative industries rather than mere "software," and there is a good argument for this. Games have been part of human civilization for thousands of years.

Read the Article

Anti-Black Racism and the Task of White Anti-Racists in This Historic Moment

Chris Crass, Truthout: The task for all who want to move white people into anti-racist consciousness and actions is to learn from the history of white anti-racists and continue generating positive identities rooted in challenging, not sidestepping, structural oppression.

Read the Article

What Would You Have Eaten for Christmas in Medieval Times?

Iona McCleery, The Conversation: If you were preparing a festive meal 600 years ago you'd have far more on your plate. Here are the details on what you would have eaten, depending on your wealth.

Read the Article

Engineering Chestnut Trees? Biotechnology Takes a Walk in the Woods

BuzzFlash

On Christmas, It Is Hypocritical for the US to Close Its Borders to Migrants in Need of Shelter

Michael Seifert, Buzzflash at Truthout: Along the southern border, tens of thousands of families, fleeing the horror of gang violence in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, crossed into the United States - a contemporary way of knocking on a stranger's door seeking help.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Police Officer Kills Black Man Near Ferguson; Video Captured Incident

Read the Article

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Rachel Smolker, Truthout: GMO chestnuts appear to be a "Trojan horse" intended to win over a public averse to GMO trees. They should be resisted.
Read the Article

Non-Violence and the Lost Message of Jesus

Mairead Maguire, Inter Press Service: In a world that has moved far from Christ's preaching of non-violence, a clear message and unambiguous proclamation is needed from spiritual or religious leaders that armaments, nuclear weapons, militarism and war must be abolished.
Read the Article

Bankers Brought Rating Agencies "to Their Knees" on Tobacco Bonds

Cezary Podkul, ProPublica: Wall Street pressed S&P, Moody's and Fitch to assign more favorable credit ratings to their deals and bragged that the raters complied. Now many of the bonds are headed for default.
Read the Article

Even With Ban, New York Can't Escape Effects of Fracking

Anne Meador, Cetology: Just because New York banned fracking, and even though more than 150 New York municipalities have banned fracking using local zoning laws, the state won't escape its effects.
Read the Article

Immigration Enforcement: A Tool to Silence Workers?

Steven Wishnia, Defending Dissent: How employers use immigration laws against workers who speak out on the job is murky. It's not as black-and-white as it was under George W. Bush, when massive ICE raids often coincided with union campaigns. The Obama administration has used more administrative measures – with the same results.
Read the Article

From the ER to the Courtroom: How Nonprofit Hospitals Are Seizing Patients' Wages

Paul Kiel, ProPublica: One Missouri hospital has sued thousands of uninsured patients who couldn't pay for their care, then grabbed a hefty portion of their paychecks to cover the bills. "We will be paying them off until we die," one debtor said.
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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 3:58:07 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I like that.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:52 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> wrote:

> You all think wjc's joke is too much about her kinda wishing after hour 8 that Bernie would come through the door with his damn email line ..,?
> I think it's funny and confident and the room would love it.
>
> Jim Margolis
> Sent from my iPhone.
> Please excuse typos.
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>
>> Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....
>>
>> On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> wrote:
>>
>>> All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…
>>> Thinking.
>>>
>>> **From:** Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> **Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
>>> **To:** Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
>>> **Cc:** Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com>, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com>, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com>, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com>, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com>, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
>>> **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
>>>
>>> I was kidding!
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>> On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:
>>>
>>>> Not ninnies.
>>>>
>>>> We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

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From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > That's because you love your own joke.
> >
> > But I think it is okay.
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I don't think so.
> > >
> > > On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
> > > LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.
> > >
> > > Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.
> > >
> > > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > > **Grunwald Communications**
> > > **202 973-9400**
> > >
> > > -----Original Message-----
> > > From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> > > To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
> > > Subject: Re: Call with HRC
> > >
> > > I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
> > > Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
> > > On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
> > > On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > Here's Obama in 2007:

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Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

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I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

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She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/16/2008 1:34:46 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/16

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 16th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10:40am McCain: Straight Talk Air arrival event in Cincinnati, Ohio

10:40am BUSH: meets with the President of Burkina Faso at the Oval Office at The White House

11:30am McCain: Speech in Cincinnati,OH
- Tracking scheduled for this event

3:40pm BUSH: Attends a White House tee ball game on the South Lawn

6pm McCain: Fund Raiser in Ashland, NE

7:35pm BUSH: Hosts a social dinner in honor of Major League Baseball at The White House

News Clips:

MCCAIN AFGHANISTAN/IRAQ SPEECH NEWS

Obama and McCain Duel Over Foreign Policy (NYT 7/16/08)
By JOHN M. BRODER and LARRY ROHTER
Senator Barack Obama said on Tuesday that the addition of tens of thousands of combat troops to Iraq last year had significantly reduced violence in the country. But he said that positive developments there had not changed his mind about the need to pull troops from Iraq so America could focus more on the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan....Mr. Obama's likely Republican opponent for the presidency, Senator John McCain, drew the opposite conclusion from events in Iraq. He said the success of the so-called surge, which he supported from the start, pointed the way toward victory in both Iraq and Afghanistan.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/us/politics/16campaign.html
Link to audio of McCain speech: http://blogs.usatoday.com/onpolitics/2008/07/mccain-says-oba.html
Link to transcript of McCain speech: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/15/us/politics/15text-mccain.html

McCain: Use Iraq strategies in Afghanistan (AP 7/15/08)
Republican John McCain said Tuesday that he knows "how to win wars" and the strategy of increasing troop levels in Iraq should also be applied to Afghanistan.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-15-mccain-albuquerque_N.htm

McCain calls Obama's Iraq, Afghanistan policies premature (CNN International 7/15/08)
* John McCain says Barack Obama's plans for Iraq, Afghanistan are premature
* McCain: We can win in Iraq and Afghanistan
* Obama says Iraq is putting a strain on U.S. resources
* McCain says "terrorists today enjoy sanctuary" in Pakistan
http://edition.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/07/15/mccain.foreign.policy/?iref=mpstoryview

McCain flip-flops on sending three more brigades to Afghanistan (ThinkProgress 7/15/08)
During his townhall meeting in New Mexico today, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) said that "our commanders on the ground in Afghanistan say that they need at least three additional brigades." "Thanks to the success of the surge, these forces are becoming available," added McCain. "Our commanders in Afghanistan must get them."

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http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/15/mccain-flip-flops-on-sending-three-more-brigades-to-afghanistan/

McCain refines Afghanistan stance (Politico blog 7/15/08)
By Avi Zenilman
Juliet Eilperin catches him tweaking his policy minutes after his speech today -- he originally said the new soldiers for Afghanistan will be U.S. soldiers freed up by Iraq drawdowns (which sounded like a departure from his previous stance), but he indicated to reporters that he was still counting on additional troops from NATO allies:
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0708/McCain_refines_Afghanistan_stance.html

McCain: "I Know How To Win Wars" (TPM ElectionCentral 7/15/08)
By Greg Sargent - July 15, 2008, 2:40PM
Check out this odd little line buried in John McCain's Iraq speech today: "I know how to win wars." As a reader asks in genuine wonderment, Which wars did McCain win again?
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/mccain_i_know_how_to_win_wars.php

Did Obama Force McCain To Flip-Flop On Afghanistan? (Huffington Post 7/15/08)
By Seth Colter Walls
John McCain likes to paint Barack Obama as a naive follower on key national security issues. But by moving up his planned Afghanistan speech by two days to follow Obama's, and by agreeing that more U.S. troops are needed there, McCain appears to be following the Illinois Democrat on a major proposed shift for U.S. foreign policy.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/15/is-obama-forcing-mccain-t_n_112890.html

MCCAIN NEWS

Tall order for McCain (Cincinnati Enquirer 7/16/08)
By Howard Wilkinson
If politics is the art of persuasion, John McCain has his work cut out for him in Cincinnati on Wednesday. In the late morning, the Republican candidate for president will walk into the same exhibition hall at the Duke Energy Convention Center full of African-American voters from the NAACP who, on Monday night, gave Barack Obama a rapturous arm-waving, foot-stomping welcome; and, who, come November, will deliver their votes as well.
http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080715/NEWS01/307150075&referrer=FRONTPAGECAROUSEL
Link to Excerpts of McCain's Speech to the NAACP: http://thepage.time.com/excerpts-of-mccains-speech-to-the-naacp/

McCain pledging to NAACP more education options (AP 7/16/08)
By DEVLIN BARRETT
John McCain is telling the NAACP that he will expand education opportunities for children in failing schools.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jzIhUVbRFW8gUuO34MShdPNQHylwD91UT6301

McCain Names More Top Fund-Raisers, Including Lobbyists (NYT 7/16/08)
By MICHAEL LUO and KITTY BENNETT
Senator John McCain released an updated list of his top money collectors on Tuesday, revealing that nearly a fifth of those who have brought in the largest amounts for him, more than $500,000 each, are lobbyists or work for firms that engage in lobbying.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/us/politics/16donate.html?ref=politics
See USAToday's "McCain uses 'bundler' money more than Obama campaign": http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-15-bundlers_N.htm

Fannie, Freddie spent $200M to buy influence (Politico 7/16/08)
By: Lisa Lerer
If you want to know how Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have survived scandal and crisis, consider this: Over the past decade, they have spent nearly $200 million on lobbying and campaign contributions.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11781.html

Facing Criticism, McCain Clarifies His Statement on Gay Adoption (NYT 7/16/08)

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By MICHAEL COOPER
As several gay rights groups criticized Senator John McCain for saying he opposed gay adoption, the McCain campaign issued a clarification on Tuesday saying that he believed the issue should be decided by the states, and that such adoptions should not be subject to a federal ban.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/us/politics/16mccain.html

McCain Uses Fund to Raise $62.3 Million (WSJ 7/16/08)
By T.W. Farnam
Sen. John McCain raised $62.3 million for his presidential bid in the second quarter in conjunction with the Republican National Committee, according to campaign-finance reports filed Tuesday night.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121617969988057495.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

McCain again cites current events in 'Czechoslovakia' (CNN blog 7/16/08)
By Rebecca Sinderbrand
For the second time in two days, John McCain has referred to current events in "Czechoslovakia" – a country that officially ceased to exist in January of 1993.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/
See HuffPo's "McCain Defends Czechoslovakia, A Non-Existent Country -- Again": http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/14/mccain-references-non-exi_n_112650.html
See ThinkProgress's "For Second Day In A Row, McCain Cites The Non-Existent 'Czechoslovakia'": http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/15/mccain-czechoslovakia/

Back to the USSR (The New Republic 7/16/08*)
*Print Date: 7/30/08
By John B. Judis
John McCain likes to compare himself to Theodore Roosevelt, Barry Goldwater, and Ronald Reagan. But, if he were to become president, could he more closely resemble Richard Nixon? Not Nixon the Watergate dirty trickster, but Nixon the statesman. Could the Arizona senator, despite his extreme rhetoric of the bomb-bomb-Iran variety, be less like a cowboy politician and more like the man who re-opened relations with China and signed a wealth of arms control agreements with the Soviets?
http://tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=220a2dab-3d4b-45e4-9355-b03d44b6b844

FACTBOX: When it comes to health care, McCain/Obama agree (Reuters 7/15/08)
Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and Republican candidate John McCain agree that Americans spend too much on drugs and doctors and largely agree on what changes to make, but they have competing proposals for how to do so. Here is a summary of their positions:
http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed7/idUSN1531996020080715

Flashback: McCain joked about how much women love to be raped (ThinkProgress 7/15/08)
The blog Rum, Romanism and Rebellion pulls out a 1986 Tucson Citizen article recounting a joke about rape told by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). Speaking to the National League of Cities and Towns in Washington, DC, McCain allegedly said:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/15/mccain-finds-rape-hilarious/
See HuffPo's "McCain Rape Joke Recalled By Sources": http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/15/sources-recall-mccains-jo_n_112955.html

Neb. supporters pay big bucks to see McCain (AP 7/15/08)
Some Nebraska couples are paying $50,000 to visit with Republican presidential contender John McCain in Ashland on Wednesday, prompting criticism from Democrats about the Arizona senator's first campaign stop in the state this election cycle.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-07-15-nebraska-gop_N.htm

McCain's Immigration Two-Step (American Spectator 7/15/08)
By W. James Antle III
John McCain set a difficult task for himself in his speech to the National Council of La Raza. He had to simultaneously reassure liberal Hispanic activists that he is a more reliable champion of comprehensive immigration reform -- otherwise known as amnesty -- than Barack Obama and convince conservatives that he is

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still committed to the enforcement-first position he took in the Republican primaries. All while denying that he has flip-flopped on immigration.
http://www.spectator.org/dsp_article.asp?art_id=13533

McCain's Test Against the Anti-Immigration Right (NY Observer 7/15/08)
by Jennifer Rubin
John McCain has a love-hate relationship with immigration reform. Or rather, he loves immigration reform but the conservative base hates it. That becomes apparent whenever he talks about it.
http://www.observer.com/2008/politics/mccains-test-against-anti-immigration-right

McCain's Missouri chair? Bond -- Kit Bond (Boston Globe blog 7/15/08)
By Jason Tuohey
John McCain tapped Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond, a veritable Missouri political institution, to head his campaign in the battleground state.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/07/mccains_missour.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

The GOP Is the Party of Civil Rights (WSJ 7/16/08)
By BRUCE BARTLETT; Page A15
John McCain is scheduled to address the NAACP's annual convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, today. Although he is unlikely to gain many black votes this year, he should use the occasion to increase Republican efforts to reach out to African-Americans. He can start by setting the record straight on the records of the two parties on race.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121617172687056531.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

McCain, Obama and a draw (USA Today 7/16/08)
By Ruben Navarrette
The candidates have been courting this essential voting bloc, including speeches this week to La Raza. One thing is clear: Latinos will not be ignored.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/07/mccain-obama-an.html#more

Where Have You Gone, Dickey Flatt? (WSJ 7/16/08)
By By THOMAS FRANK ; Page A15
When former Sen. Phil Gramm, who now serves as an economic adviser to John McCain, declared last week that Americans had become a "nation of whiners"—that we were scared of a recession that was only "mental"—what struck me was not so much the remark's meanness but its symbolic significance. This, historians will someday say, was the snarling end of an era in which our leaders believed that markets represented the very will of the people; that to serve one was to serve the other.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121617522464256949.html?mod=todays_columnists

Running on empty and spreading the blame (Boston Globe 7/16/08)
By Henry Lee
IF YOU listen to many elected officials and political pundits, you might think oil companies or speculators are to blame for high oil prices. The evidence does not support such a verdict.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/16/
running_on_empty_and_spreading_the_blame/

Both parties are wrongly blaming 'speculators' for our energy problems. (LA Times 7/15/08)
Jonah Goldberg
Contrary to nearly all received wisdom in Washington, not to mention the rhetoric of the presumptive nominees of both major parties, the scariest moments in American politics are often its most bipartisan. Some would say that this was demonstrated in the wake of 9/11, when all those allegedly terrible national security laws were enacted by both parties, or in the run-up to war, when Democrats and Republicans alike united to topple Saddam Hussein. But I find it is most true when Washington takes a populist turn, which it is doing now with pugnacious stupidity, attacking that classic populist boogeyman: the "oil speculator."
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-goldberg15-2008jul15,0,24212.column

BUSH NEWS

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Bush Tries to Allay Financial-Sector Worries (WSJ 7/16/08)
By John D. McKinnon
President George W. Bush gave a strong endorsement to mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as he sought to tamp down anxieties about the financial sector.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121612839397354423.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox
Link to transcript of Bush's Remarks on Drilling, Economy: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071501259.html

President is switching to offensive (The Hill 7/15/08)
By Sam Youngman
President Bush has come off the sidelines and waded into the 2008 elections while trying to shift blame for the struggling economy to Democrats in Congress. Bush's Rose Garden announcement on Monday that he would lift an executive ban on offshore oil drilling and a Tuesday news conference where he hit Democrats on the economy were clear efforts to score points in the public relations war against a Democratic-led Congress, several Democrats said.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/president-is-switching-to-offensive-2008-07-15.html

Bush on $4 gas: 'I've heard of it now.' (ThinkProgress 7/15/08)
In February, when President Bush was asked what his "advice" would be to the average American who is "facing the prospect of $4 a gallon gasoline," he replied, "That's interesting, I hadn't heard that." At a press conference this morning, a reporter followed up and asked the president about his previous comments in light of nationwide average gas prices hovering well above $4/gallon. Bush responded, "I've heard of it now.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/15/bush-on-gas-prices-where-are-they-now/

Congress Easily Overrides Medicare Veto (Washington Post 7/16/08)
By Michael Abramowitz and Paul Kane; A02
President Bush sought to block a bill yesterday aimed at forestalling an 11 percent cut in payments to doctors taking care of Medicare patients, but Congress quickly overrode his veto.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071501361.html

American Envoy To Join Iran Talks (Washington Post 7/16/08)
By Glenn Kessler; A12
The Bush administration will send a senior envoy this weekend to international talks with Iran about its nuclear program in what U.S. officials described as a "one-time deal" designed to demonstrate a serious desire to negotiate a solution to the impasse over Tehran's ambitions. ...Move Is Departure From Prior Policy
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071502647.html

Terrorism Suspect May Petition Civilian Court (Washington Post 7/16/08)
By R. Jeffrey Smith and Del Quentin Wilber; A06
A federal appellate court issued a new setback to the Bush administration on the treatment of terrorism suspects yesterday, declaring that the only accused "enemy combatant" apprehended and held on U.S. soil can petition a civilian court to review the evidence against him.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071502779.html
See related: WaPo's "Detainee Describes Treatment": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071502018.html

Bush walks like a duck as GOP bolts (Politico 7/16/08)
By: David Rogers and Patrick O'Connor
Hours after receiving Bush's veto on Medicare legislation, lawmakers overrode him. By a lot.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11785.html

Bush Calls on Congress to Pass Housing, Energy (AP 7/15/08)
By TERENCE HUNT
President Bush said Tuesday the nation's troubled financial system is "basically sound" and urged lawmakers to quickly enact legislation to prop up mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1822894,00.html

Nadler: In a 'just system,' Bush 'would be impeached.' (ThinkProgress 7/15/08)

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Today, on C-SPAN's Washington Journal, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), who has held several hearings on the Bush administration's torture program, said that President Bush has committed "impeachable offenses": http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/15/nadler-in-a-just-system-bush-would-be-impeached/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Fed Chief Bleak on Economic Outlook (NYT 7/16/08)

By STEVEN R. WEISMAN

A sense of economic gloom gripped Washington on Tuesday as President Bush urged Americans not to lose faith, the Federal Reserve chairman offered a mostly bleak assessment of the difficulties ahead for the economy, and the administration's latest effort to help the housing sector faced tough questioning in Congress.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/business/economy/16econ.html?ref=business

An Economy Thrown Into Turmoil (Washington Post 7/16/08)

By Anthony Faiola and Neil Irwin; A01

Fresh worries spread through world markets yesterday as a crisis of confidence battered more U.S. financial institutions and the chairman of the Federal Reserve issued a sober assessment of the country's economic woes. It appeared to mark a new phase in the U.S. financial crisis, with fears of a contagion effect that could yet weigh more heavily on the global economy.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071500999.html?hpid=topnews
Link to video of Bernanke: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2008/07/15/VI2008071501557.html

Stocks set for opening drop (CNNMoney.com 7/16/08)

By Kenneth Musante

U.S. stock futures tumbled Wednesday, ahead of a slew of economic reports and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's second day of testimony before Congress.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/07/16/markets/stockswatch/?postversion=2008071605

Gates Warns of Militarized Policy (Washington Post 7/16/08)

By Ann Scott Tyson; A06

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates warned yesterday against the risk of a "creeping militarization" of U.S. foreign policy, saying the State Department should lead U.S. engagement with other countries, with the military playing a supporting role.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071502777.html

Suicide Bombers Kill 35 Iraqi Recruits (NYT 7/16/08)

By RICHARD A. OPPEL JR

After the explosions and fireballs consumed dozens of fellow Iraqi Army recruits in Baquba on Tuesday, a dazed Fawad Hamid found himself on a stretcher at a hospital, his chest perforated by ball bearings from explosive belts worn by the two teenage attackers.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/world/middleeast/16iraq.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

U.S. to Give Czechs Ballistic Missile Defense (Washington Post 7/16/08)

By Walter Pincus; A11

U.S. Navy ships in the Mediterranean will provide ballistic missile defense to the Czech Republic under a commitment contained in the agreement to place a U.S. radar site in that country, according to State and Defense Department officials. ...Provision Is Part of Agreement Allowing American Radar Site in the Republic
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071502663.html

Obama website's opposition to successful surge gets deleted (LA Times blog 7/15/08)

A funny thing happened over on the Barack Obama campaign website in the last few days. The parts that stressed his opposition to the 2007 troop surge and his statement that more troops would make no difference in a civil war have somehow disappeared. John McCain and Obama have been going at it heavily in recent days over the benefits of the surge.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/07/obama-surge.html

Blue America PAC Takes On Freedom's Watch Billionaires (Huffington Post 7/15/08)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Howie Klein
What do you know about the shady Republican swiftboat operation going under the name "Freedom's Watch?" Well, they registered as a lobbying organization and the group seems to be divided between a coven of second and third rate Bush Regime operatives-- Ari Fleischer, Bradley Blakeman, Matt David, Carl Forti-- and a gaggle of Neocon billionaires, many with ties to the Likud and the uber-reactionary Republican Jewish Coalition, willing to provide a virtually limitless slush fund for the most vile attacks on Democrats that even the GOP wants to keep at arms length -- or wants to appear to be keeping at arms length.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/howie-klein/blue-america-pac-takes-on_b_112875.html

POLLS

Obama Leads by 8 Points In Poll (Washington Post 7/16/08)

By Dan Balz and Jon Cohen; A01
Sen. Barack Obama holds his biggest advantage of the presidential campaign as the candidate best prepared to fix the nation's ailing economy, but lingering concerns about his readiness to handle international crises are keeping the race competitive, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071502136.html

Obama has 7-point edge on McCain: Reuters poll (Reuters 7/16/08)

By John Whitesides,
Democrat Barack Obama has a 7-point lead on Republican John McCain in the U.S. presidential race, and holds a small edge on the crucial question of who would best manage the economy, according to a Reuters/Zogby poll released on Wednesday.
http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSN1535315320080716

Poll Finds Obama's Run Isn't Closing Divide on Race (NYT 7/16/08)

By ADAM NAGOURNEY and MEGAN THEE
Americans are sharply divided by race heading into the first election in which an African-American will be a major-party presidential nominee, with blacks and whites holding vastly different views of Senator Barack Obama, the state of race relations and how black Americans are treated by society, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/16/us/politics/16poll.html
Link to pdf of full poll results: http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/politics/20080716_POLL.pdf

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
re47@hillaryclinton.com
Date: 2/8/2016 8:36:30 AM
Subject: RE: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

As phrased it's misleading.

Some of it is truly nuclear, like the women paragraph.

From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2016 3:21 PM
To: jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com ; re47@hillaryclinton.com
Cc: dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; david@db-research.com ; david@dixondavismedia.com ; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com ; jim.margolis@gmmb.com ; jbenenson@bsgco.com ; john@algpolling.com ; john.podesta@gmail.com; nnayak@hillaryclinton.com ; oshur@hillaryclinton.com ; rich@dixondavismedia.com ; jandrews@jacompany.com
Subject: Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

True…but they are attacking her with Crime Bill, Monica Lewinsky, bankruptcy and all kinds of ancient stuff. He always brags about never changing positions -- why not use the old stuff to prove how wacky this thinking is?

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202-973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
To: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; re47 <re47@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; david <david@db-research.com >; david <david@dixondavismedia.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; jim.margolis <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >; jbenenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; john <john@algpolling.com >; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Navin Nayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com >; jandrews <jandrews@jacompany.com >
Sent: Mon, Feb 8, 2016 3:19 pm
Subject: RE: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Some of the hard contrast is stuff from a very long time ago. The second graf makes it sound like he is currently proposing those things. Same for the national security graf.

From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2016 3:14 PM
To: re47@hillaryclinton.com
Cc: dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; david@db-research.com ; david@dixondavismedia.com ; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com ; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com ; jim.margolis@gmmb.com ; jbenenson@bsgco.com ; john@algpolling.com ; john.podesta@gmail.com ; nnayak@hillaryclinton.com ; oshur@hillaryclinton.com ; rich@dixondavismedia.com ; jandrews@jacompany.com
Subject: Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Jim Andrews and I have been pouring through the oppo and have a couple new possible negatives to suggest we test in the poll, since most of our attacks haven't been working. We also proposed language for a split message test between where we've been (ideas that sound good on paper/ can't wait) versus the new no barriers message -- stacked up against Sanders

Hope these are helpful.

YOU PAY FOR SOCIALISM

Bernie Sanders says he wants to restructure America's economy to make it work like it does in the socialist countries of Europe, providing things like free health care for everyone, free college for everyone, and free increases in Social Security for everyone. But Sanders does not mention that the middle class picks up the bill in these countries, paying nearly sixty percent of their income in taxes, three times what middle class Americans pay now.

FREE STUFF FOR EVERYBODY

Bernie Sanders said –quote– "all necessities of life must be provided free for people," and over the years he's proposed a radical restructuring of

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the entire American economy to make many things free, from the gas for people's cars to telephones and now free college and health care. To do this, Sanders proposed the complete government takeover of all oil companies, gas companies, electric utility companies, phone companies, health care companies, and all television networks. Combined, Sanders proposals would put the government in control of more than half of the American economy, but Sanders has never told anyone who would pay for all of this or how it would work.

SPEND, TAX AND COVER IT UP

Bernie Sanders' spending plans cost at least eighteen trillion dollars, would increase government spending by 50% and equal the size of the current national debt. And it's actually worse. Experts say Sanders health care plan alone is quote –twice as expensive as he says it is and they say Sanders plans would increase middle class taxes by one third, even for people making less than nineteen thousand a year, and Sanders plans would raise the top tax rate to seventy seven percent. The Boston Globe said –quote "Sanders is not leveling with voters" about the real cost of his spending plans.

EXTREME ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Bernie Sanders' extreme views would gut America's national security and make less safe. Sanders ran for Congress calling for the military budget to be cut by more than half and spending the money on a "major electrified rail system" instead. In Washington, Sanders sponsored a law to unilaterally terminate America's entire nuclear weapons program and sponsored another law to cut the nuclear submarine fleet in half. In Congress, Sanders proposed massive cuts in the intelligence budget and earlier said we should shut down the entire CIA because –quote they "might even be able to overthrow the U.S. government if they chose to." Sanders is so ideologically committed to military cuts that just last year he said –quote we shouldn't spend money on the military "even if it does create jobs."

TROUBLING PATTERN ON CAMPAIGNING

Bernie Sanders says he's running a different kind of campaign, but the record tells another story. Last year a Sanders affiliated political action committee was fined by the federal election commission and Sanders staffers were caught hacking into computers and stealing data on political opponents. This year, Sanders got caught running ads that said he was endorsed by newspapers that actually endorsed his opponent and was forced to remove ads from the air. Sanders got caught claiming endorsements from organizations that endorsed his opponent and the American Legion is now threatening to sue him for falsely claiming he has their support.

TROUBLING PATTERN ON WOMEN

Bernie Sanders says he supports women's rights, but has a pattern of expressing and tolerating extreme views on women. Sanders once wrote that men fantasize about women being on their knees and women fantasize about being raped by three men simultaneously. Sanders wrote another article that connecting women's sexual behavior to breast cancer and said the way parents teach their daughter about sex –quote– "very well determine whether or not she will develop breast cancer." Now Sanders' supporters are flooding the internet with troubling comments about women quote –voting with their vaginas– and calling women who support Hillary Clinton quote –bitches.

BERNIE VS HRC MESSAGE TEST

BERNIE

Bernie Sanders says we have a corporate establishment whose greed is destroying the economy and a corrupt political establishment beholden to billionaires. Sanders says the billionaire class can't get huge tax breaks and hide profits overseas while the middle class is being hollowed out. Sanders says corporate America and the billionaire class have to start paying their fair share, and that to change things we need a political revolution to undo the power of corporate America and Wall Street. You sure can't change a corrupt system by taking its money. Sanders says one person alone can't change this country, but we can do it together.

HRC: BARRIERS

Hillary Clinton says we need to break down barriers of social injustice. Clinton says racism and sexism and other forms discrimination are not simply an effect of economic inequality, but are also part of the *cause* of economic inequality. Clinton says she will hold Wall Street accountable, but Wall Street is not gunning down young African Americans or denying immigrants a path to citizenship. Clinton says we can't move forward when women make seventy eight cents for each dollar men make, when people can be fired just because they're gay or when African American men go to prison at the same rate they graduate college. Clinton says that America can't reach its full potential when you're held back from reaching yours.

HRC CAN'T WAIT

Hillary Clinton says she is not interested in ideas that sound good on paper but will never make it the real world, and she won't make promises she can't keep. Clinton says the single mom who needs raise can't wait for plans that will never happen. The student with a mountain of debt can't wait. The grandmother who has to choose between paying for medicine and paying the rent can't wait. Clinton says she's spent a lifetime making a difference for people and getting results, from winning benefits for the National Guard and Reserve to winning health care for eight million children and she's ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work right now. Clinton says she's ready to tackle our toughest challenges and move our country forward.

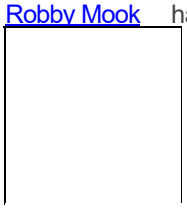
Mandy Grunwald

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Grunwald Communications
202-973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Robby Mook (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com >
To: gruncom <gruncom@aol.com >
Cc: dschwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; david <david@db-research.com >; david <david@dixondavismedia.com >; jsullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; jpalmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; jim.margolis <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >; jbenenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; john <john@algpolling.com >; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; nnayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com >; oshur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 7, 2016 4:19 pm
Subject: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call

Robby Mook has attached the following document:

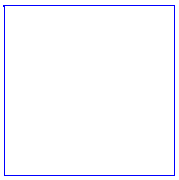


Agenda for 4:30 Post NH Messaging Call



Attached is an agenda/guide for our 5:30 call.

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.



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From: "Jon Soltz, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/7/2016 10:18:48 AM
Subject: VoteVets 2016 Supporter Survey



John -

It's hard to overstate the importance of 2016 for veterans and military family members.

The Koch Brothers are financing a multi-million dollar campaign to privatize veterans health care.

Republicans running for Congress are eager escalate our endless war in the Middle East, threatening to re-commit more troops to the region and drop nuclear weapons on Iraq and Syria.

And, of course, control of the U.S. Senate is on the line and we're going to elect a new Commander in Chief before the year is done.

At VoteVets, we're set to take on these challenges and more, but we want to hear from you about your priorities for the year ahead.

Take a moment to complete our official VoteVets 2016 Supporter Survey, and let us know the issues you are passionate about in the year ahead.

With fewer members of Congress who have served in the military than at any point in decades, and none still in the race to become the next president, it is even more important that veterans and military family members make their voices heard on the issues of the day.

We're ready to lead with you, but first we want to get a sense of your thoughts for the year ahead.

Your priorities are our priorities -- let us know the issues you're most concerned about taking on in the year ahead.

http://action.votevets.org/2016-priorities

Thank you for making your voice heard. It's an important part of our decision making process as we consider our work in 2016.

Thank you for standing with us.

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran and Chairman
VoteVets.org

Contribute

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PAID FOR BY VOTEVETS ACTION FUND

This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From:	"Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	11/18/2015 12:40:01 PM
Subject:	Fwd: CLIP | The Wrap: Hollywood Mogul Haim Saban Calls for 'More Scrutiny' of Muslims (Exclusive)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: November 18, 2015 at 7:38:41 PM EST
To: Clips <Clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: CLIP | The Wrap: Hollywood Mogul Haim Saban Calls for 'More Scrutiny' of Muslims (Exclusive)

Hollywood Mogul Haim Saban Calls for 'More Scrutiny' of Muslims (Exclusive)

By Itay Hod on November 18, 2015 @ 3:59 pm
http://www.thewrap.com/hollywood-mogul-haim-saban-more-scrutiny-muslims-profiling-hillary-clinton/st_refDomain=t.co&st_refQuery=/agopLLvIFh

"You want to be free and dead? I'd rather be not free and alive," billionaire and Hillary Clinton supporter tells TheWrap

Media mogul Haim Saban , one of Hillary Clinton's biggest backers in Hollywood, said that the U.S. should step up its scrutiny of Muslims in the wake of the deadly ISIS attacks in Paris.

In a broad-ranging conversation about his support for the former secretary of state, the 71-year-old Israeli-American businessman and philanthropist said that some civil liberties may need to be suspended in times of war.

"I'm not suggesting we put Muslims through some kind of a torture room to get them to admit that they are or they're not terrorists," he told TheWrap. "But I am saying we should have more scrutiny."

TheWrap spoke to Saban about his support for the Democratic presidential frontrunner — he and and his wife, Cheryl, gave $2 million to Priorities USA Action, Clinton's Super PAC, and hosted a fundraiser in May that netted another $2 million — as well as how the Paris terror attacks could alter the 2016 presidential election as well as civil liberties.

People keep calling the Paris attacks a game-changer. Are they also a game-changer when it comes to the 2016 presidential race?
It's a wake-up call. I fully believe we're in a different kind of World War III. What ISIS has proven is that they're not only active in Syria and Iraq, but they're active in Europe. We can't afford the next president, basically the leader of the free world, to be an amateur that has done nothing other than missing votes, or a clown, to be making the decisions as to how to react.

Why do you think Hillary Clinton is the right person for the job?
You need to bring together a coalition of other countries under one tent. For people whom Paris is the Eiffel Tower and not much more, it's going to be difficult. Hillary knows and has interacted with all these people, she has excellent relationships with all these people, is very respected by all these people and has been in the trenches her whole life. She's also made of steel. She's absolutely made of steel and she will take no baloney from no ISIS.

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Did she underestimate the instability in the region while she was secretary of state which, some have suggested, led to the birth of ISIS?
The first thing I would say is, the state of the world is not [the way it is] because of climate change [a reference to Bernie Sanders' claim during the second Democratic debate last week that climate change can lead to terror attacks].

You want someone in the White House that's not going to tell you, "Ah... if we had a better climate strategy, things would be better." The other thing to remember is that when the Syrian people started demonstrating in the streets, [Hillary] recommended to President Obama that he arm those people so that they can achieve their goal of democracy. President Obama chose differently, right or wrong, and now we are where we are.

Some critics have said that she's partly responsible for the ISIS mess because she voted to approve the war on Iraq. Is she?
She did vote to approve the war on Iraq. She said she made a mistake and, frankly, I watched when a very reliable, respected individual such as Colin Powell showed us tubes and semi-trailers and told us this is the beginning of nuclear weapons. It wasn't just President Bush who said that. It was very respected individuals telling us that on TV to the entire nation. And living with a nuclear Saddam Hussein was not an option. Based on the information we had back then, the vote for the war was the right vote. She apologized, but I don't think she should have. But that's easy for me to say. I'm sitting in Beverly Park.

What are people in Hollywood saying about the Paris terror attacks?
Many members of the Hollywood community are very liberal and they value their civil liberties more than they value life. I disagree with that. You want to be free and dead? I'd rather be not free and alive. The reality is that certain things that are unacceptable in times of peace — such as profiling, listening in on anyone and everybody who looks suspicious, or interviewing Muslims in a more intense way than interviewing Christian refugees — is all acceptable [during war]. Why? Because we value life more than our civil liberties and it's temporary until the problem goes away.

But to say this is shameful — I disagree. [ISIS] said, 'We're going to Paris,' and they went to Paris. They're saying they're now going to Washington. Watch out, they might. I'm not suggesting we put Muslims through some kind of a torture room to get them to admit that they are or they're not terrorists. But I am saying we should have more scrutiny.

Do you think Hillary Clinton should change her position on allowing more Syrian refugees into the U.S. in the aftermath of the attacks in Paris?
I'm not in a position to tell you whether 10,000 or 65,000 or half a million is the right number. I don't have an opinion on that. But I do have an opinion on the scrutiny. Scrutinize every single individual. There is no data available from Syria. The country is completely in turmoil. It's all a judgment call of the person conducting the interview. So it's too dangerous.

Do you think the Paris attack will inadvertently help Hillary Clinton now that foreign affairs has become such a focal point in the campaign?
I do think it will help because she's the only one with the resume and the most qualified to deal with this.

A look at 10 of former First Lady's biggest moments in the White House, as Secretary of State and as Democractic candidate for president.

Photos of then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton checking her email went viral in 2011. When Clinton joined Twitter last month, she chose a shot like this for her profile page, quickly racking up 650,000 followers.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesman, Deputy Director of Rapid Response
Hillary for America

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

@JoshSchwerin

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Sara Latham" <Sara.Latham@ptt.gov>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/12/2008 2:11:55 PM
Subject: Fw: draft for Poznan message / Govr Summit

From: Heather Zichal
To: Adam Frankel; Sara Latham; Jonathan Favreau; David Sandalow; Carol Browner
Cc: Stephanie Cutter; Dan Pfeiffer
Sent: Wed Nov 12 21:08:46 2008
Subject: RE: draft for Poznan message / Govr Summit

Below is the final draft script for the Govs' Summit video - - with signoff from FP and E&E Team. We have included 2 options about congressional observers, as directed. Please let me know if you need anything else.

DRAFT SCRIPT:
Let me begin by thanking the bipartisan group of U.S. governors who convened this meeting.

Few challenges facing America – and the world – are more urgent than combating climate change. The science is beyond dispute and the facts are clear. Sea levels are rising. Coastlines are shrinking. We've seen record droughts and record famines, and storms that are growing stronger with each passing hurricane season.
I know many of you are working to confront this challenge. In particular, I want to commend Governor Sebelius, Governor Doyle, Governor Crist, Governor Blagojevich and your host, Governor Schwarzenegger – you have shown true leadership in the fight to combat global warming. And we've also seen a number of businesses doing their part by investing in clean energy technologies.
But too often, Washington has failed to show the same kind of leadership. That will change when I take office. My presidency will mark a new chapter in American leadership on climate change.
That will start with a federal cap and trade system. We will establish strong annual targets that will set us on a course to reduce emissions to their 1990 levels by 2020 and to reduce them an additional 80% by 2050.
Further, we will invest $15 billion each year to catalyze private sector efforts to build a clean energy future. We will invest in solar power, wind power, and next generation biofuels. We will tap nuclear power, while making sure it's safe. And we will develop clean coal technologies.
This investment will not only help us reduce our dependence on foreign oil, making the United States more secure. And it will not only help us bring about a clean energy future, saving our planet. It will also help us transform our industries and steer our country out of this economic crisis by generating five million new green jobs that pay well and can't be outsourced.
But the truth is, the United States cannot meet this challenge alone. Solving this problem will require all of us working together. I understand that your meeting is being attended by government officials from over a dozen countries, including the UK, Canada and Mexico, Brazil and Chile, Poland and Australia, India and Indonesia. And I look forward to working with all nations to meet this challenge in the coming years.
Let me also say a special word to the delegates from around the world who will gather in Poznan, Poland next month: your work is vital to the planet. I won't be President at the time of your meeting and, of course, the United States has only one President at a time.
OPTION 1: I've asked Members of Congress who are attending the conference as observers to report back to me on what they learn there.
OPTION 2: I've asked Senator John Kerry, an extraordinary leader with deep expertise on climate change, to report back to me on what he learns there.
And once I take office, you can be sure that the United States will once again engage vigorously in these negotiations, and help lead the world toward a new era of global cooperation on climate change.
Now is the time to confront this challenge once and for all. Delay is no longer an option. Denial is no longer an acceptable response. The stakes are too high. The consequences, too serious.
Stopping climate change won't be easy. It won't happen overnight. But I promise you this: When I am President, any governor who's willing to promote clean energy will have a partner in the White House. Any company that's willing to invest in clean energy will have an ally in Washington. And any nation that's willing to join the cause of combating climate change will have a leader in the United States of America. Thank you.

From: Adam Frankel

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2008 8:16 PM
To: Heather Zichal; Sara Latham; Jonathan Favreau; David Sandalow
Cc: Stephanie Cutter; Dan Pfeiffer
Subject: Re: draft for Poznan message / Govr Summit

Sounds good, thanks

From: Heather Zichal
To: Adam Frankel; Sara Latham; Jonathan Favreau; David Sandalow
Cc: Stephanie Cutter; Dan Pfeiffer
Sent: Wed Nov 12 20:08:21 2008
Subject: RE: draft for Poznan message / Govr Summit
Adam - Thanks for your great work on these. The energy team made some minor edits. We are going to get sign off from FP Team tonight and will then recirculate final draft.

From: Adam Frankel
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2008 7:18 PM
To: Sara Latham; Jonathan Favreau; Heather Zichal
Cc: Stephanie Cutter; Dan Pfeiffer
Subject: RE: draft for Poznan message / Govr Summit

Yes, will send shortly

From: Sara Latham
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2008 6:17 PM
To: Jonathan Favreau; Heather Zichal; Adam Frankel
Cc: Stephanie Cutter; Dan Pfeiffer
Subject: draft for Poznan message / Govr Summit

hi - I'm here with David Sandalow…

can we see the draft tonight?

we need to distribute, and discuss tomorrow - there should be an option to include John Kerry as the representative we are sending,
or just to mention we are sending a representative tbd to the meeting. Timing of this videomessage will generate more speculation in Sec State / Kerry

thanks,
Sara

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/20/2008 1:35:39 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/20

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 20th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

TBA McClellan testifies before House Judiciary Commitee

12pm McCain: Speech in Ottawa,Canada

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain struggles to break free of Bush (LA Times 6/20/08)
By Maeve Reston and Bob Drogin
In the months ahead, John McCain will have to repeatedly beat back claims by Barack Obama's campaign that he is running to win a third term for the Bush administration. But events this week have illustrated just how difficult that could be. In this crucial opening phase of the general election campaign -- when McCain is trying to establish his independence from the unpopular president -- his message has repeatedly been eclipsed by that of the White House.
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/politics/la-na-mccain20-2008jun20,0,4879715.story

Democrats Press McCain on Defense Deal (WSJ 6/20/08)
By August Cole and John R. Wilke
Democrats are taking fresh aim at Sen. John McCain's role in the Air Force's $40 billion tanker contract, saying he jeopardized thousands of U.S. jobs by helping steer the huge award to a European-designed competitor to Boeing Co.
http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121390968211689775.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

McCain adviser in Republican attack (BBC 6/20/08)
By Steve Schifferes
John McCain's top economic adviser has attacked Congressional Republicans, saying they have brought "shame and disgrace" on the party. In a BBC interview, Doug Holtz-Eakin accused them of busting the budget with profligate spending programmes. The comments are part of a strategy by Senator McCain's camp to distance themselves from the Republicans and avoid blame for the economic downturn.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7464263.stm

New Questions Over McCain Campaign Chief's Ties To Ukraine (Huffington Post 6/20/08)
By Seth Colter Walls
How much does John McCain know about his campaign manager's lobbying history and potential current business interests inside Ukraine -- and when did he know it?
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/20/new-questions-over-mccain_n_108204.html

Congress probes McCain fundraiser's Iraq contract (NBC/MSNBC 6/18/08)
By Aram Roston
An NBC News exclusive report that ran on msnbc.com about an unusual Pentagon fuel deal has sparked an inquiry by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, according to the committee's Web site.
http://deepbackground.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/06/18/1153254.aspx

An Oily Mess (Newsweek Web Exclusive 6/19/08)
By Catharine Skipp and Arian Campo-Flores
For all their partisan bickering, Florida Republicans and Democrats have usually come together on one point: opposition to offshore oil drilling. But soaring gas prices and presidential politics have ruptured that consensus and now threaten to split the state GOP. The resulting disarray could have significant implications in the Sunshine State, which both Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama consider vital to their chances in November.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/142343

McCain Falsely Claims Katrina And Rita Did Not Cause Significant Oil Spillage (ThinkProgress 6/19/08)
Speaking before Houston oilmen yesterday, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) declared his support for lifting the 25-year federal moratorium on offshore drilling. He justified this reversal of his longstanding opposition by explaining that it's now "safe" ... In fact, the clear satellite evidence of major spills was borne out by final reports.
http://thinkprogress.org/wonkroom/2008/06/19/mccain-katrina-spills/

Jeb Bush rallies to the defense of John McCain, Charlie Crist (LA Times blog 6/20/08)
By Don Frederick
John McCain and his main ally in Florida, Gov. Charlie Crist, on Thursday received what could prove some crucial cover from the man who dominated the state's political scene until term limits prevented him from seeking a third term as its chief executive -- Jeb Bush.
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2008/06/jeb-bush-defend.html

McCain Now Supports GI Bill, War Funding Bill (ABC blog 6/19/08)
By Z. Byron Wolf
Sen. John McCain did not vote last month when Senators passed their version of a war funding emergency supplemental. But he said the bill being considered then was overloaded with funding for non-war related projects and he objected to a sweeping new benefit for veterans to get the equivalent of state college tuition and a living stipend after only a few years service because he worried it would affect military retention rates.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/06/mccain-now-supp.html

Bush And McCain Try To Steal Credit For Webb's GI Bill That They Consistently Worked To Defeat (ThinkProgress 619/08)
Yesterday, House leaders in both parties struck a deal on a war supplemental bill that includes expanded college benefits for veterans. The GI Bill is Sen. Jim Webb's (D-VA) version, as well as a provision allowing troops to transfer the benefits to family members. President Bush has promised to sign the legislation.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/19/mccain-bush-gi-bill/

Bin Laden will be killed, McCain promises (Boston Globe blog 6/19/08)
By Foon Rhee
Republican John McCain vowed today that if he's president, Osama bin Laden will be either killed in combat or executed -- a stern response to Democrat Barack Obama suggesting Wednesday that he would put the terrorist mastermind in the equivalent of the Nazi war crime trials after World War II to avoid making him a martyr.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/06/bin_laden_will.html

McCain exports free-trade debate (USA TODAY 6/20/08)
By David Jackson
John McCain visits a place Friday he has absolutely no chance of winning: Canada. While McCain said he is traveling to Ottawa, Ontario, the nation's capital, to speak about free trade and other issues, this jaunt and prospective trips to the Middle East and Europe by Democrat Barack Obama are examples of how this year's presidential campaign has gone global, political analyst Stuart Rothenberg said.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-19-McCain_N.htm

Democrats Question Ambassador's Role in Organizing McCain Speech in Canada (Washington Post blog 6/19/08)
By Michael D. Shear

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A Canadian newspaper reported Thursday that Friday's scheduled $100-a-plate luncheon speech by Sen. John McCain in Ottowa was organized in part by U.S. Ambassador David Wilkins, a former South Carolina lawmaker whom President Bush appointed in 2005.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/19/democrats_question_ambassadors.html#more

McCain brings trade talk to Ottawa (Canwest News Service 6/19/08)
Mike Blanchfield
The last time Republican Senator John McCain came to Canada hardly anyone noticed. ... McCain's return engagement Friday, for what is being billed a historic speech to an elite business gathering in Ottawa, will resonate on both sides of the 49th parallel long after he is gone.
http://www.canada.com/topics/news/story.html?id=2f47ef3c-1219-44aa-af44-2266c274c550

A Canadian Welcome for McCain (NYT blog 6/19/08)
By Ian Austen
Like many people outside of the United States, Canadians have taken an unusually keen interest in this year's presidential election. The leak of a memo suggesting that Senator Barack Obama's campaign had privately assured Canadian diplomats not to regard his tough talk about Nafta too seriously, for example, became the subject of intense political debate in Parliament in March.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/19/a-canadian-welcome-for-mccain/index.html?ref=politics

McCain earmark opposition assailed (Des Moines Register 6/20/08)
By JANE NORMAN
Republican presidential candidate John McCain opposed legislation last year that included money for flood control in Des Moines, which shows he is wrong to push for reforms to the congressional earmark system, a Democratic lawmaker charged Thursday.
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080620/NEWS09/806200360/-1/NEWS04

Republican presidential candidate John McCain tours flood-damaged southeastern Iowa (AP 6/19/08)
By David Espo
An aide to Gov. Chet Culver said Thursday that Republican presidential candidate John McCain ignored the governor's request to cancel a campaign visit amid a massive flood recovery effort in the state.
http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/president/20568724.html?location_refer=Homepage:highlightModules:2

Pool Report: McCain at Minneapolis Fundraiser (The Page 6/19/08)
There were about 75 people at the fund-raiser in Minneapolis, and the room was at least half empty when Sen. John McCain addressed the group. He spoke for just under 20 minutes, including several questions and answers. In his introductory remarks, he predicted protesters would appear at the town hall meeting later this evening.
http://thepage.time.com/pool-report-mccain-at-minneapolis-fundraiser/

McCain woos independents and cash in Minnesota (Minneapolis Star-Tribune 6/20/08)
By BOB VON STERNBERG
GOP presidential candidate John McCain, making a stop in the Twin Cities on the Straight Talk Express, discussed immigration, global warming and Barack Obama.
http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/president/20559039.html?location_refer=Politically%20Connected%20Box:Local%20+%20Metro
Link to video of protesters outside McCain MN event: http://www.startribune.com/video/20581059.html?location_refer=Homepage:highlightModules:2

McCain: Pawlenty has 'big place' in GOP plans (AP 6/19/08)
Republican John McCain made no secret of his regard for Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty during a visit to the state on Thursday, saying Pawlenty has "a very big place in the future of the Republican Party."
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-19-mccain-pawlenty_N.htm

McCain meets with Hispanic leaders (AP 6/19/08)

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Republican presidential John McCain assured Hispanic leaders he would push through Congress legislation to overhaul federal immigration laws if elected, several people who attended a private meeting with the candidate said Thursday.
http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/jun/19/mccain-meets-with-hispanic-leaders/

McCain attacks Obama for opting out of public financing (CNN 6/19/08)
* Sen. John McCain says decision "should be disturbing to all Americans"
* Analyst says voters favor the way Obama has raised campaign cash
* Sen. Barack Obama calls public finance system "broken"
* Move will allow Obama to spend unlimited amount of money
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/19/obama.public.financing/index.html

McCain Will Accept Public Financing (FOX News blog 6/19/08)
by Shushannah Walshe
After visiting flood-ravaged Iowa today, John McCain told reporters that his campaign will take public financing. On his Straight Talk Express to a Minneapolis fundraiser he confirmed that he will accept the financing even though today Barack Obama announced he will not.
http://embeds.blogs.foxnews.com/2008/06/19/mccain-will-accept-public-financing/

John and Cindy McCain would reap $373,429 if McCain's tax proposal were enacted (ThinkProgress 6/19/08)
In a new Center for American Progress Action Fund analysis, Michael Ettlinger documents how much the presidential candidates stand to personally benefit from the McCain and Obama tax proposals. The McCains — who report an annual income of over $6 million — would receive well over $300,000 from John McCain's tax plan. By contrast, both the Obamas and McCains would receive a substantial, albeit much smaller, savings under Obama's tax plan:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/19/mccain-tax-plan-for-rich/

McCain Raises Money the Hard Way (Washington Post blog 6/19/08)
By Michael D. Shear
John McCain's campaign treated the news of Barack Obama abandoning the public financing system with the expected disdain, calling it evidence that Obama is "just another typical politician who will do and say whatever is most expedient for Barack Obama." But the comment may be tinged with more than a bit of envy.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/19/mccain_raises_money_the_hard_w.html

John McCain backed by army of women in march to presidency (NY Sun 6/19/08)
BY NICOLE LYN PESCE
Barack Obama isn't the only candidate surrounded by the ladies. In John McCain's corner, a phalanx of powerful women have swooped in to support the Arizona senator's presidential bid.
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2008/06/18/2008-06-18_john_mccain_backed_by_army_of_women_in_m.html

Fred's Back, Baby (MSNBC 06/19/08)
By Adam Aigner-Treworgy and Lauren Appelbaum
In what is quickly becoming a daily occurrence, the McCain campaign held yet another conference call with a former presidential candidate to attack Obama on his national security credentials. This morning the former candidate-of-the-day was former Sen. Fred Thompson, but the call began off topic with a brief statement on Obama's decision to forgo public financing.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/06/19/1154926.aspx

Cindy McCain criticizes Burma (AP 6/20/08)
Cindy McCain harshly criticized Burma's military junta yesterday while vowing to make improving human rights there a priority if she ends up in the White House.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/06/20/cindy_mccain_criticizes_burma/

Cindy McCain: Families of candidates not fair game (CNN 6/19/08)
* Cindy McCain says response to Michelle Obama was an "emotional outpouring"

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* Obama says he was disappointed John McCain didn't stick up for Michelle Obama
* Tennessee GOP ran ads implying Michelle Obama is not patriotic
* McCain says Obama should have stood up for his wife when DNC attacked her

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/19/cindy.mccain/index.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

The real McCain (LA Times 6/20/08)

By Eric Alterman and George Zornick

The media portray him as a GOP maverick. He's really a die-hard conservative.

http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-alterman20-2008jun20,0,3361955.story

McCain the maverick goes MIA (Detroit Free Press 6/20/08)

BY BRIAN DICKERSON

...just when W was receding into abject irrelevance, McCain (or whatever cabal of insane GOP strategists has hijacked his judgment) seems more determined than ever to be in lockstep with his party's Albatross-in-chief.

http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080620/COL04/806200406/1081

McCain's Oil Epiphany (Washington Post 6/20/08)

By Charles Krauthammer; A19

...This is a change for McCain, but circumstances have changed. When the moratorium was imposed in 1982, gasoline was $1.20 and oil was $30 a barrel. ... McCain's problem is that he's only able to go halfway on energy production because he has locked himself into opposition to the other obvious source of domestic oil -- the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/19/AR2008061903022.html

Driller Instinct (NYT 6/20/08)

By PAUL KRUGMAN

...I've never taken Mr. McCain's media reputation as a maverick seriously, because on most issues, he's a thoroughly conventional conservative. On energy policy, however, he has in the past seemed to show some independence. Most notably, he voted against the really terrible, special-interest-driven 2005 energy bill, which was backed by the Bush administration — and by Barack Obama. But that was then.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/20/opinion/20krugman.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=slogin

Unfinished Business in Afghanistan (NYT 6/20/08)

Five years after President Bush largely dropped the military operation against the Afghan-based Taliban and Al Qaeda so he could invade Iraq, American and NATO troops are needed as much as ever in Afghanistan to hold back a resurgence of those forces. Yet Washington and its European allies still do not have an effective and comprehensive strategy to combat the threat.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/20/opinion/20fri2.html?ref=opinion

Jump Ball for New Hampshire (Washington Post 6/20/08)

By E. J. Dionne Jr.; A19

The race for electoral votes could be so close in November that small states may well pick the next president. Among those diminutive states, New Hampshire is by far the most interesting.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/19/AR2008061903021.html

BUSH NEWS

For Bush, a New Town, a New Disaster, but Always the Memory of New Orleans (NYT 6/20/08)

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

Try as he might, President Bush cannot escape the haunting memory of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Bush toured flood-stricken areas here on Thursday, the latest in a string of disaster-zone visits he has made in his role as comforter in chief.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/20/us/20bush.html?ref=us

Sympathetic Bush visits flood areas, skips specifics (Des Moines Register 6/20/08)

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and JASON CLAYWORTH

President Bush offered sympathy to Iowans coping with the state's worst natural disaster on a tour of flood-

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ravaged eastern Iowa on Thursday - and he pledged a coordinated recovery and reconstruction effort.
http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080620/NEWS09/806200381/1001/NEWS

President Presents Medals to Honor the Contributions of Six (Washington Post 6/20/08)
By William Branigin; A09
President Bush awarded the nation's highest civilian medal yesterday to six Americans, including retired Marine Gen. Peter Pace and former Clinton administration official Donna E. Shalala, hailing contributions that he said have helped transform the U.S. military, promote better care for wounded service members, advance human rights and improve public health.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/19/AR2008061902836.html?hpid=sec-nation

Bush Awards Peter Pace Presidential Medal Of Freedom, Makes No Mention Of Iraq War (ThinkProgress 6/19/08)
Today, President Bush held a White House ceremony for the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The honor is the nation's highest civil award, awarded to individuals who have contributed to: 1) the security or national interests of the United States, 2) world peace, or 3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/19/pace-medal-bush/

Foreclosure rescue faces veto by Bush (AP 6/20/08)
A broad bipartisan coalition supporting a massive foreclosure rescue beat back GOP efforts to gut it yesterday, defying a White House veto threat and quashing a bid to make it a victim of revelations about two senators' VIP mortgages.
http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/06/20/foreclosure_rescue_faces_veto_by_bush/

Rice: 'It's time for new blood' in the White House. (ThinkProgress 6/19/08)
Asked whether she is interested in being Vice President, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Fox & Friends this morning, "It's time for me to go back to Stanford. … It's time for me to do something else." She added, "You have to know when your time is up, and it's time for new blood."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/19/new-blood/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Surveillance Bill Offers Protection To Telecom Firms (Washington Post 6/20/08)
By Dan Eggen and Paul Kane; A01
House and Senate leaders agreed yesterday on surveillance legislation that could shield telecommunications companies from privacy lawsuits, handing President Bush one of the last major legislative victories he is likely to achieve.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/06/19/ST2008061903766.html

McClellan to Testify Before House in CIA Leak Investigation (AP 6/20/08)
Former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan will talk more about his book today, this time under oath before the House Judiciary Committee.
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,369466,00.html

Obama to Reject Public Funds for Election (Washington Post 6/20/08)
By Shailagh Murray and Perry Bacon Jr.; A01
Sen. Barack Obama reversed his pledge to seek public financing in the general election yesterday, a move that drew criticism from adversaries and allies alike but could provide him with a significant spending advantage over Republican rival John McCain.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/19/AR2008061900914.html?hpid=topnews

House Approves Veterans' Education Aid in a Deal on War Spending (NYT 6/20/08)
By CARL HULSE
The House voted on Thursday to offer what amounts to a free college education to the new generation of military veterans as part of a costly legislative package that finances the war in Iraq through the end of President Bush's tenure and into the early months of the next administration.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/20/washington/20spend.html?ref=education

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See also: http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11219.html

Mississippi River surges over more than 10 levees (LA Times 6/20/08)
By Richard Fausset
Flooding has receded in some areas, but the river continues to rise, swamping Missouri farmland downstream.
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-flood20-2008jun20,0,4949852.story

Ghosts in the GOP attack machine (Politico 6/20/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
Obama's claims aside, there are no serious conservative 527s in existence nor any immediate plans to create such a group.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11220.html

AP's Sidoti falsely asserted "the only outside groups running ads in earnest so far are those aligned with Obama" (Media Matters 6/19/08)
In an AP news analysis discussing Sen. Barack Obama's decision to opt out of public financing, Liz Sidoti claimed that "the only outside groups running ads in earnest so far are those aligned with Obama." However, independent group Freedom's Watch has put out ads attacking Obama over tax and health care issues, and the Vets for Freedom political action committee has run television ads attacking Obama over issues related to the Iraq war.
http://mediamatters.org/items/200806190013?f=h_latest

Defying U.S., EU scraps Cuba sanctions (Reuters 6/19/08)
By Ingrid Melander and David Brunnstrom
European Union states agreed on Thursday to scrap sanctions against Cuba in a move aimed at encouraging democratic reforms on the Communist island, officials said.
http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAL1618178720080620

Israelis 'rehearse Iran attack' (BBC 6/20/08)
Israel has carried out an exercise that appears to have been a rehearsal for an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, US officials have told the New York Times.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7465170.stm

POLLS

McCain And Obama Tied In Georgia (InsiderAdvantage 6/20/08)
A New InsiderAdvantage / PollPosition survey conducted June 18 of registered likely voters in the November presidential contest shows Sen. John McCain leading Sen. Barack Obama by a single point in Georgia, making the race in Georgia a statistical tie. ...
McCain: 44%
Obama: 43%
Barr: 6%
Undecided: 7%
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/20/mccain-and-obama-tied-in_n_108217.html

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410-967-7306 (cell)
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"John M Deutch" <jmd@mit.edu>
To:	"Brian Deese" <Brian_C_Deese@who.eop.gov>
Date:	6/6/2015 3:56:04 PM
Subject:	Be Careful
Attachments:	Introducing the Advanced Nuclear Industry_Third Way report May 2015.pdf

To Brian Deese,

I am informed that John Holdren is hosting a meeting on advanced nuclear technology in the WH on June 15. This meeting to hear from an industry group, "The Third Way" who are advocating an advanced nuclear technology and are seeking the DOE to fund an "advanced nuclear test center."

Here is what I told a friend (from the real world) about caution with this approach.

Best regard, John .

____

I believe this approach is deeply wrong. The greatest lesson from large scale new technology demonstration projects is to spend a lot of up front time analyzing the schedule, cost, and milestones of an integrated project development. In the case nuclear power history shows and common sense confirms that each technology option involves a project time line on the order of a decade, a cost on the order of $10 billion, and a very demanding up front regulatory process involving several years and a couple of billion dollars.

Clearly the private sector is not going to undertake such projects - especially given the low cost of natural gas. Equally clearly the federal government cannot afford to pay for even a small fraction of the interesting new reactor concepts that are around.

A nuclear innovation test center (at what cost) might cut the project development time and cost of each of the many competing fission/fusion alternatives. But, no estimate is offered of how much such a center might cost and how many projects would need to be pursued to justify it.

In sum, too little analysis of the prospects and costs of the advanced nuclear fusion alternatives and too little analysis of the leverage that might be realized from a advanced nuclear test center.

The federal resources available for energy RD&D are limited. Do you want to spend billions here or somewhere else. The U.S. certainly cannot afford to pursue "all the above."

John Deutch

****

John Deutch
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Cambridge MA 02139

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Fax: 617 258 5700

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From: "Clinton, Press Office \(Clinton\)" <Press_Office@clinton.senate.gov>
To:
Date: 12/2/2007 12:15:58 AM
Subject: Clips: Sun 12/2

Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Sunday, December 2nd, 2007

Front Pages

The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/pages/pageone/scan/index.html

Daily News: http://www.nydailynews.com/front/covers/

New York Post: http://www.nypost.com/frontback

Albany Times Union: http://www.timesunion.com/news/frontpage/

HRC Articles/Mentions

Strong Criticism Over Proposed Homeland Security Cuts *Newsday*
http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-nyterr1202b,0,5023644,print.story

NY Pols Assail Proposed Anti-Terror Cuts *AP*
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071202/ap_on_re_us/security_grants_13

Democrats Soften Tone At Minority Forum *DMR*
http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071202/NEWS09/712020347

Forum: Health Care, Immigration Are Top Issues *QC Times*
http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/12/02/news/state/doc4752228f1a7ee938505297.txt

Democrats Gear Up For Final Appeal To Undecided Iowans *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/01/AR2007120101749_pf.html

Though Caucuses Loom, Democrats Tone It Down *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/us/politics/02campaign.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Iowa Stormy, But Debates Relatively Calm *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-dems2dec02,1,3891071.story?coll=la-news-a_section

Democrats Fight Over Universal Health Care *AP*
http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/ny-uscamp025485146dec02,0,6558430,print.story?coll=ny-business-headlines

Clinton Tacks Right At Left-Leaning Forums *Politico*
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=97942AA4-3048-5C12-0045C29A8B8E4021

Hillary Clinton Throws Vice-Presidential Teaser At Bill Richardson *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/12/02/2007-12-02_hillary_clinton_throws_vicepresidential_.html?print=1&page=all

Campaign Soldiers On The 'Front Lines' *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/01/AR2007120101635_pf.html

Black Alabama Political Groups Split Presidential Endorsements *AP*
http://www.al.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/politics-0/1196545145238660.xml&storylist=alabamanews

Hostage Drama Not Prompting Big Changes *AP*
http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Hostages-Campaign-Security.html?pagewanted=print

Clinton Volunteer Recounts Close Call *AP*
http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Clinton-Office-Hostages.html?pagewanted=print

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Hillary Bomber Hooked On Drugs & Booze; Abused, Homeless, Tried Suicide *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/us_world/2007/12/01/2007-12-01_hillary_bomber_hooked_on_drugs__booze_ab.html?print=1&page=all

Inside Look At Hostage Drama *NY Post*
http://www.nypost.com/php/pfriendly/print.php?url=http://www.nypost.com/seven/12012007/news/nationalnews/inside_look_at_hostage_drama_642929.htm

Candidates Smother Iowans With Robocalls & Hard-Sell Campaigning *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2007/12/02/2007-12-02_candidates_smother_iowans_with_robocalls.html?print=1&page=all

Writers Strike Gives Hillary A Break On Jokes *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-ticket2dec02,1,3350729.story?coll=la-news-a_section

Obama Pulls Ahead For Democrats In Iowa Poll *DMR*
http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071202/NEWS09/312020006

Column: **Who's Afraid Of Barack Obama? By Frank Rich** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/opinion/02rich.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Column: **Fact And Fiction On The Campaign Trail By Clark Hoyt** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/opinion/02pubed.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Blog Post: **The 'Winners And Losers' Of A Hostage Crisis?** *Carpetbagger Report*
http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/13776.html

Blog Post: **Tragedy** *Primary Blue*
http://primaryblue.blogspot.com/2007/12/tragedy.html

Blog Post: **Campaign Journalists: We Love Hillary's Inauthenticity And Arrogance!** *No More Mister Nice Blog*
http://nomoremister.blogspot.com/2007/12/campaign-journalists-we-love-hillarys.html

Blog Post: **Wingnuts Freak Over A Presidential Clinton** *Taylor Marsh*
http://www.taylormarsh.com/archives_view.php?id=26634

Blog Post: **Trying To Figure Out Iowa** *Open Left*
http://openleft.com/showDiary.do;jsessionid=19888F7543F30E3C81C7F9B02072CCE0?diaryId=2592

2008

DNC Punishes Michigan For Early Primary Date *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/01/AR2007120100722_pf.html

The Oprah Party Wants You *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/fashion/02oprah.html?pagewanted=print

Feminist Pitch By A Democrat Named Obama *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/us/politics/02women.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Giuliani Hits Democrats On Taxes *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/01/AR2007120101615_pf.html

Romney's Words Testify To Threat From Huckabee *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/us/politics/02campaign_early.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Huckabee's Stature Rises, Mobilizing Tax Critics *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/us/politics/02huckabee.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Huckabee: 'A Different Kind Of Jesus Juice' *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-na-huckabee2dec02,1,6974727.story?coll=la-headlines-frontpage

Thompson Touts Bedrock Conservatism In Southland Visit *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-me-thompson2dec02,1,1537625.story?coll=la-news-a_section

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The Man Who Helped Start Huckabee's Roll *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/01/AR2007120101569_pf.html

Column: **O Brother, Where Art Thou? By Maureen Dowd** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/opinion/02dowd.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

NYT Editorial: **Campaign For Sale**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/opinion/02sun1.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Column: **Principles Amid The GOP Pack By David S. Broder** *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113001788_pf.html

New York

Mayor Bloomberg, Chuck Schumer Slam Plans To Cut Anti-Terrorism Funds *NY Daily News*
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/12/02/2007-12-02_mayor_bloomberg_chuck_schumer_slam_plans-3.html?print=1&page=all

Immigrants In New York Better Off, Study Finds *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/nyregion/02immigration.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

National

Immigration Contractor Trims Wages *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/us/02immig.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Top Ranks Of Women On Wall Street Are Shrinking *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/01/business/01wall.html?pagewanted=print

Figures On H.I.V. Rate Expected To Rise *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/health/02aids.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Effort To Limit Junk Food In Schools Faces Hurdles *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/us/02school.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Yucca Mt. Neighbors Speak Out From Lone Pine *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-yucca2dec02,1,276262.story?coll=la-news-a_section

LAT Editorial: **Closing The Achievement Gap**
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-ed-gap2dec02,1,3969297.story?coll=la-news-comment

NYT Editorial: **Sex, Science And Savings**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/opinion/02sun3.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Political/Administration/Capitol Hill/Media

A Daunting 3 Weeks Ahead For Congress *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/01/AR2007120101606_pf.html

Business Lobby Presses Agenda Before '08 Vote *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/washington/02lobby.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Iraq/Afghanistan

Security Crews Ponder Future In Iraq *LAT*
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-fg-contractors2dec02,1,6782832.story?coll=la-news-a_section

Nonstop Theft And Bribery Are Staggering Iraq *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/world/middleeast/02baghdad.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

International

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Iranian Pushes Nuclear Talks Back To Square 1 *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/world/middleeast/02iran.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

WP Editorial: **Saudi Whiplash**
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/01/AR2007120101379_pf.html

Op-ed: **Middle East Peace Through Anxiety By Michael B. Oren** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/opinion/02oren.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

Column: **The Road From Annapolis By David Ignatius** *WP*
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/30/AR2007113001786_pf.html

Op-ed: **Pakistan's Slow-Motion Emergency By Ali Sethi** *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/02/opinion/02sethi.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

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From: "Hudson Institute" <info@hudson.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/15/2014 12:11:04 PM
Subject: News from Hudson: ISIS & Iraq, Iran, US-Japan Defense Relations, Net Neutrality and more

August 15, 2014

Hudson Institute



Which Poses the Bigger Threat to U.S. National Security—Iran or Non-State Sunni Extremism?

Leading experts from Hudson Institute, the Brookings Institution, and the Center for American Progress weigh in.

With the belief that Iran's nuclear weapons program constituted the greatest threat to U.S. interests in the Middle East, Barack Obama entered the White House hoping to achieve a historic reconciliation with the Islamic Republic. However, the administration's current policies throughout the Middle East suggest that the White House no longer sees Iran as the key problem. Rather, it views the clerical regime as a potential partner, particularly when it comes to combating Sunni extremists like al Qaeda and ISIS. [Pictured: Lee Smith, Michael Doran, Hillel Fradkin, and Brian Katulis at Hudson Institute, August 14, 2014.]
Watch Video

Iraq's Second Sunni Insurgency

Kirk H. Sowell, Current Trends

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Sunni Iraqi demonstrators hold an anti-government protest in Ramadi, March 15, 2013, AFP/Getty Images

Following the defeat of the first insurgency in 2007-08, it took the remnants of that conflict years to recompose themselves. Then it also took a period of provocation on behalf of those groups determined to start a new war. But that alone was not enough; it took years of abuses and a handful of egregiously bad decisions at the highest political levels in Baghdad to give the insurgency the boost it needed to ensure it had take-off speed. Yet now, combined with a rejuvenated jihadist movement in the form of the ISIS, safe in its base in eastern Syria, it has "liberated" much of the country and brought the wages of years of bad governance to Baghdad.

Read More

Enter the Asian Stealth Fighters

Arthur Herman, Wall Street Journal



F-22A Raptors are lined up at the Kadena U.S. Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, February 18, 2007, AFP/Getty

The U.S. needs to find partners among its allies to develop and extend the technologies it will need to maintain its military edge in the air—especially if the Chinese and Russian plane designers are really catching up. Japan is an obvious choice for that partner. Its future fighters may not turn up on American radar screens—but its aerospace industry needs to be there, and soon.

Read More

Economic Perspectives on an Open Internet

Harold Furchtgott-Roth testifies before the Consumer Advisory Committee of the Federal Communications Commission

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Harold Furchtgott-Roth testifies on the role of the FCC and net neutrality, July 25, 2014

It is painful for me to read the Telecommunications Act of 1996 today.... The pain is not that the words are dated, even archaic. Some are; but most are not. The pain is more that vast sections of the Act have been hollowed out of any meaning by years of Commission rules and practice that have little if any foundation in statute. It is as if the decades of Congressional work that went into the passage of the Act were for naught because the FCC largely ignores the language anyway.

Read More

Watch Video (remarks begin at 101:04)

Select Media Mentions

Nina Shea quoted in the *National Review* and *Aleteia*

Center for Global Prosperity report cited in "The Great Security Shift" by Gordon Adams, *Foreign Policy Magazine*

Paul Marshall quoted in *ABC (Australia)* and *WND*

Doug Feith quoted in "Why Barack Obama Can't Get Out of Iraq" by Edward-Isaac Dovere, *Politico*

Charles Fairbanks cited in "With the World Focused on Middle East, Will Putin Invade Ukraine?" by Bill Powell, *Newsweek*

Commentary & Analysis

What Hamas Leaders Think
Douglas J. Feith and Trevor Parkes, National Review

Putin's Propaganda Highlights Need for Public Diplomacy
Martha Bayles, Boston Globe

China is Complicit in North Korea's Human Rights Abuses
Melanie Kirkpatrick and Victor Cha, Foreign Policy Magazine

Russia Needs to Learn the Value of Human Life
David Satter, American Interest

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Doing and Talking: Assad's Rebirth and Triumph
Hillel Fradkin and Lewis Libby, Hudson.org

The Underground War on Israel
Lee Smith, Weekly Standard

China Needs a New Way to Manufacture Export Growth
John Lee, Business Spectator

Renewable Fuel Standards Are Driven By Ideology and Rent-Seeking, Not Science
Lee Lane, Daily Caller

ISIS is on the Verge of Expelling Northern Iraq's Religious Minorities
Nina Shea, National Review Online

Featured Media



John Lee discusses "Corporate Leninism" and China's political economy, *Bloomberg* (8/8/14)



John Walters responds to the *New York Times* editorial on marijuana legalization, *Fox News* (7/27/14)



Arthur Herman on the strategic lessons today's leaders should take away from World War I on the 100th anniversary of the conflict, *Wall Street Journal Live* (8/1/14)



"The Future of Surface Warfare Lethality," Hudson panel held on Capitol Hill featuring Seth Cropsey and Bryan McGrath (7/25/14)

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Ann Marlowe discusses the escalating civil strife in Libya on *The John Batchelor Show* (7/29/14)

Upcoming Events

26 Aug

What About Jordan: Does Regional Crisis Threaten the Security of a Longstanding American Ally?

Tuesday, August 26th, 2014, Hudson Institute

Hudson Institute
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Washington, DC 20005

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/2/2015 4:28:59 AM
Subject:	June 2 Morning Cable News Roundup
Attachments:	6.2.15 Morning Cable News.docx

Document attached, 2016 highlights below:

Fox News' *Fox and Friends:* Only mentioned HRC twice from 7-8 AM this morning. The early segment focused on Giuliani and the anchors' disdain for POTUS's recent comments that he had restored America's image around the world, and the lack of aggressive policing in NYC. The first mention of HRC was that she had low turn-out at a fundraising event and was forced to invite more people to attend than she had originally intended. This was followed by more headlines, and a discussion about paid paternity leave. Neil Cavuto reported from Orlando on Gov. Rick Scott's economic growth forum, and what he expects both the Democratic and Republican positions will be about the state of the economy, and how robust it will continue to be, and mentioned HRC by name. Cavuto's comments were somewhat vague, but his reporting sounded fairly even-handed overall. The hour ended with headlines, and other pieces not relevant to HRC or politics generally.

CNN's *New Day:* HRC's poll numbers have been pushing towards the wrong direction. Numbers have been down significantly from March. There is a drop in favorable opinion of Hillary Clinton since June 2014. If 4 in 10 view her as trustworthy, could she be hurt? Yes, in the general election. Money must be spent to bring her credibility and trustworthiness back up after the email server controversy. Bernie Sanders pulling in at 15%. Bernie Sanders claims that he wants debates during the summer. He wants to get on people's radar.

MSNBC's *Morning Joe:* HRC's poll numbers have been plummeting since March. Her favorability rating has gone down 7% and honest and trustworthy have dropped to 8%. The polls show HRC is running about even with Paul, Rubio, Walker in the head to head match ups. HRC's problems are much more direct. She needs to figure out how she can answer questions in the press about the server, the uranium deals, India, etc. Argued she has said things like "flat broke" and people know that's not the case. She has had some major flubs that have done great damage to her brand. People say the main message of her campaign is income stagnation, bringing the middle class back, and she can't get that message out when all of the questions are about the foundation or emails. Mike Huckabee also gave an interview.

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From: "Hannah Hendler" <hhendler@agendaproject.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/21/2014 3:41:45 AM
Subject: Practical Progress: Justice For Michael Brown ... Granny Goes Guerrilla ...

PRACTICAL PROGRESS: The Agenda Project Action Fund's actually brief briefing on the Most Important News from the Progressive Movement.

JUSTICE FOR MICHAEL BROWN -- Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) President Richard Cohen summed up the situation in Ferguson, Missouri in the wake of the shooting of Michael Brown 11 days ago: "It's tragic. It's senseless. It's destructive. How many more innocents must die?" ... ACT: SIGN CREDO Action's petition to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster, and Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson demanding an extensive investigation HERE ... SIGN *The Nation's* petition to end the militarization of the police HERE ... DONATE to the official Michael Brown Memorial Fund HERE ... DONATE to the bail and legal fund for those arrested during Ferguson anti-police demonstrations HERE ... PURCHASE a "Don't Shoot" t-shirt--with 100% of the proceeds going to Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment--HERE ...

FERGUSON MUST READS: "One Nation Under SWAT: How America's Police Became an Occupying Force" at *Salon*, "Bringing Policy Secrecy To Light in Ferguson " from Sunlight Foundation, and "The Death of Michael Brown" over at *The Nation*.

GRANNY GOES GUERRILLA -- The Agenda Project Action Fund is happy to announce the return of GRANNY to rally against the release of Rep. Paul Ryan's new book, *The Way Forward*. Protesters will meet Rep. Ryan at every stop on his book tour , armed with copies of the REAL "Way Forward." Granny TELLS PP: "Ryan's Way Forward is nothing more than a quick shove and a long fall ... I have one message for Paul Ryan: you're not pushing me around anymore!" DOWNLOAD the cover HERE and READ "Paul Ryan's Newest Deceit: Why the Hot New Book Has the Same Old Shtick."

CREW RECRUITS BROCK AS NEW CHAIR -- Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) named Media Matters for America Founder and progressive activist David Brock as its new Chairman of the Board of Directors. Longtime strategic advisor David Mercer and real estate investor and philanthropist Wayne Jordan will also serve as Directors.

David Mercer TELLS PP: "At a time when public opinion of Congress is at or near all-time lows, I welcome the opportunity to join a talented team with an exceptional track record of seeking to restore the public's trust in our government and Washington, D.C. Both CREW and David Brock are standouts in the accountability business, and together, new resources, creativity and commitment will be brought to bear on the vital work of keeping government transparent and responsive to the American people it serves."

SPEAK UP TO SAVE THE INTERNET -- With over one million submissions and counting , the FCC has extended the deadline for comments on net neutrality to September 15th. SUBMIT your comments HERE and READ "The FCC's Net Neutrality Proposal Explained " over at *The Nation*.

BOOK RAFFLE: AGAINST AUSTERITY -- Enter for a chance to win a copy of Richard Seymour's book *Against Austerity: How We Can Fix the Crisis They Made* . The book examines the austerity fervor plaguing political discourse worldwide and supplies strategies for preventing future crises. The WINNER will be REVEALED in PP on September 11! E-MAIL PP Editor Hannah Hendler at hhendler@agendaproject.org with the subject line "AGAINST AUSTERITY submission."

BUSINESSES BACKING $10.10 -- Business for a Fair Minimum Wage and Main Street Alliance launched a national campaign that provides businesses with free decals and posters to show their support for a federal minimum wage of at least $10.10. Business for a Fair Minimum Wage CEO Holly Sklar: "Biz owners are much less partisan than Congress when it comes to a fair minimum wage, and this decal is a great way the business community can show support for raising the wage." ORDER a free decal or poster HERE .

THE TOLL OF COAL -- The Center for American Progress (CAP) released a new analysis revealing that proposed coal-export projects in the Powder River Basin will result in as much carbon pollution as 35 million new cars. READ more HERE .

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PP MUST READ: "Unaccompanied Children at Our Border: Why They Are Coming, What Happens Once They're Here and How to Help" over at American Constitution Society's blog.

A USER'S GUIDE TO ECONOMICS -- The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) is hosting a discussion and book signing with economist and CEPR Associate Ha-Joon Chang about his new book, *Economics: The User's Guide.* The event will take place at Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C. on September 18th. FIND out more HERE .

FROM THE WONK WIRE ...

... A FAIRER FLORIDA: FairVote Executive Director and Top Wonk Rob Richie proposes two new solutions for Florida's gerrymandering woes.

... DISEASED DEMOCRACY: Former Secretary of Labor and Top Wonk Robert Reich argues that our democracy is infected by the power of monied interests and urges Americans to take power back with voices and votes.

... SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY: CEPR Director of Domestic Policy and Top Wonk Nicole Woo warns that in 20 years social security will likely be able to pay only three-quarters of promised benefits to retirees unless the wealthiest start paying the same payroll tax rate as the rest of us.

Find out more at www.TopWonks.org .

... ON OUR AGENDA ... PP is back with WEEKLY ISSUES! ...

Visit our website at www.PracticalProgress.org and our twitter @PractProgress . Like what you see? JOIN the movement by sending tips, news, and reactions to Hannah Hendler at hhendler@agendaproject.org .

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/12/2015 12:59:36 AM
Subject: News Update - November 12, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, November 12

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **WH Official: U.S. Won't Recognize Israeli Sovereignty in Golan**
- **Two-state solution 'not impossible dream,' Kerry says at UN**
- **Netanyahu Backpedals on Possibility of Unilateral Pullout**
- **Report: Air Force Struck Near Damascus Airport**
- **Hertzog Withholds Judgment on Netanyahu's U.S. Visit**
- **London Mayor's WB Meetings Cancelled Over BDS Comments**
- **Bloody October in Israel: 11 Killed in 609 Attacks**
- **Finance Committee won't Vote on State Budget**

Commentary:

- **Washington Post: "In Meeting with Netanyahu, Obama has Foreign and Domestic Concerns"**
  - By Steven Mufson, covers the White House for the Washington Post
- **Ha'aretz: "King Bibi Rules, but He's Weaker Than You Think"**
  - By Asher Schechter, Ha'aretz contributor

Ha'aretz

WH: U.S. Won't Recognize IL Sovereignty in Golan

Washington rejects Prime Minister Netanyahu's suggestion to U.S. President Obama at the White House on Monday to discuss the possibility of U.S. recognition of Israeli rule over the Golan Heights, a senior White House official said. In making the suggestion, Netanyahu pointed to Syria's growing destabilization from civil war. But the White House official said the U.S. position, which objects to Israel annexing the Golan Heights, remains unchanged, adding that Netanyahu's proposal was unjustified and could even harm U.S.-backed Syrian opposition forces. The administration official said Netanyahu raised the issue of the Golan Heights' status as part of a wider discussion with Obama about Israel's interests in Syria and his fears of growing Iranian control in the country.

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Times of Israel

Kerry: Two-state solution 'not impossible dream

John Kerry told an Israeli gathering at the United Nations on Wednesday that a two-state solution in the Middle East was "not an impossible dream" but would require courage. Kerry traveled to UN headquarters in New York to attend a commemoration of the 1975 speech delivered by Israeli ambassador Chaim Herzog denouncing a UN resolution that declared Zionism a form of racism. "The Zionist dream embraces the concept of Israel as a Jewish democracy, a beacon of light to all nations," Kerry told the event. "That dream can only be upheld by two states living side by side in security. "We all know from years of efforts: this is not an impossible dream. It is achievable."

Times of Israel

Netanyahu Backpedals on Possibility of WB Pullout

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday walked backed a comment he made a day earlier suggesting that an Israeli unilateral pullout from the West Bank was possible under the right security conditions. "The prime minister didn't speak of a unilateral withdrawal but of the possibility of unilateral steps, specifically those that would strengthen Israel's security and diplomatic interests in the face of terror," Netanyahu's Likud party said in a Hebrew-language statement to the press, some 12 hours after Netanyahu made his remarks.

Ynet News

Report: Air Force Struck Near Damascus Airport

Israel's air force conducted strikes in the vicinity of the Damascus airport, claimed a number of media outlets linked to Syrian opposition groups on Wednesday. The source of the reports was unknown and they were not confirmed by any official bodies in Syria or Israel. The reports described pre-dawn loud explosions at the airport and rising pillars of smoke, while electricity went out completely. It was further reported that flights were temporarily halted for no known reason. The major Arab-language media outlets had not reported the purported incident as of publication. Neither had any official media outlets belonging to the Assad regime.

New York Times

Hertzog Withholds Judgment on PM's U.S. Visit

Isaac Herzog, head of the political opposition in Israel, reserved judgment on Wednesday about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit this week to Washington, saying the outcome was unclear despite what appeared to be an improved atmosphere created by the trip. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," Mr. Herzog, leader of the Labor Party, told reporters at a meeting in New York organized by the Israel Policy Forum, a group that advocates a diplomatic solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Mr. Herzog, whose own visit to the United States partly overlapped with Mr. Netanyahu's, said the success of the prime minister's meeting with President Obama and other administration officials would be determined partly by improvements in American military assistance to Israel and whether there was "any commitment on behalf of the prime minister to make a change on the peace front, on the Palestinian front, and this, I don't know."

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Ha'aretz

London Mayor's WB Meetings Cancelled

Palestinians canceled a number of appointments with London Mayor Boris Johnson in protest over pro-Israel marks he has made during his visit to Israel, according to the British press. Social media has picked up and spread Johnson's verbal attacks on the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, leading to security concerns, the Guardian reported. Johnson called the movement "completely crazy." "Why would you – of all the countries in the region – why would you boycott the one which is actually a functioning democracy and a pluralist, open society and all the rest of it?" the mayor, on a three-day trade mission to Israel and the Palestinian territories, said to reporters during his visit, the alphr website reported. "I think the movement for a boycott is not very well supported. A few lefty academics probably."

Ynet News

Bloody October in Israel: 11 Killed in 609 Attacks

Eleven people were killed and 80 wounded during a bloody month that also saw 609 attacks carried out, according to data on the wave of terror published by the Shin Bet on Wednesday. According to the statistics, the deadly terror attacks took place in Jerusalem, the West Bank and areas inside the Green Line. Among the dead were 10 Israelis and one foreign citizen. Among the wounded, 26 were Israelis (18 civilians and 18 members of security forces) who were moderately injured or worse. The statistics also showed that four Israelis were killed in shooting attacks, five in shooting and stabbing attacks in Jerusalem and one in a vehicular attack.

Channel 2 News

Finance Committee won't Vote on State Budget

There is a crisis in the coalition. Finance Committee Chairman Moshe Gafni adjourned Wednesday the meeting where there was supposed to be a vote approving the country's budget due to divisions among the coalition members. MK Gafni adjourned the meeting the same hour that it began. This decision comes after a series of postponements for the date where the voting would be held. This morning, Gafni announced that the voting would be held despite disagreements on the defense budget the voting time is unclear at the moment.

Washington Post – November 12, 2015

In Meeting with Netanyahu, Obama has Foreign and Domestic Concerns

By Steven Mufson

President Obama met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week with an eye on two fronts: the chaotic Middle East and the domestic political campaign, where Democrats are eager to make sure that support for Israel does not become a partisan issue in 2016.

Both categories of concern point toward a more pragmatic and realistic approach to U.S.-Israel relations for Obama that could reassure a key ally in an unstable region and soothe uneasy Democrats who backed the Iran nuclear deal. The new calibration would deprive Republicans who opposed the deal of political fodder they can use against Democrats.

"Most Democratic members of Congress are and will be relieved if tension between the president and prime minister is relaxed," said Robert Wexler, a former Democratic congressman from Florida who is now president of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace. "There is no Democratic member of Congress who benefits from tension in the American-Israeli relationship."

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Having won a victory with the deal limiting Iran's nuclear program — which Obama regards as a high point of his diplomatic record — the president can now shift the conversation away from Netanyahu's opposition to the deal and focus on enforcement of the accord. The two leaders vowed to hold Iran's feet to the fire, and Netanyahu refrained from denigrating the accord.

But with the region in disarray, Obama could also genuinely say he was receptive to Israel's request for more military aid. A detailed assessment of Israel's needs will be made — and completed in the midst of the campaign season.
And while Obama said he and Netanyahu explored what concrete steps Israel might be willing to take to ease tensions with the Palestinians, the president did so with limited expectations, thus bringing hope in line with reality.

"If you go to [diplomatic] war with the Israelis for no good reason when you know you can't achieve a breakthrough on a two-state solution, you risk giving Republicans enormous leverage in the election and put your former secretary of state in an awkward position of walking away from you," said Aaron Miller, vice president at the Wilson Center.

That former secretary of state — presidential hopeful Hillary Rodham Clinton — perhaps has more riding on the condition of the U.S.-Israel relationship than any other Democrat or Republican. Clinton's husband remains a popular figure in Israel, and she has, in general, taken a tough stance in defense of Israel's security. Still, congressional Democrats are concerned.

A Pew Research Center poll in March found that more Americans sympathize with Israel than with the Palestinians in their dispute; 65 percent sympathized with Israel and 46 percent with the Palestinians. Support for Israel was overwhelming among white evangelicals, 87 percent of whom said they sympathized with Israel.

Asked about their view of Netanyahu, Republicans said "favorable" by a margin of 47 percent to 16 percent; Democrats said "unfavorable" by 39 percent to 19 percent. Independents were almost evenly split, with 31 percent favorable and 28 unfavorable.

Senior administration officials said that U.S. politics were not the reason for tempered expectations during the Obama-Netanyahu meeting this week. One administration official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preserve relationships, said, "I don't think it's politics driving this. It's an assessment of where things are headed."

The official said, "Of course, there is another actor in all this: the Palestinians. Ultimately, this is not a conversation between us and the Israelis."But he added of Israel that "if they don't do something, the trends are not good ones. We don't want to see those occurring."

When it comes to fending off U.S. pressure to take steps in the West Bank to show continued support for a two-state solution, "clearly time is an ally for Bibi and an adversary for Obama," said Miller, who was involved in Arab-Israeli negotiations when he was a State Department official. "That has given rise to a certain sense of resignation in the administration." But he added that Secretary of State John F. Kerry was eager to make progress, hopeful that Israel will be open to ideas for progress. If the Israeli government considers "anything more than what Palestinians regard as gilding the cage, then Kerry will try to build on that to do whatever he can," Miller said.

Netanyahu met Kerry on Wednesday, and the State Department later issued a statement saying the two "had a constructive meeting" and "discussed concrete ideas for stopping the violence, improving conditions on the ground in the West

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Bank and Gaza, and moving the diplomatic process forward." What those ideas were remained unclear.

Even though Netanyahu billed his visit to Washington as a chance to mend fences, many analysts believe he failed to address fundamental issues straining the relationship.

At the Center for American Progress, David Makovsky, a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Politics, asked the Israeli leader what his "Plan B" was to preserve Israel as a majority Jewish, democratic state if Palestinian and Israeli leaders cannot agree on restarting peace talks. Netanyahu sidestepped the question; instead, he said that "unilateralism works less well than a negotiated solution." He said that leaving Gaza had only turned it into a "poison dagger" aimed at Israel, and he said Israel must be prepared for a long period of tension.

"I think that Prime Minister Netanyahu achieved one objective, which was to stop the bleeding in the relationship" with the United States, Wexler said. But he added that "the underlying tension and the primary question remain: Will Israel pursue policies that ensure that it remains a majority Jewish and democratic Zionist nation? That question, unfortunately, still remains unanswered. And so long as that question remains outstanding, there will be tension in the American-Israeli relationship no matter who the president is."

Steven Mufson covers the White House. Since joining The Post, he has covered economics, China, foreign policy and energy.

Ha'aretz– November 12, 2015

King Bibi Rules, but He's Weaker Than You Think

By Asher Schechter

It appears Benjamin Netanyahu and Barack Obama had a pretty good meeting in the White House this week.

Nothing meaningful was said (as expected), but the two leaders got to check their respective boxes. Netanyahu gave lip service to the idea of a two-state solution (an idea even the administration is reportedly despairing of). Netanyahu (probably) got the increase in military aid he was shooting for. Obama bought himself, and whoever ends up winning the Democratic presidential nomination, some peace and quiet by playing nice with Netanyahu.

In the videos and photos released from the meeting and its aftermath, Netanyahu appeared pleased, relaxed.

And really, why should Netanyahu be anything but pleased? His first meeting with Obama post-Iran-deal-squabble found Netanyahu more confident in his position than he has been in years, possibly ever. Since his decisive election victory in March Netanyahu has managed to solidify his rule, expand his already far-reaching influence on Israeli media, and quash all possible successors so thoroughly that even after his security and economic agendas blew up in his face in recent months, no credible opponent has sprung up.

True, Netanyahu's government hinges on a narrow majority, but the sort of internal rebellions that crippled his last government are far less likely. That's because Netanyahu himself now accounts for 25% of his own government. Netanyahu is Israel's prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, minister of economics, minister of regional cooperation and development, minister of communications, and chairman of Israel's security cabinet. (Until recently he was also the minister of health.)

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That list of titles may sound like the character bio of a new king on HBO's Game of Thrones, but it's really just the list of the ministries occupied by one man, Netanyahu. The nickname "King Bibi" coined by Time in 2012, has never felt more accurate. In fact, Netanyahu's dominance of Israel seems so unshakable these days, that he might as well be upgraded to Emperor.

But Netanyahu's power can be misleading. He may lord over Israel, but his power is in fact predicated on him not doing much of anything. Sometimes even kings have to answer to somebody - and King Bibi answers to the status quo.
Hitler's mentor?

In recent years, as Israelis embraced the tenets of Netanyahu's worldview - his belief that Israel is locked in a mythical struggle that can never end, that ipso facto a "solution", peaceful or otherwise, is impossible – they also came to the conclusion that the strained, frenzied status quo is the best they can hope for. Therefore, they figure, it must be protected at all cost.

Netanyahu is the perfect person to defend it: after all, he is the one politician who has never claimed there is anything beyond the status quo.
And so Israel became, in effect, Bibi Nation, a country shaped by the pessimism of its leader. As this pessimism entrenched itself, Netanyahu's clout grew more and more powerful. Recently, he seems to have begun adopting the mannerisms of an imperial ruler. Or, at least, an Eastern European one.

For instance, he now allows himself to say things no one else would dare say. Any other prime minister would have likely been crucified for saying that Hitler needed the guidance of a Palestinian cleric to kill Jews, or be branded a nebbish defeatist for uttering something as utterly hopeless as Netanyahu's recent claim that "Israel will always live by the sword".

Also, Netanyahu (whose numerous expenditure scandals and infamous penchant for hedonism has been long parodied by Israel's satirists, bought himself a new plane. And a castle. Israel's security cabinet has recently approved the purchase of a new jet for the prime minister (and the president), along with a plan to build a new office and residence for the prime minister in Jerusalem. The cost: 1 billion shekels ($250 million).

He also has very little patience these days for rules or protocols. Netanyahu has steamrolled his way into approving the government's patently bad deal with Israel's natural gas monopoly in a manner so brutal it makes his crusade against the Iran deal shenanigans look like a trip to the grocery store.

Then there are the fawning public tributes. For example, this frighteningly Ceausescu-esque birthday video made for Sara Netanyahu by Eastern European orphans. Or this Gaddafi-esque birthday video made for Benjamin Netanyahu, starring some of Israel's top celebs and public figures.

But there's a condition to Netanyahu's great power, and it is that when it comes to the Palestinian issue, he must rule from a gilded cage of inaction. Bibism, the worldview he instilled into the people of Israel, is by now bigger than him personally. Israelis may idolize Bibi, but they worship at the church of the status quo.

The status-quo zealot?

Outside observers may wonder why Netanyahu doesn't use his immense power to pursue radical policies. Despite a seemingly clear mandate to pursue his policies, Netanyahu has in fact done very little since entering his new term, or indeed his first one.

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Even with the West Bank on the verge of a popular uprising, Netanyahu has remained quite passive. He has avoided drastic measures on Temple Mount, in the settlements or in regards to the Palestinians.

In fact, contrary to his image as a right-wing zealot, Netanyahu has always chosen the status quo over his stated ideology. Unlike Israeli leaders such as Arik Sharon or Yitzhak Rabin, Netanyahu has never revealed any game-changing initiative. He has always preferred occasional short Gaza skirmishes to comprehensive plans.

Just look at his recent behavior: in March Netanyahu renounced his commitment to the two-state solution. This week he told Obama he "has not given up on a two-state solution". (He has zigzagged on this many times over the years).

Acting ideologically has never rewarded Netanyahu. It took him years to reclaim the popularity he lost following the drastic budget cuts he made as finance minister in Ariel Sharon's second government. During his first term as prime minister, he opened up the Western Wall Tunnel, sparking massive riots that haunted him years later. His actions on the gas issue, the only issue he acted on during his current term, led to the biggest anti-government protests in years.

Netanyahu has learned a long time ago that the key to survival in Israeli politics is to not implement your ideology - or anyone else's, for that matter. This is why he is Israel's most stable leader, because he has long figured out the secret key to Israelis' psyche: when push comes to shove, Israelis will always prefer the reality they know, no matter how dim, over a change that might turn out to be hopeful. Israelis in general distrust hopeful changes. All they want is to continue the lives they know undisturbed.

Netanyahu's paradox is that he is Israel's most powerful leader, and also its weakest. His power is protected by the implicit promise that he will change nothing. He may be the closest thing Israel has to an emperor, but he is a rather powerless one, in the end. He may be adorned with spoils and kinglike adoration, but in fact, he is simply the steward of the status quo. A "king" only by nickname. More Elizabeth II than Louis XIV.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/19/2016 6:08:13 PM
Subject: New News! (2/19/2016)



News as of February 19, 2016

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

IN MEMORIAM: Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia
DoJ files motion to compel Apple to comply with FBI order
SC Gov. Nikki Haley endorses Rubio
Pope calls Trump 'not Christian' on immigration
Neil Kashkari, Fed President of Minneapolis, calls for policymakers to break up big banks
Iran does not commit to oil output freeze
At least 28 people killed and dozens wounded in Ankara, Turkey
US airstrikes against ISIS kill more than 40
US expresses concern over Chinese militarization of the South China Sea

Polls

The GOP South Carolina primary is tomorrow! Trump leads there by only 5 points, down from 16 since mid-January. Trump 28%, Cruz 23%, Rubio 15%, Bush 13%, Kasich 9%, Carson 9%. *NBC News*

Trump's national support falls 7% since mid-January: Cruz leads Trump 28-26. Rubio 17%, Kasich 11%, Carson 10%, Bush 4%. [WSJ/NBC News poll] *WSJ*

Sanders passes Clinton nationally for the 1st time in the 2016 race: A Fox News poll shows Sanders with 47% of support to Clinton's 44%. That's a gain of 10% for Sanders since January. *Fox News*

Clinton leads Sanders by 59-40 among likely South Carolina Democratic voters: *CBS News* Clinton grabs 65% of SC's black Democratic voters; 28% for Sanders. Clinton leads Sanders among black millennials by 64-25, suggesting that Sanders may have yet to translate the success he's had among young white voters to young nonwhites. *CNN*

Americans split 43% to 42% over whether Senate should consider Obama's choice to fill court vacancy: "The survey found voters were split deeply along party lines." Brent Kendall, *WSJ*

Domestic Affairs

Scalia changed how Americans think about original intent: "Liberals and conservatives now play by Scalia's rules." Garrett Epps, *The Atlantic*

Obama intends to nominate Scalia replacement: "I plan to fulfill my constitutional responsibilities to nominate a successor...And there will be plenty of time for me to do so and for the Senate to fulfill its responsibility to give that person a fair hearing and a timely vote." Nolan D. McCaskill, *Politico*

Democrats shouldn't rob voters of chance to replace Scalia: "The American people have a particular opportunity now to make their voice heard in the selection of Scalia's successor as they...select their next president — as they decide who they trust to both lead the country and nominate the next Supreme Court justice." Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senator Chuck Grassley, Op-Ed, *Wash Post*

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SCOTUS nominees should prepare for a long process: The short list includes Sri Srinivasan, Paul Watford, Patricia Ann Millett, Merrick Garland, and Loretta Lynch, with Srinivasan as the most likely candidate. However, these nominees could become part of a process that may take over a year if the Senate blocks any Obama nominations. Josh Gerstein, *Politico*

Apple asked to help FBI decrypt phone used by San Bernardino attacker: The request that was rejected out of concerns for protecting iPhone owners' privacy. Eric Lichtblau, *NY Times* Apple's Tim Cook argues that such a move would undermine encryption by creating a backdoor that could be used in future cases. "The implications of the government's demands are chilling." *Read his statement.* Senator Richard Burr- "Apple should not be above the law": The Senator argues that the company must comply with the investigation's demands. Sen. Richard Burr, Op-Ed, *USA Today*

2016 Campaign

Pope calls Trump 'not Christian' on immigration: Pope Francis branded Donald Trump 'not Christian' based on his position on immigrant to which he responded that it was 'disgraceful' for the pope to question his faith. Francis Rocca, *WSJ*

The key to beating Trump in SC- Narrow from 6 candidates to 3: "Consider that the bottom 3 (Kasich, Bush and Carson) hold more than 24% of the vote. Add that to the current support for Cruz (currently at about 18%) or Rubio (at about 16%) and you have a new front-runner." Jennifer Rubin, *Wash Post*

Saturday's final GOP debate was the rowdiest to date: "[There were] intense verbal firefights erupting between Donald Trump and Jeb Bush in particular — though Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio got in on the action too." Niall Stanage, *The Hill*

SC Gov. Nikki Haley endorses Rubio: This brings together 2 of the youngest Republican rising stars. Jeremy Peters and Jonathan Martin, *NY Times*

South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn endorses Clinton: *CNN* Rev. Al Sharpton not ready to endorse anyone yet. Azi Paybarah, *Politico*

The 1 issue where Sanders is right: "[Sanders] believes that we have a two-tiered society that increasingly dooms millions of our fellow citizens to lives of poverty and hopelessness. He thinks many corporations seek and benefit from corporate welfare while ordinary citizens are denied opportunities...I agree with him." Charles Koch, Op-Ed, *Wash Post*

Millennial wave unsettles presidential race: For the first time, millennials will match baby boomers as a share of the electorate. Janet Hook, *WSJ*

The economy plays an important role in the election, but not clear which party has the advantage: "The jobs picture looks good for Dems but growth is what really counts." Nick Timiraos, *WSJ*

Bloomberg presidential run is hardly likely to end in victory: A USA Today/Suffolk University poll with a hypothetical election of Trump, Sanders, and Bloomberg shows that Bloomberg would only get 16% of votes. Rick Hampson, *USA Today*

Economy

Fed President of Minneapolis, Neil Kashkari, calls for policymakers to consider breaking up big banks to prevent future government bailouts. David Harris and Ryan Tracy, *WSJ*

US stocks notched their biggest weekly gain of the year: Dow Jones Industrial Average finished the week up about 2.6%. Aaron Kuriloff, *WSJ*

4 oil producers agree to output freeze, Iran refuses: "Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Venezuela would lead an effort to freeze output at January levels, dashing hopes of a cut in production...Iran swiftly dashed hopes of a deal however, saying it would not abandon its share in the oil market." Huileng Tan, *CNBC* US crude still at glut levels. US inventories rose to a new weekly record high: Nicole Friedman and Georgi Kantchev, *WSJ*

Sub-zero (negative) rates by central banks are a sign that policymakers are running out of ideas to invigorate the economy: "Asking depositors to pay to let the banks hold their money was initiated as a stopgap measure, but more nations are adopting this tactic. The banking system is vulnerable...But it faces faces even more challenges with subzero rates. Officials have stumbled over how to boost growth and dispel the spectre of deflation." Robin Wigglesworth, Leo Lewis, and Dan McCrum, *FT*

2016 campaign rhetoric shakes markets: "U.S. economy looks increasingly shaky. And the presidential campaign appears to be making things worse." GeraldSeib, *WSJ*

4 leading progressive economists say Sanders' economic plans don't add up: Austan Goolsbee, Alan Krueger

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(TCG Speaker), Christina Romer and Laura D'Andrea Tyson claim that his proposals are too costly. Sanders disagrees. Nick Timiraos and Laura Meckler, *WSJ*

Foreign Affairs

Prime Minister David Cameron and EU counterparts have struck an agreement to make UK remaining in EU more attractive: "A referendum on British membership in the E.U. is expected in June." Griff Witte, *Wash Post*

At least 28 people killed and dozens wounded in Turkey's capital of Ankara. Krishnadev Calamur and Adam Chandler, *The Atlantic* Turkish PM states that a Syrian national with links to the Syrian Kurdish militia was responsible for the deadly bombing in Turkey: Suzan Fraser, *AP* The advance of Kurdish militia in northern Syria drives wedge between US & Turkey: "With the U.S. is allied with the Syrian Kurds to fight ISIS, it is unsure how U.S.-Turkey relations will resolve their differences on the matter." Daren Butler, *Reuters*

Russia & Turkey closer to direct confrontation in Syria: The two countries stepped up support of opposing sides as war becomes internationalized. Russia claims its campaign against Aleppo is not subject to the ceasefire. *FT*

US policy in Syria has left Europe with the worst of all worlds: "With the failure to stop ISIS trained terrorists and refugees pouring over the borders, Russia and Assad's hands have been strengthened....Only a credible threat from the US and NATO will stop the strangulation of Aleppo and the defeat of the rebels." Michael Ignatieff, Op-Ed, *FT*

Around 50 dead as missiles hit medical centers and schools in Syrian towns: 5 hospitals were hit while Russian-backed Syrian troops increase measures towards rebel stronghold of Aleppo. Suleiman al-Khalidi and Lisa Barrington, *Reuters* UN & US condemn Syria air strikes without specifically blaming either Bashar al-Assad's forces or Russia: "UN chief Ban Ki-moon considers that 'such attacks are blatant violations of international law.'" Rana Moussaoui and Andre Viollaz, *AFP*

US airstrikes against ISIS kill more than 40: The airstrikes targeted a senior Tunisian operative linked to 2 major terrorist attacks in Tunisia last year and demonstrates a Western resolve to againt against ISIS' strongest affiliate. Eric Schmitt, Declan Walsh and Carlotta Gall, *NY Times* A united Libyan government is the only way to take out ISIS: "With a parliament in the far-east and an ISIS-dominated parliament in the capital of Tripoli, ISIS has been able to use the divisions to expand along the Northern coast." Maggie Michael, *Boston Globe*

Revival of American isolationism: "Even if Mr. Trump and Mr. Sanders never get close to the White House, the popularity of their campaigns, and their influence on the more mainstream candidates, suggest that there is now a strong constituency in the US for a retreat from globalism: repudiating international military and economic commitments." Gideon Rachman, Op-Ed, *FT*

US expresses concern over Chinese militarization of the South China Sea: "Beijing reportedly sent surface-to-air missiles to an island in the South China Sea, heightening U.S. concerns that Chinese militarization and territorial pursuit in this area could affect trade routes passing through it." Arshad Mohammed, *Reuters* China says US hypes up the "China threat" for political reasons. Oliver Holmes, *The Guardian*

Pope Francis & Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill urge international community to protect persecuted Christians around the globe: Daniel Burke, *CNN* Pope Francis on the migrant crisis: "In what amounted to a symbolic rebuke of U.S. presidential campaign rhetoric on immigration — which has included calls for mass deportations of illegal workers and a huge wall — the pope prayed atop a platform that overlooked the Rio Grande." Joshua Partlow and Gabriela Martinez, *Wash Post*

Books & Film

Harper Lee, author of 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' dies at 89: William Grimes, *NY Times*

We applaud Cory Booker advancing "the common good": Cory Booker (TCG Speaker) has a new memoir, United: Thoughts on Common Ground and Advancing the Common Good."

Upcoming Events

Meet the Candidate: Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Candidate for US Senate

Monday, February 29, 2016
Breakfast & remarks: 10:30-11:30am

RSVP

The Comm Good Forum on "Security and Opportunity in Turbulent Times"

Friday, May 20, 2016, 8am-4pm, Sessions all day on national and economic security

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Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff, Isabelle Lehner, Emily Samuels, and Isaac Getlan, and our interns Emily Abrams, Juliet Kirk, Uzma Azhar, Daniela Gutierrez, and Grace Ewing.

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From: "Scott Lilly" <slilly@americanprogress.org>
To:
Date: 6/24/2008 7:57:26 AM
Subject: Oil Prices

This is one of the better pieces I have seen on oil prices. It is significantly more open to the role of speculation in oil pricing than I would have expected. (It is ironic that Barron's is accusing speculators while Krugman is defending them) It also emphasizes the role of the weak dollar and Federal Reserve Policy.

From this week's BARRON'S

Bye, Bubble?
The Price of Oil May Be Peaking

By ANDREW BARY

The price of oil may be peaking in the current range of $130 to $140 a barrel. Here's where you want to be when the bubble bursts. (Video)

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

IT'S PERILOUS TO CALL THE TOP IN A BOOMING MARKET, but the price of oil may be peaking in the current range of $130 to $140 a barrel.

Oil's sharp move up -- prices have doubled in the past year -- caught the world by surprise, including almost everyone involved in the petroleum market, from major exporting nations to big energy companies to the global analyst community. The rally has emboldened oil bulls, who argue the world is bumping up against oil-supply constraints, and that demand will rise inexorably, despite sharply higher prices, as the four billion to five billion people in emerging economies like China and India get a taste of the energy-intensive good life, replete with the cars, air conditioners, refrigerators and computers that Americans and Western Europeans have long enjoyed. Statistics support their view that demand growth is in its infancy in the developing world: U.S. per-capita oil consumption is 25 barrels annually, while Japan uses 14 barrels per person. China's 1.3 billion people consume just two barrels each per year, however, and India's 1.1 billion use less than a barrel a year.

In the next decade, oil indeed may hit $200 a barrel. But prices could fall to $100 a barrel by the end of this year if Saudi Arabia makes good on its pledge to increase production; global demand eases; the Federal Reserve begins lifting short-term interest rates; the dollar rallies, and investors stop pouring money into the oil market. China raised prices on retail gasoline and diesel fuel by 18% Thursday, in a move that is expected to curb demand.

It's tough to know how much of the surge in crude-oil prices -- up 40% just this year -- reflects fundamental supply and demand, and how much is due to other factors, including the dollar, commodity speculation and interest from institutional investors. Like some others, we suspect the run-up was fueled by more than economics.

THERE IS GROWING TALK OF AN OIL BUBBLE, THOUGH evidence of asset bubbles isn't conclusive until they burst. The trajectory of oil prices in the past eight years looks eerily similar to the Nasdaq's eight-year run to a peak of more than 5,000 in March 2000. More than eight years later, the Nasdaq is at half that level.

"My basic message to those who say that prices have to go up forever is that the oil markets have been cyclical for 140 years. Why should that have stopped?" says Edward Morse, chief energy economist at Lehman Brothers.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has pledged to boost production from a recent 9.5 million barrels a day to about 9.7 million in order to reduce prices. The Saudis are hosting a summit of oil producers and consumers on June 22.

"The analytic community is divided on what the recent Saudi comments mean for the market," says Morse, who believes the Saudis will put more oil on the market as they raise production. "That, combined with a declining rate of consumption, should create an inventory surplus that will be palpable as the year progresses."

Morse thinks oil could fall to $100 by year end.
Skeptics say the Saudi vow to boost production is merely talk, and that the country is struggling simply to maintain production because of aging, overworked fields like the huge, 60-year-old Ghawar reservoir. The Saudi government refuses to allow in outsiders to evaluate the state of its oil industry, which has fueled talk the Saudis are hiding something.

Likewise, the size of speculative positions and commodity indexers is impossible to determine, as most trading occurs away from the major commodity exchanges in over-the-counter transactions.

It is hard to argue that oil demand supports $135 crude. Now at 86 million barrels a day, global demand could show little or no increase this year after averaging 1% gains in recent years. Sanford Bernstein analyst Neil McMahon projects that by the fourth quarter, global oil demand could be running below the fourth quarter of 2007.

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Consumption is down in '08 in the 30 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which includes the U.S., Western Europe, Japan and Australia. OECD nations account for 57% of global oil demand.

While Americans are married to their cars, $4-a-gallon gasoline has begun to bite; the number of vehicle miles traveled in the U.S fell in March on a year-over-year basis for the first time since 1979. Further declines in gasoline consumption may follow as drivers opt for more fuel-efficient cars, and as innovations like plug-in cars reach the market after 2010. Major U.S. airlines have announced widespread capacity reductions, which could cut demand for jet fuel by 5% or more later this year.

Oil demand continues to grow in the developing world and the Middle East. In Europe, stiff energy taxes generally blunt the impact of higher prices, but diesel fuel, now at nearly $10 a gallon in Britain (double the American price), may be at an unsupportable level. Demand growth could cool in emerging markets, too, as subsidies in many Asian countries are reduced. There is also speculation China has been hoarding diesel fuel ahead of the Olympics in August, in order to cut the use of coal for power generation around Beijing in the hope of cleaning up the city's notoriously polluted air. Once the games are over, China will go back to burning cheaper coal, the story goes.

The supply/demand argument for higher oil prices has some merit. "Name another commodity that has gone up two-and-a-half times in three-and-a-half years and the world hasn't found a way to make more of it," says Byron Wien, chief investment strategist at Pequot Capital Management. "The world isn't finding oil fast enough to replace the 3% to 4% that gets pumped every year."

Wien's boss, Art Samberg, who heads the Westport, Conn.-based investment firm, stated in *Barron's* midyear Roundtable, published last week , that the commodity bubble "isn't going to burst. It's going to continue to expand." Older oil fields in Mexico and the North Sea are running dry while new sources in places like Kazakhstan and Brazil may prove difficult to bring on stream. In addition, oil increasingly is in the hands of government-run monopolies that may be more interested in maximizing future revenue than boosting current production.

The dollar's slide and the Federal Reserve's neglect of the greenback have supported commodity prices, oil in particular. But Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues finally seem to have realized that the Fed's aggressive easing actions since last summer, which dropped the key federal-funds rate to 2% from 5.25%, may be fueling global inflation. If the Fed moves to lift rates later this year, as financial markets anticipate, it could buttress the dollar and spur an exodus of speculators from the oil market.

One little-discussed way the U.S. could try to bring down oil prices is to sell oil from the strategic petroleum reserve (SPR). The SPR, intended as a source of oil for national emergencies, now holds 705 million barrels of crude, equal to about 35 days of domestic consumption. With prices higher, Congress moved in May to stop adding to the SPR as it neared capacity. A sale of 100 million barrels of oil would shock the markets and potentially drive down prices.

Long term, the U.S. could benefit through lower oil prices if Congress and the states back President Bush's proposal to allow drilling off Florida, the East and West coasts, and in the Alaskan National Wildlife Reserve, where billions of barrels of oil may lie.

A SHARP DROP IN ENERGY PRICES WOULD HELP WHOLE swaths of the U.S. economy, including retailers, food and household-goods makers, auto makers and transportation concerns. Beleaguered U.S. airlines would benefit because they're expected to spend $61 billion on fuel this year, up $20 billion from 2007.

Few oil stocks would be safe if crude falls $20 to $30 a barrel. Independent exploration and production companies like Devon Energy (DVN), Apache (APA) and XTO Energy (XTO) could get hit hard because they're up sharply in the past year. The majors, including ExxonMobil (XOM), Chevron (CVX) and ConocoPhillips (COP), might hold up better because they have refining and related businesses like chemicals, whose profitability isn't directly linked to crude and natural-gas prices.

Some of the biggest oil companies, notably ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell (RDS/A) and BP (BP), have badly lagged in the past year. BP, for one, has been beset by problems, including a troubled joint venture in Russia.

The majors may be the best energy values because they trade for less than 10 times this year's earnings and around eight times estimated 2009 profits. The '09 earnings consensus reflects an assumption of $100 crude, not the current $135. Bernstein's McMahon estimates Exxon could earn $12 share in 2009, versus the current consensus of $9, if oil holds $130 and natural gas averages $11 per thousand cubic feet; it is now around $13. This suggests Exxon, at 86, may be trading for just seven times estimated '09 profits. Conoco and Chevron also could earn far more than the current '09 consensus under the same oil and gas scenario, Bernstein estimates. McMahon favors BP, Royal Dutch and Marathon Oil (MRO).

One reason for the strength in crude has been modest U.S. inventories. Bill Klesse, chief executive of Valero Energy (VLO), the largest North American oil refiner, told analysts last month that the inventory data may be misinterpreted as a sign of oil scarcity, though it is more a function of the recent state of the oil market, in which futures prices were below spot prices, giving refiners little incentive to maintain excess supply. If the Saudis sell enough oil to drive down spot prices relative to futures prices, refiners and others will be induced to buy and hold more oil in inventory, he said. The oil market is moving to such a configuration, with the current, or spot price of $135 below the December 2008 price of $136.

OIL-MARKET EXPERTS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT commodity-indexing strategies employed by endowments, pension funds and other institutional investors have helped push up prices in the past year. Such investments are thought to have totaled $260 billion as of March, up from $13 billion at the end of 2003, according to Michael Masters, the head of Masters Capital Management, an Atlanta investment firm. Some $55 billion may have flowed into commodity investments during the first quarter alone. The energy complex is the largest commodity market, and gets a disproportionate share of fund flows.

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Masters estimates index participants may control over 1 billion barrels of crude.

Managers of leading university endowments, including those at Harvard, Yale and Princeton, in recent years have generated outsized returns from investments in hard assets, prompting other investors, such as the giant California Public Employees Retirement System, with over $200 billion in assets, to attempt the same. Calpers is upping its commodity exposure to $7 billion from under $500 million.

This activity is spurring a backlash in Congress, where pension funds and others have been accused of driving up food and energy costs through their increased commodity investments. Lawmakers including Senator Joe Lieberman (independent, Conn.) have proposed a ban on commodity-related investments by pension funds, which Masters supports. Last month he told Congress that commodity regulators need to close a loophole that lets indexers evade commodity-position limits by purchasing over-the-counter swaps and other derivatives.

A selloff in oil and other commodities could cool the ardor for index strategies. Ross Margolies, head of Stelliam Investment Management, in New York, says financial investors would do better buying the shares of commodities producers, not actual goods. Over time, it may be more difficult to make money in commodity investing because holders effectively incur financial costs to carry and store commodities, even if they never take physical delivery.

Though little noticed, short-covering by independent oil and gas producers might have contributed to the recent strength in oil and gas prices. U.S. exploration and production companies like Devon, XTO and Chesapeake Energy (CHK) have hedged an average of about 40% of their 2008 production by selling oil and gas futures, options or derivatives, according to Credit Suisse analyst Jonathan Wolff. As prices have surged, the hedges have slipped underwater, and some producers have sought to unwind their money-losing bets.

Newfield Exploration (NFX) recently announced a $500 million hedge-related loss, and more red ink could follow. Total hedge losses among E&P companies could top $15 billion for 2008, and $8 billion for 2009, Wolff estimates.

While supply challenges could continue to dog the oil market, current prices seem excessive in light of weakening demand and other factors. But it's impossible to know with precision when the bubble will burst. The Saudis could roil the markets with a pronouncement June 22; the dollar could revive or demand could plummet, or all three. And if prices start falling, the downturn could accelerate, sending crude back to $100 -- where it would be cheaper, but still far from cheap.

Scott Lilly

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <tbudak@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/29/2015 6:51:46 AM
Subject: Join Us: Europe 25 Years After German Unification: Crisis, Unity, and Opportunity

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The German Marshall Fund of the United States is pleased to invite you to:

Invitation

Europe 25 Years After German Unification: Crisis, Unity, and Opportunity

Tuesday, October 6, 2015
12:00 - 1:30 pm

An RSVP is required, as space is limited. The conversation will be on-the-record.

Introduction
Dr. Karen Donfried, President, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Speakers
Ambassador Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Ivan Krastev, Bosch Public Policy Fellow, Transatlantic Academy
Chairman, Center for Liberal Strategies

Moderator
David Ignatius, Columnist, *The Washington Post*
Member of the Board of Trustees, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Location
The German Marshall Fund of the United States 1744 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

RSVP

If you have any questions, please contact Sam Leon at +1 202 683 2926 or fpintern@gmfus.org .

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To mark the 25th anniversary of German unification, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) is pleased to invite you to a conversation with Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland and Transatlantic Academy Bosch Public Policy Fellow Ivan Krastev, moderated by *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius. The discussion will examine the legacy of German unification and the events of 1989 to 1991 which brought an end to the Cold War, the subsequent development of Europe's political and security architecture, the challenges which the Euro-Atlantic order faces today, and the future prospects for a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

Ambassador Victoria Nuland has been assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs since September 2013, where she is responsible for diplomatic relations with 50 countries in Europe and Eurasia, as well as with NATO, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Previously, Ambassador Nuland served as the U.S. Department of State spokesperson, as special envoy for conventional armed forces in Europe from 2010 to 2011, and served on the faculty of the National War College from 2008 to 2009. She was also the 18th United States permanent representative to NATO from 2005 to 2008. As a career foreign service officer, Ambassador Nuland was principal deputy national security advisor to the vice president from 2003 to 2005, U.S. deputy permanent Representative to NATO from 2000 until 2003, and chief of staff to the deputy secretary of state from 1993 to 1996. Earlier in her career, she covered Russian internal politics at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, served on the Soviet desk in Washington, helped to open the first U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, worked in the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and served in Guangzhou, China. She speaks Russian and French, and received a bachelor's from Brown University.

Ivan Krastev is a Bosch Public Policy fellow at the Transatlantic Academy and the chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia. He is also a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. From 2013 to 2014 Krastev was a Richard von Weizsäcker fellow at the Robert Bosch Stiftung in Berlin. He is a founding board member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the advisory board of the ERSTE Foundation, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). He is also associate editor of Europe's World and a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Democracy and Transit – Europäische Revue. From 2004 to 2006 Krastev served as the executive director of the International Commission on the Balkans chaired by the former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato. From 2005 to 2011 he was the Editor-in-Chief of the Bulgarian Edition of Foreign Policy and was a member of the Council of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London. He has held fellowships at St. Antony's College in Oxford; the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington, D.C.; the Collegium Budapest; the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin; the Institute of Federalism at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland; and the Remarque Institute at New York University.

David Ignatius is the author of a bi-weekly column on global politics, economics, and international affairs for *The Washington Post*. Ignatius joined the *Post* in 1986 as editor of its Sunday "Outlook" section. He became foreign editor in 1990, supervising the paper's Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In 1993 he became the assistant managing editor for business news. Prior to joining *The Washington Post*, Ignatius spent ten years as a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, where he covered the steel industry, the U.S. Justice Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Senate, while simultaneously serving as Middle East chief diplomatic correspondent. In addition to reporting, Ignatius served as a Fisher Family Fellow to the Future of Diplomacy Project at Harvard Kennedy School in 2010 and was a visiting faculty member during the spring of 2012. He is currently a senior fellow for the Future of Diplomacy Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University and a board member at The German Marshall Fund of the United States.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan.

GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation.

Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/11/2014 1:49:48 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday August 11, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday August 11, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: "Is this Hillary Clinton's campaign slogan?"

"Asked by the The Atlantic magazine's Jeffrey Goldberg for her 'organizing principle,' she replied with an tidy alliterative three-word phrase: 'Peace, progress, and prosperity.'"

Wall Street Journal opinion: Review & Outlook: "Democrats on the Obama Doctrine"

"Mrs. Clinton's remark is especially notable given the hints she's dropping about her 2016 plans."

Reuters: "Hillary Clinton distances herself from Obama's foreign policy"

"Distancing herself from President Barack Obama's foreign policy, potential 2016 U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said in an interview published on Sunday that the U.S. decision not to intervene early in the Syrian civil war was a 'failure.'"

The Telegraph (U.K.): "Hillary Clinton attacks Barack Obama over foreign policy"

"President Barack Obama's foreign policy has come under attack from Hillary Clinton, his former Secretary of State and possible successor in the White House."

Page Six: "The Clintons know how to 'get things done'"

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"Bill Clinton emphasized his family's ability to get things done at a fund-raiser to kick off his and Hillary's Hamptons vacation."

Politico: "NYC's all-star convention roster"

"New York City has put together a sweeping list of more than 30 people — ranging from Napster founder Sean Parker to Goldman Sachs chairman Lloyd Blankfein to designer Diane von Furstenberg to union leaders — committed to raising the money to host the Democratic National Convention in Brooklyn in 2016."

Associated Press: "Philly History May Hold Democratic Convention Edge"

"One of five cities bidding for the Democratic National Convention, Philadelphia appears to hold an early edge with a track record of hosting the major gathering - not to mention that Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden have family ties to the state."

Articles:

MSNBC: "Is this Hillary Clinton's campaign slogan?"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

August 10, 2014, 8:46 p.m. EDT

In a wide-ranging interview where she put some rare distance between herself and President Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hinted at a potential presidential run and laid out a message that sounds a lot like a campaign slogan.

Asked by the The Atlantic magazine's Jeffrey Goldberg for her "organizing principle," she replied with an tidy alliterative three-word phrase: "Peace, progress, and prosperity."

If it sounds like a presidential campaign slogan, that's because it is – or at least was in 1956, when Dwight Eisenhower ran for reelection on the promise of "Peace, prosperity, and progress."

It's a message that was also used by the White House of her husband, Bill Clinton, to sum up his accomplishments. And a variation – "prosperity and progress" – became Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign slogan.

The phrase has resonance in Clinton's personal history as well. During her famous "glass ceiling" speech conceding the Democratic nomination to Barack Obama in 2008, Clinton said she got into the race to put "our country back on the path to peace, prosperity and progress." As secretary of state, she said America's global leadership was essential to creating "a more peaceful, prosperous, progressive world."

Clinton, has said she won't decide on a presidential run until at least the end of the year, but told Goldberg that she's about "to find out, in more ways than one" if the public agrees with her vision.

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“Peace, progress, and prosperity” strikes a different tone from her 2008 messages, when she was criticized for shifting between numerous slogans that lacked emotional resonance. Some were about Clinton’s resume – “Ready for Change, Ready to Lead,” for instance – more than her version. While the prescriptive slogans, like “Solutions for America,” could feel somewhat technocratic.

“Peace, progress, and prosperity” could emphasize her biggest strength (her foreign policy experience), while also giving a nod to restive progressives and a hint at a vaguely populist economic agenda.

“You’ve got to take care of your home first,” Clinton explained to Goldberg about how her vision of “prosperity” circumscribes an expansionist foreign policy. “If we don’t restore the American dream for Americans, then you can forget about any kind of continuing leadership in the world.”

Meanwhile, Clinton broke with the president on foreign policy in a meaningful way. She’s been extremely careful to put almost no daylight between herself and Obama since conceding the 2008 race and joining his administration.

But in the interview, she seemed to criticize Obama’s cautious and circumstance-based foreign policy approach, saying, “Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle.”

Clinton also said the “failure” to arm more moderate rebels in Syria – something she and other administration officials wanted to before being overruled by Obama – helped lead to the rise of the Islamic State, the jihadi group that has taken over large swaths of Syria and Iraq.

Clinton has always been more hawkish than Obama, but kept whatever disagreements she had with the president mostly out of sight until now. If she decides to run, she will almost certainly have to cleave herself from the White House, both to keep the unpopular Obama at some distance and because of their genuinely different policy views in some areas.

Wall Street Journal opinion: Review & Outlook: “Democrats on the Obama Doctrine”

[No Writer Mentioned]

August 10, 2014, 6:38 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The President's erstwhile employees admit the world is a mess.

The latest reviews of Barack Obama's foreign policy are in, and flattering they are not. "Just leaves you scratching your head," says one, about the President's rationale for providing limited support to the Kurds in Iraq. "Nothing we can point to that's been very successful," says another about the President's policy in Syria.

And then there's this zinger: "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

In case you are wondering which trio of neoconservative naysayers we're quoting here, we refer you, respectively, to James Steinberg, formerly the President's Deputy Secretary of State, and Robert Ford, formerly his Ambassador to Syria, and Hillary Rodham Clinton, formerly his loyal Secretary of State.

Mrs. Clinton's remark is especially notable given the hints she's dropping about her 2016 plans. She made them in an interview in the Atlantic, in which she also staked out hawkish positions on nuclear negotiations with Iran and Syria's Bashar Assad. At this rate, she may be re-advocating Saddam Hussein's ouster by the time primary season approaches.

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This all could be—perish the thought—political opportunism on the part of those who have now found the flaws in the foreign policy they once helped execute. Then again, if opportunism causes liberals to acknowledge the failures of Mr. Obama's worldview, we'll take it. Better that than a dogmatist in the White House sticking to his case for America's retreat.

Reuters: "Hillary Clinton distances herself from Obama's foreign policy"

By Will Dunham

August 10, 2014, 3:44 p.m. EDT

Distancing herself from President Barack Obama's foreign policy, potential 2016 U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said in an interview published on Sunday that the U.S. decision not to intervene early in the Syrian civil war was a "failure."

Republican critics and others have faulted Obama for doing too little to support Syrians who rose up against President Bashar al-Assad. Syria has been torn apart by a civil war for three years, with Assad staying in power and Islamic militants among the opposition gaining strength.

"The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad - there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle - the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," Clinton said in an interview with The Atlantic.

Clinton was Obama's secretary of state during his first term as president, stepping down in early 2013, so she was part of the administration during the start of the Syria uprising. Seen as a possible strong contender for the 2016 U.S. Democratic presidential nomination, she ran unsuccessfully against Obama for the party's nomination in 2008.

Asked about Obama's slogan of "Don't do stupid stuff" to describe his foreign policy thinking, Clinton said, "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

In the interview, Clinton also offered strong support for Israel and for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has a tense relationship with Obama.

Israel has drawn international condemnation for the deaths of Palestinian non-combatants in Gaza and the destruction of thousands of homes during its month of war with the Islamist movement Hamas. The Obama administration, while supporting Israel's right to defend itself, has rebuked Israel at least once during the current conflict over the deaths of civilians.

"I think Israel did what it had to do to respond to the (Hamas) rockets. Israel has a right to defend itself. The steps Hamas has taken to embed rockets and command and control facilities and tunnel entrances in civilian areas, this makes a response by Israel difficult," Clinton said.

Questioned about whether Israel has taken enough steps to prevent the deaths of civilians including children, Clinton said the United States also tries to be careful to avoid civilian casualties in war but sometimes mistakes are made.

"We've made them. I don't know a nation, no matter what its values are - and I think that democratic nations have demonstrably better values in a conflict position - that hasn't made errors, but ultimately the responsibility rests with Hamas," Clinton added.

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The Telegraph (U.K.): "Hillary Clinton attacks Barack Obama over foreign policy"

By David Millward

August 10, 2014, 10:18 p.m. BST

President Barack Obama's foreign policy has come under attack from Hillary Clinton, his former Secretary of State and possible successor in the White House.

Mrs Clinton has rounded on his caution in providing aid for opponents of the dictatorial Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad.

She used an interview in The Atlantic to put distance between herself and Mr Obama, even though she was part of his first administration.

Some critics have argued that the failure to take decisive action in the early stages of the Syrian civil war strengthened the hand of hardline jihadist groups who, it is feared, could eventually pose a terrorist threat in the United States itself.

"The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad – there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle – the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," she said.

Mrs Clinton was particularly withering about Mr Obama's slogan of "don't do stupid stuff" – which the President said was the guiding principle to his approach to foreign policy.

"Great nations need organising principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organising principle," she added.

Mrs Clinton also was noticeably warmer in her support for Israel than Mr Obama, whose relationship with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has been strained.

She defended Israel's response to the attacks on its territory by Hamas, despite global criticism of the civilian death toll in Gaza.

"Israel has a right to defend itself. The steps Hamas has taken to embed rockets and command and control facilities and tunnel entrances in civilian areas, this makes a response by Israel difficult.

"Asked about civilian casualties she said mistakes can be made by democratic countries, including the United States

"We've made them. I don't know a nation, no matter what its values are – and I think that democratic nations have demonstrably better values in a conflict position – that hasn't made errors, but ultimately the responsibility rests with Hamas."

Page Six: "The Clintons know how to 'get things done'"

By Page Six Team

August 10, 2014, 11:55 p.m. EDT

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Bill Clinton emphasized his family's ability to get things done at a fund-raiser to kick off his and Hillary's Hamptons vacation.

While Saturday's fund-raiser, at the Water Mill home of jewelry designer Joan Hornig and her investment banker husband, George, was for the Clinton Foundation and no mention of Hillary's political aspirations was made, some wondered when Bill described the foundation as "the 'How Organization' — we get things done."

Chairs of the event, who made a $50,000 donation per couple, included Richard and Lisa Perry, Michael Kempner and wife Jacqueline, Susan and Alan Patricof, co-chair Jay Eisenhofer while other guests included Jean Shafiroff and Harvey Weinstein.

Politico: "NYC's all-star convention roster"

By Maggie Haberman

August 11, 2014, 5:34 a.m. EDT

New York City has put together a sweeping list of more than 30 people — ranging from Napster founder Sean Parker to Goldman Sachs chairman Lloyd Blankfein to designer Diane von Furstenberg to union leaders — committed to raising the money to host the Democratic National Convention in Brooklyn in 2016.

The list of who's sitting on the host committee was obtained by POLITICO as members of the Democratic National Committee head to New York City for a site visit Monday and Tuesday.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is pushing to host the convention in his home borough. There are a range of choices facing the DNC in terms of host cities, but several Democratic insiders have told POLITICO that Brooklyn and Philadelphia are viewed as the frontrunners.

Of the members of the host committee, one of the most surprising names is Parker — who has made moves to become a political force this cycle and who has ties to Deputy Mayor Peter Ragone.

There are entertainment industry figures, like Cynthia Nixon, Russell Simmons and Richard Plepler, the head of HBO. There are donors with long ties to Bill and Hillary Clinton, like Alan Patricof and Ron Perelman, but also those now known primarily from the Barack Obama orbit, like financiers Robert Wolf, Marc Gallogly, Blair Effron and public-relations executive Michael Kempner.

There are other Wall Street titans, like JP Morgan Chase's Jamie Dimon and American Express's Kenneth Chenault, real estate leaders like Douglas Durst and Marc Holliday and business figures like Partnership for a Greater New York City president Kathy Wylde.

There are union leaders like Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union president Stuart Appelbaum and 32BJ president Hector Figueroa. There are communications executives like Verizon senior vice president Leecia Eve and AT&T executive Marissa Shorenstein.

The goal of the list is to demonstrate a broad cross-section of people committed to the event, as well as an ability to fully fund a convention, which is an enormously expensive undertaking no matter where it's held. But in a major city like New York City, the costs can rise.

In 2004, when the city played host to the Republican National Convention, the host committee raised $84 million.

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Associated Press: "Philly History May Hold Democratic Convention Edge"

By Hope Yen

August 11, 2014, 1:49 a.m. EDT

One of five cities bidding for the Democratic National Convention, Philadelphia appears to hold an early edge with a track record of hosting the major gathering - not to mention that Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden have family ties to the state.

The original U.S. capital and now the nation's fifth largest city, Philadelphia touts its historical significance. It has hosted the presidential nominating convention seven times since 1856, most recently the Republican one in 2000.

Also vying for the 2016 convention are Birmingham, Alabama; New York City's Brooklyn borough; Columbus, Ohio; and Phoenix - each hoping to host its first presidential convention.

"I do think that Philadelphia has a very good chance of getting it," said former DNC Chairman Joe Andrew, who guided the party's selection of convention cities from 1996 to 2004 and supports the city's bid. He noted that Philadelphia was a front-runner for the 2000 Democratic convention, but Republicans picked it first.

"Philadelphia has a strong bid based on great mechanics, and there's no question that Democrats would like to nail down Pennsylvania," Andrew said. He said Clinton's and Biden's family ties to Pennsylvania will likely be "a consideration."

Former DNC Chairman Howard Dean, who presided over Democrats' choice of Denver in 2008, also rated the city as a top contender. "Philadelphia would be a successful host," he said.

DNC members will be in the City of Brotherly Love for two days starting Wednesday to review potential venues, hotels and transportation options for the estimated 50,000 delegates, party activists and media expected for the convention. Visits to the other cities are to be completed by mid-September.

The Obama White House also will weigh in on the final selection, with a decision not expected until later this year or early in 2015.

A perennial swing state with 20 electoral votes, Pennsylvania more recently has trended liberal, due in part to Hispanic immigration and other population growth in Philadelphia and its suburbs that have balanced out GOP-leaning voters elsewhere. Democratic presidential candidates have carried the state since 1992.

"We're very hopeful about our chances," said former DNC chairman Ed Rendell, a former Pennsylvania governor and Philadelphia mayor who is helping guide the 2016 bid.

The city's media market covers large parts of New Jersey, a potential factor if New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, runs for president. Democrat Hillary Clinton's father was born in Scranton, and daughter Chelsea's mother-in-law, Marjorie Margolies, lives in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Biden grew up in Scranton and often touts his middle-class Pennsylvania roots.

DNC officials have stressed that a city must meet logistical requirements - fundraising, ample hotel rooms and local transportation- before political factors such as swing-state status, a city's diversity and strong labor relationships are considered.

"We are focused right now on the technical aspects," said DNC spokeswoman Lily Adams.

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Philadelphia boosters are emphasizing their convention experience and space with the Wells Fargo Center and the recently expanded Philadelphia Convention Center. Officials say they'll be able to handle the $55 million to $60 million price tag and provide ample security.

The national convention is a major boon to the host city, bringing national media attention and up to $200 million for the local economy.

The city that is home to cheesesteaks, the Liberty Bell, Benjamin Franklin and the movie hero Rocky is promising a "walkable experience" of culture, downtown hotels, food and history, compared to two contenders that it considers as its main rivals, Brooklyn and Columbus.

Brooklyn offers itself as a hip, national symbol of New York Mayor Bill de Blasio's liberalism. It has strong fundraising ability and is in a state Clinton represented as U.S. senator. But it has just 3,500 hotel rooms in the borough - convention officials are seeking 17,000 within a close drive - meaning many attendees would need to stay in other boroughs such as Manhattan, potentially straining public transit.

Columbus promotes itself as a fast-growing swing city in the hard-fought battleground of Ohio. After the Republican National Committee selected Cleveland to host its convention, the mayor cautioned that Democrats risked losing Ohio in 2016 if they didn't pick Columbus.

Columbus's bid has at times stirred the competitive instincts of Pennsylvania boosters.

After initially criticizing Columbus and its bid, U.S. Rep. Bob Brady, D-Pa., has more recently focused on Philadelphia's strengths.

"Philadelphia has much more to offer," Brady said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bunch of Grapes (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From:	"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "David Binder" <David@db-research.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com> "Marlon Marshall" <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/28/2015 5:48:18 AM
Subject:	RE: NH Primary Toplines and Memo
Attachments:	Full Tabs, HRC NH June 2015 Primary Survey Data Appendix vFin.pdf

Full tab report on the NH report attached. And you should have received a calendar invitation for Tuesday morning to review the results.

From: Oren Shur [mailto:oshur@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 8:39 AM
To: 'Joel Benenson'; 'Mandy Grunwald'; 'Jim Margolis'; Robby Mook (re47@hillaryclinton.com); 'David Binder'; 'John Anzalone'; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; Tony Carrk; Christina Reynolds; 'John Podesta'; Mike Vlacich
Cc: 'Peter Brodnitz'; 'Melissa Bell'
Subject: FW: NH Primary Toplines and Memo

Team –

Attached are the toplines from the NH primary survey and a cover letter from Brodnitz (also pasted below). We're working with your assistants to schedule a call to review these results, likely on Tuesday morning.

Thanks.

To: Hillary Clinton for President Consultant Team
From: Pete Brodnitz
Date: June 27, 2015
Re: Topline Results

Horse-race

The last survey was conducted in February. Now that the race has become more engaged, the ballot in New Hamphsire has tightened considerably, but Secretary Clinton maintains a double digit lead over Sanders (48% support for Secretary Clinton, 34% for Bernie Sanders, 2% for Martin O'Malley, 1% for Lincoln Chafee, 2% "other" and 13% undecided).

Ballot Tracking

	Feb 2015	June 2015	Δ
Difference (HRC-Sanders)	***+61***	***+14***	***-47***
Hillary Clinton	73	48	***-25***
Bernie Sanders	12	34	***+22***
Martin O'Malley	2	2	***n/c***
Lincoln Chafee		1	
Jim Webb	3		
Other	2	2	***n/c***
Don't Know	9	13	***+4***

**Note: In February Jim Webb was asked. In June, Lincoln Chafee was asked.*

When undecided voters are pushed to make a choice, Clinton's lead breaks the 50% threshold while Sanders' vote share sees little movement (53% Clinton and 36% Sanders).

Sanders has raised his name identification and favorables considerably since we last polled. His name ID has increased from 52% to 77% and his favorability increased from 44% to 70%. Secretary Clinton's overal favorabilitiy is 85% with 12% unfavorable. Currently

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Sanders' very favorable is 46% while that for Secretary Clinton's is 39%.

The Sanders vote does not appear to be an anti-Clinton vote. Clinton is the second choice of most Sanders voters. Almost seven in ten (66%) of Sanders voters say Secretary Clinton is their second choice preference.

As of now, only about three in ten voters are familiar enough to have an opinion of Martin O'Malley or Lincoln Chafee, respectively.

As shown in the ballot progression below, after voters hear a positive profile of both Sanders and O'Malley, Sanders gains 3% and O'Malley gains 4% support. Once voters subsequently heard a positive profile of Secretary Clinton the ballot reverts to close to initial ballot support. Providing voters negative information about both Clinton and Sanders did not significantly change ballot support. In fact, the final ballot (which comes after negative information about both Clinton and Sanders) is almost identical to the initial ballot – a 13% HRC advantage, compared with an initial 14% advantage.

Ballot Progression

I know it's a long way off, but if the **Democratic primary** for **President** were held today, would you vote for…?

Ranked by PrimB	Initial Ballot (PrimB)	Ballot After Sanders/ O'Malley Profile (Q28)	Ballot After HRC Profiles (Q32) All	Heard Values	Heard Policy	Ballot After HRC Negatives (Q45)	Ballot After Sanders Negatives (Q54)
Difference (HRC-Sanders)	***+14***	***+7***	***+12***	***+11***	***+15***	***+8***	***+13***
Hillary Clinton	48	44	48	48	50	46	48
Bernie Sanders	34	37	36	37	35	38	35
Martin O'Malley	2	7	5	5	6	6	6
Lincoln Chafee	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Other	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know	13	9	8	8	7	8	8

The Candidates

When asked what words they associate with Clinton, the responses were generally positive and describe Clinton as strong, intelligent and capable. They described Sanders as honest/trustworthy, a liberal/progressive and other generally positive characteristics.

However, when asked about recent coverage of Clinton, we see that the negative coverage has cut through. When asked what they've recently heard, most voters report hearing about the email scandal (32%), contributions to the Clinton Foundation (14%) or stories surronding Benghazi (10%).

When presented with a series of attributes and asked how well it applies to Clinton, voters were most likely to ascribe strength, ability to make tough choices and fights for people like you to Clinton. Clinton performed the worst on holding Wall Street accountable, being in touch with the lives of ordinary Americans and being genuine.

Half of all likely voters (51%) describe Clinton as moderate whereas close to half (46%) describe Sanders as very liberal. Notably, most primary voters describe themslves as liberal (50%) and only 38% describe themselves as moderate.

Message/Policy

While a majority of likely voters (50%) do not hold a position on TPP, among those who do the intensity of opposition is higher than the intensity of support (10% strongly support vs. 19% strongly oppose).

Meanwhile, a majority of voters prefer Clinton's approach to the banking industry of holding top executives accountable compared to Sanders' approach of breaking up the banks (regardless of whether we reference the recovering economy or not). It should be noted that neither candidate's name was associated with the position tested and that Clinton's weakest attribute is her abiilty to hold Wall Street accountable.

After voters hear a positive profile on both Sanders and O'Malley, Clinton's lead dops to a seven point margin (44% Clinton, 37% Sanders, 7% O'Malley, 1% Chafee, 2% other and 9% don't know). However, once voters hear a positive profile on Clinton she re-gains her double-digit lead (+12 points).

- On a topline basis the two paragraphs about Hillary Clinton tested, one focusing on values and the other policy, are comparable. Further analysis will be needed to see if they perform differently among sub-groups.

Secretary Clinton's top vulnerability tested in this poll is the attack that claims as Secretary of State she signed off on a deal that gave the Russian government control over twenty percent of America's uranium production, after investors in the deal donated over one hundred and forty million dollars to the Clinton Foundation. Half of all likely voters (53%) are less likely to support Clinton after hearing that statement and 17% are much less likely to support her after that statement.

After voters heard a battery of negatives on Secretary Clinton, their top concern was that she does not seem honest (16%).

Sanders' chief vulnerability tested is his record on guns. Almost a quarter of all voters (23%) are much less likely and more than six in ten (63%) are less likely to support Sanders after hearing that the NRA helped Sanders win a seat in Congress, that he opposed the Brady Gun Bill, supports allowing guns on passenger trains and supported a bill designed to protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits filed by families of victims of gun crimes like the Sandy Hook parents. As we heard in the recent focus groups, the issue of gun control is particularly salient given the recent shootings in Charleston, South Carolina.

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From:	"Karen Finney" <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	hrcrapid <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	4/21/2015 9:38:18 AM
Subject:	request for comment

From David Sirota:

Karen:

Hey there - hope you are well. We are doing a story on some of the blowback to the Schweizer book. We would like to ask Ms. Clinton's campaign this question: does the campaign refute anything in our independent reporting on the Colombia/Giustra story? I realize that the criticism of the Schweizer book is focused primarily on the author of the book, but our story was independently reported, was published weeks before Schweitzer's book was ever circulated, and had nothing at all to do with him - it was all our own enterprise reporting:

http://www.ibtimes.com/colombian-oil-money-flowed-clintons-state-department-took-no-action-prevent-labor-1874464

So we would like to know if the campaign has a substantive response to our story? Again, we know the criticism about Schweizer's book is about the author - but obviously, we are not him. So we are looking for any response about the reporting itself.

We reached out to the campaign for comment when we originally reported it and heard nothing back. But now with it back in the news because of the Schweizer book, we are doing a separate story. Can you help us with a comment from someone at the campaign? Thanks in advance - our deadline is Wednesday. I can always be reached at 720-754-4875.

D

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

DAVID SIROTA, IBTimes Senior Writer
Website:
ibtimes.com
Twitter: @davidsirota
Facebook: facebook.com/rocktheboat

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	9/19/2014 9:14:12 AM
Subject:	9.19.14 Weekend TPs Package
Attachments:	9.19.14 Weekend Package.docx



Hi all,

See the Correct The Record weekend talking points package both attached and below. Have a great weekend!

9.19.14 Weekend Package

1. **Hillary Clinton on Immigration**
2. **The Clinton Global Initiative**
3. **Benghazi Document Review**
4. **Hillary Clinton and Syria**

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON ON IMMIGRATION

KEY POINTS:

Hillary Clinton has been a vocal supporter of comprehensive immigration reform and a path to citizenship.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton consistently voted in favor of comprehensive immigration reform.

Clinton is a supporter of the DREAM Act and advocated for it on the Senate floor.

In the Senate, Hillary Clinton introduced an amendment to reunite families separated by the immigration system. The amendment would have reclassified the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives.

Clinton introduced a bill to restore access to Medicaid and SCHIP benefits for legal immigrant pregnant women and children.

Clinton introduced a bill to provide more funding for job training for people with limited English language skills.

BACKGROUND: HILLARY ON Immigration

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Hillary Clinton: "I'm a huge supporter of immigration reform and a path to citizenship and will continue to advocate for that." As former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently told a tearful young undocumented immigrant, "I'm a huge supporter of immigration reform and a path to citizenship and will continue to advocate for that." Clinton's remarks came at the Clinton Foundation's "No Ceilings" forum in New York. Clinton went on to say, "I believe strongly we are missing a great opportunity by not welcoming people like you and 11 million others who have made contributions to our country into a legal status so you don't have to worry, you can go to school, you can work, you can pursue your dreams." Clinton also said she is "strongly in favor" of the bipartisan Senate bill and that the House's opposition is "a big missed opportunity for our country." [Washington Post,4/17/14]

Hillary Clinton has been a strong supporter of the DREAM Act. As Senator Clinton stated during a debate over the DREAM Act on the Senate floor, "There is a solution to this crisis, but sadly, the Senate today failed to act. The DREAM Act – which I have proudly cosponsored for several years – would help expand opportunities for our nation's immigrant children. For those students who have grown up in the United States, have demonstrated good moral character, and are pursuing a college education or have enlisted in the military, the DREAM Act will provide an opportunity to earn legal status in this country." [Clinton floor remarks, 10/24/07]

Sen. Clinton consistently voted in support of comprehensive immigration reform. In the Senate, Hillary Clinton voted for the bipartisan Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 and voted to invoke cloture on S.1639, the 2007 comprehensive immigration reform bill. [Vote #157, S.2611, 5/25/06 , Vote #235, S.1639,6/28/07]

Sen. Clinton introduced legislation to restore access to Medicaid and SCHIP benefits for legal immigrant pregnant women and children. In 2007, Hillary introduced the Legal Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act "which amends titles XIX (Medicaid) and XXI (Children's Health Insurance) (SCHIP) of the Social Security Act to grant states the option of covering certain categories of eligible pregnant women and child resident aliens, including targeted low-income children, under the Medicaid and SCHIP programs." [S.764,3/5/07]

Sen. Clinton introduced legislation to provide more job training funds for individuals with limited English language skills. In 2003, Hillary Clinton introduced the Access to Employment and English Language Acquisition Act which "Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for: (1) job training that integrates occupational skills training with language acquisition; and (2) specified services for individuals who are Limited English Proficient (LEP). Authorizes the Secretary to award incentive grants to States for exemplary performance in carrying out integrated training programs." [S.1543, introduced, 7/31/03]

Sen. Clinton introduced an amendment to reunite families who had been separated by the immigration system. In 2007, during a debate over the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act, Sen. Clinton introduced an amendment "to reclassify the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives." As she said before the vote, "It is time to take all the rhetoric about family values and put it into action and show that we mean what we say when we talk about putting families first. That is what my amendment does. This amendment is a bipartisan amendment offered with Senator Hagel and Senator Menendez. It is our view we must make reuniting families a priority in our immigration system, that we should show compassion for those living apart from their spouses and minor children, that we should reform immigration in a way that honors families and brings them together." The bipartisan amendment, introduced with Sens. Hagel and Menendez failed, 44-53. [Vote # 195, 6/6/07]

TALKING POINTS: THE CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND: *The Clinton Global Initiative's annual meeting will take place in New York City on September 21-24.*

TALKING POINTS:

The purpose of the Clinton Global Initiative is to find solutions to the world's most pressing challenges by bringing together the best minds and turning their ideas into action.

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CGI is nonpartisan and its members include global leaders with a wide array of backgrounds who are creating positive change around the world.

Here are just a few examples of the life-changing work developed as a result of the Clinton Global Initiative:

- Clinton Global Initiative members have made more than 2,900 Commitments to Action, which have already improved the lives of over 430 million people in more than 180 countries.
- The Clinton Global Initiative worked to secure funding commitments valued at $103 billion to spur innovative solutions to global challenges.
- In Africa alone, CGI members have committed $27.8 billion to projects and other participation.
- Procter & Gamble committed to providing more than 300 million liters of clean drinking water to more than 2 million people in the Horn of Africa through the Clinton Global Initiative.
- The Clinton Global Initiative America program addresses economic recovery and revitalization efforts in the U.S, including a $47 million plan to revitalize Birmingham and create hundreds of jobs.
- Clinton Global Initiative America partnered with a Kentucky town damaged by a tornado to build energy-efficient housing.
- Last year at CGI, the NAACP committed to addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS in the 30 U.S. cities that account for nearly two-thirds of the country's HIV cases.
- CGI established the U.S. Youth Employment Action Network to encourage companies to expand employment opportunities for America's youth.

The world is a better place because of programs like these.

Last year, the Clinton Global Initiative honored Bishop Elias Taban with a Global Citizen Award.

- Bishop Taban is a former child soldier from South Sudan who wrote an op-ed encouraging Sudan and South Sudan to end their conflict over oil production and transport fees so that both countries could move forward with development and growth.
- In the op-ed he wrote , "There must always come a point where we look forward and recognize the need to stop fighting over past wrongs so we can build toward a new future. That time has come for South Sudan. We must restart oil production and work out an agreement to transport it through north Sudan."
- Hillary Clinton was so inspired by his words that, while Secretary of State, she used his op-ed to convince the Sudan and South Sudan to reach a compromise.

TALKING POINTS: BENGHAZI DOCUMENT REVIEW

BACKGROUND: *In the latest so-called Benghazi "bombshell," former State Department official Raymond Maxwell alleges that he and others conducted a review of documents related to Benghazi prior to handing them over to the Accountability Review Board.*

TALKING POINTS:

This latest so-called Benghazi "bombshell" is without merit and has been strongly denied by the State Department.

- "A State Department spokesman calls the implication that documents were withheld 'totally without merit.'" [Daily Signal, 9/15/14]
- "Spokesman Alec Gerlach says 'The range of sources that the ARB's investigation drew on would have made it impossible for anyone outside of the ARB to control its access to information.'" [Daily Signal, 9/15/14]
- "Gerlach says the State Department instructed all employees to cooperate 'fully and promptly' with the ARB, which invited anyone with relevant information to contact them directly. 'So individuals with information were reaching out proactively to the board. And, the ARB was also directly engaged with individuals and the [State] Department's bureaus and offices to request information and pull on whichever threads it chose to,' says Gerlach." [Daily Signal, 9/15/14]

The Accountability Review Board was independent, exhaustive, and critical of the State Department.

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- Following an examination of the Accountability Review Board process, the Inspector General concluded the Board operated "independently and without bias." [Special Review of the Accountability Review Board Process,September 2013]

- Ambassador Pickering testified that the ARB met "almost continuously" for two-and-a-half months, conducted nearly 100 interviews, reviewed thousands of pages of documents and viewed hours of video. He said that the Accountability Review Board "was provided with the fullest cooperation by the Department of State and all elements of the U.S. government." [House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Hearing, 9/19/13]

- Press accounts at the time noted that the results of the Board "sharply criticized the State Department for a lack of seasoned security personnel and for relying on untested local militias to safeguard the compound." [New York Times, 12/18/12]

Maxwell has had the opportunity to bring up these allegations in the many interviews he's had with the media and members of Congress both before and after his retirement, yet has neglected to do so until now.

Maxwell, who retired in November 2013, was one of four State Department officials placed on paid administrative leave from his position in the bureau of Near Eastern Affairs as a result of the Accountability Review Board's findings. [New York Times, 12/19/12]

TALKING POINTS: HILLARY CLINTON AND SYRIA

BACKGROUND: *This week, Congress voted in favor of President Obama's proposal to train and equip moderate Syrian rebels. While the bill passed by a wide majority in both the House and the Senate, some prominent members of Congress voted against the bill.*

KEY POINTS:

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton was an early advocate of arming the moderate Syrian opposition. She "believed, at the time, they would be overwhelmed by Assad's military force and that they would open up the door to extremists coming in."

Hillary Clinton has repeatedly said that the situation in Syria is a "wicked problem" with no right answer.

- While she advocated arming and training the moderate Syrian opposition early on, she has said there is no way to predict if that would have worked, but she believed it was the best of the options available at the time.

Secretary Clinton has made clear that, even though she advocated a plan to arm the Syrian rebels, it was the "President's call" and she "respected his deliberations and decision."

HILLARY CLINTON'S STATEMENTS ON SYRIA:

- "Wicked problem ... a term used by planning experts to describe particularly complex challenges that confound standard solutions and approaches. Wicked problems rarely have a right answer; in fact, part of what makes them wicked is that every option appears worse than the next. Increasingly that's how Syria appeared." ["Hard Choices", CBS News, 6/5/14]

- "[T]he risks of both action and inaction were high. Both choices would bring unintended consequences. The Presidents' inclination was to stay the present course and not take the significant further step of arming rebels. No one likes to lose a debate, including me. But this was the President's call and I respected his deliberations and decision. From the beginning of our partnership, he had promised me that would always get a fair hearing. And I always did. In this case, my position didn't prevail." [*Hard Choices*, pg. 461, 2014]

- "I recommended that we do more in the very beginning to support the moderate opposition, because I believed, at the time, that they would be overwhelmed by Assad's military force and that they would open up the door to extremists coming in." [Politico, 6/17/14]

- "[T]he failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad… left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled." [The Atlantic, 8/10/14]

- "Now the wicked problem has gotten even wickeder…This is not just a Syrian problem anymore…I could not have predicted the extent to which ISIS was effective in seizing cities in Iraq and taking over the region." [The Hill, 6/12/14]

- **"**You know, this is why I called the chapter on Syria 'A Wicked Problem.' I can't sit here today and say that if we had done what I recommended… that we'd be in a demonstrably different place." [The Atlantic, 8/10/14]

Hillary Clinton's RECENT STATEMENTS ON SYRIA

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Sec. Clinton: None of the options on Syria "offered much hope of success," but "we had to keep at it." In her book *Hard Choices*, Secretary Clinton wrote, "I started referring to Syria as a 'wicked problem,' a term used by planning experts to describe particularly complex challenges that confound standard solutions and approaches. Wicked problems rarely have a right answer; in fact, part of what makes them wicked is that every option appears worse than the next. Increasingly that's how Syria appeared. Do nothing, and a humanitarian disaster envelops the region. Intervene militarily, and risk opening Pandora's box and wading into another quagmire, like Iraq. Send aid to the rebels, and watch it end up in the hands of extremists. Continue with diplomacy, and run head-first into a Russian veto. None of these approaches offered much hope of success. But we had to keep at it." [*Hard Choices*, pg. 461, 2014]

Sec. Clinton: Pres. Obama's inclination was to "not take the significant further step of arming rebels" in Syria. In her book *Hard Choices*, Secretary Clinton wrote, "Despite high-level support from the National Security Council, some in the White House were skeptical. After all, the President had been elected in large part because of his opposition to the war in Iraq and his promise to bring the troops home. Getting entangled in any way in another sectarian civil war in the Middle East was not what he had in mind when coming into office. And the President thought we needed more time to evaluate the Syrian opposition before escalating our commitment. The risks of both action and inaction were high. Both choices would bring unintended consequences. The President's inclination was to stay the present course and not take the significant further step of arming rebels." [*Hard Choices*, pg. 464, 2014]

Sec Clinton: Syria "was the President's call and I respected his deliberations and decision." In her book *Hard Choices*, Secretary Clinton wrote, "No one likes to lose a debate, including me. But this was the President's call and I respected his deliberations and decision. From the beginning of our partnership, he had promised me that I would always get a fair hearing. And I always did. In this case, my position didn't prevail." [*Hard Choices*, pg. 464, 2014]

Sec. Clinton, on Syria: "I can't sit here today and say that if we had done what I recommended, and what Robert Ford recommended, that we'd be in a demonstrably different place." In an interview with Jeffrey Goldberg for The Atlantic, Sec. Clinton said, regarding whether she agreed with U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford that the U.S. was at fault for not building a credible Syrian opposition, "I have the highest regard for Robert. I'm the one who convinced the administration to send an ambassador to Syria. You know, this is why I called the chapter on Syria 'A Wicked Problem.' I can't sit here today and say that if we had done what I recommended, and what Robert Ford recommended, that we'd be in a demonstrably different place." [The Atlantic, 8/10/14]

Sec. Clinton: "I did believe… that if we were to carefully vet, train, and equip early on a core group of the developing Free Syrian Army, we would… have some better insight into what was going on on the ground." In an interview with Jeffrey Goldberg for The Atlantic, Sec. Clinton said, regarding whether Israel had done enough to pursue peace, "Well, I did believe, which is why I advocated this, that if we were to carefully vet, train, and equip early on a core group of the developing Free Syrian Army, we would, number one, have some better insight into what was going on on the ground. Two, we would have been helped in standing up a credible political opposition, which would prove to be very difficult, because there was this constant struggle between what was largely an exile group outside of Syria trying to claim to be the political opposition, and the people on the ground, primarily those doing the fighting and dying, who rejected that, and we were never able to bridge that, despite a lot of efforts that Robert and others made." [The Atlantic, 8/10/14]

Sec. Clinton, on Syria: "I know that the failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad… the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled." In an interview with Jeffrey Goldberg for The Atlantic, Sec. Clinton said, regarding whether ISIS would be in the same position it was if the U.S. had done more to build up a moderate Syrian opposition in 2011, "Well, I don't know the answer to that. I know that the failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad—there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle—the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled. They were often armed in an indiscriminate way by other forces and we had no skin in the game that really enabled us to prevent this indiscriminate arming." [The Atlantic, 8/10/14]

Sec. Clinton, on Syria: "Now the wicked problem has gotten even wickeder." According to The Hill's coverage of Sec. Clinton's discussion at the Council on Foreign Relations, "In her new memoir Hard Choices, Clinton described Syria's civil war as a 'wicked problem.' 'Now the wicked problem has gotten even wickeder,' Clinton said Thursday at an event at the Council on Foreign Relations. 'This is not just a Syrian problem anymore.' A Sunni jihadi group, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)—once part of al Qaeda—has gained control of large areas of Iraq and Syria over the last year. In recent days, ISIS seized key Iraqi cities such as Mosul and Tikrit. 'I could not have predicted the extent to which ISIS was effective in seizing cities in Iraq and taking over the region,' said the former secretary of State, who was America's top diplomat when the U.S. pulled out of Iraq in

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2011 and when Syria's civil war erupted that year." [The Hill, 6/12/14]

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/27/2008 4:37:15 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Employee Town Hall Meeting Warren, OH

Hello All,

Just off the phone with our tracker Andres who is on the ground in Ohio today. Below are the notes from our call.

Warren, OH - McCain Employee Town Hall Meeting

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details:
- Event at GM plant - team Lordstown
- Small venue - 18 audience members on stage, 75 chairs and 10 standing
- Room is so small there is not enough for print reporters and traveling press. They are scrambling to see where they are gonna fit them.
- Stage has a large American flag, otherwise room is decorated with company banners and flags
- Press - local and embeds, including WRMJ (NBC), Fox, CBS, couple news reporters.
- Less staff then usual
- He is having a tour of the plant, followed by the town hall and then a media availability
- Opening remarks by XX, thanks union leadership, introduces John McCain

Speech Highlights:
- Thank yous.
- I'm here because I want to see what can be done to restore and retain jobs, but also move forward in addressing energy requirements and the great opportunity that lies in green technology.
- America is hurting now -- manufacturing jobs have left, we're struggling to compete. But let's talk about the future of the auto industry.
- It's gonna be long, hard and tough
- I have faith in the innovative ability of American and quality of our workers -- we have the best workers
- In the state of Ohio, more people have lost their homes than anywhere else.
- This issue is a nexis of national issues we face:
  - 1) national security issue -- dependent on nations that are bad for our oil supply
  - 2) environmental issue -- there's enough compelling information now that shows human activity is hurting the planet
- We can become energy independent and one of the ways we can do that is through the automotive industry -- hybrids
- But we also need nuclear energy, clean coal technology -- I'm willing to invest $2B a year in clean coal energy
- And I believe we can rebuild the automotive industry
- We can compete in the world; I am optimistic, but we have to take action
- A word about nuclear power -- the French 80% of their electricity comes from nuclear, the reprocess the waste
- We need to reprocess the waste but we need to store the waste as well -- including Yucca mountain
- None of these are the ultimate answer -- but you put them all together and it can work -- and we give the American worker more job opportunities and get them back in their homes
- We need better job training programs
- The same old jobs are not going to be there -- new jobs will be there, they'll be here in Lordstown
- I proposed a $300 million dollar prize for a battery -- it's been called a gimmick
- I wanted to give Americans a gas-tax holiday too -- wouldn't it be nice to give folks a break? I think so
- He have to have a whole broad array of initiatives to solve this
- And who's getting hurt the most? low-income, fix-income people with old cars
- Thanks for having me -- these meetings are a great part of the political process
- I'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank the veterans
- We're in two wars -- one in Iraq and Afghanistan
- After 4 years of mishandling -- we now have a good strategy and are succeeding
- I'd much rather lose a political campaign than a war

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- I look forward to this debate
- No one has contributed more than our solidiers
- It's gonna be a long, hard struggle but I believe we will win
- I'm here to tell you that -- no matter if you vote for me -- that I will reach across the aisle and I will always put my country first

Question and Answer:

Q 1) Yesterday Sen. Obama said the auto industry may need some bridges to reach this new technology. What do you think about that and what would you do?

MCCAIN: I will make the research and development tax credit permanent.
And I gotta give you some technology, once we develop that technology, I believe we should hand it over to private industry.
The Internet was created this way -- started by the federal government, then handed over to the private industry where it could be further developed. I am convinced we are not that far away from a pure electric car - it's the battery and we're almost there. It's a national priority. When we look at our dependency on foreign oil, the government has to be an active participant.

Q 2) Oil prices rising -- the American people are confused on what is causing this. What would you say to the American people?

MCCAIN: I believe the root cause is finite resource that a cartel controls and that many countries need and desire. That is first and foremost the major part of the problem.
There's got to be more transparency in this whole global market. And there's investigations going on. If more are needed, then we should do them. But really, the root cause is basically there's not really an expandable finite resource and we are seeing a growing demand.
If we develop/when we develop cars we can drive 100-200 miles, we are going to need more electricity. We need nuclear plants. We should have 45 new ones by the year 2030. My answer to you is the fundamental problem is there and we have to determine the role speculators have played.

Q 3) You are strictly against opening up any trade deficits. If our deficit is in the trillions, is there anyway we can make it more fair? Our manufacturing jobs are going. My plant closed.

MCCAIN: I don't believe every trade agreement is fair. We have had various disputes on the implentation of free trade agreements. I would say that if/when we conclude additional free trade agreements perhaps we can do a better job of preventing unfair practices. But I do believe there are some realities of life, that when we erect barriers to other countries, they do the same to us. I also think that when we look at countries in our own hemisphere, that if they had a better economy they would be better to deal with. We should conclude the free trade agreement with Columbia. I understand the pain. I will make sure our trade practices are fair. When I say we're for free trade, because I believe it's in the best interest of the U.S. I know we've lost manufacturing jobs -- I don't have to tell you to look at Detroit or the stock market -- but I don't think we are going to get the labor intensive jobs back in America. But I do think we're more innovative than any countries and other kinds of jobs will come.
That's no comfort to your colleagues I'm sure. But I will make sure everyone has a second chance.
I understand it, I will act as quickly as possible and I will provide relief as quickly as I can.

Thank you for being here today. I will be back.

--
Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
Progressive Media USA
ccroft@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7679 (office)
206-999-3064 (cell)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/11/2015 3:21:07 AM
Subject: Daily Skimm: I like the way you move

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

theSkimm

Skimm for August 11th

Skimm'd over Insomnia Cookies

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It was one small bite for man, one giant leap for #NASAVEGGIE" — A tweet yesterday from astronaut Scott Kelly, after he became one of the first to try space-grown lettuce…in space. Next stop: kale chips.

SKIMM THIS

ABC...EASY AS THE BIG G

THE STORY

Yesterday, Google announced a major re-structuring , and it's getting back to basics with some ABCs.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Meet Alphabet . It's the new parent company that will manage Google and then all of Google's most eccentric ideas.

SO WHAT'S HAPPENING TO 'GOOGLE'?

Same old. It's still an Interwebs company that knows everything about you. And now it's just going to stay focused on the basics — search, advertising, Android, Chrome, maps, and YouTube. A guy named Sundar Pichai — senior VP of products at Google — will take over as CEO, freeing up Google co-founder Larry Page to work with co-founder Sergey Brin on Alphabet.

SO WHAT EXACTLY IS ALPHABET?

The parent company that now manages Google, but also the Jetson Life. The Alphabet portfolio will include all the ideas that have become a wee bit distracting to Google. Think: curing disease, trying to make us live longer, self-driving cars, developing nanoparticles, and making thermostats smarter.

theSKIMM

Google was founded as a search engine. But over the years, it's been chasing shiny new tech things that investors think distract from its money-maker . This re-structuring is a way for Google to have its core business and eat its Alphabet soup too.

SKIMM THIS

SKIMM YOUR CANDIDATE: GOV. BOBBY JINDAL (LA), REPUBLICAN

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) is a two-term governor hoping you'll pick him out of a field of 16 other Republicans in the race for the White House. Get to know your candidate here. Note: ALL candidates have been offered the chance to Guest Skimm. Opinions are of the candidate, not theSkimm. To Skimm other candidates go here .

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HOMETOWN:

was born in Baton Rouge, LA.

FUN FACT:

Our third child was actually born at home…it was literally just my wife and me together on our bathroom floor next to our bedroom. By the time the ambulance got there, he was already born.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF.

was born in Baton Rouge, LA. My parents came there [from India] over 40 years ago. To me, they lived the American dream…the first time they ever got on a plane, they were coming halfway across the world to come to Baton Rouge.

SO WHY SHOULD AMERICA HIRE YOU?

think America is ready to hire a doer, not a talker. We've got a lot of people that are "talking" who are running for president. We've got a talker in the White House today. I'm the only candidate that has offered detailed plans on health care, on energy, on education, on our foreign policy…Secondly, I've got a track record of proven results. [Louisiana's] actually already cut the size of our budget [by] 26%….We've got a top ten state for private sector job creation. Look, if folks are looking for a candidate who's just going to manage the slow decline of our country, I'm not that candidate. If they're looking for somebody who will go to DC and make big changes, I'm the guy to do that. I've already done it in Louisiana, I'll do it in DC.

WHO SHOULD WE CALL FOR A REFERENCE?

'd call my wife, Supriya. She's my best friend. She's a straight shooter. She'll be honest, but she's also my best friend.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH?

'm not afraid of taking on big, complex programs. When I was elected governor, we were coming out of Katrina. We had had 25 years in a row of out-migration. We've now had seven years in a row of in-migration. We've got more people working there and earning a higher income than we have ever had before. So, I'm not afraid to take on the big complex problems, and I think that's what we need in DC right now…We'll be the next Greece if we don't grow the private sector economy.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST WEAKNESS?

'm impatient. I've been told my entire life I need to slow down, I speak too quickly.

WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THE FOLLOWING...

THE ECONOMY.

think that we have to accept the truth that you can either grow the private sector economy, or grow the government economy. You can't grow both. We've got to…shrink the federal government so we can grow the private sector economy. Today we are celebrating the fact that we've got a record-low participation rate in the workforce, we've got record-high dependence on food stamps. That's backwards!

HEALTHCARE.

think Obamacare was a mistake. It has made healthcare less affordable, not more affordable. We've created a new entitlement program, and we can't afford the ones we've got. It involves less freedom for patients and their doctors. I've actually outlined a plan…it does three things: one, it makes healthcare more affordable. So it gives a standard tax reduction, and allows people to buy health insurance across state lines. For accidental frivolous lawsuits, it creates voluntary purchasing programs, expands access to health savings, medical savings, and wellness accounts….Secondly, [the plan helps] the vulnerable. [It] gives $10 billion dollars a year to the states to help those with pre-existing conditions. And third, [the plan] puts patients and their doctors in control, not the bureaucrats.

THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL.

think it's a very bad deal for America, for Israel, for our allies. Just to start with, when the deal was announced, Syria and Assad — our enemies — rejoiced and celebrated. Israel and Netanyahu — our allies — rejected, criticized, condemned the deal. Initially [the president said] we're going to get rid of their enrichment capacities, and we're going to have anytime, anywhere inspections. Turns out, neither is true. I think a good deal would've said [Iran has] to get rid of all their centrifuges. They have to get rid of all their enriched uranium. [It would allow for] anytime, anywhere inspections [and] no pathway to a plutonium device…[It would also say] they have to release all of their American prisoners, and cut off all their connections to Hamas, Hezbollah, or any other terrorists groups. And then finally, they need to recognize the right of Israel to exist. We're in a position to actually

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be able to get a good deal. This is a bad deal, and I think Congress should vote it down.

GUN CONTROL.

'm for our Second Amendment rights…At the same time, we've also passed laws in Louisiana, since I've been governor, to strengthen the reporting of mental health cases into the national background check system. So, I fully support that, I think every state should do that…but at the same time I'm not for restricting our second amendment rights for law-abiding citizens.

WOULD YOU CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT HOW THE US IS HANDLING THIS WHOLE SIS THING?

First, we need to be working with our Kurdish allies, directly arming and training them…Secondly, we need to encourage our Sunni allies. They will do more, their challenge is right now that they don't know that America is committed for the long run…Third, the president submitted an authorization for the use of military force to Congress — he needs to change two things about it: one, he needs to take out the ban on ground troops, and second, he needs take out the three-year deadline. There's no reason any commander in chief should ever tell the enemy what we will or won't do…I don't think that we should ever take an option off the table. We've gotta do what it takes to win…We've gotta have a president who actually, first off can identify the enemy and say our enemy is radical Islamic terrorism. We've got a president who's too politically correct to say that.

CLIMATE CHANGE.

n terms of whether human activity impacts the climate, I'm sure it does. In terms of how much or what should be done or the consequence, I'll leave that to the scientists. I'd say a couple of other things, though. One, if we can have affordable energy, we can have a clean environment and we can have a strong economy. They're not mutually exclusive….the second thing I'd say, is it makes no sense for us to take unilateral actions that will hurt our economy if we're not going to insist that other countries do the same. Especially countries we compete with and trade with.

MMIGRATION REFORM.

think our immigration policy right now is backwards. The first thing we need to do is secure our border, period. We don't need amnesty. We need to secure the border — we don't need a 1,000 page bill, we don't need a comprehensive bill. We've got a low wall and a narrow gate — by a low wall, it's too easy to come to the country illegally and by a narrow gate, it's too hard to come to the country legally. I think one of the dumbest things we do today is educate people and then kick them out of the country to compete against us. I do think that something that gets missed in the immigration debate is assimilation…My parents came to raise their kids here as Americans, they came to be Americans. If they didn't want that, they would've stayed in India. Now, they love India and they're proud of their heritage. I've said we need to get away from this African-American, Indian-American…you know, we're all Americans.

RIGHT TO CHOOSE. YES OR NO?

am pro-life.

THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON GAY MARRIAGE. YES OR NO?

disagree with the ruling. I believe that marriage continues to be between a man and a woman.

WHAT WOULD YOU ASK THE WHITE HOUSE CHEF TO MAKE FOR YOUR FIRST MEAL AT 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE?

Nachos and chocolate chip cookies. I'm a bit of a gym rat, and there are some people that love to work out and then they tell you well if you work out, then you gotta eat healthy. I'm a little bit of the opposite.

HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU HIT SNOOZE IN THE AM?

actually don't, and after 18 years of marriage my wife and I have figured this out, because we are very different when it comes to this. I'm one of those people that gets up before the alarm goes off, no matter what time it's set. And my wife, not only does she like to hit snooze, she likes to set the clocks ahead of time.

HOW DO YOU TAKE YOUR COFFEE?

'm not a coffee drinker, it's more Diet Coke.

SKIMM THIS

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heSKIMM

Gov. Jindal has a deep resume that includes a past House GOP leadership role, and experience in the private

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sector as a McKinsey consultant. He's got a rep for being a by-the-numbers guy who gets things done. He's also got sinking approval ratings with people at home in Louisiana, many who think he's really just been waiting to run for president for years.

ALL candidates have been invited to Guest Skimm. To Skimm other candidates go here

REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOUR BOSS TELLS YOU TO TRY A DIFFERENT APPROACH...

Feelin' like China. Yesterday, China devalued the yuan — aka its currency – by a lot. Until now, the country's central bank has kept a tight leash on the value of the yuan. But yesterday, it announced that its value will depend more on markets. Meaning the Chinese gov.'s currency manipulation will matter less, and demand for buying Chinese goods will matter more. China's economy has been in a serious summer slump, and the devalued currency will make goods cheaper – which is good for China, but bad for its competitors. Other Asian currencies took a hit at the news.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT...

Ferguson. Yesterday, officials declared a state of emergency in St. Louis County, MO. This happened just a day after the one-year anniversary of the death of Michael Brown, the unarmed black teen who was shot and killed by a white police officer. Brown's death last year sparked massive protests, and at times violent clashes, in Ferguson and around the country, and put a spotlight on racial inequality and police brutality. The anniversary of Brown's death is becoming a bad deja vu for many. Overnight, about two dozen people were arrested by police during violent protests. And yesterday morning, police say a man opened fire on officers. They fired back, critically injuring the man. The man is now being charged with assault.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU HIT 'CHECKOUT'...

Pulling a Buffett. Yesterday, Warren Buffett — Berkshire Hathaway's CEO and 'everyman billionaire' — announced his biggest deal ever . Berkshire Hathaway will buy Precision Castparts for $32 billion. Precision's a supplier that provides glamorous things like fasteners and turbine blades to aircraft companies. The purchase rounds out Berkshire Hathway's all-you-can-buy Buffett. It's already taken over companies like Heinz, Duracell, and a big railroad company. This comes during a big year for M&A, with deals like this and this going down. In other news, Buffett likes to call Berkshire's cash reserve for large acquisitions his "elephant gun." That's all.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO SHOWER...

Feeling dirty. Colorado can relate. Last week, an EPA-supervised cleanup crew accidentally opened a dam inside an old mine that had been shut since the 1920s. The mistake sent toxic water flowing into a river. Oops. Then yesterday, it came out that the spill was actually three times as large as everyone thought. Bigger oops. It's unclear how the spill will affect drinking water and the fish who want to just keep swimming. What's clear is that the spill contains high amounts of toxic metals, and Colorado's gov. has declared a state of emergency.

SKIMM THIS

THING TO KNOW

Nick Symmonds : Olympic runner who was left off the US World Championship team. That's because he refused to sign a contract that says athletes need to wear Nike all day erryday. Which got awkward because Nike sponsors the US team.

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Subject: Correct The Record Thursday February 5, 2015 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday February 5, 2015 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton said #paidleave "helps all of us" #FMLA22 #HRC365 http://blogs.wsj.com/japanrealtime/2014/09/12/hillary-clinton-talks-up-paid-family-leave/ … [2/5/15, 12:29 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

Washington Post blog: Reliable Source: “Former first ladies in the house! Hillary Clinton attends Ford’s Theater play ‘The Widow Lincoln’”

“Seems the former FLOTUS is interested in her historic predecessor: the production focuses on the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, the enigmatic wife of President Abraham Lincoln. Clinton, spies say, arrived with a small group (sans Bill) and sat in the orchestra section.”

Washington Post blog: PostPartisan: Jonathan Capehart: “Hillary Clinton’s consolation prize for Brooklyn”

“The borough could lose the convention but gain the campaign.”

Bloomberg: “Why Starbucks's CEO Is Resisting Calls For Him to Run for the White House”

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[Subtitle:] “The Democrat says he is content to ‘see what Hillary does.’”

Los Angeles Times: “The Envelope 'Virunga' details a complicated story of oil exploration in Congo”

“The film was seen by Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton at a special screening last weekend and has already screened for the United Nations, British Parliament, the European Parliament, on Capitol Hill and for many of SOCO's investors; ‘Virunga’ illuminates ‘true African heroes,’ says Von Einsiedel.”

Slate: “NBC’s Bad Memory”

[Subtitle:] “The network repeatedly criticized Hillary Clinton for her false memory of ‘sniper fire.’ Will it hold Brian Williams to the same standard?”

Washington Post blog: In The Loop: “Scholars rank Kerry dead last in terms of effectiveness.”

“Madeleine Albright and Hillary Clinton tied for fourth at 8.70 percent.”

Articles:

Washington Post blog: Reliable Source: “Former first ladies in the house! Hillary Clinton attends Ford’s Theater play ‘The Widow Lincoln’”

By Emily Heil

February 5, 2015, 12:28 p.m. EST

Hey, isn’t that… former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, attending a Wednesday-evening performance of the new play “The Widow Lincoln” at Ford’s Theater?

Seems the former FLOTUS is interested in her historic predecessor: the production focuses on the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, the enigmatic wife of President Abraham Lincoln. Clinton, spies say, arrived with a small group (sans Bill) and sat in the orchestra section.

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Washington Post blog: PostPartisan: Jonathan Capehart: "Hillary Clinton's consolation prize for Brooklyn"

By Jonathan Capehart

February 5, 2015, 10:37 a.m. EST

Amie Parnes of the Hill reports that the as-yet-announced presidential campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton will likely be headquartered in Brooklyn. One knowledgeable Democratic strategist told me that the consultants prefer the Big Apple's largest borough to someplace in Westchester because it would be easier to get to and out of. But putting the campaign in Brooklyn would have another benefit: consolation prize.

Any day now, the Democratic National Committee will announce its choice for its 2016 presidential nominating convention. Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Columbus, Ohio, are the finalists. By now, you know I think Philadelphia should get the quadrennial jamboree. I recognize the power of having Clinton officially accept the nomination (assuming she runs and secures the required delegates) in her home state 24 years after her ex-president husband did the same in the Big Apple. Still, there are significant issues with hosting the convention in Brooklyn, which is why the money is on the City of Brotherly Love.

That's why the leak about Clinton considering Brooklyn for her campaign headquarters is so intriguing. The borough could lose the convention but gain the campaign. It could dodge the bullet of the four-day convention (and the headaches for all concerned that would entail) but bask in the glow of a 16-month presidential operation. There are issues with putting the campaign there, too. Being the capital of hyper-expensive Hipstervania is one. Actually, that might be its biggest knock. That, and being the center of action for HBO's "Girls." But in touting Brooklyn for the convention, New York City Council Member Vincent Gentile gave a rationale for why Clinton should make the borough her HQ. "One in seven Americans can trace their roots to Brooklyn so history shows Brooklyn is at the crossroads of our country," he said last year. "We are a true mosaic of our country and of the world. Clearly Brooklyn is America and America is Brooklyn."

Can't argue with that.

Bloomberg: "Why Starbucks's CEO Is Resisting Calls For Him to Run for the White House"

By Ali Elkin

February 5, 2015, 12:15 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The Democrat says he is content to "see what Hillary does."

Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz says he does not have designs on the White House, according to a Time cover story published Thursday.

"For his part, Schultz insists he's not interested in running for office at the moment and has neither the temperament to make the compromises necessary to embark on a Democratic political career nor the desire to be a third-party candidate. 'I don't think that is a solution. I don't think it ends well.' ... For now, Schultz says, he's content to 'see what Hillary [Clinton] does.'"

Entertainment magnate David Geffen told the magazine that he thinks Schultz has what it takes.

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“I first told Howard he should run back in 2008,” Geffen said. “We were having a very intense conversation about things that were happening in the country, and Howard had a strong point of view about various things ... We both felt there was a lot of corruption in government and a lack of conviction to put things right.”

Anti-tax activist Grover Norquist also weighed in on the possibility of Schultz running. “'You should run for office' is what people in this country say to you when they mean ‘I like your ideas. I wish people in Washington thought like you did,'” he said, according to the magazine. “That’s what Ralph Nader’s friends said to him, and when he ran, they screamed at it and said, ‘Hey, you are funneling money away from the mainstream of the party!'”

Los Angeles Times: “The Envelope 'Virunga' details a complicated story of oil exploration in Congo”

By Janet Kinosian

February 5, 2015, 7:20 a.m. EST

When filmmaker Orlando von Einsiedel first arrived in eastern Congo to film what ultimately became the Oscar-nominated documentary "Virunga," he'd hoped to showcase an inspiring story of about 500 lionhearted park rangers who risk their lives to protect UNESCO World Heritage Site Virunga National Park — one of the world's most iconic and bio-diverse spots — and the threatened mountain gorillas that reside within.

What he found appeared to be far more complicated — SOCO International, a British-based oil and gas exploration company, was in the Democratic Republic of Congo with a government concession for oil exploration beneath the park.

The film was seen by Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton at a special screening last weekend and has already screened for the United Nations, British Parliament, the European Parliament, on Capitol Hill and for many of SOCO's investors; "Virunga" illuminates "true African heroes," says Von Einsiedel.

Between poachers and a military rebellion devastating the country's eastern region, 130 rangers have died since the mid-1990s.

"Virunga" is really several important films woven into one. What was the initial story you arrived to tell?

I'd worked a lot in Africa as an investigative journalist, and I'd come across incredibly inspiring people amid these rather depressing stories on violence and injustice. "Virunga" was originally a human story about the park rangers risking their lives to protect mountain gorillas and trying to rebuild their country [known as Zaire until 1997] after 20 years of war and conflict. That's the story I went there to tell.

So you knew or didn't know about SOCO International when you first started to film?

I had no idea. But when I got there I learned very quickly of the park's concern about the oil company and I saw that what I could contribute to the fight was technology. In terms of the film, it started to look like three separate films: an investigative PBS "Frontline"-type film, a National Geographic film and a kind of war movie. This suddenly became something that was so much bigger than anything I'd ever done before. But I always felt they were so interrelated they had to be told together.

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Park director Emmanuel de Merode, who opposes all such oil exploration, was ambushed last year, shot four times. Is he OK?

The thing with Emmanuel — and I spent a year with him on the ground — is he is the real deal. He is exactly what he is in the film, and his resolve is as steel and incredible. After he was shot and nearly killed, he was back at work in about 35 days. He's made of truly tough stuff.

Another featured ranger, Rodrigue Katembo, you say acted as an undercover agent, really. How did you connect with him?

He said he'd been approached by people claiming to represent SOCO and was offered money to work against the park. He quickly learned how to use the undercover cameras and very quickly started bringing back this incredible footage. He was also jailed for 17 days after he stopped some people [who said they were] working on behalf of SOCO from building a radio antenna for mobile phones inside the park; the next day he was arrested, beaten up and tortured. He said he was told that if he ever opposed the oil exploration again, next time he'll be killed.

[SOCO International officials could not be reached for comment, but in a 2012 Associated Press article about the situation, the company responded, "SOCO vigorously denies any allegations of impropriety ... {and} does not permit the giving or receiving of bribes." The company's website states that "SOCO's operations inside Virunga National Park ceased on 22 July, 2014 and elsewhere {near Lake Edward} on 11 August, 2014."]

What have you heard from them — has there been significant pushback?

We wrote them and said here's our list of allegations. What's your response? And they wrote us back a 20-page legal letter denying everything and basically saying if you screen this film we reserve the right to sue you.

Then they wrote to the festivals we were going to screen it at and said, "If you screen this film, we believe it's defamatory and we might sue you." And then when it first came out they wrote to loads of journalists who reviewed it and they said, "Take the reviews down from the Internet; if you don't we will sue you." Just incredibly aggressive.

The gorillas are so joyous and gentle in the film. Not quite what I expected.

They are so very, very gentle. Their forest has been bombed for four or five months repeatedly and the first humans the gorillas come across afterward are the rangers, and rather than become angry and lash out, "What have you been doing to us?" they just want to gently and lovingly touch them.

What has been the rangers' response and reaction to all the attention and awards directed at the film?

I think they understood that we were all working together to create this tool that could show the world what was happening in the park. It's not just to protect it for the Congolese people, but also for humanity. If this iconic place isn't protectable, what is?

Slate: “NBC’s Bad Memory”

By Alec MacGillis

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

February 5, 2015, 12:45 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The network repeatedly criticized Hillary Clinton for her false memory of “sniper fire.” Will it hold Brian Williams to the same standard?

Questions are swirling about NBC Nightly News anchor Brian Williams’ guarded acknowledgment Wednesday night that he had, over the years, falsely claimed to have been in a helicopter that came under rocket-propelled grenade fire in Iraq in 2003. But NBC itself has been mostly mum about the matter, and MSNBC has given it only the briefest of mentions.

This is in stark contrast to the network’s coverage of a quite similar matter in 2008: Hillary Clinton’s false claim to have arrived in Tuzla, Bosnia under sniper fire in 1996, when coverage of her visit at the time showed her being greeted leisurely by an 8-year-old with a welcoming poem. From what I can tell from the transcripts at the time, Williams did not directly address Clinton’s exaggerations on the air when they were covered by NBC Nightly News. But his colleagues at NBC and MSNBC hammered away at Clinton repeatedly over several weeks for her dishonesty and carelessness. Some examples, with some especially tart comments highlighted:

Meet the Press, March 23, 2008:

Tim Russert: Yesterday in the column called “Fact Checker” by Michael Dobbs in the Washington Post, Dobbs wrote this, “Clinton’s tale of landing at the Tuzla Airport under sniper fire and then running for cover is simply not credible. Photographs and video of the arrival ceremony combined with contemporaneous news reports tell a very different story. Four Pinocchios,” which is the highest you can get, which means a whopper in terms of exaggeration.

… It’s a credibility issue, truth-telling—is this a problem for Sen. Clinton?

Chuck Todd: Well, it’s been the nagging things about this whole campaign. When you ask that question of honest and trustworthy, she has always consistently scored lower than Obama. … But, I, for the life of me, haven’t understood why they have pushed this story. They knew that somebody went after and re-interviewed Sinbad, who was on that trip, the former “comedian,” and I put comedian in quotes. That he was on that trip and doesn't remember it being that harried or anything like that, and yet she went out and retold the story. … They didn't need to retell the story because if they had not, then they wouldn’t have gotten this four Pinocchio thing out of the Washington Post and given the Obama campaign something to hit them with.

Today Show, March 25, 2008:

Matt Lauer: So let’s talk about this trip to Bosnia March of 1996. Here’s how Hillary Clinton described it last week: “I remember landing under sniper fire. There was supposed to be some kind of a greeting ceremony at the airport, but instead we just ran with our heads down to get into the vehicles and get to our base.” Now, I still remember winning a Little League championship single-handedly when I was 10, probably didn’t happen. But this isn’t the Little League, this is someone running for president. There were reporters on this trip and she’s using her experience as a deciding factor. How could this happen?

Chuck Todd: Well, and it’s worse than that, Matt. There had been reporters questioning her story on this a few weeks ago. One even reached out to the comedian Sinbad, who was also on this trip, to get his recollection of it and it differed from the first lady. So somebody didn’t scrub that speech. It was in prepared remarks last week, and not only did she say it with certitude, but it was in her prepared text. So this was a real sort of bone-headed mistake on the campaign’s part at a time when everybody is looking at everything so carefully.

Lauer: Right, and does it make people now go back and start to question everything she said?

Countdown, March 27, 2008:

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Keith Olbermann: Forgetting about Bosnia. The March 17 misspeak was just she said, sleep deprivation or something. But now, two other Bosnia misspeaks have turned up. Were they sleep deprivation, too?

Speaking of Bosnia, it turns out Sen. Clinton was speaking of Bosnia and gunfire and danger last December. Is that sleep deprivation chronic?

Hardball, April 7, 2008:

Chris Matthews: That said, [for Obama to run ads about] Tuzla doesn't require any nastiness toward Sen. Clinton. It requires playing over and over again a fish story that she was under enemy fire, a very elaborate kind of story about wartime and risk and courage and survival that turned out not to be at all true. Who would hold that against Barack? I can imagine Mark Penn running series of ads over and over again. I can imagine a saturation campaign. Why doesn't he do what Hillary would do?

What's especially striking about the comparison of the scandal over Clinton's Tuzla's claims—which unquestionably wounded her already listing campaign against Barack Obama—was that Williams made some of his false claims about the Iraq helicopter attack directly after Clinton was slammed over Tuzla. In a May 12, 2008 blog post, he wrote:

"A young soldier, who is, like me, from the Jersey Shore, reads my blog entry last week during a break while on active duty in Iraq. The last time I saw him, I was with my friend and NBC News Military Analyst Wayne Downing, a retired 4-Star Army General. Wayne and I were riding along as part of an Army mission to deliver bridge components to the Euphrates River, so that the invading forces of the 3rd Infantry could cross the river on their way to Bagdhad. We came under fire by what appeared to be Iraqi farmers with RPG's and AK-47's. The Chinook helicopter flying in front of ours (from the 101st Airborne) took an RPG to the rear rotor, as all four of our low-flying Chinooks took fire. We were forced down and stayed down—for the better (or worse) part of 3 days and 2 nights."

Williams had seen what happened to Clinton just weeks earlier, yet kept telling his own fish tale. To paraphrase one of his own NBC colleagues, this isn't Little League, it's a nightly news anchor with an audience of millions. Will he be held to the same standards to which NBC and the rest of the media held Clinton?

Washington Post blog: In The Loop: "Scholars rank Kerry dead last in terms of effectiveness."

By Al Kamen

February 5, 2015 7:00 a.m. EST

Secretary of State John Kerry, working diligently on some extraordinarily difficult foreign policy issues — China, neo-Soviet Russia, Islamic State, Iran, etc — isn't getting even a tiny bit of credit these days from the tweedy, elbow-patched, wing-chair crowd.

Foreign Policy magazine this week announced the results of its 2014 Ivory Tower survey of 1,615 international relations scholars from 1,375 U.S. colleges.

One question they were asked was: "Who was the most effective U.S. secretary of state of the past 50 years?

The winner? Nobel Peace Prize winner Henry A. Kissinger, who was secretary for four years during the Nixon and Ford administrations. Since the

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Vietnam thing didn't turn out so well, the scholars must have been grading him on openings to China and the Soviet Union when he was at the National Security Council?

Kissinger got 32.21 percent of the vote, extraordinary in such a large field.

"Don't Know" came in a relatively distant second, with 18.32 percent.

James Baker — who was actually the most effective secretary in the last 50 years — came in third at 17.71 percent, just behind Dr. Know.

Madeleine Albright and Hillary Clinton tied for fourth at 8.70 percent.

George Shultz was sixth with 5.65 percent.

Dean Rusk, who served in the Kennedy-Johnson years, came in seventh at 3.51 percent.

Warren Christopher got 1.53 percent, tying Cyrus Vance for eighth place

Colin Powell was picked by 1.07 percent for tenth place.

Condoleezza Rice got the nod from 0.46 percent putting her in 11th place.

Lawrence Eagleburger came in 12th place with only 0.31 percent.

Then, dead last, is John Kerry. He also got a total of only five votes and tied Eagleburger's 0.31 percent, but the magazine lists him at 13th.

This is all truly odd. Loop Fans may recall Eagleburger was only secretary of state for six weeks, from Dec. 8, 1992 to Jan. 20 1993. To be sure, he was acting secretary for three months before that, but it's hard to say he left a huge diplomatic footprint.

(On the other hand, we always marveled at Eagleburger's unerring ability to keep from blowing himself up as he alternated an inhaler in his right hand and a cigarette in his left.)

Odder still, the survey apparently forget that Nixon's first secretary of state was William P. Rogers.

Well, Kerry's only been at Foggy Bottom for only a couple years, so he's got plenty of time to boost his standing. Nowhere to go but up with this scholarly crowd.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Jon Soltz" <info@votevets.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/8/2010 6:45:28 AM
Subject: Support Obama on Nuclear Weapons

Dear John,

Next week, President Obama is hosting the leaders of 46 countries at a summit in Washington to address the global nuclear threat. Hopes for the summit are high. Russia and the United States have come to an agreement to reduce their strategic nuclear arsenals by a third each. This is the most significant arms control treaty in decades, and a crucial first step to global zero—the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons.

For those of us who served, and are serving, there is no more important thing America can do than avoid wars before they become necessary to wage. In a world where our enemies use terrorist tactics – not conventional warfare – to attack us, diffusing nuclear tensions with other nations in the world makes sense as a means to build alliances, not new enemies. Additionally, the more we rid the world of nuclear weapons, the fewer 'loose nukes' are around to be purchased by terrorists who would use them against us.

Will you stand with us to let world leaders know that we stand behind President Obama's efforts?

CLICK HERE TO SIGN A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF NUCLEAR REDUCTION

We're partnering in this effort with Global Zero, an international movement of activists, experts, political and religious leaders which will deliver the petition to the White House in April 12. The Global Zero petition and action plan are backed by hundreds of former heads of state, foreign ministers, national security advisers and military commanders.

To sign the petition, learn more about the delivery and find out about Global Zero, just click on the link. Please forward this petition to all your friends and family -- we need to have as many signatures as possible when we deliver it April 12.

CLICK HERE TO SIGN A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF NUCLEAR REDUCTION

Please stand with us, and let our voices be heard loud and clear. Thank you for all of your support.
Sincerely,

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran
Chairman, VoteVets.org

Paid for by VoteVets.org Action Fund

Visit the web address below to tell your friends about this.

Tell-a-friend!

If you received this message from a friend, you can sign up for VoteVets.org .

This message was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. Visit your subscription management page to modify your email communication preferences or update your personal profile. To stop ALL email from VoteVets.org, click to remove yourself from our lists (or reply via email with "remove or unsubscribe" in the subject line).

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 5:44:46 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I think Podesta has some concerns about referencing emails, even like this

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 12:17 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

That works too Joel.
I think her using it shows strength
Not worried about credit for Bernie

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:59 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

It's a joke that would work and room would love it. However one caveat:

I think it gives Bernie the credit for putting the email crap behind us instead of her --- she crushed the debate and she crushed at the committee.. And while crowd may love it question for comms team is whether reporters would take it as proof that Bernie "saved" her campaign from the email tempest.

Maybe I'm being too literal here but that was my thought process.

If others think I'm overthinking this, we can use it.

Line could be ---- I don't if you all saw it but the hearing went on for 11 hours. Eleven hours. I was kind of expecting around hour # 8 Bernie Sanders would burst in and shout --- "enough about your damn emails Hillary!!"

From: Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Robby Mook
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri; Joel Benenson; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

You all think wjc's joke is too much about her kinda wishing after hour 8 that Bernie would come through the door with his damn email line ..,?

I think it's funny and confident and the room would love it.

Jim Margolis

Sent from my iPhone.

Please excuse typos.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…

Thinking.

From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Cc: Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com " <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I was kidding!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

Not ninnies.

We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

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Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald

Grunwald Communications

202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head

On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

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Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.

This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

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A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.

I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

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And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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This email is intended only for the named addressee. It may contain information that is confidential/private, legally privileged, or copyright-protected, and you should handle it accordingly. If you are not the intended recipient, you do not have legal rights to retain, copy, or distribute this email or its contents, and should promptly delete the email and all electronic copies in your system; do not retain copies in any media. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender promptly. Thank you.

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/3/2015 8:06:10 AM
Subject: Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

Adding Kristina who is dealing with letter on other chain.

On Jul 3, 2015, at 2:48 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Right, but if we wanted to have a reporter cover the Israel support now, a leak of the letter could probably get written.
>
> Otherwise, we can work around the Israel support for reporters covering Iran.
>
> **From:** Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 3, 2015 2:44 PM
> **To:** Christina Reynolds
> **Cc:** Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin; Oren Shur; John Podesta; Nick Merrill
> **Subject:** Re: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO
>
> We have a two pager I'm getting clearance from her on. That is what we have to ship around.
>
> On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:17 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > We could either get a donor to leak it or just give it to a reporter if we want to get it out there. I'm semi-surprised it's not out yet.
> >
> > On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:15 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Do we need to push it harder over the next few days? Get something written? I feel like we're going to want something to point to. Or maybe even just content on the website?
> > >
> > > On Jul 3, 2015, at 12:12 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > That's basically the goal of the BDS letter.
> > > >
> > > > On Fri, Jul 3, 2015 at 12:11 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > I was just thinking: has she made a clear statement on Israel yet? I get this question from donors all the time. Does she need to state her principles on Israel before Iran? Or do both at the same time?
> > > > >
> > > > > On Jul 3, 2015, at 10:00 AM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > >
> > > > > > This article seems to make the case for the Mook approach - clear, direct and principled.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Sent from my iPhone
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Begin forwarded message:

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: July 3, 2015 at 9:31:09 AM EDT
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama - POLITICO

http://www.politico.com/story/2015/07/hillary-clinton-jewish-donors-israel-119705.html

Hillary Clinton to Jewish donors: I'll be better for Israel than Obama

But the former secretary of state is sending mixed signals on the president's Iran deal.

By Kenneth P. Vogel and Tarini Parti
7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT
Updated 7/3/15 6:33 AM EDT

Hillary Clinton is privately signaling to wealthy Jewish donors that — no matter the result of the Iranian nuclear negotiations — she will be a better friend to Israel than President Barack Obama.

But, even as donors increasingly push Clinton on the subject in private, they have emerged with sometimes widely varying interpretations about whether she would support a prospective deal, according to interviews with more than 10 influential donors and fundraising operatives.

Story Continued Below

Clinton's private responses in some ways resemble a foreign policy Rorschach test; donors who see a deal as important to world peace have come away thinking that Clinton shares their perspective, but so, too, do donors who oppose any prospective agreement as compromising Israeli security.

Publicly, she's expressed support for the negotiating process, which she secretly initiated during her time as secretary of state, but has also said "no deal is better than a bad deal."

With the talks heading into the home stretch in Vienna, the issue is emerging as an early test for Clinton's presidential campaign. She's already struggling to balance two of her biggest strengths as a candidate — her deep foreign policy track record and her vaunted fundraising ability — and that balance could become even trickier if there's a deal.

"Whatever way you go, there will be some people who won't like it," said Sarah Kovner, a prominent New York donor who is a leading bundler for Clinton's campaign and worked in Bill Clinton's presidential administration. "You can't have everybody with you. You've got to do what you think is right for the

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country."

The negotiations are of intense interest for some Jewish donors whose political giving is animated by their support for Israel. They're being counted on by Clinton's allies to donate huge sums for a campaign and a pair of supportive super PACs that, taken together, are expected to raise $2 billion or more.

Clinton's campaign rejected any suggestion that she's trying to have it both ways on Iran.

"Her support for the negotiating process and touting support for Israel are not contradictory," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "A strong deal is good for Israel in her view."

And several people who've heard her address the issue say the fact that different people can come away with such different interpretations is a testament to her nuanced approach to the issue and her skill as a politician, rather than any vacillation on the subject.

"That's just smart politics," said one donor who supports the negotiations and recently talked to her about them. "Because, right now, you have the freedom to say all those things, so why would you commit and box yourself in until you saw what the deal was?"

Clinton recently told another pro-deal donor that she was "very supportive of the negotiating process," the donor recalled, while a third funder said she boasted of her role in starting the talks. "So it seemed like she was supporting it," recalled the funder.

And, at a Manhattan fundraiser last week featuring a largely Jewish group of donors, Clinton defended Obama against charges he had weakened the U.S.-Israel relationship, asserting that such criticism stemmed from a "perception" problem, according to a donor who was present. But she also suggested that if she were elected president she could correct that problem and bring the two nations closer.

"Diplomacy is all about personal relationships, and I've got my own relationships," she said, referencing her two-decade association with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, an ardent opponent of the Iran deal and, occasionally, of Obama. Clinton even cited her rapport with former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, who last week published a book that was brutally critical of the Obama administration and was timed for release to try to stymie the Iran deal. "I know Michael well, but I haven't read the book," she said.

At a fundraiser last month at the Long Island home of Democratic donor Jay Jacobs, Clinton was asked by an Orthodox rabbi about threats to Israel's

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security. “She did stress in no uncertain terms her full and fervent support of the state of Israel and the defense of the state of Israel,” recalled Jacobs. “And the people in the audience who heard it seemed to be comfortable with her answer.”

Likewise, donors at a different New York fundraiser seemed to fully accept her answer to a slightly different question about the U.S. interest in the deal, said billionaire hedge fund manager Marc Lasry, a leading Clinton donor. “She said ‘I’m going to do what’s in the best interest of the U.S.,’ and that was the end of it,” Lasry said.

Dan Berger, a Philadelphia lawyer and major Democratic donor who supports the framework of a deal, cautioned that the interests of the U.S. and Israel, “although close, are not identical. It might not be in the best interest of American Jews, but it’s got to be in the best interest of the majority of the people.” He urged Jewish donors “to take a step back and look at the complexity and judge the agreement based on its merits,” adding: “I’d hope Hillary would judge it based on its merits and not on political support.”

Lasry rejected the suggestion that Clinton would even consider the fundraising implications when assessing any deal.

But Clinton’s senior foreign policy advisers have briefed interested wealthy donors on both the negotiations over the deal and its prospects for congressional approval, according to one donor who recently talked to a top Clinton aide.

“It’s a tricky issue for her,” said the donor who was briefed, arguing that Jewish donors who oppose a deal and favor military intervention in Iran “are going to put her in a box.”

Clinton’s allies are carefully monitoring the sensitivities of a handful of hawkish Democratic mega-donors for signs that the Iran talks may be influencing their willingness to write million-dollar super PAC checks. Chief among that group is billionaire Hollywood entrepreneur Haim Saban, who sources say has spoken multiple times with Clinton and her top aides about the deal.

In April, he strongly suggested that Clinton opposed the deal. “I know where she stands, but I can’t talk about it,” Saban told an Israeli television news channel, adding under questioning, “She has an opinion, a very well-defined opinion. And in any case, everything that she thinks and everything she has done and will do will always be for the good of Israel. We don’t need to worry about this.”

He soon backtracked, saying “I have no idea what Hillary thinks about the Iran deal.”

And multiple prominent Jewish donors who joined Saban at a White House meeting with Obama in April to discuss the Iran negotiations said Saban

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expressed open-mindedness about supporting the deal, though one participant suggested his opinion shouldn't hold as much weight as those of foreign policy professionals.

"Haim Saban is a very smart businessman who has a tremendous amount of love for the Clintons, but I don't think he is the most sophisticated policy analyst that there is," said the donor.

Saban's representatives did not respond to questions about his interactions with Clinton.

But on Thursday, POLITICO reported that he donated $2 million this year to a super PAC supporting her presidential campaign, which Democratic finance sources interpreted as a sign that Saban's financial support will not be conditioned on Clinton taking a certain stance on the Iran deal.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic consultant who worked in the Clinton White House and was a co-founder of Jewish Americans Ready for Hillary, argued that the Iran deal isn't going to be a deciding issue for either donors or voters.

"Do people in my community talk about the Iran deal? Sure. But is it affecting their support for Hillary Clinton? No," he said. "Iran certainly will — and already has — become a talking point, but it will not move three votes or $3."

Clinton has the potential to bring along donors like Saban who might have been skeptical of negotiating with Iran, argued the Long Island donor Jacobs. "Hillary has a lot of credibility and support in the Jewish community. It's broad and deep. People understand that she has fought and has been there as an advocate," he said. "So when she speaks on the issue, there will be more people in the Jewish community who have perhaps unfairly not appreciated President Obama's support who will at least give her view a more open-minded assessment."

If Clinton backs any eventual deal, its proponents will be under pressure to step up their giving — both to the Clinton super PACs and to pro-deal groups — because she is likely to come under heavy fire from deep-pocketed groups that oppose the deal.

"If there's a deal, and she comes out in favor of it, you can be sure there will be a great deal of fire trained on her," said Noah Pollak, the executive director of the Emergency Committee for Israel. The conservative group has worked to rally opposition to the talks and this week began airing an ad pressuring New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who is considered a key vote on the deal, to oppose it.

The left-leaning Israel advocacy group J Street, which has worked to build support for the deal, is expected to come to the defense of supporters, including potentially Clinton, though on some issues, the group's members regard her as

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too hawkish for their tastes.

“For people who speak on these Middle East issues on which we have strong positions, we come to their support and defense on those issues, regardless of party, regardless of candidacy,” said Victor A Kovner, a Democratic donor who chairs J Street’s PAC.

Kovner, like his wife, Sarah Kovner, is backing Clinton, and said he has communicated his support for a deal to the candidate.

“She is familiar with my view, but she has a lot of supporters and advisers on both sides of this question — around the nation, both within the Jewish community and beyond the Jewish community.”

Authors:

View Comments

--
Ian Sams
(423) 915-6592

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From:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	2/12/2016 4:43:20 PM
Subject:	Clinton Foundation News & Guidance

Hi all – We wanted to give you some updates on recent events, Foundation work, and announcements in the news this week.

Clinton Foundation launches digital 2015 Annual Report
Last week we released our Annual Report for 2015 . This report shows the impact that our programs have had in the last year through stories of those around the world who are benefitting from our work. It also shows the progress that these programs have made over the past year, reaching more people. For example:

> The Clinton Development Initiative has reached more farmers, in total helping improve the incomes and livelihoods of 105,000 farmers as of 2015, up from 85,000 the year before;
>
> The Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership has expanded its reach to impact the lives of 450,000 through market opportunities created by social enterprises in Latin America, the Caribbean, and South Asia;
>
> The Alliance for a Healthier Generation has broadened its work to more than 31,000 schools in 50 states providing students with healthier foods and more physical activity in an effort to decrease childhood obesity.

Read the Annual Report at 2015.clintonfoundation.org

Share the Report and watch the "Year in Review" on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/videos/vb.389051904549590/922265787894863/?type=2&theater
Share the Report and watch the "Year in Review" on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/695733980461555713

CGI Winter Meeting Participant Hamdi Ulukaya on Business' Role in Tackling the Refugee Crisis
Last week, President Clinton announced the 2016 Annual Meeting theme "Partnering for Global Prosperity" at the CGI Winter Meeting. After the one-on-one conversation with President Clinton, Mic interviewed Hamdi Ulukaya, Founder and CEO of Chobani and Founder of Tent Foundation, was interviewed by Mic . Hamdi discussed how the businesses community can work together to tackle the Syrian refugee crisis.

> *"Ulukaya spoke after appearing alongside former President Bill Clinton on Thursday afternoon at the annual Clinton Global Initiative Winter Meeting for a discussion on his work on the refugee crisis.*
>
> *…'I've seen it with my own eyes and in my own factories,' Ulukaya told Mic. 'When refugees move in a magnitude like this, something happens that they become more aware, more dedicated and harder working. If they're accepted into the community, they'll do whatever [they can] to help the community.'"*

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/695987612834799617
Share the webcast on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/clintonglobalinitiative/posts/10153458406310318

Chelsea Clinton: Meet 3 Young Leaders Who Are Transforming the Health Industry
Chelsea Clinton wrote a piece on Medium highlighting three young 2016 Health Matters Summit participants who are transforming the health industry.

> *"At this year's Summit, many of our conversations included and highlighted young industry leaders who are playing a greater role than ever in the discussions and solutions, reflecting a larger trend that has us at the Clinton Foundation excited. Through the Foundation's various initiatives — including the students who gather each year for Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) — we have seen, heard and supported young social entrepreneurs drive some of the social sector's most promising efforts to reduce health disparities around the world."*

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonGlobal/status/697495430473633793

Former CGI U Student discusses Winter Meeting "Invest in Her" Working Group Session
Former CGI U student Samir Goel authored a piece for Mogul on the key takeaways from the CGI Winter Meeting working group session "Invest in Her."

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"Last week I had the opportunity to attend the Clinton Global Initiative Winter Meeting and participate in the working session titled "Invest In Her."

"…Coming full-circle: the wage-gap is an extension of the biases that are ingrained from early ages. Women are not worse negotiators than men, they are simply not encouraged to be aggressive or value themselves as highly. Imagine if at age 4 a girl was asked about building legos, at age 12 the economy, and age 18 her dream. Investing in her does not mean creating quotas for jobs and investment, it means believing in HER."

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/697216552366690304

Transforming Cultures and How to Overcome the Gender Gap in STEM

Terri McCullough, director of the Clinton Foundation's *No Ceilings* initiative, penned an op-ed in Fortune in response to the question "What do you think is the most significant barrier to female leadership?" The piece outlines the gains that girls and women have made in the last twenty years and the gaps that still remain with a particular focus on the gender gap in STEM. The piece was also featured in Fortune's Broadsheet on Monday.

"We know more than ever about the progress women have made, and how far we still have to go. While women's representation in the private sector has improved over the past 20 years, gender inequality still persists at every level. The chasms are especially prevalent in tech, and in areas such as computer science, the gap is actually worsening…Data from No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project at the Clinton Foundation, reveal that while women earn the majority of all undergraduate degrees in the U.S., they earn only 18% of computer science degrees, down from a high of 37% in 1984. A 22-cent gender wage gap persists, and women continue to spend a disproportionate amount of time on unpaid work."

Share the article on TWITTER: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/696045888167407616
Share the article on FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/ClintonFoundation/posts/922792864508822

In Case You Missed It:

Forbes highlighted President Clinton's work tackling some of the biggest health issues facing the United States today. The story discusses the 2016 Health Matters Summit and CHMI's work to combat prescription drug abuse, mental health problems and health disparities.

In continuing coverage of Adapt Pharma and CHMI's collaboration to offer a free carton of Narcan, a nasal spray that quickly reverses heroin overdose, to all high schools in the U.S., the Philadelphia Inquirer, Lancaster Online, NBC 10, and NJ.com wrote about how Pennsylvania will be the first state to supply the live-saving antidote.

Devex posted a piece about the development sector's growing use of virtual reality media. The piece highlights CGI's virtual reality film, "Inside Impact," including a video interview with the producer of the film.

To commemorate National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Feb. 7), theGrio published this op-ed from Pastor John Faison Sr. about the CGI commitment made by the NAACP and Gilead Sciences to significantly scale up their initiative, *The Black Church and HIV: The Social Justice Imperative*.

We announced the newest class of Presidential Leadership Scholars. The Presidential Leadership Scholars program is a leadership development initiative that draws upon the resources of the presidential centers of Lyndon B. Johnson, George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton, and George W. Bush. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette wrote about the program and the scholars selected for the 2016 class, including two Arkansans.

Finally, an article in the Washington Post reported the Clinton Foundation received a subpoena from State Department investigators last fall. Here are the facts:

- The Clinton Foundation is not the focus of the probe.

- As the story makes clear, the focus of the subpoena is narrow and is not about the important, life-changing work of the Clinton Foundation.

- Numerous charity watchdogs have rated the Foundation highly on its work, management, transparency and accountability. The American Institute of Philanthropy's "Charity Watch" awarded the Clinton Foundation an "A" rating

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for its financial performance, noting that the Foundation spent 89 percent of its 2013 expenses on charitable programs and activities, and GuideStar has lauded the Foundation for our "commitment to data transparency."

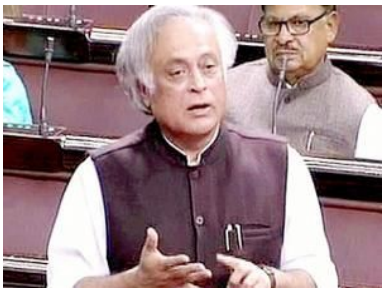
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From: "Jairam Ramesh" <jairam54@gmail.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/13/2014 7:02:29 AM
Subject: May be of interest

Printed from
THE TIMES OF INDIA

India, China support trilateral dialogue with US

PTI | Dec 13, 2014, 05.58 PM IST



The idea for a trilateral dialogue involving India, China and the US to deal with major global challenges and ensure better mutual ties was mooted by former Union minister Jairam Ramesh.

NEW DELHI: India and China on Saturday supported the idea of a trilateral dialogue involving them and the US to deal with major global challenges and ensure better mutual ties.

"I agree with the proposal to launch a trilateral talk between China, the US and India. I think it is a good idea. China is open to any dialogue if it produces peace and development. I think it is a very positive idea," Chinese Ambassador Le Yucheng said.

He was replying to a question at an interactive session at the conference on "Shaping the 21st Century: India, the US and China" organized by Bengaluru-based media group Deccan Herald.

Minister of state for external affairs V K Singh also supported the idea, saying such a proposal will enhance cooperation between the three countries which have strong ties bilaterally with each other.

The idea for such a dialogue was mooted by former Union minister Jairam Ramesh while addressing the conference.

Editor of Deccan Herald K N Tilak Kumar said the world today was witnessing a tectonic change with the phenomenal rise of China and the continued prominence of the US.

"Both countries are important to India and each one of the three have high stakes in economic ties with the other two," Kumar said, adding the kind of three-way relationship between them will be important not only to each of them but to the whole world.

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India and China supported the idea of a trilateral dialogue involving them and US to deal with major global challenges.

The combined contribution of India, US and China to the global GDP is between 40 and 45 per cent and their population is estimated at 40 per cent of the world.

Singh and Le also agreed that the boundary question should be resolved mutually and peace and tranquility at the border should be maintained.

Listing the commonalities and shared interests, Singh said if "you have a trilateral dialogue, I think it will only further the type of interests (we are) seeking."

In his address, the Chinese ambassador said he was "very optimistic" about the "future" between India and China and underlined the need for ensuring peace on the border before reaching a final solution. MORE MPB VSC RT

The Chinese envoy also talked about the trade imbalance with India and said China was opening up its market for Indian companies in many areas to find a solution to the issue.

Replying to a question on South China Sea dispute, he termed it as a complicated issue but asserted that China's sovereignty over the islands in the area was "undisputed".

"It is very complicated (issue). I think if we develop very good relation and cooperation with (concerned countries) we can find a way out. One thing is clear that China's sovereignty over these islands is undisputed," Le said.

In his address, the envoy said though China was "rising" as a major power, it does not seek "hegemony"

"China will remain a benign power and conduct its foreign policy in a constructive way and we will uphold international justice. We will seek cooperative relations with major powers and India. China is not a destroyer and challenger to world order. It is a contributor," he said.

Earlier, Ramesh strongly advocated an institutionalized mechanism for trilateral dialogue among the three powers to deal with issues like climate change, terrorism, energy security and to stop nuclear proliferation.

Ramesh said such a platform was necessary to ensure that differences on various issue do not result in "needless confrontation" and to ensure cohesion on strategic matters.

Identifying climate change as a major issue, he said no global pact to combat global warming was possible without an understanding among the US, China and India as they account for 45-50 per cent of world's green house gas emissions.

Currently, China accounts for about 29 per cent of green house gas emissions while it is 16 per cent by the US and 6 per cent by India. He also welcomed recent announcement by the US and China to take certain actions.

"Environmentally they may not be the most desirable or optimal actions. But these are politically and economically the most realistic action. I think the onus will be on India now to do something meaningful and substantial," he said.

Ramesh said combating terrorism and stopping nuclear proliferation were the other key issues the three countries should work together.

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He said as three nuclear powers with substantial arsenals of "strategic and tactical" nuclear weapons, it was incumbent on the US, China and India to ensure nuclear non-proliferation and eliminate the threat of nuclear terrorism as well as to end weapons of mass destructions.

He said the three countries should also ensure that all the states are made accountable for actions of non-state actors whom they may be supporting tacitly. "All three countries have tremendous interests in ensuring that the sources of terrorism are eliminated."



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Others

Your Reason has been Submitted to the admin.

<img width="1" height="1" src="http://timeslog.indiatimes.com/timeslog.dll/pgnoscr?CHUR=timesofindia.indiatimes.com&logmviewed=1&msid=45505034"></img>
WATCH LIVE TV x
22
Times Points Earned

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 4/25/2015 1:27:43 PM
Subject: RE: No 4 pm Strategy Call Sunday

Do we have the line up of which shows he's doing -- we should be loading up surrogates and friendly hosts to the extent possible with the most challenging questions that the author flat out cannot answer:

1. This is yes or no question - do you have any concrete proof that there was any connection at all between these donations the approval of the sale of this uranium company, which was approved by 9 government agencies?
2. isn't it true that the two agencies that had most control over this decision were Treasury and Defense?

We should have surrogates attack the NY TIMES for writing "thousands" of words when their own story admitted that there was no connection between the donations and the decision to approve the transaction.

-----Original Message-----
From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 4:15 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Marissa Astor; Robby Mook; Jennifer Palmieri; Teddy Goff; John Anzalone; David Binder; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Oren Shur; Brian Fallon; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Re: No 4 pm Strategy Call Sunday

Ditto here.

But it still ran on the front page and he's still getting air time all over the place.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

> On Apr 25, 2015, at 4:06 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:
>
> Likewise --
> And no journos from other orgs who believe it was a legit story. More said they thought the email story is more of a problem.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
> Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 3:57 PM
> To: Kristina Schake; Marissa Astor; Robby Mook; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Jennifer Palmieri; Teddy Goff; John Anzalone; David Binder; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Oren Shur; Brian Fallon; Dan Schwerin
> Subject: RE: No 4 pm Strategy Call Sunday
>
> fwiw,
> I'm seen a lot of NYT reporters and editors at WHCA stuff last night and today.
> A lot of quiet acknowledgement that this was a stupid, thin piece that shouldn't have seen daylight.
> _____
> From: Kristina Schake [kschake@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2015 11:43 AM
> To: Marissa Astor; Robby Mook; Margolis, Jim; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Jennifer Palmieri; Teddy Goff; John Anzalone; David Binder; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Oren Shur; Brian Fallon; Dan Schwerin
> Subject: No 4 pm Strategy Call Sunday

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>
> We are canceling our 4 pm call tomorrow and instead will connect on Monday. Our most important topics are the May location and schedule and we won't have an update tomorrow. Our advance teams are out this weekend checking sites and the schedule is being reworked. We will connect on Monday with the latest info for discussion.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>
>
>
> This email is intended only for the named addressee. It may contain information that is confidential/private, legally privileged, or copyright-protected, and you should handle it accordingly. If you are not the intended recipient, you do not have legal rights to retain, copy, or distribute this e-mail or its contents, and should promptly delete the email and all electronic copies in your system; do not retain copies in any media. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender promptly. Thank you.
>
>

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 1/5/2015 7:15:29 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday January 5, 2015 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Monday January 5, 2015 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton taught Cambodian youth the importance of promoting & protecting human rights #HRC365 http://1.usa.gov/1f24SPP [1/4/15, 11:00 a.m. EST]

Headlines:

Washington Post: Where is the white Southern Republican Bill Clinton on race?

"As I sat in that theater where [President Clinton's] words and images collided, it occurred to me that I could not recall a white Southern Republican of presidential prominence — of any prominence, really — speak as candidly about race, the dark days of segregation and the effect it had on his or her conscience and political consciousness."

Poughkeepsie Journal: Allida Black: "Highlights Clinton's accomplishments"

"Let us hear Hillary's call to 'never rest on [our] laurels. Never quit. Never stop working to make the world a better place. That's our unfinished business.'"

Huffington Post opinion: Peter D. Rosenstein: "Americans will sleep better when Hillary Rodham Clinton is in the White House"

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“Americans and peace loving people across the globe will all sleep better if Hillary Rodham Clinton takes the oath of office on January 20, 2017.”

Wall Street Journal: “Clintons to Attend Mario Cuomo Funeral”

“Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are set to attend the funeral of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo on Tuesday, according to spokesmen, while Vice President Joe Biden and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie are among political dignitaries expected to join friends and family Monday at the wake.”

New York Daily News: “Bill and Hillary Clinton to attend former Gov. Mario Cuomo's funeral Tuesday ”

“The Clintons and Cuomos have longstanding political and personal bonds.”

U.S. News & World Report: “A Resolution for the Contenders”

“Here is my resolution for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and ex-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: Run for president, and do it like you are not afraid to lose.”

Associated Press: “A Year Before 2016, Iowa Full of Presidential Hopefuls”

“While Democrats and Republicans are waiting for Hillary Rodham Clinton, Jeb Bush and other major prospects to formally kick off the 2016 race in the state with the first presidential caucuses, other lesser known or more unlikely aspirants are already active in Iowa, letting everyone know they're available.”

CNN: “Why U.S. needs to stay in Afghanistan”

“An easy way for potential Democratic Party presidential candidates such as Hillary Clinton to distinguish their national security policies from Obama's would be to say that they are in favor of some kind of long-term U.S. military presence in Afghanistan and to argue that it would be needed to avoid an Iraq-style outcome there.”

Washington Free Beacon: “Chuck Todd: Hillary Clinton Is a Similar Politician to Obama, Not Like Her Husband”

“Meet the Press host Chuck Todd says that Hillary Clinton’s political style is close to that of President Obama and unlike that of her Husband, former president Bill Clinton.”

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National Journal: "Many Iowa Democratic Leaders Want Contested Caucuses"

"'Iowa Democratic leaders say they are troubled by the prospect that' former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (D) 'could win the state's 2016 presidential caucuses without a serious challenge, a view primarily rooted in a desire for a more liberal candidate or at least a robust debate about the party's policies and direction…"

Articles:

Washington Post: Where is the white Southern Republican Bill Clinton on race?

By Jonathan Capehart
January 5, 2014

While touring the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, you are encouraged to watch a 12-minute film about the life and tenure of the 42nd president of the United States. I watched it last November while there for the 10th anniversary of the library's opening, and I found one section on race to be particularly powerful. Clinton talked about his grandfather's Hope, Ark., store and the role it played in his racial views throughout his campaigns and his presidency.

Growing up in Arkansas in the '50s and '60s shaped my later political views in several ways. First of all, when I was a little boy hanging out in my grandfather's store, I became aware of his commitment to treating everyone the same whether they had money or not and whatever their race was. I was only 10 years old when I realized not everyone shared those ideals. When the Little Rock Central High School crisis broke, every person in Arkansas had to take sides.

I was home in Arkansas, in Hot Springs, listening as Martin Luther King told us of his dream that one day children of former slaves and the children of former slave owners would sit down together at the table of brotherhood. That speech remains the greatest political speech of my lifetime — the clearest clarion call to the more perfect union of America in the 21st century. After I heard it, my commitment to civil rights and equal opportunity for all Americans was deeper than it had ever been and stayed with me for a lifetime.

As I sat in that theater where his words and images collided, it occurred to me that I could not recall a white Southern Republican of presidential prominence — of any prominence, really — speak as candidly about race, the dark days of segregation and the effect it had on his or her conscience and political consciousness.

Perhaps it is because of a reliance on the distasteful but politically successful "Southern strategy" devised in the late 1960s. Even though then-Republican National Committee chairman Ken Mehlman called GOP reliance on the exploitation of white fear and resentment "wrong" in 2005, the impact of that strategy still reverberates today.

Many thought — and I hoped — Haley Barbour would be that person. When the highly regarded former Mississippi governor and former GOP chairman was considering a run for the 2012 presidential nomination, The Post's Karen Tumulty reported then that Barbour was also "considering giving a major speech on" race. Given his blind spot the size of the Confederate flag when it comes to race, what Barbour might have said on the subject would have been fascinating. So potent and dangerous was the issue of race that a longtime friend of Barbour's told Jason Zengerle in a profile for GQ magazine in 2011, "If he hasn't figured out how you overcome it, or pretty well minimize it, in my opinion he won't run." Barbour opted not to run, and with that, the necessity of

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his speech on race disappeared.

There have been opportunities for a white Southern Republican to address race from their perspective. Seven months after Barbour bowed out, then-presidential candidate and Texas Gov. Rick Perry came face-to-face with his “Niggerhead” past. Perry weathered the storm by calling the name associated with his family’s rented ranch “very offensive.” But the episode dredged up other racially problematic instances in Perry’s past. Last month’s revelation andadmission that House Majority Whip Steve Scalise spoke in 2002 to a white supremacist group founded by David Duke is yet another embarrassing episode for a party that knows it must reach out to people of color.

The impending crop of 2016 Republican presidential aspirants doesn’t inspire hope that a white Southern Republican will engage in the race talk I’m looking for. For instance, former Florida governor Jeb Bush, right now considered the front-runner, is the scion of a political family that rose from rarified air in New England, not the bubbling race cauldron of the South.

Now, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, who ditched his Fox News television show Saturday night to consider another White House run, has come close to what I’m looking for. This is despite his brief slide into birtherism in 2011. In his 2008 convention speech for then-nominee Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), Huckabee said, “I grew up at a time and in a place where the civil rights movement was fought. I witnessed firsthand the shameful evil of racism. I saw how ignorance and prejudice caused people to do the unthinkable to people of color not so many years ago.” But his words have the feel of a pitying passive observer rather than someone galvanized to action as his fellow Arkansan, Clinton, was.

What I’m looking for is probably impossible. The questions I asked when Barbour withdrew from the 2012 presidential race still remain. Is there a white Southern Republican willing and able to articulate the fear, frustration and anger filling the racial divide with as much nuance and eloquence as Barack Obama did in his first run for the Democratic nomination in 2008? Is there a white Southern Republican willing and able to give an honest speech on race from his or her perspective that sought to explain, heal and move the party forward?

No doubt, such a speech would be filled with uncomfortable and painful memories that would scratch at the fiber of our country. And I recognize it could be the undoing of the brave person willing to deliver it. But said person would help the Republican Party and the nation take a bold step in breaking “America’s constant curse.”

Poughkeepsie Journal: Allida Black: “Highlights Clinton's accomplishments”

By Allida Black

January 2, 2015, 12:12 p.m. EST

No two women have played a more pivotal role in expanding human rights across the globe than Eleanor Roosevelt and Hillary Clinton. I wrote about Eleanor Roosevelt's work in an opinion editorial in December. Now, I'd like to highlight Hillary Clinton's role.

The world knows about Hillary's bold pronouncement in 1995 in Beijing that "women's rights are human rights, and human rights are women's rights." But there have been so many other examples.

From elevating women's rights and the Office of Global Women's Issues to negotiating the release of the blind Chinese human rights activist Chen Guangcheng in the midst of our nation's most intense economic negotiations with China, Hillary has, as she wrote in Hard Choices, remained "clear

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eyed about the world as it is while never losing sight of the world as we want it to be."

In 2011, following the death of Ugandan gay rights activist David Kato, rather than just mourn his death issue a formal rebuke, Hillary decided to take the world stage and confront the issue head on. Speaking before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Hillary said, "Like being a woman, like being a racial, religious, tribal, or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights."

Let us hear Hillary's call to "never rest on [our] laurels. Never quit. Never stop working to make the world a better place. That's our unfinished business."

Huffington Post opinion: Peter D. Rosenstein: “Americans will sleep better when Hillary Rodham Clinton is in the White House”

By Peter D. Rosenstein

January 5, 2015, 11:36 a.m. EST

Just think about this report in an AP column by Jill Colvin in the Huffington Post. "It's after 9 p.m. on a Sunday night in late November and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is deep into a conference call, talking about nuclear weapons and Iran. One voice is advocating a hard line, arguing against allowing Iran any capability to enrich uranium. Another summarizes the status of current negotiations and argues that forcing Iran to give up enrichment entirely isn't realistic." "Late at night, away from the spotlight of the midterm elections and 2016 speculation, he's been on the phone with some of the brightest foreign policy minds in the Republican Party, getting ready to run for president." So Christie who knows nothing about the world situation is now preparing as he would for a college debate or a final exam. Definitely not a report to inspire confidence in the electorate he could lead the only superpower left in the world.

But none of the other potential Republican choices would make anyone feel safer with their finger on the nuclear button. There is former Texas Governor Rick Perry, the candidate for those who thought George W. Bush was too cerebral; Jeb Bush, yes he could call his brother George for advice but remember where that go us; Rick Santorum, enough said; Marco Rubio who believes the last 50 years of sanctions against Cuba accomplished something and should be continued; Rand Paul who would call his father for advice and just turn away from the rest of the world; or Carly Fiorina making her own noise about running. This being the same Fiorina who got dumped by Hewett-Packard (HP) because she couldn't get along with her board after firing 18,000 employees. Her claim to fame was walking away with a golden parachute worth $21 million (a company saves a lot when you fire 18,000 people). She ran and lost a California Senate race to Barbara Boxer which came as no surprise since voters are pretty smart and she ran on her expert business acumen and how she could create jobs.

We live in a world in which a new crisis arises every day and our President is required to respond. We are bringing to a close America's longest war but will still have 13,000 American troops in Afghanistan; ISIS is threatening to overrun Iraq and pull us back to fight there; and Putin is still flexing his muscles even though they are weaker since the price of oil plummeted to $50 a gallon. The Israeli/Palestinian situation is always on the verge of erupting into war and North Korea continues to threaten havoc. There are hotspots around the globe ready to explode at any time.

Americans must ask themselves are we going to elect a President with no real foreign affairs knowledge or experience or are we going to elect the most qualified person ever to run for the office. Are we going to elect someone who is studying up for a debate or will we elect Hillary Rodham Clinton who has the world's leaders on speed-dial because she has traveled the world as Secretary of State negotiating with them and earning their respect?

They know and we know what she stands for. We can be confident that as President she understands and won't back away from the challenges the United States faces. Hillary understands as the only remaining superpower we can't allow the new isolationists in our country to keep the United States from acting to protect our homeland and make this a safer world. She has defined what she means by acting when she describes her

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view of "Smart Power." She makes clear it is not always rushing in with troops rather using all the levers a President has at her disposal with military action being the last resort. Americans will always sleep better knowing we have a President with an in-depth understanding of the world situation and the players in it.

Barack Obama brought the country out of the worst recession we have seen since the Great Depression. His administration has overseen the creation of more net jobs than the administrations' of both Bushes together and seen the unemployment rate go down from over ten percent to less than six percent. He saved the automotive industry and for the first time in decades we are seeing a rise in manufacturing jobs.

But the work of rebuilding our economy is far from over and it won't be accomplished until people once again have the chance to enter the middle class and see a better future for their families and their children's children. While we are moving in that direction Hillary Rodham Clinton has a record that shows she understands what still has to be done. She will lead a government working to ensure equality for all and providing every person with the tools they need to succeed.

Americans and peace loving people across the globe will all sleep better if Hillary Rodham Clinton takes the oath of office on January 20, 2017.

Wall Street Journal: "Clintons to Attend Mario Cuomo Funeral"

By Erica Orden

January 5, 2015, 1:11 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Biden, Christie Among Those At Wake as Last Respects Paid to Liberal Champion

Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are set to attend the funeral of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo on Tuesday, according to spokesmen, while Vice President Joe Biden and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie are among political dignitaries expected to join friends and family Monday at the wake.

During his presidency, Mr. Clinton considered Mr. Cuomo as a Supreme Court nominee, but Mr. Cuomo said he wasn't interested.

Mr. Cuomo, the father of current New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, died Thursday at age 82, in his home in Manhattan, after suffering from a heart condition for many months.

He will be mourned at a wake at the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Mario Cuomo served three terms as governor, rising to prominence with soaring speeches that defended liberalism during the ascendance of President Ronald Reagan's conservatism in the 1980s. He considered running for president in 1991, drawing national attention for months, but ultimately declined.

On Saturday, his son Andrew spoke for the first time publicly about his father's death, saying "there is a hole in my heart that I fear is going to be there forever."

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“We’re going to have his wake and his funeral, but I can say I miss him already,” the governor said, speaking outside a wake being held for New York City police Officer Wenjian Liu, who along with a fellow police officer was fatally shot on Dec. 20.

Mr. Cuomo’s Catholic funeral Mass is scheduled for Tuesday at 11 a.m., at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, on the Upper East Side.

New York Daily News: “Bill and Hillary Clinton to attend former Gov. Mario Cuomo's funeral Tuesday ”

By Annie Karni and Celeste Katz

January 5, 2015, 1:12 p.m. EST

Former President Bill Clinton and ex-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will join mourners at Tuesday's funeral service for liberal lion Mario Cuomo.

The former three-term governor, 82, passed away last Thursday afternoon of heart failure.

"Mario’s life was the very embodiment of the American dream," the Clintons said in a joint statement after Cuomo's death.

The Clintons and Cuomos have longstanding political and personal bonds.

"When he placed my name in nomination at the 1992 Democratic Convention, he said government had 'the solemn obligation to create opportunity for all our people,'" the Clintons' statement on Cuomo's demise continued. "In his three terms as governor of New York, he honored that obligation.”

The list of speakers at the elder Cuomo's funeral has not yet been established, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office.

Cuomo's funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Ignatius Loyola Church on Park Avenue in Manhattan.

Vice President Biden and his wife, Jill, are among those attending Cuomo's wake Monday at the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home.

Viewing hours are from 1 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 10 p.m.

U.S. News & World Report: “A Resolution for the Contenders”

By Charles Wheelan

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

January 5, 2014, 12:00 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The only thing Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton should fear is running a lousy campaign.

Now is a good time for New Year's resolutions. Even if most of us fail to live up to our January goals, there is value in our aspirations. (I plan to finish a book manuscript, lose five pounds and spend more time practicing my putting.)

More interesting, here is my resolution for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and ex-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: Run for president, and do it like you are not afraid to lose. This is the political equivalent of dancing like no one is watching. People who are afraid to lose don't often win – not in sports, not in business, not even in the arts. Fear of losing precludes the risks that typically define major success. If you set out to make a film that will not lose money at the box office, you will end up with "Horrible Bosses 2," not "Citizen Kane."

Both Bush and Clinton have a lot in common with Mitt Romney, in a good way. They are smart, thoughtful, experienced, politically savvy and altruistic. But if they run the kind of campaigns that Romney ran in 2008 and 2012, both risk losing in the same insipid, humiliating way. More important, neither would win a mandate to govern America the way we need right now.

So what does a "run like you're not afraid to lose" campaign look like?

Step One: Survey your life and take account of how good your things would be if you were not elected president in 2016: children, grandchildren, travel, myriad opportunities to make money and do good – all without serious media intrusion.

Step Two: Plan your 2016 campaign recognizing that everything I've described above is the good stuff that happens if you lose. And it's really, really good. You shouldn't fear running a good campaign and losing. The worst-case scenario is running a lousy campaign – pandering to interest groups, saying stupid things in the primaries, dodging important questions – and still losing. Don't pull a Romney. Instead, say things that will change your respective parties and improve our national discourse. Talk about issues in ways that would make it easier to govern if you were to win. Don't tell us that we can lose weight by eating ice cream. Tell us that we can lose weight by exercising more and eating less. Then, should you find yourself in the Oval Office, we will not be shocked when your weight reduction bill includes things that make us sweat.

Voters say they like to hear hard truths like that, but we don't. We're suckers for people with good hair who tell us that tax cuts will generate higher government revenues, or that universal health care will pay for itself through new savings, or that climate change isn't really a problem, or that some international crisis (Syria, Afghanistan or the Israel-Palestine conflict) could be solved if only President Barack Obama were not so feckless/incompetent/political. None of these things is true. Some are Republican shibboleths; some are Democratic ones. If you listen to political talking heads long enough, you'll hear all of them. Each one is like telling people they can lose weight by eating ice cream. Not only is it bogus, but it renders the real solutions less attractive and therefore less likely to happen.

Instead, tell us that climate change is a real threat and that raising the cost of carbon-emitting fuels is the only sensible way to deal with that threat. Tell us that the U.S. is on an unsustainable fiscal path and that any economically and politically viable fix will require both significant changes to our entitlement programs and new revenues. Tell us that you're not sure what to do in Syria but that you understand the scale of the human crisis and the dangers that such instability poses to the U.S. (Okay, maybe it's not Syria, but just tell us that you're not sure about something. Anything.)

Remind yourself that primary voters – the die-hard Democrats and Republicans that your consultants and fundraisers are now telling you how to reach – are not only unrepresentative of America but fundamentally out of sync with everything that has to be done should you reach the White House. If the party stalwarts cheer excitedly for something in Iowa or New Hampshire, there is a darn good chance Congress will never pass it.

Typical candidates say and do whatever it takes to win the primaries. Then they do the same thing in the general election. Finally, having made all the requisite fibs and promises, they try to govern (while still looking over their shoulder at the primary voters who will be important for re-election).

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Jeb and Hillary: You are starting from a strong enough position that you have the potential to turn the whole campaign process on its head. First, identify what you would like to do as president. What really has to happen? What accomplishments would justify taking on this horrible job? Then use the campaign to build a coalition to support those changes. If you win, you will have a mandate to change America's trajectory for the better. If you lose, see No. 1 above. Tell yourself: Gosh darn it, I'm going to be a transformative leader or lose trying.

Is this naive? Of course it is. That's the point of New Year's resolutions. (When I belonged to a health club in Chicago, I was always relieved in early February when the parking lot was no longer crowded.)

Still, I'm reminded of the late Paul Tsongas, the former Massachusetts senator who made a quixotic bid for president in 1992. I covered his campaign as a young journalist. At one point, I asked Tsongas if he really thought he could win. He replied, "I don't have to win. I just have to run a race that my grandchildren will be proud of."

It's a great answer, even for candidates who have a very good chance of winning.

Associated Press: "A Year Before 2016, Iowa Full of Presidential Hopefuls"

By Thomas Beaumont

January 5, 2015, 12:36 p.m. EST

ALTOONA, Iowa (AP) -- Soft laughter rippled through the audience in an Iowa church meeting room when a woman punctuated her question to the keynote speaker, Bernie Sanders, with, "when you're president."

The reaction was a gentle acknowledgment that the Vermont senator, whose self-described socialist positions appeal to the hardest-core liberals, is a long shot for the Oval Office.

Yet while Democrats and Republicans are waiting for Hillary Rodham Clinton, Jeb Bush and other major prospects to formally kick off the 2016 race in the state with the first presidential caucuses, other lesser known or more unlikely aspirants are already active in Iowa, letting everyone know they're available.

They're following a long-established ritual, based on the notion that even far-fetched dreams can come true in a place where friendly people will come out to hear candidates and the media is ever alert for political tremors.

Along with Sanders, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley among Democrats, and neurosurgeon Ben Carson, a Republican, are among the non-short-listers making contacts in the state, giving speeches and road-testing their messages.

Most don't actually say they're running. They're just saying hello.

"I don't know if it's an advantage as much as it is laying down a marker, starting to bend the arc of the conversation," said Sue Dvorsky, former Iowa Democratic Party Chairwoman.

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And this being campaign-steeped Iowa, most seem to draw an audience.

On a two-day mid-December trip, Sanders, who is among the Senate's most liberal members, made a series of stops in which he touted expanding government regulation of banking, universal government-funded health care and a $15-per-hour minimum wage. Sanders is one of only two senators who don't identify as Democrat or Republican, though he caucuses and votes with Senate Democrats.

Sanders, hunched over a hotel ballroom podium with his tussled shock of white hair, declared that it's time to break up the nation's big banks.

"If Teddy Roosevelt were alive today, he would say, and we should say, if these guys are too big to fail, they are too big to exist," Sanders said.

Sanders' populist pitch bears some resemblance to that of Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the rising star of the Democratic left. But she has said she won't run for president, leaving room for Sanders to hope.

Ron Rosenblatt, a financial services company owner, cheered Sanders along with about 150 invited Democrats in the Altoona hotel ballroom. "I like his ability to generate enthusiasm," he said, but at 73, "he's at an age that would make it difficult."

O'Malley, known for defending gay marriage and repealing the death penalty, visited Iowa four times last year and contributed more than $45,000 to Iowa candidates and party organizations, which made him friends in convenient places. Governors often make good presidential candidates, and O'Malley, 51, would be one of the few in the Democratic field, fitting somewhere to Clinton's left on the political spectrum.

Webb, a former secretary of the Navy, visited in September before announcing his plans to explore a candidacy in November. He would slot to Clinton's right.

Clinton visited Iowa twice in 2014 to campaign for Iowa Democrats, but has sent few public signals about her plans, even though most expect her to run.

Although national polls 13 months before the Iowa caucuses reflect mostly name familiarity, about 60 percent of likely Democratic primary voters say they would vote for Clinton. Sanders, O'Malley and Webb combine for less than 10 percent.

Long shot Republicans have also been busy in Iowa, along with the better known names such as New Jersey's Chris Christie and 2012 Iowa caucuses winner Rick Santorum, a former Pennsylvania senator. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal has stepped up his Iowa travel, as has former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Newcomer Carson, 63, a retired Johns Hopkins neurosurgeon who was raised in inner city Detroit, has impressed crowds of curious Republicans on his two trips. Carson, who is African American, ignited curiosity among conservatives after he criticized political correctness, the federal debt and the health care overhaul during the 2013 National Prayer Breakfast, with President Barack Obama in attendance.

While Carson isn't well known, other little candidates wound up eventually getting attention here in 2008, such as businessman Herman Cain, before eventually falling.

Providing hope to all longshots are Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor, who won the 2008 Republican caucuses, and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, who came from nowhere in 2004 to challenge eventual Democratic nominee John Kerry.

But for every Huckabee, said former GOP chairman Matt Strawn, "There is a Tommy Thompson, Tom Tancredo or Chris Dodd," referring to Iowa competitors who never broke through.

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Physician Christi Taylor of Waukee, who heard one of Carson's talks, said she was "blown away" by his remarks about personal responsibility.

Now she's part of an effort to draft Carson to run. "As someone who likes to evaluate facts, I want to pick the right person, not who has the biggest name in lights," Taylor said.

CNN: "Why U.S. needs to stay in Afghanistan"

By Peter Bergen

January 5, 2015, 8:04 a.m. EST

President Barack Obama says that the last American troops will leave Afghanistan at the end of 2016. This happens to roughly coincide with the end of his second term in office and also fulfills his campaign promise to wind down America's post-9/11 wars.

But is it a wise policy?

Short answer: Of course not.

One only has to look at the debacle that has unfolded in Iraq after the withdrawal of US troops at the end of 2011 to have a sneak preview of what could take place in an Afghanistan without some kind of residual American presence. Without U.S. forces in the country, there is a strong possibility Afghanistan could host a reinvigorated Taliban allied to a reinvigorated al Qaeda.

Needless to say, this would be a disaster for Afghanistan. But it would also be quite damaging to U.S. interests to have some kind of resurgent al Qaeda in the country where the group trained the hijackers for the 9/11 attacks.

It would also be disastrous for the Democratic Party, should it win the presidency in 2016, to be the party that "lost" Afghanistan. After all, the Democratic Party is viewed by some as weaker on national security than the Republicans and it is inevitable that without some kind of residual American presence in Afghanistan al Qaeda would gain sufficient strength to launch an attack from the Afghan-Pakistan border region against American interests.

An easy way for potential Democratic Party presidential candidates such as Hillary Clinton to distinguish their national security policies from Obama's would be to say that they are in favor of some kind of long-term U.S. military presence in Afghanistan and to argue that it would be needed to avoid an Iraq-style outcome there.

Similarly, as the Republican Party starts ramping up for the 2016 campaign, potential candidates such as Jeb Bush can distinguish themselves from the isolationist Rand Paul wing of the party by saying that they are committed to a long-term presence in Afghanistan.

This U.S. military presence in Afghanistan doesn't have to be a large, nor does it need to play a combat role, but U.S. troops should remain in Afghanistan to advise the Afghan army and provide intelligence support.

Such a long-term commitment of several thousand American troops is exactly the kind of force that the Obama administration was forced to deploy to Iraq during the past six months following ISIS's lightning advances.

Selling such a long-term U.S. military presence in Afghanistan would be pushing against an open door with that nation's government. Consider that within 24 hours of being installed, the new Afghan government signed the basing agreement that allows American troops to stay in Afghanistan until December 2016.

Consider also that the Afghan government has already negotiated a strategic partnership agreement with the United States lasting until 2024 that would provide the framework for a longer term U.S. military presence. Consider also that many Afghans see a relatively small, but long-term international troop presence as a guarantor of their stability.

It is also not in Pakistan's interests for Afghanistan to fall to the Taliban or be thrust into another civil war. The Pakistanis have seen for themselves repeatedly the folly of allowing the Taliban to flourish on their own soil, most recently in the Taliban attack last month on the army school in Peshawar that killed 132 children.

It is in Pakistan's own interest that the Afghan army is able to fight effectively against the Taliban, which is more likely if they continue to have American advisers at their side.

Other regional powers such as the Chinese worry about Chinese Uighur separatists establishing themselves on Afghan soil.The Russians are similarly worried about Islamist terrorist groups located in Afghanistan and so will not stand in the way of a small long-term U.S. military presence in Afghanistan as that would dovetail with their own security concerns about the country.

Keeping a relatively small, predominantly U.S. Special Forces, presence in Afghanistan to continue to train the Afghan army past December 2016 is a wise policy that would benefit both Afghans and Americans.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties should adopt such a plan in their platforms as they gear up for the 2016 campaign.

Washington Free Beacon: “Chuck Todd: Hillary Clinton Is a Similar Politician to Obama, Not Like Her Husband”

[No Writer Mentioned]

January 5, 2015, 8:54 a.m. EST

Meet the Press host Chuck Todd says that Hillary Clinton’s political style is close to that of President Obama and unlike that of her Husband, former president Bill Clinton.

When asked about Hillary Clinton’s relationship with Obama, Todd said, “I think a lot better than people realize. I have the impression that they are more alike as politicians than for instance hillary and bill are.”

Promoting his new book on C-SPAN’s Book TV, Todd said unlike former Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush, Hillary Clinton and Obama both

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weren't born with political instincts.

Hillary and Obama "both have come to politics on the campaign side of it, the theatric side of it," Todd said. "They've both had to learn it–it's not instinctual to them."

Todd's analysis fits with the belief that Hillary Clinton would essentially be a third Obama term to keep his policies intact.

National Journal: "Many Iowa Democratic Leaders Want Contested Caucuses"

By Adam Wollner

January 5, 2015

"Iowa Democratic leaders say they are troubled by the prospect that" former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (D) "could win the state's 2016 presidential caucuses without a serious challenge, a view primarily rooted in a desire for a more liberal candidate or at least a robust debate about the party's policies and direction ... Many county officials said they would like to see" Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) run. "State Democratic officials also want a contested race because that boosts the party apparatus and fundraising." (*Wall Street Journal*)

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From: "Jonathan Garthwaite" <THeditor@TownHallmail.com>
To: Friend <JohnPodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/16/2016 8:14:06 AM
Subject: Obama Finally Makes Supreme Court Pick

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Obama Nominates Federal Appeals Judge Merrick Garland To Supreme Court to Replace Scalia

Katie Pavlich



President Obama has nominated Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court as a replacement for late Justice Antonin Scalia, who died last month.
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Analysis: Obama's SCOTUS Pick and the GOP's Dilemma

Guy Benson



As regular readers are well aware, I've been on board with Senate Republicans' "no hearings, no vote" approach ever since Justice Scalia died last month.
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Cruz Camp Say There's 'Zero Chance' of Kasich Going to Convention

Cortney O'Brien



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Salt Lake City Debate Scheduled For Monday is Canceled
Christine Rousselle



Florida Governor Rick Scott Endorses Trump
Justin Holcomb



McConnell: Garland Nomination Nothing More Than A Political Ploy to Win 2016 Election For The Democrats
Matt Vespa



Is Garland Really 'The Most Conservative' SCOTUS Nominee Ever Made by a Dem President?
Cortney O'Brien



Obama SCOTUS Nominee Says Justices Must Follow the Law, Not Make It
Matt Vespa



Hillary Clinton Makes Cameo on Broad City
Christine Rousselle







Senate Judiciary Committee: We're Still Not Giving Obama's SCOTUS Nominee a Hearing

Gov. John Kasich may have won his home state of Ohio Tuesday night, but his remaining competitors say he has no business staying in the presidential race.
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Katie Pavlich

President Obama has nominated Federal Appeals Judge Merrick Garland to replace late Justice Antonin Scalia. Utah Republican Senator Mike Lee, who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee, is reconfirming the Committee's decision to deny any nominee confirmation hearings.
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Trump: "I'm Speaking to Myself" About Foreign Policy, I "Have a Very Good Brain" and "Instinct"

Katie Pavlich

GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump, who is running for the job that would hand him the nuclear codes, has been all over the map when it comes to foreign policy.
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Many GOP Primary Voters Would Consider Third-Party Candidate if Election Comes Down to Trump v. Clinton

Leah Barkoukis

As the Associated Press put it after Tuesdays results came in, both math and momentum now point to Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton being their partys respective nominees.
[Keep Reading]



Cruz: Why Yes, Denying Trump the Nomination at a Contested Convention Would be Legitimate

Guy Benson

First, a few thoughts on last night's results, followed by a look at Cruz's remarks. Super Tuesday 3.0's big winner was Hillary Clinton.
[Keep Reading]



Ted Cruz Reconfirms: I Have "Absolutely Zero" Interest in Being Trump's VP

Katie Pavlich

During an interview with Salem Radio host Hugh Hewitt Tuesday, GOP presidential candidate Ted Cruz reconfirmed he has no interest in becoming Donald Trump's vice presidential candidate should he fail to become the Republican nominee.
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Both Races in Missouri Remain Too Close to Call--What's Next?

Leah Barkoukis

The margins are razor thin in both--less than one-half of 1 percentage point.
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Bearing Arms

California Gov. Jerry Brown Wants to Build a Wall, Too | Jenn Jacques

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	9/21/2014 7:03:24 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Sunday September 21, 2014 Roundup



Correct The Record Sunday September 21, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

Los Angeles Times: "Hinting at 2016, Hillary Clinton focuses on humanizing her image"

"With Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2016 presidential run looking like a foregone conclusion, the question now is whether she has a message."

The Hill: "Five key Hillary Clinton players to watch"

"With the speculation of another Clinton bid for the presidency rising to a boil, The Hill looks at five insiders who promise to play a big role in the would-be campaign."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Harkin: 2016 'weighing heavily' on Hillary"

"Retiring Sen. Tom Harkin doesn't know if Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2016."

CBS News: "Rand Paul not waiting for 2016 to take on Hillary Clinton"

"Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, isn't waiting until the 2016 election to formally kick off to start tearing into Hillary Clinton, the most prominent face among Democrats who might seek the nomination."

Hindustan Times: "Eye on future? Modi to meet Hillary and Bill Clinton in New York"

"They are scheduled to meet in New York, where Modi will be from September 26 to 29 for the UN general assembly. And the Clintons live in

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Chappaqua, near New York City."

CNN: "Bill Clinton on Fareed Zakaria GPS"

[Pres. Clinton, on Sec. Clinton's argument to arm the Syrian rebels] "It was a - an argument she lost within the administration and she admitted then and acknowledged in her book that she can't know that if her recommendation had been followed, it would have worked."

Associated Press: "2016 May Loom, But Jeb Bush Is Focused on Business"

"A Republican establishment favorite, Bush is chairman of a Florida-based private equity and business advisory group, and is a managing partner of at least eight other separate companies that dabble in ventures ranging from privatized emergency response to real estate to driverless cars, according to state and federal records."

Articles:

Los Angeles Times: "Hinting at 2016, Hillary Clinton focuses on humanizing her image"

By Maeve Reston

September 20, 2014, 8:31 p.m. EDT

With Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2016 presidential run looking like a foregone conclusion, the question now is whether she has a message.

Fresh off a visit to Iowa and two events last week in Washington where she sought to reconnect with female voters, Clinton has sounded increasingly like a candidate. She hints at her presidential ambitions with wink-and-a-nod asides like the one in Iowa: "It is true, I'm thinking about it."

Yet in framing what she described Friday as her "long career of fighting for women, and children, and fairness, and equality, and justice," Clinton has nearly mastered the art of avoiding controversy, offering dry speeches and a pitch that seems intended to be inoffensive.

Rather than staking out attention-grabbing positions or wading into policy debates, Clinton seems focused on humanizing an image that has suffered in the past from accusations of brittleness. She rarely misses an opportunity to suggest that her soon-to-arrive grandchild is inspiring her to take another look at politics.

"I've been thinking a lot about family, because, you know, I'm on grandbaby watch," she wryly told a mostly female audience at a Democratic conference Friday.

"We will certainly do everything possible to prepare this child, protect this child. But I want that for everybody's child, and everybody's grandchild." Pivoting into what began to sound like a campaign speech, she added: "I want every one of our children to feel that they are inheriting the best of America ... that this country is on your side; that this country will give you the fighting chance, the fair shot you deserve."

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Those sorts of gauzy statements have become Clinton's hallmark this year.

The former secretary of State has said little, for example, about the president's controversial strategy for defeating Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria — or where she might draw the line on the mission of U.S. troops, a fraught issue after her Senate vote authorizing the use of force in Iraq in October 2002 complicated her last presidential campaign.

Her recent speech on energy policy avoided hot-button topics like the Keystone pipeline and was largely devoid of any new policy prescriptions: "Good ideas are everywhere you look," she said in one typical line. "Imagine what we can do as a country if we all roll up our sleeves and get to work."

When confronted by an activist on the rope line in Iowa about whether she agreed with President Obama's decision to delay until after the election his promised executive action on immigration, she deliberately sidestepped the issue before moving on: "I think we need to elect more Democrats," she crisply told the young woman, who identified herself to Clinton as "a Dreamer," brought to the U.S. illegally as a child.

So far, Clinton's lack of specificity has made it difficult to discern what distinct argument she would make for her candidacy. A potential rival from the left, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who recently published her book "A Fighting Chance," cuts a sharp contrast with Clinton in that sense — she is succinct as she rails against banks and Wall Street for "cheating families."

Warren, who so far has insisted she will not run for president, brought cheering activists to their feet in Detroit this summer with an impassioned, populist speech declaring that "the game is rigged" against working Americans: "If we push back against the biggest, strongest, most ruthless lobbying effort in the country," Warren said of big banks, "if we push back hard, we can win."

Clinton drew a more muted response with her somewhat meandering speech at Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin's annual steak fry last weekend, which seemed to pull threads from her husband's presidential campaigns in 1992 and 1996 — dusting off his signature line about championing Americans who "work hard and play by the rules," and worry that their children will be worse off than they were.

The one area where Clinton has been most visibly passionate — throughout her career and now as she ponders another bid to be the first woman president — has been her advocacy for the rights of women and girls around the world. That subject will be showcased at the Clinton Global Initiative gathering, which begins Sunday night in New York.

When she was introduced this week by Harkin and Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wassermann Schultz, both recalled Clinton's groundbreaking 1995 speech at a women's conference in Beijing, in which she declared, "Let it be that human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights, once and for all."

Clinton closed her 2008 presidential candidacy with a concession speech that played on her historic effort, saying that although she and her team "weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time… it's got about 18 million cracks in it."

As a potential reprise nears, Clinton seems to be attempting to expand that mantra from breaking barriers herself to her desire to create greater security for the middle class through initiatives such as raising the minimum wage, expanding access to childcare and ensuring that women and men are paid equally.

"We talk about a glass ceiling," she said during a panel Thursday at the Center for American Progress. "These women don't even have a secure floor under them."

By the next day, at the Democratic gathering in Washington, she had sharpened the line: "No wonder so many families are hurting today. For too many women, for too many families, they don't just face ceilings on their dreams — it feels to them as though the floor has collapsed beneath their feet."

"These aren't just women's issues, they are family issues," she added. "They are American issues, and they hold back our entire economy."

It seemed to be the seed of a 2016 message.

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The Hill: "Five key Hillary Clinton players to watch"

By Amie Parnes

September 21, 2014, 7:00 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton is known for having perhaps the most loyal inner circle in politics, sometimes loyal to a fault.

With the speculation of another Clinton bid for the presidency rising to a boil, The Hill looks at five insiders who promise to play a big role in the would-be campaign.

Cheryl Mills

Perhaps the most trusted aide in Hillaryland, Mills served as chief of staff and counselor during Clinton's tenure at the State Department, handling everything from personnel matters to management and operations at Foggy Bottom.

The Stanford University Law graduate is close to both Clintons, having defended the former president during his impeachment trial and remaining close in recent years. But more than anything, Mills is known as a straight shooter, something the former first couple values.

Those familiar with the Clinton operation say that if there's anyone who get the wheels greased in the lead-up to a potential presidential bid for Clinton, it will be Mills.

"She holds the keys the castle," one former Hillary aide said. "If there's one singular go-to for the Secretary, she's the one."

Minyon Moore

A senior adviser to Hillary Clinton during her 2008 run, expect Moore to play an even bigger role in a second campaign.

While she now works as a strategist at Dewey Square Group in Washington, she has a constant and direct line of communication with the former secretary of State on both professional and personal matters.

Like Mills, Moore also has long-running ties to the former first couple. She served in the Clinton White House as assistant to the President and director of White House Office of Political Affairs as well as the White House public liaison director.

Moore doesn't have an outsized personality, and prefers to stay behind the scenes more often than not. But those inside the operation say Moore would have a role in piecing together the initial phases of a campaign.

"In terms of inner circle, Minyon easily falls into that pot," a second former Hillary aide said. "She's always been fiercely loyal to both the president and the secretary. And I wouldn't expect that to change ever."

Jake Sullivan

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A relative newcomer to Hillaryland in 2007, Sullivan helped Clinton prepare for the Democratic primary debates, serving as an adviser for all-things policy.

But when she entered the State Department, the Minnesota native became her all-purpose senior aide where he not only ran Clinton's Policy and Planning shop, but also dealt with communications and personnel issues.

When Clinton traveled to 112 countries as Secretary of State, Sullivan was constantly at her side. So it only made sense that when Clinton left Foggy Bottom, he was instantly snatched up by the White House, where he served as Vice President Biden's national security adviser.

Sullivan left the White House recently to teach at Yale Law School this fall. But, Clinton insiders expect him to return if a Clinton campaign begins.

Hillary Clinton thinks Sullivan has chops for his own White House run one day, as she told a crowd in 2012.

"I told my husband about this incredibly bright rising star — Rhodes Scholar, Yale Law School — and my husband said, 'Well, if he ever learns to play the saxophone, watch out,'" she said.

Maura Pally

When Hillary Clinton officially joined the Clinton Foundation in 2013, one of her first hires was Pally, who would serve as the executive director for her office at the Clinton Foundation.

Since then, Pally has run many of Clinton's initiatives and projects including 'No Ceilings,' focused on Women and Girls, and Too Small to Fail, an initiative helping the health of young children.

Pally, like other Hillarylanders, began in the Clinton White House serving as a special assistant in the counsel's office. She would go on to serve as deputy counsel during Hillary's 2008 presidential run.

"She is probably one of the most capable people on staff," said one Clinton insider. "There is nothing Maura can't do. I think the secretary is well aware of that."

Dan Schwerin

Among the youngest staffers on Team Clinton, Schwerin, an early thirty-something, got his start in Hillary's Senate office, serving as a press aide.

He went on to work on the 2008 presidential campaign before landing at the State Department as a speechwriter to Clinton.

But Schwerin, who has inarguably spent more time with Clinton than any other aide this year, had perhaps his biggest task ahead of him when he helped Clinton pen her tome Hard Choices, which was released earlier this summer.

Clinton insiders expect that will be just the beginning of Schwerin's trajectory up the Clinton ladder.

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The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Harkin: 2016 'weighing heavily' on Hillary"

By Scott Wong

September 20, 2014, 12:48 p.m. EDT

Retiring Sen. Tom Harkin doesn't know if Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2016.

The Iowa Democrat said the decision is "weighing heavily" on Clinton, who has "more chapters" to write in her book.

His remarks Friday during an interview with Iowa Public Television, come nearly a week after Bill and Hillary Clinton headlined his final steak fry in Indianola, Iowa, fueling presidential talk in the first-in-the-nation caucus state.

Before taking the stage at the event — Harkin, who's spent nearly 40 years in Congress, — said Hillary's eyes lit up when she watched him play with his grandchildren. The longtime senator asked Clinton, a soon-to-be grandmother, to take a photograph with his entire clan in a shed at the annual event.

"And she just wistfully said to me, 'It just looks so wonderful,' she said, 'because now I'm going to have grandchildren,'" Harkin explained.

"And I've got to think it weighs heavy," he continued. "I mean, she has been first lady of Arkansas, first lady of the United States, U.S. senator, secretary of State, that's a lot of public service. And if you're going to run for President that's a ten year commitment."

Harkin, who lost to Bill Clinton in the 1992 Democratic presidential primary, said he doesn't believe Hillary has already decided to run.

"People say, 'Oh, she has already made the decision.' I don't think so," Harkin said. "I think this is weighing heavily on her. I wouldn't be surprised if she went one way or the other."

Bill and Hillary Clinton's only daughter, Chelsea, announced her pregnancy last spring and is due to give birth sometime in the fall.

CBS News: "Rand Paul not waiting for 2016 to take on Hillary Clinton"

By Rebecca Kaplan

September 21, 2014, 10:16 a.m. EDT

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, isn't waiting until the 2016 election to formally kick off to start tearing into Hillary Clinton, the most prominent face among Democrats who might seek the nomination.

Referencing a 2008 primary ad in which Clinton suggested then-candidate Barack Obama will not prepared to handle a major overnight crisis as president, Paul suggested the former secretary of state had proven herself incapable of doing so either.

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"I think she had a 3 a.m. moment. She didn't answer the phone, and I think it absolutely should preclude her from being [president]," he said at the California Republican convention, where he was speaking Saturday, according to the L.A. Times. Paul had just described Clinton's actions in the lead up to the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, which Paul offered as proof of her failure.

Paul also lit into President Obama, an unsurprising choice of target given the president's low approval ratings which threatens to drag down Democrats during the midterm elections.

The Kentucky Republican pointed to the Affordable Care Act and Mr. Obama's initial plans to take unilateral action on immigration (which was ultimately delayed until after the November elections) to argue that he was running roughshod over the Constitution.

"It is a terrible tragedy, it is a danger to us as a country, and we need to do everything we can to stop him from abusing our laws," Paul said. Later, he added, "We have a president who basically has created a lawless atmosphere in Washington."

Though the midterm elections are less than two months away, Paul did not use the speech to fire up California Republicans about this year's candidates. Instead he focused mostly on laying out his own priorities for the GOP.

"When our party looks like America -- with earrings and without earrings, with ponytails and without ponytails, with tattoos and without tattoos -- when we look like the rest of America -- white, black, brown -- we're going to win again," Paul said as he argued that his party needs to expand its appeal to win in places like California again after decades of losing. "We've got to go out and we've got to broaden our party, and when we do, we'll be a national party again. We will win again."

Hindustan Times: "Eye on future? Modi to meet Hillary and Bill Clinton in New York"

By Yashwant Raj

September 21, 2014, 18:22 IST

Among Prime Minister Narendra Modi's many meetings during his coming visit to the US, the one with the most profound implications for the future will be with the Clintons.

Modi will meet former president Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state, who is expected to run for the White House in 2016, and win, according to polls.

They are scheduled to meet in New York, where Modi will be from September 26 to 29 for the UN general assembly. And the Clintons live in Chappaqua, near New York city.

No other details were available of the meeting except, according to multiple sources in New York and New Delhi, that the prime ministe will receive the couple in his hotel.

From all accounts, Modi has never met either of the Clintons before, despite the fact that they travel to India frequently — Hillary Clinton was there just this past July.

So was the former president, separately, in connection with a project run by his foundation in Jaipur. He has been a regular, since his first visit as president in 2000.

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And they have both said they have been impressed by Modi, for their own reasons. The former president, who is something of a policy wonk, liked the prime minister's economic policies.

And the former secretary of state has said she was impressed — no prizes for guessing — by Modi's foreign policy savvy in inviting SAARC leaders to his inauguration.

To put their meeting in perspective, Modi doesn't have any other past presidents on his schedule — and there are three, George H Bush, Jimmy Carter and George W Bush — so far.

But he is certainly meeting another Presidential hopeful, vice president Joe Biden, who is hosting a state lunch for the visiting prime minister in Washington DC.

It couldn't be confirmed if the prime minister was meeting any of the Republicans contemplating a run for the White House — it's a crowded and unclear field right now.

In September 2000, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was in New York for the UN general assembly, spoke with then Republican candidate George W Bush over phone.

The meeting with the Clintons will be special thus.

President Clinton is widely credited with setting the foundation for new relations between the two countries, which were largely on opposite sides during much of the Cold War.

He intervened during the Kargil War by forcing Pakistan to back off, and followed it up with a successful visit to India in 2000, with a rockstar reception in Parliament.

But key to this meeting, said sources, will be Secretary Clinton, who has not announced she is running, but she will most likely, according to her supporters, rivals and most political hacks.

They felt further convinced recently when she and her husband attended a Democratic party event in Iowa, where Barack Obama beat her in the 2008 primaries and turned the race.

CNN: "Bill Clinton on Fareed Zakaria GPS"

[No Writer Mentioned]

September 21, 2014, 11:10 a.m. EDT

CNN's FAREED ZAKARIA GPS features an interview with Bill Clinton. As former U.S. President Bill Clinton prepares for the 2014 annual meetings of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York City, Fareed Zakaria spoke with him about the recent plans announced by President Barack Obama on the U.S. contributions to the Ebola outbreak in Africa, and what he feels the U.S. should do about the terrorist group ISIS.

TEXT EXCERPT

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Clinton on Syria: “I supported two years ago the proposal that Hillary and Secretary Panetta and then CIA director, General Petraeus, made to give more robust armed support to the Syrians. But I well understood why the president was reluctant to do it because, as you see in Libya, there’s still lots of militia groups there who like America.”

Clinton on the fight against ISIS in Iraq: "the Iraqi government is now more inclusive than it has been since the fall of Saddam Hussein. And that seems to be awakening, if you will, the willingness of the Sunni tribal leaders to participate in fighting. We know the Kurds and the Peshmerga are willing to fight. If we can help them and support them, I think the larger fight against ISIS can continue as it should – as a local struggle for the freedom and liberty of the people"

Clinton on Russian expansion into Ukraine: "President Yeltsin, in return for Ukraine getting rid of all of its nuclear weapons and sending them to Russia, signed an agreement with me and the then president of Ukraine saying that Russia would always respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. President Putin said it was an agreement, not a treaty, therefore I'm not bound by it. I just think it's a bum rap that expanding NATO caused all this. You know, that - you made me invade Georgia and you made me invade Ukraine because they were the only two countries on my border that weren't part of NATO? I mean come on, it just - it's not a credible thing."

A full transcript of the interview is available after the jump.

FULL INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

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FAREED ZAKARIA, HOST, CNN GPS: On Friday, I sat down with Bill Clinton at his offices in Harlem. He's in an interesting place in life. Almost 14 years after leaving the White House, he has settled in to a new way of effecting change around the world. His Clinton Global Initiative will hold its 10th annual meeting next week. The organization claims that in those 10 years they have improved the lives of 430 million people in 180 countries. He's also set to soon become a grandfather. We'll get to all of those matters later in the show, but first I wanted to ask him about the stories that are atop the news.

ZAKARIA: President Clinton thank you so much for joining us.

BILL CLINTON, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Glad to do it.

ZAKARIA: So I've got to ask you about ISIS. I saw you on "The Daily Show" say that you thought we had to respond to these brutal executions of Americans. But I want to press you. Isn't that what ISIS wants? Isn't that –wasn’t the purpose of the executions to bait us?

CLINTON: No. But there's a difference in, for example, using targeted drones and airstrikes as we did against al Qaeda effectively for years to try to take down their leadership and infrastructure and let them know they can't just decapitate people for the cheap thrill of the global media response and horrifying people and get away with it and getting bogged down in the kind of war they would like us to get bogged down in that would cost us a lot of lives and a lot of treasure and inevitably lead to greater civilian casualties, which is why I think the president's strategy has a chance of succeeding, because the Iraqi government is now more inclusive than it has been since the fall of Saddam Hussein and that seems to be awakening, if you will, the willingness of the Sunni tribal leaders to participate in fighting. We know the Kurds and the Peshmerga are willing to fight. If we can help them and support them, I think the larger fight against ISIS can continue as it should as a local struggle for the freedom and liberty of the people.

ZAKARIA: You talked about the Iraq part of the strategy, which strikes - you're right, it's - it's viable. There's an Iraqi Army that could be better - made more effective if there were fewer loyalists and more professional officers in it and more inclusive. There are the Kurdish forces. The Syria part is the real puzzle.

CLINTON: It's much harder.

ZAKARIA: This is fierce civil war in which the stakes are very high. Generally moderates don’t do well in those circumstances. Turks have been

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trying to stand up moderate Syrians for a long time. How do you think we should handle it?

CLINTON: Well, I support giving the forces that we most closely identify with greater capacity to fight ISIS. The whole question about the Syrian government is really academic, between the Iranians and the Russians and others, they'll give them enough money and military capacity to do what they have to do.

ZAKARIA: So do you think Assad is going to stay?

CLINTON: I don't know. But I think that the worst enemy right now is ISIS. And I don't think we should be in a position of directly coordinating with or cooperating with Assad, but I think we all recognize what would happen if ISIS had like a monster like state that included most of Syria and Iraq. And - but I don't - I think, therefore, that when the president said we'd cooperate with the moderate Syrian forces, they're the only people we have to try to empower there, to do their part in this struggle.

ZAKARIA: Do you agree with the former secretary of State, who said that perhaps if we had helped them three years earlier, it might have been - it might have had or would this - would those funds and arms have ended up with ISIS?

CLINTON: I agree with her and I would have taken the chance. I also agree with her when she said we can't know whether it would have worked or not. And that's why you have to be careful when you make these commitments, because you can't know. But since ISIS has plenty of money, is one of the great bank robbers in human history, among other things, they were going to get their weapons one way or the other. So I would risk it. And besides, when we were talking about doing it, there was no ISIS. However, it was a - an argument she lost within the administration and she admitted then and acknowledged in her book that she can't know that if her recommendation had been followed, it would have worked. That's one of those things you can't know. This - that's why all of these decisions are hard.

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ZAKARIA: Next on GPS, much more with Bill Clinton. Russia, Ukraine and the West, and much more.

ZAKARIA: Back now on this special edition of GPS, more of my interview with Bill Clinton.

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ZAKARIA: Ukrainian officials - high Ukrainian officials have said that Russia, in effect, invaded Ukraine over the last month, that somewhere between 3,000 and 10,000 Russian soldiers crossed the border. Do you think we should call this an invasion and act in a way, in a sense appropriately?

CLINTON: Well, really, there's no question they invaded Ukraine. And there's no question what Mr. Putin has tried to do. They've also armed the Eastern Ukrainians, as they've done all those things. But I think Ukraine elected a very prudent and strong president. He's trying to negotiate an end to this that enables them to have a relationship with Russia without paralyzing their turn to Europe and their attempt to reap the economic and political benefits that would entail. And I think the United States should support building Ukraine's capacity to defend itself, but even more importantly, we should be doing what we can, including groups like our Global Initiative, to help them succeed economically, to reward their choice to be free and independent. I think it's very important that the world not buy the propaganda that is going over the Russian media that Ukrainians wanted to have an adversarial relationship with Russia. That's simply not true. All they wanted to do was to have a good relationship with Russia and a good relationship with Europe and the West and be a bridge between the two. Why he doesn't want that remains something of a mystery to me. I mean I think he's got an outdated view of how to get more influence and accumulate more wealth. But the - he's in these negotiations now and I think those of us who are outside it should not complicate his job by saying too much until we see what he can negotiate.

ZAKARIA: You know, a lot of Russians, including Mr. Putin, blame you, in a sense. They say NATO expanded, we were told NATO wouldn't expand, they expanded very close to our borders. Then the Clinton administration, intervened in Kosovo, over our objections. So they argue that you pushed out so now don't be surprised that you get a backlash.

CLINTON: If you can find one Polish citizen who agrees, I'll be glad to take that seriously. I mean, look, first of all, I never told them NATO wouldn't expand. I ran for president advocating the expansion of NATO in 1992. And I had a conversation with Boris Yeltsin, whom I respected very much

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and who was a much better president than he got credit for, as we all now see. And I said, look, I don't think you're going to invade Eastern Europe, but you're not going to be there forever. President Yeltsin, in return for Ukraine getting rid of all of its nuclear weapons and sending them to Russia, signed an agreement with me and the then president of Ukraine saying that Russia would always respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. President Putin said it was an agreement, not a treaty, therefore I'm not bound by it. I just think it's a bum rap that expanding NATO caused all this. You know, that - you made me invade Georgia and you made me invade Ukraine because they were the only two countries on my border that weren't part of NATO? I mean come on, it just - it's not a credible thing

ZAKARIA: Coming up in a moment, more Bill Clinton. If Hillary Clinton were to run and win, what would life be like as the "first man"? I'll ask him to consider.

ZAKARIA: Welcome back to GPS. Here's more of my interview with Bill Clinton, 42nd president of the United States and Founder of the Clinton Foundation. One of the foundation's main projects is the Clinton Global Initiative which brings together world leaders, business leaders, philanthropists and non-profits, to work on solving what it calls "the world's most pressing challenges". Next week, the power-packed group will hold its 10th annual meeting.

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ZAKARIA: Let me start with something that really affects The Clinton Foundation and The Clinton Global Initiative. You worked a lot on issues like disease and disease prevention. What lesson do you think we should draw from this outbreak of Ebola and the speed and kind of pace with which its spread? When you look at it, what is it that you - you can tell us about maybe the potential for pandemics or - or anything?

CLINTON: Well, first, like anybody else who's involved, we have a big presence in Liberia and three of our people, our top people, have stayed in Liberia to help organize the response. So we've all got to figure out, you know, how to coordinate it better. We're going to have a special session on it at CGI. But the lesson we should draw, the lessons are twofold. One is we have to do a much better job in building the health care infrastructure in these countries. We have to increase their capacity, including the capacity to have community health workers go out in these villages and have credibility with people. You know, this tragic story of the health workers being killed in Guinea, it's just terrible. But if we have more capacity, we can deal with it quicker. So that's the first thing. The second thing is we're going to have to get quicker and nimbler at developing biomedical responses, you know, the vaccines or whatever or cures. And the third thing is the wealthy countries have got to reexamine how we fund the World Health Organization, because I think they do a marvelous job. But increasingly, as development ministries get more expertise in given areas, they want to fund specific projects in specific countries. And it's clear that the World Health Organization needs a pot of money that can be mobilized in a hurry for emergencies while we wait for the inevitable time delay when America and the U.K. and France and Scandinavia, we all kick in money.

ZAKARIA: I've got to ask you about some politics, are the Democrats going to hold the senate?

CLINTON: I think so, but it's going to be close. And it depends frankly on whether we can continue to match the money provided by all these outside groups. I think the Koch brothers are going to spend about $300 million in the last couple of months. And it depends on who turns out. We have got somehow, sooner or later, to convince the people that vote in presidential elections for our side they have to vote in the Congressional elections. And if they don't, they can't complain when they lose governorships, state legislators and members of Congress and the senators who happen to be up in that year. We've got a lot more senators up this year than the Republicans do. And we have them up in states that President Obama did not carry in 2012. But they're running great campaigns and we seem to be doing reasonably well. But it - if you look at all these polls, which are all over the place, they're all accurate - that is the real question in polling today is the sample you pick based on who you think will vote. And the question - the answer to that is, no one knows. So if we can get our turnout up, we'll be fine and they'll hold the Senate.

ZAKARIA: Along those lines, when I talk to Democratic grassroots activists, the one person who energizes them is Elizabeth Warren. Do you think she's the future of the Democratic Party?

CLINTON: I think she's an important part of it. And I think the American people are - the Democrats, at least - are worried about people having an equal shot at prosperity. And, you know, when I was president, I've told you this before - one of the things I was most proud of is we moved 100 times as many people from poverty into the middle class as moved under President Reagan. The bottom 20 percent (INAUDIBLE) increased 23.6 percent, the top 20 percent increased 20.5 percent. And everybody else in the middle did better than they did in the Reagan years. You had to have more broad-based prosperity. So I think anybody who's arguing for that is going to find a receptive ear in the American electorate, not just among Democrats. I mean we - we're going to have a vote in my native state of Arkansas in raising the minimum wage and I'll be surprised if we don't get a majority of Republicans to vote for it, even though their politicians are, by and large, against it.

ZAKARIA: There are certain circumstances in - in the next presidential election that might produce a very unusual outcome. And I'm wondering have you given any thought to what it would be like to be back in the White House in a different role?

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CLINTON: No. No, I haven't. I think that in general, if you're a spouse, you ought to support. If you're a former president, you ought to do whatever the current president asks you to do, if you can do it in good conscience. But I have given it no thought beyond that. I - this is my life now, this foundation. And I have poured my heart into it for 14 years and this is our tenth annual Clinton Global Initiative. We've raised, you know, $80 billion and helped 400 million people plus in 180 countries. It's my life now. And I do politics at election time if they want me for people I believe in I think I can help. But otherwise, I'm happy doing what I'm doing and if that's what I'm asked to me, I'd be happy as a clam if that were the case, too. I'll do whatever I'm asked to do.

ZAKARIA: And do you have any specific thoughts about being a grandfather?

CLINTON: Yes, I can't wait. And I'm - we're on watch now. I hope by the first of October, I'll be a grandfather. I - I...

ZAKARIA: Do - do you care if it is a boy or a girl?

CLINTON: No. And I don't know.

ZAKARIA: Do you really not know?

CLINTON: No, no. And there are - my daughter and son-in-law decided not to know. They want to be surprised. So we're all just sitting around waiting.

ZAKARIA: Mr. President, we usually have an end segment where I recommend a book of the week. We are blowing it out all for you, so I'm giving you the last word, which is what book would you recommend? You're a voracious reader. You've read stuff. If you were to tell our readers what should they read?

CLINTON: If you'll give me two.

ZAKARIA: Sure.

CLINTON: First, I'd like readers to read "Abundance," the Peter Diamandis book with his coauthor, because if they did that, they would see that while the headlines are really bad in the world today, the trend lines are pretty good. Extreme poverty is down. The health care is improving dramatically around the world. There are developments now which make me believe we might be able to do what we did in the 90s which is to use technological developments to create more jobs than we lose. For the last few months, for the first time in literally more than a decade, 40 percent of the new jobs have been in higher wage categories. I think people should read this and get some good ideas. The other book is "The Social Conquest of Earth" by E.O. Wilson.

ZAKARIA: Yes.

CLINTON: He's a Nobel Prize winning microbiologist, but he writes as best he can from all the known evidence about the history of life on Earth from single-cells organisms to the present day. The reason I would like them to read that is that he said if you look at all the species that have ever lived on Planet Earth, the most successful were ants, termites, bees and people. Why? Because they're the greatest cooperators. And even - and I saw the other day a story about how there are 25,000 species of spiders on Earth and for reasons nobody understands, a couple of dozen of them have started cooperating and they build stronger, better webs. Cooperation will save the future. And America should lead it. Every time humanity has been in danger of extinguishing itself, our consciousness and our conscience have led us to come together. That's the big issue of the 21st century. That's the great fight of the next 25 years.

ZAKARIA: So Congress should learn from spiders, that - that's…

(LAUGHTER)

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CLINTON: They will - I spent a lot of time with spiders in my early life. I just think, you know, the - "The Constitution" could be subtitled, "Let's Make A Deal." The founders understood it. We need to remember it.

ZAKARIA: Bill Clinton, a pleasure to have you on Mr. President.

CLINTON: Thank you.

Associated Press: "2016 May Loom, But Jeb Bush Is Focused on Business"

By Michael J. Mishak and Steve Peoples

September 20, 2014, 10:41 a.m. EDT

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) — While other Republicans considering the 2016 presidential race are openly laying the foundations of potential campaigns, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is busy tending to a growing personal business empire.

It's a break in style from recent candidates who distanced themselves from the sometimes politically risky business of making money before running.

A Republican establishment favorite, Bush is chairman of a Florida-based private equity and business advisory group, and is a managing partner of at least eight other separate companies that dabble in ventures ranging from privatized emergency response to real estate to driverless cars, according to state and federal records.

In the past three years, regulatory filings show that he and his partners at the private equity firm, Britton Hill Holdings, have branched out into nearly a dozen different investment entities and raised at least $66.4 million from domestic and foreign investors. That includes several million this past April from a group that included a privately owned Chinese conglomerate, a deal first reported by Bloomberg.

Bush says he will make a decision about 2016 by year's end. Should he run, this son and brother of the past two Republican presidents will face pressure to disclose years of personal tax returns and details about his private business activity, as well as to unwind his ownership in the business network he began building after leaving office in 2007.

For now, in much the same way he is quietly working to support GOP candidates in the November elections, Bush's business deals are made out of the spotlight. There is no suggestion any are improper. Because they are private enterprises and disclosure laws require only basic information, public documents offer few details about their exact nature.

They are, however, reminiscent of the GOP's last presidential nominee, Mitt Romney, who struggled at times to explain the often complicated and sometimes controversial ways he made a living. Romney, as well as Bush's father and brother, wound down personal business affairs years before running for president.

"It is a legitimate issue to think about," said Ron Kaufman, a former Romney adviser who is close to the Bush family. "In a perfect world, would he be better served if (the presidential race) was four years away? Sure. But it's not."

Bush declined a request for an interview.

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Those close to him say that after his two terms as governor, he has worked aggressively to improve his personal finances, a common practice for politicians after public service.

Bush "is not currently a candidate for office. He's a businessman," said his spokeswoman, Kristy Campbell. "If he makes a decision to run for president, he would certainly review his work engagements at that time."

Other Bush confidants caution against reading too much into his business dealings. They believe he is well positioned to wait longer than other candidates to make a call on a campaign because of his political connections and deep fundraising network.

"You don't put your life on hold or call a time out. You move on until you make a decision," said Al Cardenas, a Bush friend and adviser. "He enjoys what he's doing. Investors trust him. So why would you put a stop to that?"

Operatives in both parties said the calculus isn't that simple.

In 2012, Romney was attacked by other Republicans as a "vulture capitalist," which helped create the portrait of job-destroying buyout chief who enjoyed a lower tax rate than most people in the United States.

"It is a target-rich environment for opposition research teams to pour through and begin to build a narrative that you're out of touch," said South Carolina-based Republican operative Hogan Gidley. "It sounds like he's doing everything right, everything above board. But the political reality exists that it still might hurt him."

Cardenas rejects the comparison to Romney, whose Bain Capital held a majority stake in dozens of companies and directly oversaw management decisions. Bush, unlike Romney, will not be defined by his "fairly modest" investments, Cardenas said, adding that comparing the two is "the difference between running a gas station and running Texaco."

Friends and former aides say Bush's behavior is consistent with the way he handled his business affairs while contemplating runs for governor in 1994 and 1998.

"Before he was a candidate, he was a businessman, and he conducted his business sort of not thinking about his next (political) move. He just did it," said Phil Handy, a Florida businessman who was chairman of Bush's gubernatorial campaigns. "I think it reflects his ambivalence about running for office, but I don't think it's at all unusual."

Still, at this point in their political careers, Romney and the previous Bush presidents had all but exited the business world.

Bush's father, former President George H. W. Bush, turned his financial affairs over to a blind trust once he became vice president. Jeb Bush's brother, former President George W. Bush, sold stocks with connections to Mideast oil companies roughly a decade before running. He later put the majority of his assets into treasury notes and a blind trust.

Jeb Bush's business obligations sometimes have conflicted with the political calendar.

When some possible contenders, including New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, spoke at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington this year, Bush declined to appear because of undisclosed business commitments.

But Bush has traveled the country this year raising money for Republicans and continues to work on education issues at his foundation.

He has headlined more than two dozen private fundraisers, including events to help the governors of Iowa, South Carolina and Nevada, three of the first four states to hold presidential primaries. This past week he attended fundraisers for Illinois gubernatorial hopeful Bruce Rauner and

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Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

"He's quietly active. He just doesn't go out and bang the drum," said Mel Sembler, a Florida real estate developer and top Republican fundraiser. "He's doing all the right things, and I think he's going to be a serious contender."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton attends CGI kickoff (The Hollywood Reporter)

· September 22 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton at CGI (CGI)

· September 23 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton at CGI (CGI)

· September 23 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women CGI Dinner (Twitter)

· September 29 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines fundraiser for DCCC for NY and NJ candidates (Politico)

· September 29 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines another fundraiser for DCCC (Politico)

· September 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton keynotes Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Inc., conference (CHCI)

· September 30 – Potomac, MD: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Maryland gubernatorial candidate Anthony Brown (WaPo)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 2 – (Miami, FL) Sec. Clinton signs “Hard Choices” at Books and Books [HillaryClintonMemoir.com]

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From:	"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "Nick?? Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com> "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com> "Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
Date:	4/2/2015 3:11:18 PM
Subject:	Iran statement

HRC has signed off on the statement below and asks if she should tweet as well. Anyone have any concerns?

The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It is also vital that our efforts to deny Iran a nuclear weapon be part of a comprehensive strategy to check its regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/22/2014 2:13:42 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday July 22, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday July 22, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton: 'I would consider' anti-Citizens United amendment"

"Already, three major super PACs are working on her behalf, while there are at least a half dozen smaller ones."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton would consider backing bid to limit money in politics"

"Although many pro-Clinton Democratic operatives say they wish big money was not a part of politics, the pro-Clinton groups have embraced the law."

Media Matters for America: "While Maureen Dowd Smears Clinton Foundation, Colleague Nicholas Kristof Works With It"

"Dowd's criticism raises questions about The New York Times' position on the Foundation given Dowd colleague Nicholas Kristof's involvement in Clinton charitable events through the Clinton Global Initiative."

Associated Press: "Clinton: US, Europe Should Get Tough on Russia"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday that the U.S. and Europe should work together to develop tougher sanctions on Russia while she backed President Barack Obama's calls for a thorough investigation into the passenger jet that was shot down last week over Ukraine."

The Hill: "Clinton calls for tougher sanctions on Russia"

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"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday called for stricter sanctions on Russia after the crash of a Malaysia Airlines flight in Eastern Ukraine last week."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton defends Israel on Gaza"

"Hillary Clinton on Monday repeatedly stressed that Israel was 'provoked' by Hamas in the current conflict roiling the Middle East, offering among her strongest statements yet concerning the hostilities in Gaza."

ABC News blog: The Note: "Hillary Clinton: Israel 'Provoked' By Hamas"

"During back-to-back Facebook and Twitter chats Monday evening, Hillary Clinton weighed in again on the growing tensions in the Middle East, reiterating her hope for a ceasefire in the region and stressing her view that Israel has largely been 'provoked' by Hamas throughout the conflict."

National Journal: "Here Is All of the New Information to Come Out of Hillary Clinton's Facebook Q&A"

"Hillary Clinton is swinging through Silicon Valley this week on her Hard Choices book tour. As part of the tour, she stopped at Facebook's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., and held a Q&A with users on her book's Facebook page."

The Hill: "Republican wants Benghazi hearings to start in August"

"A Republican lawmaker says he wants a newly formed committee that is investigating the 2012 Benghazi attacks to start holding hearings during the August recess."

Politico: "Martin O'Malley set to return to Iowa"

"Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is heading back to Iowa this weekend, just weeks after the Democrat — who has said he's exploring a 2016 presidential run — was the keynote speaker at the state Democratic convention."

The Daily Beast: "Missouri Governor Jay Nixon To Visit Iowa"

"With his scheduled visit to an ethanol plant in Emmetsburg, Iowa on Tuesday, did Missouri Governor Jay Nixon signal his interest in running for President in 2016? Probably not."

Mediaite: "POLITICO Reporter: Media Access to Hillary Clinton Is Intensely Limited"

"POLITICO reporter Maggie Haberman's aggressive Hillary Clinton coverage has made her an expert on the subject. But, as Haberman said Monday on C-SPAN2, Clinton isn't the easiest beat to tackle."

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Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "Halper book: Clintons lobbied GE to get rid of MSNBC's David Shuster"

"Hillary and Bill Clinton went to the top of the NBC food chain, all the way up to General Electric's board, to get back at MSNBC's David Shuster in 2008, according to Daniel Halper's forthcoming book 'Clinton Inc.'"

Articles:

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton: 'I would consider' anti-Citizens United amendment"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

July 21, 2014, 7:28 p.m. EDT

While eying a potential presidential run that would surely be boosted by deep-pocketed super PACs, Hillary Clinton said Monday evening that she's open to supporting a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, which opened the door to the outside groups and the flood of money that poured into the political process with them.

Taking questions from Facebook users at the social media giant's California headquarters Monday evening, Clinton expressed some interest in the idea. "I would consider supporting an amendment among these lines that would prevent the abuse of our political system by excessive amounts of money if there is no other way to deal with the Citizen's United decision," she said in response to a question on the measure.

Amending the Constitution is an almost impossibly uphill battle, but the idea has secured support from almost all the Democrats in the Senate, which will vote on the measure later this year.

The former first lady is currently on a book tour for her memoir "Hard Choices," which was released in June. The publicity campaign is being seen as part of a months-long rollout leading up to a decision on whether or not she'll run for president. Clinton has previously said that she'll decide by the end of the year.

On Monday, Clinton also fielded questions on a number of other issues, and proclaimed "The Brothers Karamazov" by Fyodor Dostoyevsky to be her favorite book, while "Goodnight Moon" is the first book she plans to read to her future grandchild.

On the ongoing fighting in Gaza between Israel and the Palestinians, the former secretary of state said she hopes "there can be a ceasefire soon to end the conflict," noting that she negotiated the last such deal.

On the Malaysian airliner shot down over rebel-held territory in Ukraine, Clinton placed some blame at the feet of Russian President Vladimir Putin. "[T]here is a price to pay for this kind of behavior," she said of Putin, adding the crash victims were "murdered."

Later, at a separate Q&A session hosted by Twitter at its offices, Clinton elaborated on her view of Russia's involvement in Ukraine. "There is no doubt in my mind," she said, that pro-Russian rebels in Eastern Ukraine "are very heavily influenced, if not directed by Moscow." She added that Russian intelligence officers and special operators "played a big role in the insurgency," and said the militants may be outright controlled by Putin.

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Meanwhile, back at Facebook, asked what her first action would be if she became president, Clinton responded with an answer that seemed designed to appeal to the vocal populist wing of the Democratic party. “Answering hypothetically … the next president should work to grow the economy, increase upward mobility, and decrease inequality,” she said.

For those looking for any hints about a potential 2016 run, Clinton offered a tantalizing endorsement of the state that holds the nation’s first primary. “I love New Hampshire,” she replied to a user who asked if she would visit the Granite State.

Clinton is on a swing through Silicon Valley, a fertile ground for donors to a potential presidential campaign, stopping at Google’s headquarters between the visits to Facebook and Twitter.

Clinton is expected to raise more than a billion dollars if she runs, with even more money going to an archipelago of super PACs and other outside groups supporting her. Already, three major super PACs are working on her behalf, while there are at least a half dozen smaller ones.

In the lead-up to the 2012 presidential election, President Obama chose a similar forum as Clinton’s to endorse an amendment to roll back Citizens United, telling Reddit users that “we need to seriously consider” an amendment.

Still, Obama and his allies maintained that they would not “unilaterally disarm” in the campaign finance arms race. As long as Republicans could use super PACs, Democrats will too, they said. Clinton’s allies are already using a similar line to defend their outside activism on her behalf.

CNN: “Hillary Clinton would consider backing bid to limit money in politics”

By Dan Merica

July 21, 2014, 7:37 p.m. EDT

When Hillary Clinton ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008, she raised and spent more than $250 million to eventually lose to Barack Obama, according to the Federal Election Commission.

That was then.

On Monday, Clinton - who is now weighing another run at the presidency in 2016 - was asked during a Facebook question and answer session whether she would "support a constitutional amendment" to overturn the Supreme Court's "Citizen's United" ruling and limit the amount corporations and outside influences can contribute to political campaigns.

"I would consider supporting an amendment among these lines," Clinton responded. "That would prevent the abuse of our political system by excessive amounts of money if there is no other way to deal with the Citizen's United decision."

The 2010 Citizens United decision opened the floodgates for outside money in politics and ballooned the amount spent on campaigns.

Even though Clinton has said she wants to limit money in politics, people close to her are preparing to raise massive sums for a possible presidential bid.

Some of her biggest 2008 donors told CNN in January that they are waiting for her decision on whether to run with open wallets, while a cadre of outside groups – many of whom were created because of the Citizens United decision – have begun to raise money in order to be helpful to her possible candidacy.

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Although many pro-Clinton Democratic operatives say they wish big money was not a part of politics, the pro-Clinton groups have embraced the law.

"You have to play the game with the rules as they are," said a source at Priorities USA, a group that plans to raise big money to support Clinton if she runs. "We can't unilaterally disarm."

Many of Clinton's 17 Facebook answers dealt with substantive issues.

On violence in the Mideast, she wrote that she hoped "there can be a ceasefire soon to end the conflict" and was "fully supportive" of Secretary of State John Kerry traveling to Egypt in a bid help broker a deal.

She also wrote that her first move as President, should she run and be elected, would be to "grow the economy, increase upward mobility, and decrease inequality."

But like many Facebook posts, some were less than serious.

She agreed to sign two copies of "Hard Choices" - her new memoir - and in a response to "Rufus Doggetti," Clinton wrote that, yes, from time to time she does let her dogs on the sofa.

She also wrote that her favorite book was "The Brothers Karamazov" by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and that the first book she would read her new grandchild would be "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown.

And in the category of substantive in the future, Clinton offered this nod to the first-in-the-nation primary state: "I love New Hampshire!"

In addition to sitting down for Facebook questions, Clinton toured the company's Menlo Park, California, headquarters. She spent the morning at Google and participated in a conversation with company employees.

Clinton also had a live-streamed conversation with Twitter staff, where the former secretary of state was interviewed by Katie Stanton, who spent six months working for the Clinton State Department in 2010 when she served as special adviser to the Office of Innovation.

Clinton fielded questions on college affordability, women in leadership and her 2016 aspirations. Many of the questions were asked by Twitter staff and famous Twitter users.

She heralded the role of social media, but said she hoped in the future that "we would see a maturing of the use of social media, not just to score points ... but to try to create space for real conversations."

Clinton also tacked to her party's left on college affordability, an issue many progressives and liberals have heralded as critical.

"Too many young people are being priced out of going to college or staying in college," Clinton said.

She later added, "I think it is one of the biggest problems we have in the country. College education just costs too much. It is hard to relate the rise in cost to the actual product that has certainly changed somewhat, but not so dramatically as to justify those costs."

Clinton sidestepped a query from soccer star Julie Foudy about who Clinton's running mate would be if she ran in 2016.

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"I think Julie has been a tremendous soccer player but I am not ready to answer her question," Clinton said, "because I am not even ready yet to say that I am going to do it or that I would get it done."

Media Matters for America: "While Maureen Dowd Smears Clinton Foundation, Colleague Nicholas Kristof Works With It"

By Matt Gertz

July 21, 2014, 3:54 p.m. EDT

New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd has attempted to scandalize the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation in two consecutive columns, even as colleague Nicholas Kristof prepares to participate in the Clintons' charitable events for the sixth straight year.

Dowd's attacks on the Clinton Foundation are the latest salvo in her decades-long anti-Clinton campaign.

In her July 19 column, Dowd baselessly criticized the "foundation dishabille" as part of the "percussive drama" that supposedly surrounds the Clintons. Dowd devoted her July 12 column to lashing out at Chelsea Clinton for giving paid speeches and donating the fees to the Clinton Foundation, an activity which Dowd described as somehow "unseemly."

The Clinton Foundation's website says its mission is "to improve global health, strengthen economies, promote health and wellness, and protect the environment." But Dowd baselessly smeared the Foundation as a phony organization intended solely to benefit the Clinton family, claiming that Chelsea Clinton was "joining her parents in cashing in to help feed the rapacious, gaping maw of Clinton Inc." by giving her speaking fees to the Clinton Foundation rather than donating the proceeds to "some independent charity not designed to burnish the Clinton name as her mother ramps up to return to the White House and as she herself drops a handkerchief about getting into politics."

Dowd's criticism raises questions about The New York Times' position on the Foundation given Dowd colleague Nicholas Kristof's involvement in Clinton charitable events through the Clinton Global Initiative. Founded by President Clinton in 2005 and merged into the broader Clinton Foundation last year, CGI brings together global leaders from the public, nonprofit, and private sectors to help solve pressing international issues.

Kristof has participated in CGI's annual meeting in each of the last five years, either by delivering remarks or moderating panels. In a 2010 "CGI Stories" video, Kristof praised the group, saying, "There has been a bit of a change in how global poverty and global health is perceived and I think what's happening at CGI both reflects that and also helps shape it."

In an interview with Media Matters, Kristof said CGI events give him "a chance to meet people who converge from around the world" that are focused on issues that interest him, such as global women's rights, development, and education. He said that he plans to attend the group's annual meeting in September if he is invited. He declined to comment on Dowd's work.

The Times also declined to comment on the tension between Dowd's campaign to scandalize the foundation and Kristof's continued relationship with it.

The paper's Ethical Journalism handbook suggests that the paper has not institutionally adopted Dowd's critique. It states that Times journalists "must consult with the standards editor or the deputy editorial page editor" before addressing "groups that might figure in coverage they provide, edit, package or supervise, especially if the setting might suggest a close relationship to the sponsoring group." It also bars them from accepting "invitations to speak where their function is to attract customers to an event primarily intended as profit-making."

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Associated Press: "Clinton: US, Europe Should Get Tough on Russia"

By Ken Thomas

July 21, 2014, 10:41 p.m. EDT

WASHINGTON (AP) – Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday that the U.S. and Europe should work together to develop tougher sanctions on Russia while she backed President Barack Obama's calls for a thorough investigation into the passenger jet that was shot down last week over Ukraine.

Clinton said in a Facebook chat from the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, California, that tougher sanctions would make clear to Russian President Vladimir Putin "that there is a price to pay for this kind of behavior." The former secretary of state said she agreed with Obama's comments earlier Monday urging "immediate and full access" for investigators combing through the wreckage of the downed plane.

"We should do more to ensure a thorough investigation that not only respects those who were murdered in the attack on the plane, but also tries to find answers to who is responsible," Clinton wrote during the question-and-answer session on the popular social media site.

Obama accused pro-Russian separatists of removing evidence and bodies from the crash site and said the burden was on Russia and Putin to compel the separatists to cooperate with the investigation. He said if Russia continues to violate Ukraine's sovereignty, Moscow "will only further isolate itself" and the economic costs will increase.

Clinton said the U.S. should encourage Europeans to ensure that they are less dependent upon Russian energy. She called for "more support given to the Ukrainians to guard their borders and protect themselves."

The potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidate responded to a wide-ranging list of questions on Facebook that covered her book, "Hard Choices," domestic and foreign policy issues, her favorite book and her role as a grandmother-to-be.

Clinton said she was hopeful for a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel to end the fighting in the Gaza Strip and noted that she negotiated the last cease-fire in 2012. She said she was "fully supportive" of Secretary of State John Kerry's work with the Egyptians to bring a halt to the fighting.

Asked what her first action would be if elected president, Clinton said, "answering hypothetically ... the next president should work to grow the economy, increase upward mobility and decrease inequality."

Clinton listed her favorite book as Fyodor Dostoyevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov" and said she already had a first children's book picked out to read to her future grandchild: Margaret Wise Brown's "Goodnight Moon."

The former first lady appeared at an event at Google's Mountain View, California, headquarters earlier Monday and ended the day at a forum at Twitter's offices in San Francisco.

Clinton, who has amassed more than 1.6 million followers since joining Twitter last year, shared advice for women considering entering politics, advocated for Internet freedom and urged the U.S. to take steps to rein in student debt and the high cost of attending college.

The Hill: "Clinton calls for tougher sanctions on Russia"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Mario Trujillo

July 21, 2014, 6:32 p.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday called for stricter sanctions on Russia after the crash of a Malaysia Airlines flight in Eastern Ukraine last week.

"We should work to bring our European allies together with us on tougher sanctions that would make it clear to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin that there is a price to pay for this kind of behavior, and we should encourage Europeans to start immediately to make sure they are less dependent on Russian energy so they are not intimidated," Clinton said during a Facebook question and answer.

Clinton said she agrees with President Obama that "all those murdered" deserve a full investigation into last week's events, when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down while carrying nearly 300 people.

"Finally, I would like to see more support given to the Ukrainians to guard their borders and to protect themselves," she said.

The United States, Ukraine and others have said there is strong evidence to suggest that pro-Russian separatists shot down the plane. President Obama and others have criticized Russia for creating an unstable climate in Ukraine by backing the militants.

The United States last week imposed its harshest sanctions yet on Russian companies before the crash. And on Monday, Obama said costs would increase for Russia if it continues to support the separatists with training and weapons.

Last week, Clinton said there was a growing awareness the separatists were involved, and the surface-to-air weapons likely came from Russia.

Clinton participated in the question and answer Monday while on a trip to Silicon Valley, visiting with Facebook, Twitter and Google.

She remained coy about her 2016 presidential ambitions but offered a few morsels, saying, "I love New Hampshire," in response to one question about visiting the first-in-the-nation presidential primary state.

Answering "hypothetically," she said at another point her priority as president would be to "grow the economy, increase upward mobility, and decrease inequality."

She also said she would consider supporting a constitutional amendment to undo the effects of a pair of Supreme Court decision that rolled back campaign finance restrictions.

Her answer, however, was more cautious than many Senate Democrats, who have vowed to vote on such a proposal.

"I would consider supporting an amendment among these lines that would prevent the abuse of our political system by excessive amounts of money, if there is no other way to deal with the Citizen's United decision," she said.

Politico: "Hillary Clinton defends Israel on Gaza"

By Katie Glueck

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

July 21, 2014, 11:02 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton on Monday repeatedly stressed that Israel was "provoked" by Hamas in the current conflict roiling the Middle East, offering among her strongest statements yet concerning the hostilities in Gaza.

The former secretary of state and possible 2016 Democratic front-runner delivered those comments during a question-and-answer session at the Twitter headquarters in San Francisco. She weighed in on the conflict between Israel and Hamas militants in several interviews last week as well, criticizing the leadership of Hamas as Israel launched a ground invasion into Gaza in response to rockets Hamas was lobbing into the country.

"You mention, in particular, the difficulties we currently are seeing in the Middle East," she said, in response to a question about how Hamas and the Israel Defense Forces use Twitter. "Because of the actions by Hamas, first to rain rockets onto Israel, Israel being provoked — because I do think that was part of the Hamas calculation, to provoke Israel to respond, to defend itself, which any nation has to do if you are under attack like that, and then we see the unfortunate effects of any conflict with innocent people being caught in the crossfires."

Her remarks came as part of a question-and-answer session with Katie Stanton, Twitter's vice president of global media who previously served on the innovation team at the State Department during Clinton's tenure there.

The livestream event appeared to draw only several hundred viewers, and the bulk of the questions seemed to come from celebrities and well-known activists including Kerry Washington, Malala Yousafzai, Amy Poehler and Melinda Gates, along with Twitter employees.

In the interview, which ran a little over 45 minutes, Clinton touched on a wide range of issues, from empowering women and girls — a favorite subject of hers, to blasting Russia's Vladimir Putin, telling women not to be too hard on themselves, and lamenting the skyrocketing costs of college.

"College education just costs too much," she said. "It's hard to relate the rise in cost to the actual product, that has certainly changed somewhat, but not so dramatically as to justify those costs."

Clinton, who is on tour to promote her memoir of her time at the State Department, "Hard Choices," has come under fire for the way she discussed her personal finances — saying, for example, that when she and former President Bill Clinton left the White House, they were "dead broke." On Monday night, she appeared cautious as she struck a personal note about how she and her husband paid for law school, noting that after graduation, they took "relatively" low-paying jobs.

"When we were in law school, we both took out loans, we both worked two, three, four jobs but when we graduated, we had the opportunity to pay back as a percentage of our income," she said as she outlined possible answers to handling education costs. "And we both took relatively low-paying jobs —I went to work for the Children's Defense Fund, Bill became a law professor in Arkansas, I later moved to Arkansas, taught at the law school and made, like, $17,000, and we were paying back as a percentage. And we could keep up with those payments without having to sacrifice too much."

She also sought to inject humor throughout the conversation. At one point, responding to a tweet that asked her about her biggest accomplishment as secretary of state and was signed "xoxo," Clinton replied, "Spreading 'xoxo' everywhere," before launching into a weightier response touching on a number of her foreign policy achievements.

Asked by soccer star Julie Foudy about who her running mate might be, Clinton said she would take a pass on the question.

"I'm not even ready yet to say that I'm going to do it or that I would get it done," she said of 2016.

Earlier in the day, Clinton hosted a Facebook chat, where she received several hundred questions. She fielded a wide range of issues, from campaign finance — she would "consider" a constitutional amendment "that would prevent the abuse of our political system by excessive amounts of money if there is no other way to deal with the Citizens United decision" — to which is the first book she plans to read to her grandchild, whose birth is expected later this year ("Goodnight Moon" was her answer.).

In both the Facebook chat and on Twitter, Clinton said she supported an investigation into the fallen Malaysia Airlines flight, which crashed in Ukraine last week, and urged Europe to step up its efforts to hold Russia accountable amid questions over Moscow's ties to pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

ABC News blog: The Note: "Hillary Clinton: Israel 'Provoked' By Hamas"

By Liz Kreutz

July 22, 2014, 3:00 a.m. EDT

During back-to-back Facebook and Twitter chats Monday evening, Hillary Clinton weighed in again on the growing tensions in the Middle East, reiterating her hope for a ceasefire in the region and stressing her view that Israel has largely been "provoked" by Hamas throughout the conflict.

"You mention in particular the difficulties we currently are seeing in the Middle East because of the actions by Hamas, first to rain rockets on to Israel. Israel being provoked," Clinton told Twitter's VP of Global Media (and former State Department employee), Katie Jacob Stanton, when asked how social media has changed diplomacy between conflicting nations, particularly with IDF and Hamas, who regularly communicate via Twitter.

She added: "I do think that was part of the Hamas calculation, to provoke Israel to respond to defend itself, which any nation has to do if you are under attack like that."

Clinton went on to give an idealistic view of how social media should be used between countries: "It is a fact of social media right now that too often people use it as a weapon, instead of an opportunity. And maybe one of the ways we can think together about the next phase in the development of social media is as a tool of outreach, a tool of reconciliation, a tool of negotiation, and maybe even resolution," she said.

Earlier in the day during the Facebook Q&A, Clinton, who as secretary of state helped to negotiate the last ceasefire in November 2012, said she hopes there can be another ceasefire soon to end the current conflict, and added that she is "fully supportive" of Secretary Kerry's efforts do so.

Secretary Kerry is currently in Cairo, Egypt where he is working to negotiate a ceasefire in the Gaza strip. Early Monday he announced the U.S. would give $47 million in aid to Gaza and voiced "concern" over civilian deaths – more than 583 Palestinians and 27 Israelis over the past two weeks—and meanwhile reaffirmed support for Israel's self-defense.

Hillary Clinton's comments were part of the two social media chats she participated in Monday during a swing through Silicon Valley, where she visited the headquarters of Google, Facebook, and Twitter. In addition to the Middle East, Hillary Clinton answered questions about Ukraine, saying there "was no doubt" in her mind that the Ukrainian separatists were getting help from Russia and pushed for European nations to enact stricter sanctions on Putin; abortion rights, where she again slammed the Hobby Lobby ruling; and college tuition, which she says, "costs too much."

During the Twitter chat, Clinton took questions not only from users who submitted them using the hashtag #AskHillary, but from a range of high-profile friends and celebrities, which drew a bit of cynical skepticism from people watching online.

The questions came from Amy Poehler (who Clinton conceded "did do a really wicked imitation of me."), Malala, Melinda Gates, and Scandal star, Kerry Washington (who Clinton called "terrific.") In addition, soccer star, Julie Foudy, snuck in a question about 2016, asking who would be her VP pick. But Clinton didn't even pretend to answer.

"I'm going to take a pass on that," she said, and moved on.

National Journal: "Here Is All of the New Information to Come Out of Hillary Clinton's Facebook Q&A"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Emma Roller

July 21, 2014

Hillary Clinton is swinging through Silicon Valley this week on her Hard Choices book tour. As part of the tour, she stopped at Facebook's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., and held a Q&A with users on her book's Facebook page.

Here is all of the new information to come out of that Q&A:

- Hillary Clinton agrees with President Obama's statement Monday that Russian President Vladimir Putin has "direct responsibility" for the downing of Malaysia Airways Flight 17.

- Hillary Clinton supports a cease-fire to end the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

- Hillary Clinton "enjoyed" writing her book.

- Hillary Clinton "supported" closing the Guantánamo Bay naval station, but acknowledges the difficulties Obama has faced in closing it.

- Hillary Clinton would theoretically support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision to "prevent the abuse of our political system by excessive amounts of money."

- Hillary Clinton's favorite book is The Brothers Karamazov.

- Hillary Clinton is inspired by Nelson Mandela's "courage and capacity for forgiveness."

- Hillary Clinton is "so excited [she] cannot wait!" to be a grandmother.

- The first book she reads to her grandchild will be Goodnight Moon.

- Hillary Clinton is "committed to" women's rights, gay rights, and religious freedom.

- Hillary Clinton opposes the Supreme Court's recent Hobby Lobby ruling.

- "From time to time," Hillary Clinton lets her three dogs sit on the sofa. She generally loves dogs.

- Hillary Clinton also loves the state of New Hampshire.

- Hillary Clinton looks forward to going back to Chicago.

- If you ask politely, Hillary Clinton will sign your copy of her book.

- It was a "real treat" for Hillary Clinton to answer Facebook users' questions.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Now you know.

The Hill: "Republican wants Benghazi hearings to start in August"

By Molly K. Hooper

July 22, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

A Republican lawmaker says he wants a newly formed committee that is investigating the 2012 Benghazi attacks to start holding hearings during the August recess.

Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.) tells The Hill that Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), the chairman of the Select panel, is busy hiring staffers for the high-profile panel.

"I hope that they start holding hearings even if we're not here in August," he said. It remains unclear, however, if that will happen.

Asked if former secretary of State Hillary Clinton should testify on the attacks that left four Americans dead, Huizenga said the potential 2016 Democratic presidential contender still has questions to answer.

Politico: "Martin O'Malley set to return to Iowa"

By Maggie Haberman

July 22, 2014, 6:02 a.m. EDT

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is heading back to Iowa this weekend, just weeks after the Democrat — who has said he's exploring a 2016 presidential run — was the keynote speaker at the state Democratic convention.

O'Malley will appear at fundraisers in targeted state Senate races, a source familiar with the trip said.

It's the second trip of the cycle for O'Malley to the Hawkeye State, and comes after he challenged the White House over their policy of deportations of Latin American children who have come across the Southwestern border to escape violence in their own countries.

He will appear at four fundraisers, including one in Clinton for Sen. Rita Hart, one in North Liberty for Senate candidate Kevin Kinney, and two for Jack Hatch, one in Council Bluffs and one in Sioux City.

He's making a repeat visit on Hatch's behalf, after holding events with him on his last visit.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

O'Malley is the only Democrat who is known to be likely to run at this point, and he has a progressive record that he could use to establish himself as to the left of runaway frontrunner Hillary Clinton. (Clinton says she has yet to decide if she's running, but most of her allies believe she will.)

During O'Malley's last visit, retiring Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) praised O'Malley credentials as a model of progressive causes.

The Daily Beast: "Missouri Governor Jay Nixon To Visit Iowa"

By Ben Jacobs

July 21, 2014

[Subtitle:] Jay Nixon, the two-term Democratic governor of Missouri, is visiting Iowa Tuesday. Does this mean there's yet another Democratic contender in 2016?

With his scheduled visit to an ethanol plant in Emmetsburg, Iowa on Tuesday, did Missouri Governor Jay Nixon signal his interest in running for President in 2016? Probably not.

While Nixon has long been considered a potential Democratic candidate if Hillary Clinton decides not to run , the two-term governor's visit to Iowa seems to be driven entirely by local political concerns. Nixon is visiting Project Liberty, a brand new ethanol plant that processes cellulosic ethanol, which is made from the waste parts of corn like the husk and the cob. In contrast, traditional ethanol is made from the actual corn kernels.

Poet, the company which operates the plant, has several plants in Missouri and Nixon is apparently going to promote the new process and encourage similar plants to be built in his home state. The trip is his only stop in the Hawkeye State and the event is closed to the public, meaning that Nixon will not to get to meet any potential caucusgoers.

Iowa has witnessed a dearth of visits from Democratic hopefuls this cycle, with only Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders making appearences so far. The limited nature of this trip means that the Missouri governor, who has mentioned the need for a 2016 Democratic candidate from the heartland in the past, can't be added to this list.

But, then again, no politician visits Iowa by accident.

Mediaite: "POLITICO Reporter: Media Access to Hillary Clinton Is Intensely Limited"

By Eddie Scarry

July 21, 2014, 2:31 p.m. EDT

POLITICO reporter Maggie Haberman's aggressive Hillary Clinton coverage has made her an expert on the subject. But, as Haberman said Monday on C-SPAN2, Clinton isn't the easiest beat to tackle.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Asked to describe the difference in media accessibility between Clinton and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, another political figure Haberman has experience covering, Haberman said it's "night and day."

"What has been really striking about Hillary Clinton's book tour," Haberman said, "is she has not taken a single question, that I know of at least … from reporters who are attending."

Haberman went on to describe the "very controlled interviews" Clinton has granted to media recently. "There is very little that is sort of up in the air and unexpected about them."

By contrast, Haberman said when travelig with Christie she has been able to "get really right up close with him." She said, "You just can't get that with Clinton."

Watch via CSPAN2:

[VIDEO]

Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "Halper book: Clintons lobbied GE to get rid of MSNBC's David Shuster"

By Hadas Gold

July 21, 2014, 3:15 p.m. EDT

Hillary and Bill Clinton went to the top of the NBC food chain, all the way up to General Electric's board, to get back at MSNBC's David Shuster in 2008, according to Daniel Halper's forthcoming book "Clinton Inc."

Halper, the online editor at the conservative Weekly Standard, details how far the Clinton camp went to get back at Shuster for saying that Chelsea Clinton was "sort of being pimped out in some weird sort of way" for lobbying super delegates on her mother's behalf during the presidential primaries.

"According to a source close to the situation, the Clintons called people on the board of NBC's parent company General Electric to say, 'Well, this is outrageous, how NBC News and MSNBC are handling this, and we need to do something about it,'" Halper writes. "Before long, GE's chairman Jeffrey Immelt, was on the phone with Jeff Zucker, the president and CEO of NBC Universal at the time, and (former NBC News president) Steve Capus asking, 'What the hell is going on over there? Why are my board members talking about the reporter, and why is your reporter referring to Chelsea as a prostitute?'"

The strife between Shuster and the Clintons was well documented during the 2008 campaign and a series of heated emails between Shuster and Clinton spokesperson Philippe Reines were published by POLITICO at the time. At one point, the Clinton campaign threatened to pull out of a debate hosted by NBC News.

In the book, Halper notes that Wolfson also purposely didn't connect Shuster to the Clintons when he wanted to personally apologize, instead telling him to email Clinton aide Huma Abedin. Wolfson then went to the press and said Shuster was refusing to apologize.

The Clinton campaign, Halper writes, "wanted to make it look like men, such as David Shuster, were beating up on the woman who could be the first female president of the U.S."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Shuster ended up being suspended for two weeks. He was fired in 2010 after filming a pilot for CNN without MSNBC's approval. He now hosts a show on Al Jazeera America.

“Finally, [the campaign] sent a message to the media: You may like Obama more than Hillary, but you’d better watch what you say because we have the power to destroy you," Halper writes. "To deliver their message, a popular ex-president, the nation’s most famous senator, and their powerful friends bullied a relatively obscure reporter with powerless friends and spineless bosses. While they were at it, the press and public were misled about his attempts to apologize."

Halper’s book leaked last week when a man identifying himself as Robert Josef Wright sent out a blast email to media executives, editors and journalists with PDFs of all 317-pages. The book is scheduled to hit shelves on Tuesday.

Update (5:30 p.m.):

Clinton spokesperson Nick Merrill said in an email that Halper should be treated the same as "Blood Feud" author Ed Klein and "Her Way" author Jeff Gerth.

"Daniel Halper has joined the discredited and disgraced ranks of Ed Klein and Jeff Gerth, his book came and went so fast that nobody bothered to read it, and nobody will," Merrill said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

- ~ July 23-27 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Ameriprise Financial Conference (Politico)
- July 23 – Oakland, CA: Sec. Clinton helps launch new Too Small To Fail effort in Oakland (Twitter)
- July 29 – Saratoga Springs, NY: Sec. Clinton makes “Hard Choices” book tour stop at Northshire Bookstore (Glens Falls Post-Star)
- August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)
- August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta’s OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)
- September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)
- October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	12/21/2012 11:11:20 AM
Subject:	RE: Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 12.21.12.docx

Hannah,
I've made one small change. Please use this version instead.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
December 21, 2012

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

Alliance for a Healthier Generation (AHG)

Kaiser Permanente has awarded the Alliance a $5.3 million grant to expand the Healthy Schools Program in six new markets. This is embargoed until the formal announcement in early 2013.

Senior Alliance team members continue to meet with the ABA, Coke, PepsiCo and Dr Pepper Snapple about expanding Alliance nutrition guidelines to afterschool programs and other child-focused settings.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative (CHMI)

Mayor Steve Pougnet of Palm Springs has raised more than $200,000 to support local CHMI efforts in the Coachella Valley. The Desert Healthcare Foundation has agreed to match these finds and to administer the funds in partnership with the Foundation.

The CHMI has amassed more than 20 pledges to showcase at the Health Matters conference in January.

With the support of GE, CHMI will add Houston to its list of focus communities in early 2013. This is embargoed information.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative (CDI)

Rwanda (CHDI)

Construction of the soybean factory is 70 percent complete and is projected to be complete in June/July 2013. The boiler arrived at the site last week. From December 22 to January 2, work on the site will be put on hold for the holidays.

Regarding the AGRA project, planting is now complete and crops look good in the areas that received rains. The AGRA representative who visited the site last week was very pleased with the progress on the field and the way CHDI has set up its demos. CHDI's report for the AGRA project last semester has been sent to the AGRA headquarters.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative (CGSGI)

CGSGI is concluding 2012 with some key accomplishments, including:

- Completion of over 47,000 cataract surgeries in Peru with the 50,000 goal expected to be reached by March, 2013 and at a cost of $160/surgery, which is $40 less per surgery than the original targeted cost of $200.

- Training and certification of 5,300 construction workers in Colombia, exceeding the 5,000 target.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

- Investment approval of two new ventures in Cartagena, Colombia including 1) creation of a Manpower Training Center that will train over 20,000 low income residents over the next ten years for jobs in the hospitality and other sectors and 2) creation of a Supply Chain Impact Enterprise for the purchase and collection of produce, fish and seafood from small vendors and producers for market and distribution to hotels, restaurants and supermarkets. This new venture will create over 1,000 jobs and impact over 4,000 beneficiaries.

- Restructuring of CGSGI's strategy to achieve scalable, sustainable and measurable results in poverty reduction through the creation of supply chain impact and distribution enterprises that provide poor communities gainful access to markets.

- In addition to the supply chain impact enterprise being formed in Cartagena, CGSGI is developing new projects or pilots that will lead to other potential impact enterprises including a hotel supplier network in Cusco, Peru, a small supplier network for one of Peru's largest supermarkets, and the piloting of an agro value chain opportunity in India with the prospect of benefitting 10,000 farmers.

As you know, CGSGI also hosted a successful Fair Trade summit in December along with the Skoll Foundation and the Avina Foundation. Approximately 40 stakeholders attended including representatives from corporate bodies (e.g. Green Mountain Coffee, Whole Foods, Walmart), NGOs (e.g. Heifer International, Catholic Relief Services), and beneficiaries from Rwanda, Haiti, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. The goal of the summit was to discuss the collaboration and commitments required to take Fair Trade's impact to scale. Both you and Frank Giustra participated in the Summit.

Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

An *additional* $1.5 billion or more has now been allocated for the AFL-CIO/AFT CGI America Commitment by New York City public employee pension funds. The funds making these additional allocations represent the NYC Local of the Teamsters, AFSCME, and Transportation Workers Union as well as the Firefighters and Police. This should bring the total raised for the entire commitment well above $4 billion out of the $10 billion original commitment. This follows up on your announcement in a press conference last week of a $1 billion allocation to new investments in infrastructure projects.

On Friday, December 14, as part of the year-round programming in the Response and Resilience Track, CGI held a convening to discuss where collaboration is most needed as we transition from immediate response to reconstruction post Hurricane Sandy. Mayor Mitch Landrieu of New Orleans shared lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. John Liu, Comptroller of the City of New York, and other federal, state and city government officials from New Jersey and New York along with more than 40 CGI members attended.

Zayneb K. Shaikley
Associate Counsel & Initiative Liaison | William J. Clinton Foundation
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From: Zayneb Shaikley
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 4:17 PM
To: Hannah Richert - PC; Bruce Lindsey; Laura Graham; Stephanie Streett
Cc: Valerie Alexander; Scott Curran; Amitabh Desai; Logan Koffler; Dennis Cheng; Diana Skurka; Bari Lurie; Angel Urena - PC; 'Jon Davidson'
Subject: Biweekly Report for WJC

Hannah,
Attached and below is the latest biweekly report for President Clinton.
Please let me know if he has any questions or comments.
Happy holidays!
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
December 21, 2012

MAJOR DOMESTIC INITIATIVES

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Summit.

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/22/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: T ransatlantic 2015 – The Year in Review

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here.

Transatlantic 2015 – The Year in Review

Rachel Tausendfreund, Guillaume Xavier-Bender

December 23, 2015

At the start of 2015, the Kremlin looked to be the biggest concern for the transatlantic partners. But the terrorist attacks on the *Charlie Hebdo* offices in Paris in January quickly changed that calculation. The even deadlier attacks also inspired by the self-proclaimed Islamic State group (ISIS) in Paris and San Bernadino, California, toward years' end ensured that terrorism and the threat of ISIS and terrorism overtook Russia as the dominant transatlantic security concern of 2015.

But the transatlantic story of the year was the refugee crisis — although in fact it was a crisis that the United States left Europe to deal with largely on its own. As the number of refugees reaching Europe climbed dramatically, and climbed again, Europe found itself confronting its worst refugee crisis since World War II. It was a story full of human tragedy, but also hope, and of logistical and political struggles — revealing rifts within Europe and between communities on both sides of the Atlantic.

Though the fallout of the ongoing violence in Syria — both the refugee crisis and threat of ISIS — defined the year, the other big transatlantic stories of the year — both wins and losses — were diplomatic...

See this year's wins and losses

Rachel Tausendfreund is GMF's senior editor. Follow her at @thousandfriend . Guillaume Xavier-Bender is a transatlantic fellow in the Brussels office of The German Marshall Fund of the United States. Follow him at @GuillaumeXB .

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	petition@kirkpatrickforarizona.com <info@kirkpatrickforarizona.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	10/10/2014 4:22:10 PM
Subject:	Protect The Grand Canyon: [PETITION]

KIRKPATRICK FOR ★ ARIZONA

John --

6,000: Jobs created by the Grand Canyon
$476,000,000: Yearly income the Grand Canyon provides to our local economy.
46,200: Number of people who have signed our petition to save the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon is our district's own personal Wonder of the World.

But more uranium mining around the Canyon poses a real threat to our natural treasure. This practice could contaminate our water supply, pollute our communities and destroy our local economy.

It's absolutely critical we seek a long-term solution to protect the Grand Canyon. Will you join Ann in calling on Congress to permanently protect the Canyon?

John, click here to sign our petition and add your name to the list of supporters demanding Congress ban new uranium mining in the Grand Canyon >>



As a native Arizonan, the Grand Canyon is especially important to Ann. But if we're going to protect it, we need your help.

ADD YOUR NAME: http://action.kirkpatrickforarizona.com/Grand-Canyon

Thanks,

Team Kirkpatrick

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Paid for by Kirkpatrick for Arizona

This message was sent to: podesta@law.georgetown.edu | Change or update your email address by clicking here .

We believe that emails are a crucial way for our campaign to stay in touch with supporters like you. However, if you'd prefer to take a break from emails, click here . If you'd just like to receive fewer emails, you can click here .

Our campaign is powered by supporters like you. Your grassroots support is critical to helping Ann fight back against Republican lies. If you'd still like to unsubscribe from our emails, click here . If you'd like to donate to our campaign, please click here . Thanks for having Ann's back!

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com roy.spence@gsdm.com
Date:	11/8/2015 7:47:13 AM
Subject:	HRC, Contraceptives, Supreme Court

I would suggest HRC level a political nuclear blast, ASAP, against a Supreme Court decision that could come in June that would end the contraceptive mandate in ObamaCare. Case is now pending. This is going to be explosive with women voters as they understand what could happen, with a huge majority of women strongly supporting contraceptives.

The line is that the current court could put contraceptives under siege, or if contraceptives prevail in the pending case 5-4 a Republican president would name one of more justices, if they have a vacancy or two, who would go after contraceptives.

This is different than the abortion issue. Women overwhelmingly support contraceptives emotionally and in large majorities, and men also support contraceptives, and this includes a large majority of Catholic women and men and moderate evangelicals.

My advice is HRC raise this issue soon, aggressively and visibly. If possible before the coming Republican debate. This is a powerful, powerful issue. The real religious issue is that the right wants to impose its sectarian view of religion on all Americans on contraceptives. A huge and emotional majority would agree with HRC on contraceptives and the sooner and stronger she raises this issue, the better, IMO. Brent

Sent from my iPad

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/2/2014 6:56:56 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday October 2, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday October 2, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "We count you as family," @TAPS4America founder Bonnie Carroll told Clinton, "and we love you a great deal." http://www.cbsnews.com/news/hillary-clinton-emotional-at-event-for-families-of-fallen-military/ … [10/2/14, 12:38 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "It's really important to me that we never forget your loved ones and we never forget you." @HillaryClinton http://www.cbsnews.com/news/hillary-clinton-emotional-at-event-for-families-of-fallen-military/ … [10/2/14, 12:09 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: VIDEO: @HillaryClinton honors military families http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-honors-military-families/ … via @nytpolitics [10/2/14, 12:02 pm . EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton Gets Close, Candid With Military Families via @rubycramer http://www.buzzfeed.com/rubycramer/hillary-clinton-gets-close-candid-with-military-families#41l0lm2 … [10/2/14, 10:06 a.m. EDT]

Headlines:

ABC News: "Hillary Clinton Comforts Military Families Who've Lost Loved Ones"

"In her first public appearance since the weekend birth of granddaughter Charlotte, Hillary Clinton spoke at an event this evening in New York for an organization that cares for the families of fallen military members, who greeted her with moving stories of their loved ones."

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CBS News: "Hillary Clinton 'emotional' at event for families of fallen military"

"Hillary Clinton received a lifetime achievement award from a group that provides support for the families of fallen military service members on Wednesday, thanking the survivors for sharing their often heart-wrenching stories and praising the organization's work."

Vogue: "State of Play: John Kerry's High-Stakes Year"

"Kerry began addressing each with gusto. 'The way he views it is that Secretary Clinton was secretary at a time when we had to repair our relationship with the world,' says State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki. 'He's building on a lot of the work she has done.' ('I telephone Hillary here and there and ask her for her thoughts about things,' Kerry says. 'I have a lot of admiration and friendship for her.')"

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Priebus: GOP women worth 'bragging' about"

"The comments come with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presumed to be Democratic frontrunner for president in 2016. 'She doesn't poll as well as you would think with women,' Priebus said. 'We need to do better [...but] women, as of today, they don't have a sizable advantage in the Democratic Party over the Republican Party, as much as that narrative has sunk in."

Chicago Sun-Times: "Dungeons & Dragons Kickstarter campaign features Hillary Clinton"

"Here are three things that don't normally go together: Hillary Clinton, Kickstarter and Dungeons & Dragons. For now, they do because one group wants to raise money to hire Clinton to speak and 'help us bring our fantasy world to life.'"

Articles:

ABC News: "Hillary Clinton Comforts Military Families Who've Lost Loved Ones"

By Shushanna Walshe

October 2, 2014, 10:22 p.m. EDT

In her first public appearance since the weekend birth of granddaughter Charlotte, Hillary Clinton spoke at an event this evening in New York for an organization that cares for the families of fallen military members, who greeted her with moving stories of their loved ones.

"This a great privilege, but it is also for me emotional as we celebrate the birth of our granddaughter and as I look out and see all of you who are thinking of your loved ones and the life that he or she lived," Clinton said at the event for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors or TAPS, a group that supports, connects and provides grief resources to military families who have lost loved ones.

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In the introduction, TAPS president Bonnie Carroll told Clinton she is “family” and gave her the organization’s Lifetime Service Award. Clinton spoke at another event for the group in 2006 and has served as an honorary chairwoman.

Throughout her speech, some in the crowd became emotional and many of them took to the rope line afterwards to share stories of their deceased family members and show photos, with several telling her heartbreaking stories. Some just wanted to take a photo with Clinton, but many more had a story to tell.

One woman, after telling the former secretary of state about her fallen husband, said, “I miss him every day, thank you for coming.”

Clinton listened to their stories and expressed her condolences, saying over and over again, “I am so, so sorry,” at times holding the family members’ hands. One man who urged Clinton to run for president also told her about his nephew who he said “got the run around” and “got screwed at the VA,” referring to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“We need to fix the VA and we need to fix the mental health system,” he told her. Clinton nodded in agreement.

In her speech, she told the families “it’s really important to me that we never forget your loved ones and we never forget you.”

“At a time when sometimes we seem divided and people seem to be arguing all the time we really have to take stock of how blessed we are and grateful for the men and women who serve us and be thankful that we have through all of our ups and downs and our challenges continues to stand for the values that unite us: freedom and democracy and opportunity and by supporting you all who will serve in the future,” Clinton told the crowd at Stella 43 Trattoria, a restaurant inside the iconic New York City Macy’s store.

CBS News: “Hillary Clinton ‘emotional’ at event for families of fallen military”

By Jake Miller

October 2, 2014, 10:16 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton received a lifetime achievement award from a group that provides support for the families of fallen military service members on Wednesday, thanking the survivors for sharing their often heart-wrenching stories and praising the organization's work.

The award was presented in New York City by the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), a group that provides "peer-based emotional support" and "grief and trauma resources" for the families of the departed, according to its website. Clinton has previously served as the group's honorary chairwoman.

Clinton said the event was particularly "emotional" for her, according to the Associated Press, especially given the birth of her granddaughter last Friday. It was the former secretary of state's first public appearance since her daughter Chelsea gave birth to a baby girl, Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky.

"This a great privilege, but it is also for me emotional as we celebrate the birth of our granddaughter and as I look out and see all of you who are thinking of your loved ones and the life that he or she lived," she said, according to ABC News. "It's really important to me that we never forget your loved ones and we never forget you."

Clinton nodded at her work on the Armed Services Committee when she was a senator from New York, recalling her work with TAPS and other groups to increase survivor benefits for the families of fallen service members.

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"We fought, we cajoled," she said, adding that they eventually secured an increase in immediate survivor benefits from $12,000 to $100,000.

Several attendees shared their stories of loss with Clinton. One man described his nephew's frustrating experience with the Veteran's Affairs medical system, which has been buffeted this year by scandal after reports revealed crushing wait times and employee misconduct at VA facilities.

"If you run, and I hope you do, fix the VA and fix the mental health system," he said, according to Buzzfeed. "My nephew was lost, and let me tell you something...he really got screwed."

Another woman told Clinton it had been two years since her brother's suicide.

"Did he get any help at all?" Clinton asked.

"Not the right help," the woman said.

Bonnie Carroll, the president and founder of TAPS, thanked Clinton for her previous work with the group.

"We count you as family," she told Clinton," and we love you a great deal."

Vogue: "State of Play: John Kerry's High-Stakes Year"

By Suzy Hansen

October 2, 2014, 8:00 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Through one international crisis after another, America's Secretary of State is waging a marathon campaign of high-stakes diplomacy.

Back in June, Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to the tiny French village of Saint-Briac-sur-Mer to do something he never could have done while running for president—celebrate his European roots. Kerry's mother, a descendant of the Forbes shipping family, grew up here on an estate called Les Essarts, which was destroyed by the Nazis and then rebuilt as an enormous blue-shuttered château the family still owns today. "Johnnie," as one of his cousins, the town's former mayor, calls him, spent his boyhood summers in this idyllic, immaculate place: all stone buildings, cobbled streets, épiceries with bright awnings, and women in Jean Seberg striped jerseys outside the Bar Tabac de la Poste. Having come from the seventieth-anniversary commemorations of the Normandy invasion, Kerry, 70 himself and slender as the Tin Man, is dressed in a midnight-blue suit and a pink-orange tie, his dense, graying hair as immovable as ever. He glances toward the windswept Brittany coastline and then at the crowds trailing his convoy, eager to see an eminent American so intimately connected with their village give a speech about the war.

I have been traveling with Kerry for several days—from Warsaw to Beirut to France—and though I have caught glimpses of his playful side, the Secretary of State has largely lived up to his reputation for reserve. In the backseat of his SUV, we discuss the elaborate Normandy festivities at Omaha Beach, where President Obama, German chancellor Angela Merkel, and Russian president Vladimir Putin gathered to remember the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers—and Kerry is pensive. He speaks of how terrifying the invasion must have been for the soldiers. I ask if he, as a former officer, could put himself in their shoes. He shakes his head. "There was the possibility that we would be killed," he says, referring to his tours of duty in Vietnam, "but it was more remote in that you didn't know when you were going to be ambushed. You didn't know when something was going to happen. In that situation"—D-day—"you know. You are watching boats blown up around you. It's hell."

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I compare the America of 70 years ago, the America that liberated France and won the admiration of the world, to the America of today, which seems more embattled and wary. It's a moment, I suggest, "where there are accusations that America is 'pulling back'——"

"No, no! We're not, we're not pulling back," he says. Kerry leans forward in his seat. "That kicks me into gear and makes me want to go out and explain more. We have to make it clearer to people. I intend to, and the president intends to. That's what he did at West Point."

He is referring to President Obama's much-discussed speech in May at the military college, in which he laid out a vision of American foreign policy that emphasized diplomatic engagement over the reflexive use of military force. "We have to build on that," he continues. "And that's what I am going to do."

But Kerry will barely get the chance. The summer will bring a cascading and surreal series of international crises, which keeps him constantly on the move. Rarely a day goes by without shocking and terrifying news: a fierce election dispute in Afghanistan that threatens to bring the country to civil war; the downing of a Malaysia Airlines jetliner in Ukraine; a deadly conflict between Israel and Hamas; the advance across Iraq of the jihadist group ISIS, on whom President Obama authorizes air strikes in mid-August.

During this jolting period Kerry will seem to be everywhere at once, engaging in negotiations, jousting with his foreign counterparts, and struggling to pull off small victories before jumping back on his plane. "I don't think there has ever been a Secretary of State who has thrown himself into the job with as much verve and conviction as this guy has," says Strobe Talbott, a deputy Secretary of State under President Clinton and now the president of the Washington think tank the Brookings Institution as well as a Kerry adviser. "If he can't get a workable and acceptable compromise on a dispute, it's very hard to imagine anybody who can."

Kerry practices just the sort of vigorous diplomacy President Obama spoke about at West Point—but his relentlessness, especially on issues as seemingly intractable as Israeli-Palestinian peace, has been bruising at times. Does America wield the influence in the world that it once did? Critics say that Kerry's go-for-broke diplomatic style raises just this question—and that he has wasted time on problems that the U.S. cannot solve; supporters say that if Kerry achieves a breakthrough in even one of his major endeavors—say, a nuclear deal with Iran—he could be one of the most important Secretaries of State in recent history.

"There's a lot going on," Kerry acknowledges when I meet with him over the summer in his office at the State Department. "But when you have four or five flare-ups at the same time, you've still got to talk to people; you've got to sit down with them face-to-face, look in their eyes, grab the problem, and work through it. So we're managing. We can multitask."

It's a tremendous amount of pressure for someone who already suffered a large-scale defeat in his political career, but Kerry seems at ease. "I feel comfortable, and I feel free," he says of the work he's doing now. "I feel completely liberated. But, you know . . . I was a lot better senator after I ran for president because I had done it. I had run. I came within 59,000 votes in one state"—Ohio—"so for three hours I was president." He smiles to make sure I get what I am not completely sure is a joke.

"I feel like I made a few mistakes, but I didn't blow it," he continues and shrugs. "The one thing I kick myself about back then is not listening to myself a few times . . . not letting it all out."

Democrats could be forgiven for feeling less sanguine about 2004. Many still consider Kerry's loss to President George W. Bush an almost unfathomable debacle. The war in Iraq was proving disastrous at the time, and Kerry had the perfect presidential résumé: a Kennedy-like background, a record of courage in Vietnam, 20 years in the Senate. But some voters found him hard to connect to and perceived an aristocratic air that the Right mercilessly exploited. Swift Boat Veterans for Truth smeared Kerry's military record, Republicans branded him a flip-flopper on Iraq (a war he had voted for in 2002), and, in the end, Kerry lost the popular vote by 3 million.

"I don't think there's anything harder in this life," apart from matters of life and death, "than losing a presidential election," says his friend former Yale classmate and State Department adviser David Thorne. "It requires determination and toughness to get back up on the horse."

After the election, Kerry largely faded from view as he returned to the Senate, chaired the Foreign Relations Committee, and recovered from his loss. "I would say he became more confident," says his longtime chief of staff, David Wade. "That experience of running a campaign like that . . . and then losing in a pretty heartbreaking way. He came out of that experience with a great deal of conviction about how he wanted to spend his 60s and his 70s.

"I also think it left him with a little sense of 'I just don't really give a shit,' " Wade adds. "People are going to make judgments, but you play a long

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game."

That long game has brought a kind of vindication. Today President Obama's foreign policy happens to look much like Kerry proposed America's should during the campaign in 2004: more modest, more interested in multilateral diplomacy and fighting terrorism on a case-by-case basis. Kerry praises what he calls President Obama's "very careful, hard-nosed approach" to decision-making. "I am impressed by the questions he asks . . . and how he wants to know the strategy and the facts that support that choice before he makes it—not afterward."

The world is also more turbulent, multipolar, and crisis-prone than it was a decade ago. When Kerry succeeded Hillary Clinton as secretary in 2013, after President Obama's presumed choice, Susan Rice, withdrew her name following the attacks in Benghazi, Libya, he faced a dizzying list of problems. The U.S. was in the midst of messy withdrawals from Iraq and Afghanistan. The Israeli-Palestinian peace process was dead. The Arab Spring had upended American policy in the Middle East. Syria had become a humanitarian catastrophe, and Iran still posed a nuclear threat.

Kerry began addressing each with gusto. "The way he views it is that Secretary Clinton was secretary at a time when we had to repair our relationship with the world," says State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki. "He's building on a lot of the work she has done." ("I telephone Hillary here and there and ask her for her thoughts about things," Kerry says. "I have a lot of admiration and friendship for her.")

At press time, Kerry had traveled some 543,687 miles, visited 55 countries, and spent almost 1,200 hours in the air. "He has chosen to tackle head-on some difficult strategic issues," says Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former U.S. national-security adviser, "and these issues would probably deteriorate into more dangerous prospects without some serious signs of U.S. interest."

"He listens well," says Ryan Crocker, former ambassador to Iraq, of Kerry's diplomatic style. "He will listen to his interlocutors, understand their viewpoint, and make his points within the context of where they stand. That kind of empathy goes a long way to creating a climate in which compromise and agreement become possible. And he also has a reputation for absolute honesty and integrity. He never misleads, and he's known for it."

There are those who call Kerry naive or arrogant for believing that he can somehow solve problems that no one else can. "I think he vastly overstates his personal ability to persuade people to do what the U.S. wants," says Stephen Walt, an expert on foreign policy and a professor of international affairs at Harvard. "Kerry is like Madeleine Albright, who said that the U.S. is 'the indispensable nation.' So if a problem happens in the South China Sea or Nigeria or Ukraine, Kerry thinks there's a solution in Washington. And he hops on a plane to try and provide it. I think that view is occasionally correct, but usually not."

Kerry's response is that he would "rather get caught trying than never try at all" (this, incidentally, was also a favorite phrase of President Clinton's). He acknowledges that President Obama has given him "enormous latitude. I actually thanked him a couple of months ago," he tells me. "I said, 'You know, Mr. President, I want to thank you for giving me the breadth to take the ball and roll with it.' "

It's obvious that Kerry is more suited to the diplomatic life than he ever would have been to the modern presidency. He is far less extroverted and eager to please than most politicians—and he can't fake a folksy, telegenic style. He has a solemn air of politeness, which seems to come from a sense of duty. At a press conference in Beirut, for example, I watch a Lebanese journalist yell angrily at him because she believes Kerry's staff has cut the time short. Kerry, halfway off the dais, stops mid-stride, eyebrows raised, and returns to the microphone. "I'm very happy to take your question," he says with gentle amusement. On his plane, he briskly walks the aisles to say hello to members of the press, flashing a T-shirt given to him by a Lebanese security detail, posing obligingly for photos. The routine lasts for only a minute or two before he passes his huddled staff and the hulking bodyguards stowing their weapons, and returns to his cabin—back to work.

Work is a constant. Only rarely do photographers catch him relaxing or kiteboarding on Nantucket, and his reading tends toward serious history and biography (though he recently made time for The Art of Fielding). For a man in his eighth decade, Kerry takes remarkably little time off—but he seems to be having a good time on the road, too. One night in Paris, I run into him outside the gilded Westin hotel near the Tuileries Garden, returning from dinner at Chez L'Ami Louis with David Thorne, his stepson André Heinz, and both men's partners. He stands on the sidewalk extolling the virtues of the wine he'd had that evening, then poses for selfies with some eagle-eyed Boston natives. It is midnight when he disappears into the hotel bar, his staffers trailing behind him, struggling to keep up.

"I really do think some of it comes out of Vietnam," says Wade about Kerry's drive. "He came out of Vietnam with a pretty fundamental conviction that for whatever reasons a lot of his closest friends never came home, and he did. He has this conviction of not wasting time."

Peals of laughter can be heard from his plane cabin when Kerry FaceTimes with his daughter Vanessa, a critical-care physician in Boston, and his two-and-a-half-year-old grandson, Alexander. Kerry's other daughter, Alexandra, a film director, recently had a baby girl. "He's been awesome, actually," Vanessa says of Kerry as grandfather. "I have left him alone to babysit Alexander, which makes me feel really guilty. I remember asking

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him, 'What are you going to do if the prime minister of Israel calls?' And he said, 'I'll figure it out.' "

"We have many late-night and early-morning phone calls, and John takes every opportunity to get home," reports his wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, whom he married in 1995 and who quickly became known for her outspokenness and humor on the campaign trail. Now 75, she suffered a seizure last summer while vacationing on Nantucket, and has been keeping out of the public eye through her recovery. "I have learned so much about the brain and the time it takes to recover from a seizure such as mine," she adds. "I feel blessed to have the support of my husband—who quite literally lay beside me in my hospital bed last year."

Kerry's first wife was Vanessa and Alexandra's mother, Julia Thorne, who died of cancer in 2006. (She and Kerry divorced in 1988.) Since her death, Kerry has become assertive with parental advice. Vanessa remembers when she was getting married in 2009—Kerry was senator then—her father handed her a sketch of what resembled a wedding dress. "I don't know what he was going for—I think it was sort of a strapless gown that was formfitting up top and flowing on the bottom. He drew on a sticky note, like, 'This is what I think the dress should look like.' He genuinely had been thinking about it. It's been really sweet to see him cross some of the normal territory because we don't have our mom."

"Most of the rest of the world doesn't lie awake at night worrying about America's presence; they worry about what would happen in our absence," Kerry told the graduating class at Yale this May, sounding like the idealistic young man who signed up to serve in Vietnam. In other ways, though, he remains the heartbroken veteran who turned against the war, too. "I think the president and I share a tremendous sense of the damage that was done by the prior administration's approach—particularly to Iraq, and its inattention to Afghanistan," he says to me during our interview at the State Department. America's "wars of choice . . . never should have become what they were, and never should have taken place."

His office suite, decorated with traditional Washington Federal-style furniture and Oriental rugs in patterns of scarlet and blue, overlooks the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. It's a handsome but not particularly personal space, and I imagine Kerry prefers his plane or Boston, where he works out of an office in his Beacon Hill town house.

I ask about the fears of American decline expressed so often on the political Right. "Well, first of all, there's no empire; there's no desire for empire. The age of empire is over," he tells me. "What we're looking at now is an age of alliances and partnerships."

He adds that "democracy is not on the wane. People want democracy." What we have to be mindful of is "young people around the world being co-opted by the demagoguery of individual leaders. If we don't find a global approach to them, we're all going to feel the heat." This brings terrorism into our conversation; he calls it "the instrument of choice that fills the vacuum left by inadequate governance."

His assessment of the terrorist group ISIS and their murderous tactics is unsparing: "They're ugly. They're really horrible—as bad as anything I've seen in public life. They're willing to kill indiscriminately." He adds that "they have proclaimed definitively that they intend to attack the West" and that countries across the Middle East—from Israel to Iran to Syria to Jordan—oppose the group: "All of us are unwilling to tolerate the rise of a jihadist ISIS."

I ask him if it's painful to see the sectarian deterioration in Iraq. "Well, it makes me angry," he says. "Painful is not the word I'd choose. We never should have turned it upside down. Having done so, they"—the Bush administration—"never put a political process together." We will speak about Iraq again after the country's embattled leader, Nouri al-Maliki, resigns, and shortly before the execution by ISIS of American journalist James Foley. Over the phone, Kerry will express some cautious optimism: "It's moving in the right direction with Maliki stepping down peacefully." A legitimate government, he says, "was the prerequisite for President Obama, from day one, to say now we can do something about ISIL"—an alternative name for ISIS. "The U.S. is not going to get involved in any on-the-ground combat troops . . . but we're not going to shy away from equipping and assisting."

The fighting that broke out between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip captured Kerry's focus like no other development this summer. In July, Fox News caught him on a live microphone speaking to his Deputy Chief of Staff Jonathan Finer and seeming to complain about the scope of Israel's incursion into Gaza ("It's a hell of a pinpoint operation," he'll tell Finer sarcastically). Back on air, he will quickly champion Israel's right to defend itself, as he will even after being criticized by Israeli leaders who publicly dismiss Kerry's efforts to broker peace.

With me he defends his attempt to get a cease-fire. "The level of collateral damage that was taking place inevitably was going to turn against Israel and be harmful to the overall effort and harden people against cutting some kind of long-term agreement. So that's why we were pushing. We continue to work at this and we're going to, despite frustrations in one camp or another—because the stakes are very, very high."

At the end of the summer, Kerry traveled to Australia and Myanmar and declared, upon his return, that he would be turning his attention to "long-term opportunities" in that region of the world. It was a reminder that Kerry has another two years to serve as the president's chief diplomat, and

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much ground still to cover. If you ask him about the legacy he hopes to leave, however, he practically snaps. “I don’t think about a legacy. I think about getting the job done as well as I can, and you and history and other people will take care of the rest of it.”

But he does reflect on the past. “You know, obviously, losing the presidency is not the option of first choice,” he says and laughs, as if awed by the memory. “But you can’t get lost in it. I said, ‘I am not going to make this the defining moment of a life of involvement in public service and caring about things.’ I was a senator and had a lot I was interested in; I have a great family, a great life, and I have nothing to complain about. So I went right back in and started kicking. . . .

“I love it, I really enjoy this job, it’s a great job,” he continues. “And I am excited. Look, we got the deal on chemical weapons [in Syria]; we’ve got Iran talking. We’ve got the Middle East people talking—we’ve made a lot of progress there, and I believe we’ll get back to talking.” He cocks his head pointedly, with a faint smile. “I am not finished.”

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Priebus: GOP women worth 'bragging' about”

By Kevin Cirilli

October 2, 2014, 10:59 a.m. EDT

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said Thursday that his party is making gains among women voters, but it needs to do more "bragging" about the women in its own ranks.

During a panel at George Washington University, Priebus praised GOP leaders like Sen. Kelly Ayotte (N.H.), South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.).

"We do a really bad job bragging about it," he said following his prepared remarks. "As far as putting more women up on the news on Sunday morning and making sure that we're placing people better — I think we've improved on that a lot."

The comments come with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presumed to be Democratic frontrunner for president in 2016.

"She doesn't poll as well as you would think with women," Priebus said. "We need to do better [...but] women, as of today, they don't have a sizable advantage in the Democratic Party over the Republican Party, as much as that narrative has sunk in.

Priebus also said the party must shift its strategy in 2016 to focus more on a ground game as opposed just to raising large amounts of money.

"We had become a U-Haul trailer of cash for a presidential nominee," he said of 2012. "That is a loser's strategy."

Priebus said that party can't just "raise a gazillion dollars and hand it off to the presidential nominee" or engage in a "23-debate traveling circus," alluding to the 2012 Republican nominating process. "

You have to be a national party obsessed over mechanics, obsessed over a ground game, over the data game," he said.

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Chicago Sun-Times: "Dungeons & Dragons Kickstarter campaign features Hillary Clinton"

By Chad Merda

October 2, 2014, 10:42 a.m. EDT

Here are three things that don't normally go together: Hillary Clinton, Kickstarter and Dungeons & Dragons.

For now, they do because one group wants to raise money to hire Clinton to speak and "help us bring our fantasy world to life."

The only problem for the Dungeons & Dragons group from New York? They don't have $200,000, which is what Clinton's reportedly paid to speak. So naturally, they're turning to Kickstarter to help and have launched a fundraising campaign called "Hillary Clinton: The Ultimate Adventure."

So far, they're off to a slow start, with a little more than $200 pledged.

"Everyone can benefit from Hillary's legendary political savvy and top-notch oratory skills. Especially gamers," writes Jared Logan, who started the effort.

And really, it's all about the D-word.

"By achieving this goal, we will prove that a democracy is for the people and by the people," Logan writes. "We will show that even the most disenfranchised and oppressed group in this country (tabletop roleplayers) can still access our nation's leaders and speak to them face to face."

And if by some small miracle they not only raise the money, but manage to lure Clinton to New York, she'll have to forgo the large venue she's accustomed to — and maybe even duck to avoid hitting her head on some low beams and exposed plumbing.

Why? Because she'd be speaking for an hour, "in Eric's Dad's basement in Greenpoint, Brooklyn."

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/24/2015 2:56:14 AM
Subject:	Re: First Read: Money-in-Politics Stories to Watch for 2016

Wow.

On Fri, Apr 24, 2015 at 9:42 AM, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Indeed, upon reflection, that Times article doesn't hold up that well 24 hours after its publication.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "First Read from NBC News" <email@mail.nbcnews.com >
Date: April 24, 2015 at 9:15:40 AM EDT
To: <Joshschwerin@gmail.com >
Subject: First Read: Money-in-Politics Stories to Watch for 2016
Reply-To: "NBC News Today" <reply-ff2a11787067-60_HTML-4189601-7204487-50@mail.nbcnews.com>



First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter brought to you by NBC News' Chuck Todd, Mark Murray and Carrie Dann.

FIRST READ: GOP PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS MOSTLY SILENT ON DRONE MISTAKE

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter.

The Sound of Silence (Almost) From the '16 Candidates on Drone Deaths

If you've been following American politics over the last six years, President Obama could sneeze, and it would produce a flurry of negative statements and reactions from his political opponents. That's what makes yesterday's silence -- or backtracking -- from Republican 2016 presidential candidates regarding the accidental drone killing of two hostages so striking. As the Wall Street Journal writes, some Republican 2016ers chose not to comment on yesterday's news (Jeb Bush, Scott Walker), while two others who staged a 2013 filibuster against U.S. drone policy had no stomach to protest it (Rand Paul and Ted Cruz). "It is a tragedy that these hostages lost their lives," Paul said in a brief statement, per the Journal . "My prayers and thoughts are with their families." Cruz called for investigation into the deaths, but added: "Make no mistake: responsibility for their deaths lies firmly and unequivocally with the terrorists who kidnapped them and forcibly held them in their command center."

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But it's a conversation and debate worth having

Meanwhile, Lindsey Graham -- a hawkish supporter of U.S. intervention overseas -- said, "Collateral damage is part of war. I've got no problem at all with anything that happened, other than my deepest sympathies for those who were held by al Qaeda that became collateral damage." And Marco Rubio added, "We are all safer because of the actions taken every day around the world by our government to go after those who wish Americans harm and to prevent future attacks against us here at home." But what's amazing is that an issue that sparks so much political debate -- Should drones be used in these kinds of operations? What about against American citizens, even those with al Qaeda ties? Should there be more checks and balances? -- the 2016ers essentially punted. These are ALL questions American voters should get answers from the people vying to become the next commander-in-chief. But no one was comfortable having that conversation yesterday. It's a reminder of just how unprepared many of these campaigns are to debate some of the true heavy issues out there.

The Clinton campaign strikes back

Hours after the New York Times reported on a Canadian mining company -- whose principals donated heavily to the Clinton Foundation over the years -- sold its uranium business to Russia (which had to be approved by Hillary Clinton's State Department), the Clinton campaign struck back at the newspaper. It issued these rebuttals to attempt to knock down any quid-pro-quo:

1. Hillary wasn't involved in the State Department's review; it is the assistant secretary of state for economic, energy, and business affairs who makes the call;
2. The main Clinton Foundation donor, Frank Giustra, sold his stake in the Canadian mine business in 2007, so before Hillary became secretary of state;
3. The State Department was one of nine U.S. agencies to review the sale.

Indeed, upon reflection, that Times article doesn't hold up that well 24 hours after its publication. But if there's a legitimate criticism of the Clintons here -- especially when it comes to the other articles about the Clinton Foundation and Bill's speaking fees (here and here) -- it's that they were sloppy, bordering on being greedy. As Jonathan Chait writes . "All sorts of unproven worst-case-scenario questions float around the web of connections between Bill's private work, Hillary Clinton's public role as secretary of State, the Clintons' quasi-public charity... But the best-case scenario is bad enough: The Clintons have been disorganized and greedy." Just a reminder: Going after the Clintons on personal money and appearances of conflict of interest was a successful message for candidate Barack Obama in 2007-2008.

Why Ted Cruz skipped the Loretta Lynch vote

He had to catch a flight to a Texas fundraiser: Ted Cruz, who was one of the most vocal critics against Loretta Lynch's nomination for Attorney General, was the only senator to miss her final confirmation vote today because he needed to catch a flight for a previously scheduled commitment in Texas, his campaign told NBC's Kelly O'Donnell and Frank Thorp. "He had to catch a flight for a commitment in Texas," Cruz campaign spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said. According to a fundraising invite obtained by Real Clear Politics , Cruz has a fundraiser in Dallas, TX scheduled for 6:00 pm. Cruz spoke on the Senate floor Thursday morning against Lynch's nomination, and then voted against the procedural vote to move forward with consideration of her nomination, something called "cloture." But Cruz missed the actual vote on Lynch's nomination.

Conservative writer

"John Kasich should be punished for expanding Obamacare": Here's a reason you might not want to buy stock in John Kasich's POSSIBLE presidential candidacy: He expanded Medicaid in Ohio. And here's the headline from the Washington Examiner's Philip Klein , one of top conservative wonks: "John Kasich should be punished for expanding Obamacare."

Saturday's two GOP cattle calls

Saturday brings two GOP cattle calls. One is the Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition spring kick-off, featuring nine 2016ers -- Cruz, Fiorina, Huckabee, Jindal, Paul, Perry, Rubio, Santorum, and Walker. And the other one is the Republican Jewish Coalition confab in Las Vegas, which will also hear from Cruz and Perry, as well as George W. Bush, John Boehner, and Mitt Romney.

On "Meet" this Sunday

Finally, on "Meet the Press" this Sunday, here's an early look at some of guests: David Boies and Ted Olson (to talk about the Supreme Court's upcoming gay-marriage decision), Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, and cartoonist Garry Trudeau.

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FIRST READ: MONEY-IN-POLITICS STORIES TO WATCH FOR 2016

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter.

Two other money-in-politics stories to watch in the 2016 race

With all the attention on the Clinton Foundation story -- and with its potential conflicts of interest (see our piece on it yesterday) -- there are two other money-in-politics that should be on everyone's radar screens:

1. **The Koch and Adelson Primaries:** On Monday, the NYT reported that the Koch Brothers had settled on their preferred 2016 candidate - Scott Walker. Then Koch World pushed back on that story, saying they are still holding auditions for their favorite 2016 candidate. But here is a key question: If the Koch Brothers (and their network of wealthy donors) are going to dole out millions and millions of dollars and they're currently auditioning candidates, what are they getting in return for that support? Check out this quote from Charles Koch: "We're telling [GOP candidates] that if they want our support, one way to get it is articulating a good message to help Americans get a better understanding and a better appreciation of how certain policies ... will benefit them and will benefit all America." What policies are those? Here's NBC's Leigh Ann Caldwell on Scott Walker's ties to the Koch Brothers.

And it's just not the Koch Primary. This coming Saturday, at least two Republican presidential contenders -- Ted Cruz and Rick Perry -- are going to Las Vegas to speak at the Sheldon Adelson-backed Republican Jewish Coalition confab. In the 2012 cycle, Adelson and his wife donated nearly $100 million to GOP outside groups, including Super PACs supporting Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney.

2. Jeb Bush in uncharted Super PAC waters: On Tuesday, the AP reported that Jeb Bush plans to outsource his TV ads, direct mail, and data gathering to his Super PAC, Right to Rise. What's noteworthy here is that, according to campaign-finance laws, there is supposed to be NO coordination between a candidate and a Super PAC. But Jeb Bush is exploiting a loophole -- and potentially violating at least the SPIRIT of these laws -- because he's not officially a presidential candidate. So he's raising money for this Super PAC and putting his key personnel there. The moment he declares his candidacy (in June?), he'll stop his role with the Super PAC. But by then, it will have all the money (through unlimited donations) and infrastructure it needs.

Bank on it: The Super PACs will outspend the campaigns -- at least during the primary season

When it comes to Jeb Bush's Super PAC, maybe the biggest consequence of it is that, in 2016, we're going to see the Super PACs outspend the actual campaigns, at least during the primary season. As the New York Times' Nick Confessore points out, the Romney campaign spent about $76 million in the 2012 primary season, while the main pro-Romney Super PAC spent $49 million. As Confessore mused, it's easy to see how that ratio shifts for Jeb Bush -- and perhaps the other GOP candidates as well.

Obama visits Florida Everglades to mark Earth Day

USA Today : "President Obama spends Earth Day on Wednesday in the Florida Everglades, promoting his climate change policies. After touring Everglades National Park in the afternoon, Obama will speak 'on the threat that climate change poses to our economy and to the world,' says the White House schedule. The president will stress his efforts to reduce carbon emissions, while criticizing congressional Republicans for opposing his environmental policies." Obama delivers his remarks at 3:55 pm ET.

Hillary vague on trade deal

Turning back to the 2016 race, Hillary Clinton was incredibly vague when talking about the political fight over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal. "Any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security," she said in New Hampshire yesterday. "And we need to do our part to make sure we have the capacity and the skills to be competitive." As we've written before, this trade deal -- as well as a battle over "fast-track" trade authority for President Obama -- puts Hillary in a tough spot. Does she back Obama and her husband Bill? Or does she side with organized labor, as well as the likes of Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders, who have come out against it? Other questions: Will Hillary be able to look credible if she opposes the TPP? Would it add to a perception she'll say or do anything? Could the better position for her actually be supporting it, showing that she's willing to buck her base (especially since Obama is for it)? Also on the trade-deal front, here's a Wall Street Journal op-ed by Paul Ryan and Ted Cruz supporting giving Obama fast-track authority.

Walker comes out against LEGAL immigration?

Don't miss this piece by MSNBC's Benjy Sarlin : "Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's newfound

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skepticism of legal immigration levels is a potential turning point in the still nascent presidential race, potentially dragging the Republican Party further to the right than Mitt Romney's hardline immigration platform in 2012. 'In terms of legal immigration, how we need to approach that going forward is saying - the next president and the next Congress need to make decisions about a legal immigration system that's based on, first and foremost, on protecting American workers and American wages,' Walker said Monday in an interview with Glenn Beck. 'It is a fundamentally lost issue by many in elected positions today - what is this doing for American workers looking for jobs, what is this doing to wages, and we need to have that be at the forefront of our discussion going forward.'" A Walker spokeswoman told the Washington Examiner's Philip Klein: "Gov. Walker supports American workers' wages and the U.S. economy and thinks both should be considered when crafting a policy for legal immigration. He strongly supports legal immigration, and like many Americans, believes that our economic situation should be considered instead of arbitrary caps on the amount of immigrants that can enter."

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FIRST READ'S MORNING CLIPS

OBAMA AGENDA: The latest in Yemen

The New York Times : "Warplanes from a Saudi-led military coalition conducted airstrikes in the southwestern Yemeni city of Taiz on Wednesday, hours after Saudi officials had announced they were halting their nearly monthlong bombing campaign against the Houthi rebel movement. The warplanes bombed Houthi positions during heavy clashes in Taiz on Wednesday morning, according to a local official in the city. The new airstrikes, combined with reports of continued fighting in other parts of the country, including the southern port city of Aden, dampened hopes that the Saudi announcement would quickly result in a broader cease-fire."

Obama is headed to Florida - the home state of two GOP presidential hopefuls - to talk climate change.

DEA chief Michele Leonhart is stepping down amid disagreements with the Obama administration and criticism of her handling of a scandal.

The Baltimore Sun has the latest on the DOJ probe of Freddie Gray's death.

CONGRESS: The deal that paved the way for Loretta Lynch's nomination

NBC's Frank Thorp reports on the deal that paved the way for a vote on Loretta Lynch's nomination this week.

National Journal first reported last night that Mitch McConnell is introducing a bill to reauthorize the surveillance authority of the Patriot Act until 2020.

Rep. Ken Buck of Colorado has an AR-15 in his office, exempt from D.C. law because of his status as a congressman, reports the Washington Post.

Kate Snow writes about Rep. Mike Honda's 8-year-old granddaughter, who is transgender.

OFF TO THE RACES: The Koch Brothers' Five Favorites

USA Today reports that the Koch brothers have identified five candidates that they could consider backing: Walker, Bush, Cruz, Paul and Rubio.

Writes the Des Moines Register : "Hot-button issues such as clean power, water quality regulations and renewable fuels are expected to get a bigger stage in the 2016 Iowa Caucuses, as environmental activists put more pressure on presidential contenders to address controversial issues such as climate change."

CLINTON: From the Associated Press , on Bill Clinton's role: "Aides say the ex-president will stay behind the scenes initially and that Hillary Clinton's focus on her parents and grandchild allow her to fill in other aspects of her biography. Invoking Bill Clinton, who has high approval ratings, also can bring up positives from his administration, such as a strong economy, but at the risk of revisiting the Monica Lewinsky scandal and subsequent impeachment drama."

The Washington Post writes about how Clinton's trade comments are kicking off a public intra-party trade war.

The Huffington Post reports that top campaign officials have a goal of $100 million for the Democratic primary race.

POLITICO describes her as "unrunning" for president.

Bloomberg writes that the findings of the House Benghazi probe likely won't be released until next year.

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CRUZ: The New York Times does a deep dive into Cruz's career as a college debater.

He and Paul Ryan co-authored a Wall Street Journal op-ed in favor of fast-track authority.

RUBIO: He's been reaching out to gay Republicans.

TRUMP: He's heading back to New Hampshire on Monday.

WALKER: Leigh Ann Caldwell reports on Walker's long history with the Koch brothers.

And here's her report on Walker's leadership style, which has some Republicans concerned.

He's suggesting limiting legal immigration.

The Journal Sentinel: "Taking action as gun violence captures particular attention across the state and especially in Milwaukee, the state Senate on Tuesday approved a repeal of the state's two-day waiting period for handgun purchases, sending the bill to the Assembly on a voice vote."

PROGRAMMING NOTES.

*** **Wednesday's "News Nation with Tamron Hall" line-up:** Tamron Hall speaks with NBC's Tom Costello in Baltimore on the latest about the death of Freddie Gray, Ron Mott on the latest on the Boston Marathon bombing trial, and hip hop legends Cheryl "Salt" James and Sandra "Pepa" Denton of Salt N' Pepa about the resurgence of their career.

*** **Wednesday's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" line-up:** NBC's Peter Alexander fills in for Andrea and will interview msnbc's Chris Matthews, msnbc Food Contributor Tom Colicchio, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Executive Director Harold Levy and NBC's Kelly O'Donnell and Tom Costello.

FIRST READ: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CLINTON FOUNDATION STORY

First Read is a morning briefing from Meet the Press and the NBC Political Unit on the day's most important political stories and why they matter.

Everything you wanted to know about the Clinton Foundation-money story but were afraid to ask

With the Clinton Foundation's fundraising practices once again in the news as Hillary Clinton runs for president -- especially with a new controversial book on the subject -- here are the basics of what you need to know:

- **ORIGINAL CONCERN ABOUT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

At Hillary Clinton's Jan. 13, 2009 confirmation hearing to be secretary of state, then-Sen. Dick Lugar (R-IN) summed up the potential conflict of interest between the Clinton Foundation receiving donations from foreign countries and Clinton's new job. "The core of the problem is that foreign governments and entities may perceive the Clinton Foundation as a means to gain favor with the secretary of state. Although neither Senator Clinton nor President Clinton has a personal financial stake in the foundation, obviously its work benefits their legacy and their public service priorities."

Hillary Clinton agreed about the perception problem. "[T]he foundation and the president-elect decided to go beyond what the law and the ethics rules call for to address even the appearance of conflict and that is why they signed a memorandum of understanding, which outlines the voluntary steps that the foundation is taking to address potential concerns that might come up down the road."

- **THE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING**

The "Memo of Understanding" that Hillary Clinton reached with the Obama administration had two main objectives:

-- to prohibit President Clinton from soliciting funds or accepting foreign-government contributions to the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI);

-- to disclose foreign countries that INCREASED their commitments to all Clinton Foundation entities, or that became a NEW contributor

(The memo of understanding was signed by Valerie Jarrett and Bruce Lindsey of the Clinton Foundation. It also was under supervision by John Kerry and Dick Lugar of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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- **THE 2010 ALGERIA DONATION**

In Feb. 2015, we learned that the Clinton Foundation FAILED TO DISCLOSE a $500,000 donation in 2010 to assist with earthquake relief in Haiti. This was a NEW donation, and thus should have been disclosed to the State Department.

The Clinton Foundation issued a statement saying that the donation SHOULD have been disclosed. "Immediately following the devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, the Embassy of Algeria made an unsolicited donation of $500K to Clinton Foundation Haiti Relief fund. As the Clinton Foundation did with all donations it received for earthquake relief, the entire amount of Algeria's contribution was distributed as aid in Haiti. This donation was disclosed publicly on our website, however, the State Department should have also been formally informed. This was a one-time, specific donation to help Haiti and Algeria had not donated to the Clinton Foundation before and has not since."

- **CURRENT POLICY NOW THAT THE CLINTON CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY**

The Clinton Foundation is no longer accepting new donations from foreign governments. But it is still CONTINUING existing programs that were up and running before Hillary began her campaign. There are six countries that had EXISTING programs -- Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the U.K. As a Clinton Foundation official tells NBC News, "You just can't pull the plug" on existing programs, especially when they involve multi-year grants.

Also under current policy, all disclosures will be listed quarterly instead of yearly (as was the case under the older Memo of Understanding). And after the Clinton Global Initiative completes its already-planned Morocco conference, it will no longer have foreign countries sponsor or co-sponsor CGI events.

Hillary's Day 2 in New Hampshire

Hillary Clinton has a 10:20 am ET event in Concord, NH, where she'll focus on community college programs.

On the trail

Chris Christie speaks at the Washington Conference on the Americas at 12:25 pm ET... Carly Fiorina has events in Council Bluffs, Sioux City and Denison, IA... And former President Bill Clinton gives an address on public service at Georgetown University at 10:30 am ET.

A breakthrough on Loretta Lynch and the anti-trafficking bill?

It looks that way. Politico : "The Senate is nearing a resolution to a monthlong dispute that's halted a human trafficking bill and confirmation of attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch, even as Minority Leader Harry Reid on Monday resumed his rhetorical assault on Republicans for the delay." More: "Top sources in both parties - and even Reid himself - said negotiators had made headway toward a compromise on abortion language included in the sex trafficking bill that Democrats have strongly opposed. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has vowed that the trafficking bill must be completed before the Senate votes to confirm Lynch."

Yet ANOTHER Republican says no to running for FL SEN

This is getting weirder and weirder. "Two weeks after floating the idea of a 2016 run for U.S. Senate, Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Okeechobee, said today he has decided against seeking the seat Sen. Marco Rubio is giving up to run for president," the Palm Beach Post writes . "'For the last several days I considered running for the U.S. Senate representing the great state of Florida. While I feel like I could mount a successful statewide campaign, the toll I believe the process would take on my family is something I cannot put them through,' Rooney said in a statement released by his office."

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FIRST READ'S MORNING CLIPS

OFF TO THE RACES: Jeb to rely heavily on Super PAC

BUSH: The AP reports that he will delegate a lot of his campaign tasks - like advertising, direct mail, and data gathering - to his Super PAC. More: "The architects of the plan believe the super PAC's ability to legally raise unlimited amounts of money outweighs its primary disadvantage, that it cannot legally coordinate its actions with Bush or his would-be campaign staff."

CHRISTIE: More bad news for the NJ gov, from the Washington Post : "New Jersey state Sen. Joseph M. Kyrillos, who chaired Christie's 2009 gubernatorial campaign and ushered his agenda through a Democratic-controlled legislature, is backing former Florida governor Jeb Bush's all-but-certain presidential bid."

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He has hired an Iowa political director for his PAC, reports the Des Moines Register.

Bloomberg writes that Christie is hoping (again) to jumpstart his flagging presidential hopes with a speech in DC.

CLINTON: The New York Times digs into how Hillary Clinton is working to embrace Elizabeth Warren's populist rhetoric. And/but: "Nothing stings her inner circle more than the suggestion that their candidate is late to these issues. Mrs. Clinton was the original Elizabeth Warren, her advisers say, a populist fighter who for decades has been an advocate for families and children; only now have the party and primary voters caught up."

The Wall Street Journal writes on how Mayor Rahm Emanuel's run-off victory in Chicago could provide lessons for Clinton.

Yesterday in New Hampshire, she said she's "ready" for Republican attacks.

WMUR previews her community college pitch today.

WALKER: The New York Times writes that David Koch has been indicating that Scott Walker is his favorite Republican candidate.

And around the country...

FLORIDA: Republican Tom Rooney says he won't seek Marco Rubio's Senate seat.

NEVADA: Gov. Brian Sandoval is confusing some folks in his own party, writes the Wall Street Journal.

VIRGINIA: Former First Lady Maureen McDonnell is hoping to get her public corruption convictions tossed out.

OBAMA AGENDA: Deploying the USS Theodore Roosevelt

From the AP : "In a stepped-up response to Iranian backing of Shiite rebels in Yemen, the Navy aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt is steaming toward the waters off Yemen to beef up security and join other American ships that are prepared to intercept any Iranian vessels carrying weapons to the Houthi rebels."

An Egyptian court has sentenced former president Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison for charges of inciting violence.

The Baltimore Sun has the latest on the death of Freddie Gray, a 25 year-old black man who suffered a spinal injury while in police custody.

CONGRESS: Business vs. Labor on trade

The Hill writes that business and labor groups are back in their corners as they battle over trade legislation.

The New York Times writes that Congress is pushing forward on Obama's agenda, even as the Hill is now dominated by the GOP.

It's still not clear when Loretta Lynch will get her confirmation vote.

John McCain and Ted Cruz are in a bit of a dust-up over the possibility of hearings on troops carrying personal firearms on military installations.

It looks like Capitol Police Chief Kim Dine is staying on after all, Roll Call reports.

PROGRAMMING NOTES.

*** **Tuesday's "News Nation with Tamron Hall" line-up:** Tamron Hall speaks with NBC News Foreign Correspondent Ayman Mohyeldin about U.S. warships sent to block Iran ships from delivering arms to Yemen rebels, Capt. John Kowalczyk of the Baltimore Police department on the 6 cops suspended after the death of Freddy Gray, Indiana State Department of Health Deputy State Health Commissioner Jennifer Walthall about the HIV health emergency in Scott's County IN, Brady Granier Chief Operating Officer and Interim Chief Executive Officer of BioCorRx, Inc and former actor on Growing Pains Jeremy Miller about a new drug implant that slowly releases over a number of months blocking alcohol cravings and reduces the pleasure seeking impulses alcoholics experience.

*** **Tuesday's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" line-up:** On today's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" live from Concord, NH, Andrea will interview Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Sen. Chris Murphy, Fmr. Sen. John Sununu, Baltimore Sun Investigative Reporter Mark Puente, AP's Julie Pace, the Washington Post's Chris Cillizza and NBC's Ron Mott.

LATEST NEWS

- First Read: GOP Presidential Hopefuls Mostly Silent on Drone Mistake
- Vast Terror Raid Busts Cell With Alleged Bin Laden Link
- Comcast Drops $45B Bid For Time Warner Cable
- Naked Ambition: China to Crack Down on Funeral Strippers
- After Whiskey Gang Arrests, Woman Begs Gov. For Pardon -- For the Bourbon



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Lincoln Chafee on CNN's New Day

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(**8:07a) Chris Cuomo**: Lincoln Chafee joins us right now. He was a former senator and governor from Rhode Island and he is weighing a run for president. Good to have you with us, governor.

Chafee: Thank you very much for having me on the show.

Cuomo: So let's ask the obvious question: Do you think you can beat Hillary Clinton and why?

Chafee: I have been in 12 elections in my career over 30 years, and I've gotten into every one expecting to win. I have won 10 of the 12, but you always get in expecting to win, and elections should be about choices, and so you said on the Republican side there seem to be a lot of choices; there should be choices on the Democrat side also.

John Berman: So here's the thing, you were actually a big supporter, you went out on a limb supporting President Obama when he was running for re-election. At the time you were an independent and I think you even supported him as a Republican or at least considered it as a Republican.

Chafee: no, as an independent.

Berman: Oh, as an independent. So look, a lot of people are looking at Hillary Clinton right now as a third term for President Obama. You, by exploring a run, are not so indirectly saying, no, no, no, she does not represent the third term here. Why not?

(8:08) Chafee: well, don't forget, that the reason -- probably the biggest reason that senator Obama at the time defeated Hillary Clinton in '08 was because of the Iraq war vote. That was the issue and that's my big issue here, because we are dealing with ramifications in a huge mistake that Senator Clinton made in 2002, which i did not make, but we live with it today—everyone says well that's 12 years ago, but we live with it today-- even the news today in Ramadi, what's happening in Ramadi with ISIS. And so it's a huge, bad decision, and so i don't consider it a third term for President Obama at all. Very, very different.

Cuomo: You also have and interesting connection here. You were in boarding school with Jeb Bush, is that right?

Chafee: yes.

Cuomo: So, do you believe he would be a better president than Hillary Clinton?

(8:09a) Chafee: I am running my own race on the Democratic side and i will let the Republicans sort out their primaries.

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Berman: You actually are running a race though on the Democratic side. You haven't declared yet, no one's declared but Hillary on the Democratic side, and the other folks who are considering a run, Bernie Sanders, Jim Webb, Martin O'Malley- no one is taking on Hillary Clinton. No one has gone out nearly as far as you have gone out to criticize her, and you are criticizing her saying that a vote that she took in the Senate, when you were in the Senate, is essentially disqualifying for the Democratic nomination.

Chafee: Yes that's why I'm running, because I feel strongly about where we're going as a country, so it's not only that vote, but also her actions of Secretary of State, and where we're going---

Cuomo: What did she do wrong? What'd she do wrong as Secretary of State?

Chafee: Well first of all start with Russia. Right in the early days of her tenure as Secretary of State, they tried to re-start with Russia and she presented the Russian foreign minister with a re-start button, but they got the Russian word wrong, and instead the Russians looked at it and said this means over charge, and it was an insult.

Cuomo: I mean, the re-start was the right move or the wrong move?

(8:10) Chafee: It was the right move to re-start, but you got to get the word right. They insulted the Russians right off the bat and we live with the ramifications again today. Look what is happening with Putin and with Russia, Ukraine, and selling arms to Iran. It all could have started with that diplomatic mistake, getting the word wrong. And also, as Secretary of State, she referred to the elected leader of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez at the time, as a dictator, and that just sets back our relations with an important country, an oil-rich country. So it's a succession of mistakes- mistake on the Iraq war vote, poor tenure as Secretary of State. We need a new direction; fresh ideas for where we're going as a country.

Berman: It sounds like you've really gone through her record kind of with a fine-toothed comb here looking for specific examples. What about the now, and the e-mails, what about the funds for the Clinton global initiative, and what level of concern is this to you?

(8:11) Chafee: Especially the funds coming into the Clinton funds from other countries, while she is Secretary of State. Huge amounts of money coming from these foreign countries into the Clinton fund while she is Secretary of State.

Berman: Did they change the rules while she was Secretary and then afterwards start accepting from other countries like Saudi Arabia and what not?

Chafee: And Libya. I don't know when they changed the rules, John.

(8:11:20) Cuomo: Important stuff to know though Governor because if you are going to go after Hillary Clinton on the basis of basically, you're painting a character picture of her right? Then gotta be right about it because that's a pretty big hammer to swing, especially if you're not going to say "oh, I have the better ideas." You have to pick a tack, either you are going to just go after her and say she is not good enough, but you're also going to have to say at some point why you are better

Chafee: Yes, and i feel strongly my record as a mayor, as a governor, as a United States senator is open to scrutiny and i have a strong record of standing up for the people and being a peace maker with unions, and as a Senator dealing with other countries on the foreign relations committee, so I look forward to a new direction; fresh ideas for America, i firmly believe, for our children and grandchildren.

Berman: You have a unique perspective, you've been a Republican, you were an independent, you were a Democrat. There's so much gridlock in Washington and around the country right now and you've had a perspective from every

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different angle. Who is the most to blame? Who needs to do more to correct their actions here to fix this problem?

(**8:12) Chafee:** Well President Bush the second, George W. Bush really set this country back, i believe. First the tax cuts that gave us the depression, and then the war in Iraq, and a record of prevarication. Just saying one thing as a candidate and then doing something else. Even Scott McClellan, his press secretary, said it was a culture of prevarication. So, I'd give a lot of blame to Republicans, which I was at the time and one of the big reasons i left. To take a surplus, turn it into deficits; to take a peaceful world, turn it into a chaotic world- that's on the Republican watch.

(8:13) Cuomo: John is taking one tack on your changing parties. The way you are going to hear it from your adversaries is, that is the biggest sin in politics that there is. This man, the governor did not just go from one party to another, he changed twice…They are going to bang you over the head with that all day. This guy doesn't know who he is, he doesn't know where he stands, he went from a Republican to an independent to a Democrat, we need leadership that is direct and secure.

Chafee: The flaw in that argument is that i have a 30-year record to look at, and when they look at that 30-year record they're going to see absolute consistency, on fiscal responsibility, on the environment, on using the tools of government the less fortunate, on keeping us out of quagmires, on civil liberties, on a number of issues, rock-solid consistency.

Berman: You are saying a reverse Ronald Reagan, I did not leave the Democratic Party the Democratic Party left me?

Chafee: yeah, There's no room for liberal Republicans in the Republican Party. I got primary'd in my reelection for Senate in 2006 by the right wing- I won it, but it cost me the general. That's what is happening, they primary the liberal Republicans.

(8:14) Cuomo: You think the DNC will let you have a fair shot?

Chafee: I do. i do. Elections are about choices. They should be. That's America.

Cuomo: You think you can raise the money?

Chafee: America loves an underdog. No doubt i am an underdog. I'm not going to raise a billion dollars, I don't think I can raise a billion dollars.

Berman: Governor, Senator, Lincoln Chafee. Thank you so much for being with us. Really appreciate you being here today.

Chafee: Thank you John.

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From: Tikkun <miriam@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 4/3/2015 2:19:33 AM
Subject: So What if Iran Got Nuclear Weapons?..by Uri Avnery from Tel Aviv



vered by salsa

Editor's Note: This thought experiment by Uri Avnery raises an important question for all those who are driven by fear of Iran having nuclear weapons, a fear that seems to increase precisely when Iran is negotiating a path to assure the West that it will not use its nuclear capacities to develop such a bomb. Uri Anveri, leader of the Israeli peace movement Gush Shalom, imagines the situation if the worst fears were true and this whole deal was a way to fool the West while Iran secretly developed its nuclear weapons. O.K. imagine if Iran had nuclear weapons. So what? His reasoning reminds us of how the West managed to marginalize those who called for an assault on Stalinist Russia once it had nuclear weapons. More rational voices prevailed, despite the fact that Stalinist dictators and their supporters repeated the mantra that Russia would "bury" the West, and despite the fact that Russia then provided arms and political support for North Vietnam which the US was fighting in a ground war, and supported "subversion" of capitalist-oriented regimes around the world. We learned to live with it. So instead of war, we had a Cold War--and eventually a not so cold war, and then the Soviet Union collapsed. The same people who brought us to war in Iraq because of the allegations that Saddam Hussein had nuclear weapons are now calling for a similar war with Iran. Iran's response: "we'll open our country to every possible inspection, because we are not developing nuclear weapons, only nuclear power for peaceful purposes." Don't believe them? Well, that's where Uri Avnery's argument starts: let's assume that they did develop nuclear weapons, he says, so what? It's an important thought experiment.--Rabbi Michael Lerner

April 4, 2015

Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Bomb?

by Uri Avnery, Tel Aviv, Israel

I MUST start with a shocking confession: I am not afraid of the Iranian nuclear bomb.

I know that this makes me an abnormal person, almost a freak.

But what can I do? I am unable to work up fear, like a real Israeli. Try as I may, the Iranian bomb does not make me hysterical.

MY FATHER once taught me how to withstand blackmail: imagine that the awful threat of the blackmailer has already come about. Then you can tell him: Go to hell.

I have tried many times to follow this advice and found it sound. So now I

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apply it to the Iranian bomb: I imagine that the worst has already happened: the awful ayatollahs have got the bombs that can eradicate little Israel in a minute.

So what?

According to foreign experts, Israel has several hundred nuclear bombs (assessments vary between 80-400. If Iran sends its bombs and obliterates most of Israel (myself included), Israeli submarines will obliterate Iran. Whatever I might think about Binyamin Netanyahu, I rely on him and our security chiefs to keep our "second strike" capability intact. Just last week we were informed that Germany had delivered another state-of-the-art submarine to our navy for this purpose.

Israeli idiots – and there are some around – respond: "Yes, but the Iranian leaders are not normal people. They are madmen. Religious fanatics. They will risk the total destruction of Iran just to destroy the Zionist state. Like exchanging queens in chess."

Such convictions are the outcome of decades of demonizing. Iranians – or at least their leaders – are seen as subhuman miscreants.

Reality shows us that the leaders of Iran are very sober, very calculating politicians. Cautious merchants in the Iranian bazaar style. They don't take unnecessary risks. The revolutionary fervor of the early Khomeini days is long past, and even Khomeini would not have dreamt of doing anything so close to national suicide.

ACCORDING TO the Bible, the great Persian king Cyrus allowed the captive Jews of Babylon to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple. At that time, Persia was already an ancient civilization – both cultural and political.

After the "return from Babylon", the Jewish commonwealth around Jerusalem lived for 200 years under Persian suzerainty. I was taught in school that these were happy years for the Jews.

Since then, Persian culture and history has lived through another two and a half millennia. Persian civilization is one of the oldest in the world. It has created a great religion and influenced many others, including Judaism. Iranians are fiercely proud of that civilization.

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To imagine that the present leaders of Iran would even contemplate risking the very existence of Persia out of hatred of Israel is both ridiculous and megalomaniac.

Moreover, throughout history, relations between Jews and Persians have almost always been excellent. When Israel was founded, Iran was considered a natural ally, part of David Ben-Gurion's "strategy of the periphery" – an alliance with all the countries surrounding the Arab world.

The Shah, who was re-installed by the American and British secret services, was a very close ally. Teheran was full of Israeli businessmen and military advisers. It served as a base for the Israeli agents working with the rebellious Kurds in northern Iraq who were fighting against the regime of Saddam Hussein.

After the Islamic revolution, Israel still supported Iran against Iraq in their cruel 8-year war. The notorious Irangate affair, in which my friend Amiram Nir and Oliver North played such an important role, would not have been possible without the old Iranian-Israeli ties.

Even now, Iran and Israel are conducting amiable arbitration proceedings about an old venture: the Eilat-Ashkelon oil pipeline built jointly by the two countries.

If the worst comes to the worst, nuclear Israel and nuclear Iran will live in a Balance of Terror.

Highly unpleasant, indeed. But not an existential menace.

HOWEVER, FOR those who live in terror of the Iranian nuclear capabilities, I have a piece of advice: use the time we still have.

Under the American-Iranian deal, we have at least 10 years before Iran could start the final phase of producing the bomb.

Please use this time for making peace.

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The Iranian hatred of the "Zionist Regime" – the State of Israel – derives from the fate of the Palestinian people. The feeling of solidarity for the helpless Palestinians is deeply ingrained in all Islamic peoples. It is part of the popular culture in all of them. It is quite real, even if the political regimes misuse, manipulate or ignore it.

Since there is no ground for a specific Iranian hatred of Israel, it is solely based on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. No conflict, no enmity.

Logic tells us: if we have several years before we have to live in the shadow of an Iranian nuclear bomb, let's use this time to eliminate the conflict. Once the Palestinians themselves declare that they consider the historic conflict with Israel settled, no Iranian leadership will be able to rouse its people against us.

FOR SEVERAL weeks now, Netanyahu has been priding himself publicly on a huge, indeed historic, achievement.

For the first time ever, Israel is practically part of an Arab alliance.

Throughout the region, the conflict between Muslim Sunnis and Muslim Shiites is raging. The Shiite camp, headed by Iran, includes the Shiites in Iraq, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen. (Netanyahu falsely - or out of ignorance - includes the Sunni Hamas in this camp.)

The opposite Sunni camp includes Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Gulf states. Netanyahu hints that Israel is now secretly accepted by them as a member.

It is a very untidy picture. Iran is fighting against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, which is a mortal enemy of Israel. Iran is supporting the Assad regime in Damascus, which is also supported by Hezbollah, which fights against the Islamic State, while the Saudis support other extreme Sunni Syrians who fight against Assad and the Islamic State. Turkey supports Iran and the Saudis while fighting against Assad. And so on.

I am not enamored with Arab military dictatorships and corrupt monarchies. Frankly, I detest them. But if Israel succeeds in becoming an official member of any Arab coalition, it would be a historic breakthrough, the first in 130 years of Zionist-Arab conflict.

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However, all Israeli relations with Arab countries are secret, except those with Egypt and Jordan, and even with these two the contacts are cold and distant, relations between the regimes rather than between the peoples.

Let's face facts: no Arab state will engage in open and close cooperation with Israel before the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is ended. Even kings and dictators cannot afford to do so. The solidarity of their peoples with the oppressed Palestinians is far too profound.

Real peace with the Arab countries is impossible without peace with the Palestinian people, as peace with the Palestinian people is impossible without peace with the Arab countries.

So if there is now a chance to establish official peace with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, and to turn the cold peace with Egypt into a real one, Netanyahu should jump at it. The terms of an agreement are already lying on the table: the Saudi peace plan, also called the Arab Initiative, which was adopted many years ago by the entire Arab League. It is based on the two-state solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Netanyahu could amaze the whole world by "doing a de Gaulle" – making peace with the Sunni Arab world (as de Gaulle did with Algeria) which would compel the Shiites to follow suit.

Do I believe in this? I do not. But if God wills it, even a broomstick can shoot.

And on the day of the Jewish Pesach feast, commemorating the (imaginary) exodus from Egypt, we are reminding ourselves that miracles do happen.

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	9/18/2014 7:07:52 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Thursday September 18, 2014 Afternoon Roundup



Correct The Record Thursday September 18, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "Isolationists vs. Interventionists: The Latest GOP Split" via @billburton http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/09/18/isolationists-vs-interventionists-the-latest-gop-split/ … [9/18/14, 1:07 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@shellyporges says we should "do more to make every day equal for women everywhere." #Progress4Women http://www.cnbc.com/id/102012957 [9/18/14, 12:41 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: HRC "has devoted her life to expanding opportunities for 'We the People'" in US and globally #HRC365 #ConstitutionDay http://bit.ly/1iWmKLf [9/17/14, 3:41 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

CNBC opinion: Shelly Porges: "Empowering women is good for the economy"

"The United States recently celebrated Women's Equality Day — let's do more to make every day equal for women everywhere. As Hillary Clinton says, 'it is the great unfinished business of the 21st century.'"

Wall Street Journal op-ed: Bill Burton: "Isolationists vs. Interventionists: The Latest GOP Split"

"In attacking Hillary Clinton on foreign policy, Republican Sens. Rand Paul and Marco Rubio are doing a pretty good job of underscoring their own

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differences on isolation versus interventionism."

Associated Press: "Clinton: Turn Female Economic Issues Into Movement"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton says voters should turn pay inequity and women's financial security into a political movement this fall.

NBC News: "Hillary Clinton: Congress Out of Touch on Women's Issues"

"Congress is living in an 'evidence-free zone' as it debates issues of equal pay and family-friendly work policies, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Thursday."

MSNBC: "Conservatives demand Clinton subpoena on Benghazi"

"Less than a day after the House Select Committee on Benghazi held its first hearing, pressure is already mounting on its chairman to subpoena Hillary Clinton, who was secretary of state during the 2012 terror attack and is considering a presidential run in 2016."

CNN: Hambycast: "Hillary Clinton's madcap media mob"

"If Hillary Clinton decides not to run for president -- and yes, that is still possible -- her return to the media lion's den might be a factor in her thinking."

Vox: "Why Joe Biden trails Hillary Clinton by 44 points"

"Though Biden's always been known as a great speaker, he needs to learn to talk to a different party than the one he grew up in."

Washington Post blog: Erik Wemple: "Sharyl Attkisson just can't stop sliming former employer CBS News"

"Conspiracy, meet theory. Too bad Attkisson's very own experience contradicts it."

Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "AP's Peoples to cover Republican 2016 field"

"The Associated Press has tapped Steve Peoples, its northeast political reporter, to cover the field of Republican presidential hopefuls in 2016, political editor David Scott announced in a memo to staff on Tuesday."

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Articles:

CNBC opinion: Shelly Porges: "Empowering women is good for the economy"

By Shelly Porges

September 18, 2014

Last month, the Gujarat state government in India instituted a two-week celebration on the empowerment of women. The celebration quickly subsided when the police took actions more reminiscent of female oppression than empowerment, putting up posters with women dressed in jeans and shorts that read "Do not step out of the house in inappropriate clothing" and urging girls to refrain from using cell phones for no reason whatsoever.

Across the world's economies, women face all kinds of barriers to their empowerment. Two decades after Hillary Clinton's 1994 speech in Beijing where she so famously declared that "women's rights are human rights," the fight continues.

But empowering women is not just the right thing to do. It's the smart thing to do.

This week, powerhouse leaders including Hillary Clinton, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will come together at a Center for American Progress roundtable to continue the dialogue on women's economic security and empowerment.

Women are an extremely powerful resource for global entrepreneurship and economic development — one that is not currently tapped to its potential. Research has shown that where women are economically empowered, communities and nations thrive.

That is why over the past few years, the conversation has developed into empowering women economically. In 2011, for example, the State Department held the first Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Women and the Economy Summit, a breakthrough forum in San Francisco on the economic empowerment of women where we hosted 21 of the world's economies — including China, Russia, and Indonesia — that represented 55 percent of the world's GDP.

At the forum, Secretary Clinton persuaded the countries to agree to the "San Francisco Declaration" — an agenda to integrate female economic empowerment and entrepreneurship into their economic policies. It declared that the countries "will take concrete actions to realize the full potential of women, integrate them more fully into APEC economies, harness their talents, remove barriers that restrict women's full economic participation, and maximize their contributions towards economic growth."

This was a monumental breakthrough for many of the economies and for the United States, and is just one example of the enormous strides that have been made. But there is more to be done to continue to increase opportunities for women entrepreneurs and to raise their profile to the highest levels.

Each of us can also do our part by:

- Purchasing goods or services from women-owned businesses locally and around the world;
- Supporting organizations that assist women entrepreneurs; and
- Joining angel investment groups like Golden Seeds that invest in women-founded and led enterprises.

The United States recently celebrated Women's Equality Day — let's do more to make every day equal for women everywhere. As Hillary Clinton says, "it is the great unfinished business of the 21st century."

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Wall Street Journal op-ed: Bill Burton: "Isolationists vs. Interventionists: The Latest GOP Split"

By Bill Burton, executive vice president and managing director at the Global Strategy Group and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress

September 18, 2014, 11:22 a.m. EDT

In attacking Hillary Clinton on foreign policy, Republican Sens. Rand Paul and Marco Rubio are doing a pretty good job of underscoring their own differences on isolation versus interventionism. In their estimation, one stance or the other accounts for the rise of Islamic State militants, and either way, Mrs. Clinton is to blame.

Huh?

Mr. Rubio wrote an op-ed recently attacking Mrs. Clinton for being an "isolationist" when it comes to foreign policy. He accuses her of paving the way for the rise of Islamic State by not arming the moderate Syrian opposition.

Mr. Rubio is completely wrong. Mrs. Clinton did in fact advocate for arming the moderate Syrian opposition in order to prevent extremists from taking control. But why take my word for it when his colleague is already pointing out that truth?

In an op-ed a few weeks ago, Mr. Paul said the exact opposite of Sen. Rubio, labeling Mrs. Clinton an "interventionist," and asserting that arming the moderate Syrian opposition would have "created a haven for the Islamic State."

You don't have to read that closely between the lines to see that their attacks weren't only aimed at their straw woman du jour but also at each other. Talk about an elephant in the room.

According to Mr. Rubio, "Members of my own Republican Party have also at times embraced the Democrats' narrative that too much American leadership is the problem, rather than the solution to global instability. Not too long ago, some neo-isolationists even claimed that America has no significant national interest in the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, and that American support for the Syrian opposition fueled the growth of the Islamic State." Hmm, I wonder who he's talking about?

Mr. Paul didn't hold back either in his criticism of the likes of Mr. Rubio: "But the same is true of hawkish members of my own party. Some said it would be 'catastrophic' if we failed to strike Syria. What they were advocating for then—striking down Assad's regime—would have made our current situation even worse, as it would have eliminated the only regional counterweight to the ISI[L] threat."

Regardless of whether the Isolationists or the Interventionists prevail in the GOP civil war, one thing is for sure: The Republican Party is divided more than ever. And, I will remain hopeful that somehow, someday, Republicans will get their act together, join in finding solutions and stop the nonsense and silliness that helps no one.

Associated Press: "Clinton: Turn Female Economic Issues Into Movement"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Ken Thomas

September 18, 2014

Hillary Rodham Clinton says voters should turn pay inequity and women's financial security into a political movement this fall.

Clinton says issues like raising the minimum wage, equal pay and providing affordable child care need to be "in the lifeblood" of the upcoming elections.

The former secretary of state is a potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidate. She spoke at a forum sponsored by the Center for American Progress along with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Patty Murray of Washington state.

Democrats are trying to persuade women to vote in the fall midterm elections as they work to keep their Senate majority. Female voters could hold the key in several competitive Senate races.

NBC News: "Hillary Clinton: Congress Out of Touch on Women's Issues"

By Kasie Hunt

September 18, 2014, 1:14 p.m. EDT

Congress is living in an "evidence-free zone" as it debates issues of equal pay and family-friendly work policies, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Thursday.

"Unfortunately, reality is not always the context in which these decisions are made. The Congress increasingly -- despite the best efforts of my friends and others -- is living in an evidence-free zone," she said during a roundtable discussion at the Center for American Progress focused on women's issues. "What the reality is, in the lives of Americans is so far from the minds of too many who don't place the highest priority" on those issues.

Women are a critical demographic in this year's midterm elections, with Democrats focused on stoking the gender gap particularly in key states like North Carolina and Colorado. Clinton has focused much of her career as first lady, senator and then Secretary of State on issues affecting women and girls.

Clinton made the remarks during a roundtable that also featured Democratic Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Patty Murray, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Rep. Rosa DeLauro. The potential 2016 presidential candidate said that the glass ceiling isn't the problem for most American women.

"The floor is collapsing--we talk about a glass ceiling? These women don't even have a secure floor under them," Clinton said.

MSNBC: "Conservatives demand Clinton subpoena on Benghazi"

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By Alex Seitz-Wald

September 18, 2014, 11:31 a.m. EDT

Less than a day after the House Select Committee on Benghazi held its first hearing, pressure is already mounting on its chairman to subpoena Hillary Clinton, who was secretary of state during the 2012 terror attack and is considering a presidential run in 2016.

On Thursday morning, the anti-Clinton Stop Hillary PAC delivered to South Carolina Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy more than 120,000 signatures from supporters who want the former first lady to testify under oath, a day after the same group started running $100,000 worth of advertising attacking Clinton on Benghazi in key presidential states.

The petition is in the form of a faux subpoena, issued to Clinton, from Stop Hillary PAC's Honorary Chairman Ted Harvey. "On behalf of the AMERICAN PEOPLE," Harvey, a Colorado state senator, writes, "This subpoena is issued by the undersigned citizens in support for Rep. Trey Gowdy and the Benghazi Select Committee. You MUST agree to appear [under oath]," the letter states.

That's on top of another roughly 98,000 signatures on a petition from the group supporting Gowdy, which were also deliveredThursday.

"Over the past few months 264,220 supporters from across the country have signed our petition to subpoena Hillary to testify so the truth can be uncovered," Harvey said in a statement to msnbc.

Garrett Marquis, the group's spokesperson noted that the Stop Hillary PAC was the first anti-Hillary PAC to file with the Federal Elections Commission. "We are the leaders in the movement to stop Hillary from becoming President," he said. The group has raised about $1 million and signed up almost 600,000 Americans.

On Tuesday, the super PAC began airing some of the earliest Clinton-themed ads yet, demanding that Clinton testify under oath.

The petitions arrived at the Longworth House Office Building Thursday morning in five boxes holding more than 20,000 pages of printed out petitions.

Security protocols would not allow the boxes to be delivered directly to Gowdy's office, however, so Marquis presented a staffer with two representative petitions and sent the boxes off to be screened by Capitol Police. They'll be delivered to the chairman's office about two weeks later, after clearing screening.

CNN: Hambycast: "Hillary Clinton's madcap media mob"

By Peter Hamby

September 18, 2014

Des Moines, Iowa (CNN) -- If Hillary Clinton decides not to run for president -- and yes, that is still possible -- her return to the media lion's den might be a factor in her thinking.

She's done a national book tour and the paid lecture circuit, but Clinton got an up-close look at today's frenzied political news environment last weekend when she visited Iowa for the first time in seven years, a spectacle primed for an avalanche of media coverage given her expected

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campaign and her tortured history with the Hawkeye State.

I joined more than 200 other reporters who swarmed the scene and tweeted away, even though most Americans on social media that day probably cared more about Robert Griffin's ankle.

The press scrum that assembled to witness noncandidates Hillary and Bill Clinton flip Hy-Vee steaks with Sen. Tom Harkin -- behind a barricade, of course -- was as large, if not larger, than the media hordes that covered her at the height of her 2008 campaign.

One reporter got whacked in the head with the butt of a big television camera. Another photographer dramatically toppled off his ladder while straining to get a shot. It was a little absurd. When the Clintons approached the media zoo for question time, Bill Clinton leaned in and relished the scene. Hillary kept her distance.

Political Twitter, though, wasn't just a stream of gauzy Instagram-filtered pics of the Clintons: It was also rife with media criticism, some fair and some not, from politicos and press critics who pointed to the event as another example of lazy "pack journalism" with little journalistic upside.

The sniping had some credibility. What was the competitive advantage of being there, just one more reporter among the herd, all of us racing around to get the same quotes and the same pictures?

This was especially true for the many journalists in attendance who rarely travel outside of Washington or New York to cover politics but decided to open up their travel budget for this one trip.

Couldn't their time have been better spent reporting on an undercovered Senate or governor's race in some other part of the country, far away from the rest of the media scrum? Of course, the academics would say. But the incentive structure of today's click-driven news economy begs to differ. Hillary gets eyeballs. Arkansas' Tom Cotton does not. This is the world we live in.

As much as I believe in straying far, far away from the rest of the media pack -- this was a lynchpin argument in "Did Twitter Kill The Boys on the Bus?," the Harvard Kennedy School study I wrote last year about the hyperactive political news media -- I did find value in covering the Steak Fry.

For one, I lived Clinton's 2008 campaign up close as an embedded producer for CNN, living on her campaign plane for six months and ingesting every single stump speech, gaffe and gross turkey sandwich in front of me. It was useful for me to see whether her political skills and her willingness to play the Iowa game had shifted since she lost the nomination fight to Barack Obama.

The whole thing was broadcast on CNN and C-SPAN, which is fine and good, but television cameras don't pick up the small things reporters can sniff on the ground: The receptiveness of the crowd, the impressive organizational prowess of the once-meager Ready for Hillary super PAC, the absurdity of the staged photo-ops and press scrums, and the rope-line body language of Clinton herself, which was noticeably more cautious than her husband Bill (some things never change).

Those are the kind of atmospherics I chose to focus on when crafting my report from the scene as well as this week's episode of Hambycast.

And of course, there's the reporting that went on nowhere near the Steak Fry, those meetings with Democrat and Republican sources in and around Des Moines. Was all that worth the plane ticket to DSM? Definitely. Will I go somewhere where other reporters aren't for my next trip? You bet.

Watching the Iowa theatrics from afar, the journalist Dave Weigel wrote that Hillary's protocandidacy is a "problem for the media, which simultaneously is ready right now to cover her like a nominee -- 200 reporters! -- and yet so palpably bored with how she talks, and runs."

But the ever-growing press corps, weaponized by Twitter, will also be a problem for Clinton and her team, who must find ways of engaging with a massive entourage of reporters that is constantly on the hunt for "news" -- i.e., anything off-message or click-worthy -- while also trying to drive the conversation on their own terms.

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The hyperguarded Mitt Romney encountered this same dilemma during his ill-fated 2012 presidential bid.

When he avoided the press, he got punished by a cranky and access-starved press corps. When he held a rare press conference to push a policy idea, his comments were drowned out by a cacophony of horse-race questions or some Twitter-driven "controversy" unfolding hundreds of miles away.

So he chose to get his message out on his own terms, through paid media or friendly Fox News interviews, without the filter of the "traditional" press, whatever that means. In the end, it wasn't enough.

That political reporters are motivated by conflict, personality and the ups-and-downs of a campaign is nothing new, and it's unlikely to change despite carping from media critics.

What has changed is the atomized and hyperactive social news environment we all live in now, and it's changed dramatically since Clinton last announced a presidential bid in 2007, before the iPhone existed and well before Twitter took hold among the political class.

If she runs again, there will be reporters covering her campaign who were barely in diapers when Bill Clinton was elected President, who came of age in an era of Internet journalism that prizes exclusives and micronews, who have very different incentives than the television and newspaper reporters that the Clintons dealt with during his presidency or her last campaign. They hold the Clintons in high-regard, but not nearly as high as the regard the Clintons have for themselves.

Hillary got a taste of this during her book tour -- her de-facto re-entry into political life -- when various comments that had even a whiff of controversy or gaffe-status rocketed across the Internet at warp speed, with an assist from Republican opposition researchers.

Life as a candidate, of course, is something much different. Clinton knows this. But her Iowa pop-in was her first glimpse of the thorny new reality that awaits.

Vox: "Why Joe Biden trails Hillary Clinton by 44 points"

By Ezra Klein

September 18, 2014, 11:20 a.m. EDT

By most measures, Joe Biden has been a damn good vice president. When President Barack Obama wanted to make sure stimulus money didn't disappear to fraud, he turned to Biden — "nobody messes with Joe," he said — and Biden succeeded. When the White House wanted to avoid the fiscal cliff, it was Biden who closed the deal with Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. When Obama flubbed the first debate against Mitt Romney, it was Biden who restored the ticket's mojo by bullying his way past Rep. Paul Ryan. When the Democrats held their 2012 convention, it was Biden's speech that pulled the highest ratings — beating both Bill Clinton and Obama.

Biden's most off-the-reservation moment, meanwhile, is the kind of thing that should help him in 2016. He pushed the Obama administration to embrace gay marriage before it was quite ready. At the time, it looked like a gaffe. Now it looks prescient.

But what I wrote of Biden in January 2013 is still true today. "In the continuing drama that is the Obama presidency, Biden often appears as comic relief. He's the zany neighbor, the adorable uncle. As a result, his presidential ambitions, which burn brightly even today, have mostly been laughed off. Somehow, the sitting vice president of the United States, the former chairman of both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee, a man who's on a nickname basis with many of the world's most powerful leaders, is seen in many quarters as lacking the gravitas to be president."

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Or, to put it into numbers, according to Real Clear Politics' average of polls, Biden is running 44 points behind Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination in 2016 — and only one point ahead of Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

This week has been a reminder why. First, Biden angered Jewish groups by referring to shady lenders as "shylocks." Then he called Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew "the wisest man in the Orient." Biden has history of this kind of thing. In 2006, he said, "you cannot go to a 7-Eleven or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent." In 2007, he called Obama "the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy." Biden, New York Magazine snarked, "is your accidentally racist grandma."

I have a theory on why these kinds of gaffes have hurt Biden so badly. (To be perfectly honest, I am not anywhere near sure it is correct.) I don't believe it's that people think Biden is so undisciplined that he can't be trusted with high-stakes diplomacy or late-night negotiations. Biden is doing that work now, he's been doing that work for a long time, and no one in the Obama administration or, from what I can tell, in the media, seems to think Biden incompetent or reckless.

Rather, these comments keep exposing a cultural gulf between Biden and the party he seeks to lead. Biden is an old-school, white, male politician in a party that's increasingly young, multicultural, and female. One of the biggest frustration for Team Biden is that their boss has become something of a joke on the internet — and that's partly because the people driving opinion online are young and very sensitive to the particular kind of gaffes Biden keeps making.

One of Obama's great strengths as a politician has been his recognition of the power of the younger, more multicultural, more digital wing of the modern Democratic Party — and his ability to forge a deep cultural connection with them. Biden's problem is that even if they like him, there's no authentic connection. The way he goes viral is by making them LOL.

This isn't just an age thing. Biden isn't much older than Clinton, but she's been more adept at signaling cultural affinity with young Democrats than he's been (though she's occasionally struggled too, most notably in her interview with Terry Gross on gay marriage). Even her memes are better.

I don't know exactly how Biden fixes this or even if he can. Clinton isn't inevitable, and Biden should, by all rights, pose a real threat to her. But, though Biden's always been known as a great speaker, he needs to learn to talk to a different party than the one he grew up in.

Washington Post blog: Erik Wemple: “Sharyl Attkisson just can’t stop sliming former employer CBS News”

By Erik Wemple

September 18, 2014, 12:43 p.m. EDT

Sharyl Attkisson’s resignation from the position of investigative correspondent at CBS News took place in March. The high-profile newswoman used the media interest in her departure to repeatedly tar her former colleagues as cowards — journalists afraid to upset those in power. Here’s one of the quotes from the media tour: “With various stories, you do get the idea at some point that they [CBS News] want you to stop, especially if you start to dig down right into something very, very important, and it’s not just with political stories – it’s with stories that go after other interests, corporations, different things.”

The tour, alas, isn’t over.

In an interview yesterday with NewsMaxTV’s “Steve Malzberg Show,” Attkisson chatted about her latest story for the Daily Signal, a site “supported by the resources and intellectual firepower of The Heritage Foundation.” Raymond Maxwell, a former State Department official, tells Attkisson of an attempt by aides to former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton to cull or “separate” documents that shed the department’s leadership in a bad light before they were handed over to the investigators looking into Benghazi.

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The story has gotten some pickup on Fox News and conservative outlets, along with some skepticism elsewhere. While chatting with Malzberg, Attkisson said that detractors had cited Maxwell's dabbling in poetry as a reason to question his credibility. Then she went off:

"I think the newish trend that I experienced when I was at CBS — it's fine to have other people say he's not credible because of his poetry. So you cover the story and you let Ray have his say and then you let his opponents say he's not credible — but what the media does now is they black out a story. They censor a story. They don't even want it covered. That's where I think it seems so sinister to me in America that the media chooses to basically blackball a story that they don't want out there. And I think they do it, quite frankly, lest the public come to the wrong opinion. They don't trust the public to come to what they think is the right opinion about something and I don't think we should be in the business of filtering facts and information because we don't like what the public may do with it."

Conspiracy, meet theory. Too bad Attkisson's very own experience contradicts it: While at CBS News, as we've detailed in a previous post, Attkisson wrote massively about Benghazi , Benghazi, Benghazi ,Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi ,Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi, Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi ,Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi , Benghazi . And that's not even the full list.

What a blackout!

Politico blog: Dylan Byers on Media: "AP's Peoples to cover Republican 2016 field"

By Dylan Byers

September 18, 2014, 10:17 a.m. EDT

The Associated Press has tapped Steve Peoples, its northeast political reporter, to cover the field of Republican presidential hopefuls in 2016, political editor David Scott announced in a memo to staff on Tuesday. He will move from Boston to Washington.

"For months during the last presidential campaign, Peoples was a fixture in the living rooms and coffee shops where the New Hampshire primary is won and lost," Scott wrote. "In recent months, even as he continued covering GOP contenders, Steve took it upon himself to keep the AP's political reporting team organized and on point, leading story discussion meetings and organizing coverage of key moments of the off-campaign year. His assistance has been invaluable to me as I get up to speed in Washington."

Peoples' counterpart on the Democratic side is Ken Thomas, who will be tasked with covering Hillary Rodham Clinton and the rest of the Democatic field. They'll be joined by Julie Pace and members of the White House team, as well as regional reporters from key states like Iowa, Florida and Colorado.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/9/2015 3:58:41 PM
Subject: New News! (10/09/2015)

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Week ending October 9th, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

- House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy drops out of Speaker race
- Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal is reached but fight in Congress ahead
- Russia bombs US backed rebels; NATO now 'ready to send troops'

Polls

Trump now leads in major swing states: Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania:

Florida: **Trump** 28%, **Carson** 16%, **Rubio** 14%, **Bush** 12%, **Fiorina** 7%, **Cruz** 6%

Ohio: **Trump** 23%, **Carson** 18%, **Kasich** 13%, **Cruz** 11%, **Fiorina** 10%, **Rubio** 7%, **Bush** 4%

Pennsylvania: **Trump** 23%, **Carson** 17%, **Rubio** at 12%, **Fiorina** 8%, **Cruz** 6%, **Christie** 5%, **Bush** 4%

Clinton holds a solid lead in these important states too:

Florida: **Clinton** 43%, **Sanders** 19%, **Biden** 19%

Ohio: **Clinton** 40%, **Biden** 21%, **Sanders** 19%

Pennsylvania: **Clinton** 36%, **Biden** 25%, **Sanders** 19%, *Quinnipiac* **[More]**

Pollsters: Don't trust us to winnow GOP field: "Pollsters surveyed by POLITICO have a unanimous warning for the [RNC] and the TV networks who are using public-opinion surveys to exclude presidential candidates from debates: Don't trust polls to detect often-tiny grades of opinion in a giant field." **Steve Shepard,** *Politico* **[More]**

2016 Campaign

Two plausible paths for a narrow GOP win next year: The Electoral College math suggests two plausible paths for a narrow GOP win next year. The Republican nominee wins every Romney state, all three key swing states, and either Colorado, Iowa or New Hampshire. [OR] by (1) carrying all the Romney states, (2) winning Florida and Ohio, (3) losing Virginia but (4) pulling off a Colorado, Iowa and New Hampshire trifecta. This last scenario is very unlikely." **Paul Goldman** and **Mark J. Rozell,** *Politico* **[More]**

The rock-star appeal of Bernie Sanders: "Sanders was perceptive enough to frame a message that is perfect for the zeitgeist: The system is rigged to benefit the rich and powerful at the expense of everyone else. And having identified the problem, he offers clear and internally consistent remedies." **Eugene Robinson,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

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5 reasons to bet $5 on Marco Rubio ... [W]hy so many pundits, campaign pros and reporters bet on Rubio eventually winning the nomination": "Rubio is a quicker study on policy, a superior speaker and a more concise counter-attacker than just about anyone else in the field. Rubio has no natural electoral or fundraising base, his tentative, unsuccessful stab at comprehensive immigration reform put him in a bad place at a time when the party's likely voters are more interested in walls than paths to citizenship, and he's not even especially popular with Latinos, not even in Florida. Yet this protean political personality also gives him flexibility to out-maneuver indelibly-branded candidates like Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Bush and Trump." **Glenn Thrush,** *Politico* **[More]**

Does Congress understand its constituents?: "Politicians are free to ignore public opinion — and some consider it a virtue to do so — but they frequently misperceive it ...The fact that legislators on the right make consistently bigger errors in assuming the conservatism of their constituents may account for some of the dysfunction evident in today's GOP." **Mark Mellman (TCG Speaker),** *The Hill* **[More]**

Hillary Clinton: on post-crisis financial reform: "People who commit serious financial crimes should face serious consequences, including big fines, disbarment from working in the industry and the prospect of imprisonment. As president, I will seek to extend the statute of limitations for major financial crimes, enhance whistle-blower rewards, and increase resources for the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate and prosecute individuals. We should also hold financial executives accountable for egregious misconduct by their subordinates. They need to lose their bonuses and, in some cases, their jobs." **Hillary Clinton**, *Bloomberg* **[More]**

The Economy

Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal is reached : But Congressional approval of the pact will be one of the toughest fights ever for Obama. **Jackie Calmes,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Highway construction to be paid for by a billion dollars a year from U.S. banks?: A highway-funding bill backed by Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell (TCG Speaker)** (R-KY) and passed by the Senate, would cut the annual dividend payments banks receive for holding shares in the Federal Reserve System and use the savings for highway construction. Lawmakers like it because it adds new revenue without a tax and avoids raising the gasoline tax. House GOP leaders haven't moved on the Senate bill. **Ryan Tracy**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Deflation in Asia hurting profits and sparking job losses: "Deflation, a prolonged decline in the price of products, is...casting a chill over Japan and Europe, while also endangering US efforts to sustain a recovery. It is hard to see a silver lining at this stage of Asia's deflationary period, with overcapacity still chronic, trade demand weakening, productivity anaemic and the global economy in poor shape." **James Kynge** and **Jonathan Wheatley,** *Financial Times* **[More]**

Emerging economies risk "leading the world economy into a slump." "Christine Lagarde, IMF managing director, said last week that the global economic patterns were "disappointing and uneven." [The IMF's] reasonably sanguine view stems from an expectation that China will succeed in transforming its economy slowly from investment and manufacturing towards consumption and services." **Chris Giles,** *Financial Times* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

With only a handful of fighters, the US is scaling back its Syria rebel training program as Russia starts airstrikes in Syria: "The Pentagon is ... saying it will abandon plans to build an army from the ground up to fight Islamic State in favor of beefing up its provision of weapons and equipment directly to vetted Syrian rebel commanders." **Gordon Lubold and Adam Entous**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

America's fading footprint in the Middle East: "As seasoned politicians and diplomats survey the mayhem, they struggle to recall a moment when America counted for so little in the Middle East—and when it was held in such contempt, by friend and foe alike. "It's the lowest ebb since World War II for U.S. influence and engagement in the region," said **Ryan Crocker**, a career diplomat who served as the Obama administration's ambassador to Afghanistan. **Yaroslav Trofimov**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

"Russia's bombing of anti-regime rebels in Syria has been described as a disaster for the US-led

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coalition's efforts to destroy ISIS but the Kremlin's real challenge to Washington is in the skies above the war-torn country. Moscow has deployed assets which render the prospect of no-fly zones enforced by the US or its allies over Syria impossible to enact." **Sam Jones**, *Financial Times* **[More]**

Following Russian violation, NATO 'ready to send troops": "NATO is ready to defend Turkey - including sending in troops "if needed", NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg has said. The head of the US-led alliance warned it would be prepared to protect its allies from "threats", following reports of Russian jets in Turkish airspace." **Victoria Richards,** *The Telegraph* **[More]**

Russian airstrikes in Syria - what does Putin want in Middle East?: "As Russia's bombardment of anti-Assad rebel positions in Syria escalates, western policymakers and strategists are trying to figure out what Vladimir Putin's military goals are — and if he intends to help the regime regain territory lost to opposition forces. Even with a dramatic reassertion of its muscle in the Middle East already achieved, and amid howls of protest from Washington, Europe and the Gulf states, Russia continues to build up its forces in Syria. As well as its base at Latakia, Moscow is now moving to strengthen its naval base at Tartus with an "anti-terror" squadron of ships and repair vessels." **Sam Jones,** *Financial Times* **[More]**

US airstrikes hit Doctors Without Borders hospital, killing 24: "The deaths of 12 hospital staff members and 10 patients have been confirmed in the American airstrike, with an additional 37 people wounded. Five days after the Oct. 3 attack, Doctors Without Borders was still unable to find the 24 staff members." **Rob Nordland,** *New York Times* **[More]**

How the Pacific Trade Deal Is good for the U.S. and Obama's legacy: "After years of talks...this is a big win for U.S. negotiators and for the other countries involved. It will also be a crucial part of President Obama's foreign policy legacy." **Ian Bremmer,** *Time* **[More]**

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's (R-Calif.) accidental honesty about Benghazi may have been the final straw: "On Monday, all five committee Democrats wrote to Chairman **Trey Gowdy** (R-S.C.), warning him that they intend to start unilaterally releasing full, unedited transcripts to the public, providing Americans with information Republicans have tried to keep under wraps." **Steve Benen,** *MSNBC* **[More]**

Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), chairman of the House Benghazi Committee, sent a scathing 13-page letter to Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.): "Gowdy urged Cummings to "rise above the political pressure" being put on him by Democrat…Gowdy scolded Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the Benghazi Committee, for putting on a "public posture" that is "quite the opposite" from the one he has taken during private discussions." **Jason Howerton,** *The Blaze* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy drops out of Speaker race: "A source close to McCarthy told CNN the decision to drop out came down to "numbers, pure and simple," adding that "he had the votes to win the conference vote, but there just wasn't a path to 218." **Tal Kopan, Deirdre Walsh, Manu Raju, Dana Bash** and **Jeremy Diamond,** *CNN* **[More]**

Affair rumors may have led to McCarthy Exit: "In the hours before Kevin McCarthy abruptly withdrew his candidacy to be the next speaker of the House, he received an email from a conservative activist threatening to expose an alleged affair with a colleague. It was addressed to McCarthy and numerous others, including the personal account of Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-N.C.), whom conservative media sites have suggested is tied romantically to McCarthy." **Michael Calderone**, *Huffington Post* **[More]**

Supreme Court cases to watch: "After a year in which liberals scored impressive, high-profile Supreme Court victories, conservatives could be in line for wins on some of this term's most contentious issues, as the justices consider cases that could gut public sector labor unions and roll back affirmative action at state universities." **Josh Gerstein**, *Politico* **[More]**

Governor Jerry Brown signs bill implementing "Right to Die" legislation: The only state this year to pass a bill allowing terminally ill patients to end their life, California becomes the fifth state to allow doctors to prescribe medication to terminally-ill patients who want to die with dignity. **Jon Schuppe**, *NBC* **[More]**

DMV's closing in Alabama sparks request for DOJ investigation: Closing the DMV branches will make it much harder for many to register to vote. Congresswoman **Terri Sewell** sent a letter to Attorney General **Loretta Lynch** calling for a federal voting rights probe. **Zachary Roth,** *MSNBC*

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[More]

DOJ planning to release 6,000 inmates early from prison: "The releases are part of a shift in the nation's approach to criminal justice and drug sentencing that has been driven by a bipartisan consensus that mass incarceration has failed and should be reversed." **Sari Horwitz,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

Books

Fighting Extremist religion: "The real clash of the 21st century will not be between civilizations or religions but within them. It will be between those who accept and those who reject the separation of religion and power. What then should we do? We must put the same long-term planning into strengthening religious freedom as was put into the spread of religious extremism." **Lord Jonathan Sacks,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ambassador Melanne Verveer
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner, Isaac Getlan, Hugh Ferguson and our interns Samar Nadi, Robin Silver, Tracey Pennito and Justin Vacura.

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why did I get this? unsubscribe from this list update subscription preferences
The Common Good · 115 East 57th St · Suite 1010 · New York, NY 10022 · USA

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From:	"Michael Huttner, ProgressNowAction" <michael@progressnowaction.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	9/12/2008 1:48:09 AM
Subject:	John, nice to see you...
Attachments:	ProgressNow Overview 9-10.doc

John,

Nice to see you during the Convention. What a week. Thought your panel with T. Boone and Carl was a hit.

We are working like crazy to hold McCain accountable and are hoping you might know a donor or two who will consider an additional request this year.

Below are the updated 2008 fundraising needs and the latest from each state. I've also attached an updated one page overview.

Ted and I would be most appreciative of your help.

Thank you in advance.

Mike
303-931-4547 cell

Updated September 10, 2008

ProgressNow Remaining Budget Needs for current states for remainder of 2008 (Combined / c3 / c4):

1. National: 193K 0c3 / 193c4

2. CA: 225K 75c3 / 150c4
3. CO: 107K 107c3 / 0c4
4. FL: 0K 0c3 / 0c4
5. MI: 23K 23c3 / 0c4
6. MN: 74K 55c3 / 19c4
7. NM: 50K 50c3 / 0c4
8. OH: 40K 0c3 / 40c4
9. WA: 230K 186c3 / 44c4
10. WI: 168K 75c3 / 93c4

Total c3 need (not including CA & WA): 310K

Total c4 need (not including CA & WA): 345K

In addition, we need 50K c4 each for both NH and PA--they were getting money from the Fund and we do not want them to shut down in November.

COURAGECAMPAIGN

When Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger used the California budget crisis to slash the wages of nearly 200,000 state workers to the federal minimum wage of $6.55 per hour, the Courage Campaign led a petition campaign -- joined by True Majority and CREDO Mobile -- that delivered 28,016 petition signatures to Arnold's office. The Courage Campaign worked with SEIU 1000 (the local that represents state workers) and state representative David Jones to deliver the petitions and build earned media. Courage distributed two video shorts showing the irony of the governor's lifestyle as well as interviews with SEIU members facing the cuts. The Courage Campaign then held a statewide conference call with Controller Chiang, Rep. Hilda Solis, Working Assets CEO Michael Kieschnick and SEIU 1000 President Yvonne Walker and aired a member-funded TV ad featuring State Controller John Chiang, who heroically refused to to carry out the Governor's Executive Order. As a result of Controller Chiang's action, enthusiastically supported by Courage Campaign members, the Governor was forced to delay any wage cuts until November at the earliest, pending a budget compromise.



ProgressNow, along with DailyKos and the Alliance for a Sustainable Colorado, hosted the first-ever new media lounge at any national convention

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-- the "Big Tent" during the Democratic Convention in Denver. Each day we hosted over 500 bloggers and new media journalists, with free wi-fi, free meals, free beer, and coverage of the convention from the opening gavel to close. The Big Tent became one of the most talked-about events of the convention in Denver, with hundreds of traditional media and elected officials dropping by to check out the new media lounge and meet with the bloggers. The Big Tent also featured breakout discussions on critical national issues sponsored by organizations like the Green for All, Sierra Club, US Action, Campaign for America's Future, Center for American Progress, Voto Latino, Color of Change, Planned Parenthood, and Moveon.org. We had coverage from the mainstream media worldwide, and earlier this week the Smithsonian along with the Newseum in DC have asked that we provide them materials about the Big Tent for their archives. Now that the 8000 square foot Big Tent has finally been disasembled, we are back to our primary focus of holding McCain and Schaffer accountable in the final strech.



In recent weeks, Progress Florida has placed two op-eds critical of Sen. McCain in two prominent Florida newspapers, organized a very successful press event in front of the Republican Party of Florida headquarters taking Sen. McCain to task for his anti-working families track record and launched MillionaireMcCain.com .

The first op-ed, titled "McCain deserts veterans on voting rights, benefits" ran in the Tallahassee Democrat and the second, "Nuclear Bull's-Eye Is On Our Back", was published in the Tampa Tribune.

The Progress Florida orchestrated press event Florida Republican Party headquarters in Tallahassee (the day before a high profile visit by McCain,) was a big success. Representatives from Florida AFL-CIO and Florida Alliance for Retired Americans made presentations on why Sen. McCain is out of touch with Florida's working families. Press in attendance included, 3 statewide TV news networks that provide news stories for more than 20 local news stations across the state, Clear Channel radio, Florida Public Radio, the Tampa Tribune and St. Petersburg Times.



Progress Michigan has lead the counterpoint to McCain visits to Michigan and helped American Votes partners message effectively about the McCain record. Immediately after the Republican National Convention, McCain came to Michigan and was welcomed by Progress Michigan and a throng of protesters under an "Outsource McCain, Not Michigan Jobs" banner. Press coverage was strong including stories in the AP and Detroit Free Press. A Companion website was launched at: www.progressmichigan.org/page/s/outsourcemccain . In response to the Palin and Giuliani attack on organizers, Progress Michigan launched: www.progressmichigan.org/mccainpalinapology/ Previously Progress Michigan led efforts countering McCain in Monroe, Rochester, and Farmington Hills with the anti-outsourcing message and received strong play on regional TV, radio and print media. We have also helped the AFL-CIO, Planned Parenthood, and Acorn prepare individual press events on the McCain record.



Alliance for a Better Minnesota teamed up with the Center for Independent Media and The UpTake citizen journalist team during the RNC in Saint Paul last week. In addition to providing bloggers with space, food and accomodations during their time in Minnesota, ABM hosted a series of expert panels on key issues surrounding conservative policies. Participants included: Common Cause, Sierra Club, Health Care for America Now, Minnesota 2020, The Blue Green Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Alaska Wildlife League, League of Conservation Voters, The Bush Legacy Bus, Campaign for America's Future and New York Times Bestselling author Rick Perlstein.



Granite State Progress - Led effort to keep tax cap ballot initiative off November ballots
A conservative front group in New Hampshire aggressively pushed a tax cap ballot initiative targeted at six of the ten largest communities in New Hampshire - communities representing 20% of the statewide vote and 21% of the persuasion share. The deep-pocketed ideologues behind it intended to use the tax cap to turn out Republican-friendly voters during the November elections, and had already pre-purchased $140,000 worth of television air time for late October. Granite State Progress took a leading role on challenging the initiative, and provided political cover for others as the on-the-record opposition. After phone calls, media outreach and midnight chamber sessions, the tax cap will now only appear on the ballot in two towns this year, allowing resources and voter education to be directed to more important items.



ClearlyNewMexico.com blogged live from both the DNC and RNC conventions and just completed a fun post comparing Sarah Palin to some New Mexico small-town mayors: http://clearlynewmexico.com/page/community/post/parnelligonzales/BJr
Tracy Dingmann, an 18-year veteran of the Albuquerque Journal, joins ClearlyNewMexico.com as our new Director of New Media. She has

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created the T-Files, showcasing weekly interviews with ordinary New Mexicans, describing the impact of federal policies on New Mexican veterans, teachers, small business owners and the like: http://clearlynewmexico.com/page/content/t-files , and then making these ordinary New Mexicans available to other media sources for stories.

PROGRESSOHIO.ORG

At the Democratic National Convention ProgressOhio used new technology that allowed use of cellphone video live on the internet which ProgressOhio could then pull down and blog or email. You can see our series here. The effort was successful enough to deserve a special mention in DNC technology coverage by the New York Times.
ProgressOhio's e-list has grown to just shy of 360,000 members and the ProgressOhio website is expanding rapidly with just shy of one-half million visitors in the first six months of 2008.
Our research continues to help break local and national stories including a blog-piece as part of PO's "War on Women" series that pointed out that Wasilla, Alaska under a young Mayor named Sarah Palin made sex crime victims pay out of pocket for DNA tests. The article spread virally on blogs and in national articles.

Keystone PROGRESS

Pennsylvania: Keystone Progress has grown rapidly in its first few weeks. We now have over 27,000 on our rolls, with hundreds joining every week. We have generated dozens of news stories for ourselves and our partners, and hundreds of blog articles. KP has written and distributed news releases for the Sierra Club, Alliance for Retired Americans, ACORN, Planned Parenthood and SEIU, and has organized visibility event outside of McCain events in York, Lancaster and Washington, Pennsylvania.

fuse
Together for Progress

Washington State: Fuse is developing a progressive voters guide that covers the full ballot --- ballot measures and candidates down through the State Legislature. It compiles all the progressive political organizations' endorsements into a collective product, and is customized for recipients' districts. Almost every significant progressive c4 in the state will send this web and email-based sample ballot to their list, generating a distribution to 200,000-300,000 voters. Many c(3) organizations will distribute another version that includes only ballot measures.

Fuse is now launching a substantial field mobilization program generating volunteer phone-calling and doorbelling for targeted races, and is also undertaking a major earned media campaign targeting the Governor's race.

ONEWISCONSINNOW

One Wisconsin Now has organized progressive organizations to do issue-based counter events, press releases and online actions every time John McCain comes to town and generated coverage on television, radio, print and blogs across Wisconsin. OWN created and helps lead a "Stamporee," where an actor in a John McCain mask uses a five-foot-high rubber stamp to put "McSame" on the Bush agenda - to the delight of a Bush-masked actor. This week, OWN is launching www.McCainandUnable.com , that talks about the follies of John McCain and George W. Bush, as they experience in comic book style what real people face when the go to the gas station, buy food and numerous other episodes to be released on a weekly basis.

ProgressNowAction
It's the Network

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www.progressnowaction.org

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/6/2008 1:50:19 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/6

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 6th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

9:30am McCain: Appearance in Huntington, WV

12pm Lieberman: Fund Raiser in Tampa, FL

12pm McCain: Company Tour in Jackson, OH
- Tracking scheduled for this event

12:30pm Pawlenty: Speech in Washington DC

6pm Lieberman: Public Event in Palm Beach, FL

6pm McCain: Fund Raiser in Dublin, OH

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Bundler Collects From Unlikely Donors (Washington Post 8/6/08)
By Matthew Mosk; Page A01
The bundle of $2,300 and $4,600 checks that poured into Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign on March 12 came from an unlikely group of California donors: a mechanic ..., the manager of Rite Aid Pharmacy ... But the man who gathered checks from them is no stranger to McCain -- he shuttled the Republican on his private plane and held a fundraising event for the candidate at his house in Delray Beach, Fla. Harry Sargeant III, a former naval officer and the owner of an oil-trading company that recently inked defense contracts potentially worth more than $1 billion, is the archetype of a modern presidential money man.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/05/AR2008080503502.html?hpid=topnews&sub=AR

Did New York couple give $61,600 to McCain, GOP? (McClatchy Newspapers 8/5/08)
By Greg Gordon
Alice Rocchio is an office manager at the New York headquarters of the Hess Corp., drives a 1993 Chevy Cavalier and lives in an apartment in Queens, N.Y., with her husband, Pasquale, an Amtrak foreman.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/309/story/46533.html

Energy Returns as Major Issue (Washington Post 8/6/08)
By Perry Bacon Jr. and Michael D. Shear; A04
Barack Obama and John McCain used an ongoing debate over energy policy to tack back to core themes of their campaigns Tuesday, with Obama blasting his rival for the presidency as a clone of the current administration and the Republican seeking to revive his reputation as someone willing to buck his party on major issues.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/05/AR2008080503158.html

McCain at Nuclear Plant Highlights Energy Issue (NYT 8/6/08)
By MARY ANN GIORDANO and LARRY ROHTER
Senator John McCain toured a nuclear power plant in Michigan on Tuesday to highlight his support for the

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construction of 45 new nuclear power generators by 2030, a position that he said distinguished him from his Democratic rival, Senator Barack Obama.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/06/us/politics/06nuke.html

McCain to Tour Nuclear Power Plant (AP 8/6/08)
John McCain's visit to a nuclear power plant, the first in recent history by a presidential candidate, highlights the promise and peril of a technology that is a key component of his sweeping plan to help the country overcome its energy crisis. The Enrico Fermi Nuclear Plant outside Detroit, named for the first physicist to split the atom, is home to both an operating power plant and another reactor that had a partial meltdown in the 1960s. It was decommissioned in 1972, while its successor continues to operate.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121794777527513489.html?mod=rss_whats_news_us
See WSJ's blog "McCain Emphasizes Need for Nuclear Power": http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/08/05/mccain-emphasizes-need-for-nuclear-power/
See WaPo's blog "McCain Touts Expanded Nuclear Power": http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/05/mccain_touts_expanded_nuclear.html#more

McCain goes nuclear on gas prices (Politico 8/6/08)
By: Lisa Lerer
John McCain is going nuclear on gas prices. At least that's what his campaign would like voters to believe, as the presumptive Republican nominee crosses the country touting his energy policies in hopes of winning voters anxious about record fuel prices.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12325.html

McCain touts nuclear power in Fermi tour (Monroe Evening News 8/6/08)
by Doug Donnelly
Sen. John McCain toured DTE Energy's Fermi 2 nuclear power plant today, touting nuclear energy is a "vital ingredient" to the nation's energy problem. ...About 40 protesters held a rally in front of the plant to coincide with Sen. McCain's visit. The rally was organized by AFL-CIO and citizens' watchdog groups like Progress Michigan and included union tradesmen protesting Sen. McCain's policies on energy, outsourcing of jobs and siding with Big Oil companies. About 10 supporters of Sen. McCain also attended to support the Republican presidential candidate.
http://www.monroenews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080805/NEWS01/109072618

McCain takes air out of tire pressure debate (Reuters blog 8/5/08)
By Christopher Wilson
Republican John McCain appeared to back down on Tuesday in his dispute with his opponent Barack Obama over tire pressure. ...The surprise came during a telephone town hall meeting McCain held on Tuesday with voters in Pennsylvania. "Obama said a couple of days ago says we all should inflate our tires. I don't disagree with that. The American Automobile Association strongly recommends it," McCain said.
http://blogs.reuters.com/trail08/2008/08/05/mccain-takes-air-out-of-tire-pressure-debate/

McCain One-Ups Obama With Ad Buy (Washington Post 8/6/08)
It appears that spending $5 million on advertising during the Olympics will get a presidential candidate only the silver medal. Presumptive Republican nominee John McCain has taken out a $6 million ad buy for airtime during the Beijing Games that open Friday, $1 million more than Democratic rival Barack Obama had previously committed to his own media buy.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/05/AR2008080503010.html

Obama TV Ad Attacks McCain's "Maverick" Spot (The Page 8/6/08)
The Illinois Senator's camp responds to McCain's positive spot playing up his maverick reputation with a negative ad linking the Arizonan to President Bush. Uses quote from McCain agreeing with Bush, ends the ad with an image of the two together. "The original maverick? Or just more of the same?"
http://feeds.feedburner.com/~r/time/thepage/ ~3/357313822/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHN9bLCgF7k

Paris bites back at McCain (LA Times 8/6/08)
Paris Hilton, the hotel heiress known for partying, not politics, wants your vote. She announced her candidacy

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for president Tuesday in an online video, making her case reclining poolside in a leopard-print bathing suit and gold high heels. "I want America to know that I'm, like, totally ready to lead," she said, beaming. It was a spoof, of course, a response to the ad Republican candidate John McCain launched last week comparing Democratic rival Barack Obama to Hilton and Britney Spears. "That wrinkly, white- haired guy used me in his campaign ad," Hilton said, "which I guess means I'm running for president. So thanks for the endorsement, white-haired dude!"
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailparis6-2008aug06,0,3879449.story
Link to video of spoof ad: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video_log/2008/08/paris_hilton_strikes_back.html

McCain ad pushes independence, distance from Bush (AP 8/5/08)
By GLEN JOHNSON
John McCain emphasized his independent streak and reformer credentials in a new TV commercial Tuesday as he sought to counter Democratic charges that he's the same as President Bush. ...It does not mention areas where McCain and Bush agree, like tax cuts, the Iraq war and free-market economics. ...McCain's own voting record on energy issues has been questioned as well.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iE2JCSH5p9r2GBkQWS9TWAMzmuvQD92C77MO0
Link to video of ad ("Broken"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylJkmMR8Fek

McCain Thinks We're Better Off Than We Were 8 Years Ago - But Worse Off Than We Were 4 Years Ago (Huh?) (ABC blog 8/5/08)
Sen. John McCain's new TV ad asserts that "Washington's broken. John McCain knows it. We're worse off than we were four years ago." But the Obama camp notes that this is a somewhat different note than the one Sen. McCain sang during the primaries. The CNN debate January 30 featured the following exchange: "Are Americans better off than they were eight years ago?" asked CNN's Anderson Cooper. "I think you could argue that Americans overall are better off, because we have had a pretty good prosperous time, with low unemployment and low inflation and a lot of good things have happened," McCain said. "A lot of jobs have been created."
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/08/mccain-thinks-w.html

McCain had role in original Wilmington DHL deal (Cleveland's "Plain Dealer" blog 8/5/08)
When Republican presidential candidate John McCain meets Thursday with citizens and officials in Wilmington, Ohio, he won't need a playbook to understand why they're worried about deep job losses at the local freight airport. Little known to those citizens, McCain and his campaign manager, Rick Davis, played roles in the fate of DHL Express and its Ohio air park as far back as 2003. Back then, however, their actions that helped DHL and its German owner, Deutsche Post World Net, acquire the Wilmington operations resulted in expansion, not retraction.
http://blog.cleveland.com/openers/2008/08/dhl.html

A guide to 5 key campaign flip-flops (Politico 8/6/08)
By: Kenneth P. Vogel
Both Barack Obama and John McCain have changed positions during the 2008 campaign. Here's Politico's review of these flip-flops.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12329.html

Norquist: McCain's no tax pledge is 'an updated version' of 'Read my lips, no new taxes.' (ThinkProgress 8/5/08)
Last week, after catching heat from conservatives for saying that "payroll tax increases" were not "off the table" regarding Social Security, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) declared in a townhall meeting, "I want to look you in the eye: I will not raise your taxes nor support a tax increase." On MSNBC today, anti-tax guru Grover Norquist said that McCain's "look you in the eye" declaration was "an updated version" of George H.W. Bush's infamous "Read my lips, no new taxes" pledge.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/05/norquist-mccains-no-tax-pledge-is-an-updated-version-of-read-my-lips-no-new-taxes/

Carly Fiorina tests her political mettle as McCain advisor (LA Times 8/6/08)
By Michelle Quinn
Touted by some as candidate material herself, the dynamic former Hewlett-Packard CEO has sparkled, and stumbled, in her new role.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-fi-fiorina6-2008aug06,0,2788229.story

I'm No Historian! (TPM 8/5/08)
by Josh Marshall
That was Mitt Romney's explanation for why he couldn't think of any energy policy legislation John McCain had helped pass in twenty six years in Congress ...
http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Talking-Points-Memo/ ~3/xkgagqod0wA/207218.php

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DNC launches 'ExxonMcCain '08' (Politico 8/6/08)
By: Mike Allen
Stung by Republican taunts about tire gauges, Democrats are pumping up a stunt of their own. The Democratic National Committee on Wednesday is launching an "Exxon McCain '08" campaign, complete with a gas-pump logo and garish red buttons, bumper stickers and yard signs.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12337.html

The Hook and Bullet Crowd (TIME blog 8/5/08)
Posted by Jay Newton-Small
Remember in 2004 when John Kerry got ridiculed for his awkward duck-hunting trip in Ohio just before the election? There's a good reason why Kerry went hunting: the hook and bullet crowd – as they often tongue-in-cheek call themselves – are a hugely important swing vote in a lot of crucial states. According to the U.S. Census more than 34 million Americans fish annually and 16 million hunt. The top five populations include three swing states: Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. And nearly half of the voters in Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming and Utah -- 8 million people -- are hunters or fishers, according to the non-partisan conversation group Trout Unlimited.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/08/the_hook_and_bullet_crowd.html

Encouraging Volunteerism (TPM 8/5/08)
by Josh Marshall
John McCain volunteers wife for topless (ESPN says also "occasionally bottomless") beauty contest.
http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/Talking-Points-Memo/ ~3/IdW3QfSecL4/207133.php

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Crude Campaigning (Washington Post 8/6/08)
By Ruth Marcus; Page A17
...with the unthinking zeal of the newly converted, McCain has morphed into a believer in the magical power of drilling. "We have to drill here and drill now," he has taken to crying on the campaign trail, as if he could get more sweet crude gushing by, say, November. On Monday, McCain, whose 2008 Senate attendance record is rather spotty, demanded that Congress "come back into town" to pass an energy bill. "Let's get this energy crisis solved," he proclaimed, as if a few weeks might make a difference.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/05/AR2008080502931.html?nav=rss_print/editorialpages

McCain's Green-Eyed Monster (NYT 8/6/08)
By MAUREEN DOWD
...Bill Clinton, Jesse Jackson and John Edwards have all been crazed with envy over the ascendance of the new "It" guy, Barack Obama. ...Now John McCain is pea-green with envy. That's the only explanation for why a man who prides himself on honor, a man who vowed not to take the low road in the campaign, having been mugged by W. and Rove in South Carolina in 2000, is engaging in a festival of juvenilia.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/06/opinion/06dowd.html

A Cheney Snub? (WSJ 8/6/08)
If John McCain wants next month's GOP convention in the Twin Cities to be about Dick Cheney instead of his own candidacy, his campaign is on track.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121797844869614955.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

No Crisis Is Immune From Exploitation Under Bush (WSJ 8/6/08)
By HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON; Page A15
... In the past few years, the number of corporations flocking to places like the Cayman Islands to evade U.S. taxes has exploded. One of these companies, former Halliburton subsidiary KBR, has used offshore tax havens to avoid paying hundreds of millions of dollars in federal taxes. To no one's surprise, instead of cracking down on KBR, the Bush administration has rewarded the company in April of this year with a 10-year, $150 billion contract in Iraq.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121798030763715107.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

The Tax Rebate Was a Flop. Obama's Stimulus Plan Won't Work Either. (WSJ 8/6/08)
By MARTIN FELDSTEIN
Congress enacted the tax rebate program earlier this year because it perceived a growing risk of recession. ...Those of us who supported this fiscal package reasoned that the program would boost consumer confidence as well as available cash. ...The evidence is now in and that optimism was unwarranted.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121798022246515105.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

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Moqtada Packs It In (WSJ 8/6/08)
Good news out of Iraq is becoming almost a daily event: In just the past week, we learned that U.S. combat fatalities (five) dropped in July to a low for the war, that key leaders of al Qaeda in Iraq have fled to the Pakistani hinterland, that troop deployments will soon be cut to 12 months from 15, and that Washington and Baghdad are close to concluding a status-of-forces agreement. Now this: Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr plans to announce Friday that he will disarm his Mahdi Army, which was raining mortars on Baghdad's Green Zone as recently as April. Coupled with the near-total defeat of al Qaeda in Iraq, this means the U.S. no longer faces any significant organized military foe in the country.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121797955889015047.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Jon Soltz: Senator McCain, Troops and Security Are No Joke (Huffington Post 8/5/08)
by Jon Soltz
Why is John McCain treating our national security, literally, as a joke? This week, Senator John McCain made clear that you shouldn't try to combat the rising cost of gas by checking your car's tire pressure, so your car gets more per gallon (something everyone from Al Gore to President Bush, from Joe Lieberman to Barack Obama, from NASCAR to environmental groups say you should do). He's even mocking the idea by handing out "joke" tire pressure gauges, and has a new childish web video out making a joke out of it.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jon-soltz/senator-mccain-troops-and_b_117023.html

VP wanted: No future presidents, please (LA Times 8/6/08)
By Thomas Schwartz
Vice presidents once were little more than Senate chairs and presidential spares. Then they became presumptive heirs, favored candidates for their party's presidential nomination. George W. Bush broke that pattern by picking a running mate with a great resume but no wish to run eight years later. John McCain and Barack Obama would be wise to do the same.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-schwartz6-2008aug06,0,6706626.story?track=rss

Tapping Tired Wells (Washington Post 8/6/08)
Barack Obama's new energy platform includes a pair of dubious planks. ...There were good ideas in the energy plan Sen. Barack Obama unveiled Monday. The most important of these is a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gases that would auction off 100 percent of emission credits. The Illinois Democrat also announced a strong commitment to alternative energy sources and a stepped-up conservation effort. But then there were his proposals for a "windfall profits tax" on oil companies and his call to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/05/AR2008080502927.html?nav=rss_print/editorialpages

EDITORIAL: Republicans on the job (Washington Times 8/6/08)
House Republicans are on good footing along the path of redemption. Their effort to forego the month-long vacation called the "August recess" and stay in Washington to work on energy solutions is certainly the right thing to do, and it is in the best interests of the American people.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/06/republicans-working-for-a-living/

BUSH NEWS

Bush Keeps Pressure on North Korea (WSJ 8/6/08)
By EVAN RAMSTAD
U.S. President George W. Bush, in his last visit to South Korea as president, said Wednesday that North Korea had a long way to go before he would stop calling it part of an "axis of evil" that threatens other countries.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121801677213016493.html?mod=rss_whats_news_us

Bush: China Must End Detentions (AP 8/6/08)
By PAUL ALEXANDER
The same day of his arrival in Beijing for the Olympics, President Bush plans to pointedly express "deep concerns" about the state of human rights in China and urge the communist nation to allow political freedom for its citizens.
http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1829817,00.html

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Bush's doomed Mideast peace efforts (Boston Globe 8/6/08)
By Edward R.F. Sheehan
PRESIDENT BUSH does not seem to know it yet, but his peace plan for the Middle East is moribund. That is my chief impression from a recent three-month journey through the troubled region. A viable Palestinian state will not exist by the time Bush leaves office. Nor will one exist, probably, in the predictable future - not least because of the failures of US policy.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/08/06/bushs_doomed_mideast_peace_efforts/?rss_id=Boston+Globe+--+Editorial%2FOp-ed+pages

Bush Rebuffs GOP's 'Boston Tea Party,' Won't Request Special Session For Oil Drilling Stunt (Think Progress 8/5/08)
House conservatives have been engaging in political stunts to demand a vote on oil drilling. Last Friday, they stormed the floor after Congress adjourned "to attack Democrats for leaving town without doing something to lower gas prices." Today, Rep. Steve King (R-IA) brought to the floor a "large garish photo" of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) with the words, "I am trying to save the planet" written beneath it. ...But even the White House refuses to endorse this political theater.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/04/gop-tea-party-energy/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Iraqi Army Is Willing, but Not Ready, to Fight (NYT 8/6/08)
By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON
...The army has made huge leaps forward, most of the soldiers agreed, and can hold its own in battles with the insurgency with little or no American support. But almost all said the time when the Iraqi Army can stand alone as a national defense force is still years away.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/06/world/middleeast/06soldier.html

Freddie Mac Loses $821 Million and Cuts Dividend (REUTERS 8/6/08)
Freddie Mac, the mortgage finance giant, posted its fourth consecutive quarterly loss on Wednesday, and announced plans to cut its stock dividend. It also warned of more difficulty ahead amid the steepest housing market slump since the Great Depression.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/07/business/07freddie.html

Lower Oil Prices Ignite Big Rally; Dow Is Up by 331 (NYT 8/6/08)
By MICHAEL M. GRYNBAUM and LOUIS UCHITELLE
Oil prices touched a three-month low on Tuesday, the latest milestone in a steep reversal for commodity prices that sent stocks soaring and eased inflation concerns among investors and policy makers alike. The Dow Jones industrials rallied more than 330 points, its biggest one-day gain since April 1, on a day when Federal Reserve officials declared that the economy was likely to remain weak for months.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/06/business/economy/06markets.html?adxnnl=1&ref=business&adxnnlx=1218024521-OhyhsjqwcqJvlyaeD2TH9w

Iraq's oil-fueled surplus could hit $80 billion, report says (CNN 8/5/08)
Iraq is raking in more money from oil exports than it is spending, amassing a projected four-year budget surplus of up to $80 billion, U.S. auditors reported Tuesday.
Oil accounted for 94 percent of the Iraq's revenue from 2005 to 2007, a U.S. report says. Leading members of Congress, noting that Washington is paying for reconstruction in Iraq, expressed outrage at the assessment. One called the findings "inexcusable."
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/05/iraq.oil/index.html

They're Baaaack... Swift Boat Veterans Take Aim At Obama (Washington Post blog 8/5/08)
Just as they sought to destroy John Kerry in 2004, the founders of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth group are aiming their guns at this season's presumptive Democratic presidential candidate. But unlike four years ago, when the Swifties spent millions to discredit Kerry, their hit on Barack Obama so far hasn't cost them a dime.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/sleuth/2008/08/theyre_baaaack_swift_boat_vete.html

POLLS

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Poll: Economic anxiety among women (Politico 8/6/08)
By: Alexander Burns
American women are considerably more concerned about their economic security than American men – a finding that could have serious implications for the fall elections, according to a poll released Wednesday by the National Women's Law Center, a non-profit legal advocacy group.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12333.html

Obama leads McCain nationally in AP-Ipsos poll (AP 8/6/08)
By ALAN FRAM
Solid margins among women, minorities and young voters have powered Barack Obama to a 6 percentage point lead over John McCain in the presidential race, according to a poll released Tuesday.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iP6aoeuUCqIEo5DHDOCMLHyUOCpgD92CFPJG0

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Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 5:35:05 AM
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I like including his handle.

.@marcorubio you've got it backwards: Engagement isn't a gift to the Castros -- it's a threat to the Castros. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Cuban people deserve better.

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
> **To:** Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Cc:** Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
>
> Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.
>
> On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > I like that. Another option:
> >
> > @marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
> > **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
> > **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Cc:** Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject:** RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> >
> > Adding Reynolds.
> >
> > Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:
> >
> > Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.
> >
> > **From:** John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
> > **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
> > **To:** Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Cc:** Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject:** RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> >
> > I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.
> >
> > On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?
> > >
> > > **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> > > **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
> > > **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > **Subject:** Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
> > >
> > > Here we go...

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Jeremy Massey <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

User Actions

Following

Marco RubioVerified account @marcorubio

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

Image removed by sender. Embedded image permalink

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--

Jeremy Massey

Research Department

847 736 9211

JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From:	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To:	jbenenson@bsgco.com jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	5/1/2015 7:26:04 AM
Subject:	Re: Heads up for call with HRC

Joel, we all agree with your last point.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>
Cc: huma <huma@hrcoffice.com>; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; jsullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; tgoff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; kschake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; re47 <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; dschwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Fri, May 1, 2015 2:21 pm
Subject: RE: Heads up for call with HRC

Our collective view on the video yesterday sounds the same as it is today.

It won't stop questions from being shouted at her the first time the press can
She is going to have to take and answer the question from the press herself at some point whether she does the video today or not.

And while there may not be consensus on this – my view on releasing a video first is that the press will eviscerate her for hiding behind a video instead of answering their questions.

Joel

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Mandy Grunwald
Cc: huma@hrcoffice.com ; Joel Benenson; john.podesta@gmail.com ; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com ; tgoff@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; kschake@hillaryclinton.com ; re47@hillaryclinton.com ; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

She understands that. Just wants the information in one place.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2015, at 2:13 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

> Got it.
>
> But of course, the press will not consider the questions answered until they are asked by them.
>
> **Mandy Grunwald**
> **Grunwald Communications**
> **202 973-9400**
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >
> To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
> Cc: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> Sent: Fri, May 1, 2015 2:09 pm
> Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> just to give people background here:

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1. She believes she needs to do this video
is because her integrity is being attacked and she is the only one who can say she didnt make a decision as secstate based on a donor.
2. Imp point: The
foundation has had little luck getting their surrogates booked on any serious shows. So she feels like it has to be someone at her level or WJC level that engages directly in order for there to be any coverage of the defense.
3. She
doesnt want to continue to have to have press yell these questions at her in Nevada and CA and if she doesnt do the video, that is the situation she will be in

_____

From: Joel Benenson
<jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:53 PM
To: Jennifer
Palmieri
Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
Subject: RE:
Heads up for call with HRC

For some reason I don't have the morning news
round up -- can someone send that to me.

-----Original Message-----
From:
Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, May 01,
2015 1:51 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy
Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

Given this morning's am
shows - which were terrible - that is no longer a great argument.

Sent from
my iPhone

> On May 1, 2015, at 1:49 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
wrote:
>
> Thanks.
> Do we have some analysis of nightly news/front pages etc
to make the case that this is not being covered heavily? Or at least enough based on day to day observation, i.e. not on front pages, not on nightly news or morning news...
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Palmieri
[mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:44 PM
>
To: John Podesta; Joel Benenson; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma
> Abedin;
Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan
> Schwerin
>
Subject: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> While on the phone on a different
topic, HRC raised Clinton Cash convo with Jake and me. It was a difficult conversation. So folks should be ready to explain why we don't think a video makes sense.
>
> Moreover, my impression is she wants a much stronger
response. Which means engaging more on details that we have to date not found in our interest to do so.
>
> Just wanted to update folks.
>
> Sent from my
iPhone

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 2:43:22 PM
Subject: Re: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

Thanks. We do have some ideas on this, will discus in am.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2015, at 9:33 PM, David Binder <David@db-research.com > wrote:

> One thing I think we need to push, that was effective in our groups, is to remind people of the wonderful things that the Clinton Foundation has done around the globe. In the midst of all this incoming stuff, can we remind the world what has been accomplished? In addition to confronting the accusations, do we also have an opportunity to insert the message below that was an effective response in our vulnerability research:
>
> Hillary Clinton's opponents are trying to start a controversy where none exists. The Clinton Foundation is a totally non-political charity whose work saves and improves lives at home and around the world. Because of charitable contributions to the Foundation and its programs, 8 million people have benefited from lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 6,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to fight childhood obesity; 28,000 African farmers have improved their crops; and 248 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced in cities worldwide. The Clinton Global Initiative brings together people from business, labor, government, and the non-profit world to solve problems without politics or gridlock. Republican opponents want to confuse voters about the Clinton Foundation and its donors because all this good work is proof that what Hillary cares about most is helping hard-working people and families build better lives.
>
> **From:** Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:56 PM
> **To:** John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; John Anzalone; David Binder; Robby Mook; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin
> **Subject:** Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24
>
> For our eight am call tomorrow
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Date:** April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
> > **To:** Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com >, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> > **Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24**
> >
> > **Stories for tomorrow:**
> >
> > - Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
> > - New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
> > - ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
> > - Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
> > - WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
> > - Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
> > - Bloomberg- Laureate
> > - NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed
> >
> > **Story Lines:**
> >
> > 1. Nervous Dems
> > 2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue
> > 3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/9/2009 4:49:37 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Rush Limbaugh: "Nobel Gang Just Suicide Bombed Themselves"

http://blog.newsweek.com/blogs/thegaggle/archive/2009/10/09/rush-limbaugh-nobel-gang-just-suicide-bombed-themselves.aspx

Rush Limbaugh: "Nobel Gang Just Suicide Bombed Themselves"

Newsweek

By Eve Conant and Daniel Stone

It's hard to tell who is more shocked by this morning's announcement that Obama has won the Nobel Peace Prize. Obama? Bill Clinton? The right? The left? Reporters who were present at the Oslo announcement audibly gasped. Obama has barely started his first term and has been awarded the greatest achievement for world peace…after only 280 days in office.

But perhaps the Nobel Peace prize Committee has succeeded in pro-actively promoting peace—in joining the hands of America's liberal and conservative blogosphere.

Obamamania comes as little surprise to Rush Limbaugh, who emailed us this morning after we asked him to share his thoughts. "The Nobel gang just suicide bombed themselves. Gore, Carter, Obama, soon Bill Clinton. See a pattern here? They are all leftist sell-outs. George Bush liberates 50 million Muslims in Iraq, Reagan liberates hundreds of millions of Europeans and saves parts of Latin America. Any awards?" Limbaugh says "Obama gives speeches trashing his own country and for that gets a prize, which is now worth as much as whatever prizes they are putting in Cracker Jacks these days."

"This fully exposes the illusion that is Barack Obama. It is a greater embarrassment than losing the Olympics bid. And with this "award" the elites of the world are urging Obama, THE MAN OF PEACE, to not do the surge in Afghanistan, not take action against Iran and its nuclear program and to basically continue his intentions to emasculate the United States. They love a weakened, neutered U.S and this is their way of promoting that concept. I think God has a great sense of humor, too."

While liberal pundits won't necessarily be lining up behind all of Limbaugh's views, there is equal parts astonishment in the left blogosphere as there is in the right. Daily Beast blogger Peter Beinart calls it "Obama's Nobel Farce": "Perhaps next they'll start giving Oscars not to the people who have made the best movies of last year, but to the people who have the best chance of making the best movies next year." He says he likes Obama as much as the next liberal blogger, but by giving the award to Obama, the Nobel Committee is just proving that they've fallen in love with celebrity and that giving Obama the prize as an "atta boy" they are only feeding the gap that conservatives are working to widen—"between Obamamania as global hype and Obama's actual accomplishments." The basic line: Obama won the prize not for being himself as much as for not being George W. Politics Daily Melinda Hennenberger points out, "It's not exactly like giving an Academy Award to a Vince Vaughn movie, but "surprising" doesn't begin to cover it. No word yet on whether Glenn Beck's head has exploded." Ezra Klein added a tweet: "Obama also awarded Nobel prize in chemistry. 'He's just got great chemistry,' says Nobel Committee." Ana Marie Cox wrote: "Apparently Nobel prizes now being awarded to anyone who is not George Bush."

Over at Fox and Friends the eye-rolling was in full force, as was the echo chamber. "This could arguably be the third person to win the award for not being George Bush: Al Gore, Jimmy Carter and now Barack Obama," said Fox and Friends co-host Brian Kilmeade. Co-host Steve Doocy retorted, "If there were a breakthrough, you would go 'wow,' Obama brought the sides together and got Iran to disarm. But what has he done so far?" In a statement mailed to reporters, RNC chairman Michael Steele joined in, wondering what Obama really has accomplished, other than letting his "star power" outshine peace and human rights workers. "One thing is certain – President Obama won't be receiving any awards from Americans for job creation, fiscal responsibility, or backing up rhetoric with concrete action." In other words, writes Frank Gaffney, Jr. on Newsmax, "Nobel Committee really, really likes Barack Obama and what he stands for. After all, he epitomizes the transnationalist nostrums and wooly-headed prescriptions the commitee has endorsed for decades."

Over at MSNBC, Morning Joe host Joe Scarborough (who was once a GOP congressman) had a little mockery of his own, calling it "hilarious" then asking to play a Saturday Night Live clip . "I have got to stop right here. I guarantee that Marisa

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Tomei did more to win the Academy Award in My Cousin Vinny than Barack Obama has done to win the Nobel Prize." Not long after, one of his co-hosts said that a senior Obama Administration official, they didn't say who, had just fired off an email telling Joe to quit being an "a--hole."

The National Review's blogger Andy McCarthy picked up where some of the mockery left off. "After a number of years, the NFL renamed its Super Bowl trophy after its most fitting recipient — it's now called the Vince Lombardi Trophy. I'd like to see the Nobel Foundation follow suit. If today's headlines said, 'Barack Obama Wins Yasser Arafat Prize,' that would be perfect." Over at the National Review's website, the top story is a photo of particularly smug-looking Obama, lifting his head high in the look he usually takes when doing heavy thinking. Blogger John Miller quoted Alice in Wonderland, suggesting that if Obama deserved the international honor, then everyone deserved a Nobel prize. Writing for Slate, Mickey Kaus argued that Obama should give it back. "Say he's honored but he hasn't had the time yet to accomplish what he wants to accomplish. Result: He gets at least the same amount of glory--and helps solve his narcissism problem."

Obama isn't the first strange winner of the peace prize - read more here . Read why the prize might also be too little, too late for Obama's sinking prestige stateside and why the award spells the end of the Nobel as we know it. For a refresh on the early accomplishments that put Barack Obama on the Nobel committee's radar, check out our coverage of his life, his ideas , his big day , his disciples , and his fans around the world.

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/25/2008 8:58:29 AM
Subject: [big campaign] John McCain Tracking Video: Week in Review 07/25/08

Hi All,

In case you missed it, check out the top clips we captured this week at McCain town hall meetings:

- McCain Calls Child "Our Newest Veteran," Tells Him "It Doesn't Take A Lot Of Talent To Get Shot Down" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-Mqxs0FN5I
- McCain: Oil Executives Say "We Could Be Seeing Results" From Offshore Drilling "Within A Couple Years" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--aqFz9ubMU
- McCain: "Obama Would Rather Lose A War In Order To Win A Political Campaign" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZfQx7u2Sh0
- McCain Says "Czechoslovakia" Again, Corrects Himself http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1za-EXX_Yd4
- Pot Calling the Kettle Black: McCain Says Rewards From Big Tobacco Prevent Progress In The War Against Cancer http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tha-_R8aoL4
- McCain Says We Need To "Concentrate" V.A. Care On Wounds That Are "Directly The Result Of Combat" http://Www.Youtube.Com/Watch?V=Uehs-5KW0I
- McCain Says He Still Believes In McCain-Feingold http://Www.Youtube.Com/Watch?V=ZwokulzIr_K
- Audience Member Uses Four-Letter Word, Criticizes McCain's Staff Members http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMhLjjlB8Iw

Blast from the Past:
With gaffes galore this week, here's an old clip with some new meaning…
McCain Confuses Sunni and Shi'a Again (Weeks Before His Flub Abroad)
JOHN MCCAIN: "But Al-Qaeda is there [in Iraq], they are functioning, they are supported in many times, in many ways by the Iranians."
(Town Hall Houston, TX 02/28/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MER-uAcfSto
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/btd40bj0gk

Enjoy!
Sara

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

P.S. Here are full transcripts:

VIDEO with FULL TRANSCRIPTS

McCain To Child, "Our Newest Veteran,": "I Would Remind You It Doesn't Take A Lot Of Talent To Get Shot Down"

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JOHN MCCAIN: [to young child] We've got our newest veteran right here. Come right up here. ... Great American. [child whispers in McCain's ear] I couldn't make out what his name is, but he's a great American-- [someone from crowd shouts his name] Matthew! Thank you, Matthew. Thank you for being here, pal. Great to see you. I'll tell Matthew, I would remind you it doesn't take a lot of talent to get shot down.
(Public Event; South Portland, ME 07/21/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-Mqxs0FN5I
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/s6fgi310c4

McCain: "Oil Executives Say Within A Couple Years We Could Be Seeing Results" From Offshore Drilling
JOHN MCCAIN: [...] And I'd like to mention offshore drilling if I could. My friends, we have to drill offshore. We have to do it! Oil executives say within a couple years we could be seeing results from it. So why not do it? We need to do it.

And I was pleased to note that, in case you missed it, when the President announced that we were lifting the Federal moratorium on offshore drilling that the price of oil went down ten dollars a barrel. So it does, if America can show as we move into this energy independent era, that we have significant oil and gas reserves and we aren't dependent on foreign oil, it will have an effect on the price of a barrel of oil. So it can have a beneficial effect in the short term, as well as the long term.
(Town Hall Meeting; Rochester, NH 07/22/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--aqFz9ubMU
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/wtxxj5fsww

McCain: "Obama Would Rather Lose A War In Order To Win A Political Campaign."
JOHN MCCAIN: I had the courage and the judgment to say that I would rather lose a political campaign then lose a war. It seems to me that Senator Obama would rather lose a war in order to win a political campaign.
(Town Hall; Rochester, NH 07/22/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZfQx7u2Sh0

McCain Slips Up on "Czechoslovakia" a Third Time, Explains the Gaffe
QUESTIONER: Russia, question mark?

JOHN MCCAIN: First of all, Mitt has been a tremendous help to my campaign. He has been on television, he does a better job for me than he did for himself. [...] Our party is united and we have a lot of energizing work to do. But we are united.

I'm very concerned about Russia. Very concerned that just recently because the Czechs agreed with us on a missile defense system, that they cut the gas supplies, the oil supplies to the Republic of Czechoslovakia. Remember, excuse me, Czech Republic. I used to call it, [laughs]. The Czech Republic, as you know is been a very staunch and aligning friend. And as you know, the Czech Republic and Slovakia split years ago, from time to time, some of us mistake and say Czechoslovakia. Where the fact is it's the Czech Republic.

And so, they are staunch allies. And so the questions in response to their agreement on missile defense, the Czech's have had their oil supplies reduced. And that's not the way we expect Russia to behave. There are plenty of enormous pressures on Georgia. They have not agreed with us and helped us in trying to restrain the Iranian progress towards the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

So the Russian behavior is more and more autocratic. And the internal stifling of dissent is of great concern. And by the way, our friends the Czech's have been our friends for a long time. They were behind the Iron Curtain, as you know. And both the Czech Republic and Slovakia have been good friends of ours since they split. So we need to make sure that we can help them. In particularly, point out that the Russian behavior, basically blackmailing their neighbors is not something that's acceptable in the world today.

So I worry about Russia. I don't think there's going to be a return to Cold War, that's not what I'm talking about. But Russian behavior becomes less and less in the interest of us throughout the world, frankly, then we had hoped and anticipated when the Berlin Wall came down.

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(Town Hall Meeting; Rochester, NH 7/22/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1za-EXX_Yd4

Pot Calling the Kettle Black: McCain Says Rewards From Big Tobacco Prevent Progress In The War Against Cancer
PAULA ZAHN: [...] Are you essentially saying that those members of Congress are being bought and sold by the tobacco lobbies and that's why this issue won't move forward?

MCCAIN: I believe that the reason why we failed in enacting the legislation that passed through the Commerce Committee that I was chairman of, with one dissenting vote, that the reason why we failed was because of the influence of the tobacco companies, yes. And any objective observer would tell you that.

ZAHN: So as president what would you do about that? How do you stop that?

MCCAIN: I would lead America. I would lead America, and I would tell the American people to clean up this mess. My friends, how many people just were shocked when they filled up their gas tank? You know what Congress is doing today to try to address our energy problems? They're in gridlock. Gridlock, doing nothing. We're doing nothing. It's time American's put our country first and our party second. [...] If you asked anyone who observed our efforts to enact this legislation at the time, they will tell you that it is was the influence of the tobacco company. Now there were many members of Congress, and I don't know which ones that had honestly held views about in opposition to the legislation that we reported out of the committee that I chaired. And I respect those honestly held views, but I also believe that the tobacco companies played a very big role in making sure that legislation did not pass the United States Senate.

ZAHN: So what is it that members of Congress are afraid of in going up against the tobacco lobbyists? I mean obviously we know the kind of money that is contributed to campaigns. Above and beyond that, what is their fear?

MCCAIN: I'm not sure that they're fear-- I think that they're rewarded.

ZAHN: Rewarded in what way?

MCCAIN: Campaign contributions, many other ways. There's many ways that that happens in Washington.

ZAHN: And how do you stop that?

MCCAIN: Well, the American people are sick and tired of being sick and tired. And they want Washington cleaned up. And I will lead that effort. I didn't win Miss Congeniality in the United States Senate again this year because I took on the special interests, I've taken on the special interests. I've joined with Russ Feingold with campaign finance reform, I have joined with Ted Kennedy on immigration reform. [...] So, I've taken on the special interests and I've fought against them. And as President of the United States I think I can be much more effective. I think that's what presidents can do.
(Speech / Forum; Columbus, OH 07/24/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tha-_R8aoL4

McCain: We Need To "Concentrate" V.A. Care on Wounds "Directly the Result of Combat"
QUESTIONER: [...] Sir, I'm a disabled Iraq war veteran. Myself, along with other disabled veterans have been having difficulties receiving benefits from the VA. The issue is from the adjudication process that hasn't been changed since World War I. When you become president, and I do mean when you become president, will you facilitate change in the adjudication process that is 90 years old?

JOHN MCCAIN: We did make some improvements in legislation that was recently passed by the Congress. We need to do more. But I think you would agree, first of all I thank you for your service. [...] Thank you, we have veterans of all wars here and of course you continue to inspire all of us. Uh, look, I carry with me usually a little card and a quote from General George Washington in 1789. That's why I mention our greatest generation being here too. And basically what he said in 1789, and I'm not as eloquent, he said the willingness with which young

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Americans will serve their country in time of war will be directly related to how the veterans of previous wars were treated by their fellow countrymen. Those words are as true today as they were then.

"I think we have great people working for the VA, I think you would agree with that. We have wonderful, dedicated people. I was recently down at the Phoenix VA, and met with them, some of them. And they're doing a great job.

"But we also know there's not enough facility, and there's not enough care. So here's my idea. And it's not originated with me, but I've consulted with so many, Paul, and Griff, and so many others who are here. Look, we need to concentrate our efforts to handle those wounds and those disabilities that are directly the result of combat. We need to expand our ability to treat PTSD. PTSD is going to be tough in this war, you know that. And we need to treat the combat wounds. We need to have increased ability to do so and right now, unfortunately, there are people who are, now drive a long way and they stand in line, and they have a routine healthcare need. And they stand in line, and they stand in line, to get an appointment, to get an appointment.

"Now my friends, we need to give those veterans who have routine healthcare needs a plastic card and say take that to the doctor, the healthcare provider of your choice and get the care you need. And meanwhile, [interrupted by applause] concentrate on our ability to treat PTSD, those wounds. The good news is, as you know, we're getting the wounded more quickly to medical care than ever before and we're saving so many lives. (Town Hall; Rochester, NH 07/22/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEhS-5KW0II
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/2ql1auko44

McCain Says He Still Believes in McCain-Feingold
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Now that you're the Republican nominee for President of these United States, do you have any second thoughts on McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform?

JOHN MCCAIN: This meeting is adjourned. [crowd laughs] I do not. I believe that today, still, the influence of special interests in Washington [has] crowded out the interests of the average citizens of the United States of America who are not represented by big money interests in Washington. Before we passed our legislation, it was routine for a trial lawyer, a union leader or a corporation executive to be called by a powerful member of Congress and say, I need a 6-figure or sometimes 7-figure check from you, and by the way, your legislation is up before my committee next week. And that's where all this earmarking and pork-barrelling also that corrupted us.

Corruption. I don't use that word lightly, my friends. We have former members of Congress residing in federal prison. If that isn't corruption, I don't know what is. So, we tried very hard. And I'll continue to try very hard to reduce the influence of special interests.

Look at the energy bill. I voted against the energy bill. Senator Obama voted for it. Look at the farm bill. [...]

So I'll continue to work to try to clean up and reduce--maybe never eliminate, but reduce the influence of special interests in Washington, DC. And I'd like to tell you that I think that in Washington today that your interests are uppermost. And I don't think they are in a lot of the legislative business that we do. So we'll have to continue to work to try to make sure that we can eliminate some of these very terrible practices that have become commonplace. And I also will count on some of our citizens to exercise their voice at the ballot booth. (Town Hall Meeting; Wilkes-Barre, PA 07/23/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwOkulZlr_k
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/gifj5tp40c

Audience Member Uses Four-Letter Word, Criticizes McCain's Staff Members
MCCAIN: There's a phone, er, microphone. Call me? [laughter]

QUESTIONER: [...] You are, without a doubt, a true American hero. Senator McCain, you are the man that we want as President of the United States. I'm going to do a little straight talk. You're a straight talker and so am I. Very much. I'm a diehard Yankee and I'm a straight-talker.

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MCCAIN: I could never tell from your accent.

QUESTIONER: Mine's not really a question, it's a statement. It's a statement about a lot of your campaign staff members. And I'll tell you right now, I know, I'm going to be right at the top of their shit-list. But I could care less.

MCCAIN: shhh!

QUESTIONER: You have a lot of people here, I'm one of your volunteers that has been doing work for you since I met you in October. There are a lot of people here that are volunteering their time. You got two people sitting right here next to me, [names them], they have done more work for you volunteering than a lot of your paid staffers have.

MCCAIN: A lot of them are on work-release programs.

QUESTIONER: And a lot of your signs outside today, they were put up by us not by your staff people.

MCCAIN: I understand and I thank you.

QUESTIONER: You gotta make some changes.

MCCAIN: I'm going to put you in charge.

QUESTIONER: I think you should put [names] in charge. They've done some good work for you, you got thousands and thousands of people who love you, admire you, respect you greatly, and we want you as our next President of the United States.
(Town Hall; Rochester, NH 07/22/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMhLjjlB8Iw
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/sztp5f1kog

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Scott Lilly" <rscottlilly@hotmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/14/2008 11:54:44 PM
Subject: RE: U.S. Intelligence Failure in Georgia

I will try something. My guess is that I will get trumped by their foreign policy columnists who will get it all wrong but will still be the go to guys.

Scott Lilly
3110 North 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22201

> Date: Thu, 14 Aug 2008 18:31:32 -0400
> From: john.podesta@gmail.com
> To: rscottlilly@hotmail.com
> Subject: Re: U.S. Intelligence Failure in Georgia
>
> You should do an oped for the post on this.
>
>
>
> On 8/14/08, Scott Lilly <rscottlilly@hotmail.com> wrote:
> >
> >
> > Denis,
> >
> > I have it on good authority that the DNI was completely caught off guard by
> > the Russian invasion. He was, according to my information, watching CNN with
> > his mouth wide open.
> > This is a collosal failure of U.S. intelligence.
> >
> > The word inside the community is that overhead and other resources were so
> > fully tasked on Iraq and Afghanistan that little was left for the South
> > Caucuses. That indicates that the security costs presented by the Iraq
> > occupation are even more profound than believed by many of us who worried
> > about that issue.
> >
> > But even that explanation is insufficient to explain how the Russians could
> > have prepared for such an operation and executed it without our being
> > alerted. They clearly constrained radio and telephone communications,
> > covered their efforts to raise unit readiness and set a carefully planned
> > manuever into motion without tripping a single trigger of U.S. information
> > collection--all this despite the fact that we had U.S. military forces in
> > the target country.
> >
> > The fact that we had so little monitoring raises serious questions about
> > whether the administration was exercising an appropriate level of scepticism
> > about Russian intentions. Their desire to recover their lost possessions in
> > the region--at least Georgia and Azerbaijan--have been widely known and pre
> > date Putin.
> >
> > For more than four decades the Republican party has cast itself as heirs to
> > the traditions of Wiston Churchill and cast Democrats as naive about our
> > enemies and unwilling to use the force necessary to protect the nation's
> > interest. The administration's performance with Russia indicates that they

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> > more closely approximate Neville Chamberland than we do.
> > Scott Lilly 3110 North 17th Street Arlington, VA 22201
>
> --
> Sent from Gmail for mobile | mobile.google.com

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
Date:	7/15/2015 10:33:17 AM
Subject:	Re: you call it

Yup

On Jul 15, 2015 5:21 PM, "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

> "This agreement condemns the next generation to cleaning up a nuclear war in the Persian Gulf… This is the greatest appeasement since Chamberlain gave Czechoslovakia to Hitler."
>
> — Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), quoted by BuzzFeed , on the nuclear deal reached with Iran.

— John Anzalone
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
334-387-3121
www.algpolling.com
twitter: @AnzaloneLiszt

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/24/2008 6:38:30 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Environmental Briefing in Santa Barbara, CA

Hello All,

Due to flight delays and cancellations, we were not able to get a tracker to today's event. However, we were able to track the event via online streaming video. Below are the notes from that viewing.

Santa Barbara, CA: McCain Environmental Briefing

- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger welcomes crowd and introduces McCain, says he is confidant that a McCain presidency will yield 'a sensible, consistent and forward looking energy policy'

McCain's Prepared Remarks:
LINK: http://thepage.time.com/transcript-of-mccains-remarks-in-santa-barbara-california/

ARLINGTON, VA — U.S. Senator John McCain will deliver the following remarks as prepared for delivery at an environmental and energy briefing in Santa Barbara, CA, today at 9:00 a.m. PDT (12:00 p.m. EDT):

Thank you all very much. I appreciate the hospitality of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the warm welcome to California. I'm here to listen about energy issues as well as to talk. So let me just start things off with a few ideas.

We're in the middle of a great debate in this presidential campaign about the energy security of the United States. For my part, in recent days I've been laying out a clear agenda to protect our economy from runaway energy costs, and to break America's dependence on foreign oil. This is going to require the best efforts and ideas of our country, and I am confident we are up to the task. At a time when a gallon of gas is running at more than four dollars, our government needs to shake off years of partisan paralysis that have prevented America from achieving energy security. Nothing is more urgent right now than regaining our energy security — we need to get it done and get it right.

The immediate problems of high gasoline prices and of our strategic dependence on foreign oil are upon us. And on recent days I've been setting forth a plan of action. When people are hurting, and struggling to afford gasoline, food, and other necessities, common sense requires that we draw upon America's own vast reserves of oil and natural gas. When nations across Europe and Asia are building nuclear power plants to meet their electricity needs, America, too, must make more use of this clean, efficient, and proven source of power. And we must turn all the brilliance and ingenuity of America loose in the search for alternative energy sources — from cleaner coal and wind power to biofuels and solar.

But even as we address our present economic and strategic troubles, we face a long-term danger we hardly even understood back when America first learned to associate the word "energy" with "crisis." We now know that fossil fuel emissions, by retaining heat within the atmosphere, threaten disastrous changes in climate. No challenge of energy is to be taken lightly, and least of all the need to avoid the consequences of global warming.

Among the compelling evidence of this danger, satellite images reveal shrinking glaciers, Antarctic ice shelves and polar ice sheets. Our scientists have also seen and measured reduced snowpack, with earlier runoffs in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere. We have seen sustained drought in the Southwest, and across the world average temperatures that seem to reach new records every few years. In the frozen wilds of Alaska, the Arctic, Antarctic, and elsewhere, wildlife biologists have noted sudden changes in animal migration patterns, a loss of their habitat, a rise in sea levels. The facts of global warming demand our urgent attention, especially in Washington. Good stewardship, prudence, and simple commonsense demand that we act to meet the challenge, and act quickly.

To dramatically reduce carbon emissions, I have proposed a new system of cap-and-trade that over time will change the dynamic of our energy economy. We will cap emissions according to specific goals, measuring progress by reference to past carbon emissions. By the year 2012, we will seek a return to 2005 levels of emission, by 2020, a return to 1990 levels, and so on until we have achieved at least a reduction of sixty percent

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below 1990 levels by the year 2050. In this way, we will transition into a low carbon energy future while staying on a course of economic growth. The purpose of this plan is to give American businesses new incentives and rewards to seek, instead of just giving new taxes to pay and new orders to follow. My strategy gives people time to adapt, instead of causing a jolt to your electricity bill and widespread shutdowns of tradition coal-fired plants.

For the market to do more, government must do more by opening new paths of invention and ingenuity. So I have proposed a permanent research and development tax credit, to open the door to a new generation of environmental entrepreneurs. I am committed to investing two billion dollars every year for the next 15 years on clean coal technologies — to unlock the potential of America's oldest and most abundant resource. And we will issue a Clean Car Challenge to automakers, in the form of a tax credit to the American people: For every automaker who can sell a zero-emissions or very close to zero-emissions car, we will commit up to a 5,000 dollar tax credit to each and every customer who buys that car. In the quest for alternatives to oil, our government has thrown around enough money subsidizing special interests and excusing failure. From now on, we will encourage heroic efforts in engineering, and we will reward the grea test success.

This is why I further propose we inspire the ingenuity and resolve of the American people by offering a $300 million prize for the development of a battery package that has the size, capacity, cost and power to leapfrog the commercially available plug-in hybrids or electric cars. This is one dollar for every man, woman and child in the U.S. — a small price to pay for helping to break the back of our oil dependency — and should deliver a power source at 30 percent of the current costs.

Energy efficiency is no longer just a moral luxury or a personal virtue. A smarter use of energy is part of a critical national effort to regain control of our own energy future. And in this effort, practical ideas are worth a lot more than uplifting lectures. It's not always a matter of making due with less energy. It's a matter of using energy in smarter ways. Business owners who invest in green buildings can cut their energy costs by as much as a third. Homeowners can save hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year with better light bulbs, appliances, windows, and insulation. Many Californians have understood the benefits of green technology for a while now and your governor sure understands them. Now we need to bring that smart ethic of environmental care to Washington.

Our federal government is never shy about instructing the American people in good environmental practice. But energy efficiency, like charity, should begin at home. So I propose to put the purchasing power of the United States government on the side of green technology. Every year the federal government buys upwards of 60,000 cars and other vehicles, not including military or law-enforcement vehicles. From now on, we're going to make those civilian vehicles flex-fuel capable, plug-in hybrid, or cars fueled by clean natural gas. If our great goal is to move American transportation toward lower carbon emissions, then it should start with the federal fleet.

Across our country and abroad, there are 3.3 billion square feet of federal office space, all but roughly ten percent of it owned by the public. Add it all up and that makes the federal government the single largest consumer of electricity in the world. This presents another enormous opportunity that my administration will take. By retrofitting where possible, and by applying a higher efficiency standard to new buildings leased or purchased, we can save taxpayers billions of dollars in energy costs, and move the market in the direction of green technology.

We must also redesign our national electric grid in a smarter, more efficient way. In some cases, our national power transmission system has not been built to match supply and demand. And the result is an excess of power where it's not needed, and a shortage of power where it is needed. In the long term, this will require a serious investment to upgrade our national grid to meet the demands of the 21st century — which will include a capacity to charge the electric cars that will one day fill the roads and highways of America. And to save both money and electrical power for our people and businesses, we will also need to deploy SmartMeter technologies. These new meters give customers a more precise picture of their overall energy consumption, and over time will encourage a more cost-efficient use of power.

In these and other ways, we can meet the challenge of global warming with all the resources of human ingenuity at our disposal. Like other environmental challenges — only more so — climate change presents a test of foresight, of political courage, and of the unselfish concern that one generation owes to the next. We Americans like to say that there is no problem we can't solve, however complicated, and no obstacle we cannot overcome if we meet it together. I believe this about our country. I know this about our country. And now it is time for us to show those qualities once again. I thank you all for the kind attention, and now let me turn you over to my friends

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on the panel.

Roundtable Panelists:

- Sen. John McCain
- California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
- Former Director of the CIA, Jim Woolsey
- Land Trust for Santa Barbara County Executive Director, Michael Feeney
- Dean of the School of Engineering at UC Santa Barbara, Matthew Tirrell

Roundtable Highlights:

JIM WOOLSEY

- The proposals John McCain has made are major steps toward cleaning up what we're doing with driving.
- Cleaner- yes, these proposals move in that direction
- In terms of security -- McCain's proposals are an 'extraordinary plus.'
- Affordability - it would be a huge step in what Americans have to pay for transportation, making it cheaper

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN

- We'll talk about where we are in developing this technology
- Yesterday, we saw cars that are hybrids, good news is that they look great, the bad news is that they cost $100K, but the next round will cost $60K
- Just like cell phones, the cost will come down

MICHAEL FEENEY

- I'm not an energy expert, my profession is land trust issues
- I appreciate the Senator's general approach
- I'm a little less optimistic in technology and the government's ability to embrace the changes that are needed to really turn things around
- There's no solution as to the where to store the radioactive waste of nuclear energy -- that's a huge issue for me
- I'm nervous that we are backsliding on our environmental standards
- I appreciate the spirit that you are trying to promote -- but I believe we have to be very cautious about how we approach these things without rolling back our environmental standards
- People need to realize all of us have to change and it's going to be more expensive -- too rosy of a picture has been painted

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN

- Thank you.
- Spent nuclear fuel -- the technology is there, the Europeans are doing it; 80% of France's electricity comes from nuclear energy; it's going great! You should visit there
- I look forward to discussing that issue more
- U.S. Navy has used nuclear energy for many years and there's never been a problem

MICHAEL FEENEY

- I appreciate your points
- I don't know how they are doing it in Europe, but I know that we're not working with nuclear waste well in the U.S.

MATTHEW TIRRELL

- Cutting demand for energy is the fastest, cheapest way to go about this
- However, demand is growing
- We need to talk about energy productivity -- how much we are getting out of the energy we're using
- There's a concern for supply -- but my opinion is that we'll run out of space before we run out of oil
- I'm more optimistic than Michael when it comes to the improvements that we seek in technology, I think there is a lot there
- The idea of a RND tax credit is a good one -- and I argue that it should be readily available to new energy sources
- In the short-term, decreasing our demand is something we should do

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN:

- How does the avg. citizen make their home more energy efficient?

MATTHEW TIRRELL:

- The utility companies can have a lot to do with this and work with the consumers
- Adoption of solar energy is one way

JIM WOOLSEY

- Solar energy use in California is a good example -- it should serve as a model

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN

- You have these solar panels that are now paper thin -- unlike what we had years ago, these heavy big things

GOV. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

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- We started this million solar roof initiative to expand our use of solar energy
- We've worked and tried out a lot of things -- and it'd be great if it was done on a national level
- We in CA are shooting for 20% renewables by 2020 -- nationally we are 1-2% -- European countries are already at 20%
- McCain will change this when President

MATTHEW TIRRELL
- Getting over the transportation barriers is important -- and your tax credit initiative is in that direction
- Lighting is also a big thing

MICHAEL FEENEY
- I think this is all good
- The more we can do to create the right price signals to consumers is good
- Make it more economical for renters and home-owners to use green technology

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN
- If you go to certain parts of the state you see wind farms
- But what about tide?

JIM WOOSLEY
- Tide technology is a bit behind of where we are with solar and wind energy
- Expansion of the notion of geo-thermal is really promising -- people are starting to realize that even slightly different temperatures can work
- There's a lot coming -- perhaps in tidal, definitely in geo-thermal as well as solar and wind in technological developments

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN
- Americans may not be as appreciative as maybe we are of what our energy needs are over the next 20 years
- We have energy needs that are going to need to be met -- with solar, wind, nuclear, etc
- We are not in a static situation -- we're in a dynamic one
- Matthew, maybe you can give us assessment of our energy needs?

MATTHEW TIRRELL
- Over the next 20 years -- our energy needs are expected to double, worldwide
- It's a HUGE growth
- As voracious our need is now, it's expected to double -- especially worldwide as third world nations develop
- There's a near perfect correlation between energy consumption and quality of life
- We're not going to be able to tell the rest of the world you can't have our quality of life

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN
- We have to stop the gridlock in Washington
- As president I will do that and reach across the aisle to get things done
- One of the reasons why Gov. Schwarzenegger enjoys the approval ratings he does is because he reaches across the aisle
- I will put our country first and my party second.

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com> "Karen Finney" <finneyk8@yahoo.com> "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com> "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@gpg.com> "Adrienne Elrod" <adrienne.elrod@gmail.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com> "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Amanda Renteria" <amandarenteria@gmail.com> "Marlon Marshall" <marlondmarshall@gmail.com> "Katie Dowd" <katie.w.dowd@gmail.com> "Teddy Goff" <teddy.goff@gmail.com> "Lona Valmoro" <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com> "Harrell Kirstein" <hkirstein@hillaryclinton.com> "Tyrone Gayle" <tgayle@hillaryclinton.com> "Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com> "Alex Hornbrook" <ahornbrook@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/20/2015 8:34:21 AM
Subject:	Re: NH | Day 1

Just departed the baby furniture factory. She did the tour, which will have lots of great images come out of it, and while press couldn't hear her on the tour itself, she referenced what she talked about in the round table a few times, including a comment about all the machines being from other countries at the top.

The round table itself was another natural, substantive conversation on a range of issues, from drug use among young people to the need for a return to vocational training to capital gains taxes and spurring small business growth. A note that she hit hedge fund managers again for not paying their fair share in taxes.

She did very well in the opening, did the four fights, talked about our need to make the middle class mean something again, and did it with little to no looking at her notes sounding very natural.

At the end she chatted with the participants and then walked over to shake hands with the guests there. After some brief conversations she doubled back to the center to take some questions. The first question was about Clinton Cash and she did quite well with it, used our line about Republicans being focused on her and her being focused on the issues.

WMUR asked her 2 questions, one about staged events which she handled well, said she was hear to talk to people and doing this how she wanted to do it. The other question was a redux of the Clinton Cash question.

Will send a transcript this afternoon. Headed to Claremont now.

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On Apr 20, 2015, at 1:33 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Departed Kristin's Bakery, headed to the message event. She ordered a black tea and worked the room. Sat for about 20 minutes at one of the tables.

On Apr 20, 2015, at 9:53 AM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Road trip had commenced.

Will send event updates here.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 1/2/2015 5:54:08 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Friday January 2, 2015 Roundup

Correct The Record Friday January 2, 2015 Roundup:

Headlines:

Clinton Foundation: “Statement from President Clinton and Secretary Clinton on the Passing of Governor Mario Cuomo”

“We are terribly saddened by the passing of our friend Mario Cuomo.”

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Clintons 'terribly saddened' by Cuomo's death”

“Former President Clinton and former New York Sen. Hillary Clinton said that they were ‘terribly saddened’ by the Thursday death of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo (D).”

Time: “The 9 Times Hillary Clinton Has Taken a Stand Since 2013”

“Here’s a look at the nine most substantive policy positions Clinton has staked out since stepping down as Secretary of State.”

Associated Press: “Who would benefit if Clinton decides not to run?”

“But what if Clinton decided against another campaign? Those considered long-shots would become instant

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contenders and others planning to skip the race would give it a new look."

Business Insider: "Hillary Challenger Jim Webb's Defense Of His PAC Doesn't Add Up"

"A spokeswoman for a political action committee headed by potential 2016 presidential candidate Jim Webb released a statement on Tuesday responding to a Business Insider story that raised questions about nearly $100,000 in payments the committee made to Webb's family. […] However, this statement did not identify a single factually inaccurate element of the story."

CNN: "Hillary Clinton's point of no return"

"For months, pro-Clinton Democrats have pointed to early January -- particularly Jan. 15 -- as a symbolic date for Clinton's presidential aspirations. In conversations with one another and at strategy sessions about a possible 2016 run, former aides and confidants have quietly said that if Clinton doesn't say "no" to running by the start of 2015, she is a go for 2016."

Yahoo News column: Matt Bai: "Is Jim Webb for real?"

"But then you come around to Webb's long-held and thoughtful views on the party's core theme of social justice. And here's where that whole savior-of-the-left thing gets a little complicated."

Washington Post: "With eye on 2016, Jeb Bush resigns from all boards"

"Former Florida governor Jeb Bush, moving closer to a possible presidential run, has resigned all of his corporate and nonprofit board memberships, including with his own education foundation, his office said late Wednesday night."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Rubio closer to decision on 2016 bid"

"In a wide-ranging interview with National Public Radio (NPR), Florida's junior senator revealed Thursday that he hasn't 'made a decision yet,' but it will come 'certainly soon.'"

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Articles:

Clinton Foundation: “Statement from President Clinton and Secretary Clinton on the Passing of Governor Mario Cuomo”

[Statement]

January 1, 2015

We are terribly saddened by the passing of our friend Mario Cuomo. Mario's life was the very embodiment of the American dream. When he placed my name in nomination at the 1992 Democratic Convention, he said government had "the solemn obligation to create opportunity for all our people." In his three terms as Governor of New York, he honored that obligation. It was Mario Cuomo's great gift and our good fortune that he was both a sterling orator and a passionate public servant. His life was a blessing. Our hearts and prayers go out to Matilda, Andrew, Margaret, Maria, Madeline, Christopher, his grandchildren, and all who were blessed by his life.

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Clintons 'terribly saddened' by Cuomo's death”

By David McCabe

January 2, 2015, 8:38 a.m. EST

Former President Clinton and former New York Sen. Hillary Clinton said that they were “terribly saddened” by the Thursday death of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo (D).

“Mario's life was the very embodiment of the American dream,” they said in a statement released by the Clinton Foundation.

“It was Mario Cuomo's great gift and our good fortune that he was both a sterling orator and a passionate public servant,” they said. “His life was a blessing.”

Two of the most powerful families in Democratic politics, the Clintons and Cuomos were connected by more than ideology. Bill Clinton considered nominating Mario Cuomo to the Supreme Court in 1993, and Cuomo’s son, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Clinton

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administration.

The Clintons were only two of many notable politicians who praised Cuomo. President Obama called him “a determined champion of progressive values.”

Cuomo spent more than a decade as New York’s governor before he was defeated in 1994 by George Pataki (R).

Time: “The 9 Times Hillary Clinton Has Taken a Stand Since 2013”

By Haley Sweetland Edwards

December 30, 2014

Like other presidential candidates, Hillary Clinton had an opinion on just about everything in 2008. How to reform the U.S. health care system? Check. What to do about climate change? Check. Even minor issues like how to lower the price of gas required her to come up with a plan.

But when she became Secretary of State, Clinton followed tradition and kept her opinions to herself, especially on domestic policy. And since leaving Foggy Bottom in 2013, she’s mostly avoided specifics.

She says she’s in favor of protecting the environment, for example, but has yet to stake out her position on fracking or the Keystone XL pipeline. She says she’s against eliminating net neutrality, but has yet to say what, exactly, the government ought to do to protect it. And while she’s talked a big game about U.S. military engagement abroad, it’s unclear how her positions on, say, Ukraine or Iraq would differ from those of President Obama.

That ambiguity is understandable. She doesn’t hold public office. She’s not officially on the ballot. And committing to a position publicly limits her future options, politically. But given how many times she hasn’t taken a position on the issue of the day, it’s worth noting the handful of times she has.

Here’s a look at the nine most substantive policy positions Clinton has staked out since stepping down as Secretary of State.

1) The U.S. needs serious immigration reform. When President Obama announced his controversial executive order in November shielding up to five million undocumented immigrants, Clinton tweeted her approval within minutes, and then followed up with a statement calling for immediate, bipartisan and comprehensive immigration that would “focus finite resources on deporting felons rather than families.”

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2) The U.S. should have armed the rebels in Syria. In an interview with the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg in August, Clinton blamed the rise of the so-called Islamic State, or ISIS, on the U.S. not doing enough to support moderate rebels when the Syrian civil war first broke out. "The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad — there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle — the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," she said. That said, Clinton's ideas on how to rout ISIS now appear to be more or less the same as Obama's.

3) Gay people should be allowed to marry. In March 2013, Clinton formally announced in her support for gay marriage, marking a major reversal of the position she'd held for decades. Her rivals criticized her for jumping on the bandwagon only after the issue of gay marriage had become widely acceptable, but she defended herself as a "thinking human" who is allowed to "evolve" on issues.

4) Americans shouldn't torture people. At a human rights awards dinner in December, Clinton made her first public comments about torture since the Senate released its controversial report on the issue earlier this month. She said unequivocally that she is against illegal renditions and brutal interrogation methods. "The U.S. should never condone or practice torture anywhere in the world," she said.

5) The federal government should raise the minimum wage. In a speech at a campaign event for Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley in October, Clinton told the crowd not to "let anyone tell you that raising the minimum wage will kill jobs – they always say that." She then went on to defend raising the federal minimum wage. As a senator, Clinton repeatedly proposed legislation that would automatically increase the federal minimum wage anytime members of Congress saw their own pay increase.

6) Negotiating with Iran is a good idea, so long as the U.S. gets a good deal. Much to the chagrin of many in the pro-Israel crowd, Clinton has not only expressed support for the administration's negotiations with Tehran over its nuclear program, she has taken credit for initiating the secret talks back in 2012. In the past year, she has lightly tempered that unequivocal support by cautioning that the U.S. should be careful about what it concedes to, repeating that "no deal is better than a bad deal."

7) The U.S. shouldn't trust Putin. At a speaking event this year, Clinton called the Russian President an arrogant bully. As Secretary of State, she said she was in favor of the Obama administration's "reset" policy with Russia, but her opinion of the policy appears to have cooled. "I think that what may have happened, is that both the United States and Europe were really hoping for the best from Putin as a returned president," she told CNN's Fareed Zakaria in an interview in July. "And I think we've been quickly, unfortunately, disabused of those hopes." While those seem like fightin' words, policy analysts point out that it's less clear how Clinton's distrust of Putin would translate to a change in actual U.S. policy—much less potential military engagement—in Ukraine.

8) All American kids should get free, high-quality pre-K. Anyone remotely familiar with Clinton's resume won't find this to be much of a shocker, but early-childhood education is one of the issues she's been most outspoken about in the last two years. She's advocated for everything from universal pre-K and free nurse home-visits for at-risk mothers, to expanding existing programs, like Head Start and paid family leave.

9) #Blacklivesmatter. Clinton took a shellacking this fall for failing to comment one way or another on the protests in Ferguson, Missouri, and about the Eric Garner case in New York. At an awards ceremony in December, she broke her silence—kinda. "Yes, black lives matter," she said, but then failed to elaborate. She has yet to say whether she's in favor of broad sentencing reform, body cameras on police, or how she might limit what military

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equipment is available to police forces.

Associated Press: “Who would benefit if Clinton decides not to run?”

By Ken Thomas

January 2, 2015, 3:21 a.m. EST

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's hard to imagine Hillary Rodham Clinton not running for president again — and easy to image the result of such a decision: political chaos.

"It would be shocking," says Tad Devine, a Democratic strategist who is advising Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont Democrat who is considering a presidential campaign himself.

Early polling shows Clinton in a dominant position. Outside groups have been promoting her candidacy for more than a year. The fundraising juggernaut, EMILY's List, is well into a foundation for the campaign to elect the nation's first female president. All that has left the potential field frozen in place and locked down financial donors, endorsements and connections around the country.

But what if Clinton decided against another campaign? Those considered long-shots would become instant contenders and others planning to skip the race would give it a new look.

Some whose political fortunes and plans for 2016 could change if Clinton decides to pass on the race:

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JOE BIDEN

In any other year, the sitting vice president would have an inside track to the nomination. But Clinton's dominant standing within the party has marginalized Biden in early 2016 discussion. In a Clinton-free campaign, the veteran of runs for president in 1988 and 2008 would be an early front-runner.

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ELIZABETH WARREN

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The Massachusetts senator is a favorite of liberal activists, some of whom are trying to "draft" her into running for president — even though she has repeatedly said she is not. Warren's populist economic approach and calls to rein in Wall Street resonate with many Democrats disappointed by the midterm elections and the gap between the wealthy and the poor. If Clinton decides not to run, Warren is sure to face pressure to fill the void.

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MARTIN O'MALLEY

The outgoing Maryland governor has been a workhorse surrogate for fellow Democrats, trying to build a network of financial donors — only to be effectively frozen by Clinton. Even without Clinton in the field, the Republicans' defeat of his hand-picked successor in Maryland — and sagging poll ratings at the end of his term — would complicate his campaign.

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JIM WEBB

The former Virginia senator would bring a bipartisan record to the campaign: He served as President Ronald Reagan's Navy secretary. He is an accomplished author and decorated veteran, still carrying shrapnel from his service in the Vietnam War. He is independent and at times unpredictable, and his foreign policy outlook and outsider status could shake up the primary with or without Clinton.

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BERNIE SANDERS

Few Democrats expect the independent senator from Vermont to make much of an impact if he runs against Clinton, but that has not stopped Sanders from courting college students and liberals in Iowa and New Hampshire. He has maintained a large email distribution list, giving him a way of reaching activists, but is still more likely to shape the debate than compete for delegates no matter what Clinton does.

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ANDREW CUOMO

When New York Gov. Mario Cuomo declined to seek the White House in 1991 after a lengthy deliberation, the vacuum helped a relatively unknown Arkansas governor named Bill Clinton. If Hillary Rodham Clinton decides not to run, it could give his son, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, an opening to jump into a race he does not plan

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to contest. The second-term governor has built a record of accomplishments on marriage equality, gun control and, last month, banned hydraulic fracturing in New York — a move cheered by environmentalists.

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TIM KAINE

The Virginia senator has big-time credentials: He's a Spanish-speaking former Catholic missionary, Harvard Law graduate, former mayor of Richmond, Virginia, and the ex-governor of the state. Kaine quickly embraced candidate Barack Obama and found himself on the short-list for vice president. Instead, Obama put him in charge of the Democratic National Committee and Kaine later succeeded Webb in the Senate. He has backed the pro-Clinton Ready for Hillary super PAC, and would get a serious look if Clinton took a pass.

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KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND

The energetic New Yorker holds Clinton's old Senate seat and has been talked up as a potential heir apparent. A relative newcomer to the national stage, Gillibrand has displayed a strong acumen as a legislator, fundraising moxie, and a down-to-earth sensibility as the constantly juggling mother of two boys. She has championed legislation to remove sexual assault cases from the military chain of command and promoted paid family leave for women.

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AMY KLOBUCHAR

The first woman elected to the Senate from Minnesota, Klobuchar has made political trips to neighboring Iowa to help Democratic candidates and the party, moves that always start talk about the White House. A former prosecutor, Klobuchar has built a reputation in the Senate for working across the aisle. On the dinner circuit, she displays a folksy sense of humor that helps her connect with Democratic audiences.

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HOWARD DEAN

The former Vermont governor and contender for the party's 2004 presidential nomination has backed Clinton, giving the former secretary of state an advocate among the party's liberal wing. As DNC chairman, Dean helped modernize the party's technological capabilities, laying the ground work for Obama's successful grassroots campaign in 2008. He's unlikely to leave the private sector, but may be swayed if Clinton decided to take a pass on another campaign.

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Business Insider: “Hillary Challenger Jim Webb's Defense Of His PAC Doesn't Add Up”

By Hunter Walker

December 31, 2014, 7:57 p.m. EST

A spokeswoman for a political action committee headed by potential 2016 presidential candidate Jim Webb released a statement on Tuesday responding to a Business Insider story that raised questions about nearly $100,000 in payments the committee made to Webb's family.

"This story as written misrepresents reasonable compensation for real and provable work done. Adding up numbers across several years for a sensational headline doesn’t tell the story. We’re happy to be fully transparent on this for journalists interested in the whole story," Ashleigh Owens said.

However, this statement did not identify a single factually inaccurate element of the story. It also did not address several of the major questions raised about the committee, which was supposedly established to support "candidates and entities" who advocate economic fairness, "reorienting our national security posture," and developing greater accountability in government.

Despite Owen's claim Webb's team is willing to be "fully transparent" about this issue, they repeatedly declined to communicate with Business Insider about these issues.

Business Insider first reached out to Owens about this story before it was published on Tuesday. She asked us to provide a list of specific questions. Owens never answered those questions or any subsequent emails. Neither Webb, a former Virginia senator, or his staff responded to requests to discuss their statement on Wednesday.

Owens' statement went on to defend the payments the committee made to Webb's daughter, Amy, and his wife, Hong Le Webb. Campaign finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission show they were paid about $91,000 from 2009 through Nov. 24, 2014.

"Amy Webb has been involved in the administration, management and design of Jim Webb’s websites for many years, including the management of JamesWebb.com since 2001," Owens said. "She has provided the same services to the Born Fighting PAC since 2009, including the handling of FEC compliance matters since 2013."

The statement did not address the fact the story pointed out the committee paid Amy Webb was paid $1,000 for "website services" in 2013 even though archived versions of the Born Fighting PAC site showed it was not updated at all during this period apart from a two-sentence note thanking donors for their "past support."

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Owens' statement also did not address the fact the committee continued to take donations from 2011 through 2014 even though it made no contributions to any other entity whatsoever during this period.

The statement claimed Hong Le Webb was paid "for her activities relating to various aspects of multiple website designs from the period February through September 2014, including vetting design consultants, negotiating contracts and content management." The records show she received $13,800 for overseeing the redesign of the committee's relatively simple site. At the same time, the firm that executed the design seems to have been paid less. It received $10,000.

Owens' statement also did not address a separate issue raised by the Business Insider story.

In addition to the money paid to Webb's family, the records show the committee only used about 20% of the money it spent to support its stated mission of contributing to political candidates and groups. The PAC spent over four times as much as it took in after receiving nearly $1 million in donations.

The fact so little of the donor money taken in by Webb's PAC went to its stated purpose was entirely ignored in Owens' statement.

CNN: “Hillary Clinton's point of no return”

By Dan Merica

January 1, 2015, 4:46 p.m. EST

Washington (CNN) -- As Democrats close to Hillary Clinton recover from their New Year's Eve celebrations and flip their calendar to 2015, many will notice a seemingly unimportant date is fast approaching.

For months, pro-Clinton Democrats have pointed to early January -- particularly Jan. 15 -- as a symbolic date for Clinton's presidential aspirations. In conversations with one another and at strategy sessions about a possible 2016 run, former aides and confidants have quietly said that if Clinton doesn't say "no" to running by the start of 2015, she is a go for 2016.

"If she hasn't said 'no' by January, it will be a sign she is running," said one longtime Clinton friend at last month's Ready for Hillary strategy session in New York.

The early January time frame is regularly used by Clinton supporters as a way to put off directly answering the

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will she/won't she questions posed by reporters. While the date itself is not totally significant, it has become a shorthand for early January. With that time frame now approaching, some in Clinton's orbit are admitting that time is running out for Clinton to say "no."

"If she is not going to do it, she can't let it drag on after January 15," said a Democratic strategist close to Clinton. "If she hasn't said something after that date, people should assume she is running."

The strategist, who said this was the general sense among people close to Clinton, added, "She has two weeks to say she isn't running."

The reason is simple: Clinton has, so far, sucked up all the oxygen in the Democrats' 2016 conversation. If she lets that continue well into 2015 and then decides to back out, she puts her party -- which already has a thin bench of second tier candidates -- in a tough position.

While chatter about former Sen. Jim Webb, Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Vice President Joe Biden have bubbled up throughout late 2014, neither have caught fire in the polls. The latest CNN/ORC poll finds Webb at a paltry 1%, Warren in second place with 9% support and Biden in third at 8%. Hillary Clinton, by comparison, is at 66% support.

Because of the uncertainty around her announcement date, groups urging Clinton to run intend to continue their work well into 2015. Ready for Hillary, the grassroots super PAC organizing on Clinton's behalf, has events planned well into March but plans to close shop once Clinton announces. Groups like Correct the Record, a communications and research shop, and Priorities USA, a fundraising and ad buying outfit, have both pledged to ramp up in early 2015.

Although Clinton's candidacy has long been a forgone conclusion to many of her close confidants, there are still some who hold out that she might decide not to run and has yet to make up her mind.

Clinton has tried to play coy with her presidential ambitions, but began to more forcefully acknowledge her thoughts near the end of 2014. She has met with potential campaign staffers, according to her spokesman, and people close to her have begun to carefully line up a potential political operation.

Clinton herself even used January 1, 2015 as a time frame for her decision.

"I am going to be making a decision around -- probably after -- the first of the year," Clinton said during a September appearance in Mexico City.

Yahoo News column: Matt Bai: “Is Jim Webb for real?”

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By Matt Bai

January 1, 2015

[Subtitle:] Liberals like him now, but wait until they hear what's on his mind.

"I'm not running against Hillary Clinton," Jim Webb told me this week, when I tried to draw him out on the presumed Democratic front-runner. "I'm not even running at the moment, and she isn't, either."

That's all technically true, but Webb's recent announcement that he was taking the first official step toward a 2016 presidential bid nonetheless set off a round of commentary about the contrast between him and his former Senate colleague. On the FiveThirtyEight blog, Harry Enten concluded that Webb could be "the ideal Clinton challenger." Al Hunt of Bloomberg News said Webb could be Clinton's "worst nightmare," while William Greider wrote in The Nation that Webb might become "a pivotal messenger" for the left.

Such predictions are easily made and seldom remembered. They don't tell you much about whether Webb, who has as varied an experience in public service and foreign policy as anybody else out there, can really mount the kind of semi-serious challenge to Clinton that Bill Bradley did to Al Gore in 2000, or whether he'll end up being something more like this year's Wesley Clark.

Webb has some things going for him, starting with unusual courage for a politician. He went through Vietnam, and he loves his second career as a writer of books and screenplays, and those two things have always seemed to make him more impervious to the consequences of conviction than most other politicians, who cling to their seats with a kind of irrational tenacity.

To Webb, there are worse things in life than losing an election or even being drummed out of your party, and that counts for a lot when you have a looming presence like Clinton who's going to scare away most of her more obvious challengers.

And despite what he may say about not comparing himself to Clinton, Webb has the beginnings of a two-pronged progressive critique. On economic policy, Webb will say the party — personified by the Clintons — has been too much in the grasp of big financial institutions and too little beholden to wage earners. He's a little like Elizabeth Warren this way, only with more backwoods steel than Cambridge preachiness.

He's also a sharp critic of the foreign policies pursued by both George W. Bush and Barack Obama, which he says have led us into wars — and kept us in them — without clear objectives or strategies. This puts him squarely at odds with Clinton, the former secretary of state, who was known to be one of the administration's more ardent interventionists.

All that will sound pretty enticing to liberals looking for some viable alternative, and it should. But then you come around to Webb's long-held and thoughtful views on the party's core theme of social justice. And here's where that whole savior-of-the-left thing gets a little complicated.

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Democrats, as you probably know, have been losing white voters, and especially white male voters, by pretty staggering margins in recent elections, particularly in rural parts of the country. According to exit polling, the party's candidates won only 34 percent of white men last November; the 30-point spread between the two parties was the largest in 20 years.

Go to any activist meeting or liberal dinner party, and chances are you will hear a pretty consistent narrative to explain this trend. Basically, it goes like this: White men, and especially Southern white men, are just inherently racist and afraid of social change, and so they're easily manipulated by Republicans and have turned their backs on Obama. But that's really OK, because the demographics of the country are rapidly shifting, and very soon there will be enough black and Latino voters — not to mention women of all races — to tip the balance of any national election into the Democratic column.

Webb finds this theory downright offensive. In his view, Democrats have focused so much of their rhetoric and their programs on racial minorities that they've basically forgotten about all those white, working-class voters who face some of the same economic hardships but feel like all the focus is on the poor.

"I think this is where Democrats screw up, you know?" Webb told me. "I think that they have kind of unwittingly used this group, white working males, as a whipping post for a lot of their policies. And then when they react, they say they're being racist."

Back in 2010, under a Wall Street Journal headline that referred to the "myth of white privilege," Webb called for an end to federal affirmative action programs, saying they no longer helped African-Americans and only served to embitter white voters. More recently, including in our conversation, he has obliquely assailed "interest groups" that divide the parties by race.

Twice I asked Webb which interest groups he had in mind, but he demurred. "I think it's pretty clear, if you look at the policies of the Democratic Party, how they shape their strategic agenda," Webb said. I was left to conclude that he was talking about the influence of civil rights or pro-immigration groups (which seemed odd, really, since in reality those groups have about a tenth of the power that teachers, trial lawyers and organized seniors exercise over Democratic politics).

Before anyone on the left attacks Webb as a former Reaganite and closet conservative, it's worth remembering that he isn't saying anything all that different from what Bill Clinton told the liberal base on cultural issues in 1992. In fact, as a candidate, Barack Obama made a similar case for winning back white voters.

The thing is, both of those men had the luxury of running after their party had lost consecutive presidential elections, and when activists were willing to hear some hard truths if they added up to a winning strategy. This primary season will be a lot more like 2000, when the party's liberal base was nearly erupting with pent-up fury from having to endure eight years of governing and all the ideological compromise that comes with it.

The last thing liberals want to hear right now (and especially after the recent uproar over police brutality) is that

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they're too focused on racial equality and aren't being solicitous enough to rural white men.

For this reason, mostly, I have a hard time seeing Webb as the pivotal messenger for a party still organized around 1960s notions of social justice. But that doesn't mean he won't have an impact, and it doesn't mean, if you're Hillary Clinton, that you shouldn't be paying close attention.

Clinton's allies in Washington have been trying for months to sell her — and the rest of us — on the idea that she won't be seriously challenged for the nomination if she runs. This has never seemed very plausible to me, and it's going to seem even less plausible once Webb starts running around the country picking apart her Wall Street connections and military adventurism.

At that point, other, more cautious potential rivals — like, say, Warren or a governor like Martin O'Malley — are probably going to see that there is, in fact, a market for a progressive alternative (there always is), and they're going to think they can fill it better, because that's what makes them politicians.

Where the courageous plunge in, others generally follow.

Washington Post: "With eye on 2016, Jeb Bush resigns from all boards"

By Tom Hamburger and Lyndsey Layton

December 31, 2014

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush, moving closer to a possible presidential run, has resigned all of his corporate and nonprofit board memberships, including with his own education foundation, his office said late Wednesday night.

He also resigned as a paid adviser to a for-profit education company that sells online courses to public university students in exchange for a share of their tuition payments.

Bush's New Year's Eve disclosure, coming in an e-mail from an aide to The Washington Post, culminated a string of moves he has made in recent days to shed business interests that have enriched him since leaving office in 2007. The aide said the resignations had been made "effective today."

The aide said Bush was reviewing other businesses in which he is principal partner or owner, such as Jeb Bush & Associates, a consulting firm, and Britton Hill Partnership, a business advisory group that in 2013 set up private-equity funds investing in energy and aviation.

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Aides said Bush wants to devote his time to exploring a return to politics rather than pursuing his business commitments. But separating himself from those interests now could also be a strategic attempt to prepare for the added scrutiny of a hotly contested campaign for the Republican nomination.

Bush's financial stake in Academic Partnerships, the online education firm, has been relatively small for a millionaire — a $60,000-a-year fee and ownership of a small amount of stock, said Randy Best, the company's founder and chief executive. Even so, Bush's affiliation with the firm — which has contracts with schools in a half-dozen states and several foreign countries and has annual sales of $100 million — could complicate his effort to promote his record as an education reformer.

The company receives up to 70 percent of the tuition some students pay to public universities, and some faculty members say it siphons money from the schools while asserting too much control over academic decisions.

Best, a Texas entrepreneur and major political donor, said his firm has increased professors' access to online students and helped schools attract additional revenue, while Bush aides say the former governor does not have business interests related to K-12 education, which has been his policy focus.

Bush's decision to extricate himself from his private-sector work is "part and parcel of a process he is going through as he transitions to focus on a potential run for president," said his spokeswoman, Kristy Campbell. "This is a natural next step that will allow him to focus his time on gauging interest for a potential run."

The effort underscores the lengths to which Bush — who has become the favorite prospective candidate of many major GOP donors and has been at or near the top of polls testing the possible Republican presidential field — appears willing to go to avoid pitfalls that hurt the party in 2012. That year, GOP nominee Mitt Romney, founder of a private-equity fund, struggled to explain his business background while under attack by GOP rivals and President Obama.

Bush, 61, lamented Romney's handling of the criticism in an interview last month with Miami's WPLG-TV. Bush said the 2012 nominee allowed himself to be pulled "off message" and should have told voters: "I'm a problem-solver. My life has been about building things up."

Of his own business record, Bush said: "I'm not ashamed. Taking risk and creating jobs is something we ought to have more of."

Bush's business portfolio is far smaller than that of Romney, whose Bain Capital became one of the country's most successful private-equity firms. Yet it is complicated and could present political problems because he has been affiliated with a broad range of industries and businesses.

Bush announced last month that he was ending his consulting relationship with Barclays, the British investment-banking conglomerate. The New York Times reported in May that the company paid Bush more than $1 million a year.

The bank, like other major Wall Street players, had been under scrutiny in recent years for alleged interest rate manipulations and for allegedly providing special benefits to big traders.

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Recent Securities and Exchange Commission filings revealed that Bush was leaving the boards of two publicly traded firms: Rayonier, which invests in forest lands, and Tenet Healthcare, which backed Obama's health-insurance initiative and profited from its passage.

From Tenet, Bush has received nearly $2.1 million in director's fees and restricted company stock since joining the board in 2007. The filings show that he sold some of his Tenet stock through the years. A March 14, SEC report showed that Bush held 59,403 shares of Tenet stock valued at the time at just over $3million.

Academic Partnerships stood out in Bush's business portfolio because it allowed him to combine a public policy issue he cared about with a business investment.

Bush's reputation as an school reformer stems from his work on K-12 education as governor and as the head of his Foundation for Excellence in Education. He has been an advocate for online learning as a tool to expand opportunities for students.

While Bush's association with the company began several years after he left office, Best contacted him about a possible business partnership before his departure from Tallahassee. The Texas businessman had connections to the Bush family, having raised money for the successful presidential campaigns of Bush's older brother, George W. Bush.

After the two men met, Best sent Bush an e-mail in April 2005 touting a "huge global business opportunity" that could come from a "post-secondary initiative" he said they had previously discussed. He said he hoped Bush found the idea "intriguing."

"If you are interested, let's continue our discussions as you begin to think about returning to the private sector after you leave office," Best wrote in the e-mail, which was obtained by The Post as part of a public-records request.

Bush responded that he had "pledged to myself to focus on my job until it is complete. I think I have a duty to do so."

"Having said that," Bush continued, "I think your vision is outstanding."

Best said in an interview that he approached Bush at the time because he had heard that the governor might be looking for opportunities in the private sector. "I tried to get him in the water early," Best said.

Years later, Best said, Bush was drawn to the firm because he has long been "intrigued by innovation in education," particularly the goal of "bringing down the cost of higher education while maintaining quality."

In his capacity as an adviser, Bush was "available to run ideas by and discuss concepts" as the firm expanded,

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Best said.

He said Bush helped preside over two conferences on the future of education hosted by the firm. Bush and former North Carolina governor Jim Hunt (D) helped draw a high-powered lineup of speakers, including Hillary Rodham Clinton, the likely Democratic presidential front-runner, who addressed a March meeting on global education.

A 2012 report by the Texas Tribune said the company received $105 million in revenue from 24 public colleges and universities, including eight in Texas. Forbes magazine reported in 2013 that the company had contracts with 40 U.S. schools.

Bush and Best wrote a 2013 article for Inside Higher Ed predicting that online classes would make higher education more accessible. “Companies like ours — Academic Partnerships — are helping universities respond to this transformative movement,” they wrote.

On some campuses, however, faculty members have viewed the arrival of Academic Partnerships with suspicion.

When the company arrived at Arkansas State University in 2011, for instance, faculty members were concerned “about a loss of quality and control,” said Jack Zibluk, a professor of media studies who headed the faculty senate at the time. Additional controversy erupted, he said, when some school officials involved in negotiations with the company later landed jobs with an affiliated firm.

Experts said that whether to do business with a contractor such as Academic Parternships remains a subject of great debate for university administrators.

“I don’t question whether firms like Academic Partnerships do quality work,” said Barbara Bichelmeyer, who directs online education for the seven campuses of Indiana University, which has chosen not to outsource its online learning programs. “The question we are engaging is about the ownership of the online educational experience — and whether a public institution is comfortable outsourcing this work in whole or in part.”

Best said that academicians’ concerns about his company — and online education generally — have largely diminished.

“It just increased their access to online students,” he said. The additional tuition received by schools “is revenue they would never have otherwise.”

Best said Bush called his cellphone Dec. 16, after announcing plans to explore a presidential bid, to let him know that he planned to resign from the company. Best said he plans to support Bush’s candidacy.

“He is the closest thing we have to a bipartisan candidate” who takes principled stands on tough issues such as immigration and education, Best said. “He is not going to be a person who responds to the polls or every change in the political winds.”

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The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Rubio closer to decision on 2016 bid”

By Molly K. Hooper

January 1, 2015, 3:49 p.m. EST

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) says he’s closer to a decision on whether to run for president than he was last month.

In a wide-ranging interview with National Public Radio (NPR), Florida’s junior senator revealed Thursday that he hasn’t “made a decision yet,” but it will come “certainly soon.”

“The decision I have to make is: Where is the best place for me to serve America to carry out this agenda that I have to restore the American Dream given the dramatic economic changes we’ve had in the 21st century? … Is it in the Republican majority in the Senate or is it as a candidate, and ultimately as president of the United States?” Rubio asked in the interview.

Rubio - a protege of likely GOP presidential contender and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush - contends that his decision will be made on “the basis of facts and reality,” not whether another prominent politician from the Sunshine State will run.

“I have tremendous respect for Gov. [Jeb] Bush, and I’ve said repeatedly if he runs he’ll be a very credible candidate. … As far as, you know, speculating about whether two people from the same state can run, it’s not unprecedented,” Rubio said.

The possibility of two prominent Florida politicians vying for the GOP presidential nomination could place a number of potential backers in a tough position.

Earlier this year, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) predicted that if Bush ran, Rubio would not.

But Rubio told NPR that if he decides a presidential run would better position him for helping others accomplish the American Dream, “then that’s what I’m going to do irrespective of who else might be running.”

As for the immediate future, Rubio predicts that President Obama will make good on a promise to use his veto pen to kill bills passed by the Republican-controlled Congress. But there will be some instances in which Obama may not succeed, Rubio added.

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“I think we’ll have a supermajority, a veto-proof majority to impose additional sanctions on Iran and to require the administration to come before Congress for approval of any deal that he has with Iran,” Rubio said. “I think the same is true for the Keystone pipeline, potentially.”

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton’s upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce’s “Global Perspectives” series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

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From: Washingtonpost <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 1/26/2016 1:57:31 AM
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Hillary bets her prose can triumph over Bernie's poetry



BY JAMES HOHMANN

Hillary speaks during a Democratic town hall in Des Moines last night. (Patrick T. Fallon/Bloomberg)

THE BIG IDEA:

Hillary Clinton said last night that she "loves" the new Bernie Sanders ad set to Simon and Garfunkel singing, "They've all come to look for America." Then she tried to offer a reality check.

"Now, look," she said during a town hall in Des Moines. "You campaign in poetry. You govern in prose. And we need a lot more poetry in this campaign. *But* I believe that I'm the better person to be the Democratic nominee, and the commander in chief."

The campaign-in-poetry, govern-in-prose trope was coined by the late Mario Cuomo, the liberal New York governor. Was it a coincidence that Cuomo's son, Chris, was moderating the event for CNN?

For Clinton, it gave fresh life to a mantra that she unsuccessfully tried to use as a cudgel against then-Sen. Obama in 2008. "You campaign with poetry, but you govern with prose," she often said , downplaying his rhetorical abilities.

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In an interview published earlier yesterday, President Obama dismissed comparisons of Sanders to himself or this campaign to 2008. "I don't think that's true," Obama told Politico . He said the fact that Clinton knows "every policy inside and out … could make her more cautious, and her campaign more prose than poetry."

Just like last time, Clinton, locked in a neck-and-neck race in Iowa, is trying to grab the mantle of change late in the game. Last night, she had a moment that might help. A first-time caucus-goer who said he's leaning toward Sanders told Clinton that many of his friends find her to be "dishonest" and inauthentic. "I've been on the front lines of change and progress since I was your age," she replied . "I've taken on the status quo time and time again." The crowd loved it.

The two newsiest quotes from the night—

Sanders on his ambitious plans : "Yes, we will raise taxes. Yes we will."

Clinton on her email server : "I'm not willing to say it was an error in judgment because nothing I did was wrong."

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

-- Federal offices in D.C. will remain closed today as the city recovers from the snowstorm. So is every major school system in the region. (List here.)

- Metro mostly resumed rail service at 5 a.m. But it could not open the Silver Line, and at the last minute the transit agency said workers are unable to restore train service at four Orange Line stations that were expected to reopen: Vienna, Dunn Loring, West Falls Church and East Falls Church. Bus service will be expanded over the course of today, although it is still extremely limited. (The latest on the clean-up effort is here .)
- Tragedy 1: A snow plow hit a pedestrian walking down the street in Montgomery County about 8 p.m. The man's injuries are described as significant but not life threatening. (Martin Weil)
- Tragedy 2: A family in New Jersey was trying to dig its way out when the chill became too much to handle. The mother and her children — ages 1 and 3 — huddled in the car with the engine running to keep warm. The kids' father tried to clear the snow outside. But the tailpipe was clogged with snow, pushing deadly carbon monoxide gas into the car. When the father went to check on them, he could not wake them up. (Lindsey Bever)
- Today's weather: "Our warming and melting trend picks up another notch as temperatures surge ahead of an approaching cold front," the Capital Weather Gang

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forecasts. “Partly to mostly cloudy skies with warmer morning temperatures allow highs to reach the mid-to-upper 40s. A slight chance of rain showers show up by late afternoon into evening."

-- Obama banned solitary confinement for juveniles in federal prisons, saying the practice is overused and has the potential for devastating psychological consequences. In an op-ed that appears in today's Post, the president outlines a series of executive actions that also prohibit federal corrections officials from punishing prisoners who commit "low-level infractions" with solitary confinement. "The new rules also call for expanding treatment for mentally ill prisoners," Juliet Eilperin scoops. "While the president’s reforms apply broadly to the roughly 10,000 federal inmates serving time in solitary confinement, there are only a handful of juvenile offenders placed in restrictive housing each year. Between September 2014 and September 2015, federal authorities were notified of just 13 juveniles who were put in solitary in its prisons." Read the op-ed here .

-- The creator of the anti-Planned Parenthood videos was indicted on felony charges. "A Houston grand jury that was investigating accusations of criminal misconduct against Planned Parenthood instead indicted the leader of an anti-abortion group that recorded covert videos of the organization’s employees," Danielle Paquette reports. "Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson said David Daleiden, the director of the Center for Medical Progress, faces a felony charge of tampering with a governmental record and a misdemeanor count related to buying human tissue. Sandra Merritt, one of Daleiden’s employees, was also indicted on a charge of tampering with a governmental record. The grand jury cleared Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast of any wrongdoing. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said, however, that the inspector general of the state’s Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas attorney general’s office would continue to investigate Planned Parenthood’s actions."

-- One week before Iowa, a brand new Washington Post/ABC News poll shows Donald Trump solidifying his national lead. “Republicans see Trump as the strongest candidate on major issues and by far the most electable in the large field of GOP hopefuls,” Dan Balz and Scott Clement write. The business mogul leads the national GOP field by 16 points, at 37 percent, with Ted Cruz placing 2nd, at 21 percent. Marco Rubio is in 3rd with 11 percent, followed by Ben Carson (7 percent) and Jeb Bush (5 percent). Trump’s supporters are more committed to him than those of his rivals, with 57 percent saying they will definitely vote for him (compared to 34 percent for all the other candidates). In a big shift, 6 of 10 Republicans see Trump as most likely to win the GOP nod, and The Donald leads among all demographic groups (including white evangelicals, though his strongest support comes from those with income under $50,000). Trump’s success appears bolstered by the

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finding that 9 in 10 GOPers say the country is seriously on the wrong track, and 8 in 10 are dissatisfied with the federal government. See the full results here .

-- The results are much closer in Iowa, where Trump leads Cruz by 2 points (31 to 29 percent) among likely Republican caucus-goers, according to new numbers released this morning by Quinnipiac University. Rubio places 3rd with 13 percent with no other candidate breaking 7 percent. The results are pretty much the same as the Q poll's Jan. 11 survey. Only 2 percent are undecided, though 39 percent of those who picked a candidate might change their minds.

-- The Democratic contest in the Hawkeye State is also narrowing. Clinton leads Sanders by 6 points (48 to 42 percent), down from 14 points in early December, according to a Fox News poll released last night. Bernie is gaining among men (a 2-point December edge grew is a 12-point advantage now), while Hillary is losing ground among those 45 and older and those with college degrees. Nationally , Clinton's numbers are also slipping, with 49 percent supporting her (down from 54 percent two weeks ago) compared to 37 percent for Sanders (also down, from 39 percent). Undecideds rose from 2 to 10 percent. The Fox News Poll says that the Clinton erosion comes partially from falling support among black voters, 67 percent of whom now back her (compared to 78 percent two weeks ago and 84 percent in December).

Welcome to The Daily 202, with contributions from Michael Smith. Sign up to receive the newsletter. Programming note: We are launching a new back-end system to prepare and publish this morning. It should not impact your user experience. But, if it does, please flag any issues to powerpost@washpost.com. Thank you for reading.

GET SMART FAST:

1. The Supreme Court ruled that teenagers sentenced to mandatory life sentences for murder must have a chance to argue for release. The ruling, which is retroactive, could affect as many as 1,500 inmates nationwide. (Robert Barnes)

2. SCOTUS also upheld a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rule that electricity generators hate. The 6-2 decision is a win for Obama and the environmentalists. (Robert Barnes)

3. New Hampshire has designated two judges to hear voter and ballot challenges during the Feb. 9 primary, when a new voter ID law goes into effect. (AP)

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4. At least 20 were killed when ISIS militants set off multiple bombs at a government-run security checkpoint in Homs, Syria. (AP)

5. The Taliban claimed responsibility after an Afghan policeman fatally shot 10 of his fellow officers in Kandahar before fleeing. (AP)

6. The U.N. will convene Syrian peace talks on Friday, but President Bashar al-Assad's government and his opponents will no longer meet face-to-face, which was part of the original plan. (Liz Sly)

7. John Kerry, meeting with Cambodian leaders, expressed concern over the government's record on human rights and corruption. The visit focused on trade and investment. (Carol Morello)

8. The owner of a gun shop and his son were killed during a shootout with two customers, who were injured in the gunfire, after an argument over a $25 fee. (Sarah Larimer)

9. Federal authorities are searching for three men who escaped from a maximum-security prison in Southern California. (Peter Holley)

10. Airbus is one of several companies already trying to sell products to Iran now that economic sanctions have been lifted. (New York Times)

11. The University of Missouri professor who called for "muscle" to push out student journalists trying to cover campus protests was charged with assault. (Susan Svrluga)

12. Indiana's economy lost as much as $60 million in 2015 when several organizations decided not to host events in Indianapolis because of the state's controversial religious liberty law. (AP)

13. Scientists found evidence of a masscare in Kenya 10,000 years ago, making it the oldest act of human warfare. (Reuters)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Sen. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) put a hold on President Obama's nominee to

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head the FDA because he wants the agency to do more about the abuse of opioid painkillers. (Brady Dennis)

2. Martin Shkreli, the ex-biotech executive facing fraud charges, got permission from a judge to travel to D.C. to testify on drug pricing before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Feb. 4. (Bloomberg)
3. Scott Walker listed his three-bedroom Wisconsin house for $338,000. He lives in the governor's manion, and tweeted that he's looking to "downsize" now that he and his wife are empty nesters. (Politico)
4. Zephyr Teachout, the protest candidate against Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) in the 2014 primary, is running to succeed retiring Republican Rep. Chris Gibson. (Poughkeepsie Journal)
5. George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, called Nikki Haley to congratulate her for her State of the Union response. (Charleston Post and Courier)
6. British explorer Henry Worsley, attempting the first unassisted solo crossing of Antarctica, died 71 days after starting his journey. He was within 30 miles of his target. (Brian Murphy)

MORE ON THE REPUBLICAN RACE--

CRUZ, SLIPPING, IS TRYING TO REGAIN HIS FOOTING IN IOWA AGAINST TRUMP:

1. His campaign spent yesterday describing him as "the underdog." (Robert Costa and Philip Rucker)
2. The Texas senator warned a group of pastors in a closed-door meeting that, "If Donald wins Iowa, he right now has a substantial lead in New Hampshire. If he went on to win New Hampshire as well there's a very good chance he could be unstoppable and be our nominee. And the next seven days in Iowa will determine whether or not that happens." (Katie Zezima)
3. The Cruz campaign launched an attack ad against Trump's "New York values." It includes an old clip of Trump saying that he is pro-choice across the board and saying "how stupid are the people of Iowa." (Watch here.)
4. A Cruz Super PAC launched three attack ads against Trump as part of a $2.5 million buy. One also highlights his past support for partial-birth abortion , using the same "Meet the Press" interview as in the campaign's ad. Another spot shows a clip of Trump praising Cruz in 2014. A third slams Trump for backing universal health care, or "Trumpcare."
5. A separate pro-Cruz PAC launched a radio ad in Iowa to defend his ethanol stance. (David Weigel)

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6. Marco Rubio attacked Cruz on Fox News for his law clients while in private practice. “When Ted Cruz had to choose as a lawyer, he was choosing to represent the Chinese," Rubio said. "He represented a Chinese company that stole secrets and a product from an American company. So you can't go around saying you're tough on China but then have a legal record in which you were paid a lot of money to defend the Chinese who had taken a product away from an American unjustly, unfairly and illegally.” (Watch here .)

THE DAILY TRUMP:

1. A top aide to Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), Stephen Miller, will join Trump’s campaign as a senior policy adviser. (Costa)

2. The former South Carolina Republican state representative who called Nikki Haley a “raghead,” Jake Knotts, endorsed Trump. (Philip Rucker)

3. Trump taunted Michael Bloomberg on CNN : "I'd beat him. … I would love him to do it actually. … You know, we used to be friends. I guess we're not friends anymore."

4. Donald Rumsfeld, a longtime adversary of Bush 41 but the Defense Secretary to Bush 43, said Jeb is not connecting because “there are some people that are uncomfortable with a dynasty.” Rumsfeld told the “Today ” show that Trump “has a touched a nerve in our country.”

KASICH RISING, CHRISTIE FADING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE:

1. The Boston Globe endorsed Kasich. The Boston Herald endorsed Christie.
2. Kasich is going all-in on the Granite State. After Thursday's Iowa debate, he will not leave New Hampshire until the primary. Another poll yesterday, from Franklin Pierce University, put the Ohio governor ahead of the rest of the establishment contenders in the state, with 12 percent. (Ed O'Keefe)
3. Christie's favorability has dropped from 53% last month to 41% now among New Hampshire Republicans, per CNN: "He has been crucified over the last few weeks," said Mike Dennehy, an unaffiliated Republican operative in the state. "It's a shame for Christie because he really did have momentum." Dennehy came home from work one night to two campaign mailers attacking Christie's record. He shrugged it off, walked inside and flipped on his Pandora. The first ad to interrupt his streaming music: an attack on Christie. He later grabbed his remote and flipped on the news. There

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were back-to-back ads targeting Christie. (CNN)

MORE ON THE DEMOCRATIC RACE:

1. South Carolina State Rep. Justin T. Bamberg, the lawyer for Walter Scott's family, switched his support from Clinton to Sanders. (Vanessa Williams)
2. Bill will fly to Iowa on Thursday for a four-city swing: Waverly, Mount Vernon, Washington and Ottumwa. (Abby Phillip)
3. Hillary's 2008 campaign manager, Patti Solis Doyle, considered quitting her post as an aide to the First Lady in 1998 during the Monica Lewinsky scandal but resolved to stay. "It was a s----y thing to do to her. But he did it. She didn't do it," Solis Doyle said in an interview with David Axelrod for his podcast. "I thought, she didn't do anything. He is the jerk here. And why would I punish her by quitting? … But what he did was absolutely unacceptable for many of the young women who were working on that staff." (CNN ; Podcast)
4. A super PAC founded by GOP megadonor Joe Ricketts, Ending Spending Action Fund, is launching a $600,000 TV buy in Iowa that calls Sanders "too liberal." The spot, first reported by the New York Times , is clearly aimed at helping boost Sanders over Clinton, highlighting his support for tuition-free college, single-payer health care and tax increases on the "super-rich."

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Too Liberal

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:



Chris Christie hands over his pen to Senate President Stephen Sweeney after signing legislation turning over control of Atlantic City's casino district to the state, in the unfinished lobby of the stalled Revel Casino in Feb.

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2011. (Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer)

-- Christie failed to arrest Atlantic City's deline in the latest episode of our Decider series. --> "Atlantic City's Mr. Fix-It, " by David Fahrenthold: "Christie chose to intervene aggressively in Atlantic City's troubles, believing that a better governor — and a little more government — could overcome its steep economic decline. So first, Christie had the state take over half of the city. But that wasn't enough. So he tried a new casino. But that wasn't enough. So he tried Internet betting. But that wasn't enough … Despite Christie's efforts, four of the 12 casinos shut down. About 7,000 jobs were lost. His intervention went so badly that the state legislature is considering whether to revoke Atlantic City's last best lifeline, its state-sanctioned monopoly on gambling. The mayor — a fellow Republican, exasperated with Christie — is considering municipal bankruptcy. Christie's decision to intervene here reflects his style of governing: Confident. Pugnacious. Braggadocious. And sometimes unwilling to acknowledge the limits of his power."

-- "How David Petraeus avoided felony charges and possible prison time, " by Adam Goldman: "The Justice Department has never discussed how it reached its decision to accept a plea on the lesser charge. But six current and former U.S. officials, as well as others familiar with the case, provided the first detailed look at the internal debates and wrangling with Petraeus's lawyers that took place before the retired four-star general entered his guilty plea ... As part of the agreement, Petraeus admitted that he improperly removed and retained highly sensitive information in eight personal notebooks that he gave to [Paula] Broadwell. The Justice Department said the information, if disclosed, could have caused 'exceptionally grave damage.' Officials said the notebooks contained code words for secret intelligence programs, the identities of covert officers, and information about war strategy and deliberative discussions with the National Security Council. The plea agreement left some in the Justice Department angry, particularly at the FBI, and some agents have argued privately that it will hamper future efforts to secure prison terms in leak cases. But others in the government defended the deal as the only viable conclusion to a case in which a successful prosecution on the more serious charges was far from certain. 'Nobody was going to be happy with the outcome,' a former Justice Department official said. 'There was nothing about this case that was typical.'"

-- "Booming health care costs and growing deficits create budget headache for Republicans," by Kelsey Snell: "Congressional Republicans have promised to include deep spending cuts in their upcoming budget proposals and new data showing rising federal health care costs and a looming deficit increase will likely add to conservatives hunger for big funding reductions. Federal health care costs are expected to jump to $936 billion in 2016, outpacing the $882 billion projected spending on Social Security, according

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to a report released Monday by the Congressional Budget Office. … Republicans will likely use the latest data from CBO to justify proposing deep spending cuts to mandatory spending programs, but GOP leaders could face some tough questions when it comes to how much to provide for the 12 annual spending bills both Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell want to move early this year. … Republican leaders agreed late last year to a deal that allows for $30 billion in new discretionary spending in fiscal 2017, an agreement that continues to rankle conservatives, particularly in the House."

Concepcion Picciotto, the protester who maintained a peace vigil outside the White House for more than three decades, a demonstration widely considered to be the longest-running act of political protest in U.S. history, died yesterday at a housing facility operated by N Street Village, a nonprofit that supports homeless women in Washington. She was believed to be 80. She had recently suffered a fall. Picciotto — a Spanish immigrant known to many as "Connie" or "Conchita" — was the primary guardian of the anti-nuclear-proliferation vigil stationed along Pennsylvania Avenue.



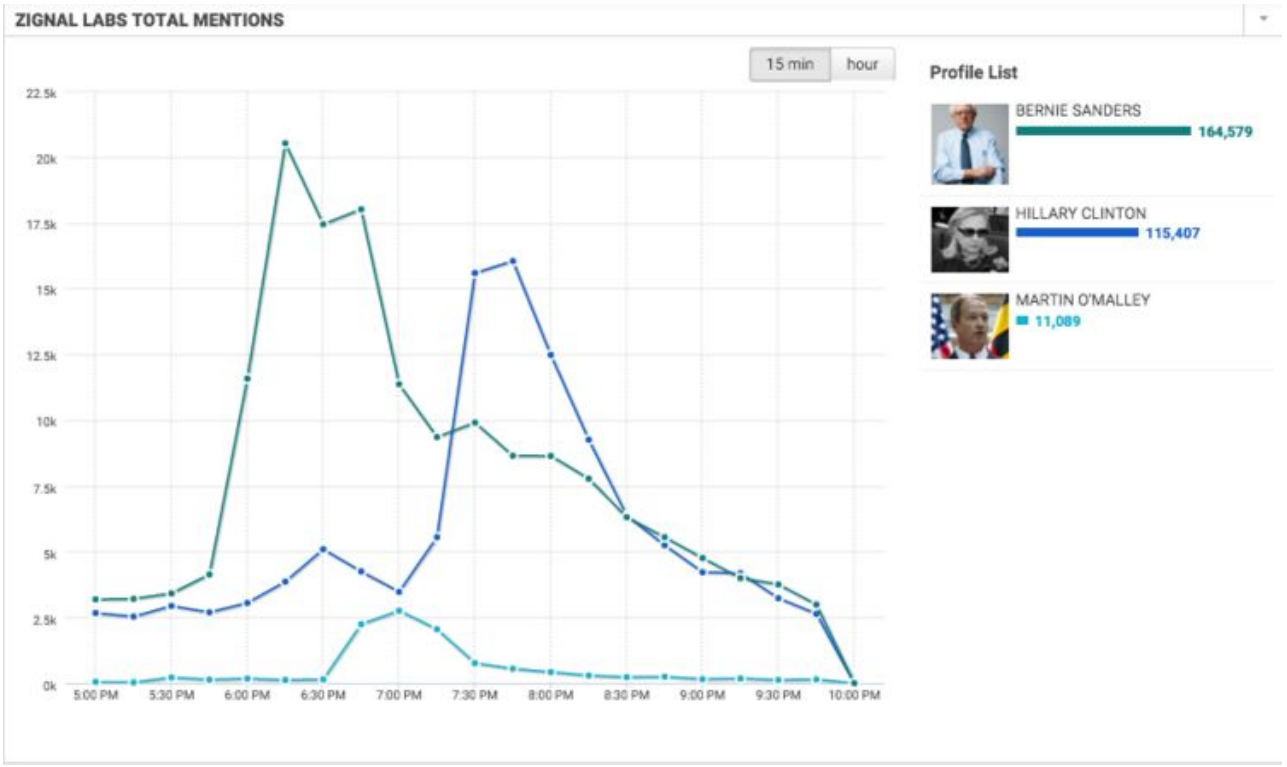
Picciotto in 2010 (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Sanders got more mentions online during last night's Democratic forum: Here's a total mentions chart during the event on CNN, via our analytics partners at Zignal Labs. Note how Sanders mentions spike during his time with

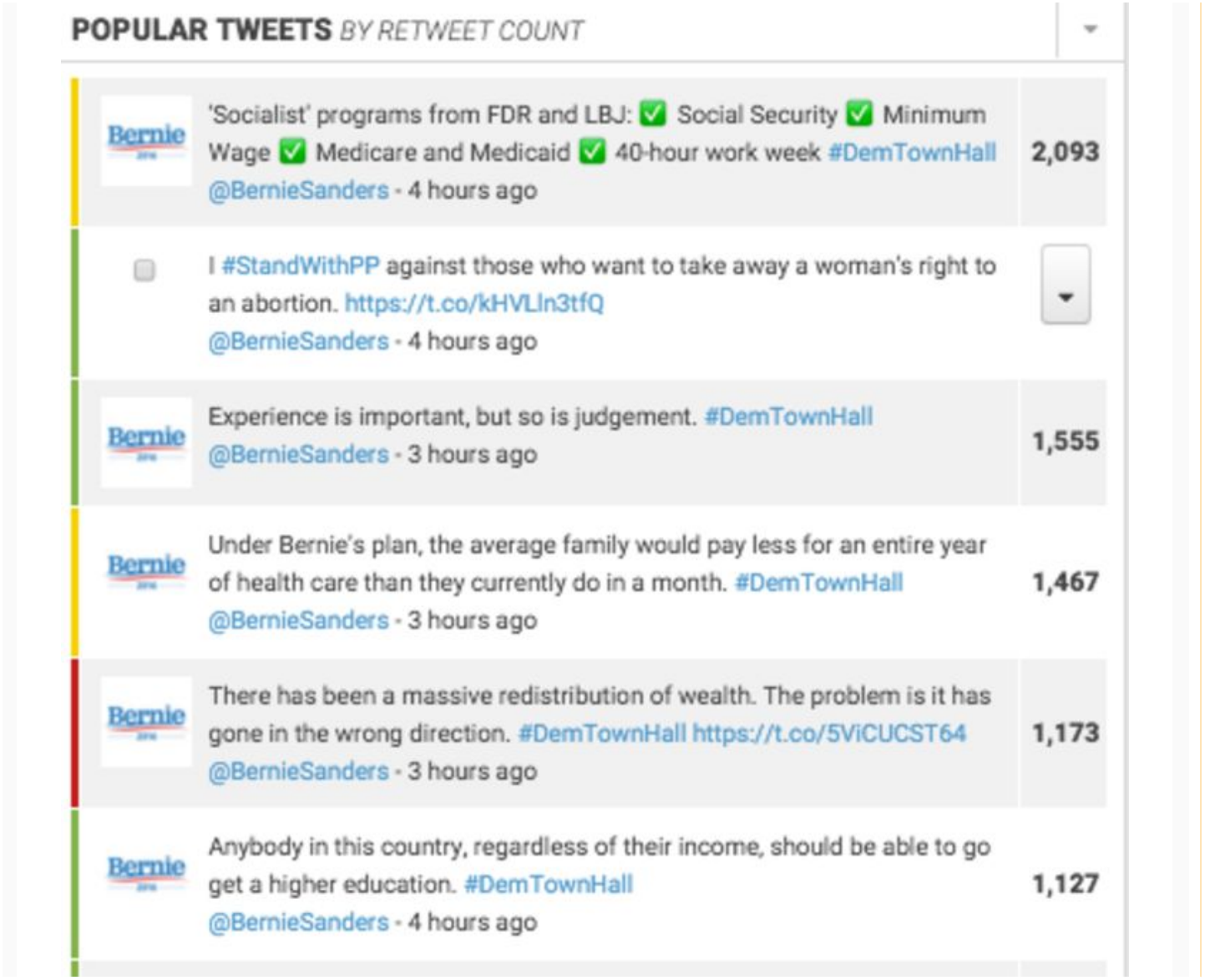
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Chris Cuomo, while Clinton's mentions did as well. The Sanders spike was bigger than the Clinton bounce:



Both candidates were able to drive their own coverage during the town hall, as these lists of their top tweets illustrate:

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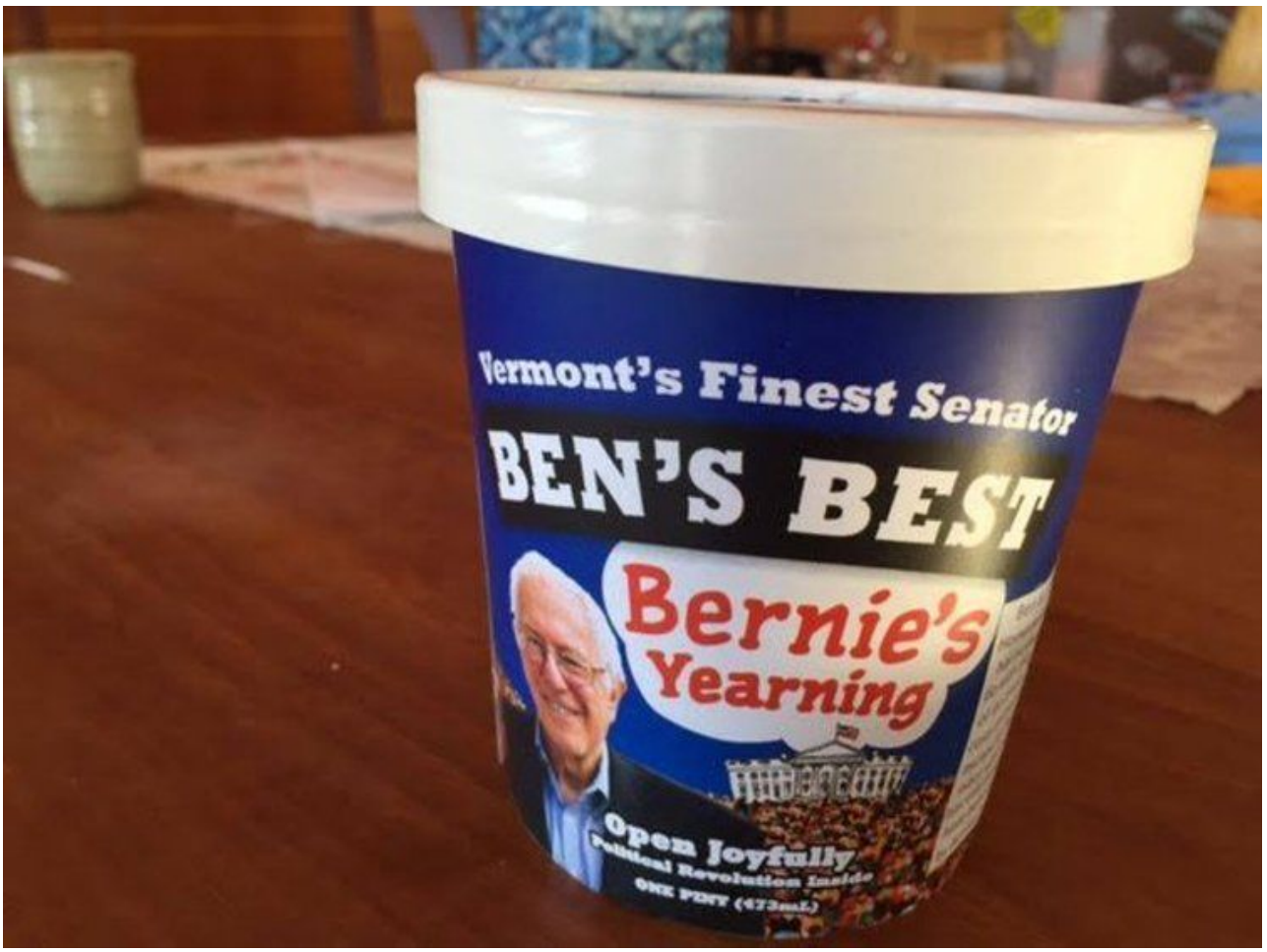
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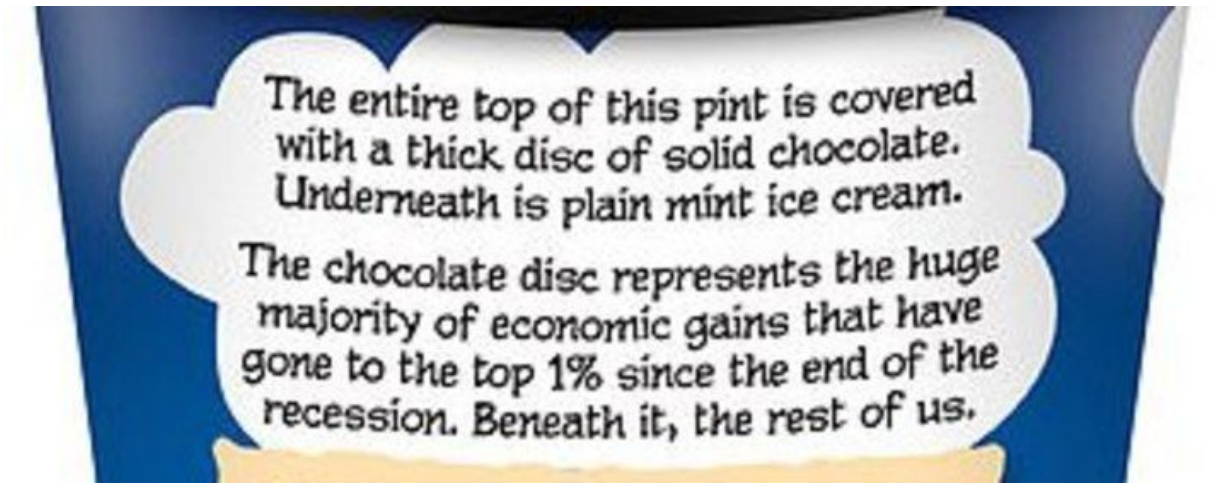
— Pictures of the day:

Ben Cohen, a co-founder of Ben & Jerry's, unveiled a new ice cream flavor in honor of Sanders. It's called "Bernie's Yearning":

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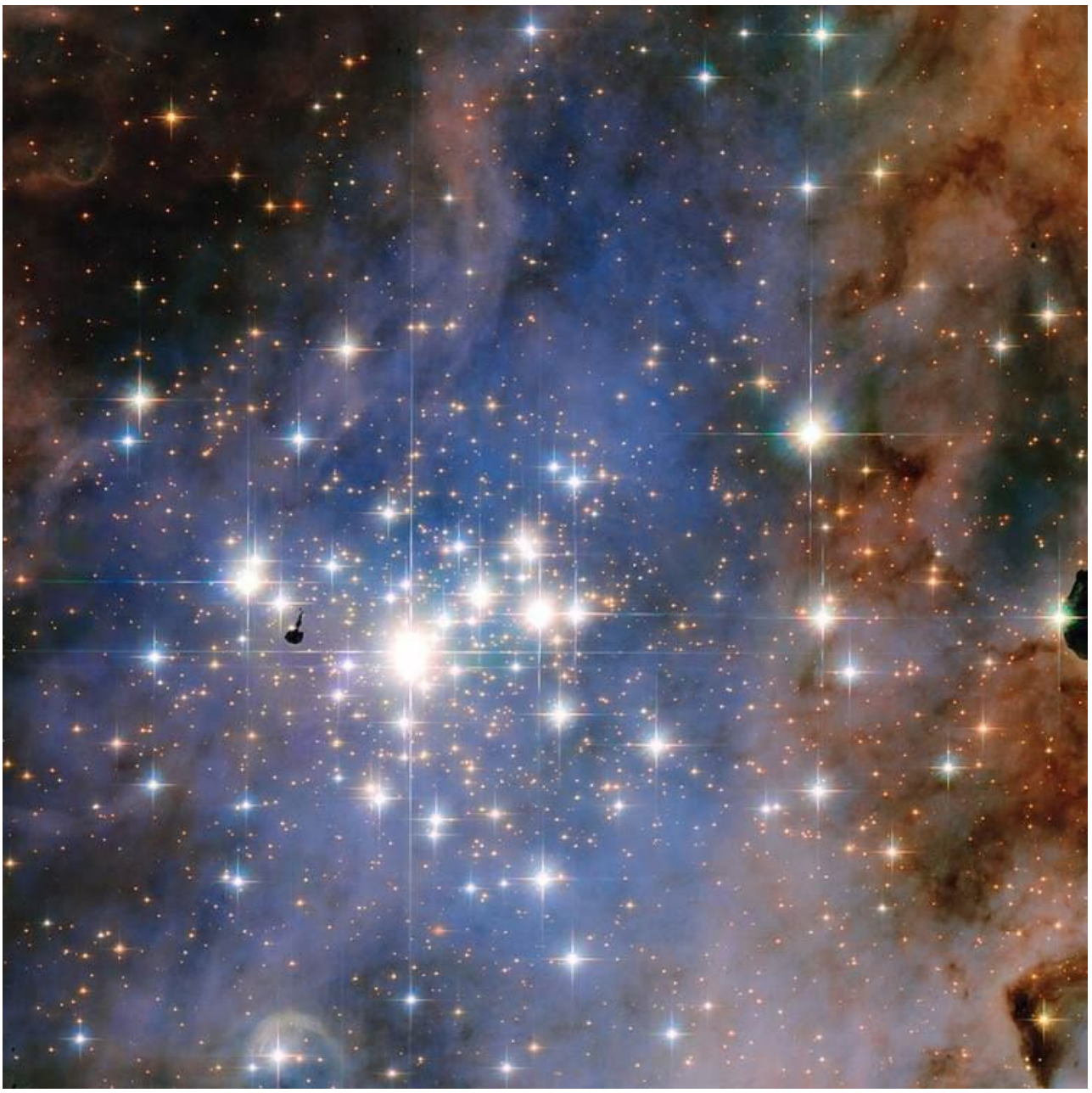


Here's the flavor description:



NASA released this photo of a star cluster known as Trumpler 14, calling it "one of the highest concetrations of massive, luminous stars in the entire Milky Way":

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House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) stopped at Randy's Donuts near Los Angeles on his way back home to Bakersfield, Calif.:

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NASA's Earth Observatory posted this photo of the D.C. region from space:

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One snow lover got creative using the wind on the National Mall:

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Mark Zuckerberg posted this photo in honor of his first day back at work after paternity leave. He asked, "What should I wear?":

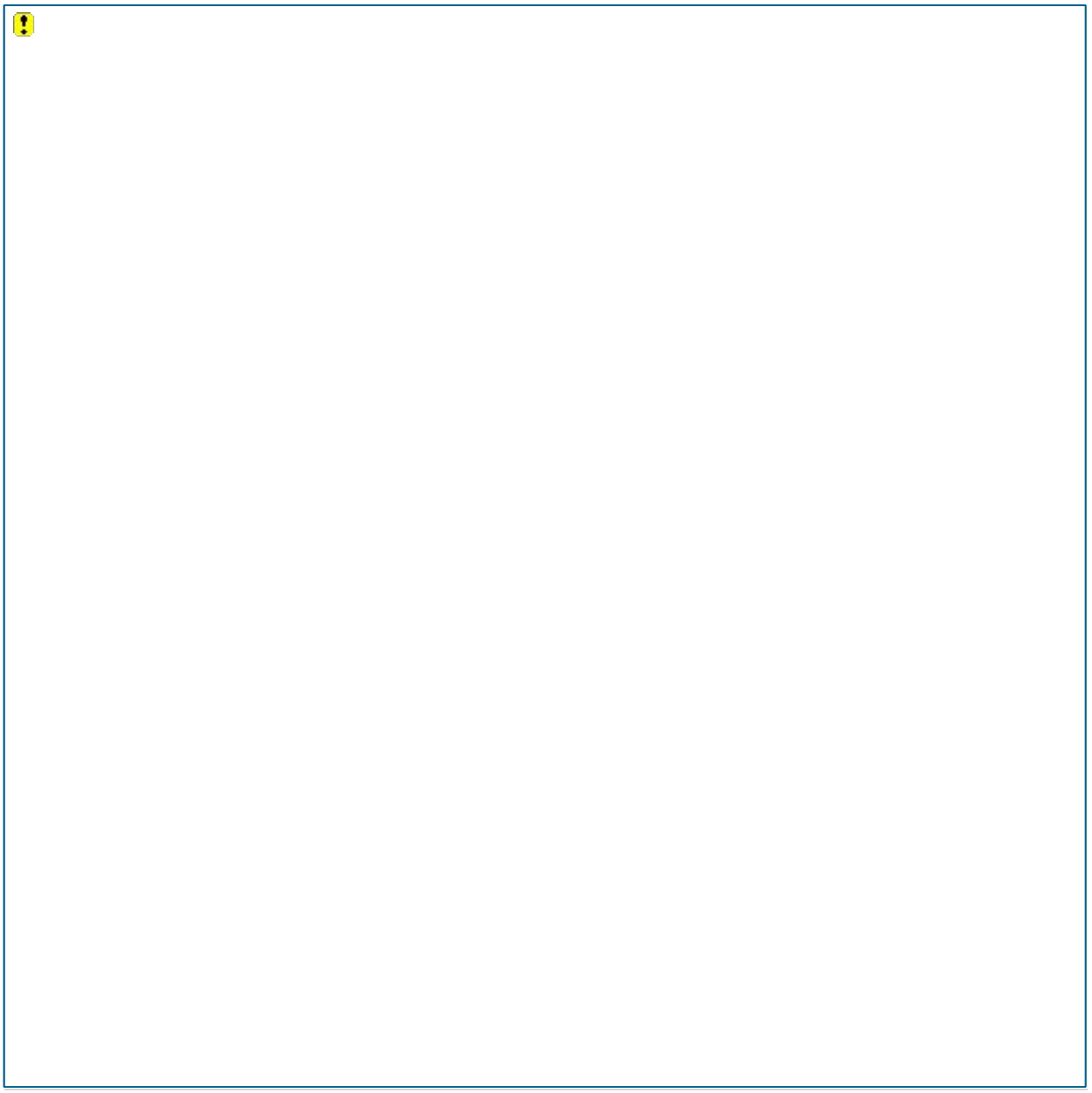
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— Tweets of the day:

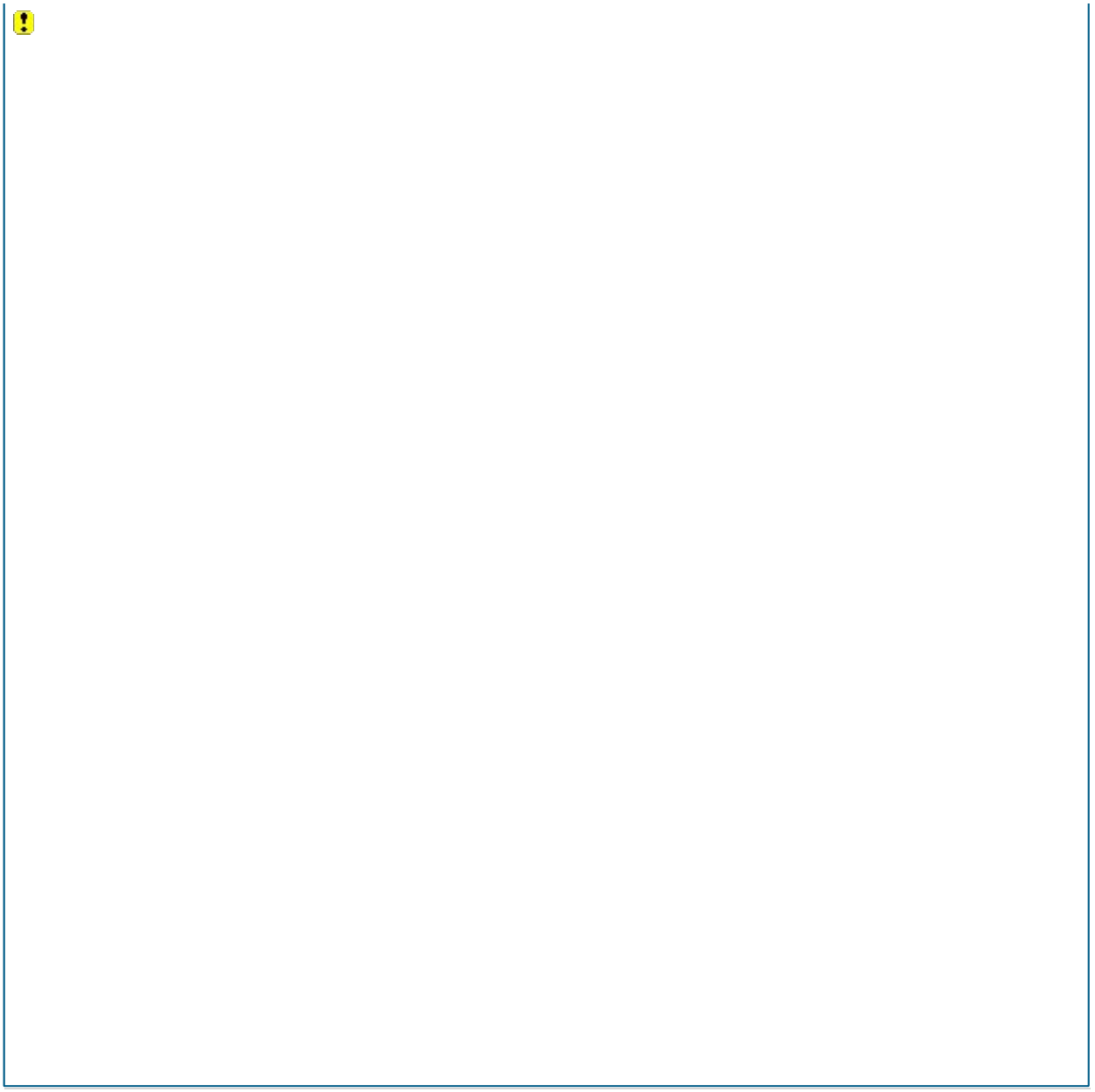
Watch out -- Hugh Hewitt might get creative with his outfit at the next debate:

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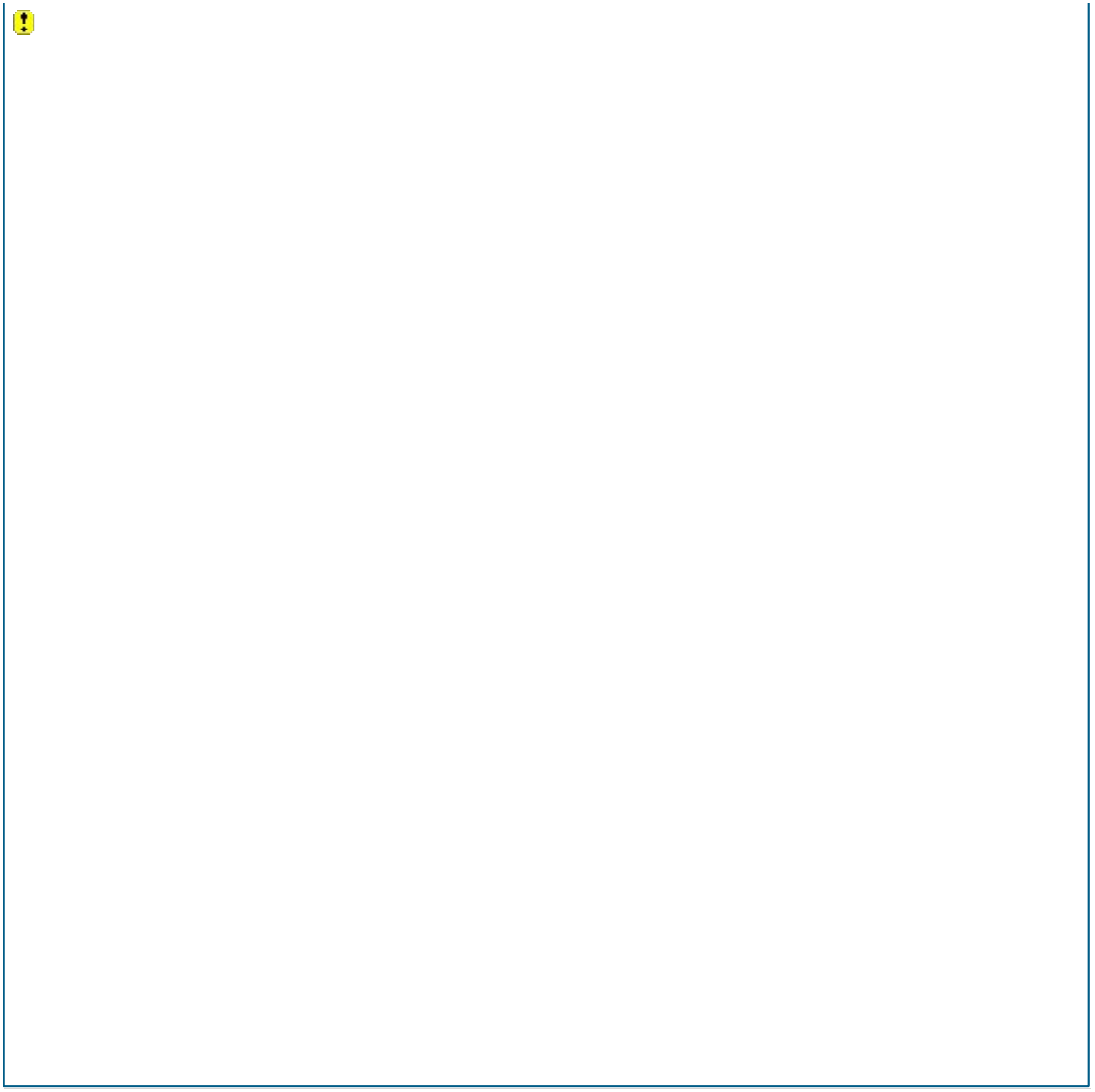
Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) was called for jury duty:

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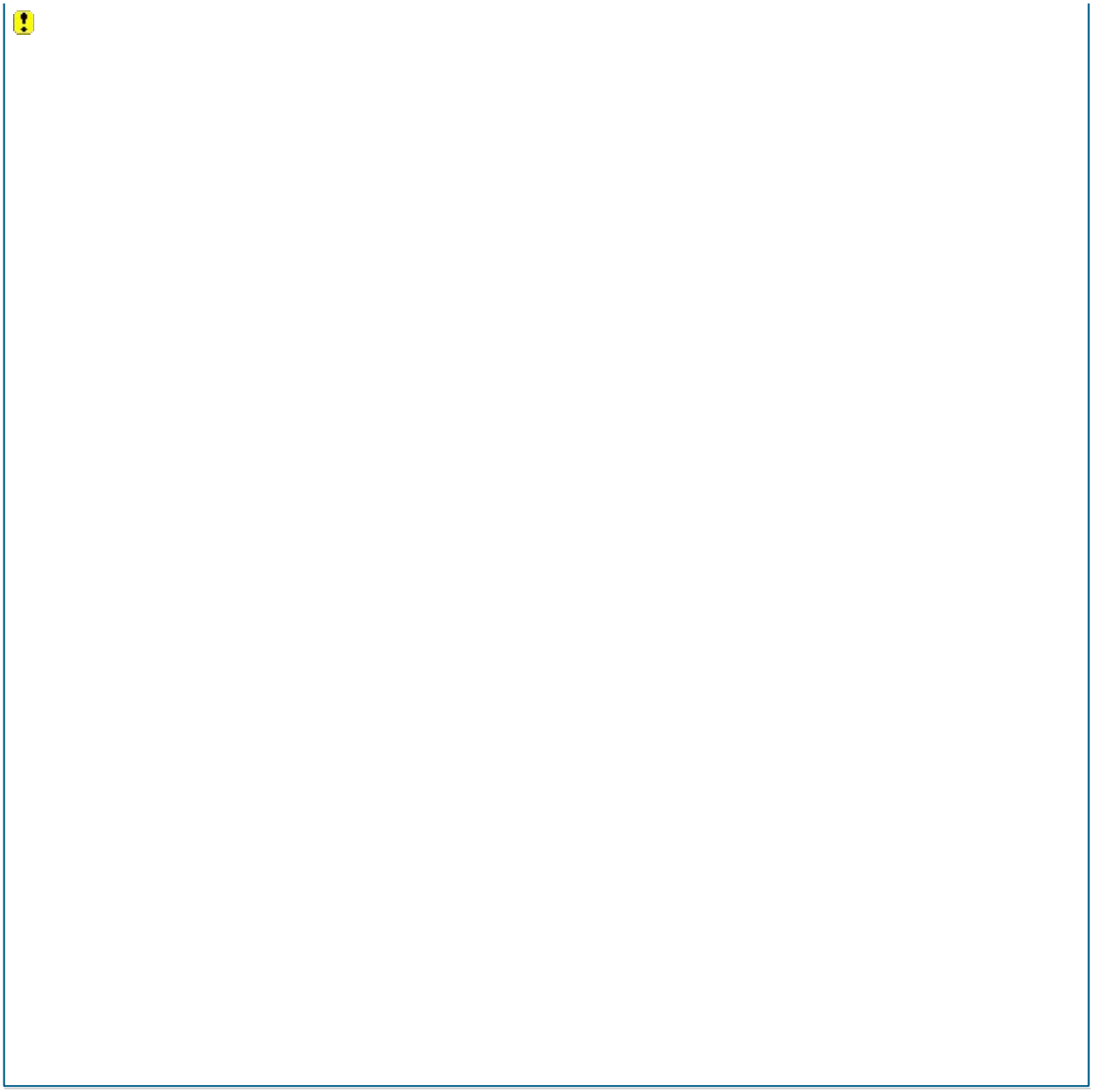
McCaskill live-tweeted the whole process:

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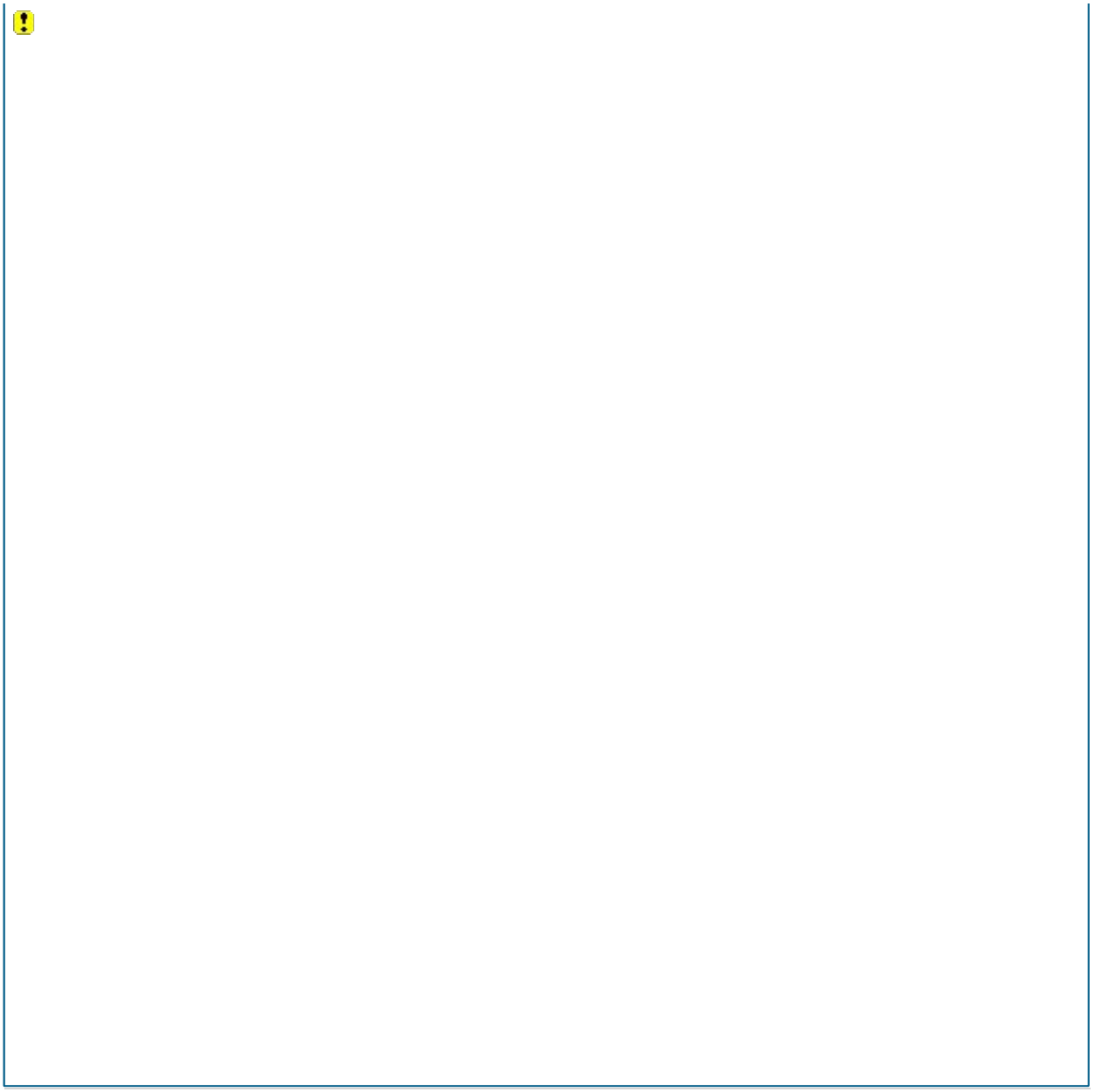
Her live-tweets captivated MSNBC's Rachel Maddow:

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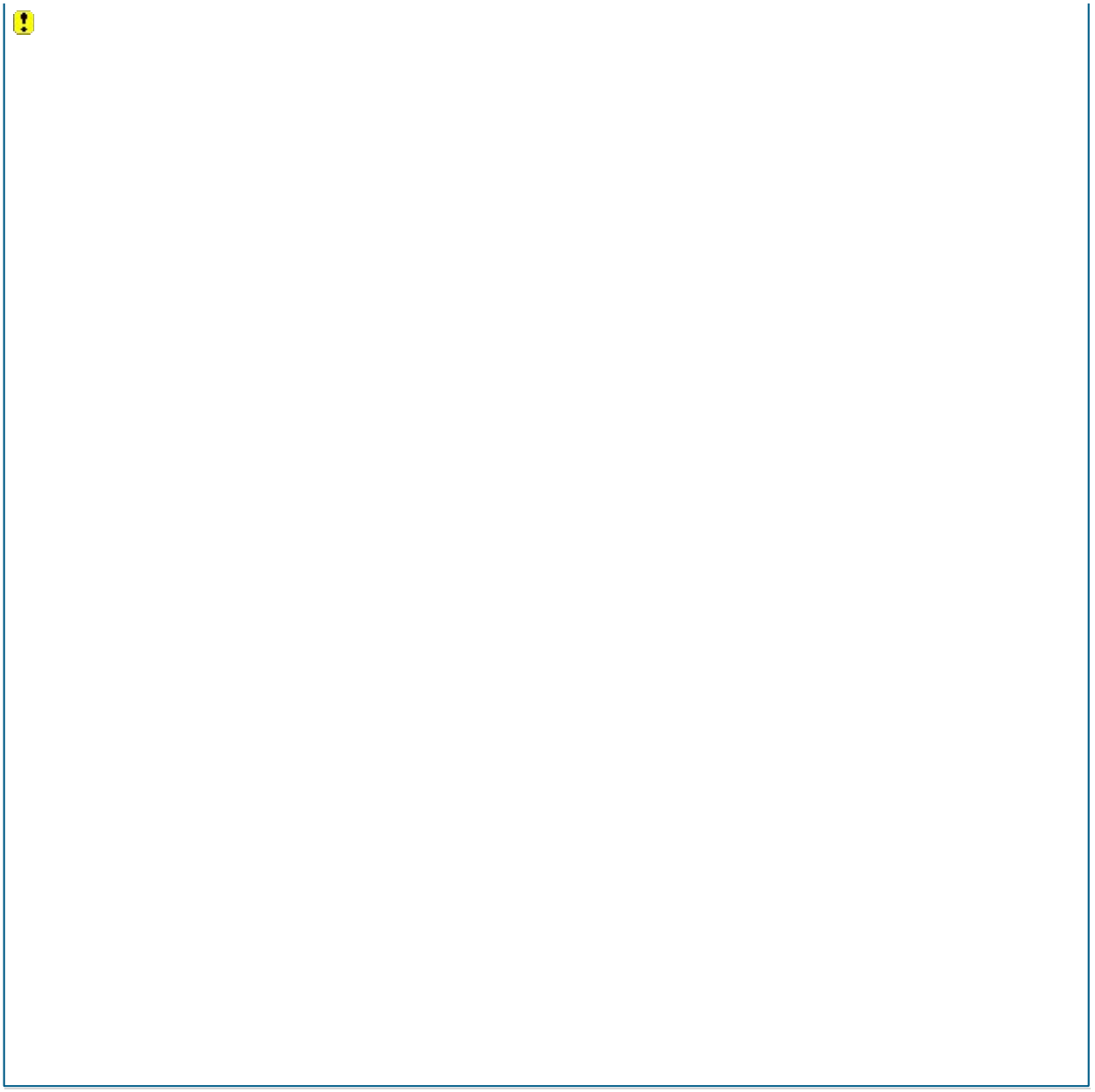
Trump is not letting go of the Cruz-was-born-in-Canada issue:

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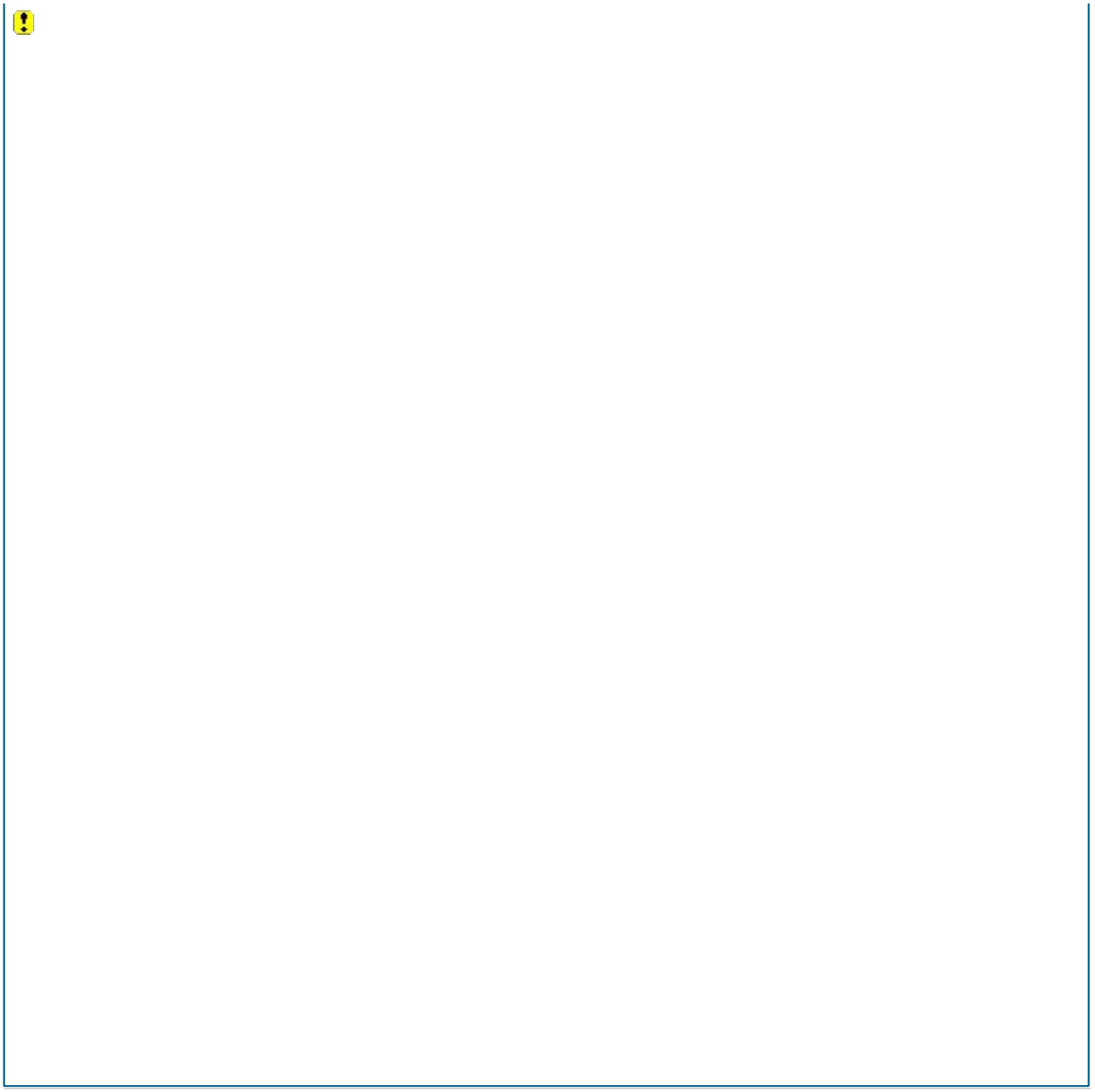
The Weekly Standard's Bill Kristol predicted a Cruz win in Iowa:

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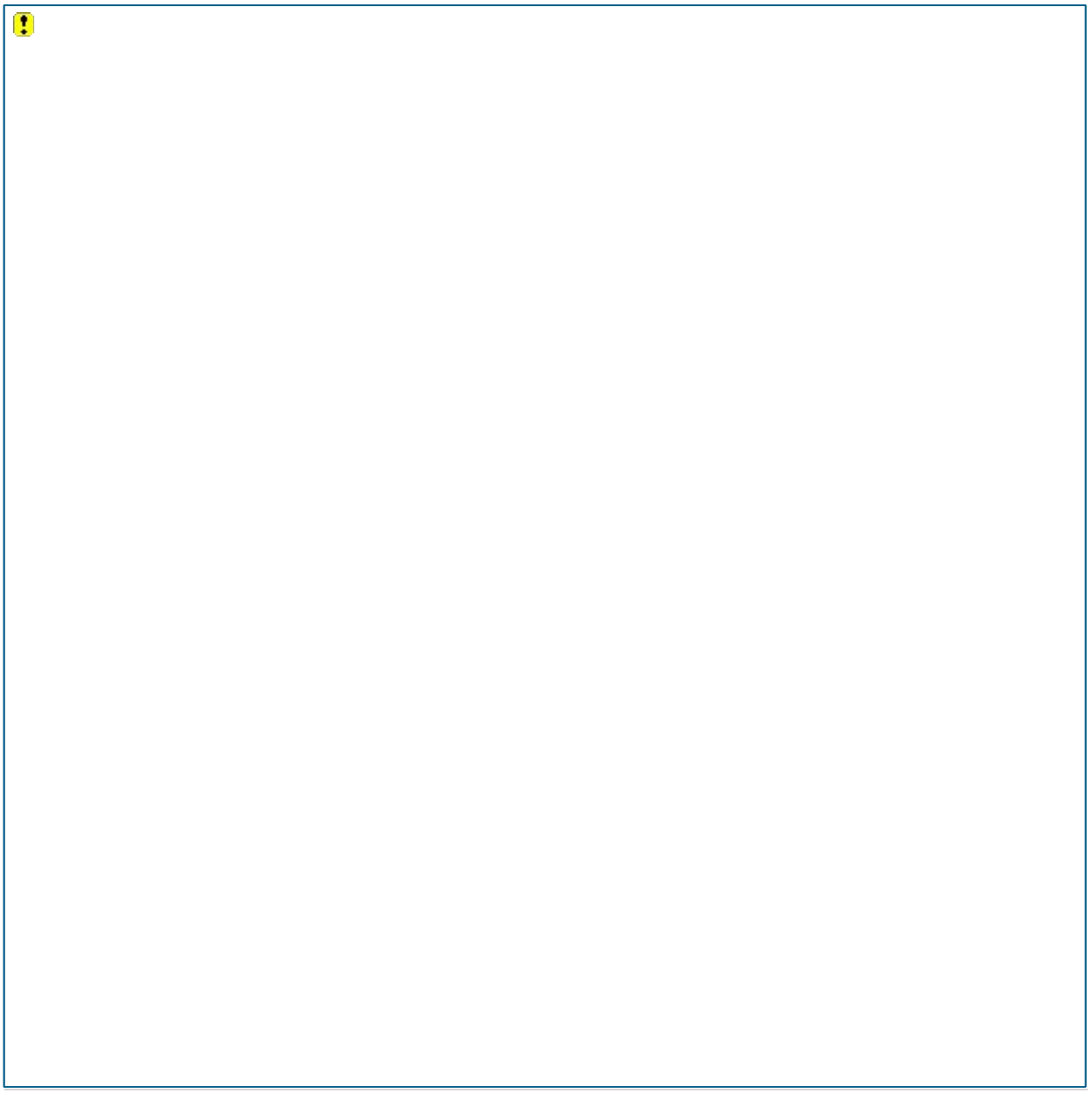
Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) is making his own final push for Cruz:

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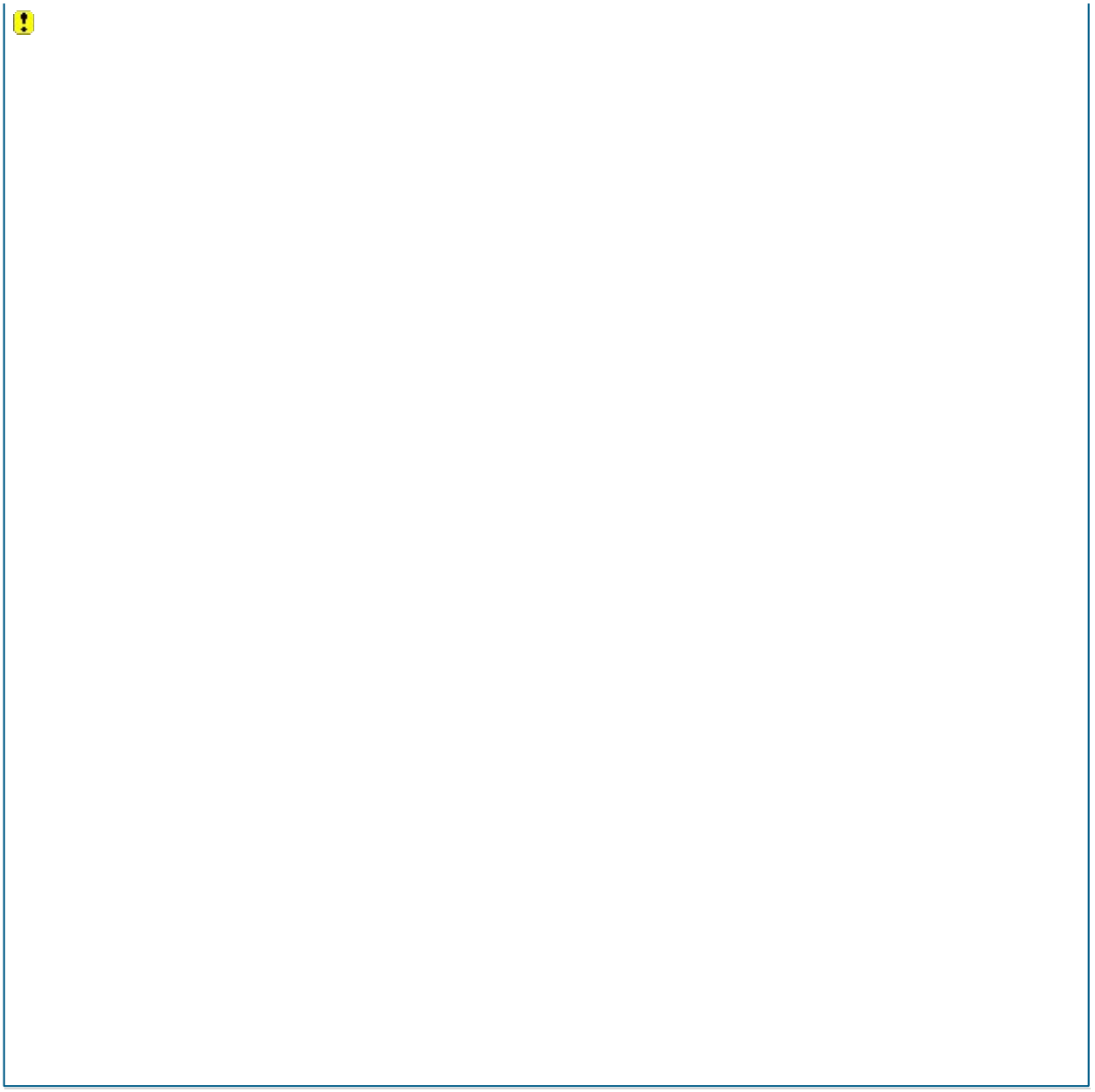
Liberal commentator David Sirota said he's observing a "freak out" on the left over Sanders vs. Clinton:

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Carly Fiorina's deputy campaign manager was pleased to snag a flight from DC to Iowa:

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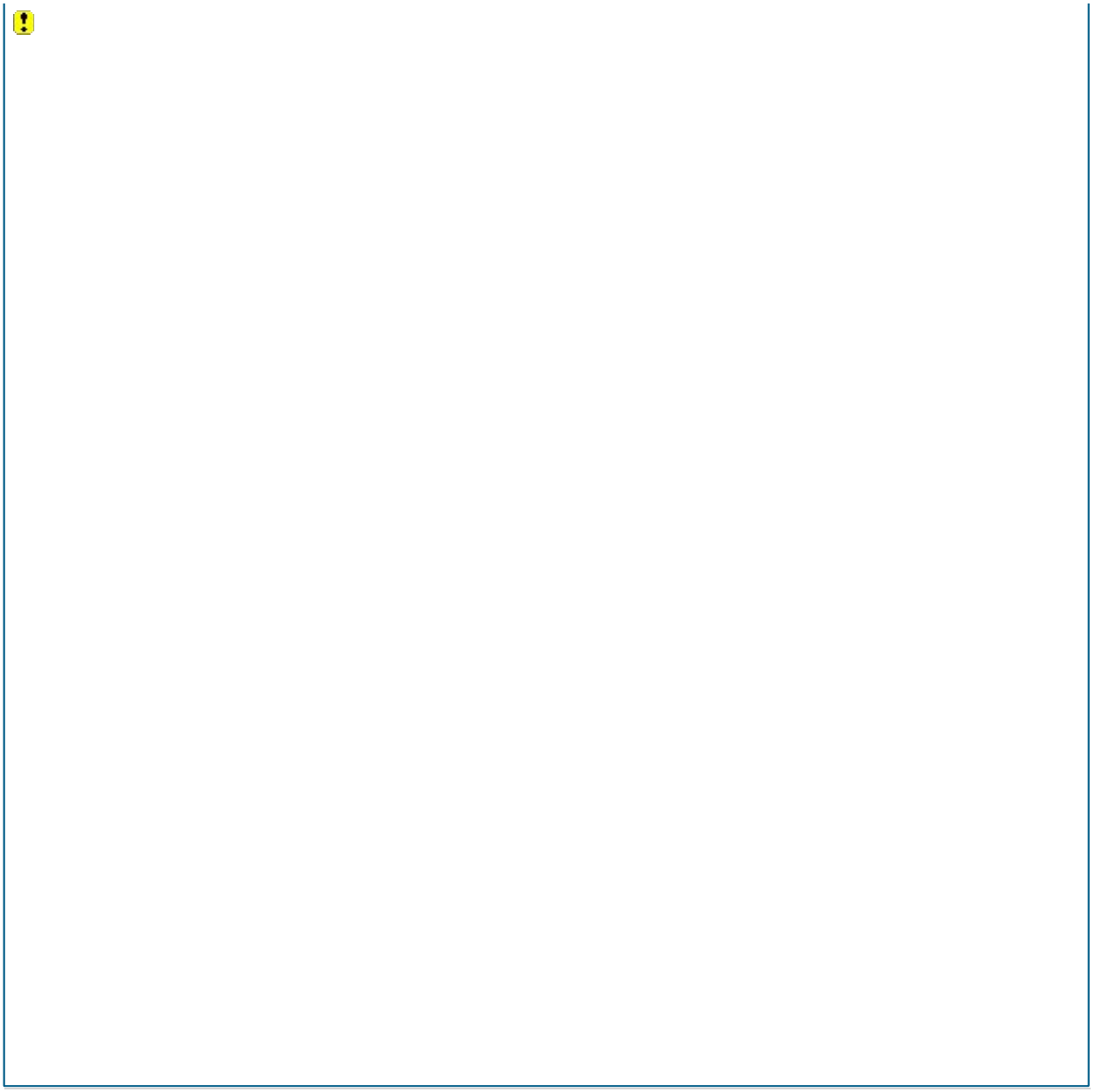


Jim Gilmore, what are you talking about?

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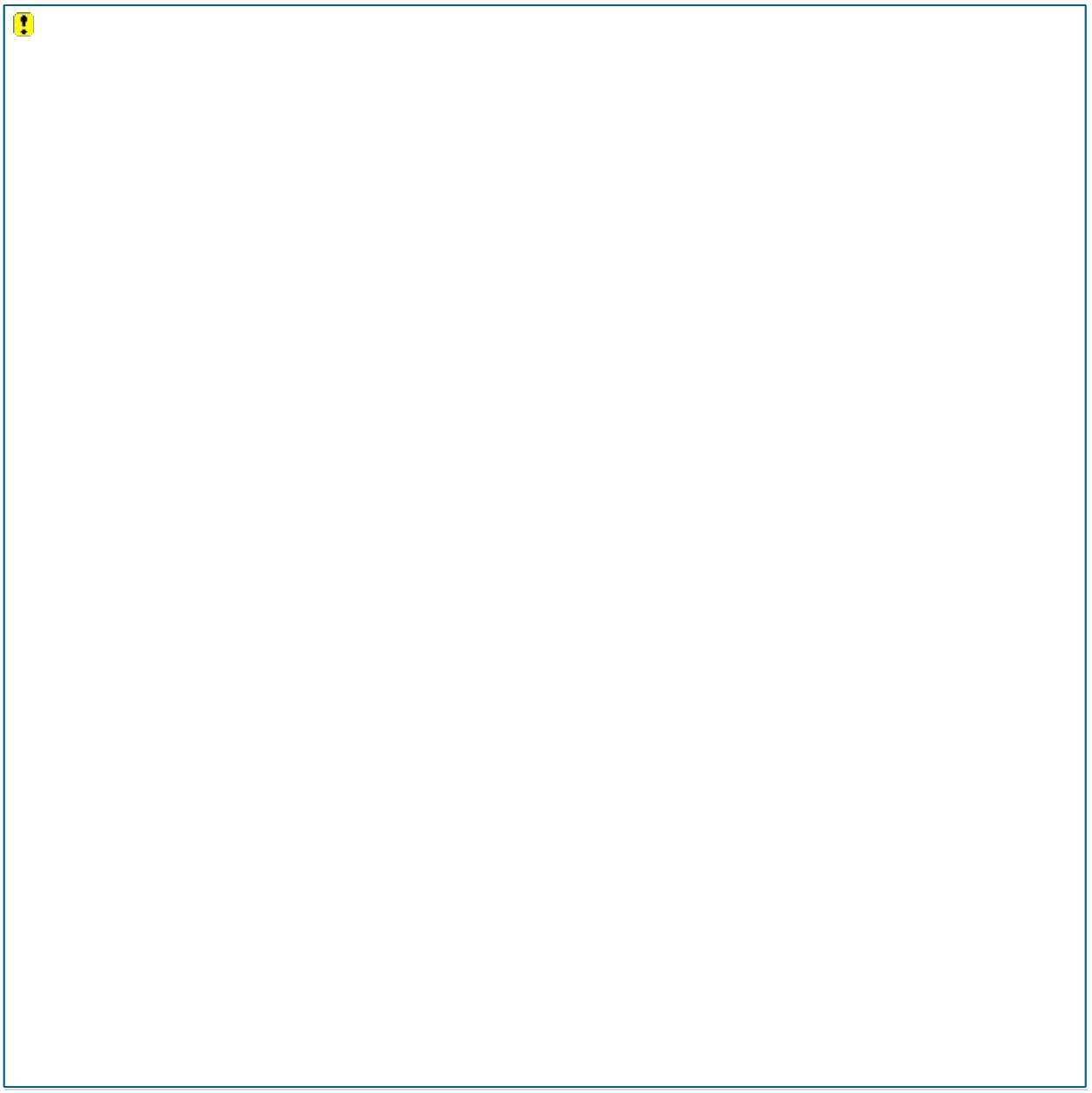
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— Instagrams of the day:

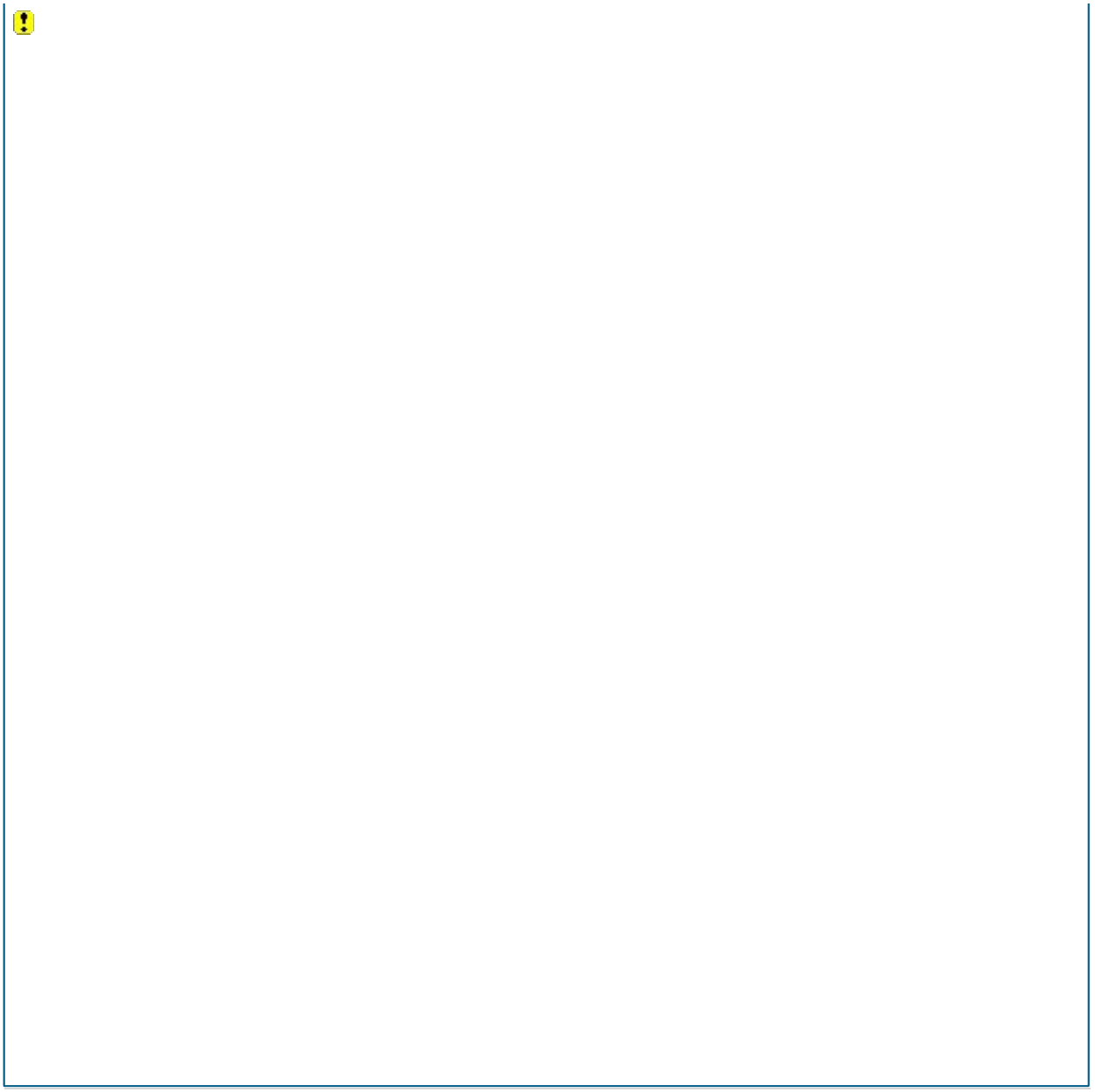
Barbra Streisand met with Surgeon General Vivek Murthy to talk about the risk of heart disease for women:

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Kasich got a haircut at Not So Plain Jane's in Manchester, N.H.:

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Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Minn.) sent two-dozen eggs down a luge and didn't break a single one (click for video):

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GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

-- New York Times, "Before rise as outsider, Ted Cruz played inside role in 2000 recount," by Matt Flegenheimer: "Mr. Cruz rarely invokes the 2000 race and recount. He has largely disavowed the comparatively moderate Bush wing of the Republican Party in pursuit of conservative ideological purity. Yet his initial venture into presidential politics is by turns a confirmation of and a complication for the professed Cruz image. The race installed Mr. Cruz as a creature of the Republican establishment — but also helped start his divorce from it. He made plenty of enemies among party operatives, according to interviews with over a dozen former colleagues, though for reasons that had little to do with ideology. ... By the end of five bleary-eyed weeks of hanging chads and butterfly ballots, Mr. Cruz had aggressively worked his legal connections, chafed when he felt sidelined by party veterans and — even in the view of some who disparage him — helped ensure Mr. Bush's victory in the courts, to a point. In fact, former colleagues say, the

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Ted Cruz of 2000 is entirely recognizable in the candidate now aspiring to the presidency himself, fusing hyper-intelligence, crackling ambition and a laundry list of impeccable insider credentials that he once ticked off more readily. 'He thought he should get the No. 1 policy job in the White House, and he was extremely ambitious,' said Ari Fleischer, Mr. Bush's former spokesman. 'In Ted's case in 2000, it backfired.'"

-- Hillary gives BuzzFeed an interview, "Clinton wants to talk to you about love and kindness," by Ruby Cramer: "Here is how Hillary Clinton sees herself: radically consistent, motivated by a core philosophy — voiced now through two words rarely associated with her. 'Love and kindness.' If this sounds unlikely, she knows it. For 50 years, she's struggled to explain the values that motivate her — in public life, as a candidate, as a person. The one time she really tried to, in the early 1990s, she was brutally mocked. In the view of some of her closest aides, Clinton never fully recovered from the critical backlash. … As Clinton sees it, she's really talking about a 'shorthand' for her personal and political beliefs, for all the impulses that shape what she does and how she does it. … Even if no one views her that way. Even if she's never been quite able to explain it. … Even if her earnest efforts to connect with people are hampered not just by her image, but by the actual barriers of public life. After so many years, how do you convince a nation full of people who think they know everything about you that they don't?"

-- Boston Globe, "Trump and Sanders lead the pack with big promises, " by Matt Viser and Annie Linskey: "Trump and Sanders have virtually nothing in common except for outsider status and pie-in-the-sky policy priorities, which they sell with highly charged emotional appeals targeted directly at voters' economic and social anxieties. Trump says he would build a wall along the Southern border, and make Mexico pay for it. ... He would temporarily ban Muslims from entering the United States ... He says he would force Apple to build all of its products in the United States ... In seeming disregard of US and global trade rules, he wants to slap a stiff, blanket tariff on imported Chinese goods. ... Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist, hews more closely to legal realities than Trump, but he still campaigns on an aspirational platform of political longshots. He vows to break up the big banks. He wants to give every student the option of going to college without paying for it. He envisions a health care system in which everyone is covered, including undocumented immigrants. He wants to mandate that employers pay for new parents to stay home with their babies for three months. While he says the United States should be more like Denmark, he neglects to mention that the Scandinavian country has a 55 percent income tax rate. The unrealistic nature of their promises is a startling feature of a 2016 campaign full of surprises, as candidates who once would have been dismissed as fringe play dominant roles."

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-- Politico, "State Dept. watchdog tied to earlier Clinton probe," by Josh Gerstein: "A lawyer overseeing investigations into Hillary Clinton's email practices has a history of tangling with the former first lady's political operation: He was a federal prosecutor involved in a probe that led, a decade ago, to the unsuccessful prosecution of a top Clinton fundraising aide. David Seide — now the acting senior adviser to the State Department inspector general — gathered evidence that surfaced in the case against David Rosen, the national finance director of Clinton's 2000 Senate bid. Seide's tie to the Rosen case is fueling concerns among Clinton's allies that various inquiries relating to her use of a private email server are being skewed against her. However, the inspector general's office denies any conflict and says Seide's connection to the earlier prosecution was a remote one."

-- Politico, "When Cruz Wanted to Be Part of the Establishment," by Shane Goldmacher and Daniel Lippman: "Five years ago, as Cruz plotted his path to the U.S. Senate, the anti-establishment crusader sought a private audience with and the backing of one of the faces of the modern GOP establishment: George W. Bush. In a never-before-reported meeting in Bush's Dallas office, Cruz began to outline his 2012 campaign playbook for the former president … Cruz explained how he would consolidate conservatives yearning for a political outsider, how he would outflank the front-runner on the right, how he would proudly carry the mantle of the ascendant tea party to victory over entrenched elites. … Bush cut Cruz off before he could finish. 'I guess you don't want my support,' Bush interrupted. 'Ted, what the hell do you think I am?'"

HOT ON THE LEFT

A Republican state representative in Tennessee stepped down as majority whip over inappropriate text messages to female colleagues. The Tennessean says many of his colleagues are now calling on him to resign altogether.

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Fox News said Trump is afraid of Megyn Kelly. From Politico: "Sooner or later Donald Trump, even if he's president, is going to have to learn that he doesn't get to pick the journalists — we're very surprised he's willing to show that much fear about being questioned by Megyn Kelly," a network spokesperson said.

DAYBOOK:

Six days from the caucuses, it's an Iowa heavy day on the trail.

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Hillary speaks in Decorah and Cedar Falls, before she heads to Marshalltown.

Trump, also in Iowa, will be in Marshalltown and Iowa City before holding a rally in Iowa City.

Sanders' bus tour goes to Des Moines.

Cruz holds events in Des Moines, Albia, Centreville, Bloomfield, Ottumwa, Fairfield and Keosauqua.

Rubio is in Pella, Oskaloosa, Marshalltown and West Des Moines.

Carson campaigns in Des Moines.

Kasich makes stops in New Boston, Rindge and Amherst, N.H.

Fiorina heads to Colfax, Iowa City and Mt. Pleasant.

Santorum campaigns in Williamsburg, Monticello, Dubuque, Anamosa, Cedar Rapids and Monroe, Iowa.

Huckabee goes to Ankeny, Newton, Pella and Indianola.

At the White House: President Obama and Vice President Biden will meet with Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid at 11:15 a.m. to discuss upcoming legislative priorities.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"The way that Hillary Clinton's been talked about in the media is so gendered and rabidly sexist in every single portrayal," said Lena Dunham, the star of "Girls" and a Clinton surrogate. "Whether it's the attacks on her personal life or the adjectives that are used to describe her clothing, we have to do a full reexamination. If we were allowed to talk about male candidates like that, I'd have a ... field day." (Variety)

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

-- The Boston Celtics clobbered the Wizards 116-91. (Jorge Castillo)

-- The co-owner of Bethesda-based Total Wine & More, David Trone, is seriously thinking about joining the crowded Democratic primary for Chris Van Hollen's House seat. (Bill Turque)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- A member of Terry McAuliffe's cabinet accepted an invitation from the Washington Redskins to watch a game in one of their luxury suites. Now Republicans are questioning whether McAuliffe and his administration have violated one of his executive orders that members of his cabinet cannot accept gifts worth more than $100. The boxes are valued at between $18,000 to $24,000. (Laura Vozzella)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

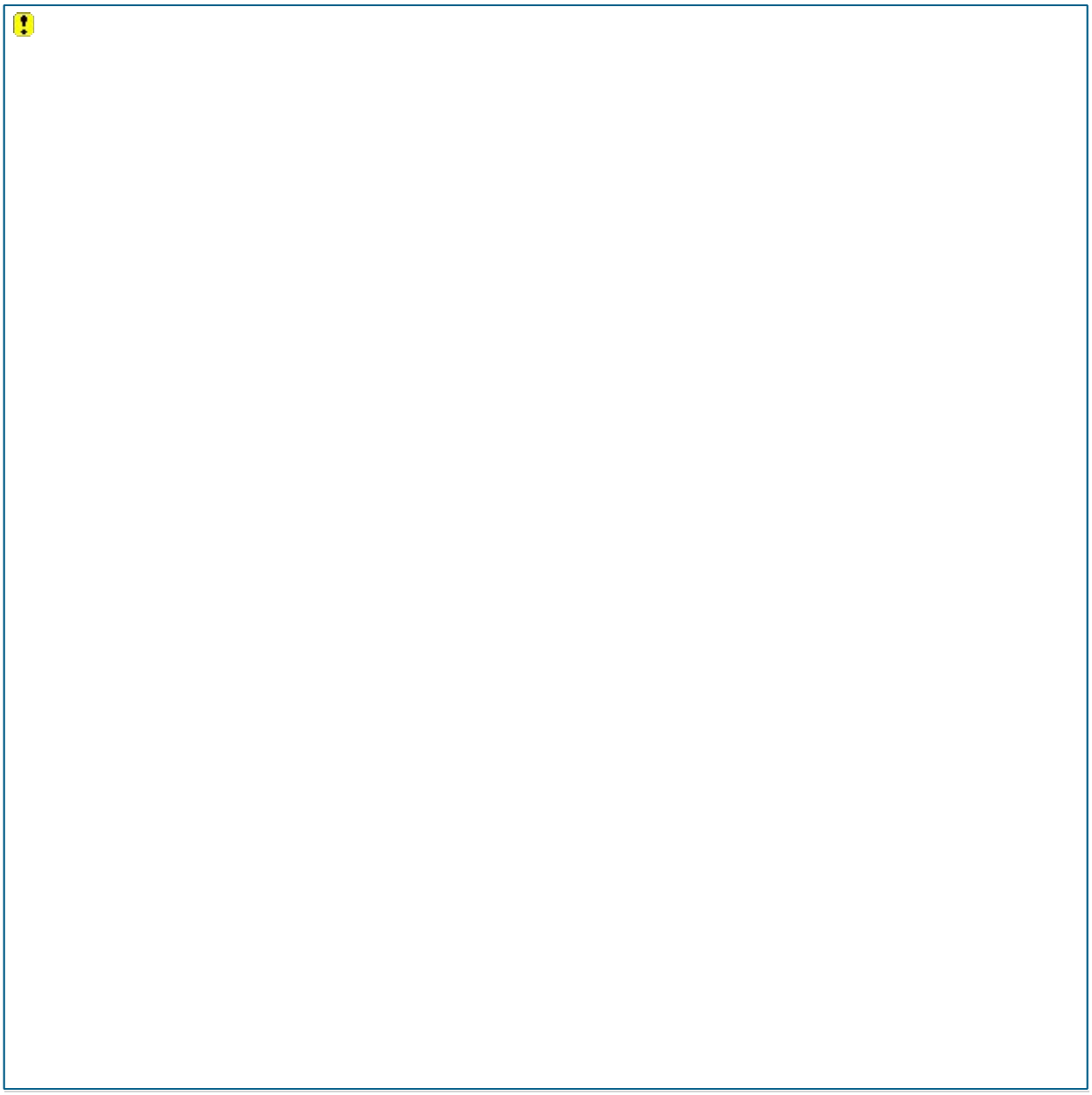
The bully is back. Christie hectored a young girl who asked him in New Hampshire why he was not back in New Jersey dealing with recovery from the storm. "It's already done," he said. "I don't know what you expect me to do. You want me to to go down there with a mop?"



Christie Chides Girl from NJ Who Asks Why He's Not There: "You Want Me to Go Down There with a Mop?"

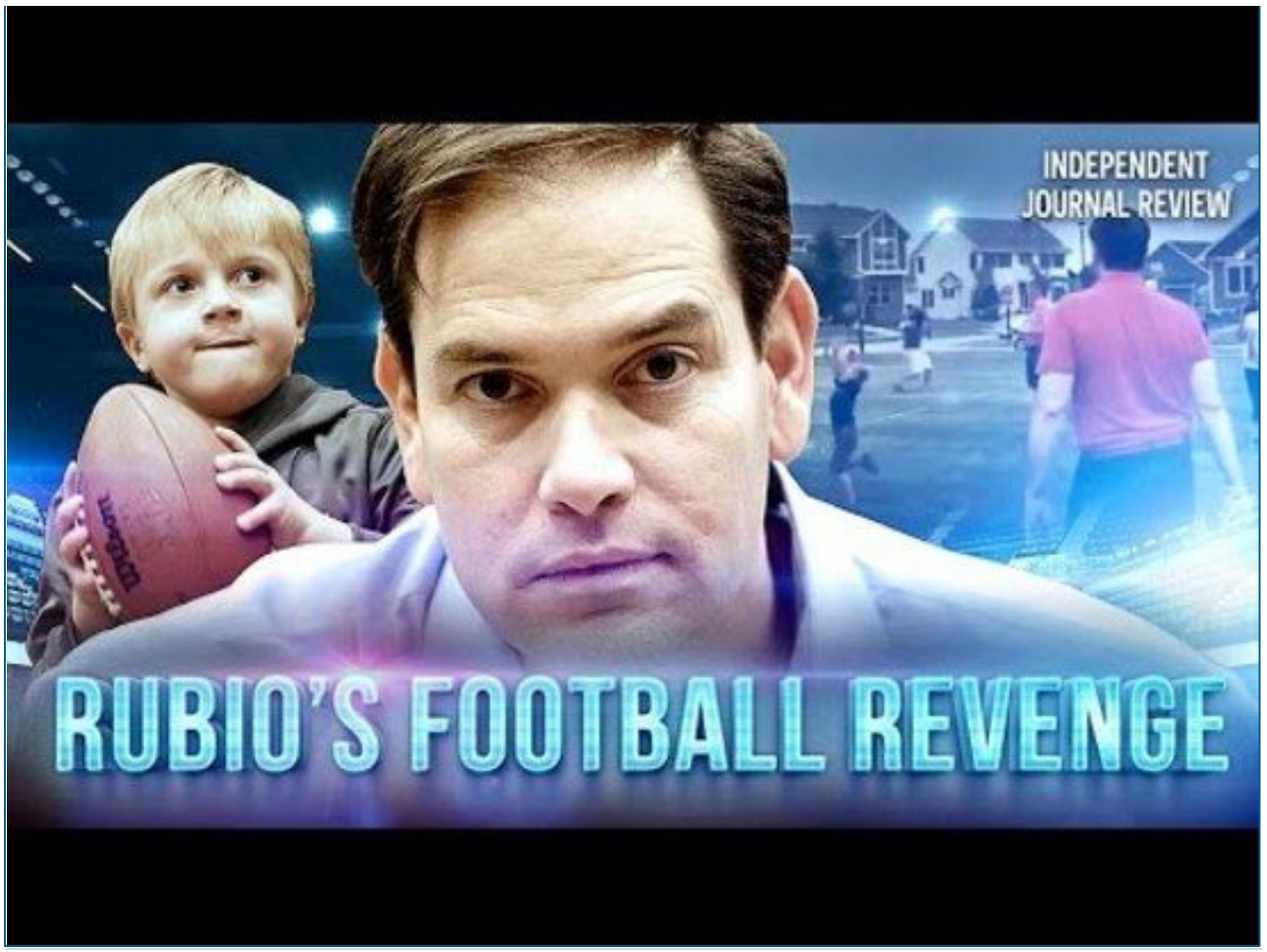
A better moment for the governor, as he explains why he is not attacking Trump:

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Marco Rubio loves throwing footballs (in the latest made-to-go-viral video from Independent Journal Review):

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How To Get Revenge With A Football by Marco Rubio

Tian Tian is still enjoying the snow at the National Zoo (click for video):

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Watch 36 hours of Snowzilla in 30 seconds, from the top of The Post's building:



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Timelapse: Watch 36 hours of ‘Snowzilla' in 30 seconds

At a Sanders rally, a woman choked up while describing how she survives on less than $10,000 a year:

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Woman at Sanders rally in Iowa chokes up

Hillary "walks it out."

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Hillary Walks It Out. #news

Watch a clip from Bryce Harper's moving speech as he accepted the NL MVP Award , via MLB.com, here .

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/8/2008 4:58:10 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/08/08

Main Topics: Oil contributions, bundlers, DHL and McLobbyist Rick Davis, Bush tax cuts, tire gauges,

Summary: Opening Olympic ceremonies are set to commence in Beijing. President Bush urges China to 'let the people say what they think' in a softer tone than his remarks from yesterday. Beijing officials detained US press members who had planned to cover President Bush's comments. *Washington Post* reports that a new study cautions against attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities. Bin Laden's former driver receives 5½-year sentence. Amtrak riders surge significantly, which has led to overcrowding and will likely slow expanded service. A confrontation between Georgian troops and separatists threatens to pull Russia into the fighting.

In response to McCain's 'Original Maverick' ad, the DNC released a new ad that points to McCain's drastic shift in persona and policy since 2000, with basically the same speakers from McCain's ad. President Clinton is slated to speak at this year's DNC convention as is Dick Cheney slated to speak at the RNC's. Raymond Geisel in prison for threatening to assassinate the democratic nominee and commander-in-chief.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: Adviser Nicole Wallace makes some questionable claims
   a. Obama receives more than McCain from big oil?
   b. Turns out he doesn't
2. McCain in Ohio
   a. WKRC CBS OH: Anchor notifies viewers of Davis' involvement with DHL
   b. WCPO ABC OH: Local man believes McCain is on his side on merger
3. MSNBC: Factcheck.com evaluates candidate claims on energy

Highlight No Clip:
1) MSNBC – JOE SCARBOROUGH [after he accidentally confuses the term *website* with *email*]: 'I'm John McCain here.'

Clips:
Highlight #1
Nicole Wallace Talks Campaign Contributions, Ads and Energy (MSNBC 08/08/08 7:17am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: [The bundler scandal] is sort of the equivalent of people in Northwest Florida having their hound dogs contribute to my campaigns. What's going on out there? Who are these strange people contributing to McCain's campaign?

NICOLE WALLACE: Wherever there's anything inappropriate, the flags are raised, the sirens go off and anything that is inappropriately raised is returned, but I think the money story of the week was the—

SCARBOROUGH: Hold on. That was inappropriate, though, right?

WALLACE: Sure and so corrections were made and any money that was inappropriate was returned.

SCARBOROUGH: What happened is a guy that bundled a lot of checks, sent it to McCain and there were some inappropriate checks in there.

WALLACE: I think it was a bundler's associate. So I think it was once removed from the bundler and I think—

SCARBOROUGH: From the bundler and he got checks from people who couldn't really afford to write those checks?

WALLACE: I think what we uncovered was that maybe they weren't whole-heartedly enthusiastic about John McCain's candidacy. So that raised red flags. The finance sirens went off and money was returned.

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SCARBOROUGH: So the money's been returned.

WALLACE: That's what I understand.

SCARBOROUGH: Okay. So now, let's segue. What do you think is the real campaign finance issue of the week?

WALLACE: The money story of the week is the day after Barack Obama launched his ad, John McCain, George Bush, blah, blah, blah, big oil—turns out Barack Obama has received more money from Exxon-Mobil and from oil than John McCain has. So even his attacks have, you know a—

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: Is that true?

WALLACE: —a suspension of reality. The Center for Responsive politics yesterday released some kind of fact check information about how it's actually Barack Obama who's—

SCARBOROUGH: Obama is getting more money from Exxon-Mobil?

WALLACE: —raised more money. It's on my Blackberry. I can forward it to you, but the point is—

SCARBOROUGH: We'll check with NBC.

WALLACE: —this is what gets lost in campaigns. It's not about who raises money from where. It's what are you going to do? Are you going to stand in the White House and do the difficult things and that's the big choice. It's great, this debate we've been having about energy. I think it's brought into focus a great choice between these two. We're not for entirely different things, we're just for more things, more things to make us energy independent.

SCARBOROUGH: We showed ads at the top. The McCain campaign showed democrats praising John McCain, but then democrats put out an ad that these same democrats, senators that have been favorable, were very, very critical. Are you all going to pull down the first ad now?

WALLACE: No. Certainly not. I think it's important for people to know that, over the years, John McCain has worked with democrats and we're in the heat of a political battle now. It's not surprise that they're going to, you know, pull back some of their high praise for John McCain, but he continues to feel warmly toward all of for them.

He continues believe that Senator Clinton broke every glass for women and I think he's proud of what she accomplished. He continues to feel very proud that Joe Lieberman is his partner in crime. They're in the senate making bipartisan compromise and getting things done. He's very proud of his relationships with democrats and republicans.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: But these, ads—Chris is giving me information on the money in a second—but the ads in response, though, were the same people saying negative things about John McCain. Is it a wash?

WALLACE: You know, voters are going to make that determination, but I think voters understand. They've watched John McCain in the senate. They've watched him work with democrats. They've watched him really earn the ire of the president and republicans in congress as he reached across the aisle and got things done for the American people.

WILLIE GEIST: They're checking on you right now.

WALLACE: Fact check. Here we go.

SCARBOROUGH: Obama actually received $345,410 from the oil and gas industry, not $400,000, which is how much Clinton received, but you know what, the bottom line is, the fact that we're talking about all the money that Barack Obama got from the oil industry, the fact we just corrected it, actually is not helpful to Barack Obama

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because we're talking about a guy who got a lot of money from the oil industry who he now wants to tax.

WALLACE: Right.

GEIST: Nicole, we watch these polls every day—

SCARBOROUGH: By the way, […] did McCain vote for the energy bill […] a couple of years ago?

WALLACE: The one that Barack Obama—the Bush–

SCARBOROUGH: Yeah, yeah.

WALLACE: No. Barack Obama voted for it. So Barack O—

SCARBOROUGH: Okay he voted for it. He supported—I could not understand it. I was actually angry—sorry to cut you off, but I was angry with republicans a couple of years ago for voting for that energy bill because it gave tax cuts to oil companies.

WALLACE: It was also all mucked up with a lot of giveaways to special interests and that's what—.

SCARBOROUGH: Why don't you criticize him for that?

WALLACE: Well, we have and we've made this point that Barack Obama—I should take a note here—but we made a point that Barack Obama supported the Bush-Cheney energy bill and John McCain voted against it.

SCARBORUGH: The […] reason I brought that up, Willie, 'cause remember, I always wondered why Hillary Clinton didn't attack Barack Obama because, again, my attack, […] I was angry because republicans—it was right after hurricane Katrina, gas prices spiked. We couldn't find gas. In the midst of this horrible crisis, republicans voted for tax cuts for oil companies and Obama supported those cuts and I didn't know whether McCain did—

[…]

BRZEZINSKI: What we are getting, NBC News, is that McCain is at the top of the list as of June 30th, receiving something like a million dollars from oil companies. I just—I don't know where you're getting your numbers, but—

WALLACE: He didn't get much from it in that he voted against the energy bill, the Bush-Cheney energy bill that Barack Obama supported.

BRZEZINSKI: But that's—

WALLACE: I stand by what I said and I'll forward over the source that I learned that from, but—

SCARBOROUGH: Which was what was what? The center…?

WALLACE: The Center for Responsive Politics, which I think is pretty reputable as a straight source.

SCARBOROUGH: All right. We'll clear that up. Energy bill, we cleared that up too. Obama supported for the [sic] '05 energy bill, which republicans pushed and I thought it was a horrific bill. Go ahead, Willie.

GEIST: Nicole, we look at these polls every day […].

WALLACE: We don't look at any of them.

GEIST: […] it seems to be holding steady, as in, Barack Obama's not getting any distance, but John McCain's not making up any distance either. What's it going to take? What's the break in this campaign? What are you

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guys looking for?

WALLACE: I think it will be neck and neck until the end. I think—I hope we will all be up late on election night and hopefully John McCain who is the underdog in this race and I believe will remain the underdog until end. This is a historically rotten climate for republicans. The fact that he's running so strong is a tribute to his character and his record of working with these democrats, who I understand, in the last 60 days in election, have to recoil from all the positive things they've said about him, but these are his friends.

He's worked with democrats. He's done the difficult things. I think, at the end of the day, that's what Americans want.

GEIST: What's the one issue […]?

WALLACE: Drill, baby, drill.

BRZEZINSKI: There's our sound bite.

SCARBOROUGH: All right. not exactly what he campaigned on before. Not exactly what Charlie Crist campaigned on before, but, boy, the climate has changed.

Morning Joe *Follows Up on Wallace's Oil Contributions Claim* (MSNBC 08/08/08 7:33am)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: […] we got this email in—

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: From the McCain camp.

SCARBOROUGH: […] and they're actually quoting MSNBC's First Read, and […] according to the Center for Responsive Politics, Obama's actually raised more money from Exxon, through June, the center writes, 'Exxon employees have given Obama $42, 100. McCain's $35,000. Chevron also favors Obama. Chevron has given Obama more money, but BP has given McCain more money.'

So the entire oil industry's given McCain more, but Exxon employees have given Barack Obama more.

BRZEZINSKI: See, I knew there was some disconnect in what Nicole and we were talking about. There was two ways of looking at it.

Highlight #2
Rick Davis Scores Some Local Coverage (WKRC CBS OH 08/07/08 11:02pm)
ANCHOR: […] Not everyone was excited to see Senator McCain in Liberty Township this afternoon. Several dozen protestors with Progress Ohio gathered outside the McCain fundraiser. The group waved flags and held up signs critical of McCain's energy and economic policies and his support for the war.

KIT ANDREWS: Earlier today Senator McCain called for a federal investigation of a plan that could cost thousands of jobs in Wilmington. German shipping giant, DHL wants UPS to handle its domestic airfreight instead of having it go through its Wilmington air hub.

After meeting with residents and elected officials privately, McCain said the Justice Department should look into anti-trust issues. McCain's campaign manager, Rick Davis was among the lobbyist who helped DHL acquire the Wilmington hub in from Airborne Express in 2003.

McCain Assuages Local Worries over His Opposition to DHL-UPS Merger (WCPO ABC OH 08/07/08 11:01pm)
JAY WARREN: […] Senator McCain expressed concern today about the proposed merger between DHL and UPS and, after meeting there with employees in Wilmington, he then traveled to Liberty Township to visit the very people who helped secure Ohio for President Bush in 2004.

[Jeers from a crowd of demonstrators]

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As the Straight Talk Express rolled into the Four Bridges Country Club, it was met both by protesters and a few supporters. Kristi Bown says McCain has her vote.

KRISTI BOWEN: I believe McCain has the knowledge, the experience and I believe he could be a good leader.

WARREN: Lillian Townsend, however, explained why he won't be getting hers.

LILLIAN TOWNSEND: Because I want more for the people of the United States and I feel, with all of us together, we can make a stand. We can do this.'

WARREN: Supporters paid a minimum of $250 for a chance to hear the Arizona senator. Republican voters in Butler and Warren counties hope to do for McCain what they did for President Bush in 2004.

[…]

Earlier today McCain spoke with DHL workers who stand to lose their jobs if the company merges with UPS.

JOHN MCCAIN: Should this happen DHL will cede significant elements of control over cost and service quality to one of its chief competitors this raises serious concerns that consumers all over America would suffer in terms of cost and quality in the services provided."

WARREN: He was persuaded to meet after a tearful request in July.

MCCAIN: I'm a strong supporter of our anti-trust laws and I believe they should be vigorously enforced. I fully support a federal anti-trust review of the case.

WARREN: If the deal goes through, a plan, he says, needs to be in place to take care of 8k plus workers who would lose their jobs.

JOSEPFH TEUCHERT: After this meeting I believe now he is one hundred percent against this Deutche post DHL-UPS merger and he will do everything in his power to stop this merger.

WARREN: Meanwhile back at the fundraiser Jack Kuntz and Steve Burns were hoping to give Senator McCain a ride in their electric car called the Amp. The Amp is a retro-fitted Saturn, they say, built right here in Cincinnati. They're answering McCain's call for providing electric vehicles.

[…]

WARREN: Now we checked McCain's campaign calendar and it seems like the senator will not compete with the Olympics and he'll get out of the spotlight, at least, for the moment. He doesn't have anything booked, at least, right now until the Republican Convention in September.

Highlight #3
Politifact's Bill Adair Labels McCain's Stance on Bush Tax Cuts a Full Flop and Legitimizes Obama's Tire Pressure Comments (MSNBC 08/08/08 06:42am)
WILLIE GEIST: There's been a lot of discussion about McCain's position on the Bush tax cuts; we've talked a lot about this. In a December interview he gave his reasons for supporting a measure to make the cuts permanent. Take a listen and then tell us where this lands on the flip-o-meter.

[Clip of McCain]
JOHN MCCAIN: "Spending went completely out of control. It's still out of control. Wasteful pork barrel and earmark spending is a disgrace and it cause us to alienate our Republican base. So these tax cuts need to be made permanent, otherwise they would have the effect of tax increases.

GEIST: Alright Bill, is he flipping on the Bush tax cut?

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BILL ADAIR: He is. We gave that a full flop. [...] That was a full flop. You know you go back to 2001 and 2003 and McCain voted against them. Made a point of saying that they didn't do enough for the middle class and that he was concerned about the price of the Iraq war. And then in 06' he voted in favor of them and still supports extending them so they would be permanent. A very clear full flop on the flip-O-meter.

HAROLD FORD: Now remember those ads where Democrats are praising him, a lot of it was based on his position on these various issues.

[...]

MIKA BREZEZINSKI: Gas tax holiday, puh-leeze.

GEIST: A lot of talk about the tire inflation campaign. [...] Here it is, tire gauge inflation. John McCain made fun of Barack Obama about this. Last Wednesday in a town hall, Barack Obama told the audience that American's could save as much gas by simply inflating our tires as we could by drilling offshore. McCain campaign bounced immediately on the statement. After the clip, tell us where Senator Obama's comments register on the truth-o-meter.

BARACK OBAMA: "There are things that you can do individually though to save energy, making sure your tires are properly inflated, simple things. But we could save all the oil that they talking about getting off drilling if we just inflate our tires. And getting regular tune-ups, you could save as much.

GEIST: Bill Adair, true or false?

ADAIR: We gave that one a true on the truth-O-meter. It's important to look at the way he said it. [...] In this particular statement, the way he said it, we interpret it to mean that he's referring to new drilling. And when you do the math and you look at it, indeed if everyone where to fully inflate their tires you would save more gasoline than we would get from the new drilling in offshore areas.

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Fariba Yassaee" <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/19/2015 7:51:36 AM
Subject:	RE: Albright: Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq

Sorry about that. You know, when Suzy leaves us, so many things go awry!

While I have you, John – Par Nuder (former Swedish FinMin who I believe you've met a few times) will be in DC on September 21-22. He is hoping to see you, if you've got time. Topic mainly being his recent visit to North Korea, last month. Completely understand if you've got too much going on to see him, just checking in case.

Thanks.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 7:47 PM
To: Fariba Yassaee <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com>
Subject: Re: Albright: Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq

Thanks and no I had the old numbers.

On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Fariba Yassaee <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com > wrote:

> Hi John,
> Thanks for the message. I'll pass it on immediately.
> Not sure if you have our numbers at the new office (since March). I'm at 202-759-5156 and main line is 202-759-5100.
> Feel free to call my cell anytime too - 201-739-7272.
> Hope you and your family are enjoying some downtime this summer. At least some!
> Best, Fariba
>
> On Aug 18, 2015, at 7:26 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > Fariba,
> > I tried calling but maybe you changed your main line. Will you tell Madeleine I loved her op-ed and so did my current boss!
> > John
> >
> > On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Fariba Yassaee <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com > wrote:
> >
> > > All, pasted below and at link is a piece Madeleine wrote in response to Jeb Bush's position on Iraq.
> > >
> > > http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#.VdJv8oKCOnM
> > >
> > > **IN THE ARENA**
> > > **Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq**
> > > By MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
> > >
> > > August 17, 2015
> > > Since leaving office, I have come to a détente with many of my Republican friends, agreeing not to keep rehashing mistakes of the past and to instead focus on the future of America's foreign policy. However, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush's brazen attempts to rewrite history in a series of campaign appearances last week cannot go unchallenged. By blaming President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton for the rise of ISIL, Governor Bush is clearly seeking to absolve his brother's administration of responsibility for today's problems in Iraq. This argument may serve Governor Bush's political interests, but it does a disservice to the truth
> > >
> > > No honest discussion of the situation today in Iraq can brush aside the mistakes that were made by the Bush administration during the invasion and its aftermath, much of it based on faulty intelligence and flawed

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assumptions. They sent too few troops to secure the country. They replaced a government that was a sworn enemy of Iran with one that had close ties to the mullahs. They disbanded the Iraqi Army and dismissed thousands of Sunni officers, who soon launched a violent insurgency.
None of these facts were acknowledged by Governor Bush in his speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library or in his recent campaign appearances in Iowa, because they undermine his attempts at blame shifting.

According to Bush's emerging narrative, the fatal U.S. error in Iraq was the withdrawal of our troops on December 31, 2011. If that is the case, then the error was made by President George W. Bush, who negotiated that withdrawal date in a binding agreement reached with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in 2008. The Obama administration sought to extend the mission for U.S. troops, and by all accounts Secretary Clinton strongly supported such a residual presence. But Prime Minister Maliki refused to give U.S. troops immunity from prosecution—and the administration wisely decided not to put U.S. troops at risk to support a government that did not want them there any longer.
It is these circumstances that Governor Bush believes led to the rise of ISIL, but once again, he is only telling part of the story. ISIL, which emerged from al Qaeda in Iraq, was established in 2003 in the chaos that followed the invasion. AQI became a magnet for disaffected Sunnis and remnants of Saddam Hussein's army, who still help lead ISIL.

No one, Democrat or Republican, would claim that all is going well in the Middle East today. The Obama administration has certainly made mistakes, and the Bush administration did not do everything wrong. We should also not fall into the trap of assuming everything is America's fault. Sectarian Iraqi leaders, the Assad regime in Syria and malign Iranian influence also bear responsibility for the tremendous problems facing the region.

Still, the United States has been and will be an important force in the Middle East. Our country does not need a backward-looking partisan fight over our policy in the region. Instead, we should be having a substantive, forward-looking discussion about the kind of role we can play in bringing stability to a critical part of the world.

To his credit, Governor Bush did present some ideas for how his administration would deal with Iraq. While his rhetoric has been lofty, and his criticism of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton has been sharp, the policies he proposes look remarkably similar to what the administration is already doing—supporting the Iraqi military in their fight against ISIL. The areas where he appears to differ are his willingness to put more U.S. lives at risk by sending troops into combat, and his unwillingness to rule out waterboarding in interrogations.
Governor Bush also spoke of the importance of alliances, but his rhetoric and proposed actions would jeopardize these important sources of strength. Nothing would infuriate our European allies more than Governor Bush's plan to break away from the nuclear agreement with Iran that they spent years negotiating alongside us. Similarly, Governor Bush made a point of using the term "Islamic terrorists," a phrase that our allies in the Arab world have pressed us not to use because it feeds the false narrative that we are at war with a religion.

Words matter in the world of diplomacy, and so does leadership. The reputation of the United States was severely damaged during President' Bush's administration. Today, America's place in the world is far stronger than it was in 2009 thanks to the leadership of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton. They renewed alliances, relentlessly pursued our terrorist enemies, and forged international coalitions on Iran sanctions and on the fight against climate change. That's a laudable record of achievement—one that needs no re-writes.

In the months ahead, I would encourage Mr. Bush to be a true student of foreign policy rather than a hurler of political potshots. The United States cannot afford another President Bush who blinds himself to global reality and who forges ahead into chaos. Americans deserve a president who will acknowledge the past and will forge a better future.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#ixzz3j7jyKZKa

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From:	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To:	jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com re47@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	2/8/2016 8:21:12 AM
Subject:	Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

True…but they are attacking her with Crime Bill, Monica Lewinsky, bankruptcy and all kinds of ancient stuff. He always brags about never changing positions -- why not use the old stuff to prove how wacky this thinking is?

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202-973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; re47 <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; david <david@db-research.com>; david <david@dixondavismedia.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; jim.margolis <jim.margolis@gmmb.com>; jbenenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; john <john@algpolling.com>; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Navin Nayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com>; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com>; jandrews <jandrews@jacompany.com>
Sent: Mon, Feb 8, 2016 3:19 pm
Subject: RE: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Some of the hard contrast is stuff from a very long time ago. The second graf makes it sound like he is currently proposing those things. Same for the national security graf.

From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2016 3:14 PM
To: re47@hillaryclinton.com
Cc: dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; david@db-research.com ; david@dixondavismedia.com ; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com ; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com ; jim.margolis@gmmb.com ; jbenenson@bsgco.com ; john@algpolling.com ; john.podesta@gmail.com ; nnayak@hillaryclinton.com ; oshur@hillaryclinton.com ; rich@dixondavismedia.com ; jandrews@jacompany.com
Subject: Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Jim Andrews and I have been pouring through the oppo and have a couple new possible negatives to suggest we test in the poll, since most of our attacks haven't been working. We also proposed language for a split message test between where we've been (ideas that sound good on paper/ can't wait) versus the new no barriers message -- stacked up against Sanders

Hope these are helpful.

YOU PAY FOR SOCIALISM

Bernie Sanders says he wants to restructure America's economy to make it work like it does in the socialist countries of Europe, providing things like free health care for everyone, free college for everyone, and free increases in Social Security for everyone. But Sanders does not mention that the middle class picks up the bill in these countries, paying nearly sixty percent of their income in taxes, three times what middle class Americans pay now.

FREE STUFF FOR EVERYBODY

Bernie Sanders said –quote– "all necessities of life must be provided free for people," and over the years he's proposed a radical restructuring of the entire American economy to make many things free, from the gas for people's cars to telephones and now free college and health care. To do this, Sanders proposed the complete government takeover of all oil companies, gas companies, electric utility companies, phone companies, health care companies, and all television networks. Combined, Sanders proposals would put the government in control of more than half of the American economy, but Sanders has never told anyone who would pay for all of this or how it would work.

SPEND, TAX AND COVER IT UP

Bernie Sanders' spending plans cost at least eighteen trillion dollars, would increase government spending by 50% and equal the size of the current national debt. And it's actually worse. Experts say Sanders health care plan alone is quote –twice as expensive as he says it is and they say Sanders plans would increase middle class taxes by one third, even for people making less than nineteen thousand a year, and Sanders plans would raise the top tax rate to seventy seven percent. The Boston Globe said –quote "Sanders is not leveling with voters" about the real cost of his spending plans.

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EXTREME ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Bernie Sanders' extreme views would gut America's national security and make less safe. Sanders ran for Congress calling for the military budget to be cut by more than half and spending the money on a "major electrified rail system" instead. In Washington, Sanders sponsored a law to unilaterally terminate America's entire nuclear weapons program and sponsored another law to cut the nuclear submarine fleet in half. In Congress, Sanders proposed massive cuts in the intelligence budget and earlier said we should shut down the entire CIA because –quote they "might even be able to overthrow the U.S. government if they chose to." Sanders is so ideologically committed to military cuts that just last year he said –quote we shouldn't spend money on the military "even if it does create jobs."

TROUBLING PATTERN ON CAMPAIGNING

Bernie Sanders says he's running a different kind of campaign, but the record tells another story. Last year a Sanders affiliated political action committee was fined by the federal election commission and Sanders staffers were caught hacking into computers and stealing data on political opponents. This year, Sanders got caught running ads that said he was endorsed by newspapers that actually endorsed his opponent and was forced to remove ads from the air. Sanders got caught claiming endorsements from organizations that endorsed his opponent and the American Legion is now threatening to sue him for falsely claiming he has their support.

TROUBLING PATTERN ON WOMEN

Bernie Sanders says he supports women's rights, but has a pattern of expressing and tolerating extreme views on women. Sanders once wrote that men fantasize about women being on their knees and women fantasize about being raped by three men simultaneously. Sanders wrote another article that connecting women's sexual behavior to breast cancer and said the way parents teach their daughter about sex –quote– "very well determine whether or not she will develop breast cancer." Now Sanders' supporters are flooding the internet with troubling comments about women quote –voting with their vaginas– and calling women who support Hillary Clinton quote –bitches.

BERNIE VS HRC MESSAGE TEST

BERNIE

Bernie Sanders says we have a corporate establishment whose greed is destroying the economy and a corrupt political establishment beholden to billionaires. Sanders says the billionaire class can't get huge tax breaks and hide profits overseas while the middle class is being hollowed out. Sanders says corporate America and the billionaire class have to start paying their fair share, and that to change things we need a political revolution to undo the power of corporate America and Wall Street. You sure can't change a corrupt system by taking its money. Sanders says one person alone can't change this country, but we can do it together.

HRC: BARRIERS

Hillary Clinton says we need to break down barriers of social injustice. Clinton says racism and sexism and other forms discrimination are not simply an effect of economic inequality, but are also part of the *cause* of economic inequality. Clinton says she will hold Wall Street accountable, but Wall Street is not gunning down young African Americans or denying immigrants a path to citizenship. Clinton says we can't move forward when women make seventy eight cents for each dollar men make, when people can be fired just because they're gay or when African American men go to prison at the same rate they graduate college. Clinton says that America can't reach its full potential when you're held back from reaching yours.

HRC CAN'T WAIT

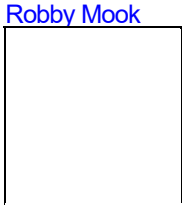
Hillary Clinton says she is not interested in ideas that sound good on paper but will never make it the real world, and she won't make promises she can't keep. Clinton says the single mom who needs raise can't wait for plans that will never happen. The student with a mountain of debt can't wait. The grandmother who has to choose between paying for medicine and paying the rent can't wait. Clinton says she's spent a lifetime making a difference for people and getting results, from winning benefits for the National Guard and Reserve to winning health care for eight million children and she's ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work right now. Clinton says she's ready to tackle our toughest challenges and move our country forward.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202-973-9400

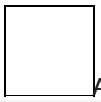
-----Original Message-----
From: Robby Mook (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com >
To: gruncom <gruncom@aol.com >
Cc: dschwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; david <david@db-research.com >; david <david@dixondavismedia.com >; jsullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; jpalmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; jim.margolis <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >; jbenenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; john <john@algpolling.com >; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; nnayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com >; oshur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 7, 2016 4:19 pm
Subject: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call

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Robby Mook has attached the following document:

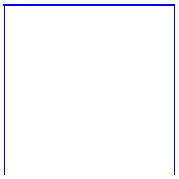


Agenda for 4:30 Post NH Messaging Call



Attached is an agenda/guide for our 5:30 call.

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.



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From: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Ron Klain" <ron.klain@revolution.com>
karen.l.dunn@gmail.com
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Kristina Costa" <kcosta@hillaryclinton.com>
"Sara Solow" <ssolow@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/17/2016 4:19:08 AM
Subject: FW: CLIP | CBS' Face the Nation, HRC interview

From: clips@hillaryclinton.com [mailto:clips@hillaryclinton.com] **On Behalf Of** Laurel Ruza
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 10:41 AM
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: CLIP | CBS' Face the Nation, HRC interview

CBS' Face the Nation, HRC interview, 01.17.2016

Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1cc1ada1-dff0-449e-9bbe-6db77f5184d4

Transcript

JOHN DICKERSON: not if hillary clinton can help it we'll hear from clinton this morning as she prepares to confront sanders in tonight's democratic debate in charleston. check in with marco rubio and john kasich both battling it out to stay alive after the voting begins. all coming up on "face the nation." captioning sponsored by cbs good morning welcome to "face the nation" i'm john dickerson. breaking news this morning, three americans including washington reporter jason, part of the prisoner exchange with iran announced on the day sanctions were lifted on that country as part of the iranian nuclear deal. and this video shows three of the iranians just preloosed in houston. this is a swap that's already sparked controversy on the campaign trail. we start with former secretary of state, hillary clinton, who is in charleston this morning. good morning, secretary clinton. after this prisoner exchange senator marco rubio said, quote, if you take an american hostage, barack obama will cut a deal with you whether it's bergdahl now what he's done with iran. your reaction to that?

HILLARY CLINTON: well, i think it's just typical political rhetoric, overlooks some very basic, important issues, number one, we al to get americans back who are unjustly held. i certainly did when i was secretary of state. and when i was a senator i advocated for the bush administration to do the same for people who have been unlawfully held in foreign counsel trees. secondly, the important news here is that the iranian agreement to put a lid on the nuclear weapons program of iran is being implemented. iranians have so far fulfilled their side of the bargain by destroying centrifuges, shipping out 98% or so of their enriched uranium out of their country, even making one of their plutonium reactors under construction no longer able to be ever used because they poured cement into it. so, the real issue here is, if you're committed to making the world safer and show strong american leadership you have to engage in patient, persistent diplomacy with people who are not your friends, they are on the other side of a lot of the issues and values that you hold very dear, that certainly true for the united states.

JOHN DICKESON: former fbi agent is still in iran, do you believe that the iranians know where he is and if so why wasn't he a part of this deal?

HILLARY CLINTON: well, i regret deeply that bob levinson was not on his way home either. i hope and expect that the iranians will continue to be pressed very, very hard to give up any information they have and if possible to return bob levinson to his home and family.

JOHN DICKERSON: switching to the topic of gun control, you said bernie sanders should support the idea of lifting immunity block on gun manufacturers, now says he'll support the legislation you pushed him to. so hasn't he done what you wanted him to do?

HILLARY CLINTON: well, i am pleased that senator sanders has flip-floppedonal immunity for gun makers and sellers, now i hope he will also join members of congress to change what's called the charleston loophole that enabled the killer in

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charleston to get the gun that he used to murder nine people at bible study here in mother emmanuel church, that's something else senator sanders supported that we need to change. so, now i'm calling on him to also flip flop in the right direction and sign on to legislation to change the charleston loophole.

JOHN DICKERSON: you at once in 1939 when you were first lady supported testimony in front of the senate finance committee a 25% tax on guns, you're not supporting that now or promoting that now. how have you evolved over the years in terms of your support for the second amendment?

HILLARY CLINTON: i do support the second amendment. that is always been understood. i just believe that like any amendment to our constitution there are reasonable steps that can be taken. we have reasonable restrictions on certain kind of speech or certain forms of assembly. for goodness sakes we ought to be smart enough and do so consistent with the constitution to have more gun safety measures to try to save some of the 3,000 lives that we lose to gun violence every single year. this is something that i have spoken out about. that i have advocated for right now. i think there is a consensus in the country on comprehensive background checks, closing the gun show loophole, closing the online and charleston loopholes, reversing the immunity given to the gun industry, certainly prohibiting would-be terrorist on the no fly zone, that's the common sense approach that we should be boxing to achieve.

JOHN DICKERSON: the stories out of flint, michigan, lead levels in the water have created an emergency there. senator sanders called for rick schneider, the governor to resign, what is your feeling?

HILLARY CLINTON: well, john, this is an issue i've been involved in now for couple of weeks. i am horrified by what happened in flint. i started calling for immediate action, calling for federal intervention, i sent two of my top campaign aides to meet with the mayor of flint as you may know, i appeared on show this past week and demanded that governor schneider ask for the help that michigan needs to deal with the horrible consequences that children and their families are facing in flint. i saw that governor schneider turned around within two hours finally asked for the help that he should have asked for some weeks ago. i don't want to get caught up in the political back and forth here, i want to help the people of flint. and i particularly want a comprehensive health analysis of what's hamed to these children, lead is a poison, it destroys your brain. it interferes with your learning and your behavior. whatever it takes for michigan and the federal government to come together to fema through health and human services, the epa, whatever it takes, we now have to fix a problem and help these kids and especially their health and education development probably for years to come.

JOHN DICKERSON: topic of health care backat the national level, your daughter chelsea in which son said senator sanders universal health care plan will dismantle obamacare, dismantle children's health insurance programs and series of other things would dismantle. isn't she and your campaign not taking into account that those things would be replaced by an actual plan that senator sanders has put forward?

HILLARY CLINTON: well, i think it's very confusing because he hasn't put forward a plan. and the only way we know what it is he's advocating for comes from looking at the nine bills that he's introduced in the house and senate and congress. in those bills every kind of health care is rolled all up together and handed over to the state which bear a financial responsibility to match what the federal government provides in order to administer health care. so, it's not a traditional kind of single-payer system as i understand it. it is a state-based system kind of similar to medicaid, if you will. and i do think there are very legitimate questions that can be raised, because we don't have an up to date plan from senator sanders all of us trying to figure out what it would mean for everybody to be put into that new system.

JOHN DICKERSON: senator, excuse me -- secretary clinton that may come up this evening when you're on stage.

HILLARY CLINTON: great to talk to you again, john.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 7/29/2015 5:06:55 AM
Subject: News Update - July 29, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Wednesday, July 29

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Destruction of Beit El Buildings Begins amid Continued Riots**
- **Under Pressure, PM Approves New Settlement Construction**
- **Rightist MK: High Court, not Settler Homes, must be Bulldozed to Ground**
- **Livni: Events in Beit El ans Sanur Damage the Israeli Interest**
- **PM, Abbas may address the EU to reinvigorate peace process**
- **Sen. Feinstein Urges PM Not to Demolish Palestinian Village**
- **Several Killed in Reported Israeli Strike in Syria**
- **Israeli Spy Jonathan Pollard to be Released in November**

Commentary:

- **Foreign Policy: "Israel Could Lose America's Democrats for a Generation"**
  - By James Traub
- **Al Monitor: "No Financial, Judicial Control over Israeli Settlement Enterprise"**
  - By Akiva Eldar

Ynet News

Destruction of Beit El Buildings Begins amid Riots

Destruction began Wednesday after the High Court upheld a decision to tear down two controversial housing structures known as the Draynoff buildings in the West Bank settlement of Beit El after nearly two days of violence between settlers and police at the scene. Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked pointed out that despite the court's decision, the Draynoff buildings will most likely be reconstructed shortly after being torn down. Land permits from the structures were only acquired after their construction, making them illegal according to the court's ruling. Subsequently acquired land permits makes reconstruction likely.

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Ha'aretz

Under Pressure, PM Approves Settlement Const.

Following pressure from Likud and Habayit Hayehudi lawmakers, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced once more the approval of immediate construction of 300 housing units in the West Bank settlement of Beit El. Following Netanyahu's announcement, Yoav Mordechai, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, signed a permit to immediately sell land for the construction of 296 new housing units in Beit El. The municipality will be able to issue construction permits within 15 days. The units' construction was already approved following the evacuation of the Beit El neighborhood known as Ulpana Hill, but was never carried out. In addition, Netanyahu approved moving forward with the planning of 500 new housing units in Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem.

See also, "300 new homes okayed, clashes erupt as settlement torn down" (Times of Israel)

Jerusalem Post

Rightist MK: High Court must be Bulldozed

The High Court decision to order the state to demolish two illegally built structures in the West Bank settlement of Beit El elicited harsh reactions from the Right on Wednesday. MK Moti Yogev of the pro-settler Bayit Yehudi party said in response that "we should ride up in D-9 bulldozers and raze the High Court of Justice to the ground." Yogev made the remarks before entering a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Yogev's Bayit Yehudi colleague, Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, preached moderation, saying the state must respect the rule of law "and accept the High Court ruling and the harsh decree" ordering the demolition of homes in Beit El.

Galey Tzahal

Livni: Events in Beit El ans Sanur Damage the Israeli Interest

Zionist Union MK Tzipi Livni attacked the settlers who returned to Sa-Nur: "If some Palestinian thought that we disengaged from Gaza to build more in Judea and Samaria, that was not the intent. In an absurd manner, the phenomena that we are seeing in Sa-Nur and in other places, these are phenomena that damage Israel's ability to protect the settlement blocs."

Jerusalem Post

PM, Abbas may Address the EU to Reinvigorate Peace Process

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas could address European heads of state in the near future as part of a push by the international community to jump-start the peace process. To date, no Israeli prime minister has addressed the EU since its inception in 1993. In 1995, Shimon Peres, who was then the foreign minister and acting prime minister, visited Brussels, but did not formally speak to the body as a whole.The possibility of an EU address was first raised by Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades during his visit to Jerusalem last month, and he raised it again during Netanyahu's visit to his island country on Tuesday. "I would welcome the opportunity to present Israel's position to the EU," Netanyahu said. "I think this is a very worthwhile initiative that you, Nicos, have brought up.

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Ha'aretz

Sen. Feinstein Urges PM Not to Demolish S ussia

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday to stop Israel's efforts to raze the Palestinian village of Sussia in the West Bank, saying that uprooting the village's residents would further isolate Israel, increase tensions with the Palestinians and provoke unnecessary violence. "Demolishing Palestinian homes, displacing residents, and seizing additional Palestinian territory in the West Bank is a step away from peace. To preserve land for a future Palestinian state, your government must not destroy Susiya [sic]," the senator wrote in a letter. Feinstein gave a detailed account of Sussia's history and legal battle facing the Civil Administration, noting that the village has existed at least since the 1830s.

Times of Israel

Several K illed in R eported Israeli S trike in Syria

Several people were killed in a reported Israeli airstrike on a car in the Syrian Golan Heights near the border with Israel Wednesday. The three men killed were identified as members of militias affiliated with Iran, according to Lebanese media. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that five people were killed in the strike. "An Israeli plane hit a car inside the town of Hader, killing two men from Hezbollah, and three men from the pro-regime popular committees in the town," said Rami Abdel Rahman, director of the watchdog. Hader is a Druze village that lies along the ceasefire line, with the Israeli portion of the Golan Heights plateau to the west, and the border with Damascus province to the northeast.

Ynet News

Israeli Spy Pollard to be Released in November

A federal parole board has ruled that Jonathan Pollard, a former US Navy intelligence officer convicted of spying for Israel, will be released in November after serving a 30-year prison sentence, his attorneys said on Tuesday. Pollard, who has remained jailed for decades despite efforts by successive Israeli governments to secure his early release, will be required to remain in the United States for five years under the terms of his parole, the attorneys said in a statement. They said he had the assurance of having a job and a home in the New York area, but they nevertheless ask US President Obama to waive that parole requirement and allow him to go to Israel after his release.

Foreign Policy - July 29, 2015

Israel Could Lose America's Democrats for a Generation

If the nuclear deal collapses, U.S. liberals will never forgive Israel for its starring role in a catastrophic turn of events.

By James Traub

Last week, I went to hear Secretary of State John Kerry defend the Iran nuclear deal at the Council on Foreign Relations. Richard Haass, president of the organization, began by asking Kerry to explain what "we have gained by this agreement." The first thing the secretary said was that he was "very proud" of his "100 percent voting record for Israel" as a senator. The second thing he said was that nobody had worked harder than he had to bring peace to the Middle East. The third thing was, "I consider Bibi" — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — "a friend." What we have gained, Kerry summed up, is "safety and security … for Israel and the region."

I found it astonishing that Kerry had answered a question about the most

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consequential diplomatic agreement the United States has signed over the last four decades as if he were the foreign minister of another country. Wasn't the "we" in question "the American people"? Of course, Kerry's political instincts were perfectly accurate. He knows that he and President Barack Obama don't need to persuade the Democratic left of the deal's merits and needn't bother trying to convert Republican conservatives. He needs to reach the people who view American national security as not just inextricable but indistinguishable from Israeli security.

On the way out, I saw once such personage and asked, jokingly, whether he had come around on the deal. He hadn't, of course, but he conceded that he would have to live with it. On the other hand, he added darkly, he knew very well what would happen if Congress voted against the agreement and then overrode Obama's veto: "They'll blame the Jews."

No, they won't. Most Americans who hate the Jews also hate Obama and Iran, and so will be happy to see the deal go up in smoke. Maybe they'll thank the Jews. What will happen, though, if Congress overrides Obama's veto — thus destroying the signal foreign-policy achievement of his tenure, humiliating the president before the world, and triggering a race for nuclear weapons capacity in Iran and across the Middle East — is that Democrats will blame Netanyahu and Israel. And it won't just be the American left, which already regards Israel as an occupying power. The fraying relationship between Israel and the Democratic Party will come apart altogether. Pro-Israel Democrats like Hillary Clinton will have to begin calculating how high a price they're prepared to pay for their continued support.

Am I exaggerating? Consider the geopolitical math. Until recently, critics of the proposed nuclear deal could claim that "our allies in the region" believed that it threatened their security. But last week, the Saudi foreign minister blessed the deal, if rather halfheartedly. The president of the United Arab Emirates and the emir of Kuwait sent congratulatory notes to Iran, though that still falls short of an endorsement. "Our allies" will not continue to lobby against the deal; only Israel will.

Now consider the congressional math. To override a presidential veto in the Senate, opponents of the deal will need to find 67 votes. All 54 Republicans seem prepared to vote against the president — many of them gleefully. But 13 Democrats must be prepared to defy their president on a question that will help define his place in history. How many of them would take such a stand if, say, the Saudis and the Emiratis opposed the deal and Israel favored it? How would Chuck Schumer, the New York senator and third-ranking Democrat, vote? Do we even have to ask? (So far, the senator has said only that he plans to "carefully study" the language of the deal.) Such is Schumer's influence among liberal Democrats that he could single-handedly scuttle the deal by voting against the measure.

I have no reason to doubt that Schumer sincerely believes that Kerry might be wrong, and Netanyahu right, about the dire effects that the nuclear deal would have on Israel's security. And I know that many Israelis, and not just die-hard Likudniks, appear to believe that a military strike on Iran, with all its calamitous consequences, would be better for their security than the agreement Obama has struck. (See, for example, this column in the leftist Haaretz by Ari Shavit, a journalist and the author of the acclaimed My Promised Land.) Maybe Schumer thinks so too.

I think that calculus is crazy. But Israelis know their neighborhood a lot better than I do. In any case, because Israel is far more directly threatened by Iran than the United States is, the merits of the case are different for Tel Aviv than for Washington. Each side insists that the other is wrong about its own national security interests, but the truth is that those interests do not exactly coincide. Why should they?

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Of course Kerry can't say, "This is a great deal for the United States, even if it's a slightly less great deal for Israel." Political reality compels him to sustain the myth that those interests cannot diverge. Nevertheless, I find it offensive that Kerry had to indulge in such contortions in order to demonstrate his bona fides toward Israel. Meanwhile, his "friend" Netanyahu has received the administration's endless stream of entreaties with contempt — a fact that Kerry not very obliquely acknowledged by referring in his speech to unnamed "people" who "rant and rave" about the agreement, including "the prime minister with a cartoon of a bomb at the U.N."

Yet Kerry and Obama must continue trying to reach Americans who defer to Netanyahu as the arbiter of American national security. Those who say, "I will never choose between Israel and the United States" are being disingenuous. They are choosing.

Netanyahu threw down the gauntlet with the Obama administration a long time ago; perhaps he thinks he has nothing left to lose. But that's almost certainly not true. If 13 Democrats heed the Israeli siren song and the nuclear deal collapses, only a fantasist can believe that Iran will come back for a new and harsher deal or that the United Nations and the European Union will hang tough on sanctions. Instead, Iranian centrifuges will start spinning once again, while Pakistani scientists carrying nuclear blueprints will make clandestine visits to Saudi Arabia. Netanyahu will then take the game one step further by calling for airstrikes against Iranian facilities. If he succeeds — which I doubt — Americans will never forgive Israel for its role in a catastrophic decision.

Benjamin Netanyahu has made it clear that he is perfectly prepared to pay that price. Can Chuck Schumer say the same? I would suggest that his higher obligation would be to protect Israel from its own worst instincts.

Al Monitor – July 29, 2015

No Financial, Judicial Control over Israeli Settlement Enterprise

By Akiva Eldar

Even before world powers signed the nuclear deal with Iran, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had already determined that its inspection mechanisms were full of holes. At an air force flight school graduation ceremony on June 25, Netanyahu warned that the "many tens of billions of dollars" that will flow into Iran's coffers once sanctions are lifted will serve, among other things, to expand its conquests in the Middle East. The issue of the supervision over Iran's nuclear facilities keeps taking center stage in the campaign Netanyahu is waging against the agreement among members of Congress and the American media. "You don't have inspections within 24 hours — you have 24 days before you can inspect any site that you find suspicious in Iran," Netanyahu said in an interview with NBC's Lester Holt. "Can you imagine giving a drug dealer 24 days' notice before you check the premises? That's a lot of time to flush a lot of meth down the toilet."

There's no doubt that with a country such as Iran, which has gained a deserved reputation for hiding facilities and material that can be used to build nuclear weapons, signing a piece of paper is not enough. Internal operating procedures and external inspection mechanisms are an integral component of any agreement resolving or managing a conflict. Without exception. But it is only fitting that anyone demanding tighter inspections of his neighbor's backyard take care of his own first. As the Babylonian Talmud says, "Remove the beam from between your eyes" (Arachin 16b), meaning, "Practice what you preach." Every house built in

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the occupied territories sits on a sufficient amount of dynamite to blow up any chance of ending the conflict with the Palestinians or forging regional peace.

The dynamite of the settlement enterprise, established in 1967, is produced without supervision, in violation of international law and often in contravention of Israeli law. Some quarter of a million settlers have joined the 110,000 Jews who lived in the West Bank at the time the Oslo Accord was signed in September 1993. Not only is the government not supervising the implementation of its commitment under the 2003 Road Map to freeze construction in the settlements and dismantle outposts, last week elected Israeli officials promoted a bill legalizing the lawlessness in its backyard. The government's Legislative Affairs Committee approved on July 19 a proposed bill anchoring the status of the Settlement Division — a department in the World Zionist Organization that serves as one of the state's central settlement construction arms. Three days later, the Knesset gave the bill preliminary approval by a vote of 65 to 41.

The ministers and Knesset members who supported the legislation — including the representatives of the farming communities in the Zionist Camp, Knesset members Eitan Broshi and Danny Atar — ignored the objections of the Ministry of Justice professional cadre to the bill and the pre-election commitment of their party leader, Isaac Herzog, to shut down the Settlement Division if elected prime minister.

A legal opinion compiled by Deputy Attorney General Dina Zilber, seconded by her boss, Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein, says that it is counter-procedural to have a nongovernmental operative channel that acts as a state branch and implements government decisions without this channel being fully subjected to proper administrative regulations and framework. The senior legal official said, "There is an inherent concern that this situation could create a kind of backyard for the government to carry out activities not in the framework of the law and could create fertile ground for the development of inherent pathologies."

A document issued last November by the Knesset's Research and Information Center provides a glimpse into one of the most obvious symptoms of this pathology. It reveals that in recent years, the Settlement Division's annual budget has run to 500-600 million Israeli shekels ($132-158 million) — more than the budget of some government ministries. In 2013, the division's original budget — approved as part of the annual state budget — was 82.3 million shekels ($22 million). But the budget it was effectively allocated that year amounted to some 653 million shekels ($172 million). In other words, during the year, various Knesset committees approved additional funding to the tune of 570 million shekels ($150 million), or a 670% increase. If one examines the spending increase according to geographic areas, the largest chunk was allotted to the central region, which includes the settlements of the Jordan Valley, the Binyamin Regional Council, the Etzion bloc and Samaria. The budget for this region ballooned by more than 2,000% in 2013 compared to the original sum approved in the state budget.

"Such an extensive budget illustrates the power and magnitude, the extent of the authority, and the tremendous scope for promoting and setting policy that has been entrusted to the [Settlement] Division," Zilber wrote. She recommended that the state take back the authority handed to the division following the 1967 Six-Day War. A similar recommendation is gathering dust in a report on settlement outposts, submitted by state attorney Talia Sasson to the government at then-Prime Minister Sharon's request in March 2005. Sasson found that the Settlement Division had funded, among other things, illegal outposts, including some erected on private Palestinian land.

Former Justice Minister Tzipi Livni of the Zionist Camp headed at the time a ministerial committee charged with implementing the Sasson report. This week

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she voted against the new law, calling it "a bill that bypasses the authority of the government's legal adviser," and claiming that it was designed to funnel money under the table to the settlements.

Minister Ayelet Shaked, who now occupies Livni's chair at the Ministry of Justice, objected that the government legal adviser and his deputies issue written opinions that contradict the government stance. She reprimanded Zilber for issuing and sending her criticizing opinion to Knesset member Merav Michaeli of the Zionist Camp. This, despite the fact that Zilber's written opinion was in line with statements by the government's legal adviser eight years ago, by which the Settlement Division should adopt rules similar to the Freedom of Information Law. But, although most of its budget is provided by the public, to this day the Settlement Division is exempt from providing the public with an account of how its funds are spent.

And as if this were not enough, the makeup of the Supreme Court, which to a large extent supervises the rule of law and justice in the territories, is about to change. In the newly named judicial appointments panel, the right wing enjoys a majority, including Knesset member Robert Ilatov, who pledges to supervise the lips of Arab candidates to make sure they mumble the words of the national anthem describing the "yearning of the Jewish soul." Ilatov told Israeli Army radio, "A judge who cannot sing Hatikvah cannot rule on cases in Israel."

Left-wing organizations and human rights activists remain the main source of information about the settlement enterprise. The government wishes to silence that information channel too. Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely is demanding that European states that donate funds to those organizations establish a supervision mechanism for the funding of Israeli nongovernmental organizations. She threatens that if they refuse, the government will advance proposed legislation that has been prepared. Really.

Who gave nongovernmental organization Peace Now permission to reveal to the world two weeks ago that the civil administration secretly allocated 300 dunams (74 acres) for the expansion of the settlement of Efrat in the heart of the West Bank? How dare B'tselem document settler harassment of Palestinian farmers. How come Yesh Din activists report on the lack of government enforcement against Israelis living on land that Israel rules by force? Israelis do not submit to supervision.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
www.centerpeace.org

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From:	catherinehand5@aol.com
To:	jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	8/16/2015 3:16:01 AM
Subject:	Today's Post story on HRC

Dear Jake and John:

I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.

Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.

Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.

I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.

Lorraine-

Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.

Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, "politics as usual' is immediately heard as "politics as usual in Clinton-world."

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words 'politics as usual' it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and

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segregation forever. “

Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women’s movement in the United States as women’s organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

“ *I Want to Hold Your Hand*” and “ *I Saw Her Standing There”* were released in the U.S., marking the beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson’s War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon’s ‘silent majority,’ -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women’s rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first

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developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

“The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which “brings us together in a peaceful loving state.”

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking’s insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/27/2015 12:38:58 AM
Subject: FW: Schweizer interview on Today Show 4/27/15

http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?PlayClip=FALSE&DTSearch=TRUE&DateTime=04%2F27%2F2015+07%3A16%3A00&market=m100&StationID=165

Guthrie: now to the talk of washington and the 2016 presidential race right now. it's the new book called clinton cash that raises questions about hillary clinton, her family's foundation, and its foreign donors might have influenced policy during clinton's time as secretary of state. peter schweitzer is the author and he joins us this morning. >>

Schweizer: good morning. >>

Guthrie: let's put it bluntly. are you hoping this book and the issues you raise in it torpedo her candidacy? >>

Schweizer: this is not really motivated to her candidacy. i've done two previous books that looked at corruption and looked at people in both political parties. what we have with the clintons is a unique arrangement where you have a powerful, you know, public figure who's involved with all these foreign entities. >>

Guthrie: if a person believes every word in your book, wouldn't that be disqualifying with everything you're saying. you say people donate and get favorable treatment by the state department run by hillary >>

Schweizer: certainly the evidence i clinton. think is pretty shocking and could have that implication. but really the motivation is consistent with my previous work, to look at the whole issue of corruption. >>

Guthrie: do you have any specific instance in which hillary clinton directly intervenes on behalf of donors to the clinton foundation? >>

Schweizer: it's a great question. what we have is a pattern of behavior. i was not in any of these meetings. i can't look into hillary clinton's mind. i certainly can't look at her e-mails. so the question becomes what is this pattern? an consistently shows that donors give large sums of money to the foundation where they pay bill clinton a lot for a speech. there's a policy action that's taken to the benefit of that donor. in some of those instances hillary reversing course on previous policy position. that's why my recommendation is somebody with subpoena power, with investigative capabilities should look at this behavior. >>

Guthrie: you think this is something that could be criminally investigated. >>

Schweizer: i think it should be. i don't go in with the assumption it was criminal, but i think it warrants further investigation.

Guthrie: if everything in your book were put before jurors, let's say, in a court of law and we were told to assume it is true, have you proven a quid pro quo? >>

Schweizer: well, i don't think a quid pro quo needs to be the standard. if you look at senator macdonalds, menendez, those were not quid pro quos. it's do people believe the events were connected and there was some sort of pay to play arrangement? and that's a question i can't answer but i think investigators should look into. >>

Guthrie: you started off mentioning you've done bipartisan investigations. but a lot of your critics say you are conservative and this is a right wing hit job. are you really claiming to be neutral here? >>

Schweizer: i'm not claiming to be neutral. but if you look at my work, i have gone aggressively after republicans. i did a book on insider trading by members of congress and went after several republicans.

Guthrie: you also did a book called "makers and takers" whose sub title said conservatives even hug their children more than liberals. >>

Schweizer: i say read the conclusion to the book where what i'm arguing is on the left and right there's a misuse of science research. it was a humorous title. that's the reason it was put that way. >>

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Guthrie: got to go. jeb bush is your next target. >>

Schweizer: yeah. >>

Guthrie: got a headline? >>

Schweizer: we're looking at airport deals to land deals, but we've been on that investigation about four months. the book is called "clinton cash." thank you very much.
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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/5/2015 9:07:04 AM
Subject: Henry A. Giroux | Authoritarianism, Class Warfare and Austerity Politics

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Henry A. Giroux | Authoritarianism, Class Warfare and the Advance of Neoliberal Austerity Policies

Henry A. Giroux, Truthout: Austerity measures under neoliberal governments represent the undercurrent of a new form of authoritarianism that has no allegiances except to power and capital. Still, hope can mobilize people to think beyond the neoliberal austerity machine and advance forms of egalitarian community and a living, radical democracy.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | Does the University of Michigan's New Football Coach Need Food Stamps?

Dean Baker, Truthout: Jim Harbaugh is leaving the San Francisco 49ers to become head football coach at the University of Michigan. Reportedly, his salary will be $7 million for the first year. If that doesn't sound like the income of a food stamp beneficiary, you better look more closely.

Read the Article

New York City Activists Mobilize for Right to Counsel in Eviction

Eleanor J. Bader, Truthout: Activists and legal groups are mobilizing in support of Intro 214, legislation that will make New York the first place in the United States to provide free legal representation to indigent and low-income tenants facing eviction.

Read the Article

When the Teenager Is the Breadwinner

Yana Kunichoff, In These Times: Iris Sebastian's parents, Luis and Josefa, have long played a precarious financial balancing game. Luis had long suffered from diabetes, and fluid retention in his legs made it increasingly difficult to work on his feet all day. Iris, an 18-year-old high school junior, felt it was her responsibility to keep the family afloat.

Read the Article

Maryland Governor Ends Death Penalty

BuzzFlash

"What Would Jesus Do?" Organization Defies City to Feed the Homeless

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Unfortunately, the last days of 2014 indicate that the war against the homeless will continue into 2015.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

St. Louis County Grand Juror Challenges Lifetime Gag Order, Sues Prosecutor Bob McCulloch

Read the Article at St. Louis Public Radio

Cheating the School Kids: Corporations Don't Pay Their State Taxes

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Immediately

Kevin Mathews, Care2: In an ironic twist, Maryland has killed the death penalty a little sooner than anticipated. Just two years ago, state legislators decided to put an end to the controversial form of punishment. However, that still left four death-row inmates lingering in a strange legal limbo.

Read the Article

How Outraged Is the Obama Administration About Torture?

Julio Sharp-Wasserman, Truthout: Since the Bush era, there has been no fundamental change in the policy of torturing for intelligence in the face of imminent threats. Suspects have merely been tortured in different locations and through a slightly altered bureaucratic process.

Read the Article

The Republicans Didn't Really Win the Senate

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: According to FairVote, the 44 Democratic Senators and their two independent allies received 67.8 million votes over the course of the 2010, 2012 and 2014 elections. The 54 Republican Senators, on the other hand, received only 47.1 million votes during that same time period.

Read the Article

Joseph Stiglitz: Economics Has to Come to Terms With Wealth and Income Inequality

Lynn Parramore, Institute for New Economic Thinking: In this interview, Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz explores the themes of his paper on distribution of income, the work of Thomas Piketty and the need for the field of economics to come to terms with the growing gulf between haves and have-nots.

Read the Interview

Something That Changed My Perspective: Karl Polanyi's *The Great Transformation*

Yves Smith, Naked Capitalism: "Karl Polanyi's *The Great Transformation* is listed in one economics book as one of the four most important economics books in history. They are probably right. Unlike my 2008 examples, *The Great Transformation* focuses on the tension between economic 'progress' and its often-negative social impact."

Read the Article

Panama Canal Rival: Work Starts in Nicaragua Amid Fears Over Environment and Role of China

Maya Collombon, The Conversation: Work has begun on a new canal route in the Panama region, in what is one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects of our time. The Interoceanic Grand Canal of Nicaragua will take five years to build over some 278 miles, traversing several major rivers and Lake Nicaragua.

Read the Article

On the News With Thom Hartmann: Half of US States Have a Minimum Wage Higher Than Minimum, and More

State Taxes, Either
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Republicans Say They'll Act Fast to Push Agenda
Read the Article at The New York Times

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Sets Sights on Payday Loans
Read the Article at Reuters

That College Football Coaches Are Paid Millions of Dollars Is an Insult to Laborers
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Can't Pay Your Fines? Your Driver's License Could Be Taken
Read the Article at NPR

How Inequality Made These Western Countries Poorer
Read the Article at The Washington Post

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In today's On the News segment: As of January 1, 2015, more than half of all the states in our nation now have a minimum wage that is higher than the federal minimum; home health workers should have gotten a raise this month, but US District Court Judge Richard Leon made sure that didn't happen; there's an easy way that President Obama can help us stick it to the 1%; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Richard D. Wolff | Economic Update: Economics of Denial

Richard D. Wolff, Truthout: This week's episode provides updates on Apple, French socialism, the Greek election, Vermont dropping single-payer health care, oil and Russia, as well as the latest National Labor Relations Board rulings. We also discuss welfare economics, meritocracy and what 5 percent GDP growth means for this country - without the hype..

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To:	hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	4/24/2015 3:14:01 AM
Subject:	Telfer, Giustra deny they tried to influence Russian uranium deal with donations to Clinton Foundation

Telfer, Giustra deny they tried to influence Russian uranium deal with donations to Clinton Foundation

Peter Koven | April 24, 2015 7:29 AM ET
More from Peter Koven | @peterkoven
http://business.financialpost.com/news/mining/telfer-giustra-deny-they-tried-to-influence-russian-uranium-deal-with-donations-to-clinton-foundation#__federated=1

Postmedia NewsFrank Giustra, left, and Ian Telfer deny suggestions that they donated to the charitable foundation of former President Bill Clinton and his family to help win U.S. approval to sell a uranium company to Russia.

A pair of Canadian mining magnates are denying suggestions that they donated to the charitable foundation of former President Bill Clinton and his family to help win U.S. approval to sell a uranium company to Russia.

Frank Giustra said the allegations have nothing to do with him, and are merely an attempt to “tear down” presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and her election campaign. Ian Telfer, meanwhile, said he committed the funds before he ever realized he would do the deal with the Russians.

The New York Times reported on the donations in an explosive article this week. The story involves a former Canadian mining company called Uranium One Inc., in which Giustra and Telfer were two of the key principals.

In 2010, Uranium One began a process to sell itself to Rosatom, a state-controlled nuclear giant in Russia. Uranium One had assets in Kazakhstan and the United States, and multiple U.S. government departments had to sign off on the deal. One of them is the State Department, which was led at the time by Hillary Clinton.

Uranium is considered a strategic resource, and it would be unthinkable today for the U.S. government to consider selling the country’s uranium reserves to Russia. But the Uranium One sale happened prior to Russia’s incursions into Ukraine last year, and Telfer said in an interview that getting it approved did not require lobbying.

“There was no lobbying,” he said.

The Times story noted that between 2009 and 2013, Telfer donated US$2.35 million to Clinton’s foundation. This coincided directly with the period in which the Rosatom gradually took control of Uranium One. Telfer was Uranium One’s chairman at the time.

In the interview, Telfer said he agreed to contribute US$3 million to the Clinton Foundation back in March 2008, shortly after Giustra and Clinton set up their sustainable growth initiative for the natural resource sector. That was before Uranium One had any negotiations with the Russians, and the donations he has made since then were part of that initial pledge, he said. He denied they had anything to do with influencing U.S. government officials around Uranium One.

“There were no plans for us (in March 2008) to ever have Rosatom as a majority shareholder of the company,” he said. “So therefore, there was never any thought of influencing anyone because there was nothing to influence.”

Giustra’s direct involvement with Uranium One ended back in 2007, when he sold his company UrAsia Energy Ltd. to Uranium One for about US$3 billion. UrAsia held the key Kazakhstan assets that formed the backbone of Uranium One, and there have been prior allegations that Giustra used his friendship with Bill Clinton to help secure those assets when the two men were in Kazakhstan together in 2005.

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Giustra has subsequently contributed US$31.3 million to the Clinton Foundation and pledged US$100 million more, according to the Times.

In a statement on Thursday, Giustra said there “is not one shred of evidence” to back up claims that he tried to influence the U.S. government to approve the Uranium One sale to Rosatom. He called the Times piece a “wildly speculative, innuendo-laced article.” He also said that he sold all his Uranium One shares in 2007.

“I would note that those (shares) were sold at least 18 months before Hillary Clinton became the secretary of state. No one was speculating at that time that she would become the secretary of state,” he said.

In addition to Giustra and Telfer, the Times noted that other people with ties to Uranium One made contributions to the Clinton Foundation: Neil Woodyer, Frank Holmes, Paul Reynolds (who recently died in a triathalon incident) and GMP Securities Ltd.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
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From: "Jeremy Funk" <funk@americansunitedforchange.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 12/8/2008 3:25:31 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Economic Recovery Clips - 12/8/08

As part of the campaign we are organizing with our allies to pass an Economic Recovery Package we will be sending out daily clips related to news related to that topic. Please forward to your own coalition lists as appropriate and if you see any clips we've missed, please let us know.

Jeremy J. Funk
Communications Director, Americans United for Change
Office: 202.470.5878
Mobile: 605.366.3654
funk@americansunitedforchange.org
www.americansunitedforchange.org

Newsday: **Economic stimulus package could reach $1.2T**
With each new piece of bad news this past week, estimates of the size and cost of an economic stimulus package advocated by President-elect Barack Obama have gotten bigger and more expensive, rising to as much as $1.2 trillion in federal spending.
http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/nation/ny-usstim085956982dec08,0,5280976.story

NYT: **Obama Pledges Public Works on a Vast Scale**
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/07/us/politics/07radio.html?bl&ex=1228798800&en=8a47220b90bc54e4&ei=5087%0A

CNN: **$1 trillion rescue: Not so far-fetched**
http://money.cnn.com/2008/12/05/news/economy/trillion_stimulus/?postversion=2008120516

LA Times: **Jobs, clean energy are key to Obama stimulus plan**
President-elect Barack Obama is crafting a new financial stimulus far more ambitious than any quick infusion of cash for a struggling economy, viewing it instead as a vehicle to create jobs and push the economy in the direction of improved health care and roads and clean energy.
http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-stimulus6-2008dec06,0,2870927.story

WP: **Obama Offers First Look at Massive Plan To Create Jobs**
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/06/AR2008120602187.html

Bloomberg: Obama Plans Largest Building Program Since 1950s
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aBcPiaRqqffg&refer=home

The Hill: Obama vows Eisenhower-like infrastructure investment
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/obama-details-recovery-plan-in-radio-address-2008-12-06.html

WSJ: **Stimulus Push Gets Greener Tint**
President-elect Barack Obama and congressional Democrats are intensifying work on a stimulus plan that would dole out roughly a half-trillion dollars over two years on tax-rebate checks and an array of "green" projects from home weatherization to renewable energy.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122852139710884159.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Reuters: **Wall Street set to start strong on Obama stimulus**
U.S. stocks headed for a sharply higher open on Monday on hopes that President-elect Barack Obama 's plan for major infrastructure investment would help avert a deeper slump in the economy.
http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed2/idUSN02ELLSNA20081208

Kansas City Star: **Watch out for waste in any stimulus plan**
Congress is getting ready to serve up a massive stimulus package — possibly in the neighborhood of $700 billion. Get ready

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for a giant Capitol Hill feeding frenzy — the mother of all earmark orgies.
http://www.kansascity.com/273/story/925494.html

AP: **Ohio counties prepare wish lists ahead of stimulus**
Two northeast Ohio counties are assembling wish lists of infrastructure projects that officials plan to implement if given a portion of a proposed $500 billion federal economic stimulus package.
http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/12/06/ap5788907.html

AP: Missouri says 34 highway projects ready to go
http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/12/05/ap5787189.html

WXIA-TV: **Georgia Ready For Green Job Stimulus**
http://www.11alive.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=124401&catid=3

NYT: **In String of Bad News, Omens of a Long Recession**
Despite months of rescue efforts, hundreds of billions of dollars in government spending and an avant-garde apparatus of financial tools, the American economy has only worsened, and at a faster rate than nearly anyone predicted.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/08/business/economy/08econ.html?_r=1&ref=todayspaper

AP: **Progress made in bailout plan for Big 3 automakers**
A bailout plan for the failing U.S. auto industry could include a Cabinet-level oversight board and a provision to withdraw the money if the overseers decide the companies are failing to take steps to overhaul themselves.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081208/ap_on_go_co/congress_autos

LA Times: **Paul Volcker is back, and he warns of tough times ahead**
Now Volcker is back, tapped by Barack Obama as a special economic advisor. And if the president-elect follows his advice on the current economic crisis, there could be pain again and no doubt many protests -- but also the possibility of long-term benefits.
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-na-volcker8-2008dec08,0,2129529.story

Reuters: **3M cutting nearly 1,800 positions**
3M said on Monday the company will reduced nearly 1,800 positions across the company in Q4.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20081208/bs_nm/us3m

Roll Call: Rep. Paul Ryan: 'Stimulus' Not the Way To Reboot the Economy

December 8, 2008, 12:00 a.m.
By Rep. Paul Ryan
Special to Roll Call

In weighing further measures to bolster the U.S. economy, Congress must recognize that real, sustained growth comes from the work, savings and investment of American families and businesses — not from the federal government.

We can, and should, take immediate action to address a weak economy with initiatives that produce lasting economic gains. What we cannot do is borrow and spend our way into prosperity, building up huge federal deficits and calling it "stimulus."

The intent of a second so-called stimulus — as advertised by the Democratic majority and President-elect Barack Obama — is "to get the economy back on track." But there is no evidence another huge infusion of federal dollars will stimulate anything more than a temporary jolt in consumer spending, after which the economy returns to its previous course.

The only lasting gains of stimulus spending will likely be in higher deficits and debt — both of which are soaring. In fact, after three straight years of declines, the deficit this past year more than doubled, to $455 billion. If the Democratic Congress passes its additional spending package — reported to have ballooned to between $500 billion and $750 billion — the deficit will likely blow right through the $1 trillion mark this year — the largest ever in nominal terms, and the largest as a share of the economy since World War II.

So while the long-run costs of stimulus spending packages are real, the long-run benefits are, at best, highly suspect. The reasons these temporary fiscal spending packages fail to fix the economy are many. Key among them: They do nothing to address the core problems of our current financial crisis and economic weakness; they do nothing to change the main factors driving our long-term growth trajectory; and they do nothing to promote real growth.

For the most recent example of stimulus failure, we can look to the results of the tax "rebates" enacted earlier this year. Instead of spending the extra cash, as proponents had hoped, most recipients simply paid off bills or saved the money. The stimulus boosted consumer spending by less than $20 billion but added nearly $80 billion to the national debt.

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For the most haunting example of stimulus failure, we can look to Japan's "lost decade" of the 1990s. With its economy in a sharp slowdown, the Japanese government pursued an aggressive round of fiscal stimulus packages after 1993. The spending, mostly concentrated on infrastructure, eventually pushed Japan's budget deficit to nearly 10 percent of gross domestic product by 1999, while total government debt increased to 130 percent of gross domestic product. Looking back on that decade, the Economist magazine concluded: "Japan's policymakers ... appear to have followed the Keynesian textbook ... yet, the economy is still flat on its back."

In short, the folly of relying on stimulus to correct a weak economy is the belief that the federal government can generate real, sustained growth and job creation. Of course, it cannot. Government doesn't create new jobs and prosperity — only real investment in the private sector, and expansion of U.S. economic activity, do. Put simply, because every dollar Congress spends must first be taken from the economy, Congressional spending can't grow the economic pie — it just redistributes the slices.

There are legitimate steps Congress can take to help the American economy in both the near and long term. These include the following:

● **Provide Help to Those Who Need It.** With the economy still shedding jobs, it makes sense to extend unemployment benefits, as we have already done.

● **Support Real Policies for Growth.** Fast-acting tax policy — such as allowing expensing on all new investments — would boost incentives to expand business operations and create jobs. In addition, lowering the corporate income tax rate — currently the second highest in the industrialized world — would help attract investment in the U.S., and reduce the incentives to shift business operations, and jobs, overseas.

● **Provide Tax Certainty.** In its most recent budget, the Democratic majority assumed the largest tax increase in history by letting a scheduled tax increase in 2010 occur, which would increase taxes on investment, savings, businesses, families and workers. This threat is stifling business investment and job creation today because of the uncertainty in tax laws. Congress should permanently extend the current tax laws and drop tax increases. This would serve as a de facto tax cut, increasing the after-tax rate of return on investment and unlocking billions in private, idle capital.

● **Help Stabilize Financial Markets.** Existing Securities and Exchange Commission regulations, or the lack thereof, are aggravating the sharp declines in asset values and the confidence in markets. Current mark-to-market accounting rules, last year's repeal of the uptick rule, and the opaque nature of the credit default swaps market, when combined, are aggravating the distress in our financial markets and our economy.

The federal government can help stabilize these markets by reforming the mark-to-market accounting rule to require a rolling average, restoring the uptick rule to put a brake on short selling of stocks to manipulate stock prices, and providing greater transparency in the CDS market.

● **Stop Over-Selling What Congress Can Do.** Congress must stop pitching the false notion that we can simply spend (then tax and borrow) our way to prosperity. Last year, Washington increased federal spending by 8.3 percent — more than twice the growth of our economy or Americans' wages; this included 11,000 pork-barrel earmarks at a cost to taxpayers of $17 billion. If — as Washington likes to suggest — higher government spending leads to stronger economic growth, our economy today would be the strongest in our nation's history.

● **Get Spending Under Control and Address the Long-Term Spending Crisis.** Congress must also get control of its own spending — particularly wasteful earmarks, and the unsustainable growth rate of our largest entitlement programs. Our three largest entitlements — Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security — have a current unfunded liability of $34 trillion; and every year we fail to act, we dig ourselves another $2 trillion-$3 trillion in the hole. Without reform, these programs will not only grow themselves right into extinction — they will impose a crushing blow to our budget and economy in the process.

In short, simply shoveling ever more money out the door will do nothing to address the core problems in our economy; what it will do is add hundreds of billions of dollars to federal deficits and debt, increase U.S. borrowing costs, serve as justification for even more tax hikes — and likely lead to an even deeper, longer economic crisis in the future.

I hope Washington can come together in a bipartisan fashion to address our greatest economic and fiscal challenges by: keeping taxes low so our economy can thrive, reforming regulations that are contributing to problems in financial markets, getting our spending under control and ending the wasteful practice of earmarking, and addressing the looming entitlement crisis. Such efforts would assure financial markets in the U.S. and around the world that we are serious about promoting real growth — both today, and well into the future.

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) is ranking member of the Budget Committee.

CQ: Obama Provides More Stimulus Plan Details

By David Clarke, CQ Staff

President-elect Barack Obama on Saturday outlined what would be a massive government investment in both the country's technological and physical infrastructure as part of an economic stimulus or recovery bill Congress plans to consider next month.

Obama said his plan for investing in roads, bridges and other parts of the country's physical infrastructure would be the "single largest new investment in our national infrastructure since the creation of the federal highway system in the 1950s." He did not say specifically how much he wants to spend.

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With news about the nation's economy continuing to be bleak, Obama and Democrats are working on an economic stimulus bill that could be considered by Congress next month and possibly signed into law shortly after the new president takes office Jan. 20. Currently, Democrats are discussing a bill that would cost about $500 billion and provide funding for states facing budget shortfalls, to social service programs for the poor and for infrastructure projects. The legislation also is expected to contain a tax element, although it has yet to be decided if that will be a one-time rebate or a long-term tax cut.

During his weekly radio and Web address Saturday, Obama focused on the infrastructure part of his plan and outlined five areas he would like to see addressed in the bill:

• Making public buildings more energy efficient.

• Funding for roads, bridges and other parts of the country's physical infrastructure.

• Repairing and modernizing schools;

• Providing broadband access to more parts of the country.

• Making sure all hospitals and doctor's offices have access to patient's electronic medical records.

"When Congress reconvenes in January, I look forward to working with them to pass a plan immediately," Obama said. "We need to act with the urgency this moment demands to save or create at least two and a half million jobs so that the nearly two million Americans who've lost them know that they have a future."

Democrats have pushed to pass a much smaller economic stimulus or recovery bill in recent months but have not been able to overcome objections from the White House and congressional Republicans. GOP leaders have argued that the programs Democrats want to fund would not jumpstart the economy in the short-term and would balloon an already large budget deficit. House Republicans in particular have urged that any stimulus plan focus primarily on tax cuts for individuals and businesses rather than new government spending.

Democrats in recent weeks have argued that their recovery plan is intended to do more than stimulate the economy over the next year and that infrastructure funding is aimed at creating more jobs over several years while building the base for future economic expansion.

As he showed Saturday, Obama has not been shy about building expectations for the Democrats' plan. Beyond his proposal for massive spending on roads and similar projects, he said his plan for funding school construction projects "will launch the most sweeping effort to modernize and upgrade school buildings that this country has ever seen."

Obama and Democrats are also pushing their recovery plan as a way to address energy issues. In calling for making public buildings more energy efficient, Obama said "our government now pays the highest energy bill in the world. We need to change that." The only examples he offered for accomplishing this task are upgrading heating systems and using energy-efficient light bulbs.

Obama said he also is proposing a major change to how medical records are kept by making "sure that every doctor's office and hospital in this country is using cutting-edge technology and electronic medical records so that we can cut red tape, prevent medical mistakes, and help save billions of dollars each year."

CongressDaily: Lawmakers Prepare $15B Auto Rescue Deal

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008
by Christian Bourge, Darren Goode, and Bill Swindell

The House and Senate are poised to move this week a package that would take $15 billion of the $25 billion appropriated earlier this year for the domestic auto industry's retooling and energy efficiency efforts and using it for an industry bailout. But prospects remain uncertain in the Senate, where Senate Banking ranking member **Richard Shelby** might to try to filibuster the deal.

"I hope we will be able to have an extended debate on it," Shelby said today on "Fox News Sunday." He said he did not know whether there would be enough votes to block a deal. Sen. **Jeff Sessions**, R-Ala., said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the auto companies should restructure under Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and he questioned whether the Senate has enough votes to bring the auto loan plan to a vote. "I have my doubts it would pass until we have an opportunity to really see what this is all about," he said.

But Senate Banking Chairman **Christopher Dodd** was more confident of the chances for Senate passage. "I think they will be [there]," Dodd said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

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He added: "None of us wants to wake up on January 1 to discover we don't have an industry to save." By contrast, while Sen. **Carl Levin**, D-Mich., said a deal between congressional Democratic leaders, Senate Republican leaders and the White House would be completed by Monday, he was less confident that there would be enough overall support for the move in Congress. "That's a much more complicated question," he said.

This weekend's talks have been among only the White House and Democrats, and a Senate GOP leadership aide today was unsure where the votes are yet.

On "Meet the Press," President-elect Obama expressed his support for the bailout deal, saying Congress was "doing exactly the right thing" in putting together a bill with heavy conditions.

Meanwhile, House Democratic leadership sources said the bill would include authorization to replace the retooling funding with funds appropriated in the economic stimulus package that Democrats plan to bring up for consideration in January. "Everyone believes it's basically done," said one senior Democratic aide.

A House Democratic aide said today changes are being made to a draft plan, including prohibiting auto companies from suing states that adopt California's limits on tailpipe emissions. The Bush administration has blocked California from adopting these standards, while Obama is expected to approve them after taking office. Democrats have not decided whether to include language creating an auto czar, the aide said.

The auto czar, who would oversee the restructuring of the companies, remains one the sticking points. Dodd backs the idea, and Levin said an individual would be selected in the next two to three months who would oversee the loans and ensure that "a leaner and a greener industry that comes out of this."

While he is bullish on the plan, Dodd also suggested that General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC should merge and that GM CEO Richard Wagoner should step down. "I think he has to move on," Dodd said. "If you're going to really restructure this, you've got to bring in a new team to do this." GM is in the worst financial shape of the Big Three, while Chrysler "is basically gone and probably ought to be merged," he added. Obama also said today that Wagoner should go.

While lawmakers made progress on the auto rescue this weekend, it remains unclear whether the House and Senate will be taking up legislation authorizing the Treasury Department to spend the remaining $350 billion allocated for the Troubled Assets Relief Program. If the Bush administration makes the request, Democratic aides say they expect little trouble getting votes for such a measure but will have to watch the situation closely to ensure that no problems erupt.

By tapping the Department of Energy loan, lawmakers appear to avoid a fight this week over whether to access additional money from the TARP total of $700 billion. Treasury has committed all but $20 billion of the initial $350 billion provided under the law and indicated it would not seek congressional approval to tap the second half unless under an emergency. Key Democrats have said that would not agree to the approve the remaining TARP funding unless they received a commitment from Treasury that some of the funding would go to stem home foreclosures, and that the department would improve oversight of the funds, such as keeping track of how banks use the money. One lobbyist noted that a standalone auto rescue measure removes the political pitfalls that could endanger passage of the TARP funds.

In other news, top Democratic sources also confirmed today **House Speaker Pelosi** is contemplating taking a vote this week on holding former top Bush adviser Karl Rove in contempt of Congress. Aides said House Judiciary Chairman **John Conyers** has pushed for the vote for some time. Pelosi has gone back and forth on whether to hold the vote, sources say, and it remains unclear whether she would ultimately follow through on the matter.

Roll Call: Work on Bailout Continues Through Weekend

December 6, 2008, 12:42 p.m.
By Jennifer Bendery
Roll Call Staff

Details were starting to emerge Saturday on the package being crafted by Congress and the White House aimed at keeping the nation’s car manufacturers from sinking into bankruptcy.

Congressional leaders are planning to unveil draft legislation Monday that would provide approximately $15 billion in short-term aid to the beleaguered auto industry, with a larger bailout likely next year. News reports have indicated the package will total $15 billion, but senior aides said the figure is still in flux.

The funds are designed to prop up the car manufacturers through the end of March. House Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Chairman Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) are working

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through the weekend to draft the measure.

The bill will include oversight provisions to ensure that automakers use the funds as intended. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) is also pushing for a provision that would prevent automakers from using any of the funds for pursuing lawsuits against states seeking tougher emission standards.

A senior House Democratic aide emphasized that while the general framework of the deal is in place, it is still "really uncertain" how the oversight, emission and repayment aspects will play out.

The issue of how to aid auto manufacturers appeared at a standstill until Pelosi made a major concession to the White House: on Friday, she dropped her objection to tapping into an existing loan fund for fuel-efficient vehicles.

Democrats had been pushing to draw funds from the $700 billion financial industry bailout. In giving ground, Pelosi insisted that those funds be replaced "within a matter of weeks." Democrats are hoping to replace the funds in a multibillion-dollar economic stimulus package on tap for January. The White House reiterated Saturday that no money should go to the Big Three automakers unless it is clear it will be returned.

"Taxpayers should not be asked to finance assistance for automakers without a strong likelihood that they will be paid back," White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said in a statement. Perino said the White House is having "constructive discussions" with Congress and hopes they will "continue to make progress."

CQ: Obama Says Economy Will Worsen, Promises Plan to Fix It

By Adriel Bettelheim, CQ Staff

President-elect Obama predicted the recession will worsen in the coming year, but depicted his infrastructure investment program as "equal to the task" and a linchpin to long-term economic growth.

In an interview on NBC's "Meet The Press" aired Sunday, Obama also expressed tepid support for a taxpayer-funded bailout of the U.S. auto industry, saying Detroit's Big Three made repeated strategic mistakes. But, he added, the companies remain a backbone of U.S. manufacturing. "I don't think it's an option to simply allow it to collapse," he said.

Obama also addressed tax policy, international terrorism and U.S. relations with Iran and Russia in an interview with moderator Tom Brokaw. And he criticized the Bush administration for not moving faster to help homeowners facing foreclosure as part of its response to the financial crisis.

Obama acknowledged that the economic outlook has worsened since he won the presidential election and expressed concern about the fragility of the global economic system that he said is amplifying structural problems in the U.S. economy.

"This is a big problem. It's going to get worse," Obama warned early in the interview.

But he said a massive infrastructure investment plan he unveiled on Saturday would both provide a short-term economic stimulus and ensure long-term growth, through such means as making schools more energy efficient and introducing new information technologies to the health care system. Obama said his economic team is still evaluating the size and scope of the plan.

"We can get a lot of work done fast," Obama said. "All of those things are not only part of an immediate stimulus package . . . but a down payment on sustainable long-term growth."

He pointedly warned Congress not to inject politics into spending decisions, adding there were "shovel-ready" projects that could almost immediately create jobs and deliver more bang for the buck.

"The days of just pork coming out of Congress as a strategy, those days are over," he said.

On the auto bailout, Obama said his economic team was evaluating forms of aid that could be extended to General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC after he takes office.

He expressed hope that Congress and the Bush administration would find a way to exert pressure on executives to make necessary changes while keeping factory doors open. And Obama criticized the companies for taking a "head-in-the-sand" approach and showing an unwillingness to make tough decisions by, for example, retooling their product lines and making smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Obama again touched on this theme later in the day, at a news conference to announce his nomination of retired Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki to be secretary of veterans affairs.

Responding to a question about a standoff at a shuttered Chicago factory, Obama expressed support for approximately 200 workers who have been occupying the closed Republic Windows & Doors plant demanding to be paid severance and vacation pay. The family-owned firm closed after Bank of America cancelled its line of credit. The union representing the

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workers claims the bank – which has received money from the federal bailout of the financial system – refused to allow the company to pay the workers.

"I think they're absolutely right," Obama said, when asked about the workers' actions. "These people need to follow through on their commitments."

"Part of what I'm hoping to introduce as the next president is a new ethic of responsibility, where we say that, if you're laying off workers, the least you can do when you're making $25 million a year is give up some of your compensation and some of your bonuses, figure out ways in which workers maybe have to take a haircut, but they can still keep their jobs, they can still keep their health care, and they can still stay in their homes," Obama said.

On the financial crisis, Obama expressed disappointment that Bush administration had not acted more quickly on a measures that could help homeowners avert foreclosures. He said he would entertain a temporary moratorium on foreclosures and take steps to encourage banks and homeowners to renegotiate the terms of troubled loans.

"I do think that we have to put in place a set of rules of the road, some financial regulations that prevent the kind of speculation and leveraging that we saw in the future," Obama said.

Obama declined to say how he would follow through on a campaign pledge to raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans, saying his economic team was evaluating whether to seek new legislation to change tax policy and whether to allow some of President Bush's tax cuts to expire, in 2011.

He said he favored "tough but direct diplomacy" with Iran that could offer a combination of economic incentives and economic sanctions linked to the government's support for terror groups. And he called for a reevaluation of U.S.-Russia relations centered around nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and cooperation confronting global terrorism.

First posted Dec. 7, 2008 12:25 p.m.

CQ: Hard Times Put Hill to Work

By David Baumann, CQ Staff

Many people expected a quiet year on Capitol Hill in 2008.

With a high-stakes presidential election coming up in November, nobody wanted to take a chance on doing anything dramatic. Democrats could not risk the majority they won just two years ago. Republicans did not want to give the Democrats any large victories upon which to campaign.

And even if President Bush wanted to boost his legacy by pushing Congress on some major issue, he lacked the political capital to pull it off. Democrats even punted domestic spending decisions until next year, rather than risk a political showdown with Bush like the one they had in 2007.

"Everybody was trying not to make a mistake that would affect the election," said former Rep. Charles W. Stenholm, D-Texas, who served 26 years in the House before being defeated in 2004.

But as the year progressed, economic news overtook the upcoming election in terms of what was important to lawmakers and to their constituents back home. The housing market, a significant base for consumer spending — the bedrock of the economy — had stalled out, and the number of foreclosures on homes rose. Job losses were reported every month, and the number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits climbed to recent highs. Meanwhile, inflation started to grow, led for the most part by record high prices for gasoline, which surpassed $4 a gallon on a national average over the summer.

Lawmakers were forced to act, and, in some cases, make decisions that could come back to haunt them on Election Day. Republicans who usually favor keeping the government and private commerce separate agreed to a federal takeover of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and a multibillion-dollar bailout of the financial industry. Democrats reversed a long held stance and agreed to end a ban on drilling for oil and gas off the intercontinental shelf.

This election year, Congress "was crisis-driven," said John Feehery, who was press secretary for former House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

Efforts to Stimulate the Economy

The week before the president's State of the Union address in January, House leaders and the White House agreed on a stimulus package intended to jump-start the economy. While such legislation often can take months to complete, lawmakers took just two weeks to clear a $151.7 billion bill that provided tax rebate checks to individuals and families and investment incentives to businesses (PL 110-185).

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Work also continued on a mortgage relief bill to help improve the housing market, which had been severely hurt by a collapse in the market for subprime mortgages. The House had passed a bill in 2007, and the Senate began its effort in earnest in the spring of this year. At the core of the bill was a $300 billion trust fund for the Federal Housing Administration to help borrowers refinance loans they could not afford, and the two chambers volleyed it back and forth over the next few months as they worked to alleviate the concerns of specific members and of the president.

The bill took on an unexpected urgency in July, when Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. announced that the government needed immediate authority to protect Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from collapsing. Paulson wanted approval from Congress for the Treasury to buy assets from the companies, including their mortgage holdings and shares of their stock, and extend new credit to them.

Lawmakers agreed and passed the bill (PL 110-289) in late July. Conservatives griped about the bill's cost and the government's new authority to bail out the enterprises, which owned or guaranteed about half of all U.S. mortgages. "I don't like everything in this bill, either," House Financial Services Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., said in response to criticism. "It is inconceivable to me that anybody would like everything in this bill — it is a product of a very significant set of compromises."

Coming just months before the election, the vote became ammunition in congressional campaigns. Supporters of the mortgage relief plan, such as Connecticut Republican Rep. Christopher Shays, touted his vote to help his district's homeowners avoid foreclosure. In South Carolina, Democrat Jane Dyer criticized Republican incumbent Rep. J. Gresham Barrett's "no" vote on the housing bill. And in South Dakota, Republican Joel Dykstra blamed Democratic incumbent Sen. Tim Johnson, a member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, for allowing the panel to ignore oversight of financial institutions.

Fears over the possibility of banks collapsing and credit drying up raised the stakes even higher in the fall, just as Congress was preparing to recess for the last month of campaigning. Armed with warnings that the economy was heading into the worst downturn since the Great Depression, Paulson and the administration pleaded with congressional leaders to allow a government bailout of the financial services industry.

The plan would give the Treasury secretary the authority to use as much as $700 billion to buy up troubled mortgage-related securities in an attempt to unclog credit markets and improve the balance sheets of banks and other financial institutions teetering on collapse. It would open the door to unprecedented federal intervention to shore up private entities.

Congressional leaders, shaken by Paulson's dire description of the state of the economy, went along with the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). But they underestimated constituent anger over what was viewed as a bailout of wealthy financial giants, and a bipartisan coalition in the House defeated it on the floor in a vote that stunned markets globally.

The Senate took over and combined a slightly sweetened bailout package with a multipurpose measure to renew a variety of expiring tax breaks, add a one-year "patch" on the alternative minimum tax, and require insurance companies to offer benefits for treating mental illness and addiction on par with those provided for other health issues.

The Senate passed the new legislation. The House cleared it, with some reluctance still from many members, and the president signed it immediately.

Coming so close to the election, this bailout quickly became a campaign issue. For instance, in Kentucky, Democratic challenger Bruce Lunsford tried to tie Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to the failing financial giants.

The vote had other political repercussions as well. Rep. John Campbell, R-Calif., said he believed he had to vote for the bailout legislation. However, Campbell had been vying for the chairmanship of the conservative Republican Study Committee (RSC), many of whose members had opposed the measure. Campbell dropped his candidacy for the RSC chair after the vote.

After the election, Democrats talked about trying to move another stimulus bill — this one focused on spending for job-creating projects such as infrastructure improvements. But Republican lawmakers and Bush had little interest in such a bill, so Democrats decided to wait until they had control of the White House and larger majorities in January to work on new legislation to address the economy.

And, late in the year, the heads of the Big Three automakers went to Washington twice — first by corporate jet and then again by the more humble means of driving their own products — to plead for federal assistance. Lawmakers, reacting to polls showing Americans leaned away from another bailout of the private sector, acknowledged there was a crisis in the auto industry but were reluctant to dole out more federal funds. Democrats said the administration should use funds from the financial services bailout to shore up the car industry, and the president said lawmakers should repurpose an existing $25 billion Energy Department loan program that was intended to help automakers retool to produce more fuel-efficient cars.

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Democratic leaders and President-elect Barack Obama said a broad stimulus bill will be their priority when the 111th Congress convenes in January, so lawmakers plan to have a measure ready for the new president to sign immediately after his inauguration Jan. 20.

The economic crisis overshadowed all others in the closing months of the presidential campaign, with Democrat Obama and Republican John McCain trading charges about which party was responsible. “In the end, the economy worked to a great degree to the Democrats’ favor,” Stenholm said, adding that Republicans had controlled the White House for the past eight years. “You get credit for the things that go right and blame for the things that go wrong.”

GOP Wins on Energy

In dealing with the related issue of energy costs, Republicans were able to take advantage of rising gasoline prices to force Democrats’ hands on a longtime debate: whether the United States should be able to drill for oil and gas off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. As the cost at the pump climbed, public opinion polls shifted in favor of lifting a 26-year-old moratorium on offshore drilling.

In the Senate, Republicans stalled non-energy legislation, and House Democrats abandoned attempts to take annual spending bills to the floor, fearing GOP drilling amendments. Republicans even held informal sessions on the House floor during the August recess to focus attention on the issue.

By the time lawmakers returned from recess and the two parties’ nominating conventions, Democrats knew they had lost any leverage in this fight. They tried to negotiate a compromise, but Republicans held tight and forced them to allow the offshore drilling moratorium — typically in the annual appropriations bill for the Interior Department — to expire by not including it in a stopgap spending measure (PL 110-329) to continue funding domestic programs into the new year.

The stopgap measure was needed because Democrats decided early in the year that it would be useless to try to negotiate with Bush over the annual appropriations measures. In 2007, Bush refused to yield on spending issues and carried through on threats to veto appropriations bills. Ultimately, Democrats were forced to give in to him on many of their major spending priorities.

“Democrats assumed they couldn’t work with George Bush,” Feehery said. “They thought they could get a better deal with a Democratic president.”

Some Longtime Goals Accomplished

Democrats did succeed in clearing several reauthorization measures, some of which Republicans had not passed for several years.

Congress cleared Amtrak reauthorization legislation (PL 110-432) for the first time since 1997, after supporters of intercity rail agreed to allow private companies to bid on the development and construction of a high-speed rail line in the northeast corridor. The House and Senate sent legislation to the president reauthorizing the Higher Education Act (PL 110-315). The bill, the first reauthorization of higher education programs in a decade, tightens ethics requirements and increases the maximum authorized Pell grant.

Congress also succeeded in overriding two Bush vetoes. In May, lawmakers voted to override the president on a $289 billion, five-year farm bill (PL 110-246). The measure, which cleared after Congress passed six short-term extensions, maintains the crop subsidy program and boosts funding for nutrition programs. And, in July, after a series of votes that included the dramatic return of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., to the Hill for the first time since surgery for a brain tumor, Congress voted to enact, over Bush’s objections, legislation that blocked a scheduled cut in pay rates for physicians who participate in the Medicare health care program for the elderly and disabled.

Several issues, such as climate change, wage discrimination and tobacco regulation, were debated but never settled. Many of those are expected to come up again in the 111th Congress, when Democrats hope that their wider majorities in the House and Senate and a member of their own party in the White House will make bills addressing those issues easier to clear.

“The debate that took place in the current Congress shaped the policies that are likely to evolve in the next Congress,” said Scott Lilly, a senior fellow at the liberal Center for American Progress and former Democratic staff director of the House Appropriations Committee.

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Lauren Weiner
Deputy Communications Director

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To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	6/29/2010 7:47:24 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Boehner: You Haven't Seen Nothin' Yet When It Comes to Failed Conservative Governance

AMERICANS UNITED FOR CHANGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT:** **Lauren Weiner, 202-470-5870**
June 29, 2010 **Jeremy Funk, 202-470-5878**

Boehner: You Haven't Seen Nothin' Yet When It Comes to Failed Conservative Governance

In Explosive New Interview, the Republican House Leader Lays Out Blueprint of Misguided Priorities His Party Would Pursue If Returned to Power – Everything From Raising the Retirement Age, to Pushing Young Adults Off Their Parents' Insurance, to Taking Away Rx Drug Relief from Seniors, to Giving Big Oil a Free Pass

And Did Boehner Actually Say the Problems on Wall Street That Collapsed the Economy Are No Bigger Than an "Ant"? Yes, yes he did.

See GOP Leader's Must Read Interview With the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Below ***

Buckle up, America, because Republican House Leader John Boehner promises it's going to be a bumpy ride if his party is back in the driver's seat. After green-lighting 8 years of failed conservative policies in the Bush era that drove the economy deep into the ditch, Boehner insists we haven't seen anything yet. From health care to Wall Street reform, the GOP leader intends to slam the breaks on any and all progress that has been made under this administration to pull the economy from the brink of depression. Not stopping there, Boehner hopes to unravel progress made as far back as 70 years by scaling back Social Security.

Wall Street: in the GOP Leader's view, the culture of greed and recklessness on Wall Street that left 8 million Americans without jobs and evaporated $17 trillion in retirement savings and net worth, is a problem no bigger than the size of an "ant." It's a blunt acknowledgment of the ant-sized appreciation Republican leaders have for the pain and suffering working Americans are still feeling in the wake of the meltdown on Wall Street. But they no doubt have an elephant-sized appreciation for the amount of contributions pouring in from Wall Street lobbyists and CEO's these days.

Social Security: in the same breathe the GOP Leader called the Democrat's efforts to reform Wall Street a "nuclear weapon," he promises to launch a nuclear bomb of his own on Social Security by slashing benefits, raising the retirement age, and for the first time ever, conducting means testing on seniors. Such an assault on the safety net that has kept generations of seniors from poverty would make even George W. Bush blush.

Health Care: the GOP Leader says Americans shouldn't get used to any of the welcome reforms under the new health care law, including the new ban on lifetime insurance caps, filling in the infamous 'donut hole' prescription drug coverage gap for seniors, allowing young adults under 26 to stay on their parents' insurance plans, the new tax credits making health care more affordable for small businesses, and the sweeping new consumer protections from the worst insurance industry practices like dropping people when they get sick or denying coverage to those with "pre-existing conditions."

Offshore drilling: the GOP leader thinks big oil hasn't polluted our coastline enough, and if he had his way, big oil would have a free pass to drill wherever they pleased. 'Drill, baby, drill' isn't just a slogan for Leader Boehner, it's a centerpiece in his Party's blueprint of failed, conservative priorities.

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Obama's good for GOP, Boehner says

By The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review staff | Tuesday, June 29, 2010 | http://www.bostonherald.com | U.S. Politics

House Minority Leader John Boehner, the Ohio Republican with his eye on Speaker Nancy Pelosi's gavel, said the tide is turning the GOP's way.

"The American people have written off the Democrats," Boehner said Monday in an interview with Tribune-Review editors and reporters. "They're willing to look at us again."

Boehner stopped short of predicting Republicans would gain the 39 seats they need to retake control of Congress, but he said a backlash against President Obama's policies has energized Republican voters more than Democrats. Boehner said voters are angry at a government they believe is overreaching and indifferent.

University of Virginia political scientist Isaac Wood said excitement among tea party protesters might not carry over to the electorate as a whole.

"While the enthusiasm of tea party types may drive them to the polls and boost Republicans, it does not yet seem that huge waves of new voters will be flocking to the polls," Wood said.

Boehner said the protests are emblematic of deep voter anger against Washington's leaders.

"They're snuffing out the America that I grew up in," Boehner said. "Right now, we've got more Americans engaged in their government than at any time in our history. There's a political rebellion brewing, and I don't think we've seen anything like it since 1776."

The health care law passed in March "pushed most Americans over the edge," Boehner said.

If Republicans retake control of the House, Boehner promised a vote on a bill repealing the health care law and replacing it with a scaled-down package of tax breaks and court reforms. Democrats likely would maintain control of the Senate, and Obama could veto the proposal, all but eliminating its chances of succeeding.

"We are going to do everything we can to make sure that this law and this program never really takes effect," Boehner said. One option would be to repeal the $534 billion in Medicare cuts, which pay for more than half of the law's provisions. "They're going to need money from the Congress to hire these 20,000-plus bureaucrats they need to hire to make this program work. They're not going to get one dime from us."

Boehner criticized the financial regulatory overhaul compromise reached last week between House and Senate negotiators as an overreaction to the financial crisis that triggered the recession. The bill would tighten restrictions on lending, create a consumer protection agency with broad oversight power and give the government an orderly way to dissolve the largest financial institutions if they run out of money.

"This is killing an ant with a nuclear weapon," Boehner said. What's most needed is more transparency and better enforcement by regulators, he said.

Allan H. Meltzer, a political economy professor at Carnegie Mellon University, said the financial bill "does nothing to restore integrity to the mortgage market by correcting Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and the bill does not eliminate 'too big to fail.' "

Boehner said Obama overreacted to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The spill might warrant a "pause" in deepwater drilling, but Obama's blanket ban on drilling in the gulf -- which a judge overturned last week -- could devastate the region's economy, he said. Louisiana State University scientists estimate the ban could have affected more than 10,000 jobs.

Boehner had praise, however, for Obama's troop surge in Afghanistan and stepped-up drone attacks in Pakistan. He declined to list any benchmarks he has for measuring progress in the nine-year war, at a time of increasing violence and Obama's replacement of Gen. Stanley McChrystal with Gen. David Petraeus.

Ensuring there's enough money to pay for the war will require reforming the country's entitlement system, Boehner said. He said he'd favor increasing the Social Security retirement age to 70 for people who have at least 20 years until retirement, tying cost-of-living increases to the consumer price index rather than wage inflation and limiting payments to those who need them.

"We need to look at the American people and explain to them that we're broke," Boehner said. "If you have substantial non-Social Security income while you're retired, why are we paying you at a time when we're broke? We just need to be honest with people."

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Date: 12/22/2014 7:02:34 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday December 22, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Monday December 22, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: "Our veterans have served America – and it is time that America served our veterans."@HillaryClinton http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-a-record-of-service-to-veterans/ … [12/22/14, 1:11 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton was given a lifetime service award by @TAPS4America for her work with veterans#HRC365 http://www.buzzfeed.com/rubycramer/hillary-clinton-gets-close-candid-with-military-families#.juypA4Z5d … [12/22/14, 12:46 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@allidablack quotes @HillaryClinton : We must "be clear-eyed [without] losing sight of the world as we want it to be" http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/opinion/valley-views/2014/12/22/roosevelt-tenets-live-human-rights-day/20755547/ … [12/22/14, 12:22 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

Poughkeepsie Journal opinion: Allida Black: "Roosevelt tenets live on in Human Rights Day"

"Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated her life to promoting this vision. It is not simple work. As Hillary Clinton explained in Hard Choices, 'Our challenge is to be clear-eyed about the world as it is while never losing sight of the world as we want it to be.'"

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Wall Street Journal: “Little Crossover Appeal for Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush — WSJ/NBC Poll”

“Neither Mrs. Clinton nor Mr. Bush is a lock to run, but, at this early stage in the posturing, the poll results look much better for the former secretary of state.”

Boston Globe: “Clinton faces headwinds from liberals as Warren rises”

“Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Clinton, said the two women have long fought for the same ideals. Asked about the impact of Warren’s rise on a potential Clinton bid, he said via e-mail, ‘We need more people like Elizabeth Warren and those she inspires fighting for them.’”

Politicker NJ: “Rutgers 2016 Poll of NJ voters: Clinton 49%, Christie 39%”

“In a 2016 mano-a-mano between Gov. Chris Christie and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, New Jersey voters continue to give Clinton a double-digit lead, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.”

Time: “Hillary Clinton, Up, Up and Away”

“As she embarked on the campaign trail for Democratic candidates, speaking gratis to voters, she dropped the milquetoast observations about American foreign policy and focused instead on a single, overarching message: the economic frustration of the American middle class.”

CNN: “These 2016 long-shots think they can win?”

“Hillary Clinton is the overwhelming favorite for Democrats, though she continues to eye Elizabeth Warren -- a huge political brand in her own right.”

Articles:

Poughkeepsie Journal opinion: Allida Black: “Roosevelt tenets live on in Human Rights Day”

By Allida Black

December 21, 2014

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International Human Rights Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Dec. 10, 1948. Crafted in the shadow of the horrors of the Holocaust and World War II, the declaration gave the world vision it needed to stand up to fear, and the blueprint it craved to build a safer and more just world.

It is a bold document, based on a single premise – that the "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

Hyde Park's Eleanor Roosevelt, who led the drafting and adoption of the declaration, understood we are all members of the human family, and that for governments to prosper and wars to cease, we must treat each other with the same respect and candor that we treat our own families. She knew this would not be easy or popular and that she would be accused of championing ideals that could never be achieved. But she persisted; she knew that without ideals, politics and policy are merely power games without a soul.

She urged America and the world to recognize that human rights "begin in small places, close to home…the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination." And that "unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere."

But she also knew that rights come with responsibilities. For rights to exist here and around the world, we must recognize, implement and defend them. As she often argued: "Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated her life to promoting this vision. It is not simple work. As Hillary Clinton explained in Hard Choices, "Our challenge is to be clear-eyed about the world as it is while never losing sight of the world as we want it to be."

We can do better. That's what human rights mean.

It is hard, tiring work. It takes the courage to dream, the political skills necessary to implement the dream, and a heart fierce enough to continue the struggle.

Let us recommit to the rights of all members of the human family. Let us hear Eleanor's call.

Dr. Allida Black is an Eleanor Roosevelt historian. She is a research professor of history and international affairs at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill, a national historic site, is off Route 9G in Hyde Park.

Wall Street Journal: "Little Crossover Appeal for Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush — WSJ/NBC Poll"

By Patrick O'Connor

December 22, 2014, 7:23 a.m. EST

It's hard to find people open to supporting both Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush.

Despite claims the two potential White House hopefuls would bring some crossover appeal to the next presidential race in 2016, only 8% of American adults say they would be open to both, according to the results of the latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll. One in five people surveyed said they couldn't support either.

That's not terribly surprising for America's two reigning political dynasties. Both families engender as much anger from opponents as they do

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enthusiasm from supporters. But it suggests a contest between the two would break along predictably partisan lines.

Neither Mrs. Clinton nor Mr. Bush is a lock to run, but, at this early stage in the posturing, the poll results look much better for the former secretary of state. Half of all American adults said they would be open to supporting Mrs. Clinton, while 48% said they couldn't.

Mr. Bush, the former Florida governor, would start the race with 57% of adults saying they wouldn't be open to voting for him for president. Just 31% said they would. Unlike Mrs. Clinton, who scores well among Democrats, a third of all Republicans said they wouldn't vote for Mr. Bush.

One trend starting to emerge: Mrs. Clinton appeals to many of the same groups as President Barack Obama, with some notable exceptions. Hart Research Associates, the Democratic polling firm that conducts the Journal survey with the Republican firm Public Opinion Strategies, compared Mrs. Clinton's support among 21 demographic groups with Mr. Obama's support in 2012.

The numbers showed nearly identical, dismal levels of support for both Mrs. Clinton and the president among white men (right around 35%), but Mrs. Clinton far exceeds what the president tallied among white women, with 52% saying they would be open to support her.

Mrs. Clinton would have to make up some ground to match Mr. Obama's numbers among black and Hispanic voters. But the former secretary of state has a big edge among small-town and rural voters. Perhaps most interesting, Mrs. Clinton does much better among Latino women than she does among Latino men.

The poll also found evidence that to win the presidency, Mrs. Clinton would need to distinguish herself from the president. Some 22% of voters said they would be open to supporting Mrs. Clinton but also want to see the next president move in a different direction than the current officeholder.

Boston Globe: "Clinton faces headwinds from liberals as Warren rises"

By Jessica Meyers

December 21, 2014

It has been a tough year for the Hillary Rodham Clinton juggernaut.

Her record as secretary of state was undercut by the rise of the Islamic State and a breakdown in relations with Russia. Her much-awaited book didn't sell many copies. Her face graced the cover of this year's worst-selling issue of People magazine.

Then, during the last few weeks, a different juggernaut erupted — a liberal campaign to persuade Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren to run for president.

One group, MoveOn.org, is spending $1 million on a "Run Warren Run" effort and recently sent troops to the first-caucus state of Iowa. A second team, Democracy for America, has bolted from its pro-Clinton founder and is using $250,000 on a similar pro-Warren effort.

Clinton still appears likely to clinch a nomination, particularly if Warren keeps her pledge not to run. But the difficulties of 2014 are casting her race

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in a different light, raising questions about liberal dissatisfaction with her record and whether a leftward shift would hurt her in a general election.

“There are a lot of unchecked boxes with Hillary Clinton when it comes to economic populism and corporate accountability,” said Adam Green, cofounder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, a liberal group. “There are definitely red flags.”

He cited pricey speaking fees that Clinton received at two events for Goldman Sachs, a Wall Street investment bank, and questions about her position on numerous policies that affect the middle class, such as a long-shot hope to expand Social Security benefits.

The group, while not part of the draft effort, has sent an organizer to New Hampshire in hopes of creating a coalition that ensures that candidates carry Warren’s message.

At the very least, these liberal groups hope to use her momentum to push Clinton in a direction more aligned with a populist agenda.

“We absolutely would welcome Secretary Clinton laying out an energizing and bold agenda on the issues MoveOn members care about and Senator Warren cares about,” said Ben Wikler, Washington director of MoveOn.org.

In a sign of increased agitation with the Warren dynamic, a Clinton adviser recently met with the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, said cofounder Green, confirming a report first aired by MSNBC. He declined to provide details.

Democracy for America helps showcase the divide among activists. While the liberal group is pushing for Warren, founder Howard Dean favors Clinton.

“I am convinced if you put the facts in front of Hillary Clinton, she would see the facts, she would understand the issue, and she would do the right thing,” said Dean, a former Vermont governor and past chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Many Democrats still flock to Clinton. More than 80 percent said they would support her in a presidential bid, according to a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. But 71 percent of all voters surveyed said they want the next president to take a different approach to the White House.

Warren’s recent successes have propelled her popularity among liberals. She nearly derailed a big spending bill over a provision that she said would water down financial regulations. She has also taken on the White House by opposing Obama’s nominee for a Treasury undersecretary, Antonio Weiss, largely due to his Wall Street ties.

Supporters shrug at Warren’s insistence that she is not running in 2016 and note that she puts her dismissals in present tense. She has pledged to complete her term, which ends in January 2019. Clinton has signaled she will run but has not given a final decision.

Clinton has stayed silent on Warren’s latest maneuvers. But supporters are setting her up as a liberal figure in her own right.

“There’s such an impressive record in Hillary’s life and across the span of her career supporting and promoting opportunities for middle-class families, for women, and children,” said Tracy Sefl, a senior adviser for Ready for Hillary, a political action committee that is not affiliated with Clinton but has raised more than $12 million to encourage a presidential bid.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Clinton, said the two women have long fought for the same ideals.

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Asked about the impact of Warren's rise on a potential Clinton bid, he said via e-mail, "We need more people like Elizabeth Warren and those she inspires fighting for them."

Clinton channeled the Massachusetts senator in October, when she spoke at a Boston event aimed at saving Martha Coakley's faltering Massachusetts gubernatorial campaign.

"Don't let anyone tell you that, you know, it's corporations and businesses that create jobs," she said, echoing a theme often sounded by Warren. Republicans denounced her remarks as liberal pandering, and she backed away from them days later saying she had "shorthanded" her comments.

But some of the enthusiasm Clinton generated when she first ran for president in 2008 has waned.

A speech she gave at Georgetown University this month filled a little more than half the auditorium.

Her autobiography, a 656-page tome titled "Hard Choices," has yet to sell enough copies to meet a reported $14 million advance.

And people still wince at Clinton's comment last June that she and her husband left the White House "dead broke."

Some supporters fear this erosion of Clinton's image, especially when encouraged by members of her own party, will hurt Democratic chances of winning the White House.

"My concern is anytime you leave your base, you run the risk of Republicans pursuing," said Lou D'Allesandro, a longtime New Hampshire state senator and Clinton ally. "But if [Clinton] decides to run, it will be tough to unlodge her."

The pair aren't exactly chummy.

Warren called out Clinton in her book, "The Two-Income Trap," for approving bankruptcy legislation as a New York senator that Warren believed would harm working families.

But Warren has said she backs a Clinton run. And Clinton has sought to make friends. "I love watching Elizabeth give it to those who deserve to get it," she said at the Coakley event.

Liberals are banking on the Warren focus to pay off even if she doesn't run.

Clinton "isn't a turn-off as much as an insurance policy," said Mary Anne Marsh, a Democratic political analyst in Boston. "This is much more about getting Hillary Clinton to embrace these conditions than watching Elizabeth Warren on a campaign for the White House."

Politicker NJ: "Rutgers 2016 Poll of NJ voters: Clinton 49%, Christie 39%"

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By Max Pizarro

December 22, 2014, 12:53 p.m. EST

In a 2016 mano-a-mano between Gov. Chris Christie and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, New Jersey voters continue to give Clinton a double-digit lead, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

Forty-nine percent of registered voters say they would support Clinton over Christie, while 39 percent back Christie. The gap between the two has remained around 10 points through much of the past year, according to polling director David Redlawsk.

Clinton is also more positively received by New Jersey voters, with a 56 percent favorability rating, compared to Christie's 44 percent. While Clinton's favorability rating is down from 65 percent at the beginning of 2014, Christie's dropped even more after January's Bridgegate revelations. Both ratings, however, have remained relatively stable since their declines early in the year.

"It probably makes sense that there is little movement in a hypothetical matchup two years before the actual election," said Redlawsk, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling and professor of political science at Rutgers University. "Still, Christie starts down double-digits in his home state if both he and Clinton are the nominees."

Sixty-three percent of New Jersey voters expect Christie to hit the 2016 campaign trail, up six points since last asked in an August Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. Voters also think Christie's decision-making ahead of a potential presidential campaign has not been New Jersey-focused. Instead, 55 percent says the governor's choices in signing or vetoing bills have been more about a potential presidential run, rather than what's good for the state. In addition, 41 percent think Christie's travel schedule outside of the state for fundraising and campaigning has hurt his ability to govern. But 52 percent say his travels have made no difference to his ability to govern.

At this point, about seven in ten Republicans and Democrats name a preference for their party's nomination, little changed throughout 2014. Republicans and those leaning GOP continue to stick by Christie as their top choice, while Democrats (along with leaners) overwhelmingly still prefer Clinton.

Christie is number 1 for 32 percent of Garden State Republicans and GOP leaners, down nine points since August. Another nine percent name Christie as their second choice. Former 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney follows with 10 percent naming him as first choice and eight percent listing him second.

In contrast, 54 percent of Democrats and those leaning Democrat choose Clinton as their candidate, down five points from August. For another eight percent, she is the second choice. No other Democrat breaks 10 percent in first choice mentions; Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) follows as first choice for six percent and second choice for five percent.

Results are from a statewide poll of 750 adults, contacted by live callers on both landlines and cell phones from Dec. 3-10, 2014. The subsample of 646 registered voters reported on here has a margin of error of +/-4.3 percentage points.

Time: "Hillary Clinton, Up, Up and Away"

By Haley Sweetland Edwards

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December 22, 2014, 9:45 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton prepares a 2016 campaign on promises of upward mobility for the middle class

It wasn't until this fall that Hillary Clinton began to show her hand. Her book tour was winding down, the midterm elections were gearing up, and her paid speaking events, for which she charged up to $300,000 a pop, had passed from initial curiosity into the realm of postmodern performance art–spectacles, like Andy Warhol prints, remarked on mainly for their cost.

But as she embarked on the campaign trail for Democratic candidates, speaking gratis to voters, she dropped the milquetoast observations about American foreign policy and focused instead on a single, overarching message: the economic frustration of the American middle class.

"Working people haven't gotten a raise in a decade, and it feels harder and harder to get ahead," she said in Pennsylvania, in what had become a typical stump speech. From California to Massachusetts, she told voters to choose politicians who were "on your side," to demand a "fair shot" and a "fresh start," to make their vote about "upward mobility." By the time she got to New York, she was practically preaching. "If you work hard and do your part, you and your family are supposed to be able to have a better life," she roared.

If that rhetoric sounds familiar, that's because it is. Barack Obama made "on your side" and "fair shot" the two dominant clichés of the 2012 election. They, in turn, owed a lot to Clinton's husband, the 42nd President, who made the "working hard and playing by the rules" trope a huge crowd pleaser in the 1990s. Indeed, the most remarkable part of Clinton's new message was that it wasn't new at all. The most talked-about presidential candidate who is not yet a candidate had simply seized at last upon the issue that has dominated every election in the past generation–and campaign professionals across the country took note.

It is, after all, good politics. Despite the recent growth of the economy, the drop in oil prices and some qualified optimism about wages, the vast majority of Americans have yet to feel so much as a gentle breeze of economic recovery. The median American income this year was about 6% lower than it was in 2000, if adjusted for inflation, and two-thirds of Americans are now living on paychecks that are 15% to 35% smaller than they were in 2002, according to Robert Shapiro, a former economic adviser to President Bill Clinton and co-founder of Sonecon, an economic advisory and analysis firm. "Most people are getting poorer every year," says Shapiro. "There's nothing like this on record. It explains our current politics in a way that no other data explain it."

But if delivering a couple dozen speeches about the broken economy isn't political rocket science, figuring out a way to convince voters that you're the one to fix it just might be. Clinton, who is expected to announce her candidacy in early 2015, has her work cut out for her. If she's going to run on a message of economic prosperity for the middle class, she will need a persuasive policy agenda and a rock-solid political strategy to convince voters that she is, or could be, the new hero of the middle class.

American voters have been promised the moon before, and 2016 will be no different. In the next few months, all the Republican presidential hopefuls will present their lists of policy fixes, including old standbys like more domestic energy, less regulation and lower taxes. Obama, for his part, will continue to push his agenda, including a higher minimum wage and an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, a tax refund designed to reward working families.

Clinton, who will want to differentiate herself from Obama, will probably lift a handful of policies from the tried-and-true Democratic handbook, like funding more infrastructure projects, while loudly championing a few particularly innovative ideas of her own. William Galston, a fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former domestic-policy adviser to Clinton's husband, suggests, for example, creating an online public university–the National Online University, he calls it–where anyone could get a degree, in their own time, for free. Others propose federally backed computer-manufacturing apprenticeships, free IT classes and streamlined regulations to make it easier to start small businesses. But while some voters are moved by policy ideas, Clinton's success in both the primaries and a general election will hinge on whether she is able to give a good sermon about something more important: hope.

Cue hometown boy Bill Clinton. In mid-November, he offered a 2016 campaign preview of his own in a speech at his presidential library in Little Rock, Ark. "When I took office, the distribution of American prosperity looked astonishingly like it does now," he told a group of supporters. But by the end of the decade, "we had three surpluses and the fourth surplus we submitted to Congress when I left." The Clinton Administration, he said, created 50% more jobs than Reagan's, moved 100 times as many people up from poverty and increased the incomes of the bottom 20% of

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Americans by 23.6%. “This shows the importance of policy,” he said. Then he added pointedly, “We can do this again.” The subtext was clear to everyone present: all we need to return to past glory is a bit of that Clinton touch.

That is, of course, a story line that rankles Clinton’s rivals, both on the Republican side and among the contingent of liberal Democrats who would prefer to see a populist candidate like Elizabeth Warren snag the nomination. Both groups take issue with the narrative. The boom in the ’90s, they believe, was not the result of presidential policy so much as good timing: the birth of the commercial Internet drove productivity and wages higher at a time when the U.S.’s slowly declining manufacturing sector had yet to hit rock bottom. But from there, the two sides’ strategies diverge.

Republicans point out that voters’ memories of the Clinton Administration are hardly all roses. “It’s amusing that the Clinton allies rely heavily on spinning any positives they can from the 1990s while avoiding the baggage that her campaign will carry from their past scandals,” said Tim Miller, who runs the conservative PAC America Rising.

Liberal Democrats are already busy discrediting the idea that Clinton, who is more closely associated with Wall Street than factory floors, should be cast as a warrior for the little guy at all. They point out that in their quarter-century in the public spotlight, the Clintons have raised more than a billion dollars from corporations and business elites, and that nearly all the biggest financial firms have already, albeit tacitly, pledged Clinton their support. Forty-four percent of all voters in Iowa thought Clinton’s “close ties to Wall Street” were a disadvantage, according to an October poll.

Clinton and her close circle are not oblivious to the problem. Aides patiently explain that Clinton donates her famously large speaking fees to her family’s foundation and that the differences between her views and those of the populist wing of the party “are more rhetorical than actual.” But the debate foreshadows the fight to come–when Clinton hopes to reclaim the spirit of the struggling middle class and that same group of voters goes shopping for a candidate who can actually make a difference.

CNN: “These 2016 long-shots think they can win?”

By Stephen Collinson

December 22, 2014, 9:31 a.m. EST

No one knows your name so here's an idea: why not run for President?

Politicians who would draw blank stares from most Americans are toying -- sometimes openly -- with the idea of a run, gunning for a chance to take on the biggest names in politics and to defy the odds and end up in the White House.

On the Republican side, this crew of long-shots includes former New York Gov. George Pataki, businesswoman Carly Fiorina, 2012 candidate Rick Santorum and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence. Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, outgoing Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders could vie for the Democratic nomination.

None of these potential 2016ers register more than single digits in most polls and they'd face seemingly insurmountable odds against politicians who are so well known that they essentially double as national celebrities. Hillary Clinton is the overwhelming favorite for Democrats, though she continues to eye Elizabeth Warren -- a huge political brand in her own right. Meanwhile, Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio and Chris Christie could bring so much star power to a GOP primary fight that lesser-known candidates might struggle to get a word in.

So why would largely unknown candidates endure the endless stump speeches, germ-laden hand shakes, pleas to donors, soggy pizza, late night flights and crack-of-dawn TV hits that come with running for President?

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"It's ego," said David Johnson, a Georgia political consultant who runs a Republican-leaning firm. "It's a way to build their brand identity. They get a platform during the debates, they are able to advocate their positions."

Every presidential campaign is by definition a long-shot — after all, only one candidate can win. A victorious White House bid is a mystical blend of tactics and timing, luck and charisma and the ability to ride out a crisis.

But not everyone who loses is a loser. A presidential bid is also a pretty good line on a resume -- even if it doesn't lead to the Oval Office.

"For some of these candidates, it's pretty obvious that they are thinking long term about their careers — and thinking about building a brand for themselves that they can parlay into a political talk show," said Oberlin College Professor Michael Parkin, author of an academic paper on how political candidates use late night television.

Mike Huckabee's folksy charm won over voters at the Iowa caucus in 2008 and he ended up with a radio show. He is still strong among evangelicals and could jump into the 2016 race if he sees an opening.

A losing race can still turn a politician into a bigger player in their party, fatten lecture fees or lead to new jobs in government.

Howard Dean, for instance, turned his infamous flame out during the 2004 Democratic primary into a job as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, which helped him influence the party's direction long after his loss.

Another Democrat, Dennis Kucinich, was one of a crowd of 435 in the House of Representatives. But in presidential runs mostly remembered for his claim he saw a UFO and arm twirling antics to show he had no corporate "strings," Kucinich won national attention for his brand of liberal politics.

Former Speaker Newt Gingrich introduced himself to a new generation of American conservatives with his 2012 presidential run. He's now a sought after pundit, including on CNN, and an author.

The power of presidential campaigns to make someone's name is already playing out in 2016. Neurosurgeon Ben Carson polled second in an early CNN snapshot of the Republican race this month, despite being barely known outside of conservative circles.

"If you run for the American presidency and don't make it, but run a credible effort, you have enhanced your stature on the national stage," said David Yepsen, a connoisseur of political long-shots after 34 years with the Des Moines Register. "Politics is a game run by risk takers and most of them fail. But enough of them succeed. You wind up in a better place."

In 2007, Jim Gilmore, a former Virginia governor and Republican Party chief, figured he was qualified to be president and was a big enough name to have a chance. He had a set of economic and foreign policy issues he cared about, so he launched a campaign.

He sparred with candidates like Mitt Romney, John McCain and Rudy Giuliani in the early debates but quit the race months before the first nominating contests when he failed to catch fire. He has no regrets.

"For me, it still remains a positive experience. I was happy that I ran," said Gilmore, who used his campaign to pivot into a Senate race, which he lost. "It's important to offer the right kinds of thinking of policy and programs for the people of the United States — that's what comes through in a presidential campaign."

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Gilmore now runs American Opportunity, a conservative policy organization.

Candidates set out for the White House hoping that lightning might strike. After all, it has before.

No one thought Jimmy Carter had a shot in 1976. But he spent months going door-to-door in Iowa and built a campaign that took him to the presidency. Few pundits gave Barack Obama, the self styled "skinny kid with a funny name," a chance of downing the Clinton machine in 2008. But he's now the 44th president.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush was riding high in the polls after winning the Gulf War and the Democratic nomination didn't seem worth a dime. But a talented governor from Arkansas, seen as a long-shot because of his truckload of personal baggage, jumped into the race when other big name Democrats passed. Soon, he was President Bill Clinton.

A long-odds White House bid is also a chance for a politician to make themselves competitive for the vice presidency.

Joe Biden didn't even win 1% in the Iowa caucuses in 2008, but Obama saw enough of his foreign policy expertise to pick him as his vice president.

Fiorina, who lost a California Senate race in 2010, is touring early voting states to talk about women's issues and may be trying to put her name into the vice presidential chatter this time around, Johnson said.

Long-shot candidates also see a White House campaign as a way to highlight a favorite agenda. John Bolton would need an earthquake to win the nomination but the former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. is contemplating a presidential campaign to thrust his brand of hawkish foreign policy to the center of the Republican race.

Webb might play a similar role for Democrats with his strong anti-war views.

Long-shot candidates also sometimes see a White House race as a way of brokering their influence over a particular set of supporters. Rev. Jesse Jackson used presidential runs in the 1980s to win recognition as a leader of the African-American voting bloc, which is crucial for Democrats.

A presidential run can also serve as a vehicle for politicians, like O'Malley, who have higher ambitions but no obvious openings.

Some also-rans do enough to put themselves in the frame for Cabinet posts: former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack ran briefly against Obama in the 2008 campaign and is now Agriculture Secretary.

Other candidates begin as long shots and become competitive over multiple campaigns. Ronald Reagan for instance ran for president twice before he won in 1980. Romney used his 2008 campaign to position himself for the nomination four years later.

If they don't get many votes, long-shot candidates can still damage the frontrunners.

Former Sen. Chris Dodd punctured Clinton's 2008 campaign aura of inevitability for the first time over her debate answer on driving licenses for illegal immigrants.

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And some find out that running for president isn't as much fun as it looks.

Quirky 2008 Democratic candidate Mike Gravel couldn't get a word in as Clinton, Obama and Biden sparred in the 2008 debates and complained he was treated like a "potted plant."

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/30/2008 3:27:17 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/30/08

(Highlight omitted from previous email)
MSNBC: Mitchell Calls Out Pfotenhauer on 'Accuracy' of Comparing Dem Nominee to Paris Hilton
(MSNBC 07/30/08 1:20pm)
ANDREA MITCHELL: We want to talk more about that new campaign ad from the John McCain camp. […] Tell me about the ad and the reasoning behind it: Why Paris Hilton? Why Britney Spears? It does seem that you're trying to demean Barack Obama.

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Not at all. We're trying to acknowledge the fact that he is a world celebrity. […] But there's a big difference between being a world celebrity and being an American President. And the real question is that at a time when our country is facing the challenges that we're facing—in the economy, with rising energy prices; in Iraq and Afghanistan—who is best equipped to be that leader? And that's John McCain. And I think that's why you see […] polls as tight as they are […] And it's clear that he can't necessarily translate fans into voters. You can look back into the primaries and see how he can pack an arena with 35,000 people in Philadelphia and then lose the state by ten points.

MITCHELL: Well, let me give you the response now from the Obama campaign […] from Tommy Veeder. […] The basic line is, 'oops, he did it again.' Your turn, Nancy?

PFOTENHAUER: […] I would just point out to your viewers that Senator Obama attacked Senator McCain on the campaign trail every day. His campaign launched the first negative ad, not just in the general election season, but in the primaries as well

MITCHELL: Well, you guys said on that conference call, Rick Davis said that he launched the first negative ad. But […] we've gone back and checked the records, the first negative ad was the Republican National Committee ad. And then he -- his ad, Obama's, was in response to that Republican attack ad.

PFOTENHAUER: […] Well I think it's basically the pot calling the kettle black, if you will. But there are real differences between these two candidates and their vision for the future of this country and Senator McCain has proven that he's a leader and that he has served this country and put his country's interests first time and time again. And on one level Senator Obama's just given a speech about it.

MITCHELL: […] I'm not going to argue with you about the fact that John McCain is a real leader […] But I think the real question is whether your characterization of Barack Obama is accurate, when you say he's just given a speech, and he's a celebrity like Paris Hilton. I think comparing the Democratic nominee to Paris Hilton creates some questions, doesn't it?

PFOTENHAUER: […] His campaign has really, in a very methodical way, tried to build this sense of celebrity. […] I mean, there -- there's a lot of stagecraft that goes on here. It just doesn't mean there's any statecraft behind it. And that has resulted in things like alack of access to the media, really a lack of retail politics, if you will. […]

On Wed, Jul 30, 2008 at 10:08 PM, Jacob Roberts <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org > wrote:

> Main Topics: McCain runs new attack ad, McCain's shifty tax stance, Fancy Pants
>
> Summary of Shift: Top McCain news this evening continued to revolve around his contradictory statements on what tax options are on the table and his new celebrity ad against Obama. Disgraced Alaska senator, Ted Stevens' scandal is still a prominent issue, reaching into a second night of close coverage. Harry Reid offers an opportunity votes on oil drilling, then rescinds offer. Israel's prime minister vows to step down in two months once his party chooses a successor.

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Highlights

1) McCain's 'celeb' ad
   a. ABC: Former McCain aide calls new ad 'childish'
   b. NBC: 'Celeb' ad aimed to exploit class divisions
   c. CBS: One journalist predicts the new ad will backfire
   2) MSNBC: Bush pushes for offshore drilling
3) MSNBC: McCain supporter ducks frank question on McCain tax platform
4) CNN: McCain wears unnecessarily fancy shoes

No clips

1) MSNBC – DAVID GREGORY: "There was the claim you remember, in an ad earlier this week by McCain that Obama snubbed wounded soldiers in Germany, because he decided he couldn't bring cameras with him. Well that has been de-bunked by reporters who were traveling with Obama as well as denied by the Obama team itself."

Clips

Highlight #1

ABC's World News Tonight *Opens with Candidate Mud-Slinging* (ABC 07/30/08 6:30pm)

CHARLES GIBSON: It is a pledge made by every candidate in every campaign, to run on the issues and avoid negative attacks. Just last month, John McCain pledged that, throughout the campaign, he would show his admiration and respect for senator Obama. As for Obama, he pledged to run a different campaign; run a positive campaign. Well, that was then. Today, the fact attacks were flying so fast and furious, it was sometimes hard to keep up. […]

DAVID WRIGHT: […] The mud has, indeed, been flying. With Obama constantly comparing McCain to president Bush and today, McCain comparing Obama to empty celebrities, all sizzle, no substance. John McCain has been trying to raise doubts about his opponent. Today in Colorado, he was at it again.

JOHN MCCAIN: The bottom line is that Senator Obama's words, for all their eloquence and passion, don't mean all that much.

WRIGHT: McCain has recently said Obama would rather lose a war to win an election. He's called him Dr. No on energy reforms and run ads blaming Obama for high gas prices.

MCCAIN COMMERCIAL: He's the biggest celebrity in the world, but is he ready to lead?

WRIGHT: Today, McCain unveiled a new ad in 11 states, flashing images of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton, suggesting Obama is just another vapid celebrity.

MCCAIN COMMERCIAL: Higher taxes, more foreign oil. That's the real Obama.

STUART ROTHENBERG: Nobody's going to confuse Paris Hilton with Senator Barack Obama, but over time, the attempt to raise questions about his substance, that could very well work.

WRIGHT: The Obama campaign dismissed the ad as more of his steady stream of false negative attacks, or some might say, "Oops, he did it again."

BARACK OBAMA: We don't need the same, old, tired answers. What we need is something new.

WRIGHT: Obama told an audience in Missouri, the republicans are just trying to scare voters.

BARACK OBAMA: Their argument is, 'I know you don't like what we're doing, but he's risky.'

WRIGHT: A McCain spokesman shot back, 'This is a typically superfluous response from Barack Obama. Like most celebrities, he reacts to fair criticism with a mix of fussiness and hysteria.' Today, the McCain side released a memo noting, among other things, Obama's fondness for chocolate protein bars, black forest berry Honest Tea, and arugula.

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In other words, high-maintenance like any big star, but Obama supporters are having none of it. Today, they called attention to the shoes McCain has worn on stops throughout the rust belt. Italian calfskin loafers that retail for $520 a pair. Late today, the Obama campaign responded to McCain's celebrity ad with a new ad of their own.

OBAMA COMMERCIAL: "False." "Baloney." "Baseless." John McCain, same old politics. Same failed policies.

WRIGHT: It's getting ugly early and some republicans are expressing concern about McCain's tone. In particular, one former McCain aide calling the new celebrity ad childish. The McCain campaign insists that Obama went negative first. Charlie.

GIBSON: […] There are still 97 days to go until election day. I suppose it could get worse. […]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: You think it's going to get worst, Charlie?

GIBSON: We're arguing about what teas people thing and shoes candidates wear. First of all, […] John McCain. What's the McCain strategy with these kinds of accusations, I guess, about Obama?

STEPHANOPOULOS: I think the strategy behind it is recognizing one fundamental fact about the campaign. Right now this, campaign is about Barack Obama. He is getting all the attention. He is the candidate voters are focused on and the McCain strategy is to define him before he can define himself and there is a tradition of this, Charlie.

Go back to 1988. Republicans put Michael Dukakis, the democratic candidate, in a tank. In 2004, remember that ad of John Kerry, when he was windsurfing, showing him as a flip-flopper. In each of those cases, the idea was to show that the democratic candidate is not one of us, is not a regular guy. They're trying to do the same thing now to Barack Obama, by comparing him to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton.

GIBSON: And what to the Obama people, and Obama himself, I guess, think of all this? and how do they intend to respond?

STEPHANOPOULOS: They scoff. They say first of all this, is a more serious time, than 1988 or 2004. We're a country at war. The economy's in the doldrums. People don't want to hear this kind of stuff.

They're also going to say that this is just John McCain being negative. He's got nothing positive to say. I think the big question here, is when voters see that ad, do they see it captures something essential about Barack Obama's character? Or do they think it's just a ridiculous caricature?

NBC Nightly News *Leads with McCain Celeb Attack Ad* (NBC 07/30/08 7:01pm)
BRIAN WILLIAMS: We have 98 days to go until the presidential election in this country. That means 98 days worth of promises from both candidates to keep the debate lofty and civil and, while they may say that, it's just as likely that both campaigns will keep putting TV ads on the air, tearing each other apart.

The latest ad to do that comes from the McCain campaign. It features two, young Hollywood starlets more famous for their public embarrassments than their public policy views. What do they have to do with Barack Obama and what about a counter-attack by the Obama campaign? […]

KELLY O'DONNEL: […] What's known as 'defining the opponent' is a critical phase in any presidential campaign and that was unmistakable today as John McCain tried to define, for voters, Barack Obama by mocking a perceived strength, Obama's popularity. In Aurora, CO today, John McCain first tried to avoid being seen as too angry, as his critics claim. So, before going negative on Obama, McCain tried going nice.

JOHN MCCAIN: I applaud his talent and his success and Americans—all Americans should be proud of his accomplishment.

O'DONNELL: With that said, McCain's campaign rolled out a TV ad about Obama they call, 'celeb.'

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MCCAIN COMMERCIAL: He's the biggest celebrity in the world, but is he ready to lead?

O'DONNELL: Yes, you did see pop culture stars, Paris Hilton and Britney Spears alongside the democratic candidate.

COMMERCIAL: Higher taxes, more foreign oil. That's the real Obama.

O'DONNELL: Next, the campaign issued a memo, making this claim: [image of Rick Davis appears in corner of screen] 'Like most worldwide celebrities, this status has fueled a certain arrogance.' Today in Missouri, Barack Obama said he pays little attention to McCain ads.

BARACK OBAMA: He seems to only be talking about me. You need to ask John McCain what he's for, not just what he's against.

O'DONNELL: Arguing McCain has made a series of negative attacks, the Obama campaign could not resist playing off a Britney Spears hit song. As some might say, "Oops! He did it again." Team McCain maintains that Obama was first to run a negative spot, hitting McCain on TV three weeks ago.

OBAMA COMMERCIAL: On gas prices, John McCain's part of the problem.

O'DONNELL: Today McCain also tried to define himself, invoking the label, 'maverick,' and making an appeal to independents, expected to decide this race.

JOHN MCCAIN: I don't work for a party. I don't work for a president. I don't work for a special interest and I don't work for myself. I work for you and the country that we love.

O'DONNELL: And, quick to respond, the Obama campaign fired up the edit room and put together a spot they say will perhaps be on the air as early as tonight. It responds to the ad that you just saw and it will use some clips out of newspaper articles that will say that McCain has been negative and even, at times, false in his attacks on Obama.

WILLIAMS: […] What's at work here?

CHUCK TODD: Pretty simple, Brian. They simply want to paint Barack Obama as an elitist, sort of a bi-coastal elitist. He's got celebrity status. He may be like Bono or Paris Hilton, but he can't connect and he's not going to appeal to folks in Ohio, in Michigan, in Pennsylvania.

I mean, the McCain campaign feels very positive about this ad, that this is the way to sort of peal away the onion of Obama a little bit and get at this, say, 'Okay we'll run against his popularity and that working class voters in those key, industrial rust belt states will end up saying, you know what? I'm not for some international superstar. I'm for John McCain.'

WILLIAMS: And that figure we used at the top of the broadcast, for all the campaigning we've all lived through, 98 days now seems awfully close and it strikes me sooner or later these candidates are going to need running mates, what are you hearing on that front?

TODD: […] With John McCain it looks like he's going to wait until after the democratic convention and, I'll tell ya, you really only hear two names: Mitt Romney and Tim Pawlenty out of Minnesota.

McCain's Attack is Likely to Backfire (CBS 07/30/08 6:36pm)
KATIE COURIC: Turning now to the presidential campaign, which today seemed to be ripped from the pages of a celebrity magazine with supporting roles played by Britney Spears and Paris Hilton. John McCain sharpened his attack against Barack Obama, trying to turn his popularity against him and late today, Obama fired back. […]

CHIP REID: Just about everywhere Barack Obama goes the adoring crowds follow. 200,000 turned out to hear

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him speak last week in Germany. Here at home, his town hall meetings are standing-room only. Political commentators compare him to a rock star. Now the McCain campaign has decided to try to use Obama's celebrity status against him.

MCCAIN COMMERCIAL: He's the biggest celebrity in the world, but is he ready to lead?

REID: Today releasing an ad that compares Obama to those symbols of shallowness, Britney Spears and Paris Hilton. In a conference call today, McCain's topped a visor said the ad is intended to pose a stark choice.

STEVE SCHMIDT: Do the American people want to elect the world's biggest celebrity or do they want to elect an American hero?

REID: Political analyst, David Mark says the ad is sure to get a lot of attention, but do you think the Britney Spears/Paris Hilton ad is going to work for John McCain?

DAVID MARK: No, I think it's going to backfire. John McCain's campaign is predicated on the idea of loyalty, somebody of honor. This seems a little juvenile.

REID: Today the Obama campaign responded with an ad of their own.

OBAMA COMMERCIAL: John McCain, his attacks on Barack Obama: "Not true." "False." "Baloney." "The low road."

REID: Campaigning in Missouri, Obama took the high road.

BARACK OBAMA: You know, I don't pay attention to John McCain's ads. Although I do notice that he doesn't seem to have anything very positive to say about himself, does he? He seems to only be talking about me.

REID: Today an Obama campaign spokesman responded to the McCain attack ad by quoting Britney Spears saying, about McCain, "Oops, he did it again."

Highlight #2
George W. Bush Advocates Lift on Congressional Offshore Drilling Ban (MSNBC 07/30/08 10:59am)
THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I just finished a good Cabinet meeting, and I want to thank the members of my Cabinet for serving our country. We discussed the challenges facing our economy, amongst other things, and we spent time on the high gasoline prices. Every one of our citizens who drives to work or runs a small business is feeling the squeeze of rising prices at the pump, and they expect their elected leaders in Washington to take some common-sense action.

To reduce pressure on prices, we need to increase the supply of oil -- especially here at home. So in June, I called on Congress to lift the legislative ban that prevents offshore exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf. Unfortunately, Democratic leaders in Congress have refused to allow a vote. And now Congress is about to leave for its August recess without taking any action on this vital priority for the American people.

There is now a growing agreement across our country that the government should permit the exploration and development of these offshore oil resources.

Exploration of the OCS would increase our supply of oil here at home. Experts believe that currently restricted areas of the OCS could eventually produce up to about 18 billion barrels of oil. That's almost 10 years' worth of America's current oil production.

Exploration of the OCS would also create jobs for our citizens. Yesterday, I visited the Lincoln Electric Company in Cleveland, Ohio -- it's a business that produces welding products used for offshore exploration. If Congress were to permit exploration of the OCS, it would mean jobs at businesses such as these. American drivers on -- are counting on Congress to lift the ban on offshore exploration -- and so are American workers.

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Bringing OCS resources online is going to take time -- and that means that the need for congressional action is urgent. So I've lifted the executive restrictions on offshore exploration. I've done my part. And that means the only thing now standing now between the American people and these vast oil resources is the United States Congress. The sooner Congress lifts the ban, the sooner we can get this oil from the ocean floor to your gas tank.

Some members of Congress say they object to exploration of the OCS, but they are in favor of other actions -- such as taking oil out of the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Well, if you agree that we need more oil, it makes no sense to say you're for draining our nation's limited Strategic Reserve, but against tapping into the vast resources of the Outer Continental Shelf.

America needs to take every reasonable and responsible step we can do to reduce pressure on gasoline and energy prices. That's precisely what my administration is doing. We're working to expand domestic oil production. And at the same time, we're working to speed the development of new clean and alternative energy resources. We're raising fuel efficiency standards, expanding the use of alternative fuels, and investing in next-generation fuels such as cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel. We're investing in new advanced batteries, and plug-in hybrids, and hydrogen fuel cells. We're working to expand the use of clean, safe nuclear power, solar and wind power, and clean coal technology. With these steps, we're enhancing America's energy security -- and increasing the supply of clean, safe energy made right here in the United States of America.

The time for action is now. This is a difficult period for millions of American families. Every extra dollar they have to spend because of high gas prices is one less dollar they can use to put food on the table, or to pay the rent, or meet their mortgages. The American people are rightly frustrated by the failure of Democratic leaders in Congress to enact common-sense solutions -- like the development of the oil resources on the Outer Continental Shelf.

There are now just a couple of days left before Congress leaves for its August recess. Legislation to open up this offshore exploration is pending in both the House and the Senate -- all Democratic leaders have to do is allow a vote. They should not leave Washington without doing so.

Thank you very much.

Highlight #3
McCain Supporter, Heather Wilson Avoids Shuster's Challenge to Reconcile Candidates' Contradictory Statements on Taxes (MSNBC 07/30/08 4:18pm)
DAVID SHUSTER: Square [McCain's vow that he won't support a tax increase] with the statement on Sunday when he said, 'Everything would be on the table,' including raising the payroll tax to save social security.

HEATHER WILSON: I think he's made a very clear commitment that he doesn't want to raise taxes.

Highlight #4
Fancy Pants (or Shoes) McCain (CNN 07/30/08 6:55pm)
JEANNIE MOOST: We don't expect John McCain to be on a show string budget when it comes to shoes but 520 dollars Ferragamo calf skin leather loafers? That is right up there in John Edwards 400 dollar hair cut territory...

MOOST: It wasn't pretty when the liberal Huffington Post style section revealed Loafer Gate...

MOOST: We are guessing maybe the Senator has some help in the shoe shopping department from his fashion plate wife. But wasn't Senator Obama the guy being called in elitist? ...

MOOST: Presidential candidate McCain was spotted wearing his 520 dollar Italian shoes when he met with the Dalai Lama. Though it was hard to notice their feet, what with all the hand holding. The Dalai Lama was wearing sandals. So should they meet again perhaps this simple 275 dollar Prada sandal might work for Senator McCain.

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> Jacob Roberts
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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/21/2015 1:48:36 AM
Subject: News Update -August 21, 2015

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, August 21

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Obama Vows to Up Israel Defense Aid if Nuke Deal Approved**
- **77 Nuclear Non-proliferation Experts in Favor of Iran Deal**
- **Democratic Senator Backs Nuke Deal though it 'Isn't Perfect'**
- **Israel Demands Publication of All Secret Agreements With Iran**
- **Abbas Courting Iran is Like Riding a Tiger, Terror Expert Says**
- **IDF: Iran's Quds Force Responsible for Rocket Fire**
- **Hamas: Israel has Sent us Numerous Truce Offers**
- **Iron Dome Deployed to Ashdod for Fear of Rocket Fire**

Commentary:

- **New York Times: "Israel's Other Existential Threat Comes From Within"**
  - By Hilik Bar
- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Join Me at Sea"**
  - By Nahum Barnea

Times of Israel

Obama Vows to Up IL Defense Aid if Deal Approved

President Barack Obama promised Democratic lawmakers that the US will continue to keep economic pressure on Iran, keep military options open, and increase missile defense support to Israel if his administration's nuclear deal with Tehran goes through. Obama said in a letter addressed to New York Democratic Rep. Jerrold Nadler that if Iran rushes to build a nuclear weapon, "all of the options available to the United States — including the military option — will remain available." The president also said the US will uphold sanctions targeting Iran's non-nuclear activities, such as its support for Lebanon's Hezbollah group and what Obama calls Iran's "destabilizing role in Yemen." And the letter emphasizes US support for Israel, saying Obama has "consistently viewed Israel's security as sacrosanct."

See also, "Obama Tells Congress U.S. Will Still Press Iran With Deal" (NYT)

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Ha'aretz

77 Nuclear Non-proliferation Experts in Favor of Deal

Over 70 leading nuclear non-proliferation specialists issued a joint statement on Tuesday explaining why the nuclear deal with Iran "is a strong, long-term, and verifiable agreement that will be a net-plus for international nuclear nonproliferation efforts." The July 14 agreement "advances the security interests of the P5+1 nations (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), the European Union, their allies and partners in the Middle East, and the international community," the statement reads. The group includes former U.S. nuclear negotiators, former senior U.S. nonproliferation officials, a former director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a former member of the UN Panel of Experts on Iran, and leading nuclear specialists.

Times of Israel

Democratic Sen. Backs Deal though it 'Isn't Perfect'

President Obama's nuclear deal with Iran is picking up crucial support from swing-state Senate Democrats. On Thursday, Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., became the latest to declare her backing, saying in a statement: "This deal isn't perfect and no one trusts Iran, but it has become clear to me that the world is united behind this agreement with the exception of the government of Israel." McCaskill's announcement followed a similar declaration a day earlier from Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., who said: "I am willing to give this agreement the opportunity to succeed."

Ha'aretz

IL Demands Publication of Secret Agreements With Iran

Israel demanded on Thursday that the world powers that negotiated the nuclear agreement with Iran and the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) publish all the secret agreements with Iran, along with their appendices, regarding the investigation into possible military dimensions of its nuclear program. The Israeli demand followed the AP report on Wednesday of a draft agreement between the IAEA and Iran regarding the inspection at the Parchin military site, where the Iranians are allegedly conducting experiments to build a nuclear weapon.

Jerusalem Post

Terror Expert: Courting Iran is Like Riding a Tiger

With news of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas planning an official visit to Iran in November, and in light of an apparent rapprochement between Hamas and the Saudi royal family, the shifting alliances of the Middle East appear to have changed overnight. Yet what may seem like the re-shuffling of the strategic deck is actually the reassessment of a new political landscape, says Dr. Shaul Shay, a senior research fellow at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya. "What we see now is a kind of check on both sides in the Palestinian camp regarding their future policy in the region," suggests Shay, who has also served as the deputy head of Israel's National Security Council. "Unfortunately, almost all of the different players in the region understand the [recent nuclear] agreement as an Iranian achievement," argues Shay, and are therefore re-calibrating their positions regarding friends and foes.

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Jerusalem Post

IDF: Iran's Quds Force Responsible for Rocket Fire

The IDF struck targets in Syria on Thursday evening after four rockets were fired at northern Israel, with two landing in the Upper Galilee and two in the Golan Heights. The projectiles landed in open areas and there were no immediate reports of any casualties. One landed near a town, causing a fire. The IDF said it believed the firing was deliberate and that it was considering retaliatory fire. It also said the firing originated in Syria's Quneitra area, which is under Syrian President Bashar Assad's control and in which according to reports, Hezbollah operatives Samir Kuntar and Mustafa Mughniyeh have free rein. However, according to the IDF, Islamic Jihad was responsible for the fire, using Iranian funding and direction. The IDF also said it saw Syria as responsible for the fire. Islamic Jihad spokesman Daud Shihab strongly denied that the organization was responsible.

Ynet News

Hamas: Israel has Sent us Numerous Truce Offers

The IDF struck targets in Syria on Thursday evening after four rockets were fired at northern Israel, with two landing in the Upper Galilee and two in the Golan Heights. The projectiles landed in open areas and there were no immediate reports of any casualties. One landed near a town, causing a fire. The IDF said it believed the firing was deliberate and that it was considering retaliatory fire. It also said the firing originated in Syria's Quneitra area, which is under Syrian President Bashar Assad's control and in which according to reports, Hezbollah operatives Samir Kuntar and Mustafa Mughniyeh have free rein. However, according to the IDF, Islamic Jihad was responsible for the fire, using Iranian funding and direction. The IDF also said it saw Syria as responsible for the fire. Islamic Jihad spokesman Daud Shihab strongly denied that the organization was responsible.

Ha'aretz

Iron Dome Deployed to Ashdod for Fear of Rocket Fire

The Air Force has deployed an Iron Dome missile defense battery to Ashdod, it was released for publication on Thursday. Gaza security coordinators received warnings Wednesday of possible rocket fire from the Gaza Strip. They said Iron Dome was brought into the field due to the deteriorating condition of Mohammed Allaan, a suspected member of Islamic Jihad currently hospitalized in Ashkelon, more than 60 days into a hunger strike.

New York Times – August 20, 2015

Israel's Other Existential Threat Comes From Within

By Hilik Bar

It used to be said by some in Israel that "only the right can bring peace." But the brave, pragmatic Zionist right of Menachem Begin is gone.
Successive right-wing governments have adopted the mantra "there is no partner for peace." Of course, the Palestinians have not been the perfect partner — and, of course, there is no such thing. You make peace with your enemies, as Yitzhak Rabin used to say.

In place of negotiations toward a two-state solution, however, the increasingly radicalized Israeli right has developed a strategy of "conflict management." The

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results are in: endless operations in Gaza, Israel's southern residents living under impossible conditions, Jerusalem on the verge of a third intifada, weakened Israeli deterrence and an Israel increasingly isolated in the world.

The only way for Israel now to remain both Jewish and democratic — that is, for Israel to remain a democracy and retain its Jewish majority — is to separate from the Palestinians via a two-state solution. Without such a settlement, Israel is drifting ineluctably toward becoming a binational state. And make no mistake: The logic of the binational state means an end to the Zionist project. This threat to Israel is so grave partly because it is happening at a slow enough pace that our leaders can essentially ignore the problem without facing electoral catastrophe.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu helped scupper Secretary of State John Kerry's push for peace by insisting on Palestinian recognition of Israel as "the Jewish state" — which is an important and fair demand, but not as a precondition for talks. Because of those fruitless efforts and the bitter wrangling over the Iran deal, the Obama administration probably has little interest in spending more political capital on reviving the peace process. So Israel must take the lead to secure its own interests and its own future.

I recently presented a plan at the Knesset that I hope will eventually become government policy. It is aimed at generating momentum toward a final status accord between us and the Palestinians. The broad parameters are already known, but there is more we should do.

Israel should recognize the Palestinian state at the United Nations. Recognition would be conditional on final borders and other essential elements of a deal being determined exclusively through negotiations. The dispute should no longer be about whether there will be two states, but about the details of an agreement.

Israel should also respond — for the first time — to the Arab Peace Initiative and conduct a regional dialogue in parallel with Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Moderate members of the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that have endorsed that initiative could prove critical to achieving Israeli-Palestinian and regional agreements. Many of these states are now our strategic allies thanks to shared opposition to an Iranian bomb.

To build trust, Israel should refrain from construction over the Green Line in areas of the West Bank that would harm the contiguity of the Palestinian state. Illegal outposts built since March 2001 should be dismantled.

There has been much hand-wringing over the growth of the Jewish population over the Green Line, along with claims that this growth virtually precludes a two-state solution. This argument assumes that, to reach a deal, there must not be a single Jew in the Palestinian state. But why should there be no Jewish minority in a newly created state of Palestine, when there is a Palestinian minority in Israel? Those settlers whose homes remain outside Israel's final borders should be offered, under an agreement, residency or dual citizenship in the new Palestinian state, along with a guarantee of their security.

Jerusalem is on the verge of a third intifada. A number of steps could calm the volatile situation. Israeli police presence in East Jerusalem should be reduced. (At the same time, we should step up military and intelligence activity against Hamas and Islamic Jihad cells operating there.) A municipal body representing the Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem should be established and developed, to fill the vacuum left by the closing of Orient House in 2001, which functioned as an umbrella institution for civil institutions in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Netanyahu was right to call for Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish

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state, but his insistence on such recognition as a precondition was both a ploy and an error. Both states should recognize each other in their sovereign borders — when an agreement is finalized.

Naturally, I will have my detractors. But I believe we have no choice but to confront these issues. Sleepwalking toward becoming a binational state, Israel faces an internal threat to its existence potentially no less severe than the external one of a nuclear-armed Iran. It must pursue the two-state solution no less fervently than it opposes an Iranian bomb. Only this path can safeguard Israel's long-term security.

***Hilik Bar is a deputy speaker of the Israeli Knesset and the secretary general of the Labor Party*.**

Yedioth Ahronoth – August 20, 2015

Join Me at Sea

By Nahum Barnea

The USS destroyer Porter visited the Haifa port last Friday. Porter is one of the ships of the Sixth Fleet. It specializes in ballistic missiles. It gained fame in the first Gulf War when it launched Tomahawk missiles at targets in Saddam Hussein's Iraq. It has since been renovated and upgraded. Its current home port is Rota, Spain.

The American fleet is meticulous about ceremony. At every official visit of one of its vessels to a foreign port, the American ambassador honors it with a visit and is greeted on board with a full military ceremony. The ambassador usually invites a head of state, either the president or the prime minister or the defense minister—to board the ship with him. That's the protocol. The ceremony takes place in front of the cameras. It sends a triple message: America is strong; America is here; military relations are close.

The ceremony on the USS Porter took place in accordance with all the rules. The honor guard wore white. The commander, Commander Blair Guy, greeted the guests with a salute. US Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro responded with a salute and reviewed the honor guard. He walked alone: he was not accompanied by a single Israeli official. Then the ambassador gave the usual speech about the US administration's commitment to Israel's security and the close cooperation between the two defense establishments. The job of the representative of the State of Israel at these ceremonies is to echo the ambassador: never was cooperation closer; American is by our side and we are by her side.

But no Israeli representative went to Haifa port. In their absence, there was something hollow, something phony about the ceremony. Like a wedding without a groom, like a check with no funds to cover it. The visit is meant to illustrate to Israelis and to their enemies, from Iran to ISIS, just how close relations are. It illustrated the opposite.

How did it happen that there were no Israelis at the Haifa ceremony? This is an instructive story. But before I tell it, I will go back 19 years to August 1996. The Enterprise aircraft carrier visits Haifa. US ambassador Martin Indyk invites Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to board the ship with him while still at sea. Netanyahu accepts. He brings his wife Sara with him. A helicopter brings the group to the deck of the aircraft carrier. Netanyahu is invited to the bridge. The Americans go through the entire performance for the Israeli prime minister, just

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like in the movie Top Gun, but without Tom Cruise: combat fighters take off with huge noise as the guests watch, and they land on a dime. Netanyahu is as excited as a little boy. "I want three such aircraft carriers," he tells Indyk.

Ambassador Shapiro, from time to time—on average, once a month—holds a meeting with President Reuven Rivlin. In their last meeting, he suggested to the president that he go the USS Porter with him when the ship reaches Haifa. The president thanked him for the invitation but said that he could not go. In view of the disagreements between him and Netanyahu on the matter of relations with the US, his visit was liable to be interpreted as political intervention. He suggested to Shapiro that he invite Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon. Shapiro and his deputy chief of mission, Bill Grant, promised to try. If they received approval from Washington, they would invite the defense minister.

A few days later, the president met Yaalon at the Western Wall at a ceremony for bringing Torah scrolls to the synagogue there. Rivlin told Yaalon about the conversation and advised him to accept: it is very, very important that at this sensitive time in the relationship with the US administration for the defense minister to display a presence. This is a good way to lower the flames.

The US administration has a complicated history with Yaalon ever since the insults he hurled at Secretary of State John Kerry. Nonetheless, they invited him. The Defense Minister's Bureau replied that his schedule was full. He was unable to go to Haifa on Friday morning. The Americans made a note.

Did he turn down the invitation as part of Netanyahu's boycott policy of the Obama administration? I'm not certain. It seems that more than this was an act of malice, it was more of a missed opportunity. Such mishaps do happen to Yaalon from time to time. Sometimes they are due to his trying to be overly shrewd; sometimes it is due to simple imbecility.

Ofer Harel, the defense minister's media adviser, told me that the invitation reached Yaalon's desk a day or two before the ceremony and he could not clear his schedule. Talks with the Americans are taking place as usual, he said: the fact is: yesterday, on Thursday, Yaalon met with Gen. Philip Breedlove, the commander of the US European Command, who is visiting Israel as the guest of the IDF. Had he been boycotting the Americans, he would have missed the meeting (Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot proposed to Gen. Breedlove that he join him at the annual memorial ceremony of the Golani Brigade, held on Wednesday. The American accepted).

A Lost Cause

When it comes to relations with the Americans, it seems that there is more than one government in Israel. Netanyahu and his envoy in Washington, Ron Dermer, are waging a campaign against the agreement with Iran as if there were no tomorrow. Others in Israel, from the president on down, are trying to mediate and to moderate while the IDF is trying to work as usual, but its efforts are dwarfed by the heavy machinery being operated by the prime minister at the moment. Netanyahu is like the driver speeding full throttle down a hill but who won't step on the brakes lest he turn over.

Last week I described the way in which the White House views the activity of our ambassador to Washington, Ron Dermer, against the agreement signed with Iran. They claim that he goes from door to door on Capitol Hill and suggests to the senators and to the members of Congress that they vote against the president. No Israeli ambassador has ever dared act this way in any country. No foreign ambassador dares to behave this way in America. In other countries, Dermer would be declared persona non grata. He would have to pack and return to his country within 48 hours. The US administration is too arrogant to do this. At this

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stage it is making do with banning White House and State Department officials from meeting with the Israeli ambassador.

The word "unprecedented" is overly used in journalese. Events in our region usually do have a precedent—particularly bad news. There have been crises between the administration in Washington and the Israeli government in the past; there have been periods when they didn't talk. What justifies using the term "unprecedented" in the current crisis is that it is the Israeli government, not the US administration, that is cutting off contact. This is a lost cause: the agreement with Iran cannot be stopped. All that is left is ego, a pumped up chest, the attraction of playing in American domestic politics. This is not Israeli chutzpah; this is gambling in a casino, this is playing with fire.

President Obama spent a relaxing vacation this week with his family in Martha's Vineyard, an island off the Massachusetts coast. He played golf, he swam in the sea, he spent time with friends over dinner. The only political subject he addressed, according to American media reports, were phone calls to Democratic members of Congress on the matter of the agreement with Iran. Netanyahu phones, Dermer phones, Obama phones. No American president easily accepts such competition for the ears of his party's elected representatives.

The leaders of the Jewish community in the US are stuck in the middle. The term "community" is misleading: there is no community. There is no leadership. There is a lobby that follows the orders of the Israeli prime minister, some hacks have close ties to the royal family [the Netanyahus] and there are Republican billionaires whose ego has swollen to monstrous proportions along with their bank accounts. They sneer at Obama for all the wrong reasons, including the color of his skin. "Who's Obama," one said not long ago. "He is one of 350 million Americans."

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[INSERT News Source] – August, [INSERT Date], 2014

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By [Insert Author Here]

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From: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To: re47@hillaryclinton.com
Date: 2/8/2016 8:14:19 AM
Subject: Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Jim Andrews and I have been pouring through the oppo and have a couple new possible negatives to suggest we test in the poll, since most of our attacks haven't been working. We also proposed language for a split message test between where we've been (ideas that sound good on paper/ can't wait) versus the new no barriers message -- stacked up against Sanders

Hope these are helpful.

YOU PAY FOR SOCIALISM

Bernie Sanders says he wants to restructure America's economy to make it work like it does in the socialist countries of Europe, providing things like free health care for everyone, free college for everyone, and free increases in Social Security for everyone. But Sanders does not mention that the middle class picks up the bill in these countries, paying nearly sixty percent of their income in taxes, three times what middle class Americans pay now.

FREE STUFF FOR EVERYBODY

Bernie Sanders said –quote– "all necessities of life must be provided free for people," and over the years he's proposed a radical restructuring of the entire American economy to make many things free, from the gas for people's cars to telephones and now free college and health care. To do this, Sanders proposed the complete government takeover of all oil companies, gas companies, electric utility companies, phone companies, health care companies, and all television networks. Combined, Sanders proposals would put the government in control of more than half of the American economy, but Sanders has never told anyone who would pay for all of this or how it would work.

SPEND, TAX AND COVER IT UP

Bernie Sanders' spending plans cost at least eighteen trillion dollars, would increase government spending by 50% and equal the size of the current national debt. And it's actually worse. Experts say Sanders health care plan alone is quote –twice as expensive as he says it is and they say Sanders plans would increase middle class taxes by one third, even for people making less than nineteen thousand a year, and Sanders plans would raise the top tax rate to seventy seven percent. The Boston Globe said –quote "Sanders is not leveling with voters" about the real cost of his spending plans.

EXTREME ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Bernie Sanders' extreme views would gut America's national security and make less safe. Sanders ran for Congress calling for the military budget to be cut by more than half and spending the money on a "major electrified rail system" instead. In Washington, Sanders sponsored a law to unilaterally terminate America's entire nuclear weapons program and sponsored another law to cut the nuclear submarine fleet in half. In Congress, Sanders proposed massive cuts in the intelligence budget and earlier said we should shut down the entire CIA because –quote they "might even be able to overthrow the U.S. government if they chose to." Sanders is so ideologically committed to military cuts that just last year he said –quote we shouldn't spend money on the military "even if it does create jobs."

TROUBLING PATTERN ON CAMPAIGNING

Bernie Sanders says he's running a different kind of campaign, but the record tells another story. Last year a Sanders affiliated political action committee was fined by the federal election commission and Sanders staffers were caught hacking into computers and stealing data on political opponents. This year, Sanders got caught running ads that said he was endorsed by newspapers that actually endorsed his opponent and was forced to remove ads from the air. Sanders got caught claiming endorsements from organizations that endorsed his opponent and the American Legion is now threatening to sue him for falsely claiming he has their support.

TROUBLING PATTERN ON WOMEN

Bernie Sanders says he supports women's rights, but has a pattern of expressing and tolerating extreme views on women. Sanders once wrote that men fantasize about women being on their knees and women fantasize about being raped by three men simultaneously. Sanders wrote another article that connecting women's sexual behavior to breast cancer and said the way parents teach their daughter about sex –quote– "very well determine whether or not she will develop breast cancer." Now Sanders' supporters are flooding the internet with troubling comments about women quote –voting with their vaginas– and calling women who support Hillary Clinton quote –bitches.

BERNIE VS HRC MESSAGE TEST

BERNIE

Bernie Sanders says we have a corporate establishment whose greed is destroying the economy and a corrupt political establishment beholden to billionaires. Sanders says the billionaire class can't get huge tax breaks and hide profits overseas while the middle class is being hollowed out.

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Sanders says corporate America and the billionaire class have to start paying their fair share, and that to change things we need a political revolution to undo the power of corporate America and Wall Street. You sure can't change a corrupt system by taking its money. Sanders says one person alone can't change this country, but we can do it together.

HRC: BARRIERS

Hillary Clinton says we need to break down barriers of social injustice. Clinton says racism and sexism and other forms discrimination are not simply an effect of economic inequality, but are also part of the *cause* of economic inequality. Clinton says she will hold Wall Street accountable, but Wall Street is not gunning down young African Americans or denying immigrants a path to citizenship. Clinton says we can't move forward when women make seventy eight cents for each dollar men make, when people can be fired just because they're gay or when African American men go to prison at the same rate they graduate college. Clinton says that America can't reach its full potential when you're held back from reaching yours.

HRC CAN'T WAIT

Hillary Clinton says she is not interested in ideas that sound good on paper but will never make it the real world, and she won't make promises she can't keep. Clinton says the single mom who needs raise can't wait for plans that will never happen. The student with a mountain of debt can't wait. The grandmother who has to choose between paying for medicine and paying the rent can't wait. Clinton says she's spent a lifetime making a difference for people and getting results, from winning benefits for the National Guard and Reserve to winning health care for eight million children and she's ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work right now. Clinton says she's ready to tackle our toughest challenges and move our country forward.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202-973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Robby Mook (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com>
To: gruncom <gruncom@aol.com>
Cc: dschwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>; david <david@db-research.com>; david <david@dixondavismedia.com>; jsullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; jpalmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; jim.margolis <jim.margolis@gmmb.com>; jbenenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; john <john@algpolling.com>; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; nnayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com>; oshur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com>
Sent: Sun, Feb 7, 2016 4:19 pm
Subject: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call

Robby Mook has attached the following document:

Agenda for 4:30 Post NH Messaging Call

Attached is an agenda/guide for our 5:30 call.

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online. Google

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From:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Ron Klain" <ron.klain@revolution.com>
	"Karen Dunn" <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com>
	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
	"Kristina Costa" <kcosta@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Sara Solow" <ssolow@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	1/17/2016 4:06:17 AM
Subject:	FW: POTUS Iran Statement

From: hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com [mailto:hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com] **On Behalf Of** Brooke Goren
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 11:05 AM
To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: POTUS Iran Statement

POTUS Iran Statement

Links

Part 1: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ff3947f8-6f5f-49a5-b815-acd847687b72

Part 2: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=f765f713-dd51-4841-a914-f36f9fc0f1de

Part 1 Rough Transcript

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: this is a good day. once again we're seeing what's possible with strong american diplomacy. as i said in my state of the union address, ensuring the security of the united states and the safety of our people demands a smart, patient and disciplined approach to the world. that includes our diplomacy with the islamic republic of iran. for decade, our differences meant our governments almost never spoke to each other. ult maltimately that did not advance america's interest. over the year iran moved closer and closer to having the ability build a nuclear weapon. from president franklin roosevelt to john f. kennedy to konlds ronald reagan, the united states has never been afraid to pursue diplomacy. we could advance by engaging directly with the iranian government. we've seen the results. under the nuclear deal that we, our allies and partners reached with iran last year, iran will not get its hands on a nuclear bomb. the region, the united states and the world will be more secure. as i've said many time, the nuclear deal was never intended to resolve all of our differences with iran, but engaging directly with the iranian government on a sustained basis for the first time in decades has created a unique opportunity, a window, to try to resolve important issues. today, i can report progress on a number of fronts. first, yesterday, marked a milestone in preventing iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. iran has fulfilled key commitments under the nuclear deal. i want to explain why this is important. over more than a decade iran moved ahead with its program and before the deal it has installed nearly 20,000 centrifuges that could enrich uranium for a nuclear bomb. today, iran has removed two-thirds of those machines. before the deal, iran was increasing stockpile of enriched uranium. enough for up to ten nuclear bombs. today, more than 98% of that stockpile has been shipped out of iran. meaning iran doesn't have enough material for even one bomb. before, iran was nearly completion of a reactor capable of plutonium for a bomb. today it's been poured out and filled with concrete so it cannot be used again. before the deal, the world has relatively little visibility into iran's nuclear program. today inspectors are on the ground and the iran is being dealing with monitors. inspectors will monitor the facility 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. for decades to come, inspectors will have access to iran's entire nuclear supply chain. in other words, if iran tries to cheat, if they try to build a bomb covertly, we will catch them. the bottom line is this, where as iran was expanding its nuclear program, we have now cut off every single path that iran could have used to build a bomb. where as it would have taken iran two to three months to break out with enough material the rush with a bomb, we have extended that break out time to a year. with the world's unprecedented inspections and access to iran's program, we'll know if iran ever tries to break out. now that iran's actions have been verified, it can begin to receive relief from certain nuclear sanctions and gain access to its own money that had been frozen and perhaps most important of all, we achieved this through diplomacy without resulting to another war in the middle east. by working with iran on this nuclear deal, we were better able to address other issues. when our sailors in the persian gulf strayed into iranian waters that could have sparked a major international incident. some folks rushed to declare it was the start of another hostage crisis. we worked with the government to secure the lef our sailors in less than 24 hours. this brings me to a second major

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development. several americans unjustly detained by iran are finally coming home. in some cases these americans faced years of continued detention. i've met with some of their families. i've seen their anguish. how they ache for their sons and husbands. i gave these families my word. i made a vow that we could do everything to win the release of their loved ones and we have been tireless. on the sidelines of the nuclea negotiations our diplomats at the highest level, including secretary kerry, used every meeting to push iran to release our americans. i did so myself in my conversation with president rohani. after the nuclear deal was completed, the discussions between our governments accelerated. yesterday, these families finally got the news that they had been waiting for. jason is coming home. the courageous journalist for the washington post who wrote about the daily lives and hopes of the iranian people, he's been held for a year and a half. he embodies the brave spirit that gives life to the freedom of the press. jason has already been reunited with his wife and mom. pastor siyad is coming home. his unyielding faith has inspired people around the world. now he'll return to his church and community in idaho. a former sergeant in the marine corps. he's been held for four and a half years. today his parents and sisters are giving thanks in michigan. two other americans unjustly detained are also being released. an iranian who is in iran has a student. their cases were largely unknown to the world. when americans are freed, that's something we can all celebrate. i want to thank my national security team, especially secretary kerry. susan rice. brett mcgurk, avril haynes. our team worked tirelessly to get them home. iran has agreed to deepen our coordination as we worked to locate robert levinson, missing from iran for eight years. we'll never forget about bob. each and every day our hearts are with the family and we'll not rest until their families home again. the individuals were not charged with terrorism or any violent offenses. they are civilians and the release is a one time gesture to iran given the unique opportunity offered by there moment in larger circumstances at play. it reflects our willingness to engage to advance our mutual interest. nuclear deal implemented.
Part 2 Rough Transcript

PRESIDENT BRACK OBAMA: american families reunited. the third piece of this work we got done was the united states and iran resolving a financial dispute that dated back three decades. we worked through a international tribunal to resolve claims with our countries. we're settling a long standing iranian government claim against the united states government. iran will be returned its own funds, including a appropriated interest. much less than the amount iran sought. for the united states, the settlement could save us billions of dollars that could have been pursued by iran. here was no benefit to the united states in dragging this out. with nuclear deal done, prisoners released, the time was right to resolve this dispute as well. of course, even as we implement the nuclear deal and welcome our americans home, we recognize that there are profound differences between the united states and iran. we remain steadfast and opposing iran's destabilizing behavior elsewhere. we still have sanctions on iran for violations of human rights for support of terrorisms and for its ballistic missile program. we will continue to enforce these sanctions vigorously. iran's recent missile test was a violation of its international obligations. as a result the united states is imposing sanctions on individuals and companies working to advance iran's ballistic missile program. we're going to remain vigilant about it. we're not going to waiver in the defense our our security or allies and partners. i do want to speak directly to the iranian people. yours is a great civilization with a vibrant culture that has so much to contribute to the world in commerce and science and arts. for decades your government's threats and actions to destabilize the region has isolated iran from much of the world. now our governments are talking to each other. following the nuclear deal, you, especially young irans have the opportunity to build new ties with the world. we have a rare chance to pursue a new path. a different, better future that delivers progress for our people and the wider worlds. that's the opportunity before the iranian people. we need to take advantage of that. to my fellow americans, today we're united in welcoming home sons and husbands who in lonely prison cells have endured an absolute nightmare. they never gave in and they never gave up. at long last they can stand tall and bring deep the fresh air of freedom. as a nation, we face real challenges around the world and here at home. many of them will not be resolved quickly or easily. today's progress, americans coming home, an iran that's rolled back its nuclear program and accepted unprecedented monitoring of that program, these things are a reminder of what we can achieve when we leave with strength and wisdom, with courage and resolve and patience. america can do and has done big things when we work together. we can leave this world and make it safer and more secure for our children and grandchildren for generations to come. i want to thank, once again, secretary kerry, our entire national security team led by susan rice. i'm grateful for all the assistance that we received from our allies and partners. i'm hopeful this signals the opportunity for iran to work more cooperatively with nations around the world to advance their interests and the interest of people who are looking for peace and security for their families. thank you so much. god bless you. god bless the united states of america.

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To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 4:30:44 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient

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government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

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I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Here is latest draft
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/7/2014 6:53:43 AM
Subject: News Update - Thursday, August 7

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, August 7

Headlines:

- **Mediators Race Against Clock to Extend Gaza Truce**
- **US Envoy Arrives in Cairo for Gaza Truce Talks**
- **EU Powers Propose: Gaza Reconstruction for Hamas Disarmament**
- **Obama Backs Truce Efforts, Seeks Easing of Gaza Isolation**
- **Netanyahu: Hamas, Like ISIS, Must Be Ostracized by World**
- **Netanyahu Asks U.S. Lawmakers to Help Fend Off War Crimes Charges**
- **Liberman Slams UN for Not Ridding Gaza of Hamas**
- **Jordan Seethes over Gaza Dead, Testing Israel Relations**

Commentary:

- **New York Times: "Making the Gaza Cease-Fire Last"**
  - Editorial
- **Al-Monitor: "Saudi Arabia and the Third Gaza War"**
  - By Bruce Riedel

Reuters

Mediators Race Against Clock to Extend Gaza Truce

Mediators worked against the clock on Thursday to extend a Gaza truce between Israel and the Palestinians as the three-day ceasefire went into its final 24 hours. Israel has said it is ready to agree to an extension as Egyptian mediators pursued talks with Israelis and Palestinians on an enduring end to a war that devastated the Hamas-ruled enclave, while Palestinians want an Israeli-Egyptian blockade of Gaza to be lifted and prisoners held by Israel to be freed. "Indirect talks are ongoing and we still have today to secure this," an Egyptian official said when asked whether the truce was likely to go beyond Friday. "Egypt's aims are to stabilise and extend the truce with the agreement of both sides and to begin negotiations towards a permanent agreement to cease fire and ease border restrictions."

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Ma'an Palestinian News

US Envoy Arrives in Cairo for Gaza Truce Talks

Acting US special envoy for Palestinian-Israeli negotiations Frank Lowenstein landed Thursday in Cairo where he is scheduled to meet with the Egyptian foreign minister and other officials to discuss extending Gaza's ceasefire. The ceasefire is scheduled to end at 8 a.m. Friday unless a deal is reached to extend it.

Lowenstein said Egypt was working hard to try to prolong the ceasefire so to give negotiators enough time to reach an agreement on a long-term truce.

Ha'aretz

EU Powers Propose: Gaza Reconstruction for Hamas Disarmament

Germany, France and Britain presented Israel with an initiative to rehabilitate the Gaza Strip, subject to an international supervision apparatus that will prevent the rearmament of Hamas and other terror groups in the Strip. The proposal by the three European states is an answer to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's demand for the disarmament of Hamas during the fighting in Gaza. The ambassadors of Germany and France and the deputy ambassador of Britain, who met with National Security Adviser Yossi Cohen in Jerusalem on Wednesday, gave him a two-page document of principles for international agreement about the Gaza Strip.

Reuters

Obama Backs Truce Efforts, Seeks Easing of Gaza Isolation

President Barack Obama on Wednesday backed Egyptian efforts to broker a durable Israel-Hamas ceasefire in Gaza but also called for a longer-term solution that provides for Israeli security while offering Gaza residents hope they will not remain "permanently closed off from the world." Obama said the short-term U.S. goal is to make sure that a 72-hour truce holds and is extended beyond its Friday deadline, including the cessation of cross-border rocket fire by the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip.

Ha'aretz

Netanyahu: Hamas, Like ISIS, Must Be Ostracized by World

At his first press conference since the 72-hour cease-fire began, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told foreign journalists Wednesday that the goal of the operation was and remains the protection of Israeli civilians. The war was "justified," Netanyahu said. "It was proportionate." Hamas is a world problem just like ISIS and Boko Haram, Netanyahu said, and must be ostracized from the family of nations. "It's important to understand what kind of condition our forces were facing in Gaza," Netanyahu said, after showing videos of rockets launched from residential areas in Gaza. "That is an example again of the use of civilians" by Hamas.

See also, "Netanyahu: We're 'cooperating' with the PA" (Foreign Policy)

Ha'aretz

Netanyahu Asks U.S. Lawmakers to Help Fend Off War Crimes Charges

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked United States legislators to assist Israel in fending off charges that Israel committed war crimes during its month-long operation in Gaza, the New York Post reported on Wednesday. "The prime minister asked us to work together to ensure that this strategy of going to the International Criminal Court does not succeed," Democratic congressman Steve Israel told the Post by phone from Tel Aviv. Israel was one of a group of American lawmakers who met with Netanyahu in Israel on Wednesday.

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Jerusalem Post

Liberman Slams UN for Not Ridding Gaza of Hamas

Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman responded Wednesday night to the UN condemning Israeli attacks on UNRWA facilities as "outrageous, unacceptable, and unjustifiable." UN officials should ensure their facilities are not being used to store weapons and launch rocket attacks, the foreign minister said, adding that institutions such as the UN Human Rights Council must not become a platform to embolden and encourage terrorism. Had the UN been fulfilling its duties, in accordance with the principles on which it was founded, the organization would create an international body to rid Gaza of Hamas' terror regime rather than wait for Israel to do it.

Jerusalem Post

Jordan Seethes over Gaza Dead, Testing Israel Relations

Nowhere in Jordan, from the Syrian border to the expanse of Wadi Rum, is there refuge from uniform anger at the Israeli government for its war against Hamas in Gaza, now coming to a close after dozens of tunnels into Israel were destroyed, and 1,900 Gazan lives were lost. In a country where half the population is of Palestinian origin, that anger comes as no surprise. But on the streets of its capital, a political consensus has formed that this time might be different: that among the reforms Abdullah has promised, relations with Israel may now be among the peoples' demands.

New York Times – August 6, 2014

Making the Gaza Cease-Fire Last

Editorial

In the first good news in a long time, a 72-hour cease-fire appeared to be holding on Wednesday as Israelis and Palestinians tallied what was lost, and gained, during the latest war over the desperate Gaza Strip.

It was easiest to count the losses. More than 1,800 Palestinians, a majority of them noncombatants, and 67 Israelis have been killed. United Nations officials said 408 Palestinian children were killed and 2,502 injured. The physical damage in Gaza is estimated at $6 billion.

There are important but less tangible costs: the way ordinary Israelis have had to live in fear of rocket attacks; increasingly bitter strains on Israel's relations with the United States; international criticism of Israel — and the outrage of anti-Semitic protests and violence in Europe. There seems to be little room left in Israeli politics for those who would end the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and create an independent Palestinian state.

Both sides are tallying the blame. In too many cases, Israel launched weapons that hit schools and shelters and failed to adequately protect Palestinian citizens. But Hamas knowingly targeted Israeli civilian centers in violation of any civilized standard and launched weapons from populated areas in what looks like a deliberate effort to draw Israeli fire on innocents.

Both sides are claiming victory, Israel for wiping out 32 underground tunnels that Hamas intended for attacks on Israel, and Hamas for still being alive. In a mockery of its claim to have a political arm independent of its armed wing, political officials of Hamas were crowing about its determination to regroup and attack again.

The bottom line is that neither side has achieved its main goal of destroying the

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other. Israel is not going away. But neither are the Palestinians, and the extremists among them will always find a place and an audience if there is no hope and no responsible moderate leaders to point the way to a better future.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is no longer a narrowly defined problem that can be endured, contained or even managed. To an unusual degree, the Middle East is unsettled — from refugee flows, the spread of Sunni militants between Syria and Iraq, the Sunni-Shiite rivalry and even intra-Sunni divisions. Sunni forces in Iraq are attacking Kurdish and Christian populations. There is extremism and instability everywhere in the region.

That is why it so important that indirect talks between Israelis and Palestinians in Cairo this week, mediated by Egypt, lay the ground for something bigger and more durable than one cease-fire. Certain conditions are clear. Rocket attacks into Israel by Hamas and other extremist groups must stop, along with other terrorist attacks. So does the smuggling of weapons into Gaza and the production of a new supply of rockets. There will need to be an international donors' conference to rebuild Gaza, but with assurances that Hamas will not divert money for civilian projects into rockets and tunnels. Otherwise, there is little chance that Israel would end the blockade that has kept Gazans confined to the strip, and deprived them of imports, exports and jobs.

Hamas wants Israel to release prisoners. The Palestinian Authority, which recognizes Israel, wants a role in controlling the border crossings between Israel and Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, has signaled an eagerness to have the authority extend its reach to Gaza. But it cannot just be a policeman. If any agreements come out of Cairo, they must be designed to strengthen the authority and its president, Mahmoud Abbas, by managing whatever funds are donated to Gaza. It may be necessary to have Hamas in Cairo, but the group offers Palestinians nothing except nihilism and endless suffering.

We always wish a tragedy like this will finally create a real push for a permanent peace, but, right now, keeping this fragile peace is a big enough goal.

Al-Monitor – August 6, 2014

Saudi Arabia and the Third Gaza War

By Bruce Riedel

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has assumed a very low profile so far during the third Gaza war, speaking publicly rarely and primarily backing its Egyptian ally behind the scenes. Some have confused this quiet as a tacit entente with Israel against Hamas misreading the Saudi position; the kingdom increasingly regards the Netanyahu government as a criminal state. The Saudis have been unusually taciturn for much of the Gaza war between Hamas and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

The Saudi finance minister announced a $53 million grant for emergency aid to Gaza on July 14 to help the victims of "brutal Israeli aggression," but the king did not speak out personally until Aug. 1. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz then denounced Israel for committing a "war crime against humanity" and engaging in a "collective massacre." He did not specifically mention Israel, but the official Saudi press made clear he meant Israel in general and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in particular.

The king never mentioned Hamas at all, but he did speak a great deal about "terrorists" who "distort the pure and humane image of Islam." The Saudi press has explained those remarks as applying to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS), not to Hamas. He did say the worst kind of terror is state terror, another reference to Israel in Saudi speak. The former head of Saudi intelligence, Prince Turki Al Faisal, wrote for Al-Monitor on July 25 that Israel's actions in Gaza are a

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"barbaric assault on innocent civilians" and were destroying any chance for implementing the Saudi peace plan for a two-state solution.

Prince Turki, who is today a private citizen and always candid, did strongly criticize Hamas for many "mistakes," especially its "ill-advised alignment with Qatar and Turkey," both of whom have backed Hamas more vigorously. The Saudi ambassador in London wrote a public letter criticizing those who suggested any collusion between Israel and Saudi Arabia in Gaza as "utter rubbish" and "baseless lies." Prince Nawaf accused Israel of "genocide" and "a crime against humanity" in Gaza. He was responding to right-wing Israeli press reports alleging contacts between Saudi national security adviser Prince Bandar and the head of the Mossad and British press reports also asserting back-door collusion.

The Saudis' major goal in the Gaza war is to support their protege and ally Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, whom the Saudis helped put in power a year ago and whom they keep in power with billions in economic grants. Riyadh and Cairo now despise the Muslim Brotherhood. Since Hamas is the Palestinian offshoot of the Egyptian Brotherhood, Sisi wants to see it humiliated. This is the major difference between this Gaza war and the last Gaza war in 2012 when the then-Brotherhood controlled government in Cairo supported Hamas.

Abdullah and the other royal princes in Saudi Arabia are well aware that many Saudis, especially young people, admire Hamas for fighting against Israel. The royals are not eager to appear soft on Israel especially when gruesome images of dead children are appearing every night on Arab television. Israel and Saudi Arabia have colluded in the past when their interests coincided. The best example is Yemen in the 1960s when they each supported a royalist insurgency against an Egyptian occupation army. The Mossad parachuted supplies to the royalists while the Saudis provided sanctuary to them so they could bog Nasser's Egypt down in an Arabian Vietnam. The Mossad and Saudi intelligence cooperated indirectly via British mercenaries, but the Saudis always refused to meet the Israelis face to face.

The Israelis and Saudis were also on the same side in the Cold War against the Soviet Union. Despite what the movie "Charlie Wilson's War" leads you to believe, however, they did not cooperate in the final and decisive battle of the Cold War, the campaign in Afghanistan waged by the mujahedeen against the Soviet 40th Red Army. In fact, the Saudis vetoed any Israeli role in the Afghan war when the CIA and Congressman Wilson raised the idea.
The Saudis and Israelis have more often been on opposite sides of Middle East conflicts. The kingdom backed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in the Iran-Iraq war, for example, while Israel backed the ayatollahs of Iran. King Fahd was adamant that Israel stay out of the Kuwait war in 1991. The kingdom today finds it very awkward to be in the same camp as Israel in calling for tough measures to ensure Iran does not get a nuclear bomb.

Saudi reluctance to partner even indirectly with Israel reflects both strategic and tactical considerations. The kingdom is a strong supporter of Palestinian rights; from firsthand experience I can attest the king is particularly committed to the Palestinian cause. He scolded US Secretary of State Colin Powell for US support to Ariel Sharon in the second intifada in a Paris meeting and almost accused the secretary of being a party to war crimes then.

The Palestinian issue has great resonance with average Saudis. It has been the main irritant in the US-Saudi relationship since it began in 1945 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt met King Ibn Saud in the Suez Canal to create the oldest US partnership with a Middle East state. In 1973, of course, King Faisal cut off oil exports to the United States over the Arab-Israel conflict, the lowest low point in the relationship's history. US-Saudi relations have historically thrived when the

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Americans are actively and successfully engaged in promoting peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Tactically, the Saudis do not trust the Israelis to keep secrets. One Saudi prince once told me the Israelis are like "cheap tarts" who can not keep their mouths shut about their trysts. They undoubtedly suspect the Israeli right wing is actively promoting talk of collusion today to make life more difficult for the king.

The king's Aug. 1 speech also laid out his main priority today, which is fighting the growth of al-Qaeda and its offsprings on the kingdom's borders. The creation of a self-proclaimed caliphate in Iraq and Syria by IS is a direct challenge to the monarchy's legitimacy, if there is a true caliph then the king and the House of Saud are usurpers wrongly ruling Mecca and Medina. Saudi forces have been reinforced on the Iraqi-Saudi border as IS has advanced this summer. In the south, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) attacked a Saudi border outpost this summer and despite an enormous Saudi effort over six years now AQAP is far from defeated. Indeed, Yemen is becoming less stable with AQAP in south Yemen still dangerous and pro-Iranian Zaydi Houthi rebels controlling more and more of northern Yemen on the Saudi border. The Saudis have fought several border conflicts with the Houthis.

The coup in Egypt is the most positive development the king has seen in the region since the start of the Arab Spring. Abdullah has staked the kingdom's pocket book behind keeping Sisi in power and that determines his Gaza policy. As for Netanyahu, the Saudi ambassador to the United Kingdom laid out the kingdom's policy when he wrote Netanyahu "will answer for his crimes before a higher authority than here on earth."

Bruce Riedel is the Director of the Intelligence Project at the Brookings Institution. His new book, "What We Won: America's Secret War in Afghanistan, 1979-1989" was published in July.

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From:	"Amitabh Desai" <adesai@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Strobe Talbott (stalbott@brookings.edu)" <stalbott@brookings.edu> "Sandy Berger \(SBerger@stonebridge-international.com\)" <SBerger@stonebridge-international.com> "Nancy Soderberg" <nsoderberg@comcast.net> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	11/4/2011 6:45:27 AM
Subject:	WJC questions

Dear John, Sandy, Nancy, and Strobe, as you may know, WJC is doing Q+A with Nick Kristof on Wednesday (at the Foursquare Conference). It's supposed to be closed press, but. Below are the questions they sent that are related to international issues – namely Israelis/Palestinians, China (trade/Tibet/Taiwan), and Greece/Euro. Are there any WJC Admin accomplishments that we should equip him to be able to highlight? [I put some initial ideas in CAPS below; and we also have requested input from the State Department.] We'd welcome any feedback by Sunday. Thanks, Ami

At the very end of your presidency, it seemed that you came a whisker from a Middle East peace deal, and the Clinton parameters are still generally acknowledged to be the basis of an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal if it comes. But will it ever come? Aren't demographics and the growth of settlements making it harder to see a two –state solution emerging any time soon?

For most of human history, China has been the dominant power in the world. We just happen to live in a relatively brief 300-year stretch when China was weak. But is China regaining its customary position as the dominant power in the world today, and should that worry us? Should we just get used to it? And given that China is our creditor, where do we find leverage to change Chinese behavior, whether on Tibet or Taiwan or human rights or trade?

1. REMINDER ABOUT GETTING CHINA INTO WTO; AND DEVELOPING APEC TO ENHANCE REGIONAL INFLUENCE; AND WJC ADMIN SUCCESS IN BUILDING-UP THE US ECONOMY AND IMPORTANCE OF HAVING DOMESTIC ECONOMIC STRENGTH

Greece looks as if it's headed for default, the Euro zone may be imploding, and the American economy is pretty much stagnant. If you were president today, what would you be doing right now?

1. REMINDER ABOUT BAILING OUT MEXICO AND HOW UNPOPULAR THAT WAS BUT ENDED UP BEING SUCCESSFUL – IMPORTANCE OF SOMETIMES HAVING TO MAKE UNPOPULAR DECISIONS
2. AND IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN JOB CREATION AS A WAY TO WORK OUT OF THIS CRISIS AND GIVE PEOPLE TOOLS THEY NEED TO LIFT THEMSELVES UP – MENTION WJC ADMIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are a lot of potential crises that give nightmares to international strategists. A nuclear Iran. A belligerent or collapsing North Korea. A revolution in Saudi Arabia. A naval clash with China. Cyber attack. So what keeps you awake at night? Which of these do you worry about most? Or is there another peril that we in the media haven't adequately spotlighted?

1. REMIDER ABOUT WJC'S THREE CHALLENGES AND HOW WJC ADMIN HELPED ADDRESS EACH ONE, DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY: UNEQUALITY (IN INCOMES/OPPORTUNITY), INSTABILITY (DUE TO GLOBAL INTERCONNECTEDNESS, DISEASE AND HATE AND EVERYTHING CAN BE SPREAD ACROSS BORDERS EASILY), UNSUSTAINABILITY (DUE TO RESOURCE SCARCITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE)

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/4/2015 8:00:53 AM
Subject: The McMindfulness Craze: The Shadow Side of the Mindfulness Revolution

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The McMindfulness Craze: The Shadow Side of the Mindfulness Revolution

Jeffrey B. Rubin, Truthout: Focusing on the problems already identified with the McMindfulness craze obscures a more profound issue - meditation neglects meaning. This not only opens the door to grave dangers, but also compromises meditation's radical emancipatory potential.

Read the Article

Robert McChesney: We Need to Advocate Radical Solutions to Systemic Problems

Mark Karlin, Truthout: In this interview, Robert McChesney, author of *Blowing the Roof Off the Twenty-First Century*, discusses net neutrality advocacy, how the concentration of capital and media monopolies stifle democracy and his hopes for a post-capitalist democracy in the United States.

Read the Interview

Addiction, Mental Health, Safe Spaces and Stigmatization

Kelly Hayes, Transformative Spaces: "We all know, or at least should realize, that our good intentions do not exempt us from the failings of our society. Despite all we have learned, we still stigmatize what we should not, and at times, put social expediency before the creation and maintenance of safer spaces."

Read the Article

The Fourth Winter of Fukushima

Alexis Dudden, Foreign Policy in Focus: In the fourth winter since the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, many of the displaced residents are still in limbo, and more people have died from stress-related causes than from the initial disaster.

Read the Article

Port Strikes Mirror Organized Labor's Roots

Marjorie E. Wood, OtherWords: Port truckers in

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

NASA-Led Study Shows That Tropical Forests May Be Absorbing Far More Carbon Dioxide Than Many Scientists Thought

Read the Article at Science Daily

North Korea Responds With Fury to US Sanctions Over Sony Hack

Read the Article at The Guardian

Nuclear Plant Reports Two-Month Oil Leak Into Lake Michigan

Read the Article at Detroit Free Press

Israel Freezes

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California walked off the job in November to protest their dismal working conditions. They are denied the same employment rights that workers in the first Gilded Age fought so hard to achieve.

Read the Article

Murdoch, Scaife and CIA Propaganda

Robert Parry, Consortium News: The rapid expansion of the United States' right-wing media began in the 1980s as the Reagan administration coordinated foreign policy initiatives with conservative media executives, including Rupert Murdoch, and then cleared away regulatory hurdles.

Read the Article

Woman Rides in Rose Parade 57 Years After Being Denied Honor Because She Is Black

Crystal Shepeard, Care2: In 1958, Joan Williams was selected by her colleagues at Pasadena City Hall as "Miss Crown City." When they discovered she was black, however, they immediately distanced themselves instead of celebrating the fact that Williams would be the first black woman to participate in an official capacity in the Rose Parade.

Read the Article

How All Sides in the Ukraine Crisis Are Misusing History

Staff, History News Network: Kate Brown is a historian at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus. At the 2015 annual meeting of the American Historical Association she spoke about the many ways all sides in the Ukraine crisis have been misusing history.

Watch the Video

Tax Revenue, Threatens More Punitive Steps Against Palestinians
Read the Article at the Associated Press

Six Women Murdered Each Day as Femicide in Mexico Nears a Pandemic
Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

GOP Turns to the Courts to Aid Agenda
Read the Article at The New York Times

Forget Congress, These US States Raised the Minimum Wage on Their Own
Read the Article at The Guardian

A Godless Jewish Humanist

Dinah M. Mendes, Tikkun: Without Erich Fromm, "many of Freud and Marx's ideas might have remained sequestered in academic isolation," the author writes of Lawrence J. Friedman's book about the psychoanalyst and social critic, *The Lives of Erich Fromm: Love's Prophet*.

Read the Review

This week in Speakout:

David Krieger offers a poem for humanity at a crossroads; Truthout's own **Kelly Hayes** presents a photo essay on a #BlackLivesMatter event at Chicago's Union Station; **Jesse Hagopian** connects the new civil rights movement across the country to resistance to so-called education "reform"; **Lawrence Davidson** predicts more deadly truck-related accidents on US highways in 2015 and other events based on this year's federal budget; **Tom Hastings** argues for abolishing the "stupid" Second Amendment to the US Constitution; **Yulia Malkina** reports from Donetsk, Ukraine, how residents survive in the rubble; **Pierre Guerlain** speculates on the sudden disappearance of news about the Senate's torture report from mainstream media; **Dr. James Zogby** recounts the reality of daily life for the present residents of the fabled town of Bethlehem; and more.

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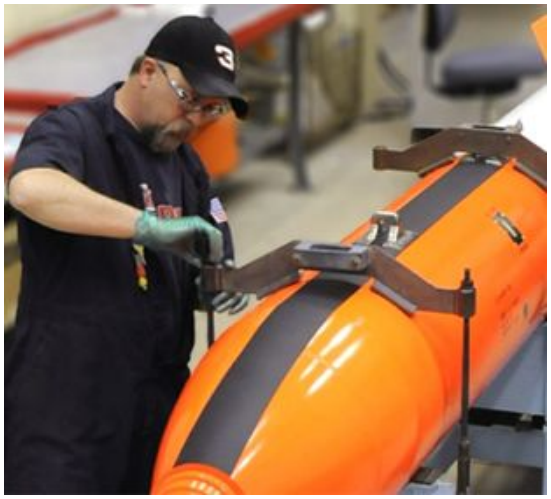
From: "Leslie Garvey, Project On Government Oversight" <leslie@pogo.org>
To: "John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 9/12/2015 1:00:13 AM
Subject: Weekly Reader: The Hillary Email Double Standard

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The Hillary Email Double Standard

When General David Petraeus received little more than a scolding from the Administration for willfully mishandling classified information, it illustrated the disparity in the treatment of high-level officials and that of whistleblowers. Clinton's email saga does the same. **Read more**



Massive Worker Strike at Pantex Should Ring Alarms in DC

A worker strike at Pantex is threatening the safety and security of America's nuclear weapons, and raising questions about the Department of Energy's priorities.

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DoD Buying From Everywhere but America

Two recent audits revealed that the military is still buying foreign-made goods, despite procurement laws against the practice.

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Y-12 Drops the Ball on Security Upgrades

Despite a high-profile break-in and $50 million in new equipment, security systems at Y-12 are still '"so poor that both current project management and a consulting team of subject matter experts determined the need for extensive reengineering."'

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EPA Coming Clean, but Gold King a Gold Mine for Contractors

Newly released records show the EPA reacting to an undefined emergency in the same region as the Gold King Mine leak — a day before the spill occurred.

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Can Bechtel Get the Job Done at the Hanford Site?

A report leaked to watchdog Hanford Challenge suggests that after 25 years and $19 billion, DOE and Bechtel National Inc may not be any closer to processing radioactive waste at the Hanford Site.

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Army Ordered to Pay KBR's Legal Expenses

The millions of dollars KBR has spent fighting lawsuits alleging toxic poisoning in Iraq must be reimbursed by taxpayers, according to a ruling by the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/30/2014 9:50:38 AM
Subject: Top 10 Epic Reasons Why Americans Should Give a Sh*t About Voting

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That was incredible! We thought there was a very real chance that we wouldn't hit our fundraising goal, but with the final push last night we just made it! We want to thank everyone who stepped up to donate to Truthout - you are our constant inspiration and we couldn't do this without you.

Top 10 Epic Reasons Why Americans Should Give a Sh*t About Voting

Victoria Collier and Ben-Zion Ptashnik, Truthout: Voting - or not voting - in some way impacts almost every aspect of our lives, including whom we can love, our bodies, our food, our air and water. Voting is important in spite of our fundamentally corrupt political system.

Read the Article

Tom Engelhardt: The National Security State Has Filled Us With Fear but Has Not Improved Our Well-Being

Mark Karlin, Truthout: Tom Engelhardt of TomDispatch discusses his new book, *Shadow Government*, about whether the surveillance state actually makes the United States more secure and how Washington exists in a post-legal world.

Read the Interview

Smoke and Mirrors: Essential Questions About "Prison Reform"

Kay Whitlock and Nancy A. Heitzeg, Critical Mass Progress: We're hearing that we've entered a new era of "bipartisan prison reform." Don't celebrate just yet, though. There is a "reform" agenda, to be sure, but what are the elements of that reform?

Read the Article

'Tis the Season to Be Frightened

Brian Moench, Truthout: Ebola, Dengue fever, West Nile virus, valley fever, Lyme disease, hantavirus: Republican ideology created some of

BuzzFlash

Christ Gets Kidnapped by Prosperity Theology

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: In an age when 95 percent of the nation's economic gains since 2008 have gone to the top 1%, what could be more appropriate than a revisionist view of Christ as a promoter of greed?

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

The Act of Voting vs. the Controlling Interests of the US Empire

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

How Police Brutality Changed Me: "He Crushed His Knee Into My Neck, I

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these threats in the first place, or managed to make others worse. The climate crisis, which Republicans dismiss en masse, is a key ingredient in all of them.
Read the Article

The 0.01 Percent's "I Reap All" Accounts

Bob Lord, OtherWords: Multimillionaires and billionaires are shielding vast fortunes from taxation with monstrously huge IRAs. While the government sets limits on IRA contributions to curb this abuse, there are still more loopholes than restrictions.
Read the Article

What Would Republicans Do With a Senate Majority?

Robert Naiman, Truthout: Election fatigue can often foster election cynicism. Perhaps it would be useful for progressives to eavesdrop a bit on what Republicans are saying to other Republicans about what they should do with a majority in the Senate.
Read the Article

Green World Rising : A Call to Save the Earth From Climate Change

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: The threat of climate change is very real, but we have the solutions, knowledge and ingenuity needed to save our planet; a new video talks about how we can put those solutions and that knowledge into action right now.
Watch the Video

Arming the Warrior Cop: From Guns to Drones, Inside the Booming Business of Police Militarization

Amy Goodman and Juan González, Democracy Now!: Mother Jones reporter Shane Bauer goes inside the corporations and government departments involved in enabling police departments to acquire anything from bayonets to semiautomatic rifles and drones.
Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

US Sends Planes Armed With Depleted Uranium to Middle East

David Swanson, War Is A Crime: Depleted Uranium (DU) is classed as a Group 1 Carcinogen by the World Health Organization, and evidence of health damage produced by its use is extensive. Yet the US Air Force says it is not halting its use of DU weapons, it has recently sent them to the Middle East and it is prepared to use them.
Read the Article

Voters Turned Away Because of Texas Photo ID Law

Staff, Brennan Center for Justice: Actual voters tell of the difficulties they've encountered at the polls. Texas failed these voters twice - first, by requiring identification they did not have, and second, by not training election officials to help them navigate the rules.
Read the Article

US Energy Policies Based on Inflated Fracking Predictions: Post Carbon Institute Report

Could Hardly Breathe"
Read the Article at Salon

50,000 Missing Georgia Voter-Registration Applications? Nothing to See Here
Read the Article at The Daily Beast

Lindsey Graham: White Men Will "Do Great" Under My Presidency
Read the Article at Talking Points Memo

These Maps of California's Water Shortage Are Terrifying
Read the Article at Mother Jones

When Did Chris Christie and Andrew Cuomo Go to Medical School?
Read the Article at The Nation

Charles P. Pierce | The Democrats' Hillary Clinton Problem
Read the Article at Esquire

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Julie Dermansky, DeSmogBlog: A new report from the Post Carbon Institute shatters the government's estimate of the potential productivity of shale regions in the United States. Four out of seven of the top shale regions have peaked and are now in a decline.

Read the Article

The Missing Women of Afghanistan: After 13 Years of War, the Rule of Men, Not Law, Prevails

Ann Jones, TomDispatch: The disconnect between Washington's much-advertised support for women's rights and its actual disdain for women was not lost on canny Afghans. From early on, they recognized that the Americans were hypocrites at heart.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | Defense Spending and Net Exports Spur Higher Than Expected Third-Quarter Growth

Dean Baker, Center for Economic Policy and Research: GDP grew at a higher than expected: 3.5 percent annual rate in the third quarter. Although there was a 16 percent increase in defense spending, health spending continues its slower path.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/8/2014 6:55:51 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday July 8, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday July 8, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Enough with the politicization of an American tragedy. GOP wants to spend $3M more on new Benghazi committee. http://correctrecord.org/new-benghazi-house-select-committee-will-cost-taxpayers-3- … [7/8/14, 12:05 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: UNLV has sold "more than $350,000 in table sponsorships thus far," crediting @HillaryClinton for early sales surge: http://correctrecord.org/attack-america-rising-shamefully-attacks-clintons-charitable-work/ … [7/7/14, 4:20 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton & @Madeleine launched Vital Voices Democracy Initiative 2 support women's global advancement #HRC365 http://bit.ly/ObKcrM [7/7/14, 5:45 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@pbump claims Gates' "Duty" handily outsold #HardChoices. The Facts: First 3 weeks of sales for both books pic.twitter.com/gEaioxqIha [7/7/14, 2:56 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK: THE BRODY FILE (PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT): JULY 3, 2014

David Brody: "I think her biggest challenge is to let the inner-Hillary come out. Now conservatives might think the inner-Hillary is some mean-crazed machine, but actually she's really endearing in private. We've met her a few times. She's got a great sense of humor, loads of personality, so she's going to need to figure out a way for that to shine through more and not get so caught up in the trappings of her political past."

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Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton tops Christie, Paul, Bush in new poll"

"Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton is in the driver's seat for the 2016 Democratic nomination for president, a new poll released Tuesday shows, and she tops a slate of potential Republican White House hopefuls."

Politico: "Cleveland to host 2016 GOP convention"

"Cleveland will host the 2016 Republican National Convention after beating out Dallas for the final nod, putting the party's nomination festivities in a key presidential battleground, chairman Reince Priebus said Tuesday."

CBS News: "Hillary Clinton stands by her defense of 1975 rape suspect"

"Hillary Clinton asked to be removed from a 1975 rape case in which her client was accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl, the onetime Arkansas lawyer said recently, addressing for the first time fresh retrospective reproach for her defense of a man she's suggested was guilty."

Arkansas Times blog: Arkansas Blog: "Hillary: Did her duty in 1975 rape case defense"

"The vast right-wing conspiracy has succeeded in reopening mainstream media discussion of Hillary Clinton's role as a court-appointed lawyer in defense of a man accused of raping a 12-year-old in Fayetteville 39 years ago."

Der Spiegel (German Magazine): "Interview with Hillary Clinton: 'Surveillance on Merkel's Phone Was Absolutely Wrong'"

"In an interview, Hillary Clinton discusses the growing gap between the rich and poor that threatens democracy, Americans' discontent with politics, her regrets over NSA spying on Chancellor Merkel's mobile phone and her potential presidential candidacy.

Politico: "Hillary Clinton: Thomas Piketty right on labor"

"Hillary Clinton says she hasn't yet read Thomas Piketty's bestselling book on income inequality, but that she's familiar with the gist and agrees that 'we have devalued labor.'"

Politico: "Hillary Clinton on dynasties: We had 2 Roosevelts"

"Hillary Clinton on Tuesday defended her family and the Bushes, saying that U.S. politics has a history of political families but that the country is not a 'monarchy.'"

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Huffington Post: "Ready For Hillary Starts Spreading Its Money Around To Key States"

"Ready for Hillary, the organization setting the stage for Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016, has strategically distributed more than $175,000 to 33 state Democratic parties and national Democratic organizations."

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton 'sorry' that Merkel's phone was tapped"

"Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton said in an interview published Tuesday that it was wrong for U.S. intelligence officials to spy on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone and said she is 'sorry' that it happened."

National Journal: "If Hillary Clinton Doesn't Run, Who Would Lead the Democratic Field for President?"

[Subtitle:] "Other potential Democratic candidates like Elizabeth Warren and Andrew Cuomo are largely unknown among potential voters, according to a new poll."

Washington Free Beacon: "MSNBC Slams Hillary Clinton Over Rape Tapes"

"An MSNBC panel slammed Hillary Clinton over the tapes uncovered by the Washington Free Beacon which record her laughing about freeing a child rapist, calling her behavior 'jarring' and 'disturbing.'"

Articles:

CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK: THE BRODY FILE (PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT): JULY 3, 2014

[Transcript]

July 3, 2014

(Starting at 15:45)

DAVID BRODY: You know there's been a lot of talk lately about 2016. You heard from Marco Rubio earlier in the show. He's a man expected to make a run at the Republican nominee for president. Well, how about a Brody File commentary on the woman who is expected to run to be the Democrats' nominee? Hillary Clinton. That's right. She's been taking some flack from the media ever since her book tour rollout began. And now, time for a Brody File commentary.

You know, remember the "we were dead broke when we left the White House" line? She uttered that to Diane Sawyer during the sit-down interview. Hey, yeah, sure it wasn't said very artfully, and I'm sure she wishes she could have said it differently, but you know technically it was true. It just seems the media wants to turn everything into political Armageddon. I mean how about when Hillary Clinton was talking about gay marriage? There was a liberal NPR host, and she tried to trip her up by chastising her for being for the Defense of Marriage Act back in the 1990s.

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Yet, of course, now she is for same-sex marriage. The NPR host was trying to make Hillary Clinton look like a follower rather than a leader on the issue. But hey look, at the time, Pres. Clinton with support from Hillary Clinton did the smart thing by passing the Defense of Marriage Act. I mean, Congress wanted it, it was in a day when traditional marriage was still sacred. It really did make total sense. Politicians should really listen to the people – not the other way around. So sure, coming out for gay marriage back then would have been risky politically, but it would have also been tone-deaf and stupid, because the people weren't clamoring for it. People need to cut her and him some slack. She is for gay marriage now. I mean isn't that enough for gay rights activists? You know, it seems everyone is trying to trip Hillary up. But remember, she gives just as good as she gets. I think her biggest challenge is to let the inner-Hillary come out. Now conservatives might think the inner-Hillary is some mean-crazed machine, but actually she's really endearing in private. We've met her a few times. She's got a great sense of humor, loads of personality, so she's going to need to figure out a way for that to shine through more and not get so caught up in the trappings of her political past.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton tops Christie, Paul, Bush in new poll"

By Sean Sullivan

July 8, 2014, 9:16 a.m. EDT

Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton is in the driver's seat for the 2016 Democratic nomination for president, a new poll released Tuesday shows, and she tops a slate of potential Republican White House hopefuls.

Clinton, who has not yet said whether she will run for president, is supported by 58 percent of Democrats in a hypothetical primary against Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) (11 percent); Vice President Biden (9 percent); New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (4 percent); Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (1 percent); and former Montana governor Brian Schweitzer (1 percent). Quinnipiac University conducted the national survey.

Unlike the prospective Democratic race, the prospective Republican field has no clear frontrunner. Four Republicans register double-digit support: Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) (11 percent); former Florida governor Jeb Bush (10 percent); New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (10 percent); and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee (10 percent). Twenty percent of Republicans say they are undecided.

Coming in behind the four leading contenders: Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (8 percent); Rep. Paul Ryan (Wis.) (8 percent); Sen. Ted Cruz (Tex.) (8 percent); Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) (6 percent); Texas Gov. Rick Perry (3 percent); former senator Rick Santorum (Pa.) (2 percent); Ohio Gov. John Kasich (2 percent); and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (1 percent).

Clinton was tested in hypothetical general election match-ups against against Christie, Paul, Huckabee, Bush and Ryan. She bests all five by between seven and nine points.

The poll was conducted from June 24-30.

Politico: "Cleveland to host 2016 GOP convention"

By Katie Glueck and Maggie Haberman

July 8, 2014, 11:57 a.m. EDT

Cleveland will host the 2016 Republican National Convention after beating out Dallas for the final nod, putting the party's nomination festivities in a key presidential battleground, chairman Reince Priebus said Tuesday.

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Priebus made the announcement on Fox News and an official statement followed.

In choosing Cleveland, party organizers opted for a Democratic enclave in the pivotal battleground state of Ohio over the wealthier and more conservative Dallas area for their convention, which officials have indicated could take place in late June or mid-July of 2016.

Republican officials wanted an earlier convention in 2016, to allow the nominee to pivot more quickly to the general election. Cleveland offered up a late June date, while Dallas was considering mid-July, reports said, though an RNC spokeswoman said Tuesday that the exact timing was still part of the negotiation process.

“The RNC set a new standard for conventions during this process,” Priebus said in a statement. “Not only will the convention be held earlier in 2016, but there are also substantial guarantees in place for funding that put us well ahead of previous conventions and will give our nominee the best opportunity to succeed.”

GOP officials have said that logistics—including fundraising capabilities and hotel space—played a central role throughout the elimination process of a contest that previously also included Kansas City and Denver, among other cities.

Some Republican donors privately said Texas, where the Republican party recently made strong stands in its platform against gay rights, would send the wrong message at a time when the GOP needs to expand its base.

A critical component of the RNC’s “autopsy” after the 2012 election was the need to appeal to an increasingly diverse electorate. Holding the convention in a heavily African-American city provides a backdrop that helps the party avoid the appearance of homogeneity.

But there are downsides to holding the event in Ohio instead of Texas. There are fewer mega-donors in the Midwestern state, meaning the RNC needs money commitments ahead of time.

The event, which could draw up to 50,000 people, is expected to be prohibitively expensive. Cleveland, home to a new convention center, reportedly has $30 million on hand to $50 million in commitments that Dallas had secured. Ohioans involved in the effort, however, have said fundraising won’t be a problem.

The announcement is a coup for Cleveland as it seeks to remake itself from a crime-ridden, economically struggling Rust Belt city long dubbed the“Mistake on the Lake” to a thriving metropolis with a revitalized downtown.

The 2016 conventions won’t receive federal matching of funds as they had in the past. At the same time, such events are often economic boons for the host cities.

“It’s a unique opportunity to showcase the new Cleveland as one of America’s great cities, and to bring dollars and jobs to Ohio,” said Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), a close ally of 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney.

The decision to go with Ohio was anticipated by many Republican operatives and donors.

Ohio is a crucial battleground that Republicans haven’t won in the last two elections. Obama’s turnout operation was critical to his win there in 2012, and Republicans are aware they need it back in their column if they’re going to succeed in the future.

Both Cleveland and Dallas turned to athletes, celebrities, fine dining—and in the case of Dallas, elephants that greeted officials —to make their cases to site selection decision-makers.

Cleveland had also been in the running to host the Democratic convention, though signing a contract to host the RNC would disqualify it from the DNC’s convention cities list.

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The 2012 convention was held in Tampa, Florida, a choice that was roundly denounced after the fact, given that the city was in the path of a hurricane just as the convention was set to kick off. Organizers were forced to call off the first night of events, which led to a truncated and muted affair.

CBS News: "Hillary Clinton stands by her defense of 1975 rape suspect"

By Lindsey Boerma

July 8, 2014, 11:03 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton asked to be removed from a 1975 rape case in which her client was accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl, the onetime Arkansas lawyer said recently, addressing for the first time fresh retrospective reproach for her defense of a man she's suggested was guilty.

"When I was a 27-year-old attorney doing legal aid work at the [University of Arkansas] where I taught in Fayetteville, Arkansas, I was appointed by the local judge to represent a criminal defendant accused of rape," she said when broached with the topic in an interview with British online network Mumsnet. "I asked to be relieved of that responsibility, but I was not. And I had a professional duty to represent my client to the best of my ability, which I did."

The Washington Free Beacon recently obtained audio from a 1980s interview with Clinton in which she concedes some admittedly disquieting information about how she was able to seize on loopholes to minimize the sentence of the suspect, 41-year-old Thomas Alfred Taylor. Though he faced 30 years to life in prison, Clinton negotiated a plea deal that sentenced him to just one year in county jail and four years of probation.

In a sworn affidavit aiming to coerce a psychiatric evaluation of the sixth-grade victim, Clinton during the case nearly 40 years ago called into question the girl's emotional stability, arguing she had exhibited "a tendency to seek out older men and engage in... fantasizing." She added, citing a child psychology expert that "children in early adolescence tend to exaggerate or romanticize sexual experiences and that adolescents with disorganized families, such as the complainant, are even more prone to such behavior."

But in the recording, Clinton indicated she believed her client was indeed guilty. Heard laughing, she said the polygraph test he managed to pass "forever destroyed my faith in polygraphs."

Grasping to cast Clinton - the early frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination - as someone far removed from the champion of women's rights around which she's molded her reputation as first lady, senator and secretary of state, some Republicans have rallied attention back to her handling of the case.

Todd Akin, whose 2012 Senate campaign was largely annihilated by his theory that women who are victims of "legitimate rape" shouldn't be exempted from anti-abortion laws because they're unlikely to become pregnant, last month lambasted as "incredibly hypocritical" Clinton's defense of a child rapist "she knew to be guilty." He added that by laughing while discussing the case, Clinton "de-legitimized the legitimate claims of the 12-year-old victim," and that she "slandered the victim to justify her tactics."

Clinton stood by her defense during her interview with Mumsnet: "When you're a lawyer you often don't have the choice as to who you will represent," she said. "And by the very nature of criminal law there will be those you represent you don't approve of. But, at least in our system, you have an obligation. And once I was appointed I fulfilled that obligation."

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Arkansas Times blog: Arkansas Blog: "Hillary: Did her duty in 1975 rape case defense"

By Max Brantley

July 8, 2014, 8:50 a.m.

The vast right-wing conspiracy has succeeded in reopening mainstream media discussion of Hillary Clinton's role as a court-appointed lawyer in defense of a man accused of raping a 12-year-old in Fayetteville 39 years ago. She plea-bargained a short sentence for the man.

She's given her first interview on the topic this year — the issue was plumbed in some depth in her 2008 presidential campaign and the elements of her response already were clear. But, she told Mumsnet, a British website, as reported in the New York Times:

"I asked to be relieved of that responsibility, but I was not, and I had a professional duty to represent my client to the best of my ability, which I did."

The victim in the case, who didn't criticize Clinton when interviewed in 2008, has said in an interview this year that Clinton took her through hell. Regrettably, challenging a victim's credibility is part of the job of being a defense lawyer. It is hard on the victim, but it is the lawyer's obligation. A defendant, even an obviously heinous one, is constitutionally entitled to a legal defense. But, as several articles have noted recently (and it was an issue in a recent Arkansas Supreme Court case), acting as a defense lawyer has become a ripe source of political opponent attacks, ethical obligation or no.

Earlier reporting by Michael Cook supported Clinton's statement that she didn't want to represent the defendant but had no choice. He demanded a female attorney. She was one of a very few female lawyers in Washington County at the time. The judge refused to release her from the appointment, the prosecutor said.

Der Spiegel (German Magazine): "Interview with Hillary Clinton: 'Surveillance on Merkel's Phone Was Absolutely Wrong'"

By Marc Hujer and Holger Stark

July 8, 2014, 11:34 a.m.

In an interview, Hillary Clinton discusses the growing gap between the rich and poor that threatens democracy, Americans' discontent with politics, her regrets over NSA spying on Chancellor Merkel's mobile phone and her potential presidential candidacy.

SPIEGEL: Madame Secretary, you've been in politics for over three decades. During that time, discontent with politics has increased considerably. Do you think expectations have become unrealistic?

Clinton: I think about this question a lot because we are putting an enormous amount of weight on one individual in our political system. In our country, we don't have a head of state and a head of government. We have one person: the president. That person has to fulfill the role of being the symbol of the country plus running the government. It is hard for anybody to carry that off. I think we're having a time in our history right now where people are disappointed in the political system, turned off by the political system, giving up on it or are wanting to hijack it with some ideological perspective. Therefore we need to enlist not just one person but kind of a consensus of leadership and citizenship to address that.

SPIEGEL: American society is polarized as never before. The French economist Thomas Piketty wrote a bestseller "Capital in the Twenty First Century" which is making a lot of noise right now. Have you had the chance to read it?

Clinton: I haven't read it yet. I've read very long essays about it and know what his principal point is. I think he makes a very strong case that we

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have unbalanced our economy too much towards favoring capital and away from labor. And I agree with his principal concern, which is that we have devalued labor. He talks about Europe, but it is the same thing in the United States.

SPIEGEL: Piketty argues that the growing gap between the rich and the poor is threatening democracy.

Clinton: I do agree with that. We've had this huge experiment known as America that was a diversity of populations, and we have held it together because we had a democracy that slowly over time included everybody. Even during the Great Depression people in the streets believed that they could make it and they would be better off. Now the relative wealth is much higher, but the disparity makes people believe that they're stuck. They no longer believe that things are going to get any better, no matter how hard they work. People have lost trust in each other and the political system and I think that's very threatening to democracy.

SPIEGEL: The average annual income of an American household is $22,296 (€16,397). You earn up to $200,000 an hour for a speech. Can you understand if people are bothered by that?

Clinton: Well, certainly, I can understand that, but that's never been the crux of the concern in our country, because we've always had people who did better than other people. That's just accepted. The problem is that people on the bottom and people in the middle class no longer feel like they have the opportunity to do better. The question is, how do we get back to having an economy that works for everybody and that once again gives people the optimism that they too will be successful.

SPIEGEL: According to your description of the United States, you should actually be applauded for your prosperity.

Clinton: Well, I think that if you go back and look at the last eight to 10 months, you'll see that people are seizing everything about me, and I accept that. I mean, that's part of being out in the public, out as a potential candidate, although I haven't made a decision.

SPIEGEL: You recently described your financial situation during the presidency of your husband Bill Clinton as dead broke.

Clinton: Well, when we came out of the White House, we were deeply in debt because of all the legal bills that we owed because of the relentless persecution of my husband and myself, and he had to work unbelievably hard to pay off every single penny of every debt we owed. And we did.

SPIEGEL: Today, you are multimillionaires. Your husband has earned $104 million with his speeches since 2001.

Clinton: We are very grateful for where we are today. But if you were to go back and look at the amount of money that we owed, we couldn't even get a mortgage on a house by ourselves. In our system he had to make double what he needed in order just to pay off the debt, and then to finance a house and continue to pay for our daughter's education.

Hillary Clinton on the possibility she will run for president again: "I haven't made up my mind."

SPIEGEL: Do you think it's a good system when you have to take such great personal and financial risks just in order to have a chance as a presidential candidate?

Clinton: Well, I don't think it is for me today. People running for president and even holding office are subjected to a full range of all kinds of attacks. If you want to be in politics in our country today, you go in with your eyes wide open about the potential price that you and your family might pay, and that's why you have to be very, very sure you not only want to do the job, but that you know what you want to do with the job, and you can deliver on that. Look at the recent Presidents: my husband, George W. Bush, Barack Obama. It's an incredibly stressful job. It ages a person. It takes a very thick skin to be able to do this job.

SPIEGEL: This all sounds like a vehement plea for your retirement.

Clinton: (Laughs) Well, I haven't made up my mind.

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SPIEGEL: If you should decide to run for the presidency in 2016, your opponent could be Jeb Bush and he could quite possibly be the third Bush in the White House. Even his mother Barbara Bush has declared that she does not think it is a good idea. Do you agree?

Clinton: I think the point she was making is understandable, but I also think in our democracy, anybody can run for any reason. And his last name may factor into it. The color of his eyes might factor into it. His policies, I hope, factor into it.

SPIEGEL: A majority of people is glad that the Bush era is finally over. What kind of message would that send?

Clinton: Well, there will be plenty of time to comment on that if indeed an election were to involve somebody with that last name, but I am not going to say anything about it now.

SPIEGEL: For the past 25 years, there were two families that were very prominent in politics, your family and the Bush family. First George Bush was president for four years, then your husband led the country for eight years, and then George W. Bush was president for eight years. If either you or Jeb Bush were to win the election in 2016, once again a member of these two families would become president. Will the American democracy turn into a monarchy?

Clinton: We had two Roosevelts. We had two Adams. It may be that certain families just have a sense of commitment or even a predisposition to want to be in politics. I ran for president, as you remember. I lost to somebody named Barack Obama, so I don't think there is any guarantee in American politics. My last name did not help me in the end. Our system is open to everyone. It is not a monarchy in which I wake up in the morning and abdicate in favor of my son.

SPIEGEL: Would you like to see your daughter in politics?

Clinton: It is really up to her, and I'll support her in whatever she chooses.

Hillary Clinton on NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden: "He is a poor messenger."

SPIEGEL: We want to throw a couple of names out there and you tell us the first thought that comes to mind. Neymar, the Brazilian?

Clinton: Oh. Well, is he the one who got injured? How tragic that he'd be out when Brazil will be playing Germany. I watched some of the replay to try to see exactly what happened. It is a serious injury. I hope he comes back full speed. He's a great player.

SPIEGEL: Jürgen Klinsmann, the American national coach.

Clinton: I think he made some very shrewd decisions in his choice of who is on the team. But I think he proved to be a very effective coach, and his coaching brought out the best in the players that he chose, and it helped to finally, I think, put what we call soccer and you call football on the map in the United States. So I give him a lot of credit for that.

SPIEGEL: Edward Snowden.

Clinton: You know, I think he is a poor messenger for the message that he's trying to take credit for. He came into the National Security Agency apparently with the purpose of trying to gather a lot of information, and most of what he gathered had nothing to do with surveillance in the United States, but obviously around the world. And I think he could have provoked the debate in our country without stealing and distributing material that was government property and was of some consequence. And then for him to go first to China and then to Russia raises a lot of questions, but he is going to have to make his own choices. If he returns to the United States, he will certainly stand trial, but he will have an opportunity to speak out and to make his case in both a legal way and a public fashion.

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SPIEGEL: We actually wanted to talk about your book and not about the NSA, but since it became known on Fridaythat a member of the German intelligence agency was arrested who had admitted that he acted as a spy for a US intelligence service, the issue of the NSA has gained a new dimension. Given the tense political climate, do you believe the CIA could seriously come up with idea of infiltrating German intelligence?

Clinton: Well, I know that your government is conducting a criminal investigation, and we will learn more as the facts are developed. And I know nothing other than what I read. But clearly, we have to do a much better job in working together between Germany and the United States to sort out what the appropriate lines of cooperation are on intelligence and security. I think the cooperation is necessary for our security, but we don't want to undermine it by raising doubts again and again. Clearly, the surveillance on Chancellor Merkel's phone was absolutely wrong. The president said that. I think that he made it very clear it was unacceptable. Where are the lines on both sides? That's what we have to work out.

SPIEGEL: Would you agree that acquiring a source within the German intelligence agency should be taboo for US intelligence services?

Clinton: I don't want to give a general answer. There's so much that goes on in intelligence circles. If we were to say no, under no circumstances, that you shouldn't do that to us, we shouldn't do that to you, what if a circumstance arises where it is conceivable that it would be in your interest and ours? The United States could never enter into a No-Spy agreement with any country -- not you, not Britain, not Canada. But that doesn't mean that within the intelligence and security institutions within our two countries, we shouldn't have a much clearer idea of what is appropriate and what should not be done.

SPIEGEL: Do you think Angela Merkel deserves an apology?

Clinton: Well, it is my understanding that the president and she have talked numerous times.

SPIEGEL: Yes, but no public apology.

Clinton: I'm not in the government anymore, but I'm sorry.

Politico: "Hillary Clinton: Thomas Piketty right on labor"

By Maggie Haberman

July 8, 2014, 12:06 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton says she hasn't yet read Thomas Piketty's bestselling book on income inequality, but that she's familiar with the gist and agrees that "we have devalued labor."

The potential 2016 presidential contender, in an interview with Germany's Der Spiegel, also said she "can understand" people being bothered by her high speaking fees, "but that's never been the crux of the concern in our country, because we've always had people who did better than other people. That's just accepted."

Clinton's comments this week came as she travels in Europe to promote "Hard Choices," her memoir about her time as secretary of state.

The Piketty book has received attention as debate grows in the U.S. over how to deal with income inequality, an issue that has been driving economic policy discussions in the Democratic Party.

Asked by the interviewer if she's read Piketty's "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," Clinton replied: "I haven't read it yet. I've read very long

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essays about it and know what his principal point is. I think he makes a very strong case that we have unbalanced our economy too much towards favoring capital and away from labor."

She added: "And I agree with his principal concern, which is that we have devalued labor. He talks about Europe, but it is the same thing in the United States."

The current "disparity makes people believe that they're stuck," Clinton said. "They no longer believe that things are going to get any better, no matter how hard they work. People have lost trust in each other and the political system and I think that's very threatening to democracy."

With regard to her own income from speaking fees, which can be upwards of $200,000 per speech, Clinton said: "The problem is that people on the bottom and people in the middle class no longer feel like they have the opportunity to do better. The question is, how do we get back to having an economy that works for everybody and that once again gives people the optimism that they too will be successful."

Clinton also was asked about her much-criticized earlier comments about being "dead broke" when she and former President Bill Clinton left the White House.

"When we came out of the White House, we were deeply in debt because of all the legal bills that we owed because of the relentless persecution of my husband and myself," she said. "And he had to work unbelievably hard to pay off every single penny of every debt we owed."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton on dynasties: We had 2 Roosevelts"

By Jonathan Topaz

July 8, 2014, 9:41 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton on Tuesday defended her family and the Bushes, saying that U.S. politics has a history of political families but that the country is not a "monarchy."

In an interview with Germany's Der Spiegel, Clinton was asked whether the U.S. is at risk of becoming a monarchy if she or former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush wins the presidency in 2016.

"We had two Roosevelts. We had two Adams," the former secretary of State said, invoking two of the most powerful political families in U.S. history. "It may be that certain families just have a sense of commitment or even a predisposition to want to be in politics."

John Quincy Adams, the sixth U.S. president, was the son of John Adams, the country's second president. Former Presidents Theodore and Franklin Delano Roosevelt were distant cousins.

Some political commentators have suggested that a potential matchup between Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton would make the U.S. politics feel dynastic, given those families' relative dominance over American politics over the past 25 years.

In the interview Tuesday, Clinton said that her defeat in the 2008 Democratic primary to then-Sen. Barack Obama signifies that name recognition isn't enough to succeed in American politics.

"I ran for president, as you remember," she said. "I lost to somebody named Barack Obama, so I don't think there is any guarantee in American politics. My last name did not help me in the end. Our system is open to everyone. It is not a monarchy in which I wake up in the morning and

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abdicate in favor of my son."

Former First Lady Barbara Bush, Jeb's mother, said in January that she hoped her son wouldn't run and that politicians from other families should lead the country.

"I think this is a great American country, great country, and if we can't find more than two or three families to run for high office, that's silly, because there are great governors and great eligible people to run," she said.

A Quinnipiac University poll released Tuesday morning showed Clinton as the clear frontrunner among 2016 Democratic presidential contenders. Bush was tied for second in the survey of Republican voters, trailing Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul by one point.

Clinton, who says she is still mulling over whether to run for president, told Der Spiegel that she will support her daughter Chelsea whether she chooses to become involved in politics or not.

Huffington Post: "Ready For Hillary Starts Spreading Its Money Around To Key States"

By Amanda Terkel

July 8, 2014, 11:38 a.m. EDT

WASHINGTON -- Ready for Hillary, the organization setting the stage for Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016, has strategically distributed more than $175,000 to 33 state Democratic parties and national Democratic organizations.

On May 28, Ready for Hillary shifted from being a super PAC to what's known as a "hybrid PAC." With the new designation, the group can contribute directly to federal candidates while still making unlimited expenditures like a super PAC (provided it's not coordinating with campaigns).

According to a list shared shared exclusively with The Huffington Post, Ready for Hillary has given money to 27 state Democratic parties and six national organizations since its shift:

Alaska Democratic Party

Arkansas Democratic Party

Colorado Democratic Party

Delaware Democratic Party

Florida Democratic Party

Democratic Party of Georgia

Idaho Democratic Party

Indiana Democratic Party

Iowa Democratic Party

Kentucky Democratic Party

Louisiana Democratic Party

Maine Democratic Party

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Maryland Democratic Party

Massachusetts Democratic Party

Michigan Democratic Party

Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party

Montana Democratic Party

Nevada Democratic Party

New Hampshire Democratic Party

North Carolina Democratic Party

Ohio Democratic Party

South Carolina Democratic Party

South Dakota Democratic Party

Texas Democratic Party

Utah Democratic Party

Democratic Party of Virginia

Democratic Party of Wisconsin

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC)

Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC)

EMILY's List

Netroots Nation

Women Winning PAC

Young Democrats of America

"Making these direct financial contributions allows Ready for Hillary to further our mission by boosting grassroots efforts across the country to elect Democrats in 2014 and beyond," a Ready for Hillary official said in an email. "This is our initial set of contributions, and we will provide additional financial support in the coming months while continuing to channel the enthusiasm of our more than two million grassroots supporters to help Democrats come out on top this Fall."

Notably, the four early presidential primary states -- Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina -- are receiving funds from the group, as are all the states with major Senate races.

Since Ready for Hillary formed, it has spent more than $5.7 million total, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. It has also rented the list of supporters from Clinton's 2008 presidential run and continued to build on it through fundraising appeals and events around the country -- an asset if Clinton does decide to jump into the field for 2016.

Ready for Hillary is also helping to sponsor Democratic events and conventions -- often coinciding with a financial contribution to a state Democratic Party -- while holding community events and its Ready for Hillary Grassroots Tour. The group's prominent bus has been going around the country, following Clinton as she promotes her new memoir.

The group has also attracted some high-profile supporters who want Clinton to run, such as Sens. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.).

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton 'sorry' that Merkel's phone was tapped"

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By Sean Sullivan

July 8, 2014, 11:29 a.m. EDT

Former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton said in an interview published Tuesday that it was wrong for U.S. intelligence officials to spy on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone and said she is "sorry" that it happened.

"Clearly, the surveillance on Chancellor Merkel's phone was absolutely wrong. The president said that. I think that he made it very clear it was unacceptable," Clinton told Germany's Der Spiegel news magazine. She added, "I'm not in the government anymore, but I'm sorry."

In the interview, Clinton rejected the notion that the American political process is beginning to resemble a monarchy, given the dominance of her family and the Bush family. She also defended the money she and Bill Clinton have made over the years, signaled openness to daughter Chelsea Clinton entering politics and criticized former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

"We are very grateful for where we are today. But if you were to go back and look at the amount of money that we owed, we couldn't even get a mortgage on a house by ourselves. In our system, he had to make double what he needed in order just to pay off the debt, and then to finance a house and continue to pay for our daughter's education," Clinton said in a discussion about her family's finances.

When asked about dynasties, Clinton said: "We had two Roosevelts. We had two Adams. It may be that certain families just have a sense of commitment or even a predisposition to want to be in politics. I ran for president, as you remember. I lost to somebody named Barack Obama, so I don't think there is any guarantee in American politics. My last name did not help me in the end. Our system is open to everyone. It is not a monarchy in which I wake up in the morning and abdicate in favor of my son."

Clinton said Snowden has fallen short with his attempt to raise the issue of domestic surveillance among the American people.

"I think he is a poor messenger for the message that he's trying to take credit for," she said. "He came into the National Security Agency apparently with the purpose of trying to gather a lot of information, and most of what he gathered had nothing to do with surveillance in the United States, but obviously around the world."

National Journal: "If Hillary Clinton Doesn't Run, Who Would Lead the Democratic Field for President?"

By Matt Vasilogambros

July 8, 2014

[Subtitle:] Other potential Democratic candidates like Elizabeth Warren and Andrew Cuomo are largely unknown among potential voters, according to a new poll.

Hillary Clinton is almost certainly going to run for president. But what if she doesn't, and the Democratic field winds up wide open?

If she chooses not to run, leaving the Democratic nomination for president up for the taking, Democrats would be in actual disarray, according to a new Quinnipiac poll released Tuesday.

Right now, Clinton leads in the potential Democratic field with 58 percent, topping Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts (11 percent), Vice President Joe Biden (9 percent) and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (4 percent). Democrats clearly expect Clinton will make a run for president,

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and they would generally support her candidacy if it happens.

Clinton's lead is much larger than it was at this point in 2006—after which she would eventually lose the nomination to a little-known senator from Illinois. In a June 2006 Gallup Poll, she led with 37 percent among Democrats in a theoretical 2008 matchup, followed by former Vice President Al Gore at 16 percent, former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina at 13 percent, and Secretary of State John Kerry at 12 percent.

But if you take Clinton out of the picture for 2016, the rest of the field consists of candidates whom Democrats either don't want or don't know.

Take Joe Biden. The vice president holds a strong 73 percent favorability rating among Democrats, but, clearly, Democrats prefer other people to him for the presidency. Biden is behind Warren in this latest poll by a couple of percentage points, and far behind Clinton.

While several Democrats have higher favorable than unfavorable ratings, the percentage of people who haven't heard enough about them is much higher—50 percent for Cuomo, 88 percent for Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, 53 percent for Warren, and 88 percent for former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, according to this poll.

If Clinton didn't run, Democrats wouldn't know enough about the rest of the theoretical field to have a clear front-runner.

Now, this all being said, Barack Obama was almost nowhere to be found at this point in the election cycle in 2006. He managed to get the support of only 1 percent of all voters when they were asked in June 2006 whom they would most like to see elected president in 2008. Obama didn't start hinting he would run for president until later in the summer.

People didn't know much about Obama, but it worked out for him just fine. It could work out for another Democrat, too.

Washington Free Beacon: "MSNBC Slams Hillary Clinton Over Rape Tapes"

By Washington Free Beacon Staff

July 8, 2014, 9:01 a.m. EDT

An MSNBC panel slammed Hillary Clinton over the tapes uncovered by the Washington Free Beacon which record her laughing about freeing a child rapist, calling her behavior "jarring" and "disturbing."

"She sounded boastful," noted Joe Scarborough. "She sounded boastful on the tape that she was able to get this 41-year-old guy who raped a young girl, a minor girl, and get him off and was laughing about the evidence, laughing about the lie detector test, laughing about a lot of it. It's disturbing to say the least, isn't it?"

The Huffington Post's Sam Stein agreed, "Yeah, the boastfulness in the audiotape is certainly disturbing and, you know, whereas she could have sounded regretful about the circumstances of the case and the outcome but still admitted this was her job and she fulfilled it."

Mika Brzezinski asked, "From the boastful tone, is that a problem for Hillary Clinton, being dismissive of a young girl who was abused sexually?"

Bloomberg's Mark Halperin replied, "I think it's a little bit off key given what her campaign will be about."

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Halperin also speculated that this story shows that the American public may know less about Clinton than they think they do: “We think we know everything about her? This story and others that have come out in the last few months show there’s lots more to come.”

Scarborough added that, while he was an attorney and knows many attorneys, he has never heard anyone discuss defending a child rapist in the flippant manner Clinton displays in the tape. “That is jarring,” he said. ”I’m not sure why she is bragging about getting a child rapist two months.”

Al Sharpton concurred with the other panelists, observing, “It clearly is not the kind of situation that she wants to have to defend when you’re hearing your own voice taking lightly something that speaks to one of your core issues, and that is the value of women.”

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/20/2015 4:27:49 PM
Subject: New News! (11/20/2015)

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Week ending November 20, 2015
Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

- Terrorist attack on a hotel in Mali today - 21 dead
- Russia steps up airstrikes against ISIS in wake of Paris attacks and bombing of Russian airplane
- Donald Trump regains frontrunner position in GOP race
- Largest healthcare provider in US may drop out of Obamacare
- CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE END OF THE DIGEST

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Terrorists storm hotel in Mali, kill 21. Jason Hanna and **Ed Payne**, *CNN* **[More]**

Hollande extends state of emergency for 3 months, blames attacks on ISIS: "It is an act of war that was committed by a terrorist army, a jihadist army, Daesh, against France," said **President François Hollande**." **Adam Nossiter, Aurelien Breeden,** and **Katrin Bennhold** , *New York Times* **[More]**

House passes legislation aimed at tightening controls on refugees from Syria and Iraq. Obama threatens veto. "The bill would require the FBI director to certify the background investigation for each Syrian or Iraqi refugee." **Mike DeBonis,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

CIA Director John O. Brennan faults Snowden for terrorism: "[He] blames leaks by former intelligence contractor **Edward Snowden** for enabling terrorists to evade detection." **Ellen Nakashima** and **Greg Miller,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

No longer just a "local threat": How we underestimated ISIS's capabilities, behaviors, and aspirations. **J.M Berger (TCG Speaker),** *Politico* **[More]**

ISIS's shift in strategy causes counterterrorism officials to recalibrate initial assessment and response: "[ISIS] has changed in significant ways from the West's initial understanding of it as a group focused on holding territory in Syria and Iraq and building a caliphate, or Islamic state." **Eric Schmitt** and **David D. Kirkpatrick**, *New York Times* **[More]**

French government seeks tougher measures to thwart ISIS attacks: "France's parliament will debate a bill that would...include increased surveillance, soldiers on the streets, the ability to place people under house arrest and sweeping capabilities to carry out additional raids and searches by security forces." **Kim Hjelmgaard, Maya Vidon** and **Jabeen Bhatti,** *USA TODAY* **[More]**

Russia increases air strikes and allies with France against ISIS: "For Putin, ending the diplomatic isolation could be an important first step in persuading the West to lift sanctions on his

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wobbly economy imposed because of the Ukraine dispute.**" Neil MacFarQuhar**, *New York Times* **[More]**

2016 Campaign

Hillary Clinton joined the Council on Foreign Relations to outline her strategy to defeat ISIS. **[More]**

Marco Rubio on ISIS: "First, I would protect the homeland by immediately stopping the flow of Syrian refugees into the United States...Next, I would reverse defense sequestration so we have the capabilities to go on the offense." **Marco Rubio**, *Politico* **[More]**

Republican insiders say that Carson's foreign policy mistakes could prove costly to his campaign: "A resounding 71 percent of Republicans said **Carson** was the most vulnerable among the 14 GOP hopefuls on foreign policy — far more than any other candidate." **Steven Shepard**, *Politico* **[More]**

Kasich's super PAC planning aggressive anti-Trump campaign: "The attack...will play out over the next two months on radio, TV, mail and online in New Hampshire. Strategists with the pro-Kasich group, called New Day for America, say the budget for the anti-Trump campaign is likely to grow." **Alex Isenstadt**, *Politico* **[More]**

Trump threatens to sue pro-Kasich super PAC. Alex Isenstadt, *Politico* **[More]**

The Economy

New law would allow US Government to deny or revoke passports for citizens with outstanding taxes: "Under a new law...the State Department will block Americans with "seriously delinquent" tax debt from receiving new passports and will be allowed to rescind existing passports of people who fall into that category." **Laura Saunders**, *The Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

The housing market's problem is supply, not demand: "On Wednesday, the Census Bureau announced that new home construction fell 11% in October, suggesting there may indeed be a supply problem—in terms of labor and land...rather than just an issue of weak demand and a lack of available credit." **Chris Matthews**, *Fortune* **[More]**

U.S. gender pay gap grows from last year: "In the U.S., the gap stands at 64%, meaning that women earn about two-thirds of what men make for similar work...worse than it was last year, when the gap was 66% ." **Ivana Kottasova**, *CNN* **[More]**

The dollar could soon be worth as much as the euro: "**Mario Draghi,** the president of the European Central Bank, dropped yet another strong hint that he is about to pour more money into the European economy." **Ivana Kottasova,** CNN **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Nation's largest health insurer may exit Obamacare: "The possible move by UnitedHealth Group raises new questions about the viability of **President Obama's** signature health law...If UnitedHealth drops out, consumers would lose one of the lowest-cost plans available in much of the country, and some wonder how smaller insurers could fill the void." **Nathan Bomey** and **Jayne O'Donnell**, *USA Today* **[More]**

The reasons behind decreasing migration from Mexico to the U.S.: "Workplace raids by immigration agents, nose-diving birthrates at home and the economic slowdown north of the border have convinced 47% of Mexicans surveyed that life in their native country is as good or better than what would await them if they crossed into the U.S." **Nigel Duara** and **Cindy Carcamo**, *Los Angeles Times* **[More]**

Polls

Donald Trump regains first place in new national poll: Mr. Trump leads all Republican candidates with 24%, followed by **Dr. Carson** with 20%. **Rubio** has 12%, **Cruz** 9%, **Bush** 6%, **Christie** 4%. **Kasich**, **Fiorina**, **Paul**, and **Huckabee** all have 3% support. *Bloomberg* **[Poll]**

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Books

Review: ***"Red Team : How to Succeed by Thinking Like the Enemy"*** **by Micah Zenko:** "How to anticipate unthinkable terrorist attacks? Hire “red teams” — small, expert groups of outsiders enlisted to find vulnerabilities, shake up preconceived notions and imagine the unimaginable, all in an effort to improve security and thinking throughout the military, intelligence and corporate worlds." **Carlos Lozada,** *Washington Post* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ambassador Melanne Verveer
Empowering Half the World
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm
RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband
Fallout: Ramifications of the Great Refugee Crisis
Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm
RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner and Isaac Getlan, and our interns and volunteers: Samar Nadi, Tracey Pennito, and Lawrence Robinson.

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From: Tikkun <magazine@tikkun.org>
To: Podesta@Law.Georgetown.Edu
Date: 9/1/2014 12:25:22 AM
Subject: What to Do about ISIS

Tikkun { tē-kün } to heal, repair, and transform the world

Editor's Note: *Tikkun* seeks to present a range of views that you wouldn't hear in the mainstream media, without necessarily endorsing those perspectives. Please remember that *Tikkun*'s own position is articulated only in our editorials.

In my view, the important article by David Swanson that I'm sharing below may be underestimating the venality and murderous nature of the ISIS coalition that he describes. Unlike Hamas and unlike the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, ISIS appears to have genocidal intent toward Christians and Shia Muslims (and possibly also toward Sunnis who don't share their perspective and almost certainly toward Jews).

On the other hand, I know that I don't know who they really are or even what they are really doing. I've read enough lies about previous run-up to wars in the Western media to know not to believe anything I read, but only to consider that the media's account is one possible way of viewing the reality.

I also know that the gruesome accounts of murders committed by ISIS are shocking to a U.S. audience in part because the far greater number of people killed by the U.S. interventions in the Middle East, South East Asia, Central and South America have never been presented in an honest way to the American people. Most of us have not heard the gruesome details or stories of the families that have lost loved ones as a result of U.S. military and CIA actions.

Accounts of how ISIS members used waterboarding on their captives have been told in a way that dramatizes the inhumanity of a tactic that was used on many, many of those held by the United States in Guantanamo and in more secret detention and torture facilities run by or contacted by the United States around the world.

Yet U.S. feelings of rage about waterboarding were never directed at those who perpetrated and those who approved that torture, so people like George W. Bush and former vice president Cheney and the many under them in the chain of command who carried out these outrageous acts have never been brought to trial.

When it's ISIS that commits these abuses, we are encouraged to think of their actions as reasons for war; when it's our U.S. leaders who commit the same abuses, we don't even think it sufficient reason to put them in prison!

On the other hand, my outrage at acts that we in the U.S. have committed does not diminish my outrage at what ISIS is doing, if the media accounts are even partially correct, and my desire to want to stop them before more people are murdered. But how? Not in a way that will have even worse consequences, in the way that the U.S. ouster of Saddam Hussein's (who should have spent the rest of his life in prison) led to the growth of ISIS.

Our inclination always at *Tikkun* is to ask the following question of any group espousing hateful ideas (including haters among Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist fundamentalist movements; followers of secular right-wing or fascist groups; and those who adhere to the ultra-nationalistic, ultra-militaristic tendencies within American and Israeli nationalism, as well as any other kind of nationalism): What are the underlying needs that these movements are speaking to that might be legitimate needs of the people who respond to them? And how do we then develop strategies to separate those legitimate needs from the fascistic, racist, or irrational ways that people seek to meet those needs through these hateful and sometimes violent movements?

These are the questions that I've answered in some detail in my books *The Politics of Meaning*, *Spirit Matters*, and *The Left Hand of God: Taking Back our Country from the Religious Right*. The goal is not to excuse outrageous and murderous acts, but to figure out how to disempower the murderers, whether they be American, Iraqi, Chinese, Russian, Israeli, or from Hamas. The goal is to ensure that their followers don't move on to some other equally terrible movement or murderous sect or religion or nationalism once these particular murderers are gone.

If you read those books you'll see why I'm inclined to think that Swanson is moving in a good direction but lacks some of the psychological and spiritual tools necessary to make his strategy successful. One of those tools is a Global Marshall Plan (please download it at tikkun.org/GMP and read the full 32-page brochure). The problem with mentioning the GMP is that people immediately think it's primarily about giving money. But it's not. It is predicated on a strategy of showing respect and genuine caring for the well-being of all people on the planet. This caring would be conveyed partly through money, but more importantly through a fundamental transformation brought about by the Western world in adopting the New Bottom Line laid out in detail at tikkun.org/covenant .

Without that approach, the United States will have no tools for dealing with ISIS, and so inevitably the people of this country will fall back onto violence and war making.

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"Fine," you may say, "but what are we supposed to do NOW? Don't you realize that these people are a real menace?" That may be true, but the reason it's true is because people always go to that formulation—the one that led us into a war to overthrow Saddam Hussein in the first place without having any idea of what could replace him. Without that alternative, Swanson's point is that we created the preconditions for the rise of ISIS.

So, truth is, I don't know what we should do with ISIS in the short run, except to follow some of the steps that Swanson proposes, other steps that are defined in the Global Marshall Plan and in the Network of Spiritual Progressives' Spiritual Covenant at spiritualprogressives.org , and yet others that I'll propose in a subsequent article within the next few weeks.

While these steps may not be sufficient, I know for sure that taking any other path that doesn't *also* include these steps is bound to simply recreate the set of circumstances that have led us into the current mess. The one thing I'm sure about: if some kind of intervention is justified, and I think it may be, it should be genuinely led by the United Nations and *not* by the United States. And it should not occur solely at the initiative of the United States.

If the people of the world are ready to take some action, let us follow their leadership rather than intervene alone—U.S. hands are, as they say in law, "dirty hands" and hence not able to provide ethically credible leadership. So please do read Swanson's insightful article. And then please also read David Sylvester's post on Tikkun Daily with its call for the Abrahamic religions to lead an international summit of religious forces to develop a response to the increasingly murderous realities we face.

Meanwhile, have a joyous Labor Day 2014! Wouldn't it be great if this year working people used this day off to figure out how to take back control of our country from the super-rich and powerful so that we too could participate in the discussions that the elite have about which wars to drag us into? Maybe next year?

—Rabbi Michael Lerner

(RabbiLerner.tikkun@gmail.com)

What to Do About ISIS

by David Swanson

Originally published on warisacrime.org

Start by recognizing where ISIS came from. The U.S. and its junior partners destroyed Iraq, left a sectarian division, poverty, desperation, and an illegitimate government in Baghdad that did not represent Sunnis or other groups. Then the U.S. armed and trained ISIS and allied groups in Syria, while continuing to prop up the Baghdad government, providing Hellfire missiles with which to attack Iraqis in Fallujah and elsewhere.

ISIS has religious adherents but also opportunistic supporters who see it as the force resisting an unwanted rule from Baghdad and who increasingly see it as resisting the United States. It is in possession of U.S. weaponry provided directly to it in Syria and seized from the Iraqi government. At last count by the U.S. government, 79 percent of weapons transferred to Middle Eastern governments come from the United States, not counting transfers to groups like ISIS, and not counting weapons in the possession of the United States.

So, the first thing to do differently going forward: stop bombing nations into ruins, and stop shipping weapons into the area you've left in chaos. Libya is of course another example of the disasters that U.S. wars leave behind them—a war, by the way, with U.S. weapons used on both sides, and a war launched on the pretext of a claim well documented to have been false that Gaddafi was threatening to massacre civilians.

So, here's the next thing to do: be very skeptical of humanitarian claims. The U.S. bombing around Erbil to protect Kurdish and U.S. oil interests was initially justified as bombing to protect people on a mountain. But most of those people on the mountain were in no need of rescue, and that justification has now been set aside, just as Benghazi was. Recall also that Obama was forced to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq when he couldn't get the Iraqi government to give them immunity for crimes they commit. He has now obtained that immunity and back in they go, the crimes preceding them in the form of 500-pound bombs.

While trying to rescue hostages and discovering an empty house, and racing to a mountain to save 30,000 people but finding 3,000 and most of those not wanting to leave, the U.S. claims to know exactly whom the 500-pound bombs are killing. But whomever they are killing, they are generating more enemies, and they are building support for ISIS, not diminishing it. So, now the U.S. finds itself on the opposite side of the war in Syria, so what does it do? Flip sides! Now the great moral imperative is not to bomb Assad but to bomb in defense of Assad, the only consistent point being that "something must be done" and the only conceivable something is to pick some party and bomb it.

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But why is that the only conceivable thing to be done? I can think of some others:

1. Apologize for brutalizing the leader of ISIS in Abu Ghraib and to every other prisoner victimized under U.S. occupation.

2. Apologize for destroying the nation of Iraq and to every family there.

3. Begin making restitution by delivering aid (not "military aid" but actual aid, food, medicine) to the entire nation of Iraq.

4. Apologize for role in war in Syria.

5. Begin making restitution by delivering actual aid to Syria.

6. Announce a commitment not to provide weapons to Iraq or Syria or Israel or Jordan or Egypt or Bahrain or any other nation anywhere on earth and to begin withdrawing U.S. troops from foreign territories and seas, including Afghanistan. (The U.S. Coast Guard in the Persian Gulf has clearly forgotten where the coast of the U.S. is!)

7. Announce a commitment to invest heavily in solar, wind, and other green energy and to provide the same to democratic representative governments.

8. Begin providing Iran with free wind and solar technologies -- at much lower cost of course than what it is costing the U.S. and Israel to threaten Iran over a nonexistent nuclear weapons program.

9. End economic sanctions.

10. Send diplomats to Baghdad and Damascus to negotiate aid and to encourage serious reforms.

11. Send journalists, aid workers, peace workers, human shields, and negotiators into crisis zones, understanding that this means risking lives, but fewer lives than further militarization risks.

12. Empower people with agricultural assistance, education, cameras, and internet access.

13. Launch a communications campaign in the United States to replace military recruitment campaigns, focused on building sympathy and desire to serve as critical aid workers, persuading doctors and engineers to volunteer their time to travel to and visit these areas of crisis.

14. Work through the United Nations on all of this.

15. Sign the United States on to the International Criminal Court and voluntarily propose the prosecution of top U.S. officials of this and the preceding regimes for their crimes.

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/29/2008 7:54:28 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Sparks, NV 07/29/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Kelli, on the ground in Sparks, NV. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Asked if he would raise taxes, answers point-blank "No"
- Says CA drillers told him yesterday they could get offshore oil within a matter of months, so don't listen to these estimates of 5 years out, etc.
- Says Obama wants peace but he still opposes strategy that any rational person can see succeeded in Iraq
- Tells disabled woman about to lose her home that he supported ADA years ago and we need to update it
- Says he's also "a quote 'survivor' " of cancer, but it's been 8 years, gives mini "commercial" about wearing sunscreen etc.
- Tells woman the chances of her nephew surviving Afghanistan are good but he's putting himself in harm's way; we will soon have a "new strategy" in Afghanistan
- Says he "relish[es] being the underdog," Hits Obama on public financing
- Says he is a "proud conservative" but he believes government needs to "help people who can't help themselves"
- Cindy likens McCain to the Rwandan women she recently visited

Sparks, NV: McCain Town Hall 07/29/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- Approx. 1000 people (Mostly white middle age couples and students from the high school)

- Huge sign that says "Country First"
- Also in audience were ROTC members in dress uniforms - seated up front along with cheerleaders (presumably from high school)
- About 10 protesters after the event, including antiwar protesters and a Ron Paul supporter supporting GOP but not McCain
- Mayor of Sparks gives introductory remarks - tells crowd to expect a "secret guest speaker" (turns out to be Cindy McCain)
- Cindy introduces her husband
    - Last week I went to Rwanda with ONE.org. Rwanda is a country that is and will be taken into the future by women, after forgiving the perpetrators that raped them and left them for their dead. They want not only what's best for their children but what's best for their country.
    - I found a comparison - my husband was kept as a POW in Vietnam for 5 years, he suffered and overcame many things and then he reconciled with Vietnam. My husband embodies everything that is great about Americans. "My husband, like the Rwandan women" is the essence of hope and courage.

Speech Highlights
- TY to Cindy, I'm very proud of the work she's done around the world.
- 17 years ago, Cindy was doing good work with a medical team in Bangladesh at an orphanage run by Mother Teresa's nuns. Cindy brought 2 babies to USA, one of them had a severe cleft palate, and she is now our daughter, Bridget and she has enriched our lives.
- TY to Mary Vesco, principal at Reed High, TY to Gov. Brian Kilicky, to Mayors Gino Martini and Brian Kachell (former Reno mayor)
- Story about winning his Senate seat only to be called by a campaign aide about changing garbage days

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but she didn't want to bother the mayor because she didn't want to bother an important man like that. TY to mayors.
- This is the essence of democracy.
- I love this state. We in AZ are angry because you steal our water. I am grateful to visit a fellow western state that faces the same challenges of water, Native Americans, etc. I understand the issues. NV will be a swing state and I will win it.
- 1 more story- AZ is the only state where mothers don't tell their children that some day they can grow up and be POTUS. But I will be able to reverse that unhappy history.
- I'll make it quick because the purpose of the Townhall meeting is for me to listen to you. I would never be able to understand the issues important to you without these hundreds, maybe thousands, of town halls. Service to c
- I've been called a maverick, sometimes meant as compliment sometimes criticism. What it really means is understand who I work for: not a party, not a POTUS, a special interest, myself - I work for you.
- I spoke up against an administration for a strategy in Iraq that will allow us to bring our troops home in honor.
- I spoke up against my party for out-of-control spending.
- I spoke up against my Administration and both parties in Congress on the energy bill.
- My independence hasn't always made me friends in DC.
- I've had pundits adn politicians tell me this isn't smart, but I don't answer to them, I answer to you. Country first.
- We need to change the way government does business, from security to education to education to ATC. All these functions of govt were designed before the rise of the global economy.
- We have to change the way things are done.
- It's hard trying to do the Lord's work in satan's city.
- Obama is an impressive speaker, I applaud his success - everyone should be proud of his accomplishments. My problem is that what he says and what he does are 2 different things. He makes things harder. He says he wants to change DC but his solution is to make govt bigger. He's asked for millions in earmarks. Not me.
- Obama said he would only tax the rich, but pretty much anythign he can tax, he'll tax more. I will keep taxes low, not because I want to protect the rich but because it keeps jobs at home.
- Obama says he wants energy independence but he doesn't want nuclear, he doesn't want research in an electric car.
- Obama says the problem isn't that gas prices are too high but that they rose too fast. Gas prices may not matter to him, but they do to you.
- We ought to start with drilling offshore so we can bring down the cost of gas. We can do it.
- Nuclear power works.
- We are spending $700B to bad people with foreign oil dependence. We can get off of this.
- Sen Obama says he wants peace but even today he opposes the strategy that has succeeded in Iraq and will succeed in Afgh. No rational person can look at the on-the-ground situation in IRaq and say the surge hasn't succeeded. The last 5 brigades that were part of the surge are on their way home
- I want to thank them. How do you (Obama) do that and tell them great job but you lost?
- In war and peace, I've been an imperfect servant. But nothing ever mattered more to me than the honor of serving America and nothing ever will.
- If you elect me POTUS, I assure you I will always put country first. America wants that type of person. I will stand for you. And we will disagree from time to time.
- A long time ago far away in a POW camp in N Vietnam, I was offered an opportunity to return home early but it was against our code of conduct. A brave friend of mine, Everett Alvarez was there and he had been there first. It was a hard decision, but I put my country first.
- Asks vets to raise their hands so we can thank them. You are a constant motivation to me to do the right thing.
- Now we'll begin the part you really came for.

Question & Answer

- [woman has problem with microphone. McCain jokes that the microphone 'is brought to you by the

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Democratic National Committee'

- 1Q) I'm a 4th generation farmer. No one else will be a picker than Mexicans. Now we can't find enough of them. If not, I'm worried we won't get the food Americans need. It is happening. Farmers are going out of business.
    - MCCAIN: Agriculture is important. American farmers are the best in the world. What you're talking about is the failure on the part of Congress to get immigration reform, get border security, get a legit temporary worker program and solve the illegal immigration problem. The temp worker program would mean people can come to this country, work for a couple of years and then go back to their home country. That's different the process for citizenship, where they get a green card. This can be done legally not illegally.
    - Brings me to another problem. I was in Colombia and Mexico. The drug cartels are taking over Mexico. We've got to work with Calderon. This Mex President wants to take control of Mexico over the drug cartels. We have to secure our borders. Drugs are part of the problem, people coming over and killing Americans.
    - You have my sympathy, we need a temporary worker program.

- [WW2 vet yelling against idea of Mexicans needed to supply labor - advocated child labor instead]
    - MCCAIN: One of the things we can't do at town hall meetings is not yell or else we'll all be yelling at each other. I will come to you next.

- 2Q) I'm scared/horrified about our national debt. How the hell are we going to pay for it?
    - MCCAIN: I don't think that I'm scared. But Americans are not appreciative that we let spending get out of control and we mortgaged our futures. Congressional approval is down to 9% - how do you get lower than that? We Republicans, to our shame, let spending get out of control. With legislation like the Medicare Prescription Drug bill, which is a good bill but we didn't pay for it.
    - The 1st thing Ill do after I'm sworn in as POTUS is sit down with the Dems and say let's fix Social Security. For once we can put the country first and not mortgage a young man's future.

- 3Q) [WW2 vet that had been yelling] modify child labor laws to supply labor force we need (instead of Mexicans)
    - MCCAIN: I still think we need a child labor law that works.

- 4Q) I became disabled, which means I can't go back to teaching and I have 2 kids. I get $600 / month from SSI. My house that I've had for 15 years is going to go into re-foreclosure. How can you help?
    - MCCAIN: I am proud I was one of the key sponsors to ADA.
    - Americans w/ adn w/o disabilities are hurting with cost of gas, staying in their homes.
    - We've also got to look at ADA and update it to make sure it's able to do what it was supposed to do
    - In the short term, I'd be happy to look at your case personally and make sure you can provide for your children.
    - NV was one of the hardest hit by housing crisis. Make sure people can stay in their homes. My plan is to make sure you can get a FHA 30-year guaranteed loan at new value. When you decide to sell house, 1/3 of selling price each goes to govt, to lender and to you.
    - [McCain

- 5Q) [small girl asks question] If you're POTUS, will you raise our taxes?

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- MCCAIN: No. And that's one of the big differences between me and Obama.
- Let me mention one of the key areas: capital gains. He wants to raise taxes on them. When he tells you he's only going to tax the rich, pay attention, some people are surprised to find themselves in that category.
- The worst thing in these tough economic times is to raise taxes and I won't do it.

- 6Q) I, too, am a cancer survivor. What would you do about stem cell research? We need the help.
  - MCCAIN: A few days ago, I attended LAnce Armstrong's Livestrong.
  - I support stem cell research - very tough decision - because I believe it can help America. There have been tremendous advances in skin cell research, which I hope will make this debate academic.
  - I'm also excited about the huge development that was the mapping of the human genome.
  - I also am a "survivor" but it's been 8 years. If you'll listen to a quick commercial from me: stay out of the sun, use sunscreen.
- FOLLOWUP: What are my nephew's chances of coming home from Afghanistan alive?
  - MCCAIN: His chances are good but he's going into harm's way to protect our freedom. It's important that we use the same strategy that succeeded in Iraq, something OBama fails to understand. He doesn't understand this is jsut a political position you can change your position on.
  - Narcotraffic problem in Afghanistan, command strucutre problem that i won't go into.
  - Petraeus is about to take on a greater role. We will soon have a new strategy in Afghanistan and we will succeed. Dont underestimate the evil of the Taliban.

- MCCAIN: I was on the USS Arisocany (?) - I flew off that carrier. It sunk.

- 7Q) What's it going to take to get Congress to release the ban on drilling?
  - MCCAIN: It's because we have a Congress that is not responsive to the will of the American people. When Bush announced he was lifting the ban, the price of oil went down. Yesterday I met with CA drillers and they said they could get oil within a matter of months because they are already right next to existing oil sources. So don't listen to these estimates of 5 years out.

- 8Q) I am a family-owned business owner. We have been importing from Belarus for 16 years, and now there are these sanctions. The DOS had no idea about the # of companies that are affected by this. They produce products for US Forest Service. How does your foreign policy with countries like Belarus-- will you take into account how it affects
  - MCCAIN: First, Obama opposes OCS drilling, nuclear power, gas tax holiday and all the things we need to do to become energy independent.
  - I have never been to Belarus - I tried to go once but Lukeshenko prevented me. All I know is that he's a brutal dictator. We have to stand up to dictators. Sometimes we have to be able to take a hit on our economy to stand up to this. I'm sorry, I'll see if we can ameliorate the effects on businesses. The most noble words ever written are that we are all created equal, *all*. One of the things I'm most proud of USA is that we stand up to dictators adn fight for people all over the world, not militarily.

- 9Q) You're ahead in most recent Gallup poll. Does that change anything?
  - MCCAIN: Frankly I'm surprised. I'm the underdog in this race. I'll need everyone of you to get out of there and vote etc. I relish being the underdog. I am taking public financing according to the law. Obama is the first since we passed campaign finance reform not to take it. He said he would if I

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would. He looked into the camera on the last debate with HRC and said he would call me up and work it out with me - I'm still waiting for the phone to ring. Hello? So it's about who's going to keep your word.
    - I'm happy about where we are in the polls.
    - I'm waiting for him to come join me. Maybe we can learn things from being together. I've almost ahd to resort to the gimmick of having an empty chair.

- 10Q) I'm a conservatives and I think a lot of us are voting against OBama more than for you.
    - MCCAIN: What do you disagree on? A: Gang of 14, ANWR, falling in with climate change crowd, campaign finance reform, etc.
    - MCCAIN: I stand up against my party when I disagree with them.
    - Gang of 14 preserved one of the fundamental operating principles of Senate. I am proud to have supported Justice Roberts. Obama is too ideological.
    - Climate change is real and we have to address it. Suppose I am wrong and we adapt all these green technologies and I'm wrong, all we've done is given our kids a cleaner planet. But what if I'm right? And USA is so great that we will be the best at producing green technologies. I believe it's the future of our economy. I want to build 45 nuclear power plants, creating 700k new jobs.
    - We have members of Congress residing in jail. I stood up against corruption.
    - I am proud to be a conservative. I try to follow the lead of Reagan. Also, it's healthy for us to disagree.

- 11Q) What are you going to do with our trade policies in regards to bringing our (manufacturing) jobs back to America?
    - MCCAIN: I believe in free trade. I also think there are places we have failed. I will open markets to our products. The great problem is we have failed to support the displaced worker. In OH, MI, etc. there are families who were hurting before the subprime lending crisis. Americans are hurting and we haven't even talked about health care and we should. We need to go to community colleges and retrain and educate. And if it's an older worker, I will supplement their income while they take a lower-paying job and get retrained.
    - Technology has been great to get people better jobs, but we've left people behind. And now on top of that, we've had these hard economic times. I am a proud conservative, but one of the key functions of government is to help the people who can't help themselves. I have plans for job retraining, for energy independence, etc etc, and I will do that without raising your taxes.
    - Social Security is going bankrupt, Medicare, job creation,etc. - fix it together, Dems and GOPs. I've reached across the aisle with Lieberman, Feingold, Kennedy. The message I get from these town halls is stop fighting with each other, put your country first.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 10:05:11 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

I don't need to see her unless someone thinks that is huugely important.

On Jun 29, 2015 4:52 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> Welker is heading back to DC in the afternoon so we're going to a shoot for a coffee close to the personal office around 10:15. Your first meeting in the personal office is just the NH polling call at 11:00 am.
>
> Since we're starting senior staff early at 12:30 pm we will have a room where you Kristina, Jake, Huma, Robby, Jen, Joel, Mandy, and Jim can take the NH polling call from the personal office.
>
> Let me know if that all sounds OK.
>
>
> On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:15 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > Yep, will do. Welker seems intent on meeting you at some point so we may try to reschedule for tomorrow if it works for you. Do you plan on coming back to the office after the series of HRC meetings ends at 4:30?
> >
> > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:12 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > Let Jen and Kristina know that I am blowing off ABC.
> > >
> > > On Jun 29, 2015 4:08 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > Also- Trevor just followed up again with the following on the SCOTUS ruling:
> > > >
> > > > "One more thing to flag. John is certainly aware of today's Supreme Court decision presenting a near-term obstacle for Mercury regulations. He may be asked about it, and he could underscore his confidence that the Obama administration will take the necessary steps to comply and fully implement the regulations, but should there be a delay, HRC will do so as President.
> > > >
> > > > Of note, These pollutants are dangerous primarily to women and their fetuses. They have never been regulated. It's been 25 years since the toxics provisions were adopted by Congress in 1990. The regulations are long overdue."
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:00 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > Yep, you're all good to call him at 5:00 or even later if it takes you longer to get here or home. His best number is his desk line: 202-266-7429
> > > > >
> > > > >
> > > > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:56 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > > Yep I have a number and I will call him now to ask. Will circle back.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:54 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > > > > > Can you call Ben and see if I can cal him at 5:00
> > > > > > > Get a number.
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > On Jun 29, 2015 3:19 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > > > > Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > _____
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > - investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > - protecting families from pollution

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- safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence

- preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Hi John-

Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.

Thanks,
Milia

Note From Trevor Houser:

"Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:

1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.

The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."

Secretary of State Record

As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)

She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing

Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting

She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight

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against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

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2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

--
Milia Fisher
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o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"Joseph Slovinec" <jslovinec16@hotmail.com>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	3/4/2016 2:44:55 PM
Subject:	Re: Georgetown resume

From: Deborah Stewart <DStewart@JAMSADR.com>
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 5:27 PM
To: Joseph Slovinec
Subject: RE: Georgetown resume

Thank you.

We will provide your submission to Judge Mikva.

From: Joseph Slovinec [mailto:jslovinec16@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 4:26 PM
To: inquiries@mikvachallenge.org
Cc: Deborah Stewart
Subject: Re: Georgetown resume

From: Joseph Slovinec <jslovinec16@hotmail.com >
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 6:16 PM
To: Joseph Slovinec
Subject: Resume (I will also send you a longer resume with a cover letter: this shorter resume is easier to show friends.)

JOSEPH SLOVINEC
425 2nd St. , N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
E-mail:jslovinec16@hotmail.com
Phone messages 202-393-7117 with Jobs Have Priority fax at 202-393-7270

WORK HISTORY

United States Census Bureau, Washington, D.C.. 2010. Enumerator for U.S. Census with visits to households to ask them to fill out questionnaires. Also Enumerator in Chicago, Illinois 1990, 2000 and Calumet City, Illinois 1980

Share Group, Washington, D.C.. 2008- 2009. Telephone fundraiser job for nonprofit groups like Bread for the World, Obama Presidential campaign, and WTTW-TV Channel 11 in Chicago.,

National Research, LLC, Washington, D.C. 2006-2007. Phone calls for opinion surveys like November 2006 elections, issues like health care, economy, Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Clinton and Bush popularity, retirement planning, and employee benefits.

Contemporary Services Corporation, Upper Marlboro, Maryland,2006. Events staff includes checking of credentials for areas at concerts and, sports events

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of Carpenters, Forestville, Maryland office 2006. Work on marches for higher wages and better working conditions at sites only in Washington, D.C.. Activist: Adrian Fenty for Mayor of Washington, D.C., Paid work for precinct canvassing on Election Day, September 2006.

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Illinois Department of Human Services, Chicago, Il. 1999-2000. Medicaid caseworker with computer entries of admissions, discharges, and redetermination of benefits for five nursing homes.
Chicago Public School, Chicago, Il.. 1998-1999. Substitute teacher after estate gift, school

South Suburban College, South Holland, Il. 1988. Adjunct Professor of American National Government for two semesters.

Clerk of Circuit Court, Cook County, Chicago, Il. 1986-1992. Accounting of fees and clerk.,

Cook County State's Attorney Richard M. Daley, Chicago, Il. 1985-1986. Clerk iin Child Support Enforcement unit.

Office of Congressman Martin Russo, Washington, D.C. Summer 1980. Intern with research on hazardous wastes, Cyprus, and Captive Nations Week.

VOLUNTEER WORK

Stuart-Hobson Middle School, Washington, D.C. July 2015 - present. Official D.C. Public Schools Volunteer with letter and work on organization of office space for textbooks and manuals, work in library on book organizing.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies, Arlington, Virginia. Certificate in Project Management 2011. Classes include organization of work, office communications, public relations, data collection and questionnaires, risk management, and scheduling.

United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C. Feb. 2010. Passed online exams for Certificate in Conflict Analysis and Certificate in Interfaith Conflict Resolution.

University of the District of Columbia-Van Ness Campus, Washington, D.C., School of Business and Public Administration. PATHS Program, Office Assistant 2006. Includes data entry and typing on Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point

George Washington University, Washington, D.C.. Public Relations Writing class, 2003. Backgrounders, script writing for television and radio, project on AFL-CIO for economic stimulus.

Roosevelt University, Chicago, Il. 2000-2003. Hospitality Management and Business classes including Meeting Planning. Education class

DePaul University, Chicago, Il.. M.A. in History 1996 with 3.5 of 4, exams in American History and European History, and thesis on President Theodore Roosevelt's peace mediations in Europe with diplomats in Algeciras, Spain and in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Chicago Historical Society (now Chicago History Museum) internship 1994: research on role of U.S. Senator Paul Douglas as author of legislation to create today's Economic Development Administration, project management of creation of files on above topic and the related Kennedy Administration Area Redevelopment Administration, Captive Nations Week, and Europe in Paul Douglas Papers collection.

DePaul University, Chicago, Il.. 1996-1997. Teaching and Learning classes at DePaul U. School of Education including social studies curriculum planning.

Columbia University, New York, N.Y.. Master's Degree in International Affairs, 1982. Specialization: International security policy. Diplomacy, peace mediation, arms control

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana. B.A. in Government and International Studies with honors, 1980. One year of study in Rome, Italy, French, Italian languages..

RELATED EMPLOYMENT WITH RESEARCH: Research Assistant for Vice President for Government Relations at Columbia University, 1981-1982, including international educational exchanges and student aid. Research for Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee 9DCCC) for 1984 race on Reagan record with support for more peace talks on arms control, Middle East, and Central America. Issues research: Glenn for President, Geraldine Ferraro for Vice President, Senator Dixon 1986. Research on Job Training Partnership Act program for Thornton Township Trustee Thomas Shepherd in South Holland, Illinois 1985. Paid writing on United Nations: Outer space and non-nuclear arms control, with work as Assistant Editor on arms control and dispute settlement chapters, Issues Before the General Assembly,United Nations Association of the U.S.A., New York, N.Y. 1983, and on United Nations military budget accounting system, World Without War Council, Chicago, Il. 1984. PUBLISHED ARTICLE: Presidential Studies Quarterly: of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, Washington, D.C. and New York, N.Y.. "Second Term Presidents in U.S. History".Introduction to Winter 1997 includes a note about my research on this paper. POLITICAL - 2014 DCCC, 2014 Obama campaign reference available on request like. COMMENTS ON OBAMA-BIDEN

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TRANSITION PROJECT WEBSITE: EXCERPTS AND SUMMARY: Your Seat at Table icon, Center for Strategic and International Studies," great ideas on
NATO _

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/22/2008 6:54:04 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Rochester, NH 07/22/08

Hello All,
Just off the phone with our tracker Ryan who is on the ground today in Rochester. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- McCain says the oil execs say we could see results from offshore drilling "within a couple of years"
- Says "Czechoslovakia" again, immediately corrects and explains himself
- Long back-and-forth on wrongful invasion of Iraq, McCain adamant about keeping it "respectful" (see 6Q)
- Expands on claim that we can apply strategy in Iraq to Afghanistan: also need a poppy plan and Pakistan-border strategy
- Praises Romney, Huckabee
- Says he's worried about Russia being aggressive in foreign policy and autocratic, but it's not a return to Cold War

Rochester, NH: McCain Town Hall 07/22/08

Background Details:

- About 500+ people, venue (opera house with 2 balconies) about at capacity
    - Lots of people with "I'm a health care voter" shirts inside and outside the event
    - White, mostly old audience; lots of vets; casual dress
- about 20 protesters outside the event: protesting health care policy and some antiwar protesters
- Standard level of security
- Fairly enthusiastic crowd
- Jim McCaunaghey-- Dems for McCain, co-chair-- gives 1st set of introductory remarks
    - Help us find for Dems for McCain
- Bill Cunden (sp), Stratford County chair, Dems for McCain, gives 2nd set of intro remarks-- explains his conversion to McCain: cut government spending, doesn't have a speech for NH and a speech for IA, etc-- tells people what they need to hear

Speech Highlights:

- McCain thanks Bill and other "old friends"
- I love AZ, but coming to NH is almost like coming home
- Because of the interactions I've had at these town hall meetings, I'll be a much better Prez
- thank you to Bill Kenney, Dick Green, Mayor John LaRochelle, Sheriff Wayne Estes (usually time for his nap now), Rep. Julie Brown, and special to Doris Steinbach and Tom Gibson (thanks for your sacrifice, thank you to vets
- I need to start out talking to you about Iraq--there's been a lot of back-and-forth about whether the surge has succeeded, etc. A lot of you will remember about a year ago when people were questioning the war, I said the surge would succeed. "And we are winning that war." I'm proud and grateful of the great young men and women who have succeeded and of Gen. Petraeus.
- Obama said the surge wouldn't succeed. He would have had us out last March and we would never would have succeeded, we would've been defeated. He was wrong then, wrong now.
- He just received his first briefing from Petraeus, but he declared his policy before he left.
- Our troops will come home with honor and victory. And now Obama wants to reverse the gains we have made and set a date for withdrawal.

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- This success is fragile and we cannot reverse it, which we would do if we don't listen to conditions on the ground.
- If we win, we will contain Iranian influence in the region, we will stabilize Iraq--they have a long way to go but we have seen the progress as the government takes control of Mosul and Basra. Obama will do the wrong thng.
- I had the courage to win a war and lose a campaign. It seems Obama would rather lose a war and win a political campaign.
- The same strategy in Iraq can win in Afghanistan, but there's also the poppy plan and dealing with the border with Afghanistan. We need more troops, but we need more help from our NATO allies.
- BTW, Obama just made his first trip to Afghanistan. I look forward to havign more meetings with Obama.
- Divided We Fail is here. ONE is here. Great organizations. I'm proud Cindy and a number of other people are in Africa with ONE right now helping. Maybe later on we'll let both of the orgs have a 60-sec commercial.

- Issue #1 on people's minds is energy. This energy crisis is real; economic, enviro and national security.
- I have a plan to fix this crisis. WE can do it. WE can become energy independent in short period of time. We have to act fast and act together.
- We need alt energies, hydrogen-powered cars, 200-mi-battery-operated cars.
- We are sending billions to foreign countries that don't like us, incl. some into the hands of terrorists. This is one of the biggest transfers of wealth in the history of the world--think of what that does to our deficit.
- I know it's been derided by some--but why not give them a little gas tax holiday? I met a guy the other guy that owns 2 diesel trucks who could stay in business longer with this.
- People here know about Seabrook and you know about nuclear power. It's clean. It's integral to our effort to reduce and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions. We've gone 60 years and never had an accident with nuclear plants on Navy ships.
- We always want to imitate the French. It takes them 5 years to build a nuclear plant. Why should it take US 10-15 years+? Why can't we build 45 plants and employ 700k people.
- In MI, I met with GM people and saw the Volt. I think technology is there. I'd give $5k tax credit. With hybrid cars, flex fuels (incl ethanol), electric cars, we can become energy independetnt. Lexington Project.
- We have to drill off shores. It's out there and we can do it. The oil execs say we could see results within a couple years. When Prez announced we are lifting the fed moratorium, price of gas went down $10 / barrel. So it will have a beneficial effect in the short-term as well as long-term.
- Obama doesnt want to store or reprocess nuclear fuel, doesn't want to drill offshore, doesn't want gas tax holiday. His president seal should've said 'No we won.t'
- 1 of the greatest experiences of my life has been spending so much time here in NH. This is going to be a battleground state. I need your support, I need you out there registering voters. Im not going to let you down. [enthusiastic chanting from crowd]

Question and Answer

- 1Q) [disabled Iraq war vet having trouble getting benefits from VA] Will you facilitate change in the adjudication process that's 90 years old?
    - MCCAIN: We need make some improvements in the recent bill that was passed. I think we can do more. thank you for your service. [rampant applause.
    - McCain makes awkward sound]. There's another vet I see here from the Greatest Generation--Please stand, thank you. We have vets of all wars here and you continue to inspire all of us. I carry with me usually a quote from George Washington about how important it is to treat vets. I was recently at Phoenix V.A., doing a great job. There aren't enough facilities. We need to concentrate our efforts to handle combat-related injuries. We need to expand our ability to treat PTSD--it's going to be big in this war. People stand in line to stand in line for routine health care needs. We need to give them a plastic card to take to their doctor and get the care they need. And we can concentrate on our ability to treat battle-related wounds (PTSD, and battle wounds).
    - And there are numerous efforts where we treat our homeless vets--in Concord... Nashua... Concord and Nashua [tosses microphone to guy in crowd]

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    - AUDIENCE MEMBER: Makes one of McCain's fellow POWs stand.
    - AUDIENCE MEMBER (vet): "You may get mixed up, John, but we know where your heart is."

- MCCAIN: "Call me"

- 2Q) I'm going to give a little straight-talk. [jokes back and forth about NYYs] I have a statement about a lot of your staffers. I know I'm going to be on their shit-list, but I don't care. [MCCAIN: "shh"] These 2 volunteers have done more work than any of your paid staff people. You gotta make some changes. [McCain says a lot of them are on work-release program].
    - MCCAIN: I'll fix it. Our folks will sit down and chat with you about what needs to be fixed. I know that campaigns succeed through volunteers.

- [inaudible from crowd]
- 3Q) ONE campaign-- [Volunteer explains what organization is] [McCain tries to hurry him] thank you for your help un-sticking PETFAR--it's already saved a couple million lives around the world. Our reputation isn't getting out into the world. Recently Secr of Def Gates called for more nonmilitary. Will you make sure necessary appropriations are made so PETFAR, etc. will be funded under your administration?
    - MCCAIN: I admire Gates and the point he was making is that defense is not just military; it's diplomatic, it's ideological. We need to eliminate poverty, HIV/AIDS, etc. which cause people turn to extremism, esp Islamic extremism. Gates is trying to say of course we need a strong military, but this struggle is going to be won too with orgs like yours.

- [Divided We Fail rep -- explains organization -- thanks McCain for bipartisanship] Thanks these orgs. Back in the primary, DWF had a forum and Huckabee and I did it together. and by the way, I thought Huckabee had the best line of the primary: "Jesus would be smart enough not to run for public office"

- 4Q) I'm a loyal supporter, I have a friend with LUPUS. Can I tell my friend you will cover her on pre-existing conditions?
    - MCCAIN: I will take a look at my website and make sure it's as specific as possible. I want to put health care decisions in the hands of families, not government run healthcare, which is what Obama wants. There are people who are 'unisurable'. We need GAPs: fed government and states get together and establish risk pools. Florida has a good proposal. We need to provide health ins and health care to every American: that is affordable and available.

- 5Q) [volunteer] Have you forgiven Mitt Romney? And "Russia. Question mark."
    - MCCAIN: Mitt has been a great friend. He does a better job for me than he did for himself. And his whole fam. Ann is great. Our party is united.
    - MCCAIN: I'm very concerned about Russia. Recently, because they cut oil supplies to the Czechs --they are tremendous allies.
        - Says "Czechoslovakia"--corrects himself "the Czech Republic." As you know, they split years ago and some of us misstate it from time to time.
    - Theyr'e being aggressive toward Georgia, they're not helping with Iran.
    - They're being increasingly autocratic, stifling internal dissent.

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- The Czechs and Slovakia have been good friends since they were behind the Iron Curtain.
- I worry. I don't think there's going to be a return to the Cold War. But Russian behavior is less helpful to the world than we anticipated.

- 6Q) We entered the Iraq War illegally and wrong. Americans think USA on the wrong track, Americans want a timeline for withdrawal, and now so's the Iraqi PM. Given the $$$ we're spending in Iraq, that we're creating terrorists there [massive boos from crowd--McCain "trying to ensure right now" that everyone be respectful of everyone's view]. Our tax dollars are needed here for health care, education, real energy solutions. Isn't it time to end the occupation?
  - MCCAIN: thank you. I respect those views. When I proposed the surge, those [poll] #s were a lot worse than the ones you cite. Because my 1st obligation is my country. And I thank you that you would come here and state your views. It's a lot better than the shouting Americans sometimes have. For 4 years, this war was badly mishandled. and we failed. I believe a change in strategy would succeed and it did. Obama said surge wouldn't succeed and it did and he still refuses to acknowledge. I respect Obama's views, but he's wrong. The most important is the future: We have succeeded and we're winning. I'm confident we will reduce Iranian influence, we'll have a stable "flawed but functioning" democracy there, we'll . "Our victory--we are winning, and we have succeeded."
  - FOLLOWUP: We are in IRaq against international law. The deaths of our soldiers and of Iraqi citizens are tragedies and maybe criminal because we invaded. The idea that we may have a stable democratic government there is not ours to impose. WE need to leave, the people of Iraq are asking us to leave, the Iraqi PM is asking us to leave. Why do we have the largest embassy there if we're not trying to steal their oil?
  - MCCAIN: That's not what Americans are fighting for. We're going to withdraw. The question is whether we're going ot withdraw in victory or in defeat. We have succeeded--Sadr City, Basra, Mosul. The people there are safe. [crowd applauds] There will continue to be "spectacular attacks". AQI is not completely defeated.
  - FOLLOWUP: Don't you believe we are inflaming the Muslim world by staying there?
  - MCCAIN: I do not. If we had pulled out, the extremists would've been inflamed...

- 7Q) We're the only state in the US without a full-service hospital. Health care concern.
  - MCCAIN: Thank you.

- MCCAIN [to Iraq questioner] thank you again for your question.
- I will not put my party first, I will put my country first.

- 8Q) For the first time, we have a Dem in all branches. They have fiscally mismanaged. I'm very concerned for people like Sen Sununu; We need to get rid of Porter, etc. Obama has said he will raise taxes. How can you support "our crisis" across this state and nation to bring GOP back into office?
  - MCCAIN I have to run effective campaign and cmapaing hard. I have to campaign with people like our Gov. Peterson. Sen. Sununu is probably one of the smartest in the US Senate. I have to restore trust and confidence in government. And by the way, I agree Sen. Sununu needs to returned. I also agree Obama will raise your taxes. I won't raise your taxes.

- 9Q) I've been to NOLA with aid orgs. How are you going to make response quicker to natural disasters like Katrina?
  - MCCAIN: One of the great tragedies in recent history is not only Katrina but our ability to react to that. It's inexcusable. It'll never happen again when I'm POTUS. We need to have private enterprise more

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involved. We need to have the best people at the ehad of FEMA, etc. and not political appointees. We need to have state and fed working TOGETHER--there was a breakdown in comms among levels of govt. Some of the fixes have already been implemented, some haven't. We have to be prepared.
    - We have a struggle against radical Islamic extremism, we have to be prepared for them. We also have to be prepared for these other attacks that affect American lives.

- I'm so glad to be back here with you. This is what we need to do. But we need your help. I'll be back and back and back.
- I repeat: I love this country. I've had teh opportunity not to put the country first. Poll recently showed 9% approval rating of Congress. We have to restore trust and confidence in government, namely reaching across the aisle. I have done that my whole life. thank you and God bless.

--
Sara DuBois
Deputy Director of Tracking & Media Monitoring
Progressive Accountability Office
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"M&E News Center" <knowledgesummits@gmail.com>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	11/17/2015 9:40:38 PM
Subject:	Last 48 Hours to The 4th Annual Media, Advertising & Entertainment Legal Summit 2015, 20th Nov, Le Meridien, New Delhi

Now or Never!

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Afternoon Clips

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Hillary Clinton's presidency is not inevitable, but it is as close to it as we've seen in years (Daily Kos)

By Steve Singiser

February 9, 2015

Daily Kos

Depending on your stance on the presumptive Democratic frontrunner, many casual political observers are either confident or resigned when faced with the prospect of Hillary Clinton avenging the narrow defeat of her 2008 campaign for president and sweeping her way both to the Democratic nomination and into the White House.

Which is why, it seems, those who are critical of the former First Lady/U.S. Senator/Secretary of State seem very invested in crushing this creeping sense of inevitability about her 2016 prospects.

On the right, we have seen a lot of "she's really not that popular, folks" (here is a nice little tweet in that vein).

And, now, we are seeing a similar pushback on the left. Late in January, a handful of wealthy Democrats still pining for an Elizabeth Warren candidacy financed a survey that had a battery of message-testing questions clearly designed to show that Clinton had vulnerabilities on a whole host of issues, ones that could hamstring her both in the primary and in the general election.

Make no mistake—there is potential merit in both efforts at pushback, on the right and the left. However, there are also substantial issues with both critiques, and the fact remains that Hillary Clinton is arguably in a more enviable position heading into a presidential election cycle than anyone in over a generation. Follow me past the fold to look at why these critiques of the "Clinton inevitability" are more nuanced than they appear, and why Clinton might be in a more commanding position than any of the "frontrunners" of the recent past.

Dobson is one of the more engaging Twitter presences on the political right, and his background in polling makes him someone that political junkies already have a working familiarity with. But he's being perhaps just a little cute here.

HuffPo/Pollster's default range on the y-axis (percentages, typically) run between 10-70, but Dobson switched it instead to a range 30-60, to make the tightening of the graph look sharper. Now, there's nothing inherently evil in that (I've done it myself, to try to detect slight trends in numbers that, by and large, have stayed within the 40 yard lines, so to speak), but it does tend to exaggerate trends. If you use the default Pollster parameters, for example, that graph looks more like this:

While the trajectory is still not splendid for team Clinton, that doesn't give the same visual impact of "collapsing support" that Dobson's tweet elicits.

Circumstances look even less perilous for Clinton when one excludes a single pollster. Given that the appetite for Hillary Clinton's favorabilities (especially two or three years out from the 2016 election) is not terribly high, there has been a relative paucity of polling on the matter. The lone exception to this relative data blackout is a single source: YouGov. The internet panel-based pollster polls on Clinton's fav/unfav on a weekly basis, which allows them to flood the zone. Indeed, 22 of the last 28 polls on Clinton's standing (dating back to last July) have come from YouGov.

And as it happens, the lone pollster is also far more bearish on the presumptive Democratic frontrunner than anyone else, it would seem. According to HuffPo/Pollster, Hillary Clinton's fav/unfav has been tested a dozen times since the midterms. Eight of those polls have been YouGov surveys, and she has treaded water, with a net fav/unfav of 47/46. Four of those polls have come from elsewhere. In those four polls, there is tangible difference. While Clinton's favorable ratings are not markedly different (49 percent), her unfavorable ratings are down several points from YouGov (40 percent).

Indeed, if you take YouGov out of the equation, and run the same graph that Dobson used, it looks like this instead:

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Now it cannot be ignored that while Dobson might have been a bit clever in magnifying the appearance of the impact, there is still clear evidence of tightening in the graph, even if you exclude YouGov and use the default parameters. That it no longer looks like the complete collapse of support that initial tweet implied does not it mean that it is not a cause for alarm.

Clinton critics credibly could argue that should that trend continue as the campaign cycle wears on, she is liable to be exceptionally vulnerable in 20 months. But Clinton advocates could argue, with equal credibility, that she has been a primary target of conservatives (and some disenchanted liberals) for literally decades at this point, has universal name recognition, and still has a net positive favorability rating, a positive rating that none of her potential GOP opponents has managed to consistently register.

And, indeed, that is where much of the optimism in camp Clinton undoubtedly lies. Early polling is just that: early. But the early numbers for 2016 paint a picture that cannot be very satisfying for Republicans seeking to derail the Democratic frontrunner. Their likely alternatives are, by and large, getting thumped by Clinton in early trial heats. As an example, the RCP polling averages for the half-dozen most likely Clinton vs. GOP matchups show that no Republican candidate averages closer than an 8-point deficit to the Democrat.

Meanwhile, a series of battleground state polls released this week by Quinnipiac were nothing short of stunning. In the critical swing states of Florida and Ohio (as well as Pennsylvania, which pundits have cited as a key 2016 GOP target), Clinton not only crushed most of the GOP field by double digits, but also led favorite sons in all three states. In Florida, a state Obama won by under a point, her average lead was nearly 12 points. In Ohio, a state Obama won by a 51-48 margin, Clinton led by over 10 points. In Pennsylvania, where Obama won by a markedly reduced margin in 2012, Clinton's average lead was 17.

Those numbers have to be sending off enormous alarms in GOP circles. If one accepts the premise that the GOP already faces a slight generic headwind in the Electoral College (and the evidence is there, even if it is far from overwhelming), then one has to assume that the GOP has to hold its states and pick off several Obama 2008/12 states. If the Q poll is anywhere close to correct, three of the closest Obama 2012 states are effectively out of reach. Meanwhile, national polls, with only rare exceptions, have Clinton ahead of all GOP comers by at least as much as Obama won in 2012. The only saving grace for the GOP may well be that their current flavor of the month (Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker) has been featured in nearly none of those polls.

Indeed, one of the few polls of recent vintage that shows Clinton without a commanding lead over her GOP rivals (and did poll Walker, showing Clinton with a three-point edge) is the aforementioned PPP poll that sought to highlight Clinton's liabilities.

But in a poll that was commissioned to explore her vulnerabilities, particularly (it would seem) with voters on the left, it is telling that the sponsors of the poll did not ask the pollster to look at how Warren, or other prominent Democrats, would stack up against Clinton.

Then again, a quick glance at this chart (put together by our own Dreaminonempty) may well make it clear why the folks who commissioned the poll demurred from primary election trial heats:

Clinton may well have been a frontrunner back in 2008, and may have even been seen as "inevitable" to some back then, but she starts this cycle in a considerably more enviable position, from a polling perspective. In a piece by the Fix's Sean Sullivan this week, he interpreted a UNH poll in the Granite State as a bad sign for Clinton, because only 7 percent have "definitely decided" on their pick (eleven months out!). But he also notes that, at present, Clinton has a 44-point lead, despite the fact that two of the more viable potential Democrats (Sen. Warren and Sen. Bernie Sanders) hail from states that neighbor New Hampshire, and might have at least a little "home base" appeal. On a related note, none of those recognizable potential rivals for the nomination couldn't get closer than 19 points in a Gravis poll of New Hampshire this week. If the best you can get, in arguably your most favorable terrain, is down 44-25, that could act as a bit of a deterrent.

Indeed, Clinton's early "edge," such as it is, is that she is perceived (and the data supports this, by and large) as the clear frontrunner in both the Democratic primary and the general election. We really haven't seen that combination in decades. Some were facing perilous primaries, but their party looked, on paper, to be in an enviable position in the general (see: 2008). On other occasions, there was no primary action, but the general election outcome was in doubt (see: 2004 and 2012).

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In fact, the last campaign in the same solid early position as Clinton might well be a cautionary tale for team Hillary. That is because one could argue that the last presidential candidate to be such an unambiguous frontrunner, in both primary and general election polling, was George W. Bush.

Given the ultimate outcome (which was ... ahem ... highly ambiguous), it is hard to remember that there was a time when Bush looked like somewhat of a lock, not just in the 2000 GOP primary, but when paired against Al Gore, as well. In fact, a quick glance at polls from almost 16 years ago today tell us the tale of the tape:

A March 1999 CNN poll not only had Bush leading Al Gore by a healthy 52-41 margin, but it also had Bush leading a provisional GOP primary field of 10 candidates with 48 percent of the vote (and a healthy 31-point edge over his nearest rival, Elizabeth Dole).

An April 1999 Pew poll had Bush leading Gore by a 54-41 margin, even as the poll also showed that President Bill Clinton had a 62-percent approval rating.

A spate of polls from this exact point in the cycle (February 1999) showed George W. Bush with leads ranging from 10 to 21 points over Al Gore.

Surely those general election polls are instructive, because they show that no lead is insurmountable, even in a presidential election in which name recognition is practically universal. But the early primary polls are, in their own right, instructive.

The CNN poll linked above, taken in March 1999, had John McCain at 3 percent, and in a tie for fifth place with Steve Forbes. By the second month of the primary season, McCain was in the 30s, and though he never quite materialized as a mortal threat to Bush's nomination, he threw a legitimate scare into Team Bush.

Will someone materialize that will put team Clinton on high alert? Will the GOP coalesce around a candidate and storm back into a lead? The answers could very well be "yes" and "yes". However, Hillary Clinton starts out in as good a position, and quite possibly a better one, than even Bush found himself in 16 years ago.

If you are a Clinton supporter, and want to feel a surge of optimism, consider this challenge: Name a presidential candidate who was in this solid a position at this point in the cycle, and didn't win? (Political historians can argue that one out in the comments.)

Pessimistic political Eeyores, meanwhile, can state what is obviously true: Just because it hasn't happened in a long while, doesn't mean it won't happen this time.

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The fade of the liberal left (Iowa State Daily)

By Clay Rogers

February 9, 2015

Iowa State Daily

A tectonic shift is occurring in American politics. The old guard of the Democratic Party will soon be far too ancient to contest an election. This creates serious problems for the party once 2016 passes. It's obvious that Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden will soon announce their candidacy, but who will fill the ranks when they're gone?

It's important to know that there was once a socially conservative generation deemed "The Greatest Generation." These, the heroes of Anzio and Guadalcanal, gave birth to a litter of selfish creatures called "baby boomers." The baby boomers soon colonized communal settlements known as colleges. Yes, it was here in this garden of earthly delight that millions of children sowed the seeds of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll, which would destroy our civilization.

This is the cultural revolution that most prominent democrats belong. Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid are all remnants of that era. The '60s revolutionaries were fierce and brazen because liberalism was brazen during that time period. But now, times have changed. Liberalism predominates and modern Democrats are left with nothing to rebel against. The revolution has ended and the time of the milquetoast liberal has begun.

In her youth, Hillary Clinton dipped her hands in the blood of the revolution that uprooted our Christian society. She and her contemporaries were fanatical, and their fanaticism helped turn them into popular politicians. Indeed, I challenge any reader to produce an example of a new Democratic face that could compete with Hillary. There is no competition even among her own cohort.

It is my firm belief that in two years we'll have another Clinton in the White House. "Uncle" Joe Biden is the only other serious contender for the Democratic nomination. According to polling data, Hillary runs 40 points ahead of her nearest Democratic competitor in the state of Iowa. If one supposes, as I do, that Republicans cannot win a national majority in 2016, then there's no way she can lose. But what happens after she's gone?

The Republicans have time on their side. While the Democratic lower ranks are barren, the Republicans have no shortage of rising stars. Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Scott Walker, Marco Rubio and Joni Ernst will all be around for decades to come. Though none of these people stand much of a chance against Hillary, they may sweep the field in the 2020s. Where is the new generation of democratic leaders who will stand against them?

We caught a glimpse of the future last fall. The Republicans swept congress because Democratic resistance was so feeble. The Iowa race was a great example. Leaving politics aside, Ernst was infinitely more interesting than Bruce Braley. A motherly war veteran who packs a gun in her purse faced a sort of awkward-looking white guy. And Democrats ran awkward candidates across the entire country.

The difference between the parties is quite profound. Conservatives hate their establishment, and wait like hyenas around a dying elephant for its departure. Democrats have nothing but an establishment. What will happen when the Bruce Braleys of this world inherit the party? The Democratic tribe does a very good job at stirring itself up into a wild frenzy during presidential campaigns, but will the tribe be so inspired when its champions are gone?

Well, that's the future, what about the present? In 2016, Republicans will probably commit election suicide as usual. They run elections so poorly that I've come to believe they actually enjoy losing. If Jeb Bush gets the nomination, then the election is as good as over. They'll split the conservative vote among four or five minor candidates and allow a liberal Republican like Bush to take the nomination. Most true conservatives would rather be hit by a train than vote for Jeb Bush.

Liberals have the habit of not turning out in mid-term elections. With the Democratic warrior queen leading them into battle,

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turn out will not be a problem in 2016. Republicans may have youthful candidates on their side, but the culture is not. It goes without saying that our country is now center-left. The new liberal majority has many members in the GOP wanting to shift left. This adds another incentive to run a suicidal candidate like Jeb Bush.

Though the culture war ended many years ago, the culture warriors survived. Cunning, ruthlessness and cruelty hoisted them to the top. It'll be a different society when they're gone. Hillary Clinton's acceptance speech will almost certainly be the last gurgling bubbles of a sinking ship.

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Sanders: I would 'run to win' in 2016 (The Hill)

By Kevin Cirilli

February 9, 2015

The Hill

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) says he will be running to win in 2016 if he decides to challenge Hillary Clinton in a Democratic primary.

"I am giving thought to running for president of the United States," Sanders said in a speech at the Brookings Institution in Washington on Monday. "But don't tell my wife... If I run I want to run to win and to run to win we need to have millions of people actively involved."

Sanders said he'd need the help of a "vibrant grassroots movement all over this country that says to the billionaire class, 'Sorry — government is going to work for all of us and not just for the one percent.'"

Sanders, who caucuses in with Democrats in the Senate, declined to say whether he would enter into the race if Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) decided to run, too.

Warren has insisted she's not running for president, but progressive grassroots groups are trying to change her mind. Sanders called Warren "brilliant."

"I will not be a spoiler," Sanders said, reiterating previous comments that he's made about how he would not run as an independent but as a Democrat.

"If I run and if Secretary Clinton runs what I would hope would happen is that we have a debate about how you rebuild the middle class," Sanders said. "I also understand political realities and that is when you take on the billionaire class -- it ain't easy."

Clinton maintains a dominant lead in 2016 Democratic polling against Sanders, Warren and Vice President Biden. None of the prospective Democratic candidates have officially declared they are running.

Sanders criticized Wall Street extensively, saying it had become "an island unto itself where its goal is to make as much money as it can."

"I don't want to be too dramatic here, but I happen to believe that the business model of Wall Street is fraud and deception," Sanders said.

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How Bernie Sanders Would Run Against Hillary Clinton (National Journal)

By Lauren Fox

February 9, 2015

The National Journal

Sen. Bernie Sanders has a clear view of what he will be up against if he runs for president in 2016; billionaires, Wall Street, Hillary Clinton, and a less-than-stellar name ID. But while the Vermont senator once received single digit-support for statewide elections in Vermont, he has shown a propensity as a pragmatic campaigner with keen insight into what it takes to spark a grassroots movement.

But whether he can mobilize enough people in 2016 to make the race worth his while is still a question even he has not answered.

"I don't want to run a futile campaign," Sanders said during an appearance at the Brookings Institution Monday.

In recent months, Sanders has traveled around the country, hitting early primary states like New Hampshire and Iowa. He's confident, in talking with voters, that there is an appetite for a straight talking candidate in the Democratic primary who can articulate a clear vision to reduce income inequality and isn't afraid to call out Wall Street as a business model built on "fraud and deception."

If he does run, Sanders said, he's not looking to be a "spoiler" in the mode of Ralph Nader. He's instead considering shedding his "independent" label and jumping into the race for the Democratic ticket, where he fully recognizes he'd likely be going head-to-head on the debate stage with the Democratic Party's presumptive candidate Hillary Clinton.

Sanders sees running against Clinton, however, as an opportunity not to tear her apart politically, but to distinguish himself and force the party to have a serious policy discussion on issues as diverse as income inequality and foreign policy.

"This is a woman I respect, clearly a very intelligent person who I think is impressive on issues by the way," Sanders said. "I think we have a debate about how you rebuild a crumbling middle-class, a debate about how you reverse climate change, a debate about the foreign policy...a debate about Wall Street, and that would be, I think, good for the American people, to be honest with you."

On Monday, Sanders began by distinguishing himself on foreign policy. He reasserted his opposition to more troops in Iraq, a conflict Clinton initially voted in favor of authorizing military action for during her time in the Senate. Sanders also said he feared the U.S. was entangling itself in an "endless war" in the Middle East. Instead of the U.S. spending its resources and developing the lead strategy, countries like Saudi Arabia, for example, needed to step up, he said. Sanders also announced he would not attend Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned address to Congress, an issue Clinton has yet to weigh in on.

Sanders emphasized that, despite pointing out contrasts, he won't run negative ads against Clinton. He didn't during his mayoral races, Senate races or for congressional seats, he said. And he is not going to start now.

"It is not my style to trash people," Sanders said.

While Sanders said he doesn't expect fellow progressive Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., to jump into the presidential fray, he

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didn't miss an opportunity to highlight her vision and accomplishments before the audience at Brookings.

"We brought senator, well Elizabeth Warren to the town meetings and she blew me away with her ability to deal with complicated economic issues in a language that people could understand," Sanders said. "I'm a fan of Elizabeth Warren."

The main obstacle for Sanders may not just be Clinton, however. Part of running a successful campaign is filling campaign coffers. And, in a cycle where the billionaire Koch brothers have already pledged to spend almost $900 million, Sanders will have to do better than merely relying on his engaged network to make small donations. That remains a stumbling block Sanders is not confident he can overcome.

"If you had two million people putting in 100 bucks, that's $200 million, that is 20 percent of what the Koch brothers themselves are prepared to spend," Sanders said. "Can you take that on? I don't know the answer. Maybe the game is over. Maybe they have bought a United States government. Maybe there is no turning back. I don't know. I surely hope not, but we have to look at that reality."

If he is going to run, Sanders says he has to be sure he is going to make a serious impact on the race if he does.

"I want to do it well and it's important not just for my ego I do it well. It's important for millions of people who share the same set of beliefs that I hold," Sanders said. "To do it well, we would have to put together the strongest grassroots movement in the modern history of this country with millions of people are saying, 'you know what? Enough is enough. We are going to take on the billionaire class.'"

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Is Bernie Sanders The 2016 Progressive Candidate? He's Considering A "Not Hillary" Presidential Campaign (Bustle)

By Alicia Adamczyk

February 9, 2015

Bustle

She might not have officially announced a run for president in 2016, but progressives are already offering alternatives to a Hillary Clinton candidacy. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is often the first name that comes to mind, but Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont, is also toying with the idea of launching a campaign as the "Not Hillary" candidate. But does he have a chance?

Since speculation began that Clinton would launch another bid for president, some progressive groups have been actively seeking an alternative candidate, one a little more outside the establishment than Clinton, who could take the nomination or at least move the former Secretary of State a bit more to the left on key issues. Although populist candidate Warren, who made a name for herself as a crusader against moneyed Wall Street interests, has been the favorite, Sanders is also drawing attention for his longtime commitment to liberal causes and aversion to playing political games.

In an interview with MSNBC on Saturday, Sanders promised there would be "real differences" between himself and Clinton. But Sanders has no organized campaign infrastructure and lacks the funding that Clinton and Warren are already enjoying from PACs established months, and in Clinton's case, years, ago. In early polls, he trails Clinton by more than 50 points. At 73, he is six years older than Clinton, who already had to defend herself against arguments that she is too old to effectively lead the nation.

Not that Sanders seems to be particularly worried. At a conference this weekend held by Keystone Progress, the largest progressive organization in Pennsylvania, Sanders went after billionaires, saying they are "addicted to money," and calling for a "political revolution" that would take the country back in time and allow Americans to support their families on a 40-hour work week. He is expected to further lay out his agenda at the Brookings Institution on Monday. The executive director of Democracy for America Charles Chamberlain told MSNBC in December:

The results from our first 2016 presidential pulse poll indicates that progressives want to hear from many candidates during the nomination process and that the fight for the support of Democrats' grassroots base is far from over.

Warren, for her part, has repeatedly said she does not want to run for president and has given no indication that she will change her mind. Once it becomes clear she isn't in the running, Sanders will likely enjoy support from current Warren proponents. Will it be enough? If he can reinvigorate the Democratic base, get them mad enough about those "addicted to money" billionaires and inspired by his political revolution, he might have a chance.

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Hillary Clinton Gets Ready with A Big Team-in-Waiting for Presidential Race Campaign (International Business Times)

By Kalyan Kumar

February 9, 2015

International Business Times

Hillary Clinton, widely considered as the Democratic nominee for the Presidency race of 2016 has quietly put together a massive campaign team-in-waiting. Interestingly, this is before any official announcement has been made on her candidature. In terms of the size and talent of Clinton team, reports say that it can outstrip anything that is on the rival Republican side.

The Washington Post reports that Clinton has already appointed a campaign chairman, campaign manager, chief strategist and lead pollster, associate pollster, lead media adviser, communication director, deputy communications director, focus group director and communications strategist. The report also added that Clinton is close to finalising her New York City campaign headquarters and looking for a suitable date to make these official announcements.

White House senior adviser John Podesta is reportedly heading the recruitment of Clinton's team. But the final decision is vetted by Clinton herself. Though Clinton faces no competition for Democratic campaign talent, she has told senior advisers that the legal framework of the campaign needs to be in place by this spring.

The report says that the advanced planning of the campaign team is also a sign that Clinton will be the official Democratic nominee, who will run in support of a sitting president and his agenda. Clinton has already hired many former aides of President Obama to assist her in the campaign.

Key Obama Aide

Jim Messina, who was with Mr Obama during his campaign and engineered Clinton's downfall in 2008, is the head of super Political Action Committee devoted to supporting her in 2016. "It's her turn and her time," he said on MSNBC and added "we're going to do whatever it takes to make sure she's the president of the United States."

Thus the political machinery that helped in the victory of Mr Obama twice, has thrown its weight behind Clinton candidacy. While Podesta is advising Clinton unofficially, he may soon take up the post of campaign chairman and has announced the decision to leave the White House within a few weeks. White House communications director Jennifer Palmieri will be donning the role of communication head in the Clinton campaign.

Clinton's close advisers are also looking at ways to keep her in a fighting mode throughout the slow and uneventful early phase of the campaign. There will also be a strategy to distance herself from Mr Obama regime by focusing more on populist and base-friendly economic issues despite her association with Mr Obama administration as a former secretary of state. Clinton is keen to project her foreign policy to be more self-assured than that of Mr Obama.

Sander's Challenge

Meanwhile, Hill News reports that Senator Bernie Sanders can be a challenger to Clinton in the primarry. He has claimed that voters will see stark differences between himself and Hillary Clinton if the two decide to run for the White House in 2016.

Sanders told on MSNBC's "Up with Steve Kornacki" that though he likes and respects Hillary Clinton, on issues like massive

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investments in infrastructure, real tax reform and "on the need to deal in a very bold way with the planetary crisis of climate change, with the transpacific partnership, I suspect we will have some real differences."

Sanders is mulling to enter the 2016 Democratic presidential primary. If Sanders runs, he will be highlighting the goals of the progressive wing of the party, which wants bold policies to address the rising income inequality in the United States.

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David Axelrod: Hillary Clinton needs to run like a challenger (Politico)

By Adam B. Lerner

February 9, 2015

Politico

President Barack Obama's former campaign guru and White House adviser David Axelrod has a piece of advice for 2016's presumptive Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton: Run "like an insurgent."

"What she can't rely on, and I don't think she will, is the Clinton name," Axelrod told USA Today's Washington bureau chief Susan Page in an extended interview promoting his new book "Believer."

"I think she has to approach this campaign like a challenger, not like a front-runner," Axelrod said, though he did not dispute Page's assertion that Clinton's lying low in early 2015 is a sign that she might well be falling into old habits.

Axelrod added that Clinton was overly cautious in 2007 when she was considered the "prohibitive front-runner," but "she threw caution to the wind" after losing the Iowa caucuses and developed "visceral connections" with voters that "terrified" him. If she follows the 2008 model and not the 2007 model, Axelrod said, Clinton will be "hard to beat."

Clinton also has a chance to do what Obama could not, Axelrod said — reduce the partisan squabbling in Washington.

Obama, Axelrod wrote in his book, was "clinical and bloodless" in attempting to change the capital's "acrimony" and "ultra-partisanship" — and Washington is arguably as partisan as it has ever been.

The president's failure could be an opportunity for Clinton in 2016, Axelrod said, as she's "exponentially stronger within the Democratic Party" now than she was during her previous campaign.

In 2008, Axelrod said, "her status as someone who had worked within Washington and who was familiar with Washington was actually a liability," whereas in 2016 the country will be searching for someone "who knows how to manage the system, navigate the system."

Assessing the current state of the 2016 Republican field, Axelrod said that former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, as someone who supports immigration and education reform, currently represents the greatest threat to a potential Clinton presidency.

"If he can stick to his guns and hold those positions," he will be able to challenge Democrats' "tactical" and "demographic advantages," Axelrod said.

Axelrod was dismissive of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, whom he called the "flavor of the month" after Walker gave a "great speech at a little meeting in Iowa to conservatives there."

Though he has publicly offered Clinton advice, Axelrod recently told New York magazine that he doesn't plan on working for her 2016 campaign. "[L]ike a lot of addictions, too much of it is not good for you," Axelrod said of his experience working in national politics.

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Forget Brian Williams, it's Hillary Clinton's lie that matters (Washington Times)

By Joseph Curl

February 9, 2015

The Washington Times

One rainy evening, three people walked into a bar and sat down. One was grim, another solemn, while the sole woman among them was absolutely giddy. The bartender poured a few shots of whiskey and said to the trio, "Why so grim, so solemn, so giddy?"

The grim man with squinty eyes and a huge forehead went first. "My life is over. I 'conflated' a couple of war stories, said I was aboard a helicopter in Iraq that got shot down when I wasn't. Now, everything I've worked for my whole life is gone."

"Gee, that's tough," said the bartender.

The even more-horse-faced solemn man next to him went next. "I said I won a bunch of medals for honor and bravery as captain of a fast patrol boat in Vietnam, but then all my comrades swiftly said I was lying. I lost the job I really wanted."

"Damn. Rough. What about you, lady?" the bartender said to the broadly smiling blonde.

"Ha! I once lied and said I outran sniper fire in Bosnia. They even had videotape of me walking calmly across the tarmac to meet a little girl who gave me a poem — a poem! And I'm probably going to be the next president of the United States!"

Let's get something straight right out of the chute: Brian Williams is just a guy on TV. He's not even a reporter, he just reads a 20-second intro into a story gathered by real journalists. In Europe, he wouldn't even be called an "anchor" — a too-lofty term for what he does — he'd be called a "presenter." Rightly so.

Second, no one elected Mr. Williams to anything. He's a paid employee (reportedly $10 million a year) at NBC — which also operates the decidedly liberal MSNBC (of course, there's a lot of crossover between the two). In that way, he's like a plumber who works for Roto-Rooter: An employee who calls in sick now and then and occasionally has to attend that HR presentation on sexual harassment in the office.

So, here's the thing: If you don't like that he lied about being in a helicopter that was hit by an RPG — you have but one way to voice your displeasure: Turn the channel. (And by the way … he most assuredly did "lie about," not "conflate" the RPG attack. How do you "conflate" the time you weren't on a helicopter that was hit with an RPG with the time you were on a helicopter that didn't get hit with an RPG?)

It's far from clear whether Mr. Williams will survive his now-too-numerous-to-list lies — another whopper comes out every day (like the one about seeing a dead body float by in the French Quarter after Hurricane Katrina, except that the French Quarter never flooded). A few sources inside NBC tell me it's touch and go: The top brass want to ride out the storm while lower-level managers — you know, the ones who do the real work — say he just can't stay.

But he's just a TV personality, another hubris-filled, shallow egotist. NBC doesn't care what you think, and if they decide he stays, he stays. You don't have any say in the matter: It's a corporate issue.

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But not at all so for Hillary Rodham Clinton. In March 2008, giving a foreign policy speech on Iraq about her days as first lady and a trip to Tuzla, Bosnia, she delivered an unbelievable tale.

"I remember landing under sniper fire. There was supposed to be some kind of a greeting ceremony at the airport, but instead we just ran with our heads down to get into the vehicles to get to our base."

So, picture that: Chopper lands, sniper bullets pinging and zinging everywhere, she and her comrades sprinting across the tarmac, perhaps zigzagging to throw off the sharpshooter.

But it didn't happen. None of it. Right after the speech, she was asked about the sniper fire. "There was no greeting ceremony, and we basically were told to run to our cars. Now, that is what happened," she lied.

A week later, she changed her whole story, telling the Philadelphia Daily News editorial board that she "misspoke." Yes, she said that word. When she said snipers had fired at her, when really a little girl had given her a poem, that was her just "misspeaking."

The next day, she told reporters: "So I made a mistake. That happens. It shows I'm human, which for some people is a revelation." Ha ha, oh, she's so lovely — and human.

Oh, and an incredible liar, a valor thief, a fabulist. And dangerous.

Now, Mr. Williams you're stuck with. But Hillary? She's different. She's no employee of some company — she wants to be the top employee of the American people. You'll decide. Probably best to just say, "Thanks for applying for the job, but we checked your resume and, well, too mendacious. So, don't call us, we'll call you."

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Morning Joe Whines About Being "Low On Totem Pole" Because Hillary Clinton Won't Come On (PoliticusUSA)

By Justin Baragona

February 9, 2015

PoliticusUSA

During Monday's broadcast of MSNBC's Morning Joe, co-hosts Mike Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough openly complained about their inability to book likely 2016 Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to appear on the show. In a segment discussing early primary states and polls, both Scarborough and Mika took shots at the former Secretary of State, claiming she is scared to appear on a "freeform" show like Morning Joe because the show doesn't have "dimwits" reading pre-arranged questions from a teleprompter. All in all, the bitterness and resentment over their show's apparent lack of importance showed through rather clearly.

Brzezinski began the whinefest by claiming she has reached out numerous times to Clinton's staff to get clarity on some of her positions or to possibly have the ex-First Lady on the show. Later, she contrasted Mrs. Clinton's lack of communication with Morning Joe with that of some potential GOP candidates like Scott Walker and Rand Paul, stating they'd "reached out" to the show to either appear or provide comments. The co-host said at that point that the show was obviously "low on the totem pole," perhaps acknowledging the sinking ratings and lagging popularity of the program.

Scarborough took over at this point and provided his typical smug take on the real reasons why Clinton hasn't appeared on the show. In his opinion, the former Democratic Senator is frightened to come on a show with a tough panel who won't ask her pre-screened questions. He feels that Clinton sees her approval rating among Democrats and doesn't want to risk it by getting challenged by the mighty Joe Scarborough.

> "If I've got an 89% approval rating among the Democrats, why do I want to talk to anybody? Why do I want to go on a show like this one where you have to actually talk about the issues, where they're not dimwits that read a teleprompter and ask you three questions they were told to ask last night. This is freeform.
>
> There are candidates intelligent enough to handle that and not say stupid things. But there are a lot of candidates, on the Republican side as well, that are just scared to be in this sort of setting. So why would she come?"

While Mika at least somewhat recognized the fact that Clinton may not be appearing on Morning Joe due to its decreasing reputation and plummeting ratings, in Joe's mind, it is all because she is shaking in her boots at the prospect of dealing with him and his tenacious questions. If you ever wanted to see Scarborough's arrogance in full effect, this segment is a prime example.

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Brazile: 2016, bumpy roads ahead to the nominations (Herald News)
By Donna Brazile
February 8, 2015
The Herald News

Less than a year from now, voters in Iowa, New Hampshire and elsewhere will gather in town centers, gymnasiums, local libraries and school cafeterias to kick off the 2016 presidential sweepstakes. Ever since the modern political process made running for president a four-year job, this is the time when potential candidates started making their public moves. So how are the two parties' races for the nomination shaping up?

Let's start with the Republican Party. With 2012 GOP nominee and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's decision not to run in 2016, I wouldn't place too much stock in any polls that show former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush or Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker leading the Republican field. Their leads reflect knee-jerk name recognition, brand loyalty, or flavor-of-the-month enthusiasm – not the kind of support that is going to see them through the next year.

If you're a Republican of my generation, you have probably voted for six presidential tickets with a Bush on it. At this point, Republicans don't so much choose a Bush as they initially acquiesce in the choice of a Bush, so a lot of what appears to be support for Jeb Bush is simply resigned indifference. If you were an active Republican in 2012, whomever you preferred for the nomination, you probably eventually ended up working hard, supporting and arguing on behalf of eventual nominee Romney. So the question is, how will you respond when faced with new and different choices?

When it comes to polling, I would be much more interested in how Republicans respond when some of the candidates are described, rather than named. For instance, what if a survey described Ohio's Gov. John Kasich's credentials? Mail carrier's son, former chairman of the House Budget Committee, two-term governor of the pivotal state of Ohio, re-elected overwhelmingly with support from Democrats and independents. Republican primary voters need to start looking at the resumes of their candidates with the names removed.

Of the Republicans' two legacy candidates – Bush, and Rand Paul, whose fathers both ran for president – it's hard to predict who will have an upper hand with conservative voters. I predict that Bush's establishment support will melt away. His residual rank-and-file support will find its way to Paul and other candidates. But it's hard to write off Bush. People who have made careers writing off Bushes have generally had short careers.

Although he has a steep hill to climb, Bush is at ease with himself and with regular people. His rapport with Latino voters is just what the Republicans need. He's the former governor of the crucial swing state of Florida, and he has a conservative reformer's record that Republicans can take into a general election. His problem is whether, for voters in the general election, three Bushes are one too many, particularly since most voters remember the eight Clinton years more fondly than the 12 combined Bush years.

As has been the case in recent elections, the Republican field is crowded with minor candidates who generate a lot of smoke but never seem to catch fire for long. They tend to be rabble-rousers, holy rollers, regional candidates and Fox News favorites. Most of them stand an excellent chance of succeeding, but only in their real goal, which is either to push the party in the direction of their agenda or to use their candidacy to raise their own profile and potential in the world of conservative media.

On the Democratic side, it's likely we end up with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vice President Joe Biden, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia and a few others. Clinton is the front-runner before anyone – including her – has even begun running. She's way ahead even while everyone is still at the starting line.

Clinton could have a Democratic challenger coming at her from the left or from the right, but whoever it is, they would have to come at her from way below her in the polls. The main questions for the Democrats are if Clinton will be challenged within the party and whether that would help or hurt her.

It's possible that a credible primary challenger could help Clinton sharpen her campaigning and debate skills before the general election contest begins. But she hardly lacks campaign experience, and primary contests can be costly. People say that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, but in presidential primaries, if it doesn't kill you, it still drains your campaign war chest.

While the Republicans face a tough battle with each other, Clinton has what is the equivalent of a first-round bye in the playoffs. The fact that Democrats have a clear front-runner and the Republicans don't is a problem for Republicans, and a clear advantage to Clinton. Before the Republicans can beat her, they have to beat each other – and as we saw in the vicious GOP primary battles of 2012, they have a tendency to beat each other rather severely. The Republicans face a bruising primary season. The only things liable to get bruised on the Democratic side are egos.

The upshot is that at this point, neither party has much of a race. The Democrats have a lopsided contest (but not a foregone conclusion), and the Republicans have less of a race and more like something that resembles a rugby scrum. It remains to be seen if the eventual winner in 2016 is someone whose candidacy was seemingly ordained, or one who emerged from a chaotic clash.

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Donna Brazile is a senior Democratic strategist, a political commentator and contributor to CNN and ABC News, and a contributing columnist to Ms. Magazine and O, the Oprah Magazine.

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Is Hillary Clinton 'likable enough'? And does it even matter? (WAPO)
By Aaron Blake
February 9, 2015
The Washington Post

A new poll of the 2016 New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary shows pretty much what every other poll has shown: Hillary Rodham Clinton leads by a very wide margin.

The University of New Hampshire survey shows the former secretary of state taking 58 percent of the vote. It also shows about six in 10 likely Democratic primary voters consider her the strongest leader (58 percent) and about two-thirds say she would have the best odds of winning in the general election (66 percent) and has the most experience to be president (68 percent).

But then there are a couple of other ways in which the poll asked voters to compare Clinton to her fellow Democrats. In contrast to the numbers above, only about one-third viewed Clinton as the "most believable" (31 percent), and about the same proportion labeled her the "most likable" (32 percent).

If you just had a little twinge of deja vu, it's because this question has stalked Clinton before. Back in the 2008 Democratic primary, there was plenty of chatter about precisely how likable she was and whether it was holding her campaign back.

The culmination of this was Clinton being asked -- at a New Hampshire debate, no less -- about these criticisms. "Well that hurts my feelings," she deadpanned. Barack Obama then interjected, in a moment of unhelpful candor, that Clinton was "likable enough."

So, to recap, six in 10 New Hampshire Democratic primary voters think Clinton is their candidate, but just three in 10 say she's the most likable.

On some level, we'll concede, this is kind of dumb. Many think that the likability question is asked of Clinton only because she's a woman, and that men aren't held to the same standards. My colleague Nia-Malika Henderson noted this alleged dichotomy last month, with one noted expert saying voters do indeed judge female candidates on likability in a way that doesn't apply to men.

But regardless of whether it's fair, it's a question that has followed Clinton. And even if it's a double standard, it's still a potentially real factor for her when it comes to getting people to vote for her -- at least theoretically.

The good news for Clinton is that, at least at the outset of the 2016 campaign, it's less an issue than it was for her in 2008.

A poll conducted by the Pew Research Center last year showed that 36 percent of Americans said Clinton was "hard to like." That number was 51 percent in March 2008 and 53 percent in April 2008, at the height of her primary contest with Obama.

But it's not just Republicans who consider this a problem for her. Twenty percent of Democrats said she was "hard to like," along with 39 percent of independents. Those are real numbers.

The question from there, though, is does it even matter? Even if it is a hindrance for Clinton, it seems pretty unlikely that it would lose her a primary in which she is the overwhelming favorite. From there, in the general election, partisanship largely takes over, and there are very few voters who are actually up for grabs and could potentially be swayed by whatever likability issues Clinton has.

And even if a fair amount of swing voters think Clinton is "hard to like," that doesn't necessarily mean they wouldn't vote for her. Other considerations, after all, do come into play.

The likability thing might have hurt Clinton somewhat in a primary with the buzzy and very personally likable Obama. And it's possible that it could flare up again as the 2016 campaign gets off the ground.

But without that kind of Obama-esque contrast and with many potentially major issues on the table ahead of the general election, we have a hard time seeing lots of people voting against Clinton because they don't want to have a beer with her.

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Hillary Clinton lapping 2016 Democratic field in New Hampshire (Washington Times)
By David Sherfinski
February 9, 2015
Washington Times

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has a sizable lead over possible Democratic rivals in the early primary state of New Hampshire in a new poll, as she takes steps toward a possible 2016 run for president.

Mrs. Clinton is the first choice of 56 percent of likely 2016 Democratic primary voters, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts at 15 percent and Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Sen. Bernie Sanders, Vermont Independent, at 8 percent apiece.

Some have been calling on Ms. Warren to enter the race as an alternative to Mrs. Clinton, and The New York Times reported that leaders of New York's Working Families Party on Sunday formally encouraged Mrs. Warren to enter the race.

But Ms. Warren has rejected the entreaties and has said she is not running.

Mrs. Clinton is actually viewed more favorably among Democratic primary voters than is Ms. Warren in the poll. Eighty-nine percent have a favorable view of Mrs. Clinton, compared to 9 percent who have an unfavorable one.

Sixty-four percent have a favorable view of Ms. Warren, compared to 14 percent who view her unfavorably.

The Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm College poll, conducted Jan. 31-Feb. 5 by Purple Strategies, includes a sample of 400 Democratic primary voters that carries a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent points.

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In N.H. poll, Bush leads GOP hopefuls (Boston Globe)
By James Pindell
February 9, 2015
The Boston Globe

The first poll of New Hampshire Republicans conducted entirely after former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney said he was not running for president in 2016 offers good news and bad news for Jeb Bush.

The good news: Bush, the former governor of Florida, tops the Republican field in the state that traditionally holds the nation's first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

The bad news: Bush is deeply unpopular among general election voters in New Hampshire, which is also a critical swing state.

A new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm College poll showed that in the Republican primary, Bush has 16 percent support, Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky has 13 percent, and Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin has 12 percent. Statistically, with the poll's margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percent, all three are tied.

The poll of 400 Republican voters and 503 general election voters was conducted by Purple Insights from Jan. 31 through Feb. 5.

Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey, who experts say must win New Hampshire to have any shot at the Republican nomination, netted 10 percent support. All other prospective candidates were in single digits.

Potential Republican primary voters in New Hampshire said Bush's advocacy for comprehensive immigration reform and for the Common Core education standards were "deal killers" for at least one in five of them.

That said, roughly the same share of Republicans said Bush was the best opponent to face Democrat Hillary Clinton in the general election should she enter the race.

This does not mean that Bush would win the state's four electoral votes in the general election.

When comparing how Granite State voters view Bush and Clinton, Bush's unfavorable rating among general election voters is 50 percent, compared with 35 percent favorable.

Clinton, on the other hand, has a 54 percent favorable rating and a 42 percent unfavorable rating among those voters.

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Clinton's Greatest Political Strength May Be Hiding in Plain Sight (National Journal)
By Ronald Brownstein
February 9, 2015
National Journal

Much of the debate about Hillary Rodham Clinton's potential appeal to female voters may be focusing on the wrong group of women.

Probably the most frequently-asked question about Clinton's possible coalition as a Democratic nominee in 2016 is whether she can win back the working-class white women who have moved away from her party since 1996. On that issue, the evidence is ambivalent from months of early polling that pits Clinton against potential Republican nominees.

But polls over the past year almost invariably have found Clinton improving--often substantially--over President Obama's lackluster 2012 performance among white-collar white women.

Those college-educated white women have been the fastest-growing part of the white electorate in recent years. If Clinton as a nominee could cement the gains she's shown among those women in most national and state polls over the past year, she would present Republicans with a formidable demographic challenge, even without improving among any other white voters. Her greatest potential strength, in other words, may be hiding in plain sight: her potential connection to the white-collar white women who most resemble her.

All polls of the 2016 race at this point are recording only distant impressions long before most voters have seriously focused on their choices. The actual campaign, and events yet to occur, will inevitably scramble the equation.

Yet, especially with a candidate as familiar as Clinton, these early soundings can be viewed as a kind of rebuttable presumption: they sketch the coalition that may naturally gravitate to her unless opponents present them with a case not to.

The contours of a potential Clinton coalition were sketched in the three Quinnipiac University polls released last week in the key swing states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Obama won all of them in 2012, and any Democrat who wins at least two of the three would be in a commanding position to assemble an Electoral College majority in 2016.

The Quinnipiac results reinforced other early surveys in showing the potential for Clinton to improve on Obama's 2012 performance among white-collar white women--and perhaps also notch some gains with their blue-collar counterparts. Despite all the focus on the gender gap, Obama won in 2012 while capturing only 42 percent of all white women, according to exit polls. That was the weakest performance for any Democratic nominee since Walter Mondale in 1984, leaving plenty of room for Clinton to grow if she wins the Democratic nomination.

The most consistent note in the new Quinnipiac surveys was Clinton's strength among college-educated white women. Those women--most of them liberal on cultural issues and many more open than most other whites to an activist role for government--have provided Democratic presidential candidates the most reliable support in the white community since Bill Clinton's first election. The Democratic presidential nominee carried them in 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2008, and essentially split them in 2004. But in 2012, Obama lost ground with them, falling back to 46 percent nationally, the weakest performance among them for any Democratic nominee since Michael Dukakis in 1988.

According to detailed results provided by Quinnipiac to Next America, the new surveys show Clinton notably improving on Obama's performance among those well-educated white women in each of these three key states. The Quinnipiac Polls were conducted via landline and cell phone in each state from January 22 through February 1.

In Florida, Obama won 43 percent of college-educated white women in 2008 and 42 percent in 2012. The new surveys found Clinton drawing 50 percent of them against former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, 53 percent against New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, and 55 percent against Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

In Ohio, Obama carried a 52 percent majority of those women in 2008, but slipped back to 47 percent in 2012, while Mitt Romney won 51 percent. Compared to Obama's four-point Ohio deficit among the college white women, the Quinnipiac polls show them providing Clinton an edge of seven points over Bush, 17 over Christie, and 22 over Paul. (The Ohio poll produced a much larger undecided share among upscale women than the other two surveys.)

And in Pennsylvania, where Obama won 55 percent of those women in 2008 but tumbled to just 44 percent in 2012, Clinton displayed the most strength. The Quinnipiac Polls showed her at 56 percent among them against Christie, 58 percent against Bush, and 62 percent against Paul.

By contrast, the Quinnipiac Polls show considerably less strength for Clinton among non-college white women. Those so-called waitress moms have given most of their votes to Republicans in each election since Bill Clinton carried a plurality of them in 1996. Nationally, Obama carried just 39 percent of them in 2012.

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In Florida, Obama won only 36 percent of the "waitress moms" in 2008 and 40 percent in 2012. The Quinnipiac polls place Clinton squarely in that range, at 36 percent among them against Bush, 41 percent against Paul, and 43 percent against Christie. But because large numbers of these women remain undecided in the survey, Clinton leads Christie with them, and only trails Paul narrowly while still facing a double-digit deficit against Bush.

In Ohio, Obama won 44 percent of these women in 2008 and 45 percent in 2012. That wasn't an overwhelming performance, but it was enough above his national showing to help him carry the state. The Quinnipiac surveys show Clinton settling exactly in that range, drawing 44 percent against Christie, and 45 percent against both Bush and Paul. Again, though, because of a large undecided contingent, Clinton leads against all three with those women.

The surveys showed Clinton making the clearest gains among blue-collar women in Pennsylvania. Obama posted nearly identical showings there with these women--47 percent in 2008 and 46 percent in 2012. Quinnipiac found Clinton attracting 49 percent of them against both Christie and Bush, and 53 percent against Paul. While Obama lost these women by seven points in 2012 and four in 2008, Clinton leads with them against all three Republicans.

The results were similar in polls from NBC News and Marist College last summer in Iowa and New Hampshire. Matched again against Christie, Paul and Bush, those surveys showed her attracting just under half of non-college white women in both states. But against all three men, she drew 52-54 percent of college white women in Iowa, and exactly 64 percent of them in New Hampshire. National Quinnipiac surveys last year testing Clinton against all three men also put her at 50 percent or more among college-plus white women, and generally at 40-45 percent among non-college white women.

Veteran Democratic pollster Geoff Garin, a senior strategist for Clinton during her 2008 primary campaign, notes that she ran very well among working-class white women during that contest against Obama. "The question is whether she can reconnect to non-college educated white women the same way she was doing at the end of her 2008 campaign," Garin says. "If she can, that has the potential to change the arithmetic. But I think that answer is yet to be determined." By contrast, he said, there's more evidence in early polling that college white-women "are with her. We see that very clearly."

With other groups of voters, the new Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania Quinnipiac polls show Clinton largely tracking Obama's 2012 performance. The polls give her cavernous leads among African-Americans--though with a large undecided bloc, her support doesn't yet quite match Obama's 2012 performances in Ohio and Florida. (It's already close in Pennsylvania.) Her showings in the three states among white men without a college education are consistently weak, but not noticeably worse than Obama's numbers with them when he won each of these three states twice. In Ohio, for instance, Obama won 44 percent of blue-collar white men in 2008 and 39 percent in 2012. The Quinnipiac polls put Clinton at 39 percent of them against Christie, 40 percent against Paul, and 42 percent against Bush, (Again, because a substantial portion remains undecided, Clinton's deficits in the polls among these men in all three states are much smaller than Obama's in 2012.)

Her performance among college-educated white men in the surveys also generally follows close to Obama's share in 2012. In Ohio, for instance, Obama tumbled from 47 percent with those men in 2008 to 33 percent in 2012; Clinton draws 34 percent of them against Christie, 35 percent against Bush, and 37 percent against Paul. The same caveat applies to these results: because of large undecided populations, her deficits among these men are much smaller than Obama's in 2012.

Still, these polls present results that are largely consistent across the states--and also consonant with those other national and state polls measuring Clinton's early appeal. Almost everything could change once the campaign is actually joined. But for now, surveys like these Quinnipiac polls generally show some modest opportunities for Clinton to improve among working-class white women and little change relative to Obama's meager 2012 standing among both blue-collar and white-collar men. With minority voters, she remains in a very strong position, though Republicans argue it's unproven that African-Americans will turn out for her at the rates they did for Obama.

The big opening signaled by these polls is her opportunity to recover from Obama's 2012 trough among college-educated white women. That's an especially ominous prospect for Republicans because those upscale women have steadily increased their share of the electorate since the 1980s. If those trends continue, in 2016 they could cast more of the national vote than either college or non-college white men, or the waitress moms. Clinton's biggest boost over Obama might come from nothing more complex than consolidating her most natural supporters.

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Pitting politics vs. public health (Chicago Tribune)
By Clarence Page
February 8, 2015
Chicago Tribune

Is support for childhood vaccinations a partisan issue? Polls indicate that it isn't, yet Republicans appear to be getting stung by this needle more than Democrats are.

The question has come up after Republican presidential hopefuls Chris Christie and Rand Paul said that parents should have a choice and not be required by law to immunize their children.

Paul, a U.S. senator and licensed ophthalmologist from Kentucky, went further in a CNBC interview. He expressed belief in a link between vaccines and "profound mental disorders," even though the only study that claimed such a link was later debunked.

Christie, the New Jersey governor who famously and unnecessarily confined a nurse on the suspicion that she might have Ebola, clarified his immunization stance a bit after a backlash. Scientific support for vaccination was "pretty indisputable," he said.

President Barack Obama and other leading presidential hopefuls in both parties also urged parents to get their kids vaccinated, while mostly tiptoeing around the question of whether the vaccine should be required.

Among Democrats, Hillary Clinton, still holding the Democratic field pretty much to herself, tweeted confidence: "The science is clear: The earth is round, the sky is blue, and #vaccineswork." Obama on NBC's "Today" show similarly urged parents to get their kids vaccinated.

As parents who refuse to vaccinate their kids, often called "anti-vaxxers," receive widespread blame for a resurgence of measles in this country, a partisan dispute has arisen over which anti-vaxxers to blame: upper-income, organic-food-buying liberals or libertarian, anti-government, tea party conservatives?

After all, conservatives have been quick to point out, the new measles epidemic originated in politically blue California, one of the states that offers a variety of voluntary "personal belief" exemptions to parents who want to opt out of mandatory vaccine requirements.

Red-state Mississippi, by comparison, offers no religious exemption for vaccines, has the highest compliance rate in the country and hasn't had a reported measles case in two decades, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Liberals respond that, while anti-vaxxers certainly exist on the left -- and some even fit the stereotypes about yuppie organic-food shoppers -- they have essentially no political influence as a group. Since the Bill Clinton era, the Democratic Party has tried to corral its fringe elements, while Republicans have struggled between their right wing and their far-right wing.

Even so, on the "vaxx" issue, a new Pew Research Center poll finds the divide falls along lines of generations more than politics. While strong majorities across the board support vaccination, about one-third of Republicans and also of independents say parents should make the decision about immunizations, compared with 22 percent of Democrats.

Interestingly, Pew found no such divide between Democrats and Republicans in 2009, the pollsters said.

That's a disturbing development on several levels. If vaccine denialism becomes like climate change and Obama's birth certificate, issues to be divided by political leanings more than evidence, we are likely to see an increase in anti-vaxx refuseniks and a larger pool of vulnerable, unvaccinated children to spread more dangerous diseases.

Critics on the right point out that both Obama and Hillary Clinton raised questions in 2008 about a possible link between vaccines and autism. That's true. But two years later, the only study that claimed such a link was retracted by the medical journal that published it and its author lost his medical license.

Yet the lie persists, partly because of something called "confirmation bias," a fancy way of saying that we believe what we want to believe.

New evidence is offered by a major new study in the journal Pediatrics led by political scientist Brendan Nyhan of Dartmouth College.

In testing four separate pro-vaccine messages, including three that the CDC uses, the study found none of the messages increased the intent of parents to vaccinate their children -- and in several cases actually increased the unfounded belief that vaccines cause autism.

Such grim determination by many humans to believe the worst offers a tempting territory for politicians who are not above pandering to fears and suspicions. But when our elected leaders fear the criticism of anti-vaxx factions more than they fear for

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public health, it leaves all of us more exposed.

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Boris to have talks with Clinton as Mayor's roadshow hits the US (Independent)
Pippa Crerar
February 9, 2015
The Independent

Boris Johnson will sit down for talks with Hillary Clinton this week during a six-day US tour seen by some as preparation for a future Conservative leadership bid.

The Mayor of London's meeting with the former US Secretary of State, the Democrat frontrunner to be the next President, is his highest profile yet in a busy few months of building relationships with international power brokers.

Last night Mr Johnson told The Independent he was "reconciled" to people reading whatever they wanted into his foreign visits but claimed his primary aim was to promote London rather than himself.

The Mayor, who has been eager to demonstrate a more statesmanlike image before the general election, also hopes to visit Japan, Israel and Turkey before the end of his mayoralty in 2016, although this could be difficult to combine with a cabinet post.

He has been selected as Tory candidate for Uxbridge and South Ruislip in the general election, and is expected to be fast-tracked to the front bench.

His aides denied the US trip was deliberately timed to generate maximum coverage just a few months before the general election, claiming it had been years in the planning.

The first part of the tour - which begins in Boston before heading to New York and Washington - could be hit by bad weather. The Boston authorities are advising people to stay at home because of the threat of a severe snow storm.

Last month Mr Johnson flew to meet the Kurdish Prime Minister. He was pictured taking aim with an AK47 alongside Peshmerga soldiers fighting against Isis. Critics in the London Assembly claim he has "mentally checked out" of his mayoral role.

At the end of last year Mr Johnson spent six days in the Far East, visiting Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Singapore to meet heads of state, in addition to drumming up business for London. He has already travelled to India, China and the Gulf on official business.

The talks in New York on Wednesday will be the first time Mr Johnson has met Senator Clinton, although he has previously been introduced to her husband, former US President Bill Clinton, as well as to President Obama.

City Hall sources said the pair would discuss the war in Syria and Iraq and the threat posed by Isis to both the region and Western cities. The conversation is almost certain to touch on the general election in May and the US presidential race next year.

Mr Johnson, who was born in New York and has dual citizenship, hopes he could meet Ms Clinton in future as PM. He also met Republican presidential hopefuls Jeb Bush and Chris Christie when they visited the UK recently.

The talks with Ms Clinton were confirmed as the Mayor flew into Boston - and a severe snowstorm - last night on the first day of his whistlestop tour.

Mr Johnson will visit MIT and Harvard in Boston, hold talks with Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York in Manhattan and then go on to attend a Congressional reception being held in Washington, DC.

There will be no shortage of picture opportunities as he meets business tycoons, top scientists, figures from the worlds of theatre and fashion and New York City's police chief "supercop" Bill Bratton.

Mr Johnson will also visit the Smithsonian museum in Washington, which is considering an outpost in London.

His face will crop up on a host of American television networks - including CNN and MSNBC - as well as in major newspapers and at a reception hosted by the British Ambassador in Washington.

CULTURE CLASH

THE NEW YORK COUNTERPART

Over his first five years as Mayor of London, Boris Johnson became firm friends with his New York counterpart Michael Bloomberg, staging joint events where they teased and praised one another in equal measure.

Johnson admired the New York Mayor's business clout and philanthropic instinct, envied his huge wealth and sophistication, and

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shared his competitive streak and love of publicity.

But when he meets Bloomberg's successor, Bill de Blasio (pictured), it will be a more cautious affair. From different ends of the social and political spectrum, they will harbour suspicions.

To de Blasio, Boris is the privileged champion of business who wants to cut taxes for the wealthy.

Boris sees the New York mayor as a bleeding-heart liberal who wants to tackle inequality by raising taxes on the super-rich and has overseen a schism between City Hall and the NYPD.

Our mayor is an outrageous self-publicist, theirs much more reserved.

But the two politicians also have much in common - both are laid back and personable, with mixed-race families and a socially liberal outlook on life.

And crucially, both men were born in Manhattan in the early 1960s. If the politics stalls, the New Yorker spirit could yet prevail.

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Obama's Soft Power Could Force Clinton to Take a Hard Line (National Journal)
By James Oliphant
February 8, 2015
National Journal

President Obama's national security adviser, Susan Rice, outlined a foreign policy blueprint Friday for the president's remaining time in office. It's big on nuance, patience, and team-building, short on near-term solutions—and potentially a headache for the next Democratic presidential nominee.

Rice's remarks, which were part of the rollout of a new formal administration national security policy statement, came at the close of a week in which Obama's strategy for defeating the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria again fell under fierce criticism in the wake of the gruesome staged execution of a Jordanian Air Force pilot.

Beyond reaffirming its alliance with Jordan, the White House treated the incident with a business-as-usual air, insisting that its restrained approach against the Islamic State is paying off. While outrage erupted in Jordan and across the Arab world, Obama and his aides kept cool and stayed the course.

Rice's remarks Friday at the Brookings Institution were very much in keeping with that posture. She admonished the White House's critics at the outset, warning against what she called inside-the-Beltway "alarmism" about the threat posed by IS (as well as by Vladimir Putin's Russia). "What's missing here in D.C. is a sense of perspective," she said.

The Islamic State and other terrorist groups, Rice said, do not pose a threat "of an existential nature" to the United States. Obama had said something similar a week earlier in an interview. (And it seemed somewhat at odds with the picture Obama painted last summer when trying to drum up public support for U.S. intervention.) That dismissiveness is likely to further inflame those who say the administration isn't taking the jihadist threat seriously enough—and it may put Hillary Clinton, should she run for president, in an uncomfortable position.

Where she's been able to, Clinton has subtly—and not necessarily effectively—tried to keep some distance from Obama's foreign policy, an effort hamstrung by her own tenure as the president's secretary of State. The restatement of that policy, which clearly views the the Islamic State as a small part of a very large global picture, may force her to do more in that regard.

The administration may not be doing her any favors in embracing a national security approach, as described by Rice, that de-emphasizes America's military role, encourages the use of the tools of "soft power," such as diplomacy and social media, and plays up coalition-building over going it alone. While it may be a strategy that recognizes, as the White House says, the complexities of the 21st-century world and a war-weary populace, it may be tougher to defend against a GOP presidential nominee certain to take a harder line. Particularly if demonstrable progress against Islamic State hasn't been shown.

The hand-wringing over Obama's approach toward IS largely has been symbolizedby the escalating debate over the president's steadfast refusal to call the fight what critics say it is: a global struggle against radical Islam. Perhaps the most blistering recent critique came from the former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, who at a conference in Washington last week blasted the administration's unwillingness to paint the fight in more epic terms.

"You cannot defeat an enemy you do not admit exists," Flynn said, in remarks first reported by The Daily Beast, adding that the Obama administration wants "us to think that our challenge is dealing with an undefined set of violent extremists or merely lone-wolf actors with no ideology or network. But that's just not the straight truth.... Our adversaries around the world are self-described Islamic militants—they say."

Characterizing the stakes in terms like those is exactly what the White House has been trying to avoid. As recently as last weekend, in an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria, Obama resisted any suggestion that the U.S. was enmeshed in an ideological conflict. "I think we do ourselves a disservice in this fight if we are not taking into account the fact that the overwhelming majority of Muslims reject this ideology," the president said.

That position, White House aides say, is rooted in a desire to not elevate or legitimize the fever-dream that animates the terrorist group and is central to its recruiting propaganda: that it is fighting in the name of a fundamentalist form of Islam. Another pressing concern has been to avoid antagonizing Muslim communities in the U.S and abroad, where trust and cooperation is necessary to identify potential radical elements, and where the administration can't risk sounding like it's demonizing the religion as a whole.

Even some progressive think tanks believe Obama is being a little too careful. "I understand why they do that, but I do think there is something particular about Islamic extremism that needs to be recognized," says Brian Katulis, a national security analyst at the Center for American Progress. But he adds, "I'm less concerned with how they talk about it, and more concerned about what they do about it."

After the attacks in Paris last month, the French government was not as hesitant. Prime Minister Manuel Valls said that his country "is at war with terrorism, jihadism, and radical Islamism."

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Clinton's challenge is that she has, at times, sounded more like Flynn than like Obama. In a speech in Ottawa, Canada late last year, she warned that Islamic State forces were "jihadist" and "expansionary"—an ideological-based enemy determined to take territory. ("Jihadist " is another word Obama won't use.)

"They believe that it is part of their mission to launch attacks, to infiltrate through foreign fighters into Western societies," Clinton said then. "If that were not the case, then we could have a different debate. I think the evidence is convincing, at least to me, that this is a group that will try to pick up where al-Qaida in Afghanistan left off."

This is the same al-Qaida which, in Rice's words Friday, has been "decimated." But Rice also cautioned that "fighting terrorism is a long-term struggle. There will be setbacks. There will be no one-size-fits-all solutions."

In Washington-speak, that means this will all soon be a new president's problem, whether it's Clinton or someone else. But before that happens, Clinton will face new pressure to make clear how she will handle it.

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Working Families Party Urges Warren to Run in '16 (NYT)
By Alexander Burns
February 9, 2015
The New York Times

Leaders of New York's Working Families Party on Sunday urged Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts to seek the Democratic nomination for president next year, formally calling on her to enter the 2016 race for the White House.

By voting to encourage a Warren candidacy, the Working Families Party became the latest liberal group to support her as a potential primary challenger to former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has not formally announced that she will seek the Democratic nomination but is the presumed favorite.

Several organizations on the left, led by MoveOn.org and Democracy for America, have already organized a campaign designed to lure Ms. Warren, with her brand of economic populism, into making a bid for the presidency.

"We know a champion for working families when we see one," Bill Lipton, New York State director of the Working Families Party, said. "The only thing better than watching Elizabeth Warren take Wall Street to task from the Senate would be helping her bring our issues to the center of the national debate."

Ms. Warren, who is beloved among liberals as a fierce critic of what she sees as the abuses of the financial industry, has repeatedly ruled out running for president in 2016. Lacey Rose, a spokeswoman for the senator, reiterated that stance in an email on Sunday. "As Senator Warren has said many times, she is not running for president and doesn't support these draft campaigns," Ms. Rose wrote.

The Working Families Party, led by a coalition of activists, liberal advocacy groups and labor unions, deliberated on an early-evening conference call before voting to encourage Ms. Warren to join the campaign. Party officials declined to share the tally of the vote.

The pro-Warren vote comes at a potentially awkward moment for New York Democrats, who have sought to draw their party's 2016 presidential nominating convention to New York City. Mayor Bill de Blasio has aggressively promoted the bid on the national stage, where Democrats aligned with Mrs. Clinton hold powerful sway.

Although Mr. de Blasio has a longstanding relationship with the Working Families Party, party officials said that neither the mayor nor his staff had played a role in the group's deliberations involving Ms. Warren.

Several Working Families leaders stressed that the vote was not meant as a rejection of Mrs. Clinton, who twice earned the party's endorsement as a candidate for the United States Senate.

"It's a vote in the context of two undeclared candidates for president," said Ed Ott, former head of the New York City Central Labor Council. "What the Warren vote reflects is that people want a Democratic Party with a spine."

Javier Valdes, executive director of Make the Road Action Fund, a Latino-oriented liberal group, characterized the vote as a statement of enthusiasm for a competitive primary. "Secretary Clinton has had a strong track record with our community and what we really want here is a strong debate about Democratic values and working family values," Mr. Valdes, a Working Families Party leader, said.

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Hillary vs. Warren would split Hollywood (Hill)
By Judy Kurtz
February 9, 2015
The Hill

A battle between Hillary Clinton and Sen. Elizabeth Warren could easily divide entertainers, creating a showdown that might split Hollywood and force A-list stars to choose sides.

The lines are already being drawn in the fight for La La Land's love, with the former secretary of State not yet officially in the 2016 Democratic presidential race and the Massachusetts Democrat professing a lack of interest.
"They draw on different parts of the artistic community," Darrell West, author of the book "Celebrity Politics," tells ITK. "Warren, being more liberal, does very well among progressive artists, various Hollywood stars who worry the Democratic Party has become too centrist."

Entertainers including Susan Sarandon, Olivia Wilde, Edward Norton and Mark Ruffalo have all signed on to support Warren. Celebs in the 65-year-old lawmaker's camp, West says, welcome her "populist rhetoric."

After banding together to form a group called "Artists for Warren," more than 90 performers penned an open letter last week urging the freshman senator to make a White House bid.

"Senator Warren, we're ready to show you that you have the support needed to enter this presidential race," the message stated, which was signed by celebrities including "Fahrenheit 9/11" director Michael Moore, "Big Love's" Chloe Sevigny, Julia Stiles and Natasha Lyonne, among others.

"There are a lot of people in grassroots organizations pushing for Senator Warren to run in 2016. This same sentiment exists in the Hollywood community," Kathryn Cramer Brownell, an assistant professor of history at Purdue University said.

In a video posted on Vanity Fair's website, "Firecatcher" and "The Avengers" star Ruffalo lauded Warren, saying, "She's someone that gets the progressive values that I believe we all share." He added, "We don't know that she's going to run, so we're sort of taking a leap of faith. But that's the only way to really implement the changes that need to be changed in the world today."

Clinton, however, generally appeals to a different type of Hollywood heavyweight, says West, the Brookings Institution's vice president and director of governance studies. "I think with Hillary Clinton, she attracts celebrities who are more pragmatic and are interested in winning, regardless of what the political message is," he added.

Some of Hollywood's biggest A-listers have said they'd buy a ticket to see Clinton storm the 2016 campaign box office. Music chart topper Katy Perry, George Clooney, big-time Democratic donor Barbra Streisand, "Happy" singer Pharrell Williams, Eva Longoria, Ashley Judd, and Elton John have all expressed support for the former first lady.

Longoria, a 2012 Obama campaign co-chairwoman, said as far back as 2013 that she would "absolutely" campaign for Clinton in the next race for the White House. "Lord of the Rings" actress Liv Tyler rooted Clinton on during a 2014 fashion shoot, donning a "Hillary for President" t-shirt in a series of glam images.

Brownell, the author of the recently released "Showbiz Politics: Hollywood in American Politics," says it'll be "fascinating" to see how Clinton uses her celeb cache. "I think Hillary Clinton is really a political celebrity herself," she said. "I think that Hollywood celebrities will be key in fundraising for her, using entertainment events to help raise a lot of money."

"The Clintons have been around for 20 years so they've had plenty of opportunities to cultivate artists and actors. So they're basically getting the pragmatic problem-solvers," West says.

Although Clinton, 67, is a veteran of the political arena, Brownell says Warren — who has repeatedly denied she'll be throwing her hat in the presidential ring in 2016 — may actually come out on top in terms of the number of Hollywood-types showing her the love. Having "prominent people to urge her to run created a groundswell of enthusiasm and support" for the former lawyer and professor, says Brownell. "I think celebrities would play a more prominent place in her campaign to generate excitement surrounding the potential of her candidacy."

And while there's a danger of appearing "too Hollywood," West says if Warren or Clinton were to run, they would likely embrace the entertainers who are publicly cheering them on.

"They provide credibility especially early in a campaign. It's a way to demonstrate that your campaign is able to attract famous people," says West. "It's the age of celebrity in which we live, so having star power is part of contemporary politics."

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Bernie Sanders steps up: I am not Hillary, 'trust me' (MSNBC)
By Alex Seitz-Wald
February 9, 2015
MSNBC

HARRISBURG, Penn. – Organizers with Keystone Progress invited Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders to speak at the annual conference here this weekend. Sanders showed up.

The Independent senator from Vermont is actively considering a presidential run in 2016, and hopes to tap into progressive grassroots networks like this one for a potential underdog challenge to all-but-declared Democratic frontrunner Clinton.

The desire for an alternative to Clinton was clear among the 800 rank-and-file activists, labor organizers, and local elected officials here. But he's stuck between Clinton on one hand and Warren on the other, who so far tops many progressives' fantasy draft presidential ticket.

"Hillary Clinton doesn't come up in our conversations as being a progressive," said Franklin Country Democratic Party Chair Sheri Morgan, who was manning the Progressive Democrats of America booth offering "Run, Bernie, Run" swag.

Sanders himself promised "real differences" with Clinton in an interview with msnbc's Steve Kornacki before his keynote speech Saturday. "Trust me, there will be a real clash of ideas," he said.

Maria Payan, who volunteered for both Obama presidential campaigns, ran up to Sanders as he left the interview and pressed a check into his hand. "I want to help with your campaign anyway I can," she said.

Payan said she likes Warren too, and the idea of woman president, but like others here, preferred Sanders at the top of a progressive dream ticket since she thought Sanders has more experience in government. "People are looking that alternative," she explained

Sanders will need a lot more checks if he hopes to imitate Obama – at least $50 million worth, according to his advisors – but he's been slow to build a fundraising or political operation. Two staffers accompanied Sanders to the event, his Senate communications director and the director of his PAC, and collected names and contact info from supporters.

In the absence of a formal campaign infrastructure, he's found allies in existing local groups, like the the Iowa Citizen Action Network in the key presidential state and Keystone Progress here. Sanders trails Clinton by well over 50 percentage points in early polls, garnering an average of just 3.4% in recent surveys. Warren, who has repeatedly said she is not running for president, has more support at 11%.

And it's still unclear whether Sanders has the stomach for a run. He despises what he calls the "game" aspects of politics, like fundraising and building a personality cult. "What is politics? What is serious politics?" he asked Saturday. "It's about having a serious debate about issues, not gossip, not personality."

Peter Deutsch, a retired Penn State physics professor, also liked the idea of a Sanders-Warren ticket. "To put it bluntly, no one is challenging the establishment, specifically Hillary Clinton," he said.

Inside the ballroom at the Hilton, where Sanders would receive four standing ovations during his speech, Keystone Progress chairman Ritchie Tabachnick called Sanders "the voice of the American conscious."

In his Brooklyn brogue, the senator gave a version of the stump speech he's been testing out on recent visits to Iowa and New Hampshire. It gets gloomy at times. "Now, I know that you think the situation is bad. In fact it's worse than you think," he said.

Nonetheless, the crowd encouraged him to press on when his time is up, whooping at every rhetorical barb against the Koch Brothers, and gasping at statistics about the accumulation of wealth in the top 1%.

Billionaires and "counterrevolutionaries," he explained, have "psychiatric issues" – they're "addicted to money." "We all know people who are addicted to alcohol or drugs; these people are addicted to money," Sanders said.

The result is a "philosophical war being waged against the middle-class and working families."

The solution is a "political revolution," but one that looks backwards, not forward, to a time when "one person could work 40 hours a week and make enough to take care for the entire family."

Sanders' agenda, which he'll lay out in more detail Monday at the Brookings Institution in Washington, may not be particularly radical, but his rhetoric is, and it's a message these activists seemed eager to hear.

"I like Bernie Sanders, I think he's sexy," said Maggie Henry, an organic farmer who says her Western Pennsylvania business

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was destroyed by nearby fracking.

Bob Pyle, a pastor in the Brethren Chuck in Snyder, voted for Ron Paul in the Republican primary in both 2008 and 2012, before voting for Obama and in general, said he likes Sanders because he's anti-establishment and anti-war.

Sanders' most immediate challenge in presidential politics, however, is not the Koch Brothers, but Warren, who has so far sucked up much of the organizational energy on the left despite giving zero indication that she's running for president.

Advisors to Sanders think progressives will ultimately come around to Sanders if and when Warren doesn't run. Michael Morrill, the executive director of Keystone Progress, agreed, "People will coalesce around a progressive candidate, whoever that is."

But activists hoping to draft Warren don't have any immediate plans to cease their efforts and throw their support behind Sanders in the event that Warren doesn't get in. Jim Dean, a fellow Vermonter, warmly introduced Sanders before the keynote address, but he runs a group, Democracy for America, that's trying to draft Warren. His brother, former Gov. Howard Dean, supports Clinton and hosted a fundraiser for the pro-Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary last week.

"I'd love for Sanders to run," Dean said in an interview. But members of his group, which has long branded itself as representing the "Warren-wing of the Democratic party," voted overwhelming to support Warren in 2016.

Would DFA support Sanders if it becomes clear Warren isn't running? "We're not spending a lot of time gaming out what we're going to do 8 months or whatever from now," he replied, noting that about as many DFA members voted for Clinton as voted for Sanders.

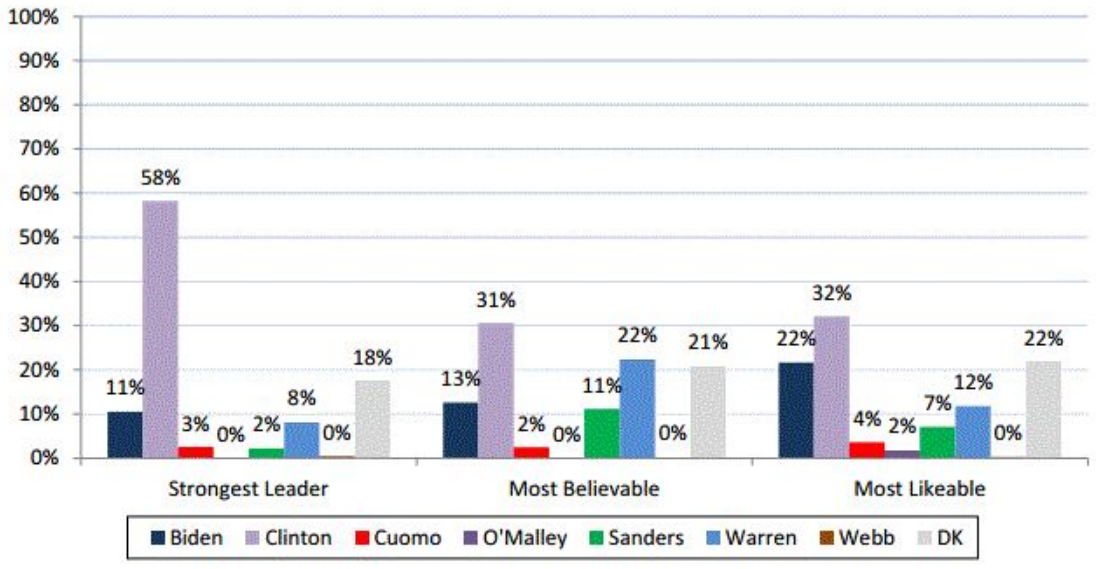
When Rick Smith started his progressive talk radio show ten years ago, his very first guest was then-Rep. Bernie Sanders. Now, Smith's show is aired on affiliates on across Pennsylvania, and he says Sanders "has been right about everything" since they first talked.

"Warren says that she's going to stay out and that's the right choice," Smith said. "Bernie is the right guy at the right time."

But without prompting, Smith continued, "Can he win. Eh."

Candidate Qualities

A majority of likely primary voters (58%) view Hillary Clinton as the strongest leader in the field. Nearly a third (31%) of likely voters view Clinton as the most believable followed by Warren at 22% and Biden at 13%. Thirty-two percent (32%) say Clinton is the most likeable candidate followed by Joe Biden at 22%.



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To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/29/2009 10:46:32 AM
Subject: LCV E-News: Stand Up for Clean Water

LCV E-News

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Now it is on to the Senate. Big Oil will continue to try to sabotage our chances to transition to a clean energy future. The fight will not be easy, but LCV will be doing everything in its power to make sure this legislation becomes law. By becoming an **LCV Monthly Pledge Partner** your monthly gift will help us secure even bigger victories for the environment.

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Grand Canyon Protected From Dangerous Uranium Mining

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Recently, Secretary Ken Salazar announced that the Department of the Interior will temporarily ban uranium mining claims on one million acres of land surrounding the Grand Canyon. This order will protect highly trafficked public lands from dangerous development while Congress and the Obama Administration seek permanent reform to mining law.

Click here to read the statement from LCV Legislative Representative Hasan Nazar, who is working on this and other important issues.

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House Passes Most Important Environmental Bill Ever

Mission Statement
The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is turning environmental values into national priorities. To secure the environmental future of our planet, LCV's mission is to advocate for sound environmental policies and to elect pro-environmental candidates who will adopt and implement such policies.

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Lorella Praeli" <lpraeli@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/17/2015 11:45:53 AM
Subject:	Daily Media Report 7.17.15

National:

-- Report of HRC being interrupted by climate protesters at town hall event in New Hampshire. Shows clip of HRC being interrupted by climate protestors and saying she is all in favor of acting on climate. First Look . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC interrupted by climate protestors.mp4

-- Sam Stein says it would make sense for second tier Republican candidates to make themselves anti-Donald Trump. Says Carly Fiorina has made herself the anti-Hillary Clinton candidate and whenever she goes on twitter or speaks, she's always on message as being anti-HRC. Morning Joe . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton;Carly Fiorina,Commentary,National,Carly Fiorina as Anti-HRC.mp4

-- Report of HRC, Donald Trump, and Scott Walker campaigning in New Hampshire on Thursday. Reporter notes that Walker took a swipe at HRC saying she left the world more messed up than before she was Secretary of State. New Day . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton;Scott Walker,Commentary,National,Scott Walker attacks HRC's State record.mp4

-- Andrea Mitchell reports that Uber is becoming a defining issue in 2016. New York Times reports that regular riders include Jeb Bush, Rand Paul, and Marco Rubio. Says there is even a chapter in Rubio's book called, Making the World Safer for Uber. Mitchell notes that HRC has never used Uber and she did not mention the company by name, but said she is worried about the workplace protections that will come with modern jobs. Joe Scarborough says Uber works and the idea that government is going to come in and regulate something that already works is one of the reasons that Americans hate politicians. Morning Joe . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton;Jeb Bush;Marco Rubio;Rand Paul,Commentary,National,Uber becomes a 2016 wedge issue.mp4

-- Report of protesters briefly taking over HRC's town hall event last night chanting, "Act on climate" after she answered a question on fossil fuels. Reporter says HRC urged the hecklers to run for office so their voices can be heard. Morning Express with Robin Meade . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Climate protestors interrupt

HRC town hall.mp4

-- Analysis of HRC's first town hall event. Brianna Keilar says the issues of trust and propriety is affecting candidates, as we can see with some of HRC's polling numbers. Keilar comments on HRC's first official town hall event and says this is her best platform. Says the headline from yesterday was climate change protesters. Shows clip of HRC being interrupted by protestors. Keilar says it was a coordinated effort by a group called 360. Keilar gives background on HRC's response to fossil fuel question where she said it would hurt the economy to just take away the fossil fuel option, although she is all for solar and other renewable energy sources. Keilar says she thought it was interesting and pragmatic that HRC said she's not going to do that and here's why. Says we've seen HRC tap left on so many issues including immigration reform, same sex marriage, and even trade. New Day . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Analysis of HRC's first town hall.mp4

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-- Speculation on HRC's reaction to shooting in Tennessee. Mack McLarty says it is the responsibility of the president and presidential candidates to comment on national security. Says she will express extreme sympathy for the families. Steve Forbes says all Republicans will comment on this showing that we need increased security and this is part of the reason the Iran deal is a bad idea. Gary B. Smith asks if HRC will take a tougher stance than Obama. McLarty says HRC's record will suggest a strong and focused effort on security. Says HRC is favorable towards Iran deal and there is sharp difference in opinion on what is best for our national security. Mornings with Maria Bartiromo. 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Possible HRC reaction to Tennessee shooting.mp4

-- Report of HRC and Jeb Bush's fundraising numbers. Notes that Jeb Bush has raised $114 million, most of which is from his Super PAC. Michael Smerconish says what bothers him is that there's the idea that Jeb will be at arm's length from his Super PAC. New Day . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton;Jeb Bush,Commentary,National,HRC and Jeb Bush fundraising commentary.mp4

-- Michael Douglas comments on the presidential race. Douglas says he thinks Donald Trump is a funny guy. Says he is a big fan of HRC and has admired her since she first came into the White House as the president's wife. Says the efforts HRC made on healthcare way back when was impressive. Says he supports Hillary. New Day . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National.mp4

-- Tammy Bruce comments on poll saying 39% of people having a favorable opinion of HRC. Bruce says 58% of voters think that HRC is not always honest, which is a big issue for her. Says that this is the Bernie Sanders factor, not on the issue of policy, but is giving the democrats an idea of what an honest person sounds like, and it's not HRC. Says she thinks this is what the damage to HRC will be. Bruce says HRC may not be the nominee and there has been noise about Joe Biden or Al Gore entering the race.Varney & Company. 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Tammy Bruce comments on HRC chance.mp4

-- Chris Stirewalt comments on significance of Tennessee shooting for the 2016 race. Says President Obama and the Democratic Party face a test as to whether or not they will name radical Islam as the motivation for this incident. Stirewalt says the Democratic base won't like this as much as some Republicans didn't like their leaders calling for the confederate flag to be taken down. Says if Obama and the Democratic Party want to keep the White House with the presumptive nominee of Hillary Clinton, they need to name the name of radical Islam being responsible. Says if they don't, they won't have the trust of the general electorate and HRC won't be president. America's Newsroom w/ Bill Hemmer-Martha MacCallum . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Chris Stirewalt comments on Democrat reaction to Tennessee shooting.mp4

-- Varney comments on HRC's $19 million campaign. Says things are not going well and the campaign makes glaring mistakes like the roping off of reporters. Says only 3 in 10 people trust her. Says her massive speaking income and email scandal doesn't help. Varney says it is really her policy statements which have helped trip HRC up. Says she has turned far left and misread the American people. Says people want to return to prosperity and her plan won't lead to that. Says she will be the Democratic nominee, but 400 staffers and a couple of billion dollars won't get her into the White House if her policies mean debt, division, and stagnation. Varney & Company. 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Varney comments on HRC's campaign.mp4

-- Report of Democratic presidential candidates in Iowa today for Hall of Fame dinner. Mike Emanuel says we expect to see some of the sharpest jabs directed at Donald Trump and the rest of the Republicans, but all 5 candidates will be on stage tonight. Tim Hagle of the University of Iowa says HRC doesn't have all that much excitement and enthusiasm and that's something the campaign is still working on. Says a number of office holders have endorsed HRC, but others are holding off or have endorsed Bernie. Emanuel says people will be watching to see if HRC or Bernie have more enthusiasm. America's Newsroom w/ Bill Hemmer-Martha MacCallum.2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton;Bernie Sanders,Commentary,National,Report on Iowa Hall of Fame dinner.mp4

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-- Judith Miller comments on Iran deal. Says the deal seems to be a step towards limiting Iran's ability to get a nuclear weapon. Says she doesn't agree with Marco Rubio's assertion that the media coverage has been ecstatic. Says Netanyahu's objections and HRC's lukewarm endorsement of the deal suggest that there are some real problems and questions. Happening Now . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Judith Miller comments on Iran Deal.mp4

-- Report on Democrats' Hall of Fame dinner in Iowa tonight. Reporter notes that all 5 candidates will be together for the first time.Says HRC is the front runner but she is getting some competition from the left with Bernie Sanders. Mike Emanuel joins from Cedar Rapids and says the early energy and buzz is with Benie who is still a distant second, but is growing in popularity. Says liberals and progressives are energized by Sanders while HRC has the biggest organization in Iowa. Tim Hagel from University of Iowa says HRC has the largest number of staffers and they are working hard to do things that they need to do in a grassroots campaign, but that enthusiasm and excitement isn't quite there yet. Emanuel says all candidates will make their pitch in Cedar Rapids tonight. Says sharpest jabs will be pointed towards Republicans. Happening Now . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton;Bernie Sanders,Commentary,National,Mike Emanuel reports on Hall of Fame dinner.mp4

-- Report that HRC changes her view on Iran. Cavuto says HRC told reporters in New Hampshire that no one should be deluded about the continuing threat that Iran poses to the region. Says she went on to say, do I trust the Iranians? Absolutely not. Cavuto: Coast to Coast . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Reports of HRC changing view on Iran.mp4

-- Comments on HRC profit sharing speech. Charlie Gasparino says HRC said she's against quarterly capitalism and short-termism. Says Blackrock executives and the campaign are saying that speech was inspired by Larry Fink who has been going off on his own campaign trail against activist investing and short termism. Points out that Larry Fink has key Clinton advisor Cheryl Mills on his board and sources say Fink wants to be HRC's treasury secretary if she becomes president. Gasparino says if you look at HRC's profit sharing speech, it comes right out of Larry Fink's playbook. Says he hears from people that Fink probably played a role in advising on that speech. Cavuto: Coast to Coast . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Role of Larry Fink in HRC speech.mp4

-- Report that HRC is raising the most money on the Democrat side, but Bernie Sanders is wining in terms of grassroots engagement. Reports that Bernie Sanders has had 284,000 donate to his campaign while HRC has had just over 250,000. Mercedes Schlapp weighs in and says you have HRC building her campaign from the top down while Bernie Sanders' is more organic and social media/grassroots driven. Says it's help to have a lot of grassroots donors, but says it will take more than small donors to beat the monstrous HRC. David Mercer weighs in and says Bernie is different than Obama because Bernie has 75% coming from small donors whereas Obama in 2008 had a strategic mix of donors. Says HRC also has a strategic mix and she raised $8 million in $200 or less increments. Says she's got campaign workers in 50 states and has an organization that is speaking to the American public. Schlapp disagrees and says HRC is not speaking to the American public since her favorability ratings are dropping. Says only 30% of people think HRC is compassionate and only 39% think she's honest. Says this will be a problem for HRC in the general election.Mercer says HRC identifies and relates to people on the issues. Says she is outpolling every Republican on every issues as well as favorability and 17/18 times has been voted the most admired woman in the world. Schlapp says HRC was stonewalled and couldn't connect in her CNN interview and if she keeps giving those kinds of performances she will be in big trouble. Cavuto: Coast to Coast .2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Discussion of HRC campaign success.mp4

-- Report of all Democrat candidates to speak at the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame dinner tonight. Alex Seitz Wald reports live from Iowa and says for a lot of these candidates, it will be the first time for them to introduce themselves to Iowa voters. Says that HRC wants to show that she has enthusiasm among the kinds of diehard activist voters that turn up in Iowa. Says Iowa is a place where everyone is shoved together in one place. Live with Thomas Roberts . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Preview of Hall of Fame Dinner.mp4

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-- Commentary on Donald Trump. Says that Trump is a billionaire who has nothing to lose and all the Republican candidates need to learn to deal with him. Gretchen Carlson says Trump creates a conundrum not only for the other Republicans, but HRC as well. Says if you imagine the two of them on a debate stage, HRC has been a politician forever and ever and Trump is not a politician. Alan Colmes says there is no way Trump will get the nomination. The Real Story with Gretchen Carlson . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump,Commentary,National,Hypothetical debate between HRC and Trump.mp4

-- Report on new AP poll which says Obama is holding on to the support of his base of minorities, liberals, and young Americans.Host says Obama could play a role in helping turn out votes for HRC is she wins the democratic nomination. Says roughly 2/3 of Hispanics view Obama favorably compared to just half who view HRC the same way. Market Makers . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Obama favorability could help HRC win votes.mp4

-- Coverage of Jeb Bush taking an Uber to an event. Says the move comes a few days after HRC took a more critical stance on companies such as Uber because she said they raise questions about workplace protections. Shows clip of Jeb Bush saying that these people are quite happy and if they are breaking legitimate law along the way, such as exploiting workers, there's way to address it, but the fact is this is disrupting world order. Host says New York mayor is now trying to regulate the economy. Guest says HRC sounded like she was giving an old world answer and this is inevitable and we need to figure out how to manage it into the new economy. Says it's dangerous for the Democrats to be going against the tech industry because they are traditionally supportive of Democrats but the sharing industry could be a lightning rod in the 2016 election. Squawk Alley . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton;Jeb Bush,Commentary,National,Uber as 2016 lightning rod.mp4

-- Report on Uber as a big 2016 issue. Shows coverage of Jeb Bush taking an Uber to an event yesterday. Reports that Republicans are in favor of keeping Uber unregulated while Democrats like HRC are concerned about what the industry will look like if allowed to go unregulated. Shows clip of HRC saying the sharing economy raises hard questions about workplace protections and what a good job will look like in the future. Mike Pesca says HRC seems to be hemming and hawing a little but Uber is a good thing and it's not perfect, but it shouldn't be something that we're attacking. Heidi Moore says Uber needs to prove that it can operate ethically, but it's not necessarily worse than other companies in corporate America that mistreat their workers. Guest says HRC is doing fine by her base by saying this raises questions about work even if it will irk people who love Uber. Alex Wagner says there are real questions around Uber that are worthy of debate, but we are not going to really get that. NOW with Alex Wagner . 2015 07 17,Hillary Clinton;Jeb Bush,Commentary,National,Uber in the 2016 election.mp4

Spanish:

-- Report on Pitbull's political statements against Donald Trump at Univision's Premios Juventud 2015 last night. During his acceptance speech at the awards show, Pitbull said: "I want to say to Marco Rubio, *ponte las pilas* [get moving/get your act together/get to work]. Jeb Bush, *ponte las pilas*. Hillary Clinton, *ponte las pilas*. Because Donald Trump cannot be President… So Donald Trump, for all the Latinos outside (the US), always upwards and onwards. And Trump, be careful with El Chapo!" Pitbull's statements and the video of his speech have already received millions views and interactions on social media. Noticiero Univision . 2015 07 16 Hillary Clinton Marco Rubio Jeb Bush Donald Trump Clips, National, Noticiero Univision Pitbull on 2016 and Trump

-- Report on poll of Hispanic voters in US. Says that Hispanic voters show a "strong liking" for HRC. The poll by Bendixen and Amandi revealed that over 6 in 10 Hispanic voters prefer Clinton to be the next President, with 64% saying they would vote for HRC and in contrast to 27% that would vote for Jeb Bush if the election were today between those two candidates. If the election were between HRC and Trump, HRC would win with 70% of the vote. Additionally, last year a poll showed that 34% of registered Hispanic voters in the US said that they would vote for a Democrat, regardless of the candidate. News anchors say that it's not only because of Democrats' positions on immigration but also because of the leftward tilt of their policies, and say that much of

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the Latino population tends to support Democrats. One news anchor says that the matchup between HRC and Trump would interesting to imagine in a general election race. The other anchor says that Trump would first need to be the GOP candidate but that it will be interesting to watch things unfold since there's still lots of time left in the election. Noticiero Telemundo . 2015 07 17 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Donald Trump Clips, National, Noticiero Telemundo Hispanic Voters Poll HRC Trump

-- Analysis of HRC's and Republican candidates' positions on immigration. Analysis of political news in DC with Telemundo's political pundit/analyst, starting with saying that Donald Trump's comments may help him in the debate and have obviously resonated with at least a segment of the GOP. Says that the difference between Jeb Bush and Trump is just 3%in a recent poll, which is within the margin of error so there's really a tie between Trump and Bush. Political analyst says that "we have a big opportunity" because usually we (Latinos) just compare between the Republican and the Democrat, but now we can compare the position on immigration of all the Republican candidates to see what the party offers in those different opinions. Anchor then turns to HRC "sending a message to Trump in Spanish" by saying "Basta!" and asks if HRC is doing it to try to get immigrants' support. Analyst says that HRC "has been pursuing the Latino vote for months." Publicly, she is the candidate with the most robust, public plan on immigration as of now because it includes a path to citizenship and continuing DACA and DAPA (and even expanding it). Telenoticias Washington (Telemundo). 2015 07 16 Donald Trump Hillary Clinton Commentary, National, Telenoticias Washington Trump HRC Immigration

-- Report on Jeb Bush's Uber driver saying he'd vote for HRC. Report on Jeb Bush hailing an Uber during his time campaigning in SF. The driver said he didn't realize who his passenger was until Bush tweeted that he appreciated the chauffeur's work. Driver said that the experience may make him more likely to vote but he would probably vote for Hillary Clinton.
Noticias Univision (in San Francisco). 2015 07 16 Jeb Bush Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Noticias Univision SF Bush Uber Support HRC

-- Report on Obama coming to New York City. Mentions that while in NYC Obama will be attending an event for the Democratic National Convention to "review details for the event at which former First Lady Hillary Clinton could be elected as the party's candidate to succeed Obama." Noticias Univision . 2015 07 17 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Noticias Univision Obama in NYC DNC Event

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/13/2015 8:50:30 AM
Subject: Dahr Jamail | The Methane Monster Roars

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Dahr Jamail | The Methane Monster Roars

Dahr Jamail, Truthout: Losing Arctic sea ice due to rising global temperatures means releasing larger amounts of previously trapped methane into the atmosphere. This process will magnify the effects of climate disruption, which, scientists warn, threaten all plants, animals and humans on earth.

Read the Article

As Frac Sand Mining Expands, Community Activists Face Off Against Companies

Mara Kardas-Nelson, Truthout: With lax US and state government oversight of frac sand mining, a little-known industry producing a key component of fracking, it is up to cities and towns in Wisconsin to fight off powerful mining interests, and the state of Iowa is taking note.

Read the Article

Do Prisons and Mass Incarceration Keep Us Safe? (Part Two)

Eddie Conway, The Real News Network: Truthout's Maya Schenwar, author of *Locked Down, Locked Out,* continues her discussion, this time focusing on alternatives to mass incarceration.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Are Assad's Days Numbered?

Darius Shahtahmasebi, Truthout: As the US-led coalition continues to bomb ISIS and support rebels fighting the Syrian government, it's only logical that Bashar al-Assad will eventually become the target of the US campaign.

Read the Article

Ethiopia, Seen by West as an Island of Stability, Is Guilty of State Terrorism in Ogaden

Graham Peebles, Truthout: A shining example of African economic growth, a willing ally in the "war on terror" and a strategically convenient base from which the United States launches deadly Reaper drones

BuzzFlash

Chaplain Employed by For-Profit Prison Accused of Whitewashing Immigrant Detention Abuses

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: As with the prison system in general, for-profit corporations that run immigrant jails are interested in filling the maximum number of beds in order to achieve increased profit.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Social Justice Quiz 2015: How Much Do You Know About Inequality?

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Paris Rally for Peace:

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over Yemen and Somalia, Ethiopia is also an egregious violator of human rights.
Read the Article

Putting $7 Trillion of Notional Value of Derivatives in Taxpayer-Backstopped Depositaries Will Cost Zero

Yves Smith, Naked Capitalism: Why did Elizabeth Warren lose her battle to stop banks from parking $7 trillion notional value of risky derivatives like the credit defaults swaps in taxpayer-backstopped depositaries? One of the less recognized reasons is that the Congressional Budget Office's dubious analysis said it would not cost taxpayers a dime.
Read the Article

Four Ways the West Got the Iran Nuclear Issue Wrong

Gareth Porter, Middle East Eye: For decades, the United States and its European allies have committed one error after another in the process of creating a commonly held narrative that Iran was secretly pursuing a nuclear weapons program. The story of how suspicions of the Iranian program hardened into convictions is a cautionary tale.
Read the Article

How Cuba Is Using Cooperatives to Decentralize Its Economy

Cat Johnson, Care2: With the recent announcement that the United States will normalize relations with Cuba, change is in the air for the island country. Just a few years ago, Cuba began shifting its economy from state-controlled enterprises to citizen-controlled cooperatives. Will this trend continue?
Read the Article

Surprising New Findings Point to "Perfect Storm" Brewing in Your Financial Future

Lynn Stuart Parramore, Institute for New Economic Thinking: Groundbreaking research by economist Alan Taylor shows that today's advanced economies depend on private sector credit more than ever before. Do we just fasten our seat belts for a bumpy ride, or is there a way to safeguard the financial system going forward?
Read the Interview

Seven Ways to Get Happy - Without Costing the Planet

Sarah van Gelder, YES! Magazine: It is true that all of us need a basic level of material security. But after that, more stuff does not bring more happiness. Research shows that sustainable happiness comes from other sources, like having meaningful work to do and having authentic relationships.
Read the Article

Massive Crowd Sings "Imagine" by John Lennon
Watch the Video on YouTube

The Legacy of Bill Moyers
Read the Article at The Washington Post

Elizabeth Warren Wins: Obama Treasury Pick Bows Out of Nomination Process
Read the Article at Talking Points Memo

The Group Behind the United States' Biggest Anti-Abortion March Now Says Birth Control Causes Abortions
Read the Article at Mother Jones

Protecting Your Mentally Ill Child From the Cops
Read the Article at The Daily Beast

South African Labor Leader Pitches a New Socialist Party
Read the Article at Al Jazeera America

Letter to a Young Army Ranger: Why the War on Terror Shouldn't Be Your Battle

Rory Fanning, TomDispatch: "If, by any chance, you haven't signed that Option 40 contract yet, you don't have to. You can be an effective counter-recruiter without being an ex-military guy. Young people across this country

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desperately need your energy, your desire to be the best, your pursuit of meaning."

Read the Article

On the News With Thom Hartmann: Last Year Was the Hottest Year on Record, and More

In today's On the News segment: According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, 2014 was hotter than any other year in its 120 years of record-keeping; California has big plans for reducing its carbon footprint; scientists have discovered the most Earth-like planet ever found outside of our solar system; and more.

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From: "Graham Allison" <grahamallison@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/2/2015 2:45:10 PM
Subject: Conversation with Ashton Carter

Colleagues & Friends,

After being grilled for nearly four hours by the House Armed Services Committee, many government officials would be forgiven for wanting to have a stiff drink and head home. Not Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter. My friend and former colleague hustled up to Harvard Kennedy School after his testimony yesterday to meet and talk with students and share big ideas about global security in a JFK Jr. Forum last night.



Dec. 1. 2015 – Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter (R) in conversation with Belfer Center Director Graham Allison at Harvard Kennedy School. (Martha Stewart)

From biotechnology in Boston and talent retention at the Pentagon to ISIL, Russia, and China, Ash covered a wide range of topics in 60 minutes. Among his many insightful remarks, I wanted to share these zingers:

On ISIL:
"The objective there will be to take out ISIL leadership, to capture ISIL leadership, to rescue hostages as we've done…and to make ISIL wonder…when they go to bed at night, who's going to be coming in the window?"

On Russia's Involvement in Syria:
"They've been striking the people who are in the opposition who … need to be part of the future of Syria. They should be striking ISIL. So it's backwards… We can't associate ourselves with what they're doing now because it's doomed to fail."

On China and the Asia-Pacific:
"This is the single region of the world … which will be of greatest consequence to our nation's future. And I say that for the very simple reason it's where half of humanity lives. It's where half of the economic activity of the globe is. And so keeping peace and stability there is a very important thing to do."

On Violent Extremism:

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"I think the question of violent extremism is with us to stay. And I don't mean ISIL. I do believe we will defeat ISIL. But if you ask is – are people who's job is like mine is to worry about protecting our people, will we long worry about violent extremism?
My prediction is yes, we will. Because destructive power of greater and greater magnitude falls into the hands of smaller and smaller groups of human beings."

For a transcript of last night's conversation, photo gallery, and video clips, click on the "full coverage" button below.

Full Coverage

Graham Allison
Director, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
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From: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Lee Fang" <lee@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/24/2008 5:06:08 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 07/24/08

Main Topics: Obama in Berlin, McCain campaign missteps, Topical Storm Dolly

Summary: In order to steal attention away from Senator Obama, the McCain campaign's two-pronged strategy of (1) accusing the media of bias, and (2) staging high profile media stunts, appears to be working. However, the coverage is trending increasingly negative. This morning, the major networks made note of the flopped oilrig appearance scheduled for today, mentioning bad weather for the cancellation. Though they did not connect the two, the networks did cover the large oil spill nearby the planned event. As Obama was portrayed in clips appearing as a head of state shaking hands with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, McCain was shown in front of a grocery shelf of cheese and riding with the former President Bush in a golf cart (placed together, McCain looked older than Bush). Cable networks revisited the surge-Anbar Awakening timeline controversy, the vitriolic nature of McCain's "rather lose a war" attack on Obama, the twisting of Obama's 'never again' statement, and the overall desperate state of the McCain campaign. Although tropical storm Dolly and Obama's visit to Berlin were the main focus of much of the news today, a new WSJ/NBC poll, the minimum wage increase, and the Housing Bill were among the bigger stories. Discussing the fact that Novak hit a pedestrian yesterday, Jon Stewart made an astute observation: "The only difference, really, between this and the rest of his career is that this time, someone stopped him."

Highlights:
1. FNC: McCain attacks Obama on foreign policy, talks VP selection
2. FNC: McCain says he is uninterested with media bias accusations
3. FNC: McCain says an energy war is a 'clear and present danger'
4. FNC: Giuliani attacks Obama on foreign policy credentials
5. FNC: Rove basically admits McCain is wrong on surge, proceeds to attack Obama
6. MSNBC: Mike Murphy credits hurricane for saving McCain from oil spill pr disaster
7. COMEDY: Stewart says McCain looks older than H.W. Bush
8. MSNBC: Scarborough and hosts sense desperation in McCain and his campaign
9. ABC: Good Morning America says McCain doesn't get to play while Obama's away

NO CLIPS
10. MSNBC: Scarborough mocks McCain's location choice of grocery store dairy section [no clip]
11. CNN: "Generation GOP" on McCain's outreach to young voters [no clip]
12. WYOU-CBS-PA: Why should women vote for McCain? "I'll keep America safe" [no clip]
13. MSNBC: Scarborough mocks bloggers 'eating cheetos' for calling to attention Anbar Awakening controversy [no clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain Attacks Obama on Foreign Policy, Talks About VP Selection (FNC 07/23/08 9:15pm)
SEAN HANNITY: I want to stay on foreign policy for just a second here. I did notice he, at one time, said we're air-raiding villages and killing civilians, talking about Afghanistan. He once said it would be a profound mistake under any circumstances to use nuclear weapons. He once talked about invading an ally, Pakistan. He once referred to Iran, Cuba, and Venezuela, they're tiny countries, they're not a serious threat, and then he said -- although he's changed as of today -- the issue of Ahmadinejad that he would meet without preconditions.

JOHN MCCAIN: All I can say is that Senator Obama does not have any background on these issues, and I would hope that he would do his best to learn. One of the reasons why I encouraged him to go to Iraq. I didn't know he would issue a policy statement the day before he left, but I think the American people are most concerned about our economy, that I know we're going to talk about, and gas prices, but they also want the peace. I can win the peace. I know how to win wars. I hate wars. No one understands war and the tragedy of it better than the veteran who feels the keen loss of a comrade, so -- most keenly the loss of a comrade. And so I believe that

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American people will take that in to consideration, and, frankly, they will take into consideration Senator Obama's judgment about Iraq and the brave young men and women to not applaud their success and their strategy. I think, frankly, Americans don't agree with him.

HANNITY: We'll move on for just a second. Reports that you are close to choosing your vice president. Is that true?

MCCAIN: We have said exactly the same thing all along, as you know, Sean, that we'll make the decision when we make it. The obvious impact of mentioning somebody's name or where we are would cause a flurry of speculation.

HANNITY: I think this would be the perfect time by the way.

MCCAIN: I think this would be a good show to make that announcement.

HANNITY: I'll take that as a promise if you want to offer it. But -- well, first of all, had -- you've obviously been looking very closely.

MCCAIN: Yes.

HANNITY: A lot of names have been mentioned. Bobby Jindal said today that he wanted to take his name out of the running as I'm sure you're aware of. He did mention, and I think it got a lot of news of some comments you made about Governor Pawlenty. Mitt Romney's name has been mentioned a lot. How many can you -- first of all, have you made a final decision?

MCCAIN: No.

HANNITY: How many contenders are there?

MCCAIN: Sean, I can't do that.

HANNITY: No?

MCCAIN: Look, I love you, but I can't do that.

HANNITY: Are there four, five?

MCCAIN: . to go down that slippery slope -- 400.

HANNITY: 400. Well, by the way, anyone whose name is mentioned, we get on the show and we ask if they're being vetted.

[. . .]

What are you -- all right, then what are you looking for in a vice president?

MCCAIN: Someone who shares your priorities, your principles, your values, and I've got to also say priorities. One of the toughest decisions a president makes is setting priorities, and so that has to be -- those obviously important characteristics, and one of them, of course, is someone who can take your place immediately. That's maybe viewed by some as even more important in my case.

HANNITY: Well, OK. Is age an issue?

MCCAIN: Sure. It was in the primaries. It will be an issue, and that's why I have to go out there and do what I've done for a long, long time. Campaign hard, show I'm capable of 24/7, and convince the American people that I am most qualified.

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HANNITY: You've got to use one of those Reagan lines that you're not going to allow your opponent's youth and inexperience to be a factor in this campaign?

MCCAIN: I've stolen many lines from President Reagan, and I'd be glad to steal that one. But I want to convince the American people that I can inspire a generation of Americans to serve a cause greater than their self-interests. Right now, as you well know and our viewers know, trust and confidence in Washington is at its lowest level, 9 percent approval rating of Congress. Complete gridlock. 84 percent of the American people think the country's on the wrong track. We've got to inspire them again and show them that America's best days are ahead of us which is something I profoundly believe.

Highlight #2

McCain Uninterested in Lack of Media Coverage: "It is What it Is" (FNC 07/23/08 9:05pm)

SEAN HANNITY: . . .first question is, how many times have you been to Iraq and Afghanistan?

JOHN MCCAIN: Eight times and several times to Afghanistan, as well, and I've tried to go periodically.

[. . .]

HANNITY: And how many times has Katie Couric, and Charlie Gibson, and Brian Williams been with you?

MCCAIN: Not often, but it is what it is.

HANNITY: Well, let me ask you about that, because this is Barack Obama . . . and the three major networks and their big stars out there to cover this. Does that bother you at all? Is that -- what do you think of that? Is that media bias?

MCCAIN: No, but, you know, one of the things that's very interesting, he had never before asked to sit down and get a briefing from General Petraeus. I mean -- and the other thing I thought was interesting, he issued his policy statement towards Iraq and Afghanistan, which as you mentioned never been to, before he left. Now, I've got to tell you, Sean. I've traveled around the world, usually at your expense.

[. . .]

MCCAIN: . . . but I make my policy statements and speeches after I've learned along the way, so it's pretty clear that Senator Obama was not going to change his wrong view that the surge had not succeeded . . .

HANNITY: Well, he -- actually up until the week before he had on his Web site that the surge wasn't working, and then they purged that part of it . . . is that just a political posture?

MCCAIN: No rational person who was in Iraq two years ago and saw the situation . . . cannot say that the surge has succeeded, and there's one other thing about this . . .

HANNITY: You had some very strong things to say in the last couple of days as it relates to this and to Senator Barack Obama . . . you said, if he had his way, we would have . . . and then you went on to say, I would rather lose a political campaign than lose a war. But Obama would rather lose a war than a political campaign.

MCCAIN: But let me say again, this surge -- as you know, I supported it when it wasn't popular. I was even called by Republicans for being disloyal because I fought against the failed strategy of nearly four years. And as you also well recall, there were times when my campaign was declared dead and buried.

HANNITY: I remember, one summer.

MCCAIN: But I did what I thought was right for the -- I knew was right for the country . . . Senator Obama railed against, fought against, he wants -- he voted to cut off funding for the troops in Iraq, and still will not

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acknowledge that the surge has succeeded . . .

[. . .]

MCCAIN: So it's clear to me that there must be political calculations in his judgment because no rational observer could conclude anything else.

HANNITY: . . . .he goes on this trip with a predetermined outcome in terms of where his position is going to be. What does that mean to you in terms of his qualifications to be the commander in chief and the next president?

MCCAIN: Well, let me point out that also his -- during the primaries if we'd have done what he'd wanted to do, the troops would have been out last March . . . We'd have never given the surge a chance to succeed. The thing that disturbs me is we know that Afghanistan is a major challenge, but the same strategy that succeeded in Iraq has to be employed in Afghanistan . . . If he refuses to acknowledge that it's succeeded in Iraq, what would be his plans for Afghanistan which is a very complex and difficult challenge?

[. . .]

HANNITY: . . . I want to go back to the media question here for just a second . . . You wanted to have your op-ed published in the New York Times. It was rejected . . . Now I've been saying, and my audience knows I'm conservative, we may look at 2008 as the year that journalism died in America . . . What does that mean in terms of media coverage in this campaign? I know you're laughing, but--

MCCAIN: . . . you know very well that if anybody complains, then, you know, that's just non-productive. I'm happy with where our campaign is. We are very close in the polls. I'm happy with how we've been doing. I look forward the convention and the two months following. I'm convinced we can win this race. I'm the underdog, I've got a lot of work to do, but I'm proud of our campaign, and I'm convinced that we can get direct to the American people.

[. . .]

Highlight #3
McCain Agrees That An Energy War is a "Clear and Present Danger" (FNC 07/23/08 9:30pm)
SEAN HANNITY: . . . I've even argued that we have a clear and present danger facing the United States, the possibility of an energy war. Am I overstating the case?

JOHN MCCAIN: No. We are sending $700 billion a year overseas to countries that don't like us very much. Some of that money ends up in the hands of terrorist organizations . . . You are exactly on the mark, and I think Americans are beginning to figure it out. Of course we have to drill offshore. Of course, we have to exploit every means we have of bridging this gap while we make the transition to energy independence. I viewed a new automobile the other day called the Volt. I pray it succeeds . . .The French can build a nuclear power plant in five years. We should build 45 nuclear power plants by 2030, and that will create 700,000 jobs, and it's clean. Senator Obama opposes offshore drilling, he opposes nuclear, he opposes -- gas tax holiday, he opposes giving an award for a real battery- driven car. So he's Dr. No.

HANNITY: And coal.

MCCAIN: Yes, and coal. And we've got to invest $200 billion a year in pure research and development in clean coal technology. We are sitting on the world's largest supply of energy in the form of coal reserves. We've got to have clean coal technology.

HANNITY: You have come under some scrutiny and criticism because you changed your position on offshore drilling, and my question to you is would you consider changing that position on ANWR? . . . Do you think you'd reconsider in light of the high price of gas?

MCCAIN: I will look at everything . . . I've always said that it's left up to the states. It's still left up to the states, but

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it is also important as far as the price of a barrel of oil is concerned. You know when the president made the announcement that we were going to lift the federal moratorium, which wasn't that big a deal, the price of oil dropped $10 a gallon . . .

HANNITY: A barrel.

MCCAIN: Excuse -- $10 a barrel. And the people that said that we couldn't affect the price of a barrel of oil were wrong . . .

[. . .]

MCCAIN: . . . it will matter as far as the price of a barrel of oil is concerned, my friend, and I'm confident that an oil executives say, and I hope you'll have one on your program.

HANNITY: Yes.

MCCAIN: . . . they're telling me that we could get some of this oil within a year or two. That's not -- it's not this 10 year, you know.

[. . .]

MCCAIN: . . . When you say to an audience I think we have to drill offshore and exploit our resources there, they stand and applaud. They get it. American people -- sometimes we don't give them quite as much credit as they deserve for knowing what's going on . . .

HANNITY: . . . There's been a lot made about your opponent's, let's say, shifting positions . . . many -- most of the major issues that he ran on . . . now shifted fairly dramatically. So my question to you is, what does that say to you about Barack Obama as a person, about miss character, about who he is?

MCCAIN: I think the American people want straight talk . . . I've got to stick to my positions, and I will, and I know that some of them aren't popular, but at least Americans right now say, look, I may not agree with this guy, but at least I know where he's coming from.

[. . .]

HANNITY: What about the radical associations? We spent a lot of time. Reverend Wright, Tony Rezko, William Ayers, Father Pfleger. We've discussed a lot of these associations in detail. When you couple that with maybe those comments he made in San Francisco when he used the term bitter Americans, in Pennsylvania, clinging to their guns, religion, with antipathy to those who aren't like them, does that reveal a lot about Senator Obama, his judgment? You've been -- you seemed reluctant to bring these things up.

MCCAIN: Well, first of all, in the case of Mr. Ayers, anybody who said that he's sorry that he didn't bomb more, and in that kind of a close relationship, that kind of person I think has to be rejected. I think also that we want to campaign as much in a most respectful fashion . . . But I think that Americans care very much about what we're going to do for them . . . right now they're hurting very badly, as you know, and they want a concrete set of proposals, for example, for energy independence . . .

Highlight #4
Giuliani Attacks Barack on Foreign Policy (FNC 07/24/08 7:27am)
GRETCHEN CARLSON: . . . let me ask you this because earlier in the show we were talking about a comment that Senator Obama made while he was on the airplane with reporters yesterday with regard to what the troops choose to watch . . . he implied that it's mandated by the Bush administration that they watch Fox News . . . it, in fact, would be a choice for the troops, would it not?

RUDY GIULIANI: Of course it would be a choice. And I'm surprised that Barack Obama is surprised about that. I mean, if he has any understanding of how American troops think, it would be natural that a large percentage of

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them would watch Fox. The sense is that Fox covers the war in Iraq and the situation in Iraq in a more balanced way . . . a very large percentage of them believe they get a better shake on Fox than some of the other networks some of which I think they believe is anti-military . . .

BRIAN KILMEADE: Mr. Mayor, you know this personally that John McCain's candidacy was almost destroyed because of the support for Iraq, for the support for the surge, for criticizing the administration he lost a lot of Republican support. Here is a time where the surge has worked . . . but, yet, is he not able to take a bow because he is almost caught on the defensive because of Barack Obama going over there, showing his charismatic way . . . how do you get on the offensive if you are Senator McCain in a situation where he clearly deserves it?

GIULIANI: I think it's a question of style over substance. Say to the American people, what do you want? Style? That's all Obama is offering. . . John McCain is real. I mean, John McCain came up and helped to come up with the idea of the surge. Supported it when it wasn't very popular. The surge has now worked. That's the kind of perch that I think the American people want. They want a person of substance. The person who can really do things. not be a good actor on television which is what Barack Obama has shown.

CARLSON: At some point, Mr. Mayor, John McCain is going to have to put out advertisements That attack Barack Obama Barack Obama get attention back to his side.

GIULIANI: I'm sure contrasting the lack of experience of Barack Obama, which is astounding when you consider he is running for President of the United States . . . and it's underlined by the fact that this is his first trip to Germany. It is a presidential candidate who is going there for the first time. Not with the really deep knowledge of the world. John McCain, on the other hand, is probably one of the most knowledgeable people about the world. . .

Highlight #5
Rove: The Left Shouldn't Talk About McCain's Anbar Gaffe Because Then You Have to Bring Up All of Obama's Mistakes (FNC 07/23/08 9:54pm)
ALAN COLMES: That was Senator Barack Obama on the CBS Evening News with Katie Couric. She didn't think, apparently, he was giving a straight answer -- I do -- about the surge in Iraq. For reaction we continue with FOX News contributor Karl Rove. CBS actually took out an answer that John McCain gave about the surge, which turned out to be wrong, when John McCain said the surge -- because of that we were able to go out and protect the sheik and others and it began the Anbar awakening. But he got the timeline wrong. The Anbar awakening happened first and that helped what happened afterwards, including -- and CBS refused to air that.

ROVE: Well, Alan, first of all, let's not get into sort of nit-nat mistakes. After all, Barack Obama said we need more Arabic translators in Afghanistan. They don't speak Arabic in Afghanistan. He said yesterday Israel is Israel's greatest friend. He talked earlier about visiting 57 states.

COLMES: What about his time line being wrong on the Anbar awakening?

ROVE: Look, let's not get into this.

COLMES: Why not?

ROVE: You've got a guy who said earlier, and contrary to what Congressman Adam Smith said, with all due respect to Congressman Smith, if -- Sean is right. Barack Obama said that our troops in Afghanistan were just air-raiding villages and killing civilians. If you want to talk about mistakes and misstatements...

[. . .]

COLMES: ... but you're not responding to what John McCain said which was actually wrong...

ROVE: I'd be happy to...

COLMES: It was left out of the CBS piece.

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ROVE: Alan -- Alan, I'd be happy to respond if you like. Would you like me to respond?

COLMES: Yes.

ROVE: OK. My point is, is that, look, he had his timing wrong. You're right. But don't make a big deal of it, because if you do, you're going to then have to make a big deal of all of the misstatements by Barack Obama. Today...

COLMES: You'll do that for me.

[. . .]

HANNITY: Karl, I want to get your thoughts on the media bias, and that is that, you know, John McCain's been there eight times. And we don't have the big three network anchors, the stars going with him. The New York Times, they publish Obama's op-ed, but not Senator McCain's. And I want your overall take on the trip abroad in general.

ROVE: Well, look, first of all, I do think there is a bias here that's coming out. If you want the numbers, the hard numbers, take a look at the Pew Charitable Trust numbers on the coverage. Since February 4 was the last week when there was roughly equal coverage to Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John McCain . . . you're right: it is fundamentally unfair that, when John McCain went on a world tour, none of the world anchors, none of the news network anchors followed him. And on this one they are . . .

[. . .]

Highlight #6
Former McCain Campaign Adviser Mike Murphy Credits Hurricane For Saving McCain From Oil Spill Disaster (MSNBC 07/24/08)
MIKE MURPHY: I actually think the McCain campaign got freakishly lucky on the hurricane because with the oil spill, had they done it, had the weather been good, McCain would have been on a oil platform, we would have been looking at footage of oil floating around. Would have been even worse. So it's the first time I know in recent history that hurricane saves candidate from second photo op disaster in one week. So it's been tough for him.

Highlight #7
Jon Stewart Mocks McCain's Visit to Maine, Looks Older Than First George Bush (COMEDY 07/23/08)
STEWART: And while McCain might not be meeting with any current world leaders, he's still meeting with people like, you know, former Presidents. At their vacation homes in Kennebunkport, Maine. I like the photo-op; hanging out with the older guy to look like a younger guy. Nice. It would have worked … if he looked younger. 'Hey this thing with H.W. Bush isn't working. Get me Martin Van Buren and two mopeds.'

Highlight #8
Morning Joe Hosts Note McCain Campaign Attempting To Manufacture Controversy Regarding Genocide, Reeks of Desperation (MSNBC 07/24/08)
WILLIE GEIST: Well Barack Obama he's in Israel and said never again as Joe said, not only there but everywhere, it's a reasonable thing to say.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: We're against genocide, you know I don't care what they say, east coast elites, I will not support genocide.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: It's a bold stand.

SCARBOROUGH: That's a good one. That's a 92 issue.

GEIST: Well the McCain campaign seized on this comment and said you wait just a second Barack Obama and this never again business. Here's what the McCain campaign says quote: "Today he, Barack Obama, says

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never again. A year ago, stopping genocide wasn't a good enough to keep U.S. forces in Iraq. Doesn't that strike you as inconsistent?" That from the McCain camp. [...]

SCARBOROUGH: Well the question is if the McCain campaign is going to go down this road, Mike Murphy, don't they also have to also say Bill Clinton was wrong to not invade Rwanda in 1994, Bill Clinton was wrong not to invade Sudan in 1998, George Bush was wrong not to invade the Congo. If this is the McCain campaign's measure, then we would have troops all over the world.

MIKE MURPHY: This is a thread on a complicated sweater. You ought to be careful about polling. Genocide and campaign doesn't mix. I think what the McCain campaign is trying to do is they've had a frustrating week. They're also a campaign that totally believes in day-to-day press tactics. I think sometimes to their, to a mistake. In a view they missed the larger picture. Somebody got up at 3:00am and said what did Barack do? Hit him on that! So we're going to have a genocide discussion here.

Highlight #9
McCain Doesn't Get to Play While Obama's Away (ABC 07/24/08 7:15am)
DIANE SAWYER: . . . a new poll out this morning showing Barack Obama leading 47% to 41% over John McCain and it comes as the candidates engage in two very different campaign schedules . . .

[. . .]

SAWYER: . . . Sen. McCain had some big plans this morning but things didn't turn out as he hoped . . .

DAVID WRIGHT: . . . Colombus, Ohio doesn't have quite the flair of a European campaign jaunt. This is more of a meat and potatoes campaign stop. And we are here about eight hours early because the big event of the day got canceled. John McCain had hoped to steal some of Obama's thunder today by climbing aboard an offshore oil rig in Louisiana.

[. . .]

WRIGHT: But Mother Nature intervened. Worse than that, an oil spill closed 29-miles of the Mississippi River. Not exactly the best visual for McCain to make the case that America needs to drill more oil wells. The campaign is painfully aware of Obama's entourage. This week the McCain campaign gave us new press credentials in French and English. They say, the JV Press Squad, the Varsity? They're off with Obama. Today, the closest McCain will come to those adoring crowds in Europe is the reflected glory of a Tour de France champion, Lance Armstrong is endorsing McCain. *[this endorsement report was later shown to be incorrect; Mr. Wright corrected it for the West Coast edition]*

MATT DOWD: I think anytime in your campaign when you're complaining about media coverage, it means your campaign isn't running well.

WRIGHT: If McCain has any more surprises up his sleeve, he's not tipping his hand.

[cut to interview of McCain]

WRIGHT: Are you going to name your vice president?

JOHN MCCAIN: Uh, we're not talking about it.

[. . .]

WRIGHT: McCain did add one more campaign stop today. Lunch with business leaders here in Colombus.

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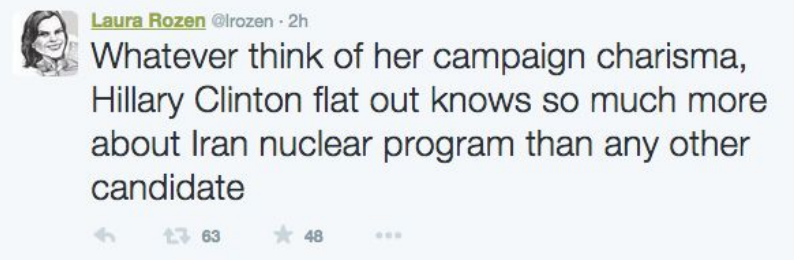
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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	9/9/2015 12:25:45 PM
Subject:	Re: TWEETS 9/9

Ok

On Thursday, September 10, 2015, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Re-upping these for the morning. Retweets may be a bit behind the times but the tweets should still be ok.
>
> On Wed, Sep 9, 2015 at 11:08 AM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > TWEETS 9/9
> >
> > Evidence that unions push policies — higher minimum wage, $ for schools, govt programs — that benefit workers http://nyti.ms/1hXdo4W @amprog (139)
> >
> > .@HillaryClinton's history confronting Iran's support for terrorism & countering its nuclear ambitions is unmatched
> > https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/factsheets/2015/09/08/counter-threats-from-iran/ (140)
> >
> > Falling cost of batteries and distributed solar signal a major shift. It's time to open up the grid. http://www.vox.com/2015/9/9/9287719/utilities-monopoly?utm_campaign=vox&utm_content=article%3Afixed&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter#
> > *Want to piss off some utilities? Really great long-form piece from Vox about breaking down public utilities and opening up the grid to innovation...*
> > (140)
> >
> > RETWEETS 9/9
>
> 
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>
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>

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Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/23/2015 12:42:26 PM
Subject:	Fwd: Daily Media Report 6.23.15

Why is Jake Tapper such a dick?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Jun 23, 2015 3:45 PM
Subject: Daily Media Report 6.23.15
To: "HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com >, "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, "Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com >, "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, "Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc:

National:

-- Report on how presidential candidates were talking about the Charleston church shooting; reported that HRC was having a discussion about race near Ferguson, Missouri; showed footage of HRC talking about race in Missouri today; reported that HRC addressed segregation in schools in America; panel with Michael Eric Dyson and Charles Ogletree; Dyson said what HRC was doing is "exceptionally good" because she was talking about structural realities; Ogletree said he appreciated that HRC would move beyond the issues and have a deep discussion about race; played footage of HRC talking about the Confederate flag. MSNBC's The Ed Show, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Michael Eric Dyson Charles Ogletree HRC race talk.mp4

-- Discussion about the SC Confederate flag controversy; Eric Bolling said he had a problem with who was weighing in on the controversy; Bolling mentioned HRC said she was against the flag in 2007 when she ran for POTUS; Bolling said HRC was in the White House (sic) as First Lady when WJC signed a bill in Arkansas to create the top star on the Arkansas flag that was a hat tip to the Confederacy; Bolling asked where HRC was then. Fox News' The Five , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Eric Bolling on WJC and the Confederate flag.mp4

-- Discussion about how GOP contenders responded to the SC Confederate flag controversy; panel with SE Cupp and Bill Burton; Cupp mentioned that HRC has the added burden of explaining to voters why Democratic policies over the last seven years helped blacks while by almost every metric life for blacks has gotten worse. CNN's The Lead With Jake Tapper , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, SE Cupp on HRC and black voters.mp4

-- Roundtable discussion about South Carolina getting closer to moving the Confederate flag off the State Capitol grounds; panel included Nick Confessore; Alex Wagner read an excerpt from HRC's Missouri speech, "We can't hide from hard truths on race. We have to name them, own them, and change them;" Wagner reported that HRC has been speaking to young people, people of color; Wagner said it would seem that the Confederate flag would be a good issue for HRC to take up; Confessore said he didn't think the flag would last long as an issue for HRC's campaign, said HRC's platform on social problems would be what attracted young people and people of color to HRC's campaign; Wagner said the flag gives HRC a central locus to unite other issues she's been talking about behind. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 23, Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Nick Confessore on HRC and the Confederate flag.mp4

-- Roundtable discussion about South Carolina getting closer to moving the Confederate flag off the State Capitol grounds; panel included Jess McIntosh; McIntosh said she was concerned we would turn our focus to symbols and less on the effects of the evil institution of slavery; McIntosh briefly noted that HRC talked in her speech about everything from income inequality faced by African Americans to the higher rates of asthma among African American kids. MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner , 2015 06 23Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Jess McIntosh on HRC and racial inequality effects.mp4

--Report on HRC and Race Relations: HRC talking about race relations at a church near Ferguson, MO. Jake Tapper questions whether she is genuine in her interest in race or whether she is just trying to gain support for her bid at the presidential nomination. CNN's The Lead with Jake Tapper . 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Jake Tapper on HRC.mp4

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--Report on HRC in Missouri: Brooke Baldwin speaks about HRC giving a speech in Florissant, Missouri. Clips of HRC giving her opinion about the Confederate flag as a symbol of racism that existed in our country in Florissant, MO. South Carolina is agreeing to debate on removal of the Confederate flag and no longer issuing the Confederate flag emblem on license plates and other items. CNN's CNN Newsroom with Brooke Baldwin.2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Brooke Baldwin on HRC speech.mp4

--Report on HRC's Poll Numbers: David Asman claims that HRC's poll numbers have not gone down despite her negative coverage. Asman claims that HRC may be in trouble with socialist, Bernie Sanders, pushing her more to the left. Fox's Fox After the Bell. 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton; Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, HRC poll numbers.mp4

--Report on HRC and Her Presidential Run So Far Compared to Nixon: Abby Huntsman claims that HRC has focused on speaking to the public in her campaign, but she has not focused on speaking to the media. For this reason, a new WSJ OP-ED has compared HRC to President Richard Nixon. In the OP-ED, Nixon and HRC both see enemies everywhere and is not a good campaigner. According to Evan Thomas, Nixon was shy and awkward, but fear of his enemies drew him into the White House. Thomas claims that HRC tries to manipulate the press, and it will not work because it did not work for Nixon. Nixon and HRC share personality flaws. Evan Thomas claims that she will have small scandals that will constantly come back to her. Thomas claims that she is not the person she positions herself as, and that she has a husband who has committed a number of scandals himself. Ari Melbur claims that it is not proactive to compare anyone to Nixon, and that HRC has not done anything that is relatable to Nixon's impeachment or wrongdoings while in office. Melbur claims that HRC has not done anything that could compare her to Nixon in a negative light. Evan Thomas claims that Nixon plays on fears, and that it is important to look at what Nixon did versus what he said and then compare to HRC. Thomas claims that he integrated Southern public schools. Thomas claims that Nixon would have taken the Confederate flag down. Nixon was pro affirmative action. Evan Thomas claims that when he governed, he was similar to HRC. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC compared to Nixon.mp4

--Report on HRC's Faults in Her Last Run for Presidency: Howard Fineman claim that HRC followed in the footsteps of WJC. Now, she is running as the heir of BHO's coalition. Fineman claims that now she is especially going after race as an issue to keep BHO's supporters. Fineman claims that HRC must appeal to racial justice, cultural justice, and social justice. Abby Huntsman asks whether Bernie Sanders pushing HRC to the left will cause people to vote for Jeb Bush, who is more moderate. Fineman claims that HRC will be more hesitant on economic and trade issues during the general election. Fineman claims that HRC's strategy is to be appealing through social issues and hesitant on economic issues. MSNBC's The Cycle .2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Fineman on HRC.mp4

--Report on HRC and the Dynasty Issue: Howard Fineman speaks about the dynasty issue. Fineman claims that the number one concern about politics is not dynasty politics but the money in politics. Fineman claims that the public is more worried about the huge floods of money coming into politics and corporations. Fineman claims that name recognition and name familiarity is generally a good starting point. MSNBC's The Cycle . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC Dynasty.mp4

-- Report that HRC would speak in Missouri near the scene of the Michael Brown shooting; said HRC would participate in a community meeting; reported that an HFA statement said HRC's conversation would address the massacre in Charleston and broader issues around strengthening communities; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said HRC was leaning very far in on race; Seitz-Wald said this would be the third time HRC addressed race in a week, said this would be the keystone speech; Seitz-Wald said HRC was trying to repair some damage from 2008; Tamron Hall said HRC may be trying to repair some damage from her delay in commenting on Ferguson. MSNBC's News Nation . 2015.06.23, HRC in Missouri and race.mp4

-- Report on NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Anne Gearan and Alex Seitz-Wald; Gearan said the numbers were very good news for HRC; Gearan said as much as HFA's strategy had been criticized that something is working; Andrea Mitchell also noted that the numbers would tell HFA that their strategy was working for HRC. MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports. 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC poll.mp4

-- Report on HRC's speech on Tuesday at a church near Ferguson; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said HRC was "leaning way in on race"; noted HRC was going to meet with local elected officials in a private meeting about an hour before her main event; noted two pastors would participate in HRC's main event, said that HFA officials told him that it was HRC's idea to do this; shifted into a report about the NBC/WSJ poll; ASW said HRC is talking about voting rights and criminal justice reform to get black voters to go to the polls. MSNBC's Live with Thomas Roberts, 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in MO.mp4

-- Report on the WSJ/NBC poll; angle is that HFA is trying to tamp down expectations as Bernie Sanders pulls in big crowds; Andrea Tantaros noted that Maria Cardona said she wouldn't be surprised if Sanders won Iowa or New Hampshire, said that was a sign HFA is trying to keep expectations low; Tantaros said HRC needed the

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base to think HRC didn't have the primary in the bag so they would show up for her; guest Taya Kyle said HRC was good at twisting the facts, said that HRC lacked morality; guest Charles Payne said HRC would be devastated if HRC lost Iowa or New Hampshire. Fox News' Outnumbered , 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC and reporters lash out.mp4

-- Report on BHO's decision to allow families to pay ransoms in international hostage situations; guest Taya Kyle; Kyle said HRC saying that people die in America every day was in the face of what it was like for the family member of a hostage; Kyle said if Chelsea was in a hostage situation that she didn't think HRC would have the same take on it. Fox News' Outnumbered . 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC and Benghazi.mp4

-- Report on HRC and Confederate flag; discussion about HRC's tweet that the Confederate flag should come down. Fox News' Outnumbered .2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC confederate flag tweet.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Eliana Johnson and Betsy Woodruff; Johnson said HRC was doing well in polls due to name recognition because Marco Rubio and Scott Walker are still unknowns to most Americans; Woodruff said the percentage of Democratic primary voters who could see themselves voting for HRC has gone up since March; Johnson said Democrats weren't excited about HRC. Fox News' Happening Now , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Eliana Johnson w Betsy Woodruff on HRCs good polls.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with Kasie Hunt; Hunt said Bernie Sanders is getting a lot of crowds in many places, said she was not convinced that anyone was convinced that Sanders would be nominated over HRC; Hunt said she thought the early states represented the biggest risks for HRC given their small size and unpredictable natures, said HRC was still the really strong frontrunner at this point. MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Kasie Hunt on HRCs front-runner status.mp4

-- Report that candidates embraced the removal of the Confederate flag after hedging; panel with SE Cupp; Cupp mentioned that she hoped HRC got the same amount of questions as the Confederate flag as the GOP candidates given that WJC celebrated Confederate flag day as Governor of Arkansas and signed a bill that allowed one of the stars on the Arkansas flag to stand for the Confederate States. CNN's CNN Newsroom With Carol Costello, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, SE Cupp on HRC and Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report that HRC planned to speak at a Missouri church near Ferguson; interviewed Alex Seitz-Wald; Seitz-Wald said he expected HRC to address race and policing; Seitz-Wald said this would be the third time in a week that HRC talked about race; Seitz-Wald said the black voting block was important for HRC in the primary and the general election "if she makes it there." MSNBC's The Rundown With Jose Diaz-Balart , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Alex Seitz-Wald on HRCs race and policing stances.mp4

-- Report on the NBC/WSJ poll; panel with ; reported that the majority of Democrats wanted there to be a competitive primary; showed footage of Lincoln Chafee on "Your World" on Monday; Mark Hannah and Rich Lowry; Lowry said Sanders is nipping at HRC's heels in some of the early states; Hannah said people were curious about Sanders because no one knew who he was six months ago; Hannah noted that 92 percent of Democrats said they could support HRC; Lowry said HRC tacking left was a general election strategy to motivate her base; shifted into report about HRC's answer about The Clinton Foundation to WMUR on Sunday; Hannah said HRC has faced media scrutiny and the GOP candidates have taken HRC to task but HRC's favorability is still hire than her unfavorability. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Mark Hannah and Rich Lowry on HRCs good polls.mp4

-- Report on how politicians responded to SC governor's call for the Confederate flag's removal from the State Capitol; mentioned that HRC tweeted that Nikki Haley was right to call for the removal of the Confederate flag. Fox News' America's Newsroom With Bill Hemmer and Martha MacCallum, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Report on HRCs tweet about SC Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report on GOP grappling with Confederate flag issue; panel with Paul Begala and Tara Setmayer; Chris Cuomo mentioned that HFA pointed to HRC's comment on South Carolina's display of the Confederate flag in 2007; Cuomo asked Begala whether HRC had to answer for her time as FLOAR when WJC stood by the Arkansas flag; Begala said yes, said times change; Begala mentioned that Zell Miller with WJC's help tried to get the Confederate flag off the Georgia flag; Setmayer noted that WJC and HRC celebrated Confederate Flag Day in Arkansas; Setmayer said HRC have to explain her evolution like Republicans do; shifted into report on the NBC/WSJ poll; Setmayer said the polls were what she'd expect at this time because the election is so far away; Cuomo asked Begala whether Biden or Kerry would be a bigger threat to HRC; Begala dodged, said there would be a tough primary battle but HRC would win. CNN's New Day , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Paul Begala on HRC and Confederate flag.mp4

-- Report on HRC's comments about the Russian uranium deal; interviewed Laura Ingraham; Ingraham said HRC passed off good questions as partisan drumbeating; reported on Peter Schweizer's NY Post op-ed; reported that HRC said there were nine agencies involved in the decision; Ingraham asked rhetorically who in the BHO

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administration would not do what HRC asked them to do if she wanted something done; shifted to report on the NBC/WJC poll that showed 67 percent of voters were satisfied with a Bush-Clinton election; Ingraham said Democrats were happier with that pairing than Republicans. Fox News' Fox and Friends ,2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Laura Ingraham on Peter Schweizer and HRCs polls.mp4

-- Report on BHO using the "N" word during a podcast interview; panel with Nia-Malika Henderson and Sara Murray; Henderson said the question was how other Democrats pick up the conversation of race; Henderson noted that HRC gave a major speech on Saturday about race, said HRC would have more conversations about race in Missouri; shifted into report about the NBC/WSJ poll; Murray said HRC was able to gain a lot of ground since the relaunch; Murray said the relaunch was optically very good for HRC; Murray said the poll shows the panic surrounding HRC may have been overblown; Chris Cuomo said Joe Biden was not in the race, said Biden's potential entry could give people on the Left pause for concern. CNN's New Day , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, NiaMalika Henderson Sara Murray on polls and race.mp4

-- Report that Bernie Sanders drew 5,500 people to his event in Denver; panel with Daniel Halper and Jessica Tarlov; Tarlov said people are interested in Sanders but will absolutely not vote for him; Halper said Sanders is the heart and soul of the Democratic Party; Halper said Sanders could win Iowa and New Hampshire; Tarlov questioned how Sanders could win Iowa when he was 40 points behind; Halper said Democrats rejected HRC last time around and could do it again this time; Halper brought up John Kerry, Al Gore, Elizabeth Warren, and Deval Patrick as people who may jump in if they weren't satisfied with HRC; Tarlov said the only person who could shake up the primaries would be Warren. Fox News' Fox & Friends , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Daniel Halper and Jessica Tarlov on HRCs polls.mp4

-- Report that HRC was expected to talk about race on Tuesday when she campaigned in Missouri; noted that HRC dominated the NBC/WSJ poll; Joe Scarborough said this poll was out-of-line from most of the polls over the last month or two; Scarborough said it would likely be an all-nighter if HRC and Bush face one another in the general election; Brzezinski said she thought there was a real disconnect between the conversation inside Washington and America on HRC; Brzezinski said Americans ("they") will just vote for HRC, "they go crazy"; Mike Barnicle noted that HRC is on her own clock. MSNBC's Morning Joe , 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Brzezinski said Americans go crazy for HRC.mp4

-- Report on HRC's answer from WMUR on Sunday about the 20% of uranium that was transferred to Vladimir Putin; Ed Henry (guest host) said Peter Schweizer thought HRC's comments about people wielding the partisan axe were about him; reported on Schweizer's op-ed in the NY Post; reported that nine of the investors who profited from the uranium deal donated to The Clinton Foundation; Henry said now that HRC's coming out with specifics that Schweizer's come back in this op-ed and refuted HRC's statements line-by-line. Fox News' Fox and Friends, 2015 06 23 Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Peter Schweizer oped about HRC Russia uranium deal.mp4

States:

Nevada:

--Report on HRC on Confederate Flag: HRC tweets about Confederate flag. Several other 2016 presidential candidates also tweeted about this controversy. KTNV(CBS)'s *Channel 2 Morning News* , Reno (NV). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag controversy.mp4

South Carolina:

--Report on HRC and flag: HRC's campaign claims that HRC wanted the Confederate flag to be removed since 2007. WTAT-CHS(FOX)'s *Morning News at 7* , Charleston (SC). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag.mp4

--Report on HRC and racism: HRC will join with church members near Ferguson Missouri. She will address race and strengthening communities. WTOC-SAV(CBS)'s *WOTC News at Daybreak 7A* , Savannah (GA). 2015.06.23, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC race church.mp4

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--Report on HRC support: Reporters claim that HRC is ahead of the Democratic candidates by a land slide. Reporters also claim that HRC has a lead in terms of her Republican counterparts as well. WMBF (NBC)'s WMBF News at 11, Myrtle Beach (SC).2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC leading Democrat and Republican.mp4

Iowa:

--Report on HRC and flag controversy: HRC tweets about Confederate flag and Charleston, South Carolina, shooting. Reporters claim that HRC wants the flag removed, according to her campaign. KMEG(CBS)'s *Siouxland News at Sunrise* , Sioux (IA). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC flag campaign.mp4

--Report on HRC in Missouri: Reporters claim that HRC will be making a campaign stop in Missouri, her first stop there since she became a Presidential Candidate. HRC will make statements about Michael Brown and race, according to reporters. KTVO(ABC)'s *KTVO News at 5* , Ottumwa (IA) . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in Missouri.mp4

New Hampshire:

--Report on HRC polls: According to the NBC News/Wall Street Journal polls, HRC is in the lead on the Democratic side with 75%, 15% for Bernie Sanders, 4% for Jim Webb, and 2% for MOM. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New Englan* d, Boston (MA) .2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC leading in polls.mp4

--Report on HRC in NH: HRC and her campaign have claimed that it is difficult for any candidate to get more than 50 percent of the vote in a New Hampshire state primary. WBIN's *NH1 News Tonight* , Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, HRC in NH.mp4

Bernie Sanders:

--Repot on Bernie Sanders and Flag Controversy: Reporters claim that Bernie Sanders tweeted about the flag controversy in support of removing the flag. KTVN(CBS)'s *Channel 2 Morning News* , Reno (NV). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders flag.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New England*, Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new poll.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WHO-DM(NBC)'s *Early Day*, Des Moines (IA). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new WSJ poll.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Poll: 15% of primary voters claim that they would vote for Sanders. Sanders comes in at second place after HRC in the NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll. WMBF(NBC)'s WMBF *News at 11*, Myrtle Beach (SC). 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders and new WSJ poll.mp4

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--Report on Sanders as opposition: Bernie Sanders came in second in a recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll. HRC won with a massive percentage over Sanders. Reporters claim that Sanders will only be useful for some competition, but he will not win the Democratic nomination. MSNBC's *The Rundown with Jose Diaz Balart*. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders; HRC, Clips, National, Sanders and HRC in new poll.mp4

--Report on Sanders and HRC stances: Reporters claim that Sanders might pull HRC to the left, and this leftist stance may hurt her in the general election. Fox Business Network's *Varney & Company* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, HRC and Sanders leftist.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and HRC: Reporters claim that Sanders is inching up on HRC in some of the early states such as Iowa and New Hampshire. CNN's *New Day* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders; Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders and HRC early states.mp4

--Report on new NBC/WSJ Poll: Bernie Sanders comes in second with 15% of primary voters claiming they would vote for him in the primaries. MSNBC's *Morning Joe* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders WSJ.mp4

--Report on Sanders likelihood of success: Reporters claim that sanders does not have that presidential persona to do well; however, despite these facts, he is doing well and drawing numbers of crowds. Reporters claim that because Sanders is doing well in Iowa and New Hampshire, he will do a decent job in the primaries. Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor* . 2015.06.23., Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders' success.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Obama: Sanders claims that what President Obama has done is not enough, and that as president, more must be done in terms of economy and taxes. Fox Business Network's *Cavuto: Coast to Coast*. 2015.06.23, Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on Obama.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and Trade Deal: Sanders claimed that he is differentiating himself from other candidates. Reporters showcase Sanders speaking out on the trade deal in the Senate. Al Jazeera America. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Clips, National, Sanders on Trade.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders and African American vote: Reporters claim that Sanders comes from a dominantly Caucasian state. Therefore, he may have difficulty getting this vote. HRC stands as the strongest for this group of voters. MSNBC's *Live with Thomas Roberts* . 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders on the African American vote.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders as a Threat: David Asman claims that it is possible that Sanders could win New Hampshire. Ed Henry claims that there is anger on the left because HRC is seen as a centrist. Henry claims that HRC must declare herself on trade and taxes because Sanders is appealing largely to the left. Henry claims that this leftist approach might hurt her in the general elections. Fox Business Network's *After the Bell*. 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Sanders on HRC.mp4

--Report on Bernie Sanders interview on The Ed Show: In an interview with Bernie Sanders, Sanders claims that he is grateful for the support that he has gotten from Elizabeth Warren's supporters. Sanders claims that today in Congress was a major defeat and a setback. Sanders claims that the trade agreement is the cause of major setbacks in our economy and for jobs for American people. MSNBC's *The Ed Show* . 2015.06.23., Clips, National, Sanders intereview.mp4

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Martin O'Malley:

--Report on MOM and WSJ/NBC poll: MOM comes in at last place with 2% on NBC/WSJ poll. *CNN's New Day*. 2015.06.23., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM poll.mp4

--Report on MOM and African American Vote: Reporters claim that MOM will not do well with the African American vote because he has "baggage" with African Americans after the Baltimore unrest. MSNBC's *Live with Thomas Roberts*. 2015.06.23., Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Clips, National, Sanders on the African American vote.mp4

--Report on MOM and Flag Controversy: MOM tweeted saying that the Confederate flag should be removed from South Carolina.WTAT-CHS(FOX)'s *Morning News at 7*, Charleston (SC) . 2015.06.23., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, MOM Flag Controversy.mp4

--Report on MOM and New Poll: 2 percent say that they would support MOM in the primaries. WHDH-BOS(NBC)'s *7 News Today in New England* , Boston (MA). 2015.06.23., Martin O'Malley, Clips, National, Polls.mp4

--Report on MOM in New Hampshire: MOM will be in New Hampshire and speak to the Greater Dairy London Dairy Chamber of Commerce on July 8. WMUR-MAN(ABC)'s *News 9 Tonight* , Manchester (NH) . 2015.06.23., MOM in NH.mp4

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/25/2008 3:20:25 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/25/08

Main Topics: Blitzer interviews McCain, Dalai Lama visit, Iraqi withdrawal

Summary of Shift: The mortgage crisis continues to hurt Americans and the economy. A portion of a 747 fuselage fell off in mid-air, prompting questions about aging airline fleet safety. Randy Pausch's death leads to nationwide mourning. Peppers from Mexico are the confirmed culprits in the recent salmonella outbreak.

Highlights
1) CNN: McCain sits down for interview with Wolf Blitzer
2) McCain visits with the 14th Dalai Lama
   a. FNC: Nancy Pfotenhauer wants to maintain worldwide American supremacy
   b. CNN LS: His Holiness and McCain speak
3) McCain's Iraq withdrawal woes
   a. MSNBC: McCain says 16 months is 'a pretty good timetable'
   b. MSNBC: McCain's stance puts him at odds with Iraqi PM

No clips
1) FNC: Mort Kondracke says, despite the McCain camp's claims, McCain made little impact on the press and that McCain's claims that Obama would lose a war for political purposes is near 'the edge.'

Clips
Highlight #1
Wolf Blitzer Interviews John McCain (CNN 07/25/08 4:16pm)
BLITZER: And joining us now, the Republican presidential candidate, John McCain.

Senator McCain, welcome back.

MCCAIN: Thanks, Wolf. Good to be back.

BLITZER: Let's talk about you're elected president of the United States. It's January 20, 2009. First day you're in the Oval Office. After you're sworn in, what's the first thing you do?

MCCAIN: You sit down with your national security advisers and say, how can we keep the peace in the world, what do we need to do, and what actions do we have to take, what actions have worked, which ones haven't, which policies haven't worked? And keep this nation safe and secure.

And then, of course, how do we restore trust and confidence in government? We've got to take some measures to reform the way that government does business, the way Congress does business, and get Americans' trust and confidence back in this country. And that means -- and their government -- and that means reforming the way the government does business, which Americans have lost trust and confidence in.

BLITZER: And what about what a lot of people call issue #1, the domestic economy, which seems to be in real serious trouble right now and, by almost all accounts, will still be in serious trouble in January of next year? What's the first thing you do on the economy?

MCCAIN: Restrain spending is the first thing we have to do. We have to restrain out-of-control spending.

We have to reform government. We have to embark on measures to keep people in their homes, to keep their taxes low, to create new jobs, and to get our economy back moving again. And that's part of the trust and confidence.

We've got to regain the trust and confidence of the American people, because we have to act together. We have

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to put our country first.

The Congress and the government is fundamentally gridlocked, as we know. And that's why we see the all-time low approval ratings of Congress. And so we have to sit down together, Republican and Democrat together, and start working for the good of this nation.

Keep people in their homes, provide them with affordable and available health care, create new jobs all across this country. And we can do it.

And one of the major, major aspects of this, of course, is energy independence. The price of a gallon of gas is killing, is harming fixed-income Americans very badly. They are the ones that drive the oldest automobiles and drive the furthest. And so we have to have this positive movement and mission, a national mission, to become independent of foreign oil.

BLITZER: All right. We're going to get to all those issues one by one. Let's talk a little bit about some national security issues.

You're president of the United States. You vowed that you will capture Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice.

Now, we know that President Bush, since 9/11, has been doing the best he can. What would you do differently?

MCCAIN: Well, I'm not going to telegraph a lot of the things that I'm going to do, because then it might compromise our ability to do so. But look, I know the area. I've been there. I know wars, I know how to win wars, and I know how to improve our capabilities so that we will capture Osama bin Laden, or put it this way, bring him to justice.

We can do it. I know how to do it.

BLITZER: If you capture him alive, what do you do with him?

MCCAIN: Of course you put him on trial. I mean, there are ample precedents for that. And it might be a good thing to reveal to the world the enormity of this guy's crimes and his intentions, which are still there, and he's working night and day to destroy everything we stand for and believe in.

BLITZER: Do you do him a regular civilian trial here in the United States, or is it a war crimes tribunal, a military commission? What kind of legal justice would you bring him toward?

MCCAIN: We have various options. But the Nuremberg trials are certainly an example of the kind of tribunal that we could move forward with. I don't think we would have any difficulty devising an international -- an internationally-supported mechanism that would mete out justice. And there's no problem there.

BLITZER: All right. Let's talk about the war in Iraq right now.

Charles Krauthammer, "The Washington Post" conservative columnist, he writes that the prime minister of Iraq, Nuri al-Maliki, in recent days "... voted for Obama, casting the earliest and most ostentatious absentee ballot of this presidential election."

If you were president, and Nuri al-Maliki is still the elected prime minister of Iraq, and he says he wants all U.S. troops out, what do you do?

MCCAIN: Well, first of all, I know Prime Minister Maliki rather well. I know that he is a politician. And I know that they are looking at upcoming elections.

I know that he knows, and the other leaders know there, that it has to be condition-based. Any withdrawals -- which we will withdraw. We have succeeded. The surge has succeeded, and we're on the road to victory.

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And we will be out of there. And we may have a residual presence of some kind, as I've always said, but the fact is, the surge has succeeded.

And the fundamental here is that I supported that surge when it was not the popular thing to do. Senator Obama opposed it, said it wouldn't work, even voted to cut off the funds for the men and women who are fighting over there, and still -- and he still doesn't understand to the point where he doesn't agree that the surge has succeeded.

No rational observer who sees the conditions in Iraq today as opposed to two years ago could possibly -- could possibly conclude that the surge hasn't succeeded. So he sees it as a political issue. He doesn't understand the importance of this victory and the consequences of failure and the benefits of success.

If we had done what Senator Obama wanted to do, which by the way, initially would have been the troops out last March, we would have had greater Iranian influence, we would have had an increase in sectarian violence. We would have seen possibly a wider war in the region which would have drawn us back. So I can assure you that Prime Minister Maliki understands that conditions have to be kept. And I want to tell you again, General Petraeus, one of the great generals in history, strongly disagrees with Senator Obama, and our highest ranking military officer also says it would be a very dangerous course.

We're not going to go down that road.

BLITZER: But if Maliki persists, you're president and he says he wants U.S. troops out and he wants them out, let's say, in a year or two years or 16 months or whatever, what do you do? Do you just listen to the prime minister?

MCCAIN: He won't. He won't.

BLITZER: How do you know?

MCCAIN: Because he knows it has to be conditions-based.

BLITZER: How do you know that?

MCCAIN: Because I know him. And I know him very well. And I know the other leaders. And I know -- I've been there eight times, as you know. And I know them very, very well.

And the point is...

BLITZER: So why do you think he said that 16 months is basically a pretty good timetable?

MCCAIN: He said it's a pretty good timetable based on conditions on the ground. I think it's a pretty good timetable, as we should -- our horizons for withdrawal. But they have to be based on conditions on the ground.

This success is very fragile. It's incredibly impressive, but very fragile.

So we know, those of us who have been involved in it for many years, know that if we reverse this by setting a date for withdrawal, all the hard-won victory can be reversed. We're not ready to do that. Too many brave young Americans and their families have sacrificed too much.

But we will be out. And the difference is, we'll be out with victory and honor and not defeat.

Senator Obama has said there's a possibility under his plan we may have to go back. I guarantee you, after they withdraw under what we are doing, we'll never have to go back.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

BLITZER: John McCain also makes some controversial comments during our one-on-one interview.

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(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: If you were president, would you move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem?

MCCAIN: Yes.

BLITZER: When?

MCCAIN: Right away.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Up next, the flash point issue involving U.S. diplomacy in Israel. And he's answering your questions also about what he would do to keep the U.S. safe from attack.

Much more of the interview with Senator McCain coming up.

Plus, Barack Obama canceled plans to visit wounded troops in Germany. Now bloggers are going wild. Obama's campaign is explaining.

We'll have a report. That's coming up as well.

Stay with us. You're in THE SITUATION ROOM.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BLITZER: Remember our interview with Senator Barack Obama, that's still to come here in THE SITUATION ROOM. A special day here in THE SITUATION ROOM. Both of these presidential candidates speaking to CNN, and a sharp dispute between the nominees-in-waiting over Iraq.

Let's get back to my one-on-one interview with Republican Senator John McCain, which also includes some on-camera questions you've submitted to the senator through our iReports.

Take a look.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

BLITZER: You also made a very serious charge against Senator Obama. You've repeated it, you say you stand by it, that he would rather lose a war to win a political campaign. Raising questions about, you know, his motives.

Joe Klein, writing in "TIME" magazine, says, "This is the ninth presidential campaign I've covered. I can't remember a more scurrilous statement by a major party candidate. It smacks of desperation."

Those are pretty strong words from Joe Klein, whom you obviously know.

But tell us, what are you charging? What are you accusing Obama of doing? MCCAIN: I am accusing -- I am stating the facts. And the facts are, that I don't question Senator Obama's patriotism. I'm sure that he's a very patriotic American. I question his judgment because he lacks experience and knowledge, and I question his judgment.

I'm not prepared to see the sacrifice of so many brave young Americans lost because Senator Obama just views this war as another political issue which he can change positions. And everybody knows that he was able to obtain the nomination of his party by appealing to the far left and committing to a course of action that I believe was -- I know was wrong, because he said the surge would not work. He said had wouldn't succeed.

No rational observer in Iraq today believes that the surge did not succeed. So he just treats it as another political

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issue because he doesn't understand, and he doesn't have the knowledge and the background to make the kind of judgments that are necessary.

And this war has enormous ramifications. If we had lost it, we would have faced enormous challenges in the region, throughout the world, increased Iranian influence, perhaps even having to come back in a wider war. So he simply does not understand, and treats it as another political issue.

BLITZER: But he says that when it comes to judgment, back in 2002 and 2003, early 2003, before the war, he made the right call in opposing the war to begin with, and he says you blundered, you made the wrong call in supporting going to war against Saddam Hussein.

MCCAIN: I would be more than happy to go through all of that again, and historians will. The fact is that Saddam Hussein was bent on the development of weapons of mass destruction, and I'll be glad to discuss that.

The fact is, what did we do at a critical time when we were about to lose the war? We were losing the war.

Senator Obama wanted to get out, I wanted the surge, which was not popular. The surge works. And now what do we do in the future? Do we continue on the path to victory -- and we've succeeded -- or do we set a time for withdrawal and jeopardize and possibly reverse all the gains that we have made? That's the question on the minds of the American people today.

BLITZER: We invited our viewers, Senator McCain, to submit some video questions for you. Sort of our video version of a town hall meeting.

Jonathan Collins (ph) of Tampa, Florida, says he's very liberal, but he says he has no connections to either campaign. He asks this question -- I'll play it for you. Listen to this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JONATHAN COLLINS, FLORIDA: Can you please, in layman's terms, so that the entire world will know when these events happen, we have won the war in Iraq. Can you please give us your definition.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Go ahead, Senator. I guess the question is, define...

MCCAIN: Sure. It's the classic...

BLITZER: Define victory in Iraq.

MCCAIN: Sure. It's the classic outcome of a successful counterinsurgency, which strategy is an effective government, a secure environment, a social, economic and political process that's moving forward. Very importantly, a legal system that is functioning to protect the rights of the people. Americans withdrawing, and the Iraqi people having a chance at freedom and democracy, which obviously they were never going to have under Saddam Hussein.

And we avoid the risk of a wider war. We reduce the influence of Iran in the region. We have a positive impact, even as far away as Afghanistan, because success breeds success.

But an Iraq that is a stable, normal country. And it's not over, as I said.

Al Qaeda is not defeated. They're on their heels, but they're not defeated. That's why we have a ways to go.

But the progress, by any parameter, has been dramatically good. And that's the path to victory in Iraq. And you can see it every single day in Baghdad, Mosul, Basra, and around the country. And I say, thank God.

BLITZER: I have a bunch of short questions. Hopefully some short answers.

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MCCAIN: Sure. Some short answers, OK.

BLITZER: We'll go through it, some straight talk. Some straight talk, as you like to do right now.

If Israel were to decide its existence or its security were threatened and bombed Iran's nuclear facilities, would U.S. presidents stand with Israel?

MCCAIN: I can only tell you, I will not discuss hypotheticals, and I can't.

But I can tell you this. The United States of America is committed to making sure that there's never a second Holocaust. That will be what I will do as president of the United States.

BLITZER: If you were president, would you move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem?

MCCAIN: Yes.

BLITZER: When?

MCCAIN: Right away.

BLITZER: Like as soon as you're inaugurated, right away, you would order the State Department to do that?

(CROSSTALK)

MCCAIN: I have been -- I have been committed to that proposition for years.

BLITZER: The -- we have this question from Robert Weisman of Skokie, Illinois. He considers him on the liberal side of the spectrum. But he asks this question. Listen to this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

ROBERT WEISMAN, ILLINOIS: Senator McCain, do you agree with or would you unequivocally reject and repudiate the Bush doctrine of preemptive war?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Did you hear that question?

MCCAIN: Well, that's -- that's -- yes, that's a very, very tough question. And it's based on the judgment of a commander in chief.

No nation can wait until it is attacked, when it is clear that there is going to be an impending attack from either a terrorist organization or a hostile nation. So, those kinds of judgments need to be made by -- by presidents.

And, again, you have to have the knowledge and the experience and the background to make those kinds of judgments. Do I favor preemptive war? Of course not. None of us do. But it's the first obligation of the president of the United States to secure our nation and make sure that we are not attacked, and American lives are lost or sacrificed.

So, that's why I said when you asked me earlier, what was my first thing I would do as president, and that's to make sure that everything has been done, and is being done, to secure America's safety and security.

BLITZER: All right, we have got a few more quick questions.

MCCAIN: Sure.

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BLITZER: If you were president, would you take steps, would you work to repeal Roe v. Wade?

MCCAIN: I don't agree with the -- I don't agree with the decision. It's a decision that's there. I will appoint judges to the United States Supreme Court that -- that do enforce, strictly, the Constitution of the United States and do not legislate from the bench. BLITZER: Do you support a pathway to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants in the United States?

MCCAIN: Once we have secured the borders -- and I have not changed my position -- we tried twice in the United States Senate with comprehensive immigration reform, which meant securing our borders, a temporary worker program that works, and a path to citizenship for many, not all, but certainly many of the people who are already here illegally.

Americans want the borders secured first. We can do that. And we can establish a truly temporary worker program through the use of biometric tamper-proof documents. And we can put some people -- or a lot of them -- on the path to citizenship, requiring they pay fines, learn English, do all the things necessary, but the principle that they cannot have any priority of those who either waited or came to this country legally.

BLITZER: Given the high price of gas right now, you recently changed your position on offshore oil drilling. But you still oppose drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

If the price continues to go up, could you see yourself changing your mind on ANWR, as it's called?

MCCAIN: These are -- these are ways to attack a fundamental problem, as we all know, that are hurting Americans.

First, let's get offshore drilling going. Let's do it now. We can do it now. Oil company executives say that it could be as short a time as one to two years. Contrary to the belief of some, just the president's announcement of a lifting of the federal moratorium had an impact on the futures cost of a barrel of oil. Let's get going drilling offshore first, and let's do whatever's necessary, and that includes nuclear power, all -- both of which Senator Obama opposes.

BLITZER: You're in Colorado right now. They have an initiative on their ballot in November that would eliminate affirmative action. I don't know if you're familiar with that referendum, but is that a good idea?

MCCAIN: I'm not familiar with the referendum, Wolf. It's hard for me to say. I have always opposed quotas.

BLITZER: On the vice president front -- this is the final question, Senator -- there are stories out there you want to do this before the Olympic Games start in Beijing on August 8, and not wait any longer. Are those reports true?

MCCAIN: I can't comment on the process that we're going through. And I'm sure you understand that every -- every nominee of the party has gone through this. And I appreciate you asking the question, but I can't comment on the process. Thank you, though. And I know you understand.

(CROSSTALK) BLITZER: Of course we understand. I'm not asking you to tell us who it is.

(LAUGHTER)

BLITZER: I'm just wondering of the timing of when you think we will know.

MCCAIN: Well, I, again, cannot comment on the process. And I apologize for being so obtuse.

BLITZER: Don't -- don't apologize.

(LAUGHTER)

BLITZER: You know, you have every right to be obtuse. You have every right to not answer. This is a free

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country, as you want.

Senator McCain, appreciate your time.

MCCAIN: But, on this -- but, on this one...

BLITZER: Go ahead.

MCCAIN: Fine.

But, you know, on this one, I'm sure you understand. I'm sure that our viewers understand that, when we start commenting, you really get on a slippery slope. And, sometimes, that's unfair to the people that are under consideration.

And I thank you for having me on, Wolf. This has been a very in- depth interview, and I appreciate the time.

BLITZER: We appreciate your joining us. And we hope you will join us again sooner, rather than later.

MCCAIN: Sure.

BLITZER: Good luck out there on the campaign trail, Senator.

MCCAIN: Thank you.

Highlight #2
Global American Supremacy Works with the McCain Agenda, Pfotenhauer Says (FNC 07/25/08 8:23pm)
LAURA INGRAHAM: [Plays clip of Obama in Paris] tell me how John McCain thinks it's proper counter-programming to meet with the Dalai Lama when Obama is meeting with the president of France?

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Well Senator McCain has a lot of respect for the Dalai Lama., as do most leaders of the free world, if you will and right now there's the opportunity because he is in the United States. Senator McCain was already traveling to Colorado, which is a very important state for us in the upcoming election. So it's the opportunity to sit down with him and get his read on whether or not China is making good really on their promise to try to bring together progress after the very serious uprising and heavy- handed approach of China in April.

INGRAHAM: So is this McCain counter-programming with his own foreign policy and diplomatic expertise and meeting with this clear foe of the Chinese repression what's going on in China, Tibet because I'm heartened to hear that because we've had administration after administration cozy up to China. Does this foreshadow some new viewpoint on the part of McCain?

PFOTENHAUER: Well, Senator McCain has always been very, very clear on this type of—whenever this type of situation arises in the world and when this situation occurred in April, Senator McCain issued a very strong statement, saying China needed to change the way they were treating the Dalai Lama and the Tibetans and, in fact, if they didn't see that kind of progress that President Bush should consider not attending the opening ceremonies in China so this is kind of a follow-up visit.

But, if I may, what Senator McCain has been doing this week when Barack Obama has been being a citizen of the world, if you will, he's been reaching out to American citizens and he's been talking about the issues that they care about, bringing energy prices down, getting the economy on track, and keeping our nation safe and that is reflected in the tightening poll numbers in these key battleground states that we're seeing in Minnesota, in Michigan, and in Colorado.

INGRAHAM: He's still behind in almost every major in pretty much every major national poll, however, Nancy and we had Larry Sabato on the show from University of Virginia and his point is that McCain's running a campaign that's too risk-averse. He's not taking risks out on the campaign trail. What do you think of that criticism? And I

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think he's pointing to the when you're going to select the and announce the vice-presidential choice and I would say, go out there. Go to ANWR and say, 'Look, I've examined the situation, and it is important to decrease the price of gasoline for every American than it is for me to stand on my horse […] in ANWR.

PFOTENHAUER: Well, you know I heard Larry, what Larry had to say and I have to say I disagree with him. First of all, if you look at the generic ballots, Senator McCain is doing fantastically well and that is a reflection of a lot of things. Mostly that what his message is resonating [sic] and the more people focus, in the next hundred days, on the choice they have before them, with Senator McCain and his different view of the role of government, if you will, and Senator Obama, who has a view that is much closer to Germany and France […] with their high taxes, high spending, high regulation approach to economic policy that's a job killer and it's the worst thing you can do in this economy, versus Senator McCain, who is talking about low taxes, low spending, free trade, increasing domestic production and to lower energy prices. That's what people are going to want.

INGRAHAM: Let me tell you what my listeners on my radio show are saying and this is a pretty generic comment, but […] I am making a generalization here. They're frustrated because they think Senator McCain is not hitting Obama hard enough. I know he turned up the heat on the rhetoric this week and a lot of us were glad to see that.

I talked to the Talking Points Memo about talking to the American constituency versus the European constituency. The American worker versus the world worker or the European worker. That message is going to be […] what hits people harder than this blathering about this or that issue on a daily basis. I think it's got to be an America-first, America's supremacy in the world, we will not give that up. That 's my view and that's' what my listeners are saying.

PFOTENHAUER: Well I don't think that's, at all, at odds with what we've been saying. In fact, Senator McCain has called Senator Obama on the carpet on a few things […] the idea that Senator Obama can go to Iraq and openly disregard the recommendations of our generals on the ground there is stunning. It's absolutely stunning. Then you see him standing next to President Sarkozy, […] articulating a position that is at odds with a position he articulated two weeks ago.

I don't know whether he forgot it or whether he's just so used to pandering to whatever audience he's talking to that that's just what comes out of his mouth, but Senator McCain has been calling him on that and focusing correctly […] on what his vision for the country is. That is what people are responding to.

McCain Visits with Dalai Lama in Aspen, Colorado (CNN Live Stream)
MCCAIN: […] I urge the Chinese leaders to engage in talks and make progress with his holiness representatives in addressing the just grievances of the Tibetan people. […] The Olympics next month should be a time for China to demonstrate to the world that it's committed to respecting the basic human rights of its people. The United States welcomes good relations with China, but it does no service to the Chinese government, and certainly no service to the people of China, for the United States and other democracies to pretend that suppression of rights in China does not concern us. It does, will and must concern us. […]

DALAI LAMA: […] My basic commitment is promotion of human value. […] My old friend, now one of the candidates of the president this great sort of country. […] In deed I feel great great honor, and he showing genuine concern about democracy, human rights, and environmental issues in china […]

MCCAIN: Thank you your Holiness, and that is not an endorsement, that is a statement of the incredible power and influence of this unique citizen of the world in the cause of human rights and freedom. And of course our prayers are with you and the people of Tibet, particularly those, those that are held as political prisoners today. We urge the Chinese government to free them as soon as possible. […]

Highlight #3
Olbermann: McCain Calls Obama a Failure then Steals his Iraq Timeline for his Own (MSNBC 07/25/08 08:05pm)
OLBERMANN: Senator McCain has tonight reached a new high and low. First announcing that Barack Obama has failed the so called commander and chief test, then on TV endorsing Obama's plan for bringing forces home from Iraq. Senator McCain now saying a 16-month withdrawal timetable based on conditions on the ground is a

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pretty good timetable. The presumptive Republican nominee had already smeared his opponent for not having supported the surge. Never mind that the Arizona Republican cannot define that surge or pinpoint when it started. Senator McCain claiming that because he supported the surge and Senator Obama did not, the democrat failed what, thank you Senator Clinton, "Amounted to a real time test for future commander and chief. By the time he sat down for an interview with CNN, Senator McCain had embraced the failure's strategy for bringing the troops home. Hypothetically, McCain was asked what would he do as President should Iraq Prime Minister Maliki persist in saying, as he said as late as Monday, that he wants US Forces gone.

[Clip of CNN Interview]

MCCAIN: He won't because he knows it has to be conditions based.

WOLF BLITZER: How do you know?

MCCAIN: Because I know him and I know him very well. And I know the other leaders, and I know, I've been there 8 times as you know. And I know them very very well.

BLITZER: So why do you think he said that 16 months is basically a pretty good timetable.

MCCAIN: He said it's a pretty good timetable based on conditions on the ground. I think it's a pretty good timetable, as we should have horizons for withdrawal. But they have to be based on conditions on the ground.

OLBERMANN: To recap, Senator Obama has failed the commander in Chief test so Senator McCain steals the 16-month timetable for withdrawal, depending on conditions on the ground, from the failure, and then claims it as his own good idea.

Chris Matthews: McCain's Desire for Permanent Bases in Iraq is Preventing him from Using Maliki's Statement's to Declare Victory and Withdraw (MSNBC 07/25/08 05:10pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Well here is Senator McCain in Denver today on the home front. This is home fries vs. French fries.

JOHN MCCAIN: I went to Iraq many times and heard all the phony explanations about how we were winning. I knew we were failing and I told that to an administration that didn't want to hear it. I pushed for the new strategy that has now succeeded before most people even admitted there was a problem. Fortunately Senator Obama failed, not our military. We rejected the audacity of hopelessness, and we were right. Violence in Iraq fell to such low levels for such a long time that Senator Obama, detecting the success he never believed possible, falsely claimed that he'd always predicted it.

MATTHEWS: You know Ron and Chuck, the reaction from the Barack Obama campaign […] was he's angry. Are you gonna treat him like Mr. Wilson yelling at the kid on his lawn?

RON BROWNSTEIN: John McCain talked about bringing Barack Obama to educate him this spring. I mean look McCain I think does have a certain level of lack of respect for Obama […]. If you're looking forward the success of the surge seems to be driving the politics both in Iraq and in the US towards removing our troops. He wants to look back and say this was a test of judgment. Of course what Barack Obama can say is there was a bigger test a more fundamental test whether to launch the war in the first place. I was right on that and you were wrong. But that's the backward looking frame McCain wants to put on it.

MATTHEWS: […] Why doesn't John McCain brag now and say I was right, we won the war to the point were Maliki feels safe enough to say we can leave. I have accomplished our goal. Give enough security to those politicians in Iraq that they can let us go. He won, why doesn't he declare victory? Unless he wants permanent bases in Iraq. He's in with the Neo-Conservatives and wants permanent bases and doesn't agree with Maliki.

CHUCK TODD: […] He also said he would have most of the troops out by the end of his first term. that's a shift and you haven't heard rhetoric like that from McCain before. […]

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MATTHEWS: I think the debate is going to come down to whether we have permanent bases in Iraq or not. Because Maliki obviously doesn't want us to have them there.

BROWNSTEIN: and McCain has talked about a commitment to Iraq that could extend for decades.

MATTHEWS: Whether they like it or not!

TODD: But notice he hasn't talked about that lately.

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	service@paypal.com
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	5/20/2015 11:28:58 PM
Subject:	Getting Started with your PayPal Account

PayPal

Welcome to PayPal!

Hello John Podesta,

Send and receive payments instantly with your new PayPal account. Learn more about how your account works by clicking on a topic below, or log in to your PayPal account to get started now!

CONTENTS:

- Sending Payments
- Managing Your Account

PayPal – The safer, easier way to pay

- Use your credit card without exposing your card number to merchants.
- Speed through checkout without stopping to enter your card number or address.
- Easily send money to family and friends.

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Refunds - You can refund a payment to your customer within the first 60 days of the transaction. The refund link can be found on the Transaction Details page. Just click the **History** tab and then the **Details** link for the transaction.

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PayPal Email ID PP333 - 135cab6a9be18

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From:	"Stephen Paduano" <spaduano@hfaintern.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	7/16/2015 2:40:43 AM
Subject:	Summarized Clips (7.16.15)
Attachments:	Daily Clips (7.16.15).docx

Daily Clips

July 16, 2015

Hillary Clinton Reports Raising Almost $47 Million for Primary Campaign

NYT/Nicholas Confessore

- "Hillary Rodham Clinton raised $46.7 million for her primary campaign, more than half of it from women, according to campaign officials and reports filed on Wednesday with the Federal Election Commission."

Hillary Clinton Lags in Engaging Grass-Roots Donors

NYT/Nicholas Confessore, Maggie Haberman

- One-fifth of donations were less than $200, a smaller proportion than that of Democratic and Republican rivals "who have excited grass-roots donors on the left and right."
- "The slow response of grass-roots [for HRC] is a consequence, Mrs. Clinton's aides and advisers said, of the deliberately low-key approach she has taken on the campaign trail – with few of the big rallies and campaign events that can help build v oter lists and driv e donations…"

Hillary Clinton Spends $18 Million, Hires Hundreds

AP/Lisa Lerer, July Bykowicz

- "Hillary Rodham Clinton spent more than $18 million and hired hundreds of employees in the first three months of her presidential campaign, creating a national operation that v astly outpaces her rivals in both parties."
- "Beyond pay ing for salaries and space, her campaign purchased lists of voters in four early primary states, paid six figures to a super PAC dev oted to defending her record and spent heavily on building a digital team, according to campaign finance documents filed Wednesday with federal regulators."

Poll: Hillary Clinton's Lead Shrinks Among Democrats

Politico/Nick Gass

- According to a new Monmouth University poll out Wednesday, HRC's support among national Democratic voters has dropped 57 percent in June to 51 percent in July.
- Bernie Sanders trails at 17 percent, and O'Malley and Webb bring in 1 percent each.

Warren Pushes for Return of Glass-Steagall After Clinton Adviser Said She Won't Back Measure CNN/Dan Merica

- Elizabeth Warren emailed supporters Wednesday calling for signatures for her "21st Century Glass-Steagall Act," which was introduced by Warren and Sen. McCain last week.
- After HRC's speech on Monday, adv iser Alan Blinder told Reuters that HRC would not support a return of Glass-Steagall.
- However, an aide refuted Blinder Wednesday, saying "HRC will be announcing her ideas for dealing with the continuing problem of 'Too Big To Fail' in the coming weeks, and nothing has been taken off the table."

Hillary Clinton Becomes First 2016 Candidate To Release Bundler Names

HuffPo/Paul Blumenthal

- "Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton released the names of 159 campaign bundlers on Wednesday ,

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the first 2016 contender to disclose big-money fundraisers."

DC Rep Says Hillary Wants to make DC The 51st State

Daily Caller/Josh Fatzick

- "After speaking with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, DC's Delegate to Congress Eleanor Holmes Norton said she got Clinton's personal support for the DC statehood movement."

Rep. Marcia Fudge Endorses Hillary Clinton's Presidential Bid

Cleveland.com/Sabrina Eaton

- Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) announced her endorsement for HRC on Wednesday.

Martin O'Malley Raises $2 Million for Presidential Bid

NYT/Maggie Haberman

- Gov. O'Malley has raised $2 million since declaring his candidacy.

The Bernie Sanders Campaign, Brought To You By Small-Dollar Donors

WaPo/Jose A. DelReal

- Bernie Sanders has raised more than $15 million, with nearly $10.5 million in small contributions.

Jeb's Official Haul: $11.4 Million

Politico/Theodoric Meyer

- Jeb Bush's campaign reported Wednesday that it had raised $11.4 million during the second quarter of the year. His affiliated super PAC, Right to Rise, announced two weeks ago that it had raised $103 million

Scott Walker, in South Carolina, Skirts Gun Control and Flag Issues

NYT/Patrick Healy

- Gov. Scott Walker avoided the issue of gun control and the Confederate flag debate in his visit to South Carolina, where he praised the state and Gov. Nikki Haley for the response to last month's church shootings.

Scott Walker Backtracks on Reaction to Gay Boy Scout Leaders

Politico/Adam B. Lerner

- Scott Walker said Wednesday that the Boy Scouts ban on gay leaders "protected children," but he stated later that meant protection from a public debate – not physical protection.

Rand Paul's Official Haul: $7 Million

Politico/Katie Glueck, Jonathan Topaz

- Sen. Rand Paul's campaign took in about $7 million in the second quarter.

Ted Cruz Threatens Highway Bill Filibuster to Block Ex-Im Renewal

Politico/Seung Min Kim

- "Sen. Ted Cruz on Wednesday raised the prospect of blocking a must-pass highway bill because the measure could be used to revive the Export-Import Bank, which expired at the end of June."

Ted Cruz Foresees Military Action Against Iran

Bloomberg/Kathy Kiely

- "Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz thinks the proposed nuclear deal with Iran could force the next president to use military force and says he's prepared to make that decision."

Christie Picks Up 2016 Endorsement from Maryland Governor

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AP/Brian Witte

- Mary land Gov. Larry Hogan endorsed Chris Christie Wednesday.

Donald Trump Claims His Wealth Exceeds 'TEN BILLION DOLLARS'

NYT/Gerry Mullany

- Donald Trump issued a statement Wednesday that his net worth has risen from the $8.7 billion he announced last month, to $10 billion.

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From: "Eleni Kounalakis" <kounalakiset@gmail.com>
To: "Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 3/10/2016 4:37:32 AM
Subject: Re: Today's Greek Community Call

Thanks Laura I'll have something by early next week.

Ambassador Eleni T. Kounalakis
2500 Steiner Street, Ninth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94115
KounalakisET@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 10, 2016, at 11:33 AM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Thanks so much Eleni, really appreciate it, and all of your support. Look forward to seeing the draft.
> best,
> Laura
>
> On Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 2:32 PM, Eleni Kounalakis <kounalakiset@gmail.com > wrote:
>> Great. I'll have a draft in a few days.
>>
>> Ambassador Eleni T. Kounalakis
>> 2500 Steiner Street, Ninth Floor
>> San Francisco, CA 94115
>> KounalakisET@gmail.com
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>> On Mar 10, 2016, at 11:31 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>>
>>> Great idea.
>>>
>>> On Mar 10, 2016, at 2:27 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>>>
>>>> I like the idea.
>>>>
>>>> On Thursday, March 10, 2016, Eleni Kounalakis <kounalakiset@gmail.com > wrote:
>>>>> Laura -
>>>>>
>>>>> We had a terrific call today with John Podesta and Governor Dukakis and the Greek American community. Some participants are asking for a position paper/memo on where Secretary stands on some key issues.
>>>>>
>>>>> I've been leading the EU/Russia sub-group effort on the migration crisis, so I have a good idea of how you are formatting the framing memos. This would be a little different, but would you let me take a crack at a 1 pager on issues important to the community, that they can use with their networks?
>>>>>
>>>>> We would also like to let call participants know that something is coming, if that works for you.
>>>>>
>>>>> Thanks and hope to hear back soon. Eleni

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Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis
2500 Steiner Street #9
San Francisco, CA 94115
KounalakisET@gmail.com

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 8:20:45 AM
Subject: RE: Call with HRC

I'm with John. And we can't stop banging Rs.

More important – John wins the line of the day re: Gowdy's head.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:04 AM
To: Mandy Grunwald
Cc: Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com; Jim Margolis; mpaul@hillaryclinton.com; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com; sbay@hillaryclinton.com; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com>; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

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We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

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I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From:	"Jon Soltz, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	7/17/2014 9:10:44 AM
Subject:	War with Iran



John -

As President Obama addressed the graduating class of 2014 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he said "We must broaden our tools to include diplomacy and development."

His words are something to consider as diplomats gather in Vienna, Austria to hammer out a long-term agreement to ensure Iran never has the ability to develop a nuclear weapon.

They have until July 20th to work out a deal, or extend the process, but several Senators are already furiously working to derail the effort.

They need to hear from us today:

Join tens of thousands of veterans and military family members and sign our petition calling on the U.S. Senate to allow the diplomatic process to work with Iran.

Sadly, it's many of the same discredited neoconservative voices pushing for harsher sanctions that will trigger a new arms race in the region.

Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, former Chief of Staff to United States Secretary of State Colin Powell, said "To a soldier, the phrase 'seeking a diplomatic solution' is sweet music."

And if the diplomatic talks between Washington and Tehran fall apart, we'll have the opportunity to talk about which sanctions to reinstate or intensity.

But for now, we should all hope that those efforts succeed.

Tell Congress: Give Diplomacy with Iran a Chance.

http://action.votevets.org/iran-diplomacy

The question is ... how badly do we want to avoid more war?

Thanks for standing with VoteVets on this issue.

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran & Chairman
VoteVets.org

CONTRIBUTE

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 1:23:11 PM
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: Statement for NYT story on Clinton Cash

Thanks Brian - looks good

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2015, at 8:09 PM, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

All,

As you are all aware, Jo Becker from the NYT's investigative unit is one of several reporters at work on stories based on material provided by the publisher of the upcoming Clinton Cash book. Jo's story is scheduled to run in as soon as one week.

Separately, this afternoon, Amy Chozick from the NYT called us to indicate she had obtained a copy of the book on her own and intends to file a separate story tomorrow. Her story will not unpack all of the book's claims -- she will leave that to Jo. Instead, she will do a more process-y story about the book's existence, the fact that the publisher has approached multiple media outlets in advance of the book's publication to spoon-feed them some of the book's research, and also remark on the fact that Rand Paul continues to drop hints about the book's contents such that it appears they may be some coordination with individual Republican campaigns.

We think this story, though it was not originated by us, could end up being somewhat helpful in casting the book's author as having a conservative agenda. Moreover, we think Amy is suspicious of the arrangements that the book's publisher has reached with the various media outlets (including her own paper). In fact, Jo Becker is apparently trying to get this story killed because she thinks it will undermine her investigative piece later this month. But so far it is running in tomorrow's paper.

Amy is seeking a response from us on what our approach is to the looming publication of the book and the apparently well coordinated rollout. We have drafted the below response, and wanted you all to see it and provide feedback before we sent it off. Please note, however, that in order to get the statement into the story, we probably need to provide it by about 8:30 tonight. So apologies for the tight turnaround, but here it is:

> "We always expected that while Hillary Clinton was focused on how to help everyday Americans get ahead, the Republicans would focus their efforts on attacks rather than ideas. It appears that this book is being used to aid this coordinated attack strategy, twisting previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories. It will not be the first work of partisan-fueled fiction about the Clintons' record, and we know it will not be the last."

Thank you,
Brian

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From:	"Ken Roth" <rothk@hrw.org>
To:	"Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
Date:	3/18/2014 12:38:01 AM
Subject:	RE: Three Years of Strife and Cruelty Put Syria in Tailspin - NYTimes.com

Dear Herb,

You're absolutely right. The one silver lining I see is that we finally managed a UN Security Council resolution on Feb 22, ordering the release of prisoners, an end to the barrel bombing and other indiscriminate warfare, the lifting of sieges, and the opening of borders to humanitarian aid. The only reason we got that is because we convinced governments to push it forward during the Sochi Olympics when Russia would be reluctant to veto as it has in the past (despite initial US objection, because Kerry was focused on Geneva II, meaning that Russia was a "partner in peace," not an accomplice in mass murder). The task now is to enforce the resolution, with Russia obviously in a much less cooperative mood. However, the sanctions that the US and EU are moving toward on Ukraine are what we've been pushing for some time to force Russia to rein in Assad. Very unclear how this will all play out, but Ukraine changes things for Syria, probably making things more difficult, but also potentially making Russia more vulnerable to pressure.

I'm seeing Angela Merkel in an hour. This is one of the big topics.

Warm regards,

Ken

-----Original Message-----
From: Sandler, Herbert [mailto:hms@sandlerfoundation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 12:29 AM
To: Ken Roth
Cc: Daetz, Steve; Knaebel, Sergio; Sandler, Jim; Sandler, Susan; John Podesta; Tom Steyer
Subject: Three Years of Strife and Cruelty Put Syria in Tailspin - NYTimes.com

Horror of horrors! What kind of world do we live in?

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/18/world/middleeast/three-years-of-strife-and-cruelty-put-syria-in-tailspin.html?hp

Sent from my iPad

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Lorella Praeli" <lpraeli@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/15/2015 11:50:33 AM
Subject:	Daily Media Report 7.15.15

National:

-- Sara Murray reports that Donald Trump is leading the Republican field ahead of Jeb Bush. Highlights the fact that 30% of voters are still undecided. Notes that when placed head to head with HRC, HRC leads by 17 points. New Day . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump,Commentary,National,HRC leads poll over Donald Trump.mp4

-- Reports on Donald Trump leading the Republican field in a new poll. Comments on the fac that Trump has been climbing for several weeks. Mentions that HRC would win over Trump if they faced off in the general. Says HRC would also be in the lead over Jeb Bush. Fox & Friends . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump,Commentary,National,HRC leading over Bush and Trump.mp4

-- Report on new USA Today/Suffolk University poll showing Donald Trump leading the Republican field ahead of Jeb Bush who is in second place. Says in match ups against HRC, Trump trails by 17 points and Jeb Bush trails by just 4 points. Morning Joe . 2015 07 14,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump;Jeb Bush,Commentary,National,HRC leading over Republican candidates.mp4

-- Commentary on latest poll showing Donald Trump leading the Republican field. Notes that when put in a head-to-head with HRC, Donald Trump trails by 17 points whereas Jeb Bush only trails HRC by 4 points. Karl Rove comments and says Trump's popularity won't last, especially when we see how he does against HRC. America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer-Martha MacCallum . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump,Commentary,National,Karl Rove Comments on HRC leading polls.mp4

-- Report on a Politico story that a conservative blogger says she overheard John Podesta in a DC grocery store talking about HRC's campaign on the phone. Reports says Podesta told the person on the other end there were two things he was most concerned about. The first was being outgunned in money by Jeb Bush; second that he was worried about the psychosis of the media which we created. Reporter says when contacted for a response, the campaign said while Podesta admits thinking the press at times can be a bit psychotic, they are calling the rest of the report inaccurate. Panelist says this belief does not in any way shape or form absolve HRC from talking to the media. Reporter says HRC doesn't respond to questions from the media and plays the victim so it speaks more to "the psychosis of the Clintons." Panelist says the press is psychotic because HRC tied them up. Says the press has always loved Bill but not HRC. Says she drives around in Scooby Doo van and drags them on a wild chase and then doesn't talk to them. Kennedy says HRC is a strange lawyer who is riding her famous husband's coattails. Reporter says that by not granting interviews, HRC is making the media want her even more. Draws on the example of Brianna Keeler and says when Keeler asked HRC about her ideas for the economy, HRC said she would have to watch the speech on Monday. Panelist says even when she grants an availability, she isn't really available. Outnumbered . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Report of John Podesta overhearing.mp4

-- Commentary on HRC endorsing the Iran deal. Panelist says that you can see from HRC's statement that she is cautious about endorsing it because she knows it's not the greatest of deals. Host says HRC has to distance herself even though Obama seems to think it is going to be good for his legacy. Claims that President Obama doesn't understand that Iran doesn't believe in doing deals with infidels and Iran won't honor the deal. Says the best thing for his legacy would have been to walk away from the deal. Says the best thing that people can do now is lobby their democratic senators to vote against the deal in order to get a veto-proof vote. Highlights that Jewish constituencies will be powerful in influencing their senators. Outnumbered . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC's Iran deal statement.mp4

--Report that HRC expressed support for the Iran deal and is parroting the economic policies of this administration. Chuck Rocha joins the show and says that HRC's rhetoric is smart politics on her part and says the country has greatly improved in economic standing under Obama. Eliana Johnson says HRC's economic speech was more political than policy. Says that HRC indicated that we wouldn't get anything new and exciting from her, but rather more of the same. Says if you want new and exciting, look to Bernie Sanders. Host says people want to know what will work. Johnson says HRC elbowed the Obama administration by saying we have to go after Wall Street. Rocha says there is frustration from the American workers who have not felt the recovery and HRC should talk more about how that money can create more American jobs so that Americans feel like they have a voice in government. Cavuto: Coast to Coast . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC political strategy.mp4

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- Report that HRC said the Iran deal was an important step, but did not whole heartedly endorse the deal. Cavuto: Coast to Coast . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC reaction to Iran Deal.mp4

-- Analysis of HRC's support for the Iran deal. Lawrence O'Donnell says HRC is supporting the deal because it's the right thing both politically and in terms of politics. Says this is a very unique agreement because it is so much within the next president's power to decide what happens with the deal. Gene Robinson joins the show and says if the deal is functioning, it will be difficult for the next president to get rid of the deal. Says getting rid of the deal would be essentially a declaration of war. Lawrence O'Donnell says that, from a political perspective, people are in favor of a deal with Iran and the last candidate to say he wanted a strike on Iran was Mitt Romney. Live with Thomas Roberts. 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Analysis of why HRC supports Iran deal.mp4

-- Gloria Borger says that in 2007 when Obama advocating opening talks with Iran, HRC said he was naïve. Says that this is a view Obama has had forever and no one should be surprised that he worked so hard to get this done. Wolf . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Comparison of HRC and Obama Iran Stances.mp4

--Victoria de Francesco Soto comments on recent polls showing Donald Trump losing to HRC by 17 points. Says Republicans will start to reign Trump in because if they allow him to become be the nominee and then be completely defeated in the general election. Says that the GOP will get behind Jeb Bush instead. The Rundown with Jose Diaz-Balart. 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC versus Donald Trump poll.mp4

-- Mia Love comments on meeting with HRC on Capitol Hill with the Black Caucus. Says it was very interesting and HRC expressed support for the Iran deal even though details had not come out yet. Love says she asked HRC how she trusts a nation that does not like Americans and HRC responded by saying that we have to be involved or Iran will build a nuclear weapon anyway. Love says she just doesn't see the argument for giving Iran money to bring them a step closer to building those. Love says she was hoping HRC would take a stronger stance on protecting American lives than the current president. The Real Story with Gretchen Carlson . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Mia Loves comments on meeting with HRC.mp4

-- Alan Colmes comments on HRC as a candidate. Says Donald Trump's comments on HRC's campaign collapsing are ridiculous, especially because she is crushing him in the polls. Colmes says he would like to be more excited about HRC and is open to being excited about her. Says he thinks tonality is very important and Trump's tone is ridiculous. Notes that three years ago Donald Trump was praising HRC and the policies she supports. Varney & Company . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump,Commentary,National,Alan Colmes on HRC.mp4

--Host says we are cruising down the road to a European model with Obama and HRC will continue that trend if she is elected. Says that Europeans are falling apart. Notes that universal pre-k, wages dictated by the government, and paid family leave, all financed by the rich, will lead to America falling into the same decline as European countries. Says an Obama-Clinton era will lead to the same for America.Varney & Company . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentart,National,HRC economic agenda criticism.mp4

-- Representative Carlos Curbelo accuses Donald Trump of being a phantom candidate planted by the left. Curbelo claims that Trump has a close friendship with the Clintons, who were at his last wedding, and he has contributed to the Clinton Foundation as well as HRC senate campaign. Trump responded by saying that he is HRC's worst enemy. Plays clip of Trump saying he contributes to everybody and when he needs HRC she is there. Alex Wagner notes that new poll which says Trump has a 57% favorable rating. NOW with Alex Wagner. 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump,Commentary,National,Allegation of Trump as a phantom candidate.mp4

Spanish:

-- Report on opposition to Trump from HRC, Jeb Bush, and O'Malley. States that Donald Trump's negative comments about Mexican immigrants have gotten strong pushback from Democratic opponents (and shows a picture of HRC) and some Republican opponents as well, including Jeb Bush. Says that Bush strongly criticized "one of his biggest rivals." Then shows a clip of Bush saying "A Republican will never win by sowing fear in people's hearts." Reports that a USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll found that Trump had support from 17% of participants, ahead of second place Bush, who had 14%. Yet in a matchup of Trump and HRC, HRC surpassed Trump by 17 points. The difference is smaller with a matchup against Bush, in which she is up by only 4 points. Then shows a clip of Bush again saying, "I don't know about you, but I think it is wrong. I believe that we must stop separating the country by race." Says that opposition also comes from Democratic opponents like Martin O'Malley, who questioned Trump in an interview with Jorge Ramos. Shows clip of O'Malley saying, "I think we all

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need to push back against this rhetoric of hate." Concludes by saying that there are many Republican and Democratic experts (and shows clips of Bush, O'Malley, and HRC) that believe that the Latino vote will be crucial to winning the election. Noticiero Univision. 2015 07 14 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Martin O'Malley Clips, National, NoticieroUnivision Trump Attacks HRC Bush O'Malley

-- Report that Bush is second in polls to Trump. In USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll, Trump was first with 17% support and Bush was second with 14%. Noticiero Univision and Noticiero Telemundo . 2015 07 14 Jeb Bush Commentary, National, Noticiero Univision Bush 2nd in Polls to Trump ; 2015 07 14 Jeb Bush Commentary, National, Noticiero Telemundo Bush 2nd in Polls to Trump

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From: "Kate Geller" <kate_geller@lcv.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/13/2010 7:37:26 AM
Subject: [big campaign] New TV Ad in Perriello Race from LCV and Sierra Club

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2010
Contacts: Kate Geller (202) 454-4573
Maggie Kao (202) 675-2384

New TV Ad in Perriello Race from League of Conservation Voters and Sierra Club

***** VIEW THE AD HERE: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=–uVEExeFes *****

Robert Hurt Puts Uranium Business Ties over Community Interest

Charlottesville, VA - Today the League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club jointly released a new television ad highlighting Virginia's 5th District GOP candidate Robert Hurt and his father's ties to the uranium industry. While serving as a Virginia state senator, Hurt voted in favor of industry interests and against public health, allowing uranium mining projects to move forward, despite evidence that uranium mining can lead to radioactive contamination of air and ground water, causing cancer and birth defects. The six-figure buy will have the ad running on broadcast and cable in the district through the end of the election.

"With his father's connections to the uranium industry, and a moratorium on the mining already in place, Robert Hurt has tough questions to answer about his position on risky uranium mining in Virginia," said Cathy Duvall, Sierra Club's Political Director. "We are working to get the word out that we can't let extremists like Robert Hurt vote for their own business interests over the interests of Virginians."

Hurt is a Tea Party-supported candidate who opposes legislation to create more jobs, less pollution and greater security by refusing to hold corporate polluters accountable for their share of climate change pollution.

"Voters in Virginia's fifth district have a choice this election: they can vote for Robert Hurt who would side with corporate polluters over Virginia families, or they can re-elect Tom Perriello who has proven his commitment to bringing new clean energy jobs to Virginia and making America less dependent on foreign oil," said Tony Massaro, LCV's Senior Vice President for Political Affairs. "Hurt's support for the failed dirty energy policies of the past makes him the wrong choice for Virginia."

Both LCV Action Fund and the Sierra Club have endorsed Tom Perriello for his strong leadership on clean energy legislation.

The TV ad can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--uVEExeFes

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Transcript:

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Audio	Visual	Backup
VO: It was a shocking conflict of interest. A key vote on the future of Uranium mining.	**CHYRON:** Shocking Conflict of interest	"'Hurt concedes he's in an 'uncomfortable situation' because his father, retired Readers' Digest editor Henry Hurt, is an investor and actively involved in Virginia Uranium." (WPCVA, January 9, 2008)
VO: Robert Hurt should have stepped aside – but he voted yes.	**CHYRON:** Voted Yes	Hurt's vote in favor of conducting the study to determine if uranium mining is safe: SB 525, Virginia State Senate Vote, 2/12/08 http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?081+vot+SV0382SB0525+SB0525 Text of the bill: http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?081+ful+SB525ES2
VO: Maybe its because Hurt's father has a financial interest in Uranium mining – or because Hurt has taken thousands from Uranium interests.	**CHYRON:** Father Has A Financial Interest in Uranium Taken Thousands From Uranium Interests.	Robert Hurt is the son of Henry Hurt, co-financier and developer of the project. "Sen. Robert Hurt, a Pittsylvania Republican, is the son of a project investor." (Richmond Times Dispatch, March 9, 2008) "Thirty other people have invested in the company, several of whom live in the area, including Henry Hurt, a former editor for Reader's Digest. Hurt's son Robert served three terms in the House before winning his Senate seat." List of donors to Robert Hurt as a delegate is found here . They include $1,500 from Walter Cole, the executive vice president of Virginia Uranium, and $7,000 from Henry Hurt, his father, and co-financier and developer of the project. According to the Washington Post on January 2, 2008, Hurt's father had financial interest in the uranium lode discovered in southern Virginia. "Uranium Lode in Va. Is Feared, Coveted", Washington Post, 1/2/2008 http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/01/AR2008010101811_pf.html
VO: Uranium pollution can cause cancer and birth defects.	**CHYRON:** Can Cause Cancer and Birth Defects.	Scientific studies have shown that exposure to uranium ore can lead to radiation poisoning, cancer and other defects. Uranium mining can also radioactively contaminate underground water and soil. "Technical Report on Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials from Uranium Mining. Volume 2: Investigation of Potential Health, Geographic, and Environmental Issues of Abandoned Uranium Mines", U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, Radiation Protection Division, August 2007. http://www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/docs/tenorm/402-r-08-005-volii/402-r-08-005-v2.pdf
VO: But Robert Hurt voted his interest – not yours.	**CHYRON:** Robert Hurt Voted His Interest – Not Yours.	
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May 18, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Rep. Paul Ryan said Sunday the House has the votes to approve President Barack Obama's free trade initiative. Labor leaders are supportive of her current strategy of staying neutral saying, "Right now, personally, there's no reason she should take a position on it, she's not a government official."

The Washington Post outlines Hillary Clinton's strategy as "a bet that social and demographic shifts mean that no left-leaning position Clinton takes now is likely to hurt her when she makes her case to moderate and independent voters in the general election next year."

Hillary Clinton will make her second campaign trip to Iowa today and Tuesday, May 19. During her visit, she will discuss ideas to expand small businesses in Iowa - an issue Clinton heard about during her previous trip through the state.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Running to the left, Hillary Clinton is banking on the Obama coalition to win // WaPo // Anne Gearan - May 17, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton is running as the most liberal Democratic presidential front-runner in decades, with positions on issues from gay marriage to immigration that would, in past elections, have put her at her party's precarious left edge.

The moves are part of a strategic conclusion by Clinton's emerging campaign: that it can harness the same kind of young and diverse coalition as Barack Obama did in 2008 and 2012, bolstered by even stronger appeal among women.

Her approach — outlined in interviews with aides and advisers — is a bet that social and demographic shifts mean that no left-leaning position Clinton takes now is likely to hurt her when she makes her case to moderate and independent voters in the general election next year.

The strategy relies on calculations about the 2016 landscape, including that up to 31 percent of the electorate will be Americans of color — a projection that may be overly optimistic for her campaign. It factors in that a majority of independent voters already support same-sex marriage and the pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants that Clinton endorsed this month.

The game plan also hinges on a conclusion by Clinton strategists that the broad appeal of issues such as paid family leave, a higher minimum wage and more affordable college will help outweigh any concerns about costs.

The campaign's overall calculus relies on a mix of polling — including both internal and public surveys — internal focus groups and what advisers described as gut feelings about the national mood. It also reflects what Clinton backers say are her firmly held personal convictions and her pragmatism.

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“Her approach to this really is not trying to take a ruler out and measure where she wants to be on some ideological scale,” Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said. “It’s to dive deeply into the problems facing the American people and American families. She’s a proud wonk, and she looks at policy from that perspective.”

Clinton’s full embrace of same-sex marriage in the first days of her campaign was followed by clear statements in favor of scrapping get-tough immigration and incarceration policies — many of which took root during her husband’s administration. She has also weighed in with liberal takes on climate change, abortion rights and disparities in income and opportunity between rich and poor.

All are issues that have been divisive in the past for both Democrats and Republicans. But none are now judged to be radioactive for Democrats, which gives Clinton more elbow room.

By taking such positions, aides and advisers hope Clinton will not only inoculate herself against a serious challenge from the left in the primaries, but that she also will be able to push on through the general election. Her campaign believes American public opinion has moved left not only since Bill Clinton won election in 1992 on a centrist platform, but also since Barack Obama won on a more liberal one.

Republicans — as part of a broader critique of her trustworthiness — accuse Clinton of flip-flopping on some positions and hiding on others, such as free trade, to cater to the liberal base.

“Clinton’s already moved her position leftward on numerous hot button issues to the base, including immigration, gay marriage, Wall Street and criminal justice reforms,” conservative America Rising PAC director Colin Reed wrote in a position paper Friday.

“Clinton’s moves reinforce all her worst attributes as a candidate and hurt her image among voters of all stripes,” Reed said. “Progressive voters know that she’s not truly one of them” while swing voters “see a desperate politician staking out far-left positions that are outside of the mainstream of most Americans.”

Many political strategists also say Clinton will be hard-pressed to re-create Obama’s winning coalition and that the 30 percent to 31 percent non-white turnout that some of her outside backers are projecting may be out of reach. Exit polls show non-white turnout was 28 percent in 2012 and 26 percent in 2008. Clinton will have to expand Hispanic support, increase turnout among independent women and still hold onto a large share of black voters drawn to the first African American major party nominee.

The bold stance on immigration is widely seen as one way to jump-start the expansion of Hispanic support Clinton will need, although advisers say she had already made up her mind about citizenship and there was no reason to put off an announcement. When outlining her position in Nevada, where 1 in 4 residents is Hispanic, she made a point of saying that no Republican would go as far — and alleged the GOP wanted immigrants to have “second-class status.”

“People often talk about the electorate moving left,” said Clinton senior policy adviser Jake Sullivan. “I think it’s more that the electorate is just getting more practical. For Hillary Clinton, that matches her evidence-based approach. The arguments that persuade her are evidence-based and progressive.”

He cited the growing consensus that mass incarceration is expensive and unworkable, and that the country is never going to deport all of the more than 11 million people who are here illegally.

Advisers do not dispute that Clinton has a finger to the wind of the national mood, but they insist the timing and substance of her positions are not driven by polling. The still-cautious candidate has declined to make clear her

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position on two key proposals that many liberals oppose: the Keystone XL Pipeline and Obama's free-trade deal.

Sullivan also noted that some of Clinton's early proposals "cut against the grain" of political liberalism, such as her emphasis on improving the playing field for American small businesses.

Clinton will debut policy proposals to ease lending bottlenecks for small businesses on campaign trips to Iowa and New Hampshire this week. The impetus came largely from conversations Clinton had in the run-up to the campaign and a six-month policy review led by Sullivan that looked at how Clinton might address a range of national concerns.

"The thing she is most interested in is not what position is most popular, it's what do people worry about," Sullivan said.

Clinton's 2008 campaign was so focused on polling data and the consequences of saying the wrong thing that it sometimes appeared paralyzed. Some of that campaign's infamous staff battles focused on the advice from senior adviser Mark Penn, a pollster, to avoid more liberal positions in the primary that year for fear they would hurt her in a general election contest.

This time is different, backers say. "The strategic advantage the Democrats have is that the distance between our base and the middle is shorter than for Republicans," said Neera Tanden, president of the liberal Center for American Progress and a longtime Clinton confidant.

In other words, Clinton's strategists say, she does not face the same whiplash as Republican candidates who seek to dial back hard-right positions on issues such as abortion or immigration adopted during a competitive primary.

Senior campaign officials acknowledged that trade is a divisive and fraught issue for Democrats and for her. Clinton's past support for the Asia free trade pact makes her current silence awkward at best, but her advisers are gambling that the issue won't leave an enduring rift within the party.

Clinton campaign leaders and outside loyalists also bridle at the perception that she is less of a progressive politician than, say, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). They point to Clinton's early career as a crusading lawyer in Arkansas and lifelong professional commitments to improving women's lives.

Warren has said she isn't running but has declined so far to endorse Clinton. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is running a strongly populist challenge to Clinton, and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley — who has suggested Clinton is too hesitant and poll-driven — is expected to enter the race this month.

"If Clinton and other candidates are not seen as standing with Warren on the TPP trade deal and a number of other economic issues critical to working families, it could create an even greater sense of urgency" to get Warren into the race, said Gary Ritterstein, an adviser to the support group Ready for Warren.

The clearest shift in national attitudes, and Clinton's own, has come on same-sex marriage. She moved from saying she considered marriage to be between a man and a woman when she was first lady to backing civil unions as an alternative to marriage in 2008 to full support of gay and lesbian marriage now.

Public opinion polling suggests she is on safe ground, despite ongoing legal fights in several states. The firmest opposition to gay marriage is centered in red states and among Republican voters unlikely to consider voting for Clinton.

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Pew Research polling shows that in August 2008 — when Clinton endorsed Obama as the Democratic nominee — 52 percent of Americans opposed legal same-sex marriage and 39 percent supported it. The same poll now shows 54 percent support for such marriages while 39 percent are opposed.

Shifts on criminal justice issues are less dramatic, but there are bipartisan efforts now to repeal some of the harshest and least flexible laws on the books for two decades. Outrage and revulsion over police killings of black men over the past year made the issue more urgent for many young, African American and socially liberal voters.

Last month, Clinton gave an address calling for dramatic changes in policing and prosecution to lessen the rate of incarceration. The remarks echo similar calls among both Democrats and some Republicans, such as Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

“Two or three years ago,” said Clinton policy adviser Ann O’Leary, “that speech might have been seen as a very left-leaning speech.”

Groups lobbying on trade paid Hillary Clinton $2.5M in speaking fees // CBS News // Julianna Goldman – May 18, 2015

Since leaving her post as secretary of state, Hillary Clinton earned millions of dollars delivering 41 paid speeches in the U.S. to a variety of companies and organizations. At least 10 of those groups have been lobbying Congress and federal agencies on trade, an issue that has divided Democrats as the Obama administration pushes for a 12-nation pacific trade deal - and around which Hillary Clinton has remained mum.

Clinton has spoken in general terms on trade, saying in New Hampshire last month that any trade deal "has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security." But the issue pits liberal Democrats against the White House and Republicans, and there's a chorus of Democrats are calling for Clinton to weigh in.

Critics say Clinton Foundation has pattern of not disclosing foreign donors

In the weeks since she launched her presidential bid, Clinton has been dogged by questions about whether special interests sought to buy influence while she was secretary of state through donations to the Clinton Foundation and through Bill Clinton's paid speeches. For the first time, Hillary Clinton's financial disclosures provide a picture of the speaking engagements for which she was paid since leaving the State Department and at a time when she was actively considering whether to run for president.

According to the disclosures released by the campaign on Friday evening, the former secretary of state earned at least $2.7 million from speeches at companies backing the trade promotion authority (TPA) that President Obama has been seeking in order to "fast track" approval of trade deals. While that's a fraction of the $25 million Bill and Hillary Clinton earned from paid speeches from January 2014 to present, they nonetheless open the presidential candidate to criticism.

"She's put herself in the position where people are going to question whether she was influenced by the money she was paid if she supports the trade agreements," said Larry Noble, senior counsel at the Campaign Legal Center. "One of the problems with these situations is even if she reaches her decision for reasons she truly believes in, people are going to question it. It undermines her credibility."

· Hillary and Bill Clinton have earned over $25 million since January 2014

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· The Democrats' internal battle over free trade

A number of Clinton's appearances before the organizations lobbying on trade were among her most lucrative speeches.

Clinton earned $335,000 from Qualcomm for a speech in San Diego on October 14, 2014; $335,000 from the Biotechnology Industry Organization on June 25, 2014; and $325,000 from Cisco Systems for a speech in Las Vegas on August 28, 2014. According to data compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics, both tech companies lobbied in support of TPA in 2014 and 2015. They're also members of the Trade Benefits America Coalition, which in November 2014 sent a letter to congressional leaders saying, "As members of the Trade Benefits America Coalition, we write to urge passage of bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation this year....Congressional action on TPA is needed to help ensure high-standard outcomes in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, which the United States and 11 other Asia-Pacific countries are striving to complete."

That letter was also signed by General Electric and Xerox, companies that paid Hillary Clinton to give speeches in 2014. Clinton earned $225,000 from GE on January 6, 2014 and $225,000 from Xerox Corporation on March 18, 2014. In total, she earned at least $1.4 million from companies signing that letter.

To be sure, these companies have lobbied on a variety of issues. Qualcomm, for example, lobbied on more than 15 policy areas including transportation and taxes in 2015.

Likewise, trade has traditionally been a thorny issue for Democratic presidential candidates who are courting progressives and union support. In 2008, Clinton and then-Sen. Obama sparred over NAFTA, the trade deal with the U.S., Canada and Mexico, struck Bill Clinton signed during his presidency.

As secretary of state, Clinton publicly promoted the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). In her book, "Hard Choices," she said it would level the playing field for American workers in a global marketplace, and that it would "link markets throughout Asia."

Now, the Clinton campaign says she'll be watching negotiations closely.

Asked whether they're concerned that Clinton's paid speeches from companies that lobbied for TPA could pose a conflict, campaign spokesman Brian Fallon said Clinton has "laid out the bar that needs to be met, to protect American workers, raise wages, and create more good jobs at home."

"So, consistent with what she's been saying on the issue, while this is still being negotiated, she will be watching closely to see what is being done to crack down on currency manipulation, improve labor rights, protect the environment and health, promote transparency, and open new opportunities for our small businesses to export overseas," he said.

Some Democrats are looking for a more definitive stance.

On Sunday Democratic presidential candidate and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders was asked on CNN's "State of the Union" whether Clinton should take a position on trade and he said: "You can't be on the fence on this one. You're either for it or against."

Asked the same question on ABC's This Week, Senator Dianne Feinstein said, "I think it would be very helpful. I

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think it's been typified by our party in a way which is most unfortunate and that is on the jobs issue."

Corning Incorporated and eBay were among companies signing another letter from that same coalition in January 2015, urging passage of TPA. Clinton earned $225,000 in honoraria for a speech at Corning on July 29, 2014; and she earned $315,000 at a speech for eBay in San Jose, California on March 11, 2015 - her second to last before she stopped delivering paid speeches ahead of her presidential announcement.

Clinton had two paid appearances for Salesforce.com - one in Las Vegas on February 6, 2014 for $225,500 and another in San Francisco on October 14, 2014, where Clinton also earned $225,500. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the company in 2014 and 2015 has lobbied on a number of trade related areas, including information technology trade issues, TPA and trade agreements. In a March letter to congressional committee leaders, Salesforce was among the software companies urging Congress to move quickly to pass updated TPA legislation with strong digital trade provisions.

What do independent voters think about foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation?

On October 8, 2014, Clinton earned $265,000 for an appearance in Chicago with the Advanced Medical Technology Association, or AdvaMed. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, the group has lobbied on issues related to global trade and the international competitiveness related to the medical device industry including TPA, The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). When the House and Senate introduced TPA legislation in April to fast-track the trade deal, the group's CEO said in a statement, "The U.S. Trade Representative is currently working to advance priority issues for the medical technology industry as part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), both of which will greatly improve market access to medical technology in these regions."

One other group - the Institute of Scrap Recycling, where Clinton earned $225,000 for an April 10, 2014 speech - has also lobbied on trade issues, but its lobbying doesn't appear to be related to TPP, TTIP or TPA.

"It's not unusual for former elected officials to go out and give speeches and make a lot of money," said Noble. "What the problem now is that they're coming back into government after going out and having been paid large sums by these various special interests."

How Dubya Is Winning 2016 for Hillary // Daily Beast // Michael Tomasky - May 18, 2015

What a marvelous historical anomaly: Democrats are on the offense, and the GOPers sound like peaceniks on Iraq.

What a delightful week, watching Republicans not Democrats sink in the foreign-policy quicksand. For most of my adult lifetime—come to think of it, all of it, and pretty much all of my entire lifetime—to the extent that foreign policy has mattered in presidential campaigns, it's been brandished by Republicans to accuse the Democrats of being soft on whatever the supposed threat was at the time. To think that we might have a presidential campaign in which the Democrats are the ones playing foreign-policy offense, forcing the Republicans to profess that they are not war-mongering psychopaths, would be a thing to behold—as well as a measure, eight long years later, of how much damage George W. Bush and his co-belligerents did to the Republican Party.

It surely caught Jeb Bush by total surprise, the shitstorm that kicked up after his first answer about invading Iraq. Yes, he's rustier than a 1970s Plymouth; yes, he appears not to have been really quite listening to Megyn Kelly; and yes, it's beginning to dawn on all of us, God help us, that Dubya may have been the smart one.

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But all those factors are subordinate to the main one, which is this: History instructs that if you're a Republican running for president and you're asked about a war, you probably can't go wrong by saying you're for it. A past war, a current war, a future war (perhaps these most of all!), it doesn't matter. Be pro-war, accuse the Democrats of wanting the United States to suckle at the teat of the UN and the new global order; and if it's a current war that's not going swimmingly, blame the Democrats and the anti-war elements at home. These are can't lose propositions.

Or were. This week, Bush learned otherwise. I know, specifically it had to do with the "knowing what we know now" language, which is what really cranked up the media's chainsaw. But public anti-war sentiment is even more blunt than that. Here for example is a question from a Quinnipiac poll last summer: "Do you think the result of the Iraq War was worth the loss of American lives and other costs of attacking Iraq, or not?" This does not say "knowing what we know now," which would clearly prod the respondent to think, "Oh, yeah, no WMD," and would be more likely to produce a higher "not worth it" result.

Now, the cowboys have to prove their solution to every problem isn't to invade it or bomb it.

But even keeping the WMD lie out of the conversation, not worth it won by 75-18 percent. Even Republicans said not worth it by 63-27.

It has created a new and perhaps not un- but let's say little-precedented default foreign-policy position in the American electorate: Now, the cowboys have to prove their solution to every problem isn't to invade it or bomb it. This may have been true for 1976 election, during the Vietnam hangover. But even if so, concerns about Vietnam were a distant second to unease about Richard Nixon's rape of the Constitution and Gerry Ford's pardon of him for doing it. Today, though, this question of reflexive Iraq hawkery is enough of a no-no that some people think Bush might already be sunk and should just quit now.

And this is why we saw Marco Rubio also reverse himself this week (although he would deny that) on the Iraq War. He used to defend the war, but now, with the new Kelly Standard in play, he decided he'd better come out and say: "Not only would I not have been in favor of it, President [George W.] Bush wouldn't have been in favor of it and he said so."

Rubio, of course, has neoconned himself to the gills, and there will be plenty of time for him during this primary season to come out swinging on Iran, once he figures out that Iran and ISIS are not allies. But that even he "clarified" his position in the anti-war direction says something.

Now I should note: It may not play out the way I'm describing during the primary campaign. Yes, as we saw above, rank-and-file Republicans said the Iraq War wasn't worth it by 63-27. But in the context of a primary season, that 27 can be as loud as or louder than the 63. It's probably the 27 who are more likely to vote or attend caucuses, which means the minority would have inordinate influence over the shape of the candidates' rhetoric.

But in a general-election context, the GOP nominee will probably have to tack back pretty quickly toward the anti-war position. This will give Hillary Clinton a great opportunity. For one thing, it'll weaken the salience of the whole "she can't defend the country cuz she's a girl" line of attack, which will come, however subtly. It will allow Clinton to define the terms of what constitutes a sensible foreign policy, and the Republican man will likely have to agree with her.

And most of all it will be a lot better for the world than if the situation were reversed. Contrary to liberals' deepest suspicions about her, she is not a neoconservative; she is not going to have regime change in Iran on her mind, which any of the Republicans as president would, except for Rand Paul.

Poor Republicans! Crime is down; they can't scream law and order. And now war is unpopular, so they can't say the Democrats are soft on whomever. Their economic theories are increasingly discredited. I guess that leaves the

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old standby: race-baiting. But we may have reached a point where that doesn't work anymore either. Should be an interesting race.

Labor Gives Clinton Room to Maneuver on Trade Talks // WSJ // Laura Meckler and Melanie Trottman - May 17, 2015

LAS VEGAS—Michael Collins, a nurse and active member of his local union, isn't happy about free-trade legislation being debated in Congress, believing it would undermine American workers. It won't, however, change his view of Hillary Clinton, a one-time booster of the pact.d

In the 2016 presidential race, "Hillary's about the only person we've got who's viable," he said.

Labor unions are fighting hard to defeat legislation that would authorize sped-up consideration of a trade agreement being negotiated with 11 Pacific Rim nations. However, they are giving Mrs. Clinton the kind of breathing room they aren't affording congressional Democrats or even the president.

Mrs. Clinton as a senator voted in support of several free-trade agreements, and opposed one, with Central American nations. As secretary of state, she supported the Pacific Rim negotiations, and her former boss, President Barack Obama, is leading the effort to approve them.

But in recent weeks, as the Trans-Pacific Partnership took center stage in the Senate and opened schisms within the Democratic Party, Mrs. Clinton has maintained steadfast neutrality. She issued one statement and answered one question on the matter. In neither case did she pick a side.

"Any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security," she told reporters in New Hampshire last month. "We have to do our part in making sure we have the capabilities and the skills to be competitive."

At a speech last month, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, the nation's most powerful labor leader, said any presidential candidates who seek labor's backing should oppose the trade deal. When asked after the speech if Mrs. Clinton was ducking on trade, he, too, avoided the question.

"I think she started off by doing what every candidate" should do, he said, by listening to voters in what will be a long campaign.

The Senate last week voted to move forward on a measure to accelerate a trade deal, setting the stage to approve a final bill as early as this week. But that push for fast-track legislation faces an even higher hurdle in the House, amid opposition from Democrats and many conservative Republicans.

A failure to secure congressional backing could imperil Mr. Obama's negotiations. Even if lawmakers do sign off, Congress could face a fractious debate when the actual trade deal comes back to both the full House and Senate for final approval as early as this fall.

People familiar with the Clinton campaign's thinking say she is determined to remain neutral for as long as possible, ideally until Congress resolves the issue.

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Mrs. Clinton has previously recalibrated her stance on free-trade agreements. In her 2003 memoir "Living History," she spoke approvingly of the North American Free Trade Agreement negotiated by her husband in the early 1990s. But as a presidential candidate in the 2008 race, she said the way Nafta was implemented "has hurt a lot of American workers."

On the current talks, the nation's labor leaders say trade is just one issue by which they will judge candidates. Many union leaders have longtime ties to Mrs. Clinton, and as long as she doesn't campaign for the agreement, they don't appear eager to bloody the Democrats' front-runner for the nomination.

"For us, an endorsement process is based on lots of different issues and lots of different variables," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers. She has said her union "has a long relationship with Hillary because of her long-standing support for working families."

The indifference stems in part from the changing nature of the labor movement, which over many years has filled its membership rolls with workers in government, hospitality and service jobs—fields less vulnerable to outsourcing than manufacturing jobs that once accounted for a large share of union membership. The United Auto Workers represented about 1.5 million workers in the late 1970s; today, its membership is about one-third of that. At the same time, membership in unions filled with public-sector workers has remained relatively stable.

"The great old unions of the past—the steelworkers, the auto workers—these unions are seen as shadows of themselves," said Gary Chaison, professor of industrial relations at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. On trade, "Hillary Clinton really does have much more ground to operate on, because it's not the issue it once was."

Even manufacturing unions won't criticize Mrs. Clinton on the issue, despite their vocal opposition to the trade bill itself.

"Right now, personally, there's no reason she should take a position on it," said Thomas Buffenbarger, president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. "She's not a government official," he said.

At a recent SEIU Local 1107 meeting in Las Vegas, one member reported favorably to the group about Mrs. Clinton's remarks earlier in the day about immigration. Afterward, several workers said they weren't particularly concerned with trade. The Service Employees International Union represents a diverse range of public- and private-sector workers, including nurses, lab technicians, janitors and security guards.

Yvanna Cancela, political director of the Culinary Workers Local 226, which represents 55,000 workers, said her union stands with others in opposing the trade agreement. But she said the trade issue isn't likely to directly affect her members.

"We haven't widely discussed it within the membership," she said. "In prioritizing our political discussions, people want to hear about what affects them and their families."

At Ranchos High School, where Mrs. Clinton made her immigration comments, history teacher Reuben Silva, a member of the Clark County Education Association, said he leans toward favoring the agreement.

"Overall, it's good for America, especially in a globalized economy," said Mr. Silva, who voted for Mr. Obama twice.

Mrs. Clinton's silence isn't risk free. If she is seen as too supportive of trade, some of her supporters worry, a

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challenger could gain a foothold among Democratic voters and union activists. Both Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who is running for the Democratic nomination, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is expected to announce a bid, have railed against the agreement.

"The notion that we can somehow chase cheap labor abroad, send jobs abroad, and that helps our country, I think, is a falsehood we should wake up to," Mr. O'Malley told reporters last week in Manchester, N.H.

Asked about Mrs. Clinton's position on TPP, Mr. O'Malley said, "I don't know where she stands on that."

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton Pivots from Big Money to Small Business // Bloomberg // Jen Epstein – May 18, 2015

Three days after revealing that her own husband-and-wife cottage industry brought in more than $30 million since the start of 2014, Hillary Clinton arrives in Iowa on Monday to pitch herself as an advocate for small business.

For Clinton, who has not answered media questions in a month and who spent much of the last two weeks in New York and California raising millions of dollars for her presidential campaign from wealthy donors, including Beyonce, it's an opportunity to showcase her humble heartland roots and to reconnect with the "everyday people" that her campaign says are at the core of her candidacy.

Her financial disclosure form filed with the Federal Elections Committee late Friday showed how far she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, have moved from that category, thanks largely to the couple's ability to command six-figure speaking fees.

"You can't be on the fence on this one."

Senator Bernie Sanders

Clinton's father, Hugh Rodham, owned a drapery business just outside Chicago, something she often mentions to remind voters that she wasn't always the person who until less than two months ago was taking in more than $200,000 a speech.

The trip to Iowa, as well as a return visit to New Hampshire on Friday, are chances for Clinton to appeal to Main Street and the centrist voters she'll need in the general election, after tacking left earlier this month on immigration and hinting that she plans to press for aggressive regulations on Wall Street.

Clinton, her campaign said, plans to outline ideas for cutting red tape for small businesses, expanding access to capital, finding tax relief for business owners and stimulating exports.

"We glad that she's focused on small business as a presidential candidate and we're eager to find out what she has in mind," said Jack Mozloom, the communications director of National Federation of Independent Business.

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The group, which generally endorses Republican candidates, said that Clinton voted with its interests 25 percent of the time during her eight years in the Senate. "It's not the worst but she could do better from our perspective," Mozloom said.

Avoiding trade

But it's all while avoiding the issue Clinton has been dithering over for months: where she stand on the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The former secretary of state worked on the development of the TPP while serving in the Obama administration and wrote about it in positive terms in Hard Choices, the 2014 memoir for which she's earned at least $5 million and likely much more. On the campaign trail, however, Clinton has ducked the issue at every turn, aware that continued support would upset important Democratic constituencies on left, while opposition could undermine her former boss, President Barack Obama.

But the trade issue may prove difficult for Clinton to avoid, especially when discussing exports, and with the Senate slated to debate TPP this week.

Democrats on both sides of the issue aren't exactly aiding in her continued dodge.

On ABC's This Week Sunday, Senator Dianne Feinstein, an early backer of Clinton's presidential bid, argued that TPP will help the small businesses Clinton is touting this week. "I want to straighten one thing out, and that is that most people think this is a bill for corporate America," said the veteran Democrat, citing her home state. "In California, 95 percent of the trade is carried out by companies and business of less than 500 people."

Feinstein added that "it would be very helpful" for Clinton to take a position.

Clinton's challengers are piling on, too. Clinton should "absolutely" take a position, Senator Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent who is seeking the Democratic party's presidential nomination, said on CNN's State of the Union. "You can't be on the fence on this one. You're either for it or you're against it." Sanders is against.

Not meeting the press

Finding out where Clinton stands hasn't been easy: The last time the Democratic frontrunner took questions from the press was four weeks ago today — April 20 in Keene, N.H. When she has spoken to reporters, it has been for a question or two at a time, generally shouted at the end of one of her roundtables. Her refusal to do the kind of extended press conference that would allow for follow up questions has led to protests from journalists and gibes from her Republican rivals. At an Iowa Republican dinner over the weekend Senators Rand Paul and Lindsey Graham and former Hewlett Packard CEO all mocked Clinton for refusing to meet the press.

Fiorina said she's taken more than 300 on-the-record questions from the media since launching her campaign two weeks ago. Clinton, according to media accounts, has taken somewhere between nine and 13.

Correct the Record, the new super PAC supporting Clinton's campaign, has issued a tally documenting more than 100 questions Clinton has taken from "everyday people."

"The Republican candidates are spending their time talking to reporters with cameras, while Hillary Clinton is talking to people across the country about the issues that affect them every day, all to figure out how she can help

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make their lives better. That's what leaders do," said the group's Mary Jennings.

But thus far, Clinton's interlocutors have been members of the small, carefully vetted audiences at her heavily stage-managed events.

On NBC's Meet the Press Sunday, fellow Democrat, longtime Obama adviser David Axelrod, urged his party's would-be standard-bearer to hold a press conference.

"She has to do it quickly and she has to start getting into the rhythm of a campaign where she's out there, she's answering questions," Axelrod said. "It would be a terrible mistake not to do that."

Bernie Sanders casts Hillary Clinton as newcomer to income fight // CNN // Eric Bradner - May 17, 2015

Washington (CNN)Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders is portraying his rival Hillary Clinton a newcomer to the left's fight against income inequality.

"It's one thing to talk about it. It's one thing to act on it," the Vermont senator said during an interview with CNN's Brianna Keilar aired Sunday on "State of the Union."

"You are looking at the most progressive member of the United States Senate," he said, touting his relationship as a "good friend" of firebrand Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Sanders said he's led efforts to challenge Wall Street, push for universal health care, tackle climate change and combat "disastrous trade agreements."

He also said Clinton should take a position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a massive 12-country deal that President Barack Obama is pushing to the dismay of liberals.

"You can't be on the fence of this one," he said. "You're either for it or you're against it. No fence-sitting on this one."

Sanders said he personally likes Clinton. He said he's willing to challenger her on policy issues -- but that he hopes media will cover those differences without Sanders having to launch "reckless attacks."

"Are you in the media prepared to allow us to engage in that serious debate?" he said. "Or do I have to get media attention by simply making reckless attacks on Hillary Clinton or anybody else? I don't believe in that. I believe in serious debates on serious issues."

Bernie Sanders: 'Maybe I shouldn't say this: I like Hillary Clinton' // The Guardian // Martin Pengelly - May 17, 2015

Bernie Sanders, the independent Vermont senator who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination on 2016, on Sunday denied that he would be a “spoiler” for the electoral chances of the establishment favourite and said: “Maybe I shouldn’t say this: I like Hillary Clinton.”

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Sanders also asked if the media would “allow us to have a serious debate”, and said: “Or is the only way you get media attention by ripping apart somebody else?”

Clinton is the clear frontrunner for the Democratic nomination to succeed Barack Obama in the White House, polling well over 50% ahead of Sanders, the only other declared candidate, and potential contenders such as former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley and the former Virginia senator Jim Webb.

Sanders, a self-declared “democratic socialist” who has repeatedly championed social reform on a Scandinavian model and attacked the influence and behaviour of the wealthiest sections of society, appeared on CNN. He was asked how he differed from Clinton on income inequality, a key issue in both campaigns so far.

“It’s one thing to talk about it, it’s one thing to act on it,” Sanders said. “I have been helping to lead the fight for the American middle class for the last 25 or 30 years … in the Senate I am leading the effort to raise the minimum wage up to $15 an hour so that people who work 40 hours a week will not be living in poverty.

“We have presented legislation that will say to the wealthiest people and the largest corporations, ‘You know what? You can’t continue to avoid paying your fair share of taxes.”

Sanders was asked if he would have a “civil debate” with Clinton in the months to come, given her status as a member of the political establishment he said he did not represent, and given that she has been widely criticised on matters regarding her wealth. On Friday she and her husband, former president Bill Clinton, said they had earned more than $25m in speaking fees since January 2014.

“I’ve never run a negative political ad in my life,” Sanders said. “…I believe in serious debates on serious issues. I’ve known Hillary Clinton for 25 years. Maybe I shouldn’t say this: I like Hillary Clinton. I respect Hillary Clinton.

“Will the media, among others, allow us to have a civil debate on civil issues? Or is the only way you get media attention by ripping apart somebody else?”

Sanders did say Clinton should indicate her position on the proposed Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal which is dividing Democrats and forcing Obama to depend on Republican support in Congress.

“You’re either for or you’re against it,” he said. “There’s no fence-sitting on this one.”

Sanders is against the agreement, which he says would be “disastrous” for middle-class American jobs.

Clinton has not committed herself. Last month her campaign chief, John Podesta, was quoted as having told donors: “Can you make it go away?”

Axelrod: "Terrible Mistake" For Hillary Clinton Not To Take Questions From Media, "She's Got To Get Out There" // Real Clear Politics // May 17, 2015

On Sunday's Meet the Press, former Obama campaign advisor and MSNBC contributor David Axelrod criticized presidential candidate Hillary Clinton for dodging media questions on the Clinton Foundation controversy.

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"Part of that is because a lot of the questions were about the Clinton Foundation and they made a decision to let him handle those questions," Axelrod told moderator Chuck Todd. "But look, I think she has got to get out there, she has to answer questions. And she has to do it routinely so it's not a major news event when she takes a few questions from the news media."

NBC's Chuck Todd noted since she has become a candidate, Hillary Clinton has only taken 9 questions on camera while her husband, former President Bill Clinton, has taken 39.

"It does make Bill Clinton, right now, the face of the Clinton campaign, in an odd way," Todd said. "He hasn't been helpful."

> CHUCK TODD, MEET THE PRESS: I'm starting off with a retort that is becoming familiar with Republicans, David Axelrod, which is this: When is Hillary Clinton going to answer questions from the media? We did our own math here. What's been amazing is since Hillary Clinton became an official candidate for president, there has been a Clinton that has taken quite a few questions on camera. Bill Clinton has taken 39 questions on camera, that includes Letterman, our Cynthia McFadden, also a CNN interview. Hillary Clinton is up to 9. NPR puts it up to 13 because of a question right there (on screen).
>
> DAVID AXELROD, MSNBC: Part of that is because a lot of the questions were about the Clinton Foundation and they made a decision to let him handle those questions. But look, I think she has got to get out there, she has to answer questions. And she has to do it routinely so it's not a major news event when she takes a few questions from the news media.
>
> TODD: It makes the press conference seems relevant.
>
> ALEXELROD: She has to do it quickly and she has to get into the rhythm of a campaign where she's out there, she's answering questions, she's making speeches. It would be a terrible mistake to not do that.
>
> TODD: It does make Bill Clinton, right now, the face of the Clinton campaign, in an odd way. He hasn't been helpful.

Peggy Noonan On Hillary's Press Strategy: 'She's Running A Silent Movie Of A Campaign' // Daily Caller // Al Weaver - May 17, 2015

Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan took aim at the former secretary of state Hillary Clinton's media strategy Sunday, telling "Face The Nation" Clinton is "running a silent movie of a campaign" as she dodges the press.

Noonan made the comments to host Bob Schieffer after giving credit to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush for continuing to take questions from the media after he endured a tough week. Bush waffled on questions about the Iraq War.

BOB SCHIFFER: Peggy, this was a tough week for Jeb Bush. PEGGY NOONAN: Yeah, It definitely was. He seemed consistently taken aback by the asking of a question anyone could have told you a year and two years ago was going to be primary question of the primary time. It was difficult for him in ways that are almost mysterious. And because I think he showed such discomfort in his answers, he sort of opened up the possibility that this will only be the beginning of many questions about things your brother did, would you have done them? Do you know what I

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mean? So, it was difficult. However, he deserves, I think, great credit in this. He's going to the press every day, he's taking questions, he's being out there, he's doing sit-down interviews. Mrs. Clinton instead is doing, sort of, a silent movie of a campaign in which she doesn't feel she has to do those things. I don't think that's a good way to go and will problematic for her down the road.

Bill And Hillary Clinton Rob Inequality Of Its Unrelenting Beauty // Forbes // John Tamny - May 17, 2015

In a McDonald's recently, a witnessed interview between the restaurant's manager and a potential new hire was striking for its economic significance. At one point the manager went back behind the counter to help with a surge of customers, at which time the interviewee took out her mobile phone to send texts, read e-mails, check Facebook...

Interesting about what took place is that 35 years ago cellphones were non-existent. Worse, as the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Bill Frezza regularly reminds those lucky enough to hear him speak, in the 1970s wall-mounted telephones were illegal to own. If you wanted a phone your only option was to rent it from the federal government's approved telephone monopoly.

Thirty years ago mobile phones were finally available, but only the superrich owned them. That was true because the purchase of a brick-sized phone with ½ hour of battery life, terrible reception, and highly limited calling range set the wealthy few back $3,995. If you had the temerity to call San Diego from Los Angeles with any frequency your monthly bill was measured in the hundreds of dollars. Nowadays McDonald's applicants can cheaply call anywhere around the country on phones with capabilities that would have floored the richest technology billionaires, Hollywood movie producers and Connecticut hedge fund managers no more than five years ago.

The above is of course the norm in societies defined by personal and economic freedom. What the rich initially enjoy exclusively merely signals what we'll all eventually enjoy if the economy is left alone. It's forever been this way, and the evidence is all around us.

The 'Mansion' section of a recent Wall Street Journal featured a 'car garage' for sale as an apartment on East 73rd Street in Manhattan. As the Journal noted about the $50 million Beaux-Arts structure, it "was built around 1905, when only the elite had cars." Henry Ford grew very rich making the Ford Model T accessible to the non-rich; Ford's cars powered by gasoline made broadly available by the richest man of all time, John D. Rockefeller.

Fast forward to the present, an overnight stay at supposedly down market lodging chains like Motel 6 includes not just air conditioning, but a flat screen television in each room. In the year 2000 a ''50 flat-screen television cost $20,000, and even the rooms at luxury chains like the Four Seasons were bereft of them. There's a detectable pattern here.

Specifically, the 'wealth inequality' decried by clueless economists and opportunistic politicians has been mis-named. What's a pejorative is unrelentingly beautiful. The "rising wealth inequality" that reduces economists, pundits and politicians to puddles of emotion should be properly renamed "surging lifestyle equality" with an eye on calming their rage. Put more simply, the inequality that horrifies self-proclaimed deep thinkers is the wondrous process whereby entrepreneurs turn the former luxuries of the rich into everyday items. To be blunt, a world without wealth inequality would be one marked by excessive deprivation.

All of which brings us to the latest news about Bill and Hillary Clinton. According to numerous media accounts the formidable political couple has earned at least $30 million in speaking fees since 2014. The Clintons are maybe who President Obama had in mind when he famously said "You didn't build that."

The Clintons are extraordinarily rich not because Bill discovered a cure for cancer, or because Hillary has a knack for resuscitating companies that are on the proverbial deathbed, because both are expert as Ford, Rockefeller and

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Steve Jobs were at mass producing former baubles of the rich, or even because they were born well. No, the Clintons are rich for having been wise enough to make a profession of politics in what is the richest, most innovative country on earth. Without a hint of hyperbole, the wealth they enjoy is a function of their pull within a federal government that is empowered to tax away trillions on an annual basis. The Clintons are posh and supercilious, but their grand posture is directly attributable to the political class's ability to plunder the actual wealth of America's truly productive.

The Clinton's millions are the result of government force, and those millions rob inequality of its life-enhancing beauty. While rising wealth inequality in the world of free markets is once again a sign of entrepreneurs shrinking the lifestyle gap, Clinton-style inequality is rooted in the political ability to influence the direction of economic resources created by others, but that were expropriated by the federal government.

To be fair to the Clintons, they're hardly alone. This isn't a Democrat or Republican thing. It's a national politics thing. Politicians claim to enter what is nowadays a profession with 'public service' in mind, but as their soaring net worth in and out office plainly reveals, men and women enter politics in the U.S. to get rich. As evidenced by their earnings, the Clintons are simply the best at a game played by Democrats and Republicans alike. Maybe an unsung reason why Americans despise politicians so much has to do with intuitive knowledge that their arrogance is entirely unearned.

Bill Clinton is by most accounts an accomplished speaker, both Bill and Hillary are presumably very book smart, but if they weren't born in the U.S. such that they could play U.S. politics at the highest of levels, no one would presently pay them six and seven figures for their speeches. The Clintons oddly decry the very inequality that creates a taxable bonanza each year for the federal government, and this is odd simply because the resulting federal spending is the undeniable source of all the fawning treatment they receive from people who are always 'fascinated' by what they have to say on the stump. Reduced to the basics, there aren't many rich people in Bangladesh, and as a result there aren't many influential people seeking favor with their politicians. Politicians from Bangladesh are for some strange reason not as interesting or insightful as are American politicians. They're also not as rich....There's no bustling, ritzy, K Street equivalent in Dhaka.

Hillary Clinton's decision to make her presidential campaign about the alleged horrors of inequality despite her and Bill's many millions has her being labeled by many as a hypocrite. Fair enough, but this amounts to shooting fish in the most crowded of barrels.

What's most bothersome is that Hillary would bash the very inequality that has made it possible for her and Bill to be prominent global figures, and by extension wildly rich global figures. If not for the immense taxable wealth in the U.S., and the Clintons' ability to influence its direction around the world, very few would give them the time of day.

In short, the Clintons are nothing without the wealth inequality they claim to disdain. It's the sole source of their power. The swagger of the world's foremost political couple was taken from someone else.

Hillary Clinton's consigliere covers up her scandals // NY Post // Paul Sperry - May 17, 2015

If Congress really wants to get to the bottom of Hillary Clinton's missing Benghazi and pay-to-play emails, it should call her consigliere Cheryl D. Mills to testify — under oath, and under the klieg lights.

A hearing featuring Clinton will be a wasted show trial with a lot of political grandstanding.

But Mills, who served as the former secretary of state's chief of staff and counselor, knows where the bodies are

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buried. After all, Hillary tasked her with “identifying and preserving all emails that could potentially be federal records.”

And, presumably, deleting.

Mills has a long track record of hiding Clinton documents.

Since the 1990s, Mills has been at Hillary’s side — first as a White House lawyer, then as her closest and most loyal adviser at the State Department, and now as a key member of the Clinton Foundation board, which is under fire for raking in hundreds of millions of dollars from dubious foreign sources in alleged influence-peddling deals.

The job of damage control has fallen to Mills through a parade of scandals. Her lack of cooperation is legendary. In fact, she’s been officially accused of both perjury and obstruction of justice.

Sworn affidavits, depositions and court rulings, as well as congressional reports and testimony, paint a picture of, to put it charitably, a brazenly dishonest cover-up specialist.

Among her shenanigans:

· As White House deputy counsel, Mills ordered Commerce Department officials to “withhold” from investigators emails and other documents detailing then-President Clinton’s and First Lady Hillary Clinton’s allegedly illegal selling of seats on foreign trade junkets for campaign cash, according to sworn statements by Commerce’s former FOIA chief. “Ms. Mills, in her position as deputy counsel to the president, advised Commerce officials to withhold certain documents,” testified Sonya Stewart Gilliam in a July 2000 sworn affidavit taken by Judicial Watch, a government watchdog group in Washington. “The Commerce Department’s collaboration with White House Deputy Counsel Mills on these matters was, in my experience, highly irregular and at variance with normal procedures.

· At the same time, a federal judge ruled that Mills “failed miserably” to take proper steps to search for and recover 1.8 million Executive Office of the President and Office of the First Lady emails under subpoena in the Monica Lewinsky and Filegate scandal investigations, after computer contractors discovered them mysteriously missing from the automated White House archiving system. Mills, who was in charge of finding the lost email, conveniently made “the most critical error” in recovering them, US District Judge Royce Lamberth concluded in a 63-page opinion, adding that he found her actions “loathsome.” In fact, Judicial Watch accused Mills of orchestrating a “cover-up” in what became known as “Email-gate.” Her court testimony in the case, during which she repeatedly answered “I don’t have a recollection,” sounds like an interview with an amnesia patient. (In the end, the emails were never recovered).

· In another scandal, Mills “concealed” so many subpoenaed emails and other documents detailing allegedly illegal fundraising activity between the White House and the Democratic National Committee — specifically, Hillary’s illegal integration of White House and DNC computer databases — that staff lawyers for the House Government Oversight Committee in 1998 sent a criminal referral to the Justice Department demanding federal prosecutors charge Mills with obstruction of justice and perjury. “Ms. Mills knowingly and willfully obstructed the investigative authority of this committee by withholding documents,” the panel concluded in a 647-page investigative report. “Moreover, when this obstruction was brought to light in a hearing before the committee, Ms. Mills lied under oath about the documents and the circumstances surrounding their nonproduction.”

· In October 2012, Mills sorted through key Benghazi documents and decided which ones to withhold from an independent review board. She also leaned on witnessses. Deputy ambassador to Libya Gregory Hicks testified before Congress in 2013 that Mills told him in an angry phone call to stop cooperating with investigators.

· On behalf of the Clintons, Mills negotiated the weak conflict-of-interest rules for disclosing foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation with the Obama administration. She also reportedly helped broker international payments to the group.

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In short, Mills “is in the middle of it,” Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said.

An investigator with the House Select Committee on Benghazi said if the panel calls Mills as a witness, her testimony will most likely be taken behind closed doors in a “transcribed interview.” That would be a mistake.

Mills should be sworn in and grilled in a public hearing in front of TV cameras.

Sweating Mills could crack the case wide open. Otherwise, Hillary could walk away unscathed, waltz right back into the White House — and Mills could end up running it as chief of staff.

It's the Summer of Hillary Clinton on "SNL" // NBC New York // Michael Rodio - May 17, 2015

Summer is only a calendar page away. But nevermind the sunny skies and balmy breezes: the season of straw polls and caucuses has arrived, and Hillary Clinton was in campaign mode on "Saturday Night Live."

In the musical opening sketch, the former senator and secretary of state (portrayed in her latest "SNL" incarnation by a manic, delightfully unhinged Kate McKinnon) took to beaches and sand castles to introduce herself to a younger generation.

"May I have just a moment of your summer? I'm Hillary Clinton and I'm running for president of these United States," said Clinton, clawing at the air, her hands like pincers.

"But that's not for a long time," one (Kenan Thompson) said. "Now it's summer vacation."

"My last vacation was in 1953," she replied. "I played one round of hopscotch with a friend. I found it tedious. Why hop when you can march — straight to the White House."

She then issued her percussive laugh — something like "ah HA HA haaaaaa" — as her mouth curled into a snarling rictus.

She spoke with some kids (Aidy Bryant and Pete Davidson), whose parents remained resolutely against her political aspirations.

"I like your sand castle," she said.

"Thanks," Bryant's character replied. "It's our dream house."

"That's nice. This is my dream house," Clinton said, embracing a massive, sandy model of the White House.

Also on the campaign trail were a few surfers (Kyle Mooney, Jay Pharoah and Beck Bennett).

“Hey there, 18-to-25-year-olds," she said, stiffly hula-twisting up to a surfboard. "How does it hang?”

Blank stares.

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"You know what's cool? In two years I'll be 69," Clinton said. (More blank stares). "You like that? Bill told me to tell that to young males."

The former president made a brief appearance himself (in the person of longtime "SNL" impersonator Darrell Hammond), if only to help a young woman (Sasheer Zamata) apply sunscreen.

"Billary Rodham Clinton, what are you doing?" the former first lady hissed at her husband.

"Sorry," Mr. Clinton told Zamata's character. "It's my mom."

The Clintons weren't the only political dynasty to take some flak on Saturday night. On "Weekend Update," co-host Colin Jost skewered Jeb Bush for his fumbled responses to questions related to his brother's record in Iraq.

"Jeb Bush said in an interview this week that, like his brother, he would have authorized the invasion of Iraq," Jost said. "But he wouldn't have done it for the same George did: to capture the genie from Aladdin."

Jost also noted that Jeb Bush faced criticism during a Nevada town hall meeting, where a college student said George W. Bush "created ISIS."

"But that's really not fair," Jost said. "It's more like he co-created it," as a photo of Bush and former Vice President Dick Cheney appeared.

Diane Lane on Her Aborted Hillary Clinton Miniseries and Surviving Hollywood // The Daily Beast // Marlow Stern - May 17, 2015

“I was a complete anomaly,” says Diane Lane. “It was almost like a freak show to see a kid in the movies in the ’70s, and now it’s all kids.”

Yes, back in 1979, Lane was featured on the cover of Time magazine and christened one of Hollywood’s “Whiz Kids.” She’d just made her Broadway debut at the age of 12 in The Cherry Orchard opposite Meryl Streep when film icon Laurence Olivier fought with producers to get her out of her theatrical obligations so he could cast her in A Little Romance. Olivier, as is his wont, got his way, and after working with Lane christened her “the new Grace Kelly.”

Lane went on to star as the lone ballsy female in Francis Ford Coppola’s testosterone-fueled teen flicks The Outsiders and Rumble Fish before seguing to more adult roles, earning a well-deserved Oscar nomination for her turn as an unfulfilled housewife who embarks on a steamy affair with a sexy Frenchman in Unfaithful.

Her latest film is Every Secret Thing. Directed by Oscar-nominated documentarian Amy Berg, Lane stars as Helen Manning, the mother of a young girl, Alice (Danielle Macdonald), who’s—along with her alleged accomplice, Ronnie (Dakota Fanning)—hauled off to jail at a young age for a heinous crime. When she’s released seven years later, another young girl goes missing, and the two young women are the prime suspects.

The Daily Beast spoke with Lane about her new film and storied career, including her highly publicized—and ultimately canceled—turn as Hillary Clinton in the four-part NBC miniseries Hillary.

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How did you get involved with Every Secret Thing?

I'm a Frances McDormand fan, and it was her connection as a producer on it that sparked my interest first. And then I read the book, which was a fun, unexpected read. You get to see behind the scenes of mass confusion in the justice system. Nicole Holofcener, who wrote the screenplay, was going to direct it at one point, so I met with her and I'm a fan of hers, and then we hit a lot of snags with our schedules, so Fran found Amy [Berg] to direct, who was just this wunderkind. For me, the territory of this character was fascinating because I felt that her failure as a mother was the first domino in how such a horrible crime could take place, and the ensuing drama of the girls coming out of incarceration as adults. How do you look for a job? It's all rather daunting.

This is a much darker turn—and film—for you. I remember around the time of Nights of Rodanthe you'd been vocal about your frustration with being typecast as a sunny character.

Well, yeah. Opportunity is key. They don't make a lot of these, for whatever reason. I just thought it was a breath of fresh air to allow for the female experience to have nothing to do with the prerequisite sympathetic or nurturing presumptions. That's a mask that we want to see. I understand a lot of people want to go and believe in fairytales, and that's great and a big part of the entertainment industry, but there are other appetites that are more interested in the psychology. From my point of view, playing someone like this is definitely more of a hurdle—and also not, in a way. After so many years of being rather sunny, as you say, it's refreshing to examine what's not so "popular" about what exists in people.

Every Secret Thing is also a Hollywood rarity in that it's almost entirely made by women. It's written by Nicole Holofcener, directed by Amy Berg, stars you, Dakota Fanning, and Danielle Macdonald. Hell, even the lead detective in the film is a woman, played by Elizabeth Banks.

Yeah! And Laura Lippman wrote the book, too. I don't think it was intended that way, but I think there's a need for society to not just keep the female experience in the narrow confines of what's appealing. Only living on candy is not a good thing, you know?

I totally agree. Now, I want to talk about Hillary, the aborted NBC miniseries that was supposed to air sometime in 2014 and star you as Hillary Clinton. What story was it going to tell?

It was going to start with the Monica Lewinsky morning-after. Waking up to that news had to be quite a morning in their house! And then it continued on until she was embarking on her presidential bid.

It seems pretty prescient, given that the series was green-lit back in 2013 and Hillary only recently declared she'd be running for POTUS in 2016.

Well… I remember going with my daughter to sit down and vote for a woman [in the 2008 primary], because I never knew that the opportunity would present itself again—just so she'd have the experience as a young person to say that it happened. And hopefully for her, it will become a commonplace option.

Why do you think it was canceled? I read stories about NBC receiving pressure from the Republican National Committee, who'd voted to boycott NBC during the 2016 presidential primary debates when Hillary was announced.

You know, I suspect that it's possible that nobody wanted to fathom that a film could impact the psyche of the demographics who would be potential voters—meaning in one direction or another. I think it became about,

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“Wow, are we going to make a ‘pro’ or an ‘anti’ film?” “Are we going to elucidate aspects that will detract from the more important issues, or are we going to create speculation about things that are distracting from the agenda of the future of our country?” I do think there was cause for concern, because honestly, does anyone want to be a grain of sand tipping the scale in either direction? Only in hindsight can we guess the impact of media on the mentality of the voting body.

It was going to be a pretty positive portrayal of Hillary though, right?

I never got to see the final script. We only created an outline that was to be filled in, but we never got to the point that there was an actual screenplay. We did have an outline, though. I mean her whole life, depending on your opinion, is a positive or a negative. Are you anti things that she’s done or what she represents, or are you pro what she represents and the things that she’d done? But the one thing that I don’t think they can take away from Hillary is her experience. That’s a different conversation, but as far as that project, it was a fun, exciting, risk-taking moment for me to allow them to announce! It was so much larger than the project already; it was so unwieldy. I think we all were spared—everyone involved!

The first thing I ever saw you in was The Outsiders. Half of ’80s Hollywood is in that movie, and yours is really the only prominent female role.

It’s so interesting because it was all for the love of a woman. It’s like Helen of Troy, in a sense. What women represent to the male is, historically, a big burden. It’s a lovely dream but it’s the stuff of literature, art, and everything. Living up to what the male psyche projects onto the female is the stuff of books. You’d need a lot more than an interview to go into it! But at the time it was really the only film besides Bugsy Malone that was an art film for teenagers. It went deeper.

Tom Cruise must’ve taken a liking to you on that film, because I read that he asked you to star in Risky Business with him while you two were shooting The Outsiders.

That’s true. That’s true. My Dad was like, “There’s no way you’re playing a prostitute for that guy.”

He said that?!

[Laughs] Absolutely!

But then you almost played a prostitute later in Pretty Woman.

Oh, yeah. But that was a very different film, you have to understand. It was a movie called 3000, and it was a dark, dark psychological drama about a delusional prostitute who gets kicked out of a limousine at the end of the movie. They took that film and they dignified it, you know? She was not getting any jewelry. She might’ve for the weekend, but it was Cinderella-time.

So the version of Pretty Woman you’d signed onto was about a rich asshole playing mind games with a prostitute and convincing her that he loved her, only to kick her to the curb?

Correct. And every actress in town was auditioning in her underwear for that movie. It was a very uncomfortable time for everyone. Auditioning for Pretty Baby was pretty bad, too. It was a screen test, and I hated it. I get uncomfortable in my body now just remembering it. The fact that you go on meetings and hope you don’t get the part is always an awkward time.

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How have you managed to stay relevant in this pretty sexist industry that tends to cast aside women of a certain age?

Part of that is the psyche I was talking about earlier that men project and filter the female experience through. I was watching a documentary awhile back about pedophilia—at least I thought it was going to be about that—and it turned out that the males of our species invariably go for the youngest opportunity because, in our DNA, that meant you could have the most babies for longer. I don't take it personally anymore. I think it's a default, and leftover. It's like our fingernails; we don't use them for much anymore.

I gotta ask about Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice, because the trailer came out recently and everyone lost their shit.

Oh, that's done. We shot that last year. I'm Martha Kent again. I'm not really allowed to talk about it! It's one of those movies. Scenes were redacted! It was very hush-hush. I don't even know a lot of the movie myself! I didn't participate in a lot of green screen, though. My scenes were very earthbound, and normal.

Did you get to observe Ben Affleck as Batman? People are very curious how he'll be as the Dark Knight.

Oh, yeah. It certainly impressed the hell outta me! I thought he was brilliantly cast. I love Ben, and I worked with him years ago on a film called Hollywoodland, and he played the actor playing Superman in that! It's all so confusing and incestuous and curious, the trail that actors wander through in the course of their careers and how stories overlap. It's funny.

Unions Pour Millions into Clinton Foundation // AP // Bill McMorris - May 18, 2015

Big labor funneled millions of dollars in dues money to the Clinton Foundation, according to a new report.

The National Institute for Labor Relations Research (NILRR), a union watchdog group, traced at least $2 million in donations from multiple union organizations and affiliates.

"U.S. Department of Labor's union financial disclosure reports reveal that Big Labor gave at least $2,034,500 in union general treasury funds to Clinton Foundations. Union treasuries are funded mostly by compulsory union dues or fees collected from workers who would be fired for refusing to pay," the NILRR report says. "As Mrs. Clinton became closer to her current run for president, donations amounts appear to have increased."

The Clintons have turned their foundation into a lucrative "slush fund," according to one charity watchdog group, and have received hundreds of millions of dollars from notable businesses, media personalities, and political luminaries. The family has maintained that none of those donations influenced her decisions as secretary of state and that the money is strictly philanthropic.

However, unions did not necessarily agree about the apolitical nature of the donations, according to NILRR.

"Some of these 'donations' are categorized by the unions as 'political' on their financial disclosure report" to the Labor Department, the report says.

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United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices, a national plumbers union, for example, poured in nearly $200,000 through two contributions in 2013; each of those donations was classified as a political activity.

The AFL-CIO, one of the nation's most influential labor groups, contributed $23,000 to the Clinton Global Initiative in 2012 and reported the donation as a political activity. The union lobbied the State Department several times about pending free trade agreements over the course of the year.

Neither the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices nor the AFL-CIO returned a request for comment.

Clinton gave a tepid endorsement of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal being negotiated by the Obama administration in her memoir Hard Choices, but has backed away from that position since declaring her presidential candidacy.

A Washington Free Beacon review found that all of the donations unearthed by NILRR were accounted for in the public disclosures that Hillary Clinton pledged to make when she joined the Obama administration. She and the foundation have faced scrutiny for not properly living up to that pledge by author Peter Schweizer, the New York Times, Washington Free Beacon, and numerous other media outlets.

Neither the Clinton Foundation, nor the Clinton campaign returned request for comment.

Patrick Semmens, spokesman for the National Right to Work, said the donations fit into the pattern of Big Labor's political influence peddling.

"Once again union bosses are playing politics with rank-and-file workers' money, including money from workers who would be fired if they didn't pay," he said "There's no question the union officials view two million dollars as a down-payment towards making sure that a Hillary Administration will continue the Obama policy of wielding Executive power to benefit Big Labor at the expense of independent workers and businesses."

Stephanopoulos, ABC have not fully disclosed Clinton ties: Schweizer // USA Today // Peter Schweizer - May 17, 2015

Fact-driven, fair, aggressive journalism animates American politics. As an investigative journalist, I am accustomed to asking tough questions. When I publish, I expect tough questions in turn,

That's not what ABC News This Week host and chief anchor George Stephanopoulos delivered when he interviewed me about my new book on the Clinton Foundation last month. There's a reason. Though Stephanopoulos belatedly disclosed$75,000 in donations to the foundation, he has yet to disclose his much deeper relationship with the Clinton Foundation.

When Stephanopoulos invited me on his Sunday program, I knew that he had worked as a top adviser and campaign manager to President Bill Clinton in the 1990s, but I didn't know about his donations or his other ties to the foundation founded and overseen by the former president and his wife, potential future president Hillary Clinton.

I agreed to be interviewed, expecting a robust examination of my new book, Clinton Cash, and my reporting on the Clintons' accumulation of massive personal wealth, cronyism and the lack of transparency surrounding the Clintons' foundation.

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I expected probing questions, similar to the ones I've received from Andrea Mitchell on MSNBC, Chris Wallace on Fox News and Frank Sesno on CNN.

What I did not expect — what no one expected — was the sort of "hidden hand journalism" that has contributed to America's news media's crisis of credibility in particular, and Americans' distrust of the news media more broadly.

If Stephanopoulos had disclosed his donations to the very foundation I was there to talk about, perhaps it would have put the aggressive posture of his interview with me in context.

But he didn't.

And even though he has apologized to his viewers for keeping this information from both his audience and his bosses, there is much that Stephanopoulos has yet to disclose to his viewers. Indeed, far from being a passive donor who strokes Clinton Foundation checks from afar, a closer look reveals that Stephanopoulos is an ardent and engaged Clinton Foundation advocate.

For example, in his on air apology for this ethical mess, Stephanopoulos did not disclose that in 2006 he was a featured attendee and panel moderator at the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI).

He did not disclose that in 2007, he was a featured attendee at the CGI annual meeting, a gathering also attended by several individuals I report on in Clinton Cash, including mega Clinton Foundation donors Lucas Lundin, Frank Giustra, Frank Holmes, and Carlos Slim — individuals whose involvement with the Clintons I assumed he had invited me on his program to discuss.

Stephanopoulos did not disclose that he was a 2008 panelist at the CGI annual meeting which, once again, featured individuals I report on in the book, such as billionaire Clinton Foundation foreign donor Denis O'Brien.

ABC's most visible news employee did not disclose that in 2009, he served as a panel moderator at CGI's annual meeting, nor did he disclose that in 2010 and 2011, he was an official CGI member.

Stephanopoulos did not disclose that in 2013 and 2014, he and Chelsea Clinton served as CGI contest judges for awards, in part, underwritten by Laureate International Universities — a for-profit education company I report on in the book. Bill Clinton was on its payroll until his recent resignation.

Obviously, Stephanopoulos has favorable feelings toward Hillary and Bill Clinton; he gives their foundation his money and his time. Big-time news media personalities have one thing in very short supply — time. Regular participation in Clinton Foundation events shows a deeper commitment to the Clintons than just the donations.

Perhaps if Stephanopoulos weren't so close to the subject of my book, he might have asked me about my reporting on Hillary Clinton's brother, Tony Rodham, serving on the board of a company that scored a coveted and rare gold mining permit in Haiti as the Clintons directed the flow of U.S. Agency for International Development dollars. (As The Washington Post reported, Rodham met those mining executives at a CGI meeting.)

Indeed, Stephanopoulos could have pounded away at all the book's news. He chose not to. Instead, he made sure to highlight the four months I wrote speeches for President George W. Bush and my long past financial supporters, all while keeping quiet about his deep and longstanding involvement in the Clintons' foundation, and the three

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annual checks for $25,000 that he wrote.

What ABC News' top anchor has done is far different than the "honest mistake" ABC called it in a statement earlier this week.

I asked ABC News about the fact that this information was yet to be disclosed to ABC viewers, and mostly they avoided my questions, releasing a statement that reads in full, "Yes, George made us aware that he was moderating these panels and that is absolutely within our guidelines. We know that he would be listed as a member — as all moderators are. He is in good company of scores of other journalists that have moderated these panels."

That, however, is not at all what the Clinton Foundation website says about CGI membership. Read for yourself. Whether ABC News will ultimately punish Stephanopoulos is unclear.

What is certain is that Stephanopoulos' ethical malpractice and hidden-hand journalism have done further injury to an essential, if beleaguered, institution, one already battling to preserve legitimacy.

That's news no one can celebrate.

Clinton's super PAC fundraising irks progressives // CNN // MJ Lee – May 18, 2015

Clinton campaigns in Council Bluffs, Iowa, with her daughter, Chelsea, on January 1, 2008, two days ahead of the January 3 state caucus.

(CNN)Hillary Clinton's decision to personally raise money for a super PAC supporting her campaign is agitating her progressive critics, who see the move as further proof that the Democratic presidential frontrunner doesn't share some of their values.

There was never any expectation that Clinton would renounce super PAC money this election cycle. But liberal activists determined to use the Democratic primary to pressure Clinton to embrace a progressive agenda say the idea of the former secretary of state personally wooing the wealthiest class of donors runs counter to the populist rhetoric she's employed this year.

Within days of announcing her White House bid, Clinton had called out wealthy investors for paying too little in taxes and pledged to get big money out of politics. At the time, it was a welcome message for liberal Democrats who are uncomfortable with Clinton's close ties to Wall Street and find the prominent role of super PACs in elections utterly distasteful.

But the recent revelation that Clinton will personally fundraise for a super PAC supporting her campaign -- a decision to play by the rules of a system she has condemned as "dysfunctional" -- has invited fresh eye-rolling. It has also exposed a core tension for Democrats, who have increasingly embraced super PACs at the same time that they decry the explosion of soft money in national politics.

Clinton's campaign is explaining the decision as a matter of political necessity.

"With some Republican candidates reportedly setting up and outsourcing their entire campaign to super PACs and the Koch Brothers pledging $1 billion alone for the 2016 campaign, Democrats have to have the resources to fight back," a Clinton campaign official said in an email, who spoke anonymously to discuss the sensitive topic of fundraising. "There is too much at stake for our future for Democrats to unilaterally disarm."

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Clinton's expected involvement with Priorities USA has highlighted the contrast between her and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who is Clinton's only declared rival to date for the Democratic presidential nomination, as well as other potential challengers.

An independent from Vermont seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, Sanders has aggressively opposed super PAC donations. A long-shot candidate without a national fundraising operation, Sanders has no chance of matching Clinton's fundraising haul and has little to lose by going after millionaire and billionaire donors.

On Capitol Hill last week, Sanders told CNN that Clinton's decision to personally court super PAC donors was "unfortunate."

"We're living in a world since Citizens United where multi-millionaires and billionaires are playing a horrendous role in the political system," Sanders said, referring to the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling that paved the way for super PACs to direct virtually uncapped amounts of money to aid political candidates. "That's why I believe that we need to overturn Citizens United and move to public funding of elections."

A former White House chief of staff for Bill Clinton and a top counselor for President Obama, Podesta has the stature to speak truth to power. His influential role in early structural and strategic decisions suggests that he will be a far more hands-on campaign chairman than most.

Phil Noble, a South Carolina Democratic activist and supporter of former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a potential Democratic candidate for president, said the development underscores what progressives view as a "fundamental disconnect" between Clinton and middle class voters.

"It's not that she raises a bunch of money for a PAC that causes her problems with middle class voters. That is a symptom as opposed to the ailment," Noble said. "The larger illness is she is out of touch with middle class voters -- she does have a lifestyle and a history that is about as alien to middle class voters as corporate jets are to a Subaru."

And activists who are pushing Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren to challenge Clinton see campaign finance reform as a major issue.

"Being a true champion for working families like Elizabeth Warren is about clearly and unequivocally supporting such critical priorities as a constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United," said Erica Sagrans, campaign manager for Ready for Warren, a movement dedicated to drafting Sen. Elizabeth Warren into the 2016 race.

Clinton's personal involvement with Priorities USA marks the latest chapter in the Democratic Party's evolving relationship with super PACs.

Democrats initially fiercely opposed Citizens United. But for all of their rhetoric against super PACs, and as much as the party continues to use the Supreme Court decision as a political rallying cry, over the years political interest has largely won out over progressive idealism.

In 2012, President Barack Obama reversed course, declaring after years of keeping his distance from super PACs that his campaign would participate in raising money for Priorities USA.

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Now that tension is being brought to new heights as the party's next likely presidential nominee personally plans to drum up support for a super PAC backing her candidacy.

Clinton allies also see that her fundraising prowess and the depth of her connections with the kinds of donors who can cut multi-million dollar checks will likely make her a formidable competitor against any Republican candidate she may face in the general election. Officials are careful to emphasize, however, that Clinton and everyone else involved with her campaign will strictly follow the law as they solicit funds for Priorities USA.

The 2016 money race is well underway on the other side of the political aisle.

Declared GOP candidates including Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida, as well as expected candidates like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, are on a fundraising tear. And they've shown no signs of distancing themselves from super PAC money. Cruz launched his campaign in March, and the senator's allies declared that an affiliated network of pro-Cruz super PACs had raised upwards of $30 million in just a matter of days.

The stiff competition against Republican money is a reality that some progressive leaders say they cannot ignore.

Former Vermont governor and Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean said it would be unwise for Clinton to reject super PAC money.

"Unfortunately, if you don't play by the same rules everybody else does, you end up losing elections," said Dean, founder of Democracy for America, one of the groups behind the draft Warren movement. "The key is to change the rules, and I think we have a much better chance of doing that with her as president than we do with one of the Republicans."

‘Super PACS’ Are Remaking 2016 Campaigns, Official or Not // NYT // Nicholas Confessore and Eric Lichtblau - May 17, 2015

As the 2016 campaign unfolds, Hillary Rodham Clinton will benefit from one rapid-response team working out of a war room in her Brooklyn headquarters — and another one working out of a “super PAC” in Washington.

Jeb Bush has hired a campaign manager, press aides and fund-raisers — yet insists he is not only not running for president, but not even thinking about running for president.

And Senator Marco Rubio’s chance of winning his party’s nomination may hinge on the support of an “independent” group financed by a billionaire who has bankrolled Mr. Rubio’s past campaigns, paid his salary teaching at a university and employed his wife.

With striking speed, the 2016 contenders are exploiting loopholes and regulatory gray areas to transform the way presidential campaigns are organized and paid for.

Their “campaigns” are in practice intricate constellations of political committees, super PACs and tax-exempt groups, engineered to avoid fund-raising restrictions imposed on candidates and their parties after the Watergate scandal.

Major costs of each candidate’s White House bid, from television advertising to opposition research to policy

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development, are now being shifted to legally independent organizations that can accept unlimited contributions from wealthy individuals, corporations and labor unions.

In this new world, campaigns are not campaigns. And candidates are not actually candidates. Though they sometimes forget it.

“I am running for president in 2016,” Mr. Bush said during a speech in Nevada last week, before quickly amending himself.

“If I run,” clarified Mr. Bush, whose political operation has already raised tens of millions of dollars — just in case.

Much rides on this apparent distinction. Because of it, Mr. Bush and several other contenders have delayed registering their campaigns with the Federal Election Commission, even as they travel the country, meet with voters, attend candidate forums and ask donors for money. That allows them — or so their representatives argue — to personally raise money for and coordinate spending with super PACs.

By law, a campaign and an independent group cannot coordinate their activities. But since there is no campaign, the representatives argue, there is nothing for the groups to illegally coordinate with.

Not everyone agrees. In March, the Campaign Legal Center and Democracy 21, two groups that favor stricter enforcement of campaign regulations, filed complaints with the election commission alleging that Mr. Bush; Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin; Rick Santorum, the former senator from Pennsylvania; and Martin O’Malley, the former Maryland governor, all met the legal definition of being a candidate and were raising tens of millions of dollars in violation of federal rules.

Mr. Bush’s comment in Nevada was “a slip of the mask, not a slip of the tongue,” said Paul S. Ryan, a senior counsel at the Campaign Legal Center. “The rules apply to you as soon as you start spending money to determine whether you will run. Simply denying that you’re a candidate doesn’t get you around these campaign finance laws.”

No potential candidate has been more aggressive in using the new model than Mr. Bush. In recent months, his advisers have created a traditional political action committee — the kind that can accept contributions of only a few thousand dollars per donor — along with a super PAC that can take unlimited contributions and is expected to handle the bulk of the advertising on Mr. Bush’s behalf during the primaries. There is also a nonprofit organization, based in Arkansas, that can raise unlimited contributions and is not required to disclose its donors.

All share some variation of the name “Right to Rise,” and Mr. Bush has headlined fund-raisers for the groups, even putting his name on invitations to more than 300 donors who attended a Right to Rise conference in Miami in April.

Technically, however, the super PAC is controlled by a Republican campaign lawyer in Washington. The regular PAC is run by a Florida accountant who has also prepared Mr. Bush’s taxes. (Mr. Bush is merely the PAC’s “honorary chairman.”) And the nonprofit group is controlled by a former Bush aide who is widely described as the head of Mr. Bush’s policy team, but who has said the nonprofit will merely be “engaged in policy generation that is consistent with Governor Bush’s optimistic, conservative message.”

The non-campaigns reject the idea that their non-candidates are doing anything wrong.

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“Right to Rise PAC and Honorary Chairman Jeb Bush are fully complying with the law and F.E.C. precedent in all of our activities,” said Tim Miller, who is often described in news accounts as a Bush spokesman but is technically only a consultant to the Right to Rise PAC.

If there is little risk to candidates in pushing the envelope, the benefits are substantial. Outsourcing campaign expenses to a super PAC, for example, allows would-be presidents to avoid the kind of cash-flow problems that can doom their bids even before the first contests in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Traditionally, a candidate who waited too long to hire a campaign staff risked losing all the best talent to rival candidates. Hire too early, and the campaign’s payroll costs quickly balloon, burning through contributions that are capped at $2,700 per donor.

Now candidates set up super PACs and other vehicles before entering the race and fill their bank accounts with six- and seven-figure checks from wealthy supporters. Those groups, in turn, can employ the candidate’s campaign staff-in-waiting.

Mr. Walker’s operation, for example, has hired advisers to handle fund-raising, Christian conservative outreach, polling and more. These advisers are not working for his campaign, which does not yet exist. Instead, all are on the payroll of a tax-exempt organization, Our American Revival, for which Mr. Walker has already raised more than $5 million.

“Governor Walker does not sit on O.A.R.’s board or otherwise control it,” said AshLee Strong, a spokeswoman for the group. “He is simply working with us to advance a big, bold conservative reform agenda across the country.”

The outsourcing even extends to the daily work of “rapid-response,” or reacting to criticisms in the news media or from other candidates.

When a Washington Post fact-checker sought clarification from the Republican campaign of Carly Fiorina about claims she had made about her business career, he was directed to an independent super PAC for some of the answers. The name of the super PAC: Carly for America.

“The super PAC has just been very vocal in defending her, so I thought that they’d be good to talk to,” explained Ms. Fiorina’s spokeswoman, Sarah Isgur Flores. Ms. Flores works for the campaign, which is registered as Carly for President.

Campaign lawyers in both parties say their efforts to circumvent the candidate contribution limits, however suspect they may appear, are fully consistent with existing laws and regulations. And to some extent, the model being pioneered in 2016 is merely a culmination of piecemeal efforts undertaken in past campaigns

Richard L. Hasen, a professor and campaign finance expert at the University of California, Irvine, School of Law, said it had become hard even for him to know what is legal anymore.

“You see some of these things and you have to do a double take; things we thought were established as red lines are no longer red lines,” Mr. Hasen said in an interview. “It’s all a mess.”

That extends to the rules that govern what candidates can do after they formally enter the race. Each cycle brings new tactics for candidates to collaborate with independent groups while trying to steer clear of illegal “coordination.”

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In 2012, aides to the Republican candidate Mitt Romney were wary of acknowledging that he attended donor gatherings for a super PAC backing his campaign. This time, there is less sensitivity. Mr. Bush, other Republicans and Mrs. Clinton will all be attending donor events organized by super PACs. (Their attendance is legal so long as someone else asks for the money.)

And they are openly courting the donors who will finance the groups: Mr. Rubio frequently speaks with Norman Braman, who has said he and Mr. Rubio are “close personal friends.” Mr. Braman, a billionaire auto dealer who was a major contributor to Mr. Rubio’s past campaigns, helped cover the cost of his teaching job at Florida International University and employed his wife to advise the Braman family’s philanthropic foundation, has pledged at least $10 million to a pro-Rubio super PAC.

Supporters of Mrs. Clinton announced the creation last week of a super PAC, Correct the Record, that would serve as a communications “war room” and coordinate directly with Mrs. Clinton’s campaign.

Federal law prohibits a candidate from controlling super PACs, and such groups cannot coordinate expenditures such as paid advertisements.

But Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for the super PAC, said the coordination restriction would not apply because Correct the Record’s defense of Mrs. Clinton would be built around material posted on the group’s own website, not paid media. Ms. Watson also ventured a further distinction that she said would keep Correct the Record on the right side of the law: The group will collaborate with Mrs. Clinton’s campaign, but will not be controlled by it.

“While Correct the Record can legally coordinate with the Clinton campaign, the campaign will not be telling us what to do,” she said.

Bill Clinton to attend Emanuel's, City Council's inaugural ceremony // Chicago Sun Times // Mary Mitchell - May 17, 2015

Former President Bill Clinton will attend the inaugural ceremony Monday at the Chicago Theatre, where Mayor Rahm Emanuel and 50 Chicago aldermen will be sworn in.

Emanuel and Clinton — whose wife, Hillary Clinton, is seeking the Democratic nomination for president — have a long history of working together. In 1982, Emanuel moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, to work for then-Gov. Clinton. Emanuel also served in several senior positions during the Clinton administration.

In an interview ahead of the inauguration, Emanuel talked to Chicago Sun-Times’ City Hall reporter Fran Spielman about issues that confront the city and the dark cloud that hangs over his second term now that the Illinois Supreme Court has overturned state pension reforms and placed city reforms in jeopardy.

“I am energized by the both the opportunities and challenges that I face,” Emanuel said. “They’re daunting, yet they’re incredible.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Bernie Sanders to Introduce Bill to Make College Tuition-Free // Bloomberg // Ali Elkin – May 17, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders will introduce legislation on Tuesday to make public college tuition-free in the United States.

"We live in a highly competitive global economy and, if our economy is to be strong, we need the best-educated work force in the world. That will not happen if, every year, hundreds of thousands of bright young people cannot afford to go to college, and if millions more leave school deeply in debt," the Vermont senator and presidential candidate said in a statement released Sunday.

The plan will provide tuition-free higher education to students at four-year colleges, the statement said, and is modeled after the way many European nations handle the costs of college.

“Countries like Germany, Denmark, Sweden and many more are providing free or inexpensive higher education for their young people.”

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders

"Countries like Germany, Denmark, Sweden and many more are providing free or inexpensive higher education for their young people," Sanders said in the statement. "They understand how important it is to be investing in their youth. We should be doing the same."

The move could put added pressure on Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who has yet to release her plan for higher education. A few weeks ago, campaign manager Robby Mook used the phrase "debt-free college," when discussing the issues important to young people, but Clinton has not yet said whether or not that would be a part of her plan. Sanders's move could stack this issue on top of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal as another issue awaiting comment from Clinton, in which more liberal Democrats are herding her to the left.

President Obama continues to try and drum up congressional support for his plan to make community college tuition-free.

“I want to lower the cost of community college to zero," Obama said earlier this month at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, South Dakota. "We can’t afford to let striving Americans be priced out of the education they need to get ahead.”

Sanders's statement said his bill will also seek to "substantially lower student debt and bring down interest rates on college loans."

GOP

Iowa GOP audience delights in bounty of choices // Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs - May 17, 2015

Republicans exulted in what they see as a smorgasbord of good choices in their 2016 presidential lineup, but former CEO Carly Fiorina seemed to steal the show at the Iowa GOP's Lincoln Dinner on Saturday night.

The audience of 1,400 stopped just short of booing when dinner organizers cut the sound to her microphone when

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she reached the strict 10-minute speaking limit set for all 11 presidential hopefuls.

One of Fiorina's best-received lines: "I was asked whether a woman's hormones prevent her from serving in the Oval Office. OK, ladies, this is a test: Can you think of a single instance in which a man's judgment was clouded by his hormones? Including in the Oval Office?"

"She was like a fireball," said one dinner guest, Tanya Manatt, a 43-year-old Johnston resident who owns a bridal boutique. "She had a lot of energy, and she's not intimidated."

The night's next most popular hopefuls — based on crowd reaction, a sampling of interviews with dinner guests and observations of the traffic in each contender's hospitality room after the speeches — were three governors: former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

"As far as covering the bases and making me feel like he would be a good leader, Jeb Bush was next best," Manatt said. "I did not expect that. I didn't want to like him."

A big honorable mention, for humor and a touching personal story about the deaths of both of his parents when he was a young man, seemed to go to South Carolina U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham.

Graham offered a steady stream of quips as soon as he took the stage.

"Chuck Grassley. Is he still here? The one thing I've learned about this dinner: It was free for Chuck or he wouldn't have been here."

But there were some gasps when Graham, in a serious moment, said: "If you're thinking about joining al-Qaeda or ISIS, I'm not going to call a judge, I'm going to call a drone, and we will kill you. We're at war, and I'm tired of treating the war as a crime."

The 11 who auditioned for the role of presidential nominee during the dinner at the Iowa Events Center were Fiorina, Perry, Bush, Walker, Graham, retired doctor Ben Carson, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former New York Gov. George Pataki, Kentucky U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, former Pennsylvania U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum and New York reality TV star Donald Trump.

Several audience members said they thought Perry and Bush overperformed, while Walker underperformed, but still did a good job pitching his status as an adopted Iowan of sorts and hitting hard on national security and "safety."

"Rick Perry had a lot of energy, no notes and definite ideas about what he wanted to do and the experience to back it up as a former military man. I liked him so much more than I did four years ago," said Shelley Pitts of Cumming, who works at Von Maur. "And Carly. I loved her. I just loved everything she said."

In his speech, Perry knocked common core education standards, proposed rebuilding the U.S. military and bemoaned an "underlying pessimism we see in this country" about the future.

"If we will unleash people from over-taxation, over-regulation, over-litigation ... we will have the greatest days in America ahead," Perry said.

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Although several audience members said Bush seemed a little nervous — he stumbled on some words and referred to his notes more than others did — they praised how he explained his conservative record in Florida and the passion he exhibited on education issues.

"To me, Bush exceeded expectations," said Bill Schickel, a former Iowa GOP official. Schickel also listed Perry, Graham and Fiorina as favorites.

Bush said whether people like it or not, he's proud of the fact that he's "George and Barbara's boy" and that "W's my brother." Bush talked about his successes as Florida governor in job creation, school choice and protecting "the most vulnerable in society," including the unborn, the disabled and the frail.

Walker showed a photo of himself at age 7 that was shot, he said, after he and his brother went door to door raising money for a state flag at the Plainfield City Hall. His family lived there in the mid-1970s. Walker was one of the only ones to insert religion into his speech, talking about his recent trip to Israel and how he was moved to see the spot where "literally Christ fed the 5,000."

Paul zoned in on civil liberties issues, arguing that Americans don't have to "give up what our founding fathers fought for in order to catch terrorists."

Carson called division, the economy and a failure to lead the world the three biggest problems facing America.

Jindal said two major threats the country faces are Islamic terrorism abroad and the trampling of religious liberties at home. A third threat: the polices of President Barack Obama and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, he said.

Santorum said Republicans need to remember the 74 percent of Americans who lack a college degree, many of whom still struggle economically.

Pataki noted that he was governor when the airplanes hit the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001. But today, "the greatest threat to our freedom," he said, is an ever-encroaching government. "It's not an imminent threat, but it's a very real threat," he said.

Trump, a real estate mogul turned reality TV star, said he can build a wall on the U.S. southern border ("I'm a good builder") and has already created tens of thousands of jobs. Trump expressed indignation that people — namely the news media — don't believe he'll run. He said he'll make an announcement in June that's "going to surprise a lot of people."

Not everyone in the crowd could take Trump seriously.

"Trump! I was trying to hold it in. I didn't want to laugh too much," said the Rev. Lawrence Davis, a 63-year-old Des Moines pastor. "Now, Carly, she was dynamite. She knew what she was talking about."

The hospitality rooms weren't all the same size so it was hard to judge, but a nonscientific survey throughout the night showed Walker's room, in a prime spot at the bottom of the escalators leading from the banquet hall, was the most packed at first.

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"Cold beer!" said a sign out front. Wisconsin cheese and Miller beer were being served inside.

Long lines waited for snapshots with Fiorina, Carson and Trump, the night's celebrities.

But near the end of the evening, the biggest crowds had migrated to Bush's room, which was unadorned by decorations, but had an open bar and a buffet of hors d'oeuvres.

Paul and Pataki didn't host receptions. All the other contenders drew decent-sized crowds, except Santorum.

His Iowa chairman, state Rep. Walt Rogers, R-Cedar Falls, said the small crowds showed that "people know Rick well. Everyone's kicking the tires on everyone else. But they'll come back to an old, solid four wheels like Rick."

Republican Candidates Dodge Immigration Questions // TIME // Alex Altman - May 17, 2015

Sitting in a hotel conference room of a Scottsdale, Ariz., resort, Mike Huckabee kibitzed with a few reporters Friday about issues ranging from the Iraq War to the suspension of New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

But when the talk turned to whether undocumented immigrants should have a path to U.S. citizenship, the former Arkansas governor clammed up. “Until we have a secure border,” Huckabee demurred, “there isn’t any other discussion for us to be having.”

Huckabee isn’t the only Republican presidential candidate to dodge the topic lately. As the 2016 race ramps up, GOP candidates are increasingly skirting the specifics of immigration policy. It’s a trend that threatens the party’s hopes of reclaiming the White House.

Routed in the battle for Hispanic voters in 2012, the Republican Party promised to speak differently about immigration this time. But the need to repair its relationship with Latinos has collided with its candidates’ need to court the conservative activists who dominate the GOP nominating contest. As a result, many of the party’s presidential hopefuls don’t want to divulge the details of their positions on an issue with major political and policy ramifications.

To discern the differences between the candidates on immigration, TIME distributed a brief survey to declared and likely White House hopefuls. The questions focused on the fate of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants currently in the U.S., a subject at the heart of the bipartisan debate over comprehensive immigration reform:

1. Do you support an eventual pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently residing in the U.S., and if so, under what conditions?

2. Do you support an eventual pathway to legal status short of citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently residing in the U.S., and if so, under what conditions?

3. Do you support a separate process to give legal status or citizenship to undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as minors?

4. Do you support any government benefits, such as in-state college tuition, for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as minors?

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5. Some likely GOP candidates offered clear and succinct answers. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum was a “no” on all four, according to his spokesman. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of the architects of the Senate’s bipartisan attempt to overhaul U.S. immigration laws in 2013, stuck by his support for a path to citizenship under detailed conditions. “Citizenship need not be mandatory, but it needs to be an option for those who are qualified,” said Graham spokeswoman Brittany Bramell. Graham also backed a process to give legal status or citizenship—along with government benefits like in-state tuition—to minors brought to the U.S. by their parents.

But the majority of the field offered muddier responses, or declined to answer at all. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal was one of several to argue the debate should be postponed until the southern border is secured.

“Any discussion about dealing with who is already here is counterproductive until the border is secure,” Jindal told TIME in a statement issued through his spokesman. “Any attempt to deal with the millions of people who are currently in this country illegally prior to securing the border is illogical, and is nothing more than amnesty.”

Asked about a pathway to legal status for undocumented workers who met certain conditions, Jindal dismissed it as “a hypothetical conversation.” As for legal status or citizenship for those brought to the U.S. as minors, Jindal turned the focus to Obama. “A serious discussion about those individuals is just not possible right now because of the reckless policies of this administration,” he said. “This President has done everything he can to encourage illegal immigration.”

GOP hopefuls debate: Was Iraq a mistake? // LA Times // Katherine Skiba - May 17, 2015

Leading candidates for the Republican presidential nomination split sharply Sunday on the same question that tripped up Jeb Bush last week: Was invading Iraq a mistake?

No, said Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.): The 2003 invasion was the right decision because President George W. Bush had intelligence findings indicating that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Bush “wasn’t dealing with a Nobel Prize winner. He was dealing with Saddam Hussein,” Rubio said. “And he made the right decision based on the information he had at that time.”

At the other end of the GOP spectrum, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul stopped just short of saying that the U.S. would have done better to leave Hussein in power. He questioned whether toppling secular dictators in the Mideast had helped or hurt U.S. interests.

“I think when Hussein was toppled, we got chaos,” Paul said. “We still have chaos in Iraq. I think it emboldened Iran,” he added. “We now have the rise of radical Islam in Iraq as well.”

A third potential candidate, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, took a position closer to Rubio than Paul.

“I think any president, regardless of party, probably would have made a similar decision to what President Bush did at the time with the information that he had available,” Walker said.

“Knowing what we know now, I think it’s safe for many of us, myself included, to say we probably wouldn’t have taken that tack” to launch an invasion, he said.

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Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, spent much of last week revising answers to the question of whether he agreed with his older brother's decision in 2003 to invade Iraq. After first saying yes, then calling the question hypothetical, he eventually settled on this answer:

"If we're all supposed to answer hypothetical questions knowing what we know now, what would you have done, I would have not engaged, I would not have gone into Iraq."

Bush's shifting responses drew dismayed comments from Republican activists who said he seemed unprepared for an obvious question.

While most of the potential candidates have focused on what they characterize as an "intelligence failure" in the prewar assessments of Iraq's weapons program, Paul's question about whether overthrowing dictators is a good idea involves a deeper disagreement with longtime GOP foreign policy.

He has raised similar questions about U.S. policy toward Syria, where the Obama administration is, at least officially, committed to seeing President Bashar Assad removed from power.

Paul has several times made the point that although Assad is a dictator, he has fought against Islamic radicals and defended the interests of Syrian Christians.

Rubio, by contrast, has joined many other Republicans in chastising the administration for not doing more to overthrow Assad. On Sunday, he repeated his call for the U.S. to take a more muscular approach, saying the administration should find a group "on the ground in Syria that we could work with."

Rubio made his remarks on "Fox News Sunday"; Paul was interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press"; Walker was interviewed on CBS' "Face the Nation."

The three also differed in how they analyzed negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

Paul, asked if he would consider using military force against a country trying to develop a nuclear weapons program, said the U.S. always should have the threat of military force behind diplomacy.

"But I would prefer diplomacy. I think we can still have negotiations," he said. "We negotiated with the Soviets for 70 years, and we ended up coming to a peaceful outcome."

"My hope is really that negotiations continue," he said. "There are some in my party who say, 'Oh, I don't want any negotiations.' They're ready to be done with it," he added. "But once you're done with negotiations, the choices are war, or they get a weapon, and I don't wanna have just those two binary choices."

Rubio disagreed. The outlines of negotiations to contain Iran's nuclear programs are "much worse than anybody anticipated," he said. "And, in fact, every time there's a new revelation about the deal, it gets worse and worse and worse."

Walker said that any agreement with Iran must include full dismantling of what he characterized as its "illicit" nuclear infrastructure, which he said was a "real threat" to Israel as well as the U.S. allies among the Arab states of the Persian Gulf.

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The deal the administration has been negotiating with Iran would put new limits on what Iran can do with its nuclear facilities and would impose new inspections on them, but would not dismantle them.

Not surprisingly, the one area on which all three would-be nominees agreed was in criticizing former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the likely Democratic candidate.

“If she ever takes questions,” reporters should ask Clinton, “Was it a good idea to invade Libya?” during Obama’s first term, Paul said. “Did that make us less safe? Did it make it more chaotic? Did it allow radical Islam and ISIS to grow stronger?”

“I think the war in Iraq is a good question,” he said, “but so is the question of ‘Should we have gone into Libya?’ ”

Rubio criticized Clinton for her position on Iraq during the latter part of the Bush presidency. “We don’t know how she justifies, for example, not supporting the surge in Iraq and these sorts of other things,” he said. Clinton, who was a senator from New York at the time, opposed the 2007 surge.

Paul, asked about surveillance provision of the Patriot Act, which is scheduled to expire at the end of this month, noted that a federal appeals court in New York earlier this month had ruled that the government’s collection of records of U.S. telephone calls was illegal. So “really, it oughta stop.”

“You can catch terrorists,” he said. “Judges will grant warrants” when investigators have a specific person they want to pursue, he said.

The Senate is to take up the Patriot Act this week. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has called for an extension of the surveillance provisions through the end of July to give Congress more time to work on replacement legislation. Paul did not say whether he would attempt to block such an extension by a filibuster.

Lindsey Graham to provide ‘very important update’ on 2016 plans Monday // WaPo // Sean Sullivan - May 17, 2015

Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), who in recent months has moved closer to running for president, will provide a "very important update" on his plans Monday morning, he told supporters on Sunday.

"Tomorrow morning I will be giving a very important update on my 2016 plans and I want to make sure you are able to hear it," Graham wrote in an e-mail to his supporters.

He said he will appear on CBS's "This Morning" at 8 a.m. Eastern time.

"As an announcement draws near, I need to know you stand with me," Graham continued, linking to a page where people can donate money to his exploratory committee.

Graham formed the committee, Security Through Strength, in January and has been staffing it as he prepares for what looks increasingly like it will become a full-fledged run for president. A Graham spokesperson did not immediately respond to a question about his plans.

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Politico reported earlier this month that Graham told donors that June 1 was the likely date for his presidential announcement.

If Graham runs, he is likely to center his campaign around the theme of national security. He is among the most hawkish figures in the Republican Party and already has secured the support of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), a close friend and fellow hawk.

Top Scott Walker aides pushed for questionable $500,000 WEDC loan // Wisconsin State Journal // Matthew DeFour - May 17, 2015

Gov. Scott Walker's top aides and a powerful lobbyist pressed for a taxpayer-funded loan in 2011 to a financially struggling Milwaukee construction company that lost the state half a million dollars, created no jobs and raised questions about where the money went, a State Journal investigation has found.

The extraordinary steps led the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. in 2011 to award a $500,000 unsecured loan to Building Committee Inc., owned by William Minahan, for a proposed project to retrofit bank and credit union buildings for energy efficiency.

The loan, which was not repaid, is one of several agency awards that state auditors have questioned since Walker created the agency in 2011. Last year, WEDC, the state's flagship job-creation agency, took the unusual step of suing BCI in an attempt to get the money back.

The failed deal was made at the urging of then-Administration Secretary Mike Huebsch, who wanted WEDC to provide a forgivable loan to the company eight times that size, according to Paul Jadin, former CEO of WEDC.

Walker's office confirmed that Huebsch introduced the company's owner to Jadin. Lobbyist Eric Petersen, who represented BCI and Minahan, and Keith Gilkes, Walker's former campaign manager who was the governor's chief of staff at the time, met in June 2011 with Huebsch and Minahan to discuss the loan, according to records obtained by the State Journal under the state's open records law.

Hours after his office released those and other records to the State Journal on Friday, Walker, who is considering a 2016 presidential bid, called on the Legislature to scrap WEDC's entire loan program, citing a recent legislative audit.

The push to fund the BCI project came after Minahan gave Walker's 2010 Republican campaign for governor a last-minute infusion of $10,000 on Election Day — the maximum individual contribution.

Jadin said Minahan and Huebsch -- a member of the WEDC board by virtue of his role as Administration secretary -- pushed for a $4.3 million WEDC loan, but the agency could justify no more than a $500,000 loan, which Jadin said he considered "fairly risky."

"I wanted to assist the company to the extent that they qualified given that it had such a strong endorsement from Secretary Huebsch," Jadin said.

The State Journal investigation found that Huebsch, a former Assembly speaker from West Salem, was advocating for the taxpayer loan to BCI as the now-defunct company was collapsing.

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The State Journal also found that:

· WEDC awarded the unsecured loan to BCI only after Huebsch and other DOA officials were unable to find funding from state or federal energy programs or the utility-funded Focus on Energy program, according to a May 2011 memo.

· WEDC was unable to locate the original underwriting documents justifying the $500,000 loan to BCI. Huebsch's agency had offered to conduct a "staff review" of the proposed loan for WEDC, but state officials said that review never happened.

· On his 2011 WEDC loan application, Minahan checked "no" when asked if BCI or any of its officers had been sued in the previous five years, although electronic court records show three such lawsuits.

· After Jadin left the agency, WEDC approved BCI's request for more time to repay the loan and helped it seek federally subsidized energy bonding even as other creditors filed lawsuits against BCI and Minahan seeking half a million dollars for unpaid bills.

· Minahan listed La Crosse-based Michaels Energy and UW-Milwaukee as partners in the proposed project. But the owner of Michaels Energy and the dean of the UW-Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Design said their organizations never received any proceeds from the state loan and did little or no work on the project.

· Minahan sent two short emails in response to a set of detailed questions posed by the State Journal. He chalked up the failure of the loan to the recession's impact on the construction industry.

"Having worked in the construction industry since 1982, Wisconsin-based BCI was fortunate to serve the planning, design and construction management needs of hundreds of clients across the country," Minahan wrote. "WEDC's initial financial support of our efforts demonstrates their shared vision to find efficiencies and to reduce energy costs for existing private sector and municipally owned buildings in Wisconsin."

Huebsch, who has since been appointed by the governor to a $129,000-a-year job at the Public Service Commission, released a statement through DOA spokesman Cullen Werwie. In it, he acknowledges working to find funding for Minahan's project through his former agency and WEDC.

"As the Secretary of DOA, I often worked to connect small businesses with resources that could lead to job creation," Huebsch's statement said. "After the initial connection, there was some additional follow-up on my part with WEDC to ask that it be clearly communicated to BCI what additional resources, if any, may be available, as well as to ask that the denial of additional loan funds be communicated directly to BCI."

Walker spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said Walker was not aware of Minahan's donation to his gubernatorial campaign. According to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Minahan was one of 32 people who made the maximum $10,000 individual donation to Friends of Scott Walker in 2010.

Petersen said he was not involved in Minahan's donation but represented clients who did give to Walker's campaign.

Patrick also said Friday the governor, who chairs the WEDC board, "has not met with Mr. Minahan, nor was he involved in or aware of any part of the loan process concerning The Building Committee Inc."

She added that "there was no further contact or involvement with our office beyond the initial meeting" involving Gilkes.

In calling Friday for an end to the loan program, Walker did not mention the BCI loan. Instead he cited a recent

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Legislative Audit Bureau report that found the agency did not always follow its internal policies, including verifying the number of jobs created by aid recipients.

The audit also found that while WEDC had reduced its outstanding loans from $4.2 million to $1.3 million in 2014, most of the decline was due to loans being extended, forgiven or written off.

The $500,000 BCI award was one of 10 loans the agency wrote off last year.

Huebsch pushes funding

Minahan met with Walker administration officials to discuss the loan proposal in June 2011 as Walker was launching WEDC, a public-private organization designed to be more nimble and competent than its predecessor, the Department of Commerce. Walker had promised to help create 250,000 jobs during his first term, and forming the agency was a key vehicle to achieving that goal. In the end, Walker fell short by 100,000 jobs.

Jadin, WEDC's first chief executive, said Minahan and Huebsch initially sought a $4.3 million forgivable loan for BCI, which specialized in building bank and credit union buildings. The company said its project to retrofit financial buildings for energy efficiency would generate 155 jobs in Wisconsin.

It was the only time Huebsch pushed for a specific deal, Jadin said, adding he first learned of the proposal from Huebsch.

"I don't recall another situation where the secretary became an advocate," he said.

Jadin said he told Huebsch he would have the agency's underwriters check BCI's financial viability and come back with a recommendation.

On Sept. 3, 2011, Chris Schoenherr, then-head of DOA's energy division, sent a WEDC official information about the project, saying "we are on a tight time frame on the first stage of this."

Weeks later, Jadin signed a $500,000, one-year, unsecured loan. WEDC spokesman Mark Maley said the agency is unable to locate the underwriting documents supporting the loan.

Jadin said Minahan and Huebsch continued to press the case for additional funding after the initial award. Emails show Minahan had multiple contacts with WEDC in late 2011 and early 2012. The agency and Minahan corresponded about terms for additional money.

In one case, WEDC offered BCI another $500,000 if Minahan agreed to provide a personal guarantee of $1 million, which he rejected in February 2012. A few months later, a WEDC underwriter recommended against another proposal, for a $1.5 million loan, noting "the value of the business owned is hard to determine without any supporting financial documentation."

"At this point in time," the underwriter wrote, "there does not appear to be a clear source of repayment for the ($500,000) loan. In addition, there does not appear to be adequate collateral to secure additional WEDC funding."

After the loan was granted, Jadin said he met with Minahan and Huebsch to discuss additional financing.

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He said the BCI owner was unable to answer questions about how retrofitting banks and credit unions for energy efficiency would generate jobs aside from “normal construction on normal construction projects.”

“We concluded it was already a fairly risky loan and decided not to provide any additional funding,” Jadin said. “I had very significant concerns about (Minahan’s) ability to deliver on the basic business premise. I believe my position was clear and unambiguous, and Secretary Huebsch understood there were no more funds forthcoming, and he dropped it.”

A state audit later noted the underwriters had warned the original deal did not include any collateral from its owner, meaning the state would not be able to seize property — such as Minahan’s $975,000 home in River Hills — in the case of a default. Jadin said he did not recall that aspect of the loan.

Jadin, a Republican and former mayor of Green Bay, left WEDC on Nov. 1, 2012, a month after the loan was due, to head up MadREP, an economic development group in Madison.

WEDC extends loan

As 2012 came to a close, a BCI representative told WEDC it had run out of money for the project, agency records show. WEDC’s management team, excluding CEO Reed Hall, authorized extending the loan due date to Aug. 1, 2013, Maley said.

In the seven months after the new loan due date, WEDC sent BCI six notices warning the loan was overdue and then in default. Even as it was sending those notices, WEDC and Huebsch’s Department of Administration continued to help BCI in its ultimately unsuccessful effort to secure $4.5 million in federal energy conservation bond funding.

Last July, WEDC sued the company seeking repayment of the loan. On Nov. 4 — the day Walker was elected to his second term as governor — a Dane County Circuit Court judge ordered BCI to repay the loan plus interest totaling $542,000. BCI has not repaid the loan.

Hall, Jadin’s successor, declined to be interviewed.

“Throughout this process, WEDC diligently monitored and tracked this loan,” Maley said. “When it became clear BCI was unable to secure funding to repay the loan, WEDC aggressively pursued repayment through past-due and default notices, and eventually by taking the company to court to secure a judgment against BCI.”

The $500,000 loan may have been even riskier than WEDC officials knew.

The loan application asked whether the applicant or any owner or officer had been sued in the previous five years, warning that the applicant “will be deemed ineligible and denied based on the falsification of information.” Minahan checked “no” to that question.

But electronic court records show at least three lawsuits against the company in 2010, including one in which BCI was ordered to pay $14,364 to Superior Safe & Security of Green Bay. The second was a $15,800 tax warrant from the state of Wisconsin that Minahan paid. The third was filed by an Oshkosh custom millwork company but was dismissed.

It’s also unclear what work BCI performed on the taxpayer-funded energy project.

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A 2012 report to WEDC from Minahan purported to detail how the funding was used, but it did not list who did what work nor how much they were paid. The three buildings it said were readied for retrofit were not identified, nor were the seven buildings that the report said had preliminary planning work done on them.

Officials with La Crosse-based Michaels Energy and UW-Milwaukee also questioned BCI's characterization of them in the report as partners in the project.

Michaels Energy's owner David Waffenschmidt told the State Journal that he spoke with Minahan and BCI chief operating officer David Jaeckels in 2009 about a possible retrofit project and did some preliminary work on it but assumed the proposal had been dropped.

"We were not aware of, and not party to, the contract between Building Committee Inc. and WEDC, nor did we receive any payment from Building Committee Inc. or anyone else for our work on these development efforts," Waffenschmidt said. "We talked about doing this, but that's all the farther it went."

Robert Greenstreet, dean of the UW-Milwaukee architectural school, said he discussed the energy retrofit project with Minahan and Jaeckels and helped submit applications for federal funding. But Greenstreet said it was his perception that BCI "collapsed," no federal money was secured, and he assumed the project never got off the ground. Greenstreet recalled Minahan saying BCI had lined up state funding, but there was a delay in getting the money.

"The long and short of it is, we have not done any work on this project at all," he said.

Scott Walker's Iowa dilemma // Politico // James Hohmann, Katie Glueck, and Eli Stokols -May 17, 2015

There's a game of chicken going on in Iowa right now.

When Jeb Bush revealed this week that he will blow off the state GOP's famed August straw poll, he left the future of the event to Scott Walker. Since all of the top tier presidential prospects are waiting to see who will compete before they commit to the straw poll this year, if the Wisconsin governor — and current Iowa front-runner — declines to participate, there's a good chance Marco Rubio, Rand Paul and other candidates will follow suit.

The result is that the event, an Iowa tradition dating back to 1979, could become a mostly irrelevant contest between longshots and underdogs.

Walker, who's publicly non-committal, leads in recent Iowa polls, may have the toughest decision of all — he's damned if he plays and damned if he doesn't. If he participates and loses, he risks looking like a fading candidate who peaked too soon. But if he plays it safe and skips the straw poll, he could badly alienate Iowa Republicans — more likely than not ending his status as the state's perceived front-runner. At the same time, if Walker and every other top candidate skipped it, the damage to the 47-year-old governor would be minimal.

The importance of the straw poll to the state GOP was highlighted Saturday night when, with 11 candidates present to speak at the Iowa Republican Party Lincoln Dinner, Iowa GOP Chairman Jeff Kauffman opened Saturday's confab with a video emphasizing the poll's relevance. He was followed by Sen. Chuck Grassley, the leading Republican in the state, who stressed the seriousness of the tradition.

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Two-thirds of Iowa Republican insiders think Walker should compete in the straw poll, according to this week's edition of The POLITICO Caucus, a weekly pulse-taking of the most important activists, operatives and elected officials in the early states.

"Participate and you are expected to win, and must win," said a top Iowa Republican, who is uncommitted and — like all 77 respondents – completed the weekly questionnaire anonymously in order to answer candidly. "Skip, and everyone thinks you're a coward. Then watch your standing in the Iowa polls continue to drop. Walker needs to suck it up and use the event to cement himself as the frontrunner in the race."

There is immense pressure from grassroots activists, who love the event and see shying away from it as proof of weakness or aloofness. "To be a frontrunner in Iowa with this standing, Walker needs to demonstrate that he can compete and win in a straw poll," said another Republican.

But just as many GOP insiders said the Wisconsin governor would be foolish to fall into that trap. "Walker will underperform, if he goes," said one. "He should avoid Tim Pawlenty's outcome." Another added, "No upside. Only downside to this event."

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson have already telegraphed that that they will play to win.

While Ron Paul's campaign was obsessed with straw polls the previous two presidential elections — the then-Texas congressman finished second at Ames in 2011 — his son, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, isn't as committed. He's more focused on winning actual elections and has told aides that he's not as interested as his father in artificial tests of his strength.

A spokesman for the younger Paul said he hasn't decided whether to come or not.

Representatives for former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee — who won the 2008 Iowa caucuses — and former Hewlett Packard head Carly Fiorina were also non-committal. For Huckabee and Rick Santorum, the 2012 caucus winner, participating is risky because it could highlight how many of their former supporters are not signed on for 2016.

To feel good about his chances, Walker would probably have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars. Campaigns need to bus in supporters from around the state on a summer Saturday, no small feat. But expectations would be almost unachievably high since he's been leading the pack in polling since January. Even if he won the straw poll handily, Walker's opponents will dismiss the victory as unsurprising.

All of that makes Walker's straw poll decision arguably the most significant strategic decision he will make about Iowa in 2015.

The straw poll needs Walker more than he needs it. If all the top-tier candidates bypass the event, it will not get nearly as much media attention as in the past.

"If Walker backs out, the Iowa straw poll is in big trouble," said a top uncommitted Iowa Republican.

The state Republican Party has been using carrots and sticks to coax Walker and others to play at the event, which is moving from Ames to Boone this year. Instead of auctioning off space to raise money from the campaigns, for instance, they're assigning it to them – whether they will use it or not. There will also be food trucks, so that the campaigns do not need to cater the event themselves if they don't want to. This will make it glaringly obvious who is not there and take away one of the main rationales – at least publicly – for skipping.

"Neither Walker nor Rubio can afford to do the Straw Poll without the other," said an uncommitted Iowa

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Republican. “So, who blinks first in bowing out? Assuming they both decline, an Iowa Straw Poll without Walker, Rubio and Bush, might as well be renamed the Iowa 2nd Tier Candidate Straw Poll. Upside in that? It might make the event go away once and for all.”

Sources close to Walker’s campaign-in-waiting insist that he has not made up his mind. Because he will not announce his candidacy until after the Wisconsin legislative session wraps up later this spring, he has at least a few more weeks to avoid taking a public position. “He’s not a candidate and hasn’t made a decision on his future, so this will come down the line,” said one Walker aide.

But the event is only three months away, and the clock is ticking.

Walker has hired consultants, such as David Polyansky and Eric Woolson, who have extensive experience organizing the kind of field operation needed to win past straw polls. “Scott Walker is the Iowa frontrunner and has hired several key Iowa advisers who know how to put on a successful straw poll operation,” said an Iowa Republican aligned with a rival campaign. “If he doesn’t play, he is ceding his frontrunner status to someone who takes Iowa more seriously and it will be very difficult to get it back.”

Walker allies say that the pressure should be on Rubio as much as it is them. The Florida senator has not been as aggressive at trying to downplay expectations. On his last trip to the state, he said he will play to win. The same day, Walker said he would be happy finishing in the top three.

A Rubio spokesman did not respond to three requests for comment this week on whether the senator will compete.

Bush’s decision to skip the straw poll didn’t come as a surprise. He did not seriously consider it, sources familiar with his thinking said — despite the fact his brother won in 2000 and his father won the inaugural straw poll in 1979. That doesn’t mean Bush won’t compete in Iowa; after a four month absence, he had three events scheduled in the state this weekend. Bush, an establishment favorite, trailed six other Republican presidential hopefuls in Quinnipiac’s Iowa poll earlier this month.

“It’s a predictable decision for Jeb Bush and the right decision,” said John Weaver, who served as an adviser to John McCain’s 2008 campaign and along with Mike Murphy, now one of Bush’s main strategists, convinced the Arizona senator (and eventual GOP nominee) to skip the 2007 straw poll. Romney won that straw poll, but Mike Huckabee got the bounce in the polls afterward by finishing a surprisingly strong second. In 2011, Romney skipped the straw poll and wound up basically tying for first on caucus night.

“After Michele Bachmann [who won the event in 2011], to say this has any relevance, significance, influence, doesn’t pass the straight face test,” said Steve Schmidt, McCain’s 2008 campaign manager. “The straw poll simply wasn’t worth the time and the money in the context of how little meaning it had in relation to the outcome of the caucuses.”

Bush, along with Walker, Rick Perry, Carly Fiorina and others, has committed to attend a conservative cattle call in Atlanta hosted by RedState founder Erick Erickson that is concurrent to the straw poll. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham has also already ruled out attendance.

The Iowa GOP’s Kaufmann took aim directly at Bush on Twitter Tuesday as reports of his decision to appear in Atlanta on Aug. 8, the day of the straw poll, surfaced.

“We hope Governor Bush rethinks his decision and realizes that grassroots will only grow in Iowa if he waters them,” the state party chair tweeted. “The RedState Gathering is a four-day event and other candidates have already indicated that they will be attending both. We don’t buy this excuse and neither will Iowans.”

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Jeb Bush Takes Tougher Stance Against Same-Sex Marriage // First Draft – NYT // Patrick Healy – May 17, 2015

Former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida hardened his position against same-sex marriage in an interview that aired on Sunday, making clear he did not believe in constitutional protection for gay marriages — an issue now before the United States Supreme Court — and leaving out his past call for "respect" for gay couples.

Appearing on "The Brody File" on the Christian Broadcasting Network, Mr. Bush, a likely Republican candidate for president in 2016, was asked in a brief interview if he believed there should be a constitutional right to same-sex marriage.

"I don't, but I'm not a lawyer, and clearly this has been accelerated at a warp pace," he said. "What's interesting is four years ago, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton had the same view that I just expressed to you." He added: "Thousands of years of culture and history is just being changed at warp speed. It's hard to fathom why it is this way."

He also warned that the country's future would be at risk without traditional marriages between a man and a woman who go on to raise children.

"To imagine how we are going to succeed in our country unless we have committed family life, committed child-centered family system, is hard to imagine," Mr. Bush said. "We need to be stalwart supporters of traditional marriage."

Mr. Bush was explicitly opposed to same-sex marriage for years, but in recent months, since he has been considering a run for the presidency, he has made a wider range of statements — saying same-sex marriage is an issue that should be decided by the states, for instance. This winter, as gay couples began to wed in Florida, Mr. Bush also struck a conciliatory tone about those marriages.

"We live in a democracy, and regardless of our disagreements, we have to respect the rule of law," he said in a statement to The New York Times in January. "I hope that we can show respect for the good people on all sides of the gay and lesbian marriage issue — including couples making lifetime commitments to each other who are seeking greater legal protections and those of us who believe marriage is a sacrament and want to safeguard religious liberty."

Mr. Bush reiterated in the "Brody File" interview on Sunday that his views about same-sex marriage are based on his Catholic faith. "I think traditional marriage is a sacrament," he said. "It's at the core of the Catholic faith."

Jeb Bush: No constitutional right to same-sex marriage // WaPo // Ed O'Keefe - May 17, 2015

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush reiterated in a new interview that he doesn't believe that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right.

The high court is expected to rule next month on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, and court observers and justices have hinted in recent weeks that the court is likely to expand marriage rights to gay men and lesbians.

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Speaking with "The Brody File" on the Christian Broadcasting Network, Bush described marriage between a man and a woman as "a sacrament," one of the seven significant ceremonies of the Catholic faith.

"It's at the core of the Catholic faith, and to imagine how we are going to succeed in our country unless we have committed family life, a committed child-centered family system, is hard to imagine," he said. "So, irrespective of the Supreme Court ruling — because they are going to decide whatever they decide, I don't know what they are going to do — we need to be stalwart supporters of traditional marriage."

He told CBN's David Brody that he doesn't believe same-sex marriage is a constitutional right, "but I'm not a lawyer and clearly this has been accelerated at a warp pace. What's interesting is four years ago Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton had the same view that I just expressed to you. It's thousands of years of culture and history just being changed at warp speed. It's hard to fathom why it is this way."

Bush isn't the only Republican presidential hopeful who has raised concerns about how quickly courts have been ruling in favor of same-sex marriage rights. Sen. Marco Rubio (Fla.) also has noted in speeches and interviews that traditional marriage is an institution that is centuries old, much older than the United States itself.

"The Brody File" remains a must-do for GOP candidates, given that the network and its programming remain closely watched by evangelical conservatives. Last year when Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) traveled to Guatemala to perform pro-bono eye surgeries, a CBN crew traveled with him and documented portions of the trip.

In the interview, Bush also said that he plans to campaign in Iowa ahead of its GOP caucuses next year.

"Absolutely," he said. "Look, I'm a really competitive guy to begin with. It's hard for me to imagine that I'm going to plan for fifth place. I mean, that's not going to happen. We're going to work hard here. I'm not going to participate in straw polls anywhere. That's a distraction, to be honest with you."

Jeb Bush Announces Plans to 'Campaign Hard' in Iowa // NBC News // Perry Bacon Jr. – May 17, 2015

DES MOINES, Iowa — Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush on Saturday declared he would aggressively campaign to win the caucuses here, ending any doubt about his participation in the first contest of the GOP primary but also opening himself up to the possibility of a defeat that could severely damage his candidacy.

With Bush trying to win here, the more than 100,000 Republicans in his state who are expected to participate in the Iowa caucuses next February will play an even more important role in winnowing a field that will likely include more than a dozen candidates. And wooing Iowa's activists will become a huge test for Bush, who is lagging well behind in current polls in Iowa, despite being considered one of the leading candidates in the GOP race based on his fundraising strength.

"I'm going to campaign hard here," Bush said at a press conference in Iowa City. "It's my intention to win. Period. I'm a competitive person, my hope is to win any place where I'm competing."

His decision echoes how Hillary Clinton handled Iowa in 2008. Despite some of her aides being wary of the state's liberal activists and floating the idea of Clinton skipping or downplaying Iowa, she opted to campaign aggressively here.

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Clinton never won over Iowa's Democrats, and defeating her in a head-to-head contest in Iowa helped vault Barack Obama to the nomination. Bush now faces the prospect of running hard in Iowa and still losing to either Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker or Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, his chief rivals for the nomination and the kind of candidates who could consolidate support in the GOP if either won in Iowa.

Iowa voters have rejected more moderate Republicans like Bush in the past two election cycles, in favor of former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (2008) and ex-Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum (2012). Conservatives here are already wary of Bush because of his support for a pathway to legalization for undocumented immigrants and the Common Core education standards. There was some thought he would lightly campaign in Iowa and effectively concede the state to one of the conservatives in this field. Bush could then focus solely on New Hampshire, a state with many more moderate Republicans.

Instead, he is embracing the process here in Iowa. While George H.W. Bush won the caucuses in 1980 and George W. Bush finished first here 20 years later, the number of very conservative, evangelical Christians and Tea Party supporters are likely to outnumber moderate Republicans in 2016, a huge challenge for Bush.

In the 2012 caucuses, Santorum narrowly defeated Mitt Romney, with very conservative voters favoring the former senator 35 to 14 percent over Romney.

In this campaign cycle, Walker has emerged as the favorite in Iowa, leading in polls and drawing strong enthusiasm from party activists. Santorum and Huckabee are running again, with deep ties to Iowa's evangelical community, and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal are also courting these blocs.

So Bush will face an electorate that may not be favorable to him. And while Romney won about 25% of the vote in both 2008 and 2012 here, even that part of the electorate will be challenging for Bush.

Walker is making inroads with more moderate Republicans, holding a fundraiser on Saturday with Chad Airhart, the recorder in Dallas County and an influential figure in Iowa politics.

Airhart endorsed Romney during the 2012 campaign, but opted to back Walker for 2016 despite courting from Bush allies.

"I really like the governor's populist appeal," he said of Walker.

Bush spent Saturday here, in only his second visit to Iowa since he started running for president. Dogged this week by questions about his views on the Iraq War, Bush told voters in Dubuque, "I'm proud of my brother."

"He did what he thought was right," Bush said.

And Bush's trademark stubbornness was displayed on another issue as well. Asked about the presidential straw poll in Boone, Iowa in August, Bush emphatically rejected the idea he would compete in the event, which is a fundraiser for the Republican Party of Iowa.

Straw polls are "not relevant," Bush said.

But the candidate is not writing off Iowa. After the Lincoln Day Dinner in Des Moines on Saturday night, Bush, like

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the other GOP candidates, hosted a small reception for Iowa Republicans, posing for more than 100 pictures.

Several of the Iowans asked Bush for reassurance that he would be coming to the state more often. He told them each of them yes, repeating his line about being competitive and determined to win here.

Bush insists he's not writing off Iowa // Politico // Eli Stokols – May 18, 2015

Skepticism runs high about the former Florida governor's intentions for the February caucuses.

DES MOINES, Iowa – His brother won the caucuses here in 2000. His likely campaign manager is a veteran Iowa campaign strategist. And as he stumped around the state this weekend, Jeb Bush repeatedly insisted he's going to compete hard in next year's caucuses.

Even so, skepticism runs high about Bush's intentions for next February's caucuses.

Between his low standing in state polls, the socially conservative bent of the Iowa GOP base and his decision to skip the state's straw poll in August, Bush has lots of incentives to give up on Iowa next year. Republicans here know it, which is why the former Florida governor spent his weekend reassuring them he hasn't already written off the state as a lost cause.

"I'm going to be here. I'm here right now!" Bush told reporters Saturday after appearing at a fundraiser in Iowa City for Sen. Chuck Grassley. "Why would I be here if I wasn't going to compete in Iowa?"

From Dubuque to Iowa City to the state GOP's Lincoln Dinner in Des Moines Saturday night, Bush threw everything he had into the effort to persuade Iowans he doesn't plan to blow off the state. His intensely private wife, Columba, and his son Jeb Jr., both accompanied him to Dubuque, where he held an hour-long town hall. He took 11 questions from the crowd there, and then a few dozen "selfies" with attendees before leaving. He met privately with several top donors, county chairs and elected officials — some of whom have been alarmed by Bush's laissez faire approach to Iowa so far — prior to his speech at the Republican Party dinner; when it was over, he greeted a long receiving line of supporters in his hospitality suite.

The decision to do a full day of in-state events — not just the dinner — wasn't lost on Republicans here. David Kochel, the top Iowa strategist now working for Bush in Miami, was happy with Bush's day introducing himself to Iowa Republicans.

"They don't know him yet, but there's time for us to let people get to know him," he said. "When they get to know him, they're going to like him."

Bush has much more work to do to convince Iowans that he's truly invested. After being absent from the state since early March, he felt the lash of state GOP chairman Jeff Kauffman on Twitter last week after reports first surfaced that Bush was planning to bypass the Iowa straw poll in August and attend another event outside the state.

"We hope Governor Bush rethinks his decision and realizes that grassroots will only grow in Iowa if he waters them," Kauffman wrote. "We don't buy this excuse and neither will Iowans."

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When reporters asked Bush Saturday about his reasons for skipping the August 8 straw poll, he hinted at a broader strategy that doesn't hinge on the Hawkeye State.

"It's not relevant," Bush said of the straw poll. "What's relevant is running a campaign, creating a strategy, building a good team towards success, which is in the primaries, and doing it in a way that makes it possible to win the general, which is the whole point of this."

According to a number of people close to the candidate, Bush's strategy rests on simply doing well enough in February's earliest contests to come out of South Carolina as one of the two or three leading candidates — in other words, a first-place finish in Iowa win isn't essential.

When Bush met the traveling press in Iowa City Saturday afternoon, the second time he got a question about the straw poll and his seriousness about the caucuses, he turned it back around at the reporter.

"Would you aspire to fourth place in anything? Or sixth place?" Bush asked. His point: his own competitive nature wouldn't allow him accept such a weak performance. Besides, a win for Bush might be defined as a finish anywhere in the top three.

As long as Bush doesn't get embarrassed in Iowa and potentially wins in New Hampshire, the campaign's anticipated financial advantage could be the difference-maker, especially in March when crowded primary days take place and only the most well-funded campaigns will be able to compete across the map.

To get to March, Bush still must deliver a respectable performance in Iowa in February, and that'll mean investing the kind of resources here to ensure a win, place or show finish.

"He'll signal with his time how much of a priority Iowa is," said Zach Nunn, a Republican state legislator. "Any time he comes to Iowa is a serious indicator that he sees Iowa as a place he needs to do well."

The most recent polling shows Bush in seventh place among likely Republican presidential hopefuls with just 5 percent support among Iowa primary voters — a sign that Bush, who'd only made one trip here before last weekend, has a lot of work to do here. Bush's father and brother both had campaigned far earlier and more often than Jeb Bush at this point in the election.

"Does he have a one or two-state strategy like some other candidates? Of course not," said former Iowa GOP chairman Matt Strawn. "The challenge is to make sure those activists who are predisposed to support Bush are seeing him here. They want to see a candidate making a commitment to Iowa before they make a commitment to Gov. Bush."

In the end, the size of the GOP field could work to Bush's advantage. With as many as 19 potential candidates, it's possible that evangelicals won't coalesce around one clear choice and the vote will be splintered — which would open the door for a steady and solid establishment candidate like Bush to finish near the top in Iowa.

"If the evangelical vote gets split up, it's possible that someone can win the Iowa caucuses with 20 percent of the vote," Strawn said.

When he opened his town hall meeting Saturday morning at Loras College in Dubuque, Bush spoke to those who doubt his prospects in Iowa — or the depth of his commitment to playing here — by pointing to his father's 1980 come-from-behind win in the Iowa caucuses.

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“I’ll just remind everybody that’s interested in political history,” Bush said. “He started here in Iowa as an asterisk, literally an asterisk, and he won the Iowa caucuses.”

Marco Rubio Struggles To Explain Whether He Thinks Invading Iraq Was A 'Mistake' // Huffington Post // Samantha Lachman - May 17, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) struggled to reconcile past statements he has made about the 2003 invasion of Iraq with an answer on whether he thought the decision to invade was a mistake during an appearance on "Fox News Sunday."

Last week, Rubio was asked whether he would have still authorized a war, knowing what is known now about Iraq and its lack of weapons of mass destruction. He unequivocally said no.

“Not only would I not have been in favor of it, President [George W.] Bush would not have been in favor of it, and he said so," Rubio said following a foreign policy speech at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York.

On Sunday, however, Rubio rejected the rationale behind host Chris Wallace's question about whether the senator and 2016 presidential contender had flip-flopped on the issue, since he had said in March that it was not a mistake to invade the country. Wallace and Rubio spoke over each other as they attempted to sort out the semantics of the question.

"Those are two different questions; it was not a mistake," Rubio said. "The question was whether it was a mistake, and my answer was it was not a mistake. I still say it was not a mistake, because the president was presented with intelligence that said Iraq had weapons of mass destruction ... [Bush] made the right decision based on what he knew at that time. We learned subsequently that information was wrong. My answer is, at the time, it appears the intelligence was wrong."

Rubio also commended President Barack Obama for ordering the recent raid that killed Abu Sayyaf, a senior Islamic State leader who helped direct the group's oil, gas and financial operations.

"It's been a successful raid and it's good news. Any time you can degrade or take away top leadership of an organization, it's a good step forward," he said, cautioning that the Islamic State continues to pose a threat. "It remains a risk, but we want to congratulate the men and women in uniform that carried it out and the president for undertaking the mission."

Rubio says 'we don't have the votes' for broad immigration bill // Reuters // John Whitesides - May 17, 2015

Republican presidential contender Marco Rubio said on Sunday he still favors immigration reform, but he has accepted the need for a piece-by-piece legislative approach because "we don't have the votes to pass" a comprehensive measure.

Rubio, a U.S. senator from Florida, said on "Fox News Sunday" there were fewer votes in Congress for comprehensive immigration reform now than two years ago, when he worked with Senate Democrats to help pass a comprehensive bill that included a path to citizenship for those in the country illegally.

That measure died in the House of Representatives amid conservative opposition. Rubio, who faced criticism

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from the right over his work on the Senate bill, now backs a piecemeal approach that would begin with border security.

"I still believe we need to do immigration reform," said Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants. "The problem is we can't do it in one big piece of legislation. The votes aren't there" in the House of Representatives.

Rubio is one of a half-dozen Republicans running to be the party's nominee in the November 2016 election, with more expected in the race soon.

Some critics have accused Rubio of backing away from comprehensive reform to placate conservatives who will play a big role in the Republican presidential primaries. Asked why he would not fight for comprehensive reform, Rubio said he was dealing with political realities.

"The context in which we are having this debate is much different," he said.

He cited Republican House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's primary loss last year in part because of his support for comprehensive immigration legislation, as well as Republican opposition to President Barack Obama's executive order last year easing the threat of deportation for millions of undocumented residents.

"Clearly, leaders stand for the idea you need to do something, but you also have to deal with the reality that in the political process people are going to vote based on what they're hearing from their constituents and others," he said.

Rubio's Cash Needs: Run For President, Make Home Repairs // CBS Local // May 17, 2015

WASHINGTON (CBSMiami/AP) — Sen. Marco Rubio recently cashed out some of his retirement accountslast year. This is because the Republican presidential says he is not poor, but not rich either — and he had some unexpected expenses to account for besides his campaign.

The Florida senator tells "Fox News Sunday" he wanted the cash because he's running for president — but also because his refrigerator broke and "that was $3,000," his air conditioner had to be replaced and his kids' schools are getting more expensive.

Rubio sold retirement funds worth more than $68,000 last September, according to his personal financial disclosure statement. He made the sale even though he apparently had ample cash in the bank. He reported between $100,000 and $250,000 in a checking account and between $50,000 and $100,000 in a money market account at the end of 2014.

Rand Paul: 'We still have chaos' in Iraq // WaPo // Sean Sullivan - May 17, 2015

Iraq is in disarray and the threat posed by Islamist militants there has placed the United States at greater risk than before, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said in an interview set to broadcast Sunday morning.

Paul said the question of whether the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq was justified is an "important" one and not merely "hypothetical," offering the latest input on an issue that has been difficult for the Republican presidential field to navigate in recent days.

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"I think when [Saddam] Hussein was toppled, we got chaos," Paul told NBC's "Meet the Press," according to a transcript provided by the network. "We still have chaos in — in Iraq. I think it emboldened Iran. I think — we now have the rise of radical Islam in Ira, as well."

Paul, who is running for president, was asked whether his position on Iraq puts him at odds with Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), a White House rival who has said that "the world is a better place because Saddam Hussein doesn't run Iraq."

Paul's response: "I don't think that's exactly how I put it."

He continued: "We are more at risk for attack from people who are training, organizing and fighting in Iraq than we were before." Paul called the Islamic State militant group, which controls many areas in Iraq and Syria, "more of an aberration than even Hussein was."

In particular, questions about Iraq have tripped up Jeb Bush, a likely presidential contender. He gave different answers last week to the question of whether the invasion ordered by his brother was justified given that we now know that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction.

Bush eventually stated that he would not have gone into Iraq. Paul said Democratic presidential front-runner and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton should face similar scrutiny.

"They should ask her, 'Was it a good idea to invade Libya? Did that make us less safe? Did it make it more chaotic? ," said Paul, adding, "I think the war in Iraq is a good question and still a current question, but so is the question of, 'Should we have gone into Libya?'"

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R), a potential presidential candidate, vouched for George W. Bush's decision-making on Iraq at the time of the invasion in an interview on CBS's "Face The Nation."

"I did stand up and defend the president, President Bush, that I did say I think any president, regardless of party, probably would've made a similar decision to what President Bush did at the time, with the information he had available," said Walker.

Paul also reiterated his criticism of the National Security Agency's sweeping surveillance programs and his problems with the Patriot Act. Key provisions in the act are set to expire June 1.

Asked whether he would do away with the NSA as president, Paul responded that he would not. Instead, he said, he would direct the agency to intensify its efforts to combat threats to the nation.

"I would have the NSA target their activities, more and more, towards our enemies," the senator said. "I think if you're not spending so much time and money collecting the information of innocent Americans, maybe we could've spent more time knowing that one of the Tsarnaev boys, one of the Boston bombers, had gone back to Chechnya."

Sen. Rand Paul Does Not Commit to Patriot Act Filibuster // NBC News // Dale Armbruster - May 17, 2015

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As fights over the temporarily reauthorizing and changing of the Patriot Act loom, one prominent critic did not commit to battling a possible extension ahead of the June 1 deadline.

In an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press," Sen. Rand Paul did not indicate whether he would filibuster an extension, instead reiterating his support for the end of bulk data collection.

"Really, it ought to stop," Paul told Chuck Todd. "If the president's obeying the law, he should stop it immediately and we shouldn't be doing this. I don't want to replace it with another system."

Paul, R-Kentucky, has long been a vocal opponent of the law that expanded the government's surveillance authority in 2001. It has been reauthorized three times, in 2005, 2006 and 2011.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has proposed an extension that would give Congress until July 31 to work out a deal. The expiring provision, Section 215, is the basis for the NSA's bulk collection of U.S. phone records. The proposal comes on the heels of a May 7 federal appeals court decision that ruled that the NSA's interpretation of the provision is incorrect, and that the program is illegal.

Paul did announce that he would not eliminate the National Security Agency if elected President, arguing the agency's time could be better spent tracking potential foreign threats.

"I would have the NSA target their activities, more and more, towards our enemies," Paul said. "I think if you're not spending so much time and money collecting the information of innocent Americans, maybe we could've spent more time knowing that one of the Tsarnaev boys, one of the Boston bombers, had gone back to Chechnya."

Christie enters new stage as he eyes 2016: Bashing fellow Republicans // NJ // Matt Arco - May 17, 2015

TRENTON — For Gov. Chris Christie, it was the next and perhaps final step of a pre-presidential campaign.

After months of stumping in the key states, meeting with potential voters and donors, holding town halls and making the requisite attacks on President Obama and Democratic 2016 frontrunner Hillary Clinton, the New Jersey governor took it to a new level last week.

He went after fellow Republicans also eyeing the White House.

After he delivered his second national policy speech in another trip to first-primary state New Hampshire on Tuesday, Christie accused former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker of not bringing substance to their likely campaigns.

"I've given two really substantive speeches, specific speeches, and I don't know of anybody else who's doing it," Christie said. "You don't see Jeb doing this. You don't see Walker doing this."

He added: "I think it's really important if you're going to consider getting involved in this conversation. You should be specific."

A day later, Christie went even further and attacked Bush for refusing to answer a question about the Iraqi war.

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"Listen, I understand that in politics sometimes there are certain questions you just don't want to answer," Christie told Laura Ingraham during an interview on her talk-radio show. "But I think you have to answer questions like this. These are questions that are extraordinarily important for the country and I think if you're considering running for president (that) you need to answer the question."

It was a calculated move, said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia.

"The number one goal in this field is to raise tons of money. But the number two goal is to somehow distinguish yourself," Sabato said. "And obviously, in his mind at least, he's in the establishment category competing mainly with Jeb Bush."

The Bush moment was made possible in part because the former Florida governor spent days fumbling for an answer to a question about that Iraq war synonymous with his brother's presidency. It quickly pinned Bush — and not Christie — as the target of last week's media scrutiny.

Sabato noted that as Christie marches closer to a presidential campaign, he and other Republicans won't be shy about taking sots at one another instead of focusing only on Clinton.

Going on the offensive in campaigns isn't foreign Christie, who's developed a national identity as the brash, no-nonsense governor. But voters didn't see Christie's tough style during his re-election campaign in 2013, largely because he began — and ended — it with a huge lead over Democrat Barbara Buono and never had to punch hard. He fought an aggressive campaign in unseating Democrat Jon Corzine in 2009.

"The reality is that we haven't seen Governor Christie in a full campaign since his first campaign as governor," said Brigid Harrison, a professor of political science at Montclair State University. "He's certainly taken the reputation as one of the politicians who will knock down his opponents. He's adept at this strategy."

The political experts said Christie has another reason to attack his fellow Republicans: He's got a lot of ground to cover because he's hitting historic lows in voter support back home in New Jersey and is struggling to get into the top tier of GOP presidential contenders.

"It's mid-May, so it's time. If he's actually going to do it, it's definitely time," Sabato said.

Christie is scheduled to return to New Hampshire on Monday to deliver another policy speech and host his fifth early-voting state town hall meeting.

Santorum and Clinton set to visit Mason City // KIMT // Allie Krug – May 17, 2015

Republican Rick Santorum

KIMT News 3 – Two high profile politicians eyeing the presidency will be making their way into north Iowa on Monday.

Republican Rick Santorum, who hasn’t officially announced a presidential campaign yet, will be meeting with voters as he hosts a town hall meeting at the Pizza Ranch in Mason City, and one of his democratic opponents, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, will be stopping in town for an event at a private home.

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According to local political analyst, Bennett Smith, this is an important trip for both presidential hopeful since they have a lot of ground to cover while they're here. "It's important for Hillary Clinton to get into the state because part of the concern with her campaign is that she hasn't been here much and that she hasn't been very accessible," Smith explains.

Clinton's event is closed to the public, something she has been scrutinized for, however KIMT News 3 will have a camera there.

"It's also important for Rick Santorum," Smith adds, "since the slot that he filled with social conservatives is now being filled by Gov. Scott Walker so, he needs to get in the state and spend more time with voters, which he has been doing."

Iowa has proven very popular lately, this weekend seven major republicans spoke at the Lincoln Dinner fundraiser in Des Moines.

Fiorina 'a fireball' at GOP Lincoln Dinner // USA Today // Jennifer Jacobs – May 17, 2015

DES MOINES -- Republicans exulted in what they see as a smorgasbord of good choices in their 2016 presidential lineup, but former CEO Carly Fiorina seemed to steal the show at the Iowa GOP's Lincoln Dinner on Saturday night.

The audience of 1,400 stopped just short of booing when dinner organizers cut the sound to her microphone when she reached the strict 10-minute speaking limit set for all 11 presidential hopefuls.

One of Fiorina's best-received lines: "I was asked whether a woman's hormones prevent her from serving in the Oval Office. OK, ladies, this is a test: Can you think of a single instance in which a man's judgment was clouded by his hormones? Including in the Oval Office?"

"She was like a fireball," said one dinner guest, Tanya Manatt, a 43-year-old Johnston resident who owns a bridal boutique. "She had a lot of energy, and she's not intimidated."

The night's next most popular hopefuls — based on crowd reaction, a sampling of interviews with dinner guests and observations of the traffic in each contender's hospitality room after the speeches — were three governors: former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

"As far as covering the bases and making me feel like he would be a good leader, Jeb Bush was next best," Manatt said. "I did not expect that. I didn't want to like him."

A big honorable mention, for humor and a touching personal story about the deaths of both of his parents when he was a young man, seemed to go to South Carolina U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham.

Graham offered a steady stream of quips as soon as he took the stage.

"Chuck Grassley. Is he still here? The one thing I've learned about this dinner: It was free for Chuck or he wouldn't have been here."

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Iowa GOP Chairman Jeff Kaufmann told the audience on Saturday at the Lincoln Dinner in Des Moines that the GOP is bringing together all kinds of Republicans. “We are a united party, and media — take that to the rest of the United States!” he said. (Photo: Bryon Houlgrave/The Register)

But there were some gasps when Graham, in a serious moment, said: "If you're thinking about joining al-Qaeda or ISIS, I'm not going to call a judge, I'm going to call a drone, and we will kill you. We're at war, and I'm tired of treating the war as a crime."

The 11 who auditioned for the role of presidential nominee during the dinner at the Iowa Events Center were Fiorina, Perry, Bush, Walker, Graham, retired doctor Ben Carson, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former New York Gov. George Pataki, Kentucky U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, former Pennsylvania U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum and New York reality TV star Donald Trump.

Several audience members said they thought Perry and Bush overperformed, while Walker underperformed, but still did a good job pitching his status as an adopted Iowan of sorts and hitting hard on national security and "safety."

"Rick Perry had a lot of energy, no notes and definite ideas about what he wanted to do and the experience to back it up as a former military man. I liked him so much more than I did four years ago," said Shelley Pitts of Cumming, who works at Von Maur. "And Carly. I loved her. I just loved everything she said."

In his speech, Perry knocked common core education standards, proposed rebuilding the U.S. military and bemoaned an "underlying pessimism we see in this country" about the future.

"If we will unleash people from over-taxation, over-regulation, over-litigation ... we will have the greatest days in America ahead," Perry said.

Although several audience members said Bush seemed a little nervous — he stumbled on some words and referred to his notes more than others did — they praised how he explained his conservative record in Florida and the passion he exhibited on education issues.

"To me, Bush exceeded expectations," said Bill Schickel, a former Iowa GOP official. Schickel also listed Perry, Graham and Fiorina as favorites.

Bush said whether people like it or not, he's proud of the fact that he's "George and Barbara's boy" and that "W's my brother." Bush talked about his successes as Florida governor in job creation, school choice and protecting "the most vulnerable in society," including the unborn, the disabled and the frail.

Walker showed a photo of himself at age 7 that was shot, he said, after he and his brother went door to door raising money for a state flag at the Plainfield City Hall. His family lived there in the mid-1970s. Walker was one of the only ones to insert religion into his speech, talking about his recent trip to Israel and how he was moved to see the spot where "literally Christ fed the 5,000."

-0517 Lincoln Dinner 04.jpg_20150516.jpg

Republican Rand Paul talks with guests Saturday, May 16, 2015, before the Republican Party of Iowa's Lincoln

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Dinner in Des Moines. (Photo: Michael Zamora/The Register)

Paul zoned in on civil liberties issues, arguing that Americans don't have to "give up what our founding fathers fought for in order to catch terrorists."

Carson called division, the economy and a failure to lead the world the three biggest problems facing America.

Jindal said two major threats the country faces are Islamic terrorism abroad and the trampling of religious liberties at home. A third threat: the polices of President Barack Obama and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, he said.

Santorum said Republicans need to remember the 74 percent of Americans who lack a college degree, many of whom still struggle economically.

Pataki noted that he was governor when the airplanes hit the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001. But today, "the greatest threat to our freedom," he said, is an ever-encroaching government. "It's not an imminent threat, but it's a very real threat," he said.

Trump, a real estate mogul turned reality TV star, said he can build a wall on the U.S. southern border ("I'm a good builder") and has already created tens of thousands of jobs. Trump expressed indignation that people — namely the news media — don't believe he'll run. He said he'll make an announcement in June that's "going to surprise a lot of people."

Not everyone in the crowd could take Trump seriously.

"Trump! I was trying to hold it in. I didn't want to laugh too much," said the Rev. Lawrence Davis, a 63-year-old Des Moines pastor. "Now, Carly, she was dynamite. She knew what she was talking about."

-0517 Lincoln Dinner 02.jpg_20150516.jpg

Former Sen. Rick Santorum (left) and Dr. Ben Carson greet each other Saturday, May 16, 2015, before the Republican Party of Iowa's Lincoln Dinner in Des Moines. (Photo: Michael Zamora/The Register)

The hospitality rooms weren't all the same size so it was hard to judge, but a nonscientific survey throughout the night showed Walker's room, in a prime spot at the bottom of the escalators leading from the banquet hall, was the most packed at first.

"Cold beer!" said a sign out front. Wisconsin cheese and Miller beer were being served inside.

Long lines waited for snapshots with Fiorina, Carson and Trump, the night's celebrities.

But near the end of the evening, the biggest crowds had migrated to Bush's room, which was unadorned by decorations, but had an open bar and a buffet of hors d'oeuvres.

Paul and Pataki didn't host receptions. All the other contenders drew decent-sized crowds, except Santorum.

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His Iowa chairman, state Rep. Walt Rogers, R-Cedar Falls, said the small crowds showed that "people know Rick well. Everyone's kicking the tires on everyone else. But they'll come back to an old, solid four wheels like Rick."

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Paul Ryan: House will approve Obama's trade effort // CNN // Eric Bradner - May 17, 2015

Washington – Rep. Paul Ryan said Sunday the House has the votes to approve President Barack Obama's free trade initiative.

The House Ways and Means Committee chairman is sponsoring a bill that would hand Obama "trade promotion authority" -- which would allow him to negotiate the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership and submit it to Congress for an up-or-down vote with no amendments.

In an unusual alignment, Republicans are aligning with Obama on the issue, while members of his own party -- as well as some tea partiers -- oppose him.

"We will have the votes. We're doing very well. We're gaining a lot of steam and momentum," Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican, told CNN's Brianna Keilar Sunday on "State of the Union."

Ryan argued that the deal, which covers a total of 40% of the world's economy, is key to maintaining U.S. economic influence in a region where countries are increasingly falling into China's orbit.

He said trade promotion authority gives lawmakers a chance to instruct the White House on what to negotiate in the deal.

"There's a misnomer," he said. "It's really not granting the President authority; it's actually Congress asserting its prerogatives, its authority in how trade agreements are done."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also praised Obama for his pro-trade deal lobbying effort.

"President Obama has done his country a service by taking on his base and pushing back on some of the more ridiculous rhetoric we've heard," McConnell told ABC's George Stephanopoulos Sunday on "This Week."

He also predicted the measure will pass the Senate.

"Yes, we'll pass it. We'll pass it later this week," he said.

The Senate advanced trade promotion authority beyond a major procedural hurdle last week and could vote this week. The House, though, could be closer -- with more Republicans opposing Obama and fewer Democrats backing him.

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9 Are Killed in Biker Gang Shootout in Waco // NYT // Manny Fernandez Liam Stack and Alan Blinder – May 17, 2015

HOUSTON — A shootout among members of several rival motorcycle gangs in a busy shopping plaza in the Central Texas city of Waco on Sunday left at least nine bikers dead and 18 others injured, creating chaos in a sprawling parking lot packed with afternoon shoppers, law enforcement officials said.

The gunfire erupted about 12:15 p.m. outside a Twin Peaks Restaurant, where members of the motorcycle clubs had gathered. The fight spilled into the parking lot, initially involving just fists and feet, but escalating quickly to chains, knives, clubs and firearms. Waco police officers were already at the scene when the confrontation unfolded because they had anticipated problems as hundreds of bikers from at least five groups gathered at the shopping plaza.

“There were multiple people on the scene firing weapons at each other,” Sgt. Patrick Swanton, a Waco Police Department spokesman, said at a news conference. “They then turned on our officers. Our officers returned gunfire, wounding and possibly killing several.”

Photo

Officers fired on bikers as the shooting spilled from the restaurant into a busy parking lot. Credit Rod Aydelotte/ Waco Tribune Herald, via Associated Press

Law enforcement officials said the shootout was the worst violence in Waco since the siege on the Branch Davidian compound in 1993 that left 86 people dead. On Sunday, eight members of motorcycle clubs were killed at the scene and another died at a hospital, Sergeant Swanton said. The injured were taken to hospitals with gunshot and stab wounds.

No officers, shoppers or bystanders were injured. The authorities said their decision to place officers outside the restaurant before the gunfire erupted most likely saved lives.

“There were so many rounds fired from bad-guy weapons here, it is amazing that innocent civilians were not injured here,” said Sergeant Swanton, who added that investigators expected to recover about 100 weapons. “In 34 years of law enforcement, this is the worst crime scene — the most violent crime scene — that I have ever been involved in. There are dead people still there. There is blood everywhere.”

The police did not identify the groups involved, but photographs of the members who were arrested showed a number of them in leather jackets bearing the names of at least three motorcycle clubs: Bandidos, Cossacks and Scimitars.

Hours after the shooting, police officials were still issuing messages on social media warning people to stay away from the shopping plaza, the Central Texas Marketplace, saying that it was closed because it was unsafe. “Officers are continuing to arrest individuals coming to the scene with weapons,” one of the department’s Facebook postings read. “This is not the time to sight see as we are dealing with very dangerous individuals.”

The police detained numerous people involved in the fight, Sergeant Swanton said, and arrested three bikers who were carrying weapons and tried to reach the scene after the fighting had quieted down. He said they would be charged with engaging in organized crime. Late Sunday, Sergeant Swanton said the police were holding at least 100 people for questioning.

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Dozens of officers and medics from local, state and federal agencies converged on the Central Texas Marketplace. A spokeswoman for the F.B.I. office in San Antonio said agents were assisting the Waco police in the investigation.

The Twin Peaks Restaurant had hosted motorcycle gang members in the past, the police said. The authorities made little effort on Sunday to conceal their frustration with the restaurant's managers, who they said had previously been uncooperative in dealing with the Police Department's security concerns about biker gatherings there.

"We have attempted to work with the local management of Twin Peaks to no avail," Sergeant Swanton said. "They have continued to allow these bikers to gather here, and this is the culmination of what has occurred." He added: "What happened here today could have been avoided if we had had management at a local establishment listen to their police department and assist us. They failed to do that."

On Sunday, at least 12 Waco police officers, as well as officers with the state's top law enforcement agency, the Texas Department of Public Safety, worked to secure the area before the shootout started because officials "expected issues," Sergeant Swanton said.

"Apparently, the management wanted them here," he said, "so we didn't have any say-so on whether they could be here or not."

Twin Peaks is a national restaurant chain with several Texas locations. The restaurant in Waco opened last year, and company officials told a local newspaper that it would employ 150 people and be able to accommodate more than 350. In an announcement about the restaurant's opening, Twin Peaks promoted the location as the "ultimate man-cave," with at least 55 flat-screen televisions and 24 types of beer. As recently as last week, the restaurant advertised "Bike Night" on Thursdays and promised "beers, bites and bikes at the hottest place in town!"

In a statement, a spokesman for the Twin Peaks Restaurant chain emphasized that the shooting had occurred outside the restaurant.

"We were shocked by the shootings that took place in the parking lot of our franchised restaurant in Waco and are fully reviewing all the circumstances surrounding it," the spokesman, Rick Van Warner, said. "We are thankful no employees, guests or police were injured in this senseless violence outside the restaurant, and our sympathies are with the families of those killed."

Later, in a phone interview, Mr. Van Warner said the company was "seriously considering revoking the franchise based on this situation." He added: "If any of those allegations are true that there was ample warning to potentially prevent something of this nature, then there is no way we would allow someone to continue operating under our own brand."

Jay Patel, operating partner of the Waco franchise, issued a statement Sunday night defending the restaurant's dealings with the police and saying that the managers "share in the community's trauma."

"Our priority is to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for our customers and employees, and we consider the police our partners in doing so," Mr. Patel's statement read. "Our management team has had ongoing and positive communications with the police and we will continue to work with them as we all want to keep violent crime out of our businesses and community."

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Sergeant Swanton said the confrontation appeared to have “started over a parking issue,” but he declined to elaborate. Another law enforcement official said that the rival gangs needed no incitement and that simply crossing paths was enough to cause problems.

Asked if the authorities knew the names of the clubs involved, Sergeant Swanton said, “We do, but we’re not going to give them the privilege at this point of putting their names out there.” While emphasizing that the authorities were still in the early stages of an investigation, he described the biker gangs involved as “dangerous” and “hostile.”

“This is not a bunch of doctors and dentists and lawyers riding Harleys,” Sergeant Swanton said. “These are criminals on Harley-Davidsons.”

In a report on gang activity submitted last year to the governor and the state Legislature, law enforcement officials classified the Bandidos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang, known as Bandidos O.M.G., as a Tier 2 threat, the second-highest level. The report, prepared annually by the state Department of Public Safety, noted that the Bandidos were formed in the 1960s and typically avoided high-profile activities such as drive-by shootings.

Tier 2 gangs were “responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime across urban, suburban and rural areas of Texas,” the report said.

U.S. gas prices up 22 cents over past three weeks -survey // Reuters // Bill Berkrot - May 17, 2015

May 17 The average price of a gallon of regular-grade gasoline in the United States rose 22 cents over the past three weeks to $2.82, according to a Lundberg survey released on Sunday.

The average price per gallon, which has now jumped 35 cents since April 10, is the highest seen by the survey since late November, but is still nearly 93 cents lower than a year ago.

Rises in crude oil prices over the three-week period were not driven by changes in oil supplies, said Trilby Lundberg, publisher of the survey, but rather were caused by a recent weakening of the dollar against key foreign currencies.

Prices should remain relatively low for the coming summer driving season. "The chances are high that there will be small or negligible price rises from here in the national average, assuming no crude oil price spike in the near future," Lundberg said.

The price increase for the nation would have been substantially smaller if not for significant hikes in California, the state with the highest gasoline consumption, and the rest of the West Coast, Lundberg said.

In California, the average price rose 53 cents over the past three weeks to $3.76 per gallon.

Nationally, among the panel of U.S. cities included in the survey, the lowest price for a gallon of gasoline was found in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at $2.32, while Los Angeles had the highest at $3.95.

FBI: Hacker claimed to have taken over flight's engine controls // CNN // Evan Perez - May 17, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

(CNN)A cybersecurity consultant told the FBI he hacked into computer systems aboard airliners up to 20 times and managed to control an aircraft engine during a flight, according to federal court documents.

Chris Roberts was detained by the FBI in April following a United Airlines flight to Syracuse, New York, after officials saw Twitter posts he made discussing hacking into the plane he was traveling on.

An FBI search warrant application filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York describes the investigation of Roberts for possible computer crimes.

During FBI interviews in February and March, the document says, Roberts told investigators he hacked into in-flight entertainment systems aboard aircraft. He claimed to have done so 15 to 20 times from 2011 to 2014.

He also said, according to the document, that once he had hacked into the systems and then overwrote code, enabling him to issue a "CLB," or climb, command.

"He stated that he thereby caused one of the airplane engines to climb resulting in a lateral or sideways movement of the plane during one of these flights," the document says.

Roberts said he knew of vulnerabilities aboard three types of Boeing aircraft and one Airbus model. He hacked into in-flight entertainment systems made by Thales and Panasonic, he told agents, according to the document.

Canada's APTN first reported on the document.

Roberts has said on Twitter that he's been advised not to say much, but he has tweeted that his only interest is "to improve aircraft security" and accused the FBI of "incorrectly" condensing five years of his research into one paragraph.

"Lots to untangle," he tweeted.

Roberts did not immediately reply to CNN messages seeking a response, and in an interview with Wired magazine, he declined to say whether he had hacked the flight mentioned in the federal affidavit. In that article, he said a key paragraph was out of context.

"That paragraph that's in there is one paragraph out of a lot of discussions, so there is context that is obviously missing which obviously I can't say anything about," he said. "It would appear from what I've seen that the federal guys took one paragraph out of a lot of discussions and a lot of meetings and notes and just chose that one as opposed to plenty of others."

The FBI document says the bureau's agents and technical specialists "believed that Roberts had the ability and the willingness to use the equipment then with him to access or attempt to access the in-flight entertainment systems and possibly the flight control systems on any aircraft equipped with an in-flight entertainment system, and that it would endanger public safety to allow him to leave the Syracuse airport that evening with that equipment."

Roberts said he used a modified Ethernet cable to connect his laptop to an electronic box underneath his seat that controls the entertainment system. From there, he hacked into the airplane's computer nerve center, the document cites Roberts as telling the FBI.

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On April 15, United Airlines told the FBI that Roberts had posted tweets about hacking into the plane he was traveling on and possibly activating the emergency passenger oxygen masks, the document says. At the time, Roberts was traveling on a United flight from Denver to Chicago, then connecting to Syracuse.

FBI agents tracked the aircraft that Roberts traveled on from Denver to Chicago and found signs of tampering and damage to electronic control boxes that connect to in-flight entertainment systems. The boxes tampered with were under the seat where Roberts sat and the one in front of his seat, the warrant application says.

Roberts told agents he didn't hack into the systems aboard the Denver-to-Chicago flight.

The FBI search warrant said agents seized computer equipment, including a laptop and an iPad, as well as thumb and external drives.

The thumb drives contained "nasty" malware, Roberts said, that could be used to compromise computer networks, according to the FBI document.

One of the plane manufacturers has cast doubt on the hacking claims. Boeing said its entertainment systems are "isolated from flight and navigation systems."

The company further said that it does not discuss its planes' design features for security reasons, but said, "It is worth noting that Boeing airplanes have more than one navigational system available to pilots. No changes to the flight plans loaded into the airplane systems can take place without pilot review and approval. In addition, other systems, multiple security measures, and flight deck operating procedures help ensure safe and secure airplane operations."

Airbus has not yet issued a response, but previously, it has said it has security measures, such as firewalls, that restrict access and the company "constantly assesses and revisits the system architecture" to make sure planes are safe.

INTERNATIONAL

Officials: Iraqi city of Ramadi falls to Islamic State // USA Today // Ammar Al Shamary - May 17, 2015

BAGHDAD — The Islamic State seized control of the key Iraqi city of Ramadi on Sunday, despite stepped up U.S.-led airstrikes targeting extremists in the region, according to officials in Anbar province.

"Ramadi has fallen," Muhannad Haimour, a spokesman for Anbar province, said as Iraqi forces withdrew from the city "The city was completely taken. ... It was a gradual deterioration. The military is fleeing."

The U.S. Central Command pushed back against reports that Islamic State militants control the city and said Ramadi remains "contested."

Ramadi, the provincial capital of the western Anbar province, is the latest battleground in the Iraqi government's efforts to drive out Islamic State militants from areas the militants seized last year. With the help of U.S.-led airstrikes, the Iraqi forces and Kurdish fighters had made gains against the Islamic State elsewhere in the country, including re-capturing the northern city of Tikrit.

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Over the last month, 165 U.S.-led airstrikes had been conducted on Ramadi to assist Iraqi troops battling the Islamic State.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi appeared on state television earlier Sunday and ordered his country's security forces not to abandon their posts in Anbar province. He also ordered Shiite militias to go into the Sunni-dominated region, despite concerns of sparking sectarian violence, the Associated Press reported.

Athal al-Fahdawi, a member of the Anbar province council, said the Islamic State launched a large offensive Sunday and had taken control of most of the city after initially capturing government buildings late last week.

He said Iraqi forces withdrew to outside of Ramadi after holding onto two areas in the northern part of the city. That followed four bombings targeting police officers defending the southern district of Malaab, after which fierce fighting broke out, al-Fahdawi said. The attacks killed almost a dozen officers.

The Islamic State posted a message claiming its fighters held the entire city of Ramadi, the AP reported. The message, posted on a militant website frequented by the group, said the Islamic State held the 8th Brigade army base, as well as tanks and missile launchers left behind by fleeing soldiers.

Iraqi officials said they were waiting for more troops to arrive.

"Iraq authorities have sent reinforcements to Ramadi and are located in the outskirts of the city but didn't engage till this moment with (Islamic State) militants," Ramadi Mayor Dalaf al-Kubaisi said. "The Iraqi prime minster has sent special forces, but they are still waiting for more troops to start the clearing operation to kick the militants out of the city."

Ramadi was largely evacuated after the Islamic State captured much of the city by Friday.

The offensive began after areas of the city fell under Islamic State control earlier this month. Last week, the Islamic State, also known as ISIL or ISIS, targeted military positions in the city with six truck bombs and a bulldozer, described as a massive attack that overwhelmed Iraqi soldiers.

In recent days, the Pentagon has sought to downplay the significance of the gains the Islamic State made in Ramadi, while insisting the militant group was on the defensive in the north and west of Iraq compared to last year.

"We firmly believe (ISIL) is on the defensive throughout Iraq and Syria, attempting to hold previous gains, while conducting small-scale, localized harassing attacks, occasional complex or high-profile attacks, in order to feed their information and propaganda apparatus," Brigadier Gen. Thomas Weidley, chief of staff of the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, told reporters on Friday.

In neighboring Najaf and Karbala provinces, residents began shoring up their borders with Anbar province and deployed thousands of fighters of local militias into the desert, officials said.

At the same time, tribal leaders of Anbar province held a news conference Sunday in the town of Khalidiya demanding the government send more troops and fighters to secure the province.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Hakem al-Zameli, an Iraqi member of parliament, said he had concerns over sending militia fighters to Anbar province. "We could come under attack of (friendly fire)," he said.

The Iraqi military later issued a statement, saying, "Victory will be in the side of Iraq because Iraq is defending its freedom and dignity." It did not offer any details about the ongoing fighting.

Saudi-Led Airstrikes Resume in Yemen as Truce Ends // NYT // Mohammed Ali Kalfood and Kareem Fahim - May 17, 2015

SANA, Yemen — A military coalition led by Saudi Arabia resumed airstrikes in Yemen on Sunday, hours after the expiration of a five-day humanitarian cease-fire between the coalition and Houthi rebels.

Residents in the southern city of Aden reported warplanes flying overhead late Sunday and the sound of airstrikes falling on what appeared to be Houthi-controlled neighborhoods in the city.

There had been no official statement from Saudi Arabia about whether it intended to renew the truce when it lapsed at 11 p.m. on Sunday. International aid agencies, as well as the United Nations envoy to Yemen, had called for an extension in order to continue delivering relief supplies to Yemen, which has been under an air and sea blockade since the Saudi-led coalition began its offensive against the Houthis in late March.

The escalation of the fighting on Sunday appeared to threaten a frenzied relief effort that had sought to take advantage of the break in the fighting. On Sunday, aid workers acknowledged that those efforts so far had been insufficient, given the scale of the crisis in Yemen, a deeply poor country that relies almost entirely on imports for basic goods.

Emergency supplies, delivered by chartered planes and rickety wooden dhows during the truce, gave relief to only a fraction of those in need, relief workers said.

Unicef said it had been able to resupply health care centers, activate mobile medical teams in rural areas affected by the fighting and supply fuel that allowed local authorities to run water systems. The group also delivered solar-power refrigerators to keep vaccines cold in a country starved of electricity.

“It’s nowhere near enough,” said Julien Harneis, Unicef’s Yemen representative. “A country of 26 million people was essentially cut off from any commercial shipping as a result of the way the arms embargo is being implemented,” he said, referring to the Saudi-led blockade.

Ships that were able to dock during the truce provided a “minute percentage of the amount of goods that need to come into the country for any normal life,” Mr. Harneis said.

André Heller Pérache, of Doctors Without Borders in Yemen, said the shortage of fuel, which had been devastating, hardly eased during the cease-fire.

“Hospitals are still scrambling to find fuel for generators,” he said. Without fuel for cars, people struggled to reach hospitals. “The capital city is dark at night.”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Saudi Arabia proposed the cease-fire this month as it faced growing criticism of its military campaign against the Houthis, a rebel group from northern Yemen that had taken control of the capital and other parts of the country and forced the government of President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi into exile.

Hundreds of airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition of Arab states failed to stop advances by the Houthis in Aden and the city of Taiz. The combination of the bombing campaign and a brutal offensive by pro-Houthi forces has killed more than 1,400, most of them civilians.

The cease-fire halted airstrikes on Sana after weeks of bombing, but fighting continued in Taiz and elsewhere. It remained unclear whether the airstrikes on Sunday signaled a full-scale resumption of the war or were a deft attempt by the Saudis to restore a military advantage, and could be followed by another truce.

Speaking on Sunday at a conference on the Yemen crisis in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a special envoy from the United Nations read a statement from Secretary General Ban Ki-moon that called for all parties to come together to resolve the conflict and urged an extension of the cease-fire.

The conference, convened by Saudi Arabia, consisted of only one side in the domestic conflict, bringing together Yemen factions and regional organizations that support the effort to restore Mr. Hadi to power. It excluded any representatives of the Houthi movement or its allies among the backers of Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen's former president.

"The humanitarian truce should turn into a permanent cease-fire," the envoy, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, said, reading the statement. There was "no solution to the crisis but comprehensive dialogue that will not exclude anyone."

In Seoul, Kerry Rallies Region Against North Korea // WSJ // Jeyup S. Kwaak - May 18, 2015

SEOUL—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday played up coordination between Washington and other nations to pressure North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program but underlined the rogue regime's current unwillingness to commit to such a path.

Speaking in Seoul, Mr. Kerry said the five members of the forum that had previously tried to persuade Pyongyang to denuclearize—the U.S., China, Russia, Japan and South Korea—are discussing measures to ramp up pressure on North Korea. He didn't provide details.

"Never has the international community been as united as we are now," Mr. Kerry said, referring to calls for North Korea to denuclearize.

Officials from the U.S. and China, a key economic and military ally to North Korea, will meet in Washington next month to discuss "specific steps," Mr. Kerry said. He also mentioned sanctions as a measure under consideration.

President Barack Obama's North Korea policy has taken criticism from experts who say that the isolated state in recent years appears undeterred in its pursuit of nuclear bombs and the missiles to deliver them.

A recent estimate from Beijing puts North Korea's nuclear-warhead count at 20 at the end of last year and potentially double that by next year. That estimate is higher than many assessments from the U.S.

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North Korea earlier this month also claimed to have conducted a successful test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile. U.S. and South Korean officials have said North Korea remains in the initial stages of developing the missile.

North Korea regularly test-fires a range of rockets, including ballistic missiles that are banned under United Nations sanctions. The regime has carried out three nuclear-detonation tests, the last in early 2013.

Mr. Kerry repeated the U.S. position that North Korea must show a genuine commitment to denuclearization before any talks can begin. But he said Pyongyang so far has “not come even close.” He said the regime has rebuffed efforts of engagement from other members of the so-called six-party process that includes North Korea.

The six-party talks, which began in 2003 to try to negotiate for Pyongyang’s denuclearization in exchange for economic aid and security guarantees, have been stalled since late 2008.

Mr. Kerry also condemned North Korea’s reported myriad human-rights violations, including the reported public executions of senior officials in what he called “grotesque” displays.

South Korea’s intelligence officials said last week that North Korea’s dictator had recently executed its defense minister by antiaircraft fire for treason. North Korea hasn’t acknowledged the execution took place.

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OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Why the GOP Can't Get No Satisfaction // Politico // Jim Messina - May 17, 2015

One of the savviest political observers I’ve come across is Mick Jagger. I was invited to a dinner that included the legendary rocker in London before the British election (I took about 9,000 selfies), when I discovered that Mick has been a bit of a political junkie his whole life. While he’s on tour he has a lot of down time, which he spends reading, he explained to me, and I learned that he’s become a master observer not only of UK politics but of the American political scene as well (although he's not an activist and doesn't take sides). “You’re going to win,” Mick told me at dinner, despite some polls showing that my client, Prime Minister David Cameron, was still trailing in the race. “Why do you think so?” I asked. Mick replied that while he wasn't supporting any candidate himself, “the average guy thinks Cameron makes tough decisions and things are getting a bit better. They won’t change from that." The opposition, Jagger explained, was percieved as a retreat to the past.

Mick was right, of course. No matter where you go, successful election campaigns are always about the future, not the past. Ed Miliband was an old-style Labour leader, unlike Tony Blair, and he paid dearly for that on Election Day. Mick’s advice, in fact, reminds of something another rather savvy political observer, Bill Clinton, told me in 2011, as we were preparing President Barack Obama’s re-election campaign: "All national elections are always a referendum on the future, and the candidate that can grasp that mantle wins." In all major elections after the Great Recession, the candidate who provided the clearest economic vision looking ahead prevailed. President Obama won two elections on that exact premise.

In the United Kingdom’s general election, Prime Minister Cameron won on a vision of a dynamic, competitive Britain as a land of future opportunity for working families. Miliband was promising them only a return to the past: 1970s-style rent control, re-nationalization of some services, and energy price controls were, bizarrely, the main policy initiatives highlighted by Labour.

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The same thing will be true of future presidential contests in the United States. There are huge political differences between the UK and U.S., but there are some important common lessons. Especially when you've been losing in recent elections, you've got to be able to redefine and rebrand your party for the future. Tony Blair did that for Labour in the UK. Ronald Reagan did it for the Republicans in 1980. Bill Clinton did it for us in 1992. So far, during the 2016 cycle, Republican presidential candidates seem dedicated to defending old policies across the spectrum from going back to pre-crisis rules for Wall Street to attacking the science of climate change to constantly focusing on restricting women's health care decisions.

If the message the GOP takes away from Cameron's win is mainly about the renewed power of right, they will fail in 2016, I believe. The truth is that British politics is skewed much further left than ours. Cameron personally led the fight to legalize gay marriage, made addressing climate change a top priority, and defended generous British humanitarian aid worldwide even as he was attacked for it. During the campaign, his manifesto called for a dramatic expansion of child care for working families, new apprenticeships for young people and eliminating taxes on workers at the minimum wage. Much of his agenda aligns very well with the modern Democratic Party platform.

The message of that election for us in the United States is less that Hillary Clinton needs to stay in the center than it is that Republicans need to move beyond their base. One reason Miliband failed is because, in British parliamentary politics, the perception is you only need to win over that base and little more. Miliband's people were privately saying he only needed to get to 35 percent. But in American politics you need the center—and a majority.

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So how did a Democratic consultant in the United States come to be working for the Conservative party in Britain? I first got to know Prime Minister Cameron when I was White House Deputy Chief of Staff in 2010, and he had just won the 2010 election. After President Obama's re-election in 2012 both the Conservatives and the Labour Party sent teams to Washington and Chicago to do research on lessons-learned, and I spent time with the Cameron team. I also had a long talk with Tony Blair, the former Labour prime minister.

Then, after I finished winding down President Obama's re-election campaign, the Prime Minister called to ask if I could come to see him in London. My wife and I had dinner with him and his wife and we had a long talk about the issues, when I realized how close in thinking we were. That really struck a chord for me. I spent a lot of time studying both Miliband and Cameron. In the end I thought Cameron was the better leader, as well as being a proven, strong ally for the United States.

The British people, clearly, agreed. Cameron's ability to secure an outright majority in Parliament is an historic achievement. Indeed, when we began advising the prime minister, he trailed Miliband by seven percent, 38-31, with the Liberal Democrats at about 10 percent. Future rising star parties United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) and the Scottish National Party (SNP) had not yet begun taking serious votes off of both parties, which would later reshape the race and politics in Britain.

In Europe and the United States, the strongest leaders have faced an incredibly difficult combination of rising debt and stubborn unemployment that mandated a number of unenviable choices since 2008. Nine major European countries dumped their leaders, including those in France, Italy, and Spain. The difference between the leaders who were re-elected and those who were defeated had much to do with their ability to not just explain their difficult past choices but to articulate a future that expands opportunity. In Cameron's case it was an emphasis on concrete, believable next steps to continue the path of economic growth like eliminating taxes on most workers at or near the minimum wage, expanded apprenticeships, and dramatically expanded childcare for working parents.

Jeb Bush's brotherly bind // WaPo // E.J. Dionne Jr. – May 17, 2015

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Am I am the only person outside the Bush family who has a smidgen of empathy for Jeb Bush's roller-coaster ride in trying to answer a straightforward question: Was going to war in Iraq the right thing to do?

It's hard to go much beyond "smidgen" because it remains astonishing that Bush hadn't worked out long in advance how he'd grapple with an inevitable query about the invasion his brother launched. Jeb's responses over four days were, as The Post's Philip Rucker and Ed O'Keefe wrote, "wavering, uncertain and incongruous."

E.J. Dionne writes about politics in a twice-weekly column and on the PostPartisan blog. He is also a senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, a government professor at Georgetown University and a frequent commentator on politics for National Public Radio, ABC's "This Week" and NBC's "Meet the Press." View Archive

The saga began when Fox News's Megyn Kelly asked Bush if, knowing all we know now, he would have gone to war. "I would have, and so would have Hillary Clinton, just to remind everybody," Bush replied. "And so would have almost everybody that was confronted with the intelligence they got."

Bang! The political world, including conservatives who had strongly supported George W.'s foreign policy, came down on him hard. After going this way and that, Jeb admitted defeat on Thursday. He mixed the first-person singular and plural with the second person in, finally, responding to Kelly's original question. "Knowing what we know now, what would you have done? I would have not engaged. I would not have gone into Iraq."

So why have any sympathy for him at all? The main reason is very old-fashioned: His apparent reluctance to cast his own brother into the darkness. In justifying his initial answer, Bush later used his own reframing of Kelly's words as an excuse, explaining he hadn't understood the "know now" part. But it's just as possible that he knew perfectly well what Kelly had asked — Jeb Bush is not stupid — and hoped he could get away with answering a different question to avoid being disloyal to George W.

Loyalty is a virtue in rather short supply in our culture, so I admire it when I see it. Of course it can be misplaced. There are times when other virtues should trump it. But loyalty does matter, and I have some respect for Jeb for trying to stay true to his family ties over four utterly miserable days.

Still, there are more important issues here than family. Bush's agony isn't over because Iraq raises profound questions not only for him but also for all of his GOP opponents. If Bush's initial answer about the war was wrong and his most recent answer was right, this means that opponents of the war were also right. They included a young Illinois state senator, Barack Obama, who predicted in 2002 that "even a successful war against Iraq will require a U.S. occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences."

Many of the war's staunchest supporters understand that they can never concede that Obama was right because doing so would undermine their ongoing defense of a hyperinterventionist foreign policy. That's why some of them remain unrepentant. "I believed in it then," former vice president Dick Cheney said of the war to Politico's Mike Allen last July. "I look back on it now, it was absolutely the right thing to do."

Bill Kristol, one of the war's leading promoters, told CNN last June: "I'm not apologizing for something that I think was not wrong. I think going to war to remove Saddam was the right thing to do and necessary and just thing to do." Donald Rumsfeld, George W.'s first secretary of defense, said that it would have been "immoral" not to go to Iraq.

But other hawks would rather see the was-the-Iraq-War-right question magically disappear because they know it's a no-win for them. Most Americans now think the war was ill-advised. Why remind them that most of the same people who are super hawks now brought them an adventure they deeply regret? Thus did the Wall Street Journal editorial page on Friday come out firmly and unequivocally in favor of — evasion. "The right answer to the question is that it's not a useful or instructive one to answer, because statesmanship, like life, is not conducted in hindsight."

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Sorry, but inquiring minds will want all the candidates to offer straight answers. This means that Bush's Republican opponents will have to do more than trash his botched dodging. Bush at least had the excuse that he didn't want to speak ill of his brother. The rest of them still need to explain how their own views of the past relate to where they'll take us in the future.

Six dangerous issues in the 2016 GOP White House race // The Hill // Peter Schroeder - May 17, 2015

Republican contenders for the White House are under pressure to toe the party line on a number of issues as they battle for the nomination.

Primary voters will demand to know where the presidential hopefuls stand on a slew of hot-button issues, including immigration, taxes and climate change.

Several of the candidates have already stumbled with their answers, highlighting the intense scrutiny they will be under in the critical early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

Here are some of the biggest political landmines ahead for the Republican field.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration is one of the thorniest issues for the Republican Party.

In the GOP primary, the candidates are fighting for the support of mostly conservative voters, who are generally opposed to anything they view as granting "amnesty" to undocumented people.

But the eventual Republican nominee will need to make gains with Hispanic voters in the general election to win the White House, but that segment of the electorate has shifted decisively toward Democrats in recent years.

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), who helped write the Senate's 2013 immigration reform bill, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush have cast themselves as candidates who can appeal to Hispanics and win the general election.

But to become their party's nominee, both will have to overcome distrust on immigration from the party's base.

Rubio has backed away from the reform legislation he helped write, telling a conservative crowd in February that border security must come first.

Other Republican candidates, such as Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, have come out against a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Bush has mostly stuck to his guns on granting illegal immigrants a path to citizenship, while emphasizing to conservatives their common ground on border security and fighting Obama's executive actions.

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Other candidates in the 2016 race, such as Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), are likely to hammer Rubio and Bush as backing “amnesty.”

COMMON CORE

The federal education standards known as Common Core are deeply unpopular in the GOP, with polls show that Republican voters oppose them by a 3 to 1 margin.

The education standards have provided a ripe target for Republican candidates to take swings at a top-down prescription from the federal government.

Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) have assailed the education protocol, with Paul’s PAC referring to it as “anti-American propaganda.”

Walker has said he wants to eliminate the requirement, and Gov. Chris Christie has created a commission to review its place in New Jersey.

Standing virtually alone in support of Common Core is Bush, who argues states have plenty of say in how the standards are carried out.

That stance could prove to be a real liability in Iowa. A February Des Moines Register poll found that while 56 percent of Iowans back the standards, just 34 percent of Iowa Republicans do.

THE IRAQ WAR

President George W. Bush’s controversial tenure in the White House looms large over the current field, and candidates have been rushing to distance themselves from his Iraq War.

It’s been hard to find a prominent Republican who now supports the 2002 invasion, which remains deeply unpopular with the public. Rubio, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Cruz have all said that in hindsight, going to war was a mistake, as has Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.), a longtime critic of that military action.

The political peril of Iraq is especially acute for Jeb Bush, who struggled much of the past week to say whether he would have also authorized the military action. After vacillating on the issue for several days, Bush finally came out against his brother’s decision on Thursday.

But his confusing and dismissive responses to the question over several days gave his rivals an opening, with Paul arguing his responses made clear Jeb would be “George Bush 3.”

GAY MARRIAGE

Opposition to same-sex marriage used to be a reliable position for any Republican presidential candidate, but at a time of growing support for such unions, the GOP primary field has splintered.

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Most Republican candidates have answered affirmatively when asked if they would attend a gay wedding. Walker said he actually has done so for a family member.

But social conservatives remain staunchly opposed to gay marriage, and some of the contenders are taking a hard line.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), Cruz and Jindal have fiercely opposed same-sex unions, and back legislative efforts to block them.

Others, like Paul, Rubio and Christie, have said the matter should be left up to the states. Rubio drew headlines in April when he said he did not believe sexual orientation was a choice, even as he said same-sex marriage is not a right.

The challenge of the issue was apparent when Ben Carson, the former neurosurgeon now running for the White House, apologized after saying that same-sex relationships in prison prove sexual orientation is a choice.

TAXES

Any Republican with an eye towards the White House is going to be talking taxes, which has long been one of the biggest dividing lines with the Democratic Party.

While all of the GOPers are eager to promote fiscal responsibility and tax cuts, there is an emerging split among the candidates on how far they are willing to go.

Some of the 2016 hopefuls have issued dramatic plans to slash taxes, as they look to stand out in the crowded field.

Cruz, Paul and Carson have called for the outright elimination of the Internal Revenue Service, and some are advocating a dramatic overhaul of the tax code, pushing for a single flat tax rate for all Americans.

Rubio has taken a different tack, proposing a tax plan in March alongside Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) that would moderately trim the top rates for individuals and businesses, while eliminating some deductions. But that proposal has opened him up to conservative criticism, as some on the right call it insufficient.

But Rubio is lockstep with nearly every other GOP candidate in signing Grover Norquist's taxpayer pledge, vowing to oppose any and all tax increases while in office. The only Republican candidate thus far to refuse the pledge is Bush.

CLIMATE CHANGE

While none of the Republican contenders are vowing to tackle climate change if elected president, they are split on whether human activity is driving it.

Most Republican voters say it would be unacceptable for their candidate to believe in man-made climate change,

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let alone pursue policies to address it.

Some of the candidates, including Paul and Bush, have adopted an agnostic view, saying the jury is still out on how much the climate is changing, and if so, what role humans play in it.

Others, such as Cruz and Santorum, have depicted climate change as a hoax by the left to impose new environmental restrictions on the business community.

When the Senate considered legislation on the Keystone XL pipeline, Cruz, Rubio and Paul all voted for an amendment stating that climate change was real.

Paul was the only 2016 contender to support a separate amendment that stated human beings contribute to climate change.

MISCELLANEOUS

From Nick:

Iowa Democrats flee Hillary Clinton over GMO support, Monsanto ties // WaPo // S.A. Miller - May 17, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton's ties to agribusiness giant Monsanto, and her advocacy for the industry's genetically modified crops, have environmentalists in Iowa calling her "Bride of Frankenfood" — putting yet another wrinkle in her presidential campaign's courtship of liberal activists who are crucial to winning the state's Democratic caucuses.

The backlash against Mrs. Clinton for her support of genetically modified organisms (GMO), which dominate the corn and soybean crops at the heart of Iowa's economy, manifested itself at a recent meeting of the Tri-County Democrats, where members gauged support for the former secretary of state.

A large faction of women voiced strong support for Mrs. Clinton's candidacy until the GMO issue came up, prompting them to switch allegiances to Sen. Bernard Sanders of Vermont, a liberal stalwart challenging her for the Democratic nomination.

"I was surprised, because these women were really pushing for Hillary until they found out about the Monsanto connection, and then they dropped her like a hot potato," said James Berge, Democratic Party chairman for Worth County, Iowa.

"It's quite a big issue," he said. "There's people who are just wild about all the use of GMOs."

The issue gives liberal voters another reason to be skeptical of Mrs. Clinton, whom they already distrust because of her cozy relationship with Wall Street and the centrist philosophy that she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, long embraced.

Mrs. Clinton likely will keep the GMO debate on a back burner when she makes her second swing through Iowa this week. She has scheduled stops Monday and Tuesday to rally grass-roots support and discuss ideas to expand

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small businesses in the state.

She enjoys a massive advantage in the polls in Iowa, leading Mr. Sanders 60 percent to 15 percent in a recent Quinnipiac University survey. While not an overt threat to her, Mr. Sanders has inched up in the polls since he entered the race April 30, and his liberal agenda is popular with the party activists.

“Iowa is a big agricultural state, but we’ve got to realize some of the food that we are producing in this country is going to cause great health effects down the road, and then it’s probably going to be too late to try to fix it,” said Mr. Berge. “You can’t even wash this pesticide off, because it is in the plants themselves, and you are digesting it, and it goes into your body. It’s not a good thing.”

GMOs include seeds engineered in a laboratory to have certain traits, such as resistance to such herbicides as Monsanto’s widely used Roundup. Most of the corn and soybeans in the U.S. are genetically modified. Much of it goes into animal feed, but it also is in popular processed food ingredients like high fructose corn syrup and soybean oil.

Iowa leads the country in the production of corn and ranks among the top producers of soybeans.

Agribusiness interests claim that GMO crops are more resistant to pests, drought and cold weather, increasing yields and limiting the use of pesticides.

But environmentalists argue that genetically modified food is unhealthy and promotes excessive use of pesticides.

A new scientific study bolstered environmentalists’ concerns by finding the herbicide Roundup could be linked to a range of health problems and diseases, including Parkinson’s, infertility and cancers. The study published last month in the scientific journal Entropy also reported evidence that residue of glyphosate, a chief ingredient in the weed killer, has been found in food.

In the GMO debate, Mrs. Clinton has consistently sided with the chemical companies.

Her top campaign operative in Iowa is former Monsanto lobbyist Jerry Crawford, who’s also a veteran of Iowa politics and Clinton campaigns.

Her history of backing GMO dates back to her early days in Arkansas as a lawyer with the Rose Law Firm, which represented Monsanto and other agribusiness leaders.

Just last year, Mrs. Clinton gave a paid speech at a biotech industry conference in San Diego, where she championed GMOs and advised the executives and investors to give their products an image makeover.

“‘Genetically modified’ sounds Frankensteinish. ‘Drought-resistant’ sounds like something you’d want,” she said. “Be more careful so you don’t raise that red flag immediately.”

Big ag also has been a big donor to the Clinton Foundation, the family charity at the center of pay-to-play accusations involving foreign donors while Mrs. Clinton ran the State Department.

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Monsanto gave the foundation between $501,250 and $1 million. Dow Chemical Company, which is among the top GMO players, gave between $1 million and $5 million, according to financial disclosures by the Clinton Foundation.

Mrs. Clinton's support for Monsanto and genetically modified food was one of the factors that contributed to her embarrassing third-place finish in the 2008 Iowa caucuses, said Laura Hubka, vice chair of the Tri-County Democrats, a club in Howard, Mitchell and Worth counties along the state's norther border with Minnesota.

"We are very environmentally active," said Ms. Hubka. "It would be great to hear her come out and speak against Monsanto and what it has done to our farmers as far as our corn production now. There's a lot of things Monsanto has done that [have] made us unhappy."

Ms. Hubka said that Mrs. Clinton could make amends by getting out in front of the GMO issue.

"It seems like she is out in front of several issues [like] the immigration issue, [and] she's been out in front of working on police issues that have come up recently," said Ms. Hubka. "We are hoping to see her make a turn also against Monsanto. That would be fantastic for us."

Mark Shelley, chairman of the political science department at Iowa State University, said that Mrs. Clinton likely would be able to weather opposition from environmentalists at the caucuses because farming is a pocketbook issue for most Iowans.

"So much of Iowa's economy is connected to agriculture directly, and to closely related industries such as farm implement manufacturing, seed companies and food processing, that agribusiness interests are often seen as having outsize influence on the state's political climate," he said.

"It is important to note, though, that Democratic caucuses tend to attract people with more active interests in issues, which in that party translates to caucus attenders who are generally more progressive-leaning than the party as a whole," Mr. Shelley said

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Alexandria Phillips
Communications | Press Assistant
Hillary for America
https://www.hillaryclinton.com

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Date: 6/15/2009 5:00:03 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Iran Erupts: U.S. Must Pursue Engagement, Human Rights and Reject Radical Neocons

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Iran Erupts: U.S. Must Pursue Engagement, Human Rights and Reject Radical Neocons

Washington, D.C. - Iran erupted this weekend following claims from the regime that President Ahmadinejad had been overwhelming reelected. The announcement was met with incredulity given numerous irregularities. Supporters of the main opposition candidate, former Prime Minister Mir Hussein Moussavi, quickly took to the streets in protest. The regime has cracked down brutally, detained many opposition leaders, placed Moussavi under watch, evicted and detained foreign journalists, and attempted to block protestors ability to communicate and organize by blocking text messaging and internet access. Americans are justifiably sympathetic to the Iranian demonstrators. But an over the top response from Washington would only make the situation worse, as it would serve to further the regime's line that these demonstrations are illegitimate-American backed efforts to interfere in Iran. We must not give Ahmedinejad the chance to claim that his fight is with Washington, and not with his own citizens. Iranian human rights advocates have asked the U.S. to "keep its distance," a request American conservatives seem eager to ignore as they take to the airwaves calling for aggressive and direct American support for the demonstrators. Additionally, there are not many levers available to the United States - and those continuing to advocate military action have seemingly not learned that exporting democracy through the barrel of a gun is a disastrous approach.

Instead, the Obama administration should continue to pursue a responsible course that refrains from legitimizing the results, expresses support for the human rights of Iran's opposition, as well as ensures that the U.S. is not strengthening the regime by being seen as directly meddling. Going forward, the Obama administration must continue its policy of attempting to engage Iran and its people. Past U.S. policy of isolating and threatening Iran completely failed in both weakening Iran and stopping its nuclear program - and only served to strengthen hardliners. As is clearly apparent, the regime feels highly threatened by the prospect of greater openness and engagement with the west. Offering the prospect for greater interaction - far from supporting the regime as conservative critics suggest -would only strengthen those calling for dialogue and - if greater interaction were to occur - would serve to further threaten the regime's conservative hardliners.

The Obama administration - and Americans across the political spectrum -- can best support Iranian human rights by letting the Iranian people take the lead. Spencer Ackerman reports on the developing U.S. response to the unrest in Iran following elections which were widely criticized as fraudulent: "Administration officials, on and off the record, said that President Obama would offer support for human rights in Iran generally and would not back away from his diplomatic outreach to the longtime U.S. adversary, regardless of the ultimate outcome of the election." This policy flows from a concern that aggressive U.S. interference would undermine the Iranian opposition. According to the Independent, a senior U.S. official emphasized that "it was important to have a policy toward Iran that advanced the administration's desire for liberalization and human rights in Iran, not one that merely vented American outrage at Ahmadinejad." The Obama administration has also expressed concern over the legitimacy of the Iranian elections. Press Secretary Robert Gibbs raised the "reports of irregularities," during a White House press conference, while Vice President Joe Biden expressed "real doubt" about the results, and called for a "thorough review of the whole process." Conservatives like Mitt Romney have recklessly called for the Obama administration to declare the elections a "fraud," but human rights groups and other Iranian voices have argued that overt interference would bolster the regime. Hadi Ghaemi, a New York-based spokesman for the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, remarked to the Independent: "I think it's wise for the U.S. government to keep its distance." According to the Independent's interview with Ghaemi, "any expression of political support for the protesters would only 'instigate the cry that the reformers are somehow driven and directed by the United States, whether under [former President George W. Bush] or under Obama, and there's no reason to give that unfounded allegation' any chance to spread." Iran expert and founder of the National Iranian American Council Trita Parsi echoed Ghaemi, saying ""If the administration is saying things or doing things before Moussavi and the opposition figures out what the plan is, then that's a real problem, because then it seems like it's between Ahmadinejad and the west and not Ahmadinejad and the opposition. So

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the administration is doing exactly the right thing." [Washington Independent, 6/15/09 . Robert Gibbs, 6/14/09 . Mitt Romney, 6/14/09 . Vice President Joe Biden, 6/14/09]

Conservatives display stunning hypocrisy on Iran, using elections to push their own extreme agenda. A week ago, conservatives insisted nothing of consequence was happening in Iran. In an editorial on Friday, the Washington Times wrote: "It doesn't really matter who wins today's presidential election in Iran. No matter the outcome, Tehran's foreign policy will not change and the nation's people will remain oppressed." Former Bush administration official Elliot Abrams dismissed the reformist movement, saying, "[t]here is no chance for voters to register their opposition to the theocratic system or tell the ayatollahs to go back to the mosques." These analyses ignored Iranians' democratic impulses, and particularly the opposition's explicit calls for engagement with the US. the elections were "widely seen here (Iran) as a referendum on the hard-line policies of Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad," according to the New York Times, and in an interview before the election, Moussavi remarked that the idea of engagement, advanced by the Obama administration, has meant that the "the taboo in this country (Iran) about talking to America has been broken." This weekend, Mitt Romney continued to insist that "the comments by the president last week that there was a robust debate going on in Iran was obviously entirely wrong-headed." But other conservatives switched to a new political ploy - discovering the Iranian people's interest in democracy and insisting that the US interfere to the detriment of other interests. Bill Kristol went on Fox News Sunday saying that, "I do want to send money. And I want to tell the Iranians who are on the fence and who do want trade with Europe and do want warmer relations with the U.S., "Look, you've got now to back off or else you don't get anything you want." [Mitt Romney, 6/14/09 .. Washington Times, 6/12/09 . Elliot Abrams, NY Times, 6/12/09 . NY Times, 6/12/09 . Al-Jazeera English, 6/11/09 . Bill Kristol, 6/14/09]

The election may change a great deal in Iran - or it may not - but it does not alter the underlying strategic factors which make prospect of engagement with Iran the best policy for America's interests. Diplomatic engagement with Iran is the right path in pursuing America's interests, regardless of the outcome of the election and resulting demonstrations. As the vice-president said on Meet the Press yesterday, "[l]ook, talks with Iran are not a reward for good behavior. They're only a consequence if the president makes the judgment it's in the best interest of the United States of America, our national security interests, to talk with the Iranian regime. Our interests are the same before the election as after the election, and that is we want them to cease and desist from seeking a nuclear weapon and having one in its possession, and secondly to stop supporting terror... It's not being done with a single person." Suzanne Maloney of the Brookings Institution goes on to say, "[t]he United States must seek out opportunities for resolving the increasingly urgent impasse over Iran's nuclear program and addressing the broader array of concerns about Iranian policy. The elections have not changed the fact that negotiations represent the best of a range of unappealing options available to Washington. However, as a result of the increasingly arbitrary actions by Iran's leadership, the American diplomatic approach has become more complicated and a successful resolution of the three-decade long estrangement becomes unfortunately less likely." But as the New York Times concludes in an editorial this morning, "[t]he only choice is negotiations backed by credible incentives and tough sanctions. Even if the mullahs had allowed Mr. Moussavi to win, that would still be true." A 2007 report from the Center for American Progress recommends engagement as an effort to weaken the radical elements of the Iranian government. It says, "We should complement... containment efforts with sufficient diplomatic openings to engage pragmatic members of Iran's ruling elite and appeal to the broad masses of the Iranian public in order to isolate and weaken the radical revolutionary elements represented by President Mohammed Ahmadinejad... By rejecting the obviously flawed options, however, and then conducting a sober appraisal of the possible, we are left with our best available option: *decisive diplomacy to contain and engage Iran*." [Joseph Biden, Meet the Press, 6/14/09 . Suzanne Maloney, 6/14/09 . NY Times, 6/15/09 . American Progress, 2007]

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com> "Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com> "Brian Fallon" <brianefallon@gmail.com>
Date:	4/2/2015 3:14:54 PM
Subject:	Re: Iran statement

+ Brian

From: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:11 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jesse@jesseferguson.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Cc: Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >
Subject: Iran statement

HRC has signed off on the statement below and asks if she should tweet as well. Anyone have any concerns?

The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. President Obama and Secretary Kerry have been persistent and determined in pursuit of this goal, building on a decade of bipartisan pressure and diplomacy. Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's paths to a nuclear weapon, imposes an intrusive inspection program with no sites off limits, extends breakout time, and spells out clear and overwhelming consequences for violations. The onus is on Iran and the bar must be set high. It is also vital that our efforts to deny Iran a nuclear weapon be part of a comprehensive strategy to check its regional ambitions, defend our allies and partners, and reinforce American leadership in the Middle East. There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead, but for now diplomacy deserves a chance to succeed.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/18/2015 3:12:21 PM
Subject: New News! (9/18/2015)

THE COMMON GOOD

de·moc·ra·cy

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Week ending September 18th, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

Polls

Dems: Clinton leads in Florida but Sanders still ahead in New Hampshire poll.

Florida: Clinton 55% **, Sanders** 18% **, Biden** 17% **, O'Malley** 2% **, Chafee** 1%**, Webb** 1 %**, PPP Poll** *RealClearPolitics* **[More]**

New Hampshire: Sanders 35% **Clinton** 31% **Biden** 14% **Webb** 2% **O'Malley** 1% **Chafee** 1%,

Over half (56%) view **Clinton** favorably, and just 51% say she is "honest and trustworthy."

Biden (66% favorable) and **Sanders** (64% favorable) do better.

WBUR Poll, *RealClearPolitics* **[More]**

GOP: PRE-GOP Debate: Trump bests Bush on home ground in Florida:

Trump 28%, Carson 17%, Bush 13%, Rubio 10%, Cruz 9%, Fiorina 7%, Kasich 5%, Huckabee 3%,

Walker 2%, Christie 2%, Jindal 1%, Santorum 1%, Paul 0 %, **PPP Poll** *RealClearPolitics* **[More]**

Michigan primary a dead heat: Carson beats **Trump** by 2 points, within the margin of error.

Carson 24% **Trump** 22% **Bush** 8% **Huckabee** 6% **Rubio** 4% **Cruz** 3% **Fiorina** 3% **Kasich** 2%

RealClearPolitics **[More]**

2016 Presidential Campaign

Republicans turn on Trump: "Several Republican presidential candidates showed new aggressiveness in lacing into **Donald J. Trump** on Wednesday night." **Jonathan Martin and Patrick Healy,** *New York Times* **[More]**

Carly Fiorina gains traction in debate: "With **Hillary Rodham Clinton**'s popularity falling among women as questions about her honesty and integrity continue to shroud her, many Republicans are beginning to see **Mrs. Fiorina** as someone who, if she is not the presidential nominee, is a much more serious contender for the vice-presidential nomination or a large leadership role of some kind within the party." **Jeremy W. Peters**, *New York Times* **[More]**

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Sanders won the GOP debate - on Facebook: Sanders posted the single most popular Facebook post of the night. **Neetzan Zimmerman,** *The Hill* **[More]**

Signs Biden is going to run?: "Biden's visits Thursday to Michigan and Ohio are being closely watched for signs he's gauging his support in two battleground states that typically play a key role in electing the next president. His usual vice presidential appearances have taken on the air of campaign stops, with supporters cheering "Run, Biden, Run" at nearly every stop." **Julie Carr Smyth** and **Andrew Welsh-Huggins,** *The Associated Press* **[More]**

Wall Street fearful Trump could win: "The real estate billionaire, who took another populist shot on Sunday by ripping into lavish executive pay, continues to rise in the polls... Says one CEO, 'Right now people think Trump is pretty hilarious but the longer it goes on the more frightening it gets.'" **Ben White,** *Politico* **[More]**

Nate Silver: Trump has 5% chance of winning: "If you look back at history, you've never seen candidates like **Donald Trump** certainly or **Ben Carson** win a party nomination. And secondly, if you look at the polling, a lot of times a candidate who is leading the polls now mid-September didn't win the nomination, didn't even come close." **Nate Silver,** *Anderson Cooper 360* **[More]**

The Economy

The Federal Reserve leaves interest rates unchanged: "A large majority of Fed officials still believe the central bank will raise rates before year-end, but the central bank showed a bit less conviction on that point." **Jon Hilsenrath,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Fed causes stock freakout- Market swoons The Dow dropped 289 points on Friday. **Stephen Gandel**, *Fortune* **[More]**

Standard & Poor's downgrades Japan's rating: It has "left the onus on **Prime Minister Shinzo Abe a**nd his Cabinet to consider a fiscal stimulus package to boost ...a lackluster recovery in the second half of the year so far." **Keiko Ujikane,** *Bloomberg Business* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Iran poised to become a major natural Gas Producer to EU: "Iran could become a major supplier of natural gas to the EU by the end of the next decade, according to new estimates from the bloc's executive" **Gabriele Steinhauser and Laurence Norman,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

At least eight tourists are dead in friendly fire in Egypt by government forces: "The episode marks the first time Egyptian security forces have killed tourists in a continuing campaign against an insurgency that has escalated sharply over the past two years." **Tamer El-Ghobashy,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Obama and Khamenei both being challenged in different ways: "**Ayatollah Khamenei**, who appears to have let the Iran nuclear deal go forward even though he has neither publicly endorsed nor opposed the deal, won't permit closer ties between Iran and the U.S. because he knows that if he opens the door to U.S. diplomats, businesses and entrepreneurs, the flow of American influence into Iran will become even more uncontrollable." **Haleh Esfandiari and Robert S. Litwak,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

A change in Australia's leadership: Malcolm Turnbull is the new Prime Minister of Australia. *The Economist* **[More]**

Migrants stalled at Hungarian border: "Hungary sealed two transit points from Serbia, as tough penalties for breaking through its newly-fenced border came into effect." **Gerald Seib,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Ultra liberal Jeremy Corbyn becomes Labor Party candidate: Jeremy Corbyn, *The Guardian* **[More]**

Netanyahu's contradictory plans: "**Netanyahu'**s complaint is not with the Iran deal. It is with the notion that one can deal with Iran. Like many of his Republican allies on Capitol Hill, he sees this deal as a defeat because it brought about neither complete capitulation by Iran at the negotiating table nor the demise of the Iranian regime. **Netanyahu**'s worldview is Manichaean; there is good, there is evil, and good people don't do business

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with evil." **Jeffrey Goldberg**, *The Atlantic* **[More]**

Turkey stability is increasingly in question 'Turkey is on the brink of a civil war.' This is how S**elahattin Demirtas**, the co-chairman of the pro-Kurdish bloc in the Turkish parliament, the Peoples' Democracy Party (HDP), chillingly described the spiraling violence that has engulfed Turkey after a two-year ceasefire between rebels of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the Turkish army ended in July." **Amberin Zaman,** *Al-Monitor* **[More]**

Sachs: U.S. policy in Syria needs help: The "current approach – a two-front war against the Islamic State and President Bashar al-Assad's regime – has failed miserably. The solution to the Syrian crisis, including the growing refugee crisis in Europe, must run through the United Nations Security Council…. If the US wants better results, it should stop going it alone." **Jeffrey D. Sachs (Former TCG Speaker),** *Project Syndicate* **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

Reduction in the gender wage gap: "Women working full-time, year-round jobs earned 78.6% of what similar men did in 2014, according to a Census report released Wednesday. That's the smallest gap on record back to 1960." **Eric Morath**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Heading for a government shutdown with attacks on Planned Parenthood: The House passed two bills on Friday against Planned Parenthood. Both votes were symbolic: The measures face an uphill battle in the Senate, given Democrats' ability to filibuster" **Benjamin Siegel,** *ABC News* **[More]**

Toobin: Kim Davis still refusing to issue marriage licenses: "On Monday, Davis said ... 'Effective immediately, and until an accommodation is provided by those with the authority to provide it, any marriage license issued by my office will not be issued or authorized by me.'" **Jeffrey Toobin (TCG Speaker),** *The New Yorker* **[More]**

TCG Community in the News

Schmidt: The artificial intelligence renaissance: "Deep learning really took off when it got an infusion of computing at immense scale, using networks of thousands of computers working together." **Eric Schmidt (Former TCG Speaker)**, *BBC* **[More]**

Norquist praises Jim Gilmore's tax reform proposal: G**ilmore** coined "The Growth Code." Under his plan, the top personal income tax rate would decline from 39.6 percent today all the way down to 25 percent, the lowest level since the 1920s. There would be only three income tax rates: 10, 15, and 25 percent." **Grover Norquist (Former TCG Speaker)**, *The Washington Times* **[More]**

Rogoff: Transferring art or transferring money?: "Reportedly, some art sales today result in paintings merely being moved from one section of a storage vault to another, recalling how the New York Federal Reserve registers gold sales between national central banks." **Kenneth Rogoff (Former TCG Speaker)**, *Business Standard* **[More]**

Founder of End Rape on Campus contemplates university sexual violence: "In response of the attention **Bill Cosby** has been getting lately in regards to his alleged sexual abuse concerns, **Andrea Pino (TCG Awardee)** contemplates as to why sexual violence on university campus' across the country isn't gaining the same traction." **Andrea Pino (TCG Awardee),** *Huffington Post* **[More]**

Books

Jonathan Alter reflects on upcoming Jimmy Carter biography: "Humility has not always been **Jimmy Carter**'s strong suit. It can't be if you're a politician. But now he is in a different, more soulful place, and the love he gives is being returned by millions of admirers around the world." **Jonathan Alter (Former TCG Speaker),** *The Daily Beast* **[More]**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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NEW EVENT Pre-premiere screening of "He Named Me Malala"**

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2015

Screening 7:30-9:00pm, doors open at 7:00pm.

Post screening discussion with Director **Davis Guggenheim** 9:00-9:30pm

Executive members only, limited seating.

RSVP

Ari Berman on Voting RIghts and the efforts to limit them.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015, Reception & remarks 6:15-7:45pm

RSVP

Mark Mellman **SOLD OUT Leading political strategist and pollster on 2016 Campaign**

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Lunch and Remarks, 12pm hosted by Paul Beirne, Peter Maroney & AllianceBernstein

RSVP

Ambassador Melanne Verveer
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner, Isaac Getlan, Hugh Ferguson and our interns Samar Nadi, Robin Silver, Tracey Pennito and Justin Vacura.

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From: "Center for Genetics and Society" <cgs@geneticsandsociety.org>
To: Subscriber <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 9/4/2014 6:13:55 PM
Subject: Biopolitical Views & News: Regulating Surrogacy, Combating Prejudice, Opposing Inheritable Genetic Modification

To ensure delivery, please add info@geneticsandsociety.org to your address book or contacts.

CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWS

August 7, 2014

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Talking Biopolitics



Thursday, October 2,11am PT / 2pm ET / 18:00 GMT
Please join Charis Thompson and the Center for Genetics and Society for *Talking Biopolitics 2014* . In this live web-based interview and conversation, Charis will talk with David Winickoff – and with you – about her latest book, *Good Science: The Ethical Choreography of Stem Cell Research*.

Celebrating Troy Duster (video now available)

Hundreds of Troy Duster's colleagues, former students and friends gathered on August 15 at Berkeley Law School for a day-long tribute to his myriad scholarly and personal influences, and to the continuing significance of his work for current and future challenges. Please see video of the speakers and panel discussions, the event program , and UC News coverage of the event.

CGS COMMENTARY

Should We Open the Door to Genetically Modified Babies?



by Jessica Cussins, *CNBC*
There has been a lot of confusion around this controversial issue, but as we are now facing a historic crossroads, it is important to set the record straight.

"3-Person IVF" Debated in UK Parliament

by Pete Shanks
The debate in Britain over combining eggs or embryos to prevent the transmission of mitochondrial disease received a public airing, though no firm conclusion, in the House of Commons on September 1st.

An International Agreement on Commercial Surrogacy?



by Marcy Darnovsky
A three-day convening in The Hague brought together scholars, women's health and human rights advocates, and policymakers from 27 countries to tackle concerns about international commercial surrogacy.

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"We're All One of Troy's Babies": A Celebration of Troy Duster



by Victoria Massie, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor
On Friday, August 15th, I was one among a multitude of people finding a seat in Booth Auditorium at UC Berkeley Law School for the event “Celebrating Troy Duster.”

Moving on from Nicholas Wade to Continuing Concerns about Scientific Racism

by Pete Shanks
Over 140 geneticists publicly criticized Nicholas Wade for distorting their work; but that is unlikely to stop such abuse permanently, and many issues still deserve airing.

Disability Will Never Be Immoral

by Jessica Cussins
Prenatal genetic testing can be a valuable tool, but it provides strikingly limited data. Events of this summer, including the abandonment of Baby Gammy and shockingly intolerant comments from Richard Dawkins, speak to the risk of conflating one type of information with a broader reality.

From “the Dangerous Womb” to a More Complex Reality

by Jessica Cussins
Heightened attention to epigenetics, while important, also carries the danger of being used to place undue blame on pregnant women. A special issue in Science on parenting provides a more complex overview of parental and societal influence.

NEWS

Britain will be considered a 'rogue state' if it creates GM people, MP warns

Press Association
Allowing mitochondrial replacement therapy to prevent the birth of children with incurable diseases could lead to people being created for 'harvesting their parts'

Medical dilemma of 'three-parent babies': Fertility clinic investigates health of teenagers it helped to be conceived through controversial IVF technique

by Steve Connor, *The Independent (UK)*
A private fertility clinic in the United States has launched an investigation into the health of 17 teenagers who were born as a result of a controversial IVF technique that produced the world’s first “three-parent” embryos more than 15 years ago.

Troy Duster’s Garden of Plugged-In Scholarship, and How it Grew

by Barry Bergman, *NewsCenter*
An overview of the CGS co-sponsored event to honor Troy Duster's landmark works on the racial implications of drug policies and genetic research, his role as adviser and friend, and his fierce activism.

Womb for rent: A heart to carry another woman’s baby

by Cecilia Okoth, *New Vision*
Imagine a woman desperately trying to get pregnant, but so far every attempt is unsuccessful. Would you be brave enough to “get pregnant for her?” Aisha Nansereko, a Ugandan woman, did. This is her story.

Thailand’s Business in Paid Surrogates May Be Foundering in a Moral Quagmire

by Thomas Frank, *The New York Times*

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The baby boomlet in Pak Ok was just one of several bizarre and often ethically charged iterations of Thailand's freewheeling venture into what detractors call the womb rental business, an unguided experiment that the country's military government now says it is planning to end.

- Interpol Investigates 'Baby Factory' as Man Fathers 16 Surrogate Children

by Kevin Rawlinson, *The Guardian*
Interpol has launched an investigation into an alleged "baby factory" after it emerged that a Japanese businessman had fathered 16 surrogate children and expressed a desire for many more.

- California Couple Shares Surrogate Story in Wake of Thailand Controversy

by Beth Greenfield, *Yahoo! Health*
When news broke earlier this month about baby Gammy, many were shocked. But not Keston and Andrea Ott-Dahl, a San Francisco couple who had a similar experience right here in America.

- Thailand to Ban Commercial Surrogacy in Wake of Gammy Scandal

The Guardian
Thailand's military government gave preliminary approval for a draft law to make commercial surrogacy a criminal offence.

- Dreams of Children Shattered as Thailand Closes All IVF Center

by Lindsay Murdoch, *The Sydney Morning Herald*
Thai authorities linked the Bangkok clinic with a suspected international "baby factory" trafficking syndicate said to be behind at least 14 babies destined for overseas.

- Will my Disabled Daughter have a Place in this Genetic Wonderland?

by Ian Birrello, *The Guardian*
Until society gets to grips with prejudice we cannot start to grapple with the profound questions that medical advances raise.

- British baby Gammy: Surrogate claims mum refused to take disabled twin

by Ellen Wallwork, *ParentDish*
A British surrogate mother of twins has said the intended mother rejected one of the babies because she was born with a disability.

- Misconception

by Sarah Dingle, *The Sydney Morning Herald*
The discovery in her late 20s that she was conceived using a sperm donor was a huge shock to Sarah Dingle. But learning there was no possibility of finding out the name of her biological father was even more disturbing.

- Vics to Get Sperm Donor Info with Consent

The Australian
Victorians conceived through sperm donation will now be able to find out who their biological father is - but only if he agrees.

- Career Women are Having 'Egg-Freezing' Parties

by Jane Ridley, *New York Post*
Dubbed "Let's Chill," a first-of-its-kind "egg-freezing party" was sponsored by a company called EggBanxx, which is cutting the cost of egg freezing and marketing it to young go-getters.

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- Australia Could Recognise Multiple Parents

by Michael Cook, *BioEdge*
Adoption and new reproductive technologies are placing new strains on what "parent" means in contemporary society.

- Gender-Biased Sex Selection an Extreme Form and Manifestation of Gender Discrimination and Inequality Against Women, Say UN Women and UNFPA

UN Women
The sharply declining child sex ratio in India has reached emergency proportions and urgent action must be taken to alleviate this crisis.

- California Bill Would Let Birth Certificates Reflect Same-Sex Parents

by Mary Papenfuss, *Reuters*
The bill, which now goes to Democratic Governor Jerry Brown, would allow parents to identify themselves as father, mother or parent when a child is born.

- California Lawmakers Pass Bill Banning Inmate Sterilizations

by Sharon Bernstein, *Reuters*
California lawmakers sent a bill to ban sterilization surgeries on inmates in California prisons to Governor Jerry Brown.

- Society: Don't Blame the Mothers

by Sarah S. Richardson, Cynthia R. Daniels, Matthew W. Gillman, Janet Golden, Rebecca Kukla, Christopher Kuzawa & Janet Rich-Edwards, *Nature*

There is a long history of blaming mothers for the ill health of their children. The latest wave in this discussion flows from studies of epigenetics.

- Stem cell therapy a primitive art

by Jill Margo, *Financial Review*
A loophole in Australian regulations means people can be given stem cell therapy for virtually anything, providing their own stem cells are harvested and then used in the process, But much can go wrong.

- Stem Cell Therapy Rogue Operators Charging Thousands for Useless or Dangerous Treatment

by Louise Milligan, *ABC*
Rogue stem cell therapy operators are charging tens of thousands of dollars for treatments that are ineffectual or could even lead to more health problems and death, according to Australia's leading group of stem cell scientists.

- Stem cell industry's 'huge development' in Bay Area

by Stephanie M. Lee, *San Francisco Chronicle*
Almost three years after Geron shut down the world's first clinical trial of a therapy using embryonic stem cells, a subsidiary of another Bay Area company is reviving the work.

- Judge warns privacy of DNA at stake after ruling

by Ian Duncan, *The Baltimore Sun*
As Maryland's highest court upheld a rape conviction based on DNA collected at a police station, a veteran judge issued a stark warning about the consequences of the ruling.

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Questions Raised Over DNA Evidence to Secure Murder Convictions

by Candice Marcus, *ABC*
A High Court ruling that DNA evidence was not enough to convict a man of murder could have wider implications on DNA convictions across Australia.

Geneticists Say Popular Book Misrepresents Research on Human Evolution

by Ewen Callaway, *Nature News*
More than 130 leading population geneticists have condemned a book arguing that genetic variation between human populations could underlie global economic, political and social differences.

Not-So-Personalized Medicine

by Howard Brody, *Hooked: Ethics, Medicine, and Pharma*
Personalized medicine may increasingly be useful in particular situations, but potential limits include false genetic determinism, high costs, and low predictive accuracy.

Cancer and the Secrets of Your Genes

by Theodora Ross, *The New York Times*
The recent discovery that mutations in a gene called PALB2 greatly increase the risk of breast cancer is one of the biggest developments since the discovery in the ’90s of the role of mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes.

As Data Overflows Online, Researchers Grapple With Ethics

by Vindu Goel, *The New York Times*
It’s the frontier of social science — experiments on people who may never even know they are subjects of study, let alone explicitly consent.

New CRG Report: Genetic Privacy and Non-Forensic Biobanks

Council for Responsible Genetics
Do You Know Where Your DNA Is? Genetic Privacy and Non-Forensic Biobanks explores the various forms of biobanks in the US, their privacy limitations, the current state of regulation and the need for reform.

Could a Genetic Test Predict the Risk for Suicide?

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*
Two groups of researchers are claiming they can use DNA tests to predict who will attempt suicide, and one startup company will begin offering a suicide risk test to doctors next month for patients taking antidepressants.

US agency updates rules on sharing genomic data

by Richard Van Noorden, *Nature News*
Changes clarify procedures for telling participants in NIH-funded studies how their data might be used.

When Big Data & Infants' Privacy Collide

by Alison Diana, *Information Week*
Technology allows researchers to discover newborns' genetic secrets, but the long-term repercussions worry some parents and privacy advocates.

Will Lowering The Price Of Genetic Testing Raise The Cost Of Medical Care?

by Peter Ubeln, *Forbes*
The days of affordable genomic sequencing are rapidly approaching. But will such testing bankrupt us?

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- Microbiology: Microbiome Science Needs a Healthy Dose of Scepticism

by William P. Hanage, *Nature*
To guard against hype, those interpreting research on the body's microscopic communities should ask five questions.

- Over-Optimistic Portrayal of Life-Supporting Treatments in Newspapers and Internet

by Thaddeus Popedo, *Medical Futility Blog*
Newspapers and the Internet have the potential to influence patients' knowledge and attitudes toward medical decision-making by providing over-optimistic medical information.

- High-Risk Brain Research Wins NSF Backing

by Sara Reardon, *Nature News*
The US National Science Foundation is supporting new research into the properties of neural circuits.

- Where is the brain in the Human Brain Project?

by Yves Frégnac & Gilles Laurent, *Nature*
Europe's €1-billion science and technology project needs to clarify its goals and establish transparent governance.

- Biologists Choose Sides In Safety Debate Over Lab-Made Pathogens

by Nell GreenfieldBoyce, *NPR*
A smoldering debate about whether researchers should ever deliberately create superflu strains and other risky germs in the interest of science has flared once again.

- Synthetic biology goes for scale

by Joanna Glasner, *Reuters*
Synthetic biology, which uses engineered gene sequences to create new biological systems and devices, used to be a subject for futurists and sci-fi writers, but now is attracting large investments.

- On the Horns of the GMO Dilemma

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*
Can genome-editing technology revive the idea of genetically modified livestock?

- 'Can you clone that?' Putin has close encounter with mammoth Dima in Russia's Far East

Russia Today
Upon meeting a mammoth mummy in a museum in the Russian Far East, President Putin was assured that the museum scientists are closely collaborating with South Koreans on the possibility of cloning it.

- Century After Extinction, Passenger Pigeons Remain Iconic—And Scientists Hope to Bring Them Back

by Carl Zimmer, *National Geographic*
The 100th anniversary of the death of Martha, last of her kind, finds biologists dreaming of preventing or reversing extinctions.

- Using Light Technique, Scientists Find Dimmer Switch for Memories in Mice

by Pam Belluck, *The New York Times*
Using a technique in which light is used to switch neurons on and off, neuroscientists appear to have unlocked some secrets about how the brain attaches emotions to memories and how those emotions can be adjusted.

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To:	"Heather Stone" <hstone@hillaryclinton.com> "Varun Anand" <vanand@hillaryclinton.com> "Amanda Renteria" <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com> "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com> "Caitlin Merchant" <caitlin@grunwald-communications.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> "David Binder" <david@db-research.com> "Ellen Esterhay" <ellen.esterhay@gmmb.com> "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Jim Margolis" <jim.margolis@gmmb.com> "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "John Podesta" <jp66@hillaryclinton.com> "Karen Finney" <kfinney@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Marlon Marshall" <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com> "Maya Harris" <mharris@hillaryclinton.com> "Mona Thinavongsa" <mona@algpolling.com> "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "Sawsan Bay" <sbay@hillaryclinton.com> "Shannon Currie" <scurrie@bsgco.com> "Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Kate Offerdahl" <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	8/31/2015 4:18:21 AM
Subject:	Sanders Transcript - ABC This Week

ABC's This Week: Bernie Sanders Interview

Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=f9ae06d0-dbfa-4768-bd92-06b0008198b4

Rough Transcript

HOST: let's go straight to senator bernie sanders. senator, good morning. you saw those new poll numbers, is hillary clinton's campaign in trouble?

BERNIE SANDERS: well, i don't know if her campaign is trouble, but our campaign is doing great. it's not just in iowa, it's in new hampshire, i think people are sfonding to our message that something is wrong when the middle class of this country continues to disappear, people are working longer hours for low wages, almost all of the new wealth and income is going to the top 1%, that's not the type of country, not the type of economy that the american people want or deserve and i think they're prepared to support somebody who's going to to take on the billionaire class and make an economy work for ordinary people not just for the people on top.

HOST: senator sanders, hillary clinton has lost about a third of her supporters since may, but the polls don't show those supporters, a significant number, are not heading your way, why not, given what you said?

BERNIE SANDERS: well, the poll that i saw say there was massive enthusiasm for the message that we're delivering and the vast majority of feel who are voting for me in that iowa poll, i'm not necessarily anti-hillary clinton, they're pro-bernie sanders. and they want a candidate who's not dependent upon super pacs. a candidate help the united states leave the world in combatting climate change, make college affordable to all people. i have to tell you, martha, i think the gains weeeeeing and the enthusiasm and the huge crowds that we

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are seeing, this is not anti-hillary clinton, this is pro-bernie sanders and pro a message that says, enough is enough, this country and our government belong to all of us.

HOST: senator sanders, this morning, again, we know you have been voicing great concern about the middle class, the cost of college, climate change and yet there are two issues that are entirely missing from your campaign website, and those are issues of national security and foreign policy. don't you feel these are issues that a president should be very concerned about?

BERNIE SANDERS: absolutely, martha, and you know, in all fairness, we have been in this race for 3 1/2 months and we have been focusing quite correctly, as you have indicated, on the economy on the collapse of the american middle class on massive income and wealth inequality. you're absolutely right. foreign policy is a huge issue. we'll spend more time on that. you're looking at a senator and a former congressman and as a congressman i voted against the war in iraq, which i think will go down in history as one of the worst foreign -- foreign policy blunders that we have ever seen leading to the e nor us now destabilization of that region right now. the issue of foreign policy, how we bring the world together, our allies together, not to do it alone to take on isis, to deal with the other threats and problems --

HOST: senator sanders, you brought up the iraq war. you also voted against the first gulf war in 1991. when saddam hussein had invaded kuwait. you did not support air attacks after chemical attacks in syria, you did support the initial invasion into afghanistan, so, can you tell me what your criteria is for the use of force sf.

BERNIE SANDERS: yes, good question, a fair question, look, i think historically, in too many instances, the united states has gone to war often unilaterally when we should have, i think my vote against the first war in the gulf region was the right vote, i think we could have gotten saddam hussein out of kuwait that did not require a war.

HOST: even though he had invaded kuwait?

BERNIE SANDERS: but, the point was, you had the whole world united against him, martha, do we need to go to war in every instances? look, i'm supporting president obama's effort to make certain that iron does not get a nuclear weapon. i get very nervous about my republican friends who keep implying that's the only way we could do that is through war. war is the last resort not the first resort. there are times when you have to use force, no question about it.

HOST: is that we're only attacked? if you look at your record, you supported the invasion into afghanistan after we were attacked? is that the only time you would support it?

BERNIE SANDERS: not at all. not at all. i think using our military is an option, obviously, that we will always have under certain circumstances. but it's the last option. i applaud the president for trying to make certain that we stop iran from getting a nuclear weapon but we do it in a way that does not require war. the second point that i would make, the united states can't do it alone. in the middle east, saudi arabia has the third a largest military budget in the entire world. they're going to have to get in and take on isis as well as other countries in that region. the united states should be supportive. working with other countries. the united states can't always be the only country involved in these wars.

HOST: let me go back to the iran agreement, can you imagine iran or russia signing some sort of agreement in the future, giving your record on your reluctance to use force, because there is always that threat of force, they may look at you and say, bernie sanders wouldn't do anything about this.

BERNIE SANDERS: i think they would be making a mistake. the united states should have the strongest military in the world. we should be working with other countries in coalition. when people threaten the united states or our allies or commit genocide, the united states, with other countries, should be prepared to act militarily. but i think when we look at our recent history, again, especially the war in iraq, i think history will record that as a terrible mistake which has led to massive destabilization and many other problems. so, yes, there are times when you have to use military force, no question about it. i'm prepared to do that.

HOST: would you do away with the drone program? because you have had clearly problems with that. you didn't vote for the cia director because of the drone program.

BERNIE SANDERS: martha, what you can argue is that there are times and places where drone attacks have been effective. there are times and places where they have been absolutely countereffective. and and have caused more problems than solved. then end result in the people become anti-american, so, i think we have to

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use drones very, very selectively and effectively.

HOST: okay, thank you very much, senator sanders.

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From: theSkimm <dailyskimm@morning7.theskimm.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 9/10/2015 9:24:08 PM
Subject: Daily Skimm: I'm yours

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Skimm for September 11th

Today is the 14th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Our thoughts are with all those affected by the tragic events of that day.

THINGS MAKING A JUDGMENT CALL

THE SENATE

THE STORY

Yesterday, Senate Dems made sure the Iran nuclear deal is here to stay .

EXPLAIN.

Reminder: the deal limits Iran's nuclear capabilities in exchange for lifting sanctions on the country. Most Dems think a deal's better than no deal. But the GOP thinks it doesn't go far enough in preventing Iran from building a nuke…and that there should be no deal, period. So the GOP wrote up a resolution to kill it. That resolution went to a vote yesterday, and Senate Dems made sure it did not pass go.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

That President Obama won't have to take out his veto stamp, since the GOP resolution is now off the table. The nuclear deal will be formally adopted next month. End. Scene.

:heSKIMM

This is a big policy win for President Obama that came with big-time drama. But the GOP definitely isn't done talking about it, especially ahead of 2016.

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PRESIDENT OBAMA

THE STORY

Yesterday, President Obama raised his hand and said 'here to help' with the EU's migrant and refugee crisis.

10 SECONDS. REMIND ME.

In recent years, places like the Mideast and Africa have been in shambles. Cue hundreds of thousands of people risking their lives to get to a better place...like the EU. Lately, the crisis has gone from bad to worse. Border countries like Greece and Italy are overwhelmed by the number of people crossing, and the lack of resources to deal with it. This week, the EU announced it wants to require member countries to accept refugees.

WHAT ABOUT THE US?

Captain America has sent billions of aid dollars. But a lot of people think that's not enough. So yesterday, the US said it's also taking in 10,000 Syrian refugees over the next year. That's a big step up, considering the US has only let in 1,500 Syrians in the last four years.

theSKIMM

The UN expects almost a million people to cross into the EU by next year. So while the US might want an 'A' for effort, this pledge probably won't even make a dent in the crisis.

THE *: We Skimm'd the crisis for you.

REPEAT AFTER ME...

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU HEAR THE NYPD APOLOGIZED FOR ARRESTING JAMES BLAKE...

Necessary. And speaking of…yesterday, almost $80 million was set aside to get rid of a backlog of rape kits in the US. Yes, there's a backlog of rape kits in the US. For years, tens of thousands of rape kits – which could go a long way to helping solve rape cases – have been sitting on the shelf. That's partly because testing the kits can be expensive. So yesterday's announcement means police departments around the country will now have the cash to do it. This comes after Detroit just finished testing its own backlog of kits. And ID'd almost 500 suspected rapists. Well done.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU'RE ASKED TO GIVE A SELF-ASSESSMENT AT WORK...

That's what the '100' emoji is for. Earlier this week, The Daily Beast reported that top US military officials are putting a sunny spin on the fight against ISIS in Syria. Intelligence analysts have been preparing reports that basically say 'things aren't looking so good.' But their bosses apparently don't like negative feedback, and have allegedly been altering those reports to say 'things are looking good.' Now, more than 50 of those analysts are calling them out. The Pentagon's inspector general is investigating.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT PEOPLE ARE WATCHING...

Arizona. Over the past two weeks, there have been at least 11 shootings on a highway in Phoenix, Arizona. But no one knows where the bullets are coming from. There's been one injury and no deaths, but it hasn't exactly made people's commutes less stressful. Arizona police are calling it "domestic terrorism" and don't have any leads about who's behind it. Comforting.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU GET CAUGHT IN THE RAIN WITHOUT AN UMBRELLA...

Can't complain. This week, a tropical storm hit Japan, causing major flooding and landslides. At least two people died and several others are missing. Houses are underwater, and stranded residents have had to be rescued by military helicopters. Tens of thousands of people were told to evacuate.

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SKIMM READS

Skimm'ologist says: try this darker rosé . Juicy and refreshing. Just like the read.

"Among the Ten Thousand Things" by Julia Pierpont

Imagine getting a package full of emails from your Dad's secret mistress. And imagine being 11-years-old when opening that package. It's like "The Affair" with a dash of "Modern Family."

SKIMM THIS

SKIMM SHARE

A lot of sharing goes a long way. Thanks to Kate Padgitt (Dallas, TX) for sharing like it's hot. Your next shopping trip is on us. Share here .

SKIMM BIRTHDAYS

*Indicates Skimm'bassadors. Cake cake cake cake.

Colin Greebel (New York, NY); *Will Preziosi (New Canaan, CT); *Jill Katz Zipin (Horsham, PA); *Peter Kane (New York, NY); *Katie Puma (New York, NY); *Jess Hart (Nashville, TN); *Jessica Schor (New York, NY); *Hela Kawas (Brisbane, Australia); *Alexandria Flynn (Cleveland, OH); *Sally Thoresen (Ann Arbor, MI); *Stephanie Florence (New York, NY); *Will Schragis (New York, NY); *Rachel Wendte (Chicago, IL); *Shayne Newell (Houston, TX); ***Jenny Weigel** (Los Angeles, CA); ***Lisa-Marie Rieckhoff** (Orlando, FL); ***Morgan Baginski** (Memphis, TN); ***Jena Fritts** (Berkeley, CA); ***Paula Lopez** (Washington DC); ***Morgan Baginski** (Arlington, VA); ***Erica Green** (Chicago, IL); ***Elizabeth Pomiak** (San Diego, CA); ***Lynn Black** (Louisville, KY); ***Morgan Speer** (Denver, CO); ***Barbara Fiser** (Franklin, TN); ***Alexa Gorman** (Ridge, NY); ***Katie Boyle** (Belmont, CA); **Bonnie Fisch** (New York, NY); **Laura Hailey** (Athens, GA); **Anne Seifried** (New York, NY); **Claire Dragich** (Madison, MI); Jackie Kepping (New York, NY); **Jan Fisk** (Springfield, MO); **Jaclyn Rice Nelson** (San Francisco, CA); **Jodi Lerner** (Marlboro , NJ); **Raleigh Seldon** (Toronto, Canada); **Diana Throckmorton** (Harbor Springs, MI); **Roxanne Adamiyatt** (Bronxville, NY); **Jenna Gentner** (Columbus, OH); **Shayne Newell** (Houston, TX); **Arielle Siboni** (New York, NY); **Penina Kozlovsky** (Boston, MA); **Fawn Romanko** (Culver City, CA); **Mandy Roth** (New York, NY); **Morgan Somerset** (Laguna Beach, CA); **Amanda Buckley** (Malden, MA); **Rita Rodekurt** (Lake Placid, FL); **Campbell Mobley** (New York, NY); **Ebony Anderson** (Baltimore, MD); **Audrey Brooks** (Mt. Kisco); **Caroline White** (Atlanta, Georgia); **Chelsie Lee** (San Fransisco, CA); **Kelly Franklin** (Perry, GA); **Shawn Knight** (Charlotte, NC); **Ann Drapcho** (Minneapolis, MN); **Julian Loreti** (Delray Beach, FL); **Natalie Sindt** (St. Paul, MN); **Andre Valerio** (Lafayette, LA); **Laura Hieber (**Nashville, TN); **Brittany Bahamon** (Boston, MA); **Brain Gentner** (Newport Beach, CA); **Lynn Fylak** (Atlantic Highlands, NJ)

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To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	7/31/2014 8:03:37 AM
Subject:	FYI: Media Matters For America: Discredited Author Ronald Kessler Has Next Anti-Clinton Gossip Book

Discredited Author Ronald Kessler Has Next Anti-Clinton Gossip Book

58 minutes ago ››› MATT GERTZ

Ronald Kessler reportedly attacks Bill and Hillary Clinton with anonymously-sourced stories in his forthcoming book The First Family Detail: Secret Service Agents Reveal the Hidden Lives of Presidents, according to British tabloids and The New York Post. Critics have described Kessler's previous books as "National Enquirer-style gossip," and claims in his previous book on the Secret Service were "strongly disputed" by the agency and other subjects. Kessler was an established journalist for credible newspapers like The Washington Post decades ago but became chief Washington correspondent for the far-right outlet NewsMax in 2006. He subsequently pushed false smears of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and led the charge to promote Donald Trump as a presidential candidate. The First Family Detail is part of a trifecta of anti-Clinton books based on anonymous sources published this summer, along with Daniel Halper's Clinton Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine and Edward Klein's Blood Feud: The Clintons vs. the Obamas.

Kessler's Books Criticized As "Page Six" Style "Gossip" -- And That's His Intent

***Wash. Post* Review: Kessler Book Features "National Enquirer-Style Gossip" That Could Endanger Presidents.** National security reporter James Bamford **wrote** in *The Washington Post* that for his book *In The President's Secret Service*, Kessler "milked the agents for the juiciest gossip he could get and mixed it with a rambling list of their complaints." He added: "What is truly dangerous is the kind of National Enquirer-style gossip in Kessler's book. In the future, without 'trust and confidence' in their agents, presidents will want to keep them at a distance, out of spying range -- and out of safety range, when split seconds may count. And with President Obama, such concerns may be especially acute." [*The Washington Post*, **8/23/09**]

***New York Times* Reviewer: Kessler Book Is "Speculation-Filled."** *New York Times* critic Michiko Kakutani **called** Kessler's Joseph P. Kennedy book *The Sins of the Father* a "meanspirited, speculation-filled biography ... which purveyed a determinedly poisonous portrait of the man." [*The New York Times*, **11/29/12**]

***Globe and Mail* Review: Kessler "Relies Too Heavily On Speculation, Gossip, Innuendo And Secondary Sources."** *Globe and Mail* editorial board member Andrew Cohen wrote of *The Sins Of The Father*:

> For what is called a major book, the research is sometimes suspect. The description of Kennedy's affair with [Gloria] Swanson, for example, sounds much like her own account. Kessler relies too heavily on speculation, gossip, innuendo and secondary sources. He quotes the nephew of Francis Cardinal Spellman saying that Joe boasted to him that he had put JFK on the cover of Time in 1957 for $75,000 (U.S.). That's enough for Kessler. Like a reporter on deadline, he goes with what he has, even when it isn't enough.
>
> Instead of dirtying the dustbin, Kessler might have advanced the story. [*The Globe and Mail*, 5/11/96, via Nexis]

***Wash. Post* Review: "Hey, Sex Sells, Maybe These Would Be Page Six Bites On A Slow Day."** *Vanity Fair* special correspondent Bryan Burrough wrote at the *Washington Post* of Kessler's *The Secrets of the FBI*:

> Revelations? Okay. There's a nice section on what Kessler bills as the untold story of how the Russian spy Robert Hanssen was caught; that probably qualifies. More representative, though, is a chapter called "Threesomes" that recapitulates the 1970s-era Elizabeth Ray scandal -- the news here is Capitol Hill's purported appetite for the ménage àtrois -- and tosses in a quarter-century-old tale about an unnamed young lady who supposedly had sex with groups of men in the upper reaches of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. "Attic Girl," Kessler says she was "affectionately" named. Then it's on to a 1980s-era tale of a CIA mole who frequented sex clubs. Not too sure what any of this has to do with, you know, the FBI -- they made the arrests, I guess -- but hey, sex sells. Maybe these would be Page Six bites on a slow day. [*The Washington Post*, **8/25/11**]

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Even Kessler's Publisher Hyped The "Page Six Tidbits" In His Books. As Burroughs noted, publicity materials for *The Secrets of the FBI* **promised** it would be "filled with revelations about the Bureau and Page Six tidbits, just like those that made *In the President's Secret Service* so successful." [Crown Publishing Group catalog, **Summer 2011**]

Claims In Kessler's Previous Secret Service Book Were "Strongly Disputed"

Secret Service "Strongly Disputed" Kessler Claim That They Are "Totally Overloaded." In a 2009 report on Kessler's book, CNN's Brian Todd reported that the Secret Service "strongly disputed" one of Kessler's claims:

> RON KESSLER, AUTHOR, IN THE PRESIDENT'S SECRET SERVICE: The fact is that they're -- the Secret Service is totally overloaded. They have so many extra duties that they're performing and the number of agents has not really increased.
>
> TODD: Contacted by CNN, a Secret Service spokesman strongly disputed those assessments, saying the agency is not overstretched and that its ranks have increased. The spokesman says last year, while agents protected several candidates during the longest and most expensive campaign in American history, the Secret Service also had its biggest haul ever of financial assets seized from criminals -- $141 million. [CNN, *The Situation Room*, **10/24/09**]

Secret Service Director Debunked Kessler's Claim Of A 400 Percent Increase In Threats Under Obama. In his previous Secret Service book, Kessler reported that the Service had seen a 400 percent increase in threats under President Obama compared to President Bush. Kessler's statistic circulated widely. But in a congressional hearing, Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan said the claim was false, stating that the threats were "the same level as it has been [against] the last two presidents." [PolitiFact, **3/18/13**]

Mary Cheney Told Kessler The Book's Stories About Her Were False. *The New York Post* reported of Kessler's 2009 book on the agency, *In the President's Secret Service*:

> According to "In the President's Secret Service" by **Ronald Kessler**, when Mary demanded the Service shuttle her friends out to restaurants, the agent in charge objected and she had him removed from her detail. The former veep's daughter also allegedly complained about the Secret Service vehicle assigned to her. "She saw that her sister [**Elizabeth**] had a brand-new Suburban," an agent who was on her detail tells the author. "Mary had an older vehicle. She was like, why can't I have one? Next thing you know, within a day or two, she has a brand-new Suburban from the Secret Service sitting out there in front of her house." But Mary told Kessler, "These stories are simply not true, and I have nothing but the utmost respect for the men and women of the Secret Service." [*New York Post*, **8/2/09**]

Kessler Left Behind Credible Newspapers For Right-Wing NewsMax

Decades Ago, Kessler Was A Journalist At *The Washington Post* And *Wall Street Journal*. According to the biography on his website:

> Kessler began his career as a journalist in 1964 on the *Worcester Telegram*, followed by three years as an investigative reporter and editorial writer with the*Boston Herald*. In 1968, he joined the *Wall Street Journal* as a reporter in the New York bureau. He became an investigative reporter with the *Washington Post* in 1970 and continued in that position until 1985.
>
> Kessler has won eighteen journalism awards, including two George Polk awards--one for national reporting and one for community service. [RonaldKessler.com, accessed **7/31/14**]

Kessler Joined Right-Wing NewsMax As Chief Washington Correspondent, Said He Was "Proud To Be Associated" With Outlet. From the 2006 press release announcing his hiring:

> "Ronald Kessler is a rare find," said NewsMax CEO Christopher Ruddy. "Few journalists can claim the enormous breadth and scope of the turf he has covered. He has a long history of combining quality work and balanced journalism, and he has an uncanny ability to ferret out news stories that other journalists miss."
>
> [...]
>
> "Since I first learned about NewsMax, I've admired how, in order to tell the truth about subjects ranging from politics to medicine, it presents factual material that the rest of the media ignore," Mr. Kessler said. "I'm proud to be associated with an operation that practices journalism honestly and fairly." [NewsMax press release, **June 2006**]

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NewsMax Was Founded By The Chief Promoter Of Vince Foster Conspiracy Theories. Bloomberg Businessweek wrote of NewsMax CEO and founder Christopher Ruddy:

> The suicide of Deputy White House Counsel Vincent Foster in 1993 became his defining story, and it was Ruddy who provided conservative talk radio with plenty of fuel for the wide-ranging conspiracy theories that sprang up.
>
> He left the *Post* in 1994 when billionaire Richard Mellon Scaife hired him to be the national correspondent for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. Ruddy would eventually turn his reporting on Foster into a book, *The Strange Death of Vincent Foster*, in 1997. [Bloomberg BusinessWeek, **3/6/14**]

Kessler Left NewsMax in 2012 Citing "Editorial Changes." On December 19, 2012, Kessler sent the following message titled "left Newsmax" to a distribution email list that he had used to promote his articles: "Because of editorial changes, I am no longer at Newsmax. I am exploring other opportunities and developing the idea for my next book. All the best or [sic] the New Year!--Ron". [Kessler email obtained by *Media Matters*, 12/19/12]

NewsMax During Kessler's Tenure: A Hotbed Of Conspiracy Theories And Smears. From 2006 through 2012, NewsMax frequently promoted conspiracy theories that there were questions about President Obama's birth certificate (Kessler has written that "Obama was born in Hawaii"); repeatedly pushed false claims of "death panels" in health care legislation; published a column stating that a military coup "to resolve the 'Obama problem'" was not "unrealistic" (the column was taken down following an uproar); published a column that stated of the mass shooting in Aurora, Colorado, "One need not be a conspiracy freak to observe that such incidents seem to happen again and again at politically convenient moments for the left to exploit"; and stoked readers' fears of hyperinflation to sell financial products. Salon's Alex Pareene described the site in 2011 as a "nutritional supplement sales organization and expensive email list with a right-wing news website attached." [*Media Matters*, **8/8/12** ; NewsMax, **12/8/08**]

Kessler Won Top Award At Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). Conservative activists at CPAC awarded Kessler the "Robert Novak Journalist of the Year" Award in 2010. NewsMax reported that in his speech accepting the award, Kessler said that he was "honored" to receive it. [NewsMax, **2/20/10**]

Kessler Believes Fox News Is "Fair And Balanced" Compared To "Mainstream" Media. From Kessler's CPAC speech:

> I was on the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Washington Post* in the '70s and early '80s and I guarantee you, even though the editorials on the *Washington Post* were liberal, we would have been fired for doing the kinds of stories that appear in the media today. They're not only biased, they're dishonest, in many cases they suppress the truth, they suppress the other side, they ignore, or they have it in the last paragraph. And that's one reason why that the media are going downhill. The mainstream media.
>
> And on the other hand, we have Fox News, which is, which really is fair and balanced. Aside from their opinion shows, such as Glenn Beck, when they cover the news, they actually have a rule that every side has to be presented. When they have guests, they have to have both a Democrat and a Republican. So anybody who says it's not fair and balanced, I think, has either not watched it or is in denial. [*Media Matters*, **2/12/11**]

Kessler's Smears Of Hillary Clinton

Kessler Accused Hillary Clinton Of "Pathological Lying." In a 2007 radio interview, Kessler said "I think people do want a -- a fresh start. They don't want to go backwards. And the other thing about Hillary, of course, is -- is her pathological lying, and that's going to come out." [KSFO, *The Lee Rodgers & Melanie Morgan Program*, 7/13/07, via ***Media Matters***]

Kessler Pushed Conspiracy Theory That Hillary Clinton Drove Vince Foster To Suicide. In an August 2011 interview promoting *The Secrets of the FBI*, Kessler told Fox News of Robert Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe, "I surmise that he broke up with her and that's why she committed suicide, just given the timing." He went on to claim that then-deputy White House counsel Vince Foster "was depressed, he did commit suicide" because Clinton had "humiliated him in front of all these White House aides." [Fox News, *Fox & Friends*, 8/9/11, via ***Media Matters***]

Kessler's Attacks On Barack Obama

Kessler Urged Republicans To Campaign On Obama's Ties to Rev. Jeremiah Wright. Prior to the 2008 election, Kessler wrote that the GOP should highlight Obama's ties to controversial pastor Rev. Jeremiah Wright "to illustrate how out of step he [Obama] is with most of America ... Wright holds the key to what Obama is all about, demonstrating his attraction to a left wing, anti-American agenda." [Newsmax, **10/28/08**]

Kessler Falsely Reported That "Obama Attended Hate America Sermon" With Wright. As *USA Today* reported, in a March 2008 report under the headline "Obama attended hate America sermon," Kessler claimed that Obama had been present "during one of Rev. Jeremiah Wright's

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most inflammatory sermons, even though the Democratic presidential contender has said in the past he wasn't at the church when Wright made any of his controversial statements." Kessler based his report on a previous Newsmax article, which he later acknowledged was incorrect. [*USA Today*, **3/17/08**]

Kessler Cited Jeremiah Wright In Explaining Why Romney Would Win In A "Landslide." Kessler wrote in a November 6, 2012, Newsmax column:

> Thus, Obama's comment that voters should vote for revenge sums up his motivation for running: to get back at the hated establishment, which by definition includes Republicans. While he may have been riffing on the expression "Living well is the best revenge," you don't talk about revenge against another individual unless you mean it. It's the same nasty attitude of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright Jr., his longtime preacher, sounding board, and mentor.
>
> Wright said America created the AIDS virus to kill off blacks. "We are only able to maintain our level of living by making sure that Third World people live in grinding poverty," Wright said. "God d*** America!" Thus, Obama emerges as the community organizer he once was -- and the exact opposite of the person Americans thought they were electing as president.
>
> According to "The Obamas," Obama looks forward to leaving the presidency. Then, writes Kantor, he would "finally be unencumbered by politics and free to create real, lasting change." That mirrors Obama's recent comment that change can only be achieved from outside Washington.
>
> As Mitt Romney said in response, "The president today threw in the white flag of surrender again. He said he can't change Washington from the inside. He can only change it from outside. Well, we're going to give him that chance in November. He's going outside."
>
> Last Sept. 4, I wrote the story "Why Mitt Romney Will Win Decisively." The shift to Republicans in the last congressional and gubernatorial elections, the intensity favoring Romney, and the early voting results on his side -- not to mention the state of the economy -- are all signs that point to the landslide I have been predicting. [NewsMax, **11/6/12**]

Kessler Said There Was A Benghazi "Cover Up" By The White House. During a November 2012 Fox News interview, Kessler claimed then-UN Ambassador Susan Rice's controversial Sunday show appearances constituted a White House "cover up" of the Benghazi attacks:

> KESSLER: You don't have to be Sherlock Holmes to figure this out. It's clear that the CIA had the correct story. It's clear that the White House put out these people. They were representing the White House.
>
> The White House was calling the shots. The White House was trying to cover up the fact that there was a terrorist attack on 9/11. If you doubt that, look at what President Obama said several times trying to claim that a YouTube video was involved. So the president himself was covering up what the CIA was reporting.

A bipartisan Senate report concluded that there had been no White House "cover up" and that intelligence reports linked the inflammatory YouTube video to the Benghazi attacks. [Fox News, *Hannity*, 11/19/2012, via Nexis; *Media Matters*, **1/15/14**]

Kessler Was Chief Promoter Of Donald Trump Running For President

Kessler Was Major Proponent Of A Donald Trump Presidential Run. Newsmax was "an early and enthusiastic promoter of Trump's presidential ambitions," with Kessler playing a leading role in that effort. In early 2011, as Trump sought to promote a potential run for office as well as his belief that President Obama's birth certificate might be a forgery, Kessler produced articles with headlines like "Trump Says He Will Run For President," "Don't Underestimate Donald Trump for President," and "Trump to Announce His Run for President" (Trump ultimately decided not to run for president, surprising no one except perhaps Kessler). [Newsmax, **1/3/11** , **1/20/11** , **4/14/11** ; *Media Matters*, **4/20/11** , **4/13/11**]

Kessler Played A Political Role As A Go-Between For Trump's Nascent Effort. In an article headlined "Donald Trump Wows Conservatives at CPAC," Kessler admitted to being the go-between who extended Trump an invitation to speak at the conservative conference. He further reported: "This year's Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) focuses on the new kids on the block, the conservatives elected with tea party backing to overturn the liberal spending agenda in Washington. Nobody could have fit that description better than Donald Trump, who was a surprise speaker at CPAC and is planning to run for president." [Newsmax, **2/11/11**]

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 7/3/2008 1:36:07 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/3

08 Election Daily News Clips
July 3rd, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time
9am McCain: Tours a Basilica in Mexico City, Mexico

10:05am BUSH: Remarks at the ceremonial groundbreaking of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Cente r in Bethesda, Maryland

11:20am BUSH: Visits the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

11:30am McCain: Meets Mexican President in Mexico City, Mexico

1pm McCain: Lunch with Business Leaders in Mexico City, Mexico

2:30pm McCain: Tours Ixtapalapa Police Station in Mexico City, Mexico

3:30pm McCain: Media Availability in Mexico City, Mexico

News Clips:

MCCAIN CAMPAIGN SHAKE-UP NEWS

McCain Orders Shake-Up of His Campaign (NYT 7/3/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
Senator John McCain's presidential campaign has gone through its second shake-up in a year. Responding to Republican concerns that his candidacy was faltering, Mr. McCain put a veteran of President Bush's 2004 campaign in charge of day-to-day operations, and stepped away from a plan to have the campaign run by 11 regional managers, Mr. McCain's aides said Wednesday.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/03/us/politics/03manage.html?_r=2&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&ref=politics&adxnnlx=1215083806-w4v88LEiyTYw6ZcLYMznzg

McCain Puts New Strategist Atop Campaign (Washington Post 7/3/08)
By Dan Balz and Michael D. Shear; A01
Facing growing dissatisfaction both inside and outside his campaign, Sen. John McCain ordered a shake-up of his team yesterday, reducing the role of campaign manager Rick Davis and vesting political adviser Steve Schmidt with "full operational control" of his bid for the presidency.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/02/AR2008070203038.html

McCain Shakes Up Campaign Organization (WSJ 7/3/08)
By Elizabeth Holmes
John McCain shook up his presidential campaign organization for the second time in a year, as the Republican lags behind Democrat Barack Obama in the polls and faces criticism that his message is fractured and his operation is disorganized.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121504278582624763.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

McCain again shuffles top campaign aides (LA Times 7/3/08)
By Maeve Reston and Mark Z. Barabak
For some in the GOP who fear he's wasted precious time, the move comes none too soon. Steve Schmidt will

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head day-to-day operations.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign3-2008jul03,0,6428378.story

John McCain advisor likes running a tight ship (LA Times 7/3/08)
By Michael Finnegan
Steve Schmidt joins the campaign as the protege of former White House aide Karl Rove. The Republican operative is known for his tough talk and pragmatism -- and getting Arnold Schwarzenegger reelected.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-schmidt3-2008jul03,0,7703441.story

McCain shakes up staff for campaign stability (Washington Times 7/3/08)
By Stephen Dinan and Ralph Z. Hallow
Republican presidential candidate John McCain tweaked his campaign Wednesday by elevating aide Steve Schmidt to oversee day-to-day operations, in a move to give his presidential bid the stability and direction that many in his party feared were lacking.
http://www.washtimes.com/news/2008/jul/03/mccain-shakes-up-staff-to-help-stabilize-campaign/

McCain plays musical chairs with campaign staff (NY Daily News 7/3/08)
BY DAVID SALTONSTALL
Republican John McCain played musical chairs with his top campaign staff Wednesday, hoping to add a new beat to a White House bid criticized for being out-of-step.
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2008/07/02/2008-07-02_mccain_plays_musical_chairs_with_campaig.html

A dose of discipline for McCain's campaign (Politico 7/2/08)
By: Jonathan Martin and Mike Allen
The Sergeant has been promoted. Whenever Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) needed an answer to a political question during long days on buses and planes with reporters during the GOP primary, he would turn to a linebacker of a campaign adviser.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0708/11496.html

Shakeup in McCain Campaign (Washington Post blog 7/2/08)
By Chris Cillizza
The news that Steve Schmidt will take over the day-to-day operations of John McCain's presidential campaign represent the result of several months of carping within the campaign and among the broader Republican chattering class about the direction of the Arizona Republican's bid.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/07/schmidt_to_take_over_mccain_ca.html

McCain Camp Shakeup: Rove Acolyte Takes Charge (Huffington Post 7/2/08)
Rick Davis is being replaced by Steve Schmidt as head of day-to-day operations in McCain's campaign, the Politico reports. McCain aide Carly Fiorina insists the move is a "gear-up," not a "shake-up." But according to the New York Times, it's a revamp of McCain's entire strategy:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/02/mccain-camp-shakeup-bush_n_110475.html

MCCAIN NEWS

Hostage Rescue Is Happy Coincidence for McCain in Colombia (NYT 7/3/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
Senator John McCain congratulated President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia on Wednesday for the Colombian government's rescue of 15 hostages, including three Americans, held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, a Marxist-inspired insurgency that Mr. McCain repeatedly criticized this week during a trip to Latin America.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/03/us/politics/03mccain.html?ref=politics

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to Latin America.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/03/us/politics/03mccain.html?ref=politics

Colombians Briefed McCain Before Rescue (Washington Post 7/3/08)
By Juliet Eilperin; A04
Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) spoke repeatedly Tuesday and early Wednesday about how he would work as president to free three American hostages held by leftist guerrillas in Colombia, but he declined to reveal one key fact: Colombian President Álvaro Uribe and his aides had briefed him Tuesday evening about the plan to rescue the Americans, along with 12 other captives.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/02/AR2008070203272.html

McCain gets a little help from a new friend (Boston Globe blog 7/2/08)
By Sasha Issenberg
John McCain laughed when asked if his trip to Colombia had anything to do with the successful mission to rescue hostages -- including Ingrid Betancourt and three American hostages -- held by rebels in that country.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/07/mccain_receives.html

McCain Allies Find Finance-Law Holes (WSJ 7/3/08)
By Brody Mullins and T.W. Farnam
Allies of Sen. John McCain have found new loopholes in the campaign-finance law he helped write -- and they're using them to reel in huge contributions to help him compete with Sen. Barack Obama.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121503532000824249.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

McCain to Meet Mexican President (AP 7/3/08)
By BETH FOUHY
John McCain has insisted that his trip through Mexico and Colombia was not supposed to be campaign-related. But there have been plenty of political overtones throughout.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1819939,00.html

McCain Travels South, Searching for Message (Washington Post blog 7/2/08)
By Dan Balz
Why is John McCain in Colombia? Is his commitment to free trade so deep that he needed not one foreign trip (to Canada last month) but two foreign trips to make that clear to people? Is the issue of free trade so central to the outcome of the election that he intends to make it the centerpiece of his campaign strategy? The answers -- no and no -- are evident just from posing the questions.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/07/02/mccain_travels_south_searching.html?hpid=topnews

McCain Meets Colombian Press (The Page 7/2/08)
The Arizonan touches on a variety of topics including FARC, Colombian trade agreement, NAFTA, American isolationism and economic woes in afternoon Cartagena presser. Reacts to Cochran recalling a dustup during an '87 Nicaragua meeting, saying it's "simply untrue."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/02/mccain-to-take-off-for-colombia-tuesday/
Link to Pool Report of McCain's Tour of Colombian Port: http://thepage.time.com/pool-report-of-mccains-tour-of-colombian-port/

McCain Calls for 'Hemispheric' Trade Deal, During Trip to Colombia (FOX News 7/2/08)
John McCain said he would support a hemisphere-wide trade agreement while traveling in Colombia Wednesday, as his aides played political football with Barack Obama's campaign over the Republican candidate's trip to Latin America.
http://elections.foxnews.com/2008/07/02/traveling-in-colombia-mccain-warns-against-protectionism/

McCain Goes Up With Spanish Radio Ad (The Page 7/2/08)
Minute-long spot airing in the Sunshine State features Florida's ex-director of tourism, commerce and economic affairs touting McCain's support for the Colombia trade agreement. Implies that Obama's position "would hurt our economic future."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/07/02/mccain-goes-up-with-spanish-radio-ad/#
Link to audio of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjAUK4aWXSg

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Link to script: http://thepage.time.com/script-for-mccain-radio-ad-colombia-trade/

McCain works the room, one town hall meeting at a time (LA Times 7/3/08)
By Bob Drogin
Supporters say the freewheeling sessions showcase the Arizona senator as a straight-talking candidate who is an expert on policy issues. Others are not so sure.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-townhall3-2008jul03,0,7383853.story

Bipartisanship marks McCain's Senate tenure (AP 7/2/08)
By David Espo
Republicans deemed it beyond the pale when Sen. John McCain crossed the Capitol, set up shop in an office belonging to House Democrats and lobbied wavering lawmakers on legislation to reduce the role of money in politics.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/news/ap/politics/2008/Jul/02/bipartisanship_marks_mccain_s_senate_tenure.html

Obama Iraq policy to stay pat, McCain takes umbrage (Boston Globe blog 7/2/08)
By Jason Tuohey
While John McCain toured Latin America today, an emissary for his campaign hit Barack Obama on another area of the world -- Iraq.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/07/obama_iraq_poli.html

Christian Conservatives Uniting Behind McCain (TIME blog 7/2/08)
By Michael Scherer
At a meeting Tuesday in Denver, about 100 conservative Christian leaders from around the country agreed to unite behind the candidacy of John McCain, a politician they have long distrusted, marking the latest in a string of movements that bode well for McCain's general election prospects among the Republican base.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/07/christian_conservatives_unitin.html

The Battle for Catholic Voters (TIME 7/2/08)
By Amy Sullivan
...A new Time poll of Catholic voters reveals that ... Although Obama was thought to have a "Catholic problem" during the Democratic primaries, in which Hillary Clinton won a majority of Catholic votes, he has pulled even with John McCain among that constituency—Obama now polls 44% to his GOP opponent's 45%.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1819897,00.html

McCain's Message to Pro-Life Convention (The Brody File 7/2/08)
The McCain campaign tells The Brody File that even though he won't be able to attend in person, Sen. John McCain will send a taped DVD message to the National Right to Life Convention that starts Thursday in Washington, DC.
http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/402942.aspx

McCain Campaign Buys Ad Time In Historically Red Virginia (TPM 7/2/08)
By Greg Sargent
Here's a sign that the McCain campaign could be worried that Obama has a real chance of winning in Virginia, a state that's historically voted red but has been trending blue.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/07/mccain_campaign_buys_ad_time_i.php

The Candidates as High Rollers (TIME 7/2/08)
By Michael Scherer and Michael Weisskopf
The casino craps player is a social animal, a thrill seeker who wants not just to win but to win with a crowd. Unlike cards or a roulette wheel, well-thrown dice reward most everyone on the rail, yielding a collective yawp that drowns out the slots. It is a game for showmen, Hollywood stars and basketball legends with girls on their arms. It is also a favorite pastime of the presumptive Republican nominee for President, John McCain.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1819898,00.html

McCain's awkward Lieberman problem. (ThinkProgress 7/2/08)

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The Wall Street Journal's Laura Meckler notes that "Sen. John McCain says he's outraged that presidential rival Barack Obama opposed the Senate confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts." But McCain "seemed a lot less interested in criticizing his close friend" Joe Lieberman for opposing Alito. Lieberman explained his vote by saying, "It was a close call." Lieberman voted yes on Roberts.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/07/02/mccain%e2%80%99s-awkward-lieberman-problem/

Joe Lieberman Gives Terrorist Fist Jab (VIDEO) (Huffington Post 7/2/08)
George Bush did it yesterday. But it turns out Lieberman has also gotten in on the terrorist fist jab:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/07/02/joe-lieberman-gives-terro_n_110564.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpRIEE66eoE

McCain, Obama View Public Service Differently (NPR 7/2/08)
by Scott Horsley
All Things Considered, July 2, 2008 · Illinois Sen. Barack Obama has issued a challenge for greater national service. During a speech to college students in Colorado on Wednesday, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee said he wants to expand the military and the Peace Corps and provide other opportunities for people of all ages to serve.
http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92151798

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain is no maverick (Boston Globe 7/3/08)
By Dan Payne
DURING the primaries, Barack Obama was said to be the darling of the news media. Not anymore. While the 2008 John McCain literally embraced W and courted the Religious Right, many in the news media believe he's secretly the 2000 McCain, who campaigned against W and the Religious Right.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/07/03/mccain_is_no_maverick/

What We Learned in the War (NYT 7/3/08)
By GAIL COLLINS
Americans of all ages tend to both respect military service and ignore it when picking a president. John McCain presumably understands this.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/03/opinion/03collins.html

McCain + Obama = a valid energy plan (USA Today 7/3/08)
For years, Washington has been so feckless in reacting to the energy crisis that it's sometimes hard to believe the nation's elected officials grasp the threat. By importing nearly 60% of the oil we use, we don't just leave ourselves vulnerable to higher prices and lower living standards, we prop up oil-rich nations that include some of our fiercest enemies.
http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2008/07/mccain-obama-a.html#more

Can Barack Buy the Presidency? (WSJ 7/3/08)
By KARL ROVE; Page A9
On the money front, how do Sens. Obama and McCain stack up? No contest, it seems. Since the campaign began, Mr. Obama has raised a staggering $295-plus million, versus Mr. McCain's almost $122 million. But that's misleading.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121504274204624755.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

Why We Went to War in Iraq (WSJ 7/3/08)
By DOUGLAS J. FEITH; Page A11
A lot of poor commentary has framed the Iraq war as a conflict of "choice" rather than of "necessity." In fact, President George W. Bush chose to remove Saddam Hussein from power because he concluded that doing so was necessary.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121504452359324921.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

The Imprecise Meaning of War (NYT 7/3/08)
Unless Congress closes a gaping hole in the law against war profiteering, companies ripping off taxpayers in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars may never be fully prosecuted. This is because the latest conflicts are not declared

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wars.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/03/opinion/03thu3.html?ref=opinion

No proxy war with Iran (LA Times 7/3/08)
The United States must not signal that it would be acceptable for Israel to bomb Iranian targets.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-iran3-2008jul03,0,3258343.story

BUSH NEWS

Bush Officials Condoned Regional Iraqi Oil Deal (Washington Post 7/3/08)
By Steven Mufson; D01
Bush administration officials told Hunt Oil last summer that they did not object to its efforts to reach an oil deal with the Kurdish regional government in northern Iraq, even while the State Department was publicly expressing concern that such contracts could undermine a national Iraqi petroleum law, according to documents obtained by a House committee.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/02/AR2008070203322.html?hpid=topnews

White House, Candidates Plan Smooth Transfer of Power (WSJ 7/3/08)
By Yochi J. Dreazen and Siobhan Gorman
The Bush administration and the two major presidential campaigns are beginning an unprecedented attempt to prevent the transfer of power in January from disrupting defense and counterterrorism efforts.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121504735345425111.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox

He's No Decider, He's a Ditherer (Washington Post 7/3/08)
By Daniel Benjamin; B03
Conventional wisdom holds that George W. Bush's foreign policy failed because the president -- who famously called himself "the decider" -- is too, well, decisive. Bush's reckless, impulsive decision to invade Iraq, the argument goes, opened the door for Iran's ascendancy, distracted the United States from pursuing al-Qaeda more effectively in Afghanistan and Pakistan, diverted Western attention from a worsening relationship with Russia and so on.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/02/AR2008070202151.html

Bush Says He'll Press G8 Leaders to Fulfill Africa Commitments (Bloomberg 7/2/08)
By Roger Runningen
President George W. Bush said he will press the leaders of the world's biggest economies to make good on their commitments to help fund efforts to combat disease and hunger in Africa.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=aEiSGb9elrtw&refer=canada
Link to transcript: http://thepage.time.com/statement-by-the-president-on-2008-g8-summit/

Bush says US to send more troops to Afghanistan (AP 7/2/08)
By BEN FELLER
Grappling with a record death toll in an overshadowed war, President Bush promised Wednesday to send more U.S. troops into Afghanistan by year's end. He conceded that June was a "tough month" in the nearly seven-year-old war.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080702/ap_on_go_pr_wh/bush

OTHER TOP NEWS

Global Markets Fall as Oil Hits New High (NYT 7/4/08)
By DAVID JOLLY
Global stocks fell Thursday as the price of oil rose above $145 a barrel for the first time. Investors were unwilling to make major bets as they awaited an interest rate decision from the European Central Bank and an important employment report from the United States.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/04/business/worldbusiness/04markets.html?hp

A Shortage Of Troops in Afghanistan (Washington Post 7/3/08)
By Josh White; A01
The nation's top military officer said yesterday that more U.S. troops are needed in Afghanistan to tamp down an increasingly violent insurgency, but that the Pentagon does not have sufficient forces to send because they are

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committed to the war in Iraq.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/02/AR2008070202010.html?hpid=topnews

Job market: No bottom until '09 (CNNMoney 7/3/08)
By Chris Isidore
The unemployment rate is forecast to fall in Thursday's jobs report. But signs still point to more job losses in the months ahead.
http://money.cnn.com/2008/07/02/news/economy/jobs_outlook/index.htm?postversion=2008070303

Rescued hostages arrive in United States (CNN 7/3/08)
* Rescued American hostages land at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas
* Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell U.S. government contractors
* Three men among 15 hostages rescued in a Colombian military operation
* Colombian rebels captured Americans in 2003 when their plane crashed
http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/americas/07/03/hostages.arrive/index.html

RNC to Run its First Ad of Presidential Campaign (AP 7/2/08)
By JIM KUHNHENN
An independent arm of the Republican National Committee plans to spend $3 million on an ad campaign contrasting GOP presidential candidate John McCain to Democrat Barack Obama on energy security. The ad will run in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin beginning Sunday. The ad represents the first of the RNC's independent expenditure operation.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1819861,00.html
See Politico's "RNC creates independent expenditure arm": http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0708/RNC_creates_independent_expenditure_arm_.html

Obama Campaign Release on Battleground Ad Buy (Obama campaign release 7/2/08)
Will the New McCain-RNC Ads Contradict McCain's Pledge to Run a Positive Campaign? ...McCain Promised to Run a Respectful Campaign BASED ON THE ISSUES
http://thepage.time.com/obama-campaign-release-on-battleground-ad-buy/
Link to RNC response: http://thepage.time.com/rnc-statement-on-obama-camp-response/

Elizabeth Edwards headlines $40M health care campaign (Politico blog 7/2/08)
By Martin Kady II
The NRA may be spending $40 million on pro-gun rights ads aimed at Barack Obama, but a coalition of liberal groups and labor unions is going to match that figure with a push on another hot issue: universal health care. Next week, the group Health Care for America Now will unveil a $40 million effort, with the first ad buy being a $1.5 million in national print, online and broadcast advertising.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/thecrypt/0708/Elizabeth_Edwards_headlines_40M_health_care_campaign.html

Big-Spending Groups Enter Campaign Fray (WSJ 7/3/08)
By Brad Haynes
As Democrats and Republicans gear up for the general election, a string of interest groups are launching their own campaigns to elect candidates who support their agendas.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121504848440025247.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Depends on what your definition of a lobbyist is (LA Times 7/3/08)
Barack Obama makes a point of turning down donations from lobbyists, including those who represent foreign governments. But did the Obama campaign violate its own rules by accepting a $2,300 contribution in May from Gabriel Guerra, a lawyer who was a U.S. ambassador to Chile under President Clinton?
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-trailagent3-2008jul03,0,4740611.story

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Sara DuBois
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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/8/2008 10:10:27 AM
Subject: [big campaign] John McCain Tracking Video: Week in Review 08/08/08

In case you missed it, check out the top clips we captured this week at McCain town hall meetings:

- *McCain barbs Obama for lacking experience to recognize "voting for something... means you support it, and voting against something means you oppose it"*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0Jqsvuhdi0

- *McCain refuses to recognize that increased demand from China, etc. will offset gains to be made from offshore drilling:* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcI_SxD9zG8

- *McCain: "Our surge has succeeded in Iraq militarily, now we need an economic surge":* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpIsoqzG-T8

- *McCain suggests Iraq is "better off" because Saddam would have used revenues from $118/barrel oil to acquire WMDs [audio]* https://issuealliance.box.net/shared/b7gyfm0e4o

- *Local Ohio woman tells of bad labor relations at venue for McCain event, calls McCain "typical" politician:* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jz4QuEjABas

- *McCain "doesn't disagree" with Obama's suggestion to inflate our tires [audio]:* https://issuealliance.box.net/shared/40yym30ltz

- *McCain again sides with "independent petroleum executives," but "agree[s]" with Obama's suggestion that we should all inflate our tires [audio]:* https://issuealliance.box.net/shared/up1f8lrpu3

- *McCain jokes that voter should vote for him rather than Obama "because I'm a great American" [audio]:* https://issuealliance.box.net/shared/8n9xvjsz8o

- *Inaccurate right-wing smear: McCain introducer compares McCain to scandal-ridden Ohio AG*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUUIZ1BMpb4

- *Old Man McCain exits stage wrong (again):* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64L4F8Y0XSI

- *'Stamporee' in Wisconsin: Demonstrators stamp McCain policies 'McSame' as Bush*: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jr4MCuvYXIk

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Blast from the Past:
With McCain hitting Obama for Washington being 'broken' and claiming he has Democrats' praise, here's an old clip with some new meaning…
QUESTIONER: "…Can you tell us why we should vote for you over the Senator from Arizona?"

MITT ROMNEY: "...He spent 27 years in Washington ... I understand how the economy works. ... I understand how to grow an economy. I understand why jobs come in and why jobs go. We, we disagree on a number of issues, one of them I just mentioned was with regards to taxation. Um, he voted against the Bush tax cuts. Twice. He voted against the Bush tax cuts. That's failing Reagan 101. Reagan taught us, Reagan taught us all, he taught almost all of us in the Republican party that lowering taxes would grow the economy and was good for our economy and good for, good for individuals. And, uh, and I believe that the Republicans are gonna nominate a tax-cutter to become president of the United States."
(Town Hall Meeting; North Conway, NH 12/22/07)
TO VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=NOVtzcGgDGk

Enjoy!
Sara

P.S. Here are full transcripts:

VIDEO with FULL TRANSCRIPTS
McCain barbs Obama for lacking experience to recognize "voting for something... means you support it, and voting against something means you oppose it":
JOHN MCCAIN: I know [Obama] hasn't been in the Senate that long, but even in the real world, voting for something-voting for something means you support it, and voting against something means you oppose it. Anyway...
(Town Hall; Lima, OH 08/07/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0Jqsvuhdi0
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/cqc5xhk00s

McCain refuses to recognize that increased demand from China, etc. will offset gains to be made from offshore drilling
AUDIENCE MEMBER: You understandably see this great optimism about reducing oil costs and energy more generally. But do you recognize the small likelihood that significantly decreasing the price of fuel at the pump and energy for our houses in the midst of enormous increase in demand from emerging economies, i.e. Brazil, China, and India?

JOHN MCCAIN: I do not recognize that. Thank you, though, for your question. In France it takes five years to build a nuclear power plant, five years. And France generates 80% of their electricity using nuclear power, 80%. I know I wasn't planning on taking French but the fact is they can do it, we can too. [...]We can do it through all of the above: wind, tide, nuclear, solar. [...] We have been sailing ships around the world, the United States Navy has, for sixty years, a nuclear power plants on them. Why not in the world can't we do that too? [...]
(Town Hall; Lima, OH 08/07/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcI_SxD9zG8

McCain: "Our surge has succeeded in Iraq militarily, now we need an economic surge":
JOHN MCCAIN: What we need today is an economic surge. Our surge has succeeded in Iraq militarily, now we need an economic surge to keep jobs here and home and create new ones. We need to reduce the tax burden on businesses.
(Company Tour; Jackson, OH 08/06/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpIsoqzG-T8

McCain suggests Iraq is "better off" because Saddam would have used revenues from $118/ barrel oil to acquire WMDs [audio]
JOHN MCCAIN: I just want to say a word about the situation in Iraq […] and we will be able to withdraw, as -- just as you do whenever a successful counterinsurgency succeeds. […] And I'd love to tell you that there's a parade down Broadway or there's a peace signing on the USS Missouri, but there's not. What success is, and winning,

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which we are winning, and we've succeeded, is a government that can govern effectively, the social fabric is renewed, and the economic life continues. And that's exactly -- is reinvigorated -- and that's exactly what's happened in Iraq. And we've -- it's been purchased at great sacrifice.

And as a friend of mine said today when we were talking, what do you think Iraq would be like if Saddam Hussein were still there and oil was 120 (dollars) or $118 a barrel? The sanctions were breaking down; the -- he obviously stated unequivocally that he wanted to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction, which he had twice before. There was a $12 billion oil-for-food program going on, a scandal going on in the United Nations. And I think the Iraqi people are a great deal better off now that he and his sadistic sons are no longer with us.

So I'm proud of what's happened in Iraq, and it's incredible to me that Senator Obama cannot acknowledge the fact that the surge succeeded. No rational person can look at what's happened over the last two years and say that the surge hadn't succeeded. And it has, and it's due to a great general, most of all to these brave young Americans.

And I don't see how you can go down and meet the last of these five brigades that's coming home and tell them thanks for serving but, by the way, you're part of the surge and your strategy didn't succeed. You -- you can't do that.
(Tele-Town Hall; 08/05/08)
TO LISTEN: https://issuealliance.box.net/shared/b7gyfm0e4o

Local Ohio woman tells of bad labor relations at venue for McCain event, calls McCain "typical" politician
INTERVIEWER: And where are you from?

JANELLE: Jackson.

INTERVIEWER: So what is your opinion of John McCain?

JANELLE: Don't like him. Don't believe in anything he stands for.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think about his visit today here in Jackson?

JANELLE: Didn't care.

INTERVIEWER: Did people know that he was coming here?

JANELLE: I heard it this morning when I came into work. Other than that, I don't know if anybody said anything else about it.

INTERVIEWER: Did you have any opinion that it's a closed event, not open to the pubic?

JANELLE: Um, typical.

INTERVIEWER: Could you tell me what you know about Merillat, the place he's visiting?

JANELLE: I just know they went through and started laying off a lot. I have a relative that laid off that worked every year

INTERVIEWER: And what about the plant that's next door- Meridian?

JANELLE: All I know about that is they closed the doors, wouldn't let the employees back in, and they went on strike forever, tried to get their jobs back.

INTERVIEWER: And when was that?

JANELLE: 2006 as far as I know.

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(Interview; Jackson, OH 08/06/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jz4QuEjABas

McCain "doesn't disagree" with Obama's suggestion to inflate our tires [audio]:
JOHN MCCAIN: "Senator Obama, a couple of days ago, said that we ought to all inflate our tires, and I don't disagree with that. The American Autmobile Association strongly recommends it. But I, But I also don't think that's a way to become energy independent."
(Tele-Town Hall for Pennsylvania Voters; 08/05/08)
TO LISTEN: https://issuealliance.box.net/shared/40yym30ltz

McCain again sides with "independent petroleum executives," then "agree[s]" with Obama's suggestion that we should all inflate our tires [audio]:
JOHN MCCAIN: I want to say a word about offshore drilling. We need to do it. We need to do it now, and we need to do it here in the United States of America and not send our money overseas.

I met with a group of independent petroleum executives the other day and they said we could increase some of our oil supply in a matter of months by using existing facilities. And in a year or two, they believe that they could discover and start increasing our oil supply offshore.

We have to do it. We have to do it soon. Obviously, Senator Obama's still opposed to it. He's still opposed to nuclear. And I -- I agree with the American Automobile Association; we should all inflate our tires. And I think that the American Automobile Association is right, as well as others are. But the fact is that doesn't serve as a plan for us to become independent on foreign oil.
(Tele-Town Hall for Pennsylvania Voters; 08/05/08)
TO LISTEN: https://issuealliance.box.net/shared/up1f8lrpu3

McCain jokes that voter should vote for him rather than Obama "because I'm a great American" [audio]
QUESTIONER: I've been very confused on who to vote for. And in the beginning I was going towards Obama, and now I'm leaning towards you. What would make me want to vote more towards you?

JOHN MCCAIN: Because I'm a great American. (Laughs.) […] We've got 93 days, and I hope that you and other Independent or undecided voters on the line will look at our positions on the issues. I respect and admire Senator Obama. He has inspired a lot of Americans. He's won the nomination of his party over a very talented and, I think, outstanding candidate in Senator Hillary Clinton, and I admire and respect him. But the differences are just basically how we view the role of government.

MCCAIN: […] And, of course, over Iraq. And one of the things I think you've been deprived of, Sally, is that I asked Senator Obama a long time ago if he would go to town hall meetings with me. […]

MCCAIN: There's one other area that I'd like to mention very quickly to you. And that's judges. […]

QUESTIONER: Well, I think you got my vote. Hearing you tonight and-- I think you're just a very great speaker. And it took a lot, but I think you got my vote. So --

MCCAIN: Well, I'm very grateful, Sally.
(Tele-Town Hall; 08/05/08)
TO LISTEN: https://issuealliance.box.net/shared/8n9xvjsz8o

Inaccurate right-wing smear: McCain introducer compares McCain to scandal-ridden Ohio AG
MATT HUFFMAN, STATE REPRESENTATIVE (R-OH): November 2006, there was a fellow by the name of Mark Dann who was elected Attorney General. Um, yeah. And after he was elected, and got in a little bit of trouble, he explained the reason why he got in trouble is he didn't think he was really going to win and he wasn't ready for the job- which sounds a little bit like John McCain's opponent. Uh you know they had Hillary was the presumptive nominee a year ago and they didn't work out for her which is good too but what happened then and what happens when you elect people who aren't ready for the job is you have disasters. Sixteen months later Mark Dann resigns as Attorney General- that was about fourteen months longer than anybody thought he would

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last. And its rare in politics and with elections that you have a chance to correct a mistake.
(Town Hall; Lima, OH 08/07/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUUIZ1BMpb4

McCain exits stage wrong (again)
[McCain tries to exit stage wrong way]
(Company Tour; Jackson, OH 08/06/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64L4F8Y0XSI
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/69xd43o8wc

'Stamporee' in Wisconsin: Demonstrators stamp McCain policies 'McSame'
DEMONSTRATORS: "Lower Wages!" "Outsourcing jobs and unfair trade deals" "100 More Years, 100 more Years, 100 more Years!"
(McCain Town Hall; Racine, WI 07/31/08)
TO VIEW: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jr4MCuvYXIk

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From: creamer2@aol.com
To: creamer2@aol.com
Date: 3/24/2011 1:46:27 AM
Subject: [big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-Big Banks Plan Sneak Attack on Wall Street Reform

Big Banks Plan Sneak Attack on Wall Street Reform Law within Days

The big Wall Street banks are planning a sneak attack on an essential element of the Wall Street Reform Law that was passed by Congress last year. They plan to make their move as early as next week.

The target of their attack is the provision limiting the "interchange" fee that the Big Banks charge retailers and their consumers every time a debit card is used. Right now, so-called "swipe fees" are set by Visa and MasterCard – who control 80% of all credit card transactions. In other words, they are not subject to competitive market pressure of any sort. They are fixed by the Visa-MasterCard duopoly.

According to the Federal Reserve, $16.2 billion of debit interchange fees were paid in 2009.

It is estimated that the Financial Reform Law will save consumers $10 billion of that total. How could that be? Because it should come as no surprise to anyone who has even a passing acquaintance with Economics 101, that fees set by a duopoly have no relationship whatsoever to the costs of the transaction.

They are in fact just one more mechanism that Wall Street has used to siphon an increasing percentage of our Gross Domestic Product out of the pockets of the middle class and into the increasingly-bloated financial sector.

The central problem of our economy – and society – is that virtually every dime of the considerable economic growth of the last twenty years has gone to the top two percent of the population. Wall Street salaries and bonuses have exploded, while middle class incomes have stagnated.

From 1948 to 1980, profits generated by the financial sector represented from 5% to 15% of all U.S. business profits. Then they began to creep up – and finally explode – to an unbelievable 40% right before the Great Recession. They dropped briefly– and by the end of 2009, they were back to 36% .

Let's remember that the financial sector does not make anything. Its goal is to take a little piece of every transaction as money flows through its hands – what novelist Tom Wolff calls the "golden crumbs."

In the last twenty years, the exploding financial sector has sucked the lifeblood out of the American middle class. It has vacuumed money out of the pockets of people who actually work for living producing goods and services. It has siphoned off virtually every dime of economic growth so that real middle class incomes have actually *fallen* at the same time the economy has grown. That wasn't just disastrous for the middle class – it was catastrophic for our entire economy. It meant that there weren't enough consumer dollars available to buy new goods and services – a problem that was temporarily solved by the credit bubble until it ultimately collapsed and cost eight million Americans their jobs.

To put it simply, the financial sector – and especially the big Wall Street banks – are a huge cancer growing on our economy.

To have an economy that will allow long-term, widely shared, growth – we have to shrink the financial sector and put money back into the hands of companies that produce *actual* goods and services, and consumers who buy them.

The Wall Street Reform Law made a big step in the direction of reining in the big Wall Street banks. And a key element of that law was the provision that prevents the duopoly power of those Big Banks – exercised through Visa and MasterCard – from fixing the price of the fees merchants pay every time you use your debit card.

The new law requires that these fees must be reasonable and proportionate to the cost of running a debit transaction over that network's wires. But it turns out their actual cost of providing this service is very low. If prices for "swipe fees" were set by the competitive market, they would dramatically fall because of competitive pressure. But since the prices are set through a duopoly they allow gigantic profits for the banks.

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Right now Visa and MasterCard – at their sole discretion -- set different fee rates for different types of debit transactions. For example, they charge higher fee rates for small businesses than for large ones. Most debit interchange fee rates are set as a percentage of the transaction amount plus a flat fee (e.g., 0.95% + $0.20). The Fed found that the average interchange fee for all debit transactions in 2009 was 44 cents per transaction, or 1.14% of the transaction amount.

The Fed put out a draft rulemaking in December 2010 that suggested options for reform. Both of the options suggested limiting interchange fee rates for the biggest 1% of banks to 12 cents per transaction (down from the average 44 cents per transaction today). This comes close to the 0.2% debit interchange rate that Visa and MasterCard recently agreed to use in the European Union. A reduction of this amount would save U.S. consumers around $10 billion per year.

Now, this proposed rate is obviously not below their costs, since that's what they agreed to charge in Europe.

But the big banks are desperate to hang onto the gusher of profit that comes out of American pockets.

They have used their enormous lobbying muscle to convince some otherwise decent Senators, that this is really nothing more than a battle between the banks and retail merchants. Baloney. Non-competitive "swipe fees" are just one more way they reach into the pool of money generated by the real economy and set it aside so it can end up as part of some Wall Street Banker's multi-million dollar bonus check. And you can be certain that most retailers don't eat the costs of "swipe fees." They pass the vast majority of these costs on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

Nonetheless, next week the big banks hope to get the Senate to pass an amendment "delaying" implementation of this law. This delay would save the banks – and cost consumers – about $10 billion a year, simple as that. The provision's original sponsor, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), promises to lay down on the tracks to prevent them from being successful. But there is still a grave danger that the bankers will succeed.

That's because the big banks hope to conduct this attack without a great deal of public notice. They have conducted a vigorous PR campaign inside the beltway, but out in the rest of the country, no one has heard word one about this issue.

And this is just the beginning. If they are successful with "swipe fees," they will be emboldened to try to gut other sections of this critical law.

The big banks do well under cover of darkness. When they are exposed to the bright light of public attention – as they were during the battle over financial reform – consumers had the high political ground. The Wall Street reform bill got tougher as it moved through the legislative process because Members of Congress were afraid to side with Wall Street against ordinary Americans.

Now, the big banks hope to conduct their attack on the Financial Reform Law while the voters are focused on a new war in Libya, a nuclear disaster in Japan, the battle over collective bargaining and March Madness.

Big bank lobbyists are like cockroaches. When you turn on the light they scatter, but they take over if they're allowed to operate in the dark.

When you've finished reading this article, pick up the phone, call your Senator and *turn on the light.* Tell them to keep Wall Street from gutting this key provision of the Wall Street Reform Law.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-creamer/big-banks-plan-sneak-atta_b_839960.html

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From: "Hannah Hendler" <hhendler@agendaproject.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/11/2015 12:52:42 PM
Subject: Practical Progress: GOP Letter to Iran...50 Years After Selma...SiX on the States

PRACTICAL PROGRESS: The Agenda Project Action Fund's actually brief briefing on the Most Important News from the Progressive Movement.

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?? -- Rep. Adam Schiff (D-NJ) summed up responses to the 47 Republican senators who sent a letter to Iran attempting to undercut a potential nuclear deal: "It's beyond disturbing ." READ "Meet Tom Cotton, the Senator Behind the Republicans' Letter to Iran " over at *The Nation* and SIGN a petition to file treason charges against these senators HERE .

50 YEARS AFTER SELMA -- 80,000 people --including President Obama , Attorney General Eric Holder, Rev. Al Sharpton, members of Congress, and representatives from Advancement Project, ColorOfChange, NAACP, and #BlackLivesMatter--descended on Selma last weekend to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery and the "Bloody Sunday" when police confronted protesters. ColorOfChange Executive Director Rashad Robinson on the present-day struggle: "When we look forward, we've got to think about not just how we defend what we've won, but what the new models and new systems for protections are that we need for the future."

READ "From Selma to Texas: Why the Voting Rights Act is Still Vital " over at The Brennan Center for Justice and SIGN a pledge to keep marching for voting rights from Advancement Project HERE .

SiX ON THE STATES -- Last week the State Innovation Exchange (SiX)--a major new Democratic state-focused organization--and the Center for American Progress (CAP) hosted "An Economic Opportunity Agenda in the States," a discussion about state-level policies to grow the middle class, moderated by SiX Executive Director Nick Rathod. The same week, representatives of SiX also met with Sen. Elizabeth Warren and White House officials. WATCH a video of the event with CAP HERE and FIND OUT more about SiX HERE .

FAIR TRADE, NOT FREE TRADE -- AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka slammed President Obama's intention to fast-track the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement : "We are going all out to oppose it: phone banks, leaf letting, door knocks in various congressional districts and Senate states in informing the general public, and we will continue this until we are successful in defeating it" ... Presente Executive Director Arturo Comona agreed and urged Latino leaders to take a stand against the proposal. READ his op-ed HERE and SIGN a petition to create a trade deal that works for working families HERE .

UNEQUAL INEQUALITY -- Demos has developed the Racial Wealth Audit , a new tool that is used to evaluate the impact of housing, education, and labor markets on the racial wealth gap. The tool will be featured in an upcoming series of briefs looking at racial wealth disparities and the policies that have caused them. READ more HERE .

...ELSEWHERE, the Fed Up Coalition --made up of AFL-CIO, Center for Popular Democracy, Demos, Economic Policy Institute, National Employment Law Project, and many others--also released a new report on racial disparities in wages and employment across the country. READ: "Wall Street, Main Street, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard: Why African Americans Must Not Be Left Out of the Federal Reserve's Full-Employment Mandate."

GOING GLOBAL FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY -- In honor of International Women's Day last week, Planned Parenthood released a video celebrating the last 20 years of progress for women's rights around the world ... Meanwhile, the No Ceilings Foundation published a new global analysis of the inequalities women continue to face. READ "The Participation Report " and SIGN a petition from MomsRising telling Congress to pass the Fair Paycheck Act HERE .

INFORMATION NOT QUITE FREE -- 10 out of 15 of the federal agencies who consistently receive the most Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests failed to achieve satisfactory grades on the Center for Effective Government's access to information scorecard . Open Government Policy Director and report co-author Sean Moulton summed up the problem: "Agencies are trying to establish a public infrastructure for the 21st century, but permanent progress is difficult when agency budgets are uncertain and declining."

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READ the full report HERE and SIGN a petition urging Congress to strengthen the FOIA HERE .

THE BURDEN -- The Truman National Security Project and Operation Free are premiering *The Burden: Fossil Fuels, the Military, & National Security* at the nation Environmental Film Festival in Washington, DC on Friday, March 27. The documentary looks at fossil fuel dependence as a national security issue and examines the military's transition away from oil. WATCH the trailer HERE and RSVP for the premiere HERE .

FROM THE WONK WIRE ...

... PROJECTING DIVERSE VOICES: Demos President and Top Wonk Heather McGhee outlines how the voices of smaller donors can be heard in election cycles.

... WHEN IT'S GOOD TO SAY NO: Brennan Center Fellow and Top Wonk Ciara Torres-Spelliscy explains why the Supreme Court's refusal to hear cases on campaign finance reform is a good thing.

... TRADING AWAY THE FUTURE: Sierra Club Executive Director and Top Wonk Michael Brune details how passing the TPP will negatively impact climate change.

... HELP FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT: Former IMF Chief Economist and Top Wonk Simon Johnson commends the White House for fighting big banks and providing sound advice to retirees.

Find out more at www.TopWonks.org .

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From: "Progressive Policy Institute" <info@ppionline.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/25/2014 8:02:04 AM
Subject: PPI WEEKLY UPDATE: Iran Negotiations, Net Neutrality, & Regulation in the Digital Age

IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS: Today, PPI President Will Marshall wrote an op-ed for *The Hill*, "Holding Out Hope On Iran," outlining the differences between the United States and Iran as we work to negotiate a nuclear deal and arguing that the Obama administration is right to give diplomacy another chance. "Given the magnitude of such differences, it's easy to be pessimistic about nuclear diplomacy with Iran," Marshall writes. "On balance, however, giving the talks a little more time is a gamble worth taking. This conclusion is not a vote of confidence in Iran, or even in Obama. Rather, it reflects the reality that all the other alternatives are worse."

NET NEUTRALITY: Last week, PPI Senior Fellow Hal Singer joined, "The Great Net Neutrality Debate: Should the FCC Ban Paid Prioritization?" The event featured a debate on net neutrality with leading experts in tech policy, including Singer; Marvin Ammori, Fellow, New America Foundation; Jonathan Baker, Professor of Law, American University; and Berin Szoka, President, TechFreedom. Video of the event can be seen here.

See Also: "The Best Path Forward on Net Neturality," by Singer and Brookings Non-Resident Senior Fellow Robert Litan.

REGULATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE: Last week, PPI Economist Diana Carew wrote an op-ed for *The Hill*, "Outdated cable box rule harms the data-driven economy." "Innovating in the digital age requires flexible rules that keep pace with the latest technology," Carew writes. "This is especially true in the video services market, where change has been fast and furious. That's why Congress should act to repeal an expensive and innovation-restricting requirement on the design of set-top cable boxes — without limiting the choice of retail devices that consumers enjoy today."

A study by PPI Chief Economic Strategist Michael Mandel and Carew was cited as evidence of current regulatory obstructions for entrepreneurs in a *Huffington Post* op-ed by U.S. Representatives Scott Peters (D-Calif.), Ron Kind (D-Wis.), and Patrick E. Murphy (D-Fla.). "The Federal Code of Regulations numbers nearly 170,000 pages, and more pages are added to the code almost every single day," writes Reps. Peters, Kind, and Murphy. "An analysis by the Progressive Policy Institute shows that the number of pages in the code more than doubled since 1975. We have a choice: We can either grow the mounds of paper that our entrepreneurs have to sift through to launch new ventures, or we can make the code simpler and easier to navigate, allowing our economy to grow and create new jobs."

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Subject: Biopolitical Views & News: Ethical Minefields - Surrogacy, Bio-data, Human Subjects Research

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MONTHLY NEWS

August 7, 2014

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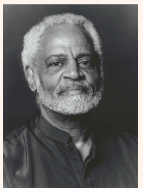
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CGS To Chair Sessions at Forum on Cross-Border Surrogacy and Adoption



11 - 13 August, The Hague, Netherlands
Nearly one hundred scholars, activists, and policymakers from 27 countries will come together at the International Forum on Intercountry Adoption and Surrogacy August 11-14 to discuss ways to improve international standards.

Celebrating Troy Duster



Friday, August 15, Berkeley, California
You're invited to a day-long event featuring talks and reflections on Troy Duster's scholarly influence, contributions, and the significance of his work for current and future challenges. Register here.

CGS COMMENTARY

Surrogate Mother Cares for Baby Abandoned Because of Down Syndrome

by Sonia Allan, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor
Many see Baby Gammy's plight as highlighting the extent to which commercial surrogacy arrangements can exploit and commodify women and children.

More Heart-Wrenching Chapters in the Baby Gammy Story

by Jessica Cussins
Inadequate regulation of cross-border surrogacy has led to some truly awful stories, from coercion and exploitation of impoverished women, to children left stateless, to couples whose life savings have been embezzled by unscrupulous agencies. The unfolding story of Baby Gammy adds new dimensions to the complexities of contract pregnancies.

Data Yearning to Become Expensive Information



by Pete Shanks
Big players have big "big data and genetics" plans afoot. Here's the news from Genomics England, 23andMe, Google and Craig Venter.

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North Carolina and Genetics: From Sterilization to Research Subjects



by Victoria Massie, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor
In the twentieth century, North Carolina was one of dozens of states that targeted certain citizens for eugenic sterilization. Today, in a town outside Charlotte, biotech researchers are asking for urine and blood samples and offering $10 gift cards to WalMart in exchange.

Tuskegee, Today



by Jessica Cussins
Last week marked the 42nd anniversary of the Tuskegee syphilis study and many people took the opportunity to examine its relevance to the treatment of human research subjects today.

NEWS

Huntington Man Deals with Mitochondrial Disease as Preventive Measures Debated

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Kathleen Kerr, *Newsday*
Neither Tiller nor his mother are convinced that high-tech embryos are the best way to attack mitochondrial disease. She asked, "How do you know what might manifest in the long run?"

Lord Winston's Warning

by Gulzaar Barn, *Practical Ethics*
Winston discusses the history and misuse of gene science and eugenics, and points to the potential resurgence of this way of thinking.

Scientists Accuse Government of Dishonesty Over GM Babies in its Regulation of new IVF Technique

by Steve Connor, *The Independent*
Leading scientists accuse the UK Government of misleading the public by redefining the term "genetic modification."

Thai Case Casts Spotlight on Business of Surrogacy

by Grant Peck and Kriten Gelineau, *AP*
Contributing to Thailand's popularity as a surrogacy destination is the large number of impoverished women who will carry babies for a price, and the availability of doctors with good reproductive medical skills.

Australian Couple Leaves Down Syndrome Baby with Thai Surrogate

by Lindsay Murdoch, *The Sydney Morning Herald*
Gammy, a six-month-old baby abandoned by his Australian parents, could die because his Thai surrogate mother cannot pay for medical treatment for his congenital heart condition.

China Experiences a Booming Underground Market in Surrogate Motherhood

by Ian Johnson and Cao Li, *The New York Times*
In a small conference room overlooking Wuhan's smog-shrouded skyline, Huang Jinlai outlines his offer to China's childless elite: for $240,000, a baby with your DNA, gender of your choice, born by a coddled but captive rural woman.

A Surrogacy Agency That Delivered Heartache

by Tamar Lewin, *The New York Times*
As unregulated surrogacy agencies proliferate, the story of Planet Hospital stands as a cautionary tale about their ability to prey on vulnerable clients who do not notice the

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red flags.

- [No 'Rainbow Families': Ethnic Donor Stipulation at Fertility Centre 'Floors' Local Woman]

by Jessica Barrett, *Calgary Herald [Canada]*
A Calgary woman was shocked to learn of a policy at the city's only fertility treatment centre that restricts patients from using sperm, eggs or embryos from donors who do not match their ethnic background.

- [No Mandatory Standards for In Vitro Fertilization Clinics]

by Gloria Galloway, *The Globe and Mail*
Would-be parents will find inconsistent oversight of fertility clinics across Canada, with some facilities free to set their own policies about how to do business.

- [Gender-Based Sex Selection Practice on the Rise]

Deccan Herald [India]
A recent United Nations study has pointed out the worsening trend in gender based sex selection practices – elimination of girl child during pregnancy – in the country.

- [Mining Your Genetic Data for Profit: The Dark Side of Biobanking]

by Amanda Wilson, *Pacific Standard*
One woman's story raises deep questions about the stark limits of current controls in the nascent biobanking industry.

- [The Government Owns Your DNA. What Are They Doing with it?]

by Susan Scutti, *Newsweek*
We may not be aware that many states have created biobanks funded by genetic material left over from our screening tests and our specimens may be used for purposes we do not fully understand.

- [Banks of Blood and Sperm]

by Rebecca J. Rosen, *The Atlantic*
Banking on the Body investigates how the idea of a "bank" shapes the way we think about storing and distributing blood, sperm, and breast milk.

- [STAP Stem Cell Controversy Ends in Suicide for Japanese Scientist]

by Karen Kapla, *Los Angeles Times*
Sasai had said he was 'deeply ashamed' of the stem cell studies that were retracted in July.

- [Letter Campaign Sought to Pressure FDA Action on Stem Cell Clinics]

by Elie Dolgin, *Nature Medicine*
Unregulated stem cell clinics are proliferating throughout the US.

- [Stem Cell Treatment Warnings After Australian Woman Dies in Russia]

by Bridie Smith, *Sydney Morning Herald*
Risks of unproven stem cell treatments include allergic reaction or rejection of the cells by the patient's immune system and the development of cancer, both of which can be fatal.

- [The Best-Selling, Billion-Dollar Pills Tested on Homeless People]

by Carl Elliott, *Medium*
How the destitute and the mentally ill are being used as human lab rats.

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Use of Experimental Ebola Drug Raises Red Flags Among Medical Experts

by Monte Morin, *Los Angeles Times*
The FDA has authorized use of an unapproved Ebola virus test under a special emergency-use provision, although efforts to develop a vaccine for the deadly illness are unlikely to bear fruit until 2015.

Genetic Testing of Citizens: A Backdoor Into Total Population Surveillance by Governments, Companies

by Helen Wallace, *Epoch Times*
The new Chief Executive of England's National Health Service wants to make people's personal genetic information the basis of their treatments.

In Search for Killer, DNA Sweep Exposes Intimate Family Secrets in Italy

by Elisabetta Povoledo, *The New York Times*
In the absence of other evidence, investigators embarked on the country's largest DNA dragnet, taking genetic samples from nearly 22,000 people.

Genome Project Will Transform Cancer Care

by Ian Sample, *The Guardian [UK]*
About 40,000 patients with cancer and rare diseases will have their genomes sequenced, which David Cameron claims will transform how serious diseases are diagnosed and treated

Study Shows Third Gene as Indicator for Breast Cancer

by Nicholas Bakalarn, *The New York Times*
Mutations in the gene raise risk in women by almost as much as mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2, the genes implicated in most inherited cases.

Google Wants to Create a Map of What a Healthy Human Body Looks Like

by George Dvorsky, *io9*
Called the Baseline Project, it's different from other mass medical and genomic projects in that it's seeking to collect much larger and broader sets of new data.

F.D.A. Acts on Lab Tests Developed In-House

by Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*
The FDA will start regulating medical laboratory testing, saying that tests used to make important treatment decisions must be vetted before they go into use.

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/3/2008 9:09:22 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 08/03/08

Main Topics: "Celeb" Ad, Social Security Tax Cuts, Race Card, Surge, Energy

Summary of Shift: Surrogates took to the airwaves and McCain's vacillation on Social Security payroll taxes receives intense scrutiny as the controversy over whether or not the race card is in play rolls onward. Pundits are still examining the whys and wherefores of the anthrax suspect's suicide in between bouts of pre-Olympic fervor.

Highlights:

1. "Celeb" Ad
   a. CNN: Success of McCain attack ads considered
   b. ABC: Tom Ridge discuesses the message of "Celeb" ad
2. McCain surrogates
   a. Kerry and Lieberman debate the issues of the race
      i. NBC: Lieberman puts forward arguments on Social Security taxes, drilling and the surge, Kerry shuts them down
      ii. NBC: Lieberman: "Celeb" ad "cute", in no way demeaning
      iii. NBC: Lieberman: "John McCain does not have a bigoted bone in his body"
   b. CBS: Fiorina outlines McCain's economic plan defends his position on Social Security taxes
   c. CNN: Pfotenhauer defends McCain economic and tax policy including tax cuts for Exxon Mobile
3. CNN: Kurtz and panel discuss McCain's muddled no new taxes message

Highlights, no Clips:

4. NBC – CHUCK TODD: The good news for the McCain campaign is they may have found the right strategy . . . of how to defeat Obama . . . hit him as an elitist, hit him as soft . . . on his readiness to be president. But the problem is, McCain isn't the contrast. McCain is Junior Obama or Senior Obama, depending on how you want to match him up.
5. NBC - MATTHEWS: He says he'll work with anyone, but will anyone work with him?

Clips:

Highlight #1

Success of McCain Attack Ads Considered (CNN 08/03/08 09:30am)

REBECCA ROBERTS: … I think that if the goal of the McCain campaign was to get all of us to talk about it, they've seceded. If the goal was to get people to change their vote, I'm not so sure. You're criticizing someone for being popular? Is that the strategy? Really? And you know there has been a lot of reading between the lines about the choice of Brittany and Paris and young blond women and all of that. I'm not sure it was that well thought through. I think they were just trying to take Senator Obama's strength that he was very popular, draws huge crowds and try and turn it into a weakness. I think the jury is out and rather or not they succeeded on doing that.

Tom Ridge Discusses the Message of "Celeb" Ad (ABC 08/03/08 10:20am)

TOM RIDGE: … I think the message, uh, there were two messages embodied I believe in that commercial. The first one I think frankly probably a not so subtle recognition that Senator Obama is very telegenic he is very popular, he has paparazzi swarming all over him, where he goes he gets a big crowd. But the broader message is its not about drawing a crowd it is about dealing with issues and if you move back into that ad it talks very much about critical issue to this country its future and that's energy. He doesn't want to drill, he will tax electricity, he doesn't want nuclear. So at the end of the day the message in that is that you can be a very charismatic figure

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GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Well as a matter of fact Factcheck.org has looked at that claim that he will tax electricity and they say it is simply not true. That Senator Obama has a very similar cap and trade proposal to Senator McCain and if you are going to charge that Senator Obama is taxing electricity you would have to level that same exact charge against Senator McCain.

RIDGE: Well, I think George, that the commercial elevates the whole question of energy policy in a way that some people like and some people don't like… The point of this ad is energy policy is serious is a serious deficiency in this country vis-à-vis an energy policy. We have been waiting 20 or 30 years to get one. John McCain has suggested that we have an all above approach. Lets talk Nuclear, lets talk drilling, lets talk Bio-Fuels, its not lets talk bio-fuels in a way that is smart and doesn't disrupt the agriculture community. Lets get it all on the table. And Obama, Senator Obama excuse me. Has said no nuclear, no

STEPHANOPOULOS: Seems open to drilling right now

RIDGE: Well no he said that in the morning and later on in the afternoon he clarified his position and said I am opposed to drilling. He is opposed to drilling.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But he said he would accept it as part of a comprehensive package.

[…]

RIDGE: … end of the day I think members of both parties are moving closer and closer to Senator McCain's position… That ad was about energy and lets get serious, lets recognize who he is, very charismatic, gives great speeches but it is substance time. 90 days left to go, lets talk issues.

Highlight #2

Lieberman Puts Forward Arguments on Social Security Taxes, Drilling and the Surge, Kerry Shuts them Down (NBC 08/03/08 10:55am)

TOM BROKAW: . . . Senator McCain has been very adamant about not raising taxes. That prompted this headline in The Wall Street Journal . . . he says, "Is John McCain Stupid? Is John McCain losing it? He said on national television that to solve Social Security, "everything's on the table," which of course means raising payroll taxes. On July 7th, he said 'Sen. Obama will raise your taxes. I won't.' This isn't a flip-flop. It's a sex-change operation."

JOE LIEBERMAN: First, let me say John remains all male. There is no question about that. Secondly, he's a smart, curious, intellectually alert as possible. That's why he loves the town hall meetings, that's why he keeps challenging Barack Obama to come and do a town hall meeting with him . . .

BROKAW: If everything is on the table for social security reform that does include raising of payroll taxes, does it not?

JOHN KERRY: Absolutely.

LIEBERMAN: . . . two main reasons I'm for John McCain. One is he's ready to be commander in chief and to deal with our problems at home and abroad. Secondly, we got a big problem here in Washington that we have to solve before we get to solve social security, jobs, gas crisis, and environment, everything else. It's partisanship. And John McCain . . . has a record, he is a restless reformer . . . What I'm saying we need to fix social security so it's there for the next generation.

BROKAW: And that may include an increase in payroll taxes.

LIEBERMAN: John McCain said very clearly he doesn't want to raise any taxes but he also said, because he's a great negotiator, I want to sit down with everybody the way Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill did in the 1980s and we're going to solve this, like we're going to make progress on health care and the energy crisis and climate change by breaking through the partisan gridlock. He's going to demand we start to act not like Democrats or Republicans but like Americans, that's what the people want us to do.

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BROKAW: . . . This past week President Bush talked about the possibility of drawing down troops and he's going to shorten the tours . . . Senator Kerry, why is it so hard for Democrats to say the surge worked?

[. . .]

KERRY: . . . the reason the gas discussion so fraudulent is that the oil companies have 68 million acres currently, leases, available to them now. 40 million of them offshore and they are not drilling there. 95% of the Alaska oil shelf is open for drilling today . . .

[. . .]

KERRY: . . . On the surge, Joe and John McCain have both alleged that the surge created the Anbar Awakening. It did not. The Anbar Awakening began in 2005 and 2006, one of the local leaders in the tribe in Anbar province . . . put together 32 sheikhs . . . they organized the Anbar Salvation Council. They then went out and took on al Qaeda and our military personnel adjusted with that at the time, the fact is that the Ramadi Construction Conference took place and the administration didn't get a troop in there until after they made the political decision to become involved with the Americans. The surge added to that. If you add American troops to the equation, American troops can always provide some additional security.

[. . .]

LIEBERMAN: . . . the sheikhs don't want our troops to come home on a fixed timetable. They want us to stay . . .

KERRY: The Prime Minister of Iraq believes we should set a timetable. The President, Mr. Talibani wants us to set a timetable. I heard countless numbers of Iraqis say we'd be better off with a timetable. In fact, I met with the governor of Anbar province and all of the sheiks who said they are comfortable with a timetable providing that obviously it is one that works in the context.

LIEBERMAN: . . . Maliki and Obama are not on the same page on this.

[. . .]

KERRY: . . . John McCain was wrong about Iraq. He was wrong about why we ought to go there, he bought into a whole liberation theology about the Middle East with Paul Wolfowitz and others . . . He was wrong about oil paying for the war, wrong about being greeted as liberation heroes, he's been wrong about Afghanistan not being a center of activity against us. He said no one threatens us in Afghanistan.

LIEBERMAN: John McCain was right about the surge and he had the guts to go up against President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld and public opinion . . . because he didn't want America to lose . . . Senator Obama took the opposite position. Wasn't concerned about losing in Iraq . . .

[. . .]

BROKAW: Can we show you a Joe Lieberman website he may not be welcoming. There is a website out there in which they say get rid of Joe, Lieberman must go, more than 50,000 signatures have been signed so far. You think you're going to be comfortable next year in the Democratic Caucus as a self-described Independent Democrat?

LIEBERMAN: Look. I crossed party lines to support John McCain because this is not an ordinary time in our history . . . And I just felt more than following the party line; I had to go with the guy I thought would best serve this country, that's John McCain.

BROKAW: Are you going to speak at the Republican Convention?

LIEBERMAN: . . . Am I going to speak at the convention? . . . that decision hasn't been made. If Senator McCain feels I can help his candidacy which I think is so important to elect him our next president, I will do it. But I assure

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you this Tom. I'm not going to go to the convention, the Republican Convention and spend my time attacking Barack Obama. I'm going to go there really talking about why I support John McCain . . . Frankly, I'm going to go to a partisan convention and tell them if I go, why it's so important that we start to act like Americans and not as partisan mudslingers.

BROKAW: Sounds like you're going to go.

LIEBERMAN: We'll see.

KERRY: Sounds like that to me, too.

Lieberman: "Celeb" Ad "Cute", In No Way Demeaning (NBC 08/03/08 10:35am)
TOM BROKAW: . . . This is a discussion of issues, also of tone because the tone is an important part of a presidential campaign and this campaign is running at full throttle already . . . Senator Lieberman, let me share with you . . . Senator McCain had to say earlier about the tone of the campaign.

JOHN MCCAIN: This will be a respectful campaign. Americans want a respectful campaign. They're tired of the attacks, tired of impugning people's character and integrity. They want a respectful campaign and I'm of the firm belief that they'll get it and they can get it if the American people demand it and reject a lot of this negative stuff that goes on.

BROKAW: And just this past week you said to the Palm Beach Post, "there is a problem in Washington that problem is partisanship, people going to Washington acting like children having a mud fight." You think running a campaign ad in which you feature Britney spears and Paris Hilton with Barack Obama is respectful?

JOE LIEBERMAN: I do. First off, you know, we all ought to relax a bit. It's a bit of humor, a way to draw people into the ad. Incidentally, the McCain campaign has another ad in which they seem to be comparing Obama to Moses so in my book that's about as good a comparison as you could ask for. I should say in The Book it's about as good a comparison as you should ask for. But look, there is a serious point to that ad. And it gets right to it which is, is not with standing his celebrity status Barack Obama ready to lead? And my answer is no, that Barack Obama is a gifted, eloquent young man who can -- and I hope will give great leadership to America in the years ahead but the question is who's ready to be president on January 20th, 2009 with the economy in a crisis, and facing dangerous enemies abroad, it's clearly John McCain. We only have two choices, John McCain, Barack Obama.

BROKAW: . . . by including Britney spears and Paris Hilton, two lightweights known primarily as just targets of paparazzi around the world, with senator Obama. Isn't that demeaning?

LIEBERMAN: No . . . First, I think it's cute. A lot of –

BROKAW: What does he have to do with Paris Hilton or Britney spears?

LIEBERMAN: The point is particularly after the trip to Europe, essentially holding a political rally of 200,000 in . . . Berlin. Bigger crowd than he's gotten in . . . America and he's gotten some big crowds. This ad raises the question, we're not deciding who's our favorite celebrity, who we are fans of. We're doing something very serious at a time when our economy is hurting a lot of people . . . and we still are in a war against the Islamist terrorists who attacked us on 9/11. Look beyond the celebrity status is what this ad is saying. This is a good young man. Is he ready to lead or as ready as John McCain, no. In fact, the ad goes to a specific point which is senator Obama is against offshore drilling for oil . . . and to try to stop the painful increase in gas prices and home heating oil prices. John McCain is for both of those, John McCain is for alternative energy, for nuclear power, for off shore drilling . . . What Barack Obama did over the weekend about off shore drilling is a tease . . .

BROKAW: . . . This is what senator Obama had to say in response to the ad that included Britney spears and Paris Hilton.

OBAMA: . . . The only strategy they've got in this election is to try to scare you about me . . . he doesn't look like all the presidents on the dollar bills . . .

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BROKAW: And right away the manager from McCain campaign said that's the introduction of the race card as he described it, Rick Davis. "Barack Obama has played the race card, he played it from the bottom of the deck. It's divisive, negative, shameful and wrong." Senator Kerry, by using the language that he did saying I don't look like the president on a dollar bill or a $5 bill wasn't he in effect saying they are picking on me because I'm black.

JOHN KERRY: No. What he was saying they're trying to scare you, trying to scare the American people. And believe me, I'm an expert how they do that. They are engaged in character assassination. Even John McCain's partner in a number of initiatives in the Senator Russ Feingold said yesterday they decided they can't win on the issues so now they are going to try to destroy his character . . . John McCain himself you quoted him, John McCain said I want to have a campaign not of insults but of ideas. I mean, Joe, what's the idea? What is the idea? Let me say, what is the idea?

[. . .]

KERRY: It doesn't mention not ready to lead, doesn't mention off shore drilling. It tries to insinuate his celebrity is somehow all he has. I'm going to get to the other. But this is you know, this is a complete contradiction in John McCain. John McCain said he wants a campaign of ideas, not insults. John McCain who said the American people want a campaign that's respectful. Even you, Joe, ten years ago, you went to the floor of the United States Senate and you said that our public life is coarsening . . . That's an ad that plays to the worst instincts in America, which is to diminish someone's character. And then Karl Rove turns around and Karl Rove brings up a statement saying Obama is like the guy at the country club with the beautiful date and a martini and a cigarette in his hand . . .

LIEBERMAN: Karl Rove doesn't work for the McCain campaign.

KERRY: They just hired Karl Rove's top protégé to produce these ads. Believe me, they talked to Karl Rove.

BROKAW: When senator Obama responded he didn't talk just about his character, he also talked about his appearance. That's what prompted the McCain campaign . . .

KERRY: What he was talking about is campaign to scare about the person and that's what they do, they try to scare about the person. They try to attack the character. They can't win on health care, they can't win on the economy . . . [Joe] said the question is is he ready to lead . . . What people are electing is a president who has the judgment to do what's right for America. Barack Obama was right about Iraq. Now George Bush, Prime Minister Maliki think we ought to set a deadline. Afghanistan. John McCain has been the slowest person to come to the question of Afghanistan and adding troops. He was right about Pakistan, that we ought to have the ability to go in and take out a terrorist and John McCain criticized him for taking that position. He's been right about North Korea and Iran and the notion that we ought to negotiate. Now the Bush administration is negotiating. The Bush administration has moved toward Barack Obama, not John McCain. And John McCain's judgment has been wrong, and it's dangerous for America.

Lieberman: "John McCain Does Not Have a Bigoted Bone in His Body" (NBC 08/03/08 10:45am)
TOM BROKAW: . . . this is former general Wesley Clark talking about John McCain. He said, "I don't think riding in a fighter plane and getting shot down is a qualification to be president." He described him as untested and untried . . .

JOHN KERRY: I don't agree with was Clark's comment. I think it was entirely inappropriate. I have nothing but enormous respect for John McCain's service . . .

BROKAW: Unless I missed it, senator Obama has not specifically rebuked Wesley Clark.

KERRY: . . . I thought Obama had at the time. Here's what's important. Let's not get lost in this. John McCain said this ought to be about big ideas. Medicare is about to implode. You know, John McCain has a health care plan that every expert has said does nothing for the people who have no health care.

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JOE LIEBERMAN: Not true.

KERRY: It does nothing for the people that have no health care. Doesn't have a plan that's comprehensive to provide health care to all Americans. He's against the energy plan for tax credits for people in order to help them with the energy crisis. Why? He came out against this plan of the people in congress on energy because he wants to protect Exxon.

BROKAW: Let's talk about energy for a moment if we can because there have been several bills. A bipartisan coalition of ten senators wants to expand offshore drilling and they want to end a tax credit on oil companies. Senator Obama in the past has often said that he opposed offshore drilling . . . here's what senator Obama had to say over the weekend. "My interest is in making sure that we've got the kind of comprehensive energy policy that can bring down gas prices. If in order to get that passed we have to compromise in terms of a careful, well thought out, drilling strategy that was carefully circumscribed to avoid significant environmental damage I don't want to be so ridged that we can't get something done."

[. . .]

KERRY: . . . Barack Obama doesn't want to drill offshore, doesn't believe it's the thing to do . . . He doesn't want to do that. But if that's what gets us to the energy independence . . . Here's the bottom line. Guess what. John McCain out of hand just rejected that proposal, telling The Wall Street Journal that it would result in raising taxes on the oil companies, on Exxon. Exxon Mobil made $12 billion last quarter alone. No American corporation has ever made that much money in history, and john McCain wants to protect it.

BROKAW: . . . He didn't want a rollback of the taxes. Those taxes were originally designed to create jobs. Exxon Mobil did make $11.68 billion.

LIEBERMAN: . . . The question is offshore drilling. We've got a crisis here. We're not only sending more than $700 billion a year to the Middle East and other places that don't like us much every time we go to the pump . . . John McCain sees the crisis and watch the reaction of McCain and Obama here. It will tell you what kind of president they might be. It tells you why McCain's experience gives him judgment and strength of decision that we need. John McCain says, we need alternative energy, yes, we're moving toward a low hydrocarbon future but John McCain says we need to drill offshore. That's American oil, we need to bring it into the market to help lower gas prices and make us energy independent. Barrack Obama says this weekend maybe . . .

[. . .]

KERRY: It is an absolutely fraudulent offering to America. Drilling -- let me tell you why. We only have three percent of the world oil reserves. 65% of the oil comes from the Mideast . . .

LIEBERMAN: . . . In the short-term, drill for American oil where we can find it and get it safely. That's offshore . . . John McCain presented the boldest alternative energy . . . proposals that are around today. The racial question here. I speak personally. In the first place, the McCain campaign is to use Barack Obama's words raising the question risky guy but it has nothing to do with his name or his skin color. It has to do with his lack of experience and bad judgment. His unreadiness to be president. When you use the expression that senator Obama did three times this week, you're making a personal insult to john McCain. I know john McCain, I've been with him for 20 years, private and public. This man does not have a bigoted bone in his body. His wife and he adopted a baby from Bangladesh who they love. It's just wrong for senator Obama to have done that. It was right for the campaign to call him on . . .

Fiorina Outlines McCain's Economic Plan Defends His Position on Social Security Taxes (CBS 08/03/08 10:40am)
BOB SCHIEFFER: . . . You heard what Mr. Ruben just said . . . that is that this economic situation could actually get worse. What is your take on the where things are right now and where we go from here?

CARLY FIORINA: Well, I certainly agree with him that the situation could get worse. And there are a couple of things that will make it worse. One is to raise taxes, which is what Senator Obama proposes to do. Another is to massively increase government spending, which is what senor Obama would propose to do over a trillion and a

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half in increased government spending. The third is to become isolationist and protectionist which senator Obama would . . . do. Conversely, Senator McCain has proposed a series of tax cuts including but not limited to giving every family with a dependent a doubling of the exemption for dependents . . . he's proposed to leave the capital gains tax right where it is as opposed to doubling is, which is what Barack Obama would do. That impacts 100 million Americans. He has proposed a comprehensive energy plan to wean us from our dependence on foreign oil. And as well he has proposed a plan to help keep Americans in their homes as we see the credit crisis continuing to get worse and finally, he is focused on accelerating job creation in this country and that means helping small businesses form and grow, because all businesses is the engine of growth in this economy.

SCHIEFFER: Let me just, that all sounds great and there's some good programs in there. But you know, last week the government announced that we have a $480 billion deficit. How do you do all of that? Surely this has to stop somewhere.

FIORINA: Well, first of all the deficit is a huge problem. And senator McCain has consistently said that he will make sure that we balance the budget by 2013. How is that possible? Well, couple of things. First, you have to get the economy growing again . . . That's why, by the way a comprehensive proposal for weaning ourselves off of foreign oil is so important. And by the way, Senator Obama has consistently opposed offshore drilling and yet it's clear that offshore drilling is an important part of comprehensive energy proposal . . . Secondly, we have to get government spending under control. John McCain has never asked for an earmark. He has promised he would veto every bill . . .

SCHIEFFER: Let me ask you about that because John McCain, the whole core of his campaign is the other guy is going to raise your taxes and I won't . . . John McCain seemed to back off a bit of that and said, well, when it comes to payroll taxes, saving Social Security that's just basically a negotiating point . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: I will say that everything has to be on the table if we're going to reach a bipartisan agreement. I've been in bipartisan negotiations before. I know how you reach a conclusion. We all have to sit down together with everything on the table.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOLOUS: That means payroll tax increase are on the table as well.

MCCAIN: There's nothing that's off the table. I have my positions. I'll articulate them. Nothing is off the table.

SCHIEFFER: How do you say, I'm not going to raise your taxes then say, but nothing is off the table.

FIORINA: First of all, Senator McCain, with his vast experience in bipartisan discussions understands that you don't begin a negotiation with an ultimatum . . . John McCain has been very explicit in saying he does not support an increase in payroll taxes . . . His record is very clear on that. And he has a number of economists who support his assertion that we can solve the Social Security and Medicare crisis but particularly social security without raising payroll taxes . . . But again you don't start a negotiation with an ultimatum. You start a negotiation with an open mind.

SCHIEFFER: But if that's what you're going to do, then how can you say, I promise you I won't raise your taxes? I mean, just seems like –

FIORINA: I think he's making –

SCHIEFFER: Two totally different things.

FIORINA: He's making his position very clear which is payroll tax increases are not the solution. He has been consistent in that position for the last many, many months, even as his opponent has proposed increases in payroll taxes. And in this regard he is supported by a number of noted economists, whether those are people from Marty Feldstein at Harvard or John Taylor at Stanford a whole lot of experts agree with him . . .

SCHIEFFER: All right. What programs would he cut specifically?

FIORINA: Well, one of the things that John McCain has said for many months now is that he would immediately

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institute a freeze in increases in discretionary spending for one year . . . I also know that when federal spending has increased 60% in the last seven years, there is a lot of fat, and a lot of opportunity to cut spending without cutting effective programs that make a difference to the American taxpayer.

Pfotenhauer Defends McCain Economic and Tax Policy Including tax Cuts for Exxon Mobile (CNN 08/03/08 11:00am)
NANCY PHOTENHAUER: I think it is rather amusing because Senator Obama has been dragged kicking and screaming into this situation and the only reason he is where he is right now. He claims he has not changed his position by the way on drilling. That is his words.

WOLF BLITZER: He says he is ready to support it if its part of this comprehensive package. And the questions to you is Senator McCain ready to support this compromise .

PHOTENHAUER: Senator McCain is open to compromise packages but the bottom line here and I think what the American people need to focus on is the fact that Senator Obama is only in this position now because it became patently obvious over the last weeks particularly not when Nancy Pelosi turned off the lights in the House of Representatives and Republican members refused to leave she had an insurrection in her own party because Pelosi and Reid at Obama's behest were refusing to move forward on drilling. So he, he is, he is now trying to get credit for being all of the above energy plan.

[…]

PHOTENHAUER: He is referring to the corporate rate reduction

BLITZER: Which Exxon Mobile would benefit from

PHOTENHAUER: Which Jason Forman, His top economic advisor supported up until he went to the campaign. We have the second worse corporate tax rate in the world. We are tied for last place with Japan. We have one tenth of one percent better. We got a 35 percent rate we are competing against countries like Ireland that have less then half that rate. And let me just circle this back to energy policy and taxes. Senator Obama is advocating at this time a windfall profits tax. It is economic masochism. The last time it was tried in this country it reduced domestic production and it increased prices for consumers at the pump. So it increases our reliance on foreign oil and it increases prices. It is absolutely a terrible energy policy at this time.

BLITZER: But with Exxon Mobile having record profits of 15 billion dollars over the last quarter, the last three months alone. Does Exxon Mobile need another Billion dollar tax break?

PHOTENHAUER: You don't do tax policy based on one company. You do tax policy based on what will spur economic growth and what will create jobs. And that is precisely the plan that Senator McCain has put together. Which is why 21 out of 29 economist surveyed said it would be better for the economy and even the tax policy center characterized the two plans, Senator McCain's as job producing and economic growth producing and Senator Obama's as progressive meaning he is re-slicing the pie. He is not growing the pie he is not creating jobs.

[…]

PHOTENHAUER: The tax policy center does not take into consideration spending side. Therefore any deficit production, prediction, they made is inherently flawed. And I'm talking all capitol letters flawed… the other thing about tax policy the tax policy center acts as if massive increases in taxes do not effect investment, they act as if massive tax cuts do not effect investments. Well guess what. Tax cuts spur investment tax increases depress it.

BLITZER: But Senator Obama says should these companies that ship jobs overseas continue to get tax breaks from the American public.

PHOTENHAUER: He, I don't even know what he is talking about. He is talking in such broad terms. The bottom line is we right now penalize companies for locating in this country… By the way tax policy center it's a liberal think tank. It is the equivalent; the equivalent on the right would be the heritage foundation. Just keep that in

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mind. It is run by Clinton administration people. Jason Forman worked for them. Up into about a month ago. So just keep that in mind when we cite them as if they are the oracle. Because they are not.

Highlight #3
Kurtz and Panel Discuss McCain's Muddled No New Taxes Message (CNN 08/03/08 10:15am)
HOWARD KURTZ: It seems like a straightforward question for journalist. Where does John McCain stand on raising taxes? He has ruled it out throughout his campaign. But last week he had this to say during a discussion of social security with ABC's George Stephanopoulos.

[Clip of McCain's "This Week" Interview 7/27/08}

KURTZ: But then McCain's old spokesman seemed to contradict the boss.

[Video clip of FNC interview with Tucker Bounds]

TUCKER BOUNDS: … there is no imaginable circumstance where John McCain would raise payroll taxes it is absolutely out of the question.

KURTZ: The media take is that McCain changed his position, fair or unfair?

ROGER SIMON: Well when you say nothing you can get accused of saying anything. The fact is McCain has said he is not going to raise taxes and then he goes on the same show and say's everything is on the table . The only two real solutions for Social Security are raising taxes or cutting benefits. So you know this double speak, this non-speak is really one of the reasons people hate politics…

[…]

A.B. STODDARD: He is doing a straddle. He is on the fence and when he goes to the new side it will be a flip flop. What he is trying to do is say two things at the same time. He is trying to say, oh I will never raise taxes, everyone knows I have opposed all tax increases, he always says, but everything will be on the table in these discussions he said it eight times in four questions… he is trying to say both things at the same time

[…]

SIMON: Our most finally tuned meter is the hypocrisy meter… McCain's case he had the opportunity it is not just going back to what he said, it is going back and then forward and then back and you don't know what he said by the end of the day which is exactly what they want to do.
--
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From:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To:	Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date:	7/26/2015 9:52:31 AM
Subject:	Iran

Dear Jake,

At our offices tomorrow, I am hosting the. Geo-Political Group for the Jewish People's Policy Institute (JPPI) of Jerusalem, which Dennis and I co-chair. We will have the heads of ADL, AIPAC, The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, and the leadership of major UJA Federations (e.g. NY and Chicago), along with several of our security experts from Jerusalem (e.g. former general Michael Herzog, Avi Gill, and Einat Wilf).

Secretary Kerry's remark Friday that the international community might blame Israel if Congress blocked the Iran deal and Israel might "wind up being more isolated", is truly outrageous. While Hillary obviously cannot take him on directly, she could stress the following, building on her Iran statement:

1. While she supports the Iran agreement, she understands and the American people need to understand the depth of feeling across party lines in Israel, and that 70 years after the Holocaust, they believe an Iranian nuclear weapon is a genuine existential threat to Israel.

2. As she said in her statement, she will give all our allies in the region all the means, including military means, to defend themselves.

3. The US will be willing to discuss a public pledge with Israel and our Arab allies, in which Iran would be told any attack against them would be seen as an attack against the US, and as with Article 5 of NATO and our commitment to Japan, we would act accordingly with the full force of our resources.

Jake, at his initiative, Secretary of Energy Moniz gave me a 35 minute telephonic briefing on the agreement, and invited me to meet with him personally this week. There is one element of the briefing about which I was deeply troubled. I do not want to put it in writing. Please call (202-549-4454 or 202-549-5776) when you have a minute.

Best wishes,

Stu

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From: "Maggie Feldman-Piltch" <mfeldmanpiltch@americansecurityproject.org>
To: John <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/15/2015 11:50:58 AM
Subject: Upcoming Select Events from American Security Project

Friends of ASP: Special Event Announcement

View this email in your browser

American Security Project

Special Event Announcement

Friends of ASP,

With our Fall programming well underway, I wanted to direct your attention to a few select events that are quickly reaching capacity: A Conversation with Tony de Brum, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and TPP-Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership for Global and Regional Stability. Further details can be found below.

Should your schedule allow for you to join us for one or both events please let me know so I may reserve seating and time with the featured speaker(s) on your behalf.

We are also excited to share the details of this year's ASP Holiday Party -- and official launch celebration for the Business Council for American Security -- on December 15 at 1776's brand new Crystal City location. A formal invitation will follow in the coming weeks.

Recent Publications

Winning the Social Media War on ISIS
There is no war online against ISIS in which the United States can seize victory, because there is no online victory to be seized. "Winning" a war implies specific objectives that can actually be met. On the internet, there is no clear ground to be gained, and no reliable way to measure success when it comes to countering violent extremism—as many have mentioned, you can't measure if someone decides to not join ISIS.
Click here for more .

Cyber Security: Risk, Resilience, Recovery – Event Summary

Keynote Address: The Keynote Speech | Cyber Security: Risk, Recovery, and Resilience
Panel One: Lessons from OPM Hack
Panel Two: Cyber Security & Consequences for the Military
Panel Three: Defense, Diplomacy, and Deterrence

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Very respectfully,
Maggie Feldman-Piltch

Upcoming Events

Climate Change, Diplomacy, and National Security – A Conversation with Foreign Minister Tony de Brum, Marshall Islands: Join ASP for a conversation with Minister de Brum on October 28 from 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM with lunch availability from 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM. At this event, ASP will formally launch a new Perspective Paper – "Climate Diplomacy and American Leadership." Copies will be available. If you are interested in attending this event, please let me know and I would be happy to reserve seats on your behalf. Contact.

Dinner with Secretary Hagel and the ASP Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees will convene on the evening of November 17th for a dinner formally welcoming Secretary Hagel back to ASP. Four-Star BCAS member organizations will receive an invitation to attend and the opportunity to meet with the full Board and join us in celebrating Secretary Hagel's return. For information on BCAS membership: Contact.

TPP: Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership for Global and Regional Stability: November 19 from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM with lunch availability from 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM. This event will include a panel discussion featuring key leaders well versed in the economic and security impact of free trade from the United States, Japan and Australia and conclude with a keynote address from Representative Don Beyer (D, VA-8), former Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein and ASP Board Member. If you are interested in attending this event, please let me know and I would be happy to reserve seats on your behalf. Contact.

ASP Holiday Party: *Save the date for this year's ASP Holiday Party on December 15th at 1776's brand new Crystal City location.* ASP will host a private end-of-year gathering for Business Council for American Security members, members of our Consensus for American Security, Board of Trustees, our adjunct fellow network, and other friends of the organization. Join us for drinks and hors d'oevours from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Formal invitation to follow.

Iceland, Like all Arctic Nations, is Drilling for Oil
The melting of the arctic sea ice has opened the prospects for oil drilling for arctic nations such as Iceland. Iceland will continue to seek methods that can offset their oil import independence, and will likely to do so until alternate means of energy arise.
Click here for more .

The Arctic at the Center of World Affairs
America is an Arctic nation, and has been since the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 for $7.2 million dollars in gold, about two cents an acre. Then called "Seward's Folly," that decision would prove to be one of the most consequential for America, the people of Alaska, and the world.
Click here for more .

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Julie McClain" <jmcclain@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Lorella Praeli" <lpraeli@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Meredith Thatcher" <mthatcher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/16/2015 12:16:22 PM
Subject:	Daily Media Report 7.16.15

National:

-- Host discusses the concern that the GOP is going to end up being in a world that has left it behind if it doesn't adjust its social values. Says that right now, given the climate of the party, conservative gays and Hispanics are going to vote for HRC. There is a huge problem for Republicans that the people that support Donald Trump and Ted Cruz prevent the party from modernizing. Says that when Bill Clinton came along, Democrats were able to change the way they were viewed. Laments the fact that both parties are becoming more extreme and says HRC is turning into Bernie Sanders. Squawk Box . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump;Bernie Sanders,Commentary,National,Commentary on GOP being outdated.mp4

-- Coverage of a new poll which says HRC is viewed favorably by 52% of Americans, up from 45% in May. Also says that 45% view her unfavorably, down from 49% in May. Shows nearly 59% would vote for HRC in the primary. Another poll shows what would happen if Biden entered the race, noting that 13% say they would vote for him and 43% of Democrats say they are likely to switch support if Biden runs. Mika says she people don't think Biden will run. Howard Dean comments that HRC's campaign has been taking the slow and steady. Says she is echoing the same themes as Bernie and Elizabeth Warren and her very first meetings in Iowa were about wages and immigration reform. Says HRC may have driven the media crazy, but she didn't let the press hijack her message, she just kept steadily on her message which works for her. Says she is determined to run her campaign the way she thinks she should, not the way anyone else does, and Dean thinks that's a smart thing for her to do. Morning Joe .2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Howard Dean Comments on HRC campaign strategy.mp4

-- Report on WSJ story from this morning which said that Wall Street has been opening its wallet for Jeb Bush and HRC. Says that Jeb Bush has received considerable contributions from Goldman Sachs and 7 other big banks and HRC has received 300,000 from employees at the nation's 6 largest banks. Anthony Scaramucci says that we will continue to see an overwhelming amount of money going to both candidates. Scaramucci, who admits to being with Scott Walker, says that the money doesn't matter as much as the ideas. Dagen McDowell says it will be interesting to watch HRC because she has not gone as far as Bernie when talking about regulating Wall Street and the money keeps going to her. Maria Bartiromo says that while HRC is receiving this money, she said in her last speech that she is going to hit Wall Street with more rules. Scaramucci says HRC is saying things but the public doesn't believe her because she's railing on Wall Street right now because of where Bernie is, but she won't stick with that position. McDowell asks if the primary voter will be bothered by that enough to not vote for her, but Scaramucci says no, she will get the nomination. Mornings with Maria Bartiromo . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton;Jeb Bush,Commentary,National,Commentary on Wall Street donations.mp4

--Stuart Varney comments on Uber being fined in California. Dagen McDowell says that HRC went after Uber in her economic agenda speech. Says HRC didn't name names but she is going right after the sharing sector of the economy. Varney says the government is trying to go after innovation. Points out the Democrats have controlled California for years and now they are turning reactionary against innovation. Mornings with Maria Bartiromo . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on sharing economy regulation.mp4

-- Report on HRC's entitlement plan. Varney says HRC wants universal pre-k. Says she went further because she wants all kids taken care of from birth through age 4. Says that is more than universal pre-k. Guest says HRC is going very far left in the primary but you might see her go further to the center to win the general election. Varney says HRC staked out a leftist position and she specifically said 0-4 year old pre-k. Says it's difficult to take this back. Says she knows it'll be spun to say Republicans don't want kids to go to pre-k. Varney & Company . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Varney attacks HRC pre-k plan.mp4

-- Martha MacCallum comments on FEC reports. Notes that HRC raised $45 million and spent more than $18 million. Monica Crowley joins the show and says Trump is gaining traction because he is very rich and, since Obama has been in office, the left has waged war on success and achievement and wealth. Says this country has always been an aspirational country and demonizing the rich goes against our culture and says Trump is unapologetic about his wealth. Doug Shoen says the principle concern people have today is income inequality and Trump is voicing some concerns that the American people have about the game being rigged, such as immigration, but doesn't think Trump will be elected. MacCallum says the Republicans need to pick someone who will win and new poll doesn't show Trump doing well against HRC. Shoen says that while HRC may have had some slippage recently, she is the acknowledged front-runner and her cash haul was respectable. MacCallum reports that HRC raised over $45 million but has already spent 40% of that. Shows poll saying that 66% of people don't think the word honest describes HRC while 31% believe the word describes her somewhat well. Shoen says when HRC has such a diverse field on the Republican side, she is at an advantage because she has so far avoided getting into the fray. America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer-Martha MacCallum . 2015 07

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16,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump,Commentary,National,Doug Shoen on HRC vs. Republican field.mp4

-- Report of HRC holding a town hall with voters in New Hampshire and then stumping at a grassroots organizing event. Says that the trip comes at an important time for the campaign after finance report was released yesterday saying that while she is bringing in big money, she is significantly lagging among small, grassroots donors. Paul Steinhauser joins from New Hampshire to comment on Bernie Sanders' increase in popularity. Says that one of the things Sanders has done is consolidate Elizabeth Warren voters, those voters who are not too crazy about HRC. Says HRC still leads in polls and money, but Bernie Sanders leads in enthusiasm. Steinhauser says the Clinton campaign was going to grow to large town halls regardless of what Bernie Sanders is doing. The Rundown with Jose Diaz-Balart. 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC to hold town hall in NH.mp4

-- Coverage of HRC's profit sharing plan roll-out. Ed Conard says what this is meant to do is connect the success of the 1% with the stagnant wages of the middle class, when in fact there are very different forces at work. Trish Regan says HRC is in a tough spot because Bernie Sanders is moving increasingly to the left and is generating enthusiasm among her base. Richard Fowler says Bernie has been the rising star over the last few months and the plan HRC is rolling out is another way for her to say she is a champion for the middle class. Fowler disagrees and says the idea of companies sharing their wages with workers is a good incentive for workers. Conard says the supply of labor is going to drive the price of labor, so we cannot legislate wage increases without job decreases. The Intelligence Report with Tish Regan . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Report on HRC profit-sharing plan.mp4

-- Report on new poll numbers about HRC's favorability rating. Shows AP-GFK poll which says 39% have a favorable rating of HRC and 49% unfavorable while an ABC-Washington Post poll shows 52% favorable and 45% unfavorable. Larry Sabato joins to discuss poll results. He says don't trust early polling and says regardless of the numbers, HRC has looked defensive, sheltered by her campaign and unwilling to engage, and over time that will have an impact along with controversies surrounding her. Host says HRC has a higher unfavorability than Obama right now. Says Obama's favorability numbers next year are going to be very important. Says HRC is following WJC's untrustworthy/honesty low ratings in 1992. Host says HRC's unfavorability has increased in the last three months. Sabato says things like roping off the press show that HRC campaign staff is making a lot of mistakes, but HRC is nearly guaranteed the nomination. Sabato says HRC's attempt to seem relatable by going to Chipotle and taking the van were ineffective and the storyline that came out of that was she was being kept from real voters because the people she met with were essentially prescreened. Says if you are going to run for president, you take chances every day. Says most of the candidates are going out and meeting with voters who they have no idea what they are going to say, they take questions from the press almost daily, and that is what they are expected to do. Happening Now . 2015 07 15,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Larry Sabato comments on recent polls.mp4

-- Highlights Washington Post poll which shows 52% of Americans viewing HRC favorably vs 45% in May. Mark Murray says HRC brought in an impressive haul of $45 million. Says as far as her poll numbers go, they will go up and down. Says there's so much already baked into HRC, there's so much name recognition and a lot of people already know how they feel about her. Says we just need to wait and see if there has been a big shift, and right now he attributes any change to statistical noise. News Nation . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Mark Murray comments on HRC polling.mp4

-- Commentary on Bill Clinton saying he made a mistake with his crime bill. Reporter says HRC has made criminal justice reform a big part of her campaign this time around, but she was right beside WJC in 1994 pushing really hard for this bill. Asks if this is political, but Paul Begala says no, this shift is represented by the conversation going in a different direction. He says nothing is every perfect, but the law did a lot of good things, but this piece of it for non-violent drug offenders was harmful. At This Hour with Berman and Bolduan . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Discussion of WJC crime bill apology.mp4

-- Coverage of FEC reports. Reporter says the GOP field combined is bringing in four times more money than the Clinton Cash machine. Says HRC is bringing in money from the big donors and lobbyists, but she can still really improve with small, grassroots donors. Says that's where Bernie Sanders is beating everyone, and that's where Obama was beating HRC in 2008. Says those are the people who vote for you. Cavuto: Coast to Coast. 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on HRC FEC Report.mp4

-- Report of Jeb Bush taking an Uber today. Reporter says this is just days after HRC took a swing at the sharing economy during her economic agenda speech. Host says this is a microcosm for big government vs. small government. Closing Bell . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on Jeb Bush taking an Uber.mp4

-- Report on new poll of Democratic voters show Bernie Sanders making gains on HRC. Notes that HRC is down 9 points since April. Kirsten Powers says it's very early and we have to take it with a grain of salt. Says Bernie Sanders' and Donald Trump's popularity show that people are looking for someone who is not the standard politician. Other panelist says HRC has tremendous name recognition but can still only get 51%. Sandra Smith asks what will happen to HRC if Biden jumps into the race. Host says that HRC is most likely to get the nomination because she has most of the super delegates behind her. Says HRC has supporters on Wall Street at Goldman and Larry Fink has Cheryl Mills on his board so there is a lot of Wall Street guys who like HRC but people on Wall Street are terrified of Donald Trump right now. Outnumbered . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton;Donald Trump;Bernie Sander,Commentary,National,Panel on HRC's poll results.mp4

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-- Reporter says it was clear that HRC was going to rake in the most cash on the Democratic side. Says not including outside groups, she brought in over $45 million. Says Bernie Sanders' numbers are more interesting because there is momentum behind his campaign which can be seen in the number of grassroots supporters he has, which is something that HRC is lacking.Bloomberg Markets . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,Commentary on FEC reports.mp4

-- Report on HRC's fundraising numbers. Says that Elon Musk is one of the donors as well as Steven Spielberg, Sheryl Sandberg, and Jeffrey Katzenberg are among the biggest donors of her campaign in the last quarter. Mark Crumpton joins the show and notes that Sheryl Sandberg told Bloomberg in April that she would like to see HRC as president. Says these donors are not surprising since Hollywood and Silicon Valley tend to go Democrat. Host says this is good evidence for Republicans who say HRC is out of touch with the general public and mixes among the elites. Bloomberg Markets . 2015 07 16,Hillary Clinton,Commentary,National,HRC receives big money from Hollywood.mp4

Spanish:

-- Report on Univision poll of Hispanic voters. Bipartisan poll of 1,400 registered Hispanic voters. Said that if the election were held today, HRC would win with 64% of the vote, with Jeb Bush being the runner-up with 27% of the vote. If the Republican primary were held today, Bush would win with 40% of the vote, followed by Rubio with 22% and Cruz with 8%. "Interestingly," 68% of those polled didn't care if a candidate speaks Spanish. Asked about Donald Trump's comments on Mexican immigrants, "their rejection was overwhelming." Showed a clip of Trump's comments in his launch speech and says that those comments are "still fresh in the memories of many Hispanic voters"--79% said his comments were offensive. Then cuts to one of the people who conducted the poll that found that there was no difference in the perception of those comments between Mexicans and Hispanics of other nationalities in finding Trump's comments offensive. Shows Republican Florida Congressman Diaz-Balart who says that he recognizes that Trump's comments aren't helping Republicans but that he'll never actually become the candidate. The poll showed that only 14% of voters think that Trump's comments represent the GOP's beliefs, and 61% believe it represents only Trump's views. One of the Democratic analysts still doesn't think that it will be easy for Republicans to disassociate themselves from Trump if he gets so much support in states. 74% of those polled also supported corporate decisions to cut off relations with Trump. Noticiero Univision. 2015 07 15 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Donald Trump Clips, National, Noticiero Univision Hispanic Voters Poll

-- Report on Jeb Bush coming to San Francisco and HRC performance on polls. Said he will be visiting the company Thumbtack to highlight innovative companies. Then says that "a poll reveals that each time there are less people that support presidential candidate Hillary Clinton." Said that a poll showed that 39% of voters said they were in favor of Clinton while 50% said the opposite. It also said that 40% of voters considered HRC "altruistic" and 37% considered her "inspiring." Noticiero Telemundo (San Francisco). 2015 07 16 Hillary Clinton Jeb Bush Clips, National, Noticiero Telemundo Jeb in SF, HRC Poll Results

-- Report on Jeb Bush coming to San Francisco on Thursday and riding an Uber. Bush was going to campaign and take an Uber to show his support for innovative companies like Uber. Repeated report from before saying that HRC criticized those types of innovative companies because, while they've brought innovation and development, many do not protect workers adequately. Says that HRC specifically called out Uber. Al Despertar, Univision (in San Francisco). 2015 07 16 Jeb Bush Hillary Clinton Clips, National, Al Despertar Univision Bush HRC Uber

-- Report on HRC rejecting Trump's comments on immigration at the NCLR conference. At the conference she said that his comments about Mexican immigrants deserve only one word: "Basta! Enough!" Trump then responded to her on his Facebook page that she should focus on finding her lost emails and that she know who will win the Republican primary, hence why she doesn't respond to Jeb Bush. Noticias Univision . 2015 07 15 Hillary Clinton Donald Trump Clips, National, Noticias Univision HRC on Trump at NCLR

-- Report on Trump being at the top of the polls among Republican candidates. In a recent poll, Trump led the GOP field with 17%, followed by Jeb Bush with 14%. More reporting on Trump filing his FEC forms and how his

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comments on immigrants turns some voters off from voting for him. Noticiero Telemundo . 2015 07 16 Donald Trump Jeb Bush Clips, National, Noticiero Telemundo Trump Leading Polls Bush 2nd

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From:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Ron Klain" <ron.klain@revolution.com> "Karen Dunn" <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com> jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com kcosta@hillaryclinton.com ssolow@hillaryclinton.com jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> creynolds@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	1/17/2016 3:06:44 AM
Subject:	Fwd: CLIP | NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nick Baer <nbaer@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: January 17, 2016 at 9:47:53 AM EST
To: HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: CLIP | NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

NBC's Meet The Press: Interview with Bernie Sanders

Link: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=95f60a8d-a842-40b1-bcea-b1a96e194209

Rough Transcript

CHUCK TODD: let me start with one of the issues that's likely to come up tonight at the debate, that's the issue of gun safety. last night in what the clinton campaign is referring to as a debate-eve conversion you came out in favor of essentially repealing immunity for gun manufacturers when it comes to being held liable for gun deaths. that's a switch of your positions. what brought you to this conclusion?

BERNIE SANDERS: well, not really. you know, i understand that secretary clinton and her campaign understand that, you know, they're losing ground. we've started this campaign off 359% in the poll at 3% in the polls, we're closing in in iowa and we're ahead in new hampshire. so i sense in the next few weeks you'll see more --

CHUCK TODD: but you did change your position on this.

BERNIE SANDERS: what i said several months ago, having a d-minus voting record from the nra, voting to ban assault weapons in 1988, yeah, that was a piece of legislation i wanted to relook at. but what that legislation had is a prohibition on armor-piercing bullets, it had language for a child lock safety for our kids, important provision. there were things i do not like and i was willing to rethink. we have rethought it. there's a bill apparently being introduced, i like that bill, it makes good changes and we will be supportive of it.

CHUCK TODD: another thing that will come up on the issue of gun safety is the issue of a waiting period. the clinton campaign is hitting you on not being supportive of something longer like a five day or seven day window and the reason this is being brought up is if dylann roof, the man who killed those nine folks in charleston last year, if there had been a longer waiting period he might have been prevented from buying a gun.

BERNIE SANDERS: look, what we saw in charleston is a tragedy of unspeakable dimensions. i did some pray a guy did prayer with people then takes out a gun and shoots nine people. i believe very strongly in instant background checks. i think we have to expand it and make sure 100% that we keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have that, people with criminal backgrounds, people who are mentally unstable. that has been my view from day one. but you know, chuck, i think the reason the clinton campaign is getting defense sieve they see that we have the momentum. they see the issues we are talking about, a disappearing middle-class and new income and going to the top 1%, a corrupt campaign finance system where people like secretary clinton can raise millions of dollars through super pacs,

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those are the issues they don't want to discuss so tonight we're going to be discussing a lot of issues and the main issues is why the rich get richer, almost everybody else gets poorer and the fact that we have got to stand up to the billionaire class and change those dynamics.

CHUCK TODD: so you're in in favor of a longer background check? a five, seven-day background check?

BERNIE SANDERS: we are willing to look at anything that makes sense, that keeps guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. but i'm not going to be defensive on that issue. i lost an election in 1988, probably lost an election because i had the courage back then to say assault weapons should not be sold in america.

CHUCK TODD: let me ask you quickly about the iran deal. is iran still an enemy of the united states given what's going on? the improved diplomatic relations?

BERNIE SANDERS: it's funny. if you think back to 2007 during the campaign in which secretary clinton ran against barack obama she was critical of him, a question was asked to obama and said "would you sit down and talk to the iranians?" and he said "yeah, i would." point bag in you talk to your adversaries, you don't run away from that. secretary clinton i think called him naive. turns out that obama was right so clearly we have many, many issues and many concerns with iran but clearly also we want to improve our relationship with this very powerful country. i think the agreement to make certain iran does not get a nuclear weapon was a huge step forward. the fact we have the prisoner release was a good important step forward. so i hope we can continue to go forward to improve relations with iran.

CHUCK TODD: senator sanders, i'll leave it there. we'll look forward to seeing you, secretary clinton and martin o'malley on stage on nbc thank you, sir. it's going to be a humdinger of a debate. you heard senator sanders there mentioned hillary clinton in almost every single answer.

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRR" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrr+unsubscribe@hillaryclinton.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com .

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/23/2008 11:51:40 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Sarasota, FL 10/23/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately we weren't able to send a tracker to this event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online-streaming video. Below are the notes from that effort.

Big Highlights

- says Palin's "far more qualified than joe the Biden"
- Bob the Boat Builder gives intro -- explains how early '90s luxury tax devastated his and other businesses before it was repealed (and it didn't even produce the revenue they wanted)
    - also says Obama's plan "smacks of socialism" -- S-corps would be badly affected -- small business owners are scared of it-- it'd result in job loss
- Says important Dem committee member said Dems will concentrate on taxing the rich to pay for spending
    - Obama helped pass a tax incr. on those making $42k -- no wonder he thinks there are a lot of really rich ppl, when $42k is your standard
    - Catchy phrase of the event: Obama may say he's gonna soak the rich, its the middle class thats gonna get wet.
- Acknowledges new jobless #s -- says obama's tax increases would put more ppl out of work
- Repeats attack on obama for adding a work requirement to his tax plan, which proves he'll say anything to get elected
- Continues to hammer Biden crisis comments showing Obama is "untested"
- Repeats insistence on letting states share the revenues from offshore drilling

Sarasota, FL: McCain Rally 10/23/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- Charlie Crist
    - are you ready for a McCain victory? we got 12 days, you know what to do. GOTV. vote for john mccain and sarah mccai-- sarah palin! honor to intro you to small business man, thats right, a wonderful guy - bob builds boats here in Sarasota
- Bob Long
    - wow, this is exciting. i bet theres a lot of Joe The Plumbers here - its great to be part of a Joe The Plumber tour - i have a lot in common w/ him, also differences - 1 is last name. his is wurzebaker, a long name. mine is "long," a short name. hes a plumber, im a boat builder. difference is he was concerned what would happen to his tax rate if he were to buy his co. he was told he'd be taxed to spread the wealth.
    - the diff is i have already experienced what happens to a business when additional taxes are imposed on a company.
    - facts: most of you have probably heard of Welcraft Marine - i was president for 17 yrs. we were quite successful. in early 90s, congress passed a luxury tax. it backfired. it didnt work. it devastated the boat business. thousands lost jobs, companies shut down. and the entire amount of money they raised before they repealed it was less than Welcraft paid in fed taxes in 1 yr. it stymied

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growth. Congress came to senses and repealed the tax. but it was too late for me, i had lost my job. i had 6 kids, 4 in college. i started a new company, Marine Concepts. we're doing ok, making some margins, but we're very concerned about obama's plan.
  - obama thinks $250k is enough, but an S-corp is taxed as an individual. we cant afford additional taxes. if they taxed more so govt could spread the wealth, it smacks of socialism. [they're lying to us!] itd result in job loss
  - at my company now, we give good benefits. we dont need his plan to take away our money and try to spread it around
  - good news: we have GOP candidate who is totally against tax increases. he's constantly, continually voted against them. he believes in less taxes and spending by govt
  - besides being ready to lead, he supports free enterprise and small business. he'll cut taxes, reduce spending and lead country to new heights.
  - im extremely proud and honored to intro next president, sen. john mccain

- Cindy McCain also on stage

Speech Highlights

TY bob. TY. [crowd cheers] TY bob the boat builder! can i say TY to great gov. Crist, a great man and a great leader? he believes in lower taxes, less spending, giving you bakc your money and restoring economy. behind me is person who will make great FLOTUS, cindy mccain. Cindy says when she speaks we and the palins are proud to have 3 sons in active duty of military. TY. and how about Sarah palin, huh? [cheers] can you believe how shes being attacked? its remarkable. most popular gov. in america, negotiated $40B pipeline project. shes been mayor, gov, city council, shes a reformer, and i can hardly wait. shes far more qualified than joe the Biden.

wonderful to be back in FL. part of my time in Navy and some of best memories were spent serving Navy in FL.

some ST: we need to win FL on nov 4 and w/ your help we're gonna win FL.TY, marine mom. Thank all of you.

could i ask our vets and their fams to raise their hands? TY!

heard a lot of words, after months of campaign trail eloquence, we've finally learned obama's econ. goal: he wants to spread the wealth around. he believes in redistributing wealth not in policies that grow jobs and economy.

he may say he's gonna soak the rich, its the middle class thats gonna get wet.

to pay for $1T of new spending, his tax incr would affect 50% small business owners and affect 16M who employed by them. can i ask small business owners to raise hands?

our econ in trouble. weve lost over 700k jobs, but 300k have been created by small businesss. we shouldnt be taxing small businesses more as obama wants to do. we need to help them expand busienss and create jobs. these ppl have obtained dream Joe The Plumber wants. Obama wants to spread their wealth around. exactly the wrong approach in econ. slowdown. just today we receievd news that jobless claims increased by 15k. his plan would put more ppl out of work. the answer is not higher taxes, but thats exaclty whatll happen if Dems have total control of Cong. we wont let that happen.

we've already seen outline of their plans: tax and spend. chair of important committee said theyre gonna concentrate on incr'ing spending and there are a lot of very rich ppl we can tax. really?? w/ pelosi, reid and obama, recipe for tax and spend.

plan they passed this yr w/ obamas help called for raising taxes on ppl making just $42k. no wonder he thinks there are a lot of really rich ppl out there, everyone is rich when $42k is your standard.

we learned obama's plan is like welfare, so he added a work requirement. 13 days before election. b/c american ppl didnt like his plan. he'll say anything to get elected.

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he's more concerned about using taxes to spread the welath than creating policies to grow economy. our tax plan is real thing, we'll double child deduction, cut cap gains, keep american businesses in america.

as joe and small business owners across country have reminded us, america hasnt become greatest nation by giving money to govt to spread the wealth around, we spread opportunities to those who create jobs.

you know the next pres wont have time to get used to the office. many challenges at home and aborad. this weekend, biden guaranteed if obama is elected, we will have internatl criss

Next president wont have time to get used to office. Lots of challenges. Ill bring troops home in honor and victory ,not in defeat. Obama woud have them come home in defeat [someone yells "un-american!"]

Biden crisis. We don't want a president that invites crisis. Obama tried to explain this away saying it was a "rhetorical flourish" - really? really? what he means i Biden accidently delivered some straight talk to America.

Biden referred to how jack Kennedy was tested in crisis. I had a little personal experience with that. i was a navy pilot on USS enterprise and I was ready to go to nuclear war. I know how close we came to nuclear war. i will not be a president that needs to be tested. I have been tested, he has not.

it shows in the way we respond to tests. Obama told camp donors that when crisis hits, they would have to stand with him b/c it wouldnt be apparent that obama would have right response. forget apparent. We know he wont have the right response.

obama says if you want to know how he'll respond, look at what he's done in his campaign. his campaign? We've seen the wrong response over and over. he was against surge. ill bring our troops home but ill bring them home in honor not defeat.

he said he'd sit down unconditional with world's worst dictators, including castro brothers. when russia invaded georgia, he said the invaded country should show restraint. He's been wrong on all these things.

we cant spend next 4 yrs as we have the last 8, waiting for our luck change. We need a new direction and we have to fight for it.

I've been fighting for this country since 17 and have scar to prove it. if im elected pres, I'll fight to shake up Washington and take america in new direction from my first day in office until my last. I'm not afraid of the fight, im ready for it.

i'm Not gonna spend 750 billion to bailout WS bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. ill make sure we take care of the working ppl who were devastated by excessed of WS and DC. we all know what triggered this mess: Sub prime crisis. we have to protect the value of your home. Buy mortgages, refinance so ppl can stay in home. Realize the American dream, keep people in their homes. lets stop taking care of WS and take care of the homeowners, let them

i have plan to let retirees and those nearing it keep their money invested so they dont lose their savings.

Raising taxes makes bad economy worse. keeping taxes low creates jobs. obama wants to raise your taxes to pay for $1T in new spending.

Explosion of gov spending over the last 8 yrs has put us into debt to foreign countries that don't like us. it weakened the dollar. I wont spend more of your money, Obama will and he want without taxing or debt. Government will live on budget like you. Ill freeze government spending on all but most important programs like defense, vet care, SS and HC until we scrub every govt program and get rid of the ones not working. Ill veto every single pork barrel and you'll know their names. 1 million a day in pork for Obama. You need jobs.

if im--when i'm elected presidnet, I wont make it harder to sell our goods overseas. ill open new mkts for goods made in america and Make sure trade is free and fair. Obama wants to raise taxes. Last time – depression.

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those who dont learn History lessons are doomed to repeat, i know my history and I wont make the same mistake Obama seeks to repeat.

when I'm elected, we'll stop spending 750B to pay countries that dont like us very much.

I acknowledge Obamas eloquence, he said he would "consider" off shore drilling. We'll drill here and drill now. you need to get a lot more of those revenues to stay in FL if we're gonna drill offshore the state. You deserve it.

obama wants to delay drilling and opposes new nucl pwr plants. we'll Invest in all alternatives. Manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric cars. we'll invest in clean coal tech. we'll lower the costs within months and Create millions of new jobs in america.

Straight talk – less than 2 wks. . America needs a fighter, who puts all cards on table. I have fought for you most of life. there are other ways to love this country but ive never been one to do it from the sidelines. I know you're worried. America is great but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future.

Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

I am an American and I choose to fight.
Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight.

Fight for a new direction for our country. Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for our children's future.

Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies.

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Now, let's go win this election and get this country moving again.

TY and god bless you and god bless the united states of America. I need your help. Thank you and god bless…

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail lori@progressiveaccountability.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 5:39:37 PM
Subject: Re: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

With Anzo. Enough strong stuff without it. Can we get Qs in polls on how important DMR endorsement is? Also should tests which line is most influential?
When are we in field?

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:40 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> You're such a nice guy Anzo .... But yeah probably right
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Jan 23, 2016, at 6:23 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:
>
> > I would let that part go. I think it is more insulting than helpful for our message contrast.
> >
> > John Anzalone
> > Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
> > 334-387-3121. Office
> > @AnzaloneLiszt
> >
> > On Jan 23, 2016, at 5:14 PM, Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
> > > Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
> > > Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
> > > My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > Begin forwarded message:
> > >
> > > From: Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > Date: January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
> > > To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
> > >
> > > # DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience
> > >
> > > If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.
> > >
> > > Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

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On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Programthat provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more fromher on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

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Buy Photo

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

Buy Photo

Fullscre













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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From:	seizenstat@gmail.com
To:	"Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
Date:	7/13/2015 7:43:00 PM
Subject:	Re: Iran

Great. Please favor me with the latest draft statement.
Stu
------Original Message------
From: Jacob (Jake) J. Sullivan
To: Stuart E. Eizenstat
Cc: John D. Podesta
Cc: Huma M. Abedin
Subject: Re: Iran
Sent: Jul 13, 2015 10:31 AM

Very much agree and that is plan.

> On Jul 13, 2015, at 3:33 AM, seizenstat@gmail.com wrote:
>
> Dear Jake,
>
> With the nuclear deal now seemingly finished, I would suggest that Hillary not put out an instant response, but her spokesperson could say it is a detailed document and she wants to review it before commenting. Of course, as we have discussed, she will be supportive. But genuinely the devil is in the details--e.g. What level of inspections of military facilities? What answers to PMDs and access to scientists amd experts? What phasing of sanctions? A modest delay of a day will make clear she is not simply supporting the agreement sight unseen. Also. It will be useful to get the responses of experts like Einhorn and Albright and Samore.
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Stu
> Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

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From: "Matt Paul" <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 3:37:03 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

I don't think so.

On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the

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outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

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I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Here is latest draft
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 8:41:06 AM
Subject: RE: Call with HRC

Fair point. Some days I'm very slow.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:40 AM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; ha16@hillaryclinton.com; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com; sbay@hillaryclinton.com; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I was kidding!

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:

> Not ninnies.
>
> We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

> **From:** Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
> **To:** Matt Paul
> **Cc:** Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
> **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
>
> Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>
> > Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight
> >
> > On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
> > I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
> >
> > > That's because you love your own joke.
> > >
> > > But I think it is okay.
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
> > >
> > > > I don't think so.
> > > >
> > > > On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> wrote:
> > > > LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

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Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

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On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

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She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 8/13/2015 9:21:58 AM
Subject: Re: Iran riff

If we are doing this in Iowa I think it needs to be shorter and more punch around standing with POTUS.

On Aug 13, 2015 3:19 PM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Passionate arguments doesn't seem great to me either.
>
> And I would drop the word "none".
>
> On Aug 13, 2015, at 2:59 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > But before we get into the politics, I want to say a few words about one of the most important decisions we face today.
> >
> > Across our country, Americans are considering and debating the nuclear agreement with Iran. Soon, it will come up for a vote in Congress. There are people of good faith on both sides of this issue, people who are committed to protecting our security and the security of our allies, especially Israel.
> >
> > President Obama and Secretary Kerry have worked hard to achieve this agreement and they are making passionate arguments for why it will keep us safe and close off avenues for Iran to get a bomb. Others, like my friend Senator Schumer, are deeply skeptical. I respect their concerns. I have no illusions about Iran's true intentions or its continuing threat to Israel, the region, and the United States. That threat is real and it must be confronted.
> >
> > But leadership is about hard choices. And to me, this one is clear. This agreement is the most effective path to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. There is no viable alternative. None. I support President Obama and I encourage everyone in Congress to do the same.
> >
> > As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That unprecedented pressure delivered a blow to Iran's economy and gave us leverage at the negotiating table, starting in Oman in 2012. We need to bring the same determination and unity to the job of enforcing this agreement and deterring Iranian aggression across the board. When this debate is over, we need to come together to ensure the President has the tools, resources, and support to send a clear message to Iran: Cheat, and you will pay. When you threaten Israel, you threaten America. And make no mistake, we will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement -- never.

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 5/27/2008 7:12:06 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech on Nuclear Security in Denver, CO

Hello Big Campaign,

Just off the phone with our tracker Greg who made it into today's event. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG Highlights: Anti-war demonstrators interrupt McCain's prepared remarks FOUR times (video clips available upon request; the files are too large to send over the google-group)

Denver, CO: McCain Speech on Nuclear Security

Background Details:
- Approximately 350 people in the audience; diverse crowd
- Tracker had no difficulty gaining entry
- Usual press in attendance - traveling national press and local affiliates; Fox News broadcast the event live
- Approximately 12 demonstrators outside of event; some carried signs for Hillary Clinton, others carried signs about chronic disease; unfortunately, tracker did not see any signs directly targeting McCain
- Two people came on stage with McCain -- 1) Greg McFay(sp) gave opening remarks and introduced Brown 2) former Senator Hank Brown gave remarks and then introduced McCain
- Former Senator Brown talked about McCain's foreign policy credentials; told story about how McCain had concerns going into Lebanon in the '80s because there were not clear goals and as a result, McCain voted against war; talked about Vietnam -- and how McCain has fought for normalizing relations with Vietnam; also said John is very careful about sending our troops into battle

Speech Highlights:
Link to text: http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/News/Speeches/e9c72a28-c05c-4928-ae29-51f54de08df3.htm

Remarks By John McCain on Nuclear Security
May 27, 2008

ARLINGTON, VA -- U.S. Senator John McCain delivered the following remarks as prepared for delivery at the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado, today at 10:00 a.m. MDT (12:00 p.m. EDT):
For much of our history, the world considered the United States a young country. Today, we are the world's oldest constitutional democracy, yet we remain a young nation. We still possess the attributes of youth -- spirit, energy, vitality, and creativity. America will always be young as long as we are looking forward, and leading, to a better world.

Innovative and energetic American leadership is as vital to the world's future today as it was during the Cold War. I have spent my life in public service working to ensure our great nation is strong enough to counter those who wish us ill. To be an effective leader in the 21st century, however, it is not enough to be strong. We must be a model for others. That means not only pursuing our own interests but recognizing that we share interests with peoples across our planet. There is such a thing as good international citizenship, and America must be a good citizen of the world—leading the way to address the danger of global warming and preserve our environment, strengthening existing international institutions and helping to build new ones, and engaging the world in a broad dialogue on the threat of violent extremists, who would, if they could, use weapons of mass destruction to attack us and our allies.

MCCAIN interrupted for the FIRST time by anti-war demonstrators during the paragraph above. Demonstrators were shouting, 'Support the troops, End the war.'

Today we also need to apply our spirit of optimism, energy, and innovation to a crisis that has been building for decades but is now coming to a head: the global spread of nuclear weapons. Forty-five years ago, President John F. Kennedy asked the American people to imagine what the world would look like if nuclear weapons spread beyond the few powers that then held them to the many other nations that sought them. "Stop and think for a moment," he said, "what it would mean to have nuclear weapons in so many hands, in the hands of countries large and small, stable and unstable, responsible and irresponsible, scattered throughout the world." If that happened, he warned, "there would be no rest for anyone."

***MCCAIN interrupted for the SECOND time by anti-war demonstrators during the paragraph above. Demonstrators were two young people shouting, 'End this war. End this war.' Demonstrators were removed from the event. At this point, McCain stopped the speech to say that he went to town halls all the time where people share

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their views, but people always respected the idea of not interfering with other people's right to free speech.***

Kennedy's warning resonates more today than ever before. North Korea pursues a nuclear weapons program to the point where, today, the dictator Kim Jong-Il has tested a nuclear weapon, and almost certainly possesses several more nuclear warheads. And it has shared its nuclear and missile know-how with others, including Syria. It is a vital national interest for the North Korean nuclear program to be completely, verifiably and irreversibly ended. Likewise, we have seen Iran marching with single-minded determination toward the same goal. President Ahmadinejad has threatened to wipe Israel off the face of the earth, and represents a threat to every country in the region – one we cannot ignore or minimize.

MCCAIN interrupted for the THIRD time by anti-war demonstrators during the paragraph above. Demonstrators were a man and a woman asking about the war in Iraq. They were soon removed from the event. McCain grew notably irritated by this third interruption. He responded by saying, 'I will never surrender in Iraq my friends. Our American soldiers will come home with honor.' (not exact quote)

Other nations have begun to wonder whether they, too, need to have such weapons, if only in self-defense. As a result, we could find ourselves in a world where a dozen or more nations, small and large, stable and unstable, responsible and irresponsible, have viable nuclear weapons programs. But there is a flip side to President Kennedy's warning. We should stop and think for a moment not only of the perils of a world awash with nuclear weapons, but also of the more hopeful alternative – a world in which there are far fewer such weapons than there are today, and in which proliferation, instability, and nuclear terrorism are far less likely. This is the world it is our responsibility to build.

There is no simple answer to the problem. If you look back over the past two decades, I don't think any of us, Republican or Democrat, can take much satisfaction in what we've accomplished to control nuclear proliferation. Today, some people seem to think they've discovered a brand new cause, something no one before them ever thought of. Many believe all we need to do to end the nuclear programs of hostile governments is have our president talk with leaders in Pyongyang and Tehran, as if we haven't tried talking to these governments repeatedly over the past two decades. Others think military action alone can achieve our goals, as if military actions were not fraught with their own terrible risks. While the use of force may be necessary, it can only be as a last resort not a first step. The truth is we will only address the terrible prospect of the worldwide spread of nuclear arms if we transcend our partisan differences, combine our energies, learn from our past mistakes, and seek practical and effective solutions.

MCCAIN interrupted for the FOURTH time by anti-war demonstrators during the paragraph above. The main demonstrator was a gentleman asking about Iraq.

I'd like to suggest some steps we should take to chart a common vision for the future. It is a vision in which the United States returns to a tradition of innovative thinking, broad-minded internationalism, and determined diplomacy, backed by America's great and enduring power to lead. It is a vision not of the United States acting alone, but building and participating in a community of nations all drawn together in this vital common purpose. It is a vision of a responsible America, dedicated to an enduring peace based on freedom.

A quarter of a century ago, President Ronald Reagan declared, "our dream is to see the day when nuclear weapons will be banished from the face of the Earth." That is my dream, too. It is a distant and difficult goal. And we must proceed toward it prudently and pragmatically, and with a focused concern for our security and the security of allies who depend on us. But the Cold War ended almost twenty years ago, and the time has come to take further measures to reduce dramatically the number of nuclear weapons in the world's arsenals. It is time for the United States to show the kind of leadership the world expects from us, in the tradition of American presidents who worked to reduce the nuclear threat to mankind.

Our highest priority must be to reduce the danger that nuclear weapons will ever be used. Such weapons, while still important to deter an attack with weapons of mass destruction against us and our allies, represent the most abhorrent and indiscriminate form of warfare known to man. We do, quite literally, possess the means to destroy all of mankind. We must seek to do all we can to ensure that nuclear weapons will never again be used.

While working closely with allies who rely on our nuclear umbrella for their security, I would ask the Joint Chiefs of Staff to engage in a comprehensive review of all aspects of our nuclear strategy and policy. I would keep an open mind on all responsible proposals. At the same time, we must continue to deploy a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent, robust missile defenses and superior conventional forces that are capable of defending the United States and our allies. But I will seek to reduce the size of our nuclear arsenal to the lowest number possible consistent with our security requirements and global commitments. Today we deploy thousands of nuclear warheads. It is my hope to move as rapidly as possible to a significantly smaller force.

While we have serious differences, with the end of the Cold War, Russia and the United States are no longer mortal enemies. As our two countries possess the overwhelming majority of the world's nuclear weapons, we have a special responsibility to reduce their number. I believe we should reduce our nuclear forces to the lowest level we judge necessary, and we should be prepared to enter into a new arms control agreement with Russia reflecting the nuclear reductions I will seek. Further, we should be able to agree with Russia on binding verification measures based on those currently in effect under the START Agreement, to enhance confidence and transparency. In close consultation with our allies, I would also like to explore ways we and Russia can reduce – and hopefully eliminate – deployments of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. I also believe we should work with Russia to build confidence in our missile defense program, including through such initiatives as the sharing of early warning data and prior notification of missile launches.

There are other areas in which we can work in partnership with Russia to strengthen protections against weapons of mass destruction. I would seriously consider Russia's recent proposal to work together to globalize the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. I would also redouble

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our common efforts to reduce the risk that nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons may fall into the hands of terrorists or unfriendly governments.

I believe we should also begin a dialogue with China on strategic and nuclear issues. We have important shared interests with China and should begin discussing ways to achieve the greatest possible transparency and cooperation on nuclear force structure and doctrine. We should work with China to encourage conformity with the practices of the other four nuclear weapon states recognized in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including working toward nuclear arsenal reductions and toward a moratorium on the production of additional fissile material.

I believe we must also address nuclear testing. As president I will pledge to continue America's current moratorium on testing, but also begin a dialogue with our allies, and with the U.S. Senate, to identify ways we can move forward to limit testing in a verifiable manner that does not undermine the security or viability of our nuclear deterrent. This would include taking another look at the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to see what can be done to overcome the shortcomings that prevented it from entering into force. I opposed that treaty in 1999, but said at the time I would keep an open mind about future developments.

I would only support the development of any new type of nuclear weapon that is absolutely essential for the viability of our deterrent, that results in making possible further decreases in the size of our nuclear arsenal, and furthers our global nuclear security goals. I would cancel all further work on the so-called Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, a weapon that does not make strategic or political sense.

Finally, we cannot achieve our non-proliferation goals on our own. We must strengthen existing international treaties and institutions to combat proliferation, and develop new ones when necessary. We should move quickly with other nations to negotiate a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty to end production of the most dangerous nuclear materials. The international community needs to improve its ability to interdict the spread of nuclear weapons and material under the Proliferation Security Initiative. And we need to increase funding for our own non-proliferation efforts, including the Cooperative Threat Reduction programs established by the landmark Nunn-Lugar legislation, and ensure the highest possible standards of security for existing nuclear materials.

In 2010, an international conference will meet to review the Non-Proliferation Treaty. If I am President, I will seize that opportunity to strengthen and enhance all aspects of the non-proliferation regime. We need to strengthen enforcement of the so-called "atoms for peace" bargain by insisting that countries that receive the benefits of peaceful nuclear cooperation must return or dismantle what they receive if they violate or withdraw from the NPT. We need to increase IAEA funding and enhance the intelligence support it receives. We also need to reverse the burden of proof when it comes to discovering whether a nation is cheating on its NPT commitments. The IAEA shouldn't have to play cat-and-mouse games to prove a country is in compliance. It is for suspected violators to prove they are in compliance. We should establish a requirement by the UN Security Council that international transfers of sensitive nuclear technology must be disclosed in advance to an international authority such as the IAEA, and further require that undisclosed transfers be deemed illicit and subject to interdiction. Finally, to enforce treaty obligations, IAEA member states must be willing to impose sanctions on nations that seek to withdraw from it.

We need to enlist all willing partners in the global battle against nuclear proliferation. I support the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Accord as a means of strengthening our relationship with the world's largest democracy, and further involving India in the fight against proliferation. We should engage actively with both India and Pakistan to improve the security of nuclear stockpiles and weapons materials, and construct a secure global nuclear order that eliminates the likelihood of proliferation and the possibility of nuclear conflict.

As we improve the national and multilateral tools to catch and reverse illicit nuclear programs, I am convinced civilian nuclear energy can be a critical part of our fight against global warming. Civilian nuclear power provides a way for the United States and other responsible nations to achieve energy independence and reduce our dependence on foreign oil and gas. But in order to take advantage of civilian nuclear energy, we must do a better job of ensuring it remains civilian. Some nations use the pretense of civilian nuclear programs as cover for nuclear weapons programs. We need to build an international consensus that exposes this deception, and holds nations accountable for it. We cannot continue allowing nations to enrich and reprocess uranium, ostensibly for civilian purposes, and stand by impotently as they develop weapons programs.

The most effective way to prevent this deception is to limit the further spread of enrichment and reprocessing. To persuade countries to forego enrichment and reprocessing, I would support international guarantees of nuclear fuel supply to countries that renounce enrichment and reprocessing, as well as the establishment of multinational nuclear enrichment centers in which they can participate. Nations that seek nuclear fuel for legitimate civilian purposes will be able to acquire what they need under international supervision. This is one suggestion Russia and others have made to Iran. Unfortunately, the Iranian government has so far rejected this idea. Perhaps with enough outside pressure and encouragement, they can be persuaded to change their minds before it is too late.

I would seek to establish an international repository for spent nuclear fuel that could collect and safely store materials overseas that might otherwise be reprocessed to acquire bomb-grade materials. It is even possible that such an international center could make it unnecessary to open the proposed spent nuclear fuel storage facility at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

This is a long list of steps we need to take. It is long because there is no single answer to this crisis, and there are no easy answers. It is long because no nation can meet this dire challenge alone and none can be indifferent to its outcome. The United States cannot and will not stop the spread of nuclear weapons by unilateral action. We must lead concerted and persistent multilateral efforts. As powerful as we are, America's ability to defend ourselves and our allies against the threat of nuclear attack depends on our ability to encourage effective international cooperation. We must strengthen the accords and institutions that make such cooperation possible. No problem we face poses a greater threat to us and the world than nuclear proliferation. In a time when followers of a hateful and remorseless ideology are willing to destroy themselves to destroy us, the threat of suicide bombers with the means to wreak incomprehensible devastation should call the entire world to action. The civilized nations of the world must act as one or we will suffer consequences once thought remote when the threat of mutually assured destruction could deter responsible states from thinking the unthinkable.

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Americans have always risen to the challenges of their time. And we have always done so successfully not by hiding from history, but by making history; by encouraging a sometimes reluctant world to follow our lead, and defend civilization from old mistakes and old animosities, and the folly of relying on policies that no longer keep us safe. I want to keep the country I love and have served all my life secure in our freedom. I want us to rise to the challenges of our times, as generations before us rose to theirs. It is incumbent on America, more than any other nation on earth, to lead in building the foundations for a stable and enduring peace, a peace built on the strength of our commitment to it, on the transformative ideals on which we were founded, on our ability to see around the corner of history, and on our courage and wisdom to make new and better choices. No matter how dangerous the threats we face in our day, it still remains within our power to make in our time another, better world than we inherited. And that, my friends, is what I am running for President to do.

Thank you.

--

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/3/2015 8:50:43 AM
Subject: News Update - December 3

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, December 3

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Donald Trump: I'm Going to Israel**
- **Hizme Terrorist Was Palestinian Authority Intelligence Officer**
- **IDF Moves to Raze Terrorists' Homes Immediately After Attacks**
- **Israel Arrests 'Jewish Terror Group' Over Arson Attack in West Bank**
- **Ya'alon in Washington: Israel 'Very Worried' About Iran in Syria**
- **PM: We Could Destroy Al Aqsa If We Wanted to, But We Don't**
- **Israel Snubs Meeting Belgium FM Over EU Settlement Policy**
- **IAEA Report: Iran Worked on Nuclear Weapons Development**

Commentary:

- **The Telegraph: "We Are All Fighting ISIL – The Outlaws of Islam"**
  - By His Majesty, King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- **Foreign Policy: "A Vision for a Moderate, Modern Muslim World"**
  - By His Excellency Yousef Al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to the US

CNN

Donald Trump: I'm Going to Israel

Donald Trump revealed on Wednesday that he's going to take a trip to Israel soon, one day ahead of a conference in Washington where he will address the top Jewish Republicans in the country. Trump was speaking Wednesday night in Manassas, Virginia, where he was asked about his stance on supporting Israel. "Very soon I'm going to Israel…I'm going to be meeting with Bibi Netanyahu." The GOP front-runner said he "love(s)" Israel and will support it whole-heartedly -- and attacked President Barack Obama for not doing enough to support the U.S. ally.
See also, "Donald Trump: I Will Visit Israel Soon, Bibi Is a Great Guy" (Ha'aretz)
See also, "Head of Republicans in Israel: Trump Can't, Won't Be President" (Times of Israel)

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Arutz Sheva

Hizme Terrorist Was Palestinian Authority Intelligence Officer

The Arab terrorist who shot and wounded two Israelis at Hizme checkpoint north of Jerusalem earlier Thursday has been identified as an officer in the Palestinian Authority preventative security service. He was named as Mazen Hassan Aribah from Abu Dis neighborhood in Jerusalem. Aribah was killed by IDF return fire, after opening fire at the checkpoint from the direction of the Arab village of Hizme. Hizme checkpoint is the major artery into Jerusalem from Samaria. One of the victims was hospitalized in serious condition, while a second was lightly wounded. PA officials confirmed the attacker was a member of the PA's security forces, although they did not specify his rank.

See also, "Report: Terrorist was a Member of PA Security Forces (Jerusalem Post)

Ha'aretz

IDF Moves to Raze Terrorists' Homes Immediately After Attacks

The Israel Defense Forces has started mapping the houses of Palestinian terrorists within 24 hours of an attack, in a bid to speed up its controversial home-demolition policy. A senior defense official says that quickly implemented demolitions are the most effective, although he admits the process is "draconian." The IDF's latest home demolition took place in the early hours of Thursday morning, when it razed the Nablus home of Ragheb Ahmad Muhammad Aliwi, the Hamas cell commander behind the October 1 murder of Israelis Eitam and Na'ama Henkin.

The Guardian

Israel Arrests 'Jewish Terror Group' Over Arson Attack in WB

Israel's police and domestic intelligence agency, the Shin Bet, has arrested "several Israelis" in connection with an arson attack in July that killed three members of a Palestinian family, including a toddler. An announcement of arrests had been widely expected after media outlets this week reported a breakthrough in a case involving Jewish extremism. Investigators confirmed in a statement that members of a "Jewish terror group" had been arrested in connection with the attack. The statement did not disclose how many suspects were in custody and said a court order banning disclosure of their names and other details of the case remained in effect.

Jerusalem Post

Ya'alon in Washington: Israel 'Very Worried' About Iran in Syria

Speaking at the U.S. Congress Wednesday, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon urged the US to stay wary of Iranian actions in Syria and across the region. "We are very worried about Iran's presence in Syria," Ya'alon said. "Iran's Quds Force is currently the only source actively working in Syria to attack us, trying to smuggle weapons and run messengers," he continued. In the past, a number of attacks across the Syrian border have been attributed to Hezbollah. Hezbollah remains firmly on Israel's radar, however. Ya'alon in particular highlighted chemical and "advanced" weapons transfers to groups such as Hezbollah as key threats to Israel's security.

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Times of Israel

PM: We Could Destroy Al Aqsa If We Wanted to, But We Don't

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told his Likud faction that Israel could easily destroy the flashpoint Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, but chooses not to as it contradicts Israeli values. "If we wanted to destroy Al-Aqsa, it would not require a great effort... but it goes against everything we stand for," the prime minister tells his party's MKs, in a recording played by Army Radio.

International Business Times

Israel Snubs Meeting Belgium FM Over EU Settlement Policy

Relations between Belgium and Israel are on ice following a decision by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to refuse a meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders, the Middle East Monitor reported Wednesday. Reynders was scheduled to arrive in Tel Aviv within the next week to engage in peace process talks. But Netanyahu said the decision to cancel the meeting was prompted by Brussels' plan to label all goods exported from Israeli settlements. The Belgian foreign ministry has decided to postpone Reynders' visit indefinitely, the Monitor reported.
See also, "Belgian FM Postpones Israel Trip After Netanyahu Cold Shoulder" (Ynet News)

BICOM

IAEA Report: Iran Worked on Nuclear Weapons Development

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) yesterday published its long-awaited report into the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear development concluding a weapons program did exist until 2003, continuing sporadically until 2009. Iran always claimed its nuclear work was purely for peaceful purposes. The detailed report concluded "a range of activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device were conducted in Iran prior to the end of 2003 as a coordinated effort, and some activities took place after 2003." The IAEA assessed that this work comprised mainly the acquisition of technical capability. However, it raised concerns over Iranian experiments with exploding bridgewire detonators that generate critical fissile mass for a nuclear weapon.
See also, "Israel: IAEA Report Proves Iran Nuke Program Had Military Dimension" (Times of Israel)

The Telegraph – December 2, 2015

We Are All Fighting ISIL - The Outlaws of Islam

Jordan has taken on a huge burden in the war against ISIL, which targets innocent people everywhere.

By His Majesty, King Abdullah II

Events taking place in the Middle East today will shape the security and stability of Europe and the world for decades to come. This is why I call the war on terrorism a Third World War, by other means. It is also why it is imperative for all of us to be united in this existential war. This is not a war that should divide us, but a war that should unite us in shared interests, common principles and fundamental human values.

I have said before that we are fighting a war within Islam against the outlaws of Islam, the Khawarej. Yet, as we have painfully seen, these terrorists and outlaws threaten the entire world.

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They target all of us, innocent men and women regardless of race or faith. It is a war we all have to fight, and win, as a united global community. It is a war that knows no boundaries, no geography or demography.

One that is not limited to Syria and Iraq, but extends to Africa, Asia, with its flames reaching Europe and the rest of the world.

Jordan considers the United Kingdom a close and historic friend, and a key ally. The United Kingdom certainly appreciates that these criminals are as much a threat to its own population as they are to us and the rest of the world.

We have witnessed with shock and sadness the brutal murder of British hostages. We have seen many failed plots against the UK, and the campaign to lure youngsters from Britain and across Europe to commit the most atrocious crimes, everywhere.

And you have seen how they have also brutally murdered Muslims in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. The horrific images of the burning of our brave young pilot, Moaz al-Kasasbeh, remain forever in the collective conscience of the civilised world today.

Both our countries are working side by side in fighting the Khawarej in Iraq, and we see the capabilities of your Royal Air Force and its determined pilots. But again, while we respect borders, terrorists do not recognise them. Therefore, we need to look at the bigger picture. It is not enough to focus just on Iraq because they also control large areas in Syria and are establishing footholds in other areas in Asia and Africa.

I do not believe our countries, or our world, can afford to wait much longer. While we pursue the political solution in Syria, we must work together on fighting them in that country, and everywhere. And this is what we have been doing.

We need to work with Syrian opposition forces, who are on the ground in Syria, to defeat the Khawarej, while working with equal determination on advancing the political process. The Syrian opposition, especially in the south, is both capable and willing to fight and they deserve our support.

Of course, military action is only part of the answer in delivering a secure future for all of us. We need to coordinate our efforts on a strategy that includes humanitarian support, as well as diplomatic and political progress.

Your Prime Minister, David Cameron, visited Jordan in September and saw the huge burden we are bearing, with a fifth of our population now Syrian refugees. We remain grateful for British aid in helping those refugees and the Jordanian communities that host them.

I draw hope from the ongoing talks in Vienna. A real opportunity now presents itself to bring together the global coalition that is required today on both the political and military levels.

It is up to all of us to face this moment of truth with determination. All of us in the fight against Daesh [known in Britain as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, or Isil] need to decide where we stand. On behalf of the international community Jordan has made its decision and taken on a burden far beyond its size.

We believe this is the right thing to do, to stand up for our values and do everything we can to protect our religion, our people, and our nation.

As you go through your internal debate on this major global threat, it is important to understand that your country's contribution to this undertaking, by carrying

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out air strikes against Daesh in Syria, can be crucial.

We ask you, our friends in the United Kingdom, Europe and the World, to stand together with us in meeting the challenge and eliminating this global threat.

His Majesty, King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, is the 41st-generation direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammad. King Abdullah assumed his constitutional powers as monarch on 7 February 1999. Following the leadership legacy of his father, the late King Hussein, King Abdullah has made the welfare of Jordan's people the cornerstone of his policies for national development, regional peace and global coexistence.

Foreign Policy – December 2, 2015

A Vision for a Moderate, Modern Muslim World

Creating an ideology of openness, optimism, and opportunity in the Gulf is a key component to defeating extremism.

By Yousef Al Otaiba

In St. Petersburg and Sinai, Bamako and Beirut, Mosul and Paris, the world has been shocked by a murderous month of Islamic extremist violence. With a more sophisticated enemy and the return of radicalized fighters, the Middle East's terrorism challenge has become a global challenge in a way not seen since the 9/11 attacks.

The Islamic State must be defeated on the field of battle but also in the war of conflicting ideologies. As Muslims, we have the most at stake and must be leaders on both fronts.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), we are joined with the international community to bring new energy to the fight against the most destabilizing and dangerous force since fascism. For more than 12 years, from the air and on the ground, the UAE has been combating extremists in Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. We continue to aggressively attack extremist support networks — blocking the flow of funds and foreign fighters, contesting extremists online, and devising new counterradicalization strategies.

But success on the battlefield may be the easy part. We know that to win, we must not only defeat what we are against, but we must also define what we as Muslims and Arabs are for. True victory can only come when the more powerful forces of tolerance and progress prevail over the twisted ideology of the Islamic State and its kind.

Is this even possible in the Middle East? One hundred years after the Sykes-Picot agreement, can the region overcome its history of sectarian and ethnic division? Is there a new model of and for the Middle East built on hope rather than hate?

In the UAE, we are trying to find out. We are testing a new vision for the region — an alternative, future-oriented ideology. It is a path guided by the true tenets of Islam: respect, inclusion, and peace. It empowers women, embraces diversity, encourages innovation, and welcomes global engagement.

With the world's attention focused on the aftermath of the Paris attacks, it went largely unnoticed that Amal Al Qubaisi was appointed president of the UAE's Federal National Council, making her the first woman in the region to lead a national assembly. An architect by profession, she was also the first woman to be a member of the council.

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Just weeks earlier, a group of Emirati and expatriate religious, political, and diplomatic leaders celebrated the reopening of the restored St. Andrew's Church in Abu Dhabi. The Anglican church's chaplain, the Rev. Canon Andrew Thompson, has said , "In many ways it's easier being a Christian here than it is back in the United Kingdom."

Father Bishoy Salib of Abu Dhabi's Coptic Orthodox Church recently expressed a similar sentiment. "The UAE is an exemplary worldwide model of multi-religion gathering and cooperation. This is the peaceful environment where all regions can grow and meet each other."

In the same spirit of openness, the Emirati government announced this summer that it is donating the land for the country's third Hindu temple. These churches and temples — along with many other centers of worship — serve the nearly 8 million expatriates of virtually all faiths and nationalities who live and work together peacefully in the UAE.

Also little noticed was the Nov. 21 meeting in Cairo of the Muslim Council of Elders, which strongly condemned the Paris and Mali massacres. The council is an international body of forward-thinking scholars and experts that is giving greater voice to moderate Islam. Established and supported by Emirati leaders, the council is modernizing the way Islam is taught in schools, developing new training programs for imams, and updating Quranic commentaries.

Beyond encouraging religious diversity and tolerance, we are also seeding an ideology of optimism and opportunity. In Washington this week, the UAE will join with NASA in recognizing the UAE Space Agency and its ambitious plans to put a probe on Mars in 2021 — our country's 50th anniversary. For the UAE, this is the Arab world's version of President John F. Kennedy's moon shot — a galvanizing vision for the future that can engage and excite a new generation of Emirati and Arab youth.

Putting a probe on Mars is a vision for the future, but putting people to work is the challenge of today. In the UAE, we are building an economic engine for the entire region, a place where the free flow of goods, services, people, investment, and ideas lifts the entire Middle East and links it to Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. It is a sustainable post-hydrocarbon economy — driven by innovation, human capital, rule of law, and open trade.

In the UAE, we believe it is possible to be Muslim, moderate, and modern at the same time. We are committed to promoting this ideology of openness, optimism, and opportunity across the region. Arab parents can and should believe that their children's future can be better than their own. We know it is a vision, but also a realistic and attainable one — no less difficult or less inspiring than launching a man to the moon or a mission to Mars.

His Excellency Yousef Al Otaiba, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the United States of America, took up his Washington-based post in July 2008. In this role, Ambassador Al Otaiba enhanced UAE-US relations and improved bilateral security and economic cooperation. In addition to leading efforts that increased military, intelligence and counterterrorism cooperation between the two countries, he also played a critical role to facilitate the landmark US-UAE Agreement for Peaceful Civilian Nuclear Energy Cooperation (123 Agreement), which came into force in 2009.

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/10/2015 4:16:56 AM
Subject:	July 10 Morning Cable News Roundup
Attachments:	7.10.15 Morning Cable.docx

Document attached, 2016 highlights below:

CNN's *New Day:* Donald Trump says that the Persians are great negotiators and are getting a great deal with Iran. Wants to know why the US isn't getting their prisoners back. Believes that Iran is working on nuclear deal behind his back. Thinks that Snowden is a traitor, but he would get along with Putin. Trump claims he will bomb Iraq to defeat ISIS. Then send Exxon in to rebuild oil fields. Jeb Bush raised a significant amount of money. Sanders hits him for getting money from billionaires. Sanders calls to overturn Citizens United. Bush claims that he will get 4% economic growth and people need to worker longer hours to achieve that goal. Corrects himself saying that he wants more full time jobs. Said Hillary Clinton was putting a protective shield around herself. Nikki Haley now a VP consideration for Republicans.

MSNBC's *Morning Joe:* Former presidents Bush and Clinton shared a stage last night in Dallas. The two discussed the possibility of another Bush-Clinton match up in 2016. HRC and Jeb traded jabs over bush's recent remarks about people needing to work longer hours. Read their tweets. Said this represented their two different philosophies of the challenge of the middle class squeeze. HRC campaign rued the day on the impact of Obamacare on small businesses and said this is a gift to Jeb to talk about underemployment. The New York Times kept Ted Cruz off the bestseller list because of strategic bulk purchases because they want to spread their message with their books and make the list. Said it's a policy, they're not just doing it against Ted Cruz. O'Malley cited a satirical news site in a footnote in a policy paper he released on financial regulations.

Fox News' *Fox and Friends:* Segment about a woman murdered by an illegal immigrant in San Francisco; Kilmeade criticized POTUS for not commenting on the murder, even though he did make comments after the Trayvon Martin shooting and other similar shootings; Hasselbeck said it begs the question which lives matter to the White House; Hasselbeck said Trump had been warning about the dangers of illegal immigrants already; Hasselbeck played a clip of Trump talking to Sean Hannity, where Trump said he loved the Mexican people, but the Mexican government is killing the United States' government in terms of jobs and economic growth, Trump said Mexicans are sending criminals to the United States instead of putting them in jail; Doocy played a clip of a syndicated columnist who said Mexican elites agree with Trump to a certain extent; Kilmeade said two Hispanic chefs are trying to walk away from their contracts with Trump; Doocy said Trump is now leading among GOP contenders in a new ugov poll. Segment about the U.S. Women's soccer team's ticker-tape parade today; Doocy said to Kilmeade that there hasn't been ticker-tape in New York for years, to which Kilmeade replied, that's okay, HRC agreed to donate her shredded emails.

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From: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 8/13/2015 11:26:39 AM
Subject: Clinton Foundation News & Guidance 8/13/15

Hi everyone – We wanted to give you some updates on recent events, Foundation work, and announcements in the news this week.

Entrepreneurship, Economics, and CGI
President Clinton is featured on the cover of **Inc. Magazine's September issue** , which is live now online and will hit newsstands next week. The interview features several CGI commitment-makers and highlights President Clinton's legacy on the economy and entrepreneurship.

> *"No president has, upon leaving office, launched himself as vigorously into supporting entrepreneurship as Bill Clinton. Both the Clinton Foundation and the Clinton Global Initiative have created programs to fund and mentor hundreds of entrepreneurs at home and abroad. In a wide-ranging interview…the 42nd president shares with Inc. his vision and priorities for business leaders in the 21st century."*

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Share this article on FACEBOOK here: https://www.facebook.com/clintonglobalinitiative/posts/10153163324140318

The Clinton Foundation and #WorldElephantDay
As part of World Elephant Day yesterday, Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton **authored an op-ed** for AOL titled "To protect Africa's elephants, stop the demand." In the piece, which was featured on the AOL homepage, Chelsea writes about how a consortium of CGI members has committed to take action.

> *It's clear that one of the simplest things we can do to stop the killing of elephants is to reduce consumer demand for ivory by stigmatizing its purchase. Thanks to the coordinated efforts of a consortium of Clinton Global Initiative members called the Elephants Action Network, we are working hard to do just that. Together, the partner organizations have pledged to coordinate their efforts across three pillars of action to: stop the killing of elephants, stop the trafficking of their tusks and stop the demand for their ivory.*

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/AOL/status/631470600326770689

We've also relaunched a **webpage on elephants** , part of our "Africa microsite." Scroll through the pages to learn about the elephant poaching crisis and how the Clinton Foundation and CGI are bringing together partners to develop solutions.

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/631502934933663744

Working in Communities across the U.S.
The Foundation does life changing work around the world – but much of what we do helps communities here in the United States. On Tuesday the Associated Press reported how in Little Rock, the Clinton Presidential Center is **helping Arkansas's efforts to expand STEM education** by hosting courses on computer coding.

Share this article on TWITTER here: https://twitter.com/ademillo/status/631209503078268932

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation, which was founded by the Clinton Foundation and the American Heart Association, empowers kids across America to develop lifelong, healthy habits. Because of its work, more than 29,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to eradicate childhood obesity. On Saturday, the Independent in Kentucky reported on **how their community is helping** support the Alliance and its goals by sending people to participate in the New York City Marathon.

CGI U Celebrates World Youth Day:
CGI U students are often at the forefront of civic engagement:

CGI U @CGIU
Frmr #CGIU student grp @AIDemocracy shares young leaders' work to inspire others to create change http://bit.ly/1jUWnpg #YouthDay
Retweet here: https://twitter.com/CGIU/status/631500833868382208

CGI U @CGIU
#CGIU student @ChristineSchind encourages young girls to break barriers & pursue STEM careers. Learn more: http://girlsengineeringchange.org #YouthDay
Retweet here: https://twitter.com/CGIU/status/631537545705226240

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CGI U @CGIU
.@PartywConsent (#CGIU 2013) aims to prevent sexual assault at universities thru education & grassroots campus campaigns. #YouthDay
Retweet here: **https://twitter.com/CGIU/status/631576055049027584**

In Case You Missed It:

Devex wrote about the Foundation's trip to Haiti and how the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership is helping Haitian women entrepreneurs with the innovative Chakipi model.

In **Elite Daily** , Clinton Foundation supporter, Benjamin Cunningham, a donor who gave $230 for the first time last year because he was drawn to the work, shared why he contributes and how his support impacts lives around the world.

In an op-ed posted in the **Miami Herald** **,** Foundation President Shalala wrote about the role of women in Haiti's future.

Have a great weekend!

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Lotte Murphy-Johnson" <lotte@brooklapping.com>
Date:	4/24/2015 5:56:14 AM
Subject:	Re: FAO: John Podesta, America in the Obama years: a 4-hour television history for the BBC

Let's see if we can work something out. Eryn handles my schedule.

On Apr 24, 2015 12:43 PM, "Lotte Murphy-Johnson" <lotte@brooklapping.com > wrote:

Brook Lapping

America in the Obama years

a 4-hour television history for the BBC

John Podesta

Founder, Center for American Progress

24 April 2015

Dear Mr Podesta,

I am writing to ask for a filmed interview for our four-hour TV history of US politics in the Obama years. The series will be broadcast early in 2016 on the BBC – and on partner broadcasters in America, Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan and the Middle East.

You probably have forgotten but we met long ago (in the first week of the Center for American Progress). You gave us an off-the-record briefing for our series ELUSIVE PEACE. We still remember a very funny story about President Clinton's bout of food poisoning after a delayed visit to Pakistan – or was it India?

What is unusual about our histories is that the story is told only by the decision-makers and their close advisors. No journalists or pundits tell the audience what to think. (To view some short excerpts, click on this link: Brook Lapping Documentaries .)

The London Times said of our most recent series, THE IRAQ WAR, for the BBC and the National Geographic Channel: *"Television is rarely as gripping, informed and important as this."*

Other series – such as IRAN AND THE WEST (2009) and PUTIN RUSSIA & THE WEST (2012) – have won top awards on both sides of the Atlantic, including five Peabody Awards, four duPonts, two British Academy Awards and a prime time Emmy. They are used to brief policy-makers and are part of university syllabuses. A note on our method and some reviews are attached.

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Those we have interviewed for previous series include Bill Clinton (three times), Jimmy Carter, George H. W. Bush, Walter Mondale, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, Bill Burns, Mike McFaul, Jim Jones, as well as Tony Blair, Vladimir Putin, Jacques Chirac and Mikhail Gorbachev. That such people are willing to take part – and do so again, after they have seen the result – we hope speaks for itself.

For AMERICA IN THE OBAMA YEARS we have interviewed or are arranging interviews with (among others): Robert Gates, Valerie Jarrett, Kathleen Sebelius, Cecilia Munoz, Jason Furman, Phil Schiliro, Jack Lew, Samantha Power, William Daley, David Axelrod, Jim Messina, Larry Summers, Ben Rhodes, Peter Orszag, Mona Sutphen, Dick Durbin, Joe Lieberman, Chris Dodd, Bill Burns, Wendy Sherman and Jake Sullivan.

We would like to talk to you about your time with President Obama – especially how you successfully pushed forward the President's climate change agenda through executive action and the historic deal you reached with China, dealing with the ISIS crisis, the immigration executive order and the decision to start normalising US relations with Cuba.

This is a serious history that will reach millions worldwide. Without your participation we can't get it right. We hope you can spare us an hour.

Best wishes,

Norma Percy, Series Producer

Lotte Murphy Johnson

Researcher

Brook Lapping Productions

6 Anglers Lane, London, NW5 3DG

t: +44 (0)207 428 3123

m: +44 (0)759 002 8559

e: lotte@brooklapping.com

e: usa0916@brooklapping.com

www.brooklapping.com

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From:	"James Salt" <jsalt@catholics-united.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	5/27/2009 1:53:20 PM
Subject:	[big campaign] Catholics United Celebrates Selection of Dr. Miguel Diaz as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See



For Immediate Release
May 27, 2009

Contact:
James Salt
305-978-1056
jsalt@catholics-united.org

Catholics United Celebrates Selection of Dr. Miguel Diaz as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See

Catholics United executive director Chris Korzen issued the following statement in response to the Obama Administration's nomination of Dr. Miguel Diaz as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. When confirmed by the Senate, Dr. Diaz will be the first Latino to serve in this position.

"Catholics United is thrilled to learn that Dr. Miguel Diaz has been nominated as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. Dr. Diaz is a devout Catholic, a respected theologian, a leader in the Catholic Latino community, and a dedicated husband and father of four children. We have full confidence that he will serve our nation well and we invite all Catholics to join us in celebrating this historic nomination."

"The Obama Administration and the Holy See share many common concerns, such as protecting the environment, fostering peace in the Middle East, disarming nuclear arsenals and cultivating international development, especially for the poorest nations of the world. Dr. Diaz's ability to work constructively for common ground makes him a superb choice for this position."

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E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/13/2008 6:10:12 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall in Pemberton, NJ 06/13/08

Hi Big Campaign,
Just off the phone with our tracker Greg who was on the ground in Pemberton, NJ today. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:
* McCain calls Supreme Court's Gitmo ruling "one of the worst in history." Says it will flood the courts with habeas corpus appeals. Praises and quotes Roberts that this was a victory for the rule of lawyers, not the rule of law.
* Brings up social security again, reiterates the claim that he is not for "privatization," just private accounts
* Says 'I've traveled all around the world -- usually at your expense.'
* Takes question about 9/11, promises 'I will get Osama Bin Laden and bring him to justice.'
* Asked about how he'll open doors to women, praises Hillary and promises to help end discrimination and hand over a safer, more prosperous nation

PEMBERTON, NJ - McCain Town Hall Meeting 06/13/08

Background Details:
- Crowd noticeably more energized and supportive and larger
- 1,500 people in crowd, Fairly diverse
- Tracker had no trouble getting in
- A series of people gave introductory remarks: Burlington College Pres. gave intro, then NJ Congressman Dick Zimmer, Medford Mayor Chris Myers, Congressman Chris Smith, Congressman Jim Saxton, former Gov. Tom Kaine
- Lieberman introduced McCain, talked about bipartisanship, security
- Lindsey Graham was in audience. Cindy and Meghan did NOT appear to be in attendance, nor other top McCain staffers
- NJ Chairman of McCain's campaign was event moderator
- Post-event, while McCain was working the crowd, some people stood up with signs including one that read: "Bush's policies with a better vocabulary. Don't be fooled." Another sign read "We stand against imperialism." [on footage] Tracker didn't see protesters outside the event.

Speech Highlights:
- Thank yous.
- Veterans stand up and be recognized.
- We will take care of our veterans - it's a top priority.
- These town hall meetings are the most important part of the process. It gives me an opportunity to hear from you. It helps me enormously. I'll give you an example -- folks in 2000 asked me about climate change. I didn't know anything about it at the time, but I went back and now it's a major issue for me. It's great to hear from ordinary people.
- I've asked Obama to engage in these town hall meetings with me. Unfortunately, Senator Obama has not agreed. I've set aside one day a week.
- By the way, I've already accepted invitations to do town hall meetings at LBJ Library and the Reagan Library. I hope Obama accepts too.
- I think this campaign should be for you. You are tired of all the attack ads, etc.
- I respect Senator Obama - but we have stark differences.
- Obama believes in big goverment, big spending, raising taxes and government run healthcare. I'm not for those things.
- We are in two wars.
- Yesterday, the Supreme Court issued a decision -- that I think is one of the worst in history. My friends, there are some bad people down there. So now what are we going to do? We are now going to have the courts flooded. By the way 30 of the people who have been released from

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Guantanamo Bay have already tried to attack America. Our first obligation is to keep America safe.
- Chief Justice Roberts -- one of the most respected judges in history -- Obama opposed his nomination
Reads quote from Roberts' opinion: 'so who has one? not the detainees -- the court just leaves them with more litigation -- not the rule of law, unless that now means the rule of lawyers who will now replace military experts as the judges on these alien combatants'
- Senator Obama strongly supported this position
- There are 3 main challenges of this campaign: Reform, Prosperity and Peace.
REFORM
- We must change the way we do business in Washington. I know how to reach across the aisle and work with Democrats. We must fix the broken system -- and the out of control pork-barrel spending. I will fix it.
- I've never received pork for my state of Arizona. Obama has received millions in just his short time there.
- I will not privatize social security -- what I want is to let younger workers and only younger workers have a choice. It's their money, it's your money. We will make sure present day retirees have the money they need.
PROSPERITY
- Americans are hurting right now.
- I am convinced that if we do what Senator Obama wants to do -- and that is raise your taxes -- it will be bad for American families. I want to cut your taxes.
- I want keep corporate taxes low. We have the second highest corporate taxes in the world -- we're at 35%, Ireland is at 11%.
- We have to address the issue of health care in America. I want to give American families the choice of what they want.
- Gas - we all know that the price of foreign oil is sky-rocketing. And it's hitting fixed income Americans the worst. We must achieve a goal of energy independence. We have the ability to do it. And nuclear power has to be part of that. Let me remind you that the French have 80% of their electricity being made by nuclear.
- We will develop a concrete plan to make us independent of foreign oil.
- A lot of the money we spend on oil is ending up in the hands of terrorists.
- We can become independent of foreign oil in a shorter time than anyone predicts. I will lead that.
PEACE
- Struggle against radical-Islamic extremists is the transcendant battle of the 21st century.
- We can and we are winning.
- The central battleground is Iraq. When I got back from Iraq the first time, I criticized Rumsfeld's strategy.
- I supported the surge when no one else did. I'd much rather lose a political campaign than lose a war.
- Mosul, Baghdad, Basra are now under Iraqi control with U.S. support.
- Obama said he wanted to withdraw a long time ago -- that would have caused chaos and genocide. Obama still can't acknowledge we are winning. He calls this spin: Is Gen. Petraeus spinning the American people? (boos) Of course not.
- We are succeeding, we are winning.
- The benefits of peace are that our troops come home -- but they come home with honor and victory.
- I can lead this nation and I can inspire a generation to do the most noble of all things and serve a cause greater than your own self-interest.
- My life of service is dedicated to one proposition and that is I will always put my country first.

Question and Answer:

1 Q): Jeffery Winegard, Cliffton, NJ: In your first term, will you commit to subsidize renewable energy sources?
MCCAIN: I will support pure research and development. Once we develop that, I'd like to hand it off to private industry and businesses. The marketplace will make the solutions better. I went into Iowa and said I don't support ethanol subsidies because it distorts the market.
FOLLOW-UP: Thoughts on opening up the strategic petroleum reserve?
MCCAIN: I think you're talking about ANWR. The strategic petroleum reserve was designed for a day if we were completely cut off.

2 Q): How do you balance between concerns about the environment but also tapping into the coal, etc resources within the U.S.?
MCCAIN: I've traveled all around the world -- usually at your expense. (AUDIENCE- huh?)

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I do believe greenhouse gases are effecting the environment -- but we need to look into these resources.

3 Q) Young man next to me is going back to Iraq. Tomorrow will be 50 years since I came to this country from Italy. It took many years to get my citizenship. More needs to be done for immigration. And more needs to be done for those suffering from PTSD that are coming back from Iraq.

MCCAIN: Half of NJ's national guard will be deployed overseas this summer.
On immigration, basically we must secure our borders first. We have to have a tamper-proof biometric visa. We gotta address the issue of the 12 million people who are already here.
Finally, on PTSD and the wounds of this conflict are very, very tough. I go out to Walter-Reed and these places. One of the problems with the VA system is the health care for folks. We need to make that better. People are standing and waiting in line. We need to give vets plastic cards so they can health care anywhere.

4 Q) Survivor and escapee from world trade center. Consider an event with me this coming Sept. 11. My young daughter wants to be the first woman president for "the red team." Please tell me how you're campaign will open doors for women.

MCCAIN: Clinton waged a tough and honorable campaign. I have to make sure that young people know that I will hand over to them a safe and prosperous nation. I will make sure there will be no discrimination.

5 Q) How will you provide citizens with disabilities opportunities?

MCCAIN: I played a part in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act - we need to update it.

Follow-up: Would you consider having a special position in your cabinet focusing on persons with disabilities issues?

MCCAIN: Yes I would consider that.

6 Q) Girl asked about education.

MCCAIN: New Orleans has great charter schools.I will spend more money, but it's got to be done wisely and efficiently. We need to change education in American based on the fundamental principles, we reward good teachers, we reward good schools and choice and completition.

7 Q) I brought my son here today to be in the presence of greatness. Navy veteran. My wife flew from Newark, NJ the day of 9/11, 5 months pregnant with his brother. When are we going to get Bin Laden?

MCCAIN: After 9/11, the Diamondbacks played the Yankees; McCain went to the game with Giuliani, where Rudy was praised by the people for doing such a great job.
One of the reasons we are safer today and there hasn't been an attack is because of the great work of NJ governor on the 9/11 commission.
We need a dramatic improvement in our intelligence. Our technological intelligence is good -- but we need more human intelligence. People who can go swim in the water. 'I will get Osama Bin Laden and bring him to justice.' I will do that.

Conclusion

I need your help I need your support. I will campaign here. We will win in November.

--

Sara DuBois
Deputy Director - Tracking/Media Monitoring
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202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 2/26/2015 7:02:41 AM
Subject: RE: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Dear Jake,
Thanks. It might be worthwhile to touch base on two issues with a short-term tail.

First is the deteriorating U.S.-Israel relationship, with the increasingly bitter Obama-Bibi tiff; his March 3 speech to Congress (both the improper process used, but also his likely message on more Iran sanctions); and the AIPAC conference where Bibi will speak the day before (and Hillary may also be speaking). Here a simple call from Hillary that it is important to stop the downward spiral of events with our close ally, notwithstanding mistakes, so we can focus on the key issues of Middle East peace and preventing Iran for acquiring a bomb would be a welcome positive, "adult" statement.

Second, we need to prepare for the likely announcement of a framework agreement toward the end of March between the U.S. and Iran. Hillary will have to make a statement. I would be glad to work with you on it. As I mentioned, I have chaired the Iran Task Force for the Atlantic Council for three years, and am in touch with the Administration.

Best wishes,

Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 2:08 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: Thomas (Tom) R. Nides (tom.nides@morganstanley.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonfoundation.org); Huma M. Abedin (huma@clintonemail.com); Melanne Verveer (pverveer@aol.com)
Subject: Re: Hillary Rodham Clinton

Stu -- apologies for my delayed reply, and thank you for your willingness to lend your talents and experience to the HRC mission. We are just now at the beginning stages of putting together the policy architecture for the campaign. I'd love to connect by phone in a couple of weeks after things are a bit clearer, so that we can talk about how to make this work well. Does that make sense?

Thanks, and all my best,
Jake

On Thu, Feb 12, 2015 at 4:38 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

Dear Jake,

I hope you are well. I have talked with Melanne Verveer and Huma Abedin about helping in the potential presidential campaign. Most recently, I met with Tom Nides at the World Economic Forum in Davos to ask him the best way to plug-in to the policy side. He told me that you would be heading the policy and issues side of the campaign.

I have been privileged to work for all eight years of the Clinton Administration as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union; Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business & Agricultural Issues; and as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. During over six of those years, I also served as Special Adviser to the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust Issues, negotiating over $8 billion in recoveries in negotiations with the Swiss and French banks, German and Austrian corporations for slave and forced labor, European insurance companies for unpaid insurance policies, and with over 40 countries for the Washington Principles on Nazi-looted art, which has led to the restitution of thousands of stolen art works. In this work, I was strongly supported by both President Clinton and then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who frequently asked to be briefed.

My relationship with her continued when she (as President Clinton had done) graciously agreed to speak to my Eizenstat Family Memorial Lecture series in Atlanta at the Ahavath Achim Synagogue, before over 2500 people. In her term as Secretary of State, she appointed me as her Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues, and in that capacity, I negotiated a $50 million agreement with Lithuania, and headed the U.S. delegation to the 2009 Prague Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets (which produced the Terezin Declaration) and the 2010 Prague Conference on Best Practices and Guidelines for the Restitution and Compensation of Real Property Confiscated by the Nazis and their allies from 1933-45.

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My late wife Fran and Hillary worked at the Children's Defense Fund, and Hillary was especially kind to her over the years. When Fran passed away in 2013, she and President sent moving, handwritten notes of condolence, which I cherish to this day.

Because every word she utters is put into a campaign context, permit me to suggest areas in which I could be helpful, even now, before any formal campaign may be announced, and thereafter, if there is a formal announcement.

1. IRAN

As President Carter's Chief White House Domestic Policy Adviser, I helped shape the original hostage-related sanctions against Iran.

As Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton Administration, I took the lead in imposing the first sanctions against Osama Ben Laden and al Qaeda. For the past three years I have chaired the Iran Task Force of the Atlantic Council (the first year as co-chair with Chuck Hagel, before he became Secretary of Defense) We have put out over a dozen published reports on all aspects of the Iranian situation, for the nuclear talks to their internal political and economic challenges, and have organized scores of conferences with leading experts. In this capacity, I have met with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif in small, private meetings at their UN Mission in New York in 2013 and 2014, on the margins of the UN General Assembly and have reported the results to senior people in the Administration.

Our Task Force has been generally supportive of the Obama Administration's negotiations. Needless to say, if and when an agreement is reached on a nuclear deal, which I anticipate, this will become a political "hot potato". I can be helpful in shaping a response.

2. SANCTIONS AND GENERAL FOREIGN/DEFENSE POLICY

During the Clinton Administration, I was the "sanctions-meister", successfully negotiating sanctions issues with the European Union under the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, the Helms-Burton Act, and the Religious Freedom Act. As I mentioned, I was involved in Iran sanctions issues from the Carter through the Clinton Administration, and now with the Atlantic Council.

But I have also become very knowledgeable in my private practice with the Ukraine-Russia related sanctions.

I am on the Defense Policy Board (appointed by Secretary of Defense Hagel), and we have focused on issues like Russia/Ukraine, ISIS, Iraq, and Syria.

3. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

I was involved as President Carter's Domestic Policy Adviser and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Staff, with the completion of the Tokyo Round of the WTO in 1977, led by Special Trade Represented Bob Strauss, and then the Uruguay Round in 1994, as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, led by Special Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. I also served under Mickey as his Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, where I traveled around the world promoting American trade and investment, and then as Under Secretary of State, working on many of the same issues, but from a broader diplomatic perspective. I was involved in the China MFN issue.

As U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, I created, along with then Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD), which remains the officially recognized business voice on transatlantic trade issues by both the U.S. government and the European Union. To this day, I am the American chair of the Transatlantic Business Council (TABC), of which TABD is a part.

I chair the international trade and finance practice at Covington & Burling, LLP, and was selected recently as Trade Lawyer of the Year by the American Lawyer magazine. I have testified several times on international trade issues, particularly the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). President Obama's Trade Representative Mike Froman and I meet frequently, most recently at the TABD/TABC meeting in Davos. He asked me to provide advice on the regulatory reform part of TTIP, along with a few other trade experts.

The Transpacific Partnership (TPP) will come before TTIP, as will Trade Promotion Authority (fast-track). All of these to one degree or the other will be opposed by labor and consumer groups. I believe I can help you shape

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positions on these.

4. EUROPEAN UNION

Having been U.S. Ambassador to the European Union (1993-96), negotiating with them frequently during the Clinton Administration, co-chairing the TABC, and writing articles on the EU (e.g. with our current U.S. Ambassador to the EU Tony Gardner in the 2010 Foreign Affairs Magazine), I believe I understand the EU as well as almost anyone. The EU is an increasingly important economic and political partner (e.g. Iran and Russian sanctions). I am well known in Brussels and can be helpful as an informal emissary there.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE

I was the head of the U.S. delegation, as Under Secretary of State, to the Kyoto Protocol negotiations, and played a central role in its negotiations, including aligning the positions of the EU, Japan, and other major industrial democracies with that of the U.S. I worked closely with then Vice President Gore and senior people in the White House, including Gene Sperling. I have continued to stay engaged in climate change issues. With the December 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference coming up, this issue will receive a great deal of visibility going into the 2016 election year.

6. ISRAEL, MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, JEWISH ISSUES

During the 2008 campaign, I served as a frequent surrogate speaker for the Hillary Clinton campaign on Israel and Jewish issues.

As Under Secretary of State and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, I was responsible for dealing with the economic aspects of the peace process, while Dennis Ross led the political side. I negotiated some half dozen times with Yasir Arafat, worked on the QIZs in Gaza and Jordan (which I visited), the airport in Gaza, getting Palestinian workers and VIP Palestinian business leaders into Israel, and on other economic initiatives. Of course, this was done in close coordination with senior Israeli officials. As Under Secretary of State, I also negotiated with then Finance Minister Jacob Neeman, the phase-out of the economic assistance program for Israel, in return for increased levels of military assistance.

I also headed the U.S. government side of the joint U.S.-Israel Economic Dialogue during the Clinton Administration.

As a result of co-chairing with Dennis Ross, the Jewish People's Policy Institute of Jerusalem, a think tank created by the Jewish Agency and supported by major UJA Federation heads and major Jewish donors, Dennis and I meet for up to two hours annually with Prime Minister Netanyahu and his Cabinet to present our Assessment of the State of the Jewish People, for which Dennis and I do the Introduction. I have worked with the Prime Minister since his years as Finance Minister, and we have maintained a close relationship, despite our contrary views on settlements. I know most of the major figures in the Israeli political firmament. I travel to Israel two to three times a year, and have a vast array of friends and relatives there. Both my grandfather and great-grandfather are buried in the Petach Tikva cemetery.

For the past several decades, I participate in a small, off-the-record breakfast group, with the Israeli Ambassadors to the U.S., all of whom I know personally, most recently with Ron Dermer. Fran and I were so close to Ron and his family, that we went to his bar mitzvah in Miami, and remain a frequent guest at private events at his home. I have a close relationship with Howard Kohr of AIPAC, but at the same time, I am respected by the J Street group. Indeed, before he created J Street, Jeremy Ben-Ami came to seek my advice, and I urged then Ambassador Michael Oren to end the Israeli Embassy boycott of J Street, which they did, up to a point.

I could serve as a formal or informal emissary to Israeli government officials. I could also help with drafting and/or reviewing speeches on the Middle East peace process. I also know Palestinian officials. At Davos, for example, I participated in an off-the-record session "Breaking the Impasse" with the deputy prime minister and finance minister of the Palestinian Authority, and leading Palestinian and Israeli business people. I proposed to him the creation of QIZs in the West Bank, for example. Remarkably, while there was one in Gaza, that was very successful before the second intifada, and over a dozen in Jordan, there are none in the West Bank.

I have a great deal of visibility in the American and world Jewish community due to my ongoing Holocaust work; my co-chairmanship with Dennis of JPPI; two books ("Imperfect Justice; Looted Assets, Slave Labor and the

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Unfinished Business of World War II" on my Holocaust negotiations, in 2003 an later translated into four languages; and in 2012 and a new version in 2014, "The Future of the Jews: How Global Forces are Impacting on the Jewish People, Israel, and its Relationship with the United States"); frequent articles in Jewish publications, and speeches to Jewish audiences in the U.S. and around the world, from college campuses to federations to the General Assembly of the Jewish Agency to the upcoming AIPAC conference; my ongoing Holocaust negotiations; and my chairmanship of the Defiant Requiem Foundation, which has sponsored a concert-drama around the world (Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Jerusalem, Berlin, Prague, Budapest, etc.) called "Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin", which honors a Jewish prisoner chorus at Theresenstadt concentration camp and the documentary "Defiant Requiem", which likewise honors the broader courageous artistic and musical performances at Theresenstadt. Our documentary was nominated for two Emmy awards in 2014 (best full-length documentary and best script), has been shown on PBS on Yom Hashoah day in 2013, and has been purchased by Netflix and BBC.

I continue to serve as Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues to Secretary of State Kerry, as I did for then-Secretary of State Clinton. On December 8, 2014, I signed in the State Department's Treaty Room a $60 million agreement with the French government for those current non-French citizens in the U.S., Israel, and around the world, who were involved in the deportations from France to the death camps, their spouses, and heirs. It was a widely-heralded breakthrough 70 years after the end of World War II. I am also working on the Gurlitt looted art case in Munich, and have met with the German Minister of Culture on this matter, with signficant results.

In my private capacity, since 2009, I have headed the negotiating team of the Jewish Claims Conference in their annual negotiations with the German Finance Ministry. Since 1952, the Claims Conference the official body for negotiations with the German government on behalf of Holocaust survivors. During that time, I have negotiated over $1.5 billion in benefits, including a landmark 2013 agreement for $1 billion in home care through 2017.

7. BUSINESS COMMUNITY

As a result of my corporate boards (UPS, BlackRock Funds, Alcatel-Lucent, Globe Specialty Metals), advisory boards (Christie's, GML Holdings, and formerly chair of the Coca-Cola International Advisory Board), co-chairmanship of the Transatlantic Business Council (with some sixty U.S. and European companies), and joint projects with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, I could help the campaign as a liaison/spokesman with the U.S. business community.

8. GENERAL POLITICAL AND POLICY ADVICE

I have been involved in senior capacities in presidential campaigns since the 1968 Hubert Humphrey campaign, for which I served as his research director, and the 1976 Jimmy Carter campaign, for which I was policy director. I have helped with policy issues in the Dukakis campaign, and Bill Clinton's campaign. I have a keen sense of the combination of policy and political factors.

Due to my work in the Carter and Johnson White Houses (my first job after Harvard Law School in 1967-68), and as Deputy Treasury Secretary, I am knowledgeable on a wide range of domestic issues, including job training (I recently co-authored an article on an apprenticeship program for the U.S., modeled on the German and Swiss models) health care, tax policy, as well as international economic policy.

I am sorry to have gone on so long, but wanted to give you the fullest menu from which you can feel free to enlist my assistance. I practice law full-time, and serve on four corporate boards, as well as chairing the Defiant Requiem Foundation and co-chairing JPPI and TABC. But, I am prepared to give you considerable time. I am also prepared to contribute a substantial amount financially, and to help raise more, although I know this is not your jurisdiction.

Thanks for your consideration, and good luck on your important work,

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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Stuart Eizenstat

Covington & Burling LLP
One CityCenter, 850 Tenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 662 5519 (tel) | (202) 778-5519 (fax)
seizenstat@cov.com
www.cov.com



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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 7/16/2015 8:13:07 AM
Subject: RE: Iran

Jake,
No. If you sent it, I did not see it. Could you forward it?
Thanks,
Stu

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: John D. Podesta (John.Podesta@gmail.com); Huma M. Abedin (huma@hrcoffice.com)
Subject: Re: Iran

Stu -- have you read her statement?

On Thu, Jul 16, 2015 at 10:34 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:
Dear Jake,
It is clear the campaign and Hillary want to be seen as simply praising the Iran deal without any of the qualifications and assurances to our allies we have discussed for weeks. You had even strengthened the language I proposed on using all means to stop an Iranian nuclear weapon during or after the expiration of the term of the Agreement. Is this now all by the boards? I am very concerned about her loss of Jewish and moderate support, without the kind of statement I assumed would be forthcoming.

Best wishes,

Stu

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From: "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: 4/9/2015 3:43:01 PM
Subject: Re: Rough first crack

On the voting issue, I think we need to illustrate the problem

Because of new, restrictive laws put in place since 2010, voters in **22 states** face tougher rules and more obstacles to vote

— John Anzalone
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
334-387-3121
www.algpolling.com
twitter: @AnzaloneLiszt

From: Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 6:31 PM
To: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>
Cc: Mindy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>, Joel Beneneson <Jbenenson@bsgco.com>, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>, Teddy Goff <teddy.goff@gmail.com>, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com>, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com>, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com>, "esepp@equitablegrowth.org" <esepp@equitablegrowth.org>, Lona Valmoro <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com>, "Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com " <Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com>, Sawsan Bay <sbay@hrcoffice.com>, Shannon Currie <scurrie@bsgco.com>, Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com>, Katie Connolly <kconnolly@bsgco.com>
Subject: Re: Rough first crack

On college:

- We can't allow student debt to be dragging our young people down, when education is supposed to life them up. Here in Iowa, an average student will graduate from a 4-year college or university with nearly $30,000 in debt -- the 9th highest debt burden in the country. Shady for-profit colleges and abusive debt servicers are getting rich while students, families, and taxpayers get taken for a ride. I will propose ideas to fix these problems.

On voting rights:

Modernizing the voter registration system could add up to 50 million unregistered citizens to the rolls, cheaply, conveniently, and accurately.

On security

We need to protect America and Americans from the dangers we face, and assert confident American leadership to shape global events rather than be shaped by them.

POLICY

- We need to be strong and smart in dealing with new security challenges, like cyber, pandemics like Ebola, and emerging terrorist threats. We need to be strong and smart in dealing with the old geopolitical games that countries like Russia and China will play. And we need to be strong and smart in seizing opportunities to advance democracy, human rights and human dignity everywhere we can.

[could stop there or could add ...]

- We are in a long-term struggle against terrorism and violent extremism, and we need to be strong, disciplined, and smart to defeat the enemy. Let's lead the world in a comprehensive approach to restoring stability in the Middle East by confronting ISIS, checking Iranian aggression, dealing with the terrible humanitarian toll in Syria, and defending Israel at all costs.

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- We are dealing with a canny operator in Vladimir Putin. Let's position ourselves and our allies for success by strengthening NATO, breaking Europe's dependence on Russian oil, and supporting a strong, united democratic Ukraine.

- We need to shape China's rise and make sure China plays by the rules. Let's cooperate with them where it is in our interest, and otherwise we should out-compete them and everyone else.

On Thu, Apr 9, 2015 at 6:20 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

I took it as a framing statement for each bucket with several proof points underneath it.

— John Anzalone
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
334-387-3121
www.algpolling.com
twitter: @AnzaloneLiszt

From: Mindy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 6:19 PM
To: Joel Beneneson <Jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, Teddy Goff <teddy.goff@gmail.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com>, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, "esepp@equitablegrowth.org " <esepp@equitablegrowth.org >, Lona Valmoro <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com >, "Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com " <Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com >, Sawsan Bay <sbay@hrcoffice.com >, Shannon Currie <scurrie@bsgco.com >, Mona Thinavongsa <Mona@algpolling.com >, Katie Connolly <kconnolly@bsgco.com >
Subject: Re: Rough first crack

I thought what HRC was looking for was a sixty second-ish billboard of these four fights before she goes into detail about them.

What did others think?

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Apr 9, 2015, at 5:45 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

> Tyring to keep it simple
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Marisa McAuliffe [mailto:mmcauliffe@hrcoffice.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 12:34 PM
> **To:** Marissa Astor
> **Cc:** Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Robby; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com ; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; John Anzalone; Huma Abedin; esepp@equitablegrowth.org ; Lona Valmoro; Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com ; Sawsan Bay; Shannon Currie; Mona Thinavongsa
> **Subject:** RE: Call with HRC
>
> Last change. Locking in 4:30pm.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Marisa McAuliffe
> **Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2015 11:18 AM
> **To:** Marissa Astor
> **Cc:** Teddy Goff; Margolis, Jim; Joel Benenson; Robby; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com ; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; John Anzalone; Huma Abedin; esepp@equitablegrowth.org ; Lona Valmoro; 'Ellen.Esterhay@gmmb.com '; Sawsan Bay
> **Subject:** RE: Call with HRC

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Apologies for another change – looks like 2:00pm will be the best time in order for prep materials to be ready. I'll send around a calendar invite now as well. Best, Marisa

---

From: Marisa McAuliffe
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Marissa Astor
Cc: Teddy Goff; Margolis, Jim; Joel Benenson; Robby; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com ; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; John Anzalone; Huma Abedin; esepp@equitablegrowth.org ; Lona Valmoro
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Thank you. Confirmed for noon:

206-402-0100

930969#

On Apr 9, 2015, at 9:32 AM, Marissa Astor <marissa.astor@icloud.com > wrote:

> We will make noon work for Robby.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Teddy Goff <teddy.goff@gmail.com >
> **Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 9:05 AM
> **To:** "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >
> **Cc:** Marisa McAuliffe <mmcauliffe@hrcoffice.com >, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, "jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com " <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, "kristinakschake@gmail.com " <kristinakschake@gmail.com >, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, Marissa Astor <marissa.astor@icloud.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, "esepp@equitablegrowth.org " <esepp@equitablegrowth.org >, Lona Valmoro <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com >
> **Subject:** Re: Call with HRC
>
> Noon works here
>
> On Thursday, April 9, 2015, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
>
> > I am suppose to film Gen Powell til 11:30 so noon would work
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Marisa McAuliffe <mmcauliffe@hrcoffice.com >
> > **Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 9:03 AM
> > **To:** Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
> > **Cc:** Robby <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Jen Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >, Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Teddy Goff <teddy.goff@gmail.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >, "marissa.astor@icloud.com " <marissa.astor@icloud.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, "esepp@equitablegrowth.org " <esepp@equitablegrowth.org >, Lona Valmoro <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com >
> > **Subject:** RE: Call with HRC
> >
> > Would noon work for everyone (she's flexible on timing)?
> >
> > ---

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From: Joel Benenson [mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 9:02 AM
To: Marisa McAuliffe
Cc: Robby; John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Mandy Grunwald; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com ; kristinakschake@gmail.com ; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin; Teddy Goff; John Anzalone; marissa.astor@icloud.com ; Huma Abedin; esepp@equitablegrowth.org ; Lona Valmoro
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

On a flight that is scheduled to land at 11:30

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 9, 2015, at 9:00 AM, Marisa McAuliffe <mmcauliffe@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

> Hi all – HRC would like to have a call with you today. Please let me know if 11:00am will NOT work for you. Call in information is:
>
> 206-402-0100
>
> 930969#
>
> Best,
> Marisa
>
> Marisa McAuliffe
>
> Office of Hillary Rodham Clinton
>
> 646-647-2742 (o)
>
> 813-480-9370 (c)

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<Four Fights - IOWA - JB.docx>

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From: "Carolyn Wu" <carolyn_wu@apple.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/27/2015 11:19:10 PM
Subject: Fwd: DigiCha

Begin forwarded message:

From: The Sinocism China Newsletter <noreply+feedproxy@google.com >
Date: 2015年6月15日 GMT+8上午4:04:57
To: carolyn_wu@asia.apple.com
Subject: DigiCha
Reply-To: The Sinocism China Newsletter <digicha@gmail.com >

DigiCha

The Sinocism China Newsletter 06.14.15

Posted: 14 Jun 2015 04:17 AM PDT

Today's Links:

Anchor **THE ESSENTIAL EIGHT**

1. Officials: Second hack exposed military and intel data-AP "This tells the Chinese the identities of almost everybody who has got a United States security clearance," said Joel Brenner, a former top U.S. counterintelligence official. "That makes it very hard for any of those people to function as an intelligence officer. The database also tells the Chinese an enormous amount of information about almost everyone with a security clearance. That's a gold mine. It helps you approach and recruit spies."..Nearly all of the millions of security clearance holders, including some CIA, National Security Agency and military special operations personnel, are potentially exposed in the security clearance breach, the officials said...The newer estimate puts the number of compromised records between 9 million and 14 million going back to the 1980s, said one congressional official and one former U.S. official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity **// /sounds devastating...how do you say jackpot in Chinese?**

Related: White House Weighs Sanctions After Second Breach of a Computer System – NYTimes At the White House, officials said that Mr. Obama was weighing the use of an executive order he signed in April that allows the Treasury secretary to impose sanctions on individuals or groups that engage in malicious cyberattacks, or people who benefit from them. "This newly available option is one that is on the table," said Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary. **// If the White House calls this a cyber attack and not cyber espionage doesn't that undermine its arguments that the US engages in "legitimate" cyber espionage? If China is behind this, how is this not "legitimate" cyber espionage according to way the US has defined it?**

2. Zhou Yongkang, Ex-Security Chief in China, Gets Life Sentence for Graft – NYTimes "This is the point of decision, when he decides whether Zhou Yongkang is the last or the first great tiger," Roderick MacFarquhar, a professor at Harvard University who focuses on Chinese elite politics, said of Mr. Xi. "I think it's too early to tell." **// This looks to be a clear win for Xi Jinping. There was no need to execute Zhou Yongkang as he is already politically dead, his network has known for a while resistance is futile and killing him would likely be politically difficult when capital is needed for other battles. Remember though that Xi had to have had consensus to launch the takedown of Zhou and his network; Li Chuncheng was detained three weeks after Xi became General Secretary and it is highly unlikely Xi had enough power so early his tenure to go after such a senior Zhou crony on his own. It may also be worth noting the relative speed of the Zhou takedown, less than 11 months from announcement of investigation to sentencing, far shorter than the processes for Politburo members Chen Xitong, Chen Liangyu and Bo Xilai. Has the corruption crackdown climaxed? I would not bet on it, though there are not many people left at Zhou's rank or above**

Related: Zhou Yongkang sentenced to life in prison, no limits for anti-corruption – Xinhua The People's Daily,

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the CPC newspaper, applauded Zhou's trial and conviction in its editorial [_____]. "There are no privileged members in front of CPC discipline. There is no privileged citizen in front of the law," the editorial read. "No matter how much power one holds or how high one's position, one will surely be severely punished for violating Party discipline and state laws."..."The handling of my case in accordance with Party rules and the law reflects the authorities' determination to govern the Party strictly and advance the rule of law," Zhou added. // **In his script Zhou mentioned two of the four comprehensives.. the Xinhua release in Chinese-**_____

Related: China Security Head's Secret Trial Shows Limits of Xi's Push – Bloomberg More awkward moments could've unfolded if Zhou's trial was public, said Zhang, the Beijing-based historian. Xi couldn't afford having Zhou drag in more senior officials, further undermining the party after an anti-corruption campaign that has struck the upper echelons of power. "Here's a strong indication that Xi's big-tiger hunting campaign is drawing to a close," Zhang said. // **Maybe I am missing something but I do not understand the guesses that holding a secret trial means that the tiger hunt is winding down...there are other reasons for making it secret, need much more evidence I think before concluding that this has climaxed. I continue to believe the opposite.**

3. Top China General Tells U.S. Sea Dispute Shouldn't Hinder Ties – Bloomberg General Fan Changlong — second only to Chinese President Xi Jinping on the Central Military Commission — said during a visit to the Pentagon on Thursday that the territorial spat represented "just one episode in Sino-U.S. relations," according to a statement posted on the Ministry of National Defense website. The meeting between the defense chiefs helps pave the way for Xi's planned state visit in September.

Related: Commentary: Row over South China Sea only an episode, not a flashpoint, in U.S.-China relations – Xinhua At a time when the futures and fortunes of China and the United States are more closely intertwined than they have ev er been, it is imperative for them to always look for the bigger picture, and prevent such solvable tensions ev olving into dangerous tinderbox. As Fan Changlong, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, has said, the two nations "should take the higher ground to look into the far future by paying more attention to other, more important regional and international issues."

Related: China to work with U.S. to ensure success of President Xi's state visit: general – Xinhua In a meeting with U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice at the White House on Friday, Fan Chonglong, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, said both China and the United States attach great importance to Xi's visit, which he called the most important event in the development of the China-U.S. ties this year. The general, who is satisfied with the generally steady dev elopment of the bilateral ties, pledged that China will make joint efforts with the U.S. to create "a positive atmosphere" so as to ensure Xi's visit a great success. He commended the progress made in varied areas of the China-U.S. military ties, while proposing the two sides actively seek to build up a new type of military relationship based on "mutual trust, cooperation, non-conflict and sustainability" through increasing exchanges, conducting pragmatic cooperation and managing risks as well as crises.

Related: Defense.gov: Carter, Chinese Official Discuss Military Relationship Carter is pleased that Fan and Gen. Ray Odierno, Army chief of staff, will witness the signing the U.S.-China Army-to-Army Dialogue Mechanism framework document tomorrow, the statement said. This framework will open a new channel for leaders in the two armies to raise and discuss issues of mutual concern, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster response practices, they added. The two sides have agreed to renew efforts to account for missing U.S. military personnel in China, the statement said, noting that a 2008 agreement to search for information relating to U.S. military personnel missing in action before, during and after the Korean War will now be expanded to include personnel from the World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.// **and the US has scored an invite to China's September 3 parade to commemorate the end of the war, wonder who it will send**

Related: America's contribution, sacrifice in China's anti-fascism war remembered – Xinhua Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission Fan Changlong (R, center) meets with 91-year-old Flying Tiger's veteran J.V. Vinyard, grand-daughter of General Chennault Nell Calloway, the son and daughter of Captain Paul C. Domke John B. Domke and Paula D. Sterling, in Washington D.C., the United States, June 12, 2015. China always remembers the contribution and sacrifice made to it by the United States and the American people during the World War II, said Fan Changlong here Friday

4. In a fundamental shift, China and the US are now engaged in all-out competition | South China Morning Post-David Shambaugh OpEd **Strangely Shambaugh makes no mention of what happens to the relationship when, as he recently predicted, the Party collapses.** // This has given impetus to an unprecedented outpouring of commentary and reports by Washington think tanks in recent months. I have lived and worked there a long time, and cannot recall such a tsunami of publications on US-China relations – and they are all, with one exception (Kev in Rudd's Asia Society report), negative in nature, calling for a re-evaluation of US policy towards China, as well as a hardening of policy towards China across the board. A qualitative shift in American thinking about China is occurring. In essence, the "engagement" strategy pursued since Nixon across eight administrations, that was premised on three pillars, is unravelling ...This disillusion with China in America probably says much more about America than it does about China...Thus, these two

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great nations are likely to find it increasingly difficult to coexist – yet they must. However fraught, this is a marriage in which divorce is not an option. Divorce means war. // **And expect the DC commentariat echo chamber to get much louder and more negative between now and the 2016 Presidential election...perhaps Xi and his advisers are picking up on what does seem to be a real shift back in DC, perhaps that partially explains some of the nice noises from the Fan trip...I do not agree with the conclusion that "divorce means war". For all the bluster I still believe Beijing does not believe that a conflict with the US has any benefits for the Party, the country or the individuals running it.**

Related: Can China Be Contained? – WSJ –**Andrew Browne in a similar vein. This is clearly now a serious issue in the relationship//** The mood shift in Washington may end up being every bit as consequential as the one that came over the U.S. immediately after World War II, when it dawned on America that the Soviet Union wasn't going to continue to be an ally. That is when the legendary U.S. diplomat and policy thinker George F. Kennan formulated his plan for containment...try ing to contain China would be immensely costly: Neither country can succeed economically without the other. Kennan's containment strategy worked against the Soviet Union because it was economically weak, with almost no commercial ties to America. But today's China is an economic powerhouse, and its double-digit military budgets are supported by a deep and div ersified industrial base.

5. Chinese Hackers Circumvent Popular Web Privacy Tools – NYTimes As long as visitors to those websites were also logged into one of 15 Chinese Internet portals — including those run by Baidu, Alibaba and RenRen — the hackers were able to steal names, addresses, sex, birth dates, email addresses, phone numbers and even the so-called Internet cookies that track other websites viewed by a user. To get around the Tor and VPN technology , the attackers relied on a server software vulnerability that China's top companies apparently didn't patch, Mr. Blasco said.// **how embarrassing for the firms whose services were used in this effort. Either they have really bad security practices or they were complicit? Given that several of them are getting more active in the US, amidst the deterioration in US-China relations, should we be surprised if US regulators start paying more attention to their US efforts?**

6. China's Hot Stock Market Beckons Chinese Firms Home – WSJ **the delisting/relisting should take a least a year for these firms, they better hope the Chinese market stays hot, though for the most part the Chinese tech firms listed in the US are of far better quality than the crappy ones on Chinext...Good for the investors and funders; they made a mint listing in the US and now they have a shot at making another mint by selling the same thing twice, this time to Chinese punters** // "The primary motivation is the valuation gap between the U.S. market and the A-share market," said Bao Fan, founder of China Renaissance, China's top boutique-investment bank focused on technology companies. "Historically, Chinese capital markets weren't sophisticated enough to evaluate and invest in these companies," he said. "That's changed."

Related: Renren Receives "Going Private" Proposal From CEO, COO – NASDAQ **an absolute steal for the buyers if they get this price, Renren has a growing portfolio of fintech venture investments that could dwarf its current valuation ex cash. I bought the stock about a month ago because I thought the investment portfolio was under appreciated, hope some activist investors take a look and force them to pay a better price though that is probably unlikely** // Renren Inc. (RENN) said Wednesday that its Board of Directors has received a non-binding proposal letter, dated June 10, from Joseph Chen, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the company, and James Jian Liu, a member of the Board and Chief Operating Officer of the company, proposing a "going-private" deal to acquire all of the outstanding ordinary shares of the company not already owned by Chen or Liu for US$4.20 in cash per American depositary share

Related: China's Bona Film in Go Private Deal Offer From Founder, Investors – Hollywood Reporter – The Hollywood Reporter **also own shares in this one, happy at this price** // The buyer group offers a "going-priv ate" transaction, which would end the company's stock market listing and see the group buy all the stock it doesn't already own for $13.70 in cash per American depositary share, or approximately $27 .40 per ordinary share. That would amount to $830 million-$860 million.

7. Q. and A.: Zhang Weiwei on Why China Will Succeed Under the Communist Party – NYTimes Mr. Zhang, 57, who as a teenager spent three years in a Shanghai factory carv ing jade and in his 20s serv ed as an English interpreter for Deng Xiaoping, is now a professor of politics at Fudan Univ ersity in Shanghai, where he directs the Center for China Development Model Research, and a leading theorist of the "China model" of political and economic development. This holds that China under the Communist Party is on the right path and is destined to succeed. His most recent book, "The China Horizon: Glory and Dream of a Civilizational State," which is due out in English this year, continues that theme. Western critics need to get over their gloomy predictions about China, Mr. Zhang says, which have been wrong for decades. China is not going to collapse; polls show that most people are happier than ever; and the country's economy is certain one day to overtake that of the United States

8. Why I Publish in China | ChinaFile – Peter Hessler Over the past couple of years, I've noticed a problem with the coverage of the issue of Chinese censorship of foreign books. Last year, when I was interviewed for a feature in the South China Morning Post, the story felt imbalanced—it took more than a thousand words to reach a

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comment by a writer who noted any benefits to making more material available in China, ev en if it suffers some censorship. My colleague and friend Michael Mey er, who has written two books on China, including one, The Last Days of Old Beijing, that has been published on the mainland, has complained that journalists seem to avoid mentioning that foreign China specialists who work closely with their publishers are often able to include material in their books that otherwise isn't av ailable in China. "The focus in these articles is always on monetary, not intellectual, exchange, and on what has been cut, not what has been preserved," he told me recently. His book is highly critical of the redevelopment of Beijing, and yet less than one page, total, was remov ed from the mainland edition. "More surprising than the three passages that were sliced was all the material that remained intact," he says. // **Is there some score-settling going on behind the scenes?**

Anchor **BUSINESS, ECONOMY AND TRADE**

: **rumored bullish remarks by CSRC chairman Xiao Gang at a speech at the Central Party School making the rounds of social media, have punters excited. If true certainly looks to be a re-confirmation of the constructive stance the government continues to take towards the stock market** //

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Uber nears 1m trips every day in China – FT **awesome success by Uber, drivers love it right now because it is paying them huge subsidies, though this kind public discussion of success by a foreign firm is probably bad for the company's prospects in China**// The figures and investment plans were disclosed in an email, obtained by the FT, which was sent to Uber's investors by chief executive Travis Kalanick this week. The email highlights the scale and growth of Uber's business in its 11 cities in China despite the strength of local riv al Didi Kuaidi, which is backed by Chinese internet leaders Alibaba and Tencent. Howev er, it also shows the massive costs inv olved in expanding to new cities and subsidising rides to attract customers. Mr Kalanick said in the email Uber plans to launch in 5 0 of the more than 80 cities with more than 5m residents over the next year, after first arriv ing in China in February 2014.

Uber orders China drivers to av oid confrontations – FT **this recent Hangzhou incident very dangerous for Uber** // There has been a recent upsurge of cases in which taxi drivers or plainclothes police pose as passengers seeking rides from Uber or other ride-hailing services, and then detain the driver and his vehicle. Some driv ers caught in such stings have responded by appealing to other private car operators to rush to their aid. "Please don't wreck the good urban env ironment you have all worked so hard to help build," Uber warned its drivers in Hangzhou. "If y ou are at the scene, leave immediately." The company added that it would cancel the contracts of drivers whose GPS coordinates showed that they had not left the area.

Chengdu's Commercial Property Market Falls on Hard Times-Caixin Dev elopers and property owners call for government help as oversupply becomes a problem and rents fall

Online Property Insurance Firm Zhong An Raises Nearly 6 Bln Yuan-Caixin Ant Financial Services Group, which is affiliated with New York-listed Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., will continue to be the single largest shareholder of Zhong An, although its holdings will be reduced to 16 percent from 19.9 percent, documents show. Tencent Holdings Ltd., an online gaming and social networking service dev eloper, will hold 12 percent of the insurer, down from 15 percent. Another major investor in Zhong An, Ping An Insurance (Group) Co., will also hold 12 percent of the insurer after the investment, down from 15 percent.

Ant Financial Gets Approval to Open Equity Crowdfunding Company-Caixin Alibaba's financial arm can open company selling shares in startups to small investors, but is still waiting for regulator to publish rules on industry

South China Sea island-maker seeks foreign flotation – FT **would love suggestions from financially savvy readers on how to build a portfolio around China's growing military industrial complex and the spooking of China's neighbors** // Global inv estors with an appetite for geopolitical intrigue will have the chance to put their money into Beijing's land-reclamation projects in the South China Sea, as the dredging company doing much of the work prepares to go public. China Communications Construction Company, a large state-owned infrastructure group, announced in March that it was integrating its three dredging assets into a new company, CCCC Dredging, which it would eventually list ov erseas. That entity was set up in Shanghai's Free Trade Zone on Wednesday.

China central bank admits defeat in war on deflation – FT China's consumer price inflation fell to an annual rate of 1.2 per cent in May, down from 1.5 per cent in and well below the government's official target of "around 3 per cent" for 2015. Wholesale prices have already been in deflationary territory for more than three years. This week researchers at the People's Bank of China — led by Ma Jun, the former Deutsche Bank economist who now heads the central bank's research bureau — cut its full-year CPI forecast to 1.4 per cent, down from the 2.2

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per cent projection published in December.

Reviving oversight concerns, China port says iron ore stocks missing | Reuters Tianjin Port No. 5 Stevedoring Co., a unit of the listed port operator, Tianjin Port Holdings Co. Ltd, said in a memo sent to clients and dated May 29, 2015, that an unnamed logistics agent had acted with a trading firm, also not named, to release cargoes without authority or paying port fees. “This matter was caused completely by the illegal operations of the agent and a related downstream trader and the port company did not itself sign...or participate in any unauthorised cargo release,” Tianjin Port No. 5 said in the memo, seen by Reuters. “Hence, the port company was not involv ed in any transgression. Furthermore, to protect its legal rights, the port company has already initiated legal proceedings,” it said.

How Tony Blair built a business empire in China – Telegraph don’t expect Beijing respects him much, even if they find him useful // Tony Blair has been courting influential Chinese leaders – and then introducing them to the Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund he works for

Investing in Chinese Stocks— : Margin Assisted Suicide; Changsha Man Jumps After Losing Everything Mr. Hou, a 32-year old man from Changsha, levered up to 4 times his capital and put it all in a single stock. Shares were limit down for two days straight and his 1,7 00,000 y uan in capital was wiped out. After several days of fighting with his wife and dealing with the psychological pain, he leapt from his 22nd floor apartment. Besides his wife, he left behind a 6-year old child.

People’s University professor Wei Xinghua in Red Flag Manuscript on the importance of developing and perfecting the state-owned economy //

Anchor

POLIT ICS AND LAW

“ ” -The Paper **those looking for a next possible tiger might find the coverage of Zhao Jin case interesting. First Caixin did a multi-part series on his corruption and ties to the Communist Youth League, and activities in Jiangsu, Tianjin, Beijing, Hebei among other places. Now Thepaper is out with much more. Zhao’s father Zhao Shaolin, also detained, was once a senior Jiangsu provincial official who worked under, as Caixin noted by names, Li Yuanchao and Hui Liangyu...this kind of aggressive coverage in not one but two very well-connected media outlets is very interesting... //**

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Two top China graft suspects sick, may not be tried: sources – Yahoo News UK **Reuters again with the nebulous “sources with ties to the leadership”...take with a large grain of salt, Reuters reporting on elite Chinese politics seems no more reliable than HK Chinese media reporting...some times they are right, you have to read it, but need other sources before believing** // Two sources with ties to the leadership said separately that Ling Jihua, 5 9, who was a top aide to Xi’s immediate predecessor Hu Jintao, had apparently suffered a nerv ous breakdown, while Guo Boxiong, a former senior general, was very sick with cancer. Both cases present dilemmas for Beijing – Ling’s position is particularly sensitive because of his close connection with former President Hu, while the sources said there were concerns in the secrecy-obsessed leadership that if Guo died while under investigation it could ignite rumours he had been murdered.

Six large SOEs criticized for discipline violation – Xinhua no detentions announced yet, but clearly they are coming // Six centrally-administered state-owned enterprises (SOE) have been publicly criticized for violating the anti-graft regulations, China’s chief graft-buster said on Friday . These SOEs include China Huaneng Group, China State Construction Engineering Corporation, China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation, COSCO Group, Baosteel Group and Wuhan Iron and Steel Corporation. The Communist Party of China’s Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) started in March the first round of disciplinary inspection for 2015 which covered 26 centrally-administered SOEs.

Chinese students in LA kidnap, torture fellow study -abroad student: Shanghaiist **they should spend many years in US prisons...in China of course they could get out of this with payments and wrist-slaps...no wonder daddy thought he could pay someone to make it go away...whoops** // A group of Chinese study - abroad students in Los Angeles, California are standing trial for the alleged abduction and torture of a fellow

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Chinese student, according to media reports. The victim, surnamed Liu, claims that a group of students stripped her naked, forced her to eat sand, shav ed her head and burned her. It is revealed that the dispute arose from jealousy between the victim and the defendants. Among the six arrested defendants, three are are minors. It is reported that four other accomplices involv ed in the case are still at large...More controversy ensued when the father of one of the defendants tried to pay off a witness, hoping to 'settle' the fiasco. He was later arrested for bribery of a witness.

not quite "Reefer Madness" but CCTV takes a 10 minute look at marijuana smuggling from the US via mail and the dangers of using the drug...never a good idea to use the drug in China, now a really bad idea

United Front Work department to go to work on "rich second generations"

Qiao Shi dies at 91

interesting look at the case of a Shandong grassroots official who spent 100,000 RMB buying a deputy county chief post, turned that investment into 4 million RMB before being arrested

-The Paper Thepaper on another case of corruption and judicial injustice, this one in Hunan

You Have a Right to an Attorney. You Have No Chance at Going Free. | Foreign Policy But those intimately familiar with the Chinese legal system and its players say that playing the role of defense lawyer is far from a career killer. Clarke said that even though they are not defending clients in a traditional sense, lawyers still play a role. "If the lawyer is a clever bargainer, perhaps he can achieve something for the client that the client would not have been able to achieve for himself," Clarke said. Cohen, who says he knows and admires Gu, explained that being selected to defend someone like Zhou doesn't diminish the defender's reputation and also can telegraph their clout. "People understand that the lawyer can do little and accepting the task is a type of legal duty as well as a political one," Cohen said.

Xi commemorates CPC rev olutionary veteran, stresses Party unity – Xinhua Xi made the remarks Friday at a symposium to mark the 110th anniversary of the birth of Chen Yun, one such revolutionary. "The bitter and glorious historical period of the 20th century saw the emergence of a huge number of outstanding CPC members. Comrade Chen Yun's firm belief, strong Party principles, earnest, frugal sty le and hardworking spirit deserv e to be remembered forever," Xi said. At the meeting, Xi recalled Chen's outstanding contributions to the revolution, and China's subsequent construction and reform, hailing him a "great proletarian revolutionary, politician, an outstanding Marxist, the founder of China's socialist economy and a tested, excellent Party and state leader."

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Anchor

FOREIGN AND DEFENSE AFFAIRS

China Opens Agency to Clean up Space Junk Circling Earth-Caixin China has established a national agency to boost efforts aimed at tackling the growing threat that space junk poses to its space programs. The new organization was formed by China's space agency , known as the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a government research body. It is to research space debris, including non-functional spacecraft, abandoned parts of launch vehicles and other debris.

China's latest hypersonic v ehicle test seen as 'nuclear deterrent' amid US interference | South China Morning Post The defence ministry on Friday confirmed it had tested a supersonic nuclear delivery vehicle in a mov e the United States has called an "extreme manoeuvre" amid tensions in the South China Sea. Last Sunday's launch of the hypersonic glide v ehicle – which the US has dubbed the "Wu-14" – was the People Liberation Army's fourth test of the weapon in 1 8 months.

China detains nine for spreading rumours about the military The nine "fabricated and spread the rumours" on the Internet, the People's Liberation Army Daily said. They used Chinese microblogs and mobile messaging apps to "spread military-related rumours, slander military cadres and falsely accuse troops of being involved in 'mass incidents'," the newspaper added.

China exports repression beyond its borders – The Washington Post Editorial we are concerned about how China is attempting to punish the ethnic Uighur journalist Shohret Hoshur of Radio Free Asia by imprisoning

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his three brothers in China. Mr. Hoshur left China in 1994 after he ran into trouble with the authorities because of his reporting. He has since become a U.S. citizen, and his work has provided an important window on events in the largely Muslim prov ince of Xinjiang, beset in the past few years with a violent conflict that China blames on Uighur separatists. Radio Free Asia is funded annually by the U.S. gov ernment's Broadcasting Board of Governors.

Spotlight: China, South Korea pledge to lift strategic cooperative partnership to new high – Xinhua **North Korea-educated Zhang...not stopping in Pyongyang it looks like** // China and South Korea, on the occasion of top Chinese legislator Zhang Dejiang's ongoing visit to South Korea, hav e pledged to lift the strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries to a new high through concerted efforts by both sides. Zhang is currently on an official good-will visit to South Korea from Thursday to Saturday, which marks his first v isit to the country since he took office in 2013.

Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar Meets With Xi Jinping in Beijing – NYTimes Mr. Xi and Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi met at the Great Hall of the People, according to Xinhua, the state-run Chinese news agency, which provided few details of the meeting. Ms. Aung San Suu Ky i, who was inv ited to Beijing by the ruling Communist Party, is also expected to meet with Premier Li Keqiang during her five-day visit, U Nyan Win, a spokesman for her party, the National League for Democracy, said before her arrival in Beijing on Wednesday.

How America Should Wage 'Lawfare' in the South China Sea | The National Interest The law of sovereignty gov erns the question of territorial ownership—who owns which islands and reefs. It decides which claimant is entitled to reign over each of the physical features that dot the South China Sea. In contrast, the law of the sea (also known as maritime law) governs the question of maritime entitlements—in other words, which claimant (if any) can lawfully exert jurisdiction over the waters and seabed that are adjacent to any given piece of territory. Although both bodies of law touch on territorial questions, the laws can operate independently from each other. With some limited exceptions, a court could decide on the breadth of an island's maritime zones without knowing who owns it, and v ice v ersa. The United States has failed to make the most of the difference between the two sets of laws.

China not happy with a new Philippines documentary on the South China Sea

House Democrats rebuff Obama on trade, delivering major defeat – The Washington Post **a win for China for sure** // Friday's setback dimmed hopes at the White House that Obama will be able to complete the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a sweeping free-trade and regulatory pact that he has called central to his economic agenda at home and his foreign-policy strategy in Asia. Obama's loss came after a months-long lobbying blitz in which the president invested significant personal credibility and political capital.

Anchor

HONG KONG, MACAO AND T AIWAN

Thousands March in Hong Kong Against China-Backed Election Plan – Bloomberg Business The protesters rallied at the city's Victoria Park at 3 p.m. Sunday before starting a march that drew increasing numbers as it made its way toward the government headquarters. Organizers of the demonstration, who want to remov e proposed restrictions on election nominees, hav e called on people to congregate outside the Legislative Council building this week to pressure lawmakers. Popular opposition to a bill that will be presented to the legislature Wednesday, which calls for 2017 election candidates to be picked by a nominating committee, has jumped to 43.4 percent of those surveyed by a coalition of universities. Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying needs four pro-democracy lawmakers to vote for the bill and provide a two-thirds majority for passage

Hong Kong Soccer Fans Boo Chinese National Anthem – NYTimes Hong Kong won its first World Cup qualifying match in nearly eight years on Thursday, thrashing Bhutan 7-0. But ahead of the match at Mong Kok Stadium in Hong Kong, the sounds of jeers filled the air. The boos of the Hong Kong fans were triggered by the playing of the Chinese national anthem, "March of the Volunteers."

Mainland to lift entry-permit requirements for Taiwan residents – Xinhua The Chinese mainland will remove entry permit requirements for Taiwan residents, as top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng vowed to boost exchanges across the Taiwan Strait on Sunday. Yu, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, announced the plan during a speech at the seventh Straits Forum, the largest annual event for cross-Strait exchanges, in Xiamen in the southeastern province of Fujian.

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Currently , Taiwan residents must apply for a visa-like entry permit in order to visit the mainland.

Anchor

T ECH AND MEDIA

10 **interesting interview with an official from the office of the cyberspace affairs leading group on the future "Internet ecology" in China**

Xiaomi On Defensive As Momentum Slows | Young's China Business Blog Xiaomi's latest moves and remarks reflect attempts to rekindle its fading momentum, as its growth slows and it faces a rising challenge from LeTV and a resurgent Apple. **// a different view than what you usually read about Xiaomi, which has been masterful at generating almost uniformly fawning media coverage…another thing they have learned from Apple perhaps?**

Baidu fires researcher who told subordinates to break rules in image-recognition competition | VentureBeat | Big Data | by Jordan Novet Chinese search giant Baidu has fired Ren Wu, the lead author of the Deep Image paper documenting the company's latest image-recognition technology, for breaking the rules in a recent competition, the ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge. The news comes one week after the organizers of the competition announced that people affiliated with Baidu used at least 200 submissions when just two per week were permitted. Baidu issued an apology and vowed to conduct a review.

Anchor

SOCIETY, ART , SPORT S, CULT URE AND HIST ORY

Chinese Premier Urges Officials to Fight Events That Led 4 Children to Drink Pesticide – NYTimes The youths, three sisters and a brother between the ages of 5 and 1 3, were among the many "left-behind children" in China. Their father was a migrant worker who sought jobs elsewhere and had been away from home for long periods of time, while their mother had also been absent for some reason in recent years. The siblings lived in a house in Guizhou Province, one of the poorest areas in China; their village, Cizhu, is under the administration of the city of Bijie.

12-year-old suspected of fatally poisoning 2 girls in southern China | South China Morning Post A 12-year-old boy was identified as the prime suspect in the fatal poisoning of two sisters in rural southern China, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Saturday. It was the second tragedy of the week to raise concerns over the well-being of rural Chinese children. The boy told police in Hunan province that the girls, aged 8 and 14, drank cola that he had laced with poison, Xinhua said. The girls died on Wednesday.

The Art of Dissent – Video – NYTimes Laura Poitras documents the dissidents Ai Weiwei and Jacob Appelbaum as they collaborate on an art project. **// per the video it looks like they brought a cache of classified documents into the PRC and gave them to a PRC citizen…any legal jeopardy?**

Record company denies 'leaking national secrets' – Global Times A record company on Tuesday has denied accusations that it has been leaking national secrets through its project of digitizing audio files during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76). The project involves 54 original master copies of the speeches of some political figures during the Cultural Revolution, which had been made public at that time, according to a statement released by the China Record Corporation (CRC). Cui Yongyuan, a popular former China Central Television host, said on his Sina Weibo account on Monday that the CRC turned over the master copies, which he said "obviously involved national secrets," to a Sino-Japanese joint venture company for digitization.

SIM CHI YIN: Thank you to Chinese news portal Tencent More importantly, we have raised 100,000 rmb (US$16,110) via Tencent Charity from within China in a day for dying gold miner He Quangui and his family, buying him some time and them some peace of mind. **// Tencent Charity a very interesting service**

Skepticism Rises As China Reduces Survivor Count From Sunken Ship – China Real Time Report – WSJ China's state broadcaster China Central Television reported in multiple posts on its v erified microblog feed Saturday ev ening that DNA tests had confirmed the identity of all 442 people who died after the ship, the Eastern Star, capsized in stormy weather on June 1. It also reported that the number of people on the boat had been reduced to 454 from 456 — and the number of survivors to 12 from 14. The revelation that authorities had miscounted the number of survivors for two weeks met with incredulous reponses from many on the Weibo microblogging service.

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Anchor

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND HEALTH

China promises better environmental protection – Xinhua The Chinese government will take "more forceful" measures in the next five years to protect the environment and promote green dev elopment, Environment Minister Chen Jining said on Tuesday . "The Chinese environment is reaching or has reached its limit due to years of sprawling development at the price of environment," Chen said at a meeting on environment and development in the 13th fiv e-year plan period. Environmental quality has become a bottleneck of progress toward a comprehensively well-off society by 2020, he said.

China Introduces Series of Logging Bans, Forestry Official Says-Caixin The prohibition will be extended to all state-owned forests next year, and logging on privately owned land will be stopped by the end of 2017, he said. The bans will cut timber output by 50 million cubic meters per year – the equivalent of 30 percent of logs, Zhang said. China has about 200 million hectares of old-growth forest. Some 127 million hectares of that are protected under a central government conservation program that started in 1998, but conservationists say the remainder is being depleted of trees by reckless logging. The bans are aimed at the forests that conservationists say are under threat.

Towers of Trash Pile Up at China's Unregulated Landfills-Caixin Since early June, excavators and trucks have been buzzing around Changdian Village in northern Beijing, clearing away a landfill that sits 20 meters from a major river. Some 45,000 cubic meters of garbage accumulated over the years, reaching five meters into the ground and mixing with groundwater. The Changdian dump is one of the more than 1,000 unregulated landfills scattered around the capital. Environmental experts blame these sites for severe pollution of the soil, air and ground water because garbage is dumped without any treatment.

Pollution trial offers rare glimpse into a Chinese courtroom | Reuters Unless they have been accused of a crime, few foreigners ever see the inside of a courtroom in China. But on Friday a court in Hengdong, a rural town in central China, gave Reuters a rare insight into the Chinese justice system, allowing a reporter to observ e the trial of a local factory accused of pollution that allegedly exposed 13 children living nearby to excessive levels of lead.

Uranium supplies: A hitch to China's nuclear energy plans? Or not? | Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists China will triple the number of nuclear power plants it has in operation by 2020 according to official plans, and the country's nuclear fleet will increase 20-fold by 205 0 under some not-yet-approved proposals. But how and where will China get the uranium to fuel them all? Will China need to resort to breeder reactors and reprocessing, with all the proliferation problems they incur? Or is there another way? The author suggests that between China's domestic uranium mining, uranium purchased on the international market, and uranium mined by Chinese-owned companies overseas, China could meet even the most ambitious target, thus avoiding the troublesome and dangerous path of reprocessing.

Anchor

AGRICULT URE AND RURAL ISSUES

Dim Sums: Rural China Economics and Policy: Officials Demand Grain Quantity Over Quality Chinese people are no longer worried about filling their bellies with food; now they want a more diverse diet that's more healthy and with better taste. However, the Chinese government's food security policy still views the population as peasants on the brink of starvation. Their policies focus on maximizing the volume of staple grains without regard to market demand, wasting resources and preventing the Chinese grain industry from becoming internationally competitive.

Anchor

EDUCATION

China-Africa Knowledge Project Research Hub » Researcher Database The Researcher Database is an aggregation of academics, practitioners, and PhD candidates involved in the study of China-Africa, and is comprised of members of the CA/AC Network and other researchers working on the China-Africa relationship. It is searchable by thematic area of interest, region or country of work, name of researcher, and institution

Anchor

BOOKS AND LIT ERATURE

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A Perfect Crime: A Yi, Anna Holmwood: Books **comes recommended, bought but have not yet read** // On a normal day in provincial China, a bored high-school student goes about his regular business. But he's planning the brutal murder of his only friend, a talented violinist. He invites her round, strangles her, stuffs her body into a washing machine and flees town. On the run, he is initially anxious, but soon he alerts the police to his whereabouts, surrenders to undercov er agents in a pool bar, and sabotages all efforts by China's judiciary system, a steady stream of psychologists and his family to overturn the death penalty, all without ever showing a shred of remorse.

Anchor

FOOD AND TRAVEL

China's Forbidden City caps visitors at 80,000 daily – Xinhua The Palace Museum in Beijing, also known as the Forbidden City, capped the amount of visitors to 80,000 per day on Saturday . The museum also now requires all trav el agencies book tickets online and demand the use of ID when purchasing tickets. There were around 50,000 visitors at the museum on Saturday, which marked the country's 10th Cultural Heritage Day.

Anchor

BEIJING

_ **reports that as part of the implementation of the Beijing-Tiajin-Hebei integration plan the Beijing city government will be moving to Tongzhou, something long planned/rumored but also long resisted...lots of rumors going around social media after the Beijing government meeting this weekend** // (
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Beijing v illage houses to make way for government blocks | South China Morning Post Local officials have given the nod for the demolition in Tongzhou district to start, a source with knowledge of the project told the Sunday Morning Post. Construction of the new buildings will begin by the end of the year if the demolition goes according to plan. Staff may be able to move in a y ear after that.

Beijing hiring to enforce smoking ban

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/11/2008 4:16:09 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Press Conference in Erie, PA 08/11/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately, our tracker was not allowed into this closed event. But good news: we were able to capture the event via online streaming video. Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights

- McCain says fate of Georgia should be of concern to all Americans and all people who have interest in Europe's fate
- We have strategic interest in Georgia's fate b/c of a key oil pipeline, which Russia attempted to bomb
- Georgians offered a ceasefire, Russia responded with bombs
- Russian violent agression is unjustified and "[has] no place in 21st century Europe."
- Putin and Medvedev "must understand the severe, long-term negative consequences" of their actions
- Number of steps should be taken, incl. bring UN resolution condemning aggression, call for immediate ceasefire, SOS should begin high-level discovery to end war and support Georgia's independence, seek emergency G-7 meeting, send immed. econ and humanitarian assistance; submit Russia to court of world public opinion

Erie, PA: McCain Press Conference 08/11/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details:

- McCain gives brief remarks
- After remarks McCain refuses to take questions, instead retorts that this is the extent of his recommendations on the matter right now

LINK TO FULL REMARKS: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-statement-on-russian-georgian-conflict/
ARLINGTON, VA – Today, in Erie, Pennsylvania, U.S. Senator John McCain delivered the following statement regarding the current conflict between Georgia and Russia:

"Americans wishing to spend August vacationing with their families or watching the Olympics may wonder why their newspapers and television screens are filled with images of war in the small country of Georgia. Concerns about what occurs there might seem distant and unrelated to the many other interests America has around the world. And yet Russian aggression against Georgia is both a matter of urgent moral and strategic importance to the United States of America.

"Georgia is an ancient country, at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and one of the world's first nations to adopt Christianity as an official religion. After a brief period of independence following the Russian revolution, the Red Army forced Georgia to join the Soviet Union in 1922. As the Soviet Union crumbled at the end of the Cold War, Georgia regained its independence in 1991, but its early years were marked by instability, corruption, and economic crises.

"Following fraudulent parliamentary elections in 2003, a peaceful, democratic revolution took place, led by the U.S.-educated lawyer Mikheil Saakashvili. The Rose Revolution changed things dramatically and, following his election, President Saakashvili embarked on a series of wide-ranging and successful reforms. I've met with President Saakashvili many times, including during several trips to Georgia.

"What the people of Georgia have accomplished – in terms of democratic governance, a Western orientation, and domestic reform – is nothing short of remarkable. That makes Russia's recent actions against the Georgians

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all the more alarming. In the face of Russian aggression, the very existence of independent Georgia – and the survival of its democratically-elected government – are at stake.

"In recent days Moscow has sent its tanks and troops across the internationally recognized border into the Georgian region of South Ossetia. Statements by Moscow that it was merely aiding the Ossetians are belied by reports of Russian troops in the region of Abkhazia, repeated Russian bombing raids across Georgia, and reports of a de facto Russian naval blockade of the Georgian coast. Whatever tensions and hostilities might have existed between Georgians and Ossetians, they in no way justify Moscow's path of violent aggression. Russian actions, in clear violation of international law, have no place in 21st century Europe.

"The implications of Russian actions go beyond their threat to the territorial integrity and independence of a democratic Georgia. Russia is using violence against Georgia, in part, to intimidate other neighbors – such as Ukraine – for choosing to associate with the West and adhering to Western political and economic values. As such, the fate of Georgia should be of grave concern to Americans and all people who welcomed the end of a divided of Europe, and the independence of former Soviet republics. The international response to this crisis will determine how Russia manages its relationships with other neighbors. We have other important strategic interests at stake in Georgia, especially the continued flow of oil through the Baku-Tblisi-Ceyhan pipeline, which Russia attempted to bomb in recent days; the operation of a critical communication and trade route from Georgia through Azerbaijan and Central Asia; and the integrity and influence of NATO, whose members reaffirmed last April the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Georgia.

"Yesterday Georgia withdrew its troops from South Ossetia and offered a ceasefire. The Russians responded by bombing the civilian airport in Georgia's capital, Tblisi, and by stepping up its offensive in Abkhazia. This pattern of attack appears aimed not at restoring any status quo ante in South Ossetia, but rather at toppling the democratically elected government of Georgia. This should be unacceptable to all the democratic countries of the world, and should draw us together in universal condemnation of Russian aggression.

"Russian President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin must understand the severe, long-term negative consequences that their government's actions will have for Russia's relationship with the U.S. and Europe. It is time we moved forward with a number of steps.

"The United States and our allies should continue efforts to bring a resolution before the UN Security Council condemning Russian aggression, noting the withdrawal of Georgian troops from South Ossetia, and calling for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgian territory. We should move ahead with the resolution despite Russian veto threats, and submit Russia to the court of world public opinion.

"NATO's North Atlantic Council should convene in emergency session to demand a ceasefire and begin discussions on both the deployment of an international peacekeeping force to South Ossetia and the implications for NATO's future relationship with Russia, a Partnership for Peace nation. NATO's decision to withhold a Membership Action Plan for Georgia might have been viewed as a green light by Russia for its attacks on Georgia, and I urge the NATO allies to revisit the decision.

"The Secretary of State should begin high-level diplomacy, including visiting Europe, to establish a common Euro-Atlantic position aimed at ending the war and supporting the independence of Georgia. With the same aim, the U.S. should coordinate with our partners in Germany, France, and Britain, to seek an emergency meeting of the G-7 foreign ministers to discuss the current crisis. The visit of French President Sarkozy to Moscow this week is a welcome expression of transatlantic activism.

"Working with allied partners, the U.S. should immediately consult with the Ukrainian government and other concerned countries on steps to secure their continued independence. This is particularly important as a number of Russian Black Sea fleet vessels currently in Georgian territorial waters are stationed at Russia's base in the Ukrainian Crimea.

"The U.S. should work with Azerbaijan and Turkey, and other interested friends, to develop plans to strengthen the security of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline.

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"The U.S. should send immediate economic and humanitarian assistance to help mitigate the impact the invasion has had on the people of Georgia.

Our united purpose should be to persuade the Russian government to cease its attacks, withdraw its troops, and enter into negotiations with Georgia. We must remind Russia's leaders that the benefits they enjoy from being part of the civilized world require their respect for the values, stability and peace of that world. World history is often made in remote, obscure countries. It is being made in Georgia today. It is the responsibility of the leading nations of the world to ensure that history continues to be a record of humanity's progress toward respecting the values and security of free people.

"Thank you."

--
Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
ProgressiveAccountability.org
sara@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 2:17:05 PM
Subject: RE: Clinton Cash and Week Ahead issues to discuss tomorrow am

Here's a first stab:

The Foundation does life-saving work around the world, including getting HIV drugs to 8 MM people, getting nearly 28,000 African farmers to grow better crops to feed hungry people and it has helped get healthier food for American kids into 6000 schools. As for time as Sec of State --- I have represented the United States all over the globe, challenged world leaders over women's rights and human rights and defended our national interest every day. The notion that that anyone donating to the foundation was going to influence me in my job is absurd. (or "ludicrous")

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2015 2:31 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri
Cc: Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Huma Abedin; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Kristina Schake; Dan Schwerin; Teddy Goff
Subject: Re: Clinton Cash and Week Ahead issues to discuss tomorrow am

I agree with Jen we should try to avoid Tuesday if that is possible. I like having her do it Wednesday, if we can make it til then -- saying a couple declarative sentences rejecting the basic premise [and expressing pride in Foundation's work], pointing to website, and then pivoting to positive message.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 1:33 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Friends - I wanted to lay out some issues to consider related to Clinton Cash and making news next week for discussion on Monday morning's call. Hope you are enjoying great weather in the meantime. JP

HRC ENGAGEMENT ON CLINTON CASH

The biggest question for this group is if and how HRC engages on Clinton Cash this week and what are the "two lines" she would deliver.

Reminder on this week's events for her. WJC on Today show on Monday; HRC in Vegas on Tuesday in front of the pool for an immigration event; fundraiser and lunch with the Mayor in SFO on Wednesday; LA fundraisers on Thursday; Bay Area fundraiser on Friday. All of the fundraisers are closed. To restate what we all discussed on Thursday and Friday - I would rather she not engage with press while we are in Vegas. Like to keep her on immigration and we handle response.

Below is a written statement Dan had drafted when we thought she might engage on this last week - so gives folks something to react to:

Statement from Hillary Clinton:
The suggestion that I or President Obama or any other senior official in this administration would ever allow decisions about national security to influenced by personal considerations – let alone some charitable donations – is absurd. Anyone who's had to sit in the Situation Room and make life and death choices would understand that. And if anyone ever donated to the Clinton Foundation in the hopes of influencing official government policy, they'd be a fool. Even the author himself has now admitted that he found zero evidence of any wrong-doing or quid pro quo. Unfortunately, the incredible life-saving work of the Clinton Foundation has gotten lost in these attacks. More than 9 million people with HIV/AIDS around the world have benefited from more affordable medicine because of the Clinton Foundation. Millions of American children have access to healthier food. Farmers in Africa are growing better crops. Women entrepreneurs are starting businesses. I'm so proud of the work that Bill, Chelsea, and all the professionals at the Foundation have done and continue to do. And I hope that people will judge the Foundation on that record of accomplishment, not on baseless conspiracy theories

CLINTON CASH RESPONSE/LAUNCH OF "THE BRIEFING"

On Tuesday morning we will launch The Briefing page on our website. This page will be where supporters and others can get information and points on what she is for, but also where we would post pushback on the book. Below is what we currently plan to post on Tuesday related to the book.

We are also considering a Podesta post that we would put on Medium and our site that unveils the concept of The Briefing, debunks the book a bit, and notes that while we will respond aggressively to attacks - we know that they are just designed to stop her bc R's know that she has right vision/policies to win and will not be distracted from our main highway of selling the positive. John and I discussed yesterday and think it is important that supporters and press know that we will deal aggressively with unfair attacks, but our real focus and her's is her proactive vision. Important that we do not appear beleaguered.

Clinton Cash Content for The Briefing:

1) a comprehensive post that debunks the book with all of our attacks in one place;

2) a short video narrated by Brian Fallon highlighting most egregious errors (we will need more time to do comprehensive version we discussed with HRC on Friday, but think it is worth doing short one for the book release on Tuesday);

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3) a number of social media products that our supporters can share and are designed to get buzz with press and supporters and further discredit the author and the book;

4) the products we have already put out over the course of the last week.

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From:	"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "David Binder" <David@db-research.com> "John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	6/27/2015 1:39:15 AM
Subject:	FW: NH Primary Toplines and Memo
Attachments:	June 2015 HRC NH Primary Survey Toplines vFIN.pdf NH June Topline Memo.docx

Team –

Attached are the toplines from the NH primary survey and a cover letter from Brodnitz (also pasted below). We're working with your assistants to schedule a call to review these results, likely on Tuesday morning.

Thanks.

To: Hillary Clinton for President Consultant Team
From: Pete Brodnitz
Date: June 27, 2015
Re: Topline Results

Horse-race

The last survey was conducted in February. Now that the race has become more engaged, the ballot in New Hamphsire has tightened considerably, but Secretary Clinton maintains a double digit lead over Sanders (48% support for Secretary Clinton, 34% for Bernie Sanders, 2% for Martin O'Malley, 1% for Lincoln Chafee, 2% "other" and 13% undecided).

Ballot Tracking

	Feb 2015	June 2015	Δ
Difference (HRC-Sanders)	***+61***	***+14***	***-47***
Hillary Clinton	73	48	***-25***
Bernie Sanders	12	34	***+22***
Martin O'Malley	2	2	***n/c***
Lincoln Chafee		1	
Jim Webb	3		
Other	2	2	***n/c***
Don't Know	9	13	***+4***

**Note: In February Jim Webb was asked. In June, Lincoln Chafee was asked.*

When undecided voters are pushed to make a choice, Clinton's lead breaks the 50% threshold while Sanders' vote share sees little movement (53% Clinton and 36% Sanders).

Sanders has raised his name identification and favorables considerably since we last polled. His name ID has increased from 52% to 77% and his favorability increased from 44% to 70%. Secretary Clinton's overal favorabilitiy is 85% with 12% unfavorable. Currently Sanders' very favorable is 46% while that for Secretary Clinton's is 39%.

The Sanders vote does not appear to be an anti-Clinton vote. Clinton is the second choice of most Sanders voters. Almost seven in ten (66%) of Sanders voters say Secretary Clinton is their second choice preference.

As of now, only about three in ten voters are familiar enough to have an opinion of Martin O'Malley or Lincoln Chafee, respectively.

As shown in the ballot progression below, after voters hear a positive profile of both Sanders and O'Malley, Sanders gains 3% and O'Malley gains 4% support. Once voters subsequently heard a positive profile of Secretary Clinton the ballot reverts to close to initial ballot support. Providing voters negative information about both Clinton and Sanders did not significantly change ballot support. In fact, the final ballot (which comes after negative information about both Clinton and Sanders) is almost identical to the initial ballot – a 13% HRC advantage, compared with an initial 14% advantage.

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Ballot Progression

I know it's a long way off, but if the **Democratic primary** for **President** were held today, would you vote for…?

Ranked by PrimB	Initial Ballot (PrimB)	Ballot After Sanders/ O'Malley Profile (Q28)	Ballot After HRC Profiles (Q32) All	Heard Values	Heard Policy	Ballot After HRC Negatives (Q45)	Ballot After Sanders Negatives (Q54)
Difference (HRC-Sanders)	***+14***	***+7***	***+12***	***+11***	***+15***	***+8***	***+13***
Hillary Clinton	48	44	48	48	50	46	48
Bernie Sanders	34	37	36	37	35	38	35
Martin O'Malley	2	7	5	5	6	6	6
Lincoln Chafee	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Other	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know	13	9	8	8	7	8	8

The Candidates

When asked what words they associate with Clinton, the responses were generally positive and describe Clinton as strong, intelligent and capable. They described Sanders as honest/trustworthy, a liberal/progressive and other generally positive characteristics.

However, when asked about recent coverage of Clinton, we see that the negative coverage has cut through. When asked what they've recently heard, most voters report hearing about the email scandal (32%), contributions to the Clinton Foundation (14%) or stories surronding Benghazi (10%).

When presented with a series of attributes and asked how well it applies to Clinton, voters were most likely to ascribe strength, ability to make tough choices and fights for people like you to Clinton. Clinton performed the worst on holding Wall Street accountable, being in touch with the lives of ordinary Americans and being genuine.

Half of all likely voters (51%) describe Clinton as moderate whereas close to half (46%) describe Sanders as very liberal. Notably, most primary voters describe themslves as liberal (50%) and only 38% describe themselves as moderate.

Message/Policy

While a majority of likely voters (50%) do not hold a position on TPP, among those who do the intensity of opposition is higher than the intensity of support (10% strongly support vs. 19% strongly oppose).

Meanwhile, a majority of voters prefer Clinton's approach to the banking industry of holding top executives accountable compared to Sanders' approach of breaking up the banks (regardless of whether we reference the recovering economy or not). It should be noted that neither candidate's name was associated with the position tested and that Clinton's weakest attribute is her abiilty to hold Wall Street accountable.

After voters hear a positive profile on both Sanders and O'Malley, Clinton's lead dops to a seven point margin (44% Clinton, 37% Sanders, 7% O'Malley, 1% Chafee, 2% other and 9% don't know). However, once voters hear a positive profile on Clinton she re-gains her double-digit lead (+12 points).

- On a topline basis the two paragraphs about Hillary Clinton tested, one focusing on values and the other policy, are comparable. Further analysis will be needed to see if they perform differently among sub-groups.

Secretary Clinton's top vulnerability tested in this poll is the attack that claims as Secretary of State she signed off on a deal that gave the Russian government control over twenty percent of America's uranium production, after investors in the deal donated over one hundred and forty million dollars to the Clinton Foundation. Half of all likely voters (53%) are less likely to support Clinton after hearing that statement and 17% are much less likely to support her after that statement.

After voters heard a battery of negatives on Secretary Clinton, their top concern was that she does not seem honest (16%).

Sanders' chief vulnerability tested is his record on guns. Almost a quarter of all voters (23%) are much less likely and more than six in ten (63%) are less likely to support Sanders after hearing that the NRA helped Sanders win a seat in Congress, that he opposed the Brady Gun Bill, supports allowing guns on passenger trains and supported a bill designed to protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits filed by families of victims of gun crimes like the Sandy Hook parents. As we heard in the recent focus groups, the issue of gun control is particularly salient given the recent shootings in Charleston, South Carolina.

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/18/2008 4:47:23 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 08/18/08

Main Topics: Religious Forum, Ralph Reed, Marriage Infidelity and Morals, Cheating Scandal

Summary of Shift:

Commentary surrounding the forum on Religion both presidential candidates attended on Saturday dominated the election coverage this morning. Most saw McCain coming out as the winner, with his answers more direct and simple compared with Obama's more lengthy and descriptive answers. McCain's comments on the failure of his first marriage as his lowest moral moment were also highlighted as a new side of McCain he doesn't often show. Obama releases their fundraising numbers for the past month, raising 55 million dollars and doubling the amount McCain raised. Vice presidential speculation continues to run rampant, with Obama expected to name his choice any moment now this week, and then McCain expected to follow shortly after. McCain spoke in Orlando this morning at a VFW for Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Non-political news was dominated by the approaching Tropical Storm Fay which is threatening Florida and the Keys. Evacuations are already underway. Pakistani President, and Pro-West Ally Musharraf has announced that he will resign from his presidency in order to avoid bringing his country through a tumultuous impeachment process. Russia has promised to begin withdrawing troops from Georgia beginning today, however it is unclear where they will go or if they will stay in the disputed regions of South Ossetia. Flooding forced emergency evacuations of hikers and tourists in the Grand Canyon due to a dam breaking.

Highlights:

1. CNN: Controversy Over McCain's Fundraiser With Ralph Reed in Atlanta Today
2. FNC: Did McCain Cheat? Fox and Friends Cover Obama Camp Claims of McCain Listening to Answers During Religion Forum
3. FNC: Ralph Reed Praises McCain's Performance at Religious Forum, Joel Hunter Considers Need For More Than Just Pro-Life Rhetoric To Bring Down Abortion Rate
4. FNC: McCain Gets Weepy; Will McCain's Emotional Moments Connect Him To Voters?
5. FNC: Dan Hill Examines McCain's Facial Expressions and Speaking Nuances During Religious Forum

Highlights, No YouTubes:

1. CNN – LIONEL: "[…]Number 3, I found it most interesting that what John McCain said was his worst moment, his moral nater, was the end of his first marriage and I guess, the beginning of his second marriage? To no-less a beer heiress. […]"

Clips:

Highlight #1

Controversy Over McCain's Fundraiser With Ralph Reed in Atlanta Today (CNN 08/18/08 6:34am)

MCCAIN: Could I ask our veterans just to stand so we can say thank you, thank you for your service to our country.

PAUL STEINHAUSER: You'll probably hear more words like that later this morning as John McCain speaks in Orlando at the annual convention of the veterans of foreign wars. **But it's his fundraiser later in the day in Atlanta that's causing controversy. Ralph Reed, the onetime boy wonder of the Christian Coalition says he's involved with the event. Reed is closely connected to a corruption scandal that rocked Washington. Not surprisingly, Democrats have pounced. And the McCain campaign says there's no connection whatsoever between the fundraiser and Ralph Reed.** As for McCain himself, he heads off the trail on Wednesday. Back to the ranch in Arizona and that gives Barack Obama the spotlight as we expect an announcement later this week on his running mate.

Clip Label: PS JM CNN 08/18/08 6.34 (RAD#239) UPQW

To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAHZSprC9DQ

Highlight #2

Did McCain Cheat? Fox and Friends Cover Obama Camp Claims of McCain Listening to Answers During Religion Forum (FNC 08/18/08 7:23am)

STEVE DOOCY: […] On Meet the Press yesterday, Andrea Mitchell, who's been following the campaign said that she'd heard from Obama's people that McCain probably overheard stuff. […]

GRETCHEN CARLSON: […] You're not supposed to hear anything, that was the way it was supposed to be set up. That he was in this cone of silence.

DOOCY: You're exactly right. **So the Campaign Director, Rick Davis, for John McCain has written a letter to NBC's President, Steve Kappas and said, where is she coming up with this stuff? She is just reporting as if it's fact, these rumors from Obama.** The whole context was, Andrea Mitchell was talking about how John McCain had a really good night. And Barack Obama did not. So now, the campaign is calling for a meeting with NBC because it simply is not fair.

DAVE BRIGGS: Rick Davis says they've abandoned non-partisan coverage of the presidential race. Fair and balanced? This is an era of text messaging, of blogging, of instant messages. You can for a minute see that the Obama people might have that theory. And Andrea Mitchell was only saying that the Obama people were saying that.

CARLSON: Because apparently McCain was on the way to the event while Obama was speaking, instead of actually being in a room by himself for that hour. So that's how these rumors started. But here's exactly what she said, "The Obama people must feel that he didn't do quite as well as they might have wanted to in that context, because what they are putting out privately is that McCain may not have been in the cone of silence." Ok, so actually if you're in the Obama camp, I'm not sure if you'd even bring this up. Because, the only thing that can come back to you is, well you're talking about this because you don't think your candidate did as well.

BRIGGS: And John McCain was extremely on message. **And what they're talking about, some of the questions that Rick Warren asked, John McCain was already ready with that answer halfway through. But I think that is because he was extremely prepared.** Rick Warren gave the candidates topics that he would cover. Nothing completely shocked these guys. Both

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candidates were prepared with, at least given the topics they would go over.
Clip Label: SK JM FNC 08-18-08 7.23 (RAD#235) USPBb
To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICdWhtaNOuc

Highlight #3
Ralph Reed Praises McCain's Performance at Religious Forum, Joel Hunter Considers Need For More Than Just Pro-Life Rhetoric To Bring Down Abortion Rate (FNC 08/18/08 7:27am)
STEVE DOOCY: […] There was a stark difference, when asked the question by Rev. Rick Warren, when does life begin. And John McCain was emphatic, he said at conception. Barack Obama talked for a little while, and then he eventually made the joke, that's above my pay grade. […]

JOEL HUNTER: […] John McCain, of course, wasn't deliberating. He was having a national opportunity for a national audience, came through with his particular view. Which happens to be my view also. But, the point was, while Obama was technically correct, it is imprecise, the bible doesn't speak specifically to it, McCain got the point.

RALPH REED: […] The other reason why it was such a great night for Senator McCain is it's not secret that he's had issues with this community over the years. And he really needs to connect with this constituency, and I think the question on when a child has human rights, […] McCain was strong, he was firm, he promised those folks he would be a pro-life president and then he bridged to a critical issue that Obama never even mentioned, and that is his judicial nominees and what kind of judges that he would appoint. Obama responded when he was asked, but McCain brought it up himself, pro-actively. That's a huge issue in this community, and again it was another example of McCain capitalizing and Obama I think having a huge missed opportunity.

[…]

HUNTER: I want to have a little counter-balance here**. He's right, but, the simplistic answers, or the simple answers rather that McCain gave. Simply, that I'm going to be a pro-life president with pro-life policies. We've had that and the abortion rate has not gone down. So we got to have something more than just a pro-life president with pro-life policies to reduce the number of abortions.**
Clip Label: RR JM FNC 08-18-08 7.27 (RAD#236) USPL
To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6GlqL8s8Co

Highlight #4
McCain Gets Weepy; Will McCain's Emotional Moments Connect Him To Voters? (FNC 08/18/08 8:25am)
DAVE BRIGGS: That was very interesting to hear him talk about that. We haven't heard one thing about his first marriage. In light of the whole John Edwards scandal, some people were starting to talk about that failure. There's an interesting article in the politico.com last week that said DNC folks were tinkering with the idea of portraying his philandering on his first marriage and getting that out there as one of those negative attack ads. So it might have been a preemptive strike. I think people like to see John McCain really open up with some personal stories in that forum.

GRETCHEN CARLSON: I totally agree with you on the point of view of the personal stories, because a lot of people had been encouraging him to talk a little bit more about his POW experience and to talk a little bit more about his religious beliefs. As you could see if you watched this forum, it's tough for him to do. He started to well up from time to time. And I'm surprised there aren't articles this morning about analogies to Hillary Clinton welling up, how that helped her in New Hampshire. I'm surprised you're not seeing articles today about John McCain becoming more emotional will be a positive for campaign. We've seen President Bush well up. But John McCain, he strikes me as a tougher kind of guy, that doesn't want to well up. But I do think it was a good thing for him to well up.

STEVE DOOCY: A guy with a heart.
Clip Label: GC JM FNC 08-18-08 8.25 (RAD#237) URR
To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gopB1Oh9WbA

Highlight #5
Dan Hill Examines McCain's Facial Expressions and Speaking Nuances During Religious Forum (FNC 08/18/08 8:30)
DAN HILL: […] What McCain does, is he jabs his hand for the audience, he's coming at you. Typical, standard contrast between their two personalities.

[…]

MCCAIN: My greatest moral failing, and I have been a very imperfect person, is the failure of my first marriage. It's my greatest moral failure.

STEVE DOOCY: What do you see?

HILL: **What I see there is two things. One, is his lips are very tight, so he's really feeling some frustration, some anguish over this. He also shows just a slight bit of contempt. The corner of the lip, the mouth turns up in a smirk, and I think the contempt is toward himself for his failings here.** So it was a successful moment for McCain, he wants to come across as speaking to honor, to sacrifice, to duty. This is after all, an election about authenticity, we have change that you can believe in versus straight talk express. And both these candidates were really on stage trying to say, I come from the heart, you can trust me, you can believe in me. And I think that McCain had a very good moment there.
Clip Label: DH JM FNC 08-18-08 8:30 (RAD#238) URP
To View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTi2LsGLkms

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/22/2015 3:12:52 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT Questions for HRC Media Prepare

Yes.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 22, 2015, at 9:56 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Shouldn't we attack the book or get Brock to attack the book as a Murdoch special. From the folks who brought you Fox News...
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
> On Mar 22, 2015, at 7:23 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
>
>> Do we know which correspondent? Which producer?
>>
>> Mandy Grunwald
>> Grunwald Communications
>> 202 973-9400
>>
>> On Mar 23, 2015, at 12:12 AM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
>>
>>> Unclear exactly what 60 is doing, but Craig has had an initial meeting with them to see if we can finesse this from starting off in such a ridiculous place as to have its premise be that book. Let's also remember that the last time 60 went hard on a book that tried to scandalize something related to us it was the Benghazi telling by the former British commando, and the outcome was Lara Logan's suspension and the publisher having to pull the book off the shelves.
>>>
>>> So the hope is that before we start having to push back on the story we have at least some hope of combatting the premise as ridiculous.
>>>
>>> And of course, having the book would help that.
>>>
>>> I'll keep everyone posted.
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:33 PM, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Yes, the foundation team heard that 60 minutes was looking into it. That's one of the reasons we desperately want to get the book ahead of time.
>>>
>>> On Sun, Mar 22, 2015 at 6:27 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>> I heard the same. I think from nick or josh

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On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

+nick and john

I'm hearing rumors 60 minutes may be working on a Clinton cash story.
Not sure how reliable info is.

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Team Rotering" <TeamRotering@nancyroteringforcongress.com>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	1/5/2016 5:51:28 AM
Subject:	NEW ENDORSEMENT

NANCY ROTERING

Democrat *for* Congress

Friends,

The pro-peace, pro-Israel, **J Street PAC has nationally endorsed Nancy Rotering for U.S. Congress.** J Street PAC is part of an organization that stands for policies to advance shared U.S. and Israeli interests and Jewish democratic values.

"We're proud to support Mayor Rotering, a candidate who understands that hard-nosed diplomacy can succeed in promoting the interests of the U.S. and Israel. From her principled stance in favor of the Iran nuclear agreement, to her longstanding support for a two-state solution, **Mayor Rotering embodies the diplomacy-first approach to supporting Israel that our movement seeks to advance," stated Ben Shnider, Director of Political Affairs at J Street.**

Rotering joined with U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin, the Honorable Abner J. Mikva and former U.S. Senator Adlai Stevenson III and Nancy Stevenson in her support of the Iran Deal, noting that rejecting the deal with no proposed alternatives would have been a disservice to all who are concerned about the security of the U.S., Israel and the world. Shortly after Rotering announced her support for the Deal, Mikva and the Stevensons retracted their endorsement of Rotering's primary opponent, Brad Schneider who opposed the Deal, and endorsed Rotering. They noted Rotering's independent voice and strong record for doing what's right for the people she serves.

Rotering stated, "I am honored to have the support of J Street in my campaign to represent Illinois' 10th Congressional District. We are reminded daily that hatred exists across the globe, particularly in the Middle East." Rotering continued, **"As a deeply committed supporter of Israel, I believe that the U.S. should work with Israelis and Palestinians to arrive at a two-state solution. America's relationship with Israel cannot be driven by partisan politics, but rather must be a strong partnership among allies in democracy."**

Sincerely,

Team Rotering

CONTRIBUTE

www.NancyRoteringForCongress.com

Mailing Address
PO Box 18
Highland Park IL, 60035

Office Address
1910 First St. Suite 1S
Highland Park, IL 60035

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Paid for by Nancy Rotering for Congress, Inc.

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please unsubscribe .

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 3/15/2015 2:34:57 PM
Subject: Re: Earned Media Update

Better off with an H R C warrior. Who is her most fearsome House ally?

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On Mar 15, 2015, at 8:50 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

Do we think Cummings would do that? Certainly worth an ask.

On Sun, Mar 15, 2015 at 8:48 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

Who is the right person to raise a simple question of the audacity of members of congress asking others to release their emails when they don't ?

Do we have some D who can squarely at Gowdy and demand he release all his emails for that last two years so people can see for themselves how politically motivated his investigations are?

From: Jesse Ferguson [mailto:jesse@jesseferguson.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 5:13 PM
To: Joel Benenson; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; john.podesta@gmail.com ; Mandy Grunwald
Cc: Robby Mook; Kristina Schake; Jennifer Palmieri
Subject: Earned Media Update

Hello All – Two quick things.

1) As you may have seen, ABC News reporting that Speaker Boehner and Republicans in Congress are pledging more investigation into Secretary Clinton on emails. Below are the key points we're sharing with Hill allies and TV surrogates this afternoon to get ahead of it and frame it as crazy GOP investigations AND GOP hypocrisy. We're trying to push folks to go after them.

2) Everyone asked on our last Comm call for more offense against GOP. While we can't do it perfectly before campaign is launched, we've had some success working with partners getting stories on Jeb and others. Clips attached.

Thanks. We'll try to keep these Earned Media Updates as often as we can.

POINTS

While it was permitted for Secretary Clinton to use one blackberry instead of two, looking back she's said it would have been better for her to use two. At the time, this just didn't seem like an issue. She's asked State Department to publicly release all of roughly the 55,000 printed pages of emails she provided them.

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Secretary Clinton was the first and only former Secretary to respond to the Department's request last year, and was the only one to provide her work emails.

Secretary Clinton has asked the Department to make her work related emails publicly available, and just like every other Cabinet Secretary and U.S. government official, she gets to choose to keep her personal emails private.

Charlie Cook wrote that: “This is the classic kind of inside-the-Beltway, process story that politicos and reporters get in a lather over, but that resonates very little with average voters."

This isn’t about emails, it’s about Trey Gowdy furthering a partisan witch-hunt and Republicans in Congress distracting from their dangerous letter to the Iranian regime. There have been nine different Congressional committees that have held hearings on Benghazi . Secretary Clinton spent more than five hours testifying before the Senate and the House of Representatives and participated in briefings for Members.

Gowdy has been criticized for subpoenaing the State Department for emails already turned over to the Select Committee.

Gowdy and Republican have been caught numerous times trying to use the Benghazi investigation to fire up their base and raise money.

Republican Hypocrisy on Emails. They want to hold former Secretary Clinton to a different standard than they’d hold themselves.

Washington Post : “Jeb Bush used his private e-mail account as Florida governor to discuss security and military issues such as troop deployments to the Middle East and the protection of nuclear plants, according to a review of publicly released records.” [Washington Post, 3/15/15]

Wall Street Journal : “ But much like with Mrs. Clinton, the decision over which emails should be considered official and which remain private was made by Mr. Bush. It is unclear how many emails Mr. Bush withheld because he deemed them unrelated to state business. “He did exactly what Hillary did,” said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation, a Florida-based government watchdog group. In turning over emails from his private account, she said, Mr. Bush and his staff “went through those emails and decided what were public-record emails and what wasn’t. […] The Wall Street Journal reports today: “When the Orlando Sentinel filed a public-records request for the emails from the private account about the legislative session, Mr. Rubio’s spokeswoman said they had been deleted.” (WSJ, 3/13/15)

Associated Press , “Several current and former governors who are considering a presidential run have found ways to delay or prevent public scrutiny of their communications while in office. That includes Republicans who have criticized their potential Democratic rival.” [AP, 3/7/15]

Roll Call , “But the legislative branch, which has effectively exempted itself from the Freedom of Information Act, can keep its emails and other correspondence hidden for 20 years or more — and some forever.” [Roll Call, 3/10/15]

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Congressman Jason Chaffetz, who chairs the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, was caught by ABC News with a personal email address – a gmail account – on his Congressional business card. [ABC, 3/3/15]

In fact, people have called on Trey Gowdy to release his email if he wants to oversee this investigation. [MSNBC, 3/11/15]

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From:	"Rebecca Buckwalter-Poza" <rebecca@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	7/2/2008 7:06:51 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] MCCAIN IS MORE OF THE SAME -- ANOTHER MCCAIN CAMPAIGN SHAKEUP
Attachments:	Rick Davis Fired.doc

MCCAIN IS MORE OF THE SAME– ANOTHER MCCAIN CAMPAIGN SHAKEUP

After two lead stories in national papers about lobbyists surrounding McCain. McCain campaign pushes Charlie Black off the plane and lobbyist and campaign Manager Rick Davis out of spotlight. ***Are these gestures too little to late to restore McCain's "reformer" branding?***

McCain Campaign in Disarray Replaces Lobbyist with Bush Insider

- McCain's **137 Lobbyist Advisers and Staff are ruining his "reformer" image.**
- McCain has a **record** dating back to the Keating 5 Scandal **of inappropriate dealing with special interests.**
- Under pressure the **McCain campaign moved one of 137 lobbyists out of the spotlight and promoted Bush Insider**

Rick Davis and McCain A Primer

- Rick Davis has worked for Senator McCain's Reform Institute, served as his Campaign Manager and trusted ally.
- Rick Davis earned more that $2.2 million leveraging his connections with Senator McCain.
- McCain's campaign paid Davis's firm 3eDC over $1 million in contracts some Republicans called "self dealing."

Steve Schmidt – Bush Insider

- **Steve Schmidt** oft described as **"a member of the Bush political inner circle "**
- In 2004 Steve Schmidt was **Bush's attack dog** – organizing smears and attacks on Kerry's record and security credentials.

McCain forced to fire five top aides because of lobbying ties.

- **National campaign co-chairman Tom Loeffler resigned after revelation he lobbies for Saudi Arabia .**
- **Regional campaign manager Doug Davenport resigned after it came to light that he'd lobbied for Myanmar's military junta.** Davenport's work for Myanmar included undertaking "a PR campaign to improve the military junta's image – the same regime that is now restricting aid to hundreds of thousands of the country's cyclone victims." [Wall Street Journal, 5/11/08;
- **Former Republican Convention Chief Doug Goodyear also stepped down after Myanmar controversy.** Goodyear's "firm was paid $348,000 in 2002 to represent Burma's military junta, which had been strongly condemned by the State Department for its human-rights record and remains in power today." [Newsweek, 5/19/08]
- **Former McCain energy adviser and top fundraiser Eric Burgeson lobbied federal government on energy issues -- while working for McCain.** "Republican presidential contender John McCain on Thursday fired an energy policy advisor who lobbies the federal government on behalf of energy clients...Burgeson's energy clients include Southern Company, which operates electric utilities and nuclear-power plants in the Southeast." [Miami Herald, 5/16/08]
- **Economic adviser Carlos Bonilla was booted from the campaign because of his lobbying ties.**

--
Rebecca Buckwalter-Poza

Progressive Accountability
rebecca@progressiveaccountability.org
202-609-7702 (o)
919-423-4783 (m)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.

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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Stephen Paduano" <spaduano@hfaintern.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/6/2015 3:07:46 AM
Subject:	Summarized Clips (8.6.15)
Attachments:	Daily Clips (8.6.15).docx

Daily Clips

August 6, 2015

Rep. Xavier Becerra Endorses Hillary Clinton: 'No Leader Comes Better Tested':

LA Times/Michael Memoli

- Chairman of the House Democratic caucus, Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Los Angeles) has endorsed HRC, citing her commitment to passing immigration reform.

FBI Is Looking at Security of Hillary Clinton's Email System

WSJ/Peter Nicholas, Devlin Barrett

- "The FBI is examining security issues surrounding the private email system Hillary Clinton used when she served as secretary of state. The inquiry follows a referral to the Justice Department by the inspector general, or in-house watchdog, of the federal intelligence agencies, who found that at least four emails out of a sample of 40 from Mrs. Clinton's personal email account contained classified information."

Hillary Clinton Adds Another Hamptons Fundraiser

Politico/Annie Karni

- "Hillary Clinton has added yet another Hamptons fundraiser to her late August vacation in the well-heeled beach enclave – this one catered by former Rep. Anthony Weiner's brother. For between $500 and $2,700, supporters are invited to the East Hampton home of Hillary Leff and entertainment lawyer Elliot Groffman, on Sunday, Aug. 30, where singer-songwriter Dar Williams will also give a special performance."

Sharpton Promises to Grill Hillary on Race Issues

Politico/Annie Karni

- "The Rev. Al Sharpton says he'll have some acute questions for Hillary Clinton when she appears on his syndicated radio show for an interview Thursday – specifically, how she will deal with the country's racial divide if she is elected as the first white president to succeed the country's first black president."

Hillary Clinton's $2 Billion Money Man

Daily Beast/David Freelander

- Republicans are said to have set Dennis Cheng in their sights for a new round of attacks on the Clinton fundraising network and practices.
- The conservative Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT) has filed freedom of information requests to examine Dennis' role in the "Clinton family money machine."
- The by-name attacks on Dennis have also come from Colin Reed, executive director of America Rising.

New Bush Ad Targets Clinton, Planned Parenthood

The Hill/Jonathan Easley

- In a new round of digital Facebook ads intended for Iowa and South Carolina, Jeb Bush goes after HRC and Planned Parenthood: "Hillary is attacking me for opposing taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood. Help us fight back."

Grassley Holds Back 'Innocent' State Nominee Over Clinton E-Mail Investigation

WaPo/Colby Itkowitz

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- "Citing slow response from the State Department over a number of inquiries related to former secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton's private e-mail use, Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) has placed a hold on an unrelated career foreign serv ice officer nomination in relatiation."
- Grassley said in a statement: "Frankly , this should not be necessary, and the nominee is an innocent victim of the State Department's contemptuous failures to respond to congressional inquiries."

Bernie Sanders to Visit Liberty University, a Rare Venue for a Democrat

NYT/Maggie Haberman

- Bernie Sanders is set to speak at Liberty University in September, the evangelical school founded by the Rev . Jerry Falwell and where Ted Cruz kicked off his own presidential campaign.
- Sanders said in a statement: "I think it is important, however, to see if we can reach consensus regarding the grotesque level of income and wealth inequality in our country, about the collapse of the middle class, about the high lev el of childhood poverty, about climate change and other issues."

Martin O'Malley Accuses D.N.C of Favoring Hillary Clinton

NYT/Maggie Haberman

- Gov. O'Malley accused the DNC of tipping the scales in HRC's favor by limiting the number of debates to six.

GOPers Frustrated by Jeb Bush Gaffe

Politico/Eli Stokols

- "Democratic critics of Jeb Bush's ad-lib Tuesday about cutting women's health spending were joined by conserv atives, who are annoyed that the inartful statement may undermine their efforts to finally score a win against Planned Parenthood."

Walker Super PAC To Make $7 Million Iowa Ad Buy

Politico/Isabelle Taft

- The Scott Walker super PAC "Unintimidated" has announced a $7 million ad buy in Iowa.

Rand Paul Is Faulted in Ad Over Previous Calls for Iran Talks

NYT/Maggie Haberman

- The Foundation for a Secure and Prosperous America has launched an ad set to air after tonight's debate linking Rand Paul to President Obama's Iran policy."

Rand Paul Super PAC Head Indicted on 2012 Campaign Finance Charges

WaPo/Sean Sullivan, Matea Gold, David Weigel

- Rand Paul aide and director of the America's Liberty PAC has been indicted by a federal grand jury on chargers that he concealed payments made to an Iowa state senator during Paul's father's 2012 presidential campaign in order to win support.

Texas ID Law Called Breach of Voting Rights Act

NYT/Erik Eckholm

- "A federal appeals panel ruled Wednesday that a strict voter identification law in Texas discriminated against blacks and Hispanics and violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 – a decision that election experts called an important step toward defining the reach of the landmark law."

California Fire, Aided by Drought, Defies Tactics to Defeat It

NYT/Sarah Malsin Nir

- The Rocky Fire – a California wildfire that consumed nearly 70,000 acres so far – has crossed highways, fire lines, and other barriers meant to contain it.
- The drought-aided fire has forced the ev acuation of 1,480 people and about 13,000 hav e been urged to leave their homes.

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It's Either Iran Nuclear Deal or 'Some Sort of War' Obama Warns

NYT/Julie Hirschfield Davis

- In a speech Wednesday at American University, President Obama warned that there is no better alternative to the agreement that has been struck: "The choice we face is ultimately between diplomacy and some sort of war – maybe not tomorrow, maybe not three months from now, but soon."

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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/12/2008 1:04:51 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall Meeting New York, NY 06/12/08

Hello Big Campaign,

Unfortunately, our tracker was unable to get into tonight's event. In fact, many members of the press were not able to gain access. Below are the notes from the event taken from the Fox News' live coverage and our tracker's perceptions from outside the event.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- McCain audience pre-selected
- A dozen members of the press denied access to the event
- McCain hits Obama on taxes, Iraq, wanting to meet with Ahmadinejad
- McCain comments on how he'll reach out to young people, will continue to go on SNL, Comedy Central, MTV

New York, NY - McCain Town Hall Meeting 06/12/08

Background Details:
- Fox first reported the audience was a mix of people, Democrats, Republicans and Independents -- they corrected that report and said the McCain campaign distributed tickets to supporters and Republican groups
- Audience members all well dressed. Audience about 2/3rds male.
- Tracker did not get in -- he was denied access along with a dozen members of the press.

Speech Highlights:
- Town Hall meetings are important to the American people
- I'm running on a platform of reform, prosperity and peach
- We need to stop the gridlock in Washington
- We need to stop the out of control, pork-barrel spending. I'm proud to never have received an earmark.
- I led the investigations of Abramoff.
- "I know how to reform."
- I will veto every single earmark bill that comes across my desk and you will no their names.
- Americans are hurting. These are tough times. The question is how quickly are we going to get out of these tough times?
- We have to decrease our dependence on foreign oil.
- Nuclear energy needs to be part of that solution.
- I proposed a little holiday for those being hit hard by the high gas prices. My gas tax holiday will help low-income people.
- Peace is something we owe future generations of Americans. The great honor that I have at the town hall meetings is when the veterans come.
- We are in two wars. The central battlefield is Iraq -- we are succeeding there. It's going to be long hard and tough in Afghanistan.
- Obama wants to raise taxes, I want to lower taxes. He wants to make the choices on health care for families, I want to give them choices.
- I would much rather lose a political campaign than lose a war. I meant it then and I mean it today. We chose the right strategy and we are winning.
- Obama is in his 885th day since being in Iraq. And Obama has never once asked to sit down with Petraeus about the situation on the ground.
- Our troops will not come home with defeat -- like Obama wants -- they will come home with honor.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

Question and Answer:

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Q) N/A due to commercial

MCCAIN: There is nothing more nobling that to serve a cause greater than one's self. The American people want us to get beyond the name calling.

Q) Why is partisanship/divide getting worse every year? How will you overcome that?

MCCAIN: The time is right. The time is right because we crave approval -- and we read the poll numbers and they are horrible now. I believe if I reach across the aisle - the way we have in the past, because I've tried to get things done -- we gotta push our country first and not our party first. This is not a cheap shot -- but Obama has the most extreme record of any Senator. He doesn't have my record.

If you share the credit, people will work with you because of the reward.

Yes, there is going to be a change in Washington. There's going to be a right kind of change and a wrong kind of change. Obama wants to raise your taxes. I don't think you should raise anyone's taxes. He wants to sit down with the leader of Iran -- who is a very bad man. He wants to sit down with him without any preconditions. You shouldn't do this. You do what Nixon did with China, what Reagan did. Look, I'll sit down with anybody -- but not if it's going to increase their prestige.
Americans want us to work together. If we show them we can, we all will reap the rewards. I'm confidant I can do it. Americans will get it when I'm president.

Q) Small businessman asks - oil is sky-rocketing. No one is looking into how that is happening. It's very hard with average people today. Please do something for this.

MCCAIN: I believe there needs to be a thorough investigation into speculators. The whole international financial system needs a lot more transparency and oversight. I'm very angry with the oil companies not just because of their prices but also for not investing in alternative energy sources. Finally, we can't achieve oil independence overnight. But I'm convinced if we come together we can do it faster than most think. JFK got us to the moon. The people who are hurting most now are on a fixed income and small business like you. We owe you relief.

FOLLOW-UP: Stock market shouldn't control the commodities people use everyday. That's my question.

MCCAIN: I understand. And I think if there is any corruption it needs to be stopped. But my point is energy independence. You also mention the price of commodities. One of the reasons that's the case is because we subsidized ethanol -- that caused prices to sky-rocket. Sometimes you just have to say no. I was against the farm bill. You can't distort the market. Our farmers are the best in the world. I want to open up the world market for our citizens. Obama wants to renegotiate NAFTA.
My friend I am for free trade.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

Q) How will you feel about English as the official language?

MCCAIN: I'm ok with that.

Q) How do we make sure these people are taken care of by the tax relief package??? (question cut off by Fox)

MCCAIN: Some of the states in America have very high tax rates -- the businesses leave. This is true for the world. The corporate tax rate in America is 35% -- in Ireland it's 11%. Ireland is looking good. We need to cut the corporate tax rate. The only country in the world with a higher tax rate is Japan. At the county level, we need to relieve them of their burden as well. We need better communication across federal, state and county governments.

Q) How will your campaign reach out to young voters? Obama is taking up a lot of these voters because of the variety of mediums they use to reach out to us. Also, young people are turned off by Bush policies.

MCCAIN: I respect Barack Obama. I want to reach out to young people -- that's why I go on SNL, Comedy Central, MTV. When I do communicate with young people and of course the Internet is the way to do that, I need to show them that I'll give them a safe and secure future. I intend to compete in the battle of ideas.

Q) The only thing I disagree with you on tonight -- is that I do believe you are a hero. Father of two kids in public

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school. Hispanic American. I am conservative economically and socially. What are you looking for in appointments to the Supreme Court?

MCCAIN: We are going to have to compete heavily for the Hispanic community. I did well with that vote in Arizona. Can you tell me a little more about your background?

FOLLOW UP: I became an attorney and a father -- I came to know that my beliefs were more in line with Republicans, especially you. I like your character -- so what character would you appoint?

MCCAIN: I think Justice Alito and Roberts are great examples. These guys are kind we want on the court. I will make sure that any nominee that I recommend has a strict interpretation of the Constitution and does not legislate from the bench. Incredibly to me is that Obama voted against Alito and Roberts. It is the President to make these nominations. It is the job of the Congress to judge whether they are qualified not if you like them. Elections have consequences.

Closing Remarks

I thank you for being here tonight. My life, my experience, my judgment -- I understand the challenges we face. I will always put my country first and I will not let you down.

--
Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
Progressive Media USA
ccroft@progressivemediausa.org
202-609-7679 (office)
206-999-3064 (cell)
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Mail Delivery Subsystem" <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/15/2015 3:10:19 PM
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently:

esepp@americanjprogress.org

Technical details of permanent failure:
DNS Error: Address resolution of americanjprogress.org. failed: Domain name not found

----- Original message -----

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed;
d=gmail.com; s=20120113;
h=mime-version:in-reply-to:references:date:message-id:subject:from:to
:cc:content-type;
bh=u7v2qaok/5KGXs9z50CMhOTDaY8wgj7KYiPVTDFK/5s=;
b=MuqTjmC1E3mPvJuB8C2r+Y4Uji3vJI+fMUM4gIX6VVvgmfhaRlItaPzN03UGuwGFGF
blOOkLH9aTZUcQDSsya9yBpjzuK8oRMW4ccxJgWL97+JwUre2qeC+wqOxPS3x6EseIUm
p0IMmIi/picEWc79mi3p1Iwox5VdCP3wnRNejzZbkfcuYP8vAdyHNmKxMq5NU2QsX9In
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qwpM8Uub22P2Tqivi3RN1KJV3vzO4sFpKVUfBerkF1Yr6ajDE6zGdyjbsrGZqeIfenEO
LB1w==
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Received: by 10.112.242.8 with SMTP id wm8mr25513706lbc.69.1429135819692;
Wed, 15 Apr 2015 15:10:19 -0700 (PDT)
Received: by 10.25.207.149 with HTTP; Wed, 15 Apr 2015 15:10:19 -0700 (PDT)
Received: by 10.25.207.149 with HTTP; Wed, 15 Apr 2015 15:10:19 -0700 (PDT)
In-Reply-To: <CD741EF5BE8FC54E905E6884DF4FDC38D29DD7@DC-DAG-03.office.virgin.co.uk>
References: <CD741EF5BE8FC54E905E6884DF4FDC38D29DD7@DC-DAG-03.office.virgin.co.uk>
Date: Wed, 15 Apr 2015 18:10:19 -0400
Message-ID: <CAE6FiQ-bJfBu8ERp3XX18Uwr0fqu0X3LztCtnYUNv6ZRpd8WTg@mail.gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Human polar bear in DC Tuesday
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: Karen Sack <Karen.Sack@oceanunite.org>
Cc: "Eryn M. Sepp (esepp@americanjprogress.org)" <esepp@americanjprogress.org>
Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary=001a11344fbade5dae0513ca9c79

On the road. Sorry
On Apr 15, 2015 4:18 PM, "Karen Sack" <Karen.Sack@oceanunite.org> wrote:

> Dear John,
>
>
>
> I am sure you are wickedly busy given everything going on at the moment,
> however, if you have time for a 30 minute break on Tuesday, Lewis Pugh will
> be in DC and if you are interested, I can arrange for him to have a quick
> sit-down with you. After doing a series of swims in the Antarctic to
> protect the Ross Sea, he joined forces with a Russian ice hockey star in
> Moscow and seemed to have taken the Russian media by storm. He also met
> the Defense Minister. We call it speedo diplomacy J - a little piece
> from an interview Lewis did, attached.
>

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>
>
> Let me know if you have any time on Tuesday afternoon and I can try and
> set something up.
>
>
>
> Best,
>
>
> Karen
>
>
>
>
>
> *Karen Sack*
>
> Managing Director, Ocean Unite
>
> e-mail: Karen.Sack@oceanunite.org
>
> m: + 1 202.415.5403
>
> skype: karensack
>
> twitter: @karen_sack
>
>
>
> *"We must protect the ocean as if our lives depend upon it -- because they
> do." --Sylvia Earle*
>
>
>
>
>

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/9/2014 2:00:03 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday September 9, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday September 9, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Bloomberg: "Paul Misstates Clinton Record on Islamic State Risk"

"Clinton allies jumped on Paul's claim. 'We've always known Rand Paul's erratic views, ranging from his belief in extreme isolation as a foreign policy principle to his absolute opposition to raising the minimum wage, are dangerous for our country and for the future of Americans,' said Adrienne Elrod, communications director for the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record. 'But now he's taken it to a whole new level apparently, by flat-out making stuff up - a perilous tactic taken by someone who wants to be America's next president.'"

Media Matters for America: "This Conspiracy Theorist's Benghazi Book Is Full Of Conspiracy Theories"

"But the book itself [The REAL Benghazi Story] contains major distortions of reality, including selectively-edited evidence and distorted facts, reconfirming Klein's commitment to pushing convoluted hoaxes."

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The Week column: Damon Linker, senior correspondent at TheWeek.com: “Bring on the Hillary Clinton-Rand Paul smackdown!”

"And even if he does somehow run the Republican gauntlet and manage to come out at the head of the pack, he'd still have to face the Hillary Clinton juggernaut in the general election. Despite recent hype about a "libertarian moment," I tend to think Clinton would do quite well in such a match-up."

New York Times column: Ambs. to the USSR and Russia Jack F. Matlock, Jr., Thomas R. Pickering, and James F. Collins: “Give Diplomacy With Russia a Chance”

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Articles:

Bloomberg: “Paul Misstates Clinton Record on Islamic State Risk”

By Jonathan Allen

September 8, 2014, 4:43 p.m. EDT

Republican Senator Rand Paul falsely accused Hillary Clinton, a potential Democratic rival for the presidency in 2016, of underestimating the threat posed by Islamic State -- and he did it at least twice last week.

“Hillary Clinton has said ISIS is not a threat to the United States,” Paul said on Fox News Channel’s “Hannity” on Sept. 3. The Kentucky lawmaker repeated that assertion about the former secretary of state to Fox’s Bill Hemmer two days later, noting his belief that those were Clinton’s “exact words.”

Trouble is, while secretary of state, Clinton sought to stop the rise of extremist groups such as Islamic State by calling for arming moderate rebel factions in Syria, according to her memoir, contemporaneous reporting by the New York Times and U.S. officials who were involved in the debate at the time.

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Clinton allies jumped on Paul's claim.

"We've always known Rand Paul's erratic views, ranging from his belief in extreme isolation as a foreign policy principle to his absolute opposition to raising the minimum wage, are dangerous for our country and for the future of Americans," said Adrienne Elrod, communications director for the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record. "But now he's taken it to a whole new level apparently, by flat-out making stuff up - a perilous tactic taken by someone who wants to be America's next president."

Paul advisers declined to comment.

Last month, Clinton made headlines for saying that Islamic State arose because President Barack Obama failed to adequately back moderate opposition groups in Syria, a remark that drew criticism from the president's supporters.

Media Matters for America: "This Conspiracy Theorist's Benghazi Book Is Full Of Conspiracy Theories"

By Hannah Groch-Begley

September 8, 2014, 1:38 p.m. EDT

WND reporter Aaron Klein's history of outrageous conspiracy theories has already cast serious doubt on the credibility of his new book, The REAL Benghazi Story. But the book itself contains major distortions of reality, including selectively-edited evidence and distorted facts, reconfirming Klein's commitment to pushing convoluted hoaxes.

Klein's book, which Media Matters obtained a copy of in advance of its September 9 release, claims to "expose" the "truth" about the 2012 attacks on U.S. facilities in Libya, revealing "What The White House and Hillary Don't Want You To Know." Included are a few of the more conspiratorial analyses that Klein has previously pushed at the birther website WND, such as the claim that Benghazi is linked to the Boston Marathon bombing -- because a handful of members of a jihadist group may have taken part in the Benghazi attacks, and that group also "is behind" a magazine "thought to have provided bomb-building instructions" for the accused marathon bombers.

Klein's book does include one seemingly "new" Benghazi theory, which is also entirely false. Klein attempts to attack former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for what he claims is her previously "unreported role" in Benghazi, by falsely claiming she must have personally approved security conditions at the Benghazi compound.

The Benghazi mission was unusual for government buildings overseas, as it featured a CIA annex that was separate from the diplomatic compound, roughly a mile apart. Typically government agencies are housed together in the same building, which is called "co-location." According to Klein, State Department regulations would have required Clinton to personally sign a waiver permitting the Benghazi mission to be set up like this, and thus provided "personal approval of security conditions at the compound":

"...it can now be said that Clinton personally provided the legal waivers for U.S. personnel to occupy that death trap of a mission. This largely unreported detail was confirmed in the Senate's January 2014 report on Benghazi. Senate investigators found the Benghazi facility required a special waiver since it did not meet the minimum official security standards set by the State Department.

"Some of the necessary waivers, the Senate affirmed, could have been issued at lower levels within the State Department. However 'other departures, such as the co-location requirement, could only be approved by the Secretary of State.' ... This means Clinton herself approved some aspects of the U.S. special mission, including separating the mission from the seemingly more protected CIA annex. In doing so, did Clinton know she was approving a woefully unprotected compound? If not, then at the very least she is guilty of dereliction of duty and the diplomatic equivalence of criminal negligence."

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But the fact is the Benghazi mission did not require this kind of waiver. The State Department regulations Klein is referencing lay out the responsibilities of the Secretary under the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act, or SECCA. But as the State Department Accountability Review Board (ARB) that investigated Benghazi explained, the Benghazi facility was exempted from SECCA. SECCA applies to diplomatic facilities, such as consulates, that are officially notified to the host government. Instead, the special mission in Benghazi was a "temporary, residential facility, not officially notified to the host government," and as such SECCA rules -- waivable or not -- did not apply.

In fact, the document approving the set up and security conditions for the compound has been public since at least September 2013, when it was posted online by Al Jazeera America. It clearly shows the signature of Under Secretary Patrick Kennedy, as well as clearance from a number of other low-level officials.

State's ARB report acknowledged that the Benghazi mission's "'non-status' as a temporary, residential facility made allocation of resources for security and personnel more difficult." They recommended State develop minimum security standards for temporary facilities and encouraged co-location in the future. Clinton accepted the recommendation and began implementing it before leaving office.

Real flaws in security at Benghazi do not, however, justify Klein's attempt to ignore the facts and claim Clinton personally signed waivers approving the compound.

Beyond these details, Klein's book for the most part simply rehashes a number of the same debunked Benghazi myths conservatives have been pushing for almost two years.

For example, he devotes an entire chapter to the talking points controversy -- or what he calls the "duplicitous editing affair" in which the Obama administration "scrubb[ed] references to terrorism" while stressing the influence of an anti-Islam Youtube video. Klein claims that the inter-agency editing process that produced the talking points used by an Obama administration official during Sunday show interviews was not only "a large-scale, purposeful deception of the American public," but stirred "further riots across the Islamic world." In reality, it's long been clear that the talking points were edited to protect the ongoing law enforcement investigation of the attacks and that the video, which sparked worldwide protests killing at least 50 people, played a role in the attacks.

Klein also repeats the claim that the administration immediately had access to video footage of Benghazi which disproved their initial narrative that the assault had emerged out of a protest. But the protest claim originated with the CIA immediately after the attacks, while the video footage wasn't recovered from the site by the FBI for at least another two weeks. And he pushes the theory that the Obama administration didn't send in air support to assist the Americans when they came under fire because they "didn't want to draw more attention" to the U.S. mission. In fact, as military experts have repeatedly said, they did not have the capabilities to send in support, and doing so may have been more dangerous for Americans.

But one of Klein's shadiest tactics is to selectively edit claims from reputable sources to falsely suggest that they support his theories.

For example, Klein selectively quotes congressional testimony from Gregory Hicks, the foreign service officer who was second-in-command of the Libya mission to then-Ambassador Chrisopher Stevens on the night of the attack, to accuse Clinton of being "the very reason Ambassador Stevens was in the compound in the dangerous anniversary of 9/11." Klein uses Hicks' words to argue that Stevens visited the Benghazi compound because Clinton wanted to turn it into a permanent post, and thus is responsible for him being there. But Klein hides the key part of Hicks' testimony, in which the deputy specifically said Stevens "chose to go" to Benghazi himself.

Similarly, Klein selectively quotes from the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence investigation into Benghazi. As the investigation explained, in the hours after the attacks the CIA station chief in Libya had sent an email to superiors revealing the attacks were preplanned terrorism. Klein uses this point to rehash the false claim that the Obama administration purposefully ignored that email for political purposes, supposedly covering up the realities of terrorism in the region. But as the Senate noted in the very same report, "as a standard practice" the CIA does "not base analysis on emails and other informal communications from the field," so the email could not influence administration statements. Klein failed to include that crucial detail.

Reality is not a central focus of The REAL Benghazi Story, however. Given that Klein once suggested Obama was Satan because a fly landed on him during a press conference, perhaps that was to be expected.

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Associated Press: "Clinton Juggernaut Hits 2014 Campaign Trail"

By Ken Thomas

September 8, 2014, 3:19 p.m. EDT

The Clinton juggernaut hits the midterm campaign trail this week as the power couple lends fundraising prowess and their seal of approval to Democratic candidates shunning an unpopular President Barack Obama. For Hillary Rodham Clinton, the events with Democratic donors and activists are keeping her profile high as she weighs a second bid for the presidency.

The Clintons are working to help female candidates and boost turnout in conservative-leaning states like Arkansas, where Bill Clinton was governor before becoming president, and Kentucky, where Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes talks up her alliance with the Clintons, not Obama.

Hillary Clinton's time and political currency remains especially highly coveted.

"She's a natural fit in any state at the moment," said Democratic strategist Donna Brazile, a longtime adviser to the Clintons.

The same can't be said of Obama, whose approval ratings have tumbled and who has kept his campaigning mostly at off-camera events with financial donors. He isn't expected to campaign in states like Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana and North Carolina where Senate control could be decided. Republicans are driving for the six-seat gain they need to grab the Senate majority, with their highest hopes in conservative states Obama lost in 2012.

Hillary Clinton, who recorded an automated get-out-the-vote call for New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his running mate, Kathy Hochul, headlines a fundraiser for Senate Democrats at her Washington home on Tuesdayand a New York reception for Democratic governors on Friday. By Sunday, the Clintons will join thousands of Democrats in Iowa to honor retiring Sen. Tom Harkin in the state that helped propel Obama, at Mrs. Clinton's expense, to the presidency.

The shift to the Clintons, according to interviews with more than a dozen Democratic leaders and operatives, is part history, part circumstances. Party activists tend to look ahead to a successor during a president's second term and Mrs. Clinton's potential to become the first female president - without an obvious Obama-like primary challenger right now - has made that interest more acute. Obama's approval ratings remain stuck in the low 40s, forcing some Senate incumbents to distance themselves.

Obama's turbulent dealings with Republicans in Congress have fueled the shift, raising hopes that his successor will break the logjam, some of the activists say.

So the Clintons are extending their long history of helping their friends.

"There's a tremendous positive feeling for getting two for the price of one," said Mitch Ceasar, a Florida lawyer and member of the Democratic National Committee.

Obama can still raise millions for Democrats and aides say he'll assist candidates in states where he can be most helpful, in individual House races and places like Florida, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Obama could make last-minute appearances in states like Georgia and North Carolina to boost turnout among black voters. But so far, many Democrats have avoided him in public.

During Obama's Labor Day rally in Milwaukee, for example, Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate Mary Burke did not appear at the president's side.

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And in North Carolina, vulnerable Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan had to appear with Obama during his visit to a convention of veterans- but first, she released a statement criticizing his record on veterans health care.

The Clintons, meanwhile, don't have the same issues. And help they provide now could benefit Hillary Clinton if she seeks the party's nomination in 2016.

Bill Clinton has campaigned with Grimes, a longtime family friend who calls herself a "Clinton Democrat" in her bid against McConnell, and two Arkansas allies, Sen. Mark Pryor and gubernatorial candidate Mike Ross, Clinton's campaign driver back in 1982.

Since Labor Day, Clinton has traveled to Connecticut to help Gov. Dan Malloy; Maine on behalf of Rep. Mike Michaud, who faces GOP Gov. Paul LePage; Miami to help former Gov. Charlie Crist, the ex-Republican who is seeking his old office, and New Orleans to raise money for Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu. The former president will be in Atlanta next weekend to raise money for Senate candidate Michelle Nunn before joining with the former first lady in Iowa.

During a New York fundraiser last week to support House Democrats, Bill Clinton told attendees that Republicans in Congress had stoked conflict and division instead of finding common ground, noting dozens of votes to repeal Obama's health care law. The former president also spoke of the need to raise the minimum wage, which he increased as Arkansas governor and as president, according to a Democratic official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the event was private.

The former secretary of state's campaigning comes with risks - her approval ratings have fallen in the past when she engages in partisan activities. Republicans are already looking to engage her at every turn.

When Mrs. Clinton called climate change the "most consequential, urgent, sweeping collection of challenges we face" at a Nevada energy conference last week, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul was quick with a retort. "I don't think we really want a commander-in-chief who's battling climate change instead of terrorism," Paul told Fox News.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Ready for Hillary plans November strategy meeting with top national donors"

By Philip Rucker

September 8, 2014, 8:18 p.m. EDT

Ready for Hillary, the super PAC laying the groundwork for Hillary Rodham Clinton's potential 2016 presidential campaign, has called a meeting of its top national donors to discuss its strategy following the November midterm elections.

The super PAC has invited members of its National Finance Council to a daylong summit in New York City on Nov. 21 to a discussion of the group's next steps as it prepares for Clinton's likely entry into the presidential race.

Clinton, a former secretary of state who would be the overwhelming favorite for the Democratic nomination, has said she will make her decision about the 2016 race early next year. Meanwhile, Ready for Hillary has been building a grassroots infrastructure on her behalf and has signed up more than 2.5 million supporters.

Craig Smith, a senior adviser to Ready for Hillary and a longtime political adviser to former President Bill Clinton, invited top donors to the summit in an e-mail sent Monday night and obtained by The Washington Post.

"This meeting will be the premier opportunity to hear from those individuals who will be shaping the next few years in our Nation's politics and a

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chance for Finance Council Members to come together and meet one another while we wait to hear what Hillary will decide," Smith wrote.

At least 222 donors have signed up as co-chairs of Ready for Hillary's National Finance Council — a commitment that requires donating or raising $25,000 each, according to a membership list obtained by The Post this summer. More than 600 other donors are considered members of the finance council, required to give or raise $5,000 each.

Smith invited the co-chairs to gather for a dinner on Nov. 20, the night before the broader meeting.

Politico blog: Joe Scarborough: "Obama right on ISIL response"

By Joe Scarborough

September 8, 2014, 1:23 p.m. EDT

I have been a consistent critic of President Obama's policy initiatives. I called the stimulus package a steaming pile of garbage, said his health care plan was bad for America, and said his massive spending programs would undermine American capitalism.

I repeatedly warned against tripling the number of troops in Afghanistan, I condemned the administration's expansive drone policy, and have always had concerns about a management style that leaves the president isolated in D.C. and inside his own White House.

But when it comes down to facing down the greatest threat since 9/11, I think this president has it just about right. Let Republicans and neocons like Hillary Clinton play the cynical game that politicians love to play by second guessing his lack of action in Syria and speculating about what might have been.

Let's not argue over counter realities and instead stick to the reality that confronted the White House and Congress. Neither Democrats nor Republicans would have supported a third war against a Muslim country in less than a decade even if Barack Obama wanted to launch a full-scale invasion into Syria. And as Dwight Eisenhower taught us during the Suez Crisis in 1956, less is usually more when it comes to military operations in the Middle East.

Because the president refused to rush in with guns blazing in the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant crisis, when he goes before the American people on Wednesday, Mr. Obama will talk about launching a military operation that has the support of the Arab League, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and most of the Arab world.

And for first time in a long time, United States troops will be entering a battle against an evil force in the Middle East with the support of most Arab leaders.

It's only a start in our battle against ISIL, but it is a good start.

Bloomberg View: Albert R. Hunt: "Could Jim Webb Mount Credible Challenge to Clinton?"

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By Albert R. Hunt

September 7, 2014, 11:00 a.m. EDT

Jim Webb could be Hillary Clinton's worst nightmare.

The former one-term Virginia senator and Vietnam War veteran is making sounds about running for president as a Democrat. He was in Iowa last month; a New Hampshire trip may be in the offing, and he's giving a major speech at the National Press Club in two weeks.

He seems an improbable candidate. He has taken illiberal positions, was President Ronald Reagan's Navy secretary, has few relationships within the Democratic Party, and has no serious fundraising network.

What he does possess is a long-held and forceful opposition to U.S. interventions in Iraq and Libya, and potentially Syria, as well as solid anti-Wall Street credentials. In Democratic primaries, these may be Clinton's greatest impediments to rallying a hard-core activist base.

In 2002, Webb warned of the perils of invading and occupying Iraq; he has been proven right by the violence and sectarian strife of the post-Saddam Hussein era. As a senator, Clinton voted for the war and supported it for years. She recently acknowledged she had been wrong.

As secretary of state, Clinton was the chief advocate in the Barack Obama administration for intervening against Muammar Qaddafi. When the Libyan dictator was toppled and killed in 2011, she thought it would be her signature foreign-policy achievement.

Webb, then a senator, adamantly opposed this venture. The U.S. has since withdrawn its personnel from Libya, and radical jihadists now occupy a compound belonging to the U.S. embassy.

Clinton recently said she disagreed with Obama's decision not to intervene in the Syrian civil war. Webb warns that the Syrian opposition includes not only elements friendly to the U.S., but also the radical Islamic State forces that have wreaked mayhem there and in Iraq, murdering thousands and beheading two American journalists. Syria, he has warned, is "Lebanon on steroids."

Clinton has close ties to Wall Street, a source of campaign funds for her and the Clinton Foundation. Since leaving office, she has received large speaking fees from hedge funds, private-equity companies and big banks such as Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

Webb, 68, has long taken a populist, anti-Wall Street stance. In 2007, he delivered the Democratic response to President George W. Bush's State of the Union address. Webb declared that the health of American society should be measured "not with the numbers that come out of Wall Street, but with the living conditions that exist on Main Street."

He pushed a measure to slap a special tax on big bonuses paid out by Wall Street companies that received government assistance during the financial crisis. When it failed, he complained that Democrats, beholden to Wall Street, killed it.

If Webb decides to run -- fearlessness and unpredictability are his trademarks -- there's plenty of ammunition against him. He's against gun control, and he has made comments that angered feminists, many of whom consider Clinton a cause as well as a candidate, and environmentalists. He also has been involved in numerous personal controversies.

In a recent Virginia Senate debate, Republican Ed Gillespie sought to paint the moderate Democratic incumbent, Mark Warner, as too left, citing occasions when he didn't join Webb in voting along a more conservative line.

The maverick lawmaker had a few notable successes, passing a major veterans' education bill, putting criminal justice reform on the agenda, and calling for a pivot to Asia before Obama was elected. He has criticized executive overreach by both Bush and Obama.

A decorated war hero -- he received the Navy Cross for "extraordinary heroism" -- and author of nine books, he would run principally on the

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issues most likely to cut Clinton: opposition to an interventionist-centered foreign policy and softness toward Wall Street. He would bring more authenticity to these two issues than any other would-be Clinton challenger. In Iowa, he made no secret of his criticism of Clinton's tenure at State.

Clintonites will dismiss the Webb threat by pointing to his political weaknesses. But here's a safe bet: They will closely monitor his Sept. 23 Press Club speech.

The Week column: Damon Linker, senior correspondent at TheWeek.com: "Bring on the Hillary Clinton-Rand Paul smackdown!"

By Damon Linker

September 9, 2014, 6:02 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] If you want an election that clarifies the choices facing voters, then you can't do better than a match-up between the centrist and the libertarian

I'll be honest: The prospect of Hillary Clinton winning her party's nomination without even trying and then coasting to victory in the general election against a lame Republican opponent leaves me feeling depressed, and not only because I'm paid to write about politics.

Our political system ought to do better than that — by giving the American people a genuine choice. But most of the likely match-ups wouldn't do that.

Clinton is a centrist Democrat all the way down. She's spent the past 22 years near the peak of power inside the Beltway. If she ends up squaring off against Paul Ryan, Marco Rubio, Chris Christie, Jeb Bush, or (God help us) Mitt Romney, it will be a contest played out from deep within the reigning Washington consensus.

The candidates will pretend to disagree about foreign policy, but it will be an act, with neocon-ish Clinton perfectly matching her opponent's blustery bellicosity point for point.

On domestic policy, Clinton will promise to defend ObamaCare while reforming its least popular and successful elements. She'll also signal her intent to do what Democrats always do, which is to protect government programs and keep tax rates at their current level or raise them slightly on the top end.

The Republican, meanwhile, will do what Republicans always do, which is to rail against government and promise tax and spending cuts that everyone knows will translate into tax cuts for the wealthy alone, sending the deficit back into the stratosphere. (Despite what Republicans say in their speeches, their actions reveal that it is not the deficit that matters to them, but rather cutting taxes on the highest earners while protecting government programs that benefit the aging white voters who form the base of their party.)

There is only one realistic way to break out of this tired state of affairs. And no, it doesn't involve a run by Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum, or any other candidate from the GOP's delusional there-are-more-general-election-votes-on-the-far-right-than-in-the-center caucus. If someone from that faction manages to land the nomination, I fully expect the median-voter theorem to be vindicated and Clinton to win in a historic landslide.

No, the only scenario that promises to deliver a genuine contest and spark a serious, important debate is one that involves an electoral smackdown between Clinton and Rand Paul. That is the presidential match-up America needs.

Let me be clear: I am not a libertarian. It's very unlikely I will cast a vote for Paul or any other Republican in 2016. I anticipate supporting Clinton in

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the general election.

But I nonetheless believe that American democracy would benefit from a contest that forces the establishment candidate (Clinton) to defend herself and her positions against a challenger who presents a genuine alternative — and one that confounds at least some of the pieties that have gripped the GOP through the last several election cycles.

The biggest contrast would be felt on foreign policy. Paul's expressions of support for a military response to ISIS have obscured just how skeptical he is of the GOP's reflexive, unmodulated hawkishness, which inspires nearly all of its leading figures — as well as a good many Democrats, very much including Hillary Clinton — to propose military force as an all-purpose solution to nearly every problem in the world. Paul appears eager to break from this consensus in favor of a stricter calculation of America's national interests, and with those interests defined more narrowly than neocons and liberal interventionists tend to do.

Paul's desire to reorient America's foreign policy extends to other aspects of the national security state that has emerged in the U.S. since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. As Americans learned from his blockbuster 13-hour filibuster on March 6, 2013, Paul strongly opposes warrantless surveillance and extra-judicial killings, especially when American citizens are targeted. Clinton's position on these issues, by contrast, is...somewhat more difficult to pin down.

Paul's libertarian suspicion of government police powers even led him to criticize the Ferguson, Missouri, police department in the wake of the shooting death of the unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown. In a column for Time, Paul declared that "it is impossible for African-Americans not to feel like their government is particularly targeting them." That might sound like an uncontroversial position, but for a member of a party that has defined itself since the era of Richard Nixon as a champion of law-and-order and unapologetically tough on crime, it is.

When it comes to taxes and entitlements, Paul is closer to being a mainstream Republican — though his libertarian commitments give us reason to think he may be slightly more willing than other members of his party to match tax cuts with real reductions in spending. I don't support slashing either taxes or spending, but if we're going to have the first, it's far better to combine it with the second than to pay for the tax cuts by increasing levels of public debt.

Now none of this means that Rand Paul will have an easy time on the campaign trail. On the contrary, as Ross Douthat argued last spring, Paul will likely face long odds in the primaries precisely because his agenda simultaneously challenges so many elements of the GOP electoral coalition.

And even if he does somehow run the Republican gauntlet and manage to come out at the head of the pack, he'd still have to face the Hillary Clinton juggernaut in the general election. Despite recent hype about a "libertarian moment," I tend to think Clinton would do quite well in such a match-up.

But I could be wrong. And wouldn't it be clarifying to test the proposition?

New York Times column: Ambs. to the USSR and Russia Jack F. Matlock, Jr., Thomas R. Pickering, and James F. Collins: "Give Diplomacy With Russia a Chance"

By Jack F. Matlock, Jr., Thomas R. Pickering, and James F. Collins

September 8, 2014

The crisis over Ukraine has all but frozen official communication between the United States and Russia. The Russian reaction to the political upheaval in Kiev — the absorption of Crimea, and the armed intervention in eastern Ukraine — and the American responses to those actions have brought about a near-complete breakdown in normal and regular dialogue between Washington and Moscow. Relations between the two capitals have descended into attempts by each side to pressure the other, tit-for-tat actions, shrill propaganda statements, and the steady diminution of engagement between the two governments and societies.

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Reports from the NATO summit meeting that ended in Newport, Wales, on Friday indicate that the United States and its allies will respond to Russia's intervention and violence in Ukraine with an escalation of their own — including further sanctions, enhanced military presence in front-line states, and possibly greater support for Ukraine's armed forces. This amounts to more of the same, with little if any assurance of better outcomes.

What the Western strategy lacks is an equally vigorous diplomatic approach to ending this conflict. Diplomatic efforts should aim to provide Ukraine and its neighbors with a future that can sustain peace and security for all countries in the area; re-establish respect for the core principles of Europe's political order; and open the way for more productive American-Russian relations.

As three former United States ambassadors who served in Moscow, we believe that the time is right for American leadership in a serious diplomatic effort to achieve these ends. Each of us has seen the high price paid when relations and dialogue between Washington and Moscow break down, as in the effort to prevent Baltic independence at the end of the Soviet era, the Kosovo crisis and the insurgency in Chechnya.

Each time relations broke down, there was a high cost to the cause of peace and security for both the United States and Russia, as well as their allies. Our experience convinces us that creative, disciplined, serious active diplomacy — through both official and unofficial channels — provides the one path out of destructive crises and a reliance on violence and confrontation. So-called Track 2 dialogue between nonstate actors — experts and groups of individuals on both sides — can also play a useful role.

For now, fortunately, a cease-fire agreement announced on Friday by President Petro O. Poroshenko of Ukraine and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia appears to be holding. It is also encouraging that the parties have begun discussion about how to maintain the halt in fighting and address the political issues that will have to be tackled to bring about a lasting settlement.

There is ample reason to treat this opening with caution. But this potential opportunity should not be allowed to slip away. This is a moment when American leadership will be essential. The terms of any durable cease-fire must, of course, provide for adequate numbers of international observers, most appropriately from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to ensure that no side exploits the halt in fighting.

Any lasting agreement must also build on the fragile political process begun over the weekend. That process must involve the search for agreement on fair and equal treatment, and adequate political representation, of all Ukrainians; on respect for Ukraine's sovereignty over its territory; and on international cooperation to rebuild Ukraine's economy.

Firm and unwavering support by the United States for these principles will be critical to the success of any negotiated outcome. The resumption of regular dialogue between Moscow and Washington will be central to the restoration of relations.

Fortunately, the arrival in Moscow of America's new ambassador, John F. Tefft, provides an opening to enhance communication and dialogue. A seasoned career diplomat with previous service in Lithuania, Georgia and Ukraine, as well as Russia, Mr. Tefft brings to Moscow a capacity to express American views and positions clearly and to listen to and explain Russian thinking to Washington. His arrival gives both governments an opportunity to rebuild relations and to move away from the present path of confrontation.

Reinvigorating American-Russian diplomacy will be challenging. The negative effects of the Ukraine crisis are part of a broader downturn in relations over the last few years. The escalation of violence in Ukraine, and rising calls among Europeans and Americans for more forceful action and tougher sanctions to confront Russian military activity, have increased the prospect for further escalation and a further downturn in bilateral relations.

Although spokesmen and leaders in Washington have suggested that Russia has an "off ramp" to extricate itself from the present situation and the United States is ready to cooperate in that effort, this uphill path is strewn with rocks and largely uncharted. Additional sanctions, increased military pressure and battlefield escalation will not, by themselves, help define a way forward.

Only the use of diplomacy can help Mr. Poroshenko take advantage of new openings to define his country's relations with its neighbors, restore Ukrainian sovereignty and effect a permanent end to the bloodshed. Sanctions and further efforts to escalate political and military pressure, and reliance on unilateral action without accompanying diplomacy, would all but assure continued suffering for the people of Ukraine.

It is time for the United States to use its diplomatic assets, including our new ambassador in Moscow, to take active leadership of diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis over Ukraine and set American relations with Russia on a new, more productive course.

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 12 – Tokyo, Japan: Sec. Clinton, Christine Lagarde, and Caroline Kennedy speak at an event on improving the participation of women in the economy (Washington Post)

· September 12 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines a DGA fundraiser (Twitter)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 15 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Conference (CRF)

· September 15 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at Legal Services Corp. 40th Anniversary (Twitter)

· September 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines a 9/11 Health Watch fundraiser (NY Daily News)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/15/2016 8:22:21 AM
Subject: News Update - February 15

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Monday, February 15

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Six Attempted Terror Attacks Foiled in Jerusalem, West Bank**
- **PM: Time to Expect Some Ties with Arab States to Come Out of the Closet**
- **Dozens of Palestinians Injured in Clashes with IDF Near Ramallah**
- **America's UN Envoy Lands in Israel to Push Two-State Solution**
- **Jordan's King: Two-State Solution Key to Defeating ISIS**
- **Ya'alon Meets with Jordan's King Abdullah**
- **Bennett Calls for Palestinians to Have 'Autonomy on Steroids'**
- **Israel-EU Relations "Close and Friendly" After Bibi-Mogherini Chat**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Iran? Boring. The Palestinians? Who Cares?"**
  - By Ronen Bergman, Senior Political and Military Analyst, Yedioth Ahronoth
- **Al-Monitor: "Could Jerusalem Get a Palestinian Mayor?"**
  - By Mazal Mualem, Israel Pulse Columnist, Al-Monitor

Ynet News

Six Attempted Terror Attacks Foiled in Jerusalem, West Bank

Israel's security forces thwarted five attempted terror attacks on Sunday, while a sixth was prevented when a civilian escaped her would-be attacker. No Israeli forces were hurt in any of the incidents, while five of the Palestinian attackers were shot dead. On Sunday night, two attackers armed with homemade M-16 rifles opened fire at a police force near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City.
See also, "Israel Says Its Forces Shot Dead Five Palestinian Assailants in Single Day" (Reuters)

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Jerusalem Post

PM: Time for Some Ties w/ Arab States to Come Out of Closet

Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, who speaks often about behind-the-scenes cooperation taking place between Israel and many countries in the region, hinted Sunday night that the time has come to expect that some of those contacts come out into the open. Netanyahu, speaking to the annual meeting in Jerusalem of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Israel and its supporters should not be shy about calling upon states around the world who want and have good relations with Israel, to change their voting patterns against Israel in international forums. Turning to the countries of the Middle East, he said there has been no place where there has been a greater shift toward Israel than in the region.

See also, "Ya'alon: Israelis Secretly Meeting with Officials from Gulf States" (Ha'aretz)

Ha'aretz

Dozens of Palestinians Injured in Clashes w/ IDF Near Ramallah

Over two-dozen Palestinians were injured Monday morning in clashes with the IDF that erupted during an arrest operation in the Al-Amari refugee camp near Ramallah. One of the soldiers was lightly injured by a stone during the clashes, when Palestinians shot at the IDF, threw explosives and stones. The army reported that about 100 Palestinians took part in the clashes, which began when Israeli soldiers entered the refugee camp and arrested two Tanzim militia members. It noted that its force opened fire at and hit 10 Palestinians in response to the rioting. According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, 28 Palestinians were injured, one of them seriously. Red Crescent teams stated that they evacuated six people who were injured as a result of live fire or rubber-coated bullets.

See also, "Security Forces Arrest Head of Palestinian Tanzim in Kalandiya" (Jerusalem Post)

Times of Israel

America's UN Envoy Lands in Israel to Push Two-State Solution

US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power reiterated Saturday her country's commitment to advancing a two-state solution as well as a peaceful resolution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as she arrived in Israel for a series of high-level diplomatic talks. "[I] will meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders... to discuss US commitment to two states side by side in security and peace," Power tweeted upon her arrival.

See also, "Rivlin to US Ambassador: No Solution Can Be Imposed" (Arutz Sheva)

Times of Israel

Jordan's King: Two-State Solution Key to Defeating ISIS

A two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is vital to the defeat of the Islamic State, King Abdullah of Jordan argued Friday, saying that the decades-long dispute only served to benefit the jihadist group. "[T]he community of nations cannot talk about universal rights and global justice, but continue to deny statehood to Palestinians," he told the Munich Security Conference. "This failure has created a festering injustice, and continues to be exploited by Daesh (Islamic State) and its kind," he said. "Left unresolved, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will become a religious conflict of a global dimension. And it is only a matter of time before we may be faced by yet another war in Gaza or in South Lebanon.

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Ynet News

Ya'alon Meets with Jordan's King Abdullah

Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon met with Jordan's King Abdullah on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. The Defense Ministry said the two discussed "the bilateral ties between Jordan and Israel, the latest development in the Middle East, and the possibility of advancing the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians." The official Jordanian state news agency confirmed the meeting, but provided no further details. The fact Ya'alon's meeting with King Abdullah was made public is very unusual. While coordination meetings between government officials between the two states have been ongoing, the existence of these meetings was kept secret out of concern their publication will serve as ammunition for opposition in the kingdom to its security ties with Israel.

Arutz Sheva

Bennett Calls for Palestinians to Have 'Autonomy on Steroids'

Education Minister Naftali Bennett called once again for the unilateral annexation of "Area C" in the West Bank. When asked about the war on terror, Bennett responded that he "believes the government has done a lot to combat terror." "I want to remind you that there was an incredible terror wave that hit Jerusalem and due to the government's crackdown that wave has gotten much smaller and moved out of Jerusalem and into Hebron and Gush Etzion." He continued, "we have already separated ourselves from the Palestinians, they rule themselves in their own autonomous region. My plan would be to give the Palestinians 'autonomy on steroids' in areas A and B, and to begin to annex area C in stages beginning with Gush Etzion. We need to get this started already."

BICOM

Israel-EU Relations "Close, Friendly" After Bibi-Mogherini Chat

Relations between Israel and the EU were said to have returned to normal, after a conversation between Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini. The two spoke by telephone over the weekend and appeared to resolve tensions over EU guidelines issued in November, which called for the separate consumer labeling of West Bank goods. Following Netanyahu's conversation with Mogherini, the spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry Emmanuel Nachshon said that Israel-EU relations are once more "close and friendly."
See also, "Foreign Ministry: Diplomatic Crisis Between Israel-EU Over" (Ynet News)

Yedioth Ahronoth – February 15, 2016

Iran? Boring. The Palestinians? Who Cares?

By Ronen Bergman

Munich – There was good news and bad news for the prime minister at this year's Munich Security Conference—the most important forum in the world for foreign relations, intelligence and security—which ended yesterday.

Let's start with the good news, at least insofar as pertains to Israeli foreign policy: the predominant atmosphere throughout entire conference was one of despair, confusion and the sense that winds of war are now blowing. This time, however, as opposed to some of the 51 pervious conferences, with the exception of a few perfunctory statements by Arab representatives at the conference, no one tried to suggest that Israel was connected to the overriding problems—ISIS, Russia's aggression in Ukraine and Syria and the refugee problem—which pose a threat to world order. Israel is only marginally relevant to any of those issues, if at all. The

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Palestinian issue was not on the agenda of even a single one of the conference's panels, and was not mentioned at all except in Defense Minister Yaalon's speech.

If the Munich Security Conference is any measure of trends in the realm of diplomacy and international relations, one can say that in 2016 the Palestinians are of no interest to anyone. The Europeans have other problems, which are far more pressing and substantive. In the new world that has evolved, it is hard to see how anyone on the continent, let alone the United States, is going to have the time, resources or desire to apply any real pressure on Israel.

The grim mood that was created by the colossal failure of European and American foreign policy vis-à-vis Russia and Syria also produced the second piece of news for Israel—the bad news. That failure created the need to highlight successes. More specifically, the one development that is perceived and was framed as a shining European and American success: the nuclear agreement with Iran. Everyone who spoke (with the exception of John McCain and Moshe Yaalon) described that agreement as a victory for dialogue over war, as a brilliant diplomatic coup by several countries that invested a huge and unprecedented effort to avert conflict—and were successful.

And that applies only to the people who showed any interest in the nuclear agreement. In the two previous conferences in Munich, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was the big star—an eloquent, sophisticated and affable diplomat who spoke to the West in its own language, in stark contrast to his predecessors, who were grim men who presented benighted views and denied the Holocaust. The Iranian nuclear program—against the backdrop of the crippling sanctions that were imposed on Iran, the losses incurred by Western corporations and the threat of an Israeli strike—made it the most important issue on the conference's agenda [in previous years]. The rooms in which discussions were held about the Iranian nuclear program, and first and foremost Zarif's speech, were filled to capacity. Alternatively, the panel discussion about the refugees that was held last year drew very little attendance.

This year those trends were reversed. Everything pertaining to the refugees drew a great deal of attention. Wolfgang Ischinger, chairman of the Munich Security Conference, honored Zarif by scheduling his speech for early Friday afternoon, but to no avail—the room was half-empty.

The Iranian nuclear program, which is still defined by the Israeli intelligence community as the primary threat to national security, is of no interest to the world. It's a thing of the past. Over and done with. Finished.

The lack of interest shown by the international community in the Iranian nuclear program teaches us two things. First of all, contrary to the real worry it elicits in Israel, the Munich Security Conference demonstrated that if Israel wants to clash with Iran in one way or another, it is on its own on that count. Conversations I held with senior officials from intelligence agencies in the United States and major European countries led me to understand that while they might pay lip service to the issue and say they are still concerned, in practice, given the other threats that are perceived as far more significant, the Iranian issue has been downgraded far beneath the first or second place it once held.

The second thing we can learn from the West's declining interest in the Iranian nuclear program is that the gap between the things that frighten top government officials in Jerusalem (Hizbullah, Hamas, Iran) and the concerns harbored by their counterparts in the West (Russia, ISIS and refugees) is growing larger.

Ronen Bergman is a senior political and military analyst for Yedioth Ahronoth, and is the author of several books on Israeli security. He is currently working on a history of the Mossad.

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Al-Monitor – February 12, 2016

Could Jerusalem Get a Palestinian Mayor?

By Mazal Mualem

"Unless we break away from the villages in East Jerusalem, our capital will become an Arab city with a Palestinian majority. But there's more. As soon as the Arabs from East Jerusalem exercise their voting rights, Jerusalem's mayor will be a Palestinian one. I would strongly advise Jews not to rely on them not ever exercising those rights." Presenting that equation in an interview with Al-Monitor, former Minister Haim Ramon will try to relay his plan to the general public in a bid to mobilize them and "save Jewish Jerusalem." This is also the name of the movement Ramon launched earlier in February together with other public figures, some with a security background. The movement's overriding objective is to apply pressure on the Israeli government to unilaterally disengage from 28 villages in East Jerusalem by amending the "Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel," aka Jerusalem Basic Law. Among the people who support the move are retired generals Ami Ayalon, Amos Yaron and Amiram Levin as well as retired police commissioners Elik Ron and Aryeh Amit.

Despite being nonpartisan, the movement's underlying tenets express a centrist, pragmatic political outlook. It is fashioned after former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to disengage from the Gaza Strip and northern Samaria in 2005. In other words, it seeks to do away with the Israeli-Palestinian status quo by taking unilateral action. The lone-attacker intifada, one of whose key factors are the Palestinian villages in East Jerusalem, should serve as tailwind for the movement to engage the Israeli public at large.

After a tumultuous career that started in the Labor Party and culminated in Kadima — the centrist party that had been his dream and which he co-founded — Ramon left the world of politics in 2009. Upon Kadima's establishment in November 2005, he believed that a centrist political platform could lead to a historic diplomatic arrangement resulting in the partition of the land into two states. Seeing his dream fading, he is now trying to make a difference from the outside.

The full text of the interview follows:

Al-Monitor: How is your plan supposed to save Jewish Jerusalem?

Ramon: First, we need to recall the original sin. Intoxicated by its victory at the end of the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel annexed 28 West Bank Palestinian villages that historically had never been part of Jerusalem, such as Jabel Mukaber and the Shufat refugee camp. Almost 50 years later, what we ended up with is a reality whereby out of a city of 800,000 residents, 300,000 are Palestinians. In other words, close to 40% of Jerusalem's permanent residents are Palestinians. Furthermore, in the demographics of children up to 18, 60% are Palestinians, most of whom attend the Palestinian educational system that's funded by the Israeli taxpayer. If I were to use [Prime Minister] Bibi Netanyahu's rhetoric, I would be saying that the Israeli taxpayer is funding incitement in the Palestinian Authority's [PA] schools, which includes the children of Palestinian Jerusalem. We all agree that the security reality in Jerusalem is intolerable. What we are saying is that there is a solution to this unacceptable situation.

The Jerusalem Basic Law must be amended in a way that those Palestinian villages with some 200,000 residents will be cut off from Jerusalem and be returned to their original status in the West Bank. This is where areas A and B will be formed [Area A being under Palestinian security control and Area B under

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Israeli security control].

Al-Monitor: Will this materialize in a unilateral move?

Ramon: Their annexation was a unilateral move too. Those people were never asked whether they wanted to be residents of East Jerusalem, and most of them never asked for it. They didn't take as much as a single act on their own to remain in Jerusalem. I'm only talking about the permanent residents that were willy-nilly [forcefully] annexed and will be returned, albeit not necessarily willy-nilly. After all, President Mahmoud Abbas demands that these villages be returned to the Palestinian state. This 1967 annexation has been adhered to by all of Israel's governments over the years. The only one who did something about it was Ariel Sharon, who set up a fence from [Palestinian West Bank village of] Kalandia to the southern part of the Shufat refugee camp. When I served in his Cabinet, I demanded that he continue building the fence. He refused to do so and told me, "Right now, I'm not going to confront the radical right," because he was busy with the disengagement from Gaza. The point is that even Sharon didn't amend the Jerusalem Basic Law and the 50,000 Palestinians he kept outside the fence continue to enjoy all the benefits that permanent residents do.

Al-Monitor: The Israeli public was sorely disappointed with disengaging from Gaza, a unilateral move. How will you convince it that this [the "save Jerusalem plan"] is the right thing to do?

Ramon: The plan we're proposing has three advantages. It improves security in the sense that there will be a fence and that the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] will be able to operate in those villages. Today, Jabel Mukaber is exactly like Tel Aviv in the sense that the IDF cannot operate there. The second aspect is demographics. From a situation of 60% Jews and 40% Palestinians, we will move to a ratio of 80% Jews and 20% Palestinians. And third, the government will be saving some 2 to 3 billion shekels [approx. $500-$750 million] that it can invest in more vital spheres. Israelis need to understand that they're financing social security benefits, full health services, as well as welfare and educational services in the villages of East Jerusalem. As minister of Jerusalem affairs, I started talking about it. It was then that I realized the extent of the absurdity. Today I understand it even more so.

Al Monitor: And how will you explain to the world such a radical move that weakens the PA and perhaps strengthens Hamas?

Ramon: I'm not throwing the residents of East Jerusalem under the bus. They will be part and parcel of the PA. Hamas? I'm not aware that it is present in [the Palestinian town of] Abu Dis. These are right-wing arguments that the radical left has adopted. Those villages will be part of the PA. Why would Hamas go there instead of Nablus? What's the difference? There will be no difference. Why is there no Hamas presence in [the Palestinian city of] al-Eizariya? Because the IDF is in control there and because of the PA. The PA will fight Hamas as it does across the West Bank, and it will find it easier to do so. You need to realize that currently the PA is unable to operate in Shufat, which has become a no-man's-land. We're not going in there because the police are afraid. The military is prohibited from going in. The PA can't go in either because it's not its territory. According to our plan, these areas will finally have a landlord.

The claim that Hamas will take over is nonsense voiced by radical right-wingers who want [Israel] to keep staying there. What I understand much less is why the radical left is opposed to the plan. On the other hand, the radical left was also opposed to the separation fence and the pullout from Gaza. Had we listened to those people, we would have been without a fence today and we would have still been controlling the Gaza Strip. I can tell you that according to the polls we conducted, our plan enjoys a large majority: 70% of the public support it. Of the 30% that are opposed to it, two-thirds are the radical right and another third is the

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radical left, which apparently cares about the Palestinians and is less interested in the Jews. I can also say that many Likud voters support this move. We're talking about huge numbers of supporters.

Al-Monitor: How will you explain to the public that this is not the partition of Jerusalem, as the right claims it is?

Ramon: What we're talking about is saving Jerusalem. I'm not cutting off the Temple Mount, the Old City or the Holy Basin. What embodies the true essence of Jerusalem stays that way. 100,000 Palestinians will remain in the city. I believe that the public knows what's good for it. My explanation consists of three things that the Jewish public is in favor of: It doesn't like giving money to Arabs, it wants its state to be Jewish and it wants to have security. If our plan doesn't go through, Jerusalem will become an Arab city with a Palestinian majority. Moreover, if the Palestinians stop being stupid [as they boycott the municipal elections], Jerusalem's next mayor won't be [incumbent Mayor] Nir Barkat — he will be a Palestinian. Once they decide to take part in the elections, [Jerusalem] will have a Palestinian mayor.

Al-Monitor: The chair of the Zionist Camp, Isaac "Buji" Herzog, has recently presented his plan to separate from the villages in East Jerusalem. What's the difference between his plan and yours?

Ramon: The problem is that Herzog adopted it in a warped way, because he doesn't have the guts to go the whole hog. He doesn't say that the Jerusalem Basic Law — which is the key element — needs to be changed. What he talks about is separation and a fence. He is throwing slogans into the air without elaborating. The right thing to do is to come before the Knesset tomorrow morning and propose to amend the Jerusalem Basic Law. The only positive aspect in all of this is that the Labor Party has finally started addressing diplomatic issues instead of just dealing with having more assistants in kindergartens. After two election campaigns during which they thought that by focusing on the salaries of senior officials and kindergarten assistants they would rise to power, they finally realized that they also need to tackle diplomatic topics. By contrast to them, we are an apolitical movement, so Likud supporters can join us as well. You can support a movement to save Jerusalem and still root for Bibi, and vice versa. What we're saying is that we need to do away with the status quo or else we'll lose the Jewish majority in Jerusalem, and down the line we'll lose the [Jewish] majority in the state. Our interest is to have two states or else we will first become a binational state, which will then become an Arab state.

Mazal Mualem is a columnist for Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse and formerly the senior political correspondent for Ma'ariv and Ha'aretz. She also presents a weekly TV show covering social issues on the Knesset channel.

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From: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 10/13/2008 12:32:40 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 10/13

08 Election Daily News Clips
October 13th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

11:00am McCain and Palin: hold a joint rally in Virginia Beach, Virginia

2:15pm McCain: holds a rally in Wilmington, North Crolina

2:30pm Palin: holds a "Road to Victory" rally at the Richmond International Speedway in Richmond, Virginia

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Pentagon divided over John McCain (LA Times 10/13/08)
By Julian E. Barnes
WASHINGTON -- For decades, the nation's military officer corps has identified steadfastly with the priorities and values of the Republican Party. So the brass should be reveling in the presidential campaign of John McCain. Yet, in a culture that typically prefers one of its own, many are wary of the Vietnam War hero.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccainmil13-2008oct13,0,4585331.story

Writing Memoir, McCain Found a Narrative for Life (NYT 10/13/08)
By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
WASHINGTON — For 25 years after his release from a North Vietnamese prison, Senator John McCain tried to build a reputation as more than a famous former captive. "I never want to be a professional P.O.W.," he often told friends. He refused to let his campaigns use pictures from his incarceration, and he never mentioned his torture.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/us/politics/13mccain.html

Seeing White House From a Cell in Hanoi (WaPo 10/13/08)
By Michael Leahy
"He was talking about his father to us and then he said: 'I want to be president of the United States. Someday I'm going to be president,' " Stratton recalls. "If the cell wasn't so small, we'd have been rolling around laughing."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/12/AR2008101202306.html?hpid=topnews

In Virginia, McCain Struggles To Hold the South for GOP (WSJ 10/13/08)
By COREY DADE
Fueled by demographic shifts, rising doubts about the direction of the country, perceived missteps by Sen. McCain and a voter-registration push by the Obama campaign that has helped add a net of 310,000 new, mostly younger voters, the Democratic ticket increasingly appears positioned to win Virginia and make critical inroads across the South. A CNN/Time Inc. poll released Wednesday shows Sen. Obama has opened a nine-point lead on Sen. McCain in Virginia.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122385515550927117.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

GOP Head Compares Obama to Bin Laden: Va. Party Leader Criticized, Including By McCain

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Team (WaPo 10/13/08)
By Tim Craig
Virginia Democrats, and some Republicans, are outraged, saying these are the latest in a series of inflammatory statements that the GOP has made against Obama in Virginia, a state that has emerged as a crucial battleground in the election.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/12/AR2008101201956.html

Obama Camp's Travel Seems a Factor In Recent Leads in Battleground States (WSJ 10/13/08)
By LAURA MECKLER and EASHA ANAND
The Democrats Have Appeared at 95 Events, While It's Just 55 for the Republicans…The gap makes a difference in the amount of press that each ticket gets in critical markets -- and is mirrored by a similar disparity in TV advertising. Sen. Obama outspent Sen. McCain and the Republican National Committee on ads in 15 states for the week ended Oct. 4, according to the Wisconsin Advertising Project, an initiative at the University of Wisconsin. The Republicans spent more in just two states.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122383794476626615.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain: "The Economy Has Hurt Us A Little Bit" (Huff Po 10/12/08)
By BETH FOUHY
"We're a couple points down, OK, nationally, but we're right in this game," McCain said to cheers. "The economy has hurt us a little bit in the last week or two, but in the last few days we've seen it come back up because they want experience, they want knowledge and they want vision. We'll give that to America."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/10/12/mccain-the-economy-has-hu_n_134051.html

Concern in G.O.P. After Rough Week for McCain (NYT 10/12/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY and ELISABETH BUMILLER
Again and again, party leaders said in interviews that while they still believed that Mr. McCain could win over voters in the next 30 days, they were concerned that he and his advisers seemed to be adrift in dealing with an extraordinarily challenging political battleground and a crisis on Wall Street.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/us/politics/12strategy.html

Congressman Rebukes McCain for Recent Rallies (NYT 10/12/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
WASHINGTON — Representative John Lewis, the Georgia Democrat and civil rights leader, said Saturday that Senator John McCain and his running mate, Gov. Sarah Palin, were "sowing the seeds of hatred and division" in a way that reminded him of former Gov. George Wallace and "another destructive period" in the nation's history.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/us/politics/12lewis.html

McCain's gentler campaign: Obama's a pro-abortion radical (McClatchy 10/11/08)
By William Douglas
JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — A day after John McCain tried to soften the rhetoric of his angry supporters toward Barack Obama, running-mate Sarah Palin described Obama as a pro-abortion radical, saying it's not negative or mean-spirited to talk about his record.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/53806.html

McCain Campaign Sustains the Focus on Obama's Links to a 1960s Radical
By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE
Despite the McCain campaign's zeal for invoking Mr. Ayers, however, Mr. McCain himself did not bring him up at his debate with Mr. Obama on Tuesday…
Whatever the reason Mr. McCain did not bring up Mr. Ayers, that he continues to focus on him on the trail suggests that he thinks the name is energizing his base, those voters who are already committed to him, and perhaps those who are looking for a reason not to support Mr. Obama. And he wants to ensure they remain energized through Election Day.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/us/politics/12ayers.html

MCCAIN: 'AFTER I WHIP HIS YOU KNOW WHAT' (MSNBC blog 10/12/08)
By Adam Aigner-Treworgy
ARLINGTON, Va. -- After doing some debate prep and satellite interviews at his campaign headquarters for

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most of the afternoon, McCain headed downstairs to his Virginia Victory offices to rally a group of volunteers who had been making phone calls on his behalf.

He referenced recent poll numbers and the state of the race in Virginia before telling his supporters that this news should only make them want to work harder.

"After I whip his you know what in this debate, we're going to be going out 24/7," McCain said of his upcoming debate with Obama, but seeming to consider recent criticism that his words have been too inflammatory, he quickly told supporters to be respectful.

http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/10/12/1537045.aspx

No New Economic Proposal Expected From McCain (NYT 10/13/08)

By JACKIE CALMES

WASHINGTON — Despite signals that Senator John McCain would have new prescriptions for the economic crisis after a weekend of meetings, his campaign said Sunday that Mr. McCain, the Republican presidential nominee, would not have any more proposals this week unless developments call for some.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/us/politics/13plan.html

John McCain considering new economic proposals (LA Times 10/13/08)

By Maeve Reston and William Heise

ARLINGTON, VA. -- As he struggles to convince voters he is the best candidate to handle the economy, John McCain is considering whether to issue a new set of economic proposals, possibly including lower taxes on dividends and capital gains.

http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-campaign13-2008oct13,0,5228014.story

McCain weighs proposal to cut taxes on investments (AP 10/12/08)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A top adviser to Republican John McCain said Sunday the presidential hopeful is weighing new economic proposals to help the nation weather the financial crisis.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said McCain was considering policy proposals that would cut taxes on investments.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g6OTvvWxmdp5Q2IvjYry89Ikh1YwD93P5D7G0

McCain Aides' Foreign Work Raises Eyebrows (National Journal 10/11/08)

by Peter H. Stone

Ferry's involvement in Ukraine is significant because Davis has tried to distance himself from his shop's work there since he joined the campaign. A McCain spokesman told ABC News early this year that Davis wasn't involved in the Ukraine elections. Manafort reportedly led the firm's work there, but a source familiar with the effort says that Ferry "was going back and forth."

http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/ll_20081011_9746.php?related=true&story1=co_20080824_1525&story2=cdp_20080522_7275&story3=cdp_20080418_6542

Blunt skeptical of McCain mortgage plan (Politico blog 10/12/08)

By Glenn Thrush

House Minority Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO) -- who cited John McCain as a critical player in the passage of the bailout package, is raising some questions about McCain's proposal to buy $300 billion of bad mortgages.

http://www.politico.com/blogs/thecrypt/1008/Blunt_skeptical_of_McCain_mortgage_plan_.html

How much can Crist do to help McCain? (Gainesville Sun 10/11/08)

By JOE FOLLICK

Senate Democratic leader Steve Geller, D-Hallandale Beach, is a longtime friend of Crist's. Geller said McCain would win Florida had McCain tapped Crist as running mate.

"I do believe that Charlie would have been probably enough to take Florida off the table," he said. "I believe that Obama will carry Florida by three or four points, and I believe that Charlie could have picked up five to 10."

But without Crist on the ticket, Geller said the governor can do "nothing" to help McCain.

http://www.gainesville.com/article/20081011/NEWS/810110200/1002/NEWS01?Title=How_much_can_Crist_do_to_help_McCain_

A Candidate Who Embraces Opposites (NYT 10/12/08)

By MICHAEL COOPER

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At the presidential debate in Nashville last Tuesday, Senator John McCain made his case for fiscally conservative, smaller government, calling for an "across the board" spending freeze and denouncing what he described as Senator Barack Obama's "government will do this and government will do that" approach to health care.
But Mr. McCain's big proposal that night was to spend $300 billion in taxpayer money to buy bad mortgages from banks and refinance them, a plan conservatives quickly condemned as an expensive effort to nationalize the mortgage industry.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/us/politics/12mccain.html?ref=us

Obama Camp Relying Heavily on Ground Effort (WaPo 10/12/08)
By Alec MacGillis
In many states, the Democratic candidate is hewing more closely to the Rove organizational model than is rival Sen. John McCain, whose emphasis on ground operations has been less intensive and clinical than that of his Republican predecessor.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/11/AR2008101102119_pf.html

McCain shies away from recent days' attacks (AP 10/11/08)
By PHILIP ELLIOTT
DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) -- Republican John McCain, the clock ticking down on a chance to narrow Democrat Barack Obama's lead in polls, turned away Saturday from visceral attacks on his rival to pivot back toward policy differences.
McCain kept his speech in this Iowa river town focused on the economy and other policies, a striking change from just days ago when his campaign redoubled its challenge to Obama over his association with a former '60s radical. McCain also claimed that American voters didn't really know Obama and his own "radical" views.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/10/11/mccain_shies_away_from_recent_days_attacks/

PALIN NEWS

Come one come all: Alaska media darling Palin cultivated national press in pre-McCain days (AP 10/13/08)
By RITA BEAMISH
GOP vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin is keeping reporters at arms' length in her campaign, but she had a very different approach as Alaska's new governor: She couldn't get enough of them.
Palin cultivated interviews with local and national journalists and welcomed them from as far away as London, earning time in the spotlight even before Republican presidential candidate John McCain selected her as his running mate.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PALIN_REPORTERS?SITE=WSAW&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Palin talks economic worries in Appalachian Ohio (AP 10/12/08)
By PHILIP ELLIOTT
The character attacks, it appears, are now out of Palin's stump speech as the economy has become the issue on which this election will be decided.
"All across America, I know that there's a lot of anger right now," Palin said. "There's anger about the insider dealing of lobbyists. And anger at the greed of Wall Street. And anger about the arrogance of the Washington elite."
http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PALIN?SITE=FLROC&SECTION=POLITICS&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-10-12-20-21-09

Palin Talks to Alaska Reporters about Troopergate (WaPo blog 10/12/08)
By James V. Grimaldi
In a Saturday conference call with Alaska journalists, Palin said she was "pleased to be cleared of any legal wrongdoing ... any hint of any kind of unethical activity there." She denounced the investigation, calling it "a partisan circus." The McCain-Palin campaign said that she and her family had good reason to try to get the trooper fired.
A transcript of the brief conference call was posted on the Web site of TV station KTUU.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/10/12/palin_talks_to_alaska_reporter.html?hpid=topnews

Judge orders Palin administration to preserve e-mails (Anchorage Daily News 10/11/08)
By LISA DEMER

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

An Anchorage judge on Friday ordered Gov. Sarah Palin and others in her office to retrieve and preserve any e-mails from private accounts that concern state business.
The ruling came in a lawsuit against Palin -- the GOP vice presidential nominee -- filed by Andree McLeod, an Anchorage activist and former state worker.
http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/story/552784.html

Palin has mixed record as fiscal conservative (AP 10/12/08)
By MATT VOLZ
ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the Republican nominee for vice president, bills herself as a fiscal conservative. But her record looks little like the classic conservative who favors less government and lower taxes.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/palin_economics

Palin on energy (Anchorage Daily News 10/12/08)
Editorial Staff
But progress isn't a pipeline. Palin is padding her resume when she says we're "building" a pipeline. There's no pipe, no final permits, no financing, no shipping agreements. There is investment and prep work in the tens of millions, with the potential for more than $1 billion, including $500 million for TransCanada. The wisdom of Palin's strategy has yet to be proven in pipe… Palin won't be invited to a conference of international oil consultants. She wouldn't belong there.
http://www.adn.com/opinion/sarah-palin/story/553653.html

Palin uses her elected office to promote religious causes, at times with public money (AP 10/11/08)
By GARANCE BURKE
Palin and her family billed the state $3,022 for the cost of attending Christian gatherings exclusively, including visits to the Assembly of God here and to the congregation they attend in Juneau, according to expense reports reviewed by the AP.
http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2008Oct11/0,4670,PalinChurchandState,00.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

For president, a generational conflict (LA Times 10/13/08)
By Russell Baker
The two men competing for the unenviable job of trying to reverse this decline present a classic conflict of generations. Barack Obama is 47 years old; John McCain is 72, old enough to be Obama's father. This unusual age spread between presidential candidates brings to mind a wide variety of familiar literary plots about father-and-son conflicts.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-baker13-2008oct13,0,5153323.story

The NRA two-step: Once, it attacked McCain. Now, it's backing him. (LA Times 10/13/08)
Editroial
The NRA on Thursday officially endorsed John McCain, though that was merely a formality given that it had already spent $2.3 million on attack ads targeting Obama. This puts the organization in the odd position of throwing its considerable political clout behind a Republican candidate whom its official journal once called "one of the premier flag carriers for enemies of the 2nd Amendment," and against a Democrat who never tires of telling voters that he believes in the right to bear arms. So what gives? Apparently, the NRA thinks that McCain's past legislative sins against gun ownership are forgivable, while Obama's are not.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-guns13-2008oct13,0,1084160.story

Obama Is Right About Talking to Iran: U.S. diplomacy can turn Tehran against Russia. (WSJ 10/13/08)
By VALI NASR
Talking to Iran is good Russia policy. Barack Obama has been right all along. American foreign policy will successfully deal with the world's complex tangle of challenges when it takes diplomacy seriously. And nowhere will the far-reaching impact of diplomacy be more evident than in sorting out the twin challenges of Russia and Iran.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122385751317227389.html

What McCain Hasn't Tried (WaPo 10/13/08)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Fred Hiatt
I certainly can't prove that a McCain campaign built on respect and attention to issues would be faring better than the real thing. Without Sarah Palin to rally the base, and without the insidious questioning of Obama's patriotism, McCain might be even further behind.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/12/AR2008101201632.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns

The GOP and the perils of populism (LA Times 10/13/08)
By Gregory Rodriguez
Sarah Palin's vice presidential candidacy, on the other hand, could haunt the party for some time. Beyond the excitement and attention she garnered in her first two weeks on the stump, Palin hasn't done much to help McCain argue, as he did in last Tuesday's debate, that he's "the steady hand at the tiller."
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-rodriguez13-2008oct13,0,936020.column

Fire the Campaign (NYT 10/13/08)
By WILLIAM KRISTOL
He has nothing to lose. His campaign is totally overmatched by Obama's. The Obama team is well organized, flush with resources, and the candidate and the campaign are in sync. The McCain campaign, once merely problematic, is now close to being out-and-out dysfunctional. Its combination of strategic incoherence and operational incompetence has become toxic. If the race continues over the next three weeks to be a conventional one, McCain is doomed.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/opinion/13kristol.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

History and the Really Very Weird (NYT 10/13/08)
By ROGER COHEN
Back when he was vice president, Dan Quayle noted that: "People that are really very weird can get into sensitive positions and have a tremendous impact on history."…Quayle's words came back to me because, like a lot Americans, I've come down with Palinitis: the acute fear that Sarah Palin might get into one of those "sensitive positions."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/opinion/13cohen.html

The Terrorist Barack Hussein Obama (NYT 10/12/08)
By Frank Rich
Obama can hardly be held accountable for Ayers's behavior 40 years ago, but at least McCain and Palin can try to take some responsibility for the behavior of their own supporters in 2008. What's troubling here is not only the candidates' loose inflammatory talk but also their refusal to step in promptly and strongly when someone responds to it with bloodthirsty threats in a crowded arena. Joe Biden had it exactly right when he expressed concern last week that "a leading American politician who might be vice president of the United States would not just stop midsentence and turn and condemn that." To stay silent is to pour gas on the fires.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/opinion/12rich.html

What Honeymoon? The Proposals That Could Bind Obama (WaPo 10/12/08)
By David S. Broder
The good news for Barack Obama is that the calamities in the financial world may have created an insuperable barrier to John McCain's White House ambitions.
The bad news is that Obama stands to inherit the leadership of a country in far worse condition than he could have imagined when he began this campaign almost two years ago.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/10/AR2008101002612.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns

Dear Old Golden Dog Days (NYT 10/12/08)
By Gail Collins
Remember how we used to joke about John McCain looking like an old guy yelling at kids to get off his lawn? It's only in retrospect that we can see that the keep-off-the-grass period was the McCain campaign's golden era. Now, he's beginning to act like one of those movie characters who steals the wrong ring and turns into a troll.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/11/opinion/11collins.html

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Will McCain Do Anything to Win? (WaPo 10/11/08)
By Harold Ford Jr.
In fact, after McCain lost the Republican nomination to George Bush in 2000, he declared that there was a "special place in hell" for the Bush operatives who had run a smear campaign against him. By adopting the same approach against Obama, McCain diminishes his reputation and raises questions about his commitment to fairness and decency.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/10/AR2008101002558.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns

Up and Down the Learning Curve (NYT 10/12/08)
Editorial
Mr. Obama also keeps moving up the learning curve on energy issues, whereas Mr. McCain seems to regress. This is important because energy problems are varied and complex, and solving them will require leaders with restless curiosity and an open mind.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/opinion/12sun1.html

Alaska's Family Feud: Meddlesome Sarah Palin does not come off well. (NYT 10/13/08)
Editorial
Likewise, Ms. Palin's decision to repudiate her earlier pledge to cooperate fully with the inquiry does not offer assurance about how she would conduct herself as vice president. The McCain-Palin campaign's response to the inquiry has been internally contradictory -- simultaneously assailing the investigation as a partisan witch hunt and mischaracterizing as vindication the report's finding that Ms. Palin was within her rights as governor to remove the commissioner who had refused to act against her former brother-in-law.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/12/AR2008101201626.html?nav=rss_opinions

Democracy, at 70 Degrees Below Zero (NYT 10/12/08)
By VICTOR S. NAVASKY
I believe I speak with authority when I say that at least in those years, Gov. Sarah Palin's much-mocked claim that Alaska's proximity to Russia gives one a leg up on matters of national security was, in effect, official United States policy.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/opinion/12navasky.html

Are We Rome? Tu Betchus! (NYT 10/12/08)
By MAUREEN DOWD
Manes Julii Caesaris paucis diebus aderant — "O, most bloody sight!" — cum Ioannes McCainus, mavericus et veteranus captivusque Belli Francoindosinini, et Sara Palina, barracuda borealis, qui sneerare amant Baracum Obamam causa oratorii, pillorant ut demagogi veri, Africanum-Americanum senatorem Terrae Lincolni, ad Republicanas rallias.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/opinion/12dowd.html

BUSH NEWS

White House Overhauling Rescue Plan (NYT 10/12/08)
By EDMUND L. ANDREWS and MARK LANDLER
Two weeks after persuading Congress to let it spend $700 billion to buy distressed securities tied to mortgages, the Bush administration has put that idea aside in favor of a new approach that would have the government inject capital directly into the nation's banks — in effect, partially nationalizing the industry.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/business/12imf.html

OTHER NEWS

For stocks, high anxiety rules (Reuters 10/12/08)
By Vivianne Rodrigues and Leah Schnurr
U.S. stock futures on Sunday evening suggested a higher opening on Wall Street following the announcement of the measures in Europe. S&P 500 futures rose 29.8 points. Dow Jones industrial average futures were up 252 points, and Nasdaq 100 futures climbed 31.25 points.
http://www.reuters.com/article/hotStocksNews/idUSTRE49A06V20081013

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North Korea Is Off Terror List After Deal With U.S. (NYT 10/12/08)
By HELENE COOPER
WASHINGTON — The Bush administration announced Saturday that it had removed North Korea from a list of state sponsors of terrorism in a bid to salvage a fragile nuclear deal that seemed on the verge of collapse.
Sean McCormack, the State Department spokesman, said that the United States made the decision after North Korea agreed to resume disabling a plutonium plant and to allow some inspections to verify that it had halted its nuclear program as promised months earlier.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/world/asia/12terror.html

Insulated from global woes, Iraqi stocks soar (AP 10/12/08)
By KIM GAMEL
BAGHDAD (AP) -- While the rest of the world is facing a financial meltdown, the Iraq Stock Exchange is booming.
The ISX index soared nearly 40 percent during September, boosted by increasing confidence in security gains.
The ISX is only open two hours a day, three days a week and brokers track trading activity on the floor with colored markers and white bulletin boards instead of computers. But investors are seeing gains, especially in the hotel sector, even as markets elsewhere are taking a tumble.
http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2008Oct12/0,4670,MLIraqMarketBoom,00.html

Rich Nations Pushing for Joint Financial Rescue (NYT 10/11/08)
By MARK LANDLER
In the five-point plan, issued after finance ministers met at the Treasury Department, the Group of 7 countries broadly endorsed the idea of taking ownership positions in banks — a strategy first adopted by Britain and now emerging as a major part of the rescue effort in the United States.
But the nations were vague on how or when that will happen, and did not endorse a proposal by Britain to provide coordinated guarantees of lending between banks, as a way to shake loose credit markets.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/11/business/11global.html

Using Disclosure Rules as a Defense for a Senator (NYT 10/13/08)
By NEIL A. LEWIS
The principal tactic used by Mr. Sullivan has been to present a surplus of outrage after finding examples where prosecutors failed to live up to their obligations, first laid out in a 1963 Supreme Court opinion, to disclose to defense lawyers any information that could help disprove the charges.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/washington/13stevens.html

Prosecutors subpoena Mrs. Stevens' e-mails (Anchorage Daily News 10/13/08)
By ERIKA BOLSTAD and RICHARD MAUER
WASHINGTON -- Even as Sen. Ted Stevens' trial approaches a likely end this week, federal prosecutors are still attempting to gather more evidence, including correspondence between the Alaska senator and his wife, Catherine, as well as e-mails she may have sent to 34 others about their home renovation and gifts the senator may have received.
http://www.adn.com/ted-stevens/story/554353.html

Trial's almost over, but prosecutors still want Stevens e-mails (McClatchy 10/12/08)
By Erika Bolstad
WASHINGTON — Even as Sen. Ted Stevens' corruption trial nears an end, federal prosecutors are still asking for correspondence between the Alaska senator and his wife, Catherine, as well as e-mails she may have sent to 37 people connected to the couple's home renovation and other gifts the senator may have received.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/53825.html

Powell testifies to Stevens' high reputation (Anchorage Daily News 10/11/08)
By ERIKA BOLSTAD and RICHARD MAUER
Speaking in a courtroom suddenly packed with spectators and to jurors leaning forward in their seats, Powell recounted his long career, ending with his "dabbling in diplomacy," as he self-deprecatingly described his four years as secretary of state.
He then turned to Stevens, whom he has known for 25 years. Powell described Stevens as a "trusted individual" and a man with a "sterling" reputation.
"He was someone whose word you could rely on," said Powell.
http://www.adn.com/ted-stevens/story/552794.html

POLLS

Obama Up by 10 Points as McCain Favorability Ratings Fall (WaPo 10/13/08)
By Anne E. Kornblut and Jon Cohen
Overall, Obama is leading 53 percent to 43 percent among likely voters, and for the first time in the general-election campaign, voters gave the Democrat a clear edge on tax policy and providing strong leadership.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/12/AR2008101202333.html?hpid=topnews

History Suggests McCain Faces an Uphill Battle (NYT 10/13/08)
By JOHN HARWOOD
In the latest Gallup tracking poll, Mr. Obama leads Mr. McCain 50 percent to 43 percent among registered voters. Mr. McCain's deficit in that survey has remained seven percentage points or more for most of the last two weeks.
Since Gallup began presidential polling in 1936, only one candidate has overcome a deficit that large, and this late, to win the White House: Ronald

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Reagan, who trailed President Jimmy Carter 47 percent to 39 percent in a survey completed on Oct. 26, 1980.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/us/politics/13caucus.html

Crossing Over: As the U.S. Economy Sputters, Working-Class Women Shift to Obama (WSJ 10/11/08)
By JONATHAN KAUFMAN
Working-class women, generally defined as those in blue-collar and service jobs earning less than $50,000 a year -- comprise almost a quarter of American voters. Sen. Obama trailed Sen. John McCain by 12 points among these women just two weeks ago, but has since closed the gap. According to a Wall Street Journal poll conducted the weekend of Oct. 4, the two senators are now running even, with 45% of such voters giving each candidate the nod. The reversal is one of the main reasons Sen. Obama is gaining ground in swing states like Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Indiana -- all of which have large rural and blue-collar populations.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122370058766625819.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

In bad omen for GOP hopes, independents split evenly between Obama and McCain (AP 10/13/08)
By ALAN FRAM
Eighty-two percent of independents said they worry the economic crisis will inflict a long-term toll on them, compared with 89 percent of Democrats and 65 percent of Republicans, according to the AP-GfK poll.
Like Democrats and unlike Republicans, most independents said they'd prefer a candidate they trust to handle the economy to one they trust on national security. They said Obama would better deal with the financial crisis and better understands its impact on them.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CAMPAIGN_INDEPENDENTS?SITE=WSAW&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

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From: "Manatos and Manatos" <manatos@manatos.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/26/2015 8:43:47 PM
Subject: Senator Bob Menendez Champions Passage of Greek Independence Day Resolution

THE COORDINATED EFFORT OF HELLENES (CEH)
1100 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037
202-393-7790 / (fx) 202-628-0225
Coordinated Effort@Manatos.com

Senator Bob Menendez Champions US Senate Passage of Greek Independence Day Resolution

WASHINGTON, DC, March 27, 2015 -- Early this morning the United States Senate passed by unanimous consent a resolution highlighting the many bonds between the US and Greece and celebrating the 194th anniversary of the independence of Greece. This is the 30th consecutive year that such legislation has passed the US Senate.

The former Chairman of and current Ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and long-time advocate of Hellenic and Orthodox causes, Senator **Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), authored this bill (Senate Resolution 105), secured over 1/4 of the US Senate as co-sponsors or co-authors, and secured its passage.

On March 25, Senator **Dan Coats** (R-IN) stopped the US Senate from passing this resolution on Greek Independence Day, in objection to statements made by the Greek Defense Minister. That hold was released by Senator Coats yesterday afternoon.

"We thank Ranking Member Menendez and the lead Republican co-sponsor, Senator **John Barrasso** (R-WY), as well as the other Senators who co-sponsored this legislation," said Andrew Manatos, President of CEH. The full list of 29 Senators who co-sponsored is below.

This resolution notes, among other things, that:

- "The founding fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative democracy of the United States"
- "Petros Mavromichalis, the former Commander in Chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, `It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.'"
- "The Greek national anthem, the "Hymn to Liberty", includes the words, "most heartily was gladdened George Washington's brave land."
- "Greece, in one of the most consequential `David vs. Goliath' victories for freedom and democracy in modern times, refused to surrender to the Axis forces and inflicted a fatal wound at a crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change his timeline and delaying the attack on Russia, where the Axis forces met defeat... Winston Churchill said, `if there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks,

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we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been' and 'no longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks;'"

- "Throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of a few countries that allied with the United States in every major international conflict."
- "Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim countries and Israel... has taken important steps in recent years to further cross-cultural understanding, rapprochement, and cooperation in various fields with Turkey and has also improved its relations with other countries in the region, including Israel, thus enhancing the stability of the wider region."
- "The governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights ... those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the people of Greece and the United States."

Co-sponsors of S. Res. 105

Sponsor -- **Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)**
Lead Republican Co-sponsor -- **Senator John Barrasso (R-WY)**

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)
Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE)
Sen. Robert Casey (D-PA)
Sen. Christopher Coons (D-DE)
Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS)
Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN)
Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY)
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA)
Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)
Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)
Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
Sen. Christopher Murphy (D-CT)
Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL)
Sen. Gary Peters (D-WV)
Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)
Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)
Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY)
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Manatos and Manatos, 1100 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 10:53:41 AM
Subject: RE: Heads up for call with HRC

For some reason I don't have the morning news round up -- can someone send that to me.

-----Original Message-----
From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

Given this morning's am shows - which were terrible - that is no longer a great argument.

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 1, 2015, at 1:49 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:
>
> Thanks.
> Do we have some analysis of nightly news/front pages etc to make the case that this is not being covered heavily? Or at least enough based on day to day observation, i.e. not on front pages, not on nightly news or morning news...
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:44 PM
> To: John Podesta; Joel Benenson; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma
> Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan
> Schwerin
> Subject: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> While on the phone on a different topic, HRC raised Clinton Cash convo with Jake and me. It was a difficult conversation. So folks should be ready to explain why we don't think a video makes sense.
>
> Moreover, my impression is she wants a much stronger response. Which means engaging more on details that we have to date not found in our interest to do so.
>
> Just wanted to update folks.
>
> Sent from my iPhone

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From:	"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
	"John Podesta" <jp66@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/25/2015 5:07:58 PM
Subject:	Call TPs from climate team
Attachments:	15.07.25 Call Sheet talking points(11pm).docx

Hi John-

TPs for tomorrow's calls attached and in plain text from the climate team. They'll let us know if these see any updates before tomorrow afternoon.

Thanks!
Milia

Post-Video Release Climate Announcement Call Sheet Talking Points:

• I wanted to talk to you directly because Hillary has made a major announcement on how as President she will fight climate change and dramatically accelerate our progress toward a clean energy economy.

• I won't be able to top on this call the powerful video of her describing how important it is to her personally that our county rises to the climate challenge. Once you see it, you'll have no doubt about that.

• But I do want to talk to you about the goals themselves and how she will achieve them as president.

• The first goal is that the United States will have more than half a billion solar panels installed across the country by the end of Hillary's first term.

o That is the equivalent of having rooftop solar systems on over 25 million homes.

o It would expand the amount of installed solar capacity to 140 gigawatts— a 700% increase from current level.

• The second goal is that the United States will generate enough clean renewable energy to power every home in America within 10 years of Hillary taking office, or 2027.

o This means 33 percent of all U.S electricity will come from renewable energy by the beginning of 2027.

o To put that in context, the Clean Power Plan as proposed would only get us to 25% renewable electricity by that time, and it exceeds the 2030 renewable energy goal that President Obama announced earlier this year.

• Together, these goals will add more power generation capacity to the grid than during any decade in our history, from a combination of wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and other forms of renewable electricity.

• Significantly, these are not long term or purely aspirational goals. The next decade is decisive if we are to get on the right trajectory to deep decarbonization, so these are goals designed to be worked toward starting on Day 1.

• What does that entail?
• Hillary will first fight to defend and implement the Clean Power Plan and the other important standards that this President put in place or set in motion.

• But these standards will set the floor, not the ceiling.

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• To go further she will launch a Clean Energy Challenge that, among other things, will provide competitive grants to empower states to exceed federal carbon pollution standards, reward communities that remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and make our electrical grid more reliable and resilient.

• She will ensure that every part of the federal government is working in concert to drive renewable deployment, such as through extending tax incentives.

• This is just the beginning of the energy and climate strategy that Hillary will present over the coming months, including ways in which the Clean Energy Challenge will improve the efficiency of our buildings and modernize our transportation system, as well as major initiatives in energy and climate security, modernizing North American infrastructure, and providing economic opportunity and retirement security for coalfield workers and their families.

• She is excited about getting to work on these goals, and that of course will mean working closely with climate and clean energy leaders who make it all possible.

• We hope you will help us spread the word about them, and work with us to make them a reality.

• Thank you and I am more than happy to answer any questions.

Additional background on Clean Energy Challenge:

She will outline this Challenge in detail in the coming weeks, and it will include:

1) Climate Action Competition: Competitive grants and other market-based incentives to empower states to exceed federal carbon pollution standards and accelerate clean energy deployment.

2) Solar X-Prize: Awards for communities that successfully cut the red tape that slows rooftop solar installation times and increases costs for businesses and consumers.

3) Transforming the Grid: Work with states, cities and rural communities to strengthen grid reliability and resilience, increase consumer choice and improve customer value.

4) Rural Leadership: Expand the Rural Utilities Service and other successful USDA programs to help provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy, not just to rural Americans but to the rest of the country as well.

As part of the Clean Energy Challenge, Hillary will ensure that every part of the federal government is working in concert to help Americans build a clean energy future. This includes:

1) Transmission Investment: Ensure the federal government is a partner, not an obstacle, in getting low-cost wind and other renewable energy to market.

2) Solar Access: Overcome barriers that prevent low-income and other households from using solar energy to reduce their monthly energy bills.

3) Tax Incentives: Fight to extend federal clean energy incentives and make them more cost effective both for taxpayers and clean energy producers.

4) Public Lands and Infrastructure: Expand renewable energy on public lands, federal buildings, and federally-funded infrastructure, including an initiative to significantly increase hydropower generation from existing dams across the US.

5) Innovation: Increase public investment in clean energy R&D, including in storage technology, designed materials, advanced nuclear, and carbon capture and sequestration. Expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, and cut those that fail to deliver results.

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Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/11/2008 4:23:39 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/11/08

Main Topics: McCain and Bush on Russia

Summary of Shift: The little political coverage wedged between Olympic segments focused on McCain and Obama's reaction to the conflict between Georgia and Russia. The Obama campaign vowed to announce Barack's running mate over text message. Tom Ridge appeared on "Hardball" and discussed the need to punish Russia. The John Edwards scandal still remains to take up a large percentage of political coverage.

In other news, the Olympics have stirred a renewed media fascination with China and its improving but still rigid censorship. Oil prices continue to fall but heating oil prices are now a concern.

Highlights:

1. CNN: George Bush advocates cease in violence, return to status quo in Georgia
2. CNN: McCain Georgian lobbyist ties helpful in race, judgment on issue
3. MSNBC: Tom Ridge: John McCain is better equipped to deal with Russia
4. MSNBC: Olbermann on the one term rumor and McCain's lost phone privileges

Clips:

Highlight #1

George Bush Gives Statement Advocate Cease In Violence, Return To Status Quo In Georgia (CNN 08/11/08 5:20pm)

GEORGE BUSH: I just met with my national security team to discuss the situation in Georgia.

I am deeply concerned by reports that Russian troops have moved beyond the zone of conflict, attacked the Georgian town of Gori, and are threatening the Georgia's -- Georgia's capital of Tbilisi. There's evidence that Russian forces may soon begin bombing the civilian airport in the capital city.

If these reports are accurate, these Russian actions would represent a dramatic and brutal escalation of the conflict in Georgia. And these actions would be inconsistent with assurances we have received from Russia that its objectives were limited to restoring the status quo in South Ossetia that existed before fighting began on August the 6th.

It now appears that an effort may be underway to depose Russia's* duly elected government. **Russia has invaded a sovereign neighboring state and threatens a democratic government elected by its people. Such an action is unacceptable in the 21st century.**

The Georgian government has accepted the elements of a peace agreement that the Russian government previously said it would be willing to accept: an immediate cease-fire, the withdrawal of forces from the zone of conflict, a return to the military status quo as of August 6th, and a commitment to refrain from using force. There are representatives of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe currently in Moscow seeking Russia's agreement to this peace plan.

Russia's government must respect Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The Russian government must reverse the course it appears to be on, and accept this peace agreement as a first step toward resolving this conflict.

Russia's actions this week have raised serious questions about its intentions in Georgia and the region. These actions have substantially damaged Russia's standing in the world. And these actions jeopardize Russians' relations -- Russia's relations with the United States and Europe. It is time for Russia to be true to its word and to act to end this crisis.

Highlight #2

McCain Georgian Lobbyist Ties Helpful In Race, Judgment On Issue (CNN 08/11/08 8:04pm)

ERRON LOUIS: The old issue that's been dogging the McCain campaign, his connection with lobbyists, I think sort of pokes its head up here. He's got a top staffer who's been on the payroll of the Georgian government for a long, long time and you know it may not lead him in a wrong direction but the fact that you've got influence there.

LOU DOBBS: And is it interesting that Senator Obama has been far more constrained in his rhetoric at least?

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LOUIS**: Oh indeed. Well, that's right. And frankly, McCain was Johnny on the spot because he's got an inside connection to the Georgian government.**
DOBBS: **And there in the conundrum. Those lobbyists with influence and sometimes knowledge that is helpful. At least to candidates, not to government, had to throw that in.**

Highlight #3
Tom Ridge: John McCain is Better Equipped to Deal with Russia (MSNBC 08/10/08 07:36pm)
CHRIS MATTHEWS: Is Pennsylvania one of the states if John McCain wins it, you have won the whole ball game?

TOM RIDGE: I think, without a doubt, that's absolutely certain. No equivocation of that one. If we win Pennsylvania, we win it all.

MATTHEWS: […] Is that what you think, that Barack Obama is not fundamentally American?

RIDGE: I think he is fundamentally unprepared. I think he's fundamentally an American. […]

MATTHEWS: Why are the Clinton people going back over the old fight?
RIDGE: Well it's interesting. There are a series of questions I'm prepared to answer but unfortunately I'm not prepared to answer those. […] While they continue to have their own little interparty feud, John's been campaigning hard, been campaigning aggressively and drawing distinctions between his approach to America's future and Senator Obama's. Senator Obama is very conveniently on vacation. This is a grueling, grueling test of stamina for both candidates. John is talking about the distinction on tax policy, energy policy and frankly the recent events of with the Russia invasion on Georgia, remind everyone what a perilous time we live in in the 21st century. Which I think gives even greater credence to Senator McCain's insistence and his profile that he be far better prepared to be commander in chief."

[…]

MATTHEWS: Why would a prochoice democratic woman who voted for Hillary Clinton vote for McCain? […]

RIDGE: […] If there is a wider range of issues, from heath care, the environment to energy policy that also drives them to support Senator McCain. […]

MATTHEWS: Do you think John McCain is getting too militant in terms of his attitude towards Russia? You mentioned a moment ago the Russian invasion of Georgia, it's neighboring Republic and former member of the Soviet Union. Do you think calling for Russia to be kicked out of the g-8 is too strong of language at this point with our relations with Russia?

RIDGE: Well Chris, we've had some interesting conversations in the last few days about that. And John, one of the real challenges we have in the 21st century is holding a country, like Russia, that's now invaded an emerging democracy that's had free elections. How do you hold them accountable? What are the consequences? They want to be part of the civilized community, the world global marketplace. And with gasoline prices going through the roof, their economy is very robust. But there are some responsibilities if you want to engage with the rest of the world. The notion that until they are more accountable to the rules that civilized countries play by, be they military, diplomatic, or economic, I don't think it's necessarily being combative to suggest unless their conduct complies with a certain norm, there has to be consequences. Whether it's that or something else, that is left to be seen. But, there has to be consequences in this world. And right now, we look at Russia invading a neighboring country, it appears without, to this day, no consequences yet.

MATTHEWS: Speaking of consequences, what would be the reaction of Russia, if we get tough with them, and then we go back to them and say help us in trying to denuclearize, or prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons. If we're tough on them on this issue of Georgia, don't we sacrifice our leverage with them in terms of getting them as an ally against a nuclear Iran? Isn't that one of the trade off we have to deal with if we get tough with them?

RIDGE: It's a very complicated world. There's certainly no easy answer. At some point and time, the western world, and the democracies, must say to Russia, you have invaded an emerging democracy, they had free elections. We know your not comfortable with them on the border but it certainly didn't justify invading a peaceful neighbor. At the end of the day, I think the greatest challenge is providing for the common defense and dealing with people like Putin who right now is pretty much immune to world opinion. How we hold him accountable, that's one suggestion, that John's made and I suspect, when he's elected president, there will be others.

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Highlight #4

Olbermann on The One Term Rumor and McCain's lost Cell Phone Privileges (MSNBC 08/11/08 08:21pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: The rumor has been echoed since spring, John McCain's ace in the hole, […] he would announce if he was elected he would not serve more than one term. The Senator himself had killed the thing off months ago when he himself said any President elected under such a pledge would be an instantaneous lame duck. […] Why then is McCain's campaign manager playing all cute and coy about the prospect?

[Davis Clip]

[…]

OLBERMANN: Plus the nugget about McCain's phone privileges being restricted, like some teenager. The New York Times reporting that Senator McCain has spent so much time calling people for advice on his cell phone and then adopting the last position he heard that his senior campaign staff is cutting down on his use of his own cell phone and limiting the number of people he can talk to. **All part of a strategy to stop Senator McCain from changing campaign policy on the fly, keeping him on message**. The message right now, distance from the current administration. Senator McCain telling employees at a GE Plant in Eerie, Pennsylvania that his campaign is about restoration.

{Clip of McCain]
JOHN MCCAIN: I could give you a laundry list of the things we have to address. But I think that's all got to be associated with one fundamental mission, and restore trust and confidence in government. Therefore inspire confidence in America again.

OLBERMANN: **Senator McCain neglecting to mention the obvious corollary here that if trust and confidence in the government has to be restored, than it must have been President Bush's administration who lost it**. […] Why the mixed message here from the McCain campaign on term length. […] Was Rick Davis really just hyping it just to get people to tune in to coverage of the convention?

EUGENE ROBINSON: Well that's what it sounded like to me Keith. […] It makes no sense for McCain to make such a pledge. **He would become a lame duck, it's tandem to saying vote for me, you might not like me very much but you'll only have me for four years. It draws attention to his age. [..] It sounded like Rick Davis was saying no really, there will be exciting and interesting things at the Republican convention. Please, please tune in.**

OLBERMANN: The New York Times story, **keep him off the phone, don't let him talk to people, he's going off message like when he took the wind out of the tire pressure swipe at Obama. […] The candidate does not speak for the campaign?**

ROBINSON: […] **He goes off message all the time. John McCain on message is not really John McCain.** And you can kind of tell from that clip we just played of him doing the restore confidence kind of message and he doesn't sound naturalistic. It's more kind of automaton like when he tries to stay on message. And he's liable to pick up that cell phone and start talking to somebody ad then change his mind without letting anyone on the campaign know.

OLBERMANN: **[…] Perhaps he should have done this before he went out on the restoration and trust and confidence in the government thing, given that his policies are the same as the administration that lost all those, and his party is the same. Aren't some people going to see the disconnect there**?

ROBINSON: Well of course it is this line he's trying to walk. […] How can he disown the Bush years without disowning the Republican Party, without losing the base? […]

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From:	"E Holstein" <elgiehn@yahoo.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	3/19/2011 10:22:37 AM
Subject:	Fw:truth about Japan's nuclear disaster

Sent from my iphone

truth about Japan's nuclear disaster.pdf
65k View Download

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From: "Aniello Alioto" <anielloa@gmail.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/26/2009 6:37:24 AM
Subject: [big campaign] General McCaffrey calls for "A new approach to Cuba"

Friends - As many of you already know, I am currently serving as General Consultant for the Freedom to Travel Campaign , a very impressive non-profit coalition that aims to lift the U.S. citizen ban on travel to Cuba.

With our encouragement, McClatchy jumped on this ed piece from 4-star Gen. Barry McCaffrey and has so far (as I have been able to find) gotten ink in the Miami Herald , Bellingham Herald & Cleveland Plain Dealer... hopefully more to come.

There's some spicy language in there that I think you will like.

If you need any back info on this, or ever need info Cuba in general, just say the word.

Aniello
502.664.2420

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A new approach to Cuba

BY BARRY R. MCCAFFREY

www.mccaffreyassociates.com

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Obama administration has made an excellent first step to eliminate some restrictions on travel to the island, to loosen constraints on remittances and to re-engage in migration talks. Positive, multiple lines of engagement are clearly the way forward. Broader contact and leverage with Cuba through additional commercial and people-to-people contacts will in time help promote a more pluralistic, less impoverished, and more open society.

While President Obama's incremental changes in policy toward Cuba are positive, they are also insufficient. Now is the time for decisive and rational efforts to bring Cuba back into full engagement with the economic and political dynamics of the Americas.

For starters, we're still a lot closer to the status quo than to the decisive break from past policies, which is where we need to be. The status quo is a loser. The long-term U.S. government policy of isolating the Castro regime has failed to bring about either democracy or regime change. Cuba has broken out of the box and created well-established diplomatic and economic relations with a range of international partners -- China, Russia, Mexico, Brazil, and members of the European Union. The Castro regime has successfully survived multiple economic and natural disasters (e.g. ending of Soviet economic support) at significant cost to its people.

Second, there are both economic and security incentives for moving forward. The Cuban state has been unable to meet the economic and democratic aspirations of the Cuban people. Cuba must double their economy within the coming decade. Its ability to do so, always doubtful given the regimented dullness of that Marxist state, is in greater question now, lashed as its economy has been by last year's horrendous storms and the continued battering of the global financial crisis. The hard-liners here who are counseling that we tighten the noose now in hopes that we'll break the regimes back would allow average Cubans to suffer mightily, put our security interests at risk with a massive boatlift, and turn the rest of the region against us for decades. Strangulation is no solution.

Political transitions from authoritarian to democratic regimes have successfully occurred in Latin America and Eastern Europe following decades of dictatorship. The poor Cubans will almost have to start from scratch in building the political institutions that are essential to good governance and participative policy making.
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Continuation of ineffective and punitive U.S. diplomatic and economic policies will not accelerate political transition on the island. In fact, this failed strategy of political isolation is used by the Castro Regime as a rallying point. The United States has become the raison d'etre of this regime's continued defense of its failed experiment with a directed, authoritarian, socialist state.

It's time for a realistic policy shift on Cuba. In my judgment, Congress and the administration should move to:

• Remove Cuba from the State Department list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. The poverty of ideas and resources forced the Cuban government to end its ineffective support of revolutionary movements long ago.

• Repeal enforcement of the "Helms-Burton" legislation. Both Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton signed provisions allowing for waivers of the outmoded law's provision.

• End the economic embargo on Cuba. Market forces should determine the level of trade between our nations.

• End U.S. restrictions on travel by American citizens to Cuba. There are no similar restrictions to other non-democratic nations, including North Korea.

• Close the detention facility at Guantanamo and return the base to Cuban sovereignty. The place has become an international embarrassment to us.

• End the "Wet Foot/Dry Foot immigration policy" and treat illegal immigrants from Cuba as we do those from Mexico or any other country.

• Formalize coordination on anti-drug trafficking matters with Cuba's law enforcement and security forces.

• Provide significantly increased funds to the U.S. Agency for International Development so that we can support economic development as democratic political transition inevitably occurs in Cuba.

• End U.S. opposition to Cuban participation in the Western Hemisphere multilateral fora (lifting Cuba's suspension from the OAS was a good start) because diplomacy and engagement, not shunning, will open Cuba to liberal political ideals.

We should not doubt that there will be an eventual political transition in Cuba. Change is now inevitable as Castro edges off the stage of history. The critical issue for the United States is whether we are going to be a constructive guiding agent in this process of change.

The United States has enormous power to unilaterally change policy toward Cuba and shape the agenda of change. We do not have to negotiate with the Cuban government to modify the ways we deal with illegal migrants from the island. Modifying punitive economic and travel policies should not be viewed as making concessions to an authoritarian regime. Instead, they should be viewed as a belated recognition that our past policies were ineffective and will not promote democratization in Cuba. Obama is uniquely positioned to take these decisive steps and he should do so.

Barry R. McCaffrey is a retired Army general and an adjunct professor of international affairs at West Point; he served as U.S. drug czar from 1996 to 2001.

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E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <evan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/4/2008 3:33:38 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/04/08

Main Topics: McCain's Remarks, Oil and Drilling, McCain Ads

Summary of Shift: The USS Houston appears to have a problem; the US Navy may have been sailing ships around the world with nuclear power plants for sixty years without an accident but that record is showing some leaks.
The already heated exchange between the candidates on drilling and energy picks up more steam and a spot on center stage today. Obama releases new ads and with a novelty handout to reporters the reaction from the McCain camp is not difficult to gauge. Discussion on McCain's last series of ads shows no signs of abatement.

Highlights:

1. CNN: McCain's remarks to the National Label Company
2. MSNBC: Alter: McCain's way to win "is to try to turn Obama into an uppity and vaguely foreign presence
3. Drilling and Energy
   a. ABC: Campaigns trade barbs on drilling
   b. CBS: CBS Evening News covers back and forth on oil
4. FNC: Bounds impugns Obama's "Celebrity" and energy plan

Highlights, No Clips:

5. NBC - BRIAN WILLIAMS: [Oil prices are down] as both presidential candidates were focused on energy today . . . John McCain today criticized Obama for his opposition to nuclear power and plans to underscore that point with a visit to a nuclear plant in Michigan tomorrow.
6. MSNBC - ROGER SIMON: For a guy who is supposed to have such a famous temper, McCain doesn't really like attacking . . . I think he is often uncomfortable with his own campaign. The Britney and Paris ad, I think will go down in history as visually incoherent., at the end it made McCain . . . look like a grumpy old man.
7. MSNBC - DEL WALTERS: If you're John McCain, the fact that we're talking about race right now is exactly what he wants. If you're John Q. Americanpublic, what you want to hear is which one of these two people will make it more affordable for me to fill up my gas tank, hold on to my house or balance my checkbook.
8. MSNBC - RACHAEL MADDOW: It's a political victory for the Republican Party generally, John McCain specifically on this. That the whole idea of high gas prices has now become a debate on whether or not to drill and drilling would really have no impact on gas prices for, I don't know, a generation, if then.
9. MSNBC: Faiz Shakir weighs in on drilling

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain's Remarks to the National Label Company (08/04/08 1:37pm)
JOHN MCCAIN: We're going to solve the energy crisis that's affecting businesses like National Label Company. And we need an all of the above approach. We need to aggressively develop alternative energies like wind, solar, tide, biofuels, and geothermal, but we also need to expand our use of existing energy resources here at home. That means we need more nuclear power. It means we need clean coal technology. And that means we need to offshore drill for oil and natural gas -- we need to drill here and we need to drill now. And anybody who says we can achieve energy independence without using and increasing these existing energy resources either doesn't have the experience to understand the challenge we face or isn't giving the American people some straight talk. Unfortunately, Senator Obama continues to oppose offshore drilling. He continues to oppose the use of nuclear power. These misguided policies would result in higher energy costs to American families and businesses and increased dependence on foreign oil. We're not going to achieve energy independence by inflating our tires. I'm going to lead our country to energy independence and I'm going to do it with a realistic, comprehensive, all of the above approach that uses every resource available to finally solve this crises. As a lot

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of Americans know, the Congress, doing nothing, decided to go on a five week recess without addressing the energy challenge that's affecting Americans every single day in their ability to go to work , in their ability to do their jobs, and their ability to keep inflation down as they're trying to do here at the National Label Company and they need a Congress that will act. Congress should come back into session. Congress should come back into session and I'm willing to come off the campaign trail. I call on Senator Obama to call on Congress to come back into town and come back to work, come off their recess, come off their vacation, and address this energy challenge to American and don't leave until we do. Republican and Democrat joining together . And a very vital part of that is nuclear power and another vital part of that is offshore drilling. We have to drill here and drill now. Not wait and see if there's areas to explore, not wait and see whether there's a package that needs to be put together, but drill here and drill now. Let's do- start working for the American people and not for ourselves. So, I hope that Senator Obama will call on Congress and the leaders Harry Reid and Speaker Pelosi, call Congress back into session, let's get this energy crises solved as Americans have been able to solve every challenge that's faced us and move forward and work for America and put America first. Thank you very much.

Highlight #2
Alter: McCain's Way to Win "Is to Try to Turn Obama into an Uppity and Vaguely Foreign Presence" (MSNBC 08/04/08 11:28am)
TAMRON HALL: And back to politics, John McCain has promised not to run a negative presidential campaign and that's why some are scratching their heads at videos like this one.

["The One" ad plays]

HALL: Now, compare that ad with the Britney Spears/Paris Hilton thing and some journalists are asking whether these new attack ads are the new John McCain . . . is this the real McCain?

JONATHAN ALTER: There are a lot of people, including the guy who ran his campaign in the year 2000, John Weaver, . . . who believe that the real McCain is not a candidate who would stoop to doing these ads. Even his mother, McCain's mother, called stupid.

HALL: So then why are we seeing these ads Jon?

ALTER: Because they're like chum in the water for us pirhanas. I mean, what are we doing, we're airing them on television. They're not actually even buying . . . these spots, they're just depending on all of us on cable to air them and disseminate them . . . they're efforts to try to change the subject from the issues . . . now that's totally legit in politics . . . the question though is whether it really is kind of befitting a presidential candidate to do these dopey sorts of ads.

HALL: Well, we've seen worse in presidential races in the past.

ALTER: We may not have seen it as dopey.

HALL: . . . with John McCain, he, he last week said he was OK with the ads. I know it's chum for us in cable news but he did not come out and say, 'OK, on second thought, it wasn't me. This wasn't something I will do again.' So, 'OK, sure, yeah, I'll do it again.

ALTER: This is his way to win, is to try to turn Obama into an uppity and vaguely foreign presence, who is out of touch with Americans. To try to turn him into some kind of a snob. Which, for a guy who was on food stamps when he was a kid and worked as a community organizer in Chicago is quite a trick . . . the problem that the old McCainiacs have, the ones that were forced out, and admittedly they are maybe a little bit bitter . . . they have a lot of affection still for John McCain and they want him to get back to the original brand. Which was the maverick reformer. Instead of playing out of Karl Rove's playbook, they want him to go out and play out of John McCain's playbook. They think that would be more authentic for him . . . there's a strong argument on the other side that . . . if you're going to be in politics you have to be very tough and if he's going to win, he has to destroy Barack Obama . . .

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Highlight #3

Campaigns Trade Barbs on Drilling (ABC 08/04/08 6:45pm)

CHARLIE GIBSON: Energy. It is the issue that comes to mind every time you pull up to the gas pump or pay a utility bill. Today, it was the issue for the presidential candidates as they argued over strategies and exchanged pointed attacks . . .

JAKE TAPPER: . . . Barack Obama today attacked John McCain as, quote, "being in the pocket of big oil"

[. . .]

TAPPER: . . . the McCain camp says Obama's proposals are not serious.

JOHN MCCAIN: We have to drill here and drill now. We are not going to achieve energy independence by inflating our tires.

TAPPER: That's a reference to comments Obama made last week when a voter asked him what she could do individually to conserve energy . . .

[. . .]

TAPPER: . . . McCain's campaign mocked the idea today, handing out tire gauges to reporters and offering them to donors who contribute $25 dollars. So why is McCain mocking something that would bring energy savings? Well, probably for the same reason that Sen. Obama is accusing McCain of offering $4 billion dollars in tax breaks to oil companies when in fact what McCain is proposing is an overall corporate tax reduction. Both sides are looking for any advantage and sometimes these attacks are not really honest.

CBS Covers the Back and Forth on Oil (CBS 08/04/08 6:35pm)

DEAN REYNOLDS: With the high price of gasoline looming over the electoral landscape, candidates are being squeezed for solutions.

[. . .]

REYNOLDS: Republicans were quick to ridicule [Obama's] idea, handing out tire gauges labeled "Obama's Energy Plan."

JOHN MCCAIN: We're not going to achieve energy independence by inflating our tires.

REYNOLDS: Like Obama, McCin once opposed offshore oil drilling but switched a few weeks ago and a short time later received more than $1,000,000 in campaign donations from the oil and gas industries as a new Obama ad notes.

[Obama ad plays]

REYNOLDS: In July, McCain said it would take a couple of years to see results from the drilling but now he says oilmen tell him it would be much sooner.

MCCAIN: The fact is that we can, using existing facilities, expand our oil production within months, according to these executives.

REYNOLDS: But that's too optimistic according to the Department of Energy which says it will take nearly a decade to get results from new drilling. McCain also said there's been no progress on energy for nearly thirty years and he assailed the Democratic congress for recessing this summer, of all summers, without a bill.

MCCAIN: I call on Senator Obama to call on congress to come back into town and come back to work.

REYNOLDS: To which Obama responded, McCain has been in congress for 26 of those 30 years that he finds so unproductive.

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Highlight #4
Bounds Impugns Obama's "Celebrity" and Energy Plan (FNC 08/04/08 5:05pm)
HEATHER NAUERT: Tucker, thanks for joining us. You just heard Frederick Pena . . . one of the things he said is that he didn't want to tap the strategic petroleum reserve but wanted to take some oil out and swap it for something else. What is your reaction to that?

TUCKER BOUNDS: . . . our reaction is a typical one. To be honest, 24 days ago when gas cost $4.11 . . . Barack Obama said he would only tap those reserves in case of [makes finger quotes] a genuine emergency [end finger quotes]. And our feeling is that his slipping in the polls 9 points over the course of one week is just the sort of [finger quotes] genuine emergency [end finger quotes] that swings him into action. But the truth is he that he is looks for any excuse out there not to propose and support additional offshore drilling that Americans universally or largely agree with that we need to pursue.

NAUERT: But he did said right there he would be willing to take a look at what the bipartisan group and the senate is doing, five Republicans and five members of the Democrats who are looking at doing something more comprehensive and bipartisan approach. What about that?

BOUNDS: Well, Heather, what he's talking about doing is supporting a compromise, and he hasn't even gone to a full-throated endorsement of that, to my knowledge. He still opposes offshore drilling. If he supported it, he would call on his Democratic leadership in congress, and tell them to move forward with a proposal. These are people that are in his party that he leads and he's not doing that. The truth is is that he doesn't-- does not support offshore drilling. He said as much Saturday. He didn't say that he supported it today. He has got all sorts of caveats and the American people don't need caveats. They need action. Gas is running at a price that is hurting American families and John McCain's the one that's going to make the change.

NAUERT: Let me ask you about that action. John McCain has been saying that he wants to stop campaigning and suggest that he and Barack Obama head to Capitol Hill and do something during this August recess. Has McCain or have you picked up the phone to Obama's spokesman and said hey, let's together stop campaigning this August, let's head to Washington and do something to resolve this gas issue?

BOUNDS: You know, it is a good thing. I think people do want their leaders in Washington to actually make changes, which is why John McCain is running for president. We haven't called the Obama campaign, to my knowledge. We may have. I can tell you when we proposed ten town hall meetings . . . they were opposed to that. It seems that John McCain's worldwide celebrity doesn't match up to Barack Obama's immense enormous worldwide celebrity and they don't like to appear in the same place with us. They think it downgrades their star appeal. We're just looking to get things done. We would like for them to meet us on Capitol Hill and work for a compromise that could bring offshore drilling and comprehensive energy into the homes of Americans. People want change right now.

--
Evan Whitbeck
Tracker/Media Analyst
Progressive Accountability Office
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202-609-7677 (w)
360-480-0786 (c)

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/20/2008 6:37:12 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Full Remarks: McCain Speech in Canada 6/20/08

LINK: http://thepage.time.com/full-remarks-from-mccains-economic-speech-in-canada/

Full Remarks from McCain's Economic Speech in Canada

ARLINGTON, VA — U.S. Senator John McCain will deliver the following remarks as prepared for delivery to the Economic Club of Toronto in Ottawa, Canada, today at 1:00 p.m. EDT:

Thank you all very much. I appreciate the warm welcome to Ottawa, and the hospitality of the Economic Club of Toronto. The reputation of the Economic Club as a place for serious discussion of policy is well known in America, and I am honored by your invitation. There aren't any electoral votes to be won up here in the middle of a presidential election. But there are many shared interests that require our attention today, and many Canadians here I am proud to call friends.

If you've been following the presidential election, you've probably noticed that Canada comes up for discussion quite a bit these days. And this is as it should be — because no other nation shares so many ties with the United States. And today the strength of that partnership is more vital than ever. The economic community we have founded, together with our alliance and the values we hold in common, have served our people for decades, and served us well. It will fall to the next president to strengthen these ties still further, adding to the security and prosperity of all of North America.

We in the United States are very lucky, in a way that's easy to take for granted. We are surrounded by two great oceans, and by two nations we count as friends. Think of the fate of other nations, and how much of their histories have been shaped by hostile neighbors. Generation after generation, they live in fear, resentment, and competition harmful to the interests of all. Lost in rivalry and distrust are the advantages of regional friendship and stability. What a blessing it is for the United States to have in Canada a neighbor we fear only on ice rinks and baseball diamonds.

The best American statesmen have always understood that Canada is not some adjunct to America. We are firm and fast friends. We are allies, partners in success and adversity alike, and a great deal depends on preserving that unity.

Trade is just a part of what unites us, but a very important part. Last year alone, we exchanged some 560 billion dollars in goods, and Canada is the leading export market for 36 of the 50 United States. This country stands as America's leading overall export market, and America is Canada's leading agricultural market. With 60 percent of all direct foreign investment in Canada originating in the United States — some 289 billion dollars in 2007 — our economies draw strength from one another.

A prosperous Canada means a more dynamic and resilient American economy. There are areas where the United States can learn a great deal from your experience. Beginning in 1995, Canada did the hard work to put its fiscal house in order. You reduced spending and brought the budget from deficit to surplus. However, unlike your free-spending neighbor to the south, Canada continued to run budget surpluses even while cutting its corporate and personal tax rates. Lower taxes and spending restraint is a philosophy we should import from Canada.

Our common interests extend to other pursuits as well. The future of our environment, the flows of our energy, and the security of nations — all of these are aided by the close relations forged by our predecessors in Ottawa and Washington. And if I have anything to say about it after January of next year, America is going to expand these ties of friendship and cooperation between our two nations.

At the forefront of our minds, in these years since the Millennium Plot and the events of 9/11, is the security of

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our citizens. Our governments have made real progress in keeping our borders closed to terrorists and open to trade. Yet this will remain an ongoing challenge and a key issue for the next American administration. Tens of millions of people and vehicles cross the Canadian-American border every year. The two-way trade that crosses the Ambassador Bridge between Detroit and Windsor equals all American exports to Japan. That transit, and all our crossing points, must remain secure. In extending our security partnership, we can ensure continued flows of people and commerce while maintaining security on which these very flows depend. We need to do an even better job of managing the regular traffic across our border.

Already, we cooperate in preparing for emergencies — exchanging information and manpower to coordinate our response to danger. We have agreements in place to work together in detecting radiological and nuclear threats, to improve security at ports, borders, and airports, and to assist first responders. We exchange public health officers and have agreed on principles for screening intercontinental air travelers in the event of a pandemic. In all of this, we are drawing upon the skills and knowledge of one another, and we are joined in the crucial work of protecting our people.

At the same time, Canada and America are joined in other vital causes around the world — from the fight against nuclear proliferation to the fight against global warming, from the fight for justice in Haiti to the fight for democracy in Afghanistan. I, for one, will never forget the response of our Canadian friends to the terrorist attacks of 9/11. It was here in Ottawa, three days later, where tens of thousands of Canadians filled the streets on a National Day of Mourning. The Canadian people even took in Americans who has been left stranded by the shutdown of American air space. We in America have not forgotten your kindness. And we will never forget the solidarity, compassion, and friendship of Canada when it mattered most.

We know as well that Canada, too, has suffered casualties in the years since 9/11, and we honor their memory as we do our own. As always in Canada's history, this nation has been willing to do hard things, even when the costs run high. Along with our other allies, Canada and America are still fighting in defense of Afghanistan — in the honorable cause of freedom for that long suffering country, and greater security for ourselves. To date, Canada has committed nearly two billion dollars to the rebuilding of Afghanistan, including a recent 50% increase at the Paris Conference. It is a generous investment, and a wise one, and together our countries are going to see this mission through.

Even in Iraq, where Canada has not always agreed with American policies, this nation has done all that those differences would allow to help the Iraqi people. In characteristic form, Canada has given generous humanitarian aid and development assistance. And your government has provided more than 770 million in combined assistance and debt relief to Iraq, helping a struggling young democracy at a critical time.

It's the mark of good friends that they're willing to correct you, and to do so without rancor. Many Canadians have objected to the policies of the United States in dealing with terrorists, and with enemy combatants held at the Guantanamo prison. It happens that I also regard the prison at Guantanamo as a liability in the cause against violent radical extremism, and as president I would close it. I intend as well to listen carefully when close allies offer their counsel. And even when they don't volunteer their advice, I'll ask for it and seek it out.

We're going to need that spirit in many efforts. We have a shared destiny, Canada and the United States. We are both continental powers, nations shaped by our diverse heritage and our frontier experience. We are also both Arctic nations. And because of this common geography, we must be acutely aware of the perils posed by global warming and take immediate steps to reverse its effects.

Three years ago, I traveled with some colleagues, including Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Lindsey Graham, to Yukon territory, a front line of global warming. We flew over miles of devastated spruce forests, every tree killed by insects that thrive in warm temperatures. As the trees die, fires multiply, and across the region the waters are vanishing. We heard from men and women near Whitehorse whose traditional way of life had been radically disrupted.

All of this is just a glimpse of the grave environmental dangers that global warming can bring, unless we act to prevent it. I was among the first in Congress to introduce legislation to curb greenhouse gasses. If I am elected president, it will be a top priority to enact an energy policy equal to this challenge. A sensible cap-and-trade emissions system, for instance, is a critical part of such a policy. Under U.S. and Canadian leadership, the Montreal Protocol began the process of phasing out gases that were destroying our planet's ozone layer. That cap-and-trade system removed the threat of acid rain. I believe we can apply it to great effect against the threat of climate change. And here, too, Canada and America can work in common purpose against common dangers.

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We must also work to ensure reliable energy supplies and increase sources of renewable energy. As you all know, Canada is America's largest energy supplier. Not only does Canada have the second largest proven oil reserves in the world, 60 percent of the energy produced in Canada is hydroelectric, clean energy. We stand much to gain by harmonizing our energy policies, just as have gained by cooperating in trade through NAFTA. Since NAFTA was concluded, it has contributed to strong job growth and flourishing trade. Since the agreement was signed, the United States has added 25 million jobs and Canada more than 4 million. Cross-border trade has more than doubled since NAFTA came into force. We have established North America as the world's largest economic market and the integration of our economies has led to greater competitiveness of American and Canadian businesses. Because of our common market, our workers are better able to compete, and to find opportunities of their own in the global economy.

There is still more work to do. Complying with NAFTA's rules of origin can be cumbersome and costly. Border delays can pose a serious impediment to trade, the equivalent of a tariff. And even now, for all the successes of NAFTA, we have to defend it without equivocation in political debate, because it is critical to the future of so many Canadian and American workers and businesses. Demanding unilateral changes and threatening to abrogate an agreement that has increased trade and prosperity is nothing more than retreating behind protectionist walls. If I am elected president, have no doubt that America will honor its international commitments — and we will expect the same of others. We will strengthen and extend the open and rules-based international trading system. I aspire to lead a proud, outward-looking America that deepens its partnerships throughout the hemisphere and the world.

Long before NAFTA, America received one of its most valuable exports from Canada in the form of a great statesman, Dean Acheson. He was descended from a great Canadian distilling family and a man who knew Canada well. As secretary of state, Acheson liked to drop by the home of his great friend Hume Wrong, Canada's ambassador to the United States, for consultation and advice over a quiet drink. As I said, Acheson came from a distilling family.

The relationship was not always smooth. But it was productive. Canada and the United States together gave generously for the reconstruction of Europe. And together, too, we helped to forge the new trading system that restored the prosperity of the world after a terrible war.

We've been through an awful lot together, Canada and America, and together we have achieved great things. We have a long shared history to draw from, and deep reserves of good will and mutual admiration. I thank you for all that you have done to advance one of the finest friendships between any two nations in the world today. I thank you for the conviction and clarity you bring to that work ahead for our two nations. And I thank you all for you kind attention here today.

--
Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
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From: "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 2/2/2015 3:07:30 AM
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Agree

On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

I think this piece turned out well.

But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.

> One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas

Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.

One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.

She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been

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critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.

"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that "average" come out. So here's what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won't run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. ''

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM

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To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com >, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
When we tested deck is stacked against "average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top" vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it's how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.
Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the

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challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.
>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>
>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly

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>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	8/31/2014 7:33:50 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Sunday August 31, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Sunday August 31, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

The Hill: "Hillary's summer: Five takeaways"

"Key super-PACs Ready for Hillary and Correct the Record have repeatedly highlighted the work she did for women as secretary of State."

Los Angeles Times: "Potential GOP presidential hopefuls woo donors, activists at summit"

"'I don't think Perry can win. He's not as good in debates. He's not going to beat Hillary,' Danson said, alluding to the presumed candidacy of former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton."

New York Post: Ed Klein: "Why Mitt Romney may again be the GOP's next great hope"

"Establishment insiders in the GOP tell me that the third time may be the charm."

Washington Post: "Obama sets his own pace in a world whirling with crises"

"Even former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton has expressed skepticism that Iranian negotiations will reach a successful conclusion and has been vocal in disagreeing with Obama's earlier decisions not to intervene more directly to support rebel forces in Syria."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Celebs gin up votes for midterm push"

"Musicians and celebrities often jump into the political game, most often for Democrats. For instance, Katy Perry has already promised to write Hillary Clinton's campaign song if she runs for president."

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Associated Press: "Militia Says It 'Secured' US Compound in Libya"

"The Islamist-allied militia group in control of Libya's capital has 'secured' a U.S. Embassy residential compound there, more than a month after American personnel evacuated from the country over ongoing fighting, one of its commanders said Sunday."

Articles:

The Hill: "Hillary's summer: Five takeaways"

By Amie Parnes

August 31, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

The political world is still waiting for a decision from Hillary Clinton on the 2016 presidential race.

But observers have recently got a preview of what would lay in store from, and for, Clinton should she take the plunge.

Over the summer months, she released a book, "Hard Choices," about her time at the State Department and waded into domestic policy for the first time in four years.

So, what did we learn?

1) Anything Clinton says is news. So is anything Clinton doesn't say.

When Clinton last week weighed in on the events in Ferguson, Mo. following the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown at the hands of a police officer, her comments drew instant headlines and lit up the Twitterverse.

During a paid speech at a tech conference in San Francisco, Clinton said that "we can't ignore the inequities that persist in our justice system" and referred to how the unrest in Ferguson had made "our streets look like a war zone."

But the silence that preceded those remarks, which stretched out for more than two weeks during a string of book-signing appearances, also became news.

MSNBC host Chris Hayes took to Twitter to call her failure to comment "downright bizarre." Hayes' tweet followed remarks by civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton, another MSNBC host. At a rally, Sharpton had demanded that Clinton, along with potential GOP presidential candidate Jeb Bush, should not "get laryngitis on this issue."

"Nobody can go to the White House unless they stop by our house and talk about policing," Sharpton said.

Hillary allies defended her decision to refrain from immediate comment.

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“I think it was appropriate that she not quickly discuss it, in part because she is not a candidate yet, and she was not out and about giving speeches at the time,” said one former longtime Hillary aide.

“She also is appropriately cautious in reviewing developing circumstances. She is aware that anything she says is dissected, debated, supported and attacked so that gives her good reason to be measured in remarks on most anything,” the aide added.

2) The left doesn’t really hate her after all

In recent weeks, critics and even some Democratic allies have worried that Clinton has failed to satisfy some on the left.

On Vox.com earlier this month, Ezra Klein wrote that “liberals walk away unnerved” after almost every interview Clinton had done around her recent book tour.

“She bumbled through a discussion of gay marriage with [NPR’s] Terry Gross. She dodged questions about the Keystone XL pipeline. She’s had a lot of trouble discussing income inequality,” Klein asserted.

Other progressives have expressed a desire to see a candidate rooted within the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.), challenge Clinton.

But poll numbers provide succor to Clinton supporters.

A CNN poll conducted in late July showed that there was essentially no difference in the backing Clinton received from self-identified liberal Democrats over Democrats as a whole. Sixty-six percent of liberal Democrats supported her, as did 67 percent of all party supporters.

Clinton allies object to the notion that the former secretary of State is in trouble with the left.

“She is progressive and has support from the vast majority of progressives, which I would argue spans from the left to the middle, including some conservative Democrats along the way, too,” said one longtime aide.

Another ally who has worked for Clinton took it a step further, insisting that the he idea of widespread unease about her on the left was a “fictional plot that people want to believe is true.”

3) She’s learned her lesson with women

When Clinton’s campaign ended in 2008, she conducted an unsparing post-mortem on what went wrong, spending meeting after meeting trying to get to the bottom of the matter.

One of the biggest takeaways from those sessions was that she had made a fatal flaw in not embracing the historic nature of her campaign as, potentially, the first female president. Senior strategist Mark Penn had discouraged highlighting gender, a tactic other aides came to see as a monumental error.

Clinton has already determined not to make the same mistake this time around, even before she has made a formal decision on whether to mount a second presidential bid.

Key super-PACs Ready for Hillary and Correct the Record have repeatedly highlighted the work she did for women as secretary of State. And in recent days, it was announced that Clinton will be addressing a women’s forum organized by the DNC next month, further highlighting her interest in appealing to this key constituency.

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4) She'll keep facing questions about Obama

Both Clinton and President Obama say they have put the bitterness of their 2008 primary struggle behind them.

But more and more, Clinton has distanced herself from the president on issues, including the civil war in Syria.

Earlier this month, the separation grew more obvious when Clinton said in an interview that "great nations need organizing principle and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

"Don't do stupid stuff," had previously been put forth by Obama as a key rule-of-thumb for his own foreign policy.

Clinton ended up having to call Obama to offer an explanation and her spokesman issued a statement pledging that the two would "hug it out" later.

Further parsing of her relationship with Obama is sure to be a running theme during any future campaign.

5) People love to hate her (and love to love her.)

Alongside, "Hard Choices," two prominent anti-Clinton books hit the bookshelves this summer:" "Clinton Inc." by Daniel Halper and "Blood Feud" by Ed Klein.

While some criticized Klein's book as less-than-credible — even Rush Limbaugh publicly questioned some of the dialogue featured in its pages — it sold well and even bumped Clinton's own tome from the top spot on the New York Times bestseller list.

But Hillary supporters say the summer also showed the depth of enthusiasm for a Clinton presidential candidacy. To date, Ready for Hillary reports having more than 100,000 donors, receiving more than 150,000 contributions and attracting nearly two million supporters on Facebook, far outstripping any comparable operation for a potential candidate from either party.

The support for a presidential run has to be evident by now, former aides note.

"It's gotta be in her head," one said.

Los Angeles Times: "Potential GOP presidential hopefuls woo donors, activists at summit"

By Molly Hennessy-Fiske

August 30, 2014, 9:06 p.m. EDT

Potential Republican presidential candidates paraded before more than 3,000 conservative activists and donors from across the country here for a two-day summit that ended Saturday, touting their records and trying to look like the future of their party.

The eighth annual Defending the American Dream Summit was sponsored by Americans for Prosperity, among the most powerful conservative political groups in the country, backed by GOP donors Charles and David Koch, whose family amassed a fortune in the oil business.

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It's not clear who the Koch brothers might back, given their support for Republican and libertarian causes.

David Koch attended the summit, at one point addressing the crowd and thanking the speakers, in particular Texas Gov. Rick Perry for hosting the summit.

Both Perry and junior Texas Sen. Ted Cruz received raucous applause when they appeared, with many chanting Saturday, "Run, Ted, run!"

"Oddly enough, that's the same thing my wife, Heidi, says to me when I go to the gym," Cruz quipped, never revealing during his speech or a briefing afterward whether he plans to run — though he presented a pretty clear platform.

Cruz vowed to roll back Obamacare and hold the line against "amnesty" for immigrants who entered the country illegally, daring President Obama to "join me at the border." He suggested that the U.S. put more economic pressure on Russia for its actions in Ukraine and attack Islamic State — "bomb them back to the Stone Age."

"We need a president who will stand up and use every tool at our disposal," Cruz said to applause and repeated standing ovations.

Greg Danson, 30, a conservative from Houston who works in the oil industry, said he was wowed by Cruz, who he said appears more intellectual than Perry, more like the future of the party than the folksy past of George W. Bush.

"I don't think Perry can win. He's not as good in debates. He's not going to beat Hillary," Danson said, alluding to the presumed candidacy of former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Perry, who has been visiting key primary states, emphasized his tough stance on border security.

When Obama refused to send in the National Guard to address the recent border crisis, Perry told the crowd Friday, he sent the troops himself. That earned the governor a standing ovation.

Perry said that when Obama stopped in Dallas earlier this summer, he asked the president to come see the border crisis.

"He turned me down, saying he doesn't do photo ops," Perry said. A man in the audience shouted, "Shame!"

Perry derided what he called Obama's "era of lawlessness," comparing it — in a nod to tea party activists prominently represented here — to British tyranny over American colonists.

"We need to make Washington as inconsequential in our lives as we can," Perry said to more applause. He added with a chuckle, "In Texas, we actually do pretty well without Washington's advice."

Brandon Rogers, 30, said that out of all the potential candidates, he found Perry most inspiring. Rogers, a filmmaker from Los Angeles, considers himself somewhat libertarian, but not enough to vote for Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, whom he saw as an idealist. He liked Cruz, too, but said, "Perry could mobilize a movement and inspire a nation."

Few indicated they were put off by Perry's recent indictment on two felony charges that stemmed from his threat to withdraw funding for a public integrity unit.

Activists at the summit also heard from Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who emphasized his record as a fiscal conservative, promising to reduce the scope of the federal government and taking a swipe at spending under the last Republican in the White House, George W. Bush.

"I felt like the Republican Party was a tall ship with a capable captain and a strong crew that was very dangerously off course into the rocky

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waters of big government," Pence said of the Bush administration. "It's a new season in the Republican Party and the conservative movement."

Pence noted: "Some people say our next nominee should be a governor, and I'm certainly sympathetic to that."

Carol Jones, 67, of Bastrop, Texas, drew a smile from Pence when she called out: "Would you please run for president?"

Jones, a retired field director for Americans for Prosperity, said she had grown disillusioned with Perry and was divided between Paul and Pence.

"I just love what he has done in Indiana. My God, if he can do that in Washington — that's what we need," she said. "He stacks up better than a lot of these other candidates, except Rand Paul."

Some in the crowd were concerned that Paul, son of longtime libertarian Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, would be unwilling to use U.S. military might overseas, particularly against Russia and in the Middle East.

"He's too much of an isolationist," said Doug Vile, 58, a furniture manufacturer from Pauls Valley, Okla., who prefers Cruz and Perry. "One of our responsibilities is to help people all over the world. We're the peacemakers."

But Jones said Paul, whom she got to know campaigning for his father, would take action overseas if needed.

Paul took the stage here and quickly abandoned the lectern, pacing and addressing the audience in a breezy, conversational style that drew applause.

Young attendees clapped and cheered as Paul urged them to join him in recruiting unlikely Republicans — minorities in urban areas, at historically black colleges and, yes, even in Berkeley.

"If we're going to be the party that wins, we have to be a bigger party," he said. "We don't need to be Democrat light. We need to reach out to new people."

New York Post: Ed Klein: "Why Mitt Romney may again be the GOP's next great hope"

By Edward Klein

August 30, 2014, 4:09 p.m. EDT

The most likely Republican presidential candidate for 2016 is . . . Mitt Romney?

The former Massachusetts governor has run and lost two bids for the White House — in the 2008 Republican primaries and again in the 2012 general election. What's more, he proved to be a foot-in-mouth candidate who blew his chances of winning in 2012 by writing off 47% of the electorate and suggesting that illegal immigrants "self-deport."

And yet, establishment insiders in the GOP tell me that the third time may be the charm.

"The smart folks in the party are not committed to any presidential candidate this early," said Scott Reed, the senior political strategist for the US Chamber of Commerce, the powerful business lobby that has scored a string of establishment victories over Tea Party candidates in this year's

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Republican primaries. “But Romney can’t be dismissed as the guy who lost last time.

“You watch him on TV these days, and he’s a new guy with total command of the issues and a real presence,” Reed added. “He could throw an organization together and get the money.”

A wealthy New York-based Republican with close ties to members of the donor class, who spoke to me on the condition of anonymity, wholeheartedly agrees.

“Most of the people I talk to who are involved in Republican politics as donors want a winner,” he told me. “And many of these people are talking about Romney because so many of the things he said in 2012 — about Russia being a ‘geopolitical foe’ and people losing their health insurance under ObamaCare — have come to pass.”

Until a few months ago, the favorite among establishment Republicans was Chris Christie. And there are still those in the GOP, such as Kenneth Langone, the billionaire co-founder of The Home Depot, who support the New Jersey governor.

“To me, politics is practical,” Langone told me. “We Republicans don’t have the luxury any more of having an ideological litmus test in the party. Chris is a candidate who can win. And though he has never given me a definite indication that he is going to run in 2016, in my humble opinion, he’s in.”

However, most Republicans think Christie has suffered too many self-inflicted wounds to be considered a front-runner.

The list of internal grievances against Christie is long and includes: his hug-a-thon with President Obama after Hurricane Sandy; his it’s-all-about-me keynote address at the 2012 Republican National Convention; his bungled handling of the Bridgegate scandal; and his appointment or reappointment of several liberal judges in New Jersey.

With Christie fading in the presidential sweepstakes, many Republican donors and operatives turned, for a while, to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush as the party’s great hope. But Bush is playing Hamlet, unable to make up his mind.

“Jeb has several problems that give him pause,” said a major Republican source. “To begin with, he has staked out a position on immigration reform and the Common Core education standards that may make him too moderate for today’s Republican Party. Then there are his family problems to take into consideration. His wife isn’t into being a public figure, and his daughter has had drug issues in the past.”

In my conversations with Republican operatives, none could think of a time since the 1980s when there wasn’t an obvious front-runner.

This past week, several potential candidates, including Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Ted Cruz, showed up at a presidential cattle call in Dallas that was organized by the conservative billionaire Koch brothers.

“We are six months away from when some presidential campaigns in the Republican Party will launch, and it doesn’t appear that the donors are coalescing yet,” said Spencer Zwick, a fund-raising expert who is so close to Romney and his wife, Ann, that he is often described as their “sixth son.”

Washington Post: “Obama sets his own pace in a world whirling with crises”

By Karen DeYoung and Dan Balz

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

August 31, 2014, 10:30 a.m. EDT

Short of world war, it's rare that a chief executive goes through a foreign policy month like President Obama's August.

U.S. warplanes struck in Iraq for the first time in years, as U.S. diplomats struggled to establish a new government in Baghdad. Islamic State militants beheaded an American journalist in Syria and spread their reach across the Middle East.

War raged between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. In Afghanistan, U.S. plans for an orderly exit at the end of the year teetered on the brink of disaster. Russia all but invaded Ukraine and dared Obama to stop it. Libya descended into violent chaos.

As events cascaded, Obama juggled rounds of vacation golf with public statements addressing the conflicts. But his cool demeanor, and the split-screen imagery of a president at play and at work, seemed ill-matched to the moment.

Then came a Thursday news conference and a comment that only reinforced criticism of a president neither fully engaged nor truly leaning into world problems. Speaking of the Islamic State, he said, "We don't have a strategy yet."

The statement may have had the virtue of candor, as Obama weighs the military and diplomatic components of a U.S. response and seeks support from other nations. But it hardly projects an image of presidential resolve or decisiveness at a time of international turmoil.

Republicans pounced on the statement. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), speaking Friday in Texas, said, "If the president has no strategy, maybe it's time for a new president." He said in a later e-mail that he would call a joint session of Congress to seek authority "to destroy ISIS militarily," using another name for the Islamic State. Texas Gov. Rick Perry accused Obama of "lurching from crisis to crisis, always one step behind."

On Sunday, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers (R-Mich.) said Obama's comments show that his foreign policy is "in an absolute free fall."

"If you look at China, you look at ISIS, you look at Russia, you look at Iran and North Korea, we have a serious host of problems presenting itself, and our traditional allies are now standing up and saying, 'Well, maybe America is not the best one to lead us through these troubles,' " Rogers said on "Fox News Sunday."

Some Democrats also express dismay at Obama's pace. "I think I've learned one thing about this president, and that is he's very cautious. Maybe in this instance, too cautious," Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." The Islamic State, she said, is a "vicious, vicious movement. And it has to be confronted."

White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said Obama will continue to move at his own speed to respond to these crises, regardless of criticism. "There's no timetable for solving these problems that's going to meet the cable news cycle speed," he said. "It's not a tenable thing. We'd much rather do this right than do it quickly. We tried the opposite [during the Bush years] and it worked out very poorly."

This week, Obama will have an opportunity to show global leadership at a crisis-packed summit with European allies. Immediately afterward, Secretary of State John F. Kerry will travel to the Middle East, where potential partners, waiting to see whether Obama has the capacity to chart a clear, decisive course, are hoping for direction.

As the administration heads into those meetings, Kerry offered crisp and forceful marching orders. "Airstrikes alone won't defeat this enemy," he wrote in a Saturday op-ed article in the New York Times. "A much fuller response is demanded from the world. We need to support Iraqi forces and the moderate Syrian opposition, who are facing ISIS on the front lines."

The world Obama now confronts is far different from the one he inherited when he came into office almost six years ago, and it is testing equally whether the style and substance of his leadership can win supporters and prevail against enemies.

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In the first years of his presidency, Obama's principal foreign policy goals were far less reactive and were more dependent on his initiative and sense of timing.

With a schedule for Iraq withdrawal already set, he developed policies for ending the then-faltering war in Afghanistan. In a pattern that would repeat itself on other issues, he deliberated for months, and then split the difference by simultaneously announcing a surge of troops and the timing of their departure.

But as he tried to engage the world on his terms, Obama quickly found out that the world had thoughts and plans of its own. Far from the reset Obama sought with Russia, President Vladimir Putin sought a new balance of power through aggression in Ukraine. While Obama offered a fresh start for the United States in the Muslim world, the Arab Spring headed toward destabilization rather than democracy.

Six years later, events seem to have spun out of his control, and Obama must react to the actions of others. Putin's aggression in Ukraine has sparked the greatest East-West crisis since the Cold War. Islamic State advances have swallowed up a large swath of the Middle East and threaten a global upheaval far beyond the shock of al-Qaeda's 2001 attacks.

Obama now must contemplate what could be a lengthy and messy recommitment of U.S. military might in a region that continues to defy his efforts to create stability. Having promised respectful relations among the big powers, he must prove that the non-military tools of power — diplomacy and economic pressure — will eventually force Russia back within its own borders.

Historian David Kennedy of Stanford University noted that Obama has struggled throughout his presidency to articulate a large and integrated vision in both domestic and foreign policy and contrasted that with the rhetorical and communications skills of Candidate Obama in 2008.

But he said Obama faces something of "devil's brew" as he deals with a world of proliferating aggressors and the palpable exhaustion of the American people for military engagement. "There's an expectation especially since World War II that the United States and president in particular can command events," he said. "That's not true and less true today than ever."

Presidential advisers argue that Obama's foreign policy management has born fruit, from getting the Syrians to give up their chemical weapons to bringing Iran to the negotiating table over its nuclear program to engendering the trust and credibility with other leaders to get European nations to support sanctions against Russia and rebuild a global coalition to deal with the Islamic State threat.

A senior official called Obama's Iranian policy "a perfect example of a disciplined response that potentially leads to a good outcome." Yet even former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton has expressed skepticism that Iranian negotiations will reach a successful conclusion and has been vocal in disagreeing with Obama's earlier decisions not to intervene more directly to support rebel forces in Syria.

Officials across the government spent Friday trying to clean up after Obama's Thursday news conference. They insisted that his "no strategy" remark had been misinterpreted and that what was being portrayed as hesitation and delay was instead a sign of due diligence and a sharp focus on developing an effective long-term plan.

Earlier statements by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, about the overall threat posed by Islamic State militants and the necessity of eventually taking the fight into Syria, coupled with reports that the United States had launched surveillance flights over Syria, prompted speculation of potentially imminent military action.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest denied a contradiction. "I think the president was pretty explicit that he is determined to make sure that every element of his national security strategy is thought through," he said.

As Obama sought to nudge the debate back into his deliberative comfort zone, others urged him toward action. Ryan Crocker, who has served as U.S. ambassador in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, pleaded with the president to stop deliberating and start acting. "I don't think we have an alternative to swift, decisive military action to degrade ISIS in both Iraq and Syria. Give them no safe place to plan further attacks," he said in a CNN interview Friday.

U.S. officials rejected the notion that they are not acting. They emphasized that Obama moved quickly in Iraq with airstrikes and said that this month's operations there are the first step in a larger strategy against the Islamic State. They indicated that they will not be pushed into an

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immediate response to recent events in Syria.

“The dynamic that you want, that I think is possible, is that [Islamic State] has overreached and overextended itself, both in terms of the territory it’s tried to claim, and the number of enemies it’s managed to make,” a senior administration official said.

Limited airstrikes in Iraq, and the formation of a more inclusive version of Iraq’s Shiite-led government, will encourage Sunni Arab states to work together, under U.S. leadership, in ways that have eluded them thus far, the official said.

He added that the “international outrage in countries like Britain, France, Australia and Canada” over militants’ brutality, and the threat from Western passport holders within the Islamist organization, will make those countries more willing to participate in military and other operations against the militants in response to a patient and well-conceived U.S. strategy.

U.S. allies say they have a residual well of confidence in Obama despite what they saw as the failure of U.S. leadership over the past year in Syria.

“What I do regret,” said a senior European official, is that the Islamic State organization has become “exactly what we feared” last year, when Obama held back in arming moderate rebel forces in Syria and reversed course on U.S. military action there.

The Syria airstrikes, planned last August to punish President Bashar al-Assad for using chemical weapons and to destroy his weapons program, might have avoided the current mess by sending a message to Syrians and U.S. allies that Obama was engaged and recognized the growing Islamist threat, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid publicly criticizing the president.

But the official believes that this summer has been different. Obama’s taking the lead on sanctions against Russia — and pressing reluctant Europeans to join — and the airstrikes this month against Islamic State in Iraq have gone some distance in restoring allied confidence in the president.

“It’s not my job to defend the administration,” the official said. “But they have acted, more than I expected.”

Obama addressed the global angst during a Friday fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee in Purchase, N.Y. He said that anyone watching the nightly news might feel that “the world is falling apart.” He acknowledged these are challenging times and that an unsustainable “old order” that had been in place for decades in the Middle East was destined to come apart.

“What we are seeing is the old order not working, but the new order not being born yet — and it is a rocky road through that process, and a dangerous time through that process,” he said.

American leadership “has never been more necessary, and there’s really no competition out there for the ideas and the values that can create the sort of order that we need in this world. . . . Our values, our leadership, our military power but also our diplomatic power, the power of our culture is one that means we will get through these challenging times just like we have in the past,” he said.

Jim Lindsay, senior vice president at the Council on Foreign Relations, said Obama’s inability to inspire confidence among critics has more to do with the complexity of the problems than the president’s leadership style. “He has a sort of perfect storm of messy problems, lousy options, ambivalent allies and a skeptical public,” he said.

Obama’s attempt at reassurance begged the question not only of exactly what course of action he will decide to take, but whether those policies will be too little, too late.

The crises in Ukraine and Syria-Iraq have overshadowed equally turbulent situations where the administration’s track record has not been encouraging. This summer’s war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip continued for weeks, despite repeated U.S. efforts to stop it, until a tentative cease-fire was agreed upon under Egyptian auspices last week.

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Despite two emergency visits by Kerry in the past several weeks, Afghanistan appeared headed toward a political train wreck, as the two candidates vying to replace President Hamid Karzai continued to dispute the results of this summer's election. With the withdrawal of U.S. combat forces in December fast approaching, it remains uncertain whether there will be a government to agree to Obama's plan to leave nearly 10,000 troops there for training and counterterrorism missions.

Kennedy, the historian, said that Obama, in dealing with multiple crises, also is trying to change perceptions of what U.S. leadership and any president can realistically accomplish. "It's difficult virtually to the point of impossibility to have a grand strategy in a world that is so fluid and in which we no longer yield the power we once had. In a sense that is Obama's strategy, a recognition of that fact. So that rhetorically as well as in reality, he's trying to diminish the expectation that we can control events."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Celebs gin up votes for midterm push"

By Jesse Byrnes

August 30, 2014, 5:10 p.m. EDT

With young voters more apathetic about voting and government than ever, several organizations are trying to woo the "selfie generation" to the polls this fall.

"About half of those who vote in presidential elections do not vote in midterms," explained Andy Bernstein, executive director of HeadCount, a non-partisan organization that partners with musicians to get youth engaged in politics.

While overall turnout among young voters in presidential elections has grown, turnout for midterms has stagnated, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIVIC).

In 2010, the under-30 vote dropped 27 percent since Obama first sailed to victory two years earlier, according to CIVIC analysis of Census data.

Bernstein's group hopes to engage these so-called drop-off voters by riding the popularity of musicians.

HeadCount will go on tour with the band The Black Keys for 15 shows in more than a dozen cities from Sept. 6 through Nov. 3 registering young voters.

The group also plans to drive voter turnout through its Pledge to Vote postcards, which involves celebrities taking photos of themselves holding a sign to register to vote and posting it to social media.

During National Voter Registration Day in 2012, for example, HeadCount got about 200 musicians, actors and comics to hold the signs, including Stephen Colbert, Dave Matthews and 50 Cent.

Their cause was also cheered by actress Susan Sarandon, Cyndi Lauper and musician Jeff Tweedy of Wilco, among others. As a result, the group registered about 40,000 people in a single day.

Musicians and celebrities often jump into the political game, most often for Democrats. For instance, Katy Perry has already promised to write Hillary Clinton's campaign song if she runs for president. Other entertainers were heavily involved in President Obama's presidential runs, including Beyonce, Jay-Z and Bruce Springsteen.

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While their focus is usually on presidential races, the groups's uphill task ahead of 2016 is getting youth involved in the elections happening this year.

Of likely midterm voters ages 18-29, 44 percent of Mitt Romney supporters in 2012 plan to vote this year compared to 35 percent of Obama voters, according to another Harvard Institute of Politics survey.

Still, in an election with Senate control up for grabs, Republicans are unlikely to see much of a bump from young voters – less than one in four (23 percent) will "definitely" be voting in November, according to the spring poll.

That's the case in other surveys, too. While 72 percent of those 18-31 said they would "definitely" or "probably" vote in the 2016 presidential election, less than half – 49 percent – said they were likely to vote in the upcoming midterms, according to a poll from Democratic pollster Paul Harstad in early spring.

During every election, it's important to use cultural leaders to get young voters interested in the issues, said Ashley Spillane, president of Rock the Vote.

Celebrities, artists and musicians help draw young voters interested in other issues, Spillane said, such as voter ID laws, women's health and college affordability.

"When you are thinking about this generation, in terms of messaging we are constantly expressing our opinion on a myriad of social platforms," Spillane said, noting the importance of offering tools and meeting the so-called digital natives where they are at to register – online.

Have to print a form, find an envelope and put it in the mail? "Most young people can't tell you where to get a stamp these days," she said.

Rock the Vote, which works with hundreds of organizations to run events, has a handful of large events to roll out soon.

A big push for the youth vote will be National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 23. The day, which started in 2012, became a holiday when the National Association of Secretaries of State designated the fourth Tuesday each September through 2019.

This year, more than 300 entertainers and musicians will post photos on social media holding HeadCount's Register to Vote signs linking to their online voter registration page and the group will host events in 20 cities that day.

The group will also have young people sign pledges to vote – and get entered for a chance at a musical vacation getaway. Those pledges will get mailed back to them as a reminder, which has been shown to increase participation.

Growing the youth vote is critical for both parties. Following the 2012 election, the GOP published its 97-page report on attracting more voters, including youth, and noted it must draw young voters with its message and candidates. The report even recommended establishing an "RNC Celebrity Task Force" to get entertainment folks to highlight fundraisers.

Democrats contend, however, that young voters are naturally left-leaning on most issues, putting the focus for Democrats, then, on mobilization.

"The message doesn't matter if they're not on the same page ideologically," said Rob Flaherty, youth media director for the Democratic National Committee.

Still, young voters, like Americans in general, are mostly concerned about jobs, the economy and healthcare, Republicans argue based on recent polling.

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"While celebrity endorsements are nice, young Americans are more interested in policies that will benefit them rather than having a famous person tell them who to vote for," Raffi Williams, the Republican National Committee deputy press secretary, wrote in an email.

"They fell for the celebrity endorsements when it came to Obama and are not going to fall prey to the same tactic that has left them behind six years later," he added.

Associated Press: "Militia Says It 'Secured' US Compound in Libya"

[No Writer Mentioned]

August 31, 2014, 12:40 p.m. EDT

The Islamist-allied militia group in control of Libya's capital has "secured" a U.S. Embassy residential compound there, more than a month after American personnel evacuated from the country over ongoing fighting, one of its commanders said Sunday.

The Islamist militia's move likely will reinvigorate debate in the U.S. over its role in Libya, more than three years after supporting rebels who toppled dictator Moammar Gadhafi. It also comes near the two-year anniversary of the slaying of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans in Libya's second-largest city of Benghazi.

An Associated Press journalist walked through the U.S. Embassy compound Sunday after the Dawn of Libya, an umbrella group for Islamist militias, invited onlookers inside. Some windows at the compound had been broken, but it appeared most of the equipment there remained untouched. The journalist saw treadmills, food, televisions and computers still inside.

A commander for the Dawn of Libya group, Moussa Abu-Zaqia, told the AP that his forces had entered and been in control of the compound since last week, a day after it has seized control of the capital and its international airport after weeks of fighting with a rival militia. Abu-Zaqia said the rival militia was in the compound before his troops took it over.

The Dawn of Libya militia is not associated with the extremist militia Ansar al-Shariah, which Washington blames for the deadly assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi on Sept. 11, 2012, that killed Stevens and the three other Americans.

A video posted online Sunday showed unarmed men playing in a pool at the compound and jumping into it from a second-story balcony. Voices heard in the video identified it as the U.S. Embassy compound.

In a message on Twitter, U.S. Ambassador to Libya Deborah Jones said the video appeared to have been shot in at the embassy's residential annex, though she said she couldn't "say definitively" since she wasn't there.

"To my knowledge & per recent photos the US Embassy Tripoli chancery & compound is now being safeguarded and has not been ransacked," she wrote on Twitter. She did not immediately respond to a request to elaborate. State Department officials in Washington also declined to immediately comment.

On July 26, U.S. diplomats evacuated the compound and the capital to neighboring Tunisia under a U.S. military escort as fighting between rival militias intensified and thousands fled. The State Department said embassy operations would be suspended until the security situation improved.

Typically, local forces provide security for diplomatic posts, but Libya's government has largely relied on militias for law enforcement since Gadhafi's ouster, as its military and police forces remain weak. In the past several weeks, the security vacuum in Tripoli deepened as militia violence worsened. It remains unclear who the U.S. left in control of guarding its facilities after its personnel evacuated.

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Libya's militias, many of which originate from rebel forces that fought Gadhafi, have become powerful players in post-war Libya. Successive governments have put militias on their payroll in return for maintaining order, but rivalries over control and resources have led to fierce fighting among them and posed a constant challenge to the central government and a hoped-for transition to democracy.

Following weeks of fighting that brought the capital to a standstill, the Dawn of Libya militia said last week it managed to seize control of Tripoli's airport and drive a rival militia from the mountain town of Zintan out of the capital. It is now deployed around the capital and has sought to restore normalcy in the city. The group called on foreign diplomats to return now that the fighting has subsided.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· September 9 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DSCC at her Washington home (DSCC)

· September 14 – Indianola, IA: Sec. Clinton headlines Sen. Harkin's Steak Fry (LA Times)

· September 19 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the DNC with Pres. Obama (CNN)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/14/2014 12:53:00 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Tuesday October 14, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday October 14, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton says students should get fair shot"

"Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told a Las Vegas crowd Monday night that more needs to be done to assure young people can achieve their dreams and free students from onerous college debt 'that can feel like an anchor tied to their feet dragging them down.'"

Las Vegas Sun: "Hillary Clinton's Las Vegas visit shows signs of White House ambitions"

"Hillary Clinton's night in Las Vegas showed all the signs of someone running to be the most powerful person in the world."

Las Vegas Review-Journal: "Clinton raises campaign cash; advocates for affordable education"

"Speaking to supporters of higher education, Hillary Clinton Monday night urged the private business community to partner with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to help more young people earn college degrees that will give them more opportunity for higher paying jobs of the future."

...

"Before the UNLV Foundation dinner, Clinton headlined a private Nevada Democratic Party fundraiser where donors were asked to contribute from $1,000 to $10,000 each. Money went to the state party and to U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., for his 2016 re-election campaign."

Denver Post: "Hillary Clinton campaigns for Sen. Mark Udall at Denver Union Station"

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton surprised travelers at Denver Union Station when she and U.S. Sen. Mark Udall showed up Monday afternoon."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton swings by Colorado to help Udall"

"Hillary Clinton swung by Colorado to help out embattled Democratic Sen. Mark Udall on Monday during a western swing in which she also spoke of being a new grandmother."

Elko Daily Free Press opinion: Gregg Potter: "Proud to have Hillary Clinton at UNLV"

"As a proud graduate of the University of Nevada Las Vegas, I am thrilled that Hillary Clinton is speaking at the UNLV Foundation's annual dinner Monday night."

CNN: "GOP spotlights fees ahead of Clinton Vegas fundraisers"

"Clinton also told ABC News in August that 'all of the fees have been donated to the Clinton Foundation for it to continue its life-changing and life-saving work.'"

Detroit News: "Hillary Clinton plans Oakland Univ. visit"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton will arrive in Michigan Thursday to help boost two high-profile Democrats in their election campaign pushes."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Elizabeth Warren Highlights Hillary Clinton's Goldman Problem"

"Ms. Warren took no swipes at Mrs. Clinton. Along with other women Democratic senators, she has signed a letter supporting a Clinton presidential bid. But she did take aim at Goldman Sachs, a firm with close ties to the Clinton family."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Warren inches away from Obama"

"Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is beginning to distance herself from President Obama amid increased speculation about what role she wants to play in 2016."

The Daily Beast: Sally Kohn: "Warren and Christie Are the Anti-Hillarys"

"In other words, although anyone markedly more socially conservative than Christie stands no realistic chance of being elected President of the United States of America as the electorate becomes even more socially liberal, the right of the right is so damned determined to police the borders of its increasingly irrelevant influence that it is eschewing Christie for not being right wing enough."

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Washington Post: "Can't quit Mitt: Friends say Romney feels nudge to consider a 2016 presidential run"

"Romney has huddled with prominent donors and reconnected with supporters in key states in recent months. Because of the vacuum of power within his party and the lack of a clear 2016 front-runner, confidants said Romney is grappling with this question: If drafted, would he answer the party's call?"

CNN: "How many ways can Romney say no to 2016?"

"The former Massachusetts governor has been accused of flip-flopping in the past, but he's been pretty consistent on his future: He's a 'no.'"

Articles:

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton says students should get fair shot"

By Kimberly Pierceall

October 14, 2014, 1:48 a.m. EDT

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told a Las Vegas crowd Monday night that more needs to be done to assure young people can achieve their dreams and free students from onerous college debt "that can feel like an anchor tied to their feet dragging them down."

"I think our young people deserve a fair shot," she told about 900 people gathered in a Bellagio resort ballroom for the annual UNLV Foundation dinner benefiting the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Later, talking about the American public's possible reluctance to get involved in conflicts around the world, Clinton referred to the threats posed by the Ebola virus and the Islamic State group.

"They want to bring the fight to Europe and the fight to the United States," she said of the terrorist group.

And Ebola is not going to stay confined, she said.

At every step, officials should ask if actions are in America's best interest, she said.

"We can't say we're not going to be involved because these things are other people's problems," she said.

The remarks were part of questions from longtime friend and Las Vegas Sun Publisher Brian Greenspun after Clinton's prepared speech that touched on her thoughts on Russian President Vladimir Putin ("I see a very cold-blooded, calculated former KGB agent who is determined to not only enrich himself and his closest colleagues but also to try to revive Russia's influence around its border"), the most important person she's ever

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met (Nelson Mandela for his "level of self-awareness and political skill") and her most difficult decision as secretary of state ("Whether or not to go after Bin Laden based on the evidence we had.").

But before any questions, Greenspun presented her a gift: a pair of Nike athletic shoes, a reference to one of her last appearances in Las Vegas in April when a woman in the crowd threw a shoe at Clinton.

"How do we make amends?" he asked. By giving her two shoes instead of just the one.

Greenspun pointed out the pair came from the "running" shoes section, a coy reference to speculation surrounding a possible presidential run by Clinton.

She didn't give anything away about her future plans after Greenspun pressed a second time asking about any unfinished business she might have and how she would finish it, a reference to a chapter in her book, "Hard Choices."

"I'm really going to have to ponder that seriously," she said.

Before Monday's event, Clinton made a stop in Denver to campaign for Colorado Sen. Mark Udall and later appeared at a Nevada Democratic Party fundraiser in Las Vegas with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. The Las Vegas Sun reported that VIP tickets to the fundraiser at the Aria resort cost $10,000 each.

The UNLV Foundation dinner honored billionaire Republican fundraiser and Sands Corp. CEO Sheldon Adelson.

Clinton, who commended Adelson for his donations to the university, said she had run into the casino-hotel mogul backstage.

"Sheldon said to me, 'Gee, I wish they would have paired me with you to ask the questions. We could have had a real debate,'" Clinton said. "Well, that would certainly bring a crowd," she said, adding that it might have required a boxing ring.

Adelson's Las Vegas Sands has committed giving $7 million to fund construction of Hospitality Hall for the university's Harrah Hotel College and a proposed Center for Professional and Leadership Studies.

The event also posthumously honored philanthropist Kitty Rodman whose estate pledged $12.9 million for the university's special education programs.

Las Vegas Sun: "Hillary Clinton's Las Vegas visit shows signs of White House ambitions"

By Kyle Roerink

October 13, 2014, 7:33 p.m.

Hillary Clinton's night in Las Vegas showed all the signs of someone running to be the most powerful person in the world.

The former secretary of state helped raise money for fellow Democrats. She spoke about education, war and peace. She even congratulated

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Republican super donor Sheldon Adelson for his UNLV philanthropy.

Clinton's keynote address made no reference to higher office. But the 900 students, donors and politicians who attended the UNLV Foundation's annual dinner saw plenty of signals.

Her question-and-answer session with Brian Greenspun, the Las Vegas Sun editor and publisher and a UNLV trustee, featured a mix of lighthearted stories about people she's met in politics and showcased Clinton's work in international affairs.

Clinton and Adelson

Before delivering her keynote address, Clinton had a word with Adelson, CEO of the Las Vegas Sands Corp. The UNLV Foundation honored Adelson tonight for donating $7 million. When Clinton and Adelson crossed paths backstage, they didn't trade partisan jabs. Clinton said that Adelson told her he wished that he was asking the questions on stage. "That would have been a debate," Adelson reportedly told Clinton. Clinton told the crowd, dining in the Tower Ballroom at the Bellagio, "We would have needed a boxing arena."

Education

Clinton used her keynote address to aim at problems in higher education. She attacked "fly-by-night for-profit schools" and predatory lenders that "exploit students." She hinted at Congress' inability to pass higher education reforms to tackle the problems. She said the solutions "shouldn't be partisan or controversial."

"I don't think any group, any political party, any business, any sector of the economy, any politician has all the answers. In fact, I think it's time we got back to working together again," she said.

Clinton's keynote speech also touched on what Nevada is doing to improve its worst-in-the-nation public education system.

She said her family's charity — the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation — is working with Barrick Gold Corp. to develop programs at Great Basin Community College and vocational programs to train Nevadans (Greenspun is on the Barrick Gold board of directors). Clinton, who was paid $225,000 for speaking, donated the money to her family charity.

Speaking like a candidate

If Clinton does run for office, she will inevitably face questions about her time as secretary of state.

Asked about tough decisions she made as the chief foreign policy adviser to President Barack Obama, Clinton spoke about the "excruciating analysis" before going after Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.

"A lot of the assessments that pointed to his compound in Abbottabad was 40 to 60 percent reliable," she said. Then she added: "Sorting that through was a really difficult decision."

She didn't specifically address an attack at a consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four American officials. Critics blamed Clinton for not doing enough to protect diplomats in Benghazi and for her handling of the investigation that followed.

Clinton said military force should be a last resort but said the U.S. cannot retreat from the world's problems.

"I don't think the United States can solve every problem in the world. But I don't think you can solve problems without the United States," she said.

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She didn't back away from questions about Russian President Vladimir Putin, calling him "a cold-blooded former KGB agent."

She added: "In my dealings with Putin, we've had an ongoing exchange of argumentation and heated views from time to time. He is someone who can be understood and dealt with. But it takes a long-term strategic commitment."

She said Putin has influenced Russia's neighbors with natural gas holdings and by having his "friends" purchase media companies in Eastern European states.

She said the world "cannot allow the borders of Europe to be re-written the way Putin is trying to rewrite Ukraine. ... That will be bad for us."

Running shoes

Clinton has now visited Las Vegas three times this year. Her first visit made headlines after a woman threw a shoe at her during a speech before the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries convention in April at Mandalay Bay.

Greenspun apologized for the incident, and without saying anything about Clinton's purported aspirations to run for president in 2016, handed her a pair of Nike running shoes.

Las Vegas Review-Journal: "Clinton raises campaign cash; advocates for affordable education"

By Laura Myers

October 13, 2014, 9:33 p.m.

Speaking to supporters of higher education, Hillary Clinton Monday night urged the private business community to partner with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to help more young people earn college degrees that will give them more opportunity for higher paying jobs of the future.

Now, Clinton said, the cost of education is too high for many students, particularly those with little money and access to grants and scholarships. And the job market is so challenging that even graduates with college degrees are having difficulty finding their first job to launch their careers.

The millennial generation is talented, smart and hard-working, but doesn't have as many job opportunities as Clinton did when she was young, she said, speaking at the annual UNLV Foundation dinner held to thank top donors to the university.

As a result, young people are delaying launching careers of their choice, buying their first homes and even getting married, she said.

"We have a lot more work to do if we want to unleash the full potential and make sure more Americans feel they, too, have a future," Clinton said to applause. "That's especially true for our young people. … Many Millennials are still struggling … in a difficult job market."

Clinton, a former secretary of state who is expected to run for president in 2016 on the Democratic ticket, also said that post-graduation many students are burdened by student debt "that can feel like an anchor dragging them down." This, too, puts their future at risk, she said.

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Clinton praised President Barack Obama for increasing federal Pell grants by $1,000 and working to cap student loan repayments at 10 percent of discretionary income, but she said young people feel overwhelmed by debt even as they struggle to find employment in their field of study.

“More needs to be done,” she said. “Higher education shouldn’t be a privilege for those able to afford it. It should be an opportunity widely available for anybody with the talent, determination and ambition” to learn.

Clinton said her family’s non-profit charity, the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, has started a program “Job One” to partner private business with higher education to help students.

In Nevada, she said, Barrick Gold has partnered with Great Basin Community College and the Shoshone Tribe to develop education and job programs to help students get more work experience.

“We think that first job is essential,” Clinton said. “I think our young people deserve a fair shot. And Barrick Gold’s investment in Nevada is one example … to prepare young people to compete.”

Clinton praised UNLV for deciding to open a medical school and aiming for Tier 1 status as a university. And she urged the business community to get more involved instead of just counting on government to help students. In the end, she said, it will help companies’ bottom lines.

UNLV President Dan Snyder “has been known to say you can’t have a great city without a great university. I think he’s right,” Clinton summed up.

After her 25-minute speech, Las Vegas Sun Publisher Brian Greenspun, a Clinton family friend, gave the former first lady a pair of tennis shoes, saying they were “running shoes,” a not so subtle hint that she should run for the White House. It also evoked memories of a Las Vegas speech Clinton gave in the spring during which a protester threw a pair of shoes at her, which she ducked.

Before Clinton spoke, UNLV honored Sands Chairman Sheldon Adelson for donating $7 million to the university this past year for the hotel college, his latest effort to support the school.

Adelson also is one of the most generous GOP political donors and would likely support any Republican candidate who ran against Clinton if she runs for president.

Clinton said she chatted backstage with Adelson and he told her, “I wish they’d paired me with you to ask the questions. We could have a real debate.”

“Well, that would certainly draw a crowd,” Clinton quipped. “I think you’d need a boxing arena for that to be pulled off.”

More than 900 people attended the sold-out UNLV dinner at the Bellagio where the top donor tables went for $3,000 to $20,000 each. The Foundation raised more than $350,000 from top donors alone, and the annual UNLV dinner was expected to make a profit, according to the university. UNLV also raised nearly $235,000 from a pledge drive held during the dinner, the university said.

The dinner also honored the late Kitty Rodman, a longtime UNLV supporter, whose estate Monday donated a record high $12.9 million gift to the College of Education. The money will support scholarships and graduate fellowships for UNLV students studying special education.

Clinton was paid $225,000 for the hour-long event, including her speech and question-and-answer session, a fee that has been criticized because it’s coming from a non-profit educational foundation. UNLV student leaders also have called on Clinton to donate her fee to the university instead of giving it to her family’s Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

Under Clinton’s contract, the UNLV event initially was closed to media coverage. But she had a change of heart and last week UNLV said her 8 p. m. speech would be open to press coverage.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Clinton and former President Bill Clinton have made $100 million from speaking fees since leaving the White House in 2001. The high fees have become an issue even before Clinton officially announces a presidential run. Critics question whether she has lost touch with the middle class.

During her recent book tour, Clinton defended accepting high speaking fees by noting that she and her husband were “dead broke” when they left the White House.

Before the UNLV Foundation dinner, Clinton headlined a private Nevada Democratic Party fundraiser where donors were asked to contribute from $1,000 to $10,000 each. Money went to the state party and to U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., for his 2016 re-election campaign.

Denver Post: “Hillary Clinton campaigns for Sen. Mark Udall at Denver Union Station”

By Lynn Bartels

October 13, 2014, 6:09 p.m. MDT

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton surprised travelers at Denver Union Station when she and U.S. Sen. Mark Udall showed up Monday afternoon.

Clinton, the presumed frontrunner for the Democratic nomination for president in 2016, talked to shoppers and laughed with a barista when she ordered coffee as part her swing through various states to help Democratic candidates.

The visit to Union Station came after Clinton appeared at the Brown Palace for a fundraiser for Udall, who faces a tough election challenge from Republican Congressman Cory Gardner. Ballots for the Nov. 4 election will be mailed this week.

The Associated Press reported that while at Union Station, Clinton marveled at the barista's ability to draw a pattern in the foam atop their beverages; she got a smiling pig in honor of the shop's name, Pigtrain Coffee Co., Udall, a well-known environmentalist, a leaf.

"Is that a marijuana plant?" Clinton asked, laughing, a reference to Colorado's newly legalized recreational marijuana industry.

It was a return visit of sorts for Clinton.

In June, she and former President Bill Clinton chose Union Station's Great Hall for an evening event venue while finishing touches of its renovation were still under way, during the Clinton Global Initiative America conference. Bigwigs dined on food specially prepared by chefs from Denver restaurants and listened to music, weeks before Union Station's reopening.

Bill Clinton had been scheduled to headline a fundraiser for Udall on Sept. 27 but cancelled because of the birth of his granddaughter the night before. He spoke to donors by speakerphone.

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Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton swings by Colorado to help Udall"

By Nicholas Riccardi

October 13, 2014, 7:39 p.m. EDT

DENVER (AP) — Hillary Clinton swung by Colorado to help out embattled Democratic Sen. Mark Udall on Monday during a western swing in which she also spoke of being a new grandmother.

Clinton held a closed-door fundraiser for Udall, who is facing a tough challenge from Rep. Cory Gardner. They ordered coffee at Denver's refurbished Union Station, and she paused to shake hands, posed for photos and lent her political celebrity to the incumbent a day before ballots are mailed to voters.

The former secretary of state was quick to beckon 10-year-old Macy Friday out of the crowd of onlookers to pose for photos with her, her brother and her father Derek, who introduced his mother Elaine, who had just arrived from Ohio.

"Most important, she's the grandmother," Clinton said.

"You're a grandmother," Elaine Friday said.

"I know," said Clinton, whose daughter Chelsea gave birth to her first child on Sept. 26. "Isn't it the best?"

As they grabbed coffees at a shop inside the station, Clinton and Udall chatted about the next stop on her schedule — aMonday evening event for Nevada Democrats in Las Vegas. The two discussed Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

"He's a good leader," Clinton said of Reid, who has been used by Republicans to attack Democrats this year, including Udall.

Clinton also marveled at the barista's ability to draw a pattern in the foam atop their beverages — she got a smiling pig in honor of the shop's name and Udall, a well-known environmentalist, a leaf.

"Is that a marijuana plant?" Clinton asked, laughing, a reference to Colorado's newly legalized recreational marijuana industry.

Clinton is in the middle of a trip to support Democrats in key races, with stops in Kentucky, Iowa, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Udall can use her help. He's been deadlocked in the polls with Gardner since the congressman hopped into the race more than six months ago.

Bill Clinton had been scheduled to headline a fundraiser for Udall on Sept. 27, but ended up appearing by speakerphone after the birth of his granddaughter the night before.

Elko Daily Free Press opinion: Gregg Potter: "Proud to have Hillary Clinton at UNLV"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Gregg Potter

October 13, 2014

As a proud graduate of the University of Nevada Las Vegas, I am thrilled that Hillary Clinton is speaking at the UNLV Foundation's annual dinner Monday night. She is one of the most well-known and respected women in the world, and UNLV is lucky to have her. Her attendance will raise money for the University, the Clinton Foundation, and will add to the long list of work she has done to promote education in the United States and throughout the world.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported in early July that the UNLV Foundation had already raised an impressive $353,000, and that it expects to make a profit for only the third time in the event's history. Considering that was months ago, before individual tickets had even gone on sale, there is no doubt the event will be a huge success. And there is no doubt that Hillary Clinton will be the reason why.

The UNLV community won't be the only one benefiting from Hillary's appearance -- the speaking fee is going directly to the Clinton Foundation, her family's charitable foundation that contributes about $20 million every year to address the most critical problems facing people in this country and all over the world, including education.

But Hillary Clinton has done so much more to promote education than just raise money.

After law school, she worked for the Children's Defense Fund, the country's leading child advocacy organization that strives to level the playing field for all children by ensuring access to a quality education, among other things. In Arkansas, she led the effort to reform the state's educational system and improve academic standards. In the Senate, she fought to expand access to early childhood education for low-income children and make college more affordable and accessible. As Secretary of State, she made advancing education of girls around the world a major focus of U.S. foreign policy. And now, through her work at the Clinton Foundation, she's launched the Too Small To Fail Initiative to close the achievement gap for low-income children, and the CHARGE program to allow 14 million girls in the developing world attend secondary school.

She's taken real action that has made a real difference in the lives of so many people – including me.

I grew up in a rural Wisconsin town of 400 people. My family, like most in the town, didn't have a lot of money. But my mother worked hard to provide for my brother and me, and to ensure that we could have more opportunities than she did. It's what Hillary calls "the basic bargain of America: no matter who you are or where you come from, if you work hard and play by the rules, you will have the opportunity to build a good life for yourself and your family."

Even though UNLV is one of our country's great public universities that provides the quality education of a top-tier school without the exorbitant price tag, I still couldn't cover the costs on my own. Luckily, I received a Pell Grant, which are need-based grants from the federal government that do not have to be repaid. I took out student loans to pay for the remainder of the costs.

Because of Hillary Clinton's work in the Senate to increase funding to the federal Pell Grant program and to reduce the burden of student loan debt, I was able to receive a top-notch education without accumulating monstrous debt.

And it allowed and – inspired me – to pursue my education further at the Clinton School of Public Service, the nation's first school to offer a Master of Public Service degree. Stemming from Clintons' commitment to making the world a better place, the Clinton School combines academics with hands on service projects. From the concepts I learned in the classroom to my work to reduce the rejection of LGBT refugees in South Africa, the Clinton School gave me the tools to create positive social change. After graduation, I formed Project Kinect, to share those tools with other doers and help them make a real impact.

There is no better person to speak about education than Hillary Clinton, who has spent her entire career increasing educational opportunities for so many people, including me. I know we all will welcome her with open arms.

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CNN: "GOP spotlights fees ahead of Clinton Vegas fundraisers"

By Dan Merica

October 13, 2014, 1:43 p.m. EDT

Republicans looking to fault Hillary Clinton hope the few hours the former secretary of state will spend in Las Vegas on Mondaywill remind voters of her less-than-perfect book roll-out and high-dollar speaking fees.

Clinton, who starts her day in Denver for a fundraiser with Sen. Mark Udall, will make two appearances in Las Vegas on Monday. She will first headline a fundraiser for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid at the Aria Hotel and Casino, then the former secretary of state will keynote a fundraiser or the The University of Nevada-Las Vegas Foundation at the swanky Bellagio.

Republicans are seizing on the second speech, where Clinton, the prohibitive favorite for the Democrats' presidential nomination in 2016, will collect $225,000 for her appearance, according to event organizers.

Although a Clinton spokesperson argues that the fee will go straight to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, the former first lady's appearance in Las Vegas on Monday was possibly the most controversial and widely talked about paid speech Clinton was set to give this year.

"Clinton's Nevada Pay Day," said an email from the Republican National Committee. "As Clinton's Long-Awaited Silver State Pay Day Arrives, A Reminder Of The Troubles It Caused Her Would-Be Campaign."

"The much anticipated Hillary UNLV speech reminds us that Hillary's exorbitant fees and travel requirements are going to be problematic on her run for the White House," RNC Press Secretary Kirsten Kukowski said in an email.

When Clinton's appearance at the UNLV fundraiser was announced in June, students at the university protested the fact the foundation was spending money to bring Clinton in at the same time that their tuition was going up due to budget issues.

"In keeping with Secretary Clinton's long-standing history of advocating for students in higher education, we as student government leaders are asking that she charitably donate part or all of the $225,000 speaking fee she is reportedly making for this fundraising speech back to the UNLV Foundation of UNLV as a whole," Elias Benjelloun, the UNLV student body president, and Daniel Waqar, the student government's public relations director, wrote in a letter addressed to Clinton's foundation.

The letter goes on to ask Clinton "to do what is right" and donate the money. "This would be an incredible opportunity for Secretary Clinton to remain true to her commitment to higher education," they write.

The students, however, never heard from Clinton or the foundation, but are not planning to protest outside the event on Monday.

UNLV and Clinton have defended the event.

"Private donations secured by the UNLV foundation from donors funded her speaking fee which was paid to the Harry Walker Agency," Afsha Bawany, a spokesperson for UNLV, said over the summer. University administrators have also argued that the money the event will bring in will far outweigh the money paid the Clinton.

Clinton also told ABC News in August that "all of the fees have been donated to the Clinton Foundation for it to continue its life-changing and life-saving work."

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That hasn't stopped Republicans from using the fees to knock Clinton's comments on her personal wealth.

During the first interview of her book rollout Clinton argued that she and her husband were "dead broke" when they left the White House in 2000. The comment rang hollow, even to many Democrats, given that the Clintons went on to make millions on the paid speaking tour and in book sales.

Republicans used fees like that from UNLV to constantly remind people of Clinton's wealth and inarticulate comments for much of the summer.

"Greedy," said Tim Miller, executive director of America Risng, an anti-Clinton super PAC. "Hey kids, I know that tuition is skyrocketing and you all are loaded up with student debt but I'm going to go ahead and take in $1.8 million from your universities for 8 hours of speeches anyway," Miller said in an email to reporters.

Reid, who Clinton will appear with on Monday, did not pile on, however, and refused to criticize Clinton's UNLV speech.

"Anything we can do to focus attention on UNLV, that's extremely important to do, and this certainly will focus attention on UNLV, and that's why they have these people come," Reid told the Las Vegas Review Journal in June.

The Reid-Clinton relationship, especially in the context of Clinton's possible 2016 bid, has been on full display in the last six months.

Reid sent a fundraising email for Ready for Hillary over the weekend, touting Clinton as someone "doing everything she can" to help Democrats get elected in 2016.

The Senate majority Leader also invited Clinton to headline his green energy conference in Las Vegas earlier this year, where Reid said he had "such admiration for the Clinton family."

"She's the best," Reid said of Clinton.

Detroit News: "Hillary Clinton plans Oakland Univ. visit"

By Jim Lynch

October 13, 2014, 4:30 p.m. EDT

Hillary Rodham Clinton will arrive in Michigan Thursday to help boost two high-profile Democrats in their election campaign pushes.

The former U.S. secretary of state and Democratic U.S. senator from New York will appear in Rochester at Oakland University arena for a 3:30 p.m. event with gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer and U.S. Senate candidate Gary Peters. The event will be held at the O'Rena.

Tickets for the event are being offered free and will be available Tuesday at several Michigan Democratic Party offices in Metro Detroit starting at 10 a.m. The locations:

■17243 Mack in Detroit.

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■2642 E. Jefferson in Detroit.

■17100 W. 12 Mile in Southfield.

■29936 Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills.

■1205 N. Main in Royal Oak.

■4 N. Saginaw, second floor, in Pontiac.

■3518 Robert T. Longway Blvd. in Flint.

■29136 Ryan in Warren.

■33804 Schoenherr in Sterling Heights.

■23918 Cherry Hill in Dearborn.

■12844 Farmington Road in Livonia.

■3810 Packard, Suite 230, in Ann Arbor.

■2842 E. Grand River in East Lansing.

The visit follows high-profile events by other national politicians including first lady Michelle Obama, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and a visit Monday by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Elizabeth Warren Highlights Hillary Clinton's Goldman Problem"

By Peter Nicholas

October 13, 2014, 12:56 p.m. EDT

A large swath of liberals will be sorely disappointed if Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.) sits out the 2016 presidential election.

In Ms. Warren they see a feisty crusader for the underclass. When some liberals look at Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner, they see instead a mainstream figure who is too cozy with the Wall Street firms that helped trigger the financial collapse in 2008.

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As it stands now, Mrs. Clinton is almost certain to run in '16 and Ms. Warren is likely to opt out.

But Ms. Warren isn't shy about making known her view that the U.S. political system is "rigged" in favor of powerful interests, an argument that only makes the left pine for her all the more and keep the "Draft Warren" movement alive.

In an interview with Ms. Warren published Sunday in Salon, Thomas Frank, author of the book, "What's the Matter with Kansas," describes the freshman senator as "the single most exciting Democrat currently on the national stage."

She offers a mixed assessment of President Barack Obama's record. Though she praised him for establishing a consumer bureau aimed at protecting people from predatory lenders and rapacious credit card companies, she also said his economics team aligned itself with Wall Street. One of Mr. Obama's top economic advisers was Lawrence Summers, who made millions of dollars from the financial firm D.E. Shaw & Co. before joining the White House in 2009.

"They protected Wall Street," Ms. Warren said. "Not families who were losing their homes. Not people who lost their jobs. Not young people who were struggling to get an education. And it happened over and over."

She added: "At the same time, he [Mr. Obama] picked his economic team and when the going got tough, his economic team picked Wall Street."

Repeating a term she used in her Democratic presidential convention speech in 2012, Ms. Warren said the political system is "rigged" in favor of moneyed interests.

"It's the armies of lobbyists and lawyers who are always at the table, who are always there to make sure that in every decision that gets made, their clients' tender fannies are well protected," she said.

At the same time, "there are very few people at the decision-making table to argue for minimum-wage workers. Very few people."

Ms. Warren took no swipes at Mrs. Clinton. Along with other women Democratic senators, she has signed a letter supporting a Clinton presidential bid. But she did take aim at Goldman Sachs GS -0.90%, a firm with close ties to the Clinton family.

In the two decades since the Clintons arrived on the national political stage, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has been the couple's top Wall Street contributor, kicking in nearly $5 million to various Clinton causes.

Ms. Warren said in the interview that banking "regulators all meet with Goldman Sachs executives and employees day after day after day. They don't see the people who get tricked, the people who get cheated, the people who get fooled by the products that Goldman turns out."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Warren inches away from Obama"

By Peter Schroeder

October 14, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is beginning to distance herself from President Obama amid increased speculation about what role she wants to play in 2016.

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From charging that the president has “protected” Wall Street to voting against the administration’s strategy for arming the Syrian rebels, Warren is flashing an independent streak from her populist perch in the Democratic Party.

“What she’s trying to do is influence the debate. She is not somebody who is there to go along to get along,” said one financial industry lobbyist. “If you … want to be effective but you don’t want to run for president, then you do what she’s doing.”

Warren is in high demand as a campaign surrogate, and on Monday announced she would spend the final three weeks before the November election visiting some of the nation’s toughest Senate battlegrounds.

The campaign tour will take her to Colorado and Minnesota on behalf of her colleagues Sens. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) and Al Franken (D-Minn.), and Iowa, where she’ll be looking to bolster the candidacy of four-term Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa).

“If doing everything we can for 22 days means we'll be able to spend the next two years pressing forward in our fight to give just a little bit of relief to single moms struggling on minimum wage, or to college students getting crushed with loans, or to women who just want access to birth control, then I'm ready for that fight,” Warren said.

Warren has already visited 15 states to campaign for Democratic Senate and gubernatorial candidates, raising her profile at a time when liberal groups are pleading with her to mount a challenge to Hillary Clinton in 2016.

The senator has repeatedly ruled out a presidential run. Close observers doubt that she would take on Clinton, but they say it’s clear that she’s using her soapbox to try and pull the Democratic Party in a new direction.

“A rising populist tide is sweeping the country, and Elizabeth Warren is the guiding light setting the example for others in the party,” said Laura Friedenbach, spokeswoman for the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. “Warren is right to call out the party's failures to take on Wall Street, and we need more leaders in Congress like Warren who aren't afraid to stand up on behalf of their constituents.”

The latest shot across the bow came over the weekend, when Warren told the liberal media outlet Salon that Obama and his team “protected” Wall Street from the repercussions of the financial crisis.

“He picked his economic team and when the going got tough, his economic team picked Wall Street,” Warren said. “They protected Wall Street. Not families who were losing their homes. Not people who lost their jobs. ... And it happened over and over and over.”

Elsewhere in the interview, Warren credited the president for backing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau — her signature project before joining the Senate — and said the GOP’s policies are the real problem.

"Democrats have not done all that they should, but at least we’re out there fighting for the right things. We’re fighting and I think trying to pull in the right direction," she said.

Still, Warren is not shy of bucking the tide.

She was among just a handful of Democrats to vote against a bipartisan student loan compromise struck in the summer of 2013, arguing the government was profiting on the backs of struggling students.

Warren was also one of only 10 Democrats to oppose a government funding bill in September that gave Obama power to arm and train Syrian rebels, airing concerns about the U.S. getting involved in another Middle Eastern conflict.

Last fall, Warren was among a group of congressional Democrats who helped scuttle the possible nomination of Larry Summers to head the Federal Reserve.

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But while she has broken with party leaders occasionally, Warren has not adopted the pose of outside agitator, instead campaigning and fundraising on behalf of Democratic candidates around the country.

Democrats are well aware of how potent Warren's populist economic message can be with voters, and have embraced it with their "fair shot" agenda for the midterm elections.

Party leaders made Warren the face of one of Senate Democrats' top priorities this year, giving her the lead on a bill that would let borrowers refinance for lower interest rates.

Observers say Warren's outsized role for a freshman has already changed some of the calculus in the Senate, as members are wary of getting on the wrong side of one of her pet issues.

"It impacts how the Senate does things," said the lobbyist. "Getting Elizabeth Warren on board is a very big deal. … You've got to check that box."

The Daily Beast: Sally Kohn: "Warren and Christie Are the Anti-Hillarys"

By Sally Kohn

October 14, 2014

[Subtitle:] Warren hits Obama on Wall Street. Christie tells the right they'll have to live with him as is. Wish Clinton had a little of that moxie.

It's no wonder that despite the obstacle of Bridgegate on the one hand and the Hillary juggernaut on the other, rank-and-file voters across parties remain energized by the prospect of either Chris Christie or Elizabeth Warren running for president. In an era of politicians who are too cautious to take a bold stand on much of anything except for when it comes to the hyperbole of bashing the other party, Christie and Warren seem to be actual human beings—most importantly, ones with actual convictions that they're willing to stand up for, even if it means standing against their own parties. The contrast is even more stark in the context of Hillary Clinton: Elizabeth Warren has forceful policies, Chris Christie a forceful personality, but Hillary Clinton has neither.

In a recent interview with Salon, Warren doubled down on her criticism of President Obama for letting Wall Street off the hook in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. After Wall Street reckless crashed the entire United States economy, costing millions of Americans their jobs, homes, and savings, the Obama Administration put forward only modest financial reform laws and didn't prosecute a single culpable bank executive.

"[W]hen the going got tough, his economic team picked Wall Street," Warren said. "They protected Wall Street. Not families who were losing their homes. Not people who lost their jobs. Not young people who were struggling to get an education. And it happened over and over and over."

Warren echoed criticism she lobbed at President Obama in her book, A Fighting Chance, in which she cited Obama's lack of action on comprehensive financial reform as a significant "lost opportunity" to hold Wall Street accountable and fix the structures of our economy to make it work for the middle class.

Meanwhile, The New York Times published a story about Chris Christie's awkward courtship of evangelical Republicans. Christie actually siding with the Religious Right on a number of fundamental issues is somehow insufficient, the article accounts: "Although they are drawn to Mr. Christie's bumptious style, and believe that his opposition to abortion, their chief priority, is deep-seated, they feel he has crossed them on pivotal issues and at key moments."

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In other words, although anyone markedly more socially conservative than Christie stands no realistic chance of being elected President of the United States of America as the electorate becomes even more socially liberal, the right of the right is so damned determined to police the borders of its increasingly irrelevant influence that it is eschewing Christie for not being right wing enough.

Christie's attitude? According to the Times, "Asked about the depth of his conservatism this spring, Mr. Christie replied, 'I just act like myself and people take it or leave it, and I'm completely content with that.'" It's the sort of attitude that, I'll confess, makes Christie hard to dislike—in spite of all his anti-teacher, anti-gay, anti-woman policies. And it's the sort of attitude that has allowed him even still be toying with the presidency despite a year of seemingly disqualifying bad headlines.

Contrast both Warren and Christie with Clinton, the heir-apparent to the presidency as far as all the polls (PDF) so far are concerned. Clinton is cautious politically—trying, for instance, in her rhetoric to nod to the economic populism of the day while maintaining her allegiances to Wall Street. Or talking tough on foreign policy while trying to obscure the depths of a pro-war hawkishness for which voters simply don't have an appetite.

And it doesn't help that Clinton is also stylistically cautious—that every sentence she produces seems like a dehydrated piece of fruit that's then been chewed up and spit out by three focus groups before being spoon fed in its final bland and listless form to the American public. Sure, it's easy to get excited about the idea of Hillary Clinton—pioneering political figure who would break the ultimate glass ceiling if elected. But Hillary Clinton herself just ain't exciting.

The tide of politics would seem to be leaving a Clinton-type behind as we as a nation become more hyper-partisan and simultaneously more fixated on big personality-driven characters, from real housewives to TV anchors to the candidates for whom we vote. And yet just like Mitt Romney survived (for a while) by being the last guy standing, Clinton may win out through simple endurance in spite of all her counter-cultural downsides. Then again, Mitt Romney's primary opponents were perhaps a uniquely unqualified group of self-destructive yahoos.

Christie and Warren are real threats to Clinton both in real political terms, as potential opponents, but also conceptually in that their political talent spotlights Clinton's deficiency. Odds are that Warren won't run in 2016, but that she will wisely use the enthusiasm around her gift for authentically connecting with the populist outrage of voters to push an agenda with both Obama and Clinton, hopefully successfully nudging both further to the left—away from big business and Wall Street and toward middle class accountability.

On the other hand, Chris Christie will probably run—and the fact is that if he manages to survive the Republican primary process, even though the majority of American would side with Hillary Clinton especially on social policy (Christie is indeed far to the right of most voters), he would still pose a significant challenge because of his more winning personality. Without any real challengers, Clinton may be able to pull off looking populist and popular enough—but when the race gears up, the strengths of other candidates will simply emphasize her weaknesses.

Washington Post: "Can't quit Mitt: Friends say Romney feels nudge to consider a 2016 presidential run"

By Philip Rucker and Robert Costa

October 13, 2014, 5:10 p.m. EDT

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Officially, Mitt Romney returned to Iowa, the quadrennial presidential proving ground, to give a boost to Joni Ernst. But at a closed-door breakfast fundraiser here Monday, the first question from a donor had nothing to do with Ernst's Senate campaign.

"When you get elected to the Senate, your job should be to convince Mitt Romney to run for president again," a donor told Ernst, according to several attendees. The Republican candidate said she would, while Romney laughed.

When Romney and Ernst gathered in a West Des Moines boardroom with about 40 agriculture executives Sunday night, one businessman after another pleaded with Romney to give the White House another shot.

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And at a rally for Ernst in Cedar Rapids on Monday, the state legislator who introduced Romney said, "If his address was 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, I would sleep a lot better." After Romney and Ernst finished speaking, some activists chanted, "Run, Mitt, run!"

Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee and now the tacit head of the Republican Party, visited Iowa as part of a feverish nationwide tour designed to help the GOP take control of the Senate. He has insisted that he is not interested in running for president a third time. But his friends said a flurry of behind-the-scenes activity is nudging him to more seriously consider it.

Romney has huddled with prominent donors and reconnected with supporters in key states in recent months. Because of the vacuum of power within his party and the lack of a clear 2016 front-runner, confidants said Romney is grappling with this question: If drafted, would he answer the party's call?

Further juicing the speculation was a Des Moines Register-Bloomberg News poll released over the weekend showing that Romney is the only potential 2016 candidate who would beat Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) among likely Iowa voters, 44 percent to 43 percent.

People in Romney's vast political orbit who are waiting and wishing on him to launch another campaign said Romney has done little to quiet them and has been hazy about his plans following next month's midterm elections.

Former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty (R), who briefly ran against Romney in 2012 before becoming a close ally, said he wants to see Romney give it another go.

"There is a feeling that the country missed out on an exceptional president," Pawlenty said. "If he runs, I believe he could win the nomination and the general election. It'd be the right person at the right time, and I would encourage him to do it."

Pawlenty noted that Ronald Reagan ran unsuccessfully for president twice before being elected in his third attempt "and was stronger for it." In contrast with Romney, Pawlenty said, "the emerging class of Republican candidates is untested and unproven."

Within Romney's political network, there has been informal chatter about a third run since early 2013, according to people familiar with the discussions. It bubbled up in phone calls and at dinners and has gained steam this year. Requests continue to pour in for him to appear on the campaign trail, and advisers said he is eager to mount a multi-state fly-around swing beforeNov. 4.

In Iowa, however, Romney seemed uncomfortable with the 2016 talk. At the West Des Moines rally, he spoke for only five minutes, criticizing President Obama on income inequality, foreign affairs and other issues. When reporters tried to question him afterward, he sneaked into a dark maze of cubicles.

He also said that now that he was no longer a candidate, he had a joke to share involving Obama, golfer Phil Mickelson and tennis great Andre Agassi.

As Romney told it, Obama shows up at a bank to cash a check without his ID. The teller asks him to prove who he is, saying that Mickelson proved his identity by hitting a golf ball into a cup and Agassi proved his by hitting a tennis ball at a target. "Is there anything you can do to prove who you are?" the teller asks.

"I don't have a clue," Obama replies in the joke.

The crowd ate it up.

Former aides and senior Republicans say Romney appreciates the GOP masses crowing that he was right about issues such as Russia and health care. But what really intrigues him, they said, are the vulnerabilities among top-tier candidates in the Republican field. If Romney moves toward a race, it would be because he sees a path to victory.

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“It’s the market pulling him,” said Kent Lucken, a longtime friend and adviser who accompanied Romney to Iowa. “People look at Hillary as the likely Democratic nominee, and the party needs a strong leader who can stand up to her and who’s been through the process.”

Romney is returning to Boston on Tuesday for a dinner that he and his wife, Ann, are hosting for former campaign advisers and business associates. The event — to benefit neurological research at Brigham and Women’s Hospital — has Romney intimates abuzz.

Save-the-date notices have gone out for the third annual Romney policy retreat in Park City, Utah, in June 2015 — a signal that he wants a platform to promote his issues as the presidential primary campaign season gets underway.

Romney is also mingling privately with top donors who could fund a third campaign. Romney visited Sept. 23 with Joe Ricketts, a billionaire investor who finances the Ending Spending super PAC, at Ricketts’s palatial penthouse apartment covering the entire 78th floor of the Time Warner Center in New York.

On Oct. 6, Romney also took part in a GOP fundraising dinner at the Manhattan apartment of Woody Johnson, the New York Jets owner and former Romney campaign finance chairman. Several 2016 hopefuls gave presentations to the donors, while Romney served as a co-host and made no pitch.

At Johnson’s home, Romney and media magnate Rupert Murdoch spoke about Romney’s political future. According to two Romney allies familiar with the conversation, Romney was cagey with Murdoch but expressed concerns about the developing GOP field. Romney told Murdoch that he felt uneasy about the party’s non-interventionist drift on foreign policy and the base’s embrace of ideological hard-liners.

Many Romney boosters believe that his window of opportunity will be in mid- to late 2015, should Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) or Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) ascend and party establishment types turn to Romney as a savior.

If former Florida governor Jeb Bush (R) opts out of a campaign, “there is going to be more pressure on Mitt to go,” said Tom Rath, an influential New Hampshire Republican.

At a luncheon this month in Atlanta to help GOP Senate nominee David Perdue, “people sat up and paid attention” to Romney, said Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.). “I pulled him aside afterward to thank him for coming. He said he’s not running, and I take him at his word. But I don’t think the door is entirely closed, and circumstances can change.”

That phrase — “circumstances can change” — has been repeated by many Romney backers since the former nominee used it to describe his own thinking about 2016 in a radio interview last month with Hugh Hewitt.

Spencer Zwick, Romney’s former national finance chairman, talks regularly with Romney and said he has been receiving daily calls from donors and other supporters. “There are still plenty of donors who hope circumstances will change and there will be an opportunity for Romney to run again,” he said.

Zwick is part of a slimmed-down inner circle, including longtime advisers Beth Myers, Peter Flaherty, Stuart Stevens, Lanhee Chen and aides Kelli Harrison and Matt Waldrip, who are advising Romney on political activities this fall.

Romney traveled through Iowa with three trusted advisers and friends: David Kochel, Ron Kaufman and Lucken. He also reunited with supporters from campaigns past. In Cedar Rapids, Romney spotted Jim Wilson, a Virginia man who logged more than 40,000 miles chasing the GOP nominee from coast to coast in his campaign-festooned GMC pickup. The two hugged. “You son of a gun,” Romney said.

Another fan, Gary Chidester, 64, came to the West Des Moines rally with a full coterie of Romney paraphernalia for the former candidate to autograph: campaign placards, enlarged photographs and buttons of Mitt and wife Ann, and paperback and audio copies of Romney’s book “No Apology.” He also held a framed drawing that a friend gave him of a black cruise ship named Obama sinking into the sea and a white ship named Romney with the caption, “We’re here to save you.”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

“He’s the only qualified person to run this time,” Chidester said. “Mitt is a business genius. That’s why I’ve listened to this tape three times. He had it all down — he had Russia down, he had the debt down — and all the other Republicans are novices by comparison.”

CNN: “How many ways can Romney say no to 2016?”

By Ashley Killough

June 23, 2014, 12:08 p.m. EDT

With no clear frontrunner or obvious "next-in-line" candidate in the field of potential 2016 GOPpresidential contenders, Mitt Romney keeps getting asked if he's thinking about throwing his hat in the ring one more time.

But it's not entirely a far-fetched question.

A poll of New Hampshire Republicans and independents who lean that way found that Romney would be the 2016 frontrunner if he decided to run.

The 2012 GOP nominee has done little to stay out of the limelight, especially this year, as he gets involved in numerous races — including GOP primaries — and keeps up a fairly regular routine of media appearances.

He has assumed a sort of party elder role, and just finished hosting close to 300 major donors and politicians at his third annual Park City retreat.

He was asked as recently as last week on "Meet the Press" if he would still turn down another presidential bid -- even if drafted.

The former Massachusetts governor has been accused of flip-flopping in the past, but he's been pretty consistent on his future: He's a "no."

1. "I'm not running, and talk of a draft is kind of silly."

-- June 15, 2014, on NBC's "Meet the Press"

2. "I'm far from a kingmaker. I'm just one of those that wants to keep the conversation going and fighting for things I think will make a difference for my 22 grandkids...I'm not running."

-- June 13, 2014, on Fox "Your World with Neil Cavuto"

3. "The unavailable is always the most attractive, right? That goes in dating as well."

-- June 13, 2014, to The Associated Press

4. "I'm thinking about the people who I want to see running for president. ... I fully anticipate that I'll be supporting one of them very vigorously."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- March 23, 2014, on CBS' "Face the Nation"

5. "I'm not running for president. We've got some very good people who are considering the race. And I'm looking forward to supporting someone who I think will have the best shot of defeating whoever it is the Democrats put up."

-- February 16, 2014, on NBC's "Meet the Press"

6. "The answer is no, I'm not running for president in 2016. It's time for someone else to take that responsibility and I'll be supporting our nominee."

-- February 5, 2014, on CNN's "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer"

7. "I've had my turn, I gave it two good shots, didn't win and now it's time for someone else to do it. I'm not running for president. I made that clear the morning after the last loss."

-- February 5, 2014, on CNN's "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer"

8. "Oh, no, no, no. No, no, no, no, no. No, no, no."

-- January 18, 2014, to the New York Times

9. "I loved it. But look, I want to make sure that we take the country in a different direction. I think that Chris Christie and Paul Ryan and Jeb Bush and Scott Walker, and the list goes on, have a much better chance of doing that, and so I will support one of them as they become the nominee."

-- January 18, 2014, to the New York Times

10. "You know it was a fabulous experience, I loved it. But we're not doing that again."

-- November 15, 2013, on CBS' "This Morning"

11. "I'm optimistic a Republican is going to win in 2016. But I'm not going to be that guy. It will be somebody else that takes ... that mantle. And more power to them. I hope I can help them in some way."

-- June 2013, to CNN Chief Political Analyst Gloria Borger

12. "I won't get a third chance. I'm not doing it again. ... I'm not running for office. I don't have a big organization that's out speaking in my behalf."

-- March 3, 2013, on "Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace"

Oh, and Ann Romney is done, too.

"I think I'm over it. Life is good. Life moves on. There's woulda-coulda-shouldas, of course, that you feel all the time. But no, our life is wonderful and I'm very happy right now, in a good place."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

-- January 31, 2014, on Fox News with Bill Hemmer

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 15 – Louisville, KY: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Alison Lundergan Grimes (Politico)

· October 16 – MI: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Rep. Gary Peters and Mark Schauer in Michigan (AP)

· October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Senate Democrats (AP)

· October 24 – RI: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Rhode Island gubernatorial nominee Gina Raimondo (Politico)

· November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	pbarry122@gmail.com
To:	"big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date:	9/3/2008 1:08:13 PM
Subject:	[big campaign] Palin Doesn't Get Terrorism

http://www.democracyarsenal.org/2008/09/sarah-palin-doe.html

Sarah Palin Doesn't Get Terrorism
Posted by Patrick Barry

Sarah Palin said that Barack Obama isn't equipped to deal with the threat of nuclear terrorism, but in the only state where there are both terrorists and nuclear weapons, John McCain is the candidate who doesn't want to be bothered:

"I'm not going to go there ... because Pakistan is a sovereign nation."

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Clinton Foundation Press Office" <press@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	8/7/2015 1:11:56 PM
Subject:	Clinton Foundation News & Guidance 8/7/15

Good afternoon! We wanted to give you updates on recent events, Foundation work, and announcements in the news this week.

A recent article in **Nonprofit Quarterly** describes how the Clinton Foundation operates and the perils of misunderstanding philanthropy. It refutes a Wall Street Journal opinion piece in which the editors conflate the Clinton Foundation, a nonprofit whose staff works on the ground around the world to implement its programs, with the Clinton Family Foundation, a private foundation and the vehicle through which the Clintons direct their personal money to charitable causes of their choice, including the Clinton Foundation.

> *"The errors in the WSJ editorial are indicative of how much misunderstanding there is in the media as well as the general public about how the nonprofit sector works from a tax and regulatory perspective. The editorial also demonstrates the potential for damage such ignorance may cause for the sector as well as for well-known donors."*

Share this article on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/npquarterly/status/629404337630941186

Similarly, **Media Matters** provided clarity on the Clinton Foundation's role as a public charity.

> *A* Wall Street Journal *editorial conflated the public charity known as the Clinton Foundation with the private, personal Clinton Family Foundation in a misleading attack on Hillary Clinton's charitable giving -- and their misinformation made its way straight to Fox News primetime.*
>
> *Donating to their own internationally-renowned public charity seems like a logical thing the Clintons would do -- the fact is much of the Clintons' contributions also went to a variety of other charities, through their private Family Foundation.*

Share this article on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/grouchybagels/status/629372509008306176

Devex wrote about the Foundation's trip to Haiti and how the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership is helping Haitian women entrepreneurs with the innovative Chakipi model.

> *CGE Partnership, which creates social enterprises through impact investing in the developing world, has three enterprise models: supply chain enterprise, training enterprise and distribution enterprise.*
>
> *"It's just a very powerful model," Chuck Slaughter, the founder and CEO of Living Goods, told Devex. "It works everywhere. It crosses every political, geographic, economic, social context, with relatively little modification."*
>
> *The Clinton Foundation has the clout to connect and convene diverse partners, coupled with a huge budget that is only growing.*

Share this article on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/ClintonFdn/status/628671798687744000

In addition to Nonprofit Quarterly, several philanthropy-centric news outlets have commended the Foundation and discussed our life changing work**. Inside Philanthropy** wrote about economic growth in Appalachia:

> *At the latest Clinton Global Initiative, former President Bill Clinton announced the first-round investment closing of Appalachian Community Capital, with a lead investment of $3.45 million coming from [Appalachia Regional Commission].*

Share this article on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/InsidePhilanthr/status/629428017199230976

Patrick Welsh, who joined the Clinton Foundation's delegation trip to Africa**, penned an op-ed** about the Foundation's global, life-changing work and how it inspires him to make positive change in his home state of Mississippi.

> *The initiatives supported by the foundation alter the lives of individuals, communities, nations and the world in immeasurable, positive ways. Experiencing these actions first hand instilled a strong sense of pride in the former first family, the foundation supporters and the United States.*
>
> *Seeing all the great changes taking place in Africa's developing nations inspired me, because we have the same potential here.*

Share this article on Twitter here: https://twitter.com/clarionledger/status/627624125989675008

Finally, a piece in **Accounting Today** explained the difficulties surrounding charity evaluator ratings and how Charity Navigator couldn't rate the Foundation simply because they "cannot account for the charity's model with its methodology."

Hope you have a great weekend!

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From: "Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/25/2008 4:02:15 PM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain More Conservative Than Bush

July 26, 2008
Bush and McCain Seem to Diverge in Foreign Policy
By ELISABETH BUMILLER

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Senator John McCain have long been in agreement on major elements of American foreign policy, particularly in their approach to the “axis of evil” countries of Iran and North Korea, and their commitment to staying the course in Iraq.

But now the administration’s agreement to consider a “time horizon” for troop withdrawals from Iraq has moved it, at least in the public perception, in the direction of the policies of Senator Barack Obama. That has thrown Mr. McCain on the political defensive in his opposition to a timed withdrawal, Republicans in the party’s foreign party establishment say.

On Friday Mr. McCain went so far as to say that the idea of a 16-month withdrawal, which Mr. Obama supports, was “a pretty good timetable,” although he included the caveat that it had to be based on conditions on the ground.

Similarly, Republicans say that the administration’s decision to authorize high-level talks with Iran and North Korea has undercut Mr. McCain’s skepticism about engagement with those two countries, leaving the perception that he is more conservative than Mr. Bush on the issue.

Essentially, as the Bush administration has taken a more pragmatic approach to foreign policy, the decision of Mr. McCain, of Arizona, to adhere to his more hawkish positions illustrates the continuing influence of neoconservatives on his thinking even as they are losing clout within the administration.

Whether the perception of Mr. McCain as being at odds with the administration is politically advantageous for him is a matter of debate among his supporters, but many of his more conservative advisers do not think it is a bad thing.

“There’s no doubt, particularly as Bush has adopted policies in the direction of Obama, that that gives Obama bragging rights,” said John R. Bolton, the Bush administration’s former ambassador to the United Nations, who has sharply criticized the administration’s talks with Iran and North Korea. “But if you believe as I do that this administration is in the midst of an intellectual collapse, it doesn’t hurt McCain. Occasionally in politics it helps to be right.”

But other Republicans — the so-called foreign policy pragmatists, many of whom have come to view the Iraq war as a mistake — say the policy shifts by the administration highlight the more confrontational nature of Mr. McCain’s foreign policy, particularly in his approach toward Russia and his embrace on Friday of the Dalai Lama, whom the Chinese regard as the fomenter of a rebellion in Tibet. They say the meeting will only antagonize the Chinese before the Summer Olympics, and at a moment when the United States is seeking that country’s cooperation on economic issues and negotiations with North Korea.

The divisions within the Republican foreign policy establishment continue at a time when Mr. Obama, of Illinois, is trying to establish his own international credentials. Republicans worry that he is seizing the chance, helped with the boost from Mr. Bush, to command the American foreign policy stage.

“Bush and Obama seem to be setting the foreign policy agenda, and McCain seems to be reacting,” said Ken Duberstein, a former chief of staff to President Ronald Reagan.

The McCain campaign disputes the idea that Mr. McCain has been left out on his own by the president.

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“Does he feel he had the rug pulled out from under him by Bush?” said Randy Scheunemann, Mr. McCain’s chief foreign policy aide. “Absolutely not. John McCain has always said that he wanted the troops to come home. But he is opposed to an artificial date-driven timetable that ignores conditions on the ground and the advice of military commanders.”

In fact, Mr. Bush’s decision to accept a “general time horizon” for withdrawal from Iraq is still a long way from Mr. Obama’s proposal for a phased pullout, as the administration has not set any timeline.

Mr. McCain has on several recent occasions envisioned a date by when most American troops in Iraq would leave, although he has refused to call it a timetable. In a speech in Ohio in May, he declared that most American troops would be home by 2013. On Monday, in remarks at the side of the first President George Bush in Kennebunkport, Me., Mr. McCain embraced, if only in passing, the possibility of withdrawing most American troops from Iraq by the end of 2010.

On Friday on CNN, under questioning by Wolf Blitzer, he called Mr. Obama’s 16-month proposal “a pretty good timetable.” But the McCain campaign declined to elaborate Friday night on whether this represented a change in his views.

Mr. McCain’s advisers also say that he is not opposed to talks with Iran and North Korea, and that he supported the administration’s decision to send the under secretary of state, William J. Burns, to Geneva last week for talks with Iran and European officials about Iran’s nuclear program. But Mr. McCain is against any president-to-president negotiations without preconditions that Mr. Obama supports. (Mr. Obama’s advisers now say that the talks would occur only if Mr. Obama deemed them potentially fruitful.)

Mr. McCain’s campaign continues to be a microcosm of the ongoing Republican foreign policy battles between the pragmatists and the neoconservatives like Mr. Bolton, and it is still not clear where the balance of power lies within Mr. McCain’s inner circle. But so far the divide between the two within the campaign does not appear as deep as it did within the Bush White House, and advisers say Mr. McCain has been able to chose when there is a policy difference.

Mr. McCain’s advisers were divided, for example, over a speech he gave on nuclear security policy in Denver in May. Two Republican pragmatists who advise Mr. McCain, the former secretaries of state Henry A. Kissinger and George P. Shultz, supported a call in the speech for a nuclear-free world, an idea they endorse as part of a “Gang of Four” of national security statesmen. But other advisers to Mr. McCain were opposed to the idea because, in their view, nuclear weapons act as a deterrent against an attack on the United States and its allies. In the end, Mr. Lehman said, Mr. McCain made the call in favor of a nuclear-free world.

“He wanted to do it,” John F. Lehman, secretary of the Navy, said. “That position is McCain’s position. It’s not a cabal of Kissingerites or a cabal of neo-cons.”

But a number of Mr. McCain’s pragmatist advisers remain uneasy that conservatives close to Mr. McCain — among them Mr. Scheunemann and Robert Kagan, a scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace — will help Mr. McCain mold a more bellicose message than they would like on Iran and its threat to Israel, particularly at a time when there is widespread speculation in the Israeli news media that Israeli may bomb Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Others who were once uneasy about the influence of conservatives on Mr. McCain say that their worries have not been realized, even as Mr. McCain has taken conservative positions.

“What I’ve seen in the campaign so far to me demonstrates that McCain is his own man, and he’s not being managed,” said Lawrence Eagleburger, a secretary of state under the first President Bush.

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From:	NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	8/21/2015 12:02:54 AM
Subject:	First Draft on Politics: Rivals Can No Longer Ignore Donald Trump's Long Shadow

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8/21/2015 nytimes.com/firstdraft »

The New York Times
FirstDraft
What You Need to Know Today in Politics

Rivals Can No Longer Ignore Donald Trump’s Long Shadow

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Potential supporters lined up outside a town-hall-style meeting with Donald J. Trump in Derry, N.H., on Wednesday. Ian Thomas Jansen-Lonnquist for The New York Times

By Maggie Haberman

Good Friday morning. Even on vacation, ***President Obama*** *seeks to reassure on-the-fence supporters of the Iran nuclear deal that he will take a hard line in enforcing it. And as* ***Donald J. Trump*** *continues to drive both the polls and the news cycles, the ripples extend to his rivals' camps as they can no longer base their response on simply waiting for him to go away.*

As the dust from the first Republican presidential primary debate has settled, one fact has become as glaringly bright and clear as a golden hotel sign: **Mr. Trump** is not going away.

With the issue of illegal immigration as his energy source, Mr. Trump has not only survived any fallout from the Fox News debate, he has thrived. So Republicans are increasingly forced to find ways to respond, either by acting more like him (such as **Gov. Scott Walker** of Wisconsin and **Senator Ted Cruz** of Texas), or by acknowledging his power but respectfully disagreeing, like **Gov. John R. Kasich** of Ohio.

Then there's **Jeb Bush**, the former Florida governor who has seen his poll numbers fall since the debate, and who in the last two days has tried challenging Mr. Trump head-on. But that was after Mr. Trump stuck a rhetorical knife into Mr. Bush's craw, describing him as "low energy" in New Hampshire.

Mr. Trump's emphasis on immigration also took a violent turn in the last two days, as two men were charged in an attack on a homeless Hispanic man in Boston. One of the accused is reported to have cited Mr. Trump's views as an inspiration. Mr. Trump responded by calling his supporters "passionate," but he did not denounce

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the act.

Where Mr. Trump has a potential vulnerability is with social conservatives, and Mr. Bush has tried to remind people of Mr. Trump's past as an abortion rights-supporting Democrat. But such arguments, or any others, have so far been unable to slow Mr. Trump's mummylike creep forward.

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What We're Watching Today

- Americans for Prosperity, which bills itself as "America's largest center-right grass-roots organization" in pursuit of "lower taxes, less government, and an end to Obamacare," is hosting its ninth annual, "Defending the American Dream" meeting this weekend. On Friday, **Mr. Bush** and **Gov. Bobby Jindal** of Louisiana will speak, while on Saturday, **Mr. Cruz**, **Rick Perry** and **Senator Marco Rubio** of Florida will have their say.

- **Mr. Trump** will be in Mobile, Ala., where his venue was changed to a 50,000-seat college football stadium because the demand for tickets eclipsed the previous site's 1,950 seats.

At Large Rally, Cruz Casts a Wide Net for Evangelicals

Mr. Cruz's campaign team likes to talk about the Republican base as fitting into four tournament-style brackets : establishment/moderates, libertarian, Tea Party and evangelicals. While he has never tried to woo establishment voters, **Mr. Trump**, **Senator Rand Paul** of Kentucky and others have cut into his support among libertarian and Tea Party voters.

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But among evangelicals, Mr. Cruz has found a solid base, and he has made appeals to that bracket a core element of his campaign, evident in Friday night's "Rally for Religious Liberty" in Des Moines.

The rally, for which the campaign has received over 2,500 R.S.V.P.s as of Wednesday, materialized in the wake of the Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage, as the campaign read news reports of business owners struggling with the decision — hence the event's billing of "calling attention to the religious persecution of Christian business owners and employees."

Steve Deace, the conservative radio host in Iowa who announced his endorsement of Mr. Cruz on Wednesday , will play M.C., and two well-known Christian music groups will perform: Newsboys – of which Mr. Cruz counts himself a fan – and the Bontrager Family Singers of Kalona, Iowa.

The Cruz campaign's recent extended swing through the Southeast featured stops in churches and a retooled stump speech heavy with messages geared toward the faith community: calls to investigate Planned Parenthood, and, unsurprisingly, calls to "protect religious liberty."

– *Nick Corasaniti*

McCaskill Spurns White House Overtures on Path to Back Iran Deal

Most congressional Democrats who have decided their stance on the nuclear accord with Iran – whether for it or against – have boasted about their contacts with the White House, from **Mr. Obama** on down.

Not **Senator Claire McCaskill**, Democrat of Missouri, who threw her weight behind the nuclear deal on Thursday.

"The only call I got from the administration was from **Susan Rice**," Ms. McCaskill said in an interview, referring to the president's national security adviser. "And I told her to leave me alone."

Some people like to be courted.

Next Friday, via live webcast, **Mr. Obama** is going to court the Board of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, part of his effort to garner support for the deal.

"I did have a long talk with some very senior administration officials, and I mean, very senior, in which I laid out a menu of concerns," said **Senator Chris Coons**, Democrat of Delaware, who later in the interview let on it had been Mr. Obama and **Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.**

But Ms. McCaskill said she wanted to do her research on her own. In particular, she

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called representatives from each of the six countries that negotiated the deal, as well as the countries that actually hold Iran's frozen assets.

Her conclusion: "The more calls I made the more it became clear to me the new status quo if we reject the deal would be A) a much diminished United States in terms of its ability to influence international policy," she said. "The B) was, it's not clear to me they're not gonna get the money anyway."

– Jonathan Weisman and Michael D. Shear

Our Favorites From The Times

- **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont has drawn big crowds to his "Political Revolution," speaking to an angry vision of a broken system that requires fundamental change.

- **Martin O'Malley**, the former Maryland governor, unveiled a plan to expand Social Security, rejecting calls to raise the retirement age for the program, and, like **Mr. Sanders**, seeking an increase in benefits.

- And in a Quinnipiac University survey of voters in Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania, **Mr. Rubio** beat **Hillary Rodham Clinton** in a general election matchup by the widest margins of any Republican presidential candidate.

Carter Offers a Regret From His 'Adventurous, Gratifying Existence'

Former President Jimmy Carter disclosed the extent of his cancer diagnosis on Thursday and said he was at peace with whatever happens given his "exciting and adventurous, gratifying existence." But he did express some regrets, and one was particularly striking.

"I wish I had sent one more helicopter to get the hostages, and we would have rescued them, and I would have been re-elected," Mr. Carter said. He was referring to the failed 1980 Iran hostage rescue mission that ended in disaster in the desert when a helicopter crashed into a transport plane, a debacle often cited as contributing to Mr. Carter's loss to **Ronald Reagan**.

Besides raising the question of what the world would look like had there been no two-term Reagan presidency, his answer showed that the episode has clearly haunted him through a post-presidency generally considered very successful. The episode has also influenced military and rescue strategy. The specter of the Carter-era hostage failure was cited by several Obama administration officials as the reason **Mr. Obama** pushed for extra helicopters during the 2011 raid on the **Osama bin Laden** compound. And they were needed; one crashed while trying to land.

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– Carl Hulse

What We're Reading Elsewhere

- The Columbus Dispatch in Ohio takes **Mr. Rubio** to task for saying, in a speech in Detroit on Thursday, that the Wright Brothers were from Kitty Hawk, N.C., where they made their historic flight in 1903. But they were from Dayton, Ohio. "Ooops," **Jack Torry** writes in the paper , adding, "Getting things wrong about the Wright Brothers is a real sore point in Dayton, which likes to call itself the birthplace of aviation."

- CBS News looks at how the Black Lives Matter movement is affecting the campaign in both parties.

- CNN investigates the important role that **Mr. Cruz**'s wife plays on the fund-raising front.

- **Mr. Paul** turns to Bloomberg View to write an op-ed about why he wants more audits of the Federal Reserve.

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Petition Seeks a New Gig for an Out-of-Work Jon Stewart

Presidential debates are meant to be serious affairs, but a movement is growing to add some levity to the mix by recruiting **Jon Stewart**, the recently retired "Daily Show" host, to take a turn as moderator.

Nearly 100,000 people have signed an online petition urging the Commission on Presidential Debates to consider Mr. Stewart for one of the three final debates ahead of the 2016 election. Citing his Peabody Award and his experience interviewing world leaders, the petition suggests, "Choosing Jon Stewart would be a popular choice among voters."

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Mr. Stewart's presence in front of the debate stage would be a boon for ratings, but his left-leaning reputation could potentially irk a Republican presidential candidate.

If **Mr. Trump** makes it that far it would be his first time facing off with Mr. Stewart, who called the billionaire a gift from the comedy gods before he signed off from the show.

In a recent interview with The Hollywood Reporter , Mr. Trump said that he had enjoyed overshadowing Mr. Stewart's valedictory broadcast in the ratings with this debate performance on Fox, which drew record viewership. While he claimed to have "no problem" with Mr. Stewart, he did profess a preference for **Bill Maher.**

– Alan Rappeport

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/17/2008 1:34:20 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/17

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 17th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

9:45am BUSH: Briefed on Midwest flooding at the White House

10:20am BUSH: Meets with the former commander of the international security assistance force in the Oval Office

1pm McCain: Finance Luncheon in San Antonio, TX

3pm BUSH: Remarks in honor of Black Music Month from the White House

5pm McCain: Speech on Energy Policy in Houston, TX
- Tracking scheduled for this event

6pm McCain: Fund Raiser in Houston, TX

8:30pm McCain: Finance Dinner in Houston, TX

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain calls for end to offshore drilling ban (Houston Chronicle 6/17/08)
By BENNETT ROTH and RICHARD S. DUNHAM; Page A1
Republican presidential candidate John McCain, seeking to make amends with Texas energy producers who did not support him during the 2008 GOP primary season, said Monday that he wants to end a federal moratorium on offshore drilling and create "additional incentives" for states to approve new exploration ventures.
http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/5841366.html

McCain Seeks to End Offshore Drilling Ban (Washington Post 6/17/08)
By Michael D. Shear and Juliet Eilperin; A01
Sen. John McCain called yesterday for an end to the federal ban on offshore oil drilling, offering an aggressive response to high gasoline prices and immediately drawing the ire of environmental groups that the presumptive Republican presidential nominee has courted for months.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061602731.html
See WSJ- "McCain Would Relax Drilling Ban": http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121366426459579451.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox
See Politico - "McCain wants end to oil exploration ban": http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11127.html
See Washington Times - "McCain seeks to void ban on offshore drilling": http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jun/17/mccain-seeks-to-void-ban-on-offshore-drilling/

Is McCain Like Bush? It Depends on the Issue (NYT 6/17/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
The Democrats like to say that electing Senator John McCain would usher in the third term of George W. Bush, and they do not mean it as a compliment. The Republicans counter that calling the senator "McBush" is political spin and that Mr. McCain is his own man.

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http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/17/us/politics/17policy.html

Put Your Right Wing In, Take Your Left Wing Out (Washington Post 6/17/08)
By Dana Milbank; A03
If John McCain keeps dancing like this, he's liable to break a hip. Last month, he shimmied to the left on energy policy, infuriating conservatives with a plan to cap carbon emissions. Yesterday, he shuffled back to the right, demanding an end to quarter-century-old bans on offshore oil drilling.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061602148.html?hpid=topnews

McCain raises money from large and not-so-large donors in Dallas (Dallas Morning News 6/16/08)
By GROMER JEFFERS Jr. and TODD J. GILLMAN
John McCain hunted Dallas cash large and small Monday, scheduling a big-dollar donor meeting at the Belo Mansion and a gathering of younger contributors at a barbecue joint.
http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/localnews/stories/061708dnpolmccain.3d4bcb2.html

McCain using Ottawa as a backdrop? (Toronto Star 6/17/08)
By Tim Harper
Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., walks into the Federal Hall National Memorial for a town hall-style campaign event in New York City June 12, 2008
U.S. Republican presidential hopeful insists visit not a `campaign ploy,' just a chance to tout trade
http://www.thestar.com/News/USElection/article/444440

Are Dems talking about McCain's age in 'code'? (Politico 6/16/08)
By: Carrie Budoff Brown
In a campaign year marked by flare-ups surrounding comments that have offended one group or another, John McCain and Barack Obama have moved on to the next sensitive battleground: the question of McCain's advanced age.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11122.html

John McCain's favorite charity? (Baltimore Sun blog 6/17/08)
by Andrew Zajac
In 2001, John McCain helped found a northern Virginia think tank that has frequently taken policy positions that dovetail with his and provided paychecks to key political associates. The Reform Institute also has bent and may have broken rules governing non-profits, including one that requires charities to disclose their donors to the IRS.
http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com/news/politics/blog/2008/06/john_mccains_favorite_charity.html

McCain Adviser: Common Ground With Obama On Nukes Is At "90 Percent" (Huffington Post 6/16/08)
By Seth Colter Walls
"Campaigns are about contrasts," or so goes the election-year cliche.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/06/16/mccain-adviser-common-gro_n_107464.html

McCain Up With Global Warming TV Ad (The Page 6/17/08)
New 30-second spot airing in battleground states and national cable says the Arizonan starting fighting greenhouse gas emissions five years ago.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/06/17/mccain-up-with-global-warming-tv-ad/
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E1nB-3l4GE
Link to script of ad: http://thepage.time.com/2008/06/17/mccain-up-with-global-warming-tv-ad/

AFSMCE, MoveOn ad targets McCain on Iraq war (AP 6/17/08)
By Jim Kuhnhenn
A major labor union and the liberal organization MoveOn.org are joining forces to air a provocative new ad portraying John McCain's Iraq policy as a prolonged presence that would involve a new generation of Americans.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/news/ap/politics/2008/Jun/17/afsmce__moveon_ad_targets_mccain_on_iraq_war.html

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McCain proposes San Diego town hall (San Diego Tribune blog 6/16/08)
Still pressing for joint town hall meetings with Democrat Barack Obama, presumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain on Monday proposed a joint appearance when the two are scheduled to address the National Council of La Raza convention in San Diego next month.
http://weblog.signonsandiego.com/news/breaking/2008/06/mccain_proposes_san_diego_town.html

Obama Hits at McCain's Appeal to Women (ABC 6/16/08)
By JAKE TAPPER
'He's Been on the Wrong Side' of Women's Issues, Obama Tells ABC News
http://www.abcnews.go.com/WN/Vote2008/story?id=5177410&page=1

Obama hits McCain on women's issues (Boston Globe blog 6/16/08)
by Foon Rhee
Trying to stop John McCain from stealing female voters, Barack Obama today made directly the arguments that supportive women's groups have been making on his behalf: that McCain is no friend to women.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2008/06/obama_hits_mcca.html

McCain Says His Camp Unaware of Fund-Raiser's Rape Remarks (NY Sun 6/17/08)
Senator McCain said yesterday his campaign aides were not aware of offensive comments made by a former Texas gubernatorial candidate, Clayton Williams, when they scheduled a fund-raiser at his home.
http://www.nysun.com/national/mccain-says-his-camp-unaware-of-fund-raisers-rape/80144/

Rape joke returns to torment McCain campaign (UK's The Independent 6/17/08)
By Leonard Doyle
John McCain should have been fundraising in the Texas oil patch yesterday alongside his good friend Clayton Williams. In the town of Midland, Republican heavy-hitters were lined up to sign some equally weighty cheques for their man's presidential campaign.
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/rape-joke-returns-to-torment-mccain-campaign-848499.html

McCain, Obama offer different visions on taxes (AP 6/17/08)
By Liz Sidoti
Make more than $250,000 a year? Watch out. Barack Obama wants to raise your income taxes. Social Security taxes, too.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/news/ap/politics/2008/Jun/17/mccain__obama_offer_different_visions_on_taxes.html

Barack Obama answers John McCain's call to visit Baghdad (NY Daily News 6/16/08)
BY Richard Sisk
After yet another zinger about it from John McCain, Barack Obama Monday said he'll make a stop in Baghdad on the campaign trail before the election.
http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2008/06/16/2008-06-16_barack_obama_answers_john_mccains_call_t.html

Obama May Get Rural Votes on Farm-Subsidy Support, McCain Stand (Bloomberg 6/17/08)
By Alan Bjerga
Barack Obama, a black Democrat from Chicago's South Side, may win a healthy share of the rural vote for president. The reason: Republican John McCain's opposition to agricultural interests, including crop subsidies pending in Congress.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=amzfO.3yeb4g&refer=home

There at the beginning — and maybe at the end, too (The Hill 6/16/08)
By Aaron Blake
If loyalty ranks high on Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) checklist for a running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty has to be on his short list.
http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/there-at-the-beginning--and-maybe-at-the-end-too-2008-06-16.html

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McCain Camp Cribs Recipe For Cindy -- Again! (TPM 6/16/08)
By Eric Kleefeld
Another crack is showing in the McCain campaign's attempts at crafting a down-home image. The campaign contributed a recipe to Parents magazine, "Cindy McCain's Oatmeal-Butterscotch Cookies." However, it looks like it was copied directly from the Hershey's site.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/06/mccain_camp_cribs_recipe_for_c.php

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Contempt Of Courts: McCain's Posturing On Guantanamo (Washington Post 6/17/08)
By George F. Will; A17
McCain's posturing on Guantanamo is not only hypocritical, it's irresponsible.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061602041.html

Why Iraqis Back McCain (WSJ 6/1708)
By BRET STEPHENS; Page A21
However it turns out for John McCain this fall -- and so far he's running his general election campaign the way Gen. Ricardo Sanchez ran counterinsurgency ops -- the Arizona Republican is sure to carry at least one battleground state by a landslide. That state is called Iraq.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121366622024479591.html?mod=todays_columnists

Oil drilling wouldn't ruin ANWR (Columbus Dispatch 6/17/08)
By Jonah Goldberg
Sen. John McCain said last week he would not drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the same reason he "would not drill in the Grand Canyon. . . . I believe this area should be kept pristine." Pristine means unspoiled, virginal, in an original state.
http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2008/06/17/gold17.ART_ART_06-17-08_A7_8NAGPSK.html?sid=101

Democrat on Republican Action (The Page 6/16/08)
Obama team circulates blog post accusing McCain of misspeaking on his own emissions policy.
"He doesn't really understand cap-and-trade...."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/06/16/democrat-on-republican-action-8/
Link to Gristmill's "Depends on the definition of the word 'mandatory'": http://gristmill.grist.org/story/2008/6/16/124515/466

McCain or McBush? (Minneapolis Star-Tribune 6/16/08)
...On the Iraq war, McCain has been one of the president's biggest defenders of its stated rationale: saving the world from Saddam Hussein. Yet he was also an early advocate of increasing troop levels at a time when Bush was resistant, and was withering, from 2004 on, about Donald Rumsfeld, then defense secretary, and what McCain called Rumsfeld's "whack a mole" strategy of moving U.S. troops from one violence-plagued part of Iraq to another.
http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/president/19997899.html?location_refer=Entertainment

The Supreme Court Goes to War (WSJ 6/17/08)
By JOHN YOO; Page A23
Last week's Supreme Court decision in Boumediene v. Bush has been painted as a stinging rebuke of the administration's antiterrorism policies. From the celebrations on most U.S. editorial pages, one might think that the court had stopped a dictator from trampling civil liberties. Boumediene did anything but. The 5-4 ruling is judicial imperialism of the highest order.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121366596327979497.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

Another Bad Deal for Baghdad (NYT 6/17/08)
By KARL E. MEYER
WITH only perfunctory debate, the Bush administration is pressuring a divided Iraqi government to approve a security agreement that could haunt Washington's relations with Baghdad for years to come. The "strategic alliance" that President Bush is proposing eerily resembles, in spirit and in letter, a failed 1930 treaty between

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Britain and Iraq that prompted a nationalist eruption in Baghdad, a pro-Nazi military coup and a pogrom that foreshadowed the elimination of Baghdad's ancient Jewish community.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/17/opinion/17meyer.html?ref=opinion

The Torture Gambit (WSJ 6/17/08)
June 17, 2008; Page A22
Nearly seven years after 9/11, the U.S. homeland hasn't been struck again and American civil liberties remain intact. So how does Congress say "thank you"? By trying to ruin the men who in good faith set the legal rules that have kept us safe.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121366371989679409.html?mod=opinion_main_review_and_outlooks

After 75 Years, the Working Poor Still Struggle for a Fair Wage (NYT 6/17/08)
By ADAM COHEN
On the anniversary of the federal minimum wage, more attention should be paid to the working poor, who were hit especially hard by recent economic policies.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/17/opinion/17tue4.html?_r=1&ref=opinion&oref=slogin

School Choice Is Change You Can Believe In (WSJ 6/17/08)
By WILLIAM MCGURN ; Page A21
Barack and Michelle Obama send their children to an upscale private school. When asked about it during last year's YouTube debate, Sen. Obama responded that it was "the best option" for his children.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121366218446979283.html?mod=todays_columnists

BUSH NEWS

Bush coming to Midwest flood areas Thursday (The Gazette 6/16/08)
By Rod Boshart
President Bush will be traveling to the Midwest on Thursday to inspect flood damage, the White House confirmed Monday.
http://www.gazetteonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080617/NEWS/55286842/1006/news

Iran to Face New E.U. Sanctions, Brown Says (Washington Post 6/17/08)
By Dan Eggen; A12
British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced plans Monday for new European sanctions against Iranian banking, oil and natural gas interests, signaling a growing willingness by Western allies to join President Bush in punishing Tehran for its nuclear enrichment program.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061600313.html

White House May Keep Documents in E-Mail Flap Private, Judge Rules (Washington Post 6/17/08)
By Del Quentin Wilber; A03
The White House does not have to make public internal documents examining the potential disappearance of e-mails sent during some of the Bush administration's biggest controversies, a U.S. district judge ruled yesterday.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061600872.html

Second President Bush floats prospect of a third (CNN 6/16/08)
By Rebecca Sinderbrand
For only the second time in nearly three decades, there won't be a Bush on the presidential ballot this November. But that absence may not be a permanent one, the current White House occupants hinted Sunday.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/06/16/second-president-bush-floats-prospect-of-a-third/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Gore Endorses Obama as a Solver of Problems (NYT 6/17/08)
By JEFF ZELENY
Former Vice President Al Gore made his debut appearance in the presidential campaign here Monday evening, offering a vigorous endorsement of Senator Barack Obama and urging Democrats to keep in mind the consequences of not taking the general election with grave seriousness.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/17/us/politics/17campaign.html?_r=2&hp&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

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Link to McCain response: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-camp-response-to-gores-obama-endorsement/

Gore Gives Backing to Obama (Washington Post 6/17/08)
By Anne E. Kornblut; A07
Former vice president Al Gore finally stepped forward to endorse Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign on Monday night, telling a crowd of thousands at a hockey arena, "Take it from me -- elections matter." ...Obama sent a strong signal Monday that he is not considering Clinton to be his vice presidential nominee, through his selection of Patti Solis Doyle to be chief of staff to whomever he does choose. Solis Doyle was ousted as Clinton's campaign manager in February.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061601441_pf.html
Link to video: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/video/2008/06/16/VI2008061602424.html

Writing New Prescriptions For Change (Washington Post 6/17/08)
By Lori Montgomery; D01
From Capitol Hill to K Street, Washington is gearing up for another run at health-care reform.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/06/16/ST2008061602912.html

Obama Plans Spending Boost, Possible Cut in Business Tax
By BOB DAVIS and AMY CHOZICK; Page A1
Sen. Barack Obama shed new light on his economic plans for the country, saying he would rely on a heavy dose of government spending to spur growth, use the tax code to narrow the widening gap between winners and losers in the U.S. economy, and possibly back a reduction in corporate tax rates.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121366164848479237.html?mod=hps_us_whats_news

River towns warned: Build up levees quickly or get flooded (CNN 6/17/08)
* Rain could raise Mississippi River to a level where water will top 26 or 27 levees
* Two weeks of flooding in Iowa has left five dead and forced 38,000 from their homes
* FEMA has set up six disaster recovery centers in Iowa
http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/weather/06/17/midwest.flooding/

A Landmark Day in California as Same-Sex Marriages Begin (NYT 6/17/08)
By JESSE McKINLEY
With a series of simple "I dos," gay couples across California inaugurated the state's court-approved and potentially short-lived legalization of same-sex marriage on Monday, the first of what is expected to be a crush of such unions in coming weeks.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/17/us/17weddings.html?ref=us

NBC News Release on Russert Memorial Info (The Page 6/17/08)
Following is information on wake and memorial services for NBC News' Tim Russert:
PUBLIC VIEWING INFORMATION
The wake will be held Tuesday, June 17, from 2-9 p.m., St. Albans School, Cafritz Refectory, Mount St. Alban, Massachusetts & Wisconsin Avenues, NW, Washington, D.C. 20016.
http://thepage.time.com/nbc-news-release-on-russert-memorial-info/

POLLS

Poll Finds Independent Voters Split Between McCain, Obama (Washington Post 6/17/08)
By Dan Balz and Jon Cohen; A01
Buoyed by a public mood favoring Democrats, Sen. Barack Obama begins the general-election campaign holding a narrow advantage over Sen. John McCain, with independent voters emerging as a constituency critical to the Republican's hopes of winning the presidency in November.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061602690.html
Link to WaPo/ABC News poll data: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/documents/postpoll_061608.html

Views of candidates' qualities keep race close (AP 6/16/08)
By ALAN FRAM
Polls suggest views of Obama's, McCain's personal qualities keeping race close

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http://www.newsweek.com/id/141835

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To: 회원 <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 12/29/2015 7:11:36 PM
Subject: Global Asia Winter 2015-The East Asian Peace: How It Came About and What Threats Lie Ahead

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The *Global Asia* Team

Out Now: The East Asian Peace

How It Came About and What Threats Lie Ahead

It is now 35 years since more than a century of bloody wars came to an end in East Asia. But what are the deep reasons for this remarkable lasting peace, and how fragile is it amid a new set of regional challenges?



Cover Story

Stein Tønnesson

The East Asian Peace: How Did It Happen? How Deep Is It?

Introduction: How to explain the region's extraordinary 35-year period without major conflict.By Stein Tønnesson, Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Stein Tønnesson

Explaining East Asia's Developmental Peace: the Dividends of Economic Growth

The priority placed on development by East Asian leaders holds the clue to the

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region's long peace.By Stein Tønnesson, Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Joakim Kreutz

Outsiders Matter: External Actors and the Decline of Armed Conflict in Southeast Asia

What effects did changes in the US-China power struggle and the international system have?By Joakim Kreutz, Researcher at the East Asian Peace Program at Uppsala University's Department of Peace and Conflict Research

Elin Bjarnegård

Addressing Fear and Injustice to Create an East Asian Culture of Peace

Obstacles to true peace include domestic abuse as well as hostility toward other countries and religions.By Elin Bjarnegård, Associate Professor in the Department of Government at Uppsala University in Sweden

Isak Svensson

A Surprising Calm: the Religious Peace in East Asia

Religious conflict sparks wars around the world. Why has the tinderbox so far not been ignited in East Asia?By Isak Svensson, Professor in the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University

Holly L. Guthrey

Forgetting Undermines the East Asian Peace

Credible mechanisms to acknowledge past conflicts and openly deal with them is essential for lasting peace.By Holly L. Guthrey, Researcher at the East Asia Peace Program at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University

Erik Melander

Gender and Masculine Honor Ideology: Why They Matter for

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Peace

They enable history problems and power transitions to generate excessive hostility and fear, which may lead to war.By Erik Melander, Professor in the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University

Kristine Eck

Cracking Down on Conflict: East Asia's Repressive Peace

State repression and quashing of dissent in many of the region's nations means peace is enforced and therefore fragile.By Kristine Eck, Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University

Börje Ljunggren

The Chinese Dream: Does it Challenge East Asia's Peace?

Xi Jinping's nationalist "Chinese Dream" agenda has the potential to disquiet its neighbors and provoke antagonism.By Börje Ljunggren, former Swedish ambassador to China (2002-2006) and Vietnam (1994-1997)

The Debate

China vs. the US: Asia's Maritime Disputes

Zhu Feng

Are China and the US Headed for Confrontation in the South China Sea?

It is not inevitable, but 'real diplomacy' must prevail over 'gunboat diplomacy.'By Zhu Feng, Executive Director of the China Center for Collaborative Studies of the South China Sea, Nanjing University

Anthony Cowden

The Maritime Disputes in Asia: Why the Rule of Law Should Apply

For the sake of the future, it is time for the US to lay down a marker on the side of international law.By Anthony Cowden, a serving Surface Warfare Officer of the US Navy, and the author of The Naval Institute Almanac of the US Navy (Naval Institute Press, 2004)

Features

Walter C. Clemens, Jr

How to Deal with Kim Jong Un

Washington has a wide range of options, but none have yet worked and some are doomed. Engagement and negotiation, difficult as they are, are still the best choice.By Walter C. Clemens, Jr, Associate, Harvard University Davis

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Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies

Kent E. Calder

Asian Public Diplomacy in the US: China, Japan and South Korea

As Northeast Asians flock to live in the US, their home countries are trying to further their respective national interests.By Kent E. Calder, Director of the Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at the the Paul. H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC

T.J. Pempel

Thucydides (Clap)Trap: US-China Relations in a Changing Asia-Pacific

Power transition theory predicts a US-China war. But creative adaptation by leaders in both countries can avert armed conflict.By T.J. Pempel, Jack M. Forcey Professor of Political Science for Study of East Asian Politics at the University of California at Berkeley

Steven S. Nam

Finding Justice: Corporate Accountability and Korean Wartime Forced Laborers

Can fresh momentum in finding justice for victims heal the “memory politics” that dog Japan-Korea relations?By Steven S. Nam, Visiting Professor of Law at the University of California at Davis Law School

Beginda Pakpahan

Progressive Capitalism vs. New Socialism: Where Does Indonesia Fit?

The Southeast Asian giant’s approach, based on its founding principles of Pancasila, may have lessons for the rest of the world.By Beginda Pakpahan, a political and economic analyst on global affairs at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta

In Focus
Myanmar in the Region: Changing Relations with China, India and Thailand

Yun Sun, K. Yhome & Kavi Chongkittavorn

China in Myanmar: Muddling Through the Election Year

Recent political reforms have upended China’s strategic calculations and apparently unshakeable sway over Myanmar.By Yun Sun, Senior Associate at the Henry L. Stimson Center, Washington DC

K. Yhome

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Securing India's Northeast: Factors Driving New Delhi's Myanmar Policy

India has been recalibrating its diplomatic, security and economic approach.By K. Yhome, Research Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Kavi Chongkittavorn

Southeast Asia's Game Changer: Thai-Myanmar Relations

Why the rapid warming of relations promises to be a game changer for Southeast Asia. By Kavi Chongkittavorn, a Bangkok-based journalist and a senior fellow at the Institute of Security and International Studies

Book Reviews

John Delury, Taehwan Kim, Nayan Chanda & John Nilsson-Wright

Short Reviews

New titles by Tim Marshall; Nikolay Anguelov; Marcel H. Van Herpen; Jan Melissen and Yul Sohn (eds.); Feng Zhang; Sang-Young Rhyu; Peter Hayes and Chung-in Moon (eds.); Dominic Ziegler; T.N. Ninan; Richard Cockett; Jairam Ramesh; George Ehrhardt, Axel Klein, Levi McLaughlin, and Steven R. Reed (eds.); John Lie; Mark R. Mullins and Koichi Nakano (eds.).Reviewed by John Delury(*Global Asia* book review editor), Taehwan Kim(*Global Asia* book review editor), Nayan Chanda(founding editor of *YaleGlobal Online* and a *Global Asia* editorial board member) & John Nilsson-Wright(Head of the Asia Programme at the Royal Institute for International Affairs and a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Asian and Middle-Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge)

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Date:	7/25/2015 1:31:11 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 7.25.15
Attachments:	7.25.15 H4A News Clips.docx

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton Eyes Corporations in Proposals for Economy **// NYT // Maggie Haberman - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton made a case on Friday for weaning Wall Street from an addiction to profits, calling for a change to capital gains taxes for the highest earners and a string of measures to adjust the balance of power between corporate titans and their employees.

She also supported raising the minimum wage for fast-food workers to $15 an hour in New York, where a wage board this week suggested such an increase, but she also insisted that such a rise was not a one-size-fits-all approach for the whole country.

Amid pressure from the left to take a more aggressive approach toward the financial industry, Mrs. Clinton presented her proposals in a speech at New York University, the second major address of her campaign that focused on economic issues. The approach — suggesting, among other things, increasing transparency involving stock buybacks and executive compensation — is her first effort to take on Wall Street, without the gate-rattling that some more liberal elements of the Democratic Party have called for.

While the speech had a Wall Street overlay, it was more broadly about changes to corporate culture. Mrs. Clinton's aides say she plans to give a speech specific to Wall Street in the coming weeks.

Her plans won praise from a key centrist think tank but came under criticism from anti-tax groups and some liberal analysts, who were skeptical about how much change would result.

Among the splashiest ideas was a call to overhaul capital gains taxes imposed on those in the highest income bracket, families making more than $465,000 a year, so that people would hold on to stocks for longer, reducing corporate obsession with quarterly profits. That would encourage companies to focus more on investing in long-term growth and their work forces.

The new rate, along a sliding scale over six years of holding an equity, would increase from 20 percent to nearly 40 percent for investments that taxpayers maintain for one to two years, and would gradually decrease after that, back to 20 percent. The top rate would be the same as the highest tax rate for normal income.

"The current definition of a long-term holding period, just one year, is woefully inadequate," Mrs. Clinton said in the speech, without mentioning the specifics of the plan. "That may count as long-term for my baby granddaughter, but not for the American economy."

She added that businesses needed "to break free from the tyranny of today's earnings report so they can do what they do best: innovate, invest and build tomorrow's prosperity."

Mrs. Clinton's proposal to change capital gains rates for the highest earners is a plan that many of her Wall Street supporters endorse.

But at least some critics on the left raised questions about her overall approach. Len Berman of the Tax Policy

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Center described himself as “skeptical” about whether it would encourage companies to do more to treat workers as assets.

“The purpose seems to be to encourage companies to make longer-term investments,” he said. “I don’t know that it’ll really accomplish that goal.”

Others praised the plan.

“It was a thoughtful approach to reform that would actually help people, help the middle class, instead of a symbolic thing that might make people feel better but wouldn’t have any impact on people’s lives,” said Matt Bennett, head of the center-left think tank Third Way.

“I think this is a very good-faith effort to find every possible opportunity for government to improve the system, and sometimes that’s going to be marginal, sometimes that’s going to be substantial, but they’re doing their best.”

Mrs. Clinton strongly criticized “quarterly capitalism” and the focus on generating profits for short-term earnings reports.

“A survey of corporate executives found that more than half would hold off making a successful long-term investment if it meant missing a target in the next quarterly earnings report,” Mrs. Clinton said.

“Large public companies now return eight or nine out of every 10 dollars they earn directly back to shareholders, either in the form of dividends or stock buybacks, which can temporarily boost share prices,” she said. “Last year, the total reached a record $900 billion. That doesn’t leave much money to build a new factory or a research lab, or to train workers, or to give them a raise.”

She cited a report that said some Standard & Poor’s companies in the last decade had doubled “the share of cash flow they spent on dividends and stock buybacks” and “actually cut capital expenditures on things like new plants and equipment.”

Dominic Barton, the global managing director of McKinsey & Company, who coined the term “quarterly capitalism,” praised Mrs. Clinton for focusing on “more long-term capitalism, more investment.” But he did not endorse any of her specific prescriptions, and suggested that caution was important in terms of how changes to buybacks and dividends would be addressed.

Hillary Clinton on e-mail controversy: ‘Maybe the heat is getting to everybody’ // WaPo // Jose A. DelReal - July 24, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Friday criticized a news report that indicated the Department of Justice had opened a criminal investigation into whether she "mishandled" and distributed classified information via her private email address while serving as secretary of state.

“I want to say a word about what's in the news today. And it's because there have been a lot of inaccuracies as Congressman Cummings made clear this morning,” Clinton said at the beginning of a speech on the economy in New York. “Maybe the heat is getting to everybody. We all have a responsibility to get this right.”

The New York Times on Thursday published a story indicating that the Justice Department was investigating

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Clinton herself. On Friday, as more information became available, the Times issued a correction on the story noting that “the referral addressed the potential compromise of classified information in connection with that personal email account. It did not specifically request an investigation into Mrs. Clinton.”

The former secretary of state’s campaign forcefully pushed back, criticizing the reporting in the Times story and insinuating that the “inaccurate leaks” were politically motivated.

“It is now more clear than ever that the New York Times report claiming there is a criminal inquiry sought in Hillary Clinton's use of email is false. It has now been discredited both by the Justice Department and the Ranking Member of the House Oversight Committee,” said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill in a statement. “This indecent shows the danger of relying on reckless, inaccurate leaks from partisan sources.”

“I have released 55,000 pages of emails. I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House committee. We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right and I will do my part,” Clinton said Friday. “But I’m also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families.”

New York Times issues correction on Clinton email story **// CNN // Tom LoBianco - July 24, 2015**

The New York Times on Friday afternoon issued a correction to a high-profile story that suggested Hillary Clinton was the focus of a federal criminal investigation surrounding her use of private email -- potentially including classified information -- while leading the State Department.

The decision capped an earlier choice by the Times to walk back a tough lead on the story posted late Thursday -- which said a pair of inspectors general requested a criminal probe into Clinton's alleged sending of classified emails from her personal server. But the paper later backtracked, saying the probe was instead suggested for emails related to Clinton, though it didn't issue a correction until mid-Friday afternoon.

The Times amended its story to read:

"An earlier version of this article and an earlier headline, using information from senior government officials, misstated the nature of the referral to the Justice Department regarding Hillary Clinton's personal email account while she was secretary of state. The referral addressed the potential compromise of classified information in connection with that personal email account. It did not specifically request an investigation into Mrs. Clinton."

The Times' correction capped a day of confusion and some back-and-forth as reporters scrambled to find out precisely what type of probe was requested and whether Clinton had emailed any classified information using her unsecured, personal email server.

On Friday, CNN reported that the inspector general for the intelligence community had informed members of Congress that some material Clinton emailed from her private server contained classified information, but it was not identified that way.

Because it was not identified, it is unclear whether Clinton realized she was potentially compromising classified information.

The move on such a high-profile scoop was immediately panned by critics and the Clinton campaign. Clinton supporters sent around a tweet from former Nevada political writer Jon Ralston saying "This is just so, so dumb."

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Friday evening, Eileen M. Murphy, the paper's vice president for corporate communications, told CNN that the paper did not plan to comment beyond the correction.

But one of the reporters, Michael Schmidt, defended the first version of the story on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" Friday morning.

"We made a minor change to the story shortly after it went online that said the investigation was in connection with her email use," Schmidt said. "It didn't really deviate our story much from where we were before."

Schmidt said the Clinton campaign on Thursday, shortly before the story was published, "came at us very strong, and very late, and very forcefully."

Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill issued a statement on Friday that "It is now more clear than ever that The New York Times report claiming there is a criminal inquiry sought in Hillary Clinton's use of email is false."

He added, "This incident shows the danger of relying on reckless, inaccurate leaks from partisan sources."

Clinton on Friday afternoon addressed the controversy before a speech at New York University that focused on the economy.

"First, I want to say a word about what's in the news today. It's because there have been a lot of inaccuracies -- as Congressman (Elijah) Cummings made clear his morning. Maybe the heat is getting to everybody. We all have responsibility to get this right," Clinton said.

"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right and I will do my part," Clinton added.

Clinton: The tyranny of quarterly earnings hurts innovation **// Wired // Issie Lapowsky - July 24, 2015**

HILLARY CLINTON WANTS Wall Street to prize long-term success over short-term gains. And so, during a campaign stop at New York University's Stern School of Business today, the Democratic presidential candidate laid out a series of policy proposals that would encourage businesses to invest in the future.

The first of these changes would be an increase on capital gains taxes on wealthy investors who hold stock for just one or two years. Clinton also vowed to review regulations related to shareholder activity, in an effort to reign in activist investors, who Clinton says place undue pressure on public companies to boost their stock prices. These "hit and run" investors encourage companies to keep employee wages low and only make investments that will yield an immediate return for the next earnings report, Clinton said.

"It is clear the system is out of balance. The deck is stacked in too many ways, and powerful pressures and incentives are pushing it even further out of balance," Clinton said, adding that these policies are "bad for business, bad for wages, and bad for our economy, and fixing it will be good for everyone."

Clinton's criticisms will likely resonate with tech industry executives and venture capitalists within the tech industry who say businesses are facing mounting pressure from large investors seeking quick returns. Silicon Valley companies have faced pressure from activist investors like Carl Icahn, who has pushed Apple take short-

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term action to boost its stock price. Just this week, chip-maker Qualcomm responded to pressure from investor Jana Partners, announcing it would cut up to 4,500 jobs by the end of 2016. And Icahn was a key instigator of the recent split between eBay and Paypal.

The Problem of "Short-termism"

This "short-termism," as Clinton calls it, is a mindset that tech leaders find tough to grapple with and often blame for their post-IPO struggles. Former Twitter CEO Dick Costolo recently pointed to this practice as one of his chief challenges at Twitter. Meanwhile, prominent venture capitalists like Marc Andreessen have denounced activist investors publicly, saying at a recent Fortune conference, "We're in this kind of mode where public companies are being basically forced by pressure from activists and their investors to give back huge amounts of cash instead of investing it in their business."

This is the type of behavior Clinton hopes to dissuade by instituting policies that would help companies break free of the "tyranny of today's earnings report." That's the thinking behind Clinton's proposal of a capital gains tax increase on families earning $465,000 or more. The hike would tax any gains on stocks sold within the first two years as ordinary income tax. The tax rate would then decrease every year for six years until it returns to the current capital gains rate.

"This means that when investors buy into a company, they'll be more focused on its future growth strategy than its immediate profits," Clinton said.

While this type of urgency in investing is pervasive on the public market, Clinton did point to both Google and SpaceX as examples of companies that still manage to "invest in research that does little for today's bottom line, but may yield transformational benefits down the line."

Throughout, the former Secretary of State pushed for a return to the kind of long-term strategic thinking that yielded breakthrough technologies like the transistor and the PC. "What if Xerox had decided its Palo Alto research park wasn't doing enough to boost share prices in the short term?" Clinton asked. "A young Steve Jobs would never have visited, and the personal computer revolution might not have happened."

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Hillary Clinton Email Said to Contain Classified Information // NYT // Michael S. Schmidt and Matt Apuzzo - July 24, 2015

Government investigators have discovered four emails containing what they say is classified information on the personal email account that Hillary Rodham Clinton used as secretary of state, the investigators said in a letter to Congress released on Friday.

Mrs. Clinton, meanwhile, said Friday that she would stay focused on the issues at the heart of her presidential campaign, and that she was concerned about "a lot of inaccuracies" in the reporting of her personal email account.

"Maybe the heat is getting to everybody," she said at a campaign event at New York University.

"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part," Mrs. Clinton added. "But I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues, that really matter to American families."

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The government investigators discovered the four emails while reviewing a sampling of 40 emails from Ms. Clinton's account. Of those, four contained information that should have been marked classified and should have been sent and stored on a secure computer system, I. Charles McCullough III, the inspector general of the intelligence community, the internal watchdog for the nation's intelligence agencies, said in the letter to Congress.

Hillary Rodham Clinton responded to new accusations involving the private email account she used when she was secretary of state. By Reuters on Publish Date July 24, 2015. Photo by Michael Appleton for The New York Times. Watch in Times Video »

The emails were routed through a private email server that Mrs. Clinton set up in her home. Critics and security experts have questioned whether the practice made government secrets more vulnerable to security risks and hacking.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton's campaign released a brief statement on Twitter, saying, "Any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted."

The discovery of the four emails has prompted the inspector general to refer the matter to F.B.I. counterintelligence agents, who investigate crimes related to mishandling classified information. On Thursday night and again Friday morning, the Justice Department referred to the matter as a "criminal referral" but later on Friday dropped the word "criminal."

Regardless of the terminology, the referral raises the possibility of a Justice Department criminal investigation into Mrs. Clinton's emails as she campaigns for president. Polls show she is the front-runner for the Democratic nomination by a wide margin.

Justice Department officials said no decision had been made about whether to investigate.

Since Mrs. Clinton's use of a private email account for official State Department business was revealed in March, she has repeatedly said she had no classified information on the account.

State Department officials, however, told the inspector general that the account potentially contained hundreds of classified emails. When Mr. McCullough's investigators performed the spot check of 40 emails, he said, 10 percent contained classified information, he said.

A second inspector general, this one for the State Department, is also investigating the department's handling of Mrs. Clinton's emails. The two inspectors general have sent Congress a series of memos, including one dated June 29 that said Mrs. Clinton's private account contained "hundreds of potentially classified emails." The memo was written to Patrick F. Kennedy, the under secretary of state for management.

At issue are thousands of pages of State Department emails from Mrs. Clinton's private account. Mrs. Clinton has said she used the account because it was more convenient, but it also shielded her correspondence from congressional and Freedom of Information Act requests.

She faced sharp criticism after her use of the account became public, and subsequently said she would ask the State Department to release her emails.

The department is now reviewing some 55,000 pages of emails. A first batch of 3,000 pages was made public on

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June 30.

In the course of the email review, State Department officials determined that some information in the messages should be retroactively classified. In the 3,000 pages that were released, for example, portions of two dozen emails were redacted because they were upgraded to “classified status.” But none of those were marked as classified at the time Mrs. Clinton handled them.

In a second memo to Mr. Kennedy, sent on July 17, the inspectors general said that at least one email made public by the State Department contained classified information. The inspectors general did not identify the email or reveal its substance.

Hillary Clinton to Back $15 Fast-Food Minimum Wage in New York **// NYT // Maggie Haberman - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday will use a speech focused on growing the economy to endorse a $15-an-hour minimum wage proposal for fast-food workers recommended by a New York panel, a person briefed on her plans said.

The remarks from Mrs. Clinton will come in the city where the fast-food workers’ labor effort first started several years ago. A panel created by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Wednesday recommended the change; the increase will occur faster in New York City than other parts of the state because of the higher cost of living there.

Some Democrats are pushing for the federal minimum wage to be raised to $15 an hour, including two other candidates for the party’s presidential nomination: Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator, and Martin O’Malley, the former Maryland governor.

Mrs. Clinton has argued that the national minimum wage of $7.25 an hour needs to be increased, but she has not gone so far as to endorse an increase to $15. Her embrace of the New York recommendation for fast-food workers will be her first endorsement of a $15-per-hour minimum in any context.

In a town hall in New Hampshire, Mrs. Clinton suggested a nuanced view of the national minimum-wage debate, one that is more localized than a uniform change in federal policy.

“I think part of the reason that the Congress and very strong Democratic supporters of increasing the minimum wage are trying to debate and determine what’s the national floor is because there are different economic environments,” Mrs. Clinton said. “And what you can do in L.A. or in New York may not work in other places.”

1993 Video Reveals a More Impassioned and Direct Hillary Clinton **// NYT // Amy Chozick - July 24, 2015**

In 1993, with her father on his deathbed, Hillary Rodham Clinton was not yet a two-time presidential candidate. She was not a New York senator or the secretary of state. She was the president’s wife — a first lady who hosted the Easter egg roll and Christmas tree lighting at the White House, in addition to trying to overhaul the health care system.

But a speech Mrs. Clinton gave at the request of Liz Carpenter, the legendary (and legendarily pushy) press secretary of Lady Bird Johnson in Austin, Tex., showed the intellectual and philosophical worldview of a first lady who, for better or worse, was unlike any the country had seen before.

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The doctors in Little Rock, Ark., had just taken her father, Hugh Rodham, 82, off life support after he had a stroke weeks earlier. Mrs. Clinton, then 44 years old, traveled to Austin and delivered an unscripted, stream-of-consciousness address about the meaning of life, death and the need to remake civil society.

She does not mention her father by name, but she does quote, at length, Lee Atwater, the Republican strategist who died of cancer at age 40 in 1990. It is one of Mrs. Clinton's most revealing and existential addresses. An aide, Lisa Caputo, called the speech "cathartic."

Twenty-two years later, as I cover Hillary Clinton's second presidential bid, I see her approach each speech with the caution of a seasoned political candidate under the constant microscope of intense media coverage. I asked the University of Texas at Austin to find this never-before-seen video of her 1993 speech from its archives, and when the old VHS footage arrived, I was struck at how uncensored and direct she was then.

Ranking Hillary Clinton's e-mail problems **// WaPo // Amber Phillips - July 24, 2015**

There's a full-blown battle in Washington as to whether the personal e-mail account Hillary Clinton used while she was Secretary of State contained classified material -- and whether the government is asking for a criminal probe into that information being mishandled.

Here's the bullet-point details (we'll get into more later on):

Inspectors general for the State Department and intelligence agencies like the CIA and FBI sent a letter to Congress on Thursday analyzing whether Clinton sent or received classified information on her private e-mail account.

It's not clear whether she did. The Wall Street Journal says the inspectors general found four cases among 40 e-mails where she sent clearly classified information, despite denying ever having done so.

Congressional Democrats are coming to her rescue, saying the information was classified retroactively after she stepped down as secretary of state.

The New York Times reported the letter also referred to a criminal investigation into the classified information being mishandled. At least one Justice Department official is denying there was ever a referral for such an investigation.

Clinton released a statement Friday afternoon. "Maybe the heat is getting to every body," she said, adding she has released 55,000 pages of e-mails and offered to answer questions about them.

Clinton herself is not implicated in any wrongdoing in any of this, according to the Associated Press.

But headlines with the words "Clinton" "e-mails" and "investigation" are the last thing she needs right now. There's actually a lot going on with regard to her e-mails. Here's a ranking of the probes, possible investigations and reviews of the Clinton e-mails that her campaign is keeping an eye on, ranked in order of from "Keeping them up at night" to "Mildly annoying."

Keeping them up at night

A possible Department of Justice investigation

The New York Times reported Friday that inspectors general for the State Department and intelligence agencies like CIA and FBI have asked the Justice Department to open a criminal probe into whether sensitive information in connection to Clinton's private e-mail account was mishandled.

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A Justice Department official is denying officials asked for a criminal probe.

Rep. Elijah Cummings (Md.),the ranking Democrat on the congressional committee investigating the 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks while Clinton was secretary of state, says the inspectors general were merely pointing out that some information in her released e-mails was retroactively considered classified and should be adjusted accordingly.

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal obtained a copy of the letter the inspector general of intelligence agencies sent to Congress on Thursday. According to the Wall Street Journal, the inspector general concluded Clinton did send e-mails on her private account that were considered classified at the time -- at least four in the batch of 40 e-mails the investigators reviewed. (That's 10 percent for you math majors out there.)

All along, Clinton has maintained she did nothing wrong -- she's not the only agency head to use a personal e-mail address solely although she is the first Secretary of State to do it -- and she says she never talked about classified information on her personal account. And, of course, the news of an inspector general request for a criminal investigation could be wrong.

Here's her full statement Friday:

It's clear her team is incredibly frustrated that this is even news -- especially if the New York Times report of a potential investigation turns out to be false. To them, the damage has already been done.

Giving them indigestion

The State Department review -- and steady release -- of 55,000 pages of her e-mails

First, a reminder of how Clinton's use of a private e-mail account and server came to light, summarized by our friends at the Post's Fact Checker, who put together a helpful timeline:

In 2013, a hacker revealed Clinton had used a private e-mail account to conduct at least some official secretary of state business.

In 2014, a congressional investigation into Benghazi asked the State Department to hand over official documents, including Clinton's e-mails, relating to the deadly 2012 attack on U.S. diplomatic compounds in Libya. The State Department realized there were no records of e-mails sent or received on an official State Department e-mail account for Clinton.

In December, Clinton gave the State Department 55,000 pages of printed e-mails, and in March tweeted: "I want the public to see my e-mail. I have asked State to release them. They said they will review them for release as soon as possible."

In a March press conference, she told reporters she turned over 30,490 work-related e-mails to the State Department and deleted 31,830 e-mails she deemed to be personal.

The State Department is currently reviewing those 30,000+ e-mails and, in accordance with a federal judge's

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ruling, will release batches of them in monthly increments.

The first batch were released in July. They were kind of boring.

But what's giving the Clinton camp heartburn is the judge's ruling that the e-mails have to be released monthly. Clinton would rather have all 30,000+ released at at once, like ripping off a Band-aid. Now, her team must deal with a steady drip drip of monthly headlines, likely right up until the Feb. 1 Iowa caucus -- reminding voters she used a private e-mail account while secretary of state.

Mildly annoying

The (8th) Benghazi investigation in Congress

Yes, you read that right. House Republicans recently set up their eighth special committee to investigate what went wrong -- and whether Clinton did anything wrong -- in the Sept. 11, 2012, attack that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

A June 2014 Gallup Poll found most voters aren't paying attention to this latest investigation (previous investigations found Obama officials, including Clinton, did nothing wrong.)

But Clinton's team can't brush this off as a political sideshow just yet. She has agreed to testify at least once to the committee (date still pending) and a June Washington Post/ABC News poll found 51 percent of Democrats say Benghazi is a legitimate issue for Clinton in 2016.

And the longer news of her e-mails stay in the headlines, it's a safe bet the more scrutiny Republicans and America will give to Clinton.

Hillary Clinton is playing (home state) favorites on the minimum wage **// WaPo // Jim Tankersley and Lydia DePillis - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton said a few words about the minimum wage in a wonky economic speech on Friday, and she ended up endorsing a potentially huge disparity in worker pay across state lines.

It just so happens that her new position favors fast-food employees in New York, where she resides, over comparable employees anywhere else in the country - and it could increase the pressure from liberal activists for her to endorse a $15-an-hour minimum wage nationwide.

Here's the rub Clinton walked into: Workers at the Taco Bell in Binghamton, N.Y., are in line for a big raise in the next few years. The crew at the McDonald's in Hallstead, Penn., just 14 miles away, are not. That's because New York appears set to mandate a $15-an-hour minimum wage for fast food workers by 2021. In Pennsylvania, for now at least, similar workers can be paid as little as $7.25 an hour, the federal minimum wage.

If those figures hold, a full-time chalupa-maker in Binghampton would earn more than $31,000 a year -- in a county where the per-capita income is currently less than $25,000 a year. The burger flipper in Pennsylvania would earn about $15,000 a year, in a county with per-capita income just above $24,000 a year. That's a potentially massive difference in earning power.

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Clinton wants to raise the federal minimum wage, but she hasn't specified by how much.

At an SEIU-sponsored convention of fast food workers in early June, Clinton called in with a message of strong support, saying that more cities need to follow the lead of Los Angeles -- which had only weeks before voted to raise its minimum wage to $15. Some of the workers present took that as an indication that she supported a nationwide $15 wage, too. But in the following days, her campaign walked back those remarks, saying that specific plans would be forthcoming. And last week, she declined to support a $15 wage nationwide.

On Friday, though, she told an audience at NYU that “I agree with New York’s proposal this week to raise fast food workers’ wages to $15 an hour." She described the federal minimum wage as a floor and said cities such as Los Angeles - which recently voted to adopt a $15-an-hour minimum - should be free to set higher ones. In backing New York's move, she cited the high cost of living in Manhattan.

New York's fast-food wage hike, however, won't just apply to expensive cities. It will apply statewide.

So the question for Clinton now is whether low-income workers in low-cost parts of New York should get a larger raise than similar workers in other states -- and why? Put another way, if Clinton is willing to endorse a uniform $15 minimum wage across a diverse state like New York -- where average annual incomes range from $24,835 in Broome County to $62,498 in Manhattan -- why isn't she willing to support it across the country?

Campaign officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday afternoon. Representatives from the SEIU-backed Fight for $15 declined to comment.

New York Times says there was ‘no factual error’ in Hillary Clinton e-mail referral story // WaPo // Erik Wemple - July 24, 2015

Current New York Times lead: “Two inspectors general have asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account Hillary Rodham Clinton used as secretary of state, senior government officials said Thursday.”

Bold text added to highlight passive voice.

The original lead for the story was much the same, but with a key difference. The requests for a criminal investigation “into whether Hillary Rodham Clinton mishandled sensitive government information on a private email account she used as secretary of state,” as reported by Politico’s Dylan Byers.

Bold text added to highlight active voice.

One of the story’s reporters, Michael Schmidt, told Politico, “It was a response to complaints we received from the Clinton camp that we thought were reasonable, and we made them.”

In an e-mail to the Erik Wemple Blog, New York Times spokeswoman Eileen Murphy notes, “As often happens, editors continued to revise this story after initial publication to make it as clear and precise as possible. There was no factual error, so there was no reason for a correction.”

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NBC News also appears to have experimented a bit with its wording. Here's a tweet from early in the morning:

And here's the headline currently on the NBC News site:

Criminal Probe Sought Over Hillary Clinton's Email Account

Brian Fallon, press secretary for the Clinton campaign, has been vocal on Twitter today about the sourcing attached to the early accounts:

An Associated Press story this morning, meanwhile, confirms the requests from the Justice Department but notes, "One U.S. official said it was unclear whether classified information was mishandled and the referral doesn't suggest wrongdoing by Clinton herself."

These developments are just the latest step in Clinton's e-mail crisis, which started in March with revelations in the New York Times that she'd used a private e-mail server throughout her time as secretary of state. She said she didn't send classified information on those e-mails and the campaign has insisted that she complied with "appropriate practices." Campaign spokesman Nick Merrill told the AP that e-mails "deemed classified by the administration were done so after the fact, not when they were sent."

UPDATE: We asked Fallon whether he took issue with the New York Times's explanation that there was no factual error to correct. He responded, "Their lede last night has so far been directly contradicted by the Associated Press and via an on-the-record statement from the Ranking Member of the House Oversight Committee." That statement comes from Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), who has issued a statement saying that the State Department's inspector general "never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage," reads the statement. "Instead, he told me the Intelligence Community IG notified the Justice Department and Congress that they identified classified information in a few emails that were part of the FOIA review, and that none of those emails had been previously marked as classified."

"This is the latest example in a series of inaccurate leaks to generate false front-page headlines — only to be corrected later," said Cummings.

Justice: Probe sought in Clinton e-mails, but no 'criminal' focus **// WaPo // Fred Barbash - July 24, 2015**

The Justice Department said Friday that it has been asked to probe the "potential compromise of classified information" in connection with the private e-mail account Hillary Rodham Clinton used while serving as secretary of state.

The statement did not say who sought the investigation but noted that it was "not a criminal referral." Separately, Justice officials said no decision has been made on whether to move forward with the examination of the e-mails — which are already being reviewed by teams led by the State Department.

The comments sought to clarify the status of the request following a series of accounts. The New York Times first reported Thursday that the inspectors general of the State Department and the intelligence agencies had asked for a criminal investigation related to Clinton's e-mail account. Justice officials later confirmed to The Washington Post that a criminal probe was under consideration.

Then the Justice Department statement answered one question, but left another open. It said a "referral" was

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made, although it did not say who originated it. “It is not a criminal referral,” the statement said.

Clinton’s use of a private e-mail account was revealed in March. She set up an exclusive and private e-mail server for all of her departmental communications, but she has said she did not use it for classified information.

The State Department is currently reviewing some 55,000 pages of e-mails. About 3,000 have been made public so far, many of them with redactions that might indicate the presence of sensitive, if not classified, information.

Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign did not offer any comment Thursday night on the Times report.

This is Hillary Clinton’s Elizabeth Warren moment // WaPo // Max Ehrenfreud - July 24, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton will voice a far-reaching critique of the financial sector in a speech Friday, a major victory for Wall Street's critics.

The stock market, she will say, has become short-sighted, focused on measures of quarterly performance rather than the future viability of American corporations, according to aides. She'll describe worrisome consequences for investors, employees and the economy as a whole.

"Everything’s focused on the next earnings report or the short-term share price. The result is too little attention on the sources of long-term growth: research and development, physical capital, and talent," the former secretary of state said last week, previewing the theme of Friday's speech.

"It's easy to try to cut costs by holding down or decreasing pay and other investments to inflate quarterly stock prices, but I would argue that’s bad for business in the long run."

For decades, some economists and experts on the stock market have been saying that corporations place too much emphasis on generating cash in the short term for shareholders. These critics have warned that firms are passing up opportunities to train their employees, conduct research, or build new factories -- investments that would benefit shareholders and workers alike, but only over the long term.

It's easy to miss how radical this argument is, since many wealthy investors are making it, too. Yet this reasoning implies that some of Wall Street's basic assumptions are mistaken.

The financial sector operates on the principle that stock prices accurately reflect how much a company is worth, and that if share prices increase, then chief executive officers are doing their job well.

In an ideally functioning stock market, investors would buy up shares in the companies that were making wise investments for the long term, increasing share prices and rewarding more farseeing corporate leaders. They wouldn't have any reason to focus on the short term.

Yet critics say that in practice, investors are far from infallible, and they often can't distinguish between temporary factors and a stock's enduring, fundamental value.

"There is a growing consensus that at least for some firms, this is a problem," said Joan Farre-Mensa, an economist

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at Harvard Business School and part of a group that has studied decisions about investment in public firms.

He and his colleagues found that privately held firms invested at more than twice the rate of publicly traded companies, suggesting that pressure from Wall Street restrains investment.

The critique is a familiar one. Politicians such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) have aired these concerns before. Yet now Clinton is making what she calls "quarterly capitalism" part of the presidential campaign, nailing down the issue as a central plank in her economic platform.

Jared Bernstein, a former chief economist to Vice President Biden, argues that short-termism isn't just a problem for the financial industry. He and others believe that greater corporate investment could improve the economy as a whole and reduce inequalities of income.

Companies that spend money on training their workers improve those workers' wages over the long term. If they buy new equipment, they create opportunities for their suppliers and, in turn, their suppliers' employees. Dividends and share repurchases, by contrast, mainly benefit the wealthy investors who own stock.

"We're arguing about the game being rigged on behalf of the wealthy," said Bernstein, who wrote about Clinton's proposals on his blog.

Among them is a plan to alter the taxation of capital gains in ways that she hopes will encourage investors and corporate managers to take a longer view.

Currently, gains on investments held for less than a year are taxed as ordinary income, and at a lower rate if they're held for a longer period. Clinton is expected to propose raising the rate on taxes held for an intermediate period, from one year to a few years.

It's an idea that dates at least to an Aspen Institute committee, which issued a statement on the subject in 2009.

"The short-termers can come in and take a position that harms the company in the long term but produces short term benefits," said Lynn Stout, a law professor at Cornell University and a member of that committee. "If the market were perfectly efficient these short term tricks wouldn’t work, but nobody thinks the market is perfectly efficient any more."

Yet she said that changing the capital gains tax would have a limited effect on many of the most influential investors on Wall Street -- the big players that critics blame for the financial sector's focus on the short term.

Consider a hedge fund that takes a large position in a firm and then lobbies its leaders to sell assets and buy back shares, raising the price of the stock. The fund is likely managing the money for major investors such as university endowments and pension funds that are exempt from taxation.

"For most of the big companies, the big shareholders are institutions, who as far as I know are unaffected by this proposal," said Steven Balsam, an accounting professor at Temple University.

The same could be true of mutual funds if their customers are largely small-time investors saving for retirement in a 401(k) account.

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Short-termism is a problem, Balsam said, but he added, "We're not in a perfect world, and I don't know that any of the proposed cures won't make the problem worse."

Harvard's Farre-Mensa worried that by increasing taxes on capital gains in the medium term, Clinton's proposal would discourage investment overall as well as investment for the short-term.

"You might be ending up with a bunch of unintended consequences," he said.

There is some debate among economists about the relationship between capital gains taxation and investment. Bernstein does not believe that capital gains taxation has much effect on what people do with their money, and he doesn't think Clinton's proposal would drive people out of the stock market. Yet for the same reason, he said the plan might not discourage short-term bets, either.

"Certainly she's creating incentives that nudge things in the right direction, but I don't think I'd expect a big change in the investment outlook," Bernstein said. "More needs to be done."

Hillary Clinton Sent Classified Information Over Email While at State Department, Review Finds **// WSJ //**
Bryon Tau - July 24, 2015

An internal government review found that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sent at least four emails from her personal account containing classified information during her time heading the State Department.

In a letter to members of Congress on Thursday, the inspector general of the intelligence community concluded that Mrs. Clinton's email contains material from the intelligence community that should have been considered "secret"—the second-highest level of classification—at the time it was sent. A copy of the letter to Congress was provided to The Wall Street Journal by a spokeswoman for the inspector general.

As a result of the findings, the inspector general referred the matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's counterintelligence division. An official with the Department of Justice said Friday that it had received a referral to open an investigation into the potential mishandling of classified information. Initially, a Justice Department official said Friday morning the investigation was criminal in nature, but the department reversed course hours later without explanation.

"The department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information. It is not a criminal referral," an official said.

The four emails in question "were classified when they were sent and are classified now," said Andrea Williams, a spokeswoman for the inspector general. The inspector general reviewed just a small sample totaling about 40 emails in Mrs. Clinton's inbox—meaning that many more in the trove of more than 30,000 may contain potentially confidential, secret or top-secret information.

The inspector general's office concluded that Mrs. Clinton should have used a secure network to transmit the emails in question—rather than her personal email account run off a home server.

"None of the emails we reviewed had classification or dissemination markings, but some included IC-derived classified information and should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked, and transmitted via a secure network," wrote Inspector General I. Charles McCullough in the letter to Congress.

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The emails in question left government custody and are on both Mrs. Clinton's personal home email sever as well as a thumb drive of David Kendall, Mrs. Clinton's personal attorney.

Mrs. Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, said on Friday in New York that there were "inaccuracies" in reports about her email usage, but didn't offer specifics. She noted that she has voluntarily released 55,000 pages of email and offered to testify before a congressional committee.

"Maybe the heat is getting to everybody," Mrs. Clinton said, adding: "We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part. But I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families."

The State Department said on Friday that it didn't believe any of the emails Mrs. Clinton sent during her time in office contained any classified material.

"To our knowledge, none of them needed to be classified at the time," said Mark Toner, a department spokesman. Mr. Toner acknowledged that the department had determined that many of her emails now contained classified information but believed it was unclassified at the time.

The State Department has downplayed concerns about the classified material found in Mrs. Clinton's 55,000 pages of email—saying that email is often classified after it has been sent.

"It's not uncommon that something that you're sending now on an unclassified network could in later years or later months be deemed to be classified either because the passage of time made it so or because events on the ground have borne out," a State Department spokesman said earlier this month.

Those 55,000 pages are being reviewed for public release. In one instance, classified information has already been released to the public, the inspector general found.

Hillary Clinton Proposes Sharp Rise in Some Capital-Gains Tax Rates **// WSJ // Laura Meckler - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton on Friday proposed a sharp increase in the capital-gains tax rate for the highest earners on investments held only a few years, part of a broader effort to shift corporate America's focus from short-term gain to long-term investment.

"American business needs to break free from the tyranny of today's earning report so they can do what they do best: innovate, invest and build tomorrow's prosperity," the Democratic presidential front-runner said in a speech in New York. "It's time to start measuring value in terms of years—or the next decade—not just next quarter."

Under the Clinton plan, investments held between one and two years would be taxed at the normal income-tax rate of 39.6%, nearly double the existing 20% capital-gains rate. Neither figure counts an extra 3.8% tax on net investment income included as part of the health-care law, a campaign official said.

The campaign's proposal would affect only the top 0.5% of taxpayers. In 2015, the top bracket takes effect above $464,850 of taxable income for married couples filing jointly and $411,500 for single filers.

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The rate for top-bracket taxpayers would be set on a sliding scale, with the lowest rate applied to investments held the longest. To qualify for the current 20% rate, one would have to hold an investment for at least six years.

Mrs. Clinton, a former secretary of state and U.S. senator from New York, laid out in her speech what she sees as unhealthy corporate efforts to boost stock prices. She argued that a focus on short-term results undercuts longer-term economic growth and hurts American workers.

“Most CEOs are simply responding to very real pressures from shareholders and the market to turn in good quarterly numbers,” she said. “It is clear that the system is out of balance.”

She called for greater disclosure of stock buybacks by companies, saying that while they may give a quick lift to stock prices, they often come at the expense of research-and-development spending. She also called for a review of securities rules related to shareholder activism and rules governing tax treatment of executive compensation.

Some shareholder activists press for positive changes in management or for social responsibility, she said, but others are “hit-and-run” bullies who only want a quick payout.

To boost workers and their pay, she said she would fight for worker rights and encourage companies to invest in training, such as with an apprenticeship tax credit she already put forward. Mrs. Clinton also endorsed a proposed $15-an-hour minimum wage for fast-food workers in New York, saying the cost of living in a place like Manhattan is higher than elsewhere.

She added that politicians in Washington shouldn’t make the problems worse with budget showdowns and government shutdowns, and said what companies want most from the government is predictability.

The capital-gains tax changes are the centerpiece of her proposal. Campaign advisers say their goal is chiefly to change investor behavior, not to address income inequality or to raise money for the federal Treasury. One adviser said the campaign has no estimate as to how much money the changes would generate for federal coffers.

Under existing law, investments held for less than a year are already taxed at normal income-tax rates, and that wouldn’t change under the Clinton plan.

But her plan would affect taxes for the top-tier taxpayers who hold investments for anywhere between two and six years. For instance, investments held for two to three years would be taxed at 36%; those held three to four years would face a tax of 32%. The sliding scale ends at six years.

Some economists and many Republicans argue there is little the government can do to change corporate behavior. Republican presidential contenders by and large want to go in the opposite direction by eliminating taxes on investment income or at least reducing them.

Hillary Clinton to Propose Doubling Capital Gains Tax Rate on Short-Term Investments // WSJ // Laura Meckler - July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton will propose a sharp increase in the capital-gains tax rate for the highest earners for investments held only a few years, a campaign official said Friday.

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Under the Clinton plan, investments held between one and two years would be taxed at the normal income-tax rate of 39.6%, nearly double the existing 20% capital gains rate. Neither figure counts an extra 3.8% tax on net investment income included as part of the health-care law, a campaign official said.

The campaign's proposal would affect only the top 0.5% of taxpayers, hitting top-bracket single filers with taxable income above $413,201 and married couples filing jointly with taxable income above $484,850.

The rate for top-bracket taxpayers would be set on a sliding scale, with the lowest rate applied to investments held the longest. To qualify for the existing 20% rate, one would have to hold an investment for at least six years.

Mrs. Clinton will lay out the plan in a speech Friday in New York City, where she plans to spotlight what she sees as unhealthy corporate efforts to boost stock prices. She will argue that a focus on short-term results is undercutting longer-term economic growth and hurting American workers.

Mrs. Clinton will also endorse a $15 per hour minimum wage proposal for fast-food workers in New York, a campaign official said. Asked about this on Thursday, she hedged as to whether the minimum wage should be that high nationally but said certain cities can justify higher minimums. "I do recognize that the cost of living in Little Rock is different than the cost of living in Manhattan," she told reporters. Asked if $15 per hour is justified in New York, she said, "That's up to local leaders in New York. They certainly believe it is."

The campaign said she would also call for greater disclosure of stock buybacks by companies, saying that while they may give a quick lift to stock prices, they often come at the expense of research and development spending. She will also call for a review of securities rules related to shareholder activism and rules governing tax treatment of executive compensation.

The capital-gains tax changes are the centerpiece of her proposal. Campaign officials have said that their goal is not to address income inequality or to raise money for the federal treasury, but to change investor behavior.

Under existing law, investments held for less than a year are already taxed at normal income-tax rates, and that wouldn't change under the Clinton plan.

But her plan would affect taxes for the top-tier taxpayers who hold investments for anywhere between two and six years. For instance, investments held for two to three years would be taxed at 36%; those held three to four years would face a tax of 32%. The sliding scale ends at six years.

Her campaign labeled the short-term focus "the tyranny of today's earnings report" in its preview of the speech. The change in the capital-gains tax rates are meant to focus investors and corporations for the long term.

"Clinton will acknowledge that these changes to the tax code alone will not shift investors' focus from short-term to long-term overnight," the campaign said in previewing the speech. "But she believes this reform is a strong first step toward removing some of the incentives pushing us toward short-termism, and aligning investment toward long-term value."

Some economists and many Republicans argue there is little the government can do to change corporate behavior. Republican presidential contenders by and large want to go in the opposite direction by eliminating taxes on investment income or at least reducing them.

Campaigning in Greenville, S.C., on Thursday, Mrs. Clinton was asked how she thought her ideas on corporate

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America will be received. She declined to speculate but said: “I’m proposing policies that will make our economy stronger, that will promote both strong growth and fair growth but will do so with a longer-term perspective. That’s what I think is best for the country. I think it’s also best for business whether they agree with it or not.”

Her speech Friday is meant to explain how short-term outlooks helped produce near-record high profits but stagnant wages. The campaign cited studies showing that companies that increase spending on stock buybacks, sometimes in an effort to boost the share price, also cut spending on things such as new plants and equipment.

Mrs. Clinton plans to extol both the virtues and risks of shareholder activism, but it was unclear if her speech would ask for anything beyond a review of securities rules. The campaign said shareholder activists can often push a company to improve its operations, but can also pressure management to embrace measures that boost short-term stock performance at the expense of long-term growth.

On stock buybacks, the campaign noted that some countries require daily disclosures, whereas the U.S. mandates it only on a quarterly basis. She will call for greater disclosure in the U.S.

Clinton says nation's companies need to think long-term **// AP // Ken Thomas - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday that businesses need to "break free from the tyranny" of focusing too closely on quarterly earnings reports and take a longer view of the economy to boost wages.

The Democratic presidential frontrunner said she would seek to change the tax structure by raising capital gains taxes while also reviewing executive compensation rules and addressing shareholder activism that often encourages companies to focus on short-term profits.

"It is clear that the system is out of balance," Clinton said at New York University's Stern School of Business. "The deck is stacked in too many ways and powerful pressures and incentives are pushing it even further out of balance,"

Clinton's speech on economic growth and fairness offered some of her most detailed prescriptions for the economy as a presidential candidate. But much of it was overshadowed by fresh reports that federal investigators had asked the Justice Department to look into whether classified or sensitive government information had been transmitted from Clinton's personal email server while she served as secretary of state.

Clinton said at the outset that there had been "a lot of inaccuracies" in the reports and reiterated that she had released 55,000 pages of emails and would answer questions from congressional investigators.

On the economy, she said part of her agenda is meant to help young workers who have struggled in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Corporate America would need to take the lead in focusing on long-term growth, she said, but she aimed to help with that realignment.

"American business needs to break free from the tyranny of today's earnings report so they can do what they do best: innovate, invest and build tomorrow's prosperity," she said.

The centerpiece would be her plan to raise capital gains taxes for wealthy investors — couples earning more than $465,000 a year — through the creation of a six-year sliding scale. Under her plan, the capital gains rate for the top income bracket would be 39.6 percent if the shares were sold within a year, matching the top rate for ordinary income levels. After two years, the rates would decline, reaching 20 percent after six years.

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Republicans and conservative-aligned groups panned the approach, saying it would create new complications for business and wouldn't help the economy.

Americans for Tax Reform, a group founded by conservative activist Grover Norquist, said in a statement the plan would "only serve to distort capital markets" as investors buy and sell based on taxation considerations instead of "rational market signals."

Clinton would also offer tax incentives for small businesses, offering zero capital gains taxes on certain small business stock held for more than five years. And she would offer to eliminate capital gains taxes for certain long-term investments in hard-hit areas like inner cities, the Rust Belt, coal country and Indian country.

On executive compensation, Clinton said the tax code created incentives for CEOs and others to sacrifice long-term value in exchange for short-term boosts to the company's stock price. She urged a reexamination of that approach.

"There is something wrong when senior executives get rich while companies stutter and employees struggle," she said.

Clinton said she would seek a review of shareholder activism, arguing that some "hit and run" activists can have an unhealthy influence on corporate decision-making. And she outlined plans to seek a review of stock buybacks, which she said are often used by companies to boost share prices at the expense of long-term investment like research and development.

In new White House bid, Clinton embraces race as a top issue **// AP // Bill Barrow - July 24, 2015**

In her second bid for the presidency, Hillary Rodham Clinton is discussing "systemic racism" and making the issue a hallmark of her campaign as she looks to connect with the black voters who supported rival Barack Obama in 2008.

At multiple stops in South Carolina, Clinton on Thursday bemoaned "mass incarceration," an uneven economy, increasingly segregated public schools and poisoned relations between law enforcement and the black community. She praised South Carolina leaders, including Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, for removing the Confederate battle flag from statehouse grounds after a white gunman's massacre of nine people at a historic black church in Charleston, but she warned that the act is only symbolic.

"America's long struggle with racism is far from finished," the former secretary of state said before a mostly white audience at a Greenville technical college. Hours earlier, with a majority black audience at a West Columbia church, she declared, "Anybody who says we don't have more progress to make is blind."

At both stops, she added some symbolism of her own, trumpeting the mantra "Black Lives Matter," which has become a rallying cry of and name for the activists who have organized protests in several cities amid several high-profile cases of black citizens being killed during encounters with police.

"This is not just a slogan," Clinton said. "This should be a guiding principle."

The bold approach is a contrast to her 2008 campaign. That year, she didn't talk so directly about race as she

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faced off against Obama, who would go on to become the nation's first black president. Instead, she ran as the battle-tested, experienced counter to the first-term U.S. senator from Illinois.

Clinton doesn't frame her unabashed commentary on race in a political context; aides repeatedly explain her strategy as "working to win every vote" and nothing more. Yet it's clear that Clinton feels no constraints going into 2016, as perhaps she did eight years ago. It's also no surprise that her newfound freedom is on display in South Carolina. African-Americans make up about 28 percent of the population and a majority of the Democratic primary electorate, the first of the early-voting states to feature a significant bloc of black voters.

Obama trounced Clinton here in 2008, 56 percent to 27 percent, as many black voters flocked to his candidacy once he demonstrated white support in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary. That leaves Clinton both to reverse a bitter primary defeat, while using South Carolina as a test run for a potential general election in which she would need strong black support to reassemble Obama's winning coalition in swing states like Virginia, Florida and Ohio.

If Clinton's approach is born of necessity, it also comes with potential pitfalls.

Last month, she angered some activists by using the phrase "all lives matter" during a speech a few miles from Ferguson, Missouri, where Michael Brown died at the hands of a white police officer. Clinton used those words as part of an anecdote about her mother, whom she said taught her that "all lives matter," but some activists thought it demeaned the significance of the "Black Lives Matter" effort.

Her Democratic rivals Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders drew similar outrage last week at the liberal Netroots Nation convention. O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, ended up apologizing after snapping at hecklers: "Black lives matter. White lives matter. All lives matter."

Clinton said Thursday that she won't "comment on what anybody else said."

She also faces questions about her advocacy for tougher sentencing laws that her husband signed as president. Bill Clinton recently expressed regret over the laws, but his wife stopped short of calling the laws a mistake.

"We were facing different problems in the '80s and '90s," she told reporters, saying crime in cities "was causing an outcry across the nation," including in poor and minority neighborhoods. "I think now, 20 years on, we can say some things worked and some things didn't work," she continued. "One of the big problems that didn't work is that we had too many people, particularly African-American men, who were being incarcerated for minor offenses."

Clinton also must avoid any residue from Bill Clinton's remarks during and after the South Carolina primary in 2008. Clinton, who was extremely popular among black voters when he was president, expressed open frustration at Obama's rise. After Obama won South Carolina, the former president dismissed the victory as akin to Rev. Jesse Jackson's victory in 1988. A black South Carolina native, Jackson won the state's caucus that year, but he was never a serious contender for the nomination.

Meanwhile, Clinton says she will continue declaring that "black lives matter."

"I think this has become an important statement of a movement," she said, "to try to raise difficult issues about race and justice that the country needs to address."

Hillary Clinton's plan for corporate America // Politico // Annie Karni - July 24, 2015

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In her first big address detailing her approach to reforming Wall Street and corporate America, Hillary Clinton laid out a plan that would increase taxes on short-term investors. She also voiced support for more transparency when it comes to executive compensation and stock buyback transactions, and said she supports raising the minimum wage to $15-an-hour — at least in expensive cities like New York and Los Angeles.

Clinton's campaign has presented her proposals as more realistic than the progressive ideals touted by her Democratic opponents in the presidential race — with the benefit of even being palatable to many top corporate executives. But her speech still managed to find critics on both sides.

Clinton said she would reform capital gains taxes by moving to a six-year sliding scale to incentivize top earners to hold onto their stocks for longer. "The current definition of a long term holding period, just one year, is woefully inadequate," Clinton said during a 30-minute speech at New York University's Stern School of Business. "That may count as long-term for my baby granddaughter, but not for the American economy."

For taxpayers in the top income bracket — families earning more than $465,000 a year — any gains from selling stock in the first two years would be taxed at the higher ordinary income rate, Clinton said. The rate would decrease from there. Clinton did not provide specific numbers for the taxes in her speech. Those numbers were detailed only on her website: investments held between one and two years would be taxed just like regular income — at 39.6 percent, up from the current 20 percent capital gains tax rate. That rate would fall by four points every year after that, until it reached the current 20 percent rate after six years.

"The truth is her plan just makes more losers by crushing investors with higher taxes," said David McIntosh, president of the conservative Club for Growth activist group. "The fact is Hillary wants to punish success in order to grow government, and that means the biggest loser will be our economy. We need a capital gains rate that is consistent across the board — consistently zero."

On the left, some thought she did not go far enough. "We look forward to the Clinton campaign's big speech on systemic reforms," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "The American public will look to see if she is willing to challenge Wall Street power."

Her goal, Clinton said, was to foster long-term economic growth and ultimately raise incomes of the middle class. Clinton said real value comes from companies making long-term investments, including in their workforce. "You may have heard that I am a fan of Chipotle, and it's not just because of their burrito bowl," Clinton said, lauding the company for a new policy that provides paid sick days, paid vacation time and tuition reimbursements to its part-time employees.

As president, Clinton said she would look for ways to eliminate capital gains taxes all together for "certain long term investments in small businesses including innovative start-ups, and hard hit communities, from inner cities, to the rust belt, to coal country."

Clinton also called for more transparency in stock buyback transactions through more frequent reporting, and more information about executive compensation.

"Thirty years ago, top CEOs made 50 times what a typical worker did," she said. "Today they make 300 times more. That just doesn't make sense." She said there is no excuse for a five-year delay in implementing a statute of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform act that requires companies to publish the ratio between CEO pay and the pay of regular employees. "Workers have a right to know whether executive pay has gotten out of balance and so does the public," she said.

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She also expressed support for a $15-an-hour minimum wage proposal for fast food workers in New York, recommended earlier this week by a state panel. But she stopped short of endorsing a national $15 minimum wage, which her Democratic opponents Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley support.

"The national minimum wage is a floor and it needs to be raised," she said. But she warned, "the cost of living in Manhattan is different Little Rock and many other places." On the campaign trail in South Carolina Thursday, Clinton said a $10.10 national minimum wage would be a "good starting place."

Clinton's speech had been previewed by her top aides in the days leading up to her address as an important piece of her economic policy to ensure long-term growth. But on Friday, it was overshadowed by news that the Justice Department had been asked by two inspectors general to open a criminal investigation into whether classified information had potentially been sent from Clinton's personal email account during her tenure at the State Department. She briefly addressed the controversy before launching into her speech and vowing not to be distracted.

"I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House Committee," she said. "We are all accountable to get the facts right. I will do my part. but I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families."

GOP says Clinton must turn over server after news of probe **// Politico // Rachael Bade - July 24, 2015**

Revelations that Hillary Clinton received classified emails on her unsecured personal server set off partisan warfare on Friday as both parties argued over whether it could lead to a criminal investigation of the 2016 presidential front-runner.

Republicans and Democrats sharply differed in their interpretations of news that at least one inspector general asked the Justice Department to probe the matter, and whether it would implicate the former Secretary of State.

House Republicans say it seems suspicious, with House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) demanding that Clinton turn over her server.

"Two inspectors generals appointed by President Obama have now called on the Justice Department to investigate Secretary Clinton's mishandling of classified email," the Ohio Republican said. "If Secretary Clinton truly has nothing to hide, she can prove it by immediately turning over her server to the proper authorities and allowing them to examine the complete record."

But Democrats say a letter to Congress from one of the inspectors general includes details that absolve Clinton: According to the letter from the intelligence committee IG, the classified emails found by the watchdog were not marked as such, suggesting Clinton did not knowingly break the law, Democrats argue.

Knowing that something is classified, experts say, makes all the difference when accusing someone of leaking classified intel.

The New York Times first reported the news in a blockbuster story Thursday, writing that Obama Administration inspectors generals for the State Department and intelligence community asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal probe into "whether Hillary Rodham Clinton mishandled sensitive government information on a private email account she used as secretary of state."

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But the authors later revised the story — which had suggested Clinton was personally under investigation — following pushback from Clinton's campaign. The inspectors general were instead looking generally "into whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with" Clinton's emails.

And Democrats are now arguing that, technically, only one inspector general made a "referral": the intelligence watchdog.

The left jumped on the story, calling it inaccurate and irresponsible, with Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) saying Friday he "spoke personally with the State Department Inspector General and the Intelligence Community Inspector General together, and they both confirmed directly to me that they never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage." According to Cummings, they said the referral was a "routine' referral," and "they have no idea how the New York Times got this so wrong."

"This is the latest example in a series of inaccurate leaks to generate false front-page headlines — only to be corrected later — and they have absolutely nothing to do with the attacks in Benghazi or protecting our diplomatic corps overseas," he said.

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), the Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, in a statement called the whole mix-up "deeply irresponsible."

Democrats also pushed heavily back on the notion that anything was marked classified, pointing to an intelligence community inspector general letter to Congress that said they were not.

But "marked" turned out to be the key word — because they were indeed classified, even if they weren't identified as such.

The intelligence community watchdog found at least four emails, out of a small sample of 40, where "secret" classified information was shared between Clinton and the other parities, according to the letter sent to the Hill.

It's unclear why the emails were not encrypted with classification identifiers. Though one explanation could be that Clinton and her correspondents were simply talking about a classified topic, not passing an official documents.

It's also unclear whether Clinton or individuals on the chain knew the information was classified.

"We note that none of the emails we reviewed has classification or dissemination markings, but some included IC-derived classified information and should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked, and transmitted via a secure network," the letter reads.

Clinton, of course, used her own personal email account rather than an official State address as is required under government record-keeping rules. And she'd previously said she did not send or receive classified information on the server.

At the very least, the letter significantly undermines the claim that Clinton did not send classified emails, but whether criminal charges may follow is a different question.

Criminal probe or not, Republicans pounced and are likely to ask for an inspector general to review the matter independent of the Obama Administration-controlled Justice Department.

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They also want her server — or, to have her hand it over to the inspector general.

"Hillary Clinton's desire to play by her own rules may have further exposed classified information," said RNC Chairman Reince Priebus in a statement. "While a full investigation by the Justice Department is not just needed, but required, Hillary Clinton must also hand her entire secret server over to an independent third party for further review."

Despite the disagreement about the severity of the inquiry, the news offered some vindication for the House Select Committee on Benghazi Republicans, who for months have been trying to ward of accusations that they're on a witch-hunt aimed at making the 2016 democratic front-runner look bad.

Benghazi panel Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) in a statement said he "appreciates" that the IGs have "confirmed this is a serious and nonpartisan national security matter by any objective measure."

Gowdy, who has also called on Clinton to turn over her server, welcomed a Justice probe.

"This certainly merits further review by the Executive Branch to determine the legal and national security implications posed by the former Secretary's unusual email arrangement in order to mitigate any potential counterintelligence risks and minimize the damage caused by this scheme," he said. "These issues should be evaluated under the same strict standards that would apply to anyone found to be in possession of classified information outside of an approved system."

Hillary Clinton on email scandal: Everybody calm down // Politico // Josh Gerstein and Hanna Trudo - July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton on Friday sought to downplay the latest twist in the long-running scandal over her use of a private email server while she was secretary of state, saying reports of a possible criminal probe are full of inaccuracies.

News emerged on Thursday evening that at least one inspector general passed to the Justice Department evidence of potential mishandling of classified information, a referral that could lead to a criminal investigation.

Clinton on Friday said people are getting worked up over not much. "Maybe the heat is getting to everybody," she said, in remarks before a policy speech in New York on Wall Street.

She went on to express frustration over what she called erroneous reporting. "We all have a responsibility to get this right. I have released 55,000 pages of emails. I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House committee. We are all accountable to get the facts right. I will do my part. But I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families."

Clinton appeared to be loose with her phrasing, however. She has not personally released any emails to the public — only to the State Department, which is reviewing them for release in monthly batches.

The controversy has dogged Clinton for five months, at times overshadowing her on the campaign trail, and presenting one of the biggest outstanding risks to her bid for the presidency. The revelation that she used a private account, which represented a break from State Department protocol, has reinforced the reputation that the Clintons are secretive and operate by a different set of rules.

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The scandal could get more serious if a criminal probe is initiated, but it's not clear when or if that will happen, and there have been evolving reports in the past 24 hours.

The New York Times first reported the referral, and ended up making subtle, but significant alterations to its story late Thursday night, apparently in response to criticism from the Clinton campaign. The paper later attached a correction to the online story, saying a prior version misstated the nature of the referral to the Justice Department due to misinformation from senior government officials.

Clinton spokesperson Nick Merrill said about the New York Times story, "Contrary to the initial story, which has already been significantly revised, she followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials. As has been reported on multiple occasions, any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted."

Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said the campaign is pleased about the New York Times' correction but said the situation should have never happened.

"I think they got taken for a ride here by partisan sources," Fallon said on MSNBC's "Now with Alex Wagner" Friday.

He also criticized House Speaker John Boehner renewed demand that Clinton turn over her server immediately. He cited two inspectors general calling on the Justice Department to probe Clinton's mishandling of classified email.

"These statements that you've seen today from Speaker Boehner have deliberately mischaracterized" the situation, Fallon said.

In an attempt to clarify reports, a Justice Department official said on Friday, "The Department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information. It is not a criminal referral."

A spokeswoman for I. Charles McCullough III, the intelligence community's inspector general, confirmed that MCullough had contacted the FBI about a "potential compromise of classified information" regarding Clinton's email.

"It was a counterintelligence referral to the proper office at the FBI. It's up to them how to proceed," said the spokeswoman, Andrea Williams. "We also referred it to the appropriate security officials within the Intelligence Community. Our office is statutorily required to refer compromises of national security information. IG's don't work compromise cases."

In a letter sent to Congress late Thursday, McCullough said the State Department's recent releases of some of Clinton's emails — disclosures prompted by Freedom of Information Act requests and a court order for monthly posting of the emails online — had already led to "an inadvertent release of classified national security information." The State Department disputes that the information was classified, McCullough said.

McCullough also said he was concerned that Clinton's private attorney, David Kendall, reportedly continues to have copies on a thumb drive of the roughly 30,000 emails the former secretary returned to State in December at the agency's request.

Clinton campaign spokesmen had no immediate comment on the claim about the thumb drive. The campaign has rebuffed prior questions about what was done with the contents of about 26 emails State has deemed classified in the past two months.

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The overall impact of the scandal so far is hard to determine, but polling numbers show worrying signs. A Quinnipiac University Swing State Poll found last month that a majority of voters in three key swing states view Hillary Clinton as not honest and trustworthy.

Much of the dispute has revolved around the question of whether Clinton inappropriately was using her personal server to communicate about classified information.

Clinton has denied anything inappropriate.

“I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email,” she said in March. “There is no classified material. So I’m certainly well aware of the classification requirements and did not send classified material.”

But some of the emails have been deemed classified at later dates, muddling the issue.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the lead Democrat on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, which is probing Clinton’s email use, rose to her defense on Friday.

“The Benghazi Select Committee has obtained zero evidence that any emails to or from Secretary Clinton were marked as classified at the time they were transmitted, although some have been retroactively classified since then,” Cummings said. “This is the latest example in a series of inaccurate leaks to generate false front-page headlines — only to be corrected later — and they have absolutely nothing to do with the attacks in Benghazi or protecting our diplomatic corps overseas.”

Meanwhile, Republicans pounced on the latest revelation.

“Now we learn that Hillary Clinton’s desire to play by her own rules may have further exposed classified information,” Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement. “While a full investigation by the Justice Department is not just needed, but required, Hillary Clinton must also hand her entire secret server over to an independent third party for further review.”

The State Department is looking over more than 55,000 pages of correspondence provided by Clinton after her private email practices were made public. So far, 3,000 pages have been released, including some emails with redactions.

State Department spokesman Alec Gerlach said in a statement: “We are working with both the State IG and the Intelligence Community’s inspector general to ensure that our review of former Secretary Clinton’s emails is completed in a manner that protects sensitive and potentially classified information.”

The dispute over Clinton’s emails is playing out in multiple arenas, including federal court. Last week, State Department lawyers came under questioning by a federal judge regarding multiple pending Freedom of Information Act request from The Associated Press.

POLITICO obtained a transcript of remarks by U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Leon, who initiated the questioning.

“I want to find out what’s been going on over there — I should say, what’s not been going on over there,” he said,

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adding that the State Department “has been, to say the least, recalcitrant in responding.”

Hillary Clinton Faults ‘Hit-and-Run’ Activist Investors // Bloomberg // Brandon Kochkodin and Caleb Melby - July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton sharpened her criticism against what she sees as Wall Street excess by targeting investors who demand short-term corporate measures like share buybacks and dividends to pump up a company’s stock price.

“We need a new generation of committed, long-term investors to provide a counter-weight to the hit-and-run activists,” the Democratic presidential candidate said Friday in a speech at New York University’s Stern School of Business. She contrasted her favored approach with investors who agitate for immediate change “no matter how much it discourages and distracts management from pursuing strategies that would add the most long-term value.”

Clinton has made economic inequality a centerpiece of her campaign, and has previously said that the nation’s top 25 hedge fund managers earn more than all of U.S. kindergarten teachers combined. Still, she’s received donations from big-name fund managers such as Paul Tudor Jones, the billionaire founder of Tudor Investment Corp., and Jamie Dinan, who started York Capital.

The former secretary of state and U.S. senator didn’t single out any fund managers for criticism by name, nor did she cite specific confrontations that hurt companies’ prospects. She did say that businesses and the economy would have more sustainable growth if the focus turned to reinvesting capital.

“Real value comes from long-term growth, not short-term profits,” said Clinton, 67. “It comes from building companies, not stripping them; from creating good jobs, not eliminating them; from seeing workers as assets to cultivate, not costs to be cut.”

‘Quarterly Capitalism’

Third Point’s Dan Loeb and Paul Singer, who runs Elliott Management, are among money managers who pursue activist tactics and have donated to Republicans seeking that party’s presidential nomination. Loeb supported former Florida Governor Jeb Bush. Singer has hosted events for Bush, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Governors John Kasich of Ohio, Scott Walker of Wisconsin and New Jersey’s Chris Christie.

Clinton is proposing that the top 43.4 percent tax rate on short-term capital gains be extended to apply to assets held for less than two years, compared with the current one-year threshold. Beyond that, she would implement a sliding scale of long-term capital gains rates, and taxpayers in the top bracket would have to keep holdings for at least six years to get today’s rate of 23.8 percent, which would remain the lowest available.

She also faulted executive pay packages containing options and restricted shares, which she said contribute to “quarterly capitalism.”

Many stock-heavy pay packages “have created a perverse incentive for executives to seek the big payouts that could come from a temporary rise in share prices,” she said.

Hillary Clinton's Fix for Short-Termism? They Tried It in 1934 // Bloomberg // Peter Coy - July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton didn't mention 1934 in her speech today about fighting short-termism, but she could have. The last time the U.S. taxed capital gains roughly the way she wants to was from 1934 to 1941, from the depths of the Great Depression to the eve of World War II.

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In other words, when it comes to tax policy, everything old is new again. In a speech at New York University's Stern School of Business, the Democratic presidential candidate said that giving preferential tax treatment to investments that are held longer would give investors an incentive to be more patient so companies could embark on projects with big upfront costs and long-term payoffs. "We need a new generation of committed, long-term investors to provide a counterweight to the hit-and-run activists," Clinton said.

Will it work? It's hard to say. Economists have found little to no linkage between capital gains tax rates and growth rates of the U.S. economy over the years, says Len Burman, an expert on the topic who is director of the centrist Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center in Washington. "I'm sympathetic with the goal of encouraging long-term investment," Burman said, but added, "I don't think it's really going to do what she thinks it's going to do. ... I don't think this is a particularly well-designed instrument."

Capital gains taxes have fluctuated drastically along with changes in who runs Washington and also changing advice from the economics professoriate. From the start of the income tax in 1913 until 1921, capital gains were taxed the same as ordinary income, such as wages. Taxes on investments held for a longer period have been taxed lower most of the time since, with one year being the most common cutoff for short- vs. long-term. But from 1934 to 1941, taxation was graduated a bit like the way Clinton is proposing. Instead of having a lower rate on longer-held investments, the Internal Revenue Service excluded part of capital gains from taxation.

"For example, in 1934 and 1935, 20, 40, 60, and 70 percent of gains were excluded on assets held 1, 2, 5, and 10 years, respectively," according to an article by a Treasury Dept. staffer that was published in an encyclopedia. That changed in 1942, as the U.S. ramped up involvement in World War II and the tax system changed abruptly. There don't seem to have been any authoritative studies showing positive or negative effects of the Depression-era system—a difficult task considering everything else that was going on at the time.

Changing the tax code to combat short-term thinking is hardly a lefty fringe idea. Among the people who has been warning against short-termism in recent speeches is Laurence Fink, CEO of BlackRock, the world's biggest money manager, with more than $4 trillion in assets. "Even our tax code seems designed to encourage short-term strategies," Fink wrote in April in an essay on the website of McKinsey & Co., the blue-chip management consulting firm. "Paying significantly lower taxes for capital gains, a major component of tax policy, is predicated on one-year holding periods," Fink wrote. "Who really believes a one-year commitment is long term?"

McKinsey has also been warning that short-term thinking is harmful to long-term growth. "I don't think this alone will solve it but we've got to jolt the system out of its short-term mindset," Dominic Barton, the global managing director, said in an interview.

Capital gains are profits earned by selling investments for more than you bought them for. Clinton is proposing that the top 43.4 percent tax rate on short-term capital gains be extended to apply to assets held for less than two years, vs. the current one-year threshold. For two years and beyond, the tax rate would decline until reaching today's long-term rate of 23.8 percent for assets held six years or more. Those rates would apply to people in the highest tax bracket, those earning over $400,000 a year.

The trade group for private-equity investors is interested in what Clinton has to say. Private-equity investors usually invest for five to seven years, which would qualify them for low capital gains taxes under the proposal. "It seems like she wants to encourage investing for the long term, which is directly in line with the private equity model," says James Maloney, spokesman for the Private Equity Growth Capital Council.

But Clinton's plan also got some pushback. Alan Viard, an economist at the American Enterprise Institute, said it would "increase the tax system's bias against investment" by raising capital gains-taxes on investments held between one year and six years. He said it also worsens the lock-in effect—that is, it gives people a tax incentive to hold onto investments they would rather get rid of. That could involve keeping money in an old, tired company rather than investing in a promising start-up. Viard said that executive compensation might be a better avenue for

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addressing short-termism. (Clinton also said she wanted to do something about executive pay, including changing tax deductions on performance based pay, such as stock options.)

Burman, the tax scholar at the Tax Policy Center, said Clinton's implicit argument is that some activist investors force companies to abandon promising projects and return cash to shareholders, which the shareholders end up deploying in less worthwhile ways, Burman said. That may be true sometimes, he said, but if the activists did that routinely they would end up losing money. "Probably a lot of companies have cash on hand they don't have good prospects for. Activists are getting them to disgorge it. Unless they're systematically making misjudgments that's what you want them to do."

Clinton's proposal was surprisingly specific—surprising because the detail gives her opponents something to shoot at. "I like when people are putting stuff out in the open," said Robert Wolf, founder and CEO of 32Advisors, a New York-based advisory firm, and a supporter of Democratic candidates. "It allows us to have a real debate. I'd rather have this debate on tax reform and how to get middle income wages moving again than the debate the Republicans are having , which is just kind of hard to follow."

Hillary Clinton Adds Capital Gains Complexity With Tax Rise, 6-Year Wait // Bloomberg // Richard Rubin - July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton wants to raise capital gains taxes to encourage long-term investment, making it more expensive to sell stocks held for less than six years and adding complexity to the U.S. tax system.

Compared with today’s two-tier system -- a 43.4 percent top rate for assets held less than a year and 23.8 percent beyond that -- the proposal by Clinton, a Democratic presidential candidate, would create a six-rate structure for capital gains for high-income households.

For Americans in the top tax bracket, assets held for less than two years would be taxed at the top ordinary-income tax rate of 43.4 percent, according to the campaign.

The rate would drop to 39.8 percent after two years, 35.8 percent after three years, 31.8 percent after four years and 27.8 percent after five years. Taxpayers would have to hold onto assets for at least six years to get the 23.8 percent rate, which would remain the lowest available.

Clinton wants to push capital gains taxes higher than the 28 percent proposed earlier this year by President Barack Obama -- and higher than the 20 percent maximum Clinton advocated in her 2008 campaign for president. The former U.S. senator and secretary of state attributes her shift to an urgent need to address short-term thinking by investors and corporations.

Clinton’s proposal would raise taxes for the nation’s wealthiest households while encouraging buy-and-hold investing. Her plan would apply only in the top tax bracket -- currently taxable income exceeding $413,200 for individuals and $464,850 for married couples.

Top 1 Percent

Those levels are where capital gains are concentrated. The top 1 percent of U.S. households -- those with incomes exceeding $641,000 -- receive 75 percent of the benefits of today’s preferential rates for long-term capital gains and dividends, according to the Tax Policy Center. Almost half of the benefits go to the top 0.1 percent, those with incomes exceeding $3.3 million.

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Clinton's plan would have significant costs, tying up capital in investments that taxpayers would exit but for the tax cost.

And it's far from clear how well it would combat what Clinton and her allies see as a plague of short-term thinking in corporate America. Clinton is giving a speech Friday criticizing capitalism that's overly focused on the next earnings report, and she'll say that capital-gains tax changes alone won't alter that mindset.

"It's just very hard to make a connection between capital gains tax rates through the cost of capital to investment and then growth," said Joel Slemrod, a University of Michigan tax economist. "I see the point. It's a plausible point, but I just don't have any evidence to look at to judge whether this is going to have a big effect or small effect."

Third Proposal

The capital gains plan is Clinton's third major tax proposal of the campaign, along with tax credits for apprenticeships and profit sharing with employees.

In all of the plans, she's aiming to reshape corporate incentives beyond the near term to encourage sustained investment.

Clinton's proposal draws on work from the Democratic-aligned Center for American Progress and the Aspen Institute. Aspen proposed sliding-scale capital gains tax rates as part of an agenda against short-term thinking in a 2009 paper endorsed by billionaire Warren Buffett and John Bogle, founder of the Vanguard Group.

'Naturally Short-Term'

"What you're talking about is a natural human nature problem, the way our brains are wired to be naturally short-term," said Miguel Padro, senior program manager at the Aspen Institute. "The tax code is a potential tool to help combat that."

Two of Clinton's Democratic presidential rivals -- Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders -- have gone further in trying to end super-short-term thinking. They've endorsed a tax on financial transactions, which would reduce high-frequency trading.

The top capital gains rate has fluctuated over time, with a preference often included to encourage investing, limit double taxation of corporate income and counter the effects of inflation in a tax system that uses nominal dollars. The 1986 revamp of the tax code signed by Ronald Reagan set it at 28 percent, applying the same rate as ordinary income.

The rates diverged in the 1990s under Bill Clinton, with the capital gains rate hitting 20 percent, about half of the top rate on wages. President George W. Bush drove the capital gains rate to 15 percent before Obama and the Democratic Congress raised it to 23.8 percent.

Tax-Rate Sensitivity

Some investors -- particularly those who can wait to time their asset sales for tax purposes -- are highly sensitive

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to tax rates.

In 2012, U.S. taxpayers claimed 60.4 percent more in capital gains than they did in 2011, locking in lower rates before the 2013 tax increase took effect.

After an initial boost, higher tax rates discourage selling. This would be especially so in Clinton's proposed system, which dangles a lower rate for those who hold on longer.

"You're locked into BlackBerry, when all of a sudden there's Apple," said Mark Bloomfield, president of the American Council on Capital Formation, a Washington group that advocates lower investment taxes. "That's sort of the biggest problem with it."

The proposal stands little chance of success if Republicans continue to control Congress. That party's candidates are racing to reduce capital gains taxes -- and Senator Marco Rubio wants to eliminate them entirely.

Alvin Rabushka, co-author of flat-tax proposals that don't tax capital gains, said Clinton is taking the wrong approach.

"She couldn't be more wrong if she tried in raising capital gains rates," he said this week at a Heritage Foundation event. In Silicon Valley, where he's a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Rabushka said, "we're not interested in long-term preferences."

Hillary Clinton Calls for Investors to Escape 'Tyranny' of 'Short Termism' // Bloomberg // Jennifer Epstein - July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton will on Friday unveil a set of proposals aimed at encouraging companies and investors to favor long-term growth over the "tyranny of today's earnings report."

In the second economic policy speech of her campaign, to be delivered Friday afternoon at New York University's Stern School of Business, Clinton plans to offer up proposals aimed squarely at the nation's investor class. They range from overhauling capital gains rates and the taxation of executive compensation, to better policing of shareholder activism and stock buybacks.

The proposals appear calibrated to hit a sweet spot that will satisfy progressive Democrats while not angering Clinton's Wall Street donors.

The speech elaborates the bigger-picture economic address Clinton gave on July 13, in which she lamented that "today's marketplace focuses too much on the short term, like second to second financial trading, and quarterly earnings reports, and too little on long-term investments."

On Friday, a campaign official said, Clinton will argue that "short termism" is harming the economy and suggest that companies be incentivized by the federal government to make longer term investments in plants, equipment and people.

According to the campaign official, the ideas Clinton will present include:

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1. Overhauling capital gains taxes

For the top income tax bracket, capital gains taxes would be determined using a sliding scale, in which shorter-duration trades and gains would be taxed at a higher rate than longer term ones. Unlike the current tax code, which provides a preferential rate for all investments held more than a year, Clinton wants to make tax benefits greater the longer the investment is held. Clinton will acknowledge that changes to the tax code won't immediately change investors' behavior but believes it's a first step in realigning incentives.

The sliding-scale capital gains tax is an idea about which some Clinton allies have been publicly supportive. Last month, Neera Tanden, the president Center for American Progress and a longtime Clinton policy adviser, and Blair Effron, a co-founder of Centerview Partners who hosted a Clinton fundraiser in May, published a policy paper backing this approach.

2. Changing taxation on executive compensation

Clinton believes the tax code can be used to better align executives' financial interests with boosting long-term value. The former New York senator will say that the current tax code can create circumstances in which executives choose short-term bumps in share prices over long-term value and recommend re-examining the tax code to change those incentives.

3. Reining in activist shareholders

When shareholder watchdogs hold corporate management accountable, their activism can be a good thing, Clinton will say. But it can also go too far, and the "hit-and-run" approach of some can be detrimental to a company's long-term interest.

4. Disclosing of stock buybacks

Clinton will note that such buybacks are often used to boost short-term share prices at the expense of long-term investment, and will call for more transparency. Clinton will note that the United States only requires that companies disclose buybacks on a quarterly basis, while buybacks in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong must be disclosed with a day.

Clinton emails contained classified material: U.S. inspector **// Reuters // Jonathan Allen - July 24, 2015**

At least four emails from the private email account that former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton used while in office contained classified information, according to a government inspector's letter that deepened the email controversy dogging Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.

The inspector general of the intelligence community wrote in a letter to members of Congress on Thursday that a sampling of 40 of 30,000 Clinton emails found at least four that should have been classified as secret.

The information in the emails was derived from the U.S. intelligence community "and should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked and transmitted via a secure network," the inspector general, Charles McCullough, wrote. His letter was made available on Friday on a House of Representatives website.

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Clinton's use of her private email account for her work as America's top diplomat came to light in March and drew fire from political opponents who accused her of sidestepping transparency and record-keeping laws.

The former first lady has said she sent no classified information on her private email account. The inspector general's comments left open the possibility that Clinton sent or received emails with classified material that she was not aware of.

The front-runner to represent the Democratic Party in the November 2016 election, Clinton has repeatedly said she broke no laws or rules by eschewing a standard government email account.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement she "followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials."

Clinton handed over some 30,000 emails from the private account to the State Department after she quit in 2013, but many thousands of others that she says are not related to her work were deleted.

"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part," Clinton said at a speech in New York, noting she had handed over tens of thousands of pages of emails.

McCullough said State Department officials had told his office "that there are potentially hundreds of classified emails within the approximately 30,000 provided by former Secretary Clinton."

Republicans in Congress and on the presidential campaign trail have seized on the email scandal to portray Clinton as continuing secretive practices they say they also characterized President Bill Clinton's eight years in office.

While Clinton faces little competition for the Democratic Party's nomination, several recent polls have found a majority of voters find her untrustworthy, a perception exacerbated by controversy over her emails. The U.S. Justice Department said on Friday it is weighing a request by two government inspectors to look into the possible mishandling of classified information from Clinton's private email account.

The department said earlier in the day it had been asked to treat the issue as a potential criminal matter, but later backtracked to drop a reference to any criminal investigation.

Clinton proposes tax, buyback changes to encourage long-term growth // Reuters // Jonathan Allen and Luciana Lopez - July 24, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton proposed U.S. corporate tax reforms on Friday including a sliding scale for capital gains taxes, greater transparency for stock buybacks and changes in executive compensation to encourage long-term economic growth.

Clinton, in a speech in New York, said institutional investors have an obligation to counter "hit and run" activist shareholders. She also said the U.S. government needs to "stop pouring subsidies into industries that are already thriving," such as the oil industry.

Clinton, front-runner in the race for the Democratic Party's nomination, is working to draw in progressive voters in her party while not alienating big-money donors from Wall Street as she seeks to build a broad coalition going into the general election in November 2016.

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But Clinton was criticized by Republicans, who generally prefer less regulation of capital markets.

A spokesman for Republican candidate and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio said in a statement that Clinton's tax policy was outdated.

"Hillary Clinton’s tax proposal picks winners and losers," said the spokesman, Alex Conant, "and ultimately leaves behind the working class."

Clinton called for government and private companies to join in the fight against "quarterly capitalism."

"It's bad for business, it’s bad for wages and it’s bad for our economy," she said of short-term thinking at the expense of long-term growth.

Clinton argued that the tax code and U.S. laws currently allow or even encourage companies to focus on short-term gains in stock prices in a way that undercuts the economy's long-term growth and harms middle-class incomes.

The former U.S. senator and secretary of state also said "there is something wrong when senior executives get rich" while companies and workers suffer.

"How do we define shareholder value in the 21st century?" Clinton asked. "Is it maximizing immediate returns or delivering long-term growth?"

Companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 stock market index spent $566 billion buying back their shares in 2014, up from $480 billion in 2013 and the highest amount since 2007, according to research firm FactSet.

She pointed to other countries that require companies to disclose buybacks daily, giving regulators and outside investors more information about the transactions and causes of share price changes. "Here in the U.S. you can go an entire quarter without disclosing," she said. "Let's change that."

Clinton's main rival for the Democratic Party nomination, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, has drawn crowds of thousands by appealing to progressives, despite being far less well-known than Clinton.

He has, for example, endorsed their call for increasing the federal minimum wage to $15. Clinton suggested on Friday that while this might make sense in New York City, where the cost of living is high, it made less sense in cheaper parts of the country.

Executive pay, padded out with stocks and options, has become increasingly structured with "perverse incentives" to inflate payouts by focusing on short-term rises in share prices, she said. Companies should accept legal provisions yet to be fully enacted that require them to say, in a ratio, how much more executives are paid than other employees, a disparity that has widened in recent decades.

She was also critical of generous executive pay packages during her last attempt to win the presidency in 2008, when she also ran on a platform seen to be to the left of the more centrist economic policies of her husband, Bill

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Clinton, when he was president.

Her speech on Friday added to downward pressure on U.S. stocks, which were falling in afternoon trading.

Justice Department: No criminal referral over Clinton emails **// Reuters // Susan Heavey - July 24, 2015**

The Justice Department said Friday it has received a request to examine the handling of classified information related to the private emails from Hillary Clinton during her time as secretary of state, but it is not a criminal referral.

The department's statement followed a report by the New York Times that Justice Department officials had received a request to open a criminal investigation into the Clinton emails.

A separate memo disclosed Friday from government inspector generals expressed concern about how the emails were being handled as they were prepared for release to the public.

Hillary's emails touched off debate about classified documents **// Politico // Josh Gerstein - July 24, 2015**

At least four emails Hillary Clinton kept on a private server during her years as Secretary of State were classified "secret" at the time, according to an inspector general review — a finding that calls into question her assertion in March that she took care to avoid sending classified materials.

However, suggestions from Clinton aides that she didn't knowingly keep classified information on the private account still have some life. So far, it appears none of the information was marked as classified before it moved into or out of her home-cooked email system, but that caveat has not stemmed Republican complaints that it was reckless for her to handle her sensitive work on a private system.

"None of the emails we reviewed had classification or dissemination markings, but some included [Intelligence Community]-derived classified information and should have been handled and transmitted via a secure network," Intelligence Community Inspector General I. Charles McCullough III said in a letter to congressional committee leaders Thursday.

McCullough said a limited sample of just 40 emails "revealed four contained classified IC information that should have been marked and handled at the SECRET level" — the middle of three broad tiers of classification. The claim became public as McCullough disclosed to Congress that he had advised the FBI of a potential "compromise" of classified information in the Clinton email episode —a referral that could lead to a criminal investigation.

It's a violation of federal law for a government official to "knowingly" move "materials containing classified information" to "an unauthorized location."

Soon after it was revealed in March that Clinton used a private server to handle her work-related email as secretary, she insisted at a press conference that there was no need for concern about classified information.

"I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email," she said. "There is no classified material. So, I'm certainly well aware of the classification requirements and did not send classified material."

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McCullough's letter does not allege specifically that Clinton sent classified information from her private account. While it is possible she only received it, the inspector general said the State Department believes "there are potentially hundreds of classified emails within the approximately 30,000 provided by former Secretary Clinton."

Clinton addressed the new reports briefly Friday, but she did not reiterate her claim that nothing on her server was classified.

"I want to say a word about what's in the news today. It's because there have been a lot of inaccuracies....Maybe the heat is getting to everybody," the Democratic presidential candidate said as she began a speech on economic policy in New York City. "We all have a responsibility to get this right. I have released 55,000 pages of emails. I have said repeatedly that i will answer questions before the house [Benghazi] committee. We are all accountable to get the facts right. I will do my part, but I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families."

Clinton handed over a trove of business-related emails to the department in December, generating controversy after she said she and her attorney had destroyed any emails that they deemed personal in nature.

A lengthy review ensued to screen for classified material before public release. In May, when the agency released the first batch of Clinton emails, it said it had designated a portion of one email as secret at the request of the FBI. When a second, larger batch was released last month, State deemed 25 of the emails "confidential" — the lowest tier of classification.

However, McCullough's finding is notable because he is asserting that at least some of the information was classified at the time it was sent, although he did not say whether Clinton sent or only received such emails. All of the emails released thus far are at least a couple of years old and State officials had insisted that some of the materials could have become more sensitive over time, resulting in a change to their classification.

McCullough spokeswoman Andrea Williams said Friday that was, in fact, not the case. "To be clear – the four emails mentioned...were classified when they were sent and are classified now," she said.

However, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Friday his agency remained unconvinced that any of Clinton's emails should have been considered classified when they were sent. "To our knowledge, none of them needed to be classified at the time," Toner told reporters at a daily briefing.

Still, the question of what information on Clinton's account is and isn't classified and what its status was at the time, remains a subject of some dispute.

McCullough said in the letter that he found that one of State's public releases of emails in recent months under the Freedom of Information Act resulted in disclosure of classified information. While the inspector general said the intelligence community had made "a definitive determination" that the information was classified, State has continued to deny that any breaches occurred when the agency posted several thousand pages of Clinton emails on its website in May and June.

Other documents made public Friday show the classification issue triggered debate even within the agency. Some at State wanted to deem even more of Clinton's emails classified than the agency ultimately did, according to a memo from McCullough's office posted online by the department's inspector general.

In at least four instances, lawyers at Foggy Bottom headed off the classifications by proposing another way to keep the information from the public, the document said.

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For Clinton, the previously-undisclosed changes minimized the public relations hit she took with the May email release. Instead of stories saying five emails in that Libya-related set were classified, news accounts noted that a single email out of the 296 released was withheld on national security grounds.

Clinton's decision to use a private server for all of her government and personal emails has been a continuing political controversy for her, seized on by Republicans as evidence that she violated government guidelines.

However, the new disclosures also underscore the subjective nature of the classification system and could be seen as supporting Clinton's claim that she had no reason to believe any of the information on her personal account was classified.

"State Department FOIA personnel recommended five B1 (Classified National Security Information) FOIA exemptions for proposed redactions in the first set of 296 emails to protect classified information. According to State FOIA personnel, during the State Department Legal Office's review, four of the Bl exemptions were removed and changed to B5 FOIA exemptions (Privileged Communications)," a June 15 memo from the Intelligence Community inspector general said.

The decision to deem the records legally privileged as internal government communications, rather than classified, allowed the information to be deleted from the FOIA records posted on State's website. However, the move also minimized the degree to which Clinton appeared to have mishandled the records. In addition, the shift minimized the appearance that the State Department itself did something wrong when it sent the 296 emails to the House Benghazi Committee without designating any of them as classified.

Whatever public relations benefit Clinton or State got from the maneuver was short-lived: when State released another batch of Clinton emails at the end of June, 25 more were deemed classified.

With a criminal investigation into the presence of classified information in the Clinton emails now potentially looming, the internal waffling at State on the classification issue does offer another benefit for Clinton and those who corresponded with her. It underscores why prosecutors so rarely bring charges over mishandling of classified information—especially when it is not explicitly marked as such.

Deeming emails classified years after they were sent creates due process problems that could doom any such prosecution. However, to Republican lawmakers and some voters, the episode could still reinforce the view that Clinton showed poor judgment by relying on a private email account..

Since State first deemed some of the information classified two months ago, her aides have said she had no reason to think the information was classified at the time she received it. Indeed, some—but not all—of the emails State deemed classified were explicitly marked as "sensitive but unclassified."

After the New York Times reported the criminal referral from the inspectors generals, Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill issued a statement early Friday that Clinton "followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials."

"As has been reported on multiple occasions, any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted," Merrill added.

Asked Friday about the reason State backed off some of the proposed classifications, a State spokesman pointed

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to a July 14 memo from Undersecretary for Management Patrick Kennedy. In it, he said that two of the four emails were in relevant part duplicates and that the potential classification was proposed by State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

"NEA consulted with the Office of the Legal Adviser regarding FOIA exemptions that were potentially available," Kennedy wrote. "NEA decided, consistent with the Attorney General's 2009 FOIA guidance, to redact certain limited information under exemption 5 which reflected deliberations among policy officials."

Kennedy also disclosed that one email relating to the Department of Defense was proposed for classification, but the Pentagon decided not to pursue it. As a result the only email in the first, Libya-related batch to be deemed classified dealt with the reported arrests of suspects in the Benghazi attack, classified at the FBI's request.

One prominent classification expert said the back-and-forth underscores the arbitrariness and subjectivity of the classification system.

"Classification decisions are matters of judgment, not calculation," said Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists. "It is entirely possible for two senior officials to disagree about the need for classifying a particular item of information."

Hillary Clinton slogs through another email frenzy // CNN // Stephen Collinson and Tom LoBianco - July 24, 2015

It was just another frenzied Friday in Clinton World.

Two apparent blockbuster revelations emerged in the email controversy hounding Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. But on later inspection, they seemed to be much less damning than they first appeared.

The campaign's tortured relations with the press meanwhile took another disastrous turn with spokesman Nick Merrill lashing reporters for using "reckless, inaccurate leaks from partisan sources."

And through it all, the candidate herself sailed into a room at New York University, in her customary spot in the eye of the political storm -- apparently unperturbed and ready to reel off a wonk-heavy speech on tax and the economy.

"Maybe the heat is getting to everybody," Clinton said, with more than a trace of contempt for the hysteria erupting around her at an unwelcome time as polls suggest her trustworthiness is taking a fresh battering.

By the end of the day, the Clinton campaign appeared to have capitalized on media missteps to limit immediate new damage to her presidential hopes. But the dizzying catalog of revelations and campaign counter attacks was another sign that the festering fight over the private email server she used while running U.S. diplomacy will confound her presidential quest for months to come.

It all started late on Thursday night with an apparent New York Times bombshell.

The paper reported that independent inspectors general had asked the Justice Department for a criminal probe of Clinton's email use while secretary of state.

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Hitting back

The Clinton campaign hit back hard, quickly getting the Times to soften the lead of its story to make clear the requested probe was not of Clinton herself, but into whether emails connected to her were mishandled. The distinction was important because the latter formulation of any eventual Justice Department inquiry could conceivably give Clinton personal distance from any wrongdoing.

Throughout Friday morning, Clinton's press aides pushed back on the report, shipping reporters a tweet by former Nevada political pundit Jon Ralston that the Times failure to correct its story was "just so, so dumb."

When the Times did decide to correct its story later Friday, it offered some critical vindication to Clinton, at least for the time being.

"Here we are yet again correcting a story," Clinton's senior spokeswoman Karen Finney said on CNN.

Clinton got in her own dig Friday afternoon just before her speech on middle class economics but did not take questions from reporters.

She complained about "a lot of inaccuracies" in reporting on the emails and said she had repeatedly offered to testify before a congressional committee on the private server she used as secretary of state.

As Washington digested the showdown with the Times, a rival paper, the Wall Street Journal, busted out its own email expose.

The paper said that Clinton, despite her denials, had indeed emailed some classified information from her private account while secretary of state -- a possibility that could land Clinton in legal as well as political jeopardy.

But again, the revelation turned out to be less immediately damaging than it had first seemed.

In a letter to Congress, the inspector general for the intelligence community, Charles McCullough, said that some material Clinton sent from her server was indeed classified -- but was not identified as such.

Because it was not identified, it is unclear whether Clinton realized she was potentially compromising classified information -- again offering her a possible defense.

Turf war

That opened the way for Finney to portray the whole affair as just a turf war between intelligence and State Department officials about what information should be kept secret.

The Justice Department, meanwhile, clarified that it was considering a probe of Clinton's email practices, but not a "criminal" probe.

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As is so often the case in the myriad scandals, controversies and pseudo-scandals that have swirled around the Clintons for decades, the disclosures left the situation murkier than it had been before and clouded in a flurry of complicated details likely to confuse the average voter.

And while there did not appear to be sufficient material to seriously damage or even doom Clinton's political career, there was just enough confusion to offer fresh ammunition for her enemies. The Clinton email episode also mirrors the 1990s Clinton scandals in the hyper partisan emotions it stirs -- and the way it never really seems to go away, but also never reaches a climax.

The latest cycle of allegations and counter attacks from the Clinton campaign comes when there is an increasing focus on how the former secretary of state's character could complicate her presidential efforts.

Three new opinion polls in swing states Iowa, Colorado and Virginia this week showed that Clinton was trailing several leading Republican candidates including Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and Scott Walker in a hypothetical match-up for the White House. While the general election is 16 months away, the polls pointed to a possible personal vulnerability for Clinton as majorities of voters in all three states said she was not honest and trustworthy.

And the media fixation on such episodes claimed another victim -- any coverage Clinton could have expected for her big speech -- an economic argument she is putting at the center of her campaign.

While most of her potential Republican rivals were content to let Clinton stew in the spotlight, the Republican National Committee used the latest spate of scandal fever to jab the Democratic front runner.

Clinton has struggled for decades to shake off political attacks painting her as secretive, obstructive and dishonest -- and the email saga and rows over the source of foreign donations to her family's philanthropic organization have ensured a similar theme undercuts her 2016 presidential campaign.

RNC chair Reince Priebus said that Clinton's "desire to play by her own rules" may have exposed classified information -- adding "a full investigation by the Justice Department is not just needed, but required."

Republican political consultant Katie Packer previewed the way Republican candidates are likely to exploit Friday's drama as Clinton's email problem lingers.

"In terms of the way the American people view her, they already have questions about whether she can be trusted. She has shown a propensity to lie when things get uncomfortable," Gage said.

Official: Clinton emails included classified information **// CNN // Elise Labott - July 24, 2015**

The inspector general for the intelligence community has informed members of Congress that some material Hillary Clinton emailed from her private server contained classified information, but it was not identified that way.

Because it was not identified, it is unclear whether Clinton realized she was potentially compromising classified information.

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The IG reviewed a "limited sampling" of her emails and among those 40 reviewed found that "four contained classified [intelligence community] information," wrote the IG Charles McCullough in a letter to Congress.

McCullough noted that "none of the emails we reviewed had classification or dissemination markings" but that some "should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked, and transmitted via a secure network."

The four emails in question "were classified when they were sent and are classified now," spokeswoman Andrea Williams told CNN.

McCullough said that State Department Freedom of Information Act officials told the intelligence community IG that "there are potentially hundreds of classified emails within the approximately 30,000 provided by former Secretary Clinton."

Clinton knocks 'inaccuracies' in reports

Clinton on Friday criticized what she called "a lot of inaccuracies" in brief remarks about the classified emails.

She added that she had released 500 pages of emails and that "I've said repeatedly that I will answer questions" posed by a congressional panel.

"But I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families," she said.

In the past, Clinton has denied sending classified information from her personal sever.

"I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email," Clinton said at a news conference in March. "I'm certainly well aware of the classified requirements and did not send classified material."

The Journal story broke just as the Justice Department issued a statement correcting earlier reports that the probe into email from Clinton's server during her time as secretary of state was a criminal investigation.

Instead, a Justice Department official said that the agency had "received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information."

The New York Times first reported late Thursday that inspectors general for the intelligence community and the State Department have asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation into Clinton's possible mishandling of classified email. The Times significantly revised its story Friday to say the matter was referred to Justice to examine whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with Clinton's account -- but not necessarily by Clinton.

Sources confirmed both inspectors general have asked DOJ to open an investigation. The inspectors general are independent officials who conduct audits, investigations and inspections in the agencies for which they're responsible.

No decision yet to launch probe

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There has not yet been a decision on whether to launch a criminal probe.

In response, Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill issued a statement that "It is now more clear than ever that The New York Times report claiming there is a criminal inquiry sought in Hillary Clinton's use of email is false."

He added, "This incident shows the danger of relying on reckless, inaccurate leaks from partisan sources."

The request for the Justice Department investigation came after a June 29 memo from the State Department's inspector general stating a review of 55,000 pages of Clinton e-mails found "hundreds of potentially classified emails within the collection."

A follow-up memo from both the State Department and intelligence community inspectors general to Undersecretary of State Patrick Kennedy on July 17 said they had received confirmation that "several of the emails contained classified (Intelligence Community) information, though they were not marked as classified. At least one of the emails has been released to the public" by the State Department. Officials were additionally concerned that possible classified material would be posted in future releases of Clinton's emails.

Clinton's use of the personal account for official business instead of a State Department one stirred up a political storm around the 2016 Democratic presidential contender after news of it emerged in March.

Republicans criticize Clinton

The reported request for an inquiry is likely to renew fierce Republican criticism of Clinton's email practices.

Following the Times report this morning, GOP congressional leaders began launching attacks.

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio released a statement calling on her to relinquish her server and questioning her judgment.

"If Secretary Clinton truly has nothing to hide, she can prove it by immediately turning over her server to the proper authorities and allowing them to examine the complete record," he said.

"What these reports demonstrate is the inherent risk of conducting our nation's diplomacy and foreign policy on your home email and personal server," he continued. "Her poor judgment has undermined our national security."

South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the Select Committee on Benghazi, echoed Boehner.

"The best -- the only way -- to resolve these important factual questions is for her to turn over her server to the proper authorities for independent forensic evaluation," he said in a statement.

The top Democrat on the Benghazi Committee, however, pushed back on the attacks.

"I spoke personally to the State Department Inspector General on Thursday, and he said he never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage," said Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings. "Instead, he told me the Intelligence Community IG notified the Justice Department and

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Congress that they identified classified information in a few emails that were part of the FOIA review, and that none of those emails had been previously marked as classified."

Kerry asked for recommendations from inspector

The State Department in May began publicly releasing some of the tens of thousands of emails from the private account that Clinton handed over to it in December.

Officials from the department have been reviewing and redacting the huge collection of documents before putting them in the public domain.

Clinton has said she has nothing to hide and would like the process of making the emails public to be expedited.

Clinton's successor as secretary of state, John Kerry, wrote to the State Department inspector general in March asking for recommendations on the department's practices on document retention and its freedom of information process, a senior state department official told CNN.

"The Inspector General's assistance is welcomed as we take efforts to improve our policies with respect to the preservation of records in a digital environment," the official said.

Clinton focuses on economy amid email controversy **// CNN // Dan Merica and Eric Brader - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton and her campaign aides on Friday tried to keep the focus of her economic speech at New York University on corporate culture and "short term speculation," but the latest chapter in the story of her private email use at the State Department unfolded as the former secretary of state took the stage.

The split-screen feeling of the event was palpable: As Clinton said it was time for U.S. companies to "break free from the tyranny of today's earnings report so they can do what they do best, innovate, invest and build tomorrow's prosperity," her aides issued statements about the former first lady's private server and said it contained classified information that was not correctly identified.

Clinton opened her event with brief remarks about the email controversy -- saying she "will do my part" to cooperate with any inquiries into her email use while leading the State Department -- but quickly and deliberately turned to the economy. She told the audience of students, professors and supporters that she was "going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families."

"It is clear that the system is out of balance," Clinton said of a corporate culture that stresses short-term gain over long term investment.

"It is time to start measuring value in terms of years," not days, Clinton added.

Clinton's speech, however, was short on rhetoric aimed directly at Wall Street and big banks, something progressives are hungry to see from the former New York senator who has deep ties to the financial industry. Clinton's aides set expectations early, telling reporters before the speech that Friday's event would not be chock full of the Wall Street red meat that liberals are pining for.

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Instead, Clinton outlined a series of policy proposals that she hopes would rebuild "a connection between companies and their workers, so that workers are seen as assets rather than costs," her campaign aides said.

"It's time to return to an old-fashioned idea," Clinton said, "that companies' responsibility to their shareholders also encompasses a responsibility to employees, customers, communities and ultimately to our country, and yes, our planet."

Clinton notably endorsed New York City's plan of raising the minimum wage to $15 an hour for fast food workers, but did not go as far as endorsing a $15 federal minimum wage.

"The national minimum wage is a floor, and it needs to be raised, but let's also remember that the cost of living in Manhattan is different than in Little Rock and in many other places, so New York or Los Angeles or Seattle are right to go higher," Clinton said.

Clinton proposed reforming taxes on capital gains, the earnings people make when they sell stock. Instead of the current system, which defines a long-term investment as anything over a year, Clinton said as president she would define a long-term investment as six years.

The former secretary of state said she would put capital gains tax on a sliding scale: Long-term investments would be taxed at 24%, the current rate. The rate would continue to slide up until short-term investments were taxed at 39.6%, regular income to top earners.

The former secretary of state also called for reviewing securities rules to hold management accountable, altering the tax codes so that executive compensation focuses more on long-term investment and ending subsidies to "industries that are already thriving" like oil companies.

"Thirty years ago top CEOs made 50 times what a typical worker did," Clinton said. "Today they make 300 times more. That just doesn't make sense."

The campaign has been working with dozens of economists to sketch out Clinton's economic platform. Outside advisers have included a host of liberal economists, former government officials and more. Among them are the Noble Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, top Obama economic policy aides Gene Sperling, Christina Romer, David Kamin and Alan Krueger.

Austan Goolsbee, a professor of economics at the University of Chicago and a former economic advisor to President Barack Obama, heralded Clinton's speech as "the start of an important conversation on how we can get our economy -- private-sector businesses, investors and the government -- more oriented toward growth."

"Her plans to reform the capital gains tax system to encourage longer-term investment is designed to give incentives for investors and companies to focus on long-lasting value rather than just near term benefits," he said. "This one policy alone will not solve the problem of short-termism but aligning our tax code toward long-term thinking is a worthy and important goal and it is a beginning."

Progressive opponents take aim at Wall Street

Clinton's speech was intended to challenge corporate culture, but it didn't offer the direct confrontation of Wall Street that many liberals say they want.

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Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has seized the progressive mantel, inching closer to Clinton in polls from the key early-voting Democratic primary states Iowa and New Hampshire in no small part through rhetorical swings at monied interests.

And former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley on Thursday, speaking at an event at the Center for National Policy, called for the reinstitution of the Glass-Steagall Act -- which separated commercial and investment banks until its repeal under President Bill Clinton.

O'Malley has also called for rules that designed stop regulators from accepting jobs at top financial firms.

"We have come a long way since the financial crisis, but our economy is still vulnerable to another collapse, and we haven't been able to rein in Wall Street misconduct," O'Malley said Thursday. "That's why every Democrat who is running for President needs to commit to finishing the job that Dodd-Frank started."

Progressive Change Campaign Committee co-founder Adam Green lauded O'Malley in a statement Thursday, crediting the former Baltimore mayor and Maryland governor for leading on economic issues -- even though he's struggled to gain traction in polls of Democratic primary voters.

"Martin O'Malley was the first candidate to make criminal prosecution of Wall Street bankers a 2016 issue -- and it's been great to see a race to the top with Clinton and Sanders making bold statements in favor of accountability for bankers who break the law," Green said.

In a speech this month, Clinton called for the prosecution of individuals -- not just firms -- responsible for financial misdeeds.

Her campaign didn't say, though, whether she'll support the reinstitution of the Glass-Steagall Act, which many liberals see as key to preventing a repeat of the 2008 financial collapse.

Clinton did not mention the Depression Era law at all during her New York speech and on Thursday in South Carolina said economic issue are "much more complicated ... than pointing to any one piece of legislation and saying well if we just pass that everything would be fine."

"If you go back and look at what happened in the great recession, it was mortgage companies, it was insurance companies, it was non-commercial banking entities, who were as big if not bigger contributors to the collapse," Clinton said. "So I am not interested in just saying there is one answer to the too-big-to-fail problem."

Clinton kept the press at arms length on Friday. After she finished speaking, she worked the rope line and took selfies with supporters. Clinton's advance staff deliberately kept the press their designated area, not wanting them to approach the presidential candidate.

How Hillary Clinton plans to 'save capitalism' **// MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald - July 24, 2015**

As she tried to look past the latest controversy over her private email server, Hillary Clinton said in a speech Friday that she wants to "save capitalism for the 21st century" by pushing investors and corporations to focus more on long-term growth than making a quick buck.

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Some activists had hoped and expected Clinton would present a more robust plan on Wall Street, but instead she took on “quarterly capitalism” – the obsession with share prices and quarterly earnings over real value creation, which Clinton views as dangerous to the economy.

To change the incentives, Clinton proposed raising capital gains taxes on investments held for only short periods of time. The tax on investment earnings would nearly double from their current rate of 20% for investments held less than two years. And the rate for those in the top tax bracket would be set on a sliding scale, with incentives for people who hold their investments longer.

Meanwhile, Clinton said she would change the tax code to eliminate incentives for CEOs to be paid based on short-term bumps in share prices, with the aim of encouraging leaders to plan more strategically for the future.

Clinton also took on what she called “hit and run” shareholders – activist investors who pressure corporations to jack up their share prices or pay more dividends to investors, even if it doesn’t help the company in the long run.

At the same time, Clinton addressed the union-backed push to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour.

Clinton said she that while she supports the effort in New York City, the latest focal point in the movement, she’s unsure about making the federal minimum wage $15. “I agree with New York’s proposal this week to raise wages for fast food workers to $15 an hour,” she said. “The national minimum wage is a floor and it needs to be raised, but let’s also remember that the cost of living in Manhattan is different than in Little Rock and many other places. So New York or Los Angles or Seattle are right to go higher.”

Clinton spoke for about 35 minutes at New York University’s Stern School of Business, in front of an audience of about 200 policy experts, members of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce and other friends of the campaign.

While Clinton called for “new, creative, disruptive ideas to save capitalism,” it was not the speech some progressives had hoped for. Many had anticipated that Clinton would use the speech to explain how she would take on the financial sector. But Wall Street was hardly a factor in her remarks. Her only direct mention of regulation was to warn that Republicans would roll back Dodd-Frank, which was passed five years ago, if they regained the White House.

Some liberals were disappointed. “Working to end short-termism on Wall Street will definitely help working families in important way,” said Democracy for America executive director Charles Chamberlain. “But let’s be really clear: The Democratic Party doesn’t want, and the American people don’t need, another Democratic President who tip-toes around Wall Street’s insatiable greed.”

“Today’s speech hits those notes in some ways, but fails to do so in others,” he added.

Clinton’s Democratic rivals Bernie Sanders and Martin O’Malley have been much more outspoken on Wall Street reform, calling for criminal penalties against executives who contributed to the Great Recession and demanding that the largest banks be broken up. On Thursday, O’Malley gave a speech on Wall Street reform that he hoped would contrast with Clinton’s and present him as a leader on the issue.

Another liberal group, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, essentially gave Clinton an incomplete. “We look forward to the Clinton campaign’s big speech on systemic reforms, and the American public will look to see if she is willing to challenge Wall Street power,” said Adam Green, the group’s co-founder, suggesting Friday’s speech was not the one he was looking for.

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Many of the ideas Clinton did lay out Friday already have substantial support in the financial world, as Politico reported, making them safer territory for the former secretary of state to endorse.

Clinton's campaign promises more ideas on Wall Street reform will come later.

New allegations on Clinton emails start to unravel // MSNBC // Steve Benen - July 24, 2015

Last night, the New York Times ran an exclusive report that seemed quite important, especially as it relates to the leading Democratic presidential candidate.

Two inspectors general have asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether Hillary Rodham Clinton mishandled sensitive government information on a private email account she used as secretary of state, senior government officials said Thursday.

Soon after, however, the story, the headline, and even the url changed without explanation. Now, the article begins this way:

Two inspectors general have asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account Hillary Rodham Clinton used as secretary of state, senior government officials said Thursday.

Politico noticed the "significant changes" to the Times' original reporting – the first report suggested Clinton could be the target of the potential criminal probe, while the second, revised report did not.

A U.S. official, meanwhile, told the Associated Press that the referral from the inspectors general "doesn't necessarily suggest wrongdoing by Clinton herself."

Oh. Well, that's pretty far afield from what the Times first reported last night. In fact, what we appear to have are questions about whether the State Department mis-classified some sensitive materials. That may be fascinating to observers who study the executive bureaucracy at a granular level, but for everyone else, there doesn't appear to be much here. Indeed, the original effort to suggest Clinton was personally facing a possible criminal probe, at least given what we now know, seems quite irresponsible.

Nick Merrill, a Clinton spokesperson, added in an official statement, "Contrary to the initial story, which has already been significantly revised, she followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials. As has been reported on multiple occasions, any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted."

As for who fed the New York Times this story in the first place, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), the ranking member of the Benghazi Select Committee, issued a statement this morning that not only further disputes the original allegations, but seems to point the finger in a specific direction:

"I spoke personally to the State Department Inspector General on Thursday, and he said he never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage. Instead, he told me the Intelligence Community IG notified the Justice Department and Congress that they identified classified information in a few emails that were part of the FOIA review, and that none of those emails had been previously marked as classified.

"The Benghazi Select Committee has obtained zero evidence that any emails to or from Secretary Clinton were marked as classified at the time they were transmitted, although some have been retroactively classified since

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then. This is the latest example in a series of inaccurate leaks to generate false front-page headlines – only to be corrected later – and they have absolutely nothing to do with the attacks in Benghazi or protecting our diplomatic corps overseas."

Update: The Justice Department confirmed this morning that the referral in this matter is unrelated to alleged criminal activity. The Times' reference to "criminal investigation" was incorrect.

Hillary Clinton proposes sharp increase in short-term capital gains taxes // NBC // Everett Rosenfeld - July 24, 2015

Presidential contender Hillary Clinton announced a proposal Friday afternoon to raise capital gains taxes for assets that are held for less than six years by top-bracket payers as a way to try and encourage long-term investing, and grow the economy. (Tweet This)

Clinton's plan specifically seeks to double the period of time for the 39.6 percent top capital gains rate (from up to a year to up to two years), and then institute a sliding rate scale until assets are held for more than six years.

"The current definition of a long-term holding period—just one year—is woefully inadequate," Clinton said. "That may count as long term for my baby granddaughter, but not for the American economy. It's no way to run a tax system."

After that six-year point, those gains would face the current 20 percent tax rate.

Clinton's proposal comes as part of her plan to fight what she sees as an excessive focus on quick profits in capital markets.

Citing recent surveys of corporate executives, Clinton highlighted the pressures of short-term targets over long term growth, saying that her plan would help fix that problem.

Read MoreWill Hillary's econ speech bring together Democrats?

"It is clear that the system is out of balance, the deck is stacked in too many ways, and powerful pressures and incentives are pushing it even further out of balance," she said. "Quarterly capitalism as developed over recent decades is neither legally required nor economically sound...and fixing it will be good for everyone."

"Real value comes from long-term growth, not short-term profits," she added. "American business needs to break from from the tyranny of today's earning report."

Clinton said she would look to address "very short-term trading" conducted over "days, hours, or even milliseconds."

The presidential contender also proposed eliminating capital gains taxes for some long-term investments in innovative start ups and struggling communities.

"Of course I understand that these changes to the tax code alone will not shift investors' focus from short term to long term overnight, but I believe this reform is an important first step toward removing some of the incentives that push us toward quarterly capitalism," Clinton said, explaining that she plans to propose more reforms later in her campaign.

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Clinton's speech also featured an attack on "hit and run activists" who focus on extracting as much value as quickly as possible from companies "no matter how much it discourages and distracts management from pursuing strategies that would add the most long-term value for the company."

She cited iconic companies like Apple and Dow Chemical that "have felt this pressure." (Activists Carl Icahn and Dan Loeb have been involved in Apple and Dow, respectively.)

"So we need a new generation of committed, long-term investors to provide a counter-weight to the hit-and-run activists," Clinton said.

Hillary Clinton: Report of Email Probe Has 'a Lot of Inaccuracies' **// NBC // Kristen Welker - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton said Friday that a New York Times report of a potential criminal probe related to a private email account she used as Secretary of State contains "a lot of inaccuracies."

The newspaper has issued a correction to a piece published late Thursday night alleging that Clinton's email practices were the subject of a criminal investigation proposed by two inspectors general.

"Maybe the heat is getting to everybody," Clinton said before remarks on the economy in New York City. "We all have a responsibility to get this right."

"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right and I will do my part, but I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families," she added.

The comments come after the New York Times initially reported that the Justice Department received a "criminal referral" to open an investigation into whether Clinton mishandled government information with her personal account.

The request was made by inspectors general for the State Department and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the newspaper reported.

In its correction, the New York Times wrote that its initial report, "using information from senior government officials, misstated the nature of the referral to the Justice Department regarding Hillary Clinton's personal email account while she was secretary of state. The referral addressed the potential compromise of classified information in connection with that personal email account. It did not specifically request an investigation into Mrs. Clinton."

The Justice Department initially confirmed the report of a "criminal referral" to NBC News and other outlets. But a Justice Department official said Friday afternoon that "The Department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information. It is not a CRIMINAL referral."

Also on Friday, Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the House committee investigating the Benghazi attacks, said that the State Department's inspector general told him that he did not ask the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation into Clinton's email.

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"Instead, he told me the Intelligence Community IG notified the Justice Department and Congress that they identified classified information in a few emails that were part of the FOIA review, and that none of those emails had been previously marked as classified," he said.

In a joint statement, the two inspectors general who made the referral said that it was "a security referral made for counterintelligence purposes." But, they added, they found that a sample of 40 of Clinton's emails from Clinton's server contained four with classified information that should "never have been transmitted via an unclassified personal system."

Clinton said in March that "I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email. There is no classified material."

Hillary Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill blasted the New York Times in a statement.

"It is now more clear than ever that the New York Times report claiming there is a criminal inquiry sought in Hillary Clinton's use of email is false," he said. "It has now been discredited both by the Justice Department and the Ranking Member of the House Oversight Committee. This incident shows the danger of relying on reckless, inaccurate leaks from partisan sources."

Will Hillary's econ speech bring together Democrats? **// NBC // Ben White - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton will take a big step into the Wall Street policy world on Friday with a speech at New York University in which she will suggest raising capital gains taxes on investors who hold shares for less than a couple of years.

Clinton also plans to criticize other elements of what she calls "quarterly capitalism," including the current pace of corporate share buybacks and the tactics of activists like Carl Icahn who pressure executives to return cash to shareholders instead of invest it in new plants, equipment, research and employees.

The NYU speech will not be Clinton's big "taking on Wall Street" moment, aides tell me. That will come later with remarks on addressing so-called "Too Big to Fail" banks and punishing corporate crime.

The Friday speech instead is intended, in part, to wed two wings of the Democratic Party that are miles apart right now, the "growth" wing and the "fairness" wing. Fairness Democrats, who thrill to the every word of Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, want higher taxes on the rich, strong new Wall Street reform and a relentless focus on economic inequality. Growth Democrats, who you don't hear much from anymore, want some of this, too, but prefer a focus on economic policies aimed at growing the pie rather than redistributing the slices.

Read MoreTrump won't win, but yes, he matters

The Friday speech will be remarkably wonky for a presidential candidate and will reflect a policy approach favored for years by the likes of veteran Democratic wonks Gene Sperling and Neera Tanden. It's not often you will hear a major presidential candidate going into significant detail on share buyback transparency. But I'm told Clinton began to focus on the problem of slack corporate investment last fall and has been drilling deep into the details for months.

The address is intended to focus on long-term growth by trying to encourage buy-and-hold investing and taking pressure off corporate managements to focus on quarterly earnings per share targets at all costs. And it is

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intended to appeal to fairness Democrats by raising some capital gains taxes paid by top earners while also taking some shots at CEO pay and "hit-and-run" hedge funds.

The speech may fail to thrill the Warren crowd because Clinton is not likely to pitch the approach as a way to raise significant new revenue for the government. Instead she may suggest that increased revenues could be used for other incentives in the tax code to encourage business investment over buybacks and dividends.

Still, she won't suggest lowering capital gains for investors who hold for very long periods, something many growth Democrats favor but the left would sharply reject as a tax cut for the very wealthy.

Clinton's formal and informal advisers acknowledge that tinkering with capital gains rates will not instantly solve the problem of "quarterly capitalism" or the lack of significant business investment. But they view it as a smart approach to take what is already a graduated scale for capital gains and tilt it more toward long-term holdings. And it is just the start of what will be a series of speeches aimed at using both government levers and political persuasion to alter the focus of corporate America.

"This is a theme she has identified and she clearly wants to orient the economy toward long-term growth and investment," Austan Goolsbee, a University of Chicago professor and former senior economic adviser to President Barack Obama, told me this week. "and this is a solid, market-based approach to doing that."

What the Clinton Email Story Might — or Might Not — Mean // NBC // Chuck Tod, Mark Murray, and Carrie Dann - July 24, 2015

The Holy Grail or much ado about nothing? Late last night, the New York Times released this bombshell report: "Criminal Inquiry Sought in Hillary Clinton's Use of Email," and the story said that two inspectors general asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether Hillary Clinton herself mishandled sensitive government information regarding her emails. But later, the Times made some small -- but potentially significant -- changes to the story. The new headline: "Criminal Inquiry Is Sought in Clinton Email Account," and the story said the criminal investigation was about "whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection" with Clinton's email account. Bottom line: We don't seem to know the target of this requested investigation. Is it Clinton herself in dealing with classified information over her private email server? Or is the target someone else (in the State Department?) regarding the emails and their classification status? Politically, the semantics might not matter. But legally and journalistically, the semantics matter a great deal. Either this could be the GOP's Holy Grail in reshuffling the entire Democratic race. Or it could be much ado about nothing -- that is, a bureaucratic mistake. And there are two people who can help answer this question: The inspector generals at the State Department and the intelligence agencies. Note: There is no formal investigation at this time.

NBC has updated our story, too

NBC News confirmed the original New York Times story, but we changed our story, too, after doubts about the actual target of the requested probe. That said, the Clinton campaign didn't respond to multiple requests for comment until this morning. Here is our updated story.

Justice Department -- Under Pressure

If the target is Clinton herself -- and again there's a big IF there -- then that will put significant pressure on the Obama Justice Department. Remember, the department has gone out of its way to open investigation into its own officials (see: Petraeus, David). And even if the Justice Department decides not to pursue a criminal investigation, Republicans can say, "Well, Obama's Justice Department is trying to save the Democratic Party's likely presidential nominee." All of that said, until we know the actual target -- Hillary? Someone else in the State Department? -- we just don't whether the story has legs.

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On the trail

Hillary Clinton gives a speech on "reforming quarterly capitalism" in NYC at 1:30 pm ET… Chris Christie, Carly Fiorina, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O'Malley are in Iowa… Ted Cruz addresses the ALEC conference in San Diego, CA… John Kasich stumps in South Carolina and Iowa… George Pataki also is in South Carolina… And Rick Santorum campaigns in New Hampshire.

Hillary Clinton Isn't Going As Far As Her Democratic Rivals on Minimum Wage // ABC // MaryAlice Parks and Liz Kreutz - July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton today came out in support of New York's plan to increase minimum wage for its fast-food workers to $15 an hour -- but the endorsement still places Clinton well behind many of her Democratic challengers on the issue.

"I agree with New York's proposal this week to raise wages for fast food workers to $15 an hour," Clinton said during a speech on corporate culture at New York University.

Clinton said the "national minimum wage is a floor and it needs to be raised," but noted that it can vary based on cost of living in different cities.

"The cost of living in Manhattan is different than Little Rock and many other places, so New York and Los Angeles or Seattle are right to go higher," Clinton added.

While Clinton's support of the $15 minimum wage for some workers in New York is the furthest she has gone yet on the issue of minimum wage, it still falls short of the bar set by some of her Democratic rivals, including Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, both of whom have called for doubling the current federal minimum wage of $7.25 to $15 dollars an hour nationwide.

"I think if you work 40 hours a week you have a right not be living in poverty," Sanders said earlier this week, standing alongside hundreds of low-wage workers who walked out of food service and janitorial jobs at federal buildings in D.C. Sanders, who has centered his campaign on the fight against income inequality, called on the President to act now and only award federal contracts to companies paying higher wages. He also introduced a bill that would a bump the national minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2020.

"Today, we send a very loud message to the U.S. Congress and the president … that all of our workers from coast to coast need at least $15 bucks an hour," he continued.

O'Malley has pushed this issue, too.

As governor, he successfully signed a law increasing the state minimum wage to $10.10 an hour, but on the campaign trail he has repeatedly said he is favor of $15 dollars an hour.

"Some people will say this is hard to do. And it will be. But leadership is about forging public consensus--not following it. On this issue, we must lead with our progressive values to rebuild the American Dream," O'Malley said in the statement Wednesday.

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Advocates of a higher minimum wage enjoyed at least one major victory just this week. The Los Angeles County followed the City of Los Angeles and voted in favor of adopting a $15 an hour plan as well.

But recent national polling, suggests Americans are not in favor of such a big hike. According to a CBS News-New York Times poll released in June, while 71 percent support raising the minimum wage, only 38 percent are in favor of "requiring fast food chains and other hourly employers to pay workers at least $15 per hour." Though, according to the same poll, a small majority of Democrats -- 56 percent -- support the idea.

Hillary Clinton: IG's Urge Justice Department to Probe Her Emails // ABC // Justin Fishel and Mike Levine - July 24, 2015

An internal government review of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's controversial private email account concluded that some of those messages contained classified information, senior government officials confirm to ABC News.

The inspectors general for the State Department and Intelligence Community have sent a "referral" to the Justice Department, notifying it of potential national security concerns.

The Justice Department clarified today that the referral is not criminal in nature. The main concern is that classified information could be compromised because it was sent over unsecured networks and remains in the hands of Clinton's legal team, a spokesman for the Intelligence Community's IG told ABC News today.

Clinton Email: Bill vs. Hillary and the Different Ways the Couple Uses It

Hillary Clinton's Emails: Unanswered Questions About Deleted Correspondence

The purpose of notifying the Justice Department was to inform the FBI of "a potential compromise of classified information," spokesman Andrea Williams said.

It was not intended to seek a criminal probe, Williams added.

In a memorandum to the State Department's Under Secretary for Management Patrick Kennedy, the inspectors general said a review of Clinton's emails revealed "hundreds of potentially classified emails within the collection."

It also states that officials within the Intelligence Community confirmed that "that several of these emails contained classified IC information, though they were not marked as classified."

Williams clarified that the intelligence community found four emails out of a batch of 40 that it reviewed containing classified information.

The Clinton campaign said in a statement that Clinton had "followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials."

When it was revealed early in her presidential campaign that she had exclusively used a personal email account during her tenure as Secretary of State, Clinton responded by turning over 55,000 pages of emails to the State Department and asking that it make them public. At the time, she claimed that none of them contained classified information.

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Since then the State Department has been working with its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office to release those emails in tranches, 3,000 of which have already been made public on its website.

The Intelligence Community says that one of those 3,000 emails the State Department put on its FOIA website contained classified information, a concern they also expressed to the Justice Department.

The State Department disputes that claim and maintains that nothing classified in nature has been released to the public.

The Justice Department has not yet decided how it will respond to the the referral.

Hillary Clinton defends Planned Parenthood amid video controversy // CBS // Reena Flores - July 24, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton launched a strong defense of Planned Parenthood while campaigning in South Carolina Thursday, responding to the recent firestorm surrounding the women's health organization and undercover videos released by anti-abortion activists.

"For more than a century, Planned Parenthood has provided essential services for women -- not just reproductive health services, including access to affordable family planning, but cancer screenings for example and other health checkups," Clinton said at a town hall-style event in Greenville. "And I think it is unfortunate that Planned Parenthood has been the object of such a concerted attack for so many years."

The edited videos, the result of a sting operation conducted by the California-based Center for Medical Progress, show undercover actors engaging with top Planned Parenthood officials about buying intact fetal specimens. It is illegal to sell fetal tissue for profit, but federal law allows for tissue donations used for research purposes if the woman undergoing an abortion gives her consent.

Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards took responsibility and apologized for the "tone and statements" of a staff member in the video, but stressed that the organization follows all laws and ethical guidelines.

Clinton also acknowledged the tone of the staff member and noted that Planned Parenthood had "apologized for the insensitivity of the employee" depicted in the video but denounced the leaked footage as an "attack" on abortion rights.

"It's really an attack against a woman's right to choose, to make the most personal difficult decisions that any woman would face based on her faith and the medical advice that she's given," Clinton said. "So I'm hoping that this situation will not further undermine the very important services that planned parenthood provides across our country."

Other Democrats have rushed to Planned Parenthood's defense, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who has said the "controversy doesn't exist," and White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

A congressional investigation is underway to determine whether or not Planned Parenthood's abortion practices violated any federal laws, and the Department of Justice is also expected to review all information regarding the videos.

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No criminal probe requested into Hillary Clinton's email, DOJ clarifies // CBS // Paula Reid - July 24, 2015

The Justice Department has received a request to investigate Hillary Clinton's email account, but the department corrected its earlier statement Friday to clarify that the request was not for a criminal investigation.

The request relates to Clinton's use of a private email account for official business while she was secretary of state - which has already come up as an issue in the 2016 campaign. The office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) confirmed to CBS News that the inspector general for the Intelligence Community [IC] has sent a referral to the Justice Department on the matter.

The story was first reported by The New York Times, citing senior government officials.

The request comes after a conclusion in a June 29 memo by the inspector general for the State Department and the IC inspector general that Clinton's private account had "hundreds of potentially classified emails" in it. The memo was sent to Patrick F. Kennedy, the under secretary of state for management.

In a July 17 letter to Kennedy, the inspectors general wrote that the IC inspector general has received confirmation from IC Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] officials that "several of these emails contained classified IC information, though they were not marked as classified."

Additionally, CBS News has obtained a letter sent Thursday to the leadership of the House and Senate intelligence committees, in which the IC inspector general says some of the emails on Clinton's server "should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked, and transmitted via a secure network." He also reveals that the emails in question were "purported to have been copied to a thumb drive in the possession of former Secretary Clinton's personal counsel, Williams and Connelly attorney David Kendall."

What's not clear is whether any information in the emails was marked as classified by the State Department when Mrs. Clinton sent or received them -- some information could have been retroactively classified. As the Times reported, about two dozen emails were redacted before they were publicly released because they were upgraded to "classified status."

In the Times' initial report, the investigation was described as pertaining to whether Clinton specifically "mishandled sensitive government information." That characterization was changed in a subsequent version of the story.

Before the Justice Department corrected its characterization of the requested probe as "criminal," one Democratic leader in Congress put out a forceful statement that called the story "the latest example in a series of inaccurate leaks to generate false front-page headlines."

Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the top Democrat on the Benghazi Select Committee, also noted that the State Department inspector general told him personally that "he never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage."

The State Department inspector general -- as the above letters and memos illustrate -- had been working with the IC inspector general to express concerns over potential, unintentional leaks of classified information in the Clinton emails.

While the IC inspector general has asked for a Justice Department probe into the emails, Cummings said there's no

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evidence Clinton transmitted classified information on her private account.

"The Benghazi Select Committee has obtained zero evidence that any emails to or from Secretary Clinton were marked as classified at the time they were transmitted, although some have been retroactively classified since then," he said.

Since Clinton's use of the private account was revealed in March, she has said repeatedly that the account contained no classified information. She has said using it was a matter of convenience.

"I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House Committee," Clinton said at an event in New York on Friday afternoon. "We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, but also stay focused on issues, big issues."

The Justice Department hasn't decided if it will open a probe, the Justice officials told CBS News.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton's campaign released this statement Friday morning:

"Contrary to the initial story, which has already been significantly revised, she followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials. As has been reported on multiple occasions, any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted."

Hillary Clinton Would Double Taxes on Short-Term Capital Gains **// Fox // Dunstan Prial - July 24, 2015**

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Friday took aim at some of the highest U.S. earners, proposing to nearly double the tax rate on capital gains for stocks that are bought and sold relatively quickly.

In a speech in New York City, Clinton took aim broadly at Wall Street and more narrowly at the niche category of investors – often referred to as activist investors -- who swiftly move in and out of stock positions purely for short-term profits.

Clinton, a former senator from New York and Secretary of State during President Obama's first term, criticized what she repeatedly described as "quarterly capitalism," or the Wall Street-inspired mentality of generating short-term profits to appease shareholders every three months during quarterly earnings.

"American business needs to break free from the tyranny of today's earning report so they can do what they do best: innovate, invest and build tomorrow's prosperity," the Democratic presidential front-runner said. "It's time to start measuring value in terms of years -- or the next decade -- not just next quarter."

Under Clinton's proposal, investments held between one and two years would be taxed at the normal income-tax rate of 39.6%, nearly double the existing 20% capital gains rate.

Only the top 0.5% of taxpayers would be impacted by the plan, which also falls in line with Democratic calls for cracking down on the immense wealth generated by ostensibly manipulative practices on Wall Street.

Activist investors have been criticized in recent months for running destructive campaigns against companies

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purely in an effort to reap personal gains from stock moves prompted by their actions.

Clinton's plan would collect revenue from top-bracket taxpayers' stock holdings on a sliding scale, with the lowest rate applied to investments held the longest. To qualify for the existing 20% rate, investors would have to hold an investment for at least six years.

Clinton said the all-consuming effort by corporations to generate short-term profits is harming the economy because companies are focusing on quarterly earnings rather than expansion and hiring.

Clinton also spoke out in favor of a $15 an hour minimum wage, which many business leaders have argued will force layoffs rather than improve the lives of minimum wage workers.

Stock buybacks by companies also came under criticism by the Democratic hopeful, who said the money that companies use to buy back stock and reward shareholders might be better spent on research and development.

Clinton's plan would impact taxes for the top-tier taxpayers who hold investments for anywhere between two and six years. Stocks and other investments held for two to three years would be taxed at 36%; those held three to four years would face a tax of 32%. The sliding scale ends at six years.

New York Times Corrects Explosive Hillary Clinton Email Story Amid Campaign Pushback // HuffPo // Michael Calderone and Sam Stein - July 24, 2015

An explosive New York Times story detailing a potential probe of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email account unravelled quickly on Friday morning, prompting questions about how inaccurate, politically sensitive information could end up in the paper of record.

At issue was a Times breaking news alert sent out in the late hours of Thursday evening, reporting that inspectors general were asking the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether Clinton sent classified information from her private server. By the next day, the story had changed, slightly but significantly. The subject of the investigation wasn't Clinton, per se, but whether she was on the receiving end of the information in question. Hours later, it changed again, this time more significantly. The Department of Justice said that the probe requested wasn't criminal in nature, but rather investigative. And then, it grew even more complicated, with the State Department inspector general saying they didn't even ask for an investigation at all.

As the different chapters of this in-the-weeds saga progressed, attention turned to the Times, which has been the tip of the spear in reporting on Clinton's use of a private email account and server. Times reporter Michael Schmidt, who co-bylined Thursday's story, also broke the news in March that Clinton had violated government protocol by exclusively using a private email account at the State Department.

In a correction appended to the Times article online, editors acknowledged having "misstated the nature of the referral" related to Clinton's email use, which the paper had described as "criminal." Though a Department of Justice official initially told reporters the referral was "criminal" in nature after the Times story was published, the agency reversed course and said it was not. Times editors also wrote that the referral from two inspectors general did not "specifically request an investigation" into Clinton.

By midday, the paper was under withering criticism from progressives online, who accused it of sparking a wave of outrage over ultimately faulty charges. Other nonpartisan sources were suggesting that Republicans on the Select Committee investigating the 2012 attacks on the compound in Benghazi were behind the inaccurate leak.

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The Clinton campaign itself wasn't shy about calling the story bunk, pushing back hard on the Times, demanding and receiving a revision in the piece and accusing congressional Republicans of going outside their jurisdictions to attack the former secretary of state.

The avalanche of pushback left the Times in an uncomfortable spot. The paper initially rejected calls to issue a correction. When it was later forced to do so, it seemed unwilling to completely abandon the story. By late Friday afternoon, the paper was still running a headline that labeled the investigation into Clinton's email usage a "criminal inquiry." Its lead sentence also still stated, "Two inspectors general have asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation."

A Times spokeswoman did not immediately respond to questions about whether those two elements of the story would be changed.

But even if they are, it's unlikely that the same audience will see the updated version unless the paper were to send out a second breaking news email with its latest revisions. The Clinton story also appeared the front page of Friday's print edition.

For Clinton critics, the dispute over the paper's handling of this news item still obscures the larger problem, which is that as secretary of state, she used a private email account that could have compromised sensitive government information. Indeed, lost in the back-and-forth Friday was a Wall Street Journal story that detailed how several emails containing classified information made it into her inbox. The information wasn't classified at the time, but rather received the designation retroactively.

“None of the emails we reviewed had classification or dissemination markings, but some included IC-derived classified information and should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked, and transmitted via a secure network,” wrote Inspector General I. Charles McCullough in a letter to Congress.

The debate over the article also underscores just how delicate reporting on Clinton's email setup has become in the early stages of the presidential campaign.

Each report drops amid a well-established narrative. Clinton is held to an unfair standard by the press and maligned by the right, supporters say. Her email use is indicative of Clintonian paranoia and a penchant for secrecy, critics counter.

And reporters, often relying on anonymous sources, are going to face questions about the motivations of those providing information. They're also likely to encounter intense scrutiny from pro-Clinton organizations like Correct the Record and Media Matters for America. If a story isn’t completely airtight, the campaign and such media watchdogs are sure to pick apart discrepancies, whether minuscule, or in this case, significant. Even a correction doesn't always end the complaints.

Correct the Record slammed the Times’ “bogus” story late Friday afternoon and suggested it fit a pattern of “thin sourcing, excess hype, and a tag-team rollout with the hyper-partisan, Republican-led House Benghazi circus.” Shortly thereafter, Media Matters Chairman David Brock wrote a letter to Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr., urging him to appoint a commission to examine the reporting behind Thursday’s story and three previous Clinton reports the group has also criticized.

"David Brock is a partisan," a Times spokeswoman responded in a statement. "It is not surprising that he is unhappy with some of our aggressive coverage of important political figures. We are proud of that coverage and obviously disagree with his opinion."

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Hillary Clinton's Economic Speech A Total Letdown // **HuffPo // Zach Carter - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton gave a speech Friday that pledged to combat dodgy corporate management but offered only soft-touch policy solutions that included significant tax breaks for wealthy investors.

Advisors billed the talk as a major rollout of Clinton's economic agenda. The candidate herself pitched her proposals as a way to break from failed policies that had damaged the economy. But the speech eschewed any emphasis on income inequality, runaway finance, companies "too big to fail" or any of the economic issues animating the Democratic Party. Instead, Clinton offered a mild-mannered, small-bore critique of "quarterly capitalism," a common corporate strategy that maximizes short-term profits over long-term investments.

Such short-term thinking is almost universally recognized as a problem. It's just not very high on the list of the country's economic woes. Companies can sacrifice long-term investments and ignore long-term risks by pursuing strategies that maximize returns to shareholders over the next few months. In the long run, that's bad for society and bad for corporate profits.

"Large public companies now return eight or nine out of every 10 dollars they earn directly back to shareholders, either in the form of dividends or stock buybacks which can temporarily boost share prices," Clinton said in the speech. "Last year the total reached a record $900 billion. That doesn't leave much money to build new factory or a research lab or to train workers or to give them a raise."

But Clinton didn't call for corporations to give their workers a raise, or to tie CEO pay to the pay of average workers -- or any other policy that would directly impact economic inequality. Instead, she focused on creating incentives for companies to better profit from longer-term investments. That means tax increases for investors cashing out shorter investments.

She also suggested altogether eliminating taxes on long-term investments in "small businesses," a category she said would include "innovative startups." As she praised early investors "patiently nurturing the next disruptive innovator," Clinton appeared to be simultaneously stroking the egos of wealthy Silicon Valley venture capitalists and offering them a substantial tax cut.

But the rest of her proposal included increases in capital gains taxes for assets wealthy investors hold for less than six years. Clinton's plan would boost capital gains taxes for investments of two years or less to 43.3 percent -- a rate that currently applies only to investments of less than one year. The rate would gradually decrease over time to 23.8 percent after an investment reaches six years.

The populist appeal of increasing capital gains taxes lies in the fact that wealthy people accrue the vast majority of capital gains. Roughly half of all capital gains flow to the richest 0.1 percent of Americans, according to a Washington Post report. But the ultimate effect on inequality would likely be limited -- if rich taxpayers simply don't sell off their stock holdings for a longer time, they'll maintain a low tax rate, resulting in a more rational corporate strategy but similar income distributions.

The problem Clinton is trying to address had been well documented. There has been a decades-long divergence between the money companies borrow and they money they invest, as the Roosevelt Institute's Mike Konczal and J.W. Mason pointed out earlier this year. Rather than raising money to build better businesses, companies are, to a dramatic degree, raising money to pay shareholders.

Clinton wondered whether AT&T would ever have invested in the iconic and innovative Bell Labs in today's pro-shareholder environment and cited survey data that showed more than half of corporate executives would not

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make a good long-term investment if it meant a short-term loss.

She offered a lot of brand-name love to companies including Trader Joe's, QuikTrip, Chrysler, GM, Target, Starbucks and Chipotle who see their "workers as assets, not costs to be cut," she said. Citing recent wage hikes at McDonald's and WalMart -- which were spurred in part by public pressure -- Clinton said it was time to end wage stagnation.

But just as no single policy can reverse decades of wage stagnation for most Americans, no single tax policy can reserve the decades-long shift in how businesses are run. There's "no single cause, no single solution," Clinton admitted.

Hillary Clinton Pushes Back On Report Of Email Investigation // HuffPo // Sam Levine - July 24, 2015

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Friday said that there had been "a lot of inaccuracies" surrounding a New York Times report that the inspectors general at the State Department and the Intelligence Community had asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal probe into whether emails with classified information had been mishandled in relation to the personal account she used while secretary of state.

Clinton pointed to comments by Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), the top Democrat on the Select Committee on Benghazi, who said on Friday that the IG had personally told him he did not request a criminal probe. A Justice Department official said in a statement Friday morning that "the Department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information. It is not a criminal referral."

"Maybe the heat is getting to everybody," Clinton said. "We all have a responsibility to get this right. I have released 55,000 pages of emails, I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House committee."

Hillary Clinton said that there had been "a lot of inaccuracies" surrounding a report about an investigation into potentially compromised classified information on her private e-mail server.

The Times issued a correction on the story on Friday, saying that the article "using information from senior government officials, misstated the nature of the referral to the Justice Department regarding Hillary Clinton's personal email account while she was secretary of state. The referral addressed the potential compromise of classified information in connection with that personal email account. It did not specifically request an investigation into Mrs. Clinton."

During a speech on details of her economic policy in New York on Friday, Clinton said that she was being transparent.

"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right," Clinton continued. " And I will do my part. But I am also going to stay focused on the issues. Particularly the big issues that really matter to American families."

Classified Emails Were Sent Through Clinton's Private Network, Watchdog Says // NPR // Eyder Peralta - July 24, 2015

The Justice Department has received a referral to look into whether classified information was mishandled in relation to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's use of a private email account to conduct official business.

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After The New York Times first reported the story, the inspectors general of the State Department and the Intelligence Community made public memos that outline the concerns that led to the referral.

The memos reveal two important things: First, that investigators found that Clinton's private email account contained "hundreds of potentially classified emails." Second, the investigators found that "at least one email made public by the State Department contained classified information."

Andrea Williams, a spokeswoman for the inspector general for the Intelligence Community, told NPR's Carrie Johnson that at least four emails that were sent through Clinton's private email network "were classified when they were sent and are classified now."

On the face of it that seems like a simple statement, but the inspector general also found that all of the emails were not marked as classified. That raises questions about how the State Department and the Intelligence Community handled sensitive information.

The issue of Clinton's private email account has cast controversy over her burgeoning presidential campaign. Clinton, however, has always maintained that she did not break the law when she opted to use a personal email account instead of a State Department account to conduct official business during her tenure as secretary of state.

"I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email," Clinton said at a news conference in March. "There is no classified material. So I'm certainly well-aware of the classification requirements and did not send classified material."

The Clinton campaign issued a statement on Twitter Friday, reiterating that point. Campaign spokesman Nick Merrill said that Clinton had followed "appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials."

He added: "As has been reported on multiple occasions, any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted."

I. Charles McCullough, the Intelligence Community inspector general, seemed to characterize that differently in a Thursday memo to lawmakers: "We note that none of the emails we reviewed had classification or dissemination markings, but some included IC-derived classified information and should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked and transmitted via a secure network. Further, my office's limited sampling of 40 of the emails revealed four contained classified IC information which should have been marked and handled at the SECRET level."

It's worth noting that it is still unclear who sent those emails and that the State Department disputes the charges made by the Intelligence Community inspector general,.

During his regularly scheduled briefing, deputy State Department spokesman Mark Toner said they did not believe that Clinton sent classified information through her personal email.

"She's handed over those 55-thousand pages ... to our knowledge, none of that needed to be classified at the time," Toner said. "Some are being upgraded as classified now."

Clinton addressed the reports during a speech Friday afternoon, saying there has been a lot of misinformation.

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"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right," she said. "But I will do my part, but I am also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families."

Carrie reports that the Justice Department has received a referral related to the case. The Justice Department had originally said it was a criminal referral, but they later corrected themselves saying it was non-criminal and "related to the potential compromise of classified information."

Carrie reports that there has been no decision yet from Justice about whether it will launch an investigation into the State Department Clinton email issue based on the referral.

Clinton's use of a private email account was first reported in March by the Times. Before the revelation, Clinton had turned over tens of thousands of emails to the State Department and eventually asked for them to be made public. The State Department is releasing the emails in batches as they are reviewed for sensitive information.

Our friends at It's All Politics took a comprehensive look at the law in April. They found that whether any law was broken would likely come down to whether classified material was sent over Clinton's personal account.

Update at 2:50 p.m. ET. One Or Two Referrals?

There has been some confusion as to how many inspectors general have issued referrals to the Department of Justice.

The New York Times originally said both the inspector general for the State Department and the one for the Intelligence Community referred the issue to Justice.

But Rep. Elijah Cummings and State Department spokesman Mark Toner said that was incorrect. The Intelligence Community inspector general did confirm that it had referred the case to Justice and Justice also confirmed receiving a referral.

We have updated this post to reflect this new information.

Update at 11:16 a.m. ET. Rep. Cummings Rebuts Reports:

Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Democrat from Maryland, tells The Hill that the State Department inspector general has told him that he did not request a criminal investigation.

The Hill reports:

"'I spoke personally to the State Department Inspector General on Thursday, and he said he never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage,' Cummings, the top Democrat on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, said Friday in a statement.

"Instead, Steve Linick, State's Inspector General 'told me the Intelligence Community IG notified the Justice Department and Congress that they identified classified information in a few emails that were part of the [Freedom

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of Information Act] review, and that none of those emails had been previously marked as classified.'"

Update at 11:03 a.m. ET. The Public Release Of Classified Info:

In a memo dated June 29, Steve Linick, the State Department's inspector general, writes that there was concern that a batch of emails scheduled for release the next day contained "possible classified material."

Another later memo says at least one of those emails containing classified information has been released to the public.

Update at 9:57 a.m. ET. The Memos:

The State Department's Office of the Inspector General has now made the memos the New York Times reported on public. We've uploaded them here. But here is the key paragraph from a July 17, 2015, memo written by Steve Linick, the State Department's inspector general:

How The New York Times Bungled the Hillary Clinton Emails Story // Newsweek // Kurt Eichenwald - July 24, 2015

What the hell is happening at The New York Times?

In March, the newspaper published a highly touted article about Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email account that, as I wrote in an earlier column, was wrong in its major points. The Times's public editor defended that piece, linking to a lengthy series of regulations that, in fact, proved the allegations contained in the article were false. While there has since been a lot of partisan hullaballoo about "email-bogus-gate"—something to be expected when the story involves a political party's presidential front-runner—the reality remained that, when it came to this story, there was no there there.

Then, on Thursday night, the Times dropped a bombshell: Two government inspectors general had made a criminal referral to the Justice Department about Clinton and her handling of the emails. The story was largely impenetrable, because at no point did it offer even a suggestion of what might constitute a crime. By Friday morning, the Times did what is known in the media trade as a "skin back"—the article now said the criminal referral wasn't about Clinton but about the department's handling of emails. Still, it conveyed no indication of what possible crime might be involved.

The story seemed to further fall apart on Friday morning when Representative Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) issued a statement saying that he had spoken to the inspector general of the State Department and that there had been no criminal referral regarding Clinton's email usage. Rather, Cummings said, the inspectors general for State and the intelligence community had simply notified the Justice Department—which issues the regulations on Freedom of Information Act requests—that some emails subject to FOIA review had been identified as classified when they had not previously been designated that way.

So had the Times mixed up a criminal referral—a major news event—with a notification to the department responsible for overseeing FOIA errors that might affect some documents' release? It's impossible to tell, because the Times story—complete with its lack of identification of any possible criminal activity—continues to mention a criminal referral.

But based on a review of documents from the inspectors general, the problems with the story may be worse than that—much, much worse. The reason my last sentence says may is this: There is a possibility—however unlikely—that the Times cited documents in its article that have the same dates and the same quotes but are

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different from the records I have reviewed. I emailed Dean Baquet, the Times's executive editor, to ask if there are some other records the paper has and a series of other questions, but received no response. (Full disclosure: I'm a former senior writer for the Times and have worked with Baquet in the past.)

So, in an excess of caution, I'm leaving open the possibility that there are other documents with the same quotes on the same dates simply because the other conclusion—that The New York Times is writing about records its reporters haven't read or almost willfully didn't understand—is, for a journalist, simply too horrible to contemplate.

Indeed, if the Times article is based on the same documents I read, then the piece is wrong in all of its implications and in almost every particular related to the inspector generals' conclusions. These are errors that go far beyond whether there was a criminal referral of Clinton's emails or a criminal referral at all. Sources can mislead; documents do not.

First, what did the Times article say? To be charitable, let's use the skinned-back version and quote the first two paragraphs:

Two inspectors general have asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account Hillary Rodham Clinton used as secretary of state, senior government officials said Thursday.

The request follows an assessment in a June 29 memo by the inspectors general for the State Department and the intelligence agencies that Mrs. Clinton's private account contained "hundreds of potentially classified emails." The memo was written to Patrick F. Kennedy, the under secretary of state for management.

The words in those paragraphs would lead any rational reader of the Times story to conclude that sensitive government information was mishandled, that this mishandling raised concerns about criminal activity, and that these concerns related somehow to classified information in Clinton's email account.

Here are the words that were left out: Freedom of Information Act. At no point in the story does the Times mention what this memo—and the other it cited—was really all about: that the officials at the Freedom of Information office in the State Department and intelligence agencies, which were reviewing emails for release, had discovered emails that may not have been designated with the correct classification. For anyone who has dealt with the FOIA and government agencies, this is something that happens all the time in every administration. (Advice to other journalists: That is why it's smart to file multiple FOIA requests for the same document; different FOIA officials will declare different items unreleasable, so some records can be turned over where a sentence has been blacked out because one reviewer decided it was classified, while another deemed it unclassified.)

The problem is, it is not as if the real purpose of this memo was hard to discern. Here is the subject heading: "Potential Issues Identified by the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community Concerning the Department of State's Process for the Review of Former Secretary Clinton's Emails under the Freedom of Information Act (ESP-15-05)"

Get it? This is about the process being used by FOIA officials in reviewing former Secretary Clinton. And former government officials have nothing to do with how FOIA officials deal with requests for documentation. To jump from this fact to a conclusion that, somehow, someone thinks there is a criminal case against Clinton (the original story) requires a level of recklessness that borders on, well, criminal behavior.

Yes, there is memo after memo after memo, which the Times gloats were given to it by a senior government official. (For those who have thoughts of late-night meetings in parking garages or the Pentagon Papers, they were unclassified documents. Reporters obtain those kinds of records through the complex, investigative procedure of

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asking the press office for them.) And all of them are about the exact same thing: the process being used by current FOIA officials reviewing the emails of a former official is messed up. That's like criticizing the former owner of a car for the work conducted by the new owner's mechanic.

So what was the point of the Kennedy memo actually written by the two inspector generals (the State Department's Steve Linick and the intelligence community's Charles McCullough III)? The memo itself is very clear: "The Department should ensure that no classified documents are publically released."

In terms of journalism, this is terrible. That the Times article never discloses this is about an after-the-fact review of Clinton's emails conducted long after she left the State Department is simply inexcusable. That this all comes from a concern about the accidental release of classified information—a fact that goes unmentioned—is even worse. In other words, the Times has twisted and turned in a way that makes this story seem like something it most decidedly is not. This is no Clinton scandal. It is no scandal at all. It is about current bureaucratic processes, probably the biggest snooze-fest in all of journalism.

The heavy breathing of deception or incompetence by the Times doesn't stop there. In fact, almost every paragraph at the top of the story is wrong, misleading or fundamentally deceptive.

The third paragraph states: "It is not clear if any of the information in the emails was marked as classified by the State Department when Mrs. Clinton sent or received them." No, in fact, it is quite clear. All of the memos are about emails that the officials say may not have been properly designated as classified, meaning it would be improper to release them. If a document is marked as classified, it is certainly not difficult to determine if it has been marked as classified. Paragraph three is false.

Paragraph four: "But since her use of a private email account for official State Department business was revealed in March, she has repeatedly said that she had no classified information on the account." Mmmm-kay. A point that would seem to be reinforced by the fact that this whole issue is about whether emails should have been designated as classified by FOIA officials. The but makes it seem as if there is a contradiction, when in fact the two points are completely consistent.

Then there are a couple of paragraphs that are a short summary of the past and a comment from the Clinton campaign saying any released emails deemed classified were designated that way after the fact. Yah—that's what the memos are talking about.

All of this is bad enough, but then there is the ultimate disaster, paragraph seven: "At issue are thousands of pages of State Department emails from Mrs. Clinton's private account. Mrs. Clinton has said she used the account because it was more convenient, but it also shielded her correspondence from congressional and Freedom of Information Act requests."

Wow. The first time that the story—which readers cannot possibly know is about FOIA requests—finally mentions FOIA requests, it just manufactures a reality out of thin air. Using a private account would not, in any way, shield Clinton's correspondence from congressional or FOIA requests.

Start with the rules. Under the FOIA, any document that is not specifically exempted and that falls "under the control of the Department" at the time the request for those records is submitted must be produced. By legal definition, the secretary of state qualifies as part of "the Department," and thus anything that official writes as part of the job—whether by email, telegraph or handwritten on personal stationery—is subject to a FOIA request. Same goes for Congress. That's why congressional hearings sometimes produce personal handwritten documents—the fact that they might not be in an email server does not limit the requirement that they be turned over.

Second, contrary to the implication from the first Times story, Clinton's emails sent in her role as secretary of

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state were automatically saved into a secure data system under the control of the department. In fact, where does the Times think the FOIA offices for the State Department and the intelligence community are finding the 55,000 emails now under review that it cites in its new story? Are officials breaking into Clinton's house in the middle of the night to examine them by flashlight? Nope. They are pulling them off of the system under the department's control.

Then there is accusation by false association. If a sentence read, "Bill shot Ted, and Ted died," any responsible journalist who wrote that would understand the implication was that Bill killed Ted. But if the truth is that Bill accidentally shot Ted when they were on a hunting trip, and 30 years later Ted died from heart disease, the implied accusation is true in its fact yet false in its statement.

This unforgivable journalistic sin turns up in paragraphs 13 and 14 in the Times story. They read:

The inspectors general also criticized the State Department for its handling of sensitive information, particularly its reliance on retired senior Foreign Service officers to decide if information should be classified, and for not consulting with the intelligence agencies about its determinations.

In March, Mrs. Clinton insisted that she was careful in her handling of information on her private account. "I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email," she said.

No reader could possibly know that the two paragraphs, jammed together and using similar phrases—handling of information and handling of sensitive information—have nothing to do with each other. The first paragraph is once again based on the inspectors general's memos. And again, what those memos are actually discussing is the way that the FOIA office is handling its review of the former secretary of state's emails for public release. They in no way discuss Clinton, her handling of emails or anything approaching those topics.

But by slapping those two paragraphs together and using the same words, the Times—again, either out of recklessness, ignorance or intentional deception—makes it seem as if the inspectors general are saying Clinton mishandled classified information. They didn't.

In our hyper-partisan world, many people will not care about the truth here. That the Times story is false in almost every particular—down to the level of who wrote what memo—will only lead to accusations that people trying to set the record straight are pro-Hillary. I am not pro-Hillary. I am, however, pro-journalism. And this display of incompetence or malice cannot stand without correction.

And to other reporters: Democracy is not a game. It is not a means of getting our names on the front page or setting the world abuzz about our latest scoop. It is about providing information so that an electorate can make decisions based on reality. It is about being fair and being accurate. This despicable Times story was neither.

What Hillary Can Learn From Amy Schumer **// Daily Beast // Keli Goff - July 24, 2015**

The confident, approachable, and self-deprecating Schumer could be a better model for Hillary than you'd think.

In her new interview with GQ magazine, Amy Schumer said that she's a fan of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. She also shared that the feeling is mutual, noting that at the Glamour Women of the Year Awards Clinton told Schumer she related to one of Schumer's jokes. The joke in question? "I said that in L.A. my arms register as legs, and she really liked that. She was like, 'I can relate,'" Schumer recalled.

But Schumer and Clinton actually have more in common than their sense of humor about the absurd physical expectations society places on women, particularly women in their chosen professions. For starters, they are both

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feminists whose political leanings have guided their work. But it is the differences in their approaches—and how they are perceived by the public—that may tell us more about Hillary's chances for winning the White House in 2016 than yet another poll. (Although we will get to the latest polls in a second.)

When people think of Hillary Clinton, a lot of words come to mind. Polarizing is one of them. But even her detractors will acknowledge she's also smart, resilient, and tough. They've thrown the kitchen sink at her over the years and she's still standing.

However, even her admirers would acknowledge she's not what voters would call accessible. There's always a bit of a wall there. (Having that kitchen sink thrown at her may have something to do with that.) And even more damaging is the perception that she is not authentic. A growing number of voters find her dishonest, according to the latest Quinnipiac poll.

Schumerhas been incredibly blunt about how trying it can be to be a woman in a man's world, but men are too busy laughing with her to resent her for calling out the patriarchy.

Smart + inaccessible + inauthentic does not usually equal someone who can easily win a presidential race. Just look at Al Gore and Mitt Romney.

Add to that equation the fact that she's a woman and the climb is even tougher because, as unfair as it is, we all know women are judged by different standards. It is never enough to just be smart or talented or tough; we're also supposed to be attractive and likable at the same time. (Before anyone starts typing an angry tweet or comment dismissing the notion that women candidates are judged differently, ask yourself honestly what would happen if a female candidate stopped wearing makeup on the campaign trail and wore the same suit every day, something Clinton recently touched upon.)

This is what makes Schumer's ascent both fascinating and potentially instructive for Clinton, someone who Schumer has said she plans to campaign for.

Standup comedy is not exactly known for being an easy place for women and very few female standup comics have truly cracked the boys club to become household names. Even fewer have managed to earn serious respect within the uber-male, uber-macho comic community. But Schumer's done it. She's managed to become a breakout star with as many male fans as female ones, and she's done it without compromising her feminist zeal. There wasn't a doubt in my mind Schumer was both smart and a feminist the first time I read one of her jokes. But I also realized the reason she would be a huge success is because:

A) Even her comments about feminist issues, like women's body image, were ones men could laugh at.

B) Even when a joke didn't really land, you could tell Schumer told it because she thought it was funny—not because she spent hours calculating where that joke would land her career-wise.

C) She would tell you the truth about how she saw things—even if it were supremely uncomfortable for all involved, including her, the subject, or the audience.

D) You can genuinely tell she has a sense of humor about it all—including some of the unfair nonsense she knows she will have to put up with that a male comedian won't.

Part of Clinton's problem is that she struggles with all of the above. Having met her more than once I know she has a great laugh—but I doubt many Americans believe she has a great sense of humor, and that comes across.

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There's this sense that the weariness of the last two decades on the national stage has robbed her of her sense of enthusiasm for the process altogether, and possibly stoked a resentment for it. I can't say I blame her. Unlike Hillary, I have a tough time hiding my disdain for stupidity, prying questions, and people I don't like. These are among the many reasons I would never run for office.

But Clinton is running, so that means she's going to have to find a way to see the humor in it all. From the stupid comments some commentator (likely male) will probably make about her appearance down the road, to the stupid question someone will ask her in a debate that he would never ask a man. Schumer has been incredibly blunt about how trying it can be to be a woman in a man's world, but men are too busy laughing with her to resent her for calling out the patriarchy.

A big part of Schumer's effectiveness is that whatever she says, it's clear she says it because she either really believes it or really believes it is funny. Consider this: When Schumer faced her first round of negative publicity, specifically the criticism she faced for making racially insensitive jokes in the past, she did what few are willing to do in the age of Twitter outrage: she defended herself. That further enraged some people, but it also impressed others, me being one of them.

Though she eventually came around to saying she had evolved past the jokes in question, whether you liked them or not, they reinforced a fundamental perception about her: If she thinks it's funny she'll say it out loud. You may not always love a person like that, but you also know you can trust her.

This week a thirty-something, white, female pro-choice friend mentioned to me she finds Clinton untrustworthy. She doesn't dislike her. But just doesn't trust her. When I pressed her on why, she mentioned the private email server, but fundamentally it wasn't about that. You either believe someone will tell you the truth, and show you who they really are, or you don't.

In her GQ interview Schumer said, "I love being in my own skin" and professed she wants others to feel comfortable in theirs.

For Clinton to win the presidency she's going to have to show Americans that she's not only smart, resilient, and tough, but comfortable in her own skin.

Hillary Clinton wants to take on "quarterly capitalism" — here's what that means // Vox // Matthew Yglesias - July 24, 2015

In a speech today at NYU's Stern Business School, Hillary Clinton plans to finger what she considers a key impediment to long-term economic growth: "quarterly capitalism." It's a brand of excessively short-term thinking in which Wall Street considerations end up doing too much to drive Main Street business decisions.

It's an intriguing way to drive a conceptually left-wing message that many business executives actually agree with, and a demonstration that there's no necessary tension between a progressive economic approach focused on fairness and a more centrist one focused on growth.

It also reveals the deeply wonky side of Clinton. The supporting policy details that her campaign has hinted at thus far — a change to the tax code's definition of long-term capital gains, a new approach to sharing buyback transparency, and perhaps some limits on the things so-called "activist" investors are allowed to do — are not exactly candy for the masses. They're an effort to grapple with some deep and profound issues about the nature of the American economic system.

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What is "quarterly capitalism"?

The term comes from McKinsey & Company managing director Dominic Barton and some ideas he laid out in a March 2011 Harvard Business Review article, but the basic concept is much older. It stems from the ritual through which publicly traded companies release a statement about revenue and spending every three months, known as the quarterly earning report.

These statements can have very large influences on share prices. For example, on the afternoon of July 23 Amazon released an earnings report that performed well above the consensus expectations of Wall Street analysts. That caused its shares to skyrocket in value — up 18 percent — within a matter of hours. And yet while the report was certainly good news for Amazon, it — like most quarterly earnings reports — didn't really tell us much of anything about the most profound issues facing Amazon (or any other company) in the long run.

The thesis of quarterly capitalism is that the link between short-term earnings and share prices, and the link between share prices and CEO pay, has created management practices that are excessively focused on living month to month.

"Lost in the frenzy," wrote Barton, "is the notion that long-term thinking is essential for long-term success."

How quarterly capitalism can hurt America

On some level, the idea that giant businesses — just like everyone else — sometimes have trouble focusing on the long term sounds like a bit of a platitude. But there's reason to believe that short-termism in corporate America can hurt the country's long-term economic prospects.

To see why, consider two companies deeply enmeshed in the technology industry and the mobile revolution — Google and Verizon.

One big difference between these companies is that Google's voting stock is utterly dominated by its two founders, Larry Page and Sergei Brin, who can steer the company in any which way they like. Verizon, by contrast, was essentially founded by nobody. It's a corporate descendant of Bell Atlantic, which was founded in 1983 after the government made AT&T break up. AT&T itself was founded way back in 1885. All of which is to say that Verizon is highly subject to the whims of the stock market, while Google essentially reflects the vision of two entrepreneurs.

Consequently, the companies behave very differently.

Google is adventurous: It plows the profits from its web search into a shockingly wide range of ventures. It launched an email service and a calendar and an office productivity suite. It builds a free mobile operating system. But it also builds Chrome OS for laptops. It made some weird glasses. It is trying to build a self-driving car. It runs fiber-optic networks in eight cities.

Verizon pays a lot of dividends: By contrast, Verizon does not really do exciting things. It does invest money in its infrastructure. But it does so relatively cautiously, rolling out new fiber-optic lines at a measured pace. It could build fiber faster, but doing so would be expensive. Instead Verizon prefers to spend about $8 billion a year on paying dividends to its shareholders, with billions on top of that spent on buying Verizon stock.

Verizon acts this way in large part because that's how Wall Street wants it to act. Spending billions on dividends and buybacks is better for the share price than spending billions on new infrastructure to compete with Comcast,

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AT&T, and others.

But it certainly seems like it would be better for America if telecommunications companies were investing more furiously in improving services and competing with each other.

Research says public companies invest less

Of course, anyone can tell anecdotes. But academic research appears to back up the idea that stock market pressures lead companies to invest less than they otherwise would. John Asker, Joan Farre-Mensa, and Alexander Ljungqvist did a study in which they compared publicly traded companies to otherwise similar companies that are privately owned. They found that "compared to private firms, public firms invest substantially less and are less responsive to changes in investment opportunities" and that this happens "especially in industries in which stock prices are most sensitive to earnings news."

Short-termism, in other words, leads to less investment.

A clever synthesis

As my colleague Jon Allen has written, Hillary Clinton is a fairly unimpressive public speaker on the stump, but she's an extremely skilled consensus builder and savvy candidate. The quarterly capitalism thesis is an example of that. On the one hand, it's a potent critique of mainstream financial capitalism as practiced in the United States and similar countries. It resonates deeply with the concerns of the American labor movement, and with critics of Wall Street's influence on the real economy. It reflects an academic research agenda that arose on the leftward margins of the debate and has gained in influence over the years.

At the same time, framing a campaign argument around a Harvard Business Review article by a McKinsey managing director is hardly a call for imminent revolution and the overthrow of capitalism.

In fact, this is a criticism that lots of CEOs and other rich businessmen agree with. They wish they were less slave to quarterly earnings reports and had more of the freedom of a Larry Page. These are left-wing themes, in other words, but while they'll certainly make Clinton some enemies among the activist investor class they don't do all that much to alienate donors or position her as anti-business.

Things will get harder the deeper she delves into policy specifics, but as a broad campaign theme it's a tour de force. By embracing the quarterly capitalism critique, Clinton offers a more radical criticism of the status quo than we've ever heard from Barack Obama while also showing herself to be more sensitive to the concrete concerns of American executives.

Hillary Clinton's capital gains tax reform, explained **// Vox // Matthew Yglesias - July 24, 2015**

As part of her plan to reduce the impact of short-term thinking on corporate America, Hillary Clinton is proposing a revamp of how investment income is taxed in America. Right now, the tax code distinguished between a short-term investment held for less than a year and a long-term investment held for longer than that. She wants to replace that with a different system, featuring a six-year sliding scale of rates to give genuinely long-term investors a leg up.

What's a capital gain? How is it taxed?

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A capital gain is income that a person makes from investment. If you buy a house for $200,000 and sell it 10 years later for $250,000, you have scored a $50,000 capital gain. The current tax code largely exempts capital gains earned buying and selling owner-occupied houses, so the debate over capital gains taxation generally focuses on capital gains secured by buying and selling stocks, bonds, and other financial assets.

Right now the tax code distinguishes between short-term capital gains and long-term capital gains. A short-term capital gain is defined as a gain on an asset that you owned for less than a year, while a long-term capital gain is defined as a gain on an asset that you owned for longer than a year. Short-term capital gains are taxed at the same rate as wage or salary income, but long-term capital gains are taxed at a lower rate.

In other words, the current tax code already features lower tax rates for income derived from long-term capital gains than for income derived from other sources. Clinton is proposing, essentially, to extend the logic of the current system, not to replace it with a whole new logic.

Why is capital gains income taxed at a lower rate?

There are three big explanations for the current system — a cynical one, one grounded in political rhetoric, and an economics-y one:

The cynical take is that capital gains income receives a tax preference because the vast majority of capital gains income is earned by rich people. And not just any old kind of rich person. A movie star or LeBron James is still mostly working for a living. It takes a classy kind of rich person to have big stock market earnings.

The rhetorical reason typically offered is that, as the American Enterprise Institute's James Pethokoukis says, capital gains taxes are a "double tax." The idea is that first Mr. Richpants gets paid a salary and pays taxes on it. Then he takes some of his after-tax dollars and invests them in the stock market. Then when he sells his stock, he is "taxed again" on his earnings in a way that would not have happened had he spent the money on a boat rather than invested it in the stock market.

The economics-y reason is a result in theoretical macroeconomics stemming from work by Christophe Chamley and Kenneth Judd that shows that under appropriate assumptions, the socially optimal level of investment taxation is zero. The result involves a lot of math, but the intuitive idea is that the less you tax investments in capital goods, the more capital goods you get. And the more capital goods you have, the higher your wages will be. Consequently, even people who derive all their income from wages benefit in the long run from not taxing capital income. Garrett Jones has a slightly longer explanation featuring light math if you are interested.

What is Hillary Clinton proposing to do?

Her campaign has not yet released a fully-fleshed out plan, but they say she wants to make two changes. One is to push the current one-year definition of short-term capital gains out to two-years.

The second is that she doesn't want to give every investment held for longer than two years equal treatment. Instead, she wants a sliding scale of rates over a multi-year period so that you would need to hold an investment for a full six years to qualify for the discount rate.

Is the case for low capital taxation correct?

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Needless to say, people disagree. In practice, there appears to be very strong political consensus around preferential treatment for investment income. Even very liberal members of Congress, for example, do not propose ending the exemption of capital gains income from the payroll tax that finances Social Security. Nor do liberal members of Congress propose to end the exemption of profits made by selling owner-occupied homes from capital gains taxation. Countries all around the world feature some form of preferential treatment of investment income, and despite the partisan controversies around the capital gains tax rate nobody in American politics is actually proposing to do away entirely with our own preferential treatment.

That said, as is typical with highly theoretical results in macroeconomics, there are massive challenges in saying whether the Chamley-Judd construct applies in a meaningful way to the actual policy choice at hand. As economist Matthew Martin writes, "Any graduate macro text will show you some of the ways in which Chamley-Judd assumptions are violated in reality, producing a non-zero optimal tax rate."

Empirical studies also struggle to confirm the idea that tax rates on investment income are an important driver of real investment activity. A recent, statistically sophisticated study of the 2003 dividend tax cut by Danny Yagan, for example, finds that "the tax cut caused zero change in corporate investment."

Note, however, that even if the optimal tax rate for capital gains isn't zero it might still be optimal to have a lower rate on investment income than on wage income.

Why is Hillary Clinton proposing this?

Rather typically for Clinton as a political actor, what she seems to be zeroing in on is a clever way to build consensus between competing factions of wonks.

By raising tax rates on medium-term capital gains, Clinton will raise a bunch of tax revenue, and she will raise it overwhelmingly from high-income individuals. These are key demands of liberals, who are hungry for social spending and redistribution.

At the same time, by maintaining the low rate on longer-term capital gains, Clinton avoids a root-and-branch challenge to the principle of a tax preference for investment.

Clinton has been critical lately of what she calls "quarterly capitalism" and the idea that real world investment activity is being excessively influenced by short-term stock market fluctuations and earnings targets. Her altered tax system would make it more lucrative to be a patient investor than an impatient one, which might help generate an overall more patient climate on Wall Street — boosting corporate investment and fostering more long-term thinking.

A serious venture capitalist, for example, would almost certainly find himself still qualifying for the preferential rate. But a corporate raider looking to buy a company, strip assets, improve quarterly results, and then exit as quickly as possible would not.

Expect the campaign to front-load this short-term versus long-term issue, since it's emerging as a key theme for Clinton overall. But also note that in theory one could accomplish the same thing with a tax cut. Take today's rate for investments held over one year and apply it to investments held for one to three years. Take longer-term investments and apply a new lower rate to them. This would address the short-termism concern, while also addressing the GOP's opposition to higher taxes.

Clinton won't offer a proposal along those lines because for her, tax revenue and tax system progressivity are at least as important as the short-term versus long-term issue.

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How the old rules apply to the new Hillary Clinton email scoop **// Vox // Jonathan Allen - July 24, 2015**

Two federal inspectors general want the Justice Department to investigate whether classified information was mishandled in relation to then–Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's now-famous emails. There are two parts to the story that are worth noting.

First, the ongoing probes of Clinton and her email are at the very least a political problem that's not going away anytime soon. She'll have the unique challenge of running for president while being investigated by Congress, and perhaps at some point by the Justice Department. The Obama administration is in the uncomfortable position of either investigating the prohibitive favorite for the Democratic nomination or taking hits for stonewalling on her behalf. Some of the reporting Friday morning suggests that Secretary of State John Kerry, who isn't a big Clinton fan, is getting tired of his agency looking bad. As the Wall Street Journal reported, the investigators' memo revealed "hundreds of potentially classified emails within the collection" and that there may be classified material in one of the emails the department already has made public.

Second, the Clinton rules are in full effect again. This case would fall under the umbrella of No. 3: The media assumes that Clinton is acting in bad faith until there's hard evidence otherwise. The New York Times, which got the scoop, rewrote its original story and is taking a beating from political observers and other media outlets for it. The first version said the inspectors general want a criminal investigation into Clinton's actions specifically, while the revised copy says they want the Justice Department to open a probe, more broadly, into whether the email was mishandled. It may turn out that Clinton is responsible for mishandling sensitive material, but the inspectors general didn't ask for an investigation into her, as the first version of the Times story said. Here are the two versions:

The Times also changed the headline of the story, from "Criminal Inquiry Sought in Hillary Clinton’s Use of Email" to "Criminal Inquiry Is Sought in Clinton Email Account," reflecting a similar recasting of Clinton's possible role. The article's URL was also changed to reflect the new headline.

If Clinton was sending classified email from her personal account, attached to a personal server, that's a political problem — and possibly a legal one — that will be difficult to mitigate. She has said she wasn't sending and receiving classified information, but there's a catch to that — since her email was on her personal server, there was no way for anyone to know and mark it classified.

Still, when the media gets the story wrong, it gives Clinton an out in terms of the public relations war.

Clinton responds to reports of possible email investigation **// LA Times // Michael Memoli - July 24, 2015**

Before delivering a speech about corporate culture on Wall Street, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday addressed reports that the Justice Department had been asked to investigate whether classified material passed through her private email account during her time as secretary of State.

Clinton suggested the news reports were inaccurate and that "maybe the heat is getting to everybody."

"We all have a responsibly to get this right. I have released 55,000 pages of emails. I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House committee," she said.

"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right. And I will do my part. But I'm also going to remain focused on the big issues. Particularly the big issues that really matter to American families.”

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Clinton calls on corporations to shift focus to longer-term growth // LA Times // Michael Memoli - July 24, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton called on American business leaders Friday to rethink a focus on short-term stock gains in favor of longer-term growth, outlining proposals she said would address the trend of what she called “quarterly capitalism” that has left the middle class behind.

Speaking in New York, Clinton cited data that showed large publicly held companies returned a record amount of earnings directly to shareholders through dividends and stock buybacks, at the expense of capital expenditures or wage increases for their employees. The kind of focus on tactics to boost short-term profits was “bad for business, bad for wages and bad for our economy, and fixing it will be good for everybody,” she said.

“American business needs to break free from the tyranny of today’s earning report so they can do what they do best: innovate, invest and build tomorrow’s prosperity,” she said. “It’s time to start measuring value in terms of years or the next decade, not just the next quarter.”

At the start of her speech, Clinton took a moment to address the reports that government inspectors general had asked the Justice Department to investigate into whether classified information was mishandled through the private email account Clinton used as secretary of State. Clinton said there “have been a lot of inaccuracies” while noting that she has released 55,000 pages of her emails and was ready to testify before a special congressional panel.

“We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right. And I will do my part,” she said.

The centerpiece of the plan Clinton laid out Friday was a revision to the capital gains tax that would implement a sliding scale, taxing gains from stock sales within two years at the same rate as incomes for those earning more than $465,000 a year, but returning to the current rate of 20% after six years.

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She called the capital gains reform an “important first step” to address short-term culture and said it would be part of a larger tax reform plan she will outline. Executive compensation was another area she said should be examined, saying there was “something wrong when senior executives get rich when companies stutter.”

The speech builds off a broader economic policy speech Clinton gave on July 13 in which she called ending wage stagnation the "defining economic issue of our time." Later that week in New Hampshire, she proposed giving short-term tax credits to businesses that create profit-sharing arrangements with their employees.

Though Clinton is the heavy favorite to win her party’s nomination, she faces pressure from an active progressive base and Democratic rivals to embrace more-sweeping economic proposals to address income inequality. Notably in her speech, Clinton welcomed a recent decision by a New York panel to implement a $15-per-hour wage for fast-food workers, while noting that the cost of living in the state was higher than other places. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, an independent running in the Democratic primary, headlined a rally at the Capitol this week calling for a national $15-per-hour minimum wage.

Another Democratic candidate, former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, challenged his opponents to embrace a set of principles guiding additional Wall Street and corporate reforms.

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"If Secretary Clinton wants to earn the enthusiastic support of grassroots progressives that means standing up, staking out genuinely bold positions on income inequality, and aggressively taking on the powerful, greed-driven institutions that have dominated the Democratic Party and held back the prosperity of the American people for far too long," Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America, said in a statement. "Today's speech hits those notes in some ways, but fails to do so in others."

Clinton promised that additional proposals focused on "reining in excessive risk on Wall Street" would be forthcoming but focused on answering Friday what she said was the important question of how to define shareholder value.

"I understand that most CEOs are simply responding to very real pressures from shareholders and the market to turn in good quarterly numbers. And investors are always looking for strong, reliable returns. But it is clear that the system is out of balance," she said.

Federal investigators want Justice Department probe of Hillary Clinton emails // LA Times // Evan Halper - July 24, 2015

The Department of Justice has been asked to open an investigation into the use of a personal email account by Hillary Rodham Clinton while she was secretary of State, after government investigators concluded that classified information may have been mishandled, U.S. officials said.

Inspectors general for the State Department and intelligence agencies asked that the investigation be opened after finding that Clinton's private account potentially contained hundreds of classified emails. The New York Times first reported the request to the Justice Department.

"The department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information," said its statement. "It is not a criminal referral." Officials at the Justice Department declined to say anything further about it.

Such referrals are routine when investigators in the office of the inspector general for the intelligence community find evidence that classified information may have been sent using unsecured email. In this case, the evidence was referred to the FBI counterintelligence division, according to a U.S. official briefed on the review.

The official cautioned that the referral was an early step and far from any possible prosecution.

The Justice Department's clarification, though, only raised a fresh round of questions. Regardless of whether criminal charges are involved, the compromise of classified information is generally considered a serious breach.

Clinton has said repeatedly she did not keep classified information on the account. Her campaign said in a statement that the emails in question were classified by the State Department retroactively, and thus Clinton violated no laws. It is unclear from the published findings of the inspectors general whether they found otherwise.

"We all have a responsibility to get this right," Clinton said in brief remarks addressing the issue Friday during a speech on the economy. "I have released 55,000 pages of emails; I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions."

Congressional Democrats released a letter Friday from the intelligence agencies' inspector general that they said demonstrates that none of the material Clinton handled was marked classified. The memo said the investigators

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found no emails with “classification or dissemination markings” among the batch reviewed.

But the inspector general, I. Charles McCullough, also noted there were emails Clinton turned over to the State Department that did, indeed, contain classified information but were not marked as such.

“We note that none of the emails we reviewed had classification or dissemination markings, but some included … classified information and should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked and transmitted via a secure network,” the letter said.

The finding reflects new concerns about the way Clinton managed her email. Even if she took care not to accept or send messages marked as classified through her personal server, sensitive material does not always get appropriately marked immediately. McCullough reviewed a sampling of 40 of the 30,000 emails from the Clinton server and found four of them had information that should have been marked and handled as classified.

McCullough’s note also points out that Clinton’s attorney, David Kendall, still appears to have those emails on an unclassified system. “The 30,000 emails in question are purported to have been copied to a thumb drive in the possession of former Secretary Clinton’s personal counsel,” the letter said.

The development is likely to prove a considerable problem for the Clinton campaign. The former secretary of State’s email practices have been a constant point of attack for opponents and have fueled the perception among voters that Clinton is untrustworthy.

A House committee investigating Clinton’s handling of the terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya, in 2012 that claimed American lives has focused its investigation on her personal email account. Its Republican chair has repeatedly accused Clinton of working to conceal information that could shed more light on how the State Department handled the attacks.

The State Department is under a court order to quickly review the 55,000 pages of emails that Clinton sent on the private account and release the pages that are unclassified. Some 3,000 pages were disclosed a few weeks ago, and the department is planning to publish another batch by the end of this month.

The day before the most recent release, the two inspectors general sent a memo to the State Department noting that staff reviewing the Clinton emails “report discovering hundreds of potentially classified emails within the collection. In addition, there is concern that possible classified material will be posted in tomorrow’s release.”

The inspectors general later found that one of the emails released to the public contained classified information. Their memo does not pinpoint which email it was.

“At least one of these emails has been released to the public and can be accessed on the Department’s website,” said a July 17 memo written by Patrick Kennedy, the undersecretary for management at State.

Republicans are pressuring the Department of Justice to proceed with an investigation.

“Hillary Clinton’s desire to play by her own rules may have further exposed classified information,” said a statement from Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus. “A full investigation by the Justice Department is not just needed, but required.”

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Inspector General Says Hillary Clinton Emails Contained Classified Information // TIME // Zeke J. Miller - July 24, 2015

Federal officials have requested an investigation into a potential compromise of classified information related to the handling of documents once stored on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's private email server, government officials confirmed Friday.

Clinton and her current and former aides have not been named as targets of the investigation, and the scope of the investigation request has not been revealed.

A Department of Justice official confirmed to TIME Friday morning that there had been a "criminal referral." Later that same day, the official sent an updated statement: "The Department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information. It is not a criminal referral," it read.

Even if Clinton is not targeted in the probe, a Justice Department inquiry could be used to tar her presidential campaign. Her decision to use a private account for government business, and then choosing to delete ostensibly personal information from the server has already contributed to a decline in Clinton's favorability rating and has provoked questions about her trustworthiness.

I. Charles McCullough III, the inspector general for the intelligence community, voiced concerns in a July 23 memo over information that passed through Clinton's email server, was later given to her personal lawyer and returned to the State Department. McCullough said the data should have been treated with greater sensitivity, since it was derived from classified information produced by the U.S. intelligence community.

Clinton has repeatedly said she never allowed information that was marked classified to pass across her private email. "There have been a lot of inaccuracies," she said on Friday of the latest reports. "Maybe the heat is getting to everybody. We all have a responsibility to get this right. I have released 55,000 pages of emails, I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House Committee. We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part."

None of the investigating bodies, in Congress or elsewhere, have accused Clinton of wrongdoing. But questions have been raised about the judgement of State Department officials. "We note that none of the emails we reviewed had classification or dissemination markings, but some included [intelligence community]-derived classified information and should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked, and transmitted via a secure network," wrote McCullough, the inspector general for the intelligence community, who described his review as incomplete.

A spokeswoman for McCullough, Andrea Williams, said Friday that there are at least four emails of concern, which have yet to be released by the State Department under the Freedom of Information Act. "They were not marked at all but contained classified information," she wrote in an email to TIME Friday.

If documents had not initially been marked as classified, agency heads generally have significant legal leeway to decide how to classify most information, with the exception of some categories, like nuclear secrets, which are deemed classified by statute.

"The thing to understand about the classification system is that it is an administrative decision that is rooted in executive order," said Steven Aftergood, a government secrecy expert at the Federation of American Sciences. "The president delegates authority to agency heads. It's up to an agency head to decide if something is properly classified or not."

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The request for an investigation, first reported by the New York Times, is in reference to “hundreds of potentially classified emails” contained among Clinton’s messages.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House committee investigating Benghazi, denied Friday that there was any criminal referral. “I spoke personally to the State Department inspector general on Thursday, and he said he never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton’s email usage,” Cummings wrote in a statement. “This is the latest example in a series of inaccurate leaks to generate false front-page headlines – only to be corrected later – and they have absolutely nothing to do with the attacks in Benghazi or protecting our diplomatic corps overseas.”

In May, when releasing the first batch of Clinton emails to the public, the State Department, at the request of the intelligence community, classified 23 words of an email relating to the arrest of a suspected assailant in the 2012 Benghazi attack which killed four Americans.

A senior State Department official told TIME then that the retroactive classification does not mean Clinton did anything improper, adding “this happens several times a month” when Freedom of Information Act reports are prepared for the public. The executive order under which the classification program operates allows for the reclassification of information, either because of initial misclassification or because subsequent events have made the information more sensitive.

At the time, the State Department said, the email was unclassified while it resided on Clinton’s server and when it was sent to the House Select Committee on Benghazi. McCullough, the inspector general, told Congress that he believes copies of the emails were also placed on a thumb drive that was given to David Kendall, Clinton’s personal attorney at Williams and Connelly.

In a statement, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill brushed back on the assertion that Clinton had done anything wrong, noting that the New York Times had also changed the language of its initial story. At first, the Times described “a criminal investigation into whether Hillary Rodham Clinton mishandled sensitive government information.” That was changed to “a criminal investigation into whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account Hillary Rodham Clinton.”

“Contrary to the initial story, which has already been significantly revised, she followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials,” Merrill said. “As has been reported on multiple occasions, any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted.”

In a March news conference, Clinton denied that she used the unsecured account for classified information. “I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email,” she said. “There is no classified material. So I’m certainly well aware of the classification requirements and did not send classified material.”

In a statement Friday, Speaker of the House John Boehner criticized Clinton for “mishandling” classified email, though it is not yet clear whether that claim is a part of the potential Justice Department probe. He encouraged Clinton to turn over her private server to Congress for further investigation.

“Secretary Clinton has repeatedly claimed that the work-related emails on her private home server did not include classified information, but we know that is not true,” Boehner said. “She has claimed she is well-aware of what matters are classified and what are not, and yet she set up a personal email server to discuss matters of national security despite guidance to the contrary from both her State Department and the White House. Her poor [judgment] has undermined our national security and it is time for her to finally do the right thing.”

The State Department is in the midst of a review of 55,000 pages of emails from Clinton’s server, and is under

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court order to produce them regularly to the public in order to comply with overdue Freedom of Information Act requests.

The inspectors general of both the State Department and the intelligence community have asked the State Department to review the Clinton emails in a more highly classified environment, “given it is more likely than not” that such records exist in her messages. The department has declined, citing resource constraints.

In her public comments on the server issue, Clinton has at times been less than forthright, telling CNN earlier this month that she hadn’t received a subpoena for the records, for instance, when she had.

“The truth is everything I did was permitted and I went above and beyond what anybody could have expected in making sure that if the State Department didn’t capture something, I made a real effort to get it to them,” Clinton told CNN this month. But Clinton was under a legal obligation to preserve all messages pertaining to her work and to hand them over to the State Department.

Officials: Classified Emails ‘Should Never’ Have Been On Hillary Clinton Server // TIME // Zeke J. Miller - July 24, 2015

"Security referral" triggered by potential copies of classified documents on Clinton's home server, lawyer's thumb drive drive.

The Justice Department investigation into the potential mishandling of classified information was triggered by the revelation that classified information contained in Hillary Clinton’s private email account could still exist on her private home server and on the thumb drive in the control of her personal lawyer, U.S. officials confirmed Friday.

The referral was made by the Intelligence Community’s Inspector General (IC IG) to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s counterintelligence division, not career prosecutors at the Justice Department. “The IC IG did not make a criminal referral,” said the Inspectors General for the State Department and Intelligence Community in a joint statement Friday. “It was a security referral made for counterintelligence purposes.”

The immediate concerns are four emails culled from a limited sample of 400 emails that contained previously unlabeled classified information. “These emails were not retroactively classified by the State Department; rather these emails contained classified information when they were generated and, according to IC classification officials, that information remains classified today,” their statement said. “This classified information should never have been transmitted via an unclassified personal system.”

In response to a records request from the State Department, Clinton has turned over approximately 30,000 work emails that she had stored on her private email server since her time as Secretary of State. She has previously said that those emails contained no classified information. The four emails in question were not properly labeled as classified, according to the inspectors general.

Both inspectors general say they were required to notify the FBI by law once they found that information that should have been marked as classified was found among the former Secretary of State’s emails. Relevant congressional committees were also notified on July 23.

A Department of Justice official confirmed to TIME Friday that, “The Department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information. It is not a criminal referral.”

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I. Charles McCullough III, the inspector general for the intelligence community, voiced concerns in a July 23 memo to Congressional lawmakers over the proper handling of information contained in Clinton's email records. He warned there has already been "an inadvertent release of classified national security information" in a recent release of emails under the Freedom of Information Act, a contention disputed by the State Department.

Andrea Williams, a spokeswoman for McCullough, confirmed that the referral was made to the FBI, in accordance with federal guidelines for the the discovery of the potential compromise of classified information.

In a March news conference, Clinton denied that she used the unsecured account for classified information. "I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email," she said. "There is no classified material. So I'm certainly well aware of the classification requirements and did not send classified material."

What Hillary Clinton's New Tax Proposal Would Mean **// TIME // Ian Salisbury - July 24, 2015**

Here's how the plan would change capital gains tax rates.

On Friday, Democratic Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton spelled out her new plan to raise tax rates on capital gains — the profits people reap when they sell an asset a like stock, parcel of real estate or even a business.

The capital gains tax rate has been a political football for years, not least because rich people tend to own — and sell — the most stuff. Here are a few key things you need know about capital gains tax in general, and Clinton's proposal specifically.

How are capital gains currently taxed?

While the tax rate on capital gains has bounced around a lot over the years, the big tax deal reached in the last hours of 2012 pushed up the top rate on long-term capital gains to 20% — still far lower than the 39.6% top rate on income (although top earners also pay a health-care related 3.8% surtax on investment income). For taxpayers in lower brackets, long-term capital gains tax rates max out at 15% or less.

There is an exclusion for profits of up to $250,000 ($500,000 if you are married) on your primary residence, so many homeowners won't have to worry about a huge tax bill when they move.

That's all for long-term capital gains, by the way. Short-term capital gains — that is, the profit made on stocks or other assets held less than a year — get taxed at the same rate as income.

Why do capital gains get a tax break?

In the relatively recent past, both Democratic (Bill Clinton) and Republican (George W. Bush) presidents have cut the capital gains rate in hopes that doing so would spur the economy. Since the capital gains tax is really a tax on investment, economists hope that lowering the tax will prompt people to invest more of their money rather than spend it.

The idea is that if more people are looking to invest, it should be easier for start-ups or existing companies that want to develop new products to find funding.

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That's also why short-term gains get taxed as income — because short-term gains benefit people who make their living buying stuff and then quickly reselling, rather than investing for the long term.

So what's the problem?

In addition to spurring investment, a low long-term capital gains rate also spurs inequality. It's not hard to see who the biggest beneficiaries are: people who invest in the stock market or who sell businesses that they own.

The low capital gains rate is one reason America's 400 biggest earners paid a tax rate of less than 17% in 2012, the latest year for which the IRS has released data. There are also questions about whether the low capital gains rate really does boost the economy.

After all, while the economy took off under Bill Clinton, the stock market has also continued to soar since the most recent increase in the long-term gains rate.

What is Hillary Clinton proposing instead?

Hillary Clinton's proposal would require wealthy taxpayers to hold their investments much longer to get the full long-term capital gains tax benefit. Instead of a single long-term gains rate that kicks in after one year, her plan would create a series of rates ranging from 36% to 24% for those who hold investments for at least two years but less than six years.

Clinton says she isn't doing this simply to raise taxes on the rich. Rather it's to discourage short-termism among big investors. That's something even many on Wall Street regard as a problem, even if higher taxes might not be their preferred solution. So it looks like good politics.

Is it a good idea?

That, of course, depends on who you ask. Many progressives would simply like to see capital gains taxed as income.

Yet it's not even clear whether Clinton's proposal could actually change investor behavior — even if it could pass Congress. "My general impression is deep skepticism," Leonard Burman, director of the nonpartisan think tank the Tax Policy Center told Reuters earlier this week. "Frankly, I don't see the logic in trying to encourage people to hold assets for longer than they want to."

Hillary Clinton Courts Both Liberals and Wall Street with Tax Plan **// TIME // Sam Frizell - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton on Friday proposed a significant hike on capital gains taxes for some investors, a plan favored both by progressive economists and some Wall Street investors.

The proposal is intended to combat short-term investing, which Clinton argued diverts capital away from important business expenditures.

"American companies need to break free from the tyranny of quarterly earning reports so they can do what they

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do best," Clinton said speaking at New York University in Lower Manhattan on Friday. "Real value comes from long term growth, not short term profits."

Clinton's capital gains plan calls for a sliding scale of taxes on investments, with some short-term investments taxed at higher rates than they are now.

Currently, top earners pay a tax rate of 39.6% on investments held for less than a year, a rate that matches those earners' income taxes. After holding those investments for a year, the rate for top earners drops to 24%.

But under Clinton's plan, the tax rate for top earners on capital gains would remain at 39.6% in the second year, and then drop at a staggered rate over six years to their current levels. It would amount to nearly doubling capital gains tax rates in the second year.

"The current definition of a long-term holding period—just one year—is woefully inadequate," Clinton said, calling on companies to abandon what she has called "quarterly capitalism" in favor of more farsighted investments in research and development, talent and physical capital.

A six-year sliding scale, Clinton said, would "provide real incentives for long-term investments."

Clinton's plan for a tax hike is aligned with some voices on Wall Street and financial institutions. Larry Fink, the CEO of BlackRock, the largest asset manager in the world, called earlier this year for a plan similar to Clinton's. In a March letter to the executives of the 500 largest companies in the United States, Fink recommended holding the capital gains tax rate at income tax rates for three years—39.6% for the highest earners—and eventually dropping over a period of 10 years.

"We believe that U.S. tax policy, as it stands, incentivizes short-term behavior," Fink said, using language similar to Clinton's speech on Friday. "We believe that government leaders around the world—with a concerted push from both investors and companies—must act to address public policy that fosters long-term behavior."

A number of other major business figures have openly lamented so-called economic short-termism, including Dominic Barton, managing director of McKinsey & Co., Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever and others.

Economists, particularly those on the left, have also criticized the relatively low rate of capital gains tax, arguing it acts an income subsidy for the wealthiest Americans.

The Joint Committee on Taxation, a nonpartisan Congressional committee, found that low rates on capital gains taxes will deliver in 2015 an effective subsidy of $120.3 billion to investors, most of them wealthy: a separate report by the Congressional Budget Office found that 68% of the benefit of low rates on capital gains and dividends go to the top 1% of earners.

Clinton's plan, some economists say, would reduce inequality in the tax code and create incentives for shareholders to hold longer-term investments.

Clinton's proposal "is a way to target an inefficient tax subsidy—a tax subsidy that subsidizes growing inequality—in a way that encourages more long-term planning by investors," said Harry Stein, director of fiscal policy at the Center for American Progress. "I view this as a piece of a larger agenda to encourage more of a long term outlook."

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Clinton's plan is meant in part to slow activist investors, who tend to buy large amounts of company stock and call for higher dividends, share buybacks and other strategies to boost share prices. Some executives complain that makes it more difficult for companies to invest in long-term employees or facilities, stunting long-term growth.

Republicans have been quick to criticize the plan, pointing out that Clinton said during the 2008 campaign that she would not raise capital gains taxes above 20%, "if I raised it at all." They argue that capital gains taxes harm economic growth by preventing investment.

"Sadly, Hillary is not wise enough to have learned the simple lesson from those decades: reducing the capital gains tax is part of any pro-growth agenda," said Grover Norquist, president of the conservative Americans for Tax Reform.

Leonard Burman, the director of the nonpartisan Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center and the top tax economist during the last two years of President Bill Clinton's administration, said he doubted the plan would significantly change investor behavior.

"I'm sympathetic with her objective, but I don't think her proposal is going to solve it," Burman said. He added that the plan might actually encourage some shareholders to pull investments out of a company earlier than they would otherwise: under the new plan, investors who could sell shares after six months gain no tax benefits by waiting until after a year, and little benefit for waiting more than two.

Hillary Clinton: Capitalism is out of balance, needs a reset **// Fortune // Tory Newmyer - July 24, 2015**

In the latest in a string of policy speeches, the Democratic front-runner laid out her plan for tackling corporate short-termism

Hillary Clinton wants to hike capital gains taxes as part of her plan to discourage short-term thinking among corporate executives and investors.

The Democratic presidential front-runner laid out her plan to retool the tax treatment of investment earnings on Friday as part of an ongoing series of speeches fleshing out her economic program. She proposed extending from one to two years the period that top earners would need to hang on to an investment before seeing the 39.6% tax rate applied to it start to fall.

And she would lower the rate slowly, over a six year period, down to the 24% rate for longer-term investments — a tweak that she said would help refigure a system that's bent itself out of shape over the last few decades. Capitalism itself, she said, "needs to be reinvented, it needs to be put back into balance."

Her speech, delivered at New York University's Stern School of Business, was the sort of numerate wonk-fest that's come to characterize her early campaign — an effort aimed in part at comparing favorably with the sprawling free-for-all on the Republican side. It also helped advance the argument she aims to make the substantive centerpiece of both her bid and her presidency: Addressing economic inequality is the defining challenge of our time.

The capital gains tax reform was only the first of five major areas she highlighted as requiring action to reverse the trend toward what she calls "quarterly capitalism," the Wall Street-centered, sugar-high approach distracting public companies from investing in innovation, capital, and worker training and wages in favor of stock buybacks and dividends. The others ranged from leashing activist shareholders to further empowering workers, though she

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couched her proposals to limit any C-suite alarm bells.

To bring what she called “hit-and-run” activist shareholders to heel, Clinton exhorted institutional investors to exert their leverage as a counterweight on management. And she pledged to order a review of regulations on shareholder activism and to push for the same-day disclosure of buybacks already in force in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

Clinton also called out excessive compensation packages for executives as part of the problem. “I’m all for rewarding CEOs well when their companies prosper and their employees also share in the rewards,” she said. “But there is something wrong when senior executives get rich while companies stutter and employees struggle.” To address it, Clinton called for regulators to finalize the Dodd-Frank requirement that companies list the ratio of executive to worker pay; she proposed adjusting performance-based tax write-offs for executives to discourage moves designed to juice share prices; and she pitched mandating explanations for how executive pay packages serve the longterm interest of companies.

For good measure, Clinton added that Washington bears some responsibility, as well. She said elected leaders need to contribute by ending the budget brinkmanship that saddles corporate executives with uncertainty.

While the Democrat’s speech presented as a critique of the wages of a Wall Street-focused economy, the proposals that formed its spine are unlikely to ruffle many feathers in the financial services industry. And her frequent, favorable name-drops of corporate heavies checked any impression that she’s lurched into fire-breathing populist territory. She praised the innovative commitment of Google, SpaceX, and, historically, AT&T and Xerox, for example. Clinton singled out GM, Ford, and Chrysler for “putting the memory of the crisis behind them and making new investments in factories and technologies of the future, including advanced batteries.” Trader Joe’s and QuikTrip, she said, are becoming industry models for investing in worker training; Target and Starbucks are leading larger employers toward raising wages for entry-level workers; and Chipotle has earned her favor not just for its burrito bowls but for starting to provide certain benefits to part-time employees.

It’s of a piece with a carefully calibrated message she will tote through the race as she seeks to keep faith with a restive base without alienating big business interests.

New York Times corrects bombshell email-scandal story after Hillary Clinton blasts it // Business Insider // Brett Logiurato - July 24, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Friday lashed out against "inaccuracies" in reports about her use of a private email address during her time as secretary of state, as the Justice Department weighed whether to open an investigation.

"I want to say a word about what is in the news today, and it is because there have been a lot of inaccuracies,” Clinton said during her opening remarks at an event in Manhattan.

"Maybe the heat is getting to everybody. We all have a responsibility to get this right. I have released 55,000 pages of emails. I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House committee. We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right. And I will do my part."

The Justice Department said on Friday it is weighing a request by two government inspectors to look into the possible mishandling of classified information in Clinton's private email account from when she was secretary of state.

The department said it "has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information."

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A Justice Department official said the "referral" is not a request for a criminal investigation into Clinton's emails, thousands of which she handed over to the State Department after resigning in 2013. The New York Times reported Thursday night that the inspectors general had asked for a criminal investigation. But the Justice Department told Reuters and other outlets that the referral was not of a criminal nature.

Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon tweeted that The Times should correct its story, which was altered overnight without explanation to suggest she personally was not the focus of a criminal referral. The Times did issue a correction Friday afternoon.

"An earlier version of this article and an earlier headline, using information from senior government officials, misstated the nature of the referral to the Justice Department regarding Hillary Clinton’s personal email account while she was secretary of state," the correction read. "The referral addressed the potential compromise of classified information in connection with that personal email account. It did not specifically request an investigation into Mrs. Clinton."

Clinton's use of a private email account for her work as America's top diplomat came to light in March and brought criticism from political opponents that she had sidestepped transparency and record-keeping laws.

Clinton, the front-runner to represent the Democratic Party in the November 2016 presidential election, has repeatedly said she broke no laws or rules by eschewing a standard government email account for her State Department work in favor of her private account. She also said she sent no classified information by email.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement that she "followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials."

The former first lady said she handed to the State Department last year all the work-related emails she had, amounting to some 55,000 printed pages covering her four-year tenure, although her staff have recently acknowledged there are gaps in the records she retained.

But the inspector general of the intelligence community, in a letter to Congress, said a limited sampling of Clinton's emails in question found at least four that contained classified information and should have been considered secret.

Reports on Friday about a possible investigation into the emails caused confusion.

The Justice Department had also said the inspectors general had requested a criminal investigation into the emails before backtracking and saying that there was a request for a probe but not a criminal one.

Republicans have seized on the email scandal in Congress and on the presidential campaign trail. The Republican National Committee, in a statement Friday, urged the Justice Department to investigate, saying a full investigation was "not just needed, but required."

Broader questions about Clinton's private email server have at times drawn attention away from the Democratic front-runner's presidential campaign. The latest disclosure comes days after polls in three key swing states showed that a majority of voters did not consider her "honest and trustworthy."

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She also trailed three strong Republican contenders — former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, and US Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida — in theoretical general-election matchups in those states.

Call for DoJ probe into Clinton emails **// FT // Demetri Sevastopulo and Gina Chon - July 24, 2015**

The Department of Justice has been asked to investigate a "potential compromise of classified information" surrounding emails that Hillary Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, sent on her personal email account when she served as US secretary of state.

Inspectors-general at the state department and intelligence agencies called for the DoJ probe after they found evidence of classified information in the private email account that Mrs Clinton used for government business.

Mrs Clinton has come under heavy criticism since revealing in March that she used a personal email address, instead of her official email account, when serving as secretary of state. Her claims that she sent no classified information over the private email have been called into question by the move by the inspectors-general offices.

"Now we learn that Hillary Clinton's desire to play by her own rules may have further exposed classified information," said Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee. "While a full investigation by the DoJ is not just needed, but required, Hillary Clinton must also hand her entire secret server over to an independent third party for further review."

While Mrs Clinton has argued that some previous secretaries of state used personal email, she went one step further by setting up a network server in her home. The scandal of the emails — including thousands that she deleted before they could be examined — has weighed on her presidential campaign in recent months, although she remains comfortably ahead of her Democratic rivals in the polls.

"The department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information," said a DoJ official. "It is not a criminal referral."

The official declined to comment further, but the DoJ has not determined whether it will open an investigation. The US government, particularly under the Obama administration, takes the improper handling of classified information as a serious issue.

Many DoJ prosecutions involving the mishandling of classified information have involved leaks to external sources. In April, David Petraeus, the retired general and former Central Intelligence Agency director, was fined $100,000 for inappropriately handling classified material that he shared with his lover.

However, Mrs Clinton's case differs from traditional alleged breaches of rules, because the allegations focus on whether classified information was handled properly internally.

"Secretary Clinton has repeatedly claimed that the work-related emails on her private home server did not include classified information, but we know that is not true," said John Boehner, the Republican speaker of the House of Representatives. "She has claimed she is well aware of what matters are classified and what are not, and yet she set up a personal email server to discuss matters of national security despite guidance to the contrary from both her state department and the White House. Her poor judgment has undermined our national security and it is time for her to finally do the right thing."

The Clinton campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

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Clinton: Focus more on workers than on profits **// The Hill // Ben Kamisar - July 24, 2015**

Companies must ditch the devotion to quarterly profits and provide for its workers, not just shareholders, Hillary Clinton pressed in a speech Friday in which she backed a $15 per hour minimum wage for New York fast-food workers.

“Quarterly capitalism, as developed over recent decades, is neither legally required or economically sounds. It’s bad for business, bad for wages and bad for our economy and fixing it will be good for everyone,” she said.

On top of sharing additional details of her economic plan and promising a broader outline for tax reform, Clinton endorsed the New York state proposal to raise the minimum wage for state fast-food workers.

That move comes as her Democratic presidential rivals, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, have coalesced around a national $15 per hour minimum wage.

But Clinton has repeatedly bucked calls to join that chorus, characterizing the minimum wage as a policy that should be handled on a state-by-state basis and noting that the cost of living in New York City is far higher than that in Little Rock, Ark.

“The national minimum wage is a floor, and it needs to be raised,” Clinton said.

“What you can do in L.A. or in New York may not work in other places.”

Clinton panned companies that privilege stockholders at the expense of workers, noting that large public companies return more than eight out of every 10 dollars of earnings back to shareholders.

“That doesn’t leave much money to build a new factory or a research lab or to train workers or give them a raise,” she said.

“It’s time to return to an old-fashioned idea: that companies’ responsibility to their shareholders also encompasses a responsibility to employees, customers, communities and ultimately to our country and, yes, to our planet.”

She also called for a sliding scale that would increase capital gains taxes — taxes on investment sales — depending on how many years the seller has held the investment for. That would encourage people to hold onto investments longer by punishing rapid-fire transactions with higher taxes.

Top Dem denies criminal probe of Clinton’s emails **// The Hill // Martin Matishak - July 24, 2015**

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) is rebutting reports that the State Department has formally requested a federal criminal investigation into Hillary Clinton’s use of a private email server while she was secretary of State.

"I spoke personally to the State Department inspector general on Thursday, and he said he never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage,” Cummings, the top Democrat on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, said Friday in a statement.

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Instead, State Inspector General Steve A. Linick, “told me the Intelligence Community IG notified the Justice Department and Congress that they identified classified information in a few emails that were part of the [Freedom of Information Act] review, and that none of those emails had been previously marked as classified."

The Democratic presidential candidate has faced repeated criticism for her private email use, with Benghazi panel members refusing to schedule her testimony until records they've demanded are handed over.

The New York Times reported Thursday that a criminal request was made by two inspectors general following a June 29 memo to Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick F. Kennedy that found Clinton’s email server held “hundreds of potentially classified emails."

State is reviewing the emails from Clinton’s serve for public release. The first batch of more than 1,900 emails was released June 30.

In that initial group, portions of some emails were redacted because they became classified, but none were marked as classified at the time Clinton handled them.

The inspectors general told Kennedy in a July 17 memo that at least one released email contained information that was classified, but did not identify what it was.

For his part, Cummings said the select committee “has obtained zero evidence that any emails to or from Secretary Clinton were marked as classified at the time they were transmitted, although some have been retroactively classified since then.”

“This is the latest example in a series of inaccurate leaks to generate false front-page headlines – only to be corrected later – and they have absolutely nothing to do with the attacks in Benghazi or protecting our diplomatic corps overseas,” said Cummings, who also serves as ranking member on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Hillary Clinton email inquiry not linked to criminal wrongdoing, official says **// Guardian // July 24, 2015**

US investigators have asked the Justice Department to look into a “potential compromise of classified information” surrounding the private email server used by former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, a department official said on Friday.

The official said the referral by the investigators did not relate to possible criminal wrongdoing, despite saying earlier on Friday that it did. Another US official said it was unclear whether classified information was mishandled and that the referral did not necessarily suggest any wrongdoing by Clinton, the leading Democratic candidate in the 2016 presidential race.

The officials were not authorized to discuss the referral publicly and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Clinton’s campaign said she had “followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials”.

“Any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted,” campaign spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement.

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Merrill also criticised the New York Times, which first reported the referral by the inspectors general.

"It is now more clear than ever that the New York Times report claiming there is a criminal inquiry sought in Hillary Clinton's use of email is false," he said.

Merrill added: "It has now been discredited both by the Justice Department and the ranking member of the House oversight committee [Democrat Elijah Cummings]. This incident shows the danger of relying on reckless, inaccurate leaks from partisan sources."

In a speech in New York on Friday afternoon, Clinton said there had been "a lot of inaccuracies" in reports about her email. She added: "We are accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part."

It was not immediately clear if the Justice Department would investigate the matter, but the existence of the referral suggests that Clinton is likely to face lingering questions during the presidential campaign over her personal email account – an issue that has dogged her for months and that Republicans have used to criticize her.

"The number of questions surrounding secretary Clinton's unusual email arrangement continues to grow," said representative Trey Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican who is chairing a special committee investigating the 2012 deadly attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee, reiterated his call for Clinton to turn over her personal email server to an independent third party.

Facing questions in March, Clinton said that as secretary of state she had used a personal email account as a matter of convenience to limit the number of electronic devices she used. She maintained then that she had never sent classified information. Earlier this month, the State Department made public some 3,000 emails involving Clinton covering March through December 2009, and is under court order to make regular further releases of such correspondence.

The aim is for the department to unveil 55,000 pages of her emails by 29 January 2016. But a federal judge this month chastised the State Department for moving too slowly in providing the Associated Press with thousands of emails submitted through the Freedom of Information Act.

The Justice Department receives many referrals that it decides not to take up, and decisions about what to pursue often take some time.

Hillary Clinton decries Wall Street's 'quarterly capitalism' in tax reform pitch // Guardian // Ben Jacobs - July 24, 2015

In a speech on reforming "quarterly capitalism", Hillary Clinton struck a far more cautious note on Wall Street reform than her opponents for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Addressing an audience at New York University on Friday afternoon, the former secretary of state outlined a proposal to reshape the federal tax code. She said this would encourage investors to focus on "long-term growth" and abandon "a culture of short-term speculation".

Clinton said that while she understood "that most CEOs are simply responding to very real pressures from

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shareholders and the market to turn in good quarterly numbers ... the system is out of balance".

To the former secretary of state, "real value comes from long-term growth and not short-term profits".

Clinton outlined "five areas of focus", including taxing capital gains on a six-year sliding scale; doubling the period of time that capitol gains are taxed at the top rate of 39.6%; and condemning the influence of activist shareholders "determined to extract the maximum profit in the minimum amount of time".

The former secretary of state also called for changing corporate incentives on CEO pay and, in particular, implementing regulations on disclosure of CEO pay under the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act.

Clinton again endorsed raising the minimum wage. While she fell short of endorsing a nationwide minimum wage of $15 an hour, as demanded by many on the left, she did endorse a proposal to raise the minimum wage to that level for fast-food workers in New York City and noted "the high cost of living in Manhattan".

The speech prompted criticism from both sides of the political spectrum. On the right, a spokesman for the presidential campaign of the Republican Florida senator Marco Rubio repeated a familiar attack line by condemning Clinton's proposals as "the outdated policies of yesterday".

On the left, Charles Chamberlain, the executive director of the progressive group Democracy for America, said the former secretary of state had not gone far enough in her proposals for Wall Street reform.

"Working to end short-termism on Wall Street will definitely help working families in important ways," said Chamberlain.

"But let's be really clear: the Democratic party doesn't want, and the American people don't need, another Democratic president who tip-toes around Wall Street's insatiable greed, makes corporate shills like Third Way happy, or portrays common sense, time-tested solutions to 'Too Big to Fail' like Glass-Steagall as too simplistic."

Hillary Clinton likely 'mishandled' secrets because too much is classified // Guardian // Trevor Timm - July 24, 2015

The minute that private email server Hillary Clinton used for work emails as Secretary of State became a controversy, it was clear that evidence would surface showing that classified information passed through that address – despite her repeated denials.

Of course there was "secret" information in her emails – but not because she had attempted to cover up smoking gun Benghazi emails like conspiracy-addled Republicans hoped. It's because the US classification system is so insanely bloated and out of control that virtually everything related to foreign policy and national security is, in some way or another, classified.

And now it's finally happened: the New York Times reported late Thursday that two internal government watchdogs have recommended that the Justice Department open a criminal investigation into Clinton's private email account, because the cache of 55,000 emails from her now-deleted server reportedly include "hundreds of potentially classified emails".

Even before the New York Times report on Thursday, the State Department had already "retroactively" classified

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a bunch of information in the first tranche of emails released to the public as part of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. As experts pointed out at the time, it was “highly unusual” for the government to be classifying information six years after the fact.

Why would Clinton repeatedly and forcefully denied that the email account had any classified information on it? It’s hard to imagine she could not have known how broadly the government blankets its work with a secrecy stamp.

Just look at the hundreds of thousands of leaked State Department cables addressed to Clinton in 2010 and 2011, published by Wikileaks, that caused her State Department so many headaches. Along with extremely important information, the cables were full of mundane facts, already-public information and unsubstantiated gossip that were marked “secret” by government classifiers for no other reason than they could.

As the Federation of American Scientists’ Steven Aftergood said at the time: “Many officials in the State Department and elsewhere use classified as a default setting…It diminishes the meaning of the classified stamp. It ceases to be an index of national security sensitivity and it becomes a mere bureaucratic artifact.”

The same can be said for any federal agency that has anything to do with foreign policy or national security. Over-classification is why any journalism investigation into the State Department or CIA or NSA worth its salt is inevitably is full of classified information – which puts reporters’ sources at risk of prosecution, even if the information clearly in the public interest and plainly would not harm national security. (The countless examples of absurd levels of government secrecy and staggering numbers of people with access to it have been tallied elsewhere many times.)

But the chances of Clinton being prosecuted for “mishandling classified information” are about as close to none as you can get – not because she didn’t break the law (one suspects it will eventually come out that she technically did, if only because the secrecy laws are impossible not to break), but because the prosecution “crimes” involving classified information in the US is so shamefully biased.

As we have seen over and over in the last few years, infractions involving government secrets committed by low-level officials without connections lead to jail time, but high-ranking officials with well-placed friends get a slap on the wrist or nothing at all (or even sometimes they get promoted). There’s no debate which category Clinton falls into.

However, Clinton – who has been dogged by criticisms of being overly secretive her entire career – could turn this scandal into an advantage and make transparency a campaign issue. There’s a non-controversial Freedom of Information Act reform bill she could get behind. She could call for increased funding for Foia departments throughout government - the State Department is claiming they are so deluged with such requests that they can’t respond to anyone in a timely manner, after all. More importantly, she could take on the much larger challenge of dismantling the corrupt and arbitrary secrecy system once and for all.

The late Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart wrote in the famous Pentagon Papers case in 1971:

For when everything is classified, then nothing is classified, and the system becomes one to be disregarded by the cynical or the careless, and to be manipulated by those intent on self-protection or self-promotion.

Almost 44 years later, it’s clear Potter’s statement has never been more true – as Clinton is now finding out.

Hillary Clinton calls for shift in corporate priorities to help workers // Newsday // James T. Madore - July 24, 2015

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Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday called on U.S. corporations and investors to focus on long-term investments in workers, equipment and factories.

The leading Democratic presidential candidate decried "hit-and-run shareholders" and rich CEOs who put short-term profits over expenditures on new products and worker training.

Clinton, speaking at New York University's Stern School of Business, proposed raising the capital gains tax on the profits reaped by investors who buy and quickly dump stocks. She also said the tax code should be used to encourage investments in startups and businesses in poor regions.

Clinton outlined a five-point plan that calls for greater disclosure of CEO pay and how it relates to a business' long-term growth.

"It is clear that the system is out of balance," she told the crowd of about 200 supporters, professors and students. "Quarterly capitalism is not legally required or economically necessary. It is not good for our country."

Clinton spoke amid new questions about her email use while U.S. secretary of state during President Barack Obama's first term.

Two inspectors general have requested that the U.S. Justice Department launch a criminal probe into whether sensitive information was mishandled in connection with her private email account, The New York Times reported, citing memos obtained from an unnamed source.

Clinton has maintained that her email contained no classified information. Her spokesman declined to comment to the Times.

The latest developments in the email controversy came as Clinton sought to focus attention on what her campaign says is her blueprint for "shifting corporate culture" that has resulted in wage stagnation and increased anxiety in the middle class.

Clinton's speech at NYU is among several the former first lady and former New York senator plans to detail her economic platform. They follow her first major speech on the economy, delivered July 13 nearby at The New School.

Clinton, in that earlier address, called for "reforms to help CEOs and shareholders alike focus on the next decade, not just the next day."

She said stagnant wages are the "defining economic challenge of our time." She called for raising the federal minimum wage, making it easier for women to enter the workforce and cracking down on Wall Street malfeasance.

"I believe we have to build a growth and fairness economy," she said.

Separately Friday, Clinton endorsed the New York State Fast-Food Wage Board's recommendation on Wednesday that the minimum wage for employees of chain restaurants rise to $15 per hour by 2021.

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"I agree with the New York proposal ... the minimum wage is a floor, and it needs to be raised," she said, referring to the federal wage rate of $7.25 per hour. "New York is right to go higher because the costs are higher here."

Wrapping up the 34-minute speech, Clinton emphasized her support of capitalism, saying it was responsible for the United States' past prosperity.

"But it needs to be reinvented," she said to loud applause. "It needs to be put back into balance."

Clinton plans to spend the weekend and Monday campaigning in Iowa, home of the first presidential caucuses in January. She will meet supporters and address groups of civil servants and teachers, according to campaign officials.

What's in those classified Clinton emails? **// McClatchy // Corrine Kennedy - July 24, 2015**

Of the 3,000 Hillary Clinton emails made public June 30, 22 had sections redacted because they contained information pertaining to national security, foreign relations or U.S. actions in a foreign country.

Officials said the redactions were made to prepare the emails for publication and that the information was not classified at the time Clinton sent or received the emails.

Many of the classified emails involved North Korea, which was holding two American journalists in detention at the time. These emails, all from 2009, were dated March 30, April 1 and May 16, 22 and 15. Another email, dated May 25, provided background for a call with Japanese, Russian, Chinese and South Korean foreign ministers in the wake of a North Korean nuclear test.

Other popular topics in 2009 were Haiti – three emails dated June 16, July 15 and Oct. 25 – and Sri Lanka, two dated May 16, which was ending a 25-year civil war about the same time the emails were sent. Other emails involved Honduras, which had experienced a coup a few months prior to the Oct. 25, 2009, email, and Egypt, referenced on Nov. 27, 2009. The subject of other emails is hard to ascertain because of the amount redacted.

All of the emails except one appear to be sent from or to State Department officials.

The exception is one 2009 email from Sid Blumenthal, on July 26, longtime adviser to the Clinton and her husband, the former president.

Blumenthal forwards Clinton an email from Joe Wilson, diplomat and husband of ex-CIA agent Valerie Plame, and asks her how a recent visit with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin went.

Clinton responds, “Berlin was terrific. Lots of good exchanges w leaders.” The rest of the message was classified.

Republicans on Friday seized on a New York Times report that said two inspectors general had asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether sensitive government information had been mishandled.

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Clinton's presidential campaign said the story was false and asked the newspaper for a correction.

A subsequent statement from I. Charles McCullough III and Steve Linick, the inspectors general, agreed that they had not made a criminal referral. But in their statement they said they had uncovered four emails that have yet to be made public that did contain classified information and that should not have been on a non-government server.

"These emails contained classified information when they were generated, and, according to IC classification officials, that information remains classified today," the two officials wrote. "This classified information should never have been transmitted via an unclassified personal system."

Their referral to "security officials within the executive branch" was consistent with laws that require they report "potential compromises of national security information."

Of course, what's in those yet-be-released emails is unknown.

Hillary Clinton Email Scandal Could Turn into Criminal Investigation // Gawker // Sam Biddle - July 24, 2015

Update: The New York Times has altered and corrected its original report:

An earlier version of this article and an earlier headline, using information from senior government officials, misstated the nature of the referral to the Justice Department regarding Hillary Clinton's personal email account while she was secretary of state. The referral addressed the potential compromise of classified information in connection with that personal email account. It did not specifically request an investigation into Mrs. Clinton.

The March revelation that presumptive presidential nominee Hillary Clinton was using a secret, possibly insecure email server immediately damaged her public image. Now, the New York Times reports, it could lead to criminal charges.

According to the Times:

Two inspectors general have asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account Hillary Rodham Clinton used as secretary of state

This comes after months of scrutiny of Clinton's inbox, including a Gawker/ProPublica exposé revealing her use of an off-the-books foreign intel-gathering network.

The request to the Justice Department follows a series of memos from Steve Linick and I. Charles McCullough, inspectors general for the State Department and intelligence community, respectively. You can read the memos in full below, but this portion, dated July 17th, seems to implicate Clinton in the possibly illegal use of classified materials passing through her personal email account, hdr22@clintonemail.com :

Hillary Clinton Email Scandal Could Turn into Criminal Investigation

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The Times says there's no word out of the Justice Department as to whether they'll pursue a criminal probe of the Clinton server, but the House Select Committee on Benghazi—which has basically just become the Select Committee on Hillary Clinton's Email—released this statement:

Committee Members on both sides have been aware of concerns about classified emails within the self-selected records turned over by Secretary Clinton. The Committee appreciates that Inspectors General appointed by President Obama have confirmed this is a serious and nonpartisan national security matter by any objective measure. This certainly merits further review by the Executive Branch to determine the legal and national security implications posed by the former Secretary's unusual email arrangement in order to mitigate any potential counterintelligence risks and minimize the damage caused by this scheme. These issues should be evaluated under the same strict standards that would apply to anyone found to be in possession of classified information outside of an approved system.

Hillary Clinton Alleges 'Inaccuracies' in Reports of Inquiries Into Her Emails // NY Observer // Jillian Jorgensen - July 24, 2015

Before getting to a speech on the economy today, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton took a brief moment to allege "inaccuracies" in reporting today about criminal inquiries being sought into her use of a personal e-mail address at the State Department.

"There have been a lot of inaccuracies," Ms. Clinton said at New York University this afternoon.

Ms. Clinton continues to face scrutiny over emails she sent from a personal address while she was Secretary of State, with the New York Times reporting last night two inspector generals had requested a criminal investigation into the emails. Today, the Wall Street Journal reported that the inspectors found at least four emails from the personal address that contained information deemed "secret," and which was classified, at the time they were sent.

Ms. Clinton's campaign has insisted the reports of a criminal inquiry are false and has called on the Times to issue a correction. And Congressman Elijah Cummings, ranking Democrat on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, shot down the story this morning, and Ms. Clinton made reference to his rebuttal today.

"Maybe the heat is getting to everyone," Ms. Clinton said today. S

he went on promise transparency, saying she would continue to release e-mails (though critics note many have been deleted).

"I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House Committee," Ms. Clinton said. "We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part. But I'm aso going to stay focused on the issues, parituclarly the big issues that matter to American families."

Hillary Clinton resurrects '90s tax policy // Washington Times // S.A. Miller - July 24, 2015

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday proposed resurrecting tax policies from the time of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, that she promised would promote long-term investments and build a stronger economy.

Mrs. Clinton's plan would replace the current two-tiered tax on capital gains — the profit from selling stock or other assets — with a six-year graduated rate that penalized wealthy investors for selling too early.

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“This means from the moment investors buy into a company they’ll be more focused on its future growth strategy than its immediate profits. And so will some of its executives who are paid in part with stock or stock options,” she said in a speech at the New York University’s School of Business.

The reform of capital gains taxes was part of Mrs. Clinton’s broader agenda that she says will prod business and Wall Street to look beyond quarterly earnings reports and behave in ways that are better for American’s long-term economic health.

“American business needs to break free form the tyranny of today’s earning report so they can do what they do best: innovate, invest and build tomorrows prosperity,” she said.

The plan immediately came under fire from Republican presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.

“With tax policy nearly identical to what we had in 1997, Hillary Clinton is stuck in the outdated policies of yesterday,” said Rubio campaign spokesman Alex Conant. “Just like we saw in the ‘97 hit flick ‘Titanic,’ Hillary Clinton’s tax proposal picks winners and losers, and ultimately leaves behind the working class. Marco Rubio will modernize our tax code to create more good paying jobs and help middle-class families in the 21st century.”

Capital gains are currently taxes at two rates, a top rate of 43.4 percent for investments held less than a year and 23.8 percent for anything beyond a year.

“That may count as long-term for my baby granddaughter but not for the American economy,” Mrs. Clinton said. “It’s no way to run a tax system, so as president I would move to a six-year sliding scale that provides real incentives for long-term investments.”

Her proposal, which resembles the capital gains tax rates adopted in 1997 by Mr. Clinton, would treat capital gains as ordinary income for the first two years for taxpayers in the top bracket, subjecting it to the top rate of 43.4 percent.

After two years, the rate would decrease gradually over four years until it reached the current rate of 23.8 percent, Mrs. Clinton said.

Hillary Clinton’s private email account triggers criminal inquiry request // Washington Times // David Sherfinski and Maggie Ybara - July 24, 2015

Some of former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's emails had classified information in them, though they weren't specifically labeled classified at the time, and at least one of those emails has already been put out in public by the department, its inspector general has concluded.

The revelations, contained in 13 pages of memos released by the State Department inspector general, could pose problems for Mrs. Clinton, who had insisted she never trafficked in classified information while using her own assigned email account and server, kept at her New York home, rather than an official, secure email account.

The New York Times, which first reported on the potential problems, said the State Department and intelligence community inspectors general had referred the matter to the Justice Department for possible criminal prosecution. The paper printed a correction Friday, retracting the claim of a criminal referral and saying Mrs. Clinton wasn't specifically targeted in the referral.

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A Justice Department official Friday confirmed a referral of "the potential compromise of classified information" but said it was not a criminal referral. Earlier Friday, the department had confirmed to The Washington Times and other news outlets that it did receive a criminal referral.

Mrs. Clinton, speaking Friday at an unrelated event in New York City, said that "there have been a lot of inaccuracies."

"Maybe the heat is getting to everybody," Mrs. Clinton said. "We all have a responsibility to get this right. I have released 55,000 pages of emails. I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House committee. We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part."

For now, the revelations remain a black eye for President Obama's State Department, which has struggled to handle Mrs. Clinton's email scandal, and now stands accused of releasing classified information it shouldn't have.

Both the State Department and intelligence community inspectors general looked into Mrs. Clinton's emails and concluded information contained in them should be withheld from the public because it should be classified.

Their memo urged the State Department to enact better controls to make sure the emails being put out in public weren't divulging secrets.

"ICIG has received confirmation from IC FOIA officials that several of these emails contained classified IC information, though they were not marked as classified. In addition, at least one of these emails has been released to the public and can be accessed on the Department's FOIA website," the investigators said.

The State Department is reviewing about 55,000 pages of emails Mrs. Clinton belatedly turned over nearly two years after she left office. Officials have already determined that some of the information in the messages should be retroactively classified.

Mrs. Clinton has said she set up the separate account on a private server largely out of convenience, and her office has said she did not send or receive classified information on the account. But the revelation of the account has been a headache for Mrs. Clinton in the early throes of her second White House run.

A Clinton spokesman said she "followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials."

"As has been reported on multiple occasions, any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted," spokesman Nick Merrill said.

On Friday, the top Democrat on the House Select Committee investigating the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attack on a U.S. compound in Benghazi pushed back strongly on the initial report.

"Over the past hour, I spoke personally with the State Department inspector general and the Intelligence Community inspector general together, and they both confirmed directly to me that they never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage," Rep. Elijah Cummings, Maryland Democrat, said in a statement Friday afternoon, saying they characterized it as a "routine" referral.

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Rep. Trey Gowdy, South Carolina Republican and the panel's chairman, said committee members on both sides have been aware of concerns about classified emails within the "self-selected record" turned over by Mrs. Clinton.

"The committee appreciates that inspectors general appointed by President Obama have confirmed this is a serious and nonpartisan national security matter by any objective measure," Mr. Gowdy said in a statement. "This certainly merits further review by the Executive Branch to determine the legal and national security implications posed by the former secretary's unusual email arrangement in order to mitigate any potential counterintelligence risks and minimize the damage caused by this scheme. These issues should be evaluated under the same strict standards that would apply to anyone found to be in possession of classified information outside of an approved system."

Mr. Gowdy reiterated his call for Mrs. Clinton to turn over her private server for an independent forensic evaluation.

"Regardless of whether the server is voluntarily relinquished or acquired by other lawful means, there is clearly sufficient cause to examine the contents of said server for the presence of other classified information," Mr. Gowdy said. "Moreover, whether it was classified initially or later classified, it is appropriate for the executive branch and intelligence community to determine where these now classified documents are housed and by whom they are possessed."

DOJ: No, We Weren't Asked To Launch A Criminal Probe Into Clinton's Emails // TPM // Catherine Thompson - July 24, 2015

The U.S. Justice Department said Friday that, contrary to media reports, it did not receive a request to open a criminal investigation into how sensitive information was handled in Hillary Clinton's private emails.

The New York Times reported Thursday that two inspectors general asked the Justice Department "to open a criminal investigation into whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account Hillary Rodham Clinton used as secretary of state." The language of that report originally cast Clinton as a target of the requested probe, but notably was changed after Times reporters received complaints from Clinton's presidential campaign.

The agency now says that it what it received was "not a criminal referral," but a request related to the potential compromise of classified information, according to Washington Post report Sari Horowitz:

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), the top Democrat on the select House committee investigating the Benghazi attacks, also rejected the notion that the inspectors general of the State Department and intelligence agencies asked for a criminal probe into Clinton's email account.

"I spoke personally to the State Department inspector general on Thursday, and he said he never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage," Cummings said in a statement, as quoted by The Hill.

Cummings added that the State Department inspector general "told me the Intelligence Community IG notified the Justice Department and Congress that they identified classified information in a few emails that were part of the [Freedom of Information Act] review, and that none of those emails had been previously marked as classified," according to The Hill.

Justice Dept. May Probe 'Compromise' of Classified Info In Hillary Clinton's Email // National Journal // Ben Geman - July 24, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

The inspector general for the intelligence community has contacted the Justice Department about the presence of emails in former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's private account that contained classified information.

A spokeswoman for I. Charles McCullough, III, the intelligence community IG, said he sent a referral to the FBI earlier this month.

"The letter IC IG sent to FBI earlier this month was a counterintelligence referral indicating there is a compromise of classified national security information in former Sec. Clinton's emails. The emails exist on a at least one private server and thumb drive and that was the counterintelligence information concern we referred to the FBI," said spokesman Andrea Williams in an email.

A Justice Department official said Friday that "The Department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information. It is not a criminal referral." Earlier in the day, Justice referred to it as a "criminal referral" before revising the statement.

The spokeswoman for McCullough noted that "We don't make criminal referrals – that is over to FBI to decide how to proceed." And late Friday afternoon, McCullough's office and the State Department IG issued a joint statement that further explains the action, calling it a "security referral for counterintelligence purposes."

The Justice Department does not appear to have made a decision about whether to launch an inquiry.

The New York Times first reported the referral late Thursday night.

The revelation is certain to intensify interest in Clinton's unusual private server arrangement during her time as secretary of State as the 2016 elections draw closer.

At the outset of a speech on the economy Friday afternoon, Clinton made brief comments about the revelation and the Times' story, which her campaign has pushed back against and has been modified since first publishing. "There have been a lot of inaccuracies," she said. "Maybe the heat is getting to everybody—we all have a responsibility to get this right. I have released 55,000 pages of emails. I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House committee.

"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right and I will do my part. But I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that matter to American families."

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Clinton's presidential campaign, said in a statement that Clinton "followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials."

"As has been reported on multiple occasions, any released emails deemed classified by the administration have been done so after the fact, and not at the time they were transmitted," he said.

The referral stems from a review by the inspectors general for the Intelligence Community and the Department of State's handling of emails. Several memos from the internal watchdogs made public Friday identified problems with State's management, under public records law, of emails containing classified information.

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On Friday McCullough's office released a memo that was provided on Thursday to the leaders of the congressional intelligence committees about the status of the review of State's protocols. It notes that State has discovered that there are "potentially hundreds" of emails in the 55,000 pages worth that Clinton turned over to her former agency that may contain classified information.

The memo also reveals that a limited review conducted by McCullough's office of 40 emails revealed four that contained classified intelligence community information "which should have been marked and handled at the SECRET level." Those emails have not been released by the State Department, according to the memo from the intelligence community and State Department inspectors general.

Andrea Williams, the spokesman for the Intelligence Community IG, said the four emails with classified information turned up in the IG's limited review "were classified when they were sent and are classified now."

The joint statement from the IGs on the review of Clinton's emails notes that while these four messages contained "classified IC-derived information," they did not contain "classification markings" or "dissemination controls." The statement says the information "should never have been transmitted via an unclassified personal system."

The memo from McCullough to the lawmakers also notes that the roughly 30,000 emails Clinton turned over to the State Department late last year are "purported" to have been copied to a thumb drive in the possession of Clinton attorney David Kendall. McCullough notes that because his office's limited sampling turned up four emails with classified intelligence community information, he decided to refer the matter to the FBI as well as other counterintelligence officials.

The joint memo he issued with State's IG expands on the reason for the referral, stating: "The main purpose of the referral was to notify security officials that classified information on at least one private server and thumb drive that are not in the government's possession." The intelligence community IG is required under law to refer potential compromises of national security information to the "appropriate" intelligence community security officials.

The McCullough memo also exposes a disagreement between State and the intelligence community IG about the portion of Clinton's emails already made public.

"My office discovered that an inadvertent release of classified national security information had already occurred in the State FOIA process as a result of insufficient coordination with Intelligence Community (IC) elements. (State personnel continue to deny the classified character of the released information despite a definitive determination from the IC Interagency FOIA process)," it states.

According to the Intelligence Community IG's spokeswoman, there has been at least one email released that contained classified national security information.

The memo provides a summary of the recommendations for preventing inadvertent release of classified information.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, the GOP leader of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, on Friday renewed his call for Clinton's private email server to be turned over to a third party for review.

"Regardless of whether the server is voluntarily relinquished or acquired by other lawful means, there is clearly sufficient cause to examine the contents of said server for the presence of other classified information. Moreover, whether it was classified initially or later classified, it is appropriate for the Executive Branch and intelligence

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community to determine where these now classified documents are housed and by whom they are possessed," he said in a statement.

Following conflicting accounts of the scope of a potential Justice Dept. inquiry, Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the House committee probing the 2012 Benghazi attacks, said in a statement Friday that State's IG told him the referral was not about "Clinton's email usage."

"Instead, he told me the Intelligence Community IG notified the Justice Department and Congress that they identified classified information in a few emails that were part of the FOIA review, and that none of those emails had been previously marked as classified," Cummings said.

"The Benghazi Select Committee has obtained zero evidence that any emails to or from Secretary Clinton were marked as classified at the time they were transmitted, although some have been retroactively classified since then," he said.

The State Department has released several thousand pages worth of Clinton's messages from her time as secretary of State, and more releases from the 55,000 pages she provided are expected monthly until early next year.

A State Department official defended the vetting process.

"We are working with both the State IG and the Intelligence Community's Inspector General to ensure that our review of former Secretary Clinton's emails is completed in a manner that protects sensitive and potentially classified information," the official said.

"To provide for greater cooperation through this process -- at the invitation of the Department --IC FOIA reviewers are reviewing emails and identifying those emails that might contain IC equities," the official added.

False reports of Hillary Clinton investigation just keep falling apart // Daily Kos // Laura Clawson - July 24, 2015

The false story that the Justice Department was being asked to launch a criminal investigation into Hillary Clinton continues to be shoved back into the faces of the New York Times and whoever leaked the fake version of the story. And the fact that one of the key sources of pushback is Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), the top Democrat on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, might provide a wee clue as to the likely source of that leak. (There's no good explanation for the Times falling for it.)

Cummings provides more support for the fact that the investigation the State Department Inspector General wants to see is not into Clinton's actions but into the State Department's later handling of the emails she turned over:

"I spoke personally to the State Department Inspector General on Thursday, and he said he never asked the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation of Secretary Clinton's email usage," Cummings, the top Democrat on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, said Friday in a statement.

Instead, State Inspector General Steve A. Linick, "told me the Intelligence Community IG notified the Justice Department and Congress that they identified classified information in a few emails that were part of the [Freedom of Information Act] review, and that none of those emails had been previously marked as classified."

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Cummings also provided another memo from the Office of the Inspector General making clear that the investigation in question wasn't about Hillary Clinton's actions, and that the classified emails were not marked as classified at the time. For more on that question, Marcy Wheeler has a great look at the practice of retroactive classification.

On top of the investigation referral not being about Hillary Clinton's actions, the Justice Department is now also saying it's not a criminal inquiry at all. Could this story have been any more screwed up?

New York Times presents another Clinton bombshell ... and again, it bombs // Daily Kos // Laura Clawson - July 24, 2015

Is this going to be the story that finally embarrasses the New York Times out of its never-mind-the-facts approach to Hillary Clinton? Late Thursday night, the Times published a story claiming that the Justice Department had been asked "to open a criminal investigation into whether Hillary Rodham Clinton mishandled sensitive government information on a private email account," only to quietly change the story to say that the Justice Department had been asked "to open a criminal investigation into whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account Hillary Rodham Clinton used." As in, the story changed from being about a potential criminal investigation into Clinton's conduct to being about a potential criminal investigation into the mishandling of sensitive information by ... someone not named.

The title of a recent memo from the Office of the Inspector General at the State Department—one of the offices the Times cites as having asked for the investigation—offers a hint:

Potential Issues Identified by the Office of the Inspector General of the

Intelligence Community Concerning the Department of State's Process for the

Review of Former Secretary Clinton's Emails under the Freedom of Information

Act [Emphasis added]

Clinton, of course, is no longer at the State Department and so isn't in control of how they review her emails. And the Associated Press reports that:

One U.S. official said it was unclear whether classified information was mishandled and the referral doesn't suggest wrongdoing by Clinton herself.

So the original story was all kinds of wrong. But never mind that! For a brief moment, the New York Times thought it had an anti-Hillary scoop, and boy did it run with it. The headline blared that "Criminal inquiry sought in Hillary Clinton's use of email" and one of the reporters on the story, Michael Schmidt, tweeted that:

This is not the first time this election season the Times has had reason to be embarrassed by its political coverage, and specifically its coverage of Clinton, but this may be the worst. (And the fact that I can't say confidently that it is the worst is a shocking reminder of how bad some of their other coverage has been.) They simply don't seem to have checked out their story at all, leaving open the question of whether the reporting was drawn directly from a Republican tip on the story without research into the story's accuracy, whether the newspaper's editors didn't care to establish the facts before running with an incendiary story that they knew would make a splash, or whether they just hate Hillary Clinton that much. None of the possibilities should be acceptable for anything aspiring to be the paper of record, and the unacknowledged change to the heart of the story piles on an additional shame. The Times owes its readers an apology and, more, a promise to do better from now on.

Capital Gains Tax And Long-Term Growth Topics At NYU Speech By Presidential Candidate // IB Times // Jess McHugh - July 24, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Hillary Clinton chose a speech Friday at New York University's Stern Business School as the opportunity to detail the economic plan she would put in place if elected president. The speech elaborated on a plan she had outlined July 13.

Clinton said she would encourage long-term growth by discouraging short-term investments and cracking down on "hit-and-run activists" who were seeking immediate payouts from companies. "We need a new generation of committed, long-term investors to provide a counter-weight to the hit-and-run activists" she said.

The former U.S. secretary of state advocated for higher capital gains taxes for people who hold stocks for less than a few years. She wants to take on what she calls "quarterly capitalism" which values quarterly returns for shareholders over long-term investment. Clinton said she believed that kind of short-term thinking in the markets was a large part of what was slowing the nation's economy.

The content of the speech seemed targeted at moderate voters. Though Clinton aides said she wanted to start a broader conversation about corporate culture, this address was more directly concerned with the capital gains tax that many investors already think is a good idea.

Clinton did criticize the exorbitant paychecks of corporate executives, noting that they sometimes earn up to 300 times what their employees do. "That just doesn't make sense" said Clinton. She also said the issue of executive pay is intrinsically tied to the problem of short-term investments because "stock-heavy pay packages have created a perverse incentive."

The speech called for a raise in the federal minimum wage and the establishment of programs for middle-class corporate employees to share in corporate profits. "Corporate profits are at near-record highs, but companies are too often not choosing to reinvest those funds in innovation or their workforce," a Clinton aide told CNN Thursday.

Many observers thought her economic plan could unite progressives and moderates within the Democratic Party because it toed a subtle line and did not suggest anything too radical. “It’s a complete win-win,” said Jonathan Cowan, a former official in President Bill Clinton's administration, in conversation with Politico. “Her political imperative is to unite the growth wing and the fairness wing of the party, so she has the best shot at winning a general election."

Sanders Surges, Hillary Drops in New Gallup Poll **// Newsmax // Jason Devaney - July 24, 2015**

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is becoming more popular among voters as he contends for the Democratic nomination in the presidential race, while Hillary Clinton's numbers are falling.

A new Gallup poll finds that Sanders' favorability rating has doubled since March, rising from 12 percent to 24 percent. Since April, Clinton's favorability rating has slipped from 48 percent to 43 percent.

Further, Clinton's unfavorable rating is now 46 percent, leading to a net favorable rating of -3 percent — her lowest score since 2007, according to Gallup.

Regarding Sanders' numbers, 44 percent of likely voters in the Gallup poll were able to rate him, an increase of 20 percent since March — meaning he is gaining more visibility.

Other highlights from the Gallup poll:

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Among Democrats and left-leaning independents, Clinton's favorability rating has dropped from 79 percent to 74 percent since April.

Clinton's favorability rating has fallen from 44 percent to 36 percent among independents, while 14 percent of Republicans and right-leaning independents hold a favorable view of her.

75 percent of women hold a favorable view of Clinton, compared to 32 percent for Sanders.

Hillary Clinton Puts Fashion Bloggers to Shame // W Magazine // Sarah Leon - July 24, 2015

Six weeks ago, presidential candidate Hillary Clinton launched her Instagram feed with a photo of red, white and blue pieces, playfully captioned “Hard Choices.” Now, like many popular fashion bloggers, @HillaryClinton posts daily images with “Get the look: Link in bio” of her #OOTD ensembles. In fact, aspiring fashion bloggers could learn a thing or two from the former senator-turned-style star. See for yourself.

It’s okay to match your look to your state. Here, Clinton takes on New York in blue.

Celebrate others with great personal style.

Especially if they happen to be the President.

Remind friends that you’ve always been hip.

If Lady Gaga makes a T-shirt with your face on it—don’t pass up the Insta-opportunity for a photo.

Celebrate the next generation of style stars.

Show off your total look—from the best possible angle.

Always coordinate with your backdrop.

And a good manicure.

When in doubt, post a #TBT.

Hillary Clinton E-mails May Prompt Further Inquiry (Updated) // Vanity Fair // Kia Makarechi - July 24, 2015

The inspectors general of the intelligence community and State Department on Friday released a joint statement confirming that a referral was made regarding the potential compromise of classified materials. They also, however, said that the probe was not, as had earlier been reported by The New York Times, a criminal inquiry.

The Justice Department also confirmed that it had received a referral, and likewise said that the referral is not

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criminal in nature. The department has not decided whether to open an investigation.

"There have been a lot of inaccuracies," Clinton said on Friday. "Maybe the heat is getting to everybody. We all have a responsibility to get this right."

"It is now more clear than ever than the New York Times report claiming there is a criminal inquiry sought in Hillary Clinton's use of e-mail is false," said Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill. "This incident shows the danger of relying on reckless, inaccurate leaks from partisan sources."

The Times added a correction to its story, which the paper said was the product of faulty information from senior government officials.

The headline of this article has been updated in light of the above information. The original article continues below.

Call it the Energizer Bunny: the scandal over Hillary Clinton's e-mail entered yet another stage on Thursday night, when The New York Times reported that inspectors general had requested that the government open a criminal investigation on the matter.

At issue is Clinton's exclusive use of a private e-mail server—one housed in her Chappaqua, New York, home—during her tenure as secretary of state. Two inspectors general are pushing the Justice Department to investigate whether Clinton's use of the private e-mail addresses constituted a mishandling of secret government information.

According to the Times, the department has yet to decide on whether it will open a criminal probe. A Clinton spokesman told the AP that the former secretary of state "followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials."

The e-mail scandal has dogged Clinton's campaign for president. A poll found in July that nearly 60 percent of Americans don't believe Clinton is "honest and trustworthy," a reality Clinton dismissed in her first national TV interview of the election cycle as the product of "the kind of constant barrage of attacks that are largely fomented by and coming from the right."

Clinton insists that the use of the e-mail was a matter of convenience, that her correspondence was appropriately captured by government archiving systems, and that she did not handle classified information on the account. Some of the e-mails have been classified after the fact, but, as the Times notes, it is not clear whether she used the e-mail addresses to send or receive any material that was classified at the time.

She has turned over 55,000 pages of e-mails and asked the State Department to release them; a first batch of 3,000 documents was released last month. They revealed that Clinton frequently communicated with Sidney Blumenthal, a longtime Clinton insider whom Barack Obama's administration had barred from employment. Replete with details about ordering in dinners for late nights on the job and Clinton's misadventures with a fax machine, the e-mails also offered a glimpse into the everyday banalities of life as a cabinet official.

Hillary Clinton: Capitalism Needs to Be 'Reinvented' and 'Put Back into Balance' // The Blaze // Fred Lucas - July 24, 2015

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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said capitalism must be “reinvented” during an economic address where she condemned the pursuit of short-term profits at the expense of long-term prosperity.

Delivering remarks at New York University, Clinton decried “quarterly capitalism.”

“I’m looking for new, creative, innovative, disruptive ideas that will save capitalism for the 21st century because it is the greatest engine of economic opportunity and potential that has ever been invented,” Clinton said. “It is one of the great accomplishments of the American political and economic history. It created the opportunity that so many generations of Americans took advantage of and that led to the creation of the middle class, the extraordinary economic accomplishment of our country.”

“As we’ve had to do in previous eras, it needs to be reinvented,” Clinton said of capitalism. “It needs to be put back into balance. It needs to recognize we really are all in this together. The better we all do, the more there will be for everybody to share in, to invest in, to profit from.”

Clinton talked about reforming capital gains taxes to encourage long-term investments. Her plan would tax investment more that are sold in less than a year, but less if held onto for longer, as a means of what Clinton said would encourage long-term investment and more innovation. Further, she called for expanding tax credits for those who invest in underprivileged areas.

“American business needs to break free from the tyranny of today’s earning report so that they can do what they do best, innovate, invest and build tomorrow’s prosperity,” Clinton said.

After her critique of large publicly traded companies, Clinton took a swipe at Republicans.

“Their approach to government mirrors the worst tendencies of hit and run shareholders, demanding quick payouts in the form of tax breaks for the wealthy at the expense of investing in the future,” Clinton said. “They ignore long-term challenges like climate change, poverty and inequality, failing infrastructure.”

New York Times Writes Badass Slash Fiction About Hillary Clinton Criminal Investigation // Wonkette // Kaili Joy Gray - July 24, 2015

In its pathological Liberal Media quest to catch Billary Clinton Doing Some Kind of Bad Thing That Is Bad Maybe, the New York Times published a devastating, campaign-destroying, earth-shattering, game-changing, smoking gun GOTCHA! story late Thursday night, and it was Not Excellent News for Hillary:

Criminal Inquiry Sought in Clinton’s Use of Email

Two inspectors general have asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into whether Hillary Rodham Clinton mishandled sensitive government information on a private email account she used as secretary of state, senior government officials said Thursday.

That sounds pretty uh oh. Criminal, even! Hillary will never be president now because she will be in PRISON, for emailing sensitive classified state secrets from her personal GrammaYOLO@Hillz.com email, even though she said she only used it to plan her daughter’s wedding and talk about yoga. But no! She used it for doing crime and jeopardizing national security. Bad Hillary, no White House for you!

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Just one little problem: it's not true, according to the Justice Department. Oops!

A statement issued by the Department said it had received a "referral" on the matter, although it did not say who originated it.

"It is not a criminal referral," the statement said.

But what about looking into Hillary's "use of email"? Nope, that's not true either:

The Justice Department said Friday it has been asked to investigate the "potential compromise of classified information" in connection with the private e-mail account that Hillary Rodham Clinton used while serving as secretary of state.

That's a little bit different from saying Hillary Clinton might be criminally investigated for emailing classified information, isn't it? As the Times noted in its shocking story:

In the course of the email review, State Department officials determined that some information in the messages should be retroactively classified. In the 3,000 pages that were released, for example, portions of two dozen emails were redacted because they were upgraded to "classified status." But none of those were marked as classified at the time Mrs. Clinton handled them.

So the State Department is retroactively classifying documents Hillary emailed, which were not classified at the time, but that adds up to criminal activity by Clinton, and the DOJ is ON IT, except not? Ace reporting there, The New York Times!

The paper eventually decided it regrets the error of getting the whole thing wrong, so it changed the headline and the lede and the story, and added a "correction," and it is very sorry about that, we good now?

But the interweb is forever, so you can see the changes from the original story here, thanks to NewsDiffs.

So, how did the Times fuck this up so badly? Well, it got some secret memos. Can't tell you how, it is a SECRET. But Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings, who is a member of the House Benghazi Committee To Investigate Hillary Clinton Until They Prove She Did Benghazi, thinks he might know:

In a statement, Cummings said that "this is the latest example in a series of inaccurate leaks to generate false front-page headlines — only to be corrected later — and they have absolutely nothing to do with the attacks in Benghazi or protecting our diplomatic corps overseas."

So hmm, maybe Republicans are leaking information to the Times to try to turn a story that isn't a story into a story, for their own political gain. But nah, they would never do something like that, would they? And the Times would never play along, would it? (Yes and yes.)

Criminal Probe Sought Over Hillary Clinton's Private Emails: Reports // People // Maria Coder - July 24, 2015

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Two inspectors general want a criminal probe into whether government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account that Hillary Clinton used as Secretary of State.

On the heels of a story from The New York Times, multiple sources report the Justice Department is being asked to open an investigation.

In a memo to the Undersecretary of State for management, Patrick Kennedy, the inspectors general of the State Department and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, wrote that Clinton had "hundreds of potentially classified emails" in her private email account, according to the Times, which cited "senior government officials."

The inspectors general are independent officials tasked with conducting audits, investigations and inspections in the agencies for which they're responsible.

Clinton's use of her personal account instead of a State Department one for official business started a political storm after news of it was revealed in March.

Clinton, now a Democratic presidential contender for 2016, has insisted it was "undisputed" that the State Department had okayed her email arrangement and that she did not handle classified material on her private email account.

At first the Times reported that the inspectors general sought a criminal inquiry into the way Clinton handled possible classified information with her private email while serving as Secretary of State. It's now reported that the investigation would just look at whether sensitive information was mishandled, though not necessarily mishandled by Clinton, CNN reports.

In June, Clinton turned over to the State Department 3,000 pages of her electronic correspondence – part of a batch of about 30,000 pieces.

The content included asking an assistant to fetch iced tea, comments on scheduling glitches, and exchanges with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, among other things.

The Justice Department has not yet decided if it will open an investigation, according to the *Times*.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'MALLEY

A pro-O'Malley super PAC raises $289,000. That's not all that super. **// WaPo // John Wagner - July 24, 2015**

A super PAC supporting Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley says it will report having raised $289,000 during its first month -- a relative pittance compared to the multi-million dollar efforts by outside groups backing other candidates, including party frontrunner Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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Ron Boehmer, a spokesman for Generation Forward, the PAC backing the former Maryland governor, said his group was pleased with its take, given that it did not bring fundraising staff on board until the end of June, as the reporting period was about to end.

"Now it's go time," said Boehmer, a former press aide to O'Malley. "I would expect we'll have much more significant numbers to report at the next deadline."

By contrast, a quartet of outside groups supporting Clinton have said they brought in more than $24 million during the first half of the year. The largest chunk of that -- $15.6 million -- came from Priorities USA, a pro-Clinton super PAC.

Supporters of Republican Jeb Bush, meanwhile, raised $108 million for a super PAC to bolster the campaign of the former Florida governor -- a mark unmatched by any other outside group.

Groups backing a half-dozen other GOP contenders took in $10 million or more.

Boehmer said Generation Forward's money was raised from across the country and that contributions ranged in size from $25 to the "six figures." Several donors previously gave to a leadership PAC maintained by O'Malley known as O' Say Can You See. The super PAC's report is due to the Federal Election Commision by the end of the month.

By law, O'Malley's campaign can't coordinate with the super PAC supporting his presidential run. O'Malley has said that he would prefer that no super PACs -- whose donors can give unlimited sums -- get involved in the race.

Bernie Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist senator from Vermont, has gone further, discouraging super PACs from supporting his quest for the Democratic nomination. He doesn't appear to have been entirely successful, however. Word surfaced last week of a new group dubbed "Billionaires for Bernie."

The pro-O'Malley group has cut a couple of targeted Web and television ads and has said it has hired about 50 staffers do to on-the-ground organizing for O'Malley in Iowa -- with the possibility of more to come. It also hosted a gathering in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, last week after a state party dinner there that drew all five contenders for the Democratic nomination.

The figures from outside groups do not include what candidates have raised for their own campaign committees. By that measure, O'Malley is lagging both Clinton and Sanders.

Clinton has reported raising $47 million for during the past quarter quarter, followed by Sanders with $15.1 million and O'Malley with nearly $2 million.

On banks, O'Malley is both prosecutor and policy wonk **// WaPo // Aaron C. Davis - July 24, 2015**

As a young state's attorney in Baltimore, Martin O'Malley prosecuted a parade of drug dealers, the city's seemingly insurmountable public enemy. As mayor and, later, governor of Maryland, he often seemed most at home when facing off against some other Goliath – a Republican governor trying to take over his city's schools, for example, or the gun industry.

In his long-shot bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, O'Malley has taken on a new enemy: Wall Street

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and mega-banks.

During a policy speech in Washington Thursday, O'Malley blasted the nation's banking industry as everything short of evil . In the process, he showcased both the best and the worst of the political DNA he's counting on to help him dethrone Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"We need to restore robust deterrents to those who police Wall Street. We cannot assume that this is the one industry that's allowed to police itself. We need to put the cops back on the street," O'Malley said.

O'Malley named Republican majorities in Congress as co-conspirators for cutting funding for Wall Street oversight.He argued for more stringent federal monitoring of banks, and, if necessary, government action to break them up and to bring charges against executives when institutions fail.

"When there is evidence of criminal wrongdoing, we need to prosecute it," O'Malley said.

But O'Malley the prosecutor was also at times O'Malley the policy wonk, swimming in legalese so deep that some in the audience began to check their phones.

O'Malley ticked off a list of proposals, including an end to revolving doors between positions in industry and government oversight. He said the next administration must do a better job of enforcing Dodd-Frank, including a provision that requires banks to have plans for how they would safely dissolve instead of causing a chain reaction again that would destabilize the economy.

As he first proposed in March, O'Malley called for Congress to reinstate a "modern version" of the Depression-era Glass-Steagall Act, which forced banks to separate their commercial activities and more speculative investment ones. The measure was repealed by Congress in 1999.

But asked by a reporter "what's wrong with the old one, if anything?" O'Malley punted.

"Yeah," O'Malley said, kicking the question to moderator Brad Miller, a former Democratic congressman. "Maybe you have an answer to that congressman? What was wrong with the old one?"

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who is the ranking minority member of the Senate budget committee and has emerged as Clinton's chief rival so far for the Democratic nomination, has also made Wall Street largesse a theme, crowding the space for O'Malley to define what he would do differently. Asked about how he would distingush himself on banking from both Sanders and Clinton, O'Malley repeated a stump speech line that he is the only candidate among Democrats with executive experience.

Thursday's event was originally scheduled for the National Press Club, but O'Malley's campaign balked at the club's longstanding format, in which a single club-designated journalist asks follow-up questions of the candidate. The speech was held instead at the Center for National Policy, an organization whose board includes O'Malley adviser Douglas Wilson.

An Irish songwriter prone to quoting poetry, O'Malley spent some time waxing philosophical about the campaign.

"Every election, especially every national election, is the opportunity for a deeper understanding, and

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understanding precedes action," he said. "I think real leadership is to forge a new consensus, not to follow or submit to the straight jacket of the way things are today."

Congress needs to act on gun reform **// Boston Globe // Martin O'Malley - July 24, 2015**

THIS WEEK, we again watched in horror as more images of gun violence flashed across our TV and computer screens.

On Thursday, two people were killed at a movie theater in Lafayette, La. Last week, five service members were killed in Chattanooga, Tenn. And last month, nine parishioners were killed in Charleston, S.C. — solely because of their skin color.

During the first 204 days of 2015, there have been 204 mass shootings: a mass shooting for every day of the year.

These tragedies aren't isolated incidents or even "accidents" as some have called them — they're part of a full-blown epidemic.

We cannot let this become the new normal. As we mourn for the lives cut short — for the victims and the loved ones they leave behind — we can't just sit by and wait for another tragedy to happen again.

We need comprehensive gun safety laws to save lives.

This is where we should start: The federal government should limit the sale of firearms to tightly regulated, licensed dealers. That means closing the "gun show loophole" once and for all, and banning unlicensed private individuals from selling guns.

We should also impose greater restrictions on what, to whom, and where dealers can sell guns. That means banning the sale of assault weapons, increasing inspections, and establishing a national gun registry to help law enforcement track down dangerous criminals. It also means requiring gun owners to secure and safely store all firearms in their homes.

In Maryland, we implemented some of the toughest measures in the nation to crack down on gun violence. The reforms we put in place included required licensing, fingerprinting, background checks, and safety training. We ensured that these requirements applied to all buyers, whether they were acquiring a gun from a dealer, a secondary sale, or as a private gift.

We took action to keep guns off the street and make them less deadly. We banned the sale of assault weapons and limited the size of magazines. And, if a firearm was lost or stolen, we required it to be reported immediately to law enforcement.

Our goal in Maryland, as it should be for the nation, was to reduce mass shootings and keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

This wasn't easy, and we didn't get it done on the first try. It took six years — from 2007, when I first supported an assault weapons ban, until 2013 — for us to get this done. I faced strong opposition even from members of my own party. Legislators faced threats from the NRA and saw 2,000 gun-rights advocates flood the halls of the Maryland General Assembly.

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The same debate is playing out in Congress today. While the public strongly backs common-sense gun safety reforms, Congress has refused to act on them.

It's no surprise: With millions of dollars from the gun industry and an astronomical number of lobbyists, the National Rifle Association has been able to silence members of Congress who privately support these reforms. Their fear of retribution has led them to block even the most basic gun safety reforms.

Stopping the preventable deaths of American citizens should not be a partisan issue, or the purview of special interests. These members of Congress need to find the courage to do the right thing, without fear of the NRA's clout, come next election.

It's not enough just to "have the conversation." It's time for actual leadership and action.

O'Malley gets early backing from a California lawmaker // LA Times // Michael Memoli - July 24, 2015

A California congressman has become the first Washington lawmaker to endorse former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley in the Democratic race for president, calling him the best choice for the millennial generation.

Second-term Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin), a native Iowan, will campaign for O'Malley in that key nominating state this weekend. In a Des Moines Register op-ed, the 34-year-old Swalwell wrote that O'Malley helped inspire his decision to enter public service.

"In 2012, I ran for Congress to bring new energy and ideas to Washington, D.C., and fight for millennial issues. But my efforts alone cannot pave the pathways to opportunity millennials need," he writes. "Our generation needs Martin O'Malley in the White House."

Swalwell's endorsement is not a total surprise. Last year, we reported that he had taken on a leadership role in O'Malley's political action committee as chairman of the Young Professional Leadership Council. At the time, he praised O'Malley, who is well behind Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton in early polls, for helping raise money for Democrats in the House and said his "results-oriented, data-driven approach" to governing would appeal to younger voters.

Martin O'Malley sides with illegal immigrants in lawsuit against Texas // Washington Times // S.A. Miller - July 24, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley on Friday blasted Texas for denying birth certificates to some U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants without valid identification documents, declaring that "citizenship is a human right."

"Denying birth certificates to U.S, citizens is not only outrageous, it's unconstitutional," the former Maryland governor said in a statement released in English and Spanish.

"The 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution could not be clearer. It states that 'all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside,' " he said. "The Texas Department of State Health services should cease this discriminatory and unconstitutional practice immediately. Citizenship is a human right."

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Mr. O'Malley has attempted to challenge Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton on immigration, proposing the most sweeping plans for amnesty and expanding rights for illegal immigrants of any candidate.

A group of 19 illegal immigrant parents and their 23 children have filed suit against the Texas Department of State Health Services after officials refused to issue birth certificates the U.S.-born children, citing invalid forms of identification.

The parents came from Mexico and Central America and live in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, along the U.S.-Mexico border. Although the parents are not citizens, their U.S.-born children are citizens by birthright under the 14th Amendment.

Texas health officials asking the judge to dismiss a lawsuit Wednesday, arguing that court lacks jurisdiction over claims against the state agency. Lawyers for the agency also argued that Texas has sovereign immunity and cannot be sued and that its policy does not interfere with any federal regulation.

Texas, they said, has the "power to control the circumstances under which it will provide copies of birth certificates."

O'Malley nets first congressional endorsement **// The Hill / Jonathan Easley - July 24, 2015**

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.) announced Friday he'll support Martin O'Malley (D) for president, giving the former Maryland governor his first endorsement from a member of Congress.

In an op-ed published in The Des Moines Register, Swalwell, a 34-year-old lawmaker serving his second term in the House, described O'Malley as a "friend and mentor" who inspired him as a college student at the University of Maryland to seek a life in public service after seeing O'Malley speak.

"He spoke to my class about our civic duty to help others, unify communities and offer solutions for the common good," Swalwell wrote. "I was hooked. I watched him lead not just with words but by deeds, and I committed myself to following his example of service to others."

Hillary Clinton is far outpacing her Democratic rivals in the race for congressional endorsements.

According to The Hill's whip list, the former secretary of State and presidential front-runner has the support of 85 members of the House and 30 senators.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who has emerged as Clinton's biggest challenger, does not have any congressional endorsements.

O'Malley is struggling to gain traction in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

According to the RealClearPolitics average of polls, he's stuck at 1 percent support nationally, trailing Clinton, Sanders, Vice President Biden, who has not entered the race, and former Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.).

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O'Malley has sought to set himself apart by releasing a series of detailed policy proposals that have been well-received by many liberals. But so far Sanders is the candidate galvanizing the liberal base and chipping away at Clinton's lead in the polls.

Our generation needs Martin O'Malley in the White House // Des Moines Register // Rep. Eric Swalwell - July 24, 2015

I was born in Sac City, Iowa and this weekend, I am proud to be back in the Hawkeye state to endorse my friend and mentor, Martin O'Malley for President.

In 2001, when he was the Mayor of Baltimore, O'Malley visited my government class when I was just a 20-year-old college student at the University of Maryland. I was broke and between a vise of increasing college tuition and few ideas of what I wanted to do upon graduation. O'Malley was 38 years old, and at that point in my life, the youngest high-profile leader I had met.

He spoke to my class about our civic duty to help others, unify communities and offer solutions for the common good. I was hooked. I watched him lead not just with words but by deeds, and I committed myself to following his example of service to others. Inspired by O'Malley, I would go on to attend his alma mater, the University of Maryland School of Law, start my career as a prosecutor, and later serve on my local city council.

Now, at 34, I have the honor and responsibility of being a voice for 80 million millennials as a Representative in the United States Congress.

The greatest challenges facing our generation are the increasing barriers to opportunity: harder and costlier paths to higher education, and fewer good paying jobs once you graduate. Our generation needs a leader like O'Malley in the White House. I know he is the leader our generation needs, because I have personally needed him before. And he did not let me down.

In 2003, I was a senior at the University of Maryland, College Park and Republican Bob Ehrlich had just been sworn in as Governor. Governor Ehrlich immediately took an ax to public education, cutting funding to state universities, and to add insult to injury, raising tuition for students.

Under those conditions, I could barely finish college and go on to law school. I still remember the countless notices from the bursar's office: "This is your last warning, if you do not pay your tuition, you will be dropped from classes."

I and thousands of college students facing similar pressure needed someone who would relieve the burden. Fortunately, Mayor O'Malley became Gov. O'Malley and he kept his word to restore funding of the state's university system and reduce the cost of tuition for students.

Gov. O'Malley expanded education funding even during the height of the recession, and Maryland public schools were ranked No. 1 in the nation five years in a row. I saw first-hand how his accomplishments transformed the state and helped my generation.

Once again, millennials need O'Malley. Forty-one million young Americans are mired in $1.3 trillion in student loan debt, leaving them stuck in financial quicksand and preventing or delaying them from taking the job they want, buying a house and starting a family. Millions more in college and on their way to college face steep tuition costs and dim job prospects upon graduation.

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To help our generation, O'Malley has put forward a national goal of debt-free college to address the rising cost of education and assist the millions held back by debt. His bold and visionary plan would allow students to refinance student loans, link minimum payments to incomes, freeze public tuition rates, restore state higher education funding, increase Pell Grants, and expand and modernize the need-based federal work-study program.

O'Malley stood up for me when I needed him most, and today I am standing up for him.

In 2012, I ran for Congress to bring new energy and ideas to Washington, D.C and fight for millennial issues. But my efforts alone cannot pave the pathways to opportunity millennials need.

Our generation needs Martin O'Malley in the White House. I endorse Gov. O'Malley to be our next President.

Report: Two Inspectors General Seek Criminal Probe Of Hillary Clinton Email Use // The Daily Caller // Chuck Ross - July 24, 2015

Two inspectors general are asking the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation to find out whether Hillary Clinton mishandled classified emails as secretary of state.

The New York Times reports that the internal watchdogs at the State Department and the Intelligence Community are requesting the probe, but that the Justice Department has not yet said whether it will dive in.

The inspectors general sent a June 29 memo to under secretary of state for management Patrick Kennedy claiming that Clinton's records contained "hundreds of potentially classified emails."

More than two dozen of the emails out of the 55,000 pages of records Clinton turned over to the State Department in December have retroactively been deemed to be classified. One of the emails released to the House Select Committee on Benghazi in May was classified upon release. The rest were classified in June when the State Department released about 3,000 pages of Clinton emails last month.

According to The Times' senior level sources, it is not clear whether Clinton maintained classified documents on her private email server while she was in office.

Any finding that she did would pose a massive problem for the Democratic presidential candidate.

"I did not email any classified material to anyone on my email," Clinton said at a press conference in March, shortly after her private email arrangement was revealed. "There is no classified material. So I'm certainly well aware of the classification requirements and did not send classified material."

Politico reports that the State Department has acknowledged the investigation request.

"We are working with both the State IG and the Intelligence Community's Inspector General to ensure that our review of former Secretary Clinton's emails is completed in a manner that protects sensitive and potentially classified information," State Department spokesman Alec Gerlach said.

Intelligence Expert Nails Reasons For Investigation Into Hillary Emails // The Daily Caller // Casey Harper -

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July 24, 2015

With news of the possible criminal investigation into Hillary Clinton's email use, one intelligence expert took to Twitter to sum up the situation.

The New York Times reports that two Inspector Generals have called for a criminal probe into Hillary Clinton's email use after news that she used her private email instead of a secure government email to send and receive classified information, which would be illegal.

There's a lot of confusion surrounding Clinton's emails and their significance, but Marc Ambinder, a journalist who literally wrote the book on classified intelligence, fired off a string of tweets worth reading.

That question will be at the heart of any investigation, and Ambinder says the answer is a definitive yes.

"Every security officer would tell you unequivocally yes. Derivatively classified. Or you own judgment should tell you it that it …" Ambinder tweeted. "Ought to be, and it's your responsibility as a public official with privileged access to secrets to make those distinctions."

Ambinder said that if someone types classified information privately emails it, that person "is legally liable if discovered."

"I doubt any Clinton associate would knowingly use private email for obviously classified purposes. But IGs suggesting they had obligation to ensure that any inbound or outbound email was as free of potentially classified info as possible," Ambinder tweeted. "The targets here (if any) seem to be the people who sent emails to the Clinton accounts, not the emails that Clinton and team sent. And to be fair, making these calls is not easy. But this, of course, is why a private email domain might not have been the best idea."

SANDERS

Bernie Sanders's '100% Brooklyn' Roots Show Beyond His Accent // NYT // Jason Horowitz - July 24, 2015

Ivor Williams stood on his porch and stared suspiciously at the visitor who was pointing to the attic of his pink and shingled house near Brooklyn College.

"I used to live here," Steve Slavin explained, to no noticeable reaction from Mr. Williams. Then he uttered the magic words: "With Bernie Sanders."

"Bernie?" Mr. Williams, a 78-year-old immigrant from Guyana, exclaimed. "I was just watching Bernie on the TV."

Hillary Rodham Clinton may be a former senator from New York who located her campaign headquarters in Brooklyn Heights, but all it takes to know who really represents Brooklyn in the race for the Democratic nomination is for Mr. Sanders to open his mouth and utter a few syllables.

As Mr. Sanders, a senator from Vermont, draws large crowds on the campaign trail and enjoys an unexpected surge, his ur-Brooklyn accent and upbringing in the heavily Jewish neighborhood of Flatbush off Kings Highway

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have become a particular point of pride for friends, former schoolmates and fellow progressives in the borough where he was born.

An attic bedroom in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn is a spot that Bernie Sanders, a presidential hopeful, once called home. By Jason Horowitz on Publish Date July 24, 2015. Photo by Michelle V. Agins/The New York Times. Watch in Times Video »

“I’m very proud of the fact that he speaks Brooklyn, because he’s not a phony and that shows,” said Marty Alpert, who used to cheer for Mr. Sanders when he was on the track team at James Madison High School, where she now is on the alumni board.

On the school’s crowded Wall of Distinction, Mr. Sanders is no longer quite so overshadowed by such alumni as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Senator Chuck Schumer and four Nobel Prize winners, or, for that matter, Judge Judy and Cousin Brucie.

Mr. Slavin was Mr. Sanders’s roommate when they were both students at Brooklyn College. Now retired from teaching economics, Mr. Slavin recalled staying up late listening to music on Mr. Sanders’s record player and discussing Supreme Court cases, Marbury v. Madison in particular. And he remembered how Mr. Sanders would curse when they heard their loathed landlady angrily marching up the stairs.

“He was a lifer,” Mr. Slavin said, meaning that Mr. Sanders had known only one place his entire life.

In fact, Mr. Sanders was on the verge of leaving — first for the University of Chicago, where he transferred from Brooklyn College, and ultimately for Vermont.

But Brooklyn’s imprint on Mr. Sanders was not limited to his tongue. In the populist politics he has espoused for decades as a leftist activist, socialist mayor, and independent congressman and senator, those who knew Mr. Sanders, who declined to comment for this article, detect the influence of postwar Brooklyn stickball games, arguments over money between his parents and the work ethic instilled in him as a decorated long-distance runner.

“He is 100 percent Brooklyn,” said Larry Sanders, the candidate’s older brother, who decades ago traded in his Brooklyn accent for a British one when he moved to England and pursued Green Party politics.

The Sanders brothers lived with their parents in a prewar apartment building on East 26th Street that had a fake fireplace in the lobby. In apartment 2C, Mr. Sanders and his brother swapped nights in a small bedroom and living room, ate their mother’s meat-heavy dinners, and made occasional outings to the local delicatessen and Chinese restaurant.

Their father, a paint salesman who emigrated from Poland at age 17, worked out of Long Island and put 25,000 miles a year on his car. The family rarely discussed politics and, according to Larry Sanders, looked at their grandfather, “a very strong socialist,” as “eccentric.”

What their parents did talk about was money. “There were tensions about money, which I think is important,” he said. “There was no sense of long-term security. A salesman, things can go up and things can go down.”

But if that at all contributed to the senator’s economic populism, then his appreciation for an equal playing field was influenced by the self-regulating society of street games outside their house.

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Sid Ganis, a past president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, who lived downstairs from the Sanders family, recalled a roving gang of Jewish kids who would play stickball, marbles and boxball, all without adult meddling.

“In a way, when Bernard talks about cooperatives and so on, he is drawing on something that was real for many years,” his brother said. “That the people who did it, ran it.”

Mr. Sanders went to elementary school at P.S. 197 and spent his Saturday mornings at the Nostrand movie theater watching cartoons and serials with his brother. They took occasional trips into Manhattan, including one visit to Rockefeller Center where his brother recalled a “Vermont state propaganda place” that made the brothers marvel at the affordability of the land. When Mr. Sanders married years later, he used money from his wedding presents to buy acres in Montpelier.

Mr. Sanders started attending Madison, just down the street from his family’s apartment, in 1955. Walter Block, now an economics professor and libertarian at Loyola University New Orleans, would walk to school with Mr. Sanders through what he called a “pretty pinkish” neighborhood. On Bedford Avenue, they would enter a school that was a city in itself.

With about 5,000 students and split schedules between underclassmen and juniors and seniors to thin out hallway traffic jams, there was also a hunger to move up in the world.

“We wanted to count,” said Larry Hite, a well-known commodities trader who graduated the same year as Mr. Sanders.

Mr. Sanders was a good student. He wrote for the school paper and ended up running for school president, but he had to settle for president of his class. His brother introduced him to Freud, and taught him why Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense” was superior to Edmund Burke’s conservatism.

While others would eat pizza at Louis Gino’s, hang out at the Avalon Tearoom or avoid Dubrow’s Cafeteria after school, Mr. Sanders’s free time was spent on the track. As a tall freshman with a long stride, he became one of the borough’s top long-distance runners. He became so used to winning that in one race at Prospect Park, he pushed his co-captain, Dan Jelinsky, ahead of him “so that I came in first,” Mr. Jelinsky recalled.

These days, the school is pushing Mr. Sanders out front and center. Jodie Cohen, the school’s principal, talks about how happy she was when she heard he was running. “If Bernie wins and then Chuck becomes majority leader,” she said, referring to Mr. Schumer, “all of Madison’s dreams will become a reality.”

Ms. Alpert, the alumni board member, is also enthusiastic about the attention Mr. Sanders is getting. She said that when a counterpart at nearby Midwood High School inquired about creating its own Wall of Distinction, the Madison board members responded, “Besides Woody Allen, who have you got?”

But the end of Mr. Sanders’s years at Madison was not a happy time. His mother, whose heart had been weakened by a bout of rheumatic fever as a child, had taken ill. He lost interest in track, and enrolled, unhappily, in Brooklyn College.

“He wanted to go to Harvard,” said Lou Howort, 73, a track teammate.

After Mr. Sanders’s graduation in 1959, his brother returned from Harvard Law School to be close to their mother

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as her condition worsened. It was around that time that Mr. Sanders rented a furnished room with Mr. Slavin on East 21st Street in the attic of a Madison Latin teacher and his wife.

Mr. Slavin said his old roommate needed some space from the tensions at home, and that Mr. Sanders was crushed when his mother died when she was just 46 after a second heart operation failed.

By the end of his year at Brooklyn College, Mr. Sanders was more than ready to leave for Chicago. When finals came around, according to Mr. Slavin, he paid less attention to his exams than to the books he brought back from the college library. He was particularly fond of a biography of John Peter Altgeld, a 19th-century progressive Illinois governor who championed child labor laws, supported striking workers and challenged the Democratic powerhouse of the time, Grover Cleveland.

Now, as he challenges the current Democratic powerhouse, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Sanders's hometown supporters hope that a combination of his unabashed liberalism, long-distance-runner's persistence and old-school Brooklyn charm will resonate with voters.

It already does resonate with Mr. Williams, who shrugged off his own family's analysis that Mr. Sanders's being "straight-up honest" would only get him so far.

"It's great that the future president lived in my house," Mr. Williams said.

Bernie Sanders' spokesman holds down two jobs // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti - July 24, 2015

If Bernie Sanders has a shadow on the campaign trail — from Missouri to Iowa, to Arizona, to Texas, to Washington in the past two weeks alone — Michael Briggs is it. And when reporters want to reach the suddenly besieged candidate, Briggs is the man to call.

As Sanders' communications director, he draws a salary from the presidential campaign. At the same time, he's collecting his paycheck from the U.S. Senate, as the senator's communications chief since 2007.

The arrangement isn't unusual for staffers serving on Senate and House reelection campaigns. But such double duty is out of the ordinary for a high-profile presidential campaign — most other political operations rigorously separate the two responsibilities, especially for a role as public-facing as communications director.

And while Sanders' staff closely follows the time-honored procedures for government staffers working on campaigns — from making sure their salaries don't exceed the legal cap, to ensuring they don't use official property for political purposes — the arrangement illustrates the occasionally blurred lines between Sanders' presidential campaign and his Senate work.

While candidates who are sitting senators often use their access to the Senate floor and lawmaking mechanisms to introduce legislation supporting their bids, Sanders in particular has raised eyebrows with his near-mixing of Senate and campaign activity — more than Marco Rubio or Lindsey Graham, who also both have senior aides drawing two paychecks each, and more than Ted Cruz, whose Senate staff receives stipends when they correspond with the campaign side.

The questions about Sanders date back to the news conference he used to announce his run in April: because of its political nature, the campaign moved it from a Senate gallery to the grassy grounds outside the building to avoid any conflict. And he has since held multiple rallies right outside of the Capitol to push on themes that link his

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political plans with his legislative programs, like advocating for a $15 minimum wage on Wednesday after introducing legislation on the topic.

“Sen. Sanders is a candidate for president, but he is also a U.S. senator,” his chief of staff Michaeleen Crowell said. “He takes that responsibility seriously and Briggs works day and night to help the senator and the reporters who cover Congress.”

While the five senators currently pursuing the White House saw a wave of staff members exit their Senate chambers for their political teams over the past year, months, and weeks — some just hours before the ink was dry on the presidential paperwork — a POLITICO review of second-quarter Federal Election Commission filings showed only a handful of top-level staffers sticking around Capitol Hill as they also get a salary from the campaigns.

Briggs’ arrangement is the most prominent due to his status as a face of Sanders’ campaign, but he’s not alone: In the case of Rubio, there’s his deputy chief of staff for operations Jessica Fernandez, who the senator’s office says is splitting her time 60/40 between the Senate and campaign. And for Graham, there’s senior adviser Denise Bauld, who has no plans to commit to either side full-time anytime soon.

Capitol Hill staffers whose bosses are running for reelection or higher office — like Briggs, who will soon likely shift to a campaign-first arrangement, while keeping some Senate responsibilities — generally know they can’t talk politics on their official cellphone and that they shouldn’t talk election strategy in their boss’ taxpayer-funded offices. However, the stakes are considerably higher when it comes to presidential elections, even if the same laws apply.

The Senate Ethics Committee guidelines on how such staffers are supposed to behave are clear, said multiple lawyers working for presidential campaigns, and go beyond just making sure the aides aren’t in the Capitol when they take a political phone call. But because these rules are longstanding, the lawyers explained, campaigns have perfected ways to blur the lines for maximum convenience.

“The line is: Anything you do in your time, you’re fine to do either for pay or as a volunteer. You can’t use any resources in your congressional office. No phones, no computers. If you do any campaign activity, you’re supposed to step out of the office. My experience is that doesn’t happen,” said the Campaign Legal Center’s Meredith McGehee. “It’s an important line because taxpayer money is not supposed to be spent on the senators’ political aspirations.”

However, a number of senators bristle at tight enforcement of these regulations, say the lawyers. Some of the frustration comes from the briefings supplied by the Senate committee, which reaches out to the candidate’s offices (for example, it spoke with members of Sanders’ staff in Washington and Vermont).

“There have been a number of investigations by the House and Senate ethics committees — some haven’t become public — of the issue of members using staff for the campaigns,” said one longtime Washington attorney working for a 2016 campaign. “But the truth is the ethics committee is not great on training on this topic. If they really spelled all of this out, a lot of the senators would be upset.”

The committee guidelines allow aides to do whatever campaign activity they wish to do on their own time, without using Senate resources. And, says the committee, as a staffer spends more time on the campaign side during work hours, his or her Senate pay should shrink accordingly. Those who earn more than $121,956 on the official side aren’t allowed to bring in more than $27,225 in any outside income — including campaign work. Accordingly, Briggs has seen his Senate pay reduced as he spends more time on the campaign trail. The FEC filings showed that he pulled in nearly $9,500 in the

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“The bottom line is that if somebody who is a full-time senior staffer is suddenly doing campaign work and getting paid for that, you should expect to see a reduction in their Senate hours and salary,” said another veteran campaign lawyer representing a 2016 candidate. “The question is whether they’ve reduced the salary. The ethics committee doesn’t go out there and monitor this stuff. But people don’t get away with it. There’s always an unhappy staffer or somebody that says something and turns it into the ethics committee. It’s high risk not to do it right.”

Nonetheless, having two full staffs with some political, policy, and research functions is one of the “built-in incumbent advantages” of running as a sitting senator, said McGehee, even if such candidates run the risk of creating a perception problem. And in a case like that of Sanders, a number of former Senate staffers are now on the political team, fresh off the government payroll.

Still, the biggest legal risk in mixing campaign and official staff is also the hardest to track, said one of the lawyers advising a candidate. But even if it’s caught, it just might not get a candidate in that much trouble.

“You’ll have a problem with the junior legislative assistant who gets pulled into a project for the campaign and it’s a last-minute crisis and they end up doing it in the Senate office space. That’s a flat violation of the rules,” he said.

“If the Senate Ethics Committee notices it or files a complaint, what ordinarily would happen is they would look into it, and if they determine there was a violation, there’s a range of sanctions they could adopt. They might take some action. But it would likely just be a letter of admonition.”

What Do Anthem, Aetna, and Bernie Sanders Have in Common? **// Bloomberg // John Tozzi - July 24, 2015**

U.S. health insurance companies think the U.S. has too many health insurance companies.

A series of mergers have been proposed in recent weeks that would cut the number of major national insurers from five to three. In the process, the CEOs say, they would deliver savings for consumers by eliminating inefficiencies.

You know who else wants that? Bernie Sanders, the senator from Vermont, and others on the far left who have long argued that the country has too many health insurers. Instead of three mammoth insurers, however, they have proposed just one, run by the government, a system known as single-payer health care.

Obviously the insurers don't share the long-shot Democratic presidential candidate's long-shot goal of replacing the private health insurance industry with a "Medicare for all" system. But the arguments for letting giant health insurers combine are strikingly similar to some of the arguments that single-payer proponents have made for years.

Here are some things Joe Swedish, chief executive of Anthem, said on a call on June 22 announcing a bid for Cigna that would create a combined company with 53 million enrollees and $115 billion in revenue:

It would have a strong position across growth markets and the scale to drive greater efficiency and affordability for our customers. ... Customers benefit from the clear improvements in cost efficiency, choice of solutions, and continued investments in simplifying the health-care experience.

The companies announced a $48.4 billion deal on Friday. Swedish expects "synergies" to save the new company $2 billion a year.

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And here's an excerpt from a 2013 press release from Physicians for a National Health Program, which advocates for a single-payer system:

Upgrading the nation's Medicare program and expanding it to cover people of all ages would yield more than a half-trillion dollars in efficiency savings in its first year of operation. ... "Such a financing scheme would vastly simplify how the nation pays for care, restore free choice of physician, guarantee all necessary medical care, improve patient health and, because it would be financed by a program of progressive taxation, result in 95 percent of all U.S. households saving money," [economist Gerald] Friedman said.

Aetna CEO Mark Bertolini, announcing a merger with Humana on July 6, said the deal would "promote greater operational efficiencies that enable us to lower cost to compete with more cost-effective products and create value for our customers and provider partners." The new company, with $115 billion in combined revenue, would enjoy cost savings of $1.25 billion a year, Aetna and Humana executives said.

Put aside, for a minute, whether insurance industry mergers would deliver the savings they promise, and whether reduced competition would really lower prices for employers and consumers. Put aside the political and practical obstacles to creating a national, government-run health plan in the U.S. Even Sanders's home state, famously agreeable to policies far left of the American mainstream, abandoned its attempt to form a single-payer system.

Everybody seems to agree that shrinking the number of insurers in the health-care system at least has the potential to save money by reducing overhead and paperwork. Consolidation also gives insurers more bargaining power to negotiate with doctors and hospitals, which have been on their own merger streak in recent years. Single-payer proponents say letting the government negotiate (or, more likely, dictate) prices would save billions in hospital, doctor, and drug spending.

Bernie Sanders and the leaders of the health insurance industry that he would abolish agree on more than you might think.

Reason #1 to Vote Bernie: Sanders Does 'Better Than Clinton' Against GOP in Swing States // HuffPo // H.A. Goodman - July 24, 2015

According to a July 22, 2015 Quinippiac University Poll, Hillary Clinton's once overwhelming lead in public opinion has been cut substantially, and it's still a long way to the February 1, 2016 Iowa Caucus. In states that will decide the 2016 presidential election, Quinippiac reports that "Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, runs as well as, or better than Clinton against Rubio, Bush and Walker." According to its latest poll, Quinippiac explains how Clinton's lead has eroded in swing states, while Sanders's surge has spread from Iowa and New Hampshire to other key regions:

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is behind or on the wrong side of a too-close-to-call result in matchups with three leading Republican contenders, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker in Colorado, Iowa and Virginia, according to a Quinnipiac University Swing State Poll released today...

In several matchups in Iowa and Colorado, another Democratic contender, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, runs as well as, or better than Clinton against Rubio, Bush and Walker...

Colorado voters say 62 - 34 percent that Hillary Clinton is not honest and trustworthy; 52 - 46 percent that she has strong leadership qualities and 57 - 39 percent that she does not care about their needs and problems...

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"Hillary Clinton's numbers have dropped among voters in the key swing states of Colorado, Iowa and Virginia. She has lost ground in the horserace and on key questions about her honesty and leadership," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. "On being a strong leader, a key metric in presidential campaigns, she has dropped four to 10 points depending on the state and she is barely above 50 percent in each of the three states."

In addition, it's important to remember that Clinton already finished third in the 2008 Iowa Caucus to Obama and John Edwards. Therefore, a precedent exists of Clinton's name recognition and political prowess giving way to a relative unknown who electrifies the masses; Sanders is filling arenas for a reason, and it's a similar reason to what made Obama so unique in 2008. Also, it's important to note that the phrase "Hillary Clinton is not honest and trustworthy" is not merely a meme or Twitter message from a Bernie Sanders supporter. Quinnipiac used those words in its poll (around 1,200 voters in each state were polled) and voters in Colorado, Iowa, and Virginia expressed that Clinton's trust issues will be a key factor in 2016.

It's believed by some people that Clinton is the only way for Democrats to win the White House. However, this mentality ignores the key issue of trust and how this sentiment will decide the presidential election. For example, Quinnipiac states that, "For 38 percent of Ohio voters, honesty is the top quality in a candidate." The belief system stating only Clinton can beat a GOP challenger also ignores the recent finding from Quinippiac that reads, "In several matchups in Iowa and Colorado, another Democratic contender, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, runs as well as, or better than Clinton against Rubio, Bush and Walker."

Furthermore, the number one reason for Democrats to vote for Bernie Sanders in 2016 is that swing states are already moving away from Clinton (in search of more honest candidates like Sanders) and Election Day is just over 470 days away. If Bernie Sanders has gone from an impossibility, to drawing crowds of thousands, and now running "as well as, or better than Clinton against Rubio, Bush, and Walker," then imagine the political world 470 days from now.

The political paradigm within the Democratic Party is changing, and grass roots campaigning from organizations like Bernie 2016 TV, Feel The Bern TV ,Black Women 4 Bernie, Blacks for Bernie, Latinos for Bernie, Veterans for Bernie 2016 and American veterans across the country, has made such a shift become reality. Billions in campaign donations simply can't buy a person's trust. Name recognition can at times be beneficial, but not when The New York Times and Washington Post are focused on emails and foreign donor controversies.

Also, even before the recent Quinnipiac Poll, CNN published an article on June 17th titled Poll: Clinton's honesty and trustworthy problem extends to swing states, explaining the issue of trustworthiness in key states like Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania:

(CNN)A majority of voters in three key presidential swing states view Hillary Clinton as not honest and trustworthy, according to a new poll out Wednesday...

In Florida, 51% of voters hold the negative view of Clinton, compared to 43% who feel she is trustworthy. In Ohio, 53% of voters find Clinton not trustworthy, compared to 40% who do. And in Pennsylvania, 54% of voters don't find her honest, while 40% do.

Clinton's early state honest and trustworthy numbers follow what a CNN/ORC poll released earlier this month found: 42% of Americans consider her honest and trustworthy, while 57% don't.

Again, these findings aren't politically motivated diatribes from Democrats longing for change within the Democratic Party or GOP pundits on Fox. In terms of impact on the next election, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Colorado, Virginia, and Iowa combined have 95 Electoral Votes. The 2016 Democratic nominee needs to win these 95 Electoral Votes, not be defending against a criminal inquiry regarding emails.

Interestingly, while CNN writes "The Clinton campaign has said that they don't view public polling as reliable," the

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primary justification for Hillary Clinton supporters has always been an enormous lead within earlier polls. With this lead dwindling, and Bernie Sanders surging in some states and polling "as well as, or better than Clinton against Rubio, Bush and Walker," it will be interesting to see how the Clinton campaign responds to a rapidly changing political environment. Pretty soon, it's likely that the new talking point about Sanders running as a Democrat (after being an Interdependent for years) will be greatly overshadowed by the fact swing states are looking for honesty, not necessarily the letter "D" associated with a person's name.

As far as party affiliation, the Democratic nominee for president will have to earn the African-American vote in 2016, within swing states and through the nation. This is an important and welcomed paradigm shift, and one that will be tough for Clinton, especially after a controversial 3 AM television advertisement (targeting Obama in 2008) and a curious three week delay in addressing Ferguson. While Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley showed up at the recent Netroots Nation event and spoke to Black Lives Matter advocates, Chris Weigant is correct to ask, Where Was Hillary?

The issues presented at Netroots by Black Lives Matter must be addressed by the next Democratic nominee, and I firmly believe Bernie Sanders will rise to the occasion. In addition to winning swing states, the next Democratic nominee will have to win the trust of African-American voters. This will be crucial, especially when the Sandra Bland tragedy has brought racism to the forefront of American politics in 2015.

Ultimately, in terms of trust, nobody has ever accused Bernie Sanders of being untrustworthy; in fact his honesty at times has been seen as a political liability. If polls had once convinced some voters that Sanders couldn't win, these same polls should now illuminate a rapidly changing political evolution in key swing states. Quinnipiac recently stated "Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is behind or on the wrong side of a too-close-to-call result in matchups with three leading Republican contenders." Those words, as well as the finding that "U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, runs as well as, or better than Clinton against Rubio, Bush and Walker," should be the number one reason to vote for the Vermont Senator in 2016.

Bernie Sanders' Appeal Has Doubled Among Americans Since March // HuffPo // Janie Velencia - July 24, 2015

Americans' views of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) have grown more favorable as they continue to learn more about him, according to a new Gallup poll.

Sanders' "favorable" rating has doubled since March, jumping from 12 percent to 24 percent. Gallup notes that his rise in favorability can be attributed to Americans' increasing familiarity with him as he campaigns against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In March, only 24 percent of Americans were able to give an opinion on Sanders. Today, 44 percent say they are able to rate him. Sanders' increased visibility has caused his unfavorability quotient to go up as well: 20 percent of Americans now rate him unfavorably, compared to just 8 percent in March. Still, he remains the only Democratic candidate to have a net positive "favorable" rating, meaning that more people like him than dislike him.

At the same time, Americans' feelings toward Clinton have grown slightly less positive, dropping 5 percentage points since April. This latest poll marks Clinton's lowest net "favorable" score since 2007.

Sanders' recent surge still leaves him considerably behind Clinton, who has a 43 percent "favorable" rating compared to Sanders' 24 percent. Clinton also remains the most identifiable Democratic candidate. Eighty-nine percent of Americans are able to rate Clinton, while only 44 percent are able to rate Sanders.

Nearly 40 percent of Democrats and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party have a favorable view of Sanders. By contrast, 3 in 4 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents have a favorable view of Clinton.

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According to HuffPost Pollster, which aggregates all publicly available poll results, 18 percent of Democrats currently support Sanders, while 57 percent support Clinton. Sanders is, however, doing slightly better in primary states.

Gallup polled 2,374 American adults using live telephone interviews between July 8 and 21.

De Blasio gushes about 'democratic socialist' Bernie Sanders, says Donald Trump rallies people to 'blame immigrants' // NY Daily News // John Spina and Jennifer Fermino - July 24, 2015

Mayor de Blasio likes a lot of things about presidential contender Bernie Sanders — especially his “democratic socialist” designation.

"Bernie Sanders has done an extraordinary job talking about where we need to go in the country,” the mayor gushed in an interview on CNN on Friday.

When the network’s anchor Carol Costello asked de Blasio if he is s a “socialist” like Sanders — a Democratic senator from Vermont — De Blasio quickly corrected her to say that Sanders is a “Democratic socialist.”

He said he liked the sound of that.

“I think there's a lot to like in that title,” he said adding, “He [Sanders] has offered a critique of what's wrong that is very powerful. He has offered a set of ideas about the changes we need to make. And it's helping to drive the national discussion.”

Sanders’ role in the 2016 race is an important one, no matter what the outcome, de Blasio said.

“Some candidates that don't prevail still have a very big impact on the debate. I think right now he's playing a productive role,” he said.

He was more cautious when discussing Hillary Clinton.

De Blasio was also critical of Donald Trump (pictured), saying that he ‘tries to whip people up and blame immigrants as the root of the problem.’

“When I look at what she said [on issues like income inequality] I was encouraged,” he said.

“What I would like to see and what I think a lot of Democrats ... would like to see, is a clear road map to those changes."

The mayor also analyzed Republican Donald Trump’s standing in the polls — saying his popularity stems from him people’s unhappiness with the economy — which has led them to scapegoat immigrants.

“I think there is a subset of the American people that are very frustrated about some of the reality we face, and

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unfortunately try to blame immigrants, who are not the root of the problem," he said.

He added, "Unfortunately, someone like Trump tries to whip people up and blame immigrants as the root of the problem. They're not the problem."

Although many elected officials have called for the city to sever its business dealings with Trump because of his caustic comments, de Blasio said that seems unlikely - but they'll try.

"I don't think from what we've seen so far there is a construct to get out of those contacts, but we will certainly look for every option," the mayor said.

A closer look at an old Bernie Sanders talking point // PolitiFact // Louis Jacobson - July 24, 2015

As Sen. Bernie Sanders has begun to make waves in the Democratic presidential primary field, an old quote by the Vermont senator has been making the rounds on social media.

"A two-income family today has less disposable income than a one-income family had 30 years ago," Sanders said, according to a post on Reddit that links to an undated video of Sanders addressing a California Democratic Party convention. The claim was sufficiently intriguing that three readers independently emailed PolitiFact to ask whether it was accurate.

We found several examples of Sanders saying this, or something close to it. He used the line in a 2007 op-ed in the Huffington Post, in a lengthy and high-profile Senate floor speech in 2010, in the 2011 book version of that speech, and in the California Democratic Party address from that video, which, we determined, occurred in 2011.

When we checked with Sanders' staff, however, they said he doesn't use this talking point any more, and indeed, we couldn't find examples of him using it after 2011. For this reason, we won't put the claim to the Truth-O-Meter. Still, because the claim was interesting to us, and because it was clearly of interest to some of our readers, we decided to take a closer look at its origins and accuracy.

Is something off here?

We first turned to Census Bureau data (table F-12 here, to be specific) that measures median income for families by the number of earners in the family. The figures are adjusted for inflation.

We found that the median income for a one-earner family in 1983 was $43,144. For a two-earner family in 2013, the median income was $87,997. That's quite a bit higher -- more than double, in fact, in inflation-adjusted dollars -- but that's total income.

What about "disposable income"?

Economists define disposable income as income minus taxes. We did our own estimate of how much of a bite taxes took out of incomes in both 1983 and 2013 by looking at inflation-adjusted data from the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis. As it turns out, BEA data shows that disposable income accounted for about 88 percent of personal income in both 1983 and 2013. (This is a total figure, of course; individual results may vary.)

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Using this data, we calculated that 88 percent of one-earner family income in 1982 was $37,967, while 88 percent of two-earner family income in 2013 was $77,420. That, too, is more than double -- a far cry from being less, as Sanders said.

So what's going on?

Disposable vs. discretionary

A big part of the problem is that Sanders was using the word "disposable" when he should have said "discretionary." This is a common mistake -- both words start with "d," after all -- but one that has significant consequences for the claim's accuracy.

Unlike disposable income, discretionary income doesn't have a widely accepted definition. Generally, it means disposable income minus expenses that are necessary to maintain a decent standard of living. Housing and food would likely be included, and you could make a good case for clothing, health insurance and a motor vehicle.

But there's no official list and lots of room for disagreement about how much to allow as a reasonable cost burden for such items. Own a home or rent? Whole Foods or Walmart? New or used car? Low- or high-deductible health insurance? And that doesn't even take into account geography; certain areas of the United States have much higher or lower costs of living.

Brookings Institution economist Gary Burtless noted that unlike taxes, which must be paid under law, the necessity of everything else is more flexible.

"Nearly everyone needs shelter, but relatively few of us are obliged to spend 40 percent or more of our income to obtain a minimally decent place to live," Burtless said. "Just because people spend a huge fraction of their income to live in a bigger house or a more expensive neighborhood does not mean they face a mandate to pay so much for their housing. There are usually less expensive alternatives."

Tara Sinclair, a George Washington University economist, added that the structure of households has changed over time. "Families are smaller, and two-earner households are more likely among the higher educated who are more likely to get married," she said. "So the numbers are slippery."

The Warren connection

As it turns out, we were able to locate what may be the methodology that produced Sanders' (former) talking point. Interestingly, the source may have been Sanders' fellow Senate progressive icon -- Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. -- and, even stranger, it emerged long before either politician ended up in the Senate.

The comparison appears to have come from a passage in Warren's 2003 book, The Two-Income Trap, co-authored with her daughter, Amelia Warren Tyagi. It compares two families, one in the 1970s and one around 2002. Each has a mom, a dad, and two kids. In the 1970s, the mom stayed at home; in 2002, she was working, so the 2002 figures included costs for a second car and day care, plus taxes for a higher tax bracket. All figures were inflation-adjusted and were drawn from median figures for each category.

The 1970s family, by the Warren calculation, earned $38,700 in income from the father, and had to pay $5,310 in annual mortgage costs for an average home in an average neighborhood; $5,140 in vehicle costs; $1,030 for health insurance; and income taxes of $9,386 at the 24 percent tax bracket.

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That leaves $17,834, or about $1,500 per month in "discretionary income" for all other expenses, including food, clothing and utilities.

As for the 2002 family, the working parents' combined income was $67,800. Costs included $9,000 for the mortgage, $8,000 in car expenses, $1,650 for health insurance; $9,670 for day care; and $22,435 in income taxes in the 33 percent tax bracket.

That leaves $17,045. Under this model, then, the two-working-parent family in 2002 earned $789 less than the 1970s one-earner family. That's not a big decline -- about 4 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars over the course of close to 30 years -- but the family certainly isn't gaining ground.

Still, there are a couple of things worth pointing out, beyond the fact that Sanders chose the wrong "d" word to describe what he was talking about.

First, Sanders was using this statistic as late as 2011, almost a decade after it was first calculated. That's a long time for a statistic of this sort to remain unchanged.

Second, George Mason University professor Todd J. Zywicki noted in the Wall Street Journal in 2007 that the biggest increase in Warren's comparison comes from a higher tax burden -- not from the rising cost of housing, vehicles, health insurance and day care. In fact, taxes were 2.4 times higher for the 2002 family. Each of the other items saw significant increases, but none more than doubled, as taxes did. Yet complaints about taxes holding back working families are usually a talking point for conservatives, not for progressives like Sanders.

A new talking point

At least Sanders appears to have settled on a more accurate talking point.

When we checked with his staff, they said Sanders' usual line today is this: "Since 1999, the typical middle-class family has seen its income go down by almost $5,000 after adjusting for inflation. Incredibly, that family earned less income last year than it did 26 years ago – back in 1989."

His staff pointed to Table A-1 of the Census Bureau report on Income and Poverty in the U.S., released in 2014.

The report found that in 2013, median income was $51,939. That compares to a real median income of $56,895 in 1999, and a real median income of $52,432 in 1989. This data, we confirmed, checks out.

Even here, though, there's more than meets the eye, Burtless said.

Burtless noted that in 1989, there were 2.65 Americans per household, while in 2013, there were 2.55. "It's a small matter, but it means that the median income per person in the median family increased about 3 percent over that period even though the median income of households fell by 1 percent," he said.

The moral of the story: When it comes to documenting economic stagnation experienced by the middle class, it's complicated.

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OTHER

Draft Biden campaign ramps up // LA Times // Michael Memoli - July 24, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden may still be weeks away from deciding whether to join the 2016 presidential race, but a group seeking to nudge him off the fence is ramping up its push.

Draft Biden 2016 is holding a "National Day of Action" on Saturday with 20 events across the country, a potential sign of whether there is appetite for more candidates -- and this candidate specifically -- in the Democratic field. The group's executive director will be speaking in New York, while other events are planned in early nominating states like New Hampshire and South Carolina, and five in California alone.

On Friday, the group also launched its first video on YouTube -- icalled "Ridin' with Biden" -- seeking to gin up support for the idea. It's hardly the most polished video, but it features unnamed advocates touting his credentials on LGBT rights and his work to stop domestic violence.

The Chicago-based group says it has gathered 150,000 signatures for its petition to encourage Biden to enter the race.

Biden has said little publicly about the possibility of making a third presidential run since the death of his eldest son, Beau, in late May. A final decision could come in September.

Draft Biden group ramps up outreach // The Hill // Jonathan Easley - July 24, 2015

The super-PAC organized to encourage Vice President Biden to run for president released its first ad on Friday ahead of a “national day of action” to gather signatures for the push.

“Some people ask why Joe Biden,” a young man in the ad says. “I turn back and ask them why not Joe Biden? He’s been on of the most influential vice presidents that this country has seen. He’s right now a part of one of the most successful administrations in recent history, and he’s a big reason for that success.”

Supporters in the ad praise Biden for being on the forefront of the gay rights movement, for working to stop violence on college campuses and for generally appealing to “the younger generation’s beliefs.”

“In 2016 I’m ridin’ with Biden,” the supporters say.

Draft Biden said it wasn’t putting any money behind the ad, but was sending it to supporters and relying on grassroots support to promote it. The group is operated by William Pierce, who reportedly volunteered for Biden's 2008 presidential campaign.

Hillary Clinton remains the front-runner in the race for the Democratic nomination, but recent polling shows Biden would have an impact on the contest if he were to run.

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According to a Monmouth University survey released earlier this month, Clinton takes 51 percent support nationally, followed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) at 17 percent and Biden at 13 percent.

But the poll found Biden's entrance would shake up the race.

In addition to Biden's 13 percent support, an additional 12 percent of Democratic voters said they'd be likely to support Biden if he took the plunge, and 31 percent said they'd be somewhat likely to support him.

Most of that additional support, 68 percent, would come from those who are currently Clinton supporters.

"Most people seem to be focusing on a Sanders surge among the liberal wing of the party," said Monmouth polling director Patrick Murray. "But the bigger threat to Clinton may come from a Biden candidacy, where the two would be fighting for the same voters."

Rival bets Biden will run for president // The Hill // Jesse Byrnes - July 24, 2015

Presidential hopeful Lincoln Chafee is predicting that Vice President Biden will launch a bid for the White House.

"I think he's going to get in," Chafee, a former Rhode Island governor and long-shot candidate for the Democratic nomination, said during an interview with Larry King on his Ora.tv show "PoliticKING."

"I see him standing with President Obama in every photo. Especially the big main profile [photos] — when the Supreme Court ruled in favor the Affordable Care Act, the deal with Iran, the opening of Cuba — it always seems the vice president is standing right there," Chafee said.

"That seems to signal something to me."

Biden visited Colorado and California this week for a series of speeches on the economy, part of his ramped up schedule in the weeks following the death of his eldest son, Beau, 46, to brain cancer.

Speculation that Biden will enter the race and challenge Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner, has ticked up in the past few weeks, starting with a report that his two sons had urged him to run.

Two more reports in the past couple weeks have suggested that Biden is still mulling a bid, though a spokesperson has repeatedly said that such speculation "is premature and inappropriate."

"He's run before — he ran in 1988 and of course in 2008," said Chafee, who was a senator before being elected governor.

"And I served with him on the Foreign Relations Committee, we've traveled together to Iraq and done some trips together to Mexico. I'll put my two dollars that he gets in," he added.

Clinton holds a major lead against Democratic rivals including Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and Chafee.

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However, a recent poll suggested that Biden could tighten the race, should he announce a bid.

GOP

BUSH

Jeb Bush wants t o 'phase out' Medicare. Here's what he meant. // WaPo // Max Ehrenfreund - July 24, 2015

Democrats seized on a remark by Jeb Bush on Thursday, saying his comments on phasing out Medicare showed he was out of touch with senior citizens.

"We're not going to have adequate coverage for our children or our grandchildren without Medicare," a woman at a town hall in Gorham, N.H. told him, according to Politico's Eli Stokols. "It's not an entitlement. I earned that." (The average female worker born in 1945 will take $521,000 in benefits over her lifetime, having paid $374,000 into the system in taxes.)

"It's an actuarially unsound system," the former Florida governor replied.

"The people that are receiving these benefits, I don't think that we should touch that," Bush went on to say. "We need to figure out a way to phase out this program for others and move to a new system that allows them to have something, because they're not going to have anything."

At The Week, Ryan Cooper notes that MSNBC's Steve Benen writes that cost projections for Medicare are less dire than they were before President Obama's health care reform took effect, and The Week's Ryan Cooper argues the problem isn't with Medicare, but with this country's exceptionally expensive health care system.

A spokesman tells Bloomberg's Michael C. Bender that Bush didn't mean he believes Medicare should be scrapped entirely. Instead, Bush wants to raise the retirement age and force wealthier beneficiaries to pay more. If he were elected, Republicans in Congress might send him something similar to the proposal from Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), who converts Medicare into a voucher system.

As Vox's Matthew Yglesias notes, Bush is making a distinction without much of a difference. Adding a means test to a program that has always been a universal benefit, or giving the elderly vouchers for health insurance, would alter Medicare's fundamental character. It would hardly be the same program.

Jeb Bush now says he wouldn't 'phase out' Medicare. What he would do is just as wrong. // WaPo // Paul Waldman - July 24, 2015

It had to happen sooner or later: a Republican presidential candidate says something suggesting he'd destroy Medicare, the Democrats jump all over him, and he backtracks, saying that's not what he meant and in fact he only wants to strengthen it. This time it's Jeb Bush, who said the other day that though we can keep Medicare around for the people who are currently on it, "we need to figure out a way to phase out this program for others and move to a new system that allows them to have something – because they're not going to have anything."

This is an old argument from Republicans, one they also use to justify attacks on Social Security: the program is doomed anyway, so we should go ahead and privatize it. The argument is completely wrong with regard to Social

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Security, and the truth about Medicare is that the program's future is looking brighter and brighter — in no small part because of the Affordable Care Act. The argument Bush is making is ten years out of date.

Bush did try to walk back his statement a bit, saying the "phase out" part was taken out of context and he's only talking about how we "reform our entitlement system." Here's his follow-up, which doesn't change the essence of what he was arguing:

"It's an actuarially unsound health care system," said Bush, who said something must be done before the system burdens future generations with $50 billion of debt. "Social Security is an underfunded retirement system; people have put money into it, for sure.

"The people that are receiving these benefits, I don't think that we should touch that; but your children and grandchildren are not going to get the benefit of this that they believe they're going to get, or that you think they're going to get, because the amount of money put in compared to the amount of money the system costs is wrong."

Bush hasn't yet released his plan to phase out/reform Medicare, but given these comments it seems likely he'll embrace something like what Paul Ryan has been advocating for years. It involves changing Medicare from a guaranteed single-payer government insurance plan into a voucher plan, in which the government gives senior citizens a set amount of money with which they can go out and get private health insurance. It saves money by limiting the value of that voucher, so if it's less than what coverage actually costs, well, tough luck. In that way, it eliminates the central promise of Medicare, which is that every American senior citizen will have health coverage.

We'll await Jeb's particulars, but I promise you that most of the GOP candidates will embrace some version of this plan, because that's what the Republican consensus on Medicare is these days. And it's always justified with the argument Jeb gives: because of skyrocketing costs the program is doomed, so privatization is the only way to make sure it's there for your kids. But don't worry, current seniors, we won't touch your Medicare! Which is one of the ironies of their argument: the free market is supposed to make everything wonderful, but they fall all over themselves to promise senior citizens that they won't disturb the big-government, socialist program that seniors love.

Now on to the cost question. As it happens, the Medicare Trustees just released their annual report on the future of the program. And as Kevin Drum noted, things are looking a lot sunnier than they were a few years ago:

Ten years ago, Medicare was a runaway freight train. Spending was projected to increase indefinitely, rising to 13 percent of GDP by 2080. This year, spending is projected to slow down around 2040, and reaches only 6 percent of GDP by 2090. Six percent! That's half what we thought a mere decade ago. If that isn't spectacular, I don't know what is.

Those are projections for what's going to happen decades from now, so things are doubtless going to change. But the presumption of the Republican argument is that Medicare is eventually going to eat the entire federal budget, and so we have no choice but to fundamentally alter it. And that's just not true.

The other assumption they make is that the way to alter Medicare is simple: privatize it. But they're wrong about this, too. Medicare is expensive, but that's not because it's an inefficient big-government program. In fact, Medicare is remarkably efficient, more so than private insurance. That's because it benefits from economies of scale, and because it doesn't have to spend money on things like marketing, underwriting, and big salaries for executives. The reason Medicare is expensive is that American health care is expensive, and it serves a lot of people. The retirement of the large Baby Boom generation is what's producing its current funding challenges.

Let's not forget that at the same time Republicans cry that Medicare is unaffordable and so must be dismantled,

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they fight any effort to actually lower costs in a rational way. For instance, they're adamantly opposed to comparative effectiveness research, which involves looking at competing treatments and seeing which ones actually work better. That this isn't something Medicare already takes into account sounds ridiculous, but it's true. If there are two medications for a particular ailment that are equally effective, but one costs $100 a year and one costs $100,000 a year, wouldn't it make sense for Medicare to 1) find that out, and 2) make coverage decisions accordingly? But Republicans have said no — Medicare should just pay for both, no matter what it costs.

Republicans also oppose the most significant effort to reduce Medicare costs in decades, something called the Affordable Care Act, which included all kinds of provisions meant to achieve this goal. Perhaps most critically, the law starts a move away from the fee-for-service model, in which doctors and hospitals make more money the more procedures they do, to a model where they get paid a single rate for treating a patient. Under the fee-for-service model, if your hospital screws up, you get an infection, and you have to get re-admitted, they make more money; the ACA actually punishes them for that, giving them a greater incentive to provide better and less expensive care.

But Republicans not only want to repeal the ACA, which means repealing all those kinds of payment provisions, they have nothing much to say about how, specifically, we might save money in Medicare. Their only answer is that if we privatize it, the magic of the market will produce savings. Of course, if that were true America would have the cheapest health care system in the advanced world, since ours is already more private than in any other similar country. And yet we don't — ours is far and away the most expensive, and that's precisely because the market has failed.

So to sum up, this is the Republican argument on Medicare: We absolutely can't do anything in particular that would bring down the cost of Medicare, but the cost of Medicare is so outrageous that we have no choice but to privatize it.

When Jeb Bush and the other candidates talk about this subject, pay close attention to what they say. They'll use the word "strengthen" a lot — we want to strengthen Medicare! They'll tell seniors, who vote in great numbers, that they aren't going to touch their precious Medicare. And they'll ignore what we've learned in the last few years, talking as though things look just as bad as they did before the Affordable Care Act was passed and health care spending slowed. But the truth is that their solution is no solution at all.

Bush's strategy: Run as the un-Trump // WaPo // Ben Terris - July 24, 2015

As Donald Trump flew to the Mexico border — ensuring what he would probably call the biggest, classiest, most impressive headlines of the day — former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush was making a few superlative stops of his own: checking out the longest candy counter in the world, visiting the oldest ski store in the country and talking to a few dozen voters in the shadow of the largest mountain in New England.

It was decidedly lower-key campaigning, and Bush said he's okay with that.

"I'm the tortoise in the race," he told a gaggle of voters and media outside of Lahout's ski shop in Littleton, N.H. "Slow and steady progress each and every day."

This has been the New Hampshire mantra for Bush all along, and one he repeated a number of times on his five-stop tour through the North Country on Thursday. And he can't complain about the results at this early stage. While many of his opponents have been on a polling roller coaster here in the first-in-the-nation primary state, Bush has held steady. He's currently leading the pack at about 16 percent in the most recent surveys.

So when asked outside of the ski shop whether Trump was really just running to promote a new reality show called "Political Apprentice," Bush didn't take the bait.

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“I think he’s a serious candidate and he’s going to have a lot of money,” he said. “He’s tapping into people’s angst, which is legitimate. But I don’t think you win by denigrating people, I don’t think you win by tearing us apart. You have to give concrete proposals that allow people to rise up”

Over his two days this week in New Hampshire — a state seen as central to his nomination hopes — Bush spent plenty of time talking about his own proposals. At an event for Americans for Prosperity, Bush didn’t seem afraid to stultify his audience with wonkery.

He knocked the Export-Import Bank, talked about the importance of the sharing economy, and said he was for simplifying the tax code. At a VFW he talked about the need to rebuild the nation’s military, and took questions from climate activists who were happy that he wanted to eliminate federal subsidies for fossil fuels, but displeased that he wanted to do the same for renewable engergy. He promised a woman at a town hall that he wouldn’t take away her guns, and got into an exchange with a woman angry that he wanted to “phase out” Medicare (he preferred to say “reform” Medicare).

He wasn't without some controversy. When asked whether Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley should have to apologize for saying "all lives matter," a perceived slight to the "Black Lives Matter" movement, Bush said "of course not."

"We're so uptight and so politically correct now that we apologize for saying 'lives matter?'" asked Bush.

The challenge here is the same one that's bedeviled his campaign from the start: how to paint himself as something new and fresh as a member of a political family that's long been familiar to New Hampshire voters. He uses words like “disruption” and talks about how great Uber is. He speaks in Spanish and talks about how Republicans cannot survive without reaching out to the Latino community. He told one voter that he supported term limits for Congress, because it’s important to get new blood into positions of power.

“The talent that exists in Florida’s legislature is better [because of it],” he said.

Of course, it’s not the easiest argument for Bush to make, since his name is synonymous with the past. It’s become a cliché, but that doesn’t make it any less true, that his surname is both his biggest asset and his biggest liability.

“I voted for Prescott, H.W., your brother, and possibly you,” Bill Remick, a former local politician, told Bush as he walked into the VFW.

“Possibly?” Bush’s communications director Tim Miller asked him. “What do we need to do? Why possibly?”

“Well, I just met him,” said Remick.

Jeb Bush Learns Perils of Medicare Overhaul Proposal // WSJ // Beth Reinhard - July 24, 2015

Jeb Bush learned Thursday that it’s still politically treacherous to talk about entitlement reform, even though an overhaul of Social Security and Medicare has become widely accepted in Republican circles.

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At a forum Wednesday in Manchester, N.H., organized by Americans for Prosperity, a leading conservative group, Mr. Bush said he wanted to "phase out" Medicare in its current form for the entitlement program's future beneficiaries, while protecting it for people receiving benefits now.

He said: "I think a lot of people recognize that we need to make sure we fulfill the commitment to people that already received the benefits, that are receiving the benefits. But then we need to figure out a way to phase out this program for others and move to a new system that allows them to have something because they're not going to have anything."

On Thursday, Democratic and liberal groups circulated footage of Mr. Bush's comments in the hope of turning it into one of those widely shared moments from the campaign trail that goes viral and damages a candidate. "Save Granny," declared one email missive.

Proposing to revamp Medicare and Social Security has long been considered dangerous political turf because elderly people typically vote in large numbers. But over the last couple election cycles, as the tea party movement has sounded alarms about the national debt and as Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan's entitlement reform plan gained traction, proposals to protect benefits for today's seniors while overhauling the program for future beneficiaries has become commonplace among Republicans.

On Thursday, at a town hall meeting in Gorham, N.H., Mr. Bush was confronted about his Medicare plan.

"I paid into it to it for all these years just like all these other seniors here and now you want to take it away?" a woman asked, according to a video taken by a Democratic group, American Bridge. "Why are you always attacking the seniors?"

Mr. Bush called Medicare an "actuarially unsound healthcare system" and Social Security an "underfunded retirement system."

"The people that are receiving these benefits – I don't think we should touch that, but your children and grandchildren are not going to get the benefits that they believe they are going to get or that you think they're going to get," he said. "Whenever you get into a conversation about reforming entitlement the first thing that you can be guaranteed of is that the left will attack you and demonize you."

Liberals, Mr. Bush said, were taking his words "out of context."

Florida poll: Jeb Bush takes big lead over Marco Rubio // **Politico // Marc Caputo - July 24, 2015**

Jeb Bush holds a commanding lead over Sen. Marco Rubio among registered Florida Republicans, who have soured on the senator since he announced his presidential bid in April, a new poll shows.

In the crowded GOP field, Bush leads the second-place Rubio 28 to 16 percent in their home state, according to Mason Dixon Polling & Research's survey. In Mason-Dixon's poll three months ago, Rubio was essentially tied with Bush 31 to 30 percent.

Rubio's 15 percentage-point drop coincides with the rise of Gov. Scott Walker, who's now in third place with 13 percent – an 11 point increase for the Wisconsin governor since the April survey.

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“And the center of the GOP political universe of late — Donald Trump — is in fourth with 11 percent,” Mason Dixon pollster Brad Coker said in a written analysis.

“This is the first Florida poll taken entirely since Trump’s remarks regarding John McCain’s Vietnam War service. His 11% showing in Florida is far below his support in recent national polls. This could be the result of the home state advantage of both Bush and Rubio,” Coker wrote. “However, the fact that Walker has slipped ahead of him may be a stronger sign that his candidacy is fading. Furthermore, there is a clear ceiling that Trump has among Florida Republicans. When asked if they are considering a vote for Trump, a large majority (58%) said they were not. Only 27% gave an indication that Trump was under their serious consideration.”

All the other Republican candidates are polling in the single digits.

The Democratic primary isn’t much of a race at all. Hillary Clinton leads Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders 58 to 17 percent. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley received just 2 percent support in the poll, with former Rhode Island Sen. Lincoln Chafee and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb registering no support. In that primary, 23 percent are undecided.

In the more-contested GOP primary, 13 percent are undecided, a decrease of 4 points since April. Because the number of undecided voters didn’t shrink much while Rubio’s support plummeted, he could have lost voters to Walker and Trump, who wasn’t named in the last survey. Bush’s 2-point drop since April is statistically insignificant, indicating his support has essentially remained stable.

This is the second troubling poll for Rubio this week. On Sunday, a Bendixen & Amandi International poll of Republican voters in Miami-Dade County – Florida’s most populous and the home base of the two GOP frontrunners – showed Bush ahead of Rubio 35 to 25 percent. That poll was underwritten by The Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald.

“Here’s what’s really shocking: Bush is leading Rubio 43 percent to 31 percent among Cuban-American Republicans in Miami-Dade,” pollster Fernand Amandi told POLITICO. “Marco is Cuban-American. Jeb isn’t. That’s a real serious problem for Rubio.”

The Bendixen & Amandi survey polled 250 Republicans in the county. Mason Dixon surveyed 500 statewide. Of the Mason-Dixon respondents, 64 were Hispanic and they supported Bush over Rubio 40 to 30 percent. In the last Mason-Dixon poll, Rubio was up 40 to 20 percent over Bush among Hispanics. Factoring in Bush’s rise and Rubio’s fall, the numbers indicate Hispanic support has shifted 32 percentage points in Bush’s favor. Coker cautioned that the margin of error for this sub-sample was high, 13 percent. The overall error-margin for the statewide poll is 4 percent.

Bush’s support among Florida, Miami-Dade and Hispanic Republicans isn’t too surprising because, as a former popular governor, he has strong name ID and broad support among financial and political leaders in the state. The bilingual Bush has remained a sought-after figure on the campaign trail for Florida Republicans for years, thereby keeping his name in circulation.

Bush also leads Rubio and all others in the Sunshine State money race. Of the $11.4 million in campaign contributions Bush received in the just-ended quarter, $2.6 million came from Florida. Rubio raised a total of $8.9 million, $1.9 million of which came from Florida. Rubio has more money in his campaign bank account, but Jeb has far more financial support from now-independent third-party political committees. In total dollars raised between the committees and the campaigns, Bush leads Rubio $119 million to $45.2 million.

While Rubio has kept a relatively low profile since his announcement, Bush began barnstorming early states after he officially entered the race in mid-June. Unlike Rubio, Bush has numerous well-publicized town-hall events and

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frequently takes questions from scrums of reporters and voters. Bush has also established himself as the anti-Trump after the New York billionaire (a part-time Florida resident) made disparaging remarks about illegal Mexican immigrants and Bush's wife, the Mexican-born Columba Bush.

Bush's advantage in money and popularity are no surprise to Rubio's top supporters, who have deftly tried to set low expectations compared to the elder former governor. Rubio has enough money to survive and even thrive. And all sides know the race will change.

And it's only July, 2015. Florida's winner take-all primary is March 15.

Jeb Bush's Struggle to Say What He Means Continues // Bloomberg // Michael C. Bender - July 24, 2015

During a forum sponsored by Americans for Prosperity, the influential conservative group backed by David and Charles Koch, Jeb Bush told the audience that he wants to "phase out" Medicare.

Afterwards, the former Florida governor was approached by an environmental activist, who was momentarily excited when Bush used the same language to say he preferred to "phase out" tax credits for energy companies.

Neither of those positions are quite what they seem.

While eliminating tax credits might sound great to liberal environmentalists and Tea Party Republicans focused on "crony capitalism," many of the breaks for Big Oil aren't technically tax credits.

On Medicaid, Bush's team complained that Democrats were taking him out of context, an increasingly frequent objection from the candidate who is billing himself as the most experienced and most thoughtful on the trail.

The protest from Bush's camp has been justified, to be sure. Democrats, including presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, leaned a bit too far over their skis recently when they suggested that a component of Bush's economic plan was that Americans should work harder. What Bush said was that he wanted to find more full-time job opportunities for part-time workers. And while the economic reality of that happening is somewhat dubious, the attacks gained some traction and the spin found its way into town-hall questions Bush has faced on the campaign trail.

Similarly, Bush was confronted Thursday in Gorham, New Hampshire, about his Medicare comments. "Why are you always attacking the seniors?," an unidentified woman (and possible liberal activist) asked Bush.

"It's an actuarially unsound health care system," said Bush, adding that he's not attacking seniors, according to a Politico report from the event. "The people that are receiving these benefits, I don't think that we should touch that. But your children and grandchildren are not going to get the benefit of this...because the amount of money put in compared to the amount of money the system costs is wrong."

How it started

Bush takes as many questions, if not more, than other candidates. The strategy is a double-sided sword: His candidness often earns him support from crowds and favorable stories in the media, but also one that can also lead to more confusion than clarity, and reinforce one of his biggest problems on the trail.

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The source of the dispute on Medicare is somewhat ironic. Speaking about the issue on Wednesday, Bush was bemoaning the politics of the issue, recalling the 2011 digital ad from the liberal group Agenda Project that showed a Paul Ryan lookalike wheeling an elderly woman off a cliff. The ad was in response to the Wisconsin Republican's plan to end fee-for-service Medicare for people 55-and-under, and replace it with subsidies for people to buy either a private plan or a government-provided plan.

Bush, whose home state has the highest percentage of seniors in the nation, then went on to say that Americans generally agree that, while current benefits should be protected for those receiving them, the Medicare system needs to be reformed. And here's where he gets himself into trouble.

"We need to figure out a way to phase out this program for others, and move to a new system that allows them to have something, because they're not going to have anything," Bush told his Manchester audience.

"A massive blunder on Jeb Bush's part," U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida, head of the Democratic National Committee, said Thursday on a conference call with reporters. "Maybe Jeb Bush can afford to get by without Medicare—I'm sure the Koch brothers would be fine, too—but millions of Americans count on Medicare when they retire for access to quality, affordable health care."

Bush's team had a different interpretation. Bush never said he wanted to replace Medicare, spokesman Tim Miller argued, adding that the former governor was referring to the changes he's been talking about for months on the campaign trail, such as increasing the retirement age and means testing to make wealthier Americans pay more. "It's an obvious attempt to take him out of context," Miller said.

While Miller's irritation was somewhat justified a few weeks ago, here the trouble is of Bush's own causing. The "new program" he was talking about may well have been Medicare with more means testing, and a higher retirement age. But that language is at best imprecise, particularly for a debate, as Bush himself noted, that easily can be distorted.

Medicare and oil

While Bush hasn't released specifics about his own Medicare plan, an often-mentioned change would raise the eligibility age from 65 to 67. The effect of that change would reduce the budget deficit—projected to increase to about $1 trillion over 10 years—by about $19 billion during that time, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. A report from the Kaiser Family Foundation notes that such a move may also increase premiums on both the young and old.

Bush also hasn't been specific about exactly what he means by means testing, a concept that is so popular its been approved several times by Congress. The Medicare Modernization Act, enacted in 2003, increased premiums on individuals earning more than $85,000 a year. High-earners shouldered more of the Medicare burden under Obamacare, and again this year under a bipartisan plan to maintain reimbursements to Medicare doctors.

After the event in Manchester, Bush was approached by an activist tied to 350 Action, a New York-based environmental group, who wanted to know what Bush was going to do about tax breaks for big oil. Oil tycoons Richard Kinder, Ray Lee Hunt, Jeffery Hildebrand, Trevor Rees-Jones, and T. Boone Pickens all donated to Bush’s campaign, according to disclosures.

Bush, to the activists surprise, said he wanted to eliminate them all. But smile soon faded as Bush explained what he meant by "all."

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"We should phase out, through tax reform, the tax credits for wind, for solar, for the oil and gas sector, for all this stuff," Bush said, adding that "the best way" was to "let markets decide this."

When the activist protested about cutting subsidies for renewable energy, Bush pounced. "You want to pick winners and losers," the Republican said. "I don't think we should pick winners and losers. Tax reform ought to be to lower the rate as far you can, and eliminate as many of these subsidies; All of the things that impede the ability in a more dynamic way to get to where we need to get, which is low cost energy that is respectful of the environment."

The problem here is, again, one of definitions.

Bush hasn't been very specific yet about what he wants to do with the tax code. But when he talks about eliminating "credits" for energy, that's likely to have a disproportionate effect on renewable sources.

Solar and wind energy producers get their tax benefits in the form of tax credits. Oil and gas producers typically don't, instead enjoying faster write-offs, deductions and some favorable accounting rules that aren't "credits."

Bush but no Trump expected at Aug. 3 Republican forum // Reuters // Steve Holland - July 24, 2015

A Republican forum on Aug. 3 in New Hampshire is growing in significance as 14 candidates have now agreed to participate.

The Voters First Republican Presidential Forum was set up to accommodate candidates who were not ranked in the top 10 in national polling and who are to compete in the first official Republican debate, moderated by Fox News on Aug. 6 in Cleveland.

But now many in the top 10 are planning to show up for the New Hampshire forum as well. New York real estate mogul Donald Trump is not attending, the Union Leader newspaper of Manchester, New Hampshire, reported.

The Voters First Republican Presidential Forum is to be held at St. Anselm College in Manchester.

The two-hour forum is intended to highlight the importance of New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, along with the nominating contests in Iowa and South Carolina.

The Union Leader, one of the sponsors for the forum, said the candidates who have committed to attend include Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Carly Fiorina, Bobby Jindal, John Kasich and Chris Christie.

Also on the list are Rick Perry, George Pataki, Lindsey Graham, Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum and Ben Carson.

Jeb Bush's family values man // MSNBC // Irin Carmon - July 24, 2015

Two weeks ago, as social conservatives gathered in New Orleans for the annual National Right to Life Convention, they were courted by Republican presidential candidates like Sen. Marco Rubio and former Sen. Rick Santorum.

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Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush sent a produced video, featuring two anti-abortion activists and his own remarks. In the video, recently uploaded by Bush's campaign under the title "Defending Life," Mark Merrill, a Tampa-based radio host and author of "All Pro Dad," vouches for Bush. "He stands strongly for life," says Merrill.

Bush and Merrill go back a long way, most notably when Merrill chaired a commission under then-Gov. Bush devoted to "Building Florida's Families," chiefly by focusing on marriage promotion. These days, Merrill's Twitter profile says he is "sharing parenting, marriage & relational truth," often through popular blog posts.

For Merrill, that truth is fairly gendered. His advice for fathers to their daughters:

"Be a Lady." Teach her to be a lady in the way she dresses. Girls can be modest and still be trendy. It means to use lady-like language…crassness and cussing are very unattractive. It means to use good manners. It means to draw physical boundaries and let men know that her body is reserved exclusively for her future husband.

There's a pretty stark divide between the advice Merrill offers to husbands and wives. For example, "Filling the 4 Chambers of Your Husband's Heart" counsels, "We also want our wives to validate our manliness. A man wants to be a hero to his wife." The counterpart directed at men says, "Cherishing and safeguarding her physically and emotionally leads to her being protected."

Some of Merrill's advice goes both ways for men and women. In one post, he advises spouses to "stop flaunting your body to others. This applies to men and women. Our culture does not value modesty, and when you flaunt your features, it appears you're advertising yourself or are available to others. Dress like you're only available to one person, your spouse. Because that's the only person you should be available to."

A representative for the Bush campaign didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on Merrill's role in the campaign.

Jeb Bush doubles down on far-right Medicare 'reform' **// MSNBC // Steve Benen - July 24, 2015**

Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush caused a stir Wednesday night, telling a Koch-backed political group that he wants to "phase out" Medicare entirely. At a town-hall event in New Hampshire yesterday, an unhappy voter asked for an explanation. Here's what the former Florida governor said in response:

"To my point last night, here's what I said. I said, first and foremost, whenever you get into a conversation about reforming entitlements, the first thing that you can be guaranteed of is that the left will attack you and demonize you. It took about six hours for that to happen [on Wednesday night]. I woke up in the morning and words taken out of context – exactly what I predicted would happen.

"I told the story of Paul Ryan who had a plan to deal with this over the long haul. The first thing I saw, that happened to him was, a guy looking like Paul Ryan was in a TV ad attacking him, wearing a red tie and a suit, throwing granny off the cliff.

"This is, we've got to get beyond this, because this is not a sustainable system. We need to protect it for people that have it, and we need to make sure that we reform it for people that are expecting it."

He then transitioned to talking about the latest report from the Medicare trustees, which was released this week, and which Bush seems to believe bolsters his argument.

I didn't really intend to return to the subject – here's yesterday's piece if you missed it – but so long as the GOP candidate is doubling down on a poor argument, it's probably worth clarifying further why Bush is mistaken.

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Bush is concerned, for example, about being “attacked” and “demonized.” I don’t imagine it’s fun being a candidate facing irate voters, but when those seeking public office talk about giving tax cuts to millionaires while taking health benefits away from seniors on a fixed income, they shouldn’t be too surprised when there’s pushback.

He also believes his comments from Wednesday were “taken out of context.” For what it’s worth, I published the entire context and linked to a video of Bush’s comments. Unfortunately for the candidate, there’s nothing in the context that makes the argument any stronger.

Finally, the Florida Republican characterizes his approach as if it were simply common sense. Medicare is not “sustainable,” he says, which means it’s up to responsible officials to agree now to “phase out” – a phrase he replaced with “reform” yesterday – Medicare altogether.

The reality, however, is far different. As Mother Jones’ Kevin Drum explained yesterday, “So this is what Jeb is saying: Right now the federal government spends about 20 percent of GDP. We can’t afford to increase that to 23 percent of GDP over the next 30 years. That would – what? I don’t even know what the story is here.... This whole thing is ridiculous. Over the next 30 years, we need to increase spending by 1 percent of GDP per decade. That’s it. That will keep Social Security and Medicare in good shape. Why is it so hard for people to get that?”

For Bush, among other GOP candidates, Medicare is facing fiscal challenges in the future, so the system must be eliminated. We must destroy Medicare, the argument goes, in order to save it. This is, of course, absurd – the challenges are perfectly manageable without radical changes to anyone’s health security.

The more Jeb Bush talks about this, the more it seems he doesn’t fully understand one of his signature issues.

Postscript: Just as an aside, the Medicare trustees’ report he encouraged voters to read shows Medicare’s fiscal health getting considerably better, not worse, in large part because of the Affordable Care Act. Jeb Bush, of course, wants to repeal the ACA, which would necessarily make the Medicare system he wants to “protect” far weaker, far faster.

Jeb Bush Says No Need to Apologize for 'All Lives Matter' **// ABC // Candace Smith - July 24, 2015**

As questions swirl over what happened to 28-year-old Sandra Bland, who was found dead in her cell in a Texas jail, candidates in the 2016 presidential race are being hammered on their views surrounding the call for justice and the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter.

It is a movement that largely began last year as part of the protests over the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown.

Republican candidate and former Florida governor Jeb Bush was asked Thursday in New Hampshire if he thought that Democratic candidate Martin O'Malley should apologize for saying that "all lives matter" during progressive gathering, Netroots Nation.

Bush responded by asking, "We're so uptight and so politically correct now that we apologize for saying 'lives matter?"

I Emailed Jeb Bush About Guacamole, And He Actually Responded

He added, "Life is precious. It's a gift from God. I frankly think that it's one of the most important values that we have. I know in the political context it's a slogan, I guess. Should he have apologized? No. If he believes that white lives matter, which I hope he does, then he shouldn't have apologized to a group that seemed to disagree with it."

The Liberal super pac, American Bridge, quickly uploaded the video.

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The 'Black Lives Matter' movement, largely led by young grassroots organizers who profess a non-partisan view, has proved to be a stumbling block for candidates on both sides. Both O'Malley and his Democratic rival Bernie Sanders were criticized for their responses to activists' demonstrations, declining to advocate specifically for Black Lives Matter, choosing the more inclusive call of "All Lives Matter."

It is a slogan viewed by activists as deeply out of touch and a view that overlooks the crux of their call to social equality and an end to the systematic prejudice they say African-Americans face in the eyes of the justice system.

Both quickly scrambled to amend his remarks; O'Malley appearing on a black talk show to say he made a mistake, Sanders forcefully condemning Bland's arrest, calling it "painful and dreadful".

On Thursday, Democratic front runner Hillary Clinton tried to overcome her own similar stumbles while speaking to a black church in South Carolina, twice invoking the "Black Lives Matter" slogan and calling Bland's death "heartbreaking".

"And that's why I think it is essential that we all stand up and say loudly and clearly, 'Yes, black lives matter.' And we all have a responsibility to face these hard truths of race and justice honestly and directly," Clinton said to cheers during a campaign stop at the Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, South Carolina.

Clinton was criticized last month for saying "all lives matter" at an event at a historic black church close to Ferguson, Missouri, where protesters last year widely used the phrase "Black Lives Matter."

Bush has said in the past that he will win this campaign by going to places "that haven't seen a Republican in a very long time", declaring to be able to rally the support of Latinos and African-Americans, groups that have traditionally eluded the GOP.

Here's Jeb Bush's Underwhelming Review of Sharknado 3 **// TIME // Sarah Begley - July 24, 2015**

"I'm culturally illiterate, apparently"

Jeb Bush has discovered Sharknado, and he is not impressed.

The 2016 contender shared his thoughts on the franchise in a video posted to his campaign's YouTube channel under his series "#JebNoFilter." He says he discovered Sharknado 3 while channel surfing in a hotel room and found it "kind of weird."

"People are getting killed, the White House is being collapsed, the Washington Monument's going down, and lo and behold, Mark Cuban is president of the United States!"

As puzzled as Bush was by the shark-filled plot, he was even more baffled to learn that it was the third movie in a series. "Please help me, give me some information about what's going on," he said into the camera. "I'm culturally illiterate, apparently."

RUBIO

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Marco Rubio Has a New Answer For His Inexperience Problem // Bloomberg // Sahil Kapur - July 24, 2015

Has Marco Rubio hit on a way to turn two political minuses into a plus?

The 44-year-old first-term senator is competing for the Republican presidential nomination against a crowded field that includes eight governors or former governors and several more experienced lawmakers. He has also been dogged by questions about his acumen when it comes to his personal finances. In recent days he has come up with an argument that seemingly attempts to handle both potential problems.

At a forum last weekend in Ames, Iowa, Republican pollster Frank Luntz told Rubio that "the single biggest knock on you" is that "you haven't been around long enough." In response, the son of Cuban immigrants from humble beginnings cleverly morphed job "experience" into life "experience," arguing that his makes him the most qualified to understand issues facing ordinary Americans.

"I don't think anybody running for president understands what life is like for people today more than I do," Rubio said, adding that his parents lived "paycheck to paycheck" and that he had student loans until four years ago. His youth and his financial struggles have given him more of kind of experience a president needs, he argued.

"No one running has more experience on the issues we face right now, today, in the 21st century, with a world that's more dangerous than ever and an economy that's changing faster than we've ever seen since the industrial revolution."

The crowd applauded.

Thursday, in another interview, Rubio trotted out a different version of the same line.

"The world is changing, and no one who is running for president has more experience than I do on the issues confronting our country right now," the freshman Florida senator told Fox News in an interview Thursday.

Fox host Bret Baier didn't seem convinced. Why, he asked, is a governor not better positioned for the White House than he is?

Rubio responded that the presidency is a "unique office" that's "not like being a senator, but it's not like being a governor, either," saying that presidents face national security challenges but that they "don't create jobs."

Republican voters tend to prefer governors to senators for the White House—and Rubio has been among them in the past as he endorsed former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee in 2008 and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney in 2012. Recently in Iowa, a voter pointed out similarities between Rubio and then-Senator Barack Obama in 2008.

Will Rubio's new argument work? It remains to be seen, but the Floridian could use a boost. He has placed below the top three in the last five nonpartisan national polls of Republican primary voters tracked by RealClearPolitics.

The radicalism of Rubio's foreign policy // MSNBC // Steve Benen - July 24, 2015

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Earlier this week, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) said of the international nuclear agreement with Iran, "This is not America's deal with Iran. It is Barack Obama's deal with Iran." It wasn't an offhand, impromptu comment made during an interview; the Republican senator actually included the line in a written statement.

Yesterday, during the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the Iran deal, Rubio made a nearly identical argument to Secretary of State John Kerry:

"Secretary Kerry, I do not fault you for trying to engage in diplomacy, and striking a deal for Iran, I don't. I do fault the president for striking a terrible deal with Iran. [...]

"[E]ven if this deal narrowly avoids congressional defeat because we can't get to that veto-proof majority, the Iranian regime and the world should know that this deal is your deal with Iran, meaning your's and this administration's, and the next president is under no legal or moral obligation to live up to it."

Obviously, when the Florida Republican refers to "the next president," Rubio believes he's referring to himself.

The surface-level issue is the concern that the GOP senator is using a serious foreign-policy debate for campaign grandstanding – Rubio wants far-right activists to see him, not his rivals, as the party's fiercest critic of nuclear diplomacy. All of the top Republicans are talking about their plans to abandon the U.S. commitment in this area, and Rubio sees value in being a top member of the club.

But just below the surface, Rubio's posturing even far more serious.

The GOP candidate is describing a foreign-policy dynamic in which every new American president, upon taking office, effectively tells the world, friend and foe alike, "Maybe I'll honor U.S. commitments, maybe not. I'll let you know."

American foreign policy has never worked this way, because it can't. The United States is a global superpower – by most measures the global superpower – in part because the world values the consistency of our leadership. If we abandon agreements reached with our allies after every election, that consistency disappears.

Imagine future negotiations between U.S. officials and foreign heads of state. What happens when those on the other side of the table tell American diplomats, "We'd accept these terms, but we're worried our agreement will be null and void after you hold elections in a few years"?

As for Rubio drawing a distinction between America's international agreements and the American president's international agreements, I'm reminded of something Max Fisher wrote in January:

The Supreme Court has codified into law the idea that only the president is allowed to make foreign policy, and not Congress, because if there are two branches of government setting foreign policy then America effectively has two foreign policies.

The idea is that the US government needs to be a single unified entity on the world stage in order to conduct effective foreign policy. Letting the president and Congress independently set their own foreign policies would lead to chaos. It would be extremely confusing for foreign leaders, and foreign publics, who don't always understand how domestic American politics work, and could very easily misread which of the two branches is actually setting the agenda.

At least so long as President Obama is in office, Rubio seems to believe that chaos is worthwhile and undermining American foreign policy – which he perceives as something less than America's foreign policy – is a responsible course for U.S. lawmakers to follow.

I have a sinking suspicion he would see things differently under a Rubio administration.

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Marco Rubio: Donald Trump's not going to be the Republican nominee // Washington Times // David Sherfinski - July 24, 2015

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida said Friday that Donald Trump is not going to be the Republican presidential nominee and that the real estate mogul is benefiting from people hearing his name in the news.

"Not long term," Mr. Rubio, who is also running for president, said on "CBS This Morning" when asked if he thinks Mr. Trump is a problem for his party. "Donald Trump's not going to be the nominee of the Republican party."

Mr. Trump has been leading in recent polling on the 2016 GOP field, but Mr. Rubio said polls "swing up and down" and that he personally has been higher and lower than where he is now.

"These polls, at this point, basically are measuring who people are hearing about on the news, and Donald Trump is benefiting from that," he said. "I strongly believe that not just the next nominee, but the only way that Republicans are going to win the presidency is by offering an optimistic but realistic vision of the 21st century with a real plan of how we can benefit from all the globalization that's changing the nature of our economy, from the technological advances that have changed the nature of work, and also about playing our proper role in the world in terms of leading the free people of this planet to confront global challenges."

WALKER

Top Scott Walker Fundraiser Calls Donald Trump 'Dum bDumb' // WSJ // Reid J. Epstein - July 24, 2015

A fundraiser for Scott Walker's presidential campaign called Donald Trump "DumbDumb" in a fundraising invitation and said electing the New York developer would be "a total and complete disaster for the country."

"As you've seen Gov Walker is now well ahead of everyone not named DumbDumb (aka Trump) in the national polls," wrote Walker fundraiser Gregory Slayton, a New Hampshire venture capitalist who served as consul general to Bermuda during the George W. Bush administration. "He's also a plain spoken member of the 99% (as opposed to someone pretending to be so)…and that will be a KSF in 2016."

Mr. Slayton's email invited his political network to fundraisers Wednesday in Greenwich, Conn., and at the Union League Club in New York City. His email indicated Mr. Walker will also hold "a foreign policy oriented breakfast" Thursday morning in New York.

Reached by phone Friday, Mr. Slayton said Mr. Trump is not as smart as Mr. Walker.

"I didn't mean that to be public but obviously I stand behind it," Mr. Slayton said. "Look, this is a great country. Guys who are not that smart can get rich, it's wonderful. But Donald Trump is not going to be president of the United States ever, period, end of story."

Mr. Slayton added: "To elect someone who alienates his friends, the guy would be a total and complete disaster for the country and I think everybody admits that."

Mr. Slayton's characterization of Mr. Trump as "DumbDumb" comes after his candidate has spent recent weeks

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carefully avoiding criticizing the New York developer's incendiary language about Mexican immigrants. The Wisconsin governor did denounce Mr. Trump's suggestion that Sen. John McCain, who served five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, was not a war hero.

Mr. Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, predicted Mr. Walker will not stand for his supporters questioning Mr. Trump's intellect.

"Gov. Walker is a good guy and he would not condone such type of negative thinking about the leading presidential candidate in the GOP field," Mr. Lewandowski said. "I'm sure he will quickly denounce Mr. Slayton and his rhetoric."

The Walker campaign didn't comment on Mr. Slayton's remarks.

PAUL

'Super Pac' Backing Rand Paul Raised Far Less Than Rivals, Report Shows // NYT // Nick Confessore - July 24, 2015

A "super PAC" set up by allies of Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky raised just over $3 million in the first six months of the year, according to a report filed with the Federal Election Commission on Friday — far less than most of the outside groups backing Mr. Paul's rivals for the Republican presidential nomination.

Almost half of the money came from a single donor: George Macricostas, a Nevada-based businessmen and technology entrepreneur. Most of the rest came from Jeff Yass, an investor from Pennsylvania, who contributed $1 million.

A handful of other donors — some of them also raising money directly for Mr. Paul's campaign — made six-figure contributions, including Robert Arnott, a California investor, and Kenneth Garschina, a longtime Paul backer in New York.

The super PAC, America's Liberty, filed more than a week before the official deadline. It had about $2.7 million in cash at the end of June, according to the filing.

The haul was relatively low in the high-dollar, high-stakes world of super PACs, which have taken center stage in this year's Republican primary contest.

A super PAC backing Jeb Bush announced this month that it had raised $103 million, while Senator Ted Cruz of Texas is backed by a network of super PACs that brought in $37 million. Two groups supporting Senator Marco Rubio of Florida brought in a combined $32 million.

Rand Paul super PAC brings in less money than Bobby Jindal's or Carly Fiorina's // WaPo // Tom Hamburger and Anu Narayanswamy - July 24, 2015

A super PAC backing Rand Paul's presidential candidacy raised $3.1 million in the first half of 2015, with two-thirds of the total coming from just two donors.

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The sum reported Friday afternoon by Paul's supporters is among the smallest reported from the dozen or so presidential candidate super PACs that have so far revealed their fundraising figures.

Paul's total puts him behind Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett Packard CEO, whose supporters reported raising $3.4 million for a super PAC. Allies of former Florida governor Jeb Bush raised nearly $103 million for the Right to Rise super PAC. Supporters of Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor, reported raising just $289,000 for his super PAC during its first month.

Paul, the Kentucky senator and son of former Texas congressman and presidential candidate Ron Paul, reported raising nearly $7 million for his official campaign account -- a more respectable number, but still in the lower tier of candidate totals.

Supporters of other GOP presidential hopefuls, including Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum, have yet to disclose totals for super PACs backing them.

The pro-Paul PAC, called America's Liberty PAC, lists two seven-figure donors: George Macricostas, the chairman and CEO of a RagingWire, a data center company, and Jeff Yass, the owner of Susquehanna Partners, an investment firm.

Rand Paul Super PAC Raised $3.1 Million in First Half of 2015 // WSJ // Rebecca Ballhaus - July 24, 2015

The primary super PAC backing Republican Rand Paul's presidential campaign raised $3.1 million in the first half of the year, according to a disclosure filed with the Federal Election Commission Friday, falling far short of the rest of the Republican field.

America's Liberty PAC's small haul, coupled with the relatively low $7 million raised by Mr. Paul's campaign in the second quarter, puts the Kentucky senator firmly in the second tier of GOP fundraising. Mr. Paul is currently polling seventh among Republican primary voters, according to a Real Clear Politics average of five recent national polls.

The super PAC's president, John Tate, said he was "very pleased" with the group's fundraising.

"We are just getting started and this financial support will allow us to continue to give Sen. Paul the help he needs in this race," he said. The group is building a "tech-savvy, highly-targeted data driven effort that can be used to effectively manage the tremendous grassroots support that Sen. Paul has built over the years," he added.

Two-thirds of the funds the super PAC raised came from two donors: Jeff Yass, owner of the trading firm Susquehanna Partners, who gave $1 million, and George Macricostas, founder of the data center company RagingWire, who gave $1.1 million. A quarter of the super PAC's haul — $750,000 – was donated by Mr. Macricostas on June 30, the final day of the reporting period. Neither donor gave to Mr. Paul's campaign in the second quarter, according to its filing with the FEC.

Aside from those two major donors, other donations to the super PAC were relatively low. The average donation, not including those of Messrs. Yass and Macricostas, was $28,500. Still, a review of the donor list suggests the group does have some room to grow: Among the contributors were millionaires John Mackey, the chief executive of Whole Foods, and land developer Don Huffines. Mr. Mackey gave $50,000; Mr. Hiffines gave $25,000.

The super PAC's haul is just 3% of the $103 million raised by the super PAC backing GOP front-runner Jeb

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Bush—a record-setting sum that far surpassed any other contender in the 2016 race. But it also falls significantly short of the $38 million raised by four super PACs backing Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, as well as the $16 million raised by the pro-Florida Sen. Marco Rubio super PAC.

Even groups backing candidates who are polling lower than Mr. Paul have raised more: The super PAC backing former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who is polling nearly four percentage points below Mr. Paul, according to Real Clear Politics, raised $17 million; the group supporting New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who is nearly three points behind in the polls, raised $11 million.

Super PACs are not required to file disclosures with the FEC until July 31. The groups backing several contenders have already released their totals, but some have yet to do so.

Mr. Paul also has the backing of another super PAC, run by former FreedomWorks president Matt Kibbe, that has yet to disclose its totals.

Rand Paul super PACs raise $5 million // Politico // Daniel Strauss - July 24, 2015

wo super PACs supporting Rand Paul's presidential candidacy together raised about $5 million in the first half of the year.

One of the PACs, America's Liberty, raised $3.13 million, according to FEC filings. The second PAC, Concerned American Voters, told POLITICO it had raised $1.88 million.

That's far short of the amount raised by the super PAC backing former Florida governor Jeb Bush, which reported raising more than $100 million in the first half of the year, and short of those of other top-tier Republican presidential contenders, such as Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

The two biggest donors to America's Liberty were Nevada data mogul George Macricostas (who gave $1.1 million) and Philadelphia options trader Jeff Yass (who gave $1 million).

America's Liberty PAC is run by Jesse Benton, a longtime aide of Paul and his father, former Rep. Ron Paul, and John Tate, the president of the libertarian millennial group Campaign for Liberty.

Concerned American Voters is run by Matt Kibbe, formerly of FreedomWorks.

Each of the two super PACs has a different focus: America's Liberty PAC will likely concentrate on paid media, while Kibbe's emphasizes grassroots organizing.

"I am very pleased with these results so far," Tate said in a statement. "This sum shows that Sen. Paul has real support in this race for president and we are working tirelessly to assist him by airing TV ads, managing and collecting data and running a top-notch digital campaign.

"We are just getting started and this financial support will allow us to continue to give Sen. Paul the help he needs in this race," Tate said. "Instead of spending millions on slick TV ads, we have invested and are building a tech-savvy, highly targeted data-driven effort that can be used to effectively manage the tremendous grassroots support that Sen. Paul has built over the years."

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Two weeks earlier, Paul's official campaign reported that it had raised $7 million in the last fundraising quarter.

Why Isn't Rand Paul Making a Data Deal With the GOP? **// Bloomberg // Sasha Issenberg - July 24, 2015**

Kentucky Senator Rand Paul is living up to his promise to run for president as a "different kind of Republican." His campaign appears to have decided that he can win the nomination without even basic help from party bosses, and that if he comes up short his loss should not serve to strengthen their infrastructure.

Several presidential candidates are likely to sign contracts allowing them to simultaneously receive voter profiles from both the Republican National Committee and i360, a rival data warehouse managed by the political network associated with Koch Industries. Paul, however, seems to be following a different path—one that will allow him to maintain full control of any data collected by his campaign or affiliated super-PAC and set up a distinct power base beyond 2016 entirely independent of the Republican Party.

Paul is the only one of the party's candidates trying to assemble a full-fledged presidential campaign who has refused to sign a so-called data agreement with the RNC. This is a standard arrangement in both parties, designed to permit candidates to benefit from one of few durable resources in American politics: a national party's voter database. In exchange for access to it, candidates pledge that after the election they will enrich the database by returning intelligence gathered on the electorate through their interactions with individual voters.

Thus far, according to a party official who asked not to be named in order to freely discuss the committee's internal mechanics, 11 of the party's presidential candidates have signed a data agreement with the RNC. The others who have have yet to sign a data agreement are all those who are are new to the race or have otherwise shown signs of mounting something other than a conventional, well-rounded national campaign: businessman Donald Trump, Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, former New York Governor George Pataki, and Jim Gilmore, former Governor of Virginia. Party officials have had conversations with Ohio Governor John Kasich's political team, and anticipate he will eventually sign one, according to a person familiar with the talks. (Data agreements are available only to those who have made their candidacy official; Kasich did so only this week.)

Voter data is essential in running a modern campaign. But the rise of a competing data warehouse, i360, managed by the Kochs' Freedom Partners, has given candidates the choice of opting out of the party structure altogether. A Freedom Partners spokesman, James Davis, refused to identify specific clients, citing non-disclosure agreements. However, it is widely understood that i360—a private company in which turning a profit is a concern secondary to electoral impact—is eager to serve as a data provider to multiple Republican candidates.

In an April interview with USA Today, Charles Koch identified five he said "are the ones we have talked to the most and who seem to be the possible leaders." Four of them—former Governor Jeb Bush of Florida, Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida—have already executed data agreements with the RNC. Paul is the only one who hasn't.

Paul quarterly spending report depicted a candidate seeking to assemble a data infrastructure entirely independent of the RNC. He has paid $19,000 to Aristotle International, a venerable non-partisan data vendor favored by candidates unaligned with a party machine. Paul's campaign also paid a sum to the Republican Party of Iowa that could been to purchase a list of past caucus-goers, a standard move for candidates competing in the state. The newly established super-PAC Concerned American Voters has vowed to maintain Paul's "grassroots organization, e-marketing and proven Get Out The Vote tactics," as president Jeff Frazee described it in a press release announcing the group's creation. Filings from Concerned American Voters show a variety of payments to i360, including one for "Voter Data and Outreach Capability."

The RNC and i360 have developed an intense and unexpectedly public feud as they compete over business from Republican candidates, a proxy for the greater conflict between the Koch network and party establishment for dominance in conservative politics. The left has featured a similar tension for nearly a decade, as the Democratic National Committee's voter file battles for primacy against one maintained by the independent Catalist, which has

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close ties to organized labor. (The crucial difference: i360 currently holds a stronger market position than Catalist does on its side, and the factional rivalries within the right are far more pronounced than those within the left.)

Although both databases are assembled atop publicly available voter-registration records, they offer differing strengths. The RNC has maintained its voter file for a quarter-century, constantly replenishing it with information about voter behavior and attitudes on candidates and issues collected through campaign canvasses and phone banks. Want to know which Iowa voters told McCain-Palin volunteers that bailouts were their greatest concern? There's only one place to find it.

The much-newer i360 has little of that historical data, but sustained by the Kochs' seemingly limitless funds, boasts of having acquired a wide range of consumer profiles and a growing team of data scientists developing topical predictive models from them. Looking for probable 2016 caucus-goers who are likely to think the Islamic State is a greater concern than civil liberties? You should expect to see it offered from i360 rather than the RNC.

Many Republican analysts see the two entities' data as potentially complementary, particularly if combined to form a larger base for predictive models specific to a candidate's targeting needs. (Campaigns that arrange to work with both the RNC and i360 are required to sign a contract ensuring that the underlying sets of data are not commingled.)

Paul's unorthodox appeal and strategy may dictate his posture toward the RNC. Paul has vowed to bring new supporters into the Republican primary process, including young voters unlikely to have been contacted much by previous Republican candidates. If Paul succeeds in doing so, the granular intelligence his campaign assembles about that coalition—knowledge of individual issue preferences, and contact information like cell-phone numbers—will become a unique asset in American politics and one he will be happy not to have to return to the RNC.

Paul's own campaign could theoretically acquire any data collected by the super-PAC at any point, either through purchase or by trading something of comparable value. If structured correctly, Paul could then match intelligence gathered from the super-PAC's field operations to his own list, which the campaign has been cultivating through stunts like his quasi-filibuster of the Patriot Act and this week's video taking a chainsaw to the tax code. Those backers, pushed to the campaign's website to sign up as supporters, have shared e-mail addresses and given the campaign the opportunity to serve them ads elsewhere online through browser cookies.

Complete control over all the data his campaign collects could make Paul a power broker in future party primaries, and sustain a career as a perpetual candidate—with a constant implied threat that he could do it either inside the party or outside of it. Rand's father, former Representative Ron Paul of Texas, sought the presidency twice as a Republican and once as the Libertarian Party's nominee. When asked to explain Rand Paul's resistance to signing a data agreement with the RNC, spokesman Sergio Gor responded by e-mail, "We'll pass on this story."

But Paul himself betrayed his thinking about his relationship with the party when he announced his candidacy in April. "Too often when Republicans have won we have squandered our victory by becoming part of the Washington machine," he said during a speech in Louisville. "That's not who I am."

Rand Paul super PACs raise paltry $5 million // CNN // Theodore Schleifer - July 24, 2015

The two super PACs supporting Rand Paul raised less money than many of his Republican rivals in the first half of 2015, confirming speculation that he would face difficulty financing his grassroots campaign.

The main super PAC led by Paul's former advisers, America's Liberty PAC, raised $3.1 million, according to a filing, far less than nearly every other Republican candidate's. And a second, grassroots-focused group dedicated to electing him, Concerned American Voters, said in a statement to CNN Friday that it had raised an additional

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$1.9 million.

Jeb Bush shattered records by raising $103 million for his super PAC, but even the allied groups of candidates who perform significantly worse than Paul in polls managed to outraise Paul's by significant margins.

Rick Perry's claimed $17 million, Chris Christie's said it brought in $11 million, and even the group allied with Carly Fiorina -- who is unlikely to have enough support to make the Republican debate -- said it raised more than Paul's main group with $3.4 million.

Despite the poor numbers, the head of America's Liberty indicated they would build a leaner operation not focused entirely on television campaigns, which in recent cycles have been in super PACs' bailiwick.

"Instead of spending millions on slick TV ads, we have invested and are building a tech-savvy, highly-targeted data driven effort that can be used to effectively manage the tremendous grassroots support that Sen. Paul has built over the years," John Tate, the group's president, said in a statement.

Paul does seem to have two major supporters, however: Philadelphia investor Jeff Yass and Nevada IT executive George Macricostas, who each gave about $1 million to support America's Liberty. Concerned American Voters has not yet released the names of its backers, but will have to by the end of the next week.

Donors can make unlimited contributions to super PACs, but the groups aren't allowed to coordinate how to spend that money with the campaign.

Paul's own campaign also trailed the official operations of many other hopefuls: The Kentucky senator only raised $7 million in what are called "hard dollars."

Paul has placed a particular emphasis on recruiting donors in Silicon Valley, but there is no sign that he succeeded: Only four donors with California addresses donated to America's Liberty, for a total of $56,000.

Rand Paul Launches Snapchat Ads // TIME // Zeke J. Miller - July 24, 2015

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul was one of the first 2016 presidential contenders to embrace Snapchat, and now he’s becoming one of the first to advertise on the platform.

Paul’s campaign is placing three ads on the social network this weekend as part of a broader digital campaign soliciting ideas for how the libertarian lawmaker can destroy the tax code. The 10-second video spots are cut from a longer video released earlier this week featuring Paul fire, using fire, a woodchipper and a chainsaw to tear up piles of papers, all set to an electric guitar rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner.”

The ad campaign is the latest effort by Paul to revive a campaign that is in danger of falling behind amid a softening of his support in the polls and lackluster fundraising for the campaign and super PAC.

The ads are targeted at all users in the four early voting states, Iowa, Nevada, South Carolina and New Hampshire, and his campaign hopes they will appeal to the platform’s younger-skewing demographic.

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Last week, Snapchat featured two ads for Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and one for Ohio Gov. John Kasich in a politically-themed "live story" for users on the platform from the four early states. Paul's ads are aimed at all users from those states, not just those viewing the "live story," including those using Snapchat's "discover" feature.

"Many younger 'off-the-grid' voters aren't consuming traditional news outlets and are increasingly using platforms like snapchat as their source of information," said Vincent Harris, Paul's digital strategist. "Senator Paul's campaign plans to continue to run ads and connect with voters in this way."

Harris would not reveal the dollar-amount behind the buy, adding, "The campaign will continue to spend more after we see the ROI. This is new and exciting territory."

Rand Paul Destroys the Tax Code? Donald Trump Is Contagious! // Forbes // Christopher Bergin - July 24, 2015

For several days, you couldn't turn on the TV or radio looking for news without running into "in-depth reporting" on what Donald Trump said about John McCain. This especially included the Sunday news shows – which I admit with some shame I still watch.

I wasn't sure if what Trump had to say about a bona fide war hero was really news to begin with, but by the 3,000th "news report" on it I was sure its news cycle was over. Reporters should know by now that when Trump says something incredibly idiotic, there is no need to dwell on it because within days he'll say something even worse. (A friend of mine and I are thinking of starting a pool — kind of an over-under for when the next ludicrous comment comes up.)

The danger of Donald Trump acting as if he is P.T. Barnum is that other presidential candidates will decide that the American voter is attracted to stupid stuff. And a huge target about which to say really stupid stuff is the tax code. Now, it's OK if you want to pick on the nation's tax law because it is too complicated, inconsistent, and unfair. But it's also very serious business, the main purpose of which is to create the rules by which we collect the revenue to fund the U.S government. Hurling insults at the tax code is not going to solve any problems.

But someone needs to tell Rand Paul that. Taking a page from Donald Trump, Paul just released a brand-new video featuring him destroying the U.S. tax code. On the video, Paul sets thousands of pages of tax law on fire, feeds them into a wood chipper, and goes after them with a chain saw. Apparently, Paul's own favorite method is the chain saw, but he urges people to vote on which they like best.

Paul doesn't appear very handy with a chain saw, but at least he's wearing eye protection. The senator is an ophthalmologist. Maybe he should stay with that and leave the clownish performance pieces to trained clowns — like Donald Trump (I hope Trump gives out my phone number for that shot).

The point of Paul's video is to promote his "Fair and Flat Tax," essentially a flat tax of 14.5 percent that eliminates almost all special deductions and other giveaways. I'm not saying it's a bad plan or that it shouldn't be part of the discussion, but how can you take a presidential candidate's plan seriously when he introduces it with a wood chipper? In the promotional material for Paul's tax plan, he saves a great deal of vitriol for the IRS, which of course is easy to hate, and at times appears only too happy to pour fuel onto its own fires. Paul calls the IRS a "rogue" agency whose corruption it enabled by a convoluted tax code. Well, the IRS didn't impose a convoluted tax code on itself; Congress did. I don't know how any agency could efficiently administer our tax code.

Does the IRS need to be reformed starting with an entirely new leadership structure? Yes. But even if Paul gets his flat tax, who will collect that tax if we also "destroy" the IRS? Apparently that's one the senator has no answer for. Anyway, it's more fun playing with a chain saw and following Donald Trump's lead than it is thinking about the tough stuff.

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Maybe we need two pools: one on the next stupid thing Trump says, and one on the next presidential candidate to start imitating him. I've predicted that it will take two years to start a serious discussion of reforming the tax laws and the agency that administers them. After watching Paul's video, I've pushed that back a decade.

CRUZ

Ted Cruz Accuses Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Lying // NYT // Jonathan Weisman - July 24, 2015

Senator Ted Cruz, the sometimes-incendiary Texan running for the Republican presidential nomination, took to the Senate floor on Friday to call his party's majority leader a liar in an extraordinary public airing of grievance.

Mr. Cruz, an ardent opponent of the federal Export-Import Bank, reacted in starkly personal terms after the leader, Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, allowed a vote pressed by a bipartisan group of senators to resurrect the government's export credit agency.

That vote will come Sunday in a rare weekend session of Congress called to rush forward a major infrastructure bill before the Highway Trust Fund runs out of money July 31.

"I cannot believe he would tell a flat-out lie," Mr. Cruz said of Mr. McConnell, who he said had promised him there was no deal to bring Ex-Im up for a vote.

Mr. Cruz said allowing that vote on the measure — which almost certainly will pass — was "an absolute demonstration that not only what he told every Republican senator, but what he told the press over and over and over again was a simple lie."

The outburst breached the Senate's decorum — and perhaps its rules, which preclude a senator from using "any form of words" to "impute to another senator or to other senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a senator." Mr. McConnell and his staff declined to comment.

Aides to Senator John Cornyn, a fellow Texan, said the Senate's No. 2 Republican is reviewing Mr. Cruz's speech.

Mr. Cruz has been a combative figure since his arrival in the Senate in 2013, when he helped shut down the government in a fruitless effort to defund the Affordable Care Act. He also pressed to shut down the Department of Homeland Security this year over President Obama's executive orders on immigration.

While Mr. Cruz frequently challenges Democrats, he has largely refrained from attacking fellow Republicans.

"In my time in the Senate I haven't impugned the character of Republicans or Democrats and I don't intend to start today," he said earlier this month, when pressed to condemn a fellow Republican White House hopeful, Donald J. Trump, who had questioned Senator John McCain's wartime heroism.

On Friday, Mr. Cruz held nothing back. He detailed what he said was a closed-door confrontation he had with Mr. McConnell in May, after supporters of the Export-Import Bank tried to derail a trade bill unless they were promised a vote to keep the bank open.

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"It was a direct question I asked the majority leader in front of all the Republican senators," he said. He said that Mr. McConnell had been "visibly angry" and that "like St. Peter," the majority leader had offered a denial three times: "There is no deal, there is no deal, there is no deal."

Far from backing down, Mr. Cruz joined Rush Limbaugh Friday afternoon, basking in the conservative radio show host's praise for a "direct hit" on leadership like none Mr. Limbaugh could remember.

"It's not a good day when the majority leader is willing to lie to the Senate," Mr. Cruz told Mr. Limbaugh.

Tea Party groups, the Heritage Foundation's political arm, and the Koch Brothers' Freedom Partners rushed to Mr. Cruz's defense.

Support for Ex-Im in both the House and Senate is sufficient to restore the agency if Republican leaders allow it. On June 30, the authorization ran out on Ex-Im, which offers loan guarantees and other assistance to the foreign customers of American exporters.

Businesses — powered by some of the nation's biggest corporations — Boeing, General Electric and Caterpillar — have been pressing to reopen it, arguing that the conservative war on Ex-Im is costing American jobs in the service of a purely ideological fight. On the other side of the money fight, Delta Air Lines, the Koch Brothers, Club for Growth, and the Heritage Foundation are fueling Ex-Im opposition.

Mr. Cruz framed the fight as one pitting "the Washington cartel of the lobbyists on K Street, or the big money and big corporations" against the American taxpayer. Money has in fact sloshed through both sides of the fight. Among Republican presidential candidates only Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, where Boeing operations benefit from Ex-Im financing, supports restoring the bank.

Mr. McConnell, in allowing a vote to reopen the bank Sunday afternoon, was careful to say he personally opposed it. At the same time, he offered conservatives a compromise in the form of a separate amendment to the highway bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Cruz called that "an empty show vote."

"The Republican leader is behaving like the senior senator from Nevada," Mr. Cruz said, accusing Mr. McConnell of running the Senate the same way his predecessor, Senator Harry Reid, Democrat of Nevada, had operated.

In a test vote last month, 65 senators — Republican and Democrat — showed they would vote for the Ex-Im Bank's reauthorization. In the House, 60 Republicans have signed onto legislation to reopen new lending activity at the bank, more than enough to pass a bill that has overwhelming Democratic support.

The question is whether Speaker John A. Boehner will buck the opposition of other Republicans on his leadership team to allow the Senate's Ex-Im amendment to come to a vote.

Ted Cruz Breaks Vow to Not Criticize Other Republicans // NYT // Alan Rappeport - July 24, 2015

Senator Ted Cruz of Texas has made taking the high road a hallmark of his presidential campaign so far, vowing

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not to get into fights with other Republicans. Apparently Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is not covered by that policy.

Mr. Cruz's animus was unleashed on Friday because Mr. McConnell allowed a vote to move forward on the federal Export-Import Bank, which Mr. Cruz opposes.

Here are few of Mr. Cruz's recent promises of intra-party civility:

"I understand that our friends in the media love to see Republicans shoot each other. That makes for good newsprint when it gets nasty and personal, but I have no intention of going there," Mr. Cruz said in speaking to The Daily Caller in May about being nice to his rivals for the Republican presidential nomination.

"I'm not gonna engage in the media's game of throwing rocks and attacking other Republicans. I'm just not gonna do it," Mr. Cruz said on July 6, speaking about Donald J. Trump's remarks on immigration.

"To the best of my knowledge, in my time in the Senate, I have not spoken ill of any of my colleagues, Republicans or Democrats. When others attack me, for whatever reason that's happened once or twice, my response consistently is to respond with praise. To take the high road," Mr. Cruz said at the Family Leadership Summit in Iowa on July 18.

But on Friday, Mr. Cruz took a different approach:

"Well, we now know that when the majority leader looks us in the eyes and makes an explicit commitment that he is willing to say things that he knows are false," Mr. Cruz said on the Senate floor in a speech in which he accused Mr. McConnell of telling a "flat-out lie" and compared him to Senator Harry Reid, Democrat of Nevada, the former majority leader loathed by many Republicans.

Ted Cruz to GOP leader: You lied. **// WaPo // Mike DeBonis - July 24, 2015**

Firebrand Republican senator and presidential candidate Ted Cruz did something surprising in the Senate on Friday: He accused the head of his party, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, of lying to his colleagues.

"We know now that when the majority leader looks us in the eyes and makes an explicit commitment, that he is willing to say things that he knows are false," Cruz (Tex.) said. "That has consequences for how this body operates."

Cruz's remarks laid bare, in the most august of settings, simmering tensions between the conservative activist wing of the Republican Party and the mainstream GOP establishment. In his 20-minute speech, Cruz accused McConnell (Ky.) of running the Senate in much the same manner as his Democratic predecessor as majority leader, Harry M. Reid (Nev.).

"There is a profound disappointment among the American people because we keep winning elections, and then we keep getting leaders who don't do anything they promised," Cruz said. "We've had a Republican majority in both houses of Congress now for about six months. . . . This Senate operates exactly the same, the same priorities."

Prompting the outburst was McConnell's move to prepare amendment votes on a must-pass transportation bill. After senators voted to consider the bill, McConnell set up votes on two controversial issues — a repeal of the

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Affordable Care Act and a reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Not included were such issues as immigration enforcement and cuts to Planned Parenthood funding, for which Cruz and other conservatives had pushed.

The move incensed Cruz, who had announced his intention to offer other amendments and who, like many conservatives, strongly opposes the bank's reauthorization despite the support it enjoys among a supermajority of senators. That puts him at odds with McConnell, who has attempted to keep major legislation moving steadily through the Senate and has struck deals and engaged in procedural maneuvers to avoid getting bogged down, with uneven success.

Though McConnell has personally spoken against the Export-Import Bank's reauthorization, Democrats said in June that he had agreed to schedule a vote on the bank in order to get highly divisive trade legislation passed.

Cruz said Friday that McConnell, in a private Republican conference meeting, denied that any deal had been struck to pass the trade bill.

"I asked the majority leader very directly: What was the deal that was just cut?" Cruz recalled. "The majority leader was visibly angry with me that I would ask such a question, and the majority leader looked at me and said, 'There is no deal, there is no deal, there is no deal.' Like Saint Peter, he repeated it three times."

McConnell spokesman Don Stewart declined to comment.

Rule XIX

Senators generally refrain from impugning their colleagues on the floor, a practice codified in Senate Rule XIX: "No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator."

The penalty for breaching that rule is to be ordered to take one's seat — in effect, to sit down and shut up. But no senator rose to make a point of order before Cruz left the floor.

"It's unusual, certainly," Betty K. Koed, the Senate's official historian, said of Cruz's remarks. "The Senate prides itself on being an environment of polite, respectful decorum, but this happens from time to time."

In a 1995 speech on Senate decorum, Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) denounced senators who accuse their colleagues of dissembling: "The use of such maledicent language on the Senate floor is quite out of place, and to accuse other senators of being liars is to skate on very, very thin ice, indeed."

Rule XIX was nearly invoked in 1988 after Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.) accused Sen. H. John Heinz III (R-Pa.) and others of being "spokesmen" for "special interest groups." But after Heinz rose in protest, Gramm withdrew his remarks.

Cruz's statement would seem to be a more serious breach of floor comity than Gramm's. But they both fall well short of other, more distant floor antics — such as the time, during debate on the Compromise of 1850, that Henry S. Foote of Mississippi pulled a pistol on fellow Democrat Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, or the 1902 fistfight between South Carolina Democrats Benjamin R. Tillman and John L. McLaurin.

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Presidential ambitions

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (Utah), the longest-serving Republican senator, defended McConnell and criticized Cruz to reporters Friday: “I don’t think we make headway around here by implying, even, that other people are liars.”

He also made note of Cruz’s presidential bid, which registered single-digit national support in the most recent Washington Post-ABC News poll of Republican candidates. “People who run for president do some very interesting things from time to time, so we should allow wide leeway there, too,” Hatch said.

Presidential ambitions have been a source of continuing headaches for McConnell as he has sought to keep the Senate productive in his first months as floor leader. In April, amendments offered by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) helped short-circuit debate on a bill setting up congressional review of an Iran nuclear deal. A month later, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) derailed McConnell’s plan to extend key federal surveillance authorities, which were forced to lapse briefly because of Paul’s objections.

In recent weeks, McConnell signaled that the transportation bill would be a likely vehicle for the Export-Import Bank’s reauthorization. Before Cruz spoke, McConnell said he had no choice but to allow the vote, saying that the bank’s supporters “made it clear they’re ready to stop all other amendments if denied that opportunity.”

“They have already proven they have the votes to back up the threat, as well,” he said, referring to a June 10 test vote in which 65 senators supported reauthorization. “This presents a challenge for the Senate and to opponents of the Ex-Im Bank, like myself, in particular.”

Hatch, who has been at the center of the trade and highway debates as Finance Committee chairman, defended McConnell by saying it has been clear for two months that there would be a vote on the Export-Import Bank — ever since Democrats, particularly Sen. Maria Cantwell (Wash.), threatened to defeat the trade bill over the expiration of the bank’s charter.

“I think everybody knew that he had said that he would help the senator get a vote,” Hatch said. “To me, that was publicly known.”

McConnell said Friday that he considered the dueling health-care and bank amendments to be a “compromise,” noting that a vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act is “something nearly every Republican wants.”

But Cruz, a fierce opponent of the health-care law, was not mollified by McConnell’s move to bring up a repeal vote, calling it “empty showmanship.”

“We’ll have a vote on repealing Obamacare,” he said. “The Republicans will all vote yes; the Democrats will all vote no. It will be at a 60-vote threshold. It will fail. It will be an exercise in meaningless political theater.”

Cruz to McConnell: You’re a liar **// WaPo // Elise Viebeck - July 24, 2015**

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) broke an unspoken rule of etiquette on the Senate floor Friday when he called Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) a liar as the chamber worked on a must-pass transportation bill.

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Cruz's outburst took place after McConnell set up votes on two controversial amendments — repeal of the Affordable Care Act and reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank — in a way that would make it difficult for other amendments to receive votes.

As The Post's Mike DeBonis reports, the vote on Ex-Im surprised and enraged Cruz:

While McConnell has personally spoken against Ex-Im reauthorization, Democrats said in June he had agreed to schedule an Ex-Im vote in order to get highly divisive trade legislation passed.

But McConnell at the time denied that any deal had been struck, and Cruz said Friday the same assurance was given in a private Republican conference meeting.

"We had a Senate Republican lunch where I stood up and I asked the majority leader very directly, what was the deal that was just cut on [trade legislation, and was there a deal for the Export-Import Bank?' [Cruz said.]

'It was a direct question. I asked the majority leader in front of all the Republican senators. The majority leader was visibly angry with me that I would ask such a question, and the majority leader looked at me and said, 'There is no deal, there is no deal, there is no deal.'

'Like Saint Peter, he repeated it three times,' Cruz added."

Ted Cruz debated Code Pink protesters for 24 minutes **// WaPo // David Weigel - July 24, 2015**

It was supposed to be a quick show of strength by conservative groups opposed to the nuclear agreement between Iran and the United States. It turned into a debate between the self-identified avatar of "courageous conservatives" and the omnipresent anti-war activists of Code Pink -- and it lasted as long as the average sitcom episode. The result, captured on video by the Cruz-positive team at Breitbart News, is among the most popular conservative entertainment of the past week.

The drama began on Thursday afternoon, when Concerned Women for America brought Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) and Christians United for Israel campaigner Gary Bauer to the gates of the White House. Code Pink's presence was a given. Led by Medea Benjamin, who in the last few years has interrupted everyone from President Obama to Henry Kissinger, the group relentlessly works its way into congressional hearings and political events. If there is a picture of a political figure with angry protesters holding signs behind him, odds are Code Pink did it. (The pinkness is a play on the long-defunct, much mocked Department of Homeland Security color code for potential risks.)

Cruz issued his familiar arguments. Code Pink activists, easily able to swarm an outdoor event like this, kept heckling. After a few minutes, Cruz dared the loudest heckler to stand and debate him.

"It is very interesting to see those who profess to believe in free speech be afraid of speech," said Cruz. "Hold on a second -- sir, come forward. You want to be a part of the discussion?"

The main heckler stood down, and Code Pink dispatched Benjamin to debate Cruz. He talked about the deal,

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specifically. She talked about the benefits of diplomacy, generally.

"Over $100 billion will flow to Iran that they will use to fund jihadists that will murder people," said Cruz.

"The only way we're going to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon is through negotiation," said Benjamin, who insisted that Iran's real nuclear ambitions were still mysterious, or over-hyped.

"I think in debates, truth matters," said Cruz. "One entity with whom there is no ambiguity, in terms of whether Iran wants nuclear weapons, is Ayatollah Khameini... I recognize that the Code Pink folks like to hold up signs saying, 'Peace with Iran.' Do you know who doesn't reciprocate those views? Iran."

Code Pink protesters did not stutter or falter. But they were pitted against one of the best debaters at the high levels of American politics. This encounter did not make the rounds on the left; it went viral on the right. A recap of the debate became the top trending story at the Washington Examiner. Washington Free Beacon reporter Adam Kredo, who stood right by Cruz during the debate, reported that the senator "tussled with and shut down a group of left wing activists." On the first-generation conservative blog Powerline, it was reported that Cruz had "crushed" Code Pink.

Few senators would have bothered. Earlier this year, when a Code Pink heckler interrupted a meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) told the "low-life scum" to exit. Security made it so. But Cruz saw a chance to work a speedbag, in full view of the conservative base that he courts. He took that chance. A debate with actual Republican opponents will follow in less than three weeks.

Ted Cruz to GOP leader: You lied. **// WaPo // Mike DeBonis - July 24, 2015**

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Ted Cruz slams Congress over 'corporate welfare'(5:25)

On the Senate floor, Cruz accused "career politicians" in Congress of "looting the taxpayer to benefit wealthy, powerful corporations." (AP)

Prompting the outburst was McConnell’s move to prepare amendment votes on a must-pass transportation bill. After senators voted to consider the bill, McConnell set up votes on two controversial issues — a repeal of the Affordable Care Act and a reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Not included were such issues as immigration enforcement and cuts to Planned Parenthood funding, for which Cruz and other

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conservatives had pushed.

The move incensed Cruz, who had announced his intention to offer other amendments and who, like many conservatives, strongly opposes the bank's reauthorization despite the support it enjoys among a supermajority of senators. That puts him at odds with McConnell, who has attempted to keep major legislation moving steadily through the Senate and has struck deals and engaged in procedural maneuvers to avoid getting bogged down, with uneven success.

Though McConnell has personally spoken against the Export-Import Bank's reauthorization, Democrats said in June that he had agreed to schedule a vote on the bank in order to get highly divisive trade legislation passed.

Cruz said Friday that McConnell, in a private Republican conference meeting, denied that any deal had been struck to pass the trade bill.

"I asked the majority leader very directly: What was the deal that was just cut?" Cruz recalled. "The majority leader was visibly angry with me that I would ask such a question, and the majority leader looked at me and said, 'There is no deal, there is no deal, there is no deal.' Like Saint Peter, he repeated it three times."

McConnell spokesman Don Stewart declined to comment.

Rule XIX

Senators generally refrain from impugning their colleagues on the floor, a practice codified in Senate Rule XIX: "No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator."

The penalty for breaching that rule is to be ordered to take one's seat — in effect, to sit down and shut up. But no senator rose to make a point of order before Cruz left the floor.

"It's unusual, certainly," Betty K. Koed, the Senate's official historian, said of Cruz's remarks. "The Senate prides itself on being an environment of polite, respectful decorum, but this happens from time to time."

In a 1995 speech on Senate decorum, Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) denounced senators who accuse their colleagues of dissembling: "The use of such maledicent language on the Senate floor is quite out of place, and to accuse other senators of being liars is to skate on very, very thin ice, indeed."

Rule XIX was nearly invoked in 1988 after Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.) accused Sen. H. John Heinz III (R-Pa.) and others of being "spokesmen" for "special interest groups." But after Heinz rose in protest, Gramm withdrew his remarks.

Cruz's statement would seem to be a more serious breach of floor comity than Gramm's. But they both fall well short of other, more distant floor antics — such as the time, during debate on the Compromise of 1850, that Henry S. Foote of Mississippi pulled a pistol on fellow Democrat Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, or the 1902 fistfight between South Carolina Democrats Benjamin R. Tillman and John L. McLaurin.

Presidential ambitions

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Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (Utah), the longest-serving Republican senator, defended McConnell and criticized Cruz to reporters Friday: “I don’t think we make headway around here by implying, even, that other people are liars.”

He also made note of Cruz’s presidential bid, which registered single-digit national support in the most recent Washington Post-ABC News poll of Republican candidates. “People who run for president do some very interesting things from time to time, so we should allow wide leeway there, too,” Hatch said.

Presidential ambitions have been a source of continuing headaches for McConnell as he has sought to keep the Senate productive in his first months as floor leader. In April, amendments offered by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) helped short-circuit debate on a bill setting up congressional review of an Iran nuclear deal. A month later, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) derailed McConnell’s plan to extend key federal surveillance authorities, which were forced to lapse briefly because of Paul’s objections.

In recent weeks, McConnell signaled that the transportation bill would be a likely vehicle for the Export-Import Bank’s reauthorization. Before Cruz spoke, McConnell said he had no choice but to allow the vote, saying that the bank’s supporters “made it clear they’re ready to stop all other amendments if denied that opportunity.”

“They have already proven they have the votes to back up the threat, as well,” he said, referring to a June 10 test vote in which 65 senators supported reauthorization. “This presents a challenge for the Senate and to opponents of the Ex-Im Bank, like myself, in particular.”

Hatch, who has been at the center of the trade and highway debates as Finance Committee chairman, defended McConnell by saying it has been clear for two months that there would be a vote on the Export-Import Bank — ever since Democrats, particularly Sen. Maria Cantwell (Wash.), threatened to defeat the trade bill over the expiration of the bank’s charter.

“I think everybody knew that he had said that he would help the senator get a vote,” Hatch said. “To me, that was publicly known.”

McConnell said Friday that he considered the dueling health-care and bank amendments to be a “compromise,” noting that a vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act is “something nearly every Republican wants.”

But Cruz, a fierce opponent of the health-care law, was not mollified by McConnell’s move to bring up a repeal vote, calling it “empty showmanship.”

“We’ll have a vote on repealing Obamacare,” he said. “The Republicans will all vote yes; the Democrats will all vote no. It will be at a 60-vote threshold. It will fail. It will be an exercise in meaningless political theater.”

Ted Cruz Says GOP Leader McConnell Told ‘Flat-Out Lie’ **// WSJ // Isaac Stanley-Becker - July 24, 2015**

Sen. Ted Cruz, the conservative Texas firebrand and Republican presidential candidate, on Friday accused Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) of lying to him, in an unusually personal jab for a body that holds itself to a strict standard of decorum.

“The majority leader looked me in the eye and looked 54 Republicans in the eye,” Mr. Cruz said toward the end of a nearly 20-minute speech on the Senate floor. “I cannot believe he would tell a flat-out lie, and I voted based on

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those assurances that he made to each and every one of us."

Mr. Cruz was referring to a lunch meeting of Senate Republicans in which he stood up and asked Mr. McConnell a question about talks over granting President Barack Obama fast-track trade negotiating authority. Mr. Cruz wanted to know whether Mr. McConnell had agreed, as part of the trade talks, to also call a vote on reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which formally expired July 1.

Several Democrats urged Republican leaders to hitch the bank to the trade legislation, which they ultimately declined to do. Mr. Cruz said he and his staff suspected a deal had been struck to hold the vote on a separate piece of legislation. Lawmakers have disagreed about the precise nature of how Mr. McConnell said he planned to address the bank's reauthorization, which a supermajority of senators backed in a show vote in June.

"The majority leader looked at me and said there is no deal," Mr. Cruz said.

Mr. McConnell on Friday scheduled a Sunday vote on reauthorization of the bank, which provides financing for U.S. exports, as an amendment to the highway bill that Republican leaders are hoping to advance next week. Along with the vote on the bank, whose reauthorization is supported by most Democrats and some Republicans, Mr. McConnell scheduled a separate amendment vote on repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which remains a legislative target of Congressional Republicans following two Supreme Court rulings upholding central components of the law.

The Senate voted earlier this year on a GOP budget resolution that included a repeal of much of the health law. But this would be the first time in this congressional session that the Senate would vote on a separate measure to undo the law, which is unlikely to surmount the 60-vote threshold. The GOP-controlled House has voted numerous times to repeal the health law, including in February of this year.

McConnell said his plan to bring up both amendments was a "more balanced proposal," adding, "Ex-Im shouldn't be the only vote we take on this bill."

But Mr. Cruz, who opposes the Ex-Im bank reauthorization, denounced the move as duplicitous – "a simple lie," he said, accusing Mr. McConnell of cowing to lobbyists and Democrats.

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R., Utah) countered that Mr. McConnell has made clear, even as publicly as on the Senate floor, that he would ensure a vote on the bank's reauthorization.

"I don't think any member of the Senate should use that kind of language against another senator unless they can show definitive proof that there was a lie," Mr. Hatch said. "And I know the leader didn't lie, because I've been involved in all these negotiations."

Mr. Hatch hinted Mr. Cruz's presidential aspirations may be to blame for the provocative remark.

"People who run for president do some very interesting things," he said, heaping praise on Mr. McConnell as one of the best lawmakers to ever lead the Senate.

Katherine Scott, an associate Senate historian, said civility has been the rule of the Senate, but there have been infrequent violations. In 1902, South Carolina Sen. John McLaurin accused the state's senior senator, Ben Tillman, of telling "a willful, malicious and deliberate lie." Mr. Tillman responded by punching Mr. McLaurin in the jaw.

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The skirmish led to a change in the Senate rules, which now proscribe senators from imputing to another member "conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a senator."

Ted Cruz accuses Mitch McConnell of telling a 'flat-out lie' **// Politico // Manu Raju - July 24, 2015**

Ted Cruz took to the Senate floor Friday and charged that Mitch McConnell told a "lie," escalating his campaign against GOP leaders and challenging the traditions of the usually decorous chamber.

In a scathing floor speech, the Texas firebrand accused the Senate majority leader of breaking his word to him and the rest of the GOP conference over McConnell's plans for the controversial Export-Import Bank, the country's chief export credit agency. In Cruz's telling, McConnell privately promised him and other Republicans that "there was no deal" with a handful of senators who were seeking to revive the bank in exchange for their votes to advance a major trade bill in May.

McConnell, he said, became "visibly angry" when Cruz challenged him on the matter during a meeting in May.

"Like St. Peter," Cruz said, "he repeated it three times. He said, 'The only thing I told the proponents of the Export-Import Bank is like any other senator in this body, they could offer any amendment they liked on an any amendable vehicle, but I gave them nothing.'"

That day in late May, Cruz said his staff informed him that McConnell was "lying" to him, but he said he believed the Senate GOP leader that "he wasn't lying to us."

But after McConnell took procedural steps Friday to move to a proposal to revive the Ex-Im bank, Cruz said on the Senate floor: "I cannot believe he would tell a flat-out lie."

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., leaves after speaking at the Georgia Republican Convention, Friday, May 15, 2015, in Athens, Ga. Georgia

"What we saw today was an absolute demonstration that not only what he told every Republican senator, but what he told the press over and over again was a simple lie," said Cruz, a fierce opponent of the bank. "The majority and minority leader, arm-in-arm again, should not team up against the American taxpayers."

The attack is unusual even for Cruz, who has made his battle with Senate Republicans a centerpiece of his campaign for the GOP presidential nomination. Senators tend to avoid directly calling out specific senators on the Senate floor — particularly from their own party and especially their own party leader. Senate rules say, "no senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another senator or to other senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a senator."

Asked to comment, McConnell smiled and walked away. Sen. John Cornyn, a fellow Texas Republican and McConnell's chief deputy, said he was reviewing Cruz's remarks and would not comment further.

After initially declining to comment on the Ex-Im dispute, Sen. Mike Lee, a close Cruz ally who is wooing the GOP establishment to ward off any primary threat in Utah next year, said he "was surprised and disappointed that such aggressive tactics were used to resurrect the Export-Import Bank, a policy most Senate Republicans oppose," in a statement.

The bank has become a flashpoint in the battle between the GOP's business and tea party wings. The U.S. Chamber

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of Commerce argues that the bank's support is essential in promoting American exports and supporting more than a million U.S. jobs. But conservative groups like Heritage Action and the Koch brothers' Americans for Prosperity argue that the bank is nothing more than corporate welfare that picks winners and losers and should be disbanded.

The GOP versus GOP fight led to the expiration of the 80-year-old bank's charter in July, preventing it from backing any new loans. But a bipartisan majority in the Senate is pushing hard to revive it, putting McConnell in the crosshairs.

McConnell, who opposes the bank, vowed to three senators who strongly support the bank — Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Washington Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray — that he would allow a vote on the bank's charter during high-stakes negotiations over the trade bill in May. After those assurances, those three senators voted to advance the fast-track bill, which eventually became law and will pave the way for the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership.

With Congress now headed to an August recess, the bank's proponents are looking to find any legislative vehicle that will revive it. The last remaining vehicle is a highway bill that must pass before the August recess. So McConnell on Friday filed a cloture motion to break a filibuster and bring up the Export-Import Bank measure on Sunday. He also filed cloture on a full-scale repeal of Obamacare, which could give him some political cover on the right after the backlash from his moves to allow the bank's charter to be revived.

But since the Obamacare vote will fail to surmount a Democratic filibuster, Cruz lashed McConnell for "empty showmanship."

During his speech, Cruz also strongly rebuked the GOP Senate majority's record this Congress, rebutting McConnell's argument that the new Republican majority has fulfilled its promises to voters.

"We've had a Republican majority in both houses of Congresses now for about six months. What has that majority done? First thing we did, in December, we passed a $1 trillion crominbus plan filled with pork and corporate welfare. Then this Republican majority voted to fund Obamacare, voted to fund President Obama's unconstitutional executive amnesty. And then the leadership rammed through the confirmation of Loretta Lynch as attorney general."

Cruz added: "Madam President, which of those decisions would be one iota different if Harry Reid were still majority leader? Not a one. Not a one."

He added that McConnell is "behaving" like Reid by limiting debate and amendments on the Senate floor, even arguing that the GOP leader did not put up a strong enough fight to push for Republican votes during debate over an Iran congressional review bill this past spring. Cruz recounted a private conversation in McConnell's office over their dispute.

As he walked off the Senate floor, Cruz didn't stop insulting McConnell.

He told reporters that he would try to force a procedural vote on an amendment to force Iran to recognize Israel's right to exist and release the four American hostages held in Tehran. Forcing a procedural vote — to overturn the ruling of the chair — is another highly unusual move, particularly for a rank-and-file senator challenging his own leadership.

"I assume leadership is going to whip against that amendment," Cruz said.

In the 15-minute press availability, Cruz was asked to produce evidence that McConnell is a liar. He sent aides to his Senate desk, and he circulated photos from the Senate floor of Graham and Cantwell huddling with McConnell and his deputies on the Senate floor during the tense vote on Trade Promotion Authority. Cruz said at a

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subsequent party lunch, he challenged McConnell “explicitly” to find out what deal they cut.

“If the majority leader is willing to lie to 54 Republicans to their face, when is he willing to do so again?” Cruz said.

Republican White House hopeful Cruz calls McConnell a liar // Reuters // David Morgan and Richard Cowan - July 24, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz ripped into his party's establishment on Friday, calling Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell a liar during an unusual public attack on the floor of the Senate.

Amid intense maneuvering over an ambitious $340 billion transportation bill, Cruz railed that McConnell and the Senate's new Republican majority were serving the interests of big money lobbyists and corporations, because of a move to offer an amendment to reauthorize the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Cruz, a fiery first-term Senator who helped shut down the federal government in 2013, is among 16 presidential candidates vying for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. He has also used his Senate perch to try and gain traction among voters by criticizing what he calls "Supreme Court activism" over gay marriage and Obamacare.

He said McConnell assured him months ago at a meeting of Republican senators that there would be no deal to revive the U.S. export credit agency's charter, which expired June 30. The measure now expected to come before the Senate on Sunday has substantial bipartisan support.

In rhetoric tinged with Biblical overtones, the Texas Republican said McConnell denied three times "like St. Peter" that there was a deal to bring Ex-Im bank to a vote.

"What we just saw today was an absolute demonstration that not only what he told every Republican senator, but what he told the press over and over and over again was a simple lie," Cruz said.

"We now know that when the majority leader looks us in the eyes and makes an explicit commitment, that he is willing to say things that he knows are false."

The incendiary outburst, unusual in the cordial atmosphere of the Senate, came less than two weeks before the first televised Republican debate, in which the mud-slinging mogul Donald Trump could take center stage.

The tirade also reflected heightened tensions as the campaign trail heats up, as well as trouble ahead for Congress with major tax-and-spending challenges coming in September.

Cruz accused the Republican-controlled Senate generally of ignoring the interests of voters and listening instead to "the lobbyists on K Street ... big money and big corporations."

McConnell's office had no immediate comment.

Days ahead of a long August recess, the Senate was working to pass legislation to replenish the federal Highway Trust Fund, which pays for about half the country's transportation projects and is on track to run out of money.

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The ambitious bipartisan Senate bill to provide three years of funding for America's roads, bridges and rail systems was getting loaded down with unrelated amendments.

McConnell is trying to advance the legislation by allowing amendments popular to each side. For instance: repeal of Obamacare for Republicans; for Democrats, reauthorization of Ex-Im Bank, which helps U.S. exporters.

William Shatner: Ted Cruz calling Kirk a Republican is 'silly' **// MSNBC // Benjamin Landy - July 24, 2015**

Self-professed "Star Trek" nerd and GOP presidential candidate Ted Cruz believes Captain Kirk was "quite likely" a Republican. And William Shatner, who starred as the character in the original 1960s hit television series, is having none of it.

"To put a geocentric label on interstellar characters is silly," Shatner tweeted Thursday after The New York Times Magazine published an interview with the Texas senator in which he offered "a little psychoanalysis" on why Kirk was probably a Republican and Jean-Luc Picard, the starship captain in "Star Trek: The Next Generation," was a Democrat.

"If you look at ''Star Trek: The Next Generation,' it basically split James T. Kirk into two people. Picard was Kirk's rational side, and William Riker was his passionate side. I prefer a complete captain. To be effective, you need both heart and mind," Cruz said, later comparing himself to his favorite character.

"The original 'Star Trek' was grittier," Cruz continued. "Kirk is working class; Picard is an aristocrat. Kirk is a passionate fighter for justice; Picard is a cerebral philosopher. The original 'Star Trek' pressed for racial equality, which was one of its best characteristics, but it did so without sermonizing."

Although "Star Trek" has been praised for its progressive outlook on racial and gender relations, which broke ground with a diverse cast, humanitarian plot lines and television's first interracial kiss, Shatner pushed back on any political reading.

"Star Trek wasn't political. I'm not political; I can't even vote in the US," tweeted the actor, who was born in Canada. At least he and Cruz have that in common.

Brent Bozell endorses Ted Cruz for president **// MSNBC // Kelly O'Donnell - July 24, 2015**

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, today received the endorsement of Brent Bozell, conservative stalwart and president of the Conservative Victory Committee. Bozell released a video announcing his support of Sen. Cruz's candidacy for president.

"Make no mistake: If the Republican Party repeats what it has done the last two presidential elections, Republicans will lose. I guarantee it," Bozell said in the video. "On the other hand, if we nominate a principled, passionate conservative America can count on to restore her greatness, there will be an outpouring of support."

Bozell continues, "We need a courageous conservative who tells the truth and does what he promises. We need to nominate an inspiring leader who has proven he is willing to take on the Washington Cartel and buck the political establishment of both parties. We need a leader who will win, and reignite the promise of America. There are some

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good conservatives running for president, but we need more than a 'campaign conservative' – we need a consistent conservative who has led the fights important to us. Ted Cruz is this leader."

Brent Bozell III is one of the most outspoken and effective national leaders in the conservative movement today. He has spent more than three decades promoting and defending conservative values. He has built the largest media watchdog organization in the country, successfully exposing the mainstream media's biased coverage of conservative candidates and ideas. Additionally, he is founder of ForAmerica, an organization committed to restoring America to its founding principles with an online army of almost 8 million members, and previously served as president of the National Conservative Political Action Committee.

Cruz says he won't speak ill of Republicans, bashes McConnell // LA Times // Kathleen Hennessey - July 24, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz savaged Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a fellow Republican, on the Senate floor Friday in a surprising screed about honesty, trust, loyalty and the export credit agency known as the Ex-Im Bank.

Cruz's speech dived deeply into Senate deal-making gone sideways, and Cruz, who is seeking the Republican nomination for president, made it clear he feels burned by his colleague and party leader.

He accused McConnell of lying to him, of bowing to the "Washington cartel of the lobbyists on K street" and of being no more trustworthy than the man who preceded McConnell, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, a Democrat.

"It saddens me to say this. ... I cannot believe he would tell a flat-out lie, and I voted based on those assurances that he made to each and every one of us," Cruz said.

"What we just saw today was an absolute demonstration that not only what he told every Republican senator, but what he told the press over and over and over again, was a simple lie."

Calling another senator a liar on the Senate floor is a remarkable breach of decorum in an institution that likes its dusty traditions. But it's even more remarkable given what Cruz had to say less than a week ago about speaking ill of his fellow Republicans.

When asked Saturday whether he would condemn Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump for comments casting Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and saying Sen. John McCain was "not a war hero," Cruz demurred and declared he'd take the high road.

"Folks in the press love to see Republican-on-Republican violence, and so you want me to say something bad about Donald Trump, or bad about John McCain or bad about anyone else," he said. "I'm not going to do it."

Cruz's decision to blast McConnell and take a pass on Trump fits with his political positioning in the Senate and in the race for the nomination. The Texas conservative is aiming to make a name for himself as the rabble-rousing outsider in the race. But it's hard for Cruz to one-up Trump in the rabble-rousing outsider category. So he has essentially decided to join him, rather than try to beat him. In the Senate, Cruz has less competition. On Friday, he had the floor.

"There is a profound disappointment among the American people because we keep winning elections and then we keep getting leaders who don't do anything they promised," Cruz said.

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Ted Cruz Blasts Big Money In Politics // HuffPo // Paul Blumenthal - July 24, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) launched into a tirade on the corrupting role of lobbyists and campaign contributions in Washington during a Senate floor debate Friday about the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

“It’s not that this majority gets things done,” Cruz said. “It does get things done, but it listens to one and only one voice. That is the voice of the Washington cartel of the lobbyists on K Street of the big money and big corporations.”

Cruz’s comments came amid debate over the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, a federal agency that provides credit to corporations to finance and insure foreign purchases. The largest recipient of the bank's support is the giant aerospace corporation Boeing.

The bank is the target of a massive campaign by libertarian-minded groups like Heritage Action and the billionaire Koch brothers’ Americans for Prosperity and Freedom Partners . Support for the bank has been funded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation’s largest corporate lobby. The standoff has been billed as major battle between the tea party wing and the corporate wing of the Republican Party.

The bank’s authority lapsed in June, as Congress declined to approve it.

What sparked the Texas senator and Republican presidential candidate's tirade Friday was Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's announcement that he would allow two amendments to a transportation funding bill: one to repeal Obamacare and another to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

Cruz said on the floor that McConnell lied to him and other Republicans when he sought support to provide President Barack Obama with fast-track trade authority to negotiate the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement the U.S. is negotiating with Pacific nations. According to Cruz, McConnell promised that he would not allow any amendments to reauthorize the bank.

In response to the amendment, Cruz took issue with money in politics, with targets ranging from McConnell to Senate Democrats:

“Every Democrat who rails against big money and corruption in Washington, every Democrat who styles himself or herself a populist -- their actions on this matter speak far louder than their words,” he said. “And when it comes to Republicans -- Republicans are also listening to K Street and the lobbyists. Why? It’s not complicated. The giant corporations that are getting special favors from the taxpayers hire army of lobbyists that write campaign checks after campaign checks -- and by the way, these checks go to both Democrats and Republicans. It is career politicians in both parties that are kept in office by looting the taxpayer to benefit wealthy powerful corporations.”

Cruz’s solution to big money in politics, however, may not exactly be conducive to reducing corporate control of Congress. In 2014, he introduced a bill to eliminate all limits on campaign donations to allow political candidates to raise unlimited sums from any source, whether a person, corporation or labor union. At least on that issue, Cruz, the Koch brothers and the Chamber of Commerce can all agree.

ed Cruz Is Really Fed Up With Mitch McConnell // HuffPo // Sam Levine - July 24, 2015

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) accused Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) of lying and railed against the

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Kentucky senator's leadership during a fiery speech on the Senate floor Friday morning.

Cruz, who is running for president, was angry that McConnell will not allow senators to attach amendments to a highway funding bill -- even though McConnell indicated in January that he would allow an open amendments process as majority leader.

McConnell said on Friday that he will only allow two amendments on the bill: one to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and one to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, which guarantees loans for those who purchase American exports and is an institution that Cruz strongly opposes. The bank's authority expired on June 30.

The Texas senator said that McConnell had previously told him that no deal had been struck to reauthorize the bank when the Senate was considering the Iran Review Act and whether to grant President Barack Obama Trade Promotion Authority.

"I cannot believe he would tell a flat-out lie," Cruz said.

Cruz also accused McConnell of running the Senate like Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) did when Democrats controlled the upper chamber.

"This Senate operates exactly the same," he said. "We keep winning elections, and we keep getting leaders who don't do anything they promise."

The exchange caught the eye of Reid spokesman Adam Jentleson, who sent an email to reporters saying that Cruz's speech helped explain a Pew poll showing that Republican favorability has dipped while Democratic favorability has remained more stable since the GOP took control of the Senate in January.

Cruz also called McConnell out for allowing a vote to repeal Obama's health care law, which the Texas senator has vowed to reverse if he is elected president. On Friday, he said that McConnell's amendment was "empty showmanship."

"We'll have a vote on repealing Obamacare. The Republicans will all vote yes, the Democrats will all vote no. ... It will be an exercise of meaningless political theatre."

Clarification: This story has been updated to indicate that McConnell said in January he would allow an open amendments process for bills in the Senate without referring to a specific bill.

Mitch McConnell's Move Leaves Ted Cruz Out In The Hallway // HuffPo // Ali Watkins and Akbar Shahid Ahmed - July 24, 2015

Senior lawmakers and staff from the House and Senate armed services committees are hammering away on the National Defense Authorization Act, the annual bill that keeps the military up and running. But there are fewer chairs at the negotiating table this time. And committee member and presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) isn't in one of them.

GOP leadership was worried that the notorious grandstander would tank the crucial spending bill, two sources

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familiar with the process told HuffPost. In an effort to keep him out of the room, they cut the membership of the conference committee -- the panel responsible for hammering out differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill -- to a smaller number than it's been in years.

"The number of Senate conferees was cut from previous years. Typically, all members of the [Senate Armed Services Committee] are named as the Senate conferees, but that is not the case this year," said one congressional source familiar with the process.

Both sources said they were told the conference panel was slashed in an effort to keep Cruz out of the room.

Instead of naming the entire Senate panel, the choice of this year's conferees lacks a clear formula. It consists of the committee leadership, plus several chairs and ranking members of the subcommittees. Sens. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) are also on the conference panel.

Cruz sponsored several amendments in the Senate's version of the NDAA, including requirements for reporting on the military capabilities of U.S. adversaries. But that didn't get him a seat at the table.

The firebrand senator is infamous for showy political maneuvers that often have far less to do with actual legislative objectives and far more to do with the interests of Ted Cruz. He's chosen several hills through his senatorial career to die on -- Obamacare is his weapon of choice, and he led a government shutdown over it in 2013. More recently, he embarked on a 21-hour filibuster over the Affordable Care Act that served little purpose besides further bogging down the already bogged-down Senate and providing the masses with his Darth Vader impression.

But the motive for boxing Cruz out of the end stages of the NDAA process isn't entirely clear. After all, bombastic freshman Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) landed an appointment. Cruz voted against the bill when it passed the Senate last month, but so did several other committee members who were eventually appointed to the conference panel.

"You'd have to ask Senator McConnell. That was his decision," Armed Services Committee Chair John McCain (R-Ariz.) said, adding that the conference process was ongoing.

There's certainly no love lost between Cruz and Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader. On Friday, Cruz took to the Senate floor to, among other things, call McConnell a liar.

"I cannot believe he would tell a flat-out lie, and I voted based on those assurances that he made to each and every one of us," Cruz said. He was referring to a supposed promise that McConnell made to Cruz and his Republican colleagues on a vote regarding a controversial export system.

McConnell has thrown his own jabs at the presidential hopeful, joking earlier this year about Cruz's threats to throw himself in front of a train to stop Obamacare.

"That idea has some merit to it," McConnell said at a dinner in January.

The offices of both Cruz and McConnell did not respond to requests for comment.

Ted Cruz Exploits Americans Trapped In Iran To Score Political Points Against Obama // HuffPo // Akbar Shahid Ahmed - July 24, 2015

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on Thursday used the plight of four Americans trapped in Iran to launch a political attack on the Obama administration for its efforts to negotiate a limit to Iran's nuclear program.

But in doing so, the senator and presidential candidate did more than reduce the captives' suffering to political grandstanding. Cruz also conveniently ignored the fact that the captive Americans' own families hold views on the Iran negotiations that differ starkly from his own hawkish stance. The families have stated that they are generally optimistic that the nuclear deal recently negotiated between Iran and six world powers will help their loved ones come home.

"Signing a deal that sends millions of dollars to jihadists that want to murder us, that facilitates and accelerates Iran's acquiring nuclear weapons to murder us, and that abandons four American hostages in Iran is profoundly dangerous," Cruz said Thursday, speaking at a rally organized by conservative groups that oppose the nuclear deal.

Cruz went on to compare President Barack Obama with former President Jimmy Carter, who was president in 1979 when Iran took a number of U.S. hostages following a raid on the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

"There is nothing more pressing right now than that Americans all across this country come together to stop this catastrophic Iran nuclear deal," the Texas senator said.

The rally where Cruz spoke was put together by the advocacy arm of the conservative group Concerned Women for America, which has asked Congress not to back the nuclear deal, and the pro-Israel think tank Endowment for Middle East Truth, whose founder and president called the deal "appeasement, bordering on capitulation, bordering on treason."

The Americans being held in Iran include three Iranian-Americans who are known to be in jail: Pastor Saeed Abedini, former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati and Washington Post Tehran correspondent Jason Rezaian. All three are charged with various breaches of state security, and securing their freedom will require working through Iran's opaque judicial system. In addition, former FBI agent Robert Levinson disappeared in Iran eight years ago and his whereabouts have been unknown since. He is believed to be held in retaliation for his work in Iran on behalf of the CIA.

Citing the cases of the four hostages has become a favored tactic of opponents of the nuclear agreement. The deal subjects Iran to strict restrictions on its nuclear program in exchange for relief from certain stringent economic sanctions. However, it does not cover the question of the Americans being held in Iran, though the Obama administration has said repeatedly that U.S. negotiators raised the matter each time they met with their Iranian counterparts.

Secretary of State John Kerry, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz testify during a hearing on Iran before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The families of the four Americans have been deliberate but cautious in their activism, raising the captives' profiles but remaining careful not to insult Iran or alienate its elites. Family members and other advocates for the captives have largely supported the nuclear talks, believing that an agreement makes freedom more likely for the Americans.

"We are optimistic that the Iranian government will deliver on their promise to help find my father and send him home to show America, and the world, that they are serious about their peaceful intentions," Sarah Moriarty, one of Levinson's daughters, wrote in a HuffPost blog post last week. "My family has watched intently as our country

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went from absolutely no relations with Iran to this very promising open and direct dialogue. We truly believe this is the beginning of more fruitful discussions to come, and that it will unlock any remaining challenges our countries have in order to get my father home."

On the day that the deal was announced, Hekmati's family told HuffPost in a statement that they hoped the 31-year-old's release might become easier now that the U.S. and Iran had proven themselves committed to peace.

Ali Rezaian, the brother of the Washington Post reporter, remained supportive of the deal in remarks on Wednesday -- even as he criticized the Obama administration for failing to show Iran it would face consequences for arbitrarily imprisoning an American reporter. Rezaian conceded that it would have been "problematic" to expect the deal to be tied directly to the Americans' release.

Saeed Abedini's wife Naghmeh has made the same argument. Last week, she told CNN "it makes sense" that the captives were not immediately released upon the deal's announcement.

Unlike Cruz, Abedini declined to blame the White House for her husband's continued imprisonment. "I was hoping to hear some good news but I do think as the president said, he does care, he's concerned and they're working on it," she said.

Levinson's family declined to comment about Cruz's remarks. The families of Hekmati and Rezaian and a representative for Abedini's family did not respond to a request for comment.

Of the four hostages, only Abedini was represented in any sense at Thursday's rally. Tiffany Barrans, an attorney from the American Center for Law and Justice, a conservative group championing Abedini's case, spoke after Cruz. Abedini's family is the only one of the four that is not outwardly supportive of the deal.

Barrans told The Huffington Post the pastor's family did not want to weigh in on the specifics of the deal -- whether, for instance, they felt it suitably regulated the Iranian nuclear program. Instead, she said, Naghmeh Abedini would like lawmakers to remember her husband's case while considering the deal and to vote against it if he remains imprisoned by the deadline for congressional review. If Abedini is released by then, Barrans added, his family would be happy for lawmakers to review the deal simply on its own merits.

From left, Ali Rezaian, Naghmeh Abedini, Sarah Hekmati and Daniel Levinson testify on Capitol Hill. All four witnesses have family members who have been detained in Iran.

Cruz's attempt to politicize the Americans' cases was met with disdain by analysts and advocates who are following the issue.

"To make it an issue to go after the administration on in a campaign is unfair to the families, is unfair to the prisoners," said Haleh Esfandiari, the director emeritus of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

Esfandiari herself was held for 105 days in Iran under suspicion of trying to foment regime change, and said her disapproval of Cruz's comments was tied to her own experience. "I remember when I was in prison, my family did all they could to keep it out of partisan politics," she said. "It hurts the prisoners. it doesn't help."

Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Mich.), Hekmati's congressman, sponsored a bipartisan congressional resolution last month calling for Iran to release the Americans. He told HuffPost on Thursday that he believes that Congress, which will soon vote on whether or not to approve the agreement, should consider the deal on its merits -- that is, as an attempt to limit Iran's nuclear capacity.

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"To imply that there was some failure in the negotiation, if that is [Cruz's] implication, that's not consistent with the interests of these Americans, it's not consistent with the wishes of the American that I represent being held in Iran," Kildee said. "It's a very dangerous thing for politicians to put their own political fortunes ahead of those interests."

He noted that the Americans being held in Iran would face greater uncertainty were the nuclear negotiations to fail. "The fate of these American would be far less within any control of the outside world if we further isolated Iran," Kildee said.

At Thursday's rally, HuffPost asked Cruz how he would respond to the captives' families who advocate more peaceful approach to Iran. In response, the senator reverted to his main talking point: the alleged failure of the Obama administration.

Cruz argued that Obama's team had proven willing to lift sanctions against a top Iranian general involved in killing Americans in Iraq yet "could not demonstrate the same willingness to bring home our four American hostages."

"We need a president who will stand with Americans and defend Americans, and unfortunately this president and this administration are not doing that," he said.

When asked what approach he would take to bringing the captives home, Cruz did not respond.

CHRISTIE

Chris Christie Makes Big Advertising Splash on Fox News // NYT // Jeremy W. Peters - July 24, 2015

In the race to crack the top 10 threshold that will determine which candidates can be in the first Republican presidential debate Aug. 6 on Fox News, there is more than one approach to getting your poll numbers up.

Some, like Carly Fiorina and former Senator Rick Santorum, have been seeking as much free media attention as they can, making the rounds on cable television and talk radio. Others, like Senator Marco Rubio and Senator Rand Paul, have made the news by sparring with Secretary of State John Kerry over the Iran nuclear deal.

Or, you could also try to buy your way to a higher standing in the polls. Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, in essence, is trying to do just that. His campaign has purchased $250,000 of advertising time — on Fox News.

The ad buy starts on Friday and goes through Aug. 9. Because Fox will use the candidates' standing in national polls to whittle down a field of 16 Republican candidates, the exposure that comes from a national cable television buy is extremely valuable.

And while Mr. Christie's standing in the top 10 is fairly sturdy — but not guaranteed — this ad buy is aimed to help buttress his standing.

New Jersey Gov. Christie blames Amtrak for nightmarish commutes // Reuters // Hilary Russ - July 24, 2015

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New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, a 2016 Republican presidential candidate, on Friday blamed Amtrak for a week of nightmarish commutes to and from New York and called on the Obama administration and Congress to "step up their responsibility," and fix the problems.

New Jersey pays Amtrak, the national rail operator, $100 million annually so that NJ Transit trains can use Amtrak tunnels and rails, Christie said.

Travelers using NJ Transit trains were "victimized" by extreme delays and cancellations throughout the system this week because of "Amtrak's indifference to New Jersey commuters and its abject neglect of the infrastructure that New Jersey and our entire region relies upon," Christie said in a statement.

Christie said he had asked the state attorney general to review the matter.

Amtrak apologized for the delays.

"We are actively sharing information with our partners at New Jersey Transit and other agencies and will continue to work closely with them in developing an immediate solution," spokeswoman Kimberly Woods said in a statement.

She said the power failures that caused problems on the Northeast Corridor this week showed the "urgent need for a funding solution."

Christie's broader record on transportation is less supportive. Just after taking office in 2010, he cancelled a new Hudson River tunnel project already under construction, called Access to the Region's Core, saying costs were likely to skyrocket and citing his state's lack of funding ability.

New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund, which pays for roads and bridges, is also nearly broke. That has prompted calls from Democrats to raise the state's gas tax, which Christie has rejected.

New Jersey Assembly Transportation Committee Chairman John Wisniewski called Christie's comments about Amtrak hypocritical.

"His piece-meal approach and lack of long-term planning has left our roads and bridges in shambles," Wisniewski said in a statement.

Christie's cancellation of the tunnel project also "left New Jersey's trans-Hudson commuters with no choice but to endure Amtrak's delays, a problem that will only be exacerbated as the existing tunnels reach their expected lifespan and must be closed for improvements," he said.

Christie forgets: some Reagan references don't work **// MSNBC // Steve Benen - July 24, 2015**

Chris Christie's presidential campaign has a new television ad, which may not work quite as well as the Republican governor's team intended. Here's the transcript:

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"President Obama gave away the store to the Iranians, to a group of people who since 1979 have been chanting 'death to America.' This was negotiated so badly that you wouldn't let this president buy a car for you at a car dealership.

"Now, he's lying to the American people about how the deal's going to work. I would've walked away from the table. That's what Ronald Reagan did when he walked away from Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik.

"And so as president, the top priority is to protect the United States of America, and I'm the only one in this race who's had at least some small part of that responsibility. I'm Chris Christie and I approve this message."

The whole idea behind the ad is odd, in a candidate-focuses-on-his-weakness sort of way. Christie has no meaningful background in foreign policy or national security, and he's struggled at times to understand the basics, so for the governor to pretend this is his area of expertise is jarring.

For that matter, if the scandal-plagued Republican has any evidence of the president "lying to the American people about how the deal's going to work," Christie hasn't shared his proof with anyone.

But that's not the funny part.

Rather, what jumped out at me was Christie's willingness to get a gratuitous Reagan reference into the ad about U.S. policy towards Iran.

Um, gov? The Reagan White House illegally tried to sell weapons to Iran in order to help finance an illegal war in Central America. It was one of the biggest scandals in American history. Much of Reagan's national-security team ended up under indictment.

Sure, I realize Christie was talking about Reagan's nuclear talks with the USSR (which, incidentally, the right opposed and was also proven wrong about). But when going after Obama's approach to Iran, Republicans really ought to leave the Reagan example out of their talking points.

Time for some traffic problems under the Hudson River **// MSNBC // Steve Benen - July 24, 2015**

By most measures, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's ongoing "Bridgegate" scandal has done severe and lasting damage to his Republican presidential campaign. But his aides' decision to deliberately paralyze Fort Lee for political reasons isn't the governor's only problem related to transportation.

The New York Times reported yesterday, for example, on an even more immediate challenge.

For the third day in a row, electrical problems in century-old rail tunnels under the Hudson River on Wednesday stymied the commutes of tens of thousands of New Jersey Transit riders, illustrating again the shortcomings of the region's languishing infrastructure system.

The delays, coming a week after the board of New Jersey Transit approved a major fare increase, created chaos during the morning rush and gave rise to another round of questions about Gov. Chris Christie's decision five years ago to halt construction of a new rail tunnel.

In the scandal surrounding the George Washington Bridge lane-closures, the controversy is focused on Christie's team abusing its powers to a criminal degree. The problems in the tunnels under the Hudson River – part of the "busiest railroad corridor in the United States" – have nothing to do with Christie's team conspiring in secret to exact partisan revenge and everything to do with the governor showing poor judgment.

Revisiting our previous coverage, Christie made a bizarre decision in 2010, killing a project called Access to the Region's Core, "a years-in-the-making effort to build a new rail tunnel from New Jersey to New York City. Proponents of the project say it could have created as many as 44,000 jobs in and around the state and hiked local property values by up to $18 billion. A recent report from the office of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo

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even suggests that an additional tunnel under the Hudson River connecting New Jersey and New York could make regional infrastructure more resilient in the face of disasters like Hurricane Sandy."

I remember following Paul Krugman's coverage of this closely at the time. At one point, he wrote, "At some visceral level, I guess I was expecting Christie to back down at the last minute – expecting that there would be a still, small voice in his mind saying, 'If we can't do even this – if we can't follow through on a project so obviously needed, so clearly in the interests of the state and the nation – what hope is there for America?' But no. He went ahead and killed the tunnel."

Indeed, the governor killed the tunnel for reasons he struggled to explain, after millions of dollars of infrastructure investment had already been spent.

Had Christie shown better judgment, the overhaul project very likely would have been finished by now. Instead, conditions continue to get worse.

This helps add some context to the message of the governor's presidential campaign: Christie is effectively running on his personality because his record in office is a subject that's incredibly difficult to defend.

PERRY

One of Two Charges Against Rick Perry Is Dismissed **// NYT // Alan Rappeport - July 24, 2015**

Former Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, who is seeking the Republican nomination for president, received some good news regarding his legal problems on Friday when an appeals court in his state dropped one of the two felony charges he is facing.

Mr. Perry was indicted last summer on criminal charges of abuse of power and coercion of a public servant. The case surrounds an episode during which Mr. Perry was accused of trying to use his powers as governor to make an elected official step down after being charged with drunken driving.

The case has been a nuisance for Mr. Perry as he looks to gain traction in a crowded field of Republicans seeking the party's presidential nomination.

On Friday, the Austin court dismissed the coercion of a public servant charge against Mr. Perry on the grounds that violates his right to free speech under the First Amendment.

"Because the First Amendment bars enforcement of the statute on which the "coercion of a public servant" charge is based, that charge must be dismissed," Judge Bert Richardson wrote in an opinion.

The coercion charge would have carried a prison sentence of two to 10 years. Mr. Perry still faces the more serious abuse of official capacity charge, which carries a prison sentence of five to 99 years.

Critics of Mr. Perry argue that he overstepped his authority following the 2013 arrest of Rosemary Lehmberg, the district attorney in Travis County, who is a Democrat. He threatened to veto $7.5 million in state funding for the public corruption unit in her office unless she resigned.

When she would not resign, Mr. Perry followed through, vetoing the money and saying that he could not support "continued state funding for an office with statewide jurisdiction at a time when the person charged with ultimate responsibility of that unit has lost the public's confidence."

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Mr. Perry, the first Texas governor in nearly 100 years to face criminal charges, has denied any wrongdoing and on Friday applauded the ruling. His lawyers have argued that the remaining charge should be considered a misdemeanor and that a veto in the absence of bribery cannot be illegal.

"The remaining charge is hanging by a thread, and we are confident that once it is put before the court, it will be dismissed on its face," said Tony Buzbee, lead counsel for Mr. Perry.

Michael McCrum, the special prosecutor who has brought the case against Mr. Perry, was not immediately available to comment on the dismissal of the charge.

Mr. Perry chose not to run for another term as governor of Texas, stepping aside in January after a 14 year reign to focus on his second White House bid.

Despite the controversy, Mr. Perry's Republican rivals have been cordial about the case and have not used it against him. This year, Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana panned the accusations and defended Mr. Perry's character.

Texas Court Dismisses One Charge Against Perry While Upholding Another // WSJ // Nathan Koppel - July 24, 2015

Lawyers for former Texas Gov. Rick Perry persuaded an appeals court Friday to whittle down criminal charges that he abused his power while in office, but the court ruled that part of the case can still go forward, complicating his prospects as he runs for president.

The Third Court of Appeals in Austin ruled in favor of dismissing one felony count against the governor for alleged "coercion of a public servant" in connection with a veto he issued in 2013 as governor. The appellate court ruled the Texas coercion statute was a violation of constitutional free-speech protections.

But the appellate court ruled against dismissing a second felony charge, "abuse of official capacity," and sent the case back to a trial court in Austin to resolve the charge.

The upshot is that the 2014 indictment against Mr. Perry, issued by a grand jury in Austin, will continue to hang over him as he tries to gain ground in the crowded Republican nominating contest for president.

Tony Buzbee, lead counsel for Mr. Perry, cast the ruling as a victory. "The appeals court made clear that this case was questionable," he said. "The remaining charge is hanging by a thread, and we are confident that once it is put before the court, it will be dismissed on its face."

The case stems from an allegation that Mr. Perry improperly threatened to veto $7.5 million in funding for a prosecutorial unit headed by Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg if she didn't resign following an arrest for drunken driving. Travis County includes Austin, the state capital.

Ms. Lehmberg, an elected Democrat, declined to quit, and Mr. Perry carried out the veto.

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Mr. Perry has long denied wrongdoing, claiming the criminal charges were politically motivated.

Michael McCrum, the special prosecutor in the case, didn't immediately return a call for comment about the appellate ruling.

Craig McDonald, the director of Texans for Public Justice, a nonprofit, liberal advocacy group that filed a complaint about the veto that ultimately gave rise to the criminal case, said he was pleased the case would continue to move forward.

"The fact that one potential felony indictment is in place is significant," he said.

Appeals court drops one felony charge against Rick Perry // Politico // Adam B. Lerner - July 24, 2015

An appeals court in Texas had dismissed one of two felony charges pending against former Gov. Rick Perry.

A grand jury indicted Perry last August on one count of abusing his office and one count of coercing a public servant for allegedly trying to push a local Democratic district attorney to resign by threatening to withhold state funds from her office.

Prosecutors claim that Perry tried to use his veto power to force Rosemary Lehmberg, the Travis County district attorney, to leave office after she was arrested for driving while intoxicated. Lehmberg's office in Austin oversees public corruption investigations, including into officials in the Texas state government and the federal government.

The appeals court dropped the coercion of a public servant indictment, citing the Texas Republican's right to free speech.

"The statute on which the 'coercion of a public servant' is based, as written, and as we are bound to construe it, violates the First Amendment and, accordingly, cannot be enforced," wrote Texas Court of Appeals Judge Bert Richardson.

The charge would have entailed a prison term of between two and 10 years, while the remaining abuse of his official government position charge could carry between five and 99 years, according to the New York Times.

The former Texas governor, a 2016 Republican candidate for president, has repeatedly proclaimed his innocence.

The lead attorney for Perry's team, Tony Buzbee, said in a statement that Friday's decision "is a clear step towards victory for the rule of law."

"The only remaining count we believe to be a misdemeanor, and the only issue is whether the governor's veto — or any veto in the absence of bribery — can ever be illegal. The appeals court made clear that this case was questionable," he added.

"The remaining charge is hanging on by a thread, and we are confident that once it is put before the court, it will be dismissed on its face."

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Texas appeals court tosses one count against former Governor Perry // Reuters // Jim Forsyth - July 24, 2015

A Texas state appeals court on Friday dismissed one of two felony counts in an abuse-of-power case against former Governor Rick Perry stemming from a 2013 veto by the now-presidential candidate.

The Texas Third Court of Appeals in Austin threw out a count of coercion of a public official, saying it violated Perry's right to free speech. However, the court let stand an abuse of official capacity charge.

In a 97-page opinion, the court said the statute on which the "coercion of a public servant" violates the First Amendment and cannot be enforced.

Perry was indicted in August by a grand jury in Travis County, a Democratic stronghold in a heavily Republican state, with abuse of official capacity, a first-degree felony, and coercion of a public official, a third-degree felony.

If convicted of a first-degree felony, he could face from five to 99 years in prison.

The charges relate to what many see as a threat by Perry in 2013 to veto $7.5 million in funding for an integrity unit in the Travis County District Attorney's office. Many said Perry played hardball politics to force out county District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg, a Democrat, after she pleaded guilty to drunken driving.

Since Lehmberg is an elected official in a different branch of government from Perry, the grand jury said his actions amounted to illegally attempting to use his office to influence the behavior of another elected official.

The abuse of official capacity count claims that by vetoing funding for Lehmberg's office, Perry engaged in what amounted to misuse of government property.

"One down and one to go," Tony Buzbee, Perry's lead attorney, told Reuters after Friday's ruling. "We believe the only remaining count is a misdemeanor and raises the question of whether the exercise of a veto can ever be illegal in the absence of bribery.

"This thing is hanging by a thread and, in my view, is very near to being over," Buzbee said.

The former governor has said he acted within the powers granted to him under the Texas Constitution.

Perry entered the 2016 Republican presidential campaign in June. He had sought the party's nomination in 2012 but dropped out after a series of gaffes.

The case has political overtones because Texas Republicans have long complained that the Public Integrity Unit is used by officials of overwhelmingly Democratic Travis County to harass and intimidate Republican elected officials.

Court dismisses one criminal charge against Perry // CNN // Eugene Scott - July 24, 2015

A Texas appeals court dismissed one of two criminal charges Friday against Republican presidential candidate

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Rick Perry.

The court agreed with the argument from Perry's legal team that a Texas law concerning "coercion of a public servant" violated Perry's First Amendment freedom of speech rights. It did, however, allow a charge related to abuse of power, to move forward.

"The statute on which the 'coercion of a public servant' is based, as written, and as we are bound to construe it, violates the First Amendment and, accordingly, cannot be enforced," the appeals court ruled according to the Austin American-Statesman.

Perry is accused of threatening to veto funding the Travis County Public Integrity Unit unless a district attorney, who received a drunken driving conviction, resigned.

The attorney did not resign, so Perry vetoed the funding.

"The Americans in this country are looking for a president that will stand up and do what's right and that's exactly what Perry did," said Tony Buzbee, lead counsel for Perry.

Texans for Rick Perry released a statement calling the ruling a clear step towards having the second charge, a misdemeanor, dismissed.

"We believe once we put that issue in the front of the Court of Appeals, they will throw it out on their face and Governor Perry will go on about his business," Buzbee said.

Rick Perry Now Has One Less Problem In His Run For President **// HuffPo // Jacob Kerr - July 24, 2015**

A Texas court of appeals has tossed out one of the criminal charges against Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry, which arose from a 2013 veto he made as governor.

According to the Austin American-Statesman, the court determined the "coercion of a public servant" count against Perry violated his right to freedom of speech under the First Amendment. The court allowed an "abuse of official capacity" count to continue.

“The only remaining count we believe to be a misdemeanor, and the only issue is whether the governor’s veto – or any veto in the absence of bribery – can ever be illegal,” lawyer Tony Buzbee said in a statement. “The appeals court made clear that this case was questionable. The remaining charge is hanging by a thread, and we are confident that once it is put before the court, it will be dismissed on its face.”

The case concerns a line-item veto Perry made in 2013, which cut $7.5 million from the state's public integrity unit. Perry reportedly threatened to veto the funding unless Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg, a Democrat whose office oversees the unit, resigned because of a DWI conviction she received. When Lehmberg refused, Perry followed through and cut the funding.

An ethics complaint was subsequently filed against Perry and a grand jury indicted him on the two counts last year.

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"I'm going to enter this courthouse with my head held high knowing the actions that I took were not only lawful and legal, but right," Perry said when he turned himself in for his mugshot in August 2014.

Despite the efforts of Perry's legal team, this is the first time a court has thrown out one of the charges.

Perry left the governor's office after his third full term ended in January and announced his second bid for the White House last month.

SANTORUM

Rick Santorum joins fray in N.H. **// Boston Globe // Akilah Johnson - July 24, 2015**

Former US senator Rick Santorum, a Republican running for president, tried to position himself as someone outside of political establishment on Friday, taking swipes at both political parties on immigration and national security.

“We need someone who understands the threats that are facing the American country and has the courage to tell the American people the truth,” Santorum, one of 21 White House hopefuls — 16 Republicans and five Democrats — told a crowd of about 50 people inside a storefront campus of New England College.

Santorum’s visit marked one of the socially conservative Pennsylvanian’s rare trips to the Granite State, where GOP primary voters tend to focus more on fiscal issues. In his remarks Friday, Santorum concentrated on foreign policy and other domestic issues.

Cyber attacks by Russia and China are threatening America’s digital information, he said. Diplomatic relations with Cuba have aligned the country with a nation that, along with Venezuela, has “systematically turned almost every single Central and South American country against the United States,” Santorum said.

But the biggest threat to the United States, according to Santroum, is Iran, a country he said practices a “radical” form of Islam that is preparing to play out its version of an Armageddon story. He called President George W. Bush “a good man,” but said his “War on Terror” was a “misnomer,” as Iraq was not our biggest threat.

“And this is the country we’re giving an on-ramp for nuclear weapons,” he said, referring to the Iranian nuclear agreement, which is also supported by five other world powers. The deal prevents Iran from building a nuclear weapon for 15 years, by limiting uranium enrichment and allowing for international inspections of suspected processing sites, in exchange for the lifting of harsh economic sanctions.

“This is the worst, most dangerous agreement that any president has ever entered into,” he said. “We have a media that is just silent, and the Republican Party — and US Senate — that has been feckless at best. Anybody who doesn’t stand up to this president, you now own Iran. You are partners with everything Iran does heretofore.”

The 57-year-old won the Iowa caucuses in his unsuccessful run for president in 2012. A religious conservative, Santorum spent much more time in Iowa than New Hampshire, more than double, during the last presidential election cycle.

But at Friday afternoon’s town hall meeting, which was sponsored by the Merrimack County Republican

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Committee, Santorum acknowledged the importance of the New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, saying he plans to do "a whole series of town halls meetings in the next few days."

This is only Santorum's third trip to the state since his 2012 bid for president. At the end of this two-day swing through New Hampshire, Santorum will have spent four days there, compared with 31 days in Iowa this year.

Santorum spoke for more than an hour on Friday, taking nearly a dozen questions on everything from immigration to contraception to entitlement programs. On immigration, Santorum said politicians have gotten away from doing what's in the best interest of the country, focusing instead on their political futures and personal riches.

Democrats, he said, "believe if these folks come, they will disproportionately vote for them. Republicans, in large part, are no better. They're not looking for votes, they're looking for cheap labor."

Santorum Walks Away From Porn-Busting Promise **// US News // Steven Nelson - July 24, 2015**

The last time he ran for president, former Sen. Rick Santorum aroused Internet users by promising to take away their access to pornography.

Federal law makes distribution of hardcore pornography illegal, he said in a statement on his 2012 campaign website. All that's required is a president who will "vigorously" enforce the ban, the Pennsylvania Republican said, pledging to do so.

"While the Obama Department of Justice seems to favor pornographers over children and families, that will change under a Santorum Administration," the statement proclaimed.

The pledge attracted intense discussion after Santorum emerged as Mitt Romney's most prominent rival for the GOP nomination. It was laughed off by pornographers but discussed seriously by legal experts, some of whom said a crackdown might succeed – albeit imperfectly without a grand national firewall – if juries find porn sites and consumers guilty of distributing or receiving "obscene" content.

But as the 2016 presidential race heats up, the reliable social conservative – running again – says he's forgotten his position on the issue, perhaps dooming it to increasing irrelevance after a two-decade lull in prosecutions that coincided with a boom in availability of Internet porn.

"I don't even remember that position to be very honest with you," Santorum said during a recent roundtable interview at U.S. News. "I wish I could say I was cognizant of everything that's on my website."

He added: "I'm not, candidly, familiar with the federal laws with respect to pornography. ... but all I would say is whatever the laws are, unlike this president I will enforce [them]."

Santorum and the more than dozen other Republicans running for president soon will be asked to stake a position on the issue by Patrick Trueman, a Reagan administration prosecutor who now leads the group National Center on Sexual Exploitation.

Trueman proudly participated in federal pornography prosecutions in the 1980s and during the last election cycle said that Romney's campaign, too, had promised to vigorously enforce obscenity laws, but that he suspected

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Romney “saw that Rick Santorum got beat up in the mainstream press for being so forthright” and elected not to advertise his position.

Trueman believes it would be fairly easy to win obscenity convictions for porn featuring consensual adult group sex, depictions of violence and unusual fetishes. Anything more salacious than waist-up female nudity would be eligible for conviction somewhere in the country, he told The Daily Caller during the last election.

It’s legal for individuals to possess pornography their neighbors may deem obscene, according to the Justice Department, but it’s technically illegal under many circumstances to distribute or receive it.

There’s reason to doubt any change to status quo nonenforcement of obscenity laws as they pertain to pornography featuring consenting adults. In addition to presumably shifting public opinion, the past three presidential administrations – including the Republican George W. Bush administration – showed no interest in cracking the whip.

HUCKABEE

Graham's fundraising puts him in middle of GOP pack **// USA Today // Mary Troyan - July 24, 2015**

Donors from Sen. Lindsey Graham's home state of South Carolina account for most of the money he's raised as a Republican presidential candidate, but he's also seeing support from outside the South.

Graham has raised $2.14 million from individual donors since January, according to his first Federal Election Commission report as a presidential candidate. Forty percent of that — about $864,000 — came from people in his home state.

But Graham, who formally announced his candidacy June 1, also hauled in $300,000 from California donors, $172,000 from New York, $73,000 from Massachusetts and $63,000 from Florida.

His FEC report, which covers checks written through the end of June, doesn't change his status as a long shot for the Republican nomination.

Graham's fundraising puts him in the middle of the GOP presidential pack. He's behind Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, former Florida governor Jeb Bush, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul. But he's raised more than former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, former Texas governor Rick Perry, former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum and former New York governor George Pataki.

National polls have Graham at less than 1%, too low to make the top 10 cut for the first national televised debate among GOP candidates. He polls much higher in South Carolina, site of the first Southern GOP presidential primary in early 2016.

In addition to the $2.14 million he's raised from individual donors, Graham transferred $1.52 million from his Senate campaign account. As of June 30, he had $2.58 million in campaign cash.

Greenville residents accounted for $163,000 in donations. Among them are Smyth McKissick III, CEO of Alice

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Manufacturing, $5,400; Michael Riordan, president and CEO of Greenville Hospital Systems, $5,300; Wallace Cheves, managing partner of Sky Boat Gaming, $2,600; and Clyde Selleck III, chairman of Michelin, $2,500.

About 144 people each gave $2,700, the maximum per election. Another 38 each gave $5,400, the maximum total for the primary and the general elections.

Other notable donors included John Cahill, CEO of Kraft Foods, $2,600; U.S. Rep. Tom Rice, R-Myrtle Beach, $1,000; Jim Albaugh, former CEO of Boeing, $2,600; Riley Bechtel, chairman of the board of Bechtel Group, $2,700; Oracle CEO Safra Catz, $2,700; Robert McNair, chairman and CEO of the Houston Texans, $2,700; David Pankau, chairman and CEO of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina, $2,600; former U.S. secretary of State George Shultz, $5,400; and Thomas Kinder Jr., public announcer for the Cincinnati Bengals football team, $1,500.

Employees at the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough law firm donated a total $25,800, and the firm's political action committee gave $5,000. One of the firm's partners, David Wilkins of Greenville, chaired Graham's initial exploratory committee. Wilkins is a former speaker of the South Carolina state House and was ambassador to Canada under former president George W. Bush. He also was South Carolina chairman of the Bush-Cheney campaign in 2004.

An unrelated pro-Graham super PAC, which can collect unlimited donations, is not required to release its first fundraising report until July 31.

JINDAL

Bobby Jindal on theater shooting: 'We will get through this' **// CNN // Jedd Rosche - July 24, 2015**

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal spoke from just outside a Lafayette movie theater after a deadly shooting took place there Thursday, saying he was "horrified and shocked."

"We will get through this," Jindal said outside the theater, while investigators were still examining the crime scene. "This is a unified community."

Jindal, who said he was in Baton Rouge about 45 minutes away when he was notified of the shooting, was flanked by local and state law enforcement at the 9:45 p.m. local time press conference.

Details were scarce following the incident, which took place at the Grand Theatre 16, as local law enforcement officials said at a briefing they were unsure of how many were wounded or if anyone, besides the shooter had been killed.

Vice president of the Acadian Ambulance Clay Henry told CNN's Don Lemon on Thursday that at least nine people were wounded and brought into local hospitals. Henry said he was aware of two people who had died, one of which included the shooter.

Who was the shooter? Why did he do it? What comes next?

Shortly after 8 p.m. local time, Jindal, who announced that he was running for the Republican nomination for

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president last month, used his Twitter account to ask her followers for prayers for those involved in the incident.

"Prayers for Lafayette at Grand Theater. Talking to state police colonel about shooting in Lafayette," Jindal tweeted.

"I'm on my way to Lafayette right now. Please say a prayer for the victims at Grand Theatre and their families," Jindal tweeted about an hour after the 911 call came in regarding the shooting.

The shooting comes nearly three years after the deadly Aurora, Colorado shooting, that left 12 people dead at a movie theater in July.

Every Interview Bobby Jindal Gives Is The Same // BuzzFeed // Christopher Massie - July 24, 2015

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal is very, very, very good at staying on message.

In radio interviews — a common feature of Republican campaigning — Jindal has a set of talking points he delivers again, and again, and again.

In fact, Jindal is far and away the Republican presidential candidate who most consistently delivers or returns to his talking points, based on BuzzFeed News reporters who track presidential candidates daily and weekly interviews with radio and local television.

Jindal's favorite point is that Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are turning "the American dream into the European nightmare." He has been making some version of this exact statement virtually every time he has done a radio interview on the campaign trail for the past two months.

Other points oft-repeated by Jindal are that America is on the "path to socialism," that he disagrees with Jeb Bush's statement that Republicans "need to lose the primary to win the general," and that Obama and Clinton are both "socialists," just like Bernie Sanders, "only Bernie's more honest about it."

Here are some examples of him repeating the same things over and over again:

TRUMP

Donald Trump Is With the GOP, for Now // WSJ // Reid J. Epstein - July 24, 2015

Visiting the nation's border with Mexico on Thursday, Donald Trump declared that he would win the Republican Party's 2016 presidential nomination but didn't rule out running as an independent candidate.

Mr. Trump has caused significant headaches for establishment Republicans by stealing the recent spotlight of the party's primary campaign. But he could make things far worse for the party by running as an independent or third-party presidential candidate, where he could siphon off some voters from the eventual Republican nominee.

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"Look, I'm a Republican," Mr. Trump told some 100 journalists who traveled to the border at Laredo, Texas, for his nine-minute news conference, which was carried live by multiple cable television networks. "I'm a conservative. I'm running. I'm in first place by a lot, it seems, according to all the polls. I want to run as a Republican. I think I'll get the nomination. We'll see soon enough. I think I'll get the nomination."

But Mr. Trump hasn't ruled out taking his White House run independent. Last weekend in Ames, Iowa, he said he wouldn't rule out the possibility. And in an interview with the Hill newspaper published Thursday, Mr. Trump threatened to go on his own if he feels mistreated by the GOP, which has condemned his recent belittling of Sen. John McCain's war record.

"I'll have to see how I'm being treated by the Republicans," Mr. Trump said in the interview. "Absolutely, if they're not fair, that would be a factor."

The visit to the border was intended to highlight what has become a signature issue for the New York developer since he announced his run for president last month. During that announcement, Mr. Trump said Mexican immigrants crossing the border illegally are drug traffickers and "rapists," and he has vowed stricter immigration-control measures.

On Thursday, wearing a white baseball cap emblazoned with his campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," Mr. Trump predicted that his comments about immigrants wouldn't damage his standing among Hispanic voters seen as critical to a Republican victory in 2016.

"I think I'll win the Hispanic vote," he said. "Over the years thousands and thousands of Hispanics have worked for me and now work for me."

Mr. Trump's rivals for the GOP nomination doubt that contention. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Wednesday gave a speech in Washington attacking Mr. Trump in tones unusually aggressive for primary opponents. And on Thursday, former New York Gov. George Pataki said in an interview that Mr. Trump's presence in the primary would make it harder for the eventual GOP nominee to win support from Hispanics.

"He's not going to be president of the United States," Mr. Pataki said. "I just think it's unfortunate that so much of the media, so much of the dialogue is about someone like that as opposed to" the Iran deal, security at military recruiting centers and the nation's tax policies.

Mr. Trump has offered few specifics about his immigration policy beyond a pledge to build a fence along the southern border. When asked Thursday how he planned to deal with the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants already in the U.S., he dodged the question.

"We're going to have plenty of time to talk about it," Mr. Trump said.

For Donald Trump, Being His Own Super PAC Has Its Advantages **// WSJ // Rebecca Ballhaus - July 24, 2015**

Donald Trump is effectively his own super PAC, and that comes with advantages.

Mr. Trump, as a Republican candidate for president and a billionaire who is nearly single-handedly financing himself, is running a hybrid operation that doesn't have to follow many of the rules imposed on his rivals.

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He can raise and spend unlimited sums of his own money on his campaign, and while other candidates can't coordinate their activity with the better-funded super PACs backing them, Mr. Trump as a self-funded candidate is in control of all of his money, a big chunk of which is being redirected into his own bank accounts.

Of the $1.4 million his campaign spent in the second quarter, at least 40% went to Trump-affiliated entities, disclosure reports filed last week with the Federal Election Commission show.

The campaign paid more than $500,000 to Tag Air, Inc., an airline owned by Mr. Trump. It also pays $10,000 a month in rent to Trump Towers and paid another $38,000 to reimburse the Trump Corp. for "facility, resources and domain names," according to the report.

Mr. Trump drew income of more than $5.1 million from Trump Corp. in 2014 and most of the first half of 2015, his personal financial disclosure on Wednesday showed.

Beyond how he is paying for administrative expenses, "there's the obvious advantage in being very involved and close to the messaging of the campaign and the strategic planning of the campaign," said Kenneth Gross, former head of enforcement at the Federal Election Commission.

Of the $1.9 million the campaign raised in the second quarter, $1.8 million, or 94%, came from Mr. Trump's own pocket. Mr. Trump's second-quarter campaign account fell short of what other GOP front runners, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, raised for their candidacies. Mr. Bush collected $11.4 million, while Mr. Rubio garnered $12 million.

But should Mr. Trump, who is currently topping the field in polling of GOP primary voters, continue to pour millions into his campaign, he will be uniquely equipped to purchase campaign advertisements at lower cost, since candidates pay a reduced rate compared with outside groups, such as super PACs.

TV stations are required to give candidates the "lowest unit rate" in the 45 days before a primary election, and before that must still charge a reasonable rate. While other candidates are also entitled to the lowest rate, the majority of the funds backing their campaigns will likely land in the outside groups backing them.

Outside groups face prices driven by the market, and the supply-and-demand dynamics in such a crowded primary are certain to send advertising rates skyrocketing. Mr. Bush's allies estimated earlier this week that it would cost nearly $60 million just to run 10 days' worth of advertising in the first 30 primary states. The former Florida governor's super PAC has already raised $103 million-nearly 10 times as much as Mr. Bush's campaign took in.

An unlimited access to funds could also allow Mr. Trump to stay in the race far longer than other candidates, who may face fundraising constraints. Under federal law, individual donations to a candidate are capped at $2,700. Since Trump isn't relying on anyone else for money, that restriction is essentially meaningless. Mr. Trump did accept $100,000 in contributions in the second quarter, but doesn't appear to be actively soliciting outside cash.

"I don't need anybody's money....I don't care. I'm really rich," Mr. Trump said when he announced his candidacy. He has $300 million in cash and liquid assets, his campaign confirmed.

Corey Lewandowski, his campaign manager, said, "If he wanted, which he doesn't, he could have billions of dollars of cheap financing against his unlevered assets from banks overnight."

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Speaking on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" on Friday, Mr. Trump criticized the rest of the presidential field as "controlled by the lobbyists and the special interests and their donors."

Mr. Trump also avoids the risk that his main backers will quit on him if he doesn't perform well in the early primaries. His rivals can't say as much. "He can remain viable as a Republican or even perhaps an independent candidate...for the duration," Mr. Gross said, adding that a self-funded candidate doesn't have to pander to the wishes of big donors. "If a candidate is self-financing, you get what you hear, whether you like it or not," he said. "At least you know they're not speaking on behalf of somebody else."

Still, there are perils to paying your own way. "Money helps get attention and be in the race," said Jan Baran, a campaign-finance lawyer at Wiley Rein. "Whether the candidate is able to stay in a race depends on the voters."

Self-financing a presidential campaign also hasn't proven a particularly effective tactic in past elections. In 1992, Texas billionaire Ross Perot campaigned as an independent, pouring more than $60 million of his own dollars into the effort. He ultimately won less than 20% of the popular vote.

Republican Mitt Romney lent $44 million to his 2008 campaign for his party's nomination, which he lost to Arizona Sen. John McCain. He didn't loan any personal funds to his next campaign in 2012, when he clinched the nomination but lost the general election.

Donald Trump loved and hated by Hispanics in border city **// AP // Jill Colvin - July 24, 2015**

There was an audible gasp from the gathered crowd as Donald Trump's 757 lifted off the tarmac.

"Oh my God. Wow," said Gina Gil, 48, after an excited shriek, reaching for her 11-year-old-nephew. "I think it's a historic moment, ma'am. Seriously, I really do."

Gil was referring to Trump's visit Thursday to Laredo, Texas, a small city on the U.S.-Mexico border where the Republican presidential candidate spent less than an hour touring the border, bragged to reporters about the danger he faced, proclaimed Hispanics love him, and stopped traffic with a presidential-sized motorcade.

Yet beyond the spectacle The Donald seems to create wherever he goes, the billionaire businessman's visit exposed evidence of a divided community whose overwhelmingly Hispanic population both decried Trump as racist and cheered his hardline immigration views. Interviews during and after the whirlwind tour with more than a dozen local residents underscored the danger Trump represents to the GOP's relationship with Hispanic voters and his appeal to a vocal segment of frustrated voters, many Hispanics among them, who see a glaring problem on the nation's southern border that requires attention.

Jessica Gonzalez, 79, a retired housewife who was born and raised in Laredo, said she'd watched as the city she'd grown up in had changed, with restaurants replaced with Mexican food and new people coming in.

"I think he's right," she said in the parking lot of a local CVS. "All we have is people from foreign countries. ... It's not like it used to be."

Gonzalez — a Democrat — and her husband used to travel across the border frequently to shop and for entertainment, but are now afraid to cross because of violence from the drug cartels.

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"I want to go down and say: Donald Trump, you're on fire in Laredo! Because everybody feels what you think!" she said.

Outside Obregon's Mexican Restaurant, Enrique Harrington Ramon, 75, said he felt Spanish-speaking immigrants "take advantage of us" in Laredo, and said people are responding to what Trump says "because it's the truth."

"I am sick of walking into a store and hearing 'en que le puede ayudar?' What country are we in?" he said.

Others in this growing city of about 250,000, where 95.6 percent of the population identified as Hispanic or Latino in 2010, lashed out at Trump, who described some Mexican immigrants in the country illegally as "rapists" and "criminals" during his announcement speech last month and has refused to apologize.

"I wish he wouldn't come down here," said Raul Gonzalez, 65, a retired trailer and truck mechanic who was born and raised in Laredo. "He's very disrespectful to Latinos."

Laredo-born Tony Flores, 82, who was wearing a cap that identified him as a Korean War veteran, said of Trump: "He is poisonous. He is hatred."

While Hispanic voters along the U.S.-Texas border have a unique perspective, the vast majority of the growing demographic supports more forgiving immigration policies that would allow a pathway to citizenship or permanent residency for immigrants in the country illegally, according to recent polls.

Trump, meanwhile, is viewed favorably by just 28 percent of Americans and unfavorably by 58 percent, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll conducted earlier in the month. About one-third of whites, but just 16 percent of Hispanics and 10 percent of blacks, have a favorable view of Trump.

At the airport, Patti Magnon, 43, who works for a law firm, said she brought her 6-year-old daughter to see Trump's custom plane, emblazoned with his name in big gold letters, land and then returned to watch him go.

"He's not wrong entirely. I'm from Laredo and I see the problems that we get," she said, noting that Mexican workers used to come across the border to work and return home afterward, but now don't want to leave.

"They get all the benefits that I can't get. I have to pay taxes," she complained.

Trump has appeared to tone down his immigration rhetoric in recent days. He stressed he's opposed to illegal immigration, not those immigrants who enter the country legally. And he noted that he has employed "tens of thousands" of immigrants over the years.

At least one Laredo resident tried to ignore Trump altogether.

"I don't think anything about him. He's not right for a president," said Joe Rodriguez, 50, a longtime Laredo resident who was born in Dallas. Rodriguez said he'd been invited to join a protest of Trump's visit but decided it wasn't worth his time.

"I said: 'Why? Don't protest. Don't show him any attention,'" he said.

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Debating The Donald: GOP rivals preparing with caution **// AP // Jill Colvin - July 24, 2015**

Considered the ultimate wildcard, Donald Trump is complicating debate strategy for Republican presidential candidates now scrambling to prepare for their first face-to-face meeting on national television.

The billionaire businessman, who has dominated the 2016 Republican race in recent weeks, threatens to do the same when the top 10 GOP candidates — as determined by national polls — face off in less than two weeks. It's a high-risk, high-reward event for candidates eager to stand out yet wary to fall victim to one of Trump's notorious bombastic political attacks.

"It's the No. 1 unavoidability," said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a 2012 GOP candidate who had a knack for standing out in debates four years ago.

"Do not try to match him in anger and in aggressiveness. It's not possible," Gingrich warned Trump's rivals. "He's a very instinctively aggressive guy, and if you try to dance with him on his strengths he'll run over you."

Despite his longshot status, the reality television star has commanded attention and seen his poll numbers rise after firing off provocative comments about immigrants, his presidential rivals and critics in both parties.

His supporters love him because he's willing to say what others only think. But that makes him dangerous in a debate setting, says Charlie Black, a leading GOP strategist who has worked on multiple presidential campaigns.

"Just try to ignore him," Black said. "The less attention you give him the better. I wouldn't even look at him."

That's easier said than done in a nationally televised program where Trump is sure to play a central role — literally, perhaps, if he's positioned at the center of the stage as the leader in recent polls.

Count former Texas Gov. Rick Perry as among the candidates eager for a showdown, although he may not qualify for the Aug. 6 meeting in Cleveland. Only the top 10 candidates in national polling will be allowed on stage. With 16 declared candidates, several high-profile Republicans will be left out. Perry is on the bubble.

"If Donald Trump wants to sit on the stage and talk about solutions, I'm going to be happy to have that conversation," Perry said on Fox News. "But if all he's going to do is throw invectives, then I'm going to push back and I'm going to push back hard."

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky told The Associated Press that he's ready to be tested.

"You have to be able to stand your ground," Paul said, because politics is "somewhat of a body combat sport."

Even without Trump's emergence, the first debate promises to be an unruly affair.

Never have more than 10 candidates taken the stage for a televised Republican presidential debate. Part of the problem is basic math.

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In a 90-minute debate featuring so many candidates, there could be only enough time for four or five questions — with little time left over for the interaction between candidates that makes for an actual debate.

And few campaigns expect Trump to respect the time limits or other rules established by organizers.

While there were some rumblings about trying to bar Trump from the stage, some GOP leaders say they're happy about Trump's participation, predicting it will attract a far larger audience, exposing new people to Republican ideas.

"If I were Fox, I would be thrilled that Trump has made this so intense so early because they'll have a much higher viewership than they would have three or four weeks ago before Trump got on a roll," Gingrich said.

Ron Kaufman, a senior adviser to 2012 nominee Mitt Romney who is supporting Jeb Bush, said Trump offers a prime-time opportunity to lesser-known candidates to get attention.

"I think they have to pick a fight with Trump," Kaufman said.

Many candidates have already been hard at work. Bush, one of the top contenders, recently brought in two veterans of Romney's 2012 campaign, Beth Myers and Peter Flaherty, to help coach him. Aides say Bush will fill much of his schedule next week with debate preparation in Florida.

Bush has not participated in a debate as a candidate since his successful re-election campaign for governor in 2002.

"My objective with this is to, wherever I can, share my record," Bush said this week in South Carolina. He said he'll go into the debate without thinking about Trump or any rival but that it's his first presidential debate and he's "not certain how all this plays out."

Paul perhaps summed up the field's feeling best when asked how he prepares to face someone like Trump: "Very carefully," he said.

Trump Says He's 'Big Believer' in Merit-Based Immigration System // Bloomberg // Ben Brody - July 24, 2015

Donald Trump, the Republican presidential candidate who has taken a hard stance opposing illegal immigration, suggested he'd support leniency for some of the estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. without authorization.

"I'm a very big believer in merit system," Trump said on MSNBC's Morning Joe Friday. "Some of these people have been here, they've done a good job. You know, in some cases, sadly they've been living under the shadows."

The real estate mogul said securing the border and getting "the bad ones" out of the country permanently should be the priority, but that after that, deportation of all 11 million might not be his goal.

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“If somebody's been outstanding, we try and work something out.”

Donald Trump

"If somebody's been outstanding, we try and work something out," he said.

He did not say whether he would support a path to citizenship, which many Republicans oppose as “amnesty.”

Donald Trump bans Des Moines Register from Iowa campaign event // Politico // Eliza Collins - July 24, 2015

Donald Trump courted further controversy on Friday by banning the Des Moines Register from attending his Iowa campaign event Saturday, according to the Register.

The real-estate mogul and Republican 2016 candidate was unhappy with an editorial published by the newspaper that called on Trump to pull out of the race.

“We’re not issuing credentials to anyone from The Des Moines Register based on the editorial that they wrote earlier in the week,” Trump’s campaign manager Corey Lewandowski told the newspaper.

He said he expected the campaign would reconsider for future events.

The editorial section of the Register — Iowa’s largest newspaper — operates independently from the newspaper’s political team.

“As we previously said, the editorial has no bearing on our news coverage. We work hard to provide Iowans with coverage of all the candidates when they spend time in Iowa, and this is obviously impeding our ability to do so. We hope Mr. Trump’s campaign will revisit its decision instead of making punitive decisions because we wrote something critical of him,” the Register’s editor Amalie Nash said in a statement.

Trump dominates GOP field in name ID // Politico // Nick Gass - July 24, 2015

Donald Trump is the best-known Republican candidate in the last two weeks, while former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is second, according to the results of a Gallup tracking poll of Republicans and Republican-leaners out Friday.

But neither is the best-liked over that same time frame.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson hold the best net favorable ratings in the presidential field of 16, at a net of 42 points and 40 points, respectively, while Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is close behind at plus-34 points.

Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents surveyed, 92 percent said they were familiar (i.e. had an opinion) with Trump, while 81 percent said they knew Bush.

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Several candidates, including Bush, were both well-known and well-liked among the Republicans surveyed. More than half of Republicans surveyed (54 percent) said they had a favorable opinion of the former governor of Florida, while 27 percent said they viewed him unfavorably, giving him a net favorability of +27 percentage points. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee drew a net favorable rating of plus-37 percentage points, while 73 percent were familiar with him, followed by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul with a familiarity rating of 68 percent and net favorability of plus-26 points. Approximately two-in-three voters said they had an opinion of Texas Gov. Rick Perry (67 percent), drawing a positive net favorable rating of 35 points.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz drew a 66 percent familiarity rating, while grabbing a net favorable rating of plus-34 points. Next up, 64 percent of those surveyed said they knew of Rubio, who earned the best net favorability of any Republican hopeful.

Other candidates, like Walker, Carson and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, are well-liked but are not as well-known.

Approximately half of those surveyed had an opinion on each of the three candidates, though all three polled quite favorably with the base (Walker at plus-34, Carson at plus-40 and Jindal and plus-29).

Just two candidates — Trump and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie — are well-known but are comparatively not as well-liked, according to Gallup. With 92 percent familiar with him, Trump's net favorability is still in the black at plus-20 points, though far behind other top contenders. With 72 percent familiar with Christie, the governor's net favorability is a comparatively smaller plus-6 points.

The only Republican candidate with negative favorability in the poll is former New York Gov. George Pataki, at negative-7 points, though just 49 percent of those surveyed said they were familiar with him. Voters were only less familiar with former Hewlett Packard executive Carly Fiorina (39 percent) and Ohio Gov. John Kasich (35 percent). Both Fiorina and Kasich drew net favorable ratings of plus-23 points and plus-15 points, respectively.

Results for the poll came from landline and cellphone interviews conducted July 8-21 as part of the Gallup U.S. Daily survey. These results were based on a sample of 1,028 Republicans and GOP leaners nationwide, carrying a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Donald Trump county chair not 'a 100 percent fan' of Donald Trump **// Politico // Cate Martel - July 24, 2015**

Add this to the list of the latest Donald Trump drama: At least one of his 17 New Hampshire county chairs said he doesn't actually support the real estate mogul.

Or does he?

Raul Cervantes, who serves as Trump's Grafton County chairman, told POLITICO last week that he's not fully supportive of Trump — especially in light of the candidate's recent remarks about immigration.

But just hours after he told POLITICO about his issues with Trump, the campaign forwarded a message from Cervantes effectively backtracking on his comments. Cervantes would not explain what changed his mind, and the Trump campaign would not elaborate.

"I think his written statement that says he supports Trump speaks for itself," Trump's campaign manager Corey Lewandowski told POLITICO Friday. When asked what prompted Cervantes's email, Lewandowski could not explain. "I have no idea. I'm sitting in New York today, so I don't know of every conversation that takes place in each of the states on a daily basis."

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The controversy began last Tuesday when Cervantes told POLITICO, “Yes, I’m a county chair for Donald Trump because I did a favor to my friend. That doesn’t mean I’m a 100 percent fan of his.”

Cervantes, a Mexican immigrant who lives in Lebanon, New Hampshire, said he was approached to join as a county chair by his friend Andrew Georgevits, Trump’s deputy state director, who didn’t respond for a request to comment. While he generally agrees with Trump, Cervantes thinks Trump needs to be more respectful to Latinos like him.

“You don’t have to generalize everybody. I come from Mexico and I’m not saying ‘all the Americans are fat people,’ said Cervantes. “Mexico, right now, is dealing with a drug-dealing problem, but a lot of Americans consume the drugs.”

Cervantes also expressed his support for Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

But later that evening, the Trump campaign forwarded POLITICO an all-caps email from Cervantes that said, “I, RAUL CERVANTES, DO SUPPORT MR DONALD TRUMP FOR PRESIDENT. RAUL CERVANTES.” The email was dated eight hours after he told POLITICO about his hesitance with the Trump campaign.

When POLITICO contacted Cervantes last Thursday to ask why he had a change of heart, Cervantes indicated that Georgevits had contacted him in the meantime and questioned his loyalty. “I support all the candidates in the Republican Party, OK?” Cervantes said.

“Nothing changed,” he added. “I [told] you I was a little in disagreement in what Mr. Donald expressed against the Mexicans, but you know, I can be in disagreement with Trump — [like I can] with members of my family — but that doesn’t mean I’m gonna dump him, right?”

Raul’s wife, Karen Cervantes, a local GOP official, has even more concerns about Trump. While she respects his business acumen, after attending a few events, she said she found him “arrogant” and sensed that Trump feels like he is “much better than us.”

“[A]s a president, he would scare the ever living out of me,” she said. “I just don’t think he knows how to work with people. He is used to being in a [position of power] and he is used to getting his way — and saying whatever he wants.”

Donald Trump: 'Maybe people will get tired of me' **// Politico // Nick Gass - July 24, 2015**

What could keep Donald Trump from getting the Republican nomination? Maybe people could get tired of him, the leading presidential candidate said Friday.

“I don’t know,” Trump said during a telephone interview with MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.” “I’m just chugging along. You know, maybe people will get tired of me. Who knows? This press is crazy.”

Responding to another question about a report from The Hill that he could seek an independent bid if the Republican National Committee treats him poorly during the primary season, Trump said the RNC is currently treating him “with tremendous respect.”

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“The best way to win is to win as a Republican. I do not want to do independent at all. If

I’m treated poorly, that’s one thing,” Trump said.

And if he doesn’t win, Trump said, it would be very hard to support pretty much any of the other Republican candidates.

“I may just sort of, like, shift off into the moonlight,” he said. “I hope that won’t be the case. I hope that won’t be the case, but it could very well be.”

Trump won’t be a long-term problem for the Republican Party, fellow GOP presidential candidate Marco Rubio said in a separate interview.

“Donald Trump’s not going to be the nominee,” Rubio told “CBS This Morning.” “These happen in these presidential races. These polls swing up and down.”

Trump also appears to want more attention from “Morning Joe.” He took issue with an earlier segment in which panelists discussed whether Ohio Gov. John Kasich has the “Jon Huntsman problem.” In that segment, host Mika Brzezinski pointed out, Scarborough talked about other candidates in that context but did not mention that Trump was at the top of national polls.

“Donald, you aren’t really that thin-skinned, are you?” Scarborough asked.

“Yes, oh, I’m thin-skinned,” Trump responded. “Oh, yes he is,” Brzezinski said, noting that her co-host and Trump are alike in that respect.

Later in the interview, Scarborough noted that many Americans support him on the border issue.

“And other things, Joe,” Trump responded.

“I know, Donald. My God! Stop being so thin-skinned” Scarborough replied.

Insiders: Donald Trump has peaked **// Politico // Katie Glueck - July 24, 2015**

About three quarters of Republican early-state insiders say they believe Donald Trump has peaked — but many acknowledge that may also be wishful thinking.

That’s the assessment from this week’s POLITICO Caucus, our weekly bipartisan survey of the top operatives, strategists and activists in Iowa and New Hampshire.

The controversial real estate mogul and GOP presidential candidate provoked some caucus insiders into offering expletives and other colorful language when asked whether Trump has hit his ceiling.

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“The McCain smear and giving out Graham’s cellphone? What an asshole,” vented a New Hampshire Republican, who says Trump has peaked. “Trumpism does not represent some deeper sentiment within the party, nor has he tapped into something a more conventional candidate can now co-opt. His candidacy has as much substance and meaning as cotton candy. I didn’t like him before. Now I loathe him.”

An Iowa Republican said, “yes,” when asked whether Trump has hit his zenith, but clarified, “I’d like to think so. But who the hell really knows anymore?”

The insiders weighed in following another week in which Trump dominated political coverage.

First, on Saturday, he dismissed Sen. John McCain’s heroism during his time as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, causing the other candidates to scramble to denounce him. Then on Tuesday, he gave out Sen. Lindsey Graham’s personal cellphone number; and finally on Thursday, he descended — with classic Trump bravado — on the U.S.-Mexico border after repeatedly inveighing against illegal immigrants with particularly heated rhetoric.

He was greeted in Laredo by several people who gave him the middle finger.

“I hope and pray that he has peaked,” added another Granite State Republican, who like all participants was granted anonymity in order to speak freely. “The GOP has a chance in 2016 and it diminishes each time Trump increases his poll numbers.”

Trump has caused heartburn for the Republican Party since he announced his White House run on June 16. Some of the first words out of his mouth involved calling undocumented Mexican immigrants “rapists,” to the horror of many establishment Republicans who want to see the party take a more inclusive approach after an abysmal performance with Hispanic voters in 2012.

Since then, it’s just gotten worse for Trump’s competitors as he’s sucked up the media oxygen and soared to the top of some national polls. Several Caucus insiders predicted that Trump would flame out soon, but others said he won’t lose steam before the first GOP primary debate next month, and may have legs into the fall, though few expect that his momentum will continue as the GOP field narrows.

“Everybody is still watching to see what he will do next,” a Granite State Republican said. “It’s like riding down the highway and seeing an accident in the other direction — you know [you] shouldn’t look but you do. I think by September he will begin a downward descent as people get totally sick of his antics.”

In this week’s survey, Granite Staters were slightly less likely than Iowans to say that Trump has hit his ceiling. Among New Hampshire Republicans, 73 percent say he has, while 81 percent of Hawkeye State Republicans said the same. The numbers overall were about reversed among Democrats, who are enjoying watching Republicans grapple with Trump — 74 percent of them said he isn’t done yet.

“GOP establishment (especially in early states) and some media are in a panic right now about Trump, and are quick to develop a storyline that he can’t last,” said a New Hampshire Democrat, who like all participants answered through an online submission form. “The truth is otherwise. The base loves him, he keeps showing top tier status nationally and in early states, he (like Hillary) has 100 percent name ID, and unlike all others, doesn’t need either traditional donors or dark money ones. While there are some parallels to [Ross] Perot, this is a new phenomenon and existing precedent doesn’t apply. Who knows where this goes?”

Another added, “If peaking is poll numbers, maybe, but this guy is far from done. He has no reason to drop out. He is going to be the focus of the first debate.”

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Here are three other takeaways from this week's POLITICO Caucus:

Thanks in part to Donald Trump, not qualifying for the first debate is not necessarily fatal …

Eighty percent of New Hampshire Republicans, and 76 percent of Iowa Republicans, say candidates who don't poll high enough to qualify for the first presidential primary debate on Aug. 6 are not doomed — especially because, several predicted, Trump will steal the spotlight anyway.

"The more the first debate is dominated by Trump, the less damaging non-inclusion will be," said one Iowa Republican.

"Just wait: Pundits will talk about how 'refreshing' and 'interesting' it was to have a Trump-less debate where real issues were discussed and we could get to know a candidate more, beyond just how they answered or responded to Mr. Trump," added another.

"The audience will be watching for the Donald show and the [others] on the stage will be marginalized. They will seem like props. To quote a great Republican President: 'The world will little note nor long remember what they say here,'" said a New Hampshire Republican, cribbing from Abraham Lincoln.

Others said that controversy over debate rules — which the Republican National Committee, after moving to shorten the debate schedule, largely ceded to television stations — blurs the importance of the first debate.

Fox News has limited inclusion in that first debate to candidates who finish in the Top 10 in an average of national polls. The rest will get to participate in a one-hour event before the main show.

"We're still so far away from the actual voting day, and the debate over debates have become such a cluster that no regular voter is going to rule a candidate out for not making the cut," said a New Hampshire Republican.

… But missing out will take a toll.

Still, noted many insiders on both sides of the aisle, not qualifying is certainly not helpful. Democrats were more inclined to think getting onstage is important, with about a third of insiders saying not qualifying would kill a campaign, whereas only 22 percent of Republicans overall said the same.

"Not fatal, but anyone who misses it will be on life support," a New Hampshire Democrat said. "Voters need to limit their choices and appearing in the debate could be a big part of that process. The question is, what will the candidates do around the debate to be relevant if they aren't onstage?"

Overall, Republicans said the candidate who has the most to lose from not being on the stage is New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, followed by former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina. Christie and Perry are both right on the bubble, but Fiorina, who has made a big push to get onstage, lags further in polls.

"Christie's the guy who thinks of himself as the cleanup hitter. He is striking out in the polls, his fav/unfav has tanked all over the country, but if he can get that one perfect pitch, he'll try and drive it over the fence," an Iowa

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Republican said. “I don’t think he can salvage a lagging campaign with one debate performance, but there is precedent for it,” the source said, noting Newt Gingrich’s surge in South Carolina in 2012, driven in part by a debate tussle with moderator John King of CNN.

The numbers changed slightly when broken down by state: Christie got the most votes among Iowa Republicans with 30 percent, but a third of New Hampshire Republicans said it was most important for Fiorina to get onstage.

Twenty six percent of Democrats agreed that Christie most needed to be onstage — the same percentage that said John Kasich, the Ohio governor who announced for president this week, will also be damaged if he doesn’t make the cut because the debate is in his home state.

“Both Kasich and Bush are fighting over the ‘reform-minded governor’ niche,” said one Granite State Republican. “Moreover, Kasich has an ability to eat away at Bush’s advantage among independents who would vote in … New Hampshire’s open Republican primary.”

“He’s Jeb Bush by a different last name,” added an Iowa Republican. “And that is important to people who are worried about nominating another Bush.”

In New Hampshire, where both Kasich and Christie are also seeking to court the center-right vote, several caucus participants noted that the Garden State governor was also vulnerable to losing some support to the Ohio executive.

“He moves exactly into their air space,” said a New Hampshire Republican who thinks Kasich could pull from both Bush and Christie, if he can keep his notoriously short temper in check. “He does town halls as well as Christie and has a record of getting things done that exceeds Bush. I guarantee that every voter who is considering Bush/ Christie will now also look at Kasich.”

“Blunt-talking governors who have a successful record full of left leaning policy baggage draw from the same side of the pond,” argued another.

But some caucus participants — particularly those in Iowa — were skeptical that Kasich would gain enough traction to pull votes from anyone.

“Nobody is talking about Kasich,” said one Hawkeye State Republican.

Dennis Rodman endorses Donald Trump for president **// Politico // Adam B. Lerner - July 24, 2015**

Dennis Rodman has endorsed Donald Trump for president.

On Friday, the five-time NBA champion tweeted that the Donald “has been a great friend for many years.”

“We don’t need another politician, we need a businessman like Mr. Trump! Trump 2016,” he added.

Trump responded on Twitter, writing, “Thank you @DennisRodman. It’s time to #MakeAmericaGreatAgain! I hope you are doing well!”

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Rodman previously appeared on Donald Trump's NBC television show "The Celebrity Apprentice" and was the fifth contestant fired, of 16 total contestants.

He announced his support of Trump only an hour after defending World Wrestling Entertainment legend Hulk Hogan in separate tweets. Hogan was released from the WWE after audio of him using racial slurs reportedly surfaced.

"I've known @HulkHogan for 25 years," Rodman, who has previously appeared in the WWE, tweeted. "There isn't a racist bone in that mans [sic] body."

The former NBA All-Star has previously drawn controversy for traveling to North Korea and playing in a basketball game for the country's dictator, Kim Jong-un.

Rodman defended the trip by calling the North Korean leader a "friend."

After the North Korea visit, Trump praised Rodman for going to the Pyongyang and agreed with the basketball player that President Obama should call Kim Jong-un.

Later, Trump tweeted that Rodman "is saying I wanted to go to North Korea with him."

"Never discussed, no interest, last place on Earth I want to go," Trump added.

He also wrote, "Dennis Rodman was either drunk or on drugs (delusional) when he said I wanted to go to North Korea with him. Glad I fired him on Apprentice!"

The State That Facebooks About Donald Trump the Most **// Bloomberg // A.J. Feather - July 24, 2015**

Guess which state is Facebooking the most about Donald Trump?

Not New York, where the real estate mogul grew up and maintains his corporate headquarters.

Not Florida, where Trump's swanky Palm Beach property is the venue for many of his over-the-top celebrations.

No, the state where Trump's presidential campaign is generating the most chatter on Facebook is... West Virginia. Connecticut, The District of Columbia, Alabama, and, finally, New York, round out the top five.

That's just one of the unexpected facts unearthed by Facebook in data released Thursday.

In terms of overall numbers, Democrat Hillary Clinton is dominates the social network. Whether measuring by interactions within the first 24 hours of her campaign launch or the last 90 days, no one comes close to the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Within 24 hours of making her candidacy of her candidacy, Clinton generated 10.1 million interactions on Facebook from 4.7 million people, according to data compiled by

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the social networking site.

Donald Trump came closest to the former secretary of state in interactions within the first 24 hours after launching his presidential campaign. But the 6.4 million interactions from 3.4 million people generated by the real estate mogul's announcement amounted to less than three-fourths of the Clinton's figure. Trump falls far behind Clinton when comparing the average number of unique people discussing each candidate over the last 90 days, but that may be due to his campaign being just more than a month old. Clinton made her bid for the presidency official on April 13.

Although his announcement day generated a less-than stellar amount of interaction, Jeb Bush has maintained a strong, steady following over the last three months. Bush ranks second to Clinton when comparing the average number of unique people discussing each candidate over the last 90 days. However, Clinton remains far away in the lead with 270,000 unique people per day. That gives her more than three times Bush's figure of 85,000.

Also intriguing: the location of interactions. While much of the country may be trying to avoid the early onset of presidential politics, Washington, D.C. ranks in the top five states chattering about each and every candidate. For all but three contenders, the top site for Facebook traffic is their home state.

The exceptions:

Trump Says He's 'Big Believer' in Merit-Based Immigration System // Bloomberg // Ben Brody - July 24, 2015

Donald Trump, the Republican presidential candidate who has taken a hard stance opposing illegal immigration, suggested he'd support leniency for some of the estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. without authorization.

"I'm a very big believer in merit system," Trump said on MSNBC's Morning Joe Friday. "Some of these people have been here, they've done a good job. You know, in some cases, sadly they've been living under the shadows."

The real estate mogul said securing the border and getting "the bad ones" out of the country permanently should be the priority, but that after that, deportation of all 11 million might not be his goal.

"If somebody's been outstanding, we try and work something out," he said.

He did not say whether he would support a path to citizenship, which many Republicans oppose as “amnesty.”

GOP's nightmare: An Independent Donald Trump // CNN // MJ Lee - July 24, 2015

Republicans dreaming of shooing away Donald Trump may want to think twice.

By publicly rebuking the billionaire businessman for his inflammatory comments, the party may convince Trump to launch a third-party candidacy.

That's a potential nightmare scenario for the GOP establishment: a populist outsider with unlimited resources

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attacking their nominee from the right in the general election, raising hell -- and attracting votes -- with his rhetoric on issues like illegal immigration.

Ralph Nader, who has run for president multiple times as a third-party candidate and may have cost Democrat Al Gore the 2000 election by running to his left, said Republicans mishandle Trump at their own peril.

"The Republican Party establishment is playing with nitroglycerine when it goes after Donald Trump and tries to minimize him and exclude him," Nader said in an interview Thursday. "Because a jilted Donald Trump as a third-party candidate can blow the presidential race wide open and turn it into a three way race."

Trump has become a favorite punching bag since launching his White House campaign last month, angering fellow Republicans by questioning Sen. John McCain's status as a war hero last week.

Trump has fired back at the criticism -- especially a rebuke from the typically-neutral Republican National Committee. He's repeatedly declined to rule out a third-party White House run, saying in an interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper earlier this month that he's constantly being asked to run as an independent. This week, he told The Hill that his decision will depend on "how I'm being treated by the Republicans."

No small feat

Launching a third-party candidacy is no small feat. It is a time-consuming and expensive process riddled with logistical hurdles, including massive signature-gathering requirements to gain ballot access in each of the 50 states.

But if it's tedious, it's hardly impossible — particularly for a candidate with money to throw around.

Republicans remember all too well businessman Ross Perot's independent candidacy for president in 1992. The Texan made an appeal to voters looking for an alternative to establishment candidates, and his campaign is widely considered to have complicated George H.W. Bush's effort to win reelection against Bill Clinton.

Clay Mulford, Perot's son-in-law and political adviser, said a third-party run from Trump has the potential to energize a part of the electorate that's itching for a fresh face.

"There is just a sense of ineffectiveness of the two-party system. So I think he would do better than expected if he were in the debates and if he were considered viable," Mulford said. "And having money helps."

Indeed, poll numbers suggest that a third-party candidacy from Trump would damage Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a top-tier candidate in the current Republican field.

Bush

Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton leads Bush, 50% to 44%, in a head-to-head match-up, according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll out this week. But throw an independent Trump into that race, and Clinton's lead grows significantly to 46%, leaving Bush at 30%.

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"He'd be the one person that would probably fit the bill. He's not really a Republican, he's not a Democrat," said former U.S. Sen. Dean Barkley of Minnesota, who was appointed and served briefly as an independent by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Independents "decide the election every four years and if all of them or most of them go to Trump, that leaves the Republicans too small of a base to have any chance of winning."

At a campaign stop in New Hampshire Thursday, Bush made sure to emphasize that he isn't dismissive of Trump's candidacy.

"I think he's a serious candidate and he's going to have a lot of money. He's tapping into people's angst that are legitimate," Bush said.

Meanwhile, during a visit to the U.S.-Mexico border in Laredo, Texas, Thursday, Trump said his preference is to run as a Republican and he was confident that he could win the party's nomination.

But in many ways, a third-party run makes a lot of sense for Trump.

The former host of the reality TV show "The Apprentice" was once a registered a Democrat, donated money to members of both parties, and considered running for president in 2000 as an independent.

At the very core of his campaign is the idea that he is the anti-politician. Trump has never held public office and he loves to point out that thanks to his massive wealth — which he claims amounts to more than $10 billion — he is not beholden to anyone, including party leadership.

Headaches for the GOP

This last point has already created massive headaches for the GOP.

Trump sparked furious backlash by referring to some Mexican immigrants that enter the United States as "criminals" and "rapists." Republicans criticized Trump's choice of words as being hurtful and insensitive to the immigrant community, but many chose their words carefully — a sign of how delicate of an issue illegal immigration is.

For many Republicans, Trump seemed to cross the line last weekend with his critique of McCain.

"I like people that weren't captured, OK?" Trump said of the Arizona Republican senator, who spent more than five years in as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War.

The RNC, which remains neutral in the GOP nominating process, took the unusual move of speaking out.

"There is no place in our party or our country for comments that disparage those who have served honorably," said RNC spokesman Sean Spicer.

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The RNC declined to comment for this story.

Bill Hillsman, a political consultant who has worked for a number of independent candidates including in gubernatorial races in Massachusetts and Texas, said the party's condemnation of Trump is likely to have helped fuel Trump's unorthodox campaign.

"I think the damage is already done to a large extent," Hillsman said. "All the people who said well, his campaign is over now and blasted him for some of his previous comments, many of which he's walked back, they already have just pretty much dismissed this guy and the polls are saying otherwise."

Rep. Joaquín Castro blasts Laredo's 'bizarre' welcome for Trump // MSNBC // John O'Brien - July 24, 2015

Congressman Joaquín Castro is speaking out against fellow Texas leaders for embracing Donald Trump's Thursday visit to the U.S.-Mexico border in Laredo, Texas.

In a tweet to Laredo Mayor Pete Saenz, Castro wrote that Trump exploited the city's government for his own image, and added that the city's reception of Trump was "embarrassing for South Texans and Hispanics."

Castro doubled down on his criticism on msnbc Friday. "They rolled out the red carpet for Donald Trump, someone who's made just hateful comments about Mexican immigrants," Castro said on Andrea Mitchell Reports. "To treat him like an officeholder or like he's President of the United States or even the nominee already, I thought it was just bizarre, considering what he said."

In Trump's presidential campaign launch speech in June, the real estate mogul and reality television star said, "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best. They're not sending you, they're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems."

On Friday on Morning Joe, Trump addressed the controversy around his own remarks about immigration and touched on the possibility of a system that would allow undocumented immigrants to stay in the U.S. based on their contributions.

Castro said Trump's recognition that deportation for millions of undocumented people was not a solution. "I'm glad that he seems to be a little more reasonable than he was before," he said, "but still: all of his comments have just made a serious conversation on immigration and dealing with it in Congress much tougher now."

How Donald Trump Could Fall Into the Ross Perot Trap // Daily Beast // Eleanor Clift - July 24, 2015

In 1992, the Texas billionaire thrived on all the free media coverage. But then he refused to spend money. If Trump is serious about a third-party run, he'll need to shell out.

There was no social media in April 1992 when Texas billionaire Ross Perot announced his third-party candidacy on the Larry King show.

But Perot had 4 million volunteers who called his 800-number, and when Republican strategist Ed Rollins asked what he did with their information, Perot said he had it all on computer cards. Great, Rollins thought. A veteran of many campaigns, including President Reagan's, he had been brought in to professionalize Perot's grassroots campaign.

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Four million names was like money in the bank in those days, but Perot bristled at the idea of sending “junk mail” to his prized volunteers. “He had no understanding of the game, and when he saw it, he didn’t like it,” Rollins recalled in a phone interview with The Daily Beast. As Perot gained strength in the polls, the media scrutiny intensified, and he told Rollins, “I never got bad press until I hired you and Hamilton [Jordan].”

Rollins told him that he was being treated like any other candidate, and in June 1992, with Perot polling at 39 percent, ahead of both President George H.W. Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton, Jordan, who had been President Carter’s chief of staff, exclaimed, “If we’re not careful, we’ll elect this guy.” Rollins assured him not to worry. He had by then figured out Perot was not going to listen to any of their advice and was temperamentally unsuited to run a campaign, much less the country.

Still, he got 19 percent of the vote in the November election, which was almost 20 million votes, and many analysts believe he handed the election to Clinton. Thirty-two years later, another rich Republican is off the reservation and threatening to run as a third-party candidate. And another Clinton could benefit. “As an Independent, [Donald Trump] would take a certain segment, mostly Republicans, which tilts the race to Hillary,” says Rollins.

“Perot didn’t understand advertising and PR. He didn’t understand the presidency, and he had very little substance.”

There are similarities between the two men in wealth and ego, and in the tightfistedness of the very rich when it comes to parting with their own money. Rollins had proposed to Perot a $150 million media campaign with Hal Riney, creator of Reagan’s “Morning in America” ads, at the helm. Perot balked. He wasn’t going to spend money on all those longhaired hippies behind the cameras when he could go on Larry King for nothing.

Perot was very tight with the dollar, and a third-party bid is expensive. He wasn’t willing to spend the money. Trump is much more savvy than Perot ever was. “Trump is very reluctant to spend his money, but he’s been through the wars, he’s used to being battered around,” says Rollins. “Perot didn’t understand advertising and PR. He didn’t understand the presidency, and he had very little substance.”

Trump knows the game. The big question for him is how far he will take his candidacy in terms of dollars he will put on the line. “No one knows how much Trump is willing to spend,” says Rollins. “I think at this point he’s a distraction. The potential is there for him to be a very destructive force in the party. The country is pretty disgusted with politicians, and that’s what he’s tapping into.”

Trump has so far offered very little substance on issues other than to claim he would get a better deal with China and he would get Mexico to pay for a border wall. Perot raised one important issue, the deficit, and he became a Johnny One Note on the subject. John White, a former Carter OMB and Defense Department official who was brought in to teach Perot the issues, was alarmed at how little the candidate knew and how uninterested he was in learning. Give me a one-pager on health care, he would bark, and that was it.

Like Perot, Trump appears to have a very shallow understanding of what the presidency is all about, and he’s not temperamentally qualified to be president.

But two billionaires three decades apart reflect and are captive to an angry electorate. Perot said some stupid things, more out of lack of knowledge, says Rollins. Trump is mean-spirited, and if he doesn’t feel he’s being treated fairly by the GOP, he has the club of running third party. Ballot access in all 50 states is not hard, but it’s expensive. You have to hire people and they have to collect enough signatures to qualify. Americans Elect did it in 2012 on a “build it and they will come theory,” but no candidate stepped up to run.

Trump is already altering the dynamics of the race. “It’s his plane, it’s his staff; he has all kinds of resources available to him. And there’s a novelty to him,” says Rollins. That novelty might wear off as it did with Perot,

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whose bizarre behavior became more obvious closer to the election. Whether or not Trump is in it for the duration, he's created bigger problems for his party with Hispanics. "On immigration, he's stirring up the hard core right wing of our base, so if someone like Jeb Bush says something different, he could get booed off the stage," says Rollins.

Republican pollster Frank Luntz worked with the Perot campaign, and said in an email that Trump has "all the advantages Perot had…and one more that Perot didn't. He has the thickest skin of anyone I've ever seen in politics. Nothing bothers him, and you need that fortitude to be a successful third-party candidate."

For those trying to gauge the seriousness of Trump's campaign, the reported involvement of pollster Pat Caddell adds to concerns that Trump could be hell bent on destroying the GOP in order to save it. Caddell was the architect of what became known as Carter's "malaise" speech, and the two seem like a match made in heaven. New York magazine reports that he and Trump talk almost every night. Caddell has searched for years to find a candidate who doesn't distort his message.

"All I can say is Trump makes Ross Perot look like George Washington," says Gerald Rafshoon, Carter's former media adviser, who flew to Dallas in '92 to meet with Perot about his ad campaign. The meeting didn't go well. Perot told Rafshoon he could get on TV any time he wanted, so why should he spend money on ads? To underscore his point, he called out to his secretary to get Larry King on the phone and book him for that evening.

Perot's candidacy was born on King's CNN show and for a time thrived in that venue. Trump is a cable news creature, plus he's known from his show, The Apprentice, and his signature line, "You're fired." How long he can keep his candidacy going depends on how long the free media continues, and how much of his own money he is willing to spend.

If Trump runs as a third-party candidate, he will have to spend money, a lot of it, and if he concludes his chances in the end are no better than Perot's of cracking the two-party lock, that may not look like a deal he'll want to make.

Stay Classy: Trump Used To Test His Dates For AIDS **// Daily Beast // Asawin Suebsaeng - July 24, 2015**

In the early '90s, the Donald said he would ask his ladies to swing by the doctor for an AIDS test before he'd wine and dine them.

Future American President Donald J. Trump appears to be a tad germophobic.

"One of the curses of American society is the simple act of shaking hands, and the more successful and famous one becomes the worse this terrible custom seems to get," the 2016 Republican presidential frontrunner wrote in his book The Art of the Comeback, published in 1997. "I happen to be a clean hands freak. I feel much better after I thoroughly wash my hands, which I do as much as possible." (He has repeatedly described the custom of handshaking as "barbaric," because of the germs.)

But his fear of disease goes well beyond his worries about catching a cold from glad handers. According to an early '90s Associated Press article, Trump—then a "newly eligible bachelor"—talked about how he asked women to agree to an AIDS test at his doctor's office before he would take them out on a date.

"It's one of the worst times in the history of the world to be dating," he explained in late June 1991, roughly four months before Magic Johnson announced that he tested HIV-positive, and before Queen frontman Freddie Mercury died of AIDS.

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Trump made his comments shortly after his divorce from Ivana Trump was finalized, and after he had been seen out on the town with TV personality Marla Maples and then model Carla Bruni.

"I have been known to say that to women," the real estate mogul and notorious womanizer told Newsday when asked if he actually asked potential lovers to test for STDs. "It's one way to be careful. There are a lot of ways. I'm saying, take all of those ways and double them, because you will need them...It's very scary out there."

In the early '90s, the Donald said he would ask his ladies to swing by the doctor for an AIDS test before he'd wine and dine them.

After some years of wooing and HIV-testing, Trump would settle down and remarry, twice. But along the way there was one famous woman he regretted never asking out: Princess Diana.

"Do you think you would have seriously had a shot?" NBC's Stone Phillips asked Trump during a Dateline segment from November 1997. (Princess Diana had died that past August.) "I think so, yeah," Trump replied. "I always have a shot."

Trump claimed he never asked her out because he was always too busy. It is unclear if The Donald would have AIDS-tested the late Princess of Wales, had he not been so busy.

Trump barring Des Moines Register from campaign event // Des Moines Register // Jason Noble - July 24, 2015

Donald Trump's presidential campaign has denied The Des Moines Register press credentials to gain access to a candidate event scheduled for Saturday in Oskaloosa.

The reason: an editorial published by the newspaper last Tuesday calling on Trump to quit the Republican race.

Register political columnist Kathie Obradovich was informed Friday that she had been denied a credential to the event, a "family picnic" featuring Trump that will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the George Daily Community Auditorium in Oskaloosa.

Trump's national campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, told Obradovich in a phone call that the Register was being excluded from the event because of the editorial.

The Register's editorial board operates independently from the editors and reporters who conduct political coverage.

In a subsequent conversation with the Register's chief political reporter, Jennifer Jacobs, Lewandowski reiterated that news staffers were being denied access because of the editorial.

"We're not issuing credentials to anyone from The Des Moines Register based on the editorial that they wrote earlier in the week," he said.

Lewandowski said he expected the campaign would consider allowing the Register to attend events at some point

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in the future.

Trump responded to the editorial's publication almost immediately on Wednesday, denouncing the Register's coverage as "uneven," "inconsistent" and "dishonest." Still, it is highly unusual for a political campaign to deny credentials to a media organization.

Much about Trump's candidacy has been unusual, though, even as it has succeeded in drawing massive national media exposure and vaulted him to the top of many national polls on the Republican race.

In a statement, Amalie Nash, the Register's editor and vice president for audience engagement, emphasized the division between the newspaper's news and opinion desks.

"We are disappointed that Mr. Trump's campaign has taken the unusual step of excluding Register reporters from covering his campaign event in Iowa on Saturday because he was displeased with our editorial," she said. "As we previously said, the editorial has no bearing on our news coverage. We work hard to provide Iowans with coverage of all the candidates when they spend time in Iowa, and this is obviously impeding our ability to do so. We hope Mr. Trump's campaign will revisit its decision instead of making punitive decisions because we wrote something critical of him."

Priebus: Trump won't run as third-party candidate **// The Hill // Kevin Cirilli - July 24, 2015**

Republican National Committee (RNC) chairman Reince Priebus on Friday said he does not think Donald Trump will run as a third-party candidate should the billionaire business mogul lose the GOP nomination.

"I don't think he's going to do that. I think he knows that if you're going to beat Hillary Clinton — if Hillary Clinton is going to get beat, there's only one party that's going to beat her: It's the Republican Party," Priebus said on Fox News' "On The Record: With Greta Van Susteren."

Earlier Friday, Trump — who has surged to the top of the early Republican presidential polls — seemed to soften his tone against the RNC after telling The Hill on Wednesday that he would consider a third-party run if RNC leaders were unfair to him during the primary process.

"I want to run as a Republican. I think I'll get the nomination," Trump said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" earlier Friday.

Priebus said on Fox News that "any one of the sixteen candidates on our side know that the only individual that is going to beat Hillary Clinton is going to be a Republican if she's going to get beat, if she's going to be beat. Period. And everyone in America knows that's true."

Earlier this month, Priebus reportedly called Trump and asked him to tone down his rhetoric on immigration. RNC officials also released a public statement denouncing Trump's comments about Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) on Saturday.

Trump had said that he didn't think McCain was a war hero, but he immediately followed up by saying that he did think McCain was a war hero.

Trump has received an onslaught of criticism from the crowded Republican presidential field, including former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.).

Host Greta Van Susteren described Priebus' job as a bit like "herding cats right now."

"It's a little bit like that, but then when you look at the polling and you see that Hillary Clinton is losing to

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candidates in key battleground states with her 100 percent name ID, I kind of like where we're sitting," Priebus answered.

He added that having so such a big field was ”a lot for our party to handle but it's also a great opportunity."

"I'm tired of the name-calling — from everybody — and I think it needs to stop from whatever source, from whatever place," Priebus said of GOP infighting.

KASICH

Stalking Jeb Bush in New Hampshire **// Politico // Eli Stokols - July 24, 2015**

As campaign staffers hurriedly darted about, carrying in more chairs to accommodate a larger-than-expected crowd, two older men sat and chatted as the room filled up, waiting for John Kasich to arrive for his town hall on Thursday afternoon. They spoke about the Ohio governor’s reputation as a budget hawk and even his record as a congressman with great detail.

“He did that balanced budget amendment back in 1997,” one of them said to the other.

“And he’s done it in Ohio twice,” the other responded.

As savvy and substantive as New Hampshire voters can be, they’re also just as susceptible to television ads as voters anywhere else. The biographical bullet points the two men were reciting have, in fact, been blanketing New Hampshire in recent weeks, part of an early $3 million TV ad buy — 4,000 gross rating points across multiple markets in three weeks — aimed at introducing the relatively unknown candidate to Granite Staters confronting a crowded field of GOP contenders, more than half of whom view this state as critical to their hopes of breaking through.

If he catches on here, Kasich poses the biggest direct threat to Jeb Bush, another establishment-friendly candidate with a centrist conservative message, in his most critical early voting state.

It’s a big if, but that battle began in earnest Thursday, as both candidates spent the day criss-crossing the hilly hamlets of New Hampshire’s north country.

Bush, who has led the GOP field here for almost two months,and Kasich, who still barely registers, are appealing to the same subset of Republican primary voters, those for whom promises of bipartisanship and various challenges to the hard-line GOP orthodoxies of the moment aren’t anathema — but they are, stylistically, at times a study in contrasts.

It starts, at least in Kasich’s rendition, with their biographies. While Bush typically brushes past his privileged upbringing to tell voters about his life-altering trip to Mexico where he met his wife at age 17, Kasich opens by mentioning that his father was a mail carrier. “I grew up in a blue-collar neighborhood outside Pittsburgh,” Kasich said Thursday as he introduced himself to a crowd of 100 people. “Blue collar, common sense, God-fearing and all that stuff.”

As meandering a speaker as he can be — when a questioner mentioned a Czech pilsner because Kasich’s ancestry is Czech, he told a long, rambling anecdote about being in Paris with his wife because, he explained, they’d been in Prague on the same vacation — he is concise and colloquial, summarizing his priorities into three simple bullet

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points: balancing budgets, strengthening the military and fostering more bipartisan comity in Washington.

Answering one question about campaign finance, Kasich offered his most obvious critique of Bush, whose $114 million six-month haul leaves him well positioned to bruise and outlast his many rivals over the course of a long, sprawling primary fight.

“I think there is an element of fundraising influencing some decisions; not my decisions — I could care less, but it’s an issue,” Kasich said. “Money can’t buy you love in New Hampshire.”

Bush, as evidenced by his hustle here, gets that. For now, he doesn’t seem to view Kasich as anything more than another trifling inconvenience on his path to the nomination. Yes, Kasich is folksy and blue-collar. Yes, he’s from critical Ohio. Yes, his message and tone are largely the same as Bush’s, appealing to the same voters.

And yet.

Bush, confident in his campaign’s overwhelming financial advantage, his spot on the debate stage given his consistently high standing in national polls and the durability of his mainstream message, is plodding along, content to let the national media chase Donald Trump while he works small towns where just a few hundred Republican votes are up for grabs.

As Trump neared the U.S.-Mexico border Thursday morning, Bush was almost to Canada. On the front porch of Lahout’s Country Store in Littleton, the country’s oldest ski shop, Bush continued to present himself as the anti-Trump, a candidate engaged in more than mere performance art, one meeting voters where they are, offering substance and a record of conservative executive leadership.

“I’m not a candidate who has a grievance; I’m not angry,” Bush said. “I’m the tortoise in the race: slow, steady progress.”

Bush suggested to reporters on Thursday that he, like most observers, thinks Trump-mentum will fade. When it does, he’ll still have to contend with Kasich, not to mention Marco Rubio, Chris Christie, Rick Perry, Carly Fiorina and Lindsey Graham, all making a play for New Hampshire and its more establishment-tilting primary electorate.

Currently, polls show Bush in good shape, atop the GOP field with around 15 percent support in New Hampshire, enough for a five-point cushion over his closest rivals (for the moment that’s Trump, followed by Scott Walker, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio). Kasich, tracking at just 2 percent in New Hampshire, has a long way to go — but longtime political observers here think he has the most room to grow.

“Kasich has the potential to capitalize on Bush fatigue,” said Fergus Cullen, a conservative columnist and New Hampshire primary historian. “I’ve seen them both and like them both. Part of Kasich’s pitch, subtle and unstated, is that if you like Bush’s record, message, tone and electability in a swing state, you get that with Kasich without any baggage.”

Bush’s jam-packed schedule on Thursday, which included stops at a candy store, a VFW hall in Lancaster and a town hall in Gorham, was an investment in the type of retail politics voters here demand, a charm offensive aimed at winning people over by making personal connections: photo-ops with preschoolers, accepting a jug of maple syrup from the Lahouts, signing Solo cups and endlessly posing for “selfies.”

As Bush plopped himself onto a lawn with a dozen three- and four-year-olds, a passel of photographers and iPhone-wielding reporters snapped away. Rich Killion, the New Hampshire operative overseeing Bush’s campaign here, hustled around, unable to hide the grin on his face.

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“There’s an old saying: If you tell one person in North Country about an issue or a presidential candidate, everybody knows because everyone knows their neighbors, everyone’s related up here,” said Joe Kenny, a member of New Hampshire’s Executive Council from the North Country who was at events for Bush and Kasich Thursday. “The difference between the vote count in who’s going to be first, second or third is only a few thousand people. So, you come up to these small North Country towns [and] you can collect a lot of votes.”

Unlike Kasich or other long-shots, Bush is finding a number of Democratic activists showing up to his appearances. One young woman slapped a Jeb! sticker on her T-shirt and took her place inside the VFW hall, but Bush recognized her, and her questions about climate change, from past meetings. A tracker from American Bridge, the primary Democratic opposition research group, follows and records his every move.

The scrutiny – and missteps like his weeklong attempt in May to cleanly answer a question about Iraq to more recent statements about workers putting in “longer hours” and, on Wednesday night here, “phasing out” entitlement programs — may make Bush a more polished, message-disciplined candidate. But as much or more than any of his rivals, he is constantly answering questions, engaging with reporters, activists and voters of every stripe, flouting his capacity for ad-libbing beyond his talking points.

“I campaign like Jeb,” he said in South Carolina on Tuesday, even though only long-time Floridians could have any idea what he meant.

The accessibility, in many ways, has become elemental to Bush’s main message, a point of emphasis and contrast to rivals like Walker, who has yet to hold a town hall in New Hampshire, and Hillary Clinton, the likely Democratic nominee whose campaign corralled reporters a safe distance from the candidate with a rope during a July 4 parade through Gorham, where Bush held his town hall Thursday.

Although Bush joked about the rope line, his comments about his political approach have focused more of late on separating himself from his fellow Republicans, specifically Trump, who has basically hijacked the primary with his can’t-look-away antics.

“It’s a large number of people and I respect them all,” Bush said of the GOP field. “I’m running to win, I’m not running to make a point. I’m not running because my version of conservative reform philosophy is better than anybody else’s. I’m not running because I’m angry. I’m running because I want to win to fix these things and I think I have the leadership skills to do so.

“I’m running to draw people towards our cause, rather than push them away. A Republican will never be elected president of the United States unless we campaign like this, where we campaign in every nook and cranny of this country.”

Kasich’s message of inclusion – he speaks of job growth as a “the most important moral purpose of government” and of healing the partisan divide – isn’t much different from Bush’s. Just as Bush often affirms he is campaigning with “joy in my heart,” Kasich on Thursday evening told reporters he, too, is having a lot of fun, echoing Bush right down to the characteristic sarcasm they share.

“I’m enjoying this,” said Kasich, whose prickly reputation may well be an asset here in a state where voters are often drawn to candidates who are a little rougher around the edges. “I’m actually having fun.”

His top adviser, John Weaver, who oversaw John McCain’s successful New Hampshire campaigns in 2000 and 2008, touted the response Kasich is getting so far in terms of voters signing up to support him, including many who waited a lot longer to sign on with McCain.

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"We are building as deep and wide an organization in New Hampshire as I have ever been a part of, including John's in 2000," Weaver said. "It's clear voters are finding something real and refreshing in John Kasich."

As amazing as it sounds in a field this large, there appears to be an opening for Kasich, especially with Christie struggling to catch on. Despite a campaign built around the New Hampshire-style politics of "telling it like it is," the New Jersey governor is stuck around five percent in the polls after an almost constant presence in the state for months. Similarly, long-shots like Graham and Fiorina, however endearing, are struggling to turn warm receptions from voters into hard support.

Kasich, Weaver points out, is largely undefined in New Hampshire; his negatives are low, especially compared to Christie's, and he may hold appeal to moderate conservatives concerned about the baggage of the Bush brand. What remains to be seen is whether he can seize that opportunity, whether he'll have the resources to continue running TV ads into the fall and winter, whether he can convince voters he can actually win the nomination.

"It's odd," Bush said Tuesday of Kasich's likely absence from the first primary debate taking place next week in Cleveland, which is closed to candidates polling outside the top 10 nationally.

"John Kasich is an effective governor and has a great record," Bush said, killing Kasich with kindness, assured of his own place on next week's debate stage.

"And I'll give a shoutout to Kasich if he's not on. Maybe he'll be in the crowd if he's not in there."

John Kasich Is the Real Deal: Pay Attention To Him // Forbes // John Zogby - July 24, 2015

Seemingly lost in the all the "Donaldfoolery" of late is that a real candidate announced his bid for the Republican nomination for President: Governor John Kasich of Ohio. Kasich brings a singular level of experience to the race as both a legislator and an executive, significant business success, four decades of winning elections, and impressive (even historic) accomplishments in public policy. He is what Governors Scott Walker and Chris Christie can, at this point in their tenures, only aspire to be. He has more experience than both former Governor Jeb Bush and Senator Marco Rubio combined. And he has the kind of blue collar support needed in a GOP must-win state.

Let's examine the real advantages he represents.

Resume

Kasich has been a state Senator, was elected to nine terms as a member of Congress, chairman of the House Budget Committee, and has twice elected Governor of Ohio. His grandparents were immigrants from Eastern Europe and he was born into a working class family in western Pennsylvania.

Policy success

Kasich was the chief architect and major negotiator of the 1997 balanced budget during the Clinton administration, an agreement that brought the first balanced federal budget since 1969 and led eventually to a federal budget surplus. Kasich also chaired the congressional conference committee that adopted major welfare reform, requiring new work/training requirements into the system. He also played a major part in House passage of the Goldwater–Nichols Act, the first real restructuring and streamlining of the military command structure since the creation of the Department of Defense in 1947. Under his tenure as Governor, Ohio's unemployment

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rate has been nearly halved from 9.4% to about 5%, the state's surplus has more than tripled, and he has cut taxes by $3 billion and consolidated and streamlined the state's economic development efforts

He's a winner

In addition to his state and Congressional district victories, he defeated an incumbent Democrat, Governor Ted Strickland in 2010, and then won re-election with 64% of the vote in 2014. He has received significantly more support from both Latino and African American voters than Republicans can usually expect.

Across the aisle

While this may not be popular with hardliners in the GOP, Kasich is a moderate conservative. He favors smaller government and tax reform, but he has worked successfully with Democrats to pass both important legislation and to be an early adopter of Medicaid expansion in Ohio under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. At the same time, he has not shied away from battling teachers unions on the issues of both pension reform and Common Core Curriculum. He seems to govern practically, not ideologically.

Kasich also appears to have a strong independent streak. He is unappreciated by unions but workers love him. He is hated by the National Rifle Association but gun owners support him.

Now he does like to talk a lot–but so did that young Clinton fellow from Arkansas.

History may be on Kasich's side. Republicans typically nominate the most moderate candidate in the field. (The one exception since 1968 was Ronald Reagan, but he had the good fortune to be both the heir apparent–another GOP tradition–and the beneficiary of a split among moderate opponents.) Kasich will have to catch on in the primaries, which he can do because he doesn't have anywhere near the baggage most of his opponents have out there. And he can cause some real fear among Democrats who could be blindsided by a possible Kasich-Rubio, Kasich-Fiorini or a Kasich-Haley ticket.

John Kasich's announcement deserved a whole lot more attention than it got.

OTHER

Bush leads Rubio in Sunshine State battle **// CNN // Theodore Schleifer - July 24, 2015**

The two Floridians running for president may be heading for a battle royale in their home state, and it looks as if Jeb Bush is currently on top.

Former Gov. Bush leads Florida Sen. Marco Rubio in the state's key Republican primary, according to a new Mason-Dixon poll released Friday. Bush earned 28% of Republicans' support, while Rubio, Bush's mentee, wins over 16% of those polled.

The two Floridians have overlapping donor networks and both rise from the same Miami-based political base. Some Republican strategists believe that only one of the two candidates will emerge as a top-tier contender after Florida's March 15 primary, which features several of the country's most expensive media markets.

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Previous polls have shown a narrower spread between Rubio and Bush, with the most recent Mason-Dixon survey in April revealing the distance between the pair to be just one percentage point. Rubio fell from 30% support to 16% since April, but Bush held steady in the Mason-Dixon poll.

Winning some of Rubio's support appears to be Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who earned 16% in the new Mason-Dixon poll, up from 2% in April. Following Walker in Friday's poll was businessman Donald Trump, who notched 11% support. All other candidates earned 5% or less in the survey.

Five hundred Republican voters were surveyed this week from Monday to Thursday with a margin of error of 4.5 percentage points.

OTHER 2016 NEWS

Presidential Candidates Denounce Violence, but Avoid Talk of Policy // NYT // Jonathan Martin - July 24, 2015

The morning after the third deadly mass shooting in six weeks, the presidential candidates acted as though they had not seen the news.

Republicans attacked Hillary Rodham Clinton over the personal email account she used as secretary of state. Mrs. Clinton went ahead with a planned speech about tax policy. Senator Bernie Sanders, a rival Democrat, talked about children's issues in Iowa.

Only Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, speaking at a news conference outside the movie theater where three people were killed Thursday night, addressed the violence at length.

But Mr. Jindal, who is mounting a long-shot candidacy for the Republican nomination, completely deflected questions on tougher gun laws, saying he would talk about "policy and politics" another time, and telling reporters to focus on the victims, survivors and the heroic police officers who had responded to the shooting.

Law enforcement and other emergency personnel responded to the scene of the shooting.Gunman Kills 2 and Himself at Movie Theater in Lafayette, La.JULY 23, 2015

Though most denounced the shooting and called for prayers for the victims — as they did after recent shootings in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Charleston, S.C. — none of the presidential contenders offered policy solutions to address gun violence, a reflection of the fact that gun laws are politically radioactive.

Five servicemen died after a gunman opened fire at two military centers on July 16 in Chattanooga, Tenn. Credit Kevin Liles for The New York Times

The leading Republican presidential candidates are overwhelmingly opposed to any effort to restrict access to guns, and have responded to the string of recent shootings by focusing on — depending on the nature of the shooting — spiritual healing, the threat of Islamic terrorism and mental health efforts.

The Democratic hopefuls have proposed gun control measures, but they have been generally more focused on issues of economics, race and gender than gun violence.

In the wake of Thursday's attack, Mrs. Clinton made sure to acknowledge that "gun ownership is part of the fabric

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of many American communities," before urging broad policies to address gun violence.

"We must come together for common sense gun violence prevention reforms that keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and the violently unstable, while respecting responsible gun owners," she said in a statement that was unlikely to offer encouragement to proponents of stricter gun laws.

Mrs. Clinton has, however, called for universal background checks and stronger efforts to block those who are on terrorist watch lists, suffer from mental illness, or have records of domestic abuse from obtaining firearms.

Though Mr. Sanders seems to be gaining ground based largely on the support of liberal voters, he is compromised on the issue of guns in a way that Mrs. Clinton is not. The Vermont senator has previously been backed by the National Rifle Association and has argued on the campaign trail that guns in his home state, or in rural New Hampshire, are not the equivalent of guns in major urban areas like Chicago. Mr. Sanders's campaign noted Friday that he supports instant background checks, tighter restrictions on gun shows and has a dismal rating from the N.R.A.

Among the Democratic contenders, only Martin O'Malley, who wrote an op-ed in The Boston Globe late Friday, made a forceful call for Congress to pass more restrictive gun measures.

Strategists in both parties say that, regardless of who wins the White House next year, there is little chance for passing gun legislation because Republicans, who will almost certainly still control the House, will not bring any bills restricting gun access up for a vote. The only times in recent American history when significant gun control bills were signed into law — 1968, 1993 and 1994 — were when Democrats controlled the presidency and both chambers of Congress.

Although President Obama said this week that the failure to persuade Congress to pass "common sense gun safety laws" was one of the great regrets of his presidency — just hours before the shooting in Louisiana — Congress is unlikely to close any of the loopholes in federal gun laws exposed by the recent shootings.

The bill in Congress with the most traction may be one that would give military officers the ability to carry weapons at recruitment centers.

Where Congress has faltered, the states have moved to tighten safety aspects of gun ownership. For instance, 10 states have made it harder for people with domestic violence convictions to obtain weapons.

Court records show that the gunman in Louisiana had a history of mental illness and had once been the subject of a protective order in Carroll County, Ga., which may have been detected with a stronger mental health reporting systems. That too is the subject of legislation languishing in Congress.

Nearly 20 states and the District of Columbia now have universal background check laws similar to a measure that failed in the last Congress, which may have blocked or at least slowed the gun purchase of Mohammod Youssuf Abdulazeez, who law enforcement officials say shot and killed four United States Marines and one sailor at a military recruitment center in Chattanooga. Mr. Abdulazeez bought his weapon on the Internet, an avenue that Senate legislation in the last Congress intended to make subject to background checks.

The man who the police say killed nine Charleston churchgoers had not completed his background check, but he was allowed to buy a gun anyway under a so-called default proceed. Federal law permits a firearms dealer who has initiated a background check to proceed with a sale if the dealer has not been notified of violations within three business days. Representative James E. Clyburn, Democrat of South Carolina, filed legislation that would close the loophole, but Republican leaders have not acted on it.

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In the case of the Chattanooga killings, some of the candidates called for letting members of the military and National Guard arm themselves at recruiting centers, a move codified by bills pending in Congress. This week, Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter responded coolly to the idea.

"We need to recruit, but we can't put people at unnecessary risk as well," he said, saying that he would await the recommendations of commanders, "and then I'll make decisions sometime in the next few days."

No single law usually could have prevented mass shootings, which remain rare. Gun violence experts are increasingly interested in changing laws to better target those who have a demonstrated propensity for gun violence. For instance, a nonviolent felony conviction from two decades ago may well be less predictive of gun violence than a domestic violence protection order or drunken-driving conviction, said Daniel Webster, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research.

"There is very little research that says what the best gun policy is to prevent mass shootings," Mr. Webster said. "But we do have a good amount of research to show that when you have higher standards for legal gun ownership and more robust efforts needed to gain access you have much lower rates of gun violence. A lot of people have a hard time believing that because you never see a news story that some dangerous person didn't kill someone today because they didn't get a gun."

Tom Steyer: Candidates Who Want My Support Must Be Aggressive on Clean Energy // WSJ // Colleen McCain Nelson - July 24, 2015

Tom Steyer, the billionaire climate-change activist, laid out a litmus test for 2016 candidates Friday, calling on them to develop aggressive clean-energy plans.

Mr. Steyer set a high bar for candidates and elected officials seeking his support, asking for concrete plans to increase the share of clean energy in the United States' power generation mix to 50% by 2030.

"Reaching this goal would more than triple renewable energy in our country – putting us on the pathway to a 100% clean-energy economy by 2050 and millions of new jobs," Mr. Steyer wrote in a blog post.

The goal set by Mr. Steyer and his advocacy group, NextGen Climate, is more ambitious than President Barack Obama's pledge to achieve 20% renewable energy other than hydropower by 2030. Mr. Steyer called his newly announced target "a minimum starting point" for candidates who are committed to a clean-energy economy.

Mr. Steyer, who founded a hedge fund before shifting his focus to politics and philanthropy, has emerged as a consequential environmentalist who is willing to spend millions to elevate the issue of climate change. He spent $73 million during the 2014 midterm elections, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

A spokesperson for NextGen Climate made clear Friday that candidates who don't clear Mr. Steyer's bar on clean energy aren't likely to win the group's backing.

"NextGen Climate fully expects all candidates up and down the ballot to show the leadership we need, so it's hard to imagine supporting a candidate who doesn't embrace this goal," the group's spokesperson said.

While NextGen Climate issued a broad call for all candidates to lay out clean-energy plans, the message appeared

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aimed at prodding Democratic front runner Hillary Clinton, who has not yet detailed her own climate-change policy.

Other Democratic presidential candidates have been vocal about climate change on the stump. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has said the United States should zero out fossil fuels and be powered entirely by clean energy by 2050. Sen. Bernie Sanders has been a vocal opponent of the Keystone XL pipeline and has called for aggressive steps to combat climate change.

Mr. Steyer hosted a donor meeting for Mrs. Clinton at his San Francisco home in May

Red-state Democrats fret about leftward shift // Politico // Kyle Cheney - July 24, 2015

Centrist Democrats were wiped out in the 2014 elections and in their absence emerged a resurgent liberal movement, embodied most recently by the surprisingly competitive presidential campaign of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

But the suddenly ascendant left — its populist overtones becoming part of the mainstream Democratic pitch — is worrying Democrats who want to compete on Republican-leaning turf. The party lost every competitive gubernatorial and Senate race in the South last year. And Democrats didn't fare much better in the heartland.

Now, as Bernie Sanders' surge foreshadows a new burst of progressivism, moderate Democrats are looking to their counterparts in Washington with a plea: Don't freeze us out.

"The national Democratic Party's brand makes it challenging for Democrats in red states oftentimes and I hope that going forward, the leaders at the national level will be mindful of that and they will understand that they can't govern the country without Democrats being able to win races in red states," said Paul Davis, who narrowly failed to unseat Republican Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback last year.

Davis and his ilk were partly victims of a historically dismal year for Democrats, who saw their gubernatorial ranks fall to 18. Their candidates were weighed down by perceptions that President Barack Obama was too liberal. Now, Democrats in red states are worried that the party's shift toward an even more polarizing, populist tone could turn off the swing voters they need to mount a comeback in 2015 and 2016, when a handful of GOP-tilted states with Democratic governors are on the ballot.

"It's important that the Democratic party be 'big-tent,'" said Vincent Sheheen, who lost last year to South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. "So if the result of that kind of rhetoric is an antagonism toward or a hostility toward the moderate elements of the Democratic Party then yeah, it's big trouble and big problems."

"We'll never take back Congress unless we can win in the South. We'll never take back governorships unless we can win in the South," he added.

Though his state is fairly reliable for Democrats, Delaware Gov. Jack Markell told POLITICO he worries that overemphasizing liberal themes to turn out the Democratic base will backfire.

"There are still more self-described conservatives than there are self-described liberals," he said. "I think relying on a strategy where all you're trying to do is turn out your base of liberal Democrats is not a very compelling electoral strategy. I think what we need to do is we need to have a message that is compelling to Democrats, to independents, and even to some Republicans."

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Georgia Democrat Jason Carter, the grandson of former president Jimmy Carter and the narrow loser of his state's 2014 governor's race, said the party would do well to preserve its inclusive image.

"Democrats in the South are the only truly 'big tent' party left," he said, adding that he expects that mentality to pay off in the near future. "The only real litmus test we have is that you have to want to be in the fight with all different kinds of people — and not exclude folks because of one or two issues."

Though Sanders has largely come to represent the restive left, supplanting liberal beacon Elizabeth Warren, the fear among moderate Democrats is not that he'll win their party's nomination — they're still confident Hillary Clinton will be the party's nominee — only that his supporters will tug the party so far away from the middle that there's no place for Southern moderates or Midwestern centrists.

The shift comes amid furious turnover for moderate Democrats at the gubernatorial level. Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear is term-limited and the race to succeed him takes place in three months. Missouri's Jay Nixon and West Virginia's Earl Ray Tomblin are also term-limited and will see successors elected in 2016. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock is up for reelection next year.

These Democrats, who congregated here for the summer meeting of the National Governors Association, treaded cautiously around the issue, emphasizing repeatedly that energy within any faction of the party is a positive force that will aid Democrats across the ideological spectrum.

Tomblin predicted West Virginia Democrats would continue to run as "moderate to conservative" candidates and won't suffer from the pull of national politics. Beshear, whose preferred successor Jack Conway has bragged on the campaign trail about suing Obama over EPA regulations, underscored the importance of retaining the Democrats' big-tent mentality.

"We include viewpoints all across the political spectrum and that includes everything from the most liberal viewpoints to the most conservative viewpoints," he said. Beshear argued that Democrats' focus on common goals — job creation, improved education and access to health care — would keep the party united. "Those issues bring us all together and I think will serve as sort of the anchor of the party throughout future years."

Bullock, who heads the campaign organization tasked with electing Democratic governors this year, cited "roles for all of us" in the party, and Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a former national Democratic leader whose term expires after 2017, said "Anytime anyone brings any energy to a political process, it's a good thing."

Democrats were also quick to deflect from their internal debate with a quick reference to Donald Trump. For all their ideological squabbling, they noted, the Republican Party is far more fractious and still struggling to find its identity.

"If you look at the difference among Democratic candidates on their core message, their core issues, I mean there is much less difference than what we see from extreme parts of the spectrum of Republican candidates," said Mark Schauer, who lost last year's Michigan governor's race against Rick Snyder and is now leading Democratic efforts to retake state legislatures.

Yet Democrats are mindful of how easily Republicans managed to tag local and statewide candidates as pawns of national leaders deeply unpopular in Republican-leaning states.

"Nancy Pelosi in South Carolina does not play well," said Sheheen. "We need to have moderate figureheads in the

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party who can speak to people and relate to people in the south. If the message is a less mainstream message, if it is a more extreme message, then that would be a problem."

One Democratic operative who works with gubernatorial candidates argued that the Democratic Party must avoid a slide into factionalism that mirrors the rise of the tea party on the right.

"The Democratic Party cannot become what the Republican Party is today – a fractured party with the tea party crazies on one side and the libertarian loonies on the other," the operative said. "We have to be able to embrace all."

Ways of seeing // **Economist** // **July 24, 2015**

The presidential candidates' ideas for boosting wages reveal different diagnoses of how the economy has changed over the past 40 years

With unemployment low, decent growth anticipated for this year and the Federal Reserve preparing to raise interest rates, America's economy looks rosier. That has not stopped candidates for president from worrying about it. With the economy back on its feet, the presidential hopefuls want to address a longer-term condition: stagnant wages. Median household incomes remain lower in real terms than in 1989, and only 11% higher than in 1970. Talk of the death of the American dream is rife. The candidates have suggested a variety of reviving strategies, each of which reveals a different diagnosis of the underlying problem.

The first idea is to boost growth. Most economists reckon GDP rose by around an annualised 2.5% in the second quarter—strong, by today's standards. But it lags the pace achieved, say, from 1996 to 2000, when annual growth topped 3.5%, and real median incomes grew by 10% to boot.

Jeb Bush, the front-runner for the Republican nomination, wants a repeat of this superlative economic performance, and is promising to target growth of 4%. With such a fast expansion, argues Mr Bush, "the middle class will thrive again".

That is probably true, but the ambitious target has raised plenty of eyebrows among economists, many of whom think the economy's potential for growth is permanently lower today. Mr Bush's plan is light on details, but in an interview with a New Hampshire newspaper on July 8th he said part of the solution might be for Americans to work longer hours. The Democrats immediately lambasted him as out of touch; Americans already toil for longer than any other workers in the G7 group of large rich countries.

Mr Bush may have a point all the same. There are 6.4m Americans in part-time jobs who want to work full-time, up from 4.5m on the eve of the recession. The Federal Reserve reckons these workers form part of the slack in the labour market which holds wage growth down. Still, it is not clear what Mr Bush could do about this, were he to win the White House. Labour-market slack is a short-run issue that is usually the domain of the Fed.

A more promising approach is to try to boost productivity in the hours already worked—another natural way to get wages up. In a thoughtful speech on July 7th Marco Rubio, one of Mr Bush's many rivals for the Republican nomination, focused on this route to riches. The plight of the middle class was not, he said, the result of a cyclical economic downturn. Instead, Americans need help adapting to the new world of high-tech jobs. Just as textile workers in the industrial revolution had to retrain to learn to use the power loom, and became richer as a result, Americans today will thrive only if they learn to harness the tools of the global techno-economy.

To that end, Mr Rubio wants to overhaul higher education. A four-year college course is unnecessary for many students, and too expensive for workers looking for new skills, he argues. Mr Rubio wants to make it easier to set

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up cheaper, shorter courses and break what he calls the “cartel” of colleges controlling accreditation. He would also introduce a new funding model for students, who could offer up a fixed percentage of their future incomes to investors willing to finance their studies.

Boosting skills and productivity is necessary to increase wages. But Hillary Clinton, the probable Democratic nominee, likes to point out that this is not, on its own, enough. Americans have not reaped the fruits of their labour in recent decades Since 1970, productivity has more than doubled, while median incomes have risen only 11% (see chart).

That makes the problem look like one of pie-cutting rather than pie-cooking. The labour share—the proportion of GDP that flows to the pockets of workers—has been in decline since the turn of the century, with capital gobbling up an increasing share of the economy’s spoils. Mrs Clinton wants to arrest this trend by encouraging firms to share profits with workers. She would offer a two-year tax credit to firms that do so, worth up to 15% of whatever was paid out. The hope is to nudge firms towards schemes that they will continue after the tax break is withdrawn. The firms may find this is good for them: there is strong evidence that profit-sharing boosts productivity, argues Joseph Blasi, an economist at Rutgers University who advised the Clinton campaign on the policy.

Pie-eyed

One problem is that wages may fall to offset the profit share. To begin with, this would be spotted easily. But over time it would be harder to detect (for instance, wages might grow at a slower pace with profit-sharing in place). The only way of ensuring that workers shared company profits in the long-run would be to encourage employee ownership of firms.

Mrs Clinton’s challengers on the left have a more rudimentary approach. Both Martin O’Malley, a former governor of Maryland, and Bernie Sanders, a senator from Vermont, say they will more than double the federal minimum wage from $7.25 to $15 an hour. Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco are already phasing in such a policy. On July 22nd a panel of experts recommended a $15 minimum wage for fast-food workers in New York. A much higher minimum wage would boost median incomes, because many low-wage workers are their household’s second earners. But the minimum wage is a blunt instrument, and economists know little about the long-run impact these increases would have on employment (see article).

The candidates do not seem short of ideas to improve the fortunes of average Americans. And the renewed focus on wages is welcome; economic growth matters little if it does not boost living standards. Most of the front-line candidates have correctly identified the causes of the malaise (Scott Walker, who sees no problem, is an exception). But slower growth, weak productivity and a declining labour share of income are global trends. The next president will need to fight all three.

Why Bernie Sanders & Donald Trump represent a perfect storm for American politics // Salon // Matthew Pulver - July 24, 2015

Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders are not the same. At all. Sanders is not the Trump of the left, and vice versa. I feel uncomfortable even joining them in the same sentence. But the two campaigns’ shocking early successes do reflect the same growing helplessness and anger at a Washington many increasingly feel to be distant, unresponsive, dynastic and unconcerned with regular citizens’ lives. We’re finding that if you’re a truth-to-power speaker, there’s a ready-made following in each party. At least, Trump’s freewheeling, shoot-from-the-hip disdain for GOP leaders (and Democrats when he gets around to it) looks like speaking truth to power to followers; and Sanders is stubbornly reminding his party’s leadership about its mistakes. They’re both tapping into the same bipartisan well of unhappiness with our government. Trust in government is at its lowest sustained trough since Pew started collecting that data in 1958, and Trump and Sanders represent a radical choice in each party, each man an outsider against establishment favorites named Clinton and Bush.

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Neither Trump nor Sanders even belongs to the party for whose nomination he runs. Trump said he identified "more as Democrat" in 2004, declined to affiliate with the party in 2012, and up until the 2012 election had given "significantly more money to Democrats." Sanders is proudly an Independent. He describes himself as a "democratic socialist" and boasted in April that he is "outside of the two-party system, defeating Democrats and Republicans."

So neither feels the need then to play ball according to party rules. They weren't reared in their parties. Trump has gone on a rampage against GOP establishment figures like John McCain and Lindsey Graham recently, which has been verboten and in breach of Reagan's "Eleventh Commandment" that "thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican." But the recent ad hominem and dirty internecine attacks of the sort hitherto reserved for Democratic opponents actually boosted Trump's poll numbers and sent him firmly into the frontrunner position.

Bernie Sanders is the anti-Trump and committed to not personally attack Hillary Clinton. He prides himself on his career-long avoidance of such tactics. "I've never run a negative ad in my life," he told The Nation's John Nichols earlier this month. "I'm supposed to be telling the people that my opponents are the worst people in the world and I'm great," he said. "That's crap; I don't believe that for a second…" But his leftist critique constitutes a gigantic subtweet against the Clintons, whose centrism has defined the direction of the party since the early '90s, if not the late '80s. He doesn't have to name the Clintons to be attacking virtually their entire political project.

Sanders often boasts that he's "the longest serving independent in the history of the U.S. Congress," and in 2006 he became the first socialist ever elected to the U.S. Senate. He's running as a Democrat only because that's the only lane available to make a meaningful run at the White House in a political duopoly.

Both are true outsiders. If nominated, Trump would be the first Republican candidate never to have served in elective office since Eisenhower, who did have a little gig as Supreme Allied Commander in WWII but no elective position. Republican nominee Wendell Willkie in 1940 is the last to have not served in government before his run. Sanders, of course, would be the first socialist president and complete the dream of Eugene V. Debs, the early 20th century socialist presidential candidate who garnered nearly a million votes in 1920.

In recent decades, there have been a few outsider-like candidates who have done well in primaries, but not actual outsiders like Trump and Sanders. Republican Pat Buchanan in 1996 was something of a well-performing wild card, but he was a party man, serving in both the Nixon and Reagan administrations. Democrat Howard Dean was labeled an "outsider" in 2004 and enjoyed some unlikely success early in the primaries. But Dean wasn't actually an outsider. The former Vermont governor went on to chair the Democratic National Committee, the organization "responsible for governing the Democratic Party." So the most insider position there is, basically. Jesse Jackson's run in 1988 is probably the closest modern-era comparison to this election's two outsiders, but Jackson, it turned out, represented the last gasp of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party for two decades, not the resurgence that Sanders' campaign represents.

The 1988 primaries do share some similarities with this election's surprising early showings by Sanders and Trump. Jackson's more radical, outsider campaign did, like Sanders', have a conservative counterpart in televangelist Pat Robertson, who could be thought of as the Trump. The two outsiders won 12 state primaries between them.

But in 1988 there wasn't the same populist anger that's marked the last 6 or 7 years. The Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street, whatever your opinion of the two movements, were manifestations of a deep distrust of Washington that transcended party. The spark that ignited what would become the Tea Party occurred under a Republican president: the rejection of President Bush's Wall Street bailout in 2008, a Republican-led "stunning defiance of President Bush and Congressional leaders of both parties." Occupy was born under Obama in 2011 and presented a progressive challenge to the Democratic establishment. Both movements initiated a new period of intra-party conflict in each of Washington's two political houses.

The electorate of both parties is, as a result, accustomed to internecine fighting in a way that's been absent. No longer is it simply the other party and its leadership to blame for our ills but voters' own party leadership. The last

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several elections have seen “almost unprecedented” political carnage on the Republican side by Tea Party insurgents, and Senator Elizabeth Warren and Sanders form the beginnings of a progressive antagonist wing of the Democratic Party.

It’s a perfect storm. With nearly every measure of trust and approval of Washington showing historic levels of disdain with the establishment, the two parties proffer a Bush and a Clinton as the most likely nominees. Bush and Clinton’s fundraising utterly dominate everyone else in the field, and each party’s base sees machinations and string-pulling. Neither Trump nor Sanders will sit in the Oval Office unless invited by the next president, but it’s time to start paying attention to the anger. Party leaders can dismiss Trump and Sanders, but they shouldn’t dismiss the millions they represent. All a rabble needs is a good rouser. Neither candidate is right for that job, but there is almost certainly someone out there who is, someone with a 2020 vision.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Hillary Clinton Classified **// WSJ // July 24, 2015**

When Hillary Clinton called a press conference on March 10 to defend her use of private email for official State Department business, she was categorical in saying that as Secretary of State she “did not email any classified material to anyone on my email. There is no classified material.”

Mark that down as another Clinton untruth, along with coming under fire on a tarmac in Bosnia, suddenly discovering the Rose Law Firm billing records in the upstairs bedroom after years of saying they’d been lost, earning a 10,000% profit trading cattle futures after having read the Wall Street Journal, and so many more.

A government review has now found that Mrs. Clinton sent at least four emails from her personal account that contained classified information during her time as Secretary of State. The content should have been labeled “secret,” the second level of classification, according to a letter sent to Congress by the Inspector General for the intelligence community. Those four emails came from a mere 40 that the IG inspected. There are 30,000 more emails the IG hasn’t reviewed, according to a story Friday in the Journal.

This is no small slip-up, and the intelligence IG and his State Department counterpart have referred the handling of Mrs. Clinton’s email to the Justice Department for review. Other senior officials have faced criminal charges for misusing classified information. Former CIA Director David Petraeus pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor this year for disclosing classified information to his mistress, while Clinton-era National Security Adviser Sandy Berger copped a misdemeanor plea in 2005 for walking off with classified documents from the National Archives.

The latest revelation adds to the scandal of Mrs. Clinton’s private emails, which by now would have crippled a lesser figure running for President. Mrs. Clinton first said she wanted to use a private server so she could use a single electronic device. Then we learned she had more than one device anyway.

She claimed she had turned over all of her private emails to the State Department to review and release to the public. Then we learned that she had failed to turn over some Benghazi-related emails to her outside political fixer, Sidney Blumenthal. We only learned about the emails she didn’t turn over because Mr. Blumenthal gave them under subpoena to the Congressional committee investigating the 2012 terror attack in Benghazi.

As usual, Mrs. Clinton didn’t acknowledge her previous falsehood when asked about it on Friday, attempting to change the subject. “Maybe the heat is getting to everybody,” Mrs. Clinton said. “We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part. But I’m also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families.”

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If the Clinton pattern holds, her campaign will eventually admit she "misspoke," but it will say it was inadvertent, the breaches were minor, and what difference does it make anyway? But it makes a huge difference in regard to the honesty and judgment Americans expect in a President.

Mrs. Clinton took an enormous risk to national security by putting her official emails on a private server. Sooner or later she was certain to send or receive some information useful to foreign governments even if it wasn't officially classified. Every intelligence expert we've talked to says it is close to a certainty that some foreign intelligence agency was able to hack her emails while she was America's chief diplomat.

Her reason for taking this risk was most likely because she didn't want those emails to become public if she ran for President. And she admits she destroyed thousands of emails that she says—please take her word for it—weren't official business.

One of this week's big political stories is that Mrs. Clinton is now trailing three GOP presidential candidates in head-to-head polling in three swing states. More dangerous for Democrats, a majority in those states say they don't believe Mrs. Clinton is honest or trustworthy. Perhaps that's because she has proven so often that she isn't.

Hillary Clinton Rebuffs Liberals' Push to Break Up Banks **// WSJ // Laura Meckler - July 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner for president, said she would not be pushed by liberals in her party to advocate for a breakup of big banks or the reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall law that separated commercial and investment banking.

In response to a question about Glass-Steagall, she said: "I think it's a more complicated assessment than any one piece of legislation might suggest."

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who are challenging her for the Democratic nomination, are both advocating a breakup of the banks. Mrs. Clinton suggested that was a simplistic response and promised to lay out her plan for Wall Street regulation at a future date. It isn't expected to include anything that sweeping.

Mr. Sanders in particular has gained traction with liberals in the party pushing for a big populist platform and a crackdown on what he calls the "billionaire class."

Mrs. Clinton said that people advocating for new bank rules should remember that it was not just banks, but mortgage companies, insurance companies and non-commercial banking entities who were "as big if not bigger contributors to the collapse" of the financial system.

"So I am not interested in just saying there is one answer to the too-big-to-fail problem, we have a too-big-to-fail problem still and we have to figure out the best way to address it and I'm going to be talking more about that," she told reporters at the end of a day of campaigning in South Carolina.

She also emphasized the importance of defending the 2010 Dodd-Frank legislation that added new regulations and suggested the real contrast was with Republicans who want to roll that back.

On a related subject, on Friday in New York City, she plans a speech on corporate responsibility and how to encourage long-term thinking and discourage what she calls "quarterly capitalism." Asked how she thinks the Wall Street banks will respond, she said she didn't know.

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"I think I'm proposing policies that will make our economy stronger, that will promote both strong growth and fair growth but will do so with a longer-term perspective," she said. "That's what I think is best for the country. I think it's also best for business whether they agree with it or not."

Earlier, during a question-and-answer session with the public, she said she still thinks a two-state solution is the only way to resolve the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians and if elected president she'd "go right back at it" in trying to reach a peace deal.

It was a rare appearance for foreign policy on the campaign trail for the former secretary of state. She mentioned that while in office, she was able to "bring together" Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the U.S. envoy to the region, George Mitchell, for three face-to-face meetings.

"We sat there for several hours and I could see that there were opportunities to bridge some of these really difficult gaps," she said. She said that "some difficulties that I won't get into" since then have made it harder but vowed to try again. "There is no alternative and I will continue to work for that."

In Greenville, Mrs. Clinton also gave a rare shout-out to a pro-immigration Republican, South Carolina's Lindsey Graham. Mrs. Clinton typically attacks all GOP presidential candidates as opposing a path to citizenship for people in the country illegally, even though Mr. Graham has been a leading supporter of just such a policy.

On Thursday, asked about immigration by an audience member, she mentioned the 2013 comprehensive overhaul that went through the Senate, though it died in the House.

"Your senior senator, Lindsey Graham, was instrumental," she said. "I really respected the way he defended that when he ran for re-election."

Here Are Hillary Clinton's Proposed Capital-Gains Tax Rates **// WSJ // July 24, 2015**

Hillary Clinton is proposing a sharp increase in the capital-gains tax rate for the highest earners for investments held only a few years, a campaign official said Friday. This is part of her push to combat what she sees as too short-term a focus by American companies and investors. The campaign's proposal would affect the top 0.5% of taxpayers, hitting top-bracket single filers with taxable income above $413,201 and married couples filing jointly with taxable income above $484,850.

In Clinton email inquiry, a changing story **// Politico // Dylan Byers - July 24, 2015**

The New York Times' report about a potential investigation into Hillary Clinton's State Department email account has undergone multiple revisions in the hours since it was published, due to mistakes made by both the Times and the Justice Department, the On Media blog has learned.

The most significant error rests with the Justice Department: multiple sources with knowledge of the situation said that the DOJ told the Times on Thursday that the Intelligence Community Inspector General had sought a criminal investigation into the mishandling of sensitive government information in connection with Clinton's personal email account. (On Friday, the DOJ also initially told other news organizations the referral was "criminal.")

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But hours later, the DOJ reversed course: "The Department has received a referral related to the potential compromise of classified information. It is not a criminal referral," the Department said in a statement. DOJ spokesperson Melanie Newman said she would not comment further.

The Director of National Intelligence's office also said Friday that the Intelligence Community Inspector General's referral was not criminal: "An important distinction is that the Intelligence Community Inspector General didn't make a criminal referral – it was a counterintelligence referral to the proper office at the FBI. It's up to them how to proceed," DNI spokesperson Andrea Williams said.

That distinction will likely force the Times to once again alter a report (and headline) that it was already forced to change late Thursday night, after the Clinton campaign complained to the Times that the article had mischaracterized the former Secretary of State's position in the investigation.

As previously reported, the Times initially reported that two inspectors general -- the IC IG and the State IG -- had asked the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation "into whether Hillary Rodham Clinton mishandled sensitive government information on a private email account she used as secretary of state." That clause, which suggested Clinton was a target in the potential criminal probe, was later changed to eliminate that suggestion: the inquiry was now into "whether sensitive government information was mishandled in connection with the personal email account."

The Times initially provided no update, notification, clarification or correction explaining the changes made to the article, its headline or its URL. Early Friday morning, Times reporter Michael Schmidt said that the Clinton campaign had complained about the story to the Times: "It was a response to complaints we received from the Clinton camp that we thought were reasonable, and we made them," he said.

On Friday afternoon, the Times issued a correction acknowledging that it had "misstated the nature of the referral to the Justice Department regarding Hillary Clinton's personal email account while she was secretary of state. The referral addressed the potential compromise of classified information in connection with that personal email account. It did not specifically request an investigation into Mrs. Clinton."

As of 4 p.m. on Friday, the Times article and its headline still stated that the referral was "criminal," despite the DOJ and IC IG claims to the contrary.

Meanwhile, the Times' claim that two inspectors general sought an inquiry also came into question on Friday afternoon after Jennifer Werner, a Democratic spokesperson for the Select Committee on Benghazi, told the On Media blog that the State Inspector General "did not ask for any kind of investigation, criminal or otherwise." Werner said the referral "went from the Intelligence Community IG to the FBI," and that the Times was therefore wrong to report that two inspectors general had sought the investigation.

New York Times spokesperson Eileen Murphy has yet to respond to requests for comment regarding the changes to the Times report.

The Clinton campaign now claims that the Times' reporting has been "discredited."

"It is now more clear than ever that the New York Times report claiming there is a criminal inquiry sought in Hillary Clinton's use of email is false," campaign spokesperson Nick Merrill said in a statement. "It has now been discredited both by the Justice Department and the Ranking Member of the House Oversight Committee. This incident shows the danger of relying on reckless, inaccurate leaks from partisan sources."

But much of the substance of the story remains true. The IC IG has made a referral to the Justice Department for

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an investigation. Moreover, the Wall Street Journal has since reported that an internal government review "found that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sent at least four emails from her personal account containing classified information during her time heading the State Department."

During a speech at New York University on Friday afternoon, Clinton addressed the controversy.

"I want to say a word about what's in the news today. It's because there have been a lot of inaccuracies," Clinton said. "We all have a responsibility to get this right. I have released 55,000 pages of emails. I have said repeatedly that I will answer questions before the House committee. We are all accountable to get the facts right. I will do my part. But I'm also going to stay focused on the issues, particularly the big issues that really matter to American families."

Hillary Clinton's latest e-mail mess // NY Post // Editorial Board - July 24, 2015

So much for Hillary Clinton's claim last March that "there is no classified material" on the private e-mail server she used for official business as secretary of state.

A review by two inspectors general found that four of just 40 e-mails sampled (out of 30,000-plus) contained material that should have been marked "secret," the second-highest classification level.

And unlike material only later deemed classified, these e-mails were — at least, in effect — "classified when they were sent and are classified now," according to a spokeswoman.

Which is why the intelligence community's inspector general referred the matter to the FBI's counterintelligence division, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Justice Department sources initially confirmed that the referral was criminal in nature — though, late Friday, the agency reversed course without explanation.

The two IGs confirmed they'd made a "security referral for counterintelligence purposes." They said the e-mails "should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked and transmitted via secure network" and "should never have been transmitted" over Clinton's private server.

All of which puts Hillary's longstanding claim about not sending sensitive information via her server in doubt. And whether her goal was to thumb her nose at calls for transparency or, as she preposterously claims, for mere convenience, her private e-mail system was clearly an abuse.

What's more, this may be just the start: The results of this limited review suggest hundreds of other e-mails may contain classified information as well. (As for those Team Hillary decided were irrelevant and destroyed, the public may never know.)

Again: Hillary's private server represented an outrageous flouting of the rules. Since its discovery, she's been anything but forthright.

"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right," Hillary insisted Friday. We'd say it's long past time that principle were applied to her.

Uber Shows That 20th-Century Policies Aren't Right For A 21st-Century Economy // Forbes // Andrew Clark - July 24, 2015

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A simple question: Are Uber, Lyft, Airbnb and other companies in the sharing economy modern examples of entrepreneurial innovation? Or are they examples of the free market run amok?

Taxi drivers, union members and civic groups hold a news conference and rally on the steps of City Hall to support a City Council move to limit the number of Uber drivers and other for-hire car companies on the streets of New York City. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

Unfortunately for Millennials, a growing number of policymakers see it as the latter. During her first major economic policy speech last week, Hillary Clinton proposed to "crack down" on companies in the sharing economy that are threatening Americans' well-being by supposedly "exploiting" workers through their business models.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio was quick to follow suit. This week, he called for temporarily capping the number of new for-hire drivers—read: Uber and Lyft drivers—out of concerns for environmental quality and bad traffic, among other things. But after four days of intense backlash (which even included an Uber app setting called "de Blasio" that showed no available rides), he ultimately backed down.

The economy is moving forward – and we can't be left behind

This is nonsense. A far greater threat to Americans' well-being are policies like Clinton's and de Blasio's that apply a 20th century framework to a 21st century economy. Such an outdated approach will only stall the progress of future generations.

Simply put, the sharing economy shows how free markets create new products and opportunities that better people's lives.

It's also an example of what should be the 21st century model of government: getting out of the way of tech-driven innovation. Services like Uber, Airbnb and others allow for private individuals to interact with one another with little government interference. If you like the services—as either the provider or consumer—you'll use them again; if you don't, you won't.

Americans have embraced the sharing economy

Americans' choices speak for themselves. Airbnb has served over 30 million guests since 2008, while Uber had 162,000 drivers as of January of this year. These companies are providing jobs for people who need them. That's especially important for Millennials who face a youth unemployment rate of nearly 14%.

In fact, this new economy is achieving what even the best-intentioned government policies rarely do: raising wages and providing greater worker freedoms.

Uber drivers in six of its largest cities—New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston and Washington, D.C.—make an average of $19.06 per hour, nearly triple the current federal minimum wage and more than the $15 minimum wage some activists are demanding. It's also 48% more than the average taxi cab driver's $12.90 per hour. Some Uber drivers make up to $90,000 a year.

The sharing economy also provides other freedoms hardly imaginable in the 20th century. Forget the 9-5, Uber

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drivers can make their schedules as they please.

Uber has disrupted the absurdities of the taxi industry

Even more telling is the number of cab drivers trading in their taxis for Uber stickers. Taxis have long been among the most heavily regulated industries in the country, with local cab commissions operating like cartels. In places like New York, these commissions have driven up the cost of taxi medallions (essentially licenses for doing business) to over $1 million.

Enter Uber. Since it exploded in the New York market, the price of taxi medallions has fallen by 23% from its 2013 highs. All drivers had to do was make a choice.

Government stands in the way of innovation

And that's the biggest point about the sharing economy. It didn't require laws or regulations to increase wages and worker freedoms. It took government getting out of the way. When individuals can decide when, where and how they work, they are capable of improving their own lives more than any government policy.

This makes Clinton's embrace of 20th century economics all the more puzzling. Many of her policies—like a minimum wage increase, support for labor unions and an expanded welfare state—are tired relics of the past. While the sharing economy prospers because it doesn't rely on government, those policies are fatally flawed because they do.

Hillary Unveils Her Wonky Plan to Jack Up Taxes on Rich Investors // Slate // Jordan Weissman - July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton has unveiled what might be the first truly interesting economic proposal of her presidential campaign. Today during a speech in New York, she detailed a plan to hike taxes on income from investments that high-income Americans hold for less than six years. It is part of a broader platform designed to fight what she refers to as "quarterly capitalism"—corporate America's focus on maintaining short-term prefits in order to appease shareholders. "American business needs to break free from the tyranny of today's earnings report," Clinton said. Frankly, a few of the ideas she brought up—such as more elaborate disclosure rules regarding executive pay and stronger disclosure rules on stock buybacks—seemed a bit limp. But the tax increase on investors could become a defining issue.

Most obviously, because it's a tax increase. Republican contenders like Marco Rubio and Rand Paul have argued for eliminating taxes on investment income altogether, a move that would overwhelmingly benefit wealthier households. (New York University economist Edward Wolff calculates that, in 2013, the top 10 percent of U.S. households owned 81.4 percent of all stocks.) Hillary is officially moving in the opposite direction.

Here's how it would work. Today, when Americans sell stocks or bonds that they have held for less than a year, it's taxed as normal income. If they hold it for more than a year, they pay the lower long-term capital gains rate, which technically maxes out at 20 percent. (However, high earners also pay an additional 3.8 percent surcharge under Obamacare, so the final number is really 23.8 percent.)

Clinton argues, very reasonably, that it's silly to consider everything a long-term investment after just a year. Instead, she wants to the capital gains rate to decline gradually, so that the longer people hold their stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, the less they pay after cashing them in. For Americans in the top tax bracket, the government would tax investments sold after less than two years like ordinary income. Then, over the next four years, the rate would fall back down toward 20 percent (you have to add the 3.8 percent Obama surcharge onto each of these

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numbers to get the total tax amount). None of this would affect people outside the highest bracket.

Again, Hillary is couching this change to the tax code as a way to prod investors into thinking long-term, rather than push companies to cut investment and pay out dividends to enrich their shareholders at the expense of future growth. It might work. It might not. But, ultimately, it's a progressive tax increase on investment income, and that should make many progressives happy. Regardless of whether it changes investors's behavior, it will raise some money from the wealthy, especially given that the average stock is currently held for less than a year.

Inevitably, conservatives will argue that the plan is a job killer. In general, the right maintains that raising on capital gains (or corporate dividends) is a wrongheaded, because it will dissuade individuals people from investing in companies and saving, which will in turn cause companies to invest less on their operations. Suffice to say, it's far from clear that's true.

If you simply chart the top capital gains rate against economic growth, there isn't much of an obvious pattern. Given the vast number of factors at play in the economy at a given moment, it's extremely difficult for economists to design credible studies singling out the effects of the investment taxes, which, as the Congressional Research Service has noted, actually have a very small effect on how much it ultimately costs companies to fund themselves. However, a clever paper by University of California, Berkeley professor Danny Yagan found that the Bush administration's 2003 dividend tax cut had no effect on corporate investment. Yagan looked at the way companies organized as C-Corporations, which were affected by the changed, reacted compared to those organized as S-Corporations, which were not affected. Long story short: There wasn't much of a difference.

So here's the potential upside of Hillary's plan: It's a tax increase that will raise a bit of revenue and dampen some of the worst impulses of investors without risking much in the way of growth.

Economic merits aside, parts of Wall Street will obviously hate and oppose this idea. But maybe not all of it. As I wrote earlier this week, some major figures in finance, like BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, have argued that short-termism has become a crisis that threatens to undermine capitalism. It's possible that other money managers who subscribe to his buy-and-hold approach to investing might get behind Clinton's idea, if only because it would give them an advantage over competitors with a shorter horizon.

Ultimately, Clinton's proposal sets us up for a campaign-season debate about how the country should treat the money people earn from investing versus the money people earn from their work. Given the declining share of the nation's income that's going to labor, it's one of the most essential questions we could ask about inequality right now.

Tom Steyer Just Gave Hillary Millions of Reasons to Get Specific on Climate // Slate // Josh Voorhees - July 24, 2015

Hillary Clinton has promised to make global warming a key pillar of her 2016 campaign but, much to the frustration of the climate crowd, she hasn't gone into any detail about how she'd actually address the problem as president. On Friday the biggest individual spender (non–dark money category) in the midterm elections suggested that's going to have to change if the Democratic front-runner wants the backing of his well-funded super PAC.

Tom Steyer, a hedge fund manager-turned-environmental activist, announced that his NextGen Climate Action group will only back candidates in 2016 who push energy policies aimed at having half of the nation's electricity generated from renewable or zero-carbon sources by 2030, and 100 percent by 2050. "That's the hurdle candidates have to get over to win our support," the billionaire told the New York Times. The creation of such a clear, public litmus test is surprising—particularly since earlier this year Steyer held a private fundraiser for Clinton in his San Francisco home.

So far this year, NextGen has largely focused its efforts on the Republican field by trying to put the candidates on record about not believing that man is a significant contributor to global warming. Friday's announcement, though, is aimed directly at the Democratic side of the field—and Clinton specifically. Hillary's top two rivals are already in Steyer's good graces: Martin O'Malley laid out his plans last month for a shift to 100 percent renewable electricity by the middle of this century, while Bernie Sanders often talks forcefully on the stump about what

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needs to be done to curb climate change. (Whether Sanders will be willing to release a specific plan tailored to NextGen's request, though, remains in question given the Vermont senator's general disdain for billionaire donors.)

Clinton, though, has taken a more moderate, let's-not-move-too-fast position that has angered many in the climate community, which has long been upset over her unwillingness to speak out against the Keystone XL pipeline. Clinton's strongest climate comments to date were a promise to fight to preserve the regulations being implemented by President Obama's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at "all costs." That was welcome news to climate activists but hardly something for them to get excited about. They've long pushed for Obama to go bigger on climate, and they want Clinton to make promises that go beyond more of the same.

As I've noted before, Clinton doesn't have to pay much heed to your run-of-the-mill climate activist in the primary given that she won't have to worry about them come the general. Their legitimate fears about a climate science–denying Republican president will be a much greater motivating force on Election Day than their doubts about Clinton ever could be. But Steyer's vow could force Clinton's hand. He donated $67 million of his own cash to his NextGen Climate Action super PAC in 2014 (without much to show for it). While he hasn't said how much he's willing to spend this cycle, a NextGen spokeswoman told the Times that he intends to "double down." If he does, he'll give Clinton millions of more reasons to finally get specific on an issue she's so far been treating as a political advantage as opposed to a real-world problem.

Review of Hillary Clinton's Capital Gains Tax Proposal // Forbes // Bernie Kent - July 24, 2015

In a speech in New York City today, Hillary Clinton set forth a proposal to increase the holding period needed to obtain the lower tax rates applicable to long-term capital gains. Her proposal apparently applies only to that portion of a taxpayer's income that would otherwise be taxed at the 39.6% tax bracket. For 2015, this would apply only to income in excess of $464,850 for married taxpayers filing jointly and $413,200 for single taxpayers.

Hillary's proposal extends the one year holding period for long-term capital gains rates to a two to six year period, with a sliding scale to obtain the lower long-term capital gains rates:

after 2 years, 36%

after 3 years, 32%

after 4 years, 28%

after 5 years, 24%.

After a six year holding period, the long-term capital gains tax rate for the capital gains in excess of the highest tax bracket threshold would be taxed at 20%, as it is now. Of course the capital gains would still be subject to the 3.8% Obamacare tax on net investment income, the approximately 1.2% impact of the "Pease Tax" and any state income tax that might apply. It is a fair presumption that these higher rates and holding periods would also apply for purposes of Alternative Minimum Tax, but that the higher rates would not apply to qualified dividends, since there is no holding period for dividends.

There are several dimensions on which to evaluate this proposal: impact on the economy, impact on tax revenue, fairness and complexity.

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Economic Impact

Hillary Clinton said that the purpose of her proposal is to discourage the tendency of public companies to emphasize short-term performance over long-term performance. I fail to see how lengthening the long-term capital gain holding period for the highest bracket taxpayers will reduce emphasis on quarterly performance. There is really no link between quarterly earnings reports and the tax rates applicable to stocks held for two to six years. A one year holding period more than adequately addresses the issue of short-term speculation. There is no reason to think that a two to six year holding period will reduce emphasis on quarterly earnings. Remember that a decent portion of the publicly traded shares are held by tax exempt entities such as endowments and pension plans. These funds are concerned about long-term performance already. On the other hand, those money managers and investors who currently focus on short term performance will not be deterred from this behavior by a holding period that they currently fail to meet. Even if this proposal increases the holding period of a few high bracket investors (and I think it might), how will this affect the behavior of CEOs who are focused on quarterly performance at the expense of long-term performance? I see very little economic impact from this proposal, other than that a few of the highest bracket individuals may hold a few investments slightly longer.

Revenue Impact

The timing of paying capital gains taxes is generally determined by the investor. Only rarely is an investor forced to sell stock due to a cash buyout. Some high bracket taxpayers may delay the recognition of capital gains if Hillary's proposal is enacted. This may offset the revenue gained by the higher rates. The Clinton campaign is not looking to this proposal as a revenue raiser. It is unclear how this proposal would impact charitable contributions of appreciated long-term capital gains property, for which taxpayers can deduct the full fair market value of the contributed asset. If the taxpayer contributes an asset to charity which does not meet the holding period for long-term capital gains tax, the taxpayer can only deduct the cost basis of the asset, not the fair market value. Will Mrs. Clinton's proposal require a one, two or six year holding period to be able to deduct the full fair market value of an asset contributed to charity?

Fairness

One of the arguments in favor of lower tax rates for long-term capital gains is that the nominal gain is not the same as the real gain, due to the impact of inflation. If you bought an asset such as stock or real estate 50 years ago for $100,000 and sold it today for $250,000, you would have a nominal gain of $150,000 on which you would have to pay tax. However to replace the purchasing power of $100,000 in 1965, you would need around $750 ,000 now. This means that on an inflation adjusted basis, your investment sold for only 1/3 of what it was worth in 1965, even though you are being taxed on a $150,000 gain. One justification for the lower tax rate on long-term capital gains is this loss of purchasing power. Hillary's proposal is a more appropriate way to deal with this than a simple one step reduction to 20% after one year. However, if one were truly interested in addressing this problem, you would eliminate the lower tax rates on capital gains and index tax basis for inflation each year.

Complexity

By creating all of these additional capital gains tax rates that apply to a small number of taxpayers, possibly on only part of their capital gains, you are introducing additional complexity into the tax code. But that complexity would not be too difficult to handle. Presumably capital losses on holding periods shorter than six years would be applied to similar holding period capital gains and any net capital losses from one holding period bucket would be applied to the highest tax rates of other capital gains until exhausted. This could result in capital loss carryforwards for an additional four holding periods. However it may be that all of the higher rate capital losses will be put in the same bucket since it is not known whether the taxpayer will have gains in subsequent years on income in excess of the thresholds. Keeping track of the carryforwards for each of the holding periods could subject all taxpayers to this additional complexity if there are six loss carryforward buckets, even though the taxpayer may never be in the 1/2 of 1% of taxpayers who would be subject to this tax.

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Conventional wisdom says American businesses are myopic, focused only on making their companies look good next quarter in order to temporarily get their stock prices up. The thinking is that this is endemic in corporate culture and is at the root of the sluggish economic recovery and the wide gap between the haves and have nots.

In a speech today, Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton dubbed this “quarterly capitalism.” Clinton proposed a few policy changes aimed at reforming this dysfunctional culture. Most notable was to change the way capital gains are taxed — the taxes paid on the gains enjoyed by investors in stocks and other assets.

The premise for her proposals is off-base: America’s businesses aren’t short-term focused, at least not to the degree that it impedes long-term economic growth.

If they were, then what explains the fact that businesses are investing so much in research and development? According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, R&D investment is expanding at a robust double-digit pace — and has never been greater relative to the size of the economy. These investments are as risky as they get, and if they payoff it is generally long into the future.

Some argue that short-termism is evident in businesses’ big dividend payouts and stock repurchases. Getting this cash makes investors happy, but at the cost of limiting business expansion and job creation, they claim.

Not so. Businesses are making so much money they have plenty to do all of the above. Indeed, companies are devoting about the same share of their profits to dividends and repurchases as they always have. And job growth is about as strong as it ever gets, with jobs being created across all pay scales.

Wage gains have been tepid, but this still reflects the fallout from the Great Recession, when unemployment topped out in the double-digits. Unemployment and underemployment will be back to normal by this time next year if the current pace of job growth is sustained. Wage growth will accelerate.

Even if you don’t buy into the view that our economy is plagued by quarterly capitalism, it is still good policy to incent businesses to invest more in their people and their own long-term growth. However, tinkering with tax rates on capital gains won’t go far toward achieving that goal.

The shares of most American companies are held by large institutional investors, such as mutual funds, ETFs, pension and hedge funds. These investors are motivated by many things when buying and selling stocks. Whether the cap gains rate is a bit lower if they hold onto their stocks longer isn’t one of them.

Moreover, activist investors who are interested in making a quick buck when they purchase a company’s stock aren’t likely to be dissuaded by such a tax change. Companies that are the targets of activists often do temporarily pull back on expansion plans in an effort to get their stock price up and ward off the activists. Yet this may ultimately force target companies to take the difficult steps needed to be more competitive, and to also create opportunities for competing companies that then enjoy even stronger growth.

Setting aside schemes to incentivize holding stock for a long period of time, broadly increasing capital gains taxes would help ameliorate the skewed wealth distribution. Most capital gains go to the very rich.

Taxing carried interest as normal income and not as a capital gain, also supported by Clinton, is a good idea. Private equity firms and hedge funds that earn carried interest when making investment decisions on behalf of their generally wealthy investors have abused this tax loophole.

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But this should be done in the context of broader reforms to our corporate tax code. There is general agreement that our corporations pay too high a tax rate to be globally competitive. President Obama and Congressional Republicans have both put forward plans to reduce corporate tax rates and scale back loopholes.

Hillary Clinton has misdiagnosed what ails the U.S. economy. It isn't short-sighted American companies. It is a broken tax code.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

Louisiana theater gunman described as a 'drifter' with mental illness history // WaPo // Ashley Cusick, Sarah Kaplan, J. Freedom du Lac - July 24, 2015

Police on Friday identified an out-of-state "drifter" with a history of mental illness as the lone gunman who killed two people and injured nine others in a crowded movie theater here before turning the gun on himself.

But authorities were struggling to determine why John Russell Houser, 59, of Phenix City, Ala., set off on the rampage late Thursday, and what he was doing in Lafayette, a southwestern Louisiana city about 500 miles from his home.

"Why did he come here? Why did he do that?" Col. Michael D. Edmonson, superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, said at a news conference. "We don't know that," Edmonson said. "We may not find a motive."

Police said Houser was one of 25 people who bought tickets to an evening screening of the romantic comedy "Trainwreck" in Grand Theatre, a multiplex in a busy part of town. Houser watched the first part of the movie, they said, then suddenly stood and silently opened fire with a .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun, targeting the two people sitting directly in front of him first.

He fired at least 13 times, police said, reloading once.

Two women were killed. College student Mayci Breaux, 21, died in the theater, where she had been watching the movie with her boyfriend. Musician and graphic designer Jillian Johnson, 33, died later at a local hospital.

Nine others suffered injuries ranging from minor to life-

threatening and were transported to local hospitals, said Lafayette Police Chief Jim Craft. By late Friday, four of the victims had been released.

"Here's a guy who was a drifter . . . who just happened to be in this theater and took two beautiful lives," Edmonson said.

Craft said police received reports of the shooting around 7:30 p.m. Within minutes, two officers who had already been patrolling the crowded multiplex entered the theater.

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“As they made their way into the crowd, they heard a shot, and upon entering the theater, the suspect was found deceased from a self-

inflicted gunshot wound,” Craft said.

Houser’s car — a blue 1995 Lincoln Continental — was positioned near a theater exit, Craft said. He attempted to leave the multiplex after the shooting. Houser retreated back into the theater, fired three additional shots, striking at least one person, and then turned the gun on himself.

“It was apparent that he was intent on shooting and then escaping,” Craft said.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) on Friday ordered flags at state buildings to be flown at half-staff out of respect for the victims. A contender for the 2016 GOP presidential nomination, Jindal was fresh off a campaign swing through Iowa when he got word of the shooting and sped to Lafayette.

At a news conference late Thursday, Jindal said there was “no good reason why this act of evil should intrude on the lives of families.” He added: “This is an awful night for Lafayette, this is an awful night for Louisiana, this is an awful night for the United States.”

Jindal also told stories of acts of heroism in the theater. He told of two teachers, longtime friends, one of whom leapt on top of the other to protect her from the bullets. Both were wounded, but the second woman said her friend had probably saved her life.

The second teacher then dragged herself to a fire alarm and pulled it, probably saving many others.

“A lot of folks in that situation would just be thinking about themselves,” Jindal said. “She had the presence of mind to think, all right, even though she was shot in the leg, she saved other people.”

The shooting follows a spate of recent mass shootings and comes three years after another deadly rampage in a movie theater in Aurora, Colo. Monday was the third anniversary of that attack, and jurors are now weighing a death sentence for James Holmes, the gunman found guilty of killing 12 people during a midnight screening of “The Dark Knight Rises” in 2012.

The guilty verdict in Holmes’s case was delivered July 16, the same day a lone gunman opened fire at two military facilities in Chattanooga, Tenn., leaving four Marines and one sailor dead.

Before the Lafayette shooting, President Obama said in an interview with the BBC that gun safety is “the one area where I feel that I’ve been most frustrated and most stymied.”

“The United States of America is the one advanced nation on Earth in which we do not have sufficient common-sense gun-safety laws,” the president said. “Even in the face of repeated mass killings.”

On Friday, Jindal declined to discuss the role gun laws may have played in the tragedy. “This is a time for healing,” he told CNN. “There will be a time for those debates.”

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But anti-gun activists quickly seized the moment.

“Two innocent people are dead, several more are injured and hundreds were terrorized all while taking part in one of our country’s most beloved pastimes — a night at the movies,” Dan Gross, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said in a statement.

“Investigators have already made it clear that the shooter has a criminal history. As we await further details from the investigation, it will be important to learn whether he legally had any business owning a firearm and, if not, finding out how he got one.”

Authorities said Houser purchased the handgun legally from a Phenix City pawn shop in February 2014.

But much else about Houser remained murky late Friday. He had been staying at a local motel, where law enforcement agents found wigs, glasses and disguises during a predawn search. Additionally, he had illegally switched the license plate on his Lincoln Continental, Craft said.

Craft told CNN that Houser “was maybe trying to disguise his appearance, although we’re told that when he purchased his ticket, he was not wearing any type of disguise.”

It remained unclear why Houser went to the multiplex, why he chose the raunchy Amy Schumer comedy and why he started shooting.

“Why this city? Why this movie? Why those people?” Craft said.

The Grand Theatre 16 is one of two Grand multiplexes in Lafayette. The other was quickly shut down after the shooting “out of an abundance of caution,” Craft said.

About 300 people were at the theater at the time of the shooting, including Jalen Fernell, a 20-year-old student at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Fernell was in a different theater watching a screening of “Southpaw” when the sound of gunshots interrupted the movie’s opening scene. Fernell said he initially thought the noise was part of the movie but then heard the fire alarm.

“When those sirens went off, immediately my heart sank into my chest because I was like, ‘Wait, those gunshots came from inside the building,’ ” Fernell said.

The audience “rampaged” out of the theater, Fernell said, emerging to the sound of sirens and the sight of police and emergency vehicles swarming the parking lot. Police were shouting directions over a public address system, and Fernell said the scene was frenzied.

A woman sitting on the curb was bleeding from the leg. A police radio crackled: “Six down in Theater 14.”

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Moments later, a horde of officers charged into the multiplex. Over the radio, Fernell heard the words “suspect down.”

“I was terrified, because I didn’t know what was going to happen next,” he said. “My main thing was I was trying not to get shot because we didn’t know what was going on. Everybody was running around; everybody was screaming. It was a stressful state.”

Fernell added: “That’s the last thing that you’d think would happen at a movie theater, especially on a Thursday night.”

Police said people left dozens of belongings behind as they ran — shoes, bags, cellphones and keys. The parking lot, filled early Friday with flickering blue light from police vehicles, was packed with abandoned cars.

Police said they have no reason to think that Houser targeted any other locations or that there might be another active shooter. Investigators don’t think Houser knew any of his victims.

“It does not look like he went there to target somebody specifically,” Jindal said on CNN.

In a statement from Air Force One while en route to Kenya, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the president had been briefed on the shootings and the status of those injured.

“The thoughts and prayers of everyone at the White House, including the president and first lady, are with the community of Lafayette, Louisiana, especially the families of those who were killed,” the statement said.

Meanwhile, Lafayette City Councilman Keith Patin gave a tearful interview to CNN.

“It’s so terrible; it’s devastating,” Patin said. “We’re used to dealing with natural types of catastrophes, hurricanes, stuff like that. But nothing like this.”

Texas Supreme Court Orders Houston LGBT Ordinance To Be Repealed Or Put On Ballot // BuzzFeed // Chris Geidner - July 24, 2015

The Texas Supreme Court on Friday ordered the Houston City Council to repeal an LGBT nondiscrimination ordinance it passed in 2014 or put a referendum opponents had sought on this November’s ballot.

In the Friday decision, the court gave Houston officials a month to decide what to do, ordering a decision be made by Aug. 24.

After the “HERO” LGBT nondiscrimination ordinance was passed by Houston City Council, a group sought a referendum effort. If enough signatures were gathered, as certified by the city secretary, then City Council would have the option to repeal the ordinance or put it on the ballot.

After a review of the signatures submitted, the city secretary asserted that sufficient signatures were gathered but also noted that the city attorney found that many pages of the petitions were invalid — meaning that any signatures on those pages would be invalid. Accordingly, Houston City Council found that there were insufficient

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valid signatures to force reconsideration of the ordinance or a vote.

Opponents of the law sued to get City Council to accept the petitions, lost at the trial court, and appealed. The opponents also, separately, had asked the Texas Supreme Court to issue a writ of mandamus — a request that a court order a public official to take a specified action, here, repealing the ordinance or putting it on the ballot.

The Texas Supreme Court on Friday held that it would not wait on the appeal of the trial court decision before considering the issue because "the appellate process will not resolve the case in time for the referendum to be placed on the November 2015 ballot."

Then, with no oral arguments having been held in the case, the Texas Supreme Court found that the city secretary's statements served as certification that sufficient valid signatures were gathered — the city attorney's findings notwithstanding. As such, the court ruled in an unsigned opinion, City Council could not reject the petitions and had to do one of two things: repeal the ordinance or put it on the ballot.

"Once the City Council received the City Secretary's certification, it had a ministerial duty to act," the court stated. "If the City Council does not repeal the ordinance by August 24, 2015, then by that date the City Council must order that the ordinance be put to popular vote during the November 2015 election."

The court also put enforcement of the ordinance on hold in the meantime.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Preparing to Release Convicted Israeli Spy Jonathan Pollard, Officials Say // WSJ // Devlin Barrett - July 24, 2015

The Obama administration is preparing to release convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, according to U.S. officials, some of whom hope the move will smooth relations with Israel in the wake of the Iran nuclear deal.

Such a move would end a decadeslong fight over Mr. Pollard, who was arrested on charges of spying for Israel in 1985 and later sentenced to life in prison. The case has long been a source of tension between the U.S. and Israel, which has argued that a life sentence for spying on behalf of a close U.S. partner is too harsh. For decades, Israel has sought Mr. Pollard's early release only to be rejected by the U.S.

Now, some U.S. officials are pushing for Mr. Pollard's release in a matter of weeks. Others expect it could take months, possibly until his parole consideration date in November. Some U.S. officials strongly denied Friday there was any link between the Iran deal and Mr. Pollard's prospective release, saying that any release decision would be made by the U.S. Parole Commission.

A White House spokesman referred questions to the Justice Department, where a spokesman declined to comment on a matter which may be before the Parole Commission.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been a vocal opponent of the deal struck between Iran and six world powers to curb Iran's nuclear program. Discord between Israel and the U.S., longtime allies, has led to a deteriorating relationship that is the stormiest it has been in decades.

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Mr. Netanyahu has personally pressed for years to get the U.S. to release Mr. Pollard, who is currently serving time in a federal prison in Butner, N.C.

Mr. Pollard, 60 years old, was a civilian analyst with the U.S. Navy when he was arrested for passing secret documents to Israel. He eventually pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life.

The mechanism or likely rationale for freeing Mr. Pollard couldn't immediately be learned. The most likely scenario would be to free him when he first becomes eligible for parole in November, according to some U.S. officials.

Under sentencing laws at the time he was convicted, Mr. Pollard has to be considered for parole after 30 years. The Bureau of Prisons website currently lists his possible release date as Nov. 21, which is the date the federal parole commission is slated to consider whether to end his sentence.

A parole hearing for Mr. Pollard was held in early July. Mr. Pollard's lawyer, Eliot Lauer, said he hasn't heard from the parole commission "and I would expect that either I or my client would be the ones who would be notified."

Last year, President Barack Obama told an Israeli interviewer: "I have no plans for releasing Jonathan Pollard immediately but what I am going to be doing is to make sure that he, like every other American who's been sentenced, is accorded the same kinds of review and the same examination of the equities that any other individual would provide."

To get out before November would require unusual intervention. In the federal prison system, often the easiest way to free an inmate early is to cite deteriorating health. Mr. Pollard's supporters say he is suffering from a host of medical ailments that should qualify him for mercy.

The U.S. has considered releasing him before but always backed away from such a move, largely because of opposition from senior leaders at the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Justice Department.

It is possible such opposition could again scuttle any release, but it appears his chances at winning freedom are better now than they have ever been, U.S. officials said. Some U.S. officials have concluded he will be a free man before the year is over, these people said.

The prospect of Mr. Pollard's freedom still grates on many U.S. intelligence officials, in part because his release wouldn't likely come as part of like-for-like swap, as is often how espionage cases are resolved. Other officials counter that 30 years is a fair punishment and that keeping Mr. Pollard in prison until he dies would serve little purpose.

Mr. Pollard has explained his espionage activity by citing a great affinity for Israel, though counter-intelligence officials say he was paid tens of thousands of dollars for his work.

From June 1984 through November 1985, Mr. Pollard removed large amounts of highly classified U.S. intelligence from his office, made copies and delivered it to Israeli operatives.

About a year after his spying began, federal agents stopped Mr. Pollard as he was leaving work and questioned him about the possible unauthorized removal of classified information.

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During that conversation, he twice took breaks to call his wife, using a prearranged code word “cactus,” signaling that she should remove a suitcase full of classified information from their apartment. She also pleaded guilty and served three years in prison and later moved to Israel.

Top CIA Official Says Nuke Deal Makes It Hard for Iran to Cheat **// WSJ // Damian Paletta - July 24, 2015**

A top Central Intelligence Agency official said Friday that the recently brokered nuclear agreement between leading nations and Iran will make it difficult for the Middle Eastern country to dupe nuclear inspectors.

CIA deputy director David Cohen, speaking at the Aspen Security Forum, said intelligence officers were “reasonably” confident that the terms of the nuclear deal would prevent Iran from cheating in a way that avoided international detection.

“We would be able to detect Iran if it were trying to deviate from the requirements that they’ve signed up to,” Mr. Cohen said.

He cited inspectors’ “real-time persistent access to declared sites as well as a mechanism for getting scheduled access to suspicious sites” as a primary reason that it would be difficult for Iran to improperly enrich uranium while the terms of the deal were in place. He also referenced the U.S. government’s access to “other information and capabilities,” as a way to ensure Iran’s cooperation, though he didn’t provide more information.

Mr. Cohen’s comments were the first public statements by a CIA official since Iran, the U.S., and five other countries reached the nuclear agreement earlier this month.

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From: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To: "Jeff Liszt" <jeff@algpolling.com>
Date: 2/5/2015 7:36:35 AM
Subject: Re: Bush Detroit Econ speech

Very little in this speech that HRC wouldn't say....

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Feb 5, 2015, at 2:33 PM, Jeff Liszt <jeff@algpolling.com > wrote:

> It's a scary new wrapping paper for trickle down. Very much in synch with what we're hearing in groups.
>
> Then again maybe not so new:
>
> "We will extend the promise of prosperity to every forgotten corner of this country. To every man and woman, a chance to succeed. To every child, a chance to learn. To every family, a chance to live with dignity and hope." --GWB
>
> _____
> Jeffrey LISZT
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> Twitter: @anzaloneliszt @psephologist
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Margolis, Jim [Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
> **Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 12:01 PM
> **To:** Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; Jeff Liszt; Peter Brodnitz; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Dan Schwerin; Nick Merrill; Huma Abedin; Cheryl Mills; Philippe Reines
> **Cc:** Anson Kaye; John Rimel; Jim Margolis
> **Subject:** Bush Detroit Econ speech
>
> If you haven't read Jeb's Detroit speech, take a look.
> He's in a fertile zone, GOP primary electorate notwithstanding.
>
> For those of you who've had to put up with my interest exploring 'opportunity' framing, he has some of the elements here.

Here's the full text of Jeb Bush's "right to rise" speech in Detroit

Updated by Vox Staff on February 5, 2015, 9:20 a.m. ET

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Tweet Share



Bill Pugliano/Getty Images

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Thank you. I am delighted to be here. You are part of a great story - the revival of a city that means so much to all Americans. In these past few years, when confronted with grave challenges, you have seized the opportunity to reform the city you love.

And you have begun to repair the damage done by decades of mismanagement and empty promises.

I want to congratulate Governor Rick Snyder for his leadership. I want to acknowledge Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, and Attorney General Bill Schuette. And Mayor Mike Duggan for his determination

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to serve the city of his birth.

I want to recognize as well the hard work of Kevyn Orr, who I am proud to say is a son of Florida.

And finally, I want to recognize all those who were involved in making difficult and often painful decisions. Your work is not complete. But your efforts have captured the attention of our nation. Because across the U.S., we are asking ourselves the same questions:

How do we recapture the prosperity and opportunity that once defined cities like Detroit?

How do we restore America's faith in the moral promise of our great nation that any child born today can reach further than their parents?

This is an urgent issue: Far too many Americans live on the edge of economic ruin.And many more feel like they're struck in place, working longer and harder, even as they're losing ground.

Tens of millions of Americans no longer see a clear path to rise above their challenges. Something is holding them back. Not a lack of ambition. Not a lack of hope. Not because they are lazy or see themselves as victims.

Something else. Something is an artificial weight on their shoulders.

Today and in the coming weeks, I will address this critical issue.

And I will offer a new vision. A plan of action that is different than what we have been hearing in

Washington D.C. It is a vision rooted in conservative principles and tethered to our shared belief in opportunity and the unknown possibilities of a nation given the freedom to act, to create, to dream and to rise.

We see that belief every day in action.

In oil and gas fields once given up for dry we are now assuring America's energy security. In hospitals, we are extending life and beating back once untreatable diseases. In charter schools, we are connecting students to their potential. In labs and hacker spaces, invention comes from every corner of society and the world still comes to America to learn how to create and innovate.

People know this country can be more than it is today. And that each one of us can, and must, be a part of it.

But they know this as well: We have a lot of work to do.

Today, Americans across the country are frustrated. They see only a small portion of the population riding the economy's up escalator... It's true enough that we've seen some recent and welcome good news on the economy.

But it's very little, and it's come very late.

Six years after the recession ended, median incomes are down, households are, on average, poorer ... and millions of people have given up looking for a job altogether. Roughly two out of three American households live paycheck to paycheck. Any unexpected expense can push them into financial ruin. We have a record number of Americans on food stamps and living in poverty.

The recovery has been everywhere but in the family paychecks. The American Dream has become a mirage for far too many. So the central question we face here in Detroit and across America is this: Can we restore that dream -- that moral promise -- that each generation can do better?

If we can't answer that question, no tax, no new welfare program, will save our system or our way of life. Because America's moral promise isn't broken when someone is wealthy. It's broken when achieving success is far beyond our imagination.

America is a place where, as Lincoln dreamed, any person may look forward and hope to be a hired laborer this year...and the next, work for himself... and finally, to hire men to work for him!

America, though discouraged, has not given up on the dream of Lincoln.

The dream of Lincoln is alive at 5 a.m. at a bus depot in a distant suburb or in an inner city as workers get to jobs in hotels and restaurants and hospitals. The dream is alive in the breath of a construction worker running cable under a city street in the bitter night air.

The dream is alive in the college student driving an Uber car part-time to graduate debt-free.

Lincoln's dream is alive every day nand at every moment when people choose to buy a home, start a business, enroll in school, save for the future. They know such commitments aren't easy and don't pay off right away. But they're worth doing. If Americans are working harder than ever earning less than they once did, our government and our leaders should step up, offer a plan, fix what's wrong - or they should step aside.

Let's ask how we got to this point. Let's start in Detroit.

Because in a sense, the troubles Detroit faces are an echo of the troubles facing Washington, D.C.

Decades of big government policies, petty politics, impossible-to-meet pension promises, chronic mismanagement and broken services — combined with a massive loss of jobs and competitiveness in the auto industry — drove tens of thousands of people from this city and this region.

For example: Detroit under the previous administration was so proud of shutting down businesses that hadn't paid their licenses and fees, they bragged about it in press releases. The city threatened nearly 900 businesses with closure and followed through on nearly 400 businesses, shutting them down.

Many of these were small businesses run out of homes and alley-facing garages, run by people who just wanted to take that first step up the economic ladder.

One of those business owners, Derek Little, had a simple way to describe his frustration: I'm running a legit business... They could be doing something better.

And while the city was shutting down people who were trying to build a business ...it couldn't even do its job correctly: The city was losing money writing parking tickets.

Of course, on Amtrak they lose money on the snack car. They literally have a captive audience.

But government inefficiency isn't just irritating. It's instructive. If the government can't collect parking fines, or sell snacks on a train, why would government know how to enable every citizen to move up in life?

That's why I launched the Right to Rise PAC. So that someone would speak for people who don't want to wait for the government to deliver prosperity. They want to earn it themselves. Government isn't the only issue here. There is far more at work. But in a sense, fixing government policy is the easiest problem to solve. And it's the one most responsive to the demands of voters.

So, I am getting involved in politics again, because that's where the work has to begin. The opportunity gap is the defining issue of our time.

More Americans are stuck at their income levels than ever before. It's very hard for people to go from the bottom rungs of the economy to the top. Or even to the middle.

This should alarm you. It alarmed me. The problem starts when we fear the one thing that can help unlock the economic status quo: The freedom to compete and work as a team to build great things.

Competition is messy. But it's essential. We've all seen the battles: The taxicab companies fight against web-enabled car services. The restaurants fight against the food trucks. The brick-and-mortar retailers fight against the Internet companies.

I'm not here to take sides. And I don't think government should either. Because when government protects one business against another, or tilts the field of competition, there is a clear loser: Anyone who wants to create something as a team. Anyone who wants to innovate and shake things up. Anyone who wants more choices and better service. And we know that in the end, standing against competition and dynamism is a losing battle.

In 1955, 60 years ago, the Fortune 500 list first appeared. Of the companies on that list, fully 88% don't even exist today or have fallen away. Today's Fortune 500 will be replaced by new companies that are just starting today.

This is hard for some people to accept. Because entrenched interests do not like giving up what they have. That's why they fear small competitors who have nothing to lose. You know the stories: The president of Michigan Savings Bank imparted some wisdom to the young lawyer for a small start-up company: The horse, the bank president said,'is here to stay, but the automobile is only a fad.'

The small start-up that lawyer represented... was the Ford Motor Company.We can laugh about it now because Ford and the other innovators of Detroit had the economic freedom to compete and to prove the doubters wrong.

Our nation has always valued such economic freedom because in economic freedom, each citizen has the power to propel themselves forward and upward.

This really isn't understood in Washington D.C. And you can see why: It's a company town.

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And the company is government. It's all they know.

For several years now, they have been recklessly degrading the value of work, the incentive to work, and the rewards of work.

We have seen them cut the definition of a full-time job from 40 to 30 hours, slashing the ability of paycheck earners to make ends meet. We have seen them create welfare programs and tax rules that punish people with lost benefits and higher taxes for moving up those first few rungs of the economic ladder.

Instead of a safety net to cushion our occasional falls, they have built a spider web that traps people in perpetual dependence. We have seen them waive the rules that helped so many people escape welfare.

The progressive and liberal mindset believes that to every problem there is a Washington D.C. solution. But that instinct doesn't solve any problem, other than the problem of how to keep

Washington's regional economy well-lubricated.

And the cost is enormous!

Let's say you're a hard-working middle-class family. You work hard. You pay your mortgage on time. As President Obama likes to say: You play by the rules.

But for President Obama, one of the rules is this: He reserves the right to change the rules.

Just last month, he thought it was a good idea to tax 529 college savings plans. Remember: 529s were created to be tax-free ways to save for college. Millions of people started them for their kids and grandkids. So it's no surprise people hated the president's idea. And he dropped it. But it was an instructive lesson in the liberal and progressive mindset. Saving for college is the responsible thing to do. But instead of embracing 529s, the liberals moved to tax them.

It's frustrating. But it shows you how they think.

And if you want to know how they act, ask Sharon DeLay. Sharon founded a recruiting company in Westerville, Ohio. Here's what she said: It's as if the politicians and regulators in Washington want me to fail - and spend all their time thinking up new ways to ensure that I do ...You either want me to be the engine of the economy or you don't!

Here's a message for Sharon and millions like her: There's a better way.Let'sine this path first by the core principles of a Right to Rise society because once we do that, the policies, the laws and the way forward will be much clearer.

Let's start with the first principle: When it comes to ensuring opportunity and a chance at success, the most important factor isn't government. It's a committed family.

Social scientists across the ideological spectrum agree on this: If you want to predict whether someone will graduate from school, go to college and move forward in life, just find out one thing: Were they raised in a loving household by two parents? If you didn't, you can overcome it, but it's very hard. If you did, you have a built-in advantage in life.

The evidence is overwhelming. Every child has a greater chance at opportunity when they are raised by loving, caring and supportive parents and a committed family. That isn't the work of government. But it's critical that governmental leaders recognize that and support it.

A second principle: Growth above all. A growing economy, whether here in Detroit or throughout this country is the difference between poverty and prosperity for millions. If you want to close the opportunity gap, grow the economy. This is a principle that concentrates the mind.

If a law or a rule doesn't contribute to growth, why do it? If a law subtracts from growth, why are we discussing it? And for what it's worth, I don't think the US should settle for anything less than 4% growth a year — which is about twice our current average. At that rate, the middle class will thrive again.

And in the coming months, I intend to detail how we can get there, with a mix of smart policies and reforms to tap our resources and capacity to innovate, whether in energy, manufacturing, health care or technology.

Third: The right to rise depends on a government that makes it easier to work than not work.

That means fewer laws restricting the labor market and reducing the penalties that come with moving up from the lowest rungs of the ladder.

Fourth: To address the income gap, let's close the opportunity gap, and that starts with doing everything we can to give every child, from every neighborhood, a great education. This won't happen overnight — trust me, I know. But I also know it works. And it takes every tool we have.

Accountability for teachers and school administrators, assessment of student learning, high standards, and choices. These key elements of school reform work and we have the results to prove it.

Finally, let's embrace reform everywhere, especially in our government. Let's start with the simple principle of who holds the power. I say give Washington less and give states and local governments more.

We make multi-billion dollar infrastructure decisions based on a labor law written in 1921. President Obama proposes making rules on the Internet using laws written in the 1930s. We regulate global airlines using laws written for railroads. Our immigration laws were written a half-century ago.

Governmental policy seems frozen, incapable and fearful of change. It is in the way. And we deserve better than this.

If we don't transform ourselves to meet new challenges and seize new opportunities, we know what happens next. Look around this city. In its history there is a warning to all of us.

A century ago, Detroit was America's great innovation hub. The Silicon Valley of its age.

It was bigger than Chicago. It was the nation's wealthiest city in 1960.

Detroit put the world on wheels and created the jobs that lifted millions of Americans into the middle class.

This city was the arsenal of Democracy and delivered the arms needed to defend freedom across two oceans.

Detroit promised prosperity and it delivered.

Sons of sharecroppers coming up from the South, farmhands from the Upper Midwest, immigrants who spoke Polish, Yiddish, Greek and Arabic.

Their children settled. They prospered. And some of their grandchildren are in this room today.

And now, you are rebuilding this city. I know you will be that great city again. Because Americans by nature work and strive to succeed.

It is already happening.

In the Madison Building, not far from here, new companies are rising. One of them, iRule, is led by two young men, one born in Russia, the other in Israel. They left secure jobs as automotive engineers to start their business in 2009. At the very bottom of the recession. Here's what one of them, Itai ben Gal said: 'We know Detroit has its baggage, but we believe we're part of the solution.'

Three years later, they have 21 employees, including Itai's father, who is the CFO.

And this activity is happening downtown, in an area once ignored.

Another Detroit entrepreneur grew up in the suburbs. He rarely came downtown as a child. But today, he works here. He lives here. This is what he said: 'We see the city for what it can be... not for what it was.'

That's how we should see everything. Not just Detroit.But in all of America.

I know some in the media think conservatives don't care about the cities.

But they are wrong. We believe that every American and in every community has a right to pursue happiness. They have a right to rise.

So I say: Let's go where our ideas can matter most. Where the failures of liberal government are most obvious. Let's deliver real conservative success.

And you know what will happen?

We'll create a whole lot of new conservatives.

I know, because I've lived it.

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I come from Miami, another city that faced the same struggles as Detroit.

In my city, the schools were failing, opportunity was scarce and for too many, simply being born in the wrong neighborhood meant the American Dream was cruelly out of reach.

I joined with my friend, Willard Fair, a courageous leader in the civil rights movement.

We decided that the right to rise, was also a civil right. So we went to work to change education in Florida.

While there's much more to do, we saw lives changed and hope restored.

You can do it, here in Detroit. We can do it, across America.

Because this morning, 320 million Americans got up ... and they are on 320 million different paths of life.

It's our goal to see them succeed.

And it's our responsibility to do everything possible to help them.

Because by their success, they will not only build prosperity for themselves. They will renew the promise of this nation when everyone, has the right to rise.

Those are the stakes. That's why we're here. Please join me in this great cause.

Thank you and may God bless you, and may God bless America.

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From:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
To:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
Date:	9/2/2014 2:37:39 AM
Subject:	FW: Ukrainian American Bar Association Press Release: The 2014 Russian War against Ukraine
Attachments:	14-08-31 The 2014 Russian Invasion of Ukraine.pdf

PRESS RELEASE August 31, 2014
PDF Copy Attached

The 2014 Russian War against Ukraine

In the past few weeks, what was painfully obvious from the very beginning to Ukrainians [that the terrorist conflict in Eastern Ukraine was artificially manufactured, clandestinely funded, militarily supplied with weapons and fighting personnel, and secretly orchestrated by the Kremlin] is now grudgingly acknowledged by the rest of the world. Russia has now openly invaded Ukraine and only Putin's generously paid Western apologists or the extremely naïve could argue otherwise. The Russian government's continuing boldfaced lies that the alleged Donbas "separatists" are self-reliant disgruntled Ukrainians who are Russian speakers seeking only to protect their rights can no longer be credulously accepted by the West. This ruse has run its course. Russia is and has for months been in a state of war against Ukraine -- its sole objective is to eradicate Ukraine's independence, and return it to a vassal state under the dictatorship of Moscow thus giving a rebirth to a new USSR-like empire.

Since the cataclysmic events of World War II, the world's nations have attempted to establish basic principles of international law and behavior to be adhered to by the governments of all nations so as to prevent future conflagrations on a global scale. The UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act [the charter document of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and the various organic documents of the European Union, have had as their linchpin the principle of territorial integrity and security and the inviolability of borders of independent states. NATO was created in part to protect the territorial integrity of its member states from outside military threats. Since 1994, when it entered NATO's Partnership for Peace Program, Ukraine has participated in NATO outreach programs and took part in NATO-led missions around the world and alongside American troops in such places as Iraq and Afghanistan. It was this principle - territorial integrity and sovereignty of independent states - that was solemnly invoked - jointly and severally - by the United Kingdom, the Russia Federation and the United States in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 which fervently pledged assurances by these countries of the inviolability of Ukrainian borders, an on which assurances Ukraine relied and voluntarily relinquished 1600 nuclear warheads - the then third largest nuclear arsenal on the globe.

It is now self evident that the Kremlin **has not and will not** adhere to any of its internationally made pledges regarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states thus undermining the bedrock upon which European peace is built in the aftermath of World War II. Rather, Russia has intentionally trampled upon Ukraine's political and economic sovereignty and its territorial integrity for quite some time in full view of the world. Regrettably, the response from the United States and the European Union has been a blinders-like muted scolding of Putin with tempered economic sanctions but specifically excluding any military assistance to Ukraine. This piecemeal approach has only emboldened Putin and has given him a strategic time-advantage to fully implement his invasion of Ukraine, which in turn, will directly affect the economic and political stability of the member states of the EU. In recent days, and to the world's astonishment, Putin has brandished not so veiled bellicose threats emphasizing the nuclear armament power that he has at his disposal. Clearly, it is in the long range self-interest of the West to take meaningful steps to stop and reverse Russia's aggression against Ukraine and thus protect its own political and territorial integrity from future jeopardy.

Towards this end, the United States and the United Kingdom have a particular responsibility under the Budapest Memorandum. There are those apologists that argue that the Budapest Memorandum is not a "treaty" [even though it was part of Ukraine's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty] and, according to their flawed logic, its breach is not enforceable nor has any consequential obligations for its other signatories. However, The Budapest Memorandum is clearly a contractual agreement under which three countries [Russia, the US and UK] **together** obtained a valuable and tangible concession from Ukraine for their joint benefit - i.e. the relinquishment of 1600 nuclear warheads - in consideration for which these three countries [Russia, the US and UK] **together** gave their joint assurances for the territorial integrity and economic independence of Ukraine. As such, since one of the beneficiaries of the Budapest Memorandum [Russia] egregiously breached its promise to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, it is the obligation of the other two beneficiary signatories of the Budapest Memorandum [the US and UK] to make certain that Ukrainian territorial integrity is **fully** restored. Failure to do so will undoubtedly completely undercut any future negotiations with other nuclear powers in the hope of achieving nuclear disarmament and world peace.

The time has now come for the West to take strong and meaningful action in support of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity. The West must stop moving the goal line in order to placate Putin in the unlikely Pollyanna-like expectation that he will take an "off-ramp" and deescalate the situation in Ukraine. The hard and uncontroverted evidence proves exactly the contrary - Putin only interprets such peace intended initiatives as a sign of weakness. He only respects decisiveness and power. Therefore, the West must face him with resolve and strength.

It is crystal clear that neither the United States nor the EU will put boots on the ground in Ukraine. However, as Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has expressed to world leaders, - Ukrainians have the resolve and will to defend their homeland – what Ukrainians need are military supplies and weaponry to aid them in their battle for national survival. Therefore, we strongly urge that the following steps be implemented immediately by the United States government, NATO, and its European allies.

Military assistance in the form of lethal weapons and nonlethal military supplies, as well as advisors and related intelligence and equipment.

The imposition of full sector sanctions, especially in the banking and fossil fuel industries, and the bank accounts of Russian governmental business entities frozen.

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Ukraine's accession to non-NATO ally status by the United States should be expeditiously granted.

Increased humanitarian medical and other assistance by the international community for persons injured in the war and for the displaced persons from Eastern Ukraine and Crimea should be accelerated.

All sales of military or dual use equipment should be immediately stopped - especially by France which is planning in the near future to transfer two Mistral type helicopter attack carriers to Russia.

Additional monetary funding for the Ukrainian government in the form of guaranteed loans should be provided to help Ukraine weather the economic crisis caused by the Russian invasion.

The United States and Europe are at a historically crucial crossroad. America must take strong and decisive action and reaffirm its world leadership position now! If Western governments continue on the existing path of placating Putin and "doing business as usual", then they will condemn our children and grandchildren to a probable conflagration on the European continent that will be as great or even greater than the horrors of World War II [recall Putin's recent verbal flexing of his nuclear muscle] .....and from which America will have no escape.

For further information, please contact
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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 9/17/2008 7:37:57 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 09/17/08

Main Topics: Wall Street, AIG Bailout, McCain on Good Morning America

Summary of Shift:

Campaign coverage continues to focus on the Wall Street crisis and the two candidates economic plans. Opposition to this morning's bailout of AIG caused McCain's recent flip-flop on government regulations to receive much attention. Carly Fiorina's gaffe on McCain and Palin not being able to run a major corporation was also a hot topic as well as Holtz-Eakin's statement that McCain created the Blackberry.

In other news, all eyes are on Wall Street as American's fear for their investments, pensions and jobs. The US Embassy in Yemen was attacked by a car bomb; many Yemen workers were killed or injured, no reported injuries to Americans. Hurricane Ike's death toll rises as the debris is cleared and the damage is assessed. The hurricane also caused an estimated $16 billion dollars in damage to property and infrastructure.

Highlights:

1. ABC: John McCain interviewed on Good Morning America, talks economy, jobs, and first actions as President
2. ABC: John and Cindy McCain interviewed on Good Morning America, talk Roe v. Wade, townhall debates
3. Romney makes the rounds in support of McCain's economic policies
   A) CNN: Romney Praises McCain's Economic Experience, Then is Shown a Clip of Him During Primaries Saying Otherwise, Throws Fiorina Under the Bus
   B) FNC: Mitt Romney touts McCain's economic experience and plan to Get U.S. out of current crisis
4. NBC: Pawlenty tries to dismiss McCain's flip flop on deregulation
5. FNC: The Break-up: Media's love affair with John McCain is over, but why?
6. NBC: McCain attacks Obama for fundraising during an economic crisis, while his surrogates suggest McCain invented the Blackberry and could not run a major corporation
7. MSNBC: Joe Scarborough: if John McCain invented the Blackberry then so did I
8. CMDY: John McCain wins the "Generic Off" contest for his attempt to change the meaning of fundamental

Local Highlights:

1. WFLA-NBC-FL: Local Tampa news covers McCain speech on economy, interviews him on Same as Bush, Sarah Palin, reform
2. WFLA-NBC-FL: Local Tampa news covers McCain speech on economy, interviews him on offshore drilling
3. WFTS-ABC-FL: Local Tampa news covers McCain protesters and clashes outside of event

Highlights – No Clips:

1. CNN - ALINA CHO: Yesterday, Senator John McCain said he opposed government financial oversight, now the truth is, until recently the GOP presidential candidate consistently called himself an opponent of most government regulation. In fact, in a Wall Street Journal article about six months ago, McCain said he's always for less regulation. But, that he also understands the opposing view. McCain went on to say, "I am fundamentally a deregulator." Fast forward to now, with the recent problems on Wall Street, McCain is talking more frequently of increasing government regulation on the financial sector. […] McCain went on to say that there needs to be more transparency, more accountability on Wall Street, but so far no specifics on a plan. So is Senator Biden right when he says that Senator McCain has refused to regulate? The verdict, Biden statement is historically accurate. But with all the recent turmoil in the financial markets, McCain's position appears to be changing.

Clips:

Highlight #1

John McCain Interviewed on Good Morning America, Talks Economy, Jobs, and First Actions as President (ABC 09/17/08 7:31am)

ROBIN ROBERTS: You love coming to this part of the country, hard working people. They wake up and they hear the news that the Federal Government is going to bail out insurance giant, AIG, to the tune of $85 billion dollars. Do you agree with that?

JOHN MCCAIN: Well, I agree with you, these are hard working Americans. Last night I had dinner with a man who's a

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teacher, or his wife is a teacher, he's a locksmith. Another family, mother is a nurse, they're the fundamentals of America, they're still strong. But they've been betrayed by the top of our economy. By the greedy Wall Street excesses, sometimes I think may be even corruption. And they have had their lives harmed because of greed and excess. We've got to fix it, we've got to say that it will never happen again, as President I will make sure that it never happens again. **Now on the bailout itself, I didn't want to do that, and I don't think anybody I know wanted to do that.** But there were literally millions of people who's retirement, whose investments, whose insurance were at risk here, they were going to have their lives destroyed because of the greed, and excess, and corruption. When I say corruption, many of these executives, **these Wall Street CEO's, said everything's fine, as you know, up until a short time ago. Everything's fine, not to worry. Meanwhile, Congress, the regulators, paid no attention whatsoever to it. We have an alphabet soup of regulatory agencies, all of them were asleep at the switch. And the Congress, particularly as far as Fannie and Freddie are concerned, went right along with it. And the special interests and the lobbyists took over.**

ROBERTS: You talk about Congress, and of course, you've been there in Washington all these many years, and you're saying, a little bit asleep at the switch.

MCCAIN: Two years ago I gave a speech and argued on several occasions, if Fannie and Freddie were in trouble, they were carrying out unsafe, and unsound, and even corrupt practices, and I said that this has got to stop. And I have fought for reform all the time that I've been in Congress. I've taken on my party, I've taken on the other party, I've taken on the President. Senator Obama's never taken on his party on any major issue. This requires a reformer, that's my record, of reform. And we have to fix it, and we will fix it, and it'll never happen again when I'm president of the United States. And we got to grow the economy and create jobs, that's the best way out of this.

ROBERTS: And how do you go about it? Because yesterday, when you were talking about Chris Cuomo, you said that you would perhaps reform a kind of 9/11 commission. In talking to folks here, like you did, they said enough with the commissions, enough with the talk. What are the real solutions, what are the practical solutions, not the talk in getting it done?

MCCAIN: We need to get the best minds in America together. I mean, this is a crisis, this is one of the most severe crisis in modern times. So we got to get the best minds in America together, to say look, not only did this happen but we got to all work together, Republican and Democrat. I mean, this calls for bi-partisanship, this calls for patriotism. This calls for saving the economy of the people here, the Lipshz Family on this farm, they're the heartland of America. So clearly, we have to have transparency, we have to have oversight, we have to combine these regulatory alphabet soup organizations. We have to make them work. **They need a chief executive who knows how to crack the whip**. And knows how to reform Washington, and reform the way that we do business. And frankly, bring these people to account. Hold these people to account that are responsible for this. And if many of them broke the law, then maybe some of them should be in jail.

ROBERTS: Well, people here, you saying that, and believe in your commitment to wanting to do that. But Senator, they're saying, if you're in office, they want something tangible. When they hear that, they're like, what is the first thing people will fix? What's the first thing you'll change?

MCCAIN: The first thing I'll fix is I'll make sure that they're taxes are not raised, I'll make sure that they'll be available for affordable health insurance. We'll grow jobs, we will get off alternative energy, that frankly this family, who uses a lot of gasoline, we got to get off that dependence on foreign oil. **I know how to do that, and I have a concrete plan to fix our economy.** And I'll make their health insurance affordable and available, quality education for their kids, and I'll keep taxes low. They don't need a tax increase in this very difficult time. And I will be opposed to that, and I will make sure that it doesn't happen. But we can restore our economy again. But we got to clean up this mess, and drain the swamp that's causing so many problems, and having so many innocent bystanders being harmed by it.

[…]

MCCAIN: And I just want to also say, look, America can get through this, our best days are ahead of us, not behind us. **They need a government that works for them, not for the special interests in Washington. That is my record.**

Highlight #2
John and Cindy McCain Interviewed on Good Morning America, Talk Roe v. Wade, Townhall Debates (ABC 09/17/08 7:42)
ROBIN ROBERTS: You're never far from your husband's side. Does he confide with you, does he talk to you about the major issues and get your advice on some things?

CINDY MCCAIN: Well, certainly at the end of the day, the issues are not what we talk about. We're usually checking in with

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our children and things like that. But certainly we talk, absolutely.

JOHN MCCAIN: I think we should have full disclosure there, there's a critique.

CINDY MCCAIN: There's a critique, that's true. I was trying to be nice!

JOHN MCCAIN: Of my performance, and those kind of things.

DIANE SAWYER: How does she think you're doing?

JOHN: I sometimes get mixed reviews, and sometimes I deserve them.

SAWYER: If I could ask about one issue, because we are here in the heartland, we keep hearing about a lot of social issues as we travel around here. And I wanted to clear up something if I could real quick, because Mrs. McCain, CBS reported on Roe v. Wade, that they had contacted your staff, and you had said that you do not, as Mrs. Bush in fact has said she does not, want the repeal of Roe v. Wade, so that some states can outlaw abortion. And yet, Senator McCain, you have indicated in previous interviews that you would like the repeal of Roe v. Wade so that the states can make their decisions. What's the difference in the two of you views on the issue?

JOHN MCCAIN: Well, let me just say, this is all about courage and compassion. It's about changing the culture of America. I am pro-life and I support that position, and I know that Cindy does too. And we need to ask young American women who are faced with this terrible decision that we will help them have the courage to bring a baby into this world, and we'll have the compassion and help them in every way that we can address it. And it will be, if Roe v. Wade is overturned, go back to the states and the states will make the decisions about it. So, that's the issue here as to how we treat the issue of human life in America. And it's got to be done with courage and compassion and that's both of our positions.

SAWYER: But Mrs. McCain, do you oppose the repeal of Roe v. Wade, was that report correct?

CINDY MCCAIN: You know there are people who are without jobs, that are hurting, whose businesses have collapsed, who don't know where they're going to find money to feed their families**. This is not the major issue on people's minds right now.** What concerns me, is when I talk to people, like people today on this farm, people we had dinner with last night. They're having trouble making ends meat. A difference in how we stand on abortion, and things like that, is not what's foremost in the voters minds right now, at all.

JOHN MCCAIN: So, look. **This is an issue that we have to change the culture of America, those of us who respect the rights of the unborn, that's the thrust of our effort.** And I'm happy to note that we're adoptive parents, and it's enriched our lives. And we hope that that will also encourage others to do the same.

ROBERTS: You talked about that people don't want to get into personal issues, that that doesn't help them, that they want to talk about the issues. But, it has gotten very personal this particular time around, the campaign, on both sides. And a lot of people thought it was refreshing on 9/11 that no negative ads, you and Senator Obama appeared at the National Forum on Community Service, and can we make that kind of commitment, why does it have to, how does it really serve anybody when it becomes so bitter?

JOHN MCCAIN: It doesn't, but I can tell you one way that it makes it a lot better, because I've been in previous campaigns, have Senator Obama come to a townhall meeting with me. Let's go to townhall meetings all over America, both of us, stand before the American people. That's what Barry Goldwater and Jack Kennedy had decided to do. And I've asked time after time. Senator Obama, come to the townhall meetings with me, let the people ask, we respond. I guarantee you that changes the tone of the campaign because then people pay attention to the candidates, not the back and forth, not the surrogates, not the 527s. And so, I ask Senator Obama again. We got 49 days left. 48. Let's go to the townhall meetings, and then the American people will be focused on that. I don't know why he's refused to do that, because when he was first asked he said he would go anywhere anytime. And so I hope that he will take up that request, and I look forward to it, I'll fly with him. I promise not to fly the airplane.

Highlight #3

Romney Praises McCain's Economic Experience, Then is Shown a Clip of Him During Primaries Saying Otherwise, Throws Fiorina Under the Bus (CNN 09/17/08 7:32am)

JOHN ROBERTS: With your vast experience in the business world here and in financial markets in particular what's the first advice you would give Senator John McCain about handling the current crisis?

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MITT ROMNEY: Well, first of all the federal reserve has taken the appropriate action to make sure that institutions which could, if they failed hurt a lot of people that they don't fail. Secondly you have to make sure we don't add new government spending programs and we don't raise taxes. The worse thing you can do with an economy in trouble is raise taxes. And I really would call on Barack Obama to say, you know what? It's not the time to raise taxes, it's instead a time to smooth the market out, to try to rekindle the growth of our economy, lower taxes, and get ourselves from sending $700 billion a year to foreign countries for oil, let's keep that money here, let's drill in America, something Barack Obama opposes. He's wrong on that one.

ROBERTS: Let me come back to the point you made about the bailout of AIG. John McCain said the fed should not be bailing out these financial institutions.

ROMNEY: Well, what he said they shouldn't be bailing out institutions by, if you will, giving more money to the shareholders and the management. But he does believe that when the federal reserve and treasury have evaluated a particular enterprise and conclude that their failure will hurt more people in this country than the bailout would cost, why then, of course, the right course is to help those enterprises stay alive and they carried out that analysis. They said AIG failing would hurt more taxpayers than it's going to cost us than if we help them get on their feet. The nice thing about this particular program is the Federal Reserve now is going to be an 80% owner of AIG. So we don't just put the money in, and take the downside if you will. We now are going to be the owner of this enterprise and make sure we get the upside of this as well, when this thing's turned around.

ROBERTS: Governor, during the primary campaign you were always stressing the importance of business experience as a prerequisite to become president of the United States. Let me remind viewers of something you said the first of February of this year, back in Denver, regarding Senator john McCain.

ROMNEY: He has a number of things that are great strengths of his but he happened to say that the economy was not his strong suit. Well, at a time like this, in a country like this, I think it's important to have a president for whom the economy is his strong suit.

ROBERTS: So Governor Romney, things have gotten worse with the economy since then. The question is based on what you said back there in February, is John McCain the right person for the job at this time in America's economic history?

ROMNEY: Well, I was trying to convince people that I was the right guy for the job and that just didn't work, as you know. In the current setting there's no question that john McCain has by far the most economic experience of any of the people that are either in the presidential or the vice presidential contest.

ROBERTS: How so? What's the economic experience that he has?

ROMNEY: Well, he's been in the Senate for 25 years and has been through recessions, through upsides, down sides.

ROBERTS: Joe Biden has been there for 36 years.

ROMNEY: Joe Biden has been concentrating on foreign policy, by the way he's been wrong on foreign policy for 30 years. John McCain has been concentrating on the commerce committee for instance, and that's given him the kind of experience that allowed him to work with President Reagan, President Ford, President Clinton, and so forth and fashion economic policy, that frankly has allowed America to outgrow our European competitors, to create many tens of millions of jobs when they haven't, and it's that kind of policy that's or experience that's allowed him to say you know what? Don't raise tax now, keep taxes down. Make sure we trade with our countries and do what we have to do to become energy independent. Don't do what Barack Obama is saying, which is not allowing drilling offshore, not building a nuclear power plant. So that's why John McCain has a plan to actually get this economy going again.

ROBERTS: Governor, as you know, yesterday McCain's senior advisor said none of these candidates has the experience to run a major corporation like Hewlett Packard. You always, again whether you're trying to sell yourself or not, touted the importance of business experience, the importance of actually being a hands on manager as an important prerequisite to become president of the United States because you know how to manage budgets. You talk about John McCain's business experience, then Carly Fiorina says he doesn't have the experience to run a corporation.

ROMNEY: Well she says that no one has the experience running for office, to run a corporation. I think she's just misinformed in that regard. I would be happy to hire John McCain and Sarah Palin to run a business that I'm an

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investor in. I can also tell you that when you compare John McCain with Barack Obama, it's a pretty clear comparison that John McCain has experience that's been, a lot of developed judgment that you need in a time like this and Barack Obama who has been a community organizer and then a state senator. Who's been a U.S. Senator for three years, two of which, years he's been running for president. He just doesn't have any relevance experience to help our economy in such a critical time and that's why I think you're finding that John McCain is surging in public support, bigger and bigger crowds because they realize you got to have a person who has been there, who has been at the helm when the seas are rough. That's exactly where he's been during these last 25 years.

Mitt Romney Touts McCain's Economic Experience and Plan to Get U.S. Out of Current Crisis (FNC 09/17/08 7:57am)
STEVE DOOCY: A lot of people out there on Main Street are looking at Wall Street and they're saying man, you guys really messed things up. What is, and I was reading that you had some talking points about what John McCain wants to do with the economy and financial reform.

MITT ROMNEY: Well, first of all, with regards to Wall Street, he wants to put in place a program of transparency so we can see what's actually on the balance sheets of the various companies there. Secondly, he wants to revamp the entire regulatory structure so we don't have the kind of excesses which were caused when republicans and democrats all were encouraging these banks to put out mortgages that were being handed out like candy and it caused this mortgage crisis and the housing crisis. Beyond that, he wants to strengthen our economy by lowering our taxes, making trade available throughout the world but by making sure it's fair and of course, investing in new technology. Technology is really the future growth vehicle for our economy. It is a plan that has been tested and tried time and time again. I really think that it's critical for us to say that Barack Obama's plan of raising taxes and cutting off trade, and also saying that we can't drill for more oil, that's a plan that would cause really economic hardship in this country.

GRETCHEN CARLSON: Governor, I've been wondering if your phone has been ringing at 3:00 a.m. the last few nights from John McCain because you, no doubt, would have a lot of information to share on how this economy should be handled. By all accounts, John McCain and Barack Obama are not economic experts. So does it rely then back on experience of the individual or their advisors?

ROMNEY: Well, of course you want to have a president who understands how the economy works, and who has been in the economy at a time when it has had ups and downs. John McCain has been in the U.S. Senate 25 years. He was part of the Reagan revolution which helped really propel the growth of our economy. Frankly, we have been adding tens of millions of jobs when Europe has been adding no jobs other than government jobs. So John McCain was part of that. **He has been with the nation's economic gurus as we went through policy that built this economy, and he has been through good times and bad times. He has learned from that experience.** Barack Obama at the time was a community organizer and a state senator. He just doesn't have the experience, I believe, to lead the country at such a critical time for our economy.

DOOCY: And it is a critical time. Of course, Governor, today we are talking about the bridge loan the government is making to AIG, and then a couple of weeks ago there was the bailout of Fannie and Freddie that is the pillar of our mortgage institutions here in the united states of America. It's interesting, though, when Barack Obama says he's going to fix all that stuff, when you look at, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, the top three U.S. Senators who have gotten the most money from employees and pacs at Fannie and Freddie, number one is Chris Dodd who runs that banking committee, number three is John Kerry who's been there for a very long time, and number two is Barack Obama, who has only been there two years and yet he has wracked up $120,000 in contributions from the people at Fannie and Freddie.

ROMNEY: Well, that's quite a revelation, I must admit, and there's no question that politicians, frankly, on both sides of the aisle, in many cases are far too cozy with the enterprises that they regulate or that they oversee, and in this case, you found one more circumstance of that happening**. I do think that it was appropriate for the Federal Reserve and for the treasury to step in and to stabilize these enterprises where a lot of people's future are connected to those enterprises. I'm not arguing that it was a mistake to help AIG and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but the connection between money and politics is very, very disappointing, indeed.**

Highlight #4
Pawlenty tries to Dismiss McCain's Flip Flop on Deregulation (NBC: 09/17/08 07:12am)
MATT LAUER: Governor Pawlenty, yesterday on our program your Presidential Candidate John McCain said that he did not think the government should bail out AIG. The government did. Did he get it wrong? Did he not understand it?

TIM PAWLENTY: Well certainly Senator McCain does not support the bailout of AIG on a philosophical or ideal level, matt. But if you look at the practicalities of the implications of letting AIG fail in terms of what it would mean to average citizens and the destabilizing of the credit markets and the financial markets, something needed to be done. So he is willing to at least

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look at these kind of options.

LAUER: Well well wait a second; he did not think it should happen. So did he not understand the impact that AIG's failing would have on those average citizens you just talked about?

PAWLENTY: Well I think he does understand it**. He doesn't, like he said yesterday, he doesn't support the bailout but he also understands that something needed to be done to try to minimize or mitigate the consequences of these kinds of institutions crashing.**

[…]

LAUER: On this program yesterday John McCain said this: "Greed and excess and corruption has beset Wall Street. They've treated it like a casino and the need to be held accountable and stop walking away with these fat cat packages." **This is a guy throughout his entire career has wanted less government regulation, is he now calling for more government regulation.**

PAWLENTY: Well I think Matt you got to look at the whole record and in 2005, 2006 and in early 2000 John McCain is the one who said Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are out of control. He authored legislation to try to clean it up and crack down at them; the congress did not pass that. **He also has talked about these kind of issues and the need to regulate and crack down on thee industries in the past.** You also look at where the money is coming from and form Wall Street Barack Obama has received more money from Senator McCain. SO it's not accurate Matt, it is not accurate to say that Senator McCain has not purposed to crack down on institutions like Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and he saw this coming in 2005 and 2006 when he proposed legislation to address it. He also has said by the way, just to respond to my friend Governor Richardson, the answer in this crisis is not to raise taxes and do things that are going to discourage job growth like Barack Obama wants to do.

[…]

PAWLENTY: One of the reasons that Barack Obama opted out of the public financing system is because he had created his own small dollar, grassroots fundraising. It sure didn't look like that at Barbara Streisand's house last night.

Highlight #5
The Break-up: Media's Love Affair With John McCain Is Over, But Why? (FNC 09/17/08 10:20am)
MEGYN KELLY: Well believe it or not, once there was a cozy relationship between John McCain and the reporters who crammed onto the Straight Talk Express. Yes, it is true. Hardly remember it right? Well, that is because now it is quite apparent that the love fest is officially over. […] Well McCain's former mainstream media fans slamming him in print, and on TV, just about everywhere now. So what exactly caused the breakup of the love affair? […] People loved John McCain's accessibility to the media, he'd invite people on the back of the Straight Talk Express, there was no curtain between him and the media.

BERNIE GOLDBERG: I never believed that was the real reason, that was always the conventional wisdom reason. I think the reason why the media used to love John McCain is that he was running against George Bush, who was perceived as a conservative, and that's why they liked him. **They liked him because John McCain was not reliably conservative. That John McCain seemed to like sticking his thumb in Republican eyes, in that he seemed more concerned with what liberal democrats would think of him over what conservative republicans would. That's why they used to like him.** The reason the love affair is over, a couple of reasons, first, it soured when he was running not against a republican, but against a liberal democrat. That'll sour the liberal media on any republican. Then, the second reason which the media never even factored in, he might actually win. They never counted on that. The third reason is that **they think he sold out. How dare he put a Sarah Palin, whom they detest, on the ticket. If only he had put Joe Lieberman, who on almost every issue under the sun is a liberal democrat, on the ticket then he would have been principled. But Sarah Palin? And the final reason, and the newest one, is that John McCain they say isn't the same John McCain. Now he's nasty, he runs campaign commercials that aren't 100 percent true.** Well, boo hoo, that's what politics is about. It's not 100 percent true, and neither are Obama's. When Obama said that John McCain would keep us in Iraq for a hundred years, that wasn't the entire statement. He said, as long as there are no casualties, as long as no Americans were getting hurt. And I don't remember the media being upset about that.

KELLY: This is a good example. When McCain stretched the truth on the taxes, we called him out on that. When Obama stretched the truth on the hundred year war, we called him out on that. The bias is seen when they attack only on one side, and they leave the other side unmentioned. And the viewers don't always pick up on that because it's sort of an absence of information that they're being effected by.

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GOLDBERG: And there's a brand new example that's only 24 hours old. Carly Fiorina, McCain's chief economist on the campaign, said that neither Sarah Palin nor McCain was qualified to run a major American corporation. And there's more to it. The Obama campaign directed reporters to a YouTube spot where McCain said that, and they cut it off right at that point, that neither McCain or Sarah Palin was ready to run a company. But what she said in the very next breath, not a minute later, a nano-second later, is that neither is Barack Obama or Joe Biden. And the media didn't get upset about that.

KELLY: You mentioned Palin, what is it about Governor Palin that has sent some in the mainstream media over the edge?

GOLDBERG: To me, that's the single most important question that could be asked about Palin. And I don't believe it's simply that liberal reporters don't like her conservative positions. I don't believe that that's the entirety of it. I think it's a cultural issue more than it's a political issue. The idea that, what is it with this woman, she has five kids, she has a baby with down syndrome, her daughter's having a baby. I mean, liberal elite people they have daughters who are having sex, and who get pregnant, but if you're going to go to Princeton next semester you don't have a baby. What is it with this woman? **A Canadian writer summed it up perfectly, she said Sarah Palin has captured the white trash vote in America. That's how the media sees this. They see Middle America, they see people who aren't like them, as white trash. And that's the problem.**

Highlight #6
McCain Attacks Obama for Fundraising During an Economic Crisis While his Surrogates Suggest McCain Invented the Blackberry and Could Not Run a Major Corporation (NBC 09/17/08 07:11am)
JOHN MCCAIN: Talking about siding with the people, siding with the people, just before he flew off to Hollywood for a fundraiser with Barbara Streisand and his celebrity friends. Let me tell you my friends there is no place I'd rather be than here with the working men and women of Ohio.

ANDREA MITCHELL: **But John McCain came close the night before. Raising more than $5 Million at a fancy hotel in Miami from his top donors.**

TED JOHNSON: This is the point in the process where you want to appeal to the regular guy; you don't want to make it look like your elite.

MITCHELL: McCain and Obama are crisscrossing the country raising millions in private, in public trading charges about a bad economy.

JOHN MCCAIN: Sarah Palin and I are going to reform Wall Street; we're going to reform Washington.

MITCHELL: Rejoined Tuesday by Sarah Palin, McCain Proposed a 9/11-style commission to find out what went wrong with Wall Street.

OBAMA: This isn't 9/11. We know how we got into this mess. What we need now is leadership that gets us out.

MCCAIN: Senator Obama saw an economic crisis and has found a political opportunity. My friends this is not a time for political opportunist. This is a time for leadership.

MITCHELL: **Along the way a few stumbles, McCain's economic advisor suggested the Senator's commerce committee even helped create the blackberry. Later another aid defended that as a boneheaded joke. Then a top McCain surrogate trying to defend what she had said about Palin didn't do any favors for McCain: When you were asked whether Sarah Palin had the experience to run a major company like Hewlett Packard, which you did, and you said no I don't, but you know what, that's not what she's running for.**

CARLY FIORINA: Well I don't think John McCain could run a major corporation, I don't think Barack Obama could run a major corporation.

Highlight #7
Joe Scarborough: If John McCain Invented The Blackberry Then So Did I (MSNBC 09/17/08 07:01am)
WILLIE GEIST: Speaking of John McCain though, do you like your little handful of magic?

JOE SCARBOROUGH: I love it, it's magic.

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: It's a love hate relationship. […]

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GEIST: DO you know who you have to thank for that?

SCARBOROUGH: Who?

GEIST: Senator John McCain.

SCARBOROUGH: No.

BRZEZINSKI: **No No No, he doesn't use computers.**

GEIST: **Yes, Al Gore invented the Internet; well not really, he kind of said that but not really. Now we are just learning yesterday from a senior policy advisor for the McCain campaign that John McCain very well may be responsible for the Blackberry.** Listen to this exchange with a reporter:

REPORTER: What did he do on the commerce committee that Americans could look at and say; oh this is the guy that understands financial markets? I mean correct me if I am wrong . . .

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN: He did this [Holds up Blackberry] Telecommunications of the United States is a premier innovation in the past 15 years, come right from the commerce committee. So you're looking at the miracle John McCain helped create and that's what he did.

GEIST: On the commerce committee John McCain helped create the Blackberry.

SCARBOROUGH: **He's saying that because congress passed the Telecom Act in, I think it was in 1996, that that led to the Blackberry. Which means that I too invented the Blackberry.**

GEIST: Joe Scarborough invented the Blackberry.

BRZEZINSKI: That's amazing.

SCARBOROUGH: **And so did about a thousand other members of congress.**
[…]

Highlight #8
John McCain Wins the "Generic Off" Contest for his Attempt to Change the Meaning of Fundamental (CMDY: 09/16/08 09:10pm)
JON STEWART: While the crisis on Wall Street will ultimately affect millions of Americans, yesterday the crisis affected four Americans in a deeply personal way.

JOHN MCCAIN: The American economy is in a crisis.

BARACK OBAMA: The most serious financial crisis that we have seen in generations.

JOE BIDEN: The crisis that you've been facing on Main Street is now hitting Wall Street.

SARAH PALIN: Let me tell you something that is going on today in our world, particularly here in our nation that needs some shakin up and some fixin.

STEWART: **Did she win a contest? What, is it a calling? We gotta do some shakin up**. I see what is happening here, it's an economic crisis, complicated issue, the solutions that are needed are probably unpopular and undoubtedly confusing, perhaps it's time for a good old fashion candidate Generic Off. Generic Off brought to you by soap and food. Food it's what's for eating. The candidates flipped a coin to decide who went first but the coin was repossessed. What the heck lets here from the Junior Senator from Illinois:

OBAMA: We're going to get the economy back on track and our financial institutions back on track.

STEWART: Well in sir, forceful sounding, totally empty. Like a hollow piñata. Republicans, your response:

MCCAIN: **We've got to fix it. We got to fix it and we will.**

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STEWART: We must fix it. We must use some sort of tool, an economic tool that was made in America, McCain 08!

[…]
BIDEN: I count John McCain as a personal friend. I don't doubt that John cares, he just doesn't think, he doesn't think that we have any responsibility to help people that are hurting.

STEWART: This is not a passive aggressive off. **This is a generic off. John McCain is a good man he's just a horrible human being. He's a brave soldier, but a stupid idiot. He kills babies. I love him, he's terrible. This is a huge opening for the Republican's, […] lets hear from "could possibly be President" Palin:**

PALIN: This crisis happened for several reasons.

STEWART: Wow, wow, this is a Generic Off, reasons, that's dangerous territory. Tread carefully. I hope they are generic reasons.

PALIN: Several reasons, which have to be addressed right now.

STEWART: You've given us a what and a when, don't give us a how.

PALIN: Guys and Gals, our regulatory system is outdated and it needs a complete overhaul.

STEWART**: Oh Guys and Gals, dudes and dames, don't pay any attention to what she's saying. Do not heed her call; she is not actually suggesting that the government be responsible for regulating the financial markets in anyway, brohems and betties.**

PALIN: Our economy will grow, and we will get government out of the way of private sector progress.

STEWART: **Great save! She only got specific enough to completely contradict herself. We need more regulation, we need more regulations so that we can get government out of the economy, and then normal people's brains can explode**. All right Johnny McCainy, she set them up, mow them down.

MCCAIN**: Still, the fundamentals of our economy are strong.**

STEWART: NOOOO! That is generic but it is also wrong. You're supposed to talk about crisis. You know what is going to happen now. Oh in a few hours: [Attack ad show] Don't you know the Internet moves quickly now sir? It looks like curtains for Senator McCain**, but as in any generic off you get one more chance to go into the retraction chamber. Where you can either take back what you said about the fundamentals of our economy, or fundamentally try to change the meaning of fundamental.**

MCCAIN: I was talking about the fundamentals of America, which is the workers, their productivity, their innovation, their incredible performance for many many years.

STEWART: **Sure you were, ladies and gentlemen we have a winner. That was John McCain speaking from his new circular talk express. Whatever it is, shoot from the hips, tell it like it is John McCain. Apparently John McCain is the only POW to be brainwashed after his captivity.**

Local Highlight #1
Local Tampa News Covers McCain Speech on Economy, Interviews Him on Same as Bush, Sarah Palin, Reform
(WFLA-NBC-FL 09/16/08 11:01pm)
KEITH CATE: The economy was once again the hot topic on the campaign trail today. Senator John McCain talking about it during his stop at Tampa. The republican presidential candidate spoke to a crowd of more than 4,000 people at the Tampa convention center. While in south Tampa he also shot a new television ad before heading to the battleground state of Ohio where he talked a little more about the economy. And there was a new twist in his remarks. Yesterday he said the fundamentals of the economy are strong. Today he defined or perhaps refined fundamentals not as economic facts and figures but as working people. Tonight more from our exclusive interview with John McCain. During our previous newscast you heard him answer questions about taxes, offshore drilling and a national catastrophe fund but we also asked him about governor Sarah Palin, his ties to president bush and the slogan "change."

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And this idea of change, this is something Obama has used the word over and over since beginning his campaign. But you said change is more than just a slogan, but it looks like you are embracing this idea of change. Is change the one thing that's going to get you and Governor Palin to the white house, more so than this idea of experience, or lack of experience?

JOHN MCCAIN: Reform of government, and I have a record of reform. Senator Obama does not. Governor Palin has a record of reform, Senator Obama does not. Reform and prosperity, the economy is the main issue, obviously. It is affecting this election and all Americans. So we have to reform government in order to restore trust and confidence, and create jobs and fix our economy. Senator Obama has no record of ever being actively engaged in these issues. And I fought against my party. He hasn't.

CATE: Democrats keep trying to paint you as the next President Bush. Can you give me three examples of how you differ?

MCCAIN: The war in Iraq, climate change, spending, torture of prisoners. There's a very long list. I have called attention to climate change a long time ago. I opposed the spending practices. I vociferously spoke out and was criticized in my own party against the way the Iraq war was being conducted. Senator Obama has never taken on his party on a single issue.

CATE: Governor Sarah Palin has spoken, well, when she speaks a lot of people respond but she clearly sparked the republican base out there. Some have wondered though, would she be your vice-presidential running mate had Senator Obama chosen Hillary Clinton as his running mate?

MCCAIN: I wouldn't have had his election as part of the calculation. My selection is what's best for America.

[…]

Local Highlight #2

Local Tampa News Covers McCain Speech on Economy, Interviews Him on Offshore Drilling (WFLA-NBC-FL 09/16/08 6:01pm)

JEFF PATTERSON: John McCain today flanked by his wife and supporters but he wasted no time focusing his message on the troubles on Wall Street. A week ago the focus of the nation seemed to be on John McCain's choice of a vice-presidential running mate and her lipstick. Today the senator focused his campaign and his remarks on the economy. […] Following yesterday's collapse on wall street, McCain told a crowd of more than 4,000 supporters at the Tampa Convention Center that greed and bad decisions are to blame […] McCain says government has a clear responsibility to act in the public interest in the face of an economic collapse. […] McCain spoke for just 17 minutes in front of an enthusiastic crowd. eleven of those minutes were focused on wall street. But he used part of his brief stay to attack his opponent. […] McCain also spoke today about ending America's dependence on foreign oil by increasing renewable sources of energy and increasing drilling offshore for American oil and natural gas reserves.

GAYLE SIERENS: And there were some demonstrators outside the convention center during McCain's visit. They protested his stance on the war and his choice of Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate. However most were impressed with his message and the man.

KAY WEEKS: I think he said right on the button things that I wanted to hear, that if he's going to do those things, we'll have a better government because of it.

ALDY SANDS: I like him. he's a sound guy. he's got a lot to say. I hope he's our next president.

JOEY VARS: I came out today just to show support for John McCain. I think he has great leadership ability and should be able to make our nation prosper.

[…]

KEITH CATE: During our exclusive interview with Senator John McCain we asked him about offshore drilling and if a compromise is in the works.

Again, a chant at this forum, drill, drill, drill. it's a big issue. Both parties in Congress now talking about reducing the currents 125-mile buffer in Florida's gulf coast to 50. Senator Bill Nelson democrat strongly opposed. Governor Crist seems to favor it. There seems to be a compromise in place, brewing on Capital Hill. Do you think that compromise will take place, maybe by November, and what will the result be for Florida?

JOHN MCCAIN: Well, democrats are caving in. they oppose nuclear power. they oppose offshore drilling. they oppose most

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everything new and innovative. I hope that we reach an agreement. But it's got to be, one, the states agree. I want the states to be able to agree to that. But I have been for it ever since gas went to four dollars a gallon. And Senator Obama has opposed it, just as he is opposed to storing and reprocessing spent nuclear fuel. so it's very clear our different positions on this. Now maybe he will switch again as he has on many others.

CATE: Your running mate, Governor Sarah Palin supports the idea of drilling for oil in ANWR. I'm just wondering if she is getting you to soften up on your stance against it?

MCCAIN: Not yet. No, I would not change. But it's one reason why they call us mavericks.

[…]

Local Highlight #3
Local Tampa News Covers McCain Protesters and Clashes Outside of Event (WFTS-ABC-FL 09/16/08 6:02pm)
REBECCA MEDINA: Good evening. You are absolutely right, there was definitely a clash of ideas out here today and as the crowd continued to grow throughout the day, so did the tension. The crowd waited patiently inside to see their republican pick for the presidency. As some supporters cheered and chanted, one teacher brought his government class for a lesson. […] But as these excited folks inside anticipated the arrival of John McCain, others outside just wanted to blast McCain. Antiwar protesters, pro-choice advocates, union workers, and college students all at the convention center to tell John McCain… [Obama! Obama!] As the hours passed, the crowd of protesters outside got a bit bigger, louder, and angrier. especially whether they came face-to-face with republican supporters. One McCain supporter rigged a sign for one of the protesters. Others just lashed out in a war of words. […] This went on for an hour after John McCain spoke. And in all of the name calling and screaming from both sides, there was never actual talk of the issue. Never a single conversation about the war in Iraq, the economy, abortion, or any other issues so eloquently painted on all of these signs. And there is some good news tonight about what happened out here today, no one, absolutely no one ended up in the slammer.

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From: "Maria Kanellopoulou" <mariad.dossier@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/14/2016 1:30:56 PM
Subject: Re: interview request with Mr Podesta

Mr Podesta
Given that you are too busy to give an interview could you perhaps send to me a statement by Mrs Clinton on the Greek situation, the economic crisis but also the refugee crisis? Perhaps also a short comment on what can the Greeks hope from her Presidency if she is elected?
That could be enough to make an article about her campaign so far.
Thank you in advance

This email has been sent from a virus-free computer protected by Avast.
www.avast.com

On 28 February 2016 at 13:53, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:
> Dear Mr Podesta
>
> I have been following the election results so far and I think perhaps there is a window of opportunity for our interview after Super Tuesday.
>
> I would be more than grateful if you could find 40 minutes that we can talk on the phone.
>
> Thank you in advance and good luck with your efforts
>
> Maria Kanellopoulou

On 4 February 2016 at 13:21, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:
> Dear Sir
>
> Compliments for the win in Iowa and good luck for the next battle in New Hampshire. Do you think it would be possible to talk tomorrow? Or should I try again contacting you after New Hampshire election?
>
> Thank you
> Have a nice day
>
> Maria

On 28 January 2016 at 19:33, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:
> So sorry the right number is +30 6944 259916

On 28 January 2016 at 19:32, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:
> Dear Mr Podesta
>
> I have just finished drafting my questions and starting tomorrow morning I am at your disposal whenever you can spare half an hour for a telephone call.
> Just give me a ring two hours before at +306944259915 (and bear in mind that we have 7 hours time zone difference :))
>
> Best regards and best of luck in Iowa!

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Looking forward to talking to you

On 27 January 2016 at 15:55, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Ok

On Wednesday, January 27, 2016, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:

Dear Mr Podesta
Thank you for your quick reply!!!

What if I send you 12 written questions that you can address at your free time? If we make the deadline it will be published in this issue if not at the next.

If you do agree I will try to send them tomorrow so you have all the time possible.

Thank you !

On 27 January 2016 at 14:27, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

Difficult in that time frame given our primary election schedule. Perhaps for the next issue.

On Wednesday, January 27, 2016, Maria Kanellopoulou <mariad.dossier@gmail.com > wrote:

ATT Mr Podesta

Esteemed Sir

My name is Maria Kanellopoulou and I am a Greek journalist collaborating with the monthly political magazine CRASH. Me and the magazine I represent, would be greatly honored if you would consider giving us an interview for our next issue which will be published in the mid February.

In case that our request is granted we will be happy with a skype/telephone interview or even a written one if other possibilities are out of question due to your heavy schedule.

The questions of the interview will cover your collaboration with Hillary Clinton, your career and any comments you may wish to make regarding the situation in Greece,
.
"Crash" is among the first in circulation Greek monthly political magazines. It regularly hosts interviews with politicians from all across the political spectrum, including the heads of all Greek political parties, as well as members of the Greek cabinet and distinguished political personalities.
We have also hosted many interviews with politicians from foreign countries (Tony Benn, Iriny Lopez), Members of the European Parliament (Nikos Chountis, Nigel Farage), and diplomats (American diplomat Brady Kiesling, Russian ambassador in Greece Andrey Maslov) "Crash" also emphasizes on interviews with personalities of international caliber.It has hosted, among others, interviews with Oliver Stone, Isabel Allende, Thomas Piketty, Robert Fisk, James Galbraith, Kerry Kennedy, Greg Palast, Hans-Werner Sinn, Dani Rodrik, Philippe Legrain, Paul Mason, Hugo Dixon, Peter Spiegel, Toni Negri, Noam Chomsky and others

My personal work in the magazine is mainly oriented in geopolitical issues and foreign affairs but It would give me great personal pleasure and professional pride to be granted some of your precious time.
Thank you in advance

Maria Kanellopoulou
Editor in chief international affairs, ANEXARTISIA newspaper

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/28/2015 10:26:07 AM
Subject: Can Bolivia Chart a Sustainable Path Away From Capitalism?

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Can Bolivia Chart a Sustainable Path Away From Capitalism?

Chris Williams and Marcela Olivera, Truthout: While the achievements of Evo Morales' government in Bolivia are significant, so are the processes by which change has been enacted, and the trajectory of government attitudes and behavior with respect to the social movements and labor unions that made his government possible.

Read the Article

Department of Education Sides Against Students to Feather Its Own Bed in For-Profit Corinthian Colleges Debacle

Yves Smith, Naked Capitalism: Corinthian Colleges seemed to be on its way to a well-deserved demise as a result of government interventions. Sadly, it turns

BuzzFlash

The Woman Who Died From the Lethality of Economic Inequality

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: She was killed by a financial system that values the profit margin on donuts and coffee over a livable wage.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

The Prosecutor Who Filed Murder Charges Against the Cops Is Becoming a Police Target

Read the Article at ThinkProgress

Subprime Bonds Are Back With a Different Name Seven Years After US Crisis

Read the Article at

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out this is the United States, where debtors routinely get the short end of the stick even when the lender engaged in fraud.

Read the Article

Tar Sands Pipeline Planned for Dane County Eclipses Keystone XL

Rebekah Wilce, PR Watch: Whether or not the Keystone XL pipeline will transport tar sands oil from Canada through the United States is a critical decision affecting our future as a planet. The tripling in capacity of Line 61, which already carries tar sands crude oil from Alberta to Illinois, will make it a third larger than the projected Keystone XL.

Read the Article

FBI: Give Me Back My Email to WikiLeaks

Robert Naiman, Truthout: Thanks to Edward Snowden, we know that the NSA has been trying to vacuum up everything. But it's a different thing to read that the FBI has your stuff specifically.

Read the Article

Syriza's Victory: Hold the Champagne

Michael Nevradakis, Truthout: Syriza's electoral victory on January 25 has been viewed as a historic turning point for Greece and Europe. Here is another perspective on what the Greek electoral results really tell us, tempering some of the hype following Syriza's victory.

Read the Article

Selma : A Beautifully Shot Film Shows How Change Really Happens

Kate Aronoff, YES! Magazine: It's rare to see a film explore the complex inner workings of popular movements from the perspective of those driving them. Neither a "great man" history of Martin Luther King Jr., nor a tale of forgotten underdogs, *Selma* is about skilled activists building the civil rights movement.

Read the Review

The Kochs Will Spend Nearly $1 Billion on the 2016 Elections, but Deny It

Brendan Fischer, PR Watch: The political network organized by Charles and David Koch plans to spend a whopping $900 million to win the White House in 2016 and deepen the Koch party's bench in Congress. But that's not what they'll tell federal regulators.

Read the Article

Doomsday Clock Creeps Toward Midnight

s.e. smith, Care2: Once a harbinger of coming nuclear disaster, the "Doomsday Clock" now includes environmental factors and climate change in its countdown to midnight. This month, researchers pushed the clock ahead. It is now three minutes till midnight.

Read the Article

Revealed: Asteroid That Killed the Dinosaurs Boiled Earth's

Bloomberg

More Prisoners Were Found Wrongfully Convicted in 2014 Than Ever Before
Read the Article at Mic

Parents, Teachers and Students Ask School Districts to Transition to 100 Percent Renewable Energy
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Report: Intervention in Civil Wars "Far More Likely in Oil-Rich Nations"
Read the Article at The Independent

European Counter-Terror Plan Involves Blanket Collection of Passengers' Data
Read the Article at The Guardian

The Son of Billy Graham Is a Mean-Spirited, Islamophobic, Hate Opportunist
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

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Atmosphere

Claire Belcher and Rory Hadden, The Conversation: Scientists have demonstrated that the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs set off an intense heat wave that briefly boiled the Earth's atmosphere. This heat pulse has widely been suggested to have ignited global wildfires and has been cited as a cause of the mass extinction.

Read the Article

BPA Exposure Linked to Changes in Stem Cells, Lower Sperm Production

Brian Bienkowski, Environmental Health News: Research shows BPA and other estrogenic compounds hamper development of the stem cells responsible for producing sperm in mice, which suggests such exposure could contribute to declining sperm counts in men.

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From:	David.Willett@Sierraclub.org
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	7/7/2008 10:51:05 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Ad Watch: RNC Attack Ad Touts McCain's Misguided 'Solutions,' Falsely Attacks Obama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 7, 2008
CONTACT:
Josh Dorner, 202.675.2384
David Willett, 202.675.6698

AD WATCH:
New "Grand Oil Party" Attack Ad Touts McCain's Failed Solutions,
Falsely Claims Obama Offers "No New Solutions"

Washington, D.C.----The Republican National Committee (RNC) began airing a new attack ad meant to highlight John McCain's so--called solutions to our energy crisis, while falsely attacking Obama over his energy plan. The ad began airing in the battleground states of Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin and will run through July 15. It can be viewed at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gE8_NecN3WA.

"What this ad really shows is that John McCain and the Republican Party only have more of the same to offer when it comes to energy--more drilling; more dirty, dangerous, and distracting nuclear power plants; and more schemes designed to pad Big Oil's bottom line while denying consumers real relief at the pump," said Cathy Duvall, Sierra Club Political Director. "And while John McCain claims he wants to stand up to special interests, his party is spending $3 million on false and misleading attack ads against Barack Obama--after raking in more than $3.6 million from the oil industry. While Barack Obama is offering a visionary plan to make the clean energy future a reality, it's John McCain who's sticking to the party line on energy: the 'Grand Oil Party' line."

RNC Ad Touts John McCain's Outdated and Misguided Energy Plan:

John McCain's Misguided Gas Tax Plan Would Offer No Relief At The Pump

* John McCain's plan has been denounced by over 200 leading economists--including 4 Nobel Prize winners. (Source: Bloomberg News, 05/05/2008)
* The same leading economists specifically note that the plan would offer no relief at the pump and could merely pad Big Oil's bottom line with an additional 18 cents per gallon. (Source: http://www.politico.com/static/PPM43_080502_list_gastax.html)

John McCain's Offshore Drilling Flip--Flop is Dirty, Dangerous,and Would Do Nothing to Lower Gas Prices

* Instead of straight talk, John McCain went straight to Houston and called for giving the oil industry exactly what it's wanted for 30 years----the unfettered "exploration and exploitation" of our coasts, to use McCain's own descriptions of his proposal. (Source: Washington Post, 06/16/2008)

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http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp--dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061602148.html

* McCain claims his plan would offer "psychological" relief, while even the Bush Administration admits that it won't do anything to lower prices today, tomorrow, or even a decade from now. (Source: ABC News, 06/24/2008; Energy Information Administration)
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/06/obama--swipes--mc.html

* John McCain repeats the lie that offshore drilling is environmentally safe and that no spills occurred as a result of hurricanes Rita and Katrina. In fact, the two storms resulted in 6 major, 5 medium, and over 5,000 minor spills--resulting in a total of over 9 million gallons of oil spilled. (Source: U.S. Coast Guard:
http://www.uscg.mil/npfc/docs/PDFs/osltf_report_hurricanes.pdf)

John McCain Offers Nothing More Than Empty Rhetoric on 'Alternative' Energy

* John McCain talks about renewable energy every single day, yet has actively opposed the policies needed to make the clean energy economy a reality.
* John McCain--like President Bush, coal companies, and the utility industry--opposes a Renewable Electricity Standard and has consistently voted against such a standard in the past. (Sources: 2005 Senate Vote #141, 6/16/2005; 2002 Senate Vote #50, 3/14/2002; 2002 Senate Vote #55, 3/21/2002; 2002 Senate Vote #59, 3/21/2002)
* John McCain believes the renewable energy industry is "doing fine" and doesn't need any incentives. While he offered a $300 million gimmick on electric cars, he has voted against $290 million for clean energy. Meanwhile, John McCain favors billions in new and existing subsidies for dirty, dangerous, and distracting nuclear power. (Sources: Grist, 10/1/07, http://www.grist.org/feature/2007/10/01/mccain/; 2006 Senate Vote #42, 3/14/2006)
* If key clean energy incentives that are in danger of expiring soon are not renewed, it could cost more than 116,000 hardworking Americans in the wind and solar industries alone their jobs and sacrifice $19 billion in economic growth. Twice, when every single other Senator voted and measures to renew these critical incentives lost by just a single vote, John McCain didn't even show up to vote when he could have made the difference. (Sources: Navigant Consulting study, 02/04/2008, http://www.awea.org/newsroom/pdf/Tax_Credit_Impact.pdf; 2007 Senate Vote #425, 2008 Senate Vote #8)

John McCain's Tax Plan Would Benefit Big Oil

* John McCain's tax plan includes a dramatic 10 percent cut in the federal corporate tax rate, as well as allowing added deductions for investments in equipment and technology.
* John McCain's tax plan would deliver a $3.8 billion tax cut to the five largest American oil companies alone. It would also cost a stunning $1.7 trillion overall. (Source: Center for American Progress Action, 05/27/2008)
http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2008/pdf/oil_tax.pdf)

John McCain Says He Supports 'Conservation,' But Has Spotty Record on Fuel Economy

* Unlike Obama, who fought hard to secure the first increase fuel economy standards in over 30 years, John McCain didn't even show up to any votes on

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last year's landmark energy bill. And he has a spotty record on fuel economy in the past. (Sources: Washington Post, 05/13/2008; New York Times, 05/12/2008; 2007 Senates Votes #208, #225, #226, #416, #425, #430)

John McCain Says He Supports 'Conservation,' But Opposes Green Building Standards

* John McCain opposes any required standards for green buildings--something that could dramatically cut our energy use by making our homes, offices, and government buildings more energy efficient. (Sources: GreenBiz, 06/17/2008)
http://www.greenbiz.com/news/2008/06/17/confronting--energy--efficiency--election--year

John McCain's Global Warming Plan is Outdated and Favors Special Interests
John McCain may have shown leadership when he introduced his global warming plan in 2002; however, his plan remains stuck in the past.

* Unlike Obama's plan, it fails to do what scientists tell us is necessary to avert the most catastrophic effects of global warming: an emissions reduction of 80 percent by 2050.
* Unlike Obama's plan, it gives away hundreds of billions of dollars in pollution permits to polluters--Big Oil, Big Coal, and others. It also lavishes billions in new subsidies on the nuclear industry--one of the most heavily subsidized industries in history.

John McCain Wants $1 TRILLION Worth of New Nuclear Plants

* John McCain wants to build 45 new nuclear plants by 2030 and then 55 more after that--effectively doubling the number of plants and amount of highly toxic waste we'd have to deal with. (Source: Bloomberg News, 06/19/2008)
http://news.yahoo.com/s/bloomberg/20080619/pl_bloomberg/a9mftcqlzhou_1

* By utility companies' own estimates in recent regulatory filings, this plan could cost at least $1 trillion. (Source: EnergyBiz, May/June 2008)
http://energycentral.fileburst.com/EnergyBizOnline/2008--3--may--jun/Financial_Front_Prices.pdf

* McCain admits that it's extremely dangerous and insecure to have thousands of tons of high--level nuclear waste sitting at reactors across the country, yet proposes doubling the size of the problem. (Source: John McCain, YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPlaHQCKc34)

John McCain Wants to Stick Nevadans with 77,000 Tons of Nuclear Waste Forever, Yet 'Wouldn't Be Comfortable' With It Traveling Through His Own State

* John McCain is one of the biggest proponents of the unsafe and unproven Yucca Mountain waste repository site.
* Waste would have to travel through major population centers in at least 43 states on its way to Nevada site. (Source: State of Nevada: http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/states/us.htm)
* John McCain says he wouldn't be comfortable with waste traveling through his own state on its way to Yucca Mountain.
(Source: Las Vegas Sun, 06/26/2008)
http://www.lvsun.com/news/2008/jun/26/pointed--plan--energy/

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RNC Ad Blatantly Lies, Claims Obama Offers 'No New Solutions':

Some 'New Solutions' Offered by Barack Obama:

* Invest $150 billion over ten years to build the clean energy economy and create 5,000,000 new jobs.
* Giving American automakers the tools they need to double fuel economy standards to 50 miles per gallon.
* Require 25 percent of our electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025.
* Develop and invest in next--generation cellulosic biofuels and produce 2 billion gallons by 2013, to help get us off of oil without the negative environmental and economic consequences of corn ethanol.
* Make our buildings greener by improving the energy efficiency of new buildings by 50 percent and existing building by 25 percent over the next ten years.
* Make all new buildings net--zero or carbon--neutral by 2030.
* Introduce a low--carbon fuel standard to help fight global warming and reduce our dependence on oil without turning to dangerous alternatives like oil shale, tar sands, and liquid coal.
* Use more of the energy we're already producing by investing in a digital smart grid.
(Source: http://www.barackobama.com/issues/energy/)

Paid for by the Sierra Club Political Committee, http://www.sierraclub.org/ , and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

# # #

---------- Forwarded by Josh Dorner/Sierraclub on 07/07/2008 05:37 PM ----------

"Josh Dorner, Sierra Club" <josh.dorner@sierraclub.org> To josh.dorner@sierraclub.org
cc
07/07/2008 05:27 PM Subject
Ad Watch: RNC Attack Touts McCain's Misguided 'Solutions,' Falsely
Please respond to Attacks Obama
"Josh Dorner, Sierra Club" <josh.dorner@sierraclub.org>

Having trouble receiving our e--mail? Try adding us (sierra.news@sierraclub.org) to your Address Book.

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 7, 2008 (
E CONTACT: Josh Dorner, 202.675.2384 E
m David Willett, 202.675.6698 m
b b
e e
d AD WATCH: d
d New "Grand Oil Party"Attack Ad Touts McCain's Failed Solutions, d
e Falsely Claims Obama Offers "No New Solutions" e
d d
i i
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plan would offer no relief at the pump and could merely pad
Big Oil's bottom line with an additional 18 cents per
gallon. (Source:

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http://www.politico.com/static/PPM43_080502_list_gastax.html)

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Instead of straight talk, John McCain went straight to Houston and called for giving the oil industry exactly what it's wanted for 30 years--the unfettered "exploration and exploitation" of our coasts, to use McCain's own descriptions of his proposal. (Source: Washington Post, 06/16/2008)

McCain claims his plan would offer "psychological" relief, while even the Bush Administration admits that it won't do anything to lower prices today, tomorrow, or even a decade from now. (Source: ABC News, 06/24/2008; Energy Information Administration)

John McCain repeats the lie that offshore drilling is environmentally safe and that no spills occurred as a result of hurricanes Rita and Katrina. In fact, the two storms resulted in 6 major, 5 medium, and over 5,000 minor spills--resulting in a total of over 9 million gallons of oil spilled. (Source: U.S. Coast Guard: http://www.uscg.mil/npfc/docs/PDFs/osltf_report_hurricanes.pdf)

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If key clean energy incentives that are in danger of expiring soon are not renewed, it could cost more than 116,000 hardworking Americans in the wind and solar industries alone their jobs and sacrifice $19 billion in economic growth. Twice, when every single other Senator voted and measures to renew these critical incentives lost by just a single vote, John McCain didn't even show up to vote when he could have made the difference. (Sources: Navigant Consulting study, 02/04/2008, http://www.awea.org/newsroom/pdf/Tax_Credit_Impact.pdf; 2007 Senate Vote #425, 2008 Senate Vote #8)

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John McCain's tax plan would deliver a $3.8 billion tax cut to the five largest American oil companies alone. It would also cost a stunning $1.7 trillion overall. (Source: Center for American Progress Action, 05/27/2008, http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2008/pdf/oil_tax.pdf)

John McCain Says He Supports 'Conservation,' But Has Spotty Record on Fuel Economy
Unlike Obama, who fought hard to secure the first increase fuel economy standards in over 30 years, John McCain didn't even show up to any votes on last year's landmark energy bill. And he has a spotty record on fuel economy in the past. (Sources: Washington Post, 05/13/2008; New York Times, 05/12/2008; 2007 Senates Votes #208, #225, #226, #416, #425, #430)

John McCain Says He Supports 'Conservation,' But Opposes Green Building Standards
John McCain opposes any required standards for green buildings--something that could dramatically cut our energy use by making our homes, offices, and government buildings more energy efficient. (Sources: GreenBiz, 06/17/2008, http://www.greenbiz.com/news/2008/06/17/confronting--energy--efficiency--election--year)

John McCain's Global Warming Plan is Outdated and Favors Special Interests
John McCain may have shown leadership when he introduced his global warming plan in 2002; however, his plan remains stuck in the past.
Unlike Obama's plan, it fails to do what scientists tell us is necessary to avert the most catastrophic effects of global warming: an emissions reduction of 80 percent by 2050.
Unlike Obama's plan, it gives away hundreds of billions of dollars in pollution permits to polluters--Big Oil, Big Coal, and others. It also lavishes billions in new subsidies on the nuclear industry--one of the most heavily subsidized industries in history.

John McCain Wants $1 TRILLION Worth of New Nuclear Plants
John McCain wants to build 45 new nuclear plants by 2030 and then 55 more after that--effectively doubling the number of plants and amount of highly toxic waste we'd have to deal with. (Source: Bloomberg News, 06/19/2008)
By utility companies' own estimates in recent regulatory

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filings, this plan could cost at least $1 trillion.
(Source: EnergyBiz, May/June 2008,)
McCain admits that it's extremely dangerous and insecure to have thousands of tons of high--level nuclear waste sitting at reactors across the country, yet proposes doubling the size of the problem. (Source: John McCain, YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPlaHQCKc34)

John McCain Wants to Stick Nevadans with 77,000 Tons of Nuclear Waste Forever, Yet 'Wouldn't Be Comfortable' With It Traveling Through His Own State
John McCain is one of the biggest proponents of the unsafe and unproven Yucca Mountain waste repository site.
Waste would have to travel through major population centers in at least 43 states on its way to Nevada site. (Source: State of Nevada: http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/states/us.htm)
John McCain says he wouldn't be comfortable with waste traveling through his own state on its way to Yucca Mountain. (Source: Las Vegas Sun, 06/26/2008)

RNC Ad Blatantly Lies, Claims Obama Offers 'No New Solutions':

Some 'New Solutions' Offered by Barack Obama:
Invest $150 billion over ten years to build the clean energy economy and create 5,000,000 new jobs.
Giving American automakers the tools they need to double fuel economy standards to 50 miles per gallon.
Require 25 percent of our electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025.
Develop and invest in next--generation cellulosic biofuels and produce 2 billion gallons by 2013, to help get us off of oil without the negative environmental and economic consequences of corn ethanol.
Make our buildings greener by improving the energy efficiency of new buildings by 50 percent and existing building by 25 percent over the next ten years.
Make all new buildings net--zero or carbon--neutral by 2030 .
Introduce a low--carbon fuel standard to help fight global warming and reduce our dependence on oil without turning to dangerous alternatives like oil shale, tar sands, and liquid coal.
Use more of the energy we're already producing by investing in a digital smart grid.
(Source: http://www.barackobama.com/issues/energy/)

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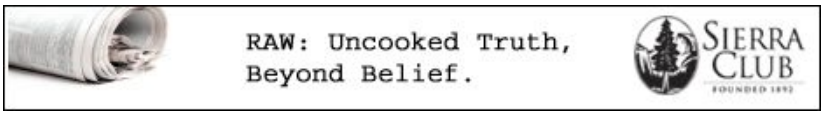
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To:	bulletin@hillaryclinton.com clips@hillaryclinton.com HCclips34174921@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	5/27/2008 12:14:27 AM
Subject:	Hillary For President News Briefing for Tuesday, May 27, 2008
Attachments:	ClintonNewsBriefing080527.doc

HILLARY FOR PRESIDENT NEWS BRIEFING (Executive Version)
Full version is attached and available online at http://www.bulletinnews.com/clinton

TO: CLINTON CAMPAIGN

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008 6:30 AM EDT

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+ Both White House, Clinton Campaign Critical Of NBC.
+ Clinton Adds Reservation Stop To Montana Tour.
+ Clintons Seek Native American Support In South Dakota.
+ Obama Praises Veterans In Front Of Friendly Memorial Day Crowd In New Mexico.
+ Obama, McCain Offer Contrasting Messages On Iraq.
+ McCain To Appear With Bush At Fundraiser.

Sen. Clinton's Campaign:

CLINTON STUMPS "WITH GUSTO" IN PUERTO RICO. ABC News (5/27, Tapper) reports on Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign events in Puerto Rico over the weekend, "where she shimmied to Enrique Iglesias, swigged from a bottle of Presidente beer and once again proclaimed her determination to continue her longshot campaign." ABC notes that while Clinton, in a New York Daily News op-ed, "acknowledged, for the first time, that the odds of her becoming her party's presidential nominee are stacked against her," Clinton "campaigned in Puerto Rico with her usual gusto. She promised she would bring voting rights to the island, saying, 'I believe you should have a vote in picking the president too.' On Sunday, however, she seemed to back off that pledge, saying, 'All people are entitled to a representative form of government. And all levels of government. The people of Puerto Rico should have the right to determine by a majority vote the status you choose from among all the options.'"

In previous coverage, the AP (5/26, Barrett) reported on the Clintons meeting with families in Puerto Rico, noting that "It is the Clintons' long history with Puerto Rico--and Hispanic voters in general--that gives Clinton a decided edge in the island's presidential primary on June 1, not to mention that her home state of New York has approximately 1 million Puerto Ricans." The piece notes, however, that Clinton faces long odds to defeat Obama.

In previous coverage, the AP (5/26) reports that on Sunday, Clinton "spoke of her determination to not give up her presidential campaign. Speaking to a congregation at the Pabellon de la Victoria evangelical church, Clinton spoke about faith in the face of adversity. 'There isn't anything we cannot do together if we seek God's blessing and if we stay committed and are not deterred by the setbacks that often fall in every life,' Clinton said."

Clinton Decries Puerto Rican Vets' Inability To Vote. In a posting on its 'From the Road' blog, CBS News (5/26, Suarez) reports, "During an evening Memorial Day service in old San Juan, Hillary Clinton spoke of the unfairness in U.S. policy toward Puerto Ricans who risk their lives in the U.S. military and have their voting rights stripped when they return home to the island. Clinton called the action 'an injustice and an insult.' Clinton's

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message on a day when Americans honor those service men and women who gave their lives in combat was simple: every U.S. citizen should be given a right to vote. 'I believe it is long past time that we give the people of Puerto Rico - United States citizens all - an equal voice in the vote for the commander-in-chief who sends young Puerto Ricans to war.'"

Clinton Holds "Raucous" Rally For Puerto Rican Union. CNN (5/27, Hamby) reports that Clinton's rally before the Servidores Públicos Unidos union in Ponce, PR, Monday was "the most raucous rally of her Puerto Rico campaign swing," noting that "[t]he union operates as an affiliate of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which has endorsed Clinton and spent millions on her campaign's behalf. AFSCME President Gerald McEntee was on hand in Ponce to introduce Clinton, but he spent a good chunk of his speech soliciting boos for Barack Obama." Meanwhile, Clinton "delivered a speech similar to others she has made on the island, pledging to offer economic incentives to the island, promising to resolve the issue of Puerto Rico's status by the end of her first term, and reminding voters that she represents an estimated one million Puerto Ricans in New York."

NBC Nightly News (5/26, story 4, 2:10, Cowan, 9.87M) reported Clinton's "three day weekend" in Puerto Rico "make her look pretty carefree, but weighing on her mind were her comments on Friday when she reminded an editorial board that Bobby Kennedy's run for the White House ended tragically in June. In a letter to the 'New York Daily News' on Sunday she insisted the media had taken them entirely out of context. She never intended to bring up something completely unthinkable and any link to Barack Obama was construed in a way that flies in the face of everything I stand for. The Obama campaign backed off its criticism."

The CBS Evening News (5/26, story 5, 1:50, Assuras, 7.66M) reported, "Puerto Ricans can't vote for president in November and only 55 delegates are at stake in its Democratic primary. But Senator Hillary Clinton is embracing the islanders as potential saviors. Clinton has spent the last two days on the island drinking in the atmosphere and admiration, some El Presidente beer too, campaigning for every vote in Sunday's primary. She seems intent on taking the fight all the way to the convention floor in August."

CARTER CALLS FOR CLINTON TO BOW OUT AFTER FINAL PRIMARIES. The AP (5/27) reports, "Jimmy Carter says Hillary Clinton should give up her fight for the Democratic presidential nomination soon after the final round of primaries next week. ... Carter has not declared a favorite. But as a former president, he's one of the party's superdelegates and he predicts there will be a rush of announcements soon after the last primary a week from tomorrow. Carter says at that point, he thinks it will be time for Clinton to 'give it up.'"

Clinton Defends Decision To Remain In Race. In an op-ed in the New York Daily News (5/26), Sen. Hillary Clinton "set the record straight" that her comments about the campaign of Robert Kennedy were merely a comparison of the relative lengths of Democratic primary races, continuing to "more fully answer the question I was asked: Why do I continue to run, even in the face of calls from pundits and politicians for me to leave this race?" Clinton continues to cite her belief in the possibility to win, adding, "I am not unaware of the challenges or the odds of my securing the nomination - but this race remains extraordinarily close, and hundreds of thousands of people in upcoming primaries are still waiting to vote. As I have said so many times over the course of this primary, if Sen. Obama wins the nomination, I will support him and work my heart out for him against John McCain. But that has not happened yet." Clinton expresses her belief that a continued race will "help unite the Democratic Party" and adds that she is continuing to run "because my parents did not raise me to be a quitter," and for all those women in their 90s who've told me they were born before women could vote, and they want to live to see a woman in the White House."

Writer Applauds Clinton's Campaign, But Says It's Time To "Move On." In a posting on The Nation's (5/26) "Campaign '08" blog, Katrina Vanden Heuvel refutes Bill Clinton's assertion that a media "cover up" has hurt Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign, suggesting instead that she "made the mistake of running a top down campaign in a rules-changing year, and acceding to a sexism within her campaign that advised her not to apologize for her disastrous vote supporting Bush's war resolution." She continues to lament the "lost" and "squandered" opportunities of Clinton's campaign, and calls for Clinton to "move on," writing, "That is not to say that Hillary Clinton doesn't have every right to campaign through the last primaries on June 3rd. ... But when the polls close on June 3rd, superdelegates should move, expeditiously, to make their decision so that this campaign can refocus on what is at stake in this defining election. And their decision should follow the will of the people."

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CLINTON SEEN AS UNLIKELY TO WIN FULL MICHIGAN, FLORIDA EMPANELMENT. The Washington Examiner (5/27, Ferrechio) reports that despite the fact that the Democratic Party panel that will meet next weekend to determine "whether to resurrect some or all of the disqualified delegates from Florida and Michigan" is heavily seeded with such Clinton supporters as top Terry McAuliffe, Harold Ickes, and Alexix Herman, "political experts say there is little chance the panel will grant Clinton's wish of seating every delegate from Florida and Michigan with a full vote proportional to the primary results, as Ickes said they would request. 'Get real,' University of Virginia political science professor Larry J. Sabato said. 'There is no way that is ever going to happen. Ickes knows that and is just using it as a bargaining point.' Sabato and many other political analysts say the DNC's 30-member Rules and Bylaws Committee will likely favor a compromise solution that seats some of the delegates from those two states."

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (5/27, Sherman) reports that the Rules Committee's meeting "could be the Clinton campaign's final stand, noting that in the face of Obama's "sizable lead," Clinton is "arguing that the party should reverse its decision and give Michigan and Florida their full slates,...calling it a matter of justice. ... If the party gives Mrs. Clinton what she wants, she'd get 105 delegates from Florida and as many as 73 delegates from Michigan. Mr. Obama would get at least 67 from Florida and 55 from Michigan, if he receives all of the state's 'uncommitted' votes."

Clinton Seen As Maneuvering For Michigan Delegate Issue To Remain Unresolved. "The lead editorial in this morning's Detroit News (5/27), titled "Clinton in Wonderland," argues that as the DNC's Rules Committee takes "another stab next weekend at doing right by their voters in Michigan and Florida," Hillary Clinton, if she "has her way" may well leave Michigan "dangling." Clinton "has an interest in keeping the fate of the Michigan and Florida delegations up in the air. Without a resolution, the delegations of these two influential swing states will have not been accounted for in her duel with Sen. Barack Obama, and that will give her at least a thread of hope to hang onto." Clinton is asking "for an overwhelming majority of the delegates based on her 55 percent vote total" as well as "most of the undecided vote, which totaled 40 percent," a claim that is "as illegitimate as Michigan's Jan. 15 Democratic primary itself." By "continuing the standoff between the two states and the national party," Clinton "can keep her campaign alive all summer and wage a floor fight at the convention."

BOTH WHITE HOUSE, CLINTON CAMPAIGN CRITICAL OF NBC. The AP (5/27, Bauder) reports, "NBC News has managed to achieve the near-impossible this election season in getting Hillary Rodham Clinton and George Bush to agree on something. That something, however, is antipathy toward NBC News." The AP adds that "through its unusual public criticism of NBC's handling of Richard Engel's interview with the president, the Bush administration struck at the soft white underbelly of the news division's co-existence with the opinionated personalities of MSNBC." Bush counselor Ed Gillespie wrote to NBC News President Steve Capus, "I'm sure you don't want people to conclude that there is really no distinction between the 'news' as reported on NBC and the `opinion' as reported on MSNBC, despite the increasing blurring of those lines." Clinton's campaign "didn't want to talk publicly about NBC, but it has been unhappy about the Democratic candidate's treatment by 'Hardball' host Chris Matthews. That culminated in Matthews' apology in January for saying that the reason Clinton is a US senator and candidate for president 'is that her husband messed around.'"

CLINTON ADDS RESERVATION STOP TO MONTANA TOUR. The AP (5/27) reports that the Clinton campaign "says her Montana visit on Tuesday will include an appearance in Pablo on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Clinton is scheduled to hold a town-hall-style meeting at Pablo's Salish Kootenai College at 3:30 p.m. She plans to be in Billings for a rally at 8 p.m. Clinton last visited Montana in April at the same time as Barack Obama, her rival in the race to win the Democratic nomination for president."

The Missoulian (5/26) also reports on Clinton's scheduled event in Pablo.

CLINTONS SEEK NATIVE AMERICAN SUPPORT IN SOUTH DAKOTA. The Rapid City Journal (5/26, Woster) reports, "Bill Clinton began the last full week of South Dakota's primary season on Sunday with a three-stop reservation blitz aimed at inspiring potentially crucial tribal voters to support his wife for president. The former president began the day with an appearance at the Fort Thompson Fire Department hall, speaking from the bed of a pickup truck to a gathering of about 250 members of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and non-Native Americans from nearby ranches and towns. Clinton then moved on to the Rosebud and Yankton Sioux

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reservations for appearances there. The real Clinton candidate in the campaign, New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, will follow her husband's reservation tour with a stop at Kyle on the Pine Ridge Reservation during a West River trip Wednesday, as she makes her final push for support before the nation's last two primaries in Montana and South Dakota June 3."

OBAMA PRAISES VETERANS IN FRONT OF FRIENDLY MEMORIAL DAY CROWD IN NEW MEXICO. The Washington Post (5/27, A4, Shear, Vick), in an article that fails to mention Hillary Clinton, except to say that she was ignored by Obama's and McCain's Memorial Day speeches, reports that "the two leading candidates for president made Memorial Day pilgrimages on Monday to this critical swing state, where a closely divided electorate may help determine the outcome of the 2008 battle for the White House." While McCain "used the backdrop of the state's veterans memorial in Albuquerque to pledge his fealty to the military" Obama "went to Las Cruces and praised the 'spirit' of America's diverse fighting corps, which he called the source of the military's true strength." Later, at a town-hall meeting, "Obama did not mention McCain or Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton," but in a speech "made clear his support for [Senator] Webb's bill and said Congress would override a threatened veto by President Bush."

Later, in a post on the Washington Post's "The Trail" blog, (5/27) correspondent Karl Vick posts that, "Sen. Barack Obama spoke for most of an hour about doing right by America's veterans without crossing swords with Sen. John McCain, in a carefully measured Memorial Day appearance that kept the focus on the former service members seated around him on three sides." Obama told the veterans, "I speak to you today with deep humility...My grandfather marched in Patton's Army, but I cannot know what it is to walk into battle like so many of you. My grandmother worked on a bomber assembly line, but I cannot know what it is for a family to sacrifice like so many of yours have...I am the father of two young girls, and I cannot imagine what it is to lose a child. My heart breaks for the families who've lost a loved one." Then Obama "edged into his critique of military and veterans affairs under the Bush administration," and "endorsed legislation that he said would give veterans the same benefits his grandfather's generation enjoyed under the GI Bill."

CBS News (5/27, CBS) reports on its web site that "Hillary Rodham Clinton ended a three-day campaign swing across Puerto Rico the same way many Americans mark Memorial Day - with family, friends and a salute to the sacrifices of military men and women." Clinton is "trying despite the odds against her to catch up to Barack Obama" and "needs something approaching a mathematical miracle." Meanwhile, "Obama marked Memorial Day in New Mexico, a battleground state in the general election," where he addressed a group of Veterans, and, alongside New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, "laid wreaths at a memorial to the state's fallen soldiers." The CBS story then returns to Puerto Rico, where one veteran criticized Clinton for waiting "until the third day of her campaign swing to meet with veterans," noting that "Obama's first stop during his appearance Saturday was to visit with veterans."

Reporting from the Obama Campaign in its "On the Road" Political blog, CBS News (5/27, Gavrilovic) posts, "Despite not having served in the military himself, Barack Obama used his Memorial Day remarks to speak about his family's service. Obama, in supporting the new GI Bill, said "We should make sure that today's veterans get the same benefit that my grandfather got when he came back from World War II...It was a good investment not only for him, but it was a good investment for the country, built our middle class. So we're going to make sure that that gets passed."

OBAMA, MCCAIN OFFER CONTRASTING MESSAGES ON IRAQ. The New York Times (5/27, Zeleny, Falcone, 1.18M) reports Memorial Day "offered at least a preview into the summertime duel between" John McCain and Barack Obama, "who for the first time were campaigning in the same swing state on the same day." As McCain "spoke about the costs and sacrifices of the Iraq war at the Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque, Mr. Obama praised the patriotism of America's soldiers before taking voters' questions - and hearing their frustrations about Iraq and a host of other concerns - at an outdoor forum against the backdrop of the Organ Mountains here." The campaign stops "provided a window into how both men, should they become the nominees of their respective parties, are shaping their candidacies, employing the power of their biographies and honing their arguments in their appeal to voters." In a "20-minute speech, with the flags of all branches of the armed forces at his back, Mr. McCain made 14 references to Iraq." In "10 minutes of prepared remarks, Mr. Obama did not mention Iraq, only raising it when someone in the audience spoke critically of the war in a 30-minute question-and-answer session."

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Fox News Special Report (5/26, Cameron) reported, "For John McCain, a presidential candidate and decorated Vietnam POW whose ancestors served in every American war since the revolution, Memorial Day is both political and deeply personal." Though "politicking is risky on a day honoring the fallen, he didn't hesitate to describe his dissatisfaction and differences with the Bush Administration's prosecution of the Iraq war." McCain: "As we all know, the American people have grown sick and tired of the war in Iraq. I understand that. Of course, I, too, have been made heartsick by the many mistakes made by civilian and military commanders and the terrible, terrible price we paid for them." McCain: "Though he didn't mention Barack Obama by name, McCain urged veterans and voters to reject Democrats' calls for withdrawal."

NBC Nightly News (5/26, story 5, 2:05, O'Donnell, 9.87M) reported, "Given the holiday McCain turned down the volume of his campaign but still without naming Senator Obama laid out key differences. On the Iraq war McCain urged patience." McCain: "As long as there is a reasonable prospect for succeeding in this war then we must not choose to lose it." O'Donnell: "McCain suggested that he is more willing to take political risks than Obama over a veterans' education bill that McCain claims will discourage re-enlistment. But Obama supports the bill sponsored by Virginia Senator Webb."

MCCAIN TO APPEAR WITH BUSH AT FUNDRAISER. The Wall Street Journal (5/27, Meckler, 2.06M) reports, "President Bush and John McCain will appear together at a fund-raiser in Phoenix Tuesday, the first time in nearly three months that the Republican presidential candidate will be seen beside the man he hopes to succeed." But "with Mr. Bush's popularity at a record low, the McCain campaign has made sure that television footage of the two men together will be minimal. The maneuvering is the latest example of Sen. McCain's aggressive effort to separate himself from the White House, even as he embraces many of the policies that Mr. Bush has promoted throughout his presidency." The Journal adds, "Some congressional Republicans are doing the same, as Republicans brace for what they fear will be a brutal election year. Party leaders now talk openly about the badly damaged 'Republican brand,' as does Sen. McCain."

CNN's The Situation Room (5/26, Henry) also notes that while the event "was initially planned to be open to cameras at the Phoenix Convention Center, it's been moved to a private residence and is now closed to the media. So, there will only be brief pictures of McCain and the president on an airport tarmac."

In Break With Bush, McCain And Lieberman Co-Author Hawkish North Korea Policy Article. The Washington Post's Glen Kessler, who yesterday had a front-page article about the successes of US Diplomacy in North Korea (5/27, Kessler) reports in the Trail blog, that "Sen. John McCain broke today with President Bush's new policy on North Korea, co-authoring an opinion article with Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) in which he called for a return to Bush's original demand of a complete, verifiable, irreversible disarmament of North Korea's nuclear programs." The more hawkish position taken by McCain and Lieberman urges the US to "use the leverage available from the U.N. Security Council resolution passed after Pyongyang's 2006 nuclear test to ensure the full and complete declaration, disablement and irreversible dismantlement of its nuclear facilities, in a verifiable manner, which we agreed to with the other members of the six-party talks." Kessler notes that the "language concerning North Korea in the article ... is remarkably similar to President Bush's first-term rhetoric, which the White House has largely dropped in recent months."

McCain Will Avoid Bush, Except Where Fundraising Is Concerned. Bloomberg News (5/27, Nichols, Chen) reports, "McCain's challenge in winning the presidency isn't unique. George H.W. Bush in 1988 and Al Gore in 2000 also struggled to chisel an identity separate from a two- term incumbent president of their party." However, "in 1988, Ronald Reagan had a 51 percent approval rating, according to Gallup surveys, and in 2000 Bill Clinton's was 57 percent. Today, President George W. Bush's rating is 28 percent." But according to Republican Strategist Jim Pinkerton, "any sitting president, even one whose approval rating is in the low 30s, can raise money." McCain "has until the Republican nominating convention in September to establish an identity separate from Bush," at which point he must "execute 'his final pivot from the Bush presidency.'"

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/20/2014 5:45:37 AM
Subject: CTR Wednesday August 20, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday August 20, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Pres. Bill Clinton @billclinton: Thanks everyone (especially @HillaryClinton & @KevinSpacey !) for the birthday wishes. 68 feels great so far. [8/19/14, 9:35 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton transformed the @StateDept by expanding LGBT rights and promoting equality for employees. #HRC365 http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-expanding-lgbt-rights-at-state/ … [8/20/14, 11:34 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: As Sec. of State, HRC introduced “a foreign policy agenda powered by partnership, principles, and pragmatism.” http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-smart-power-foreign-policy/ … [8/20/14, 8:46 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@GovHowardDean says HRC "has an enormous mental capacity to do analysis and let the chips fall where they may."http://edition.cnn.com/2014/08/19/politics/howard-dean-hillary-clinton-2016/index.html?hpt=po_c1 … [8/19/14, 6:10 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton : "With smart power, diplomacy will be the vanguard of foreign policy." http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-smart-power-foreign-policy/ … [8/19/14, 3:46 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

National Journal: “Watch George W. Bush Get a Bucket of Ice Water Dumped on His Head”

“Laura Bush, the former first lady, poured the water over her husband's head. And, as the challenge goes, Bush passed the ice baton to Bill Clinton.”

PolitickerNJ: “Sires: 'There's despair in the air;' Christie up against 'right-wing agenda' in prez bid”

“For his part, [U.S. Rep. Albio] Sires wants former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to run for president.”

National Memo column: Gene Lyons: “Media Won’t Wait Until 2016 To Lie About Hillary Clinton”

“Actually, The Atlantic interview is fascinating, if not for the ballyhooed reasons. Hillary Clinton has provocative things to say about U.S. foreign policy — some alarming, and others more about political

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positioning than anything else. Come 2016, there will be plenty of time to discuss them."

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Labor cool on Clinton"

"A top AFL-CIO official said labor is still withholding judgment on Hillary Clinton's potential presidential candidacy, but that the movement plans to be more unified behind a candidate in 2016 than they were in 2008."

AL.com: "Another Clinton in the White House? No way, says head of Alabama's Republican Party"

"For the chairman of the Alabama GOP, one Clinton in the White House is more than enough."

Weekly Standard blog: The Blog: "Liz Warren Won't Say Hillary Is Best Choice for 2016"

"Elizabeth Warren, the popular Democratic senator from Massachusetts, declined an opportunity to say whether Hillary Clinton is the best choice to be president in 2016."

New York Times column: Thomas L. Friedman: "Will the Ends, Will the Means"

"Hillary Clinton recently reignited the who-lost-Syria debate when she suggested that President Obama made a mistake in not intervening more forcefully early in the Syrian civil war by arming the pro-democracy rebels. I've been skeptical about such an intervention…"

Articles:

National Journal: "Watch George W. Bush Get a Bucket of Ice Water Dumped on His Head"

By Matt Berman

August 20, 2014

[Subtitle:] For the ALS charity. Bill Clinton may be next.

In the realm of great presidential debates, where every American executive is stacked up against every other on some front, there's now at least one spot where George W. Bush has exceeded Barack Obama: Ability to be doused in ice water.

On Wednesday morning, the former president posted a video on his Facebook page for the ALS Ice Bucket

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Challenge, the charity event that is still dominating Facebook newsfeeds everywhere.

Laura Bush, the former first lady, poured the water over her husband's head. And, as the challenge goes, Bush passed the ice baton to Bill Clinton.

Bush isn't by any means the first politician (or former politician) to be submerged in ice water for charity. But so far at least, Barack Obama has said that he won't enter the fray, outside of writing a check for the ALS charity. That's despite challenges coming his way from Ethel Kennedy, LeBron James, and, uh, Justin Bieber.

PolitickerNJ: “Sires: 'There's despair in the air;' Christie up against 'right-wing agenda' in prez bid”

By Max Pizarro

August 20, 2014, 8:40 a.m. EDT

JERSEY CITY – Young people are despairing and the Democratic Party provides no hope, says U.S. Rep. Albio Sires (D-8), in a sit down interview Tuesday with PolitickerNJ.

“We are floating on a barge with no direction,” said Sires, the former West New York mayor and Assembly Speaker who whipped Joe Vas of Perth Amboy to win Bob Menendez’s vacant congressional seat.

“I think there’s despair. People see no future. Jobs are limited. I think there’s despair in the air,” said Sires. “Young people are falling into debt. They can’t afford their education. We get calls here all the time.”

Republicans implemented a better redistricting strategy 10 years ago to win statehouses and governorships, Sires said, but the GOP is mired in a fundamental cynical misunderstanding of the role of government in American life.

“It’s all ideology,” Sires said of the Republicans, dismissing the opposition party’s entrenched dislike of President Barack Obama as misguided, ignorant and irresponsible.

“Everything you see in Washington by the GOP comes about because they don’t like the President,” said Sires, who himself has clashed with Obama over immigration and who remains disgusted by Republicans’ unwillingness to address real problems, such as the utter insolvency of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) and illegal immigration.

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Seventy-eight percent of Hispanic women backed Obama's re-election and 72% of Hispanic males. Sires says the President owes those Latinos comprehensive immigration reform, but remains cowed by the GOP.

Gov. Chris Christie continues to make a play for Latino love as he positions himself for a presidential run, but Sires sees a tremendously heavy lift ahead for the New Jersey governor.

"I think he's got a lot of work to do," said the congressman. "He's going to have a hard time with the right wing of the Republican Party in a primary – the party that I see in Washington. This county has to be governed from the middle. But the Republicans right now have a problem with anyone who does not have a right-wing agenda."

For his part, Sires wants former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to run for president.

"I'll probably be with her," he said. "She's the most experienced candidate we have, when you consider her work as secretary of state. She did a good job. Quite frankly, having a woman would be a nice change. I think she's the deepest candidate."

He laments what he sees as a "weak bench" in both parties. If Clinton doesn't run, he doesn't see anyone well positioned in his party to make a run.

As for his longtime ally, Menendez, and the possibility of a role for New Jersey's senior senator in a Clinton White House, Sires said, "He'd be an asset to any president."

Discouraged by national politics, the congressman noted with pleasure the unity of the Hudson County Democratic Organization (HCDO), which tonight will have a fundraiser for West New York Mayor Felix Roque.

"We can always make it better," Sires said of the organization. "But everyone's together. There's no fighting now. No rift. When the HCDO is united, we produce the highest Democratic percentage in the state. Essex produces the largest number of votes; we produce the biggest percentage."

Sires backed Roque for mayor in his hometown four years ago, a partnership that resulted in a torturous tenure for the pain doctor turned local politico, who stared down federal hacking charges.

"He made some mistakes obviously," Sires said of the incumbent mayor. "I chalk that up to inexperience. But I think he's found his way."

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National Memo column: Gene Lyons: “Media Won’t Wait Until 2016 To Lie About Hillary Clinton”

By Gene Lyons

August 20, 2014, 12:00 a.m. EDT

I once knew a curmudgeonly physician whose wife practiced family therapy. In her off hours, she often counseled a small army of girlfriends through romantic entanglements. One evening at dinner, the grumpy doctor decided he’d heard enough secondhand tales of woe.

“Look,” he said. “I know people have got to [bleep]. It was covered in the medical school curriculum. But they certainly don’t have to talk about it to the exclusion of all else, do they?”

That’s my attitude toward the 2016 presidential race. I’m assuming that Hillary Clinton’s running because of how ostentatiously she’s not made up her mind. By sitting tight, she basically freezes potential Democratic rivals in place, passively using her lead in opinion polls to prevent others from raising money.

Otherwise, can’t we please, please wait until 2016 to obsess about it around the clock? There will be three World Series, two NBA championships and a couple of NCAA football seasons between now and then. Politically speaking, we’ll be in a different world.

But no, we’re not going to get even an August recess if the Washington infotainment industry gets its way. Witness the recent stir over Clinton’s ill-advised interview with The Atlantic’s Jeffrey Goldberg, a colloquy quickly cartoonized into a rebuke of President Obama that never actually happened.

For now, the only important thing is to recognize how these media quasi-events take shape. Guided by Goldberg, headline writers focused on a throwaway line characterized by the inimitable Maureen Dowd as “a cheap shot at President Obama… calling him a wimp just as he was preparing to order airstrikes against ISIS.”

Clinton said this: “Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle.”

Actually, President Obama’s version of the slogan was earthier. However, turning Hillary’s paraphrase into an insult required ignoring almost everything she said about his administration’s foreign policy.

Why had Obama used the phrase?

“I think he was trying to communicate to the American people that he’s not going to do something crazy,” Clinton said. “I’ve sat in too many rooms with the president. He’s thoughtful; he’s incredibly smart, and able to analyze a lot of different factors that are all moving at the same time. I think he is cautious because he knows what he inherited, both the two wars and the economic front, and he has expended a lot of capital

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and energy trying to pull us out of the hole we're in. So I think that that's a political message."

Does that sound like a slam to you?

Elsewhere, Clinton added that "it was stupid to do what we did in Iraq and to have no plan about what to do after we did it. That was really stupid."

She'd voted for the Iraq war, you may recall. Dowd certainly remembered. The erratic New York Times columnist bitterly blamed Hillary for the death of her friend Michael Kelly, the first "embedded" journalist to die there. Dowd neglected to mention Kelly's own September 2002 column calling Al Gore "wretched," "vile," "contemptible," and worse for opposing the invasion.

I guess she forgot.

But did Hillary really argue that if Obama had armed Syrian "moderates" as she'd recommended as Secretary of State, that the United States wouldn't have to be bombing ISIS fanatics in Iraq today — blowing to smithereens our own tanks and APCs that they captured from fleeing Iraqi soldiers?

That was another headline take from The Atlantic interview. Once again, no, she did not. Indeed, she reminded Goldberg that the chapter on Syria in her recent book was entitled "A Wicked Problem."

"I can't sit here today," Clinton said, "and say that if we had done what I recommended, and what [then-U.S. Ambassador] Robert Ford recommended, that we'd be in a demonstrably different place….I don't think we can claim to know."

Obama's position was that the idea of an effective fighting force of Syrian "moderates" is essentially a fantasy. He said exactly that to CBS Morning News last May, although he's since asked Congress for $500 million to help train and equip this fantasy army — money he's unlikely to get.

James Fallows argues that people who thought the U.S. could stage-manage the Syrian civil war were deluding themselves: "Yeah, we should have 'done something' in Syria to prevent the rise of ISIS. But the U.S. did a hell of a lot of somethings in Iraq over the past decade, with a lot more leverage that it could possibly have had in Syria. And the result of the somethings in Iraq was… ?"

Well, it was the mad fanatics of ISIS.

Actually, The Atlantic interview is fascinating, if not for the ballyhooed reasons. Hillary Clinton has provocative things to say about U.S. foreign policy — some alarming, and others more about political positioning than anything else.

Come 2016, there will be plenty of time to discuss them.

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The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Labor cool on Clinton”

By Alexandra Jaffe

August 20, 2014, 11:47 a.m. EDT

A top AFL-CIO official said labor is still withholding judgment on Hillary Clinton’s potential presidential candidacy, but that the movement plans to be more unified behind a candidate in 2016 than they were in 2008.

AFL-CIO Political Director Mike Podhorzer on Wednesday pushed back against the suggestion that workers have “concerns” with Clinton, but said the verdict’s still out on the former secretary of State and current frontrunner for the Democratic nomination.

“I don’t know that there are concerns,” he told reporters during a briefing at the union’s headquarters in Washington, D.C.. “People want to see where she’ll be on working family issues, if she decides to run.”

Clinton has faced skepticism among progressives who believe she may be too cozy with Wall Street and who are wary of her commitment to populist economic policies and priorities. Podhorzer said labor will be watching to see how Clinton tackles those issues.

“I think that she has, over the last six years, been really focused on foreign policy, and it remains to be seen how she’s going to campaign [on our issues] if she runs,” he said.

During the 2008 Democratic presidential primary, the nation’s major unions were split, with Clinton picking up the backing of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union, the American Federation of Teachers and the United Farm Workers, among others, while then-Sen. Barack Obama took the endorsements of the Service Employees International Union, Teamsters and Unite Here, which represents hotel and restaurant workers.

In July, during the AFL-CIO’s executive counsel meeting, the group codified a process by which to interview and vote on a candidate in 2016, which Podhorzer said they hope will make labor “more unified” behind a single candidate.

Though Clinton's the prohibitive frontrunner for the nomination if she runs, most observers expect her to face a challenge in the primary. Arguably the top pick to take on Clinton for progressives is Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren, but the senator has repeatedly insisted she has no plans to run.

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Warren received a hero's welcome when she spoke at the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington in May. Asked whether labor would like any potential candidates in particular to enter the race, Podhorzer said "wouldn't say that there's anybody in particular that has indicated an interest in running that I'm at liberty to talk about."

But he also said Warren was met with such a positive response from the labor movement because "she was embodying the principles" of the movement.

AL.com: "Another Clinton in the White House? No way, says head of Alabama's Republican Party"

By Leada Gore

August 20, 2014, 11:46 a.m. EDT

For the chairman of the Alabama GOP, one Clinton in the White House is more than enough.

Writing on the Alabama Republican Party's blog this week, Chairman Bill Armistead took direct aim at former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is considered the overwhelming front runner among Democrats hoping to succeed President Barack Obama. Hillary Clinton spent eight years as the nation's first lady during her husband Bill Clinton's two presidential terms from 1993 to 2001.

"Hillary Clinton is trying to get her footing for a presidential run in 2016, but she's not off to a really great start. The woman who once served as Secretary of State in President Obama's inner circle is now making, what many call, failed attempts to highlight their 'fundamental differences'."

Armistead's comments come following a much-publicized interview Clinton did with The Atlantic, in which she said appeared to criticize the Obama administration's foreign policy.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," Clinton said during the interview.

What Hillary Clinton needs to do to win 2016? Armistead answers

"If Hillary wants to win in 2016, she needs to turn her game on," Armistead said, pointing in particular to comments made during a nationwide tour to promote her book, "Hard Choices."

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"Hillary caused outrage by claiming that she and former President Bill Clinton left the White House in 2001 "dead broke" and in debt. What an absurd statement; it was public knowledge that she had signed a book deal with an advance of $8 million before leaving the White House. Who among us can get the $250,000 a pop for speaking engagements as Hillary does?" Armistead said.

Armistead said Clinton has seen a 10 point drop in her approval rating in the last few months, and said "voters are increasingly stating they would prefer a Republican president in 2016."

"One thing we can take from recent events is sure: the Democratic Party is having a difficult time. The layers of wool the Obama and Hillary have been pulling over Democrats' eyes for years are finally starting to fall away," Armistead said. "Continued tension and eventual fighting within their party will serve as yet another step toward Republican victory in the 2016 presidential election."

Hollywood Reporter: 'SNL' Political Secrets Revealed: Hillary's "Entitlement," the Sketch Obama Killed and the Show's "Karl Rove"

By Tom Shales and James Miller

August 20, 2014 3:00 a.m. PST

[Subtitle:] In an exclusive book excerpt, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and even Sarah Palin recount the inner battle between the left and right

This story first appeared in the Aug. 29 issue of The Hollywood Reporter magazine.

From Chevy Chase's bumbling commander in chief to Tina Fey's dim-witted veep wannabe, political satire always has been a part of Saturday Night Live. And over its 39 seasons, actual politicians have clamored to be in on the joke. President Ford, running for a second term against a peanut farmer named Jimmy Carter, appeared on the show's very first season, in April 1976, to deliver the cold open ("Live from New York, it's Saturday night!"). Since then, presidents, first ladies and candidates of all stripes have made campaign stops at Studio 8H.

For a time, after 9/11, the cast and writers gave politics a rest. As Amy Poehler recalls, "The news was so bad [we] could barely do anything political." But political humor made a roaring comeback with the 2008 election. That political cycle's most bizarre media meta-moment had to have been Sarah Palin appearing on SNL on Oct. 18, 2008, alongside Fey impersonating Palin (the segment helped the show draw its largest audience in 14 years with 14 million viewers).

A new edition of the classic Saturday Night Live oral history, Live From New York, by Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post television critic Tom Shales and his collaborator James Miller (on sale Sept. 9), adds 200

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pages of new material to the original 2002 book, updating the story through the 2000s. THR's exclusive excerpt reveals some of the behind-the-scenes battles and backstage shenanigans that shaped the political landscape of the past decade — including how presidential candidate Hillary Clinton made a last-minute decision in 2007 to cancel her SNL appearance, opening the door for a certain senator from Illinois to take her place — and even influenced the outcome of presidential campaigns.

— Andy Lewis

I. The 2008 election

Lorne Michaels, executive producer: We were contacted by, I think, Howard Wolfson from Hillary [Clinton's] campaign, and they wanted to do the first show of the season. [Barack] Obama was heating up, but they called first, so I said OK. You have to play by those rules. And then, the week of, they bailed. I went, "Really? You called us, and we gave it to you." I think every now and then I get carried away and think we actually do have influence. And then, after that, we put Obama on the date when Hillary was supposed to be on. The sense of entitlement which was following her everywhere at that point peaked for me at the bailing.

Tina Fey, castmember: It was August of 2008, and I was on Fire Island with my husband, Jeff, and it was funny because he had the cover of the Times that said, "McCain Picks Running Mate," and he said he thought there was a resemblance. I said: "I don't think so. It's just brown hair and glasses." But when we got back to the city, some cousins and old classmates were all saying, "That lady looks like you." I was sort of — arrogantly, in my own mind — resisting it, like, "I don't want to play that, and I don't know who's gonna write it, and what if I don't like what they wrote, people are going to think that I wrote it." And at some point, I realized that, like, "Oh, by the way, no one at SNL has actually asked me to do this."

Michaels: Right after the [vice presidential] debate [in October 2008], I'm coming out of my building the next day, and my doorman, Frank, says: "Mr. Michaels, what a gift! Did you see it last night? It's Tina Fey!" And I go, "No, Frank, she's not on the show anymore." And I'm literally 30 feet away from my apartment, and Bobby De Niro's there with his daughter, and he goes, "What a gift." I called Tina and said, "I think the audience is demanding that you do it."

Seth Meyers, head writer-castmember: The "Russia from the house" line? That was not [in the] first draft. I believe I'm going to give credit to [writer] Mike Shoemaker for that line. That was the thing about those sketches — you were constantly carrying them around and reading through them for whoever you could get to listen, and people would just constantly pitch jokes.

Michaels: You could see perception changing completely. It's [Jon] Lovitz as [Michael] Dukakis going, "I can't believe I'm losing to this guy." Or Chevy [Chase] as Gerald Ford going, "I was told there would be no math." The audience that was suddenly watching Sarah Palin wasn't necessarily the SNL audience. Tina crossed over. It made her a huge star.

Sarah Palin, guest: I think SNL is egotistical if they believe that it was truly an effect on maybe the public debate about who should lead the country in the next four years.

Amy Poehler, castmember: Playing Hillary and Sarah Palin was an indication of women taking center stage in politics in a way that I hadn't been able to experience in my time there. My first show was two weeks

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after 9/11 happened, and for the first three or four years of my time there, we could barely do anything political. Everyone and everything was so tender, and we had lost Will Ferrell as our [George W.] Bush. Everything was so bad; the news was so bad. There was a lot of pop-culture stuff, and getting to finally do really deep political parody at the end of my career there felt really satisfying.

Michaels: I called Alec [Baldwin] to come in for [Palin's appearance on Oct. 18, 2008], to be standing with me, because he was the most emblematic liberal at that point. He said he had to introduce a documentary at the Hamptons Film Festival on that Saturday, so he wouldn't be able to do it. So I said, "Alec, your instincts are always great, but are you telling me you're not going to be here for this thing that the whole world is waiting to see?"

Fey: I was the one pitching, "Why don't you start her backstage, you know, with Alec, so the crowd won't boo." She had just been booed at a hockey game in Philadelphia, and I thought we had to be cautious. And of course the audience was just happy to see her because she was a star, a media star. Even the New York audience was not feeling their politics at that moment.

Michaels: Tina was terrified of anything where they would be together looking like an endorsement.

Palin: I know that they portrayed me as an idiot, and I hated that, and I wanted to come on the show and counter some of that.

Michaels: [Palin] has wonderful manners — and I honestly don't mean this in a condescending way — but it's that pageant-winner thing.

Palin: If I ran into Tina Fey again today, I would say: "You need to at least pay for my kids' braces or something from all the money that you made off of pretending that you're me! My goodness, you capitalized on that! Can't you contribute a little bit? Jeez!"

II. The impersonations

Bill Hader, castmember: I remember Seth Meyers very clearly coming up to me and saying: "[Writer-producer James] Downey just wrote a cold open where you play Eliot Spitzer. Do you have an Eliot Spitzer?" And I said, "Who's Eliot Spitzer?" And Seth is like: "You're an idiot. One, he was our governor." I know nothing. So it was like, "Go watch this tape, watch him give this speech and figure this out, you dummy." And then I would figure it out, and I learned I was a pretty quick study at this stuff.

Horatio Sanz, castmember: I always kind of felt bad when Will Ferrell did his Bush impression because he was such a good old boy that you really didn't think, "Oh, this evil little rich prick whose dad and his friends got him in office." You thought, "Oh, he's just a good old guy I'd like to drink beer with." As funny as Will's impression was, the audience as a whole, the whole country, would probably see that as, "Oh, I like Bush. Because he's Will." You know, if Will hadn't done that impression, or at least made him likable, it may have tipped it the other way. I honestly think so. We made up for it. I think Tina's impression basically killed Sarah Palin.

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Will Forte, castmember: I did not want to do Bush. I'm not an impersonator. Those presidential election periods and those great debates that I'd seen over the years were a really special thing about the show, but I felt like I was part of the one period that might not have been so great just because I didn't think that I was that good. It's a shame because Seth Meyers did a great John Kerry; he would hold up his end of the deal, but I just didn't give him anything great to play off of. It was also hard because Will Ferrell was so good at it. It was almost like somebody coming in and taking over the role of Church Lady. That's Dana Carvey; nobody else can do Church Lady. And that's kind of what it felt like with George Bush. You can't retire George Bush because somebody's gotta be him.

Will Ferrell, castmember: I get asked in a press junket, "Do you have a good Obama up your sleeve?" and I'm like, "No." Once I left the show, I stopped trying to think of political impressions. But also, Obama is difficult. He's very dry and subtle. And yet you see Jay [Pharoah], and the people get it down, and you're like, "Oh, there's the impression."

James Downey, producer-writer: If I had to describe Obama as a comedy project, I would say, "Degree of difficulty, 10 point 10." It's like being a rock climber looking up at a thousand-foot-high face of solid obsidian, polished and oiled. There's not a single thing to grab onto — certainly not a flaw or hook that you can caricature. [Al] Gore had these "handles," so did Bush, and Sarah Palin, and even Hillary had them. But with Obama, it was the phenomenon — less about him and more about the effect he had on other people and the way he changed their behavior. So that's the way I wrote him.

Fred Armisen, castmember: My approach to everything in life is, "Sure, I'll give it a try." I knew they were looking for an Obama, so when Lorne called me into his office and [producer] Marci Klein said, "Let Fred do it," and Lorne was like, "Would you want to try it?," I was just like, "OK, I'll give it a try." They asked me on a Tuesday, and I think I did it thatSaturday. I bought Obama's book on iTunes, and I watched videos.

Jay Pharoah, castmember: I did an event at Harvey Weinstein's house — very nice; I'd never been there. I was trying to take my makeup off because I was [Obama] at this event, and [Obama] stood right there watching me do it. He was laughing; it was so petrifying. As long as there's no beef between me and the president, that's good. When that happens, you're Kanye West.

Paula Pell, writer: I planned that I was going to come up and talk to [Palin] and shake her hand and welcome her and say, "My wife and I are very good people, and we live a very socially conscious life, and we do a lot for our community, and I just want you to know the face of gay couples and gay people," and I had this whole speech planned. Then I just kind of came up to her in the chaos in the hallway and just nodded and said "hi" and walked off. I thought to myself, "I'm such a chickenshit." I was like, "Wow, she's pretty." I just got overwhelmed by the fact that this character who was everywhere on TV was in front of me, and she was real and just ridiculous. So I didn't get my big political moment.

III. The (office) politics

Downey: The biggest risk to doing political comedy is, you always seem to have a choice: Am I going to piss off the audience by trying to get them to laugh when they don't like what I'm saying, or am I going to kiss their ass and get this tremendous wind at my back by sucking up to them? The second way makes me feel like I cheated. I'm sure there are a lot of people in comedy who completely share every f—ing detail, jot and tittle of the Obama administration agenda, and all I can say is: To the extent that you're sincere and that's really the way you feel, then you're a very lucky person because, guess what, you're going to have a very easy career in comedy because audiences will always applaud. They may not laugh, but they'll always

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give you [a] huge ovation. That's Bill Maher, you know?

Robert Smigel, writer: It wasn't until my last season that the network refused to air a "TV Funhouse." It was a live-action one that was meant to be about racism and profiling, an airline-safety video with multilingual narration, and whenever you heard a different language, they would cut to people of that nationality. First, typical white Americans, then a Latino family, then a Japanese family, all being instructed about seat belts, overhead compartments, et cetera. Then it cuts to an Arab man, and the narrator says, in Arabic, "During the flight, please do not blow up the airplane. The United States is actually a humanitarian nation that is rooted in the concept of freedom," and so on. … When the standards people freaked, Lorne fought them. Standards pushed back hard. They even got someone at NBC human resources to condemn it. … Lorne said, "I have a plan." Obama was doing a cameo in the cold open. Lorne told me he would show my sketch to Obama. "If Obama thinks it's OK, they won't be able to argue it." I thought it was a brilliant idea, except why would Obama ever give this thing his blessing? What if word got out? "Hey, everybody, that guy over there said it was cool. The one running for president of the country." But I loved Lorne for caring this much and being willing to go that far to get this thing on TV.

Michaels: Obama said, "It's funny, but no, I don't think so."

Downey: There was one Bush piece I did a couple times in dress that I think died twice and was never on. It was after Abu Ghraib. I knew I was in very dangerous comedy territory, and it was a piece where Bush was trying to justify Abu Ghraib. He was addressing the nation and saying it was an attempt, maybe awkward on our part, to make Iraqis more comfortable with their bodies. There was something about the joy of the nudist lifestyle, and I remember at one point it had a joke like, "Many people have objected to the fact that the detainees were forced to mime sex acts. Now, is it the fact that it was sex acts that you find offensive or is it that it was homosexual sex acts? Think about that, then tell me who's in the wrong here." I thought it was funny. It was a desperate attempt to turn the tables on critics. When we did the sketch [in dress rehearsal], it was like a death camp in there; the audience was like, "No." There's not laughing, and then there's aggressive silence.

Sanz: I don't think the show itself has ever let its freak flag fly in the last 20 years. Lorne's very concerned with being neutral so he wants to make fun of everyone. … He doesn't want the show to be this liberal bash rag. He may be a little more conservative than he lets on. … And you also have Jim Downey, who's basically the Karl Rove of SNL. He's always writing the right wing sketches, and honestly I think a lot of times they're out of tune with the audience. … I think Lorne sometimes leans too much on Downey and not enough on guys like Seth. Basically in the last couple of years, it's been Seth going up against Downey to set the show's tone on politics, and I think we could definitely have been harder on the right. They deserved it, and we dropped the ball as far as getting them.

Downey: My mission is to try to write a funny piece using politics as the subject matter, and so I go with what I think is the most interesting, potentially funny idea that no one else is talking about.

Sanz: The week that Nancy Pelosi was made speaker, the only thing that we could come up with at the time was, because she was from San Francisco, to make her a dominatrix. I thought that was really, really cheap. … It was pretty frustrating. And it continues to be frustrating. I don't really like watching the political scenes that much anymore because they're not written in the writers' and actors' tone. They're written like Downey wants to put this message out. And I think that's kind of shitty.

Downey: I used to write this stuff with Al Franken when we started out; I was a standard-issue Harvard

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graduate commie, and Al was like a Democratic Party stalwart. I had contempt for the partisan stuff. And I became more conservative over the years, to the point where I'm now a conservative Democrat, which means in Hollywood terms I'm a McCarthyite, I suppose. But I have to say, and even Franken agrees with me — I've talked to him about this — that the last couple seasons of the show were the only two in the show's history where we were totally like every other comedy show: basically, an arm of the Hollywood Democratic establishment. [Jon] Stewart was more nuanced. We just stopped doing anything which could even be misinterpreted as a criticism of Obama.

Smigel: My last cartoon, in February 2008, was "The Obama Files" — about candidate Obama's efforts to distance himself from Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton without alienating them. It turned out that on the same show, Hillary Clinton made a cameo in the cold open. She was planning to leave right after, but Lorne liked the cartoon and asked her to hang around for 20 more minutes and watch it. She was laughing a lot at the cartoon. Then about halfway in, I remembered that the ending might not be as much fun. It had Sharpton and Jackson falling through a trapdoor and landing in a "community van" with other political liabilities, including Bill Clinton, who then asks the driver to head for spring break. Relatively tame, but still it's her husband. Fortunately, Poehler walked in just before then. Hillary still saw it and chuckled politely, but her focus was split and awkwardness was averted. Later, I saw Lorne, and the first thing out of his mouth was, "I forgot about the Bill part." I assure you, the fact that it was my last cartoon is a total coincidence.

Weekly Standard blog: The Blog: “Liz Warren Won't Say Hillary Is Best Choice for 2016”

By Daniel Halper

August 20, 2014, 10:18 a.m. EDT

Elizabeth Warren, the popular Democratic senator from Massachusetts, declined an opportunity to say whether Hillary Clinton is the best choice to be president in 2016:

[VIDEO]

A reporter asked, "Do you believe that Hillary Clinton is still the best choice coming up for your party coming up for 2016?"

"Hillary is terrific," Warren said, dodging the question.

"But is she still the best choice?" the reporter pressed.

Warren "dodged" says the anchor, noting that she left reporters without ever answering the question.

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New York Times column: Thomas L. Friedman: “Will the Ends, Will the Means”

By Thomas L. Friedman

August 19, 2014

Hillary Clinton recently reignited the who-lost-Syria debate when she suggested that President Obama made a mistake in not intervening more forcefully early in the Syrian civil war by arming the pro-democracy rebels. I’ve been skeptical about such an intervention — skeptical that there were enough of these “mainstream insurgents,” skeptical that they could ever defeat President Bashar al-Assad’s army and the Islamists and govern Syria. So if people try to sell you on it, ask them these questions before you decide if you are with Clinton or Obama:

1. Can they name the current leader of the Syrian National Coalition, the secular, moderate opposition, and the first three principles of its political platform? Extra credit if they can name the last year that the leader of the S.N.C. resided in Syria. Hint: It’s several decades ago.

2. Can they explain why Israel — a country next door to Syria that has better intelligence on Syria than anyone and could be as affected by the outcome there as anyone — has chosen not to bet on the secular, moderate Syrian rebels or arm them enough to topple Assad?

3. The United States invaded Iraq with more than 100,000 troops, replaced its government with a new one, suppressed its Islamist extremists and trained a “moderate” Iraqi army, but, the minute we left, Iraq’s “moderate” prime minister turned sectarian. Yet, in Syria, Iraq’s twin, we’re supposed to believe that the moderate insurgents could have toppled Assad and governed Syria without any American boots on the ground, only arming the good rebels. Really?

4. How could the good Syrian rebels have triumphed in Syria when the main funders of so many rebel groups there — Qatar and Saudi Arabia — are Sunni fundamentalist monarchies that oppose the very sort of democratic, pluralistic politics in their own countries that the decent Syrian rebels aspire to build in Syria?

5. Even if we had armed Syrian moderates, how could they have defeated a coalition of the Syrian Alawite army and gangs, backed by Russia, backed by Iran, backed by Hezbollah — all of whom play by “Hama Rules,” which are no rules at all — without the U.S. having to get involved?

6. How is it that some 15,000 Muslim men from across the Muslim world have traveled to Syria to fight for jihadism and none have walked there to fight for pluralism, yet the Syrian moderates would not only have been able to defeat the Assad regime — had we only armed them properly — but also this entire jihadist foreign legion?

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The notion that the only reason that the Islamist militias emerged in Syria is because we created a vacuum by not adequately arming the secular rebels is laughable nonsense. Syria has long had its own Sunni fundamentalist underground. In 1982, when then President Hafez al-Assad perpetrated the Hama massacre, it was in an effort to wipe out those Syrian Islamists. So, yes, there are cultural roots for pluralism in Syria — a country with many Christians and secular Muslims — but there's also the opposite. Do not kid yourself.

That is why on a brief visit to Darkush, Syria, in December 2012, I was told by the local Free Syrian Army commander, Muatasim Bila Abul Fida, that even after Assad's regime is toppled there would be another war in Syria: "It will take five or six years," he added, because the Islamist parties "want Shariah, and we want democracy." There were always going to be two civil wars there: The liberals and jihadists against Assad and the liberals and jihadists against each other.

Don't get me wrong. My heart is with the brave Syrian liberals who dared to take to the streets and demand regime change — unarmed. These are decent, good people, the kind you would like to see running Syria. But it would take a lot more than better arms for them to defeat Assad and the jihadists.

Here Iraq is instructive. You need to go back to the 2010 elections there when Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, who ran with Sunnis, Shiites and Christians on a moderate, pluralistic platform — like Syria's moderates — actually won more seats than his main competitor, Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki.

What enabled that? I'll tell you: The U.S. decapitated Saddam's regime, then helped to midwife an Iraqi Constitution and elections, while U.S. (and Iraqi) special forces either arrested or killed the worst Sunni and Shiite extremists. We took out both extremes without reading them their Miranda rights. That is what gave Iraq's moderate center the space, confidence and ability to back multisectarian parties, which is what many Iraqis wanted. When our troops left, though, that center couldn't hold.

I don't want U.S. troops in Syria any more than anyone else, but I have no respect for the argument that just arming some pro-democracy rebels would have gotten the job done. Yes, there has been a price for Obama's inaction. But there is a price for effective action as well, which the critics have to be honest about. It's called an international force. We are dealing not only with states that have disintegrated, but whole societies — and rebuilding them is the mother of all nation-building projects. Will the ends, will the means. Otherwise, you're not being serious.

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From:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To:	"Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com> "Emily Aden" <eaden@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	1/4/2016 10:23:19 AM
Subject:	RE: DRAFT: Remarks at Nevada Democratic Party Dinner

I understand what we're trying to do with "common ground, " elaboration but I really feel like breaking up a very tight line that summarizes her approach weakens it pretty completely.

So at the 3rd graph on p. 3, I would deliver the line first followed by the riff below and then bridge to immigration:

"That's what I'll do as President. I know how to find common ground and I know when to stand my ground. I will go anywhere, talk with anyone and work my heart out to improve your lives, your families' lives, your children's lives.

That's what I've been doing for decades. That's how I helped create the Children's Health insurance Program when I was First Lady and today the covers more than 8 million kids. That's how as a Senator I won health benefits for heroic first responders who rushed into the trade center on that horrible day and faced lingering health issues. That's how I helped secure a landmark treaty with Russia to reduce the threat from nuclear weapons when I was secretary of state. So I know how to find common ground to get things done.

But I also know when to stand my ground especially when it comes to those powerful interests who are acting against the interest of hard working Americans and their families and holding you back from getting ahead. I will stand my ground to stop drug companies from price gouging and charging you more for the drugs you need to stay healthy than they do in other countries.

I will stand my ground against polluters, who want to keep dumping their carbon pollution into the air you breathe and causing the climate change that threatens our planet and puts our children's and grandchildren's future at risk.

I will stand my ground against the corporate gun lobby who fight every common sense gun law we need, including keeping guns out of the hands of the mentally ill or suspected terrorists on the no-fly list.

I will continue to stand my ground and speak out loudly against those raising their voices in preaching some of the most hateful intolerance towards immigrants , towards Muslims, towards LGBT Americans.

THEN GO INTO THE IMMIGRATION SECITON WITH A SMOOTH TRANSITION.

From: speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com [mailto:speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com] **On Behalf Of** Huma Abedin
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:38 AM
To: Emily Aden
Cc: Michelle White; Emmy Ruiz; Dan Schwerin; Tim Hogan; Speech Drafts
Subject: Re: DRAFT: Remarks at Nevada Democratic Party Dinner

is there enough in here about harry reid?

On Mon, Jan 4, 2016 at 10:56 AM, Emily Aden <eaden@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Research edits/flags attached in comments. Thanks!

On Mon, Jan 4, 2016 at 1:10 AM, Michelle White <mwhite@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Hey all! I agree with all of Emmy's suggestions.

It would also be great to thank NV State Democratic Party Chairwoman Roberta Lange. I think this can be done in a brief line at the very beginning.

Additionally, if she could mention that she is grateful to have the support of many of the state legislators in the room tonight because they understand what's at stake. They saw firsthand during the 2015 Legislative Session what happens when Republicans get in control and what that means for Nevada families. "Their fights are my fights, and I'm grateful they have my back." ...or something much more articulate and eloquent than that.

I think that will score us bonus points with the political leaders and the base. Thanks!

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Michelle White
Political Director
Hillary for Nevada
702-701-6554
www.HillaryClinton.com

On Sun, Jan 3, 2016 at 9:49 PM, Emmy Ruiz <eruiz@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Two more quick things, the majority of the folks that will be in attendance are endorsers, supporters, precinct captains -- would be great if she could squeeze in a shout out. I'm sure people would go nuts.

Second, when she references the Reno facility, think it would be great to note that she went there with former Senator Sheila Leslie. She is a well known (perhaps the most) progressive in the state and think it gives us progressive credibility with folks who may not know that she is supporting HRC.

Thanks!

On Sun, Jan 3, 2016 at 9:47 PM, Emmy Ruiz <eruiz@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Hi Dan,

Thanks for sending this along! This as close to perfect as I have every read anything - LOVE IT!

Just have a few things for you to pls consider:

- This will seem tiny and maybe even petty, but can Dina Titus please be acknowledged before Catherine Cortez Masto?
- Also, all over Nevada people reference her trips to this state even before she ran for President, for example in the early 2000s to visit Fallon's Leukemia bubble. Would love to find a way to incorporate her Nevada roots and how much she loves this state, her history here.

Thanks so much for your work on this.

Emmy

On Sun, Jan 3, 2016 at 9:24 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> On Wednesday, HRC is speaking at the Democratic Party dinner in Nevada, along with the other candidates. She has about 15 minutes. Emmy asked that we emphasize the importance of state party building efforts and electing Dems up and down the ticket, immigration reform, and contrast with local Republicans (as we've done to good effect in Iowa). This is also an opportunity to lay out the closing argument more robustly than we've doing in town hall toppers so far, raising the stakes in the election by painting a picture of how a Republican President would rip away our progress and explaining why we need to elect someone who has what it takes to get the job done on the economy, security, and problems that keep families up at night. Plus, starting to draw sharper contrasts with Sanders, as HRC has indicated. All in 15 minutes!
> Attached is a draft for discussion. (And please keep in mind that for anything we add, we also need to cut.)
> Thanks
> Dan

--
Emmy Ruiz
Nevada State Director
Hillary for America
(c) 956.454.4048

--
Emmy Ruiz
Nevada State Director
Hillary for America
(c) 956.454.4048

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From: LSHyman@aol.com
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/23/2015 11:07:09 AM
Subject: HRC's record

John: Re our previous exchange of e-mails, I have taken the 25 pages of Chapter 3 of "Hard Choices" and boiled them down to 2 pages which surrogates hopefully could use when talking about HRC's record. Please be frank and let me know whether it would be useful to do the same with the rest of the book. If it is not useful, please say so...it will save me a lot of time doing the rest of the book. Warmest regards. Les Hyman

ASIA: THE PIVOT

Upon becoming Secretary of State, HRC broke precedent by focusing initially on the AsiaPacific region that is home to more than half the world's population, including several of our most trusted allies and valuable trading partners. She made her first trip as Secretary to Japan, then on to Indonesia, South Korea and finally China in order to send a message to Asia and the world that America was back.

HRC believed that the U.S. should be doing more to manage our increasingly complex relationship with China. Her goal was a sophisticated strategy that encouraged China to participate as a responsible member of the international community, while standing firm in defense of our values and interests.

Her initial task was to reassert America as a Pacific power without sparking an unnecessary confrontation with China. While previously American attention had focused on Northeast Asia because of our troop commitments in Japan and South Korea, countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam were growing in economic and strategic importance but were not receiving the attention of the U.S. so HRC went there.

HRC's unique methodology was to get out beyond Foreign Ministries and palaces and instead meet with citizens, especially community activists and volunteers; journalists; students and professors; business, labor and religious leaders, all part of the civil societies that help hold governments accountable and drive social change. HRC's many meetings with civil societies in the Asia-Pacific area, many of which previously had been ignored, made countless friends for the United States.

No previous U.S. Secretary of State ever had visited the headquarters of ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) located in Jakarta (Indonesia). HRC was the first. Previous American officials had skipped ASEAN conferences which some saw as a sign of America's flagging presence in the Asia-Pacific, even as China was seeking to expand its influence. After HRC went to the ASEAN headquarters, the Secretary-General of ASEAN said about HRC: "Your visit shows the seriousness of the United States to end its diplomatic absenteeism in the region".

In her visit to South Korea, a wealthy and advanced democracy, and in meetings with President Lee Myung-bak, HRC restated the commitment of the U.S. to that country which lived in the shadow of North Korea, a repressive and bellicose neighbor to the north.

In March of 2009, a crew of American TV journalists were reporting from the border between China and North Korea. Two of the women reporters were arrested and dragged back to North Korea where they were sentenced to 12 years of hard labor. HRS spent hours on the phone with leaders in Beijing, Moscow, Tokyo and other capitals drumming up support for a strong UN resolution imposing sanctions on the regime in Pyongyang. Her efforts paid off when all the members of the UN Security Council agreed to impose additional sanctions on North Korea (the toughest measure ever imposed on that country). They resulted in Kim Il -Sung saying that he would release the women journalists if he received a personal visit from Bill Clinton. Many in the White House opposed sending the former President, but HRC convinced President Obama to do what was necessary to rescue the two innocent American civilians. Clinton went, and In 20 hours the American journalists were released.

Another part of HRC's strategy was to bring India more fully into the Asian-Pacific political scene. Having another large democracy with a full seat at the table in the region could help encourage more countries to move toward political and economic openness, rather than follow China's example of autocratic state capitalism.

As an example of her strategy, HRC traveled to the Indian port city of Chennai on the Bay of Bengal, a commercial hub that looks out toward the vibrant trade and energy routes of Southeast Asia. She wanted to show that the U.S. understood that India was more than Delhi and Mumbai. She spoke about India's role in the Asia-Pacific region, stating that the strategic fundamentals of our relationship with India -- shared democratic values, economic imperatives, and diplomatic priorities -- were pushing both countries' interests into closer convergence.

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While China's rise and its mix of authoritarianism and state capitalism offered an attractive example to some Asian countries, HRC cited many counterexamples to disprove those theories, to wit: Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Indonesia and Taiwan were all democratic societies that delivered tremendous economic benefits to their people.

In July of 2012, HRC took an extended tour across the Asian-Pacific region to emphasize that democracy and prosperity go hand in hand. She started in Japan, one of the strongest and richest democracies in the world, and then visited Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos where she became the first Secretary of State to step foot in that country in fifty-seven years.

A major goal of U.S. strategy in Asia was to promote political reform as well as economic growth. Everywhere Secretary Clinton went she pledged that the United States would be a strong partner to all those across Asia and the world who were dedicated to human rights and fundamental freedoms. A Washington Post editorial declared that HRC's speech had offered "hope that the U.S. pivot to Asia will go beyond simple muscle-flexing and become a multi-layered approach to match the complexity of China's rise as a modern superpower."

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From:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com> "Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Ron Klain" <ron.klain@revolution.com> "Karen Dunn" <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com> "Zachary Petkanas" <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com> "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	10/29/2015 11:46:01 AM
Subject:	FOR REVIEW - Sanders Tar Sands
Attachments:	20151029 Bernies Pipeline Hypocrisy.docx

Friends,

h/t to Tyson – here is more information on the tar sands hit I mentioned in my email yesterday. It is not as cut and dried since Sanders did sign a letter looking into this, but he is not outspoken on this issue at all despite Vermont environmentalists asking him to be. This may be something we want to talk to Jeanne Shaheen about since she has been more outspoken and more recently. Below is the summary and attached is the doc.

Bernie Sanders has long bragged that he opposed the Keystone Pipeline for years, calling it an "easy" decision to make. But he has been conspicuously more restrained when it comes to a pipeline between Quebec and Maine, crossing Vermont and New Hampshire.

In 2008, the oil company Enbridge filed plans to reverse the flow of the Portland to Montreal pipeline, so it could carry oil from Canada to Maine for export. This pipeline is connected to a much longer pipeline in Western Canada, the source of much tar sand oil.

In 2013, Enbridge renewed plans to reverse the flow of just the Canadian pipeline, in order to bring heavy crude from Alberta to Quebec refineries. American environmentalists became concerned this was the first step of a plan to eventually reverse the Portland to Montreal pipeline to bring tar sand oil across the border for export from Maine. 18 members of Congress, including Sanders, signed a letter to Secretary of State Kerry calling for a presidential permit and an environmental review before that could occur.

However, Sanders has not spoken about the pipeline since then. In 2014, the Canadian government gave initial approval to reverse an Enbridge pipeline to bring tar sands oil from Alberta to Quebec. The Maine and New Hampshire Congressional delegations wrote to Secretary Kerry again in concern. But even though Vermont environmental groups called out Sanders and members of their delegations by name, it does not appear they issued a statement or criticized the Canadian decision.

In October 2015, the Canadian government gave final approval to the plan to reverse the pipeline, with no outcry from Sanders. Although Enbridge claims it has no plan to transport heavy crude across the border, his restraint on this issue compared to Keystone is notable considering the Enbridge plan could affect his home state of Vermont.

From: Tony Carrk [mailto:tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 7:59 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; 'Ron Klain' <ron.klain@revolution.com >; 'Karen Dunn' <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com >; 'Robby Mook' <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; 'Zachary Petkanas' <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >; 'John Podesta' <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Tyson Brody <tbrody@hillaryclinton.com >; Emily Aden <eaden@hillaryclinton.com >; Samantha McClain <smcclain@hillaryclinton.com >; Sara Solow <ssolow@hillaryclinton.com >; Kristina Costa <kcosta@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: PLS REVIEW: Sanders Hits

Hi everyone,

I wanted to us all on a single thread since this document could serve multiple purposes. Attached are some hits that could either be written or deployed during the next debate on Sanders. Note: these do not include the college and $20 trillion cost of his plans

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since Policy is working on them. Below is a quick summary of the hits that are in the document. It might be having a call soon to discuss if people think it's worth it.

Per HRC's request, we are doing a deeper dive on Sanders's agriculture record to see if there is anything that could be problematic to Iowa.

(As always, huge credit to the team for their help building these out.)

> Also: Tyson has been working on building out Sanders's muted response to possible tar sand oil traveling through a pipeline that goes through Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He found one letter he signed calling for an environmental study, something Shaheen did as well. So, while he could point to that, his outrage over potential tar sands in this pipeline is nowhere near his opposition to the Keystone Pipeline. We can send around more details once it's done, but wanted to put that on the radar.

SUMMARY

Labor/Pay to Play/Sugar - Sanders, often thought of as a champion of labor unions, accepted support from a company while it was involved in a bitter labor dispute—locking out union employees for nearly 22 months. In July 2012, he accepted $10,000 in contributions from American Crystal Sugar, while the workers had been locked out for nearly a year due to failed labor negotiations. The workers' union widely opposed the company's contract proposal because it could have doubled their out-of-pocket health care costs. At the same time American Crystal Sugar was proposing to cut back on workers' health benefits, it spent more than $2 million in lobbying money and campaign contributions to politicians like Sanders in order to preserve its favorable sugar commodity program. Sanders voted to protect the sugar program.

Crime Bill –Bernie Sanders's Presidential Campaign claimed it was researching statements made by Hillary Clinton in support of the 1994 crime bill in order to attack her in the Democratic Primary. But Sanders voted in support of the bill in 1994, and repeatedly spoke in support of it. Then Rep. Sanders criticized opposition to the bill and hoped President Clinton would be able to pass it. Furthermore, in his 2006 campaign for Senate, Sanders' campaign strongly highlighted Sanders support for the 1994 crime bill. His campaign boasted of the billions Sanders had provided to law enforcement since being elected, and used his support of the 1994 crime bill to prove Sanders was "tough on crime."

Guns - Sen. Sanders's progressive bona fides are called into question with his record on reducing gun violence. When he successfully ran for the House in 1990, he got the tacit endorsement of the NRA after pledging not to support the Brady Bill, which included waiting periods to receive weapons. Once in the House, he kept his word, voting against the legislation five times. Although he voted against the bill, he voted for an amendment that created the so-called "Charleston loophole," which allows people to purchase a weapon after three days even if their background check is incomplete. Later, Sanders, despite wanting to hold essentially every corporation accountable for something (such as fast food companies accountable for obesity), voted to protect gun manufacturers from legal liability. He also voted to strip millions from gun research, something the NRA has wanted to prevent officials from learning about gun violence. (NOTE: This doesn't include the guns from Vermont to New York)

LGBT (Marriage & Civil Unions) - Sen. Sanders is attacking Secretary Clinton, claiming she has been inconsistent and late to supporting marriage equality. But Sanders is rewriting history on his own record. In 2000, Sanders was reluctant to take a clear stand on civil unions and marriage equality, and did not speak out forcefully on the issue. Sanders called for an end to the divisiveness of the opposition, saying there were "a dozen other issues out there that are as important or more important as that issue." While other Vermont politicians were moving forward the cause, Sanders remained relatively quiet. Moreover, his oft-touted opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act omits Sanders's reasoning: he thought DOMA injected the federal government into a states issue.

Repealing Obamacare & Replacing it with State-Run Single Payer - Sen. Sanders has long advocated for a single payer, Medicare-for-all health plan that is administered by the states. His plan would repeal the Affordable Care Act, as well as Medicare, TRICARE, Medicaid, and SCHIP. His proposal would cost roughly $15 trillion. Vermont tried to implement a single payer plan but scrapped it because it would cost too much.

Wall Street (Commodities Futures Modernization Act) - Sen. Sanders repeatedly touts his opposition to the repeal of Glass-Steagall. What he fails to mention is that he voted for the legislation that included the Commodities Futures Modernization Act, signed into law by President Clinton. The Act exempted regulation of credit default swaps and derivatives. Sanders himself blamed the CFMA for Lehman's bankruptcy. Sanders's spokesperson said he voted for the bill because it was part of a larger bill that would have shut down the government had it not passed.

Ethanol - Sanders has voted to end ethanol subsidies. He hedged his answer on the Renewable Fuel Standard including ethanol earlier in 2015, but has subsequently come out in support.

Export-Import Bank - Sanders is a long critic of the Export-Import bank, calling it corporate welfare. However, roughly 3,000 small businesses rely on loans from the bank.

Nuclear Energy - Sanders voted for a waste removal compact that moved radioactive waste from Maine and Vermont to a dump site near a tiny community in Sierra Blanca, Texas. Sanders said the compact was "good environmental policy" and said he was "in strong support of the bill." Critics of the deal said that the site was not only environmentally unsound, but also near a small

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community that was low income and largely Hispanic. The compact was opposed by LULAC and the NAACP, and a local opponent to the deal called it "environmental racism."

NOTE: President Clinton signed the bill in 1997.

Immigration - Sanders's record on immigration is mixed. While he voted for the 2013 comprehensive bill, he opposed the McCain-Kennedy comprehensive bill. Sanders's objection was over guest worker program which he said drove down wages for American workers. As recent as this summer, Sanders used similar language about low-skill (and even high-skill) immigrants drive down wages for American citizens. Immigration advocates criticized him for those comments.

Sanders Not Straight on His Tax Plan - Sen. Sanders has not told the American people how much he is going to raise taxes and who is going to pay for them. When confronted on details of his tax plan, he simply says "it's coming." When he is asked what the highest rate would be, he demurs.

Sanders Not Straight on His Spending - Sen. Sanders has not told the American people how much his plans will cost and how he will pay for them. When asked for specifics, he demurs. When other estimates show trillions in new spending, he simply rejects them without offering his own estimate.

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From:	"Tony Podesta" <tpodesta@podesta.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com podesta@ici.org "Heather Podesta" <podesta@heatherpodesta.com>
Date:	12/1/2008 10:30:54 AM
Subject:	FW: America Magazine - fyi

From: Teresa Petrovic
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2008 12:54 PM
To: Tony Podesta
Subject: America Magazine - fyi

America Magazine
National Catholic Weekly
(Jesuits)

Barack Obama, Gene McCarthy & Change

Posted at: 2008-12-01 07:46:00.0
Author: Michael Sean Winters

As President-elect Obama begins appointing officials to his administration, the leftie blogosphere has been complaining that too many positions have gone to former Clinton officials, which they interpret as a shift to the center. And they object to it as such. But, the ideological origins of Obama's in-coming administration are more complicated than a binary choice between Clintonistas and change. The Democratic Party pre-dates the arrival of the Clintons in Washington in 1993 and some of those who have worked hardest for Obama got their political start working for Gene McCarthy back in 1968.

Gregory Craig was an early supporter of Obama even though he had worked for the Clintons as well. He is slated to become White House Counsel. Craig got his start in politics working in Nebraska on the McCarthy campaign. **John Podesta, who is in charge of the transition, also got his start in politics working for McCarthy, and his brother, the uber-lobbyist Tony Podesta, had the unenviable task of organizing Gary, Indiana for McCarthy in the face of a local political establishment that was firmly in the Kennedy camp. Craig and the Podestas have been a half-step away from power or closer ever since.**

In 1968, Marty Peretz became actively involved in the McCarthy campaign, raising money and giving speeches on his behalf. Peretz's daughter is even named Evgenia. In 2008, Peretz became a stalwart supporter of Obama. He again raised money and was especially helpful in persuading Jewish voters in Florida that they could trust Obama. Peretz's 1960s anti-war leftism did not survive the 1973 Yom Kippur War, but his steadfast support for Israel through the years came in handy in Florida.

Sometimes the connections from the McCarthy campaign to the Obama presidency are exceedingly dense. Both John and Tony Podesta came to Colorado in 1974 to help Sam Brown get elected State Treasurer. The three had met on the McCarthy campaign. In the Carter administration, John Podesta worked for Brown at the Action agency. This year, Brown raised more than $1 million for Obama according to a source close to the campaign's finance wing and has spent much of the past three election cycles raising money for congressional candidates while Podesta's Center for American Progress provides those same candidates with policy briefings. Brown served in the Clinton administration as ambassador to the Vienna-based Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a position that became critical during negotiations about Bosnia and Kosovo because Russia was a member of OSCE but was not party to the multi-lateral organizations in Brussels. With Russia growing ever more menacing, look for Brown to return to Europe or land a job at Foggy Bottom.

I am sure there are others from the McCarthy campaign who remain active in the early stages of the Obama years. I am also sure there are some Democrats who came to Washington with Walter Mondale, or who found their own way here, and have risen to the ranks where they might expect an appointment. Obama is evidently going to bring some new blood with him, too, nominating Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano as Secretary of Homeland Security and installing his Chicago advisor David Axelrod as a White House counselor.

The "change or Clintonista" distinction is not just a distinction without a difference. It is a distinction that ignores one of American liberalism's finest beliefs: Provenance is the least important thing to know about a person or an idea. It is a belief

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Gene McCarthy would endorse.

Teresa Petrovic
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From:	"Jesse Ferguson" <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	Jesse@JesseFerguson.com <Jesse@jesseferguson.com>
Date:	4/23/2015 4:41:33 AM
Subject:	4 23 Friends and Allies TP - Clinton Cash
Attachments:	4 23 Friends and Allies TP - Clinton Cash.pdf

Team – Attached are some talking points in response to the latest news about the “Clinton Cash” book.

They’re for your use if you get questions about it. We will distribute to our broader “talkers list” later today.

Thanks.

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From:	"American Security Project" <events@americansecurityproject.org>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	12/2/2015 10:34:36 AM
Subject:	Hill Briefing: Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy - December 15, 2015

Join ASP on December 15th for a briefing in the U.S. Senate to discuss the breakthroughs and advancements made in fusion research.

View this email in your browser

Hill Briefing: Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy

December 15, 2015

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Location:
American Security Project

385 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20 515

Understanding What's Next in Fusion Energy will be held Tuesday, December 15 in 385 Russell from 12:00pm – 1:30pm. This event will be an opportunity for leaders in fusion energy from the private sector and research labs to discuss the significant progress made in advancing fusion and what this clean, safe, and abundant energy source means for America's national security and energy future.

Leading experts in fusion from the public and private sector will discuss the new developments that have been featured over the last several months in major media outlets like Time Magazine, the New York Times, Science, and Nature. ASP is the leading think tank detailing a plan for the future of fusion. We are excited to facilitate a greater understanding this complex but revolutionary energy source.

Lunch refreshments will be served throughout the event.

Please arrive by 12:00pm for registration.

The event will be begin promptly at 12:00pm.

ASP
American Security Project

Click to RSVP

Resources:

Private Investors Back Nuclear Fusion Energy

Fusion Energy – The National Security Requirement

Fusion White Paper – 10 Year Plan for American Energy Security

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Panel Includes:

Moderator:

- Mr. Andrew Holland

Panelists:

- Dr. Dennis Whyte
- Mr. Michael Delage
- Dr. Douglas Witherspoon

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/14/2014 7:14:25 AM
Subject: Flamenco's Repression and Resistance in Southern Spain

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Flamenco's Repression and Resistance in Southern Spain

Yossi Bartal, Truthout: While flamenco music and dance are enjoying an unprecedented revival all around the world to attract tourism, the public spaces that play a major role in the formation of flamenco culture in Spain are increasingly threatened by authorities, and flamenco protest groups have responded.

Read the Article

Dawn Paley: Drug War a Pretense to Expand Transnational Capitalism Southward

Mark Karlin, Truthout: Canadian journalist Dawn Paley speaks to Truthout about her book, *Drug War Capitalism*, and about how the alleged war on drugs south of the US border isn't a war to improve civil society and prevent drug trafficking; it is a violence-centered policy to broaden the reach of global capitalism.

Read the Interview

At COP20 UN Climate Talks, Canada Is Representing the Fossil Fuel Industry

Leehi Yona, Truthout: The Canadian government has established itself as a country representing fossil fuels at the United Nations climate talks last week in Lima, Peru. The government must do more to represent its true citizens.

Read the Article

Eight Ways to Support Protests Against the Criminal Punishment System, if You Can't Get Out on the Street

Victoria Law, Waging Nonviolence: While the stream of images of protests are exciting, we can't forget that there are other, less visible ways to fight injustice and support those most directly impacted.

Read the Article

Using English to Oppress

Jason Cervone, Truthout: English-language policies in US schools are both overtly and covertly

BuzzFlash

The Buzzflash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

Thousands March in Washington to Protest Police Violence

Read the Article at The New York Times

Senate Passes Government Funding Bill Which Allows Wall Street to Become Gambling Casino Again

Read the Article at The Huffington Post

"A Roadmap to Global Burning": COP20 Closes With Even Weaker Climate Pact

Read the Article at Common Dreams

Congress

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racist and discriminatory and are being used as weapons to hold back poor minority students.
Read the Article

How Fear of Occupy Wall Street Undermined the Red Cross' Sandy Relief Effort

Justin Elliott and Jesse Eisinger, ProPublica: In the days after Superstorm Sandy, Occupy Sandy became a widely-praised lifeline. Yet the Red Cross, which was bungling its own aid efforts after the storm, made a decision not to work with Occupy Sandy.
Read the Article

Truthout Interviews Roger Annis on the New Cold War

Ted Asregadoo, Truthout: Roger Annis discusses the conflicts in Ukraine and the larger geopolitical maneuverings by NATO and the US that are reigniting a Cold War with Russia.
Watch the Video

Climate Change Creates New Geography of Food

Fabiola Ortiz, Inter Press Service: The magnitude of the climate changes brought about by global warming and the alterations in rainfall patterns are modifying the geography of food production in the tropics.
Read the Article

Cultivating Climate Justice Through Compost: The Story of Hernani

Antonia Bruno, Zero Waste World: When the people of Hernani, Spain, began a residential compost system, they weren't looking to become heroes of the movement for climate justice, they were simply looking for an alternative to incineration and the pollution it brings.
Read the Article

Won't Push Prosecutions After CIA Report
Read the Article at The Hill

The Racial Wealth Gap: White People Have 13 Dollars for Every Dollar Held by Black Americans
Read the Article at The Washington Post

One of the First Victims of US Torture Is Now Missing in Afghanistan
Read the Article at Vice

Ferguson's Plan to Close Its Revenue Gap: Increase Police Ticketing
Read the Article at Salon

US Faulted for Undermining Torture Convention

Thalif Deen, Inter Press Service: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said the US report shows torture is still taking place in quite a few of the 156 countries that have ratified the UN Convention Against Torture and have domestic legislation making torture illegal.
Read the Article

Neighbors Don't Let Neighbors Frack

Melissa Tuckey, OtherWords: Fracking facilities are located near schools, farms and homes. Our regulatory system is failing these families while increasing profits for the fossil-fuel and chemical industries.
Read the Article

This week in Speakout:

Jay A. Stout maintains that buying a trouble-plagued new fighter jet that is running $163 billion over budget and close to a decade behind schedule is a bad idea; **Robert Augustus Masters** reflects on how we must transform cultural sanctioning of rape so as not to trivialize it; **Michael Nigro's** photo essay demonstrates the metaphorical quicksilver properties of the marches in NYC for Eric Garner; **Daria M. Brezinski** reflects on the implications for archaeological interpretations of the scribbling and artifacts discovered from past civilizations of children's ability to learn higher level mathematics and

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geometry through storytelling; **Lee Camp** proves we live in a racist society; **Emanuel E. Garcia** explains why the long arm of the law "has itchy fingers"; **Upstate Drone Action** notes that Mark Colville, a Catholic Worker from New Haven, Connecticut, was sentenced on five charges stemming from his protest against drones at Hancock Air National Guard Base last year; **Michael N. Nagler** looks at the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism in light of Ferguson; **Jeffrey McCord** describes how the pristine Coral Bay and its unique sailing community are threatened by a proposed mega-yacht marina; **Jim McCluskey** questions the sanity of nuclear warriors; **Huma Munir** suggests a certain continuity in efforts to repress knowledge; and more.

Read the Articles

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From: CSIS <ExternalRelations@csis.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/16/2015 8:58:47 AM
Subject: WATCH LIVE: Syria, Defense Budget, TPP, & Energy at GSF 2015

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Global Security Forum

A forum on the top challenges facing U.S. and global security

Morning Breakout Sessions II: 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

WATCH LIVE: I. The Defense Budget and Reform After the Deal

Tina Jonas
Former Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Senior Adviser, International Security Program, CSIS

Steve Kosiak
Former Associate Director for Defense and International Affairs, Office of Management and Budget

Moderator:
Todd Harrison
Director, Defense Budget Analysis and Senior Fellow, International Security Program, CSIS

WATCH LIVE: II. Beyond TPP: U.S. Economic Strategy for Asia

Scott Miller
Senior Adviser and Scholl Chair in International Business, CSIS

Additional Panelists to be Announced

Moderator:
Ernie Bower
Senior Adviser and Sumitro Chair for Southeast Asian Studies, CSIS

WATCH LIVE: III. Bulls, Bears and Polar Bears: An Energy Market Outlook

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Michael Cohen
Head of Energy Commodities Research, Barclays

Michelle Patron
Former Senior Director for Energy and Climate, National Security Council

Adam Sieminski
Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration

Michael Wittner
Managing Director and Global Head of Oil Market Research, Societe Generale Corporate and Investment Banking

Moderators:
Sarah Ladislaw
Director, Energy and National Security Program, CSIS

Frank Verrastro
Senior Vice President and James R. Schlesinger Chair for Energy & Geopolitics, CSIS

WATCH LIVE: IV. The Human Crisis in Syria and Iraq: W hat Can be Done?

Jason Cone
Executive Director, Médecins Sans Frontières/USA

Rebecca Hersman
Director, Project on Nuclear Issues and Senior Adviser, International Security Program, CSIS

Robert Mardini
Regional Director for the Middle East, International Committee of the Red Cross

Moderator:
Steve Morrison
Senior Vice President and Director, Global Health Policy Center, CSIS

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From: "Wilson Center" <European.Studies@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/27/2014 2:38:24 AM
Subject: Invitation: Scotland on the Eve of the Independence Referendum

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Global Europe

Wilson Center

Scotland on the Eve of the Independence Referendum

On September 18th, Scottish voters will decide whether their country will be the first to secede from a Western-European state in recent history. After two years of campaigning it would seem that politicians, academics, and journalists would have a good understanding of the public sentiment. Using very recent data from the only large-scale, representative, and comprehensive attitudes surveys in Scotland, however, this talk will highlight where the general "wisdom" about Scots' attitudes towards the referendum may be empirically wrong. After showing where the polls stand and what we may expect as polling day approaches, this talk will focus in particular on how the attitudes of Scottish people towards international affairs have often been misrepresented, in particular in relation to the European Union, Scotland's role in the world, and nuclear weapons in Scotland. The talk will identify issues that may still move people, in either direction, before casting their vote.

Introduction

Samuel Wells
Senior Scholar, Wilson Center

Speaker

Jan Eichhorn
Chancellor's Fellow in Social Policy, University of Edinburgh

Moderator

Samuel Wells
Senior Scholar, Wilson Center

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September 3, 2014
3:30 - 5:00pm

6th Floor Boardroom

Directions

Wilson Center
Ronald Reagan Building and
International Trade Center
One Woodrow Wilson Plaza
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Phone: 202.691.4000

European.Studies@wilsoncenter.org

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From: "Cold War Project" <coldwar@wilsoncenter.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/17/2015 7:00:49 AM
Subject: Event 11/19 - Soviet Occupation of Romania, Hungary, and Austria 1944-1949

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Cold War International History Project

Wilson Center

Soviet Occupation of Romania, Hungary, and Austria 1944-1949

Soviet Occupation of Romania, Hungary, and Austria 1944/45–1948/49, Csaba Békés, László Borhi, Peter Ruggenthaler, Ottmar Trasca (Eds.) Central European University Press, Budapest – New York, 2015

This recently published book compares the various aspects – political, military, economic – of Soviet occupation in three key countries of the region: Austria, Hungary and Romania. Using documents found in Austrian, Hungarian, Romanian and Russian archives the authors argue that the nature of Soviet foreign policy has been largely misunderstood. Existing literature has mostly focused on Soviet foreign policy from a political perspective; when and why Stalin made the decision to introduce Bolshevik political systems in the Soviet sphere of influence. This book will show that the Soviet conquest of East-Central Europe had an imperial dimension as well and allowed the Soviet Union to use the territory it occupied as military and economic space. The final dimension of the book details the tragically human experiences of Soviet occupation: atrocities, rape, plundering and deportations.

By bringing key documents together in one single volume, this book offers penetrating new insights into Soviet policies in Romania, Hungary and Austria that also contributed to the origins of the Cold War.

The book will be presented by Krisztina KÓS, Director of CEU Press and three of the editors: Csaba BÉKÉS, László BORHI and Peter RUGGENTHALER.

Krisztina KÓS joined Central European University Press in 2002 after having graduated from ELTE University, Budapest. A literary scholar by training, she was editor at the Press for nine years and became the director in 2011. She is also a freelance editor and translator.

Csaba BÉKÉS, Ph.D., Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, is founding director of the Cold War History Research Center (www.coldwar.hu) and Research Chair at the Institute of Political Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, both in Budapest. He is also Professor of History at Corvinus University of Budapest and a recurring visiting professor at Columbia University. He is a former research fellow of the Cold War International History Project at the Wilson Center and the Project on the Cold War as Global

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Thursday, November 19th, 2015
3:00PM-5:00PM

6th Floor Moynihan Boardroom

Directions

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Phone: 202.691.4000

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Conflict at New York University. His main field of research is Cold War history, the history of East–West relations, Hungarian foreign policy after World War II, the history of the Soviet Bloc and the role of the East Central European states in the Cold War. He is the author or editor of 20 books, he is also a contributor of the three volume The Cambridge History of the Cold War (2010). He is a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of Cold War Studies and Cold War History. His book: Hungary, the Soviet Bloc and World Politics, 1944–1991 is forthcoming.

László BORHI, Ph.D., Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, is the author of several books including Hungary in the Cold War – Between the Soviet Union and the United States, 1945–1956. His book, Dealing with Dictators – The United States, Hungary and East Central Europe, 1942–1990 is forthcoming. Currently he is working on a book on the history of tyrannical rule in East Central Europe. He is the recipient of the Ránki György Prize of the Hungarian Historical Association in 1995, The Bezerédj Prize of the Hungarian Ministry of Culture and the Gold Cross of Merit of the Hungarian Republic, both in 2006. He is a former research fellow of the Cold War International History Project at the Wilson Center and the Norwegian Nobel Institute.Currently László Borhi is Peter A. Kadas Chair Associate Professor at the Department of Central Eurasian Studies at Indiana University and Scientific Counsellor of the Institute of History of the Center for Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Peter RUGGENTHALER, Ph.D. studied history and Slavic studies. Since 1998 he has been a researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on War Consequences, Graz, Austria. He is a member of the Russian–Austrian Historians Commission (since 2008).
Research interests: Soviet foreign policy in the Cold War, neutrality in the Cold War. Author or editor of more than 20 books and 90 articles. His publications include The Concept of Neutrality in Stalin´s Foreign Policy, 1945–53. Harvard Cold War Studies Book Series (2015), Der Kreml und die deutsche Wiedervereinigung 1990, Metropol Verlag 2014; Der Kreml und die Wende 1989, Studienverlag (2014); The Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. Harvard Cold War Studies Book Series (Co-editor, 2010), Prager Frühling. Das internationale Krisenjahr 1968, Böhlau (2008), Das Stalins großer Bluff. Die Geschichte der Stalin-Note in Dokumenten der sowjetischen Führung, Oldenbourg (2007), Zwangsarbeit in der Land- und Forstwirtschaft auf dem Gebiet der Republik Österreich 1939–1945, Oldenbourg (2004).

A small reception provided by CEU Press will follow the presentation.

CWIHP is a part of the Wilson Center's History and Public Policy Program

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From: "Stephanie Taylor" <staylor2050@gmail.com>
To: katbarr07@gmail.com
Date: 7/7/2009 1:19:05 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Re: Fwd: No "trigger" on health care reform

This is great. PCCC piled on...

PROGRESSIVE CHANGE
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
BOLDPROGRESSIVES.ORG

[[First_Name]],

There's some good news, some bad news, and more good news…

The good news: Since last week, 12,000 people signed our TV ad at WeWantThePublicOption.com and it's aired over 100 times in DC! The Washington Post reported Sunday that Democratic senators are shaken up by our pressure. And today, Sen. Kay Hagan -- named in our ad and others -- announced she'll support the public option.

The bad news: The Hill newspaper reported last night that half-a-dozen Senate Democrats still might "buck their party" and oppose the public option. And today, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel began to cave -- calling the public option "negotiable."

More good news: President Obama issued a statement from Russia today that seemed to reverse Rahm Emanuel's remarks. He said he wants a public option in the final bill.

The bottom line: This is still an all-out battle, it's changing every day, and regular people like us can continue to impact the fight.

The Washington Post reports that Senate Dems are shaken up by our TV ads. We have momentum -- but we need to continue fighting.

Can you chip in to keep our ads on the air for a second week?



Can you help keep our hard-hitting ads on TV in DC for a second week by chipping in today?

Every three donations of $50 allow one more ad on MSNBC.

We're rotating new names into the TV ad every day -- and we'll keep these ads on the air as long as public support for them keeps growing.

Thanks so much for being a bold progressive.

--Stephanie Taylor
Co-Founder, Progressive Change Campaign Committee

P.S. Word of mouth has been key to the success of this campaign. Please take 30 seconds and forward this email to others -- encouraging them to sign up at WeWantThePublicOption.com . (You can also tell folks on Twitter by clicking here .)

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From: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To: Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date: 6/27/2015 3:27:12 AM
Subject: Re: Letter

Thanks. Dennis Ross and I will meet tomorrow morning with Bibi and the Cabinet on behalf of JPPI, with a focus on Iran, BDS (I will also mention Israeli settlement policy plays), demographic data, etc. My plane leaves around midnight, so I will try to catch-up with the draft letter.
Stu

----- Original Message -----
From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 04:39 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
Subject: Re: Letter

Will do. Will send final list of names tomorrow.

> On Jun 27, 2015, at 7:28 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>
> Jake,
> If you are still going forward with the letter, please be sure to add Mort Zuckerman, who has been outspoken on the Iran nuclear issue, on the negative side (e.g. Jerusalem Post op-ed, June 23, 2015)
> Stu
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Eizenstat, Stuart
> Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 11:33 AM
> To: 'Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com' <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
> Cc: 'John.Podesta@gmail.com' <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; 'huma@hrcoffice.com' <huma@hrcoffice.com>
> Subject: Re: Letter
>
> I agree. The question is whether this will be in the agreement, since it is outside the 10 year window.
> Stu
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
> Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 02:22 AM
> To: Eizenstat, Stuart
> Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
> Subject: Re: Letter
>
> I read that to mean that it not acquire 25 kgs of HEU, which surely is the White House position!
>
>
>
>> On Jun 26, 2015, at 5:51 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>>
>> Jake,
>>
>> Right after the paragraph #5, is the paragraph to which I referred. It says, in part, "Most importantly, it is vital for the United States to affirm that it is US policy to prevent Iran from producing sufficient fissile material fron a nuclear weapon-or otherwise acquiring or building one-both during the agreement and after it expires."

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>>
>> This should a point Hillary could take-up.
>>
>> I hope this is helpful. Best wishes,
>>
>> Stu
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
>> Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 01:07 PM
>> To: Eizenstat, Stuart
>> Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
>> Subject: Re: Letter
>>
>> Stu - which line in the letter are you referring to? I don't have it in front of me but don't recall a specific section on fissile material.
>>
>>
>>
>>> On Jun 26, 2015, at 12:39 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> Dear Jake,
>>>
>>> The Washington Institute letter complicates not only Kerry's efforts, but also Hillary's response, especially the insistence after the 10 year period that Iran have less nuclear fuel than needed for one bomb.
>>>
>>> I will be with Dennis Ross this weekend in Jerusalem, since we co-chair the Jewish People's Policy Institute, and we have our annual board meeting. I will get more texture on the letter.
>>>
>>> Best wishes,
>>>
>>> Stu

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From: "Jesse Lehrich" <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Matt Ortega" <mortega@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/13/2015 11:51:57 AM
Subject: Re: Rubio notes

Full text of his speech:

Text of Marco Rubio's Announcement Speech / As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you.

After months of deliberation and prayer about the future of our country, I have come here tonight to make an announcement on how I believe I can best serve her.
I chose to make this announcement at the Freedom Tower because it is a symbol of our nation's identity as the land of opportunity. And I am more confident than ever that despite our troubles, we have it within our power to make our time another American Century.

In this very room five decades ago, tens of thousands of Cuban exiles began their new lives in America. Their story is part of the larger story of the American miracle. How, united by a common faith in their God given right to go as far as their talent and work would take them, a collection of immigrants and exiles, former slaves and refugees, became one people, and together built the freest and most prosperous nation ever.

For almost all of human history, power and wealth belonged only to a select few. Most people who have ever lived were trapped by the circumstances of their birth, destined to live the life their parents had. But America is different. Here, we are the children and grandchildren of people who refused to accept this.
Both of my parents were born to poor families in Cuba. After his mother died when he was nine, my father left school to go work. My mother was one of seven girls raised

by a disabled father who struggled to provide for his family.
When they were young, my parents had big dreams for themselves. But because they were not born into wealth or power, their future was destined to be defined by their past. So in 1956 they came here, to the one place on earth where the aspirations of people like them could be more than just dreams.

My father became a bartender. My mother a cashier, a maid and a Kmart stock clerk. They never made it big. But they were successful. Two immigrants with little money or education found stable jobs, owned a home, retired with security and gave all four of their children a life far better than their own.

My parents achieved what came to be known as the American Dream. But now, too many Americans are starting to doubt whether achieving that dream is still possible:

Hard working families living paycheck to paycheck, one unexpected expense away from disaster…

Young Americans, unable to start a career, a business or a family, because they owe thousands in student loans for degrees that did not lead to jobs…

And small business owners, left to struggle under the weight of more taxes, more regulations and

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more government.

Why is this happening in a country that for over two centuries has been defined by equality of opportunity?

Because while our people and economy are pushing the boundaries of the 21st century, too many of our leaders and their ideas are stuck in the twentieth century.

They are busy looking backward, so they do not see how jobs and prosperity today depend on our ability to compete in a global economy. So our leaders put us at a disadvantage by taxing, borrowing and regulating like it's 1999.

They look for solutions in yesterday, so they don't see that good-paying modern jobs require different skills and more education than the past. They blindly support an outdated higher education system that is too expensive and inaccessible to those who need it most.

And they have forgotten that when America fails to lead, global chaos inevitably follows, so they appease our enemies, betray our allies and weaken our military.

At the turn of the 19th century, a generation of Americans harnessed the power of the Industrial Age and transformed this country into the leading economy in the world.

And the 20th century became the American Century.

Now, the time has come for our generation to lead the way toward a new American Century.

If we reform our tax code, reduce regulations, control spending, modernize our immigration laws and repeal and replace ObamaCare, the American people will create millions of better-paying modern jobs.

If we create a 21st century system of higher education that provides working Americans the chance to acquire the skills they need, that no longer graduates students with mountains of debt and degrees that do not lead to jobs, and that graduates more students from high school ready to work, then our people will be prepared to seize their opportunities in the new economy.

If we remember that family – not government – is the most important institution in society, that all life deserves protection, and that all parents deserve to choose the education that's right for their children, then we will have a strong people and a strong nation.

And if America accepts the mantle of global leadership, by abandoning this administration's dangerous concessions to Iran, and its hostility to Israel; by reversing the hollowing out of our military; by giving our men and women in uniform the resources, care and gratitude they deserve; by no longer being passive in the face of Chinese and Russian aggression; and by ending the near total disregard for the erosion of democracy and human rights around the world; then our nation will be safer, the world more stable, and our people more prosperous.

This election is not just about what laws we will pass. It is a generational choice about what kind of country we will be.

Just yesterday, a leader from yesterday began a campaign for President by promising to take us back to yesterday.

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But yesterday is over, and we are never going back. We Americans are proud of our history, but our country has always been about the future. Before us now is the opportunity to author the greatest chapter yet in the amazing story of America.

We can't do that by going back to the leaders and ideas of the past. We must change the decisions we are making by changing the people who are making them.

That is why today, grounded by the lessons of our history, and inspired by the promise of our future, I announce my candidacy for President of the United States of America.

My candidacy might seem improbable to some watching from abroad. In many countries, the highest office in the land is reserved for the rich and powerful. But I live in an exceptional country where even the son of a bartender and a maid can have the same dreams and the same future as those who come from power and privilege.

I recognize the challenges of this campaign, and the demands of the office I seek. But in this endeavor as in all things, I find comfort in the ancient command to, "Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

I have heard some suggest that I should step aside and wait my turn. But I cannot. Because I believe our very identity as an exceptional nation is at stake, and I can make a difference as President.

I am humbled by the realization that America doesn't owe me anything; but I have a debt to America I must try to repay. This isn't just the country where I was born; America is the place that changed my family's history.

I regret my father did not live to see this day in person. He used to tell me all the time: En este pais, ustedes van a poder lograr todas las cosas que nosotros no pudimos.

"In this country, you will achieve all the things we never could."

On days when I am tired or discouraged, I remember the sound of his keys jingling at the front door of our home, often well past midnight, as he returned from another long day at work. When I was younger, I didn't fully appreciate all he did for us, but now as my own children grow older, I fully understand.

My father was grateful for the work he had, but that was not the life he wanted for his children. He wanted all the dreams he once had for himself to come true for us. He wanted all the doors that closed for him to be open for me.

My father stood behind a small portable bar in the back of a room for all those years, so that tonight I could stand behind this podium in the front of this room.

That journey, from behind that bar to behind this podium, is the essence of the American Dream.

Whether or not we remain a special country will depend on whether that journey is still possible for those trying to make it now:

The single mother who works long hours for little pay so her children don't have to struggle the way

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she has...

The student who takes two buses before dawn to attend a better school halfway across town...

The workers in our hotel kitchens, the landscaping crews in our neighborhoods, the late-night janitorial staff that clean our offices ... and the bartenders who tonight are standing in the back of a room somewhere...

If their American Dreams become impossible, we will have become just another country. But if they succeed, the 21st Century will be another American Century. This will be the message of my campaign and the purpose of my presidency.

To succeed on this journey, I will need your prayers, your support, and ultimately, your vote. Tonight I am asking you to take that first step with me, by joining us at marcorubio.com .

My wife Jeanette and my four children are here tonight. The next 19 months will take me far from home. I will miss watching Amanda run track, Daniella play volleyball, Anthony play football and Dominick play soccer.

But I have chosen this course because this election is about them. Theirs is the most important generation in American history. If we can capture the promise of this new century they will be the freest and most prosperous Americans ever. But if we fail, they will be the first generation of Americans to inherit a country worse off than the one left for their parents.

The final verdict on our generation will be written by Americans not yet born. Let us make sure they record that we made the right choice. That in the early years of this century, faced with a rapidly changing and uncertain world, our generation rose to face the great challenges of our time.

And because we did, there was still one place in the world where who you come from does not determine how far you can go.

Because we did, the American miracle lived on.

And because we did, our children and theirs lived in a new American Century.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.
###

On Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:29 PM, Matt Ortega <mortega@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

DWS statement

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: DNC Press <DNCPress@dnc.org >
Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:28 PM
Subject: DNC Chair Statement on Marco Rubio's 2016 Announcement
To: DNC Press <DNCPress@dnc.org >

For Immediate Release
April 13, 2015

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Contact – DNC Press – 202-863-8148

DNC Chair Statement on Marco Rubio's 2016 Announcement

Washington, DC – In response to Marco Rubio's announcement that he will run for president in 2016, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"As Marco Rubio's presidential campaign gets underway, expect him to try and portray himself as a bold, new leader with fresh ideas. But the truth is – as those of us in Florida know all too well – he's simply peddling the same stale, harmful wares that the rest of the Republican Party is selling.

"At every opportunity, Rubio has revealed his true colors - taking outdated positions that match up with the Republican base instead of doing what's best for his constituents and the country. Rather than propose a serious tax plan that aims to grow the middle class and expand opportunity for all Americans, his plan is a GOP wish list - slashing taxes for those at the top and shifting the burden onto working Americans. He even went so far as to run away from his own immigration plan when the most extreme wing of his party put pressure on him, and he supported shutting the government down to deny people quality health care, costing our economy $24 billion.

"Rubio says he's a new type of Republican, but the only things he's ever championed are the same failed policies the public has already rejected, and the only cause he's ever advanced is his own."

On Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:24 PM, Matt Ortega <mortega@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

DNC response:

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Shulman, Holly <ShulmanH@dnc.org >
Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:11 PM
Subject: What Marco Rubio really means
To: "Shulman, Holly" <ShulmanH@dnc.org >

Tonight Marco Rubio will say that "yesterday is over, and we are never going back." But Marco Rubio's policies suggest the exact opposite. Rubio's policies are a repeat of the tired Republican playbook – tax cuts for the wealthiest at the expense of hardworking families, repealing the Affordable Care Act and returning power to the insurance companies, opposing marriage equality, and opposing a woman's right to choose. Marco Rubio would erase the progress we have made and turn back the clock for women, for young people, for Latinos, and for the middle class.

Backwards for the hardworking families: Rubio's tax plan would lower taxes on corporations and raise tax rates for hardworking Americans.

Backwards for women: Rubio voted against reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. He opposes equal pay legislation , saying it was "wasting time." Rubio has declared that he would oppose a woman's right to make her own health care decisions "even if 100 percent of my constituents were for it."

Backwards for young people: Marco Rubio voted to block a bill that would allow students to refinance their student loans.

Backwards for Latinos: Marco Rubio ran away from his own immigration reform package, bowing to political pressure, and he wants to end deportation relief that is keeping families together.

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###

--
@MattOrtega
925-413-9521

On Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:21 PM, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com > wrote:

A few notes from the Rubio announcement. He gives a good speech, and sounded much more reasonable, populist and accessible than much of the rest of the GOP field. Felt more like an inspiring Democratic speech than a GOP candidate, outside of foreign policy, repealing Obamacare and choice. Lots of references to "our generation" (I.e. Him and younger voters) vs. "their generation" (them being us, Jeb, his opponents, Washington).

I assume we're sticking to leaving Rubio response to the DNC, but wanted to flag for anyone who didn't get the watch.

A few soundbites/notes:
We believe in the American Dream: They look for solutions in yesterday—
Have forgotten that when America fails to lead, global chaos follows—they appease our enemies

Our generation, they look to the past, they're still stuck in the 20th century.

Repeal and replace Obamacare
Better paying modern jobs

Family, not the government, is the most important institution in our society.
All human life deserves protection of our laws
All parents deserve to choose the education that's right for their children—strong people and strong nation.

If America once again accepts the mantle of global leadership—by abandoning concessions to Iran and hostilities to Israel
Hollowing out of the military, Vets
No longer being passive in the face of Russia and China

Generational choice about what kind of choice families will have.
Just yesterday, a leader from yesterday began a campaign for president by promising to take us back to yesterday.
Yesterday is over. We're never going back. Proud of our history, but our country has always been about the future.
Can't go back to the leaders and ideas of the past.

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--
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--
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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Jennifer Pae" <Jennifer_Pae@mail.vresp.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 9/23/2010 4:15:35 PM
Subject: A Hidden Gem in Oakland

Jennifer Pae

배수진 FOR OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL • DISTRICT 2 裵秀珍

From Jennifer

From the outside it was relatively non-descript. There were large walls surrounding the property and no windows facing the street. It wasn't one of the safest neighborhoods in Oakland (he later shared a story of how he found his car up on bricks, rims and wheels swiped) but it was where Chris called home.

It was only after he opened the door and we started talking that I realized that Chris' home also doubled as a recording studio. Some of the best and brightest Oakland muscians have gone through his doors and recorded on his fully equipped award winning facilities. He is also a musician, often traveling the world on various projects, most recently playing live music in Russia for a silent film. Chris is an Oaklander, in every sense of the word.

Later that week, he sent the campaign an e-mail. "It made a huge impression that Jennifer came out door to door to speak with us," Chris said. "We don't get out to speak to our neighbors too often and to have an up and coming city council member show so much interest in our part of Oakland really was great for us to see. You have our vote."

Since then, Chris came out to my birthday party fundraiser, took a window sign and came to City Hall to watch my debate this week. And last night, Chris, who has never volunteered for a political candidate before, came by our office and made close to a 100 phone calls to voters.

Chris is my inspiration as I move forward with knocking on doors and talking to voters. It's time for our voices to reach City Hall and time for neighborhoods to feel truly empowered again. I chose to run for Oakland City Council to give voice to people like Chris. If this is important to you, then join Chris - sign up to call voters today.

Together we can,

Jennifer Pae

September 30th Deadline

We are only a short week away before the **September 30th fundraising reporting deadline** and **two weeks away** from when absentee voters will start receiving their ballots.

The first week of October every absentee voter will receive their ballot and we will be contacting these voters through our campaign. **Your donation today will go towards our absentee program. Can you make a donation of $10, $25, or $50 to help us meet our September 30th deadline?**

To donate online visit here .

To send a donation by mail visit here .

With only a month left until Election Day, every dollar donated makes an extraordinary difference to the campaign. Thank you to the nearly 400 donors who have contributed so far. Your support will take us to the finish line.



Let your neighborhood know you support Jennifer Pae for City Council in District 2 with our brand new buttons! Become a supporter by volunteering or donating and get a button today!

Volunteer Appreciation Day

It has been an exciting month as volunteers have been flooding our office to support the campaign. We would like to show our gratitude. Come join us for a party.

Join us for an evening of phone banking followed by a night of fun. **We will have food, drinks, games and prizes for our Super Volunteers.**

Where: Campaign Headquarters, 3231 Grand Ave.

When: September 30th

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Community Events

Join us this week in what makes Oakland a vibrant community! If you are interested in joining our visibility team at the following events, please contact vote@jenniferpae.com

- **Angela Davis and Yuri Kochiyama- A Conversation on Life, Struggles & Liberation -** Friday, Sept 24th. 7pm @ EastSide Arts Alliance .
- **United Negro College Fund Walk for Education & Health Fair and Walk-a-Thon**- Saturday, Sept 25th. @ Lake Merritt
- **Oakland's Creek to Bay Day, Coastal Cleanup Day the Oakland Way!** - Saturday, Sept 25th. 9am -noon. Meet Jennifer at FM Smith Park at 1969 Park Blvd.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Night!** - Wednesday Sept. 30th. 8:30 - 10pm. Campaign Headquarters at 3231 Grand Ave.
- **Grand Lake Neighbors Council Debate** - Wednesday, Oct. 6th. 7pm @ Lakeshore Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Avenue
- **The Future of Oakland: Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA)'s Candidate Debate** - Thursday, Oct 7th. 6:30 - 8:30pm. @ Our Saviour Episcopal Church, 1011 Harrison Street.

Debates!

The League of Women Voters of Oakland debate this past Monday was a success and many of you showed up in person to watch the event live. Though there were technical difficulties streaming it online, the debate was filmed by KTOP and will be available to view online at a later time. We will keep you posted.

In the meantime, **please mark your calendar for the Oct 6th Grand Lake Neighbors Council Debate as well as the Oct 7th APAPA's Candidate Debate.**

Time: Phonebank 5:30-8:30pm, Stay to party until 10pm

Everyone is welcome but **please RSVP at vote@jenniferpae.com** so we can get a head count for food.

Get Out the Absentee Vote

Have yet to volunteer for a shift? It's fun and easy. The only way we will win this election is if we are out in the community talking to voters. **We can't do it without you. Please sign up today!**

- Saturday, Sept 25th **Door Knocking:** 10am - 2pm
- Sunday, Sept 26th **Door Knocking:** 10am - 2pm
- Monday, Sept 27th **Door Knocking:** 5:30pm - 8pm
- Tuesday, Sept 28st **Phone Banking:** 5:30pm - 8:30pm
- Wednesday, Sept 29nd **Phone Banking:** 5:30pm - 8:30pm
- Thursday, Sept 30th **Phone Banking:** 5:30pm - 8:30pm

To sign up for a shift, please e-mail Taz at vote@jenniferpae.com or call 510-852-9728. **Can't make it this week but still want to volunteer?** Contact us and we'll add you to our list.

Are you Bilingual? We are in need of bilingual volunteers in Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish and Vietnamese. Sign up today!

Virtual Phone Bank Ready! Are you willing to make phone calls to voters but want to do it from the comfort of your home? Join our virtual phone bank team! Please contact Taz at vote@jenniferpae.com and she'll set you up with an over the phone training to get you ready.

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: Unsubscribe

Jennifer Pae for Oakland City Council FPPC #1326068
484 Lake Park Ave #545
Oakland, California 94610
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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/12/2008 9:01:30 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Town Hall Meeting Nashua, NH

Hello Big Campaign,
Just off the phone with our tracker Greg who is on the ground in Nashua, NH today. Below are the notes from our call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:
- Heated exchange on Social Security when the president of a retiree org. asked McCain why he supports SS privatization; McCain said "'I am not for privatizing social security -- never have been, never will be."
- Prior to the question, McCain banters with the retiree about how old they are
- McCain criticizes economists for all the things they didn't foresee, e.g. burst of the dot com bubble, housing crisis

NASHUA, NH - McCain Town Hall Meeting 06/12/08

Background Details:
- Sen. John Sununu opened the event
- Sen. Warren Rudman (R-NH) spoke and introduced McCain
- McCain entered the stage to the 'Rocky' theme music
- Gov. Walter Peterson
- 600 people in a gym - pretty packed. All white.
- About 20 protesters outside the event, protesting against 'third term of Bush.' [no tracker footage].
- Usual press, national networks, traveling and local affiliates
- Staffers (including press aides) were basically all local - doesn't seem to have travelling staff?
- Cindy and Meghan were not there.
- Our tracker had no trouble getting in the event.

Speech Highlights:

Opening Remarks
- Promised wouldn't tell any corny jokes, but it's hard to break old habits
- 'I love the state of New Hampshire and I can't thank you enough.'
- Acknowledges 'Welcome Home' sign.
- "I'm so happy to be back. I'm so happy to be back."
- Touts 102 town hall meetings.
- Says I need you this November.
- Underscores apparent commitment to climate change
- Says campaign is all about putting country first, above all else
- Recognizes ONE and Divided We Fail
- Thanks veterans and asks them to stand
- 'This campaign is about reform, prosperity and peace.'
- Right kind of change, not going back to the failed policies of 60s and 70s, not the second term of Jimmy Carter ('I thought that was a pretty good line')
- HEALTH CARE: I have a plan that will put the power in the hands of families and not the federal government
- RENEWABLE ENERGY: That's our mission and we can do it
- GAS TAX HOLIDAY: If you want to call it a gimmick, fine. That is coming from the economists who didn't see the sub-prime mortgage meltdown and dot-com meltdown
- IRAQ
    - I hate war
    - I knew what the right strategy was
    - We are winning. We are succeeding.
    - Obama still doesn't acknowledge that we're succeeding in Iraq.
    - I'll bring 'em home. We'll do it and we'll do it the right way.

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- My highest priority

Question and Answer:

Q1) What will we do to protect ourselves from southern invasion? What will we do to protect value of US dollar?
MCCAIN: Secure the borders, temporary workers, get 12mil who are here illegally in line, deport the millions who have committed crimes, biometric IDs
You're right; when the dollar is devalued, the price of gas goes up. We have to talk up the dollar. The fundamental problem is out-of-control spending.
Follow-up: Will you prosecute those employers who hire illegals?
MCCAIN: Yes, sir. But only after, the employer is able to secure temporary workers. We can expect small business owners to be the INS.

COMMENT - Thanks for helping to set up the first homeless veteran shelter. Thank you.

Q 2) Father is vietnam vet -- has been to many nations teaching people how to take care of their own. Will you increase that teaching.?
MCCAIN: Yes. That is the point of the surge. Tell your father thank you for serving.

Q 3) I'd like to highlight Janet Quilty -- mom, of son who gave his arm and leg in Iraq.
MCCAIN: Thank you for his sacrifice.
Follow up: In your book, you quote Mo Udall. My family is getting hammered by oil prices. Any relief on the way?
MCCAIN: In the short-term, we will see a decrease of barrel costs. People looking into the unnecessary increase of oil. But like JFK did with going to the moon, I challenge America to decrease our dependence on foreign oil.
Follow-up: Thank you. That was the answer I was looking for.
MCCAIN: Senator Obama said he didn't mind the cost increase in gas. He said it was just a little too quick. And we need to use nuclear energy. And Obama's plan doesn't have any of that - it doesn't mention nuclear energy at all.

Q 4) What are you going to do to help our education system -- especially special needs children?
MCCAIN: No Child Left Behind is a good start -- step in the right direction. Let's fix NCLB, let's not scrap it. We'll work together, learn the lessons of it. Also, fully fund the special programs that are federally fund. I believe that we can fix the NCLB.
New Orleans had to start from square one and there are now 30 charter schools. New Orleans is doing better because of choice. Choice and competition is the answer.
Follow-up: You need to look at each individual child. It's impossible to meet the expectations of NCLB.
MCCAIN: Why don't we reward good teachers. Give teachers incentives to do a good job.

Q 5) I'm a health care voter. Many insurance companies don't cover those with a pre-existing condition. What will you do to cover discrimination of this sort and will you pledge to do so?
MCCAIN: We will have to establish GAP - Government Approved Programs. Bring the governors together and come up with a plan to cover those with pre-existing conditions. We are going to have to have these GAP's to expand risk pools to cover the uninsurables.
Follow-up: I'm worried about cancer survivors.
MCCAIN: I'd like to change the law so people can shop all over the US. I'll give them $5k to shop for it. I'd like to give people choices, allow them to go across state lines.
Follow-up: Are you going to allow people to supercede Michelle's law?
MCCAIN: I want people to have the ability to be able to go across state lines. Health care is the elephant in the room. Thanks for bringing it up.

Q 6) Thank you. I'm a Massachusetts resident. Obama said college education is a birth right for all Americans. I have a limited income and I'm not able to pay for my kids to attend. I have concern with Senator Obama's idea -- that college is a birth right. What I fear is that the academic prestige of institutions will be compromised.
MCCAIN: We have to make a college education affordable and accessible. Not everyone has to go to college -- but those who want to and have the credentials should be able to do so without taking on the

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burden of huge loans.

Q 7) You've stated you're in support of privatization of SS. Why would you put people on the roulette wheel of the market?

MCCAIN: Quips: I can relate to seniors' issues. It's their $$$. I'm not for privatization of SS. I just want workers to put a small amount into an acct.
'I am not for privatizing social security -- never have been, never will be.'

Reagan and Tip O'Neil fixed it. We can do it again. We have to come together, not fight about it to solve it. I commit to you that I'll fix it.

Q 8) As a Christian, what would you do for this country?

MCCAIN: We're a Judeo-Christian nation, but we accept other faiths.

Q 9) Should we do more for veterans?

MCCAIN: Health care for vets. Give them plastic card so they can get their treatment at private facilities.

Q 10) What would your Supreme Court look like?

MCCAIN: Justice John Roberts - that is my ideal guy. I will appoint strict-constructionist judges. Obama was against confirmation of Roberts and Alito. I voted to confirm Ginsburg, etc. because they were qualified.

Q 11) What are you going to do about over-spending?

MCCAIN: Cut wasteful pork-barrel and earmark spending, etc.

Q 12) McCain asked from person from ONE campaign to speak. Person spoke about ONE, then asked about bill currently in Congress to provide AIDS assistance.

MCCAIN: Thanks Sununu for his advocacy on the issue. I would support this bill. Says Pres Bush and Laura Bush deserve credit for their efforts on this issue.

McCain brings up farm bill.

ONE campaign representative thanks McCain for his veto of farm bill since American agricultural subsidies distort foreign markets and hurt farmers in other countries.

Q 13) Concerned parent asked if the government could do more to prevent stores from selling violent video games to children, even if they're with their parents.

MCCAIN: It's up to the parents. There's an "utter evil," which is child porn on the Internet - we need to work to prevent it.

Follow-up: What is your strategy for dealing with the "liberal" mainstream media, which likes Obama and ignores you?

MCCAIN: That's how it is in the media But joint town halls would allow us to bypass the media and communicate directly with voters.

McCain concludes with trope that he has a record of always putting his country before himself.

--
Sara DuBois
Deputy Director - Tracking/Media Monitoring
Progressive Media USA
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202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)
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To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 3/1/2016 7:56:47 AM
Subject: Trade & Manufacturing Alert - March 2016

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March 2016 | Print Issue

In This Issue

Congress Approves Customs Bill

Implementation Day Arrives for Iran

The European Union Launches Public Impact on the Effectiveness of Antidu

News of Note

- President Obama Sends FY 2017 Budget Propo
- U.S. International Trade Commission Finds Un
- U.S. International Trade Commission Seeks Co

Contacts

Congress Approves Customs Bill

Lee Smith

On February 24, President Obama signed into law the Trade Facilitation and 2015 (H.R. 644), which the Senate had passed earlier in February by a 75-2 December 2015 by a 256-148 vote. Known generally as the "Customs bill," addresses several key topics, including prevention of evasion of antidumping (CVD) orders, import-related protection of intellectual property (IP) rights, enhanced engagement and review of potential currency manipulation. Also i affecting U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) modernization and imp generally, among many other issues. **More »**

Implementation Day Arrives for Iran Agreement

Shannon Doyle Barna

On January 16, the International Atomic Energy Agency announced that Ira nuclear-related commitments described under the Joint Comprehensive Plan about Implementation Day under the agreement. Implementation Day, the s obligates the United States and the EU to cease the application of a number against Iran. **More »**

The European Union Launches Public Consultation on China's N Status and the Impact on the Effectiveness of Antidumping Measu

Marcus Sohlberg

A public consultation has been launched by the European Commission in r certain provisions of China's Accession Protocol to the World Trade Organ status as a non-market economy (NME). The expiration of these provisions have an impact on the ability and the effectiveness of the European Union to imports from China. **More »**

News of Note

- **President Obama Sends FY 2017 Budget Proposal to Congress** – President Obama released his proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 201 ary 9,

- **U.S. International Trade Commission Finds Uncoated Paper Impor** *Long* – On February 9 , the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC imports of Certain Uncoated Paper from Australia, Brazil, China, Indone injured the U.S. industry. **More »** *Clint* ly

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- **U.S. International Trade Commission Seeks Comments on Trade i**
  Benner – The International Trade Commission (ITC) has issued a notice f the public provide information and views for use in the upcoming report on es Trade." **More »**

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From:	"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	5/4/2015 9:25:51 AM
Subject:	FOR REVIEW: Medium Post
Attachments:	Draft Podesta memo 2.0.docx

Hi John-

Just wanted to flag for you that Dan Sorenson has a hard copy draft of your Clinton Cash Medium post for your review and edits. Attached here as well. I'm around to chat if you want to see any larger thematic changes. Otherwise, I'll await edits from you via Dan.

The post was drafted by the Comms team with linguistic and stylistic edits from me.

Thanks!
Milia

--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To:	"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date:	3/21/2015 3:36:12 PM
Subject:	Re: SCHWEIZER / Clinton Cash

May have a line on it

On 3/21/15, 3:01 PM, "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> wrote:

>Adding Kristina who is poking around as well
>
>
>
>> On Mar 21, 2015, at 5:54 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
>>wrote:
>>
>> Definitely would be good to get a copyŠ
>>
>>
>> <Clinton Cash - Annoucement Release.doc>
>

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From:	"Campus Broadcast" <broadcast@law.georgetown.edu>
To:	"Campus Broadcast" <broadcast@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	9/8/2014 12:24:16 PM
Subject:	O'Neill Institute Colloquium: Focusing on Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and Key Populations in the National and Global Response to HIV/AIDS-Sept 10

O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law Colloquium:

Focusing on Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and
Key Populations in the National and Global Response to HIV/AIDS

Wednesday, September 10, 2014
1:20 – 3:20 p.m.

Georgetown University Law Center
Faculty Dining Room, Hotung Room 2001
550 First Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Chris Beyrer, MD
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Dr. Beyrer serves as Director of Johns Hopkins Training Program in HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Science, and as Founding Director of the Center for Public Health and Human Rights. He is the Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and of the University's Center for Global Health. He currently serves as a member of the men who have sex with men (MSM) Working Group of the HIV Prevention Trials Network. He has extensive experience in conducting international collaborative research and training programmes in HIV/AIDS and other infectious disease epidemiology, in infectious disease prevention research, HIV among Key Populations, and in health and human rights. As Director of the Johns Hopkins Fogarty AITRP Program, Dr. Beyrer provided fellowships for over 1,400 international scholars in HIV/AIDS prevention, research, and treatment. He served as Field Director of the Thai PAVE and HIVNET studies from 1992-1996, based in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, and has done extensive research in the epidemiology of HIV in Thailand, Burma, China, India and across Southeast Asia, in Russia and Kazakhstan, in Malawi, South Africa, and the United States. He is the author of the 1998 book "War in the Blood: Sex Politics and AIDS in Southeast Asia" and Co-Editor of Public Health and Human Rights: Evidence- Based Approaches. Dr. Beyrer has served as advisor to the US President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Program, the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, The Office of AIDS Research of the US National Institutes of Health, the US Military HIV Research Program, the World Bank, the Royal Thai Army Medical Corps and the Thai Red Cross, as well as numerous other organizations.

Gregorio Millett, MPH
amfAR
Gregorio Millett is a well-published and nationally recognized epidemiologist/researcher with significant experience working at the highest levels of federal HIV policy development at both the White House and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). From 2009 to 2011, Mr. Millett served as a detailee in the White House Office of National AIDS Policy as a Senior Policy Advisor. In this role, he coordinated the Office's policy and research activities, including HIV prevention policy and the federal-level inter-agency process to develop the National AIDS Strategy. Gregorio Millett is one of three principal writers of President Obama's National HIV/AIDS Strategy. He served on the organizing committee for the Washington, DC, Conference, and was the federal lead in organizing the U.S. government and White House activities around the 2012 International AIDS Conference. Mr. Millett also worked on a diverse array of policy issues during his tenure at the White House, including the elimination of the HIV entry ban that prohibited HIV-positive persons from travelling to or seeking residency in the United States; the temporary suspension of the ban prohibiting federal funding for domestic or global needle exchange programs; and the reallocation of HIV prevention resources by CDC to adopt a new funding formula for state and local health departments that better aligns funding with current disease burden. Prior to joining amfAR in May 2014, Mr. Millett served as the HHS/CDC Liaison to the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. Mr. Millett has been credited with changing the underlying assumptions among researchers of observed HIV infection disparities among black men who have sex with men (MsM) and is widely recognized as one of the first researchers to show no protective effect associated with male circumcision for MSM.

Jeffrey S. Crowley, MPH
O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law
Jeffrey Crowley is the Program Director of the National HIV/AIDS Initiative at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and Distinguished Scholar. Mr. Crowley is a widely recognized expert on HIV/AIDS and disability policy. From February 2009 through December 2011, he served as the Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy and Senior Advisor on Disability Policy for President Barack Obama. In this capacity, he led the development of our country's first domestic National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States, a five-year plan for aligning the efforts of all stakeholders to reduce the number of new HIV infections, increase access to care, and reduce HIV-related health disparities. The Strategy continues to guide the Administration's efforts in this area. He also coordinated disability policy development for the Domestic Policy Council and worked on the policy team that spearheaded the development and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

The O'Neill Institute Colloquium is open to all students, faculty, staff, and interested members of the public.

The hashtag for this event is #oneillcolloquium.

For more information on O'Neill Institute events, please visit http://www.law.georgetown.edu/oneillinstitute/ .

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 10/20/2014 2:42:52 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday October 20, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday October 20, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Associated Press, via The Republic: Hillary Clinton returns to San Francisco to headline Democratic fundraiser

"Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is returning to San Francisco to headline a Democratic fundraiser. Clinton is scheduled to address a sold-out women's luncheon at the Fairmont Hotel to raise money for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee."

Portland Press Herald: Hillary Clinton coming to Maine on Friday to stump for Michaud

"U.S. Rep. Mike Michaud's campaign said Sunday that former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will be in Scarborough on Friday to campaign with the Democratic candidate for governor."

Bloomberg: Getting Ready for Hillary Costs About $1,000 Per Hour

"Hillary Clinton's friendly super-PAC is spending roughly $23,000 a day – nearly as much as it's bringing in – as it builds a database of supporters and donors for a possible 2016 Democratic presidential bid."

Bloomberg: Could Hillary Clinton Blow a Lead This Big?

"The anybody-but-Clinton crowd would need a champion with even better closing speed than President Barack Obama to deny Hillary Clinton the party's presidential nomination again."

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Harper's Magazine: Stop Hillary! Vote no to a Clinton dynasty

"What is the case for Hillary (whose quasi-official website identifies her, in bold blue letters, by her first name only, as do millions upon millions of voters)? It boils down to this: She has experience, she's a woman, and it's her turn. It's hard to find any substantive political argument in her favor."

Huffington Post: Here Are 5 Takeaways From The Harper's Anti-Clinton Story

"In the November issue of Harper's magazine, Doug Henwood argues that Hillary Clinton, if elected president, would do little to assuage liberals' disappointment in President Barack Obama. This is how Henwood sums up the case for Hillary's candidacy in 2016: 'She has experience, she's a woman, and it's her turn.' But, he says, 'it's hard to find any political substance in her favor.'"

Des Moines Register: Sen. Warren raises the roof for Braley

"'Wow! Dynamite.' That was the assessment of longtime Iowa Democrat and Hillary Clinton supporter Bonnie Campbell after U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren delivered a fist-pumping call to action at today's rally for Bruce Braley."

New York Magazine: Andrew Cuomo and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Year

"Cuomo believes the center is still the most responsible place from which to govern New York—and the country… 'Where is the national Democratic Party now? Well, they're talking about Hillary Clinton. Her last name is Clinton, which represented that centrist-left platform. So I think that's where the party is nationwide. And the Clinton philosophy is still a winning philosophy.'"

Articles:

Associated Press, via The Republic: Hillary Clinton returns to San Francisco to headline Democratic fundraiser

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

[No author mentioned]

October 20, 2014 6:13 a.m. EDT

SAN FRANCISCO — Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is returning to San Francisco to headline a Democratic fundraiser.

Clinton is scheduled to address a sold-out women's luncheon at the Fairmont Hotel to raise money for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

The fundraiser will also feature House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi.

The former secretary of state gave the keynote address last week at Dreamforce 2014, a software convention held in San Francisco.

Clinton has traveled widely after leaving the State Department to give speeches to industry groups, college students and others.

A potential Democratic presidential candidate in 2016, Clinton also has been stepping up her campaign activity for Democrats in the weeks before the November elections.

Portland Press Herald: Hillary Clinton coming to Maine on Friday to stump for Michaud

By Dennis Hoey

October 19, 2014 5:15 p.m. EDT

With the debates in the tightly contested gubernatorial race due to end this week, one campaign – on the eve ofMonday night's televised debate – stepped up its efforts to attract undecided voters by announcing that one of the nation's best-known politicians will appear on its behalf in Maine this week.

U.S. Rep. Mike Michaud's campaign said Sunday that former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will be in Scarborough on Friday to campaign with the Democratic candidate for governor.

"There is so much at stake in this election, and we can't take anything for granted. If we want change in Augusta, we have to make it happen," Michaud said in a statement. "That's why I am so humbled and excited to have Hillary Clinton coming to Maine to rally voters and join me in energizing supporters so we can ensure a great turnout on Election Day."

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A spokesman for Gov. Paul LePage's re-election campaign responded to the news that the former first lady would speak to a crowd at Scarborough High School by saying that voters can expect to see at least one more "high-profile Republican" come to Maine on LePage's behalf before the Nov. 4 election.

Meanwhile, independent gubernatorial candidate Eliot Cutler, who has been endorsed by independent U.S. Sen. Angus King, a former Maine governor, said the news that Clinton would be coming to Maine is a sign "that (Michaud's) campaign is in trouble" and needs a jump-start from a big-name politician.

Monday's debate will be held on the Portland campus of the University of Southern Maine. The debate – to be aired on WGME-TV, Channel 13 – is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in Hannaford Hall.

The final scheduled televised debate will be Tuesday night at the Auburn studios of WMTW-TV, Channel 8. It also will start at 7 p.m.

Lizzy Reinholt, a spokeswoman for Michaud's campaign, said the previous debates have not significantly changed voters' opinions of the candidates.

"I think the dynamics remain the same. It's going to be a tight race between us and Gov. LePage," Reinholt said.

Most polls have placed Michaud and LePage in a tight race with Cutler trailing well behind, but Cutler says polls can be misleading.

"Polls are snapshots in time," Cutler said in a telephone interview Sunday night. "I'm more confident today than I was yesterday. The race is wide open."

Cutler said he believes that a strong showing by a candidate in a debate can influence the way a person votes, especially the large number of undecided voters that remain in Maine. In 2010, Cutler made a late surge in the governor's race and came close to defeating LePage.

Alex Willette, LePage's re-election campaign spokesman, said the governor has used previous debates as a way to communicate directly to voters.

"The governor has been able to get his message out without the fetters of a newspaper," Willette said. "People know he is a plain-spoken guy who doesn't mince words."

Willette noted that Republican Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey has visited Maine three times this year to campaign on behalf of LePage.

Former Republican Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida also came to Maine in February to host a fundraiser for the governor.

Willette said he was unable to disclose the identity of the high-profile Republican who is expected to come to Maine later this month.

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Reinholt said the Michaud campaign event that Clinton will attend at Scarborough High School will be open to the public beginning at 4:30 p.m. Friday. She said those who want to attend may RSVP atwww.michaud2014.com/hillary. President Obama is scheduled to appear Oct. 30 at the Portland Exposition Building on behalf of Michaud.

Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, and first lady Michelle Obama have already come to Maine this year to campaign for Michaud.

Cutler's campaign announced Sunday that he had received an endorsement from the Portsmouth Herald.

Bloomberg: Getting Ready for Hillary Costs About $1,000 Per Hour

By John McCormick

October 20, 2014 6:59 a.m. EDT

The super-PAC is building a list of supporters that is already hovering around 3 million.

Hillary Clinton's friendly super-PAC is spending roughly $23,000 a day – nearly as much as it's bringing in – as it builds a database of supporters and donors for a possible 2016 Democratic presidential bid.

Viewed another way: Getting Ready for Hillary costs her supporters about $2 million per quarter, covering expenses for everything from political consultants to voter databases to Des Moines hotel rooms, according to disclosure reports released October 15.

"Rather than building up a large bankroll, we have sought to invest in engaging our supporters and building our list for the day that Hillary's decision comes," said Seth Bringman, the super-PAC's spokesman.

It costs money to raise money, and the group's biggest expenses include printing, postage and online advertising. Payroll and travel costs also continue to grow. Bringman said the super-PAC has about 35 full-time employees. "Given that her decision is looming, I wouldn't anticipate that we will staff up much more," he said.

Based in a Virginia suburb outside Washington, Ready for Hillary raised $2 million and spent about $2.1 million during the quarter that ended September 30.

By comparison, Senator Rand Paul's Rand PAC spent a fraction of that, about $598,000 while raising $480,363. Like the Clinton group, the Republican is using his PAC to stockpile supporters and favors for a potential White House bid.

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Ready for Hillary's fundraising prowess has helped create what amounts to the most robust campaign infrastructure of any prospective 2016 candidate, whether Democrat or Republican. The group says it has connected with more than 3 million Clinton supporters, persuaded 900,000 people to sign a pledge to help her win if she runs and distributed 600,000 bumper stickers. Contributions have arrived from more than 100,000 people in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and every U.S. territory.

Nicco Mele, who teaches classes on the Internet and politics at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, has estimated that presidential candidates will probably need an online list of 1 million to 3 million people to be financially competitive.

To understand just how quickly the money can flow, look to mid-September, when Senator Tom Harkin's annual Steak Fry committee spent more than $50,000 for a private jet to shuttle Bill and Hillary Clinton into and out of Iowa. Ready for Hillary also racked up some major bills.

The super-PAC paid for hotel rooms for virtually its entire staff as well as key activists, roughly 60 to 70 people in total, Bringman said. The weekend bill at the Des Moines Marriott? More than $27,000.

"We wanted to make as big a contribution as possible," Bringman said, adding that staff and volunteers helped shuttle Democrats to the steak fry and pitched in to build the set for the one-day event. Ready for Hillary also contributed $5,000 directly to the steak fry committee and paid the Iowa Democratic Party $20,000 for its database of participants in the 2008 Iowa caucuses, Bringman said, adding that the group will be making similar data acquisitions in other states with early 2016 nomination contests.

"We've done a lot of work in Iowa compiling our list of supporters there," he said. "We want to understand who our supporters are and how best to communicate with them."

More expenses, as reported to the Federal Election Commission:

Airlines

Staff members went to Iowa and back, but that wasn't all of their travel. During the third quarter the super-PAC spent $69,657 with three airlines – Delta, US Airways and United. Staff members routinely travel to train volunteers and coordinate fundraisers events, Bringman said.

Stamps and snail mail

It may be a dot-com world, but Hillary's allies still spend plenty on postage stamps. Stamps.com was paid $38,280 during the quarter. An additional $5,164 went to the Postal Service. And Windward Strategies of Bethesda, Md. got more cash from the group than any other entity: $558,319 for "direct mail production," which Bringman said includes design, copy, printing and postage.

Networking

Ready for Hillary also set out to make friends, donating about $58,000 to candidates and state-level political parties, mostly in states with early nomination contests. Its biggest contribution during the quarter – $25,000 –

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was to Jack Hatch's campaign for Iowa governor. The Democrat trailed Republican Governor Terry Branstad in a recent Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa Poll, but he could provide a valuable network of political activists if Clinton decides to run.

Bloomberg: Could Hillary Clinton Blow a Lead This Big?

By Jonathan Allen

October 19, 2014 12:15 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The gap between HRC and her competition for a presidential nomination keeps growing.

The anybody-but-Clinton crowd would need a champion with even better closing speed than President Barack Obama to deny Hillary Clinton the party's presidential nomination again.

A new ABC/Washington Post poll shows Clinton with a 51-point lead over Vice President Joe Biden, her nearest competitor for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination. Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, who has said she won't run, comes in third.

Clinton's 64-13-11 advantage over Biden and Warren is consistent with other recent polling, and it will surely renew calls from anti-Clinton corners to remember just how far she fell in 2008.

It wasn't this far.

In October 2006, Clinton led then-Senator Barack Obama by — wait for it — 11 points. Over the next year, she would expand her 28-17 advantage in that CNN poll as Obama failed to gain significant ground.

Clinton peaked in October 2007, taking 51 percent of registered Democrats in CNN and CBS polls and registering a 31-point lead over Obama — 48-17 — in an L.A. Times/Bloomberg survey.

Harper's Magazine: Stop Hillary! Vote no to a Clinton dynasty

By Doug Henwood

November 2014 Issue

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"How's that hopey, changey stuff working out for you?" Sarah Palin asked American voters in a taunting 2010 speech. The answer: Not so well. We avoided a full-blown depression, but the job market remains deeply sick, and it's become quite mainstream to talk about the U.S. economy having fallen into structural stagnation (though the rich are thriving). Barack Obama has, if anything, seemed more secretive than George W. Bush. He kills alleged terrorists whom his predecessor would merely have tortured. The climate crisis gets worse, and the political capacity even to talk about it, much less do anything about it, is completely absent. These aren't the complaints Palin would make, of course. But people who voted for Obama in 2008 were imagining a more peaceful, more egalitarian world, and they haven't gotten it.

Be of good cheer, though. Many savants — and not all of them Democrats — have a solution for 2016. That would be putting Hillary Clinton in the White House.

What is the case for Hillary (whose quasi-official website identifies her, in bold blue letters, by her first name only, as do millions upon millions of voters)? It boils down to this: She has experience, she's a woman, and it's her turn. It's hard to find any substantive political argument in her favor. She has, in the past, been associated with women's issues, with children's issues — but she also encouraged her husband to sign the 1996 bill that put an end to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (AFDC), which had been in effect since 1935. Indeed, longtime Clinton adviser Dick Morris, who has now morphed into a right-wing pundit, credits Hillary for backing both of Bill's most important moves to the center: the balanced budget and welfare reform.1 And during her subsequent career as New York's junior senator and as secretary of state, she has scarcely budged from the centrist sweet spot, and has become increasingly hawkish on foreign policy.

1 Morris's ties to the Clinton machine go back nearly four decades. That said, his pronouncements on both Bill and Hillary should be taken with a substantial grain of salt. Their mutual-admiration society collapsed in 1996, when media reports about Morris's frolics with prostitutes caused his expulsion from Bill's reelection campaign. Since then, the uber-consultant has turned on his old patrons, flaying them in such books as Rewriting History (2004) and Because He Could (2004), and founding, in September 2013, a PAC called Just Say No to Hillary. On the subject of Morris, Hillary has for years kept conspicuously mum. On the subject of Hillary, Morris was typically dismissive when we spoke in July. "She's a trial lawyer who fights for a position," he told me. "But she's not creative and she's not a broad strategic-policy thinker." The gun-for-hire accusation was particularly poignant coming from Morris, who has worked for figures as diverse as Jesse Helms and Howard Metzenbaum, Trent Lott and Kenyan presidential contender Raila Odinga — and who, indeed, was advising House Republicans at the same time he was rescuing Bill's imperiled presidency after the 1994 midterms.

What Hillary will deliver, then, is more of the same. And that shouldn't surprise us. As wacky as it sometimes appears on the surface, American politics has an amazing stability and continuity about it. Obama, widely viewed as a populist action hero during the 2008 campaign, made no bones about his admiration for Ronald Reagan. The Gipper, he said,

changed the trajectory of America in a way that Richard Nixon did not and in a way that Bill Clinton did not. He put us on a fundamentally different path because the country was ready for it. I think they felt [that] with all the excesses of the Sixties and the Seventies, government had grown and grown, but there wasn't much sense of accountability in terms of how it was operating.

Now, the "excesses of the Sixties and the Seventies" included things like feminism, gay liberation, the antiwar movement, a militant civil rights movement — all good things, in my view, but I know that many people disagree. In any case, coming into office with something like a mandate, Obama never tried to make a sharp political break with the past, as Reagan did from the moment of his first inaugural address. Reagan dismissed the postwar Keynesian consensus — the idea that government had a responsibility to soften the sharpest edges of capitalism by fighting recession and providing some sort of basic safety net. Appropriating some of the language of the left about revolution and the promise of the future, he unleashed what he liked to call the magic of the marketplace: cutting taxes for the rich, eliminating regulations, and whittling away at social spending.

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What Reagan created, with his embrace of the nutty Laffer curve and his smiling war on organized labor, was a strange, unequally distributed boom that lasted through the early 1990s. After the caretaker George H. W. Bush administration evaporated, Bill Clinton took over and, with a few minor adjustments, kept the party going for another decade. Profits skyrocketed, as did the financial markets.

But there was a contradiction under it all: a system dependent on high levels of mass consumption for both economic dynamism and political legitimacy has a problem when mass purchasing power is squeezed. For a few decades, consumers borrowed to make up for what their paychecks were lacking. But that model broke down once and for all with the crisis of 2008. Today we desperately need a new political economy — one that features a more equal distribution of income, investment in our rotting social and physical infrastructure, and a more humane ethic. We also need a judicious foreign policy, and a commander-in-chief who will resist the instant gratification of air strikes and rhetorical bluster.

Is Hillary Clinton the answer to these prayers? It's hard to think so, despite the widespread liberal fantasy of her as a progressive paragon, who will follow through exactly as Barack Obama did not. In fact, a close look at her life and career is perhaps the best antidote to all these great expectations.

The historical record, such as it is, may also be the only antidote, since most progressives are unwilling to discuss Hillary in anything but the most general, flattering terms. Pundits who have written about her in the past dismissed my queries in rude and patronizing ways. Strangely, though, I was contacted out of nowhere by a representative of something called American Bridge, who wanted to make my acquaintance. At first I thought it was a new think tank — but I soon found out it was a pro-Hillary lobbying group formed by the G.O.P. apostate David Brock. I can't prove it, of course, but it sure felt like the Hillary machine was subtly attempting to spin this piece. Brock himself declined to speak with me, as did a diplomat who had worked for Hillary at the State Department. Apparently you have to take a loyalty oath to get an interview.

Hillary Rodham grew up in the affluent Chicago suburb of Park Ridge, Illinois. In her child-rearing manual, It Takes a Village (1996), she recalls that her family "looked like it was straight out of the 1950s television sitcom Father Knows Best."

Hillary has a long history of being economical with the truth.2 One can forgive her reticence about sharing the traumas of her childhood, which included her father cutting down his brother's corpse from a noose. But it was not the stuff of sitcoms. As Gail Sheehy reports, Hugh Rodham was an "authoritarian drillmaster," a reactionary who demanded austerity, discipline, and self-reliance. Displays of emotion were regarded as signs of weakness. Her mother, Dorothy Rodham, fought loudly with her husband — but ultimately put up with him, as Hillary would with her future husband.

2 Discussing her voluminous but minimally informative memoir Living History (2003), Carl Bernstein noted that it was mostly valuable for its "insight into how Hillary sees herself and wants the story of her life to be told. It is often at variance with my reporting, other books, and with newspapers and periodicals as well."

Hillary absorbed the conservatism of her father and her surroundings. In junior high, she fell under the influence of a history teacher, Paul Carlson, a frothing McCarthyite. As Carlson told Sheehy, the young Hillary was "a hawk."

Soon after, though, she found another guru, one she would stick with for years — a young minister at the First Methodist Church of Park Ridge named Don Jones. Jones was a dashing intellectual who helped open Hillary's mind. He got the church youth reading D. H. Lawrence, listening to Bob Dylan, and talking about Picasso. He took them to the South Side of Chicago to meet with black and Latino teenagers. In January 1963, Jones upped the ante further and brought Hillary to hear Martin Luther King Jr. speak in Chicago — and escorted her onstage

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to meet him. She was moved, but not enough to stop her from campaigning for Goldwater in 1964.

Then she was off to Wellesley, where she eventually began to feel alienated from what she called “the entire unreality of middle-class America.” Still, Hillary was not about to become a student revolutionary: identifying herself as an “agnostic intellectual liberal [and] emotional conservative,” she stayed away from the protests and picket lines.

Hillary wrote her undergraduate thesis on the founder of community organizing, Saul Alinsky. Her academic adviser, Alan Schechter, told Bill’s biographer David Maraniss that she “started out thinking community action programs would make a big difference,” but later dismissed them as “too idealistic and simplistic” and compromised by their dependence on outside money and help. There’s an interesting hint of Hillary’s future in her characterization of Alinsky’s thinking: “Welfare programs since the New Deal have neither redeveloped poverty areas nor even catalyzed the poor into helping themselves. A cycle of dependency has been created which ensnares its victims into resignation and apathy.” While there’s an element of truth to this, Alinsky’s remedy was for poor people to claim political power on their own behalf. Hillary, as we have already seen, would instead support welfare “reform” in the 1990s, leaving single mothers at the mercy of the low-wage job market.

During Hillary’s senior year, a movement arose to have a student speaker at graduation, and she was universally seen as the one for the job. Her remarks, though enthusiastically received, were meandering. What stands out, however, is this remarkable passage:

We are, all of us, exploring a world that none of us even understands and attempting to create within that uncertainty. But there are some things we feel, feelings that our prevailing, acquisitive, and competitive corporate life, including tragically the universities, is not the way of life for us. We’re searching for more immediate, ecstatic, and penetrating modes of living.

3 Bill, another pragmatist to the core, hit a similarly emotional note during a 1993 speech to the National Realtors Association, in which he quoted some cherished lines by Carl Sandburg: “A tough will counts. So does desire. / So does a rich soft wanting. / Without rich wanting nothing arrives.” That’s right. Under all that duplicity and ambition, they’re just a pair of romantics.

That is not the Hillary we know today.3 But the practical Hillary has always had a gift for overruling the ecstatic and penetrating Hillary: when Alinsky offered her an organizing job after college, she rejected it in favor of law school. He said, “Well, that’s no way to change anything.” She responded: “Well, I see a different way from you. And I think there is a real opportunity.”

It’s widely known that Hillary and Bill met when they were students at Yale Law School; it’s less known that their first date essentially involved crossing a picket line. Bill suggested they go to a Rothko exhibition at the university’s art gallery, but it was closed because of a strike by unionized employees. After clearing away some garbage that had piled up during the strike, Bill convinced a guard to let them in. Hillary was impressed — and not for the first time — by his powers of persuasion. She found him “complex,” with “lots of layers.”

By Yale Law standards, Hillary was a conservative, which meant that she opposed the Vietnam War but still basically believed in American institutions. Despite looking like a hippie in her tinted glasses and candy-striped slacks, she had no patience for the utopianism of the time.

In 1973, the year after she graduated from law school, she published a paper in the Harvard Educational Review on the legal rights of children. She’d gotten interested in the topic when she heard Marian Wright Edelman — the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi bar — speak at Yale. After the lecture, she approached Edelman and ended up working at her D.C.-based public-interest law firm during the summer of 1970, focusing on the

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conditions of migrant farm laborers and their families.

Although the right would later denounce Hillary's paper as a radical anti-family screed, which supposedly advocated turning over the work of child-rearing to the state, it was anything but. In "Children Under the Law," she concluded that the state was obliged to intervene only in the case of actual harm to children — a standard that had to be extremely strict:

Only medically justifiable reasons for intervention should be acceptable. Parental behavior that does not result in medically diagnosable harm to a child should not be allowed to trigger intervention, however offensive that behavior may be to the community.

It was the first in a series of legal articles on children and families, and an early instance of what she would characterize as a lifelong interest in such issues. Hillary later chaired the board of Edelman's Children's Defense Fund (CDF) — though her relationship with her former mentor would be strained by Bill's 1996 welfare legislation, which Edelman angrily condemned, declaring that his "signature on this pernicious bill makes a mockery of his pledge not to hurt children."

Soon after his own graduation, Bill returned to Arkansas — first for a stint as a law professor, and then to run for Congress. He advised John Doar, who was putting together the legal team for the Nixon impeachment case, to hire Hillary, who was then at the CDF. Yet according to Maraniss, Bill also sounded out the Arkansas politician David Pryor for his thoughts on how this might affect his own political future. "He knew that his career would be in politics," Pryor told Maraniss, "and the question was whether Hillary's connection with the Watergate committee might have political ramifications."

In any case, she was hired. On the impeachment-committee staff, Hillary became friends with Bernard Nussbaum, who would later serve as Bill's White House counsel. She told him — and anyone else who would listen — that her boyfriend was destined to be president someday. Nussbaum, not surprisingly, thought this was delusional. In Sheehy's account, Hillary tore into him:

You asshole. Bernie, you're a jerk. You don't know this guy. I know this guy. So don't pontificate to me. He is going to be president of the United States.

Of course, expectations were high for her too. So what to do after the impeachment committee dissolved in 1974? She could go back to the CDF. She could go to Washington, work at a law firm, and get a feel for politics — a route complicated by her having failed the D.C. bar exam, an embarrassing fact she kept secret for thirty years. Or she could move to Arkansas to be with Bill. She had visited a few times, but moving to the sticks made her nervous.

She chose Arkansas, where Bill's 1974 congressional campaign was already under way. He lost. But he also made a name for himself, challenging an incumbent against long odds and almost beating him, and immediately began thinking of the next race. His eye was on the governorship, but he thought attorney general might be a better first step.

Hillary, meanwhile, was teaching law and running the school's legal-aid clinic. They spent lots of time together, but marriage was still an open question. She had political ambitions and worried that she would be a bad feminist if she took on family obligations. To gauge the wisdom of marrying Bill, who had already proposed several times, she went back East and canvassed her friends. When she returned to Arkansas, Bill greeted her with a house he had just bought and another marriage proposal. She accepted.

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During his 1976 campaign for attorney general, Bill alienated the state's unions by refusing to support the repeal of Arkansas's right-to-work law. It was the first in a long line of gestures aimed at distancing himself from traditional liberal politics. This election he won — though everyone knew the office was just a stepping stone.

The young couple moved from the relatively bohemian Fayetteville to the more formal Little Rock. Hillary went from the legal clinic to the Rose Law Firm, which represented the moneyed interests of Arkansas. It did not hurt her prospects at the firm that her husband was the state's chief legal officer. Not that Bill planned to stay AG for very long. Less than a year after the election, his chief of staff called in a brash young political consultant from New York, Dick Morris, to evaluate Bill's next step — governor or senator? Morris urged a race for governor, beginning a twenty-year association, interrupted by occasional storms, between the crafty tactician and both Clintons.

While at Rose, Hillary's allegiances began to shift. The community-organizing group ACORN, then based in Arkansas and very much in the Alinsky tradition, got a ballot measure passed that would lower electricity rates for residential users in Little Rock and raise them for commercial users. Business, of course, was not pleased, and filed a legal challenge, with Rose representing them. Wade Rathke, the founder of ACORN and a friend of Hillary's, was shocked to see her arguing the case in court. And not only did she argue the case — she helped to craft the underlying legal strategy, which was that the new rate schedule amounted to an unconstitutional "taking of property." This is now a common right-wing argument against regulation, and Hillary was one of its early architects.

Bill won the 1978 gubernatorial election and embraced as one of his signature programs the improvement of the state's miserable highway system. He chose to finance it by raising automobile license fees — which proved enormously unpopular and was a major reason he lost his bid for reelection two years later.

Almost as soon as the ballots were counted, Bill and his consigliere began plotting his comeback. Morris's polling discovered that the people of Arkansas liked Bill, more or less, but saw him as someone who had gone astray at Yale and Oxford. Morris advised him to do a televised mea culpa, which he did. And Hillary, who'd been sticking with her maiden name like the feminist she was, now took Bill's. He won. And he, Hillary, and Morris together decided that the best way to conduct politics was through a permanent campaign. Policy and polling would be inseparable.

This model of governance also depended on enemies. Bill & Co. — and Hillary was intimately involved with this choice from the beginning — picked the teachers' union. A court had declared the Arkansas education-finance system unconstitutional: it was woefully unequal, with teachers in some districts paid so poorly that they qualified for food stamps. Raising taxes in any serious manner would be a political challenge. So the Clinton team paired a modest, one-point increase in the sales tax with a proposed competence test for teachers. The Arkansas public was not fond of the teachers' union, Morris found, so Bill could present himself as doing it all for the kids. And, as Morris noted, it was a politically crafty break from the Old Democrat left.

As Bernstein recounts, the Arkansas State Teachers Association "was not exactly the antichrist, and in fact had done some pretty good things in a state where the legislature had typically accorded more attention to protecting the rights of poultry farmers to saturate half of Arkansas's topsoil with chicken feces than providing its children with a decent education." But setting them up as the enemy paid rich political dividends. Clinton got the tax increase and the competence test.

These measures did not, however, lead to any significant improvement in the state's educational performance. A review of the reform efforts by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation later found "a serious, large demoralization of the teaching force. They feel constrained by what they perceive to be a stranglehold of mandates, needless paperwork and limited encouragement." The problems of the educational system were so structural, so deeply rooted in the state's poverty and backwardness, that it would require a wholesale overhaul of the political economy to fix them — and the Clintons weren't about to take that on.

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Instead, they were laying the groundwork for what would eventually hit the national stage as the New Democrat movement, which took institutional form as the Democratic Leadership Council. Teacher testing and right-to-work were nice ways to show his (their, really) distance from organized labor. Bill went light on environmental enforcement and spread around tax breaks in the name of economic development. Tyson Foods, the major producer of that aforementioned chicken shit, got nearly $8 million in such breaks between 1988 and 1990, at a time when the company's budget was twice the state's.

When she wasn't busy doing political work for the Clinton enterprise, Hillary was defending the leading lights of Arkansas business at Rose and serving on corporate boards — including the viciously anti-union Walmart (though she did encourage the company to begin a recycling program). And inevitably, there were connections between Rose and the state government, from routine bond issues to more complex litigation. It was all a little smelly, and would later cause the couple no end of headaches.

The Clintons had outgrown Arkansas. Bill contemplated running for president in 1988 but decided not to, in part because he was terrified that one or more of his countless paramours would come forward. But four years later, he found his nerve. There were still plenty of skeletons in the closet, of course. An internal campaign memo from March 1992 listed more than seventy-five potential problems for the candidacy. Among them, needless to say, were Bill's many women — but about two thirds of the sore spots involved both Bill and Hillary, and eighteen of them pertained to Hillary's work at Rose.

He won anyway. It was the next stage of what they had earlier called the Journey — their joint venture to change the world. (Hillary's private slogan was: "Eight years of Bill, eight years of Hill.") They settled into something resembling a copresidency, with Hillary exercising an influence no previous First Lady ever had. And she caused trouble right from the start. Always suspicious of the media, she shut off reporters' access to the West Wing of the White House. It ended up alienating the press to no good effect.

More substantively, Hillary was given responsibility for running the health-care reform agenda. It was very much a New Democrat scheme. Rejecting a Canadian-style single-payer system, Hillary and her team came up with an impossibly complex arrangement called "managed competition." Employers would be encouraged to provide health care to their workers, individuals would be assembled into cooperatives with some bargaining power, and competition among providers would keep costs down. But it was done in total secrecy, with no attempt to cultivate support in Congress or among the public for what would be a massive piece of legislation — and one vehemently opposed by the medical-industrial complex.

At a meeting with Democratic leaders in April 1993, Senator Bill Bradley suggested that she might need to compromise to get a bill passed. Hillary would have none of it: the White House would "demonize" any legislators who stood in her way. Bradley was stunned. Years later, he told Bernstein:

That was it for me in terms of Hillary Clinton. You don't tell members of the Senate you are going to demonize them. It was obviously so basic to who she is. The arrogance. . . . The disdain.

Health-care reform was a conspicuous failure, and most of the blame has to fall on Hillary. Dusting herself off, she soon reinvented herself as a freewheeling "advocate." In Living History, she recalls changing gears to focus on "children's health issues, breast cancer prevention, and protecting funding for public television, legal services, and the arts." She campaigned for changes in the adoption laws and for a bill to guarantee that newborns and their mothers wouldn't be kicked out of the hospital sooner than forty-eight hours after the birth. It was all very high-minded, and good for her image, but of limited impact.

She did, however, throw her weight behind Bill's controversial initiative to (as he put it more than once) "end welfare as we know it." In Living History, she insists that welfare reform was designed to be "the beginning, not

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the end, of our concern for the poor." Really? The whole point of welfare reform was disciplining the poor, not helping them. Still, she bragged that during the Clinton era, "welfare rolls had dropped 60 percent from 14.1 million to 5.8 million, and millions of parents had gone to work."

Of course, those gains came during the strongest economic expansion of the past several decades, which was itself the byproduct of the unsustainable dot-com bubble. In August 2014, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities published a report on how the Clinton welfare regime, officially designated as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), had worked out over the longer term. They found that TANF is serving fewer families despite increased demand, that the value of benefits has eroded to the point where beneficiaries can't meet their basic needs, and that it does far less to reduce poverty than its predecessor, AFDC. In addition, the report noted that almost all of the early employment gains for single mothers have since been reversed.

And then there were the scandals, many of them Hillary's. The most famous was Whitewater, a word it pains me to type. Democrats love to say that there was nothing to that scandal. While it was certainly not the diabolical conspiracy Republicans made it out to be during the fevered days of the Clinton impeachment, it was not nothing. In short: A sleazy and well-connected pal of the Clintons, Jim McDougal, came to them in 1978 with a proposal to invest in a piece of undeveloped riverfront land in the Ozark Mountains that he hoped to turn into vacation homes. They took the bait — and paid almost no attention afterward, which turned out to be a mistake.

What happened was that McDougal then bought himself a savings and loan association, which he renamed Madison Guaranty and used to fund his real estate ventures, Whitewater among them. Speculators operating on borrowed money are always dangerous — doubly so when they've got their own bank to draw on. And Madison Guaranty, like hundreds of other S&Ls in the early 1980s, was bleeding money. By 1985, a desperate McDougal hired Rose to handle the bank's legal affairs. That was malodorous in itself, since Madison was regulated by the state and a Rose partner was the governor's wife. But the Clintons, of course, were also investors in McDougal's schemes. The fact that they appear to have lost money on Whitewater, and were never convicted of any criminal behavior in connection with the scandal, hardly excuses this farcical round-robin of ethical conflicts.

4 Their escape from the Whitewater morass is all the more striking when you consider what happened to the other participants. Jim McDougal was convicted of eighteen counts of felony fraud and conspiracy in connection with rotten Madison Guaranty loans; his wife, Susan McDougal, served eighteen months in prison for refusing to testify about the scandal, before receiving a presidential pardon from Bill; and even Bill's successor as Arkansas governor, Jim Guy Tucker, was sentenced to four years on Whitewater-related conspiracy and mail-fraud charges.

Yet Whitewater itself is of far less interest than how Hillary handled it: with lies, half-truths, and secrecy. She initially claimed during the 1992 campaign that she hadn't represented clients before state regulators. She then backpedaled and said that she had "tried to avoid such involvement and cannot recall any instance other than the Madison Guaranty matter in which I had any involvement, and my involvement there was minimal." In fact, Madison wasn't the only instance. Another was the Southern Development Bancorporation, which paid Rose more than $100,000 in fees and received $300,000 in state investments.

5 Longtime readers of this magazine may recall "Fool for Scandal," a 1994 report in which Gene Lyons demolished much of the accepted wisdom about what he called the "Great Whitewater Political Scandal and Multimedia Extravaganza." Lyons makes a convincing case that Bill did not lean on the Arkansas Securities Commission to treat his friend and business partner with kid gloves. But in discussing Hillary's legal representation of McDougal's enterprise, even Lyons grows uneasy: "For Hillary Rodham Clinton to have ventured anywhere near Madison in any capacity was a damn fool thing to do."

Hillary also claimed the Rose billing records for the Madison case, which were under multiple subpoenas, had disappeared. Then they suddenly reappeared, discovered by a personal assistant in a room in the residential quarters of the White House. When asked about this mysterious turn of events, Hillary responded as if she, too, were an injured party: "I, like everyone else, would like to know the answer about how those documents showed

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up after all these years." The records showed that far from having a trivial role in representing Madison, she had actually billed for sixty hours of work.

Although it's been more than thirteen years since the Clintons left the White House, it's amazing how little there is to say about Hillary's subsequent career. If she was going to follow through on the eight-of-Bill-eight-of-Hill plan, she certainly needed a new political perch. Despite never having lived in New York — or, according to Dick Morris, ever having shown the slightest interest in the city or state — she decided to run for the Senate seat that Daniel Moynihan was vacating in 2000.

Hillary was plainly a carpetbagger. One way she fought that perception was by engaging in a "listening tour" early in her candidacy, crisscrossing the state that she barely knew, learning its physical and social geography, and trying to convince voters that she cared. But listening wasn't the point — flattering voters was. As Elizabeth Kolbert wrote in The New Yorker, "Here was a woman who could be doing anything, and what she wanted to do was to expand broadband access in Cattaraugus County."

6 What makes the book strange is its central (and now counterfactual) argument: The only thing that will stop Hillary's inevitable march to the presidency in 2008 is a Condoleezza Rice candidacy. Morris assured me that I would find the list of Hillary's accomplishments "adorable."

And that was precisely the sort of issue that Hillary focused on after winning the election. In Condi vs. Hillary (2005), a strange book that Dick Morris wrote with his wife, Eileen McGann, there's a list of her senatorial accomplishments.6 Drawing on Library of Congress records, the authors report that Hillary passed a total of twenty bills during her first five years in the Senate. Fifteen of them were purely symbolic: supporting Better Hearing and Speech Month, honoring Alexander Hamilton on the bicentennial of his death, congratulating the Le Moyne College men's lacrosse team on a big win. Others encouraged the use of electric cars or high-efficiency lightbulbs.

Granted, this is the stuff of retail politics. But what of her more substantive legislative achievements? One of these, allegedly, is the passage of something called the Nurse Retention and Quality of Care Act, which she cosponsored with the Oregon Republican Gordon Smith. But a Senate staffer told Morris that the bill was going to pass anyway, and that to claim Hillary "was instrumental in passing it is pure puff." There was also legislation extending unemployment benefits for victims of 9/11 (what New York senator wouldn't have pushed for something like that?). And according to Steven Brill's exhaustive After: The Rebuilding and Defending of America in the September 12 Era, it was the state's senior senator, Chuck Schumer, who did most of the heavy lifting on those bills.

What Hillary did do was make friends with her Republican colleagues. While ideologically dubious, it did have the long-term benefit of softening potential opposition to her future campaigns for the presidency. As Daniel Halper (a smart, nonrabid conservative) writes in his recent book Clinton, Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine:

I spoke to many, if not all, of Senator Clinton's biggest opponents within the Republican Party during her time as First Lady. On or off the record, no matter how much they were coaxed, not one of them would say a negative thing about Hillary Clinton as a person — other than observing that her Democratic allies sometimes didn't like her.

She buddied up to John McCain and attended prayer breakfasts with right-wingers like Sam Brownback of Kansas. She befriended Republicans who had served as floor managers of her husband's impeachment. Even Newt Gingrich has good things to say about her.

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Oh, and she voted for the Iraq war, and continued to defend it long after others had thrown in the towel. She cast that vote without having read the full National Intelligence Estimate, which was far more skeptical about Iraq's armaments than the bowdlerized version that was made public — strange behavior for someone as disciplined and thorough as Hillary. She also accused Saddam Hussein of having ties to Al Qaeda, which was closer to the Bush line than even many pro-war Democrats were willing to go. Alas, of all her senatorial accomplishments, this one arguably had the biggest impact. The rest were the legislative equivalent of being against breast cancer.

There was the debacle of 2008, in the course of which she squandered an initial two-to-one lead over her closest opponent for the Democratic nomination. And there was her ascension, once the hopey, changey tidal wave put Obama in the White House, to secretary of state. To be fair to Hillary, Obama never allowed her much power in that post. An unnamed "former high-ranking diplomat" told Halper that the president "brought her into the administration, put her in a bubble, and ignored her." Foreign policy was run mostly out of the White House by people with little experience in the area, and Obama, fearful of appearing soft, often deferred to military and intelligence personnel.

For her own part, Hillary was less of a diplomat and more of a hawk, who had made a campaign-trail promise in 2008 to "totally obliterate" Iran in the event of an attack on Israel. Part of this may have been pure temperament, or an impulse to prove that she was tougher than a man. But she may also have been reacting against public perception of the job itself. As the feminist scholar Cynthia Enloe, who specializes in gender and militarism, told me in a 2004 interview, there's a "long history of trying to feminize the State Department in American inner circles." Diplomats are caricatured as upper-class pansies instead of manly warriors. Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld even attempted to feminize Colin Powell, she argued, "which is pretty hard to do with somebody who has been a general."

But the problem becomes particularly acute with a female secretary of state — and Hillary countered it with a macho eagerness to call in the U.S. Cavalry. She backed an escalation of the Afghanistan war, lobbied on behalf of a continuing military presence in Iraq, urged Obama to bomb Syria, and supported the intervention in Libya. As Michael Crowley wrote in Time, "On at least three crucial issues — Afghanistan, Libya, and the bin Laden raid — Clinton took a more aggressive line than [Defense Secretary Robert] Gates, a Bush-appointed Republican."

On the other hand, Hillary and her backers might well stress her skimpy résumé as a peacemaker. Correct the Record, a pro-Hillary PR organization also run by David Brock, informs visitors on its website that she traveled 956,733 miles as secretary of state. This fact then links to a list of her accomplishments at the State Department. For instance, she helped to restore America's "leadership and standing in the world," though the only metrics offered to support this are the miles logged and meetings taken with "foreign leaders in 112 countries." She worked to avoid all-out war in Gaza (oops) and developed the "pivot to Asia" strategy, which "will probably be Obama's most lasting strategic achievement" (though it would be hard to describe just what that is). She negotiated free-trade pacts with Colombia and South Korea, despite her newfound reservations about NAFTA during the 2008 campaign. She elevated the cause of women's rights — which is entirely laudable, but seems to have had little impact in what the website refers to as "deeply reactionary cultures."

Since leaving the State Department, Hillary has devoted herself to what we can only call (echoing Halper's title) Clinton, Inc. This fund-raising, favor-dispensing machine is key to understanding her joint enterprise with Bill. Unlike the Bush family, an old-style WASP dynasty for all W.'s populist bluster and blunder, the Clintons are arrivistes who approach politics in a highly neoliberal manner. That means nonstop self-promotion, huge book advances, and fat speaking fees (Hillary has now joined Bill in the six-figure club). It means the various Clinton foundations, which were led first by Bill, but now include Hillary and Chelsea. According to a Wall Street Journal investigation, they've collectively raised between $2 and $3 billion since 1992, three quarters of it from business interests, with finance the leading sector.

And with an eye to the presidency, Hillary has also kept up her line of neocon patter, while carefully separating herself from Obama. In a notorious interview with Jeffrey Goldberg, she declared her enthusiastic support for Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and for Israel's pummeling of Gaza. She claimed that she's always been against Iran's right to enrich uranium (though in 2010 she actually said otherwise). Prominent neocons

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such as Robert Kagan and Max Boot have made supportive noises about Hillary — and with an isolationist wing rising within the Republican party, advocates of a countervailing “muscular” foreign policy might do considerably more as 2016 approaches.

When I spoke to Dick Morris, I asked him how Hillary would differentiate herself from Obama during the 2016 campaign. His prediction: She would say that her predecessor had outlined a beautiful vision, but now voters “need someone who can get things done.” He added that she would criticize Obama for not having armed the Syrians rebels earlier. Two weeks later, in her conversation with Goldberg, Hillary did exactly that, while also suggesting that the president was to blame for the rise of ISIL. (In a revoltingly laudatory Washington Post review of Henry Kissinger’s new book, Hillary distinguishes between the president’s first term, during which they “laid the foundation” for a new approach to international relations — and the “crises of the second term,” as if the world suddenly changed when she strolled out of the State Department.)

Morris’s record as a political fortune-teller is hardly unspotted (he predicted a landslide for Mitt Romney the last time around), and who knows what sort of long game this Fox-friendly Republican could be playing? For what it’s worth, though, he’s assigned Elizabeth Warren the same sort of spoiler role he gave to Condoleezza Rice in the 2008 contest. Morris told me that if the Massachusetts senator “or some genuine figure from the new populist left of the Democratic Party” were to challenge Hillary, “they could upend her in much the same way that Obama did in 2008.” Warren, meanwhile, swears she doesn’t want to run, even as Hillary dons the mantle of inevitability for the second time.

Eight years of Hill? Four, even? To borrow her anti-McCain jab from the 2008 Democratic convention: No way, no how!

Huffington Post: Here Are 5 Takeaways From The Harper's Anti-Clinton Story

By Sam Levine

October 19, 2014, 9:00 p.m. EDT

In the November issue of Harper’s magazine, Doug Henwood argues that Hillary Clinton, if elected president, would do little to assuage liberals' disappointment in President Barack Obama. This is how Henwood sums up the case for Hillary’s candidacy in 2016: “She has experience, she’s a woman, and it’s her turn.” But, he says, “it’s hard to find any political substance in her favor.”

Tracing Clinton’s life from her upbringing to her time at the State Department, Henwood portrays her as a pragmatic politician motivated more by ambition than by principle. Here are five key takeaways from Henwood’s piece:

1. Hillary Clinton didn’t do much during her time in the U.S. Senate.

Relying on records collected by former Clinton adviser Dick Morris, Henwood argues that the legislation Clinton passed during her first five years in the Senate had little substance. The vast majority of bills, according to Henwood, were purely symbolic or would have passed without Clinton’s support. Clinton did work to extend

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unemployment benefits for 9/11 responders, but Haywood cites Steven Brill's book, The Rebuilding and Defending of America in the September 12Era, to make the case that Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) was actually responsible for pushing the legislation through.

Even though she didn't have much of a legislative impact in the Senate, Clinton did spend a lot of time befriending Republicans like Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), who could potentially support her in a presidential campaign, Henwood says.

Clinton's most substantial legislative accomplishment, Henwood says, is her support for the Iraq War. The rest of her accomplishments in the Senate "were the legislative equivalent of being against breast cancer."

2. Hillary Clinton is a hawk.

In addition to her support for the Iraq War, Henwood notes, Clinton also linked Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. Such an accusation "was closer to the Bush line than even many pro-war Democrats were willing to go," he writes.

The article goes on to say that during her time at the State Department, Clinton had a "macho eagerness" to call in the U.S. cavalry in foreign affairs. Quoting Time writer Michael Crowley, Henwood writes that, "On at least three crucial issues -- Afghanistan, Libya, and the bin Laden raid -- Clinton took a more aggressive line than [Defense Secretary Robert] Gates, a Bush-appointed Republican."

3. Hillary Clinton is ambitious.

Shortly after Bill Clinton graduated Yale Law School, Hillary was already telling colleagues that he was going to be president. Henwood also says Clinton's private slogan for her and her husband was "eight years of Bill, eight years of Hill."

4. Hillary Clinton is not idealistic.

At Wellesley College, Clinton wrote her senior thesis on Saul Alinsky's community organizing tactics, but later found them to be "too idealistic and simplistic," according to Bill Clinton's biographer David Maraniss. In her thesis, Clinton doubted the effectiveness of welfare programs, writing that they "neither redeveloped poverty areas nor even catalyzed the poor into helping themselves." When Clinton turned down a job offer from Alinsky after college, Alinsky reportedly told her that she wouldn't change the world by going to law school. Clinton told him that she disagreed.

5. Hillary Clinton has no problem representing the rich.

When she worked for the Rose Law Firm in Arkansas, she represented business owners who were upset over a ballot measure in Little Rock pushed by community organizers that would have raised electricity rates on businesses and lowered them on residents. Clinton played a crucial part in developing the legal argument that the higher electricity rates would be an "unconstitutional taking of property," Henwood says, noting that similar arguments are now frequently used against regulation.

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Des Moines Register: Sen. Warren raises the roof for Braley

By Kathie Obradovich

October 19, 2014 10:56 p.m. CDT

"Wow! Dynamite."

That was the assessment of longtime Iowa Democrat and Hillary Clinton supporter Bonnie Campbell after U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren delivered a fist-pumping call to action at today's rally for Bruce Braley.

Warren, a Massachusetts senator, packed venues in Iowa City and Des Moines today for Braley, who is running in a tight race for U.S. Senate. It was Warren's first campaign trip to Iowa of the 2014 cycle.

She has said repeatedly she's not running for president in 2016, but she noted Iowa's prominence in national politics.

"Iowa has led this country, time after time after time. You have put it on, you've raised the issues, you've put them out there, you've made it clear to the rest of America – what's happening, what's happening to our country, where our values are, how we build a future," she said.

Warren and Braley both told personal stories featuring hard-working parents who had to find ways to support the family after their bread-winning fathers suffered illness or injury. Warren's father had a serious heart attack and couldn't work for months, so her 50-year-old, stay-at-home mother went to work to save their house.

"She walked to the Sears Roebuck and got a minimum-wage job – in an America where a minimum-wage job would support a family of three," she said.

Braley said his father, a WW II Marine Corps veteran, was seriously injured in a fall at a grain elevator and was laid up for almost a year. "And without the safety net of workers compensation payments and friends and family that rallied to my family's support, we wouldn't have made it," he said. "And that's when I learned, you're only as strong as the people who you care about and what we do together matters."

Warren, known for her populist political values, outlined an agenda similar to Braley's: Raising the minimum wage and investing in education, infrastructure and scientific research. She said Republicans had undermined these investments over the years in order to cut taxes for the rich.

Of all of the political surrogates I've seen this cycle of either party, Warren was hands-down the best at firing up the room. "We can whine about what the Republicans have done. We can whimper about what they've done, or we can fight back. Me, I'm fighting back," she shouted, to thunderous cheers and chants in the audience.

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She said the core issue in the race for U.S. Senate is: "Who does the government work for? Does it work just for the millionaires, just for the billionaires, just for those who have armies of lobbyists and lawyers, or does it work for the people?"

Iowa Democrats who plan to participate in the 2016 caucuses are overwhelmingly supporting Hillary Clinton as a prospective presidential candidate right now, according to the Register/Bloomberg Politics Iowa Poll.

Warren is not well-known among likely caucusgoers, but she is on their radar as a second choice. Judging from her performance in Iowa today, she'll have plenty of invitations from Iowa Democrats who want to share a stage with her in the future.

New York Magazine: Andrew Cuomo and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Year

By Chris Smith

October 19, 2014 9:00 p.m. EDT

The phone is Andrew Cuomo's instrument. Somehow distance brings out the governor's full range of operatic inflections and rhetorical flourishes that he doesn't deploy effectively in person. Today, on the phone, three weeks from Election Day, cruising toward a second term, he is in full Rodney Dangerfield mode.

"I passed gay marriage! I passed the toughest gun law in the country! I closed more prison cells than any governor in the history of the state! Minority job vouchers! My record of progressive accomplishment tops anyone!" Pause, dramatic reduction in volume. "Now, do you have some voices on the left that are impossible to placate in any realistic way? Yeah … Ask yourself: If he were more liberal, he would have done what? What more could I have possibly done? You're gonna use the tax code just to take money from the rich and give it to the poor? That's not liberalism. That's confiscation! Liberalism was 'Lift up the poor' … The problem for liberals and progressives—of which I am proudly one—is you have to demonstrate you can actually do what you talk about. And that's what I've been doing. My government works."

Cuomo has a point. On balance, he's had a strong first term. The state has gone from a $10 billion deficit in 2010 to a projected $6 billion surplus. He's restored functionality, if not total rationality, to a state government that had become a national embarrassment. Cuomo has also poured money and attention into Buffalo, and the state's second-largest, formerly woebegone city is seeing fresh job growth. He has been opportunistic, pushing through tighter gun laws after the shootings in Sandy Hook and wrangling the legalization of gay marriage just two years after the State Legislature had rejected the idea by a fairly wide margin.

There have certainly been flaws. Cuomo is replacing the decrepit Tappan Zee Bridge without really explaining how he's going to pay for the new $4 billion spans. He's still stalling on a fracking decision. There have been tax cuts for corporations and spending cuts for social services. But the lack of enthusiasm for Cuomo, in both the citizenry and the political class, is as much about his muscular style as any substance. "Is he a son of a bitch at times? Yeah," one of the governor's Albany allies says. "He is a mechanic; he works on cars as a hobby, fixes engines. And in politics he moves the process forward. You don't love Andrew Cuomo. But there hasn't been a better governor, not in the last 50 years."

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The current year, though, has been a rough one. He underestimated the anger of the state's left wing and the ability of the Working Families Party to marshal it against him—at least for a few embarrassing days in May. Then he ignored his Democratic primary challenger, Zephyr Teachout, who mounted a surprisingly robust, albeit unsuccessful, insurgency. Since winning the primary, Cuomo has barely campaigned, avoiding in-person debates with the Republican candidate, Rob Astorino. (He did agree to a radio debate.) Even if Astorino, or Teachout, was never a real threat, Cuomo's attitude toward the campaign has fueled the perception that he views himself as above the democratic process.

The fallout from his Moreland Commission machinations haven't helped. One of his loudest campaign promises four years ago was that he'd clean up corruption in Albany. In 2013, the governor empaneled the commission to investigate ethical violations in government, but his higher priority was using the commission as a subpoena-packing weapon to pressure the Legislature to pass stricter ethics laws. The move was classic Cuomo: ethically debatable tactics to achieve modestly higher ethical ends.

The governor insists that he'd declared from the outset that he'd shutter the commission when the Legislature passed an ethics bill, and that's true. In July, however, the Times detailed how Cuomo's aides meddled with Moreland's work, and U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara has been pursuing the leads the commission developed.

Maybe the successes of the first three years made Cuomo overconfident. Or maybe his bumpy 2014 was partly rooted in the growing realization that his shot at a 2016 presidential bid was slipping away. "Psychologically, the governor is a guy that's goal-oriented," a senior state Democrat says. "He would never admit it, but he'd been driven by positioning himself for president. Now that that's off the table, he's a little bit adrift."

Cuomo is far more complicated than that, though, and so are the circumstances. Holding back big new ideas until January, when the new legislative season starts, for instance, is a strategic choice. Not that he's promising any revelations. "I fundamentally intend to continue doing what I'm doing," he says. "Fiscal discipline and pushing the envelope on socially progressive issues … For me, the team comes out of the locker room for the second half, the team is ahead 21 to 0, what are you gonna do different in the second half? Very little."

Still, he seems to be casting about for a set of challenges worthy of his restless intensity for the next four—and maybe eight—years in Albany. After three years of travel avoidance bordering on the phobic, he will take "trade missions" to China, Mexico, Israel, Canada, and Italy. The publication, last week, of his autobiography also seems to have revived his energy. "Writing it was the hardest thing I've ever done," he says. "The editor, she said, 'You're writing it like a lawyer writes a legal brief, and it becomes a boring, sterile read.' She wanted more emotion and hyperbole and rhetoric. I said, 'Yeah, but in my business, if they can spin the language to mean something else, they will.' "

There's plenty of emotion at the mention of his antagonists. Cuomo is emphatic, if not especially convincing, that he didn't see Teachout standing right in front of him at a parade in September. "There was somebody between me and her. Look, I shook hands with that guy … uh, the lieutenant governor, Wu!" Cuomo says, referring to Tim Wu, who ran for that office in the primary. As for Teachout's surprising 34 percent? "That showing had nothing to do with her," he snaps. "In a very small-turnout election you have the [state] teachers union, which is against me, you have the public employees that are against me … and the fracking people, probably the largest single issue for activist Democrats, who are upset that I won't ban it."

The Times drives him crazy; he thinks its editorial board is obsessed with public financing of campaigns, a reform Cuomo says he supports, even though he's dubious that it has much relevance in the age of big-money independent-expenditure committees.

Not that he cares to dwell on some pesky liberal carping when he's got the whole state to worry about. Cuomo

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believes the center is still the most responsible place from which to govern New York—and the country, though he's merely an informed spectator on that front, of course. Aren't national politics increasingly polarized, with the right and the left wings setting the agendas for the Republicans and the Democrats? "That's always been true," Cuomo says, quickly warming to the subject. "But you're leaving out a big piece of history. Bill Clinton wins saying to the left of the party, 'You are unelectable.' Bill Clinton gives a speech saying, 'Mario Cuomo, Dukakis, Ted Kennedy are the politics of a failed Democratic Party.' Bill Clinton does Sister Souljah, puts his finger in the chest of Jesse Jackson. That was after a period of left dominance. Clinton is then centrist-moderate-left, right? Sort of tacks back and forth between the two. Where is the national Democratic Party now? Well, they're talking about Hillary Clinton. Her last name is Clinton, which represented that centrist-left platform. So I think that's where the party is nationwide. And the Clinton philosophy is still a winning philosophy."

Ah, the multiple psychodramas embedded in that single paragraph. Cuomo, though, sounds more relaxed than usual, claiming he's content ruling New York for the foreseeable future. "I am so happy that I got to do what I'm doing. This is a gift," he says. "I want a great record. That's what I want. That's what matters. When you're dead politically—and I've been dead politically, and I saw my father dead politically—what matters is what you got done."

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· October 20 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Senate Democrats (AP)

· October 23 – MN: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Gov. Mark Dayton (AP)

· October 24 – RI: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Rhode Island gubernatorial candidate Gina Raimondo (Politico)

· October 24 – Mass.: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Mass. gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley (CNN)

· October 24 – NE: Sec. Clinton campaigns for ME gubernatorial candidate Mike Michaud (PressHerald)

· October 25 – NC: Sec. Clinton campaigns for Sen. Kay Hagan (AP)

· October 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the launch of The International Council on Women's Business Leadership (CNN)

· November 2 – NH: Sec. Clinton appears at a GOTV rally for Gov. Hassan and Sen. Shaheen (AP)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/4/2015 12:23:17 AM
Subject: News Update - September 4, 2015



S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Friday, September 4

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **Saudi King due in White House for Nuclear Deal Talks**
- **Democratic Support Piles up for Deal in Senate**
- **5 American Tourists Attacked by Firebombs in Hebron**
- **Settlers to Hold Rally near Pal. Village in Support of IDF Soldiers**
- **Hamas Praises Jeremy Corbyn's Support for Pal. Struggle**
- **Report: Israel Refuels Jordanian Jets During Combat Exercise**
- **German politician: Israel's Fence is Worse than Berlin Wall**
- **Meretz Party calls for Taking in Region Refugees**

Commentary:

- **Washington Post: "Benjamin Netanyahu Faces a Stark Dilemma in the Iran Nuclear Deal"**
  - By David Ignatius
- **Al Monitor: "Bibi's two-state solution: State of Israel and State of the Jews"**
  - By Akiva Eldar

Times of Israel

Saudi King due in White House for Nuclear Deal Talks

The Obama administration is greeting King Salman of Saudi Arabia with assurances that a nuclear deal with Iran also comes with the necessary resources to help check its regional ambitions. The king is making his first visit to the White House since ascending the throne in January. The visit on Friday comes at an important moment. Saudi officials have voiced support for the deal, but they are also worried about the international communities' ability to enforce it. The visit is pushing the administration to publicly address those concerns before Congress votes.

See also, "Saudi Arabia's Newfound Middle East Activism Pushes Obama to the Wall" (Ha'aretz)

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AP

Democratic Support Piles up for Deal in Senate

Now a done deal, the Iran nuclear agreement gained critical backing from three more Democratic senators Thursday, boosting White House hopes of blocking a disapproval resolution in the Senate so the president won't have to veto it. Democratic Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Mark Warner of Virginia and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota announced their support in quick succession for the deal that aims to curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for wide relief from economic sanctions. The announcement from Booker, in particular, was closely watched because he was under immense pressure from segments of the Jewish community in New Jersey to oppose the deal, and New Jersey's other Democratic senator, Bob Menendez, is an outspoken opponent.

Ynet News

5 American Tourists Attacked in Hebron

Five American yeshiva students were attacked with rocks and firebombs, setting their car on fire after accidentally entering Hebron Thursday night. Two of the students were lightly to moderately wounded in the incident and were treated on the scene when security forces arrived in the area to bring them to safety. A local resident, Fayez Abu Hamdia, sheltered the five in his home until they were evacuated by IDF troops who arrived in the area. "I'm not a hero," Abu Hamdia told Ynet. "I did what needed to be done."

See also, "2 American yeshiva students hurt in Hebron firebombing" (Times of Israel)

Jerusalem Post

Settlers to Hold Rally near Pal. Village

Right-wing activists and settlers plan to stage a protest today on the outskirts of the Nabi Saleh village, 20 km. northwest of Ramallah, to counter the weekly Palestinian demonstrations held there. Led by Beit Aryeh Council head Avi Naim, the group will gather at the entrance to the Neveh Tzuf settlement, otherwise known as Halamish, which is located just across the road from Nabi Saleh. Naim said he was inspired to hold the rally in support of soldiers after he saw a video that went viral from last Friday's demonstration in which women and children from Nabi Saleh attack a soldier as he tried to arrest 11-year-old Muhammad Tamimi, whose left arm was visibly in a cast. The video shows a partially masked soldier with one hand on a rifle and another on the neck of a terrified-looking boy.

Ha'aretz

Hamas Praises Corbyn's Support for Pal. Struggle

Hamas has reportedly praised the British Labour Party's leadership frontrunner Jeremy Corbyn for his "sympathetic" position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. According to an interview in The Telegraph with Hamas Deputy Foreign Minister Ghazi Hamad, senior officials in the Palestinian Islamist organization called Corbyn's oft-controversial stance a welcome change from British leaders past, who allegedly hold a pro-Israel bias. "I find that he has very good sympathy and support for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian struggle and he is frankly against the occupation, against the racist policy of Israel, against settlements," Hamad said. "If he really became the head of the Labour party, he can make a big change to the image of Britain because people here in Palestine feel that Britain has a historical responsibility, in giving Israel the golden chance of establishing their state on the account of the Palestinian people," Hamad added, referring to Britain's role in the State of Israel's establishment.

See also, "Jeremy Corbyn, friend to Hamas, Iran and extremists" (The Telegraph)

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Ha'aretz

Report: Israel Refuels Jordanian Jets During Exercise

Ten Israeli F-15 fighters recently concluded a joint exercise at an American air force base with the air forces of the United States, Singapore and Jordan. The Israeli planes refueled in mid-air several times en route from Israel to the Red Flag exercise at the Nellis air force base in Nevada. According to the aviation website Foxtrot Alpha, the Israeli contingent also provided the Jordanian fighters with mid-air refueling en route. The head of the air force's training division, Col. Uri, refused to confirm or deny Foxtrot Alpha's report. But in a briefing for military reporters, he stressed that there was "nothing connected to operational planning" in the mid-air refueling; it was "merely mission planning for the sortie to the United States."

Jerusalem Post

German politician: Israel's Fence is Worse than Berlin Wall

Israeli organizations slammed Green Party Bundestag deputy Uwe Kekeritz on Thursday for claiming that Israel's security barrier and border system designed to stop Palestinian terrorism is worse than the Berlin Wall. In comparison with Israel's borders, the Berlin Wall was "a toy," Bavarian politician Kekeritz claimed in the course of a nearly four-minute video posted to YouTube in mid-August. He spoke at an anti-Israel event in early June, at "Protestant Church Day" in Stuttgart. Efraim Zuroff, the chief Nazi-hunter of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the director of its Jerusalem office, told The Jerusalem Post on Thursday: "It is obvious that Green MP Uwe Kekeritz learned nothing about the larger picture of Middle East politics and history during his visit to Israel" last year. "To the best of my knowledge, the Berlin Wall was not built to stop terrorists from committing suicide attacks against West Berlin civilians," he said.

Israeli Radio News

Meretz Party Calls for Taking in Region Refugees

MK Issawi Frej (Meretz) said that Israel must take in some of the refugees. In an interview with Israel Radio, Frej said that Israel had a moral obligation to aid the refugees. He said that this was an historic opportunity for Israel to create a new reality in the region.

Washington Post – September 3, 2015

Benjamin Netanyahu Faces a Stark Dilemma in the Iran Nuclear Deal

By David Ignatius

What does Israel do now that President Obama has won the congressional votes needed to implement an Iran nuclear agreement that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described as "a stunning historic mistake"?

This was always the danger of Netanyahu's unyielding rhetorical stand against the Iran deal and his politically divisive campaign to block it in Congress: What if he failed? Would the Israeli leader try to rebuild bipartisan relations in Washington, or would he double-down once again, by encouraging Republican presidential candidates to repudiate the deal if elected?

We don't know Netanyahu's answer yet, but that's the stark dilemma he faces, after Obama this week pinned down the 34 Senate votes needed to sustain a veto of legislation rejecting the Iran deal. Obama played for keeps on what he views as the most important foreign policy issue of his presidency — and he won.

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"There wasn't a lot of high-fiving or backslapping here," a senior administration official said. For all the hype surrounding the Senate vote count, it has been clear for weeks that the House had a comfortable margin to block any override of a veto. "A lot of the drama was fictionalized," the official said. "Everyone knew how this would end."

Obama's campaign picked up momentum after he made pledges to some key pro-Israel Democrats. In an Aug. 19 letter to Rep. Jerrold Nadler (N.Y.), Obama promised that "should Iran seek to dash toward a nuclear weapon," the military option would "remain available." In a letter dated Tuesday to Sen. Chris Coons (Del.), Obama pledged interdiction of weapons shipments to Iranian-backed groups such as Hezbollah, along with other measures aimed at "countering Iran's asymmetric threat to the region." Sen. Bob Casey (Pa.) gained quiet assurances that Iran's covert actions would be countered in like manner.

But Robert Satloff, executive director of the pro-Israel Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said that the White House's outreach was more show than substance. "The bottom line is that the administration gave zero," Satloff said in an interview. "It was a lot of nice verbiage, a lot of conditional verbs and adjectives, but they didn't fix any of the flaws in the agreement."

Netanyahu's aides are now saying that they "never really believed they could stop the deal in Congress — they only wanted to alert the world how dangerous Iran is," according to a report Thursday by The Post's William Booth in Jerusalem. But that makes it all the more puzzling why Netanyahu waged his scorched-earth campaign and what he will do now to recover.

Dennis Ross, a former administration official who knows Israeli leaders well, said in an interview that Netanyahu probably hasn't decided on the best strategy. Ross said that many Israeli military leaders are urging the prime minister to begin working on a joint U.S.-Israeli strategy based on the deal's premise that Iran's nuclear program will indeed be frozen for 15 years. "How do you take advantage of those 15 years?" Ross asked.

But having walked so far out on a limb, the Israeli leader may not be ready to retreat toward pragmatism yet — at least not publicly. Pro-Israel lobbying groups such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee may hope to mend fences with Democratic members of Congress and restore bipartisan support for Israel, but hard-line Republicans, such as wealthy casino owner and campaign contributor Sheldon Adelson, may want to push partisan politics even further — toward a realignment that portrays the GOP as Israel's only reliable friend.

"Netanyahu doesn't want to validate the Iran agreement," Satloff said. "The Israelis weren't at the table, and they aren't bound by what was agreed." At the same time, he predicts that Netanyahu will gradually move to consolidate joint U.S.-Israeli deterrence measures against Iran.

Obama was criticized, even by some of his closest political allies, for what the administration official described as "being too alienating or strident in our tone," especially in his speech last month at American University. Now that he has won the votes, Obama can think about the real challenge ahead — which is successful implementation of the Iran pact, whether Netanyahu likes it or not.

Al Monitor– September 4, 2015

Bibi's Two-State Solution: State of Israel and State of the Jews

By Akiva Eldar

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There were times when such an announcement by the leader of a right-wing Israeli government would have made front-page headlines: "I am ready now to go to Ramallah or any other place to meet and hold direct negotiations." This, according to an announcement issued by the prime minister's office, is what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told representatives of Women Wage Peace on Sept. 1. The prime minister even asked his guests, should they meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, to convey him the message that he was willing to renew direct negotiations with him.

There were times when the words "the solution is two states for two people" would have spoiled the media festival over the opening of the school year for Education Minister Naftali Bennett, head of the HaBayit HaYehudi Party and Netanyahu's coalition partner. On the left, no one even bothered issuing a reaction to the obvious contradiction between the prime minister's willingness to launch negotiations "without preconditions," and the unrealistic condition that he stated in the same breath at that meeting, according to which the Palestinian state would recognize Israel as "the national state of the Jewish people." And, of course, not a word about a freeze on settlement building in the West Bank.

Politicians, like the news editors who ignored the announcement, know full well that the chances of Abbas inviting Netanyahu to the Muqata, the Palestinian Authority headquarters, to conduct negotiations on a peace agreement are akin to the chances of US President Barack Obama inviting him to the White House to discuss the nuclear deal with Iran. Coincidentally — or perhaps not so coincidentally — the announcement about the meeting with the peace activists was issued by the prime minister's office almost at the same time as the Palestinian news agency Ma'an reported that Abbas had declared he was stepping down from the leadership of all PLO institutions.

The announcement on Abbas' behalf was made at a meeting of the Fatah central committee, ahead of the Palestinian National Council meeting being convened in Ramallah at the end of next week. Mohammed al-Madani, a member of the Fatah central committee and a close Abbas associate, said the next day that the move was designed to capture the attention of the dormant United States and European Union, and to pass on to them the following message: "I don't want to hold onto a job that has become a kind of security doorkeeper for Israel, and anyone who wants to assume responsibility is welcome to do so." Madani also noted that Abbas had even told Jordan's King Abdullah during their meeting Aug. 30 that he was considering an announcement at the UN General Assembly at the end of September saying he has no interest in heading an authority devoid of sovereignty. So what interest could he have in shaking Netanyahu's empty hands?

According to a senior US official who spoke on condition of anonymity, Washington is well aware of Abbas' position, his advanced age and the battles of succession paralyzing the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank. The Americans, as well as the Europeans, know that former British Prime Minister and retired Quartet envoy Tony Blair does not have any real news for residents of the Gaza Strip, despite the contacts he is leading between Hamas and Israel. The official denial issued by Netanyahu's office on this matter was designed to refute rumors that Blair had been authorized by the prime minister to discuss a package deal, which includes a cease-fire and a lifting of the Israeli blockade on Gaza. According to reliable information that Al-Monitor received, the denial is more credible than the rumor.

The battles for succession, which are expected to heat up on the day following Abbas' resignation, could deteriorate into violence and undermine Palestinian security coordination with Israel. Absent any hope of throwing off the humiliating yoke of occupation and the painful pinch of the blockade, a single pyromaniac infiltrating the bubbling Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif) complex could provide

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the spark that would blow up the powder keg. A conflagration in the territories risks overshadowing the nuclear agreement with Iran — the most important legacy of Obama.

According to the senior American, the previous attempt that ended with a "poof," as described by US Secretary of State John Kerry, doused any desire to send him to spend his remaining days at the State Department in yet another futile round of shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Ramallah. Anyone burned once by the Israeli-Palestinian hot potato is careful not to go near it again. It's better to dump it on the plate of the next president. Republican President Ronald Reagan, who was considered a "friend of Israel," gave an official seal of approval to the PLO, over Israel's objections and fury. He did so during the transition in December 1988, after George H.W. Bush was elected president but before he took office. Obama the Democrat, who in any case is considered — unjustifiably so — an "Israel hater," is thinking of upgrading the head of the PLO to head of state status a little over a year before the end of his second term.

A draft resolution agreed upon by members of the Quartet (the United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia), which would be presented to the UN Security Council, would replace Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It would serve as a framework and source of authority for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The new resolution would include recognition of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with agreed-upon amendments of the border lines, and express the Jewish identity of the State of Israel. The Obama administration assumes that neither side will jump with joy at UN headquarters and whip out its pen to sign a comprehensive peace agreement. This challenge, or headache, of creating arrangements in Jerusalem and a solution to the refugee problem will provide a full-time job for the next administration.

The final agreement about this hot issue will be made after the Iran nuclear saga clears the US Congress at the end of the month. It's safe to assume that Obama is taking into account that candidates for the Republican presidential nomination will launch a mudslinging competition against the decision to recognize Palestine "unilaterally," and will accuse the president of a last-minute grab. Jewish organizations are likely to pressure the Democratic contenders to distance themselves publicly from such a move. Behind closed doors they will thank Obama, who not only reduced the threat of a nuclear war in the Middle East but also opened the door to prospects of a peace arrangement of sorts in the region. Until then we will rejoice that Netanyahu deigned to hold a publicized meeting with the Women Wage Peace activists who had fasted outside his residence for 50 days to observe the first anniversary of Operation Protective Edge (July-August 2014). We will console ourselves with tall tales about a prime minister willing to travel to Ramallah to promote the two-state solution: the State of Israel and the State of the Jews.

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	8/16/2015 8:43:22 AM
Subject:	Fwd: Today's Post story on HRC

Interesting

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: <catherinehand5@aol.com >
Date: Sunday, August 16, 2015
Subject: Today's Post story on HRC
To: jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com , john.podesta@gmail.com
Cc: lorraine@xeolux.com

Dear Jake and John:

I'm sending this to you at the suggestion of my friend Lorraine Hariton. By way of introduction, back in 1980 I helped Norman Lear create People For the American Way -- even before Tony Podesta came into the picture. I spent months traveling across the country with Norman meeting with so many people to talk about the rise of something Norman was seeing -- the rise of the Religious Right and its impact on our politics. You know the rest.

Currently, I am one of the producers of a film adaptation of the award wining children's classic, A Wrinkle in Time, that Jennifer Lee (FROZEN) is scripting for Disney. I mention this, because this book has meant a great deal to millions of young people over the past 50 years. Even Sheryl Sandberg was quoted in the New York Times during an interview for her book, *Lean In*, that A Wrinkle in Time was her favorite childhood book.

Wrinkle was written in 1962 and received the Newberry Award for children's literature in 1963, the year I first read it. As you will read in this note, 1963 was quite a tumultuous year. The year before, in 1962, the Cuban missile crisis threatened the world with the possibility of nuclear war. Against a backdrop of uncertainty, death, and fear, *A Wrinkle in Time,* came along at a time when young people needed a way to understand the changing world around them. It wasn't necessarily a conscious need, more a longing or yearning for a way to comprehend the evil that existed, and to feel comforted by a story that helped us see that it could be overcome. I think the need for a vision of a loving and empathetic universe is as needed today as it was 50 years ago.

I'm writing a book about my 50 year journey to make Wrinkle into a movie and have been doing research on the past 5 decades which moved me to write this note to Lorraine this morning.

Lorraine-

Just wanted to send along a few thoughts re today's Post story on HRC. First, hope you are enjoying your time in NY. The emails and phone calls about the campaign are very helpful.

Something struck me in reading the Post piece that you may want to consider. When Hillary speaks of the email issue or other issues, her counter is "politics as usual." Those very words are what contribute to the general feeling of her tone deafness. I have no idea what is said in your discussions, but I assume lots of very smart, savvy people are thinking about this problem everyday. Most people do not know what she really means when she says "politics as usual' and it might help her if she were more precise in her reply. What I mean by that is not to use words that mean something to people who follow politics, but use words that mean something to people who don't. And, "politics as usual' is immediately heard as "politics as usual in Clinton-world."

Take every single opportunity she has to explain in the simplest way over and over again that she represents change to a more conservative way of thinking and rather than talk about the need for inclusivity in all things for all Americans, her opponents only want to instill fear about her as a person and the change she represents.

I've been doing a little research on the big historical events over the past 50 years and it is a real awakening to take in how much change this country has been dealing with ever since 1963.

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Hillary's candidacy is an accumulation of a 50-year shift in attitudes and ever since the early 1970s a backlash to this change has taken shape and strengthened. It's not a vast right wing conspiracy - it is real fear of change. When she uses the words ‘politics as usual’ it only helps to strengthen that backlash.

She needs to be seen and heard as someone who can lead us to a more empathetic world where we can learn to actually get along with those who are different than us.

Take a look at what happened in 1963:

George Wallace became Governor of Alabama and proclaimed “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. “

Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* launched the reawakening of the women’s movement in the United States as women’s organizations and consciousness raising groups spread.

70,000 marchers arrived in London to demonstrate against nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. issued his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

The US Supreme Court ruled that state-mandated Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional.

Pope Paul VI succeeded Pope John XXIII and continued the Vatican Council II. Priests were now asked to celebrate Mass in the language of the countries in which they lived, face the congregation, and not only to be heard and seen but also to signal to worshippers that they were being included because they were a vital component of the service. No longer was prayer to be seen as a performance, but active participation.

The United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union signed a nuclear test ban treaty.

Martin Luther King, Jr delivered his *I Have A Dream* speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 250,000 people participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedoms.

South Vietnamese President Diem was assassinated following a military coup.

“ *I Want to Hold Your Hand*” and “ *I Saw Her Standing There”* were released in the U.S., marking the beginning of Beatlemania on an international level.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And the 1970s became fertile ground for even more divisiveness:

As the protests against the Viet Nam war intensified, the backlash began to take shape. When Richard Nixon won the presidency in 1968 he dismantled programs put in place by President Johnson’s War on Poverty. The anti-war protests increased in frequency and no longer only w ere students protesting, but professors, scientists, and stay at home mothers.

In response to protesters, hippies and the new drug culture, President Nixon’s ‘silent majority,’ -- mostly white working and middle class voters, were angry at what they saw as the destruction of a country they had known and loved.

The nation seemed to tear apart at the seams as America watched the live coverage of the Watergate hearings. When President Nixon finally resigned from office in 1974 the seeds of government mistrust were firmly rooted.

The women’s rights movement took hold when Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution in 1972. Twenty-two of the necessary 38 states ratified with no difficulty, but the conservative faction in the country saw it as a threat to the traditional role of wife and mother and successfully fought back and defeated it.

The 1980s were a difficult period for Democrats. I remember helping to mount the Democratic convention in 1984 and standing on the podium that last night looking at a sea of waving American flags, excited that the first woman had been nominated for Vice President, inspired by Mario Cuomo's speech about the "two cities on a hill" and all I could think about was my dog. I didn't believe in any of it anymore. Reagan had done a great job of making the word liberal sound like a dirty word. Few Democrats had passion back then- we were so splintered

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and couldn't get along which lead to the creation of Democratic Leadership Forum and the eventual rise of Bill Clinton in 1992.

Hillary is the embodiment of the changes that have been bubbling up since 1963. She is a woman embracing the need to include everyone at the table. But, she is falling into a trap that started in the 80s -- demonizing her opponent. That happened back in the 80s to raise funds. Direct mail campaigns for Dems, Republicans, and special interests groups had to demonize their opponents to fan the flames of fear to survive.

What Bernie Sanders represents is someone who doesn't seem to be caught in that demonizing cycle. There has to be a way for Hillary to rise above it, too, with humor, compassion and empathy. She needs new tactics, a new strategy and to breakaway fro m how she handled her adversaries in the past. She most likely first developed her deep distrust of conservative operatives in her formative years working as a lawyer during the Watergate hearings. That mistrust of Nixon and his associates left a lasting scar on so many of us. But, we need to move passed it.

Stephen Hawking said something recently that might help ground a new strategy:

“The human failing I would most like to correct is aggression. It may have had survival advantage in caveman days, to get more food, territory or a partner with whom to reproduce, but now it threatens to destroy us all. We need to replace aggression with empathy, which “brings us together in a peaceful loving state.”

Hillary needs to be President of the United States to act upon Hawking’s insight and her ability to lead must start with a new kind of campaign.

Catherine

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From: "Jon Soltz, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/1/2015 8:48:24 AM
Subject: [Iran] We're bringing veterans to D.C.

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

John -

Since we started our campaign to elevate the voices of veterans who support a diplomacy-first approach with Iran, over 20,000 men and women who have worn our country's uniform have added their names in support.

Today, I want to share a few of their stories with you, and to let you know that in the next few weeks, we're going to be flying almost two dozen veterans and military family members out the nation's capital to make their voices heard loud and clear.

Contribute $3 to help VoteVets bring these veterans to Washington, D.C. to lobby the Democratic representatives we need to hold the line ahead of the vote on the Iran deal later this month.

Dennis, an Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran (Afghanistan) wrote in that *"The alternative is an eventual war, again, in the Middle East."*

Matt, an Iraq War Veteran from Colorado added, *"Based on my experience in Iraq, I feel that diplomacy is a better path than military action in southwest Asia ... Voting [against] the nuclear treaty with Iran would perpetuate our involvement in the region and likely lead to the next generation of our military being worn out in the region."*

Kevin, also an Iraq War Veteran says, *"Diplomacy should always be the 1st option. It's the best option. War is a last resort. With Iraq it was the 1st choice. 4500 Americans and countless Iraqis died for WMD's that didn't exist."*

We're going to bring veterans who have served overseas - people like Dennis, Matt, and Kevin - to tell their legislators how their experiences in war inform their desire for America to reach for a peaceful way to disabuse Iran of their nuclear ambitions.

Contribute $3 today to help us bring them to Washington, D.C. to share their stories.

We received thousands of letters like theirs. Letters from veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Korea, Vietnam, and more -- generations of combat veterans who wrote in support of the deal.

Congress needs to understand their perspective. Thanks for helping us make their voices heard.

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran and Chairman
VoteVets

Contribute

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
To:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
Date:	9/5/2013 2:34:54 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-Why Resolution on Chemical Weapons is Completely Different from Iraq War Resolution

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-creamer/why-the-congressional-res_b_3873036.html

Why the Congressional Resolution on Chemical Weapons Is Completely Different From Iraq War Resolution

There has been a lot said in the last week comparing the Congressional resolution authorizing the use of force to punish Bashar al Assad's government for using chemical weapons to the resolution authorizing the Iraq War. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As an ardent opponent of the Iraq War resolution, I am proud to say that 60% of the Democrats in the House of Representatives voted against authorizing the Iraq War. Today, I support the resolution authorizing force to sanction the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

There are five major differences between the current resolution and the one that authorized the Iraq War:

1). The President is asking for a narrow authorization that the U.S. exact a near-term military price for Assad's use of chemical weapons. He is not asking for a declaration of War – which is exactly what George Bush asked from Congress in Iraq.

George Bush sent thousands of U.S. troops to overthrow the government and then occupy Iraq. He spent what will ultimately be trillions of dollars to overthrow the Iraqi regime and then conduct a 10-year campaign to pacify the country.

The President's proposal to Congress is not intended to overthrow the government of Syria. And it certainly does not involve conducting an American war against Syria. This is not an action that the President would have contemplated absent the use of chemical weapons. This resolution is intended entirely to make the Assad regime pay a price for their violation of a 100-year international consensus that the use of chemical weapons is unacceptable in the civilized world.

Some have argued that killing people with chemical weapons is no worse than killing them with a gun or a bomb. Both are horrible. But the difference that created a worldwide consensus against their use is that they are *weapons of mass destruction*. Like biological and nuclear weapons they are distinguished by two characteristics that would make their regular use much more dangerous for the future of humanity than guns and bombs:

They can kill massive numbers of people very quickly.
They are completely indiscriminant. They kill everything in their path. They do not discriminate between combatant and non-combatants – between children and adults.

Those two characteristics make weapons of mass destruction different from other weapons. In the interest of our survival as a species we must make the use of *all* weapons of mass destruction unthinkable. That must be one of humanity's chief goals if it is to survive into the next century.

There has been talk about "other options" to punish Assad and deter him from using chemical weapons in the future. But the fact is that the only price that matters to Assad – or to anyone who is in the midst of a military struggle – is a military price.

There is a worldwide consensus that no matter how desperate someone's military situation, the use of chemical weapons in specific – and weapons of mass destruction in general -- is *never justified*.

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When combatants are in the midst of a military struggle, they don't really care about their "reputation" or even the economy of their country. They care about their military situation.

That is not true of countries like Iran or any other country that is not at war. Economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure are important levers on most countries and governments – but not governments in the midst of military battles that threaten their survival.

As a result, to reduce the likelihood that an actor like Assad will use chemical weapons again, he has to experience a *military* sanction – the degradation of his military capacity – because at the moment, that's all he cares about. I'm sure Assad would be happy to worry about whether he is indicted by the International Criminal Court, or the state of the Syrian economy at some time in the distant future. Right now he cares about his military capacity.

If we do nothing, the odds massively increase that he will use chemical weapons again, because he knows that they work to kill huge numbers of his opponents – and that he can do so with impunity. That would be a disastrous setback for humanity's critical priority of banning the use of weapons of mass destruction – weapons that could easily threaten our very existence.

2). The resolution on chemical weapons explicitly limits the authorization to 90 days. The resolution on Iraq was unlimited – and resulted in a conflict lasting over a decade.

Opponents have questioned whether short-term air strikes could be effective at substantially degrading Assad's chemical weapons infrastructure. There is no guarantee. But there is some precedent for believing they can. As Walter Pincus wrote in today's *Washington Post*:

…the precedent worth recalling is Operation Desert Fox in December 1998, in which the Clinton Administration went after Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's facilities for weapons of mass destruction over four days.

Although the operation almost immediately faded from the American public's mind because it was followed quickly by the House impeachment debate, it did destroy Iraq's WMD infrastructure, as the Bush administration later discovered.

3). The resolution on Iraq was based on faulty – actually fabricated – intelligence about the supposed presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Those "intelligence" assessments turned out to be totally untrue – much of it manufactured.

The resolution on chemical weapons is not based on anyone's estimate of the likelihood that Assad has weapons of mass destruction. It is based on their *actual use* – recorded and widely distributed on video – and intercepts that document the orders for their deployment.

4). The Iraq War Resolution involved the commitment of American troops – on the ground – where thousands of them died and thousands more were maimed. This resolution explicitly precludes American troops on the ground in Syria.

5). President George Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and their entire team wanted to invade Iraq. The Neocons desperately wanted to finish what they started with Desert Storm. They had an imperial vision of America's role in the world that involved American domination of the Middle East through the projection of military power. That vision turned into the nightmare in Iraq. Iraq became one of the great foreign policy disasters of all time.

President Obama and his team have exactly the opposite goal. The team is composed of people who opposed the War in Iraq – and the Neocon world-view -- including the President who was against the War in Iraq from the first day.

He has been very explicit that his aim is to end America's wars in the Middle East – not to begin another.

Bush and his team used the false specter that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction – and was behind the 9/11 attacks – to drive America into a war that had nothing to do with either.

On the contrary, President Obama is motivated entirely by his goal of enforcing the international

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consensus against using chemical weapons – not starting a war. In fact, he has done everything in his power for two years to avoid America's military involvement in the Syrian civil war.

Some have argued that those who opposed the Iraq War Resolution, but support the President's proposal, would have opposed a similar resolution if it had been presented by George Bush. And the answer is yes, that is clearly a factor. The motivations and world-view of the people you are empowering to use military force should matter a great deal. The fact is that while Bush and the Neocons might have tried to use a resolution to start a long war – the Obama team will not.

Progressive may differ on whether using military action to sanction Assad is the correct course of action for the United States. But the argument that Obama's proposal to use military means to sanction the use of chemical weapons by Assad is analogous to the Bush's rush to war in Iraq is just plain wrong.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com . *He is a partner in Democracy Partners and a Senior Strategist for Americans United for Change. Follow him on Twitter @rbcreamer.*

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/24/2015 12:59:25 PM
Subject: VIDEO/TRANSCRIPT, TONIGHT HRC KEYNOTED LEAD ON

Here is CTR's transcript and a link to Secretary Clinton's great speech tonight!

Video can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-WVNe5zBko

2015.02.24 Lead On: First Annual Watermark Silicon Valley Conference for Women Keynote in Santa Clara, CA

SEC. CLINTON: Hello. Wow, what an amazing crowd. It's great to be here. Thank you all so much, thank you, thank you. I want to thank Renee for her introduction, but more than that I want to thank her for what Intel is doing that she just described, and I hope that more companies will join with her and with Intel to really elevate this issue about diversity and inclusivity in the workforce here in Silicon Valley and literally around our country. I want to thank everyone at Watermark for organizing this terrific gathering and supporting such a vibrant, visionary community of women leaders here in the Bay Area, because you could just feel the energy. I love it. I was watching backstage when Renee Brown was speaking, isn't she amazing, and the work that she's done, and the insight she provides? So for 20 years, Watermark has been helping people, women, grow networks, gain skills, crack ceilings in technology, entrepreneurship, and beyond.

So really, it's all of you who should be applauded for being part of this movement, and I am delighted that I can be here for this first Lead On Conference. It's a great theme, and a very important one, because we do need to lead. We have the information, we understand the challenge, and if there's any place in the world where Lead On should be happening, it's right [2:00] here, in a place of big dreams and transformational achievements, where a kid can have a good idea and then build a billion-dollar company in a place where faith in the future is so strong that it's taken as a given. In fact, you all know Moore's Law: computer processors will keep doubling in power roughly every two years. Well, there's something very American about that kind of optimism. After all, our country is a great entrepreneurial experiment. Families like my grandparents who came to our shores with nothing but hope and a willingness to work hard. The pioneers who set out for California by wagon train. The patriots who dared imagine that a new nation could be built on the novel proposition that all of us are created equal. And even though it's taken centuries to turn that idea into reality, and we're still not there, those dreamers and doers would have been right at home here because the innovation and success we see around us is proof that progress is possible, but also that it is not inevitable. Not in a life, not in a country. After all, Moore's Law doesn't tell the whole story. Those processors don't get smaller and more powerful on their own. That takes incredible effort and ingenuity. It takes people not only working hard but working together. And America's prosperity and security are not inevitable, either. We've learned that we can bounce back from some pretty tough blows, so we know that progress is [4:00] possible if we as a country harness all our talents, find the best and freshest ideas no matter where they come from, and grow together, lift each other up.

Today, I want to focus briefly on two areas where you know and I know there is much more work to be done: women and technology, and technology and our broader economy. Now, many of you in this audience know far more about those two areas than I do, or ever will. You live it every day. You bump your heads on the glass ceilings that persist in the tech industry. You watch too many of our daughters and granddaughters get diverted away from careers in STEM. As familiar as this story is, and we heard Renee summarizing it as she made the announcement about what Intel will try to do, it is still shocking. The numbers are sobering. On the Forbes list of the top 100 venture investors in tech, only four are women. Just 11 percent of executives in Silicon Valley and only about 20 percent of software developers overall are women. One recent report on the gender pay gap in the Valley found that a woman with a bachelor's degree here tends to make 60 percent less than a man with the same degree. And we can literally count on one hand the number of women who have actually been able to come here and turn their dreams into billion-dollar businesses. And think of this. While nearly 60 percent of college graduates are now women, they earn only 18 percent of the computer science [6:00] degrees. That's actually less than half of what it was in the 1980s, when women earned 38 percent of those degrees. We are going backwards in a field that is supposed to be all about moving forward. Women and girls remain underrepresented in STEM education more broadly, and with STEM jobs growing faster and paying more than many other fields, this puts our daughters and granddaughters at a disadvantage that can have lasting consequences for them, their families, and, yes, our economy. I think the bottom line here is we cannot afford to leave all that talent sitting on the sidelines. So to borrow a familiar phrase, it's time to think different. All of us – in the private sector, government, the nonprofit world, and education – we all have a stake in making this better, from the classroom to the boardroom. I love the way Watermark supports a class at Stanford's business school focused on women's entrepreneurship. I really appreciated when Google became the first big tech company to disclose the demographics of its tech workforce: 83 percent male, 17 percent female, 2 percent Latino, 1 percent black.

So there's a lot of entry points into tackling this problem. At the Clinton Foundation, we're working with partners to recruit more STEM teachers for schools. We've also organized a series of Codeathons to bring together young women software engineers to collaborate on new apps to promote women's health and wellness, while also [8:00] building new professional networks for themselves. And many of you are involved in other efforts to open avenues for women and people of color to participate and succeed in this industry, and we have to keep that work going and growing, because inclusivity is more than a buzzword or a box to check; it is a recipe for success in the 21st century. Bringing different perspectives and life experiences into corporate offices, engineering labs, and venture funds is likely to bring fresh ideas and higher revenues. And in our increasingly

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multicultural country, in an increasingly interdependent world, building a more diverse talent pool can't just be a nice-to-do for business; it has to be a must-do.

Now of course, the challenges we're talking about are by no means limited to the tech fields. Less than 5 percent of all Fortune 500 CEOs are women, and women entrepreneurs often have a much harder time accessing capital to start or grow a business. Up and down the ladder, many women are paid less for the same work, which is why I think we all cheered at Patricia Arquette's speech at the Oscars. Because she's right: it's time to have wage equality once and for all. But it's not just wage equality. Many working parents all too often don't have access to common sense benefits like sick days and paid leave that would allow them to balance work and family. I think we're – [applause] – I think we are embarrassed by, even shocked by, the fact we are just one of nine [10:00] countries in the entire world without national paid family leave. Now, you may not realize that, because here in California, this state has had paid leave for 10 years. And the last time I looked, it seemed to work well for both businesses and families.

But even that is not a silver bullet. As Sheryl Sandberg and others have reminded us, even the professional women who have access to these basic benefits are often set back in their careers, in some cases simply for taking advantage of family leave or flexible schedules, and others because of more subtle biases or attitudes in the workplace. When I was a young lawyer and was pregnant, I worked in a small law firm, and there was no family leave policy. It had never come up before. I was the first woman to be a partner in that law firm. And so nobody said anything to me and I didn't say anything to them; I just kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger. And I'd walk down the halls, and some of my partners would avert their eyes. They didn't know what to say to me. So when the time came and I went in and gave birth, the next morning, the lead partner called, and he said two things: he said "congratulations," and "when are you coming back to work?" I said, "Well, thank you very much. Maybe in four months." Pause. He goes, "Oh. Okay." He had no idea. I had no idea. But I was in a position where I could say, "Okay. Four months." And too many women even in those days – I can remember so well – they [12:00] lost their jobs, they were marginalized, they were demoted for doing one of the most important jobs anybody in a society has: producing the next generation.

And even though things have changed in many places, not nearly enough and not everywhere, in so many ways, our economy seems to be operating like its 1955. And that's not just a problem for working women. It's a problem for everyone. Just think about all he hard-working families that depend on two incomes to make ends meet. When one is short-changed, the entire family suffers. In fact, more than 40% of mothers are now the sole or primary breadwinners for our families and our economy depends on the strong participation by women – women moving into the workforce in large numbers helped drive a significant amount of America's economic growth over the past forty years. Without that movement, the average American family would be earning $14,000 less today, and our gross domestic product would be about $2 trillion smaller. So when women's participation is limited, our country's prosperity is limited too. And there are still too many women who want to work more and earn more but are held back by outdated policies and pressures. That hurts them. That hurts their families. That translates into more families struggling. We're just leaving that money, that growth on the table. And many families then can't afford their standard of living. They can't afford to get into [14:00] and stay in the middle class.

Sometimes when I would go out and talk about women's issues, which I've done for decades and particularly as Secretary of State, when I said that it was the great unfinished business of the 21st Century, because the data on all of this is overwhelming, I could see men's eyes glaze over. I could see particularly foreign leaders but some Americans too saying, "Oh yeah. Here she goes. Just look like you're concentrating. Act like you're listening and this too shall pass." But when we began using the economic data collected by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and a lot of other organizations both public and private and I could say, "Do you know how much money you're leaving on the table? Do you know how much greater your economic growth and GDP could be if women were able to participate fully in the economy? Because this great unfinished business of the 21st Century really is moving toward the full participation of girls in every aspect of society all over the world. That is a goal that has inspired me from the time I was an advocate for children and families through today and which I took with me into the State Department, because I wanted it to be a priority of American foreign policy, because where women are included, you're more likely to have democracy, you're more likely to have stability and prosperity. So it's not just a nice thing to do. It's important to our economic growth and our security.

And since leaving the [16:00] government, I've worked on it at the Clinton Foundation with my daughter. And Chelsea and I are working with Melinda Gates and other partners on an initiative we call No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project. We're collecting the best data and research available on the gains women and girls have made around the world over the last twenty years. And we're looking at ways to accelerate progress in the years ahead. Next month, we'll publish a sweeping global progress report full of data designed to be accessible, sharable, even snackable, and I hope you all will check it out.

Now, there will be good news to celebrate. For example, around the world, we've nearly closed the gender gap in primary education. But there's also bad news, including the persistent gap between boys and girls in secondary education. When it comes to technology, the data reveals a massive digital divide – an estimated 200 million fewer women than men are online in developing countries, and you know better than most how Internet access can help unleash economic growth, lift people out of poverty, so this is a problem, but it is also an opportunity to build new markets, to improve education, to spur new growth. Technology has the potential to empower women and girls like nothing ever before, and it is helping inspire and mobilize grassroots action in places we'd never expect. I've seen that firsthand. I've seen how innovations starting right here are

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helping to lift people out of poverty, giving them more control over their own lives, helping them hold their governments accountable. I'll never forget one woman I met at a tech camp that we set up at the [18:00] State Department in Lithuania to train pro-democracy activists from Russia and other Soviet countries, help them stay one step ahead of the censors and secret police. It was part of a broader effort that included investing in new apps and devices to protect dissidents, like a panic button that a protestor could press on a phone that would signal to friends that she was being arrested, while simultaneously erasing all of her personal contacts. For the tech camps we brought along experts from Twitter, Facebook, Microsoft, to explain how activists could protect their privacy and anonymity on line and thwart restrictive government firewalls. I asked one young woman from Belarus if she was scared that coming to this Tech Camp would get her in trouble back home. She said no, 'My government can go to Hell' she said, 'I'm here to learn how I can promote democracy.'

My goal was to make the State Department a hub of innovation, leading the way with what we call 21st century state craft, harnessing new technologies, public private partnerships, diaspora networks, tapping expertise right here in Silicon Valley to help build the programs that would address the challenges from the drug war in northern Mexico, to the epidemic of rape in the Eastern Congo, to persecution in the Middle East. And a partnership we call Civil Society 2.0 helped deliver technology training to more than 1,000 civil society organizations from 80 countries, and I was very pleased that we were ranked in the State Department as having the most innovation-friendly culture. Now, the federal government has a long way to go so you might think that's [20:00] damning with faint praise, but we were pleased that the work we were doing was being recognized, that we could effectively partner with Silicon Valley and the broader tech community.

We had a great public-private partnership called mWomen, which brought together leading telecom companies from around the world to narrow the digital divide. And, there was this wonderful woman from India at the launch event, she represented the Self Employed Women's Association, SEWA, an economic cooperative that has transformed the lives of millions of poor women through microloans and other support. Here's the story she told me: she said for most of her life she had never seen a cell phone, she made a meager living by picking flowers and then bringing them to the local market, where she would go from trader to trader hoping to find a buyer. Sometimes her entire day was spent this way with nothing sold. Then she joined SEWA and through SEWA she got a loan for $48 to buy her first mobile phone. Suddenly she could actually call different markets, arrange to sell her flowers at a fair price in a fraction of the time. She used the money she saved to start a small business; she started buying and selling grain from neighboring villages also using her cell phone. It was her dream that every woman would get a phone.

Now the bottom line from all the data and all the stories is this, we still have a long way to go but progress is possible, especially when we make a commitment of resources and political will. In fact I think we are at a pivotal point that requires all of us to work together, roll up our sleeves, figure out what we're going to do, whether it's here in Silicon Valley or [22:00] halfway around the world, to help shape the future we want, to close the digital divide, to unlock our full potential, crack every last glass ceiling. So technology presents both peril and promise for all human beings, and it also presents some challenges for our economy and this is another area where we should be clear-eyed about the gains and about the gaps. American innovation, including the work many of you do, holds such enormous potential. Whether it's clean energy, or cloud computing, or the Internet of things new advances will continue to revolutionize how we live, learn, and do business. And increasingly, the divide between the old economy and the new is breaking down. The next wave of innovation could reach far beyond not just Silicon Valley but certainly beyond our nation's borders, creating new industries and remaking established ones, and that's important because even the most successful tech startups rarely end up hiring large numbers of American workers. So there's enormous promise in the intersection of new technology, IT, but also nanotech, biotech, robotics, and traditional industries like energy, automobiles, health care, education, and more. That's really the beating heart of the American economy. That's where most American's work. So we should set our sights on increasing productivity, spurring growth, and improving standards for all, not just a few at the top. And let's be honest, as we've learned the hard way, there can be a real human cost to some of these amazing innovations. We can't lose sight of that. Just as technology can boost productivity and create jobs, it has the potential to put many people out of their jobs by automating processes that used to require a full [24:00] day's work. Advances that are supposed to move us ahead can end up leaving a lot of people further behind. And I know from my own travels and discussions how many Americans feel the ground shifting under their feet. The old jobs and careers are either gone or unrecognizable, and the old rules just don't seem to apply, and, frankly, the new rules are just not that clear, and the result is anxiety and dislocation.

Just think about how much our families have changed, with caregivers becoming breadwinners. Well, our jobs have changed too, and wages no longer rise with productivity, while CEO pay keeps going up. Young people expect to change jobs much more frequently, certainly, than their parents. So if we want to find our balance again, we have figure out how to make this new economy work for everyone. That's why we have to ask how we organize ourselves so that technological change helps create more jobs, not just disrupts and displaces them, and how we try to have rising wages. We have to redouble our efforts to provide the education and skills, not just for our kids but for adults too so they have the tools they need to change jobs or start businesses. And we have to think hard about how to have the flexibility and support that American families need so that parents can be both great workers and great parents.

And that brings me back to Moore's Law and the march of progress, because we can't do this without working together. We can't do it without really empathizing and understanding what our neighbors are going through. But I think we can help more families find a way forward, find their footing in the middle class, find a [26:00] way to see rising wages and rising hopes. I think it's within our grasp, but I know it's not inevitable. Our economic success is not a birthright, it can't be inherited, it has to be earned by each generation, just like it was earned by those who came before us. My grandfather was a factory worker in the lace mills in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Proudly worked there from the age of 11 until he retired at 65. My father made it to college on a football scholarship, started a small business. My mother overcame a childhood of abandonment to help build a middle-

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class life for me and my brothers. And I knew I was the beneficiary not only of their love and hard work, but their aspirations for us and a larger community that believed as they did in America's promise. I never doubted how fortunate I was to live in America in a time of such positive change from the postwar economic boom to the civil rights movement to the women's movement, and I hope for all of our children the same sense of possibility that I had.

Now, it can be easy to get discouraged sometimes if you look only at the headlines, but if you look at the trend lines you can see there is a movement stirring across our nation. It is about putting families first. It is about creating a 21st century economy for 21st century families. You can see it in parents across California who demanded paid sick leave so they wouldn't have to choose between their jobs and their kids. You can see it in the security guards right here in Silicon Valley who are organizing for more hours, not fewer. You can see it in the hourly workers in San Francisco who fought to make shift [28:00] schedules more predictable and family life more stable. You can see it in the businesses and community leaders coming together to invest in early childhood education in Oakland. And you can see it in the moms demanding for equal pay for equal work and the dads demanding access to quality, affordable childcare.

So many people are just asking for that same chance. A chance at a living wage, at their dreams, and there are many reasons to think that we will reinvent ourselves, we will figure out how we're going to do this, we'll be part of the solution. That's really what I think Lead On means. Yes, lead on for yourselves. All of us have to come to grips with rising and falling, as I heard Renee Brown say at the very end. We fall together, we rise together. And as women, let's do more to help all women lead on and succeed. My friend Madeleine Albright famously said, "there is a special spot in Hell for women who don't help other women."

So – [applause] – what you do does not have to be big and dramatic. You don't have to run for office. [applause] Although, if you do, more power to you. But seriously, a helping hand or a kind word can make a big difference. It's one of those "click" moments where you [30:00] realize that helping somebody else not only feels good but ends up helping you. The more we stand with each other, the more obstacles we can overcome, the more we will be able to shape our own destinies. That's true not just for women, it's true for everyone. Indeed, it's true for our entire country.

So you came here today under the banner of Lead On, wanting to listen and learn and meet and talk and network, because there may be nuggets you can pick up and use for your own professional or personal betterment. But there may also be ways you can think about, "You know, I hadn't thought about how that could help my friend or my coworker, my neighbor. I'm going to try to have a conversation about what I heard today." Or about an issue that you really have been kind of stewing over, but now maybe go out and find some other people to lead on with you to try to resolve. To prove every single day that progress is possible in our own lives. And believe me, I know that's not easy. Because we have no time to waste.

You know, in our report – the progress report we're issuing with the Gates Foundation on the progress women around the world, including the United States, have made over the last 20 years – we boldly assert that there has never been a better time to be a woman in the history of the world. And indeed, I believe that with all my heart. The changes that I've seen in my own life – changes I've watched my daughter go [32:00] through and what I now think about the future for my granddaughter – I'm absolutely convinced of that. But I also believe – and maybe it's part of the American DNA – we have a special obligation to make it better for each other as well as ourselves, and to set an example for people across the globe.

You know, when my granddaughter Charlotte was born on September 26th, 2014, I have to confess, I was just overwhelmed. I've had lots of friends who got to grandparenthood before me and who have far more grandchildren than I will ever catch up to. And I heard them and I listened to them, and I thought, "That's really nice." And then all of a sudden, here is this new life, this new hope, this new opportunity; this blessing given to us in my family. And of course, her parents, her grandparents, her extended family – we will do whatever it takes to make sure that this baby has every opportunity in the world. But even as I say that, I know that's not enough. Because she will become a citizen of our country and of the world in 20, 25 years God willing, and what kind of world is going to be there waiting for her? Is it a world of hope or fear? Is it a world of possibility or shrunken, destroyed dreams? I don't know. I do know that it really matters for the life I hope she will lead that we do [34:00] everything we can now to make sure every child is given the same opportunities we will do our best to provide for her. I believe talent is universal, but opportunity is not. And leading on means, in large measure, how we expand that circle of opportunity, so every girl and boy has a chance to be all she or he can become, with their own efforts, their own work, but with the support and the love of the rest of us. The time to start is now. I'm excited about what we can do together, and I believe that all of us can certainly show the way as we lead on to the kind of future we want. Thank you all very, very much.

ANNOUNCER: [Welcomes Kara Swisher to stage]

KARA SWISHER: I didn't know I was an entrepreneur.

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SEC. CLINTON: By definition, right?

SWISHER: Exactly. [Makes administrative announcement] So hello.

SEC. CLINTON: Hello.

SWISHER: How are you doing? So I interviewed President Obama last week and I'm very eager to interview another president.

SEC. CLINTON: [laughter] [36:00] That's good [high five].

SWISHER: So I wanted to ask the big question, iphone or android?

SEC. CLINTON: iphone. Okay, in full disclosure, and a blackberry, and I think the president told you the same thing.

SWISHER: Except I think he really loves his.

SEC. CLINTON: Well you know, it is, there are reasons why when you start out in Washington on a Blackberry you stay on it in many instances, but it's also, I don't know, I don't throw anything away. I'm like two steps short of a hoarder, so I have a, you know, an ipad, a mini ipad, an iphone, and a Blackberry.

SWISHER: [comments about use of Blackberry in DC, ask Sec. Clinton Apple watch or Fitbit]

SEC. CLINTON: Well, you can tell I'm not doing Fitbit, and I haven't gotten into the Apple watch yet. I'm not in a wearable frame of mind yet. You know, three people have given me a Fitbit or a Jawbone and I look at it and I think do I really want something telling me I should do what I know I should do. I mean, I have enough stress in my life avoiding doing what I'm told I should do, so I haven't jumped off the ledge yet.

SWISHER: [Running for President or hosting Oscars]

SEC. CLINTON: [38:00] Yeah well, and both jobs are really painful from my own personal experience and observation. I don't think I could do the Birdman imitation. That goes back to the Fitbit conversation, I couldn't do that.

SWISHER: But what about the president thing?

SEC. CLINTON: You know, there have been, there have been a lot more Oscar presentations than there have been presidents. So the pressure is probably somewhat less, it's a one night gig, and for many its just one night, and the other one it's, you know, a many year commitment.

SWISHER: Eight in your case, you hope. Correct?

SEC. CLINTON: Well, yeah, you've got to hope that. And I am, look if you don't tell anybody, I am obviously talking to a lot of people, thinking through, because here's my view on this Kara, I just think that we have so many big issues we have to deal with that unless we really can come

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together and have a national conversation about those issues we're not going to make the progress we make. And there are a lot of things that I would love to see our country do, I'd like to bring people from right, left, red, blue, get them into a nice warm purple space where everybody is talking and where we're actually trying to solve problems, and you know that would be my objective if I decide to do this.

SWISHER: Why wait announcing?

SEC. CLINTON: Well, all in good time is sort of my response because, [40:00] you know, there's a lot to think about I have to tell you. I don't know how many of you are list makers, I have a very long list, I'm going down it, I'm very, you know, I'm very committed to go down it but I haven't checked off the last couple of things here.

SWISHER: If you were to run, what would be the central parts of the campaign for you, you're talking about there's a lot of things, the purple thing I get that, but what would be the central thing that you'd want [inaudible]?

SEC. CLINTON: Well let me answer it this way by saying whoever runs here's what I think the central thing is, because we have to restore economic growth with rising wages for the vast majority of Americans and we have to restore trust and cooperation within our political system so that we can act like the great country we are, and those two things it seems to me are actually related. Because, you know there are some steps that business has to take, you know we heard Rene talking about what Intel's going to do, I talked about Google, we have to have businesses take a hard look, like how can they expand opportunity, be more inclusive, that's part of it. But we also have to figure out how we can have a foundation in our economy again that makes people feel that their hard work and effort will be rewarded because productivity is actually up. People are working longer hours than many had to work in the past but there's just no increase in their wages that demonstrates they're respected, appreciated –

SWISHER: What could a supposed president do to fix that?

SEC. CLINTON: Well, I think that, you know –

SWISHER: Actually, I'm going to call you the alleged president.

SEC. CLINTON: [Laughs] Well, I mean, this is where I'm supposed to say "stay tuned," you know. What I would say is, this is why we need to figure out how to go after this problem. And some of it is a bottom-up issue like the minimum wage. Some of it is a fairness and equity issue like equal pay for equal work, like paid leave so people can actually stay in the workforce. Women are, not because they want to but because they have to, dropping out of the workforce in many instances, thereby diminishing their income. So there are certain steps that a government can and should take and in the past we've seen a government sort of shore that up. And then there are ways that we have to recast our thinking. You know, so much about the rise in productivity without the rise in wages has to do with decisions that businesses are making. And a lot of businesses say to me, "Look, we are under tremendous pressure, quarterly pressure. We have to meet certain targets. And we just don't have the leeway." And my response is, well we need to create that leeway. How do we look at what's happening in corporate governance, in how the incentives work within the corporate world today, and figure out if there's some way we can help the good guys so that they can actually do more for their employees. And I'm looking at a lot of different approaches.

SWISHER: Can you actually create jobs? Because a lot – you referenced it – and many Silicon Valley people reference it, is that they're going to be fewer jobs.

SEC. CLINTON: Right.

SWISHER: And as things become automated –

SEC. CLINTON: Well let me give you two quick examples. One, look at the enormous numbers of jobs that technology created, starting in the nineties, right? I mean, it was a huge explosion, not just in tech companies but across the board. And now we've got to figure out, are we hitting a

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ceiling because with increased innovation, automation, we're not able to create more jobs, or is there more that we can do in order to promote job creation? But it's not just job creation, it has to be with a rising wage, an opportunity ladder. Energy is a huge opportunity. Energy efficiency jobs are woefully underrepresented in the economy. Now there are things that both utility companies and governments at local, state, the federal level, could do to encourage more jobs that would move us toward more renewable energy. We've done a bit of it, but we haven't done near-enough of it. And so there is an area where it's sitting right there and we're not doing everything we could. We don't have a level playing field, we still highly subsidize non-renewable, non-clean energy. We should have a much more open, competitive field so that energy efficiency, solar, geothermal, wind, all of that, is on a stronger foundation – and we will create more jobs.

SWISHER: Alright, let's talk about the – [applause] – why do you think we need a woman president? Just curious.

SEC. CLINTON: [Laughs] Well –

SWISHER: Besides "she'd be better."

SEC. CLINTON: Well, speaking hypothetically?

SWISHER: Yeah.

SEC. CLINTON: Well, you know –

SWISHER: We can say "President Warren," if you want. But it's more of a –

SEC. CLINTON: Well, yeah, you know I think whoever it is – or should be – we need to make sure that all the talent in our country is represented. I mean –

SWISHER: But do you think it's be a different president, being a woman?

SEC. CLINTON: Well, I can only speak both for myself and for my experience. But having been in the Senate and having seen the difference that women in the Senate made, the most famous example – and it's literally hard to believe right now – but in the seventies and eighties women were not used as subjects in clinical trials by the National Institutes of Health. And in fact, big trials on breast cancer did not include women patients. [Laughter] I know, it's so sad right? And so along came –

SWISHER: Also weird.

SEC. CLINTON: – somebody like Barbara Mikulski and others who were determined to "lead on," and they changed that. Now that's a specific example and there are many others where the experience of being a woman, the ability to see what others might not see, as either gender discrimination or marginalization, gives us a chance to speak up, to be heard, and to make changes. You know, when I was first lady I worked with a lot of the breast cancer advocates to continue on breast cancer because it was one of the most egregious examples, and we kept seeing how research for the causes, prevention of breast cancer kept being cut. And so I worked with a lot of these advocates and we put a breast cancer research program into the defense department budget – because it wouldn't be cut. [Applause] Now, we had to keep saving it, because people found it and tried to cut it. But that's the kind of difference, that you sit and talk – and this is bipartisan, you know, women on both sides of the aisle. They have these views, and we had some of the best times, we had dinners every month together. They were totally off the record, they were not political. We would say, "Well, what are you working on? How can we help?" And so it was what you would hope your elected officials would do together and I think there's a lot more of that and, you know, women in public life do bring that perspective which we need.

SWISHER: Well, why do you think – let's get to Silicon Valley. You talked about Rosanna [Patricia] Arquette's statement at the Oscars, the wage

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inequalities. Those numbers you coded for Google, it's every single company in Silicon Valley. It's essentially white dudes and a couple of ladies.

SEC. CLINTON: Right. Right.

SWISHER: How do you – what do you think about that? This is supposed to be our most fast-forward industry, the one where all the jobs are. But it's completely –

SEC. CLINTON: Well, you know I've thought a lot about it, and I thin, overgeneralize, three big reasons. One, this pipeline problem. You know, when you had more women getting computer science degrees in the '80s by a factor of 2+ than you do now, that kind of let's people off the hook. You know, why aren't more girls and women going into this field? What was different about being a high-school or college student in the '80s than it is today? And I think we need to unpack that, and we have to do more to create opportunities for girls to have access to computer science, programing, coding experiences to kind of light those interests in them. And then secondly, I do think you have to recognize that in technology, which has just exploded over the last twenty years, it's been a very almost Wild West environment, and I think a lot of women find that distasteful, unappealing to be in a situation sort of resembling a locker room in some ways where you just feel like you're… it's hard to get your voice in. It's hard to be heard. It's like that classic tale when you say something in a meeting and nobody pays attention and then twenty minutes later a man says it and everybody thinks he's a genius. And I've had that experience a lot of times. And you just have to… you have to kind of gird up and you therefore need support systems like the Watermark or like this conference, because it's not easy if you poke your head above the parapet if you're in technology, politics, and a lot of other areas.

And the third thing is I think companies should be held to account. I mean, you need shareholders and executives and customers and others to say "Hey, you can do better than 83% male."

SWISHER: [How do you change the systemic qualities that create that locker-room culture?]

SEC. CLINTON: Look, I think that it requires both men and women to speak up and speak out about this and I think for men it's always fascinating when you talk to groups of men in tech or any other industry, it's almost inevitable in my experience that they… some of them will tell me how great their daughters are and how well their daughters are doing and what their daughters hope to become. And I always say, "Don't you want your daughter to be able to go as far as she can go in whatever field she chooses? "Oh of course." Well, you're a bank, you're a big corporation, you're this, you're that. You better pay attention to the kind of environments that educated young women are going into and maybe raise questions about it, so men have to be more sensitive to, more interested in, creating this environment, and if you can't get them on the daughter side of argument, try to get them on the fact that we are now amassing evidence that corporations with women on boards actually do better. They have a higher ROI. They are consistently you know more successful.

And so, we have some both personal and some statistical data to back it up. But then I think for women that's why I ended by talking about how we have to support each other more. And this is a constant challenge, and we need to be willing to stand up for other women, to raise questions about how other women are being treated. I remember all those years ago when I was in this law firm [4:00], around 3 o'clock, every secretary, every administrative assistant, every woman paralegal would be on the phone trying to make sure their kid got home safely. Because the kids were coming home, they were what we called then "latch-key" kids, and they wanted to make sure their kids were safe. And they were whispering in the phone, because you're not supposed to make personal phone calls at business. And I finally went to the partners and said, "This is absurd. You should have a window of opportunity. These women work so hard. They're great members of our team." So you need to pick up on what's happening and not just among your peers but women who may not have the power and position you do. And then finally, develop a thick skin. I mean, my favorite predecessor, Eleanor Roosevelt, said that women in the public arena have to grow skin as thick as the hide of a rhinoceros, and you have to be prepared… you know, try to think ahead of the smart thing you'll say if somebody makes an offensive comment to you, instead of what we all do which is, you sit there shocked and then in bed at night you think, "Oh, I wish I'd said this." Sort of have a stock of those that you kind of carry around with you. And throw out and you know kind of say, "Oh, take that."

SWISHER: You know, you're pretty good at that actually.

SEC. CLINTON: You know, I've had a lot of practice. I mean I started… I mean really.

SWISHER: But would you put this idea of childcare at the center of an administration, a real center and not a sort of side way?

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SEC. CLINTON: Now look, I think…

SWISHER: Did you do enough in the last campaign to bring it to the center?

SEC. CLINTON: You know…

SWISHER: Many say you didn't.

SEC. CLINTON: Well, you know, I've heard that. And I'm certainly trying to learn from what I did right and what I didn't in thinking through, you know, doing this again. I think that the family issues, sort of putting families first, creating more supportive work environments so that if you do that, what people find is that women who get treated well are such loyal employees. They will stay with the company. They will work double-time. They will do everything they can to make the enterprise that supported them successful. So this is not a nice thing to do, this [54:00] is a win-win. I think that child care, these family issues, are now bubbling to the top of the list on people's minds.

SWISHER: So let's talk a little bit about some of the issues around the tech sector. We talked backstage, net neutrality. They're going to vote on it Thursday. The president's been rather aggressive about making it a utility. Do you think it should be a utility?

SEC. CLINTON: Well here's what I think. I think that it, for the FCC to do what they want to do to try to –

SWISHER: -- regulate it like a phone.

SEC. CLINTON: -- create net neutrality as the norm, they have to have a hook to hang it on and so they're hanging it on title 2 of –

SWISHER: Do you like that hook?

SEC. CLINTON: Well it's the only hook they've got.

SWISHER: Yeah but what hook would you like? [crosstalk] Because your husband's administration and the Bush administration before were much hands off in that regard.

SEC. CLINTON: Well you see how things develop. It wasn't really a threat until relatively recently. I think I gave my first statement on net neutrality about eight or nine years ago. And we know how important it is because of concentration and the industry and the like. But I think that if there were another hook it would come out of a modern, 21st century telecom technology act. We don't have that and we're not likely to get it

SWISHER: Should this vote open that way?

SEC. CLINTON: Oh yeah absolutely.

SWISHER: Would you vote for that?

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SEC. CLINTON: Yes I would. Yes I would.

SWISHER: That act, but what about the one the FCC's invented?

SEC. CLINTON: I would vote for net neutrality because as I understand it, it's Title II with a lot of changes within it in order to avoid the worst of the utility regulation. So it's a foot in the door. It's a value statement. I think the president is right to be up front and out front on that but it's not the end of the discussion. I mean we need to do more about how the spectrum is allocated, we need to do more incentivize more competition in broadband. We need to figure out how to treat connectivity as an infrastructure development. There's a lot of other aspects so it's not just net neutrality standing alone, end of debate – and that should be part of a really smart legislative endeavor – but I don't think people believe that can happen in the short term.

SWISHER: Okay. What about encryption? Right now Apple and Google are fighting the government. Do you have a side in this? Which, the president was kind of, "I was for it until I was against it" kinda thing. Where do you feel on encryption? Do you feel these companies should be able to encrypt these phones?

SEC. CLINTON: Well I think you have a classic hard choice and I wrote a book called Hard Choices and it's not a dodge, or a feint, because I think that what we're missing is people are kind of in their corners arguing about liberty versus security instead of saying look we all want to have privacy for the end user. That's what the companies are responding to, they're trying to be able to tell their customers we're going to protect your data but we also don't want to find ourselves in a position where it's a legitimate security threat we're facing and we can't figure out how to address it because we have no way into whatever is holding the information. And we're also not operating in a vacuum. We know that other countries are taking their own steps to monitor the internet, control the internet, which we're not but what we've got to figure out is how you get the right balance. So encryption is a part of protecting people's legitimate right to privacy.

SWISHER: How would you address Google and Apple if you were the president?

SEC. CLINTON: Well I've talked to some of the leaders in technology, some of the executives of these companies, and I think that's the way to start, not a – a real conversation, where you say look here's our problem. If you were sitting in my seat, if all of a sudden some president said okay Mr. or Miss X we want you to be head of the counterterrorism or the new cyber warfare, something that takes advantage of your expertise. So you're sitting in these meetings that the president and I and others have sat in and we can see the sequencing where we know people are in contact and we have both human intelligence and some technology-enabled intelligence and we know there's something going to happen and we're trying to figure out how to get through the door that has been locked. So I think the conversation rather than you don't understand privacy and you don't understand security [inaudible] Okay let's figure out how we're going to do this. So I don't have the answer, I would be the first to say that I don't have the answer. I think there are really strong legitimate arguments on both sides and what I would like to see is more the kind of brainstorming that I've had the good fortune to do.

SWISHER: Another issue of contention is the NSA. Would you throttle back the NSA in the ways that President Obama had promised and hasn't come to pass?

SEC. CLINTON: Well I think the – look – I think the NSA needs to be more transparent about what it is doing, sharing with the American people. Which it wasn't. And I think a lot of the reaction about the NSA when people felt betrayed. They felt like, wait you didn't tell us you were doing this and all of a sudden now we're reading it on the front page, we're getting hammered by our customers and by other countries – I would say very hypocritically – are going after our companies because I know for a fact that there's not a country out there that doesn't do anything they can do to get an advantage. And they do things that we would never do, like industrial espionage, like stealing intellectual property. So there's a lot that's going on in this space. So when you say would you throttle – the NSA has to act lawfully and we as a country have to decide what the rules are. And then [1:00:00] we have to make it absolutely clear we're going to hold them accountable. And what we had, because of post-9/11 legislation, was a lot more flexibility than I think people really understood and was not explained to them. I voted against the FISA amendments in 2008 because I didn't think that they went far enough to kind of hold us accountable in the Congress to figure out what was –

SWISHER: -- By flexibility you mean too much spying power really?

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SEC. CLINTON: Well yeah but how much is too much? And how much is not enough? That's the hard part. I think if Americans felt like, number one, you're not going after my personal information, the content of my personal information, but I do want you to get the bad guys because I don't want them to use social media, use, you know, communications devices embedded right here to plot against us. So let's draw the line. And I think it's hard if everybody's in their corner. So, I resist saying, you know, it has to be this or that. I want us to come to a better balance.

SWISHER: Do you think Edward Snowden was a traitor in revealing that?

SEC. CLINTON: I can never condone what he did, and I think he, you know, he stole millions of documents, and the great irony is the vast majority of those documents had nothing to do with American civil liberties, privacy, or anything affecting us here at home. They were about information we had vis a vis China, Russia, Iran, others. And then he fled to China, then he ends up in Russia. So, you know, the President had given a speech before Snowden's disclosures laying out some of those issues that we needed to address. So people were beginning to take a deep breath after a decade of 9/11 reaction, and the President was sort of leading that. And along comes Snowden, and puts forth information into the public domain that people are entitled to know, but I think it's fair to say a lot of it was nothing to do with the subject we're talking about, but very damaging to our national security vis a vis countries that do their very best to gather information about us.

SWISHER: Alright, two more things. Couple more topics. ISIS. Disturbing videos, they're using social media, creating terror there. Has the Administration done enough to tackle the problem, and what would you do more to deal with them?

SEC. CLINTON: Well, you know, again, how much time do we have? I think not enough –

SWISHER: As much as you want. [laughter] We can sit here all day.

SEC. CLINTON: – yeah, you know, look. OK, then let me start with this. ISIS is the manifestation of a movement that is incredibly fueled by an obsession to control territory, to reestablish, as they say, a caliphate that would be governed by people with a very retrograde view of everything about women, everything I care about, everything about due process or rights or anything. We know that. So why are they – why did they get a foothold? Well, first of all, they are the successor to what was called al Qaeda in Iraq. Al Qaeda in Iraq was an al Qaeda affiliate that was based in the Sunni regions within Iraq and was fighting the Shiite forces in Iraq during the American involvement in Iraq. They were so brutal at that time that it provided the opportunity for a lot of the Sunni tribal sheiks and community leaders to band against them, to come together to try to drive them out of Anbar Province and out of the Sunni dominated regions, and they were successful in doing so because they finally decided that the enemy of my enemy is my friend didn't work, because these people were so brutal, so beyond the pale. So they effectively squashed them, and then the United States turned over Iraq to the elected leadership of then Prime Minister Maliki. And he proceeded to then alienate all the Sunni leaders and citizenry, purged the army of Sunni officers, generally behaved in a sectarian, exclusive, oppressive way, and so these shoots that had been suppressed began to pop to the surface. Meanwhile, next door in Syria you have all kinds of extremist groups taking advantage of the vacuum there, and one of them morphed into ISIS and was able to recruit former officers in the Saddam Hussein army, as well as foreign fighters, as well as very combat-experienced jihadists, and were able to gather up a lot of resources by breaking into banks and stealing everything in them, by stealing oil and selling it on the black market etcetera. And they did something that, up until now, no other extremist group has done as effectively and that use social media. So, all of the sudden it wasn't just like, oh my gosh those people are killing each other over there again, it was oh my gosh they're threatening us, they're recruiting kids from the United States, Canada, Europe, elsewhere, they are threatening to expand their territorial grasp, they are really a metastasizing danger. So, therefore, we have to work with our partners in the region to try to diminish and eventually eradicate the threat, because it does affect us and not just them.

SWISHER: But how, do you think enough is being done?

SEC. CLINTON: Well, I think that it's, you know, it's a very hard challenge because you can't very well put American or western troops in to fight this organism, you have to use, not only air force, but also army soldiers from the region, and particularly from Iraq. And so what Americans are doing now is helping to retrain the Iraqi army after it was really decimated by Maliki trying to get leadership back in within the Sunni regions, trying to integrate them so the Sunnis feel they have a stake in the future, supporting the Kurds because the Kurdish peshmerga are right now certainly the best fighting force. It's like three, four, five dimensional chess. So yes, I think a lot of the right moves are being made, but this is a really complicated and long term problem, because remember, we've got al Qaeda in Yemen, we've got Boko Haram in North Africa. We've got terrorist groups from, you know, the Sinai through Libya and south into Mali. This is a long term struggle, so –

SWISHER: So are you sure you want to be president then? [laughter]

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SEC. CLINTON: Yeah, yeah. Well, you know, every time has its own problems, so these happen to be some of ours.

SWISHER: That's true. So, two more very quick questions. If you could wave a wand and change anything about this country, what would it be? One thing.

SEC. CLINTON: Oh, oh, that's so hard.

SWISHER: And not another season of Downton Abbey or something like that.

SEC. CLINTON: Well, I hope that happens without me waving a magic wand. You know, that we could get back to working together cooperatively again, that we could get out of our – [applause] – our mindsets, our partisan bunkers. We've come so far. We still have lots to do on ending, you know, sexism and racism and homophobia and all kinds of really bad issues that we've had to confront. And we have work still to do, but we're making a lot of progress, but nobody wants to associate with anybody who doesn't agree with them politically. You can't have a conversation. People won't listen to each other. They listen to different media, and those different media tell different stories about the very same thing that you're watching unfold in front of your eyes. You cannot run a great country like that, and this is the greatest country, and we need to start acting like it and working like it again.

SWISHER: Do you think you've become less polarizing?

SEC. CLINTON: I mean, yeah, obviously I think I have. I think that, you know, I was a little bit surprised. I mean, when I was first lady of Arkansas, I worked on a lot of really controversial issues in education and health. And I worked with people across the aisle, worked with people of different philosophies because within the Democratic Party in those days, there were lots of very conservative Democrats. And then I go to Washington, and all of a sudden it's considered just an incredible shock that somebody like me, who's been an advocate, been involved in so many movements for so long, would actually have an opinion about something like healthcare for everybody, or whatever it might be. So I think there was some back and forth there that I had to understand better and I certainly tried to do that when I ran for the Senate that was something that I stressed. And when I worked in the senate I was very much somebody who would work across the aisle, look for opportunities to do that. Because I don't think I have all the right ideas, I don't think my part has all the right ideas, I think there are good ideas in lots of places, but if you don't talk to each other, you don't listen to each other, and in Washington you don't spend time with each other because you fly in you vote, vote, vote, and then you fly out to go raise money. I'll just end with this because I know we're running out of time. I was so proud of my friend Patty Murray, the Senator from Washington, who when the government was shut down a year or so ago, she was the chair of the budget committee, and so they shut the government down, and then they reopen it, but they basically say we have to pass a budget. They turn to Patty and say you okay, you're the chair of the Budget Committee, go work out a budget. So Patty, worked with Paul Ryan, the former Vice Presidential nominee for Mitt Romney, congressman from Wisconsin, and they actually talked to each other. They didn't show up at a big conference table with valences of true believes on each side of them with notebooks filled with argumentation. They had breakfast together, they lunch together, they'd sit and talk about what each of them wanted, knowing they couldn't agree on giving each other everything, but how could they make enough decisions to reach a consensus, and they did. So it's possible, and it requires relationship building. You know, a lot of people that I have really serious disagreements with I found ways to work together and I got to know better, and that's kind of lost. So this is, as you can tell, one of my pet peeves here.

SWISHER: So my last question, I asked this the President last question. If you could have a hashtag for the next few years, and you can't do grandmother knows best, you've used that one, but you could do Hillary 2016 if you want, just offering a suggestion. Hash tag I love selfies, whatever, what would it be? Your hashtag?

SEC. CLINTON: Lead on.

SWISHER: Thank you.

SEC. CLINTON: Thank you all very much!

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 5/23/2008 1:40:27 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 5/23

08 Election Daily News Clips
May 23rd, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

10:30am McCain: Opens 400 pages of medical records for physical inspection

11:15am BUSH: Speaks on World Trade Week, Washington, DC

2pm McCain: Conference Call with Mayo Clinic physicians

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain's Rules on Lobbying Face Test (Washington Post 5/23/08)
By Matthew Mosk and Jeffrey H. Birnbaum; A08
Charles R. Black Jr., the senior adviser to Republican John McCain whose work for foreign dictators has led Democrats to call for his ouster, is not the only lobbyist in the family volunteering on the senator from Arizona's presidential campaign.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/05/22/ST2008052204553.html

Senior Aide's Lobbying Efforts Highlight Challenge for McCain (WSJ 5/23/08)
By MARY JACOBY; Page A6
For a decade, Randy Scheunemann has been a campaign staffer to John McCain, an ideological ally in the fight to contain Russian power -- and a lobbyist seeking the Arizona senator's support for former Soviet states.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121150820049216387.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

McCain Cuts Ties to Pastors Whose Talks Drew Fire (NYT 5/23/08)
By NEELA BANERJEE and MICHAEL LUO
Senator John McCain on Thursday rejected the endorsements of two prominent evangelical ministers whose backing he had sought to shore up his credentials with religious conservatives.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/23/us/politics/23hagee.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin
See AP "McCain rejects pastor's endorsement": http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ia2hzmdjsOE2A5hTebgVwIJ4N50QD90R21482
See WaPo "McCain Rejects Pastor's Backing Over Remarks": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/22/AR2008052203141.html?hpid=topnews
See LA Times "John McCain repudiates pastors' support": http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/politics/la-na-mccain23-2008may23,0,5141859.story

McCain Rejects Hagee Endorsement and "Crazy" Comments on Holocaust (ABC blog 5/22/08)
By Jake Tapper
Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., this afternoon rejected the endorsement of Pastor John Hagee after a sermon was publicized in which Hagen suggested Adolph Hitler and the Holocaust were caused by God so as to bring about the creation of the state of Israel.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/05/mccain-rejects.html
Link to McCain's statement: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-statement-rejecting-hagees-endorsement/
Link to Hagee's response: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-statement-rejecting-hagees-endorsement/

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McCain Pastor: Islam Is a 'Conspiracy of Spiritual Evil' (ABC 5/22/08)
By BRIAN ROSS, AVNI PATEL and REHAB EL-BURI
Despite his call for the U.S. to win the "hearts and minds of the Islamic world," Sen. John McCain recruited the support of an evangelical minister who describes Islam as "anti-Christ" and Mohammed as "the mouthpiece of a conspiracy of spiritual evil." McCain sought the support of Pastor Rod Parsley of the World Harvest Church of Columbus, Ohio at a critical time in his campaign in February, when former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee was continuing to draw substantial support from the Christian right.
http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/story?id=4905624&page=1

Contenders Spar on Veterans' Bill (NYT 5/23/08)
By ROBERT PEAR
Senator John McCain takes pride in his unwavering support for members of the armed forces. So when Senator Barack Obama criticized him on Thursday on the Senate floor, his response was scathing.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/23/us/politics/23vets.html
Link to transcript of Obama on Senate floor: http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/05/22/obama_mccain_tussle_over_veter.html
Link to transcript of McCain's response: http://thepage.time.com/mccain-statement-criticizing-obama-on-veterans-bill/
Link to transcript of Obama's counterpunch: http://thepage.time.com/obama-camp-response-to-mccains-attack-over-webb-comments/

McCain Slams Obama for Impugning His Motives on G.I. Bill While Not Having Served in Military (ABC blog 5/22/08)
By Jake Tapper
The $52 billion 21st century G.I. Bill passed the Senate today. The bill, shepherded by Sens. Jim Webb, D-Vir., Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and John Warner, R-Vir., would provide the equivalent of tuition for the most expensive state college in a veteran's state, give a stipend for living expenses, and award benefits on a sliding scale.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/05/mccain-slams-ob.html

Three Hours. Four Hundred Pages (ABC 5/22/08)
By TEDDY DAVIS and TALAL AL-KHATIB
If John McCain wins in November, he would be the oldest first elected president in U.S. history. This fact has not been entirely lost on voters. ... The medical information being released covers 2000 to the present and will include information about the melanoma which McCain's doctors diagnosed in August 200,... The medical information is set to be rolled out near Phoenix, Ariz., in three phases on Friday morning beginning at 10:30 am ET: ... The conference call, which will be open to any news outlet, takes place at 2:00 pm ET. The McCain campaign is also planning to post a summary on its website.
http://www.abcnews.go.com/print?id=3105455

McCain appears cancer-free, healthy (AP 5/23/08)
Lauran Neergaard And Liz Sidoti
Three-time melanoma survivor John McCain appears cancer-free, has a strong heart and is in otherwise general good health, according to eight years of medical records reviewed by The Associated Press.
http://www.realclearpolitics.com/news/ap/politics/2008/May/23/ap__mccain_appears_cancer_free__healthy.html

POW Aftereffects in McCain Unlikely (Washington Post 5/23/08)
By David Brown; A06
Sen. John McCain's 5 1/2 years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam undoubtedly changed the course of his life. But now that he is 71, that remote trauma seems unlikely to shorten his life span or to lead to mental or physical conditions that are not already apparent.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/22/AR2008052203736.html

McCain calls for guest worker visas (Sacramento Bee 5/22/08)
By Peter Hecht
UNION CITY - Republican presidential candidate John McCain joined Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in calling

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today for comprehensive immigration reform, including guest worker visas to bring employees to California's Silicon Valley and the state's vast agricultural fields. The two men brought up the issue at McCain's prompting during a global competitiveness roundtable featuring California technology executives and entrepreneurs.
http://www.sacbee.com/111/story/959959.html

McCain talks issues as troubles pile up (San Francisco Chronicle 5/23/08)
By Carla Marinucci,John Wildermuth
Union City - -- Facing a pile of controversial campaign troubles - including incendiary comments by televangelist John Hagee that forced him to reject Hagee's endorsement - Sen. John McCain tried mightily to shift the focus to economic issues and his Democratic opponent Barack Obama on Thursday during a California campaign swing.
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/05/22/MN4I10R2RJ.DTL&type=politics

McCain Resumes Talk of Comprehesive Immigration Reform (Washington Post blog 5/22/08)
By Juliet Eilperin
Surrounded by high-tech entrepreneurs, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said this morning he would expand visas for immigrants at the same time he would propose legislation cracking down on illegal immigration.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/05/22/mccain_resumes_talk_of_compreh.html

McCain Judges Obama, That 'Young Man' (NYT blog 5/22/08)
By Michael Luo
STOCKTON, Calif.—Now who's making age an issue? Senator John McCain mocked Senator Barack Obama here today at an airport rally, repeatedly calling him a "young man" with "very little experience."
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/05/22/mccain-judges-obama-that-young-man/
See WaPo blog "McCain Attacks Obama as Inexperienced": http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/05/22/mccain_attacks_obama_as_inexpe.html

3 Auditioning to Be McCain's No. 2 Gain Qualified Backing (NYT 5/23/08)
By JULIE BOSMAN
As Senator John McCain prepared to meet this weekend with three potential running mates, state Republican leaders across the country on Thursday gave a tentative nod of approval to those prospects while pointing to the possible suitability of others and emphasizing that Mr. McCain needed to please the party's conservative base.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/23/us/politics/23repubs.html

The Catch (NY Mag 5/22/08)
By John Heilemann
Both McCain and Obama are looking at Mayor Bloomberg for V.P. because he's rich, Jewish, and with a head for business. What's not to like?
http://nymag.com/news/politics/powergrid/47200/

MCCAIN: ELLEN VS. MCCAIN? (MSNBC 5/22/08)
By Mark Murray
...Per NBC's Bethany Thomas, McCain didn't dance on the Ellen DeGeneres Show, but he did field some tough questions on Ellen's upcoming marriage to actress Portia de Rossi in a newly legalized California civil ceremony.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/05/22/1051757.aspx
Link to video: http://www.cnn.com/video/#/ video/politics/2008/05/22/sot.mccain.on.ellen.cnn

Ellen Pushes McCain on Same Sex Marriage: "You're No Different Than I Am; Our Love Is the Same" (ABC blog 5/22/08)
By Jake Tapper
In the episode of the Ellen DeGeneres Show taped yesterday, to air today, the lesbian talk show host pushes her guest - presumptive GOP nominee Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz -- on his opposition to same sex marriage, which the California Supreme Court cleared the way for last week.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/05/ellen-pushes-mc.html

Liberals work to change McCain's image (San Francisco Chronicle 5/22/08)
By Joe Garofoli

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A small knot of counterdemonstrators will greet Sen. John McCain when he arrives in Stockton today for a day of Northern California campaigning and fundraising. But the real anti-McCain action is happening in the media, where labor and liberal activists are starting to get the national press to do what the still-feuding Democratic candidates can't: Focus on the Republican nominee.
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2008/05/22/MNDU10QL6K.DTL

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

More Anti-Lobbyist Than Thou (Washington Post 5/23/08)

SHAKESPEARE'S famous line about lawyers could easily be adapted for this year's campaign: "The first thing we do, let's purge all the lobbyists." The presidential contest in recent days has degenerated into a competition between Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) over which one reviles lobbyists more and relies on them less. The McCain campaign has been tossing overboard a lobbyist a day to comply with an anti-lobbyist policy written by, yes, its lobbyist-turned-campaign manager. The Obama campaign seized on the issue to portray the McCain campaign as bought and paid for by lobbyists, then found itself under fire for having a looser policy than the McCain campaign when it comes to lobbyists who volunteer for campaign work.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/22/AR2008052203471.html

Republicans and Our Enemies (WSJ 5/23/08)

By JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.
The obsession with the 'war on terrorism' ignores the larger forces shaping the world.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121150000249615875.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries

Tell John McCain to Stand Up For Our Troops and Veterans (Huffington Post 5/22/08)

Alex Cornell du Houx
It may surprise you to learn that the current G.I. Bill has depreciated so much that it doesn't even cover half the cost of an in-state public university. When I joined the Marines in 2002, I didn't rely on the educational benefits as advertised because I knew Congress has yet to fulfill the original promise of the G.I. Bill in modern-day terms - to provide full educational benefits to every service member. But many veterans did take that promise to heart, and today they have the debt to show for it.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alex-cornell-du-houx/tell-john-mccain-to-stand_b_103163.html

Talking With the Enemy (NYT 5/23/08)

It was irresponsible for President Bush to try to restrain Israel from pursuing a settlement that it judges as possibly being in its best interests.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/23/opinion/23fri1.html?ref=opinion

BUSH NEWS

Bush won't back early withdrawal, he tells troops (McClatchy 5/22/08)

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — President Bush offered a rousing defense Thursday of the war in Iraq, telling soldiers at Fort Bragg that early withdrawal would "jeopardize the safety of future generations."
http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/5797537.html

Optimistic, Bush Talks Victory in Iraq (ABC 5/22/08)

By JENNIFER DUCK
Vows to Tear Down U.S. Barracks Because of Miserable Living Conditions ... President Bush spoke about victory in Iraq today in front of a group of 17,000 airmen at Fort Bragg, many just returning from 15-month tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/story?id=4912721&page=1

Bush Keeps Quiet on Presidential Race (WSJ 5/23/08)

By JOHN D. MCKINNON; Page A12
With his popularity near all-time lows, President Bush is playing a diminished role so far in the 2008 campaigns.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121149052529515327.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

OTHER TOP NEWS

Senate Passes $165 Billion Measure to Pay for Wars (Washington Post 5/23/08)

By Jonathan Weisman; A01

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The Senate yesterday approved $165 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan well into the next presidency, but in a break with President Bush and the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Sen. John McCain, it also approved billions of dollars in domestic spending that includes a generous expansion of veterans' education benefits.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/22/AR2008052200340.html?hpid=topnews

Petraeus: More troop cuts likely in Iraq (CS Monitor 5/23/08)
By Gordon Lubold
Top US commander in Iraq said Thursday he is likely to recommend further drawdowns before leaving his post in the fall.
http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0523/p25s16-usmi.html

Farm-Bill Veto Overridden Despite Glitch (Washington Post 523/08)
By Jonathan Weisman; A02
With an overwhelming 82 to 13 vote, the Senate yesterday completed the override of President Bush's veto of a comprehensive farm bill, shrugging off Republican concerns about an embarrassing legislative glitch to make the $307 billion bill the law of the land.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/22/AR2008052200321.html

House Committee Subpoenas Rove (AP 5/22/08)
By LARA JAKES JORDAN
The House Judiciary Committee on Thursday subpoenaed former White House top political adviser Karl Rove to testify about whether the White House improperly meddled with the Justice Department.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1808602,00.html

Rove lawyer says no to 'a-- kicking' (Politico 5/23/08)
By: Ryan Grim
In a letter to the Judiciary chairman, attorney declines to make his client immediately available.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/thecrypt/0508/Rove_lawyer_declines_invitation_for_a_kicking.html

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Sara DuBois
Deputy Director, Tracking/Media Monitoring
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202-609-7681 (office)
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Stuart Eizenstat" <seizenstat@gmail.com>
To:	jake.sullivan@gmail.com
Date:	1/17/2016 6:54:56 AM
Subject:	Turkey and ISIS (Defense Policy Board)

Dear Jake,

I know the last thing in the world you are focusing on is Turkey and ISIS, with the debate tonight (where I hope she will hit on his non-electability and that his nomination will guarantee a Republican victory, since socialism is not acceptable to the broad electorate), and the upcoming Iowa caucus. But hopefully, this may be useful in the future.
This is a summary (without any classified information) from our Defense Policy Board meeting this week, the last part of which was with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter. He had asked us to look at Turkey and its role in dealing with ISIS. In our two days of meetings, we were briefed by a number of intelligence services, by four former U.S. Ambassadors to Turkey, and by three academic experts.

Here is a brief summary. I will be pleased to fill-in more details when you come up for breath, but I wanted to get this to you before I leave this afternoon for the World Economic Forum in Davos.

1. Turkey is a very difficult ally. Prime Minister Erdogan has taken Turkey in a more Islamic direction, and has cracked down hard on independent journalists, opposition politicians, and anyone he views as challenging him, including the military (15% of their flag officers are under arrest.. After an initial election setback, he feels embolden by his most recent electoral success, where he played the national security and populist card and won over many conservatives outside his ruling party. Since the election, he has ended promising peace talks with the PKK, and has gone after not only them, but Kurds more generally. Some of the experts and former Ambassadors felt Erdogan was driving the country to the brink of civil conflict.

2. Erdogan's prime goal is to have a referendum that will change the Constitution and create an Executive President, a strong presidential system. But he knows that even with his electoral success, it is not a given he would win. He also knows that with the economy slowing down, he must produce on this end to strengthen his chances in a referendum. But whether he wins or not, the U.S. must face the fact that he will be the prime interlocutor for many years to come.

3. His Cabinet is weak and he is the sole decision-maker on anything consequential.

4. His top priority and ours are different. Ours is fighting ISIS in Syria and Iraq. His is combating the PKK and the threat of a Kurdish independent state either in Turkey or in northern Syria and Iraq. He does not believe the U.S. has been sufficiently attentive to Turkey's security concerns including the PKK, even though we have them on our terrorist list. He sees the US support of the YPG (Syrian Kurdish party) in Syria, which is the most effective fighting force on our side against ISIS, as a threat to Turkey. He has decent relations with other Kurdish leaders, like Barzani and the Iraqi Kurds that he does not see as a threat.

5. His foreign policy has been based on having no enemies and calm on his borders. But he is now faced with chaos and conflict on his borders. He fears, with good reason an Iranian/Russian/Syrian/Kurdish axis. This, together with Turkey's slowing economic growth and large debt overhang, and his membership in NATO, gives us leverage. Indeed, one of the reasons he is warming-up to possible resumption of relations with Israel is his fear that he is isolated. He openly said he wants to restore relations with Israel. Likewise, he is taking a more conciliatory approach toward Cyprus, reciprocated by the new government there. This concern opens opportunities for the U.S. to get Erdogan to lean more to the West. Likewise, the burden of dealing with well over a million Syrian refugees, and the EU funds that will be provided to help keep them from coming to Europe, provides some leverage for the West.

6. He has acted provocatively in recent weeks. The downing of the Russian plane (which had been over Turkish airspace for only 17 seconds), and sending tanks briefly into Syria, are examples. Because Turkey is a NATO member, these types of actions have the risk of drawing in the U.S.

7. Around 50% of the Kurds in Turkey do not live in the Kurdish northern area, but are fully integrated into Turkish society, speak Turkish as their first language. But as Erdogan strikes at the Kurds in the north, they feel threatened.

8. The issue of doing more to get Turkey to close its border with Syria is tricky, since not only pro-ISIS foreign fighters come through, but also anti-Assad and anti-ISIS fighters.

9. Erdogan believes the U.S. needs Turkey more than Turkey needs the U.S. There was a division in the Board of how to deal with this problem. A few felt we should adopt a tougher tone to disabuse him of this belief, but a majority felt we should be exploring ways to take advantage of Turkey's economic problems and security threats to draw him closer to the U.S.

10. Several of the academic experts felt the turning point of Erdogan shifting from a pro-western to a more authoritarian, Islamic direction, was the ending of EU accession talks. We all realized this was a difficult time for Europe to resume talks, but there are some discussions on a few chapters and this could be elevated. But Kissinger felt it was a "fantasy" to think Erdogan could become pro-Western, since he is very pro-Islamic, but that there are still areas to cooperate based on shared security concerns.

11. While we should encourage Erdogan to resume talks with the PKK, this can only be done by the U.S. taking a more hard-line position on their violence.

12. Even with the sharp turn toward Islam, Turkey remains more democratic and pro-western than other Muslim states in the region. The business community and parts of the military, and the secular population (around 45% are pro-western).

13. We should be seeking a "transactional" relationship with Turkey, since a strategic partnership would be difficult. There are a number of specific steps we could take along this line. However, there was support for my idea of commencing a strategic dialogue (like we have with China), if only to better understand their concerns, and where our interests overlap. We also should do more to activate the Turkey-NATO relationship. Again,

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because he feels more vulnerable than ever before, given the situation in the region, we have some leverage.

14. Turkey wants a No-Fly Zone in northern Syria to protect refugees and staunch the flow into Turkey .But this can only happen if they and others put boots on the ground.

15. One unifying theme could be Iran, if we take a harder line to their misconduct. Moreover, we do have common security concerns, e.g. Iran and Russia and Assad.

16. Turkey is upset by not being in the TTIP negotiations, fearing they will lose markets in Europe and the U.S. We cannot add them, but should make clear that after an agreement, they can accede. We can also stress the importance of Turkey as an energy hub in the region. We can do more to help (e.g. through the IMF) with their economy.

I hope this is helpful, at some point down the road.

Good luck tonight and in the upcoming weeks.

Best wishes,

Stu Eizenstat

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 5/9/2014 11:33:14 AM
Subject: No Introduction



May 9, 2014

Dear Friends:

"Let me now introduce someone who needs no introduction."

It is a weird custom of the Washington windbag to follow sentences like this with a lengthy introduction of the next speaker.

Normally, this is pointless, since that person is most often well-known to everyone within the sound of the speaker's voice, but the introduction is made nonetheless.

In that spirit, we'd like to begin the News Blast this week with some introductions of our own.

Let's start with Assistant Secretaries of State Roberta Jacobson and Tom Malinowski who, as McClatchy reported , testified this week against imposing punitive economic sanctions on Venezuela.

Jacobson, who spoke for State's Western Hemisphere Affairs Bureau, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that hitting Venezuela's government with sanctions as a tactic to cool its political crisis "would serve to reinforce a narrative of the Venezuelan government standing up to the United States -- rather than the Venezuelan people standing up for themselves."

Malinowski, speaking for State's Human Rights Bureau, added on sanctions: "They work in some places, they don't work everywhere. Timing is extremely important."

These top State Department policymakers who oppose sanctions on Venezuela should discuss their "counterproductive" effects with the people who maintain our fifty-plus year old embargo on the government and people of Cuba.

While we're at it, let's also introduce the State Department policymakers who track Cuba on the fight against illegal drugs and terrorism.

In March, when the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs released a report giving high marks to Cuba's counter-narcotics efforts, it said "Cuba demonstrates increasing willingness to apprehend and turn over U.S. fugitives and to assist in U.S. judicial proceedings by providing documentation, witnesses and background for cases in U.S. state and federal Courts."

Yet, barely one month later, when the Bureau of Counterterrorism released the 2013 Report on the State Sponsors of Terror, it said "The Cuban government continued to harbor fugitives wanted in the United States" to justify keeping Cuba on the list.

Different fugitives, we know. But, shouldn't these guys talk?

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Our last introduction is for Secretary of State, John Kerry, who gave a speech about the importance of entrepreneurship at a gathering of the Council of the Americas this week. At the end, he zeroed in on Cuba.

Secretary Kerry is worried that the Cuban people will "continue to be left behind (economically) as the rest of the hemisphere advances," unless more can be done to strengthen "the emerging micro-entrepreneurial sector in Cuba."

There is no shortage of ideas for stimulating more economic activity in Cuba. One came from Gary Becker, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, a staunch conservative and an anti-communist. In March, Becker, who died this week, wrote : "It is time to end the embargo on the export and import of goods and services between the United States and Cuba. The Cuban people will benefit almost immediately."

Also this week, the Boston Globe , Secretary Kerry's hometown newspaper, made the political case for economic engagement with Cuba:

> "There's a reason why the United States doesn't normally cut all ties to countries with repressive regimes. Economic engagement can be as powerful, or more powerful, a force for change than isolation. It doesn't erase tensions with offending regimes, but rather puts more pressure on them. It expresses to the people living under the regime a desire for cooperation; opportunities to better understand each other; and a closer look at American-style freedoms and democracy."

Despite these powerful arguments -- that ending economic sanctions would provide Cubans with greater economic opportunity and the chance for greater freedoms, just as Secretary Kerry said he wanted in his speech -- there's a catch. To accomplish these goals, we'd have to introduce him to the same person who kept Cuba on the State Sponsors of Terror List and who will not advocate publicly for increased travel and trade opportunities for Americans and Cubans.

By now, we're sure you're on to us. There is a reason the Venezuela sanctions people don't need an introduction to the Cuba Sanctions people, or the officials tracking drug fugitives to the policy makers who keep the terror list, or the supporters of microenterprise to the supporters of economic sanctions.

They're all the same guys. A lot of them smart and really good people.

It is the problem that needs no introduction, familiar to all within the sound of our voice.

Until our leaders confront the hardliners in Congress and the political culture that keeps these irrational, inconsistent, and ineffective policies in place, they'll just go on behaving like people who've never met.

This week in Cuba news...

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U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

Four Miami-based exiles arrested in Cuba over terror plot

On April 26th, Cuba's government detained four Miami-based Cuban exiles for allegedly planning to attack military stations in Cuba, Reuters reports. According to a statement by Cuba's Interior Ministry, José Ortega Amador, Obdulio Rodríguez González, Raibel Pacheco Santos, and Félix Monzón Álvaro "admitted that they were planning an attack with the objective of inciting violence."

Cuba's government has not explained why it delayed announcement of the arrests until this week: a delay that coincided with the U.S. government's latest report on State Sponsors of Terrorism, which kept Cuba on the list.

According to Cuba's Interior Ministry, the four visited the island on several occasions since mid-2013 to prepare. Cuba Debate also reports that, in 2009, Raibel Pacheco registered a company in the state of Florida named the "Cuban Liberation Force, Inc." based in Hialeah. The company's one blog post explained the organization was founded "at the request of members of the armed forces who are inside Cuba, as well as members of organizations and the people" and that its goal is to "topple the regime," reports the Miami Herald .

The Ministry said that the plan was organized under the direction of three other Miami-based Cuban immigrants, Santiago Álvarez, Fernandez Marina, Osvaldo Mitat, and Manuel Alzugaray.

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In 2006 , Álvarez and Mitat pled guilty to criminal conspiracy in Fort Lauderdale Federal Court in order to avoid more serious charges related to the possession of machine guns, ammunition, and a grenade launcher. Another weapons cache in the Bahamas was linked to Álvarez.

According to press coverage at the time, prosecutors did not directly accuse Álvarez and Mitat of using the weapons to attack Cuba's government, but did present evidence of Álvarez financing a failed 2001 incursion against Fidel Castro, as well as other paramilitary activities. According to the New York Times , Álvarez said that the weapons found "were C.I.A. relics, but were not going to be used in the plots he had hatched with senior Cuban military officers who planned to conspire against the government." Álvarez received a 30-month sentence, while Mitat received a two year sentence. For further background on their case, see here .

Cuba's Interior Ministry claims that Álvarez, Mitat, and Alzugaray "maintain close ties" with Luis Posada Carriles . As the Washington Post wrote during the 2006 trial, "Before his arrest, Álvarez may have been best known for his advocacy on behalf of Luis Posada Carriles, a CIA-trained Cuban immigrant linked to the bombing of a Cuban airliner that killed 73 people in 1976 and to other violent plots. When Posada sought asylum in the United States last year, it was Alvarez who helped present his case to the public."

But, Posada Carriles' attorney, Arturo Hernández, said, "We categorically deny that Luis has absolutely anything to do with this or has any knowledge of any of these individuals who were allegedly arrested in Cuba," reports the Associated Press . Álvarez, Alzugaray, and Mitat also denied any connection to the plot or the individuals arrested.

Only days after publishing the State Sponsors of Terror list, the Department appeared not particularly curious about Cuba's allegation that four Miami-based exiles had visited the island on four occasions to plan a terror plot.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, spokesperson Jen Psaki told reporters that the State Department had no more information than what appeared in the Interior Ministry's statement. No reporter appears to have even asked about it today.

Cuba's Interior Ministry has stated that it will communicate with U.S. authorities regarding the case:

> ***"The necessary arrangements will be made with the relevant U.S. authorities to investigate these incidents and prevent the actions of terrorist organizations based in that nation from endangering the lives of people and security of both nations."***

According to the Associated Press, this is the first specific terrorist threat of its kind that Cuba has reported in years. In 2001, three Cuban-Americans were detained after arriving on the island with guns and ammunition, and 9 years later were prosecuted for alleged plans to place a bomb in Havana's Tropicana nightclub. Cuba's government later released a recording of Álvarez discussing the possible bombing of the nightclub with one of the men in custody, Ihosvani Suris de la Torre.

According to a 2008 report by Kirk Nielsen in Salon , Álvarez claims, "he was not involved in the operation and was only trying to help Suris; he knew the call was being recorded, and that Suris faced the firing squad, so he wanted to say something that would make Suris appear to be providing valuable assistance to his captors."

Four Members of Congress meet with Cuban officials and Alan Gross

Representatives Barbara Lee (CA-13), Gregory Meeks (NY-5), Emanuel Cleaver (MO-5), and Sam Farr (CA-20) have just returned from Cuba following a trip that was led and hosted by the Center for Democracy in the Americas. The delegation met with Cuban officials, including Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez and given access to see Alan Gross,

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reports Reuters . The Members of Congress were also briefed before their departure to Cuba by U.S. officials.

In a press conference that took place in Havana on Monday, the Representatives urged President Obama to negotiate with Cuba's government for the release of Mr. Gross. As Rep. Lee stated:

> ***"It is time that both countries make a serious commitment to engage in negotiations with no preconditions, and we will communicate that to the White House upon our return."***

While in the past Cuba's government has sought to link Alan Gross's release to that of the Cuban Five, Cuban agents jailed in the United States on espionage charges, Scott Gilbert, Gross's attorney, says that Cuba's government has been offering to enter into talks without preconditions for approximately a year. For its part, Reuters reports, the U.S. government has disregarded these offers as merely efforts to secure the release of the Cuban Five. As Rep. Cleaver noted:

> ***"In the fog of conflict, clear communication is normally the first casualty. And what we have seen since we've been here is that there is a need for clear communication both ways....We understand and we want the world to understand and the people of our country as well as people here in Cuba, we are talking about real human beings. Alan Gross is a real human being with flesh and blood, with family and friends, and this is not some game; this is real life, for all of us."***

Click here to see photos from the trip. Click here to see Rep. Lee's interview on MSNBC.

Crist, candidate for Governor of Florida, plans to visit Cuba this summer

Charlie Crist, former Governor of Florida, who is seeking the Democratic Party's nomination to run against Governor Rick Scott in the November election, announced plans to travel to Cuba this summer, reports Tampa Bay Times . At Versailles Restaurant in Miami's Little Havana, Crist stated:

> ***"We ought to think big. We ought to lift the embargo on Cuba and work with the President and get things done....We're the gateway to Latin America. We're the gateway to South America....We've got to be doing more and doing better."***

Kevin Cate, Crist's campaign spokesperson said :

> ***"The embargo has done nothing in fifty years to change the regime in Cuba or end the suffering of the Cuban people. Governor Crist is exploring every opportunity to help bring economic freedom and democracy to the people of Cuba."***

Crist spoke out against the embargo for the first time in February, making waves in Florida's Cuban-American community. His latest statements reflect a major shift in position. While Governor from 2007 to 2011, he backed U.S. sanctions and created state legislation to crack down on travel agencies doing business with Cuba, the Miami Herald reports. In 2010, he reiterated his support for the embargo, describing the current policy as "responsible."

Crist's opponent in the gubernatorial race, incumbent Governor Rick Scott called the statements "insulting," and has reiterated his support for sanctions. Marc Caputo writing for the Miami Herald notes that Crist's opposition to the embargo could be a plus given the results of a recent Atlantic Council poll which found that 56% of Americans and 63% of Floridians support more direct engagement with Cuba.

Secretary Kerry invites Cuban scientist to attend conference in June ; The AAAS and Cuban Academy of Sciences sign agreement to advance cooperation

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Dan Whittle, Director of the Cuba Program at the Environmental Defense Fund, has tweeted that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has invited a leading Cuban scientist, reportedly Fabián Pina , to attend the 2014 International Ocean Conference in June. Whittle called Kerry's move "Big news and [a big] step forward."

U.S. regulations have historically made it difficult for U.S. and Cuban scientists to collaborate, but there is growing political space to do more.

Last month, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Cuban Academy of Sciences signed a landmark memorandum of understanding to advance scientific cooperation between U.S. and Cuban scientists, reports AAAS . An AAAS-led group of U.S. scientists and policy experts visited Cuba in April for three days to engage in conversations that led to the signing of the agreement. The agreement seeks opportunities for sustained cooperation in the areas of emerging infectious diseases, brain disorders, cancer and antimicrobial drug resistance. John Caulfield, the Chief of Mission of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, and AAAS President Gerald Fink both expressed support for the visit. Fink remarked:

> ***"This trip was a wonderful opportunity to reinvigorate the long-standing friendship between U.S. and Cuban scientists and to form a more specific plan of action."***

Secretary Kerry talks Cuba at Council of the Americas' 44th Conference on the Americas

In a speech at the Council of the Americas' 44th Conference on the Americas devoted to familiar themes -- education, free trade agreements, small business, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry also discussed Cuba at the end of his remarks :

> ***"None of us want to see the Cuban people continue to be left behind as the rest of the hemisphere advances. Since 2009, President Obama's Cuba policy has been geared towards loosening the dependence of Cubans on the state and strengthening independent civil society. There's an important overlap between U.S. policy and the emerging micro-entrepreneurial sector in Cuba.***
>
> ***"President Obama's goal has always been to empower Cubans to freely determine their own futures. And the most effective tool we have to promote this goal is helping to build deeper connections between the Cuban and American peoples. The hundreds of thousands of Cuban Americans who now send remittances and who travel each year under the President's policies, they are critical to ensuring that the Cuban people have more of the opportunities that they deserve."***

Other speakers included Roberta Jacobson, Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere; Rep. Ed Royce (CA-39), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Sen. Tim Kaine (VA), a Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Visit of Women Entrepreneurs from Latin America kicks off this month

This month the U.S. State Department is hosting twelve women entrepreneurs and women who work for organizations that support female entrepreneurship from Latin America as part of the Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas (WEAmericas) International Visitor Leadership Program.

As Secretary Kerry mentioned in his Council address, the WEAmericas program was first announced by President Obama at the 2012 Summit of the Americas. The women will visit five U.S. cities, including Washington, D.C., to meet with business leaders and organizations that encourage women leadership and that will provide a network for the Latina entrepreneurs. After the trip, the women will also participate in further training and mentorship activities.

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Nidialys Acosta, co-owner of the Nostalgicar car rental company in Cuba, is participating. In November of 2013, Nidialys participated in a conference organized by CDA focusing on economic changes taking place in Cuba and highlighting the experiences of Cuba's growing community of small business owners. CDA is pleased to see women entrepreneurs from Cuba participating in such activities, as we recommended in our most recent book, "Women's Work: Gender Equality in Cuba and the Role of Women Building Cuba's Future."

Illinois corn growers push for expanded trade opportunities with Cuba

The Illinois Corn Growers Association issued a letter urging President Obama to allow for expanded exports to Cuba and to establish an agricultural trade office on the island, reports the AP . "Illinois ranks sixth nationwide in lost trade opportunities because of the financial and travel restrictions," explained Gary Hudson, president of the Illinois Corn Growers Association. Hudson said that Cuba is an ideal destination for Illinois commodities and food products but that U.S. sanctions on Cuba frustrate business opportunities.

For more detail, listen to this WUIS interview with Phil Thornton of the Illinois Corn Growers Association, in which Thornton speaks about the Association's reasons for writing to President Obama about trade with Cuba.

U.S. insurance company, Argentina travel company to pay hefty OFAC fines

A major multinational insurance corporation based in the U.S., American International Group, Inc. (AIG), will pay a $279,038 fine to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) for selling insurance policies to Canadian companies and travelers between 2006 and 2009 for their activities in Cuba, reports Bloomberg . OFAC announced the settlement, stating: "AIG, including certain members of the institution's management, had actual knowledge of the conduct. ...The compliance programs of AIG's two Canadian subsidiaries were inadequate." AIG received $182 billion in U.S. government support during the financial crisis.

Decolar.com Inc., a company that operates out of Buenos Aires but was incorporated in the U.S., will pay a $2.8 million fine to OFAC for transactions in violation of U.S. sanctions against Cuba, reports Cuba Standard . According to OFAC , the company provided travel services for trips to Cuba for 17,836 non-U.S. travelers between 2009 and 2012 without first obtaining proper OFAC licensing. The penalty the company will pay OFAC, was reportedly reduced because the company "self-disclosed" the violations.

Last month, we reported that a prominent Dutch travel company agreed to pay a $5.9 million fine to OFAC, one of the largest assigned to a travel company by the U.S. government for embargo violations and part of a pattern of increasingly stringent enforcement.

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

Cuba and France sign bilateral trade agreement

Fleur Pellerin, France's Secretary of State for Foreign Trade and Tourism, and Cuba's Foreign Trade and Investment Minister, Rodrigo Malmierca, signed a bilateral trade agreement this week that includes the renewal of a short-term line of credit, reports EFE .

The agreement is designed to increase trade between the nations, especially in the food and agriculture sector, according to a statement by France's Foreign Ministry. Secretary Pellerin noted France also sees potential for investment in the Special Development Zone at Mariel Port and is interested in Cuba's health and biotechnology sectors. France is currently Cuba's tenth largest trading partner, and there are approximately 60 French companies doing business in Cuba. Malmierca says the agreement is part of Cuba's

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greater economic reform plan, which he called an "ideal" moment for expanding trade relations with the European country.

IN CUBA

Further steps taken toward currency unification

Officials from Cuba's state Export-Import Corporation (CIMEX) made statements this week to Juventud Rebelde about the most recent development in Cuba's steps toward unifying its two national currencies -- the Convertible Peso (CUC) and the Cuban Peso (CUP).
In March of this year, two state-run stores in Havana began accepting payment in CUP (in cash or by debit card) for their products priced in CUC at the official exchange rate of 1 CUC - 25 CUP on an experimental basis. Starting this month, Cuba's state enterprises now plan to implement this system countrywide, with the goal of making the changes in 28 large commercial centers throughout the island, followed by smaller establishments. Bárbara Soto Sánchez, the Vice President of CIMEX told Juventud Rebelde that she anticipates there will be at least one commercial center per province accepting payment in CUP for products priced in CUC by the end of May.

Though the commercial enterprises in question will begin accepting both currencies, they will continue to maintain all internal accounting and banking in CUC. According to the officials, measures are intended to give Cubans more payment options.

In October 2013 , Cuba's Council of Ministers agreed to put into effect a timeline for measures, originally approved by the 6th Congress of the Communist Party in April 2011, to end the country's dual currency system. The measures call for monetary and exchange rate unification with "careful preparation and execution."

The dual currency system has existed since 1994, when Cuba legalized the U.S. dollar. Subsequently, the dollar was circulated in tandem with the CUP until being replaced in 2004 by the CUC. The CUC was created as a form of national hard currency pegged to the dollar, functioning as the main tender in tourism and international trade, while the CUP is used for the most part to pay state salaries. Cubans have since continued to receive their official state salaries in CUP. That rate is subsidized for state entities, making the two currencies equal in official sector transactions.

Cuban human rights organization reports record number of short-term arrests this year

The Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CCDHRN) reported a record 3,821 short-term arrests which it considered to be politically motivated in the first four months of 2014, reports Miami Herald . The numbers were reported by Elizardo Sánchez, the commission's president. Sánchez has not released further information on how he arrived at the figure and the Miami Herald has not independently verified his report. Cuba's government considers the Commission illegal and counterrevolutionary. In March, CCDHRN reported 1,051 arrests which it considered to be politically motivated during the month of February.

Income tax established for Mariel Special Development Zone workers; Some 23 international investors interested in Mariel

Workers hired at the Mariel Special Development Zone will have to pay a 5% income tax, reports state news outlet ACN . The income tax will be retained by employment agencies and will be contributed to the state budget. Workers will initially receive payment at a rate of 10 Cuban pesos to every dollar, but this exchange rate will be subject to revision during the first quarter of every year while the country undergoes the process of unifying its two currencies. Details and past coverage on payment for workers can be found in Cuba Standard.

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The Regulatory Bureau of the Mariel Special Development Zone reports that around 23 international investors have expressed interest in developing projects at the Mariel port. Aspiring investors from countries such as France, Spain, Italy, Brazil, Russia, China, and Holland have submitted documentation to the Bureau. The prospective projects range from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries to food, agriculture and automobiles.

Recommended Reading

In twilight of Castro regime, failed US embargo must go , The Boston Globe

The Boston Globe's editorial board argues that while Congress must ease the embargo against Cuba, President Obama must lead the way: "The normalization of relations with Cuba can't happen with a single brushstroke or act of Congress; it's a process that needs to develop naturally, organically. But it should begin now. There's a lot of history to live down, a lot of resentments to overcome."

Revise restrictions to ensure safe oil drilling , William K. Reilly and Bob Graham, Miami Herald

Writing in an op-ed column for the Miami Herald, the co-chairs of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling - Bob Graham, the former Florida Governor, and William K. Reilly, former administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency - said the U.S. embargo on Cuba presents an unnecessary danger to each nation as Cuba moves forward with offshore drilling in water that quickly reaches Florida's beaches. They recommend modest but useful changes in U.S. policy to better protect the coast against a potential spill.

Ernest Hemingway Biopic First Hollywood Film Shot in Cuba Since 1959 , Jon Blistein, Rolling Stone

Papa, the first Hollywood film to be shot in Cuba since 1959, will chronicle Ernest Hemingway's time in Cuba. *Papa's* director, Bob Yari explains: "Hemingway was probably the most prominent American to make Cuba his home, and I think the people of Cuba to this day cherish him and love him. And hopefully this film will become an addition to that component of bridging this gap between two cultures and two peoples that have drifted apart."
For an account of Ernest Hemingway's time in Cuba, and a behind the scenes view of what took place during the filming of "*Papa*," see Peter Orsi's AP story .

Havana bars: The next wave of private innovation , Richard Feinberg, Cuba Standard

Richard Feinberg, senior foreign policy fellow at the Brookings Institution, profiles Havana's privately-owned bars, a popular iteration of Cuba's growing small business sector.

Raul Castro's reforms fail to end Cuba's chronic shortages , Reuters

Reuters features some of the problems associated with shortages on the island, looking at responses by citizens and the state to recent shortages of beer and condoms, as well as the broader history of the black market's role in Cuba.

U.S. pays Cuban security firm , Tracey Eaton, Along the Malecón

Investigative journalist Tracey Eaton points out that the United States government "trades with the enemy" through the U.S. Interests Section in Havana out of necessity. He writes: "American diplomats spend money in Cuba every day. While some of the money goes into private hands, some winds up supporting socialist enterprises. U.S. officials in Havana often have no choice but to deal with Cuba's state-run companies."

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Recommended Viewing

Cuban Fidelity: Skating through the past , Eric Mirbach, Red Bull

Videographer Patrik Wallner records professional skateboarders Walker Ryan and Michael Mackrodt as they explore the streets of Cuba... on skateboards. See the accompanying photo gallery, here .

The battle for Cuba: Rarely seen photos of the Spanish-American war found by U.S. Navy deep in neglected archive, Jennifer Newton, Mail Online

For the history buffs out there, Mail Online features a selection of the 150-some glass plate photographs of the Spanish-American war by Douglas White which were rediscovered recently in a military archive.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team



Like our work? Consider a monthly donation!

The Cuba Central Newsblast is produced by the Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA). CDA is devoted to changing U.S. policy toward Cuba and the other countries of the Americas by basing our relations on mutual respect, fostering dialogue with those governments and movements with which U.S. policy is at odds, and recognizing positive trends in democracy and governance. For more information, check out the CDA website . You can also like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter .

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 6/26/2015 12:22:20 PM
Subject: Re: Letter

I read that to mean that it not acquire 25 kgs of HEU, which surely is the White House position!

> On Jun 26, 2015, at 5:51 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>
> Jake,
>
> Right after the paragraph #5, is the paragraph to which I referred. It says, in part, "Most importantly, it is vital for the United States to affirm that it is US policy to prevent Iran from producing sufficient fissile material fron a nuclear weapon-or otherwise acquiring or building one-both during the agreement and after it expires."
>
> This should a point Hillary could take-up.
>
> I hope this is helpful. Best wishes,
>
> Stu
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
> Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 01:07 PM
> To: Eizenstat, Stuart
> Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>
> Subject: Re: Letter
>
> Stu - which line in the letter are you referring to? I don't have it in front of me but don't recall a specific section on fissile material.
>
>
>
>> On Jun 26, 2015, at 12:39 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>>
>> Dear Jake,
>>
>> The Washington Institute letter complicates not only Kerry's efforts, but also Hillary's response, especially the insistence after the 10 year period that Iran have less nuclear fuel than needed for one bomb.
>>
>> I will be with Dennis Ross this weekend in Jerusalem, since we co-chair the Jewish People's Policy Institute, and we have our annual board meeting. I will get more texture on the letter.
>>
>> Best wishes,
>>
>> Stu

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From: "Kara Nichols" <kara.l.nichols@gmail.com>
To: "Laura Nichols" <Laura_Nichols@mpaa.org>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/29/2015 4:19:30 AM
Subject: Re: Call with President Obama on the P5+1 Nuclear Deal with Iran

I love that CAP is doing this. Hope Hillary will be using this same approach to talk with voters during the campaign!

Best,
Kara

Kara Nichols
Mobile +1.347.703.7650
Skype karanichols

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2015, at 10:24 AM, Center for American Progress <progress@americanprogress.org > wrote:

> *The Center for American Progress is excited to pass on to you an opportunity to participate in a conference call with President Obama about the Iran Nuclear Deal. Please use the dial-in information provided below to join in tomorrow evening. Click here to review CAP's work on this issue.*
>
> Dear Center for American Progress,
>
> We're excited to invite you and your members to join a conference call with President Barack Obama and folks from around the country to discuss the P5+1 Nuclear Deal with Iran. The President will discuss the historic deal and its importance to the country and the international community.
>
> The call will take place on Thursday, July 30th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
>
> PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CALL IN: (866) 254-5934, passcode 365802
>
> We recommend you call in as close to 6:00 PM as possible, since space is limited for this exciting opportunity.
>
> Thank you,
> John Bisognano
> Office of Public Engagement
> The White House
>
> Center for American Progress
> 1333 H Street, NW, 10th Floor
> Washington, DC 20005
> Unsubscribe from these emails

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From:	"Michael Huttner" <michael@huttner.org>
To:	"Michael Huttner" <michael@huttner.org>
Date:	7/15/2010 2:34:40 PM
Subject:	how we just changed an entire Governor's race in 48 hours--without any fingerprints

Dear Investors & Key Advisors,

Wanted to send you a quick update...

As you may have heard with the hard work of the folks at ProgressNow Colorado as part of Colorado's "communication hub" they dug up weeks ago and carefully passed on information to the mainstream media on how the leading GOP candidate for Governor, former Congressman Scott McInnis plagiarized a report he provided on water policy for a foundation in Colorado.

In the past 48 hours, McInnis and the entire Republican party of Colorado are in free-fall. There are now calls even within the Republican party for McInnis to withdraw.

The best part is that ProgressNow Colorado nor any of our allies had their fingerprints on any of the excellent behind-the-scenes work to develop and then break this story. This has led to three straight days of front page Denver Post coverage as well as the editorial below and statewide media, a share of which is linked to below.

If you want to discuss how PN can be of further help to you in other states, please let me know a good time and number to reach you.

Best,

Mike
303-931-4547 cell

EDITORIAL
McInnis should throw in the towel

After revelations of plagiarism and other cases of questionable judgment, it's clear the GOP candidate is not fit to be governor.

By The Denver Post
POSTED: 07/14/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

Revelations of extensive plagiarism in work that gubernatorial candidate Scott McInnis claimed as his own call into question his fitness for public office.

The lifted work, examined in The Denver Post, constitutes inexcusable intellectual thievery. It is so damaging that we believe McInnis ought to drop out of the race.

Colorado's next governor should be a person of integrity, a trusted hand to lead the state through difficult times.

The Post revealed in Tuesday's paper that McInnis was paid to write essays on water in 2005 and 2006 yet turned in writings that had been plagiarized. Now we learn he did the same thing in a 1994 op-ed in the Rocky Mountain News.

We were astonished Tuesday to hear McInnis, in an interview with 9News, call the revelations over his water essays a "non-issue." Later, he did tell us he had made a mistake and that he should have checked the material. Yes, he should have.

The Hasan Family Foundation paid McInnis $300,000 over two years to give talks on water issues and write original, monthly articles on the topic. The plagiarism detailed by Post reporter Karen E. Crummy is extensive.

McInnis says he hired a consultant to serve as an expert for the writings. Yet the foundation hired McInnis as the expert, and McInnis' work never mentioned the help of anyone else. It was presented as his own.

The written work he submitted to the foundation included numerous instances of passages that were copied, with few changes, from scholarly work originated by Gregory J. Hobbs, who is now a Colorado Supreme Court justice.

The former congressman was paid handsomely for work that he said was "original and not reprinted from any other source." It was McInnis' obligation to ensure that was true.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time we've had questions about McInnis' judgment.

During his final term in Congress, he paid his wife $37,000 to be his campaign manager — even though he already had decided he wasn't going to run for re-election.

As we said in 2004, the arrangement "smacks of bad judgment."

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More recently, we were taken aback by McInnis' refusal to release tax forms, even though Colorado's gubernatorial candidates since 1998 routinely have done so.

What is he hiding?

McInnis' financial records are pertinent information. Detractors have characterized him as a "lawyer-lobbyist," and we think voters have a right to know how he has made his money.

We've also been puzzled by McInnis' inability — or refusal, it's difficult to know which — to provide detail on his philanthropy even though he claims to have been generous to individuals down on their luck.

The best specific example he could come up with was having given the meat of a dead elk to a family in need. Equally odd was his failure to recall being a member of an advisory board for a pro-choice GOP group.

The plagiarism and other issues have cumulatively so damaged McInnis' credibility that we do not believe he can be an effective governor. Even though McInnis acknowledged he made a mistake, he still spent part of Tuesday blaming a research assistant for the failure to credit the work.

If you put your name on something and take money for it — a lot of money in this case — it is your responsibility to make rock-solid sure it is bona fide, original work that will stand up to scrutiny.

The state's chief executive must be someone Coloradans can believe in as the state suffers a stretch of tight budgets and a struggling economy.

If Scott McInnis cannot be trusted to turn in what amounts to an overpaid term paper — without plagiarizing someone else's work — there is no way he can be relied upon to guide Colorado through these complicated times.

Storm over possible plagiarism in McInnis writings escalates
By Karen E. Crummy

The Denver Post <mailto:kcrummy@denverpost.com?subject=The%20Denver%20Post:%20Storm%20over%20possible%20plagiarism%20in%20McInnis%20writings%20escalates>
POSTED: 07/14/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT
UPDATED: 07/14/2010 06:42:36 AM MDT

<http://www.denverpost.com/portlet/article/html/imageDisplay.jsp?contentItemRelationshipId=3105811 >
"Voters don't really care about this issue. They care about jobs, getting back to work." Scott McInnis told 9News (John Prieto | The Denver Post)

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- Jun 15:
- McInnis got paid $300,000 for water fellowship <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15301810?source=pkg >
- McInnis reaped $150K for stint at foundation <http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15298017?source=pkg >

A new example of possible plagiarism by Scott McInnis surfaced Tuesday as the Republican gubernatorial candidate faced calls to repay $300,000 he received for plagiarized essays on water that he submitted as "original works."

A Denver Post review of McInnis' floor speeches and columns published during his congressional career found striking similarities between a 1995 speech and 1994 column by McInnis and a previously published Op-Ed in The Washington Post.

"There is a growing popular belief in South Korea that the North has outmaneuvered Washington and marginalized the South's role," wrote Richard V. Allen and Daryl M. Plunk in a Washington Post Op-Ed published Nov. 9, 1994.

Six weeks later, McInnis wrote in the

Rocky Mountain News: "There is growing South Korean sentiment that North Korea has outmaneuvered Washington and marginalized the South's input into this issue."

A month after that, he made the same statement on the House floor with only minor alteration.

McInnis has declined interview requests from The Denver Post since the paper first reported that the "Musings on Water" articles he submitted to the Hasan Family Foundation as "original works" included passages that were similar to or copied directly from a 1984 essay by now-Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hobbs.

Sean Duffy, spokesman for the McInnis campaign, declined to comment on the new findings Tuesday afternoon, saying that the two hours he had to look into The Post's comparison was not enough time to discover how the similarities may have occurred.

"We got faulty research"

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McInnis on Tuesday declared the plagiarism of the water essays a "non-issue" that Colorado voters don't care about.

Although his campaign manager put out a statement late Monday saying McInnis believes the "buck stops" with him, McInnis spent Tuesday asserting that he failed only in that he did not monitor his research assistant closely enough.

"We got faulty research," McInnis told 9News. "This is a nonissue if it's not a political year. Voters don't really care about this issue. They care about jobs, getting back to work."

McInnis also told 9News he expected there were numerous other problems with the water essays he submitted as his own work.

Rolly Fischer, a former engineer who McInnis said was responsible for lifting paragraphs and at least four full pages from work written by Colorado Supreme Court Justice Gregory Hobbs, denied the charge.

"Scott's responsible for it," he said to the Glenwood Springs Post-Independent, and then declined to comment further.

Contacted by a Denver Post reporter at his home Tuesday, Fischer declined to comment,

saying, "I don't trust the press."

In a statement released late Monday, Hasan Family Foundation board chair Seeme Hasan, a Republican, said: "At no time was it brought to our attention that Mr. McInnis used information not cited or unethically used work that was not his own."

She continued: "All work was represented to be original and final. . . . If the allegations are proven to be true, we will demand Mr. McInnis return all monies paid to him by the Foundation."

Dr. Malik Hasan, a foundation board member, also has said McInnis should return the money.

"All the articles are original"

McInnis has not disclosed whether he paid Fischer, how much he was paid and during what time period. McInnis also did not definitively answer questions about whether he would repay the $300,000.

"We'll make it right," he told 9News.

The Hasan Family Foundation paid McInnis $150,000 a year for a 24-month fellowship from 2005 through 2006. McInnis wrote 23 articles totaling 150 pages on water and public-land issues.

In a memo to Seeme Hasan, he said: "All the articles are original and not reprinted from any other source." He also said that the foundation had "the final form of the series."

McInnis now says he didn't intend the articles to be published until after he edited them one more time. They were not posted online by the foundation until after McInnis began his run for governor.

The new example shows clear similarities in both ideas and language between McInnis' 1994 column and his 1995 floor speech and the Washington Post piece. Allen and Plunk in the Op-Ed refer to an agreement between the U.S. and North Korea as "the beginning of the end of a perilous nuclear crisis."

The identical language is found in McInnis' column and floor speech. A search of the Nexis news database finds that the phrase was not used anywhere else in print beyond the Post and McInnis columns.

The Washington Post Op-Ed calls for the "North to resume substantive, high-level talks with Seoul immediately." That exact phrase is also used in McInnis' column and floor speech.

The 150 pages McInnis wrote during his fellowship also contain exact phrases first published two decades earlier.

Earlier Tuesday, House Speaker Terrance Carroll, D-Denver, called on McInnis to immediately drop out of the race, saying he "lacks the integrity" to be governor.

Duffy, the McInnis campaign spokesman, said the speaker is simply trying to distract voters from more important issues. "If I were Speaker Carroll and I had the legislative record that he had in terms of raising taxes and killing jobs, I'd want to change the subject too," he said.

Bar discipline possible

McInnis' opponent in the Republican primary, Dan Maes, said McInnis should take responsibility for the plagiarism.

"If your name is on it, you have to take ownership of it," he said.

Speaking with the Denver Post Editorial Board in advance of his State of the City address, McInnis' potential Democratic opponent, Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, said that while he didn't know all the facts, the reports of plagiarism "create a cloud."

McInnis, a former congressman and a lawyer on leave from Hogan Lovells (formerly Hogan & Hartson), could face discipline from the Colorado Bar, said legal ethics professor Rebecca Aviel at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct prohibit "dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation."

"The rule covers attorney conduct even when it does not pertain to a client or particular case," she said, noting that the rules are "under enforced."

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Library director Vickie Makings, political editor Curtis Hubbard and staff writer Sarah Horn contributed to this report. Karen Crummy: 303-954-1594 or kcrummy@denverpost.com

Other Articles:

McINNIS PLAGAIRISM SCANDAL

McInnis Talks To CBS4 About Plagiarism Accusation <http://cbs4denver.com/local/McInnis.plagiarism.governor.2.1803154.html >

Scott McInnis Apologizes For Plagiarism <http://cbs4denver.com/local/McInnis.plagiarism.governor.2.1802195.html >

Expert: 'Non-issue' could end McInnis' campaign <http://www.9news.com/rss/article.aspx?storyid=143552 >

Storm over possible plagiarism in McInnis writings escalates <http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_15509569?source=rss >

Voters Weigh In on Candidate Scandals <http://www.kjct8.com/news/24250821/detail.html >

We're going to fix it and move on : McInnis Responds to Plagiarism Allegations <http://www.nbc11news.com/home/headlines/98390199.html >

Candidate admits to plagiarism <http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/candidate_admits_to_plagiarism >

Foundation wants $300,000 it paid McInnis back_2 <http://www.denverpost.com/politics/ci_15508805 >

Spotted This Morning: DP editorial board says McInnis "not fit to govern" <http://blogs.denverpost.com/thespot/2010/07/14/spotted-this-morning-dp-editorial-board-says-mcinnis-%E2%80%9Cnot-fit-to-govern%E2%80%9D/11781/>

Editorial: McInnis should throw in the towel_13 <http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_15508403 >

Littwin: Got a nonissue? Get a nontissue <http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_15509428 >

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To:	"Podesta, John D." <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	6/25/2015 4:47:57 AM
Subject:	Skadden Insights: Supreme Court Review/Proxy Access/Further Opening of China's Financial Markets (Attorney Advertising)

Insights

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From: "Lisa Reed" <lisa@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/18/2008 6:05:12 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Fwd: Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/08/08

Main Topics: Saddleback Forum, Georgia, Veterans

Summary of Shift: The revelation that McCain was not in the so-called 'cone of silence,' a room promised by Pastor Rick Warren to shield the candidates from hearing their opponent's questions and answers during the forum Saturday, ruled the political coverage today. McCain campaign manager Rick Davis attempted to use the controversy as fodder to attack NBC, saying the network is "abandoning non-partisan coverage of the presidential race." While Davis made the charge because Andrea Mitchell mentioned the Obama camp's concerns relating to this issue Sunday, most networks today covered the story on its merits of McCain possibly cheating, rather than whether NBC is biased. The Georgia-Russia conflict continues to be in the news, with some coverage of McCain's pro-Georgia remarks in Florida this morning. The reporting on the announcement of Pakistan President Musharraf's upcoming resignation has not yet included commentary on McCain's outspoken support for the leader. As the nominating conventions near, there is increasing running mate speculation on every network

Non-political news is centered on the tropical storm hitting Florida. Other stories include the daily Michael Phelps puff piece, a flying car invention, a dam collapsing in Arizona, and a baby bear being rescued in California.

Highlights:
Cone of Silence Controversy
1.FNC: Fox Pundits dismiss accusations of McCain's knowledge of questions
Georgia Russia conflict
2. FNC: Bob Barr Says McCain Foreign Policy Stance Towards Georgia is Simplistic, Like Bush's
3. FNC: Ralph Reed dismisses absence from McCain fundraiser; discussion of women voters and McCain
4. MSNBC: Schuster Reveals McCain had Chance to Kill Bear DNA Bill
5. MSNBC: Christian Freeland Discusses Benefits of Georgian Conflict for McCain Campaign
6.MSNBC: Olbermann on McCain's Eagerness to get Iraq
7. MSNBC: Olbermann Discusses McCain's Betrayal of Vets

Highlights, No YouTube:
1. CNN: McCain Energy Policy of Drilling Helping in Colorado, Polls Show
2. CNN: LOU DOBBS: Even though this was an evangelical forum, that McCain's appeal was broader than that as a result of that forum?
TONY PERKINS: I would say that's true

Clips:
Highlight #1
Bob Barr Attacks McCain's Georgia Policy As 'Simplistic', Like Bush (FNC 08/18/08 4:30pm)

NEIL CAVUTO: So you find Senator McCain's approach to this bad, why?

BOB BARR: Well it's very simplistic. Either that or he really doesn't have a firm grasp on the geopolitics and ethnic and demographic problems in that part of the world. He seems to feel similar to what George Bush felt a number of years ago, that Putin could be trusted because he had looked into his eyes and saw a man he could trust. Senator McCain seems to be falling into that same simplistic mode if you meet somebody and know them, they're trustworthy and we're their friend and you need to support them. We're not all Georgians simply because there is a very serious problem and we ought to be concerned about and we ought to be monitoring very carefully between Russia and Georgia does not be any stretch of the imagination mean that we ought to becoming involved and that clearly seems to be direction that both this administration and Senator McCain are going. […]

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Highlight #2
Ralph Reed Dismisses Absence From McCain Fundraiser; Discussion Of McCain And Women Voters (FNC 08/18/08 5:47pm)

ED HILL: The Obama camp is claiming that you were scratched from the McCain fundraiser tonight. Is that accurate?

RALPH REED: No, not true. I'm in Washington – had meetings that had been scheduled for quite some time. I'm strongly supporting Senator McCain, proud to do so for his record for lower taxes, stronger families, and a 26 prolife voting record in Congress.

HILL: Okay let's go off that. Dee Dee I want to ask you, why does it, according to the latest Pew poll that I took a look at, say that John McCain is having such a tough time getting women to say they'll vote for him.

DEE DEE MYERS: He is having a tough time getting women to say they'll vote for him, and I think he'll have a tough time getting them to actually vote for him come November. Because he's simply-two reasons, he's wrong on a lot of issues that women care about, from the issue of choice, to issues like the environment, to healthcare- he doesn't have a health care plan that seems to really address women's health care concerns and I think that as women are watching these two candidates, Senator McCain becomes really animated and most alive when he's talking about military policy, things like that. It's not that that's the only thing that he maybe- have a plan for, but he only seems to really care about foreign policy, military policy. It's not that women don't care about those things, but they don't see that same passion when he's talking about what he's going to do to improve the economy. I think a lot of women feel that they're on the edge as the economy is sort of bordering on recession. […]

Highlight #3
Fox News Pundits Discuss Cone of Silence-gate; Tout McCain's Performance In Civil Forum (FNC 08/18/08 6:46pm)

BILL KRISTOL: As Andrea Mitchell says, these charges or suggestions are being made by the Obama campaign because they know their man lost the evening. They didn't strike them that things can go on they have to pretend that some how McCain must have cheated to have won and I think that says something perhaps about the Obama campaign's excessive regard for their man and their disdain for Senator McCain. McCain won the evening, but look if they want to say that this is because McCain somehow got access to these questions, as if that would have mattered any way, not that he did apparently, McCain should say tomorrow fine let's do it again. I'm serious he should say let's have another forum the next day. We can have it on the same topic, we can have it on Georgia and Russia, we can have it on Iraq, and you know what? I'll go first. I'll go first so Senator Obama can see the questions and the answers. I think the Obama campaign has set itself up for looking like whiners and I hope Senator McCain challenges Obama to have another forum tomorrow.

[…]

JEFF BIRNBAUM: […] Just in quick defense of Andrea Mitchell for just one quick second, she didn't say, she did not, she was not – did not report that McCain was not in the cone of silence.

BRET BAIER: No but the Obama people were-

BIRNBAUM: So she, the attack by the McCain campaign on NBC I think had something to do with something else. Maybe some problems they've been having or an eagerness to call attention to this particular forum that McCain clearly won […]

Highlight #4
Schuster Slams McCain's Bear DNA Line (MSNBC 08/18/08 7:05pm)

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DAVID SCHUSTER: At the Saddleback church forum on Saturday, one of John McCain's loudest applause lines came when he slammed pork barrel spending and one project in particular.

JOHN MCCAIN: We spent money in ways that mortgaged our kids' futures. My friends, we spent three million dollars of your money to study the DNA of bears in Montana. I don't know if that was a paternity issue or a criminal issue. But the point is, it was three million of your money. It was your money.

SCHUSTER: Your money. That's a pretty good line. The problem is, it didn't keep John from voting in favor of the project as part of a larger spending bill. Yes. Back in 2003, McCain could have tried to block the project through an amendment or other procedural means, but he didn't. And McCain ultimately voted for the spending bill with the bear DNA study funding in tact.

Highlight #5
Schuster on McCain's Pro-War Foreign Policy Stance (MSNBC 08/18/08 7:05pm)

SCHUSTER: I want to play a sound bite that gives us a sort of roadmap as to the strategic battlefield that John McCain wants right now. It's about foreign policy and belittling Barack Obama. [...]

JOHN MCCAIN: Behind all these claims and positions by Senator Obama lies the ambition to be president. What's less apparent is the judgment to be commander and chief. And in matters of national security, good judgment will be at a premium in the term of the next president, as we were all reminded ten days ago by the events in the nation of Georgia.

SCHUSTER: Christian, as the tensions in Russia ratchet up and go the other way, doesn't that help John McCain?

CHRISTIAN FREELAND: Absolutely. I think the Georgia crisis has been very, very good for John McCain. You know, for one thing, he was right. I think the Georgia crisis shows that McCain's hawkish line on Russia and Putin, which is not a new thing. He hasn't flip-flopped here. He's been very consistent- has turned out to be presient. And I think because he had that view [...] he was faster than anyone, including the White House off the mark. So I think he's done well on the issue, and I think that's given him some confidence. [...]

[...]

MICHAEL CROWLY: [...] It's kind of amazing the gall of John McCain to be organizing his campaign around foreign policy judgment, when he supported this war that really turned out to be a disaster and incredibly unpopular with the American public. [...]

SCHUSTER: And the other thing is that John McCain was certainly far out in the front in terms of even President Bush when this first erupted, and there are also all those questions about John McCain's foreign policy adviser and the lobbying that he has done on behalf of Georgia, and whether there's some sort of conflict in interest there.

Highlight #6
Olbermann on McCain's Eagerness on Iraq (MSNBC 08/18/08 8:13pm)

KEITH OLBERMANN: At the same in the campaign the presumptive republican presidential nominee ripped the presumptive democratic presidential nominee, for bad judgment about Iraq, the New York Times reminded the nation that John McCain's immediate response to 9/11 was to threaten Iraq and Saddam Hussein. Within hours of the attack, Senator McCain reciting a laundry list of other countries that supported terrorism, including Iraq, and a month later Senator McCain warning Iraq is the first country. By January 2002, telling sailors and airman onboard the deck an aircraft carrier, 'next up, Baghdad'. Yet today, Senator McCain criticizing his opponent's record on Iraq, ratcheting up his rhetoric in an address to the convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars, criticizing Obama's shifting positions on the troop surge in Iraq.

JOHN MCCAIN: Senator Obama still can't quite bring himself to admit his own failure in judgment. Nor, has he

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been willing to hee the guidance of General Patreus, one of the great leaders in military history, or to listen to our troops on the ground when they say, as they have said to me on my trip to Iraq, 'let us win, just let us win'. In short, both candidates in this election pledged to end this war, and bring our troops home. The great difference is that I intend to win it first."

Highlight #7
Olbermann on McCain's Lack of Support for Veterans (MSNBC 08/18/08 8:13pm)

KEITH OLBERMANN: Though victory in Iraq is finally in sight, you told the VFW today, Senator McCain, a great deal still depends on the decisions and good judgment of the next president. The hard-won gains by our troops hang in the balance. The lasting advantage of a peaceful and democratic ally in the heart of the Middle East could still be squandered by hasty withdrawal, and arbitrary timelines. [...] Senator McCain, on the 22nd of May, 2003 you said of Iraq, on the Senate floor "We won a massive victory in a few weeks, and we did so with very limited loss of American and allied lives. We were able to end aggression with minimum overall loss of life, and we were even able to greatly reduce the civilian casualties of Afghani and Iraqi citizens."
Senator, you declared victory in Iraq nearly five years and three months ago. Today you say, "Victory in Iraq is finally in sight". The victory you already proclaimed five years ago? [...] In June of 2003, with even Fox News noting, 'Many argue that the conflict in Iraq isn't over. ' You answered, "Well, then why was there a banner that said 'Mission Accomplished' on the aircraft carrier? Look the 'I have said a long time that reconstruction of Iraq would be a long, long difficult process, but the conflict' the major conflict is over, the regime change has been accomplished, and it's very appropriate.'
The senator also foolishly invoked his opponent in that speech today. He told the convention today, ' I suppose from my opponents' vantage point, veterans' concerns are just one more issue to be spun or worked to advantage. This would explain why he has also taken liberties with my position on the GI Bill.... As a political proposition it would have been much easier for me to have just signed on to what I considered flawed legislation. But the people of Arizona, and of all America, expect more from their representatives than that, and instead I sough a better bill. I'm proud to say that the result is a law that better serves our military, better serves military families, and better serves the interests of our country.
Senator McCain spoke out against that very bill last May. On the asinine premise that the awards to our heroes in it were so good, that it did not encourage them to stay in the service. [...] Moreover, Senator McCain missed 10 of the 14 votes on Iraq up to middle of last year, this year he has missed them all. Including one just to honor the sacrifice of the fallen. He has voted to table or oppose 20 million dollars for veterans' healthcare facilities, 322 million dollars for safety equipment for our troops in Iraq, 430 million dollars for veterans outpatient care, 1 billion dollars in new equipment for the national guard, and in separate votes 1billion 500 million dollars in additional veterans medical care to be created by closing tax loopholes.

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To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 9/24/2014 2:43:14 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday September 24, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday September 24, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

The Hill opinion: James Carville: "James Carville: The right message matters — and Clinton's got it"

"What has always made the Clintons great politicians and better people is their unyielding commitment to expanding the middle class for everyone."

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: "Conservative Media Attack Clinton Allies In Desperate Ploy To Smear Her Over Benghazi"

"Conservative media are lashing out at individuals who have worked with and support Hillary Clinton to attack her by proxy and rehash tired Benghazi smears."

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton Highlights Gender As 2016 Looms"

"Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign emphasized her experience, competence and preparation to become president. Her 2016 pitch could be simpler: She'd be the first female president."

Politico: "Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton: It's complicated"

"As for Hillary Clinton, sitting in the audience at a table at the Sheraton New York, Obama said, 'I think one of the best decisions I ever made as president was to have Hillary Clinton serve as our secretary of state. … I'll always be grateful for her extraordinary leadership … around the world.'"

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Obama: 'I still have a lot of debt to pay' to Hillary Clinton"

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"'And I still have a lot of debt to pay' to his former secretary of state because her frenetic schedule -- the State Department said she traveled 956,733 miles in the position -- kept the Clintons apart."

The Hill: "Obama: Making Hillary Clinton secretary of State one of my 'best decisions'"

"Asking Hillary Clinton to serve as Secretary of State was 'one of the best decisions I ever made as president,' President Obama told philanthropists and donors gathered Tuesday at the Clinton Global Initiative meeting in New York City."

Los Angeles Times column: Doyle McManus: "Clinton's lead among Democrats in 2016 is clear -- which is complicated"

"At least four other Democrats are said to be thinking about jumping into the race — former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and Vice President Joe Biden — as well as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who caucuses with the party."

ABC News blog: The Note: "Chelsea Clinton Fears Her Baby Could Live on a 'Planet Without Elephants'"

"If there is one thing Chelsea Clinton is most worried about, it may be that her soon-to-be child will grow up in a world without elephants."

Associated Press: "Webb 'Seriously Looking' At 2016 Campaign"

"Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb said Tuesday he is 'seriously looking' at a Democratic presidential campaign in 2016, a move that could create a challenge to former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton if she seeks the White House again."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Four reasons why Jim Webb for president makes no sense"

"It's a real testament to the fact that we're grasping desperately for non-Hillary Clinton Democratic presidential candidates when Washington starts getting a little buzzy about Jim Webb running for president."

Articles:

The Hill opinion: James Carville: "James Carville: The right message matters — and Clinton's got it"

By James Carville

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September 23, 2014, 5:49 p.m. EDT

Amid what some election prognosticators consider a less than favorable outlook for the upcoming midterm elections, it has been a tough few months for Democrats.

The best news for the Democratic Party right now, though, is that it appears the odds that Hillary Clinton will be running for president again are increasing.

Everyone, including this columnist, has long assumed that she will run. And most, including this columnist, think she will be the best person for this job. Many more again, once more including me, were never concerned as to whether she is the best person for this job. My only question about this campaign has been whether it will have the right message to get the job.

Based on excellent reporting by Dylan Scott at Talking Points Memo, I can now enthusiastically report to you that she not only has the right message, she has the perfect message.

For all of the coverage that the former secretary of State and former first lady has gotten in the past few months, Scott's analysis of Clinton's message is good music to these ears. President Obama did not just help this economy during his administration, he saved it from unthinkable consequences. After 54 months straight of private-sector job growth, Clinton appears determined to keep the momentum going and to finish the job of economic recovery.

If Obama saved the economy, Clinton will grow the economy, for everyone. She noted, "we know unless we change our policies, a lot of the benefits are not going to be broadly shared" — a signal that Clinton is prepared to shift focus to a segment of the economy and the population that has been neglected for too long.

What has always made the Clintons great politicians and better people is their unyielding commitment to expanding the middle class for everyone. Well, Hillary Clinton is right on message in saying, "Forget about getting rich. I'm talking about getting into the middle class and staying there."

The overarching message from the former secretary of State is an idea of finishing the job. We have an economic recovery that brought us back from peril, but for many Americans it still hasn't recovered, and that is priority No. 1 for Clinton's campaign.

It is a joyous feeling not to be for Hillary Clinton just out of loyalties to her or the Clintons as a whole but because I know that she has what it takes to get the job done. Now I am more convinced than ever that she know what it takes. She is the right person at the right time with the right message. This is rarely the case in politics, but it is now, and hallelujah for that.

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: "Conservative Media Attack Clinton Allies In Desperate Ploy To Smear Her Over Benghazi"

By Oliver Willis

September 23, 2014, 4:38 p.m. EDT

Conservative media are lashing out at individuals who have worked with and support Hillary Clinton to attack her by proxy and rehash tired Benghazi smears.

Fox News has repeatedly -- and falsely -- suggested that the Obama administration's response to the September 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya was somehow politically calibrated. According to a Media Matters analysis, in the 20 months following the attacks Fox's evening

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programming aired 230 total segments suggesting the response to the attacks was motivated by President Obama's re-election campaign, while 105 segments linked Benghazi to Clinton's potential presidential campaign.

As part of their politicized Benghazi campaign, conservative media have repeatedly attacked Clinton's colleagues and friends in the hopes of weakening a potential Clinton presidential run.

Cheryl Mills, Clinton's chief of staff at the State Department, has long been subject to attacks. Back in June 2013, a Daily Caller op-ed by conservative activist Tom Fitton dubbed her the "Clinton cover-up expert," and accused her of attempting to "silence" a Benghazi whistleblower. (Multiple investigations have found no evidence of a Benghazi "cover-up," and the so-called whistleblower himself admitted that all Mills had done was speak to him in an "unhappy" tone.)

But now Mills, and her colleague former deputy chief of staff Jake Sullivan, have come under a fresh round of attacks. Earlier this month, Fox and discredited journalist Sharyl Attkisson hyped claims from a disgruntled former State Department employee who speculated that Mills and Sullivan were involved in the removal of damaging documents from a Benghazi investigation. The employee had no evidence -- he just "couldn't help but wonder" if wrongdoing had occurred. Fox blew up his unsupported allegations to claim that "Clinton allies removed politically damaging docs," while The New York Post labeled Mills and Sullivan "Clinton's minions" and claimed the documents were "scrubbed to protect Hillary."

Attkisson's claims were repeated across conservative media, including at Breitbart, HotAir, and Townhall. At the same time, the Media Research Center complained that more of the mainstream media didn't cover the story (despite the lack of evidence).

Earlier this summer, conspiracy theorist Aaron Klein's anti-Clinton book The REAL Benghazi Story attempted to smear another Clinton ally: former CIA deputy director Michael Morell. Klein suggested that Morell was "given" his new job at the consulting firm Beacon Global Strategies (co-founded by Philippe Reines, a Clinton adviser), "in exchange for his silence in the talking points scandal." Of course, there was no talking points "scandal": multiple investigations have found the talking points that then-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice was given ahead of media appearances following the Benghazi attacks were edited to preserve an ongoing criminal investigation, not for any nefarious political reasons. Morell, as a CIA official, helped sign off on the final draft, as did the intelligence community.

Other figures at Beacon Global, including Reines, Andrew Shapiro, Admiral James Stavridis, and J. Michael Allen have also come under attack from the right-wing press. The Blaze recently labeled the group "Benghazi Alumni," and accused them of previously participating in "harassment, demotions and politicized cover-ups." The Blaze piece, and a recent opinion piece in The Buffalo News by columnist Douglas Turner, both accused Beacon figures of hiding evidence about the so-called "stand down" order.

This claim is an old Benghazi falsehood; every single investigation, including the GOP-led House Intelligence Committee, have confirmed that there was no "stand down" order given to military or CIA personnel the night of the attacks. Military personnel along the chain of command have also said that any no such order was given.

Right-wing media's obsession with trying to tie Benghazi to a potential Clinton 2016 presidential run is habitually focused on throwing mud against the wall in the hopes that something sticks, but the facts won't allow it.

Associated Press: "Hillary Clinton Highlights Gender As 2016 Looms"

By Ken Thomas

September 23, 2014, 5:05 p.m. EDT

Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign emphasized her experience, competence and preparation to become president. Her 2016 pitch could be simpler: She'd be the first female president.

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As Clinton considers a second White House bid in 2016, she is making a pronounced case for female empowerment and the role of women in the nation's economy and politics. From the stage of the annual Clinton Global Initiative to the campaign trail, the former secretary of state has emphasized breaking barriers and the need for female leadership — themes that could resonate in a future campaign in which women voters will be critical.

"Don't let anyone dismiss what you're doing today as women's work," Clinton told a women's leadership forum last week at the Democratic National Committee. "Don't let anyone send you back to the sidelines."

Along with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, the former first lady spent the week highlighting the role of women leaders this week at their family's annual conference. The ex-president spoke to Chilean President Michelle Bachelet about the challenges female leaders face. Other panels featured General Motors CEO Mary Barra and IBM CEO Ginni Rometty, the first female heads at their respective companies.

Mrs. Clinton is raising money for Democratic women running in the 2014 elections and is expected to campaign for Democrats in the coming weeks. In Iowa, she praised Democratic congressional candidate Staci Appel, noting that the early presidential state has never elected a woman to Congress or governor.

During her DNC speech last week, Clinton rattled off the names of 10 Democratic women whom she said gave her hope, from candidates for governor like Mary Burke of Wisconsin and Wendy Davis of Texas to Sens. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Kay Hagan of North Carolina and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.

The former New York senator's remarks frequently touch on a number of policy issues important to woman. Clinton called for a "movement" to bring equal pay, access to child care and raising the minimum wage, reminding her audience that two-thirds of minimum wage earners are women.

Anytime she is introduced, speakers invariably mention Clinton's 1995 United Nations speech in Beijing, when she declared that "human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights."

Her campaign message to women wasn't always so explicit; her advisers were concerned that being a woman could hurt her with male voters.

When Clinton sought the presidency in 2007 and 2008, her team presented her as a strong leader — in the mold of the late British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher — with the toughness and experience to lead the nation. One of her most memorable television ads involved a 3 a.m. phone call, which implied her Democratic primary opponent, Barack Obama, wasn't ready to respond to a crisis.

But when she ended her campaign amid praise for her tenacity, Clinton gave what might have been a preview of her approach to the gender question, noting she hadn't shattered the White House's glass ceiling, but had left 18 million cracks in it — a reference to the votes she won in the primaries.

Six years later, one of her main priorities at the Clinton Foundation is a project called, "No Ceilings," aimed at empowering women around the planet.

"There may be new attention to these issues, especially as we've plateaued in some important indicators, but she proposed universal (pre-kindergarten) and national paid leave in '07 and '08 and those issues have only gained in importance in the last few years," said Neera Tanden, a former Clinton policy adviser who leads the Center for American Progress.

In a nod to her past, Clinton's speeches now often include anecdotes emblematic of the barriers many women have faced in the work force.

When she was deciding between Yale and Harvard law schools, Clinton recalled attending a reception at Harvard, where she met a chauvinistic law professor who told her the school didn't need more women. Clinton enrolled at Yale.

At a speech last week to the Legal Services Corp., Clinton recalled meeting an Arkansas judge shortly after moving to the state to teach law and run a legal aid clinic in the 1970s. "I don't have much use for lady law professors and I have no use for legal aid," the judge told Clinton, who responded: "Well, it's great to meet you, judge!"

Before she makes any decisions on her future, Clinton will take on another role. The couple's daughter, Chelsea, is expecting her first child within days and the former first lady has been eagerly anticipating becoming a grandmother.

"When the big moment comes," Clinton said in Iowa, "you can bet that I will drop everything to be there in a flash."

Politico: "Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton: It's complicated"

By Maggie Haberman

September 23, 2014, 7:12 p.m. EDT

Just over a year ago at the request of the White House, Hillary Clinton worked the phones with about a half-dozen senators, trying to sell Congress on authorizing military strikes against Syria. Weeks later, at the Clinton Global Initiative, the former secretary of state defended President Barack Obama against Republican efforts to defund his health care overhaul.

Since then, the relationship has become more complicated: During her summer book tour, Clinton pointedly highlighted differences with her former boss over how the early stages of the Syria civil war were handled.

On Tuesday, Clinton and Obama were together again at the Clinton Global Initiative in Midtown Manhattan, the seventh time the sitting president has attended the glitzy charity-meets-ideas event. Former President Bill Clinton praised Obama, and the president offered kind words for both Clintons. The joint appearance highlighted a reality for the current president and his former secretary of state: Her political needs aren't always in sync with his, but more often than not their interests do align.

Hillary Clinton needs to keep Obama's supporters behind her if she runs for president in 2016. After Clinton was quoted in The Atlantic last month knocking Obama's foreign policy mantra — "'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she said — a few days later she issued a statement declaring her deep support for the president and insisting she wasn't trying to attack him.

Some Obama advisers, meanwhile, see Clinton as a lifeline — the best chance the lame-duck Democrat has to preserve his legacy, particularly Obamacare, after the open-seat election in 2016.

Whether Obama himself views the situation that way is unclear. But so far, a number of former Obama aides have made an effort to show unity between the two sides.

And so it was all compliments between Obama and the Clintons onstage Tuesday.

"It's a testimony I think to any leader not just what they themselves do, but the degree to which they inspire actions from others," Obama told the audience. "Bill Clinton has continued to exert extraordinary global leadership for decades."

As for Hillary Clinton, sitting in the audience at a table at the Sheraton New York, Obama said, "I think one of the best decisions I ever made as president was to have Hillary Clinton serve as our secretary of state. … I'll always be grateful for her extraordinary leadership … around the world."

At another point, Obama talked about his foreign policy and described Clinton as someone who "helped champion our efforts" from her position at the State Department.

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Obama also joked about lending the Clintons' very pregnant daughter his motorcade to get to the hospital and made an offhand aside about his feelings of guilt at sending Hillary Clinton so many miles around the world, away from her husband, for a four-year stretch. Looking weary, Obama quipped that Hillary Clinton has the out-of-office "glow."

There was no mention of the current crisis in Syria, where Obama ordered air strikes to combat the fast-growing terror group known as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant the night before. In an interview on CNBC earlier Tuesday, Bill Clinton said he thinks the U.S. military engagement will be extensive but will not result in a land war. Hillary Clinton would not comment on what's happening in the Mideast.

The CGI event is intended to be apolitical, and Bill Clinton has invited Republicans as featured speakers in the past. But the sense that the Democrats' balance of political power is about to shift to Clinton was palpable all over the Sheraton. Longtime Clinton donors roamed the lobby along with people like Buffy Wicks, a former Obama aide who is currently executive director of Priorities USA Action, the pro-Obama super PAC that has been rebranded as a pro-Clinton effort for 2016.

Another change since last year's CGI event: Donors then were excited about the prospect of Hillary Clinton running again but thought believed they had to persuade her to. This year, it is viewed as a foregone conclusion, even though Clinton says she hasn't made up her mind and won't announce a decision until after the new year.

Bill Clinton, as ever, was probed for his political views throughout the event. In an interview with Charlie Rose taped Monday, he was asked the five things the next president will need to tackle in the first 100 days.

He ticked off a few items, such as infrastructure and continuing to work on health care. But Bill Clinton led with reversing economic stagnation in the country.

The main concern is the "recovery of our capacity to provide a society that offers equal opportunity and the possibility of shared prosperity," Bill Clinton said. "An expanding middle class where poor people have the chance to work their way into it."

It's a message his wife is likely to focus on over the next two years — by reminding voters that her husband's White House was notable for just that type of prosperity.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Obama: 'I still have a lot of debt to pay' to Hillary Clinton"

By Katie Zezima

September 23, 2014, 4:46 p.m. EDT

President Obama said Tuesday "one of the best decisions" he made in office "was to ask Hillary Clinton to serve as our nation's secretary of state."

"I'll always be grateful for her extraordinary leadership representing our nation around the world," he said at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York. "And I still have a lot of debt to pay" to his former secretary of state because her frenetic schedule -- the State Department said she traveled 956,733 miles in the position -- kept the Clintons apart.

"Hillary put in a lot of miles during her tenure as secretary of state. She has the post-administration glow right now," Obama said. "She looks much more rested."

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Of course, with the 2016 race just around the corner, that may be a temporary condition.

Obama thanked Bill Clinton for his "friendship and leadership" -- and offered something in return.

There may be no presidential perk more envied -- at least by gridlock-plagued New Yorkers -- than the official motorcade. When you're commander-in-chief, forget traffic -- you don't have to worry about traffic lights, either.

And so Obama offered a very pregnant Chelsea Clinton a lift to the hospital should she go into labor during his remarks. "I was just discussing with President Clinton that if Chelsea begins delivery while I'm speaking, she has my motorcade and will be able to navigate traffic," Obama said. "Because actually, it's pretty smooth for me during the week. I don't know what the problem is. Everybody hypes the traffic, but I haven't noticed."

A motorcade does tend to smooth that out.

Obama came onstage after Matt Damon. Even if you're president, that's not an easy act to follow.

"Always wonderful to follow Matt Damon," Obama said. "I saw people trickling out after he was done."

The Hill: "Obama: Making Hillary Clinton secretary of State one of my 'best decisions'"

By Justin Sink

September 23, 2014, 3:20 p.m. EDT

Asking Hillary Clinton to serve as Secretary of State was "one of the best decisions I ever made as president," President Obama told philanthropists and donors gathered Tuesday at the Clinton Global Initiative meeting in New York City.

The president showered the former first lady — and likely frontrunner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination — with praise, saying he "will always be grateful for her extraordinary leadership."

Obama went on to joke that he still had "a lot of debt to pay" because of the miles Clinton traveled when in his administration. But he also praised the former New York senator for her "post-administration glow."

"She looks much more rested," Obama said to laughter.

The praise came at the first joint public appearance for Obama and his former Cabinet secretary since Clinton's interview with The Atlantic this summer, where she levied criticism against the president's handling of Syria.

In the interview, Clinton said that she would have armed the Syrian opposition two years ago, and suggested failing to do so had enabled the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

"The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against [Syrian President Bashar] Assad — there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle — the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the

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jihadists have now filled," Clinton said.

Clinton subsequently called Obama to tell him the remark was not intended as an attack on him or his policies, according to a spokesman.

Last week, Obama won congressional authorization for a program to train and equip the moderate Syrian opposition as part of the administration's fight against ISIS. White House officials have defended the move, saying that they used the time to properly vet which rebels would receive U.S. arms and training.

The president did not discuss that program or the first round of airstrikes launched against ISIS and al Qaeda targets in Syria during his speech to CGI.

Instead, the president highlighted efforts to assist civil society groups by his administration. Obama on Tuesday will issue a new presidential memorandum requiring federal agencies to consult regularly with civil society groups and resist efforts by foreign governments to limit American assistance to activists.

"When people are free to speak their minds and hold their leaders accountable, governments are more responsible and effective," Obama said.

"Partnering [with] and protecting civil society groups around the world is now a mission across the U.S. government," he added.

The president also levied criticism at countries where free speech rights were restricted — including, notably, Russia, China, and Venezuela — accusing those governments of "relentless crackdowns vilifying legitimate dissent."

"The United States will not stop speaking out for the human rights of all people and pushing governments to uphold those rights," Obama said.

Los Angeles Times column: Doyle McManus: "Clinton's lead among Democrats in 2016 is clear -- which is complicated"

By Doyle McManus

September 23, 2014, 5:47 p.m. EDT

The 2016 presidential election is more than two years away. Heck, the 2014 midterm election is still more than a month away. But it's never too early to speculate about presidential nominations, especially for politicians who are thinking about running.

It's no surprise that potential Republican candidates are already stumping around the country asking voters and contributors to take a look. Their field is wide open.

But it's a little more complicated for Democrats, with Hillary Rodham Clinton holding what looks like an unshakable lead in their polls. Still, at least four other Democrats are said to be thinking about jumping into the race — former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and Vice President Joe Biden — as well as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent who caucuses with the party.

"She's going to be challenged by at least two or three others," predicted Tad Devine, a Democratic strategist who helped manage three presidential campaigns (and advised Sanders when he ran for the Senate). "Hillary's the prohibitive front-runner, absolutely, but that can change very quickly once you get into a primary campaign."

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Clinton would face two challenges from all those upstarts — one domestic, the other foreign.

On economics, all the potential Democratic candidates cast themselves as firmly with “the 99%.” They are decrying the long-term stagnation in middle-class incomes and calling for an end to the long stretch of tax cuts that have helped the affluent.

Clinton sometimes sounds as if she's right there with them. This spring, she gave a speech comparing the current economy to “the Gilded Age of the robber barons.” But she hasn't been specific about the remedies she'd propose, and her would-be competitors have sounded tougher on Wall Street, a position sure to win favor from economic liberals.

Sanders, a self-described “democratic socialist,” has said that if he runs, “My job is to take on the billionaire class.”

And Schweitzer, a folksy, mercurial rancher turned politician, has publicly criticized Clinton's reliance on high-finance contributors. “If you can judge a person's character by the company they keep, in politics you can judge a person by the money they seek,” he told the Wall Street Journal.

On foreign policy, presumably one of Clinton's selling points, she could find herself sandwiched between critics from the left and right.

Sanders, to Clinton's left on most issues, has frequently noted that he voted against the Iraq war in 2002 (Clinton voted for it), and last week he voted against authorizing the Obama administration to arm Syrian rebels.

Webb, who has staked out domestic positions to Clinton's right, is (to stretch an analogy) the Rand Paul of the Democratic Party — skeptical about most uses of military force. He opposed the 2011 U.S. intervention in Libya that Clinton championed. Last week he said that he thought President Obama's foreign policy, which Clinton helped shape, was “a tangled mess.”

None of these upstarts, at this point, pose a serious threat to Clinton's march to the Democratic nomination. The only one who has registered any consistent support in polling is Sanders — assuming he runs as a Democrat — and he shows up in fourth place, after Clinton, Biden and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who insists she isn't running.

But having little chance of winning isn't likely to stop them. Some of them, such as Sanders, will run in the hope of moving the party in their direction ideologically. Others — think O'Malley and Schweitzer — will see running as at least a way to boost their name recognition, making it more likely they could land a future nomination — or be offered a place on the ticket as vice presidential nominee.

Clinton would probably prefer not to have to spend time and money defending herself in the primaries. But, at least according to some campaign strategists, facing challengers might actually do her some good. Primary challenges will force Clinton to tune up her campaign organization. And they would enable her to make her pitch to a wider audience during the long primary season.

“I think she's absolutely better off with some opposition,” said Devine. “Otherwise you're in danger of spending six months in a black hole. You don't want to cede those six months to the other party while you sit there in your coronation robes. That won't play well.”

Still, contested primaries also offer a front-runner a chance to make mistakes. And Clinton's history as a campaigner has been far from flawless. She started the 2008 Democratic presidential campaign as the prohibitive front-runner but lost to an upstart named Barack Obama. She launched her pre-campaign this year with a well-orchestrated book rollout, but made headlines by complaining that she and her husband were “dead broke” when they left the White House.

And there's always a chance Clinton might decide not to run after all. “That's unlikely, but it's still possible,” a sometime Clinton advisor told me last week.

In that case, all bets are off.

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ABC News blog: The Note: "Chelsea Clinton Fears Her Baby Could Live on a 'Planet Without Elephants'"

By Liz Kreutz

September 23, 2014, 7:38 p.m. EDT

If there is one thing Chelsea Clinton is most worried about, it may be that her soon-to-be child will grow up in a world without elephants.

Standing alongside her mother, Hillary Clinton, at the Clinton Global Initiative this afternoon, the very-pregnant former first daughter warned the plight of African elephants, killed for their ivory tusks, is an "existential" one, and said that if the current poaching rates continue, elephants could be few and far between within the next decade.

If so, this means Chelsea Clinton's favorite animal could be something her child would never know.

"The child Marc and I are waiting to bring into this world could grow up in a planet without elephants," Clinton cautioned, before announcing a new commitment to stop the killing of African elephants and the trafficking of ivory.

Chelsea Clinton said the African elephant crisis is not only a "moral" and "ecological disaster," but also a "security threat," as ivory is increasingly being used by the world's most nefarious terror groups, such as the Lord's Resistance Army and Boko Haram. She pleaded that "it's in all of our interests" to stop the growing practice.

Saving the elephants is a favorite mission for the Clinton women. While making the announcement at the family's annual philanthropic meeting today, Hillary Clinton described the issue as something she and her daughter are "passionately committed" to, and said that Chelsea Clinton has made it a "priority" of the Clinton Foundation.

Ahead of the birth of her child, Chelsea Clinton teamed up with the website BRIKA.com, to launch a line of elephant-themed gifts to benefit groups working to stop the international poaching of African elephants. She told the blog Refinery 29, she's even contemplating buying some of the pieces herself for an elephant-themed nursery.

"We're very baby-oriented right now, so we'll definitely be buying a felt elephant or two. I think those will look great in our nursery. And, it's safe to say that as last year, this year too, a lot of our friends will be getting elephant-themed Christmas presents," Clinton said.

Associated Press: "Webb 'Seriously Looking' At 2016 Campaign"

[No Writer Mentioned]

September 23, 2014, 4:36 p.m. EDT

Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb said Tuesday he is "seriously looking" at a Democratic presidential campaign in 2016, a move that could create a

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challenge to former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton if she seeks the White House again.

Webb said at a speech to the National Press Club that he has talked to respected advisers about a presidential bid and will continue to have those discussions during the next four or five months.

"I'm seriously looking at the possibility of running for president. But we want to see if there's a support base from people who would support the programs that we're interested in pursuing," he said.

Webb, 68, is a veteran of the Vietnam War who served as assistant secretary of defense and Navy secretary during the Ronald Reagan administration. He defeated Republican George Allen in his 2006 Senate campaign and served one term.

Clinton is the leading Democratic contender for president if she seeks the White House again but Democrats expect her to face a primary challenge. In addition to Webb, the field could include Vice President Joe Biden, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and others.

Webb said Tuesday that U.S. foreign policy has been "adrift" since the end of the Cold War and the nation's debate over domestic policy has become increasingly polarized.

"Not surprisingly the American people have grown ever more cynical about their national leadership in both parties and increasingly pessimistic about the future," he said.

Webb has made campaign appearances in Iowa on behalf of Democratic Rep. Bruce Braley, who is running for Senate, and state Sen. Jack Hatch, who is challenging Republican Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad. Webb plans to visit New Hampshire, the home of the nation's first presidential primary, on Oct. 20.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Four reasons why Jim Webb for president makes no sense"

By Aaron Blake

September 23, 2014, 5:26 p.m. EDT

It's a real testament to the fact that we're grasping desperately for non-Hillary Clinton Democratic presidential candidates when Washington starts getting a little buzzy about Jim Webb running for president.

No, that's not to take anything away from Webb's service — including as a war hero, Navy secretary under Ronald Reagan and one-term senator from Virginia. It's just that there wouldn't seem to be a more unlikely presidential hopeful than Jim Webb.

To wit:

1) He retired after one term in the Senate and didn't seem to particularly enjoy being in public life. Larry Sabato said it particularly well after Webb's retirement announcement a few years back: "He has been an excellent United States senator, but he is a terrible politician. He doesn't suffer fools gladly, he doesn't enjoy glad-handing — my sense of Webb is that he's had enough of public life for a while."

Think again, Larry!

2) Webb's niche in the race would apparently be as a more populist, dovish alternative to Hillary Clinton. That's fine, except that he was Reagan's Navy secretary and also something of a Blue Dog Democrat during his service in the Senate. Even on foreign policy, he was often toward the middle of the Senate.

Much like ex-Montana governor Brian Schweitzer (D), that's an odd profile for a guy who is supposed to be winning votes from the liberal wing of the Democratic Party.

3) He has negative charisma. The Fix believes that presidential races have a charisma threshold, by which we mean that candidates need to be at least somewhat compelling to a national audience to achieve viability. Tim Pawlenty (R), for instance, struggled with this. Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) has a similar problem.

Webb would probably make Pawlenty look like Herman Cain. He's just very dour. We wonder who would get excited about him, in the absence of some galvanizing force that suddenly makes him the perfect candidate for that political moment in time.

4) He has baggage. Yes, Webb won his 2006 bout with Sen. George Allen (R-Va.), but it wasn't pretty. And some liberals balked pretty loudly when Webb's name surfaced as a potential vice presidential pick for President Obama in 2008.

Among the hits that would resurface in a presidential campaign:

Webb has spoken fondly of his Confederate roots and defended the Southern states' decision to secede, even citing the "Nazification of the Confederacy."

He said in 2004 that John Kerry deserved to be condemned for his actions in opposition to the Vietnam War.

Webb's writings and comments have been criticized by the left for being insensitive to women.

Does this sound to anyone like the profile of the guy who might defeat Hillary Clinton — or even compete with her — in 2016?

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· September 29 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines fundraiser for DCCC for NY and NJ candidates (Politico)

· September 29 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton headlines another fundraiser for DCCC (Politico)

· September 29 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton meets Indian Prime Minister Modi (Zee News)

· September 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton keynotes Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Inc., conference (CHCI)

· September 30 – Potomac, MD: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Maryland gubernatorial candidate Anthony Brown (WaPo)

· September 30 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton fundraises for New Hampshire state Sen. Lou D'Allesandro of Manchester (New Hampshire Journal)

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- October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the real estate CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)
- October 2 – Miami, FL: Sec. Clinton signs "Hard Choices" at Books and Books (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)
- October 2 – Miami, FL: Sec. Clinton fundraises for Charlie Crist (Politico)
- October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)
- October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)
- October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)
- October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 5/14/2008 1:10:39 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 5/14

08 Election Daily News Clips
May 14th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

9am McCain: Interview on ABC - "Live with Regis and Kelly"

6pm McCain: Finance Reception in Columbus, OH

News Clips:

MCCAIN ENVIRO NEWS

Stumping on Climate, McCain Faults Bush (NY Times 5/14/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
Senator John McCain intensified his criticism of President Bush and the administration's environmental polices on Tuesday, taking a walk in the cold, rain-drenched foothills of the Cascade Mountains and asserting that in the effort to stem climate change, "America can lead and not obstruct."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/14/us/politics/14mccain.html?ref=politics

McCain: Clean energy a 'national security issue' (CNN 5/13/08)
* Sen. John McCain speaks at economic roundtable in Washington state
* He says the United States needs to invest more in nuclear energy, clean energy
* Evangelical group lauds McCain's policy proposal
* DNC accuses McCain of hypocrisy on the energy issue
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/05/13/mccain.environment/index.html

McCain and Climate Change: Sci-Fi as Policy (US News & World Report blog 5/13/08)
By James Pethokoukis
Are you worried that efforts to limit possible climate-altering carbon emissions might tank the economy? Not a problem, says Douglas Holtz-Eakin, John McCain's top economic adviser. Here's what Holtz-Eakin said during a conference call after McCain outlined his climate plan, including a cap-and-trade system for carbon allowances:
http://www.usnews.com/blogs/capital-commerce/2008/05/13/mccain-and-climate-change-sci-fi-as-policy.html

McCain's 'Eco-Friendly' Line (NY Times blog 5/13/08)
By Sarah Wheaton
Just in time for Father's Day and his speech on curbing emissions, Senator John McCain's presidential campaign is out with a hot new spring line of "eco-friendly" products.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/05/13/mccains-eco-friendly-line/

McCain selling Dems short? (MSNBC 5/13/08)
By Carrie Dann
NORTH BEND, Wash. -- In front of the picturesque, if rainy, emerald backdrop of the Cedar River's fir-blanketed peaks, McCain described himself as the greenest of the presidential candidates.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/05/13/1017576.aspx

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Consultant Is Tied To Work for Ukraine Party (WSJ 5/14/08)
By MARY JACOBY and GLENN R. SIMPSON; Page A7
A consultant to Sen. John McCain hired a public-relations firm last year to burnish the U.S. image of a Ukrainian

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political party backed by Russian leader Vladimir Putin, according to documents filed with the Justice Department.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121072447597990171.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

Pastor Backing McCain Apologizes to Catholics (WSJ 5/14/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES and SUZANNE SATALINE; Page A4
The Rev. John Hagee, the fiery evangelical pastor who endorsed John McCain, issued an apology to Catholics for disparaging remarks he made, including accusing the Roman Catholic Church of supporting Adolf Hitler.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121073410044790967.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox
Link to pdf of Hagee letter: http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/msnbc/sections/news/080513_Hagee_Letter.pdf
See *NYT*- "McCain Backer Regrets Comments on Catholics": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/14/us/politics/14hagee.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin
See *WaPo*- "McCain Backer Apologizes For Anti-Catholic Remarks": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051302865.html
See *LA Times*- "Pastor John Hagee says he's sorry for anti-Catholic remarks": http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain14-2008may14,0,2628360.story
See *AP*- "Pro-McCain pastor apologizes to Catholics ": http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-05-13-mccain-tues_N.htm
See *CBS blog*- "Pastor Apologizes For Controversial Remarks": http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/05/13/politics/horserace/entry4092080.shtml

McCain calls Hagee letter 'helpful' (MSNBC 5/13/08)
By Kelly O'Donnell
McCain responded to Hagee's letter of apology to Catholics, calling it "helpful." He describes his own attempts at reconciliation over the years with, for example, the anti war movement. When asked if he or his staff brokered the apology, McCain says he did not personally broker the deal, leaving open the possibility that advisors did encourage the Hagee apology to diffuse McCain's so-called pastor problem.
http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/05/13/1016795.aspx

In the Tracks of Ron Paul, a Candidate Goes Forth (NY Times 5/14/08)
By MICHAEL LUO
Can Bob Barr become the next Ron Paul? Mr. Barr, a former Republican congressman from Georgia who on Monday announced his candidacy for the Libertarian Party nomination, certainly hopes so. It is a prospect that could give Senator John McCain's campaign fits, threatening to siphon critical Republican votes away from him in important battleground states.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/14/us/politics/14barr.html?ref=politics

The Religification of John McCain (WSJ blog 5/14/08)
By Steven Waldman
While Barack Obama was trying to vanquish Hillary Clinton, John McCain has been focused on a challenging target of his own: religious conservative voters.
http://blogs.wsj.com/politicalperceptions/2008/05/14/the-religification-of-john-mccain/

The Budget According to McCain: Part I (Newsweek/Factcheck 5/13/08)
By Joe Miller
McCain's big promise is that he can balance the budget while extending Bush's tax cuts and adding a few of his own. He likes to leave the impression that this can be done painlessly, for example, by eliminating "wasteful" spending in the form of "earmarks" that lawmakers like to tuck into spending bills to finance home-state projects. We found that not only is this theory full of holes, it's not even McCain's actual plan. In this story we examine the spending-cut side of McCain's budget program. In Part II, we'll look at what McCain has said about taxes.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/136779

NRA chief stresses common ground with McCain (AP 5/13/08)
A top official of the National Rifle Association said Republican John McCain has been a reliable ally of gun owners despite divisions with the powerful lobbying group on some issues.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-05-13-nra-mccain_N.htm

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The NRA On Sen. John McCain, Then And Now (Huffington Post 5/14/08)
By Paul Helmke
Sen. John McCain is scheduled to speak before the NRA convention in Louisville this Friday, May 16, 2008, and I suspect he might have to perform a high-wire act to impress most of the folks in attendance. The NRA has pilloried and even ridiculed Sen. McCain over the years in its magazine articles and graphic caricatures of him.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-helmke/the-nra-on-sen-john-mccai_b_101621.html

MoveOn Targets McCain Aides (WaPo blog 5/13/08)
By Matthew Mosk
The liberal online advocacy group MoveOn.Org Political Action has sent out a new e-mail that seizes on the weekend purging by Sen. John McCain of two advisers who had registered as lobbyists for the repressive regime of Burma.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/05/13/moveon_targets_mccain_aides_lo.html

McCain's Murderers Row (Huffington Post 5/13/08)
By Cliff Schecter
A new website (firethelobbyists.com) has been created by the pro-campaign finance reform organization Campaign Money Watch, to convince Senator McCain to fire three lobbyists in the top levels of his organization that have lobbied for ruthless dictators. You may recall that over the past two days, two McCain aides have resigned because of their willingness to do public relations work for the Burmese Junta.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cliff-schecter/mccains-murderers-row_b_101497.html

McCain Adviser Misleadingly Cites CBO Report, Says Webb's GI Bill 'Does Nothing To Address Reenlistment' (ThinkProgress 5/13/08)
On Fox News's America's Election HQ yesterday, Nancy Pfotenhauer, a senior policy adviser to Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), disingenuously attacked Sen. Jim Webb's "21st Century GI Bill," in order to justify her boss's opposition to the bill. Webb's bill "does nothing to address reenlistment and retention," charged Pfotenhauer.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/05/13/mccain-adviser-gi-bill/

Chump Change (Hotline 5/13/08)
By JENNIFER SKALKA
Word from OR is that John McCain's ad buy there for his "Better Way" spot is, drumroll: $1,310. So, he's not exactly flooding the airwaves. ...
http://hotlineblog.nationaljournal.com/archives/2008/05/chump_change.html
See also: http://marcambinder.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/05/mccain_places_ad_buy_in_oregon.php

McCain To Speak At Same Event As Violent Nugent (Huffington Post 5/13/08)
By Jeffrey Feldman
Although mostly hidden by his campaign, on May 16, 2008--four days prior to the Kentucky Primary--Sen. John McCain will participate in the 137th NRA Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky--in the same event as a right-wing pundit well-known for his violent rhetoric,Ted Nugent.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeffrey-feldman/mccain-to-speak-at-same-e_b_101540.html

McCain to make cameo on 'Saturday Night Live' (AP 5/13/08)
Live from New York, it's John McCain. The Republican presidential contender will make a cameo appearance this week on NBC-TV's Saturday Night Live, a comedy venue that most recently has been focused on the ongoing Democratic presidential contest.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-05-13-mccain-snl_N.htm

McCain's appeal to Latinos (San Francisco Gate 5/13/08)
Ruben Navarette Jr.
For many conservatives, John McCain is not their favorite Republican. They think he's built a career at their expense, painting them as fools and bigots. They resent his holier-than-thou attitude. And they're not inclined to trust anyone who has been so fawned over by the national media.
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/05/13/EDRO10LI95.DTL

LOCAL MCCAIN NEWS

McCain tries to ease nuclear-power worries (Seattle Times 5/14/08)
By David Postman and Emily Heffter

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Republican John McCain said he understands Washington's skepticism about nuclear energy, given the contamination at Hanford, the worst bond default in history and nuclear power plants left unfinished.
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2004412459_mccain14m.html

McCain talks environment in state stop (Seattle Post-Intelligencer 5/13/08)
By GREGORY ROBERTS
Nuclear power should be part of the nation's strategy to reduce global warming, Republican presidential candidate John McCain said Tuesday during a campaign trip to Washington state that emphasized environmental issues.
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/363032_mccain14.html
See also: http://blog.seattlepi.nwsource.com/seattlepolitics/archives/138789.asp

McCain leads environmental talk, takes rainy walk near North Bend (Seattle Times 5/13/08)
By Emily Heffter and David Postman
Republican presidential candidate John McCain led an environmental discussion with local business and political leaders today before going on a short — and rainy — nature walk. Nine panelists offered their perspectives on subsidies, nuclear power, environmentally friendly business practices and global warming during an hourlong discussion at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center outside of North Bend.
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2004411527_webmccain14m.html

Protest du Jour: McCain in town for money... (Seattle Post-Intelligencer blog 5/13/08)
by Candace Heckman
... and on his way to North Bend to chat about the environment. GOP presidential candidate Sen. John McCain was met by angry machinist union members and supporters upon touchdown at Boeing Field Tuesday morning. The Boeing workers are upset that he led an investigation that ultimately cost Boeing the lucrative Air Force tanker contract that recently went to Airbus.
http://blog.seattlepi.nwsource.com/thebigblog/archives/138773.asp

Where Bush draws the line on Iraq costs: education benefits for veterans (Seattle Post-Intelligencer 5/13/08)
JOHN YOUNG
WACO, Texas -- ...President Bush has threatened to use his rarely flexed veto pen against this measure if it contains a bipartisan expansion of the GI Bill of Rights and other veterans benefits. Bush says the benefits package shouldn't be tied to supplemental military funding. And he says it costs too much: $51 billion over 10 years. That sounds expensive, yes. That is, if you stand it up beside the Tyrannosaurus that is the supplemental bill for Iraq and Afghanistan: $195 billion for not even one whole budget year.... Sen. John McCain has sided with the president in opposing it. Although he supports increasing education aid, McCain says this is too expensive.
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/362916_youngonline14.html

Payday train coming down the tracks (Columbus Dispatch blog 5/13/08)
Posted by Jim Siegel
The payday executives hanging outside the Senate finance hearing room Tuesday were a despondent lot. Not only were they preparing to lose the fight over tough, new regulations of their industry, but the other side was running up the score.
http://blog.dispatch.com/dailybriefing/2008/05/payday_train_coming_down_the_t.shtml

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Mr. McCain's Honest Role in an Arizona Land Swap (Washington Post 5/14/08)
By JOSEPH C. DONALDSON (R) and JACK WILSON (D); A18
The May 9 front-page story "McCain Pushed Land Swap That Benefits Backer" did a gross disservice to readers and to Sen. John McCain by falsely portraying his support for legislation to protect public lands and address Northern Arizona's long-term water needs as a legislative disguise to benefit contributors and supporters. As Arizona mayors who were personally involved in this issue, we can attest that nothing could be further from the truth.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051302729.html

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Mrs. McCain's Refusal (Washington Post 5/14/08)
Page A18
The wife of an ethics-and-transparency crusader seeking the presidency shouldn't shield her tax filings.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051302733.html

McCain's America (Washington Post 5/14/08)
By Harold Meyerson; A19
It's John McCain's America. Barack Obama only lives in it.... If the McCain campaign is still trying out songs, there's one [...] [that] expresses succinctly and entirely the case for John McCain and, by implication, against Barack Obama: For he himself has said it, And it's greatly to his credit, That he is American!That he is American!
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051302303.html

High Court Caricature (Washington Post 5/14/08)
By Ruth Marcus; A19
...[T]he debate over the role of the judiciary deserves a far more nuanced approach than McCain's caricature of "the common and systematic abuse of our federal courts by the people we entrust with judicial power." ... The world he sketches of liberal Judges Gone Wild is largely imaginary. The freewheeling jurisprudence of the 1960s has tempered, if not vanished. That's not surprising: Seven of the nine Supreme Court justices are Republican appointees, as are about 100 of the 166 appeals court judges.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051302302.html

McCain's Supreme wrongheadedness (Boston Globe 5/14/08)
By Jeff Jacoby
IN A SPEECH on the federal judiciary last week, John McCain sounded the familiar conservative call for judges who know their place. "My nominees," he promised, "will understand that there are clear limits to the scope of judicial power, and clear limits to the scope of federal power." The judiciary's moral authority depends on self-restraint, said McCain, and "this authority quickly vanishes when a court presumes to make law instead of apply it."
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/05/14/mccains_supreme_wrongheadedness/

McCain should be truthful about courts (Seattle Post-Intelligencer 5/13/08)
By LINDA P. CAMPBELL
John McCain ought to be ashamed of himself. In his most pandering performance since speaking at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University to prove that he could schmooze even with agents of intolerance as long as they bring along Republican votes, McCain whacked away last week at that threadbare straw man, the "activist judge."
http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/362931_campbell14.html

McCain's Economic Brain (Slate 5/14/08)
By Daniel Gross
Why Carly Fiorina is so important to the Republican's presidential campaign.
http://www.slate.com/id/2191308/

Warming to McCain (WSJ 5/14/08)
By Holman W. Jenkins Jr.
The politics of climate change is changing.
http://online.wsj.com/public/page/opinion.html?mod=1_0045

McCain cares little for his fellow seniors (Columbus Dispatch 5/14/08)
By NORMAN WERNET
The proposals that Arizona Sen. John McCain has put forth dealing with retirement would be a disaster for all those who have retired or want to in the future. And this really should not come as a surprise since McCain's voting record in Congress is full of attempts to deny seniors their rightful retirement benefits.
http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2008/05/14/Wernet.ART_ART_05-14-08_A10_FKA6KUQ.html?sid=101

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Truth Serum on The Trail (Washington Post 5/14/08)
By Robert J. Samuelson; A19
It's been a blast, this presidential campaign. A great story, full of drama. But no one should think it's been honest. With the possible exception of Iraq -- a matter that compels candidates to face real issues -- the campaign has been an exercise in mass merchandising. Candidates make alluring promises (to "fix the economy," "defeat special interests" or "achieve energy independence") and offer freebies to voters (more tax cuts, health care, college aid). Complete the sale: That's the point.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051302304.html

McCain Getting Warmer on Warming? (NY Times blog 5/13/08)
By Tobin Harshaw
As we found out yesterday, President Bush is something of a drag on John McCain's White House ambitions, and now the senator has acted to draw out a distinction on an issue that's important to many of the independent voters the Arizona senator is seeking in November. "Senator John McCain sought to distance himself from President Bush on Monday as he called for a mandatory limit on greenhouse gas emissions in the United States to combat climate change," reports The Times's Elizabeth Bumiller and John Broder.
http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/05/13/mccain-getting-warmer-on-warming/?ref=opinion

BUSH NEWS

Bush Says He's Not A Golfer In Wartime (Washington Post 5/14/08)
By Dan Eggen; A02
President Bush said yesterday that he gave up golfing in 2003 "in solidarity" with the families of soldiers who were dying in Iraq, concluding that it was "just not worth it anymore" to play the sport in a time of war.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051302783.html?hpid=moreheadlines

President Bush won't say he was misled on Iraq (LA Times 5/14/08)
By James Gerstenzang
In what is reportedly his first interview with online news organizations, he concedes intelligence was 'flawed,' but he doesn't think anyone lied to him.
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-bush14-2008may14,0,6844605.story

Out of touch on foreclosures (Boston Globe 5/14/08)
PRESIDENT BUSH frets that foreclosure relief legislation would "reward speculators and lenders." So he dismisses carefully crafted efforts by Congress to prevent as many as 500,000 families from losing their homes to foreclosure. His concerns are not only misplaced, but hollow when compared with the growing displacement of families and destabilization of neighborhoods.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2008/05/14/out_of_touch_on_foreclosures/

Bush warns of Iraq disaster (Politico 5/13/08)
By: Mike Allen
President Bush warned in an interview Tuesday that the Democratic presidential candidates' plans to withdraw abruptly from Iraq could "eventually lead to another attack on the United States" and would "embolden" terrorists.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0508/10314.html

Bush Arrives for Middle Eastern Tour (NY Times 5/15/08)
By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG
JERUSALEM — President Bush arrived in Israel on Wednesday morning, his first stop on a five-day, three-country Middle East tour that will mix ceremony with substance as he marks the 60th anniversary of Israel's founding while trying to prod along faltering peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/15/washington/15prexy.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin
See also: http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/05/13/bush.mideast/index.html

Congress defies Bush on oil reserve (CNN 5/13/08)
* House votes to stop filling the strategic petroleum reserve to alleviate gas prices

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* Estimates on impact on gas prices range from one cent to 25 cents per gallon
* Bush opposes move, says it would threaten national security
* Alaska drilling could drastically cut oil prices, Republicans write Pelosi

http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/05/13/congress.oil/index.html

Feith Blames Public For Feeling Misled About Iraq: 'I Think They Misremember A Lot' (ThinkProgress 5/13/08)
Last night, Iraq war architect Douglas Feith appeared on The Daily Show to discuss his war apologia, War and Decision. When Stewart said that many Americans feel the Bush administration misled them into war, Feith replied, "Errors are not lies. I think a lot of what the Administration said was correct."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/05/13/feith-misremember/
Link to video: http://www.comedycentral.com/videos/index.jhtml?videoId=168128

Harriett Miers says her clash with Congress will outlast Bush (Fort Worth Star-Telegram 5/13/08)
By Max B. Baker
Former White House Counsel Harriet Miers predicted that her constitutional clash with Congress over executive privilege and the separation of powers doctrine may not be settled until after President Bush leaves office next year.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/251/story/36946.html

OTHER TOP NEWS

W.Va. blowout bolsters Clinton's resolve (USA Today 5/13/08)
By Susan Page
Hillary Rodham Clinton crushed Barack Obama in the West Virginia primary Tuesday — a victory that was surely personally satisfying but came as the Democratic presidential nomination is nearly in the grasp of her rival.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-05-13-wva-primary_N.htm
Link to transcript of Clinton's speech: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/05/13/transcript_of_hillary_clintons_remarks
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXONMGz_jAg&eurl=http://talkingpointsmemo.com/
Link to exit polls: http://thepage.time.com/2008/05/13/ready-set/

Obama, McCain Aim to Curb '527s' (Washington Post 5/14/08)
By Jonathan Weisman and Michael D. Shear; A06
Sen. Barack Obama's top fundraisers have asked his campaign donors to refrain from contributing to liberal independent political organizations in hopes of controlling the tone and message of the general-election campaign.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051302868.html

Mississippi Democrat Wins House Run-Off (WSJ 5/14/08)
By SUSAN DAVIS; Page A4
Democrat Travis Childers won an election for a Mississippi House seat Tuesday, completing a hat trick of recent victories for congressional Democrats now further emboldened by their prospects in November.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121073269728690751.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_topbox
See also: http://blog.washingtonpost.com/capitol-briefing/2008/05/democrats_win_miss_special_ele.html?hpid=topnews
See also: http://www.politico.com/blogs/thecrypt/0508/Childers_wins_Miss_special_election.html

House Dems get nasty nationwide (Politico 5/14/08)
By: Patrick O'Connor
The Democrats' presidential front-runner is promising a high-minded campaign in the fall, but the party's congressional campaign arm isn't playing quite so nicely with Republican House candidates and the billionaire conservative who's supporting them.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0508/10327.html

China Troops Dig for Quake Survivors as Death Toll Nears 15,000 (Bloomberg 5/14/08)
By William Bi and Aaron Sheldrick
The death toll from China's strongest earthquake in more than half a century has risen to almost 15,000 as

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disaster officials, battling bad weather and rubble-strewn roads, try to reach 25,000 people trapped under debris.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601101&sid=aTol5Tcmh0V4&refer=japan

Charges dropped for 20th alleged 9/11 hijacker (LA Times 5/14/08)
By Carol J. Williams
But five other suspects, including the alleged mastermind, face the death penalty at the troubled Guantanamo Bay tribunal.
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-na-tribunal14-2008may14,0,4723388.story

Seats of Power: A Return to Skybox Lobbying? (Washington Post 5/14/08)
By Jeffrey H. Birnbaum; D01
Not long ago, lobbyists regularly entertained lawmakers and their aides in skyboxes at local sports arenas. But after a series of scandals on Capitol Hill, the law was changed to forbid congressional officials from accepting anything of value from lobbyists without repayment -- let alone the best seats in the house.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051303040.html

POLLS

Burdened by the Weight of Inflation (Washington Post 5/14/08)
By Jon Cohen and Steven Mufson; D01
Nearly seven in 10 Americans are worried about maintaining their standard of living, as concern has spiked higher in just the past five months, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll. Soaring consumer prices are a major challenge, with many people struggling under the weight of the rising costs of fuel, food and health care.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051303120.html

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Kathleen Welch" <kathleen@corridorpartners.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/14/2015 5:57:41 AM
Subject: quick note of thanks!

John,
I am on my way out of the country for a week and had meant to send a note yesterday when I read your Politico piece.

I can't thank you enough for your leadership on climate in the White House. I remember both my clients and LCV would joke that what we needed most in the Obama White House was John Podesta, not for a moment thinking that was possible. What you accomplished — with the President's leadership and the good team you inherited — was just extraordinary. Together you all turned the issue around, not only in the U.S. but around the globe. It was a stunningly productive year for the environment.

At the risk of being over the top, there are few people in public service I admire more than you. Beyond the obvious unparalleled smarts and strategic sense, you're also a nice guy. Rare and wonderful combination.

I look forward to working with you in your next adventure. We still have a lot of work to do. All the best,
Kathleen

CORRIDOR PARTNERS
Kathleen Welch, Principal
202-744-4048 c

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Noreen Nielsen (CAPAF)" <nnielsen@americanprogressaction.org >
To: "'905energycall@googlegroups.com '" <905energycall@googlegroups.com >
Subject: [905energycall] Politico: Climate Change Progress Is Possible
Date: February 13, 2015 at 8:35:27 AM EST
Reply-To: nnielsen@americanprogressaction.org

http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/02/climate-change-john-podesta-115169.html#ixzz3RdEj5092

Climate Change Progress Is Possible

On his final day in the White House, President Obama's counselor explains how the administration is proving environmental goals are achievable.

By JOHN PODESTA

February 13, 2015

Fifty years ago this week, Lyndon Johnson, in pushing America to clean up its air and water, made a

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prescient prediction: “This generation has altered the composition of the atmosphere on a global scale,” Johnson wrote as part of a message to Congress on environmental protection, “through…a steady increase in carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.”

Five decades later, we are living with the effects of the carbon dioxide pollution Johnson observed: more frequent and extreme storms, longer and fiercer wildfire seasons, the slow creep of sea level rise and the steady upward trajectory of temperatures. Last year, 2014 was the hottest year on record; 14 of the 15 hottest years have come in this century. Atmospheric greenhouse gases at their highest levels in at least 800,000 years.

In Johnson’s day, Congress responded expediently. The laws they passed laid the groundwork for the Environmental Protection Agency, which for more than 40 years has shown that protecting the environment and growing the economy are not at odds, reducing pollution by more than 70 percent while the economy has tripled.

Unfortunately, many in today’s Congress are responding to the urgency of the climate threat not with action, but with obstruction, skepticism, and outright denial. This week, the Senate held a hearing on the EPA’s proposed Clean Power Plan rule, which would set the first-ever limits on how much carbon pollution power plants can put in our air and vastly improve public health as a result, averting up to 150,000 asthma attacks in children per year. Republicans criticized the proposal from every angle—including by claiming it doesn’t do enough.

Since we in the United States cannot solve the complex, global challenge of climate change solely through actions taken within our own borders, their argument goes, we should do nothing.

This is a fallacy. Failing to take steps today to curb carbon pollution and other greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. would endanger our economy, our national security, and our children’s future. And as we have seen time and again, if the U.S. steps up and takes action—if we lead with conviction and demonstrate our commitment—other leaders will stand alongside us. It’s how we have tackled pandemics and natural disasters and wars—and it is how we will protect the planet for future generations.

Climate change has already impacted our country’s fiscal health. Over the last decade, the federal government has incurred over $300 billion in direct costs due to extreme weather and fire alone. The Pentagon has warned that climate change endangers our national security—because climate change-related pressures like deep droughts, crop failures and extreme weather act as a “threat multiplier,” helping fuel instability and violence in already troubled parts of the world. And failing to act on climate change would make ours the first generation in American history to fail at that most basic principle—to endeavor to leave our children a better world than the one we inherited.

Under President Obama, we’re making unprecedented progress to curb carbon pollution at home, to build resilience to climate impacts in our communities, and to lead on the international stage. The measures we’ve taken in the U.S.—from historic fuel economy standards to the Clean Power Plan to groundbreaking partnerships with industry to deploy more clean energy, boost energy efficiency, and dramatically cut emissions of potent greenhouse gases known as HFCs—have helped spur other countries to action, including the world’s biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.

President Obama’s leadership at home made possible November’s historic joint announcement with Chinese President Xi Jinping of our two countries’ post-2020 targets to curb carbon pollution. For the first time, China set a date for peaking their carbon emissions—and demonstrated that they will begin right away by pledging to build as much energy generation from zero-carbon renewable and nuclear sources as they currently have in coal-fired power.

The joint announcement galvanized the world in a critical year for international negotiations. And as we saw this week, it forced Congressional Republicans to update their talking points, if not their thinking—because they can no longer say that China will never act.
President Obama will continue to push forward to protect our public health by curbing carbon pollution, to protect our communities from climate impacts by building resilience, and to lead the international

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conversation by making progress at home. Taking action on climate change today is our best hope for ensuring our children a prosperous future. Those in Congress who question the need and efficacy of the President's actions on climate change will find themselves on the wrong side of science, on the wrong side of history—and on the wrong side of the American people, as bipartisan majorities strongly favor controlling carbon pollution.

Despite today's obstructionists on Capitol Hill, we've come a long way since President Johnson's message to Congress. On Wednesday, a new satellite lifted off from Cape Canaveral, the start of a million-mile journey. The DSCOVR satellite will monitor the sun for solar flares, and send early warning to protect the grid from rare but costly damages from these electric storms. But DSCOVR will also turn its gaze homeward.

Most of the images we have of the Earth from space are composites, assembled piecemeal. But in a few months, DSCOVR will start sending us the first new images of the planet in more than four decades, along with critical new data about our atmosphere.
For the first time since Apollo 17, we'll be able to see the whole, sunlit face of the Earth—beautiful and austere and dazzlingly bright.
And ours to protect.

John Podesta is counselor to President Barack Obama. Today marks his final day at the White House; he will be taking up a key role in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Noreen Nielsen
Vice President of Communications and Advocacy
O: 202-478-6346
C: 202-288-3256
@noreen1

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	1/28/2015 1:03:13 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Wednesday January 28, 2015 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Wednesday January 28, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: “Republicans on Benghazi committee: Hillary who?”

“Republican members steered clear of Clinton Tuesday, uttering her name only once, in passing, two hours into the hearing. Gowdy clearly had no interest in discussing Clinton, referring only to ‘seventh floor principals’ when discussing top officials in the State Department and even driving the discussion away from Clinton at one point.”

The Hill: “Clinton willing to testify before Benghazi panel, Democrat says”

“‘She said ... I’ll do it, period,’ Cummings said after the committee's third hearing.”

Politico: “Democrats: Hillary Clinton willing to testify before Benghazi panel”

“A spokeswoman for Gowdy said he was ‘not aware of any formal notice that she would [testify], just … Cummings’ statement at the press stakeout after the hearing.’”

ABC News: “Benghazi Committee Chair Trey Gowdy: Hillary Clinton ‘Needs to Be Talked To’”

“If he didn’t call Clinton before the committee, Gowdy said, it would be ‘an incomplete investigation.’”

Los Angeles Times column: Doyle McManus: “Democratic Party is suddenly a fount of ideas”

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"You probably haven't seen much about, much less read, his report; It's 160 pages long and stuffed with serious economic analysis of why most Americans' incomes haven't grown much in real terms since — ouch — 1973. But its prescriptions are serious, and they are probably close to what Hillary Rodham Clinton's economic platform will be, when we get to see it."

The Hill opinion: Dick Morris: "Hillary's Iran problem"

"The high-profile battle over congressional efforts to extend and strengthen sanctions against Iran if it fails to dismantle its nuclear weapons program has ominous implications for Hillary Clinton's likely candidacy for the White House."

Articles:

MSNBC: "Republicans on Benghazi committee: Hillary who?"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

January 27, 2015, 5:15 p.m. EST

It started off so well.

The cautious optimism for bipartisanship that surrounded the launch of a House Select Committee on Benghazi came crashing down to earth Tuesday as the panel divided into predictable camps along party lines. And the rift came before the panel even got to Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state and likely future presidential candidate.

When it launched in May, both sides said they believed it could be a fresh start on the polarizing investigation into the 2012 terror attack on a diplomatic compound in Libya. Democrats praised Chairman Trey Gowdy, a former prosecutor, who chose a Democratic member's idea for the panel's first public hearing in September.

But relations broke down head of the third hearing Tuesday, and tensions flared during the meeting. Democrats had long harbored suspicions that the panel was biding its time before launching an attack what they believe is the GOP's true target – Clinton – but the committee never even made it that far.

Republican members steered clear of Clinton Tuesday, uttering her name only once, in passing, two hours into the hearing. Gowdy clearly had no interest in discussing Clinton, referring only to "seventh floor principals" when discussing top officials in the State Department and even driving the discussion away from Clinton at one point.

When the committee's witness, State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs Joel Rubin, said the panel had requested Clinton's emails, Gowdy corrected him. "You and your colleagues prioritized former Secretary Clinton's e-mails and that is our priority," Rubin said.

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“Well, I would say multiple emails. If there are multiple accounts, we want all of the e-mails,” Gowdy replied.

Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio made the GOP side’s only reference to Clinton, criticizing an independent review board because Clinton appointed most of its members.

But it turned out that presidential politics were not needed to politicize the panel.

The committee’s top Democrat, Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland accused Republicans of withholding key information from Democrats and operating under a different set of rules. “I am saddened to report today that there are major, major problems with this committee and its work,” Cummings said in his opening statement.

Cummings and Gowdy exchanged strongly worded letters before the hearing, with both sides accusing the other of politicizing the investigation and operating in bad faith. Gowdy, meanwhile, accused the Obama administration of being too slow to release documents, while Cummings accused Gowdy of being too slow to steer the committee forward and toward its eventual completion.

Before the hearing, California Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff said in a statement that his deep “skepticism” about the committee “may have been all too justified.” Washington Democratic Rep. Adam Smith, meanwhile, had threatened to walk off the panel.

During the hearing, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, Democrat of California, mocked the Republican-driven inquiry as a “quest to catch this mythical unicorn.” Citing eight previous investigations into the attacks, she said, “None have found this nefarious conspiracy.”

Gowdy and Republicans had been hoping to preserve and grow the credibility of their inquiry, which is part of the reason for their assiduous avoidance of taking pots shots at Clinton Tuesday. But Democrats are seeking to undermine the credibility of the panel, in the hopes that it will be viewed as a partisan witch hunt if it ever demands testimony from Clinton.

The Hill: “Clinton willing to testify before Benghazi panel, Democrat says”

By Martin Matishak

January 27, 2015, 5:19 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton is willing to testify before the House Select Committee that is investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya, according to the panel’s top Democrat.

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) on Tuesday said he has spoken to Clinton about the possibility of testifying at the request of Rep. Trey Gowdy (S.C.), the panel’s Republican chairman, and she “did not hesitate for one second.”

“She said ... I’ll do it, period,” Cummings said after the committee's third hearing.

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Cummings said Clinton, who was secretary of State at the time of the Benghazi attacks, indicated to him last year that she "wanted to come in December" to testify but could also come in January.

"The fact is that she was very clear," Cummings said.

The possibility of an appearance from Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016 if she makes a bid, has loomed as the biggest question for the Benghazi panel since its formation last summer.

Gowdy first floated the possibility of Clinton testifying late last year, creating the potential for a dramatic confrontation with the former secretary of State over a security failure that some Republicans argue should disqualify her from the presidency.

Clinton is "a witness that we would like to talk to. I cannot tell you when," Gowdy said in December.

With the race for the White House set to erupt soon, Democrats could be maneuvering to accelerate the work of the Benghazi panel so that it is not investigating Clinton while she is running for the presidency.

Gowdy, a former prosecutor, on Tuesday said he and Cummings had initially agreed last year that Clinton should be brought before the panel.

But after that discussion, Gowdy said, Cummings had an unexpected change of heart.

"The deal I had with Mr. Cummings is we will bring her before the committee within 30 days of receiving all the [State Department] documents responsive to our request," Gowdy said.

He said the State Department must hand over the information the panel is seeking, including potentially some of Clinton's emails, before Clinton testifies.

"If I were to conclude this investigation having not talked to the secretary of State at the time it would be an incomplete investigation," Gowdy said. "But I can't talk to her until I have the documents that would make that conversation productive. I'm not interested in having a conversation where old allegations are repeated or a shouting match."

"I want to ask specific questions rooted in documents," he added.

Gowdy said he would be "happy to take her in January, February, March, whenever" but that it was up to the panel's Democrats on "how quickly" they get to her testimony.

"I'm willing to work with them on the timing. I'm willing to do it sooner rather than later," Gowdy said. "What I'm not willing to do is do it in a vacuum where I don't have access to the documents."

Cummings disputed that he changed his mind about having Clinton appear.

"That's not true. I don't know how he could say that because we've never been against it. He asked me to check with her. I did that she said she was willing to come so it was a non-issue," Cummings said.

"If the committee wants her to come, she's willing to come," the Democrat added.

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The spat over Clinton's testimony comes at time of rising partisan tensions on the select committee, with members clashing over how the panel is conducting its investigation.

On the eve of an open hearing Tuesday, Cummings released letters in which he accused Republicans of conducting witness interviews in secret and withholding information from the Democratic members of the panel.

"I am saddened to report today that there are major, major problems with this committee and its work," Cummings said in his opening statement, adding that its work is moving at a "glacial pace."

Gowdy fired back that the criticism was "interesting" coming from Democrats, given that they fought the creation of the panel and have repeatedly threatened to boycott its work.

But Gowdy saved most of his ire for the State Department, taking it to task for failing to comply with requests for witness testimony and documents.

"This is not a political exercise for us," Gowdy said. "We're going to ratchet it up because I need access to the documents and the witnesses and we need to be able to conclude our work."

The House created the select committee last May to investigate the 2012 Benghazi attacks. Republicans argue a new probe was needed to explore unanswered questions about the administration's response to a terrorist assault that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

Democrats have accused the GOP of launching a "witch hunt" against Clinton, and on Tuesday portrayed the panel as a partisan exercise.

"Now, more than ever, I'm convinced that my colleagues are in search of a mythical creature — a unicorn, that is, a made-up conspiracy that does not exist," said Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-Calif.).

Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) said the Republican majority on the committee made no document requests between May and December, adding that Gowdy's comments about wrapping up their work "boggles the mind."

Republicans dismissed the complaints as "ridiculous" and said the five Democrats' on the panel were hypocrites because they have not suggested any witnesses or requested any documents for the probe.

"The happiness of the Democrats was never my objective in the first place," Gowdy said after the hearing.

"They're looking for a reason to leave."

Politico: "Democrats: Hillary Clinton willing to testify before Benghazi panel"

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By Lauren French

January 27, 2015, 7:21 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] But Chairman Trey Gowdy says the committee first needs additional documents from the State Department.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has agreed to testify before the House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi — setting up what could be an explosive hearing for the likely 2016 presidential candidate.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the panel, told reporters Tuesday that Clinton had informed him she was willing to testify as early as December 2014 before the panel. Cummings said he reached out to Clinton during the early days of the panel's investigation in September at the request for committee Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.).

"She immediately said she would do that and she wanted to come in December and then she said, 'Well, if you can't have me in December I'll come in January.' She said … 'I'll do it, period,'" Cummings said.

A spokeswoman for Gowdy said he was "not aware of any formal notice that she would [testify], just … Cummings' statement at the press stakeout after the hearing."

Gowdy has long expressed an interest in hearing from Clinton, who ran the State Department when the 2012 attacks at the Benghazi compound occurred.

The Democratic aide said Clinton "agreed to testify as early as this past December" but has not been officially called to testify.

Any appearance from Clinton is sure to set off controversy. Conservatives have long pointed to the Benghazi attacks to argue that Clinton is not up to the job as commander-in-chief, and any remarks she made during the hearing would be sure to be used against her during a presidential run. Democrats have dismissed the Republican interest in Clinton as partisan politics meant to distract their party's likely 2016 nominee.

Gowdy reiterated on Tuesday that he would like to hear from Clinton but said the panel needed additional documents from the State Department before he would ask her to appear. The State Department has sent the Benghazi panel more than 40,000 documents — including 15,000 never previously sent to Congress — but Gowdy and House Republicans have dozens of standing requests.

Clinton has previously testified before House and Senate panels investigating the Benghazi attacks, including a memorable exchange with Sen. Ron Johnson in 2013 over the White House's response to the siege in the days after Sept. 11, 2012.

"With all due respect, the fact is, we had four dead Americans. Was it because of a protest or because of guys out for a walk one night who decide to kill some Americans — what difference at this point does it make?" Clinton said. "It is our job to figure out what happened and do everything we can to prevent it from ever happening again, Senator."

ABC News: "Benghazi Committee Chair Trey Gowdy: Hillary Clinton 'Needs to Be Talked To'"

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By Jeff Zeleny

January 27, 2015, 5:21 p.m. EST

Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, said Tuesday he still intended to summon former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to testify as part of the investigation into the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Libya that killed four Americans.

“Every witness who has relevant information needs to be talked to,” Gowdy told reporters after a committee meeting Tuesday.

If he didn’t call Clinton before the committee, Gowdy said, it would be “an incomplete investigation.”

The House Select Committee on Benghazi is charged with delivering the final word on the attack, which has been the subject of an intense political battle.

Several previous Congressional investigations into the attack have found no wrongdoing by U.S. officials, but that has done little to cool the partisan acrimony surrounding the incident on whether the State Department under Clinton’s direction did enough to prevent the attack.

Clinton, who is believed to be moving closer to announcing her bid for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, has said she would testify. But Democrats believe she should have been already been called and worry that a delay could interfere with her presidential campaign.

Her testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January 2013 has become a soundtrack for Republican opposition to her candidacy. Her supporters fear another round of testimony would only inflame the partisan debate over the Benghazi attack.

Gowdy told reporters Tuesday that he has been unable to get documents from the State Department pertaining to the attack, which has delayed his call for Clinton to testify. He said the government has been dragging its feet in release emails and other documents.

“I am willing to do it sooner rather than later,” said Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican. “What I am not willing to do is do it in a vacuum where I don’t have access to the documents.”

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the committee, downplayed the criticism over the release of documents. He said Clinton has been willing to testify.

“If the committee wants her to come she is willing to come,” Cummings, D-Md., told reporters. “So if the excuse is that the State Department documents haven’t gotten there, it makes no sense.”

Los Angeles Times column: Doyle McManus: “Democratic Party is suddenly a fount of ideas”

By Doyle McManus

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

January 27, 2015, 5:50 p.m. EST

Only a few months ago, it looked as if Republicans had recaptured their old claim to be the party of ideas, especially on the economic issue that has seized the attention of most Americans: the stagnation of middle-class incomes.

The GOP's former vice presidential nominee, Rep. Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), unveiled proposals to help the struggling middle class. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), another conservative hero, inveighed against income inequality. Even Mitt Romney, the once and perhaps future presidential candidate, has started saying it is time to get serious about poverty.

Meanwhile, Democrats seemed like an extinct volcano. Many of them campaigned for November's midterm election without any clear economic message at all. It didn't turn out well.

In politics, nothing concentrates the mind like electoral defeat — unless it's the low roar of an oncoming presidential campaign.

And so, in the last few weeks, the Democratic volcano has erupted with ideas. President Obama listed dozens in his State of the Union speech, beginning with a tax increase on the top 1% to pay for child-care and education benefits for the middle class. House Democrats went further, proposing a tax on financial transactions that would allow for broader tax cuts for workers. And a think-tank task force co-chaired by former Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers proposed tax breaks for middle-income folks as well as tax incentives to push companies toward sharing profits with their workers.

“Stagnation in wages and income is a choice, not a necessity,” Summers said. “A different choice is possible.”

You probably haven't seen much about, much less read, his report; It's 160 pages long and stuffed with serious economic analysis of why most Americans' incomes haven't grown much in real terms since — ouch — 1973.

But its prescriptions are serious, and they are probably close to what Hillary Rodham Clinton's economic platform will be, when we get to see it. The report was sponsored by the liberal Center for American Progress, whose founder, John Podesta, is expected to become chairman of Clinton's presidential campaign. The think tank's president, Neera Tanden, was Clinton's chief policy advisor in 2008.

And the report isn't coy about its political purpose; it sets out to update the centrist Democratic policies Bill Clinton ran on in the 1990s. “The world has changed,” Summers said.

The core argument is that economic growth alone isn't enough to ensure sustained prosperity any more. Unless profits are broadly shared, the argument goes, the economy won't generate enough domestic spending to keep growth going — or alleviate the widening gap between rich and poor.

Most of the solutions would be on almost any Democrat's wish list: more spending on education and training, more spending on roads and bridges and airports, paid parental leave for both fathers and mothers, and paid sick and vacation days for all.

And there's that corporate reform: legislation to push employers to share more of their growing profits with their employees, and to shift financial incentives for executives from short-term stock price increases to long-term growth.

The report calls for strengthening the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law, including tougher punishment for financial crimes beginning with mandatory “clawbacks” of bonuses paid to executives who are found responsible for malfeasance.

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That sounds like a bow to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and others on the Democratic left who have long complained that Wall Street got away with too much in the Great Recession. But the Summers report doesn't call for breaking up or shrinking big banks, as Warren has proposed, so it's unlikely to satisfy every progressive.

It won't make every centrist Democrat happy, either. The Progressive Policy Institute, a think tank spawned by Bill Clinton's New Democrat movement, began work this week on a list of policies focused on promoting private sector growth. “We need to expand our growth agenda to attract voters who may not agree with us,” the group's president, Will Marshall, told me.

And what does Hillary think? She's not saying. As the prohibitive front-runner in a race she hasn't formally joined, she can let the arguments percolate.

She's given clues, of course — but in all directions. She said she loved “watching Elizabeth [Warren] give it to those who deserve to get it.” In Canada last week, she struck a less populist note, saying the pressing problem is “small- and medium-sized business formation.”

And she has offered terse tidbits of policy via Twitter, warning Congress that “attacking financial reform is risky and wrong” and praising Obama's State of the Union address — but adding: “Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class.”

But for Democrats who worried that their party's idea shortage might be chronic and disabling, the eruption of economic prescriptions must come as a relief. There's a debate underway, and the front-runner even has a draft platform in hand. The Democrats won't have to wage another campaign without an economic message after all.

The Hill opinion: Dick Morris: “Hillary’s Iran problem”

By Dick Morris

January 27, 2015, 7:49 p.m. EST

The high-profile battle over congressional efforts to extend and strengthen sanctions against Iran if it fails to dismantle its nuclear weapons program has ominous implications for Hillary Clinton’s likely candidacy for the White House.

President Obama’s in-your-face veto threat, delivered in his State of the Union speech last week, has elevated this issue to the point where it has become the most important early battle between him and the new Republican Congress. Even if Democrats in the Senate cave and try to delay a sanctions vote, the stark contrast between the GOP and the president has made Iran sanctions a key national issue that is likely to have a life of its own as we move into 2016.

This polarization has made it increasingly impossible for Clinton to fudge her position on sanctions, as she has been doing for years. Recognizing this fact, right after Obama spoke, the former secretary of State backed him up, calling further congressional action on sanctions a “serious strategic error,” warning that it would “guarantee diplomacy fails” and that it might be the “catalyst for the collapse of negotiations.”

In the past, Clinton has publicly proclaimed her backing for tough sanctions and even taken credit for their effectiveness. But all the while she has been privately sending her lobbyists up to Capitol Hill to battle against them. In fact, when Congress was considering the most effective of the sanctions imposed on Iran, legislation that targeted the country’s Central Bank and made it more difficult for Tehran to sell its oil, Clinton sent her people up to Capitol Hill to testify against the proposals.

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They argued that making it more difficult for Iran to sell oil might drive up its prices and unintentionally give Iran a windfall profit. Wendy Sherman, Clinton's undersecretary, explained this convoluted logic, saying "there is absolutely a risk that in fact the price of oil would go up, which would mean that Iran would, in fact, have more money to fuel its nuclear ambitions, not less."

We all know how that worked out.

But while Clinton's people pushed Congress to go slow on sanctions, she took credit for their effectiveness in her book Hard Choices. Until now, she has been able to have it both ways: seeming to back sanctions while really opposing them.

But with the high-profile confrontation looming between Congress and Obama over sanctions, her deft dance can no longer be sustained. If Congress passes sanctions and Obama, with Clinton's approbation, vetoes the legislation (and it is not overridden), she will have made herself responsible for the outcome of the process. If Iran does go nuclear or refuses to dismantle any of its centrifuges, she'll have to defend the Ayatollah's actions from the campaign trail, a hazardous undertaking for a candidate for president.

Democrats had hoped that the first big confrontation between the newly elected Republican Congress and the president would come over a government shutdown where the administration could portray its opponents as being in the grip of the Tea Party. For their part, Republicans sought to avoid the shutdown trap and were looking toward the Keystone oil pipeline as the leading issue.

But now Iran sanctions have come to the fore and loom large on center stage.

Hillary Clinton is tied to President Obama on the issue. Where he goes, she will follow. The careful distancing of herself from the failures in administration foreign policy is no longer an option for Clinton. Appeasing Iran is her plan now.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 9/11/2015 11:59:56 AM
Subject: A Guy from TV Martí Walks into a Bar

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September 11, 2015

Dear Friends,

Stop us if you've heard this one.

> A civil servant from TV Martí walks into a bar, orders 12 *shots*, and starts drinking them as fast as he can.
>
> The bartender interrupts him to ask, "Why on Earth are you drinking so fast?"
>
> The guy says, "You'd be drinking fast, too, if you had what I have."
>
> The bartender asks, "What do you have?"
>
> The Martí man replies, "75 cents."

Okay, *that* was a joke.

But, when Tracey Eaton reported earlier this week that our government is spending "U.S. tax dollars for parodies of Cuban politicians," he was dead serious.

Tracey's item pointed to a solicitation from the Broadcasting Board of Governors posted on an e-government website at the end of August. This agency is home to Voice of America and, importantly for our story, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting - or OCB - which operates Radio and TV Martí.

Under the memorable title "OCBSatire," the Office of Cuba Broadcasting announced that it has "a **requirement** for exclusive, non-transferrable rights for a Cuban satirical variety and comedy sketch show for inclusion in its programming."

You will be forgiven for assuming the word "requirement" indicates a desire on OCB's part to spice up its dry reporting about Cuba.

Instead, the requirements are really, well, requirements that the businesses submitting proposals must observe to have their shows picked in exchange for an unspecified amount of money.

This solicitation, as if spelling out a detailed regulation to control air pollution, is quite granular. The OCB wants scripts for ten shows. Scripts must be thirty minutes in length. "Each skit should ideally be comprised of 3 segments with accompanying commercial breaks followed by a formal close."

OCB is not looking for just any kind of comedy to entertain its Cuban audience.

"These skits must be able to parody public figures, politicians, government officials,

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entertainers, as well as recognizable members of Cuban civil society groups who are active in the political and civil sphere and widely known throughout the Island."

Of course, no U.S. government contract to secure sketch comedies to promote American-style free speech in Cuba would be complete without provisions giving the Office of Cuba Broadcasting the right to prescreen and censor the content as it sees fit. Really.

But, here's the best requirement. "These parodies must be uniquely funny, ironic, satirical and entertaining to a wide cross-section of the Cuban population."

The U.S. government is going to decide that? Earlier this week, we wrote the contracting officers at the BBG and asked "who will determine which proposal is selected?" We never heard back.

If the BBG lacks in-house capacity to decide what's "uniquely funny," maybe they'll get advice from the team that put up a prime time comedy show on Radio Martí that featured a cast whose actors were mostly dead, as The New York Times reported in 1985, by the time the program aired. Or maybe they'll get help from the producers of "The Chief's Office," described by the Associated Press as "a satire on the life behind the scenes in the fictional office of a military leader with an extraordinary resemblance to Fidel Castro."

No need to sound "spoiler alert" before saying these previous attempts at satire - not to mention other not-so-hilarious episodes featuring an invasion, acts of terror, exploding cigars and poison-secreting wet suits - have been completely ineffective at upending Cuba's government.

As bad as this all sounds, our complaints about OCBSatire go deeper.

First, if the contract goes to Cubans applying from the island, they would be exposed to legal jeopardy under Law 88. It forbids collaboration "in any way with foreign radio or television stations, newspapers, magazines or other mass media with the purpose of ... destabilizing the country and destroying the socialist state." Law 88 was written with Radio and TV Martí in mind; thus, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting is giving Cubans the chance to fall victim to the same law that got Alan Gross in trouble.

Second, as we have pointed out before, there are government loyalists in Cuba, as Michael Bustamante described them in his piece for Foreign Affairs, "A Cuban Conundrum ," who passionately believe that President Raúl Castro is making a mistake in his diplomacy with the United States, and think our "opening" of doors to more travel and trade is simply regime change by another name.

His article identifies what concerns hardliners in Cuba the most: the "deleterious impact" of U.S. media and U.S. offers to expand Cubans' access to the Internet for free. Jokey Cuba Broadcasting Office sitcoms play right into their fears.

Third, when ABC News asked Susan Rice, the president's National Security Advisor, why Radio and TV Martí were still pumping out anti-Castro government articles even after the President said 'we're no longer in the business of regime change,' Ambassador Rice responded "We will continue to say and do what we think is appropriate to advance our interests in human rights and democracy in Cuba... we're not going to change just because the Cuban government may wish that we did otherwise." So, there's no one can say that the Office of Cuba Broadcasting went rogue on this. The Administration owns it.

Fourth, as Bill LeoGrande and Peter Kornbluh remind us in their invaluable book "Back Channel," activities by Radio and TV Martí have previously been used by Cuba to bring hoped-for diplomatic progress to a dead-end conclusion.

This matters. Joshua Hersh pointed out this summer in his excellent review of the Alan Gross case that Cuba will inevitably raise objections to the regime change programs that threaten its sovereignty in the negotiations to normalize relations - which, as we report

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below, resumed in Havana *today*.

We will wager that when the Cuban delegation took its seats, Deputy Assistant Secretary Alex Lee did not begin his remarks by saying, "Two Cuban brothers dressed in army fatigues stop into a bar for a drink. Stop me if you've heard this one."

In its solicitation for regime change sitcoms, BBG cuts off the application process next Monday. It would be nice if someone in the White House and State Department twisted the money spigot off on this dumb waste of taxpayer money before BBG goes further and puts the larger purposes of President Obama's diplomatic achievement with Cuba at risk.

This week in Cuba News...

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- Diplomats start talks in Cuba on negotiations leading to normalization
- Foreign Affairs Committee in Congress holds hearing on agricultural trade with Cuba

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Recommended Reading
- Despite Better U.S.-Cuba Relations, Guantanamo Set To Stay In U.S. Hands , David Welna, NPR News
- Why AirBnB thinks Cuba Can Become a Case Study , Miguel Helft, Forbes
- Leon Rodriguez's Jewish Journey From Cuba to Top Immigration Post , Nathan Guttman, Forward
- Cuba's Key Change , Aaron Thomas, SBS
- Clinton and the Bungling of Cuba Policy , Robert Sandels and Nelson P. Valdés, Counterpunch
- In Cuba, Architecture and Design Blossom Under New Laws , Julia Cooke, Curbed

Recommended Viewing
- A Year in Cuba , Alan Taylor, The Atlantic
- Cuba, "So Near And Yet So Foreign":A Wolfsonian Glimpse Into An Era of Easy Access from the U.S. by Ship, Frank Luca, The Wolfsonian FIU

U.S.-CUBA

Update: President Obama maintains authority to modify Cuba sanctions by renewing Trading with the Enemy Act

As we predicted last week , President Obama picked a Friday afternoon to renew Cuba's status under the Trading With the Enemy Act (TWEA). The 1917 law underpins U.S. sanctions against Cuba under the Cuban Assets Control Regulations. This action preserves his executive authority to continue easing restrictions on travel and trade with Cuba, ABC News reports . With the memorandum signed today by President Obama for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, Cuba's TWEA listing will expire on September 14, 2016.

Diplomats start talks in Cuba on negotiations leading to normalization

Negotiators representing Cuba and the United States met in Havana today to advance the process of normalizing bilateral relations. The meeting was announced via press statements released Wednesday by Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations in Havana and Thursday by the U.S. Department of State in Washington.

This was the first meeting of the U.S.-Cuba Bilateral Commission which was unveiled when Secretary of State John Kerry visited Cuba for the flag-raising ceremony at the U.S.

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Embassy. Josefina Vidal, Director General of the U.S. Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, and Alex Lee, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, led the two countries' delegations.

According to Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations , negotiators began by defining the agenda for the U.S.-Cuba Bilateral Commission's discussions. The talks will first address areas for cooperation, including the protection of the environment, prevention of natural disasters, health, civil aviation, and drug trafficking. Next, U.S.-Cuba talks will focus on bilateral and multilateral interests, including human rights, climate change, and global health. Lastly, the commission will discuss compensation for damages incurred by the U.S. embargo and compensation for U.S. companies nationalized in Cuba, as well as the protection of brands and patents. The Cuban delegation emphasized that lifting the embargo is fundamental to normalize bilateral relations, Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations reported.

As the Miami Herald reported, the U.S. delegation also included David McKean, director of Secretary Kerry's policy planning staff, and Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis, who serves as charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy. (Be sure to see our story on the status of Cuba's normalization talks with the European Union below.)

Foreign Affairs Committee in Congress holds hearing on agricultural trade with Cuba

When the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a hearing on agricultural trade with Cuba, Members of Congress could only agree that the island had potential as a market for U.S. producers of food and fiber, as Agri-Pulse reported.

Rep. Ted Poe (TX-2), the Subcommittee chairman, a long-time advocate for free trade with Cuba, criticized the "half-in/half-out" regulatory climate which face farmers such as the rice growers who live in his Congressional district. Poe noted that while U.S. law specifically exempts the sale of food to Cuba from the embargo, other constraints impede sales.

"It's clear our current policy when it comes to agriculture exports to Cuba is not working," Poe said, pointing to remaining financial restrictions on credit.

Under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (TSRA), U.S. producers can apply for licenses to export agricultural commodities, medicine, and medical devices to Cuba. In 2008, the value of exported U.S. agricultural commodities to Cuba peaked at $ 658 million; however, in recent years, this has dipped sharply with less than $300 million dollars' worth of agricultural commodities exported last year, according to Reuters .

Opponents of trade with Cuba took the position that increasing food sales to Cuba would further entrench the Cuban government. Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-2) said, "It's hard to believe the increased trade will help the Cuban people. The evidence is clear: The Castro regime had 30 years of subsidized trade with the Soviet Union and billions of dollars in European investment, yet none of the profits made its way to the Cuban people." He added, "What makes us think that adding U.S. to the equation would be different except to prop up a corrupt dictatorship?"

The Subcommittee heard testimony from three Obama Administration witnesses: John Smith, acting head of the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), Phil Karsting, Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service at the Department of Agriculture, and Matt Borman, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security.

According to the World Food Programme , Cuba imports 70-80 percent of its food, primarily from Brazil and Europe. Karsting testified that states producing chicken, wheat, corn, and soy would likely benefit most from increased trade with Cuba. Some lawmakers

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expressed concern about verifying that exports would reach their intended recipients. Borman explained that U.S. policy restrictions on trade with Cuba's communist party, government, and the military remains in place.

In late July, Representative Tom Emmer (MN-6), who also attended the hearing, introduced legislation with Representative Kathy Castor (FL-14) to repeal the trade embargo. Emmer's bill is identical to the embargo bill introduced in June by Senators Jerry Moran (KS) and Angus King (ME), as we previously reported .

In an April 2015 hearing before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, agriculture industry representatives and experts from Arkansas, Minnesota, Kansas, and Texas made the case for easing trade restrictions with Cuba.

IN CUBA

Pope Francis visit prompts release of prisoners

Ahead of Pope Francis' upcoming visit, Cuba's government pardoned 3,522 prisoners, marking the largest release of prisoners since the Cuban Revolution according to ABC . Pope Francis will arrive in Cuba on Saturday, September 19, at Havana's Jose Martí International Airport, where he will offer remarks at approximately 4:05pm.

Today, Cuban media reported that "Among those pardoned are people aged over 60, those under 20 with no previous criminal record, the chronically ill, women, many who were due to meet the time limit established for parole in 2016, some of those serving a sentence on work release programs, as well as foreigners, provided that their country of origin guarantees repatriation."

This prisoner release echos past practices prior to papal visits. Ric Herrero, Executive Director for #CubaNow noted , "By any measure, the Cuban government's decision to release over 3,500 non-violent offenders ahead of Pope Francis' visit represents progress...it is safe to say that this would not be happening if not for the Holy Father's role in changing U.S.-Cuba relations... At the same time, we are disappointed by reports suggesting that political prisoners may not be among those pardoned, and urge the Cuban government to reconsider as a gesture of goodwill." The decision to release prisoners will take effect in 72 hours.

Pope Francis' visit marks the third trip by a Catholic Pontiff to Cuba; a visit which will highlight the changing relationship between Church and state, as Reuters reported this week. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI visited Cuba and celebrated mass outdoors in Havana and Santiago; we wrote about it here .

Pope Francis, the first pope from Latin America , played a key role in brokering the rapprochement between the U.S. and Cuba. Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski, who will accompany the papal visit, told the Miami Herald that "Cuba becomes a bridge for Francis' trip to the United States. In that sense it is very significant."

A meeting with former leader Fidel Castro is not on the agenda, and will depend on Castro's health, reports the Guardian . The pontiff will meet with President Raúl Castro. Eight in 10 Cubans gave positive ratings to Pope Francis in the survey of 1,200 Cuban residents sponsored by Univision Noticias and Fusion networks, including 92 percent of Catholics.

31 percent of Cuba's youth work in private sector

This week official figures from Cuba's government showed that 31 percent of employed young people in Cuba work in the private sector, reported Fox News Latino .

Primary forms of employment for youth include food preparation and sales, cargo, and passenger transport according to the head of employment in the Labor and Social Security Ministry, Jesús Otamendiz.

The majority of Cuban youth continue to be employed in the state sector. In the context of

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a country where the percent of those above the age of 60 is expected to rise to 30 percent by 2030, employment is a central issue in addressing a contracting workforce.

The movement of workers from the state sector to the private sector is one of President Raúl Castro's stated goals as part of Cuba's economic evolution. In 2010, Castro announced plans to eliminate 500,000 state sector jobs as part of his "update" to socialism.

That roughly corresponds to the 500,000 Cubans, according to Bloomberg Business , who have registered as self-employed workers in professions legalized by the government's reforms, "but economists figure the actual number is closer to 2 million-40 percent of the workforce-including state workers and farmers who moonlight in the private sector."

Experts at the Center for Youth Studies (Centro de Estudios sobre la Juventud) explain that alternative forms of employment to state jobs are interesting to students, offering opportunities as well as challenges.

The Center for Democracy in the Americas published a report on the evolution of Cuba's economy that can be found here.

CUBA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

EU and Cuba open new round of normalization talks

This week, the European Union and Cuba began the toughest round of talks on normalizing ties, according to Reuters .

After five rounds of discussions that left agreements on trade and cooperation nearly complete, the bilateral talks have now shifted to discussing a new political agreement to replace the now-abandoned "Common Position" of the EU.

Ambassador Herman Portocarero, the EU's top diplomat in Havana, reaffirmed the EU's commitment to advocating for human rights in Cuba, but looks forward with a pragmatic approach, saying "Our differences aren't new and we didn't just discover them in June. We agree on a lot of points, but on other issues we are so far agreeing to disagree."

In 2008, the EU began to reexamine its Common Position on Cuba, which predicates restoring deeper ties with Cuba on democratic reforms. Citing the failure of the Common Position to achieve its goals as well as fundamental changes taking place in Cuba on the socio-economic dimension, the EU decided to move forward in pursuing improved bilateral relations, according to top EU negotiator Christian Leffler .

Leffler views U.S. engagement with Cuba positively, saying in a March news conference that U.S.-Cuba rapprochement "lifts a cloud that has been hanging over the region ... for a long time (and) opens new possibilities. The two processes complement each other and we very much welcome the step of the United States away from confrontation." For his part, Jesús Posada, speaker of the lower house of Spain's parliament, expressed hope this week that "Spain as a member of the European Union will do all it can" to help U.S. and Cuba chart a "positive path," according to Fox News Latino.

Cuba's Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel leads official delegation to North Korea

On Saturday, Cuba's Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel met with Kim Jon Un, North Korea's Supreme Leader, to celebrate 55-years of bilateral relations between North Korea and Cuba according to the International Business Times .

North Korean officials visited Cuba in 2013 and in 2015. The latest visit of North Korean officials to Cuba likely included a request for food aid, according to Progreso Weekly . Historically, Cuba-North Korea relations have been "fraternal" and Cuban news sources affirm that governmental ties between the two countries are "strong." In 1960, Che Guevara visited North Korea and in 1986, Fidel Castro traveled there.

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Last week, Diaz-Canel visited both Russia and China to reaffirm bi-lateral relations. Vice President Diaz-Canel is expected to replace President Raúl Castro when Castro retires in 2018.

Chilean lawmaker arrested during Ladies in White protest
On Monday, Chilean lawmaker Felipe Kast claimed that he was detained in Havana for participating in a protest with the Ladies in White in Havana. The Ladies in White were formed by mothers and daughters of dissidents jailed in Cuba following a crackdown in 2003.

Kast told reporters upon his arrival back in Santiago on Monday that, "Without any dialogue, a shock group of the Castro regime arrived; they proceeded to beat those of us who were marching, without asking us for any identification and they arrested us." Kast does not believe that the police knew he was a Chilean lawmaker. Kast calls his detention an "excess of violence" and claims that he was beaten, questioned, and kept out of communication for three hours, according to CNN Chile .

Kast went to Havana to visit relatives and did not inform Chile's embassy that he would participate in the protest. Chilean Foreign Minister Heraldo Muñoz finished his official visit to Cuba on September 5, the day before Kast's arrest. Kast thanked Muñoz and Chile's Ambassador to Cuba, Gonzalo Mendoza, for working to obtain his quick release.

Kast requested that Foreign Minister Heraldo Muñoz submit a note of protest on his behalf. Muñoz communicated that he would ask Gonzalo Mendoza for more information on what happened while Kast was in Cuba.

Recommended Reading

Despite Better U.S.-Cuba Relations, Guantánamo Set To Stay In U.S. Hands , David Welna, NPR News
Despite warming relations, the U.S. has no plans to eliminate the Naval Base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, even though Cubans regard the presence of the U.S. base as a violation of their nation's sovereignty.

Why AirBnB thinks Cuba Can Become a Case Study , Miguel Helft, Forbes
Since Airbnb opened in Cuba in April, listings have increased from 1,000 to over 2,600. Nate Blecharczyk, co-founder and CTO of Airbnb, describes how Cuba is not a meaningful revenue source now, but could become one over time.

Leon Rodriguez's Jewish Journey From Cuba to Top Immigration Post , Nathan Guttman, Forward
Leon Rodriguez, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, is of both Jewish Cuban descents, whose parents emigrated from Havana in 1961. Rodriguez describes his understanding of the U.S. immigration system and the reforms it needs.

Cuba's Key Change , Aaron Thomas, SBS
Aaron Thomas travels to Cuba to understand the role of music in political and social life.

Clinton and the Bungling of Cuba Policy , Robert Sandels and Nelson P. Valdés, Counterpunch
An overview of legal restrictions, primarily the 1996 Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Helms-Burton) Act as U.S. and Cuba move toward normal relations.

In Cuba, Architecture and Design Blossom Under New Laws , Julia Cooke, Curbed
This article explores how formerly defunct buildings are being transformed into usable spaces by groups, like Habana Re-Generación.

Recommended Viewing

A Year in Cuba , Alan Taylor, The Atlantic
This piece showcases Reuters photographer Alexandre Meneghini's work documenting life

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in Cuba over the past year.

Cuba, "So Near And Yet So Foreign": A Wolfsonian Glimpse Into An Era of Easy Access from the U.S. by Ship, Frank Luca, The Wolfsonian FIU
Frank Luca, Wolfsonian Chief Librarian, offers a glimpse at travel materials representing Cuba before the travel ban.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team



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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/1/2008 5:27:24 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech in Orlando, FL 08/01/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately, due to flight availability and scheduling conflicts, we were not able to get a tracker to today's event. But good news: we captured the video streaming online. Below are the notes from our effort.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Says "Affirmative action is in the eye of the beholder"
- Promises to "continue" to fight for equal opportunity for all Americans
- Says "I learned to love America when I was deprived of its company"
- Assures 'I do have an idea of what it's like to be deprived of your rights.'
- Evades charge that charter schools aren't enough to solve problem of glass ceiling for African American, resorts to praising questioner's passion and town hall format
- Jokes about this being his 1st attendance at Urban League mtg: 'at the time of the Convention last year, my candidacy was in a bit of trouble'
- Repeats claim that Oil execs ("the ones that actually [drill], not the ones that comment on television"), assured him we can have oil "within months" and "it's economics" that when you increase supply, prices go down

Orlando, FL: McCain Speech at Urban League Annual Conference 08/01/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- Michael J Critelli, (Pitney Bowes, former leader of Urban League) gives introductory remarks: proud for McCain to have his first time at Urban League meeting
- Marc Morial introduces John McCain:
    - POW experience affects one's persistence, drive and ability to withstand pressure
    - Almost lost his life in USS Forrestal Fire - as a community that understands the challenges of hard times, great barriers and great burdens, I think we can attest to the fact that McCain has walked thru great barriers to become GOP nominee

LINK to FULL REMARKS: http://thepage.time.com/remarks-by-john-mccain-to-the-national-urban-league-annual-conference/

ARLINGTON, VA — U.S. Senator John McCain will deliver the following remarks as prepared for delivery to the 2008 National Urban League Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, today at 11:00 a.m. EDT:

Thank you, Marc, for the introduction. I appreciate your kind invitation and this warm welcome to Orlando and to the Urban League. Through all the business cycles and political cycles of almost a century, this organization has championed an agenda of economic growth and opportunity. You've never lost your sense of mission, or your commitment to bettering the lives of African Americans and of all citizens. I'm honored to be with the men and women of the Urban League.

You'll hear from my opponent, Senator Obama, tomorrow, and if there's one thing he always delivers it's a great speech. But I hope you'll listen carefully, because his ideas are not always as impressive as his rhetoric. And this is especially true in the case of the Urban League's agenda of opportunity. Your Opportunity Compact speaks of the urgent need to reform our public schools, create jobs, and help small businesses grow. You understand that persistent problems of failing schools and economic stagnation cannot be solved with the same tired ideas and pandering to special interests that have failed us time and again. And you know how much

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the challenges have changed for those who champion the cause of equal opportunity in America.

Equal access to public education has been gained. But what is the value of access to a failing school? Equal employment opportunity is set firmly down in law. But with jobs becoming scarcer — and more than 400,000 Americans t hrown out of work just this year — that can amount to an equal share of diminished opportunity. For years, business ownership by African Americans has been growing rapidly. This is all to the good, but that hopeful trend is threatened in a struggling economy — with the cost of energy, health care, and just about everything else rising sharply.

As in other challenges African Americans have overcome, these problems require clarity of purpose. They require the solidarity of groups like the Urban League. And, at times, they also require a willingness to break from conventional thinking.

Nowhere are the limitations of conventional thinking any more apparent than in education policy. After decades of hearing the same big promises from the public education establishment, and se eing the same poor results, it is surely time to shake off old ways and to demand new reforms. That isn't just my opinion; it is the conviction of parents in poor neighborhoods across this nation who want better lives for their children.

Just ask the families in New Orleans who will soon have the chance to remove their sons and daughters from failing schools, and enroll them instead in a school-choice scholarship program. That program in Louisiana was proposed by Democratic state legislators and signed into law by Governor Bobby Jindal. Just three years after Katrina, they are bringing real hope to poor neighborhoods, and showing how much can be achieved when both parties work together for real reform. Or ask parents in the disadvantaged neighborhoods of Washington, D.C. whether they want more choices in education. The District's Opportunity Scholarship program serves more than 1,900 boys and girls from families with an average income of 23,000 dollars a year. And more than 7,000 more families have applied for that program. What they all have in common is the desire to get their kids into a better school.

Democrats in Congress, including my opponent, oppose the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program. In remarks to the American Federation of Teachers last month, Senator Obama dismissed public support for private school vouchers for low-income Americans as, "tired rhetoric about vouchers and school choice." All of that went over well with the teachers union, but where does it leave families and their children who are stuck in failing schools?

Over the years, Americans have heard a lot of "tired rhetoric" about education. We've heard it in the endless excuses of people who seem more concerned about their own position than about our children. We've heard it from politicians who accept the status quo rather than stand up for real change in our public schools. Parents ask only for schools that are safe, teachers who are competent, and diplomas that open doors of opportunity. When a public school fails, repeatedly, to meet these minimal objectives, parents ask only for a choice in the education of their children. Some parents may choose a better public school. Some may choose a private school. Many will choose a charter school. No entrenched bureaucracy or union should deny parents that choice and children that opportunity.

We should also offer more choices to those who wish to become teachers. Many thousands of highly qualified men and women have great knowledge, wisdom, and experience to offer public school students. But a monopoly on teacher certification prevents them from getting that chance. You can be a Nobel Laureate and not qualify to teach in most public schools today because they don't have all the proper credits in educational "theory" or "methodology." All they have is learning and the desire and ability to share it. If we're putting the interests of students first, then those qualifications should be enough.

If I am elected president, school choice for all who want it, an expansion of Opportunity Scholarships, and alternative certification for teachers will all be part of a serious agenda of education reform. I will target funding to recruit teachers who graduate in the top 25 percent of their class, or who participate in an alternative teacher recruitment program such as Teach for America, the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, and the New Teacher Project.

We will pay bonuses to teachers who take on the challenge of working in our most troubled schools — because we need their fine minds and good hearts to help turn those schools around. We will award bonuses as well to

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our highest-achieving teachers. And no longer will we measure teacher achievement by conformity to process. We will measure it by the success of their students.

Moreover, the funds for these bonuses will not be controlled by faraway officials — in Washington, in a state capital, or even in a district office. Under my reforms, we will put the money and the responsibilities where they belong — in the office of the school principal. One reason charter schools are so successful, and so sought after by parents, is that principals have spending discretion. And I intend to give that same discretion to public school principals. No longer will money be spent on rigid and often meaningless formulas. Relying on the good judgment and first-hand knowledge of school principals, education money will be spent in service to public school students.

Under my reforms, parents will exercise freedom of choice in obtaining extra help for children who are falling behind. As it is, federal aid to parents for tutoring for their children has to go through another bureaucracy. They can't purchase the tutoring directly, without dealing with the same education establishment that failed their children in the first place. These needless restrictions will be removed. If a student needs extra help, parents will be able to sign them up to get it, with direct public support.

Some of these reforms, and others, are contained in a Statement of Principles drafted by a group dedicated to finally changing the status quo in our education system. The Education Equality Project has brought together leaders from all across the political spectrum, including school Chancellor Joel Klein and Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City. Chancellor Klein is a strong supporter of charter schools, because he understands that fundamental reform is needed. As he puts it, "in large urban areas the culture of public education is broken. If you don't fix this culture, then you are not going to be able to make the kind of changes that are needed." Among others who share this conviction are Mayor Cory Booker of Newark, Chancellor Michelle Rhee of Washington, and Harold Ford, Junior. You know that a reform movement is truly bipartisan when J.C. Watts and Al Sharpton are both members. And today I am proud to add my name as well to the list of those who support the aims and principles of the Education Equality Project.

But one name is still missing, Senator Obama's. My opponent talks a great deal about hope and change, and education is as good a test as any of his seriousness. The Education Equality Project is a practical plan for delivering change and restoring hope for children and parents who need a lot of both. And if Senator Obama continues to defer to the teachers unions, instead of committing to real reform, then he should start looking for new slogans.

Over the years, the Urban League has brought enormous good into the life of our country — by broadening the reach of economic opportunity. There was a time when economists took little if any notice at all of the poverty of black communities. Even in times of general economic growth, many lived in a per petual recession, and the jobs available didn't promise much upward mobility. Our country still has a lot of progress to make on this score. But with 1.2 million businesses today owned and operated by African Americans, more and more are no longer just spectators on the prosperity of our country. They are stakeholders. As much as anyone else, they count on their government to help create the conditions of economic growth — and, as president, I intend to do just that.

Senator Obama and I have fundamental differences on economic policy, and many of them concern tax rates. He supports proposals to raise top marginal rates paid by small business and families, to raise tax rates on those with taxable incomes of more than 32,000 dollars, raise capital gains taxes, raise taxes on dividends, raise payroll taxes and raise estate taxes. That's a whole lot of raising, and for million s of families, individuals, and small businesses it will mean a lot less money to spend, save and invest as they see fit.

For my part, I believe that in a troubled economy, when folks are struggling to afford the necessities of life, higher taxes are the last thing we need. The economy isn't hurting because workers and businesses are under-taxed. Raising taxes eliminates jobs, hurts small businesses, and delays economic recovery.

Under my plan, we will preserve the current low rates as they are, so businesses large and small can hire more people. We will double the personal exemption from $3,500 to $7,000 for every dependent, in every family in America. We will offer every individual and family a large tax credit to buy their health care, so employers can spend more on wages, and wo rkers don't lose their coverage when they change jobs. We will lower the business tax rate, so American companies open new plants and create more jobs in this country.

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There are honest differences as well about the growth of government. But surely we can find common ground in the principle that government cannot go on forever spending recklessly and incurring debt. Government has grown by 60 percent in the last eight years, because the Congress and this administration have failed to meet their responsibilities. And next year, total federal expenditures are predicted to reach over three trillion dollars. That is an awful lot for us to be spending when this nation is already more than nine trillion dollars in debt or more than thirty thousand dollars in debt for every citizen. That's a debt our government plans to leave for your children and mine to bear. And that is a failure n ot only of financial foresight, but of moral obligation.

There will come a day when the road reaches a dead-end. And it won't be today's politicians who suffer the consequences. It will be American workers and their children who are left with worthless promises and trillion-dollar debts. We cannot let that happen. As President, I'll work with every member of Congress — Republican, Democrat, and Independent — who shares my commitment to reforming government and controlling spending. I'll order a top-to-bottom review of every federal program, department, and agency. We're going to demand accountability. We're going to make sure failed programs are not rewarded … and that discretionary spending is going where it belongs — to essential priorities like job training, the security of our citizens, and the care of our veterans.

To get our economy running at full strength again, we need to stay focused on creating jobs for our people, and protecting paychecks from the rising costs of food, gasoline, and most everything else. Above all, we need to get a handle on the cost of oil and gasoline, and to regain energy independence for America.

All across our country, people are hurting. Small farmers, truckers, and taxi drivers are unable to cover their costs. Small business owners are struggling to meet their payrolls. The cost of living is rising, and the value of paychecks is falling. Yet even now, with the price of gasoline still around four dollars per gallon, the Congress has done exactly nothing.

Most Americans understand that producing more of something will lower its price. And if I am elected president, this nation will move quickly to increase our own energy production. Last month, the President finally lifted the executive ban on offshore oil and gas exploration, and called on Congress to lift its ban as well. Lifting that ban could seriously lower the price of oil — and Congress should get it done immediately. We need to drill more, drill now, and pay less at the pump. [repeats w/ emphasis]

Under my energy plan, the Lexington Project, we will also make use of America's vast coal reserves. As president, I will commit this nation to a concerted effort to make clean coal a reality and create jobs in hard-pressed regions. And America will pursue the goal of building 45 nuclear power plants before 2030, which will generate not only much-needed electricity but some 700,000 jobs as well. We will also accelerate the development of wind and solar power and other renewable technologies, and we will help automakers design and sell cars that don't depend on gasoline. Production of hybrid, flex-fuel, and electric cars will bring America closer to energy independence. And it will bring jobs to auto plants, parts manufacturers, and the communities that support them.

Regaining control over the cost and supply of energy in America will not be easy, and it will not happen quickly. But no challenge to our economy is more urgent. And you have my pledge that if I am president, we're going to get it done.

Our country is passing through a very tough time. But Americans have been through worse, and beaten longer odds. The men and women of the Urban League know more than most about facing long odds, and overcoming adversity. For 98 years, this organization has been at the center of the great and honorable cause of equal opportunity for every American. I'm here today as an admirer and a fellow American, an association that means more to me than any other. I am a candidate for president who seeks your vote and hopes to earn it. But whether or not I win your support, I need your goodwill and counsel. And should I succeed, I'll need it all the more. I have always believed in this country, in a good America, a great America. But I have always known we can build a better America, where no place or person is left without hope or opportunity by the sins of injustice or indifference. It would be among the great privileges of my life to work with you in that cause. Thank you all very much.

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Question & Answer

- 1Q) MORIAL: We're spending $275M/ day on war in Iraq. In order to accomplish what you want w/ education and energy, you'd need some expansion of resources. If and when the war winds down, where would you direct those resources? And when do you think that might take place?
    - MCCAIN: Last month in Iraq, the least # of casualties in any month since war began. Every casualty is grievous, but it's evidence that surge strategy has succeeded. Our troops will be coming home, but in victory. I've fought for the surge for a long time, and it wasn't easy. I think it'll save us billions and billions as troops come home and Iraqis take over in Iraq. But we've got a big challenge ahead of us in Afghanistan and by Islamic extremists elsewhere in the world in places we're not anticipating b/c AQ trying to establish cells. I'd sit down with you Marc for your priorities. Priorities include small business, housing; also to restrain spending and use the dollars to areas where those most in need need it most. We need to do it in effective fashion. Many of the Great Society programs didn't succeed b/c we used Big Govt solutions and not local solutions. Your Opportunity Compact is a great model.

- 2Q) Do you endorse our Opportunity Compact? What assurances do we have that you'll continue to support us since you didn't come last year? What's been your relationship with AZ's Urban LEague?
    - MCCAIN: I've worked with minorities in my state and gotten majorities of their votes. I don't endorse every single tenet of the Compact. Americans are angry with us b/c we don't work for Americans, we work for our party first. I will put our country first. Can I mention 1 more thing - at the time of the Convention last year, my candidacy was in a bit of trouble.

- 3Q) re Ward Connerly's proposal on affirmative action - Would you want to eliminate programs?
    - MCCAIN: "Affirmative action is in the eye of the beholder" We should provide equal opportunities for all Americans adn Americans reject a quota system. I don't think any of these systems we're talking about eliminate our support for small business. I will continue my fight for equal opportunity for all Americans. Colin Powell and promoted woman to 4-star general are great examples of ways that people can succeed without a quota system.

- 4Q) Morial should be running for POTUS -- he's incredible [MCCAIN: Can we have a photo-op? (laughs)] I'm concerned about guns b/c we're losing more black males in the black community. So what do you think about that? These are some of teh most developed black Americans, but we're still looked down upon. What are you going to do about that - you're talking about charter schools, but we've got every degree - how are you going to help us be treated by adults?
    - MCCAIN: That's inspiring, keep going. It's hard to follow that. What I appreciate the most about Townhall meetings is being able to address the passion, love that you're all about. I wish Obama had accepted my invitation to join me in these town halls. Becuase I want him to respond. People are tired of the sound bites. They want to hear from both of us. I can't match your experience and your passion. But I'm inspired by your passion. I assure you, I have an idea of what it's like to be deprived of your rights. And I learned to love America when I was deprived of its freedom.
    - MCCAIN: Charter schools in NOLA are succeeding. They're not the answer but they're the part of the answer.
    - FOLLOWUP: With all due respect, the issue is not charter schools. We've got Howard to Harvard, the best of schools, we've already succeeded. But when we go out into America, and there's still a ceiling. Open up the doors! Help us and then we'll help them. Charter schools aren't the answer.
    - MCCAIN: I'll do everything in my power to help these educated people. But don't you also feel an obligation to the next generation living in poverty to open the doors to them?

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- 5Q) I appreciate your response to some of the Ward Connerly attacks on affirmative action. Your expedient response has been you're against quotas. but when you look at higher ed, and when affirmative action is gone, the lessening of African Americans presence in classrooms? Would you tailor your repsonse to just quotas.
    - MCCAIN: If we improve the education of all Americans, particularly in lower-class neighborhoods, they have more opportunities. Even if we accept them on quota basis, their opportunity to learn is diminished b/c their education was lower-quality. Everyone should have chance for quality education in school of their choice.
    - FOLLOWUP: In all due respect, [MCCAIN: I always love that phrase], having a scholarship tailored to African Americans is not a quota.
    - MCCAIN: I believe all areas of education have to be improved, starting with Pre-K.

- Marc Morial - time is an adversary. just ask 1 question, no preface.
- MCCAIN: Keep drilling offshore, my friend!

- 6Q) 10+ years before benefit from offshore drilling and only 3% of oil we would get would be from offshore drilling. And it'd be about 10 years before we'd see effect at pump.
    - MCCAIN: I don't agree. In fact, I met w/ oil execs in CA the other day, adn they said using existing facilities we can expand existing resources w/in months, acc. to these execs. It is economics that if you have greater supply, it affects the price. And when I talk to oil execs, the ones who actually do it, we can see results.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 10/2/2008 12:52:09 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 10/02

08 Election Daily News Clips
October 2nd, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

6:15pm McCain: Participating in a women's town hall in Denver, CO

9:00pm Palin: Vice Presidential debate in St. Louis, MO

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain says "aye," and nothing else: The GOP nominee, so resolute last week to get the House to pass the bailout plan, goes mysteriously mum. (AP 10/02/08)
By Laurie Kellman and Liz Sidoti
The Republican presidential candidate who took the economic bailout so seriously that he suspended his campaign last week stayed quiet when it came time to vote on it….Before the roll was called, Arizona's McCain dined in Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell's office.
When the series of votes were called, McCain did not acknowledge Obama as he passed by; Obama later initiated a handshake.
http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_10613463

Will water be McCain's Waterloo in Colorado? (Denver Post blog 10/01/08)
by Bob Ewegen
The Barack Obama campaign is now running radio ads in Colorado attacking John McCain for talking about renegotiating the Colorado River Compact, according to the Pueblo Chieftain.
The Chieftain is the newspaper that first broke the story of McCain suggesting that the seven-state, 1922 River compact be renegotiated to allocate more water to his home state of Arizona as well as Nevada and California in an interview with veteran reporter Charles Ashby.
Within what seemed nano-seconds, McCain's comments prompted Colorado Democrats and Republicans to put aside their differences and denounce the GOP Presidential candidate's musings.
http://blogs.denverpost.com/opinion/2008/10/01/will-water-be-mccains-waterloo-in-colorado/

McCain opposes regulation -- until he supports it (LA Times 10/02/08)
By Noam N. Levey,
WASHINGTON -- As financial collapse threatened Wall Street and consumed Washington, John McCain appeared to undergo a dramatic transformation. The candidate who would shrink government became the candidate who would bulk it up.
Just a day after debuting a television ad warning that "big government casts a big shadow on us all," the Republican presidential hopeful told business leaders in Wisconsin that a new federal agency was needed to intervene in the markets. "Government," he said, "has a clear responsibility to act."
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-twomccains2-2008oct02,0,4207127.story

McCain: the angry Warrior? (WaPo blog 10/01/08)
By Chris Cillizza

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The re-emergence of the angrier McCain -- if even for only one interview -- comes at a bad time for his campaign. A series of state polls in key battlegrounds released today show him well behind, and the latest Washington Post/ABC News survey, which put Obama at 50 percent and McCain at 46 percent, showed significant voter doubts about McCain temperament.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/thefix/2008/10/mccain_the_angry_warrior.html?nav=rss_blog

Obama, McCain Stand United In Pressing Hard for Rescue (WaPo 10/02/08)
By Jonathan Weisman
McCain declined to speak on the measure, leaving his Arlington condominium after 7 p.m. to make a belated, 8:20 entrance when most other senators had already reached the floor….On the Senate floor, Obama crossed the well to the Republican side to reach his hand out to McCain and mouth, "Good to see you." McCain looked up briefly from his conversation with Sens. Mel Martinez (R-Fla.) and Joseph I. Lieberman (I-Conn.) to give his rival a curt handshake.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/01/AR2008100103443.html

Make-Believe Maverick: A closer look at the life and career of John McCain reveals a disturbing record of recklessness and dishonesty (Rolling Stone published 10/16/08)
TIM DICKINSON
In its broad strokes, McCain's life story is oddly similar to that of the current occupant of the White House. John Sidney McCain III and George Walker Bush both represent the third generation of American dynasties. Both were born into positions of privilege against which they rebelled into mediocrity. Both developed an uncanny social intelligence that allowed them to skate by with a minimum of mental exertion. Both struggled with booze and loutish behavior. At each step, with the aid of their fathers' powerful friends, both failed upward. And both shed their skins as Episcopalian members of the Washington elite to build political careers as self-styled, ranch-inhabiting Westerners who pray to Jesus in their wives' evangelical churches.
In one vital respect, however, the comparison is deeply unfair to the current president: George W. Bush was a much better pilot.
http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/23316912/makebelieve_maverick/print

McCain's Kremlin Ties (The Nation 10/01/08)
By Mark Ames & Ari Berman
Yet despite McCain's tough talk, behind the scenes his top advisers have cultivated deep ties with Russia's oligarchy--indeed, they have promoted the Kremlin's geopolitical and economic interests, as well as some of its most unsavory business figures, through greedy cynicism and geopolitical stupor. The most notable example is the tale of how McCain and his campaign manager, Rick Davis, advanced what became a key victory for the Kremlin: gaining control over the small but strategically important country of Montenegro.
http://www.thenation.com/doc/20081020/ames_berman

Davis and the Oligarchs (Politcio blog 10/01/08)
By Ben Smith
The Nation has a story today, however, suggesting those interests may haved intersected in the mini-state of Montenegro. Mark Ames, a longtime skeptic of U.S. Russia policy, and Ari Berman, suggest that McCain's support of that country's independence played into the hands of Putin and Russian oligarchs who were shopping for a Mediterranean outpost, and who basically captured the small independent state.
Unlikely to turn the race in Ohio, but worth a read.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/1008/Davis_and_the_Oligarchs.html?showall

McCain turns irritable, sarcastic in interview (AP 10/01/08)
By MIKE GLOVER
DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Republican presidential candidate John McCain, once renowned for his jocular sessions with journalists, appeared irritable and at times sarcastic in an interview in which he defended running mate Sarah Palin's experience and campaign ads critical of rival Barack Obama.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i1v08YfakOq0ioZEGj85HZwjOoOAD93HR50G0

PALIN NEWS

As Governor, Palin Has Focused on Developing State's Resources (NYT 10/02/08)

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By WILLIAM YARDLEY
Ms. Palin has approved increased spending for education and the elderly, sued the federal government for listing the polar bear as a threatened species, and pushed for a bill that would have reduced state regulation of new medical facilities.
But by and large, oil and gas issues have dominated her tenure.
"You can't think of another area where there's been another drive or initiative coming out of the administration with the same level of intensity," said Scott Goldsmith, a professor of economics at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/02/us/politics/02issues.html

VP debate could be politically pivotal (LA Times 10/02/08)
By Cathleen Decker
Sarah Palin must sound authoritative and authentic. Joe Biden must sound informed and inoffensive. Both need to reach through the television to connect with middle America.
With Wall Street gyrating and voter interest skyrocketing, tonight's televised contest stands as an oddity: a vice presidential debate that could actually matter.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-debate2-2008oct02,0,285163.story

Couric-Palin: The Supreme Court Question (NYT blog 10/01/08)
By Katharine Q. Seelye
In response to a follow-up question by Ms. Couric, Ms. Palin said she believed there was an inherent right to privacy in the Constitution. That view is sharply at odds with some conservatives, who believe that the court was wrong to cite a right to privacy as the basis of its 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade, which established a constitutional right to abortion.
Ms. Palin did not say how she could believe in a right to privacy and oppose Roe v. Wade. After Ms. Couric called the right to privacy "the cornerstone" of the decision, Ms. Palin again said she believed in a right to privacy:
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/10/01/the-palin-interviews-the-supreme-court-question/

A less-popular Sarah Palin heads to debate (LA Times 10/02/08)
By Maeve Reston,
After the GOP convention, more than half of the voters surveyed by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press said she was qualified to be president. In a Pew poll released Wednesday, just 37% said she would be ready to take over for McCain.
And polls now show little evidence to support the McCain campaign's hope that she will attract female swing voters in significant numbers.
http://www.latimes.com/la-na-palinappeal2-2008oct02,0,1040363.story

Aides Promise an Aggressive Palin in VP Debate (WaPo 10/01/08)
By Juliet Eilperin
GOP vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin plans to launch aggressive attacks against her Democratic opponent Joe Biden tomorrow night, her campaign aides said, in order to remind voters of why she became popular in her home state of Alaska.
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/10/01/aides_promise_an_aggressive_pa.html

Estimates show Palin assets top $1 million (AP 10/01/08)
By SHARON THEIMER and BRETT J. BLACKLEDGE
WASILLA, Alaska (AP) -- Sarah Palin and her husband have pieced together a uniquely Alaskan income that reached comfortably into six figures even before she became governor, capitalizing on valuable fishing rights, a series of land deals and a patchwork of other ventures to build an above-average lifestyle.
Add up the couple's 2007 income and the estimated value of their property and investments and they appear to be worth at least $1.2 million. That would make the Palins, like Democratic vice presidential rival Joe Biden and his wife Jill, well-off but not nearly as wealthy as multimillionaire couples John and Cindy McCain and, to a lesser extent, Barack and Michelle Obama.
http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PALINS_FINANCES?SITE=FLROC&SECTION=POLITICS&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-10-01-21-04-48

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Palin's role in Arctic claims is questioned (AP 10/01/08)
By MATT VOLZ
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Russian attempts to claim part of the Arctic Ocean seabed have given Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin unique foreign policy experience, the McCain-Palin campaign says, but there is no evidence she has ever been involved with or spoken publicly about them… The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the State Department say Alaska state officials are not involved in their work, which includes three State Department continental shelf mapping expeditions off Alaska over the past two summers. They took place far beyond any territory over which the state has jurisdiction, department spokeswoman Barbara Moore said Wednesday.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iN_rLrYaYII0Py2GIy4wDFvJu-SwD93HVD9G0

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Exposing the right's hypocrisy (LA Times 10/02/08)
By Robert Kuttner
The presidential campaign is helping clarify this crisis by smoking out the right's complete hypocrisy and political bankruptcy. After being the enablers of casino capitalism for 30 years, House Republicans are suddenly trying to sound populist and anti-Wall Street. But nothing remotely consistent with their worldview of deregulation and enfeebled government can fix what's broken. Poor John McCain tried to fish in troubled waters, only to tip the boat. His campaign "suspension" was a cynical and transparent ruse -- the TV ads and attacks by surrogates went on uninterrupted. Voters noticed.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oew-kuttner-foster1-2008oct01,0,3939236.story

Nixon, Bush, Palin (NYT 10/02/08)
By ROGER COHEN
I know one thing: this is no time for further gambling. John McCain rolled the dice on Sarah Palin. I'm grateful to Bob Rice of Tangent Capital for pointing out that the actuarial risk, based on mortality tables, of Palin becoming president if the Republican ticket wins the election is about 1 in 6 or 7.
That's the same odds as your birthday falling on a Wednesday, or being delayed on two consecutive flights into Newark airport. Is America ready for that?
The lesson of the last eight years is this: when power is a passport to gamble, people can end up seriously broke or seriously dead.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/02/opinion/02Cohen.html?ref=opinion

McCain health care plan a dangerous idea (Concord Monitor 10/02/08)
Editorial
McCain would blow up the current system and ensure that fewer Americans are covered. He wants to eliminate the tax deduction employers get for providing health insurance. Instead, he would give tax credits to individuals and families to make it easier for them to purchase insurance on what he believes will be a new, bigger open market that will compete to lower health care costs. The credits would be $2,500 per individual and $5,000 per family.
http://www.cmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081002/OPINION/810020333/1027/OPINION01

Abolish the vice presidency :The founders messed up. We should do away with the office. (LA Times 10/02/08)
By Bruce Ackerman
Recent elections have lulled us into a false sense of security. Both Bill Clinton and George W. Bush nominated like-minded, known-quantity running mates, as has Barack Obama this time around. But John McCain's surprising choice should lead us to think again. Mexico and France see no need for a vice president. We should designate the secretary of State to be in charge until a special election can be held to replace a president.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-ackerman2-2008oct02,0,2539877.story

The Tax Issue Still Resonates (WSJ 10/02/08))
By Karl Rove
While Mr. McCain argues that tax increases would harm our fragile economy, there is another powerful argument he has yet to deploy. He needs to make a principled argument against tax increases by grabbing Mr. Obama's favorite tax term -- "fairness." Mr. McCain should argue that fairness dictates that there are reasonable

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limits on how much government can take from someone. Nearly all Americans agree. The Tax Foundation, for example, found last year that 91% of Americans thought the maximum anyone should pay in taxes was 30% or less of their income.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122291050179796767.html

America's Second Chance: The House has one more shot at making financial order out of chaos. (WaPo 10/02/08)
Editorial
AMERICA is the land of second chances, so it is fitting that the House of Representatives should get an opportunity to redeem itself for its reckless rejection of the financial rescue package on Monday.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/01/AR2008100102774.html

Show Us the Hope (NYT 10/02/08))
Editroial
Leaving these Americans out of the bailout bill is unwise and unfair, but neither Congress nor the Bush administration has ever shown anywhere near the sense of urgency to rescue homeowners at the bottom of the collapse as they have for the financiers at the top of it.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/02/opinion/02thu1.html?ref=opinion

BUSH NEWS

Bush ready to sign nuclear bill into law (NDTV 10/02/08)
By Lalit K Jha
He is likely to put his permanent seal on this Indo-US relationship by signing into law the Indo-US Nuclear Cooperation approval and Non-proliferation Enhancement Act. The bill was ratified by the Senate late on Wednesday night (US time) by a landslide margin of 86 votes to 13 and in the US House of Representatives a couple of days ago by two-third majority.
http://www.ndtv.com/convergence/ndtv/story.aspx?id=NEWEN20080067421&ch=10/2/2008%201:41:00%20PM

OTHER TOP NEWS

Senate Passes Bailout Plan; House May Vote by Friday (NYT10/02/08)
By CARL HULSE
In stark contrast to the House rejection of the plan on Monday, a bipartisan coalition of senators — including both presidential candidates — showed no hesitation in backing a proposal that had drawn public scorn, though the outpouring eased somewhat after a market plunge followed the House defeat. The Senate margin was 74 to 25 in favor of the White House initiative to buy troubled securities in an effort to avoid an economic catastrophe.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/02/business/02bailout.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

Bailout passes Senate, House foes soften (AP 10/01/08)
By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS and CHARLES BABINGTON
WASHINGTON (AP) - After one spectacular failure, the $700 billion financial industry bailout found a second life Wednesday, winning lopsided passage in the Senate and gaining ground in the House, where Republicans opposition softened. Senators loaded the economic rescue bill with tax breaks and other sweeteners before passing it by a wide margin, 74-25, a month before the presidential and congressional elections.
http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/F/FINANCIAL_MELTDOWN?SITE=FLROC&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-10-01-22-23-49

U.S. Stock Futures Drop as Senate Sends Bailout Bill to House (Bloomberg 10/02/08))
By Lynn Thomasson
U.S. stock-index futures declined after the Senate's passage of the Bush administration's $700 billion bank bailout set the stage for another vote in the House of Representatives, where lawmakers rejected the measure earlier.
Standard & Poor's 500 Index futures expiring in December lost 10.80 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,157.60 at 11:44 a.m. in Tokyo. Dow Jones Industrial Average futures decreased 94, or 0.9 percent, to 10,793.
http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=azZM6jlLM8b4&refer=home

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U.S. crisis clouds aid to Georgia (Washington Times 10/02/08))
Dan Catchpole
U.S. and Georgian officials are discussing how to dispense the $1 billion in assistance pledged by President Bush at a time when the U.S. financial crisis and ongoing talks of an unprecedented government bailout of the credit industry have some here wondering whether the United States will make good on its promise.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/oct/02/us-crisis-clouds-aid-to-georgia-refugees/

VP debate moderator's impartiality questioned (AP 10/01/08)
By DAVID BAUDER
NEW YORK (AP) -- PBS journalist Gwen Ifill, moderator of the upcoming vice presidential debate, dismissed conservative questions about her impartiality because she is writing a book that includes material on Barack Obama.
Ifill said Wednesday that she hasn't even written her chapter on Obama for the book "The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama," which is to be published by Doubleday on Jan. 20, 2009, the day a new president is inaugurated.
http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/D/DEBATE_IFILL?SITE=FLROC&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-10-01-21-04-30

More U.S. troops needed in Afghanistan 'quickly,' general says (LA Times 10/02/08))
By Julian E. Barnes
WASHINGTON -- Allied forces are facing a tougher fight in Afghanistan than was expected and need an infusion of American troops "as quickly as possible," the top U.S. commander there said Wednesday.
The warning by Army Gen. David D. McKiernan, commander of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, served as a counterpoint to Bush administration plans to delay a significant shift in forces from Iraq to Afghanistan.
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-fg-usafghan2-2008oct02,0,887802.story

Senate Backs Far-Reaching Nuclear Trade Deal With India: Measure Goes to Bush, Giving The President a Rare Victory (WaPo 10/02/08))
By Glenn Kessler
The agreement, which sparked fierce opposition from nuclear proliferation experts, acknowledges India as a de facto nuclear power, even though it has never signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. India until now has been barred from worldwide nuclear trade, leaving its homegrown industry hobbled and short of uranium fuel to run its reactors. The administration said the deal would bring a substantial portion of India's nuclear industry -- though not the facilities that produce materials for weapons -- under international observation.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/01/AR2008100100533.html?hpid=topnews

Former Veco CEO Allen Testifies About Work on Sen. Stevens's Home (WSJ 10/02/08))
By BRENT KENDALL
Bill J. Allen, former chief executive of Veco Corp., said his employees performed a vast array of remodeling work on Sen. Stevens's house, from architectural drawings to carpentry, metal and electrical work.
Federal prosecutors asked Mr. Allen on several occasions whether he billed Sen. Stevens for work Veco performed. Mr. Allen said he didn't, though he acknowledged receiving thank-you notes from Sen. Stevens in which the senator indicated that he needed to pay for the renovations.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122288498315494807.html

POLLS

Skepticism of Palin Growing, Poll Finds (Washington Post-ABC New)
By Jon Cohen and Jennifer Agiesta
Though she initially transformed the race with her energizing presence and a fiery convention speech, Palin is now a much less positive force: Six in 10 voters see her as lacking the experience to be an effective president, and a third are now less likely to vote for McCain because of her.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/01/AR2008100103600.html?hpid=topnews

Poll Finds Obama Gaining Support and McCain Weakened in Bailout Crisis (NYT 10/02/08))
By ADAM NAGOURNEY and MEGAN THEE
A CBS News poll released Wednesday found that Mr. Obama's favorability rating, at 48 percent, is the highest it has ever been in polls conducted

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by CBS and The New York Times. At the same time, the number of voters who hold an unfavorable view of Mr. McCain — 42 percent — is as high as it has been since CBS News and The Times began asking the question about Mr. McCain in 1999, the first time he ran for president.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/02/us/politics/02poll.html?ref=politics

More Data Shows Obama Battleground Strength (Time blog 10/01/08)
From latest TIME/CNN state polls:
FLORIDA: Obama 51, McCain 47
MINNESOTA: Obama 54, McCain 43
MISSOURI: Obama 49, McCain 48
NEVADA: Obama 51, McCain 47
VIRGINIA: Obama 53, McCain 44
Dates conducted: Sept. 28-30. Error margin: Ranges from 3.5 to 4 points.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/10/01/more-data-shows-obama-battleground-strength/

AP Poll: Obama pulls away to 7-point lead (AP 10/01/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
WASHINGTON (AP) -- Barack Obama has surged to a seven-point lead over John McCain one month before the presidential election, lifted by voters who think the Democrat is better suited to lead the nation through its sudden financial crisis, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll that underscores the mounting concerns of some McCain backers.
http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AP_POLL_PRESIDENTIAL_RACE?SITE=FLROC&SECTION=POLITICS&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2008-10-01-21-15-00

CBS News: Obama +9 (Time blog 10/01/08)
Posted by TOM BEVAN
New national survey from CBS News shows Barack Obama leading John McCain by nine points:
Obama 50
McCain 41
Undecided 6
http://time-blog.com/real_clear_politics/2008/10/cbs_news_obama_9.html

Obama Leading in Tight Sunshine State Contest: Suffolk University Poll Shows Florida Voters Blame GOP for Weak Economy (Suffolk University 10/01/08)
While Congress grapples with a $700 billion dollar financial backstop package to salvage the credit markets, Democrat Barack Obama (46 percent) leads Republican John McCain (42 percent), in the state of Florida, according to a Suffolk University/WSVN-7News Miami poll released today.
http://www.suffolk.edu/research/31119.html

NEW KCCI Poll: Clear Presidential Frontrunner Emerges (KCCI 10/01/08)
DES MOINES, Iowa -- An exclusive KCCI poll shows Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama widening his lead here in Iowa.
The new poll interviewed 600 Iowans on Monday and Tuesday who regularly vote in elections for opinion on the upcoming presidential election.
The latest KCCI poll shows that if the election were held today, 55 percent of those surveyed would vote for Obama, 39 percent for McCain. The poll has a magin of error of 4 percent.
http://www.kcci.com/politics/17598888/detail.html

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 10:20:28 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

OK just checked with Jen and she says it doesn't need to be a priority. So you're off the hook. I am about to send you an email with logistics for tomorrow's 8:45 am meeting with Richard Perry. Finance will send you a briefing memo later tonight.

Thanks!

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 5:05 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> I don't need to see her unless someone thinks that is huugely important.
>
> On Jun 29, 2015 4:52 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > Welker is heading back to DC in the afternoon so we're going to a shoot for a coffee close to the personal office around 10:15. Your first meeting in the personal office is just the NH polling call at 11:00 am.
> >
> > Since we're starting senior staff early at 12:30 pm we will have a room where you Kristina, Jake, Huma, Robby, Jen, Joel, Mandy, and Jim can take the NH polling call from the personal office.
> >
> > Let me know if that all sounds OK.
> >
> >
> > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:15 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > Yep, will do. Welker seems intent on meeting you at some point so we may try to reschedule for tomorrow if it works for you. Do you plan on coming back to the office after the series of HRC meetings ends at 4:30?
> > >
> > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:12 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > > Let Jen and Kristina know that I am blowing off ABC.
> > > >
> > > > On Jun 29, 2015 4:08 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > Also- Trevor just followed up again with the following on the SCOTUS ruling:
> > > > >
> > > > > "One more thing to flag. John is certainly aware of today's Supreme Court decision presenting a near-term obstacle for Mercury regulations. He may be asked about it, and he could underscore his confidence that the Obama administration will take the necessary steps to comply and fully implement the regulations, but should there be a delay, HRC will do so as President.
> > > > >
> > > > > Of note, These pollutants are dangerous primarily to women and their fetuses. They have never been regulated. It's been 25 years since the toxics provisions were adopted by Congress in 1990. The regulations are long overdue."
> > > > >
> > > > >
> > > > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:00 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > > Yep, you're all good to call him at 5:00 or even later if it takes you longer to get here or home. His best number is his desk line: 202-266-7429
> > > > > >
> > > > > >
> > > > > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:56 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > > > Yep I have a number and I will call him now to ask. Will circle back.
> > > > > > >
> > > > > > > On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:54 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > > > > > > Can you call Ben and see if I can cal him at 5:00
> > > > > > > > Get a number.
> > > > > > > >
> > > > > > > > On Jun 29, 2015 3:19 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > > > > > Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.

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We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:

- investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future

- protecting families from pollution

- safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence

- preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Hi John-
>
> Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.
>
> Thanks,
> Milia
>
> Note From Trevor Houser:
>
> "Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:
>
> 1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
> 2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and
> 3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.
>
> The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."
>
> Secretary of State Record
>
> As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)
>
> She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing
>
> Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting
>
> She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.
>
> In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.
>
> In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.
>
> To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin
>
> From: Energy and Climate Team

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Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world

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and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/17/2015 9:10:58 AM
Subject: News Update - September 17

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Thursday, September 17

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **A-G Approves Use of Snipers Against Jerusalem Rock Throwers**
- **Netanyahu and Obama to Meet on November 9**
- **Iron Dome Battery Deployed in Ashdod**
- **Netanyahu to Tell Putin Weapons Transfers to Syria Threaten Israel**
- **Soleimani, Senior Iranian General, Makes Second Trip to Moscow**
- **Temple Mount Violence Escalates**
- **Released Hunger-Striker Mohammed Allaan Re-Arrested**
- **Abbas: Will Deliver "Surprise" During Speech to United Nations**

Commentary:

- **Ma'ariv: "Sides Busy Maintaining the Conflict"**
  - By Yossi Melman
- **The New York Times: "Iran Deal Players' Report Cards"**
  - By Thomas Friedman

Arutz Sheva

A-G Approves Use of Snipers Against Jerusalem Rock Throwers

Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein has approved the use of sniper rifles against violent rioters in Jerusalem, *Channel 10* reports on Thursday morning. As part of his declared "war" on rock-throwing terrorists in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sought permission on Wednesday from the Attorney General to deploy snipers to target the attackers.

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Yedioth Ahronoth

Netanyahu and Obama to Meet on November 9

The White House announced last night that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would be meeting with US President Barack Obama on November 9 in Washington. The statement noted that the two leaders would discuss the agreement with Iran and the need to advance the two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians. A statement issued by the White House noted that the prime minister's visit to the White House was a "demonstration of the deep and enduring bonds between the United States and Israel as well as the unprecedented security cooperation, including our close consultations to further enhance Israel's security."

Ha'aretz

Iron Dome Battery Deployed in Ashdod

An Iron Dome battery was deployed in Ashdod on Thursday, following a defense assessment carried out by the Israel Defense Forces' Southern command. A battery was deployed in the same area last month, after Palestinian prisoner Mohammed Allaan's health seriously deteriorated after 65 days on hunger strike. Security officials feared that if he were to die, violence would escalate from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Jerusalem Post

Netanyahu to Tell Putin Weapons to Syrian Threaten Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will travel to Moscow next week to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin and discuss Russia's recent troop deployments in Syria, the Prime Minister's Office announced Wednesday. This will be the first visit by Netanyahu to Moscow since November 2013. According to the Prime Minister's Office, Netanyahu will speak to Putin about the threats Israel is facing from the transfer of lethal, state-of-the-art weaponry to Syria, and the danger that some of this weaponry will find its way into the hands of Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations.

Times of Israel

Soleimani, Senior Iranian General, Makes Second Moscow Trip

For the second time in as many months, Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps commander Qassem Soleimani reportedly met with Russian officials in Moscow this week. Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the elite Quds Force in Iran's Revolutionary Guard, visited Moscow as part of the increased cooperation between Moscow and Tehran to help bolster mutual ally President Bashar Assad in Syria, according to a report in the Lebanese al-Safir newspaper.

Al-Monitor

Temple Mount Violence Escalates

There's been a lively debate in Israel over the past year as to whether the country is on the verge of a third intifada. There are great arguments for and against. The debate intensifies whenever violence erupts, and dies down when things return to a state of relative normalcy. And while this argument is underway, circumstances dictate the reaction. Each intifada was different (the first was one of rocks and knives, while the second involved suicide bombers), and there can be no doubt about the current reality. These are not normal times.

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Ynet News

Released Hunger-Striker Mohammed Allaan Re-Arrested

Mohammed Allaan, the Palestinian administrative detainee who embarked on a 65 day hunger strike was arrested soon after his release from Ashkelon's Barzilai hospital Wednesday morning. he state prosecutor had sought a new warrant for his arrest, and Allan was transferred to the Israel prison authority. Allaan was originally under administrative detention, which was only revoked when doctors had warned of irreversible damage to his organs. Allan was initially treated in Beer Sheva's Soroka hospital; however the hospital staffs' refusal to force feed him led to his transfer to Ashkelon.

Ma'ariv

Abbas: Will Deliver "Surprise" During Speech to United Nations

Mahmoud Abbas said that he would deliver a "surprise" in his speech to the United Nations in two weeks. Speaking to the London-based *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*, Mahmoud Abbas said he would speak about Israeli violations of Oslo, backed by Supreme Court decisions. He said that he would leave the explosion for the end of the speech, but declined to say what the explosion would be. Abbas said that there was an internal movement inside the ranks of Fatah that was trying to oust him.

See also, "Abbas Bombshell UN Speech" (Ynet News)

Ma'ariv – September 16, 2015

Sides Busy Maintaining the Conflict

By Yossi Melman

"Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint," says Proverbs [29, 18]. The events on the Temple Mount in the last three days and the many incidents of stone-throwing in Jerusalem, which caused the death of an Israeli man over the course of the holiday, are the result of a lack of vision and of Israeli government policy. They are the most outstanding expression of Prime Minister Netanyahu's and Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon's policy, who do not believe in promoting the peace process and who are making permanent the approach of "maintaining" the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and managing it.

And indeed, the two sides are busy with maintenance, each in their own way. The Palestinians want to increase the tension and that's why they throw stones, they disturb the peace and they clash with the security forces. On the Palestinian side, there is no unity of thought or of action. The Wakf leaders (the Muslim trust), which has close ties to the PA and to the Jordanian kingdom and which administers the mosques on the Temple Mount, don't want riots, but they have little influence on the young people at the forefront of the clashes.

The Palestinian Authority, under Abu Mazen's leadership, wants the clashes to be "on a low flame" so that they resound in the global media and in the Arab states, as a reminder that the Palestinian problem and the Israeli occupation—which are being pushed from the headlines—are alive and kicking. Hamas wants more than that. It wants to inflame passions, to stir the street, to set fire to the ground and to cause the situation to deteriorate to the point of a new Intifada.

The Israeli government, by means of the police, tries to disperse the demonstrators with tear gas, by storming [the attackers], and by arrests—time and again. The government has a problem: it feels a sense of duty to respond to the demonstrators and the rioters, so as to maintain the sense of deterrence and to appease the right wing and public opinion, lest it be seen as soft and submissive.

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But neither does the government want the incidents to spin out of control. The key word is "containment" —to prevent an escalation and a deterioration and to restore quiet. The security forces have to act aggressively, but also wisely and cautiously. Any minor incident is liable to turn into an incident with strategic significance.

Already now, after dozens of Palestinians (and police) were injured on the Temple Mount, and dozens arrested, the voices of concern are increasing, as is condemnation of Israel. The UN secretary general made his opinion known, as did the spokespersons of various governments. Israel's greatest concern is of the reactions in the divided Arab world that is undergoing bloody civil wars. Riots on the Temple Mount, one of the places holy to Islam, is liable to generate a chain reaction.

Israel is particularly worried about the effect of the events in Jerusalem in general and on the Temple Mount in particular, on Jordan, its strategic ally. King Abdullah has already expressed concern, and not for the first time, over what is described in Jordan (and in the other moderate Arab states that have ties with Israel, like Egypt) over Israel's harsh reaction.

That's all the Netanyahu government needs, which has never been as isolated as it is now in the international community (because of Iran, because of the matter of marking goods from the settlements, because of the absence of a peace process, and more)—for there to be a deep and serious crisis with the Hashemite kingdom.

For 16 months now, even before the latest war in Gaza, a mini-Intifada has been taking place in Jerusalem, whose focus is the Temple Mount. It is expressed in stone-throwing, in vehicular terror attacks, in knifings. Jerusalem is burning. Sometimes on a small flame, and sometimes the flames get higher. As of now, the incidents in Jerusalem have not spun out of control and have not spread to the West Bank.

But the question is, for how long will the PA and the Israeli government be able to control the flames. True, it takes two to tango. Not all the responsibility for the impasse in the peace process is on Netanyahu's shoulders. Abu Mazen and the Palestinian leadership also have a share in this. But the risk from this status quo is greater for Israel than for the Palestinians. They are the ones living under Israeli occupation and oppression, coupled with abuse from some of the settlers. Almost anyone who observes the situation soberly, including ministers and MKs, understands this.

But in the absence of desire, ability, vision and leadership—nothing is being done. Or to be more precise, more of the same is being done: security forces are dispatched, attempts are made to disperse demonstrators, attempts are made to hold a dialogue behind the scenes quietly with the Wakf and the PA's security organizations, there is lofty talk (to appease the right wing) about stricter punishment against stone-throwers. As said: maintaining the conflict until the next time. The danger is that the next time is liable to be worse—from stone-throwing, there could be a shift to firebombs—and from there, to live weapons.

Yossi Melman is an Israeli journalist and writer who specializes in security and intelligence affairs.

The New York Times – September 16, 2015

Iran Deal Players' Report Cards

By Thomas Friedman

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The Iran nuclear deal is now sealed — from Washington's end. But since this has been one of America's most important foreign policy shifts in the last four decades, it's worth looking back and grading the performance of the key players.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Grade: A.

His prediction last week that Israel won't be around in "25 years" was perfectly timed to complicate President Obama's effort to get the deal through Congress. Khamenei is a bad guy. When I asked a Middle East expert friend to explain Khamenei's behavior, he invoked a Yiddish curse on the Iranian: "May all his teeth fall out, except the ones that hurt."

But he's also a clever guy. Through this deal Khamenei gets Iran out from under crippling sanctions, which his people want, by pushing the breakout time for Iran to make a nuclear bomb from two months to a year — for 15 years — but getting the world to bless Iran's "peaceful" nuclear enrichment program, even though it cheated its way there. And he's done it all while giving his hard-line base the feeling that he's still actually against this deal and his negotiators the feeling that he's for it. So all his options are open, depending on how the deal goes.

Hat's off, Ali, you're good. When I sell my house, could I give you a call?

But here's a note to his parents: "Ali got an A, but he has a tendency to get cocky. He is confident that he can pull off this deal without any transformation in Iran's domestic politics. I suggest you buy him a good biography of Mikhail Gorbachev."

Dick Cheney. Grade: F.

I cite Cheney because his opposition to the deal, which he's been peddling along with a new book, was utterly dishonest, but in a way that summed up much of the knee-jerk Republican opposition: This is a bad deal because Obama was a wimp.

No, this deal is what it is because it reflects the balance of power, and the key factor in that balance is that the Iranians came to believe America would never use force to eliminate their nuclear program. But that's not all on Obama. Republicans, and Cheney personally, played a big role in the loss of U.S. credibility to threaten Iran with force.

After briefing Congress on Sept. 10, 2007, Gen. David Petraeus told Fox News that Iran was supporting and directing Iraqi Shiite insurgents who have "carried out violent acts against our forces, Iraqi forces and innocent civilians." Iran was cited for making specially shaped roadside bombs responsible for killing hundreds of U.S. troops. Yet, even though our commanders said that publicly, their bosses — George W. Bush and Dick Cheney — refused to ever order retaliation against Iranian targets. Iran noticed.

Ditto on nukes. As Peter Beinart wrote for The Atlantic last week, Cheney stopped by "Fox News Sunday" to bash Obama's nuclear deal, "but moderator Chris Wallace, to his credit, wanted to ask Cheney about his own failings on Iran. On the Bush administration's watch, Wallace noted, Iran's centrifuges for enriching uranium 'went from zero to 5,000.' Cheney protested, declaring that, 'That happened on Obama's watch and not on our watch.' But Wallace held his ground. 'No, no, no,' he insisted. 'By 2009, they were at 5,000.' Cheney paused for an instant, muttered, 'right,' and went back to his talking points."

Note to his parents: "Dick has a problem telling the truth, and he's not alone. Some G.O.P. critiques of this deal should be looked at, but they'll never be taken seriously if the party isn't straight about its own role in our loss of deterrence vis-

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à-vis Iran."

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: Grade C.

No one had more impact in getting the world to impose sanctions and take Iran's nuclear threat seriously than Netanyahu. But his reckless spat with Obama, which went beyond substance to openly endorsing Obama's G.O.P. rivals and colluding with G.O.P. House leaders to address Congress — without the president's support — hurt him, Israel and the deal.

Had Bibi hugged Obama, he could have made Israel effectively the sixth party in the P-5 side of negotiations with Iran and stiffened every spine. Instead, Netanyahu marginalized Israel. And by calling elections in the middle of it all, and forming a far-right cabinet with extremist Jewish settlers, Netanyahu is playing right into Iran's hands: Iran wants a one-state solution, where Israel never leaves the West Bank and is in permanent conflict with Palestinians and Muslims, so Iran can better delegitimize and isolate Israel.

Note to Netanyahu's parents: "Bibi won't be punished for any of his mistakes; domestic U.S. politics will ensure that. But beware: That will only increase the odds that he'll lead Israel into a permanent, corrosive occupation of the West Bank, make support for Israel an increasingly Republican cause and lose the next generation of American Jews."

President Obama. Grade: I (Incomplete).

Note to Obama's parents: "This deal makes sense; it can keep Iran away from a bomb. But Barack should go to bed every night for the next 15 years worrying whether Iran is living up to it. That's the best way to ensure that he, his party and his successors will stay vigilant and put in place an effective deterrence to Iran ever building a bomb. I hope he gets an A, but only history can give it to him."

Thomas L. Friedman is a foreign affairs and globalization and technology Op-Ed Columnist for The New York Times.

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www.centerpeace.org

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From: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date: 2/6/2015 10:30:16 AM
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Well – We need someone to get our "friends" on the phone and tell them this doesn't help;

From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Joel Benenson; Robby Mook
Cc: Mandy Grunwald; cheryl.mills@gmail.com; john.podesta@gmail.com; jake.sullivan@gmail.com; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; cmills@cdmillsgroup.com; jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com; kristinakschake@gmail.com
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

I'm passing along a document that came from one of our friends, written for and sent directly to Amy Chozick for this NYT piece she's working on. Gives you a sense of what we're all up against!

From: "jbenenson@bsgco.com " <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 10:27 AM
To: Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan <Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, "john@algpolling.com " <john@algpolling.com >, "cmills@cdmillsgroup.com " <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Mandy is right. We keep emphasizing that the most significant pain point for people is that the belief the decked is stacked against them in favor of this at the top. And they're not wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2015, at 10:07 AM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:

> Agree
>
> On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
>
> > I think this piece turned out well.
> >
> > But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.
> >
> > > One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.
> >
> > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > **Grunwald Communications**
> > **202 973-9400**
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
> > To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
> > Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com >; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >

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Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas

Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.

One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.

She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder, a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch, a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings.

The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years

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of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.
More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.
A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.
"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that "average" come out. So here's what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won't run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. ''

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com >, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

When we tested deck is stacked against "average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top" vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it's how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.

Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM

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To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.
>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>

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>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>

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>>> Nick

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From: "David Binder" <David@db-research.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/23/2015 11:33:34 AM
Subject: RE: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

One thing I think we need to push, that was effective in our groups, is to remind people of the wonderful things that the Clinton Foundation has done around the globe. In the midst of all this incoming stuff, can we remind the world what has been accomplished? In addition to confronting the accusations, do we also have an opportunity to insert the message below that was an effective response in our vulnerability research:

Hillary Clinton's opponents are trying to start a controversy where none exists. The Clinton Foundation is a totally non-political charity whose work saves and improves lives at home and around the world. Because of charitable contributions to the Foundation and its programs, 8 million people have benefited from lifesaving HIV/AIDS medications, 6,000 American schools are providing kids with healthy food choices in an effort to fight childhood obesity; 28,000 African farmers have improved their crops; and 248 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions are being reduced in cities worldwide. The Clinton Global Initiative brings together people from business, labor, government, and the non-profit world to solve problems without politics or gridlock. Republican opponents want to confuse voters about the Clinton Foundation and its donors because all this good work is proof that what Hillary cares about most is helping hard-working people and families build better lives.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:56 PM
To: John Podesta; Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; John Anzalone; David Binder; Robby Mook; Jake Sullivan; Dan Schwerin
Subject: Fwd: Stories for tomorrow 4.24

For our eight am call tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Rebecca Chalif <rchalif@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Date:** April 23, 2015 at 8:53:05 PM EDT
> **To:** Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Ferguson <jferguson@hillaryclinton.com >, Christina Reynolds <creynolds@gpg.com>, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Jesse Lehrich <jlehrich@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject: Stories for tomorrow 4.24**
>
> **Stories for tomorrow:**
>
> - Washington Post - Ros, Hamburger - Giustra profile
> - New York Times, weekender - Tony Rodham
> - ABC Brian Ross- Giustra, Canadian
> - Ruth Marcus- no quid pro quo, but this is a problem for the Clintons, typical, they blur lines all the time
> - WSJ- Cheryl holding up FOIAs for political reasons (next week)
> - Bloomberg- tbd story, has Giustra on the record (tbd time)
> - Bloomberg- Laureate
> - NY Daily News- did we tell the NY Times whether or not HRC was briefed
>
> **Story Lines:**
>
> 1. Nervous Dems
> 2. Playing by their own rules, fatigue

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3. WJC isolated/wealth, foundation as a continuing drag on the campaign

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/26/2015 12:24:44 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: House GOP leadership bad at retribution

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PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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Interns run across the plaza of the Supreme Court yesterday to hand the decided opinions to television correspondents, an event sometimes referred to as “the running of the interns.” Friday is another big decision day at SCOTUS. (AP Photo/ Jacquelyn Martin)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Mark Meadows getting his gavel back highlights weakness of and

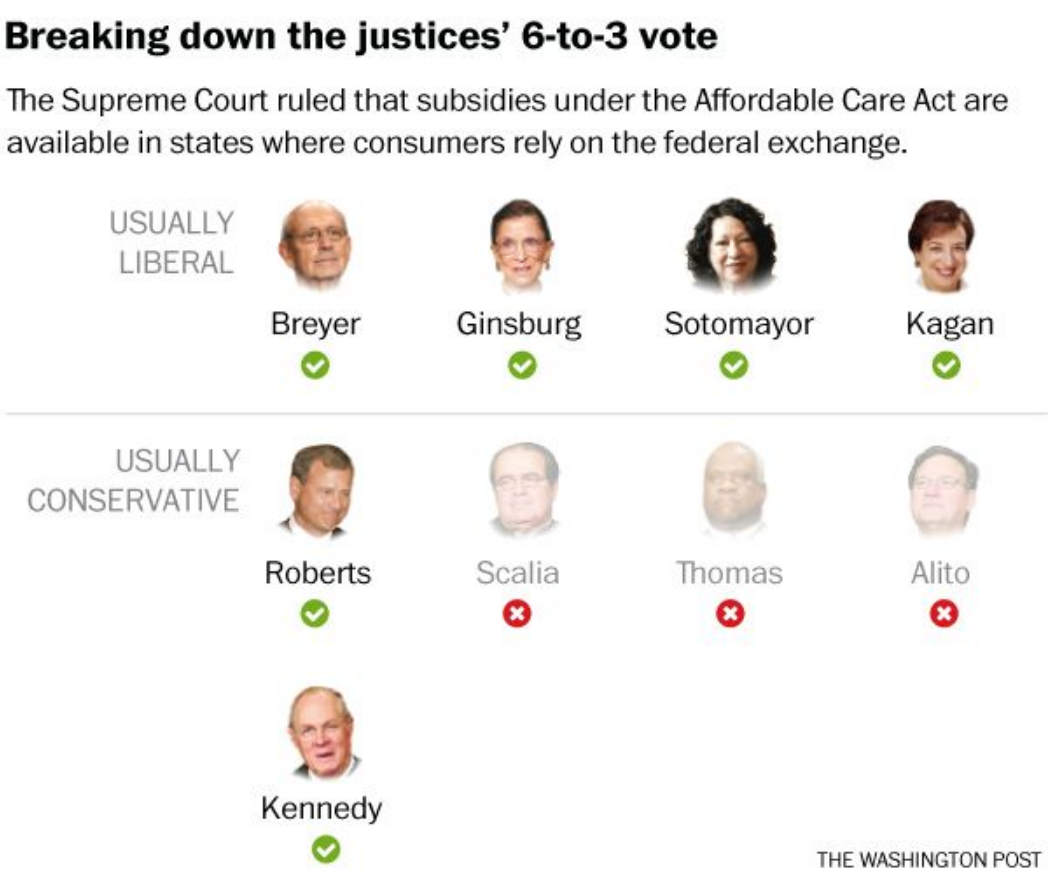
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division within House GOP leadership: It fell under the radar yesterday because of the Supreme Court's health care decision, but a North Carolina congressman regained control of his subcommittee after losing it one week ago as punishment for crossing party leaders on a procedural vote related to trade. Under pressure from conservative members and outside groups, Oversight committee chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) announced that Meadows will again lead the panel on government operations. John Boehner had defended the choice to remove Meadows at a private conference meeting just one day earlier.

- The drama highlights ideological divisions within leadership that no one has fully reported out yet. "Boehner allies, including Republican Conference Chairman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), were seen confronting Chaffetz during floor votes Thursday morning, a sign to observers that the desire to reinstate Meadows was not unanimous in leadership circles," Elise Viebeck reports. Chaffetz and Majority Whip Steve Scalise have trouble cracking down sometimes because they were once the Meadows of the conference, in one way or another. McCarthy, the Majority Leader, is a pal to many of the most ideologically pure conservatives. He texts with them and sympathizes with the pressure they're under from the base back home.
- No matter what the full backstory is, the botched retribution will only embolden outside groups and up-and-coming back benchers to buck leadership. This will make it harder for Boehner to help advance the portions of President Obama's agenda he agrees with in the final 18 months. "As the Speaker has said, there is a family conversation ongoing, and that conversation will continue," emailed Boehner spokesman Kevin Smith.

— John Roberts will never get credit for this, but the Chief Justice helped Republicans avoid a Category 5 mess with his King vs. Burwell decision. Top operatives had been panicking that Republicans would be like the dog that caught up with the truck if they "won" in King vs. Burwell. Now they can publicly decry the decision but not need to worry about finding a way to get subsidies for more than 6 million people. One of the biggest winners might be Scott Walker; the Wisconsin governor would have been under immense pressure to help 166,000 of his citizens get coverage. "It is a nearly ideal course of events for Walker," as University of Wisconsin-Madison political science professor Barry Burden told a columnist for the Madison paper. "He can continue to complain about the law without suffering much in the way of effects." Watch to see how Roberts votes in the gay marriage case, likely dropping today or Monday. It's possible he could join Anthony Kennedy in another 6-3 decision. But he could also be on the losing side of a 5-4 decision.

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— Internal poll shows Perry rising in Iowa, Walker the clear favorite of GOP caucus-goers: Glen Bolger, a leading Republican pollster, recently conducted a survey of Iowa Republicans for Opportunity and Freedom PAC, a super PAC allied with former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, to gauge the response to the group's television ads, which went up this month in the Des Moines and Cedar Rapids markets. It's conclusion: Perry, still rebuilding his image with voters after his rocky 2012 White House run, remains in the middle of the GOP pack, but he has strikingly high favorability (70%), comparable to the current Iowa front-runner, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (74%). The poll also shows movement for Perry in overall standing, in particular in comparison to his rivals on the right. While lagging behind bigger names, he's slowly catching up to former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who have strong followings in Iowa and among conservatives nationally. You can read Bolger's 2-page memo here . — *Scoop via Robert Costa*

— The State Department is trying to lower expectations of getting a final Iran deal before June 30. John Kerry and Ernie Moniz are en route to Vienna to try locking down specifics. Unnamed senior U.S. administration officials told reporters yesterday that negotiators are going to be "close" to an agreement by a deadline next Tuesday, but that they may "miss it by a short bit" to get a good deal — *if* they "can get there at all." Talks were described as "extremely tough," including the pace of sanctions relief for Iran and "details about access and transparency," per a Voice of America report. The chief of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, meanwhile, is skipping the sessions because of health issues, which could also add another layer of complexity.

- First in 202: A national poll conducted for Secure America Now, a hawkish 501(c)(4) nonprofit, finds pervasive, bipartisan concerns about Iran getting nuclear weapons. The joint survey of 2016 likely general election voters, run by Democrat Pat Caddell and Republican John McLaughlin from Thursday through Tuesday, offers a handy rundown of what the most effective messaging will be domestically against any deal. Among the top-lines: 68 percent believe that if Iran attains nuclear weapons they would arm terrorists who would use them to attack at the United States. 70 percent

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believe that if Iran attains nuclear weapons, they would use these weapons against the United States and its forces in the Middle East. 80 percent believe that, if Iran is allowed to. It's worth caveating here that the Obama administration says this deal will stop Iran from getting the bomb. Read the poll's findings here .

- D.C. foreign policy elites express concern that the U.S. is about to make too many concessions. "Five former members of President Obama's inner circle of Iran advisers have written an open letter expressing concern that a pending accord to stem Iran's nuclear program 'may fall short of meeting the administration's own standard of a 'good' agreement' and laying out a series of minimum requirements that Iran must agree to in coming days for them to support a final deal," the New York Times reported yesterday.
- Who signed the letter? Dennis B. Ross, who oversaw Iran policy at the White House during the first Obama term; David H. Petraeus, the former C.I.A. director; Robert Einhorn, a longtime State Department proliferation expert who helped devise and enforce the sanctions against Iran; Gary Samore, Obama's former chief adviser on nuclear policy; and Gen. James E. Cartwright, a former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Stephen J. Hadley, George W. Bush's second-term national security adviser, also signed.
- On the Hill, this could give fodder to Iran hardliners pushing to extend sanctions ahead of the deadline. Sens. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) stepped up their calls for a 10-year extension of the Iran Sanctions Act, currently set to expire at the end of 2016.
- A pro-Marco Rubio outside group is about to spend more than $1 million on ads highlighting his opposition to the Iran deal. The ad campaign will include cable TV, radio and online components. "President Obama is negotiating a bad deal with Iran. Senator Marco Rubio is fighting to stop it," a narrator says. The effort is from the Conservative Solutions Project, a nonprofit organization established by J. Warren Tompkins, who is also running the pro-Rubio super PAC. Watch the 60-second spot , first reported by Sean Sullivan.

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter .

With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— There was an apparent terror attack in southeastern France: "French authorities have opened a terrorism investigation after an attack and explosion at a gas factory that left one person decapitated and several wounded," per the AP . "Banners with Arabic inscriptions were found near the body, an official said … Details of the attack were sketchy but two French officials said it began mid-morning in the Isere region when two men crashed a car into the entrance of the factory and into gas canisters, touching off the explosion. One attacker was arrested, they said."

— Caving to violent protests, the French government shut down Uber's non-luxury service: The interior minister ordered a ban on the low-cost car-sharing service after a day of nationwide protests by taxi drivers, the BBC reports. "Bernard Cazeneuve said the service was 'illegal' and ordered police and prosecutors to enforce its closure." The wire is full of images like these from the anti-Uber protests:

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Striking taxi drivers burn tires in Marseille. (REUTERS/Jean-Paul Pelissier)



French riot police push an overturned car as striking French taxi drivers demonstrate at the Porte Maillot to block the traffic on the Paris ring road during the anti-Uber protest.REUTERS/Charles Platiau

— "The Israeli army says it has shot a Palestinian after he opened fire at Israeli soldiers at a military checkpoint in the West Bank," per the AP.

— Nine people on an Alaska cruise died when their sightseeing float plane crashed into a granite rock face. "The bodies of the nine dead remained at the crash site overnight as rain and wind battered the remote and gloomy expanse of rock … Officials have not identified the aircraft's pilot and eight passengers, all tourists on a week-long Holland America cruise that left Seattle on Saturday."

GET SMART FAST:

1. Hillary Clinton leads Bernie Sanders by just 8 points , 43-35, in a WMUR/CNN poll of New Hampshire. [The sample is only 360 likely Democratic

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voters.]

2. The State Department cannot find in its records all or part of 15 work-related emails from Clinton's private server that were released this week by the House panel investigating Benghazi. (AP)
3. Hillary canceled a Philadelphia fundraiser so she can attend the Charleston memorial service today.
4. Chris Christie will formally announce that he's running next Tuesday, per WNYC .
5. Marco Rubio's campaign reserved at least $4.3 million in choice TV advertising time for the early states, starting November 24 in Iowa, sources tracking the air war tell The Daily 202. This will put pressure on other campaigns to start making advance reservations so that they can get the most desirable times.
6. A warning by Queen Elizabeth II against 'division' in Europe as Prime Minister David Cameron plans a referendum on Britain's EU membership was interpreted by some … as a political statement." (AFP)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Bristol Palin, 24, is pregnant again.
2. The National Republican Senatorial Committee will run internal polls to test how Larry Kudlow would perform in hypothetical match-ups against New York Sen. Chuck Schumer and Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal as part of a far-fetched recruiting play to expand the 2016 map. The conservative commentator owns homes in both states. (National Review)
3. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) "gave tentative approval to a slimmed-down version of the Purple Line, setting aside his own long-standing skepticism of costly transit projects to support a 16-mile light-rail line that backers say will rejuvenate inner-suburban neighborhoods in Montgomery and Prince George's counties."
4. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) seized on the King v. Burwell decision to announce that he's going to try to expand Medicaid again next legislative session. His effort to do so during his first year failed disastrously.
5. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) officially retired from the Air Force Reserve with a ceremony at the National Guard Memorial Museum in D.C. Graham retired as a Colonel after 33 years of service.
6. Bob Beckel, a longtime co-host of "The Five," has departed Fox News. He's been off the air since February, reportedly related to back surgery, but the cable channel's public statement yesterday suggested an acrimonious break-up. "We tried to work with Bob for months, but we couldn't hold The Five hostage to one man's personal issues," Bill Shine, head of programming, told TVNewser in a statement. "Juan Williams and Geraldo Rivera will be among those rotating on the show for the near future."
7. Maine Gov. Paul LePage (R) said he'd like to shoot the cartoonist for the Bangor Daily News, according to the Huffington Post , "a joke that fell flat in light of the January shooting that killed five Charlie Hebdo cartoonists in France."
8. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) told Glenn Kessler last night that she's going to now have every statistic in her speeches footnoted as a result of a recent fact check he wrote.
9. Scott Brown is now promoting dietary supplements on his Facebook page, drawing widespread mockery among his former Senate colleagues.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

— "As eulogizer in chief, Obama invokes the nation's 'common creed,'" by Steven Mufson: "On Friday, President Obama will use his presidency as a pulpit in a more conventional and solemn sense, delivering a eulogy for at least the

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15th time while in office, this time for South Carolina state Sen. Clementa Pinckney…Yet unlike a conventional pastor…Obama has used these different occasions…to preach the American gospel, the secular catechism of beliefs that he thinks tie the nation together." That gets a little harder with each of these moments.

— "Lone wolf extremists like Dylann Roof are easy to develop but hard to track," by Marc Fisher: "The rise of the self-taught extremist has put investigators in a bind: White racist groups are less capable of producing organized violence, but the attacks that do develop come mainly from solo actors whose paths to violence are far more difficult to track."

— "OPM director survives congressional inquisition, *for now*," by Joe Davidson: In a series of scathing hearings about the cyber-theft of data belonging to 4 million current and former federal employees "Archuleta also told senators about 'new steps' she is taking, including the hiring of a cybersecurity adviser who will work with the agency's chief information officer (CIO) to manage the current crisis, mitigate future incidents and ensure the security of OPM's information technology."

— " Democratic civil war ends, for now, as House approves final trade measures," by Paul Kane: "Clinton was dragged into the debate while campaigning in Iowa. She sounded as though she was supporting Pelosi, but on the actual vote at hand, she declined to take a position, and Sanders pounced. How did Clinton comport herself? 'Not well,' said Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), a fierce opponent of trade. Kaptur attended a Monday meeting of northern Ohio party activists. 'I was never asked about her once,' she said of Clinton. 'You know who people asked me about? Bernie Sanders.'"

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL — Ted Cruz is (by far) the 2016 candidate most mentioned in conversations about King v. Burwell. On a day when the Supreme Court dominated the political headlines with its 6-3 decision, health care filtered into the presidential discussion as well. But some stats from Zignal Labs, our campaign analytics partner, illustrate how questions about the future of Obamacare are more closely associated with some candidates than others.

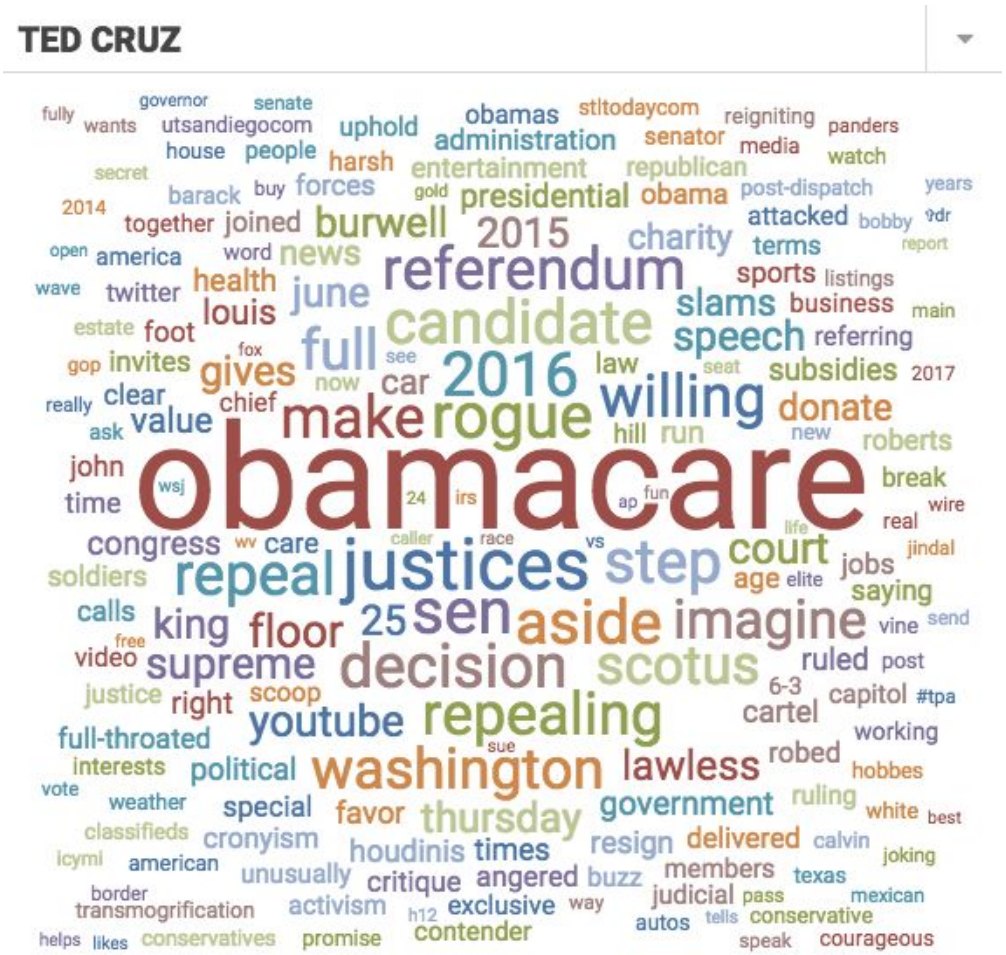
Ted Cruz was most outspoken yesterday in his criticism of the court decision. He employed some memorable rhetoric, including this paragraph: "For the second time in just a few years, a handful of unelected judges has rewritten the text of Obamacare in order to impose this failed law on millions of Americans. The first time, the Court ignored federal law and magically transformed a statutory 'penalty' into a 'tax.' Today, these robed Houdinis transmogrified a 'federal exchange' into an exchange 'established by the State.'"

This sort of rhetoric helped ensure that one of every three media mentions of Cruz also mentioned the decision. Those numbers were about one in five for Marco Rubio, who has also been an outspoken critic. But other candidates, including Jeb, Walker and Hillary Clinton showed that they were less impacted or connected to the decision. Here's an illustration of this point. This is Clinton's word cloud for Thursday:

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This is Cruz's:



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–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

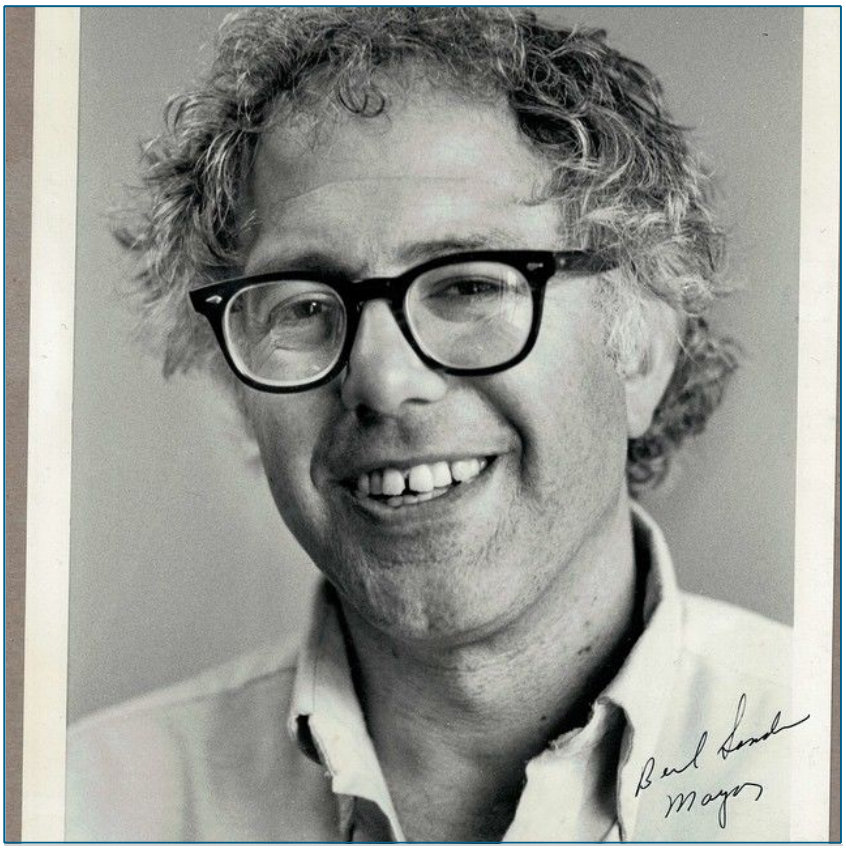
Picture of the day:

A shot of the Washington Monument from Cory Booker:



The moon at The Washington Monument. (corybooker)

And a Throwback Thursday picture from the Bernie Sanders campaign:



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Thick-rimmed black glasses on Mayor Sanders in the 1980's.
Classic. #tbt (berniesanders)

Tweets of the day:

Rep. Jim Himes (D-Conn.) had some fun with people on Twitter who confused his Twitter account with that of an NBA draftee:

> Some people think @jahimes , not @JahlilOkafor , is going to the 76ers. That's why he's called the Basketball Congressman. #CT04 #NBADraft
>
> — Miles Halpine (@MilesHalpine) June 26, 2015

> @jahimes getting picked next #NBADraft
>
> — colby jones (@JColby97) June 25, 2015

> Nope. Still staying in CT. Still have 18 months left on my two year contract. https://t.co/lNgeKpcoPR
>
> — Jim Himes (@jahimes) June 26, 2015

> @jahimes welcome to the @Sixers — Isaac (@ikegeez3) June 25, 2015

> Really?!? But I'm even worse at hoops than the average tight white guy! https://t.co/FiJUA0GV0S — Jim Himes (@jahimes) June 26, 2015

Instagrams of the day:

Jason Chaffetz shared an X-ray:

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10 years ago I fell and broke my heel bone in six pieces. I still have 14 screws in my foot. Amazing medicine so I can still walk somewhat properly, although it feels like I have a permanent sprained ankle. This x-ray is looking up from the bottom of my foot. I'm pretty sure I got the screws at Home Depot. #tbt (jasoninthehouse)

Jay Nixon found a fan:



Man in corn suit excited about Missouri Gov Jay Nixon's comments on the Renewable Fuel Standard. (ryangop)

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And Mike Huckabee shared his love of boots while campaigning in Iowa:



Who can name this type of exotic skin boot? Found at Long Creek Outfitters – Leon, Iowa. (govmikehuckabee)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— The State, "Was accused SC racial church killer Roof planning bigger death spree?": "A Columbia police officer reported March 13 that he found part of an AR-15 assault rifle and six 40-bullet banana-style ammo clips in Roof's car during a routine encounter in a downtown Columbia park. Roof told the officer he wanted to buy an AR-15 … An AR-15 is the semi-automatic civilian version of the U.S. military's M16 fully automatic assault rifle. Such a weapon, loaded with a 40-bullet ammo clip, could allow someone to shoot several dozen people without reloading and from a greater distance than the .45 Glock handgun Roof is accused of using in the June 17 church killings."

— Los Angeles Times, "California Assembly approves one of the toughest mandatory vaccination laws in the nation," by Patrick McGreevey and Rong-Gong Lin II: The legislature moved on Thursday "to end exemptions from state immunization laws based on religious or other personal beliefs. It "would require more children who enter day care and school to be vaccinated against diseases including measles and whooping cough…It is unclear whether Gov. Jerry Brown will sign the measure, which grew out of concern about low vaccination rates in some communities and an outbreak of measles at Disneyland that ultimately infected more than 150 people."

— The Wrap, "Trump Dumped! Univision Drops Miss USA Pageant over Mexican Immigrant Remarks," by Tony Maglio: "The broadcaster 'will not be … working on any other projects tied to the Trump Organization,' the entertainment group continued — that includes no longer airing the July 12 Miss USA pageant as planned."

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— Page Six, "Monica Lewinsky Gets Standing Ovation at Cannes," by Liz Smith: "Lewinsky won a standing ovation from the creative elite at Cannes Lion after telling them in emotional speech to join her mission to ensure 'public shaming as a blood sport must stop.' Said Lewinsky: 'Like me, at 22, a few of you may also have taken wrong turns and fallen in love with the wrong person, maybe even your boss … Unlike me, though, your boss probably wasn't the president of the United States of America."

— Military Times, "Military is okay with Confederate flag – for now," by Oriana Pawlyk and Andrew deGrandpre: Following a wave of decisions by retailers and politicians to remove the Confederate flag from stores and official buildings, "The Defense Department, which enforces strict policies prohibiting hate speech, inappropriate tattoos and the display of offensive material, is making no such gestures, a spokesman told Military Times."

BUZZING AT THE CAPITOL:

— The Hill, "Dems accuse GOP of playing race card in contentious hearing," by Kevin Cirilli: "House Democrats accused Republicans of using race discrimination allegations to weaken a government agency during a contentious House Financial Services subcommittee hearing Thursday. The panel's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Sean Duffy (R-Wis.), has had four hearings looking into reports of racism, sexism and ageism at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Hillary's newest consultant was a major Keystone lobbyist. From Huffington Post: "The newest hire for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign is a longtime strategist who played a key role in her 2008 primary defeat while working for then-Sen. Barack Obama. He's also a Washington lobbyist who lobbied the State Department — led, at the time, by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton — on behalf of the company seeking to build the controversial Keystone XL pipeline. Clinton's new consultant, Jeff Berman, has followed, in many respects, a well-worn path for those in Washington D.C."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

More minority children than whites, census finds. From Breitbart : "New population estimates released Thursday reveal a striking shift in the composition of America's population as racial and ethnic minority births are also outpacing minority deaths … Non-Hispanic whites are experiencing negative population growth, seeing 61,841 more deaths than births between 2013 and 2014."

DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Seven GOP presidential hopefuls will be in Denver for the Western Conservative Summit, including Ben

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Carson, Rick Perry and Rick Santorum. Ted Cruz will make a series of stops in Iowa. Hillary Clinton will attend the Charleston, S.C. funeral for Rev. Clementa Pinckney and speak at the Virginia Jefferson Jackson Dinner in Northern Virginia. Martin O'Malley delivers a foreign policy speech in the District.

–At the White House: President Obama and Vice President Biden will travel to Charleston, S.C., for the funeral of Rev. Clementa Pinckney. Obama will deliver the eulogy.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "I think the media is giving Bernie a pass right now. I very rarely read in any coverage of Bernie that he's a socialist … Bernie is too liberal to gather enough votes in this country to become president … It's not unusual for someone who has an extreme message to have a following." — Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) on MSNBC

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "Any showers today, probably few and far between most of the time, will look tame compared to tomorrow's potential downpours and even severe weather," says the Capital Weather Gang . "We can probably eke by some of our outdoor plans today. But you may consider rescheduling Saturday activities to either be indoors or move them to Sunday."

— The Nationals swept the Braves, winning 7-0 last night.

— "Nearly 30 people have been killed inside The District since May 1, double the number during the same period last year, and 14 have been killed in the past 17 days. This year's homicide count stands at 64, compared with 53 at this time last year."

VIDEO OF THE DAY:

A pro-Hillary group trying to create the "Obama Girl" of 2016 parodies the 2003 song "Stacy's Mom" from Fountains of Wayne:



"Chelsea's Mom" (Well-Strung)

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From: "Angel Urena" <Angel@presidentclinton.com>
To: "Laura Rosenberger" <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/7/2016 5:38:38 AM
Subject: Re: Iowa

Thank you very much.

On Jan 7, 2016, at 7:38 AM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Here's a Q and A we did on her record; looks like you have her statement but pasting below as well for convenience:

Didn't North Korea increase its nuclear arsenal on your watch? Hasn't the Obama Administration neglected this problem?

This is North Korea's fourth nuclear test, if it is verified. North Korea's nuclear breakout and its first nuclear test happened under George W. Bush's administration, which was putting almost all of its energy into Iraq. When I became Secretary, I saw the need to up our game in Asia - to build stronger alliances - and to improve our military posture.

We also worked with our allies to test whether North Korea would take concrete steps to denuclearize. Unfortunately, North Korea quickly made clear that it had no interest in abiding by commitments it made. And we made clear that we would not be blackmailed or settle for Pyongyang's terms.

So we built a global coalition to expand sanctions on North Korea. We also worked with our allies to block numerous attempts by North Korea to proliferate. We cut off some of North Korea's key arms clients. And we enhanced our defense posture in the region to deal with the evolving threat.

It's also important to remember that when I became Secretary, our relations with the ROK and Japan were frayed. I worked to restore those ties and to ensure that we put our allies first – and to make clear that we would not cut a deal at their expense. And we took important steps – including to deepen cooperation on missile defense.

Now North Korea has continued its defiance. So we need to be resolute in response, increasing pressure and sending Pyongyang an unmistakable message that its nuclear brinksmanship won't succeed. We need to make clear that we will take whatever steps are necessary to defend our allies in the region. And we need to press the Chinese government, which wields influence with the North Koreans, to be more assertive in deterring the North's irresponsible actions. It should take actions to halt prohibited activities transpiring across its borders or its firms that participate in illicit trade or proliferation will have to face sanctions.

Statement From Hillary Clinton on North Korea's Apparent Nuclear Test

Hillary Clinton released the following statement Wednesday about North Korea's apparent nuclear test:

"I strongly condemn North Korea's apparent nuclear test. If verified, this is a provocative and dangerous act, and North Korea must have no doubt that we will take whatever steps are necessary to defend ourselves and our treaty allies, South Korea and Japan. North Korea's goal is to blackmail the world into easing the pressure on its rogue regime. We can't give in to or in any way encourage this kind of bullying. Instead, we should increase pressure and send Pyongyang an unmistakable message that its nuclear brinksmanship won't succeed.

"The United States and our partners, including the UN Security Council, need to immediately impose additional sanctions against North Korea. The Chinese government, which wields influence with the North Koreans, must be more assertive in deterring the North's irresponsible actions, and it should take

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actions to halt prohibited activities transpiring across its borders or its firms that participate in illicit trade or proliferation will have to face sanctions. We should also work with our allies to strengthen our missile defenses.

"As Secretary I championed the United States' pivot to the Asia Pacific - including shifting additional military assets to the theater – in part to confront threats like North Korea and to support our allies. I worked to get not just our allies but also Russia and China on board for the strongest sanctions yet.

"North Korea's nuclear and missile tests, its human rights record, the cyber hack of Sony this past December -- highlight the continuing threat that North Korea poses.

"And threats like this are yet another reminder of what's at stake in this election. We cannot afford reckless, imprudent publicity stunts that risk war. We need a Commander-in-Chief with the experience and judgement to deal with a dangerous North Korea on Day One."

###

On Thu, Jan 7, 2016 at 7:31 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Laura can send you our statement.
>
> On Jan 7, 2016, at 5:07 AM, Angel Urena <Angel@presidentclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Any guidance (beyond the statement you issued) on NK?
> >
> > On Jan 6, 2016, at 7:20 PM, Tina Flournoy <Tina@presidentclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > Got it and thanks. We can print it in the am before we leave
> > >
> > > On Jan 6, 2016, at 7:16 PM, Michael Shapiro <mshapiro@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > On tax fairness - we're still developing exactly what our policy is going to look like and how to frame it; we're planning to put a memo into her book tonight - so my thought was we should send that across once it's fully formed. We won't be public with the policy until next Monday at the earliest.
> > > >
> > > > On Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 6:14 PM, Mike Schmidt <mschmidt@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > Hi Tina:
> > > > >
> > > > > I'm attaching a memo we just sent in to HRC on Bernie's Wall Street speech, which also includes Q&A.
> > > > >
> > > > > Thanks,
> > > > >
> > > > > Mike
> > > > >
> > > > > On Tue, Jan 5, 2016 at 4:46 PM, Tina Flournoy <Tina@presidentclinton.com >

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wrote:

Great. Thank you

> On Jan 5, 2016, at 4:42 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> + Schmidt and Shapiro. We will send him a note on Bernie's Wall Street
> speech today and HRC's forthcoming tax proposals
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Tina Flournoy [mailto:Tina@presidentclinton.com]
> Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 2:55 PM
> To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta
> <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> Cc: Angel Urena <Angel@presidentclinton.com >; Jon Davidson
> <Jon@presidentclinton.com >
> Subject: Iowa
>
> Thank you both for everything you did to get WJC ready for NH. Any updates
> we need for Iowa?
>
> Thanks

--
Michael Shapiro
Hillary for America
Policy
860-306-5849

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/26/2014 7:40:39 AM
Subject: MUST READ: Time: “Pro-Clinton Group Touts Her Record on Women”



Today, Jay Newton-Small published a piece detailing Correct The Record's most recent analysis of Secretary Clinton's record on women. See the piece below, and CTR's corresponding record analysis below that.

Time: “Pro-Clinton Group Touts Her Record on Women”

By Jay Newton-Small

August 26, 2014, 1:23 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton’s shadow campaign emphasizes her empowerment of women

A group dedicated to defending and promoting Hillary Clinton’s record ahead of a possible 2016 presidential bid used Women’s Equality Day to tout her record of promoting women Tuesday.

The group Correct the Record released a two-page document entitled “Breaking Glass: Women’s Economic Empowerment.” The document, given exclusively to TIME, looks at Clinton’s work to promote women’s and girls’ issues as Secretary of State. The issue was Clinton’s top policy priority. The push came after her failed 2008 presidential bid, during which she didn’t highlight the historic nature of her candidacy until the end of the campaign, famously saying only in her concession speech that her bid to be the first female president represented “18 million cracks in the glass ceiling” for the 18 million votes she’d received in the primaries.

Many Clinton advisers who’d worked on the campaign have said in retrospect that they wished they’d emphasized the historic opportunity she had to be the first female president earlier. Clinton lost the women’s vote in 16 state and territorial primaries to Barack Obama. Already this time, Ready for Hillary, another arm of Clinton’s shadow campaign, has focused on outreach to female voters as a priority.

Correct the Record’s promotion of Clinton’s record also speaks to that push, highlighting the work that she’s done to further women and children globally. The group notes that Clinton created the office of Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues and raised women’s issues at all international economic forums. She launched the Equal Futures Partnership to advance women in politics and the private sector. Along with Asian Partners she pushed through the San Francisco Declaration, an agreement to realize women’s economic potential. With help from Middle Eastern countries she launched the Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society, which brought together and empowered activists in the region to work on women’s economic and political. In Latin America and the Caribbean she launched WEAmericas to help women grow small businesses. In Africa, she created the African Women’s Entrepreneurship Program to help train women qualify for the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a trade agreement that gives privileged trade status to certain African countries and businesses. And she directed the Invest for the Future program in Southern and Eastern Europe and Eurasia to focus on women’s entrepreneurship.

“Hillary Clinton championed such unprecedented and impassioned work at the State Department to advance women’s entrepreneurship and empowerment that it would take an entire book to fully chronicle her efforts,” said Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for the group. “Correct The Record put together this ‘Breaking Glass’ record analysis to highlight Clinton’s many successes, including several multilateral partnerships and programs which raised the profile of women’s issues and resulted in greater economic engagement of women around the world.”

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BREAKING GLASS: WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



Sec. Clinton championed women's empowerment, entrepreneurship, and investment in women's economic potential. As Hillary Clinton states in Hard Choices, creating opportunity for women and girls throughout the world "directly supports everyone's security and prosperity, and should be part of our diplomacy and development work." As Secretary of State, she followed through on a lifetime of championing women's causes by expanding women's economic prospects, initiating programs dedicated to entrepreneurship around the world. Through international partnerships, Sec. Clinton elevated women's political and economic prospects and raised women's issues "at all international economic forums."

ELEVATED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Sec. Clinton worked "to raise women's issues at all international economic forums." According to an op-ed by former Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer in the Christian Science Monitor, "Clinton worked to raise women's issues at all international economic forums – from APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) to the G20 to the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). She launched regional networking and training programs for women entrepreneurs and formed many robust public-private partnerships to promote women's economic empowerment." [Melanne Verveer, Christian Science Monitor, 3/8/13]

Sec. Clinton told delegates of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Women and the Economy Summit that empowering women meant a stronger, more stable world economy. According to San Jose Mercury News, "Empowering women means a stronger, more stable world economy, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Friday to the largest diplomatic gathering in the Bay Area since the United Nations charter was signed here in 1945. And although the past half-century has seen tremendous progress, there's still much to be done to ensure women have the opportunity, information, resources and legal rights they need for economic success, Clinton told delegates to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Women and the Economy Summit." [San Jose Mercury News, 9/16/11]

Sec. Clinton: "The United States is committed to advancing opportunities for women as entrepreneurs and business leaders." According to video remarks at an event for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Sec. Clinton said, "Businesses owned by women make considerable contributions to national economies. But too often, their growth is limited by unfair barriers. The United States is committed to advancing opportunities for women as entrepreneurs and business leaders. We view it as both a moral and strategic imperative for the 21st century. That's why we are helping women entrepreneurs with business training and mentoring; and support policies that improve women's access to finance, technology, and networks." [Remarks at OECD Event on Women's Entrepreneurship, state.gov , 11/1/11]

CREATED PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE GREATER EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN

Sec. Clinton launched the Equal Futures Partnership to fight for women's political and economic empowerment.According to a White House fact sheet on the Equal Futures Partnership, "A growing body of evidence shows that women's political and economic empowerment are critical to fostering international peace and security, growing vibrant market economies, and supporting open and accountable governance. Recognizing that no country can realize its potential if half its

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population cannot reach theirs, President Obama issued a challenge before the United Nations General Assembly in September 2011 to break down barriers to women's political and economic empowerment. [...] In response to this challenge, on September 24, 2012, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton launched the Equal Futures Partnership on behalf of the United States along with 12 other founding members (Australia, Benin, Bangladesh, Denmark, Finland, Indonesia, Jordan, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, and Tunisia; as well as the European Union)." ["Fact Sheet: The Equal Futures Partnership to Expand Women's Political and Economic Participation," whitehouse.gov , 9/24/12]

Under Sec. Clinton, the Asian-Pacific partners of APEC agreed to the "San Francisco Declaration," an agreement to take concrete actions to realize the full economic potential of women. In 2011, Secretary Clinton brought together representatives from APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) nations to agree to the "San Francisco Declaration." The Declaration stated, "We, APEC ministers and senior government officials, along with private sector leaders, met in San Francisco, California, September 16, 2011 for the High Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy, under the Chairmanship of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. [...] In 2011 and beyond, APEC economies will take concrete actions to realize the full potential of women, integrate them more fully into APEC economies, harness their talents, remove barriers that restrict women's full economic participation, and maximize their contributions towards economic growth." In 2012, Sec. Clinton traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, where she "led the U.S. Delegation to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's Women and the Economy Forum (WEF). During this event, participants focused on leadership and skills and capacity building, two main areas of the San Francisco Declaration on decreasing barriers to women's economic participation, as they relate to innovation, STEM, entrepreneurship, and healthy lifestyles." [APEC.org, 9/16/11; state.gov , 6/30/12]

Sec. Clinton's Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society project brought activists in the Middle East and North Africa together to discuss "how to further women's political and economic engagement." According to a press release from the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan, "Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer arrived on a four-day visit to Jordan today. While in Amman, Ambassador Verveer will host a regional convening of the Working Group on Women's Empowerment. Under Secretary Clinton's Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society, the Working Group brings together activists from across the Middle East and North Africa to discuss how to further women's political and economic engagement in the region." [U.S. Embassy Jordan, 6/24/12]

PROMOTED WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AROUND THE WORLD

Sec. Clinton launched WEAmericas to help women in Latin America and the Caribbean start and grow small businesses. According to a State Department fact sheet on WEAmericas, "Recognizing that investing in women is not only the right thing, but also the smart thing, President Obama announced and Secretary Clinton launched the Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas (WEAmericas) initiative at the Summit of the Americas in April 2012. WEAmericas leverages public-private partnerships to increase women's economic participation in Latin America and the Caribbean by reducing barriers women often confront in starting and growing SMEs: access to training and networks, access to markets, and access to finance." ["Women's Entrepreneurship in the Americas (WEAmericas)," state.gov , 10/12/12]

Sec. Clinton's State Department created the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program to "provide women with the tools and skills" to implement the African Growth and Opportunity Act. According to a State Department report on women's and girls' issues, "In conjunction with the 2010 AGOA Ministerial (African Growth and Opportunity Act), the Department created the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program to provide women with the tools and skills they need to more successfully implement AGOA and its benefits for building businesses and markets. The Department secured $200,000 from Exxon-Mobil to fund follow-up entrepreneurship training to support building businesses." ["Sidebar on Women's and Girls' Issues," state.gov , 11/15/10]

Under Sec. Clinton's leadership, the Invest for the Future program focused on improving women's entrepreneurship and economic situations across Southern and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. According to the Invest for the Future website, "The Invest for the Future program was initiated by the US Department of State under the leadership of Secretary of State, [Hillary] Clinton and Global Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verveer. IFTF was conceptualized to focus on improving the economic situation for women across Southern and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Through a series of events it brought together women entrepreneurs, educators, policy-makers, and civil society leaders to foster

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development and overcome barriers to fully realize the promise of gender equality and 'smart economics', as investing in women profits all of society." [Invest for the Future, accessed2/4/14]

Sec. Clinton founded the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council with American University and the Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America "to promote economic opportunities for women in Pakistan." In her remarks at the Equal Futures Partnership launch, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "I'm pleased to announce that the State Department and American University, along with the Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America and our counterparts in Pakistan, are founding the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council to promote economic opportunities for women in Pakistan. The Council will connect businesses, universities, and individual donors in both the United States and Pakistan. And I'm very pleased that Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States is here with us today." [Remarks at the Equal Futures Partnership Launch, state.gov , 9/24/12]

Sec. Clinton held a conference for women entrepreneurs through the Pathways to Prosperity program. According to her remarks at the Pathways to Prosperity Women Entrepreneurs Conference, Sec. Clinton said, "Part of what we are trying to do here in the State Department with all of you is to make the case that empowering women is a key to progress and prosperity and peace. Bringing together the mentors and the entrepreneurs is one way of creating even more support for all of you in business to be able to spread the benefits of women taking leadership roles. I've heard about some of the work that you are doing in your own lives, and I am very touched by the courage and the commitment that so many of you have already shown." [Remarks at the Pathways to Prosperity Women Entrepreneurs Conference, state.gov , 10/9/09]

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From:	VoteVets.org <info@votevets.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	2/9/2016 6:28:47 PM
Subject:	We are the best bet to beat Trump



John -

Donald Trump just won the New Hampshire primary.

The man who refuses to rule out dropping nuclear weapons on ISIS and called Ted Cruz a coward* for refusing to back waterboarding, is one step closer to the Republican nomination, and the presidency.

Donald Trump as our Commander in Chief? Well, there's only one organization out there with the ability to stand up to him on national security issues: and that's the 400,000 veterans, military family members, and VoteVets supporters who are part of our organization.

Contribute $3 tonight to help us elevate the voices of progressive veterans in the campaign to keep Donald Trump out of the White House.

New Hampshire was one place Republicans could win to stop Trump's momentum in its tracks. But if they won't do it, we will.

All my best,

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran and Chairman
VoteVets

Contribute

* He didn't exactly use the word "coward" -- it was a bit more vulgar than that.

PAID FOR BY VOTEVETS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "GMF Europe Program" <EuropeProgram@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/16/2015 7:53:21 AM
Subject: New GMF Policy Brief on Why Energy Geopolitics are Back in Europe

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here.

Addressing the Russian Energy Challenge: Why Regulation Trumps Geopolitics

Europe's dependence on Russian gas has raised security concerns, especially in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The heightened security concerns have led many to suggest a "muscular" energy policy toward Russian gas that looks to replace Russian gas with alternate sources, including liquefied natural gas.

However, as Andreas Goldthau argues in his new *GMF Europe Policy Brief*, such plans are unrealistic and ignore Europe's advantages. In "Addressing the Russian Energy Challenge: Why Regulation Trumps Geopolitics," Goldthau contends that instead of looking to replace Russian energy in Europe, the EU needs to use its regulatory power to turn the tables. If the EU makes the right kind of progress on the common energy market, then it will dictate the rules to Russia.

Andreas Goldthau. "Addressing the Russian Energy Challenge: Why Regulation Trumps Geopolitics." *GMF Europe Policy Brief*. December 11, 2015.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan.

GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation.

Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
"John Anzalone" <john@algpolling.com>
Date: 11/19/2015 2:06:22 AM
Subject: RE: Remarks on ISIS

We now have a John Anzalone memorial paragraph in the speech.

From: Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 9:05 AM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Speech Drafts <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com >; Speech Book <speechbook@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: Remarks on ISIS

I'm glad you're bumping that up a bit. You cover regional responsibility, but this is a big flash point for voters.

From: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 8:14 AM
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Speech Drafts <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com >, Speech Book <speechbook@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: Remarks on ISIS

We can throw some more shade at the Arabs, though. Dan and I have an idea.

From:speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com [mailto:speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com] **On Behalf Of** Joel Benenson
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 8:00 AM
To: John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com >
Cc: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; Speech Drafts <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com >; Speech Book <speechbook@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: Remarks on ISIS

I thought there is a fair amount in the fist of her three action points focused on what other countries have to do. And there is a sound bite on it in that section as well

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 19, 2015, at 1:42 PM, John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com > wrote:

> I am clearly not a ISIS policy guy so take my comments with a grain of salt but what I thought was missing from a layman's perspective was a strong call for Middle Eastern countries to join the fight with an immediate commitment of money and ground troops (all I saw was Jordan mentioned). We have "work with our Arab partners" but I think this speech should lay out a list of countries that should be supplying troops, planes, equipment, training, intelligence and money. Call them out and call them out big. That is where the American people are. They are frustrated that this is a Middle Eastern problem being fought by America and Europe. We spent $500 million training Syrian rebels and got nothing and we defended Iraq for a decade and trained their army to see them all defect. Re-asserting the need for just training and the Suni's to rejoin the fight is not enough. She needs to outline exactly who in the Middle East should be on the battlefield with us. That is missing. She needs to call them out.
>
> The speech mentions new "no fly zones" in Syria. How does that square with Russia's current bombing campaign? Shouldn't she call out the Russians for making the situation worse? They would make her appear strong. Take on Putin here. There is language about "ending Assad's rule" which seems to defy political reality. Why go there? It is not going to happen in the algebra of defeating ISIS so why don't we stick to the task at hand.
>
> On Syrian refugees, is it enough to call just for vigilant screening? Shouldn't we call for a thorough review of how we screen to make sure the procedures are actually up to snuff? I think both the CIA/FBI heads have testified and acknowledged that our screening may not deter terrorists. And I don't think the american people feel like the

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screening process is adequate.

All in all I worry that if we don't really call out specifically by name the Middle Eastern countries that need to join the fight in a significant way that there will not seem like much new here. This seems ore like a review of the diagnosis, a stroll down memory lane and a call for more bombing and intelligence gathering.

John Anzalone
Partner
Anzalone Liszt Grove Research
(o) 334.387.3121
Website | Twitter | LinkedIn | Facebook

From: <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com > on behalf of Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 2:53 AM
To: Speech Drafts <speechdrafts@hillaryclinton.com >, Speech Book <speechbook@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Remarks on ISIS

I wanted to be sure everyone got this latest draft of our ISIS speech. I think HRC will make edits in the morning, but this is where we stand now. Please let me know by 9am if you have any major concerns.
Thanks
Dan

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Terry Sheridan" <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 11/20/2011 8:39:44 AM
Subject: Re: CGSGI CEO Executive Search

Terry,
I need to be in DC on those days, but could probably participate in a number of the interviews by phone from DC. Let's discuss tomorrow.
John

On Thu, Nov 17, 2011 at 12:04 PM, Terry Sheridan <tsheridan@clintonfoundation.org> wrote:
> John:
>
>
>
> I hope your trip is going well.
>
>
>
> I wanted to follow up with you on a major project we are working on - the
> executive search for the CEO of CGSGI. We have retained Russell Reynolds
> for the search, and we are working with Annie Simonds from their Washington
> DC office. They have identified a number of viable candidates and we are
> scheduled to conduct in-person interviews in NY on December 7th and
> 8th, with follow up interviews on December 19th and 20th.
>
>
>
> Bruce is on the search committee but obviously hasn't been able to
> participate these past few weeks. In addition to myself and Annie Simonds,
> the other members are Christy Louth, Executive Director of CGSGI Canada, and
> Eric Nonacs, a member of the CGSGI Steering Committee and of the CGSGI
> Canada Board of Directors, whom you may know. Christy will particpate in
> the December 7th & 8th interviews, but is not available for the follow up
> interviews, and Eric is unfortunately not available for either. We were
> counting on Bruce to add an important management perspective, but I am not
> sure if he will be able to participate. If he is not able, would you be
> able to help, particularly for the first round on December 7th and 8th? It
> will be important to have good representation on our end not only to
> evaluate the candidates but also to attract them to the position. I know
> you have a very full plate, but if your schedule would be able to
> accommodate this, the search firm would of course brief you on the candidate
> slate, and will be preparing a summary of specific questions and areas we
> will want to explore in our interviews with candidates. There will be a
> total of 8 candidates to speak to on 12/7 & 12/8, with the objective of
> narrowing the field to 4 candidates for the 2nd round later that month.
>
>
>
> Another alternative could be to reschedule the interviews for January, but
> the objective has been to move this along at an aggressive pace as Frank
> Giustra is very eager to fill this position (it has been vacant since
> mid-year). Once we agree on the second-round candidates, we could also fly
> the candidates out to San Francisco where Eric is based.
>

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>
>
> I would appreciate your bringing this up with Bruce when you next speak, and
> your thoughts on the possible alternatives if he is not available. Thanks
> and safe travels.
>
>
>
> Terry

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From:	NYTimes.com <nytdirect@nytimes.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	9/3/2015 12:13:51 AM
Subject:	First Draft on Politics: A Pledge for Republican Togetherness Is Framed on Trump's Terms

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9/3/2015 nytimes.com/firstdraft »

The New York Times
FirstDraft
What You Need to Know Today in Politics

A Pledge for Republican Togetherness Is Framed on Trump's Terms

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Donald J. Trump made a campaign stop at the Pinkerton Academy in Derry , N.H., last month. Mary Schwalm/Associated Press

By Maggie Haberman

Good Thursday morning. While ***President Obama*** *celebrates the success of his strategy to secure enough votes to put the Iran nuclear agreement in place, the head of the Republican National Committee was seemingly engaging in some strategy of his own, calling for all 17 candidates to make a promise meant to ease concerns about one candidate's intentions.*

At 2 p.m. Thursday, the Trump show will resume its regularly scheduled programming, with a special guest star, **Reince Priebus**, the Republican National Committee chairman, at Trump Tower in Manhattan.

According to **Donald J. Trump**'s official schedule, he is holding a news conference at that time. The advisory makes no mention of Mr. Priebus, but a spokesman for Mr. Trump confirmed that a meeting between them is scheduled for Thursday.

All of this togetherness, on Mr. Trump's terms, at his office tower, with his name on the front in gold, comes after Mr. Priebus abruptly asked all 17 presidential candidates in the Republican nominating contest to sign a loyalty pledge against running as a third-party candidate.

The pledge seems to be aimed directly at Mr. Trump, since no other candidate has left open, at least in previous comments, the possibility of such a run. And that threat, by a rich candidate, has sent a jolt of fear through the Republican establishment over splitting votes and potentially tipping the election to Democrats. Mr. Priebus has been under enormous pressure to try to rein in Mr. Trump.

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But reining him in is more easy in theory than in fact. And the fact that whatever announcement will take place on Thursday is being done on Mr. Trump's turf merely emphasizes how much he is dictating the terms of the primary.

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What We're Watching

- **Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.**, who is on a trip to Florida that further raises speculation about a potential presidential run, will meet with Jewish community leaders on Thursday to discuss the Iran nuclear deal. He will return to Washington and then fly to Atlanta where he will speak to other Jewish groups.

- On the campaign trail, **Senator Ted Cruz** will make appearances in his home state of Texas; New Hampshire will host several candidates, including **Jeb Bush**, **Gov. Chris Christie** of New Jersey and **Senator Lindsey Graham** of South Carolina; and **Gov. Bobby Jindal** of Louisiana and **Senator Bernie Sanders** of Vermont, a Democrat, will be in Iowa.

After Losing Fight for Votes, Opponents of Iran Deal Press for More

Mr. Obama has secured enough votes to make sure he can put the Iran nuclear deal in place, but opponents of the agreement are not about to stop trying to run up the vote count against it.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a leader of the drive against the deal, is hosting an event in New Jersey on Thursday evening to urge **Senator Cory Booker**, one of about 10 remaining undeclared Democrats, to oppose the deal. It will feature **former Senator Joseph I. Lieberman**, the onetime Connecticut

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Democrat turned independent who now leads United Against Nuclear Iran, and other Jewish community leaders.

While a veto of the deal cannot be overridden if the current support holds, opponents of the agreement are eager to enlarge any majority against it. And the addition of a Democrat like Mr. Booker would also give more credibility to the portrayal of the opposition as bipartisan. Critics of the deal would still like to force a final vote in the Senate, and they need at least four more Democrats to join them to have sufficient support to break a filibuster.

"We are in this until the end," said **Patrick Dorton**, who has been overseeing a $20 million media campaign against the deal for Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran. "We think that every vote matters," he said. "Our view is that proponents of the deal should support an up-or-down vote and not hide behind a filibuster."

– Carl Hulse

Former Clinton Aide to Testify at House Benghazi Committee

One of **Hillary Rodham Clinton**'s longtime advisers is scheduled to appear on Thursday before the House committee investigating the Benghazi attacks for an interview under oath.

The adviser, **Cheryl Mills**, was Mrs. Clinton's chief of staff at the State Department and one of the lawyers who led the defense of **President Bill Clinton** during his impeachment trial. The Republican-led panel wants to question Ms. Mills about the personal email account Mrs. Clinton used when she was secretary of state and how the administration responded to the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

It's not clear that Ms. Mills will be able to answer all the questions. Some of the issues the committee wants to ask about relate to classified materials, and Ms. Mills does not have a security clearance.

Ms. Mills played a significant role in providing legal advice to Mrs. Clinton regarding the release of her emails to the State Department last year. In response to questions about that process, Ms. Mills could exert attorney-client privilege. Ms. Mills's lawyer had asked the committee to have the interview in public in an apparent effort to prevent Republicans from selectively leaking her testimony.

The committee declined. None of the transcribed interviews the panel has conducted have occurred in public.

The appearance comes after news that a former Clinton aide who helped set up the server that housed Mrs. Clinton's private email account plans to invoke his Fifth Amendment right in response to congressional questions about the email practices.

– Michael S. Schmidt

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Our Favorites From The Times

- Often in her political career, **Mrs. Clinton** has found cover amid some of her stumbles in Republicans who have troubles of their own.

- A once-sunny **Mr. Bush** seems irked to be in **Mr. Trump** 's shadow and stuck in a race that embodies what he likes least about politics.

  Perhaps as a case in point, on Wednesday Mr. Trump suggested that Mr. Bush was setting a bad example by speaking Spanish, and Mr. Bush criticized Mr. Trump for, among other things, being "a germaphobe."

- In a speech aimed at raising her national profile amid talk of a potential vice-presidential pick, **Gov. Nikki R. Haley** of South Carolina sharply criticized the Black Lives Matter movement, saying it was imperiling black lives and property.

- And on the third day of his visit to Alaska, **Mr. Obama** delivered promises of new aid for Arctic communities whose shorelines and infrastructure are crumbling because of rising temperatures.

Bulletins: Rubio on Clerk; Clinton's Drug Plan; Sanders Nears Deal

- **Senator Marco Rubio** of Florida said the government should respect the beliefs of the Kentucky county clerk who has denied marriage licenses to same-sex couples, saying society needs to accommodate public officials who object to carrying out duties they say violate their religious beliefs.

- **Mrs. Clinton** proposed a $10 billion plan to combat the escalating drug epidemic in rural America.

- And **Mr. Sanders** is on the verge of signing a joint fund-raising agreement with the Democratic National Committee, his aides said, a week after **Mrs. Clinton** entered such an arrangement.

Warren Offers a Glimpse Into Her Lunch With Biden

Senator Elizabeth Warren touched on some of her signature issues — like student loans, big banks and the Affordable Care Act — Wednesday evening in an appearance with a Boston Globe reporter at Suffolk University.

But it was her potential role in next year's presidential election, including her

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meeting late last month with **Mr. Biden**, that drew the evening's most eager attention.

"Actually, he called me twice," Ms. Warren said, explaining how the lunch meeting was set up.

Ms. Warren and Mr. Biden met over some sort of chopped salad — "I wasn't entirely sure what it was," she said — for a "good, long, rambling policy conversation," Ms. Warren said.

The reporter, Joshua Miller, asked if the two had discussed the idea of a joint ticket, even jokingly.

Ms. Warren paused.

"It was a long conversation," she said.

Ms. Warren then sidestepped Mr. Miller's repeated questions about whether she intended to serve out her six-year Senate term, which began in 2013.

"I love my job," Ms. Warren said, emphasizing each word. "It's all I'm thinking about."

Mr. Miller reminded Ms. Warren that, in 2013, she had pledged to serve out the term.

"There's nothing that has changed my thinking on this," Ms. Warren said. "I'm working hard."

Ms. Warren also said that she expected to endorse a Democratic presidential candidate, but that she was not ready to do so.

– Jess Bidgood

What We're Reading Elsewhere

- Newsweek composed a poem made of lines from emails sent by **Mrs. Clinton**.

- **Martin O'Malley**, the former Maryland governor who has harshly criticized the Democratic National Committee for scheduling six debates, a number he sees as too few and as benefiting Mrs. Clinton, has called for protests at the committee's headquarters, The Hill writes.

- And, The New Yorker writes , "In contemporary campaigns, which rely so much on artifice and the huge gobs of money that manufacture more artifice, it's often hard to figure out who these striving people are apart from who they say they are."

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- Politico reports that the **Clinton** campaign is looking to make a push in New Hampshire in an effort to keep pace with **Mr. Sanders**, who has been drawing big crowds there and is polling well in the state.

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Correction

The newsletter on Wednesday misidentified, in some references, the country that is the focus of the nuclear deal. As the newsletter correctly noted elsewhere, it is Iran, not Iraq.

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From: "Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
To: "Maura Pally" <mpally@clintonfoundation.org>
Date: 4/8/2015 8:02:24 AM
Subject: Re: RE: Re:

The Foundation should not announce what CHAI will do. We could change the beginning to say the "the Foundation and the Clinton Health Access Initiative will adjust their policies during the period of Secretary Clinton's run for office as follows:"

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 8, 2015, at 10:53 AM, Maura Pally <mpally@clintonfoundation.org > wrote:

> We could say this:
> foreign governments who have funded or are funding the work of the Clinton Health Access Initiative and the Clinton Foundation programs Clinton Climate Initiative, Clinton Development Initiative, and Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership.
> Instead of what is currently written:
> foreign governments who have funded or are funding the work of the Clinton Climate Initiative, Clinton Development Initiative, Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership, and Clinton Health Access Initiative.
> Revised option attached.
>
> **From:** Bruce Lindsey
> **Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:22 AM
> **To:** John Podesta
> **Cc:** Tina Flournoy; Cheryl Mills Contact; Bari Lurie contact; Maura Pally
> **Subject:** Re:
>
> Yes CHAI should be separate.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Apr 8, 2015, at 10:05 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
>
> > I'm having a hard time seeing what the back and forth is on my phone. Do we have to adjust foreign contributions section to reflect two organizations CF and CHAI. Currently reads as though CHAI is a program of CF.
> >
> > On Apr 8, 2015 9:55 AM, "Tina Flournoy" <Tina@presidentclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > thanks. On the last point - I get the point but think we can delete the "who have funded" - but don't feel strongly about it
> > >
> > > On Apr 8, 2015, at 9:44 AM, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > responses to Tina's comments
> > > >
> > > > On Wed, Apr 8, 2015 at 9:25 AM, Tina Flournoy <Tina@presidentclinton.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > some comments here
> > > > >
> > > > > Begin forwarded message:
> > > > >
> > > > > **From:** Hartina Flournoy <tflournoy11@gmail.com >

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Date: April 8, 2015 at 9:25:43 AM EDT
To: Tina Flournoy <tina@presidentclinton.com >

<2015-04-08 Foundation Policy Adjustments - DRAFT (2) - answers for Tina.docx>

<2015-04-08 Foundation Policy Adjustments - DRAFT (2) - answers for TinaMP.docx>

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 11/17/2014 2:06:28 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Monday November 17, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Monday November 17, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

The Hill: "Will the Obama coalition survive?"

"The coalition of voters that twice elected President Obama to the White House might not be there for the Democratic nominee in 2016, party strategists are warning."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Will Hillary Clinton Be More Accessible to Voters in 2016?"

"Yet if she does run, some Democrats and friends of Mrs. Clinton say they'd like to see her escape from the bubble a bit more, perhaps reveal more of her character and personality than the public ordinarily gets to see."

Talking Points Memo: "Why Hillary 2016 Thinks She Can Expand Obama's Electoral Map"

"The top minds in the proto-Hillary Clinton 2016 campaign infrastructure are already gaming out Electoral College scenarios."

San Francisco Chronicle: "New political generation on hold as elder Democrats hang on"

"Even on the national stage, the Democratic leadership has a distinctly gray tinge. The party's leading presidential hopeful is Hillary Rodham Clinton, 67, in contrast to a Republican field that could include Sens. Rand Paul, 51, and Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, both 43."

National Journal: "Obama's Immigration Order Has 2016 Perils for Both Parties"

"If Obama fails to achieve a small recovery, even a well-known and relatively popular politician like Hillary Clinton will struggle to convince voters

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they shouldn't back the other party's choice for the White House—a situation not unlike the one that befell John McCain's campaign to replace George W. Bush in 2008."

Politico: "Obama makes legacy play on trade"

"A race to the finish line on TPP in the coming months could also be tricky for Hillary Clinton, who's seeking to court many of those same critics as she prepares a potential bid for the White House."

New York Post: "NY GOP Chair: de Blasio will take 2016 nomination over Hillary"

"Mayor de Blasio — not Hillary Rodham Clinton — will be the Democratic nominee for president in 2016. That's the jaw-dropping prediction being made by New York's top Republican, state GOP Chairman Ed Cox, who, as son-in-law to former President Richard Nixon, knows a thing or two about national politics."

Articles:

The Hill: "Will the Obama coalition survive?"

By Justin and Amie Parnes

November 17, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

The coalition of voters that twice elected President Obama to the White House might not be there for the Democratic nominee in 2016, party strategists are warning.

Following their disastrous showing at the polls this month, many Democrats have consoled themselves with talk of how the groups that fueled Obama's resounding victories — namely minorities and young people — will make up a bigger slice of the electorate in two years' time.

But some fear the party is placing far too much trust in demographics, while ignoring the unique circumstances that led to Obama's rise.

"I don't think the Democratic Party should take anyone for granted, or should just assume that these voters are just going to back our nominee, and more importantly, going to turn out for the same level as President Obama," said Democratic strategist Doug Thornell.

"They're going to need a reason and they're going to need a message."

Obama won the Electoral College handily in 2008 and 2012, vanquishing the GOP with a coalition of millennials, minorities and women in swing states such as Ohio, Iowa and Colorado.

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The wave of support gave Obama the former GOP strongholds of Virginia (in both elections) and North Carolina (in 2008), stirring anxious chatter among Republicans about being locked out of the White House for years to come. Obama's victories, combined with the rising Latino population, have convinced many Democrats that the presidential map is skewing decidedly in their favor.

Yet some question whether the supposed advantages will materialize when the name at the top of the ballot isn't Barack Obama.

A former Democratic campaign official stressed that the eventual nominee, whether Hillary Clinton or not, will need to find "new ways to energize our folks."

That need seems particularly acute after the drubbing the party took in the midterms — dismal results due, in part, to overall turnout sliding to its lowest level since 1942.

"The messaging we put out there hasn't been translating," a senior Democratic operative said. "I don't want to sugarcoat it. It has been an issue for us."

"We need to try and communicate what's at stake," the operative added.

Not only did Democrats lose seats in red and purple states this year, they also failed to win the governor's mansion in deep-blue Illinois, Massachusetts and Maryland, where exit polls showed black and young voters found other things to do on Election Day.

"People just stayed home because the candidate didn't motivate them and didn't manage to convince them to go to the polls," Thornell said.

But anxious Democrats think there could be more to the problem than that.

They note that even when Obama got involved in encouraging his base to vote for the candidates of his choosing, the results were tepid at best.

Obama focused intently on turning out the black vote, conducting a series of urban radio interviews and taping commercials for black networks. Despite that, Democrats received a lower percentage of the black vote, and fewer blacks turned out at the polls than in either of Obama's presidential contests.

"The magic of 2008 will be hard to reproduce," Southern Methodist University professor Cal Jillson said, pointing out that the Democratic advantage among blacks had gone from "10-to-1 to 19-to-1" under Obama.

Grover Norquist, the anti-tax advocate known for stringing together political coalitions at the other end of the political spectrum, said Democrats face two major problems.

The first: Many of the party's structural advantages — from volunteer lists to technology infrastructure — were built by Obama's campaign team, not by the party.

The second, he said, is that demographics are not destiny.

Norquist said anyone looking at the electorate through the prism of race, gender and ethnicity would miss the rise of "issue voters," including the swelling numbers of gun-permit holders, homeschoolers or school-voucher recipients in swing states.

"The electorate is different today than when Obama got elected — people now have freedoms and rights they didn't before," Norquist said.

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Any Democratic nominee expecting Obama's supporters to fall into his or her lap will be in for a rude awakening, he said.

"They're not transferable, you can't hand people off like they are serfs or something," he said.

The 2008 Obama campaign had an additional advantage: the then-senator could clothe himself in the garb of the outsider running against the status quo, all while seeking to make history as the nation's first black president.

Now, the Democratic candidate will be running as the de facto incumbent, associated with Obama's checkered record to a greater or lesser degree.

Polls indicate that a still-lagging economy and the lack of progress on key issues such as immigration reform have wounded the party — and the president — among groups that once offered stalwart support.

A Washington Post/ ABC News poll released Nov. 2 showed Obama's favorability among Hispanics had dropped a staggering 19 points since January. His standing had declined 9 points with blacks and 6 points with independents.

The numbers bear a striking resemblance to the pre-Obama world, when the electoral map was less friendly to Democrats.

Warnings about the crackup of the Obama coalition have come from none other than David Plouffe, the operational mastermind behind the president's two White House victories.

"We shouldn't just assume that the Obama voters will automatically come out for Democratic presidential candidates," Plouffe told The New York Times after the Democrats' midterm losses.

Democrats insist Obama can remedy that situation during his final two years in office and ensure that his coalition endures.

Aggressive moves on net neutrality and global warming have already reinvigorated liberals, and expansive action on immigration reform could help bring Latinos back into the fold, they say.

There's also hope among Democrats that the historic nature of a Clinton campaign could lead to a different, but still vibrant, electorate.

Strategists say a potential Clinton bid would likely generate outsized enthusiasm among young and single female voters, which could offset drops in other parts of the electorate.

"Hillary is going to have to build that excitement in the base the way the president did in 2008. Voters are going to have to truly believe in her path and her vision and get excited by what she stands for," a former Obama campaign official said.

Clinton will have to avoid the notion that she's the inevitable candidate, the former official added, but can build excitement by emphasizing her place in history as potentially the first woman president.

"Done right, I think that can really help her," the former official said. "Women will love it, and so will other groups, including young voters."

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Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Will Hillary Clinton Be More Accessible to Voters in 2016?"

By Peter Nicholas

November 17, 2014, 6:39 a.m. EST

Not long ago Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent, invited a political reporter to ride in the backseat of an old Volvo as he made a few stops around Keene State College in New Hampshire.

"Don't run over the students," he cautioned the aide who was driving, when a few kids crossed in front of the car.

Mr. Sanders might run for president in the next campaign. Because he'd be a long shot, he can afford to take a few risks and let the press – and by extension, voters – see him in an unscripted setting.

Candidates with a better shot at the brass ring would never chance it. Fearing consequences of an incautious comment, they rely on teleprompters and aides, advance staff and security to minimize the sort of spontaneous interactions that can derail a campaign.

This brings us to Hillary Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton also is contemplating a presidential run, and she stands a far better chance of winning the White House than Mr. Sanders. Don't count on her opening up her SUV to the national press corps.

Yet if she does run, some Democrats and friends of Mrs. Clinton say they'd like to see her escape from the bubble a bit more, perhaps reveal more of her character and personality than the public ordinarily gets to see.

Speaking of her last presidential bid, Alan Kessler, a longtime Democratic fundraiser, spoke of "this perception that there was a wall around her."

"Unless you were a hugely important elected official or a major donor, there was no way to touch her," he said. "It's this whole aura around her. That's what doomed her in 2008 and they're going to have to find a way in this campaign to do away with that."

Susie Tompkins Buell is a longtime friend of Mrs. Clinton. She described an occasion over the summer where she and the former secretary of state were visiting in a home in the Hamptons. Ms. Buell cut her foot and Mrs. Clinton quickly began rummaging through a medicine cabinet looking for a Band-Aid, refusing to give up the search even after Ms. Buell told her it wasn't necessary.

There's nothing remarkable about the story. It's what people do for each other. It stands out only because it's so seldom one hears anything about Mrs. Clinton that isn't tethered to the world of policy and politics.

There's no question there's a flesh-and-blood person lurking beneath the earnest policy wonk who on Saturday at a panel discussion in Little Rock, Ark., celebrated the value of "data" and spoke of the need for an "evidence-based" discussion of the economy.

Last week, the University of Virginia made public a series of interviews conducted as part of a Clinton administration history project. Many of the former Clinton-era officials spoke candidly about Mrs. Clinton, who as first lady exerted huge influence in her husband's administration. Some of the depictions showed admiration; others did not. Yet the interviews leave the reader with a richer understanding of Mrs. Clinton than is possible to glean from her past campaigns.

Roger Altman, a former Treasury official, said Mrs. Clinton inspired more staff loyalty than her husband commanded and doesn't "look at the world solely and only politically."

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Leon Panetta, a former chief of staff in the Clinton White House, told of how a staff member came out of one meeting with Mrs. Clinton looking shaken up.

“What’s the matter?” Mr. Panetta asked.

“The first lady just tore everybody a new ass—-,” the aide replied.

Shaping Mrs. Clinton’s image was a running project in the Clinton White House. A cache of nearly 4,000 papers released in March by the Clinton Presidential Library shows the significant thought aides gave to making Mrs. Clinton appealing to the public. And when she started on her U.S. Senate race in 1999, an aide warned that the media would test her. Be chatty, she was counseled, and “don’t be defensive.”

Mrs. Clinton likely will run one last campaign. Will voters see a more accessible face than she has typically been willing to show?

Talking Points Memo: “Why Hillary 2016 Thinks She Can Expand Obama's Electoral Map”

By Dylan Scott

November 17, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

The top minds in the proto-Hillary Clinton 2016 campaign infrastructure are already gaming out Electoral College scenarios. What they think they have is a candidate who could compete in a handful of traditionally red states, putting Republicans on the defensive and increasing her chances of winning the White House.

Mitch Stewart, Obama's 2012 battleground state director who is now an independent consultant advising the grassroots group Ready for Hillary, laid out the electoral math to TPM in a recent interview. Clinton will start with Obama's map, he said, and can build from there.

There are two buckets of states potentially in play. Arkansas, Indiana and Missouri comprise one bucket. The first is a somewhat unique case, given Clinton's history there, while the other two were razor-thin in 2008, but the principle is the same: Clinton has a record of appealing to white working-class voters -- especially women -- and they could be enough when paired with the Obama coalition to pull out a win.

"Where I think Secretary Clinton has more appeal than any other Democrat looking at running is that with white working-class voters, she does have a connection," Stewart said. "I think she's best positioned to open those states."

Stewart pointed to Clinton's sizable 2008 primary wins in Pennsylvania and Ohio, along with the enthusiastic support for her from former Indiana governor and senator Evan Byah, as evidence of her potential competitiveness with that population and therefore in those states.

Those white working-class voters in those states could be "the difference between winning and losing, assuming that we maximize turnout, we maximize voter registration in St. Louis, Indianapolis and northwest Indiana," he said. "Assuming we do all those things, the fact that would push her over the top is her appeal to white working-class voters."

The second bucket consists of Arizona and Georgia, two states that Democrats believe are demographically trending toward them, a process that could accelerate with the voter turnout that usually occurs in presidential elections. As Stewart put it, they are "structurally on the precipice of becoming purple states and a presidential campaign can be the catalyzing factor to move those states forward."

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Georgia combines an increasing African-American electorate, Clinton's appeal to the white working class and northern voters who are moving into the state. Stewart compared the trend to North Carolina, now an established battleground. Arizona can turn blue, Democrats believe, if they mobilize the growing Hispanic population.

None of these states are likely to be the key 270th electoral vote, Stewart emphasized. The electoral tipping point is still likely to be the traditional battleground states: Iowa, New Hampshire, Virginia, Ohio, Colorado and Nevada. But if Democrats can make these other states competitive, it gives them more room for error and forces Republicans to expend resources in places that have traditionally been marked down as wins for them before the campaign even starts.

"If Republicans have to spend resources in Arizona and George to make sure that they win it, that means that they're spending less resources elsewhere," Stewart said. "The further we can play into their field, the more money they're going to have to spend playing defense in places they've normally taken for granted."

Stewart's outlook is a common one in the Hillary 2016 universe. The New York Times' Amy Chozick reported earlier this month that Clinton supporters have a term for it -- the "New Clinton Map," which combines white working-class women with the Obama coalition to expand the electoral playing field.

Other top Democratic strategists, not as immediately involved in Clintonland, agree that they might be onto something.

"I think Hillary Clinton can be a temporary salve to Democrats' fading chances with white voters, primarily because she will attract women," Carter Eskew, a top adviser to Al Gore's 2000 campaign, told TPM. "If she supplements her gender appeal with a real contrast on the economy, then all the better."

That will be key, Stewart agreed. Clinton has already been testing a 2016 message that heavily emphasizes wage growth and expanding the middle class. That's how she'll attract those voters that could bring these additional states into reach.

"For whatever reason, Democrats have not been able to articulate a message that resonates even though our economic values align with that working-class family's economic values," Stewart said. "It's something that we have to figure out."

It is not a universally shared opinion, however. Mother Jones's Kevin Drum outlined why Democratic struggles with the white working class have become so ingrained in recent years. Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, sounded skeptical when asked by TPM about Clinton's ability to break through with that population.

"It's possible, but I'll believe it when I see it," he said in an email. "The hardening of party lines during the Bush and Obama years make switches more difficult unless they are propelled purely by demographic shifts."

Others within the Democratic Party cautioned, though, that no matter who the 2016 nominee is, working-class whites shouldn't be viewed as an electoral elixir. The base Obama coalition is still the foundation for national wins.

"As you put together the coalition, it still is an important part. What's important is that a Democrat gets a certain respectable showing there," Kenneth Baer, a former Obama administration official and founder of Democracy: A Journal Of Ideas, told TPM. "It is necessary to win a part of the white working-class vote, but it is not sufficient by any means to win a presidential election as a Democrat. And so you really, really need to perform strongly in those other categories as well."

San Francisco Chronicle: "New political generation on hold as elder Democrats hang on"

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By Carla Marinucci

November 16, 2014, 7:52 p.m. EST

When Rep. Mike Honda celebrated his hard-fought re-election win in Silicon Valley over fellow Democrat Ro Khanna, his victory speech crystallized one of his party's biggest challenges in California as it looks toward the future.

"There's no reason to retire," the 73-year-old Honda exulted when his narrow victory over Khanna, 38, was assured. "I'm going to live until 103. ... I'm not going anywhere."

While Honda's grit and enthusiasm is a boon to his progressive and labor backers, his stated determination to hang on to his House seat for years to come underscores the fears of some Democrats that they head into the 2016 elections in danger of losing ground to Republicans with critical Millennial voters.

Some political observers suggest that a "gerontocracy" dilemma looms for Democrats, who fired up millions of young voters with a fresh face named Barack Obama in 2008, but who now face the dominance of the party's older officeholders and the difficulty of its younger generation in moving up the ladder.

In what he called a post-election "wake-up call," Simon Rosenberg, who heads NDN, a Democratic think tank in Washington, warned his party last week that the Democratic National Committee must take the lead in "recruiting and training a new generation of candidates and operatives needed to beat a new generation of Republicans."

'Children of Reagan'

"Part of what we are witnessing is the coming to power of the children of Reagan — fortysomething Gen Xers who came of age during the Reagan era," Rosenberg said. "This generation of politicians is young, gaining in experience, and will be a force to be reckoned with in institutional and state politics for generations to come."

In California, Democratic leadership is dominated by older warriors — from Gov. Jerry Brown, 76, to state party Chairman John Burton and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, both 81, to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Barbara Boxer, both 74.

Most members of the Bay Area's House delegation — all of them Democrats — are in their 60s and 70s. The lone exceptions are Reps. Jared Huffman of San Rafael, 50, and Eric Swalwell, 33, of Dublin — who, like Khanna, bucked the Democratic Party establishment and the White House when he took on a long-term incumbent. Unlike Khanna, Swalwell won his race, defeating 20-term Rep. Pete Stark in 2012.

A recent USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times poll showed that although Boxer and Feinstein are still popular with voters, nearly 60 percent of respondents said they wanted fresh faces to take their jobs.

Patience running out

With Republicans about to seize control of the U.S. Senate and speculation growing that Boxer won't run for re-election in 2016, the political gossip mill is churning about the patience — or lack thereof — of younger Democrats who have been biding their time for several years.

"I don't think talent is going to wait," said Republican strategist Rob Stutzman, citing a Democratic bench that includes Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Kamala Harris, Controller John Chiang and a host of House members.

If Boxer "doesn't retire, I don't know why she wouldn't be challenged from within her party," Stutzman said. "And it will almost certainly happen to Feinstein," who will be 85 when she comes up for re-election in 2018, he said.

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Even on the national stage, the Democratic leadership has a distinctly gray tinge. The party's leading presidential hopeful is Hillary Rodham Clinton, 67, in contrast to a Republican field that could include Sens. Rand Paul, 51, and Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, both 43.

"Wisdom comes from experience — but a lot of these people have a little too much," said political commentator Patrick Dorinson. "When you've been in power a little too long, with little opposition, you get entrenched. And the more they do that, the more they allow the Republicans to develop the new talent."

GOP consultant Kevin Spillane says Democrats hoping to attract Millennials "will have to change, or Republicans are going to win."

Key East Bay race

He points to new faces like Catharine Baker of Pleasanton, 42, an attorney and mother of two school-age children. The moderate Republican won her East Bay Assembly race despite a well-funded challenge from Democrat Tim Sbranti, who had the backing of the California Teachers Association and Democratic establishment figures including Brown.

Baker, the first Republican to win election to state office from the Bay Area since 2006, said her victory was the product of an effort by state GOP leaders to cultivate younger candidates at every level.

She stressed education and jobs, not social issues. Her appeal to crossover and younger voters came because "I was an outsider, not an elected official," she said.

Being pitted against big unions, a prime source of Democratic campaign funding, helped rather than hurt her in the suburban district that stretches from Livermore to Orinda, Baker said.

"That's another big component in change," she said. "I had a lot of people tell me I was the first Republican they've ever voted for."

Republicans also fielded a crowd of fortysomething candidates for statewide office in the general election. GOP officials acknowledge it could take another election cycle — or more — to overcome the Democrats' 15-point voter registration advantage. But in this election, Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, who ran for controller, and secretary of state candidate Pete Peterson both won endorsements from major newspapers and gained a platform for future runs.

Younger Republicans such as Swearengin, Baker and Neel Kashkari, the party's 41-year-old candidate in the gubernatorial election, have one advantage their junior Democratic counterparts lack — the GOPhas been out of power so long, there's no old guard to block the way up.

Former San Leandro Mayor Anthony Santos, who ran for re-election in 2010 at 78 — and lost — says he advises his fellow Democrats not to stay too long in the job.

"There are too many Democrats who are well over 70 and have no idea what it is like to be young — and what the younger people are thinking and what their needs are," Santos said.

Excellent example

Democratic observers said the House race between Honda and Khanna was a prime example of the party's dilemma.

Honda has the advantages in Washington of seniority and seven terms of experience, which he said helped in securing such benefits for his district as funding to extend BART toward San Jose.

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Khanna, however, would have attracted rising-star buzz on Capitol Hill, as an Indian American and favorite of the tech crowd — no small consideration for a party reliant on Silicon Valley fundraising.

Honda did nothing to endear himself to those donors — or the valley's young tech innovators — in his victory speech when he said the election "could not be bought" by "millionaires and billionaires."

With few incumbents to protect, Republicans are concentrating on rebuilding the party through programs such as Trailblazers, which targets promising young GOP candidates, and GROW Elect, which encourages Latino Republican up-and-comers at the local level, said party strategist Aaron McLear.

Republican diversity

In the state Legislature, still overwhelmingly Democratic, Assembly GOP leader Kristin Olsen of Modesto noted that there will be more women among Republicans than Democrats in the next session.

Among the GOP newcomers are three Asian American women from Orange County — Ling-Ling Chang and Young Kim, who won Assembly races, and Janet Nguyen, a former refugee from Vietnam who won her state Senate race in a landslide.

Political consultant Rich Schlackman said Democrats have their own rising stars, pointing to Newsom, Harris, Secretary of State-elect Alex Padilla and Treasurer-elect Betty Yee.

And at the local level, Oakland Mayor-elect Libby Schaaf could be someone to watch, Democratic observers suggest. Even Khanna may be heard from again, if he can find a clear path, they say.

Larry Gerston, a political science professor at San Jose State University, said the next few years will be a turning point for the Democratic Party in California — with the very real possibility that the "big three" of Brown, Feinstein and Boxer will leave office by 2018.

Then, he said, "you'll see a flurry of people trying to move up."

National Journal: "Obama's Immigration Order Has 2016 Perils for Both Parties"

By Alex Roarty

November 16, 2014

It didn't take long for the 2016 election to reach its first major crossroads. As early as this week, President Obama is expected to ignore the wishes of congressional Republicans and announce that he will unilaterally defer deportations for millions of undocumented immigrants.

When he does, Republicans and Democrats alike should worry he just made life harder for their next presidential nominees. Few decisions, even from the president, influence elections more than 23 months away, but Obama's immigration maneuver accomplishes the rare feat of exposing both parties to what should be their biggest cause for concern in the 2016 election.

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At stake for Democrats is whether Obama's decision to take executive action prevents him from a broad political rehabilitation during the last two years of his presidency. If Obama fails to achieve a small recovery, even a well-known and relatively popular politician like Hillary Clinton will struggle to convince voters they shouldn't back the other party's choice for the White House—a situation not unlike the one that befell John McCain's campaign to replace George W. Bush in 2008.

But to the White House, the chance to reengage and reenergize the immigrant-heavy Latino community ahead of 2016 plainly outweighs the risk that doing so will alienate the broader electorate. And therein lies the danger for Republicans, whose leaders two years ago stated emphatically that the party needed to grow its appeal among Hispanic voters if it wanted to succeed in national elections. Broadly speaking, the executive order might be politically complicated, but within the Latino community, it is a guaranteed winner.

Democrats could use a winner with Hispanic voters after the 2014 election and the administration's failure, at least until the president's executive order, to stop the deportations of many members of their community. The party won 62 percent of the Latino vote in 2014, according to exit polls, but some immigration advocates say the energy and passion many of them showed for Obama's party—especially in 2012 after he ordered a stop to deportations for the children of illegal immigrations—was missing this election.

They cite Sen. Mark Udall's defeat in Colorado, one of the few states in play in 2014 with a large Hispanic vote, as evidence of what happens to Democrats when they don't advocate for immigration reform. It's something that would happen to the party's next presidential candidate, said Frank Shary, executive director of America's Voice.

"If the president's record ended up being little more than 2 million deportations and a lot of unkept promises, it's not so much that it would drive a lot of Latinos into the hands of Republicans, it would probably lead to a lot of them to stay home on Election Day," he said.

Complicating matters on the Republican side is the party's prospective presidential candidates, most of whom are positioning themselves to draw conservative support ahead of a competitive primary. Their reaction will receive disproportionate attention, and the eventual GOPnominee will have trouble repositioning an immigration agenda for the general election. It could be a repeat of what happened in 2012 to Mitt Romney, whose call during primary season for undocumented immigrants to "self-deport" helped Obama win Hispanic voters by a better than 2-to-1 ratio.

Even if Republicans avoid the harsh rhetoric that has marked the previous responses to immigration policy—something Republican strategists acknowledge is no guarantee—their explanation that their objections are based on overuse of executive power might not resonate with the Hispanic community.

"That won't matter," said one immigration policy strategist who works with both parties. "If they start filing lawsuits, making noise about impeaching the president over this, Republicans will have completely lost Latino and Asian voters. It will be seen not as a direct attack on president, but a direct attack on the community."

Whether the support Obama gains from Hispanics is enough to overcome the potential broader damage to his popularity remains to be seen. As Obama explained in his post-election press conference, voters are upset with Washington gridlock and dysfunction—two things he vowed to work to correct in his last two years in office.

Republicans have warned the president that any executive action, coming just weeks after his party's Election Day drubbing, will poison the well with Congress for the new session and make any new legislative deal-making much more difficult.

"It looks like a revenge move," said Ron Bonjean, a former top GOP congressional aide. "He's poking a stick in their eye.… Using his authority in that way shows he doesn't want to work with Congress. It further strengthens the Republican argument [that] if legislation lands on his doorstep, all he wants to do is … pretend he's a dictator. He doesn't want to work with Congress."

Even Republicans who have argued for the necessity of the party broadening its appeal with racial minorities are now saying that, in this case, the president's own move will backfire.

"There's always a danger for undisciplined politicians to overreact, and their overreaction always backfires," said Whit Ayres, a GOP pollster and frequent critic of the party's immigration policy. "But if Republican elected officials watch their tone and don't overreact, this move contemplated by the president will backfire."

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Politico: "Obama makes legacy play on trade"

By Josh Gerstein

November 16, 2014, 12:55 p.m. EST

BRISBANE, Australia — After years of populist rhetoric against banks and Wall Street, repeated calls for raising the minimum wage and withering campaign-trail criticism of corporate America for shipping jobs overseas and dodging taxes, President Barack Obama could leave office with a foreign policy legacy whose most concrete achievement is a huge free trade deal with Pacific Rim countries.

On a trip through Asia and Australia over the past week, Obama and his aides have been pushing hard to finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership, pressing foreign leaders from 11 countries to hash out their differences and get the pact done in the coming months.

The trade deal would deliver a tangible achievement that a GOP-controlled Senate is highly likely to endorse and demonstrate that Obama has the diplomatic chops to pull off a complex, multilateral deal akin to playing three-dimensional chess.

But his history of bashing prior trade pacts also sets him up for renewed trouble with a political base frustrated with him after heavy election losses and a faltering agenda. Their ire could also hit presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who economic policies are already under attack from liberals and whose tenure at the State Department coincided with the TPP negotiations.

U.S. officials said they were surprised at how forcefully Obama pressed the free-trade message both in public and private during summit meetings in Beijing on Monday and Tuesday. And his sustained focus on the issue was refreshing after numerous other international meetings have been sidetracked by various crises, the American officials said.

To some degree, Obama's new emphasis on trade may be making a virtue out of necessity, since few other major accomplishments seem to be looming on the foreign policy front and his efforts to improve ties with Russia, broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and oversee a peaceful withdrawal from Iraq have all foundered.

"This has the potential for being a historic achievement," Obama said at a meeting of TPP leaders in Beijing, making clear that completing the pact would be a big legacy item. "What we are seeing is momentum building around a Trans-Pacific Partnership that can spur greater economic growth, spur greater jobs growth, set high standards for trade and investment throughout the Asia Pacific."

These words stand in contrast to some of the rhetoric he once used to criticize trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement. During the 2008 campaign, Obama painted deals like NAFTA as job-killers in America.

"I think it has been devastating, because our trade agreements did not have labor standards and environmental standards that would assure that workers in the U.S. were getting a square deal," he said during a January 2008 debate.

Even though Obama's views on trade pacts seem to have warmed since then, his political brand has never been identified with free trade the way Republicans' or even President Bill Clinton's have been. From the time Bill Clinton arrived on the national political scene, he made a point of departing from the protectionist orthodoxy of labor unions and the Democratic Party. Obama, by contrast, came to prominence criticizing free trade, not embracing it.

"It'll be a great irony if his main foreign policy success is a trade deal," said the Hoover Institution's Kori Schake, foreign policy adviser to Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) during the 2008 presidential campaign.

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Now Obama has to convince the very workers whose fate he decried that the TPP is in their interest.

A senior administration official traveling with Obama said the president believes he can successfully make the case that well-negotiated free-trade deals can be good for this constituency. The official pointed to a trip Obama took to Detroit in 2011 with South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak.

Autoworkers cheered the pair because the trade deal they cut was seen as promoting jobs on both sides of the Pacific, the official noted. U.S. officials also say key beneficiaries of a trade deal will be small- and medium-size businesses and software makers, not simply big multinational corporations.

Yet there are ways in which pushing for a TPP deal is politically convenient. With a Republican takeover of the Senate looming as a result of the trouncing Democrats took in the midterm elections, Obama is casting about for areas where he and the GOP can work together. Trade is one of the highest-profile areas of possible bipartisan cooperation, something Obama says voters are demanding.

Republicans are “interested in promoting trade that will create jobs and opportunity for U.S. workers and U.S. businesses,” Obama said Friday during a news conference in Burma, adding that he’s “all over it.”

“We believe in open markets and trade that is fair and free — a level playing field where economies play by the same rules,” the president declared Saturday in a speech in Australia.

Obama aides insist that his support for new trade deals being hashed out with Asia and Europe is not inconsistent with the sharp criticism he offered of NAFTA. The president argued Saturday that the Asia deal would be a “high-standards” agreement that makes it hard for countries to undercut each other by damaging the environment or having lax labor or safety rules.

“We are pushing new standards in this trade agreement, requiring countries that participate to protect their workers better and to protect the environment better, and protect intellectual property that unleashes innovation, and baseline standards to ensure transparency and rule of law,” the president said.

While Obama and his team see distinctions, critics see more of the same. While the GOP may get on board with an Asian trade deal, many members of Obama’s own party are skeptical or downright hostile to the idea.

“Our country has already lost more than 5 million manufacturing jobs since NAFTA and the World Trade Organization went into effect,” Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) said. “What does TPP do? It further exacerbates the economically unsustainable trajectory of our society.”

She concluded, “We should not blindly enorse any more NAFTA-style deals.”

Some administration officials are clearly frustrated with those who focus on Obama’s past criticism of trade deals rather than his current enthusiasm for them.

“From the start of this administration, we have made clear that we need to understand the history of trade policy and learn the lessons of that history,” U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman said earlier this year. “However, some of the criticisms I hear of our agenda don’t seem to recognize that this is 2014, not 1994.”

Of course, some critics say Obama’s populist tone on trade deals, corporate America and Wall Street has always been mainly rhetorical. They note how he gave top jobs to Clinton Administration officials who were architects of many of the free trade and financial deregulation policies he criticized. Many on the left also argue that efforts to punish those responsible for the 2008 financial meltdown have been notably lackluster.

A race to the finish line on TPPin the coming months could also be tricky for Hillary Clinton, who’s seeking to court many of those same critics as she prepares a potential bid for the White House. She’s identified with her husband’s penchant for free trade deals and could find it difficult to distance herself from agreements that were being negotiated during much of her tenure in Obama’s Cabinet.

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Some Democratic lawmakers and labor unions are already pressing her to take a more skeptical tack on trade, opposing deals that could make it easier for companies in low-wage countries like Vietnam to compete with firms which depend on American workers.

It's also possible the TPP deal will never get done, or at least not on Obama's watch. Administration officials say they're increasingly confident that it will be completed. Some experts close to the administration believe the deal could be wrapped up within six months. However, timelines for completing the deal have repeatedly slipped.

In June, Obama suggested that the agreement could be ready to be unveiled during his current trip to Asia. But a few weeks ago, administration officials began lowering expectations by declaring that the negotiations would not be finished in time for the president to announce an agreement while abroad.

"I'm skeptical … that he'll be able to get TPP if he didn't deliver it on the Asia trip," Schake said. "The complaint I'm hearing from the Japanese and others is that they don't think the president is actually interested enough to put political heft behind the negotiations."

The TPP is also a central part of the so-called pivot to Asia — the president's best known strategic shift in U.S. foreign policy — and therefore critical to Obama's legacy. Like other aspects of the pivot, now termed a "rebalance," the TPPputs China in an awkward spot and reaffirms U.S. leadership in the region.

Publicly, Chinese leaders said they welcome trade deals like the TPP pact under discussion and are working on a related proposal for a regional free-trade area that would include China as well. Privately, Chinese officials are nervous about the TPP. In fact, the meeting of leaders of TPP countries in Beijing was staged at the U.S. Embassy — a strange venue for such a gathering — in part because China made it difficult to assemble the group anywhere else.

At the session, Obama was adamant that the TPP would be a major accomplishment, and one he was committed to pressing forward on despite the difficulties.

"To ensure that TPP is a success, we also have to make sure that all of our people back home understand the benefits for them — that it means more trade, more good jobs, and higher incomes for people throughout the region, including the United States," Obama said. "That's the case that I'll continue to make to Congress and the American people."

New York Post: "NY GOP Chair: de Blasio will take 2016 nomination over Hillary"

By Fredric U. Dicker

November 17, 2014, 2:07 a.m. EST

Mayor de Blasio — not Hillary Rodham Clinton — will be the Democratic nominee for president in 2016.

That's the jaw-dropping prediction being made by New York's top Republican, state GOP Chairman Ed Cox, who, as son-in-law to former President Richard Nixon, knows a thing or two about national politics.

Cox, citing information provided by a prominent "Democratic lobbyist," told friends and associates in recent days that freshman Mayor de Blasio's effort to promote himself as the leader of the "urban progressive centers of the nation" is part of a well-oiled plan to prepare for a presidential run.

"It's like Barack Obama; he was a brand-new freshman senator, and he ran for president and won. I think de Blasio is going to do it," Cox said at a

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recent gathering, a source told The Post.

Cox also cited de Blasio's remarkably close but dicey ties to the controversial, and racially divisive, Rev. Al Sharpton, an Obama friend and one-time Democratic presidential hopeful who has a vast national political network, as evidence that the mayor sees his political future as somewhere beyond New York City, the source said.

"Cox has been pointing out that Sharpton is back and forth to the White House and serves as an emissary for de Blasio,'' said the source, who pointed out that former top Sharpton aide Rachel Noerdlinger continues to serve as chief of staff to de Blasio's wife, even as Noerdlinger has become a political liability.

Cox also found backing for his prediction last week in a provocative Huffington Post column in which the mayor — sounding like a national spokesman for left-of-center "progressive'' Democrats — blamed the sweeping Republican election victories earlier this month on the failure of Democrats to be progressive enough.

"This year, too many Democratic candidates lost sight of those core principles — opting instead to clip their progressive wings in deference to a conventional wisdom that says bold ideas aren't politically practical,'' de Blasio wrote.

Cox told associates that the "small blue dots'' on the national electoral map containing the nation's biggest cities will dominate the 2016 Democratic primary and that de Blasio, "the leader of the urban Democratic Party who holds the second-most important job in America,'' would strongly appeal to voters there.

As for Clinton, Cox, a Manhattan lawyer whose life has been steeped in politics ever since he married then-President Nixon's daughter in 1971, contends the former secretary of state is out of step with party progressives and doesn't have the political skills of her husband.

"The national Democratic Party is going hard left. It's Obama's party, and that's why [freshman Mass. Sen.] Elizabeth Warren gets them excited,'' Cox said recently. "But Hillary voted for the Iraq war and then doubled-down by saying we should have gotten more involved in Syria and talked about businesses not creating jobs. She's trying to ride in as a moderate when the party's gone hard left,'' he continued.

Cox wouldn't directly respond to questions about his remarks, but he told The Post, "De Blasio is a man with huge national ambitions, and for those ambitions, New York City is just a stepping stone.

Meanwhile, some Democrats are yelling "hypocrite'' at de Blasio over his Huffington Post essay.

The Democratic critics charge that de Blasio didn't exactly stick to his "core principles'' with his own endorsement of Gov. Cuomo, who has been widely criticized by party "progressives'' for failing to support state Senate Democrats.

"People thought it was incredibly hypocritical for the mayor to go around lecturing progressive Democrats across the country in the Huffington Post about how they need to have a backbone, when he bent over backwards to help people like Cuomo,'' said a prominent Democratic activist with ties to de Blasio.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

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- November 19 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton is honored by the National Breast Cancer Coalition (Breast Cancer Deadline)
- November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton presides over meeting of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Bloomberg)
- November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton is honored by the New York Historical Society (Bloomberg)
- December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)
- December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)
- December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

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From:	"Sandler, Herbert" <hms@sandlerfoundation.org>
To:	"Sandler, Susan" <ses@sandlerfoundation.org>
	"Daetz, Steve" <sdaetz@sandlerfoundation.org>
	"Sandler, Jim" <james@sandlerfoundation.org>
	"Knaebel, Sergio" <SKnaebel@sandlerfoundation.org>
Date:	1/16/2015 4:08:34 PM
Subject:	FW: Europe vs. Russia

This new partnership of the New York Review of Books and Vice seems to be quite interesting. The film accompanying George's readings clearly provide color and context to the reading. It's not required listening, but having read George's remarks earlier, I found it worthwhile. Clearly, something new.

From: George Soros [mailto:info@georgesoros.com]
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 6:02 AM
To: Sandler, Herbert
Subject: Europe vs. Russia

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Vice News just released this 15 minute documentary based on George's recent essays about Ukraine. It's part of their new partnership with the New York Review of Books called "Talking Heads". It is worth taking a look.

All best,

Michael Vachon

https://news.vice.com/video/talking-heads-the-european-union-vs-russia

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/10/2008 6:26:18 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 08/10/08

Main Topics: Olympic coverage, Edward's Affair, Russia/Georgia Conflict

Summary of Shift: No major surrogates speaking on Sunday shows from either party. McCain discussion limited to comments he has made concerning Russia, his energy plan, and his status and portrayal in the media as opposed to Obama and his "celebrity" like status, as touted by the McCain campaign.

Other network coverage was dominated by Olympic fever and medal watches, the continuing melodrama over the Edwards affair confession, and Russia's invasion and increased attacks on Georgia. Currently, Russia has refused to back down from military fighting and any talks of a cease-fire.

Highlights:

1. CBS: Karl Rove: McCain is Responding to the Third Term of Bush Question Badly
2. CBS: Bob Schieffer Defends "Old White Haired Dudes" on Face the Nation
3. ABC: Jindal and Richardson on McCain's Foreign Policy Stance With Russia/Georgia
4. CNN: McCain Highlighted As Wanting to Kick Russia Out Of G-8, Other Senator's Disagree With Comments As Reckless.
5. CBS: John McCain's Biker Beauty Contest Comment Worries NOW

Highlights, no clips:

1. CNN - JOAN WALSH: "[…] I think some of the poll numbers about too little about John McCain, especially when Democrats say that, is that they feel that there is not enough attention being given to his economic policies, to his war policies, that he's treated as this known quantity, who has in fact flip flopped, and really changed from the John McCain of 2000. So, some of it really is the media not doing its job in terms of delving into the McCain story. "

2. CNN - AMY HOLMES: "[…] And I think all we need to do is look at the New York Times, and I mean they put it on their front page, innuendo, insinuation, anonymous sources, that John McCain might have been having an improper relationship with a lobbyist. So you didn't see the same sort of reticence being applied to John McCain that is being applied to John Edwards."

3. FNC – GEORGE WALLACE: "[…] I think both of them feel that this is really a close race, and I think the Republicans are a little relieved that it's a close race, that they were worried with such a negative climate that so much public disapproval of President Bush, the handling of the economy, that maybe McCain would not be competitive at this point. He's within the margin of error, so I get the sense from Rick Davis […] they're very happy where they are right now."

Clips:

Highlight #1

Karl Rove: McCain is Responding to the Third Term of Bush Question Badly (CBS 08/10/08 10:53am)

BOB SCHIEFFER: Does [McCain] need to separate himself from your old boss, George Bush?

KARL ROVE: He needs to recognize that every election is about the future. And he needs to describe who he is. If he, if Senator Obama has wisely attacked him saying third term of George Bush, then **Senator McCain has responded badly to that. Other than saying here's who I am and here's what I am about, he's responded by saying no I'm not, which is the wrong answer. If the question is who is not George Bush than Barack Obama is the answer.** If the question is who are you and do you have a vision for the future, the answer **can be** Senator McCain. In fact, again I would suggest that a weakness of Obama is by harping so much about no third term for Bush, people have said, you know John McCain is not George Bush, he ran against him in 2000. To the degree that McCain supplies more about who he is and ignores the question of third term, says here who I am and here's what my vision is, the more he'll prosper and the worst Senator Obama will be."

Highlight #2

Bob Schieffer Defends "Old White Haired Dudes" on Face the Nation (CBS 08/10/08 10:56)

BOB SCHIEFFER: "Finally today, we all had our fun at Paris Hilton's expense, but I laughed out loud when she did that spoof commercial pushing back at John McCain."

[Paris Ad]

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SCHIEFFER: "My guess is that John McCain laughed too, but politics aside, **I am compelled now to stand up for old white haired dudes, and point out that we have several advantages over others**. For example, if forced we can drink coffee straight from a mug. We don't need to sip it through a little hole in a plastic top on a cardboard container to make it taste good. Since we grew up when telephones had cords and phone booths had doors, we know how to keep phone conversations private. We were lucky enough to grow up when it was safe enough for kids to walk to school and we learned the lessons that came from having to organize our own after school games. It was pretty nice actually not having to suffer adults trying to relive their own childhood sports fantasies. We can even remember when you didn't have to drink water from a bottle, it tasted just fine from the faucet. I know there is a lot of wondrous stuff going on lately, but those were some pretty good days too**. So being an old white haired dude is not such a bad thing because we got in on some really good things, even though our memory sometimes fails us and we have a hard time remembering what they were.**"

Highlight #3
Jindal and Richardson on McCain's Foreign Policy Stance With Russia/Georgia (ABC 08/10/08 10:15am)
[…]

RIGHARDSON: … This has been one of the failures of the Bush administration, failing to build a strong relationship, a mutually beneficial relationship with Russia, so we'd have to kind of influence to persuade them to stop some of these very, very dangerous efforts within their territory.

TAPPER: … well he says that Russia has no business being in the G8, because it does not share the same values as those western nations. Does this incursion not verify that Senator McCain's assessment of Russia is correct?

RICHARDSON: … I believe what senator McCain is proposing is totally, totally wrong; keeping them out of the G8, Russia's a major superpower… What Senator McCain wants to do is continue the Bush policies of trying to isolate Russia, you know, build this missile system there; find ways to be aggressive against Russia; it's not working, and Russia doesn't respect our efforts to try to restrain them… Senator McCain wants to isolate Russia further- that's not gonna work. That'll make Russia more detrimental in the relationship with the United States.

[…]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, Governor Richardson, the McCain campaign put out a very forceful statement calling the situation in Georgia dire, and blaming Russia. Here's the Obama campaign's response; quote: "John McCain's top foreign policy adviser lobbied for, and has a vested interest in, the Republic of Georgia, and McCain has mirrored the position advocated by the government." Now Georgia is a strong U.S. allie. Is that really an appropriate response to such a serious international crisis, to blame the McCain campaign's position on one of the advisers?

RICHARDSON: […] His campaign is run by lobbyists that represent Georgia and other countries. His campaign is negative. He changes positions, he takes huge amounts of money from oil companies that are profiting in the Soviet Union and many parts of the world….

[…]

RICHARDSON: Two million that have gone in since Senator McCain switched his position on offshore oil. You know, this is a campaign run by lobbyists. We have a Washington celebrity campaign going on. And it's negative…

[…]

TAPPER: Ok, and now joining us from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Governer Bobby Jindal…

[…]

TAPPER: Now, you heard me mention to Governer Richardson the Obama campaign attack against Senator McCain, uh, when it comes to the Russia-Georgia crisis. I want to now read you comments from this McCain campaign against Senator Obama. Quote: "The Obama campaign has offered nothing more than cheap and petty political attacks that echoed only by the Kremlin. The reaction of the Obama campaign to this crisis, so at odds with our democratic allies and yet so bizarrely in sync with Moscow, doesn't merely raise questions about Senator Obama's judgment—it answers them." … Is that really an appropriate response to a crisis this severe?

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JINDAL: Well, you know, Senator McCain first went to Georgia back in 1997. He… said that Russia should withdraw it's forces, observe a ceasefire, suggested that there need to be true international peacekeepers there. I think this is another example during these uncertain times where we need experienced leadership. We need someone like Senator McCain who will take a stronger view, a more experienced view when it comes to international security and protecting America's interest. I think during these kinds of uncertain times you want someone with Senator McCain's record of bringing real leadership, real reform to Washington. As an example, even fighting his own administration, his own party, he stood for surge in Iraq when it wasn't popular to do so… so when it comes to the Georgia crisis, I think that this is another good reason why the American voters are going to choose Senator McCain's leadership…

[…]

JINDAL: I think it was wrong for Senator Obama to try to focus on a McCain advisor, rather that listen to what McCain had to say about the policy, rather than recognizing McCain's years and years of experience when it comes to international affairs. This is a very serious international crisis. I think the administration has correctly sent word to Moscow, this is not acceptable. Georgia is a stalwart ally of ours… their an example of Senator McCain's push to spread democracy, and that part of the world is a very advance of America's interests, as well as being good for international stability.

Highlight #4
John McCain Highlighted As Wanting to Kick Russia Out Of G-8, Other Senator's Disagree With Comments As Reckless (CNN 08/10/08 11:14am)
WOLF BLITZER: Do you agree with Senator McCain, Senator Cornyn, that Russia should be kicked out of the g-8?

SEN. JOHN CORNYN: Well, I think, you know, we're not at that point yet. I think certainly not over this incident, but I think we do need to recognize Russia for what it is, and, of course, it was the Soviet Union that invaded Afghanistan back in the late '70s that has created so much hardship for the Afghan people, so much lack of stability in that area so I think, you know, Russia is a superpower. They have responsibilities of a superpower and they cannot claim that they are on any kind of equal basis or really legitimately threatened by Georgia from a military standpoint, but we do need to resolution here and unless this thing spin out of control.

BLITZER: Senator Levin, very quickly, do you believe with Senator McCain that Russia should be kicked out of the g-8?

SEN. LEVIN: I think it's a reckless proposal on his part. I think it escalates our difference with Russia which are already real. Even President Bush, I think doesn't agree that Russia should be kicked out of the g-8. It's kind of a comment which actually could lead to some very, very misleading and dangerous consequences on the part of Senator McCain, and I would hope he would withdraw that idea. There's no support for that idea among the allies in the g-8 and even among the Bush administration folks.

Highlight #5
John McCain's Biker Beauty Contest Comment Worries NOW (CBS 08/10/08 11:48am)
JOHN MCLAUGHLIN: Issue two, Buffalo Gals.

[McCain Sturgis Clip]

JOHN MCCAIN: "I encouraged Cindy to compete. I told her with a little luck she could be the only woman ever to serve as both the first lady and Ms. Buffalo Chip."

MCLAUGHLIN: The 68 annual Buffalo Chip Motorcyclist Rally this week in Sturgis South Dakota was a campaign stop for Senator John McCain. Bikers showed their support by revving their engines. Then there's Miss. Buffalo Chip, a beauty contest to crown the 2008 Chip. **Not everyone thinks that John McCain's […] suggestion that his wife become the new titleholder was a good political move. Notably Kim Gandy President of NOW, the National Organization for Women, who said this about McCain: 'Maybe he figures that the frat-boy routine worked for George Bush, so he's trying the same thing, but I'm not sure this is going to play very well with the audience he's courting.**' ESPN adds this to the description of the Buffalo Chip beauty contest: 'Essentially a topless beauty pageant. And occasionally bottomless, too.' Question, by campaigning in Sturgis did John McCain strike a populous cord?

MICHELLE BERNARD: I think John McCain was just having fun. I think all of the reports I have read show that he was not there very long. It was a very quick stop and he kept on going.

You head up the Independents Women's what? Association.

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BERNARD: Independent Women's Forum

MCLAUGHLIN: And NOW, you heard what NOW had to say. […]

BERNARD: […] I think anyone that takes a look at that clip realizes that he was just having fun and the closest we will ever see Cindy McCain coming to going in a topless or bottomless beauty pageant was the denim blue t-shirt we just saw her wearing and her black jeans. He was having fun, and what was more interesting than anything else was the rousing applause he got from the crowd. He was the celebrity this week […].

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From:	"Bulletin News Network" <Clinton-Editors@BulletinNews.com>
To:	bulletin@hillaryclinton.com clips@hillaryclinton.com HCclips34174921@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	5/15/2008 11:29:49 PM
Subject:	Hillary For President News Briefing for Friday, May 16, 2008
Attachments:	ClintonNewsBriefing080516.doc

HILLARY FOR PRESIDENT NEWS BRIEFING (Executive Version)
Full version is attached and available online at http://www.bulletinnews.com/clinton

TO: CLINTON CAMPAIGN

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008 6:30 AM EDT

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+ McCain Predicts Most US Troops Will Leave Iraq Victorious By 2013.

Sen. Clinton's Campaign:

CLINTON CRITICIZES MCCAIN'S OPPOSITION TO FARM BILL. The AP (5/15, Kugler) reports "Hillary Rodham Clinton scolded John McCain Thursday for opposing the farm bill, attempting to maintain the sense that she is already competing against the certain Republican presidential nominee even as her chances for winning the Democratic nomination dim." Clinton "noted that...Bush has said he will veto the farm bill, which Congress passed Thursday. McCain also has said he would veto the bill if he were president. 'They're like two sides of the same coin, and it doesn't amount to much change, does it?' the New York senator said. 'I believe saying no to the farm bill is saying no to rural America.'"

In an editorial, the Washington Post (5/16, A18, 723K) writes, "While none of the presidential candidates left the campaign trail to vote on the bill, one -- Republican Sen. John McCain -- unequivocally opposed it. It may not be terribly surprising that Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) hailed the bill's passage during a campaign swing through South Dakota. It's a bit more disappointing to hear Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), running on a promise to oppose politics as usual, say he applauded the bill. ... On this issue, Mr. McCain, not his likely Democratic opponent, was the apostle of change."

CLINTON CAMPAIGNS IN SOUTH DAKOTA. The Rapid City Journal (5/16, Woster) reports Sen. Hillary Clinton "pledged Thursday to fight any future efforts to close Ellsworth Air Force Base, much as her husband did while he was president more than a decade ago. 'I'm proud that the Clinton administration helped to keep the base open in 1994, when it was on the BRAC closing list, and my husband had it removed,' Clinton told the Journal in an interview after a brief campaign stop in Rapid City. 'Not only is the base vital to South Dakota's economic success, it's also vital to national security.'

The Rapid City Journal (5/16, Woster) reports, "The New York senator was more appropriately dressed and sedately behaved than the rowdy lead singer for the Rolling Stones. But in a place where brown sugar isn't just a song, she still stirred the spirits of an audience of 70 or so. Arriving from the Rapid City Regional Airport about 2:10 p.m., the New York senator stepped out of a black Suburban and strolled into Jerry's between the stern faces of U.S. Secret Service agents. Inside, she mingled with a mellower crowd, signed autographs, posed for

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pictures and impressed even a supporter of Barack Obama, the clear front-runner in an entertaining race for the Democratic nomination."

PRO-CLINTON GROUP TO WORK AGAINST OBAMA. The Politico (5/16, Smith) reports there are "grumblings from the almost-half of the" Democratic Party, "disproportionately women, whose candidate is losing. An Ohio-based group of Democratic Hillary Clinton supporters say they'll work actively against Sen. Barack Obama if he becomes the nominee, arguing that Clinton has been the subject of 'intense sexism' by party leaders and the media." Led by "Boomer-aged women, the group, Clinton Supporters Count Too, is holding a press conference in Columbus at noon to release this statement."

Clinton Said To Be Stereotyped As "Poor Hillary." The Washington Post (5/16, C1, Copeland, 723K) reports that at "some point along the way, Hillary Clinton became 'poor Hillary' and it stuck." Clinton "went up against a charmer who once made an audience cheer just by blowing his nose (poor Hillary), and she lost states and delegates and she bet on a filly that died (poor Hillary), and nobody cares that she won West Virginia because it's over, except she can't see it because she's...'Poor Hillary,' write the op-ed writers and the bloggers and the newspaper letter-writers." "Poor Hillary" "speaks volumes about an old truth: Clinton's wounds have always defined her. The haters are always on the lookout for her comeuppance, and the lovers love her more for what she has endured."

Clinton Said To Be "No Fun." The Wall Street Journal (5/16, A13, Queenan, 2.06M) reports, "Journalists, and especially humorists, need to come clean and admit that none of us ever really wanted to see Hillary Clinton in the White House. No, it isn't her hair or her know-it-all attitude or her inexplicable marriage or her pitiful attempts to portray herself as a tribune of the working class or the fact that she went to Wellesley that puts us off. She's just no fun, and politicians who are no fun are hard to write about."

Strauss Says Democrats Need To Focus On Unity Now. In a Washington Post (5/16, A19, 723K) op-ed, former Democratic National Committee Chairman Robert S. Strauss says, "Democrats should rally around our nominee as soon as possible so the general election campaign can begin and the contrast between John McCain and the Democratic Party can be drawn for the American people. Having put our party back together after the 1972 convention, I know that every week of delay tempts a hardening of irreconcilable differences. If we are to win for America, the Democratic Party has to unite now."

CLINTON DISMISSES EDWARDS' ENDORSEMENT. The AP (5/16, Ohlemacher) reports that Hillary Clinton, campaigning in Rapid City, South Dakota, "spoke for the first time about Edwards' endorsement. 'I have a great deal of respect for Senator Edwards,' she said in response to reporters' questions. 'He and I have a lot in common ... I imagine that Senator Edwards' endorsement will be of some help to Senator Obama in Kentucky, but I think that what matters are the people who actually vote.' Clinton said she had not spoken with Edwards but had spoken with his wife, Elizabeth, about the endorsement. Clinton declined to discuss their conversation."

The AP (5/16) reports, "Hillary Clinton won't say what was discussed, but she's talked with Elizabeth Edwards about her husband's endorsement of rival Barack Obama." Speaking in South Dakota, Clinton "said she has a great deal of respect for Elizabeth Edwards, and that they have a lot in common." She also acknowledged that John Edwards' "backing will help Obama a bit in next week's Kentucky primary," adding that it's about "the people who actually vote."

CLINTON SAID TO BE OFF BASE IN CLAIMING POPULAR VOTE LEAD. The AP (5/16, Woodward, Pace) examines Sen. Hillary Clinton's claim that she leads Sen. Barack Obama in the popular vote count, calling it "a stretch, at best." The AP said Clinton "is using such claims to shore up supporters and help justify why she's still in the Democratic presidential race despite trailing Obama in the number of convention delegates earned in primaries and caucuses. The argument is supported only by using dubious math on two fronts: by excluding several caucus states won by Obama and by including Florida and Michigan primary results that the Democratic Party, to date, is rejecting."

NEW REPUBLIC RUNS CLINTON POST-MORTEM. The New Republic (5/16, Cottle) runs an extensive analysis of the Clinton campaign today called "What Went Wrong?" which it describes as "The exclusive story of Hillary's fall, as told by the high-level advisors, staffers, fundraisers, and on-the-ground organizers who lived it." It includes (unnamed) contributors blaming various campaign officials, including Mark Penn and Patti Solis Doyle,

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and other saying Clinton wasn't "hungry enough."

DEMOCRATS FURIOUS OVER BUSH'S REMARKS TO KNESSET. President Bush's speech before the Knesset appears to have been well received in Israel. McClatchy (5/16, Nissenbaum, Lightman) notes his remarks "marked the high point" of his second visit" there "as president," and "Israeli leaders cheered the staunch support from the US president." However, his remarks have ignited a political firestorm that has landed Bush's Mideast visit right in the middle of the US presidential campaign. And according to some media commentators, that is exactly what the White House intended. NBC Nightly News (5/15, lead story, 3:10, Williams, 9.87M), which led with the story, noted that in his speech Bush devoted "one particular paragraph" to invoke "the fight against the horrors of Nazi Germany, and it was clear to those listening that it was in part to make a point about Barack Obama back home." It was, said NBC, "today's political shot heard around the world. The concussion was instantaneous. Upon hearing the news, one Democratic senator used a word we cannot use on this broadcast." Joseph Biden was later identified as the senator who "characterized the President's words with a word we can't use."

ABC World News (5/15, story 3, 2:05, Wright, 8.78M) said that Bush, addressing Israel's parliament, made a "statement almost guaranteed to provoke a firestorm of reaction." Bush was shown saying, "Some seem to believe we should negotiate with the terrorists and radicals. ... We've heard this foolish delusion before. As Nazi tanks crossed into Poland in 1939, an American senator declared, 'Lord, if I could only have talked to Hitler, all of this might have been avoided.'" NBC noted "White House officials denied that the President was taking a swipe solely at...Obama, who has vowed he would negotiate Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other rogue leaders that the Bush Administration has shunned." But "the Obama campaign wasted no time accusing...Bush of mounting 'a false political attack. George Bush knows I have never supported engagement with terrorists,' the statement said." But "Obama's Republican rival begs to differ." Sen. John McCain was shown saying, He wants to sit down across the table from an individual who leads a country that said and says that Israel is a stinking corpse. That is dedicated to the extinction of the state of Israel. My question, is what does he want to talk about."

The CBS Evening News (5/15, story 2, 2:10, Couric, 7.66M) also reported on a "two-pronged Republican attack today on...Obama." CBS (Reid) added, "The Republican barrage began in Jerusalem," and while "a White House spokesman denied that Obama was the target," when McCain "jumped into the fray, there was no doubt where he was aiming." McCain was shown saying, "Why does Barack Obama, Senator Obama, want to sit down with a state-sponsor of terrorism? It is a serious error on the part of Senator Obama. It shows naiveté and inexperience." CBS added, "Obama, who has said he would meet with leaders of Iran, Syria, and Cuba noted that presidents Kennedy, Nixon, and even Reagan also negotiated directly with America's enemies. Even Hillary Clinton came to his defense." Clinton was shown saying, "President Bush's comparison of any Democrat to Nazi appeasers is both offensive and outrageous." USA Today (5/16, 2.28M), however, notes "Obama has said in the past he would meet with heads of state in places like Cuba, Iran and North Korea," and that Clinton has said "those meetings could be used for propaganda and her first response would be outreach through other diplomatic channels."

MCCAIN PREDICTS MOST US TROOPS WILL LEAVE IRAQ VICTORIOUS BY 2013. In a speech in Ohio, Sen. John McCain yesterday predicted that, as president, he would oversee a US victory in Iraq that would allow most American troops to leave that country by 2013. McCain's remarks are being cast as somewhat of a reversal because, as the New York Times (5/16, Bumiller, 1.18M) put it, they were "a striking departure from Mr. McCain's refusal so far to set a date for an American withdrawal." The speech "offered no proposals for how Mr. McCain would achieve that vision," and were "an attempt by the presumptive Republican nominee to define himself and the rationale of his candidacy to voters before he has a single Democratic rival who will try to do it for him." Likewise, the Wall Street Journal (5/16, Meckler, 2.06M) says McCain offered "his first date for withdrawal" while "refuting Democratic charges he would keep the US mired" in Iraq "indefinitely." The Journal notes McCain "said that by the end of his first term, there would be only 'spasmodic' violence in Iraq and a small contingent of US forces would remain in a noncombat role. Until now, he had repeatedly refused to attach any sort of date for the end to combat operations."

The Los Angeles Times (5/16, Neuman, Reston, 833K) reports "the prediction marks a major departure for McCain, who railed against rival Mitt Romney shortly before the Florida primary for his remark in April 2007 that he thought President Bush and Iraqi leaders should privately discuss a timetable for withdrawing troops from

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Iraq." Back then, "McCain suggested that the comment would embolden America's foes in Iraq. The Arizona senator leveled the same criticism at Democratic Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton, stating that their advocacy for withdrawing troops from Iraq amounted to setting a date for surrender.'"

NBC Nightly News (5/15, story 2, 2:20, Williams, 9.87M) said McCain "has been tagged as you may know with that comment he once made about US troops staying in Iraq for 100 years if need be. Today he revised that number way down." ABC (O'Donnell) added that "when other candidates of both parties have talked about a date or timetable for getting out of Iraq, McCain has accused them of surrender. Today he argued that with his plan there is a difference." McCain was shown saying, "I'm saying the troops will come home when we achieve victory. That's my goal. I did not in any way set a date for withdrawal." NBC went on report, "McCain's biggest challenge may that be he has to beat two opponents, the Democrat and the trouble surrounding his own party." The CBS Evening News (5/15, story 2, 2:10, Reid noted "Democrats say McCain's crystal ball must be clouded. Their crystal ball, they say, not surprisingly, shows a Democrat in the White House for the next four years, and the troops home from Iraq long before 2013."

Clinton Dismisses Speech. Sen. Clinton's response to McCain "Victory" Comment was covered by Judy Woodruff on the PBS Newshour with Jim Lehrer. Woodruff reported, "Democrat Hillary Clinton dismissed the pledge of victory in Iraq. Instead, she said, '(McCain) promises more of the same Bush policies that have weakened our military...and our standing in the world."

FNC's Hannity And Colmes (5/15, Colmes, Hannity) touched on Hillary Clinton's response to Bush's comments at Israel's 60th Anniversary, running a clip of her saying "This is the kind of statement that has no place in any presidential address and certainly to use an important moment like the 60th anniversary celebration of Israel to make a political point seems terribly misplaced." No analysis of her remarks was given.

On MSNBC's Hardball (5/15), Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Joe Biden defended Clinton's "obliterate" comment, saying, "In fairness to her, she said, if they attack Israel, we would respond...I think a better word could have been chosen, but she stated a rational policy." Iran, he said, "should understand that if they use a nuclear weapon against any other power they run the risk of being obliterated."

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/23/2015 8:57:32 AM
Subject:	Fwd: FW: Quick roundup of media tweets about the Medium post

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Tony Carrk <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 3:50 PM
Subject: FW: Quick roundup of media tweets about the Medium post
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com >

H/t Jesse L for compiling

Gabriel Debenedetti, POLITICO @gdebenedetti

Team Clinton's aggressive response, in 3 @brianefallon notes:

1. http://politi.co/1zK4vyk

2. http://politi.co/1l0F1nk

3. http://bit.ly/1l0EYrH

Dan Merica, CNN @danmericaCNN

Brian Fallon, the Clinton campaign's spokesman, uses @Medium to push back against today's NYT/Clinton Cash story. https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Alex Seitz-Wald, MSNBC @aseitzwald

Clinton spox @brianefallon gives lengthy rebuttal to NYT uranium story on @Medium. https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Liz Kreutz, ABC News @ABCLiz

Clinton team fights back on NYT story & "Clinton Cash" (on Medium)

[Retweeted Brian Fallon]

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Zeke Miller, TIME @ZekeJMiller

.@brianefallon takes to Medium to challenge NYT reporting on anti-Clinton book https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Emily Schultheis, National Journal @emilyrs

Clinton camp responds to NYT story, via spokesman @brianefallon on Medium: https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Mark Murray, NBC News @mmurraypolitics

Clinton campaign issues rebuttal to NYT article, arguing there was no quid-pro-quo in Russia uranium deal https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Jose DelReal, Washington Post @jdelreal

Summary of Clinton statement on NYT story:

1) HRC wasn't direclty involved in review

2) one donor actually had no stake in the company 1/3

...

Jose DelReal, Washington Post @jdelreal

3) another key donor says he didn't speak to the clintons about it,

4) the state dept was just 1 of 9 agencies involved in review (2/3)

...

Jose DelReal, Washington Post @jdelreal

5) and Clinton was no longer sec state when the deal was finalized (3/3) https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

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Katherine Miller, BuzzFeed @katherinemiller

Brian Fallon push back on NYT

https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Phil Mattingly, Bloomberg @Phil_Mattingly

.@brianefallon gets into the @Medium game, launches Clinton campaign pushback on Foundation story https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Paul Lewis, The Guardian @PaulLewis

Hillary Clinton's spokesman's five-punch retaliation against the New York Times over its foundation reporting: https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

Justin Sink, The Hill @justinsink

Clinton campaign spox @brianefallon is pulling a @danpfeiffer and using @Medium to push back on NYT story https://medium.com/@brianefallon/clinton-cash-nyt-fail-to-prove-connection-between-clinton-russian-purchase-of-uranium-assets-797a71cb40b0

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
Date: 3/22/2015 2:56:40 PM
Subject: Re: DRAFT Questions for HRC Media Prepare

Shouldn't we attack the book or get Brock to attack the book as a Murdoch special. From the folks who brought you Fox News...

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

On Mar 22, 2015, at 7:23 PM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:

> Do we know which correspondent? Which producer?
>
> Mandy Grunwald
> Grunwald Communications
> 202 973-9400
>
> On Mar 23, 2015, at 12:12 AM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
>
> > Unclear exactly what 60 is doing, but Craig has had an initial meeting with them to see if we can finesse this from starting off in such a ridiculous place as to have its premise be that book. Let's also remember that the last time 60 went hard on a book that tried to scandalize something related to us it was the Benghazi telling by the former British commando, and the outcome was Lara Logan's suspension and the publisher having to pull the book off the shelves.
> >
> > So the hope is that before we start having to push back on the story we have at least some hope of combatting the premise as ridiculous.
> >
> > And of course, having the book would help that.
> >
> > I'll keep everyone posted.
> >
> > On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:33 PM, Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com > wrote:
> >
> > Yes, the foundation team heard that 60 minutes was looking into it. That's one of the reasons we desperately want to get the book ahead of time.
> >
> > On Sun, Mar 22, 2015 at 6:27 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
> > I heard the same. I think from nick or josh
> >
> > On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
> >
> > +nick and john

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I'm hearing rumors 60 minutes may be working on a Clinton cash story.
Not sure how reliable info is.

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.

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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To:	jbenenson@bsgco.com "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
Date:	2/6/2015 5:00:32 PM
Subject:	Re: NYT | Econ Story

Looks like the NYT is getting close to closing their story. After our conversation yesterday, I think it makes the most sense to just repurpose what we have the Journal a week ago. I think it makes sense for us to be in this story, but no need to mix it up or complicate things. Same message, different paper.

I'd like to send this this evening, let us know if disagree on approach.

Looks like the NYT story is now on for the weekend, so

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 6, 2015, at 12:18 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com> wrote:

I'm passing along a document that came from one of our friends, written for and sent directly to Amy Chozick for this NYT piece she's working on. Gives you a sense of what we're all up against!

From: "jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>"
<jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>>
Date: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 10:27 AM
To: Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>>
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>>, NSM
<nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>>, Cheryl Mills
<cheryl.mills@gmail.com<mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com>>, John Podesta
<john.podesta@gmail.com<mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com>>, Jacob Sullivan
<Jake.sullivan@gmail.com<mailto:Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>>, Philippe Reines
<pir@hrcoffice.com<mailto:pir@hrcoffice.com>>, Huma Abedin
<huma@hrcoffice.com<mailto:huma@hrcoffice.com>>, Dan Schwerin
<dschwerin@hrcoffice.com<mailto:dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>>, Jim Margolis
<Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com<mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>>,
"john@algpolling.com<mailto:john@algpolling.com>" <john@algpolling.com<mailto:john@algpolling.com>>,
"cmills@cdmillsgroup.com<mailto:cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>"
<cmills@cdmillsgroup.com<mailto:cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>>, Jennifer Palmieri
<jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com<mailto:jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>>, Kristina Schake
<kristinakschake@gmail.com<mailto:kristinakschake@gmail.com>>
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Mandy is right. We keep emphasizing that the most significant pain point for people is that the belief the decked is stacked against them in favor of this at the top. And they're not wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

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On Feb 2, 2015, at 10:07 AM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>> wrote:

Agree

On Feb 2, 2015, at 9:41 AM, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>> wrote:

I think this piece turned out well.

But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.
One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>>
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>>; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com<mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com>>
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>>; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com<mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com>>; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com<mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com>>; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com<mailto:pir@hrcoffice.com>>; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com<mailto:huma@hrcoffice.com>>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com<mailto:dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com<mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>>; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com<mailto:john@algpolling.com>>; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com<mailto:cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>>; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com<mailto:jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>>; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com<mailto:kristinakschake@gmail.com>>
Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch
By Peter Nicholas
Hillary Clinton <http://topics.wsj.com/person/C/Hillary-Clinton/6344> has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.
One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts. She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

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As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder <http://topics.wsj.com/person/B/Alan-Blinder/4> , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch <http://topics.wsj.com/person/R/Richard-Ravitch/5985> , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren <http://topics.wsj.com/person/W/Elizabeth-Warren/8131> (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama <http://topics.wsj.com/person/O/Obama/4328> administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.

"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

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On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>> wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that “average” come out. So here’s what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won’t run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She’s casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. ”

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>>
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com<mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com>>
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>>, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>>, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>>, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com<mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com>>, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com<mailto:Jake.sullivan@gmail.com>>, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com<mailto:pir@hrcoffice.com>>, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com<mailto:huma@hrcoffice.com>>, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com<mailto:dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>>, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com<mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>>, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com<mailto:john@algpolling.com>>, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com<mailto:cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>>, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com<mailto:jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>>, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com<mailto:kristinakschake@gmail.com>>
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>> wrote:
When we tested deck is stacked against “average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top” vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it’s how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their

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big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.
Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com<mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>> wrote:
Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

> On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>> wrote:
>
> Yes.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com<mailto:gruncom@aol.com>]
> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
> To: Robby Mook
> Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe

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> Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
> Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
> Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
> I like it too.
>
> There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
> will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
> Thx
>
> Mandy Grunwald
> Grunwald Communications
> 202 973-9400<tel:202%20973-9400>
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook
<robbymook2015@gmail.com<mailto:robbymook2015@gmail.com>> wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>> expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>> background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>> her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>> trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>> all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com<mailto:jbenenson@bsgco.com>>
wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>> they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>> waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>> she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>> laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>> gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>> a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>> but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>> challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>> for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----
>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com<mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>> Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>> Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>> working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues

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>>> as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>> I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>> seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>> core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>> needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>> you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>> "idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>> been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>> heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>> the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>> range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>> calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>> nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>> every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

<Rothschild Econ Doc for Chozick.pdf>

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From: "Gregory Rosalsky" <grosalsky@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/9/2008 4:06:16 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/09/08

Main Topics: McCain Interviews on NBC and Fox News, 'Jimmy Carter's Second Term', McCan't Rally Evangelicals, *McBush* Economics

Summary of Shift: Barack Obama gave his first general election speech today, which blasted McCain and Bush for a souring economy. Obama is doing an economic tour for the next two weeks. The McCain campaign criticized Obama for the appointment of Jim Johnson to his VP selection committee, who is accused of getting favors from the mortgage lender Countrywide. Fox News covered this story extensively. The Obama campaign shot back by pointing to John Green, a top aide to McCain who lobbied for Ameriquest, one of the nation's largest subprime lenders.
In other news, Scott McClellan will be testifying to Congress June 20 about revelations within his book. President Bush is in Europe for a summit. Mike Huckabee is being called a "hero" for performing the Heimlich maneuver on the GOP candidate for Lt. Governor of North Carolina. Defense Secretary Gates said he's going to halt planned cuts in the size of the Air Force. The FBI is backlogged in doing security checks on immigrants. Gas prices continue their record-breaking streak. Tomatoes were pulled from restaurants in 16 states due to a salmonella outbreak and Apple announced it will release another iPhone.

Highlights:
1) McCain interview on *NBC Nightly News*: "Senator Obama says that I'm running for Bush's third term. It seems to me he's running for Jimmy Carter's second."
2) In Fox News interview, McCain fires back at Obama on the economy
3) McCain's continued troubles rallying the GOP Base
a. MSNBC does segment on McCain's inability to rally evangelicals
b. CNN paints Obama as competitive for evangelical voters, Tony Perkins says McCain's indecisiveness on Pastor Hagee's endorsement hurt him with group
c. McCain camp rejects report that it is refusing to meet with Billy Graham; Fox News' Brit Hume says McCain's inability to energize evangelicals is a problem in swing states
4) McCain and the floundering economy
a. CNN's *Election Center* discredits McCain's gas tax holiday proposal; Velshi: the holiday is "a complete Red Herring"
b. Cafferty paints McCain as out of touch, asks viewers "Is John McCain right when he says 'the fundamentals of our economy are very strong'?"
c. Bernard Whitman links McCain to Bush on bad economics
5) George Will: McCain is no maverick on abortion, reminds viewers of McCain's Iran stance
6) Dana Bash covers the "ominous reality" of an anti-GOP electoral climate facing the McCain campaign, airs comments of Rick Davis saying climate is "worst in modern history for Republicans"
7) Jonathon Alter: McCain has trouble acclimating to YouTube era politics
8) MSNBC Panel examines Rick Davis' Power Point on McCain's advantages against Obama
9) Keith Olbermann named Fox News' Neil Cavuto "worst person in the world" for conflicting remarks about McCain's temper (no clip)
10) In round table, Matthews reminds viewers that Bush admin is in bed with oil interests and Phil Brunstein invokes McCain's economic ineptitude (no clip)
11) Jonathan Prince, on *Race for the White House* says that McCain has 'disposed of his inner maverick and brought to life his inner McBush' (no clip)
12) Scott McClellan was interviewed by Keith Olbermann about what he plans to discuss in front of Congress on June 20, includes talk about Valerie Plame's outing and the faulty path to the Iraq war (no clip)
13) Laura Bush was interviewed on *ABC World News* and defended Michelle Obama from criticisms that she's unpatriotic (no clip)

Highlight #1
Brian Williams Interviews John McCain, McCain Calls Obama "Jimmy Carter's Second" Term (NBC 06/09/08 7:14pm)
BRIAN WILLIAMS: […] is it going to be tough to run with an incumbent party for the White House given this economic backdrop?

JOHN MCCAIN: I think it's tough, but I think the American people didn't get to know me yesterday. They know me. They know that I've fought for restrained spending, which Senator Obama has been a big part of with earmark and pork-barrel

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projects. **They know that I have been a strong fiscal conservative and they know I understand the challenges that they face, that they need a little break from their gasoline taxes and they know that we've got to get spending under control and we've got to become independent of foreign oil.**

Senator Obama says that I'm running for Bush's third term. It seems to me he's running for Jimmy Carter's second [laughs].

WILLIAMS: Why do you say that?

MCCAIN: Because spend, spend, tax, spend. **He's got [a] proposal that would raise taxes by $1.4 trillion over five years or raise spending—excuse me, raise spending by $1.4 trillion over five years and no way to pay for his programs. That would put us further in debt. I have a plan to balance the budget.** I have a plan to get us energy independence and get America goin' again and that's what I can do and that's my record and I'll stand on it.

I have a reputation and a deserved one of reaching across the aisle and working with democrats. Senator Obama has none of that. **He has the most liberal voting record in the senate.**

WILLIAMS: So what do you tell Americans who are gonna have to get in the car tomorrow and the next day, four dollar-a-gallon gasoline […]. Is it in your mind tied to climate change? I know you've spoken before about energy dependence.

MCCAIN: Well, I'm sayin' it's an economic issue. It is an environmental issue and it's a national security issue. It's an economic issue for obvious reasons. People on fixed income are hurting. Hurting terribly now.

It's [an] environmental issue because of climate change is real in my view [sic] and I'll continue to debate it but we've got to reduce and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and, of course, we've got to eliminate our dependence on foreign oil. We've got to do that. I have a plan to do it. We can develop alternate energy sources.

WILLIAMS: It's been said that a la the Apollo program, the Marshall plan, that something that large of that scale will be required for that effort. Are you prepared to label it that?

MCCAIN: I am and I'm prepared to emphasize that we need to exercise every bit of innovation, every bit of technology which is out there and we've gotta devote all our energies—[chuckles] all our efforts to solving this energy crisis. The American people deserve the kind of leadership and inspiration that will put us on the path to energy independence.

We can fix the problem. We can become energy independent and give our kids a cleaner planet. I've been involved in the climate change issue for many years. Senator Obama has never been involved in it except maybe to co-sponsor a bill.

[Williams asks McCain whether Hillary supporters will go for him in November.]

MCCAIN: Well, I certainly hope they are. We are getting some communications with people obviously and I also want to repeat my respect and admiration for Senator Clinton [and] the campaign she ran. I also have respect and admiration for Senator Obama [and] for the campaign he ran but I believe that she inspired women all over the world including in this country and I respect her. We'd obviously love to have the support and are getting some of that support because I think this campaign is gonna be won by not only republicans voting but independents and finding the old and new Reagan democrats and I'm confident I can do that.

Highlight #2

In Fox News Interview, McCain Fires Back at Obama on the Economy, Says "He Has Been the Most Liberal Doctrinaire Democrat" (FNC 06/09/08 5:15pm)

MEGYN KELLY: McCain coming under fire again today from Barack Obama. Obama, who launched his own two-week economic tour in North Carolina today, calling the Republican candidate's economic policies "outrageous" and "very much like those of President Bush." McCain firing right back, telling Fox News just moments ago an Obama presidency "would be very much like a Carter 2nd term." [...]

CARL CAMERON: Senator McCain has long argued that Barack Obama is what he again today said is a 'doctrinaire liberal.' He argues that while Obama compares him to President Bush, Barack Obama is Jimmy Carter. And if you look back to that era it was rising interest rates, rising inflation, rising unemployment, and Senator McCain argues that Barack Obama's opposition to renewing the Bush tax cuts, a pro-growth economic agenda, will ultimately make things worse [...]

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MCCAIN: I've noticed that he has been the most liberal doctrinaire Democrat, claiming that he is some kind of a reformer or centrist, but look, I think it's important that we compare people's records. His has been as one of the most liberal Democrats, the most according to the National Journal, but the point is we got to review records, we also got to articulate our vision for the future. And I know that I can do that in the form of defending this nation's security, the three issues: reform, prosperity, peace. I think those are the major issues. I can win on every one of them.
[...]

Highlight #3
McCain's Lack of Evangelical Support (MSNBC 06/09/08 5:34pm)
TONY PERKINS: [McCain] has a lot of ground to cover. […] There's no intensity in the base. You compare 2004 to 2008. 2004 as I was traveling the country people were saying, 'What are we gonna do? What are we gonna do to get George Bush re-elected?' Today the question is, 'What are we gonna do?' and it's a big difference.
[…]
DAVID QUO: At the end of the day John McCain's issues may be in line with what evangelical voters believe. Obama sounds like an evangelical.

PERKINS: That is true**. It sounds as if the Democrats have gotten religion and the Republicans have become agnostic and run off with the church organist.** […] I think that people, in order to get strong support, the intensity that [McCain] needs he's got to stand on one side or the other [of the choice issue]. He does have that record. He has a pro-life voting record.

The only difference that he has right now with pro-lifers is the embryonic stem cell research issue but he doesn't talk about it. It's like he doesn't want people to know where he stands on that issue.

McCain Camp Rejects Report That it is Refusing to Meet with Billy Graham; Brit Hume says McCain's Inability to Energize Evangelicals is a Problem in Swing States (FNC 06/09/08 5:45pm)
MEGYN KELLY: Well John McCain's camp rejecting a report today that it is refusing to meet with evangelical leader Billy Graham. The campaign calls those reports "Bogus" and "totally untrue." Instead, McCain campaign aides say they are directly in touch with Graham's office and have been "for months now." [...] There is some letter showing that someone attempted to reach out to the McCain camp and have them have John McCain meet with Billy Graham and that was rejected. So what happened here?

BRIT HUME: Well the McCain camp says, and there's no reason to doubt it they're dealing directly with Billy Graham and his people [...] And it comes at a little bit of an awkward time for the McCain campaign because he is trying to mend fences, if you will, with people on the religious right, conservatives, evangelical Christians, who were so important to George W Bush's reelection, in particular, back in 2004. A group who's energies will be, would be very useful to John McCain .

MEGYN KELLY: He is struggling in that effort Brit. There was an article in the New York Times today quoting the Family Research Council's Tony Perkins, who said "For John McCain to be competitive he has to connect with the base to the point that they're intense enough about him that they're contagious." He continues, "Right now, they're not even coughing."

BRIT HUME: Well I think that's something he has to worry about because look at the state of Ohio in 2004. It was people from these religious, communities, evangelical Christians in large numbers, volunteers, who turned out not only to vote for George W Bush, but to get others to the polls so they could vote for him [...] So obviously if McCain doesn't have their full support, he will be needing to make that up from some other energized group and it is not easy immediately to identify who that might be [...]

CNN Paints Obama as Competitive For Evangelical Voters, Tony Perkins Says McCain's Rejection of Pastor Hagee's Endorsement Hurt Him Amongst Group (CNN 06/09/08 5:20pm)
WOLF BLITZER They're a cornerstone of teh Republican party but this election year, some evangelicals may be up for grabs [...]

CAROL COSTELLO: Now this sounds strange, Barack Obama going after Evangelical voters? But if you look at the numbers, you'll think maybe he has a chance. Take a look, in the Iowa caucus, only 10% of evangelical voters supported McCain [Lists other states where McCain didn't do well with evangelicals]. Why you ask? Well some say he isn't talking the talk [...] Election 2008 is different in so many ways, it's also the year many conservatives say the Democratic party found god. And the Republican party? Forgot about him.

TONY PERKINS: Clearly in this election cycle, it appears that the Democrats have gotten religion, while the Republicans

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have turned agnostic in a run off with the church organism. I mean they don't really have anything to do with religion in this election cycle.

COSTELLO: Perkins says evangelical voters see no passion in John McCain for the issues they care about. And wonder whether they should switch to Obama who seems to speak their language [...] McCain's camp is wooing evangelicals too sending email messages to conservative voters, reaching out to evangelical preachers, although Perkins says he shouldn't expect many endorsements, not after he accepted then rejected Pastor John Hagee's endorsement because of a sermon where Hagee said Nazism was god's will [...] That only reminded conservative voters what he said about Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell back in 2000 [...]

Highlight #4

George Will: McCain is No Maverick on Abortion, Reminds Viewers of McCain's Iran Stance (MSNBC 06/09/08 5:17pm)

GEORGE F WILL: **I suspect, Chris that ¾ of the country, at this point, does not know that John McCain is pro-life. They think because he's a maverick and 'maverick' means disagreeing with your party, he probably disagrees with the party on that. They're wrong.**

I think once the democrats make that known, as surely they will—these people will come scampering back to the Democratic Party in droves.

[…]

WILL: […] **it will be Barack Obama's challenge to say that change and caution—risk and caution are the same thing this time because the risk is to continue with a—what he will say are the Bush economic policies and he will say the danger of a war with Iran from a man who has said as John McCain has: that bad as a war with Iran would be it is not as bad as their getting nuclear weapons and since there seems to be no other way other than war to stop them.**

Highlight #5

CNN's "Election Center" Discredits McCain's Gas Tax Holiday Proposal; Velshi: The Holiday Is "A Complete Red Herring" (CNN 06/09/08 8:30pm)

CAMPBELL BROWN: McCain is still pounding away at this idea of a gas tax holiday, even though Obama has trashed it as a political stunt. And frankly a lot of economists agree with that assessment [...]

ALI VELSHI: This 18 cents gas tax holiday doesn't make any sense. Now there are some things that John McCain has said economically in this campaign that do make more sense than Barack Obama. And there are some things that Barack Obama has that make sense. This Gas Tax Holiday is a complete red herring. It doesn't make sense [...]

Cafferty Asks Viewers the Question "Is John McCain Right When He Says 'the Fundamentals of Our Economy Are Very Strong?", Respondents Blast McCain for Being Out of Touch (CNN 06/09/08 7:30pm)

JACK CAFFERTY: The question this hour is John McCain right when he says "the fundamentals of our economy are very strong"? [...] Nancy writes, Does John McCain live in the same United States of America that the rest of us do? [...] Beverly in New York writes, Mr. McCain resides in a bubble, happily insulated by his wife's money [...]

Bernard Whitman Enumerates McBush Plans for Economy (MSNBC 06/09/08 4:15pm)

BERNARD WHITMAN: […] **John McCain would like nothing more than to continue the failed Bush economic policies, which basically come in three varieties. […] Number one is to bury your head in the sand and hope the problem goes away. Number two is help your rich friends and number three, my favorite is blame the victim.**

[…]

WHITMAN: I'm suggesting that George Bush has been M.I.A. with respect to the economy in general and with respect to this housing crisis, and John McCain's strategy for an awfully long time was to blame the victim. He's reluctantly agreed to give some assistance here […].

Highlight #6

Dana Bash Covers the "Ominous Reality" of an anti-GOP electoral climate Facing the McCain Campaign (CNN 06/09/08 4:15pm)

WOLF BLITZER: They're under no illusions are they Dana about the challenge that Senator McCain faces on this issue.

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DANA BASH: They certainly aren't, not at all. On fundamental issues like the economy Wolf McCain is gonna run a classic Republican campaign. 'Barack Obama will raise your taxes, I won't.' What will be very different from recent GOP campaigns is the kind of voter the McCain campaign targets, it has to be in order to win.

[Video of McCain]

BASH: On his website McCain's campaign manager their strategy against Barack Obama, starting with this ominous reality.

[audio recording]

RICK DAVIS: I wanna talk a little bit about today's political environment, it 's among the worst in modern history for Republicans.

BASH: McCain advisers say their best shot at beating Obama is with independent voters on issues from taxes to the environment.

[Video of McCain]

MCCAIN: Senator Obama has no record of being involved on this issue that I know of. I will stick by my record and my commitment of many years to reducing greenhouse gas emissions [...]

BASH: The latest CNN poll shows a McCain/Obama dead heat among independents. McCain advisers also say he must win a number of so-called "disaffected Democrats", Hillary Clinton voters in swing states like Ohio and Pennsylvania, who told pollsters they would not vote for Obama. But strategists in both parties say luring them will be tough.

PETER HART: He's a Republican. He happens to believe we stay in Iraq as long as we can and he's voted with George Bush 89% of the time.

BASH: For months Republican operatives have been expressing concern to CNN about how the McCain campaign is executing it's strategy.

[Video of McCain]

MCCAIN: And that's not change we can believe in.

BASH: GOP fears that spilled into the open about flat visuals and a negative message in last week's prime time speech, just before Obama's. Republican strategist Bill Kristol wrote in the New York Times, Almost every Republican I've talked to is alarmed that the McCain campaign doesn't seem up to the task of electing John McCain." McCain advisers are well aware that there are plenty of Republicans worried about how prepared they really are for a fight against Obama but a spokeswomen responded by saying they have risen above doubts of pundits before and will do it again [...]

Highlight #7
Johnaton Alter: McCain's Has Trouble Acclimating to YouTube Era Politics (MSNBC 06/09/08 8:31pm)
[As the segment opens the McBush image hangs over Olbermann's shoulder.]

KEITH OLBERMANN: There exists the distinct possibility that John McCain has three greater challengers to face in the general election than just he presumptive democratic nominee: McCain versus himself, McCain versus videotape of himself and McCain versus the truth. [Olberman summarizes *Newsweek* interview lie while footage airs of McCain at his green screen rally with a supporter holding an 'HONOR' sign is in the foreground.]

JONATHAN ALTER: Strangled by the videotape. […] It's a time-warp thing. When [McCain] last ran for president in 2000 you could deny having said something and the chances of you being caught […] were minimal because nobody had access to the tapes. […] It's only been retrievable for like two years. […]

OLBERMANN: So you go down the line of he is not aware of the new political reality as opposed to he is not remembering what he just said?

ALTER: I do. I don't think he's senile. I think that he is caught in […] old politics where politicians just said, 'Black is white and white is black and blue is grey.' […] So McCain just can't get away with this kind of thing

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anymore in the new era, in the YouTube era and it's a learning curve for him to get up to speed to recognize he's living with new rules.

OLBERMANN: […] In denying this he's come up with an entire rationale for why he wouldn't have said that. […]

ALTER: […] He's been trying to do that to make a play for [former Hillary Clinton supporters] but when confronted on it by my *Newsweek* colleagues he realized that it didn't really look too smart and he tried to deny having said it.

OLBERMANN: Why is [McCain] saying, 'Screw you and your benefit of the doubt [to the press]'?

ALTER: This is a game the Republicans have been playing for a long time. […] This is what politicians do. They try to work the refs, push back and the thing that's silly about it is it doesn't usually work. […]

Highlight #8
Panel Examines Rick Davis' Power Point on McCain's Advantages Against Obama (MSNBC 06/09/08 6:32pm)
[On McCain's favorability rating…]
JONATHAN PRINCE: […] it's an advantage that's built up on this brand of John McCain's as a real maverick because there was a period of time, particularly when he started running for president in 2000 through two years or so ago when he started running for president again when he really was but now in the kind of pursuit of his presidential ambition he's abandoned so many of those positions. Whether it's on global warming where he's now for a $4 billion tax giveaway to the top five oil companies or his health care plan, which is—talk about a radical health care plan. His health care plan is: just throw every man, woman and child into the marketplace and let them fend for themselves.

When folks find out that he's kind of abandoned all those positions and that 'the maverick' has really become a toe-the-line, hardcore republican I think those advantages are gonna drop like a rock.

JON HARWOOD: […] The democratic brand is flying pretty high and George Bush is a big, fat target. Even though John McCain, I think is an authentic maverick, Barack Obama's gonna make some mileage out of tying Bush to McCain.

[…]

PRINCE: […] the facts that exist dispute the brand of maverick that he's built up […].

--
Gregory E. Rosalsky
Progressive Media USA
202-609-7691 (office)
707-484-3796 (cell)
GRosalsky@progressivemediausa.org
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com>
To:	"Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
Date:	3/22/2015 11:27:26 AM
Subject:	Re: DRAFT Questions for HRC Media Prepare

I heard the same. I think from nick or josh

On Mar 22, 2015, at 6:24 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

> +nick and john
>
> I'm hearing rumors 60 minutes may be working on a Clinton cash story.
> Not sure how reliable info is.
>
> Jim Margolis
> Sent from my iPhone.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/26/2014 9:16:51 AM
Subject: LA Police Refuse to Release Information on In-Custody Deaths, Community Pushes Back

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LA Police Refuse to Release Information on In-Custody Deaths, Community Pushes Back

Bethania Palma Markus, Truthout: Many questions remain as the Los Angeles Police Department refuses to release autopsy reports and the names of officers involved in the shooting death of unarmed black man Ezell Ford, and the beating death of Omar Abrego in South Central. Frustration grows in a community already mistrustful of police.

Read the Article

The Banality of Police Militarization: How Champaign-Urbana Acquired Its MRAP

BuzzFlash

Burger King's Big Whopper: It Will Incorporate in Canada to Evade US Taxes

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: People in the United States can still make personal choices to resist corporate betrayal. One option is to become vegetarian: It's a healthier lifestyle, and has the added advantage of teaching corporations who use the United States for profits - but flee it for lower taxes - a lesson.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Thyroid Cancer in Young People Surges in Fukushima

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Brian Dolinar, Truthout: How did a small college town in central Illinois get a massive mine-resistant armor-protected truck from the federal government? Internal communications show how one local law enforcement agency, like many across the country, acquired hand-me-down military equipment from the Department of Defense.

Read the Article

Colonization by Bankruptcy: The High-Stakes Chess Match for Argentina

Ellen Brown, The Web of Debt Blog: Argentina is playing hardball with the vulture funds, which have been trying to force it into an involuntary bankruptcy. The vultures are demanding what amounts to a 600 percent return on bonds bought for pennies on the dollar.

Read the Article

Education, Inc.

Tim Scott and Deborah Keisch, Truthout: "Reform" mechanisms are a huge success for the profiteers who are responsible for designing and implementing them. These profit-driven education policies are systematically undermining democratic control of our schools.

Read the Article

About 620,000 Military Families Rely on Food Pantries to Meet Basic Needs

Michelle Chen, The Nation: This month, a new report found that the nation's food pantries serve 620,000 families with a member in the military - another troubling indication that service members battling against poverty must often rely on the generosity of our charities.

Read the Article

A Carbon Tax Is Absolutely Essential

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: Putting a price on carbon encourages less fossil fuel extraction and a rapid move to clean energy. With even a modest carbon tax - that doesn't even end the subsidies to big oil, coal and gas - fossil fuels instantly become more expensive than renewables.

Read the Article

If Liberal Zionism Were Dead, What Actions Would That Imply?

Robert Naiman, Truthout: Liberal Zionists have been unwilling to fight politically for their stated beliefs - a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine - or use nonviolent political pressure tactics to force the changes in Israeli government policy that they want.

Read the Article

Food Fights: The Contested Terrain of the American Dinner Plate

Ben Agger, Truthout: The United States cannot afford food capitalism, given the interaction between health care costs and the Western diet. Nearly half a century ago, feminists put bodies on the political agenda. There they remain, as we struggle over what to have for dinner.

Read the Article

Since Nuclear Meltdown
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

There Are No Angels - What The New York Times Won't Tell You About the Ferguson Shooting
Read the Article at The Boston Globe

Eugene Robinson | For Black Youth in the US, No "Mistakes" Allowed
Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Attorney: New Audio Reveals Pause in Gunfire When Michael Brown Was Shot
Read the Article at CNN

In Defiant Action, Pipeline Protesters Lock Themselves to Trucks
Read the Article at Common Dreams

Is This Ebola's Tipping Point?
Read the Article at The Daily Beast

When Journalists Go Missing
Read the Article at The New Yorker

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Amy Goodman | Blowback: Vijay Prashad on How Islamic State Grew Out of US Invasion of Iraq

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!: Militants from Islamic State stormed an air base in northeast Syria on Sunday, capturing it from government forces. Fighters from Islamic State have seized three Syrian military bases in the area in recent weeks. This comes as the Pentagon considers expanding its airstrikes to include targets inside Syria.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

On the News With Thom Hartmann: Tens of Millions of Americans Struggle With Hunger, and More

In today's On the News segment: In the richest nation on earth, tens of millions of Americans are struggling to find enough to eat; should our government have a "kill switch" to turn off cell phone communication?; billionaires in the United States are fine with exploiting workers, but Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim wants to strengthen the Latino middle class; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

General Honoré, Enviro Groups Call for Strengthening EPA's Proposed Refinery Pollution Standards

Julie Dermansky, DeSmogBlog: Former General Russel Honoré - founder of the Green Army, a coalition of environmental groups - became an advocate for clean air and water after being invited to Bayou Corne, Louisiana. He visited the community as the first anniversary of its sinkhole disaster approached.

Read the Article

Paul Krugman | Bad Decisions Yield Grim Results in Europe

Paul Krugman, Krugman & Co.: Just a few months ago, Europe's austerians were busy congratulating themselves, declaring that a modest upturn in southern Europe vindicated all their actions. But now the news is looking grim, with industrial production stalling out and good reason to fear yet another slide into recession.

Read the Article

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 3:25:27 AM
Subject: TWEETS 5/1

Note: my new goal is to send a second round of Tweets in the PM to respond to campaign developments throughout the day.

TWEETS 5/1

New study: ice-loss in Antarctica increased 6 bil tons/year each year from 2003 to 2014. Cap melting faster than ever. tp://bit.ly/1JegM3y (140)

If you can't keep track of Schweizer's fabrications, distortions in "Clinton Cash" @MediaMatters can help: http://bit.ly/1GCbj3A (137)

RETWEETS 5/1

Suggestion from KLC:



--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To:	nmerrill@hrcoffice.com jbenenson@bsgco.com cheryl.mills@gmail.com
Date:	2/2/2015 2:41:18 AM
Subject:	Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

I think this piece turned out well.

But when we define our goals, we have to be clear that we are concerned with helping people who are getting crushed by rising costs and stagnant incomes, not that we're worried about offending high income groups (our donors). My guess is that this sentence will cause us some problems on the left.

> One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com>
Cc: Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com>; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>; Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com>; Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; John Anzalone <john@algpolling.com>; Cheryl Mills <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>; Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
Sent: Sun, Feb 1, 2015 11:38 pm
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

http://www.wsj.com/articles/clinton-consults-experts-to-define-economic-pitch-1422837490

Clinton Consults to Define Economic Pitch

By Peter Nicholas

Hillary Clinton has been consulting with an array of economists and academics—including liberal Joseph Stiglitz, former Fed chairman Paul Volcker and new faces outside the traditional orbit of Democratic policy experts—as she prepares for a likely presidential campaign that would make sluggish wage growth and middle-class prosperity a central focus.

One of Mrs. Clinton's broader goals is to develop ways to address economic anxiety without sounding like a combative populist or demonizing high-income groups, said a person familiar with her thinking. It isn't clear whether that particular question has come up in the meetings she has been having with various policy experts.

She has been using the meetings to prepare herself for a possible campaign, ground herself in the issues and tease out fresh approaches to stubborn domestic and foreign policy problems, people familiar with the matter said.

As the former secretary of state keeps a low public profile ahead of announcing her near-certain candidacy, the meetings offer clues to which issues she believes merit attention and whose advice she values. Many, but not all, participants served in Bill Clinton 's administration; others are distinguished primarily by expertise in subjects that are certain to be front-and-center in the 2016 presidential race.

Some of the meetings had the feeling of a high-octane faculty symposium and lasted for hours, say people familiar with the sessions. Pen and pad in hand, Mrs. Clinton typically has gone around the room to ask for ideas, offering comments now and then and inviting participants to make suggestions down the road.

In December, Mrs. Clinton presided over a meeting at a midtown Manhattan hotel that focused on middle-class Americans feeling pinched by slow wage growth.

Among those attending: Mr. Volcker, the architect of the "Volcker Rule," a regulatory measure barring banks from making risky bets with their own money; Jonathan Cowan, co-founder of the centrist think tank Third Way, which has been critical of some of the populist rhetoric coming from the Democrats' liberal wing; and Alan Blinder , a Princeton professor and former Fed vice chairman and economics adviser to Mr. Clinton.

Also at the meeting, according to people familiar with it, were Robert Hormats, who worked in the State Department during Mrs. Clinton's tenure and was a former vice chairman of Goldman Sachs; Richard Ravitch , a former Democratic lieutenant governor in New York, who helped New York City avert bankruptcy during a fiscal crisis in the 1970s; and Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor

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economist and proponent of ideas to shore up Americans' retirement savings. The Clinton team has asked her to help evaluate various policy ideas.

The participants examined a range of ideas to boost economic security, such as tax cuts for the middle class, expanded access to prekindergarten education and new ways to pay for improvements to roads and tunnels, said people familiar with the session.

"One major focus of the meeting was the miserable recent performance of wages in general and middle-class wages in particular, and what if anything the government can do about that," said Mr. Blinder.

Bernard Schwartz, a longtime Democratic donor and contributor to the Clinton Foundation, was among those who helped arrange the meeting, said people familiar with the session. Mr. Schwartz is a former chairman of Loral Space & Communications Ltd. Mrs. Clinton also has consulted with Mr. Stiglitz, a former economic adviser to Bill Clinton and author of a book about the perils of economic inequality.

The policy interests of some participants point to the issues Mrs. Clinton is likely to prioritize, notably the financial pressures faced by middle-class families. Prospective Republican presidential candidates also are talking about shoring up the middle class and, in some cases, narrowing the wage gap in America—a sign that those topics will be flashpoints in the general election.

Mrs. Clinton is the overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic nomination, but some liberals would like to see her challenged by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.), a populist firebrand who has described the American economic system as "rigged" in favor of the wealthy. Ms. Warren has said she won't run. In targeting income inequality, Mrs. Clinton would address a substantive issue facing the country while also making inroads with Ms. Warren's liberal followers.

Mrs. Clinton also has held foreign policy meetings in New York and Washington. A New York meeting in the summer was a "tour" of global hot spots, among them the war in Syria and Russia's incursions into Ukraine, according to people familiar with what took place.

Mrs. Clinton asked for a diagnosis of the problem and a "strategic" view of how the U.S. should act, one person familiar with the meeting said.

Those who attended included Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, who worked under both Republican presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush; David Rothkopf, author of a new book on foreign policy-making in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations; and Dennis Ross, a diplomat with many years of experience in the Middle East peace negotiations.

More informally, Mrs. Clinton has also spoken to trusted Democratic confidants about appointments to high-level positions in her campaign, should she decide to run.

A campaign apparatus is already taking shape. John Podesta, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, is likely to become a senior adviser to the campaign, while two Obama campaign veterans, pollster Joel Benenson and media adviser Jim Margolis, are expected to take top positions on Mrs. Clinton's campaign team, people familiar with the matter said.

"She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics" said Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton. "Make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

On Feb 1, 2015, at 6:54 PM, Nick Merrill < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

Ran the quote past HRC and she asked (with no prompting) that "average" come out. So here's what I shipped off to Peter Nicholas at the Journal. AS for the NYT, looks like it won't run for a few days if not next Sunday, so will circle back on that as it develops.

Thanks again to all for the feedback.

Go Seahawks!

"Expanding opportunities for hardworking Americans so that families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a wide range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote. ''

From: Joel Benenson < jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2015 at 5:39 PM
To: Cheryl Mills < cheryl.mills@gmail.com >
Cc: NSM < nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >, Mandy Grunwald < gruncom@aol.com >, Robby Mook < robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta < john.podesta@gmail.com >, Jacob Sullivan < Jake.sullivan@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines < pir@hrcoffice.com >, Huma Abedin < huma@hrcoffice.com >, Dan Schwerin < dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >, Jim Margolis < Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >, John Anzalone < john@algpolling.com >, Cheryl Mills < cmills@cdmillsgroup.com >, Jennifer Palmieri < jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Kristina Schake < kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Subject: RE: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

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Definitely

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: Nick Merrill; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

can we test every day americans next time?

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 5:27 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
When we tested deck is stacked against "average Americans, with too many breaks for those at the top" vs. Gov regs and rules hurging biz and stopping them from creating jobs – by 49-41 among all voters and 56-33 with our MOR (middle of the road voters) . I think it's how they see themselves in this environment, which remains their big pain point that she is fighting to fix.

For the moment it also creates a slight language difference with POTUS – not a big deal but a nuance.
Joel

From: Cheryl Mills [mailto:cheryl.mills@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Nick Merrill
Cc: Joel Benenson; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake

Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories

Looks good. I think you can take out average and still communicate you mean folks in middle with "hardworking" (who likes to be average?)

if average is important I might use everyday.

cdm

On Sun, Feb 1, 2015 at 4:36 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:
Great, thank you.

Robby to your point about letting her speak for herself, I¹ve been reminding people that they should be careful to acknowledge that this is part of a process. She laid out challenges that we face in the midterms, and now she¹s thinking through how we would address them should she run. Will reinforce that when I circle back with these guys today.

Here¹s the quote again incorporating peoples¹ thoughts. John Anzalone, I think Joel addressed what you were trying to get at so I left his edits as is, but let me know if you think we¹re missing anything. Otherwise will push this in the next little while. Thanks all.

"Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges, she will take nothing for granted, and she will fight for every vote."

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On 2/1/15, 4:05 PM, "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

>Yes.
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
>Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:05 PM
>To: Robby Mook
>Cc: Joel Benenson; Nick Merrill; John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe
>Reines; Cheryl Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John
>Anzalone; Cheryl Mills; Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake
>Subject: Re: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>
>I like it too.
>
>There's a word missing toward the end. I assume it should say "...she
>will present SOLUTIONS to our toughest challenges..."
>
>Thx
>
>Mandy Grunwald
>Grunwald Communications
>202 973-9400
>
>
>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:39 PM, Robby Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com > wrote:
>>
>> Adding Jenn and Kristina
>> Joel I agree w your edits. In particular I want to avoid any
>>expectations around how big or bold her ideas will be.
>> Nick I'm sure you're already doing this but I also would push hard on
>>background that we can't judge a candidate who has yet to announce--give
>>her a chance to speak for herself. I know that's impossible but worth
>>trying to get them to acknowledge that she's not a candidate and this is
>>all speculation.
>>
>>
>>> On Feb 1, 2015, at 3:14 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Nick.
>>>
>>> Going for a little more conversational here with this:
>>>
>>> "Expanding opportunities for average hardworking Americans so that
>>>they and their families can get ahead has been a constant fight she has
>>>waged in every job she's held. You heard it from her last fall when
>>>she was campaigning for Democrats all over the country and repeatedly
>>>laid out the challenges many Americans still face as our economy makes
>>>gains. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide range of people on
>>>a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a calendar somewhere,
>>>but make no mistake, if she runs, she will present to our toughest
>>>challenges and she will take nothing for granted and she will fight
>>>for every vote."
>>>
>>> -----Original Message-----

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>>> From: Nick Merrill [mailto:nmerrill@hrcoffice.com]
>>> Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 2:46 PM
>>> To: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Philippe Reines; Robby Mook; Cheryl
>>>Mills; Huma Abedin; Dan Schwerin; Jim Margolis; John Anzalone; Mandy
>>>Grunwald; Cheryl Mills; Joel Benenson
>>> Subject: NYT & WSJ | Econ Stories
>>>
>>> As I mentioned on our call on Thursday, both the WSJ and the NYT are
>>>working on stories about how HRC might approach economic policy issues
>>>as a candidate. Both will have a dose of personnel name-gaming, and
>>>I've spoken to both to steer them towards progressive names, which they
>>>seem to both have on their own.
>>>
>>> I want to give both stories something on the record that addresses the
>>>core of the story, but also speaks some of the things we all felt
>>>needed a little proactive addressing, like inevitability and timing.
>>>
>>> On the inevitability question, John I tried to stick to the language
>>>you suggested, though I did take the liberty of striking the word
>>>"idiot."
>>>
>>> "Increasing access to opportunity and fighting for upward mobility has
>>>been an uninterrupted pursuit of hers in every job she's held. You
>>>heard it from her on the campaign trail last fall, where she laid out
>>>the challenges we face. She's casting a wide net, talking to a wide
>>>range of people on a range of specific topics. There's no red X on a
>>>calendar somewhere, but make no mistake, if she runs, she will take
>>>nothing for granted, she'll present bold ideas, and she will fight for
>>>every vote."
>>>
>>> Feedback welcome, but I'd like to ship this later today.
>>>
>>> Nick

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	11/14/2014 6:50:48 AM
Subject:	11.14.14 CTR Weekend TPs
Attachments:	11.14.14 Weekend Package.docx

Hi all,

Please find Correct The Record's weekend talking points package both attached and below. Thanks and stay warm!

11.14.14 Weekend Package

1. **2016 Emerging Themes**
2. **Women Voters in 2014**
3. **Eleven Things You Should Know About Hillary**

TALKING POINTS: 2016 EMERGING THEMES

BACKGROUND: *Even though the 2014 midterm elections were just a few days ago, political pundits have already directed their attention to the 2016 presidential election. While Hillary Clinton has not decided yet whether to run, the exit polls from the midterm elections suggest that she would be extremely well positioned if she does.*

TALKING POINTS:

- Exit polls from the recent midterm elections provide interesting insight into the 2016 presidential race – primarily that Hillary Clinton, and her policies, are boding well with the American people.
- 83% of Democrats think Hillary Clinton would make a good president, according to a CNN exit poll.
- More than 40% of midterm voters, both Democrat and Republican, agreed that Hillary Clinton would make a good president – higher than any of the other potential contenders, including Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Rand Paul, and Rick Perry.
- While campaigning for Democratic candidates all over the country, Hillary Clinton consistently articulated her vision for the future of this country – advancing opportunity and prosperity for all Americans and for generations to come.
- As recent exit polls show, Hillary's vision addresses the primary concern of Americans today: Americans are worried about the future. When asked what they thought life would be like for future generations in America, 48% said it would be worse, 27% said it would be about the same, and only 22% said it would be better.
- Throughout Hillary's many appearances where she has expanded on her vision for the future of this country, several themes have emerged:
  - Advancing Middle Class Families
  - Growing Economy & Jobs
  - Advancing Women & Children
  - Supporting Democrats, Progressive Values
  - Holding Republicans, Washington Accountable
  - Strengthening Education
  - Relating Her Personal Narrative & Values
  - Supporting Our Support Our Military & Veterans

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- Asserting America's Place in The World – Foreign Affairs

TALKING POINTS: WOMEN VOTERS IN 2014

BACKGROUND: *As Hillary Clinton campaigned for Democrats all over the country this fall, her message of advancing middle-class families, women, and children resonated with female voters, whose support for Democratic candidates increased from 2010 in states Hillary visited on the campaign trail.*

TALKING POINTS:

- Hillary Clinton campaigned for Democrats all over the country this election cycle with a message focused on advancing middle-class families, women, and children.
- As evidenced by polling data, Hillary's message on the campaign trail resonated with women voters and translated to their increased support for candidates backed by Hillary.
- In the states Hillary visited on the campaign trail this year, turnout among women was the same as it was in 2010, but women's support for Democratic candidates in those states increased.
- Furthermore, in many instances, the increase in women's support for Democratic candidates occurred after Hillary Clinton campaigned for those candidates. Here are a few examples:
  - In Colorado, before Hillary campaigned for John Hickenlooper on October 21, polls showed women supporting him 4.8% more than the general electorate. Exit polls showed that the gap nearly tripled after Clinton's visit, with 12% more women supporting Hickenlooper, helping him win the election.
  - In New Hampshire, Maggie Hassan won 60% of the women vote, 8% higher than before Hillary visited the Granite state.
  - In Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf received 16% more of the women vote than his opponent. In 2010, the women vote was split 50/50 between the Republican and the Democratic candidates. Clinton's message of economic opportunity and a "fresh start" for the middle class resonated with all voters – especially women, who resoundingly voted to oust Corbett.
- Hillary Clinton's message of advancing middle-class families, women, and children is empowering women to take action and stand up for policies that work for them.

ELEVEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HILLARY

Secretary Clinton helped restore America's leadership and standing in the world during a time of global challenges and changes. Secretary Clinton worked tirelessly to revitalize American diplomacy and strengthen alliances by traveling nearly a million miles for hundreds of meetings with foreign leaders in 112 countries. As America's lead diplomat, Secretary Clinton understood the importance of engaging the public and took diplomacy directly to people around the world. Just as she was as a senator, Secretary Clinton was a workhorse, often taking on difficult challenges and addressing them directly around the world.

Secretary Clinton built and maintained a coalition to enact the toughest sanctions in Iran's history. Secretary Clinton helped impose the toughest sanctions in Iran's history by getting Russia and China on board. Even the Wall Street Journal editorial board noted that, "Clinton surely pulled out every stop to get Russia and particularly China…on board." And as Howard Dean recently told CNN, "Hillary Clinton cranked up the sanctions for the first time under President Obama that actually made the Iranians come to the table."

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Secretary Clinton played an integral role in the New START Treaty with Russia. Secretary Clinton played an active role in reaching a missile reduction agreement with Russia, working to push it through the Senate and securing more than the necessary two-thirds majority. She entered the treaty into force in Munich with her Russian counterpart. As a result of the treaty's passage, there will be fewer nuclear missile launchers. Simply put, the world is safer.

Secretary Clinton supported the raid that brought Osama bin Laden to justice. As NBC's Brian Williams reported on his website, "Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recommended an air strike with no forces on the ground. CIA Director Panetta supported a raid by Special Forces and so did Secretary of State Clinton."

Secretary Clinton helped avert all-out war in Gaza by negotiating a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians. In November 2012, after eight days of violence, Secretary Clinton negotiated a Gaza cease-fire with Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. In an article titled "Hillary Clinton scores Gaza cease fire success," Politico noted that, "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton got a Gaza cease-fire right at the moment hope seemed dead for a rapid end to the violence…"

Secretary Clinton played a role in bringing one war to an end and planning for the end of another. Working closely with Department of Defense colleagues and as part of the President's national security team, Secretary Clinton played a role in the end of war in Iraq and in beginning a transition in Afghanistan, with all NATO allies having agreed to stand-up a post withdrawal support plan. As President Obama told 60 Minutes, it was "all a consequence of the great work that Hillary did and her team did and the State Department did in conjunction with our national security team."

Secretary Clinton was critical in America's "pivot to Asia" strategy. As Martin Indyk of the Brookings Institute wrote in Foreign Policy, "The 'pivot' to East Asia will probably be Obama's most lasting strategic achievement… [but] it is Clinton's too. She laid the groundwork, built the relationships, and developed the complex architecture of the new strategy — and she turned up at that pivotal moment in Vietnam in July 2010 to declare the U.S. commitment to the region." Secretary Clinton earned praise for her work in opening up Burma, a place that had not been visited by a Secretary of State in 50 years.

Secretary Clinton worked to build the coalition to oust Qadhafi and stop massacres in Libya. As the Washington Post reported upon the end of NATO operations in Libya, "U.S. officials and key allies are offering a detailed new defense of the approach and Clinton's pivotal role – both within a divided Cabinet and a fragile, assembled-on-the-fly international alliance. What emerges from these accounts is a picture of Clinton using her mixture of political pragmatism and tenacity to referee spats among NATO partners, secure crucial backing from Arab countries and tutor rebels on the fine points of message management."

Secretary Clinton engaged in economic statecraft. Secretary Clinton's focus on economic engagement resulted in increased investment through three new free trade agreements (Colombia, Panama and South Korea) and 15 Open Skies agreements including with Japan, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Secretary Clinton brought the State Department into the 21st Century. Secretary Clinton helped the State Department adapt to emerging issues such as cyber security by creating the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications to combat Al-Qaeda's growing influence online. She recognized the important role of energy in U.S. foreign policy and helped create the Bureau of Energy Resources to protect our energy infrastructure and influence how nations move to cleaner fuel.

Secretary Clinton elevated the cause of women's rights to new heights. Secretary Clinton recognized women's rights as a major foreign policy issue. It is, according to Newsweek, the area of "hardships faced by women and girls across the world–that her impact has been most profound." Hillary convinced the White House to allow her to create a new position at the State Department: Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. Newsweek continued, "Across the world, in diverse and deeply reactionary cultures, Clinton and [Ambassador-at-Large] Verveer have spoken and fought to liberalize attitudes on women's role in the economy, girls' schooling, women's health, domestic violence, issues arising from war and conflict, and myriad other concerns."

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <kelli@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/27/2008 2:13:40 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/27/08

Main Topics: Barack Obama Nominated, Hillary Clinton

Summary of Shift: Hillary Clinton stole the show tonight when she stopped the role call vote in order to unanimously nominate Barack Obama. The remainder of tonight's news cycle was dominated by the importance of the nomination of the first African American candidate for President. Hillary received much praise for her dedication to a unified party. The very minimal McCain coverage focused on the falsehoods in his recent attack ads and surrogates Rudy Giuliani and Tom Ridge made the rounds touting McCain's experience.

In other news, hurricane Gustav hit Haiti and continues to worry Gulf Coast residents. 2007 Census numbers were released but experts say they paint a better picture than the current economic state of most American families.

Highlights:
1. CBS: McCain's Iran ad "a stretch" and Clinton delegate turned McCain supporter thought he was pro-choice
2. MSNBC: Rudy Giuliani touts McCain's experience with the "Global World"
3. FNC: Tom Ridge explains McCain's foreign policy

Highlights, No Clips:
1. MSNBC: Mike Murphy gave the Bush presidency a "C" grade

Clips:

Highlight #1
McCain's Iran Ad "A Stretch" and Clinton Delegate Turned McCain Supporter Thought He was Pro-Choice (CBS 08/27/08 06:41pm)
DEAN REYNOLDS: The McCain campaign has been hard at work trying to undo those efforts. First was an ad attacking what it said was Obama's position on Iran. [Iran Ad shown] But the ad is a stretch because this is what Obama really said … on the need for diplomacy. [Clip of Obama] But painting Obama as a dangerous risk is a Republican mantra. Rudy Giuliani led the way in Denver just hours before Obama arrives.

RUDY GIULIANI: Joe Biden, his running mate, and this is a very extraordinary situation, has quite often made the point that Barack Obama is unprepared to lead.

REYNOLDS: A parallel GOP attempt to show Democratic discourse has had limited success. On Monday a Clinton Delegate, Debra Bartoschevich told a news conference she was for McCain but apparently it's for the wrong reasons, believing him pro-choice, when in fact he has spent years burnishing his anti-abortion credentials. Horrified McCain aides later avoided the subject. The McCain camp is hoping those Ads they're producing will eventually be picked up by the news media and given wider circulation. But the best man to respond is Barack Obama himself, and that's why his speech tomorrow night is so important.

Highlight #2
Rudy Giuliani Touts McCain's Experience with the "Global World" (MSNBC 08/27/08 1:34pm)
BRIAN WILLIAMS: What will the GOP be stressing and bragging about next week in St. Paul?

RUDY GIULIANI: I think we're going to talk about the fact that our candidate, John McCain, is ready and prepared to be commander-in-chief […] We don't have a part that's split on that issue the way the democrats are split on Barack Obama. […] We believe we have a candidate that's tested, that's ready; and we think we're right on the issues. Americans want to see lower taxes and less government spending, and **they want to see a strong military presence** […] but mostly it's going to come down to experience. […]

WILLIAMS: The area were your candidate, Senator McCain has admitted weakness has been famously economics. Do you think his VP choice will address that weakness?

GIULIANI: I think he has addressed it by having a much stronger economic plan than Barack Obama. John McCain will lower taxes […] John McCain will keep tariffs low […] Both the things that John wants to do will keep us at growth

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economy. John McCain is the only one offering a real plan to get us toward energy diversity. […] So I think on the economy, John has the stronger position. Something else- **economic policy and foreign policy are the same thing now. I mean, the question is how can a president guide us through the global world.** […] We have a presidential candidate that's been all over the world and understands it.

[…]

WILLIAMS: And what can the republicans tell Americans who are concerned about having troops on the ground in two nations overseas; concerned about a rather dire financial outlook- the list of banks that are in trouble yesterday that in the last reporting period went from ninety to well over a hundred; the environment; all of the issues that have been on the plate of the current administration for eight years.? All the stuff they're hitting you with from this podium?

GIULIANI: This is the time to have somebody who has taken independent positions like John McCain. There's nobody in the senate who's been more bipartisan than John McCain. There's no one that's been stronger at reducing spending; something we desperately have to do. I think on the economy he'd be a much stronger leader, and much more capable of working with democrats than Barack Obama would be of working with republicans.

Highlight #3

Tom Ridge Explains McCain's Foreign Policy (FNC 08/27/08 2:43pm)

TOM RIDGE: […] You start with John McCain's assessment of Putin's brand of leadership, when he looked into his eyes and saw three letters: KGB. And John understands fully well when you turn off natural gas to the Ukraine, which they did in the middle of winter to send a signal, and also negotiate a much better deal, this incursion into Georgia, the annexation by the Parliament, apparently of these two individual provinces, the relationship that we have and the approach vis-à-vis Russia, you know John's far better prepared to deal with any problems or challenges associated with that. But the universe of responsibility and potential problems- Iran, Iraq- dealing with the emerging strength of China […]There's only one person that has the experience and the relationships and network in order to affect international policy. **By the way, I think John is very much into that notion that when we're engaged globally, you certainly use the military when appropriate,** but global engagement means diplomacy, means foreign aid, and it means as many multi-lateral connections and relationships to help solve problems. […]

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 8/7/2008 3:44:20 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 08/07/08

Main Topic: Election Attention, McCain's Ads, Energy, Obama/Clinton Battling Again

Summary of Shift: Attention on the election tonight focused on just that, attention, and how more of it seems to being paid to McCain. This is mostly thanks to his recent ads focusing on Obama's celebrity. These ads continue to be a leading topic of discussion, especially with new reports showing that McCain YouTube web page has beaten Obama's in number of hits for the past seven days in a row. There was some criticism related to this, however, with some pundits pointing out that all these ads coming out at once seem to point to a lack of direction in McCain's.

New Clinton/Obama drama was the most talked about story this evening, overall. Much discussion was paid to whether the Clinton's really want Obama to win at the convention, what role Hillary will play at the convention, and whether Bill will be asked to speak. China, the Olympics, and Bush's visit there today was another major headline, especially focusing on China's human rights abuses and Bush's comments against those, followed by China's response telling Bush to mind his business. There's a new report claiming that Iraqi and U.S. officials are close to cementing a troop withdrawal timeline with troops gone by 2010. A man was arrested for threatening to assassinate Obama. Bin Laden's former driver, Hamdan was sentenced to 5.5 years in prison but was commuted for five of those as time served. And Detroit's mayor is in jail tonight for violating his parole.

Highlights:
1. MSNBC: Focus on McCain: Attention Switching from Obama to McCain
2. FNC: McCain's YouTube Hits Up Thanks to New Ads, But MoveOn.org Responds With Missing Votes Commercial of Their Own
3. CNN: McCain Reusing Old Tactics As He Now Pushes Economic Surge
4. CNN: McCain's Voting Record on Energy Scrutinized, Shadiness Over Big Oil Subsidies Highlighted
5. MSNBC: Leaked McCain Campaign Memo Reveals Plan to Portray Obama as Job Killer
6. FNC: Pawlenty Defends McCain's Efforts To Distance Himself From Bush
7. FNC: Guliani Discusses McCain's Unchanging Ways and Plans for Vice Presidency

Highlights, No Clip:
1. MSNBC – RACHEL MADDOW: "… The crack team at McCain HQ has made a lucrative offer to supporters. Cut and paste pro-McCain comments from the campaign website onto other websites as if they were your own, and you could earn points redeemable for an autographed McCain book or a good seat at a McCain event, or even a ride on McCain's bus. McCaniacs are invited to spread the word by quote, "Selecting from the numerous web, blog and news sites listed here, going there, and making your opinions supporting John McCain known. Once you've commented on a post, video or news story, report the details of your comment by clicking the button below. After your comments are verified, you will be awarded points through the McCain Online Action Center."

Clips:

Highlight #1
Focus on McCain: Attention Switching from Obama to McCain (MSNBC 08/07/08 6:15pm)
RACHEL MADDOW: On today's show there is a two syllable word that you're hearing a lot more of than usual. It is a proper noun, rarely uttered in discussions of 2008 presidential politics, it's the word McCain. For the first time the attention of the campaign is now turning away from Barack Obama and towards John McCain, after a series of four ads all on the subject of John McCain's so called, maverick status. Is that a brand that is too tough for Obama to tarnish? […]

[…]

MADDOW: What about this idea that the democrats are pushing now, that the John McCain of

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2008 is not the same as Maverick John McCain. He's a new John McCain, a worst John McCain, and even if you liked the old guy, you shouldn't like John McCain in his current incarnation. What do you make of that argument?

EUGENE ROBINSON: That seems to me to be a fairly promising argument, fairly easy for the democrats to make because you can just contrast the positions that the John McCain of old took and the positions of the John McCain of today takes. The one who just pledged fidelity to the White House in a way the old John McCain never would. So I think that's a fairly promising argument for the democrats, but I think you made the main point Rachel, which is they're talking about John McCain. It's not all about Barack Obama. […] It's a fundamental shift, I think, when people are asking those questions about John McCain and it takes some of the pressure off of Obama and puts some of the scrutiny on McCain.

TONY BLANKLY: […] I have a different view on these ads. I think for people over 40 or 45 the McCain brand is so indelible as the gag fly, that whatever he or the democrats say won't make much difference. For people under 35 maybe some advertising, if the democrats want to spend millions of dollars, they might be able to move it a bit. But I think this is going to be more age specific because he has such a strong brand for people who remember him over the last 20 years.

Highlight #2
McCain's YouTube Hits Up Thanks to New Ads, But MoveOn.org Responds With Missing Votes Commercial of Their Own (FNC 08/07/08 6:39pm)
BRET BAIER: The ads Senator John McCain has released over the past few weeks appear to be working, at least on the internet. The Washington Times reports the ads focusing on the celebrity of democratic rival Barack Obama have pushed McCain's YouTube channel to the sixth most watched on the website this week. McCain's YouTube webpage has beaten Obama's for seven straight days, and eleven of the last fourteen. That is a huge turnaround. The tracking service, Tube Mogul says Obama had been quadrupling McCain's YouTube views, and had beaten him everyday since February.

Liberal activist group, MoveOn.org, has circulated an online video attacking Senator McCain. It shows McCain calling for Congress to come back to Washington and work on an energy bill, pointing out that McCain has missed more votes than any other senator this year. To drive home that point, the video shows an arrow pointing to an empty seat. The problem, the seat highlighted in the video was in the House chamber. John McCain is a senator and therefore would sit in the Senate chamber. While McCain has missed the most votes in the 110th Congress, Obama is the third biggest offender. […]

Highlight #3
McCain Reusing Old Tactics As He Now Pushes Economic Surge (CNN 08/07/08 4:17pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Meanwhile, on the republican side, John McCain is using an interesting new way to try to describe how he hopes to fix the nation's economic problems. […]

ED HENRY: […] John McCain was already trying to get political credit for the surge working in Iraq, what's interesting now is he's taking the same approach to fixing the economy. Using the same language as the war debate, John McCain is now vowing to boost the economy with tax cuts. Just as vigourously as he worked to send more troops to Iraq last year.

MCCAIN: What we need is an economic strategy, an economic surge. A successful economic surge to keep jobs here at home and create new ones.

HENRY: McCain also sharpened his attacks on Barack Obama, mocking his lack of experience.

MCCAIN: All Americans should be proud of his accomplishments, but Washington is full of talented talkers.

HENRY: In a new refrain he charged Obama's economic approach boils down to increasing taxes and government spending.

[…]

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McCain was particularly harsh on energy, yet again hammering the democrat for urging Americans to inflate their tires.

[…]

Obama fired back that the tire guage incident shows McCain is more interested in scoring political points then solving the crisis.

[…]

The campaign feels that they are scoring on energy. When McCain blasted Congress in a townhall meeting for going home, going on vacation before dealing with gas prices, there was a big, big standing ovation. A McCain operative turned to me and said, "We're kicking 'blank' on energy." Clearly, they think they've got Obama on the defensive on this issue.

Highlight #4
McCain's Voting Record on Energy Scrutinized, Shadiness Over Big Oil Subsidies Highlighted (CNN 08/07/08 8:30pm)
CAMPBELL BROWN: Barack Obama is trying hard to connect John McCain to President Bush's energy policies, but McCain says woah not so fast.

[McCain's Town Hall in Lima, OH Shown]

[…]

TOM FOREMAN: For weeks Obama has been drawing these links between McCain's energy plan and the policies of President Bush, sticking with the theme that McCain will be just the McSame as Bush. But McCain is now saying let's play that record. In 2005 when a big energy bill came up with potentially far reaching impacts on America's energy supply, President Bush supported the plan. Signed it into law three years ago this week, and 85 senators voted for it, including Barack Obama. Only twelve voted against it, and John McCain was one of them, saying it contained wasteful spending. The bill was sharply criticisized, even at the time for giving billions in subsidies to big oil. But Obama defends his vote, by pointing out that the measure also included funding for alternative and renewable fuels such as ethanol. He is after all a Senator from Illinois, a big corn state, and the nation's third largest ethanol producer. And all of that said, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is now hitting McCain on a different vote, saying correctly that last year he could have helped repeal some of those tax breaks for big oil, but he was the only Senator to skip a critical vote on that measure, and big oil one the day.

Highlight #5
Leaked McCain Campaign Memo Reveals Plan to Portray Obama as Job Killer (MSNBC 08/07/08 6:33pm)
RACHEL MADDOW: Next up, a leaked memo from the McCain campaign reveals a strategy to paint Obama as a job killing machine. It's according to a memo that was obtained by the Huffington Post. Quote, "The McCain campaign will paint Obama as being 'aligned with trial lawyers' and 'unions (card check, trade, education reform),' and push the frame that he 'raises taxes' and 'will kill jobs.'" But that could be a tricky strategy for John McCain because his own advisor, former lobbyist Rick Davis, is loosely tied to a proposed closure of the DHL shipping site in Wilmington, OH that has made multiple appearances now on McCain's campaign trail. As many as 8,000 jobs would be lost by this planned closure, McCain tried to persuade DHL fears in Wilmington, OH today by promising Congressional hearings and an investigation led by the justice department. But McCain did admit, quote "I can't assure you that the train wreck isn't going to happen but I will do everything in my power to see that we avert it." […]

Highlight #6
Pawlenty Defends McCain's Efforts To Distance Himself From Bush (FNC 08/07/08 4:39pm)
[…]
NEIL CAVUTO: Still, Governor, there are some conservatives in the party who were a little concerned when

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Senator McCain recently would not make an ironclad guarantee about sticking to tax cuts. And I'm paraphrasing here, but, that he laid open the possibility, in saying in so many words, that taxes could go up under certain circumstances. What about just the no tax pledge, sticking to it, pounding it repeating it.

TIM PAWLENTY: In fairness to Senator McCain, he did come out shortly after those initial concerns and definitely clarify those statements, saying he was opposed to tax increases. So, over the years I think he's said in the context of a social security discussion, he would have a discussion, at least, about anything. But, as it relates to tax increases, he clarified his statement very promptly after that concern was raised to say he wasn't going to raise any taxes.
[…]

CAVUTO: Governor, Senator McCain has gone on record in saying via an ad that we are worse off than we were four years ago. Some of course, in the Bush White House, interpreted as a slap on the President. Was it?

PAWLENTY: Well, that can be objectively measured. I think Senator McCain and President Bush have had some tense relationships over the years on a variety of issues. But, if you look back at the key measurements of quality of life, or economic performance that's not a disputable matter, in the sense that you can go back and measure it. Whether it's fair or accurate is something that can be proven, not debated.

CAVUTO: […] Would you as a friend, and advisor be telling Senator McCain get as far away from President Bush as you can?

PAWLENTY: Well, Senator McCain has an established record and reputation for being a maverick, being an independent, and you look at all the times that he has taken on or been different than the President, including the surge, including torture, including nuclear proliferation issues, including spending, and energy issues as well, Senator McCain has already has a reputation being different then, or separated from President Bush.
[…]

Highlight #7
Guliani Discusses McCain's Unchanging Ways and Plans for Vice Presidency (FNC 08/07/08 5:04pm)

NAUERT: And there was a flurry of emails that came out today. They're all denouncing John McCain, saying, "Ok. He was an okay guy back then, but look now how far he has moved south. How much he has embraced President Bush."

GULIANI: I've known John forever. I mean a long time. He's a very good friend, and is essentially the same John McCain I knew ten years ago, fifteen years ago. Uh, same positions… on climate change… on energy. I mean, he's essentially the same guy.

NAUERT: Do you think he'll end up regretting this ad in any sense in that it could potentially hurt him with his conservative base?

GULIANI: I don't think so. Look. You've got a president of all the people. Yes, he is a republican, yes, he is a conservative, But most of all he's an American. I mean, that's the thing about John McCain that makes you admire him. You know it all comes from his great love for this country, he's going to put the country first. And the party is important, but the part comes second. The country comes first.

NAUERT: Okay. And that's certainly a theme that he's been echoing, uh, this week and last. You said he should wait until Barack Obama picks his VP.

GULIANI: I would wait. You know he's gonna make the decision he makes when he wants to make it. I'd like to have all the information available, including who Barack Obama picks. I would imagine that at this point John has it down to four or five people who he would be satisfied with would be good presidents. But then you've got to pick that one that would be a very good president , that could step right in, take over in a moment's notice, but

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also, obviously, one that would help him win the election.

[…]

NAUERT: … Does he need a younger person? Does he need, you know-

GULIANI: … he needs a person with experience, with background. And someone he's confident can be his partner. Because the vice president now has to be a partner in the sense of the vice president has to know what's going on, has to be part of it. We live in a world in which things happen so fast that, um, we need a vice president who's ready. I remember in September 11th-

NAUERT: No one knows that better than you.

GULIANI: I remember on September 11th being told the vice president was going to call me back. Um. I didn't know what happened to the president that morning. And the idea that Dick Cheney was going to call me back. First off, I thought, where is the president, what happened to the president, and I said, well, Dick Cheney is a man who has the background and experience to handle this, if God forbid he has to. But thank god that wasn't the case, and president Bush was okay, but that's something we have to be ready for.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 1/17/2015 6:00:12 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Saturday January 17, 2015 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday January 17, 2015 Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: “Is this Hillary Clinton’s economic agenda?”

“A new report from a leading Democratic think tank offers clues about how Hillary Clinton might tackle economic inequality, which has become a key motivating issue of the progressive base, if she decides to run for president in 2016.”

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Clinton: Focus more on wages, less on regs”

“Hillary Clinton on Friday criticized the new Republican-controlled Congress for trying to boost economic growth by loosening regulations, which progressives say would weaken financial watchdogs.”

MSNBC: “Clinton slams GOP attempts to roll back Wall Street reform”

“Hillary Clinton has been very careful about which issues she weighs in on as she considers a second run for the presidency in 2016, but she took to Twitter Friday to condemn Republican attempts to gut the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law.”

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “RNC chairman: 'We're ready for Hillary'”

“Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said in a speech Friday that ‘we're ready for Hillary’ and previewed a line of attack linking the former secretary of State to the Obama administration.”

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Politico: “Mitt Romney's 2016 pitch: I'm a foreign policy prophet”

"But, as Democrats point out, any losing candidate can cherry-pick a few issues that later broke his way. And Romney’s batting average was hardly perfect. Nor do bragging rights on a few specific issues necessarily translate to a popular foreign policy vision overall."

New York Times: Sec. Clinton supports pro-democracy Saudi blogger

“Ms. Badawi also sued the government in 2011 for not allowing women to vote in local elections, a move cited by the State Department when it gave her an International Woman of Courage Award in 2012. ‘You are making a difference,’ Hillary Rodham Clinton, then secretary of state, told her at the award ceremony, which was also attended by Michelle Obama.”

The Weekly Standard: “Hillary Clinton's Charlie Hebdo Problem”

“What seems most likely is that Clinton has remained silent in response to the Charlie Hebdo massacre in order to avoid scrutiny of her own failure to defend free speech in the face of Islamist violence.”

The Hill blog: “Five reasons the left doesn’t believe Elizabeth Warren”

"Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has said time and time that against she’s not running for president in 2016."

Articles:

MSNBC: “Is this Hillary Clinton’s economic agenda?”

By Alex Seitz-Wald and Suzy Khimm

January 16, 2015, 6:27 p.m. EST

A new report from a leading Democratic think tank offers clues about how Hillary Clinton might tackle economic inequality, which has become a key motivating issue of the progressive base, if she decides to run for president in 2016.

The report, assembled by an international panel of prominent economists and policy experts, tries to tackle one of the biggest and most difficult questions of contemporary economics – how to boost wages for the middle class and share prosperity more broadly. As Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren and many others have noted, while much of economy has recovered from the 2008 financial crisis, middle class wages remain stagnant.

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But while Warren pins the blame on Wall Street, the Center for American Progress report, released Thursday, takes a broader and less confrontational approach, highlights a wide basket of policy solutions employed successfully by other countries. Its authors have embraced a more positive, hopeful message of economic empowerment, putting aside the messier and more contentious questions of whether and how such sweeping initiatives would be paid for.

Clinton will have to “walk a tightrope” between speaking to the middle class and Wall Street, as longtime Clinton donor Alan Patricof put it on Bloomberg TV Friday. “I think that she’s very sensitive to this kind of Elizabeth Warren trying to paint her as being identified with Wall Street,” he added.

It’s hard not see the report as the potential seed of an economic agenda that helps Clinton walk that tightrope. It tackles the issues Americans consistently list as their top priority in polls – jobs and the economy – but in a way that’s less likely to alienate the business community and financial sector, or appear inauthentic to her own identity. The report’s international focus also plays to the former secretary of state’s strengths, and it would allow her to promote lessons she’s learned from her many travels abroad.

“In our time, advocates and apologists for anti-democratic regimes argue that the democracies are no longer capable of managing their problems or creating a sense of social dynamism. Democracies are cast as sclerotic, inefficient, and ungovernable,” the report says. “But countering this persistent attack on democracy requires that free economic and political systems restore their vitality and reclaim their ability to deliver on the promise of prosperity for all.”

Democrats made inequality a centerpiece of their 2014 campaign, but the party’s steep losses in November suggest that their message and policy prescriptions weren’t strong enough to break through. Now that the pace of the recovery has picked up, they’re also struggling to take credit for the recovery while acknowledging the work that still needs to be done to make sure those gains reach ordinary Americans.

The CAP report suggests one potential way forward, providing a broad framework and positive message of empowerment that encompasses many of the economic policies that Clinton has highlighted in recent years, from paid family leave to a higher minimum wage to more affordable college education.

If the report seems tailor made for a Clinton campaign, that might not be an accident. CAP, after all, was founded by key Clinton allies to be an ideas factory for establishment Democrats.

Its current president, Neera Tanden, was Clinton’s policy director and one of her closest aides during the 2008 presidential campaign. Tanden keeps in touch with Clinton and her aides today, and will likely advise Clinton’s 2016 campaign from the outside, though Tanden has said she’s not interested in a day-to-day job on the campaign.

In addition to Tanden, the task force behind the report included former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, a board member of the pro-Clinton Priorities USA super PAC, and economist Larry Summers, who served as treasury secretary under Bill Clinton. And the man who founded CAP, John Podesta, served as Bill Clinton’s last chief of staff and is expected to become the chairman of Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign should she decide to run.

Though Clinton has yet to lay out a detailed policy agenda, she has stressed the urgent need to deal with inequality since at least the spring. “The dream of upward mobility that made this country a model for the world feels further and further out of reach and many Americans understandably feel frustrated, even angry,” Clinton said during a high-profile speech in May at the New America Foundation.

And on Friday, Clinton tweeted that Congress should focus on helping the middle class, instead of rolling back financial reform, as Republicans are trying to do.

[The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Clinton: Focus more on wages, less on regs”]

By Kevin Cirilli

January 16, 2015, 2:37 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton on Friday criticized the new Republican-controlled Congress for trying to boost economic growth by loosening regulations, which progressives say would weaken financial watchdogs.

"Attacking financial reform is risky and wrong. Better for Congress to focus on jobs and wages for middle class families," Clinton tweeted on Friday.

The former secretary of State and presumed Democratic presidential frontrunner has received criticism from progressives in her party who are concerned about her ties to Wall Street.

But the tweet is a clear signal that Clinton is looking to adjust her tone as she continues to mull her expected presidential campaign.

Clinton's tweet comes as progressives continue their efforts to try and draft Warren to challenge Clinton from the left in 2016. On Saturday, MoveOn.org will launch its efforts in New Hampshire with a kick-off campaign for its "Run Warren Run" effort, which the liberal group funded with a $1 million donation last month.

Earlier this week, the House passed legislation on a 271-154 vote that would delay for two-years the implementation of a portion of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law.

[MSNBC: “Clinton slams GOP attempts to roll back Wall Street reform”]

By Alex Seitz-Wald

January 16, 2015, 3:50 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton has been very careful about which issues she weighs in on as she considers a second run for the presidency in 2016, but she took to Twitter Friday to condemn Republican attempts to gut the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law.

“Attacking financial reform is risky and wrong. Better for Congress to focus on jobs and wages for middle class families,” Clinton tweeted to her 2.66 million followers.

Many will read the move as channeling Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the Massachusetts Democrat who has risen to prominence as the Senate’s top Wall Street foe.

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Now that Republicans control both chambers of Congress, they're preparing for a showdown over the 2010 financial reform law, which they say is too burdensome on business.

Late last year, President Barack Obama signed a government funding bill that included a provision to remove a part of the law that dealt with financial instruments known as swaps, despite vociferous objections from Warren and other progressive Democrats.

And this week, the House approved a measure on a largely party-line vote to reign in regulators, with more attacks on regulations promised for the future. The White House has threatened to veto attempts to gut progressive regulations, but Republicans may find ways to slip the measures into larger must-pass legislation, as they did with the funding bill in December.

Clinton, who faces criticism from some progressives over her financial support from Wall Street, has been trying to find ways to shore up her left flank ahead of a presidential run. She stumbled during a joint appearance with Warren last year when she said business don't create jobs.

Clinton tweets rarely, and the vast majority are about her work at the Clinton family's charitable foundation.

The presumed Democratic front-runner typically waits until her next planned public appearance before weighing in on the issue of the day, whether it's Syria or protests in Ferguson. Clinton has been laying low for about a month, but has two speeches scheduled for next week in Canada, sponsored by a Canadian bank.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "RNC chairman: 'We're ready for Hillary'"

By Peter Sullivan

January 16, 2015, 2:51 p.m. EST

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said in a speech Friday that "we're ready for Hillary" and previewed a line of attack linking the former secretary of State to the Obama administration.

"At the RNC, we're not waiting until Hillary's the nominee; we're not waiting until she announces to go after her record," Priebus told the RNC's Winter Meeting in San Diego. "We've been preparing for a long, long time, and we're Ready for Hillary."

Priebus previewed what could be a line of attack against Hillary Clinton, arguing that she represents a continuation of President Obama's policies.

The extent to which Clinton differentiates herself from Obama is a major question. Likely Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said this month that Clinton "will have some different views from the president," but "for the most part" agrees with his policies.

"We're ready to show America that this country can do better than Hillary Clinton and Obama's third term," Priebus said. "Because the next generation deserves better."

The RNC has already been attacking Clinton's paid speeches and travel requirements, dubbing her "high-flying Hillary." Priebus continued this line of criticism in the speech, referencing her gaffe last year that she was "dead broke" after leaving the White House.

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"And let's be clear: she is campaigning," Priebus said. "She's just found a way to get paid really, really well for it. For example, bilking cash-strapped public universities for a quarter million dollars to fly in on a private jet and give a speech about nothing. But, she still wants you to know she's just your average 'dead-broke' American."

Priebus has also recently said that the RNC has opposition researchers in Arkansas looking for dirt, and that Bill Clinton's personal life is "fair game."

While Clinton is widely seen as by far the Democratic frontrunner, the Republican side has a wide field of viable candidates. But Priebus played up that contrast.

"The good news is we have great potential candidates for president," Priebus said. "Our voters are going to have a real choice. Leaders with diverse backgrounds and diverse experiences. We should be excited because this means real debates and real conversations."

"I'd much rather have that than what the Democrats have," he added.

Politico: "Mitt Romney's 2016 pitch: I'm a foreign policy prophet"

By Michael Crowley

January 17, 2015, 8:19 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] But is he right about that?

He saw Vladimir Putin as a threat to peace. He insisted that radical Islam was spreading. He warned that Iraq was at risk without American troops to stabilize it.

And he was right.

As Mitt Romney's supporters push the idea that the 2012 Republican nominee might run for president again, one of their core talking points is that Romney was a foreign policy prophet in the last campaign. His vindication on several scores, they argue, gives him a rationale to run again — and a leg up on his potential Republican rivals.

"The results of the Hillary Clinton-Barack Obama foreign policy have been devastating," Romney declared at the Republican National Committee's winter meeting in San Diego on Friday. "The world is not safer."

But, as Democrats point out, any losing candidate can cherry-pick a few issues that later broke his way. And Romney's batting average was hardly perfect. Nor do bragging rights on a few specific issues necessarily translate to a popular foreign policy vision overall.

"Romney was right about the world getting more complicated," said Mieke Eoyang, director of the National Security Project at the moderate

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Democratic think tank Third Way. “But a complicated world doesn’t mean a more simplistic response, which is what Romney was offering.”

Back in 2012, President Barack Obama was less charitable. “You haven’t been in a position to actually execute foreign policy,” Obama told Romney in an October debate. “But every time you’ve offered an opinion, you’ve been wrong.”

More than two years later, however, hindsight suggests that’s not true. Romney offered warnings on several major issues that now appear prescient.

On Iraq, for instance, Romney told an audience in November 2011 that America’s withdrawal from the country the prior year was “an enormous mistake,” one that “puts at risk many of the victories that were hard-won by the men and women who have served there.” Obama later scoffed at his rival’s claim that the U.S. should have maintained a long-term troop presence in Iraq. Two years later, Obama has ordered thousands of troops back there to prevent the country’s collapse.

Putin’s annexation of Crimea and his intervention in eastern Ukraine dominated much of last year for Obama. But as early as December 2011 Romney called Putin ”a real threat to the stability and peace of the world,” noting that the Russian president’s rhetoric had been growing sharper.

After Romney later called Russia America’s top “geopolitical foe,” blocking U.S. interests at the United Nations and elsewhere, Obama openly ridiculed him: “The 1980s are calling to ask for their foreign policy back,” the president told Romney in an October 2012 debate. “You know, the Cold War’s been over for 20 years.”

Romney also cast repeated doubt on Obama’s claim that, after Osama bin Laden’s killing, al Qaeda was “on the run.” He warned about the spread of radical Islam in the Middle East and North Africa. “This is a group that is now involved in 10 or 12 countries, and it presents an enormous threat … and we must have a comprehensive strategy to help reject this kind of extremism,” Romney said. That characterization of the Islamist threat seems more apt as extremist violence surges around the world.

Beyond the emotional satisfaction of saying “I told you so,” people close to Romney argue that the 2012 record positions the former Massachusetts governor well for his third straight White House bid.

“Romney was right about a lot of this stuff. But I don’t see it as vindication,” said a former senior Romney advisor. “I think it’s a demonstration that he has a view of the world that’s rooted in reality.”

Credibility on foreign policy could matter more in 2016 than in the last presidential contest. Amid terror threats and the beheadings of Americans in the Middle East, voter concern about national security has spiked sharply.

Romney may also find it harder to repeat his warnings that the U.S. economy is headed for a crisis. Romney set a target of unemployment under 6 percent by the end of his first time. The jobless rate currently stands at 5.6 percent.

Meanwhile, Democrats say Romney is more vulnerable than he appears. “I think he should run again. It would be great for the Democratic Party,” said Tommy Vietor, a former Obama White House national security spokesman.

Vietor insisted that claims of Romney’s vindication overlook Obama’s repeated caveats that Islamic terrorism was still a threat even after the death of bin Laden. And he argued that Obama’s response to Putin had helped to cripple Russia’s economy. “Putin turned out to be his own greatest enemy,” Vietor said.

Romney’s hard-line approach to Iran, said Eoyang, would have precluded the nuclear talks Obama began in late 2013, which have paused the progress of Iran’s nuclear program. “He was totally wrong on Iran,” Eoyang said, saying that putting greater pressure on Iran would “potentially

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force us into another military confrontation."

And Democrats scoffed at the contention of an unnamed Romney advisor quoted in the Boston Globe last week, who said that "there wouldn't be an ISIS at all," if Romney were president.

One former advisor declined to repeat that assertion, saying "you can't run the counterfactual in history," while adding that Romney would have taken stronger action to arm and train moderate Syrian rebels — perhaps blunting the rise of radical Islamists in that country.

Romney can't perfectly recreate his campaign against Obama, of course. But one Romney advisor, foreshadowing a likely Republican line of attack for 2016, said that's not a problem. "Will you be running against Obama? Nope. You'll be running against the architect of his foreign policy" — namely, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Democrats claim to be unfazed by such cocky talk. "Things aren't perfect," said Vietor, who has worked on behalf of Clinton since leaving the White House. "But by no means do I think Mitt was borne out to be the next Henry Kissinger."

New York Times: Sec. Clinton supports pro-democracy Saudi blogger

By Ben Hubbard

January 16, 2015

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A lawyer in Saudi Arabia who founded a human rights group was sentenced to 15 years in prison. His wife, a women's advocate who won a courage award from the State Department, says she is barred from leaving the country. Her brother, a writer who ran a liberal online forum, is also in jail and was sentenced to be caned regularly in a public square over the next few months.

International condemnation of the writer's sentence, which also included a prison term and a heavy fine, has mounted since a video of him receiving his first round of blows appeared on YouTube, and the State Department and the United Nations have called for the caning to stop.

The Saudi authorities did not administer the second round of blows as scheduled on Friday. But the case of the writer, Raif Badawi, has nonetheless drawn new attention to the Saudi government's harsh treatment of dissidents for acts that are considered anything but criminal in the West.

Adding to the scrutiny of Saudi Arabia's legal system are the rise of the Islamic State extremist group, which, like Saudi Arabia, claims to rule according to Shariah, and the attack on the French newspaper Charlie Hebdo for its satirical portrayals of the Prophet Muhammad, an act considered criminal in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi government, which has joined the United States-led air campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, condemned the violence in Paris as a "cowardly terrorist attack which is incompatible with Islam." But at home, Saudi rulers strike hard at those who question how they apply Islam to governance, rights groups say.

"There is just no tolerance for any kind of domestic dissent or activism," said Adam Coogle, a researcher for Human Rights Watch. "They have made it a red line and a zero-sum game, where anyone who crosses that line will be dealt with."

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The caning of Mr. Badawi is the latest step by the Saudi government to punish a small group of activists in the western port city of Jidda who have challenged the kingdom's fundamentalist, patriarchal system, to the fury of the state and conservative elements of Saudi society, including their own families.

Speaking through Skype from Jidda, Samar Badawi said her problems began after she fled her father's house and moved into a shelter for battered women. Her father, angry that she had left, filed a lawsuit against her in 2009 for "parental disobedience."

For her defense, she took on a young lawyer named Waleed Abulkhair, who had started a group to track human rights in Saudi Arabia, and the two found common ground in their activism.

"He was a rights activist, and his path was full of dangers, so would he be able to find a woman who would put up with the thorny road he was on?" Ms. Badawi said.

For her part, she liked how he valued women's rights.

The couple decided to marry, but Ms. Badawi's father withheld his consent. So she sued him under a Saudi law that makes it illegal to prevent a woman from marrying.

At the first court hearing in that lawsuit, she was arrested on the disobedience charge and spent six months in jail, according to Human Rights Watch. After she was released, she prevailed in both cases — hers against her father and her father's against her — and she and Mr. Abulkhair finally married.

The couple worked together on rights campaigns, calling for women to have the right to drive in the kingdom and criticizing Saudi Arabia's guardianship system, which generally bars women from working, marrying or traveling abroad without the permission of a male guardian.

Ms. Badawi also sued the government in 2011 for not allowing women to vote in local elections, a move cited by the State Department when it gave her an International Woman of Courage Award in 2012.

"You are making a difference," Hillary Rodham Clinton, then secretary of state, told her at the award ceremony, which was also attended by Michelle Obama.

But the Saudi government was pursuing her husband, barring him from traveling abroad, detaining him for holding "unauthorized gatherings" and charging him with various crimes, including seeking to overthrow the head of state, tarnishing the reputation of the judiciary and forming an unlicensed organization, according to a State Department report.

Mr. Abulkhair was convicted last year and is now serving a 15-year prison sentence. The United States government says he was punished for "exercising his rights to freedom of expression and association."

Ms. Badawi has continued her activism. But she said that when she tried to fly to Geneva a few months ago, she was told that she, too, was barred from traveling.

Meanwhile, Ms. Badawi's brother, Raif, started a website called "Free Saudi Liberal Network" that featured writings by him and others who had often criticized Saudi Arabia's religious establishment.

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“He wanted to create an environment where there was an open forum to talk about ideas,” said his wife, Ensaf Haidar, who spoke by telephone from Canada, where she has political asylum with the couple’s three children.

On the website, which has since been taken down, Mr. Badawi criticized what he considered religious hypocrisy, lauded Western legal systems and said that atheists should have the right to state their views without punishment, according to Saudi court documents.

Prominent clerics responded with accusations that he was seeking to spread atheism, and he received personal threats, his wife said. Mr. Badawi’s father, Mohammed Badawi, denounced him and his sister repeatedly on television; in one program, the father said his children’s minds had been “formatted” like hard disks and filled with ideas that were foreign to Saudi society.

“I hope he will go down to the square of retribution, he and my daughter, to receive their retribution in front of me,” the elder Mr. Badawi said. “The reason: infidelity to God.”

Mr. Badawi’s wife said he was arrested at a supermarket in 2012. A Saudi court convicted him of running a website that promoted “heresy” and of not removing comments that were considered insulting to God, Islam and prominent Saudi clerics, according to court documents.

He was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 blows, to be given in installments of 50 with at least a week in between; he was also fined more than $250,000.

In the video showing the first installment on Jan. 9, a uniformed security officer swiftly strikes Mr. Badawi up and down his back with a wooden cane as a crowd looks on. Mr. Badawi squirms a bit, and the crowd applauds and yells “God is great!” as he is led away.

Mustafa Alani, an analyst with the Gulf Research Center who often works in Saudi Arabia, said that while the cases of the three dissidents had raised alarm in the West, few people in the conservative kingdom were bothered by them.

“These people have no support from the great majority of Saudi society,” Mr. Alani said. “They think that those people are weird, and influenced by the West, and trying to damage the interests of Saudi Arabia.”

He said the Saudi government faced competing pressures in dealing with human rights issues, with the West calling for more openness and tolerance of dissent while powerful conservatives at home want strict enforcement and punishment. He said that international pressure might have prompted the delay in the second round of caning for Mr. Badawi, and that the Saudi authorities might decide that one round was enough.

“You need to send a message,” he said, “and the message has already been sent.”

The Weekly Standard: “Hillary Clinton's Charlie Hebdo Problem”

By John McCormack

January 16, 2015, 3:52 p.m. EST

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In the days since the Charlie Hebdo massacre, the response from American politicians has ranged from pathetic to parodic. Through his press secretary, President Obama expressed regret on Monday that neither he nor any other high-ranking American official joined 44 world leaders who marched alongside millions in Paris last weekend. Then on Friday, in an effort to make amends, Secretary of State John Kerry brought James Taylor to Paris to sing "You've Got a Friend."

The response from Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state and likely 2016 Democratic presidential nominee, hasn't been any better. Clinton has remained silent about the Charle Hebdo massacre since it occurred on January 7.

Clinton's spokesman Nick Merrill confirmed in an email to THE WEEKLY STANDARD that the former secretary of state has not publicly commented on the attack, but Merrill declined to give any particular reason for Clinton's silence. (She did manage to find the time Friday afternoon, however, to condemn Republicans in Congress for "[a]ttacking financial reform.")

What seems most likely is that Clinton has remained silent in response to the Charlie Hebdo massacre in order to avoid scrutiny of her own failure to defend free speech in the face of Islamist violence.

Three days after the September 11, 2012 terrorist attack killed four Americans, including Ambassodor Chris Stevens, in Benghazi, Libya, Clinton attended a ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base welcoming home the remains of the slain Americans. While flanked by four four flag-draped caskets, Clinton blamed an "awful internet video that we had nothing to do with" for the "rage and violence directed at American embassies." Clinton did not, in the course of her speech, defend the right to free speech.

What's worse, Clinton privately told the father of one of the CIA officers killed in Benghazi: "We will make sure that the person who made that film is arrested and prosecuted." By the end of the month, an American citizen known as Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, the man who made the anti-Islam YouTube video, was indeed arrested for violating the terms of his probation. He was later sentenced to a year in jail for using a name other than his given legal name.

A number of questions remain for Hillary Clinton: Does she dispute the claim that she said she would "make sure that the person who made that film is arrested and prosecuted"? How did she know on September 14 that the American who made the film was going to be arrested? And does Clinton see any difference between the blasphemous Charlie Hebdocartoons and the blasphemous anti-Islam YouTube video?

"I'd refer you to what she wrote in her book," Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill told me in an email. When I replied that the book does not address the questions I was asking, Merrill wrote: "She addresses the attack fully and comprehensively in Hard Choices, I don't have anything to add to that."

Despite her spokesman's stonewalling, we do know that Clinton did not dispute in her book the claim that she vowed the American filmmaker would be arrested and prosecuted, and her spokesman is not disputing it now. We also know, of course, that the terrorist attack on Benghazi was not the result of a spontaneous protest in response to the offensive video, but the filmmaker became a convenient scapegoat for an administration arguing that al Qaeda was on the run.

"A violation of probation, though, usually produces a court summons and doesn't typically lead to more jail time unless it involves an offense that would be worth prosecuting in its own right under federal standards. Not for Nakoula," National Review's Rich Lowry wrote in a column in May of 2013. "This wasn't a case of nailing Al Capone on tax evasion. As Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute points out, Al Capone's underlying offense was racketeering and gangland killings. Nakoula Basseley Nakoula's underlying offense wasn't an underlying offense. He exercised his First Amendment rights."

The Hill blog: "Five reasons the left doesn't believe Elizabeth Warren"

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By Kevin Cirilli

January 17, 2015, 8:50 a.m. EST

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) has said time and time that against she's not running for president in 2016.

But don't tell that to her fans in the Democratic Party.

Supporters on the left are moving full-steam ahead with efforts to draft her into the 2016 race, believing it's only a matter of time before the Massachusetts senator changes her mind — and becomes the populist challenger to Hillary Clinton that they think the party desperately needs.

Here are five reasons the left hears "yes" when Warren says "no."

1.) She hasn't definitively ruled out a presidential run.

Warren has yet to definitely say she won't run for president in 2016, choosing instead to phrase her denials by saying she isn't running now.

"Every candidate says they're not running before deciding to run," said Erica Sagrans, campaign director at Ready For Warren.

Sagrans pointed to 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who up until this week insisted he wasn't running for president. Now there are reports he's mulling a third presidential bid.

"Things change fast in politics, and Warren hasn't ruled anything out," Sagrans said.

Political watchers say Warren is smart to keep Washington guessing about her political ambitions.

"Warren is wisely hedging her bets. She is underselling herself politically by saying, 'No,' which is intriguing to the base but she is leaving room to potentially over-deliver publicly should the circumstances merit her jumping into the 2016 fray," said Ford O'Connell, a GOP strategist.

2.) She's distancing herself from President Obama.

Warren flexed her political muscle during the budget negotiations late last year and spearheaded a successful revolt against an Obama nominee to the Treasury Department with ties to Wall Street.

Her attention-grabbing moves come at a time when Democrats are fiercely debating whether to move to the middle on economic issues or shift to the left.

"She's shown that she can rally, hold and lead progressives groups these past few weeks, especially," said Neil Sroka, communications director at the liberal Democracy For America, which is pushing to draft Warren into the presidential race.

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Warren also has worked to get the White House to issue a veto threat on a financial regulatory bill she says would weaken Wall Street regulations.

"She's battling the White House on a lot of these issues," Sroka said.

3.) She hasn't ordered the grass roots groups to shut it down.

Groups like Ready For Warren and MoveOn.org's $1 million-funded "Run Warren Run" campaign are maneuvering in early caucus and primary states Iowa and New Hampshire. On Saturday, hundreds of supporters are expected to attend MoveOn's draft Warren kick-off event in New Hampshire.

In August, Warren's attorney filed a letter with the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) saying she wasn't endorsing "Ready For Warren," but has yet to personally comment on the groups' efforts.

"We're not running this campaign because of some sort of parsing of her speech," said Nick Berning, MoveOn.org communications director. "We take her at her word. We're running the campaign because we think our country will be better off if she enters the race."

"Elizabeth Warren has always been a reluctant politician, but she has always listened to her supporters," Sagrans said.

Sagrans noted that in Warren's book, the senator wrote that she was persuaded to challenge then-Sen. Scott Brown (R-Mass.) during the 2012 Senate race after one of her supporters urged her to get in.

"We've got an entire nation asking the same question now, and we think it's in Warren's nature to give the same answer she gave last time: 'Yes,

I'll fight,'" Sagrans said.

4.) Her promotional tour didn't end after the midterms.

Warren campaigned heavily during the 2014 midterm election campaign, hitting the trail in states like Iowa, Kentucky and West Virginia. While she campaigned for these candidates, it also seems to have fueled national interest in her own political career.

Veteran pollster Peter D. Hart, chairman of Hart Associates, last week released the results of a special interest group with 12 voters in Aurora, Colo. that found widespread intrigue with Warren.

"There's a connection that she's made in terms of talking about the economy," Hart said. "The most established candidates, such as Mitt Romney, Jeb Bush, Hillary Clinton and Chris Christie — they did less well."

Still, Hart noted that, "someone who is appealing before they're in [the race] may not find the same type of appeal once they've announced."

"That doesn't diminish Elizabeth Warren," he said. "But she's connected as a person who is talking about economic issues in the way the public is responding positively."

5.) She's remained tight-lipped about Hillary Clinton.

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It seems that virtually every prominent Democratic politician is being asked about Clinton ahead of 2016. While Warren did join each of the female Democratic senators in the last Congress in signing a letter urging Clinton to run, she has not openly endorsed her probably candidacy.

In an interview with The Washington Post in June, Warren declined an opportunity to defend Clinton after she said in an ABC News interview that she and former President Bill Clinton were "dead broke" after leaving the White House.

The Post reported that Warren paused for "a full 19 seconds" because answering: "Uh, I was surprised."

"There is no question about Warren is mulling a run and she has the dynastic Team Hillary unnerved," said O'Connell, the GOP strategist.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

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From:	"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date:	4/26/2015 3:31:53 AM
Subject:	RE: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

nice work here

From: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com [mailto:hrcrapid@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Josh Schwerin
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 9:49 AM
To: hrcrapid
Subject: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

Apr 26, 2015, 9:34 AM ET

This is a rush transcript for April 26, 2015. It will be updated and may contain errors.
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-clinton-cash-author-peter-schweizer/story?id=30568766&singlePage=true

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, HOST: And the author of "Clinton Clash," Peter Schweizer, joins us now.

Thank you for joining us this morning, Peter.

You know, I was looking at the book jacket right here and you say that, here in the book jacket that your reporting raises serious and alarming questions about judgment of possible indebtedness to an array of foreign interests and ultimately, a fitness for high public office.

So how does your reporting show that **Hillary Clinton** may be unfit for the presidency?

PETER SCHWEIZER, AUTHOR, "CLINTON CLASH": Well, I think the real question here, George, is when you ever have an issue of the flow of funds to political candidates, whether that's to their campaigns, whether that's to private foundations, whether that's to their spouse, is there evidence of a pattern of -- of favorable decisions being made for those individuals?

And I think the -- the point that we make in the book is that there is a troubling pattern.

There are dozens of examples of that occurring.

Some people, I think particularly the Clinton camp, would say that these are all coincidence. I don't think, when you're talking about 12 instances, you're talking coincidence. I think you're talking trend.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But you take it pretty far. You write that, "The pattern of behavior is troubling enough to warrant further investigation by law enforcement (INAUDIBLE)."..

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that a crime may have been committed?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it's -- if you look at a couple of recent examples. For example, Governor McConnell down in Virginia, or you look at **Senator Menendez** , in these cases, you didn't have evidence of a quid pro quo. What you had was funds flowing to elected officials, some of them gifts, some of them campaign contributions and actions that were being taken by those public officials that seemed to benefit the contributors.

Certainly, I think it warrants investigation. What that investigation will reveal, we'll see.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But a criminal investigation?

SCHWEIZER: Well, we'll see. I mean that's what the Governor McConnell has faced and that's what Menendez has faced.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the...

SCHWEIZER: And I think the evidence here is far more widespread in terms of repeated action than there were in those

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two instances.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Clinton campaign says you haven't produced a shred of evidence that there was any official action as secretary that -- that supported the interests of donors.

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action. And an independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison, of the Sunline Foundation (ph), wrote this. He said, "There's no smoking gun, no evidence that she changed the policy based on donations to the foundation."

No smoking gun.

Is there a smoking gun?

SCHWEIZER: Yes. The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior. And here's the analogy I would give you. It's a little bit like **insider trading** . I wrote a book on Congressional insider trading a couple of years ago and talked with prosecutors.

Most people that engage in criminal insider trading don't send an e-mail that says I've got inside information, buy this stock.

The way they look at it, they look at a pattern of stock trades. If the person has access to that information and then they do a series of well-timed trades. That warrants investigation.

I think the same thing applies here.

By the way, what's important to note is it was confirmed on Thursday, both by "The New York Times" and "The **Wall Street Journal**," that there are multi-million dollar, non-disclosed donations that were made to the **Clinton Foundation** that were never disclosed by the Clintons.

This is a direct breach of an agreement they suggested with the White House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That -- that is an issue for them, but it's not a criminal -- it's nothing that would warrant a cmii.

So let's look at some of the specifics behind your pattern.

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of focus on the sale of a company, Uranium One, to a -- to a **Russian** company. Of course, Frank Drisdra (ph), who had committed, what, a $130 million, a pledge to the Clinton Foundation back in 2006, had had an interest in this company.

But he actually sold it.

SCHWEIZER: Well, he sold his stock, but his firm, Endeavor Financial, continued to do finance deals well after that. And the individuals involved in the book, as you probably read, there are nine -- count them, nine major contributors to the Clinton Foundation who were involved in that nuclear deal.

The two individuals who were the financial advisers on the deal of the sale to the Russians, they're both major Clinton Foundation supporters. The chairman of that Foundation, Ian Telfer, whose donations were not disclosed, campaign -- and sorry, Clinton Foundation contributor. And there are others.

So this is not just about Frank Giustra. This is multiple layers (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: OK, but you didn't disclose in your book that he had sold the interest.

SCHWEIZER: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Beyond that, this deal was approved by a -- a board of the government called the CFIUS Board.

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: This actually chaired by the secretary of the Treasury...

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: -- not the secretary of State.

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Eight other agencies on board, the secretary of State, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- signed off on it. And even though the State Department was one of nine agencies to sign off on it, there's no evidence at all that Hillary Clinton got directly involved in this decision.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it warrants further investigation. And there's a couple of things that need to be clarified.

Number one, she was one vote -- or the State Department was one vote on CFIUS. But any agency has veto power. So it needs to be unanimous. So they had to support this agreement.

The second thing that I would say is that in the midst of all of this, Hillary Clinton was in charge of the Russian reset. She was in charge of -- in -- of the A123 nuclear agreements with the Russians. She was the one that was meeting with Lavrov. There were four senior congressmen on national security issues that raised concerns about this issue...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But wait a second. There were nine different agencies...

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- who approved it.

Doesn't that suggest that that was because there was no national security concern, not because of some nefarious influence by Hillary Clinton?

SCHWEIZER: But -- but look at the nine individuals that were on the CFIUS committee, the nine agencies represented.

Who was, by far, the most hawkish on CFIUS issues in the past?

Hillary Clinton. She was big on rejecting the Dubai ports deal. She was big on other issues. She sponsored legislation when she was in the Senate to straighten CFIUS.

This was a signature issue for her and this is totally out of character...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the assistant secretary who sat -- the assistant secretary of State who sat on the committee said she never intervened on any CFIUS issue at all.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think that deserves further scrutiny. I would question that.

To argue that (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But based on what?

Based on what?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think based on her (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that she actually intervened in this issue?

SCHWEIZER: No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, George, this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is afoot.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And that -- that is that -- the Clintons do say it's a coincidence. As they say, you have produced no evidence. And I still haven't heard any direct evidence and you just said you had no evidence that she intervened here.

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But I do want to ask a broader question.

It's been reported that you -- you briefed several Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the chairman, Bob Corker.

Did you offer any briefings for Democrats?

SCHWEIZER: No, but I'd be glad to give them before the book is released. This was a -- a friend that asked me. He thought it would be a good idea to talk to these individuals. This was the committee that confirmed her.

And I was glad to meet with them. They did not get copies of the book. They did not get any material. It was simply a verbal briefing.

And I'd be glad to brief any Democrats before May 5th, when the book comes out.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Democrats have said this is -- this is an indication of your partisan interest. They say...

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- you used to work for President -- President Bush as a speechwriter. You're funded by the Koch brothers.

How do you respond to that?

SCHWEIZER: Well, George, what did I do when this book was completed?

I went to the investigative unit at "The New York Times," the investigative unit here at ABC. I went to the investigative unit at "The Washington Post." And I shared with them my findings, OK. These are not cupcakes. These are serious researchers and investigators.

And they are confirming what I've reported. So people can look at the facts and...

STEPHANOPOULOS: They haven't come -- they haven't confirmed any evidence of any crime.

SCHWEIZER: Well, but -- but it's not up to an author to prove crime. I mean do you think that when people first started looking at Governor McConnell or they started looking at Menendez, that they immediately had evidence?

You need subpoena power. You need access to records and information. You need access to e-mails.

There's all sorts of things that you can do. You can't leave it up to an author to say that an author has to prove a criminal case.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally, Bloomberg News is reporting that you're going to be looking into Jeb Bush's business dealings, as well.

Is that true?

What have you found?

Where and when will you publish?

SCHWEIZER: We've been working on it for about four months. We've been looking at land deals. We've been looking at an airport deal. We've been looking at some financial transactions involving hedge funds based out of the UK.

We have already reached out to several media outlets and we're going to adopt a similar model that we have here, which is to share that information with investigative journalists at established news outlets, share with them that information.

And I think that people will find it very, very interesting and compelling.

Peter Schweizer, thanks very much.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks for having me, George.

Up next, the roundtable on this Hillary book and augways (ph) from the campaign trail.

Plus, same-sex marriage coming to the Supreme Court this week.

Bruce Jenner's big announcement puts transgender issues in the spotlight. We debate the next frontier in civil rights.

And we're back in just two minutes.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin
--
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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 9/3/2014 9:31:01 PM
Subject: Re: HRC @ Clean Energy Summit

Thanks John! Will do.

From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Date: Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 12:28 AM
To: Dan <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com >
Subject: Re: HRC @ Clean Energy Summit

I think this is great. One small addition. In the Paris graph, I think a reference to Obama's Climate Action Plan and particularly the power plant rule has changed the international dynamic and made the US credible and a global leader that make the chances of success much greater.

That's an easy place to be generous to him without taking on any baggage.

On Sep 3, 2014 3:31 PM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

John, I hope I've caught you in time. Below and attached is our draft for Nevada. Would love your feedback.
Thanks!
Dan

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

REMARKS AT NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY SUMMIT

LAS VEGAS, NV

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

Thank you, Harry, for that generous introduction and for leading the way here in Nevada and for our country toward a clean energy future.

I also want to thank the Center for American Progress, the Clean Energy Project, MGM Resorts International, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for making this event possible. I'm particularly pleased to see so many business leaders here today. This kind of all-hands-on-deck partnership – from government, business, academia, and the not-for-profit sector – is exactly what it's going to take to make real progress on our energy and climate challenges.

And, as Harry and others have explained so well here, this is one of the most sweeping, urgent, and consequential challenges we face as a nation and a world.

The data is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers say. Sea levels are rising. Ice caps are melting. Storms, droughts and wildfires are wreaking havoc. Thirteen of the top fourteen warmest years have all come since 2000.

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This July, scientists found levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere not seen in millions of years.

The threat is real.

But so is the opportunity.

If we come together to make the *hard choices* -- and make smart investments in infrastructure, technology and environmental protection, America can be the clean energy superpower for the 21st century.

Just look at what's happening in Nevada, thanks in large part to the leadership of Harry Reid.

This state has quintupled its renewable energy capacity since 2008. In the past four years, more than $5.5 billion have been invested here in clean energy production and infrastructure.

Harry helped bring together a broad coalition, including major casino companies, local tribal leaders, and environmental groups, to replace one of the nation's dirtiest coal plant with five utility-scale solar projects now under construction.

Nevada is now one of the leaders in the nation in solar energy capacity per person.

The state has more geothermal projects under development than any other.

The "One-Nevada Transmission Line" has created new markets for renewable energy and hundreds of jobs.

And on average, clean energy jobs in Nevada pay higher wages -- thousands of dollars a year higher. That means more Nevada families making it into the middle class and more families *staying* in the middle class.

This is the promise of a clean energy future. A future where we move past the old false choice between protecting our environment and growing our economy and instead do both.

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Again, Senator Reid has led the way. In the Senate, he has worked with Democrats and Republicans alike and championed legislation such as the Energy Independence and Security Act, which led to new fuel economy standards for vehicles for the first time in 30 years.

He provided crucial support for President Obama's efforts to cut carbon pollution from power plants, which will spur billions of dollars in private clean energy investment, improve air quality and respiratory health, and make a measurable dent in harmful emissions.

And Harry understands we need to do even more. Because while we can all be proud that domestic electricity generation from wind, solar, and geothermal more than doubled between 2009 and 2013, we still have a long way to go.

China and other competitors are already racing ahead with big bets on renewables. We cannot afford to cede leadership in this area. Our economic recovery, our efforts against climate change, and our strategic position in the world all will improve if we can build a safe bridge to a clean energy economy.

Part of that bridge will certainly come from natural gas. There are challenges here, to be sure, but the boom in domestic gas production is an exciting example of American innovation changing the game. If we do this right, it can be good for both our environment and our economy.

Gas is cleaner than coal… expanding production is creating tens of thousands of new jobs... and lower costs are helping give the United States a big competitive advantage in energy-intensive industries. We're also reducing our dependence on foreign oil and freeing up supplies elsewhere to help our European allies lessen their dependence on Russian energy.

To capitalize on this boom, we have to face head on the legitimate environmental concerns about some new extraction practices and their impact on local water, soil, and air supplies. Methane leaks in the production and transportation of natural gas are particularly worrisome. So it's crucial that we put in place smart regulations and enforce them, including not drilling when the risks are too high.

And to make sure natural gas really is an effective bridge fuel, we need to keep moving forward on renewables and a clean energy future.

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Today tax incentives for alternative energy investments are unpredictable at best, while generous subsidies for fossil fuel are easy to come by. In fact, the world spends more than $500 billion dollars subsidizing fossil fuel every year, bloating budgets and creating incentives against innovation and progress. We can do better.

We can create a positive environment for private-sector innovation and risk-taking, with targeted tax incentives, a commitment to research and development, and policies that encourage rather than undercut the transition to clean, renewable sources of energy.

We can invest in the infrastructure of the future, including next-generation power plants to produce electricity more cleanly, smarter grids to deliver it more effectively, and greener buildings to use it more efficiently.

At this point, we know a lot about what actually works.

Take the Clinton Climate Initiative, which my husband started some years ago through our Foundation. We're working with private and public sector partners to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and spur investments in green construction, including through some innovative new financing tools.

Our Home Energy Affordable Loan program works a little like a 401k or Health Savings Account, saving families as much as $500 a year in utility expenses. And the return on investment is up to about 23 percent.

When we helped retrofit the Empire State Building, with 2.8 million square feet of office space, 275 jobs were created over two years and the building's annual energy consumption dropped by 38 percent, worth roughly $4.4 million a year.

And that's just the beginning of what's possible. Good ideas are everywhere you look.

Jessica Matthews and Julia Silverman, two students at Harvard, created a soccer ball that harnesses kinetic energy with every kick and can power a lamp for three hours from just 30 minutes of play. They brought it to the Clinton Global Initiative and blew everyone away. The ball is now being used in

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six countries where soccer is universal but electricity is not.

If two college students can figure out a way to light up entire communities, imagine what we can do as a country if we roll up our sleeves and get to work?

Rumor has it that Apple will soon unveil their iPhone 6. When they do, millions of Americans will rush to get their hands on this latest prize of 21st century technology. Yet, when they plug their shiny new devices into the wall, they'll be relying on an electrical grid that was built in the 1950s and still uses technology from the '60s and '70s.

We can do better.

With a true 21st century smart grid, we could time our dishwashers or air conditioners to turn on when demand for power is less and costs are lower. We could manage stresses on the grid, cutting peak demand to avoid blackouts – which research shows occur about 285 percent more often today than in 1984 and cost our businesses billions of dollars a year.

If the public and private sectors put aside politics and come together to get this done, we could do it before the iPhone 7 comes out.

All of this work at home is crucial to what we want to achieve abroad. Because America's ability to lead the world on climate and energy hinges on our commitment to act ourselves. No country will fall in line just because we tell them to. They need to see us taking significant steps of our own.

I know first-hand how hard it is to mobilize progress on a global scale. But there's no way to tackle this challenge without it.

When President Obama and I went to Copenhagen in 2009 for a global climate change conference, we ran into a brick wall of opposition from countries like China, which has become the world's largest carbon emitter but resists any kind of agreement that would obligate them to do something about it.

We had to literally crash a secret meeting between the Chinese, Indians, Brazilians and South Africans to force the issue. I'll never forget watching the President gliding by flustered Chinese security guards and the look on their faces when we finally sat down at the table.

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But our persistence paid off. Thanks to the agreement we hammered out there, for the first time all major economies, developed and developing alike, agreed to make national commitments to curb carbon emissions through 2020 and report transparently on their mitigation efforts. That was just a start, but it provided a foundation to build on.

Next year world leaders will return to the negotiating table in Paris with the hope of achieving an even stronger agreement applicable to all.

It will be another opportunity for American leadership. A chance to show the world that we're serious about meeting this challenge. That we can still do big things in this country.

So going forward, we all need to step up. Not just our government, but our private sector, our civil society, our research institutions and universities, our families and communities — all of us.

I know we can do better. When we work together, our capacity for progress is nearly limitless.

Let's make America the clean energy superpower our world needs.

Let's leave our children – and, yes, our grandchildren – a healthy and sustainable future.

Let's get to work.

Thank you.

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From:	"Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
	"Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
	"Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	1/24/2016 2:28:08 PM
Subject:	HRC Paid Speeches
Attachments:	HRC Paid Speeches Flags.docx

Team,

Attached are the flags from HRC's paid speeches we have from HWA. I put some highlights below. There is a lot of policy positions that we should give an extra scrub with Policy.

In terms of what was opened to the press and what was not, the Washington Examiner got a hold of one of the private speech contracts (her speeches to universities were typically open press), so this is worth a read http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/clintons-speeches-are-cozy-for-wall-streeters-but-closed-to-journalists/article/2553294/section/author/dan-friedman

CLINTON ADMITS SHE IS OUT OF TOUCH

Hillary Clinton: "I'm Kind Of Far Removed" From The Struggles Of The Middle Class "Because The Life I've Lived And The Economic, You Know, Fortunes That My Husband And I Now Enjoy." "And I am not taking a position on any policy, but I do think there is a growing sense of anxiety and even anger in the country over the feeling that the game is rigged. And I never had that feeling when I was growing up. Never. I mean, were there really rich people, of course there were. My father loved to complain about big business and big government, but we had a solid middle class upbringing. We had good public schools. We had accessible health care. We had our little, you know, one-family house that, you know, he saved up his money, didn't believe in mortgages. So I lived that. And now, obviously, I'm kind of far removed because the life I've lived and the economic, you know, fortunes that my husband and I now enjoy, but I haven't forgotten it." [Hillary Clinton Remarks at Goldman-Black Rock, 2/4/14]

CLINTON SAYS YOU NEED TO HAVE A PRIVATE AND PUBLIC POSITION ON POLICY

Clinton: "But If Everybody's Watching, You Know, All Of The Back Room Discussions And The Deals, You Know, Then People Get A Little Nervous, To Say The Least. So, You Need Both A Public And A Private Position." CLINTON: You just have to sort of figure out how to -- getting back to that word, "balance" -- how to balance the public and the private efforts that are necessary to be successful, politically, and that's not just a comment about today. That, I think, has probably been true for all of our history, and if you saw the Spielberg movie, Lincoln, and how he was maneuvering and working to get the 13th Amendment passed, and he called one of my favorite predecessors, Secretary Seward, who had been the governor and senator from New York, ran against Lincoln for president, and he told Seward, I need your help to get this done. And Seward called some of his lobbyist friends who knew how to make a deal, and they just kept going at it. I mean, politics is like sausage being made. It is unsavory, and it always has been that way, but we usually end up where we need to be. But if everybody's watching, you know, all of the back room discussions and the deals, you know, then people get a little nervous, to say the least. So, you need both a public and a private position. And finally, I think -- I believe in evidence-based decision making. I want to know what the facts are. I mean, it's like when you guys go into some kind of a deal, you know, are you going to do that development or not, are you going to do that renovation or not, you know, you look at the numbers. You try to figure out what's going to work and what's not going to work. [Clinton Speech For National Multi-Housing Council, 4/24/13]

CLINTON TALKS ABOUT HOLDING WALL STREET ACCOUNTABLE ONLY FOR POLITICAL REASONS

Clinton Said That The Blame Placed On The United States Banking System For The Crisis "Could Have Been Avoided In Terms Of Both Misunderstanding And Really Politicizing What Happened." "That was one of the reasons that I started traveling in February of '09, so people could, you know, literally yell at me for the United States and our banking system causing this everywhere. Now, that's an oversimplification we know, but it was the conventional wisdom. And I think that there's a lot that could have been avoided in terms of both misunderstanding and really politicizing what

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happened with greater transparency, with greater openness on all sides, you know, what happened, how did it happen, how do we prevent it from happening? You guys help us figure it out and let's make sure that we do it right this time. And I think that everybody was desperately trying to fend off the worst effects institutionally, governmentally, and there just wasn't that opportunity to try to sort this out, and that came later." [Goldman Sachs AIMS Alternative Investments Symposium, 10/24/13]

Clinton: "Even If It May Not Be 100 Percent True, If The Perception Is That Somehow The Game Is Rigged, That Should Be A Problem For All Of Us." "Now, it's important to recognize the vital role that the financial markets play in our economy and that so many of you are contributing to. To function effectively those markets and the men and women who shape them have to command trust and confidence, because we all rely on the market's transparency and integrity. So even if it may not be 100 percent true, if the perception is that somehow the game is rigged, that should be a problem for all of us, and we have to be willing to make that absolutely clear. And if there are issues, if there's wrongdoing, people have to be held accountable and we have to try to deter future bad behavior, because the public trust is at the core of both a free market economy and a democracy." [Clinton Remarks to Deutsche Bank, 10/7/14]

CLINTON SUGGESTS WALL STREET INSIDERS ARE WHAT IS NEEDED TO FIX WALL STREET

Clinton Said Financial Reform "Really Has To Come From The Industry Itself." "Remember what Teddy Roosevelt did. Yes, he took on what he saw as the excesses in the economy, but he also stood against the excesses in politics. He didn't want to unleash a lot of nationalist, populistic reaction. He wanted to try to figure out how to get back into that balance that has served America so well over our entire nationhood. Today, there's more that can and should be done that really has to come from the industry itself, and how we can strengthen our economy, create more jobs at a time where that's increasingly challenging, to get back to Teddy Roosevelt's square deal. And I really believe that our country and all of you are up to that job." [Clinton Remarks to Deutsche Bank, 10/7/14]

Speaking About The Importance Of Proper Regulation, Clinton Said "The People That Know The Industry Better Than Anybody Are The People Who Work In The Industry." "I mean, it's still happening, as you know. People are looking back and trying to, you know, get compensation for bad mortgages and all the rest of it in some of the agreements that are being reached. There's nothing magic about regulations, too much is bad, too little is bad. How do you get to the golden key, how do we figure out what works? And the people that know the industry better than anybody are the people who work in the industry. And I think there has to be a recognition that, you know, there's so much at stake now, I mean, the business has changed so much and decisions are made so quickly, in nano seconds basically. We spend trillions of dollars to travel around the world, but it's in everybody's interest that we have a better framework, and not just for the United States but for the entire world, in which to operate and trade." [Goldman Sachs AIMS Alternative Investments Symposium, 10/24/13]

CLINTON ADMITS NEEDING WALL STREET FUNDING

Clinton Said That Because Candidates Needed Money From Wall Street To Run For Office, People In New York Needed To Ask Tough Questions About The Economy Before Handing Over Campaign Contributions. "Secondly, running for office in our country takes a lot of money, and candidates have to go out and raise it. New York is probably the leading site for contributions for fundraising for candidates on both sides of the aisle, and it's also our economic center. And there are a lot of people here who should ask some tough questions before handing over campaign contributions to people who were really playing chicken with our whole economy." [Goldman Sachs AIMS Alternative Investments Symposium, 10/24/13]

Clinton: "It Would Be Very Difficult To Run For President Without Raising A Huge Amount Of Money And Without Having Other People Supporting You Because Your Opponent Will Have Their Supporters." "So our system is, in many ways, more difficult, certainly far more expensive and much longer than a parliamentary system, and I really admire the people who subject themselves to it. Even when I, you know, think they should not be elected president, I still think, well, you know, good for you I guess, you're out there promoting democracy and those crazy ideas of yours. So I think that it's something -- I would like -- you know, obviously as somebody who has been through it, I would like it not to last as long because I think it's very distracting from what we should be doing every day in our public business. I would like it not to be so expensive. I have no idea how you do that. I mean, in my campaign -- I lose track, but I think I raised $250 million or some such enormous amount, and in the last campaign President Obama raised 1.1 billion, and that was before the Super PACs and all of this other money just rushing in, and it's so ridiculous that we have this kind of free for all with all of this financial interest at stake, but, you know, the Supreme Court said that's basically what we're in for. So we're kind of in the wild west, and, you know, it would be very difficult to run for president without raising a huge amount of money and without having other people supporting you because your opponent will have their supporters. So I think as hard as it was

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when I ran, I think it's even harder now." [Clinton Speech For General Electric's Global Leadership Meeting – Boca Raton, FL, 1/6/14]

CLINTON TOUTS HER RELATIONSHIP TO WALL STREET AS A SENATOR

Clinton: As Senator, "I Represented And Worked With" So Many On Wall Street And "Did All I Could To Make Sure They Continued To Prosper" But Still Called For Closing Carried Interest Loophole. In remarks at Robbins, Gellar, Rudman & Dowd in San Diego, Hillary Clinton said, "When I was a Senator from New York, I represented and worked with so many talented principled people who made their living in finance. But even thought I represented them and did all I could to make sure they continued to prosper, I called for closing the carried interest loophole and addressing skyrocketing CEO pay. I also was calling in '06, '07 for doing something about the mortgage crisis, because I saw every day from Wall Street literally to main streets across New York how a well-functioning financial system is essential. So when I raised early warnings about early warnings about subprime mortgages and called for regulating derivatives and over complex financial products, I didn't get some big arguments, because people sort of said, no, that makes sense. But boy, have we had fights about it ever since." [Hillary Clinton's Remarks at Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd in San Diego, 9/04/14]

Clinton On Wall Street: "I Had Great Relations And Worked So Close Together After 9/11 To Rebuild Downtown, And A Lot Of Respect For The Work You Do And The People Who Do It." "Now, without going over how we got to where we are right now, what would be your advice to the Wall Street community and the big banks as to the way forward with those two important decisions? SECRETARY CLINTON: Well, I represented all of you for eight years. I had great relations and worked so close together after 9/11 to rebuild downtown, and a lot of respect for the work you do and the people who do it, but I do -- I think that when we talk about the regulators and the politicians, the economic consequences of bad decisions back in '08, you know, were devastating, and they had repercussions throughout the world." [Goldman Sachs AIMS Alternative Investments Symposium, 10/24/13]

CLINTON TALKS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES RUNNING FOR OFFICE

Hillary Clinton Said There Was "A Bias Against People Who Have Led Successful And/Or Complicated Lives," Citing The Need To Divese Of Assets, Positions, And Stocks. "SECRETARY CLINTON: Yeah. Well, you know what Bob Rubin said about that. He said, you know, when he came to Washington, he had a fortune. And when he left Washington, he had a small -- MR. BLANKFEIN: That's how you have a small fortune, is you go to Washington. SECRETARY CLINTON: You go to Washington. Right. But, you know, part of the problem with the political situation, too, is that there is such a bias against people who have led successful and/or complicated lives. You know, the divestment of assets, the stripping of all kinds of positions, the sale of stocks. It just becomes very onerous and unnecessary." [Goldman Sachs Builders And Innovators Summit, 10/29/13]

CLINTON SUGGESTS SHE IS A MODERATE

Clinton Said That Both The Democratic And Republican Parties Should Be "Moderate." "URSULA BURNS: Interesting. Democrats? SECRETARY CLINTON: Oh, long, definitely. URSULA BURNS: Republicans? SECRETARY CLINTON: Unfortunately, at the time, short. URSULA BURNS: Okay. We'll go back to questions. SECRETARY CLINTON: We need two parties. URSULA BURNS: Yeah, we do need two parties. SECRETARY CLINTON: Two sensible, moderate, pragmatic parties." [Hillary Clinton Remarks, Remarks at Xerox, 3/18/14]

Clinton: "Simpson-Bowles… Put Forth The Right Framework. Namely, We Have To Restrain Spending, We Have To Have Adequate Revenues, And We Have To Incentivize Growth. It's A Three-Part Formula… And They Reached An Agreement. But What Is Very Hard To Do Is To Then Take That Agreement If You Don't Believe That You're Going To Be Able To Move The Other Side." SECRETARY CLINTON: Well, this may be borne more out of hope than experience in the last few years. But Simpson-Bowles -- and I know you heard from Erskine earlier today -- put forth the right framework. Namely, we have to restrain spending, we have to have adequate revenues, and we have to incentivize growth. It's a three-part formula. The specifics can be negotiated depending upon whether we're acting in good faith or not. And what Senator Simpson and Erskine did was to bring Republicans and Democrats alike to the table, and you had the full range of ideological views from I think Tom Coburn to Dick Durbin. And they reached an agreement. But what is very hard to do is to then take that agreement if you don't believe that you're going to be able to move the other side. And where we are now is in this gridlocked dysfunction. So you've got Democrats saying that, you know, you have to have more revenues; that's the sine qua non of any kind of agreement. You have Republicans saying no, no, no on revenues; you have to cut much more deeply into spending. Well, looks what's happened. We are slowly returning to growth. It's not as much or as fast as many of us would like to see, but, you know, we're certainly better off than our European friends, and we're beginning to, I believe, kind of come out of the long aftermath of the '08 crisis. [Clinton Speech For Morgan Stanley,

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4/18/13]

Clinton: "The Simpson-Bowles Framework And The Big Elements Of It Were Right… You Have To Restrain Spending, You Have To Have Adequate Revenues, And You Have To Have Growth." CLINTON: So, you know, the Simpson-Bowles framework and the big elements of it were right. The specifics can be negotiated and argued over. But you got to do all three. You have to restrain spending, you have to have adequate revenues, and you have to have growth. And I think we are smart enough to figure out how to do that. [Clinton Speech For Morgan Stanley, 4/18/13]

CLINTON IS AWARE OF SECURITY CONCERNS AROUND BLACKBERRIES

Clinton: "At The State Department We Were Attacked Every Hour, More Than Once An Hour By Incoming Efforts To Penetrate Everything We Had. And That Was True Across The U.S. Government." CLINTON: But, at the State Department we were attacked every hour, more than once an hour by incoming efforts to penetrate everything we had. And that was true across the U.S. government. And we knew it was going on when I would go to China, or I would go to Russia, we would leave all of our electronic equipment on the plane, with the batteries out, because this is a new frontier. And they're trying to find out not just about what we do in our government. They're trying to find out about what a lot of companies do and they were going after the personal emails of people who worked in the State Department. So it's not like the only government in the world that is doing anything is the United States. But, the United States compared to a number of our competitors is the only government in the world with any kind of safeguards, any kind of checks and balances. They may in many respects need to be strengthened and people need to be reassured, and they need to have their protections embodied in law. But, I think turning over a lot of that material intentionally or unintentionally, because of the way it can be drained, gave all kinds of information not only to big countries, but to networks and terrorist groups, and the like. So I have a hard time thinking that somebody who is a champion of privacy and liberty has taken refuge in Russia under Putin's authority. And then he calls into a Putin talk show and says, President Putin, do you spy on people? And President Putin says, well, from one intelligence professional to another, of course not. Oh, thank you so much. I mean, really, I don't know. I have a hard time following it. [Clinton Speech At UConn, 4/23/14]

Hillary Clinton: "When I Got To The State Department, It Was Still Against The Rules To Let Most -- Or Let All Foreign Service Officers Have Access To A Blackberry." "I mean, let's face it, our government is woefully, woefully behind in all of its policies that affect the use of technology. When I got to the State Department, it was still against the rules to let most -- or let all Foreign Service Officers have access to a Blackberry. You couldn't have desktop computers when Colin Powell was there. Everything that you are taking advantage of, inventing and using, is still a generation or two behind when it comes to our government." [Hillary Clinton Remarks at Nexenta, 8/28/14]

Hillary Clinton: "We Couldn't Take Our Computers, We Couldn't Take Our Personal Devices" Off The Plane In China And Russia. "I mean, probably the most frustrating part of this whole debate are countries acting like we're the only people in the world trying to figure out what's going on. I mean, every time I went to countries like China or Russia, I mean, we couldn't take our computers, we couldn't take our personal devices, we couldn't take anything off the plane because they're so good, they would penetrate them in a minute, less, a nanosecond. So we would take the batteries out, we'd leave them on the plane." [Hillary Clinton Remarks at Nexenta, 8/28/14]

Clinton Said When She Got To State, Employees "Were Not Mostly Permitted To Have Handheld Devices." "You know, when Colin Powell showed up as Secretary of State in 2001, most State Department employees still didn't even have computers on their desks. When I got there they were not mostly permitted to have handheld devices. I mean, so you're thinking how do we operate in this new environment dominated by technology, globalizing forces? We have to change, and I can't expect people to change if I don't try to model it and lead it." [Clinton Speech For General Electric's Global Leadership Meeting – Boca Raton, FL, 1/6/14]

Hillary Clinton Said You Know You Can't Bring Your Phone And Computer When Traveling To China And Russia And She Had To Take Her Batteries Out And Put them In A Special Box. "And anybody who has ever traveled in other countries, some of which shall remain nameless, except for Russia and China, you know that you can't bring your phones and your computers. And if you do, good luck. I mean, we would not only take the batteries out, we would leave the batteries and the devices on the plane in special boxes. Now, we didn't do that because we thought it would be fun to tell somebody about. We did it because we knew that we were all targets and that we would be totally vulnerable. So it's not only what others do to us and what we do to them and how many people are involved in it. It's what's the purpose of it, what is being collected, and how can it be used. And there are clearly people in this room who know a lot about this, and some of you could be very useful contributors to that conversation because you're sophisticated enough to know that it's not just, do it, don't do it. We have to have a way of doing it, and then we have to have a way of analyzing it, and then we have to have a way of sharing it." [Goldman Sachs Builders And Innovators Summit, 10/29/13]

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Hillary Clinton Lamented How Far Behind The State Department Was In Technology, Saying "People Were Not Even Allowed To Use Mobile Devices Because Of Security Issues." "Personally, having, you know, lived and worked in the White House, having been a senator, having been Secretary of State, there has traditionally been a great pool of very talented, hard-working people. And just as I was saying about the credit market, our personnel policies haven't kept up with the changes necessary in government. We have a lot of difficulties in getting—when I got to the State Department, we were so far behind in technology, it was embarrassing. And, you know, people were not even allowed to use mobile devices because of security issues and cost issues, and we really had to try to push into the last part of the 20th Century in order to get people functioning in 2009 and '10." [Goldman Sachs Builders And Innovators Summit, 10/29/13]

CLINTON REMARKS ARE PRO KEYSTONE AND PRO TRADE

Clinton: "So I Think That Keystone Is A Contentious Issue, And Of Course It Is Important On Both Sides Of The Border For Different And Sometimes Opposing Reasons…" "So I think that Keystone is a contentious issue, and of course it is important on both sides of the border for different and sometimes opposing reasons, but that is not our relationship. And I think our relationship will get deeper and stronger and put us in a position to really be global leaders in energy and climate change if we worked more closely together. And that's what I would like to see us do." [Remarks at tinePublic, 6/18/14]

Hillary Clinton Said Her Dream Is A Hemispheric Common Market, With Open Trade And Open Markets. "My dream is a hemispheric common market, with open trade and open borders, some time in the future with energy that is as green and sustainable as we can get it, powering growth and opportunity for every person in the hemisphere." [05162013 Remarks to Banco Itau.doc, p. 28]

Hillary Clinton Said We Have To Have A Concerted Plan To Increase Trade; We Have To Resist Protectionism And Other Kinds Of Barriers To Trade. "Secondly, I think we have to have a concerted plan to increase trade already under the current circumstances, you know, that Inter-American Development Bank figure is pretty surprising. There is so much more we can do, there is a lot of low hanging fruit but businesses on both sides have to make it a priority and it's not for governments to do but governments can either make it easy or make it hard and we have to resist, protectionism, other kinds of barriers to market access and to trade and I would like to see this get much more attention and be not just a policy for a year under president X or president Y but a consistent one." [05162013 Remarks to Banco Itau.doc, p. 32]

CLINTON IS MORE FAVORABLE TO CANADIAN HEALTH CARE AND SINGLE PAYER

Clinton Said Single-Payer Health Care Systems "Can Get Costs Down," And "Is As Good Or Better On Primary Care," But "They Do Impose Things Like Waiting Times." "If you look at countries that are comparable, like Switzerland or Germany, for example, they have mixed systems. They don't have just a single-payer system, but they have very clear controls over budgeting and accountability. If you look at the single-payer systems, like Scandinavia, Canada, and elsewhere, they can get costs down because, you know, although their care, according to statistics, overall is as good or better on primary care, in particular, they do impose things like waiting times, you know. It takes longer to get like a hip replacement than it might take here." [Hillary Clinton remarks to ECGR Grand Rapids, 6/17/13]

Clinton Cited President Johnson's Success In Establishing Medicare And Medicaid And Said She Wanted To See The U.S. Have Universal Health Care Like In Canada. "You know, on healthcare we are the prisoner of our past. The way we got to develop any kind of medical insurance program was during World War II when companies facing shortages of workers began to offer healthcare benefits as an inducement for employment. So from the early 1940s healthcare was seen as a privilege connected to employment. And after the war when soldiers came back and went back into the market there was a lot of competition, because the economy was so heated up. So that model continued. And then of course our large labor unions bargained for healthcare with the employers that their members worked for. So from the early 1940s until the early 1960s we did not have any Medicare, or our program for the poor called Medicaid until President Johnson was able to get both passed in 1965. So the employer model continued as the primary means by which working people got health insurance. People over 65 were eligible for Medicare. Medicaid, which was a partnership, a funding partnership between the federal government and state governments, provided some, but by no means all poor people with access to healthcare. So what we've been struggling with certainly Harry Truman, then Johnson was successful on Medicare and Medicaid, but didn't touch the employer based system, then actually Richard Nixon made a proposal that didn't go anywhere, but was quite far reaching. Then with my husband's administration we worked very hard to come up with a system, but we were very much constricted by the political realities that if you had your insurance from your employer you were reluctant to try anything else. And so we were trying to build a universal system around the employer-based system. And indeed now with President Obama's legislative success in getting the Affordable Care Act passed that is what we've done. We still have primarily an employer-based system, but we now have people able to get subsidized insurance. So we have health insurance companies

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playing a major role in the provision of healthcare, both to the employed whose employers provide health insurance, and to those who are working but on their own are not able to afford it and their employers either don't provide it, or don't provide it at an affordable price. We are still struggling. We've made a lot of progress. Ten million Americans now have insurance who didn't have it before the Affordable Care Act, and that is a great step forward. (Applause.) And what we're going to have to continue to do is monitor what the costs are and watch closely to see whether employers drop more people from insurance so that they go into what we call the health exchange system. So we're really just at the beginning. But we do have Medicare for people over 65. And you couldn't, I don't think, take it away if you tried, because people are very satisfied with it, but we also have a lot of political and financial resistance to expanding that system to more people. So we're in a learning period as we move forward with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. And I'm hoping that whatever the shortfalls or the glitches have been, which in a big piece of legislation you're going to have, those will be remedied and we can really take a hard look at what's succeeding, fix what isn't, and keep moving forward to get to affordable universal healthcare coverage like you have here in Canada. [Clinton Speech For tinePublic – Saskatoon, CA, 1/21/15]

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From:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	5/1/2015 7:48:40 AM
Subject:	Fwd: Early state coverage:

Good stuff

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: May 1, 2015 at 2:46:16 PM EDT
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Early state coverage:

Iowa

- There have been no print stories at any point in Iowa newspapers.
- One local TV mention last Friday after the NYT story ran.
- WOI-ABC (Des Moines) did stories in the morning and evening on Monday about the Clinton Cash allegations.
- WQAD-ABC (Davenport) and KCCI-CBS (Des Moines) did pieces Monday morning on the Foundation refiling its tax forms.

New Hampshire

- WBZ-CBS (Boston) and WFXT-FOX (Boston) aired segments last Friday morning after the NYT story.
- WHDH-NBC (Boston) and WCVB-ABC (Boston) aired morning segments on Clinton Foundation acknowledging errors in its filings on Monday.
- NH1 (Concord) discussed the allegations Thursday in its reporting on Bernie Sanders' entrance into the race.
- Last week, the Union Leader ran a wire story on A1 on Friday on the Foundation saying it would re-file its 990 forms.

Nevada

- KSNV-NBC, which recently switched ownership from liberal Jim Rogers' Intermountain West group to Sinclair Broadcasting, has aired a couple short segments about Clinton Cash and the foundation re-issuing paperwork; they have given it the most attention.

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- KTNV-ABC aired a short segment saying that the "Clinton foundation acknowledged mistakes were made in how it disclosed donors and it promises greater transparency amid growing scrutiny."

- KVVU-FOX gave airtime to an RNC statement regarding Clinton Cash the day we announced Hillary's visit to Nevada.

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From:	"Chris Lu" <clu@barackobama.com>
To:	"Chris Lu" <clu@barackobama.com> "Adam Hitchcock" <ahitchcock@barackobama.com> john.podesta@gmail.com william.m.daley@jpmchase.com cedley@gmail.com "Valerie Jarrett" <vjarrett@barackobama.com> fpena@vestarden.com fromanm@citi.com don.gips@level3.com "Pete Rouse" <prouse@barackobama.com> "Melody Barnes" <mbarnes@barackobama.com> jg@rock-creek-ventures.com cbutts.obama08@gmail.com burke1262@cox.net cbrowner@thealbrightgroupllc.com sonalshah@google.com ricesusane@aol.com todd.stern@wilmerhale.com "Jim Steinberg" <djsberg@gmail.com> joshua.steiner@quadranglegroup.com elgieh@yahoo.com alexkoff@aol.com ldh@stanford.edu james.rubin@bcpartners.com cvarney@hhlaw.com "Lisa Brown" <lisabrown3660@gmail.com> "John Leibovitz" <leibovitz@gmail.com> noveck@gmail.com gaylesmithgayle@gmail.com tcuellar@stanford.edu sewallconroy@comcast.net "Gitenstein, Mark H." <MGitenstein@mayerbrown.com> tedkaufman@comcast.net blevin@stifel.com "katy kale" <katy_kale@yahoo.com> sarahelizabethfeinberg@gmail.com "laura nichols" <laurasnichols@yahoo.com> "Jeanne Lambrew" <jlambrew@mail.utexas.edu> "Brad Kiley" <bjkiley@aol.com>
Date:	10/18/2008 2:41:56 PM
Subject:	another transition article

Not even sure how to react to this article, since there's almost nothing in here that's accurate.

Daily Telegraph:
Barack Obama's team is briefed by Bush staff on after warnings about a terrorist attack
Senior aides to Barack Obama have been meeting George W.Bush's staff to begin planning a smooth transfer of power.
By Tim Shipman in Washington
Last Updated: 9:26PM BST 18 Oct 2008

Officials from both campaigns have been asked to briefings after warnings from US intelligence that terrorists and rogue states will seek to exploit the power vacuum following November's presidential election.

For the first time in American history the FBI has begun vetting likely officials of the next administration before the election, to ensure they have security clearance to deal with crises on day one.

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Intelligence chiefs expect an attempt to emulate the terrorist strikes on Britain when Gordon Brown took power and are concerned that Russia or Iran could use the 77 days of paralysis between the election and the inauguration on January 20 for acts of international brinkmanship, like the invasion of Georgia.

An official involved in the transition discussions told *The Sunday Telegraph*: "There has been no specific threat but the assessment is that someone will try something.

"It could be a terrorist attack on US assets overseas. It could be the leader of a rogue state chancing his arm. Putin and Ahmadinejad have form."

The transition of power in the US is a chaotic process. More than 1,100 political appointees in senior posts have to be approved by the Senate, a process that can take months.

On Wednesday the current White House chief of staff, Josh Bolten, chaired a meeting of senior White House staff and representatives of both Mr Obama and his Republican rival John McCain.

President Bush's creation of this Presidential Transition Coordinating Council, the earliest ever, is designed to avoid a repeat of the situation on September 11 2001, when only one third of his national security appointees had been approved by the Senate, nine months into his presidency.

Martha Kumar, director of the White House Transition Project, an independent group that advises the transition teams of both campaigns, told *The Sunday Telegraph*: "The times of changing of power are soft times, times of vulnerability. Just look at what has happened around the world, including in Great Britain.

"You had the failed bombings in London and then the attack at Glasgow airport three days after Gordon Brown took office. In Spain the Madrid bombings were three days before the presidential election."

There have been particularly intensive efforts to make sure Mr Obama has his national security team in place, not just because he is widely expected to win the election on November 4, but because intelligence analysts believe America's enemies are more likely to try to take advantage of Mr Obama's international inexperience than they would of Mr McCain.

A senior official in the Obama camp, whose name has been submitted for FBI vetting, said: "We will be ready and we will be seen to be ready."

He said that Mr Obama is close to finalising plans for his first 100 days in power - which will include major moves on the economy, healthcare and Iraq in his first week, designed to make his priorities clear to Americans.

He is planning a series of early interventions to stamp his authority on the economic crisis. This will include legislation proposing a $300bn stimulus package which would be published before President Bush has even left the White House, so that it can be passed as soon as he takes power.

Mr Obama is also planning executive orders that do not require legislation on his first day in office, which could include plans to promote renewable energy resources and create jobs.

His transition team, which is reportedly much more extensive and active than Mr McCain's, features 10 working groups in different policy areas to convert campaign promises into concrete legislation. It is chaired by John Podesta, Bill Clinton's former White House chief of staff who runs the Centre for American Progress, a think tank long seen as a Democratic administration in exile.

Mr Podesta is working closely with Michael Signer, a former foreign policy aide to John Edwards in charge of homeland security affairs. Mr Podesta and Jason Furman, one of Mr Obama's two most influential economic advisers, have already held talks with sceptical conservative Democrats to line up the votes to pass a stimulus package.

Mr Obama has also worked to cultivate a close relationship with the Treasury Secretary, Henry Paulson, and personally asked him to help out during the transition, sparking speculation that he might keep Mr Paulson in post for the first year of his presidency.

Ms Kumar said: "There are things that a president can do immediately that establish his brand of leadership and help establish with the public what the priorities are.

"Reagan issued executive orders at the luncheon following the inauguration. He didn't even wait to get to the White House. He wanted to show how seriously he took the issue of the economy."

FBI vetting is also under way on 100 people from both campaigns, including Susan Rice, expected to be made the second successive black woman national security adviser after Condoleezza Rice; Greg Craig, a Washington lawyer tipped to

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become Mr Obama's chief White House counsel and his likely White House chief of staff; and the former senator and campaign chairman Tom Daschle. If Daschle prefers to become Health Secretary, Obama's current chief of staff Pete Rouse, nicknamed the 101st Senator for his connections on Capitol Hill, would take the job.

Other key national security officials will include Denis McDonough, chief foreign affairs adviser to the campaign and Richard Danzig, a secretary of the Navy under Clinton.

John Kerry, the Democratic candidate four years ago, and his fellow senator Chris Dodd, a failed candidate this year, are vying to become Secretary of State.

Mr Kerry, an Army veteran, is also a contender to take control of the Pentagon, but many expect that post to go to a Republican, perhaps the maverick senator Chuck Hagel. Colin Powell, a former secretary of state and chairman of the joint chiefs could return to government if he endorses Obama, as many expect. The veteran Democratic Senator Sam Nunn's name is also in the frame.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/3/2015 1:17:52 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Democrats playing offense on Obamacare in Kentucky

View The Daily 202 on the Web

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The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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This portrait of former Speaker Dennis Hastert was removed from its prominent display just off the House floor following his guilty plea in federal court last week connected to illegal financial transactions that were designed as hush money. It is one of Paul Ryan's first official acts as Speaker. In this file photo, Hastert speaks at the July 2009 unveiling

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ceremony. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—The outgoing Democratic governor of Kentucky, Steve Beshear, used an executive order to expand Medicaid and create a state-run exchange under Obamacare. Half a million people, around a quarter of the state's population, got coverage as a result.

Democrats have aggressively highlighted this in commercials and on the stump leading up to today's off-year gubernatorial election, suggesting that the Republicans would "callously" eliminate the exchange if they won. It's a stark contrast to the defensive posture that Democrats largely took on the issue in the midterm elections of 2010 and 2014.

Kentucky has seen the largest drop in its uninsured rate of any state in the country. It's currently 9 percent, down from 20.4 percent before Obamacare, according to the Louisville NPR affiliate . Open enrollment for next year began over the weekend, and the Kaiser Family Foundation says there are 285,000 uninsured Kentuckians who could still enroll using the so-called Kynect program.

GOP gubernatorial nominee Matt Bevin has backtracked on repeal since he won a four-way primary in May. In the spring, he said he would "absolutely" reverse Beshear's executive order "immediately." In the final debate of the race, he suggested he would narrow eligibility to below 138 percent of the poverty line and try to get participants to have some "skin in the game," in essence forcing people to pay some kind of deductible.

Polling shows the Medicaid expansion playing to Democrats' advantage: The final Bluegrass Poll put Democratic Attorney General Jack Conway up 5 points. The Lexington Herald-Leader's Sam Youngman reported that Bevin's opposition to the expansion "appears to be hurting him": 54 percent said they want the state's next governor to maintain the expansion; 24 percent say they would like to see it repealed; 22 percent were not sure. One-third of Republicans support maintaining the expansion.

For years, Gov. Beshear has publicly urged national Democrats to run on the health care law, regardless of whether they're from a red or a blue state. "You can tell there's a pent-up demand and a craving for access to health care," he said in an interview here. "People came out of the woodwork in droves wanting to find about this. …

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This is a winner for our people, and because it's a winner for our people, it's going to be a winner politically." Beshear has been publicly attacking Bevin for saying he'd roll back his signature initiative. "He understands that this is now a popular issue for Kentuckians and he's trying to somehow find a way out of it."

Expressing confidence that Conway will win today, Beshear told me: "In 2016, I predict the Democratic nominee will make this a major issue and will pound the Republicans into the dust with it."



Steve Beshear, pictured here with Nancy Pelosi, addressed the House Democratic Caucus in Dec. 2013, urging them to pitch healthcare.gov harder to their constituents. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

— But, but, but: The failure of the Kentucky Health Cooperative is a red flag that is giving Republicans fodder to argue that the exchange is not sustainable in the long-term, especially when federal money dries up. "More than a third of the 23 nonprofit health plans created under Obamacare with $2.4 billion in federal loan dollars have collapsed, and most experts predict more failures on the horizon," Politico reported last week. "South Carolina's co-op became the ninth to fail, following similar crashes in Iowa, Louisiana, Nebraska and New York. … The Kentucky plan dominated exchange enrollment during the first two years of operations, capturing roughly 60 percent of customers … Those Kentuckians will now have to scramble to find new coverage during the open-enrollment period." Beshear called the collapse of the co-op "a little inconvenient" but not indicative of broader problems: "It doesn't mean anything long-term for Kynect."

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— Other red states are expanding Medicaid, as well: Just yesterday, Montana became the 30th state to expand the program under Obamacare, giving 70,000 more people access to health insurance. Once these folks get insurance, it becomes politically untenable to take it away. It's more evidence, if any was needed, that Obamacare, for better or worse, is not going away, no matter who the president is in 2017 or what happens today in Kentucky.

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll shows Hillary Clinton slightly expanding her national lead. She gets 62 percent of Democrats, to 31 percent for Sanders. Martin O'Malley received just 3 percent. Their last poll has Clinton up 58 to 33.

- Marco Rubio has popped from 4 percent last month to 13 percent now in a Monmouth University poll of New Hampshire. It's his best score in a poll of that state.
- PPP, the Democratic firm, released an Iowa poll showing that Donald Trump and Ben Carson are essentially tied (22-21), with Ted Cruz on the rise (14) and Rubio at 10. Bobby Jindal (6) now leads Jeb Bush (5) among Iowa caucusgoers…

— The company constructing the Keystone XL pipeline asked the State Department to halt its review, potentially delaying the final decision on the project until after President Obama leaves office. Juliet Eilperin has the latest on the zombie project.

— New books pull back curtain on Vatican. Catholic Church authorities arrested two officials yesterday, accusing them of leaking damaging internal information for two books coming out this week. The Post obtained an early copy of one overnight. It highlights lavish spending by the cardinals, including a $26,400 helicopter ride taken by the former Vatican secretary of state, as well as numerous "suspect accounts" that still exist in the Vatican Bank (even though the church has said that practice stopped). The AP got ahold of the second book, which has Pope Francis ripping into officials over millions of euros in lost revenue and a break-in at the Vatican.

— Ahmed Chalabi died of a heart attack at 73. The former deputy prime minster of

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Iraq, who strongly advocated for the U.S. to invade the country, gave some of the most-cited false intelligence that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

— John Kerry urged Tajikistan's president not to go too far in cracking down on political Islam and religious beliefs. Yesterday, on his trip across the so-called Stans, he also warned Kazakhstan that repressing political opponents only invokes more extremism. (Carol Morello is on the trip.)

GET SMART FAST:

1. A member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Yale allegedly refused to allow dark-skinned students to enter a Halloween party, telling them: "White girls only." (Susan Svrluga)
2. Volkswagen allegedly also used devices to cheat air pollution in its luxury vehicles, such as Porsches and Audi's, escalating the scandal that began in September when the German carmaker copped to illegally installed devices on lower-tier cars. (Reuters)
3. The Russian government and the airline that operated the plane that went down over the Sinai Peninsula this weekend are publicly sparring over the cause of of the crash. (Andrew Roth and Ashley Halsey III)
4. The Defense Department spent almost $43 million to build an LNG gas station in Afghanistan that may not even be usable. (Huffington Post)
5. El Niño could kill many homeless people this year because they refuse to leave their living quarters near storm drains in Los Angeles. (Peter Holley)
6. Taco Bell fired a corporate employee who was captured on video hitting and pulling the hair of his Uber driver. (Los Angeles Times)
7. A rancher who bought almost 1,800 horses from the federal government sent them to slaughterhouses instead of finding safe places for the animals to live. (Lisa Rein)
8. The Social Security Administration overpaid disabled workers who went back to work by $11 billion during the past nine years. (Lisa Rein)
9. The U.S. Department of Education ruled that an Illinois school district violated anti-discrimination laws when it prevented a transgender girl from using a girls' locker room even though she plays on a girls' sports team. (New York Times)
10. Ohio could legalize marijuana with a ballot initiative today.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Donald Trump's campaign said the billionaire will negotiate with television networks directly to set the rules and agendas of upcoming presidential debates, undercutting

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efforts by his Republican rivals to get consensus and leverage against the stations. Carly Fiorina and John Kasich are also not involved with the rest of the group. (Robert Costa, David Weigel and Paul Farhi)

2. Jeb Bush said the RNC should go through with the Telemundo debate, which the RNC canceled last week to retaliate against CNBC (NBC owns both networks). (Sean Sullivan)
3. Cory Gardner, the freshman Republican senator from Colorado, endorsed Marco Rubio. (Fox News)
4. Hillary Clinton met with the mothers of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin and Tamir Rice in Chicago, privately outlining to them her plan for instituting stricter gun laws and changing the criminal justice system. (CNN)
5. President Obama wants making progress on issues of racial inequality and injustice to be a big part of his legacy. (NBC Nightly News interview)
6. Rep. Rich Nugent (R-Fla.) announced he'll retire at the end of this term, vacating a safe Republican seat. His chief of staff, Justin Grabelle, immediately announced he'll run. (Roll Call)
7. Rick Santorum is attacking Ted Cruz as soft on immigration as he campaigns in Iowa, citing his support for H-1B visas. (Quad-Cities Times)
8. Jeb replaced his campaign's Chief Operating Officer. Christine Ciccone, who left with the shakeup, has been replaced by Janan Grissom. (Politico)
9. Haley Barbour, the former RNC chair and Mississippi governor, praises Bush's e-book and leadership skills during hurricanes in an op-ed for today's Miami Herald .
10. Sean Parker, the Napster co-founder, appears to be the lead financial backer of a ballot initiative to legalize marijuana in California, likely to be on the ballot in Nov. 2016. (AP)
11. California boasts both the richest man and the poorest man in Congress, the Los Angeles Times notes: Darrell Issa is worth at least $254.7 million, and David Valadao has $10 million in credit lines (compared to $1.3 million in assets).
12. Philadelphia politician Dwight Evans will challenge embattled Rep. Chaka Fattah, facing corruption charges, in next year's Democratic primary. (Philadelphia Inquirer)
13. Bill Cosby could be forced to testify in Janice Dickinson's defamation lawsuit against the comedian who has been accused of several rapes. (AP)
14. LeBron James became the youngest player in NBA history to score 25,00 points, accomplishing the feat at 30 years and 307 days old, a few months faster than Kobe Bryant. (ESPN)
15. Larry Lessig, the Harvard professor trying to build support for campaign finance reform, dropped out of the Democratic presidential primary.

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(Lessig2016)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

— "Democrats prepare for another shutdown showdown in December ," by Kelsey Snell: It is riders, not funding numbers, that could cause the problem. Specifically, Democrats say they won't allow a budget to go through that cuts off any funding for Planned Parenthood. It could make for a tense couple of weeks.

— "Along the migrant trail, pressure grows to close Europe's open borders, " by Griff White: "With Slovenia behind them and Austria just ahead, the asylum seekers shoved at the metal barriers blocking their path and chanted a plea into the smoky night air: 'We want to go!' Nearly 1,000 people had been waiting all day for the border crossing to open, penned into a no-man's land by twitchy troops armed with pistols and assault rifles who met requests for food or water with stern commands and glares icy enough to match the fast-falling temperature. 'We've already spent two nights outside,' said Galia Ali, pointing to her severely disabled 8-year-old son, who lay shivering on a blanket near a dwindling fire. 'If we're still here in the morning, he'll be dead' Hours later, the barriers were lifted, and the migrants surged into Austria. But up and down the route being traveled by a historic number of migrants this year as they seek new lives in Europe, pressure is building to close the continent's cherished open borders for good."

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— An alarming cross-segment of white middle-aged Americans has seen its death rate jump since 1999 because of drugs, alcohol and suicide, a shocking reversal rarely seen by developed nations. (Lenny Bernstein and Joel Achenbach)

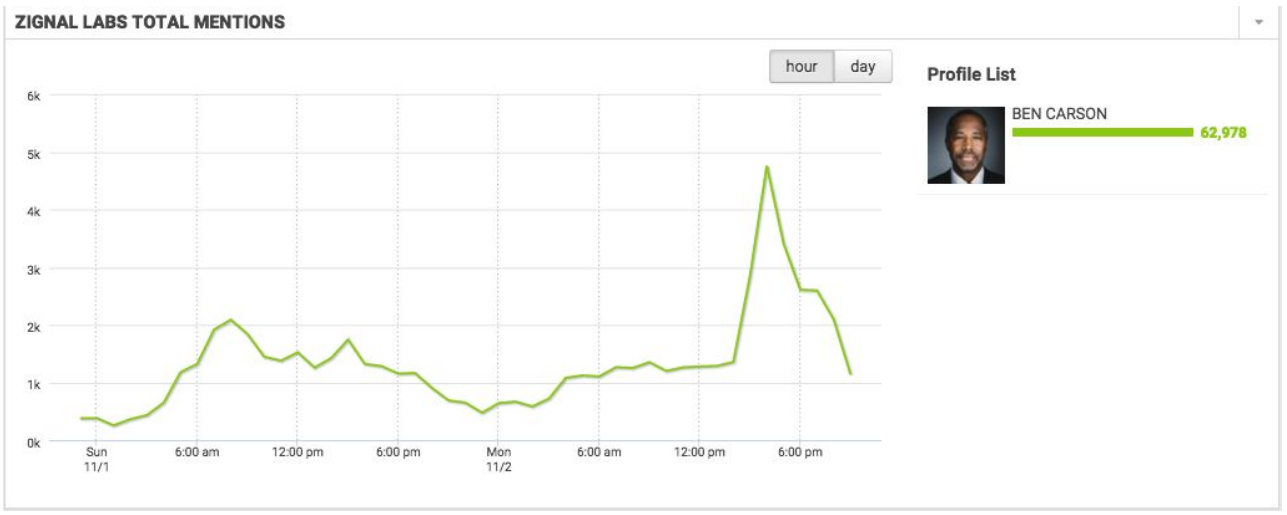
SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ — Curated by Elise Viebeck (@eliseviebeck):

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Social media grapples with Ben Carson's new frontrunner status. Trump continues to dominate the media chatter, but the presidential race was atwitter with talk of Carson leading in polls out yesterday. Here's the word cloud of his mentions, via our analytics partners at Zignal Labs:



See how Carson mentions spiked after the NBC/Wall Street Journal poll posted :

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–Pictures of the day:

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) got really into Halloween this year (we totally missed this last month):

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(@clairecmc)

Rep. Joe Crowley (D-N.Y.) kept supporting his Mets even in defeat:

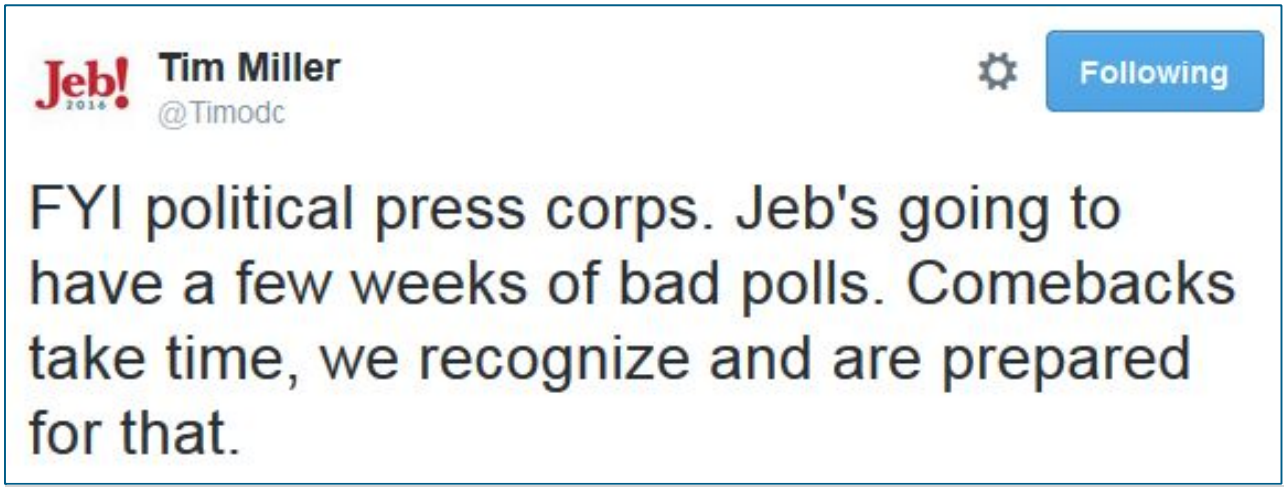
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(@repjoecrowley)

–Tweets of the day:

Bush communications director Tim Miller sought to lower expectations about the speed of his boss's attempted turnaround:



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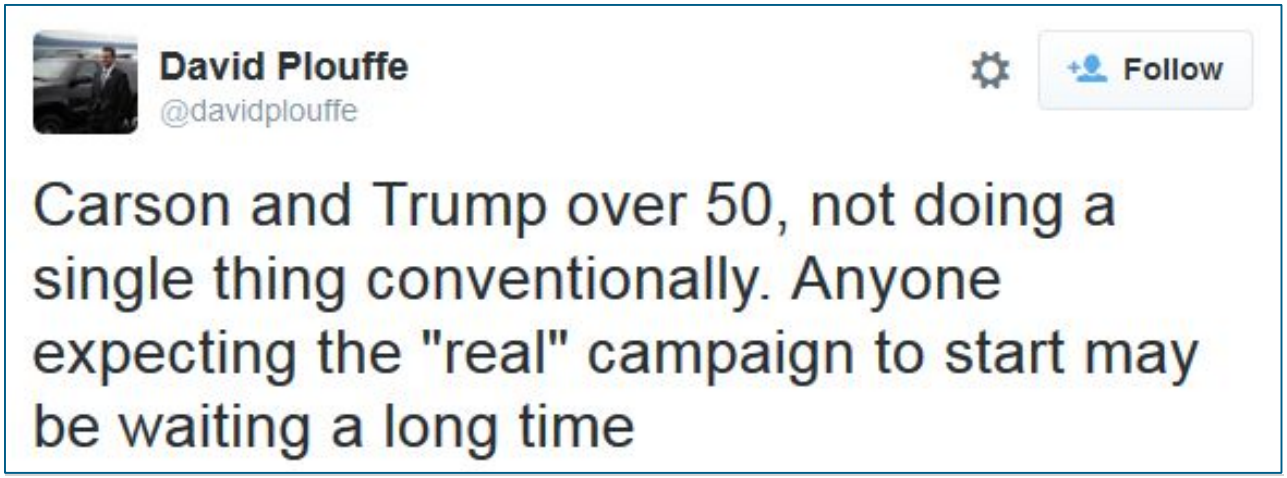
(@timodc)

Donald Trump, besides rolling out his new book later this morning at Trump Tower, is spending a good chunk of this week in New York rehearing for “Saturday Night Live”:



(@wpjenna)

A reality check from a former top Obama adviser:



(@davidplouffe)

Finally, Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) got a note of congratulations from President Obama for winning the National Press Club spelling bee:

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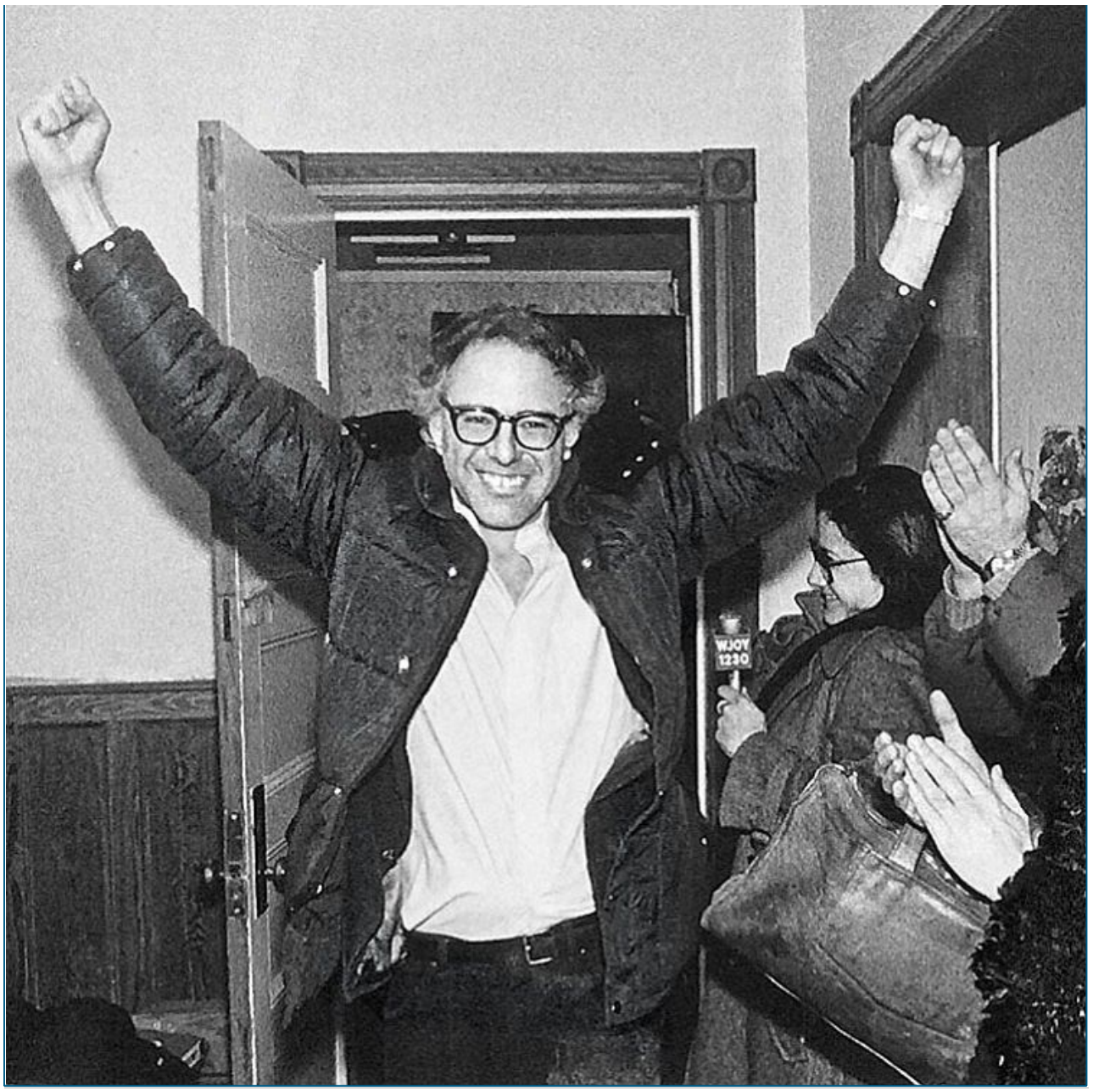


(@RepDonBeyer)

–Instagrams of the day:

The Sanders campaign posted a picture of vintage Bernie:

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(berniesanders)

A family of Ben Carson supporters dressed up in Carson-themed Halloween costumes:

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(realbencarson)

Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) and Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) took in the final World Series game with their spouses:

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(clairecmc)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— New York Times, "Before the stump, Ben Carson took the stand as an expert witness," by Steve Eder and Pam Belluck: "Fifteen years before the Baltimore police were accused of causing the death of Freddie Gray, the city was taken to court by another black man, one who had been paralyzed from the waist down after being tackled by an officer. The man, Horace Muhammad, claimed that the police had manhandled him and that paramedics had mishandled his care before he got to the hospital. At the trial, the city's lawyers brought out the perfect expert witness to vouch for the paramedics: an internationally renowned surgeon and a revered local celebrity, Dr. Benjamin S. Carson. During two hours on the stand, Dr. Carson held the jury in thrall with careful medical explanations of spinal injuries, a quietly self-assured tone and even one reference to God as he undercut Mr. Muhammad's claims. Only the police had caused Mr. Muhammad's paralysis, Dr. Carson said. The paramedics had not hurt him — they had helped him. … Dr. Carson's testimony seems intriguingly resonant now, as he campaigns for president in a country shaken by a series of cases in which black men have died after encounters with the police, including Mr. Gray, who died in April of a spinal cord injury sustained in police custody. It also provides a window into Dr. Carson's stature in the community at the time, his understated confidence, and the way he was viewed by African-Americans whose lives

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were markedly less prosperous and accomplished."

— USA Today, "How Trump is helping Clinton: Latino mobilization takes place," by Heidi M. Pryzbyla: "Clinton, who captured the majority of the Hispanic vote in the 2008 primaries against President Obama, is once again stepping up efforts to control that demographic by having March Anthony and Salma Hayek use social media to pitch for her, as well as having an "all-Latina phone bank" is dial up Nevada's Latino women."

— New York Times, "Ad helped Chris Christie win a race, but then he had to apologize," by Matt Flegenheimer: Two decades ago, Chris Christie was forced to apologize to two local New Jersey politicians after he incorrectly stated in a television ad that they were under investigation by the country prosecutor, when in reality, it was a "procedural follow-up." After easily beating them in the race for a freeholder position, Christie, in his court-ordered mea culpa, said, "I am writing to express my sincere apology to both of you and your families."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Hillary: Assault at Spring Valley High can't be justified. From the Huffington Post : "Clinton joined SiriusXM … to discuss criticism of her criminal justice platform as well as the black teenager who was thrown from her desk by a school resource officer in Columbia, South Carolina, last week. The Democratic front-runner said she was disturbed by the video of former Spring Valley High School resource officer Ben Fields manhandling a 16-year-old student known only as Shakara … 'Whatever the facts are, it doesn't justify behavior like that," she said."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Iran MPs: "Death to America" stands despite nuclear deal. From AFP : "A clear majority of Iranian legislators said Monday the Islamic republic will not abandon the slogan of 'Death to America' despite its July nuclear accord with world powers. 'The martyr-nurturing nation of Iran is not at all prepared to abandon the slogan of 'Death to America' under the pretext of a nuclear agreement,' 192 members of Iran's 290-seat parliament said in a statement carried by state news agency IRNA."

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DAYBOOK:

–What's happening today on the campaign trail: Donald Trump holds a book signing at Trump Tower in New York, N.Y. Hillary Clinton attends town halls in Coralville and Grinnell, Iowa. Jeb Bush campaigns in Lexington, S.C. Ben Carson continues his book tour with stops in Tampa and Lakeland, Fla. Martin O'Malley pushes for stronger gun control in Manchester, Durham and Keene, N.H. John Kasich greets voters in Dubuque, Iowa and Mobile, Ala.

–On the Hill: The Senate meets at 10 a.m. to resume consideration of the Federal Water Quality Protection Act. The House meets at 10 a.m. for morning business and noon for legislative business, with the first votes expected between 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. This week the House will consider legislation related to a long-term Highway Trust Fund extension, and legislation related to the National Defense Authorization Act.

–At the White House: No public events are scheduled.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "I eat nails when I wake up, then I have breakfast." — Jeb Bush to Bloomberg 's Mark Halperin

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— Tuesday will be sunny with between 70-75 degrees and lows between 40 and 52. "Nice day all the way! After yesterday's near-constant cloudy ceiling, we break into serious sunshine with morning temperatures rising fast enough to make you reconsider bringing a jacket," the Capital Weather Gang reports . "Temperatures should reach the low to middle 70s by afternoon with just very light breezes. Our Indian Summer season is upon us as fantastic, comfortably warm sunny conditions dominate today and most of tomorrow," the Capital Weather Gang reports. "Some showers intrude on Thursday, but temperatures stay warmer than normal into at least Friday when we have the chance to hit 80 degrees in some parts. A cold front arrives early on Saturday to bring some showers and cooler weather. By Sunday, highs may only manage the 50s."

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Dusty Baker in August (AP Photo/Brett Davis)

— Personnel moves fall apart at two of our city's biggest institutions:

- Contract talks crumbled over the weekend with Bud Black, who the Nationals had tentatively selected to be their new manager, The Post's James Wagner reports. CBS Sports reports that the Nationals have circled back to the other finalist, Dusty Baker, who last managed the Cincinnati Reds in 2013, and intend to offer him the job.
- Metro's year-long search for a new general manager hit another major snag as the transit agency and its top choice for the job, corporate financial expert Neal S. Cohen, called off their contract negotiations and parted ways," Paul Duggan, Michael Laris and Lori Aratani report. "The agency's four-member executive committee, which is conducting the search for a new chief executive, gave no reason publicly for the collapse … A Washington-area transportation official said he was told that Cohen — a career financial executive in private industry who has no experience in the public sector — was angry and taken aback by the media scrutiny he has been under since last Wednesday, when reporters learned that he was Metro's No. 1 candidate for the job."

— D.C. Coast, at 14th and K, will close at the end of the year.

— Charles Severance, convicted of murdering three Alexandria residents over an 11-year period, will spend the rest of his life in prison .

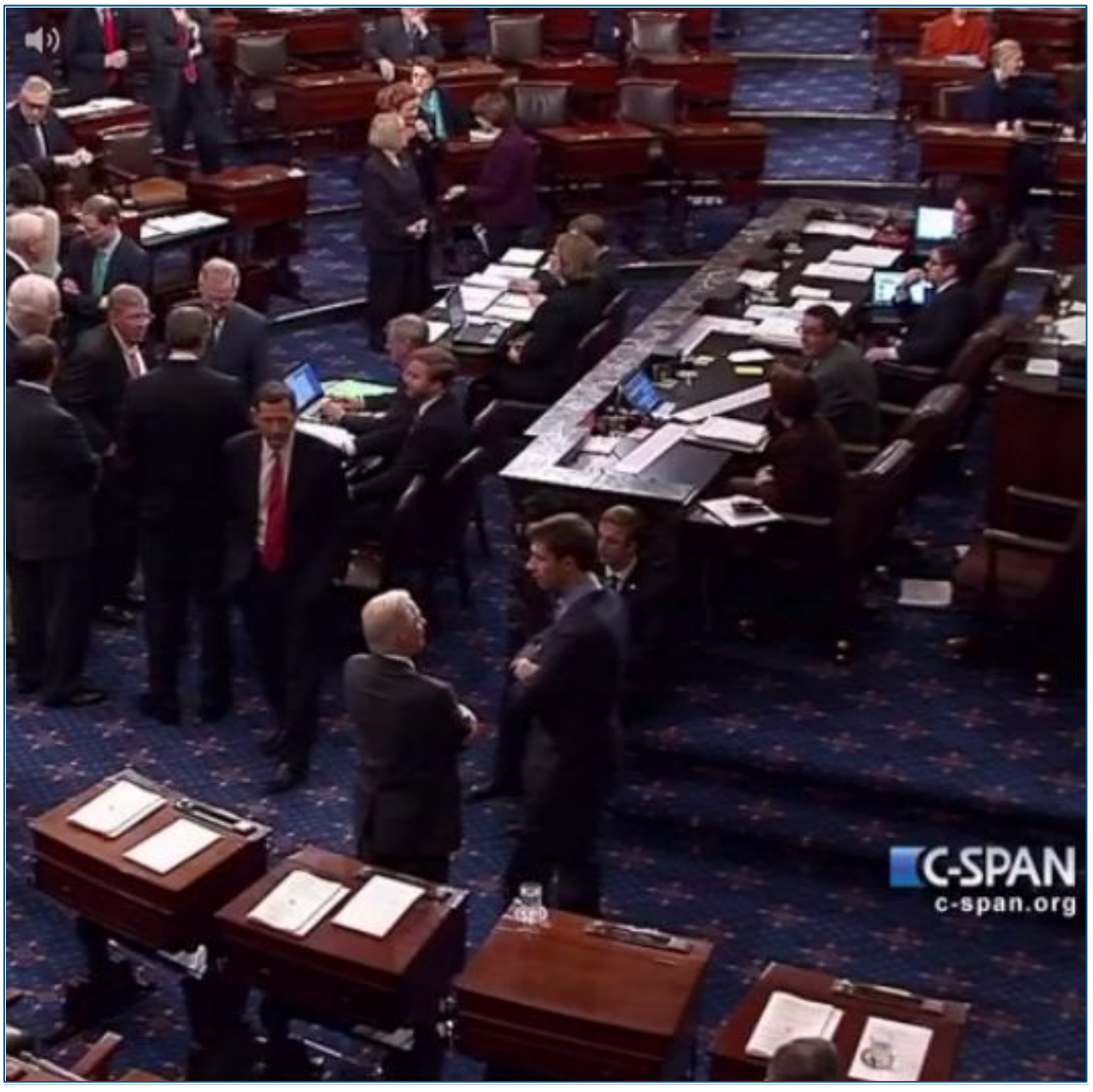
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— Fairfax County schools eliminated all open-flame science experiments less than a week after a chemistry experiment got out of control and resulted in five students getting burned. (Moriah Balingit, Justin Jouvenal and T. Rees Shapiro)

— A former NSA division chief is expected to plead guilty to beating his 3-year-old son to death. (Dan Morse)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Overheard from a floor staffer on a hot Senate mic at 1:23 a.m. during last week's budget-related votes: "He better get his ass here, before, they've already lost one vote because he's not here." Watch:



(Jeremy Art)

Rand Paul said he loves Donald Trump and thinks he's "hilarious" … and that running with

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him could be an “utter and absolute disaster”:



(Comedy Central)

Usher speaks with Black Lives Matter protesters outside a Hillary Clinton event:

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(TMZ)

C-SPAN dug up footage of Jeb introducing Marco Rubio on Election Night 2010:



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(C-SPAN)

Bush went on the attack against Rubio and Trump yesterday in an attempt to revitalize his campaign. But one woman sitting in his camera shot could not keep her eyes open as he spoke:



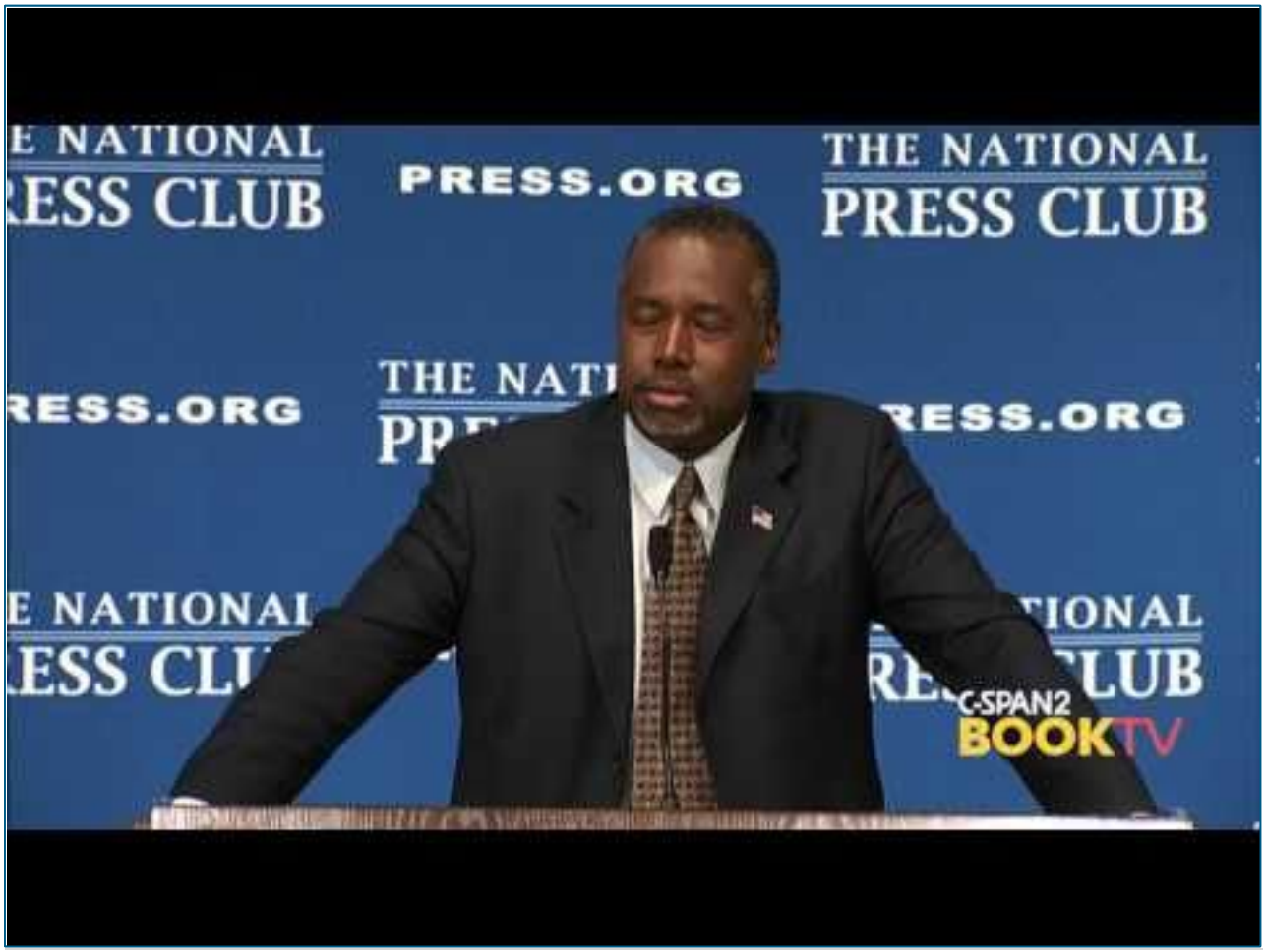
On the bright side for Jeb, he has diehard supporters like the woman who put a sticker on her forehead (no video here, just a picture):



(@HowardMortman)

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Ben Carson spoke about his new book at Washington's National Press Club:



(BookTV)

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The Washington Post

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jroberts@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/3/2008 5:51:27 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 06/03/08

Main Topics: McLobbyist, McBush, McCain's Iraq mistakes, Fallon interview, Bush tax cuts

Summary of Shift: Primary mania has swept the networks as the democratic nomination process comes to a close. Bill Clinton's contemptuous statements for a *Vanity Fair* columnist received considerable airtime. It looks as though Senator Kennedy's surgery was a success. GM announced a massive plant closure in the face of rocketing fuel prices. Dick Cheney's inbreeding joke about West Virginia was a running subject of coverage.

Highlights:
1) Steve Schmidt interviews
   a. Defends McCain's lobbyist ties, attacks Obama's Iran position
   b. Avoids discussion of McCain's foreign policy mistakes, instead attacks Obama
2) Bush tax cuts
3) Fallon and Iran
4) AZ sheriff, Joe Arpaio says he would endorse McCain if asked on "Fox and Friends" [no clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
Steve Schmidt Defends McCain Against Lobbyist Accusations and Attacks Obama's Iran Policies
(MSNBC 06/03/08 08:39am)
[Clip of Gibbs]

ROBERT GIBBS: Right now the McCain campaign is run by lobbyist and special interests. What do you think the administration is going to be run by? My guess is it's going to be lobbyists and special interests. The guy has been in Washington for 26 years. Everybody values his service to this country but having worked in Washington for 26 years, having your campaign run by lobbyist and special interests. I think people are going to ask themselves this question: what's going to change? And my guess is what your going to see is a lot of the same.

[...]

STEVE SCHMIDT: What Mr. Gibbs is talking about is nonsense. The reality is when it comes to lobbyists the McCain campaign has the toughest policy in the history of presidential campaigns. There are lobbyists all around Senator Obama's campaign. [...] Let me give you an example of something that counts here. The Farm Bill. Politicians don't want to vote against something called a Farm Bill in an election year because who wants to be attacked as being against farms?

Senator McCain voted against that bill because it was bad news for the American people, loaded up with billions of dollars of corporate pork and wasteful spending. Senator Obama voted for it because he wasn't tough enough to stand up, put the American people over the special interests. Time and time again, Senator McCain, over the course of his career, has stood up to the special interests. He has been the single biggest and most effective voice for reform in Washington in the last generation.

Senator Obama doesn't have that record. He has a lot of rhetoric. If it's going to change Washington though, you have to be able to be tough enough to stand up and Senator Obama has a record of not being able to do that.

PAT BUCHANAN: The Senator addressed the pro-Israeli lobby, AIPAC yesterday in Washington. His message seemed to be [...] that john McCain will be a far-more trustworthy and reliable defender of Israel than you could expect Barack Obama to be. Is that correct?

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SCHMIDT: What Senator McCain is talking about when it comes to Israel, America's most important ally in the region, is that Senator Obama pursues a path that will make the region more dangerous and will make the world more dangerous. If you talk to Israeli leaders, if you talk to our military commanders on the ground, the precipitous withdrawal from Iraq that Senator Obama advocates at a moment where we have turned a corner or now are winning there, would weaken Israel's security in the region, would weaken America's security in the region. His calls to go have unconditional meeting with President Ahmadinejad weaken the prestige of the American Presidency and make the world more dangerous. [...]

[...]

SCHMIDT: [...] One of the central lessons of history is that peace is secured through strength, not through weakness. Going to meet with the Iranian president who has called Israel a stinking it corpse, who has said Israel's days are soon to be ended, who is developing nuclear weapons, who is supplying deadly munitions used to kill Americans in Iraq. What is it that senator Obama is going to say to him? Is Senator Obama so arrogant that he believes he will charm his way into getting the Iranians to change their policies supporting terrorist organization?

Roberts: Does McCain Understand Iraq? Schmidt: Let's Talk about Obama (CNN 06/03/08 8:24pm)
JOHN ROBERTS: What's Senator McCain going to be talking about tonight?

STEVE SCHMIDT: [...] Senator McCain is very excited to talk to the country and to talk about the great debate we ought to have in this country. Our national security, getting the economy moving again, fixing health care, fixing the energy issue that affects so many millions of Americans. And he's going lay, to begin to lay out the choice tonight between his vision and the likely democratic nominee's position, Senator Obama.

ROBERTS: You chose New Orleans as the site for this speech because according to the campaign quoted, it epitomizes the government's failure to act. But it also brings President Bush into the conversation. Do you expect that while some people will talk about the differences between Senator McCain and President Bush, people who write about tonight's speech will also talk about what they have in common and that might not be so good for you.

SCHMIDT: All elections are about the future. This election will be about the future. It's going to be about Senator McCain's vision to move this country forward versus Senator Obama's vision. Senator Obama gives a great speech but a lot of his ideas will take us back, back to days of higher taxes, to a less secure America with regard to national security. New Orleans is a city that more than any other in the country signifies to the American people what is broken about our government and institutions. Senator Obama is fond of saying that John McCain represents a third term for George W. Bush. The reality is that Senator McCain has disagreed on issue after issue with President Bush over the last eight years. He is his own man. He has his own opinions. [...]

ROBERTS: [...] You say he has shown his independence over the eight years of the Bush administration and certainly ran on a different platform than President Bush did in the 2000 campaign. But people have written about Senator McCain that he has run to the right to mollify the conservative base, and they're wondering when are we going to see this maverick that independents like so much out there on the campaign trail?

SCHMIDT: I think you see him every day. For instance, when this war was going so badly, the one person in America who stood up and said we're losing this war, we have to change the strategy. He was attacked mercilessly for disloyalty by saying things were going badly. That person was John McCain. That strategy is working today. We are winning this war in Iraq. Senator Obama opposed that change strategy. When we look at the energy bill that Vice President Cheney was a great supporter of in 2005, a give away to the oil companies, Senator Obama supported it, Senator McCain voted against it. Surprised? I think a lot of your viewers probably will be. Over the course of the campaign, Senator McCain is going to talk about his views, his vision, and a lot of times -- those views and that vision is different than the president's policy. Again, we ought to have a great debate about the future. When Senator Obama repeats his talking point 300 times a

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day about the third term of George Bush, it's a dishonest debate. It's one that does a disservice to the American people.

ROBERTS: Let me come back to Iraq and by association Iran. Senator McCain has been hammering Barack Obama on his idea of meeting with Iranian leaders. Senator Obama has been mocking Senator McCain for saying late last week that U.S. troops in Iraq were backed down to pre-surge levels. Let's listen to what Senator Obama said.

[Clip]

BARACK OBAMA: He said, quote, we have drawn down to pre-surge levels. That's what he said. This is the guy who said I had no knowledge. John McCain was wrong.

ROBERTS: Steve, there are more troops in Iraq now than there were pre-surge. The Senator was incorrect when he said that. He's will once said that general David Petraeus drives around Baghdad in a light skinned humvee and not up armored one. Some people are wondering does Senator McCain have a full grasp of the facts on the ground there in Iraq?

SCHMIDT: Well, Senator McCain, of course he does. The reality here is the strategy That Senator McCain advocated is working. "The Washington Post" in an editorial this week talked about politicians like Barack Obama trying to reconsider their rhetoric about the fact that this war is lost. Three of the five brigading that were part of the surge are home. Two more are coming home. We are drawing down troops in Iraq. Reality is that the strategy Senator McCain advocated has turned a corner in Iraq. That was a strategy opposed by Senator Obama. Judgment counts here, too.

After promise that he wouldn't do it, Senator Obama voted against funds for combat troops in the field. He's not ready to be commander in chief. On the biggest question this country has faced, over the last couple of years, while the two of them have been in the senate, t was this question about how we change the strategy in Iraq. Senator McCain advocated a change in strategy that has led to where we are today, which is success in Iraq. We are winning this war after many years of mismanagement. Senator Obama said that strategy would not succeed. He was wrong. Senator McCain was right. Senator Obama's trying to it pick around the fringes because he's wrong on the big question. […] The difficult debate in this country is who can secure the peace for the next generation, and that person is Senator McCain.

Highlight #2
Admiral Fallon Denies Plans for Iran, Outlines Prescription for Iraq (CNN 06/03/08 7:24am)
KYRA PHILLIPS: Do you feel you were pushed out, Admiral?

WILLIAM FALLON: I think the real story here is what's important and what was important was not me. […] It was the fact that we have a war in progress […] and we needed to be focused on that. […]

PHILLIPS: […] Tom Barnett made it appear that you were the only man standing between the president and a war with Iran. Is that true?

FALLON: Kyra, I don't believe for a second President Bush wants a war with Iran. [...] I believe, in our relationship with Iran, we need to be strong and firm [...], at the same time, demonstrate a willingness and openness to engage in dialogue because there are certainly things we can find in common with these people.

PHILLIPS: Would you have done that? Would you have negotiated with Iran?

FALLON: Well it's not my position to really negotiate with Iran. […] It's the role of the diplomats to do the negotiation.

PHILLIPS: So when all the talk came about with regard to a third war, a war with Iran the president didn't have it on the table. He didn't say to you, 'Look, this is what I want to do,' and did you stand up to him and say, 'Nope. Sir, bad move.'

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FALLON: […] it's probably not appropriate to try to characterize it in that way. Again don't believe for a second that the president really wants to go to war with Iran. We have a lot of things going on and there are many other ways to solve problems.

I was very open and candid in my advice. I'm not shy. I will tell people, the leaders what I think and offer my opinions on Iran and other things and continue to do that.

PHILLIPS: Do you think that's what cost you your job?

FALLON: No, I don't believe so at all. I think, again it's this confidence issue of: do people really believe the chain of command is working for them? Or do we have doubts and if the doubts start focusing attention away from what the priority issues oughtta be then we gotta make a change.

[…]

PHILLIPS: Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama talk about pulling troops out by next year. John McCain says, 'Nope—we gotta stay the course. What is the best course for Iraq right now?

FALLON: I believe the best course is to retain the high confidence we have in General Dave Petraeus and his team out there. Dave's done an absolutely magnificent job in leading our people in that country. […] There's a very, very important military role here in providing stability and security in this country but that's not gonna be successful as we know without lots of other people playing a hand.

The political side of things in Iraq has got to move forward; that appears to be improving. People have to have confidence in their futures. They wanna have civility. They'd like to raise their families in peace.

They'd like to have a job. They'd like to look to tomorrow as better than today and it takes more than the military but the military is essential to provide stability and security. So the idea that we would suddenly just walk away from Iraq strikes me as not appropriate.

We all want to bring our troops home. We want to have the majority of our people back. We want the war ended, but given where we are today, the progress that they've made—particularly in the last couple of months—I think it's very, very heartening to see what's really happened here.

The right course of action is to continue to work with the Iraqis, let them take over the majority of the tasks for insuring security for the country and have our people come out on a timetable that's appropriate to the conditions that are on the ground.

Highlight #3
Velshi: McCain Wants the Tax Cuts Permanent for Everyone (CNN 06/03/08 6:47am)
ALI VELSHI: […] The only thing about this that you probably need to know is that none of the three major candidates running for president right now support getting rid of the tax cuts for everybody. In fact, John McCain, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama all say that the tax cuts should stay in place for low and middle class earners. The only issue separating them all is that John McCain thinks that they should stay in place for everybody […].

--
Jacob Roberts
Media Analyst
PMUSA
(c) 208.420.3470
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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/4/2008 1:38:07 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 7/4

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 4th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

11:25am McCain: Tour and Business Roundtable in Lafayette Hill, PA
- Tracking scheduled for this event
9:30pm McCain: Participates in Sturgis Rally 2008 motorcycle rally in Sturgis, SD

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain Leans Toward a Compromise on Offshore Drilling (NYT 8/4/08)
By BRIAN KNOWLTON
A day after Senator Barack Obama said he would consider supporting broad energy legislation that would permit some of the offshore oil drilling he had previously opposed, an aide to Senator John McCain said Sunday that he too might support such a compromise package.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/04/us/politics/04campaign.html

McCain and Obama tweak views on Iraq (USA Today 8/4/08)
By Kathy Kiely and David Jackson
John McCain and Barack Obama have been on opposite sides of the debate over U.S. policy in Iraq for much of the past two years. Now, they seem to be drawing closer together. Both now say the U.S. military can begin winding down combat operations in Iraq. Both believe the U.S. should begin stepping up its combat presence in Afghanistan. And each candidate says those views are a change of heart for his opponent.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-03-iraq-flap_N.htm?csp=34

Rerouting McCain's Bus (Washington Post 8/4/08)
By Howard Kurtz; C01
...the captain of the Straight Talk Express is having a bumpier ride with journalists than when he ran for president eight years ago. The popular image of the campaign -- McCain bantering with national journalists in the back of his bus -- has, in reality, all but vanished. The traveling press is now routinely stiffed in favor of five-minute sit-downs with local reporters.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080301851.html
See WSJ's "McCain Gains Better Control of Message": http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121764003514606519.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain Response to HIV Report (The Page 8/4/08)
U.S. Senator John McCain today issued the following statement on the report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that there were more new HIV infections in the United States than previously estimated: "...As President, I will work closely with non-profit, government, and private sector stakeholders to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS..."
http://thepage.time.com/mccain-response-to-hiv-report/
Link to International Herald Tribune's "New HIV cases in U.S. underreported by 40 percent": http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/08/03/healthscience/aids.php

McCain likely to let Obama choose VP first (Politico 8/4/08)
By: Jonathan Martin

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John McCain's extended circle is divided on whether he should announce his running mate in the immediate days ahead—but the Republican is more likely to wait for Barack Obama to announce his choice first, according to advisers.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=8AEA36D9-3048-5C12-0054349F7C5E83DA

McCain Urges Bush to Avoid Confrontations on China Trip (Washington Post 8/3/08)
by David S. Broder
Sen. John McCain urged President Bush yesterday to avoid saying anything "confrontational" to his Chinese hosts when he visits Beijing this week for the opening of the Olympics, lest he damage prospects for cooperation between the United States and China.
http://feeds.washingtonpost.com/~r/wp-dyn/rss/politics/index_xml/~3/354176166/AR2008080201681.html
See Reuters's "Bush's China hurdle: Keeping sports, politics apart": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080300406.html

Campaigns spar over drilling as leadership issue (AP 8/3/08)
By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
The different paths John McCain and Barack Obama have taken to support expanded offshore drilling for oil demonstrate how each would govern as president, their supporters said Sunday. McCain surrogates contended on the Sunday news programs that the Arizona Republican's turn toward drilling, which he had once opposed, showed how McCain would respond decisively to a crisis. Obama's supporters argued that his willingness to consider a bipartisan proposal including more drilling showed how the Illinois Democrat would pursue compromise to achieve results.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080300570.html

McCain, Obama Advisors See Balanced Budget (CBS 8/3/08)
Obama Backer Robert Rubin And McCain Advisor Carly Fiorina Say Sound Fiscal Policy Could Help Erase Massive Federal Deficit
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/08/03/ftn/main4317557.shtml
Link to pdf of "Face the Nation" transcript: http://www.cbsnews.com/htdocs/pdf/FTN_080308.pdf

Can $4 Gasoline Drive McCain Campaign? (WSJ blog 8/3/08)
By Peter A. Brown
The conventional wisdom is that $4 gasoline raises the odds that Sen. Barack Obama will become the nation's next president. ...Yet, the American people are undergoing a change of opinion when it comes to all things energy that might actually provide a useful campaign opportunity for Sen. John McCain. Simply put, this transformation offers the Republican presidential nominee a potential vehicle to turn around his largest problem – voters don't think he can resurrect the nation's slumping economy.
http://blogs.wsj.com/politicalperceptions/2008/08/03/can-4-gasoline-drive-mccain-campaign/

POW status was key factor in McCain's first race (AP 8/3/08)
By JACQUES BILLEAUD
A newcomer to Arizona, John McCain used his wife's wealth, ties to powerful Washington figures and, most of all, the emotional power of his five years in a Vietnamese prison to launch his political career 25 years ago. Well-known today, McCain's harrowing experience during the Vietnam War was new to voters in his 1982 race for an open congressional seat. McCain saturated local TV with an ad focused on his military record that showed him getting off a plane on crutches shortly after his release as a POW.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080300728_pf.html

McCain, the Analog Candidate (NYT 8/3/08)
By MARK LEIBOVICH
Big surprise: a lot of smarty-pants computer types have been snickering at John McCain lately. The self-described "Neanderthal" of the Grand Old Party (emphasis, old) has been catching flack for admitting that he is no techno-geek. He not only did not invent the Internet, he can barely use it.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/03/weekinreview/03leibovich.html
See Politico's "McCain's tech deficit poses problem": http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12261.html

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Is a John McCain-Daddy Yankee ticket forthcoming? (LA Times 8/3/08)
By Nicholas Riccardi
Despite mocking Barack Obama's celebrity status, McCain isn't above flirting with pop culture. He chills with a reggaeton star and hangs with a country singer whose latest song is 'Raising McCain.'
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-celebs3-2008aug03,0,6707693.story?track=rss

Poll: McCain's attack strategy paying dividends (AP 8/3/08)
By STEVEN R. HURST
Intensified attacks by Republican John McCain on the character of his Democratic opponent have coincided with Barack Obama losing a nine percentage point advantage in a national poll, which showed the candidates running dead even over the weekend.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080301299.html

Paris Hilton's mom takes offense at McCain's humor (AP 8/3/08)
Paris Hilton's mother doesn't share John McCain's sense of humor. ... On Sunday, Hilton's mother, Kathy Hilton, a McCain donor, registered her disapproval.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080300977.html

The Story the Campaign Pictures Tell (Washington Post 8/3/08)
By Deborah Howell; B06
Barack Obama may be only eight points ahead of John McCain in the latest Washington Post-ABC News poll, but he's creaming McCain in the number of pictures and stories published in The Post in the past two months.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080102874.html

Kerry Accuses GOP of 'Character Assassination' (Washington Post blog 8/3/08)
By Zachary A. Goldfarb
The 2004 Democratic presidential nominee accused the campaign of Sen. John McCain of trying to impugn the character of Sen. Barack Obama in this year's presidential race. ...Kerry and Lieberman were among a number of campaign surrogates who defended their candidates after an especially negative week in the campaign.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-talk/2008/08/kerry_accuses_gop_of_character.html

McCain Takes a Page From Clinton's Playbook (NYT blog 8/3/08)
By John Harwood
... Mr. Obama has watched Senator John McCain pick up central strands of Mrs. Clinton's approach, and amplify them. In exaggerated form, Mr. McCain, the presumed Republican presidential nominee, has adopted her attitude toward Mr. Obama's emergence (disdain), employed the same core argument against him (unproven and risky) and singled out his lingering electoral vulnerabilities (older voters, Rust Belt whites) in a contest where the Democrat's race forms the backdrop.
http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/08/03/mccain-takes-a-page-from-clintons-playbook/

Topless Women, Kid Rock, Bikers, And John McCain (Huffington Post 8/3/08)
By Sam Stein
The town of Sturgis, South Dakota will witness, on Monday, the rare fusion of drunken debauchery, public stripteasing, motorcycle rallying, a live performance by Kid Rock, and - last but not least - a veterans-themed speech by presidential candidate John McCain. Seriously.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/03/topless-women-kid-rock-bi_n_116632.html
See EarthTime's " McCain to roar into motorcycle haven in South Dakota": http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/223259,mccain-to-roar-into-motorcycle-haven-in-south-dakota.html

McCain, Obama Deliver Economic-Aid Proposals (WSJ 8/2/08)
By AMY CHOZICK and ELIZABETH HOLMES; Page A4
With the unemployment rate hitting a four-year high, Sen. Barack Obama and Republican rival Sen. John McCain ratcheted up the debate about how to bolster the ailing economy. ...Sen. McCain reiterated his plan promoting corporate tax cuts while criticizing his opponent's economic proposals.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121760304424804763.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Lobbyists Gave Campaigns $140 Million in 1st Half (WSJ 8/2/08)

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By T.W. FARNAM
While many candidates decry special interests' influence in Washington, new reports show campaigns received $140 million from lobbyists in the first half of 2008. ...Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain took in about $1.7 million from lobbyists, accounting for less than 2% of his total contributions.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121763902619406511.html?mod=special_page_campaign2008_leftbox

John McCain's oft-used Teddy Roosevelt analogy is fitting (LA Times 8/2/08)
By James Hohmann
His 'ultimate hero' was also a maverick Republican admired for military courage and devoted to conservation. And the fact that T.R. was the youngest president and is widely revered? Just good PR.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-teddyjohn3-2008aug03,0,2298498.story?track=rss

McCain faces a tough crowd on affirmative action (LA Times 8/2/08)
By David G. Savage
He tells a largely black audience that the practice should end. But his position on the issue is nuanced.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-affirm2-2008aug02,0,3426297.story?track=rss
Link to Prepared Text of Speech: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/01/us/politics/01mccain-text.html

McCain: "People Aren't Just Choosing a Motivational Speaker" (ThePage 8/2/08)
The Republican spanks Obama over energy, tax hikes, earmarks and more in his weekly radio message. "Washington is full of talented talkers. And Senator Obama is one of the best to come along in quite a while…. But good speeches aren't everything in politics."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/02/mccain-people-arent-just-choosing-a-motivational-speaker/
Link to transcript of radio address: http://thepage.time.com/mccains-weekly-radio-address-2/
Link to audio: http://www.johnmccain.com/Downloads/aug22008_wra.mp3

McCain's Race Comments an Issue at Urban League (Washington Post blog 8/1/08)
By Juliet Eilperin
A day after he accused Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) of unfairly exploiting the issue of race in this election, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) made the same pitch to the National Urban League that he delivered two weeks ago to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: "I am a candidate for president who seeks your vote and hopes to earn it."
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/01/mccains_race_comments_an_issue.html

Obama calls McCain 'cynical,' not racist (Politico 8/2/08)
By MIKE ALLEN
Barack Obama told reporters in Titusville, Fla., on Saturday that he is at "peace" with a McCain campaign ad seeking to portray him as an airhead celebrity in the mold of Britney Spears or Paris Hilton. "Let me be clear," Obama said in response to a question about the injection of race into the campaign. "In no way do I think that John McCain's campaign was being racist; I think they're cynical, and I think they want to distract people from talking about the real issues.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12255.html

McCain: The original political celebrity (Politico 8/2/08)
By: Carrie Budoff Brown
If Barack Obama gave new meaning to the term "political celebrity," then John McCain helped define it. He emerged as the most popular Republican in Hollywood following his 2000 presidential primary defeat, winning more screen time than the rest of Congress combined.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12260.html

How Shitty Was McCain? (Atlantic Online 8/2/08)
By Andrew Sullivan
...The arrogant-celebrity meme is a variation on the usual Rovian fare: empty of actual policy substance but evocative of playground loyalties and resentments. Basically, McCain called Obama a girl, to appeal to the jocks, and then called him arrogant to flatter the nerds.
http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2008/08/how-shitty-was.html

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Obama says McCain Camp Turned Comment Into 'Racially Incendiary Remark' (Washington Post blog 8/2/08)
By Jonathan Weisman
Sen. Barack Obama conceded Saturday morning that allegations he made that Republicans would try to "scare" voters by raising his appearance and name did allude to race, but he said it was rival John McCain's campaign that transformed general comments about his unusual biography into a "racially incendiary remark."
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/02/obama_says_mccain_camp_turned.html
See AP's "Analysis: Race remains the political wild card": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080102607.html

Obama backs away from McCain's debate challenge (AP 8/2/08)
By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
Democratic candidate Barack Obama on Saturday backed away from rival John McCain's challenge for a series of joint appearances, agreeing only to the standard three debates in the fall.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PRESIDENTIAL_DEBATES?SITE=ILROR&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain chides Obama over school vouchers (AP 8/2/08)
By BETH FOUHY
John McCain, the father of private school students, criticized Democratic rival Barack Obama on Friday for choosing private over public school for his kids. The difference, according to the Arizona Republican, is that he _ not Obama _ favors vouchers that give parents more school choices.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080101180.html

Race Proves to Be Unwelcome but Persistent Issue (Washington Post 8/2/08)
By Juliet Eilperin and Jonathan Weisman; A04
Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama tried yesterday to step back from a divisive debate over race, with each candidate denying that he was the first to inject the issue into the campaign. Nonetheless, the candidates and campaigns battled throughout the day over the issue and over which side was engaged in "low road" politics, an indication that race is likely to remain a major point of contention in what is becoming an increasingly bitter contest.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080103481.html

McCain Camp's Debate Response: Our Town-Hall Proposal Is "Beneath A Worldwide Celebrity" (TPM ElectionCentral 8/2/08)
By Greg Sargent
Here's the McCain campaign's response to Camp Obama's acceptance today of the four-debate framework put forth by the Commission on Presidential Debates, complete with the obligatory reference to Obama as a "celebrity"
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/mccain_campaigns_response_on_d.php

McCain-Backing GOP Senator Mel Martinez: Obama Did Not Play the Race Card (Huffington Post 8/2/08)
"I think we should be in a post-racial environment," said Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., a supporter of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., "I think Sen. [Barack] Obama has done an admirable job of that. I don't think he has race-baited. I think he has been very good about that."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/02/mccain-backing-gop-senato_n_116537.html

McCain asks Va. congressman for records (AP 8/2/08)
U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia has been asked for "personal documents" by John McCain's campaign, a Republican knowledgeable with the discussions said Saturday.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-08-02-McCain-camp_N.htm?csp=34

Bredesen warns McCain of race-baiting (Politico 8/1/08)
By: Alexander Burns
With the two presidential campaigns trading accusations of race-baiting, one of Barack Obama's prominent red-state backers warned John McCain's campaign on Friday to be careful of attacking Obama in ways that could

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seem racially motivated.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12247.html

McCain camp mocks Obama as Messiah-like (Reuters 8/1/08)
By Steve Holland
Republican John McCain's presidential team mocked Democrat Barack Obama on Friday as an overconfident, Messiah-like candidate with a tendency toward exaggeration in a Web ad that closed out a week of attacks.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080101760.html
Link to video of ad ("The One"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mopkn0lPzM8

McCain: Our Campaign Isn't "Negative In The Slightest" (TPM ElectionCentral 8/1/08)
By Greg Sargent - August 1, 2008, 4:38P
John McCain just held a presser in Florida. Here are the, er, high points:
• Said "I don't think our campaign is negative in the slightest." There are negative McCain ads running as we speak, and in the very same presser, he attacked Obama for injecting race into the campaign again.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/mccain_our_campaign_isnt_negat.php

McCain suggests military-style invasion modeled on the surge to control inner city crime. (ThinkProgress 8/1/08)
Today, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) spoke to the National Urban League, a group "devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream." When an audience member asked him how he planned to reduce urban crime, McCain praised Mayor Rudy Giuliani's efforts in New York Cirty before invoking the military's tactics in Iraq as the model for crime-fighting:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/01/mccain-suggests-military-style-invasion-modeled-on-the-surge-to-control-inner-city-crime/

Dueling Web Ads (CBS blog 8/1/08)
by Scott Conroy
The McCain campaign's advertising blitz against Barack Obama continues with a new web spot called "Barack Obama Forgot Latin America."
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/01/politics/horserace/entry4315226.shtml
Link to video of ad ("Barack Obama Forgot Latin America"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZKxWrPQFXc
Link to script (with translation): http://www.standardnewswire.com/news/607493142.html

High-Ranking McCain Campaign Staffer Lobbied For Repeal Of Economic Sanctions Against Cuba (TPM 8/1/08)
By Greg Sargent and Eric Kleefeld
A high-ranking campaign staffer for John McCain lobbied for years on behalf of a major corporation in favor of repealing economic sanctions against Cuba, a position that is directly at odds with McCain's position, according to lobbyist disclosure forms.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/high_ranking_mccain_staffer_has_lobbied.php

McCain's blogger rips bloggers 'sitting in mother's basement, ranting into the ether.' (ThinkProgress 8/1/08)
Yesterday, the New York Times' editorial board blog, The Board, wrote a post criticizing a McCain campaign ad. McCain spokesman Michael Goldfarb — who writes and edits the campaign's blog — ripped into the Times, comparing the editors to "the average Daily Kos diarist" "ranting into the ether between games of dungeons and dragons":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/01/mccains-blogger-rips-bloggers-sitting-in-mothers-basement-ranting-into-the-ether/

The Curious Mind of John McCain (Washington Post 8/1/08)
By Robert G. Kaiser; A01
Ambition and Emotion Color the Complex Intellect of the Candidate
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080103032.html

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McCain's Country Music Extravaganza (Washington Post blog 8/1/08)
By Juliet Eilperin
"Can I get a yee-haw?" With that, country music star John Rich launched into a spirited "Country First" concert on behalf Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) tonight featuring his number-one hit "Lost in This Moment with You" and the debut of a song he had written especially for the presumptive GOP nominee, "Raising McCain." The free concert, sponsored by the Florida Republican Party, attracted several hundred people
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/01/mccains_country_music_extravag.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Answering McCain's Attacks (Washington Post 8/4/08)
By Fred Hiatt; A11
As a week of name-calling and rapid responses faded into history, political practitioners seemed to agree that John McCain had diminished himself and his straight-talk brand with negative ads and petty misrepresentations. Yet, surprisingly, a consensus also seemed to be forming that Barack Obama, at least tactically, had not come out on top.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080301574.html

Why McCain is still in it (LA Times 8/4/08)
By Nate Silver
Barack Obama seems to enjoy some enormous advantages over John McCain in their pursuit of the White House. ...But since clinching the Democratic nomination June 3, Obama has consistently held only a four-percentage-point lead, on average, over McCain in national polls. ...That's led some reporters to conclude that Obama is underachieving.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-silver4-2008aug04,0,1279703.story?track=rss

Why McCain Has Caught Obama and What Obama Can Do About It (Huffington Post 8/4/08)
by Cenk Uygur
There are two principal reasons why John McCain has caught Barack Obama in the national polls. 1) McCain has changed the whole conversation about this election into one question - do you want to vote for or against Obama? This is genius. Obama needs to switch the conversation if he wants to win. 2) Obama has only played defense so far and has not attacked at all. This is weakness and a sure-fire way to lose an election.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cenk-uygur/why-john-mccain-has-caugh_b_116672.html

Both presidential candidates are capable of better. (Washington Post 8/3/08)
IS BARACK Obama a celebrity lightweight, a self-involved Paris Hilton yearning to live "The Simple Life" in the Oval Office? Is John McCain trying to scare voters about the fact that Mr. Obama, soon to be the first African American nominee, "doesn't look like all those other presidents on those dollar bills?" And one more question: How silly were we, just two months ago, in venturing "some hope that the general election can be waged on the elevated plane that both nominees say they want?"
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/02/AR2008080201298.html

McCain's Problem Isn't His Tactics. It's GOP Ideas. (Washington Post 8/3/08)
By Greg Anrig; B01
At long last, the conservative juggernaut is cracking up. From the Reagan era until late 2005 or so, conservatives crushed progressives like me in debates as reliably as the Harlem Globetrotters owned the Washington Generals. The right would eloquently praise the virtues of free markets and the magic of the invisible hand. We would respond by stammering about the importance of regulation and a mixed economy, knowing even as the words came out that our audience was becoming bored.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080103061.html

We've Looked at Clouds From Both Sides Now (Washington Post 8/3/08)
LEFT: Word cloud created from Obama's campaign blog at my.barackobama.com/page/content/hqblog/ | RIGHT: Word cloud created from McCain's campaign blog at www.johnmccain.com/McCainReport/
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2008/08/01/GR2008080102726.html

Defeat Your Opponents. Then Hire Them (NYT 8/3/08)
By DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

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The scale of the challenges faced by the next president makes a diverse inner circle all the more necessary.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/03/opinion/03goodwin.html

'Bomb Bomb Iran'? Not Likely. (Washington Post 8/3/08)
By David Ignatius; B07
Analysts speculate about the danger of a U.S. or Israeli military attack on Iran before the Bush administration departs office next January. But if you read the tea leaves carefully, the evidence is actually pointing in the opposite direction.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080102872.html?nav=rss_print/editorialpages

What Did He Do to be So Black and Blue? Obama and the Race Card (Huffington Post 8/3/08)
by Drew Westen
This year should be a perfect storm for a Democratic presidential candidate, particularly one with the rhetorical gifts of Barack Obama. McCain has literally every indicator political scientists enter into their models to predict electoral success or defeat working against him...
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/drew-westen/what-did-he-do-to-be-so-b_b_116658.html

The McCain Strategy Is Vintage Karl Rove, the Media Loves It, and the Obama Camp Is Not Taking It Seriously Enough (Huffington Post 8/3/08)
by Paul Abrams
There is a plausible argument that no one has so negatively impacted the lives of the American people and the world as has Karl Rove. Not only did he elect an incompetent, not only did he misuse the White House to further his goal of a permanent Republican majority, but he has destroyed the American political dialogue.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/paul-abrams/the-mccain-strategy-is-vi_b_116648.html

Running While Black (NYT 8/2/08)
By BOB HERBERT
Gee, I wonder why, if you have a black man running for high public office — say, Barack Obama or Harold Ford — the opposition feels compelled to run low-life political ads featuring tacky, sexually provocative white women who have no connection whatsoever to the black male candidates.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/02/opinion/02herbert.html

Right strategy, wrong candidate? (MSNBC 8/2/08)
By Chuck Todd
The hardest thing to do in politics is campaign as someone you aren't.... Unless, somehow, the candidate figures out how to embrace the strategy. Are we seeing this happen right now to John McCain?
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25989371/

Where Have You Gone, John? (Newsweek 8/2/08*)
*Print Edition: 8/11/08
By Jonathan Alter
His zesty attacks on corporate greed and inspiring plans for national service are no more.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/150477

The Low-Road Warrior (NY Mag 8/1/08)
By John Heilemann
Mudslinging will damage McCain's brand—but it may be the only way he can win.
http://nymag.com/news/politics/powergrid/48928/

BUSH NEWS

Bush Aims to Pull Off Balancing Act on Asian Trip (WSJ 8/4/08)
By JOHN D. MCKINNON; Page A6
U.S. President George W. Bush leaves for a visit to Asia on Monday that will help mark China's emergence on the world stage but will also seek to reassure longtime allies in the region that the U.S. still stands with them. To some of China's nervous neighbors, though, the U.S.'s actions -- or lack thereof -- don't always match its words.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121778995910008045.html?mod=rss_whats_news_us

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Barack Obama fans wish Mr. President a happy birthday (LA Times blog 8/3/08)
By DON FREDERICK and ANDREW MALCOLM
Sen. Barack Obama walked into a town hall meeting in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, last week. ... But, before listening to his usual stump speech, the crowd, perhaps spontaneously, had something to do for their guy, according to the From the Road blog of CBS News' Allison O'Keefe. The nominee-to-be's fans sang "Happy Birthday." On Monday, Obama will turn 47. But the happy crowd did not sing "Happy birthday, Sen. Obama." It confidently sang "Happy birthday, Mr. President." And Barack Obama looked very pleased to hear it.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-ticket3-2008aug03,0,5841944.story?track=rss

Bush plays host at Camp David to ruler of Dubai (AP 8/3/08)
By BEN FELLER,
President Bush welcomed Dubai's ruler to his presidential retreat on Sunday, returning the favor for the opulent hospitality he received in the United Arab Emirates this year.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080803/ap_on_go_pr_wh/bush

OTHER TOP NEWS

Al Qaeda Posting Confirms Death of Weapons Expert (WSJ 8/4/08)
By ALAN CULLISON
In a blow to al Qaeda in Pakistan, the terrorist group confirmed Sunday that one of its top weapons researchers, Abu Khabab al-Masri, was killed, apparently in a U.S. missile strike.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121778969565808003.html?mod=rss_whats_news_us

New Obama Ad. McCain "In the Pocket of Big Oil" (ABC blog 8/4/08)
As Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., kicks off a week focused on energy, his campaign will on Monday begin running a new TV ad that attacks Sen. John McCain as "in the pocket of big oil."
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/08/new-obama-ad-mc.html
Link to video of ad: http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/pocket_ad

Obama Says Energy Compromise Is Necessary (Washington Post 8/3/08)
By Jonathan Weisman; A14
Sen. Barack Obama on Saturday said a shift in his stance on offshore oil drilling is a necessary compromise with Republicans to gain their support for his broader goals of energy independence.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/02/AR2008080201538.html
See WaPo's "Obama Signals Support for Wider Offshore Drilling": http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080103199.html

2 U.S. soldiers killed by roadside bomb in Baghdad (AP 8/4/08)
The U.S. military said two American soldiers were killed and one was wounded by a roadside bomb in Baghdad on Monday, while Iraqi officials reported that at least nine Iraqis died in a series of bombings of Iraqi security forces.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2008-08-04-roadside-bombs_N.htm?csp=34

U.N. council must increase sanctions on Iran: U.S '(Reuters 8/3/08)
By Louis Charbonneau
The United States said on Sunday that Iran has left the U.N. Security Council no choice but to increase sanctions on the Islamic Republic for ignoring demands that it halt sensitive nuclear activities. The U.S. declaration came a day after an informal deadline lapsed for Iran to respond to an offer from the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia for talks on its disputed nuclear program.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080300969.html

Rasmussen: Only 22% Say McCain Ad Racist, But Over Half (53%) See Obama Dollar-bill Comment That Way (Rasmussen 8/3/08)
Sixty-nine percent (69%) of the nation's voters say they've seen news coverage of the McCain campaign commercial that includes images of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton and suggests that Barack Obama is a celebrity just like them. Of those, just 22% say the ad was racist while 63% say it was not.
http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_presidential_election/only_22_say_mccain_ad_racist_but_over_half_53_see_obama_dollar_bill_comment_that_way

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Obama makes bid in 7 longtime Republican states (AP 8/3/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
Alaska is young. Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia have growing populations and many black voters. Montana has seen recent Democratic inroads, and North Dakota has sent only Democrats to Congress since 1986. Indiana borders Barack Obama's home state.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080300714.html

House conservatives plan another political stunt tomorrow. (Think Progress 8/3/08)
Just as they did last Friday, a group of House Republicans will engage in political theater on the floor tomorrow, staging a fake session on gas prices. Congress adjourned last week, but some conservatives remained behind to clamor in the dark chamber for a vote on oil drilling. Politico reports that "Republicans felt they got a lot of good press out of Friday's 'revolt,' so they will be back at it again."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/03/house-conservatives-plan-another-political-stunt-on-monday/

Jobless Rate Hits a High, Dims Hope For Recovery (Washington Post 8/2/08)
By Neil Irwin and Alejandro Lazo; A01
Four-Year Peak Signals Deeper Economic Woes... The fallout from the economic downturn spread into new corners of the job market in July, adding to the deep stresses facing American workers. ...GOP presidential candidate John McCain, meanwhile, renewed his call for a job-creation plan that includes cutting the corporate income tax.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080100920.html

Ahmadinejad: Iran won't give up nuclear rights (AP 8/2/08)
By NASSER KARIMI
Iran will not give up "a single iota of its nuclear rights," the country's president said Saturday, rebuffing an informal deadline to stop expanding uranium enrichment or face more sanctions.
http://apnews.myway.com/article/20080803/D92AHU5G0.html

Bin Laden driver could stay indefinitely at Gitmo (AP 8/2/08)
The commander of the Guantanamo Bay detention center said Saturday he has been researching new potential accommodations for Osama bin Laden's driver, who could be held here indefinitely regardless of the verdict at his war crimes trial.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2008-08-02-Gitmo_N.htm?csp=34

Fewer Iraqi civilians killed in July (Reuters 8/1/08)
By Missy Ryan
The number of civilians killed in Iraq last month fell to less than a quarter of the toll in July 2007, government figures released on Friday showed, underscoring a dramatic improvement in security.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080100568.html

Economic models predict clear Obama win in November (Reuters 8/1/08)
By Alister Bull
It really is the economy, stupid! Economic models that have correctly predicted the winner of almost all post-war U.S. presidential elections say recession fears will secure a victory for Barack Obama in November.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080101181.html

Wal-Mart denies that it told employees how to vote (AP 8/1/08)
By CHUCK BARTELS AND ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, denied a report Friday that it had pressured employees to vote against Democrats in November because of worries that a bill the party supports would make it easier for workers to unionize.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/01/AR2008080101136.html

POLLS

Obama Leads, Pessimism Reigns Among Key Group (Washington Post 8/4/08)
By Michael D. Shear and Jon Cohen; A01
Democratic Sen. Barack Obama holds a 2 to 1 edge over Republican Sen. John McCain among the nation's low-

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wage workers, but many are unconvinced that either presidential
candidate would be better than the other at fixing the ailing economy or improving the health-care system, according to a new national poll.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/03/AR2008080301969.html
Link to pdf of poll results: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/business/hardesthit/images/assets/Poll.pdf?hpid=topnews

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 9/16/2008 6:49:10 AM
Subject: [big campaign] 5 Secretaries of State Agree: We Must Talk to Iran

5 Secretaries of State Agree: We Must Talk to Iran

Washington, D.C. - Yesterday five former American secretaries of state including Republicans Henry Kissinger, Colin Powell, and James Baker all reaffirmed their support for direct talks with Iran. Kissinger went as far as to say that there must be high-level talks with the Iranians "without conditions." These statements reaffirm Barack Obama's position for the need for tough direct diplomacy with Iran. Even the Bush administration has started to come around after years of pursuing a failed policy of refusing to engage. It is only John McCain who continues to call this approach "naïve" and instead clings to a reckless strategy that has clearly failed to make us safer.

Five former Secretaries of State advocate direct talks with Iran without pre-conditions. "Five former U.S. secretaries of state said on Monday the next American administration should talk to Iran, a foe President George W. Bush has generally shunned as part of an 'axis of evil.'" At the event sponsored by the Center for New American Security, George Washington University, Rice University and City College, Henry Kissinger, Colin Powell James Baker, Madeleine Albright and Warren Christopher all agreed. Former Clinton Secretary of State Madeleine Albright advised that "You need to engage with countries you have problems with," and said "I believe we need to engage with Iran." Colin Powell, Secretary of State under George W. Bush echoed the need for negotiations stating: "Let's get together and talk about nuclear weapons." [AP, 9/15/08 . ABC News, 9/15/08 . Reuters, 9/16/08 .]

Henry Kissinger, an advisor to John McCain, supports negotiating with Iran "without preconditions." Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State under Presidents Nixon and Ford, not only indicated that he "was in favor of negotiating with Iran," but said that such negotiations should occur "without conditions," and should begin at a high level." These remarks put Kissinger firmly in line with Senator Obama's long-held position of engagement with Iran and against McCain's refusal to talk. [ABC News, 9/15/08]

Even the Bush administration is moving toward Senator Obama's strategy of diplomatic engagement with Iran. The Bush Administration is beginning to embrace a number of foreign policy positions favored by Senator Obama. "On a range of major foreign policy issues over the past year, Bush has pursued strategies and actions very much along the lines of what Sen. Obama has advocated during his presidential race." "On the diplomatic front, Obama has made a point of advocating dialogue with Iran" and though he has been vilified by conservatives for it, "in July, Bush sent a high-level U.S. emissary to attend nuclear talks with Iran." In June, the Washington Post reported that "Senior officials at the State Department and beyond are mulling a proposal to open an interest section in Tehran, similar to the one the United States has operated in Havana since1977." [Washington Post, 9/15/08 . Washington Post, 6/23/08]

As consensus forms around the Obama position, John McCain continues to promote his reckless approach for dealing with Iran that has not worked for years now. Senator McCain has consistently derided Barack Obama as naïve for his willingness to have tough direct diplomacy with Iran. McCain has instead called for more sanctions and the continuation of a policy that has not worked for the past five years and that even President Bush is now backing away from. He even put out an advertisement two weeks ago reaffirming this position and deriding Obama's position on Iran. [John McCain conference call, 5/15/08 . John McCain.com]

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 6/29/2015 9:08:01 AM
Subject: Re: Ben Gemen policy background

Also- Trevor just followed up again with the following on the SCOTUS ruling:

"One more thing to flag. John is certainly aware of today's Supreme Court decision presenting a near-term obstacle for Mercury regulations. He may be asked about it, and he could underscore his confidence that the Obama administration will take the necessary steps to comply and fully implement the regulations, but should there be a delay, HRC will do so as President.

Of note, These pollutants are dangerous primarily to women and their fetuses. They have never been regulated. It's been 25 years since the toxics provisions were adopted by Congress in 1990. The regulations are long overdue."

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 4:00 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> Yep, you're all good to call him at 5:00 or even later if it takes you longer to get here or home. His best number is his desk line: 202-266-7429

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:56 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > Yep I have a number and I will call him now to ask. Will circle back.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:54 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > > Can you call Ben and see if I can cal him at 5:00
> > > Get a number.

On Jun 29, 2015 3:19 PM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > Trevor just followed up with the below. His cell is 917-755-5446 just in case you want to call.

> > > > _____

> > > > We've also found it successful when chatting with folks to frame energy/climate as integral to each of her four fights:

> > > > - investing in clean energy that will power the economy of the future

> > > > - protecting families from pollution

> > > > - safeguarding our country from the impacts of climate change and reducing our oil dependence

> > > > - preventing those who want to keep us trapped in the energy economy of the past from distorting our political process.

On Mon, Jun 29, 2015 at 3:14 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > > > > Hi John-

> > > > > Here's the policy background Trevor Houser sent over for the Ben Gemen interview. Policy memo attached and at the bottom in plain text. All printed for you in the office as well in case you're able to make it in.

> > > > > Thanks,
> > > > > Milia

> > > > > Note From Trevor Houser:

> > > > > "Not sure if comms gave John background, but the reporter has been asking about HRC's process for a climate and enviro policy. Jake and the team felt now was an appropriate time to work with Ben Geman on that story in an effort to:

> > > > > 1) underscore how seriously she takes these issues;
> > > > > 2) Climate and Environment are top priorities for the campaign; and

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3) The campaign is leading a deliberate and thoughtful policy process that has sought input from a large number of experts and key stakeholders in the environment, clean energy, and conservation communities.

The one other thing I would flag for John is that if Ben asks whether we would support a permanent extension of the PTC/ITC we need to hedge given out solar/renewable targets. Those imply a $10-$15 billion per year price tag by 2020 and $25-$35 billion per year by 2027 if extended at current levels. May need to call for "extending and improving" or something like that."

Secretary of State Record

As Secretary, Hillary fought hard to mobilize a global response to climate change. She immediately created the first high-level post at the State Department dedicated exclusively to climate diplomacy (the US Special Envoy for Climate Change)

She put climate squarely on the agenda during her first trip as Secretary to Beijing

Hillary worked to feature climate change in the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue meeting

She helped to hammer out the breakthrough that led to the Copenhagen Accord, which, among other things, was the first international agreement in which all of the major economies – including China – committed to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution.

In addition, she worked hard as Secretary to build new coalitions to combat emissions from methane and other super-pollutants that damage the climate, as well as to launch a clean cookstove initiative that is bringing not only health but climate benefits.

In pursuing these international agreements, and the leadership we are showing at home and abroad, the United States now has a much stronger hand to play in the upcoming negotiations in Paris.

To: John Podesta, Jake Sullivan, Maya Harris and Dan Schwerin

From: Energy and Climate Team

Date: June 29, 2015

Re: Energy, Climate and Environment Policy Platform

This memo provides a brief overview of our proposed energy, climate and environment policy platform. We have developed six major policy initiatives that together offer a comprehensive strategy for a) protecting American families from pollution, b) powering the economy of the future, c) delivering energy and climate security that lasts, and d) responsibly stewarding our country's natural bounty and beauty. We are finalizing separate white papers with more detail on each of the six initiatives.

Our platform is designed to make the US the clean energy superpower of the 21st century and a global leader in the fight against climate change, and to do so in a way that provides economic opportunity and security for all Americans. We will have half a billion solar panels installed across the country by 2020 and generate enough renewable energy to power every home in the country within 10 years. During that time we will reduce US oil consumption by 20% and partner with other countries bring global oil demand growth to a halt *[note: this is a proposed target we haven't yet discussed as a group]*.

The next decade is critical if we are going to successfully transition to a clean energy economy, deliver security that lasts, and prevent catastrophic climate change. The following is an ambitious and achievable plan of attack.

1. Smart Standards

We will fight efforts to roll back environmental protections in favor of polluters. We will defend and extend common-sense standards that make our air and water cleaner, safeguard the health of our families, reduce energy waste, driven clean energy deployment and fight global climate change. This includes full implementation of the Clean Power Plan, extension of efficiency standards for cars, trucks, airplanes and appliances, better building codes, mandatory disclosure of fracking chemicals and methane regulations on oil and gas production.

2. Clean Energy Challenge

Standards set the floor, not the ceiling. We can and must go further. We will form a new partnership with states, cities and rural communities that are ready to lead, providing competitive grants to those that exceed federal guidelines, remove barriers to clean energy access and entrepreneurship, and invest in innovative solutions that reduce energy costs, protect public health and cut carbon pollution.

As part of this bargain, we will guarantee that every agency within the federal government is working in concert to ensure Americans

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have the tools and resources they need to succeed. That includes investing in new technologies, both in our labs and through our tax code, and ensuring that we are maximizing the clean energy potential of public lands and public buildings. We will expand successful innovation initiatives, like ARPA-e, cut those that fail to deliver results, and ensure that public R&D supports private sector entrepreneurialism, small business creation and employment growth.

3. Modernizing North American Infrastructure

We must improve the safety and security of existing energy infrastructure in North America and ensure that the new infrastructure we build is consistent with the clean energy economy we are seeking to create. We will launch a major initiative to repair, replace and better regulate our existing pipeline and rail network to protect our families, communities, and outdoor economy from the risk of oil spills and explosions and protect the climate from fugitive methane emissions. And we'll negotiate a North American Climate Compact with Canada and Mexico that guides future infrastructure investment on the continent through ambitious emission reduction commitments, coordinated policy action, and strong accountability mechanisms.

Security that Lasts

The recent growth in domestic oil and gas production provides important economic and geopolitical benefits, but it doesn't solve the energy-related security issues that have plagued our country for decades. US gasoline prices will continue to be set by the global market, no matter how much oil we produce, leaving our economy vulnerable to supply disruptions elsewhere in the world. In addition, the more oil and other fossil fuels we burn, the more risk we bear – both to our economy and our national security - from higher sea levels and increasingly devastating storms, heatwaves and droughts.

The only way to truly safeguard our country is to reduce the amount of oil consumed both at home and around the world and make our investments, our communities and our infrastructure more resilient to climate-related risks. We will take actions necessary to drive down oil consumption in the US, and will partner with other countries to halt the growth in global oil consumption within the next ten years. We will lead the world in combatting climate change, build resilient infrastructure and ensure American families, businesses and investors have actionable information on the kinds of risks they face.

Collaborative Stewardship

We are still developing the public lands/conservation leg of the platform, which will include the following components:

1. *Royalty reform: Raise the on-shore oil and gas royalty rate on public lands to match that charged on private lands in Texas and other states and close the loophole in coal royalty policy that costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.*

2. *Leasing: Take areas too sensitive for energy production, like the Arctic, off the table.*

3. *LWCF: Fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund*

4. *Outdoor economy: Support the growth of the outdoor economy by protecting national parks and forests and improving access to public lands for hunters and anglers and other types of recreation.*

A Just Transition

As we build the energy economy of the 21st century, we cannot turn our backs on the workers and communities in the coalfields who kept the lights on and factories running during the 20th century. We will ensure that the retirement benefits of coal miners and their families are secure, invest in carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology, and launch a major workforce and local economic development initiative for coalfield communities from Central Appalachia to the Powder River Basin.

We will also address the legacy costs fossil fuel combustion in communities disproportionately impacted by the resulting air pollution. We will provide block grants to states, cities and rural communities that develop innovative economic development and public health solutions for vulnerable communities as part of their clean energy strategy, such as the SB 535 program in California.

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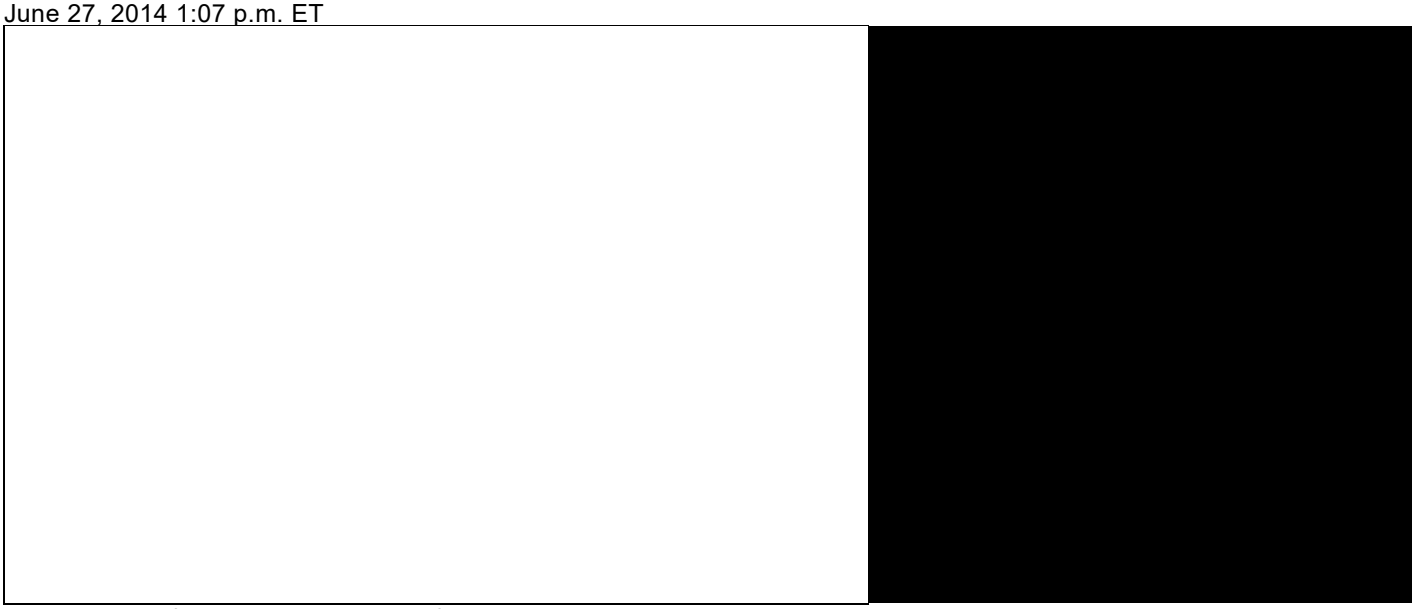
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Date: 6/28/2014 5:33:21 AM
Subject: Dan Benjamin in WSJ

ESSAY

Iraq's Problem Is Power Politics, Not 'Ancient Hatreds'

Today's Sunni-Shiite rifts stem from years of jostling by modern states—above all, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

By
DANIEL BENJAMIN
June 27, 2014 1:07 p.m. ET



Sunni jihadists from the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, or ISIS, on the march in Raqqa, Syria, in an image posted on a militant website on Jan. 14. *Militant Website/Associated Press*

As the Sunni jihadists of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham conquer city after city in northern Iraq and as black-clad soldiers from Shiite militias muster to repel them, it is tempting to blame the chaos there on ancient religious hatreds. But the strife in Iraq today is less the mystifying product of primordial grievances than the predictable result of very modern power politics.

The U.S. shouldn't repeat the mistake made two decades ago, when a generation of Western leaders explained away the wars that ripped Yugoslavia apart as the result of primeval ethnic hatreds. Then as now, such resignation is an easy way to avoid hard thinking.

There is indeed plenty of bad blood between Sunnis and Shiites. But today's sectarian rifts in Iraq and the wider region are the result of calculated efforts over many years by modern states—above all, Shiite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia. Both countries have long jostled for regional dominance, and despite their bitter harvest, neither seems particularly willing to change.

This means that sectarianism—intentionally stoked rather than bubbling spontaneously—will remain a massive problem for the Middle East and the U.S. The no-holds-barred conflict between rival Muslim subgroups has grabbed widespread attention today, as the killing in Iraq threatens to turn into history's final derisive laugh at America's loss of some 4,500 lives and trillions of dollars trying to remake the country.

The Sunni-Shiite split traces back to the founding days of Islam, when the newly founded Muslim community had to decide who would lead after the Prophet Muhammad's death. Some believed that succession should run within his family; their candidate was Ali ibn Abi Talib, the Prophet's nephew and son-in-law. But other Muslims preferred some of the companions of the Prophet, and Ali was passed over three times before becoming caliph in 656—and then murdered in 661.

Years later, Ali's supporters—known as the "Shiat Ali," from which we get the name Shiite—persuaded his son Hussein to try to take control of the caliphate. But an army led by the reigning caliph killed Hussein in Karbala, which is in modern-day Iraq—thus creating the seminal trauma of Shiism.

The centuries since that rupture have witnessed plenty of conflict, with the minority Shiites, who comprise about 10% of global Islam, usually bearing the brunt of exclusion and persecution. But Muslim history has seen epochs of relative comity too. The Fatimids, a Shiite dynasty that ruled over North Africa in the 10th-12th centuries, were highly tolerant of Sunnis. At the dawn of Iraqi nationalism in the early 20th century, Sunni and Shiite fought side by side. And for decades, even Saudi Arabia, the global champion of Sunni Islam, and the Shiite Iran led by Shah Reza Pahlavi got along well enough.

So to find the spark that lighted the fires of 2014, don't look back to the seventh century. Look to 1979, when Ayatollah Ruhollah

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Khomeini and his followers toppled the shah and installed a theocratic government unprecedented in the history of Shiism. Iran sought to expand its influence by creating terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and stirring Shiite ambitions in Bahrain, Iraq and Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province.

The Saudi monarchy saw its religious leadership of the Muslim world challenged. The kingdom poured hundreds of millions of dollars into building mosques and schools, established huge organizations that propagated its puritanical brand of Sunni Islam and flooded the Muslim world with textbooks depicting Shiites as heretics and Christians and Jews as subhuman. The same poisonous springs that nourished the kingdom's sectarian counterrevolution would later help bring forth al Qaeda and its offshoots.

Meanwhile, other Muslim leaders were also playing with sectarian fire. In Pakistan, the dictator Gen. Zia ul-Haq sought to Islamize Pakistani society, helping establish thousands of madrassas, many teaching intolerant versions of Sunnism. In Shiite-majority Iraq, Saddam Hussein appointed himself the champion of Sunni Islam, waging war against neighboring Iran and cracking down on his own Shiite citizens.

Since about 1990, sectarian tensions have risen and fallen. After Ayatollah Khomeini's death, Iran's militancy cooled, while Saudi Arabia held an unprecedented national dialogue with the kingdom's restive Shiites in 2003.

That same year, though, the engines of hatred again slipped into high gear. The trigger was the U.S. invasion of Iraq, which destroyed the region's fragile equilibrium and, in retrospect, upended regional politics as much as the Iranian Revolution. Most Sunnis detested Saddam Hussein, but they also hated the results of his overthrow: the empowerment of Iraq's Shiite majority and the rise of a government in Baghdad closely tied to Iran.

Today, much of the blame for the chaos in Iraq is being laid at the doorstep of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. He deserves it. Mr. Maliki disdained attempts to bring Sunnis together with Shiites, helping spur today's strife. But forces much bigger than Mr. Maliki are also at work.

What finally doomed Iraq was the Arab Spring. After the 2011 revolutions began toppling Arab autocrats, the anxious Gulf monarchies fell back on old tricks to shore up their rule, treating democratic aspirations as sectarian treason. The Saudis, for example, backed Bahrain's minority Sunni ruling family with an armored column as it put down demonstrators from the tiny country's Shiite majority.

The most important new battlefield was Syria, long run by a dictatorship dominated by the Alawites, a small sect descended from Shiite Islam. For the Saudis and many other Sunnis, the chance to rob Iran of its key Arab ally and get payback for losing Iraq to the Shiites was irresistible. That produced a brawl in which everyone is all in. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is propped up by his Shiite allies, Hezbollah and Iran; the Gulf Sunnis, with Qatar at the forefront, are pouring cash and weapons to his Sunni foes. ISIS, the lineal descendant of the Iraqi branch of al Qaeda born after the U.S. invasion , grew fearsome in Syria, then stormed back to its homeland.

Today, the sectarian disease has metastasized. In Pakistan, the terrorist groups created under Zia now ruthlessly target Shiites. In neighboring Afghanistan, violence against the Shiite Hazara minority has suddenly escalated. In Lebanon, Sunni extremists plot to kill Shiite government officials and Hezbollah leaders.

What can the U.S. do? In the near term, very little. The demons of sectarianism shouldn't be seen as chthonic beings returned to wreak havoc—but in the decades since the Iranian Revolution, they have gripped much of the region, from Beirut to Islamabad. At key points, the U.S. has even unintentionally abetted them, turning a blind eye to Saudi machinations in the name of containing Iran and foolishly inflaming sectarian antipathies with the invasion and bungled occupation of Iraq.

America cannot abandon the Middle East because of our energy and security needs, and the U.S. and its allies are going to have to deal with the vast terrorist safe haven where much of Syria and Iraq used to be. President Barack Obama is right to push for a more inclusive government that could hold the Iraqi state together. And if he can reach a deal on Iran's nuclear ambitions and preserve our valuable tactical cooperation with Saudi Arabia on counterterrorism, we might talk seriously to both countries about dialing back their murderous rivalry.

But don't get your hopes up.

—Mr. Benjamin, a former coordinator for counterterrorism at the State Department, is director of the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/25/2015 12:29:46 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Marco Rubio is playing to win The Sheldon Adelson Primary

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Morning intelligence for leaders

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Sheldon Adelson in Las Vegas last month (Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— Marco Rubio is playing to win The Sheldon Adelson Primary. The Florida senator, who has relentlessly sought the billionaire casino mogul's backing for 2016, co-sponsored a bill yesterday afternoon to ban online gaming. It is not only Adelson's top legislative priority, it could significantly boost his company's bottom line. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), another presidential hopeful who has assiduously courted Adelson over their shared hawkishness on foreign policy, is the lead Republican author on the legislation for a second year in a row.

An intense courtship: This is just the latest in an aggressive string of moves by Rubio to win over one of the GOP's biggest donors. The two men dined together at Charlie Palmer steak house, adjacent to the Capitol, in March. That was one of at least half a dozen private meetings, which we know about, since the Florida senator took office. Politico reported in April that Rubio calls Adelson every fortnight to provide detailed updated about the campaign. Meanwhile, the newspaper Adelson owns in Israel has trumpeted Rubio on its front page so much so that Israelis joke about it.

Electability matters to Adelson: After spending at least $92 million on the 2012 elections, a good chunk of it for Newt Gingrich, GOP insiders say that Adelson wants to get behind someone who can actually win. That was reportedly a factor in his souring on Ted Cruz. He likes Graham (hosting a fundraiser for him earlier this year and donating to his reelection campaign last year), but he's seemingly more attracted to Rubio's story as the son of Cuban immigrants. He's reportedly told friends that Rubio is the future of the Republican Party. Adelson has telegraphed that he will hold off until at least September to get behind anyone, and he could also invest in multiple contenders. This posture will encourage others to keep kissing his ring.

Marco again risks upsetting conservatives, but Adelson's money would more than make up for any blowback: Rubio's move puts him at odds with movement conservatives (i.e. federalists) who believe that, under the Constitution, states should have the right to decide for themselves whether to legalize online gaming, and that the federal government should not be in the business of boosting one business interest (brick-and-mortar casinos) over another, more innovative one. (This would be akin to Rubio siding with the traditional taxi industry against Uber, the opposite of the approach he's taken.) The senator, for his part, has previously said online gaming hurts people already struggling economically, messaging that sounds like it is meant to resonate with social conservatives.

— First in The Daily 202 (via Tom Hamburger): House Republicans quietly tucked language into an appropriations bill to protect dark money. The House Appropriations Committee approved a spending bill last week that included little-noticed provisions to hobble executive branch efforts that would mandate more campaign finance disclosures by federal contractors. The restrictions are in a 157-page financial services funding bill. The spending bill would also prohibit the IRS from moving ahead with a rule defining political activity for nonprofits and prohibit the SEC from creating a rule requiring public companies to disclose their political spending.

It is not clear when or if there will be a floor vote on the spending measure but campaign finance reform advocates said they hope an executive order will be in place before the legislation is considered by the full House and Senate, which like other appropriations bills, may not occur until late this year. White House spokesman Eric Schultz declined Wednesday evening to discuss plans for future executive orders, but he criticized the House committee action while confirming ongoing White House concern over "dark money" contributions to politically active non-profit organizations.

Appropriations bills have carried language protecting contractors against executive branch disclosure requirements since 2011, when a draft of an Obama executive order on the topic leaked publicly. The Brennan Center at NYU tallies hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions collected by committee members from firms doing business with the federal government. Read more trenchant analysis from Tom Hamburger here.

Speaking of government contractors: "The recipient of a sole-source contract to help secure the computer network of the Office of Personnel Management was accused by a government watchdog this year of possibly misusing $135 million of taxpayer money after videos appeared to show its employees high on drugs and alcohol while working on a U.S. Army contract in Afghanistan," Christian Davenport and Lisa Rein report.

— Momentum keeps building against symbols of the the Confederacy:

- Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker, the chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, reversed course and announced that his stage's flag should be redesigned to eliminate the Confederate emblem. His fellow Republican senator, Thad Cochran, followed suit a few hours later.
- The National Park Service moved to stop its sale in federal parks.
- Warner Brothers will stop selling toy cars featuring the "General Lee" automobile from Dukes of Hazzard because it has the flag on its roof.
- Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley (R) ordered the battle flag flying on the grounds of his state capitol taken down.
- Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) is working to stop the issuing of vehicle tags with the Confederate battle flag.
- Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal flipped in a matter of hours on Confederate license plates. After telling the Atlanta Journal Constitution that he would not support any changes in the morning, he announced that he wants a redesign of a state-sponsored plate featuring the Confederate flag emblem.
- Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who was late to the party on this, claimed in Madison yesterday that he avoided weighing in because South Caroline Gov. Nikki Haley "asked him to hold off speaking about it." [Jeb Bush did not wait.] Harry Reid called on the University of Nevada's Board of Regents to consider changing the Las Vegas school's mascot and team name from the "Running Rebels" to something else.
- Strom Thurmond's son, a South Carolina state senator, made an impassioned call to remove the Confederate flag from the state capital grounds in Columbia during a eulogy for Charleston victim Clementa

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Pinckney.

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter.
With contributions by Elise Viebeck .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— Hopes were dashed for a quick Greek bailout deal. "Hopes that Greece was on the verge of an agreement to release €7.2bn in desperately-needed bailout funding were dashed on Wednesday night after Alexis Tsipras, Greece's prime minister, failed to reach a deal after hours of talks with **creditors in Brussels," the Financial Times reports. "The marathon session** between Mr Tsipras and the heads of his country's three bailout monitors — the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank — produced 'not much progress,' according to a senior eurozone official."

—**A new Fox News poll puts Jeb Bush in first place with** 15 percent among Republican primary voters nationally. Donald Trump is second at 11 percent, followed by Scott Walker (9%), Rand Paul (6%), Rubio (8%), Mike Huckabee (6%), Ted Cruz (4%), Carly Fiorina (3%), Rick Santorum (3%) and Bobby Jindal (2%).

— "Republicans in the Ohio Senate pushed through legislation that would ban abortions in Ohio after 20 weeks **of pregnancy," per the Cleveland Plain Dealer . "The legislation … would** make it a crime — a fourth degree felony — for a physician to perform an abortion if the unborn child is more than 20 weeks from fertilization." Meanwhile, a District court **judge will hear a challenge today to a strict new anti-abortion law in Kansas.**

—The artist who created the iconic "Hope" poster of Barack Obama in 2008, Shepard Fairey, now faces felony arrest warrants in Detroit after he allegedly tagged buildings while he was in the city working on a mural. "He faces two counts of malicious destruction of property, which carry a maximum penalty of five years in jail, plus fines that could **exceed $10,000," according to the Detroit Free Press .**

— An F-16 crashed during nighttime training in the Arizona desert, causing a large fire that's still being contained this morning. The pilot's **condition is unknown, per Tucson's Arizona Daily Star .**

GET SMART FAST:

1. It's another decision day at the Supreme Court. We're awaiting landmark **decisions on gay marriage, Obamacare subsidies and redistricting .**
2. NBC and the Wall Street Journal found in their most recent poll that 57 percent of Americans want the Supreme Court to rule that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry. Thirty-seven percent oppose such ruling. While 62 percent of independents favor SCOTUS legalizing gay marriage, only 33 percent of Republicans do, according to numbers that came off embargo at midnight.
3. Hillary Clinton "has raised at least $17 million, based on the number of people her campaign says have attended 49 fundraising events," since announcing **in mid-April, according to an AP calculation. "Unlike in 2008, Clinton is** collecting money only for the primary contest, an amount capped at $2,700 per individual."
4. **Hillary will skip the Netroots Nation conference next month. Many** progressives who show up are not on her team, and she risked an icy reception.
5. **Obama won a huge legislative victory on trade yesterday, as the Senate** gave final approval to fast-track authority and key House Democrats signaled that they would concede defeat and support the trade-adjustment assistance legislation — which they had blocked two weeks ago.
6. **The Republican-controlled House Appropriations Committee voted down** an amendment yesterday that would have allowed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to again study the underlying causes of gun violence. The CDC has been restricted from doing so since 1996 because of the National Rifle Association.

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Rep. Ken Buck (R-Colo.) may be stripped of his position as president of the House Republican freshman class later this morning because he voted **against the trade bill. He told the Denver Post that it is "retribution" from** leadership. He's now trying to use it to raise money and his profile.
2. **Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) is expected to announce later this** morning whether he will go forward with plans to build the Purple Line, a 16-mile rail line that would connect two Washington suburbs.
3. Ohio Gov. John Kasich (R), campaigning in Des Moines yesterday, called for a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and said **deporting those who entered the country illegally is "inhumane ," according** to Iowa Public Radio.
4. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.), whose Northern Virginia district includes **many federal workers, strongly defended the embattled OPM director during** a House hearing in which members from both parties attacked her. He said the Chinese are to blame, and she's being made a "scapegoat" unfairly.

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

—**"Mark Meadows House of Cards Moment," by Elise** Viebeck: After being booted from a subcommittee chairmanship for flouting the House GOP leadership one time too many, "Meadows, perplexed at being the symbol of the controversy, has shot to prominence in the last week. He's receiving text messages from presidential candidates like Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), hosting a rally in North Carolina with Ben Carson on Tuesday and will have completed about 15 live media hits by the end of the week. For an obscure House sophomore known primarily to viewers of Greta Van Susteren's "On the Record" (he's a semi-regular guest), it's a swift rise."

—**"Supreme Court ruling could push health industry agenda to the back burner, again," by Catherine Ho: "Industry** advocates are concerned that no matter how the court rules on the legality of certain insurance subsidies provided under the law, the health care debate in Congress will once again become dominated by the political divisions over the Affordable Care Act (ACA). 'It has the potential for serious chaos and disruption," said health care lobbyist Ilisa Halpern Paul, who represents hospital systems and health advocacy groups.'"

BOBBY JINDAL'S FIRST 100 DAYS — He would not appoint "celebrity" cabinet secretaries who might go "native." George W. Bush appointed him assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services in 2001, so the Louisiana governor knows what it's like to work inside the federal bureaucracy. Ahead of his formal announcement last night, the Republican told The Daily 202 that his experience at the agency, in his early 30s, would influence his approach to governing if he winds up in the White House.

In a wide-ranging interview, focused on how he would spend his hypothetical first 100 days as president, he complained that past Republican presidents have not done enough to actually reduce the size of government – only to limit the size of its growth. Part of the problem in Jindal's view is who gets put in the cabinet. "Too many of them go native and come back to OMB and start advocating for their power and for more funding," he complained. "When I was at McKinsey, when a CEO buys an $800 hammer, everything starts to look like a nail. Even Republican administrations are guilty of this. There's a temptation to expand and use those powers …We need every member of the administration to be willing to rock the boat and to be unpopular on the D.C. cocktail circuit."

Jindal took a shot at Jeb Bush by name in his announcement yesterday: He concluded a kickoff speech outside New Orleans by seizing on the former Florida

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governor's comment last year that to win the general election, you've got to be willing to lose the primary. "Republicans must stop being afraid to lose," he said. "If we try to hide who we are again, we will lose again."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Jindal dominated the 2016 conversation among Republicans yesterday.



In the 24 hour period between midnight and midnight yesterday, 316,000 people on Facebook in the U.S. generated 542,000 interactions (likes, posts, comments, shares) related to Jindal and his announcement. Compare that to 493,000 and 849,000 for Jeb Bush last week. Top states chattering about Jindal (by engagement): Louisiana, Mississippi, the District, Arkansas and Texas.

–WHAT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT:

Picture of the day:

Lawmakers beat reporters 1-0 at the Congressional Women's Softball game:



Look what we get to keep! #cwsg @cwsoftballgame #beatthepress #beatcancer (@DWStweets)

Tweets of the day:

Fox News hosts Bret Baier and Greta Van Susteren aired dueling interviews with presidential hopefuls:



Thanks to @BretBaier for having me join Center Seat on #SpecialReport this evening! (@tedcruz)



Looking forward to joining @greta tonight on @FoxNews at 7pm. Tune in to hear about my tax cut proposal! (@RandPaul)

Meanwhile, Donald Trump is seriously trolling Neil Young after he said Trump wasn't authorized to use "Rockin' In The Free World" at his campaign launch:

> .@Neilyoung A few months ago Neil Young came to my office looking for $$ on an audio deal & called me last week to go to his concert. Wow!
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) June 24, 2015

> For the nonbeliever, here is a photo of @Neilyoung in my office and his $$ request—total hypocrite. pic.twitter.com/Xm4BJvetla
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) June 24, 2015

> .@Neilyoung 's song, "Rockin' In The Free World" was just one of 10 songs used as background music. Didn't love it anyway.
>
> — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) June 24, 2015

Instagrams of the day:

Gov. Jindal, is that a new haircut?



On to New Hampshire and Iowa. (bobbyjindal)



The boys playing football before the speech. #GeauxBobby (bobbyjindal)

Rick Santorum posted a new photo of puppy Darcy:



Darcy wants you to join Team Rick! (ricksantorum)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— **Miami Herald**, "**Archbishop: Pope Francis' words nudge Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush on climate change**," by Patricia Mazzei: "Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski believes Pope Francis' recent document on global warming is already changing the climate of the conversation in the presidential race, particularly among two friends [and] members of his flock. Wenski said comments on climate change by Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio, Republicans and devout Roman Catholics from Miami, have been noticeably milder in tone since Francis weighed in."

— **New York Times**, "**Bernie Sanders Lags Hillary Clinton in Introducing Himself to Black Voters**," by Patrick Healy and Jonathan Martin: "Even his own campaign advisers acknowledge that Mr. Sanders is virtually unknown to many African-Americans, an enormously important Democratic constituency. Though he led sit-ins as a civil rights activist in the 1960s, helped the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. pull off a surprising campaign victory in Vermont in 1988, and espouses liberal policy ideas broadly popular with many Democrats, Mr. Sanders has had little direct experience with black voters as a politician in a state that is 95 percent white. And they have been largely absent from his campaign events so far. Mr. Sanders, 73, had planned to start introducing himself to larger numbers of African-Americans last Sunday at a large gathering in Charleston, but he quickly postponed the event after the church killings."

Smart point: "David Axelrod, formerly Mr. Obama's chief strategist, noted that insurgent Democrats like Gary Hart and Mr. Dean who were able to win over many white voters fell short because they could not attract blacks."

— **USA Today**, **Loretta Lynch visited the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham**, by Kevin Johnson: "Since the Charleston attack, U.S. officials have fielded repeated questions about whether the mass shooting should be regarded as an act of terrorism, rather than a hate crime. Justice officials have said they would explore domestic terror-related charges during the course of the federal inquiry. But Lynch suggested Wednesday that there

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were few differences in the definitions involving the crimes committed in Charleston. 'Make no mistake,' she said. 'Hate crimes are the original domestic terrorism.'"

— **Huffington Post, "Obama May Have to Lean on Democratic Governors To Resell His Health Care Law," by** Jeffrey Young: "Officials in states that created their own health insurance exchanges under the Affordable Care Act — thereby shielding their residents from the possible consequences of the lawsuit currently pending before the high court — are standing by to help their counterparts in other states get marketplaces up and running that would allow subsidies in those states to flow again."

BUZZING AT THE CAPITOL:

— **CNN, "IRS watchdog: As many as 24K Lerner emails lost," by Chris Frates: "The IRS watchdog investigating the disappearance** of Lois Lerner's emails has concluded that there could be as many as 24,000 missing emails … Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration Russell George and his deputy, Timothy Camus, will tell the House Oversight Committee on Thursday that their investigation was able to recover more than 1,000 emails the IRS did not turn over to Congress, according to the written testimony."

— **National Journal, "Cornyn's new role: the 'bridge' on tricky bills," by Alex Rogers: "Almost seven months into his role as** Senate majority whip, Cornyn talks quite a bit about breaking cycles, whether in prisons or the nature of crises in the Senate. His official role is to keep the Republicans in line and on-message, but he also has been an influential figure—the "bridge," as one Democrat puts it—on bipartisan pieces of legislation, particularly on two in the Judiciary Committee that bedeviled the last Congress."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Coulter says Nikki Haley is an 'immigrant' who doesn't get American history. **From Talking Points Memo: "Ann Coulter** claimed on Tuesday that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (R) has a poor grasp on American history as 'an immigrant,' even though Haley was born in the United States … Haley was born in Bamberg, S.C., but her parents are Indian immigrants, according to the governor's biography."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Did Jim Webb defend the Confederate flag? **From the Washington Post** : "'Honorable Americans fought on both sides in the Civil War, including slave holders in the Union Army,' and 'many non-slave holders fought for the South,' [Webb] wrote [on Facebook]. 'This is a time for us to come together, and to recognize once more that our complex multicultural society is founded on the principle of mutual respect.'"

DAYBOOK:

–On the Hill: The House is expected to wrap up work on a trade bill. The Senate will consideration of an education bill and vote on confirmation of a federal circuit judge. The Senate Homeland Security Committee will hold a hearing on federal cybersecurity and the OPM data breach. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a hearing on nuclear negotiations with Iran.

–At the White House: President Obama has no public events scheduled. Press Secretary Josh Earnest will brief the media at 12:30.

–On the campaign trail: Marco Rubio will address the New Hampshire chapter of Americans for Prosperity. Bobby Jindal will also make appearances in New Hampshire. Ben Carson is in Iowa.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "I'd like to now apologize to the victims and the survivors. I am sorry for the lives I have taken and suffering I have caused you and the damage I have done." — Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar **Tsarnaev, speaking in a Boston courtroom yesterday for the first time** since being sentenced to death

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **The Nationals beat the Braves 2-1 last night in the** 11th inning.

—Mugginess muscles back into town today: The humidity may fuel another round of intense evening storms. "While showers and storms are going to be an ever present threat the next 3 days, do not abandon all outdoor plans," per the Capital Weather Gang . **"The only likely candidate for scrapping the pool plans** and grabbing the board game comes on Saturday, when heavy rains threaten."

—**Two lanes are barely getting by on Interstate 95 north** near the Intercounty Connector after an early morning crash left one construction worker dead.

—**A fan at the Nationals game on Tuesday night caught on video a lightning strike hitting a crane adjacent to the** stadium.

VIDEO OF THE DAY:

Watch Obama challenge a heckler at an LGBT event in the East Room — "Listen, you're in my house … It's not respectful.":



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From:	"Lisa P Jackson" <lisa_jackson@apple.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	1/31/2016 2:02:54 PM
Subject:	Fwd: NYT: New Technologies Give Government Ample Means to Track Suspects, Study Finds

Godspeed tomorrow. I was in SC this weekend.

Sanger's latest piece below. I know you have lots of other things to do.

NYT
New Technologies Give Government Ample Means to Track Suspects, Study Finds
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/01/us/politics/new-technologies-give-government-ample-means-to-track-suspects-study-finds.html?emc=edit_tnt_20160131&nlid=57372299&tntemail0=y

For more than two years the F.B.I. and intelligence agencies have warned that encrypted communications are creating a “going dark” crisis that will keep them from tracking terrorists and kidnappers.

Now, a study in which current and former intelligence officials participated concludes that the warning is wildly overblown, and that a raft of new technologies — like television sets with microphones and web-connected cars — are creating ample opportunities for the government to track suspects, many of them worrying.

“‘Going dark’ does not aptly describe the long-term landscape for government surveillance,” concludes the study, to be published Monday by the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard.

The study argues that the phrase ignores the flood of new technologies “being packed with sensors and wireless connectivity” that are expected to become the subject of court orders and subpoenas, and are already the target of the National Security Agency as it places “implants” into networks around the world to monitor communications abroad.

The products, ranging from “toasters to bedsheets, light bulbs, cameras, toothbrushes, door locks, cars, watches and other wearables,” will give the government increasing opportunities to track suspects and in many cases reconstruct communications and meetings.

The study, titled, “Don’t Panic: Making Progress on the ‘Going Dark’ Debate,” is among the sharpest counterpoints yet to the contentions of James B. Comey, the F.B.I. director, and other Justice Department officials, mostly by arguing that they have defined the issue too narrowly.

Over the past year, they have repeatedly told Congress that the move by Apple to automatically encrypt data on its iPhone, and similar steps by Google and Microsoft, are choking off critical abilities to track suspects, even with a court order.

President Obama, however, concluded last fall that any effort to legislate a government “back door” into encrypted communications would probably create a pathway for hackers — including those working for foreign governments like Russia, China and Iran — to gain access as well, and create a precedent for authoritarian governments demanding similar access.

Most Republican candidates for president have demanded that technology companies create a way for investigators to unlock encrypted communications, and on the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton has taken a tough line on Silicon Valley companies, urging them to join the fight against the Islamic State.

Apple’s chief executive, Timothy D. Cook, has led the charge on the other side. He recently told a group of White House officials seeking technology companies’ voluntary help to counter the Islamic State that the government’s efforts to get the keys to encrypted communications would be a boon for hackers and put legitimate business transactions, financial data and personal communications at greater risk.

The Harvard study, funded by the Hewlett Foundation, was unusual because it involved technical experts,

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civil libertarians and officials who are, or have been, on the forefront of counterterrorism. Larry Kramer, the former dean of Stanford Law School, who heads the foundation, noted Friday that until now “the policy debate has been impeded by gaps in trust — chasms, really — between academia, civil society, the private sector and the intelligence community” that have impeded the evolution of a “safe, open and resilient Internet.”

Among the chief authors of the report is Matthew G. Olsen, who was a director of the National Counterterrorism Center under Mr. Obama and a general counsel of the National Security Agency.

Two current senior officials of the N.S.A. — John DeLong, the head of the agency’s Commercial Solutions Center, and Anne Neuberger, the agency’s chief risk officer — are described in the report as “core members” of the group, but did not sign the report because they could not act on behalf of the agency or the United States government in endorsing its conclusions, government officials said.

“Encryption is a real problem, and the F.B.I. and intelligence agencies are right to raise it,” Mr. Olsen said Sunday. But he noted that in their testimony officials had not described the other technological breaks that are falling their way, nor had they highlighted cases in which they were able to exploit mistakes made by suspects in applying encryption to their messages.

Jonathan Zittrain, a Harvard law professor who convened the group, said in an interview that the goal was “to have a discussion among people with very different points of view” that would move “the state of the debate beyond its well-known bumper stickers. We managed to do that in part by thinking of a larger picture, specifically in the unexpected ways that surveillance might be attempted.”

He noted that in the current stalemate there was little discussion of the “ever-expanding ‘Internet of things,’ where telemetry from teakettles, televisions and light bulbs might prove surprisingly, and worryingly, amenable to subpoena from governments around the world.”

Those technologies are already being exploited: The government frequently seeks location data from devices like cellphones and EZ Passes to track suspects.

The study notes that such opportunities are expanding rapidly. A Samsung “smart” television contains a microphone meant to relay back to Samsung voice instructions to the TV — “I want to see the last three ‘Star Wars’ movies” — and a Hello, Barbie brought out by Mattel last year records children’s conversations with the doll, processes them over the Internet and sends back a response.

The history of technology shows that what is invented for convenience can soon become a target of surveillance. “Law enforcement or intelligence agencies may start to seek orders compelling Samsung, Google, Mattel, Nest or vendors of other networked devices to push an update or flip a digital switch to intercept the ambient communications of a target,” the report said.

These communications, too, may one day be encrypted. But Google’s business model depends on picking out key words from emails to tailor advertisements for specific users of Gmail, the popular email service. Apple users routinely back up the contents of their phones to iCloud — a service that is not encrypted and now is almost a routine target for investigators or intelligence agencies. So are the tracking and mapping systems for cars that rely on transmitted global positioning data.

“I think what this report shows is that the world today is like living in a big field that is more illuminated than ever before,” said Joseph Nye, a Harvard government professor and former head of the National Intelligence Council. “There will be dark spots — there always will be. But it’s easy to forget that there is far more data available to governments now than ever before.”

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <tbudak@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/23/2016 7:02:47 AM
Subject: Reminder: A Book Talk with Robert Kaplan

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Invitation

In Europe's Shadow: A Book Talk with Robert Kaplan

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
1:30 - 3:00 pm

The conversation will be on-the-record.

Speaker
Robert Kaplan, Author and Senior Fellow, Center for a New American Security

Moderator
Derek Chollet, Senior Advisor for Security and Defense Policy, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Location
The German Marshall Fund of the United States
1744 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

RSVP

If you have any questions, please contact Dillon Rheuby at +1 202 683 2926 or fpintern2@gmfus.org .

GMF invites you to a discussion with author Robert Kaplan on his most recent book *In Europe's Shadow: Two Cold Wars and a Thirty-Year Journey Through Romania and Beyond*, in which Kaplan examines larger questions of geography, imperialism, the role of fate in international relations, the Cold War, the Holocaust, and how Romania continues to shape its destiny today.

In Europe's Shadow: Two Cold Wars and a Thirty-Year Journey Through Romania and Beyond
Robert Kaplan first visited Romania in the 1970s, when he was a young journalist and the country was a bleak Communist backwater. It was one of the darkest corners of Europe, but few Westerners were paying attention. What ensued was a lifelong obsession with a critical, often overlooked country—a country that, today, is key to understanding the current threat that Russia poses to Europe. In Europe's Shadow is a vivid blend of memoir, travelogue, journalism, and history, a masterly work thirty years in the making—the story of a journalist coming of age, and a country struggling to do the same. Through the lens of one country, Kaplan examines larger questions of geography, imperialism, the role of fate in international relations, the Cold War, the Holocaust, and more.

Here Kaplan illuminates the fusion of the Latin West and the Greek East that created Romania, the country that gave rise to Ion Antonescu, Hitler's chief foreign accomplice during World War II, and the country that was home to the most brutal strain of Communism under Nicolae Ceau escu. Romania past and present are rendered in cinematic prose: the ashen faces of citizens waiting in bread lines in Cold War–era Bucharest; the Bărăgan Steppe, laid bare by centuries of foreign invasion; the grim labor camps of the Black Sea Canal; the majestic Gothic church spires of Transylvania and Maramureș. Kaplan finds himself in dialogue with the great thinkers of the past, and with the Romanians of today, the philosophers, priests, and

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politicians—those who struggle to keep the flame of humanism alive in the era of a resurgent Russia.

Upon his return to Romania in 2013 and 2014, Kaplan found the country transformed yet again—now a traveler's destination shaped by Western tastes, yet still emerging from the long shadows of Hitler and Stalin. In Europe's Shadow is the story of an ideological and geographic frontier—and the book you must read in order to truly understand the crisis with Russia, and within Europe itself.

Robert Kaplan is currently a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security and contributing editor at *The Atlantic*. Prior to this, he worked for Stratfor as the chief geopolitical analyst from March 2012 to December 2014. In 2009, he was appointed to the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board and served through 2011. From 2006 to 2008, he was the Class of 1960 Distinguished Visiting Professor in National Security at the U.S. Naval Academy. He is the bestselling author of sixteen books on foreign affairs and travel, including *In Europe's Shadow*, *Asia's Cauldron*, *The Revenge of Geography*, *Monsoon*, *The Coming Anarchy*, and *Balkan Ghosts*. Foreign Policy magazine twice named him one of the world's "Top 100 Global Thinkers."

Derek Chollet is the counselor and senior advisor for security and defense policy at GMF. From 2012 to 2015, Chollet was the U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, where he managed U.S. defense policy issues related to the nations and international organizations of Europe (including NATO), the Middle East, Africa, and the Western Hemisphere, as well as advising Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel. Prior to joining the Pentagon, Chollet served at the White House as special assistant to the president and senior director for strategic planning on the National Security Council staff. From 2009 to 2011, he was the principal deputy director of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's policy planning staff. Chollet is also the author, co-author, or co-editor of six books on U.S. foreign policy.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan.

GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation.

Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.

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To: "Abdulaziz Altuwaijri" <aaa244@law.georgetown.edu>
"Abdulwahab Sadeq" <aas78@law.georgetown.edu>
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Date: 7/9/2015 5:34:54 AM
Subject: Today's Summer Workshop

At noon today, David Koplow will discuss his paper entitled "You're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat: Alternatives to the U.N. Security Council for Enforcing Nuclear Disarmament and Human Rights. The paper was attached to an earlier email. It is also available here David Koplow—You're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat: Alternatives to the U.N. Security Council For Enforcing Nuclear Disarmament and Human Rights and, in hard copy, at Faculty Support.

We meet in McDonough 492. Cookies and drinks will be served.

Mike Seidman

Louis Michael Seidman
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From:	"Stephen Paduano" <spaduano@hfaintern.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/11/2015 3:44:04 AM
Subject:	Summarized Clips (8.11.15)
Attachments:	Daily Clips (8.11.15).docx

Daily Clips

August 11, 2015

Democrats Offer Ways To Make College Affordable

NYT/Editorial Board

- The New York Times Editorial Board outlined HRC's "ambitious" New College Compact in a piece that also discussed Bernie Sanders' free-tuition plan. The Editorial Board spoke to the importance of making college more affordable, but also noted that the two plans will run into tall obstacles with the tax increases they call for.

Clinton Student-Loan Plan Draws On Bipartisan Bill

WSJ/Douglas Belkin, Colleen McCain Nelson

- "The $350 billion plan to make college more affordable unveiled by Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton on Monday takes a page from the left wing of her party, but it also champions an idea gaining traction on the right: holding schools liable when a student's education doesn't pay off."

Hillary Clinton's Cruel Summer

Politico/Gabriel Debenedetti

- "Welcome to Hillary's summer, a season chock-full of rough national headlines about her slipping poll numbers, her email controversies, Sanders' surging popularity, Joe Biden's presidential ruminations – and Trump."
- HRC's $350 billion New College Compact struggled to win airtime yesterday ov er the "wall-to-wall Donald Trump media cov erage" and the news that the 185,000-member National Nurses United union had endorsed Bernie Sanders.

Clinton's Favorability Strong Among Black Americans

Gallup/Justin McCarthy, Andrew Dugan

- In a new Gallup poll, HRC was found to have an 80% favorability rate among blacks, 12% unfavorability, and 92% familiarity. Bernie Sanders trailed substantially with a 23% favorability rate, 10% unfavorability, and 33% familiarity.
- Only Ben Carson in the GOP field has a net favorability rating (22% favorable, 18% unfavorable). All other candidates are more unfav orable among black voters than fav orable. Jeb Bush and Donald Trump fall at the bottom of the pack with a 52% unfav orability rating and a 68% unfavorability rating, respectively.

All Emails Were Provided, Hillary Clinton Says In Statement

NYT/Michael Schmidt

- "Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement filed under oath in federal court on Monday that she had provided to the State Department all of the work-related emails that were on the personal email account she used exclusively while she was secretary of state."

Clinton Pledges To Build on Iran Deal As President and 'Keep The Lid On' Iranian Nuclear Program WaPo/ Anne Gearan

- "Hillary Rodham Clinton pledged Monday to defend and further the international nuclear deal with Iran if she is elected president and said congressional rejection of the accord would send a signal of weakness to the rest of the world."

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Group Backing Hillary Clinton Gets $1M From Anonymous Donors

AP/July Bykowicz

- Priorities USA Action received a $1 million donation from another Super PAC called Fair Share Action – it is unclear who provided the money. The only listed donors to Fair Share Action are Fair Share Inc. and Environment America Inc.

Bernie Sanders Gets Endorsement From Nurses' Union

WSJ/Melanie Trottman, Laura Meckler

- With Monday's announcement of the 185,000-member National Nurses United, Bernie Sanders received his first endorsement from a national union.

Lawrence Lessig to Explore a Run for President as a Democrat

NYT/ First Draft

- Lawrence Lessig, Harvard professor and democratic theorist, will run for president if he can raise $1 million in small donations by Labor Day.
- Lessig hopes his candidacy would refocus the spotlight on money in politics.

Jeb Bush To Outline Islamic State Strategy, Criticize Clinton

Reuters/Steve Holland

- "Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will v ow on Tuesday to pursue an aggressive strategy against Islamic State militants if elected, in a speech in which he will also seek to blame Democrat Hillary Clinton for some of the unrest in Iraq."

Marco Rubio Says He Opposes Abortions In All Instances

CNN/Eric Bradner

- "Florida Sen. Marco Rubio says he opposes abortion in all instances – but he'd support legislation that includes exceptions in cases such as rape, incest, and when the light of the mother is threatened, and he has no problem with contraception."

Rick Perry Stops Paying All of His Staff as Fundraising Dries Up

WaPo/Philip Rucker, Abby Livingston, Dan Balz

- "Former Texas governor Rick Perry's presidential campaign is no longer paying its staff because fundraising has dried up, while his cash-fluid super PAC is preparing to expand its political operation to compensate for the campaign's shortcomings, campaign and super PAC officials and other Republicans familiar with the operation said late Monday."

Emergency Declared in Ferguson After Shooting

NYT/John Eligon, Michael Smith

- "The St. Louis County executive declared a state of emergency here on Monday as officials and activists sought to regain control of the volatile streets after plainclothes police officers shot and critically wounded an 18-y ear-old black man who they said was firing on them late the night before."

Google To Reorganize in Move to Keep Its Lead As An Innovator

NYT/Conor Dougherty

- "The Silicon Valley behemoth is reorganizing under a new name – Alphabet – and separating its moneymaking business from the moonshot ones," Larry Page announced in a blog post on Monday.

China Moves To Devalue Yuan

WSJ/Lingling Wei

- "China's central bank devalued its tightly controlled currency , causing its biggest one-day loss in two decades, as the world's second-largest economy continues to sputter. Chinese authorities said the change would help drive the currency toward more market-driven movements."

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/13/2008 7:56:21 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Rally in Wilmington, NC 10/13/08

Hello All,
Just got off the phone with our tracker, Kelli, on the ground in Wilmington. Below are the notes from our call.

Big Highlights

- In grass outside the main door, a poster with picture of Obama next to picture of Osama Bin Laden (by the end of the event, the sign had been taken down)
- Rowdy crowd moments
    - Before McCain arrives, someone yells, unprompted, "Kill ACORN"
    - When McCain says 'defend our country from its enemies,' someone yells, "Obama! Obama!"
    - When McCain says, 'I know what fear feels like,' someone yells: "that's barack!"
    - When McCain says, 'I know what hopelessness feels like, "someone yells "that's obama!"
- Repeat of speech made earlier today in Virginia Beach
    - Repeats "We cannot spend the next four years as we have spent much of the last eight: waiting for our luck to change. "
    - Repeats "I have fought for you most of my life. There are other ways to love this country, but I've never been the kind to do it from the sidelines."
    - Repeats Hoover comparison: "The last president to do what Senator Obama wants to do- raise taxes and restrict trade in a bad economy was Herbert Hoover. That didn't turn out too well."
    - Repeats that 'we must fight,' 'I'm a fighter'

Wilmington, NC: McCain Rally 10/13/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background details

- 1500 ppl inside - venue (gym at a community college) at capacity
    - an hour beforehand, line to get into event was 4 blocks long
    - Crowd mostly middle-aged and elderly white couples (a few grps of college kids)
- Event slated as a town hall, but it was a rally
- Before event started or candidates arrived, someone in crowd shouts "Kill ACORN"
- Tracker overheard people on board of Community College (the venue) complaining that this had been slated to be a town hall but had been switched to be a rally
- In grass outside the main door, a poster with picture of Obama next to picture of Osama Bin Laden (by the end of the event, the sign had been taken down)
- Rowdy crowd moments
    - Stand up to defend our country from its enemies. [Obama! Obama!]
    - I know what fear feels like. [someone yells: "that's barack!"]
    - I know what hopelessness feels like. [someone yells "that's obama!"]
- Cindy intros McCain: between us and the Palins, we have 3 sons serving...
- Lots of Elizabeth Dole chum

FULL REMARKS
Americans are fighting in two wars. We face many enemies in this dangerous world, and they are waiting to see

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if our current troubles will permanently weaken us.

The next President won't have time to get used to the office. He won't have the luxury of studying up on the issues before he acts. He will have to act immediately. And to do that, he will need experience, courage, judgment and a bold plan of action to take this country in a new direction. We cannot spend the next four years as we have spent much of the last eight: waiting for our luck to change. The hour is late; our troubles are getting worse; our enemies watch. We have to act immediately. We have to change direction now. We have to fight.

I've been fighting for this country since I was seventeen years old, and I have the scars to prove it. If you elect me President, I will fight to take America in a new direction from my first day in office until my last. I'm not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for it.

I'm not going to spend $700 billion dollars of your money just bailing out the Wall Street bankers and brokers who got us into this mess. I'm going to make sure we take care of the people who were devastated by the excesses of Wall Street and Washington. I'm going to spend a lot of that money to bring relief to you, and I'm not going to wait sixty days to start doing it.

I have a plan to protect the value of your home and get it rising again by buying up bad mortgages and refinancing them so if your neighbor defaults he doesn't bring down the value of your house with him.

I have a plan to let retirees and people nearing retirement keep their money in their retirement accounts longer so they can rebuild their savings.

I have a plan to rebuild the retirement savings of every worker.

I have a plan to hold the line on taxes and cut them [cheers] to make America more competitive and create jobs here at home.

Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse. Keeping taxes low creates jobs, keeps money in your hands and strengthens our economy.

The explosion of government spending over the last eight years has put us deeper in debt to foreign countries that don't have our best interests at heart. It weakened the dollar and made everything you buy more expensive.

If I'm elected President, I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money, on top of the $700 billion we just gave the Treasury Secretary, as Senator Obama proposes. Because he can't without raising your taxes or digging us further into debt. I'm going to make government live on a budget just like you do.

[These call for significant action] I will freeze government spending on all but the most important programs like defense, veterans care, Social Security and health care until we scrub every single government program and get rid of the ones that aren't working for the American people. And I will veto every single pork barrel bill [that comes across my desk. You'll know their names, I'll make them famous.]

If I'm elected President, I won't fine small businesses and families with children, as Senator Obama proposes, to force them into a huge new government run health care program, whi-- I keep the cost of the fine a secret until I hit you with it. I will bring down the skyrocketing cost of health care with competition and choice to lower your premiums, and make it more available to more Americans. I'll make sure you can keep the same health plan if you change jobs or leave a job to stay home. [cheers]

I will provide every single American family with a $5000 refundable tax credit to help them purchase insurance. Workers who already have care insurance from their employers will keep it and have more money to cover costs. Workers who don't have health insurance can use it to find a policy anywhere in this country to meet their basic needs.

If I'm elected President, I won't raise taxes on small businesses, as Senator Obama proposes [cheers], and force them to cut jobs. I will keep small business taxes where they are, help them keep their costs low, and let them

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spend their earnings to create more jobs.

If I'm elected President, I won't make it harder to sell our goods overseas and kill more jobs as Senator Obama proposes. I will open new markets to goods made in America and make sure our trade is free and fair. And I'll make sure we help workers who've lost a job that won't come back find a new one that won't go away.

The last President, my friends, to raise taxes and restrict trade in a bad economy as Senator Obama proposes was a guy named Herbert Hoover. That didn't turn out too well. [crowd laughs] [We went into a Great Depression.] They say those who don't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. Well, my friends, I know my history lessons, and I sure won't make the mistakes Senator Obama will.

If I'm elected President, we're going to stop sending $700 billion to countries that don't like us very much. I won't argue to delay drilling for more oil and gas and building new nuclear power plants in America, as Senator Obama does. We will start drilling now. We will invest in all energy alternatives -- nuclear, wind, solar, and tide. [btw, do you how much of nucl equipment and parts for the future of US is made right here in NC? 100% of GE, Richard Burke] We will encourage the manufacture of hybrid, flex fuel and electric automobiles. We will invest in clean coal technology. [crowd cheers] We will lower the cost of energy within months, and we will create millions of new jobs in this country. [crowd cheers]

Let me give you the state of the race today. We have 22 days to go. We're 6 points down. The national media has written us off. [boos] Senator Obama is measuring the drapes, [boos] and planning with Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid [boos] to raise taxes, increase spending, take away your right to vote by secret ballot in labor elections, [boos] and concede defeat in Iraq. [boos] But they forgot to let you decide. [cheers] My friends, we've got them just where we want them.

What America needs in this hour is a fighter [someone yells, "you're a hero!"]; someone who puts all his cards on the table and trusts the judgment of the American people. [john mccain! john mccain!] I come from a long line of McCains who believed that to love America is to fight for her. I have fought for you most of my life. There are other ways to love this country, but I've never been the kind to do it from the sidelines.

I know you're worried. America is a great country, but we are at a moment of national crisis that will determine our future. Will we continue to lead the world's economies or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours?

My answer to you is yes. Yes, we will lead. Yes, we will prosper. Yes, we will be safer. Yes, we will pass on to our children a stronger, better country. But we must be prepared to act swiftly, boldly, with courage and wisdom.

I know what fear feels like. [someone yells: "that's barack!"] It's a thief in the night who robs your strength.

I know what hopelessness feels like. [someone yells "that's obama!"] It's an enemy who defeats your will.

I felt those things once before. I will never let them in again. I'm an American. And I choose to fight.

Don't give up hope. Be strong. Have courage. And fight.

Fight for a new direction for our country.

Fight for what's right for America.

Fight to clean up the mess of corruption, infighting and selfishness in Washington.

Fight to get our economy out of the ditch and back in the lead.

Fight for the ideals and character of a free people.

Fight for our children's future.

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Fight for justice and opportunity for all.

Stand up to defend our country from its enemies. [Obama! Obama!]

Stand up, stand up, stand up and fight. America is worth fighting for. Nothing is inevitable here. We never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.

Thank you, God bless you. Thank you.

in the next 22 days, i'm asking you to go out and do what's necessary to win NC [someone yells, "fight!"] i also want to tell you again b/c we're so close, to brave men and women here in NC who are serving, i want to promise you that i know how brave they are and you too, we cherish and love them. they are the best of us. i'm proud of all the vets who come to these rallies, their support, i'm grateful. i'll take care of HC of our vets and it'll be our highest priority. i also want to tell you, of all the generations i've had the honor of this one, i'm proudest of this one. they're the best trained, best equipped, bravest. and everytime i need to get my priorities in perspective... Matthew Stanley story ... make sure my son's death did not die in vain. i want to be president b/c i belive i can inspire a generation of americans to serve a cause greater than their self-interest. there's nothing nobler. the great honor of my life has been to be able to serve this great country. we might disagree from time to time. as president, i will inspire a generation of americans to serve a cause greater than self-interest and i will always put country first. thank you and god bless.

[Rocky music]

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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: Creamer2@aol.com
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
can@americansunitedforchange.org
Date: 11/3/2009 7:21:21 AM
Subject: [big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer -- Anniversary of Obama's Election

One Year After Obama's Victory – We Are in the Opening Months of a New Progressive Era

As I watched Barack Obama's victory speech, I thought that America was on the brink of a new progressive era. I believe that just as strongly one year later.

I know there are many Progressives who are disappointed at the pace of change, or who believe that there are many instances when the Obama Administration should take bolder action. Sometimes I am among them. But there is no question that in the first nine months of his Presidency, Barack Obama has begun to lead America in a fundamentally new direction. The success of this new progressive project will certainly depend upon the decisions that he and those around him make in the years ahead. But it will also depend on the skill, resilience and resourcefulness of the progressive forces in America.

In evaluating his leadership – and the success Progressives have had since that hopeful night in Chicago's Grant Park -- seven points are especially important.

1). Obama has fundamentally changed the political value frame. For the thirty years before Obama's election, the full constellation of right wing values charted the path for American political and economic development. Obama has shifted that value frame from the Right's belief in unbridled pursuit of individual interest, to the progressive commitment to the common good; from selfishness to commitment to others; from division to unity; from fear to hope; to the sense that we're all in this together, not "all in this alone."

The Administration's political messaging, its expressed beliefs, and its policy goals all embody these progressive values -- and many of its key personnel are deeply committed to those values as well. We have a White House where idealism is cool once again.

2). Progressives are on the offensive, not the defensive. After being in a defensive crouch for over thirty years, Progressives have taken the offense. For years we have fought about defending values and policies – defending Medicare, defending Social Security, combating the ascendant Neo-Con foreign policy, defending the role of government, defending unions, defending civil liberties, defending the incomes of everyday Americans.

Now the Right is attempting to slow our progress on climate change, the rights of unions, civil liberties, a public option, immigration reform, and regulating Wall Street.

In the long battle between progressive and conservative values in America, that denotes a critical turning point – because in any type of combat, including politics – the force on the offense almost always prevails.

3). While the pace of many big changes has taken longer than some had hoped, it is easy to forget the major successes that have already been achieved. Here are a few:

* Saving the economy from complete meltdown – another Great Depression --following the failure of eight years of right wing economic policy and financial risk-taking "gone wild" – including his bold rescue of the American auto industry.

* Laying the first layer of a foundation for longterm, bottom-up economic growth by passing the largest economic recovery package in history and a Federal Budget that the Center on Budget Priorities called the most progressive budget in half a century.

* Abandoning the failed Neo-Con foreign policy and changing our relationship with the rest of the world.

* Signing into law measures that had repeatedly passed the Democratic Congress but been vetoed by George Bush – the "Matthew Shepard" bill that expands the definition of hate crimes to include sexual orientation, expanding the State Children's Health Care Program (SCHIP), and passing the "Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act" that seriously strengthened the ability of women to seek redress for employment discrimination.

* The Administration and Congress ended a program of wasteful subsidies to private banks that provided student loans

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using Federal money and used the savings to greatly expand Pell Grants to college students.

* Executive actions like ending the "Global Gag Rule" that prevented U.S. foreign aid from going to family planning programs that even *mentioned* abortion – and changes in labor law enforcement that make it easier to organize on the job.

* Ending torture.

* Funding stem cell research and generally restoring a respect for science to government.

* Setting and keeping to a schedule to end the American presence in Iraq.

* Putting in motion a legislative agenda that will make major progressive change: providing health care for all, creating clean energy jobs and addressing global warming, overhauling the regulation of the financial sector and beginning to shrink its dominance in the American economy, and passing comprehensive immigration reform.

4). Why have the major initiatives in his agenda taken longer than some might have hoped? Because, as a great American once said: "power surrenders nothing without a struggle." You don't just snap your fingers to make fundamental change. That's because fundamental change alters the relations of power – it removes power and money from one group of people and gives it to another.

The insurance companies and big Wall Street banks were not about to just roll over and say "I give up."

Why is it so tough to pass real health care reform through a Congress that is dominated by Democrats? Because Congress is an expression of the distribution of power in American society and that's what Progressives are out to change. Obama – and the rest of the progressive forces in America – have to make change starting with things as they are – not things as they wish they were.

That doesn't mean we can make fundamental change. Nor does it mean we have to settle for "gradualism" or accept the rules of the game as they are. It does mean that change is not neat and simple. It involves struggle and conflict. It is war without bloodshed and sometimes it isn't pretty. It means you can't have the rain without the thunder and lightning – and sometimes it takes a little longer than planned.

5). The importance of a President that is both committed to progressive values and cool under fire is not simply manifest when it comes to passing a legislative agenda. It is critical when it comes time to deal with any form of real crises.

In 1963, John Kennedy relied on his own steady temperament and progressive values to defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis that nearly led to nuclear War with the Soviet Union. Think how lucky we were that George Bush and Don Rumsfeld were not the ones with their fingers on the nuclear trigger.

This Administration demonstrated its ability to deal with major crises as soon as it walked in the door and acted decisively to avoid another Great Depression. America could confront any number of other unexpected dangerous crises on any given day. It ought to literally make the people of America sleep better tonight that Barack Obama, and not George W. Bush or John McCain or Sarah Palin, sits in the Oval Office to deal with them.

6). The key for us – and for Obama – is not to miss this historic window of opportunity to make real structural change – to emerge from battle having changed the relations of power. That is the central element that will allow progress to continue and accelerate.

The key to health care reform, regulatory reform, energy legislation, and immigration reform is to **get the architecture right**. Quantitative questions we can compromise on now – and fix later. But we have to get the *qualitative* things right the first time.

We must have a public option in a health care bill, not just to provide consumers with more choices or put downward pressure on health insurance rates. We need a public option to change the relations of power in the health care industry. We need to take power away from private insurers who have a stranglehold on our health care and put it into the hands of voters, citizens and and consumers who make choices.

We need to change the regulatory architecture of the financial sector to reduce its outsized power, to change the perverse incentives that promote reckless risk-taking, and to prevent it from siphoning off all of our nation's economic growth from

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ordinary Americans as it did during the last eight years.

We need to change the rules of the economic game that incentivize the discharge of greenhouse gases and enslave us to foreign oil.

And Progressives need to change the immigration laws to take 12 million people out of the shadows – and, by the way, to change the balance of electoral power in a number of key states.

Progressive success ultimately revolves around our ability to change the relations of power – to democratize power in our society. Obama and those leading his Administration understand that and have launched an agenda to help make it happen.

7). Finally, how long the window for progressive change stays open depends entirely on our ability to forge an enduring progressive political majority – among the electorate, in Congress and in our state Legislatures.

In the near term, that means holding our ground in the 2010 mid-terms. Of course the major factor affecting our success in 2010 will be Obama's ability to show progress creating jobs. That will certainly require a good deal more Federal stimulus early next year.

It will also require continued attention to great messaging and to political organizing. So far Obama has done his politics with enormous skill. His approval rating stands at a robust 56% in most polls and fewer Americans (20%) self-identify as Republicans than at any other time in a quarter-century. We've done a good job helping the Republicans marginalize themselves – but of course Sarah Palin, Glen Beck, Rush Limbaugh and the Tea Party gang haven't needed much help guiding their party out to the margins of the political playing field.

Obama's commitment to political organization has not diminished. His political organization, Organize for America (OFA) has blossomed into a major force. By and large, Obama has done a masterful job cultivating and maintaining the relationship of his administration to the many elements of the progressive base.

But our success in 2010 also rests upon Obama's ability to deliver real, meaningful change on his big-ticket items over the next six months. Someone suggested the other day that if we can't get everything we want on health care or regulatory reform, we should stall action and ask the voters to send us more progressive Democrats. Unfortunately, history tells us that if Obama doesn't deliver on things like health care reform, his numbers and the Democratic brand will sink and leave many Democratic candidates for Congress looking for other lines of work.

We have to win health care reform and the other items on our agenda before the next election season. That doesn't mean we should settle for wins in name only. Completely apart from the importance of changing the relations of power in America, real change is necessary to produce the final ingredient for electoral success in 2010: Obama needs to be able to reinvigorate the base – to inspire once again. **To inspire the base we have to deliver real change. For instance, we can't settle for a health care bill that is not affordable and doesn't have a public option -- and if it takes a bloody fight to get them, we have to have the stomach for the task.**

A lot has happened since November 4, 2008 and the plot line will thicken over the next six months. Barack Obama will be the leading man in this drama. But, just as in the campaign, there is also no doubt that this story will have a cast of thousands who will have an enormous amount to say about the outcome. And I am more convinced than ever that the 2008 Obama slogan got it right: "Yes We Can."

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the recent book: "Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win," available on amazon.com .

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~

You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail dubois.sara@gmail.com with questions or concerns

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	9/25/2015 7:39:01 AM
Subject:	Re: TWEETS: US-China Announcement

Ok

On Friday, September 25, 2015, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> These with input from Kristina and the Climate guys.
>
> TWEETS:
>
> The US and China are following up their joint announcement last November with domestic policy action (1/3)
>
> The US has adopted the first-ever carbon pollution standards for power plants and new efficiency standards for trucks and appliances (2/3)
>
> China has added more than 55 GW of wind, solar & nuclear since last November = 800 wind turbines or 1 nuclear plant every week (3/3)
>
> Read my statement on US-China climate announcements on @TheBriefing2016: https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/factsheets/2015/09/25/republicans-get-it-wrong-on-china-and-climate-change/
>
> --
> Milia Fisher
> Special Assistant to the Chair
> Hillary for America
> mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
> c: 858.395.1741

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From: "Gene Karpinski, League of Conservation Voters" <feedback@lcv.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/15/2011 3:01:05 AM
Subject: Stop Uranium Mining Near the Grand Canyon

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Dear John,

The Grand Canyon is one of America's most iconic and beautiful national parks. Each year, millions of people come from around the world to enjoy its natural beauty. No one can deny that the Grand Canyon is an intrinsic part of our nation's culture and heritage.

That's why it's so outrageous that corporate polluters are trying to open up the land around the Grand Canyon to dangerous **uranium mining**.

Fueled by a recent boom in uranium prices, corporate mining interests are staking out thousands of new mining leases and working to re-open old mines near the Grand Canyon.

Thankfully, the Department of the Interior is taking action -- they're proposing to make **1 million acres** of land around the Grand Canyon off-limits to uranium mining for the next 20 years.



Click here to submit a public comment to the Department of the Interior.

But the Department of the Interior's proposal isn't set in stone. Tell the department that you support making the land around the Grand Canyon off-limits to harmful uranium mining.

The recent tragedy in Japan has taught us just how dangerous -- and unpredictable -- radiation can be. The damage from uranium mining near the Grand Canyon could be catastrophic -- **permanently destroying one of our most precious national treasures.**

Additionally, the pollution from uranium mining near the Grand Canyon could endanger tens of millions of Americans. Radiation and toxic waste could leech into the groundwater and the Colorado River, contaminating the drinking water of over **27 million people** in Nevada and California alone.

Can you imagine tens of millions of Americans drinking radioactive water? Can you imagine the Grand Canyon polluted with radiation and toxic mining runoff? It's a disturbing image for one of our nation's most beloved landmarks. That's why we need you to take action to protect the land around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining.

The Department of the Interior's deadline for accepting public comments is around the corner. Time is running out, so please tell the department now that the Grand Canyon must be protected from big polluters.

If we're going to succeed in facing down corporate polluters, we need everyone standing up and speaking out. Please take action to protect the Grand Canyon, and then encourage your friends and family to take action as well.

Thank you,



Gene Karpinski
President
League of Conservation Voters

P.S. After you've submitted a public comment, please encourage your family and friends to do so by sharing this action via e-mail, Facebook or Twitter.

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From: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Matt Paul" <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/24/2015 4:37:54 AM
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.
> >
> > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > That's because you love your own joke.
> > >
> > > But I think it is okay.
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > I don't think so.
> > > >
> > > > On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com > wrote:
> > > > > LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.
> > > > >
> > > > > Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.
> > > > >
> > > > > **Mandy Grunwald**
> > > > > **Grunwald Communications**
> > > > > **202 973-9400**
> > > > >
> > > > > -----Original Message-----
> > > > > From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
> > > > > To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > > Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com >; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >
> > > > > Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
> > > > > Subject: Re: Call with HRC
> > > > >
> > > > > I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
> > > > > Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
> > > > > On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head

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On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture

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-- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Here is latest draft
>
> On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is
> > the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to
> > discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 11/12/2014 1:13:32 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday November 12, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday November 12, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: "Clinton camp to meet with progressive critics"

"Adam Green, the co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, one of the groups most closely associated with the so-called 'Warren wing of the Democratic Party,' said his organization reached out to Clinton's camp before the election and that a meeting was coming 'very soon.'"

The Hill: "Hillary Clinton in no hurry to announce 2016 plans"

"Democratic midterm thumping, Clinton is likely to stick to the timeline of making her plans known early next year."

Washington Post: PostPartisan: "The central challenge for Hillary Clinton and Democrats in 2016"

"Here, then, is the central challenge for Hillary Clinton and Democrats in 2016: Convince enough voters that they have a credible plan to raise incomes for the middle class through jump starting economic growth."

Washington Post blog: Plum Line: "Why a Bernie Sanders presidential candidacy is good for Democrats — and for Hillary Clinton"

"By critiquing her from the left, he [Sen. Sanders] could pull her [Sec. Clinton] in his direction in order to satisfy primary voters, which on many issues would wind up being to her advantage."

Politico Magazine: "Why Wall Street Loves Hillary"

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[Subtitle:] “She's trying to sound populist, but the banks are ready to shower her campaign with cash.”

MSNBC: “Potential Hillary Clinton challengers gear up for fight”

“Hillary Clinton’s allies may think the likely presidential candidate is stronger now than she was before last week’s midterm elections, but that hasn’t stopped her potential challengers from moving ahead with their own plans.”

The New Republic: “Hillary's Going to Have a Primary After All, and She Should Be Grateful”

“It is appearing more and more likely, however, that Clinton will face primary opponents. In fact, three potential candidates—Senator Bernie Sanders, former Senator Jim Webb and Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley—have all signaled they will seek the Democratic nomination.”

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Bill Clinton: Hillary 'happy as a clam' even without run”

“When DeGeneres joked that Clinton was going to make a ‘big announcement’ about his wife, Clinton replied, ‘She's the happiest grandmother.’”

Mediaite: “Fox’s Cavuto Hammers Rand Paul for ‘Condescending Swipe’ at Hillary’s Age”

“And just to stick the knife in a little further, Cavuto invoked Paul’s father, who happens to be a couple of years older than Clinton.”

Politico Magazine: “Wave? What Wave?”

"Many expect her to serve until at least Obama leaves office in 2017 — in part to defend the 2010 Affordable Care Act from a Republican-led Congress. Pelosi adamantly declined to say what she would do if Hillary Clinton won the White House in 2016..."

Articles:

MSNBC: “Clinton camp to meet with progressive critics”

By Alex Seitz-Wald

November 11, 2014, 10:00 p.m. EST

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Hillary's critics on the left may finally have the opportunity they've been waiting for.

Adam Green, the co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, one of the groups most closely associated with the so-called "Warren wing of the Democratic Party," said his organization reached out to Clinton's camp before the election and that a meeting was coming "very soon."

He declined to name the Clinton advisers with whom he's been in contact, saying discussions have so far been limited to "conversations about having conversations." "We want to keep as open a line of communication with Hillary Clinton and her team as possible," he told msnbc.

The meeting will hopefully be a precursor to a larger summit with more progressive leaders and Clinton herself. "The more the merrier," Green said. "Individual meetings are useful, but progressive movement-wide meetings would be really smart for her."

Their message is that Clinton should adopt the kind of economic inequality issues championed by Warren, both for substantive and political reasons. "This is the path to victory in the primary and general election," Green and co-founder Stephanie Taylor wrote in an op-ed in The Hill.

Other liberal groups, which have sometimes been critical of Clinton, are also interested in a chance to bend Clinton's ear on these issues. MoveOn.org, which has 8 million members and traces it roots to defending Bill Clinton during his impeachment trial, said that while noting is planned at the moment, they anticipate some kind of interaction with Clinton. "We would be open and expecting a meeting and interactions with anybody looking for the Democratic nomination," said a source at the group.

MoveOn and others say it will be especially important for Clinton to engage with their members, who number in the millions and include some of the most active Democratic grassroots volunteers and supporters. "We're looking forward to meeting with her team," said Neil Sroka of Democracy for America, which grew out of Howard Dean's 2004 presidential campaign. It's important that Clinton "find ways to connect with the grassroots progressives our organizations represent," he added, calling them the "foot soldiers" of the party.

Clinton plans an unofficial "listening tour" after the election, according to The New York Times, but Green says his group's outreach pre-dated the elections by several months.

Activists involved with several other labor and progressive groups said they have not yet been contacted by Clinton's team. One suspected the tour will be confined to "known likely friends," rather than people skeptical of Clinton. Still, they acknowledged it's early yet.

Dean's DFA has gotten a jump on 2016 by trying to take the temperatures of its more than 1 million members. Last week, it launched an internal poll that, "demonstrates our commitment to making sure the fight for the Democratic nomination is a contest, not a coronation," Sroka said. The poll is still ongoing, but this week, the group sent a series of emails to supporters making "the progressive case" for several different candidates, including Clinton.

"Hillary Clinton is a brawler, willing to take Republicans head on and expose their lies. Can you imagine watching Hillary demolish Ted Cruz or Rand Paul in a debate? It would be epic," the Clinton email notes. It also praises her experience and political strength, concluding: With "the mistakes of her 2008 presidential campaign in her rearview mirror, Hillary Clinton appears to be ready to win the White House."

The other emails tout the progressive bona fides for Warren and Sen. Bernie Sanders. There's also an email for, curiously, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich.

On a DFA conference call in February, Reich said, "I think that there will be a lot of people – Elizabeth Warren, others, maybe even me – who will toss our hats in the ring."

Progressives are encouraged by Clinton's recent rhetoric on the stump for Democratic midterm candidates, especially the speech she gave while appearing with Warren in Massachusetts on behalf of failed Democratic gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley. "It's clear that she's listening," Sroka said.

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The Hill: "Hillary Clinton in no hurry to announce 2016 plans"

By Amie Parnes

November 12, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

Hillary Clinton is in no rush to announce that she's running for president.

Sources in Clinton World say while there's been some chatter about an earlier-than-expected announcement, given the

Democratic midterm thumping, Clinton is likely to stick to the timeline of making her plans known early next year.

"She's not going to get in early. Period. End of sentence," said one Clinton ally. "She's not ready. She hasn't fully decided that's what she wants to do."

Clinton formally launched her first White House bid on Jan. 20, 2007, with a statement on her website that said, "I'm in."

And the expectation has been that she would follow a similar plan, at least on the timing of an announcement, if she chooses to run for the presidency again.

But suggestions that she should move up her plans have become more common in recent weeks — particularly after the midterms.

Those arguing that Clinton should get in sooner rather than later say an earlier bid would help her fundraising and organizing. It would also provide some, much-needed energy to a party still reeling from an electoral disaster.

"It would be a good reminder that we'll see them on the playing field in two years," said one Democratic strategist. "To be continued."

It could also downplay the storyline that Clinton is too cautious and is taking cues from old playbooks.

David Plouffe, who ran President Obama's 2008 campaign, recently advised her to stop playing coy and push the go button as soon as possible, according to a report in Politico.

And Clinton herself offered remarks last month during a Q-and-A in Ottawa that left some wondering if she was readjusting her timeline.

"I've been dodging this question now for a year and a half or more," she said at an event hosted by a Canadian think tank. "I'm going to keep dodging it, certainly until the midterm elections are over. I'm thinking hard about it. But I'm not going to really bear down and think hard about it in a way you make a decision until after these elections."

Hillaryland sources say Clinton — who recently celebrated the birth of her granddaughter — is currently in "listening mode," as one put it. After campaigning with Democratic candidates, she wants some downtime to really mull the decision inside and out.

"I don't see any reason to announce anytime in the next two months," said one Clinton insider. "Frankly, I'm thinking, 'Take your time.' "

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These sources maintain she will likely make a decision about her next steps sometime over the holidays. Should she choose to run, she could then form an exploratory committee, allowing her to have a soft launch of sorts.

The committee would in turn send a clear message of her intent without a huge announcement or quick ramp-up of a large team, allowing her to remain somewhat low-key for the time being.

Voters could suffer from an early dose of Clinton fatigue, argue those saying Clinton should not get in early.

And once a campaign begins on the early side, there's "more time for negative coverage to set in and doubts in the media," said Julian Zelizer, a professor of history and public affairs at Princeton University.

The longtime Clinton adviser maintained that the election results don't and shouldn't affect the general timeline of an announcement.

For one thing, the aide pointed out, there is plenty of action already taking place to eat up the political oxygen including the debate between mainstream Republicans and Tea Partyers in addition to the string of would-be presidential candidates on the GOP side.

Furthermore, the source added, issue-oriented debates on immigration reform and other issues are also taking up space in the political stratosphere.

But most of all, Clinton — who spent the bulk of the year on a book tour, giving speeches and then stumping for Democrats — needs more time.

"The timeline is what it is," one longtime Clinton ally said. "And I don't see that changing."

Washington Post: PostPartisan: "The central challenge for Hillary Clinton and Democrats in 2016"

By Carter Eskew

November 11, 2014, 12:33 p.m. EST

David Leonhardt has an essential article today for those who wish to understand the recent volatility in electoral outcomes generally, and the misfortune of Democrats specifically. The key driver of these outcomes, according to Leonhardt, is stagnant middle-class incomes. The average American worker, who is lucky enough to have a job, makes $3,600 less today in inflation-adjusted wages than he did in 2001. That is an extraordinary fact, and one that overshadows all other aspects of our politics. It is why Obama and Democrats not only fail to receive any credit for a decline in the unemployment rate, but also are currently seen as weaker than Republicans on what was always their strength: running the economy for the benefit of the middle-class. It is why the "war on women," climate change, health care, and Social Security, Democratic go-to issues, cut so little this year, and seem exhausted for the foreseeable future. It's not just the economy, stupid; it's the fact that people are working the same and making less, moron.

Here, then, is the central challenge for Hillary Clinton and Democrats in 2016: Convince enough voters that they have a credible plan to raise incomes for the middle class through jump starting economic growth. It won't be easy, as Leonhardt makes clear. Democratic ideas for the economy, investment in infrastructure and education, to cite two favorites, take years to pay dividends. A faster way to prime the pump, Leonhardt suggests, would be to cut taxes on the middle class, offset by an increase in rates for the wealthy, which echoes, to some degree, the platforms Bill Clinton and Barack Obama campaigned on in 1992 and in 2008, respectively.

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For Mrs. Clinton, of course, economic growth and raising stagnant wages must be the sine qua non of her candidacy. It's time to bring the "laser beam" that Bill Clinton promised in 1992 out of storage and refocus it on the economy. Politically, all else is distraction.

Washington Post blog: Plum Line: "Why a Bernie Sanders presidential candidacy is good for Democrats — and for Hillary Clinton"

By Paul Waldman

November 11, 2014, 1:44 p.m. EST

Ever since people started thinking about the 2016 presidential primaries, the assumption has been that the Republican side will feature a fascinating and bloody donnybrook with no initial frontrunner and as many as a dozen potentially realistic candidacies, while the Democratic contest will be no contest at all, but rather a coronation for Hillary Clinton.

But might we finally have a real clash of ideas on the Democratic side? Yes, we might:

"Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has spent months fishing for a strategist to guide his potential 2016 presidential campaign. On Monday, he hooked a big one: Tad Devine, one of the Democratic Party's leading consultants and a former high-level campaign aide to Al Gore, John Kerry, and Michael Dukakis.

"'If he runs, I'm going to help him,' Devine said in an interview. 'He is not only a longtime client but a friend. I believe he could deliver an enormously powerful message that the country is waiting to hear right now and do it in a way that succeeds.'

"Devine and Sanders, who first worked together on Sanders's campaigns in the 1990s, have been huddling in recent weeks, mapping out how the brusque progressive senator could navigate a primary and present a formidable challenge to Hillary Rodham Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination."

The height of Devine's influence may be in the recent past, but he still brings establishment credibility that could lead people in the media to give Sanders more attention. His involvement is also a sign that Sanders isn't just thinking he'll get a van and drive around New Hampshire, but instead that he'd mount a serious campaign, no matter how formidable the obstacles to victory. That could mean a genuinely interesting debate about the problems America confronts and how the Democratic party should address them.

Sanders says he'll center his campaign on economic inequality and the struggles of the middle class, and this is what Clinton needs to address as well. That may be the most important message for Democrats of the 2014 election, not to mention Barack Obama's continuing low approval ratings: Democrats need to figure out how to address persistent economic insecurity, stagnating wages, and the failure of the recovery's gains to achieve widespread distribution.

If you look at most economic measures, the Obama administration seems spectacularly successful. Since the economy stopped hemorrhaging jobs at the end of 2009, it has added 10 million. We've now had nine straight months with over 200,000 jobs created, which hadn't happened since the mid-1990's. Unemployment is below 6 percent, GDP growth is steady, and the federal deficit is less than half what it was when Obama took office. Yet his approval on the economy is an anemic 40 percent.

The reasons why are many and complicated (the most important is that wages are not increasing), but one problem Democrats face is that they don't have a coherent story to tell on the economy that explains what they've done right, connects with people's current displeasure, and shows a way forward. If by focusing on the economy Sanders forces Clinton to articulate that story and support it with a specific agenda that she could implement if she wins, he will have done her a great service.

Of course, he'd say he isn't running to do Hillary Clinton any favors. But the reality is that he would. By critiquing her from the left, he could pull her

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in his direction in order to satisfy primary voters, which on many issues would wind up being to her advantage. At the same time, the broader message their debates would communicate to the general electorate is that she's a moderate. When Republicans try to argue that she's some wild-eyed Alinskyite radical bent on turning America socialist (just as they did with Obama), she can say, "I ran against an actual socialist in the primaries, and it's pretty obvious we aren't the same person."

A strong Sanders candidacy will do something else: make liberal Democrats feel that their opinions and their concerns are getting a fair hearing in the 2016 process. Sanders is an eloquent and unapologetic voice for liberalism. His presence as a real contender on the campaign trail would assure liberals that their party can still be a vehicle for their ideology, even if the candidate who triumphs is the more centrist establishment figure. And that's something they could use right now.

Politico Magazine: "Why Wall Street Loves Hillary"

By William D. Cohen

November 11, 2014

[Subtitle:] She's trying to sound populist, but the banks are ready to shower her campaign with cash.

An odd thing happened last month when, stumping just before the midterms, Hillary Clinton came in close proximity to the woman who has sometimes been described as the conscience of the Democratic Party. Speaking at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston as she did her part to try to rescue the failing gubernatorial campaign of Martha Coakley in Massachusetts, Clinton paid deference to Senator Elizabeth Warren, the anti-Wall Street firebrand who has accused Clinton of pandering to the big banks, and who was sitting right there listening. "I love watching Elizabeth give it to those who deserve it," Clinton said to cheers. But then, awkwardly, she appeared to try to out-Warren Warren—and perhaps build a bridge too far to the left—by uttering words she clearly did not believe: "Don't let anyone tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs," Clinton said, erroneously echoing a meme Warren made famous during an August 2011 speech at a home in Andover, Massachusetts. "You know that old theory, trickle-down economics? That has been tried, that has failed. It has failed rather spectacularly."

The right went wild. See? Hillary Clinton has finally shown her hand. After having sat out the financial crisis and all the economic turmoil that has followed in the past six years—and with good reason, since for most of that time she was tending to the nation's diplomacy as secretary of state—she is proving to be an anti-Wall Street populist too, and as much a socialist as her former boss, President Obama.

But here's the strange thing: Down on Wall Street they don't believe it for a minute. While the finance industry does genuinely hate Warren, the big bankers love Clinton, and by and large they badly want her to be president. Many of the rich and powerful in the financial industry—among them, Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein, Morgan Stanley CEO James Gorman, Tom Nides, a powerful vice chairman at Morgan Stanley, and the heads of JPMorganChase and Bank of America—consider Clinton a pragmatic problem-solver not prone to populist rhetoric. To them, she's someone who gets the idea that we all benefit if Wall Street and American business thrive. What about her forays into fiery rhetoric? They dismiss it quickly as political maneuvers. None of them think she really means her populism.

Although Hillary Clinton has made no formal announcement of her candidacy, the consensus on Wall Street is that she is running—and running hard—and that her national organization is quickly falling into place behind the scenes. That all makes her attractive. Wall Street, above all, loves a winner, especially one who is not likely to tamper too radically with its vast money pot.

According to a wide assortment of bankers and hedge-fund managers I spoke to for this article, Clinton's rock-solid support on Wall Street is not anything that can be dislodged based on a few seemingly off-the-cuff comments in Boston calculated to protect her left flank. (For the record, she quickly walked them back, saying she had "short-handed" her comments about the failures of trickle-down economics by suggesting, absurdly, that corporations don't create jobs.) "I think people are very excited about Hillary," says one Wall Street investment professional with close ties to Washington. "Most people in New York on the finance side view her as being very pragmatic. I think they have confidence that she understands how things work and that she's not a populist."

The bottom line for Wall Street, says this executive—echoing many others—is that Clinton understands that America's much-maligned financial industry wants to be part of the solution to the country's problems. "Everybody who makes money feels a shared responsibility," he continues.

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"Everybody sort of looks at her with a lot of optimism because they feel she doesn't mind making hard decisions. She'll do what she needs to do, but it's not a 'Let me blame you.' It's, 'Hey, here's what you've got to do.' And I think that's very different." During a speech last December at the Conrad Hotel, in New York, her message could not have been more different from Obama's hot, anti-Wall Street rhetoric: "We all got into this mess together, and we're all going to have to work together to get out of it."

During the 2012 presidential election, Wall Street felt burned by Obama's rhetoric and regulatory positions and overwhelmingly supported with their money Republican candidate Mitt Romney, co-founder of private-equity firm Bain Capital. Now, though, there's a significant momentum back behind the Democratic contest. "The money is already behind her," the Wall Street money manager says. "I don't think it's starting to line up behind her: It's there for her if she wants it."

The informal head of her informal Wall Street outreach effort for her informal campaign is a finance executive she knows well—and recruited to work for her at the State Department. Tom Nides, 53, the Morgan Stanley executive, knows both New York and Washington intimately. Today he speaks with Clinton regularly and has begun to play the role of gatekeeper on Wall Street to her embryonic campaign. He also has been known to run interference between the Obama administration and the leaders of the Israeli government, in order to try to patch up their dysfunctional relationship. "Tom at the end of the day is the guy—she trusts him, she knows him," says the Wall Street investment manager.

Nides returned to Morgan Stanley in 2013 after two years working for Clinton at the State Department as deputy secretary of state for management and resources. Nides (with whom I once shared a one-week summer rental on Nantucket) epitomizes the revolving door that has long existed between Washington and Wall Street. Born in Duluth, Minnesota, he served in a senior leadership role for a diverse group of Washington politicians, from Representatives Tony Coehlo and Tom Foley to, as chief of staff, Mickey Kantor, Bill Clinton's U.S. trade representative. He worked at Fannie Mae for six years, ran Joe Lieberman's 2000 vice-presidential campaign and served a brief stint as CEO of Burson Marsteller, the public relations firm.

In 2001, Morgan Stanley CEO John Mack took Nides under his wing. When Mack was named CEO of Credit Suisse, Nides went along with him as chief administrative officer. When Mack returned to Morgan Stanley as CEO in 2005, Nides accompanied him again as chief operating officer and then stayed another year serving in the same role for James Gorman. Then Nides returned to Washington to work for then-Secretary Clinton at the State Department, replacing Jack Lew, who became head of the Office of Management and Budget. Many thought Nides' time at Morgan Stanley was over, especially with Mack's retirement at the end of 2011. But Gorman—also a Hillary supporter—surprised people by bringing Nides back to the firm as a vice-chairman.

Now Nides is the first stop in New York for many a visiting dignitary and for those ambitious Wall Street types hoping to get access to Clinton. Nides declined to comment on the record, as did other Wall Street executives with whom Clinton is said to confer, among them Blair Effron, one of the three founders of Centerview Partners, an investment banking boutique, and Marc Lasry, the founder of Avenue Capital, a New York hedge fund, who was almost named Obama's ambassador to France.

But Greg Fleming, Nides' partner at Morgan Stanley and the president of Morgan Stanley Wealth and Investment Management, was pleased to discuss his enthusiastic support for Clinton. He says that the "broad perception" across Wall Street, among both Democrats and Republicans, is that she, "like her husband, will govern from the center, and work to get things done, and be capable of garnering support across different groups, including working with Republicans." He agreed that, as a former senator from New York, Clinton is trusted by Wall Street and will tackle issues, such as fiscal and tax reform, that have been long neglected thanks to the intractable polarization that rules Washington these days. "She will be trying to govern from the center with a problem-solving bent like her husband," Fleming says.

Beyond that, Hillary Clinton—and the Clintons generally—have always courted Wall Street assiduously and without apology. In June, the biggest donors to the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation met with the Clintons at Goldman Sachs' headquarters in lower Manhattan for a day-long discussion about the foundation's goals. Goldman has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Clintons' foundation, and in October 2013, Hillary Clinton gave two speeches at Goldman. Her usual speaking fee is $200,000, and Goldman is known to be a full payer on the speaking circuit. Goldman is hardly alone—Clinton is popular in the financial industry: In 2013, she also gave speeches to KKR and the Carlyle Group, two private-equity behemoths.

Wall Street does not seem to be the slightest bit shy about coming out for Hillary—and are now contributing their money to prove it. While Priorities USA Action, a super PAC dedicated to getting Clinton elected in 2016, does not have any Wall Street banks among its top 50 donors to date, there have been large contributions from wealthy hedge funds, such as Renaissance Technologies, which has donated $4 million (the largest single contribution); D.E. Shaw, which has donated $1.375 million; Khosla Ventures and Soros Fund Management, which have each donated $1 million; and Ripplewood Holdings, a private equity firm, which contributed $400,000. There are many Wall Street financiers who have donated $25,000—by design, the maximum contribution—to the Ready for Hillary superPAC.

Goldman is an interesting case study. As in nearly every other way, it has always been careful to hedge its bets where electoral politics is concerned. Historically, although trending Democratic, Goldman employees have managed to give nearly equally to both parties in presidential elections. And a lot of it: Since 1990, Goldman's employees have given $47 million to political candidates and various political action

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committees—more than any other single group of company employees. But that calculus changed dramatically in 2008 when Goldman employees gave about $1 million to Barack Obama's presidential campaign, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, second only to that given to Obama by the employees of the University of California, who donated nearly $1.8 million. By contrast, Goldman employees gave only $235,000 to Senator John McCain, the Republican Party nominee.

By 2009 the bloom was off the rose. In an interview with 60 Minutes, Obama not only referred to Wall Street as the "fat cat bankers" but also blamed Wall Street for causing the financial crisis. "People on Wall Street still don't get it," he said. In July 2010, just weeks after a much-vilified Goldman agreed to pay a $550 million fine to the Securities and Exchange Commission—then the largest fine ever—to settle charges stemming from Goldman's underwriting and selling of a synthetic collateralized debt obligation, the details about which the SEC believed Goldman had failed to properly disclose to investors, Obama joked at the White House Correspondents Dinner: "All of the jokes here tonight are brought to you by our friends at Goldman Sachs. So you don't have to worry—they make money whether you laugh or not."

By 2012, in an historic turnaround, Goldman went full force for Romney. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Goldman employees gave $1.2 million to the Republican National Committee and another $1 million or so to Romney directly. By contrast, Obama received a mere $210,000 from Goldman employees (who also gave $493,000 to the Democratic National Committee). "In the four decades since Congress created the campaign-finance system, no company's employees have switched sides so abruptly, moving from top supporters of one camp to the top of its rival," the Wall Street Journal observed. So far this year, Goldman remains a Republican shop. Some 63 percent of the firm's political contributions, or $1.75 million, has gone to support Republican candidates.

That will change if Clinton decides to run. For starters, as the former U.S. senator from New York, she is well known to many of Goldman's leaders. They have seen her at numerous Goldman events over the years or at fundraisers in the Hamptons. Blankfein ran into the Clintons in August at a party in the Hamptons at Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's house, and there are the many pictures of Blankfein smiling broadly at her side during September's Clinton Global Initiative in New York. A few weeks later, they spent time together at a dinner celebrating the Goldman Sachs "10,000 Women Initiative," a Goldman-funded training and education program for female entrepreneurs.

Many Goldman employees, especially women, are also excited about the historic potential of the 2016 presidential election since Clinton could become the first female president. "They're not going to reflexively support any woman, but she's a woman that seems more or less in sync with the way they think about the world," says another former Clinton administration official who now works on Wall Street. "And she's successful, and they just like her."

More significant, the 10,000 Women Initiative was designed by Clinton operatives and is being implemented at Goldman by people who still have close ties to her. For instance, Goldman paid Gene Sperling, a longtime Washington insider who was director of the National Economic Council under both Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, nearly $900,000 in 2008 for his help in creating the 10,000 Women Initiative. Noa Meyer, who runs the program at Goldman, once wrote speeches for Hillary Clinton when she was First Lady. "The whole idea to spend money on women and women's education in developing countries came straight out of her playbook," says someone familiar with the origins of the 10,000 Women Initiative. "The same people who got her interested in that issue are the people who …design[ed] the program."

Of course, the ties between Goldman Sachs and Washington run deep, very deep, and many analysts have argued that the broad deregulatory moves pushed by former Goldman senior partner Robert Rubin—who later became Bill Clinton's National Economic Council director and then Treasury secretary—were a major part of the process that led to the subprime mortgage disaster. But Rubin was only among the latest in a long line of Goldman executives who went to Washington and helped create the talent-and-ideas nexus that later became derisively known as "Government Sachs." Sidney Weinberg, the longtime senior partner at Goldman Sachs in the 20th century, was a confidante of Franklin D. Roosevelt's who enticed him to Washington on several occasions before, during and after World War II. In 1938, Roosevelt offered Weinberg the position of ambassador to the Soviet Union, but Weinberg thought better of it because he did not speak Russian, was a Jew from Brooklyn and didn't want to leave Goldman. In November 1943, FDR did succeed in enlisting Weinberg to go to the Soviet Union "openly" as a representative of the Office of Strategic Services—the predecessor of the CIA—although what he did there and for how long has been lost to history.

In 1968, Henry Fowler joined Goldman Sachs as a partner, and thus became the first former Treasury secretary to spin the revolving door and land a Wall Street job. John Whitehead, who was the co-senior partner of Goldman Sachs in the 1970s and the early 1980s, became deputy secretary of state in the second Reagan Administration, after he retired from the firm. John F. W. Rogers, a former close Reagan advisor, has been the longtime consigliore at Goldman and oversees both the global communications and government relations departments. Rubin, who had befriended Fowler during his time at Goldman and who went on to run Goldman Sachs in the 1980s, along with Steve Friedman, left Goldman in January 1991 to join the Clinton administration. In 1995, he succeeded Lloyd Bentsen as Treasury secretary. Friedman, meanwhile, became chairman of the National Economic Council under George W. Bush, and, of course, Hank Paulson, the former CEO of Goldman, was Bush's Treasury secretary during the financial crisis of 2007 and 2008.

Rubin, apparently, is not content to go gracefully into the good night when it comes to wielding power, and lingering questions about his continued influence inside the Clinton camp are at the center of an issue that is likely to dog Hillary through 2016. From his perches as co-chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations and as a founder of the Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution, Rubin—long considered a Washington kingmaker—continues to cast his spell on the Obama administration, which has been, and continues to be, chock full of appointees with close ties to him, including Tim Geithner, Larry Summers, Peter Orszag, Gene Sperling, Jason Furman, Jack Lew, Michael Froman and Sylvia Matthews

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Burwell. While Rubin's reach is both unprecedented and stunning, it remains to be seen whether he is able to work his magic and position Blankfein into an important role in a Hillary Clinton administration, should there be one and if he aspires to such a thing.

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All of which raise the most pertinent question of all: rhetoric and fundraising aside, where does Clinton really stand on Wall Street? If she becomes president, is she going to side with the Rubinites—or has she come to realize, as even her husband apparently has, having conceded in remarks that he naively supported too much deregulation, that Wall Street must be carefully watched and kept at arm's length?

She's been fairly cagey about this issue, eager to assuage both sides. Where Obama blamed Wall Street—not inaccurately—for behavior that caused the 2008 financial crisis and championed new Wall Street regulations like the Volcker Rule and the 2010 Dodd-Frank law that really stick in the craw of money men—all while presiding over a veritable profit boon for the financial industry—Clinton said hardly a word on the topic of Wall Street shenanigans.

Her nascent populism has only appeared in the last year or so, as the Elizabeth Warren movement took off. For instance, in a speech at the progressive New America Foundation, she spoke about the dangers of the growing inequality in the country. "Americans are working harder, contributing more than ever to their companies' bottom lines and to our country's total economic output, and yet many are still barely getting by, barely holding on, not seeing the rewards that they believe their hard work should have merited," she said. "And where's it all going? Well, economists have documented how the share of income and wealth going to those at the very top—not just the top one percent, but the top one-tenth percent or the top-hundredth percent of the population—has risen sharply over the last generation. Some are calling it a throwback to the Gilded Age of the Robber Barons."

She also lamented how government regulators had "neglected their oversight" of Wall Street and "allowed the evolution of an entire shadow banking system that operated without accountability."

Asked about these issues, Clinton's spokesman Nick Merrill is quick to point out times she has called for more regulation—an eagerness that underscores how the Clinton operation wants to appear populist even as it collects the Wall Street money. Merrill noted that back in March 2008, as a presidential candidate, she called for "much more vigorous government oversight and enforcement of the subprime mortgage market." He also said that she staked out positions, in the year or so before the financial crisis hit, on reducing or eliminating the carried interest of private equity partners being taxed at capital gains rates; on a financial transaction tax; and on repatriating overseas income by U.S. corporations. In a 2007 press release from her campaign, for example, Clinton declared: "Our tax code should be valuing hard work and helping middle class and working families get ahead. It offends our values as a nation when an investment manager making $50 million can pay a lower tax rate on her earned income than a teacher making $50,000 pays on her income. As president I will reform our tax code to ensure that the carried interest earned by some multi-millionaire Wall Street managers is recognized for what it is: ordinary income that should be taxed at ordinary income tax rates." Clinton said she would use the funds generated by the tax change—which some have estimated at $4 to $6 billion per year—to invest in middle-class and working families.

There's no question, when and if she decides to run, that she's going to have an incredible support foundation from Wall Street."

Yet all of these efforts seem at best a combination of campaign trail rhetoric or minor tweaks around the edges—rather than the wholesale change that an Elizabeth Warren-type populist would want to impose on the financial industry.

Probably the best answer to the question of what Clinton will do to Wall Street comes from Wall Street's own support of her. Wall Street executives, bankers and traders have already shown their hand in support of the two Clintons individually as well as of the causes they care about most deeply—money they wouldn't contribute if they thought her political future would be detrimental to their economic future. And, in return, one thing we know about the Clintons: They value loyalty profoundly. They are unlikely to turn their backs on the banks, especially since it seems highly unlikely that Warren will mount the kind of outsider challenge to Hillary in 2016 that Barack Obama did in 2008. Instead, Clinton will find ways to work with Wall Street on issues it cares about, rather than vilifying it for political gain.

Democratic pollster Douglas Schoen says that Hillary's hope is that she can use supposed slips like the one in Boston to appeal just enough to the liberal wing of the Democratic party to ward off Warren, who offers a "far more resonant message with the Democratic base than Hillary's." Without a strong national ground organization and a strong financial network, Warren's message alone won't get her very far, but the Clintons want to avoid repeating the mistakes of 2008, when an idealism-based campaign derailed her inevitability campaign.

She will also have much of her former opponent's network behind her again in 2016. Robert Wolf, the former president of UBS' investment bank who now has his own advisory boutique, 32 Advisors, has long been described as Obama's BFF (Best Friend in Finance), and although he has

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little direct involvement with Clinton or her campaign team, he plans to support her fully when the time comes. He is one of the hosts of a December 16 gala in New York City where she will be honored. By his rough calculus, six in 10 Wall Street types are Democrats, three are Republicans and just one is independent. He predicts that the independents, who voted for Obama in 2008 and then defected to Romney in 2012, will return to Clinton in 2016. As he says, “There’s no question, when and if she decides to run, that she’s going to have an incredible support foundation from Wall Street.”

As we have all seen repeatedly, Wall Street often gets what Wall Street wants. Will it get a President Hillary Clinton, and will she be the president Wall Street expects?

MSNBC: “Potential Hillary Clinton challengers gear up for fight”

By Alex Seitz-Wald

November 11, 2014, 2:11 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton’s allies may think the likely presidential candidate is stronger now than she was before last week’s midterm elections, but that hasn’t stopped her potential challengers from moving ahead with their own plans.

Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, who says he is seriously considering a presidential run as a Democrat, has hired veteran Democratic strategist Tad Devine, while the group trying to draft Sen. Elizabeth Warren is also staffing up.

With a career in presidential politics stretching more than three decades, Devine is highly respected in Democratic political circles. His involvement with Sanders will instantly lend credibility to the progressive senator, who has sometimes struggled to be taken seriously as a viable national candidate.

“I believe he could deliver an enormously powerful message that the country is waiting to hear right now and do it in a way that succeeds,” Devine told The Washington Post. Devine played senior roles in Al Gore and John Kerry’s presidential campaigns, as well as those of 17 winning Senate races.

Sanders and his message of “political revolution” have been well received on recent trips to New Hampshire and Iowa, both key early presidential states. And some Clinton allies fear he could find a following on the left.

“In terms of fundraising, there would be real interest in him at the grassroots level,” Devine told the Post. “He knows how to do the organizing that’s required. As a mass media person, I also think he would be a great television candidate. He can connect on that level.”

Meanwhile, Ready for Warren announced Monday that it had hired a deputy campaign manager to help run its day-to-day operations. Kate Albright-Hanna, who is also an Emmy-award winning documentary filmmaker, worked with Ready for Warren founder Erica Sagrans on Obama’s 2008 campaign. This year, she served as communications director for Zephyr Teachout, who mounted a surprisingly competitive Democratic primary campaign against New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. The group is also in the process of hiring several field directors in key states. Warren has repeatedly said she is not running.

At the same time, former Virginia senator Jim Webb, an anti-war moderate, is more seriously considering a run that previously disclosed. “I do believe that I have the leadership and the experience and the sense of history and the kinds of ideas where I could lead this country,” he told The New Yorker’s Ryan Lizza for a profile of the Democratic field published Monday. “We’re just going to go out and put things on the table in the next four or five months and see if people support us. And if it looks viable, then we’ll do it.”

And then there’s Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, who has the most complete infrastructure in place of anyone not named Clinton, but now to has figure out whether or not to dismantle it after the election. His political action committee dispatched 32 staffers to help Democrats in key states, and

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now has to decide how many to keep. Many of the staffers were fairly junior, but earned positive reviews from Iowa Democrats. O'Malley was seen as damaged by the loss of lieutenant governor Anthony Brown in last week's race to replace him in the Maryland statehouse.

Clinton still has an enormous lead in early public opinion surveys, and allies think her party's drubbing last week will encourage Democrats to rally around Clinton and help clarify her message against a Republican Congress. At the same time, many Democrats, especially in early states, say they want to see a vigorous primary campaign.

New Republic: "Hillary's Going to Have a Primary After All, and She Should Be Grateful"

By Danny Vinik

November 11, 2014

With the midterms over, political operatives and professional pundits are quickly turning their attention to the 2016 presidential election. Their interest, though, is unbalanced, focused on the wide-open Republican field. Many don't expect a competitive Democratic primary. Will anyone even challenge Hillary Clinton? Some Democrats worry Clinton's supposed inevitability will come across as arrogance. "She's an enormously capable candidate and leader," Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick told CNN in May. "But I do worry about the inevitability thing, because I think it's off-putting to the average voter."

It is appearing more and more likely, however, that Clinton will face primary opponents. In fact, three potential candidates—Senator Bernie Sanders, former Senator Jim Webb and Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley—have all signaled they will seek the Democratic nomination.

Of the three potential candidates, Sanders seems most serious about running for president. The clearest sign came Tuesday when Tad Devine, a major Democratic consultant who worked closely with Al Gore, John Kerry, and Michael Dukakis, said that he would work with Sanders. "If he runs, I'm going to help him," Devine told the Washington Post. "He is not only a longtime client but a friend. I believe he could deliver an enormously powerful message that the country is waiting to hear right now and do it in a way that succeeds."

Sanders, who is a socialist, has been a vocal critic of President Obama and the Democratic Party for failing to go after Wall Street and being too close to big-money interests. He believes Clinton is no different, and this has made him consider a presidential run. On Saturday, he appeared on C-SPAN's "Newsmakers" and talked about a potential campaign as well. "If there is not that support, I will not run," he said. "I want to run a good campaign and a meaningful campaign and a winning campaign. If I can't do that, I'm not interested in running."

Ryan Lizza documents Sanders's commitment to challenging the Democratic Party in a new piece for The New Yorker focusing on Clinton's supposed inevitability. Lizza does not assess whether Clinton is actually inevitable. Instead, he describes how O'Malley and Webb, along with Sanders, are both positioning themselves for presidential campaigns. For instance, O'Malley spent time in Iowa campaigning for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jack Hatch. Hatch lost by nearly 22 points, but O'Malley still used the campaign to introduce himself to Iowa voters. On Sunday, the Washington Post reported that O'Malley, whose term is up in January, sent 32 staffers to battleground states across the country during the midterms—another sign he is thinking about 2016.

Webb has done the least to prepare for a presidential run, but he is certainly flirting with the idea. "I do believe that I have the leadership and the experience and the sense of history and the kinds of ideas where I could lead this country," he told Lizza. "We're just going to go out and put things on the table in the next four or five months and see if people support us. And if it looks viable, then we'll do it." He travelled to New Hampshire in October to discuss his memoir, a chance to introduce himself to voters in the pivotal state.

All three of these campaigns are in their infancy but there's a very good chance that at least one—and possibly several—of them will run. Each would likely challenge Clinton from the left on economic issues, attempting to tie her to Wall Street. Webb and Sanders have also been critical of her on foreign policy issues such as the interventions in Libya and Syria. In addition, there's always the chance that Vice President Joe Biden or Senator Elizabeth Warren enter the race as well.

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Can any of them derail Clinton as Obama did in 2008? Unlikely. Clinton is even better positioned now to ward off Democratic challengers than she was six years ago. But at the very least, a Sanders, O'Malley, or Webb campaign will force Clinton to defend her record and persuade primary voters that her agenda is best for the country. She may still be the inevitable candidate. But at least she'll be prepared as well.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Bill Clinton: Hillary 'happy as a clam' even without run"

By Peter Sullivan

November 11, 2014, 1:28 p.m. EST

Former President Clinton says that Hillary Clinton would be "happy as a clam" even without running for president in 2016.

Appearing on the "Ellen DeGeneres Show" in a segment airing Tuesday, DeGeneres jokingly presented Clinton with two baby's onesies. One said "My grandma's running for president in 2016" and the other read "My grandma's a stay-at-home granny."

"If I pick that one, it would be best for the country," Clinton said, pointing at the 2016 onesie.

Pointing at the "granny" onesie, he said "If I pick that one, she would be happy as a clam and so would I."

"So keep 'em both and give her the right one when she decides," he said.

The Clintons' granddaughter, Charlotte, was born in September, and Hillary Clinton has made clear in her speeches since then how much she values being a grandmother.

When DeGeneres joked that Clinton was going to make a "big announcement" about his wife, Clinton replied, "She's the happiest grandmother."

"I don't know what Hillary's going to do, that's the truth," Clinton said, as he has said before. "If I did I wouldn't tell you, but I don't know."

Clinton pointed to a program at the Clinton Foundation to encourage parents to read to their children to boost development. "Whatever she wants to do I'm for, she's the ablest public servant I ever worked with, but I'm more interested, now that I have a granddaughter, than I ever have been in this project she and Chelsea started at our foundation called Too Small to Fail," Clinton said.

Despite these comments, Hillary Clinton is seen as all but certain to run. She has campaigned across the country for Democrats, including trips to Iowa and New Hampshire, and there have been several reports of strategy meetings lining up a campaign.

Mediaite: "Fox's Cavuto Hammers Rand Paul for 'Condescending Swipe' at Hillary's Age"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Josh Feldman

November 11, 2014, 5:36 p.m. EST

Fox's Neil Cavuto scolded Senator Rand Paul today for his "condescending swipe" at Hillary Clinton for maybe being too old to be president. Paul said yesterday that Hillary might not be ready for the "rigorous physical ordeal" of a presidential campaign.

Well, Cavuto thought that was a pretty cheap shot, worse than Chris Christie shouting at someone to "shut up." He pointed out that Ronald Reagan was 69 on inauguration day, as Clinton would be, and no Republican would say he wasn't up to the job.

And just to stick the knife in a little further, Cavuto invoked Paul's father, who happens to be a couple of years older than Clinton. Cavuto said Paul's done some "damage with that condescending swipe" and told him to stop "pull[ing] this nonsense."

Politico Magazine: "Wave? What Wave?"

By Lauren French and John Bresnahan

November 12, 2014, 5:03 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] An exclusive interview with an unbowed Nancy Pelosi.

House Democrats ended Election Day controlling fewer seats than they have in nearly 80 years, but Nancy Pelosi isn't conceding anything.

"I do not believe what happened the other night is a wave," Pelosi said in her sit-down first interview since Democrats lost a dozen House seats to Republicans on Nov. 4. "There was no wave of approval for the Republicans. I wish them congratulations, they won the election, but there was no wave of approval for anybody. There was an ebbing, an ebb tide, for us."

As for whether she would consider stepping down as minority leader, Pelosi said she's needed now more than ever.

"Quite frankly, if we would have won, I would have thought about leaving," Pelosi declared, a remark that will likely surprise both admirers and detractors.

Pelosi's take on the midterms is this: It wasn't a Republican wave, her party's message is fine and while President Barack Obama thinks Democrats need to play better politics, she believes Democrats just need to better engage voters.

As Pelosi prepares to run for another term as House minority leader, a position she's expected to win unchallenged next week, the powerful Californian is unrepentant about a brutal election night.

Seated in her Capitol Hill office on Friday, the 74-year-old Pelosi offered her thoughts on the state of her caucus in a Republican-controlled Congress, revealing a leader who is standing by her principles, policies and strategies.

From plans to harness her power among fellow Democrats to keep her job as minority leader, to digging in on Obamacare and the party's economic messaging, Pelosi is setting up her party to fight to take back the House in 2016 on similar grounds as this year, apparently without a dramatic shakeup of the Democratic leadership team.

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“It’s always time for fresh leadership, but my members have asked me to stay,” she said. “If they want me to stay, I stay. If they don’t want me to stay, I won’t stay.”

Some of this is the spin that any party leader uses. Some of it is vintage Pelosi — she shrugs off defeats as lessons learned, and never overplays her victories. She is an experienced enough pol to know that both happen routinely in a political career that has spanned nearly four decades.

It’s also a reflection of her own power inside the House Democratic Caucus. She’s built loyalty around her incredible fundraising prowess, raising more money than anyone else for House Democrats — $65 million for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and another $35 million for members this cycle alone, her office said. She hit 750 fundraisers and events in the past two years, spending 200 days on the road this year raising money.

Democrats don’t often rebuke her publicly, but since the election, a number of younger members and staffers have begun to say privately it’s time for new blood in leadership to energize the party ahead of the 2016 elections — they don’t want Pelosi gone but want her to cast a wider net within the party for advice.

On a conference call with members last Thursday, just two days after the election, Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) said Democrats need to “rethink” their message after a number of young people voted for Sen.-elect Cory Gardner, a Republican, over Sen. Mark Udall, a Democrat.

Pelosi cut her off, sources on the call said.

Other Democratic aides and insiders have grumbled privately, too, that they want more dramatic moves on the policy and messaging front.

“As a party, we need to change,” a senior Democratic aide said. “[Voters] like our policies. All this leftie [talk], the country likes, but somehow the message about us as individual members of the conference isn’t breaking through. There is great unrest.”

Pelosi is giving ground that Democrats need to do a better job at bringing young people to the polls — suggesting that Democrats launch an aggressive voter engagement drive for 2016 just one day after the election.

“We have to engage people in voting again. Two-thirds of the electorate did not vote in this election the other night,” Pelosi said. “That’s shameful.”

Pelosi suggested the new effort has to go far beyond just registering likely Democratic voters — the party needs to provide an “inspiration” to get people to the polls.

“It’s not just registration. You can’t just go up to someone and say, ‘Will you register to vote?’ You have to have an inspiration. It’s not just registration, it’s the whole engagement of it,” Pelosi said.

On Nov. 4, as the Election Day drubbing for Democrats unfolded, Pelosi gathered with a small group of supporters and staffers at Rep. Chellie Pingree’s (D-Maine) home on Capitol Hill to watch the results. Attendees described the event as “somber” and “downbeat.” Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Steve Israel of New York talked about turnout and the party’s effort to defend all incumbents — unlike when in 2010 the DCCC had to cut off some vulnerable members because of stretched resources.

By the time she left the event at 11 p.m., a number of high-profile Democrats in California and New York were in tight — and unexpected — battles for their careers.

Flanked by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), her husband and Democratic staffers, Pelosi went back to the DCCC’s Capitol Hill headquarters. By 1 a.m., when races across the country were still turning against Democrats, Pelosi began drafting a letter to colleagues, asking for their support as minority leader. At the center of her pitch was the voter engagement drive.

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Pelosi argues that House Democrats aren't getting enough credit for preventing a total rout. Compared with losses in the Senate, the losses among incumbent House Democrats were better than expected, she says.

She also disputes that the White House had a "failure of politics" — a term Obama used after POLITICO's interview with Pelosi — during the midterm that hurt Democrats.

"I don't think it was a failure of his message; it was the extent of his success. Let's say it in a more positive way. This president has accomplished many great things," Pelosi said of the president. "You know there is always an October eclipse. We couldn't catch a break."

Instead, Pelosi faulted a series of international crises — fighting in Ukraine, the terrorist group ISIL and the deadly outbreak of Ebola — for distracting the media and voters from Democrats' economic message.

Pelosi's outlook was wildly optimistic running into the homestretch. She insisted in July that Democrats were going to win 25 seats and take back the House. As Congress adjourned in September, Pelosi was still claiming that Democrats had a "60 percent" chance of winning the House, even when all the polls said the exact opposite. "The momentum is coming our way," Pelosi said at the time. In private, members-only conference calls before Nov. 4, Pelosi was predicting Democrats would break even on Election Day.

Pelosi isn't backing away from the liberal economic message that House Democrats based their campaign on, such as their focus on equal pay for women and an increased minimum wage. Those messages were poll tested, Pelosi said, and did well in districts that weren't distracted by higher-profile statewide races.

"The message that is important for everybody is financial stability … our message was about that," Pelosi said. "[It was] jump-start the middle class, stop tax breaks that send jobs overseas … [the idea that] when women succeed, America succeeds, equal pay for equal work and investments in education."

Democrats were also hit by an onslaught of outside money, Pelosi said. Even in the minority, the DCCC had a huge fundraising advantage over the GOP, buoyed by Pelosi's network of deep-pocketed donors. Yet despite outraising the National Republican Congressional Committee, Democrats couldn't compete with a torrent of late spending by Republican super PACs.

"We controlled the damage enormously. They were coming endlessly without one fact. Endless money, no commitment to truth. They will say anything," she said.

Pelosi isn't nearly ready to give up on her tenure as the House Democrat's top fundraiser and leader. The veteran lawmaker said she has no plans to leave or stay past 2016, but she said that to win back the House, Democrats will need access to her expansive donor network.

As for leaving after a tough loss, Pelosi said she is committed to helping Democrats regain the majority. In fact, Pelosi insisted that she would have only considered stepping down had Democrats won the House, returning her to the speaker's chair.

Many expect her to serve until at least Obama leaves office in 2017 — in part to defend the 2010 Affordable Care Act from a Republican-led Congress.

Pelosi adamantly declined to say what she would do if Hillary Clinton won the White House in 2016, turning into a joke about her relationship with a presidential front-runner.

"You know what I've read? I've read that my lifelong dream is to serve as speaker with Hillary Clinton as president. So what? My lifelong dream …" Pelosi deadpanned.

House Democrats remain intensely loyal to Pelosi. She's known for impressing donors with handwritten "thank you" notes and personal phone calls. Members say she pushes them not with threats or strong-arming but by asking them what they need from certain legislation or votes.

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That bond with her rank and file explains why Pelosi has been able to stave off any challenge to her leadership post. It helps that no current Democrat could take up her fundraising network. Pelosi has raised more than $400 million since 2002.

She does it by attending roughly 750 fundraising and campaign events in the past two years, her office said.

“We would have lost more than 15 [seats] without Nancy Pelosi,” Israel said. “She’s the one who raised the money that gave us the resources to build the firewall that mitigated against even worse losses.”

With Republicans in the majority in both sides of the Capitol, Pelosi now faces a new Congress that will be more conservative than in the past four years of just a GOP-controlled House. Already, GOP hard-liners are demanding a series of votes on Republican-friendly legislation that will anger Democrats. Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), poised as the next Senate majority leader, already pledged to hold an Obamacare repeal vote early in the new session.

The 2010 health care law is one of the cornerstones of Pelosi’s legacy in the House — and the California Democrat said she would remain in leadership to defend the law at least for another term.

“I’m honestly here to protect the Affordable Care Act from the clutches of … whatever,” Pelosi said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· November 14 – Little Rock, AR: Sec. Clinton attends picnic for 10th Anniversary of the Clinton Center (NYT)

· November 15 – Little Rock, AR: Sec. Clinton hosts No Ceilings event (NYT)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton presides over meeting of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Bloomberg)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton is honored by the New York Historical Society (Bloomberg)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

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From: "Clinton, Press Office \(Clinton\)" <Press_Office@clinton.senate.gov>
To:
Date: 11/26/2007 10:57:02 PM
Subject: Clips: Tue 11/27

Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Tuesday, November 27th, 2007

Front Pages

The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/pages/pageone/scan/index.html

Daily News: http://www.nydailynews.com/front/covers/

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In Elderly Women, Clinton Sees An Electoral Edge *NYT*
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Clinton To Offer An AIDS Policy, Joining Her Main Rivals *NYT*
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/27/us/politics/27Clinton.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

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http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-na-hillarydecisions27nov27,1,6986272.story

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Clinton Calls For Aid For Debt-Ridden Families *DMR*
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http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j3s8p4osFk88PUwaGyOU5ZldeXFwD8T5KSV80

Susan Lynch Comes Out For Clinton *Concord Monitor*
http://concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071127/FRONTPAGE/711270368

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http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071126/NEWSBLOG/71126020

Gov. Lynch's Wife Endorses Clinton Run *Manchester Union Leader*
http://unionleader.com/article.aspx?headline=Gov.+Lynch%27s+wife+endorses+Clinton+run&articleId=d7089bba-d195-46c7-b758-d5139ae03c97

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Oprah Winfrey, Bill Clinton Bring Star Power To Iowa *WP*
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http://ezraklein.typepad.com/blog/2007/11/obamas-excuse.html

Blog Post: **The Experience Argument** *Ezra Klein*
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http://www.theleftcoaster.com/archives/011398.php

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Blog Post: **New Ground** *The Atlantic (Matthew Yglesias)*
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Mississippi's Lott To Leave Senate Seat *NYT*
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LAT Editorial: **The U.N.'s AIDS Recount**
http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-ed-aids27nov27,1,4944245.story?coll=la-news-comment

NYT Editorial: **Exit, Russian Democracy**
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/27/opinion/27tue2.html?ref=todayspaper&pagewanted=print

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/11/2014 5:46:11 AM
Subject: News Update - August 11

S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

August 11, 2014

Headlines:

- **New Cease-Fire Begins Between Israelis and Palestinians**
- **Rocket Barrage on Israel Shortly Before Start of Truce**
- **Lieberman: We Should Have Aimed to Defeat Hamas**
- **Jordan's King Slams Israel for Gaza Assault, Ignores Hamas**
- **Third London Mass Protest for Gaza in One Month**
- **Gaza Periphery Residents: Why Did They Tell Us to Return Home?**
- **Sisi, King of Saudi Arabia Meet to Discuss Islamist Threat**
- **Experts Warn of Terrorism Blowback From Iraq Air Strikes**

Commentary:

- **Yedioth Ahronoth: "Cairo Circus"**
  - By Alex Fishman
- **Washington Post: "Peace in the Mideast Will Only Come With International Help"**
  - By Daniel Kurtzer

New York Times

New Cease-Fire Begins Between Israelis and Palestinians

A new 72-hour cease-fire in the Gaza fighting, which Israeli and Palestinian negotiators had agreed to on Sunday, began at one minute after midnight Monday. The negotiators had accepted Egypt's call for the three-day truce and for a resumption of Egyptian-mediated negotiations toward a more durable solution for Gaza. The Israeli government said in a statement that it had accepted the Egyptian cease-fire request. On Sunday evening, Azzam al-Ahmed, the lead Palestinian negotiator in Cairo, said the delegation, which includes Hamas, had notified the Egyptians "that we agreed on the cease-fire based on the Egyptian statement."

See also, "How Hamas Beat Israel in Gaza" (by Ronen Bergman, New York Times)

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Jerusalem Post

Rocket Barrage on Israel Shortly Before Start of Truce

Israel will send its team of negotiators back to Cairo on Monday if Hamas honors the 72-hour cease-fire that went into effect at midnight, diplomatic officials said Sunday evening. Rocket sirens were sounded in Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Kiryat Malachi at around 11:45 p.m. An additional rocket fired at the Tel Aviv area fell in an open area.

See also, "Hillary Clinton: 'Hamas responsible for civilian casualties'" (Ynet News)

Ma''ariv

Lieberman: We Should Have Aimed to Defeat Hamas

After a few days of media silence, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman gave a statement to the media in which he leveled sharp criticism at the prime minister's conduct vis-a-vis Hamas and the policy decisions made in Operation Protective Edge. "I believed from the outset that we should have aimed to defeat Hamas," Lieberman said, "that was my proposal before the start of the operation, and had it been accepted—we would already have been after this stage. It is clear at the moment that Hamas's minimum demands are far beyond the maximum to which Israel can agree. What remains is to defeat Hamas, to clean up the area and to leave Gaza as quickly as possible."

See also, "Israeli ministers complain of being left in the dark over truce talks" (Ha'aretz)

Times of Israel

Jordan's King Slams Israel for Gaza Assault, Ignores Hamas

Jordan's King Abdullah II castigated Israel for waging what he called an unjustified war in Gaza, Sunday. In an interview in which he made no mention of Hamas, the king urged the world to hold Israel accountable for what he termed a bloody, devastating "wide-scale assault. Abdullah said he backed Egyptian efforts to end "the Israeli offensive" and that Jordan would use its international presence "to bring the aggression to a complete halt and prevent any recurrence, guarantee the success of efforts to reach a lasting truce, mobilize international efforts to rebuild Gaza and provide a conducive environment to re-launch final-status negotiations to reach a peace that is based on the two-state solution."

Times of Israel

Third London Mass Protest for Gaza in One Month

Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched through central London on Saturday, demanding Britain take a tougher line against Israel over its military assault on Hamas in Gaza The Palestinian Solidarity Campaign said 150,000 people attended the march, the third major demonstration for Gaza in London in the past four weeks. Protesters packed the main shopping artery of Oxford Street, marching to the US embassy and on to Hyde Park, many of them chanting "Free, Free Palestine" and holding up banners saying "UK — Stop Arming Israel."

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Yedioth Ahronoth

Gaza Periphery Residents: Why did they tell us to Return Home?

The anger voiced by the residents of the Gaza periphery communities has continued to mount. After the residents of Kibbutz Nahal Oz announced that they would not be returning to the kibbutz, and after the residents of Kibbutz Ein Hashlosha returned only to decide to leave again—now the residents of Kibbutz Kfar Azza have decided not to be silent anymore. Residents of the kibbutz, who acceded to the call to return home after a cease-fire was reached—but who have since only come under incessant fire—lashed out at Public Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovich, who visited the kibbutz yesterday, saying: "We feel forsaken. It's impossible to raise kids here." "I haven't got the words to describe the mental anguish, the fear, the anxiety, the lack of trust, the crisis and the frustration," said Orit Oron, the community administrator in Kibbutz Kfar Azza. "You knew that this was a process and that things hadn't yet been sewn up, so why did you tell us to return? Why rush?"

See also, "In a kibbutz down south, where the kids can tell a Hamas 'boom' from an Israeli one" (Times of Israel)

Reuters

Sisi, King of Saudi Arabia Meet to Discuss Islamist Threat

The leaders of the Arab world's most populous state and its richest state met on Sunday to talk over joint efforts to counter Islamist militancy across the Middle East, including the turmoil now shaking Iraq. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt and Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah are sworn enemies of the Muslim Brotherhood. They see the recent success of militants in Iraq as a threat to their stability and undermining security in the region. Sisi's spokesman, Ehab Badawi, said the two leaders agreed to work together promote the "true and moderate values of Islam that reject extremism and terrorism."

TIME

Experts Warn of Terrorism Blowback From Iraq Air Strikes

The American air strikes against a militant group in Iraq could motivate the fighters to retaliate with terrorist attacks against U.S. civilians, experts warn. President Barack Obama's air strikes against militants from the group Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) "could increase the likelihood that ISIS or somebody inspired by ISIS, would strike against the homeland," says Seth Jones, a terrorism expert with Rand Corp. ISIS has long threatened America openly. In June the group's leader warned Americans that "soon enough, you will be in direct confrontation [with us]." Last week a spokesman for the group vowed that "we will raise the flag of Allah in the White House."

Yedioth Ahronoth – August 11, 2014

Cairo Circus

By Alex Fishman

The chances of this cease-fire lasting are not high. Everyone wants quiet, including Hamas, but everyone is still stuck way up in the air on the flying trapeze, afraid to do the final somersault before landing on the ground in fear of crashing. As long as that is the situation, the shooting is going to be renewed and will continue.

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The talks in Cairo are a three-ring circus. Yesterday the Arab League entered the central ring, offering Hamas, which is standing precariously on a tightrope and is liable to fall, a ladder to use to climb down. That happened after Hamas announced yesterday morning that if Israel refused to accept its demands, it was going to quit the talks. While it is the Egyptians who have been torturing Hamas in Cairo and have flatly rejected all of its demands, Hamas would not dare insult the circus ring leader, Sisi. That is why Hamas has continued to fire on Israel, so that Israel might pressure Egypt into treating it a bit better.
While the actors in the Egyptian-Israeli-Hamas ring have been racing around to almost no end, the Arab League entered the second ring in order to allow Hamas to do a back flip: Hamas will supposedly "accede" to the Arab League's request for a 72-hour cease-fire so that Israel might be able to come back with better offers than before. But that's all 'as if,' It's as if Hamas is doing the Arab countries a favor and does not really want a cease-fire. Hamas would very much like to stay in Cairo to continue the talks. It's the humiliation that's killing it.

One shouldn't rule out the possibility that Israel does have a number of creative ideas for Hamas. For example, Israel might examine the possibility of having the public workers in Gaza receive their salaries, which will be paid out of Qatar's pocket, and that no distinction would be made between the civil servants and the members of Hamas's military wing. Israel is also prepared to be generous and to expand the fishing zone off the Gaza coast. There is even talk of granting a limited number of 5,000 permits to Gazans to work in Israel—and to open another border crossing (apparently Erez) so as to increase the volume of goods that enter the Gaza Strip. Officials with the Office of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories have drawn up a list of products that might be exported from the Gaza Strip. Israel has a number of new formulas about its military presence in the security zone on the Palestinian side of the border.

Israel is prepared to show the generosity of victors in ways that pertain to the welfare of the population in Gaza, but the Egyptians are currently busy taming the Hamas tiger. Director of Egyptian Intelligence Mohamed al-Tuhami won't even speak directly with the Hamas representatives; he talks only with Azzam al-Ahmed, the Palestinian Authority's representative on the delegation. Tuhami has discussed the possibility of opening the Rafah border crossing only with Ahmed as well.

The third ring in the circus is the European ring. The Europeans have, to a certain extent, taken the place of the Americans, who are frustrated and have gone off to sit in the stands. The countries of Europe have offered long-term plans that include opening a seaport (under strict European supervision), among other things.

Three European Union ambassadors presented to Netanyahu this weekend a plan that has benefits for both sides: it promises Hamas, inter alia, mechanisms that will allow it to have access to the world, such as a supervised terminal in Cyprus, from where goods will be delivered directly to Gaza. It offers Israel a commitment that all of the international crossings in and out of Gaza by land and sea, will be under tight supervision.

Meanwhile, the big prize is already waiting for the Gazans: a billion dollars to rehabilitate the Gaza Strip. The Saudis have already undertaken to supply half a billion dollars' worth of raw materials. Representatives of the United States and various European countries are to meet in September to decide on providing the other half a billion dollars.
Incidentally, the Palestinian Authority, which is supposed to coordinate the reconstruction activities in the Gaza Strip—demanded between five and six billion dollars. Someone in Ramallah tried to clip a coupon for the West Bank—and possibly for himself personally as well. Until the PA officials were told that even Gaza, with all the destruction, wouldn't be able to absorb such a large sum of

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money.

While those three rings—the Israeli-Egyptian-Hamas ring, the Arab League ring and the European ring—continued to turn (mainly on their own axes), the IDF utilized the last 24 hours to test the original Israeli development called Hupot Esh [literally, "canopies of fire"], which allows the troops to identify the members of a terror cell on their way to firing rockets or a terror attack, verify their identity and take them out. Eleven such terror cells were stopped that way yesterday.

This is what a war in its twilight looks like, when the chief of staff tries to persuade the residents of southern Israel to let him give his strategy a bit more time before he reverts to using military tactics that no one believes are the ultimate solution. So, there's a bit of shooting, a bit of killing, a bit of hunkering down, while slowly but surely a dynamic of negotiations is created that might—from one cease-fire to the next—lead to an arrangement.
That is the pace of things, and with that being the pace of things a strong leadership with nerves of steel is needed. The leadership's real test is now: translating the military operation into broad political gains: not only vis-a-vis Hamas, but also vis-a-vis the Europeans, the moderate Arab world and, yes, the Americans too.

Washington Post – August 10, 2014

Peace in the Mideast Will Come Only with International Help

By Daniel Kurtzer

Negotiations to end the fighting in Gaza are at an impasse. In the talks under way in Cairo, Israel made a reasonable demand for the demilitarization of Gaza, but no country has raised its hand to aid in the process. Israel has developed technological fixes for the offensive weaponry Hamas has developed, but this is simply a reaction, not a permanent fix, to potential violence.

Hamas's demand for the release of prisoners and the reopening of Gaza's passages also will not win unconditional acceptance; Israel will not hand over prisoners to Hamas. Even if the passages are opened, Hamas will not be involved in their operation. Despite trying to build a political coalition against Israel, Hamas will emerge from this war with only Qatar and Turkey in its corner, and an array of Arab and international actors opposed to what it stands for.

Unless Israel and the Palestinians develop a pathway forward, these violent encounters will recur every few years, with military capability simply buying time between wars.
If nothing else, this war has made abundantly clear that the status quo in the Israeli-Palestinian arena is not sustainable. Amazingly, however, rather than see this and realize the need for continued diplomacy, the leaders have hardened their positions even further: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel would never relinquish security control of the West Bank, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Palestine will seek to join the International Criminal Court.

The current Israeli and Palestinian leadership may not see a way out, but I refuse to see endless conflict as a fait accompli. There is a pathway forward that could translate the fighting in Gaza into something meaningful and positive. Lasting peace demands a creative, multipronged approach.

First, the international community must play a far more prominent role in peacemaking. Since 2002, an Arab Peace Initiative has been on the table, and there is increasing interest in developing a regional approach to peace. At the same time, the immediate issue at hand is how to govern Gaza and create

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conditions conducive to peace. One way would be to temporarily internationalize the governance of Gaza.

The international Quartet (the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia) and key Arab states (Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and others) could structure a transitional governance arrangement over Gaza as a means of addressing the immediate needs of the population while paving the way for the ultimate assumption of responsibility by the Palestinian Authority. Such an arrangement would also facilitate the protection of Palestinian civilians, an issue surely to occupy the attention of diplomats in the period ahead.

To give this idea legal and political weight, the U.N. Security Council could ask key Arab states to form a temporary governing body that would coordinate closely with the May 2014-created Palestinian Authority cabinet . This temporary body would start disarming all militias and facilitating the deployment of Palestinian Authority security forces to maintain order .

At the same time, an internationally supported security mechanism would be set up to prevent arms smuggling into Gaza. This would be an impetus for the reopening of Gaza's passages to Israel and Egypt and provide a secure context for an international effort for the reconstruction of Gaza infrastructure and the development of the Palestinian economy. The E.U. is well-positioned to take the lead on this and has already developed serious proposals for reconstructing Gaza.

Second, as this transitional government comes into being, the Quartet would convene a regional conference designed to launch serious and practical peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority to devise a vision and process for resolving the underlying Palestinian-Israeli conflict. To ensure the success of the conference and succeeding negotiations, the Quartet would lay out ambitious terms of reference, and there would be active participation by regional Arab states.

Furthermore, when the conference is convened, the Palestinian Authority would agree to freeze its activities in the U.N. system, and Israel would release the remaining prisoners to the authority under the agreement reached in July 2013. During negotiations, Israel would freeze settlement activity in all the areas occupied in June 1967 , and the authority would intensify steps to curb incitement in media and education.

Some will question the viability of a plan that requires such a level of activity, commitment and direct involvement of outside parties. Others will question why it is assumed that Hamas would accept being sidelined. And there is the large question of whether the current leadership in Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization are ready to take the hard decisions even to get to a conference, let alone sustain negotiations and reach a positive outcome.

Surely, if there were easier options, they would be advisable and more manageable. But there are no easy options for what ails Israelis and Palestinians. Another de facto cease-fire will solve nothing, and another lull in hostilities will yield nothing more than a brief respite between wars. Further delay is not an option. If we are to emerge from the current hostilities with even a small prospect of a durable solution — and not a temporary fix that will unravel again in a few years — then a package of this sort, and the leadership to make it happen, is required.

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From:	"Melissa Cantrell" <mcantrell@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"HRC Rapid" <HRCRapid@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/22/2015 4:10:53 AM
Subject:	July 22 Morning Cable News Roundup
Attachments:	7.22.15 Morning Cable.docx

Document attached, 2016 highlights below:

Fox News' *Fox and Friends:* Anchors talked with Carly Fiorina; Fiorina said Americans are tired of the professional political class and their rhetoric; Hasselbeck played a clip of Trump from yesterday; Fiorina said Trump taps into the frustration of people outside the political class including herself, Trump, and Ben Carson; Fiorina said in the end, HRC is the one to beat so Trump should target her more often; Fiorina said she has been speaking plainly to people; Fiorina said politics are deadly serious now, not entertainment, and America needs to exhibit leadership and solve the major problems facing it; Hasselbeck asked Fiorina about HRC's silence on Planned Parenthood; Fiorina called HRC a hypocrite for lobbying against laws that would give woman the "opportunity" to see an ultra-sound of their fetus before having an abortion, yet using that same technology to harvest babies' body parts; Fiorina said HRC has been dead silent because the platform of her party is: it's not a life until it leaves the hospital; Fiorina said Planned Parenthood should not be federally funded; Fiorina said if Democrats want to provide federal funding for abortion clinics, they should also provide funding for pregnancy centers right next to the abortion clinics; Kilmeade played a clip of a former Navy Seal backing Fiorina; Fiorina said she knows more world leaders than anyone else running, except maybe HRC; Fiorina said HRC did photo-ops with world leaders, while she had substantive meetings with them; Kilmeade played a clip of a general talking about the deterioration of Iraq; Fiorina said HRC was the one who declared victory in Iraq, but was dead wrong; Fiorina said HRC was dead wrong for calling Bashar Al Assad a "positive reformer"; Fiorina said HRC lied about Benghazi; Fiorina said HRC failed with the Russian reset. Anchors talked with Marco Rubio; played a clip of Obama on the Daily Show talking about the Iran deal; Rubio said Obama's remarks were "par for the course" and showed such little class; Rubio said the Iran Nuclear Deal is a serious issue and the President shouldn't joke about it; Rubio said Iran will keep all of it's enrichment capabilities and could become a nuclear power in 10 to 15 years; Rubio said ending sanctions will result in Iran funneling more money to terror groups around the Middle East; Rubio said Obama is almost guaranteeing a war, because the deal obligates the United States to protect Iran from those who seek to sabotage their nuclear program; Rubio said the sanctions against Iran were working; Rubio said Obama was against the additional sanctions to begin with; Rubio said Obama wanted the Iran deal more than Iran did; played a clip of Obama defending the IRS on the Daily Show; Rubio said Obama's statements that the IRS did not target conservatives was completely false; Rubio said there were meetings and cooperation between the Obama Administration, the DOJ, and the IRS; Rubio said immigration is a legitimate issue that we need to solve; Rubio said the office of the Presidency needs to be conducted with dignity and class, which Trump has failed to show; Rubio said Obama also has no class; Rubio said some of the language Trump has used is not becoming of a President; Kilmeade talked about a poll showing Rubio doing better against HRC than most other GOP candidates; Rubio said he's getting ready for the GOP debates.

MSNBC's *Morning Joe:* Trump's speech in South Carolina, criticized Rick Perry, Lindsey Graham (even gave out his phone number), Jeb Bush, and Hillary Clinton. Mika said that was entertainment. It shines a light on how donors feel completely entitled by this process. Every time anyone picks a fight with him, Trump says you actually hit me up for campaign contributions two years ago. Willie Geist said Trump thinks he's in first because he's being himself and providing an alternative to the politicians. For now, it's a show and most people don't think he'll get far enough that they need to look at his policy proposals. Most polls are Trump, Bush, and Walker in the top three, and it must be frustrating for everyone else. New polls out this morning, Trump has negative favorability ratings in Iowa, Colorado, and Virginia. HRC does not have much higher approval ratings, except in Virginia. HRC is upside down by 23 in Iowa, by 9 in Virginia, and 23 as well in Colorado. Chuck Todd said if it weren't for Trump, the biggest story of the summer would be HRC solidifying herself within the Democratic party. Both parties are seeing its populist base "flex its muscles" and who have felt marginalized by this economy, the political establishment, and the media. When HRC is the focal point of the Democratic party, her numbers go down. In Iowa, HRC would lose to Rubio, Walker, and Bush by 5-10 points according to the new Quinnipiac poll. In Colorado, she is also losing to the three Republicans by 5-10 points as well. In Virginia, she performs better but still losing to the three Republicans by 1-3 points. Said HRC's numbers are a reflection of a lot of people's estrangement from the political process and HRC just doesn't wear well. Immigration put Trump on the map and it's not just dissatisfaction about political process, it's that Republicans are trying to appeal to Hispanics. If Trump runs as third party candidate, it will hurt Bush badly in a potential HRC/Bush match up.

CNN's *New Day:* Donald Trump gave Lindsey Graham's personal phone number to hundreds of people at a rally in South Carolina. Trump once was a Democrat. Mel Martinez, former chairman of the RNC, supports Jeb

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Bush and thinks that Donald Trump's success in the polls will wane. John King believes that if Trump runs as a third party candidate, he will guarantee Hillary Clinton's victory. Commentator states that Trump is his own enemy and that he doesn't have the political infrastructure that other candidates have. Clip of Donald Trump from a past interview stating that he sees himself as a Democrat because "the economy does better under Democrats." King states the two issues Clinton faces are trust and leadership and polls show Clinton is showing vulnerabilities in swing states. Juana Summers has strong competition in the right and within the left with Sanders and O'Malley. King states that Kasich, on paper, is a strong candidate but Summers states that he needs to get on the debate stage because he has no name recognition as of now.

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	Pete <progden@gmail.com>
Date:	11/30/2014 7:38:51 AM
Subject:	Re: global tech initiative

The three of us should talk. China project is supposed to involve international partners.

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

> On Nov 30, 2014, at 1:19 PM, Pete <progden@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Yeah, Deutch didn't have any answers off the top of his head about how to operationalize something bigger but said that if you wanted him to spend time trying to work something like that up he'd want to talk to you directly first.
>
> Let me know if you do want to do that -- I am going to see him Thur -- or if there's someone else you'd like me to approach. Arun Majumdar?
>
> --Pete
>
>
> On Nov 30, 2014, at 11:33 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Not sure what to do with this beyond ccs demo announced in Beijing.
>
> JP
> --Sent from my iPad--
> john.podesta@gmail.com
> For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com
>
>> On Nov 29, 2014, at 2:07 PM, Pete Ogden <progden@gmail.com> wrote:
>>
>> Hi John -- Good seeing you the other day, and hope you had a good Thanksgiving.
>>
>> I asked John Deutch if he had any thoughts about what a global technology initiative might look like, and he sent the attached note for you to take a look at. He makes the case that the focus should be on CCS, and told me that nuclear he thought too expensive and solar was progressing on its own. If you are interested in him thinking about what exactly the shape of an initiative might be, he'll want to hear from you directly.
>>
>> Let me know if there's anyone else you think that I should solicit ideas on this from at at this stage.
>>
>>
>> --Pete
>> <CCS RD&D proposal.pdf>

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	7/21/2014 6:50:44 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Monday July 21, 2014 Afternoon Roundup



Correct The Record Monday July 21, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Twitter:

Pres. Bill Clinton @billclinton: Congrats @McIlroyRory on your 2014 British Open title. See you for another round next time I'm in Ireland. [7/21/14, 3:48 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton's record as secretary of state http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/07/21/benghazi-and-hillary-clintons-misunderstood-record-as-secretary-of-state/ … via @AaronBlakeWP [7/21/14, 12:36 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton "We have an economic crisis and...a political crisis of our democracy and I think they are related." http://youtu.be/Ot-WT7QY9oY?t=25m11s … [7/20/14, 3:30 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: As FLOTUS, @HillaryClinton spoke at summit about power of microcredit to stimulate economic activity #HRC365 http://1.usa.gov/1i5Fryu [7/20/14, 2:30 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Washington Post blog: Plum Line: "Why the 'rich Hillary Clinton' storyline is so dumb"

"Today the Republican party unveiled a new web site titled Poor Hillary Clinton, making the devastating point that Hillary Clinton has lots of money and should therefore not be elected president. If that's what the geniuses at the RNC think is going to win the 2016 election for them, it may be time to start figuring out who's going to be in Clinton's cabinet."

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Vox: "5 reasons Hillary Clinton's weaknesses are greatly exaggerated"

"If you've been reading political coverage lately, you will have learned that Hillary Clinton is currently on a gaffe-laden book tour where she has proven how out of touch she is with ordinary Americans, while Elizabeth Warren is getting a rapturous reception from progressive activists yearning for her candidacy. This is an entertaining narrative, but it's missing a few key facts…"

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Benghazi, and Hillary Clinton's misunderstood record as secretary of state"

"The biggest takeaway from this poll is that Clinton's time as secretary of state might not be the feather in the cap that many thought it was. But people shouldn't look at this poll and suddenly see it as a liability."

Slate blog: Weigel: "The Poll That Will Make Democrats Panic About Hillary Clinton"

"So it should be interesting to see if the criticism of Clinton is turned back by an aggressive left -- by David Brock's groups like Correct the Record and Media Matters, for example -- or if it emboldens one of the junior Democrats to criticize her and raise speculation about primary challenges. So far, there's a little of the former and none of the latter."

Christian Science Monitor blog: DC Decoder: "Hillary Clinton's $12 million problem: Will focus on her wealth persist?"

"When she switches into a more overtly political mode, she will begin making policy proposals and speaking more directly about the national situation. Then the media focus will move from Clinton wealth gaffes and book sales to the newer, more substantive material."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Payback: Republicans Paint 'Millionaire' Democrats as Out of Touch"

"And of course there is the nonstop Republican smirking about Hillary Clinton's wealth — virtually all of it emanating from Mrs. Clinton's book tour statement that she and Bill Clinton were "dead broke" upon leaving the White House 13 years ago."

Salon column: Joan Walsh: "GOP's '16 consolation vanishes: Suddenly, Democrats have the deep bench!"

"In the end, the rising number of possible alternatives to Hillary Clinton is a sign of Democratic strength, even if the media tends to bill it as weakness."

Twitter: "Today at Twitter: Ask @HillaryClinton your questions"

"We're thrilled to welcome Secretary Hillary Clinton to Twitter headquarters in San Francisco today."

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Politico: "Bill Clinton: Hillary 'wants time'"

"Hillary Clinton still needs 'time' to think through her message ahead of a possible presidential run, according to her husband, former President Bill Clinton."

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Joe Biden is the most interesting politician that has no chance of becoming president"

"Osnos conducted many interviews with Biden -- and even talked to President Obama. You should read the whole thing -- especially since the New Yorker archives are now open for browsing this summer -- but here's a look at some of the most interesting tidbits."

Articles:

Washington Post blog: Plum Line: "Why the 'rich Hillary Clinton' storyline is so dumb"

By Paul Waldman

July 21, 2014, 12:08 p.m. EDT

Today the Republican party unveiled a new web site titled Poor Hillary Clinton, making the devastating point that Hillary Clinton has lots of money and should therefore not be elected president. If that's what the geniuses at the RNC think is going to win the 2016 election for them, it may be time to start figuring out who's going to be in Clinton's cabinet.

But what may be even more remarkable is that so many in the press go right along with this stupidity. For instance, a Bloomberg News story from this morning begins this way:

"Hillary Clinton has earned at least $12 million in 16 months since leaving the State Department, a windfall at odds with her party's call to shrink the gap between the rich and the poor."

There's a hidden assumption in some of this coverage that candidates should be nothing more than advocates for their class. If you're rich, then you can't sincerely care about the well-being of people who aren't, and anything other than advocacy on behalf of other rich people is odd, even suspect. But politicians aren't motivated only by self-interest. How, exactly, is Clinton making a lot money "at odds with her party's call to shrink the gap between the rich and the poor"? Did I miss the Democratic policy paper demanding a national cap on speaking fees, or a proposed law making it illegal to get rich? No, I don't believe I did.

What we see here is actually a journalistic version of the paranoid billionaire whining that people who criticize wealth inequality are like Nazis ready to herd hedge fund managers into concentration camps, because it portrays the inequality issue as one in which poor and middle-class people are completely absent. The only question it asks is whether the rich are heroic job-creators or evil kleptocrats, and you're supposed to take one position or the other.

So let's say this real slow: You can simultaneously believe that 1) It's perfectly fine for some people to get rich, even spectacularly rich, and 2) government policies should be geared toward maximizing fair economic treatment of everyone, particularly those at the bottom.

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That is, more or less, the position of Hillary Clinton's party. And it has been for the entire lifetime of anyone who will vote in 2016.

It's absolutely legitimate for reporters to look closely at Clinton's income, just as they should for every presidential candidate. But much of the coverage of the dispute over it fails to supply political context. What's often missing is a discussion of what the parties stand for, how they're perceived, and why it matters. The fact that Democrats advocate policies like increasing the minimum wage and achieving universal health coverage that are aimed at the interests of the non-wealthy, while Republicans advocate policies like upper-income tax cuts and the weakening of labor unions that are aimed at the interests of the wealthy, is one of the foundational contrasts of American politics. The dynamic that contrast creates — how much success Democrats have in exploiting it and how much success Republicans have in working around it — helps determine the outcome of pretty much every presidential campaign.

And it is in this context that the question of whether Clinton's wealth is politically damaging needs to be considered.

In recent history there has not been a single instance in which a Democratic presidential candidate was significantly harmed, let alone lost an election, because of his or her personal wealth. Yet it has been a problem for Republican candidates like Mitt Romney and John McCain (who, you'll recall, couldn't remember how many homes he and his wife owned). Why might that be?

The answer is that when it comes to extremely practical issues like economic policy, voters draw connections between the personal and the political. They didn't care that Franklin Roosevelt was rich, because he was clearly an advocate for the downtrodden. The reason the issue of personal wealth was a potent one for Democrats to use against Romney was that they successfully told a story in which he gained his wealth by stepping over the broken lives of working-class people, and that showed, they argued, how he would act as president. What story are Republicans trying to tell about Clinton's speaking fees?

There doesn't appear to be one, and there is precisely zero evidence that anyone who thinks income inequality is a problem that should be addressed will vote against Clinton because she has a lot of money — particularly when the Republican nominee in 2016 will almost certainly say that inequality isn't actually a problem at all.

The "who's on your side" issue will work to Democrats' advantage whether Republicans nominate a career politician whose wealth is limited (which describes many of the 2016 GOP contenders) or whether they nominate Scrooge McDuck. Democrats will make it an issue, because they always do; the only question is whether it turns out to be somewhat effective or extremely effective. Unless Clinton's rather sudden elevation into the ranks of the super-wealthy actually made her change her policy positions and what should would do as president — in other words, unless getting rich turned her into a Republican — there's no reason to believe her wealth will have any serious impact at all.

Vox: "5 reasons Hillary Clinton's weaknesses are greatly exaggerated"

By Andrew Prokop

July 20, 2014, 4:00 p.m. EDT

If you've been reading political coverage lately, you will have learned that Hillary Clinton is currently on a gaffe-laden book tour where she has proven how out of touch she is with ordinary Americans, while Elizabeth Warren is getting a rapturous reception from progressive activists yearning for her candidacy. This is an entertaining narrative, but it's missing a few key facts about what's going on in advance of the Democratic presidential primary right now — facts indicating that Clinton remains the overwhelming favorite.

1) Clinton's lead in polling is much larger than it was in 2008

Yes, Hillary Clinton was the frontrunner in 2008 and then lost the nomination. But back in early 2007, she reached only 30 to 40 percent in polls of Democratic voters — indicating that a majority of Democrats weren't yet on board with a Clinton candidacy. Now, she regularly tops 60 percent in polls, and sometimes even breaks 70 percent, as you can see on RealClearPolitics. In particular, her position in Iowa, where she lost to Obama in 2008, is now enormously stronger, as Harry Enten of FiveThirtyEight points out:

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FiveThirtyEight's Harry Enten @ForecasterEnten: At this point in the 2008 cycle, Clinton was at 26% in Iowa Caucus polling http://www.mysterypollster.com/main/2006/06/the_first_iowa_.html … Right now? 70% http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/first-read/what-we-learned-about-christie-clinton-rand-paul-week-n158281 … [7/18/14,12:53 p.m. EDT]

With clear majorities of Democrats nationally and in the two major early states already saying they'll back Clinton, it's difficult to see an opportunity for a challenger.

2) Democrats don't actually want a more liberal nominee

The assumption among people who talk to a lot of very progressive activists is that the Democratic base is yearning for a much more liberal nominee. But according to a poll from CNN and ORC International, that's not the case at all.

Only 11 percent of Democrats would prefer a nominee who's more liberal than Clinton — compared to 20 percent who'd like a more conservative nominee. Once again, it's difficult to see the opening for a progressive challenger here.

3) The experience of Obama's presidency has discredited the main anti-Clinton argument

In 2008, Obama ran on an inspirational platform of bringing hope and change to America and transcending partisan politics. Of course, this didn't happen. Therefore, any Democratic candidate sounding similar themes in 2016 will face serious skepticism from the party's voters. TNR's Noam Scheiber made this point in a recent article — he found support for Clinton among many progressive activists, and expounded on why in an interview with Vox. "When you pressed further it was about disappointment in President Obama," Scheiber said. "Watching the system not change really made an impact on these people. I don't think they want to get burned again."

4) Inequality is not Iraq

In 2008, Obama and Clinton were quite similar in most policy areas. But he always had one issue on which he could draw a very clear contrast with Clinton — her vote to authorize the war in Iraq. "Most of you know I opposed this war from the start. I thought it was a tragic mistake," Obama said in his February 2007 announcement speech. He continued to emphasize this contrast throughout the primary campaign, and capitalized on serious resentment from party activists against Clinton and other Democratic leaders who had authorized the war.

Some commentators have argued that Clinton could be similarly vulnerable on issues of economic inequality in 2012. But every major figure in the party, including Clinton, now agrees that inequality is a serious concern. The rhetoric Clinton uses on the issue sounds quite a lot like Warren's, as you can see in the video above, and in this video mashup of the two by the Huffington Post. Now, on the narrower issue of banking regulation, there are some serious rhetorical and substantive differences between Clinton and Warren. But there's no real indication that that issue has enough national resonance to dislodge a front-runner — especially considering the above poll results that indicate there's little desire among Democrats for a more liberal candidate.

5) There's no credible challenger who can amass broad party support

A recent article by Phil Rucker and Robert Costa of the Washington Post lists many examples of potential Democratic candidates purportedly "making moves" to "position themselves" as an alternative to Clinton. Martin O'Malley has been giving speeches to Democrats all over the country. Amy Klobuchar is visiting Iowa. Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Governor Andrew Cuomo are releasing books. Vice President Biden even called some of his former aides, "ostensibly to say hello"!

Yet while all this happens, Clinton has been racking up actual endorsements from Democrats — even though she's not yet running. These include figures who endorsed Obama last time around, like Tim Kaine and Claire McCaskill. Indeed, several of the potential contenders mentioned in the Post article — including Warren — actually signed a private letter urging Clinton to run for president. (Warren has said she hopes Clinton runs and that "Hillary is terrific," but hasn't publicly endorsed so far.)

It's more plausible that the politicians mentioned by the Post are positioning themselves so they can jump in if Clinton doesn't run. It's prudent for

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them to prepare for that possibility, however small, since the nomination really would be up for grabs, as Amy Walter lays out here. Plus, for the younger potential candidates, building a national network now might help prepare them for 2020 (if Clinton loses) or 2024 elections. But serious challenges to Clinton still seem extremely unlikely — except, perhaps, for the most quixotic of contenders.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Benghazi, and Hillary Clinton's misunderstood record as secretary of state"

By Aaron Blake

July 21, 2014, 10:47 a.m. EDT

There's something of a bombshell headline this morning at Politico: "Dim views of Hillary Clinton's time at State."

The story, which is based on a new poll conducted by GfK, has quite a different take than previous polling on Clinton's record as secretary of state, which has regularly shown that people view her as a success. In fact, a Washington Post poll just last month showed 59 percent of people approved of her tenure.

Here are a few sample headlines for similar polls:

NBC/WSJ poll: Nearly 70% approve of Hillary Clinton's job

Hillary Clinton remains popular for her time as secretary of state, viewed apart from Obama

Hillary Clinton's Strengths: Record at State, Toughness, Honesty

So why the disconnect? Are people suddenly rethinking one of Clinton's biggest qualifications for running for president? Is Benghazi having the impact Republicans always thought it would?

Not completely. But the poll does lend us some valuable perspective on what has been a widely misunderstood portion of Clinton's resume.

The big reason for the disparate results: While most polls ask whether people approve or disapprove of Clinton's time as secretary of state, the new poll asked people to rate it as "excellent," "good," "fair" or "poor."

We generally dislike this type of question -- mostly because those writing about such polls lump "fair" together with "poor" to suggest people in both camps disapprove of the person in question. We see "fair" as a much more neutral response. (The great Maggie Haberman, who wrote the story, did not make this conflation, but others undoubtedly will.)

One person might look at this poll and see that a majority of people (53 percent) rate Clinton as either "fair" or "poor," while another could make a credible argument that it shows more people think she did well (42 percent said "excellent" or "good") than poorly (32 percent). Both are okay arguments, as long as they are in the correct context.

But in this case, we actually like this question, because it exposes the casual nature of support for Clinton's tenure as secretary of state.

Secretary of state is a great resume-builder, and the vast majority of the United States' top diplomats have emerged from the job quite popular

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(proof here). It's a job that sets you up for success. But just because people say they approve of their secretary of state doesn't mean they are huge fans. Perhaps she did well enough to earn people's "approval" but not necessarily enough to get positive marks -- hence "fair."

But part of the new poll is also that the bloom is off the rose. Clinton's numbers in general have dropped pretty significantly, to the point where she's not really all that popular anymore. Her numbers as secretary of state have remained a little better, but it's not surprising to see scrutiny of Clinton -- including on Benghazi -- to prompt even those numbers to drop.

The biggest takeaway from this poll is that Clinton's time as secretary of state might not be the feather in the cap that many thought it was. But people shouldn't look at this poll and suddenly see it as a liability.

Slate blog: Weigel: "The Poll That Will Make Democrats Panic About Hillary Clinton"

By David Weigel

July 21, 2014, 8:22 a.m. EDT

At the moment I'm wrapping up a piece about progressive activists and Netroots Nation, having found (as most reporters found) young party activists pretty much satisfied by the promise of Hillary 2016 campaign. Other candidates, like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, have their adherents who want to shift the party's stances on banks, on student loans, on inequality. But few doubt that Hillary is the most electable, most Republican-infuriating candidate on the horizon.

Comes now this Politico poll:

[GRAPHIC OF POLITICO POLL "HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE JOB THAT HILLARY CLINTON DID AS SECRETARY OF STATE?]

As Maggie Haberman writes in her summary of the poll, Clinton left Foggy Bottom with a favorable rating well above 60 percent. Profiles of her tenure took for granted that she was a "rock star," a historic figure, a success. The decline is undoubtedly, as Haberman writes, tied in part to 18 months of no-end-in-sight Benghazi investigations; I wish the Politico pollster had asked voters to think of a single word to describe Clinton, because surely "Benghazi" would have erupted from most Republicans and led the list.

What else might explain the swoon? Well, turn your eyes north from Libya, up to Russia. In a piece subtly titled "Is Hillary Clinton imploding?" Jonathan Last asked readers to look at what Hillary Clinton told the BBC about the administration's Russia stance. Was it untenable? Well, according to Hillary, the thoughtful observer had to look at the situation when she arrived at State.

"Medvedev is President, Putin is Prime Minister, and there were jobs that we wanted to get done. We wanted to get Russia on board with tough sanctions against Iran. We wanted to have a new START Treaty to limit nuclear weapons. We wanted to get their help in transiting across through huge country to get things we needed into Afghanistan. We got all that done. Putin comes back. Look where we are now. He invaded another country, so yes, but while we had that moment, we seized it, we used it, and succeeded."

"He invaded another country, so..." is, to my ears, a more face-palm-worthy quote than "we were dead broke" (which was basically true) and "what difference does it make?" (which was about the Republican focus on September 2012 talking points, not a callous dismissal of dead heroes). Is there some way for Hillary to run as the person who was at the wheel before the Obama administration's policy failures? Maybe. But her re-emergence happened to concede with a run of major setbacks, and that's complicating the storyline of Clinton as a "rock star" secretary. It follows months and months of Republicans chortling at the inability of Clinton allies to name a major accomplishment. (In this interview she cites START, but her allies are really lost at sea in discussing this stuff).

So it should be interesting to see if the criticism of Clinton is turned back by an aggressive left -- by David Brock's groups like Correct the Record and Media Matters, for example -- or if it emboldens one of the junior Democrats to criticize her and raise speculation about primary challenges. So

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far, there's a little of the former and none of the latter.

Christian Science Monitor blog: DC Decoder: "Hillary Clinton's $12 million problem: Will focus on her wealth persist?"

By Peter Grier

July 21, 2014

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton has earned $12 million since leaving the State Department in early 2013, says a Bloomberg News report. Though GOP officials are gleefully sharing this story on social media, here's why the issue of her wealth is likely to fade.

Hillary Clinton's wealth problem isn't fading. It began in June when she said she and husband, Bill, were "dead broke" when they left the White House – a comment she later publicly labeled "inartful." It has continued through July as media reports document the Clintons' wealth and Republicans bash the former secretary of State as a closet 1 percenter.

The latest episode in this political soap opera is Monday's Bloomberg News report that, since resigning as secretary of State, Mrs. Clinton has earned at least $12 million by giving speeches and selling books.

"Her earnings represent a fraction of the Clinton family's total income and yet were large enough to rank her not only in the top 1 percent of the nation's earners but in the top one-hundredth of the 1 percent," write Bloomberg's Lisa Lerer and Lauren Streib.

Republican Party officials have gleefully disseminated this story on social media. They're using it as a means to promote their latest anti-Hillary website, poorhillaryclinton.com .

"How out of touch is Hillary? ... We've documented it," tweeted the Republican National Committee on Monday morning.

Will mocking Clinton for her "hard knock life" help the GOP in the long run? Maybe – that's the sort of political trend line it's impossible to precisely predict. Perhaps Republican strategists hope to simply increase vague negative feelings about Clinton in the months prior to her expected 2016 presidential run.

But there are some problems with the tactic of attacking Clinton for her cash, per se. Presumably Democratic voters are the ones most concerned with the issue of inequality and concentration of US wealth. However, they don't appear at all concerned about charges of Clinton buck-raking.

As we reported last week, polls show Clinton rolling full throttle toward the Democratic 2016 nomination, if she wants it. She's crushing all potential intraparty challengers. That stuff about a challenge from the left by Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts? Basically it's bored journalists looking for ways to inject drama into a foreordained race.

Republican voters will be happy to tut-tut about Clinton's perceived hypocrisy on money. But there's a twist: What will they feel about their own party attacking someone for making money? Kind of a role reversal, no?

That's what Politico's Dylan Byers opines Monday in his post about Bloomberg's new Clinton numbers.

"Wouldn't it be rich if the same Republicans who complain about the demonization of wealth decided to turn this into a talking point? Oh wait," writes Byers.

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It's likely the focus on wealth will fade at some point. It has persisted partly because Clinton is an unusual presidential precandidate, writes Bloomberg View political pundit Jonathan Bernstein.

At this point in a campaign the media are generally busy filling in the life story and political background of potential candidates. But everybody knows Clinton, so instead they're picking at holes in her story.

When she switches into a more overtly political mode, she will begin making policy proposals and speaking more directly about the national situation. Then the media focus will move from Clinton wealth gaffes and book sales to the newer, more substantive material.

"None of the [current media] attention appears to be obstructing her path to the nomination, and it will be long forgotten by fall 2016. Except, perhaps, by those who aren't going to vote for her anyway," writes Mr. Bernstein.

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Payback: Republicans Paint 'Millionaire' Democrats as Out of Touch"

By Reid J. Epstein

July 21, 2014, 1:18 p.m. EDT

When Democrats in 2012 tarred Mitt Romney as so wealthy he was out of touch, the Republican pushback was to assert that there's no shame in being rich. "Republicans come here and say everyone should live like this," Mr. Romney said at one fundraiser held at a supporter's mansion.

Back then it worked, as President Barack Obama and his allied Democrats launched a full-scale campaign to tag Mr. Romney as the candidate of the rich, by the rich and for the rich. By and large, that worked, with a handful of assists from Mr. Romney himself.

Two years later, it's Republicans who are using their opponents' wealth as a campaign cudgel. In Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania and Georgia, GOP candidates have taken shots at their opponents for being wealthy – usually as part of trying to build a larger case that the foe is out of touch.

And of course there is the nonstop Republican smirking about Hillary Clinton's wealth — virtually all of it emanating from Mrs. Clinton's book tour statement that she and Bill Clinton were "dead broke" upon leaving the White House 13 years ago. On Monday morning the Republican National Committee launched a website called poorhillaryclinton.com .

Almost every attack Republicans are throwing at Democrats on their wealth could have been made against Mr. Romney – some of them were, almost verbatim.

Starting last fall Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker branded his Democratic opponent Mary Burke "Millionaire Mary." The Walker-controlled Wisconsin GOP mocked her for owning a "swanky second home valued at nearly $600,000." And last week Mr. Walker's campaign released a new TV ad called "Fortune" in which it accused Ms. Burke of "making millions of dollars" when her family's bicycle company moved some of its manufacturing operations to China. (That whether the company actually did outsource jobs to China is in debate mirrors the Romney campaign's insistence it did not offshore jobs.)

On Friday Allysia Finley of the Journal's editorial page criticized Mr. Walker's attacks on Ms. Burke's business record. "Economic populism is usually the province of Democrats who don't understand how free markets work or who cynically hope to exploit voters' insecurities," she wrote.

But Mr. Walker is hardly the only Republican attacking a Democratic opponent's wealth. In Pennsylvania, GOPGov. Tom Corbett's campaign dubbed

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his Democratic self-funding opponent “Millionaire Tom Wolf.” And in New York, Republicans are trying to tar Democratic House candidate Sean Eldridge as wealthy and out of touch.

Virtually every missive the National Republican Campaign Committee blasts about Mr. Eldridge – the husband of Facebook billionaire Chris Hughes who has spent more than $1 million of his own funds in his campaign against GOP Rep. Chris Gibson in an upstate New York district – replaces the first letter of his first name with a dollar sign.

“After repeatedly ignoring the media, refusing to answer questions about the stunning hypocrisy of his multimillion dollar investment portfolio, and putting voters off by using his dark money group to try and buy an election, the only thing Eldridge is going to gain on Election Day is some much needed humility,” NRCC spokesman Ian Prior said in one representative missive.

Obama campaign aide David Axelrod, in a plea for campaign donations in October 2012, wrote: “I’ll be blunt: They are trying to buy this election.”

And in Georgia – where Republicans will vote Tuesday in a run-off election between Rep. Jack Kingston and David Perdue – the highlight of the final debate was Mr. Kingston laying into the wealth of Mr. Perdue, the former CEO of Reebok and Dollar General.

“Your whole lifestyle is based in a different way,” Mr. Kingston snapped at Mr. Perdue, the Associated Press reported. “You live inside a gate inside a gated community with a gate on your house.”

Mr. Perdue responded much the same way Mr. Romney did in 2012: “I’m not going to apologize for my success.”

Salon column: Joan Walsh: “GOP’s ’16 consolation vanishes: Suddenly, Democrats have the deep bench!”

By Joan Walsh

July 21, 2014, 1:10 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] After Romney’s 2012 loss, pundits raved about the GOP’s new leaders. But two years later, Democrats have the edge

In the wake of President Obama’s re-election in 2012, reporters found one soothing source of solace for the GOP. “One race the Republicans appear to be winning is the one for the deepest bench of rising stars,” wrote the Washington Post, and plenty of folks followed up. Democrats, meanwhile, had nobody on the bench but Hillary Clinton – a formidable candidate if she were to run, but that wasn’t even certain.

Beyond Clinton, there seemed to be a wasteland populated by ambitious governors no one had ever heard of (Martin O’Malley), some who were well known but not widely liked (Andrew Cuomo). Oh, and Brian Schweitzer.

The Republican list, meanwhile, seemed almost infinite: blue and purple state governors like New Jersey’s Chris Christie, Wisconsin’s Scott Walker, Ohio’s John Kasich and Virginia’s Bob McConnell, and Tea Party senators like Rand Paul, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio. Romney’s ambitious, “wonky” running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan, had his fans, as did former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Even Texas Gov. Rick Perry, recovered from back surgery and sporting hot new glasses, could have another life in 2016.

But in two years, the situation has almost reversed itself. Promising GOP governors – McDonnell, Christie, Walker – find themselves dogged by scandal. The Tea Party trio of Paul, Cruz and Rubio still vies for media attention and right wing adoration, but Rubio’s immigration reform work doomed him on the right. Unbelievably, Paul is widely labeled the frontrunner (but don’t tell that to Cruz), while the party establishment and neocon hawks search for an alternative. Despite all that impressive talent, Mitt Romney leads the pack in New Hampshire.

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Meanwhile, in what's widely being reported as trouble for Hillary Clinton, because that's the narrative the media know best, it turns out there are a bunch of popular and maybe even formidable Democrats. Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren wowed the crowd at Netroots Nation. (Check out this great New Yorker Biden profile if you want to know how the VPis keeping his options open). The Netroots buzz inspired the Washington Post's Phillip Rucker and Robert Costa to survey the landscape of Democrats who've put a toe or more in the water for 2016.

We learned that Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar is visiting Iowa (it is only one state away), while New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand has a book coming out. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon is said to be huddling with donors, believing the party could use a dose of red state common sense.

This is all framed as mildly ominous news for Hillary Clinton – the headline is "With liberals pining for a Clinton challenger, ambitious Democrats get in position" — but Klobuchar, Gillibrand and Nixon have all endorsed Clinton, and Warren has encouraged Clinton to run while insisting she won't do so herself. The only Democrats listed who may still run even if Clinton does too are O'Malley and Vermont's Bernie Sanders.

Regardless of the intent of the framing, the Rucker-Costa story actually pointed up the vitality in the Democratic Party, where lively debates over income inequality and foreign policy have so far fallen short of creating bitter divisions and factions, at least so far. Again, contrast that with the GOP, where Ted Cruz seems to be staking his 2016 hopes on his ability to humiliate every party leader and make sure Republicans will never make inroads with the Latino population. He's blocking bipartisan emergency legislation to deal with the border crisis, and pushing to reverse President Obama's deferred action on deportation for young people brought here by their parents.

Meanwhile Warren, the progressive elected the same time as Cruz, is touring the country campaigning for Democratic Senate candidates, even some who are more centrist than she is, like Kentucky's Alison Lundergan Grimes and West Virginia's Natalie Tennant. She's focused on growing the Democratic Party, not cutting down colleagues who are less progressive.

So: the GOP's right wing firebrand is a loose cannon who is completely out for himself, while the Democrats' left wing firebrand is working amiably with party leaders and deflecting talk of a primary challenge to Clinton. In the end, the rising number of possible alternatives to Hillary Clinton is a sign of Democratic strength, even if the media tends to bill it as weakness.

Twitter: "Today at Twitter: Ask @HillaryClinton your questions"

By Katie Stanton

July 21, 2014, 15:57 UTC

We're thrilled to welcome Secretary Hillary Clinton to Twitter headquarters in San Francisco today. We frequently welcome delightful and inspiring people in to meet our employees and talk about their careers, their passions and how they use Twitter to connect with the world.

Given the impact Secretary Clinton's work throughout her career has had on the world—much of which she documents in her new book about her time as America's chief diplomat, "Hard Choices"—we want to open her visit to you too. At about 5:20 p.m. PT, I will join the Secretary on stage in front of our employees to hear from her about the challenges she faced and the lessons she learned during her time as America's 67th Secretary of State. We'll explore how those experiences have shaped her views on human rights, domestic policy and other topics. And of course I'm curious to learn the backstory of Tweets like this:

Sec. Hillary Rodham Clinton @HillaryClinton: It's so much more fun to watch FOX when it's someone else being blitzed & sacked! #SuperBowl [2/2/13, 8:44 p.m. EDT]

You can tune in live at about 5:20 p.m. PT by visiting Secretary Clinton's Twitter profile at Twitter.com/@HillaryClinton; we'll stream the event from a Tweet pinned to the top of her page. You can also send the Secretary questions that I will do my best to ask her by using the hashtag #AskHillary. I'll be checking Twitter throughout the day so feel free to start sending your questions now.

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We look forward to sharing this special event with all of you. See you later this afternoon!

Politico: "Bill Clinton: Hillary 'wants time'"

By Katie Glueck

July 21, 2014, 11:30 a.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton still needs "time" to think through her message ahead of a possible presidential run, according to her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

In an interview with CNN published Monday, he said that the former secretary of state — and presumptive Democratic frontrunner if she gets in — needs space to "work through" that. His comments come as Clinton continues on her book tour to promote her new memoir, "Hard Choices," amid questions of what her case would be for 2016.

"We've reached a point in our life when we think you really shouldn't run for office if you don't have a clear idea of what you can do and a unique contribution you can make and you can outline that," Clinton told CNN, according to the news organization's write-up. "Now that the book is done, she wants time to think about that and work through it. "

He added that Clinton "hasn't asked me yet" about his advice on 2016, but called her the "ablest public servant" with whom he's ever worked.

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Joe Biden is the most interesting politician that has no chance of becoming president"

By Jaime Fuller

July 21, 2014, 12:43 p.m. EDT

The New Yorker's Evan Osnos has been working on a profile about Vice President Biden for months, and it finally published this week -- with a big focus on the vice president's role in the Ukraine crisis. Osnos conducted many interviews with Biden -- and even talked to President Obama. You should read the whole thing -- especially since the New Yorker archives are now open for browsing this summer -- but here's a look at some of the most interesting tidbits.

Obama: "In the foreign-policy front, I think Joe's biggest influence was in the Afghanistan debate."

As the wars in the Middle East have ended, Biden has shifted to smaller foreign policy priorities, although his relationships in Ukraine have also proved invaluable. Osnos sums up his foreign policy role now as "big assignments that may not have a huge political upside" especially for someone who may be eying another presidential bid.

Obama adds, "You know, when I sent him to Ukraine for the recent inauguration of Poroshenko, and he's there, a world figure that people know, and he's signifying the importance that we place on the Ukrainian election," Obama went on. "And then world leaders can transmit directly to him their thoughts about how we proceed. That's not necessarily helping him in Iowa. "

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However, his political schmoozing skills have proved invaluable in international affairs throughout his career -- and continue to come in handy. Osnos writes, "After so many years, he has an arsenal of opening lines that he can deploy in Baghdad, Beijing, or Wilmington. One of his favorites: 'If I had hair like yours, I'd be President.'" George Mitchell, the Maine Senator who helped bring about the Good Friday Agreement, told Osnos that he "remembers welcoming visiting heads of state to Capitol Hill. 'I'd say, 'Here's Senator Smith, here's Senator Jones.' When I got to Joe, the leader would look out and say, 'Hi, Joe.' "

Joe Biden and Robert Gates do not like each other at all.

In his memoir, "Duty," former Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Biden was "impossible not to like" but he was also "wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades." When Osnos asked Biden about Gates, the vice president called him "a really decent guy," but ... he went on to add, "You go back, and everything in the last forty years, there's nothing that I can think of, major fundamental decisions relative to foreign policy, that I can think he's been right about!"

Biden ended his soliloquy on Gates by later saying, "I can hardly wait — either in a Presidential campaign or when I'm out of here — to debate Bob Gates. Oh, Jesus."

While we're on the topic of presidential campaigns, Biden's obviously thinking about one.

As you might have already noticed. He talks about it a lot.

But only if Hillary Clinton decides not to start her own campaign. When Osnos "asked John McCain, who is one of Biden's close friends, if Biden would run without Clinton in the race, McCain said,'In a New York minute.' "

Obama doesn't get why either Clinton or Biden would ever want to run again.

"I think that, for both Joe and for Hillary, they've already accomplished an awful lot in their lives. The question is, do they, at this phase in their lives, want to go through the pretty undignifying process of running all over again."

Biden and Obama are pretty surprised they get along so well.

Osnos writes,

"The trials facing the President and the Vice-President, who are separated by nineteen years and a canyon in style, have brought them closer than many expected — not least of all themselves. John Marttila, one of Biden's political advisers, told me, 'Joe and Barack were having lunch, and Obama said to Biden, 'You and I are becoming good friends! I find that very surprising.' And Joe says, 'You're [f***ing] surprised!'"

However, Biden adds that if he ever had a "fundamental moral disagreement" with Obama,"I'd announce I had prostate cancer and I had to leave."

Bush once said he had gotten "a sense of his soul" after staring into the eyes of Vladimir Putin. Biden later told Putin, "I don't think you have a soul."

Borrowing comedic tactics from "Arrested Development," Biden turned an immortal line from the Bush presidency into a callback.

"To illustrate his emphasis on personality as a factor in foreign affairs, Biden recalled visiting Putin at the Kremlin in 2011: 'I had an interpreter, and when he was showing me his office I said, 'It's amazing what capitalism will do, won't it? A magnificent office!' And he laughed. As I turned, I was this close to him.' Biden held his hand a few inches from his nose. 'I said, 'Mr. Prime Minister, I'm looking into your eyes, and I don't think you have a soul.' '

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"'You said that?' I asked. It sounded like a movie line.

"'Absolutely, positively,' Biden said, and continued, 'And he looked back at me, and he smiled, and he said, 'We understand one another.' ' Biden sat back, and said, 'This is who this guy is!'"

Biden isn't a fan of the more rebellious additions to the Senate.

He told Osnos, "I'll never forget the first time I heard someone on the floor of the Senate refer to the President as Bubba." The profile also notes that "Biden's friendships were so varied that he was the only senator who was asked to speak at funerals for both Strom Thurmond, the former segregationist, and Frank Lautenberg, the New Jersey Democrat, who called Biden 'the only Catholic Jew.' "

There are lots of wonderful descriptions of Biden's inherent Biden-ness.

To wit:

"When he was thirty years old, he became one of the youngest senators in history, and he has parted with youth begrudgingly. His smile has been rejuvenated to such a gleam that it inspired a popular tweet during the last campaign: 'Biden's teeth are so white they're voting for Romney.' At seventy-one, with his hairline reforested and his forehead looking becalmed, Biden projects the glow of a grandfather just back from the gym, which is often the case."

"Biden likes to be candid in such settings. In 1979, on one of his first trips to the Soviet Union, he listened to an argument from his Soviet counterpart, and replied, 'Where I come from, we have a saying: You can't [sh** a sh**ter.]' Bill Bradley, then a fellow-senator on the delegation, later asked the American interpreter how he had translated Biden's comment into Russian. 'Not literally,' the interpreter said."

"The full package — the Ray-Ban aviators, the shameless schmalz, the echoes of the Fonz — has never endeared him to the establishment, but it lends him an air of authenticity that is rare in his profession. It has also produced a whiff of cult appeal, such that his image now has more in common with Betty White than with John Boehner."

"Biden rule No. 1: No funny hats."

"Biden held on to his locker at the Senate gym, where he liked to kibbitz."

"Biden is such a close talker that he occasionally bumps his forehead into you mid-chat, a gesture so minor that it's notable only when you try to picture Barack Obama doing the same thing."

Daily Caller: "Republicans Launch New Hillary Attack: PoorHillaryClinton.com"

By Sarah Hurtubise

July 21, 2014, 12:12 p.m. EDT

The Republican National Committee launched PoorHillaryClinton.com Monday to attack the Democrat for claiming that she and Bill struggled financially after leaving the White House.

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The website features claims by the Clintons downplaying their wealth and reports on their current earnings, which make Hillary one of the richest individuals in the country. Clinton claimed recently that she and Bill are not “truly well off,” and were “dead broke” when they left the White House in 2000.

Clinton has already earned $12 million in speaking fees since leaving the State Department just 16 months ago, according to a Bloomberg analysis out Monday; President Bill Clinton has amassed a fortune of almost $106 million in speaking fees alone since leaving the White House over a decade ago.

“Is this really what ‘dead broke’ looks like? Seems like the Clintons should be just fine with their two multi-million dollar houses,” the website says. “No need to add the ‘White House’ to the list.”

The site launched Monday with a sampling of links to stories that undercut Clinton’s attempts to connect with Americans that are struggling financially.

Hillary has pulled in hefty speaking fees at public universities. Clinton most notably charged the University of Buffalo $275,000 to be featured in a Distinguished Speaker Series. She has said that she donates speaking fees at public universities to the family’s charity — The Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

As a leading contender for the 2016 presidential race, Clinton’s already received significant pushback for her Wall Street-friendly policies and long history in Washington. Rival Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren has already attracted an intense following — largely because she can be taken more seriously on income inequality issues.

“In the span of just a few weeks, Hillary Clinton made enough out-of-touch comments about her wealth to fill an entire website. So the RNC created one,” RNC chairman Reince Priebus said in a statement. “Here’s the truth Hillary doesn’t understand: you’re not ‘dead broke’ when you can make five times the median household income with a single speech.”

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/22/2016 5:37:55 AM
Subject: Transatlantic Take: Moldova Needs Us to Support Reforms, Not Governments

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here.

G | M | F The German Marshall Fund of the United States
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Transatlantic Take

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Moldova Needs Us to Support Reforms, Not Governments

Alina Inayeh January 22, 2016

BUCHAREST, Romania—History repeats itself, giving us the chance to avoid repeating our mistakes. The Ukrainian story should have taught us a lot about the short-sightedness of supporting a bad government for geopolitical reasons. Now, as protests against Moldova's newly formed government are drawing many thousands, is the moment for political leaders in Europe and the United States to take a deep breath and recall this lesson before showing their support to the Moldovan government, known to be controlled by the country's most powerful oligarch and with little, if any, credible interest in promoting the reforms Moldova needs. The simplifying view that divides Moldovans into pro-Europeans and pro-Russians is not helpful; nor is supporting the first to the disadvantage of the latter. This binary thinking will, again, lead us to forget the essential point: in order to progress, the country needs neither a pro-European, neither a pro-Russian, but a pro-Moldovan government...

FULL ARTICLE

Alina Inayeh is the director of the German Marshall Fund's Bucharest office.

The views expressed in GMF publications and commentary are the views of the author alone.

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From: "Gary Ritterstein" <info@johndouglassforcongress.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/4/2012 8:28:27 AM
Subject: at risk

John --

If the corporate PAC's that bankroll our opponent's swift-boat campaign have it their way on Tuesday, we will pay the price for subsidizing outsourcers, gutting our nation's safety net and making it harder to get a public education. But the only deadline left to stop Corporate Congressman Robert Hurt now is Election Day!

That means less than 48 hours left to raise just $2,012.05 more. So we need your help right away.

Even the corporate media is cautioning voters. "Rep. Hurt seems to have become a different person," says Rappahannock News. C'ville Weekly says, "his priorities lean toward Tea Party territory." "Hurt's platform would make life immeasurably more difficult," The Mecklenburg Sun adds.

A recent Daily Progress report explains why we have so much gridlock in Washington, revealing that Hurt has "sponsored a handful of bills" in his own party-controlled House, "but none have gone on to be passed." Now his failure to get the job done with a federal ban on dangerous uranium mining will let the state legislature get away with putting our air and water at risk of radioactive contamination. That's bad for families and bad for business.

This election is about more than growing corporate profits -- it's about fighting for our lives. Can General Douglass count on you to finish the fight?

We cannot afford another term for another career politician who is bought and paid for by the same corporate interests that took our economy to the brink of collapse. This is the time to help Virginia families get a fair chance at a better future by choosing good over greed.

You have the power! On to victory in Virginia,

--Gary Ritterstein
Campaign Manager
Douglass for Congress

P.S. Since this is the last chance I'll get before Election Day, I just want to personally thank you for supporting our efforts – this race is yours to win by clicking here.

Paid for by John Douglass for Congress

This email was sent to: john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, you can update your information here. We believe that emails are a vital way for the campaign to stay in direct contact with supporters. Click **here** if you'd like to unsubscribe from these messages.

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From: "Verma, Richard R" <VermaRR@state.gov>
To: "Verma, Richard R" <VermaRR@state.gov>
Date: 7/31/2015 4:57:47 AM
Subject: U.S. and India -- An Update

Dear Friends:

Just six months ago, President Obama came to Delhi as the Chief Guest for India's Republic Day celebrations, and 10 years ago this month, the United States and India launched our historic cooperation on civil nuclear technology. Over this decade, our relationship with India has soared. Our partnership is broader and deeper than it has ever been before. We are working on over 80 initiatives coming out of the President's visit, and we've launched or reinvigorated over 30 working groups since Prime Minister Modi visited Washington last September.

In light of this historic cooperation, I am providing you with further background on the growth of the relationship between our countries. I recently co-wrote an op-ed with my friend, Arun Singh, the Indian Ambassador to the United States, explaining how India and the United States, working together, will be a powerful force for peace and prosperity in the 21st Century, available here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/arun-k-singh-/india-and-the-us-partnering_b_7814248.html

Our Embassy team also prepared a short video blog documenting our last six months of progress and activities here in India. It's been a busy time, as you can see here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1ziTGySLsc

If you want to know our stance on a wide range of issues, from climate change to defense cooperation to commercial matters, you can find a collection of speeches and remarks on our Embassy website: http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/speeches_and_remarks.html

Finally, my Embassy team and I have reflected on this decade of growth since we launched our negotiations for the landmark U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement, and we collected some facts and figures that might help put in perspective how far the United States and India have come. I would like to share a few of these highlights and illustrative facts and figures:

Business:

U.S. investments in India have grown significantly – from a total of $7.7 billion in 2004 to $28 billion today. Over the past few years, India has become the fourth fastest growing source of foreign direct investment into the United States.

Two-way trade has nearly tripled from $36 billion in 2005 to $104 billion in 2014, as we work towards $500 billion in trade.

Today, there are over 500 U.S. companies active in India, while the number of Indian companies operating in the United States has increased from roughly 85 companies in 2005 to over 200 companies today.

Travel for tourism, business, and education has skyrocketed: We have seen a 152% increase in overall visa applications for Indians wishing to travel to the U.S. from 398,931 in fiscal year 2005 to 1,007,811 since this fiscal year started in October 2014. Visa applications for Indian students have seen the strongest increase, of 202% (30,513 in FY 2005 to 92,156 in FY 2015). U.S. visitors to India have nearly doubled from 611,165 visitors in 2005 to 1,123,444 in 2015.

Defense Cooperation:

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Ten years ago, the United States and India barely conducted any defense trade. Over the last few years, the United States has signed approximately $10 billion in defense sales to India. Our defense cooperation has helped promote India's role as a security provider in the Indian Ocean region with direct benefit to third countries. For example, the Indian Air Force used C-130s and C-17 aircraft to evacuate Indian and third country nationals from Yemen and speed relief supplies to Nepal after a devastating earthquake.

U.S. and Indian businesses have partnered on the co-development of defense equipment, establishing a base from which to launch new Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) co-development and co-production efforts in the future and expand the Indian defense industrial base.

The complexity of military exercises has increased in the last 10 years. The annual bilateral training exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' has grown from a squad and platoon-level exercise to a company/ battalion-level maneuver exercise, including a brigade-level computer simulation exercise where the U.S. and Indian Armies operate together. This year, the U.S.-India naval exercise 'Malabar' will welcome the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force for the second consecutive year, along with other countries.

Agriculture:

In 2015, India-U.S. bilateral agricultural and food trade is on track to quintuple in value compared to 2005, exceeding $6 billion. Due in part to sustained USDA Cooperator marketing activities and USDA programs, U.S. agricultural exports to India are poised to achieve a new record high in 2015.

Since 2005 USDA has sponsored 112 Indian agricultural researchers under the Borlaug Fellowship Program, and 79 fellows under the Cochran Fellowship Program. These figures include 21 participants in the two programs for 2015.

Education:

Indian students account for the second-largest group of foreign students in the United States, with approximately 102,673 students studying in the United States in 2013-14. At the same time, a growing number of Americans are choosing to study abroad in India, with over 4,000 students in India during academic year 2012-13. These students advance innovation and research in our universities and in their communities when they return home.

Fulbright Exchanges:

The Fulbright-Nehru program has nearly tripled in size since 2009, when the program became truly binational with joint funding for exchanges, with approximately 300 Indian and U.S. students and scholars now participating annually. Since 1950, the United States-India Education Foundation (USIEF) has awarded approximately 9,962 Fulbright grants in a full range of academic disciplines. USIEF has also administered 8,634 other awards, including the U.S. Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays and the East-West Center grants, for a total of over 18,500 awards in the last 65 years.

Health:

Since 1993, the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) has assigned experts to World Health Organization's (WHO) regional and country offices in India to support surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases. Through this active collaboration, in 2014, India was certified as polio-free and the CDC continues to work with Indian researchers to strengthen the national immunization

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program and accelerate control of measles and rubella.

In 2012, the CDC, through their Global Disease Detection India Center, located at India's National Centre for Disease Control, helped establish the India Epidemic Intelligence Service program (EIS) – a post graduate field training program modeled after the US EIS – which will help promote public health and support the necessary health workforce to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats.

India is the second largest exporter of pharmaceuticals to the United States. In FY 2014, India held a 13% share of the total 64,170 imported lines of pharmaceuticals.

Space:

Cooperation on space science has soared to new levels - from collaboration on projects that measure aspects of Earth's oceans and global precipitation, to recent success on a mission to Mars, to working jointly on a satellite project that will help scientists understand climate change and natural disasters. Our scientists and space organizations continue to look for new areas on which to collaborate.

Please be in touch with your ideas and suggestions. We would love to hear from you. You can follow us online through these sites:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/India.usembassy
Embassy and Ambassador Twitter handles: @USAndIndia and @USAmbIndia
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/USEmbassyNewDelhi
Instagram: https://instagram.com/usembassynewdelhi/
Website: http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out directly if we can be of any help to you.

Thank you and best wishes,

Rich

Richard R. Verma
US Ambassador
India
vermarr@state.gov

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From: "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com>
To: "Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
Date: 7/14/2015 11:31:44 AM
Subject: Re: Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis

Stu - thanks. We will have the stuff on partners and regional strategy. On options we use the hackneyed phrase but add, including if necessary our military options. I think that is stronger than the sentence you suggest, no?

On Jul 14, 2015, at 6:24 PM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com > wrote:

> Dear Jake,
>
> It appears that Hillary has already spoken. I do hope in a formal statement she will say that as President, NOT just that all options are on the table, which is a hackneyed phrase, but that "As President I will do whatever it takes to assure that Iran never develops a nuclear weapon." There should also be the kind of statement I have suggested of working closely with our allies in the region, especially Israel, to counter Iranian terrorist activity, and to be certain they have the means to fully defend themselves against Iran.
>
> Former Congressman and HFRC Chairman Howard Berman, my partner at Covington, told me that as a result of the 4:00 pm White House telephonic briefing of the Washington Institute group that singed the letter of concern, he believes all five concerns have been taken care of, in one way or another. He said Dennis Ross (my JPPI co-chair) has put out a statement suggesting there is no better option. Howard says he will not join a group of Democrats (e.g. Evan Bayh, Mary Landrieu) opposing the deal.
>
> I am forwarding some comments he has accumulated. He told me in Israel there is wall-to-wall opposition, including Herzog and Livni.
>
> Best wishes,
> Stu
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Berman, Howard
> **Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015 5:52 PM
> **To:** Eizenstat, Stuart
> **Subject:** FW: Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis
>
> **Howard L. Berman**
> Senior Advisor
> Covington & Burling LLP
> One CityCenter, 850 Tenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001
> T +1 202 662 5658 | HBerman@cov.com
> www.cov.com
>
> <image001.png>
>
> ---
>
> **From:** David Halperin [mailto:dhalperin@ipforum.org]
> **Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015 12:30 PM
> **Subject:** Roundup: Iran Deal Analysis
>
> Dear Friends:
>
> Israel Policy Forum will soon provide conference calls, Insider Briefs, and in-person briefings with American and Israeli perspectives regarding the Iran nuclear deal **announced this morning** .
>
> I know your inboxes are already inundated with reactions. In this email, I am providing a Roundup of excerpts of analysis / reactions that you can skim / review as you wish.

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While continuing to provide resources, IPF will remain focused on our core mission and the implications for regional security and diplomacy going forward. And, we will **continue to call for close US-Israel cooperation** , befitting strategic allies.

Clearly, such dialogue is essential to create the kind of assurances that undoubtedly will be needed to advance regional security in the wake of today's announcement.

Best -

David

David A. Halperin
Executive Director
Israel Policy Forum (IPF)
140 West 57th Street, Suite 6C
New York, NY 10019
Direct: 212-315-1742
Cell: 516-355-1300

Nicholas Burns, to the NY Times :

> "The reality is that it is a painful agreement to make, but also necessary and wise," said R. Nicholas Burns, who drafted the first sanctions against Iran, passed in the United Nations Security Council in 2006 and 2007, when he was undersecretary of state for policy. "And we might think of it as just the end of the beginning of a long struggle to contain Iran. There will be other dramas ahead."

Jeffrey Goldberg, Atlantic Columnist :

> "The Iran drama is only beginning. Assuming that Obama can sell this deal to Congress—Chuck Schumer, a nation turns its lonely eyes to you—this will be a multi-year story of implementation. I wish I could believe what Obama seems to suspect, that this deal will set in motion a virtuous cycle in which moderates (relative moderates, of course) gain power in a liberalizing Iran. But I don't think that this is happening soon. For now, I hope that Obama will study the reality of Iranian activity in the region, and begin to push back against Iran's ambitions with more alacrity than he has done so far.

White House Talking Points / Graphics and Resources Page (includes video of President Obama's address):

> After many months of principled diplomacy, the P5+1 -- the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, Russia and Germany -- along with the European Union, have achieved a long-term comprehensive nuclear deal with Iran that will verifiably prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and ensure that Iran's nuclear program will be exclusively peaceful going forward.
>
> This deal stands on the foundation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA), achieved in November of 2013, and the framework for this Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), announced in Lausanne on April 2, 2015 that set the requirements for the deal with the P5+ 1 and Iran, alongside the European Union announced today.
>
> Now, with this deal in place, the U.S., our allies, and the international community can know that tough, new requirements will keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Here's how:

AIPAC Statement :

> "During these negotiations, we outlined five critical requirements for a good deal. We are deeply concerned based on initial reports that this proposed agreement may not meet these requirements, and thereby would fail to block Iran's path to a nuclear weapon and would further entrench and empower the leading state sponsor of terror."

Ilan Goldenberg, via Times of Israel :

> As the fight over the Iran deal gets political, Democrats will be less inclined to oppose the president, explained Goldenberg, a former senior staffer on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee covering Middle East issues.

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"The more the question becomes — 'Do you trust Obama or do you support Netanyahu and the Republicans?' — the less likely the Democrats are to vote against the deal."

Rather than confrontation, the Israeli prime minister should seek to make amends with the administration and start a serious dialogue about what Washington and Jerusalem can do together to counter Iran's aggressive actions in the region and to ensure Tehran does not violate the nuclear agreement, Goldenberg suggested.

"The biggest strategic mistake Netanyahu can make is to walk away for the next 18 months and wait for next president," he said. "I don't think Israel can afford that. If he does that, he's only going to further widen the partisanship and turn Israel into a political wedge issue."

Instead of hoping for Congress to shoot down the deal, Netanyahu should encourage it to pass legislation that would support the agreement's vigorous implementation, Goldenberg continued. The Hill has several tools at its disposal: mechanisms to ensure sanctions snap back automatically if Iran violates the deal, more money for international inspectors, the creation of a permanent board with a congressional mandate to oversee the arms control agreement, and so on.

Rep. Steve Israel via website :

"I was skeptical at the beginning of this process, and I remain skeptical of the Iranians. In the fall, there will be a vote on this deal, and my obligation is to review every word, sentence, and paragraph of the deal to ensure it satisfies my continued concerns. Until then, you can continue to count me in the 'skeptical' column.

Ian Bremmer, President, Eurasia Group, via facebook :

The Iran deal is done. It's a historic moment. But as important as it is to defang Iran's nuclear threat, the bigger story is what the deal means for Iran's new standing in a crumbling geopolitical order. Three changes will matter most.

First, the competition between Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia will heat up, and the balance of power will tip toward Tehran. Saudi Arabia is now pumping the most oil since 1980, but an unsanctioned Iran will cut into Saudi market share. Iran is the holder of the world's fourth-largest proven crude oil reserves and second-largest natural gas reserves, and will soon bring 1 million barrels a day back to the market. Meanwhile, proxy fights in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, and elsewhere will intensify. As the U.S. and Europe look to reduce their presence in the region, the escalation of proxy wars between Saudi Arabia and Iran will heighten the risk of direct conflict.

Next, Iran will open for business. The world will trade again with Iran's $420 billion economy. Trade with the EU could expand as much as 400 percent, from $8.3 billion last year. Economic benefits will spill across the Gulf. Dubai will become a launch pad for foreign investment in Iran. And the investors are coming. Iran is not just another Middle Eastern petro-state; it offers investors a diversified economy with an established capital market. Its population of 80 million, the second largest in the Middle East, promises consumer demand across sectors as varied as travel and logistics to pharmaceuticals and consumer products. By some estimates, the nuclear deal could accelerate growth in Iran to 8 percent over the next three years and motivate the potential return of hundreds of thousands of highly talented Iranians.

Finally, Iran will lead the fight against ISIS. Obama is in no position to put U.S. boots on the ground, but the more battles ISIS wins in the Middle East, the more of a problem it will become internationally. Washington needs someone with the will and resources to deal ISIS a strong blow. And that's Iran. Though economic sanctions and a global arms embargo have limited the sophistication of Iran's military powers (Iran spends a fifth as much as Saudi Arabia on boosting its military assets), the expansion of Iranian influence and economic capabilities will pave the way for greater defense leadership in the Middle East. Iraqi Shia militias, backed by Iran, will offer a desperately-needed counter to ISIS.

Will Iran cheat on the deal? Yes. The U.S. and Iran aren't about to start trusting one other, much less become fast friends. But in the world created by the deal, Iran starts to matter much more than Saudi Arabia and other old-guard U.S. allies.

Today's deal isn't the end of the story. It's only the end of the first chapter.

Ehud Ya'ari, top Arab Affairs Analysts, on Channel 2 news:

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"It's not as bad as we thought."

Jane Eisner, editor in chief, Forward :

"The vexing problem for American Jews is that consideration of this deal has become so intertwined with support for Israel that it may be impossible to arrive at an unbiased judgment."

Hillary Clinton, in private meeting with House Democrats

The deal is an "important step in putting a lid on Iran's nuclear program."

MK Isaac Herzog, as reported by the Jerusalem Post:

Herzog will be travelling to the US to "demand a dramatic package of security measures for Israel." ... "In regards to security I am more extreme than Netanyahu."

Tzipi Livni on Iran deal:

"dangerous and destructive"

Benjamin Netanyahu on Iran deal :

"Stunning, historic mistake."

Naftali Bennett, via twitter :

On July 14th, 2015 a terror nuclear superpower is born. Israel will defend itself.

Sen. Joe Lieberman via House Foreign Affairs Committee :

"There is much more risk for America and reward for Iran than there should be in the agreement... This is a bad deal for America, a bad deal for Iran's neighbors in the Middle East and a bad deal for the world."

Dennis Ross via Washington Post :

"Opponents need to explain what happens if the rest of the world accepts this deal, Iran says it is ready to implement it — and Congress blocks it. Will the European Union, which explicitly commits in the agreement to lift sanctions once Iran has fulfilled its main nuclear responsibilities, not do so because Congress says no? Can sanctions really be sustained in these circumstances, particularly if the Iranians don't increase their enrichment and say they will observe the deal? Could we be faced with a world in which the sanctions regime collapses, Iran gets its windfall and is only two months from breakout, and there is little on-ground visibility into its program? Maybe the answer is no, but the skeptics need to explain what we can do to ensure that this is not the outcome."

Aaron David Miller oped- in Wall Street Journal :

"Whether you're about to break open the champagne or don sack cloth over **the U.S.-Iran nuclear deal** , you may have questions about the agreement. Here are five things to look out for in the coming days, as we all assess the text of the agreement and reactions to it.:"

Abe Foxman, via ADL Statement :

"We are deeply disappointed by the terms of the final deal with Iran announced today which seem to fall far short of the President's objective of preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear weapon state. The thrust of the deal relies substantially on Iran's good faith and the ability of the IAEA to effectively carry out its inspection obligations."

Sen. Chuck Schumer statement :

"Supporting or opposing this agreement is not a decision to be made lightly, and I plan to carefully study the

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agreement before making an informed decision."

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From: "Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/8/2008 4:00:25 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain's Debate Performance: An Unsteady Hand at the Tiller

National Security Network

McCain's Debate Performance: An Unsteady Hand at the Tiller

Washington D.C. - Senator McCain's debate performance yesterday did little to reassure voters about his ability to manage a steady and responsible national security policy. Aside from his gaffe referring to General Petraeus as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, there were serious substantive problems with McCain's approach. He continued to talk about victory in Iraq despite the fact that General Petraeus and the nation's 16 intelligence agencies disagree with his assessment of progress. He is still calling for a surge in Afghanistan despite General McKiernan's statements that a "surge" is not what is needed. He displayed a reckless streak, musing that Russia might be evil and dismissing his irresponsible comments about bombing Iran as a joke. Finally, McCain's policies were at times incoherent. He called for avoiding a Cold War with Russia even as he used overheated rhetoric. He believes that Iran's nuclear program is an immediate danger and yet his best response is a League of Democracies - an institution that most of our allies don't want, would take years to create and may never become effective. Overall, McCain failed to show how his foreign policy would make America safer and stronger.

McCain has shown the same stubbornness as George Bush. When it comes to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan McCain has continuously displayed that he is set in his ways, and that no expert or conditions could change his mind. He continues to talk about victory in Iraq despite the fact that General Petraeus refuses to use that term and that there are reports that the nation's sixteen intelligence agencies disagree with McCain's assessment of progress. "A nearly completed high-level U.S. intelligence analysis warns that unresolved ethnic and sectarian tensions in Iraq could unleash a new wave of violence, potentially reversing the major security and political gains achieved over the last year." Moreover, when talking about his strategy for Afghanistan, McCain continued his approach of simply transferring our Iraq strategy to Afghanistan saying , "It is the same overall strategy," and "we have to have the same strategy, which Sen. Obama said wouldn't work, couldn't work, still fails to admit that he was wrong about Iraq." Meanwhile, Gen. McKiernan, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, said that "Afghanistan is not Iraq," and that no Iraq-style "surge" of forces will end the conflict there. Even Gen. Petraeus, who McCain frequently praises, said, "every situation like this is truly and absolutely unique, and has its own context and specifics and its own texture." McCain argues for a "surge" in Afghanistan despite the fact that it did not work in Iraq and that the top generals say it is the wrong strategy. [CNN, 10/7/08 . McLatchy Washington Bureau, 10/7/08 . Washington Post, 10/2/08 . New York Times, 10/1/08]

McCain made reckless and irresponsible comments not befitting a Commander-in-Chief. McCain's rhetoric towards Russia was rash and reckless, especially answering "maybe" when asked if Russia under Putin was "evil." He also brought back his old statements on Putin saying: "Now, long ago, I warned about Vladimir Putin. I said I looked into his eyes and saw three letters, a K, a G and a B." McCain displayed similar carelessness when discussing his policy toward Iran. He dismissed a troubling campaign appearance where he sang "bomb, bomb, bomb Iran" as "joking with a veteran," despite no indication at the time that this act was intended as a joke. [John McCain, 10/07/08 . John McCain, 4/19/07]

On a wide range of foreign policy issues, John McCain's remarks during the debate were inconsistent and incoherent. Whether he was speaking about a resurgent Russia or outlining his policy for dealing with Pakistan, John McCain's positions seemed confused or contradictory. On Russia, McCain said "we're not going to have another Cold War with Russia," but then used cold-war style rhetoric to describe the current Russian government. McCain has proposed a confrontational policy, recommending that the country be thrown out of the G-8 and be diplomatically isolated; contradicting an op-ed today from former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz commented that "isolating Russia is not a sustainable long-range policy." McCain was also unable to explain the divisions that have emerged between himself and his advisors on the issue of Iran. He blasted Senator Obama for wanting negotiations "without preconditions," yet one of his own advisors, former Secretary of State Kissinger said that he supported negotiations with Iran at a high level "without conditions." McCain acknowledged that a threat of a nuclear Iran is dangerous and urgent yet his response for how to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon was to build a new "League of Democracies" - an international institution that is unpopular with its potential members and would take years to create. Finally, on the issue of Pakistan, McCain criticized Barack Obama for stating his intention to conduct strikes to "kill Osama Bin Laden," and "crush Al Qaeda," but then

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proceeded to take the same position, saying "I'll get Osama bin Laden, my friends. I'll get him. I know how to get him." Despite stating that he would not "telegraph" his punches, McCain's stated position appeared to do exactly that. [John McCain, 10/07/08 . Henry Kissinger and George Shultz, 10/01/08 . Barack Obama, 10/07/08]

McCain erroneously called General Petraeus the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. " Well, let me just follow up, my friends. If we had done what Sen. Obama wanted done in Iraq, and that was set a date for withdrawal, which Gen. [David] Petraeus, our chief -- chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff said would be a very dangerous course to take for America, then we would have had a wider war, we would have been back, Iranian influence would have increased, al Qaeda would have re- established a base." [John McCain, 10/07/08]

Adam Blickstein
Press Secretary
National Security Network
202-289-7113 (office)
617-335-0859 (mobile)
ablickstein@nsnetwork.org

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From: "David Plouffe, BarackObama.com" <info@barackobama.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/24/2008 12:30:44 PM
Subject: VIDEO: Barack in Berlin

Obama for America

Dear John --

As you may have heard, Barack has been in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia this week.

Today, he spoke in Berlin, Germany.

In a city where a wall once divided the free from the oppressed, he talked about tearing down the walls that divide all peoples so we can address our common problems -- the threats of terrorism and nuclear weapons, global warming and genocide, AIDS and poverty.

Watch Barack's historic speech and share it with your friends:

Watch Barack's Speech

http://my.barackobama.com/berlinvideo

Please forward this email to your friends, family, and colleagues.

Thanks,

David

David Plouffe
Campaign Manager
Obama for America

Donate

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From: "Tara McGuinness" <tara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 10/7/2008 4:50:30 PM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain Fact Check on the Second Debate

[redacted]

McCain Echoed Bush's Policies From 2000

George W. Bush in 2000	John McCain in 2008
Bush: "It's Important To Cut The Taxes." During a 2000 Republican presidential debate in Iowa, Governor Bush said, "It's important to cut the taxes, Tom, otherwise government's going to spend it. And it's important to cut the taxes to keep the economy growing. And when we cut the taxes it's important to remember, there's a lot of folks who are struggling on what I call the outskirts of poverty. I mentioned it to John in the question, that the single mom with kids — which, by the way, in my judgment's the toughest job in America." [GOP Iowa Debate, 12/13/99]	**McCain: "We Have To Keep Americans' Taxes Low."** During the second Presidential debate of 2008, Senator John McCain said, "You go to the heart of America's worries tonight. Americans are angry, they're upset, and they're a little fearful. It's our job to fix the problem. Now, I have a plan to fix this problem and it has got to do with energy independence. We've got to stop sending $700 billion a year to countries that don't want us very -- like us very much. We have to keep Americans' taxes low. All Americans' taxes low. Let's not raise taxes on anybody today." [Second 2008 Presidential Debate via CNN.com, 10/7/08]
Bush: "I've Got A Record Of Reform In The State Of Texas, And I'm Going To Take That To The White House." During a 2000 Republican presidential debate in Arizona, Governor Bush said, "I've got a record of reform in the state of Texas, and I'm going to take that to the White House." [GOP Arizona Debate, 12/6/99]	**McCain: "I Have Been A Consistent Reformer."** During the second Presidential debate of 2008, Senator John McCain said, "And I can see why you feel that cynicism and mistrust, because the system in Washington is broken. And I have been a consistent reformer. I have advocated and taken on the special interests, whether they be the big money people by reaching across the aisle and working with Sen. [Russ] Feingold [D-Wisconsin] on campaign finance reform, whether it being a variety of other issues, working with Sen. Lieberman on trying to address climate change. I have a clear record of bipartisanship. The situation today cries out for bipartisanship. Sen. Obama has never taken on his leaders of his party on a single issue. And we need to reform. And so let's look at our records as well as our rhetoric. That's really part of your mistrust here." [Second 2008 Presidential Debate via CNN.com, 10/7/08]
Bush: "I Would Encourage Exploration. I Mean, It's A Matter Of Supply And Demand." When asked how he would lower the price of oil during a 2000 Republican presidential debate in Arizona, Governor Bush said, "I would encourage exploration. I mean, it's a matter of supply and demand. I would put -- I'd keep plans in place to say to our drillers: We want you to continue exploring." [GOP Arizona Debate, 12/6/99]	**McCain Said Increased Exploration Would "Will Reduce The Price Of A Barrel Of Oil."** During the second Presidential debate of 2008, Senator John McCain said, "But the point is, also, on oil drilling, oil drilling offshore now is vital so that we can bridge the gap. We can bridge the gap between imported oil, which is a national security issue, as well as any other, and it will reduce the price of a barrel of oil, because when people know there's a greater supply, then the cost of that will go down." [Second 2008

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	Presidential Debate via CNN.com, 10/7/08]
Bush: "I've Also Got Great Hope For The Natural Gas Business." During a 2000 Republican presidential debate in Arizona, Governor Bush said, "I've also got great hope for the natural gas business. The natural gas business is immune to OPEC. The natural gas business is hemispheric in nature. The natural gas business is finally recovering from the foolish ways of the Jimmy Carter-era when they tried to nationalize, in essence, the natural gas business with price fixing and demand. The demand for gas has finally come back." [GOP Arizona Debate, 12/6/99]	**McCain: We Have To Have Alternative Energy, Including "Natural Gas."** During the second Presidential debate of 2008, Senator John McCain said, "We can work on nuclear power plants. Build a whole bunch of them, create millions of new jobs. We have to have all of the above, alternative fuels, wind, tide, solar, natural gas, clean coal technology. All of these things we can do as Americans and we can take on this mission and we can overcome it." [Second 2008 Presidential Debate via CNN.com, 10/7/08]
Bush: "I Brought Republicans Together With Democrats." During a 2000 Republican Debate in Michigan, Governor Bush said, "What is accurate is that I led my state, in 1997, to the largest tax cut in Texas history. The truth is that I laid out a plan that cut a billion dollars of property taxes. I brought Republicans together with Democrats. And I signed that tax cut." [GOP Michigan Debate, 1/10/00]	**McCain: "I Have A Clear Record Of Bipartisanship."** During the second Presidential debate of 2008, Senator John McCain said, "I have a clear record of bipartisanship. The situation today cries out for bipartisanship. Sen. Obama has never taken on his leaders of his party on a single issue. And we need to reform." [Second 2008 Presidential Debate via CNN.com, 10/7/08] **McCain: "I Have A Clear Record Of Reaching Across The Aisle."** During the second Presidential debate of 2008, Senator John McCain said, "I know how to do that. I have a clear record of reaching across the aisle, whether it be Joe Lieberman or Russ Feingold or Ted Kennedy or others. That's my clear record." [Second 2008 Presidential Debate via CNN.com, 10/7/08]
Bush: "He Is Going To Grow The Federal Government In The Largest Increase Since Lyndon Baines Johnson In 1965." During the first 2000 presidential debate, Governor Bush said, "The man is practicing fuzzy math again. There's differences. Under Vice President Gore's plan, he is going to grow the federal government in the largest increase since Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1965. We're talking about a massive government, folks. We're talking about adding to or increasing 200 programs, 20,000 new bureaucrats." [Commission on Presidential Debates, 10/3/00]	**McCain: "Do You Know That Sen. Obama Has Voted For -- Is Proposing $860 Billion Of New Spending Now?"** During the second 2008 Presidential debate, McCain said, "This is the most liberal big-spending record in the United States Senate." He added, "Do you know that Sen. Obama has voted for -- is proposing $860 billion of new spending now?" [Second 2008 Presidential Debate via CNN.com, 10/7/08]
Bush: "I Want To Develop The Coal Resources In America. Have Clean Coal Technologies." While discussing energy policies during the first 2000 presidential debate, Governor Bush said, "I want to develop the coal resources in America. Have clean coal technologies. We better start exploring it or otherwise we'll be in deep trouble in the future because of our dependency upon foreign sources of crude." He later added, "There is an abundant supply of coal in this country. I know we can do a better job of clean coal technologies. I'm going to ask the	**McCain: "We Have To Have … Clean Coal Technology."** During the second 2008 Presidential Debate, McCain said, "We have to have all of the above, alternative fuels, wind, tide, solar, natural gas, clean coal technology. All of these things we can do as Americans and we can take on this mission and we can overcome it." [Second 2008 Presidential Debate via CNN.com, 10/7/08]

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Congress for $2 billion to make sure we have the cleanest coal technologies in the world." [Commission on Presidential Debates, 10/3/00]	

The McCain Of 2008 Contradicted The Policies Of the McCain Of 2000

2000 McCain	2008 McCain
McCain On Meeting With Putin: "Yes, I Would Meet With Him." During a 2000 Republican presidential debate in South Carolina, Larry King asked, "Senator, would you meet with -- assuming Mr. Putin is elected in March, would you want to meet with him as a candidate?" McCain said, "I'm not sure that would be necessary. It might be an interesting experience, because I know what's going on in Russia… So, yes, I would meet with him as a candidate, but I think that what I would really like to do is send a message to Mr. Putin, that we expect certain behavior out of the Russians, and particularly what's going in Chechnya today, a cessation of that brutality." [GOP South Carolina Debate via CNN, 2/15/00]	**McCain: "I Warned About Vladimir Putin."** In the second 2008 presidential debate, John McCain said, "But have no doubt that Russia's behavior is certainly outside the norms of behavior that we would expect for nations which are very wealthy, as Russia has become, because of their petro dollars. Now, long ago, I warned about Vladimir Putin. I said I looked into his eyes and saw three letters, a K, a G and a B. He has surrounded himself with former KGB apparatchiks." [Second 2008 Presidential Debate via CNN, 10/7/08]
McCain Said It Was A Mistake To Propose Massive Tax Cuts, Instead Advocated Saving Social Security & Medicare. During a 2000 debate in Michigan, John McCain said, "I believe we must save Social Security, we must pay down the debt, we have to make an investment in Medicare. For us to put all of the tax cuts -- all of the surplus into tax cuts, I think is not a conservative effort. I think it's a mistake. I think we should put that money into allowing Americans to be sure that their Social Security System will be there when they retire; that Medicare is helped; and most of all, let's pay down that $5.6 trillion debt we've laid on future generations of Americans." [GOP Debate in Michigan, 1/10/00]	**McCain: "We Have To Keep Americans' Taxes Low. All Americans' Taxes Low."** In the second 2008 presidential debate, John McCain said, "We have to keep Americans' taxes low. All Americans' taxes low. Let's not raise taxes on anybody today. We obviously have to stop this spending spree that's going on in Washington. Do you know that we've laid a $10 trillion debt on these young Americans who are here with us tonight, $500 billion of it we owe to China?" [Second 2008 Presidential Debate via CNN, 10/7/08]

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From:	"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> re47@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	2/8/2016 8:19:32 AM
Subject:	RE: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Some of the hard contrast is stuff from a very long time ago. The second graf makes it sound like he is currently proposing those things. Same for the national security graf.

From: Mandy Grunwald [mailto:gruncom@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2016 3:14 PM
To: re47@hillaryclinton.com
Cc: dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; david@db-research.com ; david@dixondavismedia.com ; jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com ; jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com ; jim.margolis@gmmb.com ; jbenenson@bsgco.com ; john@algpolling.com ; john.podesta@gmail.com ; nnayak@hillaryclinton.com ; oshur@hillaryclinton.com ; rich@dixondavismedia.com ; jandrews@jacompany.com
Subject: Re: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call - TESTING SUGGESTIONS

Jim Andrews and I have been pouring through the oppo and have a couple new possible negatives to suggest we test in the poll, since most of our attacks haven't been working. We also proposed language for a split message test between where we've been (ideas that sound good on paper/ can't wait) versus the new no barriers message -- stacked up against Sanders

Hope these are helpful.

YOU PAY FOR SOCIALISM

Bernie Sanders says he wants to restructure America's economy to make it work like it does in the socialist countries of Europe, providing things like free health care for everyone, free college for everyone, and free increases in Social Security for everyone. But Sanders does not mention that the middle class picks up the bill in these countries, paying nearly sixty percent of their income in taxes, three times what middle class Americans pay now.

FREE STUFF FOR EVERYBODY

Bernie Sanders said –quote– "all necessities of life must be provided free for people," and over the years he's proposed a radical restructuring of the entire American economy to make many things free, from the gas for people's cars to telephones and now free college and health care. To do this, Sanders proposed the complete government takeover of all oil companies, gas companies, electric utility companies, phone companies, health care companies, and all television networks. Combined, Sanders proposals would put the government in control of more than half of the American economy, but Sanders has never told anyone who would pay for all of this or how it would work.

SPEND, TAX AND COVER IT UP

Bernie Sanders' spending plans cost at least eighteen trillion dollars, would increase government spending by 50% and equal the size of the current national debt. And it's actually worse. Experts say Sanders health care plan alone is quote –twice as expensive as he says it is and they say Sanders plans would increase middle class taxes by one third, even for people making less than nineteen thousand a year, and Sanders plans would raise the top tax rate to seventy seven percent. The Boston Globe said –quote "Sanders is not leveling with voters" about the real cost of his spending plans.

EXTREME ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Bernie Sanders' extreme views would gut America's national security and make less safe. Sanders ran for Congress calling for the military budget to be cut by more than half and spending the money on a "major electrified rail system" instead. In Washington, Sanders sponsored a law to unilaterally terminate America's entire nuclear weapons program and sponsored another law to cut the nuclear submarine fleet in half. In Congress, Sanders proposed massive cuts in the intelligence budget and earlier said we should shut down the entire CIA because –quote they "might even be able to overthrow the U.S. government if they chose to." Sanders is so ideologically committed to military cuts that just last year he said –quote we shouldn't spend money on the military "even if it does create jobs."

TROUBLING PATTERN ON CAMPAIGNING

Bernie Sanders says he's running a different kind of campaign, but the record tells another story. Last year a Sanders affiliated political action committee was fined by the federal election commission and Sanders staffers were caught hacking into computers and stealing data on political opponents. This year, Sanders got caught running ads that said he was endorsed by newspapers that actually endorsed his opponent and was forced to remove ads from the air. Sanders got caught claiming endorsements from organizations that endorsed his opponent and the American Legion is now threatening to sue him for falsely claiming he has their support.

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TROUBLING PATTERN ON WOMEN

Bernie Sanders says he supports women's rights, but has a pattern of expressing and tolerating extreme views on women. Sanders once wrote that men fantasize about women being on their knees and women fantasize about being raped by three men simultaneously. Sanders wrote another article that connecting women's sexual behavior to breast cancer and said the way parents teach their daughter about sex –quote– "very well determine whether or not she will develop breast cancer." Now Sanders' supporters are flooding the internet with troubling comments about women quote –voting with their vaginas– and calling women who support Hillary Clinton quote –bitches.

BERNIE VS HRC MESSAGE TEST

BERNIE

Bernie Sanders says we have a corporate establishment whose greed is destroying the economy and a corrupt political establishment beholden to billionaires. Sanders says the billionaire class can't get huge tax breaks and hide profits overseas while the middle class is being hollowed out. Sanders says corporate America and the billionaire class have to start paying their fair share, and that to change things we need a political revolution to undo the power of corporate America and Wall Street. You sure can't change a corrupt system by taking its money. Sanders says one person alone can't change this country, but we can do it together.

HRC: BARRIERS

Hillary Clinton says we need to break down barriers of social injustice. Clinton says racism and sexism and other forms discrimination are not simply an effect of economic inequality, but are also part of the *cause* of economic inequality. Clinton says she will hold Wall Street accountable, but Wall Street is not gunning down young African Americans or denying immigrants a path to citizenship. Clinton says we can't move forward when women make seventy eight cents for each dollar men make, when people can be fired just because they're gay or when African American men go to prison at the same rate they graduate college. Clinton says that America can't reach its full potential when you're held back from reaching yours.

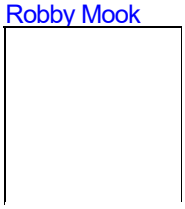
HRC CAN'T WAIT

Hillary Clinton says she is not interested in ideas that sound good on paper but will never make it the real world, and she won't make promises she can't keep. Clinton says the single mom who needs raise can't wait for plans that will never happen. The student with a mountain of debt can't wait. The grandmother who has to choose between paying for medicine and paying the rent can't wait. Clinton says she's spent a lifetime making a difference for people and getting results, from winning benefits for the National Guard and Reserve to winning health care for eight million children and she's ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work right now. Clinton says she's ready to tackle our toughest challenges and move our country forward.

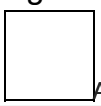
Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202-973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Robby Mook (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com >
To: gruncom <gruncom@aol.com >
Cc: dschwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >; david <david@db-research.com >; david <david@dixondavismedia.com >; jsullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; jpalmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; jim.margolis <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >; jbenenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >; john <john@algpolling.com >; john.podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; nnayak <nnayak@hillaryclinton.com >; oshur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; rich <rich@dixondavismedia.com >
Sent: Sun, Feb 7, 2016 4:19 pm
Subject: Agenda for 5:30 Post NH Messaging Call

Robby Mook has attached the following document:



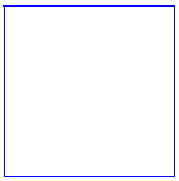
Agenda for 4:30 Post NH Messaging Call



Attached is an agenda/guide for our 5:30 call.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 7/21/2014 12:19:09 PM
Subject: Highlights: Hillary Clinton's Facebook Town Hall

Highlights: Hillary Clinton's Facebook Town Hall

Hillary Clinton visited Facebook headquarters today and participated in a virtual town hall with Facebook users. She took questions from across the country ranging from domestic priorities to foreign policy to personal questions about being an expectant grandmother. Here are some highlights:

Q: If you became president of the United States, what would be your first action item on the agenda?

A: Answering hypothetically... the next President should work to grow the economy, increase upward mobility, and decrease inequality. –Hillary

Q: What do you feel about Gaza? Then what will you do?

A: I hope there can be a ceasefire soon to end the conflict. I negotiated the last ceasefire in November of 2012 which I write about in my book and am fully supportive of Secretary Kerry's efforts to work with the Egyptians to forge a new ceasefire. –Hillary

Q : Secretary Clinton: What is your response to President Obama sayin earlier today that Putin has "direct responsibility" for the downing of MH17, and what can we do to bring justice to the families? How can we realistically hold Putin accountable with anything other than sanctions?

A: I agree with the President's comment today and we should do more to ensure a thorough investigation that not only respects those who were murdered in the attack on the plane, but also tries to find answers to who is responsible. In addition, we should work to bring our European allies together with us on tougher sanctions that would make it clear to Putin that there is a price to pay for this kind of behavior and we should encourage Europeans to start immediately to make sure they are less dependent on Russian energy so they are not intimidated. Finally, I would like to see more support given to the Ukrainians to guard their borders and to protect themselves. –Hillary

Q: Are you excited to be a grandmother?

A: I am so excited I cannot wait! –Hillary

Q: I am a school teacher and I love your book...I have not finished yet but so far so good....Will you do us the honor of running for President? Rose Marie

A: Thank you very much for teaching and thanks for the kind words about my book. –Hillary

Correct The Record by American Bridge is a strategic research and rapid response team designed to defend potential Democratic presidential candidates from right-wing, baseless attacks.

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###

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com>
To: "Jake Sullivan" <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/1/2015 10:15:53 AM
Subject: Iran statement

John, we're working on an Iran statement in anticipation of some kind of deal. Would love your thoughts.
Thanks
Dan

The understanding that the major world powers have reached with Iran is an important step toward a comprehensive agreement that would prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and strengthen the security of the United States, Israel, and the region. Ten years of pressure and diplomacy under both a Republican and Democratic president have gotten us to this point.

Getting the rest of the way to a final deal by June won't be easy, but it is absolutely crucial. The alternative – walking away – would reduce pressure on Iran. There would be no inspections, a fragmented coalition, faltering sanctions, and Iran could resume at full speed a nuclear program that has been frozen by our current efforts.

We're on the right track: a deal extending Iran's breakout time, reducing its uranium stockpiles, dismantling centrifuges in its underground facility, eliminating its effective capacity to produce weapons-grade plutonium, and establishing the kind of aggressive monitoring we need to police Iran's activities.

But I know well that the devil is always in the details in this kind of negotiation. So I strongly support President Obama and Secretary Kerry's efforts between now and June to fill in the details so that we can reach a final deal that verifiably cuts off all of Iran's path to a nuclear weapon.

We have to expect that Iran may try to cheat. That is why tough, unyielding verification is so vital -- the kind of verification that only a negotiated outcome can produce. We should also spell out clearly what the consequences will be if Iran breaches the deal. Sanctions relief should be carefully phased and sanctions should snap back immediately in the event of a violation. If Iran violates the agreement, all options should remain on the table. Any consequences for a breach would be Iran's responsibility.

Even with a successful nuclear deal, Iran will remain a great threats to peace and stability in the Middle East. Its aggression increases instability, fuels terrorism, and threatens the interests of our allies and partners.

So our efforts to deny Iran any pathway to a nuclear weapon has to be part of a comprehensive strategy to check its regional ambitions, strengthen our allies and partners, and revitalize American leadership in the Middle East. That means reinvigorating our partnership with Israel, no matter the recent differences, including increased support for Israeli missile defense systems. It means stepping up efforts to curb Iran's ballistic missile programs and enforce sanctions related to its support for terrorists and violations of human rights. And it means expanding security cooperation with our partners in the Gulf, including new security assurances specific to potential Iranian aggression. We have to push back on Iran's destabilizing actions across the board, confront terrorism, and strengthen the hand of moderate forces in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon. To be clear, none of these problems would be solved by another U.S. ground war in the Middle East. But we have many tools of American power that will help partners prevail: military and economic assistance, humanitarian support, diplomatic pressure, and counterterrorism actions.

There is much to do and much more to say in the months ahead. But with clear-eyed and constant American leadership, we can protect our national interests, keep our people safe, defend our allies and partners, and limit Iran's ability to threaten the region and the world.

Should Congress be able to weigh in on the deal?

Congress, of course, should have a role. But, it is important to let President Obama complete these negotiations. When there is a final, comprehensive deal, Congress and the administration should work out together the appropriate role so that we are maximizing our leverage and flexibility.

Are there things you would change about the deal?

It's not a perfect deal. And I might have approached certainly issues differently -- that's just the nature of this kind of diplomacy. But it's not helpful to be a Monday morning quarterback from thousands of miles away. That's particularly true when the deal that is developing is so much better than any alternatives.

Wouldn't military action do more to stop Iran going nuclear?

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The best estimates are that a strike might delay Iran by 3 years. But it would also harden Iran's determination and shatter the international consensus needed for sanctions. So in the short term, it might delay Iran a bit more than a deal. In the longer term, it would ensure that the extreme mullahs harden their grip on power and find a way to break out and go nuclear.

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/3/2014 2:32:09 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Friday October 3, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Friday October 3, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Associated Press: "Clinton Feels 'Grandmother Glow' from Charlotte"

"Speaking to a national convention of female real estate professionals, the former secretary of state and potential 2016 Democratic presidential contender called on business and political leaders to close the gap in wages and leadership positions between men and women."

CNN: "New to Hillary Clinton's stump speech: Her granddaughter"

"Hillary Clinton rolled out a new addition to her usual stump speech geared towards women empowerment on Thursday: Her new granddaughter Charlotte."

ABC News blog: The Note: "Hillary Clinton Adds Key Line to Pre-2016 Stump Speech"

"'I think my granddaughter has just as much God-given potential as a boy who was born in that hospital on the same day,' Clinton told the crowd at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel, adding, 'I just believe that. That's the way I was raised.'"

NBC 6 (South Florida): "Hillary Clinton Signs Books in Coral Gables"

"Thousands waited hours in the sun to see Former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Thursday in South Florida."

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Crist source confirms to Fox News."

Foreign Policy: "Leave It to Hillary"

"Clinton, who was too centrist for the political swing sought by the public in 2008, may be just right for a public desirous of splitting the difference between the shortcomings of one president who thought he could do it all unilaterally and another who built great coalitions to assist him in postponing problems until his successor could take office."

Politico Magazine: Amb. Christopher R. Hill: "They Sent Me to Iraq. Then They Ignored Me."

"Exhilarated and grateful, I stood on the edge of the landing zone in a line with a few other embassy personnel, all of us waving farewell to our secretary with the expectation she would be back soon. Three months later, Vice President Joe Biden took the lead on Iraq policy and she never returned."

MSNBC: "The sleeper issue of the 2016 Democratic primary"

"Fracking is quickly emerging as an under-the-radar issue likely to influence the Democratic presidential primary in 2016, inflaming passionate opposition among the party's base."

The Week: "Can Bill Clinton save the Senate for Democrats?"

"Whether or not Bill Clinton can pull Pryor or other red-state Democrats across the finish line remains to be seen."

Articles:

Associated Press: "Clinton Feels 'Grandmother Glow' from Charlotte"

By Michael J. Mishak

October 2, 4:05 p.m. EDT

As she weighs another bid for the White House, Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday she has a "grandmother glow" that's fueling her campaign for female empowerment and gender equality around the world.

Speaking to a national convention of female real estate professionals, the former secretary of state and potential 2016 Democratic presidential contender called on business and political leaders to close the gap in wages and leadership positions between men and women.

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Clinton, who joked that she felt that glow after the recent birth of her first grandchild, Charlotte, said she wanted all women to grow up in a world of "full participation and shared prosperity."

"I think my granddaughter has just as much God-given potential as a boy who was born in that hospital on the same day," she said.

In a speech that drew heavily on her own professional and personal experiences - including several references to her bruising presidential campaign in 2008 - Clinton said women face double standards in business and politics and that governments should work to enact policies that break down barriers to equal opportunity. Her remarks were met with standing ovations.

"These ceilings I'm describing don't just keep down women, they hold back entire economies and countries," she said, "because no country can truly thrive by denying the contributions of half of its people."

Clinton has repeatedly hit those themes as she travels the campaign trail to help Democrats in the midterm elections. On Thursday, she said the U.S. should eliminate what she called the "motherhood penalty" by requiring paid leave for new mothers. The measure, she said, would pave the way for more women to participate in the workforce.

"Laws matter," Clinton said. "I believe 100 percent in women being able to make responsible choices, but it's hardly a choice if you're working at a low-wage job, you get no leave and you can't even afford to bond with your baby because you have to get back to work."

Clinton was also in South Florida to promote her book about her tenure as the nation's top diplomat and to help Democrat Charlie Crist raise money for his gubernatorial campaign. Crist, a former Republican governor, is locked in a tight race with GOP Gov. Rick Scott, who has outspent the Democratic nominee by a 2-1 margin in television advertising.

Clinton has said she expects to make a decision on a White House bid by the beginning of next year. The appearances help increase her exposure to voters in the nation's largest swing-voting state and allow her to reconnect with some of the same big-money donors who supported her and her husband's past political campaigns.

CNN: "New to Hillary Clinton's stump speech: Her granddaughter"

By Dan Merica

October 2, 2014, 6:10 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton rolled out a new addition to her usual stump speech geared towards women empowerment on Thursday: Her new granddaughter Charlotte.

"I think my granddaughter has just as much God-given potential as a boy born in that hospital on the same day," the former Secretary of State said at the Commercial Real Estate Women Network Convention in Miami.

Bill and Hillary Clinton became grandparents last week when their only daughter, Chelsea, gave birth to Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky on Friday, Sept. 26 in New York City.

While it is obvious that that line is new for Hillary Clinton -- the baby was just born last week -- she was more overt in mentioning her granddaughter as a way to drive home her points.

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Clinton's speech both opened and closed with a mention of her new granddaughter.

When the former secretary of state took the stage, a woman shouted, "You look beautiful!"

Clinton laughed and said, "I think it is a grandmother glow."

"She is doing great," Clinton said of Charlotte. "She is the most perfect, most beautiful, smartest five day old you will ever know."

After delivering a speech that stressed the importance offering an equal playing field to women, Clinton closed her speech stating that with the right policies, her vision of equal pay, paid leave and affordable child care could be attained.

That, Clinton said, is "the kind of country I want my granddaughter growing up in."

Charlotte was also on the minds of many of the attendees -- and participants -- in Thursday's conference. While on stage with Clinton, Judy Nitsch, the president of CREW, asked what advice she will have for Charlotte when she gets older.

"One is do the very best you can at everything you do... but learn from your mistake and your failures," Clinton said. "Second, be kind. Try to find a time for kindness every single day."

Her last piece of advice was something, Clinton said, she hoped to model for her new granddaughter.

"Find something you are passionate about, that you love to do," Clinton said. "And again, pursue it. It can be anything, it can be a sports, it can be the arts, it can be service. Find something that you really feel invested in."

ABC News blog: The Note: "Hillary Clinton Adds Key Line to Pre-2016 Stump Speech"

By Liz Kreutz

October 2, 2014, 3:48 p.m. EDT

Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky is just five days old and already appears to be a living embodiment of themes her grandmother, Hillary Clinton, could put to use on the campaign trail.

During her prepared remarks at a women's real estate convention in Miami this afternoon, the former secretary of state used a line never heard before on her paid-speaking circuit: one about the future for her new granddaughter.

"I think my granddaughter has just as much God-given potential as a boy who was born in that hospital on the same day," Clinton told the crowd at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel, adding, "I just believe that. That's the way I was raised."

Chelsea Clinton's daughter, Charlotte, was born last week in New York City and is the first grandchild for Bill and Hillary Clinton. Thursday's one-

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day visit to Miami is the first time Clinton has traveled outside of the state since the baby's birth. Earlier this week, she cancelled her appearance at two other fundraising events in Washington, D.C., because of the new baby.

In addition to her keynote at the CREW convention this afternoon, Clinton is also holding a book signing for her new memoir, "Hard Choices," and campaigning for Florida's Democratic candidate for governor, Charlie Crist.

While Clinton still says she has not made a decision about running for president, equality for women and girls is an issue very close to her and one she will likely bring with her on the campaign trail should she decide to run.

Her comments today indicate that the newest addition to the family is well-positioned to play a role in Clinton 2016 – even if just symbolically.

NBC 6 (South Florida): "Hillary Clinton Signs Books in Coral Gables"

[No Writer Mentioned]

October 2, 2014, 8:39 p.m. EDT

Thousands waited hours in the sun to see Former First Lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Thursday in South Florida.

Clinton was signing copies of her new book "Hard Choices" at Books & Books at 265 Aragon Ave. in Coral Gables.

There, she spoke about her book and about becoming a grandmother just a few days ago, saying, "I highly recommend it!"

Earlier on Thursday, Clinton spoke at the Crew Network Convention & Marketplace at the Loews Hotel in Miami Beach.

Her message for the 1,200 professional women at the event was one of empowerment.

"You can't get tied into knots by what others say and think, because we all know women sometimes get judged by different criteria -- even powerful women in powerful positions," she said.

Karyl Argamasilla, with the Miami Crew chapter, said she took Clinton's message to heart.

"At the end of the day, she's someone who has broken all the glass ceilings," Argamasilla said.

At one point, a woman in the audience shouted out, "2016!" -- the only mention of a possible presidential run during Clinton's Miami stops. But those in attendance said they don't doubt she'll be joining the race.

"She's already been to Iowa," said Steve Sails. "She's running."

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Fox News: "Hillary Clinton raises $1M for Dem Florida gov candidate Crist at fundraiser"

[No Writer Mentioned]

October 2, 2014

Hillary Clinton raised $1 million for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist in a closed-door fundraiser in Coral Gables Thursday night, a Crist source confirms to Fox News.

The former secretary of state and potential 2016 Democratic presidential contender headlined the fundraiser for Crist, a former Republican governor who is locked in a tight race with GOP Gov. Rick Scott.

Scott has outspent the Democratic nominee by a 2-1 margin in television advertising.

Clinton also spoke to a national convention of female real estate professionals on Thursday, and said her newborn granddaughter Charlotte is fueling her campaign for female empowerment and gender equality around the world.

Clinton joked that she felt a "grandmother glow" after Charlotte's birth, and said she wanted all women to grow up in a world of "full participation and shared prosperity."

"I think my granddaughter has just as much God-given potential as a boy who was born in that hospital on the same day," she said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Foreign Policy: "Leave It to Hillary"

By David Rothkopf

October 2, 2014

[Subtitle:] The president arrives at a turning point, but it's unclear whether it means a new Obama or a punt to tomorrow.

There is a scenario that one can imagine is unspooling in the mental multiplexes of the president and his top White House advisors. It is Christmas time. Stockings everywhere are filled to overflowing due to a resurgent U.S. economy. In Iraq and Syria, the Islamic State is beginning to wither under the pressure of the American-led coalition. In Afghanistan, a new government has repaired relations with the United States, and an agreement to leave a smallish U.S. military force in place promises to ensure stability for years to come. And a deal has been reached -- or is within reach -- for the United States and Iran that reduces the threat that Tehran will soon be overseeing a nuclear weapons arsenal.

Sitting by a crackling fire, Barack Obama (who in the late summer of 2014 seemed on the verge of foreign-policy ignominy thanks to a string of lousy policies and bad luck) lifts his mug of eggnog high and toasts his team for engineering a remarkable turnaround. He has regained his mojo, and architects are scrambling to add back the foreign-policy wing to the plans for the Obama presidential library. No more Ditherer-in-Chief or

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Hamlet-on-the-Potomac jokes. The most powerful man in the world has re-entered the building!

Of course, in order for this scenario to play out a number of things must go very well, and the public must willingly sets aside two major categories of knowledge: everything they know about the past and everything they might reasonably expect regarding the future.

Setting aside for a moment the economy -- which is actually an area where the president and his team have made huge progress for which they neither give themselves nor receive enough credit -- the obstacles to this scenario on the foreign-policy front are formidable. The bombings that the United States conducts in Iraq and Syria need to do more than blow up the occasional Humvee or armed pickup truck; some capable ground force needs to take advantage of the impact these assaults do have. For such a mobile enemy to be defeated, key elements of its forces need to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and sustain real damage, especially to the enemy's leadership ranks. In Afghanistan, the administration not only needs to cut a suitable deal, but the new government has to gather and maintain support, political enemies need to refrain from undercutting it, and the Taliban and other opposition forces need to sit on their hands. Finally, as far as Iran is concerned, not only does a deal have to be struck, but the political conditions associated with the deal have to be acceptable in both Washington and Tehran. This new deal cannot trigger new sanctions from the United States or new provocations from Iranian hard-liners -- to say nothing of the reactions that might come from America's allies like Israel or those central to the anti-Islamic State coalition.

Experience suggests that all these things will be hard to achieve. It also suggests that other issues may emerge that could overshadow (or call into question) the president's foreign-policy rebound -- whether Vladimir Putin in Ukraine, being linked to protests in Hong Kong, or self-inflicted wounds like the president's ill-considered move to blame his lag in addressing the Islamic State threat on an intelligence community that had, in fact, warned him of the group's rise since it began last year. Experience also suggests that the approach the coalition is taking to defeat the Islamic State -- air power combined with dubious ground-force support -- is not going to work, that forces of instability have the upper hand in Afghanistan (both inside the government and out), and that even if Iran were to truly forswear nuclear weapons, it could still be a big thorn in the side of U.S. interests (as it has been for the past three decades, during which time it has never had, of course, nuclear weapons). All of this means that not only is the happy holiday scenario unlikely to unfold exactly as described, but even the momentary lift Obama's foreign policy is experiencing this fall is likely to dissipate when longer-term historical trends start to regain the upper hand.

But one can hope. And there is no denying that the president has been both bolder in addressing the Islamic State crisis than he appeared just weeks ago and has been pretty stalwart (as has his State Department team) in pursuing the goals in Afghanistan and Iran that have been important goals of his since he took office.

But there is another way to interpret recent moves and foreign-policy initiatives of the administration. They do not represent a change for the president. Instead, they are all really just a continuation of past policies and characteristics of how Obama deals with foreign policy. In each case, scratch the shiny surface rhetoric and one finds that what lies beneath is a common impulse -- to postpone many of the toughest choices associated with addressing major problems until after the president has left office. In short, the goal is to get out of the White House in one piece and leave the hard work to Hillary.

Because hopes and wishes and spin of the White House aside, most of these U.S. policies seem to have been conceived with the idea of doing just as much as is necessary to handle the short-term political needs of the president while creating as little risk as possible for him during the remainder of his term in office. Indeed, you don't have to take my word for it.

The president's own assertion that his primary foreign-policy goal is only to hit "singles" and "doubles" and not "do stupid shit" drives the message home with absolute clarity.

Take the "war" against the Islamic State. First, the president has been resisting action to contain the rising threats associated with the conflict in Syria for three years. Two-hundred thousand people have died there; chemical weapons were used more than a dozen times; foreign fighters flocked to the fractured state; extremist groups flourished with the help of America's "friends"; and still nothing was done. Indeed, action was only taken when, after a series of gaffes and some horrifying videos of beheadings, the president was at the absolute nadir of his foreign-policy standing (doing little to effectively stand up to Putin didn't help). Indeed, the threat he seemed most concerned with came not from the Islamic State but from public opinion.

Wait, you say, don't be so cynical. Obama took action.

Well, did he? And was it designed to actually solve the principal threat to U.S. national security the Islamic State represents? The United States has only really committed to half its "degrade and defeat" formula regarding the extremist group. America may degrade it. But there is not a shred of evidence or even a stated belief on the part of this administration that the United States will, during Obama's term of office, defeat it. The Pentagon's own spokesperson said the effort will take three or four or perhaps five or six or even more years -- in other words, this campaign will continue into the next administration. While we have a coalition, virtually none of its members is committed to what is necessary to defeating the Islamic State -- boots on the ground. (We'll see what Turkey does in the wake of its vote Thursday, Oct. 2, to commit military force to the anti-

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Islamic State effort.) In fact, the public still doesn't know what the commitments of each of the members is. This is a formula for keeping a lid on a problem, for managing it -- not for solving it.

Think about it from another perspective. Yes, terrorists are tricky and terrible. But the Islamic State is a force of only 20,000 to 30,000 that is roughly the size of the active military in the Dominican Republic. Or, the population of my hometown of Summit, New Jersey. By comparison, say, roughly 20 million people served in the German army during World War II -- which took six years to wage, of which the United States fought for three and a half. The Islamic State has no air force, no navy, no dependable resource base on which to draw; it has had little training and is using lousy equipment. Still we estimate that even if we take 26 of the richest and most powerful nations on Earth, including its sole superpower, and "commit" to fighting Islamic State forces, we will still probably be fighting them six years from now. That's not a commitment. That's an effort to keep a lid on things.

Further, of course, the real problem is not the Islamic State -- it is the spreading, virulent militant extremism that the president has said he has no real desire to address, categorizing it as a "generational" problem for regional powers to handle even though it is clear its spread could destabilize large swaths of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Further, even if we beat back the Islamic State, we have no clear plan (or even a coherent policy) for how we will deal with the way that may strengthen the group's extremist enemies in Syria, the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad, or forces in Iraq that might not be committed to the Sunni empowerment that is essential to truly stabilizing that country.

As for Afghanistan, literally no one I know in the U.S. government or the NGO community who deals with the country believes the new Afghan government will be able to maintain control without a significant U.S. force (at least 10,000 or so) remaining in country, providing stability that will last precisely until the day they leave. In the meantime, all expect the Taliban to gain ground and political rivalries and corruption to eat away at the government like a cancer. In short, again, the best deals we are striking now are only likely to postpone the big issues until the term of the next president.

When considering the Iran deal, since both sides want to reach an agreement, there are really only two possibilities: Either a deal will be struck by the deadline in November, or both sides will find a way to prolong talks. A permanent breakdown is just not going to happen. The most likely outcome is a phased series of steps to dismantle some of Iran's program to be accompanied by the sanctions relief the Iranians want and need. The first steps will be ones that the U.S. president can do without Congress. If Congress passes new sanctions, the president will veto them. Dealing with the sanctions that require congressional action will likely be delayed until, well, who knows -- maybe after the next president is in place. And of course, that president will have to deal with whether Iran is holding up its end of the deal, whether it is continuing to destabilize the region via Hezbollah, whether reformers can maintain their roles in the face of hard-line pushback, and the hard part of enforcing a deal in which, in all likelihood, the Iranians will get more of what they want (economic normalization) than we get of what we want (delaying their ability to get nuclear weapons -- we've already tacitly accepted the idea of their being able to build them within one year of breaking our agreement).

With Putin, he will get all he wants, and we will not take any steps to preclude him from his next aggressive action. That too will be left for the next president. Dealing with the spread of violent extremism -- for the next president. Re-engaging with the necessary pivot to Asia -- likely left to the person who best championed that pivot in the first place, Hillary Clinton. The list goes on and is too long to cover here. (Also yes, I get it. Hillary may not run, may not be the candidate, may not beat a Republican challenger. But right now, I'll take that bet. She's the one person in the United States of America most likely to be its next president and thus the one person most likely to have to deal with all of Obama's unfinished business.)

And therefore, in all likelihood, President Hillary Clinton's first major foreign-policy challenge will be much like that which faced President Barack Obama -- cleaning up the messes of her predecessor and sending a message to the world that she will not make the same mistakes. Perhaps that is inevitable. We have swung from one extreme to another, too much action to too little, too much appetite for risk to too little, too much of a conviction of America's centrality to world affairs to too little. Clinton, who was too centrist for the political swing sought by the public in 2008, may be just right for a public desirous of splitting the difference between the shortcomings of one president who thought he could do it all unilaterally and another who built great coalitions to assist him in postponing problems until his successor could take office.

Politico Magazine: Amb. Christopher R. Hill: "They Sent Me to Iraq. Then They Ignored Me."

By Amb. Christopher R. Hill

October 2, 2014

It was late April of 2009, and Hillary Clinton was coming to Iraq for her first official trip as secretary of state. Normally, visits by a secretary of state

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are a logistical nightmare for an embassy. As François Truffaut once said of making films: They start as an effort to create a masterpiece, and end as something you just want to get over with. But Embassy Baghdad was the visitor capital of the world. It had an entire “visits unit” staffed with former military personnel, more political and economic officers for note-taking than any embassy I had ever seen in the world, and logistical strengths in terms of a motor pool that were second to none. Managing the highly choreographed visit of a secretary of state would pose no strain on the embassy. I decided not to worry. After all, I was sure Clinton would be coming every few months.

I had arrived myself in Baghdad only hours before as America’s new ambassador, in what was to be my final posting after a three-decade-long Foreign Service career that had taken me from the front lines of the Balkans conflict and the historic Dayton peace conference to Poland and South Korea. Much of what I saw on my arrival was the the military’s effort to set up the State Department as the successor organization in charge of Iraq. But letting go is hard to do, and the military was clearly uncertain whether the State Department, much less Embassy Baghdad, was ready for the responsibility. The military and its civilian camp followers were used to running everything in Iraq. Iraqi national security meetings held on Sunday nights included U.S. military officials as well as (for civilian sensitivities) the U.S. and British ambassadors, even though the British had pulled their troops out and could not even agree with the Iraqis on a residual maritime patrolling mission. I was appalled by the idea that anyone but Iraqis should be in attendance at an Iraqi national security meeting, but was told to avoid thinking that anything in Iraq should be what is considered normal elsewhere.

I soon learned that the word normal, which I had always thought was on balance a good thing, was taken as a sign that the person did not really understand Iraq.

After she arrived, Secretary Clinton put herself through a grueling day: meetings with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and senior Iraqi officials, and women who had lost their husbands to war and violence (alas, sometimes at the hands of our forces). Also, a kind of holdover from her days on the campaign trail: the proverbial town meeting with all sorts of people—young, old, women, men, muftis, seculars in gray suits, sheiks in flowing robes and keffiyehs, women in black chadors and checkered shemaghs, just about everybody.

Finally, at the end of the long day there was a meeting with the U.S. Embassy staff in the large atrium of the half-billion-dollar embassy. Secretary Clinton, seeming to make eye contact with every person in the room, spoke eloquently and passionately, and with a sincerity that brought tears to some eyes. She said how important Iraq was to her, a top-tier issue, and how much she valued the staff at this embassy. She kindly introduced me as the ambassador she would leave behind, and said she would look forward to working with this embassy in the years ahead.

To thunderous applause, she walked the rope line—connecting, it seemed, with everyone she shook hands with or simply touched. She took photos effortlessly with people, waited patiently as employees turned amateur photographers fumbled to find the flash switch on their cell phone cameras. She finally made her exit out of the embassy to the waiting car, her nervous security detail beginning to breathe a sigh of relieve that it was all coming to an end soon. I said goodbye in the car on the edge of the helicopter landing pad, and she made clear that I should call her whenever I needed her help—and I would really need help, she said in mock seriousness.

Exhilarated and grateful, I stood on the edge of the landing zone in a line with a few other embassy personnel, all of us waving farewell to our secretary with the expectation she would be back soon.

Three months later, Vice President Joe Biden took the lead on Iraq policy and she never returned.

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Soon after I arrived in Iraq, I was asked to produce a weekly memo for the president to update him on what was going on. This request turned into a month-long tug of war between the National Security Council staff and the State Department, because if I was to write a regular memo, surely it should be addressed to my direct boss, Secretary Clinton, first. Finally, in a decision worthy of King Solomon, it was decided that the memo would go to both the president and the secretary, but it would first make its way to the State Department, addressed “Madam Secretary,” so that the secretary could read and reflect on it, then forward it on to the president with her own cover note.

Yet despite the ferocious fight the State Department had put up to make sure these memos did not go directly to the White House, in 15 months of writing them, I never received a single comment on them from anyone in the State Department. President Obama was the only person I ever heard from.

It was increasingly unclear just who was doing what in the first six months of the Obama administration. An embassy, especially a large player like Embassy Baghdad, needs someone in D.C. to watch its back. I had had high hopes that Under Secretary Bill Burns would play that role, but he seemed to have been asked to do everything not Iraq, including taking on the task of ensuring that Iran policy would not be taken over by the White House with the creation of a special envoy position. Although special envoy Dennis Ross, a former Middle East envoy and an internationally

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respected expert on the region, was to sit at the department, the ease with which he enjoyed relationships in the White House (indeed, all across Washington) made it understandable why the secretary had wanted a crafty operator like Bill to shadow that issue.

The decision to pull Bill away from Iraq meant that our backstop would be Deputy Secretary James Steinberg. Although a political appointee, Jim had had vast experience in the State Department and the White House during the Clinton administration and could be counted on as a steady presence in the interagency process, often a microwave cookbook of bad, half-baked ideas (such as micromanaging what kind of candidate lists to have in the Iraqi election law). Jim had an appetite for facts and figures and a talent for taking any idea, good or bad, and analyzing the perils of it in such a way that soon everyone would want to wheel it back into the garage for further work. Jim saved people from themselves on a daily basis.

But within months, there were rumors that Jim was unhappy with his role at State. Jim was above all a foreign policy realist, especially on China, where he had delivered a thoughtful speech on the need to overcome “strategic mistrust” (during the first term of the Obama administration the word strategic was often married with another word, for example patience, to convey thoughtfulness in foreign policy), but his reflections on China were not necessarily what the administration was looking for at the time. He seemed increasingly unhappy with the more strident tone the Obama administration was taking on China and other issues. I knew he could not be counted on for long to carry water for us back in Washington.

The State Department’s Near Eastern Affairs Bureau leadership was often criticized for being inadequately seized with Israel’s agenda. Many of NEA’s leaders had already done their Iraq time and had no intention of doing any more if they could avoid it. Iraq, so the thinking went, was someone else’s problem—especially the military’s, and rarely did Shia-led Iraq help on any regional issues that NEA was concerned about. Assistant Secretary Jeff Feltman, a veteran Arabist who had had a career in the region in small but important posts, culminating as ambassador in war-torn Lebanon, seemed particularly distressed by Iraq, insofar as it caused him problems with the rest of the region and with the Pentagon suspicions that the State Department lacked commitment.

In the end it was increasingly clear that Iraq remained the military’s problem, not the State Department’s. It is not to say that Iraq was not on people’s minds in Washington. But it was increasingly a legacy issue, a matter of keeping faith with our troops rather than seeing Iraq as a strategic issue in the region.

Iraq got the bureaucratic reputation as a loser, something to stay away from. No question, Shia-led Iraq was the black sheep of the region, with no natural allies anywhere.

Shia-led Iraq also did not fit into any broader theme that the administration was trying to accomplish in the Middle East. The launching of former Senate majority leader George Mitchell’s mission as the Middle East envoy had been grounded almost immediately by the decision to press the Israelis for a settlement freeze as a precondition to the resumption of talks. In June 2009, Mitchell’s team began to consider options for how to approach President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus to explore whether there might be flexibility on the issue of the Golan Heights. CENTCOM commander David Petraeus had taken the view that the Syrians had in fact been helpful on the increasingly peaceful border with Iraq, and that this level of cooperation should be rewarded with a senior U.S. trip to Damascus and discussions with Assad about broader issues. A senior-level trip to Damascus on Middle East peace would be controversial enough, so a cover story was concocted in which the discussion would involve border stability with Iraq.

The department asked me to inform Maliki of our intention to talk with Assad, and to reassure him that the discussions were very preliminary, and that if they went anywhere they would surely not involve any requests made of the Iraqis.

I had already met with Maliki on several occasions in my first few weeks at post. He was intelligent and thoughtful, tending to get down to business faster than the average Iraqi politician. He had a dry sense of humor, and some irony that also eluded many of his contemporaries, not to speak of Washington visitors often frustrated at the lack of any English-language capacity. Apart from saying “very good” excessively to visitors, Maliki appeared to offer very little, though. Extremely thin-skinned, he devoted much of his interpersonal skills to detecting any slights, real or imagined. Fortunately, this extreme sensitivity did not appear to extend to the casual clothing sometimes chosen by Washington visitors to the war zone. Maliki wore dark suits and dark neckties seemingly every day of the year.

He listened to the reassurances I offered on Syria, and thanked me for the heads-up. Then, at first politely, and later not so, he got to the point, “You Americans have no idea what you are dealing with in that regime,” he said. “Everything for those people is a negotiation, like buying fruit in a market.” He gestured at the luncheon table. “If you even mention us [Iraq], Assad will see it as something you are concerned about losing and will make you pay in the negotiation for it. Please do not even say the word ‘Iraq’ to him. Just keep it on your Middle East negotiations. That is your business, not mine.” OK, I thought. That became a typical meeting with Maliki. Not a lot of fun, but at least I know where he stood.

So much, I thought, for the idea that Maliki had some kind of special relations with the Assad regime. I sent the cable in to the department. Within a few days I learned from the embassy’s political-military counselor, Michael Corbin, who was soon to become the Iran-Iraq deputy assistant secretary and briefly visiting Washington in preparation for that assignment, that the proverbial road to Damascus had been closed for permanent

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repair. Not that I had thought it a particularly good idea to go there in the first place, but I asked Michael why the idea had been shelved, and whether Maliki's skepticism had played any role.

"No idea," he told me, reflecting the chaotic information flow in Washington.

On June 30, 2009, Maliki gave a speech to announce a major development in the U.S.-Iraqi Security Agreement. The occasion was the anniversary of the 2003 assassination of the Iraqi Shia leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim. After a few words in memory of the fallen ayatollah, Maliki shifted gears to describe the moment that U.S. forces would withdraw from populated areas as a great victory for the Iraqi people, which did not sit well with those who had backed the war effort. After all, Maliki was suggesting that what had happened was the U.S. forces had in effect been ordered to retreat. But as he talked more about the sacrifice that must attend such a great victory, I began to understand better what he was saying. In essence, Maliki was acknowledging that the Iraqi forces that would soon take over checkpoints and mobile patrols would have their problems doing so. He was bracing people for more casualties to follow.

I understood what he was saying, but it sure didn't win him any friends in Washington. The U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. Ray Odierno, spoke with him soon thereafter to tell him he needed to make a gesture, suggesting that during his upcoming visit to Washington he visit Arlington National Cemetery and lay a wreath. He did so, but it was too little, too late. Maliki's reputation never recovered in Washington, and complaints about him, whether in matters of human rights or relations with Sunni neighbors, or his attitudes toward Americans, or political alliances within Iraq, all seemed to reinforce each other with the conclusion that Iraq would be better off with a new prime minister, perhaps one who did not seem systematically to upset every conceivable constituent group. Nonetheless, Maliki was a formidable player who could outwork and often outthink his rivals. For years, U.S. officials had looked for a strong Iraqi leader, and having found one they objected to the fact that he didn't do what he was told. As my late colleague from the Bosnian conflict, Amb. Bob Frasure, had once said about a certain Balkan leader, "We wanted a junkyard dog like this for a long time. Why would people expect him to start sitting in our lap?"

The Washington-based concerns about Maliki, reinforced by the complaints from other Arab countries, gave rise to the view that somehow we needed to replace him, as if this were our responsibility let alone within our capability. Foreign ambassadors in Baghdad, having heard the discontent reported by their colleagues in Washington, came to my embassy to ask me, "So, how are you going to get rid of him?" as if I had instructions to do so.

My sense was that these foreign ambassadors were hearing typical Washington grousing and were then pole-vaulting to the conclusion that we were hatching a plan. Obviously that was not the case, but I could tell that the talk was reaching the ever-paranoid Maliki and not helping our relationship with him. I could see that a similar process was unwinding in Afghanistan. Even if the United States were a latter-day Roman Empire as some neocon pundits seemed to want, we still have to work with local leaders like Maliki and Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai. Reports that we were trying to get rid of them didn't help. But even if we wanted to topple Maliki, you can't beat something with nothing, and the Iraqi political landscape was not exactly blooming with new political prospects.

As sparse as that landscape looked to me, I never lacked for advice coming from Washington, where some seemed to think that choosing Iraqi leaders was akin to forming a fantasy football team. People who had served in Iraq, and for whom time froze when they left, increasingly manned Iraq policy. Thus I was treated to suggestions, often in the form of admonishments, as to why I hadn't recently visited such-and-such a politician, who, I was to glean, had been some kind of hot prospect back in 2004 and 2005.

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The fall of 2009 was a daily grind in Iraq's political corridors as we lobbied the parties for the passage of an election law, on the basis of which there could be an election in early 2010. The Iraqis understood they needed to agree on an election law, but they would do so on their timetable, not ours. Hurrying them, as was Washington's instinct to do, seemed to reinforce in the Iraqi minds that what we really wanted was to get an election, a new government, and pull our troops out.

On Nov. 8, the Iraqi Council of Representatives overwhelmingly approved an election law, but two weeks later Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, the Sunni representative to the collective presidency—which also consisted of the president, the Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, and the vice president, the Shia politician Adel Abd al-Mahdi—used the power vested as a member of the presidency to veto the law.

Hashimi's main line of concern with me was the perfidy of the Shia and Kurds, and with Odierno he spent the lion's share of his time seeking the immediate release of nefarious persons inexplicably, in his view, picked up by U.S. forces and held in detention centers. Ray always politely agreed to look into the matter, and would send back his political advisor to Hashimi with the bad news that the individuals in question could not be released at this time. The British-trained Hashimi would take advantage of Ray's British political adviser to give a further spin on how bad things were—and how they were getting worse—due, of course, to the Americans. He then would give her still more lists of persons in detention who in his view had done nothing wrong.

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Hashimi vetoed the election law based on an issue that was very much a Sunni concern, but which had not played a major role during the parliamentary discussion of the law—the right of out-of-country Iraqis (read: Sunni refugees) to vote. Within weeks, a compromise was worked out. Vice President Biden, Washington's point man on Iraq, and President Obama were pressed into service making telephone calls to senior officials, including offering a Washington visit for Massoud Barzani, the president of Iraqi Kurdistan.

I welcomed Obama's and Biden's direct interest, but I knew that these senior-level phone calls were adding to the perception that the United States was desperate for an election law so that U.S. troops could be withdrawn. By signaling our interest in withdrawal, we began to lose more influence on the ground.

The high-level calls had another unhelpful impact on our efforts. They became part of the toolbox, meaning that whenever there was an impasse on the ground, the idea of ginning up a telephone call quickly emerged on the to-do list. Senior phone calls also had still another negative impact on our efforts: Washington bureaucrats went operational. Thus we began to receive missives offering such nuggets of advice as "Never ignore Hashimi!" Of course, we had been in regular contact with him, but he wasn't the great hope that some of these veterans of the early years had thought. Some of the Washington micromanagement extended to offering me advice as to who from the embassy I should bring along for meetings with Maliki and others. It all added up to an impression that Washington wanted out of Iraq.

The parliamentary election on March 7, 2010, was a peaceful day. U.S. troops, working with Iraqi counterparts, ensured security throughout the country, and the number of incidents was remarkably low. The election results took weeks to tabulate, and when they finally came in they were very close. Ayad Allawi's Iraq National Party, or Iraqiyya, a party that was disproportionately Sunni, won 91 seats, while Maliki's State of Law coalition had 89 seats. A total of 163 seats would be needed to gain a majority of the 325-seat Council of Representatives, and it meant that the two top coalitions would be off to the races. Many of those seats would be controlled by the Kurds, and therefore by Barzani, who mistrusted both Maliki and Allawi.

The difference between Maliki's and Allawi's approaches was striking. Maliki went to work, while Allawi went to CNN. Anytime I visited the prime minister's office I would have to pass a row of tribal chiefs waiting their turn to be wooed with some political favor in return for their willingness to support Maliki. Allawi thought it was enough to get on CNN to accuse Maliki of becoming the "new Saddam." Allawi also thought that what became known as the government formation period was a good occasion to fly around the Middle East and dump on Maliki.

According to a Kurdish leader with good connections to the Egyptian government, Allawi had gone to Cairo to complain to President Hosni Mubarak about Maliki, prompting the Egyptian strongman to respond: "Why are you telling me this? I don't vote in Iraq. In fact, if the situation is as you describe, what are you even doing here?"

In a perfect parliamentary world, the party or coalition that garners the most seats is given the opportunity to form the government. If Iraq were part of that world, Allawi should have been given the right to form the government, having come through the elections with two more seats than Maliki. But the reality of the situation was that with both main coalitions in a statistical dead heat, neither was going to step aside for the other. We knew it would be a long, hot summer. In addition to working harder on the ground for additional seats, Maliki also outpaced Allawi in aggressively challenging the vote count, a decision that opened him to the charge of being a sore loser, and a possible cheater. His recount demands also exposed him to the charge that he was ultimately not going to respect the results of the voting and might, as General Odierno suggested in a teleconference with Washington, try to stage a "rolling coup d'état." Ray surprised everybody with that comment. It was nothing he had ever said to me in private, nor had he taken that tone in any conversation with Maliki. I always tried to make sure we spoke with one voice on the teleconferences with Washington, but I fell silent when he expressed that opinion, especially as he as he hadn't warned me. The effect of his comment on Washington was to heighten concerns about Maliki's intentions.

Indeed, Maliki's tough-minded behavior, his own bitter disappointment at not coming out ahead of Allawi and his increasing feistiness on every issue were making him a thoroughly unlikable and unlikely candidate to replace himself. The foreign press corps was completely against him. Most foreign diplomats were against him, including the U.S. Embassy's own political section.

Maliki was far from my ideal candidate, but I had real doubts whether someone else was going to be able to unseat him. "Can't beat someone with no one," I kept repeating to Gary, Yuri and other members of the political section, who always seemed to fall silent when I asked the question, "If not Maliki, then if you were king who do you suggest for prime minister?" as if it were our choice to make. As the crucial postelection weeks of April and May 2010 rolled by, Allawi spent more of his time traveling abroad, using a jet provided him by the Gulf states, instead of building his political support back home. I also noticed that regardless of Maliki's volatile and at times ugly behavior, there seemed to be no swing from the other Shia blocs toward Allawi.

The process suggested to me that much of what we were seeing from the other Shia was just bluster and an effort to give Maliki a well-deserved hard time, but that whenever Maliki was prepared to show some real respect and humility toward them, he could also gain their support.

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Maliki's Shia detractors had plenty of kind words for Allawi, but I could not see that any of them were truly prepared to support Allawi's Iraqiyya. In Erbil, many Kurds describe Iraqiyya as a crypto-Baathist party. I became skeptical that the Shia and Kurds would ever allow Iraqiyya to become the governing party. He seemed to have no chance of increasing the number of seats through coalition-building beyond the 91 he had won in the actual election.

Allawi was a Shia himself, but he was secular. Those foreigners, and especially those foreigners who had not seen these political patterns in other countries, who believed that a Shia without Shia constituents could become prime minister in Iraq's current circumstances didn't understand the game being played. During the hard-fought campaign, Allawi never ventured into southern Iraq, where most of the Shia lived. He did not make the slightest effort to gain Shia votes. I concluded that the government formation period was not going to be even close, but I hedged my comments to Washington, not wanting to seem pro-Maliki or anti-Allawi.

I concluded we needed to focus on making a better Maliki than he had been in his first four-year term, rather than engage in a quixotic effort to try to oust him.

As the summer wore on, Maliki, who unlike Allawi rarely left the country or even, it seemed, his office, started making progress with the other Shia and some small Sunni parties. While no one was overtly committing to him, it was clear that he was building the momentum to expand well beyond the 89 seats he already controlled. Allawi, still stuck at 91 seats, at one point met with the Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Damascus, a bizarre meeting evidently arranged for Allawi by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who probably had tired of Maliki and his public allegations against the Syrians for terrorist attacks in Iraq. Allawi's meeting with Sadr didn't lead to anything.

In the meantime, Barzani, the Kurdish leader, began to say that Maliki might be an acceptable choice after all. Barzani had no interest in a Kurdish-Shia alliance that would isolate the Sunnis, but he had realized, just as I had, that there were no good alternatives to Maliki.

In early August Barzani invited me to his hometown of Barzan, up in Kurdistan. We talked nonstop about the political deadlock and about Barzani's welcome decision to invite Maliki to his palace in Sulahaddin, just north of the Kurdish capital of Erbil, the next day. By prearrangement, at 4 p.m. my cell phone rang and a voice, identified as "Joe," was on the other end of the line. It was Vice President Biden. I gave the phone to Barzani, who sat down on a folding chair cupping his other ear to reduce the roar of the river. He and "Joe" had a good discussion about the importance of the next day. We knew that the upcoming meeting with Maliki would be crucial to forming a government.

I said farewell to Barzani that evening outside the guesthouse. I knew it was my last visit to Kurdistan, and given that I was leaving Iraq a few days later, and my career in the Foreign Service a few days after that, I knew it was my last chance at diplomatic deal making. The odds are often stacked against these deals working out, and when they do they are sometimes short-lived, but the feeling that one has done everything possible is a very good one. And better yet was the appreciation for someone like Barzani, who, unlike a visiting diplomat, has to live with the consequences that any political deal would involve. We performed our awkward hugs and kisses before I headed to the helicopter for the trip back to Baghdad.

I met Maliki in the morning and told him I thought the road was open to a rapprochement with Barzani, provided he was willing to address Kurdish concerns about their oil contracts and previous understandings about disputed territory with Arab Iraq. Much later that day, word came from Erbil that the meeting between Maliki and Barzani had gone well. They pledged to work together for "inclusive" government—i.e., there would be a Sunni component as well.

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Three days later, I climbed in my last Black Hawk helicopter, strapped myself into the seat next to the window, and rose up from the embassy landing pad. We crossed out over Baghdad, its bright city lights shining in the gathering dusk. In Washington a day later, Secretary Clinton asked to see me in between appointments. She was busy that day, and even though it was my last day in the State Department as a Foreign Service officer, I knew she had other things going. I quickly briefed her on the embassy operations, and said how pleased I was that a very good successor, the U.S. ambassador to Turkey, Jim Jeffrey, had been named to follow me. I told her about my next career as dean of the Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. She warmly said goodbye and thanked me for my 33 years of service. And then she asked me a question as I started walking through the outer door of her office.

"Who could have ever thought Maliki should have a second term?"

"Beats me," I answered.

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MSNBC: "The sleeper issue of the 2016 Democratic primary"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

October 2, 2014, 4:46 p.m. EDT

Fracking is quickly emerging as an under-the-radar issue likely to influence the Democratic presidential primary in 2016, inflaming passionate opposition among the party's base.

The use of hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and gas has created thousands of new jobs and drastically increased domestic energy production, but it has also raised major environmental and health concerns.

Not unlike the issue of Common Core educational standards among conservatives, fracking touches a nerve with rank-and-file progressives, especially in rural areas, even as it gets less attention from cosmopolitan Democrats, who will likely never encounter a fracking well in their backyard.

Anti-fracking activists on the left have been disappointed by the Obama White House's acquiescence to the technique – it's hard for any president to turn down jobs during a recession – and are pressuring those who might be the Democratic Party's next presidential nominee to draw a harder line.

Activists have already knocked former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and are turning their sights on other potential candidates.

New York and Maryland are the only two states with shale formations that haven't yet allowed drilling. As it happens, both states have popular Democratic governors with major national ambitions.

In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said that anti-fracking activists are by far the visible pressure group in the state. "I literally see them everywhere I go," he told Capital New York. "One of my daughters joked – we were pulling up to an event – she said, 'We must be in the wrong place. There are no fracking protesters.'"

Last year, anti-fracking activists ran a full-page ad in The Des Moines Register – far from Albany, but close to the Iowa Caucuses – warning Cuomo: "Not one well."

And the pressure is now on Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. In a letter sent to him Thursday, a coalition of more than 200 environmental, progressive and health groups fired a warning shot across the bow of the nascent O'Malley presidential effort.

If he runs for president —and it's looking increasingly like he will – the governor will want to be the consensus progressive alternative to Clinton. With progressive icon Sen. Elizabeth Warren unlikely to enter the race, O'Malley has a good shot at carrying that mantle, though he may have to compete with others like Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

O'Malley has been working hard to lay the groundwork for a campaign, and he has positioned himself to the left of Clinton on everything from immigration to campaign finance.

Fracking would be another obvious place for him to draw a contrast with the former secretary of state, who has said she will announce her 2016 plans early next year. If O'Malley doesn't do that, however, some activists are warning he could risk his position as a leading liberal alternative.

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"If Gov. O'Malley is serious about making a play for progressive 'Warren-wing' Democratic voters in the 2016 presidential primary, he should know better than to do Wall Street's bidding and put the health of millions at risk by allowing fracking to come to Maryland on his watch," said Jim Dean, the chair of Democracy for America, a national organization that grew out of Howard Dean's 2004 presidential campaign.

More than three years ago, O'Malley effectively imposed a moratorium on fracking in Maryland until the completion of a study he commissioned. With the study process wrapping up soon, the anti-fracking activists who sent the letter Thursdaywant O'Malley to take a stand against the practice, both for the remainder of his final term and to influence the next governor of his state.

And they worry privately that if the more progressive O'Malley approves drilling in Maryland, it will give political license for Cuomo to do the same in New York.

"In 2016, Democrats are looking to nominate a presidential candidate who will stand up and fight growing income inequality, not cave to the special interest forces on Wall Street who advocate for fracking at any cost," added Dean, whose group has 20,000 members in Maryland.

While the letter focused exclusively on the potential health and environmental risks fracking may pose to Maryland residents, some of the groups involved – like Dean's – used the release as a means to remind O'Malley of the potential risk to his personal ambitions as well.

Wenonah Hauter, executive director of Food & Water Watch, another member of the coalition, also hinted at 2016. "Gov. O'Malley is traveling extensively throughout the country to places like Iowa, Nevada, and New Hampshire in an effort to raise his national profile and tout his environmental record, but the national movement against fracking is watching what is happening in Maryland closely," Hauter said. "Should Gov. O'Malley open the state to fracking, that is what people will remember about him."

Currently, fracking is regulated on the state level, but many environmentalists and progressives want federal regulation or even an outright ban on the practice. A majority of Democrats (59%) opposed fracking, according to a Pew poll from last September, and the opposition is even higher among liberals (64%).

At the same time, there are many in the party who view fracking as a boon to the economy and U.S. energy independence. And natural gas is much cleaner than other fossil fuels, so many environmentalist view the fuel as an ideal "bridge" to a future when renewable energy is more practical.

That's the balance Democrats hoping to win their party's nomination in 2016 will have to make.

The Week: "Can Bill Clinton save the Senate for Democrats?"

By Matt K. Lewis

October 3, 2014, 6:35 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] Liberals certainly hope so

With barely a month to go until the midterm elections, and President Obama's coattails looking more and more like a lead weight, vulnerable Democrats across the country are turning to former President Bill Clinton to appeal to red-state voters. And some analysts are calling on him to do even more. Here's Brent Budowsky at The Hill:

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“My advice to the Democratic Party for the close of the midterm elections would be for Clinton to tape a series of 3- to 5-minute videos supporting top Democratic Senate candidates, in addition to personally campaigning for them. [...]

“[T]he party should bring the appealing and optimistic Clinton message to the widest circle of voters in the largest number of states. It could be a decisive advantage for Democrats that the most believable political referee in the nation supports the plays of the home team in the closing minutes of a tie game. [The Hill]”

This isn't the first time Democrats have looked to Bubba to bail them out. After all, it was the "explainer in chief" who seemed to make the argument for President Obama's re-election better than anyone — remember that stemwinder at the 2012 convention? — and if the Democrats are able to preserve their Senate majority in 2014, Bill Clinton will once again deserve much of the credit.

Next week, Clinton will return to Arkansas to headline a series of rallies for several candidates, including Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor, who is attempting to fend off a tough challenge from GOP Rep. Tom Cotton. Mounting evidence indicates that Pryor is in deep trouble, with most polls showing Cotton narrowly ahead. But Clinton's potential appeal in Arkansas is even stronger than elsewhere: After all, he was governor for a dozen years, and the state is home to his presidential library. (And as Patricia Murphy notes, he has an additional incentive: "Winning in November would not only mean victory for his friends, but also for his own legacy, preserving the brand of Southern progressive politics he has championed and installing Clinton allies in important statewide slots ahead of a potential 2016 presidential bid for Hillary Clinton.")

So an all-Bill, all-the-time strategy is a no-brainer for Dems and the Clintons, right? Well, not necessarily.

First, Clinton can't necessarily just deliver Arkansas. He couldn't do it for Al Gore in 2000. And he campaigned hard for then-Sen. Blanche Lincoln in 2010 — even appearing in a hard-hitting campaign ad for her. She got crushed by 20 points.

Look no one believes Pryor will lose by such a wide margin. But Lincoln's loss should put the Clinton visit in context.

Still, as Todd Purdum at Politico Magazine recently noted, "There is more demand for Bill Clinton on the campaign trail than for any other single figure in either party — including President Obama."

And the fact that President Clinton — once mired in scandal himself, once shunned by his own party — has emerged as the most sought after surrogate is quite noteworthy. Today, Mark Pryor might want to distance himself from Barack Obama, but a dozen years ago, he was distancing himself from Bill Clinton.

During his 2002 race, Pryor was benefiting from running against an opponent (then-Sen. Tim Hutchinson) who was plagued by an adultery scandal. Pryor (who is now divorced) was trying to usurp the "family values" mantle. Thus, he sought to keep his distance from (you guessed it!) Bill Clinton.

A 2002 news report noted that Pryor "studiously avoided appearing at any of the Democratic fundraising events that former President and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton has headlined in the state this year, including a get-out-the-vote rally earlier this week." One news report from the time shows Pryor begging off a Clinton appearance, opting instead to do "debate prep." Another notes that Pryor waited to accept a speaking invitation alongside Clinton until after the programs had been printed, so he wouldn't be listed as a speaker. As Jeff Zeleny noted at the time, "In Clinton's home state of Arkansas, a Democratic candidate for Senate declined to appear publicly with him late last month. Clinton's former chief of staff, running for Senate in North Carolina, has also made it clear that he wants his old boss nowhere near his race."

So what's changed? Obviously, the passage of time has healed some wounds. You could also argue that the nation's changing views on social issues and cultural mores helps. And, of course, there's the fact that Bill Clinton is an incredibly gifted and likable politician.

It's strategic, too. I recently interviewed Daniel Halper about his book Clinton, Inc.: The Audacious Rebuilding of a Political Machine. As the title suggests, the Clintons have assiduously plotted this comeback by taking proactive steps, including the building of a post-presidential philanthropic infrastructure, wooing former enemies, and, as Halper puts it, "seducing the Bushes."

Whether or not Bill Clinton can pull Pryor or other red-state Democrats across the finish line remains to be seen. But the very fact that he's the one they now turn to — having shunned him a dozen years ago — is, itself, a big story. Guess we know why they call him the "comeback kid."

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· October 6 – Ottawa, Canada: Sec. Clinton speaks at Canada 2020 event (Ottawa Citizen)

· October 8 – Chicago, IL: Sec. Clinton stumps for Illinois Gov. Quinn (Chicago Sun-Times)

· October 8 – Chicago, IL: Sec. Clinton keynotes AdvaMed 2014 conference (AdvaMed)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton and Sen. Reid fundraise for the Reid Nevada Fund (Ralston Reports)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· October 14 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· October 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton fundraises for House Democratic women candidates with Nancy Pelosi (Politico)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/11/2015 1:29:13 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Wednesday February 11, 2015 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Wednesday February 11, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

New York Times: “Emerging Clinton Team Shows Signs of Disquiet”

"In a statement, Mr. Messina suggested there was little tension with Mr. Brock or his organizations. 'Priorities USA Action works closely and cooperatively with progressive champion David Brock and American Bridge,' he said. 'Both organizations have clear and complementary missions, and we look forward to continuing to work together to build on our shared success.'"

BuzzFeed: “How A Clinton Insider Fight Turned Public”

"A few hours later, the two parities issued twin statements to reporters. Brock said he would consider rejoining the board. And Granholm, the co-chair and former Michigan governor, acknowledged in hers that Priorities took Brock’s concerns 'seriously and are working to address them.'"

Politico: “Hillary Clinton’s best frenemies”

[Subtitle:] “Her likely challengers won’t utter a critical word about the Democratic frontrunner.”

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Dukakis: Hillary will be '16 nominee”

“Michael Dukakis, the 1988 Democratic presidential nominee, says Hillary Clinton is going to be the party's 2016 standard-bearer — and he’s okay with that.”

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Capital New York: “Hillary Clinton’s Brooklyn options are limited”

“It would be hard enough for Brooklyn and Queens to accommodate a 50,000-square-foot tenant. A 100,000-square-foot requirement would further narrow Clinton's options in two boroughs that have, for decades, sent commuters to offices in Manhattan, rather than developing office space themselves.”

Politico: “Hillary Clinton to be in D.C. on same day as Bibi speech”

“Clinton’s spokesman did not respond to a question about whether the two plan to meet, but the convergence of the prime minister and former secretary of state brings together two of the most-talked about figures in politics, at a crucial time for both of them.”

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Priebus: Hillary can't 'connect the dots'”

“The chairman of the Republican National Committee says Hillary Clinton is keeping a low public profile because her team knows she can't ‘connect the dots’ for a successful presidential campaign.”

Articles:

New York Times: “Emerging Clinton Team Shows Signs of Disquiet”

By Nicholas Confessore and Amy Chozick

February 10, 2015

Lingering tensions between Hillary Rodham Clinton’s loyalists and the strategists who helped President Obama defeat her in 2008 have erupted into an intense public struggle over who will wield money and clout in her emerging 2016 presidential campaign.

At issue is controlling access to the deep-pocketed donors whose support is critical to sustain the outside organizations that are paving the way for Mrs. Clinton’s campaign. It is a competition that has been exacerbated, many Clinton supporters said, by Mrs. Clinton’s reluctance to formally enter the race and establish a campaign organization with clear lines of authority.

The dispute broke into the open on Monday after David Brock, a Clinton ally, accused Priorities USA Action — a pro-Clinton “super PAC” whose co-chairman is Jim Messina, Mr. Obama’s 2012 campaign manager — of planting negative stories about the fund-raising practices of Mr. Brock’s organizations. Mr. Brock resigned from the super PAC’s board in protest.

Mr. Messina is one of the half-dozen top veterans of Mr. Obama’s campaigns that Mrs. Clinton’s tightknit circle of advisers has hired or courted, vexing some longtime Clintonites seeking more prominent roles for themselves. Other former Obama aides are working with pro-Clinton groups to

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organize grass-roots volunteers or to fend off attacks on her record, efforts that some Democrats view as the first step toward a place in Mrs. Clinton's campaign when it finally gets off the ground.

All recognize that Mrs. Clinton's political operation could dominate the Democratic Party for the next decade, controlling the flow of commissions, consulting work and political appointments. But the marriage between the two camps — based to a large degree on mutual interest, if not love — now appears more uneasy than at any time since Mr. Obama asked Mrs. Clinton to serve in his administration after the 2008 election.

"It is 'The Dream Team,' but only five can start," said John Morgan, a Florida lawyer who has raised money for Mr. Obama and hosted fund-raisers with former President Bill Clinton. "Who do you put at guard? Jordan, LeBron, Kobe, Magic, Bird, Derrick Rose? That is where it is."

The list of Obama veterans now working in "Clinton World" includes the New York-based pollster Joel Benenson, whom Mrs. Clinton has settled on as chief strategist over several pollsters with long Clinton ties. A consulting firm founded by two Obama voter-turnout specialists, Mitch Stewart and Jeremy Bird, is being paid $20,000 a month by Ready for Hillary, a super PAC focused on organizing grass-roots Clinton supporters. Jim Margolis, whose firm handled lucrative media-buying contracts for Mr. Obama's campaigns, will also advise Mrs. Clinton, whose campaign will probably raise and spend over a billion dollars in the next two years.

But Mr. Brock's path to the Clinton inner circle is perhaps the most convoluted. Once a conservative journalist whose reporting on President Clinton prompted Paula Jones's 1994 sexual harassment lawsuit against him, Mr. Brock has since emerged as a prominent liberal organizer and one of Mrs. Clinton's chief defenders.

With the tacit blessing of both Clintons, Mr. Brock has maneuvered his $28 million network of media-monitoring and opposition research organizations into the center of the emerging Clinton effort, establishing a new project, Correct the Record, that has defended Mrs. Clinton in the news media and even issued daily emails explaining her positions.

His successful fund-raising has been led by Mary Pat Bonner, whose firm has been paid millions of dollars by Mr. Brock's groups to court donors — some of whom have criticized the arrangement as well as Mr. Brock.

"He is a cancer," said Mr. Morgan, who is close to Mr. Messina.

"If you care about your party and our country, you just do what you are asked," said Mr. Morgan, referring to Mr. Brock's public resignation from Priorities USA, which immediately reignited tales of infighting from Mrs. Clinton's 2008 campaign. "If you care about yourself, you take your toys and go home."

Mr. Brock declined to comment.

Susie Tompkins Buell, a friend of Mrs. Clinton's and a donor from San Francisco who is close to Mr. Brock, said he "is an incredibly important part of the Democratic Party" whose work "protects us from the onslaught and destruction of the Republican attack machine."

Ms. Buell added: "Certain people are trying to destroy David through off-the-record conversations with reporters. They are spineless and devious."

Mr. Messina, now a consultant with a significant roster of corporate and political clients, became co-chairman of Priorities early last year, charged with helping the advertising-oriented super PAC secure hundreds of millions of dollars in contributions. But with the campaign season still a year away, Mr. Messina and his team have encountered some difficulty getting commitments, according to several Democrats involved in helping the group.

Mr. Brock, in turn, has been reluctant to cede turf — or pre-eminence — to Obama veterans like Mr. Messina. "He was never accepted" by the

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Obama camp, said one Clinton loyalist, who like most people interviewed for this article declined to speak on the record for fear of angering either the president or the woman who hopes to replace him.

Months ago, Mrs. Clinton's top advisers encouraged the three pro-Clinton super PACs — Ready for Hillary, Priorities USA and Mr. Brock's American Bridge 21st Century — to combine efforts. Mr. Brock's organization would provide opposition research to Priorities, which would eventually raise high-dollar donations to pay for attack ads. Ready for Hillary would dissolve after Mrs. Clinton officially declared her candidacy.

But Priorities is the only one of the groups founded by Obama operatives, making it the least easiest to fit into the emerging Clinton apparatus. And all outside groups are facing increased competition from official party organizations, like the Democratic National Committee, which are now free to solicit their own million-dollar commitments from big donors, thanks to new campaign finance rules inserted into December's federal spending bill.

In a statement, Mr. Messina suggested there was little tension with Mr. Brock or his organizations. "Priorities USA Action works closely and cooperatively with progressive champion David Brock and American Bridge," he said. "Both organizations have clear and complementary missions, and we look forward to continuing to work together to build on our shared success."

Several donors approached by Priorities in recent months, including some advised by Ms. Bonner, said they had already given generously or otherwise committed to Mr. Brock. Mr. Messina's allies worry that Clinton loyalists will seek to replace him with another strategist closer to Mrs. Clinton, perhaps Guy Cecil, previously a contender for the job of Mrs. Clinton's campaign manager.

When the Priorities board issued a statement on Monday evening asking Mr. Brock to reconsider his resignation, it was signed not by Mr. Messina but by his co-chairwoman, Jennifer M. Granholm, the former Michigan governor and a Clinton supporter in 2008. Ms. Granholm and other Priorities officials have sought to soothe Mr. Brock, Democrats assisting the group said, and he has suggested he would be open to rejoining the super PAC's board.

In an interview, Mr. Messina denied a report in BuzzFeed that he had used the controversy around Ms. Bonner's fees to try to rally donors around a pledge to hold back checks from any organizations paying fund-raisers on commission. Such a campaign could cripple Mr. Brock's groups, which rely entirely on Ms. Bonner's firm to raise money.

"I've never heard of a petition, I don't know anything about it, no one has talked to me," Mr. Messina said. "It's not true."

BuzzFeed: "How A Clinton Insider Fight Turned Public"

By Ruby Cramer

February 10, 2015, 3:22 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] The pro-Clinton groups are a delicate balance of money and power. On Monday, the uneasy alliance between former Obama and Clinton backers saw its first explosion — the big fundraising rift that must be repaired.

Around lunchtime last Thursday, a sense of relief rippled through the tight network of friends, staffers, and donors connected to David Brock, the man at the center of a coordinated, independent effort to elect Hillary Clinton.

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For weeks, they'd been bracing for a New York Times story in the works: a critical A1 look at Brock's longtime fundraiser, Mary Pat Bonner, airing complaints that her firm is paid on commission, taking a cut of the donor money she nets for clients, which include a set of pro-Clinton entities founded by Brock.

When the piece ran, the reaction inside Brock's circle was the same: Bonner had emerged largely unscathed. There was no need to respond. The crisis was over.

But that changed four days later when questions about the origins of the Bonner story precipitated an unexpected, deep, and public splintering in the pro-Clinton operation. The rift revealed doubts about the trust between its most central players, namely the officials at Priorities USA Action, the high-dollar super PAC facing a massive task: raising an estimated $300 to $500 million.

On Monday afternoon, Brock resigned from the board of Priorities. In a letter to the co-chairs, Jim Messina and former Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Brock alleged that current and former officials from Priorities were responsible for pushing the story to the Times and waging an "orchestrated political hit job" against Bonner and the research groups that Brock heads, Media Matters and American Bridge.

Brock was placed on the board of Priorities one year ago, along with stakeholders from other groups, as a largely symbolic position, meant to project unity. The super PAC has never convened a full board meeting, one source said.

The central triad of outside Clinton groups — Priorities, American Bridge, and Ready for Hillary, a super PAC building a list of supporters — has worked in lockstep for most of the last year. But the letter, first published by Politico, is the latest example of a repeated claim among members of the pro-Clinton network: that Priorities has tried to wrest control of money and position, even at the expense of allies.

In interviews this week, people close to both sides described a frenzied weekend, as officials traded dozens of phone calls about the Bonner article. Some claimed that the story had "backfired" on current or former Priorities officials: It contained the admission that, in 2012, the super PAC had itself used fundraisers who took commission, upsetting one donor, Irwin Jacobs, according to the Times.

By Sunday, Brock told friends and colleagues he was "confident" Priorities played a role in pushing the story, according to three sources who spoke with him. Priorities officials still deny any involvement with the Times story.

But Brock only decided to resign on Monday after learning about what he believed was a second hit on his groups from Messina, the Priorities co-chair and former campaign manager for President Obama.

In a round of calls to fellow Priorities board members that afternoon, Brock said he had learned over the weekend that Messina and a donor Messina advises were leading an effort to get other donors to sign a pledge vowing not to contribute to groups who employ fundraisers working on commission.

Brock told board members he believed the attacks wouldn't stop unless he took public action, sources said. A Priorities official denied the Messina effort existed.

At least one official involved with the groups raised objections to Brock's public resignation, worrying the move would create bad press for Clinton, whose 2008 presidential campaign fought frequent "infighting" headlines.

When the letter went out to the board, Priorities officials sought to resolve the problem swiftly and reinstall Brock on the board. The matter was described by several as an imperative: His group, American Bridge, is in line to serve as the research clearinghouse for Priorities during the election.

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On a 4 p.m. conference call on Monday, Brock spoke with officials from the PAC, including Granholm, senior advisers Paul Begala and Sean Sweeney, executive director Buffy Wicks, and board member Charlie Baker.

A few hours later, the two parities issued twin statements to reporters. Brock said he would consider rejoining the board. And Granholm, the co-chair and former Michigan governor, acknowledged in hers that Priorities took Brock's concerns "seriously and are working to address them."

In interviews this week, officials close to both sides said they believed the problem between Priorities and Brock comes down to one main point: money.

Brock, who works as a fundraising team with Bonner on all 10 of the Democratic entities he runs, maintains relationships with a loyal group of donors. There is a belief among Priorities officials, two sources said, that Brock and Bonner's annual fundraising of about $28 million each year has created a "traffic issue."

In a similar dispute two years ago, Priorities officials tried to shut down Ready for Hillary over concerns it would siphon off high-dollar donations. The smaller super PAC agreed to set a voluntary cap of $25,000 on contributions.

Since the midterm elections, officials working on the pro-Clinton effort have privately worried that Priorities is behind in its goal to raise as much as $500 million. In 2012, when the PAC formed to support Obama's reelection, it was a lean, tight operation with smaller money targets and a more straightforward objective: to define Republican Mitt Romney early with cutting television ads.

But Democrats close to Priorities list a number of concerns ahead of the next race: There is no apparent fundraising or message strategy yet, and some officials believe that Messina, the co-chair who also runs his own consulting firm, is not involved enough. When the Brock resignation letter hit, he was in England, where he is working for the Conservative Party. (A tweet he posted in the midst of talks to get Brock back on the board made the rounds by email among the pro-Clinton officials on Monday: "Great night in London," he wrote.)

Since the midterms, the PAC has raised just around $1,000, and now has about $500,000 cash in the bank, according to recent election filings.

Officials aligned with both groups said they hoped to have the conflict resolved fully, with Brock back on the board of Priorities, in a matter of days.

Politico: "Hillary Clinton's best frenemies"

By Ben Schreckinger

February 11, 2015, 5:32 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Her likely challengers won't utter a critical word about the Democratic frontrunner.

What makes Jim Webb a better presidential candidate than Hillary Clinton? "I really don't have an answer for you on that," the former Virginia senator told NPR late last month. Where does Martin O'Malley differ from Clinton as a leader? "My mind is not even in the compare-contrast mode," O'Malley told the New York Times. How does the bombastic Bernie Sanders feel about the candidate he's planning to challenge for the Democratic nomination? "This is a woman I respect, clearly a very intelligent person," Sanders said Monday.

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With enemies like these, who needs friends?

Time and time again, when invited to criticize Clinton, her potential Democratic primary rivals have ducked, deflected and dodged. They're trying to present themselves as viable alternatives to the daunting frontrunner without addressing the obvious question of how they stack up against her.

"At the end of [interviews], somebody has to ask me a question about Hillary, and I try not to attack her. Usually, no matter what I say, it becomes 'Hillary Clinton,'" said Sanders, raising his arms in a sweeping gesture as if to indicate that Clinton's name becomes the banner headline. "What I'm running on are the issues … Her name recognition is about 10 times greater than mine, so if I run, it would take a lot of work getting around the country introducing myself to people."

With Elizabeth Warren continuing to resist entreaties to enter the race, liberals are still waiting for a serious challenger to Clinton to emerge — if only to ensure the party's progressive wing gets the attention and respect it believes its views deserve. At this point in 2007, President Barack Obama was declaring his candidacy and drawing a contrast with Clinton on issues like the Iraq War and the politics of triangulation, pioneered by Clinton's husband in the 1990s.

This time around, would-be Clinton spoilers are not so far along.

The outspoken Sanders deflected a question about Clinton posed by POLITICO late last month. "All I know is if I run, I'm not running against Hillary Clinton," protested the Vermont senator, who if he runs, almost certainly would be running against Clinton. Over the weekend, he did engage the prospective match-up more directly, telling MSNBC that it would be a "real clash of ideas" on issues like trade, climate change and infrastructure investment.

But at an event at the Brookings Institution this week, Sanders made it clear he had little interest in going after the former secretary of state.

"It is not my style to trash people," he said.

Clinton's other two most likely rivals haven't even gone that far. Before Webb dodged a Hillary question from NPR's Steve Inskeep ("If I were to run, it would not be sort of as a counterpoint to her") he ducked a similar one put to him by Yahoo's Matt Bai in late December ("I'm not running against Hillary Clinton"). When an O'Malley operative began talking about Clinton to a New York Times reporter last fall, the former Maryland governor's communications director "jabbed him in the side" to make him stop, according to the newspaper's account.

The repeated questions and dodges underscore the unusual nature of the Democratic race. Though Clinton is a private citizen who has not declared she is running, she has cultivated an aura of inevitability so strong that, "She's tantamount to an incumbent," in the words of Democratic consultant Tad Devine.

Naturally, voters will want to know how lesser-known candidates compare to Clinton, but advisers to those candidates argue that talking about the former secretary of state would be a mistake.

"It makes no sense, whether it's Webb, Sanders, or O'Malley, to start a campaign by going on the attack," said an adviser to one Democrat considering a 2016 run who was not authorized to speak on the record about messaging strategy. "It would be putting the cart before the horse a little bit to start lobbing bombs at Hillary Clinton before you even enter the race."

"You need to make an affirmative case before you get to the contrast," said the adviser, who added that Mitt Romney erred in 2012 by focusing on Obama before he had articulated a positive vision of his own candidacy.

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Devine, a longtime Sanders ally who will advise the senator's presidential campaign should he launch one, conceded that conflict generates coverage, a precious commodity for lesser-known candidates. But he said that the Vermont senator would try to attract attention by targeting the forces of runaway capitalism rather than his primary opponents. "It's a huge challenge," said Devine. "It's a different kind of conflict than the press is used to covering and perhaps than voters are used to hearing."

"Governor O'Malley is looking forward to introducing himself to Democrats outside of Maryland and talking about his own affirmative ideas for the future," wrote O'Malley spokeswoman Lis Smith in an email.

Candidates on the livelier Republican side of the presidential fieldhave been a lot more willing to snipe at both Clinton and each other. Jeb Bush and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio have both characterized Clinton as old news, with Rubio calling her a "20th century candidate." Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul regularly trolls his presidential rivals on social media and recently released a gag audio recording of a Jeb Bush impersonator conspiring with a Hillary Clinton impersonator.

But the Democratic field faces something of a Catch-22. Because no challenger has gained traction, Clinton feels little pressure to campaign and is reportedly considering postponing an announcement until July. But the longer Clinton stays out of the race, the longer she can avoid taking positions that opponents can attack to gain traction.

"They don't know what she's going to say," said Democratic strategist Bob Shrum, who worked on the presidential campaigns of John Kerry and Al Gore. "And it's hard to define yourself without knowing what contrast you want to draw."

Webb, Sanders and O'Malley are all planning to travel to early primary states in the coming weeks and months, and the pressure to define themselves in contrast to Clinton will only intensify.

For now, though, they're content to play nice.

"The Beltway media might want a food fight right now," said Smith, the O'Malley adviser, "but that won't do anyone — let alone Democrats — any good."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Dukakis: Hillary will be '16 nominee"

By Kevin Cirilli

February 10, 2015, 2:29 p.m. EST

Michael Dukakis, the 1988 Democratic presidential nominee, says Hillary Clinton is going to be the party's 2016 standard-bearer — and he's okay with that.

"Look, I consider myself part of that liberal base. I'm very comfortable with her as a candidate, as a nominee and as the president of the United States," Dukakis said Monday on Fox Business Network's "Cavuto." "Hillary is going to be the nominee and I'd like to see as many of us as possible get behind that effort now."

Many progressives have raised concerns about Clinton's ties to Wall Street, a relationship they see as too cozy.

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But Dukakis pushed back against that idea, suggesting that Clinton's views are more skeptical of Wall Street than progressive critics would suggest. That being so, he asserted that she will likely not have to change those opinions to rebuff a primary challenge from the left.

"I don't think she will be forced to vary her view dramatically. ... She's a very progressive Democrat and one who's not soft on the kinds of financial fooling around that virtually sucked the country dry," Dukakis, a former governor of Massachusetts, told Fox Business Network.

Liberal groups such as Democracy For America and MoveOn.org are trying to move Clinton to the left and in some cases draft candidates such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who has insisted she's not running.

"I don't think these folks have anything to worry about and frankly — I'd feel a lot better if they were out organizing 200,000 precincts in this country and getting ready for what is going to be a very tough contest in 2016," Dukakis told Fox Business Network.

Capital New York: "Hillary Clinton's Brooklyn options are limited"

By Dana Rubinstein

February 11, 2015, 5:31 a.m. EST

In recent days, people who pay close attention to the undeclared presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton have been wondering about her real estate plans, which could, reportedly, involve setting up shop in Brooklyn or Queens.

"A base in gentrifying Brooklyn or Queens could help give Clinton's campaign a youthful feel, and would likely be a relief for Democratic operatives dreading a relocation to the suburb, or a daily commute from New York City," explained MSNBC.

In the ensuing days, two pertinent details leaked out.

First, the Daily News reported that Clinton's team, which is believed to include brokers from CBRE, checked out One Pierrepont Plaza and MetroTech, both owned by Forest City Ratner. Bruce Ratner, the company's executive chairman, is a big Democratic donor.

Then, the News reported that Clinton was seeking 100,000 square feet of office space. That's a quite a lot.

For comparison, 100,000 square feet is twice the amount Barack Obama's campaign occupied in 2012. It's also roughly twice the space Clinton's campaign occupied in 2008.

It would be hard enough for Brooklyn and Queens to accommodate a 50,000-square-foot tenant. A 100,000-square-foot requirement would further narrow Clinton's options in two boroughs that have, for decades, sent commuters to offices in Manhattan, rather than developing office space themselves.

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Brooklyn is “a borough of churches and houses,” said Chris Havens, the vice president of commercial real estate at the Brooklyn-based aptsandlofts.com .

“I’m skeptical,” he said. “This is a very tight market. There’s a lot of space available in Manhattan.”

Roy Chipkin, a Queens commercial real estate broker at CBRE, described the Queens market as “very thin,” because “nothing’s been built in 100 years,” and most of what has been built is residential.

Given the slim pickings, what are Clinton’s realistic options, should she indeed decide to headquarter in the outer boroughs instead of Manhattan?

The contours of her former presidential endeavor may provide some guidance.

The last time Clinton ran for president, in 2008, she ran her campaign from a drab office building at 4420 North Fairfax Drive in Arlington, VA. It had roughly 50,000 square feet, five floors, an elevator.

According to former staffers, the space was aggressively utilitarian. (Before Clinton, the Immigration and Naturalization Service ran a detention center there.)

It was also quite spacious.

There was a floor devoted to ping pong and debate prep. Mold flourished on a war-room wall.

The headquarters were close to the Metro line, and 20 minutes from D.C. by car. There was ready access to mid-market food options, like Cosi, not to mention a hamburger joint called Big Buns.

It’s not clear how much Clinton paid per square foot in Arlington, but commercial real estate database CoStar indicates that asking rents at her old headquarters are now $36 per square foot.

Clinton’s office didn’t respond to any questions about the real estate requirements of her campaign-to-be.

Interviews with several real estate experts in both boroughs suggested a few potential options.

If Clinton wants to cultivate a pioneering vibe, she could venture out to Industry City, the creative-industry beehive on the Sunset Park waterfront.

Michael Phillips, president of Jamestown Properties, which owns part of the complex, said it could accommodate a new, 100,000-square-foot tenant.

To get there, staffers could take the N or D trains one stop past Atlantic Avenue. Or drive. There are some good food options on site, but not that many of them. It would offer her space and some distance from the ravenous media crowd.

“That’s definitely a place where they’d be able to find chunks of space and have a lot more flexibility,” said Ofer Cohen, president of TerraCRG, a Brooklyn-based commercial real estate brokerage.

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Cohen also said, “The cost would be significantly, significantly less [than other parts of Brooklyn], in the 20 dollar per-square-foot range."

There isn't much of anything available in North Brooklyn. The Walentas family's DUMBO properties are not believed to have the necessary space.

“DUMBO Heights,” the old Jehovah’s Witnesses complex now partly controlled by Jared Kushner, has some room. But it's thought to be on the pricey side, with asking rents in the $50s per square foot, according to Cohen.

Nor is it clear that the complex, which Kushner is renovating, is imminently available.

“From what I understand, the building’s not really open for occupancy yet,” said Tucker Reed, president of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership. “They’re a year or two away, so the timeline might not match up.”

Kushner wouldn't comment for this story.

Finally, and most obviously, there’s Downtown Brooklyn proper, a neighborhood where high demand and a paucity of office space have created a very low vacancy rate.

Sources say that Forest City could make about 170,000 square feet available at One Pierrepont Plaza, the building the Daily News said Clinton’s people had visited.

But some wonder whether the asking rent—which sources say is at least in the $40s per square foot—is too high.

From a symbolism standpoint, Brooklyn isn’t necessarily all upside either.

"Brooklyn has the advantage and the disadvantage of having cache,” said Seth Pinsky, a real estate executive and the former president of New York City’s Economic Development Corporation. “The advantage is that you can attract a lot of young, talented people and it links you to a new, very highly desirable urbanism. At the same time, there are also a lot of stereotypes—good and bad—that come with both of those and it's unclear whether she wants to be associated with those as she's campaigning for president."

Queens, which is often cheaper than downtown Brooklyn, appears to offer Clinton more options.

“If she's looking for something that's funkier and that's close to Manhattan, then certainly a place like Long Island City would be the most logical place,” said Pinsky.

Last week, at Capital's request, Evan Daniel, the executive vice president of the ModernSpaces real estate group, sent Capital a list of properties 50,000 square feet and greater in the western Queens submarket.

There's a 1930s-era Astoria factory on 36th Street down the street from the Museum of the Moving Image called “Offices at the Square.” Sixty-three thousand square feet are available there, it’s close to the M, R, N and Q trains and there’s a beer garden downstairs

There’s hundreds of thousands of square feet available at the Factory, on 47th Avenue in Long Island City, according to the report. The nearby

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Falchi Building could also accommodate a 100,000-square-foot tenant.

There's 90,000 square feet at an old industrial building on Austell Place, and more than 100,000 square feet at 30-30 Northern Boulevard and One MetLife Plaza. There's nearly that much at 3430 Steinway Street.

There's also Queens Boulevard in Kew Gardens, home to borough hall and the Queens district attorney's office, though that market's not believed to have to have enough space.

And, should she more inclined to maintain her distance from Midtown, there's Jamaica.

It's accessible by subway and Long Island Rail Road, but not too accessible. It's also close to the airport and some of her donors on Long Island. It's pre-trendy.

"If she wanted to show she was more a 'woman of the people', then a place like Jamaica, with a feel similar to where her husband is in Harlem, would send an interesting signal and it's certainly transit accessible as well," said Pinsky.

(It's not clear that there's supply there either, though. Justin Rodgers, managing director of real estate and economic development at the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation said he couldn't think of anything off the top of his head.)

Certainly, Queens leaders would love to have her.

"Queens is the gateway to the city, the nation and the world, with its unparalleled transportation connections including bridges, tunnels, rail and airports, and has a population to match," said Elizabeth Lusskin president of the Long Island City Partnership. "While space is tight, I'm sure Queens would find room for any national candidate wise enough to chose the World's Borough for her home base."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton to be in D.C. on same day as Bibi speech"

By Gabriel Debenedetti

February 10, 2015, 1:39 p.m. EST

When Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads to Washington to deliver a controversial address to Congress on March 3, he won't be the only big name in town who might soon be facing an election.

Hillary Clinton is also scheduled to be in the capital city on that day, to be honored by EMILY's List, the group supporting female Democratic candidates.

Clinton's spokesman did not respond to a question about whether the two plan to meet, but the convergence of the prime minister and former secretary of state brings together two of the most-talked about figures in politics, at a crucial time for both of them.

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While Clinton's all-but-certain 2016 campaign will be nearing its likely launch, Netanyahu's speech will generate major attention after drawing condemnation from many Democrats who are critical of him, and of House Speaker John Boehner's invitation of the prime minister despite the White House's disapproval.

Neither President Barack Obama nor Vice President Joe Biden will attend the speech, which will address the Iran nuclear deal. While Biden will be out of the country, Obama has ruled out meeting with Netanyahu before Israel's March 17 election. Secretary of State John Kerry is also expected to avoid seeing Netanyahu.

Clinton has repeatedly spoken about her role in Middle East policy since leaving the State Department in 2013, but she has not commented on Netanyahu's upcoming address. Her Washington event is sure to draw the attention of many political observers, as it will be one of her first public events in months. The former senator and first lady has been busy building her campaign team.

And while Clinton is the presumptive frontrunner for the Democratic nomination in 2016, a potential rival – Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders – grabbed headlines on Monday by becoming the first senator to announce he would boycott the speech.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Priebus: Hillary can't 'connect the dots'"

By Jesse Byrnes

February 10, 2015, 7:44 p.m. EST

The chairman of the Republican National Committee says Hillary Clinton is keeping a low public profile because her team knows she can't "connect the dots" for a successful presidential campaign.

"She's certainly proven in the past she somehow can't manage to connect the dots in the world of presidential politics," Reince Priebus said Tuesday in an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt.

"Her team knows it and that's why they're keeping her out of the public eye."

It's not the first time Priebus has questioned Clinton's readiness for the 2016 campaign if she decides to run. In October, the RNC chief said Clinton was "not really good at politics."

To pressure the likely Democratic frontrunner, the RNC on Tuesday also launched a campaign to document instances they see as Clinton "hiding" from the media.

The RNC pointed out that Clinton hasn't visited the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire in more than 100 days and her only public appearance this year was a speech last month in Canada.

At the same time, a number of potential Republican candidates have made trips to Iowa and New Hampshire to lay the groundwork for their own presidential bids.

"This is a person preparing to run for president," Priebus said. "She hasn't done an interview with The New York Times."

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Priebus noted that Clinton has "nothing to gain" and "everything to lose" by jumping into the 2016 race anytime soon.

For example, last week while likely Republican presidential candidates Sen. Rand Paul (Ky.) and Gov. Chris Christie (N.J.) took fire for comments they made on vaccinations during exchanges with media members, Clinton weighed in on the topic with a tweet.

Priebus said that Clinton's lack of public engagement isn't "all that bad" for Republicans, but "the problem is for her in the general election."

It's unclear when the former Secretary of State plans to enter the race, with some insiders saying she may do a pre-launch in April followed by a formal campaign announcement in July.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 11 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton meets with London Mayor Johnson (Independent)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by EMILY's List (AP)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to keynote Irish American Hall of Fame (NYT)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "Backbone Campaign" <info@backbonecampaign.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/2/2014 7:43:12 AM
Subject: [ACTION ALERT]: Oil Train Halted - Mother suspended above tracks!

If you aren't seeing our pictures then PLEASE... Click Here to View Online

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Rising Tide Seattle along with participants who attended Backbone Campaign's Localize This! Action Camp launched a technical blockade action early this morning effectively halting both Oil and Coal Trains!!

Tired of inaction by politicians?

Call Govenor Inslee to tell him actions like this inspire you not his foot-dragging.

***Demand Govenor Inslee Stops Stalling and Declares a Moratorium on all Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Projects - 360-902-4111

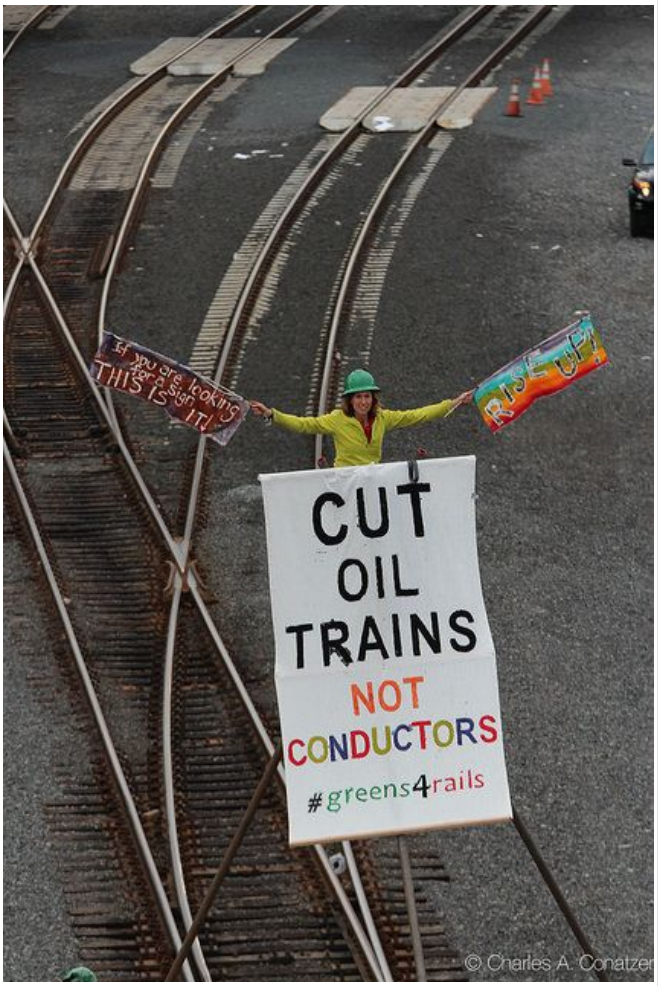
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Action Alert Oil Train HALTED!

RIGHT NOW, suspended above oil-by-rail train tracks, this courageous mother and climate justice activist is compelled to risk life and limb to protect our communities' and our children's future. Her righteous actions offers a stark contrast to the reckless actions by billionaires Warren Buffett and transnational corporations whose only allegiance is to profit.

It is the fearless defense of what we love by ordinary people that will bend our society towards justice, not the inaction of politicians embedded in the establishment.

Are you ready to take meaningful action?



The blockade continues strong! #noneshallpass

Donate to their action fund: bit.ly/1uxxN5q

EVERETT: Five local residents have stopped work at a Burlington Northern Santa-Fe Rail Yard in Everett by erecting a tripod structure on the outbound railroad tracks, directly in front of both a mile-long oil train and a coal train. Seattle resident Abby Brockway - a small business owner and mother - is suspended from the structure 18 feet above the tracks while four other residents are locked to the legs of the tripod. The group is demanding an immediate halt to all shipments of fossil fuels through the Northwest and calling on Governor Inslee to reject permits for all new fossil fuel projects in Washington, including proposed coal and oil terminals.

"People in the Pacific Northwest are forming a thin green line that will keep oil, coal and gas in the ground," said Brockway, "Just one of these proposed terminals would process enough carbon to push us past the global warming tipping point - we won't let that happen."

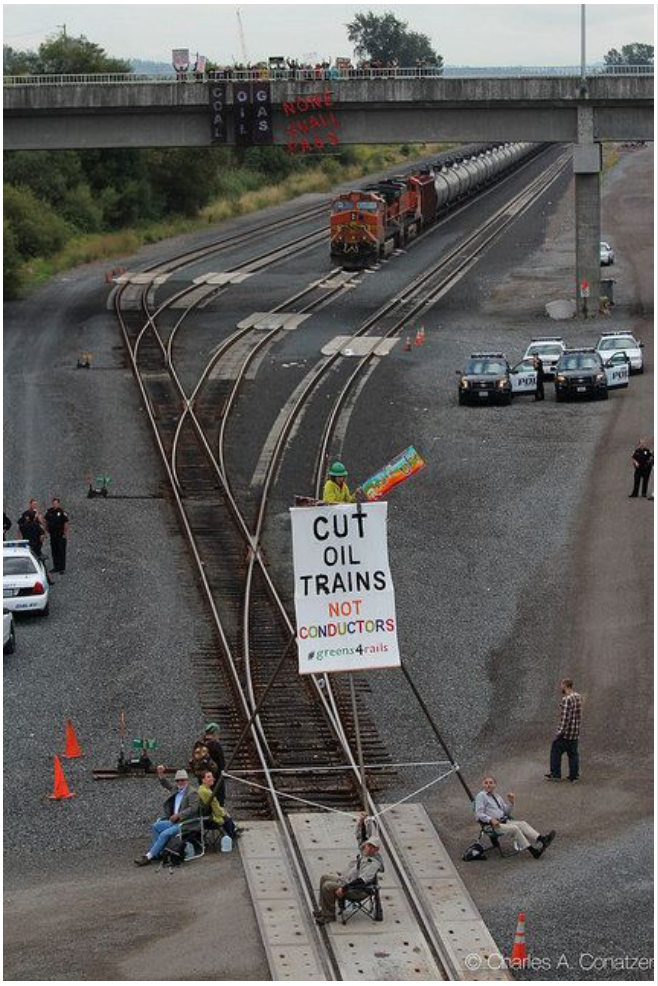
Today's protest has shut down work at BNSF's Delta Rail Yard in Everett. With the increase of fossil fuel transport in recent years the yard has become a crucial staging ground for coal trains headed to Canadian export terminals and oil trains bound for Washington refineries. An oil train carrying explosive bakken crude oil sat stalled while the protest continued.

"Exploding oil trains running through my town are just a reminder of how out of control the fossil fuel industry really is," said Jackie Minchew an Everett resident and retired educator locked to one of the tripod's poles.

In a controversial move, Burlington Northern Santa Fe recently announced a tentative deal with union leaders to reduce train crews from an engineer and conductor to a single engineer. The oil train that derailed and exploded in Lac-Megantic, Quebec was crewed by a single engineer. BNSF claims that oil trains will continue to have two-person crews, but critics point out that nothing in the proposed contract binds the company to that statement. Under the proposed deal, coal trains would be operated by a single crew-member.

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"BNSF is endangering workers, communities and our environment. They should keep the conductors and lose the oil trains," said Brockway.



The surge in oil train traffic is already impacting passenger rail and agricultural shipments. Farmers from the Midwest to Washington State have faced what they call "unprecedented" delays in moving Wheat and other products to West Coast ports. Amtrak service through fossil-fuel train corridors has also suffered significant disruption, and officials have expressed concern that the problem will only get worse as more terminals come online.

"Railroads can be part of the solution, transporting crops and people or part of the problem with coal and oil. We should make that decision, not the fossil fuel companies," Said Patrick Mazza, a longtime climate activist also locked to the tracks.

Mazza says he is taking this action for his daughter, who will turn 18 tomorrow.

"My last act as a father before my daughter reaches full adulthood tomorrow is to put my body on the line today," Said Mazza, "It is up to us of the parental generation to do our absolute best to leave the least climate disrupted world we can, to put our bodies on the line to give our kids a fighting chance to deal with what we have left them."

Development of extreme energy projects--like the Alberta tar sands, Bakken Shale oil and coal from the Powder River Basin--has fueled an explosion in proposed fossil fuel infrastructure in the Northwest. More than twenty new or expanded coal, oil, and gas terminals are proposed between British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. In both states and British Columbia, these proposals have been met with fierce local resistance. Local communities have challenged both the safety of transporting coal, oil, and volatile gas through their communities and the role of fossil fuel export in fueling catastrophic climate disruption. Proposed coal terminals in Longview and Bellingham, and oil terminals in Vancouver and Gray's Harbor, would lead to more carbon emissions than produced in the state of Washington each year.

"We could pass every climate initiative proposed by Governor Inslee, but if we let these terminals be built our future is on the chopping block," said Liz Spoerri a Seattle middle school teacher also locked on the tracks.

While proposed coal and oil terminals have been controversial for years, climate activists in the Northwest have significantly intensified their tactics this summer. In Montana, residents sat on the tracks to block a coal train last April, and again on August 16,. In early July a woman locked herself to a 55-gallon barrel filled with concrete, blocking oil-trains at a Portland facility. In a similar action on July 28, three people blocked oil-trains at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes by locking themselves to concrete filled barrels. Most recently, three Seattle residents, including state legislative candidate Jess Spear, were arrested blocking oil and coal trains near the Seattle Waterfront.

"People in the Northwest are not going to allow this region to become a fossil fuel superhighway," said Mike LaPoint, an Everett small business owner locked on the tracks. "This is just a sample of the resistance that will happen if any large fossil fuel project is permitted."



Despite controversy, the number of fossil fuel trains on Washington's rails continues to rise. While larger coal and oil terminals are undergoing lengthy environmental reviews, projects at Washington's refineries have brought approximately two oil trains per day to communities like Seattle and Everett. While the Department of Ecology conducts a study on the safety of oil-by-rail construction continues on a new terminal at the Phillips 66 refinery in Ferndale, and local officials are attempting to fast-track an oil train terminal at Shell's Puget Sound Refinery without environmental review. Each of these projects could add up to six oil trains per week to the rails. Expansions at the Fraser Surrey Docks coal export facility in Vancouver, Canada, would increase the number of coal trains moving through Washington. Activists are demanding an immediate moratorium on all new fossil fuel terminals.

"Politicians play a blame game and talk about safety, but new terminals keep getting rubber stamped and built," said LaPoint, "If elected officials won't stop the fossil fuel takeover, we'll have to do it for them."

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Rising Tide Seattle is a grassroots, all-volunteer collective dedicated to taking direct action to confront the root causes of climate change, and support communities on the frontlines of extractive industries.

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From: "Nandi Robinson" <nrobinson@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com
Date: 4/14/2015 12:00:17 PM
Subject: Marco Rubio on CNN's The Lead w/ Jake Tapper (4/14/15)

http://mms.tveyes.com/ClipEditor.aspx?hl=&StationID=100&ClipDateTime=04/14/2015+16:34:45

(4:34:45pm)

Tapper: You came up to Washington today to participate in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Iran, specifically a bill to get some sort of congressional oversight.

Rubio: Right.

Tapper: When your colleague Senator Tom Cotton, whose letter to the mullahs you signed a few weeks ago- was on the show last he said surgical strikes against the Iranian nuclear sites would be preferable to this deal. Do you agree?

Rubio: First of all, I think that military action should only be taken when it's the best option available and we would hope there would be leadership shift in Iran at some point that would make them realize that either you're going to have an economy, a modern economy, a prosperous one, or you're going to have a nuclear weapon but you can't have both and at that point if they don't realize that, then certainly military strikes are something that are on the table.

Tapper: You would go for greater sanctions before anything like that?--

Rubio: Absolutely because I think first of all, the sanctions are what allow us the opportunity and brought us to this point and not only are the sanctions important in terms of preventing the nuclear capability it also has an impact on their ability to sponsor terrorism all over the world. But look there may come a point when military action is necessary because anything is preferable to them having a nuclear capability akin to what you have in North Korea. I wouldn't say its something we would do tomorrow and its definitely something we wouldn't announce but it need to be clear that that is an option available to us if all else fails.

Tapper: Let's talk about your presidential candidacy. What do you say to people out there, Republican voters, shopping around who say I like him but I really think we need a president with executive experience?

Rubio: Well, a couple of points: I do have a record that extends before I even got here to Washington. I've been here now almost 4 1/2 years but before that I was a state legislator for nine years and I was in leadership almost the entire time, including being speaker of the house where I ran the Florida house both as an institution and from a policy perspective and I've also served in local government so I have the unique experience of having been a local, state and federal office holder. I've also dedicated significant amount of time on foreign policy and on the intelligence committee issues that we just today spent an hour reading intelligence briefings and catching up on since we haven't been in D.C. for a week and haven't had access to that. So the point being, I think there are real distinctions between, for example others that have run in the past who are senators and are where I am today.

Tapper: Since being elected to the Senate in 2010 you've been the primary sponsor on 219 items: bills, amendments, resolutions. None of them have been signed into law. How can you convince American voters, Republican voters that you can govern effectively given that legislative record?

Rubio: You could actually say that about almost any senator that served as me over the last four years. When Harry Reid was the majority leader, the Senate virtually did nothing. In fact we've taken more votes over this year than we did all of the

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last 2 years, maybe 3 years and the point being that Harry Reid basically brought the Senate to a standstill. Not only could you not get bills voted on, you couldn't even get amendments voted on. And in fact there were Democrats running for reelection last time that couldn't even point to their legislation they had passed and they were in the majority. We hope that's going to change now and It's begun to change under Senator McConnell. I would point out the fact that, for example, the veterans accountability act, which is a bill we filed, that allowed the VA to fire senior executives in the VA that weren't doing their job- that was a stand-alone bill that we got worked into as part of being on the conference that negotiated the final deal and we got that put into the VA bill. So that's an example of a legislative achievement that happened and was signed by the president, as part of a larger bill but it was a bill we filed along with Jeff Miller of Florida.

Tapper: One bill that you are very well known for is a bill that passed the Senate but did not become law because it didn't get through the House, and that was comprehensive immigration reform. I know you've said, you don't think it should be comprehensive in the future it should be piece-meal, you need to convince voters --

Rubio: I don't think it can pass as a comprehensive piece of legislation

Tapper: That's the issue?

Rubio: Yea. And I have evidence- we tried it. And in fact, if you recall during that time, I warned during that time as that process was ongoing that if we didn't do more on the security part of it, I thought it would have no chance of passage in the House. But now, I think we've proven, we've learned that, in fact, a massive piece of legislation especially on something like immigration just really has no realistic chance of passing.

Tapper: There are a lot of conservative Republicans out there who, when I asked on twitter what should I ask him, they said does he still support amnesty and that is something you'll hear when you go into Iowa and New Hampshire, South Carolina.

Rubio: Well, here's the process I support and I've outlined this both in my book and multiple times that I've been asked: I think the first thing we have to do before anything else because it's the only way you're going to be able to do anything else, is we have to prove, not tell, prove to the American people that future illegal immigration is under control. That means securing that one sector of the border that remains unsecure. That means an entry/exit tracking system to prevent visa overstays and that means an e-verify system. If we did those things, then I believe we will have the support politically and policy wise to do very important things: first modernize our legal immigration system, make it a merit based system as opposed to simply a family based system and then we have to deal with the fact we have 12 million people in this country who are here illegally, who have been here longer than a decade or more and I've outlined the process for dealing with that and i think it's well established one. They come forward, they pay a fine and start paying taxes. They get a work permit and thats all they can have for a substantial period of time and after they completed this probationary period they would be allowed to apply for permanent residency just like anybody else would--

Tapper: a lot of Republican voters say that's amnesty.

Rubio: well, I think its amnesty in their mind if the law is not being enforced. What people's main complaint about all this is, you're going to go ahead and legalize 10 or 12 million people, but they're never going to do the enforcement and you're going to have another 10 or 12 people here in another ten years. That's a legitimate concern especially given what's happened with the migratory crisis last summer.

Tapper: I want to ask you about another issue, you are casting yourself as a candidate of a new generation, but there is an issue where you are very out of step with younger voters, even younger Republican voters. According to a pew poll, 61% of republican voters under the age of 30 I believe support same-sex marriage. In that issue, same-sex marriage, Senator, you're the candidate of yesterday.

Rubio: Well, a couple of points: number one, that is an issue that will largely be determined at the state level since marriage laws have always been defined by the states. I'm not, for example, ever supported a federal constitutional amendment to define marriage because I believe states define marriage in their laws and if in fact people feel that way as that poll says then they can petition their state legislature to change the law. The second point I would make is, I think there's still a significant number of Americans that believe that the definition of marriage should be that of one man and one woman as it has been for

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thousands of years. And that continue---

Tapper: but they are a minority.

Rubio: Well, they are a large minority and that's because there are still parts of this country that believe that way but irrespective of it, we're in a republic. If you want to change the marriage laws of your state, go to your state legislature and get you legislators to change it. I don't believe the court system is the appropriate way to do it and I don't believe Washington and the Supreme Court is the appropriate way to do that. Beyond it I would say when i talk about the future, what I'm really pointing to is not those issues necessarily but the fact we are living through a massive transition into a post-industrial era where millions of people are being left behind because America is who longer globally competitive as it once was and because they do not have the skills required to succeed in the 21st century and we have political leaders in this town and across the country, they're still whetted to an outdated 20th century higher education model that no longer works.

Tapper: I want to ask about a man who's been described as your mentor. Jeb Bush. Is that a fair description?

Rubio: yeah.

Tapper: So, you have said you're not running against him. He's a friend, you're just simply competing for the same job. I'm wondering what that means in practical terms. Does that mean that your campaign won't do opposition research on Jeb Bush, that you won't run any negative ads against Jeb Bush? What's the difference between that and running against a Rand Paul.

Rubio: What it means is, there are six or seven other people in this race who i believe have a legitimate chance to be a nominee as well. We're blessed as Republicans to have six or seven people running that going to be credible candidates. The democrats can barely come up with one. And we're going to have a robust competition in which voters in the Republican primary are going to be able to hear from all of us and decide who they want not just to lead our party but lead our country. Nothing that's going to happen over these next few months, I believe, will change my feelings towards Gov. Bush as a person or what he's done in the past to serve our country. I just honestly believe that I have a vision for America's future and a plan to get us there and i think that i can serve this country at this moment in history better than anyone else who's running.

[Commercial Break]

Tapper: You mentioned when i talked about the candidate of tomorrow, you mentioned that you meant that more in terms of economic issues than you did in terms of social issues. Do you think it's a mistake, do you think it's a trap by people in the media to ask Republicans about social issues?

Rubio: No, these are important issues. People was to know what you feel and think about them. I think they're very important issue to a lot of people in this country and I recognize that we're a country that has people on both sides of these issues that feel very strongly about it. i owe people where I stand, I'll tell you where i stand but ultimately – and I'm not saying these aren't important issues to have the highest office in the land opine on or give opinions on—but ultimately, i want all Americans to succeed economically. Independent of what they may feel like on a social issue, I want all Americans to be more prosperous, to be able to leave their children better off than themselves, to have better jobs, to have businesses that are successful. i want America to be globally competitive so we're big enough country and a free enough country to debate these issues robustly and work through them as we have always done as a society but we still have to grow economically and be secure militarily.

Tapper: You're a man that has two daughters. I have a daughter myself and I know that having a daughter opened my eyes to a lot of things that probably i never would have realized if i didn't have a daughter. Hillary Clinton, her historical candidacy, the historical nature of it- is going to be compelling for a lot of women.

Rubio: right.

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Tapper: Republican women too. Who like the idea of, well, 43 men have been president, now one woman, Do you think that that's going to make it more difficult for you to win the women's vote and do you think that the Republican Party should have a woman on the ticket no matter what?

Rubio: Well let me just tell you this…I think ultimately when it comes to being president, vice president or anything else, you want the best people there because that's going to have an impact on the future of our country and on your future irrespective of your age, your ethnicity, your gender. i would never assume that every Hispanic in America has to vote for me because I'm Hispanic, because my last name is Rubio. I have to earn their support. That may intrigue them about my candidacy, but ultimately, i have to prove i'm the right person for the job and the same is true for her or anyone else who's running. I think the important point to make is we live in a country so vibrant that in fact you have a diverse field that includes a very legitimate candidate for president who's a woman. You have two Latinos running in the Republican side of the equation. If Dr. Carson gets in, an African American who's running. So, and I think that's not just a testament to the vibrancy of our country, but true to our heritage is a nation where people from everywhere have been able to achieve extraordinary things.

Tapper: Do you pledge to support the Republican nominee whoever it is even if it is somebody that you disagree with so strongly on foreign issues like Senator Rand Paul-- just as an observation, i think you probably agree with Hillary Clinton on more matters pertaining to foreign policy than you do with Rand Paul.

Rubio: well we'll have plenty of time for that sort of comparison. let me just say that i am confident that the Republican nominee whoever that may be and i expect it to be me and i hope it will be me and i'll work hard to make it me but i'm confident that the Republican nominee is someone who will believe that America needs to be engaged globally and that the world is a safer and better place when America is engaged and exerting global influence. i'm pretty confident that at the end of this process our nominee will be someone like that whether its because they change positions to adapt that view or because that's who they really are.

Tapper: Senator Marco Rubio, we will see you out there on the campaign trail. Thank you so much, we appreciate it.

Rubio: thank you.

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/16/2015 4:19:31 PM
Subject: New News! (10/16/2015)

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Week ending October 16th, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

- Obama will keep US troops in Afghanistan. No end to that war as he had hoped.
- GOP split on Paul Ryan in hunt for Speaker
- Hillary gives strong debate showing; Sanders too.
- Tensions rise in wake of knife attacks and troop reactions in Israel.
- Suicide bombings in Turkey rattle the nation

Polls

2016 Republican Presidential Nomination: Trump 24, **Carson** 23, **Rubio** 9, **Fiorina** 5, **Cruz** 10, **Bush** 8, **Huckabee** 5, **Paul** 3, **Kasich** 1, **Christie** 1, **Jindal** 1, **Pataki** 1 **[FOX News]**

Carson gains momentum: While the status quo was maintained, with Trump first, Ben Carson second, and so on, Trump's lead over Carson was only one percentage point — the smallest lead Trump has seen in Fox polling and down from an 8-point lead in September.

President Obama Job Approval: Approve 45, Disapprove 50 **[Gallup]**

Congressional Job Approval: Approve 9, Disapprove 69 **[The Economist/YouGov]**

2016 Campaign

Clinton and Sanders reveal their differences in Dem debate: "The first debate will be defined by two moments: When the topic turned to **Sen. Bernie Sanders'** (I-Vt.) chief vulnerability, **Hillary Clinton** jumped at the opportunity to draw a sharp contrast. When the roles were reversed, Sanders threw her a lifeline. Those two exchanges -- the first on gun control and the second on Clinton's use of a private email account as secretary of state -- exemplified not just the different political DNA of each candidate, it underscored the brewing intensity of a Democratic primary that few thought would be competitive." **Sam Stein** and **Amanda Terkel**, *The Huffington Post* **[More]**

Clinton invokes Obama to lend credence to record: "Clinton's positions on Iraq, Syria and Libya were a prime target for her Democratic rivals, as **Senator Bernie Sanders** hammered her 2002 Iraq War vote as "the worst foreign policy blunder in the history of this country," and warned that her support for a Syria no-fly zone could drag America into another Middle Eastern "quagmire." Clinton seemed energized by the back-and-forth on global affairs, making no apologies for her record." **Michael Crowley,** *POLITICO* **[More]**

Did the media get the Dem debate wrong?: "In the media coverage of Tuesday's Democratic debate, there was almost universal agreement that **Hillary Clinton** came out on top. In online polls, several focus groups, and much of social media, though, the story was rather different. Many people insisted that **Bernie Sanders** was the victor… But we won't get a reliable reading of public opinion until we see some scientifically conducted surveys based on random samples of

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Democratic voters." **John Cassidy**, *The New Yorker* **[More]**

Grassroots anger in the Republican Party: "Establishment and conservative figures see a new GOP taking shape in the tumult of the speaker election in Congress and on the presidential campaign trail. [E]stablishment party figures … worry an unguided fury will keep the GOP from reclaiming the White House next fall. But that same turmoil is eliciting cheers from many in the party's grass roots, who, far from fearing the turbulence, think it serves their burning desire to force changes in the government." **Janet Hook** and **Patrick O'Connor**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Money and power - the families funding the 2016 election: Special report how 158 families are providing almost half of the early funding for the presidential election campaign. **Nicholas Confessore, Sarah Cohen,** and **Karen Yourish**, *New York Times* **[More]**

The Economy

Report finds U.S. economic freedom decreasing: "The Economic Freedom of the World report seeks measures of five key indicators of economic freedom: security of property rights, soundness of money, size of government, freedom to trade globally, and the extent of regulation...Relative to other countries, listed most free to least free, the US has slipped from the number 3 spot all the way to number 16." **Jeffrey A. Tucker,** *Foundation for Economic Education* **[More]**

Treasury warns Congress of default risk: "**Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew** said on Thursday that if the debt ceiling isn't raised by Nov. 3, it will have to fund the government solely using daily cash flow, and that it could run out of cash to pay its bills soon after that." **Nick Timiraos,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Fed Vice Chair finds it appropriate to raise rates: "**[Stanley] Fischer** added that there were "considerable uncertainties" surrounding the pace of activity and that Fed policymakers could not be certain about how quickly headwinds holding back the domestic economy would fade. He highlighted America's poor export performance, which has been held back by slowing demand overseas and the 15 per cent appreciation in the trade-weighted dollar." **Sam Fleming,** *Financial Times* **[More]**

Consumer confidence rebounds in October: "The University of Michigan preliminary consumer sentiment index for October, jumped to 92.1 from a final September reading of 87.2. "The rebound in confidence signifies that consumers have concluded that the fears expressed on Wall Street did not extend to Main Street," said Richard Curtin, the survey's chief economist. Mr. Curtin said consumers are adapting their spending to an up-and-down economy. Low inflation and continued job growth, meanwhile, are supporting renewed confidence." **Jeffrey Sparshott,** *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Sachs: The Japan Syndrome comes to China: "China is now experiencing what Japan went through a generation ago: a marked slowdown in economic growth after demands by the United States that it restrict its exports. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Japan was criticized by the US as an "unfair trader" by virtue of its soaring manufacturing exports. The US succeeded in pushing Japan to overvalue the yen, which helped to bring Japanese growth to a screeching halt. That may be happening again, with China's growth slowing markedly under the weight of an overvalued currency urged by the US." **Jeffery D. Sachs (TCG Speaker)**, *Project Syndicate* **[More]**

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Iraq withdrawal looms over Obama's decision in Afghanistan: "Whether keeping a residual American force in Iraq would have made a difference is a point of contention, but the president chose not to take a chance this time. In seeking to avoid a repeat of the Iraq meltdown by keeping 9,800 troops in Afghanistan next year and 5,500 after he leaves office, he abandoned his hopes of ending the two wars he inherited." **Peter Baker**, *New York Times* **[More]**

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Washington Post* correspondent convicted in Iran: "Washington Post* correspondent **Jason Rezaian,** imprisoned in Tehran for more than 14 months, has been convicted following an espionage trial that ended in August, Iranian media reported Monday. The verdict — belated and opaque — was strongly condemned by the journalist's family and colleagues, as well as the U.S. government**." Carol Morello and William Branigin**, *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Suicide bombings in Turkish capital worsen political divide: "Weekend suicide bombings...killed at least 97 people in the Turkish capital. No group has claimed responsibility for the bombings, which threatened to further destabilize a key U.S. and NATO ally already reeling from months of civil strife between Kurdish separatists and security forces. Security officials said the attack bore the hallmarks of two other recent strikes that authorities blamed on Islamic State-linked militants from Turkey." **Emre Peker** and **Ayla Albayrak**,*Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Zakaria: Stop swooning over Putin: "Washington's foreign policy elites have developed a mind-set that mistakes activity for achievement. They assume that every crisis in the world can and should be solved by a vigorous assertion of U.S. power, preferably military power. Failure to do so is passivity and produces weakness. By this logic, Russia and Iran are the new masters of the Middle East. Never mind that those countries are desperately trying to shore up a sinking ally." **Fareed Zakaria**, *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Ignatius: U.S surprises allies in Syria: "A Syrian Kurdish militia that was initially seen by U.S. commanders as a sideshow has emerged as the strongest U.S.-backed force against the Islamic State -- forcing a hasty re-evaluation of U.S. strategy after the collapse of a $500 million plan for training and equipping Syrian rebels." **David Ignatius**, *The Washington Post* **[More]**

Is a Third Intifada inevitable?: "Call it the Third Intifada, a "wave of terror," or the "Jerusalem Awakening" — perhaps the best way to describe the violence is, simply, "the future." Netanyahu has ruled the land for six years and seems to have no aspirations beyond indefinitely prolonging the status quo. Abbas is exhausted and isolated, and while he succeeded in raising the Palestinian flag outside the United Nations, that symbolic gesture brings Palestinians no closer to raising it over a capital in East Jerusalem." **Gregg Carlstrom**, Foreign Policy **[More]**

Domestic Affairs

GOP establishment stands by amidst anti-Ryan criticism: "As the right continues to beat up Paul Ryan, hoping to preempt a bid for speaker, much of the GOP establishment is letting him twist in the wind. Their thinking: Any public display of affection for Ryan from D.C. players would be his kiss of death — handing ammunition to activists to use against the Ways and Means chairman...The establishment's "say nothing" strategy is a stark contrast to the active role that conservative groups such as Tea Party Patriots are taking. The group launched a "call to action" on Tuesday, urging members to meet with lawmakers over the Columbus Day recess and tell them not to vote for Ryan." **Anna Palmer,** *POLITICO* **[More]**

Bipartisan effort revises Obamacare's small business rules: "President Obama signed legislation that makes a significant change in the health law's small business rules. The revision updates the definition of what constitutes a small employer so that companies with 51 to 100 workers won't become subject to the small group insurance reform provisions next year. Instead, the law allows those companies to continue as large group plans , unless states step in to define them differently. Lawmakers from both parties argued that classifying these companies as small businesses would increase their health insurance premiums significantly..." **Michelle Andrews**, *NPR* **[More]**

GOP now reaching consensus on how to replace Obamacare: "After years of trying, Republicans are coalescing around the outlines of a plan to repeal and replace ObamaCare. **Jeb Bush** unveiled an ObamaCare alternative on Tuesday that is similar to the proposals from **Sen. Marco Rubio** (R-Fla.), his presidential rival, and former 2016 hopeful **Gov. Scott Walker**. The Bush plan overlaps significantly with proposals from congressional Republicans. The plans all center on a tax credit intended to help people afford health insurance, along with more limited

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protection for people with preexisting health conditions and a cap on federal payments to states for the low-income Medicaid program." **Peter Sullivan**, *The Hill* **[More]**

Books

Review: "The Last of the President's Men" by Bob Woodward (TCG Speaker): "Forty-one years after Richard Nixon's disgraceful resignation over the biggest political scandal in American history, one of his closest former aides says the former president had more secrets. Nixon's former deputy assistant **Alex Butterfield** shared detailed memos from his White House days with the legendary Washington Post reporter, **Bob Woodward** . These memos and 40 hours of interviews are the basis of Woodward's new book, "The Last of the President's Men," which reveals more of Nixon's lies, crimes, and even his most petty obsessions throughout his presidency." **Rebecca Lee**, CBS News **[More]**

Good shows

For thoughtful entertaining fare, here are some film recommendations: He Named Me Malala, The Diplomat, and Bridge of Spies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III

Monday, November 9, 2015

Lunch & remarks: 12:00-1:30pm
Executive Members only.

RSVP

Ambassador Melanne Verveer

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner, Isaac Getlan and our interns Samar Nadi, Robin Silver, Tracey Pennito and Justin Vacura.

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###

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/5/2008 1:35:15 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Tele-Town Hall for PA Voters 08/05/08

Hello All,
I just got off of listening to McCain's tele-town hall, which McCain conducted from WV for PA voters. Below are my notes from that call.

BIG HIGHLIGHTS:

- Says he agrees with Obama's / Auto Association's suggestion to inflate our tires but "that doesn't serve as a plan"
- Jokes that voter should vote for him rather than Obama "because I'm a great American"; lavishes praise on Hillary
- Changes language but repeats claim that "independent petroleum producers" (previously known as "oil drillers") assure that we can get oil w/in months; enviro groups are wrong
- Explains he was based on USS Enterprise so he's "familiar" with nuclear power - it's clean
- Says he'd love to tell you that there's a parade down Broadway, but "that's not what success is": it's effective government, economic stability; Says we're better off now that Saddam & sons are out

- Repeats promise that next toy from overseas (esp China) that hurts Americans will be last
- Promises that when he's President, Congress won't be taking these "disgraceful" "vacations"
- Other main topics: school choice, replacing govt workers w/ computers, Obama's "most liberal" voting record

Tele-Town Hall for Pennsylvania voters: 08/05/08
(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- Live town hall, conducted via phone
- 2 short surveys conducted in course of call: (1) on your most important issue and (2) how likely you were to vote in Nov [Results not given]
- Lindsey Graham gives introductory remarks: friends for a long time; we need someone who can win wars, reach across the aisle (esp on energy)

Speech Highlights

- we're in WV
- just came in from Fermi nuclear power plant
- I believe in nuclear power
- price of oil gone down in past few days - we're happy - it affects the lowest-income Americans
- Lexington Project
- nuclear power is one way to help - we can store and reprocess nuclear power - the French do it
- I am very familiar w/ nuclear power - my squadron was based on USS Enterprise
- we've never had a nuclear accident on Navy ships - it's clean
- we send $700B a year
- offshore drilling - we need to do it and do it now
- i met w/ a group of "independent petroleum producers" the other day and they said we can do it in a couple of months
- i agree w/ Auto Assoc - we should all inflate our tires - but that doesn't serve as a plan
- on Iraq- we are proud and pleased at lowest # of casualties since war started happened in July - it's been a long hard struggle - we will be able to withdraw, as you do whenever a counterinsurgency strategy succeeds
- i'd love to tell you there's a parade down Broadway, but that's not what success is - it's a

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govt that can govern effectively and econ stability is back
- a friend of mine commented, what do you think would happen if Saddam were still in charge and oil were $120/ barrel - i think we're a lot better off now that saddam and his sadistic sons are out
- i don't see how you can go and meet these last 5 brigades that are coming home and tell them, great job but the surge didnt succeed
- it's gonna be a tight race - i realize i'm the underdog, though the polls are getting better
- i was in sturgis last night w/ 50k harleys, adn i'd rather have 50k harleys than all those Berliners, like my opponent had
- all those harleys made me all the more proud to carry the banner of the GOP, which needs a lot of reforming leading up to the eleciton

- 1Q) How can we become more dependent on domestic oil? How can we get around enviro oppo?
    - MCCAIN: States ought to give their approval. Crist said he wanted it off the coast of FL and that's probably what the majority of FL voters think. And CA says they don't want it. It can be done more quickly than enviro groups are saying. And that's not just my opinion - as I said, I met with a group of "indep. petroleum producers" and they said it could be done. And I'll remind you LA and TX both have offshore oil rigs and they've both withstood significant hurricanes. So we have to drill here and drill now.
    - FOLLOWUP: I hope so. The American people deserve it.

- 2Q) We've had problems with products from China and from Mexico. will you erase some of those free trade incentives and bring jobs back to America?
    - MCCAIN: Americans are hurting badly in PA, OH, MI. And were hurting before this last downturn. We have to strengthen these agreements we've made. The next problem toy that comes from China will be the last toy - we need to strengthen the regulations. Our exports are probably the bright spot in our economic picture. And we need to do more w/ education and training programs to give workers another chance for jobs, esp if it's an older worker, in which case they should receive compensation.
    - MCCAIN: I understand you're hurting badly, and we have to keep your taxes low - Obama wants to raise your taxes- i think we need more $ in your hands. And health care should be in your hands rather than in govt's.
- FOLLOWUP: In other countries, they don't have the FDA and other rules and regs in terms of what goes into products and that's concerning.
    - MCCAIN: The next time that products come into the US and endanger the health and wellbeing of citizens, that'll be the last. If that means them having us over there to oversee the manufacturing process then so be it. The prob is we haven't enforced the agreements taht we've made - I will enforce them.

- Quick survey: What issue is most imp to you: (1) energy [?] (2) natl security (3) immig (4) pocketbook, e.g. housing mkt, (5) health care

- 3Q) Any role in the govt aiding us to conserve, e.g. incentives for solar panels, etc?
    - MCCAIN: I do, I do. Can I mention that Obama said we ought to inflate our tires and I don't disagree with that. But I also don't think that's a way to become energy independent. We ought to give tax and other incentives to homeowners and builders to make them more energy efficient. As you know, Detroit is starting to move forward with hybrid cars and flex-fuels, and if you bought one of those cars the govt should give you up to $5k. So anything we can do to make US

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conserve more energy, we should do so and do it actively as a govt. I believe we can see a rebirth of the Big 3 in Detroit thru this innovative technology.
  - MCCAIN: I'd also like to see Cong, who decided to take a 5wk vacation while youre paying $4 for gas, and they've done nothing - they should provide ways to reduce our dependency on foreign oil. When I'm POTUS, they're not taking vacations like this. It's disgraceful. I wish the POTUS would call them back and make sure they do something about this.

- 4Q) Education - What's your stance on NCLB and what would you do to improve quality of education?
  - MCCAIN: TY for being a part of 1 of the most honorable vocations one could have. NCLB should be fixed - we shouldn't scrap it completely. It was the first attempt to engage students acrpss USA and see what programs are succeeding. And it was a bipartisan effort. It needs to be fixed after a period of time, and I think there's been enough time to go back to it. We need choice and competition in our schools. I addressed Urban League, NAACP and La Raza and said now we have equal opportunity and access to schools but how does that help if they don't have choice of school. Schools are better in high-income vs. low-income. Charter schools are a viable alternative - they're not the answer but they're viable. Home schooling is another option. We ought to reward good teachers and find failing teachers/principals/schools other lines of work. NYC has reformed its schools. NOLA school system now has 32 charter schools and education is improving. Charter schoools aren't answer but they're a choice. I want my kids to have the same chioce--pardon, I want all kids to have the choice that Obamas and we had when we chose to send our kids to other schools. should be a bipartisan effort.
- FOLLOWUP: With NCLB, we need to involved schools in decision-making process - they have great input. What woudl you do to involve the school district?
  - MCCAIN: I think it's our job as legislators and then as POTUS to go out and get input. It'd be terrible not to hear from the ppl we are impacting. I will urge Congress to talk to ppl out in the field and sit down together and fix it. I have a record of doin that. And I think it's the civil rts issue of this generation that every child should grow up and have a quality education. BTW, I have a duaghter named Meghan.

- OPERATOR- Quick survey w/ touchstone phone: how likely are you to cast a ballot in Nov? Scale 1-5

- 5Q) Neither GOP or Dem have reduced size of fed govt. We're all facing layoffs, but not in fed govt. Can you reduce budgeting or change rqmts to justify their continued existence?
  - MCCAIN: I agree. Mostly under GOPs we've presided over largest growth in govt since Great Society. And it's a great burden on the next gen. (1) We should make every bureaucracy and make them justify their existence. It won't be easy. (2) a lot of fed govt is nearing retirement - and I'm sure they don't deserve it- but instead of replacing them, we should use technology and replace them w/ computers. (3) we have to stop the spending - it's disgraceful. It's bred corruption and increased the size of bureauracracy. We've gotten into this 'gateway drug' that are earmarks. I've never asked for or received them; Obama has requested approx $1M / day in office. I will veto all and make them famous, which is obviously different from Obama's approach.
  - FOLLOWUP: TY for your refreshing ideas.
  - MCCAIN: TY, and if you have some, send them. [laughs]

- 6Q) In the beginning I was more for Obama, now more towards you. Why should you get my vote over Obama?
  - MCCAIN: B/c i'm a great American [laughs]. We've got 93 days and I hope independents will look at our positions. I respect and admire Obama. He won the nomination over a very talented

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competitor, I respect HRC. Different views of govt- lower vs. higher taxes, govt- vs indiv-handled health care. And then there's Iraq. And I asked Obama to join me in town halls and I would've loved to, but he's not gonna do that. And there's one other area: judges- there will be 2-3 vacancies. I believe in qualified but strict-constructionist judges. They've I'm proud of Alito and Roberts but Obama voted ag/ both of them.
    - FOLLOWUP: I think you're great but I think you got my vote.

- Operator- last question.
- MCCAIN: Can we do 2 more?

- 7Q) I'm concerned over partisanship in DC, concerned w/ security and that we're not guarded ag/ this. What's your plan to bring country together?
    - MCCAIN: Cong approval at 9% and they decided to take vacation when ppl are paying at the pump - it's reprehensible. I have a history of working with Dems--Lieberman, Kennedy, Feingold. Americans want us to work together to fix these problems. And it's really sad- I never thought we'd be down like this at 9%. 80% of ppl think we're on the wrong track. Obama has the most liberal voting record in Senate and that's just his record. I assure you I'll reach acorss the aisle. And if they want the credit, they can have the credit.

- 8Q) As POTUS, you can use the bully pulpit to get info to public in a way that Cong has not been doing lately. 1 issue is the $53T deficit in Social Security and teh $2-3T interest accruing. Would you be open to bring in someone like David Walker?
    - MCCAIN: Funny you mention him b/c he's the most articulate person on this issue. It's a stark picture but I believe a true one. I wouldn't only bring him in but would commit to tell the American people the truth. I believe I'm the nominee of my party b/c I told ppl the truth. That's the beauty of town hall mtgs. I'm not a friend of his or anything, but I saw his work when he was head of GAO. We also need other people who are highly repsected adn regarded, GOP or Dem, e.g. Fiorina, Whitman, that need to go out and tell Americans the truth that we need to stop handing off these burdens to the next generation. It's not America. If they knew what we are doing, they wouldn't let us pass this on. The Concord Coalition has been very helpful to a lot of us b/c they're a veritable treasure trove of info. And we're going to have to pay the fiddler. And I'll sit down w/ Dems and tell them I'm against tax increases. In a bipartisan fashion, they will come around to my position and we will solve Social Security and solve Medicare.
- TY for taking your time. This is going to be an interesting election. On election night, we're going to be up late and we're going to be looking at PA. Every vote counts. I'm glad I got one tonight.

- OPERATOR: Please visit our website, johnmccain.com for more info.
- Recorded msg from McCain: if you have any questions, please leave your name and # after the tone. Or you can call our campaign HQ at [gives #] or visit our website.
- Recorded msg (woman): paid for by John McCain.

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Sara DuBois
Tracking / Communications Manager
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410-967-7306 (cell)

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Lauren Peterson" <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 7/31/2015 6:04:07 AM
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

ok by me

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 1:02 PM, Lauren Peterson <lpeterson@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I vote for just replying directly with no period before the @ - people will see this and it will get pickup. We do need to shorten though - here's my attempt:

@ marcorubio That's backwards—engagement's a threat to the Castros, not a gift. Embargo hasn't worked for 50 yrs. Cuban ppl deserve better -H

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:41 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

+ Nick and Lauren.

From: Brian Fallon [mailto:bfallon@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Like this (w the handle). Lets do it

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:35 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I like including his handle.

.@marcorubio you've got it backwards: Engagement isn't a gift to the Castros -- it's a threat to the Castros. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Cuban people deserve better.

On Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 12:26 PM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Dan/Brian, would love your input on this.

From: Christina Reynolds [mailto:creynolds@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

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Love hitting him back. Will defer to the policy experts on which one, but I like mixing it up when we have the high ground.

On Jul 31, 2015, at 12:16 PM, Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

I like that. Another option:

@marcorubio I'm for the Cuban people. Time to stop helping the Castros through failed policies. Going back to those would be the mistake.

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:14 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

Adding Reynolds.

Perhaps an HRC tweet along the lines of:

Those who seek to lead our country should focus on the future, not try to pull us back to the past. Embargo hasn't worked for 50+ years. Let's try something new.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Laura Rosenberger <lrosenberger@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: RE: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

I'm good with either. Whatever is faster.

On Jul 31, 2015 8:00 AM, "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Adding Laura and Fallon. John, did you have in mind having HRC hit back, or campaign?
>
> **From:** Dan Schwerin [mailto:dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com]
> **Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2015 10:57 AM
> **To:** John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >
> **Subject:** Fwd: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia

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Here we go...

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Jeremy Massey <jmassey@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 10:31 AM
Subject: TWEET | Rubio Hits HRC On Cuba, Russia
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

User Actions

Following

Marco RubioVerified account @ marcorubio

After Clinton's failed 'reset' with Putin, now she wants to do a 'reset' with Castro. She is making another mistake.

https://twitter.com/marcorubio/status/627124174495055872

--

Jeremy Massey

Research Department

847 736 9211

JMassey@HillaryClinton.com

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Date: 5/3/2015 3:54:20 PM
Subject: Re: Clinton Cash and Week Ahead issues to discuss tomorrow am

I would add at end of last sentence: "...is absurd and never happened."

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On May 3, 2015, at 5:17 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

Here's a first stab:

The Foundation does life-saving work around the world, including getting HIV drugs to 8 MM people, getting nearly 28,000 African farmers to grow better crops to feed hungry people and it has helped get healthier food for American kids into 6000 schools. As for time as Sec of State --- I have represented the United States all over the globe, challenged world leaders over women's rights and human rights and defended our national interest every day. The notion that that anyone donating to the foundation was going to influence me in my job is absurd. (or "ludicrous")

From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2015 2:31 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri
Cc: Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Huma Abedin; Mandy Grunwald; Robby Mook; John Podesta; Kristina Schake; Dan Schwerin; Teddy Goff
Subject: Re: Clinton Cash and Week Ahead issues to discuss tomorrow am

I agree with Jen we should try to avoid Tuesday if that is possible. I like having her do it Wednesday, if we can make it til then -- saying a couple declarative sentences rejecting the basic premise [and expressing pride in Foundation's work], pointing to website, and then pivoting to positive message.

On Sun, May 3, 2015 at 1:33 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Friends - I wanted to lay out some issues to consider related to Clinton Cash and making news next week for discussion on Monday morning's call. Hope you are enjoying great weather in the meantime. JP

HRC ENGAGEMENT ON CLINTON CASH

The biggest question for this group is if and how HRC engages on Clinton Cash this week and what are the "two lines" she would deliver.

Reminder on this week's events for her. WJC on Today show on Monday; HRC in Vegas on Tuesday in front of the pool for an immigration event; fundraiser and lunch with the Mayor in SFO on Wednesday; LA fundraisers on Thursday; Bay Area fundraiser on Friday. All of the fundraisers are closed. To restate what we all discussed on Thursday and Friday - I would rather she not engage with press while we are in Vegas. Like to keep her on immigration and we handle response.

Below is a written statement Dan had drafted when we thought she might engage on this last week - so gives folks something to react to:

Statement from Hillary Clinton:
The suggestion that I or President Obama or any other senior official in this administration would ever allow decisions about national security to influenced by personal considerations – let alone some charitable donations – is absurd. Anyone who's had to sit in the Situation Room and make life and death choices would understand that. And if anyone ever donated to the Clinton Foundation in the hopes of influencing official government policy, they'd be a fool. Even the author himself has now admitted that he found zero evidence of any wrong-doing or quid pro quo. Unfortunately, the incredible life-saving work of the Clinton Foundation has gotten lost in these attacks. More than 9 million people with HIV/AIDS around the world have benefited from more affordable medicine because of the Clinton Foundation. Millions of American children have access to healthier food. Farmers in Africa are growing better crops. Women entrepreneurs are starting businesses. I'm so proud of the work that Bill, Chelsea, and all the professionals at the Foundation have done and continue to do. And I hope that people will judge the Foundation on that record of accomplishment, not on baseless conspiracy theories

CLINTON CASH RESPONSE/LAUNCH OF "THE BRIEFING"

On Tuesday morning we will launch The Briefing page on our website. This page will be where supporters and others can get information and points on what she is for, but also where we would post pushback on the book. Below is what we currently plan to post on Tuesday related to the book.

We are also considering a Podesta post that we would put on Medium and our site that unveils the concept of The Briefing, debunks the book a

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bit, and notes that while we will respond aggressively to attacks - we know that they are just designed to stop her bc R's know that she has right vision/policies to win and will not be distracted from our main highway of selling the positive. John and I discussed yesterday and think it is important that supporters and press know that we will deal aggressively with unfair attacks, but our real focus and her's is her proactive vision. Important that we do not appear beleaguered.

Clinton Cash Content for The Briefing:

1) a comprehensive post that debunks the book with all of our attacks in one place;

2) a short video narrated by Brian Fallon highlighting most egregious errors (we will need more time to do comprehensive version we discussed with HRC on Friday, but think it is worth doing short one for the book release on Tuesday);

3) a number of social media products that our supporters can share and are designed to get buzz with press and supporters and further discredit the author and the book;

4) the products we have already put out over the course of the last week.

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From:	"John Graham" <jgraham@fairviewinsurance.com>
To:	"John Graham" <jgraham@fairviewinsurance.com>
Date:	9/29/2015 9:37:58 AM
Subject:	Putin and Obama clash over Syria as Russia calls for 'anti-Hitler' type alliance against Isil - Telegraph/ Is that Putin`s real intent? THE IRANIAN AGREEMENT CONTINUES ITS INFLUENCE ON U.S. MID EAST POLICY/ PUTIN NOW TAKES THE LEAD..

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/11895857/Vladimir-Putin-and-Barack-Obama-speak-at-UN-General-Assembly-live.html
Instead of reading the N.Y.Times , let`s take a look at what world opinion , especially Europe , thinks of U.S. Leadership within the Middle-East. It is quite evident that Russian President Putin has seized the day. Only a few short years ago, the U.S. Middle -East Syrian strategy was to pursue the ouster of Syrian President Assad by supporting the anti- Assad insurgents with weapons and training. There was a significant equivocation from the White House since the Iran Nuclear negotiations remained a priority of the Administration`s legacy. The pursuit of the Iranian Agreement has obviously changed the venue within U.S Middle -East relationships away from our allies ,Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey , and Jordan toward Iranian influence within the region. Jordan and Saudi Arabia were prepared to eliminate the ISIL threat however that role was relinquished to Iran with their new found ally, Russia . Since that decision, Iran, the biggest supporter of Assad in Syria as well as the protagonist for International terrorism against the U.S. AND Israel, has aligned with the ever opportunistic Vladimir Putin . Therefore we have today , hundreds of thousands Syria immigrants fleeing a dictator who chemically kills his own people while being protected by Russia and Iran . Putin will be economically exporting his vast military wares to the Ayatollah Khamenei ,who will be replenished $150 B. for 10 years of nuclear self- restraint. Russia, Iran, Syria and Iraq will be sharing intelligence . Russia has military bases established in Syria in support of Assad. The intrigue concerning Putin`s motive is that his real intent is to eliminate ISIL from Syria or a more sinister goal of destroying the all of ASSAD `s opposition forces from all sides. Anyway you analyze it, the U.S. / Middle East policy has changed forever .Who are our trusted allies if any? Now you must ask yourself , was this Iran agreement really in our best interest?
YOU DECIDE!

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/20/2015 12:40:37 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 5.20.15
Attachments:	H4A 5 20 15 Clips.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 20, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Hillary Clinton was in Cedar Falls, Iowa yesterday and spoke with small business owners about small business growth in America, the economy and American families. She also took questions from members of the press corps in attendance. The Iowa press coverage focused on her commitment to small businesses while the national coverage focused on the Q&A.

The campaign released information about campaign trips to Missouri, Texas and Florida where Hillary Clinton will campaign and the stories ran in those markets before fundraising invitations leaked about those trips.

NBC News Latino and La Opinoin are reporting that Hillary for America hires DREAMer Lorella Paeli to be the campaign Latino outreach director. Praeli, who was undocumented for almost 13 years and became an outspoken advocate during that time, will be the Clinton campaign's main point person with Latino communities around the country.

USA Today did a profile piece about the Hillary for America strategy saying that the early phase of the campaign has worked while the AP has a story about the campaign strategist sticking to plans or structure of the campaign and not changing after most recent news.

LAST NIGHTS EVENING NEWS

All three networks had segments on HRC's trip to Iowa and answering questions from reporters. ABC focused on how HRC could relate to voters despite her vast wealth and went on to discuss her State Department emails, including the clip of HRC stating that she wants her emails to be released as soon as possible. CBS focused on the State Department emails noted HRC urged the State Department to speed up its timeline; said HRC kept the emails on her home server for two years before Republicans on the Benghazi Committee demanded them; reported HRC had been avoiding answering questions about emails she deleted and foreign donations to The Clinton Foundation. NBC had a short segment on HRC's Iowa roundtable and taking questions from the press reported Republicans slammed HRC for her use of private emails; showed Christie's comments from The Kelly File last night in which he said her use of a private email server was "incredible"; shifted into HRC's answer on Iraq.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES..... 4

Iowa shrugs off Clinton controversies // CNN // Eric Bradner - May 19, 2015..... 4

Clinton touts small business in Cedar Falls, Independence stops // WCF Courier // Christinia Crippes - May 19, 2015..... 6

Clinton campaign aims for style, substance points amid scrutiny // USA Today // Martha T. Moore - May 19, 2015..... 9

Hillary Clinton Taps DREAMer Lorella Praeli As Latino Outreach Director // NBC News Latino // Sandra Lilley – May 20,

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Hillary Clinton will host an Atlanta fundraiser next week // AJC // Greg Bluestein - May 19, 2015. 13

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Iowa shrugs off Clinton controversies // CNN // Eric Bradner - May 19, 2015

Cedar Falls, Iowa (CNN) The parallel universes of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign collided Tuesday.

In one world, four Iowans who'd all been invited by Clinton's team saddled up to a table to talk with her about what she might do to ease regulations on small banks and whether she'll support a Pacific Rim free trade deal.

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In the other world, reporters who hadn't gotten Clinton to respond to a single query in nearly a month threw her questions about her private email server, her personal wealth gained from exorbitant speaking fees, her family foundation's acceptance of foreign contributions, the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the influence old friends who now represent business interests have on her decision-making process.

By taking five minutes' worth of questions, Clinton appears to have released some of the pressure that has built in the national press recently over her desire to focus on the policy matters that she views as central to her 2016 bid for the Democratic nomination without being sidetracked by the ever-present questions about her personal ethics and the day's news.

Disconnect

But if the strategy is frustrating reporters, it's not having much impact here. A disconnect between Washington and the heartland crystallized Tuesday as many Iowans — including the Democratic activists who will drive the state's caucuses in early 2016 — seemed to meet Clinton's interactions and non-interactions with the press with little more than a shrug.

"I don't think that's a widespread concern by most voters," said Tom Henderson, the Democratic chairman in Polk County, which is Iowa's most populous.

In interviews after Clinton's events, no one who attended raised any concerns about her handling of emails, her finances or her family's foundation.

"Most of us think it's a pretty moot point. Lots of us have tons of emails," said Brad Magg, the owner of Goldie's Ice Cream Shoppe and Magg Family Catering and a participant in a Cedar Falls, Iowa, roundtable on Tuesday. "I care about what she's going to do for policy and what she's going to do for our communities, for our counties, for our state, and that's all I think most of us care about."

"I'm here today because I care about small business, point blank," said Denita Gadson, owner of i-Gus Consulting and another participant Tuesday.

But Clinton's take on policy? That, she said, is another matter — and she'll need to hear more before endorsing the Democrat.

"I don't know that I'm jaded or cynical enough to say one way or the other," she said. "Things have to play out."

Like Gadson, who quizzed Clinton on Tuesday about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, some Democrats who are most likely to participate in the early-state nominating process say they are less interested in the personality-driven controversies that constantly surround Clinton and are more keen to get her take on issues like free trade, which has pitted two other prominent Democrats — President Barack Obama and Sen. Elizabeth Warren — against each other.

'Absolutely perfect'

Dean Genth, who hosted a Clinton house party Monday in Mason City, Iowa, said he loves the way Clinton has launched her campaign.

"I think it is absolutely perfect," he said. "She needs to have the small events first. With her resume and her viability and the Secret Service protection she requires, she will definitely be doing the big rallies at some point. But I think she is right to start with small events in a grassroots way."

Genth added that the big events will come, "but now is not the time."

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"We are thrilled she is giving a signal to Iowans that she understands the importance of this state and wants to interact with us," he said.

Despite some of the ambivalence here about Clinton's press strategy, there are signs that she pays at least some price for leaving questions unanswered. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll found only a quarter of registered voters said they viewed her as honest and straightforward, down 13 percentage points from last summer.

Henderson recalled the 2007 Democratic primary with Clinton running against then-Sens. Barack Obama and John Edwards — where Clinton's vote in favor of the 2003 war in Iraq, and her refusal to fully retreat from that vote, damaged her.

"Sometimes she tends to dance, and I think people have been frustrated with that in the past," Henderson said.

He said that at this stage in the presidential race, candidates like Clinton are still focused on adding field organizers, making contacts with activists and making their first few trips into states. But Henderson also noted that unlike Clinton, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley -- a likely Democratic challenger — has already held open events in Iowa, mingling with anyone who walked in.

"Those are the type of events where Iowans can get engaged and start to touch the candidate," he said.

There, he said, Democrats can start to get a sense of what really matters to them: "What is your vision? Why do you want to be president of the United States? That's one thing that everybody is waiting to hear from her."

Clinton touts small business in Cedar Falls, Independence stops // WCF Courier // Christinia Crippes - May 19, 2015

INDEPENDENCE | "Go in. Buy something. Help small business," Hillary Clinton urged the media pool preceding her into Laree's Independence gift shop.

Clinton, the former first lady, U.S. senator, secretary of state and odds-on favorite to win the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, was in Northeast Iowa Tuesday to continue a conversation with small business owners.

She held a roundtable with four regional business leaders at Bike Tech in Cedar Falls on Tuesday morning, which included about a dozen invited guests including three Democratic state lawmakers and several more media, before traveling to Independence to meet business owners in their shops.

“I’m running for president because everyday Americans and their families need a champion, and I want to be that champion,” Clinton said at Bike Tech. “I want to make the words ‘middle-class’ mean something again.”

Clinton said she wants to be the president of small business and pointed to four areas she wants to address, if she’s elected next fall.

Those objectives are to cut red tape for small business, simplify their tax filing, increase targeted tax credits and make it easier for them to get financing. That latter goal was her main focus during the roundtable at Bike Tech, which featured the business’ owner Brent Johnson.

Clinton criticized Republicans for their “cynical attempt to game the system for those at the top” by supporting a full repeal of the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill.

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Clinton said the country “ought to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time” by keeping the majority of Dodd-Frank in place to regulate big banks while not over-burdening small banks that help small businesses.

Donna Sorensen, Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust board chairwoman, agreed with Clinton that the federal government ought to be able to regulate big banks and community banks differently. She noted other industries regulate based on size. She said that all banks need to be regulated but that the standards should be different.

The Republicans offered their own critiques of Clinton.

The Republican National Committee issued a press release criticizing Clinton’s professed championing of small business where she said in New Hampshire she was “very surprised’ to learn how small businesses are struggling.

The Republican Party of Iowa criticized a lack of transparency so far in Clinton’s campaign.

“What difference, at this point, does it make if Hillary Clinton answers one or two more questions? There are hundreds of unanswered questions about her decades of scandal, which explains why more Iowans than not find her untrustworthy,” Iowa GOP spokesman Charlie Szold said in a statement.

Clinton fielded five media questions following her Cedar Falls event, but iGUS Consulting owner Denita Gadson of Waterloo, was not shy during the roundtable about asking Clinton about some of the hot topics currently making news.

Gadson asked Clinton a question from one of her clients about helping young entrepreneurs get started, specifically those who have a criminal past but are aiming now to get on the right track.

“It hasn’t taken their dreams away, but it has made it more difficult for them to pursue those dreams," Gadson said.

Clinton said that’s a fair question. She agreed that some communities have to overcome much more to have small business growth, and supported finding ways for those communities to have access to tools to start to grow.

She also backed voting rights restorations for people with criminal backgrounds.

Gadson also asked about whether Clinton supported the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.

Clinton essentially that it depends on what is in the agreement. She laid out some specifics of what she would want to see in a trade deal before she would accept it, including addressing currency manipulation by other countries, environmental and health regulations, and protecting jobs in the United States.

The Americans for Democratic Action - Iowa protested outside Clinton’s roundtable on just that issue. About a dozen activists across the street from Bike Tech expressed their opposition to the proposed trade agreement and urged Clinton to give her opinion on it.

On the other end of the political spectrum, Judd Saul, a conservative activist with Cedar Valley Patriots for Christ, and a few other conservatives also came out to protest the event, though they focused on opposition to Clinton in general.

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While Clinton's Cedar Falls event focused on issues, her Independence stop was more about celebrating and supporting small businesses.

Her first stop was Em's Coffee Co., where Clinton ordered an espresso and placed an order for a sandwich before heading to Laree's. Em's Coffee Co . is run by Emile Hillman, 26, with help from her mother Tami Fenner.

Clinton, a new grandmother, followed her own shop-local admonishment to reporters and picked up some gifts for her granddaughter Charlotte.

Clinton bought a 2-in-1 talking plush ball and a farm animal plush barn that made farm noises. She also purchased a book titled "Theories of Everything" by Brian Andreas, an Iowan, which left her cracking up laughing and ultimately reading a passage to reporters.

"This was a great stop," Clinton said as owner Laree Randall totaled up Clinton's purchases.

Before heading to Laree's, Clinton met owner of the local Hardware Hank store, Shirley Tekippe and her son Terry Tekippe.

"I think it was wonderful. I think it was great she took time to stop in our small community," Terry Tekippe said.

Shirley Tekippe said she'd met the former first lady during her 2008 campaign for president. She remembers Clinton praised her pink sweater.

"She didn't have to do that," Shirley said.

"Hopefully, she remembers Main Street," Tekippe said of Clinton. "Main Street is important.

Clinton campaign aims for style, substance points amid scrutiny // USA Today // Martha T. Moore - May 19, 2015

In the weeks since she formally, finally announced her campaign for the presidency in April, Hillary Clinton has sought to score points for style and substance.

Style, to convince Democratic voters that she won't run like an incumbent who views the primaries as a mere formality — a complaint about her 2008 presidential campaign. Substance, to signal her liberal bona fides to Democrats who long for the bank-bashing Sen. Elizabeth Warren to get into the presidential nominating contest.

So Clinton took a road trip halfway across the U.S. from New York to Iowa in a van nicknamed Scooby Doo and stopped to grab a bite at a Chipotle in Ohio. She met with small groups of voters for "roundtable discussions" in which she nodded and listened — much as she did when she began running for the Senate in 2000, breaking ground as the first first lady to run for office.

Early reviews say Clinton has achieved what she set out to do when she launched her campaign on April 12. However, as she looks ahead to the next phase of her presidential bid and tries to continue to avoid the missteps that cost her in 2008, she will be challenged to put forward a clear rationale for her candidacy while dueling with scrutiny from press she has largely kept at bay.

Clinton "cleared a couple of important hurdles," says Democratic consultant Ben LaBolt, press secretary for President Obama's 2012 campaign. "The first is, showing that she's relatable and down to earth."

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So far, Clinton's campaign staff seems to be functioning smoothly, without the internal turmoil that marked her 2008 effort, says Charlie Cook, editor of the nonpartisan Cook Report. "Her campaign may make new mistakes but certainly seems like they won't be making the same mistakes as last time. The arrogance seems to be gone."

APPEALS TO THE LEFT

On the issues, she's staking out ground that should appeal to liberal primary voters. She has said she favors citizenship for illegal immigrants, supports same-sex marriage, and suggested a constitutional amendment to reform campaign finance. When she said in an April speech in New York that economic success should be measured "by how many families get ahead and stay ahead," she added a jab at Wall Street, calling family income a "far better measure (of prosperity) than the size of the bonuses handed out in downtown office buildings."

Her call for "an end to mass incarceration" in a speech on criminal justice reform April 29 was an implicit acknowledgment of flaws in President Bill Clinton's 1994 crime initiative, which funded thousands of police officers during a tough-on-crime era that sent prison populations soaring.

Her campaign says Clinton's policy statements so far haven't been aimed at the party's left wing in particular. Immigration, criminal justice reform and same-sex marriage have "a common theme of justice, fairness, equity, social justice. The thematic that runs through them is consistent to her and her life's work," spokesman Jesse Ferguson says.

Her willingness to articulate positions on important issues to Democrats hasn't cost her in polls of New Hampshire voters, says Neil Levesque of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm's College. "Sometimes incumbents or people who have big leads tend to equivocate because they don't want to lose anybody," he says. "She didn't do that."

However, Clinton still faces pressure from the Democratic left wing over President Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade proposal, which many in her party oppose .

Clinton backed the NAFTA deal negotiated during Bill Clinton's administration and supported the Pacific pact while secretary of State. Now she says she wants to wait until a final agreement on TPP is reached before taking a position. .

Like Jeb Bush's efforts to differentiate himself from President George W. Bush, Clinton's policy statements, while early in the campaign, are a way to distinguish herself from her husband, LaBolt says. "She showed in the crime speech that they're not the same candidate."

However, the scattershot policy pronouncements have yet to reveal what her campaign is all about, says Dennis Goldford, a political scientist at Drake University in Iowa. What's needed, he says, is a clear rationale for her candidacy. "She still, I think, has not solved that problem. Other than the fact that she desperately wants to be president … what would Hillaryism mean to the country?" he says.

Too soon, LaBolt says, given that the first primaries are still seven months away. "Voters don't really engage until a lot closer until Election Day and you don't want to go out and talk about your signature initiatives until you're sure voters are tuned in."

THE NEXT PHASE

Her campaign insists that the slow rollout in the opening weeks was all about letting Clinton learn what voters want and need. But it also provides an opportunity for a handful of primary-state residents to get near a woman who has been demonized, as well as idolized, for decades.

"If she can continue to have those conversations (with voters), then that process is valuable both ways," Ferguson says.

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"A candidate who has not been in the mix in a while needs to find out what the big issues are and what people are dealing with," says Levesque. "I think that she played it right ... You really need to know how much a gallon of milk is before you get into New Hampshire and Iowa."

Clinton's campaign has also designed her fundraising activity to appear low-key — though she will be the beneficiary of the super PAC Priorities USA. She has kept a busy schedule of fundraising at events where individual donations are capped at $2,700. The events are hosted by bundlers called "Hillstarters," supporters who promise to recruit 10 donations of $2,700 each — a relatively low bar in the world of political finance.

Clinton has agreed to participate in six primary debates. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is the only other announced Democratic candidate, but former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley has an announcement set for May 30. Lincoln Chafee, a former Rhode Island governor, and former Virginia senator Jim Webb are also considering runs.

Clinton needs more opponents, not fewer, to succeed, Goldford says. "She desperately needs some top-tier competition to keep her sharp."

Clinton will complete her tour of the primary states with another trip to New Hampshire later this week, then a May 27 visit to South Carolina; she was in Iowa on Monday and Tuesday. Her campaign says it will be "a continuing process where she's going to be on the road, continuing to listen to voters," Ferguson says. "Then we are going to turn to a more concrete polished rollout phase of the campaign. We're still in the phase where the first priority is making sure she has those conversations."

All of her initial campaign activity has taken place against a backdrop of continued controversy: over donations to the Clinton foundation from foreign donors, over her use of personal email while secretary of State and over the 2012 Benghazi attack on American diplomats, including a report from The New York Times this week about memos on Libya she received from Sidney Blumenthal, a friend who worked for the Clinton Foundation, while Clinton was at the State Department.

News organizations, as well as Republicans, have hammered Clinton for not giving interviews while campaigning. On Tuesday, she fielded questions from reporters for the first time in weeks.

Clinton should make that issue go away, Cook says, if only by holding off-the-record sessions as her top campaign staff did with journalists prior to her announcement. "Have them over to the house and make nice, just to get them off her back," he says.

But it will be larger campaign themes that determine Clinton's success, Cook says, rather than the running undercurrent of media snubbing or scandal stories.

"It will be about bigger things. If Clinton can project herself as fresh ideas and future oriented, generating energy and excitement, she will do very well," he says.

Hillary Clinton Taps DREAMer Lorella Praeli As Latino Outreach Director // NBC News Latino // Sandra Lilley – May 20, 2015

Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton has named prominent immigrant DREAMer activist Lorella Praeli as Latino Outreach Director, a Clinton campaign official told NBC News. Praeli, who was undocumented for almost 13 years and became an outspoken advocate during that time, will be the Clinton campaign's main point person with Latino communities around the country. She will also be one of the campaign's surrogates with the press on Latino issues, including immigration.

Praeli's appointment sends a strong signal that the Clinton campaign recognizes immigration reform as a key issue for many of the nation's Hispanic voters. It also sends a message to Republican candidates to take a clearer position on immigration - a contentious issue for the GOP - as they court Latino votes. Recently Clinton said she supported full and equal citizenship for undocumented immigrants, saying that anything less is "code

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for second-class status."

In a statement obtained by NBC News, Hillary for America National Political Director Amanda Renteria stated "We are thrilled to have Lorella Praeli, a DREAMer, join our team because of her courage and perspective in the fight for Latino families across the country."

"Bringing Lorella into our campaign is the next step in making sure families aren't living in fear of deportation, all students have the chance to go to college, and that any comprehensive immigration reform ensures full and equal citizenship," stated Renteria.

Praeli has been Advocacy and Policy Director for United We Dream, one of the country's largest immigrant youth organizations, pushing the Obama administration and both parties to take action on immigration issues and legislation.

Born in Peru, Praeli was brought to the U.S. by her family at age 10 to provide her with better opportunities; Praeli lost a leg in an accident when she was 2. The family moved to Connecticut and her mother, who was a psychiatrist in Peru, worked as a housekeeper. Praeli attended Quinnipiac University, where she graduated summa cum laude and where she also came out as undocumented and became active as a young DREAMer.

Though Praeli obtained a green card in 2012, members of her family still lack legal status, as is the case with many immigrant families. Praeli's mother is currently undocumented, while her younger sister Maria obtained deferred action status through DACA and made headlines after confronting President and Mrs. Obama on immigration, also stating DREAMers were looking at the positions of potential candidates, including Hillary Clinton.

Praeli's new role as Latino outreach director - she starts in mid-June - is one of several high-profile Latino appointments in the Clinton campaign, including Amanda Renteria as national political director and Jose Villarreal as campaign treasurer. Clinton also named two Latinos in Nevada, Emmy Ruiz and Jorge Neri, as state director and organizing director.

Hillary Clinton will host an Atlanta fundraiser next week **// AJC // Greg Bluestein - May 19, 2015**

Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton is headed to Atlanta next week to raise some cash and shake some hands, her first visit to Georgia this campaign season.

Two Democratic insiders say hosts are being lined up for the May 28 visit, which is likely to be a breakfast event. A Clinton aide later confirmed the report.

The trip comes a day after the former Secretary of State stops by South Carolina for her first visit since 2007, though details of that trip are still in the works.

While Hillary hasn't yet visited Georgia this campaign season, her husband Bill talked to an architect convention in Atlanta last week. He didn't mention her name during the lengthy talk, though.

The Clinton trip would cap a busy month of visits from White House hopefuls to Georgia. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz stumped at the Georgia Republican convention over the weekend, and Ohio Gov. John Kasich has a date for a May 26 GOP barbecue in east Georgia.

Still, all the attention pales in comparison to the love presidential candidates are showing neighboring South Carolina.

Update 6:07 p.m.: Republican National Committee spokeswoman Ali Pardo responded to news of the Clinton visit by attacking her for hobnobbing

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with donors instead of commoners:

“Hillary Clinton’s campaign has been full of hypocrisy, flip-flops, and scandals, so it’s no surprise she would prefer to avoid interacting with real voters. The truth is that Clinton is more comfortable schmoozing with millionaire donors than pretending to relate to average Americans.”

Hillary Clinton to travel to Florida, Texas and Missouri // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald - May 19, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa – Hillary Clinton will travel to Florida, Texas and Missouri in the coming weeks to build support for her presidential campaign beyond the early primary and caucus states, a campaign aide tells msnbc.

In addition to building robust campaign teams in the four early voting states – Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada – Clinton’s campaign has hired organizers in dozens of other states as part of a 50-state organizing program they call the “Ramp Up Organizing Program.”

The goal is to lay the groundwork and organize grassroots support that will help her in later primaries and caucuses in those states. And it’s an effort to show that Clinton will fight for every vote, including in red states like Texas.

Clinton’s campaign has had organizers on the ground for weeks in a number of states, and it has sent surrogates or senior campaign aides on her behalf. But now Clinton will personally travel to three of these states for campaign events and fundraisers.

Clinton will visit Florida next week on Thursday, May 28 and Friday, May 29. Then she’ll head to Texas on Wednesday, June 3 and Thursday, June 4. And later, she’ll travel to Missouri on Tuesday, June 23.

In the 2008 Democratic primary contest, Clinton won Florida and Texas, while Barack Obama upset her in Missouri.

It’s an “effort to continue building for primary states beyond the early four,” said a campaign aide, who requested anonymity to discuss Clinton’s travel plans. “These local grassroots volunteer infrastructures will help the campaign be ready to compete and win the 2016 Florida, Texas and Missouri primaries.”

Clinton will hold a variety of campaign events in each state, including roundtable discussions, speeches and tours of local institutions and businesses.

The events will be held around fundraisers in each state.

The former secretary of state is in Iowa Tuesday for an event on small businesses. On Wednesday, she heads to Chicago for three fundraisers. And on Friday she returns to New Hampshire.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Joshua Green (5/19/15, 11:53 AM) Elizabeth Warren on @BloombergTV asked about Hillary's refusal to take position on TPP: "I'd like to see her be clearer on that"

Speaker John Boehner (5/19/15, 2:49 PM) Revealed: “Hillary Received Memo Describing #Benghazi As Planned Terror Attack Within Hours,” reports @DailyCaller http://j.mp/1HsrfLo

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Howard Kurtz (5/19/15, 4:09 PM) Hillary's pal & Clinton foundation guy Sid Blumenthal emails about Libya while trying to do business with Libya. Will discuss w @megynkelly

Charlie Mahtesian (5/19/15, 4:04 PM) Hillary Clinton will hit the fundraising trail June 5 in Greenwich, CT, at a $29.7 million Roman villa http://blog.ctnews.com/politics/2015/05/19/hillary-clinton-to-hit-fundraising-trail-in-greenwich/ …

Correct the Record (5/19/15, 4:00 PM) @woodhouseb will join @erinburnett on @outfrontcnn tonight to talk about @HillaryClinton's visit to Iowa

Martin Chavez (5/18/15, 8:05 PM) Hillary to join us in Albuquerque June 3rd for a fundraiser breakfast! We've got to raise money early to make... http://fb.me/6DtQ396Xa

Martin O'Malley (5/19/15, 6:20 AM) I've got exciting news to share about my upcoming announcement on May 30th. Follow me on Snapchat at GovernorOMalley to find out @ 12pm ET!

Jonathan Topaz (5/19/15, 5:45 PM) Hm: @BernieSanders: "I don't think six debates are enough...we will be interacting with the DNC to try [for] as many debates as possible"

Michael Barbaro (5/19/15, 6:19 AM) Possible explanation for why Christie wouldn't address immigration for months? Was preparing to change his position: http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/05/19/chris-christie-citizenship-for-undocumented-immigrants-extreme/ …

HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Howard Dean urges NH Democrats, progressives to back Hillary Clinton // WMUR // May 19, 2015

MANCHESTER, N.H —Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean spoke to progressive activists in New Hampshire late Sunday in support of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

A Clinton campaign official told WMUR.com that listeners on the call were a mix of Clinton supporters and uncommitted Democrats. Former New Hampshire House Speaker Terie Norelli was also on the call and asked Dean questions emailed by listeners.

Clinton on Friday will make her second visit to New Hampshire since announcing her candidacy for president.

Dean, after running for president in 2004, founded the progressive grassroots group Democracy for America. Now headed by his brother, Jim Dean, DFA is working with MoveOn.org on the “Run Warren Run” campaign to try to recruit Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Howard Dean, however, announced his support for Clinton shortly after DFA and MoveOn unveiled their pro-Warren campaign. As both a progressive leader and a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Dean is key surrogate for Clinton who appeals to both liberals and more moderate, “establishment” Democrats.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is also a Vermonter, has announced his candidacy for president and is attempting to appeal to the progressive wing of the party. Sanders is scheduled to return to the state on May 27 for a town hall meeting in Portsmouth and possibly other events.

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Clinton's current national campaign manager, Robby Mook, was the Deputy Field Director for Dean's presidential campaign 11 years ago.

According to a listener on the call, Dean said he has known Clinton for 25 years and believes she is sincere and pragmatic. The listener said Dean made it clear that Clinton understands the importance of having a U.S. Supreme Court that does not make political decisions. And, according to the listener, Dean said it is time for a woman president.

Dean, the listener said, told the group income inequality is the most important domestic issue facing the country and maintained that Clinton understands the next president must deal directly with it.

Norelli, a long-time Clinton supporter, said Clinton has worked on behalf of children, women and the middle class in general.

New report claims al-Qaeda-Benghazi link known day after attack // USA Today // Oren Dorell - May 19, 2015

One day after the deadly Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya, the Defense Intelligence Agency concluded the assault had been planned 10 days earlier by an al-Qaeda affiliate, according to documents released Monday by conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch.

"The attack on the American consulate in Benghazi was planned and executed by The Brigades of the Captive Omar Abdul Rahman," said a preliminary intelligence report by the Defense Intelligence Agency, obtained through a lawsuit following a Freedom of Information Act request.

The group, which also conducted attacks against the Red Cross in Benghazi, was established by Abdul Baset Azuz, a "violent radical" sent by al-Qaeda to set up bases in Libya, the defense agency report said.

The attack was planned on Sept. 1, 2012, with the intent "to kill as many Americans as possible to seek revenge" for the killing of a militant in Pakistan and to memorialize the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the report said.

Four Americans were killed in the Benghazi attack, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

The incident became politically controversial because the White House initially described the attack as the result of a spontaneous protest. Republican critics said the White House intentionally played down that it was a terrorist attack, because it occurred so close to President Obama's re-election.

Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who's now seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, was to appear this week before the House Select Committee on Benghazi, but the hearing was canceled after Clinton and the committee chairman, Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., failed to agree on whether all the documents Gowdy requested had been given to the panel.

GOP fumbles latest attack on Hillary Clinton's email use // CBS News // Jake Miller - May 19, 2015

WASHINGTON --Republicans are still firing away at Hillary Clinton's use of a private email account as secretary of state, but their latest shot seems to have missed the mark.

On Monday, the New York Times published several emails Clinton sent to an advisor in 2011 and 2012, while she was still secretary of state. Republicans noticed that Clinton's email address in the messages (hrod17@clintonemail.com) was not the same email she told congressional investigators she used during her time at the State Department (hdr22@clintonemail.com).

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In a press release sent Monday afternoon, the Republican National Committee cried scandal.

"This is the latest example of how Clinton has attempted to mislead the public about her use of secret email for public business and raises further questions about where else she is attempting to hide the truth on this and other matters," the release exclaimed.

But Clinton's presidential campaign had a quick explanation - After Gawker published Clinton's old address when she left the state department, she changed her email address to hrod17@clintonemail.com . Any messages printed after that time, even if they were several years old, reflected the new address.

It wasn't a new explanation. They'd made it several times before. Here's what Clinton's personal office said in a Q&A document after Clinton's use of a private email account first became an issue in March:

"At the time the printed copies were provided to the Department last year, because it was the same account, the new email address established after she left office appeared on the printed copies as the sender, and not the address she used as Secretary. In fact, this address on the account did not exist until March 2013. This led to understandable confusion that was cleared up directly with the Committee after its press conference."

And when the GOP chairman of the House Benghazi committee, South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy, said in March that Clinton had "more than one private email account," here's what Clinton's lawyer told the committee:

"Secretary Clinton used one email account when corresponding with anyone, from Department officials to friends to family. A month after she left the Department, Gawker published her email address and so she changed the address on her account. At the time the emails were provided to the Department last year this new address appeared on the copies as the 'sender,' and not the address she used as Secretary. This address on the account did not exist until March 2103 [sic], after her tenure as Secretary."

Republicans on the panel weren't willing to accept that explanation from Clinton's lawyer on faith, however. They pressed Clinton to hand over her email server to clear up any lingering confusion about whether she used one address or two.

"Without access to the relevant electronic information and stored data on the server -- which was reportedly registered to her home -- there is no way the Committee, or anyone else, can fully explain why the Committee uncovered two email addresses," Jamal Ware, the Benghazi panel's communications director, explained in a press release in March.

The general case Republicans are building against Clinton is that she's being secretive - why did she use a private email account as Secretary of State, sidestepping the federal system that would automatically archive her messages? And why did she and her team get to decide which messages to hand over to archivists after her she left the job?

Clinton has said she used the private account for convenience - the government email wouldn't work on her mobile device, and she didn't want to carry two phones.

She's said she handed over every work-related email sent from her private account. But the problem, Republicans say, is there's no way to verify that. Clinton says she deleted the personal emails, and she won't hand over the server that housed the account to see whether they can be recovered.

Voters are split on the matter, according to a CBS News poll taken in March - 62 percent said it wasn't appropriate for Clinton to use a private server, and 38 percent said she did it to keep some work-related information from becoming public. But 49 percent believed Clinton's explanation that she used a private account because it was convenient.

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A House Select Committee is probing the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya that killed four Americans, and investigators have asked the State Department to submit copies of all of the Benghazi-emails Clinton sent during her time as secretary of state. On Monday, in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by Vice News' Jason Leopold, the State Department said it "plans to produce releasable portions of Secretary Clinton's emails...by January 15, 2016." Clinton has agreed to testify before the committee, but Republicans say they need a full account of her emails before that can happen.

Hillary Clinton on her emails: I want them out, too! // Politico // Josh Gerstein and Gabriel Debenedetti - May 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton and the State Department on Tuesday insisted they are not slow-walking the public release of her emails during her time as secretary of state, while a federal judge ordered up a plan for a rolling release of the hotly anticipated documents.

“Nobody has a bigger interest in getting them released than I do,” Clinton said to reporters in a rare instance of fielding press questions on the campaign trail.

The 55,000 pages of emails have become the source of much heartburn, speculation and bureaucratic man-hours since news emerged earlier this year that Clinton used a private email server during her time as secretary of state.

The controversy has complicated the roll-out of Clinton’s presidential bid and played into criticism that she and her husband are unduly secretive.

Clinton said in March that she wanted the State Department to release the emails, and since then, the agency has assigned 12 staffers full-time to reviewing the Clinton emails, according to an official.

The State Department on Monday night proposed a deadline of January 2016 to complete its review and publicly release the whole set of documents, but a federal judge on Tuesday rejected such a plan.

U.S. District Court Judge Rudolph Contreras on Tuesday said in a written order State must propose a new schedule by next Tuesday that involves disclosing the records batch-by-batch on a regular basis and updating the court every 60 days on the releases.

With the email controversy freshly swirling around her on the campaign trail, Clinton took a few questions from reporters on Tuesday — the first time she had done so since April 21, much to the jeers of her Republican opponents.

“Anything that they might do to expedite that process I heartily support,” she said to reporters after a roundtable in Cedar Falls, Iowa. “I want the American people to learn as much as they can about the work I did with our diplomats and our development experts.”

She contended she has limited say over the timetable.

“They’re not mine,” Clinton said about her emails. She turned over copies of them to her former department last December. “The State Department has to go through its process, but as much as they can expedite the process, that’s what I’m asking them to do.”

State spokesman Jeff Rathke said Tuesday that the agency will abide by the judge’s order.

“I don’t have anything to add to what was in the court papers,” Rathke told reporters at a daily briefing. “Clearly, the court has issued an order, and

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we'll comply with it."

Asked if State was "slow-rolling" release of the records in order to benefit Clinton politically, Rathke said, "No."

Rathke reiterated State's position that its initial proposal to release most of the records in a single batch was driven by a desire to ensure all the emails are handled appropriately.

"We have a large volume of records that cover the entire span of Secretary Clinton's time at the department. I'm sure you could imagine this would cover pretty much any topic. It could cover any topic on our foreign policy agenda," the spokesman said.

"If certain things were released early and there were other records pertinent to the same topic that that might not have been finally processed, there was a desire to do them all at once so they'd be processed in their entirety."

The emails have also been a subject of intense interest from a House committee investigating the Benghazi attacks, and documents unearthed as part of that probe have slowly leaked out.

Some of the emails revealed that Clinton forwarded unsubstantiated intelligence on Libya from Sidney Blumenthal, a family ally, to top officials at the State Department, according to documents obtained by The New York Times.

Blumenthal, a longtime Clinton family counselor and, according to the Times, an employee of the Clinton Foundation at the time, sent the intelligence reports based on information he had gathered while working as an adviser to Constellations Group, a private consultancy.

Clinton's habit of forwarding the memos to top advisers like Jake Sullivan and Chris Stevens, the ambassador who was killed during the 2012 attacks, raised questions among committee members about the extent of Blumenthal's influence at State — considering that aides cast doubt on the credibility of the memos in several emails.

At a brief hearing on Tuesday on a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by Vice News, Contreras did not set a specific date by which State must begin releasing the emails.

However, the judge gave the government one week to provide a schedule for the periodic release of records, Vice News lawyer Jeffrey Light said after the session.

Contreras also gave State one week to say exactly when it plans to release a portion of the records relating to the deadly attack on U.S. facilities in Benghazi, as well as other Libya-related issues. State officials have previously pledged to release those emails "soon" but have never offered a specific date.

The State Department has said the release is taking a while because it must thoroughly review the Clinton emails for sensitive information typically removed from records before they are released under FOIA. State official John Hackett said in the declaration filed Monday night that the agency wanted to post the bulk of the records online at once in order to make sure the FOIA rules and policies are consistently applied.

"The Department intends to post the releasable portions of the collection at the conclusion of its review process, which will facilitate consistency in the application of FOIA exemptions and the public's access to and understanding of the documents," Hackett wrote in the Monday document.

Clinton has said she turned over all messages that were arguably work-related but decided to delete a roughly equal number of messages that her lawyers determined were personal or private in nature.

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The State Department could also face deadlines to disclose portions of the records in other FOIA suits. Last week, a judge ordered State to release records from Clinton's top aides on specific topics by September. It's unclear whether the requests in that case, brought by conservative group Citizens United, would encompass some of the Clinton emails.

Clinton's "Second Email Address" Was Explained Months Ago, But Fox Missed The Evidence // Media Matters // Hannah Groch-Belgey - May 19, 2015

Fox News selectively quoted a statement from Hillary Clinton's lawyer to suggest that she lied about having a "second email account" during her time as secretary of state. But the network ignored in several segments that the supposed discrepancy was explained months ago.

On May 18, The New York Times published selected emails from Clinton's time at State, which appeared to show her sending emails from two private addresses: HDR22@clintonemail.com and hrod17@clintonemail.com. Right-wing media immediately jumped on the story to claim that it contradicted Clinton's previous statement that she only used one email address while at State.

Fox went so far as to suggest Clinton "was lying" about her use of email, missing key context in several of their segments on the topic. On the May 19 edition of America's Newsroom, guest co-host Gregg Jarrett asked: "Either she forgot, or she was lying. What do you think?" Fox reporter Doug McKelway also claimed that the "second email" was a "direct contradiction" to Clinton's previous statements, noting those remarks were "not made in testimony, nor was it made under oath, so perhaps there's some wiggle room there, but I'm not sure how she gets out of that."

Later on Happening Now, McKelway highlighted a letter sent from Clinton's lawyer that stated "hrod17@clintonemail.com is not an address that existed during Secretary Clinton's tenure as Secretary of State."

However, this seeming discrepancy was explained in the same letter McKelway selectively quoted from.

As Clinton's lawyer noted back in that March 2015 letter -- and which Fox News ignored in these segments -- Clinton changed her email address when she left State because Gawker had published emails that revealed the "HDR22" address. That was when she changed the address to "hrod17."

According to her office, when this change occurred, the new address replaced the old address on the digital records of her previous emails. Thus, as explained in a release several months ago, when her emails were printed out and provided to the State Department, the new email address "appeared on the printed copies as the sender."

While this context was missing from Jarrett and McKelway's morning reports, Fox Chief White House Correspondent Ed Henry reported the Clinton campaign's explanation in a separate segment on America's Newsroom, saying that "when she printed out all the emails to turn over back to the government, that second account came up, even though that was not the one she was using months earlier."

The old "HDR22" address still appears in some of the documents the Times highlighted, but seems to only occur in the text of the body of emails that were replies or forwards from other individuals. For example, a printed email from Clinton aide Jake Sullivan which was published by the Times still shows "HDR22" in the text of his email, because he was replying to her original message.

The backdating of the email addresses "led to understandable confusion" for the congressional Select Committee on Benghazi earlier this year, prompting Clinton's office to issue this explanation in March.

The original Gawker report, which highlighted emails sent to Clinton during her time at State, also includes screenshots of those emails. The emails shown are all clearly sent to Clinton's original email account, HRD22, in keeping with Clinton office's explanation for the email address confusion.

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Hillary Clinton says her Iraq war vote was a 'mistake' // Politico // Adam Lerner – May 19, 2015

INDEPENDENCE , IA - MAY 19: Democratic presidential hopeful and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visits Laree's The Shoppe of Favorites store on May 19, 2015 in Independence, Iowa. Earlier in the day Clinton hosted a small business forum with members of the business and lending communities in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

During her 2008 campaign, Clinton defended her vote as a way to give President Bush authority to deal with Iraq. | Getty

After days of Republican presidential candidates wrestling with questions on the Iraq war, Hillary Clinton weighed in Tuesday, telling reporters that her vote in favor of the war in 2002 was a “mistake.”

“I made it very clear that I made a mistake, plain and simple. And I have written about it in my book, I have talked about it in the past,” Clinton told reporters at an event in Cedar Falls, Iowa, adding that “what we now see is a very different and very dangerous situation.”

During her 2008 campaign, Clinton defended her vote as a way to give President George W. Bush authority to deal with Iraq, which she said he then abused. She frequently followed up this statement by saying that if she had known what Bush would do with the authority she would not have voted the way she had, but declined to call the vote a “mistake.”

Then-Sen. Barack Obama hammered her over the vote during the campaign, citing his opposition to the war while he was serving in Illinois’ state senate. Many experts believe the Iraq war issue was a major reason she ultimately lost in the primaries to Obama.

But since losing that election she wrote in her 2014 book “Hard Choices” that she “got it wrong.”

In her comments Tuesday she made clear that she viewed her past vote as a mistake, with no qualifications.

She then pivoted to talking about Iraq’s current political situation. In the last year much of western Iraq has been overtaken by ISIL, a terrorist group whose successes many analysts attribute to the decade of instability following Saddam Hussein’s ouster.

“The United States is doing what it can but ultimately this has to be a struggle that the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people are determined to win for themselves,” said Clinton. “And we can provide support, but they’re going to have to do it.”

Questions over the Iraq war have divided the early Republican field ever since former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said that he would have invaded Iraq had he been put in his brother’s situation in 2003, in response to a question from Fox News’ Megyn Kelly over whether he would have made the decision knowing what he knows now. Bush shifted his answer multiple times during the week before finally saying that, with 20/20 hindsight, he would not have invaded.

Bush has been lambasted for the fumbling, including by Sen. Rand Paul who said in an interview on Meet the Press Sunday that he didn’t view the question as a “hypothetical,” but is rather “a recurring question in the Middle East.” He equated President Bush’s decision to invade Iraq with Hillary Clinton’s support as Secretary of State for a military campaign in Libya in 2011 that led to the toppling of Muammar Qaddafi.

“The same question, to be fair, ought to be asked of Hillary Clinton, if she ever takes questions,” he said. “Was it a good idea to invade Libya? Did that make us less safe? Did it make it more chaotic? Did it allow radical Islam and ISIS to grow stronger?”

Gabriel Debenedetti contributed to this report

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Hillary Clinton's State Department Staff Kept Tight Rein on Records // WSJ // Laura Meckler - May 19, 2015

WASHINGTON—When Hillary Clinton was secretary of state, her staff scrutinized politically sensitive documents requested under public-records law and sometimes blocked their release, according to people with direct knowledge of the activities.

In one instance, her chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, told State Department records specialists she wanted to see all documents requested on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, and later demanded that some be held back.

In another case, Ms. Mills's staff negotiated with the records specialists over the release of documents about former President Bill Clinton's speaking engagements—also holding some back.

The records requests came under the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, the public's main tool to get information from the government. Decisions on what to release belong with each agency's FOIA staff, say experts on the law, to guard against the withholding of documents for political or other inappropriate reasons.

Questions about the transparency of Mrs. Clinton's State Department tenure have been bubbling ever since it was revealed that she exclusively used a private email account to conduct her work as secretary. The existence of that private system, which is being investigated by a House special committee probing the 2012 attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya, meant the department didn't have access to her emails when public requests to see them came in.

Mrs. Clinton has since given the State Department 55,000 pages of emails she deemed to be about official business. On Tuesday, at a brief news conference in Iowa, she reiterated that she wants the department to release them.

Also on Tuesday, a federal judge ordered the State Department to release these emails on a rolling basis, not wait until they are all ready. The State Department, which had planned to release them next January, said it would comply.

In the background of the controversies is a culture at the State Department of delay and inefficiency in meeting public requests for records, both during and predating Mrs. Clinton's tenure, according to open-government advocates, investigative reports and government officials.

An email exchange between State Department staffers in October 2012, while Mrs. Clinton was secretary of state, points to the role played by her political staff in records requests.

An official dealing with potential document releases described one of them as being "of interest on the 7th Floor"—a reference to the secretary's office. A colleague replied that the records were set for release but added: "I believe, though, that this is still pending with Cheryl Mills' office…. The real action, for now, is with Cheryl's office." The focus of the request is unclear.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, Nick Merrill, said, "The State Department takes FOIA requests very seriously, and has a rigorous process in place for handling the thousands of requests that come in. Secretary Clinton's State Department took that process seriously and made it a priority, and to suggest otherwise would be wrong."

Later, on Tuesday evening, Mr. Merrill added that Ms. Mills—a longtime aide to the Clintons who is on the board of the Clinton Foundation—"did not inappropriately interfere with the FOIA process" and "has spent her career contributing to the greater good."

State Department spokesman Alec Gerlach said documents aren't withheld unless they fit under exemptions spelled out in the public-records law.

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These include avoiding harm to national security, trade-secret exposure or privacy violations.

"It is entirely appropriate for certain Department personnel to be made aware of documents that could potentially respond to Freedom of Information Act requests," and these people may be asked for guidance, Mr. Gerlach said, adding: "This is not unique to any Secretary's tenure."

The Clinton political staff's scrutiny of Keystone documents arose after a document request that succeeded. In it, the environmental group Friends of the Earth obtained emails that were sent to Paul Elliott, a lobbyist for the company seeking to build the pipeline, by an official of the U.S. embassy in Ottawa—which is part of the State Department.

Mr. Elliott had worked on Mrs. Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. Friends of the Earth, a foe of Keystone, suspected that this connection gave him influence with the State Department, whose approval the proposed border-crossing pipeline needs.

In one email, the embassy official sent Mr. Elliot a message saying "Go Paul!" after he circulated some potentially positive news on the pipeline plan. She also complimented an appearance by the CEO of the company seeking to build Keystone XL.

In a blog post, Friends of the Earth called the email a "smoking gun" showing "definitive evidence of bias." A State Department spokeswoman said at the time that the emails weren't evidence of any bias.

After the episode, Ms. Mills insisted on reviewing all Keystone-related documents being prepared for release, and flagged as problematic a few that the department's records-law specialists felt obligated to release, said the person with knowledge of the situation.

Ms. Mills, this person added, told a records specialist that if he released records she wanted held back, Mrs. Clinton's office wouldn't comply with any future document requests on any topic.

The Keystone documents Ms. Mills objected to were all either held back or redacted, the same person said. After Ms. Mills began scrutinizing documents, the State Department's disclosure of records related to Keystone fell off sharply, documents that include a court filing show.

Two others with knowledge of State Department records procedures said political appointees were allowed greater say than the FOIA experts thought was appropriate. It was hard to push back against the political staff, one said.

The pipeline project was so sensitive that an expert on FOIA was invited to a State Department policy meeting to advise on how to prospectively shield documents from disclosure, such as by marking them as involving the "deliberative process," said a person who attended.

Documents relating to ex-President Clinton's speeches also sparked scrutiny, said a fourth person familiar with State Department records releases.

Mr. Clinton had agreed, when his wife became secretary of state, to submit proposals for his paid speeches to the department for review. Some document requests related to the reviews. On this matter, too, Ms. Mills's office sometimes objected to the release of records FOIA specialists thought ought to be handed over, this fourth person said.

Asked who had final say, the person said, "We negotiated it out," and some documents were withheld or redacted.

Experts on FOIA said it might be acceptable for records reviewers to seek the views of political appointees, but there should be no negotiation. "Ultimately, the career people have to be the ones who make the final call," said Miriam Nisbet, who recently retired as director of the federal FOIA ombudsman office at the National Archives and Records Administration.

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FOIA experts said they suspect political interference happens more than they know. Asked for examples, some cited a case at the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS, in 2010.

In that instance, the Associated Press reported on political interference in records releases at DHS. The House Oversight Committee later investigated and issued a report saying DHS redacted embarrassing information it should have released, after political staffers insisted on reviewing records requests. DHS, which modified its practices following the AP story, told the House committee it didn't make substantive changes in document releases for political reasons.

The State Department faces a great volume of records requests, nearly 20,000 in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, according to federal data. It processed more than 18,000 requests that year but still ended with a backlog of nearly 11,000.

A department manual outlines the FOIA process. It says in-house analysts should collect documents from various bureaus of the department, to be examined by two FOIA reviewers to see whether they fall under any disclosure exemptions. Those that don't are to be released.

In 2012, a State Department inspector general's report said the departmental unit that processes records requests had serious leadership and management problems. It called the agency's FOIA process "inefficient and ineffective," saying requests were prone to delay and bureaus didn't treat document requests as a priority.

A later IG report, in March 2015, found problems in the department's system for storing emails. Only messages whose senders had marked them as "record email" were kept in archives and therefore were easily available to FOIA researchers looking for documents responsive to records requests.

Of more than a billion emails sent in 2011, only 61,156 had been marked this way, the IG found.

A person knowledgeable about the department's records process said that there is no pressure on bureaus or embassies to respond to document searches in a timely fashion; that FOIA specialists hold little stature; and that there are no consequences for people who don't produce documents requested.

In March, the AP sued the State Department to force the release of some documents, including emails during Mrs. Clinton's tenure. The AP said it sued after its requests went unfilled.

The State Department had no comment on that action because it is in litigation, a department official said, adding: "We face significant challenges with the increasing burden of FOIA and other requests. But we are working to get better. I think our progress through collaboration with the IG shows our commitment to improving."

Hillary talks tough on Wall Street regulation // CNN // MJ Lee - May 19, 2015

(CNN) Hillary Clinton wants one thing to be crystal clear: she is not afraid to stand up to Wall Street.

Speaking with small business owners in Cedar Falls, Iowa, the Democratic presidential frontrunner on Tuesday offered a full-throated defense of a law that's served as a thorn in the side of big banks: Dodd-Frank.

"It's not the big banks that need relief from Washington -- it's small banks and small businesses," Clinton said. "We should be doing more to rein in risky behavior on Wall Street and 'Too Big to Fail.'"

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The former secretary of state also scolded what she said were attempts by congressional Republicans to roll back consumer protection provisions and regulations aimed at big banks in Dodd-Frank, calling them "a cynical attempt to game the system for those at the top."

The populist remarks could have easily come from Elizabeth Warren, the liberal Massachusetts senator who has vaulted to national fame by railing against Wall Street.

Coming within weeks of the launch of her second White House bid, Clinton's comments were also the latest example of the former New York senator's aggressive appeal to progressive skeptics who believe she is too cozy with Wall Street and have balked at the sweeping deregulation of the finance industry during her husband's presidency in the 1990s.

It's a concerted effort Clinton has been making since her first day back on the trail.

Her campaign roll-out sought to present Clinton as a champion for the middle class and she has since publicly taken aim at hedge fund managers for paying too little taxes and pledged to get big money out of politics.

Clinton's Republican foes were quick to accuse her of hypocrisy.

"It's hard to take Hillary Clinton seriously when she's constantly taking huge sums of money from the same people she's attacking on the campaign trail," Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Short said in an email. "No wonder Elizabeth Warren is holding out on an endorsement."

Meanwhile, Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, currently the only other declared candidate seeking the Democratic Party's nomination for president, expressed a degree of skepticism of Clinton's support for banking regulations.

"I opposed the deregulation of Wall Street and pretty much predicted what would happen in terms of the Wall Street crash," Sanders told CNN's Wolf Blitzer. "I certainly disagree with her husband on that. She hasn't been clear about where she's coming from."

In recent days, Clinton has also come under scrutiny from liberal activists on the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. TPP, a significant second-term agenda item for President Barack Obama, has drawn widespread opposition from Democrats, and Clinton has faced pressure to take a firm stance against it.

Warren said on Bloomberg TV on Tuesday that though Clinton has criticized some aspects of the current trade proposal, she'd like to see her take a "clearer" position.

Republicans Very Troubled By Clinton Donors See No Conflict With Their Own Dark Money // Huffington Post // Paul Blumenthal - May 19, 2015

WASHINGTON -- For four months, the Republican Party and its many presidential hopefuls have laid into likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton over donations to a family foundation. That these attacks contradict the GOP's broader stand on campaign finance -- and call into question their own weighty burden of donor conflicts -- hasn't troubled them at all.

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) called contributions to the nonprofit Clinton Foundation “thinly veiled bribes.” The nation can’t afford the “drama” represented by those donations, according to Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.). Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina asked Clinton to explain why contributions to the foundation “don’t represent a conflict of interest.” And the Republican National Committee has made the donations a central part of its campaign against Clinton.

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In embracing this critique of the Clinton Foundation, Republicans are investing in a view of money in politics that they have otherwise rejected in recent years: that spending money to gain influence over or access to elected or appointed officials represents a conflict of interest or an appearance of corruption or could even lead to outright corruption.

Since 2010, the conservative Supreme Court majority has rejected this argument as a reason to regulate campaign finance in their Citizens United, McCutcheon and Williams-Yulee decisions. Most leading Republican federal officeholders now take the view that spending of any sort on campaigns should not be impeded by legal restrictions as fears of corruption are overblown.

So the critical piling on Clinton Foundation donations creates a problem for Republicans, especially those running for president. If contributions to the foundation, a 501(c)(3) entity not involved in political campaigns, create a valid source of corruption concern, then what are we to make of the hundreds of millions of dollars in undisclosed donations to 501(c)(4) nonprofits that have worked to elect Republicans over the past three elections?

Since the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision opened the door for unlimited corporate, union and, ultimately, individual spending on elections, Republicans have maneuvered to use so-called dark money nonprofits to fund large portions of their electoral efforts. Dark money spending on federal races exceeded $400 million in the 2012 presidential election and $200 million in the 2014 midterms with the vast majority of those dollars going to aid Republican candidates, according to previous analysis by The Huffington Post.

Where the Clinton Foundation is concerned, the public knows who the donors are and, thus, the press can report on the mutually beneficial relationship between Bill Clinton and billionaire donor Frank Giustra or point out that a majority of those also lobbied the Hillary Clinton-led State Department or note that both Clintons have been very supportive of the Moroccan government, a foundation donor, as it occupies the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

The public is not privy, however, to the sources of funds fueling a large part of the Republican electoral apparatus and a smaller part of Democratic efforts. Party leaders and wealthy donors have increasingly worked through nonprofits that are not required to disclose their funding sources.

Republicans, including those now running for president, defend dark money groups as a means to protect what they argue is the First Amendment right of donors to engage in political activity without "retaliation." Perhaps, that retaliation would come in the form of stories informing the public about how those donors are seeking to influence public policy.

Half of Hillary Clinton's Speaking Fees Came From Groups Also Lobbying Congress **// TIME //**
Philip Elliott - May 19, 2015

Almost half of the money from Hillary Clinton's speaking engagements came from corporations and advocacy groups that were lobbying Congress at the same time.

The Democratic presidential candidate earned $10.2 million in 2014, her first full calendar year after leaving the State Department. Of that, $4.6 million came from groups that also spent on lobbying Congress that year, according to data compiled by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics.

In all, the corporations and trade groups that Clinton spoke to in 2014 spent $72.5 million lobbying Congress that same year.

Asked Tuesday if there were conflicts of interest in speaking to these groups, Clinton was curt with reporters in Cedar Falls, Iowa. "No," she said.

"Obviously, Bill and I have been blessed and we're very grateful for the opportunities that we had but we've never forgotten where we've come from," she added.

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But the speaking fees were more about where they were going next.

For critics, the arrangement shows that many of people who booked an appearance saw it as another way to gain influence with a leading contender to become the next President.

“It’s big money. They’re spending it because they have far greater sums riding on those decisions that they’re trying to shape,” said Sheila Krumholz, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics. “Corporations or associations must justifiably make these investments because everyone knew for many years that Clinton would always remain a power broker. Every man or woman on the street thought Hillary Clinton would run again.”

As with routine political donations, it’s hard to suss out a direct cause-and-effect from the speaking fees.

Take the Pacific trade deal being negotiated by President Obama. In all, groups and corporations that are pushing for the Trans-Pacific Partnership to be approved spent almost $3 million to hear from Clinton. The signatories to one pro-trade letter, dated March 2014, paid more than $1 million in speaking fees in 2014.

From ‘dead broke’ to multimillionaires // WaPo // Kennedy Elliott, Alexander Becker, Philip Rucker, Tom Hamburger, Peter Wallsten, and Rosalind Helderman - May 19, 2015

A Washington Post analysis of the Clinton's federal financial disclosures found that Bill Clinton was paid $104.9 million for delivering 542 speeches around the world between January 2001 and January 2013, when Hillary Clinton stepped down as secretary of state.

Since then, both Clintons have hit the lecture circuit. They have not released information about their speaking in 2013. But according to a disclosure by Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, Bill and Hillary Clinton together earned nearly $25 million for delivering 104 speeches between January 2014 and May 2015.

Hillary Clinton’s hypocrisy // WaPo // Dan Milbank – May 19, 2015

In a private meeting last week with 200 of the Democratic Party’s top financiers, Hillary Clinton drew vigorous applause when she said any of her nominees to the Supreme Court would have to share her desire to overturn the Citizens United decision.

Clinton also, as reported by my Post colleagues Matea Gold and Anne Gearan, put in a plug with the fundraisers (all of whom had hauled in at least $27,000 for her) for a constitutional amendment overturning the ruling, which allows unlimited spending by super PACs.

Dana Milbank writes about political theater in the nation’s capital. He joined the Post as a political reporter in 2000. View Archive

Nice sentiments, to be sure, but the fact that she was unveiling her Citizens United litmus test with party fat cats at an exclusive soiree (four days later, she mentioned it to voters in Iowa) tells you all you need to know about Clinton’s awkward — and often hypocritical — relationship with campaign-finance reform.

Even as she denounces super PACs, she’s counting on two of them, Priorities USA Action and Correct the Record, to support her candidacy — a necessary evil, her campaign says. She’s also chin-deep in questionable financial activities, ranging from the soft-money scandals of her husband’s presidency to the current flap over contributions by foreigners and favor-seekers to the Clinton Foundation. Then there’s the matter of her plans to continue President Obama’s policy of opting out of the public-finance system; Obama’s abandonment of the system did as much as the Citizens United ruling to destroy the post-Watergate fixes.

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Her advisers claim campaign-finance reforms will be at the top of her agenda, a sensible choice because of the deep resentment in the populace toward a political system rigged in favor of the wealthy. But she gives supporters little evidence that she's genuine. Asked by The Post last month about the role of the pro-Clinton Priorities USA Action, Clinton shrugged her shoulders and said, "I don't know."

If she really thinks money is corrupting politics, she can take concrete steps right now. She could pledge to return immediately to the public finance system and call on pro-Clinton super PACs to cease and desist — if her Republican opponents will do the same. The Republicans won't, of course, but then Clinton would have gained the moral high ground she now lacks.

She could also vow to enact four pieces of legislation if elected: reviving the public-finance system with matching funds for small contributions; curtailing candidate super PACs by drafting strict rules prohibiting coordination; forcing the disclosure of anonymous "dark money" contributions; and creating a new enforcement agency to replace the impotent and perpetually deadlocked Federal Election Commission.

"We have a history of candidates making commitments to campaign finance reform during the campaign and then walking away from it, in particular with Bill Clinton and Barack Obama," says Fred Wertheimer , a longtime campaign-finance reformer. "We're going to need a lot more than what Mrs. Clinton has said in order for this to be treated seriously."

There's a chance she'll find some Republican support for legislation to restore public financing of elections — if only because the absence of such a system effectively means presidents are elected to eight-year terms, because their ability to raise virtually unlimited sums as incumbents all but guarantees reelection.

Stuart Stevens, who ran Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign, notes that only one incumbent president in the past 125 years who was not in the public-finance system lost his bid for reelection — and that was Herbert Hoover. Stevens says the 2016 winner, Democrat or Republican, "is going to be almost impossible to defeat" in 2020. (Super PACs won't completely offset that incumbent advantage, he figures, because the funds are at least theoretically outside the candidate's control.) The prospect of a de facto eight-year term for a Democratic president could persuade Republicans to support a revival of public finance even if it isn't "normally in their DNA," Stevens argues.

If she's serious in her commitment to campaign-finance reform, Clinton doesn't have to wait until the election. Stevens suggests she challenge her opponents to join her in opting into the moribund public-finance system (though its matching funds would be absurdly low). To keep the super PACs from filling the void, she could propose both sides disavow them, as Republican Scott Brown and Democrat Elizabeth Warren did in their 2012 Massachusetts Senate race, pledging to pay a penalty if outside groups ran ads in their race.

Such an arrangement is probably unworkable, even in the unlikely event Republicans took her up on it. But this and other tangible steps could reduce the demoralizing gap between Clinton's professed commitment to clean elections and her dubious record.

Hillary Clinton downplays Sidney Blumenthal's influence // Politico // Adam Lerner – May 19, 2015

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks to small business owners, Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at the Bike Tech cycling shop in Cedar Falls, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

AP Photo

Hillary Clinton on Tuesday downplayed Sidney Blumenthal's influence on her Wednesday, saying she passed his emails to State Department deputies to "make sure [she wasn't] caught in a bubble" with only information coming "from a certain small group of people."

"He sent me unsolicited emails which I passed on in some instances and I say that that's just part of the give and take," Clinton told reporters Tuesday at an event in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

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The comments came the day after a New York Times report revealed that Blumenthal, a longtime family ally, sent multiple unsubstantiated intelligence reports to Clinton's private email while she was secretary of state. Clinton then forwarded these emails to top staff, sometimes with commentary about their veracity, but often solely with instructions to pass them along to others in the department.

The emails relied largely on unnamed sources and often contained information known to be false or misleading.

Blumenthal was working at the time for Constellations Group, a company with business interests in Libya, leading to further concerns about his motivations in sending the intelligence. Constellations Group planned to secure contracts with Libya's transitional government that would have required State Department-approved permits, giving Blumenthal a direct financial stake in the ouster of Qaddafi and subsequent U.S. policy in Libya.

The emails published by the Times predate the attack on the American consulate in Benghazi that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens, but according to a ProPublica report, Blumenthal sent Clinton a report from a "sensitive source" the day after the bombing saying that the attack was inspired by an anti-Muslim video. This information was later determined to be false.

"I have many, many old friends and I always think that it's important when you get into politics to have friends you had before you were in politics and to understand what's on their minds," Clinton said Tuesday. "And he's been a friend of mine for a long time."

Clinton did not comment on whether or not she felt she misrepresented the information's source when she sent it on to staff.

Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), chairman of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, plans to subpoena Blumenthal for a private transcribed interview to discuss his influence on Clinton during her time at the State Department, committee sources confirmed to POLITICO Monday.

Blumenthal had been barred from working in Clinton's State Department because of his role in pushing negative stories about Obama during the 2008 presidential campaign, but continued his personal and professional relationship with the Clintons, which eventually consisted of sending intelligence reports about Libya which Clinton then forwarded on.

Outside of his work for Constellations Group, he was employed by the Clinton Foundation and consulted for Media Matters and American Bridge, two organizations supporting Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential bid.

A Clinton spokesperson told ProPublica in March that all of the messages sent to Clinton from Blumenthal had been turned over with the 30,000-pages of content given to the State Department by Clinton earlier this year. The spokesman did not comment on whether or not Clinton responded to Blumenthal's messages and whether these responses were contained in the emails given to the State Department for analysis.

Gabriel Debenedetti contributed to this report.

Hillary Clinton Tamps Down 'Third Term' Chatter // NYT // Maggie Haberman - May 19, 2015

Hillary Rodham Clinton has started to address a critical issue about her candidacy — the loaded "third term" question.

After months of questions about how she would handle the tenures of President Obama and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, Mrs. Clinton has begun telling supporters that she is not running to serve either man's third term in office.

At a donor meeting in the Red Hook, Brooklyn, last week, Mrs. Clinton raised the topic as she addressed more than 250 people who had helped raise at least $27,000 for her 2016 presidential campaign, according to three people who attended the gathering.

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“We’re going to make clear, I’m not running for my husband’s third term or for President Obama’s third term,” one person recalled her saying. “I’m running to make history on my own.”

Later, all three attendees said, she talked about the campaign being not about her, but about voters, and said she wanted to build on the successes of both Mr. Obama and Mr. Clinton.

A campaign spokesman declined to comment.

Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama share several advisers, and Mrs. Clinton served as the president’s secretary of state in his first term. Mr. Obama’s team has long been prepared for Mrs. Clinton to seek to distinguish herself from him — and she has, although primarily by edging to his left, as she has gone further than he did in support of executive actions on immigration and on policing reforms.

Mrs. Clinton has generally embraced Mr. Obama and his policies, although she is likeliest to seek distance from him on foreign policy. As for Mr. Clinton, whose record she alluded to repeatedly in her 2008 presidential campaign, Mrs. Clinton has rarely mentioned him so far in this race.

Just to be clear, the Supreme Court, even amidst its deregulatory frenzy, has said that public disclosure of contributions to campaigns and independent groups is both constitutional and vital to fair elections.

The very limited record on dark money shows that those funding these groups -- just like those funding super PACs, which must identify their donors -- include many high-powered corporate and individual interests with well-connected lobbyists in search of favors. HuffPost reports have found that dark money groups tightly connected to congressional and party leadership, both Democratic and Republican, have received large sums from pharmaceutical, insurance, banking and online payday lenders seeking specific policy changes while retaining lobbyists previously employed by those very leaders.

This year, GOP presidential candidates are copying this model on an individual level, by launching their very own dark money groups to rake in secret contributions.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has his Right to Rise Policy Solutions, which is playing an increasingly important role in his not-yet-declared, super-PAC-centered presidential campaign. Rubio's advisers run the Conservative Policy Solutions group in collaboration with an affiliated super PAC. And potential candidates like former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal are all running around the country fueled by funding from undisclosed nonprofit groups.

Then there is the case of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, currently running another not-yet-announced presidential campaign.

In 2012, Walker faced a recall election after labor unions in his state rebelled over legislation gutting public employee union rights. His recall campaign coordinated with a band of nonprofit political groups, led by the Wisconsin Club for Growth, to promote Walker and his policies in a positive light. Walker aides worked closely with the outside groups, and the governor directly raised undisclosed contributions for the effort.

A bipartisan investigation by district attorneys into Walker’s coordination with those outside groups revealed some of their funding sources, including a $700,000 contribution to the Wisconsin Club for Growth from Gogebic Taconite at the exact time the company was seeking a rewrite of state mining and environmental laws.

John Menard Jr., considered the wealthiest man in Wisconsin, was another big donor to the save-Walker effort. The billionaire owner of the chain store Menards gave $1.5 million to the Wisconsin Club for Growth, according to a report by Yahoo News. During Walker’s term in office, Menard’s company received $1.8 million in tax credits from an economic development corporation led by the governor. He also received help in his battle with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as Walker defanged the watchdog agency.

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Others who gave to the coordinated Walker effort include billionaires Charles and David Koch, Sheldon Adelson, Paul Singer, Bruce Kovner, Donald Trump, Ken Langone and Steven Cohen.

As Hillary Clinton has done with contributions to her family's foundation, Walker denies any conflict of interest involving donors to his coordinated recall effort. But the full list of contributors is unknown.

The same failure to see their own conflicts applies to candidates elected since the Citizens United decision precipitated the dramatic rise in dark money. Both Paul and Rubio were elected to the Senate in 2010 with $2.3 million and $2.7 million, respectively, in allied spending by groups that do not disclose their donors, including the Karl Rove-founded Crossroads GPS and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks to its bankruptcy filings, it is known that for-profit Corinthian Colleges made contributions to Crossroads GPS. While the dates and amounts of those donations are still hidden, Rubio's strong support for Corinthian is well-established. In 2014, he pleaded with the Department of Education for leniency for the company as it faced a fraud investigation.

No one doubts that huge sums of dark money will again be spent supporting presidential candidates in the 2016 election. While the public will be able to consider whether the corporations, billionaires and foreign governments that contributed to the Clinton Foundation would hold undue sway over a Clinton White House, they will not even know the identities of those pouring in the secret donations.

Hillary's launch delay // Politico // Annie Karnia - May 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton's official entry into the presidential race on April 12 came in the form of a slick YouTube video and a series of choreographed roundtable events in Iowa, where Clinton asked more questions than she answered and listened more than she spoke. A more traditional big-picture speech and rally outlining Clinton's vision for the country's future and her reason for running, the campaign said, would follow in May.

But the formal roll-out is now being delayed indefinitely, pushed back at least until June, for largely political reasons: a desire to spend more time on fundraising and fleshing out policy positions before inviting more public scrutiny.

"If they had their druthers, they would basically get off the front pages, let the Republicans eat themselves alive, and let her do what she needs to do: raise the money and not have to be part of the debate right now," said one Clinton donor who's familiar with the campaign's thinking. "She has 100 percent name recognition, and is in a good place vis a vis the primary. Why put your foot on the accelerator?"

In place of a formal launch, Clinton is spending the remainder of May traveling to Iowa and New Hampshire this week, and South Carolina next week, where she is scheduled to engage in private meetings with activists and more of the same staged roundtable discussions. Next week, Clinton heads to Florida for a handful of fundraisers.

In memos to donors, campaign operatives have compared the low-stakes early-state events to the exploratory phase of a campaign, before the candidate officially enters the race. And Clinton's camp appears in no rush to leave that protected space.

A few factors, campaign insiders said, are driving the delay. Fundraising worries trumped the need to emerge with a big rally, partly because of the prospect of Jeb Bush's fundraising juggernaut. Clinton was forced to hit the money circuit earlier than planned, attending intimate events with donors in New York, Washington, and California. "She will not be able to do fundraising at people's houses for a few hundred thousand dollars when the campaign is in full speed," the donor said. "She'll have to do higher ticket and bigger events."

At the same time, important planks of Clinton's policy platform are still being fleshed out. A source said that initiatives surrounding student loans — which she plans to make an important part of her platform, in part due to pressure from the left — are still months out.

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On Tuesday, at a roundtable in Iowa, Clinton's trademark caution was on display as she again avoided taking any position on President Obama's contentious trade deal. "I've said I want to judge the final agreement," she said. "I've been for trade agreements, I've been against trade agreements."

There's been no single moment in May that would have been a clean time for a big kick-off speech. She's been fending off allegations about Clinton Foundation donors seeking to curry favor with the State Department; faced the prospect of a testifying in front of a Congressional hearing on Benghazi; and contended with publicity surrounding the release of personal financial disclosures showing the Clinton's made at least $30 million since 2014 — the month was clouded with the kind of stories Clinton has called "distractions."

Her Iowa trip this week might have afforded an opportunity for a formal launch event but Clinton appears to be enjoying the small, manageable roundtable settings, which allow her to talk about issues she wants to address on her own terms. In Las Vegas, for instance, Clinton used the roundtable setting to make real news: she called for a path to citizenship and more protections for parents of DREAMers, moving beyond Obama on immigration reform.

The slow walk-up to the campaign isn't necessarily a problem, Iowa activists said, because she's not starting from zero. "This has been a very slow emergence … but I have not felt that we, as Iowans, don't know who this person is," said Kurt Meyer, chair of the Tri County Democrats in Iowa. "We have a full file folder on Hillary Clinton. This is not like we walk into class, and there's a blank whiteboard."

But some Iowans are ready for the campaign's next phase. "Clearly there are some important issues — not the least of which is trade — that we'd like to have a pretty solid answer on," said Ken Sagar, president of the Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. "If you want to be the leader of the country and the free world, now would be a good time to step up and let us know what your position is on important issues that are in the process of being debated, discusses and determined."

Iowans want details on raising wages and relieving student loan debt, among other issues, Sagar said.

On Tuesday, a campaign aide said Clinton was expanding her travel schedule beyond the early voting states, with trips to Florida, Texas and Missouri in the coming weeks. But it was still not clear when the traditional launch event might take place, signaling the transition into the next phase of her campaign.

"The early focus of the campaign is on directly interacting with voters, answering their questions and discussing their ideas," a campaign spokesman said. "Our next steps will be announced soon."

Hillary Clinton vows help for small business // McClatchy DC // Anita Kumar - May 19, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA — Hillary Clinton promised Tuesday to be "a small business president" who would help by cutting bureaucracy and securing more loans.

"I want to be a small business president, a president who does make it easier to start and run a small business in this country, so it seems less like a gamble and more like an opportunity," Clinton said at a roundtable discussion at a bike shop.

Clinton is spending the week in Iowa and New Hampshire focusing on small business, reminding voters of her humble start in life. She told participants about her father, Hugh Rodham, the owner of a small drapery business in their hometown of Park Ridge, Ill., just outside Chicago.

"He had a very small business, printing drapery fabrics and then went out and sold them. My mother, my brothers and I, and occasionally a few day laborers, would help out with the actual printing process," she said. "That's what put food on the table and gave us a solid middle-class home."

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Critics mocked Clinton, a millionaire who along with her husband earns hundreds of thousands of dollars for her speeches and millions of dollars for her books.

“During her last campaign, Clinton never once mentioned small business during one of her 19 debates and never put forth a small business plan,” said Jeff Bechdel, a spokesman for America Rising, an opposition research group. “Her sudden focus on these issues rings hollow for the millions of small business owners who are facing challenges from policies she supports.”

After the event, in a rare response to a question from a reporter about how she could relate to the middle class, Clinton downplayed her wealth.

“Obviously Bill and I have been blessed. And we’re very grateful for the opportunities we’ve had,” she said. “But we’ve never forgotten where we came from. . . . That means we are going to fight to make sure everyone has the same chances.”

Clinton told the four small business owners that her plan to assist them has four key elements: cutting red tape, expanding access to capital, simplifying taxes and providing tax relief for small business, and expanding access to new markets.

She spent most of the nearly hourlong event asking questions of the entrepreneurs, but she answered a few of her own, including one about the ground rules for a contentious trade agreement Congress is debating.

Clinton declined again to say whether she supports or opposes the 12-nation deal called the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is backed by her former boss, President Barack Obama, but opposed by many liberal Democrats, including two presidential rivals, Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley. She supported the proposed agreement when she was secretary of state.

Clinton said any deal must increase jobs and wages, be strong on health and environmental rules, be in the U.S.’s national security interests and address currency manipulation.

“I’ve said I want to judge the final agreement,” she said. “I’ve been for trade agreements. I’ve been against trade agreements.”

Outside the bike shop in downtown Cedar Rapids, three members of Americans for Democratic Action, which supports liberal candidates, held signs that asked Clinton to take a stand on the agreement.

“We’re really troubled that she’s been silent on it so far,” said Chris Schwartz, one of the group’s organizers. “And she’s playing politics with this issue that is critically important to Iowa jobs, worker safety and human rights around the world.”

Clinton was on her second trip to Iowa since she announced she was running for president in mid-April.

Later Tuesday, she stopped at a local coffee shop, a hardware store and a gift shop in Independence, Iowa, where she spoke to the owners. At Hardware Hank, she spoke to the son of the owner, Terry Tekippe, whose family has owned the shop for more than five decades.

“We just did a small business thing, so I’m really focused on what we can do to make it even better,” Clinton told him. “Keep us in focus,” Tekippe responded.

On Monday, she spoke to about 60 people at the Mason City home of Dean Genth and Gary Swenson, major Democratic organizers in Iowa who were among the first gay couples married in the state. They supported Obama in 2008.

“I am going into this race with my eyes wide open about how hard it is to be the president. I have a little experience with that,” she said. “We need a

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president who has both the experience and understanding to deal with the complexity of the problems we face. I believe I can go into that office on the very first day and do what is required."

Clinton pops in on small business owners // Des Moines Register // Tony Leys - May 19, 2015

Independence, Ia. – Hillary Clinton made a quick stop here Tuesday morning to show appreciation for small business owners.

"I want to be the small-business president," she said to Terry Tekippe, who was standing in the doorway of the Hardware Hank's store his family owns.

The Democratic presidential candidate had appeared earlier in the morning in Cedar Falls, where she'd talked about ways to help small businesses thrive. In her unannounced stop in Independence, she walked up and down the sidewalk of the town's shopping district. She stopped in Em's Coffee Co., where owner Emilea Hillman made her an espresso and posed for photos with the candidate as photographers snapped and filmed away.

Clinton then walked down to "Laree's, the Shop of Favorites," which sells children's books and toys on one side, and pottery, glassware and artwork next door. "Careful, careful guys," she told the herd of journalists packed around her. "Lots of breakable things."

Clinton bought a humor book, "Theories of Everything," plus a ball and a farm toy for her granddaughter before bidding owner Laree Randall goodbye.

Walking back up the street, Clinton once again passed Tekippe, who was standing in the hardware-store doorway with his mother, Shirley Tekippe.

Terry Tekippe said he was glad to see the famous candidate take a little bit of time to tour small-town businesses. "Hopefully she remembers Main Street," he said. "Main Street's important."

After about a half hour, Clinton and her entourage piled back into several vans and headed back out onto the campaign trail.

Iowans wonder: How long can Clinton's big campaign stay small? // CNN // Eric Bradner - May 19, 2015

Cedar Falls, Iowa (CNN)Hillary Clinton isn't buckling under mounting pressure to abandon the comfort of her presidential campaign's small, carefully-choreographed events to answer lingering and politically sensitive questions.

But the clock on the former secretary of state's ramp-up into full campaign mode — with the accountability that comes with regular interaction with the press — is ticking louder by the day.

Even Iowa Democrats who are friendliest to Clinton's cause appear to have set it to expire this summer.

By then, they say, she'll need to have shifted her campaign into a higher gear by rolling out major policy proposals, fielding questions and allowing more voters access to her through larger rallies.

"People are going to start paying attention here pretty soon — it's just kind of in the air out here," said Iowa AFL-CIO President Ken Sagar.

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Others aren't as forgiving. It's been three weeks since Clinton publicly answered questions from anyone who her campaign hadn't invited to an event — prompting more coverage of what she isn't doing than what she is saying, and triggering editorials like one that ran in the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

"If she can't handle a tough question from a journalist, how can she handle the duties of the highest office in the land?" the newspaper, in the key early-voting state of Nevada, opined Monday.

Questions about Clinton's past are dogging her quest for a fresh start headed into 2016, and voters appear to be taking notice. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll found only a quarter of registered voters said they viewed her as honest and straightforward, down 13 percentage points from last summer.

The Democratic front-runner in the 2016 race for the White House returned to Iowa this week for her campaign's second swing through the state that casts the first ballots in the presidential nominating process. On Tuesday she'll visit Bike Tech, a small business in Cedar Falls, where she's set to lead another in her series of small roundtable discussions.

The small roundtable events, Clinton has said, have offered her insight into issues like the drug scourge, a rash of young suicides and mental health challenges that she said she now realizes must be part of her campaign.

But she has left most of them without taking any questions from the journalists tracking her campaign. She also hasn't sat for an interview with a major news outlet since officially entering the race.

Such a closed-off approach from the press could help Clinton avoid the mistakes of her unsuccessful 2008 campaign, which struggled at times to stay on course in a bitter battle with then-Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John Edwards.

It has also, though, increasingly made her a target for Republicans who, needing attention to fuel their candidacies in a much more competitive nominating battle, have laid into Clinton during their much more frequent media appearances.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush estimated over the weekend that he's answered 800 to 900 questions — multitudes more than the 13, by the most generous counting, that Clinton has answered since launching her campaign.

"For those that really follow TV, 33,000 minutes is two times the number of 'Simpson's' shows that existed in the [past] 25 years," Bush said.

Clinton still hasn't fielded questions herself about her family foundation's acceptance of foreign donations or the $30 million she and Bill Clinton made giving paid speeches since the beginning of 2014. And on Monday evening, another issue popped up in a New York Times report: Her relationship with long-time ally Sidney Blumenthal, who was offering Clinton advice on Libya while she was secretary of state at the same time he did business with clients that operated in Libya.

Democrats are clamoring, meanwhile, for Clinton to tip the scales in a battle over international trade that has pitted President Barack Obama against firebrand liberal Sen. Elizabeth Warren — the champion of a coalition that resembles some of the forces that lifted Obama past Clinton in their 2008 battle.

"I think she should take a good look at it, and I think it would be very helpful," Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

For as much criticism as Clinton's small-ball approach has met, it's also allowed her to avoid the errors of GOP contenders like Bush, who needed

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at least four tries at answering a question about Iraq last week, and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, whose testy interviews with female journalists led to a round of inquiries about whether he has a personal problem with being challenged by women.

Clinton's remarks at a Mason City house party on Monday, where she mingled with guests for about an hour, were laced with implicit criticism of her Republican rivals. She mentioned none by name, but made a pointed reference to her experience.

"I am going into this race with my eyes wide open about how hard it is to be president of the United States. I have a little experience about that and I have to tell you, I find it very reassuring because I do have that experience to know what is possible and how best to proceed, Clinton said.

"But I also know that we are living in an incredibly complicated time in American history," she said, winding up for a jab at the entire GOP field of White House aspirants.

"It is not a time for easy answers, for glib answers, or one liners, or applause lines," Clinton said. "Those are all great, that is part of campaigning, but at the end of the day, we need a president who has both the experience and the understanding to deal with the complexity of the problems we face."

So far, Clinton has visited Iowa twice, Nevada and New Hampshire, where she'll return for her second visit later this week. She'll complete the superfecta of early-voting states by swinging through South Carolina next week.

Once those visits are concluded, Clinton is expected to change gears, beginning to hold large rallies and deliver major policy speeches.

In Iowa, Democratic insiders and activists say they'd like to see her campaign more actively — but unlike 2008, there isn't a strong challenger within Clinton's party to force the sorts of multiple daily packed-high-school-gymnasium events that candidates then needed to showcase the strength of their support.

Instead, the lack of a well-known and well-financed challenger has allowed Clinton to take a more humble approach — doing as much listening as talking — that showcases humility in what could easily be viewed as a Democratic coronation. It also affords her to tap into one of her greatest strengths as a candidate: a lifetime of wisdom on the wonkiest of subjects that pop up in question-and-answer sessions with those invited to her roundtables.

Sagar, the labor leader, said Clinton's low-key approach has been a welcome reprieve for a state fresh off a bruising Senate race, and already seeing an influx of Republican contenders in that party's packed presidential field.

"Everyone is burned out, honestly, from having these large events constantly," said Molly Monk, a soon-to-be Simpson College senior and student government president.

Still, Monk, who's also seen former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley in person but said she wants to volunteer to help Clinton, said college students are trying to decide whether Clinton is the kind of candidate they can actively embrace and work for, or one who they'll support for lack of alternatives.

And Monk, whose Irish Catholic family is filled with U.S. Army veterans, already has several issues she's waiting for Clinton to address — including student debt and particularly foreign policy.

"I'm willing to wait like two months or so," Monk said.

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Others said they expect a similar timeframe for a Clinton ramp-up.

"A couple months from now — about when we're going back to school — that's when people are going to start to say, 'All right, it's time to tell us what you're really going to do,'" said Anna Schierenbeck, a Grinnell College sophomore and one of the leaders of the College and Young Democrats of Iowa.

"I think that for now, she's doing a good job channeling this excitement and being really folksy," she said.

"I do think that as we go forward, it's going to be important for her to do the more traditional rallies," Schierenbeck said. "Young people love yelling and screaming about a candidate, and that's going to be important."

The 6 questions Hillary Clinton answered in Iowa // Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs - May 19, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, Ia. –Breaking a long, much-scrutinized dry spell, Hillary Clinton allowed herself to be quizzed by reporters Tuesday in Iowa.

"Okaaaay," she said as she approached the mass of waiting reporters, all bristling with questions. She had just finished an invitation-only roundtable talk with four Iowans at Bike Tech, a small business in Cedar Falls.

FIRST QUESTION: Do you regret the way the Clinton Foundation handled foreign donations when you were U.S. Secretary of State? Your opponents say the donations and your private email account are examples of the Clintons having one set of rules for themselves and another set of rules for everyone else. (The donations raised questions about conflicts of interest if they were coming from foreigners trying to influence Clinton, the nation's top diplomat.)

CLINTON: "I am so proud of the foundation. I'm proud of the work that it has done and is doing. It attracted donations, from people, organizations, from around the world, and I think that just goes to show that people are very supportive of the life-saving and life-changing work that it's done here, at home and elsewhere. I'll let the American people make their own judgments."

SECOND QUESTION: Given the situation in Iraq, do you think we're better off without Saddam Hussein in power?

CLINTON: "Look, I know that there have been a lot of questions about Iraq posed to candidates over the last weeks. I've been very clear that I made a mistake plain and simple. And I have written about it in my book. I've talked about it in the past and you know what we now see is a very different and very dangerous situation. The United States is doing what it can, but ultimately this has to be a struggle that the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people are determined to win for themselves. We can provide support, but they're going to have to do it."

THIRD QUESTION: On your income disclosure, you are in the top echelon of income earners in this country. (Clinton and her husband, Bill, made least $30 million in the last year and four months, mostly from paid speeches, according to a financial disclosure that the Federal Election Commission requires be made public.) How do you expect every day Americans to relate to you?

CLINTON: "Well, obviously, Bill and I have been blessed and we're very grateful for the opportunities that we've had, but we've never forgotten where we came from, and we've never forgotten the country that we want to see for our granddaughter, and that means that we're going to fight to make sure that everybody has the same chances to live up to his or her own God-given potential. So I think that most Americans understand that the deck is stacked for those at the top, and I am running a campaign that is very clearly stating we want to reshuffle that deck. We want to get back to having more opportunities for more people so that they can make more out of their own lives. And I think that's exactly what America's looking for."

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FOURTH QUESTION: Can you explain your relationship as secretary of state with Sidney Blumenthal? There's a report out this morning that you exchanged several emails. Should Americans expect that if elected president that you would have that same type of relationship with these old friends that you've had for so long? (The New York Times reported that Blumenthal wrote her memos about Libya, even as he advised for private business associates with financial interests in Libya, which blurred the "lines between business, politics and philanthropy that have enriched and vexed the Clintons and their inner circle for years.")

CLINTON (laughing): "I have many, many old friends, and I always think that it's important when you get into politics to have friends that you had before you were in politics and to understand what's on their minds. He's been a friend of mine for a long time. He sent me unsolicited emails, which I passed on in some instances, and I see that that's just part of the give-and-take. When you're in the public eye, when you're in an official position, I think you do have to work to make sure you're not caught in the bubble and you only hear from a certain small group of people, and I'm going to keep talking to my old friends, who ever they are."

FIFTH QUESTION: We learned today that the State Department might not release your emails until January 2016. A federal judge says they should be released sooner. Will you demand that they are released sooner, and to follow up on the question about the speeches, was there a conflict of interest in your giving paid speeches into the run-up of your announcing that you're running for president?

CLINTON: "The answer to the first is: No. And the answer to the second is: I have said repeatedly, I want those emails out. Nobody has a bigger interest in getting them released than I do. I respect the State Department. They have their process, as they do for everybody, not just for me, but anything that they might do to expedite that process, I heartily support. You know, I want the American people to learn as much as we can about the work that I did with our diplomats and our development experts. Because I think that it will show how hard we worked, and the work we did for our country during the time that I was secretary of state, where I worked extremely hard on behalf of our values, and our interests and our security. And the emails are part of that. So I have said publicly — I'm repeating it here in front of all of you today — I want them out as soon as they can get out."

SIXTH QUESTION: But will you demand their release? (In March, the New York Times revealed that Clinton used a private email account tied to a home-based server to conduct business as secretary of state, which shielded her correspondence from the public eye and raised security questions. The State Department's proposal to release 55,000 pages of the emails, which Clinton turned over to the agency in December, comes in the wake of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, Politico reports. The proposed Jan. 15 release date would fall just a couple weeks before the Iowa caucuses, the first voting in the nation in the presidential selection process.)

CLINTON: "Well, they're not mine. They belong to the State Department. So the State Department has to go through its process and as much as they can expedite that process, that's what I'm asking them to do. Please move as quickly as they possibly can."

Clinton then said: "Thank you all very much" and walked away with a wave, ignoring other questions shouted at her, such as "Do you regret deleting 32,000 other emails, Mrs. Clinton?"

THE BACKGROUND: Since Clinton announced on April 12 that she is running for president of the United States again, she has carefully, smilingly side-stepped grillings by press gaggles and avoided sit-down interviews with reporters, saying that she wants to keep her focus this time on voters and their ideas for the country — not on herself.

Her GOP presidential rivals have criticized her, and news outlets have begun tracking her question avoiding. The New York Times posted queries "we would have asked Mrs. Clinton had we had the opportunity." The Washington Post's clock showed that before her Iowa Q&A, 40,150 minutes passed since Clinton had last answered a question posed by the press.

Near the end of her chat with three Iowa small-business owners and a local banker, Fox News reporter Ed Henry called out to ask if she'd entertain questions from reporters. "I might. I have to ponder it. I will put it on my list for due consideration," she answered, to laughs. A few minutes later, she said she'd pose for photos with her invited guests, then "if I can learn something, I might come over and take a few questions from the press."

Clinton is on day two of a two-day swing through Iowa on her second trip here of her 2016 presidential campaign. She was in Mason City on Monday.

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IOWA GOP RESPONSE: "What difference, at this point, does it make," said Republican Party of Iowa spokesman Charlie Szold in a statement, "if Hillary Clinton answers one or two more questions? There are hundreds of unanswered questions about her decades of scandal, which explains why more Iowans than not find her untrustworthy."

After media drought, Hillary Clinton takes some questions in Iowa // WaPo // Robert Costa and David Fahrenthold - May 19, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — “Hillary! Hillary!” they yelled at the distant figure, from across the parking lot and across the street, at the edge of the Secret Service’s protective zone.

She waved. Then she started walking over, trailed by a phalanx of aides, cops and agents.

“Thank you for standing out here!” Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday, shaking hands with the 10 or so Iowans who had waited in the chilly wind, hoping to see her come out the back door of a bike shop after a campaign event here. “I need your help! I want you to caucus for me!”

This kind of face-to-face interaction isn’t unusual for campaign season in Iowa, of course. But Clinton’s protective detail makes her a different kind of candidate: The cluster of people waiting for her spoke about how the Republicans coming through the state these days are easier to talk to, mingle with.

It was a morning defined by Clinton’s reengagement — with voters beyond those handpicked to meet her and with the traveling press — after nearly a month of closely controlled appearances.

In taking a few questions from reporters, Clinton rapidly addressed a series of controversies swirling around her and her campaign. She expressed regret for voting in favor of the Iraq war, dismissed criticism of her family’s foundation, and defended the millions of dollars she and her husband have made giving speeches.

Clinton also was noncommittal on President Obama’s proposed Asian free-trade agreement and, in response to a reporter’s question, said she favors having the State Department release e-mails from her time as secretary of state as soon as possible: “I want those e-mails out.”

The news conference — which featured six questions from five reporters — was impromptu and marked a turning point for Clinton, who so far in her young campaign has stuck mostly to tightly scripted events with small groups of voters in Iowa and New Hampshire, and no substantive questions from the media.

Late in her dialogue with Iowans at the bike shop, Fox News’s Ed Henry asked during a break in the conversation whether Clinton would take questions. The candidate — apparently taken aback by what she saw as an interruption — waved him off but did not say no.

“Maybe when I finish talking to people here. How’s that?” Clinton replied, to chuckles from attendees and groans from some reporters. When pressed again, she said: “I might. I’ll have to ponder it. I will put it on my list for due consideration.”

Later, on Fox News, Henry explained his query: “We had been through one of these campaign events after another, getting monotonous, one city after another. Roundtables. All candidates, Democrats and Republicans, are able to do their talking points, but we’ve gone 27, 28 days without a question. That’s why I just jumped in.”

Once she finished and posed for some pictures and selfies near polished mountain bikes and rows of athletic gear, Clinton approached the waiting

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crowd of reporters, who thrust forward audio recorders and hoisted boom microphones above her.

She defended the Clinton Foundation's practice of accepting foreign donations — "I'm proud of the work it has done and the work it's doing" — and defended her friendship with former Bill Clinton aide Sidney Blumenthal, who offered what she characterized as "unsolicited" advice on Libya while she was secretary of state.

"I have many, many old friends, and I always think that it's important when you get into politics to have friends you had before you got into politics, to understand what's on their minds," Clinton said.

She also repelled a question about whether regular Americans will be able to relate to her because of her wealth; she and her husband have made $25 million since early 2014 giving speeches.

"Bill and I have been blessed, and we're very grateful for the opportunities we had," Clinton said. "But we've never forgotten where we came from, and we've never forgotten the kind of country we want to see for our granddaughter, and that means that we're going to fight to make sure that everybody has the same chances to live up to his or her own God-given potential."

She also fielded a question on the Iraq war, a topic that has bedeviled Republican presidential contenders in recent days. Clinton, who as a senator from New York voted to authorize the war in 2003, reiterated that she now believes that decision was wrong.

"I've made it very clear that I made a mistake, plain and simple," she said.

Clinton's initial remarks at Bike Tech struck an optimistic tone about the future of the national economy and the Obama administration's efforts. But she also decried the ability of powerful financiers to use tax loopholes to their advantage.

"Our economy and our country are in much better shape today," Clinton said. "But the deck is still stacked for those at the top. People aren't getting a fair shake."

Stepping outside after the reporters' questions, Clinton made small talk with a crowd that had grown since she entered the shop. One woman was from Pennsylvania; Clinton said she goes to Scranton often. Ronald "Ronzie" Zuehlke told Clinton that he'd met her husband back in the 1990s.

Then she was gone, ducking into a van that had crept up as she greeted them, so the walk back would be shorter.

Zuehlke, 65, of Cedar Falls, was literally hopping with excitement. "I got to shake her hand!" he said. "Wow!"

"I'm just having shakes, I'm so excited," said Linda Bodell, of Cedar Falls.

"I shook her hand!" repeated Zuehlke, a former farmer who had stocked the pet aisle at Target for 13 years and was now retired. "I didn't think she'd come out. Face to face! Holy smokes!"

Hillary Clinton finally takes questions, defends speech income // WaPo // Robert Costa - May 19, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa -- Hillary Rodham Clinton broke a long drought to take a few questions from the traveling press here Tuesday, distancing

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herself from President Obama's trade pact and defending the millions of dollars she and her husband have made from giving speeches.

At the end of an event focused on small-business issues at a bicycle shop, Clinton also said in response to a reporter's question that she favors having the State Department release e-mails from her time as secretary of state as soon as possible: "I want those e-mails out."

Clinton's second swing through Iowa comes amid new revelations about foreign donations to her family's foundation and speech income for her and Bill Clinton, who together brought in $25 million by giving paid addresses since early 2014.

During the short exchange with reporters after the event at Bike Tech, Hillary Clinton defended the work of the Clinton Foundation -- "I'm proud of the work it has done and the work it's doing" -- and dismissed questions about her wealth.

"Bill and I have been blessed and we're very grateful for the opportunities we had," Clinton said. "But we've never forgotten where we came from and we've never forgotten the kind of country we want to see for our granddaughter, and that means that we're going to fight to make sure that everybody has the same chances to live up to his or her own God-given potential."

She also fielded a question on the Iraq war, a topic that has bedeviled Republican presidential candidates in recent days. Clinton, who voted to authorize the war in 2003 as a New York senator, reiterated that she now believes the decision was wrong.

"Look, I know that there have been a lot of questions about Iraq posted to candidates over the last week. I've made it very clear that I made a mistake, plain and simple," Clinton said. "And I have written about it in my book, I've talked about it in the past, and what we now see is a very different and very dangerous situation. The United States is doing what it can, but ultimately this has to be a struggle that the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people are determined to win for themselves."

Before the brief press gaggle, Clinton made remarks distancing herself from an Asian free-trade deal that Obama is pushing and that she supported while serving in his cabinet.

But Clinton said Tuesday that "any trade deal that I would support must increase jobs, must increase wages, must give us more economic competitive power" and that she was waiting to know more before taking a firm position.

"There are questions being raised about this current agreement," Clinton continued. "It hasn't been fully negotiated yet, so I don't know what the final provisions are yet... So, I have said I want to judge the final agreement. I have been for trade agreements, I have been against trade agreements. I've tried to make the evaluation dependent on what I thought they would produce, and that's what I'm waiting to see."

Hillary Clinton Talks to Small-Business Owners in Iowa, Then Gives Reporters a Turn // NYT //
Amy Chozick - May 19, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — For close to an hour on Tuesday, Hillary Rodham Clinton talked with owners of small businesses here about the issues on their minds, like whether they would enjoy better access to credit if small local banks were given regulatory relief and whether a major trade deal up for debate in Washington could wind up hurting American workers.

Then Mrs. Clinton, who is seeking the Democratic Party's nomination for president, took a handful of questions from reporters, and the topics were sharply different, and sharper in tone: her personal wealth, her use of a private email while she was secretary of state, her family foundation's acceptance of foreign donations and the 2003 invasion in Iraq. She called her own vote in the Senate to authorize the invasion "a mistake."

Mrs. Clinton is adhering to a campaign schedule dotted with regular round-table sessions as she delves into the concerns of voters in Iowa and New Hampshire. More often than not, though, she avoids engaging with the journalists covering her campaign, a practice that has drawn criticism in

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recent weeks from Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor, who is a likely Republican presidential candidate.

Tuesday's event and the question-and-answer session after it — her first since April 21 — underscored the tension between Mrs. Clinton's desire to establish a comfortable rapport with voters on issues she believes they care about and journalists' intent to question her about stories that have dogged her nascent campaign, threatening to throw her off message. All candidates face that push and pull for control of their campaign narrative, but it is more pronounced in Mrs. Clinton's case because of the way she dominates the Democratic field so far.

Mrs. Clinton opened the round-table discussion here, at a specialty bike shop, with a call to help small businesses expand their access to credit — and hire more workers — by relieving small community banks of some regulatory hindrances. "Isn't that doable?" she asked to nods of approval. "Am I right about that?"

She said community banks had been hard hit by the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law.

Donna J. Sorensen, chairwoman of the Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust, agreed. "We are losing those at a rapid rate, about 10 every year in Iowa," Ms. Sorensen said. "We exist to support small businesses. Small businesses are our bread and butter."

Another participant, Brad Magg, the owner of an ice cream shop and catering business, said he had opened his first restaurant at age 20 "with a bank loan from my local bank across the street because the bank president knew me, knew my work ethic."

Mrs. Clinton drew a distinction between relieving the pressure on smaller banks and deregulating big Wall Street banks, a policy that she faulted some Republicans for supporting.

"What was meant to rein in 'too big to fail' has actually fallen harder on them," she said of community banks. "That's why they need relief, because they were not part of the problem but in some ways are paying a disproportionate price."

One of the participants asked Mrs. Clinton about the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, which the Obama administration is negotiating and which liberals have pressed her to oppose. She acknowledged that "this is obviously a very hot topic right now" but avoided saying whether she would come down for or against it.

"Any trade deal I would support must increase jobs, must increase wages, must give us more economic competitive power," Mrs. Clinton said, repeating her earlier contention that it was too early to tell whether the pact would meet her threshold.

"I have been for trade agreements. I have been against trade agreements," she said. "I try to make a valuation dependent on what they would produce."

Mrs. Clinton was equally coy after a reporter for Fox News called out to her with a request to take questions from reporters.

"I might," she said, smiling. "I have to ponder it. I will put it on my list for due consideration."

When she began to answer a handful of questions, Mrs. Clinton made a modicum of news. She said she hoped the State Department would release her personal emails as soon as possible. ("As much as they can expedite the process, that's what I'm asking them to do.") She defended her family's philanthropic foundation. ("I'll let the American people make their own judgments" about foreign donations.)

Asked about current conflict in Iraq, which has stumped Mr. Bush and some other Republican contenders lately, and whether the world would be better off had Saddam Hussein remained in power, Mrs. Clinton demurred.

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“I made a mistake, plain and simple,” in voting to authorize the 2003 invasion, she said.

She defended her relationship with Sidney Blumenthal, a White House adviser to former President Bill Clinton and a longtime confidant, who was paid by the Clinton Foundation and offered advice to Mrs. Clinton about the situation in Libya while she was secretary of state.

“I always think that it’s important when you get into politics to have friends you had before you were in politics and to understand what’s on their mind,” she said.

At every step in her campaign so far, Mrs. Clinton has voiced a populist message about helping ordinary Americans, saying the “deck is stacked” against them and in favor of the very wealthy. Tuesday was no different: “Something is wrong when C.E.O.s earn more than 300 times what the typical American worker earns,” she said in the round-table discussion.

But for the first time, Mrs. Clinton was asked afterward how she could relate to voters struggling to get by, given the $25 million that she and her husband reported in income from paid speeches since the beginning of last year.

“Obviously, Bill and I have been blessed, and we are very grateful for the opportunities,” she said. “I’m running a campaign that is very clearly stating we want to reshuffle the deck.”

Hillary Clinton Finally Takes Reporters' Questions in Iowa // National Journal // Emily Schultheis - May 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton found out Tuesday what happens when a presidential candidate goes almost a month without taking questions from the press: a feeding frenzy of reporters.

The former secretary of State faced a barrage of questions after a campaign event in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and answered questions on topics ranging from Iraq to the Clinton Foundation to her family's wealth.

The brief Q&A came after reporters have focused on their lack of access to Clinton in recent weeks—before Tuesday, Clinton had answered just 13 questions during the campaign, by NPR's count. That relative silence from Clinton has allowed a spate of news stories, ranging from questions about the Foundation's financial dealings to the release of her emails, to pass by without comment from the candidate herself.

That tension was apparent earlier Tuesday, when a reporter shouted out during the event to ask whether she would take questions afterward. "I might. I'll have to ponder it," Clinton replied, adding that it would only be "when I finish talking to the people here."

Clinton also got a tough question during the event itself, when one of the roundtable participants asked her to clarify her position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. Trade has divided the Democratic Party: President Obama supports the deal, but progressives—including Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Clinton's sole official primary opponent thus far—have vehemently opposed it. Clinton had previously commented on what it would take for her to support the deal, but had not taken a stance either way.

"I've been very clear on this," Clinton said, reiterating her previous statements that any trade deal she supports must increase jobs and wages, increase the United States' competitiveness globally, and be good for U.S. national security. But she expressed concern over several provisions in the potential deal, saying she will wait to decide until the proposed agreement has been finalized.

"I have said I want to judge the final agreement," she said. "I have been for trade agreements, I have been against trade agreements. I've tried to

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make the evaluation depending upon what I thought they would produce, and that's what I'm waiting to see."

Here's what she said in response to the five press questions she answered:

On the release of her emails by the State Department: Clinton said she hopes the State Department—which said this week that it will not have completed its review of her emails until January 2016—can "expedite the process" however possible. "I want them out as soon as they can get out," Clinton said, adding that she has asked the department to "please move as quickly as they possibly can."

On her relationship with Sidney Blumenthal: Clinton also answered a question about her relationship with Blumenthal, whom The New York Times reported sent her numerous memos about the security situation in Libya before the Benghazi attacks occurred. She defended her relationship with Blumenthal, saying, "I have many old friends. … I'm going to keep talking to my old friends no matter who they are."

On the Clinton Foundation and questions about its donors: "I am so proud of the Foundation. I'm proud of the work that it has done and that it is doing," she said, adding that she would "let the American people make their own judgments about that."

On whether the invasion of Iraq was a mistake: Clinton has previously said her 2002 vote to authorize the Iraq war was a mistake, and she reiterated that Tuesday as the issue has come back into the headlines in recent days. "I've made it very clear that I made a mistake, plain and simple, and I have written about it in my book, talked about it in the past, and you know, what we now see is a different and very dangerous situation."

On her personal wealth and whether regular Americans can "relate" to her: Clinton, asked about her wealth after personal financial-disclosure forms revealed that she and her husband made $25 million in speaking fees since 2014, said both of them remember their roots. "Obviously, Bill and I have been blessed and we're very grateful for the opportunities that we had, but we've never forgotten where we came from and never forgotten the kind of country we want to see for our granddaughter," she said. "And that means that we're going to fight to make sure that everybody has the same chances to live up to his or her own God-given potential."

In Iowa, Hillary Clinton Takes A Question About Her Questions // Buzzfeed News // Ruby Cramer - May 19, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — At a bicycle shop here in northeast Iowa, Hillary Clinton was taking questions from the audience — a handful of local officials who'd come to watch her roundtable discussion with small business owners — when a voice rang out from the other side of the room.

"Secretary Clinton, will you take questions from the media as well?" said one of the few dozen reporters crowding the rope line at Bike Tech on Tuesday morning.

Clinton is now one month into the presidential race. Since her campaign announcement, a number of negative stories have followed Clinton to Iowa and New Hampshire and Nevada: There's the use of her personal email at the State Department, the foreign contributions to the Clinton Foundation, and the new book, Clinton Cash, which investigates whether those donations, and domestic ones, were used as tools of influence.

From these varied matters, one common question has emerged for the media covering her campaign: How many questions, about these questions, has Clinton answered since her launch — and when will she take more? (Last week, one news outlet published a story saying she had taken nine. Another counted 13.)

On Tuesday in Cedar Falls, the press got seven more.

The reporter who yelled his question to Clinton, appearing to startle some in the audience, also remarked on the candidate's recent silence.

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“We haven’t heard from you in a month,” he told her, setting off a somewhat strained exchange, which the crowd of press and attendees observed in silence.

“Maybe when I finish talking to the people,” Clinton said.

“Thank you.”

“How’s that?” she asked.

“Thank you,” he replied. “Will you come over?”

Clinton paused. “I might.”

“Thank you.”

“I’ll ponder it,” she said, prompting some laughter.

“I appreciate that.”

“I’ll put it on my list.”

After another question from the audience, Clinton took pictures with the participants at the roundtable event — where she vowed to serve as the “small business president,” eliminate “red tape,” and ease regulations on community banks.

Then she came over to the reporters.

The shouting happened all at once.

One voice, booming above the rest, could be heard asking multiple times, “WHAT MAKES YOU SO SPECIAL?”

When the din quieted, Clinton took her seven questions.

First, the foreign donations:

I am so proud of the foundation. I’m proud of the work that it has done and keeps doing. It attracted donations from people, organizations, from around the world, and I think that goes to show that people are very supportive of the life-saving and life-changing work it’s done here, at home, and elsewhere.

Her vote as senator for the war in Iraq:

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I've made it very clear that I've made a mistake, plain and simple … what we now see is a very different and very dangerous situation. The United States is doing what it can but ultimately this has to be a struggle that the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people have to win for themselves — and we can provide support, but they're gonna have to do it.

Her personal wealth:

Bill and I have been blessed. And we're very grateful for the opportunities that we've had. But we've never forgotten where we came from.

Her relationship with a friend and adviser, Sidney Blumenthal, who, after being barred from serving in the Obama administration, still advised her on matters pertaining to Libya while he pursued business interests there, as reported on Monday in the New York Times:

I have many, many old friends. I always think it's important, when you get into politics, to have friends you had before you were in politics … He's been a friend of mine for a long time. He sent me unsolicited emails, which I passed on in some instances, and I see that [as] just part of the give-and-take.

Her paid speeches — did they amount to a conflict of interest?

No.

The emails from the State Department — will she "demand" they be released sooner than January 2016, as is expected?

I have said repeatedly I want those emails out. Nobody has a bigger interest in getting them released than I do. I respect the State Department. They have their process that they do for everybody, not just for me. But anything that they might do to expedite that process, I heartily support.

But would she demand it?

As much as they can expedite that process, that's what I'm asking them to do — to please move as quickly…

Clinton was cut off. The yelling started again.

"Secretary Clinton?"

"Did you take official actions from the Clinton Foundation donors?"

"Secretary Clinton?"

"Why did you delete the email server?"

"Secretary Clinton?!"

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More voices rang out — but Clinton was done, exiting the Cedar Falls bike shop alongside her press aide to head to another campaign stop. A chyron on MSNBC summarized the “breaking news”: “CLINTON TAKES QUESTIONS IN IOWA.”

There was another question that went out to Clinton on policy — and it was from a voter on the roundtable, who raised the topic of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the trade deal President Obama is negotiating that has become an immense source of tension within the Democratic Party.

“What’s your stand?” asked Denita Gadson, the owner of i-Gus Consulting, a small digital signage company based in Waterloo, Iowa.

Clinton, in this case, had plenty to say — except exactly whether she will support the deal.

“There are questions being raised about this agreement. It hasn’t been negotiated yet … I have said I want to judge the final agreement.” In the past, Clinton said, “I have been for trade agreements; I have been against trade agreements.”

She would, she said, back a deal that increases jobs, wages, and protects national security. And she would oppose one, she said, that “gives corporations more power to overturn health and environmental and labor rules.”

“I’ve been very clear on this,” Clinton told Gadson.

After A Month, The 7 Questions Hillary Clinton Answered From The Media // NPR // Amita Kelly – May 19, 2015

Until Tuesday, it had been almost a month since Hillary Clinton had answered a question from the press.

After taking questions from Iowans in Cedar Rapids, where she spoke about small business, the former secretary of state then answered six questions from reporters. She also took an awkwardly timed one about whether she'll answer questions from media in the middle of the event. The questions after the event ranged from the release of her emails when she was secretary of state and criticism over foreign donations to the Clinton foundation to the state of Iraq and more.

That brings the total number of questions Clinton has answered since she launched her campaign, by NPR's count, to 20. As NPR's Tamara Keith reported recently, Clinton had answered only 13 questions from the media since launching her campaign. That count included a few substantive answers, and many versions of "How are you liking Iowa?"

It's also something Republicans, like Jeb Bush and Rand Paul, had started to use against her, noting that they were answering questions.

During Tuesday's event, Fox News reporter Ed Henry asked if Clinton would be taking questions from the media. (We guess that counts.) "We haven't heard from you in a month," he said. Clinton said to laughs that she would. "Maybe when I finish talking to the people here," she said. "How's that? I might. I'll have to ponder it, but I will put it on my list for due consideration."

Here are the six other questions Clinton answered Tuesday, along with her responses:

1. "Secretary Clinton, do you regret the way that the Clinton foundation handled foreign donations when you were secretary of state? And your opponents say that the foreign donations and private emails are examples of the Clintons having one set of rules for themselves and one for everyone else. Do they have a point?"

Clinton: "I am so proud of the foundation. I'm proud of the work that it has done and it is doing. It attracted donations from people, organizations from

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around the world and I think that just goes to show that people are very supportive of the lifesaving and life-changing work it's done here at home and elsewhere.

"And I'll let the American people make their own judgments about that."

2. "Secretary Clinton, given the situation in Iraq, do you think that we're better off without Saddam Hussein in power?"

"Look, I know that there've been a lot of questions about Iraq posed to candidates over the last weeks. I've made it very clear that I made a mistake, plain and simple. And I have written about it in my book; I've talked about it in the past. What we now see is a very different and very dangerous situation; the United States is doing what it can but ultimately this has to be a struggle that the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people are determined to win for themselves, and we can provide support but they're going to have to do it."

3. "On your income disclosure recently, that just came out on Friday, you are in the tip-top echelon of earners in this country. How do you expect everyday Americans to relate to you?"

"Well, obviously, Bill and I have been blessed, and we're very grateful for the opportunities that we had, but we've never forgotten where we came from. And we've never forgotten the kind of country that we want to see for our granddaughter, and that means that we're going to fight to make sure that everybody has the same chances to live up to his or her own God-given potential.

"So I think that most Americans understand that the deck is stacked for those at the top — and I am running a campaign that is very clearly stating we want to reshuffle that deck, we want to get back to having more opportunity for more people so that they can make more out of their own lives. And I think that's exactly what America's looking for."

4. "Can you explain your relationship as secretary of state with Sidney Blumenthal? There was a report out this morning that you've exchanged several emails. Should Americans expect that if elected president you would have the same type of relationships with these old friends you've had for so long?"

[Laughing] "I have many, many old friends, and I always think it's important, when you get into politics to have friends you had before you were in politics. And to understand what's on their mind. And he's been a friend of mine for a long time. He sent me unsolicited emails which I passed on in some instances. And I see that's just part of the give and take. When you're in the public eye, when you're in an official position, I think you do have to work to make sure you're not caught in a bubble and you only hear from a certain small group of people and I'm going to keep talking to my old friends whoever they are."

5.-6. "Secretary Clinton, you learned today that [the] State Department might not release your emails until January of 2016. A federal judge says they should be released sooner. Will you demand they are released sooner? And to follow up on the questions about the speeches, was there a conflict of interest in your giving paid speeches into the run-up of your announcement that you're running for president?"

"The answer to the second is no. And the answer to the first is I have said repeatedly that I want those emails out. Nobody has a bigger interest in getting them released than I do. I respect the State Department; they have their process that they do for everybody, not just for me. But anything that they might do to expedite that process, I heartily support.

"You know, I want the American people to learn as much as we can about the work that I did with our diplomats and our development experts, because I think it will show how hard we worked and what we did for our country during the time that I was secretary of state, where I worked extremely hard on behalf of our values and our interest and our security, and the emails are part of that. So, I have said publicly, I'm repeating it here, in front of all of you today, I want them out as soon as they can get out."

Follow-up: "But will you demand it? Will you demand it?"

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"Well, they're not mine. They belong to the State Department. So the State Department has to go through its process, but as much as they can expedite that process, that's what I'm asking them to do, please move as quickly as they possibly can to get them out."

Bonus Question: Trade Deal

It is worth noting that Clinton has not been avoiding questions completely. She has been answering questions from participants at her events — but many are pre-selected supporters of her campaign.

On Tuesday, however, one participant did ask her a potentially thorny question, about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a major trade deal that she supported as secretary of state but has hedged on as a candidate. She said she wanted to "judge the final agreement" and expressed concerns over parts of the deal.

Even when flying with the public, Hillary Clinton keeps it private // MSNBC // Alex Seitz-Wald - May 19, 2015

CHICAGO, Illinois – Hillary Clinton has traded private jets for seats on commercial airlines as she embarks on her second, humbler presidential run. But even in this relatively more democratic mode of transit, the former secretary of state is mostly kept apart from the everyday Americans her campaign wants to champion.

Clinton does not fly the commercial the way you fly commercial. Thanks to strict security concerns, Clinton is insulated from the public from the moment she arrives at one airport to the time she leaves the second one. And even when trapped in a metal tube in the sky with fellow passengers, there are few opportunities for public interaction.

While the insulation is largely outside of Clinton's control and determined by the Secret Service, it underscores the logistical difficulties Clinton will have in connecting with ordinary voters on her second campaign.

Hillary Clinton boarding her plane, May 19, 2015. (Photo by Alex Seitz-Wald/MSNBC)

On Tuesday afternoon in Dubuque, Iowa, a few dozen passengers waited for their routine American Airlines flight to Chicago, one of only three flights scheduled from the tiny airport that day. Suddenly, a small motorcade pulled up, just outside the floor-to-ceiling windows that separate the airport's only gate from the tarmac.

Secret Service agents piled out, followed by aides. And then Hillary Clinton emerged from a red minivan. On the tarmac, she shook hands and chatted with a woman in a red jacket and her campaign's state director. Inside, passengers rushed to the windows and raised their smartphones to snap pictures.

After wrapping up her five minute conversation, Clinton walked into a small corridor that leads from the terminal to the plane, putting her just feet away from passengers inside, with only a glass door in between.

An older man knocked on the glass like he was tapping on a fish tank and Clinton turned to give a big, enthusiastic wave. She made an "OK" sign with her thumb and ring finger and smiled. A moment later, she was lead onboard and took a window seat in the first row. The small commuter plane had only one class.

She did not pass through TSA screening, though some of her campaign aides did.

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With a bulkhead in front of her, a window to her right, and trusted aide Huma Abedin between her and the aisle, Clinton donned sunglasses and looked at her BlackBerry as passengers boarded.

The seats around were filled by Secret Service agents, and then campaign staff further back. No one approached her during the short flight.

Upon arrival, Clinton and her entourage were quickly whisked off the plane. Inside, Chicago's O'Hare airport, she was almost immediately surrounded by onlookers and fans. She paused for a few selfies and to shake some hands, but an aide told fans they were in a rush and Clinton got moving.

The former secretary of state pulled her own black wheeled suitcase with a pink purse balanced on top. Over her should hung a green tote bag from Lardee's, a small gift shop she visited earlier in the afternoon where she purchased a book and two toys.

Clinton had only to travel about 50 feet across the terminal and into a secure area, where she disappeared from view before the other passengers on her flight had even collected their gate-checked luggage.

There were no opportunities for a reporter who happened to be on her flight to speak with her. Earlier in the day, she had taken questions from the press for the first time in 28 days.

It's a routine Clinton will likely repeat often as she ramps up her travel. On her way to Las Vegas this month, Clinton paused for a group shot with a JetBlue ground crew, presumably after being driven to the plane like she was in Iowa.

Ditching the private jets that Clinton used frequently since stepping down as secretary of state was an obvious move for a candidate trying to reintroduce herself to the American people as a more modest version of her 2008 campaign self.

But the candidate's commercial flying is about more than symbolism.

In her many years in public life, Clinton has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on private jets, sometimes at taxpayer or campaign donors' expense, causing controversy on more than one occasion.

For instance, her 2006 Senate campaign, when she faced limited Republican opposition, was famously spendthrift, dolling out $160,000 on private airfare. Her 2008 presidential campaign, meanwhile, ran out of money thanks in part to liberal use of private charters.

This time, Clinton's campaign – and especially her proudly frugal campaign manager Robby Mook – have vowed to be more careful with funds. That means many more American Eagle flights from Iowa to Chicago.

Rand Welcomes Hillary to the Felon Voting Rights Cause–But She's Been There for Years // Bloomberg // David Weigel - May 19, 2015

Before she took her first questions from reporters in four weeks, Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton took a little time Tuesday to undercut Rand Paul.

"Many people in the community, because of where they live, because maybe they did make a mistake and they don't get their voting rights back, which I totally disagree with," Clinton told a potential voter at a forum in Iowa. "I think if you've done your time, so to speak, and you've made your commitment to go forward you should be able to vote and you should be able to be judged on the same basis. You ought to get a second chance."

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Just as she had done in April, in a speech at Columbia University, Clinton had talked about criminal justice reform in the same manner as the Republican senator from Kentucky. Just as it had then, Paul's presidential campaign sarcastically welcomed Clinton to the party.

"Glad to see her once again joining Senator Paul in undoing some of the damage the Clinton administration did," Paul's political adviser, Doug Stafford, told Bloomberg. "There are certainly enough people who served time because of their policies."

That barb stung when Clinton was talking about over-criminalization. When it came to felon voter rights, she actually had a lead on Paul. In 2005, two years before announcing her first presidential bid, Clinton co-sponsored the Count Every Vote Act. It was a package of reforms that grew out of Democratic anger at the 2000 and 2004 elections, coming weeks after Senator Barbara Boxer of California had actually challenged the official electoral vote count on the Senate floor. And it would have restored voting rights for felons.

Clinton took heat for that. "Should convicted murderers be allowed to vote?" the Washington Times asked in a 2005 editorial. "If the federal Count Every Vote Act of 2005 passes, they will be." Other conservative taste-makers latched on to data from Jeff Manza and Marcus Britton of Northwestern University and Christopher Uggen of the University of Minnesota, about the Democratic leanings of felons. "Thirty percent of felons would vote if Hillary's law was passed," wrote a reporter for Newsmax in 2005. "With 85 percent of felon voters statistically likely to vote Democrat, that could add up to 1.2 million votes to presidential candidate Clinton's tally in 2008."

The Count Every Vote Act went nowhere in 2005, and didn't become a priority when Democrats took the Senate–and when Clinton was actually running for president. But Paul has made voting rights restoration a theme of his campaign, and as a Republican, he's more able to portray it as something that's right for America even if it looks bad for his party.

"I've been a louder voice for criminal justice than any Democrat has been out there so far, and I'll continue that," Paul told reporters Monday at a news conference in Philadelphia. "I think the Democrats have taken the African-American vote for granted. Every time I go into our big cities and talk to black leaders, I hear them say, haven't talked to my congressman in years, because they think my vote is automatic. I'm going to be a Republican who says no one vote anywhere in America is automatic for either party."

On Trade Deal, Hillary Sits on the Fence // US News // David Catanese - May 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton is still not taking a position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership currently being pushed by President Barack Obama and Republicans in Congress.

When asked about the trade proposal during a small business round-table in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Tuesday morning, Clinton said she had been "very clear" on the issue, before dodging it again.

"There are questions being raised by the current agreement. I don't know what the final provisions are yet," she said. "I want to judge the final agreement. I have been for trade agreements, I have been against trade agreements."

Clinton has only outlined broad provisions that any trade deal should include, citing increased wages and jobs as requirements.

As secretary of state, she touted the TPP as "the gold standard in trade agreements." But her reluctance to wade into the boiling fight between business and labor interests as a presidential candidate pinpoints the political divisiveness around the issue.

"This is obviously a very hot topic right now," Clinton acknowledged.

Prominent Democrats like Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., have led the opposition to the deal, citing the lack of enforcement of labor provisions in

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past agreements.

And even some Republicans – like former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee – are against it, saying it would allow bad-acting countries to cheat Americans out of jobs.

During the visit, Clinton also said she supported granting convicted felons the right to vote ("You ought to be able to get a second chance") and accused the GOP of using a "Trojan horse idea" of advocating for the rollback of broad financial regulations to help community banks. She said lawmakers could work to ease regulations on the smaller outfits without eliminating the oversight of those banks commonly deemed "too big to fail."

Afterward, Clinton also addressed reporters for the first time in weeks, defending the work of her family's foundation and claiming it's in her interest for her emails as secretary of state to be released sooner rather than later.

"I want them out as soon as they could get out. They're not mine. They belong to the State Department," she replied.

Clinton finds problem s with Obam a T PP trade proposal // CNN // Eric Bradner - May 19, 2015

Washington (CNN)Hillary Clinton took aim Tuesday at two core components of a massive free trade pact that President Barack Obama is negotiating — signaling some agreement with the deal's liberal critics.

The Democratic front-runner in the 2016 presidential race said she wants to see rules included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership that would penalize countries for driving down the value of their currencies in order to give their exports a price advantage in the U.S. market.

And she said she's concerned about a provision that would give "corporations more power to overturn health and environmental and labor rules than consumers have."

"I think that is a problem," Clinton said during a roundtable event in Iowa, when one woman participating in the event asked her about the deal.

It's as close to staking out a clear position on the trade deal that Clinton has come — though she left wiggle room Tuesday.

"I want to judge the final agreement. I have been for trade agreements; I have been against trade agreements," she said.

Her comments come as the Senate prepares to vote on trade promotion authority, a measure that would allow Obama to finalize the Pacific Rim deal and submit it to Congress for a vote with limited debate and no amendments. That authority, negotiators say, is crucial to getting other countries to sign off on a final deal.

Those two items are central to the critique that trade unions, environmental and public health groups have made against the 12-country Pacific Rim pact, which would link 40% of the world's economy, including Japan, Australia, Canada and Mexico.

Currency manipulation is not part of the talks. U.S. trade negotiators have instead said currency issues are best left to the Treasury Department, and that including them in the trade talks could be a deal-breaker for other countries.

Democrats are pushing to amend the trade promotion authority bill to force Obama to address currency in the trade deal.

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The amendments being pushed, Clinton said, have "some merit."

What is part of the negotiations, though, is a wonky item known as an "investor-state dispute settlement" mechanism.

It would give corporations the right to challenge, to an independent, international arbiter, whether countries' rules and regulations meet their free trade obligations.

Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has raised that issue as the key reason she wants to see the Trans-Pacific Partnership rejected.

Clinton, White House spar over trade as fast-track vote looms // Reuters // Amanda Becker - May 19, 2015

Democratic U.S. presidential contender Hillary Clinton set up a potential clash over sensitive trade legislation with the White House on Tuesday, urging steps to prevent currency manipulation and lawsuits by foreign companies against governments.

The White House also ratcheted up pressure on lawmakers, threatening to veto legislation that could help seal a Pacific trade pact if Congress forced sanctions against trading partners who artificially weaken their currencies.

The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) has pitted Obama against some fellow Democrats, including leading liberal, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Clinton, the leading Democratic presidential contender, made her first substantial statement on the issue on Tuesday. Her intervention could strengthen Democratic opposition to the deal, which is part of Obama's diplomatic pivot to Asia and a centerpiece of his second-term legislative agenda.

"It needs to try to address directly or indirectly the manipulation of currency by countries that would be trade partners," Clinton said at a roundtable during a campaign stop in Iowa.

"That's been a big source of us not being as competitive as we want to be."

Clinton also said rules allowing companies to sue foreign governments over health, environmental and other policies, which would be part of the TPP, were "a problem," echoing concerns raised by Warren.

Obama is trying to build support in Congress for the TPP and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said in a letter to senators that U.S. officials are reaching out to TPP partners to establish "new approaches to addressing unfair currency practices."

The Senate is to vote this week on the measure to streamline trade talks that will move Obama closer to enacting the TPP, which would cover 40 percent of the global economy that is seen as a counterbalance to China's rising economic and diplomatic clout.

If fast-track authority is granted to the White House, then Congress must vote yes or no on any trade deal that is negotiated, without the chance to make any amendments.

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Supporters of sanctions against currency cheating say many trading partners in Asia such as Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam run substantial trade surpluses with the U.S. that may be a result of undervalued currencies.

The administration argues that approach would lay the United States open to charges that Federal Reserve policies were aimed at reducing the value of the dollar.

"An enforceable currency provision in our trade agreements could give our trading partners the power to challenge legitimate U.S. monetary policies," Lew said in the letter. Lew and a White House spokesman warned that Obama might veto a bill that included enforceable currency provisions.

Clinton, under pressure from the party's left wing to take a definitive stand on the TPP, said she wanted to see what amendments to trade legislation were adopted in the Senate before deciding whether to throw her support behind the Asia Pacific deal.

"I want to judge the final agreement," Clinton said. "I have been for trade agreements, I have been against trade agreements. I try to make the evaluation on what I thought they would produce."

Clinton made the comments during her second visit to Iowa, the state that kicks off the presidential nominating battle in early 2016.

Hillary Clinton Is Pitching Herself To Millennials // Huffington Post // Howard Fineman - May 19, 2015

WASHINGTON -- Is Hillary Clinton actually moving left, and if so, why?

The answer is yes, though not on every topic. And the reason is to push young voters' turnout and grassroots organizing enthusiasm as close as possible to the levels that President Barack Obama enjoyed in 2008.

“After two terms of President Obama, it won’t be easy, but our challenge is to again excite the passion of the youngest voters,” Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta told fellow Georgetown Law Center alums at a luncheon last week.

The campaign aims to fire up millennials with both a tailored approach to the issues and innovative use of technology. For the latter, the team recently brought aboard a former high-ranking Google manager to push new initiatives in social media and big data-guided outreach.

As for issues, Clinton advisers and Democrats close the candidate say she will focus on matters of particular appeal to those voters ages 18 to 33. The idea is that she will go strongly to the left on social issues, move somewhat less left on economic issues, and remain a centrist on foreign policy, military affairs and terrorism.

The target areas include climate change and other global environmental concerns, and social issues broadly defined -- including support for same-sex marriage; a path to citizenship for most undocumented immigrants; and criminal justice reforms such as changing harsh sentencing rules, reducing the current reliance on incarceration and opposing "militarization" of local police forces.

Clinton also plans to take a measured, big-picture approach to dealing with the overbearing influence of corporate wealth and the resulting public cynicism. She will advocate a higher minimum wage and support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision. But she's not about to become an all-out, rail-against-the-banks populist in the manner of Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). And as she did this week, Clinton will talk up the role of small business and innovation.

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Especially on climate and social issues, the calculation is that the entire electorate has rapidly moved left, led by the youngest voters, whose views on the full range of these topics is starkly more liberal than those of the oldest voters. It's become almost too easy to ridicule Republicans speaking to young audiences as "out of the mainstream."

"On climate change, some of the Republicans remind me of Alfred E. Neuman," said Podesta last week. "What, me worry?"

Economics are a closer question among millennials. Their distrust of big-government solutions is robust; their doubts about the efficacy of programs such as Social Security is deep. They believe in entrepreneurship, if for no other reason than that the old pyramid of lifetime hiring is gone.

So far, Hillary Clinton has avoided taking firm stands on the Keystone XL pipeline or the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact. If and when she is forced to do so, she'll flat-out reject the former, one adviser predicts, and look for less-than-sweepingly ideological reasons to temporarily oppose the latter.

If the goal is to instill passion in millennials, however, there is little reason to dwell on foreign policy, or so it seems. A recent poll shows that the current crop of youngest voters is noticeably less worried about terrorism than the previous cohort.

The overwhelming American consensus is that the Iraq War was a mistake and that the bomb-and-drone approach to ending terrorism and making the U.S. safer hasn't worked. But that doesn't necessarily mean voters want the U.S. to withdraw from the world. It's more likely to mean that voters, especially millennials, don't see the "Global War on Terror" as central to the 2016 contest. So even though Clinton's tenure as secretary of state is her top official on-the-job experience, she isn't going to make it the centerpiece of her campaign.

Republicans will still dwell on what she did and didn't do at the State Department. But it's doubtful young voters will care.

Hillary Clinton's top campaign aides in Nevada // Ralston Reports // Jon Ralston - May 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton's top campaign aides, including her campaign manager, are in Nevada this week to meet with supporters, community leaders and reporters, yet another sign that the Silver State is critical to the presumptive Democratic nominee's strategy.

Robby Mook, who ran Clinton's 2008 effort in Nevada, is here along with Marlon Marshall, who is overseeing all of her state campaigns. They were in Reno on Monday evening meeting with Obama and Clinton backers from '08. They plan to be in Carson City today and will also travel to Las Vegas.

Their visit comes after the candidate made national news this month and laid down a marker for her White House race on immigration in a Las Vegas stop during which she indicated she would go further than the president on immigration reform.

Mook's return coincides with the assembling of a team that helped Clinton win Nevada by 5 points over Obama in the 2008 caucus (he eventually won the delegate fight, 13-12), including new state director Emmy Ruiz, who worked for the president here in 2012.

Hillary Clinton to hit fundraising trail in Greenwich // CT News // Neil Vigdor - May 19, 2015

Hillary Clinton is harvesting campaign cash in her backyard — Bush family roots be damned.

The prohibitive favorite for the Democratic presidential nomination will hit the fundraising trail June 5 in Greenwich, huddling with deep-pocketed contributors at a $29.7 million Roman villa in the hometown of Bush family patriarch Prescott Bush Sr., Hearst Connecticut Media has learned.

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Bush was the grandfather of prospective Clinton 2016 rival Jeb Bush, who in January embarked on his own White House exploration at Greenwich fundraiser where he poo-pooed the Clinton mystique and told fellow Republicans that running a campaign based on “90s nostalgia” would fail.

Now, Clinton is trying to one-up Bush just a stone’s throw from where the former Florida governor gave Clinton bulletin board material.

The former secretary of state, U.S. senator and first lady will greet contributors at the Indian Harbor compound of retired financial trader and philanthropist Malcolm Wiener and his wife, Carolyn Wiener, according to an invitation obtained by Hearst.

The couple’s seven bedroom, and 11.5-bathroom mansion is steeped in history. Built in 1889 on a property developed by Boss Tweed for his Americus Club shoreline retreat, the home was once owned by Commodore Elias C. Benedict. The couple’s annual real estate taxes are about $227,000. There is a even a private island named after Tweed just off the promontory.

The ask for an audience with Clinton is $2,700 per person and $5,400 per couple. To be a co-host of the event and snag an invite to a VIP reception with Clinton and membership in her Hillstarters Program, individual supporters must raise $27,000. Hosts are being asked to raise $50,000, which would qualify them for Clinton’s Hillraisers Program.

The Hillstarters and Hillraisers bundlers programs are Clinton’s answer to former President George W. Bush’s Pioneers and Rangers designations.

Democrats relished the spotlight of Clinton’s upcoming visit to the state where Hillary and Bill Clinton met as Yale Law students.

“I am optimistic that Hillary Clinton will be back in the state again and not just for money,” said Nancy DiNardo, a former state Democratic chairwoman. “I think in Greenwich you seeing more Democrats coming in having fundraisers because they can be just as successful as Republicans there.”

Republicans renewed questions about Clinton’s transparency as secretary of state and her fundraising activity for her family’s foundation.

“Instead of answering serious questions about shady foreign donations and her secret email server, Hillary Clinton continues to opt for closed-door fundraisers and staged campaign events,” said Jerry Labriola Jr., chairman of the state GOP. “With new concerns raised each day, it is clear why Connecticut voters can’t trust her.”

Labriola’s criticism of Clinton came on the same day that the state’s top Republican endorsed Marco Rubio for president, becoming the first state GOP chairman to endorse the Florida senator. Rubio, who is scheduled to give the keynote at a Connecticut GOP fundraiser on the eve of Clinton’s visit, thanked Labriola on Twitter. Democrats panned the endorsement.

“By being the first state party to line up behind Rubio, the Connecticut GOP is sending a clear message that they agree with Marco Rubio that immigration reform isn’t a priority, that the country was better off with George W. Bush’s Iraq war, and that it’s okay to discriminate against the LGBTQ community,” said Leigh Appleby, a state Democratic Party spokesman.

Like George W. Bush, brother Jeb Bush has kept somewhat of an arm’s length from Greenwich, identifying more with Florida than Connecticut. Greenwich is just 13 miles from the Clintons’ adopted home of Chappaqua, N.Y., and is a requisite fundraising destination for both Republicans and Democrats.

The GOP registration advantage has eroded over the last decade, with Barack Obama in 2008 becoming the first Democratic presidential candidate to win Greenwich since Lyndon Johnson in 1964. The town went for Mitt Romney in 2012.

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Drew Marzullo, the town's top Democratic office holder and a selectman, said he is hoping Clinton can replicate Obama's success in Greenwich.

"I hope to get the chance to meet her on June 5 and say to her, President Obama won Greenwich in 2008 and I have no doubt she can too," Marzullo said.

Nurtured by Clinton Network, O'Malley Now Becomes 2016 Rival // ABC News // Lisa Lerer and Ken Thomas, Associated Press - May 19, 2015

More than a decade ago, Bill Clinton spotted a political star in the making, someone he predicted would go from a big-city mayor to a national leader — maybe even to the White House. "I won't be surprised if you go all the way," Clinton wrote in a 2002 letter to Baltimore's mayor, Martin O'Malley.

In the years that followed, Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton showed up time and again as their young ally gained stature as governor of Maryland, hosting fundraisers, headlining rallies and connecting him to their sprawling network of political donors.

Now, O'Malley is just days away from walking down the path Clinton laid out for him more than a decade ago, as he prepares to announce his presidential campaign in Baltimore on May 30. And that means transforming himself from one of Hillary Clinton's most loyal supporters into her chief adversary for the Democratic nomination.

"It's certainly been a long and friendly relationship," said Steve Kearney, a former O'Malley aide. "Times change. He clearly thought she was the best candidate in 2008. We'll find out whether that remains true today."

O'Malley quickly endorsed Clinton in her nomination contest with Barack Obama, raised at least $500,000 for her from Maryland donors when he was governor, defended her on cable news and traveled to New Hampshire to campaign for her.

"If I can, I will help her, wherever I can, whenever I can," O'Malley said then.

Today, O'Malley says that while he maintains "tremendous respect" for the Clintons, Democratic voters deserve more than a coronation. "What would be more awkward is if no one were willing to compete for the Democratic party's nomination for president," he told NPR last month. "That would be an extreme poverty indeed."

Hillary Clinton, who last spoke to O'Malley in October at a Maryland campaign rally, and her advisers remain reluctant to comment on O'Malley's candidacy. But some longtime supporters see his bid as an opportunistic maneuver to remain relevant, after his hand-picked Democratic successor lost the governor's race last year in heavily Democratic Maryland.

"Martin O'Malley is certainly not the first person who has turned against her and who she helped enormously," said Stella O'Leary, a Democratic activist whose relationship to O'Malley dates back to the early 1990s when she hired the young man — who fronts a Celtic folk band — to perform at a birthday party for former Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy. "I don't know how she doesn't lash out and start screaming."

Some who question his motives also think the challenge could benefit Clinton by giving her a debate sparring partner — as long as O'Malley avoids tough hits on her finances, family foundation and character.

In the waning days of the Clinton administration, O'Malley was starting his first term as mayor. During one of their earliest meetings, at the 2000 NAACP Convention in Baltimore, the Irish-American mayor asked to be included in a White House delegation going to Northern Ireland later that year. He scored a last-minute invite, joining many of Clinton's top political aides and fundraisers on the trip.

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Others in that delegation remember O'Malley for his musical talents. At one stop, as they waited in a pub for the notoriously late president, O'Malley and New York Rep. Joe Crowley pulled out their guitars and entertained the group with renditions of traditional Irish songs.

"Next thing I know we almost forgot all about the president," said Brian O'Dwyer, a New York lawyer and Clinton friend who's active in Irish-American issues. "It was a terrifically warm trip."

Years later, O'Malley would tap the connections he made on that trip to aid his political rise. During his first campaign for governor, Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, a top Clinton donor who met O'Malley on the Ireland trip, held a fundraiser for him at her Georgetown home. In Manhattan, lawyers at O'Dwyer's firm started a group called New York Irish for Martin O'Malley. And O'Leary's political action committee, Irish American Democrats, made campaign contributions.

O'Malley's relationship with the Clintons deepened as he became more involved with the Democratic Leadership Council, a centrist group that helped craft much of Bill Clinton's policy agenda. After the 2001 terrorist attacks, he worked with Hillary Clinton, then a New York senator, on homeland security issues.

When O'Malley faced a tough race for governor in 2006, the Clintons held fundraisers and starred at rallies for him. In the final days of that race, Bill Clinton answered pleas from O'Malley aides to appear in a campaign ad — stopping in an airport to tape an endorsement of his "good friend."

While Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state, Bill Clinton returned to Baltimore four years later to help O'Malley win re-election.

O'Malley maintained his ties to Bill Clinton as he prepared for a presidential run. Last year, O'Malley tweeted a photo of himself with the ex-president at a New York book party, and flew to Denver solely to appear with him at the Clinton Global Initiative.

Some friends of all three don't see malice in O'Malley's ambitions, but also don't feel conflicted. "It's not that I love Martin any less but I love Hillary more," said O'Dwyer. "She was a partner in bringing peace to in Ireland. That type of loyalty is hard to ignore."

Clinton Super PAC Executive Director Exits Amid Shake-Up // BuzzFeed // Ruby Cramer –May 21, 2015

Buffy Wicks, a leading Democratic operative and former senior aide to Barack Obama, will leave her post as executive director of Priorities USA Action, the super PAC working to raise millions in support of Hillary Clinton's campaign.

Wicks, now in the process of arranging her exit from Priorities, is expected to stay inside the larger Clinton operation, three sources familiar with the move said.

She is in discussion with Clinton aides about a senior role on the "coordinated side" — which could include a position inside the campaign or at the Democratic National Committee, where officials would work closely with Clinton should she become the nominee.

A Clinton aide confirmed the talks on Tuesday evening.

"We are recruiting Buffy for a senior-level role on the coordinated side of the campaign," the Clinton official said.

The departure comes about three weeks after the news that Guy Cecil, the political director on Clinton's last campaign, would join the super PAC in

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a senior role.

At the time, many Democrats viewed the move as a means to minimize another Priorities official, Jim Messina, the former Obama campaign manager. Messina was installed as the super PAC's co-chair, but has never been fully embraced by the longstanding circle of aides and advisers around Clinton.

It was never clear, though, what Cecil's entry would mean for Wicks.

Wicks, a widely respected and well-liked figure in the party, served as the national director of get-out-the-vote efforts on Obama's reelection campaign.

She is close with senior members of the Clinton team, including the campaign manager, Robby Mook. The two met working for Howard Dean in 2004 — an operation that famously trained much of its field staff in organizing techniques from the labor and protest movements of the '60s and '70s. Wicks and Mook both emerged from that race as part of an ascendant new class of field organizers.

Wicks was largely new to fundraising when she joined Priorities last January.

She took the helm along with Messina and his co-chair, former Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm, amid a relaunch by the pro-Obama super PAC into a paid-media effort backing a Clinton bid in 2016. The leadership team was formulated as a meld of the Obama and Clinton worlds ahead of the next election.

Priorities was inactive throughout the 2014 midterms. After the election, the super PAC struggled to solicit pledges and outline a clear fundraising strategy. With the campaign now underway, Priorities has had more success — but the group spent much of early 2015 dealing with negative stories over fundraising and leadership.

Originally, in late 2013, existing Priorities officials hoped that John Podesta, now the Clinton campaign chairman, would join the PAC as a co-chair. But Podesta, who served as a senior official in Bill Clinton's administration, took a job at the White House instead. Cecil, most recently the head of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, comes to the PAC as an ally of Podesta and Bill Clinton. (He was also reportedly considered as a choice for campaign manager.)

Cecil also used to work at Dewey Square Group, the consulting firm whose officials have informally advised the campaign and outside efforts leading up to it.

A Dewey Square founding partner, Charlie Baker, recently joined the Clinton campaign as chief administrative officer. His role, in part, was described by two sources as a liaison of sorts between the campaign and outside officials.

With Wicks's departure, it's likely that Cecil will take the lead role at Priorities — though his position has not been acknowledged or outlined by the PAC. Cecil's move to Priorities was first reported by the Washington Post.

Neither Wicks nor a spokesman for Priorities immediately returned a request for comment.

Iowa Democrats: Flawed Clinton Our Only Hope // Bloomberg // David Knowles – May 20,2015

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A Bloomberg Politics/Purple Strategies focus group finds Democrats resolved over their presidential frontrunner

Iowa Democrats see Hillary Clinton as a presidential candidate who, despite her flaws, represents what they see as their only chance of keeping control of the White House in 2016.

During a Bloomberg Politics/Purple Strategies focus group conducted Monday in Des Moines, 10 Iowa Democrats were asked what thoughts they had about Clinton as a leader and a person.

"She's a bad mama jama. She's a strong, competent woman," said Kiendra, a 33-year-old librarian. "She knows what she's doing. She's not afraid to step up. She's not afraid to take advice and she's not afraid to say no, I don't want to do it that way. I'm going to do it this way."

A school teacher named Al cited Clinton's political drive as positive.

"A lot of it, in fact, is made that, oh, she's so ambitious," Al said. "Well, you know what? If you're going to be a politician, if you're going to set yourself up to be elected to any office, you have to be ambitious. You have to have one big ego. And if you're going for the higher offices, you've got to have an absolutely ego."

While the consensus among those who participated in the focus group was that Clinton possessed the experience and policy positions required to be elected president, the group was less confident when it came to naming the former secretary of state's actual accomplishments.

"I really can't name anything off the top of my head," said Ryan, a 38-year-old event planner.

Following an awkward silence, a 22-year-old student named Amanda added, "I honestly can't say I followed along everything that was going on."

While some took issue with Clinton's ties to Wall Street, secrecy, and foundation contributions, the group, by and large, seemed resolved that she represented the party's best chance at fending off a Republican challenger.

"She's been at a high level in numerous offices for about 25 years now," Charlie, 24, who works as a graphic designer, said. "I mean it's either going to be that or it's going to be Scott Walker, you know, taking away, destroying America's unions. And there's just, you know, she's not perfect. But she's been in the eye for a long time, in the public's eye, and you're going to have some stuff on her. But she has great policies and she knows how to get stuff done."

Bloomberg Politics, in conjunction with Purple Strategies, conducted two qualitative focus groups in Des Moines, IA, one of Democratic caucus participants and one of Republican caucus participants. Each group consisted of ten participants, both men and women, and from a variety of ages and socio-economic and educational backgrounds. Qualitative research results cannot be statistically analyzed or projected onto the broader population at large. As is customary, respondents were compensated for their participation.

Amid criticism, Clinton sticks to low-key campaign strategy // AP // Julie Pace – May 20, 2015

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa (AP) — During two days of campaigning this week in Iowa, Hillary Rodham Clinton didn't make a formal speech. She answered questions from reporters, but only for five minutes. Pressed by a moderator at her own event to say where she stood on a trade pact that's dividing her party, she steered clear.

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It was the kind of trip that infuriates her Republican critics, yet gives them fodder to keep up their argument she's a candidate dodging tough issues and avoiding taking positions that could haunt her politically. That's started to worry some Democrats, who are publicly prodding Clinton to wade deeper into the political fray and pick a side on the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal.

Clinton and her team are unmoved. They're sticking to their plans for a low-key start to her second presidential campaign, displaying an early level of discipline that was lacking when Clinton sought the White House in 2008 and struggled with campaign infighting over strategy.

It's an approach they've crafted to show voters Clinton isn't taking the Democratic nomination for granted. Yet by not taking a stand on issues of the day and dismissing some of the traditional trappings of presidential campaigns, some political operatives say Clinton risks appearing as if she's doing just that.

"There is a demand if you are a candidate to signify a lack of entitlement by submitting yourself to questions from the news media on a regular basis," said David Axelrod, a longtime adviser to President Barack Obama. "There is risk to that, but it is a risk that comes along with the task of running for president."

Before a brief exchange with reporters Tuesday, Clinton hadn't taken questions from the press in nearly a month. Republican presidential hopefuls seized on her reluctance to engage with reporters and repeatedly mocked her for ducking questions.

"You can't script your way to the presidency," said Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor.

So far, Clinton's campaign does have the appearance of a carefully choreographed operation. Each of her stops in the early-voting states has looked similar to her two-day swing through Iowa this week, where she attended a meet-and-greet with local officials and campaign volunteers at a home in Mason City, discussed economic policy with small business owners at a bicycle shop in Cedar Falls, and dropped by a coffee shop in Independence for an espresso and sandwich.

The house party she attended in Mason City was invitation-only and, as with her past policy roundtables, participants at the small business event were selected by the campaign.

Even when unexpected moments arise, Clinton sticks to her script. When a small business owner asked her Tuesday to state her position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, Clinton politely refused.

"I want to judge the final agreement," she said.

Clinton's advisers intended her campaign to start slowly. She will hold a more formal campaign kick-off next month, likely with a major speech and a series of one-on-one interviews. But even as the campaign enters that phase, aides say Clinton will still do the smaller events like those she's held so far.

Though she never mentioned her critics directly, Clinton pushed back this week at those who say she should be taking a different approach.

"Somebody asked me the other day, 'Well, you're going to these events where you're taking time to actually talk and listen to people, is that really what you're going to do?'" she said Monday. "And I said, 'Well, yes it is.'"

Clinton's advisers also dispute the notion she is avoiding taking positions on policy, pointing to her backing of Obama's executive actions on immigration and her call to outfit police departments with body cameras. On Tuesday, she voiced her opposition to Republican-backed legislation that would revamp the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law.

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But each was unveiled as part of a careful rollout by Clinton's campaign. She's been far less willing to weigh in on issues that don't fit with her campaign schedule, including the fall of Ramadi to Islamic State militants in Iraq over the weekend.

Clinton's sidestepping on the Asia-Pacific trade pact has been most notable, given that Congress is currently debating whether to give Obama the ability to seek faster ratification of a final deal.

While Clinton called the pact the "gold standard" of trade agreements while serving as secretary of state, she has refused to take a position on the deal since announcing her candidacy.

As Clinton spoke to small business owners in Cedar Falls on Tuesday, a small group of protesters stood outside demanding she clarify her stance on the trade pact. Chris Schwartz, an Iowa organizer with the liberal group Americans for Democratic Action, said Clinton's silence was "troubling."

"People in Iowa and people across the country want to know the specifics on all of these issues, including TPP," Schwartz said, referring to the Trans-Pacific Partnership. "We have a right to have our questions answered."

Fundraiser puts spotlight on Clinton Foundation finances // Politico // Gabriel Debenedetti

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — The Chicago media executive hosting Hillary Clinton at his home for an afternoon fundraiser Wednesday ranks in the elite category of those who have given at least $25 million to the Clinton Foundation.

But the Clinton Foundation's own public records on Fred Eychaner's contributions illustrate the problems the organization has had with disclosing its donations, bringing it under harsh scrutiny and causing Clinton political trouble as she ramps up her presidential campaign.

Story Continued Below

The foundation's website lists Eychaner's Alphawood Foundation as a donor of somewhere between $10,001 and $25,001, but an examination of the Alphawood Foundation's Form 990 tax documents reveals that it in fact contributed $7.25 million between 2003 and 2007. That's not the only point of confusion: the low-profile Eychaner, a major Democratic fundraiser who started Alphawood, is listed by the Clinton Foundation as one of only seven donors of over $25 million.

But it's not certain that Eychaner personally gave more than $25 million. The Clinton Foundation confirmed that the Alphawood Foundation's $7.25 million is included in Eychaner's total, and Alphawood executive director James McDonough told POLITICO that his "understanding is that they've lumped all our donations under Fred Eychaner's name." It remains unclear if Eychaner would still be above the $25 million threshold if the Alphawood donations were not included in his donation total.

While the Clinton Foundation discloses its donors voluntarily and faces no legal consequences for unclear listings like this one, the organization's finances have has become a political flash point for Clinton in the early days of her campaign for the White House — and the lack of clarity in Eychaner's gifts could raise further questions about the Clinton Foundation's transparency.

The foundation told Reuters in April that it would refile five of its own tax reports after the discovery of errors in its reporting of donations from foreign governments — though the foundation did not say on Tuesday whether it would update its site to reflect that some of the money attributed to Eychaner actually came through his foundation.

Clinton and her family have repeatedly defended the philanthropic work of the Clinton Foundation, but it has faced tough scrutiny as she has

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kickstarted her political operation in the last two months. Clinton insisted she was “proud” of the group on Tuesday, saying its wide range of donors is a testament to its work. But the foundation has been criticized for accepting money from foreign governments and for not properly disclosing some of its contributions. Critics have said the group has been a vehicle for foreign interests to influence Bill and Hillary Clinton, allegations the foundation and campaign have swiftly and forcefully rebutted.

Nonetheless, Eychaner’s filing status on the website is unusual. Some foundation backers whose names are disclosed on the site are explicitly listed alongside their foundations, such as “Cheryl and Haim Saban & The Saban Family Foundation,” who have together given the Clinton Foundation between $10 million and $25 million. Like Eychaner, the billionaire Haim Saban hosted Clinton for a campaign fundraiser at his home in Los Angeles earlier this month.

But in Eychaner’s case his connection to the Alphawood Foundation — which says it works with organizations that focus on “architecture and preservation, the arts and arts education, promotion and protection of the rights of LGBT citizens and people living with HIV/AIDS, and other human and civil rights” — is not noted on the Clinton Foundation site, and the group’s listed donation total is far lower than what is accurate.

The only other individual reported as having given over $25 million to the Clinton Foundation — Frank Giustra, who has himself been the subject of intense scrutiny in news reports and a new book because of his own relationship with the foundation — is listed alongside his Radcliffe Foundation, making Eychaner the only individual listed at that high level without a disclosed institutional tie.

Eychaner is a longtime Democratic donor who supported Clinton in 2008 before becoming a prominent backer of President Barack Obama — he gave Obama’s foundation $1 million in its first year of operation, tax forms revealed on Monday, and a December POLITICO analysis showed he was the country’s fifth-biggest donor in the 2014 election cycle.

His political representative did not respond to a request for comment.

OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

O'Malley announces 2016 launch details // Politico // Jonathan Topaz - May 19, 2015

Martin O’Malley’s likely presidential launch will occur on the morning of May 30 in Baltimore’s Federal Hill Park, the Democrat said Tuesday.

The former Maryland governor and Baltimore mayor, who is all but assured to announce a bid at the event beginning at 10 a.m., revealed his plans on Twitter and in a Snapchat video released at noon. The park, near the city’s Inner Harbor, overlooks downtown Baltimore. The short video, which didn’t have any audio, showed various scenes of downtown Baltimore, ending with a sign at Federal Hill Park.

The likely presidential hopeful also linked to a website advertising a “special announcement.” If he enters the race, O’Malley will become the third declared Democratic candidate in a field that includes Hillary Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

O’Malley supporters view the two-term governor as the most electable liberal alternative to Clinton, the establishment front-runner. The potential candidate held an off-the-record meeting in New York City last week with about 30 progressives, telling the group that he’s the most viable option for progressives who support liberal icon Elizabeth Warren, the Massachusetts senator who has said repeatedly that she won’t run in 2016.

Last Thursday, O’Malley held a 13-minute call with donors, supporters and activists from the first three presidential nominating states, pointing to a May 30 announcement in Baltimore and telling them “he is inclined to run for president.” On the call were O’Malley’s political director Karine Jean-Pierre, an alum of Barack Obama’s 2012 reelection campaign, and senior advisor Bill Hyers, who was New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio’s 2013 campaign manager. O’Malley didn’t mention Clinton by name, only saying, as he has in the past, that “history is full of times where the inevitable front-runner is inevitable until they’re no longer inevitable.”

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His campaign headquarters will be located near Baltimore's Penn Station.

O'Malley, 52, has been the most active Democratic hopeful in the early nominating states, spending a significant amount of time in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina since the 2014 election cycle. Still, he has yet to show much traction in the polls — recent national and Iowa and New Hampshire polls show O'Malley in the low single digits, behind Sanders, who announced last month, and far behind Clinton.

O'Malley's team views him as a liberal insurgent in the mold of Gary Hart, who rose from the bottom of the polls and nearly defeated establishment front-runner and then-Vice President Walter Mondale in 1984. (O'Malley worked on that campaign as a 20-year-old staffer, and Hart has said that he bought O'Malley his first legal beer when he turned 21.)

O'Malley, though, has faced challenges to his record in recent months. In perhaps the most stunning upset in the 2014 election cycle, his lieutenant governor, Anthony Brown, lost in his gubernatorial race against Republican Larry Hogan, which many took as a repudiation of O'Malley's record in solidly Democratic Maryland. In light of the recent civil unrest in Baltimore, his team has intensely defended his data-driven, tough-on-crime record as mayor — which critics say contributed to the incarceration of a large number of young, black men and hindered economic opportunity in the city.

The former mayor has recently gone on offense on the issue, criticizing Democrats for failing to invest in American cities over the past several years and calling for a more robust plan to deal with income inequality and urban poverty.

Though he has largely refrained from attacking Clinton, O'Malley has taken several implicit jabs at the former secretary of state on several issues, including her ties to Wall Street. Recently, he has written op-eds, posted online videos and stayed active on Twitter to push progressive issues, including his opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership and fast-track trade authority, which Clinton has yet to weigh in on.

O'Malley picks Federal Hill to announce next move // Baltimore Sun // John Fritze - May 19, 2015

Martin O'Malley is expected to announce his presidential campaign in Federal Hill Park -- using the city where he got his start in politics as his backdrop, his campaign said Tuesday.

The former two-term governor and mayor of Baltimore provided new details about his announcement on Twitter and Snapchat. The event, in which O'Malley is widely expected to announce he will seek the Democratic nomination for president, is scheduled for 10 a.m. on May 30.

O'Malley, 52, would become the third Democrat to enter the contest, behind former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. O'Malley has been aggressively traveling in early primary states since his second term ended in January, but he has not made significant headway in early polling.

O'Malley has used the park for political events before, including a rally the night before his 2006 gubernatorial election.

Elizabeth Warren Wants Hillary Clinton To 'Weigh In On Trade' // Huffington Post // Dana Liebelson - May 19, 2015

WASHINGTON -- As the fight over a massive international trade agreement heats up on Capitol Hill, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) said on Tuesday that she wants to see Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton "weigh in on trade."

In an interview with The Huffington Post, Warren declined to say whether she would endorse Clinton. "Right now I think it's important for her to have a chance to lay out her views on a whole host of issues, including trade," she said.

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Warren has emerged as a champion for Americans who oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade deal that the Obama administration is seeking to negotiate with 11 other nations. The Senate is preparing to vote on legislation that would grant President Barack Obama the authority to "fast-track" TPP and other trade deals with no amendments and limited debate.

When asked who she thought was the best 2016 presidential contender on the issue, Warren said that "we need to hear from all of our presidential contenders about trade."

She added, "I will say that Hillary Clinton said in her book that she was opposed to these arbitration panels that could override domestic regulations," referring to a controversial TPP provision that would allow corporations to sue governments over regulations that inhibit their investment profits.

In her book Hard Choices, Clinton discussed the panels, writing that in trade agreements, "we should avoid some of the provisions sought by business interests, including our own, like giving them or their investors the power to sue foreign governments to weaken their environmental and public health rules."

Earlier on Tuesday, Warren spoke with Bloomberg about Clinton's opposition to the panels, adding, "I'd like to see her be clearer on that." When asked by HuffPost to elaborate, Warren said, "Look, she's already said what she said in her book about the arbitration panels and I'd like her to weigh in on trade, I think it's important."

According to CNN, Clinton came closer to taking a position on trade at a round-table event in Iowa on Tuesday, noting some concerns about the deal but ultimately hedging once again. "I want to judge the final agreement. I have been for trade agreements; I have been against trade agreements," she said.

Michael McAuliff contributed reporting.

GOP

Marc Lasry Says Jeb Bush Would Be 'Reasonable' President // Bloomberg // Saijel Kishan - May 19, 2015

Marc Lasry, the investor who's raising money for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, said potential Republican candidate Jeb Bush would be a "reasonable" president.

"He would be reasonable, he'd be a good president," Lasry said in an interview Tuesday with Mark Halperin and John Heilemann on Bloomberg Television's "With All Due Respect." "I think I would look at it very differently with some of the other candidates."

Lasry, the billionaire co-founder of Avenue Capital Group, is close to Clinton, the former U.S. secretary of state who's seeking the Democratic nomination. He also backed ex-President Bill Clinton, and once employed their daughter, Chelsea, as an analyst at his New York-based firm.

Lasry, who told Bloomberg in April that he sought to raise $270,000 during the first week of Clinton's campaign, said Tuesday that a fundraiser at his Manhattan townhouse was oversold. He said Clinton's politics have moved to the left and that the vast majority of donors "won't have an issue with that."

The Democrats will probably raise just more than $1 billion, with the party's super-Pac's gathering less than those supporting Republicans, Lasry said.

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He said that along with Bush, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and Florida Senator Marco Rubio are the strongest contenders for the Republican nomination.

Avenue manages $13.3 billion, according to its website. Lasry is also co-owner of the National Basketball Association's Milwaukee Bucks.

Marco Rubio Coming To Nevada Later This Month // CBS Local // May 19, 2015

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio is planning to visit Nevada at the end of the month to celebrate his birthday with the star of the TV show "Pawn Stars."

A fundraising reception for the Florida senator is scheduled for May 28 at the Las Vegas home of Rick Harrison, who co-owns the famous Gold and Silver Pawn Shop.

The event is co-hosted by Nevada Lt. Gov. Mark Hutchison, who is chairing Rubio's campaign operations in Nevada.

Rubio has roots in Nevada after spending some of his childhood in Las Vegas. He is also the cousin of Democratic Nevada state Sen. Mo Denis.

He's the latest presidential candidate or potential candidate to visit Nevada this month. Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republicans Jeb Bush, Rick Santorum and Ben Carson visited in May.

Seth Meyers Mocks Marco Rubio's 'Bumpy Sunday' on Iraq // Mediaite // Matt Wilstein - May 19, 2015

After breaking down Jeb Bush's problematic handling of questions about the Iraq War last week, Seth Meyers turned his attention Monday night to Marco Rubio, who had some struggles of his own during an interview with Chris Wallace on Fox News Sunday.

"Conventional wisdom was, Marco Rubio was the candidate who benefitted the most from Bush's stumbles," Meyers said. "And after seeing Bush's clumsy handling, there was no way Rubio was going to make the same mistake."

Of course, what followed was a back and forth between Wallace and Rubio full of circular logic and short of concrete answers to rather direct questions. "Were Wallace and Rubio even in the same room?" Meyers asked. "Because it seemed like one of them was on a five-second delay. There's less over-talking when my grandpa orders at the McDonald's drive-thru."

"How low is the question bar right now?" the host continued. "'Knowing what we know now' is the easy Iraq question, no one should be getting that wrong. The better question is 'knowing what we knew then, would you have invaded Iraq?'"

While Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and even Hillary Clinton all can agree that based on the intelligence presented at the time, they would (or did) authorize the invasion. But, as Meyers made clear, there were a few people who felt differently.

CNN Asks Rand Paul What He Would Do If ISIS Entered Baghdad // Real Clear Politics // Tim Hains - May 19, 2015

CNN QUESTION: What about Baghdad? What would you do if Baghdad were in danger of falling?

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SEN. RAND PAUL: Yeah. I'm all for the U.S. helping and supporting the Iraqis, and we have been. And I'm all for the air power and continuing to help the Iraqis and the Kurds with arms and with air support.

Ramadi is different, it is not a Kurdish region, you are now talking about a Sunni region. This is ultimately why Iraq has devolved into a failed state. What we got is a government that is almost entirely Shi'ite, aligned with Iran, and the Sunnis feel left out. It is also why Americans or Shi'ites can retake the cities, but we can't ultimately have a lasting peace unless the Sunnis are involved.

It is a very complicated situation with many different players. But if the Sunnis are not involved there will not be a lasting peace.

CNN QUESTION: But if you were president, and you saw ISIS encroaching on Baghdad, what would the U.S. role be?

SEN. RAND PAUL: Right now, air support, but the one thing I would be doing in addition to that would be arming the Kurds. To a much greater extent then we have been. And to recognize the Kurds as a nation.

The other thing I would do, is one of the things we did during the surge. People talk about American troops during the surge, one of the other things we did was put a lot of money into assistance to the Sunni chieftains to encourage their support. If you weigh that amount of money worth what we're spending on other things, I think it would be money well spent to try to encourage the alliegence of the Sunni chieftains again.

Carly Fiorina coming to Palm Beach County; Rand Paul cancels to fight Patriot Act // Palm Beach Post // George Bennett - May 19, 2015

Republican presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina will appear at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach on Wednesday, then attend a ribbon-cutting at the Place of Hope foster care agency in Boca Raton.

Another GOP White House aspirant, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, has cancelled plans to appear at a Palm Beach County Tea Party rally in Jupiter on Thursday because he'll be in Washington fighting against reauthorization of the Patriot Act.

Fiorina, the former CEO of Hewlett-Packard who announced she's running for president this month, will appear at a public rally at the convention center at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

Before the public event, Fiorina will meet with about three dozen donors who have given at least $1,000 to the county GOP.

After the West Palm Beach event, Fiorina is scheduled to appear at a ribbon cutting for new facilities at Place of Hope's Boca Raton campus at 21441 Boca Rio Road. That event begins at 6:30 p.m.

Also expected at the Place of Hope: State Attorney Dave Aronberg; Palm Beach County Commissioner Steven Abrams; state Sen. Joseph Abruzzo, D-Boynton Beach; state Rep. Gayle Harrell, R-Stuart; Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie and City Commissioner Robert Weinroth.

TOP NEWS

DOMESTIC

White House Says Would Veto Trade Bill If Currency Amendment is Added // TIME // Maya Rhodan - May 19, 2015

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White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday the President would consider vetoing the entire trade authority bill if an amendment co-sponsored by Sens. Rob Portman and Debbie Stabenow were to pass.

A vote an amendment that would target countries that manipulate the value of their currency to improve the prices of their exports could come as soon as this week in the Senate, Politico reports. Under Portman's amendment, countries would be held to standards set by the International Monetary Fund.

The amendment, Earnest said during Tuesday's briefing, would "undermine the ability of the Federal Reserve" and if it were to come across the president's desk he would "even take the extraordinary step of vetoing the TPA bill."

"The president would certainly not support that kind of provision," Earnest said Tuesday, though he said there are additional amendments the administration is open to considering.

Lenny Curry defeats incumbent Democratic Mayor Alvin Brown in Jacksonville // Tampa Bay Times // Alex Leary - May 19, 2015

Lenny Curry defeated incumbent Democratic Mayor Alvin Brown of Jacksonville tonight, the latest set back for Democrats in Florida.

"Soak it in with me. Just soak it in," Curry told supporters at top of his victory speech. He pledged to work with Brown on "one Jacksonville."

Curry, the former head of the state GOP, was boosted by a determined Republican effort to recapture the seat, strong fundraising and the help from Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio and other top officials.

He also got the endorsment of the Times-Union, which said Curry has "the financial and management background to lead Jacksonville out of its fiscal morass."

Brown won the seat in May 2011, becoming the first Democrat to hold the position in two decades and the first African-American. Democrats saw the former Bill Clinton aide as future statewide candidate.

"I congratulate my friend Lenny Curry, the new Mayor of Jacksonville," Gov. Rick Scott said in a statement. "I look forward to working with Lenny to continue to grow economic opportunities in one of Florida's greatest cities. I also want to thank outgoing Mayor Alvin Brown for his service to the people of Jacksonville and I wish him well in his next endeavor."

Beau Biden, vice president's son, hospitalized // USA Today // Gregory Korte - May 19, 2015

WASHINGTON — Beau Biden, the son of Vice President Joe Biden and a Democratic candidate for governor of Delaware in 2016, has been hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for an undisclosed illness.

The vice president's office confirmed Tuesday that Beau Biden was undergoing treatment at the Bethesda, Md. military hospital, but did not go into further details.

The 46-year-old former Delaware attorney general has a history of health problems. He suffered what was described as a mild stroke in 2010. And in 2013, he became disoriented while on family vacation and later underwent a procedure to remove a small brain lesion at the University of Texas

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MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Upgrades finalized for Roaring Brook Road rail crossing // Lohud // Hoa Nguyen - May 18, 2015

More than three months after the deadliest train crash in its history, Metro-North is working with other agencies to finalize upgrades to a nearby railroad crossing in New Castle.

Roaring Brook Road is about eight miles from the Commerce Street grade crossing in Valhalla where a commuter train and sport utility vehicle collided Feb. 3, killing the motorist and five passengers.

"There's no question that Valhalla has motivated everyone to look and try to do what we can do immediately," said New Castle supervisor Robert Greenstein, who has been pushing for the upgrades.

Next week, crews are expected to begin the milling and repaving of the road on both sides of the crossing and add new signs and improved pavement markings.

"These are improvements that needed to be done really yesterday," Greenstein said.

But while the Valhalla crash may have expedited these short-term fixes, Greenstein said ideally, officials will eventually approve construction of a new bridge over the railroad tracks that would eliminate the grade crossing and still allow traffic to pass by but he didn't believe the financing of such a bridge project would be feasible anytime soon.

"Let's face it — the bridge is not being built tomorrow," he said.

The crossing has had a history of close calls. Earlier this month, the railroad gate at Roaring Brook Road came down on a school bus, trapping it only seconds before a passenger train passed by. The bus driver, who was charged with stopping in the railroad right of way, a misdemeanor, stopped about 15 feet further than she should have and tried to back up but stopped when the gate caught on some brackets, New Castle police said. No one, including two students on the short-style bus, were injured in the incident.

As part of the planned work, Roaring Brook Road will be closed at the crossing in both directions for three days starting 7 p.m., May 29.

In Mount Pleasant, Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi, who has been petitioning the Department of Transportation to close the Cleveland Street crossing where Federal Railroad Administration records show there have been six accidents, said he is still awaiting a decision from state officials.

Fulgenzi said he has heard the closing of the Commerce Street grade crossing also may be a possibility but state and Metro-North officials have not updated him on their plans if there are any.

"They did admit that they are two crossings they are paying attention to," he said.

A few days ago, Fulgenzi said he was at the crossing with lawyers from the town's insurance carrier and the town police chief inspecting the site when a motorist approached the crossing, drove around the gate and crossed to the other side just as the lights began flashing, signaling the near arrival of a train.

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"God forbid there wasn't a train (passing by at the time)," Fulgenzi said.

MTA police chief Michael Coan said during a Monday Metro-North committee meeting that his agency is monitoring grade crossing safety and have issued 97 violations — or about a third of all 293 summons issued through April.

Senate outmaneuvers hard-line abortion foe in passing 20-week ban with exceptions // Post and Courier // Cynthia Roldan - May 19, 2015

COLUMBIA — South Carolina lawmakers voted Tuesday to tighten restrictions on abortions — prohibiting the procedure after 20 weeks of pregnancy — overcoming a leading abortion foe's vow to block exceptions for rape, incest and severe fetal abnormalities.

Sen. Lee Bright, R-Roebuck, had threatened a filibuster to block a vote on the bill, but senators outmaneuvered him by voting, instead, to end debate on the bill. Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston, another abortion foe, said that strategy was adopted after the state's largest anti-abortion advocacy group, South Carolina Citizens for Life, threw its support behind the bill rather than have it defeated because of the dispute over adding exceptions.

The bill passed the Senate 37-7. If approved on a third vote, the ban heads back to the House, which already has passed the bill without the exceptions. The differences would have to be ironed out in a conference committee for the bill to go to Gov. Nikki Haley for her signature.

Bright had earlier held a news conference in the Statehouse at which he was joined by several national activists who, like him, opposed exceptions to restrictions on abortions. Two of the women who backed his objections said they were conceived through rapes, and a third gave birth after she was raped as a young teenager.

The only exception Bright said he was willing to allow was to save the life of the mother.

Afterward, a frustrated Bright chastised his colleagues for spending months on an environmental bill but only hours on the abortion measure.

"We spent probably eight hours on this bill," said Bright. "We spent two months on the Pollution Control Act. It is very rare that a contentious special order bill goes this quickly."

Grooms called the bill a partial victory for abortion foes even with the exceptions.

"Everything about this bill is tough," Grooms said. "Even with the exceptions passed out of (the Senate), a number of lives will be saved."

Abortion-rights supporters planned to try to block the bill if the exceptions hadn't been included. Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, said he'd prepared more than 170 amendments, which would've taken days to get through with less than two weeks remaining in the legislative session this year. Hutto was among the seven senators who voted against the 20-week abortion ban.

South Carolina's American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Victoria Middleton denounced the Senate's action, issuing a statement saying the second-trimester abortion ban is governmental interference in a private matter.

"Today's debate showed that the goal of some South Carolina politicians is to limit a woman's access to abortion as a legal medical option," Middleton said. "The measure does nothing to improve health outcomes for families and could have a chilling effect on doctors seeking to give their patients the best medical care possible. "

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Before the vote, another opponent, Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Columbia, reminded colleagues they are not doctors and they could be infringing on constitutional rights.

“Politics should not drive medical decisions,” Kimpson said. “We are not medical experts. If we pass this bill, I suspect that we will have a legal challenge on our hands.”

Bright’s hard line was supported by national activists Rebecca Kiessling, a 45-year-old Michigan lawyer, and Juda Myers of Texas, who founded Choices For Life, which assists rape victims who want to deliver their babies.

Kiessling, president of Save the 1, an abortion-rights opponent, said her mother twice sought an illegal abortion after being raped and becoming pregnant, but ultimately decided to give birth to her.

“I did not deserve the death penalty for the life of my father,” Kiessling said. “You punish rapists and not babies.”

SC Republican: Abortion Ban Doesn't Keep Rape Victims Pregnant Enough // Jezebel // Anna Merlan - May 19, 2015

A South Carolina State Senator is filibustering a bill that would make abortion illegal for 20 weeks, not because he doesn’t hate abortion—he totally, loudly does—but because the bill makes an exception for victims of rape and incest. Those rape and incest victims had 20 whole weeks, State Senator Lee Bright, says, and now they’re just going to have to give birth.

As The State reports, in a story we saw via the Huffington Post, Bright, who is a Republican, began his filibuster on Thursday, arguing that the ban simply didn’t go far enough. As HuffPo’s Laura Bassett reports, he thought 20 weeks was plenty long enough, and besides, aren’t women just going to lie about getting raped anyway? Don’t they do that?

“We’re not talking about a woman that was assaulted that goes into the emergency room— which, I would argue, that child still has a right,” Bright said. “We’re talking about somebody that had 20 weeks.”

Bright said he worried that women would falsely claim they were raped in order to qualify for the exemption. “After 20 weeks if you wanted to get an abortion you could go and say you were raped and you could have the abortion,” he said. “You wouldn’t be denied. There’s no police report.”

There’s nothing a woman likes better, in a conservative Republican’s imagination, than to sit around, dreaming up ever-more complex ways to get a late-term abortion.

Bright came in for some criticism, even from fellow anti-abortioneers: Holy Gatlin of Citizens for Life told The State, “He does not seem to understand the strategy that will save babies’ lives. We do not agree with these exceptions, but this isn’t the end game. Sometimes, you have to concede a battle to win a war.” In response, Bright shared a press release on Facebook from the South Carolina Pastors Alliance, which called him “a consistent and stalwart advocate for the pre-born,” and added, “this is a prime example of his commitment.” He also called a press conference with women who were conceived from rape and who supported his filibuster.

Despite his best efforts, Bright failed: the bill passed this afternoon, with exceptions for victims of rape and incest and for the loosely defined “fetal abnormality.”

INTERNATIONAL

Iraq’s Sunni Strategy Collapses in Ramadi Rout // NYT // Tim Arango - May 19, 2015

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AMIRIYAT FALLUJA, Iraq — More than a thousand Iraqi Sunni fighters stood at attention, dressed in camouflage but holding no weapons, as the tribal leader began exhorting them to fiercely battle the militants of the Islamic State, taking up rhetoric tinged with Arab notions of vengeance.

“It is now time for revenge for our martyrs,” said the sheikh, Falih al-Essawi, who was dressed in a military uniform. He checked off the destruction wrought in their lands by the Islamic State, or, as he called them, “the rats of ISIS”: 25,000 homes leveled, he said, bridges burned, the economy devastated.

He and other speakers made an explicit plea to the Shiite prime minister in Baghdad, Haider al-Abadi: Arm and support our men, and we will take the fight ourselves to the Islamic State.

That event was 11 days ago at a military base here in Amiriyat Falluja, one of the last cities of Anbar Province in government hands. It was billed as the beginning of a government program to arm and train local Sunni tribesmen to battle the Sunni extremists of the Islamic State — a critical gesture to show that Shiite and Sunni Iraqis could unite in the fight, and to put Sunni residents at ease with defenders from their same communities.

Now, the fall of Anbar’s capital, Ramadi, to the Islamic State has illustrated the failure of that strategy.

The government’s effort to foster Sunni fighters, always a seemingly halfhearted program, now feels almost incidental as thousands of Shiite militiamen are flooding into Anbar to take up the fight against the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL.

A ceremony for a group of Sunni tribal fighters stationed at a base in Habbaniya, a lakeside town in Anbar, to receive new American-supplied weapons had been scheduled for Monday, but was canceled because of the Ramadi crisis. Instead, nearly 3,000 Shiite militiamen arrived at the outpost.

The collapse of Anbar has also set in sharp relief the continuing tragedy of Iraq’s Sunnis, beginning with the American invasion in 2003, which almost instantly upended the old social order of Sunni prominence. With the majority Shiites thrust into power, the Sunnis were sidelined, many banished from public life for good because of their ties to Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party.

Some of those Sunnis joined the insurgency, and many fight today for the Islamic State. Other Sunnis boycotted elections. A great number even deny the demographic fact that they are a minority in Iraq.

Most, though, wanted to get on with their lives and find a place within the new order.

Now, with the rise of the Islamic State, that has become nearly impossible. The Sunni militants of the Islamic State have declared war on those it considers apostates — Shiites, Christians, Yazidis — but it is Iraq’s Sunni Arabs who have arguably suffered the most.

As Islamic State militants seized control of Ramadi in recent days, their rampage was as grim as it was familiar. Through mosque loudspeakers, they assured the remaining civilians that they would provide them with food and security, and open roads and bridges that had been closed. Those promises belied what actually came with their arrival: vast destruction, summary killings of those believed sympathetic to the government — militants went door to door with lists of names — and the displacement of thousands of people.

The militants immediately opened two Shariah, or Islamic law, courts in Ramadi, according to an official, and freed prisoners who had been held in the city by Iraq’s counterterrorism forces.

The failure of Mr. Abadi to marshal a Sunni-led force to save the city has deepened the grievances of some Sunnis toward the central government that began with the leadership of the former prime minister, Nuri Kamal al-Maliki.

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“Abadi is a liar just like Maliki,” said Subhi al-Khaliani, a retiree in Diyala Province. “He won’t arm the Sunnis, but will weaken them instead.”

Bilal al-Dulaimi, 45, who works as a nurse in Diyala, said, “Sunnis are the prisoners of ISIS, which beheads tens of them daily.” He added, “The Sunni future is unknown and painful.”

Even Sunni officials in Anbar Province have called upon Mr. Abadi to send in the Shiite militias, some of them linked with Iran, to help fight the Islamic State. But many citizens of Anbar are fearful, given the Shiite armed groups’ role in sectarian atrocities of the past decade.

“The Shiite militias going to Anbar are a nongovernmental force, they are undisciplined and uncontrolled, and even the prime minister doesn’t control these militias,” said Amir Abdul, a 38-year-old resident of Anbar. “These militias are directly connected to Iran.”

Nearly three million Iraqis are now displaced, according to the United Nations, reaching a level not seen since the height of Iraq’s sectarian civil war in 2006 and 2007. Then, many Iraqis fled to Syria. But with Syria convulsed by its own civil war, Iraqis on the run from the Islamic State have few safe places to go. Nearly 85 percent of the displaced are Sunnis, according to a United Nations official.

The United Nations, in a statement released Monday, warned that the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding in Sunni areas has almost overwhelmed it. “The U.N. is rushing assistance to help people fleeing Ramadi, but funds are running out and stocks are almost done,” the statement said.

Lise Grande, the United Nations humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, said in the statement: “Nothing is more important right now than helping people fleeing Ramadi. They are in trouble and we need to do everything possible to help them. Thousands of people had to sleep in the open because they don’t have places to stay. We would be able to do much more if we had the funding.”

The displacement crisis has been made worse by Iraq’s sectarian divisions. Civilians fleeing Anbar have often been treated almost as foreign citizens when they arrive at the gates of Baghdad. Many are denied entry, especially young men, because the government considers them a security threat. After an influx of Ramadi residents several weeks ago, several car bombs struck Baghdad — a common occurrence at any time — and government officials blamed the displaced people.

Some of the displaced Sunnis have been let into the capital, but many have had their identification cards confiscated and have been housed in Sunni mosques, prevented from moving freely around the city.

Many Iraqi Sunni leaders were either killed — especially tribal leaders who once fought alongside the Americans against Al Qaeda in Iraq, the predecessor group to the Islamic State — or pushed into exile under the previous government of Mr. Maliki. As a result, many Sunnis today feel they have no legitimate leaders, partly because so many were unable to vote in last year’s elections because of poor security.

The Sunni leaders that have remained in Baghdad are openly mocked as “Green Zone politicians,” with only a tenuous connection to any constituency and little influence that extends beyond their offices and homes in the fortified government center of the capital.

Rafe al-Essawi, a Sunni from Anbar who was Iraq’s finance minister under Mr. Maliki, left the country in 2013 under threat of arrest on terrorism charges that Western diplomats said were false.

Speaking recently at the Brookings Institution in Washington, Mr. Essawi spoke about the pressures the Sunnis faced under Mr. Maliki’s government, including mass detentions and trumped-up terrorism charges, and the continuing struggles to incorporate Sunnis into the security forces.

This environment, he said, “makes the society of Sunnis ask the question: Is it justifiable to be part of the political process? Are we part of Iraq? If

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the answer is yes, the government should be an Iraqi-inclusive government for all Iraqis."

U.N. chief: North Korea cancels visit // CNN // Steve Almasy - May 19, 2015

(CNN)U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said his planned visit Wednesday to a joint industrial complex has been canceled by North Korean authorities.

In a speech in Seoul, the secretary-general said there was no explanation given by the North Koreans for the last-minute change.

"This decision by Pyongyang is deeply regrettable. However, I, as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, will not spare any efforts to encourage the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or North Korea) to work with the international community for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and beyond," Ban said, according to a U.N. statement.

The Kaesong Industrial Complex lies north of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that divides the two Koreas. More than 100 South Korean factory owners employ about 50,000 North Korean laborers to manufacture products such as clothing and shoes.

The complex was established more than a decade ago at a time when a previous government in South Korea was pursuing a "sunshine policy" of friendship with its reclusive northern rival.

Its creation allowed South Korean companies to benefit from the low cost of North Korean labor. Meanwhile, North Korea gained a valuable stream of hard currency revenue by appropriating an undisclosed amount of salary from its citizens working in Kaesong.

Gay Marriage on Ballot Shows Shift in Irish Attitudes // NYT // Douglas Dalby - May 19, 2015

DUBLIN — If there was any doubt about the pace at which acceptance of gay rights is taking root in societies around the world, consider Ireland.

On Friday, voters in this once deeply Roman Catholic country will decide whether the Constitution should be amended to add a tersely worded declaration: "Marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex."

If the amendment passes, Ireland will become the first country to legalize same-sex civil marriage by popular vote.

The referendum's very consideration, and the relative civility of the discourse, are a measure of the waning power of the church, which has seen its pews empty after the clerical pedophile scandals and amid rising secularism.

But it is also a reflection of a surprisingly swift shift in attitudes in many societies, where religious teachings and conservative values are giving way to acceptance of laws that support the privacy of individuals and expand marital and other rights.

Unlike the vitriolic fights here in the past over abortion and divorce, the referendum is stirring about as much excitement as might surface during a local council election.

Gaggles of campaigners hand out leaflets in shopping malls and in housing estates. Lamp posts are wrapped with colorful posters bearing catchy slogans. Talk radio chatters away, trying desperately to stir up debate.

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The outcome is by no means certain. Though polls are showing greater support for a yes vote than for a no, there is widespread acknowledgment that this is the kind of issue that polls cannot always accurately gauge.

Until the last few weeks, the church held whatever moral firepower it still possesses, preferring to leave the public battles to a variety of Catholic groups.

In what many interpret as a sign of their concern over alienating those still in the middle ground, church leaders waited until two weeks before the vote to distribute pastoral letters to Sunday worshipers.

“Should the amendment be passed, it will become increasingly difficult to speak any longer in public about marriage as being between a man and a woman,” said Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick in the letter to congregations in his diocese. “We also ask: ‘What will we be expected to teach children in school about marriage? Will those who sincerely continue to believe that marriage is between a man and a woman be forced to act against their conscience?’ ”

But in a country where about 80 percent of people are still identified as Catholics, though largely not practicing, no ballot initiative can pass without Catholic votes. And those most likely to go to church on Sundays, and receive the pastoral letter, are older, live in rural areas and are most likely to vote.

Supporters of the measure also fear that a largely silent middle group could turn out and tip the vote to the referendum’s defeat.

Still, the amendment has wide support from all the main political parties, trade unions, business organizations and various social groups, as well as from sports stars and celebrities. Of 226 members of Parliament, only six have indicated that they will personally cast their ballots against the measure.

Parliament adopted civil partnerships for same-sex couples in 2010, but supporters of the amendment say such arrangements do not go far enough.

“This is not equality, and for many gay people, civil partnership, while it was a step in the right direction, does not give the relationship they have and the commitment they have made to the person they love the same recognition as the relationship of a heterosexual couple,” wrote former Justice Minister Alan Shatter in a recent opinion article in The Irish Independent. “They feel discriminated against, regarded as second-class citizens, and they are hurt by it.”

Opponents have broadly defined the implications of the amendment, saying it could affect issues like surrogacy, adoption and education, as well as morality and family values.

“We are not against equality, but this is about changing the primary, natural, fundamental unit of society,” said Ben Conroy, a spokesman for the Iona Institute, a conservative advocacy group. “It is about obliterating the right of a child to a mother and father.”

While many states and other countries have moved to broaden equal rights for gays, resistance lingers, even in the West. France faced strong opposition and angry protests before it allowed same-sex marriage. In many places, including the United States, many of the rights questions are being decided in the courts.

In the Irish Republic, opponents of the measure have been careful to distance themselves from events in Northern Ireland, where religiously conservative Protestant politicians have blocked proposals to allow same-sex marriage that would put it in line with the rest of Britain.

However, the courts have stepped in there as well, and on Tuesday a judge in Belfast County Court ruled that a baker was guilty of discriminating

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against a customer, Gareth Lee, because of his sexual orientation when the bakery refused to provide a cake inscribed with the words “Support gay marriage.” The owners of the bakery said they refused because of their “genuine deeply held religious beliefs.” Mr. Lee agreed to accept 500 pounds, or about $775, in damages.

Ireland has been reluctant to tinker with its 1937 Constitution, particularly on social issues. Nevertheless, it has taken on two previous battles over teachings that are abhorrent to the church.

The legalization of abortion has been on the ballot three times in the past 30 years. The last time a referendum was considered, in 2002, it was rejected by a little less than a percentage point of the voters: 50.4 percent to 49.6 percent. Successive governments have done everything in their power to avoid another vote.

Divorce was legalized in 1995 after another vitriolic ballot, but only by the thinnest of margins.

Polls published on Sunday in three national newspapers showed that support for the amendment was still comfortably ahead, but the wide gap has been narrowing. The Millward Brown poll for The Irish Sunday Independent found a 13-point drop-off in support from the month before, to 69 percent of people polled. Polls in the Irish edition of The Sunday Times and The Sunday Business Post also put the support vote well ahead.

Still, opponents have been encouraged by the way the pollsters were so wrong about this month’s British election. And the closeness of the vote on divorce, which was not predicted in the polls, has given them hope that voters are simply not expressing their views on a matter that many may find overly personal.

Gay rights groups are relying heavily on the support of the former Irish president Mary McAleese, a canon lawyer who is a respected scholar of the church and whose son Justin is gay.

“Will a yes vote affect my heterosexual marriage or any heterosexual marriage?” Ms. McAleese asked in a speech on Tuesday, noting that she has been married to her husband for almost 40 years. “Not in the least. But it will greatly affect my life and the lives of all parents of gay children. It will give us peace of mind about our children’s future and pride in our country’s commitment to true equality. It will right a glaring wrong.”

Prime Minister Enda Kenny, a churchgoing Catholic, is also supporting the proposal, first championed by his coalition partner, the left-leaning Labour Party.

Mr. Kenny, who had vacillated on the issue, said he was convinced after learning of the difficulties many gay people faced in recent years. His government includes elected representatives who are gay; Health Minister Leo Varadkar recently went public about his homosexuality.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Markos Moulitsas: Clinton a true liberal // The Hill // Markos Moultisas - May 19, 2015

At the State of the Union address early this year, President Obama delivered the most explicitly liberal speech of his presidency, a genuine call to arms that expands on the past successes of Democratic policies. It was Democrats, indeed, who enacted “worker protections, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, to protect ourselves from the harshest adversity.” It was Democrats who “gave our citizens schools and colleges, infrastructure and the Internet — tools they needed to go as far as their effort will take them.”

The speech included none of the middle-of-the-road, centrist Third Way pablum that has infected the party for a generation. It was, in short, exactly what liberal activists had spent years calling for. And the architect of that speech? John Podesta. The same John Podesta who now chairs Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign.

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That simple connection suggests Clinton is shedding her husband's ideological baggage and aiming for a truly progressive presidency. Why, after all, would Podesta help craft such an explicitly liberal State of the Union address if he was then going to help take it all back with Clinton? That address might have been the beginning of a rhetorical bridge spanning the Obama and future Clinton presidencies.

If you oppose Clinton from the left, you might scoff at such logic. But the actions of her nascent campaign certainly support that theory.

For example, there is her choice of Robby Mook as her campaign manager. In 2013, Mook helmed Terry McAuliffe's successful gubernatorial run in Virginia — the first time the same party occupying the White House has won the state since 1973. Sure, Mook justly gets a lot of credit for winning with a candidate as flawed and unappealing as McAuliffe. But the real beauty of that victory was that McAuliffe won by running an explicit base turnout election.

Traditionally, Virginia Democrats focus heavily on rural white voters with gimmicks like sponsoring NASCAR cars. Mook instead focused heavily on the ethnically and racially diverse D.C. suburbs in Northern Virginia and African-American communities in places like Richmond, and delivered an elusive off-year electoral victory for Democrats. In fact, Mook was so successful, there was no African-American voter drop-off between 2012 and 2013.

If Clinton was interested in another tepid I-stand-for-nothing campaign, she could've brought back Mark Penn for another losing effort. But you don't hire Mook to depress your best supporters. Quite the opposite, in fact.

On actual substance, Clinton's early speechifying is also cause for optimism. On immigration, she now supports measures far beyond anything Obama has proposed, generating enthusiastic support from the Hispanic community. She's been saying all the right things on police brutality and criminal reform (as her husband admits the mistakes of his get-tough-on-crime policies). And on income inequality, where even her staunchest liberal supporters can be skeptical, Clinton is striking a populist tone — and her lack of support for the president's lobbying efforts on behalf of his Pacific trade deal hasn't gone unnoticed.

Indeed, for those hoping to generate a genuine primary challenge against Clinton, she's provided very little ammo for them to work with. When Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) entered the primary with a stirring call for a stronger middle class, Clinton tweeted in response, "I agree with Bernie." The old Clinton wouldn't have been caught dead anywhere near those words.

So for those hoping that Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) or Sanders would push Clinton to the left, it appears it's too late. She's already there.

Hillary Clinton's Iraq Dilemma // New Yorker // John Cassidy - May 19, 2015

A week after it began, the flap over Jeb Bush and Iraq still hasn't fully died down. With his changing answers to the question that Megyn Kelly first posed to him, last Monday on Fox News, about whether he would have ordered an invasion in 2003 knowing what he knows now, the former Florida governor has provided campaign reporters with something juicy to write about, and Republican fretters with something to fret about.

If Dubya's younger brother can't avoid friendly fire in the confines of a Fox News interview, how will he handle it when the campaign proper begins? * The benign explanation is that he's ring-rusty—thirteen years since his last election, and all that. But, on Capitol Hill and elsewhere, darker suspicions are lurking. Perhaps Bush isn't up to speed on international issues, or, worse, he's too tied to his younger sibling to give the obvious answer to Kelly's question: "No, no, no—a thousand times, no."

In Democratic circles, the sight of Bush floundering was a welcome one. Barely had he emerged from the Fox interview when the Democratic National Committee put out a video, entitled "Don't Get Fooled Again," which intersperses his comments to Kelly with some footage from 2002 of George W. saying "Fool me once, shame on me. … You can't get fooled again." The jabs keep coming. In Monday's Times, Paul Krugman, one of the few commentators in the mainstream press who expressed skepticism in the run-up to the March, 2003 invasion, took the opportunity to get in another dig at George W. Bush, Don Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, et al, reminding his readers, "We were lied into war."

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Since 2007 or thereabouts, opinion polls have consistently showed that a sizable majority of Americans regard the Iraq invasion as a mistake. If the Democrats were likely to field a candidate in 2016 who opposed the war all along, they'd be in a position to exploit the issue for all it's worth, just as Barack Obama did in 2008. But, unless something unexpected happens, the Democratic nominee will be Hillary Clinton, who, in October, 2002, voted for a congressional resolution that authorized the use of force against Iraq, and whose current take on the decision to go to war isn't terribly easy to distinguish from the one that Jeb Bush has stumbled into.

Bush's position, as he explained it in his second clarification last week, is the following: " 'Knowing what we know now, what would you have done?' I would've not engaged; I would not have gone into Iraq. That's not to say that the world is safer because Saddam Hussein is gone—it is significantly safer. That's not to say that there was a courageous effort to bring about a surge that created stability in Iraq—all of that is true. … But we've answered the question now."

Clinton's public statements, like Bush's, have gone through several iterations. In September, 2007, she argued that she hadn't, in fact, voted for a preëmptive war, and said, "Obviously, if I had known then what I know now about what the President would do with the authority that was given him, I would not have voted the way that I did." Since many people regarded the resolution, at the time it passed, in October, 2002, as a blank check (twenty-one Democratic senators voted against it), this explanation didn't do Clinton much good, but she stuck with it throughout her 2008 Presidential campaign, refusing to describe her vote as a mistake. In her 2014 memoir, "Hard Choices," Clinton changed tack, fessing up and saying that she had relied heavily on prewar intelligence about Saddam's programs to build weapons of mass destruction. "I should have stated my regret sooner and in the plainest, most direct language possible," she wrote. She went on, "I thought I had acted in good faith and made the best decision I could with the information I had. And I wasn't alone in getting it wrong. But I still got it wrong. Plain and simple."

That language was commendably clear. It means that Clinton and Bush are now agreed upon the proposition that, knowing what we know now, invading Iraq was an error. The two of them also agree that, once Saddam had been overthrown, the U.S.-led occupation bungled things by not providing adequate security inside Iraq. In her book, Clinton wrote that the United States "went to war in Iraq with only half a strategy." In his interview with Kelly, Bush said, "Once we invaded and took out Saddam Hussein, we didn't focus on security first, and the Iraqis in this incredibly insecure environment turned on the United States military because there was no security for themselves and their families. By the way, guess who thinks that those mistakes took place as well? George W. Bush."

It was pretty rich of Jeb to cite his brother's post-White House ruminations in an effort to exculpate the tragic errors of the Bush Administration. Nonetheless, Jeb's statements to Kelly, in which he also included a direct reference to Clinton's 2002 vote, highlighted the dilemma facing the Democratic front-runner. If she tries to use the Iraq issue against the Republicans, by, for example, warning that a G.O.P. President could end up blundering into another war, she will open herself to criticisms, counterattacks, and endless rehashings of her 2002 vote.

Is there a way around this problem? I think that perhaps there is. Rather than apologizing and complaining about faulty intelligence, Clinton could say that we all make mistakes, but the key thing is what we learn from them. In the case of the Republicans in general, and Jeb Bush in particular, she could argue convincingly that the learning process has hardly begun.

Despite Bush's claim, during the big foreign-policy speech that he delivered in Chicago in February, that "I'm my own man," it has been widely reported that he's been consulting with some of his brother's former advisers, including Paul Wolfowitz, who famously said that the Iraqis would "welcome us as liberators." The speech itself relied on standard G.O.P. boilerplate—"Weakness invites war. Strength encourages peace"—and was devoid of novel ideas. Setting aside Rand Paul, who has virtually no chance of winning the nomination, there is precious little evidence of new thinking elsewhere in the Republican field, either. Indeed, Marco Rubio's speech last week at the Council on Foreign Relations suggests that the candidates are trying to outdo each other in bellicosity.

Clinton, for her part, still has work to do to explain what she learned from the Iraq disaster. Clearly, it didn't turn her against the concept of overseas military intervention. In 2011, as Secretary of State, she helped orchestrate air attacks on Libya that aided in bringing down Muammar Qaddafi, unleashing a civil war that is still raging. In 2013, after she left office, she supported U.S. military action against the Syrian regime, a course that President Obama eventually backed away from. In "Hard Choices," however, she struck a cautious note. "As much as I have wanted to, I could never change my vote on Iraq," she wrote. "But I could try to help us learn the right lessons from that war … I was determined to do exactly that when facing future hard choices, with more experience, wisdom, skepticism, and humility."

As the 2016 campaign unfolds, Clinton might want to say more about how her views have changed, and how, as President, she would reconcile her urge to exercise American power—both to protect U.S. interests and to do some good in the world—with the harsh realities of experience. Such a

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discussion would help shift attention away from her 2002 vote and allow her to draw a contrast with the Republicans' empty rhetoric. More importantly, it would focus the campaign debate on the question that, ever since March, 2003, has been hovering over practically everything: Whither America after Iraq?

In his measured responses to international crises and his occasional flip-flops, President Obama has provided one answer, which harkens back to the cautious realism of the former national-security advisers Zbigniew Brzezinski and Brent Scowcroft. Would Clinton stick to Obama's "Don't do stupid stuff" philosophy? Based on her history, some analysts suspect that she remains, at heart, a neo-liberal interventionist, à la Tony Blair, or even, perhaps, an old-school Democratic hawk from the Scoop Jackson school. Understandably enough, given the controversy that followed critical remarks that she made last summer about the U.S.'s cautious policy in Syria, Clinton hasn't said much during the past nine months that would help voters place her on the foreign-policy spectrum. Now that she's officially a candidate for President, it's time she helped them out a little.

I Don't Believe Hillary Clinton // National Journal // Ron Fournier - May 19, 2015

I don't believe Hillary Rodham Clinton when she says—as she did at a brief news conference on Tuesday—that she has no control over the release of her State Department email. "They're not mine. They belong to the State Department."

I don't believe her because a person's actions are more revealing than words: She kept her government email on a secret server and, only under pressure from Congress, returned less than half of them to the State Department. She deleted the rest. She considered them hers.

I don't believe her when she says, "I want those emails out. Nobody has a bigger interest in those being released than I do."

I don't believe her because I've covered the Clintons since the 1980s and know how dedicated they are to what former Clinton spokesman Mike McCurry called "telling the truth slowly." The fact is that she would rather delay the document dump until early 2016—and then have the email released on a single day to overwhelm the media and allow her to declare herself exonerated. That was her strategic choice, Clinton advisers confirmed for me, until a federal judge ordered the State Department on Tuesday to release the email in stages.

I don't believe her answer to this question: Is there a conflict of interest in accepting huge speaking fees from special interests seeking government action? "No," she replied.

I don't believe her because I saw how hard Clinton and her husband, then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, worked to pass the state's first sweeping ethics initiative. I don't believe her because I've heard Clinton and her husband rail against GOP politicians who were guilty of less-obvious conflicts of interest. I don't believe her because there have been far too many credible news reports about the blurring of lines between family finances, the family foundation, and her political and government interests.

I believe the public has a right to know whether any of the deleted email involved correspondence about the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Foundation or its donors. I believe she's getting bad advice: The hide-and-attack tactics of the 1990s won't work as well—if at all—in a post-Internet era that honors transparency, authenticity, and accountability.

I believe she wants us to take her at her word, but we can't—not even those people like me who've known the Clintons long enough to respect their service and appreciate their many virtues. It hurts to witness the self-inflicted wounds and hemorrhaging of her credibility. But this is no time for sentimentality.

Blind faith doesn't get you elected president.

I do believe she's right about one thing. "I made a mistake," Clinton said about her Senate vote to authorize war against Iraq. "Plain and simple."

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Hillary Clinton wants to allow felons to vote. That could mean a lot in a state like Florida. // **WaPo** // **Philip Bump - May 19, 2015**

While in Iowa on Tuesday, Hillary Clinton mentioned a policy reform that could affect the results of presidential races: Allowing ex-felons to vote.

Clinton is not the first 2016 candidate to raise this issue, nor is it the first time that she's done so. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has repeatedly advocated for restoring voting rights for felons convicted of certain crimes. At several points while she was in the Senate, including shortly after she announced her 2008 candidacy, Clinton introduced the Count Every Vote Act, which would have restored those rights to anyone not currently incarcerated or not on parole or probation for a felony. We're still early in the 2016 campaign, so it's hard to know if that's still the boundary that Clinton sets.

As it stands, people who are convicted of felonies but are on parole can or cannot vote depending on where they live, since rules on felon voting differ by state. The Sentencing Project has a handy primer on the differences. In 12 states, those convicted of a felony cannot vote even after having repaid their debt to society -- sometimes for certain periods of time, sometimes only for certain felonies. (In two states, Maine and Vermont, there are no restrictions on the voting rights of felons, even if incarcerated.) In total, some 5.8 million people are barred from voting in the United States because of their criminal past, according to the Sentencing Project's data.

University of Florida associate political science professor Michael McDonald tries to tally how many ex-felons are disenfranchised by state at his site United States Election Project. His methodology matches government data on people under correctional control with the Sentencing Project's outline of each state's laws. Moreover, McDonald collects data on voter turnout in elections by matching ballots cast with the size of the voting eligible population.

Assuming that Clinton's advocacy in 2016 matches what she's called for in the past -- namely, restoring voting rights to those permanently disenfranchised -- McDonald's data doesn't help us. He explains why: "Time-series statistics on recidivism, deaths and migration of felons are largely unavailable." In other words, the government tracks people who are in prison or on parole, but once they're free, it's hard to determine where they are or if they're even still alive. In other words, we can't know how the Count Every Vote Act would change an election.

What if a proposal went further, restoring voting rights to those on probation or parole and those in prison? What if the ineligible voters in each state were suddenly eligible? We'll note that this hasn't been proposed by any presidential candidate, and probably wouldn't be popular if it were. But it's still illustrative.

Comparing the number of ineligible felons calculated by McDonald to the voting-age population in each state shows how big a part of the state's population was ineligible to vote due to restrictions. (We're using 2012 data since we're talking presidential politics.) In Georgia, the number of ineligible felons constitutes 4.2 percent of the voting-age population of the state, the highest value nationally.

So if we gave all of those people the right to vote, how many more voters would that be? We took the overall turnout rate (again from McDonald) and applied it to the ineligible population. This is purely speculative, of course; there's a lot of variance among different populations in terms of how heavily they turnout. Younger and poorer people vote less, for example. Painting with a broad brush, then, the biggest increase in the vote would have been in Texas (given its large population), followed by Georgia and Florida.

That Florida example is interesting. If you look at the estimated vote increase versus the margin of difference in the presidential race, Florida sticks out. The number of people who could gain the right to vote and then actually vote is twice the margin of victory for Obama in the state. Florida is also one of the 12 states that bans voting from convicted felons after they're out of institutional control -- in their case, for five years. We don't know how many people that is, but it's safe to assume the figure is in the thousands.

The core question here is not one of politics; it is a question of the boundaries we're willing to put on the responsibilities of citizenship. Clinton and Paul's argument is that we've put overly tight limits on those convicted of crimes. But rolling back those limits more broadly than Clinton proposed in 2007 could have real political implications -- particularly in the always-contested state of Florida.

Knowing politicians as we do, we doubt that this didn't enter into the calculus.

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Ohio Gov. John Kasich is right to "ban the box": editorial // Cleveland // Editorial Board - May 19, 2015

People shouldn't be able to hide from their past, but they shouldn't be shackled by it either. That's why Ohio Gov. John Kasich did the right thing by ordering state agencies to stop requiring job seekers to disclose on their applications whether they have a prior criminal conviction.

The change in policy doesn't mean applicants don't have to come clean. They will be asked during the interview process about any criminal history, and could be subject to a background check. Waiting until then to inquire, however, removes the possibility of a knee-jerk reaction based strictly on an application form.

It allows an applicant to be judged first on his or her merits and then be given a chance to explain the circumstances of their conviction. Sometimes, perhaps many times, those circumstances and an applicant's attitude will merit hiring.

Under Kasich's policy shift, certain jobs, such as wildlife officers or employees handling state funds, will still be subject to initial disclosures.

Sixteen states and a number of cities and counties – including Cleveland and Cuyahoga County -- have joined the "ban the box" movement and stopped requiring applicants for government jobs to check a box acknowledging a criminal conviction. Six states – Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey and Rhode Island – have placed the same restriction on private employers, according to the National Employment Law Project.

In Ohio, where nearly 15 percent of the population has been convicted of a crime, that might be the logical next step.

What I T old College Graduates // Medium // Vice President Biden - May 19, 2015

Everyone has different goals and aspirations. But one thing I've observed, one thing I know, is the expression my dad would use, "it's a lucky man or woman gets up in the morning, puts both feet on the floor, knows what they're about to do, and thinks it still matters."

No matter what you do or where you go, we are all striving towards the same thing—to seek that sweet spot that satisfies both success and happiness.

My wish for every college graduate is that not only tomorrow, but twenty, forty, fifty years from now, he or she has found that thing that allows them to get up in the morning, put both feet on the floor, go out and pursue what they love, and think it still matters.

Remember these points.

1. It's All Personal

It all comes down to being personal.

It's about being there for a friend or a colleague when they're injured or in an accident, remembering the birthdays, congratulating them on their marriage, celebrating the birth of their child. It's about being available to them when they're going through personal loss. It's about loving someone more than yourself.

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Let me give an example.

After only four months in the Senate as a 30-year old kid, I was walking into a meeting with Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana. And I witnessed another newly elected Senator—the extremely conservative Jesse Helms excoriating Ted Kennedy and Bob Dole for promoting the precursor to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

When I walked into Majority Leader Mansfield's office, he looked at me and said "What's bothering you, Joe?" And I told him, "That guy Helms has no socially redeeming value. He doesn't care about people in need, the disabled."

Majority Leader Mansfield then proceeded to tell me that—Jesse Helms and his wife—had three years earlier adopted a 14-year-old boy in braces up to his hips.

He said, "Joe, it's always appropriate to question another man's judgment, never his motives. Because you don't know his motive."

I felt like a jerk. But I began to look past caricatures of my colleagues to try to see the whole person. And when I did, it seemed to break the ice.

Senator Helms and I continued to have profound political differences. But the mutual defensiveness dissipated. And as a result—we began to be able to work together.

So one piece of advice is try to look beyond the caricature of the person with whom you have to work. Resist the temptation to ascribe motive, because you really don't know -—and it gets in the way of being able to reach a consensus on things that matter to you and to many other people.

2. No one is better than you, every other person is equal to you and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

I've worked with eight Presidents and hundreds of Senators and I've had scores of talented people work for me. And here's what I've observed: regardless of their academic or social backgrounds, those who had the most success and were most respected were the ones who never confused academic credentials and societal sophistication with gravitas and judgment.

So don't forget about what doesn't come from a diploma—the heart to know what's meaningful and what is ephemeral; the head to know the difference between knowledge and judgment.

3. Remember that reality has a way of intruding.

Life can change in a heartbeat.

Six weeks after my election, my whole world was altered forever when a tractor trailer crashed into a station wagon and took the life of my wife, 13-month old daughter, and seriously injured my two young sons.

But because I had the incredible good fortune of an extended family grounded in love and loyalty—and a sense of obligation which they imparted to me—I not only got help, but focusing on my sons, who survived, was my redemption.

I can remember my mother saying something I thought that was so cruel at the time, "Joey, out of everything terrible that happens to you, something good will come if you look hard enough for it." She was right.

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The incredible bond I have with my children is the greatest gift that could ever be given.

And who knows whether I would have understood that if nothing happened.

I began to commute every single day for 37 years from Wilmington to Washington—two hours each way—so I could kiss them goodnight, and kiss them good morning the next day. I needed my children more than they needed me. Some at the time wrote in the press and suggested that I couldn't be taken seriously because I didn't stay in Washington to attend fancy events or meet important people.

But I realized I didn't miss a thing. Ambition is really important. You need it. And I certainly have never lacked in having ambition. But ambition without perspective can be a killer.

4. Engage the World Around You

You are part of an exceptional generation.

You're the most tolerant generation.

You have the intellectual horsepower to make things better for the world around you.

But intellectual horsepower and tolerance alone do not make a generation great unless you can break out of the bubbles of your own making—technological, geographic, racial, and socioeconomic—to truly connect with the world around you.

Because it matters.

No matter what your material success or personal circumstance, it matters. You cannot breathe fresh air or protect your children from a changing climate no matter what you make. If your brother can't marry the man he loves, then you are lessened. If your best friend has to worry about being racially profiled, then you live in a circumstance not worthy of us.

So engage in the world around you.

Because you will be more successful and happier.

You can absolutely succeed in life without ever sacrificing your ideals or your commitment to others and family.

That's the honest truth.

My word as a Biden.

Lifelong Republican Turns On His Party, Embraces Obamacare // Think Progress // Tara Culp-Ressler - May 19, 2015

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Luis Lang, who is currently crowdfunding for medical expenses that he can't afford because he didn't sign up for insurance under Obamacare, has become a viral sensation. However, the 49-year-old South Carolina resident says he doesn't want to be the poster child for the Republican Party's opposition to health care reform anymore.

At the end of last week, the Charlotte Observer reported that Lang, a lifelong Republican who's previously prided himself on covering his own medical bills, can't afford to pay thousands of dollars to treat an issue stemming from his chronic diabetes. Lang is suffering form bleeding in his eyes and a partially detached retina, which will cause him to go blind if left untreated. So he set up a GoFundMe page to solicit $30,000 in donations to cover a costly surgery that will save his vision.

Since then, the story has been picked up in left-leaning outlets across the country and covered in nationally syndicated newspaper columns. Obamacare supporters flocked to Lang's GoFundMe page to urge him to change his mind about the health law.

In an interview with ThinkProgress, Lang joked that he might be the most hated Republican in the country right now. But he also said that, thanks in part to a flood of media attention that led him to learn more about health care policy, he doesn't identify with the GOP anymore.

"Now that I'm looking at what each party represents, my wife and I are both saying — hey, we're not Republicans!" Lang said. He added that, though he's not a political person by nature and has never voted solely along party lines, he wants to rip up his voter registration card on national television so Americans will have proof that he's making the switch.

Although the Charlotte Observer article positioned Lang against the ACA, he insists he has never been completely opposed to the law. He does, however, have some issues with the way it's been implemented.

Like many Americans, Lang struggled to navigate the website last year and was frustrated by long wait times and technological glitches. He told ThinkProgress he thinks the law is too confusing as it's currently written — and pointed out that it's too difficult for him to predict his annual income as a self-employed contractor, which is what prevented him from signing up for a plan during previous enrollment periods. He was too nervous about underestimating his income during the enrollment process and being required to pay back his insurance subsidy during tax season.

But Lang's main complaint is the fact that the Supreme Court ruled that Obamacare's Medicaid expansion should be optional, which has given Republican lawmakers the opportunity to refuse to implement the policy on the state level. That's led to a coverage gap preventing millions of Americans from accessing affordable insurance whatsoever. Because Lang's income has recently dried up, now that his deteriorating vision prevents him from working, he now falls into that gap.

"I put the blame on everyone — Republican and Democrat. But I do mainly blame Republicans for their pigheadedness," Lang said. "They're blocking policies that could help everyone. I'm in the situation I'm in because they chose not to expand Medicaid for political reasons. And I know I'm not the only one."

Lang said he's read almost every comment on his GoFundMe page. He acknowledged that a lot of people have criticized him for waiting until he got sick to think about purchasing insurance, which is not how the health care system is intended to function. But he insists that he and his wife have been discussing getting coverage now that they're getting older, and notes that he tried his best to navigate the law last year.

"I know we didn't do it the right way," Lang told ThinkProgress, explaining that he's hoping to figure out the situation with his fluctuating income so he can be the first in line to sign up for a plan during the next open enrollment period.

He said he's always tried to take responsibility for his own bills, but he also believes that the United States should move toward a universal health care system that makes coverage available to everyone regardless of their income level. He said he "one hundred percent agrees" with the people who commented on his crowdfunding page to argue that health care is a human right.

"In fact, I have some eyesight jokes for you," he added. "This whole thing has helped me see more clearly. Like they say, hindsight is 20/20."

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MISCELLANEOUS

From Rob Russo:

Upgrades finalized for Roaring Brook Road rail crossing // Iohud // Hoa Nguyen – May 19, 2015

More than three months after the deadliest train crash in its history, Metro-North is working with other agencies to finalize upgrades to a nearby railroad crossing in New Castle.

Roaring Brook Road is about eight miles from the Commerce Street grade crossing in Valhalla where a commuter train and sport utility vehicle collided Feb. 3, killing the motorist and five passengers.

"There's no question that Valhalla has motivated everyone to look and try to do what we can do immediately," said New Castle supervisor Robert Greenstein, who has been pushing for the upgrades.

Next week, crews are expected to begin the milling and repaving of the road on both sides of the crossing and add new signs and improved pavement markings.

"These are improvements that needed to be done really yesterday," Greenstein said.

But while the Valhalla crash may have expedited these short-term fixes, Greenstein said ideally, officials will eventually approve construction of a new bridge over the railroad tracks that would eliminate the grade crossing and still allow traffic to pass by but he didn't believe the financing of such a bridge project would be feasible anytime soon.

"Let's face it — the bridge is not being built tomorrow," he said.

The crossing has had a history of close calls. Earlier this month, the railroad gate at Roaring Brook Road came down on a school bus, trapping it only seconds before a passenger train passed by. The bus driver, who was charged with stopping in the railroad right of way, a misdemeanor, stopped about 15 feet further than she should have and tried to back up but stopped when the gate caught on some brackets, New Castle police said. No one, including two students on the short-style bus, were injured in the incident.

As part of the planned work, Roaring Brook Road will be closed at the crossing in both directions for three days starting 7 p.m., May 29.

In Mount Pleasant, Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi, who has been petitioning the Department of Transportation to close the Cleveland Street crossing where Federal Railroad Administration records show there have been six accidents, said he is still awaiting a decision from state officials.

Fulgenzi said he has heard the closing of the Commerce Street grade crossing also may be a possibility but state and Metro-North officials have not updated him on their plans if there are any.

"They did admit that they are two crossings they are paying attention to," he said.

A few days ago, Fulgenzi said he was at the crossing with lawyers from the town's insurance carrier and the town police chief inspecting the site

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when a motorist approached the crossing, drove around the gate and crossed to the other side just as the lights began flashing, signaling the near arrival of a train.

"God forbid there wasn't a train (passing by at the time)," Fulgenzi said.

MTA police chief Michael Coan said during a Monday Metro-North committee meeting that his agency is monitoring grade crossing safety and have issued 97 violations — or about a third of all 293 summons issued through April.

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Cheryl Mills" <cmills@cdmillsgroup.com> "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com> "Heather Samuelson" <hsamuelson@cdmillsgroup.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	4/23/2015 2:24:28 PM
Subject:	Pushback to 'Clinton Cash' .pdf
Attachments:	Pushback to 'Clinton Cash' .pdf

Happy to report that we were able to get a web page up with our pushback and rebuttal to the NYT. See attached for what it looks like.

The second document is our best attempt at having one document with the straight facts about what is wrong with the book. It has gotten some good pick up in the press. We also shared with talkers, friends and allies. TV is still not asking for surrogates to come on, so that's a good sign.

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From: "Sara Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 1/4/2016 5:20:33 AM
Subject: Fwd: Rapid Summary: WJC first event in NH

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Mon, Jan 4, 2016 at 12:18 PM
Subject: Re: Rapid Summary: WJC first event in NH
To: Angel Urena <Angel@presidentclinton.com >
Cc: Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >, HRCRR <hrcrr@hillaryclinton.com >, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >, "cbaker@hillaryclinton.com " <cbaker@hillaryclinton.com >

Genius expectation setting by the Bill POTUS.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 4, 2016, at 12:17 PM, Angel Urena <Angel@presidentclinton.com > wrote:

> Mitchell (MSNBC) and Vega (ABC) caught up with him on the ropeline.
>
> He got asked about Trump three times. Punted nicely by saying that it's up to the Republicans to decide whether what Trump is saying matters/is fair game or not.
>
> He did handicap the race a bit by saying that with the exception (Dean/Kerry) no Democrat from a neighboring state has ever lost in NH. But, I'm told that you all make a similar argument all the time.
>
> So, so far so good.
>
> On Jan 4, 2016, at 12:12 PM, Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > +
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Jan 4, 2016, at 11:56 AM, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > Summary: WJC opened with explanation of what he believes the election is about, namely broadly shared prosperty and how to keep US safe while maintaining our values. He noted that experts have praised HRC's Wall Street plan as the most comprehensive. WJC gave extraordinarily warm and personal comments about HRC as a person, saying he fell in love with her because she was the most amazing person and that "everything she touched, she made better." This came after a long explanation of her young life and career when she was working for the Children's Defense Fund.
> >
> > The item from his speech that garnered the most attention was a comment he made on Tom DeLay and Ted Cruz. He called DeLay the pre-tea party Ted Cruz and said HRC's accomplishment of agreement with him on foster care reforms in the 1990s was perhaps a bigger deal than her getting China and Russia to agree to Iran sanctions.
> >
> > Andrea Mitchell caught him on the rope line and asked about Trump:
>
> - Mark Murray @mmurraypolitics: Bill Clinton ducks Q by @mitchellreports on Donald Trump: "We are

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trying to win a primary"

Key tweets below:

Zeke Miller @ZekeJMiller
Bill Clinton re tone of the campaign: "I'm a happy grandfather — I'm not mad at anybody"

Dan Merica @danmericaCNN
Bill Clinton on his first solo campaign trip: "I don't fit anymore. First of all, I'm a happy grandfather. I'm not mad at anybody."

Peter Nicholas @PeterNicholas3
"I think this election is about broadly shared prosperity," @billclinton says in campaign trail debut in Nashua, NH.

Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
Bill Clinton goes local almost immediately, taking on the opioid addiction crisis. "Three children of friends of mine have died."

Dan Merica @danmericaCNN
Another issue this election is about, Bill Clinton says, is "how are we going to keep America safe and still keep it America."

Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
Roughly 720 people here in the gym at Nashua Community College for Bill Clinton's solo campaign debut.

Mike Memoli @mikememoli
We're getting a taste of the sober, philosophical @billclinton . "Yesterday I read a story about Kenya ... "

Peter Nicholas @PeterNicholas3
.@billclinton protests flood of "dark money" in political system.

Abby D. Phillip @abbydphillip
Bill Clinton reminds Dems: the next president will make between 1-3 US Supreme Court appointments.

Sam Frizell @Sam_Frizell
Bill: "Even if the Supreme Court says billionaires can give all the money they want, you ought not to be able to give it in secret."

Abby D. Phillip @abbydphillip
Bill Clinton getting personal: "My wife, we fell in love... I thought she was the most amazing person."

Abby D. Phillip @abbydphillip
Bill on Hillary Clinton: "Everything she touched, she made better."

Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
"Tom Delay — he was the Ted Cruz of the pre-Tea Party era" - Bill Clinton, describing Hillary's health care work in the '90s

Jake Sherman @JakeSherman
interesting parallel. twitter.com/gdebenedetti/s…
Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
"Tom Delay — he was the Ted Cruz of the pre-Tea Party era" - Bill Clinton, describing Hillary's health care work in the '90s

Mike Memoli @mikememoli
.@billclinton refers to Tom DeLay the Ted Cruz of his era. But notes he signed bill that was product of his and Hillary's work together

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Jonathan Martin @jmartNYT
!!!!

twitter.com/jeneps/status/…
Jennifer Epstein @jeneps
Bill Clinton calls Tom Delay "the Ted Cruz of the pre-Tea Party era." (Before recalling HRC's work with him on foster care.)

Gabriel Debenedetti @gdebenedetti
I do not believe in my lifetime that anybody has run for this job who is better qualified by experience, knowledge & temperance - WJC on HRC

John Harwood @JohnJHarwood
virtuoso @billclinton in New Hampshire just now

Mike Memoli @mikememoli
And that's a wrap - @billclinton 's first NH speech clocks in just short of a half hour

Josh Kraushaar @HotlineJosh
.@chucktodd , on Bill Clinton debut on trail: "I didn't expect Bill Clinton to use Franklin Pierce to make the case for Hillary Clinton"

Domenico Montanaro @DomenicoNPR
The point of Bill Clinton -- or any spouse -- campaigning is to authenticate, humanize and personalize the candidate.

Alex Seitz-Wald @aseitzwald
Took a bit for Clinton to rev up, but he delivered in the final mins with meditation on what it takes to be POTUS and strong endorsement.

Mark Murray @mmurraypolitics
Bill Clinton ducks Q by @mitchellreports on Donald Trump: "We are trying to win a primary"

Domenico Montanaro @DomenicoNPR
"No candidate who's ever bordered the state has ever lost here" -- Bill Clinton trolling @BernieSanders . BTW, Dean lost in 04 to a MA Sen

Abby D. Phillip @abbydphillip
Bill Clinton didn't mention any GOP candidates by name except for this: He called Tom DeLay "the Ted Cruz, pre-Tea Party"

--
Ian Sams | Rapid Response
Hillary for America
(423) 915-6592 | @IanSams
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--
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From: JStocks@nea.org
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 4/18/2008 4:03:17 AM
Subject: FW: More gas

From one of our economists on staff.

John Stocks
Deputy Executive Director
National Education Association
202-822-7523

Sent from my GoodLink Wireless Handheld (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----
From: Sims, Richard [NEA]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2008 10:55 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: Anderson, Kim [NEA-GR]; Anderson, Scott [NEA]; Cahoon, Cecil [NEA]; Choi, Joanna [NEA]; Hasse, Charles; Johnson, Derrick [NEA]; Kaufman, Daniel [MD]; Mallard, Lisa [NEA]; McCormick, Margaret [NEA]; Reddy, Shilpa [NEA]; Reed, Timothy [NEA]; Schlein, David [NEA]; Scott, Merwyn [NEA]; Stocks, John [NEA]; Tijerina, Joe [NEA]; Uribe, Cristina [NEA]
Cc: White, Karen [NEA]
Subject: More gas

From an economic perspective, this is a seriously flawed idea. Eliminating the gas tax directly lowers the price of gasoline, encouraging additional consumption—increasing the demand, in economic terms. Therein lies the first rub: U.S. oil refineries are currently operating at full capacity (they always operate at full capacity during the holiday travel season) and since they can't supply any more gasoline, added demand simply results in higher prices. So while consumers might see some minor reduction in the pump price, the oil producers, domestic and foreign (certainly Iran, Russian, and Libya will be grateful) will be delighted at the slightly higher price they can now charge for their product.

Rub #2: The Iron Law of the Balanced Budget. A cut in revenues equals a cut in spending. (You can, of course, charge it to the future, which cuts your children's spending rather than your own. Pretending it does otherwise is a particularly ugly, but often expedient, fiscal fantasy.) In fact, the gasoline tax revenue that he proposes to eliminate is already going to spent supporting road and highway construction and maintenance around the country. Since highways are a vital part of our competitive infrastructure, his proposal is tantamount to deciding not to invest in our nation's future this year.

-----Original Message-----
From: Anderson, Kim [NEA-GR]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2008 7:05 AM
To: Anderson, Scott [NEA]; Cahoon, Cecil [NEA]; Choi, Joanna [NEA]; Hasse, Charles; Johnson, Derrick [NEA]; Kaufman, Daniel [MD]; Mallard, Lisa [NEA]; McCormick, Margaret [NEA]; Reddy, Shilpa [NEA]; Reed, Timothy [NEA]; Schlein, David [NEA]; Scott, Merwyn [NEA]; Sims, Richard [NEA]; Stocks, John [NEA]; Tijerina, Joe [NEA]; Uribe, Cristina [NEA]
Cc: White, Karen [NEA]
Subject: FW: Lower Gas Prices?

Fyi.

Kim Anderson
Manager for Issue Advocacy
National Education Association
1201 16th Street, NW--Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036
202-822-7341; fax: 202-822-7309
C: 202-251-5578
Kanderson@nea.org

-----Original Message-----
From: John McCain [mailto:johnmccain@gop.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2008 11:48 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Anderson, Kim [NEA-GR]
Subject: Lower Gas Prices?

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<https://www.johnmccain.com/Contribute?guid=1107602b-100e-4e07-bfd9-e9a8ff050521&s=rnc11 >

My Friends,

This week, I laid out an economic plan aimed at providing immediate and long-term relief for all American families. One of the key components of this plan is a suspension of the federal gas tax on gasoline from Memorial Day to Labor Day of this year.

<https://www.johnmccain.com/Contribute?guid=1107602b-100e-4e07-bfd9-e9a8ff050521&s=rnc11 > The effect of this "gas tax holiday" will be an immediate economic stimulus - taking a few dollars off the price of a tank of gas every time you fill up. And because the cost of gas affects the price of food, packaging and just about everything else, this immediate step will spread economic relief to every family in America.

My friends, this election will be shaped by the big issues we face as a nation, not the small ones. To effectively communicate our solutions to these issues, I will need a united base of support and financial resources to communicate my message to the American people. That's why I ask you to join my campaign by making a financial contribution by following this link right away. <https://www.johnmccain.com/Contribute?guid=1107602b-100e-4e07-bfd9-e9a8ff050521&s=rnc11>

I am running for president to tackle the most pressing challenges facing our nation today, and our economy is certainly one of our top challenges. The voters of our country will have a clear choice in November between my vision and policies for our country - rooted in our shared conservative principles - and the tax and spend policies of my Democratic opponents.

Whether it's the economy, the struggle against radical Islamic extremism or national security issues, I stand ready to offer bold solutions to our nation's challenges. The gas-tax holiday is just one example, and as I have always done, I will make my case to every American who will listen.

I will not confine myself to the comfort of speaking only to those who agree with me. I will make my case to all the people. I will listen to those who disagree. I will try to persuade them. I will debate. I will learn from them. And I will fight every moment of every day for what I believe is right for this country, and I will not yield.

Please join me today in the fight for what is right for this country by making a donation of $50, $100, $250, $500, $1,000 - any amount up to the legal limit of $2,300. <https://www.johnmccain.com/Contribute?guid=1107602b-100e-4e07-bfd9-e9a8ff050521&s=rnc11 > Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to what will surely be a great contest in November.

Thank you,

<http://www.johnmccain.com/images/email/mccainsig_150_0408.jpg >

John McCain

P.S. In November, Americans will have a clear choice between my policies for addressing the big issues and the policies of my opponents. I stand ready to offer bold new solutions to the challenges we face as a nation, and I ask that you join me today calling for a gas tax holiday to provide immediate economic relief for many Americans. Please follow this link to join my campaign for president by making a generous donation today. <https://www.johnmccain.com/Contribute?guid=1107602b-100e-4e07-bfd9-e9a8ff050521&s=rnc11 > Every donation, no matter how small, is crucial to our campaign. Thank you.

<https://www.johnmccain.com/Contribute?guid=1107602b-100e-4e07-bfd9-e9a8ff050521&s=rnc11 >

Republican National Committee | 310 First Street, SE | Washington, D.C. 20003
p: 202.863.8500 | f: 202.863.8820 | e: info@gop.com

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From:	"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	8/13/2015 8:19:02 AM
Subject:	Re: Iran riff

Passionate arguments doesn't seem great to me either.

And I would drop the word "none".

On Aug 13, 2015, at 2:59 PM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> But before we get into the politics, I want to say a few words about one of the most important decisions we face today.
>
> Across our country, Americans are considering and debating the nuclear agreement with Iran. Soon, it will come up for a vote in Congress. There are people of good faith on both sides of this issue, people who are committed to protecting our security and the security of our allies, especially Israel.
>
> President Obama and Secretary Kerry have worked hard to achieve this agreement and they are making passionate arguments for why it will keep us safe and close off avenues for Iran to get a bomb. Others, like my friend Senator Schumer, are deeply skeptical. I respect their concerns. I have no illusions about Iran's true intentions or its continuing threat to Israel, the region, and the United States. That threat is real and it must be confronted.
>
> But leadership is about hard choices. And to me, this one is clear. This agreement is the most effective path to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. There is no viable alternative. None. I support President Obama and I encourage everyone in Congress to do the same.
>
> As Secretary of State, I logged tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition to impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That unprecedented pressure delivered a blow to Iran's economy and gave us leverage at the negotiating table, starting in Oman in 2012. We need to bring the same determination and unity to the job of enforcing this agreement and deterring Iranian aggression across the board. When this debate is over, we need to come together to ensure the President has the tools, resources, and support to send a clear message to Iran: Cheat, and you will pay. When you threaten Israel, you threaten America. And make no mistake, we will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement -- never.

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From:	"NOBLE Ronald" <R.NOBLE@INTERPOL.INT>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	11/18/2008 2:25:59 PM
Subject:	INTERPOL Briefing on Global Security Challenges

(This 1.5 page letter is being sent you in hard copy as well.)

Dear John,

We have known each other for 15 years, and I understand how busy you are leading President-elect Obama's Transition Team. As articulated during his presidential election campaign, securing the United States and the world against the threat of terrorism and serious transnational crime will be one of President-elect Obama's highest priorities when he takes his oath of office on 20 January 2009. At the President-elect's, or his highest-level surrogate's, most immediate availability, I would like to offer my, and INTERPOL's, insights into what the current Administration never availed itself of over its eight years in office: a briefing on the threats and solutions to global security that should concern us all. It would be the first time in history that such a briefing has been given by INTERPOL to a newly elected Head of State.

Based on my experience of having participated in two US Presidential transition processes, I know that the current security briefing model relies mainly on highly classified national security material sourced from US agencies. Such briefings are, of course, valuable and absolutely essential - especially to determine whether nationally gathered intelligence suggests any terrorist plans targeting the US. However, such briefings may not reflect broader and more general international security threats which, if left unaddressed, could one day permit the United States to fall victim to terrorist attacks or other forms of serious crime.

The US's failure, prior to 9/11, to link fraudulent national identity documents to international terrorism is perhaps the most tragic example of what could go wrong. It is for this reason that INTERPOL has been highlighting the danger presented by the more than 800 million international air arrivals occurring each year worldwide for which the relevant passports are not screened against INTERPOL's global database of more than 16 million stolen and lost travel documents. Simply put, INTERPOL believes, and the evidence indicates, that a country's national security agenda must have roots in a robust international strategy that recognizes that the internal security of any one country (including the US) requires an external awareness, as terrorist attacks are frequently developed, planned and launched from beyond the target country's borders.

…/…

Let me make clear that I may be one of the few people contacting you not seeking a position for himself, a family member or friend. In my post as INTERPOL Secretary General, I can do more to enhance US and global security in this capacity than in any other capacity - especially if Heads of State and Government are prepared to tap into the enormous potential offered by INTERPOL. Just last month, I had a private audience with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, during which we conversed in German to dispense with the need for either of our respective staff to be present. I briefed him about INTERPOL's most ambitious undertaking: our Global Security Initiative for the 21st Century (GSI), and received valuable insights from him about how he perceived the West's approach to global security.

President-elect Obama will forever be associated with making people the world over see that extraordinary change is possible if they believe in it and work hard enough to make it happen. In reaching out to INTERPOL, President-elect Obama would forever change the way Heads of State and Government think about their own national security. More countries would look outward, not inward. More countries would think collectively, not individually. More countries would think about the role of law enforcement, and not just the military, in addressing global security. And, finally, more countries would understand that the US's view of global security has truly changed. I know all of these are also priorities that have been articulated by the President-elect during his campaign.

John, the United States has been fortunate not to have suffered another major terrorist attack since September 11, 2001. I frequently remind people that the September 11 terrorist attacks came more than 8½ years after the

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first World Trade Center attacks; so there is no reason for people to conclude that the threat posed by Al-Qaeda has passed. Indeed, in seeing the serious global security gaps that remain unaddressed, I am concerned that our good fortune will not continue indefinitely. I therefore look forward to the opportunity to brief the President-elect, you, or others on the immediate steps that the United States can take with INTERPOL to make enhancing global security a real and immediate priority for all countries in the world.

Yours sincerely,

(Ron)

Ronald K. Noble
Secretary General

cc: Mr Robert R. Beers
National Security Team Leads
(Agency Review Team for the Obama-Biden Transition)

Mr John Podesta
Founder, President and CEO
Center for American Progress
1333 H Street, N.W., 10th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
USA

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

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From: "Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
To: hrcrapid <HRCrapid@googlegroups.com>
Date: 4/26/2015 2:49:18 AM
Subject: 'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

'This Week' Transcript: 'Clinton Cash' Author Peter Schweizer

Apr 26, 2015, 9:34 AM ET

This is a rush transcript for April 26, 2015. It will be updated and may contain errors.

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/week-transcript-clinton-cash-author-peter-schweizer/story?id=30568766&singlePage=true

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, HOST: And the author of "Clinton Clash," Peter Schweizer, joins us now.

Thank you for joining us this morning, Peter.

You know, I was looking at the book jacket right here and you say that, here in the book jacket that your reporting raises serious and alarming questions about judgment of possible indebtedness to an array of foreign interests and ultimately, a fitness for high public office.

So how does your reporting show that **Hillary Clinton** may be unfit for the presidency?

PETER SCHWEIZER, AUTHOR, "CLINTON CLASH": Well, I think the real question here, George, is when you ever have an issue of the flow of funds to political candidates, whether that's to their campaigns, whether that's to private foundations, whether that's to their spouse, is there evidence of a pattern of -- of favorable decisions being made for those individuals?

And I think the -- the point that we make in the book is that there is a troubling pattern.

There are dozens of examples of that occurring.

Some people, I think particularly the Clinton camp, would say that these are all coincidence. I don't think, when you're talking about 12 instances, you're talking coincidence. I think you're talking trend.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But you take it pretty far. You write that, "The pattern of behavior is troubling enough to warrant further investigation by law enforcement (INAUDIBLE)."..

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that a crime may have been committed?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it's -- if you look at a couple of recent examples. For example, Governor McConnell down in Virginia, or you look at **Senator Menendez** , in these cases, you didn't have evidence of a quid pro quo. What you had was funds flowing to elected officials, some of them gifts, some of them campaign contributions and actions that were being taken by those public officials that seemed to benefit the contributors.

Certainly, I think it warrants investigation. What that investigation will reveal, we'll see.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But a criminal investigation?

SCHWEIZER: Well, we'll see. I mean that's what the Governor McConnell has faced and that's what Menendez has faced.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the...

SCHWEIZER: And I think the evidence here is far more widespread in terms of repeated action than there were in those two instances.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Clinton campaign says you haven't produced a shred of evidence that there was any official action as secretary that -- that supported the interests of donors.

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SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: We've done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action. And an independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison, of the Sunline Foundation (ph), wrote this. He said, "There's no smoking gun, no evidence that she changed the policy based on donations to the foundation."

No smoking gun.

Is there a smoking gun?

SCHWEIZER: Yes. The smoking gun is in the pattern of behavior. And here's the analogy I would give you. It's a little bit like **insider trading** . I wrote a book on Congressional insider trading a couple of years ago and talked with prosecutors.

Most people that engage in criminal insider trading don't send an e-mail that says I've got inside information, buy this stock.

The way they look at it, they look at a pattern of stock trades. If the person has access to that information and then they do a series of well-timed trades. That warrants investigation.

I think the same thing applies here.

By the way, what's important to note is it was confirmed on Thursday, both by "The New York Times" and "The **Wall Street Journal**," that there are multi-million dollar, non-disclosed donations that were made to the **Clinton Foundation** that were never disclosed by the Clintons.

This is a direct breach of an agreement they suggested with the White House.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That -- that is an issue for them, but it's not a criminal -- it's nothing that would warrant a cmii.

So let's look at some of the specifics behind your pattern.

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: A lot of focus on the sale of a company, Uranium One, to a -- to a **Russian** company. Of course, Frank Drisdra (ph), who had committed, what, a $130 million, a pledge to the Clinton Foundation back in 2006, had had an interest in this company.

But he actually sold it.

SCHWEIZER: Well, he sold his stock, but his firm, Endeavor Financial, continued to do finance deals well after that. And the individuals involved in the book, as you probably read, there are nine -- count them, nine major contributors to the Clinton Foundation who were involved in that nuclear deal.

The two individuals who were the financial advisers on the deal of the sale to the Russians, they're both major Clinton Foundation supporters. The chairman of that Foundation, Ian Telfer, whose donations were not disclosed, campaign -- and sorry, Clinton Foundation contributor. And there are others.

So this is not just about Frank Giustra. This is multiple layers (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: OK, but you didn't disclose in your book that he had sold the interest.

SCHWEIZER: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Beyond that, this deal was approved by a -- a board of the government called the CFIUS Board.

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: This actually chaired by the secretary of the Treasury...

SCHWEIZER: Correct.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- not the secretary of State.

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SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Eight other agencies on board, the secretary of State, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission...

SCHWEIZER: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- signed off on it. And even though the State Department was one of nine agencies to sign off on it, there's no evidence at all that Hillary Clinton got directly involved in this decision.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think it warrants further investigation. And there's a couple of things that need to be clarified.

Number one, she was one vote -- or the State Department was one vote on CFIUS. But any agency has veto power. So it needs to be unanimous. So they had to support this agreement.

The second thing that I would say is that in the midst of all of this, Hillary Clinton was in charge of the Russian reset. She was in charge of -- in -- of the A123 nuclear agreements with the Russians. She was the one that was meeting with Lavrov. There were four senior congressmen on national security issues that raised concerns about this issue...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But wait a second. There were nine different agencies...

SCHWEIZER: Sure.

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- who approved it.

Doesn't that suggest that that was because there was no national security concern, not because of some nefarious influence by Hillary Clinton?

SCHWEIZER: But -- but look at the nine individuals that were on the CFIUS committee, the nine agencies represented.

Who was, by far, the most hawkish on CFIUS issues in the past?

Hillary Clinton. She was big on rejecting the Dubai ports deal. She was big on other issues. She sponsored legislation when she was in the Senate to straighten CFIUS.

This was a signature issue for her and this is totally out of character...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the assistant secretary who sat -- the assistant secretary of State who sat on the committee said she never intervened on any CFIUS issue at all.

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think that deserves further scrutiny. I would question that.

To argue that (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But based on what?

Based on what?

SCHWEIZER: Well, I think based on her (INAUDIBLE)...

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you have any evidence that she actually intervened in this issue?

SCHWEIZER: No, we don't have direct evidence. But it warrants further investigation because, again, George, this is part of the broader pattern. You either have to come to the conclusion that these are all coincidences or something else is afoot.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And that -- that is that -- the Clintons do say it's a coincidence. As they say, you have produced no evidence. And I still haven't heard any direct evidence and you just said you had no evidence that she intervened here.

But I do want to ask a broader question.

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It's been reported that you -- you briefed several Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the chairman, Bob Corker.

Did you offer any briefings for Democrats?

SCHWEIZER: No, but I'd be glad to give them before the book is released. This was a -- a friend that asked me. He thought it would be a good idea to talk to these individuals. This was the committee that confirmed her.

And I was glad to meet with them. They did not get copies of the book. They did not get any material. It was simply a verbal briefing.

And I'd be glad to brief any Democrats before May 5th, when the book comes out.

STEPHANOPOULOS: As you know, the Democrats have said this is -- this is an indication of your partisan interest. They say…

SCHWEIZER: Well...

STEPHANOPOULOS: -- you used to work for President -- President Bush as a speechwriter. You're funded by the Koch brothers.

How do you respond to that?

SCHWEIZER: Well, George, what did I do when this book was completed?

I went to the investigative unit at "The New York Times," the investigative unit here at ABC. I went to the investigative unit at "The Washington Post." And I shared with them my findings, OK. These are not cupcakes. These are serious researchers and investigators.

And they are confirming what I've reported. So people can look at the facts and...

STEPHANOPOULOS: They haven't come -- they haven't confirmed any evidence of any crime.

SCHWEIZER: Well, but -- but it's not up to an author to prove crime. I mean do you think that when people first started looking at Governor McConnell or they started looking at Menendez, that they immediately had evidence?

You need subpoena power. You need access to records and information. You need access to e-mails.

There's all sorts of things that you can do. You can't leave it up to an author to say that an author has to prove a criminal case.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally, Bloomberg News is reporting that you're going to be looking into Jeb Bush's business dealings, as well.

Is that true?

What have you found?

Where and when will you publish?

SCHWEIZER: We've been working on it for about four months. We've been looking at land deals. We've been looking at an airport deal. We've been looking at some financial transactions involving hedge funds based out of the UK.

We have already reached out to several media outlets and we're going to adopt a similar model that we have here, which is to share that information with investigative journalists at established news outlets, share with them that information.

And I think that people will find it very, very interesting and compelling.

Peter Schweizer, thanks very much.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Thanks for having me, George.

Up next, the roundtable on this Hillary book and augways (ph) from the campaign trail.

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Plus, same-sex marriage coming to the Supreme Court this week.

Bruce Jenner's big announcement puts transgender issues in the spotlight. We debate the next frontier in civil rights.

And we're back in just two minutes.

--
Josh Schwerin
Spokesperson
Hillary for America
@Josh Schwerin

--
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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	8/7/2014 6:46:57 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Thursday August 7, 2014 Afternoon Roundup



Correct The Record Thursday August 7, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: HRC "worked diligently during her tenure at the @StateDept to strengthen the U.S. economy and create American jobs" http://thediplomat.com/2014/08/the-economics-of-us-foreign-policy/ … [8/7/14, 10:25 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton knows the economic value of diplomatic leadership, Amb. M. Osman Siddique writes in @Diplomat_APAC : http://thediplomat.com/2014/08/the-economics-of-us-foreign-policy/ … [8/7/14,10:03 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton launched the U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative to bring clean energy to Africa. #HRC365 http://www.state.gov/secretary/20092013clinton/rm/2012/06/193912.htm … [8/6/14, 5:01 p.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Roll Call opinion: Burns Strider: "7 Themes Emerge for Hillary Rodham Clinton and 2016"

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Articles:

Roll Call opinion: Burns Strider: “7 Themes Emerge for Hillary Rodham Clinton and 2016”

By Burns Strider

August 7, 2014, 12:00 p.m. EDT

Republican operatives are as lost as last year’s Easter egg when it comes to stopping Hillary Rodham Clinton. It’s two years from the presidential election, important 2014 elections are in front of us, and Clinton hasn’t even decided whether she will run. But the well-oiled Republican attack industry has thrown everything at her but the kitchen sink.

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Last week, the Republican-led House Intelligence Committee confirmed what we've known all along: its most tried and most misleading attack, Benghazi, is baseless.

The committee's two-year investigation-turned-political-shenanigan has further discredited right-wing conspiracy theorists. No deliberate wrongdoing occurred, there was no intelligence failure before the attack and no stand-down order was issued. Furthermore, Clinton took responsibility, took action and was fully transparent.

Now, the right is left with nothing. And yet they continue to try to mislead the American people.

Why would right-wing extremists devote their time, energy and money so far away from an election attempting to discredit someone who hasn't even decided to be a candidate? It's as simple as apple pie: If Clinton runs, their agenda is in trouble.

They have to stop her in order to secure a shot at the presidency for themselves.

But their baseless and politically-motivated attacks on the tragedy in Benghazi haven't worked. They have been proved false time and time again. Truth rises; lies sink. In the course of our work, I've seen seven key themes emerge. I wanted to share them with you all.

1. Public opinion is much better for Clinton now than it was in 2008. The strength of Clinton's poll numbers now, compared to this time in the 2008 cycle, is astonishing. This widespread favorability extends outside the Beltway to Iowa and New Hampshire, where her favorability ratings with Democrats are 89 percent and 94 percent respectively.

2. Americans across the ideological spectrum are looking positively to a potential Clinton run. Republicans are trying every tactic in the book, even trying to convince Democrats that Clinton is not liberal enough. But only 6 percent of liberal Democrats don't think she should run for president.

3. Voters, specifically Democrats, are eager for her experience. If Clinton chooses to run, she will be the most qualified candidate in the modern history of the United States.

4. Clinton is in step with her party on core issues, particularly income inequality. While Republicans try to convince people that she doesn't connect with the liberal base on income inequality, her lifelong record and her own words tell us differently.

5. No credible challenger can amass the kind of broad party support Clinton has. The energy and excitement for Clinton is unprecedented. In all my years in politics, I have never seen such unified excitement for a single potential candidate, while the Republican field is anemic at best.

6. Voters are behind her, not just politicos. What's special about Clinton's broad support is that it's not just people inside the Beltway. Americans across the country have attended rallies, hosted house parties and donated small dollar amounts to Ready for Hillary. On her book tour, people have waited for hours, sometimes even overnight, just to see her, just to get a book signed.

7. Lastly, but most importantly, Hillary Rodham Clinton's work ethic has been on full display for months. Clinton and her supporters, if she chooses to run, do not want a coronation. America is a democracy, not a monarchy; and we do not crown our presidents. Instead, our candidates work for it. Clinton has demonstrated that she's ready and willing to put in the hours. Competition makes you work hard, and she will; she does. And we, her supporters, will work hard, too. These seven themes showcase the excitement, anticipation, and dedicated support for a Clinton candidacy. We must stay focused on the future, because I believe that Hillary is the best person to lead us there. We want someone focused on the hard choices that loom.

In the meantime, I'm waiting to see how House Republicans explain to their constituents back home this August that they're continuing to waste millions of taxpayer dollars funding a wild-goose chase on Benghazi, when their own, Republican-led committee has already determined this attack to be baseless. While they're stuck in the past, Democrats are looking forward.

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Glamour: "Career Advice from Hillary Rodham Clinton: 'You Don't Have to Be Perfect. Most Men Never Think Like That.'"

By Cindi Leive

September 2014 [on newsstands on August 12, 2014]

She's been leaning in for four decades—but now, in between a major book tour and a possible history-making presidential run, Hillary Rodham Clinton is putting her feet up and offering "hard-earned" career lessons she says all young women should know. Below, read an excerpt of Editor-in-Chief Cindi Leive's interview with her from Glamour's September issue.

Hillary Rodham Clinton has been many things. You know the list: a lawyer, our First Lady, a senator, a presidential candidate, a pantsuit icon, a political lightning rod (remember health care in the 1990s?), the "most admired woman" in America (for the twelfth year running, according to Gallup), and, most recently, the most traveled secretary of state in American history, visiting 112 countries in that job and doing everything from fighting for human rights in Burma to facing criticism for the attack on the American compound in Benghazi, Libya.

But right now, without a government gig for the first time in over three decades, what she seems most like is a woman in between. Behind her is a high-octane book tour for her new memoir, Hard Choices (not without its speed bumps; her remark to ABC's Diane Sawyer that she and her family were "dead broke" when they left the White House provoked skepticism, and she later acknowledged she could have discussed the subject in a more "artful" way). Ahead of her is a choice about whether to run for president once again, after the 2008 race that won her 18 million votes, exponentially more than any female candidate before her. "Toward the end of the year, beginning of next year, I'll have to make a decision," the Secretary told Glamour. (On The Daily Show, she gamely filled out a career aptitude checklist to help her decide: "Do you like a home office?" Jon Stewart asked. Yes, she said, she did.)

In the meantime, though, she is focusing on an issue women of all political parties—people of all political parties—can and should get behind: the advancement of women and girls around the world. Nineteen years ago this month, then First Lady Clinton delivered a 20-minute speech in Beijing that put the phrase "women's rights are human rights" on the map; today, at the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, she has launched No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project, dedicated to collecting data on the state of women globally. "No Ceilings will effect change for millions of women and girls in the twenty-first century," Melinda Gates, cochair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, tells Glamour. "I'm optimistic that it will [help address] these inequalities once and for all." I interviewed Secretary Clinton about that—and about her career advice for women, because the book offers a detailed portrait of her work life: negotiating, networking, mentoring, and being mentored.

Here, excerpts from our interview, the complete version of which can be found in the September issue of Glamour, available on tablet now or on newsstands starting August 12. Listen in for her advice on everything from networking to dealing with doubters. Whether or not you share her political views, she's a work coach with serious experience to share.

Cindi Leive: You've been on the book tour to end all book tours! One of the things that I found fascinating about your book was the amount of personal-relationship building that goes into diplomacy—the long walks, the teas, the personal conversations that then allow you to get things done. Do we underestimate that piece of diplomacy?

Hillary Rodham Clinton: I think we underestimate it even beyond diplomacy. I think that relationships are at the core of any political system and economic system—any family—and I think we drifted away from understanding that in our country. The people-to-people level is critical. It is ironic, though—we can text with anybody in the world, we can have a videoconference with anybody in the world, but [there should be] an even higher premium on showing up and getting to know someone. Looking them in the eye, listening to them, trying to understand where they're coming from.... When I became secretary of state, I felt one of my primary jobs was building relationships around the world. And I did spend a lot of time and effort thinking through, How do I connect with this person?...

CL: You've said many times that your own approach to sexism, when you encounter it, is to just smile and keep going. But it can get pretty vile—during the 2008 presidential campaign we all remember the use of the word bitch. How do you know when you should smile and when you really have to call somebody out?

HRC: There's no easy answer. I'll give you some guidelines. I have generally not responded if it's about me. And I have responded if it's about somebody else, because if women in general are being degraded, are being dismissed, then I can respond in a way that demonstrates I'm not taking it personally but I'm really serious about rejecting that kind of behavior. Now, sometimes when it is about me...you have to not just remain silent but try to figure out a proper response—again, though, not going to the place of anger and feeling sorry for yourself, because that kind of plays into the hands of the sexists.... It does take practice though, Cindi. This is not something that your average 25-year-old—well, let me talk about myself: me at 25—would have either fully grasped or been able to respond to. So I've got a lot of hard-earned lessons that I can fall back

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on.... Back when I was going to school, I remember being in a big conference hall at Harvard and taking the Law School Admission Test...and some of the men were just rattling us.

CL: How?

HRC: [Saying], "What are you doing here? You shouldn't be here." "You're taking a place of a man who could maybe get drafted and die in Vietnam." It was just really personal! Personal and pointed. So I was in that group who were kind of on the front lines of a lot of this change. I think we're in a much better place than we were, but we still have to stand up for ourselves, and stand up for each other. Women standing up for each other is critically important.

CL: You've talked a lot about the importance of young women running for office. I hear from many of our readers that they're not all that interested. They think it just looks like it's going to be incredibly difficult—a blood sport.

HRC: It is.

CL: You quote Theodore Roosevelt, who called it "the arena." That sounds like The Hunger Games! How do you persuade women this is something worth doing?

HRC: I start by saying there are many ways to be influential. I mean, you can work for politicians...or in government and make a difference.... And for young women who are interested in running for office, you just have to decide you're going to follow Eleanor Roosevelt's maxim about growing skin as thick as the hide of a rhinoceros, and you have to be incredibly well-prepared—better prepared [than a man], actually—and you have to figure out how you're going to present yourself, and you have to have a support group around you, because it can be really a brutal experience. But I think if you were to talk to women who have run, both successfully and unsuccessfully, nearly all of them would say, "You learn so much." You learn about yourself, what you're capable of doing.... And it doesn't have to all happen when you're young—I mean, one of the most powerful women in American politics is Nancy Pelosi. She had five children. She didn't go into politics until her youngest child was in high school.... That's one of the great things about being a woman in today's world: You have a much longer potential work life than our mothers or our grandmothers did.

CL: You joke about the attention paid to your hair, to your pantsuits, to every fashion choice. Is it ever valid to look at those things?

HRC: It is. I mean, clearly people should meet an acceptable threshold of appropriateness! [Laughs.] But I think that for many women in the public eye, it just seems that the burden is so heavy. We're doing a job that is not a celebrity job or an entertainment or fashion job.... In a professional setting, treat us as professionals.... [And] it takes a lot of time. I've often laughed with my male colleagues, like, "What did you do? You took a shower, you combed your hair, you put your clothes on. I couldn't do that."

CL: If the next president, whoever he or she might be, is a Democrat, that person may face a Republican House and Senate. What do you think that president can actually hope to get done, given how little the parties seem to want to work together right now?

HRC: I don't in any way underestimate the difficulties, because it's only gotten harder. But I do think you just have to go into it with the attitude that you're going to speak clearly and authentically about what you see the country needs...and seek out whatever possible partners you can, even in the other party. I've looked at successful presidents going back. Some of our most successful governed through periods when their party was in charge, and when the other party was in charge. There's no magic formula.

CL: Esquire once said that your job as secretary of state was to "deal with difficult men."

HRC: There's truth to that!

CL: What advice do you have for our readers about how to deal with difficult men or women at work?

HRC: I will say, keeping your head down and doing the best job you can in the beginning gives you the opportunity to be evaluated on the basis of the contributions you are making. I often would listen more than talk in my early meetings with people.... [Then], when you feel strongly about your

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work or about a position, you'll be given more attention [than] if you hadn't done that constantly.

At the same time, you cannot be afraid to present yourself. And sometimes that takes practice. If you're not comfortable with public speaking—and nobody starts out comfortable, you have to learn how to be comfortable—practice. I cannot overstate the importance of practicing. Get some close friends or family members to help evaluate you, or somebody at work that you trust.

CL: Women know they need a mentor. I'm curious—how do you decide, in your own professional life, who you want to mentor?

HRC: I look for people who have raw intelligence and a great work ethic and loyalty, and I can quickly identify people who have the right ingredients. But sometimes it is more difficult to get them to accept the fact that they can take on increasing responsibility....Oftentimes individuals will decide how far [they] go by how much work they're willing to put in and how quick they are to ask for help. I consider that one of the great skills: Too many people...have this deep-seated fear that if they ask for help, they will be thought less of. In my [view], they'll be thought more of.

CL: I thought it was interesting in the book how many times you asked people for advice. You called [American diplomat] Richard Holbrooke, [former Secretary of State] Condoleezza Rice—

HRC: I'm a big believer in that, because I don't think any of us have the answers to everything. There's no human being on earth who fits that category. So why wouldn't you ask for help? Why wouldn't you run ideas by people that you respect? Too many young people cast around trying to figure out what the answer is themselves, because they're afraid to come back and say, "I'm not sure I understood you," or "Could you give me a little more information about what you need?" Just do that. It saves you time, it saves your boss's or mentor's time. And it's a great lesson to learn.

CL: Do women feel that they have to be perfect from day one?

HRC: Yes! And that's a huge impediment that we impose upon ourselves. And I've seen it in so many talented young women who hold back because they're not sure that what they say will be smart enough. Or maybe they've said something in a prior meeting, and people acted like they hadn't said it, and that was crushing. Then we have all had the experience where 20 minutes later, a man says the same thing and everybody responds positively.... So don't take it personally. Take it seriously so that you understand it, and then try to devise techniques to overcome it. And I think this..."perfectionist gene" that too many young women have holds them back, and instead they should be really aiming for "good enough." You don't have to be perfect. Most men never think like that. They're just trying to figure out what's the opening and how they can seize it. They're not thinking about, Oh my gosh, I'm not perfect, my hair's not perfect today, I wore the wrong shoes. No.

Long Island Press: "Hillary Clinton's Book Revue Signing in Huntington Draws Hundreds"

By Spencer Rumsey

August 7, 2014

Some women had been waiting outside Huntington's Book Revue from 11 p.m. the night before, others had been there since daybreak as the line wound around the block. Their goal was the same: get a signed copy of Hillary Clinton's new book, Hard Choices, and lug the 635-page memoir home with them. In all, the store sold out its supply of 1,200 books—and the staff lamented that they could've moved more product if they'd had the inventory.

Across the street was a much smaller group of boisterous people who would never dream of reading anything written by New York's former senator and ex-first lady as they made clear by their shouts denouncing her. They stood on the corner of New York Avenue behind a police barricade, waving the yellow "Don't Tread on Me" flag that has become an emblem of the Tea Party, holding placards promoting Fox News and denouncing Clinton for "lying." One young man proudly displayed a black T-shirt with white lettering that read, "Liberalism is a mental disorder." A middle-aged guy wearing a tan cowboy hat yelled at Clinton's booklovers that "You don't even know who Benghazi is!" Not so, shouted a man in line outside the book store, "Yeah, he's Will Benghazi's brother!" That riposte drew a big laugh from his side of the street.

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The mood inside the Book Revue was ebullient as the line of people weaved between the stacks and up the stairs to a balcony and down. Each patron had been frisked by the Secret Service, and the store was closed to customers after 2 p.m.The bathroom was off limits after 5 o'clock. There were a few people in wheelchairs, an elderly woman in a walker who'd come from Hempstead, and an infant dressed in a red, white and blue jumper.

Clinton sat down exactly at 6 o'clock, as promised, sparking applause and cheers, greeting the crowd with a big smile, "It's good to see you! Thank you for coming!" Beaming beside her were Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone, Town Councilwoman Susan Berland, and State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli—all Democrats and all big fans. They posed for the first pictures and took off. The store staff and volunteers, plus a handful of interns, kept people moving like a human conveyor belt. There was constant laughter and chatter.

Many people were wearing red and blue stickers on their shirts that read "I'm ready for Hillary!" and some even had T-shirts proclaiming "Hillary in 2016!" She hasn't come close to declaring whether she's going to run for president, but these people on line had already made up their minds. She could count on them.

"I wanted the chance to possibly look in the face of the future female leader of the free world," said a young woman from Huntington, who said she was a registered Democrat but declined to give her name. She'd been waiting since 9:30 a.m."with about 30 people" ahead of her. And more than a thousand people eventually lined up behind her.

The last time Clinton had been at the Book Revue for a signing, J.K. Rowling had just released another Harry Potter book so the store was packed. "We had Hillary people and Harry Potter people," said Loren Aliperti, the Book Revue's event coordinator, with a smile. "That was the biggest business day we've ever had!"

For 23-year-old Danielle Steinmetz of Wantagh, meeting Clinton was one more thing to cross off from her bucket list.

"I am a huge Hillary fan! I just love her," said Steinmetz. "She's such an inspiration and a role model! It's great to finally meet her—it's a dream come true!"

Wall Street Journal: "U.S. Ties to Myanmar Are Called Into Question"

By Shibani Mahtani

August 7, 2014, 11:20 a.m. EDT

YANGON, Myanmar—With U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry expected to visit Myanmar for a regional security summit this weekend, some U.S. lawmakers and human rights watchdogs are warning of stalled overhauls and urging reconsideration of the increasingly cozy relations between the two countries.

The pressure on the U.S. to be harsher in its dealings with the Myanmar government, analysts say, reflects a growing skepticism—in Washington and beyond—toward the depth of the country's reforms, posing a challenge for the Obama administration, which has touted Myanmar's democratic transition as one of its biggest foreign-policy achievements.

Last week, 72 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, both Democrats and Republicans, warned in a letter to Mr. Kerry that conditions in Myanmar "have taken a sharp turn for the worse on a number of important fronts." They pointed to "horrific images of emaciated children" that continue to emerge from Rakhine state, where more than 140,000 mostly Rohingya Muslims remain displaced in camps after communal riots two years ago.

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The U.S. lawmakers also warned of what they described as "stalled political reforms" linked to a slow and uncertain process around amending the military-drafted 2008 constitution, which gives the military a veto power over political changes and bars opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from assuming the presidency.

"Just as the beginning of the reform process required a calibrated reassessment of U.S. policy three years ago, recent disturbing developments call for a significant recalibration now," their letter said.

Other groups like Human Rights Watch and PEN American Center, the free-expression advocacy group, have urged Mr. Kerry to keep human rights and freedom of expression issues high on his agenda. The Myanmar government recently sentenced four journalists and the chief executive of their newspaper to a decade in prison for a report on an alleged military-run chemical weapons facility.

Mr. Kerry will be visiting Myanmar for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Regional Forum on Aug. 10, held in the capital of Naypyitaw since Myanmar chairs the bloc this year. He will also hold bilateral meetings with the Myanmar government.

The souring of sentiment is in contrast to Hillary Clinton's celebrated visit to Myanmar almost three years ago. It was the first visit of a U.S. secretary of state to visit in almost six decades.

"Today there's more skepticism about the reforms," said Murray Hiebert, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Some U.S. lawmakers, he adds, "argue that Washington has gone too far too fast in relaxing sanctions, and exploring some military-to-military relations."

In 2012, Washington reversed its harsh policy of sanctions against Myanmar, slowly lifting economic sanctions and beginning a steady process of engaging with those it once blacklisted, starting with the former generals who make up the new nominally-civilian government.

But this recent increased pressure on Mr. Kerry proves a conundrum for Mr. Obama's administration, which has consistently credited Myanmar's reform success here to its own efforts. In Mrs. Clinton's recently launched book called "Hard Choices," a chapter on Myanmar—describing in detail her 2011 visit and the U.S. efforts in engaging with the reformist government of President Thein Sein —ends with the line: "It was America at its best." Any backsliding, analysts say, could stain this legacy and harm Mrs. Clinton's bid for the Democratic nomination in 2016.

Those close to Myanmar's reform process, though, continue to see U.S. support — and the support of their businesses — as a crucial tenet of country's success, where investment is just starting to create new jobs and bolster the gross domestic product of a still-impoverished nation.

Pushing for the "resumption of the former U.S. policy of ostracism" must be avoided for reforms and economic development to continue, said Romain Caillaud, managing director of political consultancy Vriens & Partners in Yangon. Mr. Caillaud has been based in the city for more than six years.

"Western businesses have a key role to play in this process of change that started a few years ago only, and discouraging their investment in Myanmar would not serve the objectives of policy makers in Washington, or of the population of Myanmar," he added.

CNN: "Russia gives Snowden 3-year residency"

By Joe Sterling

August 7, 2014, 8:10 a.m. EDT

Edward Snowden, who leaked secret information about U.S. spying programs, has been granted an extension to stay in Russia for three more years, his attorney said in a televised press conference in Moscow Thursday.

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Snowden recently formally requested that Russia's government extend his temporary asylum, and Snowden attorney Anatoly Kucherena said the request had been accepted.

"As of August 1, 2014, Snowden has received residency for three years," Kucherena told reporters Thursday.

Snowden's temporary asylum in Russia ended on July 31. He'd been holed up at a Moscow airport for five weeks before the Russian government granted asylum for one year on August 1, 2013.

Snowden has kept busy working for a Russian website and speaking out on the disclosures about the U.S. government's spying programs and processes that he helped make public.

Snowden's disclosures in 2013 made him an icon among those who praised him for risking his future to expose these secrets and a villain among those who accused him of being a lawbreaker who betrayed the United States.

The former government information technology contractor collected information on spy programs -- in which the NSA mined phone and Internet metadata from thousands of people inside and outside of the United States -- and exposed the programs to the media.

U.S. authorities have charged him with espionage and theft of government property.

No change in U.S. stance

The White House says the extension of Snowden's asylum in Russia doesn't change the U.S. government's desire for his return.

"There's been no change in our position: Mr. Snowden faces felony charges here in the United States," said Ned Price, a spokesman for the National Security Council.

"He should return to the U.S. as soon as possible, where he will be accorded full due process and protections."

U.S. intelligence agencies fear Snowden has achieved celebrity as a leaker and could be inspiring others to disclose classified national security information.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently commented on Snowden's case in an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel.

"I think he is a poor messenger for the message that he's trying to take credit for," she told the magazine.

"I think he could have provoked the debate in our country without stealing and distributing material that was government property and was of some consequence," Clinton said.

Town Hall opinion: Conn Carroll: "Hillary Clinton's Corporate Welfare Bank Problem"

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Conn Carroll

August 7, 2014

Hillary Clinton may have already wrapped up the Democratic Party's 2016 presidential nomination, but she is still having trouble connecting with non-Democratic partisans. According to the latest The Economist/YouGov poll, just 38 percent of Americans believe Hillary "understands the problems facing ordinary middle class people" while 44 percent of Americans say she does not.

Former-Clinton White House political director Doug Sosnik may have recently inadvertently explained why. In a 2013 memo he wrote:

“Americans' long-brewing discontent shows clear signs of reaching a boiling point. And when it happens, the country will judge its politicians through a new filter—one that asks, ‘Which side of the barricade are you on? Is it the side of the out-of-touch political class that clings to the status quo by protecting those at the top and their own political agendas, or is it the side that is fighting for the kind of change that will make the government work for the people—all the people?’”

And which side of that barricade is Hillary on?

One need look no further than the cozy relationship between Boeing, the Clintons, and the Export Import Bank.

In 2010, just months after then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton helped Boeing land a $3.7 billion deal with a Russian firm, Boeing returned the favor by contributing $900,000 to the William J. Clinton Foundation.

All of these wheels were greased, of course, with taxpayer dollars through the Export Import Bank, which helped finance Boeing's 2010 deal with Putin's state-owned holding company.

Former-President Bill Clinton has since gone to bat for the Export Import Bank, an entity that candidate-Barack Obama once called, "little more than a fund for corporate welfare."

At an Africa Business Forum this week, the former-president said, "Economics is not theology. If you're running a country, you've got to try to create an opportunity for all of your businesses to be competitive. ... That's all the Ex-Im bank does, and I've heard more ridiculous things said about the Ex-Im bank in the last six months than I have in my adult life."

What Clinton forgot to mention, other then the lucrative way that Export Import bank subsidies get funneled through Boeing and into his foundation, is that the Export Import Bank often subsidizes deals that end up hurting American businesses and killing American jobs. Just ask Delta Airlines which recently told Congress that subsidized Ex-Im financing of Boeing products hurts their bottom line.

The reality is that the Export-Import Bank does not create any net jobs. Whatever jobs it does create for the corporations it subsidizes are lost by non-subsidized businesses.

The only reason the Clintons support the Export-Import Bank is because it gives them an opportunity to graft off of the corporate welfare banks transactions.

These are exactly the type of crony capitalist deals that Americans, especially "ordinary middle class people" are sick and tired of.

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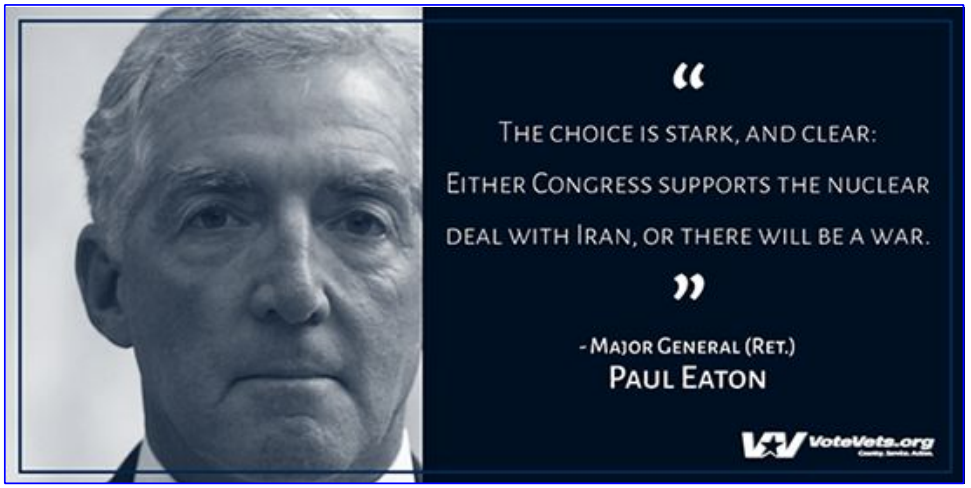
From:	"Jon Soltz, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	7/15/2015 9:14:13 AM
Subject:	[Iran] The voices of veterans and VoteVets supporters

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

I don't know if you had a chance to read the email General Eaton sent yesterday, John, but he is right: "Either Congress supports the nuclear deal with Iran, or there will be a war."

Veterans, military family members, and VoteVets' supporters have a very important voice and role to play in this debate. Make it heard.

Sign our petition urging Congress to support the agreement reached by our negotiators designed to separate Iran from their nuclear ambitions.



Thank you for adding your name.

Jon Soltz
Iraq War Veteran and Chairman
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From: "Cammie Croft" <ccroft@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "big campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 6/25/2008 7:22:15 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech on Energy Security Las Vegas, NV

Hi All,

Just off the phone with our tracker Andres who is on the ground in Las Vegas, NV today. Below are the notes from our call and a copy of McCain's full remarks.

Las Vega, NV - McCain Speech on Energy Security

Background Details:
- President of UNLV gave opening remarks
- Lieutenant Governor Brian Krolicki introduced McCain
- Room fairly small, seating room only
- Audience approximately 150-200 in size
- The event was more formal; many dressed up; older, white crowd
- Surprisingly few college students despite event being at a university
- Usual press -- national, traveling, local affiliates
- Well staffed by campaign

FULL Remarks:
LINK: http://thepage.time.com/full-remarks-of-mccains-vegas-energy-speech/

ARLINGTON, VA — U.S. Senator John McCain will deliver the following remarks as prepared for delivery in Las Vegas, NV, today at 10:30 a.m. PDT (1:30 p.m. EDT):
Thank you all very much. It's good to be here in Las Vegas, and I appreciate your inviting me to speak about America's energy problems. Some might think Vegas an unlikely setting for a discourse touching on energy conservation. And in the interest of brevity, I'll just skip the part about air conditioning and neon lighting.

Political campaigns have a way of settling on a few great questions, with little regard for the expectations of pundits, and even less concern for the carefully crafted strategies of the candidates themselves. These questions are rarely easy. Politicians usually avoid them for just that reason. And so it is good when events intrude on the familiar routine of stale soundbites, staged rallies, and over-managed messages, and turn to the concerns of the people themselves. In this election, the price and security of energy in America is one of those great questions.

It is an urgent question because the rising price of oil has brought hardship to our country, and threatens to bring much more. Gasoline at well over four dollars a gallon is bad enough all by itself, but it also affects the price of everything else. The cost of living is rising. The value of paychecks is falling. Many of our citizens can't keep up, and we need to think first of them. As a country, we find ourselves caught between the rock of slower growth and the hard place of inflation. All of this, in large part, because the price of oil is too high, the supply of oil is too uncertain, and we depend on oil too much.

Energy security is a vital question because it concerns America's most fundamental interests, and above all the safety of our citizens from the violence of the world. All the tact of diplomacy cannot conceal a blunt reality. When we buy foreign oil, we are enriching some of our worst enemies. And in the Middle East, Venezuela, and elsewhere, these regimes know how to use the power of that wealth.

In the case of Iran, despite our own sanctions, they use it to pursue nuclear weapons. They use it to threaten Israel and other democracies. Elsewhere, oil wealth allows undemocratic governments to control their own people — to crush dissent and to subjugate women. They use it to finance terrorists around the world and criminal syndicates in our own hemisphere. These are some of the most stagnant and oppressive societies on Earth, held back by oil-rich elites who would not last long if their own people had a choice in the matter. From these elites, we get the oil that fuels our productive economy. From us, they get the money that preserves their unjust power. Moreover, by relying upon oil from the Middle East, we not only provide wealth to the sponsors of terror — we provide high-value targets to the terrorists themselves. Across the world are pipelines, refineries, transit routes, and terminals for the oil we r ely on. And Al Qaeda terrorists know where they are.

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Even if these other interests were not in the balance, America would still need to follow the straightest path to energy security, because of a threat literally gathering around the Earth itself. Back when Americans first learned to associate the word "energy" with "crisis," we didn't fully understand how fossil fuel emissions retain heat within the atmosphere. We didn't know that over time these greenhouse gasses could warm the planet. We didn't know they could melt glaciers and ice sheets, or raise the waters and alter the balance that sustains life. Good stewardship, prudence, and simple common sense demand that we act to meet this challenge, act quickly, and act together.

Energy security requires unity because it is not just one issue among many — another box on the candidate questionnaire. Our country's need for a safe, clean, and affordable supply of energy is not just one more competitor for attention in Washington, one more special interest in an overcrowded field. The great issue of energy security is the sum total of so many problems that confront our nation. And it demands of us that we shake off old ways, negotiate new hazards, and make hard choices long deferred.

This is a matter that has confounded nearly twenty Congresses and seven presidents. Yet even now our energy debates carry the echoes of ten, twenty, or even thirty years ago. We hear the same calls for new energy taxes, instead of new energy production. We are offered the same agenda of inaction — that long recitation of things we cannot do, energy we cannot produce, refineries we cannot build, plants we cannot approve, coal we cannot use, technologies we cannot master. The timid litany of limitations goes on and on. And it says more about the culture of Washington than it does about the character of America.

In the same way, energy bills are debated, passed, and signed into law with little serious thought to energy reform — but never without the familiar corporate handouts and fighting over scraps of pork. Even now, some in Washington still seem to think the best plan is a direct, heartfelt appeal for Saudi sympathy, as if that conveyed anything other than weakness. In the way of new ideas, a majority of the House of Representatives actually voted in favor of suing OPEC, as if we can litigate our way to energy security.

Ladies and gentlemen, America is going to meet this great challenge, but we are not going to do it as a supplicant or as a plaintiff. We are not going to meet it with words at all. We are going to meet it with action. And we are going to meet this challenge in a way consistent with the character of our nation. Three decades of partisan paralysis on energy security is enough. Since I am not president, I cannot say the buck stops here — but I will say that it must stop now.

Should I be entrusted with the honor of that office, I will break the stalemate in Washington, and I will put this country on a course to energy security. I will authorize and support new exploration and production of America's own oil and gas reserves — because we cannot outsource the solution to America's energy problem.

Opponents of domestic production cling to their position even as the price of foreign oil has doubled and doubled again. They were against it when a gallon of gas cost two dollars. They are still against it when a gallon of gas cost well above four dollars. And we're left to wonder what it will take to shake their faith in this dogma of dependence on foreign oil. As for me, my convictions place a priority on the well-being of people who cannot afford these ever-rising prices. Every year, we are sending hundreds of billions of dollars out of the country for oil imports, much of it from OPEC, while trillions of dollars' worth of oil reserves in America go unused. As a matter of fairness, we must deal with the here and now, and assure affordable fuel for America by producing more of it ourselves.

Fairness also requires that we reform the oil futures market. We must purge the market of the reckless speculation, unrelated to any kind of productive commerce, that has inflated the price of gasoline — at the expense of working men and women across our country. With new regulations, I intend to assure integrity in oil-futures trading, and to protect the public interest.

The need for more production extends as well to another long-neglected source of energy, and that is nuclear power. Here, too, opposition to this clean and proven technology has more to do politics than with the merits. The experience of nations across Europe and Asia has shown that nuclear energy is efficient. It is safe, it is proven, and it is essential to America's energy future.

Therefore, if I am elected president, I will set this nation on a course to building 45 new reactors by the year 2030. And I will set the goal of 100 new plants to power the homes and factories and cities of America. This task will be as difficult as it is necessary. We will need to recover all the knowledge and skills that have been lost over three stagnant decades in a highly technical field. As Nevadans are well aware, we will need to solve complex

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problems of moving and storing materials that will always need safeguarding. We will need to do all of these things, and do them right, as we have done great things before.

Perhaps no achievement would do more to secure our energy future than the mastery of clean-coal technology. From Wyoming to West Virginia, America's coal resources are greater than the oil riches of any kingdom of the Middle East. Burning coal cleanly is a challenge of practical problem-solving and human ingenuity — and we have no shortage of those in America either. So, as president, I will commit two billion dollars each year, until 2024, to clean-coal research, development, and deployment. We will build the demonstration plants. We will refine the techniques and equipment. We will deliver not only electricity but jobs to some of the areas hardest hit by our economic troubles. And in the end, we will make clean coal a reality.

The strategy here is to produce more, use less, and invent new ways of doing both. And inventing new ways is what we Americans do. What we need most right now is better and faster innovation in the cars and trucks we drive. And government policy is supposed to serve this purpose. Yet the highest fuel efficiency standards are useless if violations incur no serious penalty. Incentives for the purchase of fuel-efficient cars are too often the handiwork of lobbyists, with all the inconsistency and irrationality that involves. Support for corn-based ethanol has been a case study in the law of unintended consequences, distorting food markets through cropland competition, and depriving America of better and cheaper alternative fuels.

In each case, our government has sought the right objectives, but often with bad execution. And this failure of leadership must end. Standards in fuel efficiency serve a great national goal, and in my administration the penalties will assure compliance. In place of the current patchwork of incentives and credits for hybrids and other carbon-cutting vehicles, we will issue a Clean Car Challenge to the automakers of America, in the form of a single and substantial tax credit to buyers based on the reduction of carbon emissions. For every automaker who can sell a zero-emissions car, we will commit a 5,000 dollar tax credit to each and every customer who buys that car. For other vehicles, whatever type they may be, the lower the carbon emissions, the higher the tax credit.

Instead of playing favorites among the lobbyists, our government must also level the playing field for all alcohol fuels that break the monopoly of gasoline, to lower both gasoline prices and carbon emissions. This can be done with a simple federal standard to hasten the conversion of all new vehicles in America to flex-fuel technology — allowing drivers to use alcohol fuels instead of gas in their cars. Whether it takes a meeting with automakers during my first month in office, or my signature on an act of Congress, we will meet the goal of a swift conversion of American vehicles away from oil.

At the same time, we must not overlook the possibility that one day our cars can run without burning liquid fuels at all. Instead, cars can run on battery power alone, or as plug-in hybrids using both liquids and electricity. Some talented engineers are on the case, but this is a national priority and we must give it national focus. To add urgency to the mission, we will offer a prize of 300 million dollars — a dollar for every citizen — to the creator of a battery package of a size, capacity, cost, and power far surpassing existing technology. In the quest for alternatives to oil, our government has thrown around enough money subsidizing special interests and excusing failure. From now on, we will encourage heroic efforts in engineering, and we will reward the greatest success.

At this moment, some of the best minds in our country are also at work discovering or perfecting alternative technologies. They are not tilting at windmills — they're building them. They are capturing the boundless powers of the sun, the tides, the mighty rivers, and the warmth of the Earth itself. Yet for all the good work of entrepreneurs and inventors in finding cleaner and better technologies, the fundamental incentives of the market are still on the side of carbon-based energy.

Even with oil running at about 140 dollars per barrel, these new alternatives have yet to take the place of oil in our economy for two basic reasons: our infrastructure is outdated and our production capacity has been constrained. And this has to change as we can make the great turn away from fossil fuels. To lead in this effort, our government must strike at the source of the problem — with reforms that only Congress can enact and the president can sign.

We must do this in a way that gives American businesses new incentives and new rewards to seek, instead of just giving them new taxes to pay and new orders to follow. The most direct way to achieve this is through a system that sets clear limits on all greenhouse gases, while also allowing the sale of rights to excess emissions. And this is the proposal I will submit to the Congress if I am elected president — a cap-and-trade system to change the dynamic of our energy economy.

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For all of the last century, the profit motive basically led in one direction toward machines, methods, and industries that used oil and gas. Enormous good came from that industrial growth, and we are all the beneficiaries of the national prosperity it built. But there were costs we weren't counting, and these have added up now, in the atmosphere, in the oceans, and all across the natural world. And what better way to correct past errors than to turn the creative energies of the free market in the other direction?

Under the cap-and-trade system, this can happen. In all its power, the profit motive will suddenly begin to shift and point the other way toward cleaner fuels, wiser ways, and a healthier planet. As never before, the market would reward any person or company that seeks to invent, improve, or acquire alternatives to carbon-based energy. It is very hard to picture venture capitalists, corporate planners, small businesses and environmentalists all working to the same good purpose. But such cooperation is actually possible, and this reform will set it in motion.

My friends, America's dependence on foreign oil was a troubling situation 35 years ago. It was an alarming situation twenty years ago. It is a dangerous situation today. And starting in the term of the next president, we must take control over our own energy future, and become once again the master of our fate.

In recent days I have set before the American people an energy plan, the Lexington Project — named for the town where Americans asserted their independence once before. And let it begin today with this commitment: In a world of hostile and unstable suppliers of oil, this nation will achieve strategic independence by 2025.

This pledge is addressed to all concerned — to those abroad whose power flows from an accident of geology, and to you, my fellow Americans, whose strength proceeds from unity of purpose. Together, we will break the power of OPEC over the United States. And never again will we leave our vital interests at the mercy of any foreign power.

Some will say this goal is unattainable within that relatively short span of years — it's too hard and we need more time. Let me remind them that in the space of half that time — about eight years — this nation conceived and carried out a plan to take three Americans to the Moon and bring them safely home. In less than a third of that time, the gathered energies of my father's generation built the industrial might that overcame Nazi Germany and imperial Japan. That is the scale of our achievement when we set our minds to a task. That is what this country can do when we see a danger, and declare a purpose, and find the will to act.

As president, I will turn all the apparatus of government in the direction of energy independence for our country — authorizing new production, building nuclear plants, perfecting clean coal, improving our electricity grid, and supporting all the new technologies that one day will put the age of fossil fuels behind us. Much will be asked of industry as well, as automakers and others adapt to this great turn toward new sources of power. And a great deal will depend on each one of us, as we learn to make smarter use of energy, and also to draw on the best ideas of both parties, and work together for the common good.

This Project is not a plan calibrated to please every interest group or to meet every objection. That is how we arrived to our present predicament. That is how energy policy in Washington became a long list of subjects avoided, options ruled out, and possibilities foreclosed. Nor can I promise you that the long-term success of this Project will bring instant relief. In the mission of energy security, some tasks are the work of decades and some the work of years. And they will take all the will and resolve of which we are capable. But I can promise you this. Unless we begin this mission now, nothing will change at all, except for the worse. And when we succeed in the hard reform ahead, your children will live in a more prosperous country, in a more peaceful world.

This is a test of foresight, of political courage, and of the unselfish concern that one generation owes to the next. It is a test of our nation's ability to deal with serious matters in a serious way. It is even a test of America's character, of our capacity to respond to pressure and to overcome adversity. Americans don't hide from history or acquiesce in playing its victims. We make history, and we make the future better than the past. In my life I have seen the character of Americans tested, and tested in the most extreme circumstances, and I never doubt that Americans can do hard things and do them right. That is what is asked of us right now, once again, and together we will see the mission through. Thank you.

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Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com> "Karen Finney" <finneyk8@yahoo.com> "Josh Schwerin" <joshschwerin@gmail.com> "Jesse Ferguson" <jesse@jesseferguson.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> "Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@gpg.com> "Adrienne Elrod" <adrienne.elrod@gmail.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hrcoffice.com> "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Amanda Renteria" <amandarenteria@gmail.com> "Marlon Marshall" <marlondmarshall@gmail.com> "Katie Dowd" <katie.w.dowd@gmail.com> "Teddy Goff" <teddy.goff@gmail.com> "Lona Valmoro" <lvalmoro@hrcoffice.com> "Harrell Kirstein" <hkirstein@hillaryclinton.com> "Tyrone Gayle" <tgayle@hillaryclinton.com> "Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com> "Alex Hornbrook" <ahornbrook@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/20/2015 11:11:58 AM
Subject:	Re: NH | Day 1

House party was good. She gave good remarks, people were murmuring about how good she was in such a scenario, and she stayed for 92 minutes, so had a lot of good conversation. Chozick of the NYT, James Pindell of the Boston Globe, and Nancy Cavanaugh of the Eagle Times (local paper) joined to listen to remarks.

All went well.

It was also a good reminder that wall paper is still very much a thing in parts of America.

Ert to Concord now. No more press with us today.

On Apr 20, 2015, at 3:34 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Just departed the baby furniture factory. She did the tour, which will have lots of great images come out of it, and while press couldn't hear her on the tour itself, she referenced what she talked about in the round table a few times, including a comment about all the machines being from other countries at the top.

The round table itself was another natural, substantive conversation on a range of issues, from drug use among young people to the need for a return to vocational training to capital gains taxes and spurring small business growth. A note that she hit hedge fund managers again for not paying their fair share in taxes.

She did very well in the opening, did the four fights, talked about our need to make the middle class mean something again, and did it

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with little to no looking at her notes sounding very natural.

At the end she chatted with the participants and then walked over to shake hands with the guests there. After some brief conversations she doubled back to the center to take some questions. The first question was about Clinton Cash and she did quite well with it, used our line about Republicans being focused on her and her being focused on the issues.

WMUR asked her 2 questions, one about staged events which she handled well, said she was hear to talk to people and doing this how she wanted to do it. The other question was a redux of the Clinton Cash question.

Will send a transcript this afternoon. Headed to Claremont now.

On Apr 20, 2015, at 1:33 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Departed Kristin's Bakery, headed to the message event. She ordered a black tea and worked the room. Sat for about 20 minutes at one of the tables.

On Apr 20, 2015, at 9:53 AM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Road trip had commenced.

Will send event updates here.

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From: "Andrew Schwartz" <externalrelations@csis.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 10/6/2015 2:27:50 PM
Subject: Brzezinski: Russia must work with, not against, America in Syria

To ensure receipt of our email, please add us to your safe senders list

CSIS | CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Dear Colleague,

As we watch the crisis in Syria spiral further out of control, the world is asking questions of the United States and how it can lead in such a complex region. In this weekend's *Financial Times,* CSIS Trustee, Counselor and former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski penned one of the most thoughtful pieces you will read on the crisis in Syria, Russia's involvement, and the need for "strategic boldness" on the part of the United States. As always, his insight is original and thought provoking. Read his piece here.

And in case you haven't seen it yet, check out "Brzezinski on the World " a new video series that explores solutions to today's global challenges in interviews with Dr. Brzezinski himself. The latest episode, On Global Politics , premiered today.

I always welcome your feedback,
Andrew

H. Andrew Schwartz
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From:	"Maura Pally" <maura.pally@gmail.com>
To:	"Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Heather Samuelson" <heather.samuelson@gmail.com> "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	7/3/2015 3:18:39 AM
Subject:	Grassley letter
Attachments:	270203826-Senator-Demands-Lynch-Look-Into-Clinton-Ties-to-Shady-Uranium-...[2].pdf

Putting on all of your radars that Grassley sent a letter to AG Lynch (dated June 30th though we just saw it) asking questions about contributions to the Clinton Foundation and the Uranium One deal. Letter is attached. Craig is connecting with comms team to be sure they are aware as well.

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/24/2008 6:50:32 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 08/24/08

Main Topics: Joebama ticket, McHouses, 'Passed Over'

Summary of Shift: Now that we know Obama's VP selection, pundits speculate over how the Obiden ticket will influence McCain's selection. Extremists rally in Denver to push the party further to the left for the elections. ACORN may have falsified voter registration forms in NV and may possibly face criminal charges. Pundits discuss the new McCain ads with democrats seemingly criticizing Obama and note the Clinton ad is released at 3am.
Fay, even as a 'tropical depression' continues to receive coverage. A Cuban Takewondo Olympian kicks a ref in the face for a disputed decision, receives lifetime ban from the sport. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei praises Ahmadinej ad, saying, 'Adopting an aggressive spirit against world bullies is a sign of the government's loyalty.'

Highlights:
1) Surrogates respond to housing and Biden
   a. ABC: Giuliani stresses that McCain is an ordinary American
   b. CNN: Pawlenty says Obama should be less self-righteous
   c. MSNBC: Porritt pushes the maverick label
   d. MSNBC: Benton claims no McCain opponent has challenged him on qualifications
2) MSNBC: Talking heads wonder weigh in on 'Passed Over'ad

No Clips:
1) CBS - CLARENCE PAGE: "McCain has scored some gains in the polls during that period in which he's been sniping at Obama for being too much of a celebrity while at the same time saying Obama's not well known enough. It's a weird argument but it works."

Clips w/ Labels and Transcriptions:
Highlight#1
Giuliani Sees No Distinction Between One Million-Dollar House and Many (ABC 08/24/08 10:16am)
RUDY GIULIANI: I welcome Joe to the whole effort again. Joe is a friend of mine. He's someone I've known for many years; worked with him when I was in the Justice Department; worked with him on the crime bill, and have great respect for him.

I think this is a problem for Senator Obama, more than anything else, not Joe Biden. I mean Senator Obama has made a choice more out of weakness than strength. It's quite clear, from all of the commentaries, all the things I've heard from democrats, in particular the strong choice would have been Hillary Clinton. The obvious choice would have been Hillary Clinton.

She had 50% of the democratic vote. Obama has 50% of the democratic vote. You almost have to go to extraordinary lengths to avoid her as the vice presidential pick of the party and it seems, to me, that, for whatever reason, that hasn't that been explained a choice was made out of weakness than strength. Don't go at your strongest candidate and then go with a candidate that actually emphasizes all your weaknesses and has been quite vocal about them.

I mean it's Joe Biden who says that [...] to you. I have seen that clip, I think, 100 times between today and yesterday of you asking him whether he was qualified—whether Obama was qualified for being president and Biden was quite clear he didn't believe he was qualified to be president of the United States; not experienced enough.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: [...] Why isn't it toughness to say, 'No,' to Senator Clinton even though she had all that support?

GIULIANI: I think it's actually weakness, isn't it? Is it tough to turn down the person who gives you the best

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chance to win because it unites your party, or is it some kind of difficulty in dealing with one of your rivals? Honestly, I'm speculating, I don't know.

The only facts I have, George, are the ones that you have. Senator Obama had 50% of the democratic vote. Senator Clinton has 50% of the democratic vote. It's kind of a no-brainer that that's your ticket and now some other ticket, whether it was Biden, Bayh, or Kaine, some of the others that were out there. That all is a way of…this is—the story here is more: the Obama-not-Clinton ticket. Why?

STEPHANOPOULOS: Senator Biden was very—wasn't shy yesterday, at all, about getting into the debate of the week and hear David Axelrod talk about Senator McCain's houses as well. Here's Senator Biden yesterday.

BIDEN: You talk about how much you're worried about being able to pay the bills. That's not a worry John McCain has to worry about. It's a pretty hard experience. He'll have to figure out which of the seven kitchen tables to sit at.

STEPHANOPOULOS: They clearly think they struck a nerve here.

GIULIANI: They do, but they both live in million dollar homes. So, you know—what is that about – people that live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Senator Obama has one.

GIULIANI: I don't know, $1 million house, 2, 3, 4? You're not in a position to point at other people when you're in that 1% of America, in terms of—I mean how many people live in $1 million homes? They both do.

This is not going to be, I think a fruitful way of going about it. It's not the new politics that Senator Obama was talking about. The thing that made Senator Obama popular was change and new politics. Now he selects a 35-year veteran of the senate, a Washington insider.

Certainly not change by anybody's definition and he's engaging in the same kind of political negative attacks that everybody else ever engaged in and trying to paint this as a new campaign. George, it simply isn't a new campaign. In fact t his is the reason why he's underperforming in his party.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But, Mayor, presumably, you know how many homes you have. Don't you think this will resonate with voters struggling to get by. Doesn't it worry you at all?

GIULIANI: No, no, no. You know why? Because I know John so well. One thing—there are certain stereotypes that work in attacks on candidates and others that don't.

Trying to convince the American people John McCain is not a regular guy isn't going to work. Now he's a good friend of mine. I know him in ways the American people are just getting to know him. I've been at baseball games with him, football games with him. We've talked sports. We've talked lots of things. We've gone out together. this is a regular guy that almost any American could relate to.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Okay. Mayor Giuliani, the McCain team has been sounding out party leaders about the prospect of picking a pro-choice running mate as you know and this has met a pretty violent reaction from many conservatives including Rush Limbaugh, take a listen.

RUSH LIMBAUGH: He's gonna hurt himself by putting a liberal republican on the ticket—particularly pro-choice. If they do that, if the McCain camp does that, they will have effectively destroyed the Republican Party and pushed the conservative movement into the bleachers.

STEPHANOPOULOS: There already is an enthusiasm gap among the republicans, as you know. Are you worried a pro-choice running mate would suppress the base?

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GIULIANI: No. What I want John to select is the best possible candidate, and I think John has such a strong record on being pro-life, 100%, as far as I can tell. From the very beginning, the first moment he got into politics, you couldn't have a candidate with a stronger record on pro-life. You couldn't have a candidate that's more committed to appointing judges like Roberts, like Scalia, like the judges who have been appointed by—Alito. I mean these are judges that Biden voted against. These are judges that, in some cases, he wasn't in the senate that presumably Obama would vote against.

Those are things that bring conservatives around, and, of course, he'll select a conservative. John is a conservative. He always has been, but I think he's not going to get down to a one-issue situation. Nobody is at 100% […]. You can pretty much vet me in 15 minutes by Googling me.

Pawlenty on McCain's Opulence: 'Give Me a Break' (CNN 08/24/08 11:15am)
TIM PAWLENTY: Well, of course, Pennsylvania is a swing state. I'm campaigning for Senator McCain here and Ohio the next couple of days but we're in Allentown this morning.

WOLF BLITZER: Are you ready to debate a native son of Scranton, Pennsylvania, that would be Joe Biden, the senior senator from Delaware?

PAWLENTY: Well, John McCain is I'm sure going to make a great pick for vice president. We'll know who that is soon. Whoever it is I think will have a better record for Pennsylvania and America than Barack Obama and Joe Biden and, by the way, I think we should listen to Joe Biden when he said Barack Obama is not ready to be President of the United States and Hillary Clinton said much the same. If I was a Hillary Clinton supporter this morning I'd be scratching my head.

BLITZER: But she issued a statement praising the selection of Joe Biden as the vice presidential running mate. She and Joe Biden are very close and thinks like a lot of other folks he'll bring some gravitas and national security experience, foreign policy experience to the ticket.

PAWLENTY: Well, I think the selection of Joe Biden really is an admission or an acknowledgement that Barack Obama did not have that experience or credentials as Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and Evan Bayh and others said about Barack Obama so we should listen to him. I don't think he's ready to be president and when you're commander in chief you shouldn't have to select a mentor to help with you that role.

BLITZER: But he is a formidable debater and a very good talker, Joe Biden. Let me get back to that initial question. Whether or not you're going to be John McCain's running mate and we know you're high up there on the list, on the short list, do you feel that you would be ready to go one on one with Joe Biden in that kind of a debate?

PAWLENTY: I think if you look at Joe Biden he's somebody who is very long winded. I don't address the VP questions, but I think any of the people that Senator McCain is thinking about for vice president would be more than hold their own against Senator Biden [sic].

BLITZER: We know that John McCain has a lot of national and foreign policy experience, but what about you? What would you bring to the table on that issue?

PAWLENTY: Wolf, I just don't talk about the VP speculation anymore, whether you're John McCain or anybody else who is running for president. What you're looking for somebody who can step in and be president of the United States. Number two, you want someone who shares your overall direction and vision and values for the country and, number three, I hope there will be some chemistry in terms of issues and geography and the synergy between the two individuals. I think those are some of the characteristics or the dynamics that senator McCain will be looking at.

BLITZER: We'll move on to something else, but do you believe that you will be ready, God forbid, if necessary, to step up and be President of the United States?

PAWLENTY: [chuckles] John McCain is going to pick somebody with that as a first criteria so whoever he picks,

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that person will be ready to be President of the United States.

BLITZER: Joe Biden and John McCain have been friends in the senate for a long time, more than 20 years, but listen to what he said, Biden yesterday, at that joint event in Springfield, Illinois.

JOE BIDEN: I've been disappointed in my friend John McCain who gave into the right wing of his party and yielded to the very swift boat politics that he once so deplored.

BLITZER: All right, you want to respond because there's a lot of concern that John McCain, at least, on the democrat—on the part of the democrats, that he's moving towards that kind of negative politics, something you don't like personally, I know that.

PAWLENTY: Well, when you see the difference between John McCain and Barack Obama, it's not even a close call and as people move into the fall and get serious about finalizing their decision about president of the United States I think it's fair to give them information about the records, the values, the perspectives of these two candidates.

I'm here in Pennsylvania and when Barack Obama said in San Francisco that people turn to gods and guns because they are bitter and even mentioned Pennsylvania as an example of that type of attitude, it reflects a serious miscalculation and misunderstanding of traditional and important American values and perspectives about the second amendment and faith and bringing those kinds of issues forward, comparing and contrasting the candidates, is fair game, Wolf.

BLITZER: The other day in that interview with politico.com Senator McCain couldn't say exactly how many houses he and his wife Cindy McCain own and Obama wasted no time in saying this on Thursday. Listen to this.

BARACK OBAMA: If you think that being rich means you've got to make $5 million and if you don't know how many houses you have, then it's not surprising that you might think the economy was fundamentally strong.

BLITZER: […] What do you say to that charge that John McCain is simply out of touch with mainstream middle class working America?

PAWLENTY: Give me a break. John McCain is the one out there saying we've got to bring down energy prices and drilling offshore, by using nuclear energy, by having a gas tax holiday—Barack Obama opposes all that. Those are mainstream pocketbook issues that John McCain has been all over and Barack Obama has said no to. On the housing issue, give me a break.

Barack Obama made over $4 million last year. He's got a million dollar home that he had some dealings with a shady character to get it. He's got his own housing issues and, for him to bring this up, he should be careful about being so self-righteous about it because he's got his own issues when it comes to housing.

Porritt Discusses the Republican's DNC Plans (MSNBC 08/24/08 9:25am)
CHRIS JANSING: So what big names are we going to see there on the Republican side?

BEN PORRITT: We'll you're going see a variety of names, governors, senators. Gov. Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty will be out there. We'll also have a presence with Senator John McCain continuing to go on the campaign trail and really highlight the questions that differentiate these two candidates. But we'll have a presence there. And we just want to pose the questions of leadership and inexperience of Barack Obama.

JANSING: So as I understand it, you'll have people, like you said, Mitt Romney, Governor Pawlenty, I understand Rudy Giuliani is scheduled to be there as well. Working . . . within walking distance of the convention site. You might say it's smart strategy. Some other people might say it's really not the way the game should be played. They get their week, then you get the next week. Is there a fine line that you have to sort of walk with this kind of counterinsurgency?

PORRITT: Well, rapid response never sleeps in politics but I think more importantly this is a great opportunity for us to contrast the two candidates that we have. Barack Obama is posing himself as the next president of the

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United States. And the truth is, is that we don't feel he's ready. He lacks the leadership. He lacks the credentials. And on the other side John McCain has been ready for this his entire life. He's put the country first, he's served the country and when it comes to the very basic question of who is ready to be the next commander in chief, the answer is John McCain.

JANSING: So that is clearly going to be your key talking point, is the question of experience. Would you expect the democrats to be doing the same thing when you start your convention the next week?

PORRITT: Well, if that's the debate they want to have: of experience versus inexperience, that is a great topic for us. John McCain has served his country his entire life. And Barack Obama has a weak record, he has a weak record on the econ—

JANSING: You know what their response is. You know their response is yes, he has a record, but his record is to support many of the policies of George Bush who has the lowest approval ratings in the history of polling in terms of the presidency.

PORRITT: Well, John McCain is a maverick. He's based his entire career on being a maverick. He challenged President Bush in the 2000 election, he's challenged President Bush on being a financial, uh, fiscal conservative. The attack there that this is a McCain and Bush just doesn't hold water. And the truth is, is that these are more old policies of the past brought to you by a new face in the Democrat Party in Barack Obama.

Cyrstal Benton On Biden's Selection and McCain Campaign's Response (MSNBC 10:29am)
CHRIS JANSING: Let me get the McCain reaction to Joe Biden as the running mate for Barack Obama.

CRYSTAL BENTON: . . . the selection of Joe Biden, as Barack Obama's running mate is revealing. It's an admission by his campaign that Barack Obama doesn't have the judgment or experience to lead from day one. Barack Obama's campaign would have the American people believe that that 3:00 a.m. call is a conference call and that's simply not the case. There's one president and this November, voters will go to the polls and select the candidate with the experience and a proven record of putting this country's interest first, and that man is John McCain.

JANSING: Joe Biden wasted no time in attacking John McCain yesterday . . .

JOE BIDEN: You talk about how much you're worried about being able to pay the bills. Well, ladies and gentlemen, that's not a worry John McCain has to worry about. It's a pretty hard experience. He'll have to figure out which of the seven kitchen tables to sit at.

JANSING: Clear, the Democrats are going to paint John McCain as somebody who is out of touch with the concerns and problems of middle class America. We know we can look at the polls and see that this is going to be an election about pocketbook issues. What's your response to what is clearly the first in a series of talking points about the economy from the Democrats?

BENTON: Sure. Well, Chris, we're confident that Joe Biden is going to continue to be an attack dog on the trail. We saw throughout the Democratic primary election as he attacked Barack Obama on whether or not he was ready to lead. John McCain is ready to take office and lead on the critical issues that hard-working American families face—

JANSING: But is John McCain likely to be able to pick a vice presidential running mate that hasn't done exactly the same thing? You could probably pull any Republican debate and take almost any of these other candidates and hear him speak negatively about John McCain, and, yet, still be in the running for vice president.,

BENTON: Sure, Chris. There's a difference, though, between debating parts of policy and questioning whether or not somebody has the experience and characteristics that our country needs in a leader in these challenging times. None of John McCain's opponents challenged whether or not he was ready to lead our country on critical issues, and we'll make sure to pick a vice president who shares John McCain's values and will be ready to take office should they have to.

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JANSING: I don't think that that's necessarily true. I think if you look back at the debates, which, obviously, among the Democrats were focused on the Democrats, but there's a lot of concern certainly among the democratic party about John McCain's stand on the war and they went after it significantly in the debates, and even though it may not, again, be the number one point of contention, how much of an issue is this going to be and how difficult is in a going to be for John McCain to separate himself on the war from George Bush?

BENTON: John McCain was a leading advocate in the changing strategy and the troop surge in the war in Iraq. He stood up against his party and against President Bush in pushing for those policy changes. Like our ad we put out this morning from Hillary Clinton made clear, Hillary Clinton had her doubts about whether or not Barack Obama was ready for that 3:00 a.m. phone call. She challenged him on it, and she took him to the mat on it throughout the primary giving him some straight talk about whether or not he was ready to lead, and we'll continue to draw that contrast throughout the election.

JANSING: There is going to be, obviously, debates between the presidential candidates but also debates between the vice presidential candidates, and there are suggestions that now the McCain campaign needs to really consider who they're going to be put up against Joe Biden, arguably, a strong debater who did very well even though his campaign ended very early. He did well in the debates. Is there going to be a shift in the way that John McCain now looks at who his vice presidential running mate is going to be based on the selection of Joe Biden?

BENTON: John McCain will continue to consider people who share his principles and who are ready to step into the role of the presidency. We have a lot of strong supporters, and a lot of qualified people to choose from that would be well matched against Senator Obama and ultimately the debates that everybody will be tuned into are the ones between John McCain and Barack Obama. We'd hoped to give them a preview in town hall meetings across the country, but Barack Obama wouldn't meet our challenge.

Highlight #2
Will McCain's "Passed Over" Ad Work? (MSNBC 08/24/08 10:37am)
CHRIS JANSING: The McCain camp has responded to Obama's vice presidential choice quickly. This morning, another new TV ad called "Passed Over" . . .

["Passed Over" plays]

JANSING: . . . does this ad concern you? Using Hillary Clinton in this way?

CHRIS KOFFINIS: No, it doesn't concern me. The reality here is that John McCain is running an increasingly negative campaign. There isn't an American . . . in the entire country that can point to one issue or one policy that he ever talks about. All he does is attack, attack, attack . . .

JANSING: Is it working? . . .

KOFFINIS: . . . at the end of the day this race I think is going to start after both conventions . . . the problem is for John McCain, look at his own advisors like John Weaver, Mike Murphy. When you run an increasingly negative campaign, it hurst your brand . . . that is the thing that's going to hurt his candidacy . . .

JANSING: Let's talk about those Hillary Clinton voters . . . there is a question about how many of them will stick with Barack Obama but do you really believe that when push comes to shove and you look at the policies of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton versus the policies of John McCain, that those Hillary Clinton supporters are likely to go over to the other side?

CHERI JACOBUS: I think that there's a good chance that John McCain is going to get an awful lot of them and . . . this is not an attack machine on the part of the Republicans. These are the actual words out of the mouths of Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. Joe Biden has said that Barack Obama isn't qualified, isn't ready to be president and he stood by those words and he changed his mind yesterday. And basically you choose a vice presidential running mate, somebody who's ready to be president on day one but the real question is Barack Obama ready to be president on day one? That was a question that Hillary Clinton had during the primary campaign and people responded to that. That's still a question that dogs Barack Obama. Joe Biden said this. He didn't say it

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about Hillary Clinton when she was running in the primary, he didn't say, question the credentials of John Edwards. He didn't even say it about Dennis Kucinich. Joe Biden said this about Barack Obama, his words. This ad now is about Hillary's words. This is not a Republican attack machine. So this gives voters a lot to think about . . .

[. . .]

JACOBUS: The problem for Barack Obama is that he has not talked about the issues. John McCain and Republicans have been talking about the issues all along . . . he talks about change and doesn't fill in the blanks. John McCain has already been an agent of change. He was a key player in terms of changing the war . . .

KOFFINIS: . . . if you mean by agent of change, changing his mind, you're absolutely correct . . .

[. . .]

KOFFINIS: . . . the John McCain of 2000 would not vote for the John McCain of 2008, he has changed his mind on issue after issue, whether it was tax cuts, drilling, social security, he does it over and over. He's done that to appease a right wing base. I understand that. But to pretend somehow that he's this true maverick independent, you're living in a fantasy land.

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Fariba Yassaee" <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 8/18/2015 4:30:53 PM
Subject: Re: Albright: Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq

Hi John,
Thanks for the message. I'll pass it on immediately.
Not sure if you have our numbers at the new office (since March). I'm at 202-759-5156 and main line is 202-759-5100. Feel free to call my cell anytime too - 201-739-7272.
Hope you and your family are enjoying some downtime this summer. At least some!
Best, Fariba

On Aug 18, 2015, at 7:26 PM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com > wrote:

> Fariba,
> I tried calling but maybe you changed your main line. Will you tell Madeleine I loved her op-ed and so did my current boss!
> John
>
> On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Fariba Yassaee <fyassaee@albrightstonebridge.com > wrote:
> > All, pasted below and at link is a piece Madeleine wrote in response to Jeb Bush's position on Iraq.
> >
> > http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#.VdJv8oKCOnM
> >
> > IN THE ARENA
> > Another Bush Gets It Wrong on Iraq
> > By MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
> >
> > August 17, 2015
> > Since leaving office, I have come to a détente with many of my Republican friends, agreeing not to keep rehashing mistakes of the past and to instead focus on the future of America's foreign policy. However, Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush's brazen attempts to rewrite history in a series of campaign appearances last week cannot go unchallenged. By blaming President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton for the rise of ISIL, Governor Bush is clearly seeking to absolve his brother's administration of responsibility for today's problems in Iraq. This argument may serve Governor Bush's political interests, but it does a disservice to the truth
> >
> > No honest discussion of the situation today in Iraq can brush aside the mistakes that were made by the Bush administration during the invasion and its aftermath, much of it based on faulty intelligence and flawed assumptions. They sent too few troops to secure the country. They replaced a government that was a sworn enemy of Iran with one that had close ties to the mullahs. They disbanded the Iraqi Army and dismissed thousands of Sunni officers, who soon launched a violent insurgency.
> > None of these facts were acknowledged by Governor Bush in his speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library or in his recent campaign appearances in Iowa, because they undermine his attempts at blame shifting.
> >
> > According to Bush's emerging narrative, the fatal U.S. error in Iraq was the withdrawal of our troops on

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December 31, 2011. If that is the case, then the error was made by President George W. Bush, who negotiated that withdrawal date in a binding agreement reached with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in 2008. The Obama administration sought to extend the mission for U.S. troops, and by all accounts Secretary Clinton strongly supported such a residual presence. But Prime Minister Maliki refused to give U.S. troops immunity from prosecution—and the administration wisely decided not to put U.S. troops at risk to support a government that did not want them there any longer.

It is these circumstances that Governor Bush believes led to the rise of ISIL, but once again, he is only telling part of the story. ISIL, which emerged from al Qaeda in Iraq, was established in 2003 in the chaos that followed the invasion. AQI became a magnet for disaffected Sunnis and remnants of Saddam Hussein's army, who still help lead ISIL.

No one, Democrat or Republican, would claim that all is going well in the Middle East today. The Obama administration has certainly made mistakes, and the Bush administration did not do everything wrong. We should also not fall into the trap of assuming everything is America's fault. Sectarian Iraqi leaders, the Assad regime in Syria and malign Iranian influence also bear responsibility for the tremendous problems facing the region.

Still, the United States has been and will be an important force in the Middle East. Our country does not need a backward-looking partisan fight over our policy in the region. Instead, we should be having a substantive, forward-looking discussion about the kind of role we can play in bringing stability to a critical part of the world.

To his credit, Governor Bush did present some ideas for how his administration would deal with Iraq. While his rhetoric has been lofty, and his criticism of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton has been sharp, the policies he proposes look remarkably similar to what the administration is already doing—supporting the Iraqi military in their fight against ISIL. The areas where he appears to differ are his willingness to put more U.S. lives at risk by sending troops into combat, and his unwillingness to rule out waterboarding in interrogations.

Governor Bush also spoke of the importance of alliances, but his rhetoric and proposed actions would jeopardize these important sources of strength. Nothing would infuriate our European allies more than Governor Bush's plan to break away from the nuclear agreement with Iran that they spent years negotiating alongside us. Similarly, Governor Bush made a point of using the term "Islamic terrorists," a phrase that our allies in the Arab world have pressed us not to use because it feeds the false narrative that we are at war with a religion.

Words matter in the world of diplomacy, and so does leadership. The reputation of the United States was severely damaged during President' Bush's administration. Today, America's place in the world is far stronger than it was in 2009 thanks to the leadership of President Obama and former Secretary Clinton. They renewed alliances, relentlessly pursued our terrorist enemies, and forged international coalitions on Iran sanctions and on the fight against climate change. That's a laudable record of achievement—one that needs no re-writes.

In the months ahead, I would encourage Mr. Bush to be a true student of foreign policy rather than a hurler of political potshots. The United States cannot afford another President Bush who blinds himself to global reality and who forges ahead into chaos. Americans deserve a president who will acknowledge the past and will forge a better future.

Read more: http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/08/another-bush-gets-it-wrong-on-iraq-121435.html#ixzz3j7jyKZKa

Fariba Yassaee | Vice President
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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org
Date:	11/8/2014 5:30:22 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Saturday November 8, 2014 Roundup



Correct The Record Saturday November 8, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

MSNBC: “Hillary Clinton’s message comes into focus”

“While her speeches were tailored to the candidates she came to support and the politics of each state, a core set of themes began to emerge, according to a memo from Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton outside group managed by former staffers that has been defending the former secretary of state in the absence of an official campaign.”

MSNBC: “RNC chair: I ‘hope we’re running against Hillary Clinton’”

“Clinton defenders aren’t worried by Priebus’ talk, however, said Adrienne Elrod of the main group defending her, Correct the Record. ‘We agree with Reince – we hope she runs too! And Reince should be careful what he and the GOP wish for – 83% of Democrats think Hillary would make a good president, according to exit polls from Tuesday. Hillary Clinton’s overwhelming, across-the-board popularity and admiration among Americans is a result of her vision to strengthen the middle class, increase opportunities for women, and ensure a better future for Americans from all walks of life,’ Elrod said.”

Politico Magazine: “Hillary’s Wonderful Week”

“Let’s say it straight out: The biggest winner of the week was Hillary Clinton. I’m a passionate conservative and former speechwriter for George W. Bush, and I don’t like that conclusion one bit. But there it is.”

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Bloomberg: “Obama Needs a Democratic Successor for Legacy, Aide Says”

“President Barack Obama’s legacy could be damaged if he’s not succeeded by a fellow Democrat, White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said today.”

Washington Post: “Ready for Hillary events drawing some prominent pols in O’Malley’s home state”

“As Gov. Martin O’Malley (D) weighs a 2016 presidential bid, a raft of other prominent Maryland politicians are booked to attend a pair of fundraisers next month for a group laying the groundwork for Hillary Rodham Clinton to run.”

The Hill blog: In The Know: “'Star Trek's George Takei: I'd 'absolutely' back Clinton”

“If Hillary Clinton decides to make a second run for president, she can count on Captain Sulu among her supporters: ‘Star Trek’ star George Takei says he’s firmly on Team Hillary.”

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Sanders: Obama, Dems need new message”

“Asked to assess Hillary Clinton’s biggest weakness, the liberal lawmaker [Sen. Sanders] responded, ‘I’m not here to attack Hillary Clinton.’”

CNN: “2014: Did Hillary Clinton get her groove back despite Democrats' loss?”

“Clinton visited 20 states and stumped for 26 candidates ahead of Election Day 2014. Her midterm record was an abysmal 11 wins, 14 losses and one runoff, according to CNN projections.”

Fox News: “For Hillary Clinton, an uncertain return to the campaign trail”

“She is the leading global voice championing the empowerment of girls and women, but of the eight Democratic women Hillary Clinton stumped for in the 2014 midterm cycle, only one was declared a winner.”

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CNBC column: Larry Kudlow: “For 2016, Hillary had the worst night”

“What's important now is that the midterm exit polls turned conventional wisdom on its head. It's not just those awful numbers for the high-visibility Republican hopefuls. But Hillary loses to an unnamed name.”

Variety: “Bill Clinton Predicts ‘Boogie Dance’ in Washington After Republican Senate Win”

“Former President Bill Clinton weighed in Friday on the results of Tuesday’s midterm elections, suggesting that Congress and the White House can still ‘get things done’ and reflecting on his experience working with a divided government during a period of intense partisanship.”

Articles:

MSNBC: “Hillary Clinton’s message comes into focus”

By Alex Seitz-Wald

November 7, 2014, 5:01 p.m. EST

The pieces of an increasingly likely Hillary Clinton 2016 presidential campaign are starting to fall into place.

Clinton is already reportedly scoping out locations for a campaign headquarters, thinking about key staffing decisions and embarking on an unofficial listening tour to gain wisdom from a disparate set of thinkers.

And in the waning days of the 2014 midterm campaign, as Clinton stumped for Democrats across the country, a message began to emerge in her stump speeches. Over the course of 75 events on behalf of more than 30 candidates in 20 states, Clinton tested and honed and retooled the building blocks of what could become her presidential campaign’s raison d’etre.

While her speeches were tailored to the candidates she came to support and the politics of each state, a core set of themes began to emerge, according to a memo from Correct the Record, a pro-Clinton outside group managed by former staffers that has been defending the former secretary of state in the absence of an official campaign.

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“The primary theme that emerged in Clinton’s national travels leading up to November 4th was advancing opportunity and prosperity, directly addressing a fundamental concern and cynicism among the American people,” Isaac Wright, the group’s executive director, wrote to allies of the group in the memo, shared with msnbc ahead of its release.

That message resonates with Americans, Wright continued, citing exit polls that showed 83% of Democrats, and 40% of voters overall, think she would make a good president. That’s more than any other candidate, though a generic Republican beat her in a head-to-head match-up. Her message has the potential to resonate with the “emotional dismay of the electorate,” Wright continued.

Emotion was something too often lacking on the campaign trail from candidates this year, according to some Democrats, who complained that some candidates lacked an overarching positive message.

Clinton’s core themes, identified by Correct The Record, which as an independent expenditure group is prohibited from coordinating directly with candidates, include a focus on advancing middle class families and growing the economy and jobs.

Clinton also spoke about expanding opportunities for women and children, issues she has been involved in since her early adulthood. “One of the biggest differences between 2008 and the buildup to 2016,” Wright noted, “is Clinton’s relationship with her own position as a woman.” Not surprisingly, given her record, Clinton also put foreign policy front and center, speaking about support for U.S. troops and veterans.

Clinton has also been partisan on occasion, supporting Democrats and progressive values, while hitting Republicans – though almost never by name – and criticizing their policies. This was especially true when she slammed “trickle-down economics” in Massachusetts and went after Sen.-elect Joni Ernst in Iowa.

Some top Democrats, especially those associated with President Obama’s campaigns, have worried that Clinton will fail to offer a clear vision for why she should be president if she decides to run, aside from the strength of her resume.

Her initial pitch when she ran in 2008 was that she was “in it to win it” and that she would be “ready on day one.” Meeting the basic competency requirements of the job turned out to not be a very inspiring message. Later, after she lost the Iowa Caucuses, Clinton found her stride talking about populist economic issues. For instance, in Ohio, with the help of former Gov. Ted Strickland, she talked about taking on drug companies and credit card companies and sticking up for American families.

While the themes themselves may not be groundbreaking, Clinton has found a way to make them emotionally resonant. She speaks about values and fairness, instead of policy. And she connected her vision to her own story. The line that she repeated most on the trail in 2014 was, “You should not have to be the grandchild of a president to get” a fair shot. It speaks to fairness, her own story, and subtly addresses critiques of her wealth.

Expect to hear it a lot more.

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MSNBC: “RNC chair: I ‘hope we’re running against Hillary Clinton’”

By Alex Seitz-Wald

November 7, 2014, 4:35 p.m. EST

Republicans want to run against Hillary Clinton for president, the head of the party insisted Friday, laying out how the GOP is already planning to capitalize on their wins in 2014 to be ready to take on Clinton in 2016.

Speaking at a breakfast with reporters hosted by the The Christian Science Monitor in Washington, D.C., Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said Republicans are keeping staff in key presidential swing states such as Florida, Ohio and Virginia, and explained how the GOP plans to avoid the “circus” of the 2012 nominating process.

The RNC is overhauling its rules to shorten the primary and caucus calendar, and reducing the number of debates, which numbered a whopping 23 in the 2012 cycle. “We’re taking it from a six month slice and dice fest to about weeks,” Priebus said. “We’re going to contain the process so we don’t end up with rogue debates that provide the temptation for candidates to break the rules.”

They’re also improving their voter mobilization efforts, which has traditionally been a strength for Democrats, he said, explaining that 2016’s “ground game” will have to be at least three times larger than in 2014. “I think we’ve got to be about perfect to win a national turnout vote in this country. I think Democrats can be good and win, we’ve got to be great,” he added.

Are Republicans worried about running against Clinton, the presumed Democratic nominee? “I sure as heck hope we’re running against Hillary Clinton,” Priebus said.

Clinton allies have been trying to spin Tuesday night’s Democratic drubbing as a secret victory for Clinton, who will now have a clear villain to run against in the GOP-controlled Congress.

Nonsense, Priebus responded Friday. “If your job was to unify the party and raise a ton of money and get a ton of volunteers on the ground, I promise you, you would want no other opponent to run against than Hillary Clinton,” he said. Priebus also said voters rejected the Clintons when they rejected candidates endorsed by the Clintons.

Of course, that is exactly what a Republican leader would say, since it’s his job to project confidence and rally donors and activists. If the RNC were really so eager to take on Clinton, for instance, one might wonder why they bothered sending a staffer dressed as a squirrel to stalk the former secretary of state this summer.

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Priebus said Tuesday's wins were obviously very good for Republicans, but declined to say the party now had a mandate to govern. "I would call that a pretty sweeping victory, but whether it's a mandate or not, that's a different question," he said.

Voters in Wisconsin, for instance, "accepted" conservative Republican ideas, Priebus said. "Perhaps embraced might be a little over the top."

Clinton defenders aren't worried by Priebus' talk, however, said Adrienne Elrod of the main group defending her, Correct the Record. "We agree with Reince – we hope she runs too! And Reince should be careful what he and the GOP wish for – 83% of Democrats think Hillary would make a good president, according to exit polls from Tuesday. Hillary Clinton's overwhelming, across-the-board popularity and admiration among Americans is a result of her vision to strengthen the middle class, increase opportunities for women, and ensure a better future for Americans from all walks of life," Elrod said.

Politico Magazine: "Hillary's Wonderful Week"

By Matt Latimer

November 7, 2014

[Subtitle:] A Bush speechwriter proclaims: Her campaign lacked villains. Now she's got a lot of them.

Let's say it straight out: The biggest winner of the week was Hillary Clinton. I'm a passionate conservative and former speechwriter for George W. Bush, and I don't like that conclusion one bit. But there it is.

Shortly after the election results came in, most of the conventional wisdom was that Clinton emerged from the midterms tarred, along with her husband. After all, the former secretary of state and party front-runner campaigned for candidates all across the country, and more than 30 of those candidates lost.

But what was she supposed to do, campaign against them? Bill Clinton also went out on the trail, as did Joe Biden and virtually every Democrat of national import able to board an airplane. As fun as it is for Republicans to argue otherwise, Clinton's no more to blame for, say, Kay Hagan losing North Carolina than she is for CBS canceling "The Mentalist."

Here's why Clinton is now sitting pretty. All campaigns are about narratives and before Tuesday, Clinton's was shaping up to be rather difficult. She had been a very public player in an increasingly unpopular administration, charged with overseeing a foreign policy that looks more discredited by the day. Her latest book tour revealed a clunky, not-ready-for-primetime operation, and her sales, while good by any conventional measure, were

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disastrous when compared to the expectations her PR team clumsily set. No one could quite sense it yet, but there was a whiff of yesterday's news emanating all around her.

Then came November 4.

Despite rumors that Clinton is in person a warm, loyalty-inspiring manager, she has never worn that role convincingly with the general public. Stylistically, Clinton is far more suited for the role of leader of the opposition, rallying against her enemies (real or imagined). And at last she has something every good campaign narrative desperately needs: real villains. A lot of them. Ironically they are the very same villains who rescued her husband's waning political fortunes exactly two decades ago: a Republican-led Congress.

This doesn't necessarily have to be the GOP's fate over the next two years, though there is a compelling precedent. Recall, if you will, the 1994 tsunami that propelled Newt Gingrich to the speaker's chair and left an unpopular Democratic president lamely telling reporters that he was still "relevant." Bill Clinton was angered and humiliated by the voters' repudiation of his administration—and his party. But only for a moment. It did not take long for the Sinatra of Spin to figure out how to turn the Republicans, with the help of many co-conspirators in the media, into America's version of the Borgias.

If Republicans aren't careful, they will watch that history repeat. After all, how does one put this charitably? The usual spokesmen for today's GOP possess all the charisma of extras on "Murder, She Wrote." You know who I mean—the aging day players with graying hair and familiar (pasty) faces who stand around looking vaguely uncertain while Angela Lansbury solves all the crimes. Next to them Hillary Clinton, who will be 68 on the eve of the Iowa caucuses, looks like Renée Zellweger. (Perhaps a bad example, but I like the new her!) In any event, it's fair to say the Republican leadership in 2016 will be far easier to run against than it was in 2008 to run against a charismatic African-American son of a single mother at the height of media rapture.

"The first thing I need to do is get the Senate back to normal," Senator Mitch McConnell said upon winning the majority. Let's hope he was kidding. Unfortunately, one suspects it won't be too long before the GOP puts its champagne bottles back into the fridge and returns to its years-long preoccupation—waging an internal civil war over the party's message, goals and future.

One can sympathize with both sides in the dispute. On the one hand are those who fought hard to win back their chairmanships and plush offices in the U.S. Capitol and are willing to do anything to hold onto them. Which generally means pursuing an agenda of caution over controversy. Polls and platitudes over risky policies. On the other are those who think the party rose to power for a reason: that they must use their majority to enact the proposals they campaigned on. Which means pushing for an agenda that many in the Washington pundit class won't like: fighting debt ceiling increases, cutting spending for popular programs, repealing Obamacare by any means necessary and not simply a show vote that will lead to a presidential veto.

Both sides will draw different lessons from the 1994 experience—a misplayed hand that led to a government shutdown, Speaker Gingrich's resignation in 1998 and even eventually a resurgent Bill Clinton. The cautious establishment Republicans claim the Gingrich Congress failed because it was too radical and overreached. The activist movement Republicans say the Gingrich Congress buckled too quickly to the Clinton administration, and let critics in the media cow them. Regardless, McConnell will not have an easy time managing this rift. Nor will he likely enjoy the unenviable task of wrangling with a conference whose members will either be running for president, running for vice president or stewing with resentment over those who do. The more he tries to bring order to his caucus, the more division he will engender. (For an example, see Boehner, John.) In the meantime, Clinton supporters in the House and Senate will keep pushing popular-sounding if wholly unaffordable initiatives

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on health care, education and the environment, and then blame the Republican Congress for blocking them.

Yes, these are good days for the Hillary Clinton proto-campaign. Her first good days in a long while, in fact. No longer will she have to worry so much about gaining distance from President Obama—though that's certainly on her agenda. No longer will she have to defend or explain her position on issues pushed by a Democratic Senate. No longer will she have to subtly run against her husband and his scandals. Instead, she can run squarely against the circus that will preoccupy Congress and the media with every passing day. The calm voice of wearied experience. The wizened wife and mother—now grandmother—who can keep those rambunctious boys in line.

She's probably just about the only person in Washington today who's even happier than Mitch McConnell.

Bloomberg: "Obama Needs a Democratic Successor for Legacy, Aide Says"

By Jonathan Allen

November 7, 2014

President Barack Obama's legacy could be damaged if he's not succeeded by a fellow Democrat, White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said today.

"It's very important because I know what we did in the first 100 days of our administration, and it was go through a lot of what President Bush did and sign executive orders doing the opposite," Pfeiffer told reporters and editors today at a Bloomberg Politics breakfast in Washington.

That dynamic will shape Obama's dealings with the Republican-led Congress and his party's presidential nominee in the final two years of his presidency. Hillary Clinton, Obama's first-term secretary of state and 2008 presidential primary rival, is the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in 2016, though she hasn't said whether she'll run.

"The best way to be succeeded by a Democrat is to be the best president we can be for the next two years and get as much done," Pfeiffer said. "Some of that will be with Congress; some of it will be on our own. So that's how we're thinking about it."

Trying to set up a Democratic successor isn't "in tension" with efforts to work with congressional Republicans, he said. The 2016 presidential election may provide an incentive for gridlock and force Republicans to show they can govern, he said.

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"I'd like to believe that the country would come before Party. I didn't fall off a turnip truck yesterday," Pfeiffer said.

Republican Brand

"A big anvil around the neck of Mitt Romney was the Republican Party brand," he said of the party's 2012 nominee for president. "Any Republican nominee is going to carry that. And it would be in their interest to improve that brand."

Tension between Obama and Clinton rose when she criticized his approach to foreign policy during her book tour this summer. Tempers flared and quickly settled back. Whether it's Clinton or someone else, Obama will need the Democratic nominee, Pfeiffer said.

"If you want to cement a lot of the very core elements of your legacy it's much easier to do, obviously, with someone who supports your agenda," he said.

Washington Post: "Ready for Hillary events drawing some prominent pols in O'Malley's home state"

By John Wagner

November 7, 2014, 6:02 p.m. EST

As Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) weighs a 2016 presidential bid, a raft of other prominent Maryland politicians are booked to attend a pair of fundraisers next month for a group laying the groundwork for Hillary Rodham Clinton to run.

U.S. Sens. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) and Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) are both listed as "special guests" at a Dec. 1 event in Baltimore to benefit the Ready for Hillary PAC. State Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. (D-Calvert) is among the hosts, according to a "save the date" announcement.

Those advertised to attend an event three nights later in Potomac include U.S. Rep. John Delaney (D-Md.), Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) and eight current or incoming members of the Montgomery County Council.

The host committee also includes two unsuccessful Democratic candidates for governor this year — Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler (D) and Del. Heather R. Mizeur (D-Montgomery) — as well as State Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp (D) and three current or recently elected members of the state Senate from Montgomery.

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O'Malley spokeswoman Lis Smith declined to comment Friday on the Ready for Hillary events.

O'Malley has said he is moving forward with preparations for a possible White House bid regardless of whether Clinton runs. He recently told The Post that he will probably have decided whether to move forward before his tenure as governor ends in late January.

The Hill blog: In The Know: "'Star Trek's George Takei: I'd 'absolutely' back Clinton"

By Judy Kurtz

November 7, 2014, 3:00 p.m. EST

If Hillary Clinton decides to make a second run for president, she can count on Captain Sulu among her supporters: "Star Trek" star George Takei says he's firmly on Team Hillary.

"We're Hillary supporters from way back," the social media whiz — who boasts nearly 8 million Facebook fans — exclaimed, appearing to include husband Brad Takei as a fan of the former secretary of State.

The outspoken Democrat and gay rights advocate says he would "absolutely" campaign for Clinton if she decides to throw her hat into the ring in the 2016 White House race.

ITK caught up with the 77-year-old actor and "Howard Stern Show" regular Thursday at government IT media company FedScoop's annual FedTalks gathering in Washington. The yearly event brings together hundreds of political and industry leaders from the tech and government information technology communities.

While Takei would likely give the Vulcan salute to Clinton, there's at least one Republican lawmaker he considers to be "rational."

"At times I support things that [Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.)] says. He's one of the rational Republicans," Takei says. "But I'm a Democrat and I think particularly with the Republicans now leaning more and more to the right, and with the extreme Tea Party people, there are very few Republicans that I can say are saying something rational."

And what about the heavy Democratic losses in the midterm elections?

"I think the real winner of the midterm election was big money," says Takei.

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The entertainer is a supporter of the nonpartisan Mayday PAC, created by Creative Commons co-founder Larry Lessig and Republican strategist Mark McKinnon, which aims to “reduce the influence of money in politics.”

Making mention of the conservative group Citizens United, Takei added, “When billionaires can give $50 million, $500 million to a campaign, and there’s no limit, then it makes a mockery of ‘one man, one vote.’ ”

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: “Sanders: Obama, Dems need new message”

By Bob Cusack

November 8, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EST

Sen. Bernie Sanders said President Obama and the Democrats’ 2014 message played a significant role in the GOP’s takeover of the Senate.

In an interview on C-SPAN’s “Newsmakers” program, the Vermont legislator said Obama is partly to blame for the Republican rout.

“Some of the responsibility absolutely rests with President Obama. I think he’s not been as strong and clear about a message and legislation that will protect the interests of working families,” said Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Senate Democrats.

Sanders claimed Democratic candidates misread the electorate: “I think many of the Democratic candidates did not run on an agenda which resonated with working people…where the Democrats have been weak and individual Democratic candidates have been weak is not really coming up to the plate and saying, ‘You know what? We’re going to have to take on the billionaire class.’”

Democrats did not push hard enough for the minimum wage, Sanders added.

He credited Republicans for running a “very, very smart” campaign, though made clear he thinks it was deceitful. The GOP seized on the nation’s economic woes, Sanders pointed out.

“The Republicans said, ‘The problem is all Barack Obama. He caused it all. And any senator who has worked with Barack Obama — terrible, got to throw them out,’” he stated.

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Sanders, who is thinking about running for president in 2016, declined to provide a timetable on when he will make a final decision, saying voters need a break from campaign politics.

Asked to assess Hillary Clinton's biggest weakness, the liberal lawmaker responded, "I'm not here to attack Hillary Clinton."

Sanders has not decided if he will run as a Democrat or an independent, but he suggested he's leaning toward the latter. Running as an independent would require setting up a political infrastructure in 50 states, which would take an enormous amount of money and energy, he noted.

Sanders admitted he's a long shot to win the presidency. But he noted that he won 2 percent of the vote in his first election and 1 percent in his second. In his most recent election, Sanders attracted 71 percent of the vote.

He does have a sizable campaign war chest with more than $4.4 million cash on hand.

CNN: "2014: Did Hillary Clinton get her groove back despite Democrats' loss?"

By Dan Merica

November 7, 2014, 6:27 p.m. EST

Election night was terrible for the Democratic Party, and Hillary Clinton was not spared.

Clinton visited 20 states and stumped for 26 candidates ahead of Election Day 2014. Her midterm record was an abysmal 11 wins, 14 losses and one runoff, according to CNN projections.

But there is an argument - Clinton advisers will spin it to you - in the context of what appears to be an all-but-certain run in 2016, that her Midterm record is far less important than what she gained while campaigning for Democrats.

Re-learning to stump

Going into the Midterms, Clinton's mostly paid speeches were corporate and dull. She addressed audiences that were full of executive types who did not alawys seem excited to see her; many of whom were attending conferences that had no connection to the former secretary of state.

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That changed during Clinton's time on the campaign trail.

The former secretary of state stretched her long-dormant political legs and toyed with what will likely be her presidential message. She honed a new message based on women's rights and opposition to Wall Street and - perhaps most importantly - got some needed practice ahead of a possible presidential run.

When the former secretary of state took the stage at September's Tom Harkin Steak Fry in Iowa - her first real political speech of the year - she appeared to reporters on the ground to be flat and out-of-practice. That afternoon, the crowd responded with far more excitement to Tom Harkin, their retiring senator, and Bill Clinton, Hillary's husband and the former president.

But over time during the Midterms, Clinton became more comfortable on the stump.

"Elections come down often to who's got more money, who's peddling more fear and who turns out," Clinton confidently told an excited audience in North Carolina in October. She didn't she away from hitting her Republican opponents and drawing some contrast between them and the person she was endorsing.

Most noticeably, Clinton honed her focus on women.

Nearly every event Clinton did was geared towards some combination of mothers and grandmothers. In Pennsylvania she spoke to a "Women for Wolf" event, while in Louisiana it was "Moms and Grams with Mary" who filled the event space.

Clinton seemed to embrace the theme and recognize that fact that if she runs for president, it will be from a historic perch as possibly the nation's first woman president.

"Don't let anyone dismiss what you're doing today as women's work," she told an audience in San Francisco. "Don't let anyone send you back to the sidelines."

As Clinton has grown back into the role of retail politician, though, so have her Republican detractors.

Groups like the Republican National Committee and America Rising learned how to prod Clinton and poked her with emails to reporters and tweets about her gaffes. They sometimes drove the media conversation and seized on mistakes she made.

Shortly after the Senate officially turned red on Tuesday, Rand Paul's Facebook page uploaded a photo of Clinton and the six losing Senate candidates that she endorsed. "HillarysLosers," read the photos that went gangbusters online. The morning after the country, effectively, turned red, the Republican National Committee blasted an email to reporters: "Hillary's Policies Were On The Ballot."

'This is bigger than a single surrogate'

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Clinton's closest confidants also don't see Tuesday as a repudiation of Clinton.

"This is bigger than a single surrogate," said a Clinton source with knowledge of her midterm schedule who requested anonymity to speak candidly. "No surrogate is that, sort of, silver bullet."

The source added that going into the midterms there was a realization that Clinton "hasn't given a political speech, certainly on any regular basis, in six years."

Given that, and despite her less than 50 percent batting average with successful candidates, people close to Clinton felt confidant that the midterms were time well spent for the former first lady.

"I think her going back in for Grimes was a good example [of not shying away from tough races], going to Iowa twice, too" the source said. "There was no, 'Oh man, we ought to pull out of here because it is going to be a loss."

The source argued that 2016 didn't come up a great deal during the conversations about where to go in 2014.

Growing from the book tour

Hillary Clinton's book tour was defined by her gaffes in the interviews trying to sell it.

Out of the gate, Clinton slipped up answering questions about her and her husband's wealth - pointing out the now mega-rich couple was "dead broke" when they left the White House - and it seemed like she was never fully able to recover.

Longtime Clinton confidants were concerned about her book tour performance.

"With the book tour, there were a lot of unforced errors. That was concerning," said one longtime Clinton adviser. "It was an open question whether she was going to fumble about her wealth."

But watching Clinton on the stump, the source said, it seemed that Clinton kicked off the rust.

Republicans see it differently.

"She is going to have to meet a reality where talking about only war on women issues and raising the minimum wage is not sufficient to win a national election or elections in these states," said Tim Miller, executive director of America Rising, said after Tuesday night . "I think that is a reality that the whole Democratic Party is going to have to meet but Hillary Clinton was gung ho about that message, too."

The midterms also weren't rhetorically flawless for Clinton.

In Boston, the former first lady "shorthanded" a line that seemed to hint it wasn't "corporations and business that create jobs." Clinton went on to walk back the comment that was, for the most part, her only noticeable gaffe for two months on the stump.

That is a departure from her book tour, a two month long affair riddled with slips of the tongue, and confidants were happy to see her gaffe on the populist side of the party.

"Was it completely without these sort of perceived bumps? No," said the source with knowledge of Clinton's midterm schedule. "But, at the end of the day, was it viewed as time well spent? Yes."

Fox News: “For Hillary Clinton, an uncertain return to the campaign trail”

By James Rosen

November 8, 2014

She is the leading global voice championing the empowerment of girls and women, but of the eight Democratic women Hillary Clinton stumped for in the 2014 midterm cycle, only one was declared a winner.

She is the prospective frontrunner for her party’s presidential nomination in 2016, but of the 26 Democrats Clinton campaigned for in the midterms, 12 won, 13 lost, and one – Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana – lingers in uncertainty, facing a Dec. 6 runoff election against her Republican opponent.

This cycle marked Hillary Clinton’s return to the arena of electoral politics for the first time since her failed presidential bid in 2008 – secretaries of state traditionally abstain from partisan activity – and for those scouring the newly refashioned landscape for indications of how Clinton’s White House prospects may be affected, the results are decidedly mixed.

Supporters of the former secretary of state argue that, despite having eschewed the rough and tumble of politics for six years, she used her time on the stump this fall to good effect, forging new and strong ties with local party chieftains in states where such connections will prove valuable to a presidential run in two years.

“I think Hillary Clinton did yeoman's work in campaigning out there for Democrats,” said Patti Solis Doyle, a former Clinton campaign manager in 2008, in an interview with Fox News. “She did what she could to help her

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friends, and very strong Democrats out there. She raised money for them; she campaigned for them."

Solis Doyle emphasized that neither Clinton's name nor her policies were on the ballot on Tuesday – but that hasn't stopped some of her potential rivals from spreading the word that the big GOP gains marked a major setback for her aspirations. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., the GOP's 2012 vice presidential nominee, told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt that Tuesday's verdict "tells you that she's not inevitable. I think she's very beatable."

More pointed was Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., who took to Twitter with unabashed glee to brand the 13 unsuccessful candidates Clinton stumped for "Hillary's Losers." "The 1990s was a long time ago," Paul said on "Fox and Friends" on Friday morning . "I don't think there is such a Clinton cachet as there once was. ... There is a message here about Hillary Clinton as much as there is a message about the president."

Doug Schoen, a former pollster for President Clinton, dismissed Sen. Paul's suggestions that Mrs. Clinton remains, in the public imagination, tied at the hip to the unpopular incumbent in the White House. "This election was a repudiation, first and foremost, as every Republican I've heard say, of President Obama," Schoen said on Fox News' "Happening Now" on Wednesday. "I think that the Clinton brand is separate and distinct from President Obama. I don't think this has an appreciable impact on her fortunes and future."

With long memories of the central role that Florida and Ohio have played in recent presidential contests, Clinton and her Democratic colleagues cannot have looked favorably upon the Republicans' success on Tuesday in holding onto the governor's mansions in those critical battleground states. Some have argued that she will benefit from the GOP wave by being able to run against the GOP Congress.

Yet in the actual business of campaigning – the deployment of rhetoric and charisma to sway persuadable hearts and minds – Clinton's performance again left some feeling as though she has still not worked out the kinks on display in her rocky book tour this spring. Perhaps Clinton's most memorable statement as a surrogate speaker during this cycle was her assertion, during an Oct. 24 appearance in Boston on behalf of (doomed) Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley: "Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs."

That statement prompted criticism from Charles Lane, the left-leaning opinion writer for the Washington Post. " I thought NBC created a job for Chelsea [Clinton], so there is at least one corporation that has created a job," he quipped on the Oct. 27 edition of Fox News' "Special Report with Bret Baier." "She has made quite a few gaffes now since this unofficial presidential campaign has gotten underway."

Solis Doyle, who recalled chatting amiably with Clinton at a Georgetown event last month, thought her former boss effectively used the campaign cycle to regain her footing as a stump speaker after a long absence from the trail and the difficulties of the "Hard Choices" rollout. "There has been some criticism over the book tour," Solis Doyle said. "But I think what was good about that is that it was able to get some of the, you know, not-great performances out of the way, and she's sort of back in her game. ... I thought her performance on the stump during the 2014 midterm elections was pretty good."

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CNBC column: Larry Kudlow: “For 2016, Hillary had the worst night”

By Larry Kudlow

November 8, 2014

We all know the Republican midterm landslide was largely a repudiation of President Obama's policies and his handling of the job of chief executive. And of course, we don't know who will succeed him in 2016. But buried deep inside Tuesday's exit polls is a series of numbers on presidential contenders that will blow your mind. It's completely different from most anything you've seen in the newspapers, the Internet, or on TV.

Get this. Here's a stunning question and answer from Edison Research, which interviewed 18,000 voters around the country as they left the polls on November 4:

Do you think Hillary Clinton would make a good president?

Yes: 42 percent. No: 52 percent.

Whether she's the front-runner or not, a majority of midterm-election voters don't want her running the country.

Does that leave the door open for other Democrats? Sure looks like it.

Does that leave the door open for a Republican? Hang on to your seats:

Do you think Jeb Bush would make a good president?

Yes: 29 percent. No: 59 percent.

Do you think Chris Christie would make a good president?

Yes: 24 percent. No: 64 percent.

Amazing. New Jersey governor Chris Christie, who is also the chair of the Republican Governors Association, has been widely praised for quarterbacking the GOP's tremendous election performance in the states. The GOP counted 31 Republican gubernatorial wins, even in deep-blue Massachusetts, Illinois, and Maryland. But voters still said no to Christie.

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But there's more. Hang on to your seatbelts:

Do you think Rand Paul would make a good president?

Yes: 26 percent. No: 60 percent.

Do you think Rick Perry would make a good president?

Yes: 24 percent. No: 62 percent.

High-profile senator Rand Paul, who has had successful early years in the Senate, has a strong following among libertarian-like millennials, and has a crafty way of jumping on key issues, didn't do so well either. And Texas governor Rick Perry, who many experts suggest has recovered from his 2012 gaffes, also got a big thumbs-down.

But here's the kicker — my absolute favorite:

In the 2016 presidential election, for whom would you be more likely to vote?

Hillary Clinton (Dem): 24 percent. The Republican candidate: 40 percent.

That's right. The yet-to-be-named Republican beats Hillary.

I guess she shouldn't have said businesses don't create jobs. Or maybe voters remember her Russian reset with Putin, her calling Bashar Assad a "reformer" we can do business with, or her "who cares" exclamation about how the U.S. base in Benghazi was destroyed.

Or maybe the old Bill Clinton magic is not rubbing off anymore. But the fact is, the exit polls say ol' Hillary would lose to a Republican no-name. And at the margin, Tuesday's election has probably re-scrambled the Republican deck.

I'm sure not going to pick a winner here. But given the polling weakness of the other established candidates, and the virtual collapse of Hillary, you have to wonder ...

What about newly re-elected Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker? For quite a while he looked like he might lose, but he wound up with a bigger positive margin than anyone thought possible. He won his battle against the public unions. He cut taxes while strictly limiting spending. Is Governor Walker, who may possess the strongest political backbone in the country, now a Republican front-runner?

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Or can the same be said of Ohio Governor John Kasich? He won re-election in a landslide, even after accepting federal Medicaid aid (unpopular in conservative circles). But he also found some spare budget cash to help Ohio's poor and stayed on the supply side with tax cuts.

Or what about Michigan governor Rick Snyder? He put the whole city of Detroit into bankruptcy to solve its collapsing financial structure and get it on the road to recovery. He also took on government unions and found a way to reduce tax burdens. And he made Michigan — the UAW's socialist paradise — into a right-to-work state.

Or maybe Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal has jumped to the front. He campaigned for fellow Republicans around the country while begging the GOP to come up with a true national message of economic growth, supply-side tax cuts, market-oriented health care, and education-choice reform.

I'm not going to go through the whole list. There are other Republican governors and senators, and at least one key policymaker in the GOP dominated House, who could be that yet-to-be-named Republican in 2016.

What's important now is that the midterm exit polls turned conventional wisdom on its head. It's not just those awful numbers for the high-visibility Republican hopefuls. But Hillary loses to an unnamed name.

To channel the great William F. Buckley Jr., get me a phone book and I'll start picking her opponents.

Variety: “Bill Clinton Predicts ‘Boogie Dance’ in Washington After Republican Senate Win”

By Jordyn Holman

November 8, 2014, 4:35 a.m. PST

Former President Bill Clinton weighed in Friday on the results of Tuesday’s midterm elections, suggesting that Congress and the White House can still “get things done” and reflecting on his experience working with a divided government during a period of intense partisanship.

“The retrospective memory of my six years tends to be one that is airbrushed,” Clinton told the crowd at USC. “For this time, what you gotta have is an agenda and get things done. There’s going to be a boogie dance for the first few months, but we’ll see what they’re going to do.”

Clinton said the election, in which Republicans gained control of the Senate and expanded their grip on the House, “completed the process that was started in 2010.” But he suggested that such a scenario was not so out of the ordinary given that Republicans seized control of Congress in 1994 while he was president.

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Clinton said that one big showdown that will take place will be seeing if Congress defunds the Affordable Care Act. He added that he hoped they would continue the bipartisan support of funding basic research.

At the event, which was aimed at USC honor students and faculty, Clinton lauded the growth in technology and innovation that is reshaping the entertainment industry and economy. Clinton said the growing interdependence of countries is at the root of many of these trends.

“You have to have an idea of what you want the world to look like,” he said.

He pointed to the innovation taking place in Orlando, Fla., known mostly as the home of Disney and Universal theme parks, to describe the intersection of the technology with other sectors of the economy.

“Most people who don’t live there think of Orlando as the home of Disneyworld,” Clinton said. “But the Defense Department and NASA spend $5 billion a year on computer simulation. It’s obvious that they need improvement in simulation to keep theme park membership. It’s also way safer and cheap to teach young military personnel how to operate or fly a tank or airplane on a simulator than the real deal. There’s just this explosive creative environment down there.”

Clinton also touched on the influence of social media in connecting people in new and groundbreaking ways.

“The Internet has done a lot of good,” he said. “It allows six-year-olds to get on the Internet and find out what I had to go to college to learn about.”

Since leaving office, Clinton has dedicated his life to humanitarian efforts overseas, particularly focused on improving global health and wellness and increasing opportunities for women and children through the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

The former president noted that there’s been a lot of headlines about turmoil around the globe, such as the ISIS terror campaign and the deadly Ebola outbreak, but he asserted that this obscures the progress on the geopolitical front. “Though every headline in the last few months seems negative, there have been a lot of positive trend lines,” he said.

He cited the Millennium Goals set forth by the United Nations, which will expire next year, as an example, saying some of them will be reached.

“We are in the best shape of any big country in the world in the next 20 years,” he said. “No big country that is running this well is as young as we are, as diverse as we are or as technological as we are. In the next 20 years, there will be bad days, there will be bad headlines, but you can keep the trend lines positive.”

Later on Friday, Clinton was scheduled to attend an event on the Paramount lot to raise money for his foundation, with Jessica Alba and musical act Parachute on the bill.

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Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· November 14 – Little Rock, AR: Sec. Clinton attends picnic for 10th Anniversary of the Clinton Center (NYT)

· November 15 – Little Rock, AR: Sec. Clinton hosts No Ceilings event (NYT)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton presides over meeting of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Bloomberg)

· November 21 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton is honored by the New York Historical Society (Bloomberg)

· December 1 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton keynotes a League of Conservation Voters dinner (Politico)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

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From: "Tara Sonenshine" <tsonenshine@earthlink.net>
To: "Alice Cosgrove" <alice.e.cosgrove@gmail.com>
"Anna Stolitzka \(Debbie Wasserman Shulz\)" <stolitzka.anna@gmail.com>
"Anne Hall" <Anne.Hall@APORTER.COM>
"Bill Antholis" <antholis@virginia.edu>
bill.danvers@gmail.com
"Brian Katulis" <bkatulis@americanprogress.org>
"Bruce Riedel" <briedel@brookings.edu>
"Caitlin McDonnell" <cmcdonnell@albrightstonebridge.com>
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"Jim O'Brien" <jobrien@albrightstonebridge.com>
"Joanna Nicoletti" <info@forwardengagement.org>
"Joe Cirincione" <jcirincione@ploughshares.org>
"John Norris" <jnorris@americanprogress.org>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Julianne Smith" <julsmi@gmail.com>
"Ken Lieberthal" <klieberthal@brookings.edu>
"Kurt Campbell" <kurtmcampbell@yahoo.com>
"Leon Fuerth" <hdpf@msn.com>
"Maggie McCloud" <mmccloud@dmggroup.com>
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"Marcel Lettre" <marcel.lettre@gmail.com>
"Mariah Sixkiller" <mariah6@gmail.com>
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"Sharon Burke" <burkese@comcast.net>
"Steve Ricchetti" <sricchetti@cox.net>

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"Strobe Talbott" <stalbott@brookings.edu>
"Susan Rice" <ricesusane@aol.com>
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"Tim Roemer" <tjroemer@gmail.com>
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"Tom Downey" <tdowney@dmggroup.com>
"Tommy Ross" <trossjr@gmail.com>
"Toni Verstandig" <tonigverstandig@gmail.com>
"Tony Blinken" <ablinken@aol.com>
"Veronica Pollack" <veronica@daschlegroup.com>
"Vikram Singh" <vsingh@americanprogress.org>
"Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com>

Date: 8/28/2015 7:58:27 AM

Subject: Iran Events

International Crisis Group
WORKING TO PREVENT CONFLICT WORLDWIDE

PLOUGHSHARES FUND

The International Crisis Group and Ploughshares Fund are pleased to invite you to a panel discussion and exchange on the Iran Nuclear Agreement now being considered by the U.S. Congress. The session will be held September 8, 2015 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Room 236 of the Russell Senate Office Building. Both organizations have been closely involved in analyzing and commenting on the technical and political aspects of the nuclear negotiations leading up to the current agreement and have strong views on its importance for U.S., regional and global nuclear non-proliferation objectives.

Participating in the panel will be Samuel R. Berger, former National Security Advisor; Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, former Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs; both members of the Crisis Group Board of Trustees; Jean-Marie Guéhenno, president of the International Crisis Group and former UN Under-Secretary General for Peace-Keeping; Joseph Cirincione, president of Ploughshares Fund and professor at Georgetown University; and Dr. Ali Vaez, Crisis Group Iran Senior Analyst.

Europe's role in and response to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has been a major issue during the current congressional debate. The question under consideration is whether European nations would increase their nuclear-related sanctions against Iran if Congress rejects the JCPOA in hope of a "better deal." Absent from the debate has been discussion of what Europe's strategy toward Iran will be, beyond sanctions. Perhaps equally important will be determining how Europe will help pursue implementation of the JCPOA, assuming that it will take effect.

The International Crisis Group and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace jointly invite you to discuss these questions:

1. **How Europe Will Respond to the Iran Nuclear Agreement**
Wednesday, September 9, 2015
12:15 to 1:45 p.m.

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Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
1779 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036
RSVP HERE

2. Two veterans of European statecraft will kick off the discussion, with a U.S. analyst commenting. **Jean-Marie Guéhenno** is the president and CEO of the International Crisis Group. A former French diplomat, he served as the United Nations' under secretary general for peacekeeping operations from 2000 to 2008. **Wolfgang Ischinger** is the chairman of the Munich Security Conference. He was the German ambassador to the United States from 2001 to 2006 after serving as German deputy foreign minister for three years. **Suzanne Maloney** is interim deputy director of the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution and a senior fellow in the Brookings Center for Middle East Policy. Most recently, she was a member of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, covering Iran, Iraq, the Gulf States, and broader Middle East issues. **Cornelius Adebahr**, an associate in Carnegie's Europe Program, will moderate the discussion.

   Please join us for a very lively discussion on how Europe and the United States can jointly take the Iran deal forward. A light lunch will be served. Please click here to RSVP.

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/6/2015 9:22:20 AM
Subject: Dahr Jamail | As Climate Disruption Advances, 26 Percent of Mammals Face Extinction

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Dahr Jamail | As Climate Disruption Advances, 26 Percent of Mammals Face Extinction

Dahr Jamail, Truthout: In this month's dispatch, we examine how climate disruption is progressing rapidly on every front, and how even some diehard climate deniers are starting to recognize the dire danger we face.

Read the Article

Top Secret List Shows McChrystal Halting Night Raids After Controversy

Gareth Porter, Truthout: Published documents show Gen. Stanley McChrystal admitted the raids "come at a steep cost in terms of perceptions of the Afghan people." He said, "Nearly every Afghan I talk to mentions [night raids] as the single greatest irritant."

Read the Article

Elizabeth Warren: Our Populist Agenda - in Her Own Words

Roger Hickey, Campaign for America's Future: Sen. Elizabeth Warren has become the most visible leader of the growing populist movement that is uniting a new majority around an agenda for economic change. We present Warren's thinking about the economy in her own words.

Read the Article

Police Violence? Body Cams Are No Solution

Shahid Buttar, Truthout: Cameras fail to provide meaningful transparency, extend domestic spying, fuel mass incarceration and represent a budgetary bonus to police departments and corporate camera contractors, while distracting the debate from the more important issue of officer - and department - accountability for abusive patterns and practices.

Read the Article

BuzzFlash

Slavery May No Longer Officially Exist, but the Plantation Police Are Still on Patrol

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Contemporary policing includes "plantation patrols" that enact a modern form of accepted institutional intimidation, brutality, incarceration and killing.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Michael Brown Sr. and the Agony of the Black Father in the US

Read the Article at Esquire

The Greatest Trick Obama Ever Pulled Was Convincing the World the US Isn't Still at War

Read the Article at The Guardian

"Incomprehensible" Secrecy: Sen. Bernie Sanders

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Former Guantánamo Prisoner Given Life Sentence in Russia

Aisha Maniar, Truthout: Rasul Kudaev's case exemplifies how the stamp of Guantánamo can blight an innocent man's life more than a decade after his release and how, to create a false sense of terror to justify illegal actions, states all over the world destroy lives with impunity.

Read the Article

So-Called "Free Trade" Deals Have Decimated the US Economy

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: While the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) has been negotiated on and written in secret, many of its key details have been leaked, and those leaks paint a very disturbing picture about the effects that the TPP would have on the US public and economy.

Read the Article

A Self-Perpetuating Machine for US Insecurity: Welcome to the National Security State of 2015

Tom Engelhardt, TomDispatch: Official Washington has invented a national security system so dumb, so extreme, so fundamentalist and so deeply entrenched in our world that changing it will surely prove a stunningly difficult task. Welcome to the nightmarish inheritance we are preparing for our children and grandchildren.

Read the Article

Let's Begin the Year With a Major Victory Over Corporate Power

Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers, Popular Resistance: We have an immediate challenge in 2015 that threatens our progress. Obama and Congress are pushing to finalize the Trans-Pacific Partnership. If we don't stop it, our struggles will be set back and social, economic and environmental justice will be more difficult to achieve.

Read the Article

An Interview With Sherry Payne: Nurse, Childbirth Educator, Womanist

Monica J. Casper, The Feminist Wire: "When I think of how this [reproductive justice] framework 'fits' for my community, I think about the lack of access to dependable and efficacious contraceptives; I think about a maternity care complex that pathologizes Black women rather than promotes pregnancy wellness," says Sherry Payne in this interview.

Read the Interview

Studies Show Pot Legalization Has Not Impacted Teen Use

Lizabeth Paulat, Care2: Although adult use of marijuana increased following the years of legalization in Colorado and Washington State, what's interesting is that teen use has fallen. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the use of marijuana has fallen among teens in almost every sector.

Read the Article

On the News With Thom Hartmann: Pope Francis to Urge Catholics to Address Climate Change, and More

In today's On the News segment: Pope Francis will urge the world's 1.2 billion Catholics to do more to address global warming; more than 50 percent of the food tested by our government contains pesticides; Vermont just proved

Demands Release of TPP Trade Agreement Text

Read the Article at Ring of Fire

Without Fox News, There Would Have Been No Iraq War

Read the Article at Mother Jones

How I Busted Steve Scalise: Inside a GOP Political Scandal - and Its Ongoing Cover-Up

Read the Article at Salon

Palestinians Seen Gaining Momentum for Statehood

Read the Article at The New York Times

Dave Zirin: As I Fought Cancer, Stuart Scott Was My Strength

Read the Article at The Nation

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we have the power to shut down nuclear plants; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

"David Duke Without the Baggage": Will Top GOPer Steve Scalise Resign Over Speech to Racist Group?

Amy Goodman and Aaron Maté, Democracy Now!: As Congress begins a new session today, one of its top Republicans has acknowledged he once addressed a gathering of white supremacists and neo-Nazis. House Majority Whip Steve Scalise has confirmed reports he spoke at a 2002 convention of EURO - the European-American Unity and Rights Organization.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

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From: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/25/2015 4:52:46 AM
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: Simplified Talkers for Surrogates re NYT

Couple of changes on my end and then good. Saw a typo in "arrangement"

- Would say author "works at an organization that has received Koch funding"
- would just say arrangement instead of "unusual" arrangement.

1. The Times ignores the essential fact that Hillary Clinton was not at all involved in the State

Department's review of the sale to the Russians, AS STATED BY THE FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO SERVED AS THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE IN THIS PROCESS AT THE TIME.

4. The Times overlooks the fact that the State Department was just one of nine agencies involved in the

U.S. government's review of the sale of Uranium One. IN ADDITION, THE DEAL WAS APPROVED BY THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

On Sat, Apr 25, 2015 at 11:25 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

> Good!
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Apr 25, 2015, at 10:56 AM, Adrienne Elrod <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
>
> Jen/Kristina/Tony -
>
> Can y'all give these a quick once over? Some of our surrogates/friends and fam who are not going on tv but just want the top lines on how to defend on this topic have asked for a super simplified version of talkers. Fallon has signed off. Thanks!
>
> Adrienne K. Elrod
> Spokesperson
> Hillary For America
> **www.hillaryclinton.com**
> @adrienneelrod
>
> <04.23.15 Simplified Talkers Re NYT Foundation Story.docx>
>
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From: "Eryn Sepp" <esepp@americanprogress.org>
To: John.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/8/2015 9:12:28 AM
Subject: FW: AKP getting hammered

FYI – from Michael on Turkish election.

From: Michael Werz [mailto:mwerz@americanprogress.org]
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2015 2:50 PM
To: John Podesta
Subject: AKP getting hammered

With 91% reporting results indicate that AKP is around 260 seats, short of 276 needed for majority. Kurdish HDP "winning" big with over 12%, meaning more than 70 seats in parliament. Nationalist MHP has gained ground, with outsize effect on seat count from small Anatolian cities.

We have word that main opposition CHP is preparing to piece together a minority government with outside (non-coalition) support of MHP and HDP. That could mean they open a corruption investigation into senior AKP leadership. All unconfirmed at this point.

This result will mean an internal AKP fight to lay blame -- most likely with PM Davutoglu sacrificed. There is a chance, however, that this will cause the old AKP leaders who have been forced out (like Gul and Arinc) to turn on Erdogan, painting him as more electoral liability than bonus.

There is also a decent chance this will mean early elections, likely by August, if nobody can piece together a government. But it means Erdogan's presidential dream is dead.

The other remarkable thing to remember is that it appears the election was mostly fair (besides AKP monopoly on TV time, government resources).

Turkey Election Could Transform State

President Erdogan pushes for sweeping powers, but Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party could stand in way

Turks are voting in a make-or-break election for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is seeking to overhaul the country's constitution.
By
Emre Peker
Updated June 7, 2015 9:07 a.m. ET
14 COMMENTS
ISTANBUL—Turkish voters headed to the polls Sunday to elect a new parliament in the most uncertain and high-stakes election since the governing Islamist-conservative party swept to power in 2002.
Polls opened at 8 a.m. local time with 53.7 million voters eligible to cast ballots and closed at 5 p.m. across Turkey's 81 provinces. Election officials and monitors started tallying the votes as soon as polls closed. Early results are expected within hours and the final count should materialize late Sunday, although the contours of the new parliament may not immediately be clear.
While the tense atmosphere in the lead up to the ballots gave way to a more harmonious and hopeful environment at some polls, building pressure also triggered violence at others across the nation.
Television stations broadcast videos from a skirmish in the southeastern province of Sanliurfa by the Syrian border, where 15 people were injured after pro-Kurdish politicians were barred from visiting polling stations. Turkey's pro-government and opposition media were also dueling, charging either opposition parties or the ruling party with obstructing ballot observers, sometimes through force.
As polls closed in the Kurdish-dominated city of Diyarbakir in Turkey's southeast, local officials reported a high turnout and said long lines of voters had snaked out of polling stations throughout the day. Tight security measures were in place at voting points after a Friday bombing of an HDP campaign rally left two dead and dozens wounded. Thousands of policemen were deployed in the city, with many bused in from other parts of the country, amid fears of street violence following the results.
Many voters appeared confident the pro-Kurdish HDP would pass the 10% threshold. Murat, a 45-year old Kurdish construction

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worker said he had shifted his allegiance to HDP after years supporting the AKP.
"I've returned to vote for my own people. The AKP has bolstered the police and state pressure is back... I was also upset by the attacks against the HDP," he said.
"Turkey is at a crossroads, nothing will be as it was in the past after this election—regardless of the outcome," said Melih Demir, a 36-year-old attorney who voted for the main-opposition republicans and said mounting anti-democratic trends need to be reversed. "I hope that after the vote, there is no more friction, that there is peace."
Opposition voters, split mostly among three parties, were united in the goal of ending the reign of the Justice and Development Party, or AKP, or at least curbing the government's power. AKP voters, however, warned against a return to the volatile coalition governments in the decade before 2002, and touted the ruling party's accomplishments from infrastructure investments to empowering the conservative middle class.
"My choice is obvious: the AKP—because they have achieved so much for the country. I don't want the nation to splinter, therefore I believe the stability of this one-party government must continue," said 72-year-old Hayriye after casting her vote in the governing party's Istanbul stronghold of Uskudar.
President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is pushing to concentrate his powers and fundamentally transform the Turkish state, there are mounting challenges to the $800 billion economy and the country faces national-security risk stemming from unrest at home and conflicts in neighboring Syria and Iraq, so the election's outcome is poised to chart Turkey's political future for the next decade.
"Turkey is headed toward its most exciting and potentially decisive election in more than a decade," the Center for American Progress, a Washington-based nonpartisan policy institute, said in a report Tuesday.
Contesting the election are four major parties: the governing AKP, the secularist Republican People's Party, the Nationalist Movement Party and the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party, or HDP. Surveys in the lead up to the polls showed the AKP winning most of the seats in the Ankara parliament, but painted an unclear picture as to the makeup of the next government.
"The vote is also likely to decide if Turkey will continue to be dominated by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose personal ambition to build a stronger presidency and solidify his hold on power has shaped the campaign," the Center for American Progress said.
Indeed, while voters are picking representatives to parliament, the ballot will once again serve as a referendum on Mr. Erdogan and his vision for Turkey—even though the president isn't running in this election.
Since his election to the nonpartisan and mostly ceremonial presidency last August, Mr. Erdogan has been campaigning to shift executive powers to his office from the prime ministry, which he held for 12 years before becoming head of state.
The president argues that the transition would help streamline decision-making and allow him to build a "New Turkey" that restores the nation's Ottoman grandeur. Pointing at a series of autocratic moves led by stifling of dissent and a crackdown on the government's political rivals, Mr. Erdogan's detractors warn that the change would create an autocracy.
An overwhelming victory for the ruling AKP, which Mr. Erdogan co-founded and led until last summer, could deliver Turkey's ultimate leader the executive powers he wants. For that, the AKP would have to secure at least 330 of the 550 seats in parliament, write a new constitution and put it to a referendum. To form a single-party government, the AKP needs 276 seats.
While pre-election surveys have shown republican and nationalist opposition parties eating into the government's support, the outcome could be determined by the pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party, or HDP.
If the HDP wins 10% of the votes, overcoming an electoral threshold to enter parliament, it would halt Mr. Erdogan from realizing his plans with a new constitution and potentially force the first coalition government since the AKP has been in power.
Failure by the HDP to clear the barrier could land the governing party with enough seats to deliver Mr. Erdogan his long-held wish of an executive presidency like the ones in the U.S., France and Russia.
The absence of pro-Kurdish lawmakers would also threaten to derail two-year-old peace talks with the terrorist-listed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK. That could reignite an insurgency that in the past three decades cost 40,000 lives and $1 trillion in economic damage.
"Turkey could witness a period of political turbulence and violence in the aftermath of the elections," said Anthony Skinner, who covers Turkey at U.K.-based political-risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft. "The election is a choice between increased authoritarianism versus a parliamentary democracy defined by the division of power."
The fairness of elections has also surfaced as a significant concern for the first time in decades, with tens of thousands of volunteers signing up to monitor ballots.
"I was bothered by the fact that my ballot was not tallied as intended in last year's local elections, so, I decided to volunteer as a poll observer," said Gurcan Gulersoy, a 20-year-old student in Istanbul's liberal Cihangir neighborhood. "Workers at the ballots are more serious compared to the previous elections I have seen."
Distrust about polling follows scores of irregularities in the 2014 local elections, which had also served as a referendum on Mr. Erdogan's leadership as his government battled sprawling corruption charges. The AKP swept the municipal polls with 46% national support, and still comfortably remains Turkey's most popular party.
"Only a few votes will determine whether the HDP surpasses the 10% threshold, creating incentive for vote tampering," said a task force led by former U.S. ambassadors to Turkey in a report published by the Bipartisan Policy Center, a Washington-based think tank. "The outcome of this election will be crucial for the AKP's 'New Turkey.'"
Write to Emre Peker at emre.peker@wsj.com

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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 8/14/2015 8:45:27 AM
Subject: Re: Iran tonight

Good!

On Aug 14, 2015 3:32 PM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Here's where we've landed:

I want to start by saying something about one of the most serious decisions we face today as a nation – the Iranian nuclear agreement.

As Secretary of State, I traveled tens of thousands of miles and twisted a lot of arms to build a global coalition against Iran and impose the most crippling sanctions in history. That pressure delivered a blow to Iran's economy and gave us the leverage necessary to get to the negotiating table and begin the first preliminary talks.

Now, thanks to President Obama, Secretary Kerry, and Secretary Moniz, we have an agreement that blocks Iran's pathways to a bomb and gives us new tools for verification and inspection to compel rigorous Iranian compliance.

There are people of good faith on both sides of this debate, people who are committed to protecting our security and the security of our allies, especially Israel, a true friend of America.

None of us should have any illusions about Iran's true intentions or its continuing threat to Israel, the region, and the United States. That threat is real and it must be confronted, including how we enforce this agreement and deter Iranian aggression and sponsorship of terrorism.

But our path is clear. This agreement, combined with strong enforcement and deterrence, is the only way to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

There simply is no viable alternative.

That's why I strongly support President Obama. And I encourage all of you to get involved and let Congress know that you support the President as well.

And when this debate is over, we need to come together to ensure the President has the tools, resources, and support to send a clear message to Iran: Cheat, and you will pay. When you threaten Israel, you threaten America. And make no mistake, we will never allow you to acquire a nuclear weapon; not just during the term of this agreement -- never.

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/2/2015 4:04:01 AM
Subject: Pope UN Address

The English translation of Pope Francis' September 25 address to the United Nations, UN Headquarters, New York.

Mr President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your kind words. Once again, following a tradition by which I feel honoured, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has invited the pope to address this distinguished assembly of nations. In my own name, and that of the entire Catholic community, I wish to express to you, Mr Ban Ki-moon, my heartfelt gratitude. I greet the heads of state and heads of government present, as well as the ambassadors, diplomats and political and technical officials accompanying them, the personnel of the United Nations engaged in this 70th Session of the General Assembly, the personnel of the various programs and agencies of the United Nations family, and all those who, in one way or another, take part in this meeting. Through you, I also greet the citizens of all the nations represented in this hall. I thank you, each and all, for your efforts in the service of mankind.

This is the fifth time that a pope has visited the United Nations. I follow in the footsteps of my predecessors Paul VI, in 1965, John Paul II in 1979 and 1995, and my most recent predecessor, now Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in 2008. All of them expressed their great esteem for the organisation, which they considered the appropriate juridical and political response to this present moment of history, marked by our technical ability to overcome distances and frontiers and, apparently, to overcome all natural limits to the exercise of power.
An essential response, in as much as technological power, in the hands of nationalistic or falsely universalist ideologies, is capable of perpetrating tremendous atrocities. I can only reiterate the appreciation expressed by my predecessors, in reaffirming the importance which the Catholic Church attaches to this institution and the hope which she places in its activities.

The United Nations is presently celebrating its seventieth anniversary. The history of this organised community of states is one of important common achievements over a period of unusually fast-paced changes. Without claiming to be exhaustive, we can mention the codification and development of international law, the establishment of international norms regarding human rights, advances in humanitarian law, the resolution of numerous conflicts, operations of peace-keeping and reconciliation, and any number of other accomplishments in every area of international activity and endeavour.

All these achievements are lights which help to dispel the darkness of the disorder caused by unrestrained ambitions and collective forms of selfishness. Certainly, many grave problems remain to be resolved, yet it is clear that, without all those interventions on the international level, mankind would not have been able to survive the unchecked use of its own possibilities. Every one of these political, juridical and technical advances is a path towards attaining the ideal of human fraternity and a means for its greater realisation.

For this reason, I pay homage to all those men and women whose loyalty and self-sacrifice have benefitted humanity as a whole in these past seventy years. In particular, I would recall today those who gave their lives for peace and reconciliation among peoples, from Dag Hammarskjöld to the many United Nations officials at every level who have been killed in the course of humanitarian missions, and missions of peace and reconciliation.
Beyond these achievements, the experience of the past 70 years has made it clear that reform and adaptation to the times is always necessary in the pursuit of the ultimate goal of granting all countries, without exception, a share in, and a genuine and equitable influence on, decision-making processes. The need for greater equity is especially true in the case of those bodies with effective executive capability, such as the Security Council, the financial agencies and the groups or mechanisms specifically created to deal with economic crises.

This will help limit every kind of abuse or usury, especially where developing countries are concerned. The International Financial Agencies should care for the sustainable development of countries and should ensure that they are not subjected to oppressive lending systems which, far from promoting progress, subject people to mechanisms which generate greater poverty, exclusion and dependence.

The work of the United Nations, according to the principles set forth in the preamble and the first articles of its founding charter, can be seen as the development and promotion of the rule of law, based on the realisation that justice is an essential condition for achieving the ideal of universal fraternity. In this context, it is helpful to recall that the limitation of power is an idea implicit in the concept of law itself. To give to each his own, to cite the classic definition of justice, means that no human individual or group can consider itself absolute, permitted to bypass the dignity and the rights of other individuals or their social groupings.
The effective distribution of power (political, economic, defence-related, technological, etc.) among a plurality of subjects, and the creation of a juridical system for regulating claims and interests, are one concrete way of limiting power. Yet today's world presents us with many false rights and – at the same time – broad sectors which are vulnerable, victims of power badly exercised: for example, the natural environment and the vast ranks of the

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excluded. These sectors are closely interconnected and made increasingly fragile by dominant political and economic relationships. That is why their rights must be forcefully affirmed, by working to protect the environment and by putting an end to exclusion.

First, it must be stated that a true “right of the environment” does exist, for two reasons. First, because we human beings are part of the environment. We live in communion with it, since the environment itself entails ethical limits which human activity must acknowledge and respect. Man, for all his remarkable gifts, which “are signs of a uniqueness which transcends the spheres of physics and biology” (Laudato Si’, 81), is at the same time a part of these spheres. He possesses a body shaped by physical, chemical and biological elements, and can only survive and develop if the ecological environment is favourable. Any harm done to the environment, therefore, is harm done to humanity.

Second, because every creature, particularly a living creature, has an intrinsic value, in its existence, its life, its beauty and its interdependence with other creatures. We Christians, together with the other monotheistic religions, believe that the universe is the fruit of a loving decision by the Creator, who permits man respectfully to use creation for the good of his fellow men and for the glory of the Creator; he is not authorised to abuse it, much less to destroy it. In all religions, the environment is a fundamental good (cf. ibid.).

Abuse of the environment

The misuse and destruction of the environment are also accompanied by a relentless process of exclusion. In effect, a selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity leads both to the misuse of available natural resources and to the exclusion of the weak and disadvantaged, either because they are differently abled (handicapped), or because they lack adequate information and technical expertise, or are incapable of decisive political action.

Economic and social exclusion is a complete denial of human fraternity and a grave offence against human rights and the environment. The poorest are those who suffer most from such offences, for three serious reasons: they are cast off by society, forced to live off what is discarded and suffer unjustly from the abuse of the environment. They are part of today’s widespread and quietly growing “culture of waste”.

The dramatic reality this whole situation of exclusion and inequality, with its evident effects, has led me, in union with the entire Christian people and many others, to take stock of my grave responsibility in this regard and to speak out, together with all those who are seeking urgently-needed and effective solutions. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the World Summit, which opens today, is an important sign of hope. I am similarly confident that the Paris Conference on Climatic Change will secure fundamental and effective agreements.
Solemn commitments, however, are not enough, even though they are a necessary step toward solutions. The classic definition of justice which I mentioned earlier contains as one of its essential elements a constant and perpetual will: Iustitia est constans et perpetua voluntas ius sum cuique tribuendi.

Our world demands of all government leaders a will which is effective, practical and constant, concrete steps and immediate measures for preserving and improving the natural environment and thus putting an end as quickly as possible to the phenomenon of social and economic exclusion, with its baneful consequences: human trafficking, the marketing of human organs and tissues, the sexual exploitation of boys and girls, slave labour, including prostitution, the drug and weapons trade, terrorism and international organised crime. Such is the magnitude of these situations and their toll in innocent lives, that we must avoid every temptation to fall into a declarationist nominalism which would assuage our consciences. We need to ensure that our institutions are truly effective in the struggle against all these scourges.

The number and complexity of the problems require that we possess technical instruments of verification. But this involves two risks. We can rest content with the bureaucratic exercise of drawing up long lists of good proposals – goals, objectives and statistical indicators – or we can think that a single theoretical and aprioristic solution will provide an answer to all the challenges.

It must never be forgotten that political and economic activity is only effective when it is understood as a prudential activity, guided by a perennial concept of justice and constantly conscious of the fact that, above and beyond our plans and programmes, we are dealing with real men and women who live, struggle and suffer, and are often forced to live in great poverty, deprived of all rights.

To enable these real men and women to escape from extreme poverty, we must allow them to be dignified agents of their own destiny. Integral human development and the full exercise of human dignity cannot be imposed. They must be built up and allowed to unfold for each individual, for every family, in communion with others, and in a right relationship with all those areas in which human social life develops – friends, communities, towns and cities, schools, businesses and unions, provinces, nations, etc.

This presupposes and requires the right to education – also for girls (excluded in certain places) – which is ensured first and foremost by respecting and reinforcing the primary right of the family to educate its children, as well as the right of churches and social groups to support and assist families in the education of their children. Education conceived in this way is the basis for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and for reclaiming the environment.

At the same time, government leaders must do everything possible to ensure that all can have the minimum spiritual and material means needed to live in dignity and to create and support a family, which is the primary cell

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of any social development. In practical terms, this absolute minimum has three names: lodging, labour, and land; and one spiritual name: spiritual freedom, which includes religious freedom, the right to education and other civil rights.

For all this, the simplest and best measure and indicator of the implementation of the new Agenda for development will be effective, practical and immediate access, on the part of all, to essential material and spiritual goods: housing, dignified and properly remunerated employment, adequate food and drinking water; religious freedom and, more generally, spiritual freedom and education. These pillars of integral human development have a common foundation, which is the right to life and, more generally, what we could call the right to existence of human nature itself.

Ethical limits

The ecological crisis, and the large-scale destruction of biodiversity, can threaten the very existence of the human species. The baneful consequences of an irresponsible mismanagement of the global economy, guided only by ambition for wealth and power, must serve as a summons to a forthright reflection on man: “man is not only a freedom which he creates for himself. Man does not create himself. He is spirit and will, but also nature” (BENEDICT XVI, Address to the Bundestag, 22 September 2011, cited in Laudato Si’, 6).

Creation is compromised “where we ourselves have the final word… The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognise any instance above ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves” (ID. Address to the Clergy of the Diocese of Bolzano-Bressanone, 6 August 2008, cited ibid.). Consequently, the defence of the environment and the fight against exclusion demand that we recognize a moral law written into human nature itself, one which includes the natural difference between man and woman (cf. Laudato Si’, 155), and absolute respect for life in all its stages and dimensions (cf. ibid., 123, 136).

Without the recognition of certain incontestable natural ethical limits and without the immediate implementation of those pillars of integral human development, the ideal of “saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war” (Charter of the United Nations, Preamble), and “promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom” (ibid.), risks becoming an unattainable illusion, or, even worse, idle chatter which serves as a cover for all kinds of abuse and corruption, or for carrying out an ideological colonisation by the imposition of anomalous models and lifestyles which are alien to people’s identity and, in the end, irresponsible.

War is the negation of all rights and a dramatic assault on the environment. If we want true integral human development for all, we must work tirelessly to avoid war between nations and between peoples.

To this end, there is a need to ensure the uncontested rule of law and tireless recourse to negotiation, mediation and arbitration, as proposed by the Charter of the United Nations, which constitutes truly a fundamental juridical norm. The experience of these seventy years since the founding of the United Nations in general, and in particular the experience of these first 15 years of the third millennium, reveal both the effectiveness of the full application of international norms and the ineffectiveness of their lack of enforcement. When the Charter of the United Nations is respected and applied with transparency and sincerity, and without ulterior motives, as an obligatory reference point of justice and not as a means of masking spurious intentions, peaceful results will be obtained. When, on the other hand, the norm is considered simply as an instrument to be used whenever it proves favourable, and to be avoided when it is not, a true Pandora’s box is opened, releasing uncontrollable forces which gravely harm defenceless populations, the cultural milieu and even the biological environment.

The preamble and the first article of the Charter of the United Nations set forth the foundations of the international juridical framework: peace, the pacific solution of disputes and the development of friendly relations between the nations. Strongly opposed to such statements, and in practise denying them, is the constant tendency to the proliferation of arms, especially weapons of mass distraction, such as nuclear weapons. An ethics and a law based on the threat of mutual destruction – and possibly the destruction of all mankind – are self-contradictory and an affront to the entire framework of the United Nations, which would end up as “nations united by fear and distrust”. There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the non-proliferation Treaty, in letter and spirit, with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons.

The recent agreement reached on the nuclear question in a sensitive region of Asia and the Middle East is proof of the potential of political good will and of law, exercised with sincerity, patience and constancy. I express my hope that this agreement will be lasting and efficacious, and bring forth the desired fruits with the cooperation of all the parties involved.

In this sense, hard evidence is not lacking of the negative effects of military and political interventions which are not coordinated between members of the international community. For this reason, while regretting to have to do so, I must renew my repeated appeals regarding to the painful situation of the entire Middle East, North Africa and other African countries, where Christians, together with other cultural or ethnic groups, and even members of the majority religion who have no desire to be caught up in hatred and folly, have been forced to witness the destruction of their places of worship, their cultural and religious heritage, their houses and property, and have faced the alternative either of fleeing or of paying for their adhesion to good and to peace by their own lives, or by enslavement.

These realities should serve as a grave summons to an examination of conscience on the part of those charged with the conduct of international affairs. Not only in cases of religious or cultural persecution, but in every situation of conflict, as in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan and the Great Lakes region, real human beings take precedence over partisan interests, however legitimate the latter may be. In wars and conflicts there

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are individual persons, our brothers and sisters, men and women, young and old, boys and girls who weep, suffer and die. Human beings who are easily discarded when our only response is to draw up lists of problems, strategies and disagreements.

Protection of human dignity

As I wrote in my letter to the secretary-general of the United Nations on 9 August 2014, “the most basic understanding of human dignity compels the international community, particularly through the norms and mechanisms of international law, to do all that it can to stop and to prevent further systematic violence against ethnic and religious minorities” and to protect innocent peoples.

Along the same lines I would mention another kind of conflict which is not always so open, yet is silently killing millions of people. Another kind of war experienced by many of our societies as a result of the narcotics trade. A war which is taken for granted and poorly fought. Drug trafficking is by its very nature accompanied by trafficking in persons, money laundering, the arms trade, child exploitation and other forms of corruption. A corruption which has penetrated to different levels of social, political, military, artistic and religious life, and, in many cases, has given rise to a parallel structure which threatens the credibility of our institutions.

I began this speech recalling the visits of my predecessors. I would hope that my words will be taken above all as a continuation of the final words of the address of Pope Paul VI; although spoken almost exactly fifty years ago, they remain ever timely. “The hour has come when a pause, a moment of recollection, reflection, even of prayer, is absolutely needed so that we may think back over our common origin, our history, our common destiny. The appeal to the moral conscience of man has never been as necessary as it is today… For the danger comes neither from progress nor from science; if these are used well, they can help to solve a great number of the serious problems besetting mankind (Address to the United Nations Organisation, 4 October 1965). Among other things, human genius, well applied, will surely help to meet the grave challenges of ecological deterioration and of exclusion. As Paul VI said: “The real danger comes from man, who has at his disposal ever more powerful instruments that are as well fitted to bring about ruin as they are to achieve lofty conquests” (ibid.).

The common home of all men and women must continue to rise on the foundations of a right understanding of universal fraternity and respect for the sacredness of every human life, of every man and every woman, the poor, the elderly, children, the infirm, the unborn, the unemployed, the abandoned, those considered disposable because they are only considered as part of a statistic. This common house of all men and women must also be built on the understanding of a certain sacredness of created nature.

Such understanding and respect call for a higher degree of wisdom, one which accepts transcendence, rejects the creation of an all-powerful élite, and recognises that the full meaning of individual and collective life is found in selfless service to others and in the sage and respectful use of creation for the common good. To repeat the words of Paul VI, “the edifice of modern civilisation has to be built on spiritual principles, for they are the only ones capable not only of supporting it, but of shedding light on it” (ibid.).

El Gaucho Martín Fierro, a classic of literature in my native land, says: “Brothers should stand by each other because this is the first law; keep a true bond between you always, at every time – because if you fight among yourselves, you’ll be devoured by those outside”.

The contemporary world, so apparently connected, is experiencing a growing and steady social fragmentation, which places at risk “the foundations of social life” and consequently leads to “battles over conflicting interests” (Laudato Si’, 229).

The present time invites us to give priority to actions which generate new processes in society, so as to bear fruit in significant and positive historical events (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 223). We cannot permit ourselves to postpone “certain agendas” for the future. The future demands of us critical and global decisions in the face of world-wide conflicts which increase the number of the excluded and those in need.

The praiseworthy international juridical framework of the United Nations Organisation and of all its activities, like any other human endeavour, can be improved, yet it remains necessary; at the same time it can be the pledge of a secure and happy future for future generations. And so it will, if the representatives of the States can set aside partisan and ideological interests, and sincerely strive to serve the common good. I pray to Almighty God that this will be the case, and I assure you of my support and my prayers, and the support and prayers of all the faithful of the Catholic Church, that this Institution, all its member States, and each of its officials, will always render an effective service to mankind, a service respectful of diversity and capable of bringing out, for sake of the common good, the best in each people and in every individual

Upon all of you, and the peoples you represent, I invoke the blessing of the Most High, and all peace and prosperity. Thank you.

--
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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/16/2008 1:23:15 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 6/16

08 Election Daily News Clips
June 16th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

12pm McCain: Finance Luncheon in Midland,TX

6pm McCain: Finance Reception in Dallas, Texas

8pm McCain: Finance Event in Dallas, TX

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

'Maverick' McCain bedevils Democrats (Washington Times 6/16/08)
By Joseph Curl
Sen. John McCain's reputation as a maverick who regularly bucks the conservative wing of his party will be a formidable obstacle for Sen. Barack Obama as he seeks to persuade moderates to vote for him in November.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jun/16/maverick-mccain-bedevils-democrats/

Behind McCain's Town Hall Campaign (TIME 6/16/08)
By Michael Scherer
Sometimes in politics, the medium really is the message. ... For McCain, the town hall is more than just a chance for him to spread his message of staying the course in Iraq and cutting taxes and spending. It is itself the message he wants to deliver.
http://www.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1814902,00.html

Historians see little chance for McCain (Politico 6/16/08)
By: David Paul Kuhn
One week into the general election, the polls show a dead heat. But many presidential scholars doubt that John McCain stands much of a chance, if any.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11090.html

Bush-backer pens pro-Obama book (Politico 6/16/08)
By: Ben Smith
The conservative Evangelical biographer of George W. Bush and Tom DeLay has moved on to a new subject: Barack Obama. And his new book, due out this summer, may lend credibility to Senator Obama's bid to win Evangelical Christian voters away from the Republican Party.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11099.html

McCain Wobbles (Slate 6/16/08)
By Mickey Kaus
Alito and Scalia or Breyer and Ginsberg?
http://www.slate.com/id/2193674/?from=rss

Aiming to Avoid the Dole-drums (NEWSWEEK 6/23/08)
By Holly Bailey
McCain needs to learn from the mistakes of another honored war hero who ran for the White House and lost.

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http://www.newsweek.com/id/141506

She Had Such Nice Things to Say (NEWSWEEK 6/23/08)
By Jonathan Darman
To get McCain elected, Carly Fiorina is talking up ... Hillary.
http://www.newsweek.com/id/141508

In '74 Thesis, the Seeds of McCain's War Views (NYT 6/15/08)
By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
About a year after his release from a North Vietnamese prison camp, Cmdr. John S. McCain III sat down to address one of the most vexing questions confronting his fellow prisoners: Why did some choose to collaborate with the North Vietnamese?
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/15/us/politics/15pows.html?_r=1&ref=politics&oref=slogin
Link to pdf of thesis: http://graphics8.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/politics/20080615/McCain.pdf

What Will the Pillars of His Foreign Policy Be? (Washington Post 6/15/08)
By James Mann; B03
The Bush administration has become legendary for infighting over foreign policy. But don't assume that the Republican bickering over how to deal with the world ends when President Bush steps down. To see the potential for internal conflict in a McCain administration, consider two figures who may well be in line for top foreign policy jobs.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/13/AR2008061301571.html

Warring Campaigns (Weekly Standard 6/23/08)
by Stephen F. Hayes
McCain and Obama trade blows over Iraq.
http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/015/227cvowu.asp

There's Votes in Them Thar Hills (Weekly Standard 6/23/08)
by Fred Barnes
For years now, John McCain has warned of the peril to America in sending $400 billion a year to foreign countries in return for oil. He's been loud and relentless on the subject--and wise. "It's a national security issue," he declared last week at a town hall meeting in New York City. Much of the money goes to countries that "do not like us very much," he noted. That was McCain's understated way of saying the beneficiaries include Iran, Venezuela, and Saudi Arabia, countries in which anti-American forces find aid and comfort.
http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/015/225hregm.asp

McCain's run little noticed in bustling Hanoi (Philadelphia Inquirer 6/15/08)
By Melissa Dribben
As notoriety cedes to prosperity, a small salute to his "Hilton" ordeal remains.
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/home_top_stories/20080615_McCain_s_run_little_noticed_in_bustling_Hanoi.html

Age Becomes the New Race and Gender (NYT 6/15/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
This year's campaign for president has provided an extended test of attitudes toward race and gender, two powerful and volatile forces in politics. Now a third is about to join that list: age.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/15/weekinreview/15nagourney.html

McCain blasts corn subsidies, backs larger Security Council (AP 6/15/08)
U.S. presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain supports ending subsidies for U.S. ethanol production and would back Brazil's inclusion on an expanded United Nations Security Council, a Brazilian newspaper reported Sunday.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/election2008/2008-06-15-mccain-brazil_N.htm

Campaigns Unable to Agree on Series of Meetings (NYT 6/15/08)
By MICHAEL FALCONE and JULIE BOSMAN
In almost every campaign appearance this week, Senator John McCain has been leaning on Senator Barack

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Obama to accept his offer to engage in a series of 10 one-on-one town-hall-style meetings, a format that worked well for Mr. McCain in the primaries.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/14/us/politics/14campaign.html

McCain Reaches Across the Aisle in Virtual Town Hall (Washington Post blog 6/15/08)
By Michael D. Shear
Sen. John McCain held a novel, virtual town hall meeting Saturday afternoon that his campaign said was aimed at letting Democrats and independents ask McCain questions over a conference call.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/14/mccain_reaches_across_the_aisl.html

Fiorina woos Clinton supporters for McCain (Reuters 6/15/08)
Republican John McCain enlisted the high-profile help of Carly Fiorina, once the most powerful businesswoman in the United States, on Saturday to try to get women behind his campaign for the White House.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25169407/

McCain tries to play Dems for fools (again) (Carpetbagger 6/15/08)
It makes perfect sense that the McCain campaign would make at least cursory efforts to reach out to Hillary Clinton's most ardent supporters. John McCain does, after all, have very little to lose. There are some lingering hard feelings after the longest and closest Democratic presidential primary ever, and even though the intra-party factions agree on everything and share a common agenda, McCain hopes to convince a few Dems that his ideas, vision, issue positions, platform, and voting record are completely irrelevant in a presidential campaign.
http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/15877.html

McCain and Clinton's unlikely friendship (LA Times 6/15/08)
By DON FREDERICK and ANDREW MALCOLM
...people who know both McCain and Clinton. It's true, they confirmed, there is a special friendship. It apparently started in January 2001, when Clinton became the first former first lady elected to public office and walked into the U.S. Senate.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-ticket15-2008jun15,0,7726398.story

Gingrich: McCain Won't Win On Experience (CBS 6/15/08)
Former Speaker Says If Republicans Campaign Against Obama's Resume They Will Fail
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/15/ftn/main4181837.shtml

Gingrich: Jindal is best choice for vice president (The Hill 6/15/08)
By Klaus Marre
Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) said Sunday that Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal "would be far and away the best candidate" to appear on the Republican presidential ticket with Sen. John McCain (Ariz.).
http://thehill.com/campaign-2008/gingrich-jindal-is-best-choice-for-vice-president-2008-06-15.html

Obama and McCain: two sides of the coin (LA Times 6/15/08)
By Janet Hook
As the faltering economy has catapulted to the top of the presidential campaign agenda, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama have both said they want to make healthcare more affordable, cut taxes and adopt a new energy strategy. But they have laid out far different paths to achieving these goals.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-econplans15-2008jun15,0,7782825.story

McCain Meets with Iraqi Foreign Minister (Washington Post blog 6/15/08)
By Juliet Eilperin
Presumptive GOP nominee John McCain (R-Ariz.) met privately with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari this morning at his campaign headquarters, before emerging to praise the minister and take a handful of questions from a pool of reporters.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/15/mccain_meets_with_iraqi_foreig.html

McCain Texas Fundraiser Back On, Sans Oilman (Washington Post blog 6/15/08)
By Juliet Eilperin
Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz) has decided to hold a fundraiser initially sponsored by a controversial Texas oilman

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later in the summer at a different venue, according to an aide who asked not to be identified.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/15/mccain_texas_fundraiser_back_o.html

McCain has diluted his rare reputation (Baltimore Sun 6/15/08)
By PAUL WEST
John McCain once had the most powerful brand in American politics.
www.baltimoresun.com/news/nation/bal-te.infocus15jun15,0,4687694.story

At Reuters Summit, McCain seen as best choice for economy (Reuters 6/15/08)
Republican presidential candidate John McCain's tax policies have given him an edge as the better man for the economy, various Wall Street experts said at this week's Reuters Investment Outlook Summit.
http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSN1334411920080615

McCain event with fundraiser who joked about rape has been 'postponed,' not canceled. (ThinkProgress 6/15/08)
On Friday, ABC reported that Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) campaign had canceled a fundraiser with a Texas oilman who compared rape to the weather while running for governor. "As long as it's inevitable, you might as well lie back and enjoy it," said Clayton Williams in 1990. But the Houston Chronicle now reports that yesterday afternoon, the campaign said that the event had simply been "postponed" until later this summer:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/15/mccain-event-with-fundraiser-who-joked-about-rape-has-been-postponed-not-canceled/

McCain Cuts Fund-Raiser (NYT 6/15/08)
By SARAH WHEATON
Senator John McCain's presidential campaign canceled a fund-raiser at the home of an 86-year-old oilman, Clayton Williams, after the campaign faced questions about comments Mr. Williams made in the 1990 race for Texas governor.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/15/us/politics/15mccain.html

McCain Says No to Returning Funds Raised by Controversial Oilman (Washington Post blog 6/14/08)
By Juliet Eilperin
Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) will not return the $300,000 raised by a Texas Republican who joked in 1990 that women should submit to rape and "enjoy it."
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/06/14/mccain_says_no_to_returning_fu.html

Kaffee vs. Jessup II?: Obama and McCain Square Off on Habeas Corpus Rights for Accused Terrorists (ABC blog 6/15/08)
By Jake Tapper
At a town hall meeting in Wayne, Pa., today, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., embraced an issue hardly made for his own TV ads: the rights of detainees accused of terrorism.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/06/kaffee-vs-jessu.html

Kristol: McCain And Graham Plan To Introduce Legislation Undermining Supreme Court Decision On Guantanamo (ThinkProgress 6/15/08)
...Today on Fox News Sunday, Weekly Standard editor Bill Kristol revealed that "very soon" — likely as early as next week — McCain and Graham will be introducing legislation to undermine the Supreme Court decision by setting up a "national security court":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/15/kristol-court-guantanamo/

McCain Denounces Detainee Ruling (Washington Post 6/14/08)
By Juliet Eilperin and Michael D. Shear; A04
Republican Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) on Friday forcefully sided with President Bush in condemning the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to grant access to federal courts for the detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, potentially muddying his reputation as a critic of the administration's approach to treatment of suspected terrorists.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/13/AR2008061303414.html

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FLASHBACK: In 2003, McCain Blasted Administration's Indefinite Detention Of Detainees (ThinkProgress 6/13/08)
Yesterday, the Supreme Court ruled that Guantanamo Bay detainees have the right to challenge their detention in civilian courts. The Bush administration and its allies quickly criticized the decision:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/13/mccain-gitmo-detention/

Obama Seen Beating McCain in Web War (ABC 6/15/08)
By JENNIFER PARKER
Facebook Entrepreneur Chris Hughes a Player in Obama's Tech-Savvy Campaign
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/Vote2008/story?id=5063449&page=1

McCain gets early Father's Day present (AP 6/15/08)
Daughter switches from independent to Republican
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25140190/

McCain vs. himself (Carpetbagger 6/15/08)
For all of the enormous differences between Barack Obama and John McCain, running second are the differences between John McCain and himself.
http://www.thecarpetbaggerreport.com/archives/15883.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnb2IrsU1Cg

McCain: Sorry, Five Joint Appearances With Obama Just Won't Do It (TPM 6/15/08)
By Greg Sargent
Five joint appearances between the two presidential candidates between now and Election Day isn't enough? That's the McCain campaign's claim, now that it has rejected Obama's offer to conduct three traditional debates, plus a joint town hall in July, and another debate on foreign policy in August.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/06/mccain_five_joint_appearances.php

Disclosures Give Look at Candidates' Personal Finances (NYT 6/14/08)
By LARRY ROHTER
Senators John McCain and Barack Obama released their Senate financial disclosure statements on Friday, revealing that Mr. McCain and his wife had at least $225,000 in credit card debt and that Mr. Obama and his wife had put more than $200,000 into college funds for their daughters.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/14/us/politics/14disclosure.html

More on Cindy McCain's finances disclosed (LA Times 6/14/08)
By Ralph Vartabedian
John McCain's wife made 13 deals last year in her financial enterprise that exceeded $1 million each, according to a Senate disclosure statement.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-disclosure14-2008jun14,0,5094734.story

Hillary Pledged Delegate: I'm Backing McCain! (TPM 6/14/08)
By Eric Kleefeld
Although Hillary Clinton has asked her delegates to support Barack Obama, one particular delegate is taking the polar-opposite route. Debra Bartoshevich, a Hillary pledged delegate from Wisconsin, has now announced that she's supporting John McCain.
http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/06/hillary_pledged_delegate_im_ba.php

Colin Powell Sees McCain-Obama Race as Tough Choice (WSJ blog 6/13/08)
By Susan Davis
Former Secretary of State Colin Powell said it's not out of the question that he may support expected Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama in the race against John McCain.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/06/13/colin-powell-sees-mccain-obama-race-as-tough-choice/

Fact Check: McCain and Social Security (FOX News 6/13/08)
John McCain has long advocated letting workers divert some of their payroll taxes into private accounts. So

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when he says now that he won't privatize Social Security, that raises eyebrows. But is he flip-flopping?
http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2008Jun13/0,4670,SocialSecurityFactCheck,00.html

McCain Doubles Down On His Social Security Privatization Bamboozlement (ThinkProgress 6/13/08)
Yesterday, despite his clear record on the issue, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) told a crowd in Nashua, NH that he has "never" been for the privatization of Social Security.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/13/mccain-social-security-bamboozle/
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkkKSF3xiNY

AFA Urges Strengthening Montgomery GI Bill (AFA press release 6/13/08)
The Air Force Association today urged improvements to the Montgomery GI Bill, including those proposed in S. 22 by Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA).
http://www.afa.org/media/press/gibill.asp

McCain: Treat our wives with respect (CNN 6/13/08)
* Sen. John McCain talks one-on-one with CNN's Dana Bash on Friday
* "Americans want us to have a much more respectful campaign," he says
* McCain blasts the Supreme Court's decision on detainee rights
* He's also asked if he's considering a McCain-Romney ticket
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/06/13/mccain.interview/index.html

Report: Rove Talks "Fairly Regularly" With McCain Camp; Getting Six Figures From Freedom's Watch (MotherJones 6/13/08)
In a new National Journal article (not available online), writer Peter Stone dives deep into the conservative establishment and gets campaign staffers, movement operatives, and the ubiquitous "strategists" and "consultants" to talk about Karl Rove's current role in presidential politics. The takeaway? Rove is back. In fact, he probably never left. The campaign that is trying to prove it's not a second coming of George W. Bush is using the President's former chief strategist on a regular basis.
http://www.motherjones.com/mojoblog/archives/2008/06/8690_natl_journal_ro.html

OPNIONS AND EDITORIALS

McCain's time warp (Boston Globe 6/16/08)
TRYING TO deflect criticism that he is sounding like a clone of the unpopular President Bush, Senator John McCain is equating Barack Obama's policies with those of President Jimmy Carter. Comparisons across generations are rarely on target, and McCain's remarks are particularly obtuse.
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2008/06/16/mccains_time_warp/

It's Going To Be Quite a Battle (The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 6/16/08)
By DAVID SHRIBMAN
This is shaping up as quite a presidential election: a close campaign taking on the trappings of what generals call "total war."
http://www.nysun.com/opinion/its-going-to-be-quite-a-battle/80017/

Angry Clinton Women ♥ McCain? (NYT 6/15/08)
By FRANK RICH
The same Republican operatives who gleefully insulted Hillary Clinton are now peddling the fable that her female supporters will desert their own party en masse.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/15/opinion/15rich.html

Hillary redux? (Washington Times 6/15/08)
John McCain is seemingly imitating the campaign strategy Hillary Clinton used against Barack Obama during the Democratic primaries and caucuses. Like Mrs. Clinton, Mr. McCain is emphasizing his experience and foreign-policy credentials. His campaign is also mirroring her campaign focus on winning big states, courting swing voters, and wooing the white, blue-collar vote. Mrs. Clinton achieved some success with this formula. Yet in the long run, her strategy failed. Why, then, is Mr. McCain adopting an approach that ultimately failed for Mrs. Clinton?

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http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/jun/15/editorial-hillary-redux/

Think the Gender War Is Over? Think Again (NYT 6/15/08)
By SUSAN FALUDI
FOR months, our political punditry foresaw one, and only one, prospective gender contest looming in the general election: between the first serious female presidential candidate and the Republican male "warrior." But those who were dreading a plebiscite on sexual politics shouldn't celebrate just yet. Hillary Clinton may be out of the race, but a Barack Obama versus John McCain match-up still has the makings of an epic American gender showdown.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/15/opinion/15faludi.html

When McCain Drops Out (Huffington Post 6/15/08)
By Steve Rosenbaum
When the Republicans choose their candidate on September 4th, there is a very real chance that they could throw the election into an unexpected chaos as they pull a genuine September Surprise. I think there is every reason to believe John McCain won't be the nominee. Ok, let me say that again. McCain will not be the Republican candidate in November.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-rosenbaum/when-mccain-drops-out_b_107236.html

Questions for Gore Vidal (NYT 6/15/08)
INTERVIEW BY DEBORAH SOLOMON
The writer talks about the trouble with critics, what West Point taught him about McCain and why he doesn't care about gay marriage.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/15/magazine/15wwln-Q4-t.html

Foreclosures and the Election (NYT 6/15/08)
There is much still uncertain about the future course of the home mortgage debacle, but one thing is now clear: Congress and President Bush have done so little for so long that they will never manage an effective response. Like so many other problems, the foreclosure crisis will be dumped on the next president and the next Congress.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/15/opinion/15sun1.html

No easy solutions (Philadelphia Inquirer 6/15/08)
The next president will inherit a wide range of economic problems, from soaring food and gas prices, to a slumping housing industry, to a weak job market and the tumbling value of the dollar.
http://www.philly.com/inquirer/opinion/20080615_Editorial__The_Economy.html

A Moment of Clarity in Baghdad (NYT 6/14/08)
The disconnect between Washington's stay-the-course Republicans — President Bush and Senator John McCain, in particular — and the Iraqi government has grown too wide to ignore. As the administration pushes for a legal agreement to extend the American military presence in Iraq, the Iraqis are pushing back. That is a positive sign.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/14/opinion/14sat1.html

Candidates, Fly Away Home (NYT 6/14/08)
By GAIL COLLINS
With the general election five months away, it feels as if we're embarking on a very long cruise with two neighbors in the last throes of a troubled marriage.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/14/opinion/14collins.html

MCCAIN'S OIL WRONG (NY Post 6/14/08)
Who's writing John McCain's campaign speeches - Michael Moore? You'd think so, from the over-the-top rhetoric McCain used on Thursday night at Federal Hall, ripping into the nation's oil companies.
http://www.nypost.com/seven/06142008/postopinion/editorials/mccains_oil_wrong_115488.htm

BUSH NEWS

Bush never lied to us about Iraq (LA Times 6/16/08)
By James Kirchick

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The administration simply got bad intelligence. Critics are wrong to assert deception.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-kirchick16-2008jun16,0,4808346.story

Bush says US can calm tensions on Afghan-Pakistan border (Washington Post 6/16/08)
By DEB RIECHMANN
President Bush says the United States can help calm the "testy situation" along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061600313.html?hpid=moreheadlines

Britain, E.U. Announce Iran Sanctions (Washington Post 6/16/08)
By Dan Eggen
British Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Monday announced new sanctions against Iran and an unspecified increase in troops for Afghanistan, handing President Bush a symbolic boost on the last day of his weeklong farewell trip to Europe.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/16/AR2008061600313_pf.html

Iran and Iraq on the agenda for Bush-Brown talks (Reuters 6/16/08)
By Matt Spetalnick
U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown will present a united front against Iran's nuclear ambitions Monday and seek to dispel media suggestions of a rift over troop levels in Iraq.
http://www.reuters.com/article/featuredCrisis/idUSL1658907

Bush warns Brown over plan to cut Iraq force (UK's The Guardian 6/15/08)
By Ned Temko
George Bush flies into London today with a warning for Gordon Brown not to announce a timetable for a British pull-out from Iraq, and expressing deep scepticism about the Prime Minister's high-profile strategy for bringing down world oil prices.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jun/15/georgebush.iraq

Bush is straight-talker, so what's EU-3? (AP 6/15/08)
By DEB RIECHMANN
President Bush is a straight-talking guy, so what's he doing talking about the EU-3? It's part of Bush diplomatic-speak. Derided by some as a cowboy during his first term, Bush is ending his presidency knee-deep in group diplomacy.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/15/AR2008061500164.html

Jeb back on stump ... just for schools (St. Petersburg Times 6/15/08)
By Shannon Colavecchio-Van Sickler
Jeb Bush is back. This week, in the center of the state he governed for eight years, Bush ends his 18-month hiatus from Florida public life. The chosen occasion: a high-profile education conference, organized by his foundations, that will showcase the controversial reforms of his tenure.
http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/state/article625057.ece#

Cheney Acknowledges He Lied About China Drilling '60 Miles Off The Coast Of Florida' (ThinkProgress 6/13/08)
On Wednesday, Vice President Dick Cheney gave a speech to the Chamber of Commerce in which he claimed that China, in cooperation with the Cuban government, is drilling for oil "60 miles off the coast of Florida." "Even the communists have figured out" that drilling for oil is the solution to the energy crisis, Cheney argued.
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/06/13/cheney-admits-oil-lie/

OTHER TOP NEWS

Gay Rights Pioneers Will Be First Married Lesbian Couple in San Francisco (AP 6/16/08)
More than 55 years after they fell in love, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin plan to become one of the first same-sex couples to legally exchange marriage vows in California.
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,367211,00.html

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In Midwest Floods, a Broad Threat to Crops (NYT 6/16/08)
By SUSAN SAULNY
Here, in some of the best soil in the world, the stunted stalks of Dave Timmerman's newly planted corn are wilting in what sometimes look more like rice paddies than the plains, the sunshine glinting off of pools of collected water. Although time is running out, he has yet to plant all of his soybean crop because the waterlogged soil cannot support his footsteps, much less heavy machinery.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/16/us/16midwest.html?em&ex=1213761600&en=26c8215ba785304e&ei=5087%0A

F.C.C. Chief Backs XM-Sirius Deal (AP 6/16/08)
The proposed merger of the nation's two satellite radio broadcasters, bogged down in the regulatory process for over a year, has cleared a major hurdle with Federal Communications Commission chief recommending approval of the $5 billion deal.
http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-FCC-XM-Sirius.html?hp

Tim Russert leaves NBC big shoes to fill (NY Daily News 6/16/08)
By David Hinckley
NBC News' David Gregory said Sunday on "Today" that the death of Tim Russert is a "loss we're still coming to terms with."
http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/tv/2008/06/16/2008-06-16_tim_russert_leaves_nbc_big_shoes_to_fill.html

Russert death shows massive heart attack isn't easy to predict (USA TODAY 6/15/08)
By Steve Sternberg
For all their differences, NBC newsman Tim Russert and famed marathoner Jim Fixx, author of the 1977 best-seller The Complete Book of Running, have two things in common: Each died of a massive heart attack while still in his 50s. Neither one saw it coming.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-06-15-heart-attack-russert_N.htm

A Sober Assessment of Afghanistan (Washington Post 6/15/08)
By Ann Scott Tyson; A16
The outgoing top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan said Friday that attacks increased 50 percent in April in the country's eastern region, where U.S. troops primarily operate, as a spreading Taliban insurgency across the border in Pakistan fueled a surge in violence.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/14/AR2008061401639.html

Iran Rejects Six-Nation Proposal (Washington Post 6/15/08)
By Thomas Erdbrink and Robin Wright; A14
Iran said Saturday that a package of incentives offered by six countries was "out of the question" because it includes a demand for the country to suspend uranium enrichment activities.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/14/AR2008061400831.html

Obama talks tough on 'AWOL' fathers (Politico 6/15/08)
By: Mike Allen
Talking tough on Father's Day, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) challenged African-American men on Sunday to play more of a role in raising their children and warned them that "responsibility doesn't just end at conception."
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0608/11096.html

Obama: 'If They Bring a Knife to the Fight, We Bring a Gun' (WSJ blog 6/14/08)
By Amy Chozick
...That's exactly what Barack Obama said he would do to counter Republican attacks "If they bring a knife to the fight, we bring a gun," Obama said at a Philadelphia fundraiser Friday night. "Because from what I understand folks in Philly like a good brawl. I've seen Eagles fans."
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/06/14/obama-if-they-bring-a-knife-to-the-fight-we-bring-a-gun/

Paul, Barr may be forging an alliance for fall election (Boston Globe 6/14/08)
By Foon Rhee

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Signs are emerging of a possible alliance this fall between Ron Paul, the libertarian-minded rebel Republican, and Bob Barr, the Libertarian Party's presidential nominee.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/06/14/
paul_barr_may_be_forging_an_alliance_for_fall_election/

Detainees May Be Denied Evidence for Defense (Washington Post 6/15/08)
By Josh White; A03
When Khalid Sheik Mohammed and other alleged co-conspirators in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks seek to represent themselves in military commissions trials in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, they may be barred from reviewing highly classified evidence and might not have access to the intelligence agents who interrogated them, according to the Pentagon's Office of Military Commissions.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/14/AR2008061401540.html

Did Justice Scalia go too far? (Chicago Tribune blog 6/15/08)
by James Oliphant
Justice Antonin Scalia is known for his strongly worded dissents, ones where he has never been hesitant to use confrontational and, some would say, even abusive language to make his point as clearly as possible.
http://www.swamppolitics.com/news/politics/blog/2008/06/did_justice_scalia_go_too_far.html

America's prison for terrorists often held the wrong men (McClatchy 6/14/08)
Tom Lasseter
The militants crept up behind Mohammed Akhtiar as he squatted at the spigot to wash his hands before evening prayers at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/detainees/story/38773.html

Sens. Dodd, Conrad tied to special mortgage deals (AP 6/13/08)
By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher J. Dodd, a leader of Congress' efforts to help homeowners ensnared in the subprime mortgage meltdown, reportedly got special treatment on his own mortgages from the CEO of Countrywide Financial Corp., a company whose practices he has called ``abusive.''
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/7584635
--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"John M Deutch" <jmd@mit.edu>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/10/2015 7:46:15 AM
Subject:	Age of nuclear fleet
Attachments:	Almost all U.S. nuclear plants require life extension past 60 years to operate beyond 2050 - Today in Energy - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).pdf

John,

Enjoyed breakfast. Here is the answer to the first question -- as we thought. The U.S. fleet begins to pass 60 years of age around 2030 and all are over 60 by 2050.

My guess is most of the post 60 reactors will not seek license renewal for technical reasons. And if granted extensions very considerable capital costs mods would be required with likely accompanying reductions in capacity factors from the high 90+ levels of today. So absent unexpected options for nuclear, and post 2040 reduction in generation should be expected.

John

****

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Fax: 617 258 5700

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From: "Michael Bronfein" <mbronfein@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 7/15/2015 10:06:48 AM
Subject: Fwd: AIPAC's Position on the Iran Nuclear Ag reement

John,

I listened in on the AIPAC call today. It was a call to arms. AIPAC views this as one of the most important lobbying efforts in its history. In addition to normal lobbying efforts they are collaborating with Citizens for a Nuclear Free Iran to run TV ads and are embarking on a fundraising campaign around this issue. I wanted you to know this so that HRC and her advisors knew this in advance of her staking a position. Personally, I'm opposed to the Iran Deal as I understand it but am prepared to more deeply understand it before making a final determination. I fear that this will become a polarizing issues for the Pro-Israel community and it will be important for HRC to fully consider all aspects of this policy issue before taking a public stance. Her stance to date in my view has been very appropriate. The landscape has now changed and people will be closely examining her every word. Moreover, the republicans' will use this to energize Pro-Israel supporters and donors. When I meet with her in April I shared that I was surprised at the number of people in the Baltimore Jewish Community questioning her stance on Israel. I attempted to persuade them differently but she is suffering to some degree from guilt by association. This could be a defining moment.

Let me know if i can be helpful to you in any way.

Regards,

Michael

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Robert A. Cohen, AIPAC President" <membership@aipac.org >
Subject: AIPAC's Position on the Iran Nuclear Agreement
Date: July 15, 2015 at 4:35:17 PM EDT
To: mbronfein@gmail.com
Reply-To: "AIPAC" <membership@aipac.org >

Click here to view the web version.

AIPAC America's Pro-Israel Lobby

As promised in my letter to you yesterday, AIPAC's policy experts have carefully reviewed the entire proposed nuclear agreement with Iran, including all of its annexes. Following our detailed assessment, we have come to the unfortunate conclusion that this agreement does not achieve the minimum requirements necessary for an acceptable deal.

AIPAC admires the determined efforts by America's negotiating team over the past many months, and we remain committed to a successful diplomatic process to bring about an end to Iran's nuclear weapons quest. As we have said since the negotiations began in 2013, diplomacy offers the best path to peacefully resolving the Iranian nuclear issue. Regrettably, however, the deal presented yesterday in Vienna falls short of its intentions to make the United States, Israel and our allies safer. In fact, we believe this agreement will do the

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opposite.

We can, and we must, do better.

Over the next 60 days, AIPAC will focus on one goal: engaging and convincing members of the House and Senate to oppose this deal and ultimately seek a better one.

A congressional rejection of this bad agreement will require the passion and political activism of every single member of our movement. This effort will demand unprecedented resources, energy and focus to engage our representatives in Washington and to articulate the grave consequences of accepting this deal.

Please take action today by contacting your members of Congress and urging them to oppose this unacceptable agreement.

AIPAC published a press release moments ago, which further explains our position and details our concerns with the proposed deal. Please read this statement (included below) and share it broadly with those in your community. In addition, please take a look at this fact sheet highlighting six unacceptable consequences of the proposed agreement.

I am proud to stand with you and with AIPAC as we meet this challenge together and work to safeguard our future.

Thank you for all that you are about to do.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Cohen
AIPAC President

--

AIPAC Statement on Proposed Iran Nuclear Agreement

AIPAC has consistently supported diplomatic efforts to end Iran's nuclear weapons program, and we appreciate the commitment and dedication of President Obama and his administration throughout these negotiations. Unfortunately, this proposed agreement fails to halt Iran's nuclear quest. Instead, it would facilitate rather than prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and would further entrench and empower the leading state sponsor of terror.

During these negotiations, we outlined criteria for a good deal that Congress itself had set in five critical areas: inspections, possible military dimensions, sanctions, duration and dismantlement. In each of these areas, the proposed agreement has significant flaws:

- The proposed deal does not ensure "anytime, anywhere" short-notice inspections;
- The proposed deal does not clearly condition sanctions relief on full Iranian cooperation in satisfying International Atomic Energy Agency concerns over the possible military dimensions of Tehran's program;
- The proposed deal lifts sanctions as soon as the agreement commences,

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rather than gradually as Iran demonstrates sustained adherence to the agreement;

- The proposed deal lifts key restrictions in as few as eight years;
- The proposed deal would disconnect and store centrifuges in an easily reversible manner, but it requires no dismantlement of centrifuges or any Iranian nuclear facility;
- In return for this flawed agreement, Iran will receive over $100 billion in sanctions relief. Tehran will use these funds to fuel its hegemonic ambitions, support the killing of civilians in Syria, fund the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah, and spur deadly conflicts throughout the region.

This agreement not only fails to achieve its objectives in the nuclear arena, but it releases Tehran in a matter of years — regardless of Iranian behavior — from ballistic missile sanctions and an arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council. This late, unexpected concession will provide additional arms for terrorism and proxy wars, while strengthening Iran's capabilities against our regional allies.

This accord threatens the future of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. By leaving Iran on the threshold of a nuclear weapon — despite its history of violating international obligations — other countries in the region will have a dangerous incentive to initiate their own nuclear programs. The resulting nuclear arms race would severely destabilize the region.

Proponents of the proposed agreement will argue that the only alternative to this agreement is military conflict. In fact, the reverse is true. A bad agreement such as this will invite instability and nuclear proliferation. It will embolden Iran and may encourage regional conflict.

We strongly believe that the alternative to this bad deal is a better deal. Congress should reject this agreement, and urge the administration to work with our allies to maintain economic pressure on Iran while offering to negotiate a better deal that will truly close off all Iranian paths to a nuclear weapon.

Congress should insist on a better deal.



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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	12/2/2014 1:11:34 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Tuesday December 2, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Tuesday December 2, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Baltimore Sun: "Mikulski: 'We need Hillary.'"

"'We need Hillary,' the Maryland Democrat and Senate Appropriations Committee chairwoman told about 100 people gathered at Goucher College for a fundraiser organized by the Ready for Hillary PAC, the group laying the groundwork for her possible candidacy."

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Clinton, Biden to appear at D.C. event on Israel"

"Hillary Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden will be among the attendees at a Washington forum on Israeli-U.S. relations this weekend."

MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton to environmentalists: I'm one of you"

"Gene Karpinski, president of the League of Conservation Voters, thought Clinton hit it out of the park. 'You saw her tonight, coming to our organization and really leaning in to this issue to make it clear how much she cares about it,' he told reporters after her speech. 'She's always been committed on it, and she's voted right very consistently, but with this audience, she's now making whole comments and focusing on this.'"

The Daily Beast: "Hillary Praises Fracking, Stays Silent on Keystone"

"Exiting the hotel ballroom, philanthropist Tom Steyer also seemed to give Clinton a pass for not mentioning the pipeline project. 'I always respect what Secretary Clinton has to say. She is always smart and she is always wise. And I thought she did a great job.'"

Politico: "Hillary Clinton avoids Keystone at conservation group event"

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"Hillary Clinton gave a sweeping speech on the environment Monday night, criticizing 'those who doubt the science of climate change' and strongly praising President Obama's record – without ever mentioning the controversial Keystone XL pipeline."

The Guardian: "Hillary Clinton says fracking carries risks in conservation speech"

"Clinton offered praise for Obama's leadership in international climate negotiations, especially last month's agreement between the US and China to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

The New Republic: "The Economic Forecast for 2016 Favors Hillary Clinton"

"The economy isn't in great shape right now. Wages are still stagnant. But there are a number of signs that it may improve significantly during Obama's last two years in office."

CNN: "Poll: Romney, Clinton top 2016 field"

"On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton unsurprisingly receives an overwhelming majority of support, with 65 percent of left-leaning Americans saying she would be their choice for the 2016 nomination."

FiveThirtyEight: "What Might Persuade Hillary Clinton Not To Run In 2016"

"Not only are her numbers dropping, but she is running on par with a Democratic brand in its weakest shape in a decade."

Breitbart opinion: "Rand Paul: 'Benghazi Was The Definition Of An Intelligence Failure"

"Yes Hillary, it still matters."

The Daily Beast: "Rand Paul Won't Let Benghazi Die"

Asked on what intelligence Paul has based his conclusion that the Republican-led committee's findings were incorrect, his senior aide, Doug Stafford, deflected by saying, 'Senator Paul doesn't believe the questions have all been answered, nor does he believe those responsible for this failure have been held accountable, especially Secretary Clinton.' Asked, then, whether Paul is under the impression that the House Intelligence Committee and its Republican chairman fell prey to White House Benghazi propaganda, Stafford said: 'We don't have any comment on why the House Intelligence Committee issued a bad report, only that they did.'"

Dayton Daily News: "Portman says no to presidential run"

"Sen. Rob Portman will not run for president in 2016, saying that he will seek another term as U.S. senator from Ohio instead."

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Articles:

Baltimore Sun: "Mikulski: 'We need Hillary.'"

By John Fritze

December 1, 2014, 8:30 p.m. EST

Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski told a group of Hillary Clinton supporters gathered in Baltimore County on Monday that Maryland would provide a "groundswell of grassroots" support for the former Secretary of State should she decide to run for president in 2016.

"We need Hillary," the Maryland Democrat and Senate Appropriations Committee chairwoman told about 100 people gathered at Goucher College for a fundraiser organized by the Ready for Hillary PAC, the group laying the groundwork for her possible candidacy.

"We've got to organize," she said. "We've got to mobilize."

Not mentioned by Mikulski or anyone else on stage was Martin O'Malley, Maryland's outgoing governor who is also weighing a run for president in 2016. The fundraiser was expected to draw several other high profile Democrats -- many of whom have worked closely with the O'Malley administration for years -- but only Mikulski showed.

"We can't go backward and we can't let anything grow under our feet," said Mikulski, who co-chaired Clinton's presidential campaign in Maryland in 2008. "We want her to know that there's a groundswell of grass roots support."

Early signs of support for Clinton among the congressional delegation that knows O'Malley best demonstrates the challenge the governor faces as he contemplates a possible White House run. Polls in early primary states show Clinton eclipsing O'Malley, despite his repeated appearances for congressional and gubernatorial candidates in the run up to this year's midterm elections.

Clinton is expected to make a decision early next year.

Mikulski has previously noted her support for Clinton's potential candidacy.

"I'm a Hillary person, so I know Gov. O'Malley is working hard to establish his national credentials," Mikulski told Politico in an interview earlier this year.

Maryland's other senator, Ben Cardin, was set to attend the event Monday but instead remained in Washington for votes on the Senate floor. Rep. John Delaney, the Montgomery County Democrat first elected in 2012 -- who also has close ties to the Clinton family -- is expected to host a similar fundraiser for the draft-Clinton effort this week.

Cardin has typically been cautious in supporting candidates during -- or ahead of -- primary elections. He did not back Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential campaign until June, a day before Clinton dropped out of the race. He also declined to engage in Delaney's competitive primary against a state lawmaker in 2012.

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"Senator Cardin thinks Hillary Clinton's energy is positive for our party and our country," Cardin spokeswoman Sue Walitsky said in a statement. "He is excited about her potential candidacy."

A spokeswoman for O'Malley's federal committee declined to comment on the fundraiser.

O'Malley was an early backer of Clinton's 2008 campaign but Obama ultimately carried the Democratic Primary in Maryland that year with nearly 61 percent of the vote.

Tickets to the fundraiser cost $20.16.

The Hill blog: Briefing Room: "Clinton, Biden to appear at D.C. event on Israel"

By David McCabe

December 1, 2014, 2:05 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden will be among the attendees at a Washington forum on Israeli-U.S. relations this weekend.

Both will speak to the Saben Forum, an annual event organized by the Brookings Institution and entertainment mogul Haim Saban. Saban is also a major political donor who has pledged to support Clinton should she run for president in 2016.

The event willalso feature Secretary of State John Kerry and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu will appear via sattalite.

Biden and Netanyahu will be the meeting's keynote speakers.

Attendees will discuss the relationship between the U.S. and Israel "via candid closed-door dialogue between U.S. and Israeli officials, policymakers, journalists, and business leaders."

The meeting occurs as debate continues over a potential deal between Western countries and Iran on the latter country's nuclear program. Israel has been skeptical of a deal, but is reportedly pleased that an extension in negotiations might yield a more favorable accord.

It will also come amid an uptick in violence in Israel, including an attack by two Palestinians on an orthodox synogogue in Jeruselum that claimed the lives of three Americans.

Clinton has said she will make a decision about whether to run for president next year. She has appeared regularly in the press this year while promoting a new memoir about her time at the State Department and stumping for Democratic candidates.

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MSNBC: "Hillary Clinton to environmentalists: I'm one of you"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

December 1, 2014, 10:51 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton came to a League of Conservation Voters fundraiser Monday to assure the green donors that she is one of them – even if she won't take a stand on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline at the moment.

In a forceful speech at the deep-pocketed environmental group's annual dinner in New York City, the former secretary of state scolded climate "deniers," called for bold leadership on global warming and praised leading environmentalists – all while touting her own victories in the field.

Clinton's speech capped an awkward day on the pipeline issue for the likely 2016 presidential candidate. The League of Conservation Voters is strongly opposed to the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry tar sand oil from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. But earlier Monday, Clinton raised funds for a politician on the other side of the issue – Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, who recently proposed a bill to approve the pipeline's construction.

Clinton acknowledged that dealing with climate change will be politically challenging, but cited the legacy of President Teddy Roosevelt – a new hero of Clinton's – as a example of "national leadership that was both decisive and innovative" on the environment.

"Our economy still runs primarily on fossil fuels and trying to change that will take strong leadership," she said. But "we do not have to choose between a healthy environment and a healthy economy."

Instead, she said moving to a greener economy will create jobs and help make "America the clean energy super-power of the 21st Century."

Gene Karpinski, president of the League of Conservation Voters, thought Clinton hit it out of the park. "You saw her tonight, coming to our organization and really leaning in to this issue to make it clear how much she cares about it," he told reporters after her speech. "She's always been committed on it, and she's voted right very consistently, but with this audience, she's now making whole comments and focusing on this."

But nowhere did Clinton mention Keystone, the controversial issue she has shied away from as she weighs another bid for the White House. Clinton has come under fire for that evasion, but says she can't comment on it while the project makes its way through a State Department review process.

In his introductory remarks, Karpinski praised the recent defeat in the Senate of a bill to approve what he called the "dirty and dangerous" pipeline sponsored by Landrieu. But Karpinski said he didn't have a problem with Clinton's support for Landrieu. "The Clinton and the Landrieu families have been friends going way way back," he said, noting that plenty of other pals of his organization will raise money for members of the "Democratic team" they might not always agree with.

As she did when appearing with Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a leader on economic populism, a month ago, Clinton took time to heap praise on Democratic leaders on the environment. Clinton called Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, the Senate's foremost climate hawk, her "friend" and looked at him in the audience to say, "Thank you for fighting the good fight, day in and day out."

Clinton also touted Karpinski's work and even gave a special shout out to Karpinski's mother, who stood and gave a wave. "We need the LCV as much as we ever have," Clinton said, ticking off several of the group's key accomplishments over decades. The group is consistently one of the biggest spenders for Democrats in elections.

After her speech, Clinton sat at a table with Democratic mega-donor Tom Steyer and several members of LCV's board to eat and hear the rest of the program.

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Could Clinton offer the leadership she kept calling for? Karpinski certainly hinted at it, making a joke about "the first Clinton administration" and referencing the Iowa caucuses, just over a year away.

Carol Browner, the former head of the Environmental Protection Agency, went even farther. "Hillary, wherever life takes you in the next few months, we know we can continue to count on you to raise your voice and your intellect in the effort to combat climate change," Browner said. "And we hope you know you can count on us."

The Daily Beast: "Hillary Praises Fracking, Stays Silent on Keystone"

By David Freedlander

December 1, 2014

[Subtitle:] At a speech to an environmental advocacy group, Clinton came out in favor of fracking—and ignored the controversial pipeline project.

At a speech to the League of Conservation Voters in midtown Manhattan Monday night, before hundreds of deep-pocketed donors, Hillary Clinton praised the environmental legacy of Teddy Roosevelt, touted the prospect of new green technologies, and had warm words for Barack Obama's aggressive efforts to combat climate change.

Absent from the former Secretary of State's speech? Any sense of where she stood on the controversial Keystone pipeline project, or what she would do differently as president to steer the nation towards a more sustainable future.

But that didn't mean that Clinton wasn't clear about where she came down on environmental matters—she praised both her husband's record of cleaning up air and water standards, and the Obama administrations recent efforts to strike a climate deal with China and to toughen pollution standards.

"We continue to push forward. But that is just the beginning. Science of climate change is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers may say," Clinton said, reading off of prepared remarks.

The former Secretary of State alluded to the need to wean the nation off of fossil fuels, but noted that, "the political challenges are also unforgiving. There is no getting around the fact that the kind of ambitious response required to effectively combat climate change is going to a be a tough sell at home and around the world at a time when so many countries around the world, including our own, are grappling with slow growth and stretch budgets."

Clinton was vague about the kind of response needed to address climate change, coming down neither in favor of the traditional Democratic carbon tax or the Republican (pre-Obama, at least) cap and trade plan.

Instead, Clinton, much as her husband has done, pushed for market-based solutions to social problems, arguing that green technologies would enable economic growth and would slow the effects of climate change. She called for "next generation" power plants, smarter grids and greener buildings, describing a "false choice between growing our economy and protecting our environment."

Clinton did, however, come out in favor of natural gas drilling, known as hydrofracking, which has become a key cause for environmental activists, who say that the risks involved in natural gas drilling are not yet known.

"Yes, natural gas can play an important bridge role in the transition to a cleaner, greener economy," Clinton said.

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But if Clinton waded into the natural gas debate, she entirely avoided the Keystone one.

That debate took center stage over the midterms when financier Tom Steyer pledged $100 million to pro-environment candidates and made the pipeline a litmus test. Republicans rallied to the cause, arguing that the pipeline would create jobs. (Nonpartisan experts say that both the pipeline's negative environmental effects and positive job creation projections are overstated.) Last month, embattled Democrat Mary Landrieu pushed for a vote on Keystone in order to boost her standing in her December run-off re-election. The measure failed in the Senate in a vote that received warm praise from LCV president Gene Karpinski in his introduction of Clinton.

Clinton appeared at a fundraiser for Landrieu earlier in the day.

Karpinski, who said that he was confident that Obama would reject Keystone, said he did not have a problem with Clinton's support for Landrieu.

"Look, the Clintons and the Landrieu families have been friends going back in history. And all kinds of friends of ours have raised money for Mary Landrieu to support her as a candidate. There is nothing surprising. This is what people do."

Karpinski wasn't the only one willing to cut a not-yet-candidate Clinton some leeway. Exiting the hotel ballroom, philanthropist Tom Steyer also seemed to give Clinton a pass for not mentioning the pipeline project.

"I always respect what Secretary Clinton has to say. She is always smart and she is always wise. And I thought she did a great job."

Asked whether she should have mentioned the pipeline project, he merely said, "I thought her speech was great."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton avoids Keystone at conservation group event"

By Maggie Haberman

December 1, 2014, 11:11 p.m. EST

NEW YORK — Hillary Clinton gave a sweeping speech on the environment Monday night, criticizing "those who doubt the science of climate change" and strongly praising President Obama's record – without ever mentioning the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

"The science of climate change is unforgiving, no matter what the deniers may say," Clinton said during a nearly 30-minute speech at a dinner hosted by the League of Conservation Voters, criticizing the "old false choice between protecting our environment and growing our economy." She argued for the need to boost economic growth while finding new energy bridges to move away from fossil fuel dependence.

Clinton praised last month's U.S.-China climate accord but described it as a "beginning" instead of an end. And she left open the possibility of supporting "fracking," the drilling for natural gas, provided the right environmental protections are in place. But she never used the word "fracking," and said the process shouldn't happen when the risk to specific areas is too great.

Fracking has been contentious in her home state of New York. But in swing states like Ohio and Pennsylvania, it has more support.

Clinton also remarked that the incoming Congress will have more lawmakers who "want to turn back the clock" on environmental progress.

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Clinton's speech was closely watched ahead of her likely 2016 presidential campaign, with climate change an issue of growing concern among liberal donors. In a sign of how the big-money politics around climate change have developed with Democrats, Clinton was seated next to Tom Steyer, the billionaire environmentalist who spent heavily in the midterms and is strongly opposed to the Keystone proposal.

The speech came two hours after Clinton hosted a New York-based fundraiser for embattled Louisiana Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu, who's now in a runoff and recently made an ill-fated push for the Keystone project in the Senate. Steyer has done nothing to assist the long-serving Democrat, who is trailing significantly ahead of Saturday's election.

At the fundraiser, which was closed to reporters, Clinton never mentioned the Keystone pipeline, according to an attendee. But she made a passing reference at one point to Landrieu doing what she had to do for her constituents.

Before Clinton spoke, League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski slammed the pipeline as "dirty and dangerous," calling for its defeat.

"We're gonna kill that pipeline," he insisted.

Clinton has been criticized by some environmental groups for not taking a position on the project, which is being reviewed by current Secretary of State John Kerry.

But her allies have said in the past that she doesn't want to get ahead of the sitting secretary of state by voicing an opinion. The LCV has been noticeably absent among Clinton critics on the pipeline, and Karpinski gave her cover for not mentioning it, telling reporters after the speech that there was no reason for her to take a stand before a decision by the administration.

"She's already been asked about that," Karpinski shrugged when reporters asked if he was troubled that she didn't discuss it. "That's not her decision right now. You heard her praise president Obama many, many time. … We're absolutely confident that (Kerry) will reject that pipeline."

If anything, the evening was a reminder that, despite the controversy around the issue, major players in the environmental movement are so far unwilling to strongly take on the likely frontrunner for the Democratic nomination.

In her speech, Clinton said she realized that developing clean energy globally is "going to be a tough sell" with too many nations experiencing "slow growth and stretched budgets."

"But I like to remind people that just as this challenge is obvious, so is the opportunity it represents," Clinton said, saying there are significant economic impacts involved.

As she has in other speeches, she invoked Teddy Roosevelt and drew parallels between the challenges of his era and the current one.

She recalled the famous moment when she and Obama in 2009 crashed a meeting involving China and other countries at a global environmental summit and described that as one of many opportunities still to come to affect change.

Clinton was introduced by her husband's former Environmental Protection Agency head, Carol Browner, who compared the former first lady's work on the environment to work she has done protecting children.

Browner said introducing Clinton was like being the opener "for The Rolling Stones." And Karpinski repeatedly alluded to the possibility of another Clinton in the White House, at one point saying, as he introduced Browner, that she had served in the Clinton administration.

"I was going to say under the first President Clinton," said Karpinski, to laughter.

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He later told reporters he was pleased with her overall message.

“She made it clear that climate change is a real threat … if you deal with it the right way it’s actually gonna create jobs … [and] save the planet,” he said.

As for her raising money earlier for Landrieu, he said, “ The Clintons and the Landrieu families have been friends going way way back in history.”

The Guardian: “Hillary Clinton says fracking carries risks in conservation speech”

By Suzanne Goldenberg

December 1, 2014, 10:48 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Possible presidential candidate draws distinction with Barack Obama, who has trumpeted boom in gas and oil exploration

Hillary Clinton has offered mild criticism of the fracking boom that has spread across the US under Barack Obama’s presidency, drawing another small distinction with his administration.

Clinton, who has yet to declare she is seeking the presidency, kept the bulk of her speech to a League of Conservation Voters dinner in New York resolutely vanilla. But she did express concerns about the environmental costs associated with natural gas and went so far as to suggest there may be places where it was too dangerous to drill at all.

“I know many of us have serious concerns with the risks associated with the rapidly expanding production of natural gas,” Clinton told the crowd on Monday night.

“Methane leaks in the production and transportation of natural gas pose a particularly troubling threat so it is crucial we put in place smart regulations and enforce them – including deciding not to drill when the risks to local communities, landscapes and ecosystems are just too high.”

Clinton’s comments were nowhere near as sharp as her critique of Obama’s foreign policy last August, when she bluntly said the administration lacked a coherent strategy.

But they are significant because of Obama’s championship of an “all of the above” energy strategy – and because they suggest Clinton is trying to appeal to voters concerned about fracking.

Clinton’s speech was otherwise notable for the degree to which she avoid mentioning any controversial topics – much like her address to an energy conference in Nevada during the summer.

She made no mention of the Keystone XL pipeline – the most politically weighted decision awaiting Obama. She made no mention of Arctic drilling, or coal. She even avoided the word “fracking”.

But the distinction was evident. Over the years Obama has regularly boasted about the expansion of oil and gas production under his watch, due

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to fracking, much to the frustration of campaign groups.

The president even touted the expansion of natural gas during his milestone June 2013 speech on climate change.

Natural gas produces far greater greenhouse gas emissions than originally thought because of methane leaks.

Most environmental groups now dismiss the idea that natural gas could serve as a bridge to a clean energy future – as Obama once claimed, and as Clinton repeated on Monday

"If we are smart about this and put in place the right safeguards natural gas can play an important bridge role in the transition to a cleaner energy economy," she said.

Elsewhere Clinton's remarks hewed very closely to Obama's positions on climate and environment.

She called for a strong defence of the new rules cutting carbon pollution from power plants, which form the central pillar of Obama's climate action plan.

Clinton offered praise for Obama's leadership in international climate negotiations, especially last month's agreement between the US and China to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

She also borrowed a page from many of Obama's recent speeches, taking a swipe at Republican climate denial. "The science of climate change is unforgiving – no matter what the deniers may say," she said.

The New Republic: "The Economic Forecast for 2016 Favors Hillary Clinton"

By Danny Vinik

December 1, 2014

After the Democrats were roundly defeated in the midterms, pundits blamed it partly on the left's stale economic agenda and argued that this agenda will hurt the party in 2016. The latest example of this argument comes from Ed Luce, who writes in the Financial Times that Hillary Clinton's road to the White House will be damaged by the stale agenda, a disconnect between Clinton and liberal voters, and a more unified conservative base. "As it stands, whatever coalition is expected to carry Mrs Clinton over the finishing line is likely to result from a calculated process of addition," Luce writes. "In politics, winning is ultimately about ideas. In the absence of new ones, Mrs Clinton's bridge to the White House looks rickety." Those are all legitimate concerns. But Luce overlooks a fundamental reason why she is the early favorite: The economy is quickly improving under a Democratic president.

The economy isn't in great shape right now. Wages are still stagnant. But there are a number of signs that it may improve significantly during Obama's last two years in office. Monthly job gains have surpassed 200,000 for the past nine months. The Commerce Department's estimate for third-quarter GDP growth was nearly 4 percent. Workers are quitting their jobs at the fastest rate in more than six years—an indication they have confidence in the economy. New research from the New York Fed indicates that Americans may be done deleveraging, or reducing their debt. Gas prices are also collapsing, leaving more money for consumers to spend on other goods.

Economic forecasters are expecting those green shoots to lead to stronger growth over the next two years. The Congressional Budget Office projects that the economy will grow nearly 4 percent in both 2015 and 2016. The Federal Reserve's most recent forecast put growth a bit lower, at 2.6-3.0 percent over the next two years. For comparison, growth hovered around 2 percent in 2013 and 2012.

That's all good news for Clinton, since political science research demonstrates the outsized role that the economy plays in presidential elections: an improving economy benefits incumbents. That's partly why Obama defeated Mitt Romney.

There is less evidence on how the economy affects presidential elections without an incumbent, but we know that it still matters. "If the incumbent president isn't running, the effect of the economy would be a little bit smaller, but it's still important," George Washington political scientist John Sides told me earlier this year. "The logic there being that a new candidate for the party would not get as much credit or blame as the actual president who was presiding over the economy." In other words, an improving economy benefits the candidate of the incumbent party: The more the economy improves over the next 24 months, the better Clinton's chances are of winning the presidency.

None of this is to say that the Democrats don't currently have a problem politically with their economic agenda. They do—and there aren't any clear solutions to it. But an improving economy will also minimize those political consequences. If growth is between 3 and 4 percent and wages are growing—a big "if" that heavily depends on actions at the Federal Reserve—voters may look more favorably on the Obamanomics. Clinton could seize on popular policies that Republicans blocked during Obama's time in office—minimum wage increases and equal pay legislation, for instance—and add a few of her own ideas, maybe paid family leave. Thanks to an improving economy, she could make that stale agenda look much more appealing to voters.

The opposite is true as well: If the economy falters, Democrats and Clinton will receive the brunt of the blame and her chances of winning the presidency will fall. A lot can change over the next two years, but the economic data we currently have is indicative of stronger growth over the next two years. That's a more important indicator for Clinton than any message voters sent Democrats this past November.

CNN: "Poll: Romney, Clinton top 2016 field"

By Sara Fischer

December 2, 2014

Washington (CNN) -- Mitt Romney may say he's not planning to make a third run for the White House, but according to a new CNN/ORC national poll, Republican voters aren't ready to give up on the idea just yet.

While there is no clear frontrunner for the Republican ticket in 2016, most likely GOP voters say they would choose the former Massachusetts governor for the nomination, among 16 potential contenders.

According to the survey, 20 percent of voters say Romney would be their first choice for the nominee, with retired neurosurgeon and conservative activist Ben Carson coming in second with 10 percent of the vote.

Other big name contenders, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, round out the top four, garnering 9 percent and 8 percent, respectively. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee takes fifth place with 7 percent of the vote.

In what could be a telling 2016 indicator, when Romney is removed from the competitive set, the first place spot goes to Bush, whose family has publicly pressured him to throw his hat in the ring for months.

But even though Bush leads the pack among the hypothetical field of 15, he only edges Carson in second place by 3 percentage points, and Huckabee in third by just 4 points.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton unsurprisingly receives an overwhelming majority of support, with 65 percent of left-leaning Americans

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saying she would be their choice for the 2016 nomination. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a progressive favorite, and Vice President Joe Biden, fall way behind to take second and third place -- with 9 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

But when Clinton is removed from the vote selection, Biden pulls more support among voters, who say they would prefer him as their 2016 Democratic nominee with 41 percent, versus 20 percent for Warren.

The poll surveyed 1,045 Americans, including 510 Republicans and right-leaning independents and 457 Democrats and left-leaning independents. The survey was conducted by telephone from Nov. 21-23.

FiveThirtyEight: "What Might Persuade Hillary Clinton Not To Run In 2016"

By Harry Enten

December 1, 2014, 2:34 p.m. EST

Most speculation about the 2016 presidential election has taken at least one thing for granted: Hillary Clinton will run. But the Cook Political Report's Charlie Cook recently threw some cold water on that assumption (or at least some lukewarm water); Cook estimated Clinton has only a 60 to 70 percent chance of running.

I have no clue whether Cook's estimate is right. But recent data illustrates why Clinton might balk at running: She no longer looks quite so invincible, and early indicators point toward a Republican-leaning political environment.

We're still a long way from the 2016 election, but Clinton needs to decide soon whether to run. The political landscape right now is more Republican-leaning than at a comparable point in the 2012 cycle (when President Obama, with a 46 percent approval rating, led a generic Republican 42 percent to 39 percent). Obama's approval has dropped to 42 percent.

In four polls conducted over the past month, YouGov asked more than 2,500 registered voters whether they would vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate for president in 2016. The Republican candidate led, on average, 39.2 percent to 36.7 percent. Again, these results are among registered, not likely, voters, so this lead has nothing to do with turnout.

The current environment suggests Clinton would need to be stronger than a generic Democratic candidate to be considered the favorite. Instead, her standing has deteriorated. YouGov has been polling Clinton's favorable ratings among adults over the past six years (adults overall tend to be more Democratic leaning than just registered voters).

[CHART]

Clinton was quite popular during her days as secretary of state. But since leaving that nonpartisan post in 2013, her net favorable rating has been falling. The most recent YouGov poll put her at an all-time low.

YouGov's results have been echoed by other pollsters, including NBC/Wall Street Journal and Quinnipiac University. The most recent NBC survey found Clinton's net favorable rating at +3 percentage points; Quinnipiac had it at +5 percentage points.

Clinton's edge against Republicans in a potential 2016 matchup has also taken a hit. She once led by double-digits in matchups against most Republicans. But recent live telephone polls in the key swing states of Iowa and New Hampshire have Clinton neck and neck with 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney. Nationally, Quinnipiac found Romney leading Clinton 45 percent to 44 percent among registered voters. At a comparable point in the 2012 cycle, Romney was down 7 percentage points to Obama. Clinton led New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie by 1 percentage point, and she

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holds leads of 4 to 9 percentage points on the other Republican candidates.

Any lead Clinton does have is almost entirely attributable to being better known. In the Quinnipiac survey, 95 percent of respondents recognized her name. Only Romney, with 86 percent name recognition, comes close to being as well-known (and he's the only candidate who leads Clinton). The rest of the GOP field has name recognition at 71 percent or below.

Among the seven Republican candidates listed by Quinnipiac, the correlation between Clinton's lead (or lack thereof) over each Republican and that Republican's name recognition was 0.94. In other words, other Republicans should gain ground as they become better known. In fact, a simple regression between name recognition and a Republican's standing against Clinton in the Quinnipiac poll suggests that she isn't performing much better than a generic Democrat.

None of this means that Clinton would lose if she ran. Polls at this point are not very predictive. Obama may become more popular. The Republicans could nominate an extreme candidate. Any number of other things could happen.

Clinton, however, no longer looks like such a juggernaut. Not only are her numbers dropping, but she is running on par with a Democratic brand in its weakest shape in a decade.

Breitbart: "Exclusive: Rand Paul: 'Benghazi Was The Definition Of An Intelligence Failure"

By Sen. Rand Paul

December 1, 2014, 7:01 a.m. PDT

The House Intelligence Committee released its long-awaited Benghazi report Friday, claiming, "There was no intelligence failure prior to the attacks."

This one sentence tells us how seriously we should take this report.

Benghazi was the definition of an intelligence failure. It was, in fact, one of the worst intelligence failures in our history, a strategic blunder that resulted in the murder of a U.S. Ambassador and three other Americans.

The ultimate blame lies with the Obama Administration and more directly with Hillary Clinton who oversaw this tragedy during her tenure as Secretary of State. No rational person has ever disputed that our government failed horribly in protecting the U.S. embassy and our diplomats.

Americans just wanted to know who was responsible.

Now, a Congressional Committee chaired by Rep. Mike Rogers is telling us no one is responsible because there was no intelligence failure to begin with.

It might be time to rename the House "Intelligence" Committee.

This administration has changed the talking points and ignored important questions about Benghazi throughout—when the administration knew what was happening, why did it happen, was it terrorism, who ignored Ambassador Christopher Stevens security requests, who told Susan Rice the consulate was secure, the list of questions goes on. These questions remain unanswered or insufficiently answered and are crucial to getting to the bottom of what really happened.

The Associated Press claims the report debunks, “A series of persistent allegations hinting at dark conspiracies, the investigation of the politically charged incident determined that there was no intelligence failure, no delay in sending a CIA rescue team, no missed opportunity for a military rescue, and no evidence the CIA was covertly shipping arms from Libya to Syria.”

None of these accusations contain even a modicum of truth?

Three CIA security members have said their team was intentionally delayed by the administration in conducting a rescue effort. Are they being untruthful, or is this report perhaps not telling the full story? Multiple highly-respected news outlets reported on arms possibly being smuggled from Libya to Syria, before and after the attacks in Benghazi. Were all these stories fabricated? Or did they contain some useful or pertinent information related to this investigation?

The Obama Administration has tried to paint members of Congress who ask these questions as somehow being extreme or crazy—and perhaps the House Intelligence Committee will now follow suit,

But remember, this is the same administration that called the investigation into the IRS scandal a product of a “conspiracy theory.”

When Clinton was asked during her Benghazi testimony almost two years ago who first floated the story about an anti-Islamic video supposedly being the catalyst for the attacks, she shot back, “What difference at this point does it make?”

It makes a huge difference, Mrs. Clinton. All of these questions make a difference—about your judgment and the basic competency of this administration. They make a difference to the families of the victims.

They make a difference to the American people who deserve to know the truth.

From the beginning of this controversy, Obama officials have used smoke and mirrors at every opportunity to evade blame. They have ducked and weaved to avoid anything that could possibly cast the administration in a bad light.

“C.Y.A.” is a term many Americans are familiar with that was invented by U.S. soldiers during the Vietnam War. This new Benghazi “intelligence” report is little more than a C.Y.A. attempt designed to protect incompetent politicians and government agents at the expense of justice for the victims of September 11, 2012.

They will continue to cover up. I will continue to seek the truth until those at the top of this two-year chain of deception are finally held accountable.

And yes Hillary, it still matters.

The Daily Beast: “Rand Paul Won’t Let Benghazi Die”

By Olivia Nuzzi

December 1, 2014

[Subtitle:] Lashing out at a House report saying there was ‘no intelligence failure’ before the 2012 attack allows the Kentucky senator to jab at

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Hillary Clinton—and appeal to his father's base.

When the GOP-led House Intelligence Committee concluded in late November that there had been "no intelligence failure" before the 2012 attack on the U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya, it threatened to pry from Republicans one of their favorite vehicles for sniping at the Obama administration and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton.

Rand Paul does not appear to be willing to let that happen.

The junior Kentucky senator and likely presidential candidate attacked the committee's findings in an op-ed that is part first-stage-of-grief and part letter to Clinton.

"Benghazi was the definition of an intelligence failure," Paul begins, dismissing the entire committee report as unserious.

"It was, in fact, one of the worst intelligence failures in our history, a strategic blunder that resulted in the murder of a U.S. Ambassador and three other Americans…The ultimate blame lies with the Obama Administration and more directly with Hillary Clinton who oversaw this tragedy during her tenure as Secretary of State."

Paul then asks of the "persistent allegations hinting at dark conspiracies" noted by the Associated Press, "None of these accusations contain even a modicum of truth?"

Later, Paul quotes Clinton's notorious line, "What difference, at this point, does it make?" referring to what served as the catalyst for the attacks, an anti-Muslim video or a push by radical Islamists. "It makes huge difference, Mrs. Clinton," Paul writes. "This new Benghazi 'intelligence' report is little more than a C.Y.A. attempt designed to protect incompetent politicians and government agents at the expense of justice for the victims of September 11, 2012…And yes, Hillary, it still matters."

Asked on what intelligence Paul has based his conclusion that the Republican-led committee's findings were incorrect, his senior aide, Doug Stafford, deflected by saying, "Senator Paul doesn't believe the questions have all been answered, nor does he believe those responsible for this failure have been held accountable, especially Secretary Clinton."

Asked, then, whether Paul is under the impression that the House Intelligence Committee and its Republican chairman fell prey to White House Benghazi propaganda, Stafford said: "We don't have any comment on why the House Intelligence Committee issued a bad report, only that they did."

Paul has consistently used Benghazi as a device to stake out high ground on foreign policy. He broaches the subject of Benghazi with ease, almost as if it's become its own form of small talk—and it's not hard to figure out why he doesn't want to let it go.

For one thing, Benghazi allows Paul to attack Clinton without having to acknowledge why he's doing it—were he to win the Republican nomination, he would likely face Clinton in the general election.

But perhaps more important than that, taking the the-government-is-hiding-the-truth-from-you position on Benghazi permits Paul to appeal to the base he inherited from his father, former congressman and presidential candidate Ron Paul: conspiracy-prone libertarians. It's a group that sometimes expresses skepticism about the younger Paul—he is, after all, the more mainstream (i.e., willing to sell out) version of his father. In his own words, he is just "libertarian-ish," more likely to stake out positions outside the mainstream than the average Republican but ultimately someone who may muddy his own convictions in an effort to appeal to generic right-wing primary voters.

Infowars.com, an entertainingly deranged conspiracy-mongering website run by Bill Hicks-lookalike Alex Jones, a friend of the Paul family, seemed to praise Paul for not buying into the House Intelligence Committee's Benghazi report, with the screaming headline "Rand Paul Slams Benghazi 'Cover Your Ass' Report."

Paul is not the only one unwilling to accept the committee's findings.

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In the latest Weekly Standard can be found an editorial under the headline “The Benghazi Whitewash.” that aren’t damning are a classic Washington whitewash…and one of the central facts confirmed by the report is an indictment of the mainstream media coverage of Benghazi.”

The publication chides National Journal’s Ron Fournier, Politico’s Michael Grunwald, and The Atlantic’s Conor Friedersdorf for taking the committee’s report to mean what the committee reported.

Perhaps to Paul’s dismay, he has an ally in Sen. Lindsey Graham, with whom he has frequently sparred.

On CNN’s State of the Union on Sunday, Graham said the committee is “full of crap.”

While Paul will likely continue to address Clinton via Breitbart, Stafford said he is eagerly awaiting the result of the Select Committee on Benghazi, led by Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy. “Senator Paul looks forward to having more information brought forward about Benghazi and the failures of this administration, particularly Secretary Clinton.”

Dayton Daily News: “Portman says no to presidential run”

By Jessica Wehrman

December 2, 2014, 12:12 a.m.

Sen. Rob Portman will not run for president in 2016, saying that he will seek another term as U.S. senator from Ohio instead.

Announcing his decision to a small group of Ohio reporters in his Capitol Hill office Monday, Portman said he decided to remain in the Senate because he felt energized by the new GOPSenate majority, saying “there is a good chance for us to do something” on a broad array of issues, such as overhauling the tax code and expanding international trade.

Portman, who had been lauded as a credible candidate by a wide variety of media outlets including the Washington Post and ABC News, said he made his decision during the past few days after talking to his family during the Thanksgiving holidays.

“If you run for president, it’s just not practical to be involved in policy issues here,” he said. “You can’t do both. At least for me, I couldn’t do both.”

Although Portman said he was “not interested” in being a vice presidential candidate for the eventual Republican nominee, he did not flatly rule out being on the ticket in 2016.

With the Republicans holding their 2016 convention in Cleveland, Portman clearly would be regarded as a potential running mate for the Republican nominee. No Republican has ever won the White House without carrying Ohio.

“I’m not seeking that and as you know that’s not something you can seek anyway,” Portman said. “I’m not interested. I’m not putting myself out there. I’m interested in running for re-election and continuing to serve Ohio in what will be a more productive Senate.”

By declining to run, Portman is opting out of joining no fewer than a dozen GOPcontenders who are reportedly mulling a 2016 bid, among them Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, Marco Rubio of Florida; Govs. John Kasich of Ohio, Rick Perry of Texas, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, Chris Christie of New Jersey and Scott Walker of Wisconsin, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

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Portman's decision will now shine increased spotlight on the other Ohio contender, Kasich, who drew positive attention last month after an appearance at the Republican Governors Association conference in Florida.

Portman's decision came after months of speculation that he was preparing a run for the presidency in 2016. Privately, some in Portman's camp had gone so far as to mull the best way to raise money for a presidential campaign.

But Portman all along said he would not make a decision until after the November 2014 elections, saying the results of those elections would help influence his decision.

Portman served as the vice-chairman for finance for the National Republican Senatorial Committee, a role which involves him raising money for Senate candidates across the country.

Portman indicated he might have entered the presidential race had the Democrats retained control of the Senate in last month's elections, which would have meant that Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., would have remained majority leader.

"I think it would be much harder for me to feel as though I was making a significant difference in the lives of my fellow Ohioans if Harry Reid had stayed in there, because we wouldn't be doing tax reform or expanding exports or budgets or some of the other oversight responsibilities that we have and are not doing here in the Congress," he said.

In particular, he said he is likely to be named to chair a subcommittee on investigations, which will provide him with the chance to launch serious oversight probes of the Obama administration.

Portman said his family did not influence his decision, and would have been supportive either way, although he admitted they were "relieved" to not have to be in the limelight. Portman's family garnered national attention in 2013 when he announced that he was supportive of gay marriage after his son, Will, came out as gay. Will, he said, "was OK either way."

Although his support of gay marriage has sparked the ire of some conservatives, Portman said he was not particularly worried that it would cost him votes.

"Some say it would hurt, some say it would help," he said. "I think it's unpredictable and I think it is for anybody running by the way. This is going to be wide open. And who knows how it all sorts out."

In the end, he said, he decided that he could get more done in the Senate.

"This is what feels right," he said.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

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· December 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton helps launch the “Security Through Inclusive Leadership” event at Georgetown (International Peace and Conflict)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

· December 5 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Saban Forum (CNN)

· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce’s “Global Perspectives” series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
To:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
Date:	7/7/2011 1:35:53 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-GOP Budget Cuts Would Weaken American Defenses, Risk Thousands of Lives
Attachments:	PastedGraphic-5.pdf

GOP Budget Cuts Would Weaken American Defenses, Risk Thousands of Lives

The budget approved by all but four House Republicans this spring would weaken America's defenses and risk thousands of lives.

Now that's not your typical Progressive attack on the Republicans' budget priorities – but it's entirely true.

I'm not arguing that the Republicans have proposed cutting the anti-missile "defense" program aimed at "rouge" missiles from Iran or North Korea that has cost almost $100 billion to date.

Nor am I suggesting that the GOP has opted to slash funding for the massive nuclear arsenal that is deployed to defend America against the Soviet Union – which of course ceased to exist over two decades ago.

These massive programs defend America against foes that may – or may not – actually present a real threat. No, the Republicans chose instead to slash funding for a program to defend us against a clear and present danger – an enemy that attacks our people and kills thousands every year.

The Republicans budget – and its subsequent Appropriations Committee allocations – would slash funding for our defense against the flu virus that attacks our country regularly and on the average kills 36,000 Americans.

That's right, GOP lawmakers have decided that we just can't afford to spend so much money on the National Institutes of Health. They believe that providing tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires, providing tax subsidies to CEO's for their corporate jets, giving subsidies to the oil companies, and providing huge tax breaks to Wall Street speculators are more important than the fight against cancer, flu, or heart disease. In fact, they believe so much in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans that they are willing to risk an economic meltdown to protect them. But they didn't bat an eye when it came to cutting money to defend America against threats that kill twelve times more each year than the September 11th attack.

Take the flu. Most years the U.S. is attacked by a flu virus. The problem is that the strains of flu virus vary. Currently that means that drug makers must wait to determine the exact strain before they can stockpile the vaccinations that are required to protect our population. Our failure to vaccinate our entire population – and especially our at-risk population – is the major reason why, on the average, 36,000 people die from the flu each flu season.

But right now the NIH is developing a universal flu vaccine that would immunize the population against all of the various flu strains – and save tens of thousands of lives. The NIH Director, Dr. Francis Collins, says that the proposed budget cuts would set the universal flu vaccine project back for years.

Or take the impact of the GOP cuts on the war against cancer. Right now the NIH is funding research to develop techniques to decode specific cancers so they can be targeted by new drugs that seek out and destroy only cancer cells. Paul Ryan and the Republicans think we just can't afford to spend so much to stop cancer. Subsidies for corporate jets – that's a different matter.

And the cuts at NIH are just one more example of upside-down GOP economic theory. Ignoring all empirical data, they contend that simply by cutting government spending and taxes for the wealthy they can spur economic growth. No matter that when Bush cut taxes on the wealthy to their lowest levels since the Great Depresssion, the economy did not produce one additional private sector job for an entire decade.

The Republicans believe that investment by government – by definition – does not produce economic growth. Next time they ride to work on a street or subway, or pick their child up from a *public* school, or rely on

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inspections by the Food and Drug Administration when they buy a product – they should close their eyes and pretend that government does not have a massive impact on all economic activity.

Or they should look at economic impact of the NIH. The NIH's project that mapped the human genome cost $3 billion and to date has produced over $700 billion of economic benefit. According to NIH Director Collins, since the NIH was founded, it is estimated to have generated $70 trillion of economic activity.

Take the example of monoclonal antibodies. This technology lies at the root of many of the most innovative therapies in modern medicine. The FDA has approved twenty monoclonal antibody therapies, and hundreds more in are clinical trials. In 2010, five out of the top twenty bestselling drugs were monoclonal therapies and generated annual revenues of $35 billion.

Antibodies allow the immune system to latch onto specific targets – or invaders – in the blood stream like bacteria and viruses that cause disease. Monoclonal antibodies are produced when an antibody-producing B-cell is fused with a cancer cell, creating an immortal line of cells that can produce a single form of very pure antibody.

The technique for developing monoclonal antibodies was developed by Drs. Georges Kohler and Cesar Milstein, using a mouse tumor line developed by NIH. They won the Nobel Prize for their work in 1984. Since that time the NIH has played an enormous role in converting this promising technique into life-saving therapies and diagnostic tools.

The recently approved breakthrough therapy for melanoma, Ipilimumab, is a monoclonal antibody.

A study authored by United for Medical Research concludes that in 2010, NIH investment led to the creation of 487,900 quality jobs, produced $68 billion in new economic activity across the country, and increased job growth by at least 10,000 in 16 states.

The bottom line is simple. The budget debate is not about "tightening our belts" because we're broke. It is about choices – *priorities.*

America is not "broke." In the last ten years before the Great Recession, the per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased at an average rate of 1.8% per year. That means that if the benefits of economic growth were equally spread throughout our society, everyone should have been almost 20% better off (with compounding) in 2008 than they were in 1998.

But average incomes didn't go up at all, because all of that growth went only to the top 2% of the population. The middle class may feel "broke," but America is not.

Yet the Republicans tell us that we have to stop investing in our future in order to continue to provide tax giveaways to that top two percent. The budget they passed would slash investment in medical research, education, health care and our infrastructure. Rather than investing in the future growth of the economy – the future of our kids – they say we have to allow the rich to "eat the seed corn" of our economy, and gorge themselves on $4,000 blouses, vacations in the south of France, multi-million dollar estates, exotic cars, and tax-subsidized rides in corporate jets.

They say that in order to protect the privileges of the wealthy, we need to eliminate Medicare and replace it with a program that would increase out-of-pocket health care costs for seniors by $6,000 per person each year.

Just last year, the average CEO salary went up 23% to over $10 million -- and corporate profits soared. The top-earning CEO, Viacom's CEO Philippe Dauman, made $84.5 million – or $40,625 per hour. I guess the CEO class didn't get the memo about the need to "tighten our belts."

And now, in their ardor to defend the CEO class, the GOP is threatening to pull the plug on the economic grenade, let America default on its debts, and once again bring the economy down in a heap.

In the next eighteen months we have to fight like hell to limit the damage that is resulting from Republican control of the House of Representatives.

Next fall, once and for all, we must decisively end the reckless experiment in trickle down economics that caused the Great Recession. We must elect Democrats who are committed to investments in education, scientific research, public infrastructure and good jobs that are all necessary for long term, widely-shared economic growth.

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Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist. He is a partner in Democracy Partners, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com . *Follow him on Twitter @rbcreamer.*

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Cell 847-910-0363

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From:	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To:	huma@hrcoffice.com jbenenson@bsgco.com jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	5/1/2015 7:13:30 AM
Subject:	Re: Heads up for call with HRC

Got it.

But of course, the press will not consider the questions answered until they are asked by them.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Huma Abedin <huma@hrcoffice.com>
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Teddy Goff <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>; Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Fri, May 1, 2015 2:09 pm
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

just to give people background here:
1. She believes she needs to do this video
is because her integrity is being attacked and she is the only one who can say
she didnt make a decision as secstate based on a donor.
2. Imp point: The
foundation has had little luck getting their surrogates booked on any serious
shows. So she feels like it has to be someone at her level or WJC level that
engages directly in order for there to be any coverage of the defense.
3. She
doesnt want to continue to have to have press yell these questions at her in
Nevada and CA and if she doesnt do the video, that is the situation she will be
in

_____
From: Joel Benenson
<jbenenson@bsgco.com>
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:53 PM
To: Jennifer
Palmieri
Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy
Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan Schwerin
Subject: RE:
Heads up for call with HRC

For some reason I don't have the morning news
round up -- can someone send that to me.

-----Original Message-----
From:
Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, May 01,
2015 1:51 PM
To: Joel Benenson
Cc: John Podesta; Jake Sullivan; Mandy
Grunwald; Huma Abedin; Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook;
Dan Schwerin
Subject: Re: Heads up for call with HRC

Given this morning's am
shows - which were terrible - that is no longer a great argument.

Sent from
my iPhone

> On May 1, 2015, at 1:49 PM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
wrote:
>
> Thanks.
> Do we have some analysis of nightly news/front pages etc
to make the case that this is not being covered heavily? Or at least enough
based on day to day observation, i.e. not on front pages, not on nightly news or
morning news...
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jennifer Palmieri
[mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
> Sent: Friday, May 01, 2015 1:44 PM
>
To: John Podesta; Joel Benenson; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Huma
> Abedin;
Teddy Goff; Jim Margolis; Kristina Schake; Robby Mook; Dan

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> Schwerin
>
Subject: Heads up for call with HRC
>
> While on the phone on a different
topic, HRC raised Clinton Cash convo with Jake and me. It was a difficult
conversation. So folks should be ready to explain why we don't think a video
makes sense.
>
> Moreover, my impression is she wants a much stronger
response. Which means engaging more on details that we have to date not found
in our interest to do so.
>
> Just wanted to update folks.
>
> Sent from my
iPhone

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <events@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	8/8/2014 7:00:04 AM
Subject:	Invitation: Which Poses the Bigger Threat to U.S. National Security —Iran or Non-State Sunni Extremism ? - Thursday, August 14, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Hudson Institute
Event Invitation

Which Poses the Bigger Threat to U.S. National Security—Iran or Non-State Sunni Extremism?



Thursday, August 14th
12:00 to 1:30 pm

Hudson Institute
Betsy and Walter Stern Conference Center
1015 15th Street, NW - Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Register for event

With the belief that Iran's nuclear weapons program constituted the greatest threat to U.S. interests in the Middle East, Barack Obama entered the White House hoping to achieve a historic reconciliation with the Islamic Republic. But the administration's current policies throughout the region suggest that the White House no longer sees Iran as the key problem. Rather, it views the clerical regime as a potential partner, particularly when it comes to combating Sunni extremists like al Qaeda and ISIS. As Obama has explained in several interviews, the Iranian regime, while problematic, represents a real nation-state and rational actor that

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looks out for its interests and responds to incentives—which is not the case for non-state actors.

The White House has re-prioritized American strategy in the Middle East. Its policies in Syria and Iraq demonstrate that it now sees groups like al Qaeda and ISIS—rather than Iran—as the key threat to American interests. The question is whether the Obama administration has got it right. And if it's wrong, what are the likely consequences?

On August 14th, Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Lee Smith will moderate an expert panel featuring Michael Doran, Hillel Fradkin, and Brian Katulis to discuss whether non-state Sunni extremism or Iran constitutes the major strategic threat to American interests in the region.

Lunch will be provided.

This event will be live streamed on Hudson's homepage .

Panel

Michael Doran

Michael Doran is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy where he specializes in Middle East security issues. He has held several academic positions and has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and Senior Director at the National Security Council.

Hillel Fradkin

Hillel Fradkin is a senior fellow with Hudson Institute where he directs the Center on Islam, Democracy and the Future of the Muslim World and co-edits *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology*. His articles have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal, World Affairs,* the *Journal of Democracy, Commentary*, and the *Weekly Standard* among other publications.

Brian Katulis

Brian Katulis is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, where he focuses on the Middle East and North Africa, and is co-author of *The Prosperity Agenda: What the World Wants from America—and What We Need in Return.*

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Lee Smith

Lee Smith is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and a senior editor at the Weekly Standard.

Program

12:00 — 12:10
Introduction by Lee Smith

12:10 — 12:50
Remarks by Michael Doran, Hillel Fradkin, and Brian Katulis

12:50 — 1:10
Moderated Panel Discussion

1:10 — 1:30
Audience Q & A

View more upcoming events

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1015 15th Street, N.W. 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 2/12/2016 4:56:34 PM
Subject: New News! (2/12/2016)



News as of February 12, 2016

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community

- This HUUUUGE: Einstein's theory on gravity waves is proven.
- Trump, Sanders win in NH; Kasich gains, Rubio loses ground.
- Economic "doom loop"? Markets in turmoil; economic concerns deepen.
- US & Russia negotiate process for a break in hostilities, humanitarian aid in Syria.
- North Korea launches 'satellite' sparking fear about long-range missile program.
- Obama calls for "better politics"; ambitious budget

Polls

NH Democratic Primary Results: Sanders 60.4% Clinton 38%
NH GOP Primary Results: Trump 35.3% Kasich 15.8% Cruz 11.7% Bush 11% Rubio 10.6% Christie 7.4% Fiorina 4.1% Carson 2.3% *AP*

Key findings from NH Exit polls: Fewer than 50% of Democrats find Clinton to be honest and trustworthy...70% of women under 45 voted for Sanders.. 40% of voters in both the Democratic and Republican primaries said they identify as independents. 2/3rds of GOP voters say they support a temporary ban on non-citizen Muslims entering the United States. *AP* . Sanders beat Clinton among women by 11 points (55%-44%) and swept all age categories except voters over 65, non-whites, and those with family incomes over $200,00. Philip Bump, *Wash Post*

Trump up +16 In Latest SC Poll: Trump in 1st with 36%. Cruz is in 2nd with 20%. Rubio jumped a statistically insignificant +1 with 15%. [Augusta Chronicle poll] *RealClearPolitics*

Sanders within single digits of Clinton nationally: Sanders trails Clinton by 7 points, 46% to 39%, in the Morning Consult survey released Friday. Mark Hensch, *The Hill*

Domestic Affairs

Einstein was right: "Scientists announced that they have detected gravitational waves, vibrations of space and time, proving Einstein was right 100 years after he first predicted their existence." Alyssa Newcomb, *ABC News*

Obama says nation deserves a "better politics" based on civility and compromise to cure a "poisonous political climate" that pushes citizens away. "We've always gone through periods when our democracy seems stuck, and when that happens we have to find a new way of doing business. We're in one of those moments. We have to build a better politics," he said. "What's different today is the nature and extent of the polarization," said Obama, who cited political parties that have become more homogeneous in their ideology, a fractured media, advocacy groups and "unlimited dark money." Rick Pearson, Monique Garcia, and Celeste Bott, *Chicago Tribune*

SCOTUS blocks plan to limit greenhouse-gas emissions: The Supreme Court temporarily blocked the Clean Power Plan, halting the cornerstone of Obama's climate policy. "The court's 5-4 vote is unprecedented, the first time it has overruled a lower court to stay a regulation. The justices split along partisan lines." Alex Guillen, *Politico*

Obama's final budget seeks tax hikes on banks & the wealthy: "The plan calls for a $4 trillion spending blueprint that would pour

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billions into clean energy, education and Medicaid, and pay for it by raising taxes on big banks and the wealthy...The plan is not expected to gain much traction on Capitol Hill, but the president says it is about values." Benton Ives, *Politico* ; The budget also calls for an 11% increase in funding for the SEC and a 32% increase for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). *Reuters* ; Divided GOP to powwow on budget: "Speaker Ryan is expected to use charts and graphs in his pitch to House Republicans...But his message will be simple: There will be severe consequences if we don't pass a budget this year." Scott Wong and Sarah Ferris, *The Hill*

Executive order signed by President to establish a federal privacy council: The order will help ensure the administration's branches are using the best, most secure practices to safeguard employee information, as well as government data. Kevin Liptak, *CNN*

Obama to ask Congress for $1.8 billion to respond to the Zika virus abroad and prepare for it at home. Steven Mufson and Lena H. Sun, *Wash Post*

The last of 4 armed protesters at an Oregon wildlife refuge reportedly has surrendered, ending a 41-day standoff with law enforcement. *Fox News* FBI agents arrest Cliven Bundy; he faces federal charges related to the 2014 standoff with federal agents at his ranch over federal use of public land. *Fox News*

The DOJ files a civil suit against Ferguson, alleging that the city's police and court system continue to violate black residents' civil rights: "The damning 56-page complaint details "patterns and practices" of force being used without legal justification and "racially discriminatory law enforcement conduct."" Mark Berman, Sari Horwitz, and Wesley Lowery, *Wash Post*

The Economy

Is the US headed for recession? The markets suggest so: "While many economic indicators aren't flashing concern, the global financial turmoil could cause a slowdown." Greg Ip, *WSJ* ; Is the global rout deepening?: "What is new is that investors are now worrying that banks are being caught in the middle as central banks in Europe and Japan turn to negative interest rates to spur growth." Tommy Stubbington and Margot Patrick, *WSJ* ; Will the US fall into a bear market too? "The steep decline for the MSCI All-Country World Index reflects the sense of dread that has crippled risky assets in recent weeks…Many individual stock markets are already in a bear market, including Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany and Japan. So far, the U.S. has avoided bear status. However, both the Dow and the S&P 500 are down about 13% from their recent highs and the Nasdaq is off 17%." Matt Egan, *CNN Money* ; Stock market ended rough week on high note, rising 313.66 points Friday as bank stocks bounced back. But concerns weigh on markets. *WSJ*

Oil prices rallied on Friday, rebounding from a 13-year low the previous day: "UAE energy minister said OPEC members were ready to cooperate on possible production cuts." Georgi Kantchev and Timothy Puko, *WSJ:* US stocks gain as oil & banks rally: "[T]raders and analysts groused that they didn't expect the latest bounce to last." Corrie Driebusch and Riva Gold, *WSJ*

Fed's Yellen testifies before Congress, cites growing risks to economy: Yellen's remarks suggest foreign economic slowdown and market distress could threaten the Fed's plans to raise the rate gradually this year. Paul Davidson, *USA Today* Yellen said the Fed was not to blame for the turmoil that has engulfed financial markets this year. Rich Miller and Christopher Condon, *Bloomberg*

A darkening global outlook and financial-market turmoil mean the best of Europe's recovery is likely behind it. Nina Adam and Jason Douglas, *WSJ* Eurozone economy grows, but still lags behind 2008: "Europe's economic core remains soft." Jack Ewing, *NY Times*

Global growth fears spread to Asia; Nikkei falls more than 5%: "Anxiety over slowing growth, falling oil prices and rock-bottom interest rates spilled over into Asia." Kosaku Narioka, *WSJ*

Negative rates hurt banks as unconventional policies backfire: "It seemed like a good idea at the time: Cut interest rates below zero to revive growth. But as policy makers embrace the notion, investors are close to panic mode." Ye Xie, Lu Wang, and Eshe Nelson, *Bloomberg* ; The new concern is that negative rates have squeezed banks' profits and put their soundness in question. Clive Crook, *Bloomberg*

What is it that makes today's global economy abnormal?: "First, potential growth in developed and emerging countries has fallen because of the burden of high private and public debts...Second, actual growth has been anemic and below its potential trend, owing to the painful process of deleveraging underway, first in the US, then in Europe, and now in highly leveraged emerging markets. Third, economic policies – especially monetary policies – have become increasingly unconventional...the distinction between monetary and fiscal policy has become increasingly blurred." Nouriel Roubini (TCG Speaker), *Project Syndicate*

The thorny economics of illegal immigration: "Arizona's economy took a hit when many illegal immigrants left, but benefits also materialized." Bob Davis, *WSJ*

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Russia & US agree to a halt in Syrian war: "The "cessation of hostilities" is scheduled to go into effect within the next week..but humanitarian access to besieged cities and towns will begin immediately." Karen DeYoung, *Wash Post* What has been agreed? 1) To try to immediately step up aid...2) For a US/Russia-led task force to work to achieve a "cessation of hostilities" across Syria…[that] will exclude action against so-called Islamic State group, jihadist group al-Nusra Front and other UN-designated terrorist groups...3) To work

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towards an eventual ceasefire and implementation of a UN-backed plan for political transition in Syria." *BBC News;* Ash Carter- Regardless of fate of diplomatic efforts to end Syria's civil war, allies must contribute more to military campaign against ISIS: Phil Stewart and Robin Emmott, *Reuters*

North Korea launches 'satellite,' sparks fears about long-range missile program: Anna Fifield, *Wash Post;* South Korea said it would suspend operations at an industrial complex it runs jointly with North Korea. "The complex, located in North Korea, houses more than 120 South Korean companies and was established over a decade ago as a symbol of cooperation between the two countries."Krishnadev Calamur, *The Atlantic* ; Senate unanimously approved strict sanctions intended to limit Pyongyang's ability to finance warheads and missiles. Emmarie Huetteman, *NY Times*

NATO orders fleet to deploy in Aegean Sea 'to help end Europe's refugee crisis': "Warships will be used to stop people-smuggling boats for the first time...NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said action would be taken "without delay"." Adam Withnall, *The Independent*

Intelligence officials testify that ISIS will probably conduct additional attacks in Europe and then attempt the same in the US. "[These officials] believe IS leaders will be 'increasingly involved in directing attacks rather than just encouraging lone attackers.'" Deb Riechmann and Richard Lardner, *AP*

Assad's regime is laying siege to the city of Aleppo — cutting off hundreds of thousands of people from international aid. Tim Lister, *CNN* ; Assad wouldn't have been able to do this without Russia, which has been bombing the city as part of the offensive, killing at least 150 civilians over the weekend. Elisha Fieldstadt, *NBC News* ; Syrian Rebels increasingly turn to guerrilla tactics as regime forces gain battlefield advantage: Raja Abdulrahim, *WSJ*

The most effective way Putin's regime can avoid collapse is by causing the EU to collapse sooner: "Putin will be able to gain considerable economic benefits from dividing Europe and exploiting the connections with commercial interests and anti-European parties that he has carefully cultivated." George Soros, Op-Ed, *Project Syndicate*

World map shows where pollution is getting worse: US, Europe and Japan have greatly improved, but pollution has worsened in parts of China, India and the Middle East. Rick Noak, *Wash Post*

UN discloses that female genital mutilation has risen by 70 million: At least 200 million women and girls, alive today, who have undergone genital mutilation. Robin Wright, *The New Yorker*

Africa - the fastest-growing front of global jihad--and perhaps its deadliest. "Driving this change is a crucial transformation of the way that Islam is being practiced by the 250 million Muslims living south of the Sahara... the new active Islam, not the dormant, Sufi ...[version]." Yarolsav Trofimov, *WSJ*

2016 Campaign

Trump & Sanders' NH victories prove anti-establishment, populist fervor is real: "The success by two outsider candidates...all but guaranteed protracted, bruising races for each party's presidential nomination." Patrick Healy and Jonathan Martin, *NY Times* Kasich's 2nd place finish thrusts him into relevance, a setback for Rubio and Bush: His finish was driven by late-deciding, upscale, moderate, and independent-leaning voters. Marc Caputo and Anna Palmer, *Politico*

Who won the latest Dem Debate? "This debate had a more subdued and even scholarly tone, with detailed discussions about Henry Kissinger...and President Obama's legacy...Many commentators and critics felt that Mr. Sanders held his own on domestic affairs, but that Mrs. Clinton outshined him on foreign policy and scored some points by cornering him as a single-issue candidate." Alan Rappeport, *NY Times* Clinton projected confidence, challenging Sanders on issues beyond income inequality. Jonathan Martin, *NY Times* It's not easy to argue realism versus idealism, smaller steps versus larger strides, political evolution versus political revolution. Yet...Clinton did it deftly. Scott Lehigh, *Boston Globe*

Rubio donors disappointed but look for strong South Carolina showing: Sean Sullivan and Matea Gold, *Wash Post* . Rubio eyes brokered convention after NH setback: Steve Peoples, *AP*

Tax Policy Center- Rubio's tax proposals could produce large, "unsustainable, budget deficits": The proposals would put more money in taxpayers' wallets and in business coffers, their benefits would be concentrated at the top end of the income scale." Lynnley Browning, *Bloomberg*

Goodbye to Carly Fiorina and Chris Christie candidacies following poor results in NH primary. David A. Graham, *The Atlantic*

Sanders' win sets the stage for a quest for votes in states with larger minority populations: "South Carolina and Nevada will test candidates' abilities to connect with Latinos and African Americans." John Wagner and Anne Gearan, *Wash Post* ; Clinton captures vital endorsement from Congressional Black Caucus PAC: Stephen Collinson, Rebekah Metzler and Eugene Scott, *CNN*

Bernie's fundraising juggernaut yields $6.3 million in the 23 hours after the polls closed and counting: It's "deceptively sophisticated, using cutting edge technology and techniques to create a perfect fundraising storm never before seen in presidential politics."

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Ken Vogel, *Politico*

The DNC rolls back restrictions that banned donations from federal lobbyists and PACs, a move introduced by Barack Obama in 2008. Tom Hamburger and Paul Kane, *Wash Post*

GOP candidates have started turning on Wall Street donors: Now they're "attacking one another for being too close to the financial industry." Josh Green, *Bloomberg* ; Chances are slim that anyone connected to Wall Street will secure a top post in the administration, no matter who wins the presidency. Andrew Ross Sorkin, *NY Times*

Mike Bloomberg, actively considering an independent run for president, will meet with pollster Frank Luntz this week. Mara Gay and Josh Dawsey, *WSJ* Why the media wants Bloomberg to run: "A Bloomberg candidacy would redefine the range and tone of the political argument, changing the story and thereby giving reporters a chance to renew themselves." Jack Shafer, *Politico*

Books & Film

"Exit Right: The People Who Left the Left and Reshaped the American Century" by Daniel Oppenheimer: "A new book looks at the leftist origins of the rabid right." Sam Tanenhaus, *The Atlantic*

60 MINUTES with rare interview of John Brennan: The head of the CIA outlines the ISIS threat to the US and other security concerns such as cyber and biological terror with Scott Pelley.

Upcoming Events

Meet the Candidate: Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Candidate for US Senate

Monday, February 29, 2016
Breakfast & remarks: 10:30-11:30am

RSVP

The Comm Good Forum on "Security and Opportunity in Turbulent Times"

Friday, May 20, 2016, 8am-4pm, Sessions all day on national and economic security

RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff, Isabelle Lehner, Emily Samuels, and Isaac Getlan, and our interns Emily Abrams, Juliet Kirk, Uzma Azhar, Daniela Gutierrez, and Grace Ewing.
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From:	"Adam Blickstein" <ablickstein@nsnetwork.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	10/9/2009 5:16:51 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] Nobel: While Obama Renews America's Global Leadership, Conservatives Go on the Attack

Nobel: While Obama Renews America's Global Leadership, Conservatives Go on the Attack

Washington, D.C. - Domestic reaction to President Barack Obama's winning the Nobel Peace Prize has been a classic case of missing the forest for the trees. While commentators have obsessed over the daily political ups and downs of a new President, observers should recognize this award for what it is: a clear recognition that the Obama administration has dramatically changed the direction of American engagement with the world, putting forward an agenda that the world supports and shares..

In his first nine months in office, President Obama has reasserted American leadership on behalf of an agenda that has seized the imagination of people around the world: controlling nuclear weapons, responding to climate change, and promoting Middle East peace. The President has also restored America's moral standing by implementing a timetable for the end of American involvement in Iraq, renouncing torture, and working to revamp America's detention policy.

But conservative leaders like Michael Steele and Rush Limbaugh lambasted the President for renewing America's global leadership. And Limbaugh went as far to say "The Nobel gang just suicide bombed themselves."

The Nobel Prize doesn't just go to people who have completely succeeded in their efforts, nor is it a lifetime achievement award. Instead, it is given explicitly to endorse and encourage those who are working to bring about a better more peaceful world. Yitzchak Rabin, Shimon Peres, and Yasser Arafat received the award not because they had resolved the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but because they had set out to resolve it in such an inspiring way. The committee is recognizing Obama's efforts to lead a growing global movement - and this is a moment for us to be proud of our country.

World lauds Nobel committee's decision to award Nobel Peace Prize to President Obama:

- **Mohammed Elbaradei**, director-general of the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency and Nobel recipient. "I cannot think of anyone today more deserving of this honor. In less than a year in office, he has transformed the way we look at ourselves and the world we live in and rekindled hope for a world at peace with itself." [NY Times, 10/09/09]
- **Shimon Peres**, Israeli President and Nobel recipient: "Very few leaders if at all were able to change the mood of the entire world in such a short while with such a profound impact, You provided the entire humanity with fresh hope, with intellectual determination, and a feeling that there is a lord in heaven and believers on earth... Under your leadership, peace became a real and original agenda. And from Jerusalem, I am sure all the bells of engagement and understanding will ring again. You gave us a license to dream and act in a noble direction." [NY Times, 10/09/09]
- **Mikhail Gorbachev**, former President of the Soviet Union and Nobel recipient. "In these hard times people who are capable of taking responsibility, who have a vision [of problems], commitment and political will should be supported." [NY Times, 10/09/09]
- **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**: "It is a very imaginative and somewhat surprising choice. It is wonderful." [Middle East Online, 10/09/09]
- **Masdar Mas'udi**, senior leader of Indonesia's largest Muslim Organization: "I think it's appropriate because he is the only American president who has reached out to us in peace. On the issues of race, religion, skin color, he has an open attitude." [NPR, 10/09/09]
- The **Nelson Mandela** Foundation: "We trust that this award will strengthen his commitment, as the leader of the most powerful nation in the world, to continue promoting peace and the eradication of poverty." [NPR, 10/09/09]

Obama's selection follows Nobel tradition of rewarding leaders, including past American presidents, who have worked to create peace and stability. "Obama is the third sitting U.S. president--and the first in 90 years--to win the prestigious peace prize... Woodrow Wilson was awarded the price in 1919, after helping to found the League of Nations and shaping the Treatise of Versailles; and Theodore Roosevelt was the recipient in 1906 for his work to negotiate an end to the

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Russo-Japanese war," writes the Washington Post.

Historically the prize has often been awarded to people in the midst of their work - often seeking to encourage those efforts, rather than simply rewarding past accomplishments. An article in Foreign Policy says that, "The Nobel committee seeks to change the world through the prize's very conferral, and, unlike its fellow prizes, the peace prize goes well beyond recognizing past accomplishments. As Francis Sejersted, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee in the 1990s, once proudly admitted, 'The prize ... is not only for past achievement. ... The committee also takes the possible positive effects of its choices into account [because] ... Nobel wanted the prize to have political effects. Awarding a peace prize is, to put it bluntly, a political act.'" This was the precisely the point of the Nobel Committee's decision.

As one member of the five person panel that chooses the winner told the Wall Street Journal, "this was primarily an award on his work on and commitment to nuclear disarmament - and his dialogue. Of course there will be criticism, because he hasn't achieved his goals yet. It will take time, but this is a support." Thorbjørn Jagland, the Nobel Committee chairman places it in a historical context: "If you look at the history of the Nobel Peace prize, we have, on many occasions, tried to enhance what many personalities are trying to do. For instance, when Willy Brandt got the prize back in the 1970s, he launched Ostpolitik in Europe, which was so important to what happened in Europe many years later. For instance, giving the prize to Mikhail Gorbachev, who changed the world completely. And now to President Obama, who is contributing to improve the international climate," reports the Wall Street Journal. [Washington Post, 10/9/09 . Foreign Policy, 7/9/09 . WS Journal, 10/7/09 . WS Journal, 10/09/09]

Conservatives attack President Obama for promoting American security while addressing global challenges. Conservatives, blinded by partisan politics, have had a running meme that the president has not achieved anything in office. For example, John Miller writes in the National Review that, "Obama isn't the first American president to win the Nobel Peace Prize, but he's the first to win it without having accomplished anything... Obama's award is simply the projection of wishful thinking." And Republican consultant Curt Anderson said in the Washington Post that "It will completely reinforce the notion that he is all flash and no substance, all style, and more popular in Europe than in America." Even before the prize was awarded, this theme was leaking into the mainstream media. Chip Reid of CBS news said last month that, "After eight months in office, he's still the darling of the international community... But with scant progress on a long his of issues, the question now is what does he have to show for it?" [John Miller, National Review, 10/09/09 . Curt Anderson, Washington Post, 10/09/09 . Chip Reid, CBS News via NewsBusters, 09/23/09]

Two leaders of the conservative establishment, Michael Steele and Rush Limbaugh, lambasted the President for renewing America's global leadership.

- "The Nobel gang just suicide bombed themselves. Gore, Carter, Obama, soon Bill Clinton. See a pattern here? They are all leftist sell-outs. George Bush liberates 50 million Muslims in Iraq, Reagan liberates hundreds of millions of Europeans and saves parts of Latin America. Any awards?" Limbaugh says "Obama gives speeches trashing his own country and for that gets a prize, which is now worth as much as whatever prizes they are putting in Cracker Jacks these days." (10/09/09)
- "The real question Americans are asking is, 'What has President Obama actually accomplished?' It is unfortunate that the president's star power has outshined tireless advocates who have made real achievements working towards peace and human rights. One thing is certain - President Obama won't be receiving any awards from Americans for job creation, fiscal responsibility, or backing up rhetoric with concrete action." - RNC Chairman Michael Steele

Meanwhile, the Administration has made significant progress on multiple important global issues that have strengthened American security.

- **Achieved significant progress on nonproliferation**. The Washington Post reports, "The committee praised Obama for his 'extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples' during his nine months in office and singled out for special recognition Obama's call for a world free of nuclear weapons, which he first made in an April speech in Prague." Agot Valle, a member of the five-person Nobel committee, told the Wall Street Journal that the "committee last met on Oct. 5, and that the decision to choose Obama was unanimous, especially after Sept. 24, when Obama became the first sitting U.S. president to chair a U.N. Security Council summit-level meeting. At that meeting, the Security Council passed a resolution calling for a strengthened Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ahead of negotiations on the issue with Iran in Geneva." [Washington Post, 10/9/09 . WS Journal, 10/7/09]
- **Reached out to the Muslim world in an unprecedented show of trust and respect.** Just under nine months into his administration, President Obama's administration has dramatically altered the tenor of America's relationship with the Muslim world. From his first interview as President with Al-Arabiya to his address in Cairo, the President has clearly articulated America's desire for better relations between the U.S. and the world's Muslims. [President Obama, 6/04/09]
- **Strengthened the international response to Iran.** President Obama increased pressure on Iran heading into talks on its nuclear program by gaining Russian verbal support for sanctions if diplomacy fails. The New York Times reported

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that Russian President Dmitri Medvedev "signaled for the first time that Russia would be amenable to longstanding American requests to toughen sanctions against Iran significantly" if talks scheduled for next month head nowhere. "'I told His Excellency Mr. President that we believe we need to help Iran to take a right decision,' Mr. Medvedev said, adding that 'sanctions rarely lead to productive results, but in some cases, sanctions are inevitable.'" [NY Times, 9/24/09]

- **"Reset" U.S.-Russia relations.** By offering Russia a "reset button" the Administration has bolstered relations with a key partner for addressing nuclear proliferation, the war in Afghanistan, the crisis with Iran, climate change and any international crisis. CFR notes that the administration's efforts to "'press the reset button ' in relations with Russia was well-received in Moscow." And as Secretary Clinton said on Russia's cooperation regarding Iran, "we also believe that in working closely with Russia, sharing information, that they have been quite helpful this past week." [CFR, 2/18/09. Secretary Hillary Clinton, CBS News, 9/27/09]
- **Restructured the G20 to be more representative and effective.** The New York Times reports, "President Obama will announce Friday that the once elite club of rich industrial nations known as the Group of 7 will be permanently replaced as a global forum for economic policy by the much broader Group of 20 that includes China, Brazil, India and other fast-growing developing countries, administration officials said Thursday." [NY Times, 9/25/09]
- **Reengaged the UN and challenged its members to match their rhetoric with action.** In his speech to the United Nations General Assembly, President Obama said, "Now, like all of you, my responsibility is to act in the interest of my nation and my people, and I will never apologize for defending those interests. But it is my deeply held belief that in the year 2009 -- more than at any point in human history -- the interests of nations and peoples are shared... We have sought -- in word and deed -- a new era of engagement with the world. And now is the time for all of us to take our share of responsibility for a global response to global challenges." [Barack Obama, 9/23/09]

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From: "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin.hrco@gmail.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/23/2014 11:57:33 AM
Subject: Re: Keystone in the book

So we're officially cutting Keystone and here's the domestic energy section that remains, with a few small additions:

While we were pursuing all this work abroad, there were also exciting developments at home. American innovation was at the forefront of unlocking new energy supplies, whether it was hard-to-reach oil and gas or cutting edge renewables. And, it turned out that our country was blessed with far more energy resources than we realized. By 2013, the United States surpassed both Saudi Arabia and Russia to lead the world in oil and gas production. And production of wind and solar doubled between 2009 and 2012, when clean renewables accounted for more than half of new U.S. energy capacity for the first time ever.

The boom in domestic energy production, especially in natural gas, opened major economic and strategic opportunities for our country.

Expanded energy production has created tens of thousands of new jobs, from oil rigs in North Dakota to wind turbine factories in South Carolina. Cheap and plentiful natural gas is helping drive down costs for energy-intensive manufacturers and giving the United States a big competitive advantage over places like Japan and Europe, where energy prices remain much higher. **Researchers project that all the ripple effects from our domestic energy revolution could create up to 1.7 million permanent jobs by 2020 and add between 2 and 4 percent to our annual gross domestic product.** The shift to natural gas is also helping lower carbon emissions, because it's cleaner than coal. Greater domestic production is reducing our dependence on foreign oil, easing a major strategic burden, and freeing up supplies elsewhere that might have otherwise gone to the American market that can instead help our European allies lessen their dependence on Russia.

There are legitimate climate change concerns about the new extraction practices and their impact on local water, soil and air supplies. Methane leaks in the production and transportation of natural gas are particularly worrisome. So it's crucial that we put in place smart regulations and enforce them, including not drilling when the risks are too high.

If we approach this challenge responsibly and make the right investments in infrastructure, technology and environmental protection, America can be the clean energy super power for the 21st century. **That means creating a positive environment for private sector innovation and risk-taking, with targeted tax incentives, a commitment to research and development, and policies that encourage rather than undercut the transition to clean, renewable sources of energy. And it means investing in the infrastructure of the future, including next-generation power plants to produce electricity more cleanly, smarter grids to deliver it more effectively, and greener buildings to use it more efficiently.** China and others are already racing forward with big bets on renewables. We cannot afford to cede leadership in this area, especially since American innovation holds the key to the next generation of advances, and our capacity to employ them at home and in our hemisphere is almost

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limitless. Our economic recovery, our efforts against climate change and our strategic position in the world all will improve if we can build a bridge to a clean energy economy.

From: Dan <dschwerin.hrco@gmail.com >
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 4:43 PM
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc: Ethan Gelber <egelber.hrco@gmail.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, PIR <preines.hrco@gmail.com >, Huma Abedin <Huma@clintonemail.com >, Jake Sullivan <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: Keystone in the book

Great. The Secretary is open to cutting and thinks maybe we'll add a few more lines on the promise of clean energy instead. John, if you have ideas on that, please let me know.

From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 4:42 PM
To: Dan <dschwerin.hrco@gmail.com >
Cc: Ethan Gelber <egelber.hrco@gmail.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, PIR <preines.hrco@gmail.com >, Huma Abedin <Huma@clintonemail.com >, Jake Sullivan <Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com >
Subject: Re: Keystone in the book

Cut

On Apr 22, 2014 10:37 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin.hrco@gmail.com > wrote:

> Our editor Jonathan Karp has suggested to HRC that she cut the reference to Keystone from the book, a change that apparently is still manageable in the production process even at this late date (lets hope it doesn't open the floodgates). His view is that it "reads like you're punting on an issue I don't think readers are expecting you to address in the first place. Unless you feel some need to mention it, I'm not sure what the gain is. You say you're waiting for the study before making a determination, but I question whether any study is capable of defining a clear course of action, and some readers might think that relying on a study is a stalling tactic." As background, she decided to write about Keystone because her daughter suggested that it would be a glaring omission and look like an even worse dodge if she left it out. Podesta, copied here, helped us craft the language below, which HRC/WJC edited again this week. I'd like to present her with a recommendation as soon as possible as to whether we think this should stay or go. Thoughts?
>
> Our economic recovery, our efforts against climate change and our strategic position in the world all will improve if we can build a bridge to a clean energy economy.
>
> There will be tough questions along the way. One high-profile example is the controversy over the proposed Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from the tar sands of Canada to refineries in the United States. Proponents of the pipeline say it will produce jobs and spur economic growth. Opponents warn about potential environmental damage, locally in Canada and along the transportation route, and globally because of the high life-cycle carbon content of the fuel produced from tar sands. Because the route of the pipeline would cross the border, the State Department has jurisdiction over approving it. When I was Secretary, I launched a careful, evidence-based process to evaluate the environmental and economic impact. Unfortunately, politics in Washington intervened and Republicans in Congress forced a decision before the government had the necessary facts. The Obama administration had no choice but to say no. As of this writing, another evaluation is underway and a final decision is up to Secretary Kerry and President Obama. I've refrained from weighing in on this question since leaving the Department out of respect for my successor's process. But I do hope that this important decision can be insulated from politics and made based on evidence rather than ideology or political pressure.
>
> Whether Keystone is approved or disapproved, we should keep heading toward a future of less imported oil and more domestic clean energy production. That's how we'll continue to grow our economy and reduce our emissions.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 2/14/2016 2:38:04 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Trump l ost last night's debat e in South Carolina. How much does it matter?

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Morning intelligence for leaders

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Trump lost last night's debate in South Carolina. How much does it matter?



Donald Trump stands alone on stage during a commercial break at last night's Republican debate in Greenville, South Carolina. (Jonathan Ernst/Reuters)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

-- There is widespread consensus that Donald Trump had a very bad night in Greenville. The question is whether that will cause lasting damage, or if he continues to be coated in Teflon.

One of the problems for leaders of the chattering class is that they have been so wrong about Trump so many times for so many months that everyone is gun-shy about predicting his impending decline.

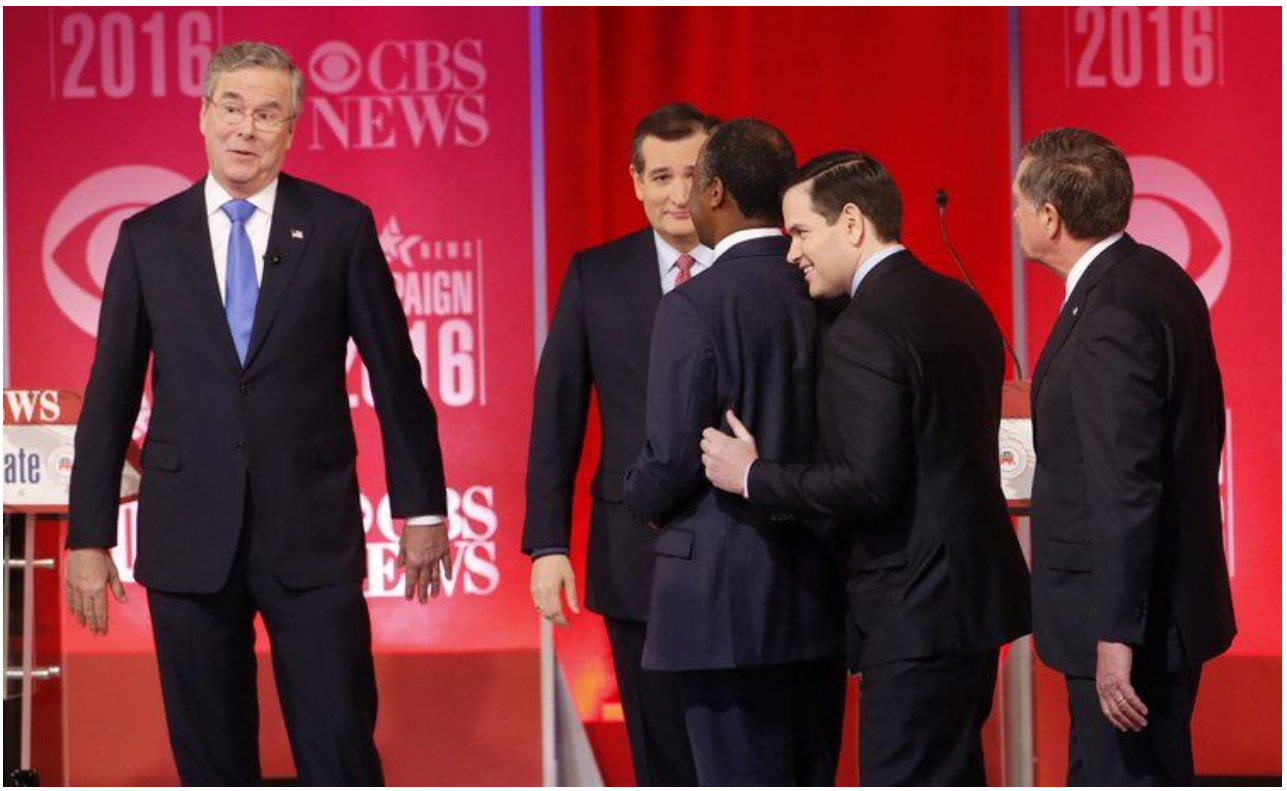
The billionaire was flustered and cranky. Not only was he thrown off his game by sustained boos from the crowd and a pile-on by his rivals, but he often sounded more like a Democrat than a Republican.

He didn't just call George W. Bush's decision to invade Iraq a disaster – which he has done before – but he blamed him for 9/11 and said that the former president "lied" about the presence of weapons of mass destruction as a pretext for war. "Obviously the war in Iraq was a big, fat mistake," the frontrunner said at the Peace Center. "George Bush made a mistake. We can make mistakes, but that one was a beauty. We should have never been in Iraq. We have destabilized the Middle East."

Trump again defended Planned Parenthood, as everyone else promised to defund it. "It does wonderful things, but not as it relates to abortion," he said. "Wonderful things that have to do with women's health."

Keep in mind that he said this in the buckle of the Bible Belt, just down the road from Furman and Bob Jones universities.

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(EPA/Erik S. Lesser)

-- If next Saturday's Republican primary becomes *solely* a referendum on W, which it probably won't, Jeb could win. The former president, who is flying to Charleston tomorrow night to campaign with his brother, still has an astronomical approval rating among likely voters in the Palmetto State. "I am sick and tired of him going after my family," Jeb said. "While Donald Trump was building a reality TV show, my brother was building a security apparatus to keep us safe."

Bush's popularity in the Palmetto State is why Marco Rubio jumped to the 43rd president's defense as much as his brother. "I thank God all the time that it was George W. Bush in the White House on 9/11 and not Al Gore," the Florida senator said. "He kept us safe."

It was one of the biggest applause lines of the night, and it prompted Trump to shout: "I lost hundreds of friends. The World Trade Center came down during the reign of George Bush! He kept us safe? That is not safe!"

Trump calling Bush a liar might have been a bridge too far, Dave Weigel thinks: "Republicans generally believe, against evidence, that Iraq held weapons of mass destruction when America invaded in 2003. In 2012, a poll conducted by a Dartmouth political scientist found that 63 percent of Republicans still thought this. Last year, a poll from Fairleigh Dickinson University's Public Mind found a majority of Republicans, 51 percent believed WMD had been found in Iraq."

Scott Clement flags a Post-ABC poll last May that found 54 percent of

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Republicans still think the Iraq war was worth fighting, while 41 percent said it was not. A January 2007 Post-ABC News poll found 83 percent of Republicans thought Bush had made the country "safer and more secure." Later that year, our poll found 85 percent of Republicans approved of the way Bush handled the U.S. campaign against terrorism.

Romney alum Katie Packer Gage's group, Our Principles PAC, will launch a digital campaign today to highlight Trump's support for impeaching W in 2008. Watch her ad here .

-- Recall that Trump was basically a non-factor during the previous two debates. He boycotted Fox News before the Iowa caucus, and his rivals basically avoided mentioning him. In New Hampshire last weekend on ABC the rest of the field was focused on arresting Rubio's momentum. That means it has been quite a while since he took much real heat from his critics, with the exception of a clash with Jeb over eminent domain.

But last night, reflecting the establishment's renewed focus on stopping Trump, the ninth Republican debate was almost entirely about Trump. He got the most airtime (16 minutes), two minutes more than Cruz and five minutes more than Bush, Rubio or Kasich. "Refusing to bow to party orthodoxy or even politeness, Trump trashed one of the most revered families in Republican politics and made a big political bet that standing his ground is better than backing down, no matter how much he is under fire. … Trump did not flinch. But whether he will be punished or rewarded by voters here in next weekend's primary was the unanswerable question."

Here's the rub: Two-thirds of likely voters in South Carolina are not supporting Trump. An ARG poll that was in the field during the two days leading up to the debate has Trump at 35 percent, with a closely-bunched battle for second: Kasich at 15, Rubio at 14, Cruz at 12 and Bush at 10.

-- So will last night move the numbers?



The Fix's Chris Cillizza : "Trump seemed somewhat out of control and angry for much of the debate. … Trump, who often comes across as tough yet good-natured, came across

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on Saturday night as downright mean in several exchanges with Bush and Cruz. (And, as any politician will tell you, it's tough to make Cruz into an empathetic figure.) Trump's hard-core supporters will never leave him — no matter how well or badly he does in a debate. And, his hard-core supporters may well be enough to carry him to victory in a week's time in South Carolina. But, that doesn't mean Trump was good Saturday night. He wasn't." Chris names Rubio and Bush as the two winners .

Post columnist Charles Krauthammer , on Fox, called Trump "VERY BITTER": "He took a risk in being as open and often contemptuous as he was, BUT I don't think it's going to SHAKE his support. The question is, will it LIMIT his support?"

BuzzFeed's McKay Coppins : "The hostile crowd reaction seemed to take a toll on the longtime showman. Trump, his face reddening, erupted at even the faintest prompt or mildest pushback. When a moderator pressed him on a question about Social Security, he grew increasingly defensive and disproportionately upset and by the end of the exchange he was shouting his answer."

The Daily Beast's Will Rahn: "If the Donald somehow starts to slip -- if his lead in South Carolina narrows, if a clear alternative to his slow march to the nomination develops -- this debate will likely be seen as the turning point, the moment when the man who's thrown out every rulebook in politics finally learns that a few rules still apply. Or, more likely, no clear alternative rises from tonight's pileup, as Trump continues his divide-and-conquer undoing of the modern Republican Party."

The Weekly Standard's John McCormack: "People who follow politics a lot are used to Trump's unhinged moments, but debate audiences haven't seen 2-hour meltdown like this."

"Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd: "Trump is testing the limits of whether he can ever grow his support enough to be the conservative party's nominee … unless SC has changed, I think he hurt himself."

Weekly Standard editor Bill Kristol: "Best debate yet. Trump definitively exposed. Cruz, Rubio and Bush all impressive in different ways … Jeb most likely won't be the nominee. But he did a service to the country by provoking Trump to blurt out his nutty views on Bush and WMD."

Politico spokesman and longtime Republican operative Brad Dayspring: "Did Trump implode or did he double down on what's propelled him? I'd argue the latter. We'll see." Politico's headline says Trump was "BLUDGEONED. "

ABC's Rick Klein: "Predictions of Trump doing damage to his own campaign

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have been almost comically wrong over the past six months … and perhaps Trump is indeed a better student than everyone in the political class has realized. But on a night where the importance of the race was highlighted anew, Trump's rivals could portray him as flunking a big test."

Cook Political Report's Amy Walter : "The key issue post-debate isn't what it means for Trump, it's was there a clear 'establishment' lane winner? Don't think there was."

New York Times columnist Ross Douthat: "Even on an 'off' night Trump takes up so much oxygen that he makes it very hard for anyone else to look even somewhat presidential … The casual viewer sees a bunch of career politicians being heckled by a famous guy who seems to be telling at least *some* hard truths … As I may have mentioned before, I don't think Trump can be the nominee … but damn (sorry!) can he make it hard for anyone else to win."



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Rubio gets a touch up during a commercial break. (Reuters/Jonathan Ernst)

-- Rubio had a good night:

The Weekly Standard's Stephen Hayes : "After last week's stumbles, Rubio probably needed the debate of his life this week. He got it."

Max Boot: "In tonight's debate it was Trump vs. George W. Bush. Bush won. And best defense of him came from Rubio."

The Resurgent's Erick Erickson: "Rubio had to prove himself … And he rose to the occasion … [he] found his footing again in the CBS debate and evangelicals leaning toward Rubio have every reason to see how he trends in South Carolina. He was the candidate who turned issues toward family, and I think he got the better of Cruz in the immigration exchange."

The Weekly Standard's Michael Warren: "He seemed to bounce back with strong, informed answers on national security and taxes. But with his top establishment rivals delivering solid turns themselves, has Rubio's opportunity to break out of the pack passed?"

Chris Cillizza: "Does Rubio still talk a little too fast and sound a little too rehearsed? Yes. But, he clearly helped himself."

-- Many were impressed by Bush:

National Review's Rich Lowry: "Jeb stood up to Trump, just wish he had better

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rhetorical hammers than saying Trump is insulting his way to the nomination." … [and] as we learned in NH, it doesn't matter if audience is booing Trump."

Conservative Post blogger Jennifer Rubin: "My God, if this Jeb showed up day one he would have won by now."

Politico's Eli Stokols: "Jeb really took it to Trump tonight. But as we saw with Christie last week, the aggressor doesn't always benefit. And Trump has been bulletproof."

Washington Examiner's David Freddoso: "I didn't expect to be saying Jeb is winning a debate, but he's winning a debate … A lot of people who don't even care for Jeb have to be admiring how he bloodied Trump's nose there."

-- The Post's Fact Checkers examine a dozen specious claims that were made during the debate. Four highlights from Glenn Kessler and Michelle Ye Hee Lee:

- Ben Carson's closing statement included a fake quote from Joseph Stalin. There's no evidence the Soviet dictator said it, but conservatives have circulated it on social media.
- "The evidence is very slim" that Trump actually warned against attacking Iraq before March 2003, as he repeatedly insisted.
- On Jeb's job creation claims: "Florida had the highest number of net jobs three out of the eight years of his term, in 2002, 2003 and 2004. In growth rates, Florida ranked eighth, seventh and third respectively in those three years."
- On Trump's adamancy he never went bankrupt: "Trump personally has not gone "bankrupt" but as a result of his corporate bankruptcy restructurings, he did have to give up personal assets to help make loan payments, and his equity stake in various casinos was greatly reduced."

-- Last night felt more like a three-ring circus or a wrestling match than a debate. That could help John Kasich, who largely stayed above the fray. "I got to tell ya, this is just crazy," he said at one point. "This is just nuts. Geez, oh, man."

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Glenn Beck ✓
@glennbeck

Follow

this is an embarrassment.The debate in Iowa where the Game Show Host didn't show wasn't like this.I can't let my kids watch this.#GOPDebate

22:17:28 - Feb 13 2016

205 634



Glenn Beck ✓
@glennbeck

Follow

Kasich is using the same peacemaker rhetoric as in every debate, but tonight it is working. This debate is an embarrassment. #GOPDebate

22:13:23 - Feb 13 2016

551 1,276



Laura Ingraham ✓
@IngrahamAngle

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This debate is actually pretty damned entertaining. Pig-pile on Trump, audience jeering, candidates straining voices to be heard.

22:31:04 - Feb 13 2016

220 628



Laura Ingraham ✓
@IngrahamAngle

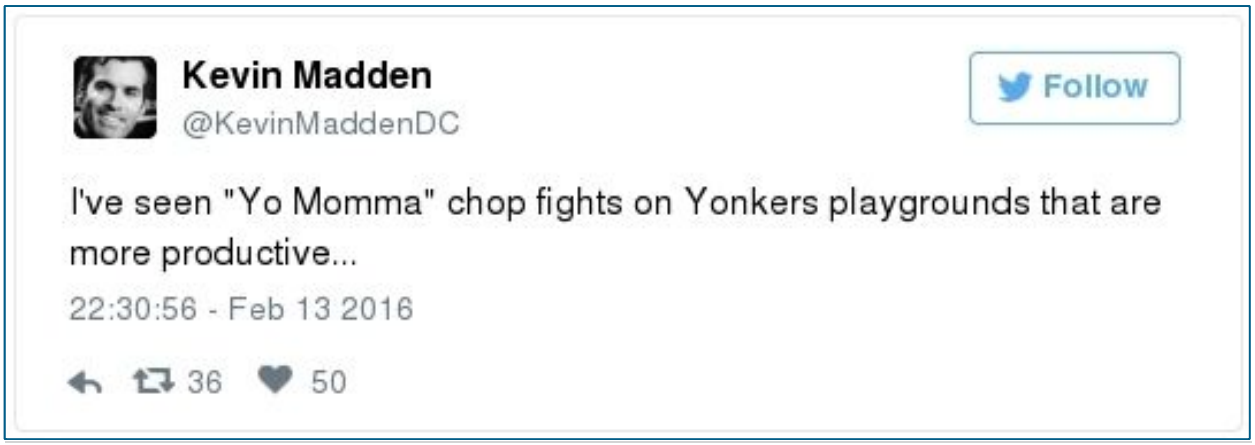
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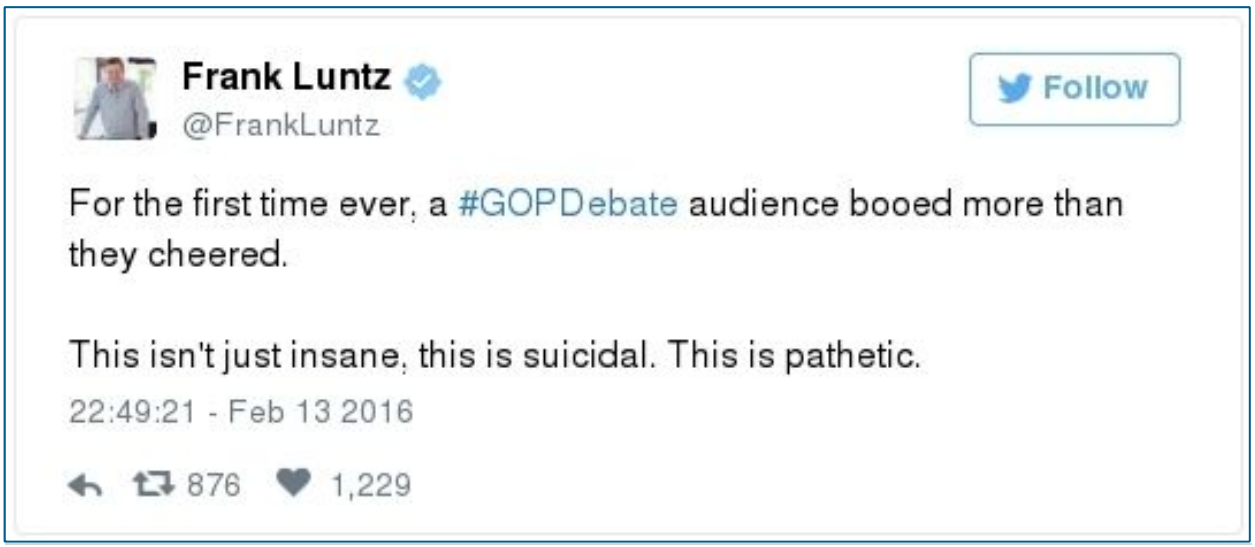
Watching this, I think @JohnKasich just may come in 2nd in SoCarolina.

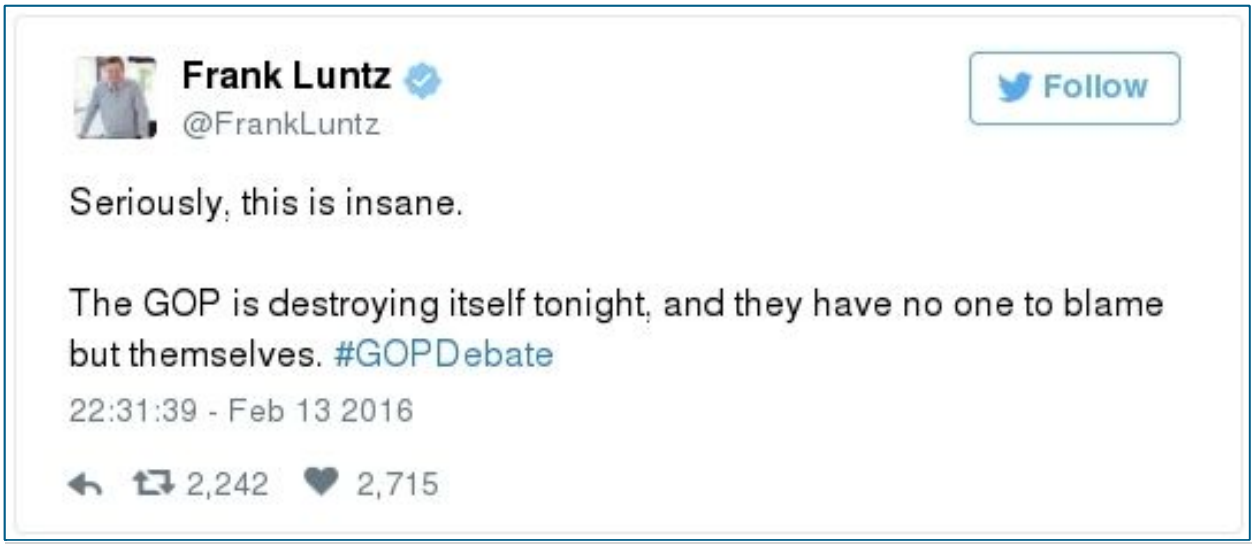
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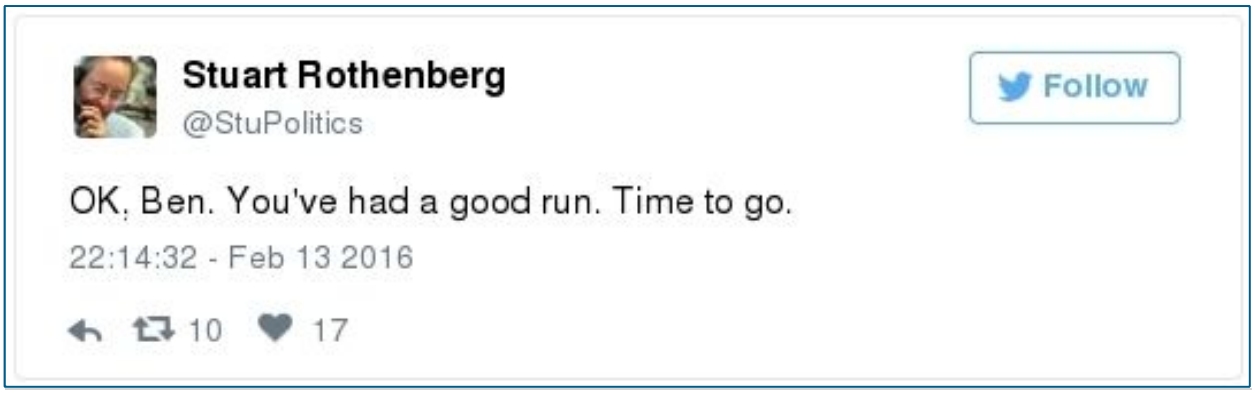






Some believed Carson should be voted off the island:

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The debate opened with a moment of silence for Antonin Scalia. (EPA/Erik S. Lesser)

-- Justice Antonin Scalia's death at a Texas hunting resort (of apparently natural causes) set off an immediate political battle about the future of the Supreme Court in an election year.

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Justice Scalia in a 2010 file photo (Reuters/Larry Downing)

The short-term impact: The Post's Bob Barnes, an expert on the court, forecasts a lot of 4-4 splits on controversial issues like abortion, affirmative action, the rights of religious objectors to the contraceptive mandate in the Affordable Care Act, and the president's powers on immigration and deportation. When there's a tie, the decision by the lower court is affirmed. That means there is no precedent for the future. This means that who won in the lower court matters a great deal.

The coming fight: President Obama immediately announced he will nominate a successor, but Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) vowed that the Senate will not confirm anyone this year. "The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice," he said.

Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) retorted: "Failing to fill this vacancy would be a shameful abdication of one of the Senate's most essential Constitutional responsibilities."

In other Scalia-related developments:

-- Trump, Cruz, Rubio and John Kasich all suggested either Obama shouldn't pick a replacement, or that the Senate should "delay, delay, delay" in Trump's words.

-- Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders agreed that it is "outrageous" for

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Republicans to block a nomination. "Apparently they believe that the Constitution does not allow a Democratic president to bring forth a nominee to replace Justice Scalia," Sanders said in a statement. "I strongly disagree with that."

-- Who will Obama nominate?

One leading candidate will probably be Sri Srinivasan, an ex-Justice Department official who is now on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He'd be the first judge of South Asian descent on SCOTUS and was confirmed, 97-0, for his current post by the Senate in May 2013. Read Jeffrey Toobin's New Yorker story on Srinivasan here .

Other names mentioned by court insiders last night, per USA Today: Srinivasan's colleagues on the D.C. Circuit Patricia Millett and Merrick Garland, as well as California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu.

-- Scalia passed away at a luxury West Texas ranch close to the Mexican border called Cibolo Creek, which has hosted movie stars like Mick Jagger, Bruce Willis and Tommy Lee Jones. (Elise Viebeck)

-- Read Barnes' full obituary of Scalia, who died at 79, here .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

-- Saturday Night Live opened with a funny Hillary skit. It features five of the cast members sitting around a table over brunch talking about how they know they're supposed to vote for Clinton, but that they are going to support Bernie Sanders. Then the Hillary impersonator appears and performs Bonnie Raitt's "I can't make you love me," with Bill playing the piano. A Jeb character makes a cameo at the end. Watch it here . And you can see "Weekend Update" here .

-- The State Department released 550 more emails from Hillary's private email server, totaling 1,000 pages. Of them, 84 were retroactively classified, per CNN . A judge said all of the relevant Clinton emails as secretary of state from her homebrew email server must be released by Feb. 29 , one day before the Super Tuesday primaries. Among the new emails are a bunch from Sidney Blumenthal , including "memos and thoughts on Libya" and the David Petraeus scandal. In one funny email highlighted by NPR , top Clinton aide Cheryl Mills forwarded a Post story titled "Bill Clinton's ego could cost Obama in November." Hillary replied: "What can be done?"

-- Breanne Deppisch and Elise Viebeck contributed to this special Sunday edition of The Daily 202.

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GET SMART FAST:

1. Turkey pledged to contribute ground troops to an anti-ISIS coalition in Syria and to allow Saudi Arabia to launch airstrikes from its bases. (Karen DeYoung)
2. France's prime minister rejected the idea of a permanent quota system for distributing asylum seekers across Europe, and refused to take more than 30,000. This puts Paris at odds with Berlin shortly before a summit of European leaders to discuss the crisis. (Andreas Rinke and Tatiana Jancarikova)
3. The DNC rolled back its restrictions on taking donations from federal lobbyists and PACs. (Tom Hamburger and Paul Kane)
4. DHS has expanded its screening of social media. Secretary Jeh Johnson declined to be specific but said the department is now monitoring the social media use of people who apply for various immigration benefits, along with those seeking asylum under the Obama administration's controversial program to accept refugees from Syria. (Jerry Markon)
5. A snow squall caused more than 50 vehicles to pile up on a Pennsylvania interstate, killing three and sending scores to hospitals. (AP)
6. West Virginia became the 26th Right To Work state. The Republican legislature overrode the Democratic governor's veto of a bill that turned the state right to work and replaced the state's prevailing wage law. (West Virginia Gazette)
7. The U.S. plans to restore commercial flights to Cuba for the first time in more than 50 years. Under the agreement, part of Obama's push to normalize relations between the two countries, airline carriers can submit potential travel routes to be approved by the DOT. (New York Times)
8. Meanwhile, Cuba finally returned a U.S. missile that was inadvertently shipped to the country in 2014. (CNN)
9. Austin, Texas, will have a referendum on how to regulate ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft. The voters will decide whether drivers must be fingerprinted and pay higher fees to the city. (USA Today)
10. Apple is facing a class action lawsuit over the phone-bricking "Error 53," which has left some customers in need of a new phone. Hayley Tsukayama : "The problem affects iPhone owners who've had third-party work done on their phone's home buttons, which also houses the fingerprint scanner. Numerous people have reported that while the hardware seemed to be fine after the repairs, their phones became completely inoperable after updating their iOS operating system. Frustratingly, there doesn't seem to be a way to recover the phone after that point; the only option is to get a new device."

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Pope Francis dons a sombrero in Mexico City's main square, the Zocalo, yesterday. (AP Photo/Christian Palma)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. The Pope kicked off a six-day tour of Mexico by calling on its president to bring justice to a country racked by corruption and gangs. Francis offered an unvarnished assessment of Mexico's troubles, including the country's "drug trade, exclusion of different cultures, violence and human trafficking." (Joshua Partlow and Gabriela Martinez)
2. In Cuba, Francis met with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill -- the first time two such leaders have met in centuries. The pair urged the international community to protect persecuted Christians around the globe. (CNN)
3. Jim Gilmore ended his presidential campaign Friday night. (Rachel Weiner)
4. Gov. Rick Snyder (R-MI) and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will testify before the House Oversight Committee during an upcoming hearing on the water crisis in Flint. (The Hill)
5. Lawyers for Bill Cosby again tried to get the charges against the comedian dismissed, asking an appeals court to consider whether he had a "binding agreement" from a former prosecutor that he would not be charged. (Boston Globe)
6. Elton John and Katy Perry will headline a fundraising concert to benefit Hillary on March 2 in New York City. That's the day after Super Tuesday. (Washington

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Examiner)

7. Martin O'Malley's Irish pub-rock band will perform again on March 13, his first scheduled performance since dropping out of the presidential race. (Baltimore Sun)

WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

-- "Mysterious and fast-moving, Zika virus has world's health leaders scrambling," by Lena H. Sun and Brady Dennis: "Global health authorities and government officials are mobilizing to battle the fast-spreading Zika virus … But their efforts are being hobbled by a fundamental lack of understanding of a disease that has spread to nearly three dozen countries and is moving so quickly that some experts estimate it could infect as many as 3 million to 4 million people within 12 months. Unlike Ebola, which had been studied extensively by the time it emerged in Guinea in late 2013, Zika wasn't considered a menace. The mystery surrounding the virus — officials aren't sure what will turn up next — makes it 'much more insidious, cunning and evil' than Ebola, said Bruce Aylward, a WHO official. 'This emergency is because of what's unknown,' said David Heymann, an infectious-disease professor. But it is not always clear what that decisive action should be, or how to marshal the political and financial resources needed to make it happen."

-- "17 years after Columbine, the mother of one of the killers finally tells her story," by Carlos Lozada: "Stories of victims are prevalent in our reckoning with mass shootings. They carry greater moral force, or less moral ambiguity, than those of perpetrators. But Sue Klebold is both the mother of a killer and of one of his victims, too … This book's insights are painful and necessary, and its contradictions inevitable. It is an apology to the loved ones of the victims; a catalogue of warning signs missed. Sue knows she will always be seen as 'the woman who raised a murderer,' but she insists that she and Tom were loving, engaged parents. Though they recognized that Dylan had problems, 'we simply — and drastically and lethally— underestimated the depth and severity of his pain and everything he was capable of doing to make it stop.'"

Related: The CDC reports a spike in Zika infections in PUERTO RICO over the past month. The mosquito that commonly transmits the virus is prevalent there. That's bad news for the island going into spring break season. (Brady Dennis)

-- "What a divided America actually hears when Obama speaks," by Greg Jaffe: "The challenge for Obama is breaking through in a climate defined more by alienation and frustration than differences on policy. Policies can be modified or changed … But how does a president persuade an angry and mistrustful nation to actually listen to each other? Obama's shot on the subject was the State of the Union address — a speech he labored

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over, writing and rewriting its final section on the country's corrosive and divided politics. 'Well said, Mr. President!' a viewer tweeted … 'Profiles in pathetic delusion,' countered another.'"

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Bryan Garner, a friend and co-author of Scalia's, posted these photos on Twitter following his death:



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Bryan A. Garner
@BryanAGarner

Follow

Nino was happy last week in Hong Kong. I'll miss my dear friend.
pic.twitter.com/2BZpIDXKFi

18:51:58 - Feb 13 2016

155 307

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Flags were half-staff at the Capitol and the Supreme Court:



Dozens of Republican lawmakers shared photos of themselves with Scalia:

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Jeff Fortenberry
@JeffFortenberry

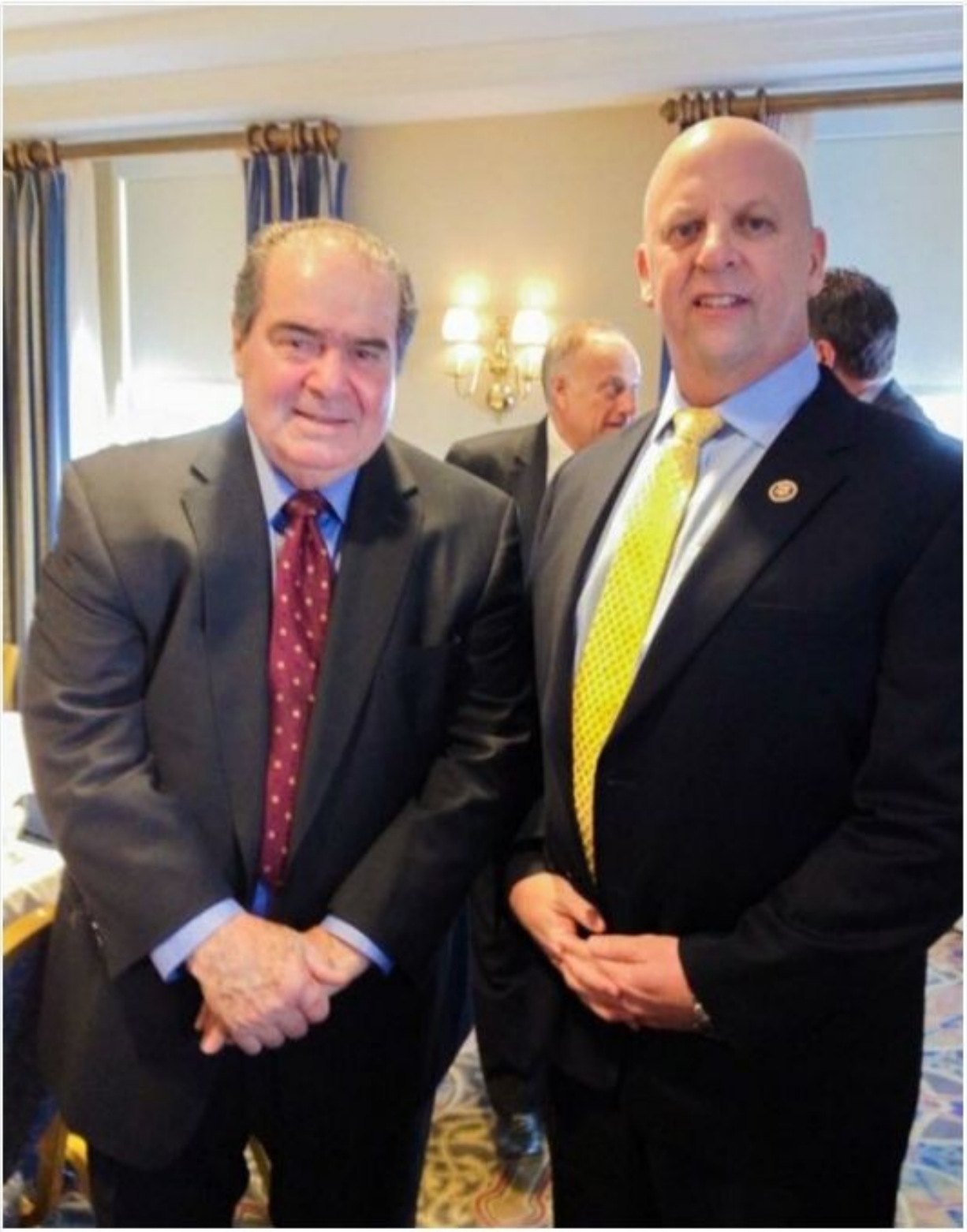
Follow

Justice Scalia was a truly great man of enormous character.
pic.twitter.com/EFCB5bmWtl

18:15:43 - Feb 13 2016

11 24

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Scott DesJarlais
@DesJarlaisTN04

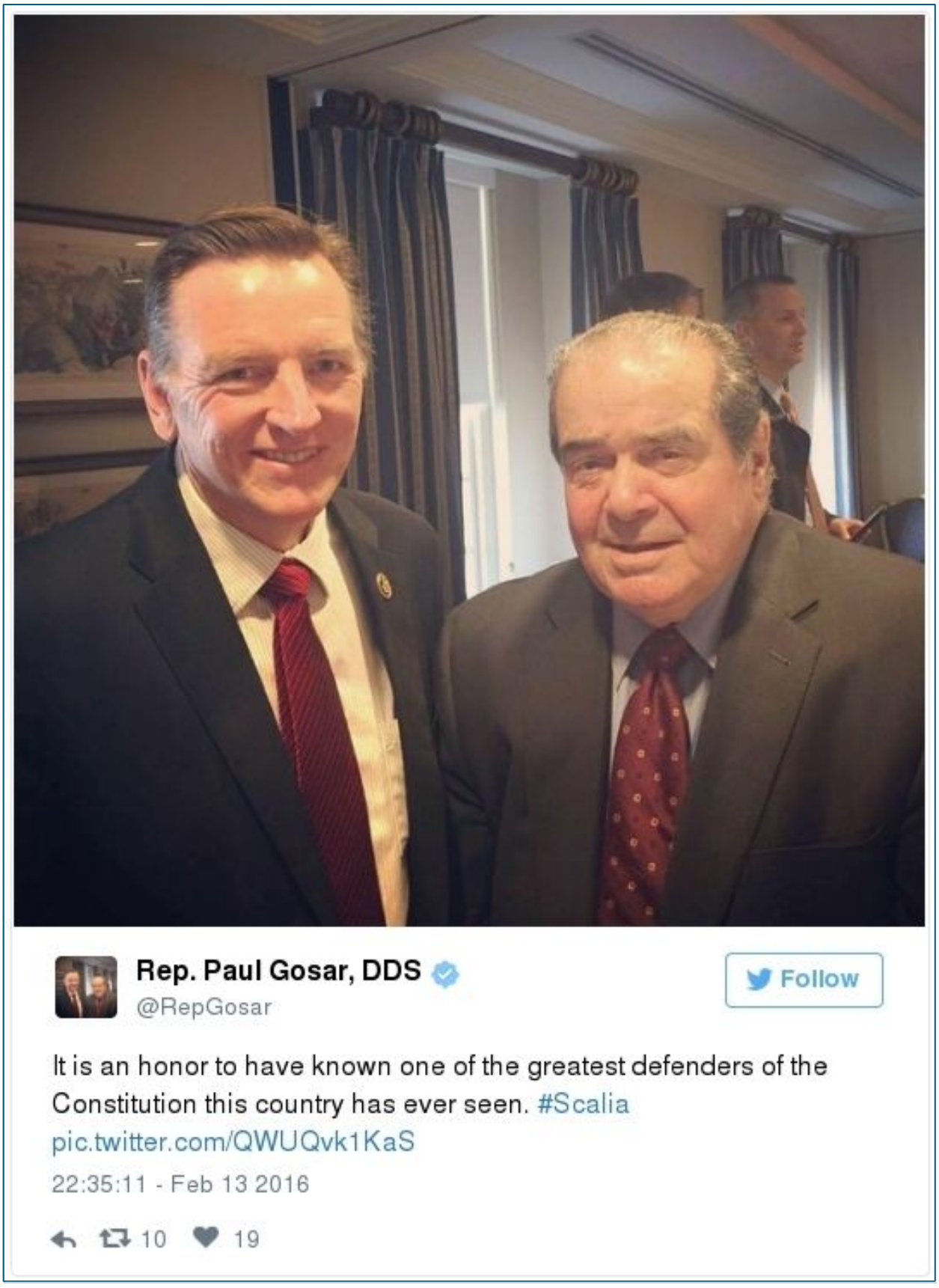
Follow

I'm sorry to hear the passing of Justice Scalia, a champion of constitutional principles. He will be sorely missed.
pic.twitter.com/UbyJOGVIuI

19:54:58 - Feb 13 2016

13 21

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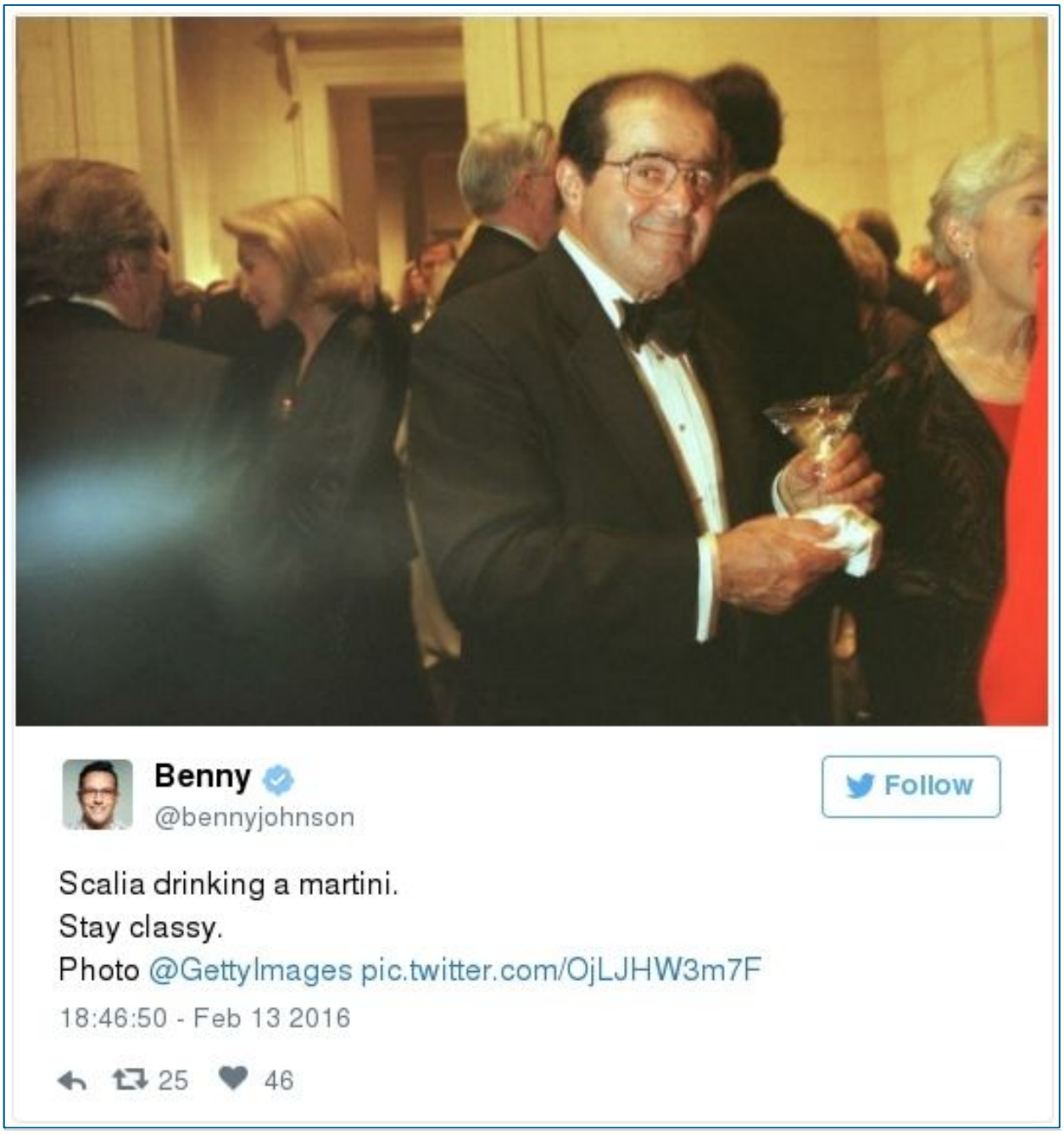
Katie Couric recalled an outing last year with Scalia:

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And a final throwback, via Getty Images:

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As the debate about whether Republicans can avoid confirming Obama's pick for a full year escalated, Democrats circulated this chart to make the case that it would be unprecedented:

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Figure 2. Number of Days from Nomination to Final Vote

(Nominees Receiving a Final Vote from 1975 to Present)

Nominating President	Senate Majority	Nominee	Number of Days Elapsed from Nomination to Final Vote
Obama	D	Kagan	87
Obama	D	Sotomayor	66
Bush, G.W.	R	Alito	82
Bush, G.W.	R	Roberts*	23
Clinton	D	Breyer	73
Clinton	D	Ginsburg	42
Bush, G.H.W.	D	Thomas	99
Bush, G.H.W.	D	Souter	69
Reagan	D	Kennedy	65
Reagan	D	Bork	108
Reagan	R	Rehnquist**	89
Reagan	R	Scalia	85
Reagan	R	O'Connor	33
Ford	D	Stevens	19

Source: Congressional Research Service

Steven Rattner
@SteveRattner
Follow

In last 40yrs, its never taken more than 108 days to confirm a SCOTUS nominee. Obama has >300 days left. #GOPDebate pic.twitter.com/LIVvITTzoM

21:10:08 - Feb 13 2016

102 70

Obama aides expressed disdain for McConnell's pledge to block whoever the president picks:



Dan Pfeiffer
@danpfeiffer
Follow

Mitch McConnell: putting the Con in constitutionalism

18:28:48 - Feb 13 2016

98 110

David Plouffe makes an important point -- some of these purple-state senators will be hurt if they look like rubber-stamp obstructionists:

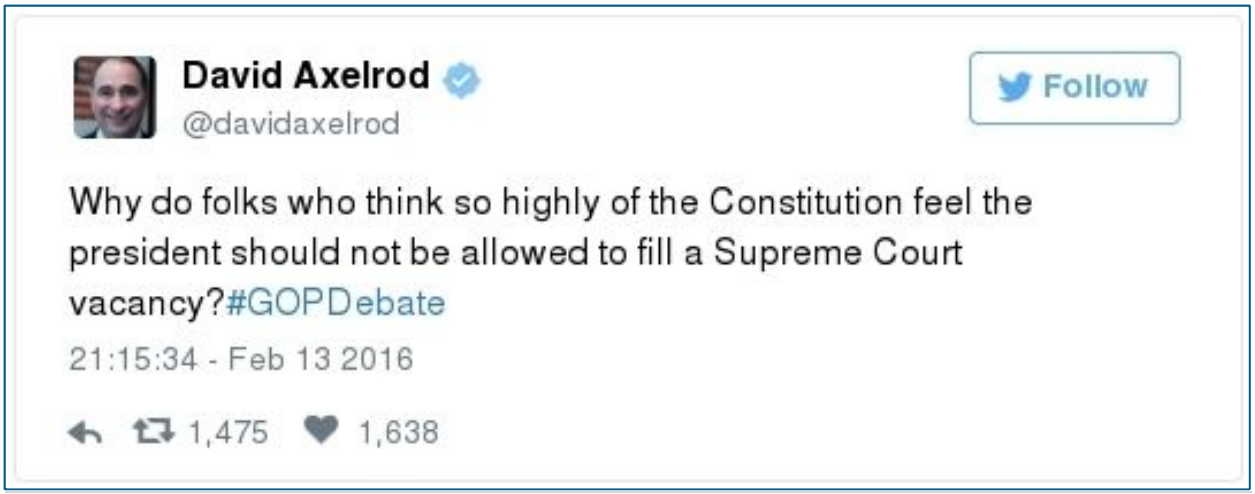
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A Democratic operative thinks GOP obstruction could make it easier for Democrats to retake the Senate:



Here's more reaction from commentators, staffers and leaders:



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Evan Smith
@evanasmith

Follow

Fan fiction: Obama appoints Hillary

18:31:51 - Feb 13 2016

57 86



Hendrik Hertzberg
@RickHertzberg

Follow

Obama's obvious best pick: himself. How could GOP resist the chance to vote him out of the White House? (And put Ryan a heartbeat away.)

18:01:31 - Feb 13 2016

60 104



Douglas Heye
@DougHeye

Follow

I'm hopeful Scalia's passing causes GOP voters to focus on serious implications of the GOP primary & reject Trump. (But not that hopeful.)

18:32:35 - Feb 13 2016

2 1



Jared Keller
@jaredbkeller

Follow

Who should President Trump nominate for Scalia's seat on the bench? @SenateMajLdr

18:32:33 - Feb 13 2016

0 8

A few shots of the debate arena:

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seanmspicer · 12 hours ago

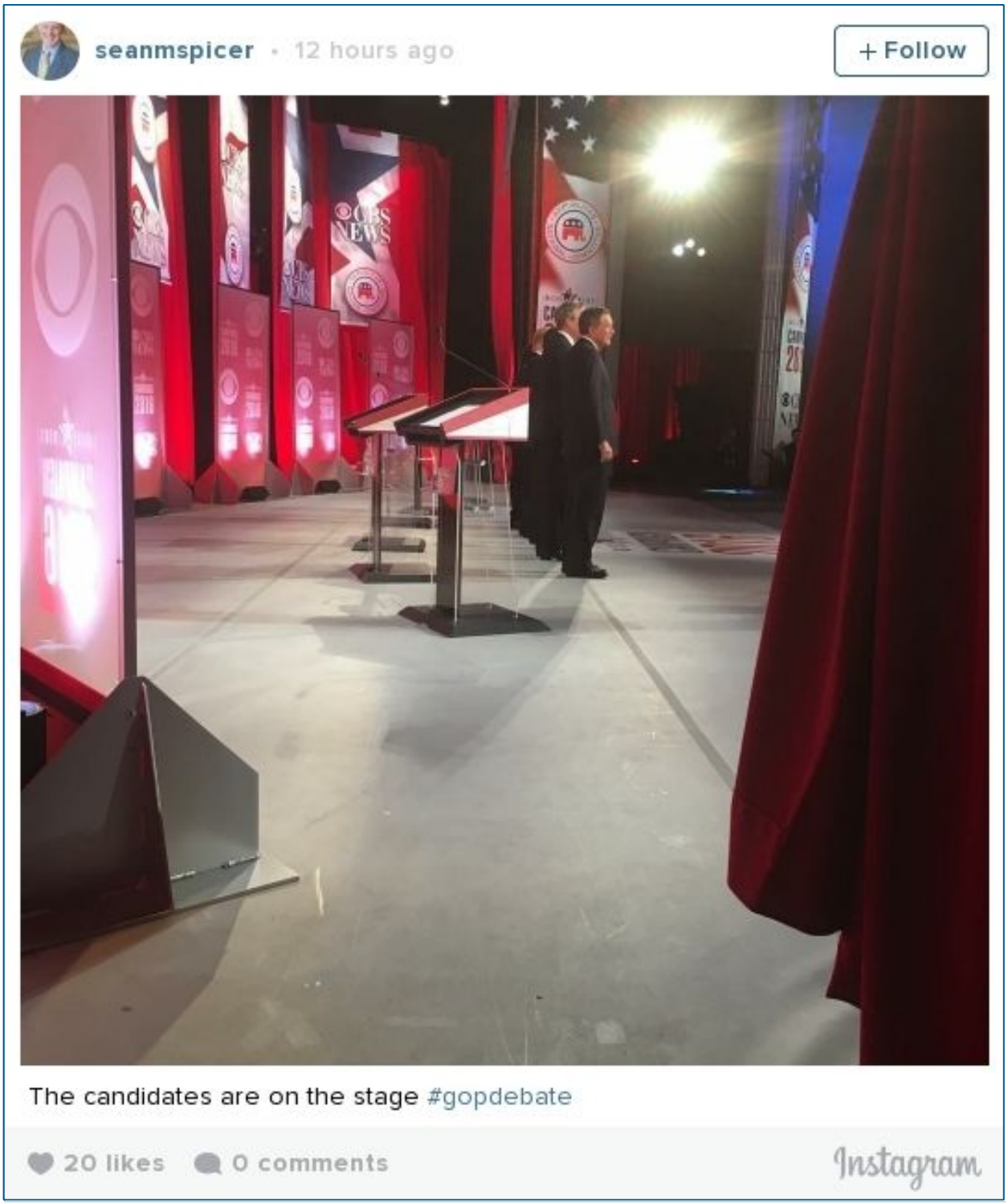
+ Follow



Getting ready #gopdebate

5 likes 0 comments Instagram

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Donald and Melania en route:

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Lindsey Graham visits with Jeb during a commercial break:

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Lindsey Graham
@LindseyGrahamSC

Follow

Great job tonight @JebBush! #allinforjeb
pic.twitter.com/0xOoTAkeNY

23:43:09 - Feb 13 2016

25 73

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For a Trump rally, someone dressed up as the infamous wall:

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John Santucci
@JTSantucci

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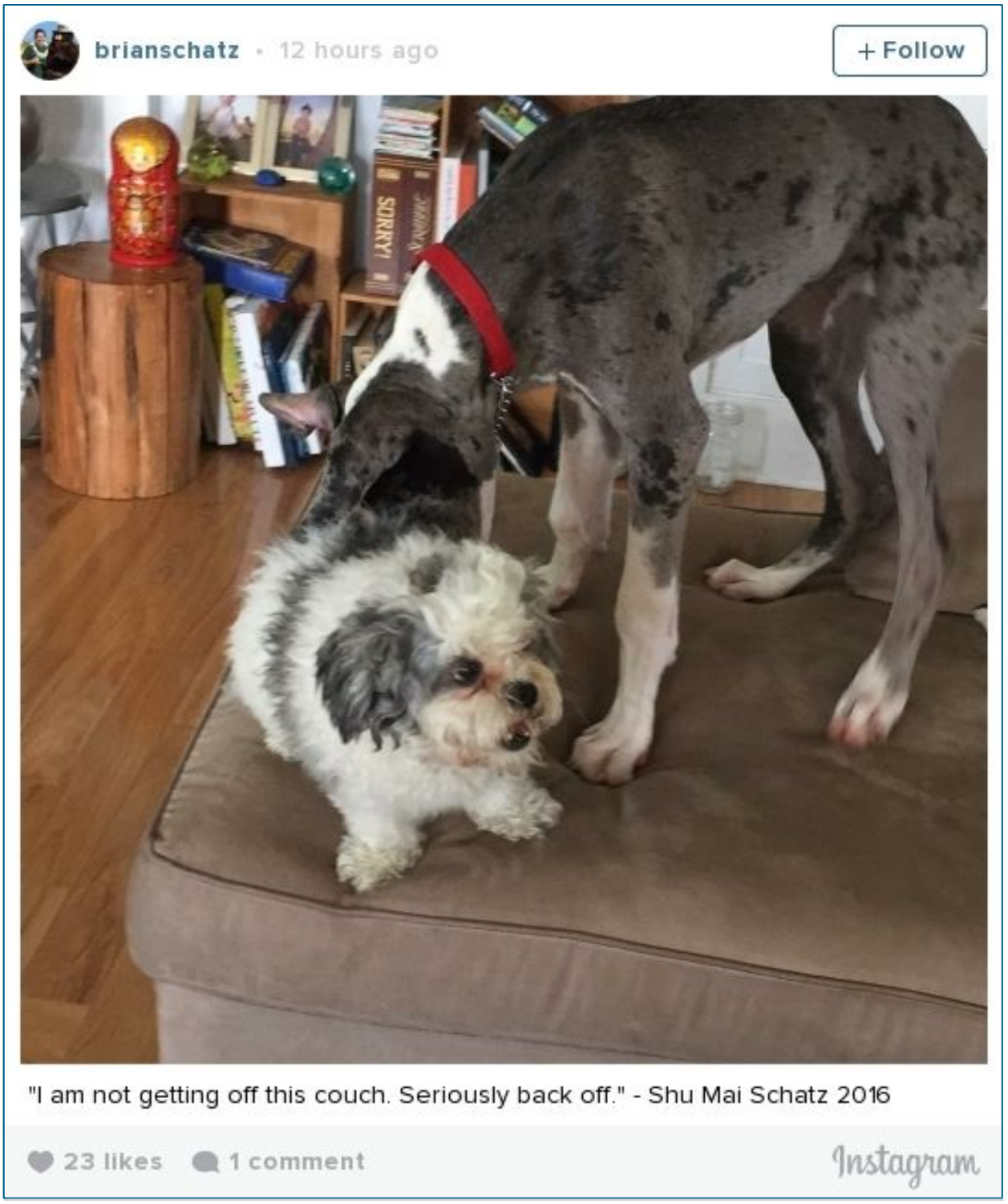
And this guy that asked me to take his picture as I left the Trump rally
pic.twitter.com/52Y99kUUXA

21:27:07 - Feb 12 2016

117 149

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In Honolulu, Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz's dogs were not getting along:



Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) was bundled up for a local parade:

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elisestefanik · 17 hours ago + Follow



Prepare to laugh - turns out, there is such a thing as too many layers for a parade in -25 degree weather! Note the #chewbacca costume behind me. Smart for #NY21 weather. □□□□□□□□□□□□

139 likes 9 comments Instagram

Rep. Janice Hahn (D-Calif.) presented an award to Kendrick Lamar:

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repjanicehahn · 14 hours ago

+ Follow



Today I presented Compton's own Kendrick Lamar with a Certificate of Congressional Commendation in recognition of his talent, his success, and everything he has done for the young people of Compton. Kendrick represents his hometown with pride and shows young people from Compton that they shouldn't believe them when they say Compton is no good, or that they can't grow up to be anyone because of where they come from. Compton is a city with heart and soul and is home to a community that I am proud to represent. Thanks, Kendrick! And good luck at the Grammy's on Monday!

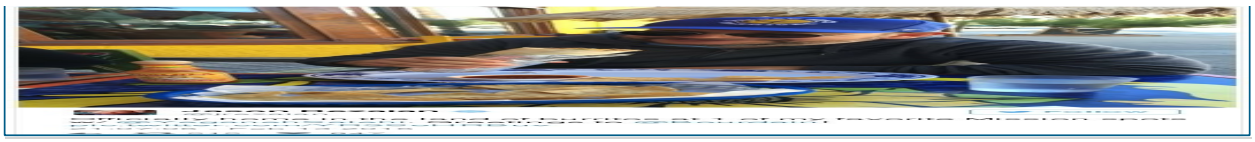
18 likes 0 comments Instagram

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The Post's Jason Rezaian enjoyed a burrito in San Francisco!



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GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

-- New York Times column, "When Hillary Clinton Killed Feminism ," by Maureen Dowd: "The Clintons felt that Obama had presumptuously snatched what was rightfully hers in 2008 … gliding past to make history before she could. So this time, the Clintons assumed, the women who had deserted Hillary for Barack owed her … This attitude intensified the unappetizing solipsistic subtext of her campaign, which is 'What is Hillary owed?' It turned out that female voters seem to be looking at Hillary as a candidate rather than as a historical imperative. And she's coming up drastically short on trustworthiness. Bernie has a clear, concise 'we' message, even if it's pie-in-the-sky: The game is rigged, we have to take the country back from the privileged few and make it work for everyone. Hillary has an 'I' message: I have been abused and misunderstood … It's my turn.'"

-- Wall Street Journal op-ed, "Trump's America ," by Charles Murray: "If you are dismayed by Trumpism, don't kid yourself that it will fade away if Trump fails to win the Republican nomination. Trumpism is an expression of the legitimate anger that many Americans feel about the course that the country has taken. It is the endgame of a process that has been going on for a half-century: America's divestment of its historic national identity … the central truth of Trumpism as a phenomenon is that the entire American working class has legitimate reasons to be angry at the ruling class. Many of the dynamics of the reversal can be found in developments across the whole of American society: in the emergence of a new upper class, new lower class, and in the plight of the working class caught in between. Mainstream America is fully aware of this condescension and contempt and is understandably irritated by it. American egalitarianism is on its last legs."

-- New York Times, "The House D.J. of the Sanders Campaign ," by Jason Horowitz: "Standing between a wall of retracted wooden bleachers and his turntables, Mel Sandico, a.k.a. D.J. Mel, looked up to survey the crowd filing into Senator Bernie Sanders's New Hampshire victory party … Mr. Sandico has become the house D.J. of Mr. Sanders's parties, playing a mix that is in equal parts laid-back lounge bar, alternative college radio and dancey early '90s bar mitzvah … totally consistent with the projected image of a 74-year-old Democratic socialist from lily-white and Phish-fanatical Vermont who is to trying to capture the imagination of young people and minorities. A few minutes later, the instrumental version of Dr. Dre came over the speakers. … Mr. Sandico laughed. 'It's like we're at a club,' he said."

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-- Politico, "Sanders targets Colorado as March must-win ," by Edward-Isaac Dovere and Annie Karni: "The Clintons have a history of losing in Colorado—Bill Clinton lost the 1992 caucuses to Jerry Brown, and Hillary Clinton lost them to Barack Obama in 2008 … The state is also the linchpin for his March strategy, when Sanders hopes to run the table in a series of caucus states in March … While some insist the Vermont senator's record opposing the strictest gun control measures may be a better fit here than elsewhere, the Clinton campaign continues to believe Sanders will have a problem in Colorado on his gun record. That's all missing the point, according to several Democratic operatives on the ground, who say that Sanders will be strong here. 'I don't think people responding to his message are worrying about specifics,' said one Clinton backer in Colorado, 'they're motivated by a vision.'"

-- Los Angeles Times, "Recorded interview reveals former Sheriff Lee Baca lying to a federal prosecutor," by Joel Rubin and Cindy Chang: "Lee Baca's guilty plea Wednesday to making a false statement marked a stunning reversal for the longtime law enforcement leader who had previously insisted he played no role in the jail scandal. In his plea agreement, the 73-year-old retired sheriff did not contest the other false statements prosecutors accused him of making. Baca is the ninth former sheriff's official to be convicted in the obstruction of justice case … At the heart of the case is how sheriff's officials responded when they discovered in 2011 that FBI agents were secretly investigating the jails and had gone so far as to smuggle a cellphone to an inmate working as a federal informant. Baca faces up to six months in prison under the terms of the deal he made with the U.S. attorney's office … His former second in command, retired Undersheriff Paul Tanaka, is scheduled to go to trial next month."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Scalia's death could save Obama's bold climate plans. From New York : "Last week, the Supreme Court issued a stay delaying the implementation of Obama's Clean Power Plan. The stay indicated that a majority of the justices foresee a reasonably high likelihood that they would ultimately strike down Obama's plan, which could jeopardize the Paris climate agreement and

HOT ON THE RIGHT

NRA: Scalia death puts gun rights in jeopardy. From the Washington Examiner : "We are one justice away from a Supreme Court that would harm our Second Amendment rights," said the NRA. The organization plans to spend over $20 million on the upcoming election.

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leave greenhouse gasses unchecked. Without Scalia on the Court, the odds of this drop to virtually zero."

DAYBOOK:

On the campaign trail: Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are in Las Vegas. The Republicans will remain in South Carolina. Here's a rundown:

- Cruz: Beaufort
- Rubio: Easley
- Carson: Fort Mill, Columbia

QUOTE OF THE DAY: Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev described East-West relations as having "fallen into a new Cold War" and said NATO was "hostile and closed" toward Russia. "I sometimes wonder — are we in 2016 or 1962?" Medvedev asked in a speech to the Munich Security Conference on Saturday. (AP)

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

-- Don't take off those hats, gloves, or scarves just yet. "There's a slight relaxation in the brutality of Saturday, mainly because winds are not as strong, and there's more sunshine overall," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts. However, temperatures probably struggle to the low-and-mid 20s, which is very cold however you slice it. Clouds should tend to increase late in the day as our next storm system approaches."

-- Virginia lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow state officials to use the electric chair to execute those on death row when lethal-injection drugs are not available. If the legislation passes, the measure could be used as early as next month. (Matt Zapotosky)

-- In a significant setback for her cash-strapped campaign, the Congressional Black Caucus will not endorse Rep. Donna Edwards in her Maryland Democratic Senate primary against fellow Rep. Chris Van Hollen. The snub came after the CBC PAC voted to table a decision to endorse Edwards, rather than holding a vote on the endorsement itself. (Rachel Weiner)

-- The Capitals lost 4-3 to the Dallas Stars.

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VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Here's a 3-minute recap of the debate:



The South Carolina GOP debate in 3 minutes

And the moment where Cruz pulled out his Spanish skills, after Rubio accused him of not being able to speak the language:



Cruz speaks Spanish after Rubio accusation

The weirdest moment of the debate was when Trump brought up a quote Jeb gave the Boston Globe about taking off his pants:

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The weirdest moment of the CBS GOP debate



Watch Scalia reflect on his 1986 confirmation hearing:



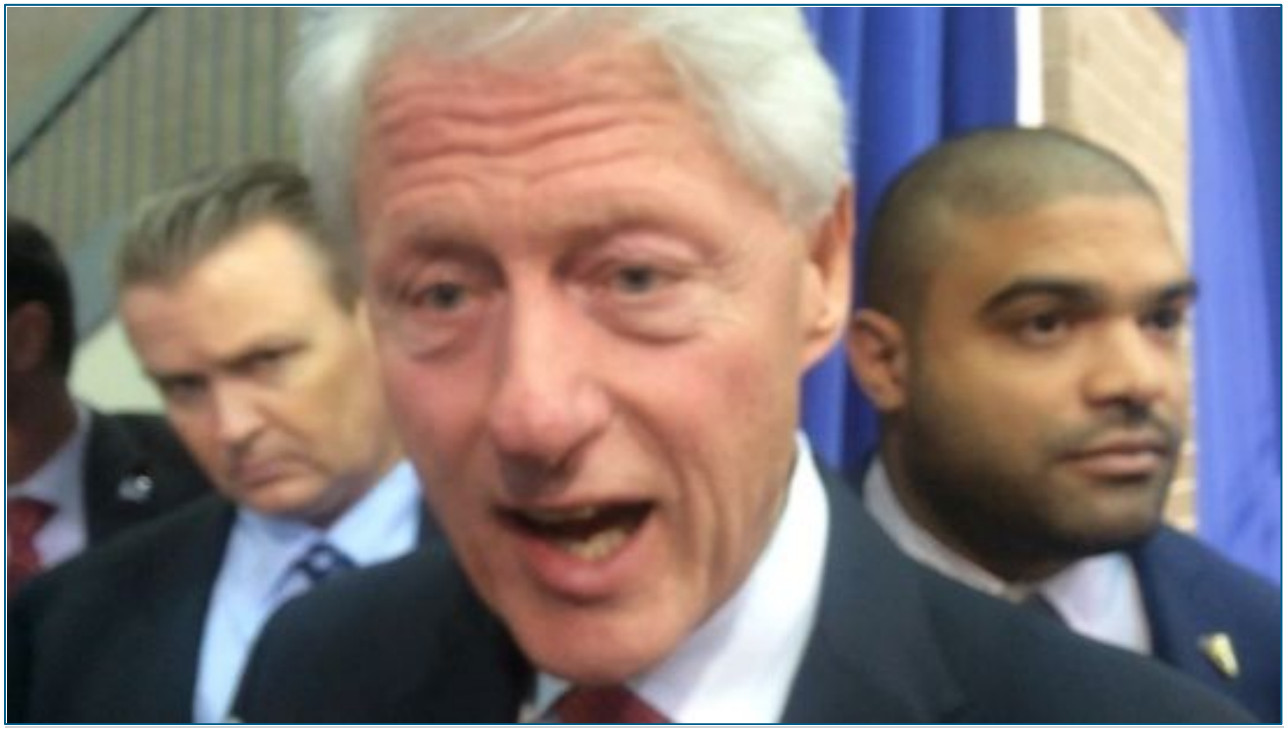
Here are President Obama's comments on Scalia's death:

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President Obama on Justice Scalia's death

And Bill Clinton's reaction to the news:



Bill Clinton comments on the death of Justice Scalia

As part of the outreach to African Americans, Sanders' campaign released a five-minute video of him endorsing Jesse Jackson in 1988, using some of the same rhetoric he still does today:

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Bernie Sanders Endorses Rev. Jesse Jackson

This was one heck of a dunk from the NBA's Slam Dunk Contest:

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Hardwood Paroxysm
@HPbasketball

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From: "Rebecca Buckwalter-Poza" <rbuckwalterpoza@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 5/22/2008 4:34:57 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Polling Round-Up: Bush and Congress, Government, Economy, Iraq

Low Bush job approval and cool attitudes toward the president in ARG and Democracy Corps polling. Congressional approval also low, with a majority pessimistic about likelihood of Congress passing legislation to help Americans. An anti-government attitude also appears in a recent Rasmussen poll in which a majority of Americans (62 percent) said they prefer fewer services and lower taxes (with 29 percent supporting the alternative of "bigger government and higher taxes"). There is slight abatement of Americans' negative outlook on the economy from ARG -- fewer now think the US is in a recession, 57 percent as compared to 68 percent in April. Rasmussen finds that Americans believe McCain more likely to win war in Iraq but say Obama would be more likely to bring troops home. Also see links to exit polling from Kentucky and Oregon.

Bush Approval

Approval Low [American Research Group , 5/20/08]

- Among all Americans, 28 percent approve of the way Bush is handling his job as president and 69 percent disapprove.

High Disapproval, Cool Thermometer Score [Democracy Corps/Greenberg Quinlan Rosner , 5/20/08]

- Disapprove 65, approve 31
- Bush thermometer: Cool 58, Warm 30

Bush Disapproval High [Rasmussen , 5/18/08]

- Disapprove 66, approve 32

High Disapproval for Bush's handling of Economy [American Research Group , 5/20/08]

- 23 percent approve of Bush's handling of the economy, 70 percent disapprove.

Congressional Approval

Attitudes toward Congress Not Improving, Most Believe Congress Not Helping (And Won't Help) [Rasmussen , 5/20/08]

- 13 percent give Congress a job approval of "good" or "excellent," 47 percent say "poor"
  - Men: 59 poor, 11 good or excellent
  - Women: 35 poor, 14 good or excellent
  - Republicans: 58 poor
  - Democrats: 31 poor
- Has Congress passed legislation to improve life in America within past year? 61 percent said no, 12 yes.
- Will Congress address important problems in the next six months? 56 percent say no, 37 yes.
- Nearly three quarters believe lawmakers are more interested in their own careers than helping people.

Direction of the Country

Wrong track 77 [George Washington University , 5/22/08]

Wrong track 75, right direction 17 [Democracy Corps/Greenberg Quinlan Rosner , 5/20/08]

Thermometers

GOP Thermometer Cool [Democracy Corps/Greenberg Quinlan Rosner , 5/20/08]

- Republican Party: cool 48, warm 32
- Democratic Party: cool 38, warm 43,
- NRA: cool 36, warm 42
- Pro-life, anti-abortion groups: cool 42, warm 37
- NAFTA and international trade agreements: cool 45, warm 22
- Big corporations: cool 45, warm 28
- Gay marriage: cool 54, warm 25
- Immigration into the Country: cool 49, warm 24

Government

Voters Prefer Fewer Government Services and Lower Taxes [Rasmussen , 5/20/08]

- 62 prefer, 29 disagree, 10 not sure
  - GOP: 83 prefer, 13 disagree
  - Democrats: 46 disagree, 43 prefer

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Economy

U.S. Hiring Slips Further, Suggests More Job Losses Ahead [Gallup , 5/21/08]

- "Net New Hiring Activity" fell 1.1 percentage points from March to April, followed by a 3.6 point decline between April and May, continuing the trend of steady declines since the beginning of the year.
- Number of companies hiring has fallen from 39.8 percent in January to 38.1 percent in April.
    - The percentage of firms letting people go has increased from 13.7 percent to 15.5 percent.

Half of Americans Say Economy Will be Better in a Year [American Research Group , 5/20/08]

- 51 percent of Americans say they believe the national economy will be better in a year from now.
- But 70 percent of Americans say they believe the national economy is getting worse right now.
- 57 percent of Americans say the national economy is in a recession, down from 68 percent in April.

Consumer Finances, Hopes for Economy Weak [Rasmussen , 5/20/08]

- Good or excellent 35, poor 22.
    - 54 percent of investors rate their personal finances as good or excellent.
    - Republicans rate the economy: good or excellent 25, poor 36.
        - Getting better 19, getting worse 58
    - Democrats rate the economy: good or excellent 7, poor 68.
        - Getting better 3, getting Worse 85

Voters Stay Cool on Economy [Democracy Corps/Greenberg Quinlan Rosner , 5/20/08]

- Cool 69, warm 17

Negative Economic Outlook Persists [Gallup , 5/19/08]

- Poor ratings of economy back up to 45 percent.
- Additionally, 85 percent of Americans say the economy is getting worse.

Iraq

Voters Cool Toward Iraq War [Democracy Corps/Greenberg Quinlan Rosner , 5/20/08]

- Cool 62, Warm 24

General Election

[George Washington University , 5/22/08]

- Barack Obama leads John McCain 49 percent to 47 percent. McCain leads Hillary Clinton 51 percent to 43 percent.
- One-fifth of Clinton supporters said they would not vote for Obama if he is the Democratic nominee.
- Fifty-six percent of Americans say the Iraq war is not worth fighting. Forty percent said troops should stay till the country is stabilized, 32 percent say there should be a withdrawal within two years and 25 percent want an immediate withdrawal.
- If it was discovered that Iran had developed nuclear weapons, a third of voters would support military action, 29 percent would oppose it and 38 percent are unsure.
- Both John Mccain and Barack Obama are viewed favorably by 54 percent of voters while 51 percent view Hillary Clinton negatively.

About Half Say Victory in Iraq Likely if McCain Elected [Rasmussen , 5/19/08]

If Obama is elected President:

- 20 percent believe victory in Iraq is likely if Barack Obama is elected in November.
- 59 percent say it is at least somewhat likely that virtually all combat troops will come home from Iraq during his first term.

If McCain is elected President:

- 43 percent believe the troops are likely to come home if McCain is elected.
- Among those who believe that getting the troops home is the top priority, 84 percent believe that victory is at least somewhat likely.

Electoral College: Democrats 200, Republicans 189, Toss-up 38 [Rasmussen , 5/19/08]

- Study finds when "leaners" are added, Democrats lead 260 to 240.

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FL, PN, OH, MI, VI, MO, WI, CO, IA, NV, NM, NH are toss-up or just slightly leaning to one party.

Obama 48, McCain 46, and Clinton 49, McCain 47 [Democracy Corps/Greenberg Quinlan Rosner , 5/20/08]

Obama 46, McCain 45, and Clinton 48, McCain 44 [Gallup , 5/18/08]

Democratic Primary

Obama 55, Clinton 39 [Gallup , 5/19/08]

Voters Warmer toward Obama than Clinton [Democracy Corps/Greenberg Quinlan Rosner , 5/20/08]

- Hillary Clinton: Cool 48, warm 38
- Barack Obama: Warm 44, cool 42
    - McCain: Warm 40, cool 40

Key Clinton Constituencies Moving Toward Obama [Gallup , 5/20/08]

- Obama now favored among men, 18- to 29-year-olds, postgrads, and upper-income Democrats by a 2-to-1 margin, or better, over Clinton.
    - 18-29 years of age: Obama 74, Clinton 25
    - Postgraduate education: Obama 65, Clinton 31
    - Monthly incomes of $5,000 or more: Obama 64, Clinton 33
    - Men: Obama 63, Clinton 31
- Support for Clinton among her core support groups has fallen below 50 percent.
    - Non-Hispanic whites: Clinton 47, Obama 47
    - Women: Obama 49, Clinton 46
    - High school graduate or less: Obama 47, Clinton 46
    - Easteners: Obama 52, Clinton 43
- Only women aged 50 and older still supporting Clinton strongly.
    - 26 percent of men 18 to 49 support Clinton
    - 39 percent of men 50 or older support Clinton
    - 41 percent of women 18 to 49 support Clinton
    - 52 percent of women 50 or older support Clinton

States – General Election

Alaska

McCain 50%, Obama 41% [Rasmussen , 5/17/08]

Colorado

Obama 48, McCain 42 [Rasmussen Reports , 5/21/08]

Florida

McCain 50, Obama 40 [Rasmussen Reports , 5/21/08]

Minnesota

Obama 51, McCain 38 [Star Tribune , 5/18/08]

Nebraska

McCain 50, Obama 39 [Rasmussen , 5/18/08]

New Mexico

McCain 44, Obama 44, Undecided 12 [Survey USA , 5/20/08]

- White Voters: McCain 52, Obama 37
- Latino Voters: Obama 51, McCain 40

Obama 50, McCain 41 [Rasmussen , 5/17/08]

Ohio

McCain 45, Obama 44 [Rasmussen , 5/19/08]

- McCain leads by seven percentage points among men but trails by four among women.
- McCain supported by 77% of GOP voters while Obama attracts 65%.

Pennsylvania

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Obama 48, McCain 40 [Survey USA , 5/20/08]

States – Democratic Primary

Kentucky

Clinton 62, Obama 31 [Survey USA , 5/19/08]

Oregon

Obama 58, Clinton 39 [Public Policy Polling , 5/19/08]

Exit Polls

KY and OR from MSNBC, Fox, ABC, and CNN [via CQ, 5/20/08]

MSNBC

- Seven in 10 white voters backed Clinton in Kentucky, including about three-quarters of those who did not complete college.
- Only four in 10 white working-class voters said they would support Obama against John McCain in the general election.
- About one in five white voters in Kentucky said race was a factor in their decision and nine of 10 of them said they voted for Clinton.

Fox News

- Clinton won 73 percent of the vote among white women.
- Forty-five percent of voters said they had been affected by the economic downturn and, of them, 68 percent backed Clinton.
- Forty-seven percent of voters in Kentucky said they regard Obama as trustworthy compared to 45 percent for Clinton.
- Fifty-three percent of Kentucky voters believe Obama shares the views of his controversial ex-pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.
- In Oregon, unlike other states, Obama was splitting the women's vote with Clinton and he also was beating her handily among union voters.

ABC News:

- Unlike Kentucky, only one in six said they would vote for McCain over Obama.

CNN:

- Fifty-six percent of Kentuckians said that Obama should choose Clinton as his running-mate against 42 percent who said he should not. Seventy-seven percent of Clinton supporters expressed that view but only 41 percent of Obama supporters agreed.

--
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202-609-7674 (o)
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/9/2014 5:50:01 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Saturday August 9, 2014 Roundup

Correct The Record Saturday August 9, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

Arizona Capitol Times opinion: Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott: "GPEC pursuing creative solutions to regional challenges"

"Hillary Clinton dedicates a chapter of her newly released book, 'Hard Choices,' to her role as an advocate for American businesses while she served as secretary of state, writing, 'I was determined to do everything I could to help American businesses and workers seize more of the legitimate opportunities already available.'"

CNN: "Hillary Clinton's unpaid warriors"

"Magruder is an unsalaried Clinton warrior. And he isn't alone."

Capital New York: "The (Hillary) Beat goes on"

"Former Secretary of State, Senator and First Lady Hillary Clinton has not declared any sort of candidacy for 2016, but the group of reporters dedicated full-time by news outlets to follow her and report on her keeps growing every month."

Newsmax: "Clintons Support Brooklyn as Host of '16 Democratic Convention"

"New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has picked up some heavy-hitter support in his drive to grab the 2016 Democratic National Convention for Brooklyn — former President Bill Clinton and current Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton."

New York Magazine blog: Daily Intelligencer: "The Clintons Are Down to Party in Brooklyn for 2016"

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“Madison Square Garden hosted Bill Clinton's nomination in 1992, and one could get the sense that Hillary feels — what's the word? — inevitable.”

New York Times: “Fear of ‘Another Benghazi’ Drove White House to Airstrikes in Iraq”

“‘The situation near Erbil was becoming more dire than anyone expected,’ said a senior administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to describe the White House’s internal deliberations. ‘We didn’t want another Benghazi.’”

State House News Service (M.A.): “Sen. Elizabeth Warren says she supports President Obama's decision to authorize airstrikes in Iraq”

“Warning against a new U.S. war in Iraq, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren on Friday stood by President Barack Obama’s decision to authorize targeted airstrikes to help defend Americans in Erbil, Iraq, and provide aid to a religious minority taking refuge in the Sinjar mountains.”

Sioux City Journal (I.A.): “Iowa trip: Huckabee thinking about 2016 campaign”

“Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee on Friday said he is actively considering a 2016 presidential campaign. He's scheduled to appear in Ames, Iowa, on Saturday. “

Articles:

Arizona Capitol Times opinion: Surprise Mayor Sharon Wolcott: “GPEC pursuing creative solutions to regional challenges”

By Sharon Wolcott, mayor of Surprise, Arizona

August 8, 2014, 9:06 a.m. EDT

While a lot of things have changed since I entered public service 20 years ago, the American people still elect representatives for the same reason. Just like the first office I was ever elected to — and every office I’ve held in between — the people of Surprise elected me to help improve their lives. My job, pure and simple, is to make this community a better place to live and work, by making it easier for the people of Surprise to support their families, put a roof over their heads, educate and care for their children, and access health care.

In a perfect world, this would be an easy task. Well-paying jobs would be widely available, high-quality housing would be affordable to all, public schools would be adequately funded and provide a top-notch education for every student, and proper health care would be accessible to anyone who needs it.

Unfortunately, that is not the world we live in. The reality is that people are having a hard time finding good jobs, making ends meet, and paying for the basic necessities like housing, education and health care. And while I work day in and day out to fix these problems for the people of Surprise, they are too complex to be solved by the government alone.

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Addressing these tricky issues requires an “all hands on deck” approach. To really make a difference, we have to put our heads together with members of the community, business leaders and the government to come up with creative, multi-faceted solutions.

That is what we are doing at the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, where I serve as a member of the board. We are a private-public partnership representing 23 communities in the Maricopa County area and more than 160 private investors. Our purpose is to attract businesses to the area to grow our economy, create jobs, and make Maricopa County a better place to live, by working on behalf of businesses looking to relocate and expand.

And we are not in this alone. After the 2008 financial crisis, the Obama administration made it a top priority to stimulate economic growth and create jobs. The most influential leaders in America — from the White House to the departments of State and Commerce — have become advocates on behalf of U.S. companies to create jobs here at home.

Hillary Clinton dedicates a chapter of her newly released book, “Hard Choices,” to her role as an advocate for American businesses while she served as secretary of state, writing, “I was determined to do everything I could to help American businesses and workers seize more of the legitimate opportunities already available.” As she explains in the chapter, “During my travels I often made a pitch for an American business or product, like GE in Algeria. For example, in October 2009, I visited the Boeing Design Center in Moscow because Boeing had been trying to secure a contract for new planes with the Russians. I made the case that Boeing’s jets set the global gold standard, and, after I left, our embassy kept at it. In 2010, the Russians agreed to buy fifty 737s, for almost $4 billion, which translated into thousands of American jobs. And our efforts weren’t just on behalf of big companies like Boeing or GE — we also advocated for small and medium-sized businesses across our country trying to go global.”

The International Trade Administration’s Advocacy Center, part of the Department of Commerce, also serves as an advocate for American businesses. Last August, the Advocacy Center helped Boeing win a $1.6 billion contract with South Korea to sell them 36 Apache helicopters made right here in the Phoenix area in nearby Mesa. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker recently visited the Boeing facility in Mesa to see this success story for herself.

In the Phoenix area, these efforts have been vital to our economy, with Boeing employing so many of our friends and neighbors. The Mesa facility alone employs 4,700 people.

This type of collaboration between the government and the private sector has paid off for the people of Arizona. Here in Surprise, we have become a recognizable presence at the state Capitol and a voice on economic development here at home, in the region and even in Washington D.C., thanks in part to Secretary Clinton and Secretary Pritzker and the work they have done on behalf of one of the area’s largest employers. Together, we are helping improve the lives of the people of Surprise — just as I was elected to do — as well as people across the state and this great nation.

CNN: “Hillary Clinton's unpaid warriors”

By Dan Merica

August 8, 2014, 2:25 p.m. EDT

Taj Magruder has never voted for Hillary Clinton. He has no connection to her paid staff. And he is not collecting a paycheck from a cadre of groups anticipating a Clinton presidential run in 2016.

All of this bothers him.

Magruder, a 23-year-old "Clinton-ologist" from Pennsylvania, devotes much of his online life to supporting, defending and responding to her every move.

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In what he calls his "own little war room" -- his computer and Twitter account -- the Pennsylvania state Senate employee has carved out a space as one of Clinton's most ardent unpaid supporters.

"I have yet to vote for Hillary," said Magruder, who was too young to cast a ballot the last time she was on one. "I am really looking forward to fixing that in the coming years."

Magruder is an unsalaried Clinton warrior. And he isn't alone.

All over the Internet, bloggers and their circles of friends with no backing from the Clinton orbit defend the former first lady from attacks.

While their defenses don't have the weight of a Clinton spokesperson or a former top aide, they are influential in their small community of friends and family. And they are standing up for the person they hope becomes the next President.

"I am very, very passionate obviously about Hillary," Magruder said, if that wasn't already clear. "I just want to make sure that Hillary has, if she does run, a kind of presence on social media that she hasn't always had."

Magruder is dogged and devout.

He regularly tussles with reporters.

"I don't know if Maggie Haberman still hates me or not," he said referring to a Politico reporter he sparred with over a story.

[TAJ MAGRUDER TWEETS]

And he touts Clinton's many appearances.

"She was so good last night," he tweeted after Clinton's sit-down on the Colbert Report.

Why does he do this?

"When I see a story that is like, 'yuck,' I feel like I should just stick up for my girl," he said with a laugh.

Since May 2012, Magruder has tweeted nearly 30,000 times. Most of them -- especially recently -- have been about Clinton.

And while he only has 780 followers, many of those include reporters following Clinton and representatives from the groups looking to help her if she runs again.

Clinton's unpaid army does far more than tweet. Some, like Still 4 Hill, have devoted years to blogging about her every move.

Since 2008, Still 4 Hill -- who keeps her identity private because of her paid employment -- has kept detailed records of Clinton's comings and goings, including nearly every speech she delivered as secretary of state.

The process, is admittedly, consuming.

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"You have to find ways to squeeze it in," she said. "I cheat a little bit (and blog) during a lunch hour or something like that. But most of the time I do it at night."

Still 4 Hill started her blog after Clinton ended her presidential campaign in 2008.

She began to write about Clinton's events at the State Department and once Clinton stepped down as America's top diplomat in 2013, Still 4 Hill began writing about Clinton on the paid speaking circuit.

"I see it as documentation," Still 4 Hill said about her blog. "I want to be able to go back and look at this speech or look at that speech."

Amid all the glow for Clinton, there is also pushback against her critics.

When the Washington Post's conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin wrote a lengthy critique of Clinton's time at State, Still 4 Hill responded to what she called "repetitive and tiresome... empty bloviating" from Rubin.

There is more to the online response, though: People like Magruder and Still 4 Hill have received a little notoriety for their persistence.

Ask people within the Clinton universe about Magruder and they laugh about his exuberance.

Though he was never paid, Ready for Hillary sent the Clinton devotee to a finance meeting earlier this year to act as an example of a "grassroots supporter."

Still 4 Hill's blog receives upwards of 10,000 hits a week. As of late -- given Clinton's book tour and regular appearances -- the blog can gets as many as of 2,500 clicks a day.

And when Still 4 Hill met Clinton at a New Jersey book singing this year, she was sure to mention her blog.

According to blogger, Clinton responded, "Still 4 Hill! I love it. Yeah, I love it."

There is a downside to all of this, too.

Both Magruder and Still 4 Hill are building a online record of their thoughts and feelings about Clinton and that record -- at some point -- could come back to haunt them.

What's more, in the anything goes nature of a campaign, comments made by Clinton followers and fans can blow up into bigger stories.

What happens when those fans have years of logs and comments that opposition groups could cull?

"To the extent that the actors join Hillary's campaign or official groups that support Hillary's campaign, their views and statements online become relevant," Tim Miller, executive director of America Rising, an anti-Clinton super PAC, told CNN.

Still 4 Hill's post-2008 actions seemed to recognize this.

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Shortly after Clinton conceded defeat to Barack Obama after a bitter primary battle, the blog took a negative, sometimes anti-Obama turn, Still 4 Hill told CNN.

After giving it some thought -- and after Clinton patched up her relationship with him -- the blogger decided to delete some of those posts.

"I am reading her book now and when I read the first chapter it was like tearing a scab off a wound of something," Still 4 Hill said, capturing how she is still hurt over that campaign. "That primary season was so brutal. ... I removed a lot of the pages from June 2008 to the general election campaign."

But Clinton's previous run might not be her last. So what if she runs again, how much work are these devotees willing to commit? And is all of their Internet devotion an audition for something bigger?

"I would love it if a role is available for me. If there is one, I would love it," Magruder said. "But whether or not I get an official role won't stop me from doing work on social media."

Capital New York: "The (Hillary) Beat goes on"

By Jeremy Barr and Alex Weprin

August 8, 2014, 2:26 p.m. EDT

Former Secretary of State, Senator and First Lady Hillary Clinton has not declared any sort of candidacy for 2016, but the group of reporters dedicated full-time by news outlets to follow her and report on her keeps growing every month.

The latest addition is Alex Seitz-Wald, who started at MSNBC digital this past month to cover "Hillary Clinton and any Dems who may run against her," as he put it on Twitter.

Seitz-Wald, a former reporter for National Journal and Salon, joins a long list of reporters on the beat, like Annie Karni at the New York Daily News, Jonathan Allen at Bloomberg, Maggie Haberman at POLITICO, Ruby Cramer at Buzzfeed, Amy Chozick at The New York Times, Maeve Reston at The Los Angeles Times and Brianna Keilar at CNN, among others.

In late May The Washington Post announced that Anne Gearan would be joining its politics desk to "renew her focus on covering Clinton and her seemingly inevitable second try for the presidency."

Language like "seemingly inevitable" seems to suggest that the decision to devote a reporter full-time to Clinton is a calculation meant to put them ahead of the curve when (or if) she declares her candidacy; and inevitably, these announcements provoke "tsks" from politics-weary corners of the Internet: Why are you covering a candidate that isn't even running?

But the real reasons for the surge in the Hillary beat are more nuanced. For one thing, publishers and broadcasters have long since learned to pay attention to what the audience does—not what they say. And Clinton stories are still great business, whether her run is inevitable or not.

Risa Heller, who handled communications for New York Sen. Chuck Schumer and former Gov. David Patterson, suggested that intense reader interest in Hillary Clinton, and a buzzing from the political press, is nothing new. As such, Heller said she's not surprised that so many news organizations have designated a reporter to cover her.

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“I assume what these news organizations are saying is, ‘We’re going to be at the front of this, and we’ll write a bunch of interesting stories that people are going to read, and if she doesn’t run, then what do we have to do lose?” Heller said.

“There seems to be a pretty large appetite for Clinton stuff.”

“Even if she decides not to run, Clinton is a great story on the merits, and she’s at the nexus right now of the conversation about the future of the Democratic Party,” Buzzfeed political editor Katherine Miller told Capital. “Ruby’s telling that story, and will follow it wherever it goes.”

Most importantly, the possibility of a Clinton run in the minds of the public make her a central figure in determining the future of a party that will have just come off a challenging two-term presidency.

Washington Post senior politics editor Steven Ginsberg said it’s “silly” to suggest that the paper’s Hillary coverage would be a wash if she decides not to mount a campaign.

“No matter what she decides, she is without question the biggest factor in the race right now, for both Democrats and Republicans,” he said. “She’s also a major figure outside the presidential contest and of intense interest to readers.”

Times reporter Amy Chozick has been covering Hillary Clinton and her famous family for just over a year now, which makes her the veteran of the H.R.C. beat team.

Times political editor and Washington bureau chief Carolyn Ryan told Capital, it would be “derelict” not to assign someone to Clinton.

“She is a formidable force in American politics and a part of an extraordinary political family,” Ryan said.

And yet not everyone who fits that description gets covered. Why Hillary?

Thomas Edsall, long-time Washington Post politics reporter who now teaches at Columbia University, considered the question.

“I think, but am not 100 percent sure, that the early assignment to full time coverage of H.R.C. before she has announced is unprecedented,” he said.

“If the gamble that she will be the nominee after facing little opposition proves true, one plus is that she will get a fairly complete examination by the press, a process that normally depends on opposition research by competitors for the nomination. She is, of course, already getting a thorough vetting by the R.N.C.”

But Edsall also saw two ways the strategy could, potentially, backfire on these outlets.

“A reporter in this situation needs to balance the need for ongoing access with the obligation to disclose negative findings,” he said. “This is true of any assignment, but particularly true in the case of coverage of one person and her entourage. Does this reporter pass on tips to colleagues or does the reporter do a negative story him or herself?”

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Newsmax: "Clintons Support Brooklyn as Host of '16 Democratic Convention"

By John Blosser

August 8, 2014, 6:23 p.m. EDT

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has picked up some heavy-hitter support in his drive to grab the 2016 Democratic National Convention for Brooklyn — former President Bill Clinton and current Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

The New York Times reports that insiders say the Clintons approve of Brooklyn for the major event. Onetime Clinton advisers, including Gabrielle Fialkoff, finance director for Hillary Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign, and other Clinton backers, like financier Alan Patricof, have gotten onboard with de Blasio in an attempt to sway the DNC to bring the convention to New York.

De Blasio termed it a "perfect scenario" for Brooklyn to host the nominating event, given that the former first lady was once a senator from New York, her husband accepted the Democratic nomination at Madison Square Garden in 1992, and, should Clinton score the nomination as many expect will happen, it would serve as a "homecoming," insiders told the Times.

Should Brooklyn win the convention, New York taxpayers would shell out $8.1 million and the city has plans to raise another $132 million in donations, according to a 49-page proposal de Blasio presented to the DNC.

The convention would be held at the Barclays Center, home of the Brooklyn Nets, and has won the support of another prominent New Yorker, Nets center Jason Collins, the first openly gay player in the NBA. who told Politico at an event Monday, "That'd be awesome," Collins told Politico at an event Monday. "I think it'd be a lot of fun to see the DNC there."

Not so fast, New York.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter wants the convention too, and told the Daily News, "There is only one city in this country where the Declaration of Independence was created. There is only one Liberty Bell. It's in Philadelphia. Those are just facts."

He's citing the ease of transportation and number of hotel rooms readily close to the Wells Fargo Center, where the convention could be held. Even de Blasio notes the difficulties of transporting delegates around New York, since a dearth of hotel rooms in Brooklyn would mean that most delegates would be housed in Manhattan and ferried to Barclay's.

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell told the Times, "How would you like to transport in the middle of rush hour thousands of delegates from midtown to Brooklyn?"

Along with Philadelphia, other cities in the running are Birmingham, Ala., and Columbus, Ohio. The Republicans have already chosen Cleveland as the site of their 2016 convention.

Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman raised issues he said work in favor of his city.

"The Republican Party grabbing the convention in Cleveland has the potential of leaving this state to the Republican side in 2016," Coleman told Politico.

The Times says the decision on the Democratic convention will be announced late this year or early next year.

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New York Magazine blog: Daily Intelligencer: "The Clintons Are Down to Party in Brooklyn for 2016"

By Joe Coscarelli

August 8, 2014, 4:12 p.m. EDT

Bill de Blasio's plan to bring the 2016 Democratic National Convention to Barclays Center has some very influential — and potentially relevant — backers. According to the New York Times, the mayor "made sure he had the Clintons' blessing" before throwing Brooklyn into the running (with this corny video). It's almost like they expect to be there or something.

Madison Square Garden hosted Bill Clinton's nomination in 1992, and one could get the sense that Hillary feels — what's the word? — inevitable. Both Clintons "are said to be encouraging Mayor Bill de Blasio's efforts to bring the convention back to New York City, this time to Brooklyn, that haven of liberal cool," the Times reports, with the caveat "that Brooklyn could come across to a national audience as a progressive parody." Really? Brooklyn?

De Blasio, a veteran of Hillary's campaign for Senate, has other Clinton insiders working with him on the borough's pitch, and reportedly said it would be a "perfect scenario" for Hillary to accept the nomination in New York, referring to it as a "homecoming." One of Brooklyn's main rivals for the convention? Former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, the Times says, another Clinton ally, of course.

"'I don't think Bill and Hillary Clinton could possibly be that politically naïve,' Mr. Rendell, who also served as Philadelphia's mayor, said in an interview. 'New York is a solidly blue state that never votes Republican. Pennsylvania is a swing state whose margins are closer and closer. Where would you go?'"

Either way, the Clintons win (... they assume).

New York Times: "Fear of 'Another Benghazi' Drove White House to Airstrikes in Iraq"

By Mark Landler, Alissa J. Rubin, Mark Mazzetti, and Helene Cooper

August 8, 2014

On Wednesday evening, moments after finishing a summit meeting with African leaders at the State Department, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff delivered a stark message to President Obama as they rode back to the White House in Mr. Obama's limousine.

The Kurdish capital, Erbil, once an island of pro-American tranquillity, was in the path of rampaging Sunni militants, the chairman, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, told the president. And to the west, the militants had trapped thousands of members of Iraqi minority groups on a barren mountaintop, with dwindling supplies, raising concerns about a potential genocide.

With American diplomats and business people in Erbil suddenly at risk, at the American Consulate and elsewhere, Mr. Obama began a series of intensive deliberations that resulted, only a day later, in his authorizing airstrikes on the militants, as well as humanitarian airdrops of food and water to the besieged Iraqis.

Looming over that discussion, and the decision to return the United States to a war Mr. Obama had built his political career disparaging, was the specter of an earlier tragedy: the September 2012 attack on the diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, which killed four Americans, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, and has become a potent symbol of weakness for critics of the president.

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As the tension mounted in Washington, a parallel drama was playing out in Erbil. Kurdish forces who had been fighting the militants in three nearby Christian villages abruptly fell back toward the gates of the city, fanning fears that the city might soon fall. By Thursday morning, people were thronging the airport, desperate for flights out of town.

“The situation near Erbil was becoming more dire than anyone expected,” said a senior administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to describe the White House’s internal deliberations. “We didn’t want another Benghazi.”

For weeks, intelligence officials had been watching the militant group, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, gain in strength, replenishing its arsenals with weapons captured both in Syria and in Iraq. But interviews with multiple officials at the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department and other agencies paint a portrait of a president forced by the unexpectedly rapid deterioration of security in Iraq to abandon his longstanding reluctance to use military force.

Mr. Obama, in a speech late Thursday announcing his decision, insisted this was not a return to war — that Iraq’s fate still ultimately rested in the hands of its three main groups, the Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds. But he made clear that he would take action to protect Americans in Erbil and Baghdad.

“We have an embassy in Baghdad, we have a consulate in Erbil, and we have to make sure that they are not threatened,” Mr. Obama said in an interview on Friday with Thomas L. Friedman of The New York Times. “Part of the rationale for the announcement yesterday was an encroachment close enough to Erbil that it would justify us taking shots.”

Still, his decision to order F-18 fighter jets from the aircraft carrier George H. W. Bush to carry out bombing raids on militants dramatically raises the risks for Mr. Obama. Unlike other times when he has made the decision to commit American forces — the 2009 troop surge in Afghanistan, for example — Mr. Obama acted within hours.

With nearly 50 African leaders converging on Washington, the president was fully occupied with a week of diplomacy and salesmanship on behalf of American companies — not to mention a White House dinner featuring entertainment by Lionel Richie. On Saturday, he and his wife, Michelle, were to leave town for two weeks of vacation on Martha’s Vineyard.

While Mr. Obama discussed security and governance with the leaders, his national security aides were huddling in the Situation Room, getting increasingly dire briefings from embassy officials in Baghdad and the Pentagon’s Central Command, which oversees Iraq.

“Things reached a tipping point on Wednesday,” said a senior official. “We saw that on the mountain, the Iraqis were not able to resupply and provide food and water.”

Back at the White House that evening, Mr. Obama and General Dempsey continued talking in the Oval Office, joined by the chief of staff, Denis McDonough; the national security adviser, Susan E. Rice; and other officials. The discussion moved toward military action, one official said, though Mr. Obama had not yet decided on anything, beyond airdrops.

About 8 p.m., the meeting broke up and Mr. Obama again left the White House, an hour late, for a dinner date with his wife and a close confidante, Valerie Jarrett, at an Italian restaurant in Georgetown.

Six thousand miles away, in Erbil, Thursday morning broke with news that two towns just 27 miles west of the Kurdish capital, Mahmour and Gwer, had fallen to the militants, and that Kurdish fighters, known as pesh merga, had withdrawn. “That was a real problem,” said a former Kurdish official who closely tracks security issues.

In villages and small towns outside the city, even places well north of Erbil and farther from the militant forces, people were frantically piling into cars to flee. The pesh merga were helping to evacuate hundreds of people in large flatbed trucks. When people heard a gunshot, rumors would spread of an ISIS advance.

Americans officials on the ground said they feared that if Erbil emptied, the city would be vulnerable to a militant attack. And if it fell, they feared,

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not only would Americans be at risk, but it would be a second seismic event for the region — after the June 10 fall of Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city — with dangerous consequences for Turkey and a potential for enormous loss of life in Kurdistan.

As if that were not enough, the militants had seized a critical dam in Mosul, which controls water levels on the Tigris River as far south as Baghdad. The capture of the dam shook Kurdish officials and fueled the sense of crisis during Thursday's meetings, with officials worried that the militants could either blow it up or use it to cut off water supplies or as a bargaining chip in negotiating anything they wanted.

"That was one of the trip wires we looked at," said another senior official. "We look at that dam as a potential threat to our embassy in Baghdad."

At a 90-minute meeting in the Situation Room on Thursday morning, Mr. Obama was briefed again about the plight of the Iraqis stranded on Mount Sinjar. Members of an ancient religious sect known as Yazidi, they were branded as devil worshipers by the militants. The women were to be enslaved; the men were to be slaughtered.

Officials told Mr. Obama there was a real danger of genocide, under the legal definition of the term. "While we have faced difficult humanitarian challenges, this was in a different category," said an official. "That kind of shakes you up, gets your attention."

At 11:20 a.m., Mr. Obama left the meeting to travel to Fort Belvoir, Va., where he signed a bill expanding health care for veterans. He had all but made up his mind to authorize airstrikes, officials said, and while he was away, his team drafted specific military options.

When the president returned to the White House barely an hour later, he went back into meetings with his staff. By then, there were news reports of airdrops and possible strikes. But the White House "hunkered down," an official said, refusing to comment on the reports for fear of endangering a nighttime airdrop over Mount Sinjar.

Mr. Obama did not announce the operations until dawn had broken in Iraq, a delay of several hours that added to the panic in Erbil. Reports of explosions near the city at dusk on Thursday night sowed confusion after Kurdish officials said the United States had begun airstrikes on the militants. The Pentagon flatly denied the reports.

American officials said the United States was closely coordinating with the Iraqi Air Force, which has been carrying out its own strikes on the militants, though officials did not confirm that the explosions reported on Thursday evening were from Iraqi raids. On Friday, an administration official said there had been no airstrikes the previous evening.

Struggling to stanch the fear, keep the fighters at their posts and slow the exodus out of the city, Kurdish officials put out a series of brave-sounding but misleading statements.

The Kurdish prime minister, Necherven Barrzani, sent a letter to Kurdish citizens, posted on a government website, saying: "The pesh merga are going ahead and terrorists are being beaten. Don't be skeptical."

Also writing a letter to the Kurdish people was Kosrat Rassoul, deputy to President Massoud Barzani, who said: "There are rumors among the people, which make citizens feel skeptical. Here I want to reassure everyone we in Erbil are ready in the best way to defend the Kurdish territory."

What they did not say was that the pesh merga were demoralized, uncertain, underequipped and facing a formidable foe along several hundred miles of border between the Kurdistan region and Iraq's Nineveh and Kirkuk Provinces, where the militants are now the dominant force.

Several fighters who had fought ISIS said they were daunted when they discovered the militants were traveling in bulletproof vehicles that left the pesh merga's bullets doing little more than pockmarking the metal.

"It's our business to see the faces of the soldiers and know how they feel," said Halgurd Hekmat, the head of media for the pesh merga fighters. "I wouldn't say they were afraid, but they were a bit nervous," he admitted. Since the fall of Mosul, the pesh merga leadership had warned the Americans and the Iraqi government that they were ill equipped to hold the militants at the border separating Nineveh Province from Kurdistan.

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"We told them: 'We cannot hold it for very long. We are not a country; we don't have an army; we don't have aircraft,' " said Lt. Gen. Jaber Yawer Manda, the secretary general of the pesh merga ministry. "I said: 'We are fighting in the front lines now. You have to help us.' "

On Thursday evening, after a long day in the West Wing, Mr. Obama had a message for Iraqis: "Today, America is coming to help."

State House News Service (M.A.): "Sen. Elizabeth Warren says she supports President Obama's decision to authorize airstrikes in Iraq"

By Andy Metzer

August 8, 2014, 3:41 p.m. EDT

Warning against a new U.S. war in Iraq, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren on Friday stood by President Barack Obama's decision to authorize targeted airstrikes to help defend Americans in Erbil, Iraq, and provide aid to a religious minority taking refuge in the Sinjar mountains.

"It's a complicated situation right now in Iraq and the president has taken very targeted actions to provide humanitarian relief that the Iraqi government requested, and to protect American citizens," Warren told reporters. "But like the president I believe that any solution in Iraq is going to be a negotiated solution, not a military solution. We do not want to be pulled into another war in Iraq."

Renowned for its financing strategies and media savvy and feared for its brutality, a group of Sunni sectarian extremists that now calls itself The Islamic State has expanded out of war-torn Syria into Iraq, where it imposes taxes and kills people of other religions, according to news accounts.

On Thursday night, Obama announced he had authorized air strikes to protect American diplomats, civilians and military personnel in Erbil, and humanitarian air drops of food and water had already begun to assist Yezidis, a religious minority, who fled to the Sinjar mountains.

An American-led invasion of Iraq was launched in March 2003, starting a war that was divisive politically and costly. After Obama failed at reaching accord on a new status of force agreement with the Iraqi government, the U.S. stuck to an earlier timetable, withdrawing troops from the country by Dec. 31, 2011.

Warren said the actions announced by Obama will change the dynamic in the country, which has a Shi'ite led government and an independent Kurdish region in the north.

"It's a very complicated situation in Iraq. The president has now taken two very targeted actions, and those two actions will change the mix of what's happening in Iraq, and we'll have to just monitor it," Warren said.

Warren was in the State House for a closed-door meeting between state and federal officials and Jorge Carlos Fonseca, the president of Cape Verde.

Asked if she had a broader plan for dealing with the crisis in Iraq, Warren said, "Certainly these airstrikes are going to change the mix of what's going on, so we'll just have to monitor it literally day by day, hour by hour."

While calling for a negotiated solution, Warren said the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria is a terrorist organization and the U.S. does not negotiate with terrorists, while leaving open the possibility the U.S. could assist the Iraqi government negotiating with ISIS.

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"The point is there has to be a negotiated solution in Iraq, but we don't negotiate with terrorists," Warren said. She said, "This is partially a question of whether the U.S. government negotiates or whether we have the Iraqi government doing these negotiations, and how we help support them as they try to maintain an integrated country, and a country that better represents all of the people who live there."

A champion of those squeezed by big banks who toppled Scott Brown in a 2012 election for the seat, Warren is a favorite among liberals, and regularly disavows any plans to seek the president.

Warren said her caution not to entangle the United States in another military conflict in Iraq is a viewpoint shared across the country.

"I am concerned that none of us want to be pulled into a war in Iraq. I think that's clear across this country, and I feel very strongly about that," Warren said.

Sioux City Journal (I.A.): "Iowa trip: Huckabee thinking about 2016 campaign"

By James Q. Lynch

August 8, 2014

CEDAR RAPIDS | Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee on Friday said he is actively considering a 2016 presidential campaign. He's scheduled to appear in Ames, Iowa, on Saturday.

"I would certainly start in a very different place if I were to run than I did when I came here in 2007 and first launched the campaign and nobody knew who I was and even fewer people cared," Huckabee said during a roundtable with reporters.

The winner of Iowa's 2008 first-in-the-nation precinct caucuses shied away from saying how certain he is that he'll run. He's maintaining a "delicate balance" because his radio and TV contracts preclude him from being a candidate, Huckabee said.

Those contracts don't prevent him from thinking about it.

"This is not some real remote likelihood. This is something I'm very seriously considering," Huckabee said.

Polls show that he's one of the top choices of Iowa Republicans for the 2016 campaign. He attributed his frontrunner status to Iowans' "good taste in politics."

"If the polls are showing that I'm leading in Iowa it's a clear indication and an affirmation of just how intelligent and insightful the people of Iowa really are," he said.

He'll see more Iowans Saturday when he addresses The Family Leadership Summit in Ames. Huckabee said that event and the "Pastors & Pews" program he was part of in Cedar Rapids are not part of a strategy to sew up support among the conservative Christian bloc of the Iowa GOP.

"I think there's great value in mobilizing people of faith who often sit at home during the elections and don't show up to vote," he said. "I think that's unfortunate."

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He called reporting on his comments about impeachment unfortunate, too. Although he believes President Barack Obama has committed impeachable offenses, Huckabee said he's never called for impeachment. Impeachment "should be used in rare and most unusual circumstances," he said, and talk about impeaching Obama is a distraction.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 9 – Water Mill, NY: Sec. Clinton fundraises for the Clinton Foundation at the home of George and Joan Hornig (WSJ)

· August 13 – Martha's Vinyard, MA: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bunch of Grapes (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
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Introduction
Dr. Karen Donfried, President, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Speakers
Ambassador Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Ivan Krastev, Bosch Public Policy Fellow, Transatlantic Academy
Chairman, Center for Liberal Strategies

Moderator
David Ignatius, Columnist, *The Washington Post*
Member of the Board of Trustees, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

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If you have any questions, please contact Sam Leon at +1 202 683 2926 or fpintern@gmfus.org .

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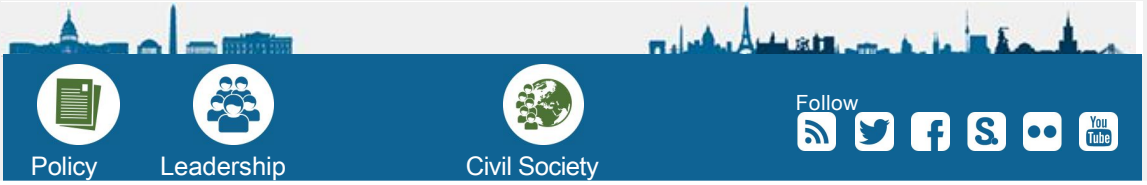
To mark the 25th anniversary of German unification, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) is pleased to invite you to a conversation with Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland and Transatlantic Academy Bosch Public Policy Fellow Ivan Krastev, moderated by *Washington Post* columnist David Ignatius. The discussion will examine the legacy of German unification and the events of 1989 to 1991 which brought an end to the Cold War, the subsequent development of Europe's political and security architecture, the challenges which the Euro-Atlantic order faces today, and the future prospects for a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

Ambassador Victoria Nuland has been assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs since September 2013, where she is responsible for diplomatic relations with 50 countries in Europe and Eurasia, as well as with NATO, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Previously, Ambassador Nuland served as the U.S. Department of State spokesperson, as special envoy for conventional armed forces in Europe from 2010 to 2011, and served on the faculty of the National War College from 2008 to 2009. She was also the 18th United States permanent representative to NATO from 2005 to 2008. As a career foreign service officer, Ambassador Nuland was principal deputy national security advisor to the vice president from 2003 to 2005, U.S. deputy permanent Representative to NATO from 2000 until 2003, and chief of staff to the deputy secretary of state from 1993 to 1996. Earlier in her career, she covered Russian internal politics at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, served on the Soviet desk in Washington, helped to open the first U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, worked in the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and served in Guangzhou, China. She speaks Russian and French, and received a bachelor's from Brown University.

Ivan Krastev is a Bosch Public Policy fellow at the Transatlantic Academy and the chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia. He is also a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna. From 2013 to 2014 Krastev was a Richard von Weizsäcker fellow at the Robert Bosch Stiftung in Berlin. He is a founding board member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the advisory board of the ERSTE Foundation, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). He is also associate editor of Europe's World and a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Democracy and Transit – Europäische Revue. From 2004 to 2006 Krastev served as the executive director of the International Commission on the Balkans chaired by the former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato. From 2005 to 2011 he was the Editor-in-Chief of the Bulgarian Edition of Foreign Policy and was a member of the Council of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London. He has held fellowships at St. Antony's College in Oxford; the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington, D.C.; the Collegium Budapest; the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin; the Institute of Federalism at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland; and the Remarque Institute at New York University.

David Ignatius is the author of a bi-weekly column on global politics, economics, and international affairs for *The Washington Post*. Ignatius joined the *Post* in 1986 as editor of its Sunday "Outlook" section. He became foreign editor in 1990, supervising the paper's Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In 1993 he became the assistant managing editor for business news. Prior to joining *The Washington Post*, Ignatius spent ten years as a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, where he covered the steel industry, the U.S. Justice Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Senate, while simultaneously serving as Middle East chief diplomatic correspondent. In addition to reporting, Ignatius served as a Fisher Family Fellow to the Future of Diplomacy Project at Harvard Kennedy School in 2010 and was a visiting faculty member during the spring of 2012. He is currently a senior fellow for the Future of Diplomacy Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University and a board member at The German Marshall Fund of the United States.

GMF's Legacy of '89 series marks 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the subsequent unification of Germany, and political transformations across Europe. Examining the cultural, political, social, and economic aspects of these watershed moments of the 20th century, The Legacy of '89 brings together intellectuals, former and current government officials, and members of the media for reflection, stocktaking, and innovative policy prescriptive conversations amongst the transatlantic and pan-European communities.



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From: Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Friday, October 16, 2015
Subject: Fwd: CLIP | Yahoo: Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Tyson Brody <tbrody@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 4:13 PM
Subject: CLIP | Yahoo: Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >

Hillary moneyman highlights new Saudi connection
Michael Isikoff

Hillary Clinton and Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud prior to a State Department meeting in 2012. (Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images)

The Saudi government, under increasing criticism over civilian casualties from its airstrikes in Yemen and a harsh crackdown on political dissidents at home, has just hired a powerhouse Washington, D.C., lobbying firm headed by a top Hillary Clinton fundraiser — an arrangement that critics charge raises fresh questions about the influence that foreign government lobbyists could have on her campaign.

The Saudi contract with the Podesta Group, owned by veteran Washington lobbyist and Clinton campaign bundler Tony Podesta, calls for the firm to provide “public relations” and other services on behalf of the royal court of King Salman.

It included an initial “project fee” payment of $200,000 last month and unspecified further sums over the course of the next year, according to documents recently filed with the Justice Department Foreign Agents Registration Act office.

The retention comes at a time the Saudis are being condemned by United Nations officials over reports that its bombings against Houthi strongholds in Yemen’s civil war has resulted in the deaths and injuries of hundreds of innocent civilians, including children.

Adding to the international pressure, the Saudis are also facing criticism from human rights groups over its continued refusal to allow basic rights to women (e.g. the freedom to drive cars). They are also being criticized for their hardline domestic suppression of political dissidents, with draconian punishments such as the sentence — by beheading — recently given to a 20-year-old Shiite political protester.

“They are very nervous about an American policy change, and so they are betting on the horse they think will win — Hillary Clinton,” said Ali Al-Ahmad, a Saudi analyst with the Institute for Gulf Affairs, and a frequent critic of the regime, about the hiring of the Podesta Group.

The Podesta Group is now on a roster of a half-dozen D.C. lobbying firms representing the Saudis, including the

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giant international law firm of DLA Piper and the firm of Hogan Lovells, whose principal on the Saudi account is former Minnesota Republican Sen. Norm Coleman, who chairs the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super-Pac that is a major source of House GOP campaign funds. (Former Texas congressman Tom Loeffler, a top bundler for Jeb Bush's presidential campaign, for years representedthe Saudis, but his current firm, Akin Gump, now lobbies for the United Arab Emirates, among other foreign clients.)

But the retention of the Podesta Group has gotten attention in Washington lobbying circles because of its unusually close ties to Hillary Clinton's campaign: Tony Podesta is the brother and former business partner of Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta. He is also a prolific Democratic Party fundraiser who is among 43 Washington lobbyists (many of whom also represent foreign governments) listed as Clinton campaign bundlers in reports filed by the campaign with the Federal Election Commission.

The reports disclose that Podesta had raised $140,175 for the Clinton campaign through Sept. 30. Two weeks ago, just days after filing its Saudi contract with the Justice Department, Podesta held a Clinton campaign fundraiser at his home that offered fine Italian food cooked by five gourmet chefs, including himself and his brother, the campaign chairman.

The Podesta Group point man on the Saudi account is David Adams, who previously served as assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs in 2011 and 2012, making him Clinton's chief Capitol Hill lobbyist for her last two years as secretary of state, according to Justice Department filings reviewed by Yahoo News.

But Tony Podesta, while calling himself "a proud Clinton bundler," vigorously denied that the Saudi contract had anything to do with his efforts to elect her president. "I've never had a conversation with Hillary Clinton or anybody in the campaign about the work of the firm," Podesta said, when reached by Yahoo News on his cell phone while he was dining at a restaurant in Sicily. "We represent a dozen foreign governments around the world — we do good work for them. And it has nothing to do with the Hillary Clinton campaign."

Asked for comment, Clinton campaign spokesman Josh Schwerin emailed: "Hillary Clinton has a strong record of standing up for human rights, and has spent her career fighting for women and girls around the world. She's proven that she cannot be intimidated — let alone influenced — to sacrifice these core principles. And so as president she will continue to stand up to countries like Saudi Arabia that don't allow women to have equality. … Make no mistake, when it comes to U.S. national security, she is guided only by the best interests of our country."

The Saudis have longstanding ties to the Clintons: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is among the largest donors to the Clinton Foundation, contributing between $10 million and $25 million, according to the foundation's website (which only discloses figures in broad categories, not precise sums.) Bill Clinton has also received hefty fees for speeches in Saudi Arabia, including $600,000 for two talks while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. Last September 4, Bill Clinton met with King Salman for what was described by one source as a "brief courtesy visit" at the Four Seasons Hotel. Two weeks later, on Sept. 18, the Podesta Group filed papers with the Justice Department reporting that it had been retained by an entity called "the Center for Studies and Media Affairs at the Saudi Royal Court."

Tony Podesta speaking to Associated Press reporters in Philadelphia, September 2004. (Photo: Jacqueline Larma/AP)

Podesta said he was "unaware" of the Four Seasons hotel meeting between the King and the former president and that his negotiations to represent the Saudis had been going on for several months before that. He declined, however, to talk about precisely what his firm had been retained to do for the Saudis. "We don't speak on or off the record about what we do for our clients," he said.

Podesta is far from the only Clinton campaign bundler to be lobbying for foreign governments or their interests. A review of the Clinton campaign's bundler list by Yahoo News found lobbyists representing the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, South Korea, Morocco, Japan, and Hong Kong. (Bush, who among GOP candidates has the most entrenched ties to K Street, received bundled contributions from lobbyists with firms that represent the People's Republic of China, Turkey, and South Korea.)

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Two of the Clinton lobbyist-bundlers, Richard Sullivan and David Jones, are principals in a firm that, until late last year, represented the Russia Direct Investment Fund, a sovereign wealth fund co-founded by Vladimir Putin when he was prime minister. Another Clinton campaign bundler, former New Jersey Sen. Robert Torricelli, is the lobbyist for the Paris-based National Council for Resistance in Iran, a controversial Iranian dissident group that for years had been on the State Department's terrorism list, but was "de-listed" three years ago.

In her campaign, Hillary Clinton has pledged to push for sweeping campaign finance reform that will "end the stranglehold that wealthy interests have over our political system" and "curb the outsized influence of big money in American politics." But the role of so many well-heeled foreign lobbyists in Clinton's campaign fundraising apparatus is "very troubling" and represents a substantial retreat from eight years ago, when then candidate Barack Obama refused to take campaign money at all from any registered lobbyists, said Craig Holman of Public Citizen, a public interest group that has long pushed for wholesale changes in the campaign-finance system.

"This is classic influence-peddling," said Holman

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From: "Clean Water Action" <activist@cleanwater.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 3/14/2013 5:00:52 AM
Subject: Chesapeake Currents - Spring 2013

Clean Water Currents

Maryland

More Inside!

Clean Water Action and allies are now working with state lawmakers in Annapolis on:

- Creating a comprehensive database on Maryland pesticide use to make it easier to understand and regulate impacts on public health and water quality.
- Enacting a legislative moratorium on hydraulic fracturing extraction of natural gas (fracking) until appropriate studies are complete, and regulatory policies are in place to safeguard drinking water supplies, downstream water quality and quality of life.
- Advancing offshore wind generation to increase the percentage of Maryland's energy supply that is clean and renewable, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create jobs. *Read more*

Delaware

Delaware's forthcoming plans for handling the decades-old pile of toxic coal ash stored on Burton Island in Indian River will face tough scrutiny from Clean Water Action.

"The state's long-term plan for the Burton Island coal ash landfill needs to include rapidly phasing out the use of coal as an energy source," says Clean Water Action's Andrew Fellows. "Coal's many impacts on our communities are devastating, and the Burton Island site is yet another example of this." *Read more*

Washington, DC

Momentum is building for improved standards to protect the Anacostia, Potomac and other rivers, streams and creeks from pollution that is washed off of streets and other paved surfaces. Proposed new "stormwater" regulations are a vast improvement over current policies.

The unusually strong oversight role played by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency means that the District's standards could end up creating a national model for controlling this serious pollution problem. Not surprisingly, big developers and others opposed to strong stormwater protections may attempt to delay the new rules. Clean Water Action and allies will be working throughout the summer to make sure District officials understand how strongly these new

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water protections are supported by DC residents. *Read more*

Virginia

January 31, 2013 was the vote that never happened. Clean Water Action and allies won a critical battle in the fight to keep Virginia's current uranium mining ban in place. This was the date when the State Senate's environmental committee was scheduled to vote on Senate Bill 1353, a bill to regulate uranium mining at the Coles Hill site in Pittsylvania County. If passed, the bill would have effectively ended the state's thirty-one year ban on uranium mining, beginning what could have been a long, ferocious fight on the issue. *Read More*













Baltimore Office
711 West 40th St, Suite 209 | Baltimore, MD 21211 | 410.235.8808

National Office
1010 Vermont Ave | Suite 400 | Washington D.C. | 20005 | 202.895.0420

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 8/15/2008 1:42:32 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 8/15

08 Election Daily News Clips
August 15th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

8:15am BUSH: Remarks on Russia, Georgia in Washington, DC

TBA McCain: Private Meeting in Aspen, CO

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain's Focus on Georgia Raises Question of Propriety (Washington Post 8/15/08)
By Dan Eggen and Robert Barnes; A16
By Robert Barnes
...With his Democratic opponent on vacation in Hawaii, the senator from Arizona has been doing all he can in recent days to look like President McCain, particularly when it comes to the ongoing international crisis in Georgia. Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says he talks to McCain, a personal friend, several times a day. McCain's top foreign policy adviser, Randy Scheunemann, was until recently a paid lobbyist for Georgia's government.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/14/AR2008081403332_pf.html
See WaPo blog's "McCain Rules Out Military Action Against Russia": http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/14/mccain_rules_out_military_acti.html

McCain Displays Credentials as Obama Relaxes (NYT 8/15/08)
By MICHAEL FALCONE
For the last several days, Senator Barack Obama has seemed to fade from the scene while on his secluded vacation here, as his opponent, Senator John McCain, has seized nearly every opportunity to display his foreign policy credentials on the dominant issue of the week: the conflict between Russia and Georgia.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/15/us/politics/15obama.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1218798805-CNZCCmSvwBeP6vlZUQsIUg

McCain's Son Sat on Troubled Bank's Board (WSJ 8/15/08)
By DAMIAN PALETTA, DAVID ENRICH and ELIZABETH HOLMES; Page A3
Silver State Bancorp Is Facing Big Losses, Regulatory Scrutiny
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121876461747243159.html

Explaining McCain's Complicated History with Lobbyists (CQ Politics blog 8/14/08)
By David Nather
One of the biggest mysteries about John McCain, the man who claims to be the enemy of powerful lobbyists and special interests, is why he has surrounded himself with lobbyists and former lobbyists on his campaign team. The latest adviser who's causing headaches for McCain is foreign policy adviser Randy Scheunemann, whose lobbying firm has represented the Georgian government, raising questions about how neutral a broker McCain can be in the crisis caused by Russia's invasion.
http://blogs.cqpolitics.com/beyond/2008/08/explaining-mccains-complicated.html

McCain running tighter, less rambling campaign (AP 8/15/08)
By Charles Babington

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For months, John McCain's presidential campaign was a near-constant swirl of free-ranging chats with voters, garrulous sessions with reporters and quips from the candidate that often had little to do with the day's planned message. No more. With a dozen weeks to go, McCain's campaign has notably limited his exposure to national reporters and even voters, devoting more time to private fundraisers, interviews with local journalists and events designed for TV cameras.
http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20080814/NEWS/934508259/1005&parentprofile=1058

John McCain and the POW church riot (Chicago Tribune 8/15/08)
By Jill Zuckman
They called it the church riot. Sen. John McCain, who is known for his reticence and even discomfort invoking faith on the campaign trail, was once dubbed a "Hell's Angel" for rioting against his captors in Vietnam in order to hold Sunday church services.
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-mccain-faithaug15,0,575244.story

McCain's hints at Ridge inspire theories (Washington Times 8/15/08)
By Ralph Z. Hallow
Explanations were abounding Thursday on why Sen. John McCain mentioned Tom Ridge as a possible running mate - including a serious pick, a trial balloon for the right and an ecumenical gesture for the left.
http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/15/mccains-hints-at-ridge-inspire-theories/

John McCain, Barack Obama spar over 'celebrity' (LA Times 8/14/08)
By Tina Daunt
Politicians from both parties seek new and even more daring ways of connecting with mass audiences via entertainment.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-et-cause15-2008aug15,0,4423106.story

Leave It To Weaver (Texas Monthly 8/14/08*)
*Print Date: 9/1/08
by Paul Burka
What John McCain's former chief strategist thinks of his campaign. ...Only a few minutes into our conversation about the current presidential race, he said, "The Greek tragedy aspect of this election could turn out to be, George Bush defeats John McCain twice."
http://www.texasmonthly.com/2008-09-01/letterfromwashingtondc.php
See FirstRead's "McCain: Weaver continues to talk": http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/08/14/1265371.aspx

Phil Gramm's Return Engagement, For Two Days Only (CBS blog 8/14/08)
By Ryan Corsaro:
Former McCain adviser Phil Gramm is in attendance at John McCain's event at the Aspen Institute this afternoon, which is about to get underway. Gramm stepped down from the campaign last month after he was criticized for saying the U.S. economy is in a "mental recession" and that the U.S. is a "nation of whiners." Gramm, who's seated in the front row for today's event, told CBS News that he's in Colorado to help McCain raise money and that he's there as a supporter, not as a campaign adviser.
http://www.cbsnews.com/blogs/2008/08/14/politics/fromtheroad/entry4351472.shtml
See WSJ blog's "Phil Gramm Attends McCain Campaign Briefing": http://feeds.wsjonline.com/%7Er/wsj/washwire/feed/%7E3/365117155/

New DNC Web video tries to link McCain to Abramoff scandal (CNN blog 8/15/08)
By Martina Stewart
The Democratic National Committee's is taking on John McCain in a new Web video calling into question his reputation as a campaign finance reformer and a maverick who stands outside the inner circles of political dealings in the nation's capital.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/08/15/new-dnc-web-video-tries-to-link-mccain-to-abramoff-scandal/
Link to video of ad ("Tainted"): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvXcY-u7MJM

DNC Releases New Web Ad Highlighting the Threat John McCain Poses to Social Security (MarketWatch 8/14/08)

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On Social Security's 73rd Birthday, FDR's Grandson Tells John McCain to "Keep Your Hands Off Our Social Security"
http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/dnc-releases-new-web-ad/story.aspx?guid=%7B074562D2-AEFA-4B16-9CF2-049D7DCA283B%7D&dist=hppr
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L24eLUdT6bc
See FirstRead's "AFL-CIO HITS MCCAIN ON SOCIAL SECURITY ": http://firstread.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2008/08/14/1266333.aspx

Democrats: Happy anniversary Social Security, Don't privatize it John McCain (Miami Herald blog 8/14/08)
By Lesley Clark
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz is join James Roosevelt, FDR's grandson, on a press conference call today to mark the 73rd anniversary of Social Security -- and bash John McCain for endorsing the concept of private indiviual accounts, which Democrats call a "risky investment scheme."
http://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2008/08/democrats-happy.html

New Obama Olympic Ad Touts Middle-Class Economic Plan [includes video] (The Page 8/14/08)
The nationwide spot– "Three Bedroom Ranch"– begins Monday on broadcast and cable TV, and will run during the Olympics.
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/14/new-obama-olympic-ad-promotes-his-economic-plan/
Link to script: http://thepage.time.com/script-of-obama-ad-three-bedroom-ranch/

NEW Obama ad Scorching McCain on DHL in Ohio (DailyKos 8/14/08)
Obama slams McCain Campaign and its lobbyist connections for causing job losses of 8,000 in Ohio.
http://www.dailykos.com/story/2008/8/14/165427/984
Link to video of ad: http://thepage.time.com/new-obama-dhl-ad/
Link to script: http://thepage.time.com/script-of-obama-ad-on-dhl/

McCain catches break on loan (Politico 8/14/08)
By: Kenneth P. Vogel
John McCain on Thursday got some welcome ammunition in his defense against Democratic charges that he violated campaign finance law. But he's not out of the woods yet. The Federal Election Commission released a draft opinion asserting that McCain... did not violate the provisions of the primary election public funding system.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=C286BE62-18FE-70B2-A8A82C67E8DBE69F
See CQ Politics's "McCain Gets a Bye from FEC Lawyers": http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?docID=news-000002938164

Pastor: Not going to play 'gotcha' with McCain, Obama (CNN 8/14/08)
The Rev. Rick Warren said Thursday that his upcoming forum with Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama will be aimed at asking them tough "heartland questions." ..."I'm not going to play 'gotcha' with one candidate and not with the other. This way, it will be totally fair. You compare apples to apples," he added.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/14/warren.forum/index.html
See Brody Files's "Rick Warren Plans to Bring up Obama, McCain's Personal Life": http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/428453.aspx

McCain alarms base with abortion comment (Politico 8/14/08)
By: Jonathan Martin
Top social conservative leaders in key battleground states are urging John McCain not to pick a running mate who supports abortion rights, warning of dire consequences from a Republican base already unenthused about their nominee.
http://dyn.politico.com/printstory.cfm?uuid=C3548602-18FE-70B2-A877A811E28B5D0E

Troops Deployed Abroad Give 6:1 to Obama (OpenSecrets.org 8/14/08)
By Luke Rosiak
...According to an analysis of campaign contributions by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, Democrat Barack Obama has received nearly six times as much money from troops deployed overseas at the time of their contributions than has Republican John McCain, and the fiercely anti-war Ron Paul, though he

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suspended his campaign for the Republican nomination months ago, has received more than four times McCain's haul.
http://www.opensecrets.org/news/2008/08/troops-deployed-abroad-give-61.html
See WaPo blog's "Obama Tops in Donations from Troops": http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/08/14/obama_tops_in_donations_from_t.html
See Jon Soltz/HuffPo's "Deployed Troops Donate to Obama 6-1 Over McCain": http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jon-soltz/deployed-troops-donate-to_b_118987.html

GOP Loyalty Not a Given For Young Evangelicals (Washington Post 8/15/08)
By Krissah Williams Thompson; A01
...The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that while a majority of young white evangelicals describe themselves as conservative on social issues, slightly more identified this year as either independents or Democrats than as Republicans.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/14/AR2008081403446_pf.html

Social Security and the Candidates (ThinkProgress 8/14/08)
By Matt Yglesias
One of John McCain's key demographic bases of support is old people, particular older working class Americans. These are much the same people who are likely to be strong supporters of Social Security. McCain, meanwhile, not only thinks that the very idea of a pay-as-you-go public pension system is a "disgrace" but was a firm defender of George W. Bush's unpopular plan to dismantle the program and replace it with a riskier, less progressive system of mandatory private investment accounts. Under the circumstances, a lot of people have been waiting around impatiently to see Social Security play a larger role in discussion of McCain and his agenda.
http://feeds.feedburner.com/%7Er/matthewyglesias/%7E3/364941072/social_security_and_the_candidates.php

Enter Edmund Burke (TIME blog 8/14/08)
by Joe Klein
Andrew Sullivan makes the case for why the neoconservative efforts to inflate the tragedy in Georgia into a new cold war stand outside the realm of traditional conservative thought. Again, Russia should be condemned for its aggression. But this Russia--oligarchic, oil-glutted, trying to recover some international face after the historic stupidity of having bought into communism--is not the Soviet Union. We have serious business to transact with the Russians. The most important is the reduction of nuclear arms forces, an effort left to lapse by the Bush Administration over the past eight years, as the Nunn-Lugar process was short-funded.
http://www.time-blog.com/swampland/2008/08/enter_burke.html
Link to Andrew Sullivan's "After The Cold War": http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2008/08/after-the-cold.html#more

McCain: Gitmo is 'one of the nicest places in the world to live in.' (ThinkProgress 8/14/08)
During a question-and-answer session with Walter Isaacson today, Sen. John McCain said Guantanamo Bay is "one of the nicest places in the world to live in." Later in the interview, McCain was asked about the Supreme Court's recent decision in Boumediene v. Bush declaring that Gitmo detainees have a right to challenge their detention in civilian court. McCain had previously derided that decision as "one of the worst decisions in the history of this country," but today stepped back from that comment:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/08/14/mccain-gitmo-is-one-of-the-nicest-places-in-the-world-to-live-in/
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQZP7hrCS4I

Attack Ad Veteran Teams With Attack Book Author NPR blog 8/14/08)
Jerome Corsi may be getting all the attention right now for his anti-Obama attack book, but there's another veteran political operative who has been toiling away to take down the Democratic candidate with a Swift-Boat-style campaign. And now, the two are working together. Floyd Brown, whose most famous effort was the "Willie Horton ad" that damaged Democrat Michael Dukakis' presidential campaign in 1988, has been working on a viral campaign to send anti-Obama videos to millions of voters . His main organization, the National Campaign Fund, runs the Web site ExposeObama.com, which features videos linking Obama to gang violence and questioning Obama's assertion that he's never been a Muslim (below).
http://www.npr.org/blogs/secretmoney/2008/08/jerome_corsi_may_be_getting.html

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Alan Colmes Goes Off During Edwards Panel, Assails McCain's Infidelities (Huffington Post 8/14/08)
Andrew Sullivan has a post up on a clip from the August 12th iteration of Hannity and Colmes that seems likely to bring mad creatine to the progressive scene. In it, Sean Hannity merrily leads a panel through a prolonged excoriation of John Edwards, with Amanda Carpenter and some other flaky white dude chitty-chitty banging away. Then, about three minutes in, Alan Colmes suddenly starts breathing fire all over the place, loudly asking how fellow cheater John McCain can be trusted to run the country if infidelities are enough to exclude Edwards from consideration.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/08/14/alan-colmes-goes-off-duri_n_119004.html
See Andrew Sullivan's "Edwards, McCain, Adultery": http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2008/08/edwards-mccain.html
Link to video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saDewF41rJI

McCain back in Aspen, this time standing tall (LA Times 8/15/08)
By Seema Mehta and Maeve Reston
The GOP candidate discusses Russia and ABBA at the event. Top advisors attend, fueling veep talk.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccain15-2008aug15,0,1186560.story

McCain says Georgia does not require military response (Denver Post 8/14/08)
Russian aggression toward the former Soviet Republic of Georgia is a "serious international crisis," but not one that demands a military response from the United States, Sen. John McCain told a gathering in Aspen Thursday afternoon. Rather, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee said he favors quick admission of Georgia, Ukraine and other former soviet countries to NATO.
http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_10206048

McCain: Tough talk and quips (The Aspen Times 8/15/08)
By Scott Condon
Presidential candidate bashes Obama, keeps Aspen laughing
http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20080815/NEWS/315426828/1058/SPORTS&parentprofile=-1
See 9News's "McCain visits Aspen, talks gas prices": http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=97666&catid=346

McCain talks politics with Bloomfield breakfast crowd (Detroit News 8/14/08)
Gordon Trowbridge
...Wrapping up a busy, Metro Detroit campaign visit that included several fundraisers, McCain --accompanied by his wife, Cindy, and Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., one of his closest supporters -- arrived at the Kerby's... McCain held a series of fundraisers Wednesday, and toured a local defense contractor. ...Among the diners who spoke to McCain was Jon Busch of West Bloomfield, who said he delivered a simple message to the candidate: "Give us something to get excited about." Busch said he's been underwhelmed so far by McCain and his Democratic opponent, Barack Obama.
http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080814/METRO/808140472/1361

Sports owners fund McCain, shun Obama (Politico 8/15/08)
By: Kenneth P. Vogel and Matthew Lindsey and
Owners of professional sports teams overwhelmingly support McCain, who raised six times more from the owners of teams in Chicago.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0808/12548.html

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Reformer McCain is long gone (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 8/15/08)
By David Donnelly
As Sen. John McCain makes daily statements about the conflict in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, his campaign is answering questions regarding how his top foreign policy adviser, lobbyist Randy Scheunemann, made a killing in lobbying fees from the Georgian government. But that's not McCain's only Georgia problem. Ralph Reed is fund-raising for the Arizona senator's Aug. 18 fund-raiser at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta, and that has made even the most ardent McCain backers scratch their heads.
http://www.ajc.com/printedition/content/printedition/2008/08/15/reeded.html

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What counts as 'success' in Iraq? (Boston Globe 8/15/08)
By John Tirman
A VOLUBLE attempt to describe the Iraq war as a success is widely apparent, and will increase as the Republican National Convention nears. John McCain is staking his campaign on this assertion. There is little doubt that the level of violence in Iraq has subsided noticeably in the last 12 months. But is this "victory"?
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/08/15/what_counts_as_success_in_iraq?mode=PF

Iraq May Be Stable, But the War Was a Mistake (WSJ 8/15/08)
By FRANCIS FUKUYAMA; Page A13
Sometime in May 2003, shortly after U.S. forces had taken Baghdad and President Bush landed on an aircraft carrier under the banner "Mission Accomplished," an old friend remarked that he thought the war was going pretty well so far. I shook my head and said I thought we were in for trouble.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121876047023242841.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Too Eloquent and Idealistic (WSJ 8/14/08)
By JAMES TARANTO
With just 82 days until the presidential election, one of the major-party candidates is being accused by his opponents of offering eloquent rhetoric that is just too high-flown and idealistic. That man, of course, is John McCain.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121872697736340877.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Presidential predictions (Washington Times 8/15/08)
By Bradley P. Jacob
Sen. Barack Obama's liberal base views the 2008 presidential election as historic and exciting. They are passionate and energized. Moderate-to-conservative voters, on the other hand, just don't seem to have much interest. Why should they care? Sen. John McCain, after all, is something of a political maverick, often a relatively liberal Republican. As president, he is unlikely to be a passionate leader for limited government, lower taxes, or border control, to name just a few issues that get conservatives excited.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/15/presidential-predictions/

Betting on Bahrain (Washington Times 8/15/08)
By S. Rob Sobhani
When either John McCain or Barack Obama takes the oath of office to serve as America's 44th president, the small but strategic country of Bahrain in the oil-rich Persian Gulf should be a top foreign-policy priority. This island nation of 800,000 is home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet as well as being one of the leaders in the promotion of human rights, religious tolerance and democratic pluralism in the Middle East.
http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/15/betting-on-bahrain/

Will 'Country First' Boost McCain to Victory? (Newsweek blog 8/14/08)
By Howard Fineman
The city is a faded monument to a certain kind of American life: 18th century English and German settlements, Pennsylvania long rifles, a wariness of outsiders, social change, and Big City. This made York the perfect place for John McCain and his team to lay out their core strategy in the race against Barack Obama. Their messages: I'm an American and he's not; I'm a patriot and he's not; I'm a tough son-of-a-gun willing to confront our foes, he's not. This cold-blooded, chest-beating theme will either give McCain a real chance to overcome long odds and win the White House — or it will consign him to the dust bin of history.
http://blog.newsweek.com/blogs/stumper/archive/2008/08/14/fineman-will-country-first-boost-mccain-to-victory.aspx

Par for Mr. Corsi (Washington Post 8/15/08)
An expert at misrepresentation takes on Barack Obama.... THERE'S A cottage industry in books about Barack Obama;... But few debut in the No. 1 spot on the New York Times bestseller list, as Jerome R. Corsi's "The Obama Nation" will do among nonfiction hardcover titles this week. Unfortunately but unsurprisingly, given his earlier hit job on the last Democratic nominee, Mr. Corsi's latest is rife with inaccuracies and innuendo.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/14/AR2008081403051_pf.html

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BUSH NEWS

Bush Defiant (The Page 8/15/08)

Speaking from the White House before leaving for Crawford, the President issues a stern warning to Russia. "Bullying and intimidation are not acceptable ways to conduct foreign policy in the 21st century." Also calls Georgia "a courageous democracy," and says: "The people of Georgia have cast their lot with the free world, and we will not cast them aside."
http://thepage.time.com/2008/08/15/bush-to-speak-on-georgian-conflict-at-815-am/

Bush Aides Say Russia Actions in Georgia Jeopardize Ties (NYT 8/15/08)

By STEVEN LEE MYERS and THOM SHANKER
Russia's military offensive into Georgia has jolted the Bush administration's relationship with Moscow, senior officials said Thursday, forcing a wholesale reassessment of American dealings with Russia and jeopardizing talks on everything from halting Iran's nuclear ambitions to reducing strategic arsenals to cooperation on missiles defenses.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/15/world/europe/15policy.html?pagewanted=print
See NYT's "Russia Vows to Support Two Enclaves, in Retort to Bush": http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/15/world/europe/15georgia.html?bl&ex=1218945600&en=3141da97ae5b8c75&ei=5087%0A

Bush signs consumer bill to cut lead in toys (Reuters 8/15/08)

By Georgina Coolidge
Legislation aimed at improving US consumer product safety after millions of Chinese-made toys were recalled last summer was signed into law by President Bush yesterday. The measure dramatically cuts the amount of lead that is allowed in toys and other children's products.
http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2008/08/15/bush_signs_consumer_bill_to_cut_lead_in_toys?mode=PF

Bush still raking in cash for Republicans (AP 8/15/08)

By DEB RIECHMANN
President Bush's popularity has tanked, but boy can he still bring in the cash. He's raked in close to a billion dollars, the political fundraiser in chief, during his White House tenure.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hLojPiuJjjenSaKjtHM7BmFLUd-gD92IJJI80

OTHER TOP NEWS

Russian blockade continues in Gori (AP 8/15/08)

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Russian troops on Friday allowed some humanitarian supplies into the city of Gori but continued their blockade, raising doubts about Russia's intentions in the war-battered country. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was headed to Georgia for talks with its president.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gDNLWfQWKrQc48pITBUg9KT_6oVwD92IKAS80

Gorbachev: Georgia started conflict in S. Ossetia (CNN 8/14/08)

Georgian leaders may be blaming Russia for the conflict raging in South Ossetia, but former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Thursday "there is no doubt" that Georgia provoked the clash.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/08/14/gorbachev/index.html

Iraqi elections official fears fair vote in jeopardy (USA TODAY 8/15/08)

By Charles Levinson and Ali A. Nabhan
Iraqi security forces loyal to the Shiite-led government are raiding voter registration centers and taking other steps to discourage participation in upcoming elections, says the head of Iraq's voting regulatory agency.
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/iraq/2008-08-14-Iraq-voters_N.htm

Senators say report on oil prices is flawed (AP 8/15/08)

Democratic senators say a government report issued last month on oil prices was based on flawed information. They're asking for an investigation into the matter.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hItGAAHmoZcxui_0erzQN7cuNeRQD92I8U4G4

Obama pushes back hard on Corsi book (Politico 8/15/08)

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By: Jonathan Martin
Campaign releases 41-page doc to rebut author's accusations.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0808/Obama_pushes_back_hard_on_Corsi_book.html

Book on Obama blasted for 'vicious innuendo' (CNN 8/14/08)
There's a new book out about Barack Obama that some say is riddled with pretty much every unsubstantiated rumor you've ever heard about the Illinois senator. It is called "Obama Nation: Leftist Politics and the Cult of Personality." The author, Jerome Corsi, also co-wrote the book "Unfit for Command," which started the swift boating of Sen. John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election. Corsi admits he's on a mission to take down Obama. He's been criticized for books that he's written before that have been discredited in many circles.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/14/corsi.book/index.html

Clinton's name to be put in nomination at convention (CNN 8/14/08)
Sen. Barack Obama's campaign has agreed to put former rival Sen. Hillary Clinton's name in nomination at the Democratic National Convention this month.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/08/14/clinton/index.html

Musharraf ally says talks could lead to exit (AP 8/15/08)
By NAHAL TOOSI
Talks are under way that could lead to the resignation of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf or else reduce his role to that of a figurehead, an ally of the embattled leader said Friday.
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iWe152N60O8rfHfthVTBaXBeBs3wD92IIMK00

Stevens Challenges Indictment (WSJ 8/15/08)
By BRENT KENDALL; Page A2
Lawyers for Sen. Ted Stevens filed a flurry of pretrial motions that challenged the government's public-corruption case against the Alaska Republican.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121876777843843391.html

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202-609-7681 (office)
410-967-7306 (cell)

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From: "Jeremy Bird, BarackObama.com" <info@barackobama.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 4/1/2010 3:35:21 AM
Subject: "Because of you"

Organizing for America

John --

"It's because of you."

That's what President Obama said before he took the stage in Iowa City right after health care reform passed. And I couldn't agree more.

We've put together a quick video that highlights the incredible work you did over the last year, to honor and thank you for the history you made.

Please watch the video, then celebrate by co-signing health care reform legislation with the President.

It's Because of You: Watch the Video

We're offering a personalized certificate to every co-signer to make sure we can all have a way to commemorate this victory with the President.

So check out the video, pass it along to your friends, and co-sign historic health reform with President Obama:

http://my.barackobama.com/ThisIsChange

Thanks for everything,

Jeremy

Jeremy Bird
Deputy Director
Organizing for America

P.S. -- Great news: In addition to health and student loan reform, there's even more change happening.

Thanks in large part to tax benefits in the Recovery Act, average tax refunds are up by almost 10 percent from last year.

And President Obama announced a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia, calling it "the most comprehensive arms control agreement in nearly two decades."

Keep checking your email, and we'll let you know about more great news as it comes in.

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This email was sent to: john.podesta@gmail.com

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From: "Ryan Duncan" <ryan@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Big Campaign" <bigcampaign@googlegroups.com>
Date: 10/31/2008 4:15:08 AM
Subject: [big campaign] TRACKING UPDATE: McCain Rally in Hanoverton, OH 10/31/08

McCain Rally: Hanoverton, OH 10/31/08
Big Highlights (via streaming video)

RUDY GIULIANI:

- Stick it out in Iraq. Not to run away and put up the white flag of surrender. John McCain was right. You have an opponent of John McCain telling you that this is a man you can trust, because as Sarah Palin has said, he's the only one on the ticket who has fought for you. Really fought for you. I admire him, and I believe America needs a president that all the young people around America can look up to. This man has earned the Presidency of the United States, by putting his life on the line for us. Cindy has been by his side all his life, fighting for us. Let's prove all the people in Hollywood and the media wrong.

JOHN MCCAIN:

- Big Highlights
    - A word about America's mayor, I'll never forget going to NYC and seeing the fires still burning and this man who never missed a funeral, who consoled the families and America. Thank you Rudy. We are grateful to you, thank you so much.
    - Could I say how proud I am to have Sarah Palin as my partner. She's been marvelous. I'm so proud of her. She represents reform, energy, the family, everything good and wonderful about America. So proud to have her as my runningmate.
    - I'm going to make sure we take care of the working people.
    - It's Halloween, every four years the dems go out and try to scare senior citizens by saying we are going to take away SS and Medicare. I'm going to protect them and not going to allow them to touch your savings.
    - It's not an accident that he's the most liberal senator in the US Senate. More liberal than a senator that used to call himself a socialist.
    - He said if he lost, he'll try again in four years. That sounds like a great idea to me.

The rest below, are notes taken of the entire event:

Thank you Rudy! Thank you United Golden Eagles, thank you for that vote of confidence. I'm grateful. Senator Lindsey Graham I know you didn't understand him very well, but he's still a great guy. He serves his country both in uniform and as a United States Senator. Our daughter Meghan McCain, the next First Lady Cindy McCain. A word about America's mayor, I'll never forget going to NYC and seeing the fires still burning and this man who never missed a funeral, who consoled the families and America. Thank you Rudy. We are grateful to you, thank you so much.

It's great to spend time here in the heartland of America. The enthusiasm that I feel here in Ohio is going to carry us to Victory. We're going to bring real change, and we need a new direction, and we have to fight for it. I've been fighting for the U.S. since I was 17 and I have the scars to prove it. Could I say how proud I am to have Sarah Palin as my partner. She's been marvelous. I'm so proud of her. She represents reform, energy, the family, everything good and wonderful about America. So proud to have her as my runningmate.

I'll fight to shake up Washington, take America in a new direction. Not afraid of the fight, I'm ready for the fight. I have a plan to hold the line on taxes, cut them, to make the US nmore competitive. Double child reduction, cut capitol gains, create jobs and keep American businesses in America. Raising taxes makes a bad economy much worse. If I'm elected president I won't spend nearly a trillion dollars more of your money and Obama will. Government will live on a budget just like you do. We'll freeze gov't spending on all gov't programs except basic necessities. I'll veto every single pork barrel bill that comes across my desk. You will know their names. There's corruption in Washington. We just had a senior member of the U.S. senate convicted. I will clean up this mess and make you proud again of people that serve in Washington. Not going to spend 715 billion of your money

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bailing out Wall Street. I'm going to make sure we take care of the working people. The crisis started in the Housing Market. We have a plan to fix the housing market, find a way to stay in their home, we fix the bad mortgage and give those a new one so you can stay in your home. That's the American dream and this administration is not doing enough.

WHEN I'm elected president, we're going to stop sending money to country's for oil who don't like us very much. Obama's very eloquent, listen to his words. He'll consider drilling offshore. We'll drill offshore and we'll drill now. [drill baby drill!] He says he's for nuclear power but doesn't want to store it or reprocess it. How do you get there? Thanks Veterans. We've sailed navy ships around the world with nuclear power on them, it's safe. Let's do it now.

We'll invest in clean coal technology. We sit on the world largetst coal reserves, we'll lower the cost of energy within months. We'll create millions of new jobs across America. We've learned more about Obama in the last two weeks thanks to Joe the Plumber and his question. Obama revealed he wants to spread the wealth around. He didn't ask to be famous or the political attacks from the Obama campaign. The attacks on him are attacks on small businesses all across this nation. We can't stand for it. We need to support them, taxing them kills jobs. Obama will tax 50 percent of small business income. That's 16 million jobs. He's running to be redistributionist in Chief. I'm running to be Commander in Chief. He's running to spread the wealth, I'm running to create more wealth. He's running to punish the successful. I'm running to make everyone successful. He's made a lot of promises, tax relief should only go to Middle Class, see where we're going. It's interesting how the Democrats definition of rich keeps going down. It won't be long till Obama is back to his vote that taxes those making just 45,000 a year. With Reid, Frank, and Pelosi, we know they're planning more taxes. They want to tax your 401k contributions. We need to protect people's retirements, not endanger it.

It's Halloween, every four years the dems go out and try to scare senior citizens by saying we are going to take away SS and Medicare. I'm going to protect them and not going to allow them to touch your savings. The answer to a slowing economy is not higher taxes. He's going to give a tax break to 95 percent of Americans, 40 percent don't pay. He's going to take money from one group and give it to another. This doesn't work, I will not allow it to happen. What could happen if dems have total control?

It's not an accident that he's the most liberal senator in the US Senate. More liberal than a senator that used to call himself a socialist. He thinks taxes have been too low, and I think that. I will bring our troops home in victory in honor and not in defeat. Our friend, Joe the Biden referred to Jack kennedy being tested during the Cuban Missile Crisis, I have some experience in that, I know how close we came to nuclear war. I do not need to be tested. I know our interests and I know our enemies and they know me. Obama won't have the right response to that test. We know this because of the surge, he said he would sit down unconditionally with the world's worst dictators. Obama should show restraint. He's been wrong on all of these. When I'm president our troops will not suffer defeat. They are the best in the world and the best of us.

The pundits have written us off, just as they have done before. But we're closing and we're going to win in Ohio. He's measuring the drapes. This week he settled on a chief of staff. We're a few points down, but we're coming back and we're coming back strong. He said if he lost, he'll try again in four years. That sounds like a great idea to me. Will we continue to lead the world's economy, will the dworld be safer or more dangerous, will the military be the strongest in the world, will we pass to our children a stronger safer country.

I am an American and I choose to fight. Don't give up hope. Fight! Fight!

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 8/21/2015 10:45:27 AM
Subject: Trump vs. Trump -- is there another way to think about doing business in Cuba?

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August 21, 2015

Dear Friends,

Back in 1996, Pamela Falk gave us a glimpse of Donald Trump's vision of doing business with Cuba:

> ***"The people of Cuba are the greatest in the world. I'd like to help them rebuild the country and return it to its original splendor. And as soon as the law changes, I am ready to build the Taj Mahal in Havana."***

Just three years later, in his op-ed published by the Miami Herald, Trump swore he'd rather lose millions than lose his self-respect doing business with a country he called "a maximum security prison."

Was Trump against the embargo before he was for it? Apparently. But, in assuming polar opposite positions -- crusading capitalist at one moment, self-sacrificing human rights advocate the next -- he was also ahead of his time.

In 2015, we can wake up and read an urgent summons like "Travel to Cuba Now Before it Becomes a Tourist Trap." Or, hear commentators cited in Esther Allen's essay for the New York Review of Books, "joyfully predicting that the re-inauguration of the U.S. Embassy will unleash an invasion of tourists and business dollars, bringing badly needed capitalism to a place they view as backward and isolated."

It all boils down, as Ms. Allen says, to the quintessentially American argument that only we in the United States can save Cuba, "or that, by our very presence, we will inevitably destroy all the things that make it appealing to us."

Thankfully, what is coming next in Cuba is not preordained, it cannot be known, and the choices are not just black or white. It's complicated.

But, first let's be clear: This cat has scampered out of the bag. The U.S. policy transition to a post-embargo world is underway, and the forces to make the new policy irreversible are getting stronger.

Years ago, the U.S. business community -- with some exceptions -- opted out of the debate on ending trade sanctions, leaving farmers and other agriculture interests to fight with Congress and the Bush Administration over their desire to sell food to the Cuban people. After the December 17th breakthrough, President Obama awakened the slumbering giant.

The President's travel, trade, and financial reforms set off a race among U.S. corporations to see who among their domestic competitors could make it through the door first and make their case to customers in Cuba's government. That race has become all the more urgent, as Forbes explained, with "exporters in Latin America, the EU, Russia and East

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Asia...descending on Cuba and making deals left and right."

Business is also more confident. It helps them a lot that people like former Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, a Cuban American who served in the Bush Administration and worked for tighter sanctions to bring down the Cuban government, are accompanying U.S. businesses on this journey.

The business awakening set off a political awakening in the U.S. Congress among centrists of both parties who now understand that "the embargo is slowing Cuba's transition to a freer, more open economy," as Bill LeoGrande wrote recently. Legislation like the Cuba Trade Act of 2015 -- introduced in the House and Senate by Republican and Democratic members working together -- reflects their growing realization that the old policy and the humanitarian interests of the Cuban people are simply incompatible.

This does not mean that full-on capitalism is right around the corner. To anyone expecting that a Trump Tower will soon replace the Russian Federation's Embassy as the ugliest building in Havana, or that Starbucks and McDonalds are about to mar the Malecón's milieu, we can only say: neither the U.S. nor Cuba is ready for that to happen.

Our sanctions are still an impediment. Yes, dozens of U.S. firms are hopping planes to come to Cuba. But, if they operate in sectors outside agriculture, health, or telecommunications they can only explore. Even if Cuba wants to do business with them, and many will go home empty handed, they cannot do a deal without a license from U.S. Treasury or Commerce making an exception to the embargo. Some will be granted, but ultimately companies that want to move faster will have to turn up the pressure on Congress to end the embargo (we urge them to do so).

Yes, some quick buck artists are flying in and out of Cuba, but many others are companies with long records of doing business in Latin America including joint ventures with state and corporate counterparts. To strike a meaningful relationship in Cuba that will ultimately produce profits and real gains for both sides will require them to adopt a long time horizon.

There are also structural brakes to prevent foreign investment from spinning out of control in Cuba. In his compelling article, What You Might Not Know about the Cuban Economy, Professor Jorge Dominguez lays out Cuba's multiple challenges - its demographic problems, limited employment options for Cubans, and more - militating against a sudden shift to Cancun capitalism.

Although he praises Cuba's "really, really well-educated and cheap workforce, as well as substantial evidence of entrepreneurial potential," Dominguez says U.S. restrictions on investment and the complicated context facing the island's political leaders are the biggest barriers to Cuba's potential to boom.

How complicated? Michael Bustamante writes in Foreign Affairs about opponents within the Cuban state standing against Google's offer to install a national mobile WIFI network on the island. He quotes Second Vice President José Ramón Machado Ventura who said, "There are some people who want to give [the Internet] to us for free...to penetrate us and do ideological work for a new conquest."

Bustamante points out the irony that revolutionary loyalists in Havana are actually in alignment with "anti-Cuban government holdouts in Miami," as opponents to closer commercial relations between Cuba and the United States. Although we suspect that irony will be lost on the fellow whose essay "When Helping 'the Cuban people' Means Bankrolling the Castros" graced the pages of the Wall Street Journal in June.

Cuba and the U.S. are two countries with extremely different systems of government that suffer from the same dilemma. No one has designed a political system that can settle these problems without disorder and delay. The business of reconciling a relationship broken for five decades is really complicated.

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Even Trump admits that. After President Obama announced the breakthrough with Cuba last December, Trump didn't oppose it. He just said he would've gotten a better deal.

This week in Cuba News...

U.S.-Cuba Relations
- Reports indicate U.S. eager to boost travel to Cuba in 2015
- After the Flag-Raising: A Renewed Focus on Diplomacy, and Cubans Who Could Scarcely Believe their Eyes
- Additional medical supplies will soon head to Cuba
- U.S. and Cuban chemists look forward to increased collaboration

In Cuba
- Number of Cubans traveling abroad rises
- Tagged Mako shark connects to Cuban and U.S. scientists by satellite
- How will tourism impact Cuba's environment?
- Update: Drought conditions in Cuba

Cuba's Foreign Relations
- Presidents of Cuba and Venezuela meet on the day Secretary Kerry visits Cuba

Recommended Reading
- The Meaning of a U.S. Embassy in Havana , Yoani Sanchez, The Atlantic
- What they're saying about the U.S. Embassy in Havana , David Gomez, #CubaNow
- What you might not know about the Cuban economy , Jorge Dominguez, Harvard Business Review
- Stop punishing Cuba's people , William LeoGrande, Newsday
- Even After the Cuba Deal, Latin America Is Still Leery of Obama , Rohan Chatterjee, Upside Down World
- Castro, Cuba and Catholicism: A tangled trinity, Michelle Gonzalez , Al Jazeera
- Afro-Cuban Twin Sisters Talk About Race Through A New Cigar Line , Carmen Sesin, NBC News
- Cuba: We Never Left, Esther Allen , NYRDaily
- Relevant reads: Three novels about Cuba , Kerri Miller, MPR News
- CDA Summer Book Recommendations

Recommended Viewing
- Secy. Gutierrez: Cuba is changing , Andrea Mitchell, MSNBC
- U.S. Raises Flag in Cuba After 54 Years, Prisoner Exchanges and "Stork Diplomacy"; Embargo Remains, Juan González, Democracy Now!
- Travel to Cuba Takes Flight: The Top Reasons to Visit, Scarlet Fu and Betty Liu , Bloomberg Business
- Photographer Roberto Salas Had 'Privileged' Access to Fidel Castro , Lester Holt, NBC News
- Looking Into the Eyes of Cuba's Elderly, on the Verge of Change , Alexa Keefe, National Geographic

U.S.-Cuba Relations

Reports indicate U.S. eager to boost travel to Cuba in 2015

This week, ABC News reported that the Obama administration plans to further ease travel restrictions to Cuba by the end of the year, possibly including new rules to allow U.S. travelers to go to the island individually, rather than having to be part of a group, so long as they abide by regulatory requirements of people-to-people travel.

Labelling the prospective change "tourism," Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen issued a statement saying "Any effort to increase tourism travel to the island is illegal but the Obama administration, once again, has decided to change the law when it is up to Congress to do so."

As ABC News and the Wall Street Journal report, however, the administration enjoys the required regulatory authority to allow travel to Cuba for individuals so long as they abide by the requirements that apply to participants in people-to-people programs organized

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by groups. The rules are administered at the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Writing on behalf of the Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA), Sarah Stephens urged Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew to provide for individual travel saying "This change would expand the flow of U.S. visitors to Cuba, broaden contacts between Cubans and the people of our country, and increase the amount of transactions taking place directly between U.S. visitors and Cuban entrepreneurs."

CDA publishes the Cuba Central Newsblast.

The Wall Street Journal also reported that the two countries have exchanged proposals for an updated Air Transport Agreement that would enable airlines to reestablish regularly-scheduled commercial flights between U.S. and Cuba by year's end. The two countries last inked a pact to facilitate civil aviation in 1953 .

As Reuters reported, the State Department indicated there is no official timeline for the resumption of commercial air travel to Cuba, but they "have commenced initial discussions with Cuban counterparts regarding an arrangement on this issue." In a statement, the State Department explained, "We remain in contact with the Cuban government regarding the establishment of scheduled air service, which U.S. airlines say they are eager to offer to authorized travelers," as Reuters reported.

Since President Obama entered office, his administration has steadily eased restrictions on travel to Cuba. In 2009, the administration lifted all limits on family visits and remittances. In 2011, the President restored 12 categories of so-called "purposeful travel," allowing non-tourist trips for educational, religious, and cultural purposes among others, and increased the number of airports in the U.S. permitted to serve the Cuban market. Following the diplomatic breakthrough with Cuba last year, the administration began issuing general licenses rather than specific licenses for Americans traveling to Cuba under one of 12 categories .

With U.S. travel to Cuba up 54% from January to July over the same period in 2014, this year, airlines like American Airlines and JetBlue are increasingly interested in the Cuban market. American Airlines, which recently announced its plans to operate a charter flight between Los Angeles and Havana, will launch 1,200 charter flights to Cuba this year. In July, Jet Blue started offering weekly charter service to Cuba from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, while CheapAir became the first site to sell tickets to Cuba online.

The ban on travel to Cuba for tourism can only be lifted by an Act of Congress. Bipartisan bills have been offered in the House and Senate to restore the freedom to travel to Cuba, and an amendment to end the travel ban was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee in July, as we previously reported .

After the Flag-Raising: A Renewed Focus on Diplomacy, and Cubans Who Could Scarcely Believe their Eyes

Although we provided up-to-the-minute coverage of the flag-raising at the U.S. Embassy in Havana last week , we cover additional reports on the status of U.S.-Cuba diplomacy and the impact of ceremony on people in both countries and world-wide here.

Following the embassy event, Secretary Kerry was joined by Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez at the Hotel Nacional where they met with reporters . In his remarks, Foreign Minister Rodriguez said he "reiterated to Secretary Kerry that our government is willing to normalize relations with the United States on the basis of respect and equality without any prejudice to the independence and sovereignty of Cuba, and without any interference in our internal affairs."

Kerry announced U.S.-Cuba talks will begin in mid-September to discuss "full normalization" of ties, AP reports . Three areas of focus for these negotiations will be

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1) naval cooperation, climate change, and environment, 2) direct airline flights and U.S. telecommunications, 3) embargo, human rights, and political fugitives. Kerry also reiterated that the U.S. does not currently have plans to change U.S. immigration rules, namely the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966, which forms the basis of the "wet-foot, dry-foot policy," as we have reported .

In response to Secretary Kerry's comments earlier in the day, "We remain convinced the people of Cuba would be best served by a genuine democracy," Mr. Rodriguez told reporters that Cuba has "gender and racial equality, free education and healthcare, and [doesn't] suffer from the flaws of America's cash-fueled electoral system," the Los Angeles Times reported.

He went on to say, "Cuba is not a place where you can see police brutality ... We do not practice torture," a presumed reference to the U.S. military base at Guantanamo, and that "Cuba is proud of its performance on human rights."

After concluding his appearance with Minister Rodriguez, and taking a walk around Old Havana's historic Plaza de San Francisco with City Historian Eusebio Leal , Secretary Kerry drove to the residence of U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis. There, he gave remarks to an audience that included Cuban-Americans, U.S. and foreign diplomats.

The reception at the Ambassador's residence was attended by several prominent Cuban dissidents including Jose Daniel Ferrer, Miriam Leiva, and Yoani Sanchez, according to AP. But, several others turned down their invitations to the private reception where they could have spoken to the Secretary of State, Fox News Latino reports . In an interview with TV Martí , Berta Soler, leaders of Damas de Blanco (Ladies in White), said "We're working hard, fighting 17 Sundays of repression and resistance; we don't have time for ceremonies."

According to numerous sources, the embassy ceremony had a big impact in Cuba and elsewhere. Reuters reported that some Cubans could scarcely believe that Kerry's speech with its criticism of Cuba's government had been carried on state television.

Retired Cuban diplomat Carlos Alzugaray told the Associated Press said Friday's events "had a great impact on people, who became enthused and started talking much more easily about those themes" of democracy and liberty. The Guardian also reported that "Cubans said they welcomed Kerry's call, openly discussing their desire for more democracy without the requests for anonymity or slow measuring of words that once were nearly universal."

After returning to Vermont having witnessed the flag-raising in Havana, Senator Patrick Leahy (VT) told home state reporters , "I'll admit that I had a couple of tears flowing, after all these years to see this."

The editorial board of the Wall Street Journal shed no tears, but complained that political control over Cuba by its revolution government hadn't "changed a whit since President Obama decided to recognize the Cuban regime in December." This was too much for Daniel Larison who, writing for The American Conservative , said "There are many bad and weak objections to restoring diplomatic relations with Cuba, but this is one of the silliest."

Additional medical supplies will soon head to Cuba

Heart to Heart International , a Kansas-based nonprofit group that supplies medical equipment in times of disaster, plans to travel to Cuba soon with a 40-foot-long container full of medical supplies, according to the Kansas City Star . Pending approval from Cuban authorities, the organization plans to board a ship to Cuba and personally deliver essential medical supplies such as catheters, syringes, rubber gloves, diapers, thermometers, and antibiotics to a pediatric hospital, Hospital Pediátrico William Soler, in Havana.

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Heart to Heart's relationship with Cuba began in 2013 when founder Gary Morsch visited Cuba with the Nazarene Church. Cuba has approximately 69,000 doctors, or 6.7 physicians for every 1,000 citizens according to the World Bank ; however, medical supplies are hard to come by, due largely to U.S. laws which sharply restrict the licensing needed for U.S. firms to sell medicines and medical equipment in Cuba.

Robert Prescott, a coordinator for the Nazarene Church, explains that "Cuba has a great shortage of medicine...Even people traveling to Cuba [are] encourage[d] to bring medicines...because they have such a shortage." Heart to Heart CEO Jim Mitchum notes, "It is an interesting contrast...Cuba is a major medical educator for the entire South American and Central American set of countries. Their medical education is perceived in Latin America as the best."

Journeys like this have been taking place for nearly twenty-five years; Pastors for Peace, for example, organized its trademarked Cuba Friendship Caravans in 1992, which provided 15 tons of humanitarian aid. Catholic Relief Services with Caritas Cubana started its relationship with Cuba the following year.

Importantly, this is not a one-way street. As many physicians in the U.S. have argued , increasing medical cooperation would benefit both Cuba and the U.S. U.S. researchers are interested in Cuban medicines like CimaVax, a vaccine which targets a protein that cancer cells attract and use to multiply. The vaccine has been available in Cuba since 2011. As we previously reported , Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo signed an agreement with the Center for Molecular Immunology in Havana that will enable clinical trials for Cimavax, a therapy to stop the growth of cancerous tumors, to start in the U.S.

U.S. and Cuban chemists look forward to increased collaboration

This past week, Cuban and American chemists met at the American Chemical Society's (ACS) 250th conference in Boston. Both Cuban and American chemists are eager for increased scientific collaboration and hope that opportunities to work together will grow as relations between the two countries continue to normalize.

ACS has six members in Cuba, but, as recently as March, its Cuban membership often had trouble getting to international chemistry conferences due to visa issues. Travel restrictions and the U.S. embargo have posed big hurdles for collaboration, according to Brad Miller, ACS's chief international officer. Miller explains that there are more than 230 research centers in Cuba, and in the past 30 years more than 160,000 Cubans have received Chemistry degrees.

Daniel García Rivera, a chemistry professor at the University of Havana, Cuba's only university with a doctoral program in Chemistry, suggested that U.S. and Cuban scientists could benefit from collaboration in areas like chemical ecology, catalysis and chemical education. Cuban and U.S. researchers in fields as diverse as medicine and botany are already successfully pursuing closer collaborations, as we previously reported .

International cooperation was responsible for 75 percent of chemistry publications emerging from the University of Havana this past year, leading Rivera and his American colleagues to confirm that international exchanges could be beneficial for both communities.

In Cuba

Number of Cubans traveling abroad rises

Cubans' trips abroad rose 23.7% over the previous year, reported Cuba's state media and Fox News Latino . Cubans made over 355,000 trips in 2014; a year after President Raúl Castro made migration reforms that eliminated the need for exit permits and "letter[s] of invitation" in an effort to "modernize" the island's policies. While Cuba's government

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also increased the length of time Cubans can spend abroad from 11 months to 24 months, travel is still limited for certain groups of professionals and athletes considered 'vital' to the country's interests.

Tagged Mako Shark Connects to Cuban and U.S. Scientists by Satellite

Forty years after Jaws, when a man-eating mechanical shark made millions of moviegoers think twice about getting back into the water, at least one Mako shark is using satellite technology to ping Cuban and U.S. researchers who are tracking its movements for science.

"The shark was tagged on February 14 offshore of Cojimar in northern Cuba," Science Daily reported and, in just five months swam nearly 5,500 miles, on a journey that passed by Florida and the Bahamas, Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and the coasts of New Jersey and Virginia near Washington, D.C.

Understanding the "maximum likelihood track" of sharks is interesting to marine researchers who work on shark conservation. According to Dr. Robert Hueter, Director of the Center for Shark Research at Mote, "There is a ton known about shortfin makos and almost nothing known about the longfin, which wasn't described until 1966 by the Cuban ichthyologist Dr. Dario Guitart Manday."

The experiment worked according to plan; in July, Science Daily said, "the long-fin mako's tag separated from its tether to the shark, as it was programmed to do, floated to the surface and began sending its archived data to Mote scientists via satellite."

The project brought together marine research experts from Cuba and the U.S. including the Center for Shark Research at Mote Marine Laboratory (located in Sarasota, Florida), Cuba's Center for Coastal Ecosystems Research, the University of Havana, and other Cuban institutions. The Environmental Defense Fund , which has worked with Cuban counterparts, on shark conservation since 2010.

The satellite tagging project was the subject of an hour-long documentary presented by the Discovery Channel, the Japan Times reported.

Scientists are debating whether the locations, the length and depth of the shark's swim, were indicative of feeding, mating, or "just passing through."

But, as one researcher said somewhat ominously, "Clearly there's something in that location [referring to the Chesapeake Bay area near Washington, D.C.] that's attracting mature males in the summer."

How will tourism impact Cuba's environment?

Cuba's marine environment is renowned for its pristine beds of sea grass, mangrove forests, and coral reef with precious Elkhorn coral. While reestablished U.S.-Cuba relations is allowing critical coral reef restoration partnerships and new research collaboration as we've previously reported , some observers worry about the effect of increased tourism on the environment, the Orlando Sentinel reports .

"Most Cubans I know want to be more like a Costa Rica than a Cancun," explains Dan Whittle, Environmental Defense Fund's director of marine and coastal conservation. While Cuba already has environmental protection laws and preservation areas, extensive testing and funding are concerns moving forward. The question of how fully the country will pursue development will likely be a topic at the seventh Congress of the Cuban Communist Party in 2016, Dan Whittle told the NYT .

Update: Drought conditions in Cuba

As we reported last week , Cuba is currently experiencing a year-long drought. Paired

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with record heat and water leakages, the drought is having a significant impact on Cubans and the island's economy.

Reuters reports that the drought is damaging crops - "From Cuba's famous cigars to sugar, vegetables, rice, coffee and beans" - which poses risks to Cubans' food security, setbacks for its ability to earn foreign exchange through exports, and its plan for reducing the costs of importing food to feed the country, a fundamental problem for the national economy.

As the BBC reported , "The drought started two years ago, and reservoirs are now down to a fifth of their normal levels." One in ten residents is currently relying on government tank trucks for water, Reuters said .

On Tuesday, the Cuban News Agency said 242 dams operated by Cuba's National Water Institute were at 35% of their total capacity, rainfall for July was down by one-third, and Cuban provinces from Granma and Santiago de Cuba to the East to Pinar Del Rio in the West were acutely feeling the effects of the drought.

On Monday, Cuba put its civil defense system on alert, according to Reuters .

Cuba's Foreign Relations

Presidents of Cuba and Venezuela meet on the day Secretary Kerry visits Cuba

Secretary Kerry's visit to Cuba coincided with a meeting between Cuba's President Raúl Castro and the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro,Granma, the state newspaper, reports . Venezuela's First Lady, Cilia Flores, referred to "by the more ideologically resonant title 'first combatant,'" and Cuba's Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez also attended the meeting.

Two days earlier, Secretary Kerry told Andres Oppenheimer, a columnist for the Miami Herald, that the United States and Cuba have discussed Venezuela's political and economic crisis during U.S.-Cuba talks to normalize ties. "We talked very specifically about America's desire to have a relationship with the Venezuelan people that raises the ability of the people of Venezuela to be able to be protected, respected, represented and actually see their lives improve," he said, clarifying that "they (the Cubans) did not make any promises. But, hopefully, they will represent (to Venezuela) that what we are doing with them now is beneficial, so why shouldn't Venezuela also go the same road?"

Recommended Reading

The Meaning of a U.S. Embassy in Havana , Yoani Sanchez, The Atlantic
Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez writes about a conflict of eras unfolding in Cuba, where the U.S. is no longer "enemy," and "the beginning of the stage of absorbing who we are, and recognizing why we have only made it this far."

What they're saying about the U.S. Embassy in Havana , David Gomez, #CubaNow
#CubaNow compiled the most comprehensive summary of reactions of Cubans and Cuban-Americans to newspaper editorials to Members of Congress.

What you might not know about the Cuban economy , Jorge Dominguez, Harvard Business Review
Harvard University's Professor Dominguez writes, "Cuba has a really, really well-educated and cheap workforce, as well as substantial evidence of entrepreneurial potential. If its political leaders can manage to lift constraints on investment, create the right incentives, and reform its tax code, the country could really boom. But that's a lot of change to expect for the insular government of an island nation that's otherwise stuck in time."

Stop punishing Cuba's people , William LeoGrande, Newsday

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William LeoGrande makes the case for ending the U.S. embargo on Cuba, citing the practical and moral dimensions of its punitive consequences for the Cuban people.

Even After the Cuba Deal, Latin America Is Still Leery of Obama , Rohan Chatterjee, Upside Down World

Castro, Cuba and Catholicism: A tangled trinity , Michelle Gonzalez, Al Jazeera
As the papal visit in September 2015 approaches, this article outlines the history of Cuba's relationship with the Catholic Church.

Afro-Cuban Twin Sisters Talk About Race Through A New Cigar Line , Carmen Sesin, NBC News
Two Afro-Cuban sisters who grew up in Miami are Cigar entrepreneurs. They discuss race and identity.

Cuba: We Never Left , Esther Allen, NYRDaily
Esther Allen confronts the two versions of our simplified understanding of the Republic of Cuba.

Relevant reads: Three novels about Cuba , Kerri Miller, MPR News

To cap off your summer reading, we recommend:
Everyone Leaves, Wendy Guerra
Havana Nocturne, T.J. English
Days of Awe, Achy Obejas
Waiting for Snow in Havana, Carlos Eire

Recommended Viewing

Secy. Gutierrez: Cuba is changing , Andrea Mitchell, MSNBC
Former Commerce Secretary under George W. Bush, Carlos Gutierrez, returns to Cuba after fleeing with family in 1960 and describes his emotional homecoming.

U.S. Raises Flag in Cuba After 54 Years, Prisoner Exchanges and "Stork Diplomacy"; Embargo Remains, Juan González, Democracy Now!
Former Cuban diplomat Carlos Alzugaray and U.S. Cuba expert Peter Kornbluh discuss the developments that led up to the diplomatic breakthrough between the U.S. and Cuba on the day the flag was raised at the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

Travel to Cuba Takes Flight: The Top Reasons to Visit , Scarlet Fu and Betty Liu, Bloomberg Business
Cheapair.com CEO Jeff Klee discusses his predictions for Cuban air travel and tourism

Photographer Roberto Salas Had 'Privileged' Access to Fidel Castro , Lester Holt, NBC News
Photographer Roberto Salas chronicled the life of Fidel Castro in pictures, beginning in 1955.

Looking Into the Eyes of Cuba's Elderly, on the Verge of Change , Alexa Keefe, National Geographic
Israeli photographer Oded Wagenstein documents his experiences with Cuba's elderly over the course of several visits to the island.

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Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: "Jeff Harris" <jeff@progressiveaccountability.org>
Date: 10/30/2008 12:42:13 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 10/30

08 Election Daily News Clips
October 30th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

7:00am Palin: interview airs on ABC's "Good Morning America"

10:00am McCain: holds a "Road to Victory" rally at a junior high school in Defiance, Ohio

10:00am BUSH: makes remarks at a graduation ceremony for the Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents at the academy in Quantico, Virginia

10:30am Palin: holds a "Road to Victory" rally in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

11:40 BUSH: visits a Marine Helicopter Squadron One Hangarin Quantico, Virginia

1:45pm McCain: makes a "Town Square Stop" at Washington Park in Sandusky, Ohio

2:30pm Palin: holds a national security roundtable in Erie, Pennsylvania

3:10pm McCain: makes a "Town Square Stop" at the campus of Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Ohio

4:15pm Palin: holds a "Road to Victory" rally at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, Pennsylvania

6:00pm McCain: holds a "Road to Victory" rally in Mentor, Ohio

7:30pm Palin: holds a "Road to Victory" rally at Bowman Field in Williamsport, Pennsylvania

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

McCain, GOP gain ground on Obama ads in key states (AP 10/30/08)
By JIM KUHNHENN
WASHINGTON -- After weeks of being out-advertised by Barack Obama, Republican presidential candidate John McCain and the Republican Party are nearly matching the Democratic nominee ad for ad in key battleground markets.
Ad spending and ad placement data obtained from Democratic and Republican operatives show that in the closing days of the campaign the Republican voice has grown louder in states such as Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania.
http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics/AP/story/747828.html

McCain Warns Of Iran Nukes During Tampa Visit (Tampa Tribune 10/30/08)
By WILLIAM MARCH
TAMPA - Sen. John McCain said Wednesday that if Sen. Barack Obama is elected president, Iran may succeed in acquiring nuclear weapons.

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"Because he is untested, Barack Obama would only invite an international crisis," he said. "And we know well what one of those crises could be: the success of the Iranian regime in its program of acquiring nuclear weapons."
McCain held a round table on national security issues at the University of Tampa, followed by a short speech delivered to a crowd of invited supporters and local Republican notables. The event was closed to the public and most of the press, and McCain didn't take any questions.
http://www2.tbo.com/content/2008/oct/30/na-mccain-visits-tampa-for-closed-event/

In Tampa, McCain focuses on security (Orlando Sentinel 10/30/08)
TAMPA - With his campaign days numbered, Republican presidential nominee John McCain on Wednesday sought to shift attention from the economy back to what many view as the most powerful argument for his candidacy: national security…McCain spent Wednesday campaigning for Florida's 27 electoral votes, a key to his ability to muster the 270 needed to win. But some faculty members and students at the University of Tampa, where the Arizona senator met behind closed doors with former military officers and national-security advisers to discuss national security, said the weakening economy and education are bigger priorities.
http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/state/orl-mccain3008oct30,0,7144721.story

McCain Tries to Shift Focus to Security (WSJ 10/30/08)
By LAURA MECKLER and CHRISTOPHER COOPER
TAMPA, Fla. -- Sen. John McCain on Wednesday sought to steer the presidential-campaign conversation to national security, saying rival Sen. Barack Obama had given voters "no reason" to believe he could protect the nation from grave threats.
Sen. McCain's brief national-security speech was a departure in an election season dominated by the economy. The Republican presidential nominee reminded his audience that world threats will be present after the current financial crisis is resolved.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122532308235682149.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

McCain Embraces a G.O.P. Theme: No More Taxes (NYT 10/30/08)
By ELISABETH BUMILLER
MIAMI — In these waning days of Senator John McCain's quest for the White House, he has returned in his speeches to a time-honored Republican attack line against Democrats: the evils of taxes. Or, as he summed it up while pummeling Senator Barack Obama in a lumberyard here on Wednesday, "This is the fundamental difference between Senator Obama and me: He thinks taxes are too low, and I think that spending is too high."
The line was the central theme of the final version of Mr. McCain's evolving stump speech and reflected what his advisers calculate is his last, best argument against Mr. Obama. Higher taxes, they say, strike fear in voters already threatened by the precarious economy, as do Mr. McCain's charges that Mr. Obama would effectively be a socialist.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/30/us/politics/30mccain.html?pagewanted=print

McCain hits Obama on experience and economy (Reuters 10/29/08)
By Jeff Mason
MIAMI (Reuters) - Republican John McCain questioned Democratic rival Barack Obama's readiness for the White House and Obama planned a prime-time television appeal on Wednesday as a bruising presidential battle hit the final stretch.
McCain kicked off a tour of the must-win state of Florida with a warning that Democratic control of the White House and Congress would be bad news for small businesses and American workers. "The answer to a slowing economy is not higher taxes, but that is exactly what is going to happen when the Democrats have total control of Washington. We can't let that happen," McCain told supporters at a rally in Miami, Florida, six days before Tuesday's vote.
http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE4998X420081029?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews

McCain Attacks Los Angeles Times Over Its Refusal to Release '03 Obama Video (NYT 10/30/08)
By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA
Alleging media bias in favor of Democrats, Senator John McCain and Gov. Sarah Palin seized Wednesday on The Los Angeles Times's refusal to release a five-year-old videotape of Barack Obama at a dinner honoring a Palestinian rights advocate.
The video shows a gathering in Chicago for Rashid Khalidi, a teacher, writer and Obama friend who is critical of

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Israel. Mr. Obama spoke at the dinner, where other speakers likened Israel and Israelis to terrorists. The McCain campaign said the tape could show how Mr. Obama reacted to anti-Israel remarks.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/30/us/politics/30campaign.html?pagewanted=print

McCain Again Points to Obama's Associates (WaPo 10/30/08)
By Michael D. Shear
MIAMI, Oct. 29 -- Sen. John McCain compared the director of Columbia University's Middle East Institute to a "neo-Nazi" and called on the Los Angeles Times to release a video of a 2003 banquet at which Sen. Barack Obama talked about the professor, Rashid Khalidi, a leading Palestinian American scholar and friend of Obama's from Chicago…McCain also alleged that Vietnam War-era radical William Ayers had been at the banquet -- something that has not been reported by the Times -- adding to a growing flap over the release of the videotape, which the Times said had been provided by a source on the condition that the paper not air it.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/29/AR2008102904037.html

McCain faults paper for not releasing Khalidi tape (AP 10/29/08)
By BETH FOUHY
BOWLING GREEN, Ohio (AP) -- Republicans John McCain and Sarah Palin accused the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday of protecting Barack Obama by withholding a videotape of the Democrat attending a 2003 party for a Palestinian-American professor and critic of Israel. The paper said it had written about the event in April and would not release the tape because of a promise to the source who provided it…McCain also has ties to Khalidi through a group Khalidi helped found 15 years ago. The Center for Palestine Research and Studies received at least $448,000 from an organization McCain chairs.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/MCCAIN_PALIN_KHALIDI?SITE=MAFAL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

McCain Chief Loyalist Has New Role (WaPo 10/30/08)
By Michael Leahy
Mark Salter -- who has served Sen. John McCain for 19 years in roles including speechwriter and biographer, chief of staff and gatekeeper -- is commonly referred to as the boss's "alter ego." This means chief loyalist. It means someone so close to McCain that the candidate has said he regards him as a brother of sorts. But these days the 53-year-old Salter is an angry man, even angrier than he was that day last spring in his office, when McCain had already captured the Republican presidential nomination and Barack Obama was still fighting his way through the Democratic primaries.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/29/AR2008102904035.html

McCain denies racism will determine election's outcome (CNN blog 10/29/08)
(CNN) — Presidential candidate John McCain denied Wednesday that race will determine the outcome of next week's election pitting him against Barack Obama, who hopes to become the country's first black president.
"Look, there's racism in America — we all know that," the Republican hopeful told CNN's "Larry King Live" in a taped interview set to air Wednesday evening.
"But I am totally convinced that 99 and forty-four-one-hundredths percent of Americans are going to make the decision based on who is best to lead this country," he continued.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/29/mccain-denies-racism-will-determine-elections-outcome/

Out of bounds! McCain's wrong on World Series delay (McClatchy 10/29/08)
By David Lightman
Throw the flag against: John McCain. Call: Unsportsmanlike conduct.
What happened: "No one will delay the World Series game with an infomercial when I'm president," the Republican presidential nominee told a crowd Tuesday in Hershey, Pa…Why that's wrong: It's not unusual for World Series games to start after 8:30 p.m., and according to the Web site Politico, the Fox executive who's responsible for the Obama ad purchase said the infomercial was replacing only the pre-game show… McCain himself was responsible for shifting the time of the National Football League's 2008 opening game. NBC moved the Washington Redskins-New York Giants game up at least an hour, to 7 p.m. EDT, so that McCain's Republican convention speech could be broadcast around 10 p.m. on Sept. 4.
Penalty: 15 yards for misleading the public about Obama and the World Series.

John McCain could still win — if everything broke his way (McClatchy 10/29/08)

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By Steven Thomma
WASHINGTON — John McCain still could win.
It would take what one analyst calls a "perfect storm" of events breaking his way in the campaign's final days, but he could come from behind, overtake Barack Obama and pull off the greatest upset in 60 years.
He'd have to squeeze out more support from independents, score higher with his "Joe the Plumber" warning about Obama's tax and economic polices, and hope that enough undecided voters swing his way to help him sweep almost all the states that now are considered tossups.
Difficult? Yes. Impossible? No.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/election2008/story/54972.html

PALIN NEWS

Palin revs up Chillicothe (Columbus Dispatch 10/30/08)
By Jonathan Riskind
CHILLICOTHE, Ohio -- Republican Sarah Palin roused a crowd yesterday in this key swing city by attacking Democrat Barack Obama's current economic plans and past associations, including with a critic of Israel.
During a 30-minute speech in front of the Ross County Courthouse, the GOP vice presidential nominee concluded a three-city swing through Ohio with the charge that "Sen. Obama has an ideological commitment to higher taxes. Barack Obama is for bigger government and higher taxes."
http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2008/10/30/PALIN30_story.ART_ART_10-30-08_A3_6OBOAM0.html?sid=101

Palin blasts Obama for ties to Palestinian professor (CNN blog 10/29/08)
By Peter Hamby
BOWLING GREEN, Ohio (CNN) – Sarah Palin thrust Barack Obama's relationship with a Palestinian academic into the national spotlight on Wednesday at a rally in Ohio — a tactic reminiscent of her repeated attempts to tie Obama to former radical William Ayers.
Palin kicked off her rally in Bowling Green by stressing, as she always does, that "it is not negative campaigning to call someone out on their record." In recent weeks Palin has used that line to open up an attack on Obama's tax plans. On Wednesday, she tried something different.
"It seems that there is yet another radical professor from the neighborhood who spent a lot of time with Barack Obama going back several years," Palin said. "This is important because his associate, Rashid Khalidi, he, in addition to being a political ally of Barack Obama, he's a former spokesperson for the Paliestinian Liberation Organization."
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/29/palin-blasts-obama-for-ties-to-palestinian-professor/

Palin faces new ethics complaint over kids' travel (AP 10/29/08)
By RACHEL D'ORO
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) -- A new ethics complaint has been filed against Sarah Palin, accusing the Alaska governor of abusing her power by charging the state when her children traveled with her.
The complaint alleges that the Republican vice presidential nominee used her official position as governor for personal gain, violating a statute of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act. It follows a report by The Associated Press last week that Palin charged the state more than $21,000 for her three daughters' commercial flights, including events where they weren't invited, and later ordered their expense forms amended to specify official state business.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PALIN_ETHICS_COMPLAINT?SITE=RIPAW&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

No Dissension in the McCain Campaign Ranks, Palin Says (WSJ 10/30/08)
By ELIZABETH HOLMES
TOLEDO, Ohio -- Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin tried to tamp down reports about internal dissent in the McCain campaign, telling the Wall Street Journal Tuesday: "I laugh at 'em." "I have nothing but praise for those involved in this campaign," she said in the brief interview aboard her plane.
With just six days left until the general election, the onetime popular pick has, after a series of blunders, increasingly been accused of being a drag on presidential candidate Sen. John McCain. Gov. Palin has also been the subject of criticism, via the media, from Republicans and unnamed campaign staffers, that she has gone "rogue" and refused orders from her handlers in an attempt to salvage her own political future should the ticket lose the election.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122530113083680845.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Republican VP nominee Palin eyeing 2012: report (AP 10/29/08)

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By Joanne Allen
WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Whether or not Republican presidential candidate John McCain is elected next week, his running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, plans to remain on the U.S. national political scene, ABC News reported on Wednesday.
Asked about 2012, whether she was discouraged by daily attacks on the campaign trail and whether she would return home to Alaska, the Republican vice presidential nominee signaled that she expects to be a player in the next presidential election cycle.
http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE49S99J20081029?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews

Palin suggests she's now GOP political fixture (AP 10/29/08)
By BETH FOUHY
TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) -- Facing the unhappy prospect of defeat, Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin indicated Wednesday that she will not disappear from the national political scene if the GOP ticket loses on Tuesday.
"Absolutely not. I think that, if I were to give up and wave a white flag of surrender against some of the political shots that we've taken, that ... that would ... bring this whole ... I'm not doing this for naught," Palin said in an interview with ABC News, according to excerpts of a transcript released by the television network.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/P/PALIN?SITE=MAFAL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Sarah Palin: 'Not Doing This For Naught' (ABC News 10/29/08)
By RUSSELL GOLDMAN
Down in the polls but certainly not out, Gov. Sarah Palin remains in the fight as the campaign enters its final week.
In an interview with ABC News' Elizabeth Vargas, the Republican vice-presidential nominee was asked about 2012, whether she was discouraged by the daily attacks on the campaign trail, and would instead pack it in and return to her home state of Alaska.
"I think that, if I were to give up and wave a white flag of surrender against some of the political shots that we've taken, that would bring this whole & I'm not doing this for naught," Palin said.
http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=6141033

With Palin Away, Lt. Gov. Parnell Takes On Expanded Role in Alaska (WSJ 10/30/08)
By JIM CARLTON
Gov. Palin handles some state business from the campaign trail, such as making appointments and ordering flags lowered at half staff. But Lt. Gov. Parnell has served as the face of state government, filling in for the governor at events such as an Oct. 8 reception he co-hosted in Anchorage for foreign defense attachés representing 32 countries. And as the partisan fights marking the presidential race nationally have seeped into Alaska, the mild-mannered lieutenant governor -- once known for helping cut deals across party lines -- has taken on a new role: hard-edged political fighter.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122528843986080115.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Sarah Palin: 2009 Calendar Girl (WSJ blog 10/29/08)
By Susan Davis
Win or lose next Tuesday, admirers of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin can gaze at her all year round with the release of the 2009 Sarah Palin calendar, filled with original photos from Anchorage-based photographer and friend-of-Palin Judy Patrick.
The 13-month calendar–the first of its kind–includes dozens of original portraits and candid shots of the Alaska governor on the job and with her family. July's pictorial, for instance, features Palin wrapped in the American flag, with a sidebar of pictures of her and her children.
"This flag photo was taken just days after the terrorist attacks on 9/11 in 2001. Sarah, like the rest of the nation, was trying to cope with the attacks on American soil and demonstrating her patriotism," the caption reads.
Patrick said her inspiration for the calendar was a simple one–she needs money. She and her husband are in the process of selling their Wasilla home to purchase a $250,000 condo in Anchorage that is somewhat out of their price range. They are looking to close on their new home Dec. 1.
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/10/29/sarah-palin-2009-calendar-girl/

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Bush's booby traps for Obama (LA Times 10/30/08)
By Rosa Brooks
Ever since Joe Biden suggested that the world would "test" Barack Obama if he becomes president, the McCain campaign has been hoping to make political hay out of the remark. "We don't want a president who invites testing from the world," John McCain warned voters.
But every new president is "tested" by national security crises, some predictable, some not. And I'm a lot less worried about the tests "the world" may offer Obama than about the national security booby traps the Bush administration is leaving behind for him…Some booby traps left by

departing administrations are harmless. Clinton pranksters allegedly removed all the "W" keys from White House computer keyboards in January 2001, and outbound Bush 41 staffers reportedly left drawers full of pencils cut down to inch-long stubs. But no one got hurt.
If we can someday say the same about the booby traps this Bush administration is leaving behind, we'll be very lucky.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-brooks30-2008oct30,0,1403867.column

An Acorn Whistleblower Testifies in Court: The group's ties to Obama are extensive. (WSJ 10/30/08)
By JOHN FUND
The Obama campaign denies it "has any ties" to Acorn, but Mr. Obama's ties are extensive. In 1992 he headed a registration effort for Project Vote, an Acorn partner at the time. He did so well that he was made a top trainer for Acorn's Chicago conferences. In 1995, he represented Acorn in a key case upholding the constitutionality of the new Motor Voter Act -- the first law passed by the Clinton administration -- which created the mandated, nationwide postcard voter registration system that Acorn workers are using to flood election offices with bogus registrations.
Ms. MonCrief testified that in November 2007 Project Vote development director Karyn Gillette told her she had direct contact with the Obama campaign and had obtained their donor lists. Ms. MonCrief also testified she was given a spreadsheet to use in cultivating Obama donors who had maxed out on donations to the candidate, but who could contribute to voter registration efforts. Project Vote calls the allegation "absolutely false."
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122533169940482893.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

Taxing the Dolphins:Another NFL team faces Obama's tax rush. (WSJ 10/30/08)
Don't think tax rates matter to business decisions? Ask H. Wayne Huizenga, the owner of the Miami Dolphins, who declared earlier this week that he intends to sell up to half his ownership in the NFL franchise before next year. Why? Because as he told a Florida newspaper, Barack Obama "wants to double the capital gains tax, or almost double it. I'd rather give it to charity than to him."
Mr. Obama is in fact proposing to raise the capital gains tax to 20% from 15% -- which would be an increase of 33%, but Mr. Huizenga is close enough for IRS work. His office confirmed to us that he stands by that statement, though he prefers not to elaborate on it. Mr. Huizenga also has NFL company. In July, we wrote about the Rooney family's musings about selling part of the Pittsburgh Steelers to avoid the 45% death tax rate.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122533091992582863.html?mod=rss_opinion_main

What We've Learned About McCain (WaPo 10/30/08)
By David S. Broder
From beginning to end, the campaign that followed has been plagued by internal feuds and McCain's inability to resolve them.
The shortcoming was intellectual as well as bureaucratic. Like Jimmy Carter, the only Naval Academy graduate to reach the Oval Office, McCain had an engineer's approach to policymaking. He had no large principles that he could apply to specific problems; each fresh question set off a search for a "practical" solution. He instinctively looked back to Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive era, with its high-mindedness and disdain for the politics of doling out favors to interest groups. But those instincts coexisted uneasily with his adherence to traditional, Reagan-era conservatism -- a muscular foreign policy, a penchant for tax-cutting and a fondness for business.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/29/AR2008102903201.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns

Call Him John the Careless (WaPo 10/30/08)
By George F. Will
From the invasion of Iraq to the selection of Sarah Palin, carelessness has characterized recent episodes of faux conservatism. Tuesday's probable repudiation of the Republican Party will punish characteristics displayed in the campaign's closing days.
Some polls show that Palin has become an even heavier weight in John McCain's saddle than his association with George W. Bush. Did McCain, who seems to think that Palin's never having attended a "Georgetown cocktail party" is sufficient qualification for the vice presidency, lift an eyebrow when she said that vice presidents "are in charge of the United States Senate"?
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/29/AR2008102903199.html?nav=rss_opinion/columns

What? Me Biased? (NYT 10/30/08)
By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
For the last year and a half, a team of psychology professors has been conducting remarkable experiments on how Americans view Barack Obama through the prism of race…They found that research subjects — particularly when primed to think of Mr. Obama as a black candidate — subconsciously considered him less American than either Hillary Clinton or John McCain.
Indeed, the study found that the research subjects — Californian college students, many of them Democrats supportive of Mr. Obama — unconsciously perceived him as less American even than the former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.
It's not that any of them actually believed Mr. Obama to be foreign. But the implicit association test measured the way the unconscious mind works, and in following instructions to sort images rapidly, the mind balked at accepting a black candidate as fully American. This result mattered: The more difficulty a person had in classifying Mr. Obama as American, the less likely that person was to support Mr. Obama.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/30/opinion/30kristof.html?pagewanted=print

American Stories (NYT 10/30/08)
By ROGER COHEN
Of the countless words Barack Obama has uttered since he opened his campaign for president on an icy Illinois morning in February 2007, a handful have kept reverberating in my mind: "For as long as I live, I will never forget that in no other country on earth is my story even possible."…
Nowhere else could a 47-year-old man, born, as he has written, of a father "black as pitch" and a mother "white as milk," a generation distant from the mud shacks of western Kenya, raised for a time as Barry Soetoro (his stepfather's family name) in Muslim Indonesia, then entrusted to his grandparents in Hawaii — nowhere else could this Barack Hussein Obama rise so far and so fast.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/30/opinion/30Cohen.html?pagewanted=print

'Blah, blah, blah': McCain's remarks on nuclear waste storage show his contempt for Nevada (Las Vegas Sun 10/30/08)
Editorial
Republican presidential candidate John McCain has said he would support the use of Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, as the dump site for the nation's high-level nuclear waste. That is one of many reasons why Nevadans should vote for Democratic opponent Barack Obama, who has said he would kill the repository plan.
At a campaign stop Sunday in Cedar Falls, Iowa, 1,300 miles away from Southern Nevada, McCain continued to show that he doesn't care about Nevada. He did so by mocking Obama's concerns about how to safely store spent nuclear fuel, something McCain brought up during their last debate.
"We talked about nuclear power," McCain said. "Well, it has to be safe environment(ally), blah, blah, blah." That dismissive response, which drew cheers and applause from Iowans at this McCain rally, showed just how out of touch McCain is with the majority of Nevadans, who steadfastly

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oppose the dump. If the federal government had instead planned for the dump to be in Arizona, McCain's home state, do you think he would have taken Obama's remarks so lightly?
http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/oct/30/blah-blah-blah/

The Success of Early Voting (NYT 10/30/08)
Editorial
A lot is going wrong in this election, from malfunctioning electronic voting machines to voters being purged mistakenly from the rolls. But one thing is going very right: early voting. In the more than 30 states that allow early or no-excuse absentee voting, voters have been casting ballots in record numbers. Early voting has many advantages. The main one is that it makes it likely that more eligible voters will participate in democracy. Election Day has traditionally been held on a single day — a Tuesday. Congress scheduled federal elections on Tuesdays because they worked well for farmers and Sabbath observers. But in the 21st century, having one day to vote is an antiquated relic. Voters have to fit in a visit to the polls with their work, family and other responsibilities. Many cannot find the time, particularly when lines are as long as they have been in recent times.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/30/opinion/30thu1.html?pagewanted=print

BUSH NEWS

Bush to Highlight Success in War Against Terrorism (WSJ blog 10/29/08)

By John D. McKinnon
President George W. Bush, riding low in the polls, isn't doing any out-and-out campaigning for Republicans this week. But he's still hoping to score a few points with voters on the national-security front.
In a speech scheduled for Thursday, Bush plans to highlight his administration's success in preventing another terrorist attack in the U.S., making perhaps his strongest claim for credit yet.
"More than seven years have passed without another attack on our soil. This is not an accident," Bush plans to say, according to an advance text of the speech released by the White House. "Since 9/11, we have gone on the offense against the terrorists abroad – so we do not have to face them here at home. And we are standing with young democracies in Afghanistan, Iraq, and beyond as they seek to replace the hateful ideology of the extremists with an alternative vision of liberty and hope."
http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/10/29/bush-to-highlight-success-in-war-against-terrorism/

Bush Administration to Talk With Taliban? (ABC News 10/29/08)

By JONATHAN KARL and LUIS MARTINEZ
As the Bush administration reviews its strategy in Afghanistan, there is an emerging consensus that the way forward should include reaching out to supporters of the Taliban, and possibly even elements of the Taliban itself.
Several U.S. officials confirmed a report today in the Wall Street Journal that the White House is actively considering taking part in talks with tribal leaders in Afghanistan and Pakistan who are associated with the Taliban.
Officials said, however, that these talks would be led by either Afghanistan or Pakistan, or both. The United States would play a secondary, supportive role, the officials said.
http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=6132704

White House Orders Banks to Resume Lending Now (AP 10/29/08)

WASHINGTON — An impatient White House prodded banks and other financial companies Tuesday to quit hoarding billions of dollars flowing into their vaults from Washington and start making more loans. Wall Street soared nearly 900 points on bargain-hunting and hopes of a hefty interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve.
The stock market's amazing climb, with its second-largest point gain ever, was a welcome burst of good news for a nation suffering big job losses and seemingly tumbling into a painful recession.
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,444509,00.html

OTHER NEWS

Dow and S&P 500 fall on profit worry, GE outlook report (Reuters 10/29/08)

By Kristina Cooke
NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. stocks fell on Wednesday as a big rally faltered in the last minutes of trading on worry about the weakening corporate profit picture after a news report raised questions about General Electric's earnings outlook.
In a move that has been the trademark of the market's volatility ever since Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy filing in mid-September, the Dow plunged more than 300 points in the last 12 minutes, dashing prospects for the first back-to-back gains in a month.
http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE49B3PW20081030?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews

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Global stocks, euro rally on emerging market gains (Reuters 10/30/08)
By Carolyn Cohn
LONDON (Reuters) - World stocks and the euro rallied on Thursday, driven by bargain-hunting and sweeping gains in emerging markets after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates and opened swap lines to four developing economies.
Investors saw a return to risk appetite and the carry trade and renewed weakness in the dollar after the Fed chopped half a point off the fed funds rate to 1.0 percent and left the door open to further cuts.
http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE49S8PI20081030?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews

House to introduce second stimulus bill next month (Reuters 10/29/08)
By Lisa Lambert
WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. state leaders, trade groups and economists descended on the House of Representatives on Wednesday to help work out a second economic stimulus bill that one influential Congressional member said would be introduced on November 17.
Representative Jim Oberstar, the Minnesota Democrat who chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, told a hearing on jump-starting the stalled economy that Congressional staff would be meeting throughout the month and a stimulus bill would be introduced when Congress reconvenes next month.
http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE49S7KZ20081029?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews

New ACORN ad: Tell McCain, the GOP 'not this time' (CNN blog 10/29/08)
By Jonathan Helman
The new ad, entitled "Not This Time," is shot in black-and-white and features an African-American man who ages before viewers' eyes. "It happened to him in 1960, 1965, and again in 2000. He was intimidated so he wouldn't vote," an announcer says as a traditional Southern hymn plays. "Tell John McCain: not this time," the announcer says as the ad ends, and the phone number of McCain's Capitol Hill Senate office appears on screen.
"Senator McCain needs to instruct his operatives and supporters to cease and desist. Nothing is more important to the fabric of our democracy than protecting the rights of American voters," said Steve Kest, ACORN's executive director, at a Wednesday press conference where the ad was released.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/29/new-acorn-ad-tell-mccain-the-gop-not-this-time/

Brunner seeks probe of GOP calls (Columbus Dispatch 10/30/08)
By Josh Jarman
Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner asked the state attorney general's office yesterday to investigate get-out-the-vote telephone calls made on behalf of the Ohio Republican Party in at least 19 Ohio counties.
The calls encouraged people to return absentee ballots they had requested. Some voters who already had mailed their ballots, however, thought the calls were coming from their county boards of election to inform them that their ballots had not been received.
http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2008/10/30/Votercalls.ART_ART_10-30-08_A8_6OBO9LN.html?sid=101

Rising Tide of Suits Filed in Search of Political Edge (WSJ 10/30/08)
By JUNE KRONHOLZ
The number of lawsuits challenging election procedures could hit an all-time high this year as political parties and their followers, expecting a tight outcome Tuesday, angle for an edge that could help their candidate.
In the past few days, voters and the Republican Party have filed lawsuits challenging the way elections are being run in Colorado, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and Virginia.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122532888316282651.html?mod=rss_Politics_And_Policy

Early Voters Breaking Records (WaPo 10/30/08)
By Jon Cohen and Kyle Dropp
For at least 16 million voters, the 2008 election is already over. Across the more than 30 states that allow no-excuse absentee or early voting, votes have been pouring in at a record pace, and the data show Barack Obama as the clear beneficiary.
In the Washington Post-ABC News tracking poll, 59 percent of those who said they had already voted backed Obama, and 40 percent indicated that they supported John McCain. So far, the numbers are a near-mirror

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image of the past two elections.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/29/AR2008102904036.html

The Decided Go in Droves to Vote Early (NYT 10/30/08)
By JENNIFER STEINHAUER
HENDERSON, Nev. — At grocery stores across Las Vegas, voters are casting their ballots, and then shopping for bananas or hitting the slot machines a few feet away.
About 100 people have voted from the windows of their cars, A.T.M. style, in Orange County, Calif. Several busloads of voters pulled up to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections in Cleveland on Sunday, did what they came to do, and then repaired to a church across the street for some fried chicken.
In all its forms, early voting has been an election year hit. Enormous lines in Florida led Gov. Charlie Crist to issue an executive order extending early voting hours statewide from eight hours a day to 12, while in Georgia an elderly woman in Cobb County stood in the sun so long to vote that she collapsed.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/30/us/politics/30early.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print

Democrats dominate early voting in key states (AP 10/29/08)
By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Democrats outnumber Republicans among early voters in Iowa, North Carolina, Florida, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada, according to statistics from election and party officials in those states. Bush won all six in 2004, and McCain needs to win most of them to claim the White House this year.
Georgia, another red state, doesn't track early voters by party, but it does by race. About 1.4 million Georgians have already cast ballots, and blacks are voting in disproportionate numbers. Black voters overwhelmingly support Democrat Barack Obama, who is bidding to become the nation's first black president.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EARLY_VOTING?
SITE=MAFAL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Partial early ballots: Dem voters outnumber GOP (CNN 10/29/08)
By Thom Patterson
(CNN) -- Democratic early voters outnumber Republicans in key states, according to incomplete election statistics, suggesting a surprising break from traditional trends, said analysts.
Just a week before a historic Election Day, registered Democrats in North Carolina are out-voting Republicans by a nearly 2-to-1 margin, according to official election statistics.
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/10/29/early.voting/index.html?eref=rss_politics

Vote watchdogs warn of troubles on election day (LA Times 10/30/08)
By Carol J. Williams and Noam N. Levey
Counting down to an election day expected to draw a record-shattering turnout, voting-rights watchdogs are sounding the alarm that a repeat of the Florida fiasco of 2000 could occur in any of a dozen battleground states. Lawsuits are already flying in many of these states.
Voting rights advocates in Colorado, to take just one example, told a federal judge Wednesday that the names of nearly 30,000 voters were recently purged from the state registry in violation of federal law and ought to be restored by election day. In a compromise, those voters will be allowed to cast provisional ballots.
Across the battleground states, where Democrats had a 2-1 advantage in new registrations, voting-rights groups contend the eleventh-hour verifications demanded by Republican officials are attempts to disenfranchise the new voters.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-voting30-2008oct30,0,1814361.story

Democrats appear to have won voter-registration battle in Ohio (Dayton Daily News 10/30/08)
By Ken McCall
Of the 822,804 newly registered voters in the state, almost six in 10 — more than 475,000 — are in the 16 counties that went Democratic in 2004 presidential election, a Dayton Daily News analysis of statewide voter registration data has found. The 72 remaining counties that went for President Bush in 2004 recorded some 347,000 voters… The analysis found that almost 452,000 or 55 percent of the newly registered voters are under 30 years old. And more than a quarter, or 227,852, are 20 or younger. The latest Dayton Daily News/Ohio Newspaper Poll found that likely voters 29 and under favored Obama over McCain by 62 percent to 38 percent.
http://www.daytondailynews.com/n/content/oh/story/news/local/2008/10/30/ddn103008voters.html

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In Ohio, Wary Eyes On Election Process (WaPo 10/30/08)
By Mary Pat Flaherty
CLEVELAND -- With Ohio still up for grabs in next week's presidential election, the conversation here has expanded from who will carry the state to how -- the nitty-gritty of registration lists, voting machines, court challenges and whether it all will play out fairly… Political parties and elected officials for weeks have been trading sharp accusations and litigation over voting issues here, often for political advantage. But now, among the people whose ballots are at stake, the question of whether their votes will count has become deeply personal.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/29/AR2008102904545.html

A win for purged voters (The Denver Post 10/30/08)
By Felisa Cardona
Ballots cast by voters who have been canceled from the state's voter rolls since mid-May will get extra oversight to make sure their votes are counted, under an agreement reached late Wednesday in U.S. District Court. Common Cause of Colorado, Mi Familia Vota Education Fund and the Service Employees International Union sued Colorado Secretary of State Mike Coffman, alleging that his office had violated the National Voter Registration Act by illegally purging about 31,000 eligible voters from the rolls 90 days before the election. The state insists the actual number is smaller.
http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_10851260

Judge: PA must have paper ballots ready if half of machines fail (CNN blog 10/29/08)
By Adam Levine
WASHINGTON (CNN) – Pennsylvania must have paper ballots available for its voters if half the machines at a polling place break down, a federal judge ruled Wednesday. The state wanted paper ballots mandatory only if all the machines in a polling place failed.
"Emergency back-up paper ballots shall be used thereafter until the county board of elections is able to make the necessary repairs to the machine(s) or is able to place into operation," Judge Harvey Bartle ruled. The state will not appeal the decision. In a statement, Secretary of the Commonwealth Pedro Cortes said the state will work with counties to ensure emergency ballots are used consistently, and that there is a sufficient supply.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/29/judge-pa-must-have-paper-ballots-ready-if-half-of-machines-fail/

An Obama-propelled increase in African-American turnout, already apparent in early voting, may put more Democrats in Congress. (Salon 10/30/08)
By Alex Koppelman
By Salon's count, the black vote could swing as many as 17 House seats currently held by Republicans who are running in competitive elections. It could also play a role in three campaigns for Republican Senate seats and in one gubernatorial battle. With that in mind, the potential rise in African-American turnout could be devastating to Republican hopes.
http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2008/10/30/black_vote/index.html

New Registrations Give Georgia Blacks More Power at the Polls (NYT 10/30/08)
By CARL HULSE
In Georgia, where Mr. Obama's organization worked hard to register new voters but did not mount a full-blown campaign because the state seems beyond his reach, black voters in Atlanta and the surrounding areas have been standing in line for hours. Many are among the tens of thousands of newly registered voters.
New registrations of black voters ran more than 25 percent higher this year than four years ago, with especially high registration among black women.
Nearly 1.4 million Georgians have voted, according to the Georgia Secretary of State's Office, and more than a third were black. (Blacks make up just over 29 percent of registered voters in the state, which keeps track of racial data under civil rights laws.) Early voting began Sept. 22, and this week the state opened extra polling stations and extended their hours.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/30/us/politics/30chambliss.html?pagewanted=print

Obama, seeing hope in early voting, bolsters Georgia push (McClatchy 10/29/08)
By Halimah Abdullah
WASHINGTON — Just more than a month ago, Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama's campaign

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pulled a number of field staffers out of Georgia and sent them to such emerging battleground states as North Carolina.
That was before Georgia's early voting showed record-high Democratic turnout, however, especially among African Americans, and polls found a narrowing margin between the major presidential candidates.
That was also before Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss found himself fighting for his political life against Democratic challenger and former state Rep. Jim Martin, who's benefited from the Obama campaign's voter-registration and get-out-the-vote efforts and from increased funding from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/election2008/story/54982.html

Mail ballot backlog poses problems for L.A. County voters (LA Times 10/30/08)
By Jennifer Oldham and Ruben Vives
Thousands of Los Angeles County voters may not receive their mail-in ballots in time to actually mail them in, county officials said Wednesday.
Clerks were racing to process about 13,000 last-minute vote-by-mail applications while also handling 55,000 remaining voter registrations, said Los Angeles County Registrar Dean Logan.
The 11th-hour backlog could lead to election day confusion, and officials are advising voters who are unsure of their registration or mail-in-ballot status to check the registrar's website at www.lavote.net . Although 220 phone operators are on duty, some callers said they have had difficulty getting through.
"We are getting 18,000 phone calls coming in a day," Logan said. "The phone vendors we deal with compared it to what happens when there's an earthquake and the phone lines get jammed."
http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-vote30-2008oct30,0,506897.story

Little Hope in a Little Town (WaPo 10/30/08)
By Eli Saslow
WEST PLAINS, Mo. -- The billboard towers on private land above Route 63, but it essentially acts as the public welcome sign for this city of about 10,000 nestled in the Ozarks. Raised on a hill that guards the town's main entrance, it depicts a cartoonlike drawing of Barack Obama wearing a turban above a message that has shaped many visitors' impressions of West Plains. "Barack 'Hussein' Obama equals more abortions, same sex marriages, taxes, gun regulations."
Since it was erected by a local conservative about a month ago, the billboard has been criticized by political Web sites, media outlets and travelers passing through West Plains as racist, factually inaccurate and small-minded. More telling, though, has been the reaction -- or lack of it -- in the town itself.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/29/AR2008102904059.html

Shays takes swipe at McCain (CNN blog 10/29/08)
By Alexander Mooney
(CNN) – New England's lone House Republican appears to have publicly broken with his party's standard-bearer, saying John McCain has not run a clean campaign and is likely to lose his bid for the presidency.
"I just don't see how [McCain] can win," Connecticut Rep. Chris Shays told the Yale Daily News earlier this week. "He has lost his brand as a maverick; he did not live up to his pledge to fight a clean campaign." Shays, who in 2006 became the only Republican congressman from New England, perennially finds himself in a heated re-election race.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/29/shays-takes-swipe-at-mccain/

Analysis: Obama on his way toward election win (AP 10/29/08)
By LIZ SIDOTI
WASHINGTON (AP) -- Barack Obama has pulled ahead in enough states to win the 270 electoral votes he needs to gain the White House - and with states to spare - according to an Associated Press analysis that shows he is now moving beyond typical Democratic territory to challenge John McCain on historically GOP turf.
Even if McCain sweeps the six states that are too close to call, he still seemingly won't have enough votes to prevail, according to the analysis, which is based on polls, the candidates' TV spending patterns and interviews with Democratic and Republican strategists. McCain does have a path to victory but it's a steep climb: He needs a sudden shift in voter sentiment that gives him all six toss-up states plus one or two others that now lean toward Obama.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/R/ROAD_TO_270?SITE=RIPAW&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

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D.C. think tank poised to ride Obama's coattails (AP 10/29/08)
By Charles Babington
A Washington think tank with close ties to Obama and former president Clinton is about to publish a 50-chapter book on how to run a new Democratic administration.
The Center for American Progress already has produced a 26-page document, widely distributed among Obama aides, describing what the last five presidents did on each day of his transition. And if Obama wins the presidency Tuesday, the group stands ready to fill top federal positions with some of its staffers, many of whom worked for Clinton.
The Center for American Progress, formed five years ago to counteract conservative think tanks, could become one of Washington's most influential policy advocacy groups. And it could give Obama a valuable head start in staffing agencies and drafting priorities for his administration, a daunting task for any president-elect with 11 weeks between the election and inauguration.
http://www.boston.com/news/politics/2008/articles/2008/10/29/dc_think_tank_poised_to_ride_obamas_coattails/?rss_id=Boston.com+--+Top+political+stories

POLLS

Poll: Obama surges in Colorado, makes gains on Electoral Map (CNN blog 10/29/08)
By Paul Steinhauser
In a new survey — one of five new CNN/Time/Opinion Research Corporation state polls released Wednesday — 53 percent of likely Colorado voters questioned say that Obama is their choice for president, with 45 percent backing McCain. That 8 point lead for Obama is double the 4 point advantage he held in our last poll, taken two weeks ago.
http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2008/10/29/poll-obama-surges-in-colorado-makes-gains-on-electoral-map/

AP Poll: Obama leads or tied in 8 crucial states (AP 10/29/08)
BY RON FOURNIER and TREVOR TOMPSON
Less than a week before Election Day, the AP-GfK polls show Obama winning among early voters, favored on almost every issue, benefiting from the country's sour mood and widely viewed as the winning candidate by voters in eight crucial states - Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.
http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AP_POLL_BATTLEGROUNDS?SITE=MAFAL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Gap Narrows in Florida and Ohio, Not Pennsylvania (WSJ 10/30/08)
By SARA MURRAY
New polling suggests the presidential race is tightening in the battleground states of Ohio and Florida, though not in Pennsylvania, where Sen. John McCain is fighting to flip a big swing state into his column.
Sen. McCain now is within striking distance in Florida, where Sen. Barack Obama leads 47% to 45%, a new poll by the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute finds. Less than a week ago, Sen. Obama led by five percentage points there. (See the Qunnipiac poll.)
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122529638479280635.html

New polls: Pennsylvania's sewed up; Ohio, Florida close (McClatchy 10/29/08)
By Mark Seibel
Barack Obama is holding on to leads in the three major battleground states — Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania — though Florida is too close to call and the other two have tightened, Qunnipiac University's new polling data report Wednesday.
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/election2008/story/54950.html

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"Wendy Sherman" <wendyrsherman@gmail.com>
Date: 9/27/2014 4:38:42 PM
Subject: Nick Burns, Passage to India

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From: Nicholas Burns <nicholasburns@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2014 12:32:12 PM
To: Fariba Yassaee
Subject: Passage to India

In advance of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inaugural visit to the U.S. next week, I wanted to share with you my article in the current edition of Foreign Affairs—Passage to India: What Washington Can Do to Revive Relations with New Delhi.

I see India as one of the most important global partners for the U.S. for the next half century. The Obama Administration has an opportunity to make India a much greater strategic partner than it has been during the past few years when the relationship has been diminished for a number of reasons. While sometimes problematic and unreliable in its work with the United States, India is still a significant and growing U.S. political and military partner in Asia, on global commons issues such as Climate Change and on bilateral trade and investment. In addition, given the major and successful effort President George W. Bush made to elevate our relationship with New Delhi, there is clear bipartisan support for a revival starting with next week's visit.

The temptation in government is sometimes to focus on short term fires to the detriment of long-term opportunities. While coping with a burning Middle East, Putin's machinations in Ukraine and a newly assertive China are all obvious priorities, the U.S. should also make the time and effort to build our relations with India for the future.

I start the Foreign Affairs article by stating, "In the century ahead, U.S. strategic interests will align more closely with India's than they will with those of any other continental power in Asia." I am confident of that judgment.

As always, I would welcome your comments and suggestions.

Passage to India

BY NICHOLAS BURNS | FOREIGN AFFAIRS | SEPT/OCT 2014

In the century ahead, U.S. strategic interests will align more closely with India's than they will

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with those of any other continental power in Asia. The United States and India both seek to spread democracy, expand trade and investment, counter terrorism, and, above all, keep the region peaceful by balancing China's growing military power. As Washington expands its presence in Asia as part of the so-called pivot, New Delhi will be a critical partner. In the Asia-Pacific region, especially, India joins Australia, Japan, South Korea, and others in a U.S.-led coalition of democratic allies. And as the most powerful state in South Asia, India will exert a positive influence on a troubled Afghanistan, as well as on Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

The Obama administration should therefore use its remaining two years to make India a greater priority, especially since the country has not yet figured prominently in the rebalancing of U.S. attention and resources to Asia. In President Barack Obama's first term, many Indians complain, the United States devoted less attention to India than to its rivals China and Pakistan, pursuing economic links with the former and counterterrorism ties with the latter. That appearance of neglect, however fair or unfair, has rankled Indian officials and eroded some of their trust in Washington.

With the election of a new government in New Delhi, the Obama administration has a chance to repair the relationship. In May, Indians voted into office Narendra Modi, a Hindu nationalist from the western state of Gujarat who has signaled that he wants to build a more ambitious partnership with the United States. That will happen only if Obama pushes India to the top of his foreign policy agenda and Modi implements a series of reforms to enable stronger economic and political ties between the two governments. The leaders are scheduled to hold their first meeting in Washington this September, and before they do, both should begin thinking about rebuilding the U.S.-Indian relationship in five key ways: by expanding bilateral trade, strengthening military cooperation, collaborating to combat threats to homeland security, stabilizing a post-American Afghanistan, and, especially, finding greater common ground on transnational challenges such as climate change. It is an ambitious agenda, but pursuing it would put India where it belongs: at the center of U.S. strategy in the region.

FALLING OUT

Many Indian officials look back on the presidency of George W. Bush as a special moment in U.S.-Indian relations. From his first days in office, Bush made India a priority, arguing that its flourishing market economy, entrepreneurial drive, democratic system, and growing young population were crucial to U.S. aims in the region. He saw that the two countries, far from being strategic rivals, shared many of the same views on how power should be balanced in the twenty-first century. He believed that the United States had a clear interest in supporting India's rise as a global power.

The results of his emphasis were dramatic. The volume of trade in goods and services between the United States and India has more than tripled since 2004. Also since then, the two governments have dramatically strengthened their military ties and launched new cooperative projects on space, science and technology, education, and democratic governance.

Bush also engineered one of the most important initiatives in the history of the U.S.-Indian relationship: the civil nuclear agreement, which for the first time permitted U.S. firms to invest in India's civil nuclear power sector. (I served as the lead American negotiator for the deal.) This agreement helped end India's nuclear isolation, allowing New Delhi to trade in civil nuclear technology even though it is not a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. In return, India opened up its civil nuclear industry for the first time to sustained international inspection. The agreement's real import, though, lay in its message to the Indian people: the United States took their country seriously and wanted to leave behind the previous decades of cool relations. More broadly, it was a signal of U.S. support for India's emerging global role.

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When Obama took office, he followed Bush's lead. After all, Bush's India policy had enjoyed rare and strong support from Democrats -- including then U.S. Senators Joseph Biden, Hillary Clinton, and Obama himself -- throughout his second term. In 2009, Obama hosted then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his wife as the administration's first official state visitors. During his own successful state visit to New Delhi in 2010, Obama became the first U.S. president to endorse India's bid to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Yet despite this promising start, Obama's India policy never hit full stride. Although Clinton, as secretary of state, collaborated with New Delhi on development and women's issues, the administration was understandably preoccupied with the more urgent short-term crises it had inherited on taking office: the global financial meltdown, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the threat of a nuclear Iran. It was a classic Washington story of near-term crises crowding out long-term ambitions. As Obama's first term ended, India slid down Washington's priority list, and Indian officials complained privately about what they saw as a lack of attention from their American counterparts.

To be fair to Obama, however, the Indian government played an even greater role in the relationship's decline. In 2010, the Indian Parliament passed an ill-advised nuclear liability law that placed excessive responsibility on suppliers for accidents at nuclear power plants. The legislation, which gained support after the 25th anniversary of a horrific chemical spill at an American-owned plant in Bhopal, shattered investor confidence. By deterring U.S. and other firms from entering the Indian market, the law made implementation of the civil nuclear agreement impossible, undermining what should have been the centerpiece of the two countries' relationship. Washington and New Delhi haven't managed to resolve the impasse.

The relationship suffered further when Indian economic growth slowed markedly in 2012 and 2013, depressing foreign investment, as the government, led by the Indian National Congress, was rocked by corruption allegations and failed to implement promised reforms in retail, insurance, energy, and infrastructure. New Delhi unwisely imposed discriminatory taxes on foreign investors and enacted protectionist measures that impeded trade. A series of bitterly fought U.S.-Indian trade disputes took center stage, overshadowing the political and military ties that had been the glue of the growing partnership and preventing the two countries from being able to strike any major new economic agreements.

Then came two severe diplomatic tempests. Over the course of 2013, as Modi emerged as a front-runner in the upcoming election, the Indian press revived the story of Washington's earlier decision to bar Modi from entering the United States on the grounds that he had failed to suppress deadly anti-Muslim riots in 2002, when he was chief minister of Gujarat. Bush administration officials, including me, believed this to be the right decision at the time, but many Modi supporters charged that the visa ban was yet another example of American disregard for Indian dignity.

Then, in December 2013, U.S. federal agents arrested Devyani Khobragade, India's deputy consul general in New York, for lying on her housekeeper's visa application, infuriating the Indian press and public. It was a perfect but avoidable storm. The United States should have handled the visa issue at the core of the dispute in private to avoid inflaming India's bruised ego, and the Indian government, which made matters worse by downgrading security at the U.S. embassy in New Delhi and refusing to renew teachers' visas at the American Embassy School, should have reacted more calmly. Instead, both governments fanned the flames, and anti-American furor dominated the news in India for weeks.

By early 2014, the collapse in confidence was all too visible, and this is what Obama and Modi must begin working to repair when they meet. At the same time, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, and Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew must act, in

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effect, as project managers, steering the relationship past the inevitable obstacles, just as then Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice did so capably in Bush's second term. Top-down government leadership is essential to motivate the vast U.S. bureaucracy to put India back at the center of Washington's attention.

Obama, meanwhile, will find a willing partner in Modi. Remarkably, the prime minister has exhibited no public signs of resentment over the visa issue and, in a show of good faith, decided in May that he would visit Washington instead of insisting that Obama first visit New Delhi. Modi has already demonstrated himself to be an unusually strong Indian leader, who will use his executive authority in a more hands-on fashion than did his predecessors. His clear intent to jump-start New Delhi's relationship with Washington has created a unique opportunity for Obama to reciprocate.

IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID

Obama should focus first on Modi's main priority: reviving the Indian economy. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party won a landslide victory in the spring in large part because voters had grown frustrated by India's slow growth, crumbling infrastructure, and pervasive government corruption. Through Modi's landslide win, the Indian people sent a compelling message about the need for dramatic economic reform, and Modi promised to deliver.

But in the past two years, U.S.-Indian trade disputes have hampered economic cooperation. The United States has made legitimate complaints about Indian protectionism, and the two governments have filed World Trade Organization cases against each other involving such goods as solar panels, steel, and agricultural products. Invoking safety concerns, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has also banned imports from more than a dozen Indian plants, mostly in the pharmaceutical industry.

The United States and India have long antagonized each other in global trade talks. Their fight over agricultural protectionism ultimately caused the Doha Round of international trade negotiations to collapse in 2008. Since then, the two countries have been unable to bridge their ideological divide. The estrangement is so great that India has been excluded from one of Obama's most ambitious trade initiatives in Asia: the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Washington and New Delhi must now prevent the inevitable trade disputes from overwhelming the political and military cooperation that binds the two countries together.

Obama and Modi will have no choice but to rebuild their economic ties brick by brick. When they meet in Washington, they should focus first on setting a 2015 deadline for completing the two countries' bilateral investment treaty, which the United States and India have been negotiating for more than a decade. Obama should also encourage Modi to undertake the necessary trade and financial liberalization that would help India gain acceptance into the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, a regional trade group that has denied New Delhi membership for over two decades because the member states consider Indian trade policies to be too protectionist. Support from the United States could help Modi distance his new government from the statist policies of his predecessors.

To encourage Modi to further boost confidence in India's economy, Obama should counsel Modi to enact clearer regulations governing taxation and foreign investment. The two leaders could also announce a high-priority effort to resurrect the moribund civil nuclear deal. Modi would need to exercise his considerable political muscle to push a revision of the law through a reluctant Indian Parliament, but doing so would address a major American complaint: that after the Bush administration's Herculean effort to lift nuclear sanctions on India, New Delhi never reciprocated by actually implementing the agreement and opening up its market to U.S. firms.

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GANG OF TWO

As a second step, the United States and India should continue to strengthen their defense and political coordination in the Asia-Pacific region. India's greatest national security concern is its competition with China for regional military dominance: when U.S. officials visit Indian government offices these days, their counterparts invariably rank China as a greater long-term concern than Pakistan. Modi has already begun to build a close relationship with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The United States should welcome stronger Indian-Japanese defense coordination, since it would further the U.S. goal of strengthening its regional security network of Asian democracies as China expands its own power base.

More broadly, Washington and New Delhi should enhance their already robust collaboration on defense. The United States has conducted more military exercises with India than with any other nation in recent years, but the two can do even more to fortify their growing air and naval cooperation. For instance, Obama could make India a more prominent part of the pivot to Asia by including its forces in all the military training and exercises the United States conducts in the region. The United States should also continue its trilateral security talks with India and Japan, and the three countries should work through the East Asia Summit to align their counter-terrorism and maritime security policies more closely. Above all, the United States and India must agree on a clear strategic plan to cement their military and political cooperation in Asia.

Even as the United States and India tighten their military ties, Obama and Modi must be careful to avoid creating the appearance of an anti-China coalition; looking for common ground on other issues with Beijing would help this cause. Washington and New Delhi could, for example, advance joint programs with Beijing to combat piracy, drugs, and crime, as Clinton suggested in 2011. When it comes to China, Obama and Modi must achieve a delicate balance between cooperation and competition, and they should do what they can to reassure Beijing. But they should also recognize that the most effective way to keep the peace in Asia is to maintain their countries' military strength in the region.

As a third priority, Obama should strengthen U.S. cooperation with India on counterterrorism and homeland security -- areas in which U.S. and Indian interests align particularly closely, especially due to the insidious growth in the last decade of terrorist groups based in Pakistan, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba. The United States should support India's determined efforts to combat the Naxalite insurgency, a violent Maoist movement active in more than half of India's states. The two governments will also want to collaborate even more closely on cyber-and missile defense. Given that India is home to one of the world's largest Muslim populations, the Modi government wants to consult more closely with the United States on the rise of extremism in Syria and Iraq and the potential danger to India's large population of workers in the Middle East.

Fourth, Obama and Modi should work together to promote stability in India's South Asian neighborhood, an area the prime minister has already signaled is a priority. Obama should support Modi's efforts to push the Sri Lankan government on its lamentable human rights situation, guard against Islamic extremism in Bangladesh, and promote greater political stability in Nepal.

Their most important regional project, however, should be Afghanistan. India is currently the fifth-largest provider of economic assistance to Afghanistan, and Indian firms have been active in rebuilding the country's infrastructure. In the past, the Bush and Obama administrations tried to limit India's involvement in Afghanistan out of deference to Pakistani opposition. But with the bulk of U.S. forces set to withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2016, the United States should encourage India to become a leading partner of the newly elected Afghan government, including taking on an active role in training the Afghan army.

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Washington should also reach out to Indian officials to include them more actively in its long-term planning to stabilize a shaky Afghanistan.

Stability in South Asia will continue to depend, first and foremost, on the always troubled Indian-Pakistani relationship. Obama should support efforts by the Indian and Pakistani governments to commit to greater cross-border trade. India will continue to resist, unfortunately, any overt attempt by the United States or others to mediate between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

The Obama team should also reaffirm Rice's policy of "dehyphenating" the U.S. relationship with India and Pakistan. For decades, successive U.S. administrations treated India and Pakistan policy as a single unit. But Rice did away with that in 2005 by pursuing independent and quite different policies with the two countries. That permitted the Bush administration to initiate the civil nuclear agreement, for example, without feeling obligated to negotiate an identical deal with Pakistan. (That would have been impossible, of course, given Pakistan's disastrous record on proliferation of its nuclear materials.) Although the United States needs to maintain an effective relationship with Pakistan, building a more durable partnership with India will bring much greater strategic benefit in the long term.

Finally, the United States and India must find a way to work together more effectively on leading global political challenges. U.S. officials have long felt frustrated by the fact that although the two countries have a close bilateral friendship, they are more often than not sparring partners at the United Nations and in other multilateral bodies. Obama and Modi can change that dynamic by looking for common ground this year on two big challenges: climate change and Iran, two issues on which India has been a historically weak partner to the United States. This will not be quick or easy. For nearly its entire existence as an independent country, India has been a proud and insistent advocate of nonalignment and of resisting what its diplomats often view as overbearing pressure to conform to U.S. policies. It is not even clear that the pragmatic Modi, with everything else on his plate, will want to take on the Indian bureaucracy to revise decades of Indian foreign policy. But the two governments ought to be able to work more effectively to curb climate change and pressure Iran over its nuclear program.

THE PATH AHEAD

As Washington and New Delhi work more closely together, each will have its own hurdle to overcome. Indian leaders, for their part, must meet the United States halfway on trade. If India continues to oppose meaningful global trade liberalization, the two countries will remain fundamentally at odds. Indian officials should understand that U.S. trade complaints against New Delhi are not part of a politically driven campaign to weaken their country, as they sometimes allege. Obama can point to the vigorous trade wars between the United States and Canada and between the United States and the European Union as evidence that Washington aggressively contests the trade policies of even its strongest allies.

The United States will have its own challenge in learning to work effectively with India, and that is to recognize the unique nature of this great-power relationship. The United States has no other partnership quite like it. India is too big and too proud to become a formal treaty ally of the United States, as Germany and Japan are. India will insist, for instance, on retaining its strong military ties to Russia and continuing its trade with Iran. The United States is accustomed to calling the shots with its allies in Europe and East Asia. That won't work with India, which will insist on equal standing with United States. To be effective in dealing with New Delhi, American diplomats must therefore pay special attention to Indian sensitivities, maintaining a realistic sense of what is and what is not possible with modern India.

This enhanced partnership will not be warmly welcomed in Pakistan or China. But the United

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States can manage whatever resentment results: India will likely be a more reliable and trusting partner than Pakistan has ever been, and a stronger military link to India will also send a useful and important message to Beijing -- that the democratic countries of the region will remain strong and united.

Luckily, Washington's renewed emphasis on India should not be a hard sell in the United States. Obama can count on enthusiastic backing from the growing and highly successful Indian American community. The American and Indian publics consistently support the relationship in opinion polls. Most important, perhaps, Obama can also rely on one advantage he does not enjoy on nearly any other major foreign policy issue: bipartisan support. Bill Clinton, Bush, and Obama have co-authored the rise of U.S.-Indian ties over the last 15 years. This rare Democratic-Republican consensus that the United States ought to pivot its attention to New Delhi should allow India to remain at the forefront of U.S. strategy in Asia for decades to come.

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From: sewallconroy@comcast.net
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 10/31/2008 7:38:30 PM
Subject: Agency Leads

John,

We'd like your feedback on two leadership roles in Agency teams.

1) A replacement (if any) for Sam Nunn on DOD. John Hamre was one of the names we'd discussed before in considering a more senior face to put on the DOD team as you desired. Do you want us to ask him or to develop other candidates, or have Bill Lynn and Michele Flournoy stay as co-leads?

2) James Loy cannot serve (conflict of interest) as co-lead of DHS with Randy Beers. Randy has proposed two candidates: John Gannon and John Gordon. While Susan and I would be fine with either, we do not know if either would do it.

John Gannon was to have led the pre-Nov 4 Intel/DHS transition but had a conflict of interest and time that led him to step away from the lead. John Gordon's business interests may similarly impede him from playing a role. We'd like your guidance regarding whether to proceed with seeking a co-lead for Randy and if so whether you have preferences.

An alternative model would be to have Randy lead and appoint a deputy -- perhaps Clark Kent Ervin (african american, former DHS counsel) or Ron Lee from NSA since he'd rather be on DHS. Please let us know your thoughts.

Thanks. -Sarah

John Gordon

Gordon was at the WH as HS Advisor til 2004. He is highly respected for his professionalism. Gordon will do it for the country as a committed career officer.

> General John A. Gordon earned a B.S. degree from the University of Missouri in 1968, an M.S. degree at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1970, and an M.A. degree from Highlands University in 1972.
>
> General Gordon served in the White House as the President's Homeland Security Advisor from June 2003 until June 2004 and as the Deputy National Security Advisor for Counter Terrorism and the National Director for Counter Terrorism from June 2002 to June 2003. Prior to joining the White House team, General Gordon was the first administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration and Under Secretary of Energy, responsible for the entirety of the nation's nuclear weapons program, serving from June 2000 until June 2002. As an Air Force four-star general, he was the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence from October 1997 until June 2000. General Gordon's 32-year Air Force career included significant concentration on research and development, strategic planning, missile and space operations, intergovernmental operations, and international negotiations.
>
> General Gordon is now a private consultant and serves on the boards of several corporations and nonprofit organizations.
>
> John Gannon

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BAE Systems has named Dr. John Gannon as vice president for Global Analysis, a new line of business formed within BAE Systems Information Technology.

Gannon joins BAE Systems after serving as Staff Director of the House Homeland Security Committee, the first new committee established by Congress in more than thirty years. In 2002-2003, he was a team leader in the White House's Transitional Planning Office for the Department of Homeland Security. He served previously in the senior-most analytic positions in the Intelligence Community, including CIA's Director of European Analysis, Deputy Director for Intelligence, Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, and Assistant Director of Central Intelligence for Analysis and Production. In the private sector, he developed the analytic workforce for Intellibridge Corporation, a web-based provider of outsourced analysis for government and corporate clients.

Gannon served as a naval officer in Southeast Asia and later in several Naval Reserve commands; retiring as a Captain. He was also elected to the Falls Church, Va., City Council and was subsequently appointed to the city's Planning Commission and later to the city's Economic Development Commission and Charter Review Commission.

Gannon holds a bachelor's degree from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., and master's and doctorate degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. He is an adjunct professor in the National Security Studies Program at Georgetown University.

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From: "Jonathan Garthwaite" <THeditor@TownHallmail.com>
To: Friend <JohnPodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/17/2016 7:53:48 AM
Subject: Is the GOP Falling Apart?

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Last Thursday's presidential debate on CNN may have been the last of this election season for the remaining GOP field.
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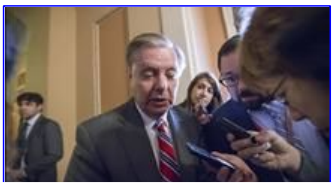
Earnest Suggests Nothing Will Change on Ground After 'Genocide' Label, But We Will 'Investigate'

Cortney O'Brien



Lindsey Graham Now Supporting Ted Cruz

Christine Rousselle



State Department Declares ISIS is Committing Genocide Against Christians in Iraq and Syria

Katie Pavlich



Secretary of State John Kerry has determined ISIS is committing genocide against Christians in Iraq and Syria and will make an official announcement and declaration of genocide later today.
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Video: Hillary Clinton's Gaffe Spree

Guy Benson



Please enjoy this mash-up of Hillary Clinton's hapless week of campaign rhetoric, even as she fails upward into prohibitive frontrunner status.
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ICE Director Shirks Responsibility: Woman's Death At Hands of Illegal Immigrant Was 'After the Fact'

Cortney O'Brien



Romanian MP Jailed After Bribing Voters With Fried Chicken

Christine Rousselle



Gowdy: New Rules Needed Because Dems Are Threatening to Leak Benghazi Documents

Cortney O'Brien



US Ballistic Submarine Program Under Fire

Justin Holcomb



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U.S. Dollar Losing Ground... 2016 Collapse Imminent?

Ron Paul urges Americans to buy Silver to prepare for the economic collapse in 2016

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Israeli Ambassador to US Fact Checks Unflattering NYT Editorial About Netanyahu

Cortney O'Brien

Ron Dermer, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., gets right to the point in his new editorial published in The New York Times on Wednesday.

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Ann Coulter



Education, the Great Equalizer
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Giant Texas Cross Sparks A theist Lawsuit (and you won't believe why)
Todd Starnes



The Buck Never Stops Here
Victor Davis Hanson



What A Waste
Derek Hunter



Trump Asked to Denounce David Duke -- But Not Farrakhan
Larry Elder



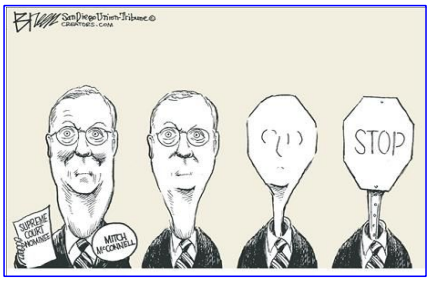
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RNC Rule Maker Says "The Media Has Created Perception That Voters Will Decide the Nomination"

Justin Holcomb

A disconnect with the American people.
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Nikki Haley Now Backing Ted Cruz

Christine Rousselle

Now that Rubio has suspended his campaign, Haley has switched up who she's supporting: she's now backing Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.
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Trump Takes Another Swing at Wall Street Journal

On Thursday, Donald Trump called out the Wall Street Journal for publishing actual voting results showing that Trump is getting fewer voters on the Republican side than Clinton is on the Democractic side.
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SeaWorld Ends Orca Breeding

SeaWorld will end orca breeding and will no longer be replacing killer whales at its parks, the park announced.
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Apple-DOJ Faceoff gets Testier

Apple says the U.S. founding fathers "would be appalled" by the Justice Department's request to unlock an encrypted iPhone.
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Bearing Arms

What the Heck Is a "Merrick Garland," Anyway? | Bob Owens

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Former Police Chief Who Falsely Claimed He Was Attacked By Gun Rights Advocates Pleads Guilty | Bob Owens

Attempted ATM Robber Withdraws Lead Instead Of Gold | Bob Owens

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/14/2014 2:32:27 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday August 14, 2014 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Thursday August 14, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

The Advocate opinion: Allida Black: "Hillary Is Ready for Us"

"Hillary has always stood with me, Judy, and the entire LGBT community. And she always will."

CNN: "Clinton dances between loyalty and self-interest"

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Politico: "Media Matters' David Brock expands empire"

"David Brock is taking over a leading watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington."

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Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Hillary Clinton's day on Martha's Vineyard: signing books, promises of hugs"

"At Clinton's first stop, the Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, hundreds lined up outside for hours in the rain to meet the former Secretary of State"

Politico: "'Hug summit' for Obama, Clinton"

"President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton mingled amiably at a party on the elite vacation enclave of Martha's Vineyard, a day after the former secretary of state called the president to make clear she meant no ill will in a complex interview about foreign policy with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg that was published over the weekend."

Bloomberg: "Clinton-Obama Tension Rises as Political Interests Shift"

"Asked today whether it was a tough decision to call Obama after her comments set off a media firestorm, she said: 'No.'"

The Atlantic: "How Money Warps U.S. Foreign Policy"

"Given these results, why do most commentators think Hillary's hawkishness is politically wise? Because over the last year or so—as a result of the conflict in Ukraine and the rise of ISIS in Syria and Iraq—elite opinion has grown more hawkish even though public opinion at large hasn't."

The Hill: "Former Hillary aide sought to 'neutralize' greens on Keystone"

"A former spokeswoman to Hillary Clinton worked for the Canadian province of Alberta to 'neutralize the environmentalist arguments' against the Keystone XL pipeline, new filings with the Justice Department reveal."

New York Times column: Gail Collins: "What's Next With Hillary?"

"Now that she's brought up actual issues, the party's rank-and-file deserves some more information."

The New Yorker: John Cassidy: "Can Hillary Play This Game?"

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"In short, Hillary remains a very formidable political figure, and she's still the strong favorite to be the next President."

Vox: "Obama's critics are suddenly sure Hillary Clinton is great"

"When it comes to looking back on the disappointments of Barack Obama's presidency, the 'other thing,' particularly this week, is elect Hillary Clinton."

The Hill blog: Lanny Davis: "The cure for punditry hyperventilation on Hillary Clinton — Try the facts"

"… If Clinton chooses to run for president, I know there will be other candidates for the nomination and I hope there is a vigorous debate on the issues and solutions to the nation's most important problems."

Articles:

The Advocate opinion: Allida Black: "Hillary Is Ready for Us"

By Allida Black

August 14, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The Hillary this writer met while she was still first lady has always stood by LGBT people.

I was holding hands with Judy, about to walk into the White House, where we had been invited to an event as a couple — a lesbian couple — by the first lady of the United States. It was 1993.

You see, back then, even the general notion of homosexuality was still completely foreign to a lot of people — including my sweet parents, who like a lot of people hadn't accepted us yet for who we were. For my mother in particular, having the first lady accept Judy and me made it easier to eventually do so herself.

As the saying goes, actions speak louder than words, and there was no bolder action at the time than for the first lady of the United States, Hillary Clinton, to recognize me and my partner as a couple and welcome us into the White House. And Hillary's actions over the next three decades would further establish her as one of the

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country's most visible and heartfelt supporters of the LGBT community.

In the Senate, Hillary fought to expand gay rights and protect us from abuse and discrimination. She advocated for lifting the restrictions that block gay and lesbian couples from adopting children, a position that remains controversial today among many right-wing politicians, who for reasons I'll probably never understand still don't think we are capable of providing children a loving home. She repeatedly cosponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would have banned discrimination based on sexual orientation, and she cosponsored the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act to include LGBT individuals in federal hate crimes statutes.

When Hillary became Secretary of State, she took her fight for gay rights across the globe. She made history as the first secretary of state to make promoting LGBT rights part of official U.S. government policy. She took groundbreaking steps to work with foreign leaders to change policies criminalizing homosexuality and to protect international LGBT groups combatting such laws.

Within her first few months as Secretary of State, Hillary profoundly expanded the rights of the State Department's LGBT employees by changing policies that denied same-sex diplomatic spouses the same rights and benefits as all other spouses. This had huge repercussions for employees working overseas. Before Hillary's action, for example, diplomats working in a country that had become too dangerous would be evacuated, while their partner or spouse — if of the same sex — could be left behind to fend for themselves.

Hillary announced the State Department's new policy offering equal benefits and protections to LGBT diplomatic spouses in a memo in which she wrote, "Like all families, our Foreign Service families come in different configurations; all are part of the common fabric of our post communities abroad ... the department will provide these benefits for both opposite-sex and same-sex partners because it is the right thing to do."

Doing something because it's the right thing to do? We could use more of that in America.

While Hillary's actions have always demonstrated her commitment to gay rights, her words have been powerful as well.

Hillary's historic 1995 speech in Beijing, where she declared that "women's rights are human rights," marked a significant turn in the women's rights movement. In 2011, at a speech at the U.N. Human Rights Council's headquarters in Geneva, Hillary made history once again with the following words:

"Like being a woman, like being a racial, religious, tribal, or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights."

Gay rights are human rights.

This simple statement is the principle underlying Hillary Clinton's actions on behalf of the LGBT community — past, present, and future. It was the impetus behind another powerful action, announcing her full support for gay marriage, using more of her powerful words:

"LGBT Americans are our colleagues, our teachers, our soldiers, our friends, our loved ones…And they are full and equal citizens and deserve the rights of citizenship. That includes marriage."

Twenty years after Hillary welcomed us as a couple into the White House, Judy and I got married just a few minutes away at the National Mall. When we got home from our reception, we had a letter from Hillary congratulating us on our marriage. I'll never forget the first few words written on her letter: "at long last."

Hillary has always stood with me, Judy, and the entire LGBT community. And she always will.

CNN: "Clinton dances between loyalty and self-interest"

By Dan Merica

August 13, 2014, 7:52 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton finds herself in an impossible position.

She's seriously considering what some believe is an inevitable second run for the presidency. But the four years she spent as Barack Obama's secretary of state look a lot different today than when she left the administration more than a year ago.

The surprise reset of Russian relations went awry over Ukraine and the promise of the Arab Spring collapsed amid worsening civil war in Syria and the brutal advances of the Islamic State in Iraq. Baghdad lapsed into political chaos, violence flared anew in Libya, Benghazi remains under scrutiny, and the perennially tense situation between Israel and Hamas exploded in violence again in Gaza.

Much of this reached crisis stage after she left the State Department, but Clinton is on the hook for a lot of Obama's foreign policy legacy. And many experts say she needs to distance herself from it before launching any campaign for the White House.

But the strategy for that is complex and risky.

The primary problem: Clinton recently published "Hard Choices," a 656-page volume about her experiences as America's top diplomat that is noticeably thin on disagreements with Obama.

Yes, Clinton writes about conflicting opinions over arming Syrian rebels and some smaller differences on drones. But she largely balked at her chance in the book to break with Obama. It was a perfect opportunity to do so.

If anything, Clinton's aides and outside supporters responded to Republican criticism of her record at the State Department and drew her closer to her boss's foreign policy.

Correct the Record, an outside rapid response and communications group, began tweeting and writing about

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Clinton's accomplishments on a daily basis.

It touted her book as a success, highlighted her work in the Middle East and heralded Clinton's "pivot to Asia."

At the same time, Clinton and her advisers retooled her promotional bio and worked out an answer for the question, "What did you accomplish as secretary of state?"

The world blew up during the book tour

Instead of stumbling on the question -- something Clinton did more than once during the book tour -- she began to breeze through it. She highlighted a checklist of accomplishments and victories shared with Obama.

"Thanks in large measure to Hillary's leadership, people were finally able to say: 'America's back,'" reads her new promotional bio.

But a cascading series of world events that seemed to coincide with the book tour or the buzz around it challenged America's interests abroad in a big way and tested its influence. New and more difficult questions emerged. Obama's foreign policy was under fire on a number of fronts.

Acutely aware of the changing narrative, Clinton has been trying to selectively distance herself from some of the messy foreign developments.

But this week, she put it into clearer political context.

In an interview with The Atlantic, Clinton trashed the Obama mantra that reflects his cautious approach to foreign policy: "Don't do stupid stuff."

She said that was "not an organizing principle" and labeled the President's decisions in Syria, with which she has long disagreed, a "failure."

This all appeared to cause more harm than good.

David Axelord, Obama's former top adviser who now acts as his biggest defender outside the White House, took her to task with a tweet, referencing her 2002 vote in favor of the Iraq War. And liberals in her party spoke up about the quickness with which she broke with Obama in favor of hawkish rhetoric.

Clinton reached out to Obama this week to assure him that her comments did not represent an attack on his policies or his leadership.

People close to Clinton argue she used the interview to only articulate what she wrote in the book about Syria.

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On the festering civil war, Clinton writes that "the President's inclination was to stay the present course and not take the significant further step of arming rebels," while hers was to arm the rebels.

"No one likes to lose a debate, including me. But this was the President's call and I respected his deliberations and decision," she writes.

As secretary of state, though, Clinton publicly expressed doubt with arming the rebels.

"What are we going to arm them with and against what," Clinton told CBS in February 2012. "You are not going to bring tanks over the borders of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan — that's not going to happen. So maybe at the best you can smuggle in, you know, automatic weapons."

Few hints of disagreement

But there was little indication that she disagreed with Obama on other big issues during her time in his Cabinet, including the pivot to Asia, a cease-fire between Israel and Gaza the last time around, and working to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.

One former Clinton aide said what Clinton told The Atlantic reflected what she wrote in the book and that there's no indication she's being a "Monday morning quarterback."

"I think it is wrong to assume that the fact things are going to sh** abroad, that is why she is coming out so forcefully against him," said a former Clinton campaign aide. "The timing of this book, the timing of these interviews is coincidental."

Republicans see Clinton distancing herself from Obama as a boon for them. Not only might it reinforce their anti-Obama efforts, but it enables them to amplify their claims that Clinton's just expedient.

"She is cold and calculating and a hyper-positioning politician," said Kevin Madden, a Republican strategist.

He was excited about the prospect of the GOP exploiting Clinton's "voluminous" and "overwhelming" record of working with Obama.

The Republican National Committee also sees an opening.

"Hillary Clinton spent four years executing Barack Obama's foreign policy and in year five of Obama's term, it's ridiculous for Hillary to try to swindle voters into thinking what's happening around the world isn't a product of Obama-Hillary diplomacy," said Kirsten Kurkowski, spokeswoman for the RNC.

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Politico: "Open Mike: Inside Ready for Hillary"

By Mike Allen

August 13, 2014, 10:39 p.m. EDT

From this week's Open Mike with Mitch Stewart, the Obama for America campaign veteran who's now a senior adviser to Ready for Hillary, the super PAC formed to encourage Clinton to run for president.

ALLEN: Lightning strikes and Secretary Clinton decides not to run. What happens to ready for Hillary?

STEWART: If she were to decide not to run, I think that a lot of that work would be transferable to whomever the nominee is. So I think it is to say that it is still additive to Democratic politics as a whole.

ALLEN: What do we already know is going to be different from 2016 from 2012?

STEWART: If you just look at the census right now and follow, if you want to say a linear path, in 2016 it will probably be 30 or 31 percent non-white. So number one the electorate will be way more diverse. And second is, its harder and harder to communicate with voters. You know the disparate view or opportunities to gather information is continuing to expand. So you can't just focus on TV, you can't just focus on print, you can't just focus on online, you can't just focus on off-line. You're going to have to be much more creative in actually engaging people.

ALLEN: There is a huge potential for an enthusiasm cap getting people as excited for Hillary Clinton as they were for Barack Obama. That's going to be a job.

STEWART: That's what people said about 2012 and 2008. Actually, if you want to look, we had about 1.2 million volunteers in 2008. We had 2.2 million volunteers in 2012.

Politico: "Media Matters' David Brock expands empire"

By Kenneth P. Vogel

August 13, 2014, 9:26 p.m. EDT

In a major power play that aligns liberal muscle more fully behind the Democratic Party — and Hillary Clinton — the self-described right-wing hitman-turned-Clinton enforcer David Brock is taking over a leading watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

Brock was elected chairman of the group's board last week after laying out a multifaceted expansion intended to

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turn the group into a more muscular — and likely partisan — attack dog, according to sources familiar with the move.

The ambitious plans, which began being implemented this week, also seem to cement Brock's role as among the leading big money operatives in all of American politics.

Brock confirmed the basics of the shakeup in an interview. The reconfigured CREW, which is searching for a new executive director, will add a more politically oriented arm, expand its focus into state politics and donor targeting and will operate in close coordination with Brock's growing fleet of aggressive Democrat-backing nonprofits and super PACs — Media Matters, American Bridge and the American Independent Institute.

"CREW gives us some potentially powerful tools in the tool box," said Brock, who founded his flagship organization Media Matters in 2004. "We have been in the accountability for 10 years very successfully. It is kind of a one-stop-shop now."

And Brock's army will be supplemented still further by the formation of a new overtly partisan watchdog group called The American Democracy Legal Fund, which is already preparing complaints against high-profile Republicans, including Michigan GOP Senate candidate Terry Lynn Land. That group will be run by Brad Woodhouse, the president of American Bridge, and will be registered under section 527 of the Tax Code — allowing it to engage in more political activity than CREW's traditional portfolio. CREW has operated as a nonprofit registered under a section of the Tax Code — 501(c)3 — that prohibits partisan activity; under Brock's leadership it will add a new more politically oriented arm registered under section 501(c)4.

CREW was founded in 2003 by former federal prosecutor Melanie Sloan and white-collar lawyer Norm Eisen, who went on to serve as President Barack Obama's chief ethics lawyer and is now his ambassador to the Czech Republic. It carved out a reputation as a leading watchdog by relentlessly pursuing litigation and ethics complaints against primarily — though not exclusively — Republican public officials. It had its heyday during the Bush administration, when its complaints and investigations played major roles in the Jack Abramoff scandal and the downfalls of powerful GOP Reps. Tom Delay and Bob Ney.

But under the stewardship of Sloan, who serves as CREW's executive director, the group went out of its way to demonstrate that it would not pull punches when it came to Democratic corruption. It boasts in a mission statement on its website, "we work to ensure government officials — regardless of party affiliation — act with honesty and integrity and merit the public trust," and it also pursued broader good-government initiatives.

CREW wins media attention each year with its annual "Most Corrupt Members of Congress" report, which it started in 2005 and which has included 25 Democrats among its 88 featured members. It called for the resignations of embattled New York Democratic Reps. Anthony Weiner and Charlie Rangel, and has pending requests for investigations into the Obama administration, including its use of private emails to conduct government affairs.

Its unwillingness to toe the party line miffed some Democrats, including, sources say, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, whose members occasionally found themselves in CREW's cross hairs.

That bipartisan focus gave CREW credibility in the watchdog community and made Sloan a go-to quote for reporters, leading Ms. Magazine to ask in 2007 whether she was "The Most Feared Woman on Capitol Hill." But the take-no-prisoners approach may have complicated efforts to raise money from wealthy Democratic donors. And, in February 2012, the group was demoted from the top tier of recipient organizations recommended by the Democracy Alliance rich liberal donor club during a reshuffling seen as boosting super PACs and other groups closely aligned with Democrats. On the other hand, Brock seems to have a golden touch with rich Democrats,

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including billionaire financier George Soros.

Brock's personal evolution is a compelling selling point with the monied class. He began his career as a leading conservative attack journalist in the 1990s, penning stories and books strafing Anita Hill and the Clintons, among other conservative targets, before publicly renouncing the conservative movement and embracing the left. His groups now are at the leading edge of several Democratic causes celebre — declaring war on Fox News and the conservative billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch, while defending Hillary Clinton against mounting Republican attacks as she prepares for a possible 2016 presidential run.

Brock's groups have the cash to support such a wide portfolio. They have a combined budget of about $25 million a year and 170 employees, compared with CREW's $2.7 million 2014 budget and 15 staffers, almost all of whom will be able to stay on, Brock suggested.

Neither CREW nor most of Brock's groups disclose their donors — something that led to charges of hypocrisy against CREW and other liberal-leaning watchdogs. But anecdotal evidence suggests that there's a bit of overlap between the donor pools, since Brock's groups have found great success raising money from Democracy Alliance members. In the CREW shakeup, two donors close to Brock — San Francisco investor Wayne Jordan and Washington-based consultant David Mercer — also joined CREW's board.

The Huffington Post in its Wednesday afternoon newsletter reported that Media Matters was "acquiring" CREW and quipped "Will It Survive DOJ Antitrust?" but didn't offer any details on the moves.

Brock deflected when asked if CREW, under his leadership, would continue pursuing complaints against Democrats.

"No party has a monopoly on corruption and at this early juncture, we are not making categorical statements about anything that we will and won't do," he said. "Having said that, our experience has been that the vast amount of violations of the public trust can be found on the conservative side of the aisle."

Brock also had high praise for Sloan, who resigned from CREW's board and announced her intention to step down as executive director when Brock names a replacement.

"Under Melanie's leadership, CREW emerged as an effective voice for the kind of honesty and integrity we deserve in our public officials," he said, promising to "build on her record of success, expanding the portfolio to scrutinize more activity in states, and political organizations that wield just as much influence over our policies as our politicians do, if not more."

Sloan, who aborted plans to leave CREW in 2011, declined to discuss why she was leaving, but predicted that CREW would fit well into Brock World.

"Given David's track record of building high-impact sustainable institutions, I am confident that CREW will continue to thrive under this new governance," she said in a statement released by CREW.

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Washington Post blog: Post Politics: “Hillary Clinton’s day on Martha’s Vineyard: signing books, promises of hugs”

By Katie Zezima

August 13, 2014, 7:54 p.m. EDT

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass. - Hillary Clinton swept onto Martha's Vineyard Wednesday amid drenching downpours -- and a flood of speculation ahead of her first meeting with President Obama after her criticism of his foreign policy earlier this week.

And if the skies hadn't exactly cleared over the island, both the Clinton and Obama camps insisted the storm clouds that seemed to loom over her relationship with the president after she disparaged his foreign policy philosophy in an interview with The Atlantic had parted.

At Clinton's first stop, the Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, hundreds lined up outside for hours in the rain to meet the former Secretary of State. They were treated to a brief explanation of her interview comments -- and a personal confirmation that she would, as her spokesman had promised, "hug it out" with Obama at a party here tonight.

"Absolutely," Clinton said, when asked about the much-anticipated embrace. "Yeah. Looking forward to it. Going to be there tonight."

Clinton said the decision to call Obama after the interview and apologize wasn't a difficult one.

"We agree," she said. "We are committed to the values and the interests of the security of our country together. We have disagreements as any partners and friends, as we are, might very well have."

Obama has articulated his foreign policy as such: don't do stupid stuff. Clinton said in the Atlantic interview that it wasn't enough.

“Great nations need organizing principles — and ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle," Clinton said in her Atlantic interview.

Asked at the bookstore Wednesday if she disagrees with Obama's policy on Iraq, Clinton decided to answer a different question entirely.

"I'm excited about signing books," she said.

That would seem to be a prerequisite for an event like this one: The bookstore said it had ordered 1,000 copies of "Hard Choices," the number Clinton's people have said she can sign in two hours. Clinton, sporting a dusty rose-colored textured jacket, greeted people who shuffled by the table where she was signing. As each person -- many of them sporting ponchos or soaking wet hair -- filed by, an aide slid a copy of "Hard Choices" to Clinton, the front cover open.

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"I'll be voting for you," a woman said to Clinton.

"Bless your heart," she replied.

Clinton made small talk about Martha's Vineyard, telling one attendee that she is "not here long enough," and trying to get a high-five out of six-year-old Audrey Lamb-Wilson when the girl wouldn't take a photo with her. Audrey obliged.

"Thank you for coming, staying out in the rain," Clinton said to the crowd, some of whom were sporting "Ready for Hillary" stickers.

"The potential to meet the first woman president of the United States!" Audrey's mother, Alycia Lamb of Seattle, said. "It's pretty monumental."

Quentin Heyward of Philadelphia shuffled toward the exit after meeting Clinton, who he said had "re-energized" him.

"She is the Merkel of the Americas," Heyward said. "She's cutting edge, she's respected, she's trusted."

There was little mention of the other major political figure on the island: President Obama, here for a two-week vacation.

Over the days since Clinton's initial comments, speculation in Washington has run rampant: How would Obama respond? Would it affect their relationship? Are they friends, or enemies -- or a bit of both? And exactly how awkward would their first post-comment meeting, and the promised Hug of Reconciliation, really be?

"Pool reporter better get in there with a tape measure to determine official hug distance," tweeted Democratic strategist Donna Brazile mockingly in the hours before the event. "We have a right to know. Agree? #huganalysis"

The frenzy over the Clinton comments, and looming embrace, reached fever pitch at the White House press briefing Wednesday, where reporters pressed deputy White House press secretary Eric Schultz over the state of the Obama-Clinton relationship -- and pushed for access to the pair's formal rapprochement.

"They have a close and resilient relationship," insisted Schultz, who added that Obama had "appreciated" Clinton's call. "...I'm not sure anyone in this room would contest that [not] doing stupid stuff is a good idea, but I also don't think anyone at the White House would assert that that is the -- how we would describe our approach to foreign policy."

Schultz did concede that Obama and Clinton have disagreed on several fronts, including the question of whether and when to arm Syrian rebels -- but he downplayed the distance between them. "They continue to agree on a broad majority of issues confronting our country, even if they have the occasional policy difference," Schultz said.

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As to the hugs: No big deal, he insisted -- the two have been there before.

"I believe the president and Secretary Clinton have had many hugs over the past few years," Schultz said, informing reporters that the latest embrace would go undocumented. "I suspect many of them have been caught on camera."

Politico: "'Hug summit' for Obama, Clinton"

By Maggie Haberman and Carrie Budoff Brown

August 14, 2014, 12:27 a.m. EDT

The "hug summit" finally took place Wednesday night.

President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton mingled amiably at a party on the elite vacation enclave of Martha's Vineyard, a day after the former secretary of state called the president to make clear she meant no ill will in a complex interview about foreign policy with The Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg that was published over the weekend.

The two saw each other at a party thrown by longtime Clinton friend Vernon Jordan and his wife, Ann, on Martha's Vineyard, where Clinton held a book-signing for her memoir "Hard Choices," and where Obama and his family are vacationing.

According to a read-out from White House officials, the party was a birthday celebration for Ann Jordan at the Farm Neck Golf Club with about 150 guests, including Bill and Hillary Clinton. President Obama gave the first toast, followed by Hillary Clinton and Vernon Jordan.

It was unclear if the two actually hugged, as a statement from Clinton press aide Nick Merrill had joked they would. But they certainly made clear that they were moving past a controversy that both sides described as overblown by the media.

"The president and first lady also were happy to have the chance to spend time with Secretary Clinton and former President Clinton," said a White House spokesman.

The dinner took place amid a somber backdrop nationally, as riot police in Ferguson, Missouri, the site of a police shooting of an unarmed black man over the weekend, used tear gas to hold protesters at bay. Obama put out a statement on the shooting Tuesday, and on Wednesday night, a White House official said Obama was briefed on the ongoing situation by senior adviser Valerie Jarrett and Attorney General Eric Holder.

In Obama's toast, he joked that he met Vernon before he met his wife but that he liked Ann more, and "a good time was had by all," the spokesman said.

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According to POLITICO's Mike Allen, attendees included Holder, Jarrett, National Security Adviser Susan Rice, Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy and American Express head Ken Chenault. The Obamas danced to nearly every song. So did the Clintons.

Hillary Clinton and Obama sat on either side of Ann Jordan.

Earlier in the day, as she signed books at the Bunch of Grapes bookstore in Vineyard Haven, Clinton made clear that she had in no way intended her criticisms related to policy toward Syria, the president's overall approach to global affairs — "Don't do stupid stuff," as his aides have said — or her view of the role of Hamas in the Gaza conflict as an attack on the president. A White House spokesman said the president "appreciated Secretary Clinton's call, as he does every opportunity to chat with the former secretary of state," in an earlier briefing with reporters.

"They have a close and resilient relationship."

At the book signing, Clinton began by briefly addressing the issue of the flap over foreign policy, saying the decision to call Obama on Tuesday was not "a hard choice."

"We agree," she said. "We are committed to the values and the interests of the security of our country together. We have disagreements as any partners and friends, as we are, might very well have."

Asked about Obama's current approach to Iraq, which includes surgical airstrikes, she replied, ""I'm excited about signing books."

Bloomberg: "Clinton-Obama Tension Rises as Political Interests Shift"

By Jonathan Allen and Angela Greiling Keane

August 13, 2014, 10:47 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are caught in a rift-and-repair cycle.

Their political camps spar. Then make up. It's a recurring sequence that won't end until he leaves the White House or her presidential aspirations come to an end, political experts say.

At the moment, the two are in the making-up stage. Clinton, at a book-signing on Martha's Vineyard, said she was "looking forward" to seeing him at a party tonight -- three days after her criticism of Obama's "don't do stupid stuff" foreign policy mantra was published in The Atlantic.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz told reporters on the island earlier today that Obama and

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Clinton, his former secretary of State, have a “close and resilient” relationship. Schultz wouldn’t say how the president reacted to her remarks; Clinton later called Obama to smooth things over.

The two sat at the same table at the dinner tonight at a golf club on Martha’s Vineyard where they celebrated the 80th birthday of Ann Jordan, who with her husband Vernon Jordan, is a Democratic donor.

“The president and first lady also were happy to have the chance to spend time with Secretary Clinton and former President Clinton,” the White House said in a statement after the party with about 150 attendees.

Shotgun Wedding

From the time of their shotgun wedding after the 2008 campaign -- Obama vowing to keep his primary adversary close and Clinton promising to serve him loyally as head of his State Department -- they’ve kept the partnership of the two most powerful brands in Democratic politics from tearing asunder.

That will increasingly be a challenge, given their differences in approach and policy and the shifting of their interests from mutual to distinct, as Obama works to burnish his legacy while Clinton lays the groundwork for her political future.

Asked today whether it was a tough decision to call Obama after her comments set off a media firestorm, she said: “No.”

“We agree. We are committed to the values and interests of the security of our country together,” she said. “We have disagreements, as any partners and friends might very well have. But I’m proud that I served with him and for him and I’m looking forward to tonight.”

‘Natural’ Tension

Julian Zelizer, a Princeton University professor of history and public affairs, said that “by putting herself physically in the same place, she obviously amplifies the story of difference but also might be sending a reminder to her party, including the left, that she and Obama are still on the same team or, in this case, on the same island.”

The tension is “natural when a two-term president is coming to an end and a potential candidate needs to distinguish themselves from a predecessor,” Zelizer said.

Similar dynamics were on display when former Vice President Al Gore put distance between his 2000 presidential campaign and his former boss, President Bill Clinton, and they date back in the country’s history.

The great friendship between Republican presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft frayed so badly during Taft’s first term in office that Roosevelt, who had been commander in chief from 1901 to 1909, tried to wrest the party’s nomination away in 1912.

Personal Invective

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Roosevelt, who formed the Bull-Moose party after losing the nomination, said Taft had veered away from progressivism and toward the “forces of reaction and political crookedness.” Nothing Obama or Clinton has said about the other since their primary campaign in 2008 approaches that level of personal invective.

The genesis of the Obama-Clinton conflict is twofold: his poor poll ratings and her interest in the presidency. He’s been upside down, with more Americans disapproving than approving of the job he’s doing, for more than a year in Gallup’s daily tracking polls. In surveys taken from Aug. 9 through Aug. 11, he rated a 41 percent approval level, with 55 percent disapproving of his handling of the presidency.

Clinton must show distance from a flagging president while making sure not to alienate the Democratic base that picked him over her in 2008. Her two-months-and-counting book tour, which produced the latest round of recriminations and reconciliation, isn’t helping matters.

Clinton Book

In her memoir, published in June, Clinton writes glowingly of Obama, while making clear exactly how and how often she disagreed with him on foreign policy issues when she was his chief diplomat from 2009 through early 2013.

In one instance, she recounts how Obama overruled her and others in his administration who advocated arming moderate rebels in Syria. While she publicly stood by the president’s decision not to do that, she has said since leaving the State Department that the “failure” to intervene gave space for the Islamic State to rise in Syria and Iraq.

It was a question from Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic about foreign policy that led to Clinton saying “don’t do stupid stuff” is not an “organizing principle” and touching off the back-and-forth with the White House.

Obama’s longtime political adviser, David Axelrod, responded with a Twitter message that alluded to Clinton’s vote to authorize the Iraq War.

The exchanges highlight how a divide in the Democratic Party serves neither Obama nor Clinton.

His poll numbers are propped up by nearly unified support from his partisan allies. Her chances of winning the presidency rely on the goodwill of Obama donors and voters who grew to accept her because she served him loyally.

Neil Levesque, director of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College, said “it’s definitely going to get worse” between Clinton and Obama.

“It’s hard to say there’s risk when her numbers are so much better than his,” Levesque said.

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The Atlantic: "How Money Warps U.S. Foreign Policy"

By Peter Beinart

August 13, 2014, 4:53 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] The key divide on America's role in the world is no longer between Democrats and Republicans. It's between elites and everyone else.

On Sunday, when Hillary Clinton used an interview with Jeffrey Goldberg to take pointedly more hawkish stances than President Obama on Syria, Iran, and Gaza, observers chalked it up to her presidential ambitions. As one Democratic operative told Politico, Clinton's advisors are "good poll readers." On Tuesday, when Rand Paul declined to oppose U.S. airstrikes in Iraq, commentators interpreted it the same way.

The assumption that hawkishness is politically smart is deeply ingrained in the media's coverage of the 2016 presidential race. But it's bizarre. Because in both parties, the polling data is overwhelming: Americans think U.S. foreign policy is too hawkish already. Foreign policy has always been more elite-driven, and more insulated from public opinion, than domestic policy. But today's elite-mass gap is the largest in decades. And regardless of your foreign-policy perspective, that's a problem for American democracy.

Think about the issues on which Hillary put distance between herself and Obama. She was particularly sharp in her criticism of the president's reluctance to arm Syria's rebels. But this supposedly shrewd political maneuver puts Hillary in the company of a mere 20 percent of the population. The last time the Pew Research Center asked Americans whether they support military aid to Syria's rebels, 20 percent said yes and a whopping 70 percent said no. When respondents were asked in the same poll to evaluate a series of statements about Syria, the most popular was the "U.S. military is already too overcommitted."

Hillary also took a harder line than Obama on Iran's right to enrich uranium—a harder line that would make it harder to reach a final nuclear deal with Tehran. As with Syria, many commentators considered Hillary's more hawkish stance to be politically astute. But again, the public is actually closer to Obama. According to a University of Maryland poll in July, 61 percent of Americans support a deal that would limit—but not prohibit—Iranian enrichment, while only 35 percent support increasing sanctions in an effort to eliminate Tehran's enriched uranium altogether.

In general, Hillary made it clear that she supports a more interventionist foreign policy. Unlike Obama, she rarely talks about the financial burden of America's foreign wars, and the need to balance America's overseas commitments with its domestic resources. But, here again, the public is on Obama's side. A Pew poll last year found that 51 percent of Americans believe their government is doing too much overseas, while only 17 percent say it is doing too little. This doesn't mean Americans want to retreat from the world entirely. A full two-thirds, according to that same Pew poll, support greater American involvement in the global economy. Americans aren't isolationists; they just don't want to police the world. According to Pew, only 12 percent of Americans want the U.S. to be the "single world leader," while 52 percent would prefer the U.S. share global leadership with other countries and be only "as active as others."

Given these results, why do most commentators think Hillary's hawkishness is politically wise? Because over the last year or so—as a result of the conflict in Ukraine and the rise of ISIS in Syria and Iraq—elite opinion has grown more hawkish even though public opinion at large hasn't. When it comes to foreign policy, in fact, the key divide is no longer between Democrats and Republicans. It's between the elites of both parties and their rank and file. When asked about arming Syria's rebels, an Iran deal that allows some uranium enrichment, and

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whether America should do more or less in the world, both Democrats and Republicans overwhelmingly take the more dovish view. On each question, the partisan divide is five percentage points or less.

The real gap emerges when you compare ordinary Americans to elites. According to Pew, for instance, rank-and-file Republicans are 34 percentage points more likely to want America to do less overseas. Rank-and-file Democrats are 31 points more likely to want America to do less. Members of the prestigious, bipartisan Council on Foreign Relations, by contrast, are 20 points more likely to say America should do more.

This helps explain why Rand Paul is shifting in a more hawkish direction as well. In recent weeks, Paul has substantially toughened his line against Russia, ruled out containing a nuclear Iran (a position with which he had previously flirted), pledged support for U.S. aid to Israel (another flip-flop), and remained open to bombing Iraq. He's also hired one of John McCain's foreign-policy advisors.

Paul is not staking out these positions to win over actual voters. Given that ordinary Republicans oppose arming the rebels in Syria, want a negotiated deal on Iran, and want America to refrain more from intervening militarily overseas, Paul would probably gain greater public support by sticking with a more dovish line and thus distinguishing himself in a multi-candidate field. What's motivating him is not the New Hampshire primary but the invisible primary. Paul has been ardently wooing GOP donors, who tend to be far more hawkish than Republicans as a whole, and who have threatened to mobilize against his candidacy. And according to Politico, he's told several of them that his foreign-policy views are "evolving."

Hillary Clinton's hawkishness is more sincere. She's been on the hawkish end of the Democratic spectrum since entering electoral politics a decade and a half ago. Still, were it not for the influence that moneyed elites wield over the presidential process, it would be much harder for her to take views so at odds with most Democratic voters. Clinton lost in 2008, after all, in large measure because she had backed the war in Iraq while Obama had not. If a credible progressive challenger in 2016 tied Hillary's current interventionism to her past interventionism under the rubric "she still doesn't get it," they'd find a receptive audience, especially in Iowa, where Democratic caucus-goers are particularly dovish.

Yet there's little evidence that any serious challenger is considering taking this approach. That's partly because Democratic primary voters, while overwhelmingly dovish, are not focused on foreign policy in the way they were during the Iraq War. And it's partly because even progressive Democrats like Elizabeth Warren are influenced by the more hawkish perspective common among party donors. That's especially true on the Middle East. Polling shows that rank-and-file Democrats are fairly critical of Israel's recent war in Gaza, for instance. But last month, even progressive firebrands like Warren supported a Senate resolution so hawkish that it did not even acknowledge that any Palestinians in Gaza had died.

It's worth analyzing the current moment in historical perspective. For a century, Americans have responded to disillusioning wars by demanding a less interventionist foreign policy. It happened after World War 1, after Korea, after Vietnam, and it's happening again in the wake of Afghanistan and Iraq. The difference between this moment and past ones is the role of money in politics. As on so many issues, politicians' need to raise vast sums from the super-rich makes them ultra-responsive to one, distinct sliver of the population and less responsive to everyone else. The way campaign finance warps the political debate over financial regulation is well known. What we're witnessing this year is a case study in the way it warps the foreign-policy debate as well.

In 2008, Obama was elected president in part because he had deviated from a hawkish, largely bipartisan, elite foreign-policy perspective that facilitated the war in Iraq. Six years later, Obama is still deviating, and so are the American people. Yet the elite consensus is stronger than ever, and in the run-up to 2016, that consensus—more than public opinion—is driving the presidential debate. No wonder Americans are cynical.

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The Hill: “Former Hillary aide sought to ‘neutralize’ greens on Keystone”

By Megan R. Wilson

August 13, 2014, 4:13 p.m. EDT

A former spokeswoman to Hillary Clinton worked for the Canadian province of Alberta to “neutralize the environmentalist arguments” against the Keystone XL pipeline, new filings with the Justice Department reveal.

Hilary Lefebvre, who served as the director of broadcast media for Clinton’s 2008 presidential bid, was paid $53,725 during the 10-week contract, according to the documents.

The contract was officially signed with FeverPress, a PR firm Lefebvre co-founded with David Press, though disclosure documents say it was Lefebvre who worked on the account.

Lefebvre, who spent seven years in broadcast journalism working for CNN and ABC's “Nightline,” reached out to print, radio and TV journalists who could provide "top-tier features with cable news amplification" about Keystone, according to the contract.

“We recommend recasting the debate so that it is no longer perceived as environmentalists vs. Canada, good vs. bad," one contract document said. “In fact, it is important to reframe this as an American issue so that it starts to take on more positive currency in the media.”

The efforts were specifically aimed at drumming up publicity for former Alberta Premier Alison Redford during one of her many visits to the United States last year to rally support for the multibillion-dollar project. The PR firm was hired specifically to book media interviews during a trip in April 2013.

One memo obtained separately by Republic Report detailed efforts to land interviews with Charlie Rose, Andrea Mitchell and news programs such as “Morning Joe” on MSNBC, “The Lead with Jake Tapper” on CNN and “NewsHour with Jim Lehrer” on PBS.

The PR campaign is likely to raise eyebrows among environmental advocates, who have pushed Clinton to take a stand against the pipeline, which would carry oil sands from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries.

Clinton has repeatedly declined to weigh in on Keystone, saying it would be inappropriate for her to comment since she was involved in reviewing the project as secretary of State.

That stance risks alienating green advocates, who are generous backers of the Democratic Party and would be allies should Clinton run for the White House in 2016.

Lefebvre isn’t the only former Clinton aide with ties to the controversial pipeline. Paul Elliott, a lobbyist for project developer TransCanada, also worked on Clinton’s 2008 campaign.

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Aside from Lefebvre's ties to Clinton, the timing of the contract disclosure could draw scrutiny.

Any person or firm that performs PR, advocacy or consulting work for a foreign government, state-owned corporation or international business is required to file paperwork to DOJ within 10 days of signing a contract.

The contract with the Canadian government was signed on March 15, 2013, and lasted until June 2013 but appeared in a Justice Department database for the first time on Tuesday.

FeverPress did not respond to a request for comment about the DOJ filing.

The Justice Department, which rarely prosecutes violations of the Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA), did not respond to an inquiry about whether it urged the disclosure from FeverPress.

The contract documents, some of which are marked "PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL" and "NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION," provide a revealing glimpse into the messaging and political difficulties facing Keystone supporters.

"The challenge is that President Obama has championed his commitment to the environment early on in his second term and is beholden to the environmental constituency for their support in the last election. The current debate gives the president little political cover to support the pipeline without looking like he is turning his back on his pro-environment agenda," one contract document says.

"We do not have to win the environmental argument; we just need to add context and complexity to it so that we can blunt the current arguments against the Pipeline," the document says. "Again, winning the war here is providing enough political cover for the U.S. government to greenlight the project — not winning over the environmentalists."

The existence of the PR contract was first reported by Republic Report, which in May obtained the separate documents from the Canadian government.

Those documents included a memo that the PR firm sent to the Alberta government officials warning that media interest in Keystone might waning due to Congress's focus on the economy, gun control and immigration reform in the spring session.

"We therefore recommend a slight change in our strategy to secure the interest of our bigger targets (e.g. Charlie Rose, Piers Morgan, etc.), which have expressed initial interest but have expressed some hesitations," it said.

NPR and Politico appear to be the only news outlets that interviewed Redford that April, according to the DOJ filing.

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New York Times column: Gail Collins: “What’s Next With Hillary?”

By Gail Collins

August 13, 2014

Well, let’s hope that’s over.

President Obama was in Martha’s Vineyard, playing golf. Hillary Clinton arrived, ready to sign books. They were headed for the same birthday party where, a Clinton aide said, they intended to “hug it out.” Peace was declared. Extraordinary! You would think they were both professional politicians.

As the whole world now knows, Clinton gave an interview to The Atlantic last week in which she took issue with President Obama’s “don’t do stupid stuff” foreign policy mantra, pushed a harder line than the White House on Iran, and disagreed with Obama’s refusal to arm the rebels in Syria.

The Clinton camp insists she had no intention of breaking with the president. But if that’s the case, then the former secretary of state had trouble saying precisely what she wanted to say about foreign policy. That just doesn’t sound like Hillary Clinton, who is a great conversationalist off the record, yet has an absolute genius way of saying nothing exciting whatsoever when the tape recorder is running.

Some people think that after years on the diplomacy trail, she may have lost her edge. “I don’t know if her political instincts are in top shape,” said a Friend of Obama. But then, you know, F.O.B.

Given all the options, I’d prefer to think it was a minor betrayal. Loyalty may be an overrated virtue in high-level politics. Really, nobody cares if a president back-bites a former colleague or dumps a best friend. Just keep the country running and we’re good.

Anyway, he forgives her! Hugs scheduled for the birthday party for Vernon Jordan’s wife.

It’s only been six years since Obama and Clinton ran against each other, but, wow, does it feel longer. Watching Obama, I remembered a time during the 2008 campaign when he told a story about a woman who’d “seen some years,” adding: “She’s maybe close to 60.” Some of the middle-aged women in the crowd started to hiss.

Now, the president himself looks as though he’s seen some years. He’s long since gotten his first AARP mailings. And Clinton has been heir apparent — forever. Democrats have gotten so used to thinking of her as the next president that they’ve stopped seriously evaluating her as a candidate for their nomination.

The Atlantic interview sort of bounced everything back into perspective. Liberals with dovish leanings raced to Google to see whether any high-ranking Democrats have been sighted at the Iowa State Fair. What does Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley think about uranium enrichment negotiations with Iran? (We always describe him as “Maryland governor” because nobody outside of his home state knows who Martin O’Malley is.) Has Elizabeth Warren totally ruled out running? (Yes.)

Hillary’s still got the virtues her base has always admired: intelligence, experience, remarkable ability to take a

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punch and keep on running. Everybody loves the woman who showed up on “The Colbert Report” the other night, having a name-dropping contest with the host. Everybody remembers her determination to lift up women’s rights in Asia and Africa, her unflagging energy as secretary of state (956,733 miles traveled; total travel time, 2,084 hours).

But now that she’s brought up actual issues, the party’s rank-and-file deserves some more information.

Back in the 2008 primaries, Obama was arguing that with the right leadership in the White House, America could get rid of the old brain-dead partisanship of the past and reach a new era of bipartisan cooperation. Hillary, working off long experience, said the real world was tougher and more complicated than that. After the election, as Washington ground to a hopeless, vicious, zombified halt, she was proved right.

In foreign affairs, too, Clinton reflected what she’d learned when her husband was president. Airstrikes worked in Kosovo. Bill Clinton brought Israel and the Palestinians right to the edge of a peace deal, but the Palestinians backed away. The president failed to intervene in Rwanda, and regretted it forever. The bad guys only understood a firm hand. During the debates, she refused to say that during her first year in office she’d be open to meeting with leaders of countries like Cuba or North Korea. If the Iranians declared nuclear war on Israel, she told an interviewer, as president she would “totally obliterate” them.

This is the Hillary who popped back up this week. She was probably being neither politically calculating nor blundering in the Atlantic interview, but simply being unusually clear about what she believes. And we need to hear more, not less. Does she really think the Syrian disaster could have been averted if the United States had helped the rebels? In The Atlantic, she was a little oblique on that point. Maybe a debate with Joe Biden. ...

“I’m excited about signing my books,” Clinton said Wednesday night, when a reporter asked how she feels about Obama’s Iraq policy. It’s August, everybody’s friends, and we may not hear another serious conversation on these matters until 2015.

The New Yorker: John Cassidy: “Can Hillary Play This Game?”

By John Cassidy

August 13, 2014

In the past few months, as Hillary Clinton has embarked on what has often looked like a soft launch of her 2016 Presidential campaign under the guise of publishing a memoir about her four years as Secretary of State, she’s demonstrated some of the attributes that would make her a formidable candidate. She’s racked up more endorsements from prominent Democrats, her poll ratings have remained favorable, her fund-raising ability has been highlighted, and she has demonstrated an uncanny knack for dominating the headlines.

That last ability has proved double-edged, however. Several days after The Atlantic‘s Jeffrey Goldberg delivered a lengthy interview with Clinton to an unsuspecting public, the aftershocks are still being felt. At one point in the interview, Clinton appeared to criticize President Obama’s cautious approach to foreign policy, sharply dismissing the phrase “Don’t do stupid stuff,” which is often attributed to him. On Tuesday, Clinton called the

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President to explain to him that, in the words of her spokesman, “nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership. … Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when they see each other tomorrow night.”

Evidently, the “hugging it out” will take place on a golf course on Martha’s Vineyard, where, on Wednesday evening, Clinton and Obama will both be attending party organized by Vernon Jordan, the venerable Friend of Bill. As I’m writing this, it’s not clear whether any reporters will be allowed to witness this coming together. In the meantime, though, the media jackals—by all accounts, that’s pretty much how Hillary views journalists—are happily feasting on the meat that she and Goldberg kindly provided.

Writing in Wednesday’s Times, Maureen Dowd noted that the former First Lady had demonstrated “the diplomatic finesse of a wrecking ball.” That was about the nicest thing Dowd had to say. Suggesting that Clinton was deliberately seeking to distance herself from an unpopular President, a suggestion that other commentators have also put forward, she concluded, “Obama is learning the truth of another unofficial slogan in politics. ‘The Clintons will be there when they need you.’ ”

Dowd is a longtime antagonist of the Clintons, as is the neoconservative Weekly Standard, which, as Dowd noted, reprinted some of Hillary’s comments from the interview with Goldberg, billing them as a “guest editorial.” But it isn’t just the Clinton bashers in the media who are piling on. On his Twitter account, David Axelrod, one of President Obama’s top advisers, wrote, “Just to clarify, ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place.” (Just in case you’ve forgotten, Clinton voted for the war.) Indeed, this is a flap that has captivated much of the political world. One of several Politico articles devoted to the interview was headlined “Cocktail chatter with Barack and Hillary.” The Washington Post and the Times had plenty more.

Even in today’s hyperactive, always-on media world, that’s pretty good going—especially for mid-August. Most likely, things will die down once Clinton and the President make up, which is surely what will happen. But, even though the immediate storm will blow over, it has raised anew a nagging question that has been lingering over Clinton since her rough book launch, and, indeed, since the defeat that she suffered in 2008—a campaign in which she started out as the front-runner: Can she play this game at this level?

As I intimated up top, the obvious answer is yes, of course she can. While running for the Senate in 2000 and 2006, she oversaw faultless campaigns, and racked up big victories both times, albeit not over the strongest of opponents. As a globetrotting Secretary of State, she was a very popular figure; even today, her aura and reputation are such that she has scared off any serious opposition for the Democratic nomination. Thanks to her unique set of experiences, she also has other advantages. The Clinton political operation remains a formidable one, with vast reservoirs of money and talent that it can call on, including her husband, whose mere presence is a significant plus. (According to a new statistical study by the political scientist Jordan Ragusa, every time that Bill Clinton’s approval rating goes up a point, Hillary’s goes up half a point.)

In short, Hillary remains a very formidable political figure, and she’s still the strong favorite to be the next President. (At the British betting sites, the odds on her winning in 2016 are about 5-4.) All that said, though, she has some issues to address going forward.

One goes to the substance of her chat with Goldberg, in which she struck a tone that was hawkish, interventionist, and fiercely pro-Israel. The reactions to what she said have been interesting, and it’s not clear whether they are what the Clintonites hoped for. The editors of the Weekly Standard loved the interview, and David Brooks also approved. James Fallows and Kevin Drum expressed serious reservations; so did I. If Clinton’s intention was to extend her political reach and attract the support of conservatives, she succeeded. If she was seeking to present a foreign-policy vision attractive to progressives and centrists, she might need to think again.

The second, and more immediate, issue is Clinton’s tendency to make verbal gaffes. When, in June, she told

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Diane Sawyer that she and Bill had emerged from the White House “dead broke,” how did she think it would be taken? In December, 1999, the Web site Politifact pointed out, the Clintons paid $1.7 million for a house in Westchester. The following year, they bought another house, in Washington, for $2.4 million. Yes, they had mortgages and big legal bills incurred while fending off G.O.P.-inspired investigations, but they also had enormous earning power. By 2004, according to her public disclosures, Clinton was worth between ten million dollars and fifty million dollars.

Clinton’s public dismissal of the phrase “Don’t do stupid stuff” was similarly ill-advised. In the full transcript of the interview, to be sure, she makes clear that she doesn’t believe this phrase is a fair or complete characterization of Obama’s approach to foreign policy. At one point, she even talks about it favorably, or semi-favorably, remarking, “That’s a good lesson, but it’s more complicated than that.” However, rather than leaving things there and expounding on her own views in isolation from those of the President, she brings up the phrase again, of her own volition, stating, “Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle.”

For a professional politician, these are rookie errors. For a politician who has been under intense scrutiny for more than twenty years, they were almost inexplicable.

The benign explanation is that, since leaving the State Department, Clinton’s gotten a bit rusty, and that’s why she went out on book tour: to sharpen up and get her errors in early. As anybody who has seen her perform in public can testify, she is knowledgeable, brimming with energy, personable, and even, on occasion, funny. Once she regains her sea legs, the optimistic argument goes, these attributes will come across to the public at large, and she’ll be fine.

That may well happen. But she’s been “out there” for quite a while now, and this was another self-inflicted blow. Does she still have the self-discipline and determination that it takes to stay on-message twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for an entire Presidential campaign? The answer isn’t immediately obvious.

In an appearance at George Washington University back in June, Lissa Muscatine, one of Clinton’s former speechwriters, suggested that, these days, she appeared to be willing to speak her mind. That was true, Clinton acknowledged. Maybe it was because of the “wonderful wealth of experience” that she’d accumulated, she said, and, “Maybe it’s because I am totally done with, you know, being really careful about what to say because somebody might think this instead of that. It just gets too exhausting and frustrating. And it just seems a whole lot easier to just put it out there and hope people will get used to it. Whether you agree with it or not, you know exactly where I come from, what I think, what I feel.”

Coming from an author—or practically anybody else, for that matter—these would be admirable sentiments. We all say that we want people, especially politicians, to be honest and forthright. But Presidential candidates inhabit a world in which it’s essential to balance forthrightness with the likelihood—nay, the certainty—that every word they utter will be scrutinized and, if possible, used against them. As a candidate, you should be honest, but you also have to make darn sure that your words can’t be misrepresented—or, worse, accurately represented—to your disadvantage. If you “just put it out there” without any self-editing or consideration of the consequences, disaster frequently ensues. Joe Biden discovered that in 1987, when he used a speech plagiarized from one by Neil Kinnock, the leader of the British Labour Party; Mitt Romney discovered it in 2012, when he made his unguarded comments about the “forty-seven per cent” at a Republican fund-raiser.

The depressing truth is this: modern political campaigns are wars of attrition, and the victor is often the one who makes the fewest mistakes. As a veteran of many such battles, Hillary Clinton knows this all too well. Assuming that she sets her mind to it and makes the transition from likely runner to an officially declared candidate, she will almost certainly suppress her qualms about the campaign process and follow its restrictive rules. For now, though, she still seems a bit out of step.

Vox: “Obama’s critics are suddenly sure Hillary Clinton is great”

By Ezra Klein

August 13, 2014, 3:30 p.m. EDT

In 1988, the BC show "Yes, Minister" outlined Politician's Logic. It goes like this:

1. We must do something.

2. This is something.

3. We must do this!

There is, however, a reverse of Politician's Logic, which might be called Pundit's Logic. It goes like this:

1. Something was done.

2. The problem isn't fixed.

3. We should have done the other thing!

When it comes to looking back on the disappointments of Barack Obama's presidency, the "other thing," particularly this week, is elect Hillary Clinton.

For instance, Megan McArdle writes that "when Obama beat Hillary, we all lost." The basic argument is that if Hillary Clinton had won in 2008, "at the very least, she would not be facing the same level of vehement opposition in Congress." This is because, McArdle says, the emotional engine of the Tea Party was Obamacare, and Hillary Clinton would have spied the intensity of Republican opposition to health reform and turned back.

"So there's my counterfactual for the summer," McArdle concludes. "If Hillary Clinton had won, Obamacare wouldn't have happened, and Democrats — and the country — would be better off." (Curiously, there is no mention of the millions of people who gained or will gain insurance through Obamacare, most of whom would presumably be much, much worse off in this counterfactual.)

Is McArdle right? Maybe! But it's a perfect reversal of the argument Clinton's supporters made on her behalf in 2008. Back then, the case for Clinton was that she understood full well that doing big things would mean fighting — and winning — an all-out partisan war, and that the problem with Obama was his naive insistence on bipartisanship ensured he would turn back when the partisan fury began to singe. "Anyone who thinks that the

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next president can achieve real change without bitter confrontation is living in a fantasy world," wrote Paul Krugman in a 2007 column criticizing Obama.

Meanwhile, the argument for Obama was precisely that Republicans hated him less than Clinton, and so a vote for Obama was a vote for a less partisan future. "Clinton will always be, in the minds of so many, the young woman who gave the commencement address at Wellesley, who sat in on the Nixon implosion and who once disdained baking cookies. For some, her husband will always be the draft dodger who smoked pot and wouldn't admit it. And however hard she tries, there is nothing Hillary Clinton can do about it," wrote Andrew Sullivan in an essay endorsing Obama. Sullivan went on to note that "polling reveals Obama to be the favored Democrat among Republicans."

All of which is to say it is very easy to imagine a world where Hillary Clinton won the election, party polarization is as bad or worse than it is today, and pundits are looking back to 2008 and wishing Obama had won.

The same is true for the argument between Clinton and Obama on Syria. There, the issue is that Syria continues to be an absolute human disaster: more than 160,000 have died in the country's civil war, and the radical, brutal group ISIS fought through the chaos and built a powerful statelet that they used as a base of operations to expand into Iraq. So the question is: could America have done more?

Inside the administration, Clinton was an advocate of doing more, and doing it earlier. In particular, she wanted to try and identify, train and arm more moderate factions of the opposition. She lost that argument, and it's a loss that she and her supporters emphasize today. The idea is that if Clinton had won — if Obama had feared the risks of inaction more than the risks of action — then Assad might have been ousted by now and ISIS might never have gotten their foothold. The conservative Weekly Standard found this so self-evident that their editorial this week is nothing but edited excerpts of Clinton laying out her foreign policy differences with Obama.

There's a part of Clinton's comments on Syria that they leave out, however. "I can't sit here today and say that if we had done what I recommended, and what [Ambassador] Robert Ford recommended, that we'd be in a demonstrably different place," she told the Atlantic's Jeffrey Goldberg (the aggression of Clinton's criticisms of Obama has been wildly played-up by the media). And then there's the possibility that we would be in a different place — a worse one.

America does not have a very successful record arming insurgent groups. As political scientist Marc Lynch concludes in a review of the relevant literature:

“In general, external support for rebels almost always make wars longer, bloodier and harder to resolve (for more on this, see the proceedings of this Project on Middle East Political Science symposium in the free PDF download). Worse, as the University of Maryland's David Cunningham has shown, Syria had most of the characteristics of the type of civil war in which external support for rebels is least effective.”

The reality in Syria is horrible, and so regret is mounting that we didn't do the other thing we considered doing. But it's entirely possible that if we had done the other thing that the reality in Syria would be even worse (and much, much worse for America).

Pundits have no choice but to consider counterfactuals; there's no other way to think about the world and the choices America makes within it. The problem is when the counterfactual is used less to evaluate reality than to lament it.

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The fact that something turned out badly often means that it's a hard, and sometimes impossible, problem to solve. George W. Bush ran as a uniter and Barack Obama ran as a post-partisan and each sincerely hoped to heal the widening divisions in American political life, but those divisions are widening because of powerful structural factors that easily overpowered, and ultimately co-opted, both men's presidencies. Syria is a hellish problem that America very likely can't solve.

Sometimes the problem really is that we should have done the other thing. But sometimes the problem is that we don't know how to solve the problem.

The Hill blog: Lanny Davis: "The cure for punditry hyperventilation on Hillary Clinton — Try the facts"

By Lanny Davis

August 13, 2014, 3:16 p.m. EDT

I have read a slew of comments by pundits, columnists and self-described "progressive" organizations criticizing former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for her comments in The Atlantic to reporter Jeffrey Goldberg about (a) her disagreement with President Obama on the issue of early aid to moderate opposition elements in Syria to the Assad regime; and (b) her comment that "don't do stupid stuff" does not a foreign policy make.

It's one thing for writers on the liberal side of the spectrum, or organizations that describe themselves that way, to disagree with Clinton on her point of view and debate the facts and differing opinions based on those facts, on substantive or policy grounds. But that is not what happened. Instead, what we have seen is a series of ad hominem attacks, mostly going to Clinton's real "motives" or the use of labels — labels like "hawkish" or "anti-interventionist" — devoid of facts and, as Shakespeare once wrote, "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Let's look at three facts to put to rest this pseudo flare-up over Clinton's interview during the slow news month of August.

1. The characterization that Clinton's comments show that she is truly a "hawk" who is defying the "anti-interventionist" Democratic liberal (a label used by a spokesperson for MoveOn.org, a self-described progressive organization) is inaccurate. Since Clinton's early years in politics when she supported and worked for the most anti-Vietnam War candidate for president, Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), who went on to become the Democratic Party's nominee for president in 1972, she has been a skeptic of overreliance on American military power, especially unilateral military intervention. Clinton's record as senator and as secretary of State shows that she remains so to this day.

Her remark to Mr. Goldberg critical of the "avoid the stupid stuff" concept meant that she prefers an affirmative, forward-looking policy — not just one that avoids making mistakes. She spells out that affirmative and proactive concept in detail in her book Hard Choices and its specific application during her four years as secretary of State. She called it using "smart power": a combination of "soft power," using economic, cultural, trade, educational and other human rights assistance and communicating better America's democratic and humane values, and tougher measures such as economic sanctions and the option of military power as a last resort, but seriously taken.

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Her approach to Iran's threatened development of The Bomb is a good example of this proactive policy of smart power. Secretary Clinton was a key player in orchestrating and implementing the tough economic sanctions on Iran that many would say brought it to the negotiating table. But like Obama, she won't take the military option off the table. (Regarding President Obama: he, too, strongly supported using this "smart power" combination. He also supported military intervention in Afghanistan during his 2008 presidential campaign and since. Yet I don't recall anyone from MoveOn.org accusing him for that reason of defying the "anti-interventionist" Democratic Party base.

2. One of Obama's former senior White House officials and political advisers tweeted that "stupid stuff" was "occupying" Iraq under former President George W. Bush. He allegedly was referring to Clinton's vote supporting the resolution authorizing intervention in Iraq. But the tweeter omitted at least two facts: first, that the Iraq War resolution was supported by 28 other Democratic senators, including then-Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and current Vice President of the United States Joe Biden; and second, that Secretary Clinton has described that vote as a mistake.

(Personal footnote: I don't read too much into this tweeter's quick shot at Clinton in response to the Goldberg interview. I know I have regretted many times some of my own impulsive tweets, with limited letters available. I happen to admire this tweeter very much. I know he also likes and appreciates Clinton for her loyal service to Obama during her four years as secretary and that, to his credit, Obama always encouraged disagreement and debate on various issues he faced during his presidency.)

3. Finally, the notion that Clinton can be challenged from the left because of a "vacuum" regarding her positions on the issues is simply contradicted by the facts. Her progressive positions on issues and her voting record in the U.S. Senate over eight years are indisputable: pro-choice, pro-gay marriage, pro-civil rights and human rights, pro-gun control, pro-Affordable Care Act, pro-increasing the minimum wage, pro-Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (having praised Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren many times for this regulatory body in the wake of the abuses that caused the 2008 Near Great Depression), etc. etc. This hardly suggests there is a "vacuum" on her left in the Democratic Party. See the latest proof of this from Nate Silver at FiveThirtyEight.

Indeed, every poll shows Clinton has overwhelming support from liberal Democrats. There are some in the Democratic Party, however, who mistake substance for a willingness to work with members of the other party to get things done — which is why Clinton was described by many Senate Republicans in such positive terms, or as, as the late Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) put it, "a work horse, not a show horse."

So despite the pundits looking to create a contest in the Democratic Party between the "left" and the "center" or some such labeling to get the juices going to make for a bitter, divisive and therefore entertaining Democratic contest for the nomination in 2016, if Clinton chooses to run for president, I know there will be other candidates for the nomination and I hope there is a vigorous debate on the issues and solutions to the nation’s most important problems. We need that debate as Democrats. What we don't need are invented differences based on innuendo and labels, rather than facts and substance.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

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· August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From: "Evan Whitbeck" <ewhitbeck@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
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erome@afscme.org
Date: 5/12/2008 9:11:00 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 05/12/08

Main Topics: McCain's Environment Speech, Carly Fiorina Interview, McSame or McDifferent, GI Bill, McCain's Myanmar Ties

Summary of Shift: As close as Marlboro, MD weather continues to disrupt and destroy lives across the globe tonight. Pundits take a look at the proposal that McCain and Obama conduct town halls together, generally concluding it would be a bad move for Obama. The most-played clip from McCain's climate change speech was where he condemned the Bush White House for eight years of 'failed diplomacy.' Barack Obama's statement about John McCain's free pass also made several appearances. Toward the end of the night Dan Abrams reports that Congress wants Karl Rove to testify on the prosecution of former democratic governor, Don Siegelman.

Highlights:

1. The networks' response to McCain's climate change speech
   a. McCain is a maverick
   b. *Situation Room* panel debates McCain's environmental track record
   c. Fox News outlines his environmental policy
   d. McCain's environmental credentials questioned on CNN
2. Fiorina Interviewed on *This Week*, tries to distance McCain from Bush
3. Senior McCain adviser praises McCain's stance on environment, calls attacks on his GI bill "pandering"
4. McMedia bias
   a. *Reliable Sources* wonders whether the press has been fair with McCain
   b. Panel on *Road to the White House* treats Obama claim skeptically
   c. Moyers suggests the McCain camp wants to sway the referees
   d. McCain adviser, Donatelli says media complain more about attackson Democrats than Republicans
5. Response to McCain's criticisms of the Webb GI Bill
6. McBush and McDifferent
   a. Roy Blunt: McCain in the White House is a third Bush term and that is a good thing
   b. Cillizza: McCain cannot allow himself to be painted as a third Bush White House if he is to win
   c. Sen. Reid: McCain has gone from being his own man in 2000 to a "clone of Bush"
7. Lieberman's interview with Wolf Blitzer
   a. Lieberman: Our enemies need to fear McCain
   b. Lieberman is a hatchet man for McCain
8. Bush scandals
   a. Pentagon pundits
   b. Iran lies
9. McCain's Myanmar junta ties
   a. McLobbyist, Goodyear gets second worst person in the world
   b. CNN reports on McCain aides' resignations
10. McCain's fundraising troubles
11. David Schuster calls McCain's speech 'stunning' [no clip]

Clips:

Highlight #1
Smerconish: McCain is a Maverick Extending Olive Branches (MSNBC
MICHAEL SMERCONISH: What's red and blue and green all over? Today it's John McCain out on the stump, courting votes from moderates, independents and—don't forget—evangelical Christians by talking about global warming.

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[Cut to segment of John McCain's energy speech.]

SMERCONISH: Catch the reference, of course, to those eight long years. He [is] making reference to the sitting president. This is John McCain, the maverick trying to extend a couple of olive branches in quarters where he's not supposed to win.

DAVID GREGORY: Interesting. Talking about the environment in a way that Republicans don't. Talking about the environment in a way that Republicans don't in Oregon, which he'd like to put in the battleground column.

SMERCONISH: No doubt about it. I think that, as I say, it's being interpreted as a pitch for the moderates, but keep your eye on the evangelical Christians, David because that's a community that has moved in this direction on that particular issue.

McCain's Maverick Credentials on the Environment Questioned (CNN 05/12/08 4:54pm)
WOLF BLITZER: Ok, he's talking about global warming, which is a very important issue . . . what do you make of this?

JOHN FEEHERY: Well, it's . . . the number one issue for about 4%. The number one issue is the economy, gas prices, so as McCain does this, which I think is smart, it shows that he's different than Bush, which he really needs to do. But on the same token, he's got to swing back and get those Reagan Democrats, he's gotta talk about gas prices, he's gotta talk about the economy.

BLITZER: So global warming is not enough. It's not enough. It's certainly not enough. It's good for the small percent of voters who can afford higher gas prices . . .

PAUL BEGALA: I do think McCain runs a big risk here. He's trying to position himself as a moderate as well as a maverick. Well, I don't even think he's either. But this is going to undermine his whole reputation for straight talk because the truth is it's just hot air. When he talks about global warming, it's hot air from John McCain. He is somebody who does not actually have the sort of record that he holds himself out. I saw today in the Washington Post, the League of Conservation Voters pointed out that his rating is something like 26 . . . as opposed to Hillary and Barack who have 86 . . . the League of Conservation Voters says John McCain is not as green as he holds himself out to be.

WOLF BLITZER: But he's different, Donna, than George Bush on this whole issue.

DONNA BRAZILE: He is I mean not only is his rhetoric different, his record's not much different but Sen. McCain said that this is going to be an issue because he believes that he can solve this problem. He will put it on his agenda if he's elected president. The truth is that he's trying to reach out to independents. And he knows that he cannot win, especially out west, unless independents come on board.

BLITZER: But if the Republicans were looking for a dream candidate who could reach out to independents . . . a lot of Republicans say they really got luck in that John McCain effectively got this nomination.

FEEHERY: McCain's the best. He's been the best on the environment. A lot of Republicans don't like that record. And he has been a stalwart on the environment. He's been strong on global warming. He's been talking about it for a long time. So I would disagree. He's also kind of threaded the needle. He's the kind of guy who can talk about the environment but also talk about the real important issue for most Americans which is the economy.

Carl Cameron Outlines McCain's Environmental Policies (FNC 05/12/08 6:07pm)
BRITT HUME: Republican John McCain has spent the last few weeks outlining his position on such issues as lower taxes, winning in Iraq and strict constructionist judges; all appealing to conservatives. But today McCain was talking about an issue near and dear to independents and Democrats, proposals to deal with global warming . . . Carl Cameron has the details.

CARL CAMERON: Staking out the greenest political position of any Republican candidate in decades, John McCain visited a wind turbine maker in Oregon and put his money where his mouth is with a new Oregon ad

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signaling a new direction on the environment for the GOP. [ad plays] McCain's climate change ad highlights his courtship of independents and moderates by criticizing the far left for overreacting and the far right for being too dismissive. [ad continues] The Republican Party's fall standard-bearer announced the debate within his party for the existence of global warming over.

JOHN MCCAIN: We know that greenhouse gases are heavily implicated as a cause of climate change. And we know that among all greenhouse gases, the worst by far is the carbon dioxide that results from fossil fuel combustion.

CAMERON: McCain's approach relies on a combination of regulation and free market principles to curb pollution. He laid out some specific goals for a cap and trade system . . .

MCCAIN: By the year 2012, we will seek a return to 2005 levels . . . by 2020, a return to 1990 levels and so on until we have achieved a reduction of at least 60% below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

CAMERON: Democrat Barack Obama has set a more aggressive emissions goal for 2050 of 80% below 1990 levels. McCain also plans to tackle international climate change treaties and tweaked Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush for failing to get an international agreement inked.

MCCAIN: I will not shirk the mantle of leadership that the United States bears. I will not permit 8 long years to pass without serious action on serious challenges.

CAMERON: That's a reference to the 1997 Kyoto agreement that the United States did not sign on to. Principally because India and China were not required to meet its compliance regulations. McCain says that has to change. But even if China and India don't go along, the United States still has an obligation to lead and he will . . .

McCain's Environmental Credentials Questioned (CNN 05/12/08 6:29pm)
WOLF BLITZER: John McCain is campaigning right now in Oregon, he's trying to disprove the claim that he's like President Bush . . . CNN's Dana Bash is in Portland . . .

DANA BASH: . . . Democrats, as you can imagine are calling this idea that he's talking about, climate change, a masquerade, but John McCain's campaign really thinks that by him talking about this, this will be one of his best issues. Because it allows him to distance himself from President Bush and it also pushes the idea that could be counterintuitive. A 71 year-old candidate pushing the idea of change. Republican candidates don't often come to the Pacific Northwest to decry the effects of global warming. Precisely the reason that John McCain did.

JOHN MCCAIN: We need to deal with the central facts of . . . all the endless troubles that global warming will bring.

BASH: He rebuked President Bush whose administration has been skeptical of science showing global warming.

MCCAIN: . . . I will not permit 8 long years to pass without serious action on serious challenges.

BASH: McCain promised to abandoned what he called "dead-end diplomacy" and push for a new global treaty . . . he proposes a cap and trade solution . . .

MCCAIN: As never before, the market would reward any person or company that seeks to invent, improve or acquire alternatives to carbon based energy.

BASH: Portraying himself as a rare species, a green Republican, is a regular part of McCain's stump speeches.

MCCAIN: ANWR, I believe, is a pristine place . . .

BASH: But coming to Oregon to highlight his environmental proposals is all about the fight with Barack Obama for independent voters. In 2004, one third of Oregon voters were independents. It's why McCain is using one of his most precious resources, campaign cash, for this new TV ad here. [ad plays] Democrats and several left-leaning environmental groups blasted McCain today for what they called hypocrisy. Pointing out for example that

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he praised renewable energy here . . . but he voted against tax credits that would help that kind of renewable energy. The McCain campaign responded . . . by insisting that that kind of legislation and others were things that had excess spending . . .

WOLF BLITZER: . . . let's talk about this and more . . . in a lot of states there are more registered independents than there are Republicans or Democrats and McCain sees an opening here on this issue of global warming.

JACK CAFFERTY: Yeah, he's going to be the next Al Gore, right? I don't think so. It's an interesting tactic but if you look at his record and his absence on what was it? Fifty votes on various environmental related pieces of legislation in the last year. I think he got one of the lowest ratings . . . of any member of congress . . . it's trying to be all things to all people but I don't know if it's going to fit so well . . .

BLITZER: Does he have an opening here Gloria?

GLORIA BORGER: I think he does have an opening. You know, all during the primaries John McCain has been talking about global warming. I think it's a way for him, believe it or not, not only for him to attract independent voters. But maybe even, even, some younger voters . . .

BLITZER: He makes it clear he believes there is this problem, Jeffery, called global warming, in marked contrast to a lot of other Republicans . . .

JEFFERY TOOBIN: You know this story illustrates just how low the bar is for Republicans on the environment. You know, the fact that he acknowledges global warming is seen as a big advantage for him but it's like acknowledging gravity. . . the real issue is not whether it exists, the question is what to do with it. And in that area, he's not as far to the right as Bush is but he's pretty close. You know, the substance is a little weak, but I think it's a smart political move for McCain. . .

BORGER: And he's signaling that he could work with the Democratic congress on this issue if he had to . .

CAFFERTY: Oh, he'll have to.

Highlight #2
Fiorina Pushes the McDifferent Line (ABC 05/11/08 10:20am)
GEORGE STEPHANOPOLOUS: We're now going to get the Republican perspective, the McCain perspective from Carly Fiorina . . . well you heard Sen. Reid right there, he says the case against John McCain is that he's wrong on all of the big issues: the war, the economy.

CARLY FIORINA: Well, I've heard a lot that John McCain is a third Bush term. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was John McCain after all who spoke loudly for four long years saying that Don Rumsfeld wasthe worst Secretary of Defense in history, that the prosecution of the war in Iraq was going badly and that we needed a new strategy and we are now executing a new strategy because of John McCain. John McCain has differed with George Bush on global warming, on climate change on how we should deal with igh fuel prices right now, saying that we should stop the fill of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: President Bush isn't very enthusiastic about the gas tax holiday.

FIORINA: No . . . there are clearer places where John McCain and George Bush differ . . . John McCain will run on his own record, his own character, his own integrity.

STEPHANOPOLOUS: How do you defend that gas tax holiday? I asked Sen. Clinton last week if she could name a credible economist that supported it and she couldn't. Can you?

FIORINA: No. But you see, I don't think it matters. I'm a business person . . .I think economists sometimes argue about the theory. Economists right now are arguing theoretically about whether we're in a recession or not. An American family who's sitting around the kitchen table, wondering about how they're going to pay for groceries, how they're going to fill their gas tank, whether or not they're going to stay in their home . . . for them, the

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economy is in difficulty and all the theoretical discussion is sort of irrelevant.

STEPHANOPOLOUS: What's not theory is that this is going to cost $9 billion, the money's going to come out of the highway trust fund, that could cost up to 300,000 jobs.

FIORINA: Well, if it continued, yes, but let's talk about how much earmarks that John McCain has said we need to stop . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: He's using that for the tax cuts.

FIORINA: Well, that's $42 billion in the last two years . . . another clear difference between President Bush and John McCain, who believes that to get out of a difficult economic time we have to practice fiscal restraint, we have to grow our economy and we also have to find ways to reduce the increase in discretionary spending.

STEPHANOPOLOUS: You mentioned the difference on global warming. Sen. McCain indicated on Friday . . . that he's gonna support the Warner-Lieberman bill that would get a 70% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. This would be a big break from the President . . . in fact, the White House . . . came out very hard against this bill just a few weeks ago . . .higher gas prices, recession, higher gas prices across the board. That's the White House line.

FIORINA: This is an area, and you and I both agree, where John McCain differs pretty substantially from the administration. But I think what John McCain has always said . . . is that the United States must take a leadership role in addressing climate change and global warming. that we must apply some of the discipline of the private marketplace to spur innovation in this area as well as to incent companies to to better.

STEPHANOPOLOUS: Even if it means higher gas prices . . . ?

FIORINA: I think we can debate that. There's no question that Sen. McCain has said over and over again that we have to incent innovation so that we are building these new green technologies. We have incent innovation around things like clean coal. And by the way, we also have to incent around nuclear power. Which is clean, which is abundant. Yes there are issues. But if we would step up and adopt nuclear power in this country, that's potentially many millions of jobs.

STEPHANOPOLOUS: . . . other Republicans argue that the cap and trade proposal supported by the Democrats is a tax increase, you say that's wrong?

FIORINA: . . . the cap and trade proposal is trying to do is to provide the incentives of a private market places, to encourage people to innovate . . .to find new ways of reducing their greenhouse emissions. I'm a business person, I know that incentives and competition in the private marketplace work . . . John McCain believes there is most definitely a role for government he also knows that there is a role for the private marketplace . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: George Will suggested in Newsweek . . . that this cap and trade proposal is an energy rationing proposal. . .

FIORINA: . . . what it does do is encourage people to find alternatives. I think we can't simply say that we need people to reduce greenhouse gas emissions . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: . . . Democrats are signaling that they're going to use your background . . . as an issue . . . one issue they cite, especially, is offshoring of US jobs. And Sen. Obama . . . said he wants to take away the tax break for companies that keep their profits overseas. Why should there be a tax break . . .?

FIORINA: . . . the United States today has the second highest tax rate in the world . . . and that encourages people to put jobs and factories overseas . . . Ireland used to be the slowest growing economy in Western Europe, it's now one of the fastest . . . they reduced their tax rate . . . and that encouraged businesses . . . we have to address the tax rate on businesses . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: And Sen. McCain has come out for cutting the corporate tax rate, yet he still wants to

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preserve the tax break for keeping profits overseas . . .

FIORINA: . . . Sen. McCain understands that you must focus on why jobs are going overseas. And there are really two issues. One . . . is the tax rate . . . and the other is education and worker retraining. Another area where John McCain differs from President Bush. He said a year ago . . . let's make sure that when workers lose their jobs because of globalization . . . that we prepare them.

STEPHANOPOLOUS: . . . why is he for preserving the tax break for keeping profits overseas?

FIORINA: Well describe to me the tax break that Obama thinks is being maintained for companies who leave profits overseas. There is not an incentive today, I can tell you as a CEO, you don't get a tax break for leaving profit overseas. What you get--

STEPHANOPOLOUS: You can defer the profits on those taxes for as long as they stay overseas. And that's what he wants to take away.

FIORINA: . . . If the tax rate were lowered . . . businesses would bring money back. The reason they cannot bring money back is because the tax rate is so onerous.

STEPHANOPOLOUS: Not if they can pay no taxes for leaving them overseas. . .

FIORINA: The way it works today is that if you choose to bring cash back into this country you have to pay at a tax rate that is the second highest in the world. Countries around the world are incenting businesses to place jobs and factories in their country . . . by giving a lower tax rate . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: The Obama campaign is signaling . . . the issue . . . they're going to use is abortion. And they point to the GOP platform on abortion, which is a constitutional amendment with no exceptions . . . for rape, incest, life of the mother. Sen. McCain used to be for changing the platform . . . now he's signaling that it should stand as it is. Aren't you worried that's going to turn off independents and moderate Republicans . . .

FIORINA: . . . John has been consistently pro-life. He also, as you perhaps know, said he supports stem-cell research . . . I can tell you right now that John McCain is not yet . . . focused on the platform. He's focused on getting his message to the American people . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: But he's been pretty consistent since 2000 on pushing for a change in that platform, and now he's signaling that he's no longer going to push for that change . . .

FIORINA: I don't think he's made any signal at this point . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: . . . Cindy McCain . . . has refused to release her tax returns. In 2004 your predecessors in the Republican party called on Theresa Heinz-Kerry to release her tax returns. Eventually she did release her form 1040 . . . why shouldn't Sen. McCain's wife do the same thing?

FIORINA: Well, Cindy McCain has made her position very clear here and I support it . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: . . . don't you see an inconsistency between the Republican position in 2004 and the Republican position now?

FIORINA: Well, I wasn't part of the RNC in 2004 . . .

Highlight #3

McCain Adviser, Pfotenhauer, Praises McCain on Environment, Defends McCain's GI Bill Stance
(FNC 05/12/08 5:07pm)

BILL HEMMER: First on Fox tonight, John McCain making the environment his top priority this week, pledging to fight global warming while Democrats charge it's only an attempt to snag independent Democratic voters. Sen. McCain airs a new ad on the environment in Oregon. Listen here. [ad plays] . . . now tonight, Senior Policy

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Adviser, Nancy Pfotenhauer is back with us . . .a Republican who believes in the impact of climate change. Some might think the world is spinning on a different axis . . .

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: Sen. McCain is somebody who always--he's a straight talker . . . when he identifies a problem he goes after it. And this is one he embraced about 2003, so he's been working on it for a long time . . . he thinks it's one of the biggest challenges facing this country . . . he's developed a market based approach to solving this problem that should lower emissions, spur innovation and keep our economy strong and vibrant.

HEMMER: Nancy, what does that do in terms of a political position for McCain in this campaign?

PFOTENHAUER: I think it identifies him as someone who will always put the national interest ahead of his self interest. I mean he is not checking any political boxes. He is just identifying the most important challenges that our country faces and he's going to go after them . . .

HEMMER: Nancy, I want to get to this back and forth between Obama and McCain . . about the GI Bill. Sen. Barack Obama, listen here . . . :

BARACK OBAMA: I have great respect for John McCain's service to this country . . . but John McCain is one of the few senators of either party who oppose this bill. Because he thinks it's too generous . . .

PFOTENHAUER: Talk about just flagrant political pandering. I mean, that so--that was diametrically opposed to the truth . . . Sen. McCain has his own legislation and by the way, he's largely supportive of the goals of the Webb bill. The problem is doesn't do enough, it doesn't do it quickly enough and it doesn't do enough to address re-enlistment and retention. In fact . . . the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that if the Webb bill goes through, we'd see a reduction in re-enlistment rates of 16%. The other thing that's critically different with Sen. McCain's legislation is that he supports transferability of education credits . . .

HEMMER: . . . from what I understand, the McCain proposal would take longer for servicemen and servicewomen to qualify for education subsidies . . .

PFOTENHAUER: . . . my understanding is that we are more generous up front but it's a graduted scale, so that the longer you stay in the military, the more you are compensated and that is absolutely essential for retention . . .

Highlight #4

Panel on Reliable Sources *Analyzes Recent McCain Interviews; Questions Quality of McCain Press Treatment* (CNN 05/11/08 10:36am)

HOWARD KURTZ: […] Now I praised O'Reilly's interview with Hillary Clinton. […] Was he anywhere near as tough on John McCain?

CLARENCE PAGE: It seems like John McCain's been getting something of a free pass here because he hasn't been in the spotlight compared to that big fight going on the democratic side. Those were good questions O'Reilly raised.

It is true, it's gonna start getting tougher on McCain; when I say it I mean the media as well as his opponent. Right now those questions are the questions he's ready to answer, you might say.

KURTZ: But O'Reilly used the interview to bash the media. [Impersonating O'Reilly] 'Look at all these awful things they're saying about you. The New York Times is digging up dirt on you.'

That didn't exactly put McCain on the spot.

AMANDA CARPENTER: I don't think the O'Reilly interview was completely a soft-ball. Sure they talked about some of the anti-McCain stories and there's been more than that; than just in The New York Times. The Washington Post just had a story trying to prove an illicit land deal. That was on their front page a few days ago that we talked about in Town Hall quite a bit, pointing out the errors in but O'Reilly—

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KURTZ: You say 'trying to prove.' You don't believe that story was largely factual?

CARPENTER: Well, if you look at the headline of that story it said that 'McCain Backs Land Deal that Benefits Backer'—I may not have [the headline] 100% correct—but there's no connection made in that story that McCain knew that deal would actually benefit a person that donated to his campaign. Now I think that link needed to be proven in order to put that headline up.
Back to the O'Reilly interview: He did ask McCain some tough questions; mainly on immigration and sanctuary city policies, which McCain said [he is] opposed to and, which I thought was more interesting, his opposition to drilling in Anwar, which is a huge issue to conservatives and makes McCain look bad to the base.

[…]

CARPENTER: I don't think [John McCain's claim that Obama is the candidate of choice or Hamas is] a smear at all. I mean, I have been on a number of those calls with Senator McCain and what happens, I've noticed, within the media, and how it gets covered is that someone will ask him a question about William Ayers or Reverend Wright or, in this case, Hamas. McCain will respond to it.

He doesn't bring it up himself. He doesn't run an ad about it. Because he responds to the question, he gets accused of conducting a smear campaign against the candidate. So I think there's a difference.

KURTZ: […] the fact that a candidate says something in response to a blogger's question or a reporter's question doesn't let him off the hook for what he says.

CARPTENTER: […] he's trying to draw a distinction where, if someone asks him a question about it he's not going to evade it. He'll answer it clearly, succinctly. You know John McCain, this is what he does. He takes town hall questions. He doesn't evade these things, but he's not going to go out and give a speech about it.

He's not going to begin the call with attack points and talking points against—on a certain subject like that.

[…]
KURTZ: Was that interview [with Roberta McCain] sort of a Mosther's Day gift?

[…]

KURTZ: […] Do you believe the [Ariana Huffington] story [about how McCain didn't vote for Bush] and does it matter?

CARPTENTER: […] You know, I read The Huffington Post quite and she equally divides her time between saying that John McCain is a pawn of the vast right-wing conspiracy but now she's trying to sell her book on the fact that he wouldn't even vote for George Bush so I'm a little confused.

KURTZ: Other people at the dinner said the same thing.

PAGE: […] It is interesting, though, that McCain's critics do want to have it both ways; on whether he's an independent of Bush or whether he is a Bush lackey. […]

Road to the White House Panel *Evaluates Whether McCain is a Media Darling* (MSNBC 05/12/08 6:35pm)
[Clip starts with segment of speech in which Obama points to McCain's free pass from the press.]

RACHEL MADDOW: […] Barack Obama needs to contend with the fact that the press has been willing to be really harsh on him this primary campaign and the press does have a historical love affair with John McCain. That can't just be something you complain about—you have to have a strategy to combat it.

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DAVID GREGORY: [...] Yeah, John McCain has not got a lot of scrutiny right now because we've got a historic democratic race to contend with, but does that necessarily hold up as we go along?

JAY DEDAPPER: I would say that John McCain, if he's had a free pass, nobody's seen it. All the air has been sucked out of the room by the democrats and, if anything, John McCain hasn't gotten much attention […]

PAT BUCHANAN: I'm not sure what [McCain's global warming speech] buys him on the left, but I do know it buys him a lot of suspicion and mockery on the right-wing of the republican party. […]

Moyers on the McCain Camp: 'They're Working the Refs' (MSNBC 05/12/08 8:37pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: Is the McCain camp, do you think, with your experience on both sides of this ball, are they setting a base line? Are they working the refs before the game starts?

BILL MOYERS: They're working the refs. You do that to put the other side on the defensive, put the press on the defensive, make them come around, you also do it because it's still popular in this country to harangue the press. You can get people on your side just by coming out against the force in America that everybody finds some reason to dislike.

McCain Adviser, Donatelli, Complains of Media Bias, Says More 527 Attacks Come from Democratic Side (FNC 05/12/08 4:45pm)
NEIL CAVUTO: Hitting newsstands, Newsweek's cover story, turning it's focus to the expected battle between John McCain and Barack Obama . . . the article is saying that Obama's campaign is bracing for low blows from McCain's corner. With us now is McCain adviser, deputy chairman of the RNC, Frank Donatelli . . .not happy with this piece I guess, huh Frank?

FRANK DONATELLI: Well, you now Neil, I knew there were a lot of people in the liberal media that wanted Barack Obama to be president. I didn't know there were some that wanted canonize him also. If you read the piece from start to finish it could not have been written any better from the Obama perspective, saying that it's the Republicans that scare people, that poor Sen. Obama had to endure the attacks of 527s . . . when in reality the 527s are heavily targeted to the Democratic side. And, most of the criticisms . . . will be issue based. Sen. McCain has said that again and again.

CAVUTO: You know what's interesting in these attacks, and it's on both sides, no one in the media ever says, uh, the Republican forces should get ready for the nasty personal attacks, even though we know they're already coming on issues like age and competence . . . but at least in the presentation in the media, the inference is the nastiness will be entirely by Republicans. What'd you make of that?

DONATELLI: Well, I don't know other than I agree with exactly with what you're saying. The 527 attacks are overwhelmingly Democratic oriented, General Betray-Us, MoveOn.org, they're going to be spending a lot of money in opposition to Sen. McCain. The Democratic National Committee are running commercials that literally take statements McCain has said about the economy and about Iraq and eliminate sentences and splice words to make it look like McCain is saying something like he's not. And yet, for some reason, all of these things are not focused on. It's only the attacks on poor Sen. Obama that are.

CAVUTO: . . . obviously they'll quibble with that characterization, Frank. I think that in this new age though, Republican or Democrat, the emphasis is on responding very, very quickly. Is it going to be that kind of year? . . .when charges are levied, they're going to be responded to in a nanosecond?

DONATELLI: Well yes, and I think they should be and there's nothing wrong with that and I guess I would say one more time to assure everyone that as far as the campaign that Sen. McCain is going to run, it's going to be about the issues. There are enough things that separate Sen. Obama who's the most liberal member of the senate and Sen. McCain who's a center-right conservative, talk about how we fight the war on terror, whether or not more taxes are important, whether or not more spending is a good thing for our country. Those are the things I can tell everyone that Sen. McCain is going to campaign on.

CAVUTO: Is there an effort in the McCain camp to portray his age as an asset? . . .

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DONATELLI: I'd say he's the wisest of all the candidates running. And that comes from years of experience. Look, if you want real change, doesn't it make sense that a real agent of change actually knows something about the institution that he wants to change? Sen. McCain understands the congress, he understands executive power and he can make changes. . .

CAVUTO: . . . someone could turn that around and say, this guy's been in the senate forever and is the past.

DONATELLI: He's been in the senate, but it's a wisdom borne of understanding how to change the insitution . . .he's reached across party lines on a variety of issues . . .

Highlight #5
Obama's Campaign Reacts to McCain's Criticism of Webb's GI Bill (FNC 05/12/08 5:11pm)
FREDRICO PENA: . . . we're baffled as to why [John McCain's] opposed to [the GI Bill], it doesn't make any sense.

MEGYN KELLY: He says that the current GI Bill as proposed would encourage folks in the military to get out of the military. That's it's basically a disincentive to serve and he thinks that he wants a bill that looks like it but he wants more incentives built in. To make sure that our men and women in the military stay in the military. What's your response to that?

PENA: Well, I'm sure the sponsor, Senator Webb, would be flabbergasted to hear that. After all, he was a former Secretary of the Navy, he was a war hero, he is strongly supportive of veterans . . . so I'm sure everyone's very surprised to hear this new twist. that somehow a GI Bill to help veterans is somehow going to discourage people from joining the services. It's absolutely preposterous. But look, this is another example of how Sen. McCain has taken a position in the past, when he was a US Senator, and now that he's running for president he has a new twist, a new perspective and how he's presenting himself before . . . the wind turbine company when he's been voting against tax credits for the alternative energy industry.

KELLY: . . . before we get to energy I just want to make another point on the GI Bill because McCain responded today on Sen. Obama's position . . . I'd like to get your reaction. He says, "It is absurd for Barack Obama to question America's commitment to America's veterans when Obama himself voted against funding our nation's veterans troops in the field during a time of war." . . .

PENA: Nice distraction, but not on point. The questions is, what are we doing for veterans? That other bill had to do with appropriations . . . and that's a very different issue. We're talking about veterans. I'm sure that Senator Webb would also be very insulted to see his character challenged by Sen. McCain apparently insinuating that his bill doesn't take care of veterans. . .

Highlight #6
For Roy Blunt, a Third Bush Term is 'a Good Thing' (CNN 05/11/08 11:17am)
ROY BLUNT: […] I'm glad to see Mrs. Clinton stay in this race and keep that discussion going. I think that discussion, frankly, has been helpful for us. What McCain's gonna bring to the fall is somebody who really is arguably the candidate who can bring change to Washington. He's the one person from inside this town who nobody believes has ever been comfortable with the way things are goin' here.

WOLF BLITZER: Well you just heard Congressman Van Hollen say he represents a third Bush term. You know how unpopular his job approval numbers are right now.

BLUNT: I don't think anybody believes that. […] Everybody does believe from his record—here's somebody who's always been willing to complain about the way business was done in Washington and frankly people want to see those things change.

BLITZER: When it comes to domestic economic issues what's the major difference between President Bush's policies, what he wants to do and what John McCain would do if he were president?

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BLUNT: Well, I think what John McCain wants to do is continue these pro-growth tax policies that our friends on the other side have been talking for 16 months—

BLITZER: But that's what President Bush wants to do.

BLUNT: And there's nothing wrong with that. There's nothing wrong with that.

BLITZER: So it would be an effective third Bush term when it comes to pro-growth tax policies.

BLUNT: It would be. I think it would be and I think that's a good thing. You can't go out in the country anywhere and find people who think doubling the capital gains rate is a good thing; that raising the highest rate on every small business in America's a good thing. That eliminating those bottom brackets that mean people at the lower levels of taxes pay less taxes than they would otherwise.

In fact, I think one of the reasons that the economy has slowed down the way it has is the fact that there's great uncertainty about how those tax policies move forward.

[...]

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN: The Bush economic policies have helped drive this economy into a ditch. The economy's lost [...] 260,000 jobs in the first four months and John McCain does represent a continuation of the Bush economic policies. Roy just acknowledged and the fact of the matters is people are hurting.

The one thing this president doesn't understand and John McCain doesn't understand is the economic squeeze families around the country are feeling. Now when it comes to Iraq, again this is a continuation of the Bush policies. So, on the two biggest issues on the agenda today, the war in Iraq and the economy, he represents a continuation of George Bush.

[...]

BLUNT: I think McCain will make the argument that he argued against policies that the defense department pursued, the Rumsfeld policies that have not produced the kind of results maybe that the Petraeus policies have. Americans clearly are tired of what they saw happening in Iraq, but they don't want to lose.

They don't want to leave there with a worse situation in the world than we'd have if we leave there with a stable Iraq. I think John McCain is going to be able to advance his position there in a way that the American people say, 'You know that's exactly the kind of result I want to see happen in Iraq.' [...]

MSNBC Panel Takes a Look at McCain's Problematic Ties, Bush and Parsley (MSNBC 05/12/08 4:50pm)
DAVID SCHUSTER: [McCain] made it clear he plans a very different approach [to global warming] than President Bush.

[...]

BONNIE ERBE: Senator McCain has sewn up the nomination for all intents and purposes so he's trying to go to the middle here. [...] This is the democrat's race to lose. They are seen as stronger on the economy and, of course, he has to run away from eight years of President Bush whose approval numbers are now down in the 20s.

He does that by saying, "I believe that global warming exists, that it is man-made and that we need to do something about it as opposed to the Bush approach, which is—'We don't know if it exists and, if it exists, we had nothing to do with it.'"

CHRIS CILLIZA: [...] he was in Oregon. Make no mistake, John McCain is trying to grow the map in ways that he thinks are helpful to him. [...] These are places where thinks that he may—a McCain republican as opposed to a

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Bush republican, that's a very important distinction if you think John McCain has a chance in the fall—where a McCain republican would have a chance of winning. So he goes out to Oregon.

He makes a very prominent break with the mentality toward global warming on the part of the Bush Administration. […] if John McCain wants to have a chance in this election he cannot be painted as a third term for the Bush administration. I think where he goes and what he says when he gets there—especially when it relates to global warming is a key first step in trying to put some distance between himself and the current president.

[…]

CILLIZA: […] You could equate John McCain praising Ron Parsley and introducing him at an event—I think that's apples and oranges. […]

SCHUSTER: […] declaring war on Islam; that seems like the kind of thing that could hurt John McCain if he doesn't distance himself from it.

ERBE: Yes, but let's remember too here that he did not win Christian conservatives in his party in the primary season. Those votes went to Huckabee who is now out of the race, but he does need to win Christian conservatives who are threatening (some of them) to stay home in November and they would listen to this kind of rhetoric and actually be attracted by it many of them. Maybe not with the second comment, but certainly with his first comment.

Harry Reid Calls McSame on McCain (ABC 05/11/08 10:10am)
HARRY REID: . . . George Will . . . I think it was a couple days ago, he wrote a column saying that Republicans are going to have to develop a new type of campaign. They can't do what they've been doing all these years. They're not going to win the election on a gun issue. We are past that. We have an economy that's upside down. We have a war that's in its sixth year. The Republicans are in real trouble in the presidential race because they have a flawed candidate. Everybody knows about his temperment and we know that he's wrong on the war and wrong on the economy.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOLOUS: You also write in yoru book that in 2001 you counted John McCain as a potential crossover to join the democratic congress. Did you have any discussions with him about this . . .?

REID: . . . let me just say this: John McCain was a different John McCain in those days than he is now. Those are the days before he wrapped his arms around George Bush. In those days he did a few independent things. He didn't vote with them on the ridiculous things he's done on tax policies; put this country in red ink for the next generation or two or three. He didn't walk lock-step with a Karl Rove in the White House . . . he's a different person now than he was then and that's a dissapointment to a lot of us. . . I reached out for a lot of people . . .

STEPHANOPOLOUS: . . . you recently said . . . McCain is a flawed candidate, because among other things he has a temper . . . I had Sen. McCain on the program a few weeks ago and he said that these stories about his temper are either totally untrue or grossly exaggerated.

REID: [laughs] Well, I have said that, uh, John McCain is a flawed candidate . . . everybody knows that he has a real unusual temper . . . but I think the main thing is that he's wrong on the issues of America today. He's wrong on the war. He's wrong on the economy. He's a clone of George Bush.

Highlight #7
Lieberman on 'Our Enemies': They Need to Fear McCain (CNN 05/11/08 11:34am)
WOLF BLITZER: When you heard [Obama] use those words, 'losing his bearings,' did that impress you as an ageism or an attack on McCain's age?

JOSEPH LIEBERMAN: […] when I first heard it I thought it was an un-deserved and somewhat intemperate comment […] on the part of Senator Obama. […] To say he's lost his bearings suggests something more fundamental and personal.

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[…]

LIEBERMAN: […] John McCain obviously knows and has said that Senator Obama clearly doesn't support any of the values or goals of Hamas but the fact that the spokesperson for Hamas would say they would welcome the election of Senator Obama really does raise the question, why? It suggests a difference between these two candidates.

Hamas and Hezbollah […] are proxies er wars of Iran, which is the very same country which constantly shouts, 'Death to America! Death to Israel.' So I think one of John McCain's strengths as president, frankly is that our allies and our friends around the world will trust him and our enemies like Hamas and Iran will fear him and they need to fear him.

[…]

BLITZER: Do you have any doubt about Senator Obama's commitment to maintain a very supportive role for the United States as far as Israel is concerned?

LIEBERMAN: I have no doubt about that. […] Senator Obama has said he would sit down without condition with Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran. That not only gives prestige to a terrible America and Israel hater, but it also threatens our allies in the region.

[…] Senator McCain has more experience, more balance, knows when to be tough, knows when to be soft […].

Olbermann and Alter Characterize Lieberman as a 'Hatchet Man' for John McCain (MSNBC 05/12/ 08 8:30pm)
[Clip opens with Lieberman interview on Blitzer from previous Sunday.]

KEITH OLBERMANN: So McCain has what in Joe Lieberman? Is he a hatchet man? Is he a hatchet man sort of dressed up in independent or bi-partisan clothing? What is his role?

JONATHAN ALTER: Hatchet man's a good way to describe him and it's very useful for John McCain. […] You gotta realize: Joe Lieberman has been a hatchet man going back to when he was first elected to the Senate. […] What he does is sort of under these almost clerical clothing he will pull out the knife and stick it in and use his piety and his reputation for moral rectitude as a cover for some very negative politics.

[…]

ALTER: […] This guilt by association going on in this campaign has reached almost absurd lengths. I mean, do we want to say, because John McCain went down to Liberty University where Jerry Falwell was not long done with saying we had it coming on 9/11, that this was retaliation for AIDS, God's vengeance, are we assuming that somehow reflects John McCain's views? No.

So why imply or suggest, in any fashion, that something that Hamas says tells us anything whatsoever about who Barack Obama is.

OLBERMANN: It's one thing if you say—you use that perhaps the John Hagee analogy—that you've sought somebody's endorsement, as McCain has John Hagee, well that's one thing. You get the endorsement and everything that comes with the endorsement including the guy. […]

Highlight #8
TV Networks Have Ignored Pentagon Pundits Scandal, Kurtz Claims (CNN 05/11/08 10:27am)
HOWARD KURTZ: The networks continue to ignore that New York Times story about TV's military analysts getting briefings and talking points from the Pentagon as they defended the Iraq war effort. We've reported twice on this program a huge batch of documents and emails show how cozy that relationship was.

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But now comes an audio tape of a 2006 meeting between more than a dozen analysts and Don Rumsfeld in which some of the retired military officers are giving the secretary advice on selling the war.

AUG 18, 2006 TAPE: We would love for you to take the offensive and just go out there and just crush these people. You are the leader, you're our guy. You go on O'Reilly eating out of your hand because you're smart.

KURTZ: 'Eating out of your hand'! And these men were presenting themselves as objective military analysts.

Olbermann Underscores Significant Embarrassment for Bush Admin (MSNBC 05/12/08 8:36pm)
[#3: Siegelman-Gate #2: Blackwater-gate]

KEITH OLBERMANN: Major General Kevin Bergner convened a news conference in Baghdad last Thursday to list 20,000 items of ammunition, explosives and weapons captured or uncovered by US and Iraqi governmental forces in the last few weeks of fighting. [...] The point? This was the big day. This was the big day, according to the La Times that he American military was to show the media of the world the conclusive evidence that, at least, some of the weaponry used by Iraqi insurgents had been supplied by Iran.

A US military spokesman confirming to that newspaper that that's what the dog and pony show was to include. They were all ready to show off Iran's tangible responsibility for some of the haul of the machinery of death to establish the link between American fatalities and Iran: Trademarks or company logos or 'Made in Teheran' stickers or something. When US explosives experts took a second look at all this stuff they then said: None of this is from Iran.

[...] Amount of tangible evidence linking Iran to anti-American uprisings in Baghdad: None. You do realize they are making this up about Iran.

Highlight #9
Olbermann Highlight's McCain Link to Doug Goodyear, Pro-Dictatorship Lobbyist (MSNBC 05/12/08 8:48pm)
KEITH OLBERMANN: Our runner-up, Doug Goodyear, nominated by Senator McCain as manager of this summer's republican convention. A McCain spokesman said, 'His management experience and expertise made him an ideal choice for the gig.' Then it turned out Goodyear is also CEO of a firm called DCI, which got $348k for lobbying on behalf of the military dictatorship of Myanmar; the one currently blocking relief aid to its own citizens, devastated after last week's cyclones.

Top McCain Aides Resign in Connection with Myanmar Junta (CNN 05/12/08 5:03pm)
WOLF BLITZER: In the wake of Myanmar's cyclone, Senator John McCain has been hammering the military junta there. But it turns out two of his aides had ties to the same military leaders. Mary Snow is joining us now. This must be quite an embarrassment for the McCain Campaign.

MARY SNOW: Wolf, enough for two resignations to come over the weekend. The McCain camp says it only learned of the past ties on Saturday. The McCain camp says it's moving on and doing so minus two aids who resigned after it was revealed their lobbying firm once did work for Myanmar's military junta. Republican presidential hopeful, Senator John McCain has called it one of the most ruthless juntas in the world. He's urging for help for the victims cyclone that killed tens of thousands of people in Myanmar . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: They live under one of the more oppressive and repressive regimes in all the world including Asia. And so I hope that this will highlight to the people of the world and the ASEAN nations how brutal this regime is.

SNOW: Newsweek first reported about the public relations background of Doug Goodyear, head of the DCI group, and the man chosen by the McCain group to run the GOP convention. Justice department files showed the Myanmar regime paid the firm more than $340,000 in 2002 to help boost its public relations image with congress and the administration. Goodyear resigned his position over the weekend "so as not to become a distraction in this campaign". A short time later a second McCain aide with ties to the firm stepped aside. The campaign says Doug Davenport, a regional campaign manager, resigned also to avoid being a distraction. One

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republican strategist said he doesn't think the fallout will hurt McCain, who has prided himself on being independent of lobbyist influence.

RICH GALEN: Washington is a single industry town. The industry is the federal government. And I suspect that almost everybody who's at a senior position in any major campaign has some ties with somebody that you might want to think twice about.

MARY SNOW: Now we did try to reach both of the men who resigned through the lobbying firm the DCI group but didn't get an immediate response.

Highlight #10
"Bush Fatigue" Hurts McCain's Fundraising, Especially in Texas (CNN 05/12/08 5:06pm)
JACK CAFFERTY: Money is the coin of the realm in presidential elections and it may be causing John McCain some heartburn and sleepless nights. The reason: the presumptive Republican nominee is struggling to get money from many of the same industries that helped to fund President Bush's campaigns. Bloomberg News reports that many people who work for securities & investment firms, construction companies, the pharmaceutical and energy industries have been turned off by John McCain's record and are in fact giving more money to Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. The two Democrats each raised about $11 million from these four industries through the end of March and that compares with only $6 million for John McCain. In 2004, President Bush raised three times more money from those four industries than John Kerry did. Meanwhile, another sign of potential money trouble, the Houston Chronicle says that Texas. Texas! Has been slow to warm to John McCain. Three months after sewing up the nomination, John McCain has yet to get money from most of the top Texas donors. In fact, John McCain has raised less in Texas than Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama. What's wrong with this picture? One political analyst puts it this way, "If a Republican is not outraising a Democrat in Texas, where are they going to outraise a Democrat? Vermont?" Unquote. One Texas fundraiser says it's been easier to raise money for Democrat in the Lone Star state this year and he says the reason is, "Bush Fatigue."

--
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--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/22/2015 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: Refugee Crisis | Future of Security in Asia | Russia and the West

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click here

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GMF's World Wire

September 23, 2015

The Refugee Crisis: Perspectives from Across Europe



Newspapers have been dominated by images, both heartening and horrifying, of Europe's worsening refugee crisis. In this brief, GMF experts from across Europe examine the scope of the crisis and the different national reactions to it.

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Peace in Asia Requires a "Proactive" Japan



Daniel Twining
Japan needs to secure itself against new dangers that did not exist when its national security laws were originally enacted. | *Nikkei Asian Review*

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China, a Wounded Tiger, Could Lash Out



Aaron Friedberg
All eyes are on the gyrating Chinese stock market. This summer's upheaval may accelerate developments that threaten the peace of Asia. | *Los Angeles Times*

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Tweet of the Week

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@supaluo :
"Diversity counts people; but inclusion is when people count." @allen_tonya #GMFBUILD @HWCOM_Diversity

RETWEET

U.S. and European Russia Policy: Toward A Strategy



On September 21, the Transatlantic Academy hosted the opening conference of its eighth fellowship year, focused on the theme of “Russia and the West.”

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Western Balkan Youth Cooperation



A highlight of the recent Western Balkans Summit was the signing of a Joint Declaration on the Establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office of the Western Balkans.

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From: "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 4/19/2015 1:27:04 PM
Subject: Re: FOR REVIEW: Statement for NYT story on Clinton Cash

Looks good from my end.

On Apr 19, 2015, at 8:26 PM, Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Can people weigh in quickly? To make this into the paper we need to respond right away.
>
> On Sun, Apr 19, 2015 at 8:23 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > Thanks Brian - looks good
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > On Apr 19, 2015, at 8:09 PM, Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > All,
> >
> > As you are all aware, Jo Becker from the NYT's investigative unit is one of several reporters at work on stories based on material provided by the publisher of the upcoming Clinton Cash book. Jo's story is scheduled to run in as soon as one week.
> >
> > Separately, this afternoon, Amy Chozick from the NYT called us to indicate she had obtained a copy of the book on her own and intends to file a separate story tomorrow. Her story will not unpack all of the book's claims -- she will leave that to Jo. Instead, she will do a more process-y story about the book's existence, the fact that the publisher has approached multiple media outlets in advance of the book's publication to spoon-feed them some of the book's research, and also remark on the fact that Rand Paul continues to drop hints about the book's contents such that it appears they may be some coordination with individual Republican campaigns.
> >
> > We think this story, though it was not originated by us, could end up being somewhat helpful in casting the book's author as having a conservative agenda. Moreover, we think Amy is suspicious of the arrangements that the book's publisher has reached with the various media outlets (including her own paper). In fact, Jo Becker is apparently trying to get this story killed because she thinks it will undermine her investigative piece later this month. But so far it is running in tomorrow's paper.
> >
> > Amy is seeking a response from us on what our approach is to the looming publication of the book and the apparently well coordinated rollout. We have drafted the below response, and wanted you all to see it and provide feedback before we sent it off. Please note, however, that in order to get the statement into the story, we probably need to provide it by about 8:30 tonight. So apologies for the tight turnaround, but here it is:
> >
> > > "We always expected that while Hillary Clinton was focused on how to help everyday Americans get ahead, the Republicans would focus their efforts on attacks rather than ideas. It appears that this book is being used to aid this coordinated attack strategy, twisting previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories. It will not be the first work of partisan-fueled fiction about the Clintons' record, and we know it will not be the last."

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Thank you,
Brian

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 8/7/2014 9:30:09 AM
Subject: William Rivers Pitt | The Dumpster Fire of Obama's Moral Authority

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William Rivers Pitt | The Dumpster Fire of Obama's Moral Authority

William Rivers Pitt, Truthout: On Friday, Mr. Obama chose to soft-pedal the disgrace of torture, called the perpetrators "patriots," and told those of us upset about the whole thing not to be "sanctimonious" in our indignation. With this, the president lost any moral authority he had left.

Read the Article

Time to Stop Criminalizing Immigrants

James Kilgore, Truthout: Last week US authorities began to place ankle bracelets on a few newly arrived refugees. This represents a continuation of the criminalization and punishment of immigrants. Meanwhile, the root causes of the refugee crisis remain unaddressed.

Read the Article

Against Forgetting: *The Phoenix Program* and the Awakening of Historical Memory

Kara Z. Dellacioppa, Truthout: The republication of Douglas Valentine's *The Phoenix Program*, as the first installment in a series of repressed, forgotten books by Open Road Media, offers the opportunity to observe the continuity between the CIA's secret war against civilians in Vietnam and our own "Homeland Security" apparatus.

Read the Review

Palestine: The Pulse of Third World Revolt

Bryan Van Hulst, Truthout: As Israel commits genocide in Gaza, Palestine opens up wounds of colonial trauma connecting Third World people in their struggles with racial injustice, colonial occupation and imperial domination across borders. In song and protest, Third World solidarity with Palestine is imagining a de-colonial liberation that makes other worlds possible.

Read the Article

Richard D. Wolff | Poor Polls and Obama's

BuzzFlash

Former Israeli Prime Minister Committed Assassinations and Massacres: Wasn't He a Terrorist?

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: Yitzhak Shamir was a member of the Stern Gang "in the 1940s, when he sent Jewish fighters out to kill British officers whom he saw as occupiers. He was a wanted man then; to the British rulers of Palestine he was a terrorist, an assassin."

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Gaza: Our Bodies Are Spent, but Our Spirit Endures

Read the Article at the Middle East Eye

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Missed Opportunity

Richard D. Wolff, Truthout: What if President Obama had rejected conventional political advice and pushed for a new New Deal? What if an effective, nonaligned left had pushed for such a program?

Read the Article

It's a Hardrock Life

Mary Catherine O'Connor, Earth Island Journal: In Wisconsin's picturesque Northwoods, a big battle over iron-ore extraction is pitting environmentalists and Native Americans against mining companies and their political allies.

Read the Article

As Palestinians Go to ICC, Human Rights Watch Alleges Israeli War Crimes for Shooting Fleeing Gazans

Amy Goodman and Nermeen Shaikh, Democracy Now!: In a report this week, Human Rights Watch accused Israeli soldiers of shooting and killing fleeing civilians in Gaza, citing interviews with seven Palestinians in the village of Khuza'a.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

As a Man-Made Famine Looms, Christmas Comes Early to South Sudan

Nick Turse, TomDispatch: President Obama pledged US partnership to South Sudan, emphasizing security and development. There's precious little evidence of either of these at the UN camps, and even less in vast areas of the countryside now teetering on the edge of a catastrophic famine.

Read the Article

Climate Change: Point of No Return

Margaret Kimberley, Black Agenda Report: Extreme weather conditions around the globe, including rising temperatures, droughts, crop failures, melting sea ice, rising sea levels, disappearing glaciers and the loss of plant and animal species, all point in only one direction. The tipping point toward the sixth great extinction is taking place right now.

Read the Article

New Coal Ash Threat Identified: Toxic Dust Hurting Lungs, Hearts

Sue Sturgis, Facing South: Water pollution is not the only environmental threat from poorly regulated coal ash: A new report identifies serious health risks from airborne coal ash, which will be a growing problem for North Carolina and other states as they shift from wet to dry storage.

Read the Article

Economic Update: From Bad Loans to Taxing the Property of the Wealthy

Richard D. Wolff, Economic Update / Truthout: This segment includes an update on the Pentagon's overpayments and a discussion of how mortgages are tilting toward the rich, as well as coverage of the subprime car loan bubble and the silence around intangible property tax. We also discuss the economic organizations of the Republican and Democratic Parties, and more on socialism and Marx.

The Nuclear Era: Trembling in Fear of Our Folly

Read the Article at BuzzFlash

Torture at Abu Ghraib Followed CIA's Manual

Read the Article at The Boston Globe

Charles P. Pierce | Meet the Methane

Read the Article at Esquire

Monsanto Ordered to Pay $93 Million to Small Town for Poisoning Citizens

Read the Article at RINF News

Here's How Austerity Torpedoed the Economic Recovery

Read the Article at Business Insider

Khmer Rouge Leaders Found Guilty of Crimes Against Humanity and Jailed for Life

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From:	"Cammie Croft" <cammie@progressiveaccountability.org>
To:	bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date:	7/19/2008 8:34:24 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] John McCain Tracking Video: Week in Review 07/19/08
Attachments:	WeeklyYouTube 07-18-08.doc

Hello All,

In case you missed it, check out the top clips we captured this week at McCain town hall meetings:

- *McCain says Czechoslovakia ... AGAIN!* http://youtube.com/watch?v=i0XQ6zlP518
- *McPander says he'll fully fund Head Start even though he's voted against it* http://youtube.com/watch?v=rHUmFKPP55o
- *McCain calls immigration reform "top priority," promises "one single comprehensive bill" that includes path to legalization* http://youtube.com/watch?v=C0xB5buJyqI
- *McCain accidentally (and likely unknowingly) makes awkward Brokeback Mountain reference to questioner in cowboy hat* http://youtube.com/watch?v=dVbM9mIEBQk
- *McCain: "I'm an unapologetic supporter of NAFTA"* http://youtube.com/watch?v=-NQ3IrSUWj0
- *McCain: "You can't compete with other automobiles manufacturers if you lay somebody off and pay them full salary for the rest of their life."* http://youtube.com/watch?v=af9e35w65ag
- *McCain on free trade: "I'm not that much of an expert" but "I believe in free trade"* http://youtube.com/watch?v=iIsQ5dUDlVc
- *McCain asked about preemptive war, responds "I believe we were justified in going into Iraq"* http://youtube.com/watch?v=faM7Vz2KzlQ
- *McCain: "At the moment, I support stem cell research"* http://youtube.com/watch?v=5dpAfeOHkhk
- *Sign outside McCain NAACP event: 'McCain Voted Against MLK Day'* http://youtube.com/watch?v=2uKwuE6zWk0
- *McSame demonstrators outside Wisconsin Town Hall Meeting* http://youtube.com/watch?v=xlDP0mLOmUM

Blast from the Past:
With Afghanistan now making headlines, here's an old clip with some new meaning.
McCain: "In the long term, we may muddle through Afghanistan."
JOHN MCCAIN: "[...] There has been a rise in al Qaeda activity along the border. There has been some increase in U.S. casualties. I am concerned about it, but I'm not as concerned as I am about Iraq today, obviously, or I'd be talking about Afghanistan. But I believe that if Karzai can make the progress that he is making, that -- in the long term, we may muddle through in Afghanistan."
(Speech to Council on Foreign Relations; Washington, DC 11/05/03)
TO VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=Wazv45RYj60
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/vapsj8j4sw

Enjoy!

Cammie

--
Cammie L. Croft
Tracking/Media Monitoring Director
Progressive Accountability Office

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P.S. Here are the full transcripts:

VIDEO with FULL TRANSCRIPTS

McCain says Czechoslovakia ... AGAIN!
JOHN MCCAIN: "I've suggested a long time ago a League of Democracies and it's very clear that Russia and China and especially Russia will veto significant measures, which would impact the behavior of the Iranians. And I regret that. And I regret some of the recent behavior that Russia has exhibited [...] including reduction in oil supplies to Czechoslovakia after they agreed with us on missile defense system, et cetera."

(Town Hall Meeting; Albuquerque, NM 07/15/08)
TO VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=i0XQ6zlP518
TO DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/ozkz1fx44w

McPander says he'll fully fund Head Start even though he's voted against it
QUESTIONER: I work with Head Start workers and federal funding has not been allocated to those workers. The congress has not approved the funding. The workers are making minimal wages to provide educational opportunities to our young people.

What are you going to do now, as a senator and go back and give the funding that is needed so Head Start workers and families can receive the funds that are needed to educate the poor?

JOHN MCCAIN: I obviously support Head Start programs. [...] I would be glad to fully fund those programs, but there has to be monitoring. There has to be measurable success. There has to be [...] a return on the taxpayers dollars that these programs actually are beneficial and we need to review them from time to time as to see how they can do a better job and there's no reason--there's no reason why you should resent any scrutiny, any oversight and any evaluation because I'll support the full funding, if you'll agree with that. How's that?

QUESTIONER: I will agree that--

MCCAIN: Thank you!
(NAACP Speech; Cincinnati, OH 07/16/08)
TO VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=rHUmFKPP55o

McCain calls immigration reform "top priority," promises "one single comprehensive bill" that includes path to legalization
QUESTIONER: [...] First of all, my father's a Korean war veteran and he and I both would like to thank you for your service; all of your service. We also want to be clear about the choice that we're making. You say you are for comprehensive reform. You have also said that you want enforcement first.

We are wondering, is this comprehensive reform include the 12 million undocumented immigrants and will it be in one bill and will you do what Senator Obama has said he will do is make this [...] a top priority in his first year as president.

JOHN MCCAIN: [...] First of all, as I said in my remarks and I'll try to make my answer brief, although it's a very important question, especially for a lot of people in this room. If it wasn't my highest priority, I never would have, at great risk, including to achieve the nomination of my party, and risking alienating some parts of my own party, making it the highest priority, sitting down with Senator Ted Kennedy and doing what Americans want us to do and that's democrat and republican sitting down together and working out solutions and working on your behalf and not putting the party first and doing what I've always done is put my country first.

I'll say to you again, we had to take tough votes, we republicans and democrats who joined together. Senator Obama went out, at the request of the labor unions, and voted for amendments that would have killed the legislation and that's a fact, sir. That's a fact.

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I took tough votes. Of course, it was my top priority and it will be my top priority. Otherwise I wouldn't have done what I did.

I think my actions speak for themselves. [...] My friends, why did we fail? Why did we fail twice—not once, but twice—weeks of debate before the United States senate and that's because many Americans remember that, in 1986, we passed a law that gave amnesty to a couple of million people and we said we would secure our borders and we didn't secure our borders. My friends, Secretary Chertoff will tell you that there's two-million people of the 12 million who are in this country who have committed crimes in this country and obviously we don't want those people in this country and I think we all understand that and appreciate it.

We had a plan that—and still do—and it's comprehensive, but we do need to have our borders secured, which we can do in fairly rapid fashion. So, if we're gonna pass the legislation, we have to give the American people the confidence that we're not only securing our borders because of the issue of illegal immigration, but, my friends you know what's happening with the drug traffic across our borders, which is killing young Americans. The drug cartels, sir are moving drugs across into the United States of America. By the way, I'm proud of President Calderon, who I recently met with.

I am very proud of the Merida Initiative, where we're gonna work together. The United States of America and Mexico and we're gonna stop these drug cartels and they're killing off Mexican police at great numbers, my friends and they're doing terrible things. I work with the Mexican government. I know them. We will stop it.

So you can have confidence it was my highest priority a couple years ago, for years, and it's my top priority today. It'll be a top priority tomorrow and I think I prove that in my actions and I hope you understand that and I will vote against amendments such as those presented by Senator Obama on the floor of the Senate and people in my own party on the floor of the senate that would have killed that legislation. I'll oppose those kinds of amendments [...]. [Pre-empting questioner's follow-up] Yes, yes, yes, yes.

QUESTIONER: One bill?!

MCCAIN: Yes sir.

QUESTIONER: One single bill.

MCCAIN: Of course.

QUESTIONER: With both the—that legalizes and provides the pathway to citizenship for the undocumented—is that what you're saying? One single bill.

MCCAIN: One single comprehensive bill, but first we have to assure the American people that the borders are secure. We have to have that done and, my friends, if you don't want to do that, then I have to tell ya, to bring it up twice, we don't pass it. Then we don't pass the legislation. I mean, it's not that any much more complicated than that and that's the reality, but I guarantee you Americans are ready for comprehensive immigration reform because they're sick and tired of the patchwork of laws.

Look—the great mayor of San Diego, Jerry Sanders is sitting right here and I'll tell ya, he runs into this problem every day and there's nothing he's told me he wants more than comprehensive immigration reform because he's happy to do things that the federal government should have been doing a long, long time ago. Am I right, mayor? Thank you, sir. Thank you and congratulations on your recent re-election.
(Speech to LaRaza; San Diego, CA 07/14/08)
To VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=C0xB5buJyqI

McCain accidentally (and likely unknowingly) makes awkward Brokeback Mountain reference to questioner in cowboy hat
JOHN MCCAIN: "[...] So I want to tell you without getting uh, emotional about it. But when I think about America, I'll think about you and your wonderful partner there next to you and-- [laughter from the audience] err, friend. [More laughter] A friend! Excuse me. Your friend next to you. I [McCain hesitates] certainly didn't mean to get

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personal in any [more laughter] conversation that you have.

"But I look at you both, I look at you both, and I see the face of America and why these town hall meetings are so important. Because your question wasn't an academic one."
(Town Hall Meeting; Albuquerque, NM 07/15/08)
To VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=dVbM9mIEBQk

McCain: "I'm an unapologetic supporter of NAFTA"
JOHN MCCAIN: "I recently traveled to Colombia and Mexico [APPLAUSE] because I understand how vitally important it is to the prosperity and security of our country to strengthen our trade, investment and diplomatic ties to other countries in our hemisphere. I have often traveled over the years to Central and South America, and I have learned our relationships there are as important, if not more important, as any relationships we have in the world. It is the reason why I'm an unapologetic supporter of NAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, and the Colombian Free Trade Agreement, and why I believe a hemispheric free trade agreement is a worthy and necessary goal whose time has come."
(Speech; San Diego, CA 07/14/08)
To VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=-NQ3IrSUWj0

McCain: "You can't compete with other automobiles manufacturers if you lay somebody off and pay them full salary for the rest of their life."
AUDIENCE MEMBER: "After 9/11, the United States and the economy took a tragic fall. [...] The American automotive industry was the first to stand up and do something for our country. We provided rebates to get the economy going again. And since then, we've continued giving rebates and giving our products away for next to nothing to a point that our companies are now on a very uneven path and our future is uncertain. I understand technology will advance us, but when is the government going to stick up for the people that first stepped up to put this country back on track after 9/11?"

JOHN MCCAIN: "Well first of all as I have said I would support tax credits for Americans who choose to buy the Volt and other and other automobiles that put us on the path to energy independence. I believe that the Federal government should invest in pure research and development. I think as you know one of the hurdles to development of any electric automobile is of course the battery issue. [...] I'd be glad and would strongly support pure research and development in the development of this battery with greater capacity, less weight, and is more disposable. So, there are many ways that I would be glad to support this industry.

"But at the end of the day, there are problems, some of which have been addressed, between labor and management. I have to give you some straight talk. You can't compete with other automobile manufacturers if you lay somebody off and pay them full salary for the rest of their life. Can't do it. It's not going to be competitive. So, I will do everything that I can to support this industry."
(Town Hall Meeting; Warren, MI 07/18/08)
To VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=af9e35w65ag

McCain on free trade: "I'm not that much of an expert" but "I believe in free trade"
AUDIENCE MEMBER: [...] My concern with the free trade is when we source to a Canadian supplier who was our tier one source, and I have a part that has three or four pieces that go together. Canadian law states that they must go to a Canadian source in order to purchase their secondary pieces that go on that part. Well, that doesn't seem fair trade to me then they're not allowed to come to the US and get a better price so that we can have a reduction in the part that I'm buying for my vehicle. What would you do to help us in that area for free trade?

JOHN MCCAIN: "I would take them to the arbitration that is supposed to be part of our free trade agreement -- the North American Free Trade Agreement - where their violations, there's been cases concerning Canadian lumber and there's been other cases. I would take them right to those arbitration panels.
"I think it also maybe in violation to the WTO agreement, but I'm not that much of an expert. But this seems to me clearly in violation of the agreement that we made that we would have free and open markets for all of our products between our two countries.

"I just want to assure you, I believe in free trade. But I don't believe in the abuse of free trade. I don't believe that people should have special advantages over American workers and over American products. And I will

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exercise those capabilities that I have in order to reach arbitration and reach fairness and justice for American workers and American products.

"And I also want to tell you the next China, the next toy that comes in from China with arsenic on it may poison our young children will be the last toy that came into the United States of America from China."
(Town Hall Meeting; Warren, MI 07/18/08)
To VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=iIsQ5dUDlVc

McCain asked about preemptive war responds "I believe we were justified in going into Iraq"
AUDIENCE MEMBER: "This is on Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. We preemptively went into Iraq. And not one terrorist came from Iraq. And now there's Iran. And you made sort of the joke of 'bomb bomb bomb Iran' -- I hope that was a joke. And Osama's still running around somewhere. So, I wonder what your feelings are on preemptively going into countries where we don't really like the leader if they have oil or if they don't have oil. And, what you plan to do if you're President on going into Iran, not going to Iran, pulling out of Iraq, not pulling out of Iraq, going into Afghanistan, or ay other countries that you think you want to win wars with, and we lost Vietnam, you said you knew how to win wars, we didn't win there. And I don't know if winning wars is necessarily something that a President wants to do or should do."

JOHN MCCAIN: "Well, thank you, you ask a very profound question and I appreciate it. And I will again not try to give a long response because, because we have other questions but since Americans are in harm's way and Americans have made enormous sacrifice, I think it's worthy and the Iranian threat and the situation in Afghanistan could lead to further greater sacrifices

"I'd like to just say to you very- we are in a dangerous world. There's the threat of radical Islamic extremism, which threatens everything we stand for and believe in. This is an evil sometimes it's hard for us to comprehend and they're active in a lot of places in the world, there is some information they try to reestablish cells in the United States of America. Obviously, there's some small success in Europe. It's an evil that's hard to encompass.

"Not long ago, al Qaeda took two mentally disabled young women, put suicide vests on them, and sent them into a market place in Baghdad and by remote control detonated those suicide vests. It's hard for us to encompass how evil these people are. They like to cut off people's heads and put it out on the Internet. [...] They're dedicated to the extinction of everything we stand for and believe in.

"Now, I believe we were justified in going into Iraq based on the fact that every intelligence agency in the world, including the United States of America, believed that Saddam Hussein had nuclear weapons. He'd used them- excuse me- weapons of mass destruction, and he had used them twice before and there's no doubt about his willingness and desire to develop them and use them again. The sanctions were breaking down, American planes were being shot at, there's multi-billion dollar oil for food scandal in the UN, etc. etc.

"But that's a history and that is for historians to argue about and I'll be glad to have that discussion at some academic forum.

"But, we are there. And we went there and we were losing. And we were losing badly. And I went over there early on and saw the strategy and said 'this can't succeed, it's going to fail, we gotta change it.' I was criticized by the Republicans for being disloyal. I said, at the darkest time in my political aspirations for President I said we've got to send 'we've got to Send 30,000 more troops over there.' Everybody- the political pundits and others said the McCain campaign is dead. And, my friends, I would rather lose a political campaign than lose a war. And I said we had to do this new strategy and that is a strategy, it isn't just an injection of troops.

"And they have succeeded. They have succeeded. My friends, they have succeeded. And I'd be glad to give you all the data to back that up.

"Now have we had victory, final victory? No. The al-Qaeda and others are back on their heels but they still are intent on doing bad things. And they'd love to try to resurrect their efforts. And they've still got the Iranians who are exporting the most lethal explosive devices into Iraq that is killing young Americans. And we've still got the Iranians [...] moving forward with developing nuclear weapons. But in Iraq, we have a government that is pretty effective. We have a justice system that is stumbling, and hauntingly moving forward.

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"And we have succeeded. I'm not saying we are succeeding- we have succeeded. And we will -- we will- win this war. We will win this war if we don't do what Senator Obama wanted to do -- that's set a date for withdrawal and predicate it on a date and not conditions on the ground."
(Town Hall Meeting; Warren, MI 07/18/08)
To VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=faM7Vz2KzlQ

McCain: "At the moment, I support stem cell research"
QUESTIONER: What I wanted to ask you, Senator McCain is how do you feel on the stem cell research, and uh, just how do you feel on the stem cell research?

MCCAIN: Well, I feel that we should fund stem cell research. I do believe that there is now new technology advances called. On skin cell, skin cell research, which I hope will make this discussion an academic one. Because we're now making dramatic advances in technologies that we will not have to do stem cell research that other technologies will suffice. But at the moment, I support stem cell research because of the incredible potential that it has for curing some of the most terrible diseases that afflict mankind.
(Town Hall Meeting; Kansas City, MO 07/17/08)
To VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=5dpAfeOHkhk

Sign outside McCain NAACP event: 'McCain Voted Against MLK Day'
Demonstrator outside of McCain's NAACP Speech: 'MCCAIN VOTED AGAINST MLK DAY'
(Demonstrator Outside McCain NAACP Event; Cincinnati, OH 07/16/08)
To VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=2uKwuE6zWk0

McSame demonstrators outside Wisconsin Town Hall Meeting
Description: b-roll, Demonstrators with " McSame " stamp demonstrating / mock - performing before a McCain town hall
(Town Hall Meeting; Hudson, WI 07/11/08)
To VIEW: http://youtube.com/watch?v=xIDP0mLOmUM
To DOWNLOAD: http://issuealliance.box.net/shared/7ds4vr3oco

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
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From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Milia Fisher" <milia.fisher@gmail.com>
"Eryn Sepp" <eryn.sepp@gmail.com>
Date: 4/12/2015 2:16:54 PM
Subject: Fwd: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Sun, Apr 12, 2015 at 9:15 PM
Subject: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks
To: hrcrapid@googlegroups.com

Hey folks. Here are some points we pulled together for surrogates going on TV -- not a wide blast -- on how to respond to day one attacks on HRC. Thoughts? Adrienne/Karen/etc. can get to surrogates once we're all good.

Thanks.
Ian

OPENING DAY -- SURROGATE TALKING POINTS ON GOP ATTACKS

Today we've seen a wide range of attacks from the entire GOP field and their allies. Below are some points to respond -- keeping the focus on Hillary's desire to focus on voters while the Republicans are trotting out tired attacks on her.

- **Republicans can focus on attacking her, but Hillary is focused on meeting voters and having real conversations about issues facing everyday Americans.** This is the start of the different kind of campaign that Hillary wants to run -- one that is squarely focused on having a conversation with voters -- answering their questions, asking them questions and sharing ideas.

- **Meanwhile, Republicans want to be the champions for those at the top.** While Hillary is talking to voters and focused on everyday Americans, every single Republican candidate has offered the same tired attacks and the same economic agenda that Americans know rob them of the stability they've worked so hard for -- with a top-down agenda that would stack the deck even more in favor of those at the top.

- **Americans have responded clearly that they appreciate Hillary's focus on their issues and their lives**, so if Republicans want to keep their focus on tired political attacks, that's their choice.

If pressed on specific GOP attacks on foreign policy/HRC's record at the State Department, stemming from Jeb Bush's video or other attacks:

Job number one for Hillary as Secretary of State was to restore America's leadership after it was badly eroded by eight years of the Bush administration's foreign policy -- two wars, damaged alliances, diminished moral standing, no stopping Iran's nuclear program, and no action on climate. She's proud of her accomplishments.

- Hillary led the effort to build a worldwide coalition to impose the toughest sanctions in history against the Iranians, which forced them to the negotiating table and gave us our best shot at preventing them from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
- Hillary brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, which prevented a wider war and protected Israel's security.
- Hillary stood up to Putin by strengthening NATO, encouraging Europe to find alternative sources of energy, and called him out for trying to rebuild the Soviet Empire.
- Hillary worked with President Obama to get every major developing country, including China and India, to agree for the first time to reduce their carbon emissions and be held accountable for it.
- Hillary put internet freedom, LGBT rights, and women's rights on the global agenda, and defending human rights

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advocates on the frontlines around the world.
- And, of course, she was part of the President's team making the decision to launch the raid against bin Laden.

Jeb Bush may attack Hillary's time as Secretary of State now, but it's just negative politics meant to gin up his Republican base.

- Jeb Bush in 2013: "Former Secretary Clinton has dedicated her life to serving and engaging people across the world in democracy. These efforts as a citizen, an activist, and a leader have earned Secretary Clinton this year's Liberty Medal." [National Constitution Center, 6/27/2013]

Jeb Bush is advocating for the same failed foreign policy that led us to misguided wars and degraded our nation's standing in the world.

- Jeb Bush on George W. Bush: "I will tell you that I'm the only Republican that was in office when he was office as President that never disagreed with him. And I'm not going to start now. Why would I do that now after two years? …I'm not going to start now. It's just – 'til death do us part." [CNN interview]

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Ian Sams | Rapid Response Associate
Hillary for America
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
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For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From:	"Zayneb Shaikley" <zshaikley@clintonfoundation.org>
To:	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Hannah Richert - PC" <hannah@presidentclinton.com>
	"Bruce Lindsey" <blindsey@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Laura Graham" <lgraham@clintonfoundation.org>
	"Stephanie Streett" <sstreett@clintonfoundation.org>
Date:	9/4/2012 9:50:50 AM
Subject:	Biweekly Report for WJC
Attachments:	Biweekly Report 9.4.12.docx

Hannah,
Attached and below is President Clinton's latest biweekly report.
Please let me know if he has any feedback.
Thanks,
Zayneb

Biweekly Report
William J. Clinton Foundation
September 4, 2012

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

The American Journal of Public Health has released a study detailing updated findings on the impact of the Alliance's School Beverage Agreement with the American Beverage Association, Coca Cola, PepsiCo and Dr Pepper Snapple. The article describes results through the end of the 2009-2010 school year. These results indicate that the Alliance School Beverage Agreement contributed to: 1) a 90 percent reduction in beverage calories shipped to schools (as compared to the previously reported 88 percent); a 97 percent reduction, on a total ounces basis, of shipments of full-calorie soft drinks to schools; and 3) sizable reduction in the percentage of regular sports drinks shipped to schools (a 68 percent reduction at the high school level and an 89 percent reduction at the middle school level).

Chef Lorena Garcia is a contestant on Top Chef Masters and has selected the Alliance as her charity beneficiary.

Ginny Ehrlich will represent the Alliance on a panel on Building Healthier Cities hosted by the Atlantic and National Journal in conjunction with the Democratic National Convention.

The Alliance will join Let's Move for an announcement of a national framework for increasing youth physical activity at the U.S. Open on Saturday, September 1st. The Alliance served as a key advisor for this framework and will play a key national leadership role in disseminating these guidelines to schools and communities across the country.

Clinton Health Matters Initiative

Ginny Ehrlich recently spoke with Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack about our common interests in prescription drug abuse prevention. Congresswoman Mack is a key advocate of policy reform on this matter. They shared strategies and agreed to keep in touch on our respective efforts.

Lionel Rabb has signed on as a sponsor of the January 2013 Health Matters conference in La Quinta.

Discussions with NBC Universal, Comcast, Verizon, General Electric, and Duke University about strategic, technical and monetary support continue. It is likely that NBC will contribute significant coverage of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative (CHMI), including the January Health Matters conference. Verizon will likely offer monetary support, as well as in kind support to build and host the CHMI website and social media presence. Comcast and General Electric will likely offer monetary support. Duke University will likely provide science and measurement support for CHMI.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Clinton Development Initiative

Malawi

Smallholders in the Anchor Farm project have repaid their input loans at a rate of over 95 percent. As a result, NBS

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Bank has more than tripled the loan commitment available to project farmers for the coming season, again this year with no loan guarantee from CDI.

Rwanda (CHDI)

Work is moving along according to schedule on the Soyco edible oil production plant in Kayonza District. Foundations are complete. The engineer in charge of the weighbridge installation has flown in to supervise the weighbridge instillation, which will be carried out this week.

The harvest for the AGRA Project is complete and data collection is underway for last season's trials. The Eastern Province has decided to grow soybean on 14,000 hectares. The Soyco factory will help with seeds and fertilizer, and the Government will help with 50 percent of the fertilizer as a subsidy to the soybean farmers in order to help the factory get the raw materials needed to produce more oil.

Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative

The CGSGI Steering Committee has approved the launching of a Remote Distribution Network pilot in Peru. The pilot will hire female entrepreneurs from Base of the Pyramid neighborhoods in two low-income regions of Peru to sell hard to access products into these areas. In addition to sought-after consumer goods and services, the entrepreneurs will also be selling affordable VisionSpring reading glasses and will screen residents for both cataracts and prescription glasses. If successful, the pilot will be scaled throughout Peru as a means of providing employment and income generation for potentially thousands of Peruvians while also building a much needed remote distribution network which can be used for the delivery of both consumer and social goods.

Clinton Global Initiative

Annual Meeting

CGI currently has 429 paying members registered for the Annual Meeting, 12 fewer than last year at this time (441). Of the total number of registrants, 320 are renewals, eight fewer than last year at this time (328), and 109 are new, four fewer than last year at this time (113).

Oando has renewed as a sponsor for the Annual Meeting in the amount of $150K. Additionally, Hult Business Schools (and the Hult Prize) has agreed to become a sponsor in the amount of $2.25mm over 3 years.

CGI University

We plan to announce the location of CGI U 2013 and open the CGI U 2013 application process soon. Additionally, we will be launching the CGI University Network, which requires member universities to provide at least $10,000 in commitment seed funding and travel stipends for CGI U attendees from their respective campuses.

Year-Round Opportunities for Engagement

CGI members have participated in 60 convenings since we launched the concept of year-round engagement last spring, which entails in-person events and teleconferences organized around our eight tracks. To date, track events have engaged 980 individuals from 570 organizations.

Zayneb K. Shaikley
William J. Clinton Foundation
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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 2/8/2015 7:25:21 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Sunday February 8, 2015 Roundup



Correct The Record Sunday February 8, 2015 Roundup:

Headlines:

New York Times: “Economic Plan Is a Quandary for Hillary Clinton’s Campaign”

“With advice from more than 200 policy experts, Hillary Rodham Clinton is trying to answer what has emerged as a central question of her early presidential campaign strategy: how to address the anger about income inequality without overly vilifying the wealthy.”

Washington Post: “Clinton builds a different campaign for 2016. Will she be different, too?”

“There are clear indications, however, that she is determined to put together a campaign organization that is markedly different from the one she had in 2008, designed to avoid both the tactical and strategic mistakes that contributed to her undoing against Barack Obama and the debilitating infighting that plagued the inner circle of what became for a time a dysfunctional campaign.”

Bloomberg: “New Hampshire Poll: Jeb Bush Grabs Narrow Lead”

“The poll also shows former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton dominating her potential Democratic rivals. Clinton, who won the state’s presidential primary in 2008, is the first choice of 56 percent of Democratic primary voters.”

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: “Sen. Paul Criticizes Libya Intervention as ‘Hillary’s War’”

“Mr. Paul said Hillary Clinton was to blame for what he described as foreign-policy failures, previewing lines of attack for a potential general election match-up.”

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MSNBC: “Bernie Sanders steps up: I am not Hillary, ‘trust me’”

“The Independent senator from Vermont is actively considering a presidential run in 2016, and hopes to tap into progressive grassroots networks like this one for a potential underdog challenge to all-but-declared Democratic frontrunner Clinton.”

Bloomberg View: Albert Hunt: “Obama's Legacy Will Be Set by Foreign Policy”

“There are two widely divergent views of how all this could play out. The American exceptionalists say Obama is too passive, and the next president, whether Hillary Clinton or a Republican, will have a better appreciation of the need for U.S. global leadership and push a more assertive foreign policy.”

Articles:

New York Times: “Economic Plan Is a Quandary for Hillary Clinton’s Campaign”

By Amy Chozick

February 7, 2015

With advice from more than 200 policy experts, Hillary Rodham Clinton is trying to answer what has emerged as a central question of her early presidential campaign strategy: how to address the anger about income inequality without overly vilifying the wealthy.

Mrs. Clinton has not had to wade into domestic policy since before she became secretary of state in 2009, and she has spent the past few months engaged in policy discussions with economists on the left and closer to the Democratic Party’s center who are grappling with the discontent set off by the gap between rich and poor. Sorting through the often divergent advice to develop an economic plan could affect the timing and planning of the official announcement of her campaign.

Although people close to Mrs. Clinton say she has not yet settled on a specific platform, she is expected to embrace several principles. They include standard Democratic initiatives like raising the minimum wage, investing in infrastructure, closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting taxes for the middle class. Other ideas are newer, such as providing incentives to corporations to increase profit-sharing with employees and changing labor laws to give workers more collective bargaining power.

Behind many of these proposals is a philosophy, endorsed by Mrs. Clinton’s closest economic advisers and often referred to as inclusive capitalism, that contends that a majority of Americans do not want to punish the rich; they just want to feel that they, too, have a chance to succeed. It also calls for corporations to put less emphasis on short-term profits that increase shareholder value and to invest more in employees, the environment and communities.

Whether Mrs. Clinton’s approach will be enough to satisfy the unease over growing economic disparity is unclear. In a Gallup poll conducted last month, 67 percent of Americans said they were dissatisfied with the way income and wealth are distributed in the United States. In the 2008

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Democratic presidential primary, Mrs. Clinton's economic message — summed up by a frequent refrain, "If you work hard, you play by the rules, you ought to be able to get ahead" — resonated with white, working-class voters, who overwhelmingly supported her over Barack Obama.

But in the years since, Mrs. Clinton has come under criticism for delivering speeches to Wall Street banks at more than $200,000 each, roughly four times the median annual household income in the United States, and for comments she made about her family's financial situation, including a lament about being "dead broke" after leaving the White House. And she must convince a middle class that feels frustrated and left behind that she understands its struggles, even as she relies heavily on the financial industry and corporate interests to fund her candidacy.

Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, said she had "a record of bringing people together to solve big problems, while also putting a real premium on accountability."

Asked whether creating an economic message could affect the timeline for her presidential campaign, Mr. Merrill said, "There's no red X on a calendar somewhere, but make no mistake: If she runs, she will present solutions to our toughest challenges."

Mrs. Clinton's economic plan would be more populist and reliant on the government than the centrist approach of trade agreements, welfare reform and deficit reduction associated with her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

"It's not enough to address upward mobility without addressing inequality," said Lawrence H. Summers, a Treasury secretary in the Clinton administration who is among those talking with Mrs. Clinton. "The challenge, though, is to address inequality without embracing a politics of envy."

The debate is extending beyond the Democratic Party as Republicans wade into the issues. "If Americans are working harder than ever, earning less than they once did, our government and our leaders should step up, offer a plan, fix what's wrong," former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida said in a speech in Detroit last week as he laid the groundwork for his potential 2016 candidacy.

Mrs. Clinton was secretary of state when some major economic debates took hold on Capitol Hill, and as a result, her economic views are still not broadly known. Her approach to poverty was forged in the 1970s, when she went door to door while working for the Children's Defense Fund, leaving her a committed advocate for early childhood education, equal pay for women and paid leave.

But later experiences complicated her worldview. Many of the advocates who knew Mrs. Clinton as a champion for the poor and working-class women felt betrayed in 1996 when, as first lady, she supported Mr. Clinton's overhaul of the welfare system, which gave states more power to remove people from welfare rolls and pledged to cut federal spending on assistance for the poor by nearly $55 billion over six years. She was more skeptical about the North American Free Trade Agreement, which Mr. Clinton signed into law in 1993 and which has also been accused of hurting American workers.

After being elected in New York to the United States Senate in 2000, Mrs. Clinton had another constituency to represent: Wall Street. In 2001, she supported bankruptcy legislation that some Democrats — most notably Elizabeth Warren, now senator from Massachusetts — argued hurt working families and single mothers, and they accused her of doing the bidding of the financial industry. Mrs. Clinton has said she worked to improve the bill.

As a presidential candidate in 2008, Mrs. Clinton angered some of her Wall Street donors when she came out early in support of the regulation of derivatives and other complicated financial products and called for eliminating the "carried interest" loophole that allowed some financiers to avoid paying millions in income taxes. She also said that as president, she would create a cabinet-level position to fight poverty.

When the housing market collapsed, Mrs. Clinton, who had returned to the Senate full time after Mr. Obama defeated her, proposed legislation similar to a New Deal-era program that would allow the government to help homeowners refinance their mortgages. She voted in favor of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which led to the Troubled Asset Relief Program and the multibillion-dollar bailout for automakers.

Last month, Mrs. Clinton reiterated her support for the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial regulation law. "Attacking financial reform is risky and wrong," she wrote on Twitter.

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As she dives back into domestic policy, Mrs. Clinton faces an economy in which, even amid steady job growth, weekly earnings for low- and middle-income workers have remained virtually unchanged for 15 years.

“Where has the money gone?” asked Robert B. Reich, a secretary of labor during the Clinton administration. “That is the topic that is embarrassing for people to talk about, particularly in Washington, because even mentioning it creates the potential charge of class warfare.”

Mr. Reich, who recently sent Mrs. Clinton a five-page memo laying out his ideas, said candidates in both parties needed to abandon the politically safe discussion of upward mobility for the poor and middle class that dominated the 1990s, and instead take on the stickier issue of income distribution.

“Upward mobility, equal opportunity — those are safe phrases and safe aspirations,” he said in an interview. “I don’t want to minimize their importance, but they obscure the real issue.”

Mr. Reich is one of some 200 economists and academics who have offered Mrs. Clinton ideas and guidance as she settles on an economic doctrine. Several of Mr. Clinton’s former advisers, including Alan S. Blinder, Robert E. Rubin and Mr. Summers, maintain influence. But Mrs. Clinton has cast a wide net that also includes Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics who has written extensively about inequality; Alan B. Krueger, a professor at Princeton and co-author of “Inequality in America”; and Peter R. Orszag, a former director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Obama. Teresa Ghilarducci, a labor economist who focuses on retirement issues, is also playing a prominent role.

Last month in Washington, a 17-person commission convened by the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank with close ties to Mrs. Clinton, presented a 166-page report on “inclusive prosperity,” which is among the numerous economic blueprints Mrs. Clinton has reviewed. For some, the solutions proposed by the committee, of which Mr. Summers was co-chairman, did not go far enough.

Dean Baker, an economist and co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, has pushed the idea of a government fee on the sale or purchase of certain financial assets, which he believes could hold Wall Street accountable while funding social services. “Clinton people didn’t want to go near it,” Mr. Baker said.

Mrs. Clinton has not commented on the financial transaction tax or on profit-sharing.

She has expressed support for many of the proposals Mr. Obama laid out in his State of the Union address last month, signaling that they could help shape her agenda. In a post on Twitter, she said the speech had “pointed way to an economy that works for all. Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class.”

Mrs. Clinton frequently talks about the economic success of the Clinton administration, under which median family income, adjusted for inflation, increased to $56,080 in 1999 from $48,884 in 1993, compared with a decline to $51,017 in 2012 from $55,987 in 2000, according to census data. But she has acknowledged that a globalized economy calls for new ideas, and many are urging her to go beyond her comfort zone and address the deeper frustrations of those who have not shared in that economy’s benefits.

“Long-term answers about education and skills that help change mobility don’t get at the current frustrations and aggravations,” said Austan D. Goolsbee, an economic adviser to Mr. Obama and a professor at the University of Chicago.

“People want to answer the question, ‘Are we going to be O.K.?’ ” Mr. Goolsbee said. “And then the natural question is, ‘Whose fault was that, and let’s go find those people.’ ”

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Washington Post: “Clinton builds a different campaign for 2016. Will she be different, too?”

By Dan Balz

February 7, 2015

No one can say what kind of candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton will be once she starts actively campaigning later this year. Last summer’s book tour and later public appearances highlighted the degree to which she is both rusty as a candidate and still grappling with the message for a 2016 campaign.

There are clear indications, however, that she is determined to put together a campaign organization that is markedly different from the one she had in 2008, designed to avoid both the tactical and strategic mistakes that contributed to her undoing against Barack Obama and the debilitating infighting that plagued the inner circle of what became for a time a dysfunctional campaign.

The upper most tier of Clinton’s new team speaks to the changes between 2008 and a 2016 campaign. In John Podesta, designated as the likely chairman, Clinton has something she lacked eight years ago. Podesta is someone who can speak to her almost as a peer. He should be able to offer unvarnished and critical counsel from the perspective of someone who has been White House chief of staff in her husband’s administration and a now a top adviser to Obama. In contrast to many of the people in the upper ranks of the 2008 campaign, Podesta likely will not be timid about speaking frankly to her.

Beyond quiet advice to the candidate, there is an even more important role that Podesta could play in a Clinton 2016 campaign. Because of his stature, personality and long-standing relationship with the Clintons, he can speak authoritatively for the candidate, internally and externally. He brings order — to the extent that anyone can — to an operation that otherwise could be plagued by freelancing among the Clintons’ vast and extended network. He has the opportunity to draw clearer lines of authority and enforce the rules.

In Robby Mook, the designated campaign manager, Clinton has a trusted young strategist who earned her confidence in 2008 by helping to pull off victories in Nevada, Ohio and Indiana. Mook is far younger than Podesta, but he has something that Podesta doesn’t have: fluency in how modern campaigns are run.

Other members of the senior team recruited so far have long, collective experience in presidential campaigns and White House operations, and they have been both allies and rivals.

Joel Benenson, the designated chief strategist, and media adviser designate Jim Margolis were key players in the Obama campaign that defeated Clinton in 2008. Others from Obama’s team are expected to play other key roles. Communications director designate Jennifer Palmieri has top-level White House experience. Communications strategist Mandy Grunwald has been part of Clinton world dating back to Bill Clinton’s 1992 campaign.

Clinton has been reluctant to begin rigorous campaign activity this spring, given the absence of any serious competition for the Democratic nomination at this point. She has often remarked that her husband didn’t announce his candidacy until the fall of 1991. But her team has been warned by veterans of the Obama campaigns not to take the absence of stiff competition for the nomination as an excuse to start slowly. The advice has been pointed: don’t waste 2015. Clinton appears to be taking that advice to heart.

Even in the eight years since she first ran for president, Clinton campaign operations have changed dramatically, particularly in the areas of data, analytics, targeting, digital, social media and organizing. These are enormously challenging — and time consuming — aspects of a presidential campaign.

Obama’s reelection campaign spent most of 2011 trying to build the political, financial and especially the technological infrastructure necessary to

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wage a general election — and needed every bit of that time and more to work out many of the bugs. And they weren't starting from scratch, as Clinton will be doing. They had spent the years after the 2008 campaign testing, experimenting and refining their operation.

Mechanics are one thing, but candidate performance is another. Clinton may be building a different campaign operation, but will she be a different candidate in 2016 — and does she need to be?

She is in an unusual — and possibly unusually difficult — position. The lack of competition for the nomination may seem like a gift at this point, leaving her plenty of time to think through issues, outline a message and let Republicans fight among themselves. But she is not exactly like an incumbent running for reelection. She has never won her party's nomination, nor faced a Republican presidential nominee in the heat of a general election.

Enough questions remain from her last campaign that she cannot long afford to take for granted her position atop the Democratic field.

How, for example, does Clinton demonstrate to voters in Iowa, where she stumbled in 2008 and where activists expect serious courtship, that she will be a better and more accessible candidate this time?

She is reluctant to begin too early, but is she prepared eventually to travel more extensively there than before? That will be an early sign of the kind of candidate she intends to be this time. Before a formal announcement, is another listening tour, which she used when she began her campaign for Senate in 2000, the way to make those connections?

How does she engage the media, which long has been a quarrelsome issue for her? She did numerous interviews during her book tour, but as a candidate in 2008 she was far less accessible. Her relations with the traveling press corps in 2008 were often difficult. Today's press corps is larger, more encompassing and more intrusive today than eight years ago.

Here's another small but potentially knotty issue: What does she do about debates with other candidates, to the extent there are others? At this point it's far too early to worry about, but at some point it could become relevant. Does she debate? When and against whom? Could she go through the nomination process without ever debating — and would that put her at a disadvantage against the Republican nominee in a fall campaign?

Clinton has many assets as she gets ready for the campaign that everyone now expects her to run — but vulnerabilities and liabilities as well. Her new team has the experience to help her get ready and to weather whatever unexpected problems arise. She is sending signals that she accepts that this campaign must be different than the last. But the answer to what kind of candidate she will be rests squarely on her shoulders — and remains to be answered.

Bloomberg: "New Hampshire Poll: Jeb Bush Grabs Narrow Lead"

By Michael C. Bender and Lisa Lerer

February 8, 2015, 9:01 a.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton owns a dominating lead among Democrats.

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Jeb Bush has taken a slight lead over other potential Republican presidential candidates in a new Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire poll, even though his party's voters have doubts about his famous last name and his positions on immigration and education.

Even if Bush should overcome those doubts to prevail in what is shaping up as one of the most wide-open Republican primaries in the state's recent history, the poll suggests that he is deeply unpopular with likely general-election voters. It's a worrisome sign for his campaign in a battleground state that both parties have targeted during the past several presidential elections.

The poll also shows former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton dominating her potential Democratic rivals. Clinton, who won the state's presidential primary in 2008, is the first choice of 56 percent of Democratic primary voters. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who has said she isn't running, is second at 15 percent, while Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont both have 8 percent.

The poll, taken Jan. 31-Feb. 5 by Washington-based Purple Insights, surveyed 400 Republican primary voters and 400 Democratic primary voters almost exactly a year out from the 2016 New Hampshire primary. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

Mitt Romney's decision to forgo a third presidential bid clearly upended the Republican contest, with candidates now scrambling to pick up his supporters. Romney, who won the Granite State's 2012 primary on his way to winning the nomination, led a Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm poll in November by 19 percentage points; Bush now leads with just 16 percent. Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky is second with 13 percent, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker is at 12 percent, and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, coming off a controversy-filled overseas trip, is at 10 percent.

New Hampshire, which traditionally holds the second presidential nominating contest after Iowa, presents a complicated electorate for Bush. The state's Republican voters rejected his brother, George W. Bush, in 2000 in favor of John McCain. His father, George H.W. Bush, lost the state's primary in 1980 but won it in 1988 on his way to the White House.

In a snapshot of potential problems facing the former Florida governor, nearly three out of five Republican primary voters said his strength as a potential candidate was based on his family connections to politics, while just 31 percent said it was due to his unique qualities and achievements. When Democrats were asked the same question about Clinton, only 21 percent cited her family connections as her main strength.

Nancy Clark, a real estate broker based in Gilford, N.H., said she's supporting Bush—at least for now. "I'm just wondering about how people are going to feel about having three Bushes in the White House," Clark said in an interview after the poll was taken. "I'm definitely open. I just want a Republican in the White House, so it's who is going to be able to pull that off."

Bush acknowledged during a speech in Detroit last week that he must present himself to voters in a way that distinguishes him from his father or brother. But the poll shows trouble spots beyond family history. As in Iowa, Republican primary voters are suspicious of Bush's support for immigration reform and the national educational standards known as Common Core.

One in five Republican primary voters said Bush's support of Common Core was a "deal-killer" that would prevent them from supporting him. His support for letting undocumented immigrants remain in the country was a deal-killer for 41 percent.

And the issue may make it hard for Bush to expand his support. Almost half of the Republicans who didn't pick Bush as their first or second choice said his immigration positions were a deal-killer for them.

Still, 14 percent of Republican primary voters named him as their second choice, while no other Republican candidate broke single digits.

Rounding out the rest of potential Republican candidates: Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson each scored 6 percent; Senator Marco Rubio of Florida was at 5 percent; Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, Senator Ted Cruz, and businessman Donald Trump were all at 3 percent; former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Ohio Governor John Kasich had 2 percent; and former Texas Governor Rick Perry and businesswoman Carly Fiorina were both at 1 percent.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Not a single Republican voter named Indiana Governor Mike Pence as first or second choice, the same result as last month's Bloomberg Politics/ Des Moines Register Iowa Poll.

While GOP voters may be ready to support Bush, general-election voters appear more dubious. His unfavorability rating from a sample of 503 general-election voters was 50 percent, compared to 35 percent favorable. Clinton, by contrast, had a 54 percent favorable rating and a 42 percent unfavorable score.

Of the 21 possible Democratic and Republican presidential candidates named, only Trump's unfavorable rating was higher than Bush's, at 66 percent.

More conservative Republicans such as Huckabee and Cruz had lower unfavorable ratings among general-election voters (45 and 33 percent, respectively) than Bush. But nearly all the Republicans were generally viewed unfavorably. Among the party's 15 potential presidential candidates tested, 11 had unfavorable ratings that exceed their favorability, unlike any of the six possible contenders in the Democratic poll. Christie's favorable rating was 40 percent positive, 46 percent negative.

Paul, known for his libertarian leanings, and Kasich had evenly split favorable/unfavorable ratings of 40 percent and 12 percent, respectively. Walker and Carson were the only two Republicans in the poll viewed more favorably than unfavorably by general-election voters. The general-election sample has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

The poll suggests that Walker has the most room to grow in New Hampshire. Despite strong showings in recent polls, the Wisconsin governor remains relatively unknown—just 54 percent of GOP primary voters expressed an opinion about him. That opinion was overwhelmingly positive, with those with a favorable view of him outnumbering those with a negative view by better than 4 to 1.

Paul also has reason for optimism. He was second in the Republican poll, the same position he held in November. Paul's favorability rating among Republican primary voters is down three points at 63 percent, but it is the highest among the 15 potential GOP candidates named in the poll.

“Rand Paul, in some ways, is the turtle here while the others are popping up and down,” said Purple Insights' Doug Usher.

Bush’s favorability was 61 percent and Christie’s was 59 percent, up 9 percentage points since November. Still, 29 percent of Republicans said they have an unfavorable view of Christie, tied with Huckabee for second-worst. Trump was the most disliked Republican included in the survey, with 53 percent of Republican primary voters expressing a negative opinion of him.

Like Walker, Rubio is relatively unknown in the state but well-liked among those who had an opinion: 52 percent think favorably of him, while just 14 percent have an unfavorable view.

While there were danger signs for Bush, there were also positives.

Republicans said the former governor would be far better than Walker, Paul, or Christie when it comes to combating terrorism—a top issue for the party's voters—and would be a stronger candidate against Clinton in the general election. By a narrower margin, they also said he would be the best of the four at creating jobs. Paul had a slight advantage when voters were asked who understands people like them, and who had a more positive vision for the future.

“Jeb Bush is out of the gate and in the lead, and those are very good things,” Usher said. “To the extent that he’s banking on some notion of inevitability, I think it’s a disconcerting poll.”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Walker's fast rise—he vaulted to the top of the Bloomberg Politics/Des Moines Register Iowa Poll on the strength of his speech at the Iowa Freedom Summit in January—is likely to attract more attention, both from curious voters and from rivals eager to start attacking a frontrunner. He wasn't included in the November poll, but he probably wouldn't have registered much support at that point, Usher said.

"He may be the horse that pops up on the carousel right now," Usher said. "If you take a look at 2012 on the Republican side, there were a whole bunch of horses that popped up and down on the carousel. So his sustainability is impossible to predict at this point."

In New Hampshire, 69 percent of Republican voters said Walker's fight against public-employee unions were either a very or somewhat convincing reason to back him for president. Similar majorities said the same about his three statewide victories in a Democratic-leaning state, and the fact that he is a fresh face who can bring new ideas to Washington.

There are potential pitfalls for Walker, too. Nearly a third of Republican voters said they wouldn't vote for Walker because of the numerous campaign-finance scandals facing him, including one that has been called a "criminal scheme" by prosecutors. Walker has denied wrongdoing and has not been charged with a crime.

About one-fifth said they wouldn't support him because he wouldn't know how to get things done in Washington, while 28 percent cited his lack of foreign policy experience as a reason not to vote for him.

"There's been too many Bushes and Clintons and it's time for change," said Richard Kaufman, a retired professor in Dover, N.H. who participated in the poll. "I'm not necessarily settled on Walker, but I think he's one of the new people.

"At this point," Kaufman said, "I think it's just wait and see who throws their hat into the ring."

Wall Street Journal blog: Washington Wire: "Sen. Paul Criticizes Libya Intervention as 'Hillary's War'"

By Byron Tau

February 7, 2015, 1:46 p.m. EST

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa—Calling it "Hillary's war," Sen. Rand Paul (R., Ky.) told voters in this politically potent state that the U.S. intervention in Libya has been an "utter disaster" that empowered radical Islamist groups.

Mr. Paul, on a swing through the state that holds the first nominating contest of the presidential election, argued that U.S. foreign policy in Libya, Syria and elsewhere had helped create threats such as Islamic State, among other groups.

Mr. Paul said Hillary Clinton was to blame for what he described as foreign-policy failures, previewing lines of attack for a potential general election match-up. Mrs. Clinton served as secretary of state under President Barack Obama until 2013 and was a proponent of interventions during popular uprisings against the ruling regimes in Libya and Syria.

"Hillary's war in Libya has been an utter disaster," Mr. Paul said Saturday, speaking to a small group of voters and activists. "There are now jihadists roaming all across Libya. It's a jihadist wonderland."

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Under Mr. Obama, the U.S. government was part of an international coalition to oust Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi from power in 2011. In Syria, the U.S. has expressed support for the ouster of Bashar al-Assad and has provided both humanitarian and lethal aid to some Syrian opposition groups.

In the aftermath of Mr. Gadhafi's ouster, Islamist groups operating in Libya staged an attack in 2012 on the United States consulate in Benghazi, killing four Americans, including U.S. ambassador Christopher Stevens. Mr. Paul said that Mrs. Clinton had failed to provide adequate security for the U.S. mission to that country which, he said, "should forever preclude her from being considered for the presidency."

A request to Mrs. Clinton for comment on Mr. Paul's remarks wasn't immediately answered.

The administration has reiterated its support for the 2011 intervention in Libya, congratulating the country for holding elections last year. "The United States was proud to support the Libyan people in the darkest days of their revolution and through their efforts to end the Gadhafi regime," Mr. Obama said in a 2014 statement.

Mr. Paul called the former secretary of state the "biggest cheerleader" for intervention in Syria and Libya and said that those policies had empowered radical Islamic groups in both countries.

"Gadhafi was a secular dictator," the senator said. "Not the kind of guy that we want to have representing us in country, but he was secular. He didn't like radical Islam, and he kept them down because they were a threat to him. What happened when we toppled the secular dictator? Chaos. More radical Islam."

In Syria, Mr. Paul said that Islamic State — a militant group operating in Syria and Iraq that is also known as ISIS — was essentially created by the U.S. aid program under the Obama administration.

"I think we have to do something about ISIS, he said. "But, you know why we're doing something and why we have to be there again? Because of a failed foreign policy that got us involved in a Syrian Civil War . . . . By supporting the Islamic rebels, ISIS grew stronger and stronger and stronger. And now we have to go back."

Mr. Paul, a libertarian-leaning senator, has broken sharply with the more hawkish wing of his party, prompting a major foreign policy debate within Republican circles about American military power and the role of the United States in the world.

MSNBC: "Bernie Sanders steps up: I am not Hillary, 'trust me'"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

February 7, 2015, 4:53 p.m. EST

HARRISBURG, Penn. – Organizers with Keystone Progress invited Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders to speak at the annual conference here this weekend. Sanders showed up.

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The Independent senator from Vermont is actively considering a presidential run in 2016, and hopes to tap into progressive grassroots networks like this one for a potential underdog challenge to all-but-declared Democratic frontrunner Clinton.

The desire for an alternative to Clinton was clear among the 800 rank-and-file activists, labor organizers, and local elected officials here. But he's stuck between Clinton on one hand and Warren on the other, who so far tops many progressives' fantasy draft presidential ticket.

"Hillary Clinton doesn't come up in our conversations as being a progressive," said Franklin Country Democratic Party Chair Sheri Morgan, who was manning the Progressive Democrats of America booth offering "Run, Bernie, Run" swag.

Sanders himself promised "real differences" with Clinton in an interview with msnbc's Steve Kornacki before his keynote speech Saturday. "Trust me, there will be a real clash of ideas," he said.

Maria Payan, who volunteered for both Obama presidential campaigns, ran up to Sanders as he left the interview and pressed a check into his hand. "I want to help with your campaign anyway I can," she said.

Payan said she likes Warren too, and the idea of woman president, but like others here, preferred Sanders at the top of a progressive dream ticket since she thought Sanders has more experience in government. "People are looking that alternative," she explained

Sanders will need a lot more checks if he hopes to imitate Obama – at least $50 million worth, according to his advisors – but he's been slow to build a fundraising or political operation. Two staffers accompanied Sanders to the event, his Senate communications director and the director of his PAC, and collected names and contact info from supporters.

In the absence of a formal campaign infrastructure, he's found allies in existing local groups, like the the Iowa Citizen Action Network in the key presidential state and Keystone Progress here. Sanders trails Clinton by well over 50 percentage points in early polls, garnering an average of just 3.4% in recent surveys. Warren, who has repeatedly said she is not running for president, has more support at 11%.

And it's still unclear whether Sanders has the stomach for a run. He despises what he calls the "game" aspects of politics, like fundraising and building a personality cult. "What is politics? What is serious politics?" he asked Saturday. "It's about having a serious debate about issues, not gossip, not personality."

Peter Deutsch, a retired Penn State physics professor, also liked the idea of a Sanders-Warren ticket. "To put it bluntly, no one is challenging the establishment, specifically Hillary Clinton," he said.

Inside the ballroom at the Hilton, where Sanders would receive four standing ovations during his speech, Keystone Progress chairman Ritchie Tabachnick called Sanders "the voice of the American conscious."

In his Brooklyn brogue, the senator gave a version of the stump speech he's been testing out on recent visits to Iowa and New Hampshire. It gets gloomy at times. "Now, I know that you think the situation is bad. In fact it's worse than you think," he said.

Nonetheless, the crowd encouraged him to press on when his time is up, whooping at every rhetorical barb against the Koch Brothers, and gasping at statistics about the accumulation of wealth in the top 1%.

Billionaires and "counterrevolutionaries," he explained, have "psychiatric issues" – they're "addicted to money." "We all know people who are addicted to alcohol or drugs; these people are addicted to money," Sanders said.

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The result is a “philosophical war being waged against the middle-class and working families.”

The solution is a “political revolution,” but one that looks backwards, not forward, to a time when “one person could work 40 hours a week and make enough to take care for the entire family.”

Sanders’ agenda, which he’ll lay out in more detail Monday at the Brookings Institution in Washington, may not be particularly radical, but his rhetoric is, and it’s a message these activists seemed eager to hear.

“I like Bernie Sanders, I think he’s sexy,” said Maggie Henry, an organic farmer who says her Western Pennsylvania business was destroyed by nearby fracking.

Bob Pyle, a pastor in the Brethren Chuck in Snyder, voted for Ron Paul in the Republican primary in both 2008 and 2012, before voting for Obama and in general, said he likes Sanders because he’s anti-establishment and anti-war.

Sanders’ most immediate challenge in presidential politics, however, is not the Koch Brothers, but Warren, who has so far sucked up much of the organizational energy on the left despite giving zero indication that she’s running for president.

Advisors to Sanders think progressives will ultimately come around to Sanders if and when Warren doesn’t run. Michael Morrill, the executive director of Keystone Progress, agreed, “People will coalesce around a progressive candidate, whoever that is.”

But activists hoping to draft Warren don’t have any immediate plans to cease their efforts and throw their support behind Sanders in the event that Warren doesn’t get in. Jim Dean, a fellow Vermonter, warmly introduced Sanders before the keynote address, but he runs a group, Democracy for America, that’s trying to draft Warren. His brother, former Gov. Howard Dean, supports Clinton and hosted a fundraiser for the pro-Clinton super PAC Ready for Hillary last week.

“I’d love for Sanders to run,” Dean said in an interview. But members of his group, which has long branded itself as representing the “Warren-wing of the Democratic party,” voted overwhelming to support Warren in 2016.

Would DFA support Sanders if it becomes clear Warren isn’t running? “We’re not spending a lot of time gaming out what we’re going to do 8 months or whatever from now,” he replied, noting that about as many DFA members voted for Clinton as voted for Sanders.

When Rick Smith started his progressive talk radio show ten years ago, his very first guest was then-Rep. Bernie Sanders. Now, Smith’s show is aired on affiliates on across Pennsylvania, and he says Sanders “has been right about everything” since they first talked.

“Warren says that she’s going to stay out and that’s the right choice,” Smith said. “Bernie is the right guy at the right time.”

But without prompting, Smith continued, “Can he win. Eh.”

Bloomberg View: Albert Hunt: “Obama's Legacy Will Be Set by Foreign Policy”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Albert Hunt

February 8, 2015, 11:11 a.m. EST

There's been a lot of handwringing over whether President Barack Obama's tone and message in the January State of the Union address and last week's budget were too confrontational, dashing hopes for legislative and legacy-bolstering achievements.

The reality: Congressional Republicans and the White House will score a few accomplishments this year because it's in the interests of both sides, regardless of the tone or specific proposals they embrace now.

As for the history books, the final quarter of this presidency -- like most of its predecessors -- will be enhanced or tarnished by foreign policy, an area where Obama has limited control.

There are many opportunities and problems confronting the president, including the prospect of completing the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, which could be central to U.S. economic involvement with Asia. But the big three issues that might keep the president awake at night are Iran, the so-called Islamic State and Russia.

"The president faces geopolitical challenges greater than any in our lifetime," says Fred Kempe, president of the Atlantic Council, an international affairs research organization.

It's impossible to exaggerate the importance and implications of whether a deal is reached this spring to curb Iran's nuclear weapons capacity. "It's the core, centerpiece," says Sandy Berger, the former national security advisor to President Bill Clinton.

If a deal is cut, it almost certainly will be opposed by the Israelis and many members of Congress, including some Democrats. The president will take the issue to the country, and warn that the alternative probably is war. In a private session with Senate Democrats last month, Obama pointedly said that if Congress undercut any agreement he would demand a vote on an "interdiction" of Iran. This president's history of rallying the public isn't very encouraging: Consider, for example, his lack of success on gun control.

There would be other grave consequences to the failure to reach an agreement. It's questionable whether the U.S. could keep together the coalition imposing sanctions on Iran. Faced with the certainty that the Iranians would proceed with the development of nuclear weapons, the Israelis might want to strike if the U.S. doesn't. A war with Iran would make the Iraq conflict seem like a Little League game.

Regarding the Islamic State, there have been mildly encouraging developments. Kurds retook the city of Kobani; the U.S. airstrikes have taken a toll, and some funding from black market oil has been eliminated. But, Richard Perle, a prominent neoconservative national security expert, says the picture remains bleak.

"They still are running a territory the size of England and France put together and with any victories they achieve, there may be Muslims all over the world wildly inspired by them and creating problems in as many as 30 countries," he said.

With less than two years left in office, it would be virtually impossible for the administration to achieve the objective, enunciated by Defense Secretary-designate Ashton Carter, of a "lasting defeat" of the Islamic State.

The best case is that by the end of this administration the few Arab nations in the anti-Islamic State coalition have held together, and aren't torn apart by the Sunni-Shiite schism. In addition, the U.S. could intensify the strikes, possibly with a small group of advisers on the ground. If the enemy is in retreat, that would be an accomplishment.

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On Russia, President Vladimir Putin is showing no sign of backing down in Ukraine, despite biting economic sanctions. And, he's threatening to put pressure on Moldova and Azerbaijan. The need is to contain him on Ukraine and deter him elsewhere.

If oil prices remain at low levels, some American strategists speculate that economic conditions will pinch Putin so hard that he'll need to seek relief. But the pressure could also push him to be more bellicose. Moreover, Ukraine is an even worse economic basket case than Russia, probably requiring tens of billions in assistance.

There are two widely divergent views of how all this could play out. The American exceptionalists say Obama is too passive, and the next president, whether Hillary Clinton or a Republican, will have a better appreciation of the need for U.S. global leadership and push a more assertive foreign policy.

The other view is that America's days as a global empire are numbered. In a new book, "America in the Shadow of Empires," the political scientist David Coates argues that the U.S. is overextended militarily, imposing an additional burden on a fraying domestic economy and that a "measured and moderate" rollback of foreign entanglements is essential.

Obama's final two years will be about trying to find a path between those two positions.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 3 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton honored by EMILY's List (AP)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to keynote Irish American Hall of Fame (NYT)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

· March 23 – Washington, DC: Sec. Clinton to keynote award ceremony for the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting (Syracuse)

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From: "Sara DuBois" <sara@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/14/2008 12:33:53 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Tracking Update: McCain Speech in Aspen, CO 08/14/08

Hello All,
Unfortunately, our tracker was not allowed into this ticketed event. But good news: we were able to capture most of the event via online streaming video. Below are the notes from our effort.

Big Highlights

- Flubs price a gallon for gas, corrects himself, saying $5/gallon, says that's the classic liberal response: go after the rich.
- Exclaims that Social Security "isn't that complicated!" Medicare is complicated
- Responds he still wants to close Gitmo, b/c what's our moral authority if we torture prisoners (at Abu Ghraib)
- Denies he said SCOTUS Gitmo decision was worst in history, then says he's given to hyperbole, SCOTUS was frustrated we hadn't moved forward w/ cases
- Mentions next to Fermi plant he visited was a pool of spent nuclear fuel, so we have to reprocess b/c that's a natl security issue
- Says his belief in global warming is a big difference between him and his friends on the Right, "but it's not the only difference"

Aspen, CO: McCain Speech at Aspen Institute 08/14/08

(Disclaimer: The following are notes, not direct quotes. If you'd like a quotable transcript or video of any part below, please email us.)

Background Details

- John Thune, Phil Gramm, John Huntsman in audience; also Cindy
- Walter Isaacson gives intro remarks and then begins asking questions
- Tight security (secret service and police): only ppl w/ tickets or credentialed press allowed in
    - event was sold out
- Tracker denied entrance for fourth day in a row

Speech Highlights

- 1Q) ISAACSON:: What was turning point?
    - MCCAIN: Lindsay Graham and I were asked to attend ceremony in Baghdad--
    - ISAACSON:: Lindsay has decided to walk in late.
    - MCCAIN: He's been bane of my existence. Good news is he's col. in USAF, bad news is he's a lawyer.
    - Anyway, we attended this ceremony Petraeus asked us to attend and it was great. Lindsay Graham and I decided we can't give up on this surge even though it'd be unpopular - a lot of ppl thought we were losing this war or we'd lost. We started No Surrender tour, drawing crowds as big as 15 ppl and That was kind of a turning point. And when labor day was over, we had a debate in NH, and I didn't do well in most of the debates but I did well in that one -- Mo Udall joke [Manchester] -- The turning pt was that event in Baghdad b/c it puts things in right perspective when you see young Americans fight for someone else's frdm.

- 2Q) ISAACSON:: You say the surge is won. Define success now.
    - MCCAIN: It depends on what goes on. We're a bit disappointed --w/ them it's 2 steps forward, 1 step

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back -- we thought they'd set a date for election --they've been copying our Cong by taking a vacation w/o setting date for provincial elections - a lot of that has to do w/ Kirkuk. I'm happy Maliki has basically taken charge of his govt. And a guy a yr ago we would've described as a weak leader is now taking charge. Low casualty rate, the neighborhoods are safe. There will be no parades in NYC or peace signing on USS Missouri. But our troops will come home w/ victory and honor.

- 3Q) ISAACSON: Define victory.
    - 1) functioning government 2) effective judicial system 3) legitimate elections
    - A judicial system that is far more effective than today - that's an area where progress still need to be made. We can have victories every day but until ppl feel they have recourse in a court of law, it's not democracy.
    - Lindsay Graham went over there as a lawyer, not a Sen, to help them set up judic. Rule of law is critical. Economic progress -- oil is a curse and a blessing. 'The classic success of a counter-insurgency operation.The strategy has succeeded. I would rely on the commander who has succeeded. Petraeus is brilliant but he didn't invent this, it's an old strategy. You clear, you hold, adn then the rest of it follows as night follows day.' We still got Iranians with these special groups coming in. We've still got the most lethal explosives coming in from Iran. We've still got suicide bombers coming in from Syrian borders. *Question is when we leave and how quickly--not when we leave, but when and how quickly.* And I will leave a lot of that to the General who's made great decisions, Petraeus and Odierno. And a lot of responsibilty lies in POTUS.

- 4Q) ISAACSON:: Russia said they wouldn't respect Georgian borders.
    - If you're talking about military ops, I don't think that's a viability. This act of aggression [from Russia] is worse than anything Georgia did to South Ossetia. We've reached a critical point since post-Cold War. A reassertion of age-old Russian ambitions. It wasnt an accident that 5 nations flew to Tbilisi to show solidarity with Mishe. They all have in common living under Russian domination. Putin has displayed this kind of behaviour in a # of ways. Litishvenko, Czech pipeline, bullying Georgia, attempts to reassert influence in Ukraine. Ukraine is nervous, esp since Ukr. and Georgia not part of NATO

- 5Q) ISAACSON: Should we fast-track them into NATO?
    - I think we should take up their 'map' and move quickly. Will the other members of NATO agree? I hope they will. This isn't just groups of ppl looting, killing, and on a rampage in Georgian countryside. There's no place for this in 21st century. Putin, though PM, is clearly running things in Russia. Our first goal is to get the Russians and the so-called 'citizens' withdrawn from Georgian territory. This is a brave little territory. They were early to adopt Christianity. They broke away from USSR. US-educated man orchestrated the Rose Revolution. They had a free society, and now they live in terror. One of the old strategies is to inspire terror in a population. A lot oat stake for the future of the 21st cent. I talk to Mische every day.

- 6Q) ISAACSON: If they try to overthrow, should we step in?
    - MCCAIN: I think our focus now has to be not to try to escalate this into a military operation. We need to diffuse it. There was a provision added to the ceasefire taht the Georgians strongly objected to that Russians interpreted as being able to stay in Georgia for a very long time. Words matter!

- 7Q) ISAACSON:: Still in favor from evicting them from g8 and WTO?

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- Those are all options we have to consider. We havent worked closely enough with our allies. Lets work collectively. Let's convene Natl Council, OSE, and come up with a solution. Let's not talk military now b/c that would escalate. There's plenty of time in the future depending on Russ behavior to talk about other options.
- This is a compelling argument to become indep of foreign oil. The pipeline that has been cut off is part of world's oil supply. And while not directly for us, it's importnat. And prices has gone up. We need Lexington project - it's vital to become indep of foreingn oil. Flubs price a gallon for gas (either says $3 or $9). [audience laughs] -- sorry $5 / gallon - that's the classic liberal response: go after the rich.

- 8Q) ISAACSON: Does that mean domestic drilling and shale oil?
  - MCCAIN: All of the above. Find out what works and what doesnt. WE've made dramatic advancement in solar panels. Let a 1000 flowers bloom here. Oil shale - that's fine with me. What's the fastest way and easiest way. Clean Coal
-
- 9Q) ISAACSON: And nuclear?
  - We can create 45plants and 700k jobs. But we're going to need more plants than that. And coal - we sit on large supply of coal. And of course nuclear power - the French. they reprocess. Adn teh Brits are going to, and the Japanese. And we couldve had it not been for Carter. I also recently visited Fermi plant in MI, and they're very efficient. And next to it is a pool of spent nuclear pool. And that's a great risk. So we've got to reprocess b/c its a security issue.

- 10Q) ISAACSON: Friedman mentioned you hadnt supported tax breaks for wind and solar. Do you and iwll you?
  - I have and I have a long record of supporting. In AZ, we have sun every day. In fact, we have no water. I've always been for all of those, and I havent missed any crucial vote. But AZ citizens know I have to be out campaigning.

- 11Q) WI: And youre for extending for solar and wind?
  - Yes. *And I think tax breaks should be made permanent. And 1yr depreciation for alt. fuels.* And cars - MI is hurting b/c of auto industry. The Volt technology can lead America back to predominance. They've had massive layoffs, but now they've made agrmts b/t labor/management on health care and pensions, they can move forwar.d

- 12Q) ISAACSON: Still for cap and trade even though youre for coal?
  - Yes. GE has committed themselves to green technologies and it's successful. America can lead the world in that.
  - Global warming is real. That's where i have a great difference w/ some of my friends on teh Right - that's not my only difference with them.
  - And I oppo'd ethanol subsidies - I told Iowa that. I lost Iowa. We went to state fair.
  - My friend, John Thune is here. Many of you know him. I've often said if I looked like Thune I'd be POTUS today. We were in Sturgis, SD the other day. About 3500 ppl in Sturgis and there were thousands of bikers there. It was a great experience. I recommend it.

- 13Q) ISAACSON: Why did teh Doha trade round fail and who's at fault?
  - MCCAIN Our farm bill was a contributor. When you look at the giveaways, it's clear it's not in keeping

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with parameters of free trade. Gov. Huntsman is here and he's very well-versed in this area.
- And I think he agrees with me that farm bills/subisdies were major factor. But also India and China were significant factor. They have inexpensive products and sometimes higher technology and they saw no upside to DOHA. Is it end of world? No. But it should be a spur to approve other agrmts, e.g. Colombia. And what about free trade agrmt w/ EU and then see what labor and enviro standards have to be cuz theirs are higher than ours

- 14Q) ISAACSON: should we ahve labor/enviro standards?
  - We should have some. And stricter penalties and faster process for violations. But 1 of purposes of free trade is lift economies and better lives of other countries. We're not ok w/ child labor, etc, but. E.g. Colombia exports here w/o tariff but we pay going out. And what msg does it send to S America? If we ignore the lessons of history, e.g. Smoot-Hauley or raising tariffs during recession, then the rest of that slogan is obvious. we need to approve more agrmts. There's a happy medium b/t standards but not too high.

- 15Q) ISAACSON: In favor of increasing strength of dollar?
  - If there's a bright spot in this dismal pic, that I think that it's very clear that energy independence is a key factor. But if there's a bright spot, it's exports - they'll contribute to a better economy over time. I understand Steve Forbes thinks we need to strengthen dollar, so I'm for it, but I think we need to have eocnomic conditions in place to support it.

- 16Q) ISAACSON:: Still in favor of closing Gitmo?
  - Yes I am. Life is full of anecdotes, sometimes too many and sometimes not descriptive of reality but this one is. Lindsay Graham and I were in IRaq, visited one of largest prisons, adn we met w/ former high-ranking member of AQ who had come over to our side but was being held. I asked how did you, AQ, succeed and do so well after USA had done such a good job militarily. He said, (1) the total chaos in Iraq drove ppl to our side, adn (2) Abu Gharib was the major recruiting tool. Whats the moral authority of US if we torture prisoners? So I'm for closing ABu Gharib.

- 17Q) ISAACSON:: Whyd you come out against SCOTUS decision?
  - JM: We already had a process in place, which kept with the traditions of the Nuremberg trials. He shouldve spent more time in prison. But the accused was able to seek counsel adn see evidence but he wasn't read Miranda rights. Adn there's a precedent: Nuremburg. They're given a trial, etc. but they're not citizens and they dont get everything. SCOTUS said they deserve

- 18Q) ISAACSON:: But you called it the worst decision in history.
  - No i didnt. sometimes im given to hyperbole. The court was frustrated that we hadn't moved fwd w/ large # of cases. That ppl had been sitting in prison for 5, 6 yrs. I hope we can show courts that by moving fwd. But I don't think they deserve rts of American citizens.

- 19Q) ISAACSON: Social Security's anniversary. You called Social Security funding mechanism a disgrace. How would you change it?
  - It's a pay as you go system. There will come a point, not today, where there's more $ going out than coming in. That's not fair. Cong approval is at 9%, it's at a gridlock on everything. 1 of our earliest memories is Reagan-O'neill 1983 fixing Social Security- it may not have been the solution that I

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wanted, or Phil or Jack or anyone else, but we saved Social Security for 30 yrs. Why can't we do that again? It isn't that complicated! Medicare is complicated, not Social Security -- theres been studies.

- 20Q) ISAACSON: Should it be like energy - we do a little bit of everything.
    - I am opposed to tax increases, I will fix without it. I will convince ppl that we do not need tax increases. [applause]

- 21Q) ISAACSON:: Does that mean tax increases are on the table?
    - I have to be against tax increases as you know. just as ppl go in with positions.

- 22Q) ISAACSON:: You were asked to name your top 10 songs. And #1 was ABBA's "Dancing Queen"?
    - I think #1 was Sinatra.
- Well then they did something to you.
    - If there's anything I'm lacking in, it's taste in music and art and the good things in life. A lot of my taste in music stopped when I crashed my plane and never restarted. Everyone says they hate ABBA - why do they go to Mamma Mia?

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From: "Kelli Farr" <kfarr@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Kelli Farr" <KFarr@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 6/6/2008 5:00:21 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Morning 06/08/08

Main Topics: McCan't rally GOP, McBomb Iran, McCain visits Florida, town halls will cause more gaffes from McCain

Summary of Shift:
Barack Obama's private meeting with Hillary Clinton topped the news this morning. Obama's traveling pres s apparently felt slighted about the meeting as they did not learn about the meeting until they were 'locked i n the plane' without the candidate. Ed McMahon's ensuing home foreclosure spent a significant amount of time in the spotlight. On the day after the anniversary of his tragic death, news stations continued their com memoration of RFK's life and legacy, including interviews and entire segments on both FNC and CNN. Fox News continued to place more emphasis than any other network on McCain's attempt to seduce Hillary vot ers although CNN did mention recent web activism to recruit former HRC supporters to the McCain camp. Two Air Force generals were ousted after inquiries found systemic problems amidst mishandling of nuclear components and weapons. Senate republicans blocked a global warming bill over a dispute on its costs.

Highlights:
1) McCain's inability to rally the GOP
a. Novak: Republican activists sitting on the sidelines, no enthusiasm for McCain
b. Glenn Beck complains that conservatives have no candidate this cycle
2) Joint town halls with Obama could lead to more outrageous remarks from McCain
3) John Stewart judges McCain's AIPAC performances as the finest
4) McCain's voting record is a concern in Florida
5) New unemployment numbers: 5.5% rate; 49, 00 jobs lost in May [no clip]
6) Harry Reid appears on CNN, claims McCain is wrong on war and economy; does not tie him to Bush [nc]
7) CNN repeatedly plays sound byte of McCain's vow to keep a respectful campaign that keeps race out of the spotlight [nc]

Clips:
Highlight #1
Robert Novak Gives McCain an E for Effort on Uniting GOP Base (FNC 06/06/08 6:23am)
BRIAN KILMEADE: [...] did John McCain make the most of the time he had by himself? While the democrats fought it out did McCain plow the ground and set the ground to be successful?

ROBERT NOVAK: I don't think he did. I don't think he secured the republican base. He tried hard, but he didn't make it. I have never seen less enthusiasm among the republican activists up and down the line; all kind—social conservatives, economic conservatives, think tanks, whatever.

What's amazing is this is the only shot the republicans have this year. They can forget about congress. They should concentrate on the president but the enthusiasm is not there yet.

Glenn Beck: Conservatives Don't Really Have a Candidate this Year (CNN 06/06/08 7:55am)
GLENN BECK: [...] we don't have a candidate. Conservatives don't really feel like they have a candidate. You know, as much as John McCain says he's not gonna raise taxes—he is gonna raise taxes. It's called *cap and trade*.

It'll be the largest tax increase the country has ever seen and it is a hidden tax. It'll make your gas go up, according to the EPA by $1.50/gallon. Obama is for it. Hillary's for it. John McCain is for it.

JOHN ROBERTS: Glenn, you haven't warmed up to John McCain at all?

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BECK: No. Not really. [...] I'm not a guy who votes against somebody. I wanna find a guy that I can vote for. I spent an hour with Bob Barr that's gonna air on CNN Headline News tonight. [...] He's better, I guess than the other two but I'm not passionate about anybody and I don't know any conservatives that are. Conservatives have really—conservatives have left the Republican Party.

ROBERTS: What'd you think about McCain's speech on Tuesday night?

BECK: You know what? I couldn't get past the green background

[off-stage laughter]

BECK: I'm sorry, but I can't get past the fact that we just left the coolest month of May that we've had in I don't know how many years. Scientists are now saying we're on a 15 year hiatus. Up in Iceland, they saw the first polar bear in Iceland that has ever been or has been in twenty years and the police shot him last night and here we are talking about cap and trade when everyone, we have China off the coast of Key West, drilling. We have 40 new coal fire plants being built in Europe and we can't get our own resources. It's insanity.

[Beck then goes on to explain that he fears for his job under an Obama administration, citing the fairness doctrine.]

BECK: [...] The thing with John McCain is they do look—I mean, age is a huge difference between the two. One looks young and energetic, the other does not look young and energetic [...]. Me personally, I don't think that we got a candidate here that we can be happy about [...].

Highlight #2
CNN Reminds Viewers of McCain's Most Controversial Remarks (CNN 06/0608 6:21am)
FRANK SESNO: [...] McCain wants a rerun of his town halls from the primary season. They've been good to him.

[McCain clip on Osama Bin Laden]

SESNO: They've allowed him to highlight experience, grit and policy, to show off his humor.

MCCAIN: We have so little water in Arizona the trees chase the dogs.

SESNO: He's better off the cuff than in a speech but this could be risky business too. One-hundred years in Iraq: that was a town hall moment.

[100 years clip]

SESNO: Remember this one?

[Bomb Iran to the tune of "Barbara Ann" clip]

SESNO: What if he does that on stage with Obama? If Obama doesn't pounce, surely the pundits and bloggers will.

Highlight #3
On Daily Show *McCain Wins Florida for AIPAC Performance* (CC 06/05/08 11:23pm)
JOHN MCCAIN: Not too long ago I was in Jerusalem with Senator Lieberman.

JOHN STEWART: You win, Senator, but when you go to Israel you don't need to bring your own Jew.

Highlight #4
McCain's Voting Record is a Concern in Florida (ABC 06/06/08 6:07am)

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SUZANNE KENNEDY: John McCain does plan to tour Florida's everglades today. Yesterday he was in Buena Vista Florida. He is getting some criticism for opposing two big priorities in Florida, which may be a key state this fall. McCain voted against an everglades restoration bill and a National Hurricane Insurance fund. Obama supported both. McCain says the everglades measure was part of a pork barrel spending bill.

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/27/2008 7:14:21 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Sunday 07/27/08

Main Topics: McCain interviews with Wolf Blitzer and George Stephanopoulos, McCain has a bad week

Summary of Shift: Pundits this morning frequently debated the criticism McCain leveled against the press for this week's Obama coverage. Nearly all news personalities agreed that McCain's goading of Obama into an Iraq visit turned on the republican candidate. A new NBC poll shows Americans find McCain to be the least risky presidential choice this year. A man shot seven at a church in TN.

Highlights:
1) Interviews
   a. ABC: Stephanopoulos interviews McCain
   b. CNN: Entire McCain interview airs on *Late Edition*
2) McCain's bumpy week
   a. CBS: Hagel and Reed both deem McCain's tactics in poor taste
   b. MSNBC: Panelist dubs McCain 'Mayor McCheese'

No clips:
1) CNN: US Ambassador: Insurgency has declined; no longer a threat but still does not proclaim victory
2) ABC: Colby King says, 'John McCain taunted Obama for not visiting Iraq for many years' and the conservatives 'have a bland candidate'
3) CNN: w/r/t Couric interview edit ('CBS' McCain Mashup') Steve Roberts says, 'I would use this as a case study of what not to do' in his George Washington University ethics class
4) CNN: Howard Kurtz and his panel on *Reliable Sources* review McCain's week of gaffes, concluding they were due to campaign fatigue

Clips w/ Labels and Transcriptions:
Highlight#1
ABC's George Stephanopoulos Sits Down with John McCain (ABC 07/27/08 9:06am)
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS, ABC NEWS: Senator Obama was in London this morning, and he was responding to your comments from yesterday when you said that 16 months might be a pretty good timetable in Iraq.

He said, "We're pleased to see that there's been some convergence around proposals we've been making for a year-and-a-half."

SEN JOHN MCCAIN: That's really good. Look, it's not a timetable, as I said. I was asked, how does that sound? Anything sounds good to me, but…

STEPHANOPOULOS: But you never used the word before.

MCCAIN: … you know, the point is…

STEPHANOPOULOS: You made a point of never using…

MCCAIN: … I never…

STEPHANOPOULOS: … the word before.

MCCAIN: Look, I have always said, and I said then, it's the conditions on the ground. If Senator Obama had had his way, we'd have been out last March, and we'd been out in defeat and chaos, and probably had to come back again because of Iranian influence.

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It's conditions on the ground — the way that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, the way that General Petraeus has said — conditions on the ground, so that the Iraqi government can have control, can have the sufficient security, so that we don't have to come back. Senator Obama said that if his date didn't work, we may have to come back.

We're not coming home in victory. We're coming home in victory.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But it does seem…

MCCAIN: But it is a — it is not a date. I want to make it very clear to you, it is not a date. It's conditions on the ground.

STEPHANOPOULOS: So, you shouldn't have used the word timetable.

MCCAIN: Pardon me?

STEPHANOPOULOS: You shouldn't have used the word timetable.

MCCAIN: I didn't use the word timetable. That I did — if I did…

STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, it's a pretty good timetable.

MCCAIN: Oh, well, look. Anything is a good timetable that is dictated by conditions on the ground. Anything is good.

But the timetable is dictated, not by a artificial date, but by the conditions on the ground, the conditions of security.

And by the way, our ambassador to Iraq basically said we have succeeded. We have succeeded in this strategy.

Now, look. Senator Obama doesn't understand. He doesn't understand what's at stake here. And he chose to take a political path that would have helped him get the nomination of his party.

I took a path that I knew was unpopular, because I knew we had to win in Iraq. And we are winning in Iraq.

And if we'd done what Senator Obama wanted done, it would have been chaos, genocide, increased Iranian influence, perhaps al Qaeda establishing a base again.

Now we have a stable ally in the region, and it is not based on any date.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But it does seem like…

MCCAIN: I like six months, three months, two months. I like yesterday. I like yesterday, OK? That seems really good to me. But the fact is, the conditions on the ground…

STEPHANOPOULOS: But what's the difference between…

MCCAIN: … have not dictated it.

STEPHANOPOULOS: … your positions now? He says, OK, here's the timetable I want. That's the mission.

MCCAIN: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: If the commanders come and tell me the conditions have changed dramatically, if Iraq's going to be unstable, I'll take that into account.

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You also say, timetable sounds great, but it's on the conditions on the ground.

MCCAIN: Senator Obama said that he would come out no matter what. He said that he would be out — according to his original plan, it would have been last March. He says that the surge has not worked. He said it couldn't work.

There's a fundamental difference between myself and Senator Obama. And now that it's the general election coming up, I can see why he and his people are trying to blur that distinction.

When the decision had to be made whether to adopt the strategy of the surge, he said it wouldn't work, it would increase sectarian violence. He said all those things that made it acceptable to the left of his party.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But there was a fundamental difference about the original decision to go to war. He said it would inflame the Muslim world, it would become a recruitment tool for al Qaeda.

You said, and you wrote, that it would lessen antipathy in the Muslim world, and that we'd be greeted as liberators.

Wasn't Senator Obama right about that?

MCCAIN: I don't believe so. We were greeted as liberators. We mishandled the war for nearly four years. We mishandled it in a way that was so harmful that I stood up against it. I said it wouldn't work. I said we had to have a new strategy, and I was criticized for being disloyal — disloyal to Republicans.

STEPHANOPOULOS: You also said many times that the strategy was the right strategy.

MCCAIN: I said that Saddam Hussein caused a — imposed a threat to the United States of America and our security. And the Oil for Food scandal, the $12 billion he was skimming, the fact that he had said that he had in operation and he wanted to have weapons of mass destruction, the fact that this society that he ruled in such a brutal fashion was really awful. And he did pose a long-term threat to the security of the United States of America.

But that's a job for the historians.

When the crucial time came as to whether we were going to leave Iraq and lose, or stay and do the very unpopular thing of 30,000 additional troops — asking young Americans to make the sacrifice — he was wrong, I was right. That was the crucial point…

STEPHANOPOULOS: And you don't…

MCCAIN: … in the strategy.

STEPHANOPOULOS: … accept that he was right and you were wrong…

MCCAIN: Of course not.

STEPHANOPOULOS: … on the original decision.

MCCAIN: Of course not. Of course not.

STEPHANOPOULOS: You've also taken some heat this week with your comments saying that Senator Obama would rather lose…

MCCAIN: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: … a war than win a political campaign.

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MCCAIN: Yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: I can't believe you believe that.

MCCAIN: Well, I'm not questioning his patriotism. I'm questioning his actions. I'm questioning his lack, total lack, of understanding. His…

STEPHANOPOULOS: But that is questioning his total…

MCCAIN: I…

STEPHANOPOULOS: When you say someone would rather lose a war, a candidate, that's questioning his honor, his decency, his character.

MCCAIN: All I'm saying is — and I will repeat — he does not understand. I'm not questioning his patriotism. I am saying that he made the decision, which was political, in order to help him get the nomination of his party.

STEPHANOPOULOS: So, putting lives at risk for a political campaign — you believe he's doing that.

MCCAIN: I believe that, when he said that we had to leave Iraq, and we had to be out by last March, and we had to have a date certain, that was in contravention to — and still is — the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General David Petraeus.

When he never asked to sit down for a briefing with General Petraeus, our commander on the ground, when he waited 900 days to go back again, where young American lives are on the line, I think that's a fundamental lack of understanding. And I think the American people will make the appropriate choice.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But you're questioning his motives.

MCCAIN: I say that it was very clear that a decision had to made. And I made it when it wasn't popular. He made a decision which was popular with his base. And that is a fundamental difference.

And he does not understand, and did not understand and still doesn't understand, that the surge was the vital strategy in us not having to lose a war.

Chaos, genocide, increased influence of Iranians in the region. The consequences of failure would have been severe.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But…

MCCAIN: Now, the benefits are enormous of a stable ally in the region, of a country that is a friend of ours, a brake on Iranian influence — certainly a brake on al Qaeda and other jihadist organizations.

So, he made the decision that that was the best way to go to get the nomination of his party.

STEPHANOPOULOS: There's also been a flap about Senator Obama's decision in Germany not to visit the troops at Landstuhl. He now says that, based on what he was hearing from the Pentagon, there was no way that wouldn't be seen as a political trip, which is why he decided not to go.

Do you accept that explanation?

MCCAIN: Well, I know this, that those troops would have loved to have seen him. And I know of no Pentagon regulation that would have prevented him from going there — without the media and the press and all of the associated people — nothing that I know of would have kept him from visiting those wounded troops. And they are gravely wounded, many of them.

STEPHANOPOULOS: He's done it many times in the past.

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MCCAIN: In Landstuhl, Germany, when I went through, I visited — I visited the hospital. But the important thing is that, if I had been told by the Pentagon that I couldn't visit those troops, and I was there and wanted to be there, I guarantee you, there would have been a seismic event.

And so, I believe he had the opportunity to go without the media. And I'll let the facts speak for themselves.

STEPHANOPOULOS: So, this is…

MCCAIN: It certainly wasn't the Pentagon…

STEPHANOPOULOS: … (inaudible) campaign (ph).

MCCAIN: That's certainly what the Pentagon spokesman said. There was nothing to prevent him from going, if he went without the press and the media and his campaign people.

But we'll see what happens.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Fair game?

MCCAIN: Well, I think people make a judgment by what we do and what we don't do. He certainly found time to do other things.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Let's talk about the economy.

President Bush in — and adding some unvarnished talk recently about the economy when he didn't think the cameras were on. I think he said, "Wall Street got drunk, and now we're going through the hangover."

I know you don't want to use language like that, but is his basic take right? Is Wall Street the villain here? And what would you do about it?

MCCAIN: I think that Wall Street is the villain in the things that happened in the subprime lending crisis and other areas where investigations and possible prosecution is going on.

But I also think that Congress is at fault. We didn't restrain spending. Spending got completely out of control. We were …

STEPHANOPOULOS: But what does that have to do with the mortgage crisis…

MCCAIN: It increases…

STEPHANOPOULOS: … or with the housing crisis?

MCCAIN: It increases the deficit. We didn't address the energy crisis, which has been building for 30 years. We're now sending $700 billion of Americans' money overseas to countries that don't like us very much.

So, I think there's a lot of blame to go around here. But I also would blame a gridlocked Congress, which is gridlocked as we speak, when we should be doing offshore drilling.

STEPHANOPOULOS: The gridlock…

MCCAIN: We should be moving forward with nuclear power.

STEPHANOPOULOS: The gridlock broke today on the housing bill. It passed, I think, 72 to 13 in the Senate.

I know you couldn't be there. Would you have voted for that bill?

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MCCAIN: Yes. But I also see, again, the influence of special interests. They place the responsibilities for trying to help solve some of these problems of people remaining in their homes — and it is real and significant — in the hands of the lenders.

I would have liked to have seen the homeowner, the primary residents, go down and get the 30-year FHA guaranteed loan at the new value of their home, and put it in the hands of the borrower, the homeowner. But I'll support…

STEPHANOPOULOS: Then why vote for the bill?

MCCAIN: Because it's better than nothing. It's better than — it may give relief to several hundred thousand homeowners. Or if it gives relief to one, it's a — but I think it can provide some relief.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Several of your colleagues look at this bill and say it could put the taxpayers on the hook for up to $25 billion for Fannie Mae.

They look at the government stepping in to help Bear Stearns and they say, this is socialized capitalism. You know, what we have is that the private companies get to make all the profits. When they get in trouble, the government steps in.

Is that right?

MCCAIN: No, it's not right. But we reached such a situation that, if these institutions failed, the impact on millions of innocent Americans could be very severe.

In the case of Fannie and Freddie, we should stop their lobbying activities. We should eliminate the pay and bonuses that these people rake in…

STEPHANOPOULOS: George Will has an idea on that.

MCCAIN: … the most…

STEPHANOPOULOS: He says that when some places like Freddie Mae (ph) or Fannie Mae or Bear Stearns get the government guarantee, that the executives that work there should get a government salary.

MCCAIN: Sure. That's exactly right. And we could go out and ask people — the smartest people in America, maybe somebody like Jack Welch or John Chambers or Meg Whitman, people like that — and say, come and take over and do it for $1 a year. They'd be willing to do that.

But the other thing is, the shareholders should not be the first ones to be paid. There should be new preferred stock issued. And those people would be, and the government, paid off first, since the government is on the hook.

STEPHANOPOULOS: And should the government get some stock, so that if Fannie Mae does recover, the taxpayers should benefit?

MCCAIN: Absolutely. Absolutely, they should, in my view. And we've got to send the signal that, over time, that these kinds of institutions have not helped the American homeowner. They've basically helped enrich a lot of people that otherwise shouldn't have been.

STEPHANOPOULOS: A majority of Americans think you're going to come in. They look at your tax plans and say you're going to be just like President Bush on the economy.

What would you do right now — spending aside — that would be different from what President Bush is doing?

MCCAIN: Well, I would give every family in America double their exemption for — on the child tax and children's tax, a dependent tax break, from $3,500 to $7,000.

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I would declare that we will scrub every agency of government and eliminate those that are not necessary.

I will veto every single pork barrel bill that comes across my desk, and make them famous.

I will promise that we will not only keep tax cuts low, but we will have some additional incentives for American investment and growth of jobs.

I will embark on an immediate, an immediate effort to eliminate our dependence on foreign oil — nuclear power, offshore drilling, wind, tide, solar — and stop this drain of $700 billion a year from the American economy. This administration — for 30 years, Congress and the administrations have not done anything on this energy crisis. Now, it's hurting low-income Americans the most.

There are many steps that can be taken absolutely, including the gas tax holiday. Everybody — everybody…

STEPHANOPOULOS: Not a single economist in the country said it'd work.

MCCAIN: Yes. And there's no economist in the country that knows very well the low-income American who drives the furthest, in the oldest automobile, that sometimes can't even afford to go to work.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But they all say that that's…

MCCAIN: And they haven't met…

STEPHANOPOULOS: … not who's (ph) going to get the benefit. The oil companies, the gas companies are going to absorb…

MCCAIN: You know, they..

STEPHANOPOULOS: … any reduction.

MCCAIN: … they say that. But one, it didn't happen before, and two, we wouldn't let it happen. We wouldn't let it — Americans wouldn't let them absorb that.

STEPHANOPOULOS: How would you prevent that?

MCCAIN: We would make them shamed into it. We, of course, know how to — American public opinion. And we would penalize them, if necessary. But they wouldn't. They would pass it on.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Let me ask you about…

MCCAIN: But let me just finally say, Americans need trust and confidence in their government.

The most important thing I would do, the most important of all, is what I have done all the years I've been in the Congress. I'd reach across the aisle to the Democrats, and I'd say, "Let's go work together."

MCCAIN: I've worked with — it's not a fact that I would do something new. I've worked with Joe Lieberman, Ted Kennedy, Russ Feingold, Byron Dorgan — you go down the list — Carl Levin, Fritz Hollings.

Look down the list of the bipartisan legislation and action that I've done together. I could do that much, much more effectively as president of the United States.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Social Security. You're a longtime supporter of the private accounts, as President Bush called for them.

MCCAIN: I am a supporter of sitting down together and putting everything on the table and coming up with an answer. So, there is nothing I would take off the table. There was nothing I would demand.

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I think that's the way that Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill did it. And that's what we have to do again.

STEPHANOPOULOS: In the past you said there was essentially — and you told the "Wall Street Journal"…

MCCAIN: No, I have said and will say, I will say that everything has to be on the table, if we're going to reach a bipartisan agreement. I've been in bipartisan negotiations before. I know how you reach a conclusion. We all have to sit down together with everything on the table.

STEPHANOPOULOS: So, that means payroll tax increases are on the table, as well?

MCCAIN: There is nothing that's off the table. I have my positions, and I'll articulate them. But nothing's off the table.

I don't want tax increases. Of course I'd like to have young Americans have some of their money put into an account with their name on it. But that doesn't mean that anything is off the table…

STEPHANOPOULOS: With (ph) their payroll taxes diverted into accounts.

MCCAIN: I say that everything is on the table that has to be on the table, the way Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan did. STEPHANOPOULOS: Let me ask you about your position to exclude Russia from the G-8. How are you going to get that done? Every other G-8 nation is against it.

MCCAIN: Well, you have to take positions whether other nations agree or not, because you have to do what's best for America…

STEPHANOPOULOS: You've got some visitors here.

MCCAIN: … and the world. That's Sam.

Look at Russia's actions in the last week or so. He'll get out of here.

STEPHANOPOULOS: He'll get out. It'll be fine.

MCCAIN: In the last week or so, look at Russia's actions. They cut back on their oil supplies to the Czechs, because the Czechs made an agreement with us. They have now thrown out the — or forced out — BP out of Russia. And by the way, I — a lot of us thought that might happen.

They continue to put enormous pressures on Georgia in many ways. They're putting pressure on Ukraine. They are blocking action in the United Nations Security Council on Iran. And so…

STEPHANOPOULOS: But how is kicking out of the G-8 going to make that better? We need them…

MCCAIN: The G-8…

STEPHANOPOULOS: … to help secure nuclear weapons. We need them to help contain Iran. To kick them out is going to make it harder, isn't it?

MCCAIN: We need to improve their behavior. We need to make them realize that the G-8 was founded — basically, countries that are democratic, have our values and our goals and shared principles. And President Putin and…

STEPHANOPOULOS: The former President Putin.

MCCAIN: … his government — former President Putin, and now Prime Minister Putin — has taken his country down a path that I think is very harmful.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you still think he's in charge?

MCCAIN: Oh, yes. I am confident — yes, I believe that he's in charge. And I don't think he would have chosen his successor, if he didn't think he would remain in charge.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, let me get back to the original question.

MCCAIN: They've become — they've become an autocracy.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Because President Medvedev says this proposal isn't even serious. So, I go back.

How are you going to exclude Russia from the G-8, when every other country is against it?

MCCAIN: I will stand up for what I think is the best for the United States of America and the world, the way that Ronald Reagan went to Berlin and said, "Tear down this wall."

And they said, "Oh, he's a cowboy. He's going to make relations worse. He shouldn't say that."

And yet, we wanted the Wall down. We want better Russian behavior internationally. And we have every right to expect it.

And I will do what I can to see that they reverse many of the behavior patterns, which have really been very unhelpful to peace in the world.

STEPHANOPOULOS: What is your position on gay adoption? You told the "New York Times" you were against it, even in cases where the children couldn't find another home. But then your staff backtracked a bit.

What is your position?

MCCAIN: My position is, it's not the reason why I'm running for president of the United States. And I think that two parent families are best for America.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Well, what do you mean by that, it's not the reason you're running for president of the United States?

MCCAIN: Because I think — well, I think that it's — it is important for us to emphasize family values. But I think it's very important that we understand that we have other challenges, too.

I'm running for president of the United States, because I want to help with family values. And I think that family values are important, when we have two parent — families that are of parents that are the traditional family.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But there are several hundred thousand children in the country who don't have a home. And if a gay couple wants to adopt them, what's wrong with that?

MCCAIN: I am for the values that two parent families, the traditional family represents.

STEPHANOPOULOS: So, you're against gay adoption.

MCCAIN: I am for the values and principles that two parent families represent. And I also do point out that many of these decisions are made by the states, as we all know.

And I will do everything I can to encourage adoption, to encourage all of the things that keeps families together, including educational opportunities, including a better economy, job creation.

And I'm running for president, because I want to help families in America. And one of my positions is that I believe that family values and family traditions are preserved.

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STEPHANOPOULOS: Opponents of affirmative action are trying to get a referendum on the ballot here that would do away with affirmative action. Do you support that?

MCCAIN: Yes, I do. I do not believe in quotas. But I have not seen the details of some of these proposals. But I've always opposed quotas.

STEPHANOPOULOS: But the one here in Arizona you support.

MCCAIN: I support it, yes.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Finally — and I'm just going to take a stab at this. I pretty much know the answer.

I've been told that when you're talking about your vice presidential pick, the way you characterize it is, you want to scramble the jets with your pick. What does that mean?

MCCAIN: I've never used that phrase.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Never used that phrase?

MCCAIN: Never.

STEPHANOPOULOS: So, what do you want to do with your pick?

MCCAIN: I want to be the best team that we can provide the United States of America in very difficult times.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Are you getting close on a decision?

MCCAIN: We are still in the process.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Senator McCain, thank you very much.

MCCAIN: Thank you.

CNN Airs Entire McCain Interview (CNN 07/27/08 11:00am)
BLITZER: Let's talk about, you're elected president of the United States, it's January 20th, 2009, first day, you're in the Oval Office, after you're sworn in, what's the first thing you do?

MCCAIN: You sit down with your national security advisers and say, how can we keep the peace in the world? What do we need to do? And what actions do we have to take? What actions have worked? Which ones haven't? Which policies haven't worked? And keep this nation safe and secure.

And then, of course, how do we restore trust and confidence in government. We've got to take some measures to reform the way that government does business, the way Congress does business, and get Americans trust and confidence back in this country.

And that means — and their government. And that means reforming the way the government does business, which Americans have lost trust and confidence in.

BLITZER: And what about what a lot of people call "ISSUE #1," the domestic economy, which seems to be in real serious trouble right now, by almost all accounts, will still be in serious trouble in January of next year? What's the first thing you do on the economy?

MCCAIN: Restrain spending is the first thing we have to do. We have to restrain out of control spending. We have to reform government. We have to embark on measures to keep people in their homes, to keep their taxes low, to create new jobs, and to get our economy back moving again.

And that's part of the trust and confidence. We've got to regain the trust and confidence of the American people

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because we have to act together. We have to put our country first. Congress and the government is fundamentally gridlocked, as we know.

And that's why we see the all-time low approval ratings of Congress. And so we have to sit down together, Republican and Democrat, together, and start working for the good of this nation, keep people in their homes, provide them with affordable and available health care, create new jobs all across this country.

And we can do it. And one of the major, major aspects of this, of course, is energy independence. The price of a gallon of gas is killing, is harming the fixed income Americans very badly. They're the ones that drive the oldest automobiles and drive the furthest.

And so we have to have this positive movement and mission, a national mission to become independent of foreign oil.

BLITZER: All right. We're going to get all of those issues one by one. Let's talk a little bit about the national security issues. You're president of the United States, you've vowed that you will capture Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice. Now we know that President Bush since 9/11 has been doing the best he can. What would you do differently?

MCCAIN: Well, I'm not going to telegraph a lot of the things that I'm going to do because then it might compromise our ability to do so. But, look, I know the area, I've been there, I know wars, I know how to win wars, and I know how to improve our capabilities so that we will capture Osama bin Laden — or put it this way, bring him to justice.

BLITZER: All right. If you capture.

MCCAIN: We will do it, I know how to do it.

BLITZER: If you capture him alive, what do you do with him?

MCCAIN: Of course you put him on trial. I mean, there are ample precedents of — for that. And it might be a good thing to reveal to the world the enormity of this guy's crimes and his intentions, which are still there and he's working night and day to destroy everything we stand for and believe in.

BLITZER: Do you do him a regular civilian trial here in the United States or is it a war crimes tribunal, a military commission, what kind of legal justice would you bring him toward?

MCCAIN: We have various options, but the Nuremburg trials are certainly an example of the kind of tribunal that we could move forward with. I don't think we would have any difficulty devising an internationally-supported mechanism that would mete out justice and there's no problem there.

BLITZER: All right. Let's talk about the war in Iraq right now. Charles Krauthammer, The Washington Post conservative columnist, he writes that the prime minister of Iraq, Nouri al-Maliki, in recent days, quote "vote for Obama, casting the earliest and most ostentatious absentee ballot of this presidential election."

If you were president, and Nouri al-Maliki is still the elected prime minister of Iraq, and he says he wants all U.S. out, what do you do?

MCCAIN: Well, first of all, I know Prime Minister Maliki rather well, I know that he is a politician and I know that they are looking at upcoming elections. I know that he knows and every — and the other leaders know there that it has to be condition-based.

Any withdrawals which will withdraw, we have succeeded, the surge has succeeded, and we are on the road to victory, and we will be out of there, and we may have a residual presence of some kind, as I've always said, but the fact is, the surge has succeeded.

And the fundamental here is that I supported that surge when it was not the popular thing to do. Senator Obama

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opposed it, said it wouldn't work, even voted to cut off the funds for the men and women who are fighting over there, and still — and he still doesn't understand to the point where he doesn't agree that the surge has succeeded.

No rational observer — no rational observer who sees the conditions in Iraq today as opposed to two years ago could possibly — could possibly conclude that the surge hasn't succeeded.

So he sees it as a political issue. He doesn't understand the importance of this victory and the consequences of failure and the benefits of success. If we had done what Senator Obama wanted to do, which, by the way, initially would have been the troops out last March, we would've had greater Iranian influence.

We would have had an increase in sectarian violence. We would have seen possibly a wider war in the region, which would have drawn us back.

So I can assure you that Prime Minister Maliki understands that conditions have to be kept. And I want to find — tell you again, General Petraeus, one of the great generals in history, strongly disagrees with Senator Obama and our highest-ranking military officer also says it would be a very dangerous course.

We're not going to go down that road.

BLITZER: What — but if Maliki persists, you're president and he says he wants U.S. troops out and he wants them out, let's say, in a year or two years or 16 months, or whatever, what do you do? Do you just — do you listen to the prime minister?

MCCAIN: He won't. He won't. He won't, because he.

BLITZER: How do you know? How do you know? How do you know this?

MCCAIN: . knows it has to be condition-based. Because I know him, and I know him very well. And I know the other leaders. And I know — I've been there eight times, as you know. And I know them very, very well.

BLITZER: So why do you think he said.

MCCAIN: And the point is.

BLITZER: Why do you think he said that 16 months is basically a pretty good timetable?

MCCAIN: He said it's a pretty good timetable based on conditions on the ground. I think it's a pretty good timetable, as we should — or horizons for withdrawal. But they have to be based on conditions on the ground.

This success is very fragile. It's incredibly impressive, but very fragile. So we know, those of us who have been involved in it for many years, know that if we reverse this, by setting a date for withdrawal, all of the hard-won victory can be reversed.

We're not ready to do that. Too many brave young Americans and their families have sacrificed too much. But we will be out and the difference is we'll be out with victory and honor and not defeat.

Senator Obama has said there is a possibility under his plan we may have to go back. I guarantee you, after they withdraw under what we are doing, we'll never have to go back.

BLITZER: All right. You also made a very serious charge against Senator Obama, you've repeated it, you say you stand by it, that he would rather lose a war to win a political campaign, raising questions about, you know, his motives.

Joe Klein, writing in TIME magazine says: "This is the ninth presidential campaign I've covered, I can't remember a more scurrilous statement by a major party candidate. It smacks of desperation."

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Those are pretty strong words from Joe Klein, whom you obviously know. But tell us, are you — what are charging? What are you accusing Obama of doing?

MCCAIN: I am accusing — I am stating the facts. And the facts are that I don't question Senator Obama's patriotism. I'm sure that he's a very patriotic American. I question his judgment because he lacks experience and knowledge. And I question his judgment.

I'm not prepared to see the sacrifice of so many brave young Americans lost because Senator Obama just views this war as another political issue with which he can change positions.

And everybody knows that he was able to obtain the nomination of his party by appealing to the far left and committing to a course of action that I believe was — I know was wrong, because he said the surge would not work, he said it wouldn't succeed.

No rational observer in Iraq today believes that the surge did not succeed. So he just treats it as another political issue because he doesn't understand and he doesn't have the knowledge and the background to make the kind of judgments that are necessary.

And this war has enormous ramifications. If we had lost it, we would have faced enormous challenges in the region, throughout the world, increased Iranian influence, perhaps even having to come back in a wider war.

So he simply does not understand and treats it as another political issue.

BLITZER: But he says that when it comes to judgment, back in 2002 and 2003 — early 2003, before the war, he made the right call in opposing the war to begin with. And he says you blundered, you made the wrong call in supporting going to war against Saddam Hussein.

MCCAIN: I'd be more than happy to go through with all of that again, and historians will. The fact is that Saddam Hussein was bent on the development of weapons of mass destruction. And I would be glad to discuss it.

The fact is what did we do at a critical time when we were about to lose the war? We were losing the war. Senator Obama wanted to get out, I wanted the surge, which was not popular, the surge works. And now what do we do in the future? Do we continue on the path to victory, and we've succeeded, or do we set a time for withdrawal and jeopardize and possibly reverse all of the gains that we have made?

That's the question on the minds of the American people today.

BLITZER: We invited our viewers, Senator McCain, to submit some video questions for you. Sort of our video version of a town hall meeting.

Jonathan Collins of Tampa, Florida, says he's very liberal but he says he has no connection to either to either campaign. He asks this question. I'll play it for you.773 895 8407.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JONATHAN COLLINS, CNN VIEWER: Can you please, in layman's terms, so the entire world will know, when these events happen, we have won the war in Iraq? Can you please give us your definition?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Go ahead, senator. I guess the question is define victory in Iraq?

MCCAIN: It's the classic outcome of a successful counterinsurgency, which this strategy is. An effective government, a secure environment, a social, economic and political process that is moving forward. Very importantly a legal system that is functioning to protect the rights of the people. Americans withdrawing and the Iraqi people have a chance at freedom and democracy, which obviously they were never going to have under Saddam Hussein and we avoid the risk of a wider war. We reduce the influence of Iran in the region, we have a

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positive impact even as far away as Afghanistan because success breeds success, but an Iraq that is a stable, normal country and it's not over, as I said. Al Qaeda is not defeated. They are on their heels but they are not defeated. That's why we have a ways to go.

But the progress by any parameter has been dramatically good and that's the path to victory in Iraq and you can see it every single day in Baghdad, Mosul, Basra and around the country and I say thank God.

BLITZER: I have a bunch of short questions and hopefully some sort answers.

MCCAIN: Sure. A short answer, OK.

BLITZER: We'll go through some straight talk as you like to do right now.

If Israel were to decide its existence or its security were threatened and bombed Iran's nuclear facilities, would you as president stand with Israel?

MCCAIN: I can only tell you I will not discuss hypotheticals and I can't but I will tell you this. The United States of American is committed to making sure that there is never a second Holocaust. That will be what I will do as president of the United States.

BLITZER: If you were president, would you move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem?

MCCAIN: Yes.

BLITZER: When?

MCCAIN: Right away.

BLITZER: Like, as soon as you were inaugurated? Right away you would order the State Department to do that?

MCCAIN: I've been committed to that proposition for years.

BLITZER: The - we have this question from Robert Weisman (ph) of Skokie, Illinois. He considers himself on the liberal side of the spectrum. But he has this question. Listen to this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Senator McCain, do you agree with or will you unequivocally reject and repudiate the Bush doctrine of preemptive war?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Did you hear that question?

MCCAIN: Well, that's a very, very tough question and it's based on the judgment of the commander-in-chief. No nation can wait until it is attacked when it is clear that there is going to be an impending attack from either a terrorist organization or a hostile nation.

So those kinds of judgments need to be made by presidents and again, you have to have the knowledge and experience and the background to make those kinds of judgments. Do I favor preemptive war? Of course not. None of us do.

But it's the first obligation of the president of the United States to secure our nation and to make sure we are not attacked and American lives are lost.

So that's why I said when you asked me earlier what is the first thing I would do as president and that's make sure everything has been done and is being done to ensure America's safety and security.

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BLITZER: All right we've got a few more quick questions.

MCCAIN: Sure.

BLITZER: If you were president, would you take steps, would you work to repeal Roe v. Wade?

MCCAIN: I don't agree with the decision. It's a decision that's there. I will appoint judges to the United States Supreme Court that do enforce strictly the Constitution of the United States and do not legislate from the bench.

BLITZER: Do you support a pathway to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants in the United States?

MCCAIN: Once we have secured the borders. And I have not changed my position! We tried twice in the United States Senate, comprehensive immigration reform, which meant securing our borders, temporary worker program that works and a path to citizenship for many, not all, but certainly many of the people who are already here illegally. Americans want the border secured first. We can do that and we can establish a truly temporary worker program through the use of biometric, tamper proof documents and we can put some people or a lot of them on the path to citizenship, requiring they pay fines, learning English, do all the things necessary but the principle that they cannot have any priority of those who either waited who came to this country legally.

BLITZER: Given the high price of gas right now, you recently changed your position on offshore oil drilling but you still oppose drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

If the price continues to go up could you see you changing your mind on ANWR, as it's called?

MCCAIN: These are ways to attack a fundamental problem, as we all know, that are hurting Americans. First let's get offshore drilling going.

Let's do it now. We can do it now. Oil company executives say that it could be as short a time as one to two years. Contrary to the belief of some, just the president's announcement of the lifting of the federal moratorium had an impact on the futures cost of a barrel of oil. Let's go going drilling offshore first and let's do whatever is necessary and that includes nuclear power, both of which Senator Obama opposes.

BLITZER: You're in Colorado right now. They have an initiative on their ballot in November that would eliminate affirmative action. I don't know if you're familiar with that referendum but is that a good idea?

MCCAIN: I'm not familiar with the referendum. It's hard for me to say. I've always opposed quotas.

BLITZER: On the vice president front, this is the final question, senator, there are stories out there you want to do this before the Olympic Games start in Beijing on August 8 and not wait any longer. Are those reports true?

MCCAIN: I can't comment on the process that we're going through and I'm sure you understand and every nominee of the party has gone through this and I appreciate you asking the question but I can't comment on the process and I thank you, though, and I know you understand.

BLITZER: Of course we understand. I'm not asking you to tell us who it is. I want to know the timing of when you think we'll know.

MCCAIN: Well, I - I - I - I again cannot comment on the process and I apologize for being so obtuse.

BLITZER: Don't apologize, you have every right to be obtuse. You have every right to not answer. This is a free country, as you want.

Senator McCain, appreciate your time.

MCCAIN: But on this .

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BLITZER: Go ahead.

MCCAIN: You know, on this one I'm sure that you understand, I'm sure our viewers understand when you start commenting you really get on a slippery slope and sometimes that's unfair to the people that are under consideration and I thank you for having me on, Wolf, this has been a very in-depth interview and I appreciate the time.

BLITZER: We appreciate your joining us and we hope you join us again sooner rather than later.

MCCAIN: Sure.

BLITZER: Good luck out there on the campaign trail, Senator.

MCCAIN: Sure.

BLITZER: Good luck out there on the campaign trail, Senator.

MCCAIN: Thank you.

Highlight #2
Panel Finds McCain's Week of Misfortune Humorous (MSNBC 07/27/07 9:46am)
JULIE MASON: John McCain had a terrible week, Alex. Everything from the unfortunate little ride in the golf cart with former President Bush to the abortive trip to an oil rig in Louisiana that got cancelled and then he ended up in a grocery aisle in Pennsylvania looking like Mayor McCheese in the dairy aisle [...]. Everyone knew the hurricane was coming. It wasn't secret information.

[...]

JONATHAN ALLEN: [McCain] wasn't drawing David Hasselhoff-type crowds at historic monuments.

[laughter]

ALLEN: So, to that extent, it was a rough week for John McCain. I think there are a lot of people, on the republican side, that are looking at his week and saying, 'Maybe he should have just backed off and ceded the stage to Barack Obama for the week.' He wasn't going to be able to compete and everything he tried to do appeared to be very minimal by comparison […]. So I think there are probably some regrets on the republican side that McCain didn't use the week differently.

Hagel Comments on McCain's Harsh Accusations (CBS 07/27/08 10:43am)
CHUCK HAGEL: […] I think John is treading on some very thin ground here when he impugns motives and when we start to get into, 'You're less patriotic than me, I'm more patriotic…' I admire/respect John McCain very much. I have a good relationship. To this day we do.

We talk often. I talked to him right before I went to Iraq […]. John's better than that. He's not asked for my advice on this and, since you've asked me the question, I think both he and Barack have got to be very careful here because it's just not responsible to be saying things like that. Again, if for no other reason, for the good of this country and the world, one of these two men […] is gonna have to bring this country together and the world to deal with huge problems. […]

JACK REED: [on John McCain's latest anti-Obama ad] that is a completely distorted and I think, inappropriate advertisement.

[...]

BOB SCHIEFFER: Do you think that ad was appropriate?

HAGEL: I do not think it was appropriate.

SCHIEFFER: You did not.

HAGEL: I do not.

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO

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To:	"Jim Margolis" <jim.margolis@gmmb.com> "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Huma Abedin" <ha16@hillaryclinton.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com> "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com> "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> "Teddy Goff" <tgoff@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	5/3/2015 6:33:53 AM
Subject:	Clinton Cash and Week Ahead issues to discuss tomorrow am

Friends - I wanted to lay out some issues to consider related to Clinton Cash and making news next week for discussion on Monday morning's call. Hope you are enjoying great weather in the meantime. JP

HRC ENGAGEMENT ON CLINTON CASH

The biggest question for this group is if and how HRC engages on Clinton Cash this week and what are the "two lines" she would deliver.

Reminder on this week's events for her. WJC on Today show on Monday; HRC in Vegas on Tuesday in front of the pool for an immigration event; fundraiser and lunch with the Mayor in SFO on Wednesday; LA fundraisers on Thursday; Bay Area fundraiser on Friday. All of the fundraisers are closed. To restate what we all discussed on Thursday and Friday - I would rather she not engage with press while we are in Vegas. Like to keep her on immigration and we handle response.

Below is a written statement Dan had drafted when we thought she might engage on this last week - so gives folks something to react to:

Statement from Hillary Clinton:
The suggestion that I or President Obama or any other senior official in this administration would ever allow decisions about national security to influenced by personal considerations – let alone some charitable donations – is absurd. Anyone who's had to sit in the Situation Room and make life and death choices would understand that. And if anyone ever donated to the Clinton Foundation in the hopes of influencing official government policy, they'd be a fool. Even the author himself has now admitted that he found zero evidence of any wrong-doing or quid pro quo. Unfortunately, the incredible life-saving work of the Clinton Foundation has gotten lost in these attacks. More than 9 million people with HIV/AIDS around the world have benefited from more affordable medicine because of the Clinton Foundation. Millions of American children have access to healthier food. Farmers in Africa are growing better crops. Women entrepreneurs are starting businesses. I'm so proud of the work that Bill, Chelsea, and all the professionals at the Foundation have done and continue to do. And I hope that people will judge the Foundation on that record of accomplishment, not on baseless conspiracy theories

CLINTON CASH RESPONSE/LAUNCH OF "THE BRIEFING"

On Tuesday morning we will launch The Briefing page on our website. This page will be where supporters and others can get information and points on what she is for, but also where we would post pushback on the book. Below is what we currently plan to post on Tuesday related to the book.

We are also considering a Podesta post that we would put on Medium and our site that unveils the concept of The Briefing, debunks the book a bit, and notes that while we will respond aggressively to attacks - we know that they are just designed to stop her bc R's know that she has right vision/policies to win and will not be distracted from our main highway of selling the positive. John and I discussed yesterday and think it is important that supporters and press know that we will deal aggressively with unfair attacks, but our real focus and her's is her proactive vision. Important that we do not appear beleaguered.

Clinton Cash Content for The Briefing:

1) a comprehensive post that debunks the book with all of our attacks in one place;

2) a short video narrated by Brian Fallon highlighting most egregious errors (we will need more time to do comprehensive version we discussed with HRC on Friday, but think it is worth doing short one for the book release on Tuesday);

3) a number of social media products that our supporters can share and are designed to get buzz with press and supporters and further discredit the author and the book;

4) the products we have already put out over the course of the last week.

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From:	"Denis McDonough" <dmcdonough@barackobama.com>
To:	"James B. Steinberg" <djsberg@gmail.com>
	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
	"Mark Lippert" <mlippert@barackobama.com>
Date:	10/23/2008 1:39:00 AM
Subject:	Dennis Ross

Fellas –

Dennis was asked to write an article about transition for Sunday's Outlook, and he did it. He says that he argues that this transition cannot be "business as usual" and there cannot be a lull in efforts to stop Iran's nuclear program.

He is identified in the byline as someone who gives advice to BO.

I would have preferred Dennis not write this or at least not be publicly identified as one of our advisers, but we are where we are. If you all have serious heartburn, please let me know and I will go back at Dennis.

Thanks,
DM

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From:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
To:	"Myroslaw Smorodsky" <msmorodsky@uaba.org>
Date:	1/5/2015 8:09:27 AM
Subject:	Ukrainian American Bar Association; Russia's 2014 War Against Ukraine
Attachments:	14-12-10 VASSYLENKO The 2014 War -An Endeavor for a Comprehensive Analysis .pdf 2014-12-10 UABA News Update.pdf

Ukrainian American Bar Association

The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) applauds the United States Congress and Pres. Obama's Administration for the passage of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014. With the enactment of this law, the United States has sent a clear message to the world that it respects and upholds the principles of international rule of law not only by words but also by deeds and that Russia's aggression against Ukraine carries serious consequences.

At its most recent annual convention in Washington DC, the UABA was honored to have as a presenter Amb. Volodymyr Vassylenko, a leading Ukrainian diplomat, jurist, scholar and former judge of the Hague International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. His presentation examines the origin of Russia's unlawful war of aggression against Ukraine and the underlying motivation for its actions. It is an indispensable tool in formulating an effective response to Russia's anticipated future aggressive actions against Ukraine. Towards this end, we attach the executive summary of Amb. Vassylenko's presentation as well as its full text for your consideration.

For further information, please contact
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From: "Moira Whelan" <mwhelan@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 10/28/2008 6:13:40 AM
Subject: [big campaign] The Conservative Schism on Foreign Policy

Just doing our part on the whole "conservatives fighting themselves" meme...

http://www.nsnetwork.org/node/1036

THE GROWING CONSERVATVE SCHISM ON FOREIGN POLICY

Colin Powell's endorsement of Senator Obama signifies the culmination of a long simmering split within the conservative foreign policy establishment between neoconservatives and pragmatists. The Republican foreign policy establishment was once dominated by foreign policy realists and pragmatists such as Henry Kissinger, James Baker, Brent Scowcroft, Colin Powell, and Robert Gates. However, following the events of September 11th, the neoconservative world view advocated by Vice President Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Doug Feith, Richard Perle, and John Bolton became ascendant, causing tremendous tension within the Bush administration. As the neoconservative experiment in Iraq has proven to be a failure, pragmatists have reasserted some authority in the final years of the Bush administration. But the Iraq War has undoubtedly deepened the divide.

John McCain clearly represents a continuation of the neoconservative foreign policy philosophy. His early, relentless, and unequivocal support for the Iraq war has been in line with the Necons. As has his refusal to negotiate with Iran – a position that Secretary Gates himself disagreed with when he chaired a Council on Foreign Relations task force on Iran in 2004. McCain's hardline response to the Russia crisis echoes that of John Bolton, not Henry Kissinger or George Schultz, who have both advocated caution. And McCain's approach to dealing with our allies, creating a new League of Democracies, is opposed by pragmatists and supported by Neoconservatives such as Robert Kagan.

Thus, it is not at all surprising to see a number of pragmatists breaking with the Republican nominee. Colin Powell's dramatic endorsement of Barack Obama was the clearest example. Senator Richard Lugar, former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has endorsed Obama's view towards diplomacy. Brent Scowcroft, former national security advisor to George H.W. Bush, refused to endorse either candidate, as has Republican Chuck Hagel, whose foreign policy views are clearly in line with Obama's.

The question coming out of this election will be whether the pragmatists return to the Republican fold and take back the mantle of leadership from the Necons, or whether they continue to move away from the Republican Party and perhaps even join the Democrats.

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN DIVIDED BETWEEN THE PRAGMATISTS AND THE NEOCONS

From the start there was an ideological division between the Neocons and pragmatists, which was most evident when it came to the issue of Iraq. At the time, the *New York Times* reported that, "the philosophical discord that is becoming increasingly obvious in the current Bush administration has deep roots in the last. Hawk versus dove, unilateralist versus multilateralist, whatever one calls these disagreements, few experts think they will go away. In fact, the divide in the administration is likely to affect not only future choices on Iraq but also on North Korea, Yasir Arafat and the Palestinians, and military issues like missile defense." In the run up to the war, the philosophical divide was sharp. "Mr. Cheney, who was highly skeptical of Secretary Powell's proposal to seek a Security Council resolution to send inspectors to Baghdad, will probably disagree again over whether to ask for Security Council approval before using military force, officials and diplomats predict. 'This is a profound philosophical argument that may come up again and again,' said a Western diplomat close to Secretary Powell. 'At issue is whether the United States should continue to operate through the international system or go it alone. Powell is keeping the hard-liners at bay.'" [NY Times 9/24/02]

As time went on, Colin Powell and other pragmatists were marginalized during Bush's first term. It has only been in the final year of the Bush administration that the pragmatists have truly regained their footing. There have been "longstanding foreign policy conflicts within the administration that have often pitted Mr. Powell against Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. . . Mr. Powell and the State Department staff have clashed repeatedly with Mr. Rumsfeld and his team at the Pentagon over Iraq and other issues." We have seen an important shift in the past year. Secretary Gates and Condoleezza Rice now seem to have more influence that Dick Cheney and the

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Neoconservative wing. On issue after issue the Bush administration has finally moderated. "The administration has pushed ahead with high-level diplomatic negotiations with Iran and North Korea, agreed to a 'time horizon' for a reduction of U.S. forces in Iraq and announced plans last week to shift troops and other resources from Iraq to Afghanistan. U.S. officials also confirmed last week that Bush has formally authorized cross-border raids into Pakistan without that government's approval -- an idea that Obama first endorsed, and was heavily criticized for, last year." [NY Times, 2/4/04 . Washington Post, 9/15/08]

McCain's Neoconservative Positions are Not in Line with the Pragmatists

Iraq

McCain: **From the start, John McCain was an outspoken supporter of the neoconservative plan to invade Iraq.** "That's where the tough part of this whole scenario is going to begin. And that is that, after the Taliban are overthrown -- which I believe they will be -- I have very little doubt in my mind -- after bin Laden is either taken prisoner or killed and his network is destroyed, then what's next? Obviously, Iraq is still bent on -- Saddam Hussein is still bent on developing weapons of mass destruction. Obviously, the Iranians are still supporting terrorist organizations, as are the Syrians. That's where the tough choices and decisions are going to be made." [MSNBC, Hardball, 10/3/01]

Neocons: **Vice President Dick Cheney argued that the war in Iraq would spread democracy throughout the Middle East.** "Regime change in Iraq would bring about a number of benefits to the region. When the gravest of threats are eliminated, the freedom-loving peoples of the region will have a chance to promote the values that can bring lasting peace. As for the reaction of the Arab 'street,' the Middle East expert Professor Fouad Ajami predicts that after liberation, the streets in Basra and Baghdad are 'sure to erupt in joy in the same way the throngs in Kabul greeted the Americans.' Extremists in the region would have to rethink their strategy of Jihad. Moderates throughout the region would take heart. And our ability to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process would be enhanced, just as it was following the liberation of Kuwait in 1991." [Cheney, 8/02]

Pragmatists:

Brent Scowcroft was critical of the administration during the run up to the war. "'How do the neocons bring democracy to Iraq? You invade, you threaten and pressure, you evangelize.' And now, Scowcroft said, America is suffering from the consequences of that brand of revolutionary utopianism. 'This was said to be part of the war on terror, but Iraq feeds terrorism.' The first Gulf War was a success, Scowcroft said, because the President knew better than to set unachievable goals. 'I'm not a pacifist,' he said.' I believe in the use of force. But there has to be a good reason for using force. And you have to know when to stop using force.'" "I thought we ought to make it our duty to help make the world friendlier for the growth of liberal regimes. You encourage democracy over time, with assistance, and aid, the traditional way. Not how the neocons do it." [The New Yorker, 10/31/05 . Scowcroft, 8/15/02]

In his new book Bob Woodward outlines Colin Powell's objections to the war in Iraq. Tom Brokaw quoted from Woodward's book and questioned Powell on meet the press, "'Powell . . . didn't think [Iraq] was a necessary war, and yet he had gone along in a hundred ways, large and small. He had resisted at times but had succumbed to the momentum and his own sense of deference--even obedience--to the president. . . . Perhaps more than anyone else in the administration, Powell had been the `closer' for the president's case on war. . .' And then you were invited to appear before the Iraq Study Group. 'Why did we go into Iraq with so few people?' [former Secretary of State James] Baker asked. ... 'Colin just exploded at that point, [former Secretary of Defense William] Perry recalled later. 'He unloaded, Former White House Chief of Staff] Leon Panetta added. 'He was angry. He was mad as hell.' . . . Powell left [the Study Group meeting]. Baker turned to Panetta and said solemnly, `He's the one guy who could have perhaps prevented this from happening.'" [Meet the Press, 10/19/08]

Iran

McCain: **McCain has consistently opposed engaging with Iran.** From his reckless "bomb, bomb, bomb Iran" remark to his characterization of tough negotiations as appeasement, Senator McCain has consistently followed the approach of the Bush administration that has utterly failed to hinder Iran's nuclear development. He has consistently derided Barack Obama as naïve for willing to have tough direct diplomacy with Iran. McCain has instead called for more sanctions and the continuation of a policy that has not worked for the past five years. [John McCain, 4/18/07 . John McCain, 5/15/08 . John McCain conference call, 5/15/08 . JohnMcCain.com . John McCain, 1/15/06]

Neocons: **Richard Perle rejected the Bush administration's attempts at diplomacy.** "President George W. Bush's words on Iran have been clear and unmistakable, but the administration's decision to negotiate with the clerics on nuclear

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energy has weakened the U.S. position and has sent mixed messages to Iranian dissidents who look to the United States for support. . . she [Secretary Rice] is now in the midst of--and increasingly represents--a diplomatic establishment that is driven to accommodate its allies even when (or, it seems, especially when) such allies counsel the appeasement of our adversaries. [Richard Perle, 7/21/06]

Pragmatists:

Defense Secretary Gates chaired a Council on Foreign Relations task force that in 2004 advocated direct talks with Iran. "The United States' long lack of direct contact with, and presence in, Iran drastically impedes its understanding of Iran's domestic, as well as regional, dynamics. In turn, this reduces Washington's influence across the Middle East in ways that are manifestly harmful to its ultimate interests. Direct dialogue approached candidly and without restrictions on issues of mutual concern would serve Iran's interests. And establishing connections with Iranian society would directly benefit U.S. national objectives of enhancing the stability and security of this critical region." [CFR, 2004]

James Baker disagrees with McCain on Iran. Despite his support for John McCain, James Baker's position on negotiations with Iran align with Barack Obama, not John McCain. "You don't just talk to your friends, you talk to your enemies as well. Diplomacy involves talking to your enemies. You don't reward your enemies necessarily by talking to them if you are tough and you know what you are doing. You don't appease them. Talking to an enemy is not in my view appeasement." Baker noted that when he was secretary of state for President Bush's father, he made 15 trips to Syria in 1990 and 1991, "at the time when Syria was on the list of countries who were state sponsors of terrorism. On the 16th trip, guess what, lo and behold, Syria changed 25 years of policy and agreed for the first time in the history to sit at the table with Israel, which is what Israel wanted at the time." Baker concluded: "All I am saying, that would never happened if I, if we, hadn't been sufficiently dedicated that we were going to keep at it." [James Baker, 10/6/06]

Russia

McCain: **John McCain has taken a radically hawkish approach towards Russia.** Whether it be saying he " looked into Mr. Putin's eyes and I saw three things — a K and a G and a B," his proposal to kick Russia out of the G8, or his reaction to the Russia Georgia crisis, McCain has taken an aggressive stance in line with the hardliners in the Bush administration. Earlier this year McCain declared that, "Western nations should make clear that the solidarity of NATO, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, is indivisible." Then following the outbreak of war between Russia and Georgia, McCain belligerently proclaims, "Russian President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin must understand the severe, long-term negative consequences that their government's actions will have for Russia's relationship with the U.S. and Europe," declaring, "we are all Georgians." [Reuters, 8/11/08 . Salon, 6/09/08]

***Neocons*:** **John Bolton took a hardline approach to the Russian war with Georgia similar to that of McCain.** "As bad as the bloodying of Georgia is, the broader consequences are worse. The United States fiddled while Georgia burned, not even reaching the right rhetorical level in its public statements until three days after the Russian invasion began, and not, at least to date, matching its rhetoric with anything even approximating decisive action. This pattern is the very definition of a paper tiger. . . The European Union took the lead in diplomacy, with results approaching Neville Chamberlain's moment in the spotlight at Munich. . . Even this dismal performance was enough to relegate Nato to an entirely backstage role, while Russian tanks and planes slammed into a 'faraway country', as Chamberlain once observed so thoughtfully. In New York, paralysed by the prospect of a Russian veto, the UN Security Council, that Temple of the High-Minded, was as useless as it was during the Cold War. In fairness to Russia, it at least still seems to understand how to exercise power in the Council, which some other Permanent Members often appear to have forgotten." [Bolton, 8/15/08]

Pragmatists:

Kissinger and Schultz have argued for a less confrontational approach towards Russia. "This drift toward confrontation must be ended. However appropriate as a temporary device for showing our concern, isolating Russia is not a sustainable long-range policy. It is neither feasible nor desirable to isolate a country adjoining Europe, Asia and the Middle East and possessing a stockpile of nuclear weapons comparable to that of the United States. Given Russia's historically ambivalent and emotionally insecure relations with its environment, this approach is not likely to evoke considered or constructive responses. Even much of Western Europe is uneasy about such a course." [Washington Post, 10/8/08]

The pragmatists agree: we should not overreact to crisis. As the conflict between Russia and Georgia erupted, John McCain recklessly issued bellicose statements, condemning Russia without waiting for all the facts. However, Henry Kissinger was not as rash, "We have to face the fact that the first shot in Georgia was fired on the Georgian side. Now, Russia reacted in an excessive manner, but we should not make the whole relationship depend on the pictures that you showed. And I would urge the new President, as I am urging this President to explore the possibilities of cooperation and be

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very sure before we go the route of cutting off WTO and the other international measures for which cooperation with Russia may be very important." James Baker agreed with Kissinger's assessment saying, "Look at it in a strategic context and not tactically…we have some big-picture issues that we need to be conscious of when we think about our future with Russia, and we ought to cooperate with them where we can, where they fit, but we ought to also be willing to confront them where our vital interests are involved. We are committed to the independence of these former republics of the former Soviet Union, and that should continue to be our position. That doesn't mean we ought to send the 101st Airborne in to guard the South Ossetian border. I mean, that would not make very good sense and that's not the kind of thing we ought to be speculating about." Secretary Powell also said, "Now, in the current situation the Russians acted brutally. I think they acted foolishly. But it was also absolutely predictable what the Russians would do. You could see them stacking up their troops. And I think it was foolhardy on the part of President Saakashvili and the Georgian government to kick over this can, to light a match in a room full of gasoline." When asked by CNN's Frank Sesno, "So you're saying the Georgians provoked this." [CNAS, 9/15/08]

Allies

McCain: **John McCain has been a powerful proponent of the League of Democracies.** **"**Our organizations and partnerships must be as international as the challenges we confront. . . This would be unlike Woodrow Wilson's doomed plan for the universal-membership League of Nations. Instead, it would be similar to what Theodore Roosevelt envisioned: like-minded nations working together for peace and liberty. The organization could act when the UN fails -- to relieve human suffering in places such as Darfur, combat HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, fashion better policies to confront environmental crises, provide unimpeded market access to those who endorse economic and political freedom, and take other measures unattainable by existing regional or universal-membership systems. . . This League of Democracies would not supplant the UN or other international organizations but complement them by harnessing the political and moral advantages offered by united democratic action. By taking steps such as bringing concerted pressure to bear on tyrants in Burma (renamed Myanmar by its military government in 1989) or Zimbabwe, uniting to impose sanctions on Iran, and providing support to struggling democracies in Serbia and Ukraine, the League of Democracies would serve as a unique handmaiden of freedom." [Foreign Affairs, November/December 2007]

Neocons: **Robert Kagan- Neocon Godfather- is one of few supporters for McCain's League of Democracies.** **"**[T]he world's democracies could make common cause to act in humanitarian crises when the UN Security Council cannot reach unanimity. If people find that prospect unsettling, then they should seek the disbandment of NATO and the European Union and other regional organizations which not only can but, in the case of Kosovo, have taken collective action in crises when the Security Council was deadlocked. The difference is that the league of democracies would not be limited to Europeans and Americans but would include the world's other great democracies, such as India, Brazil, Japan and Australia, and would have even greater legitimacy."

Pragmatists**: Brent Scowcroft rejects McCain's League of Democracies proposal.** Brent **"**Scowcroft is said to have expressed reservations about Mr. McCain's call for creating a League of Democracies as a complement to the United Nations. An associate of Mr. Scowcroft said he viewed it as an effort to diminish the United Nations -- a target of scorn among neoconservatives -- and inhibit engagement with enemies." [NY Times, 4/10/08]

THE PRAGMATISTS ARE FINALLY ABANDONING MCCAIN AND THE NEOCONSERVATIVE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE LAST EIGHT YEARS

Colin Powell's endorsement of Obama is a sign that progressives and pragmatists in different parties are more similar than pragmatists and Neocons in the same party. On *Meet the Press* this week, Secretary Powell, said that "I have some concerns about the direction that the party has taken in recent years. It has moved more to the right than I would like to see it, but that's a choice the party makes." "The president will also have to make decisions quickly as to how to deal with Iraq and Afghanistan. And also I think the president has to reach out to the world and show that there is a new president, a new administration that is looking forward to working with our friends and allies. And in my judgment, also willing to talk to people who we have not been willing to talk to before. Because this is a time for outreach" [Meet the Press, 10/19/08]

Richard Lugar, Republican Co-chair of the Senate Foreign Committee supports Obama's approach to foreign policy. "He [Obama] correctly cautions against the implication that hostile nations must be dealt with almost exclusively through isolation or military force. In some cases, refusing to talk can even be dangerous." CQ politics reported that "Lugar also used his speech to underscore his concern that U.S. foreign policy has become too reactive. 'If most U.S. foreign policy attention is devoted to crises fomented by hostile regimes, we are ceding the initiative to our enemies and reducing our capacity to lead the world in ways that are more likely to affect our future.' "Lugar also rejected the military-centric foreign policy of John McCain and the Bush administration hawks, "Any realistic American foreign policy must redeploy diplomatic,

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military, scientific, and economic resources." [CQ Politics, 10/15/08 . Lugar, 3/13/06]

John McCain's friend and Republican colleague in the Senate, Chuck Hagel has rejected the influence of neocons in the party and has not endorsed McCain. "I am not happy with the Republican Party today. It's been hijacked by a group of single-minded almost isolationists, insulationists, power-projectors." Hagel has rejected the foreign policy approach of John McCain, "I never understand how anyone in any realm of civilized discourse could sort through the big issues and challenges and threats and figure out how to deal with those without engaging in some way.... I am confident that if Obama is elected president that is the approach we will take. And my friend John McCain said some other things about that. We'll see, but in my opinion it has to be done. It is essential… You take some risks in talking about this, especially in the Congress, because you can immediately be branded as an appeaser… If you engage a world power or a rival, it doesn't mean you agree with them or subscribe with what they believe or you support them in any way. What it does tell you is that you've got a problem you need to resolve. And you've got to understand the other side and the other side has got to understand you." [Huffington Post, 5/20/08 . CBS, 5/13/07]

Brent Scowcroft refuses to endorse McCain. The retired Air Force General and National Security Advisor for the elder Bush is considered one of the most important foreign policy thinkers in the Republican party, and he has refused to endorse John McCain for president considering "himself officially 'neutral' in the presidential contest between Barack Obama and John McCain, and is willing to offer advice to either candidate. . . The fact that such a foreign policy heavyweight in the GOP could sit out a presidential election, however, reflects the lingering tension between the realist camp of advisers, including Gen. Colin Powell, who advised President George H.W. Bush, and the neoconservative clique that gained influence during the tenure of Bush 43." [Huffington Post, 7/23/08]

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From: "German Marshall Fund" <press@gmfus.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 1/26/2016 6:00:00 PM
Subject: GMF's World Wire: EU Defense Strategy | Turkey & Russia's Proxy War | Uncertainty in China

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GMF's World Wire

January 27, 2016

National Defense and Security Strategies Offer Building Blocks for a European Defense Strategy



Claudia Major & Christian Mölling
Momentum is growing behind a European defense strategy. The violent conflict to Europe's east and south, as well as terrorist attacks at home, have underlined that the role of military power in international affairs, specifically in Europe's neighborhood, is growing again.

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Turkey and Russia's Proxy War and the Kurds



Gökhan Bacik
Russia and Turkey are not only following different paths in regional politics, but their policies are mutually detrimental. Also new on the subject: "Pride and Pragmatism."

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Ruble Dips to New Lows, but Moscow is Managing



Christopher Miller
From the Russian government's perspective, the depreciation of the ruble over the past week from 75 down toward 80 to the dollar is actually a positive move.

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The People's Republic of Uncertainty



Dan Twining
The world has a vital stake in China's success and does not wish the country to suffer economic shock, violent political upheaval, or foreign military conflict.

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Young Transatlantic Network in Belgrade



GMF and the Balkan Trust for Democracy are opening a new chapter of GMF's Young Transatlantic Network (YTN) in Belgrade, Serbia. YTN has existing chapters in Brussels, Berlin, Warsaw, and Washington, DC.

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From: "Michael Werz" <m_werz@web.de>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 11/6/2015 11:20:13 AM
Subject: Ankara police raid Gülen-linked business group TUSKON

Seems RTE made a decision to go all the way. Press repression even worse. POTUS should message @ G20 now that the European are on their knees pleading to keep refugees in Turkey.

Ankara police raid Gülen-linked business group TUSKON

ANKARA

Ankara police on Nov. 6 searched offices of business groups working under the Turkish Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists (TUSKON), known to have close links to the movement of U.S.-based Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen.

The Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's office ordered the search targeting TUSKON's member associations, Anadolu Agency reported. The order was issued by the Prosecutor's Office Bureau for Crimes against the Constitutional Order, the Cihan News Agency said.

The raids were launched as part of an investigation into the "Parallel State Structure Terror Organization/Pro-Fetullah Terror Organization" (Fetullahçı Terör Örgütü), Anadolu Agency reported. The "Pro-Fetullah Terror Organization" was first cited in a draft indictment penned by the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and finalized in April. The indictment stated that it had found "concrete evidence" that sympathizers of Gülen were trying to form a "Cemaat state" parallel to the state of the Republic of Turkey.

Police also this week detained dozens of high-ranking state officials and police officers in several cities, as part of the ongoing investigation into Gülen supporters.

TUSKON was founded in 2005 in Istanbul and, as defined on its institutional webpage, is an "umbrella organization representing seven business federations, 211 business associations and over 55,000 entrepreneurs from all over Turkey."

TUSKON has played a role in diversifying Turkey's exports, mainly to African countries and Latin America, at a time when such a move was vital due to the crisis in the eurozone, the largest destination for Turkish exports.

It has four foreign representative offices in Brussels, Washington, Moscow and Beijing.

November/06/2015

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From: "The Common Good" <patriciaduff@thecommongood.net>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/25/2015 4:16:47 PM
Subject: New News! (11/25/15)

de·moc·ra·cy
di-ˈmä-krə-sē

noun - a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

News as of November 25, 2015

Weekly roundup about our democracy and The Common Good community
All of us at The Common Good wish you and yours and a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

- Turkey shoots down a Russian jet fighter: Obama, Putin Erdogan and NATO respond
- Obama and France's Hollande hold joint press conference, vow to ramp up efforts against ISIS
- Kerry claims Syrian refugees are thoroughly vetted
- See where the candidates stand on the US taking in Syrian refugees
- Cruz pulls even with Trump in Iowa
- CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE END OF THE DIGEST

Foreign Affairs/National Security

Russian warplane downed by Turkish fighter jets near Syrian border; one pilot shot and killed by rebel fighters in Syria; the other rescued by Russians: Turkey said the Russians had ignored numerous warnings and violated its airspace, in a long-feared escalation that will further strain relations between the NATO member country and Russia." **Ceylan Yeginsu** and **Neil MacFarquhar**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Putin: Turkey's shooting down of a Russian warplane was a "stab in the back" committed by "accomplices of terrorists": "**Putin** warned there would be "serious consequences" for Moscow's relations with Turkey. **Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov** advised Russians not to visit Turkey." *BBC News* **[More]**

NATO: "We stand in solidarity with Turkey." Julian E. Barnes, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Erdogan: Turkey's right to protect its borders must be respected: "Nobody should doubt that we made our best efforts to avoid this latest incident… [O]nly Turkey's 'cool-headedness' had prevented worse incidents in the past." **Tulay Karadeniz** and **Maria Kiselyova**, *Reuters* **[More]**

Obama and Hollande in joint press conference: Both agreed that Russia could play a more constructive role in Syria. **Obama** said Russia should shift its airstrikes strategy to target ISIS militants rather than Syria's moderate opposition. They also agreed that Russia should support a ceasefire in Syria that would make for a government transition away from **Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.**" **Rebecca Shabad**, *CBS News* **[More]**

ISIS behind new deadly attack in Tunisia: A bus carrying presidential guards in the Tunisian capital Tunis, was bombed, killing 13; Libyan border with Tunisia closed: *BBC News* **[More]**

U.S. and France started aerial bombings this week against ISIS in Libya for the first time. **Jason Pack** and **Andrea Brody-Barre** of *Newsweek* explain why this is won't work without bottom-up support from Libyans, and why working towards a diplomatic solution, like U.S. Secretary of State **John Kerry** is proposing, would be more effective. **[More]**

Hollande makes the case against ISIS, embarks on a whirlwind tour to ask world leaders to step up military operations against ISIS: He is urging leaders of the UK, the US, Russia, Germany, and Italy to come together in a "grand and single coalition" that transcends political disagreements." **Marina Koren,** *the Atlantic* **[More]**

An unexpected double-focus at Paris climate talks: "Now, counterterrorism is on the agenda. **Mr. Hollande**…said he could not have imagined the climate summit would be taking place against this backdrop of terror. 'At the same time, I think there cannot be any better symbol or response but to hold the conference in Paris where the attacks took place,' he said." **Colleen McCain Nelson**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Secretary John Kerry details tough screening procedures for Syrian refugees: including the type of refugees who receive priority — families, victims of torture, and children — and the multiple screening steps refugees must pass. 'It is the most robust screening process for any category of individuals seeking admissions into the United States." **Tracy Jan,** *Boston Globe* **[More]**

New attacker identified as Mohamed Abrini as one of the Paris attackers still at large- and why weren't some of them picked up before the attack? : "As many as 6 of the assailants were Europeans who had traveled to Syria. 7 died during the attacks and 8 were arrested. **Abdelhamid Abaaoud,** a Belgian militant and suspected chief organizer of the attacks, died in a police raid in a Paris suburb early Wednesday. **Mr. Abaaoud** planned the attacks for 11 months and was involved in at least 4 of 6 terrorist plots foiled in France since the spring." **Salah Abdeslam** is still at-large. *New York Times* **[More]**

ISIS fighters often on drug, Captagon: "[The drug] quickly produces a euphoric intensity in users, allowing Syria's fighters to stay up for days, killing with a numb, reckless abandon." **Peter Holley**, *Washington Post* **[More]**

Is Saudi Arabia doing enough in the fight against the Islamic State? And is it enough? Adam Taylor of the *Washington Post* explains why Saudi Arabia's military involvement against ISIS is disappointing Western nations. He also details the tracks and trends of Saudi on the terrorist

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group. **[More]**

If you missed this article from the March issue of *the Atlantic*, it is still highly relevant and important. In *What ISIS Really Wants,* **Graeme Wood** uncovers the origins, motivations, and misconceptions surrounding ISIS**. [More]**

The Economy

Treasury Dept resists changes in Dodd-Frank: "…The Obama administration signaled on Tuesday that it would push back hard against any legislation that substantially loosens the sweeping 2010 overhaul of the financial system. Republicans in Congress are backing legislation that would soften certain parts of the reforms… They are now seeking to insert the changes into a spending bill that has to be passed by Dec. 11 to avoid a government shutdown." **Peter Eavis**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Good day for U.S. Stocks: Wednesday, the last full trading day of the week, saw U.S. stock indexes rise due to consumer discretionary and health-care shares, which were both up 0.6%. "'The data is relatively mixed,' said Krishna Memani, chief investment officer at OppenheimerFunds. 'I think people are happy that they have a job, but they are not happy enough or secure enough to go out and spend a lot.'" **Saumya Vaishampayan** and **Julie Wernau**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

Black Friday in flux due to changing consumer behavior: "…The relentless race for holiday dollars has blunted the day's oomph, as stores offer deep discounts weeks before Thanksgiving and year-round deals in stores and online are breeding sales fatigue… The decline of Black Friday… points to a shift in the way consumers spend their money. 'They're online,' John J. Canally, chief economic strategist at LPL Research said. 'And they're spending more on experiences. A day at the spa, a baseball game, the ballet — rather than a sweater or a pair of socks that no one wants.' As a result, retailers rang up $51 billion on the day after Thanksgiving last year, down from a peak of almost $60 billion in 2012…" **Hiroko Tabuchi** and **Nelson D. Schwartz**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Poll

IOWA: Cruz up, Carson lower in Quinnipiac poll: **Ted Cruz** has surged to a virtual tie with **Donald Trump** in Iowa. **Trump** 25%; **Cruz** 23%. **Cruz** more than doubled his support in the same poll from October, when he earned just 10%. **Ben Carson**, dropped from first to third, falling 10 points to 18 percent. **Marco Rubio** is fourth with 13%, while no other candidate registered in the double digits. *Politico* **[More]**

IOWA: Not much change for Democrats: Clinton 51%; **Sanders** 42%; **O'Malley** 4%; 3% undecided, "virtually unchanged" from Oct. 23: More in-depth: 68% say **Clinton** is honest and trustworthy ... 89% say **Sanders** is honest and trustworthy ... 85% believe that **Clinton** has a good chance of defeating the Republican nominee in the general election, while only 54% say the same for **Sanders**" **[Poll]**

2016 Campaign

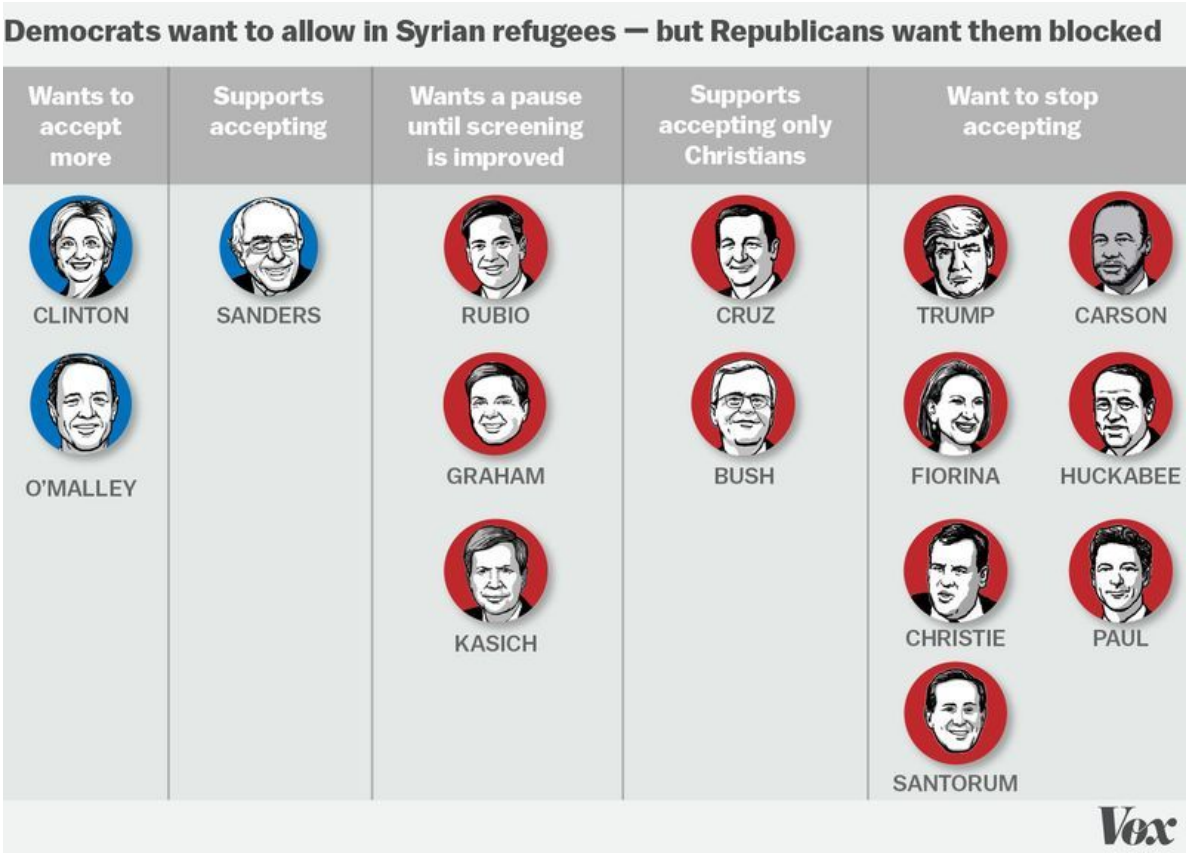
Split in Presidential field on how to combat terrorism: "[Several]—including former Florida Gov. **Jeb Bush**, New Jersey Gov. **Chris Christie** and Florida Sen. **Marco Rubio**—want to keep alive a controversial data-collection program run by the National Security Agency that Congress effectively ended this year... Two long shots—South Carolina Sen. **Lindsey Graham** and former Pennsylvania Sen. **Rick Santorum**—have called for sending 10,000 or more troops to the region to battle Islamic State directly... **[Hillary] Clinton** also sides with many of her would-be Republican rivals in calling for a no-fly zone over Syria and a safe zone inside the country for refugees fleeing the conflict. **[Rand] Paul** is the only Republican to outright oppose a no-fly zone, arguing it would create the potential for a confrontation between the U.S. and Russia." **Patrick O' Connor**, *Wall Street Journal* **[More]**

How to take down Trump: The goal of convincing a Republican primary electorate that **Trump** is personally unequal to the job of president is unlikely to succeed… if you want to take down **Trump**, there is only one line of attack that will work… The task for **Trump**'s Republican rivals is to convince [his] followers that this supposed anti-politician is using typical politician's tricks. **David Frum**, *The Atlantic* **[More]**

Security fears reshape 2016 field: " **Trump** is proving the effectiveness of using demagoguery to mask other deficiencies...True ignorance, it turns out, can be damaging. **Ben Carson** ... is slipping after struggling to demonstrate any fluency on foreign policy issues. But **Donald Trump['s]** 'bomb the s**t out of them' approach to the Middle East is equally unsophisticated." **Eli Stokols** *Politico* **[More]**

Where the candidates stand on Syrian refugees. Javier Zarracina and **Dara Lind,** *Vox* **[More]**

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Domestic Affairs

Chicago police officer arrested for murder in shooting on 17 year old; protests mostly peaceful after release of video: The video shows Laquan McDonald, 17, shot and killed by Officer James Van Dyke in Chicago in October 2014. **Monica Davey** and **Mitch Smith**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Why do poor areas vote for politicians who want to slash the social safety net?: Popular Democratic opinion states that working-class people who vote for Republicans do so against their own interests. However, **Alec MacGillis** of the *New York Times* explains that the problem is more about their disconnection from the political process as a whole. **[More]**

Victory for voting rights in Kentucky: Gov. **Steve Beshear** issued an executive order that immediately granted the right to vote to about 140,000 nonviolent felons who have completed their sentences. Kentucky had been one of just three states imposing a lifetime voting ban on felons unless they received a special exemption from the governor. Florida and Iowa still carry the lifetime ban. **Erik Eckholm**, *New York Times* **[More]**

Books & Film

Lights Out by **Ted Koppel**: A cyberattack on the nation's power sources is likely, and we're nowhere near ready, warns Ted Koppel.
Chicagonomics, by **Lanny Ebenstein**: Ebenstein attempts to rescue Adam Smith from his caricature as purely for laissez-faire and unaware of the downside of the "invisible hand," but also to change the perception of Smith's modern-day acolytes: the economists who built the so-called Chicago school of economics, chief among them Milton Friedman.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ambassador Melanne Verveer
Empowering Half the World
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm
RSVP

The Rt. Honorable David Miliband
Fallout: Ramifications of the Great Refugee Crisis
Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm; Dinner & conversation: 8:00-9:30pm
RSVP

The Rt. Honorable Lord Christopher Patten
Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Reception & remarks: 6:15-7:45pm
RSVP

Thank you TCG Digest contributors: TCG Staff: Isabelle Lehner and Isaac Getlan, and our interns and volunteers: Samar Nadi, Tracey Pennito, Lawrence Robinson, and Andrea Noel.

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From:	"'Mandy Grunwald' via HRCRapid" <hrcrapid@googlegroups.com>
To:	"Ian Sams" <isams@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/12/2015 2:32:50 PM
Subject:	Re: draft surrogate talkers -- responding to day 1 attacks

1. You use the word "focus" a few too many times in the open.

2. I wouldn't call GOP "champions for those at the top". Let's keep "champion" just to describe HRC.

3. On foreign policy, I'd move the women/LGBT point up higher -- very strong in Iowa.

Thx

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

On Apr 12, 2015, at 9:15 PM, Ian Sams <isams@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

> Hey folks. Here are some points we pulled together for surrogates going on TV -- not a wide blast -- on how to respond to day one attacks on HRC. Thoughts? Adrienne/Karen/etc. can get to surrogates once we're all good.
>
> Thanks.
> Ian
>
> **OPENING DAY -- SURROGATE TALKING POINTS ON GOP ATTACKS**
>
> Today we've seen a wide range of attacks from the entire GOP field and their allies. Below are some points to respond -- keeping the focus on Hillary's desire to focus on voters while the Republicans are trotting out tired attacks on her.
>
> - **Republicans can focus on attacking her, but Hillary is focused on meeting voters and having real conversations about issues facing everyday Americans.** This is the start of the different kind of campaign that Hillary wants to run -- one that is squarely focused on having a conversation with voters -- answering their questions, asking them questions and sharing ideas.
>
> - **Meanwhile, Republicans want to be the champions for those at the top.** While Hillary is talking to voters and focused on everyday Americans, every single Republican candidate has offered the same tired attacks and the same economic agenda that Americans know rob them of the stability they've worked so hard for -- with a top-down agenda that would stack the deck even more in favor of those at the top.
>
> - **Americans have responded clearly that they appreciate Hillary's focus on their issues and their lives**, so if Republicans want to keep their focus on tired political attacks, that's their choice.
>
> ***If pressed on specific GOP attacks on foreign policy/HRC's record at the State Department, stemming from Jeb Bush's video or other attacks:***
>
> **Job number one for Hillary as Secretary of State was to restore America's leadership after it was badly eroded by eight years of the Bush administration's foreign policy** -- two wars, damaged alliances, diminished moral standing, no stopping Iran's nuclear program, and no action on climate. She's proud of her accomplishments.

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- Hillary led the effort to build a worldwide coalition to impose the toughest sanctions in history against the Iranians, which forced them to the negotiating table and gave us our best shot at preventing them from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
- Hillary brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, which prevented a wider war and protected Israel's security.
- Hillary stood up to Putin by strengthening NATO, encouraging Europe to find alternative sources of energy, and called him out for trying to rebuild the Soviet Empire.
- Hillary worked with President Obama to get every major developing country, including China and India, to agree for the first time to reduce their carbon emissions and be held accountable for it.
- Hillary put internet freedom, LGBT rights, and women's rights on the global agenda, and defending human rights advocates on the frontlines around the world.
- And, of course, she was part of the President's team making the decision to launch the raid against bin Laden.

Jeb Bush may attack Hillary's time as Secretary of State now, but it's just negative politics meant to gin up his Republican base.

- Jeb Bush in 2013: "Former Secretary Clinton has dedicated her life to serving and engaging people across the world in democracy. These efforts as a citizen, an activist, and a leader have earned Secretary Clinton this year's Liberty Medal." [National Constitution Center, 6/27/2013]

Jeb Bush is advocating for the same failed foreign policy that led us to misguided wars and degraded our nation's standing in the world.

- Jeb Bush on George W. Bush: "I will tell you that I'm the only Republican that was in office when he was office as President that never disagreed with him. And I'm not going to start now. Why would I do that now after two years? …I'm not going to start now. It's just – 'til death do us part." [CNN interview]

--
Ian Sams | Rapid Response Associate
Hillary for America
(423) 915-6592 | @IanSams
Gchat: icsams

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--
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To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/hrcrapid/83838935-4572-4B6E-A21B-479B14BDE8C6%40aol.com.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 10/16/2015 10:24:56 AM
Subject: Fwd: ICYMI: Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Foreign Policy and the 2016 Election

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Hillary for America Press <press@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 5:14 PM
Subject: ICYMI: Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Foreign Policy and the 2016 Election
To: Hillary for America Press <press@hillaryclinton.com >

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Center for American Progress Action Fund PROGRESS THROUGH ACTION

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Foreign Policy and the 2016 Election

October 16, 2015, 10:00am ET - 11:00am ET

"Thank you for that kind introduction and good morning to you all.

It is always a pleasure to visit the home of the Center for American Progress and the CAP Action Fund, because this building houses an all-star team of brilliant people with creative minds and practical skills.

Over the past decade, you have fashioned CAP into a treasure trove of information that thought leaders, journalists, and policymakers can turn to and trust.

But more importantly, this institution has become a powerful voice on behalf of Americans who want our country to be strong and respected, confident and just.

CAP was not created to re-fight the stale political wars of the past; its orientation has always been toward the future.

Yet its purpose today is much the same as it was when it was founded in 2003 – to bring Americans together on behalf of policies that will bring out the best in our country, both here at home and overseas.

I mention this context because it feeds directly into the topic I want to address today – the 2016 election and the question of which party is best positioned to keep our country safe and moving forward in the world.

I should say at the outset that I have some hesitation about weighing in on matters of politics and foreign policy.

For although I have been involved in many campaigns, when I was secretary of state I used to tell people that I had all my partisan political instincts surgically removed.

I have also developed close relationships with many prominent Republicans, including the unlikely friendship I struck up with Jesse Helms when I was UN ambassador and he was chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Helms and I disagreed on pretty much everything, but we grew to trust and respect each other. And although it may seem old-fashioned, I still believe that for our democracy to function, our leaders must be capable of forging such relationships across the aisle.

So in some ways it would be natural for me to stay on the sidelines of this campaign, but I have chosen to be involved for two reasons.

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First, I am concerned that there is growing skepticism within the American public about the benefits of U.S. engagement in the world, and I see it as my duty to speak up during this election season about why America must stay involved globally.

Second, I believe that Democrats have an historic opportunity to win even broader support for a conception of American security that stays true to our interests and ideals – a progressive-minded internationalism that follows in the best traditions of FDR and Harry Truman.

The country saw our approach on display this week at the debate in Las Vegas, where the Democratic candidates engaged in a remarkably substantive discussion of the issues – including the question of America's role in the world.

The day following the debate I had the opportunity to talk to voters in Iowa, where I was campaigning in support of Hillary Clinton. It was clear to me that they found it refreshing to watch a civil conversation take place instead of the screaming matches we have seen on the other side.

So even though the general election is many months away, the contrast between the two parties is already well-established.

One party has remained true to its best traditions – the other is becoming lost in the wilderness after making too many right hand turns.

For voters, this has created a choice between a Democratic party that does battle against joblessness at home and terrorists abroad – and a Republican leadership in Congress that sees no greater threat to our future than Planned Parenthood.

When voters look to Democrats, they see pragmatists who offer solutions to new challenges such as climate change. When they look at today's Republicans, they see leaders who still think the best way forward is to deny science.

When voters look to Democrats, they see smart strategists who support the use of diplomacy backed by force. When they look at Republicans, they see candidates who believe that military force is the only tool in the toolbox.

Of course, the differences between the two parties on issues of national security is not just a matter of theoretical debate – it has been on vivid display in recent times.

During the eight years Republicans were in the White House, we saw intelligence misused, professional diplomats and the uniformed military ignored, and the role of history and culture in shaping events disregarded.

We saw policymakers who relied on wishful thinking instead of critical thinking, and who forgot the true sources of our nation's strength.

We saw leaders who were so thoughtless in deploying American power that they ended up exposing its limits to the world, weakening our position in every critical region.

So under Republicans we had a series of unforced strategic errors during the first decade of this century – and America is still recovering from those mistakes.

Yet the Republican candidates for president are eager for the public to overlook this record, and keen to blame all of the world's ills on the "Obama-Clinton" foreign policy.

But we remember that, upon taking office, President Obama inherited an incredible mess, including two hot wars, a broken Middle East, the biggest international economic crisis since the Great Depression, and American prestige at a lower level than at any time since the Vietnam War.

No president has a magic wand, but Barack Obama has put us firmly back on the correct track.

He has rebuilt and strengthened our economy, pursued terrorists relentlessly, reduced the burden on our military, and

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restored proper balance to U.S. foreign policy – emphasizing not only defense but also diplomacy , development, and democratic principles as well.

Although the world remains a dangerous place, the United States is now on its strongest footing since President Clinton left office, both at home and abroad.

Thanks in great measure to the efforts of Secretary Clinton, we hav e restored America's reputation after y ears of grave damage in the wake of Iraq.

We have strengthened our position in Asia, and built stronger relationships with India and Japan.

We successfully negotiated a bold diplomatic agreement with Iran, one that prevents them from obtaining a nuclear weapon and avoids plunging us into another war in a chaotic Middle East.

We have deployed smart power and placed a greater emphasis on technology , public-private partnerships, economics and energy, and people-to-people ties in global engagements.

The question voters will face next year is whether to build on this record of progress, or take a giant leap back to the policies of the previous decade.

To win, Democrats must punch back with the truth against those who distort the record of our administration and our party.

But we must also make an affirmative case for why we should be entrusted with this country's security, and explain how our party's policies are best suited to handle global challenges in a world that is far

different from what it was in 2008, or even 2012.

As part of that effort, we must take into account what I call the Iraq effect.

By that I mean the creeping sense that America can do little good in the world, and that efforts to shape events abroad through diplomatic, economic or military means are futile.

It is understandable that Americans are reluctant to spend time and money solving problems overseas when those problems seem intractable, and we face many difficult issues here at home.

But as tempting as it may be, simply circling the wagons is not an option for the United States.

For history teaches us that sooner or later, the world's problems will come home to America.

While the Bush administration made grievous errors, and the Obama administration has not solved ev ery problem, we cannot use those experiences as an excuse to retreat ov erseas.

When you serve as secretary of state, you are reminded constantly that the world still sees America as a role model.

Our leadership rests on our commitment to democracy, liberty and law, support for justice and peace, and advocacy of human rights and economic opportunity for all.

For us to have credibility abroad, these concepts must be constantly upheld and reinforced at home.

And for Americans to liv e our lives in safety and freedom, we must be prepared to deploy all the tools of national power to shape the world in the direction we would like to see it go.

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This requires an engaged and proactive foreign policy, and a willingness to accept some risk.

I raise the subject of risk because I am keenly aware of what is happening on Capitol Hill next week, when Secretary Clinton will appear publicly before the Select Committee on Benghazi.

Much has been said about the Benghazi Committee, but I have a unique perspective on these issues going back to my time in government.

I enjoyed every day I served as secretary of state, with one exception – August 7, 1998. That was the day our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed. More than 220 people died, including 12 Americans and 40 Foreign Service nationals. Almost 5,000 people were injured.

Nothing in my life can compare to the emotion I felt when I accompanied the bodies of ten of my fallen colleagues across the Atlantic to a ceremony at Andrews Air Force base.

I had often talked about how government officials should be accountable, which is easy enough to do when you are pointing the finger at someone else, but I had never felt the full burdens of high office until that day.

While I knew that I could not guarantee the safety of our people, I had a responsibility to do everything within my power to try. So in the aftermath of the bombings, we established an accountability

review board chaired by retired Admiral William Crowe.

In the course of the investigation, Admiral Crowe identified a number of shortcomings in our approach to diplomatic security. A letter also surfaced that our Ambassador to Kenya, Prudence Bushnell, had written expressing concern about limited resources for embassy protection.

I faced many critics at the time, particularly in Congress, but we were ultimately able to work together to increase funding for diplomatic security and implement the recommendations of Admiral Crowe.

My experience in 1998 parallels Secretary Clinton's in the aftermath of the Benghazi attacks. We both took responsibility, appointed accountability review boards, and worked with appropriate congressional oversight committees to try to fix what went wrong.

But with all those similarities, there was one key difference. Three years after the Benghazi attacks, Republicans in Congress chose to launch an investigation – and, as they now admit, its purpose is to inflict political damage on Hillary Clinton and the Obama administration.

It is very telling to me that the focus of the investigation, which has cost taxpayers $4.5 million, now seems to have shifted to her e-mails.

Our country can and should have a debate about how to balance our need to project influence abroad with our responsibility to protect our diplomats and security professionals, acknowledging that the courageous people who take these jobs know there are risks.

What we should never have done is to politicize the deaths of four Americans. This investigation is an insult to their memories, and the committee should be disbanded.

It takes a special kind of cynicism to exploit a terrorist attack for partisan political gain, but unfortunately such views seem to be taking hold this election cycle.

We have seen this administration's opponents do everything possible to derail sensitive international negotiations, while proclaiming that our president is weak because he lacks the phony bluster of Putin.

But most worrying of all is the constant drumbeat of naysayers who argue that our country is somehow headed down the tubes.

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I, for one, reject their doomsday scenarios.

The truth is we don't need to make America great again. We are great now, and our best days are still ahead of us – if we have a leader who leverages our strengths as a diverse, hard-working, and

innovative country of immigrants and strivers.

That is what Democrats must be about next year – appealing not to our country's fringe tendencies, but to the values that have made America great and our engagement around the world so essential.

This can be done because it is what we have always done.

Consider the Democrat who was president when my family found refuge in this country, Harry Truman.

He never hesitated to defend America.

But neither did he ever fail to associate the United States with the purposes of the UN Charter, the interests of our allies and the goal of helping others.

He had the strength to act decisively, but also the wisdom to lead in a way that attracted international support.

He worked tirelessly to strengthen global institutions and law, but reserved the option of independent action.

He saw America as exceptional not because it was exempt from the rules demanded of others, but because it was determined to create a world in which rules had real meaning.

And he was resolute in defining America not in terms of its possessions, but rather its ideals.

"We believe that all men have a right to equal justice under law and equal opportunity to share in the common good," he said.

"We believe that all men have a right to freedom of thought and expression.

We believe that all men are created equal because they are created in the image of God."

Truman's words, with a little updating as to gender, still speak to us today, a new day in an age-old struggle between hope and fear on earth.

It is a struggle we can and will win – if progressives stand up for what we believe in, and show the country we can lead with intelligence, conviction, and strength both here at home and abroad. Thank you very much."

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "NationalPress2016" group.
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--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America

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mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
To:	"Nick Merrill" <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com>
Date:	3/2/2015 3:55:20 PM
Subject:	Re: NYT: Hillary Clinton¹s Use of Private Email a t State Department Raises Flags

+ Podesta (for real)

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 2, 2015, at 10:33 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

+ Heather as well.

From: Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >
Date: Monday, March 2, 2015 at 10:32 PM
To: NSM <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com >
Cc: Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >, Craig Minassian <craig@minassianmedia.com >, Matt McKenna <matt.mckenna@gmail.com >, Philippe Reines <pir@hrcoffice.com >, Kamyl Bazbaz <kamyl@chelseaoffice.com >
Subject: Re: NYT: Hillary Clinton¹s Use of Private Email at State Department Raises Flags

Philippe and Nick - didn't Condi also use a non-government account? If so, think Nick has standing to go back to push NYT to make that clear and to push them to use all of Nick's quote. It is not correct to say that Nick did not provide a reason for why she did not have a government account, his quote states the reason

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 2, 2015, at 9:53 PM, Nick Merrill <nmerrill@hrcoffice.com > wrote:

It's up.

http://mobile.nytimes.com/2015/03/03/us/politics/hillary-clintons-use-of-private-email-at-state-department-raises-flags.html

Hillary Clinton's Use of Private Email at State Department Raises Flags

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton exclusively used a personal email account to conduct government business as secretary of state, State Department officials said, and may have violated federal requirements that officials' correspondence be retained as part of the agency's record.

Mrs. Clinton did not have a government email address during her four-year tenure at the State Department. Her aides took no actions to have her personal emails preserved on department servers at the time, as required by the Federal Records Act.

It was only two months ago, in response to a new State Department effort to comply with federal record-keeping practices, that Mrs. Clinton's advisers reviewed tens of thousands of pages of her personal emails and decided which ones to turn over to the State Department. All told, 55,000 pages of emails were given to the department.Mrs. Clinton stepped down from the secretary's post in early 2013.

Her expansive use of the private account was alarming to current and former National Archives and Records Administration officials and government watchdogs, who called it a serious breach.

Hillary Rodham Clinton had no government email address.

Liam Richards / The Canadian Press, via Associated Press

"It is very difficult to conceive of a scenario — short of nuclear winter — where an agency would be justified in allowing its cabinet-level-head officer to solely use a private email communications channel for the conduct of government business," said Jason R. Baron, a lawyer at Drinker Biddle and Reath who is a former director of

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litigation at the National Archives and Records Administration.

A spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, Nick Merrill, defended her use of the personal email account and said she has been complying with the "letter and spirit of the rules."

Under federal law, however, letters and emails written and received by federal officials, such as the secretary of state, are considered government records and are supposed to be retained so that congressional committees, historians and members of the news media can find them. There are exceptions to the law for certain classified and sensitive materials.

Mrs. Clinton is not the first government official — or first secretary of state — to use a personal email account on which to conduct official business.

But her exclusive use of her private email, for all of her work, appears unusual, Mr. Baron said. The use of private email accounts is supposed to be limited to emergencies, experts said, such as when an agency's computer server is not working.

"I can recall no instance in my time at the National Archives when a high-ranking official at an executive branch agency solely used a personal email account for the transaction of government business," said Mr. Baron, who worked at the agency from 2000 to 2013.

Regulations from the National Archives and Records Administration at the time required any emails sent or received from personal accounts be preserved as part of the agency's records.

But Mrs. Clinton and her aides failed to do so.

It is not clear how many emails were in Mrs. Clinton's account, and the process her advisers used to determine which ones related to her work at the State Department before turning them over.

"It's a shame it didn't take place automatically when she was secretary of state as it should have," said Thomas S. Blanton, the director of the National Security Archive, a group based at George Washington University that advocates government transparency. "Someone in the State Department deserves credit for taking the initiative to ask for the records back. Most of the time it takes the threat of litigation and embarrassment."

Mr. Blanton said high-level officials should operate as President Obama does, emailing from a secure government account, with every record preserved for historical purposes.

"Personal emails are not secure," he said. "Senior officials should not be using them."

Penalties for not complying with federal record-keeping requirements are rare, because the National Archives has few enforcement abilities.

Mr. Merrill, the spokesman for Mrs. Clinton, declined to detail why she chose to conduct State Department business from her personal account.

Mr. Merrill said that because Mrs. Clinton was sending emails to other State Department officials at their government accounts she had "every expectation they would be retained." Mr. Merrill declined to answer questions about any emails that Mrs. Clinton may have sent to foreign leaders, people in the private sector, or government officials outside the State Department.

The revelation about the private email account echoes longstanding criticisms directed at both the former secretary and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, for a lack of transparency and inclination toward secrecy.

And others who, like Mrs. Clinton, are eyeing a candidacy for the White House are stressing a very different approach. Jeb Bush, who is seeking the Republican nomination for president, released a trove of emails in December from his eight years as governor of Florida.

It is not clear whether Mrs. Clinton's private email account included encryption or other security measures, given the sensitivity of her diplomatic activity.

Mrs. Clinton's successor, Secretary of State John Kerry, has used a government email account since taking over the role, and his correspondence is being preserved contemporaneously as part of State Department records, according to his aides.

Before the current regulations went into effect, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, who served from 2001 to 2005, used personal email to communicate with American officials and ambassadors and foreign leaders.

Last October, the State Department, as part of the effort to improve its record keeping, asked all previous secretaries of state dating back to Madeleine K. Albright to provide it with any records, like emails, from their time in office for preservation.

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"These steps include regularly archiving all of Secretary Kerry's emails to ensure that we are capturing all federal records," said a department spokeswoman, Jen Psaki.

The existence of Mrs. Clinton's personal email account was discovered as a House committee investigating the attack on the American Consulate in Benghazi sought correspondence between Mrs. Clinton and her aides about the attack.

Two weeks ago, Mrs. Clinton provided the committee with about 300 emails — amounting to roughly 900 pages — about the Benghazi attacks that Mrs. Clinton's aides had found among her personal emails.

Mrs. Clinton and the committee declined to comment on the contents of the emails or whether they will be made public.

The State Department, Ms. Psaki said, "has been proactively and consistently engaged in responding to the committee's many requests in a timely manner, providing more than 40,000 pages of documents, scheduling more than 20 transcribed interviews and participating in several briefings and each of the committee's hearings."

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From: "King & Spalding" <update@kslawmail.com>
To: "Odesta, Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date: 10/5/2015 9:09:50 AM
Subject: King & Spalding Client Alert: Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement Negotiations Conclude After Marathon Session

KING & SPALDING

Client Alert

International Trade & Litigation Practice Group

Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement Negotiations Conclude After Marathon Session

The 12 Trans-Pacific Partnership ("TPP") countries –Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States, and Vietnam – announced this morning that they have resolved all remaining issues and reached a final agreement on the regional free-trade agreement. If the United States ultimately passes legislation implementing the agreement, TPP will create an integrated regional economy accounting for 40 percent of global GDP. Formal negotiations began in March 2010, and today's announcement concludes the final negotiations round that began last week in Atlanta.
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J. Michael Taylor
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From:	"Brent Budowsky" <brentbbi@webtv.net>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com roy.spence@gsdm.com
Date:	3/4/2016 2:10:55 PM
Subject:	For WJC and HRC: here is the Open Letter on Trump from GOP National Security Leaders

I would suggest in the upcoming debate, campaign ad or video by WJC or HRC a laser-like focus on the letter from Republican national security experts warning about Trump as commander in chief. The actual letter text with signer names is linked below. Note the strong indictment of Trump comes from moderate Republican to conservative Republican national security leaders, not politicians, and not liberals. They warn about Trump regarding everything from his support of torture to his praise of Vladimir Putin.

HRC and WJC could do an elevated version of the LBJ daisy ad against Goldwater who could start a nuclear war. I will writing column soon but the Clintons shouldn't wait for me. Use tones that are statesmanlike and commander in chief-like, quoting professional Republican national security experts---not partisan or political language but HRC as commander in chief and WJC who was commander in chief addressing voters in serious waves.

Here the national security letter text, with signers listed:

http://warontherocks.com/2016/03/open-letter-on-donald-trump-from-gop-national-security-leaders/

Sent from my iPad

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From:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
To:	"Robert Creamer" <creamer2@aol.com>
Date:	2/19/2011 12:43:30 AM
Subject:	[big campaign] New Huff Post from Creamer-Wisconsin Governor's Attack on Labor May Backfire on Radical Right

Wisconsin Governor's Attack on Labor May Backfire on Radical Right

Saul Alinsky used to say, "you can always count on your enemies." That may turn out to be true in the case of the Wisconsin Governor's attack on the right of state workers to choose a union.

Scott Walker's plan was a blitzkrieg attack that would catch the opposition with its defenses down, like Germany's attack on Russia at the beginning of World War II. His goal was to emasculate the ability of public service employees to negotiate with the state over their salaries and working conditions, and begin the destruction of the unions that represent public sector workers all over America

Wisconsin was to be the first state to fall. Then other states with radical right Governors – like Ohio and Indiana – would follow suit.

Well, the first casualty of war is the plan. Turns out that – at least for now – Walker's expectation of a lightning-fast victory has been thwarted by a determined Democratic Senate caucus that left the state and denied the Senate a quorum. But just as importantly, the right's entire nationwide plan has been put in jeopardy by the fact that when the alarm sounded, everyday citizens throughout Wisconsin and around the nation, answered the call

All week, tens of thousands of people from every walk of life have swarmed the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison. Retirees have set up camp, and kids and teachers have left high schools to join in the protests.

Walker's move has succeeded in launching a movement to defend the rights of Americans to choose a union. Not exactly what the radical right had in mind.

Of course, a large turnout at an event does not necessarily translate into a movement. Movements have three defining characteristics that make them explosive:

1). When an organized protest – or political campaign – morphs into a movement, the organizers no longer find it necessary to mobilize individuals or groups one at a time. Like nuclear fission, movements involve chain reactions. One person mobilizes his or her neighbor – who then mobilizes his or her neighbor – and so on. What happened in Egypt was a genuine movement. Mobilization swept the country like wildfire through a spontaneous process of chain reaction.

2). That kind of spontaneous chain reaction is only possible because the issues involved in the conflict around which the movement is organized takes on a moral character. The conflict is no longer solely about specific, concrete matters – like wages or health care coverage. The battle becomes a conflict over values – over right and wrong. Instead of being entirely transactional, they become transformational.

3). It's hard to "launch" a movement intentionally, the way you launch an issue or electoral campaign. A "precipitating event" is always required to touch them off. The conditions for a movement can be ripe for years – yet no movement occurs. Then suddenly an event causes an eruption. It's as if there is gasoline spread all across the ground and there is no fire – until one day someone tosses out a match.

In Tunisia that precipitating event was the self-immolation of a fruit peddler. In Egypt it was the uprising in Tunisia. In Wisconsin it has been Governor Walker's sudden attempt to destroy collective bargaining in a week's time. Walker's move challenged a basic American value – the right to collective bargaining. It seemed outrageous to everyday people because it sought to overturn half a century of labor relations in Wisconsin in a week, without public debate, and without the opportunity for the public to express their views.

For many years, Wall Street and its allies on the right have tried to portray labor as just another "special interest." The movement that has followed Walker's outrageous action has redefined the right to collective

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bargaining for what is – as a moral question, a question of human rights. It has transformed the frame through which ordinary people view the labor movement. Instead of "big labor" focused only on wages and working conditions, it has once again become a "movement" for social and economic justice – a movement that inspires our belief that we can take the future into our own hands – that a truly democratic society is in fact a possibility.

The labor movement in Wisconsin – and the Democratic Senators who have stood their ground – have become heroic figures.

For three decades Wall Street – and the top 2% of Americans -- have sopped up every dime of economic growth that has resulted from the increased productivity of American workers. Often those in that top 2% don't even work for a living – or if they do, they don't produce a good or service. Instead they speculate for a living – they gamble with other people's money – they spend their time scheming about how they can get richer, not how they can produce a better product.

As a result the American middle class is in real danger – and most Americans know it. That has turned the electorate into a combustible mixture. Walker's action may very well have provided the match to help set off a movement among ordinary citizens who see the right to collective bargaining as the way out. That, of course, would be absolutely correct. The only way that everyday people will share systematically in the fruits of their ever-more productive work is through collective bargaining that demands their fair share.

I suspect that's not exactly what Walker and his gang of right wing ideologues had in mind either. But if the movement to support the right to choose a union continues to explode the way it has this week, that is exactly what they will get.

Robert Creamer is a long-time political organizer and strategist, and author of the book: Stand Up Straight: How Progressives Can Win, available on Amazon.com.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-creamer/wisconsin-governors-attac_b_825487.html

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From:	"Alexandria Phillips" <aphillips@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	aphillips@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	5/31/2015 2:03:37 AM
Subject:	H4A News Clips 5.31.15
Attachments:	H4A Clips 5.31.15.docx

H4A Press Clips

May 31, 2015

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S NEWS

Vice President Biden's son Beau Biden passed away yesterday after battling brain cancer, he was 46 years old.

In political news, Martin O'Malley announced his candidacy for the 2016 presidential race.

Politico released a piece about Hillary Clinton's campaign obtaining access to the full Ready for Hillary email list late last week. And said the list is a data gold mine that will immediately bolster the Democratic front-runner's fundraising and organizing efforts.

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TODAY'S KEY STORIES

Hillary Clinton campaign scores Ready for Hillary email list // Politico // Annie Karni - May 30, 2015

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Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign late last week obtained access to the full Ready for Hillary email list, a data gold mine that will immediately bolster the Democratic front-runner's fundraising and organizing efforts.

The campaign gained entry to the independent super PAC's list through a swap with another independent group, a Democrat with knowledge of the list told POLITICO, and is expected to begin emailing it immediately. The source declined to identify the other group.

Access to the list of close to 4 million names came after senior campaign officials admitted they were relying in part on an outdated supporter list from 2008. For two years, Ready for Hillary's primary purpose was to create a plug-and-play list of supporter names, with contact information, that represented an energized base of people who could be tapped for money or volunteering.

People are going to be just as excited': Clinton courts Obama's black southern stronghold // Guardian // Sabrina Siddiqui - May 30, 2015

On and off the campaign trail in the Carolinas, voters say they have 'no hard feelings' toward Hillary Clinton. They say the opposite about Republicans

Bryan Burns could not make up his mind. Here was this African-American voter in khaki shorts, a v-neck T-shirt and black-rimmed eyeglasses, browsing shops at the Crabtree Valley Mall, on a swelteringly hot Friday in the not-yet summer of the American south.

And there was Hillary Clinton, who needs to win the minds of exactly this kind of southerner, a 30-year-old Virginia native who has spent the last decade living in North Carolina, a state that all but ended Clinton's 2008 presidential run against Barack Obama. Although he follows politics closely, Burns is not yet fully engaged in the next – the current – contest for the American presidency, despite around-the-clock election coverage by the media, despite Clinton already courting people like him around the country.

As he juggled several shopping bags on his way toward another department store, Burns was unsure but knew this: Clinton's ultimate image – that of a strong woman – should resonate with the crucial black vote in the Carolinas, potentially helping her to secure enough early momentum in the critical primary state of South Carolina to make the old battleground of North Carolina competitive again.

Not that Republicans stand much of a chance with people like Bryan Burns to begin with.

"She has a history of advocating on behalf of what she believes in and, from a pure historic standpoint, it'd be great if she won," Burns told the Guardian of Clinton, insisting that Republicans had made few inroads with black voters since Obama took office. "I still see them as catering to their base. Some of the candidates that have come out – Ben Carson, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio – they can branch out into those demographics that [Republicans] haven't tried to before, but I don't know if it'll stick."

On a swing back to South Carolina on Wednesday, Clinton set out to recapture the support of black female voters – a coalition that twice helped propel Obama to the White House – by sticking to her message with a touch of Southern drawl. Eight years ago, Clinton developed a thorny relationship with black voters her amid a grueling and bitterly contested primary with Obama that was roiled by racial tensions. This time around, the Clinton camp is acting aggressively fast to make sure things turn out differently.

From the moment Clinton declared her second presidential bid last month, the question of whether black voters would re-embrace her has loomed well beyond her small campaign gatherings with mostly white and Hispanic business leaders. But her activities in South Carolina, in many ways, served as a microcosm for how Clinton plans to woo African Americans – especially those who are women.

Before opening up her frontrunner campaign next month with rallies in New York and policy speeches across more swing states, Clinton continued her around-the-table sit-down style with minority women small-business owners and a keynote speech before a group of roughly 200 Democrats, most of them African-American women, in which she spotlighted women's economic issues such as equal pay for equal work and pay transparency.

Later, at a local bakery, the former secretary of state stumbled upon a pastor, Frederick Donnie Hunt, who was reviewing Corinthians 13 for Bible study. Clinton, a devout Methodist, talked scripture. She spoke of a preacher friend who sends mini-sermons almost daily, leaving Hunt impressed in. "You have my vote," he told Clinton as she got up to leave, after a conversation that lasted just a couple of minutes.

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In interviews in parallel with the highly orchestrated campaign on a road trip through parts of the south – from strip malls and shopping centers along Interstate-85 to a famed chicken-and-waffle joint visited by Clinton herself – dozens more black voters told the Guardian that while they may still be making up their minds about converting from Obama to Clinton, one thing was for sure: African Americans do not see their priorities reflected in the platform of her conservative rivals.

Black voters make up for more than 50% of primary voters in South Carolina, the last of four critical early voting states that Clinton has visited in phase one of her campaign. And while this time she is the clear frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, Clinton's return to the state – and emphasis on her southern roots – offered a clear sense that this time, she is taking nothing for granted.

Clinton already has a built-in edge with black voters due in no insignificant part to the lingering problems Republicans face with minorities.

There are now eight declared Republican presidential candidates and counting – the number could very well double in the coming month – yet few have made early moves to reach out to a demographic that has no favorite.

Kentucky senator Rand Paul is the only candidate who has made criminal justice reform a key tenet of his campaign, telling Republican primary voters during his own swing through South Carolina on Friday that the party needed to do a better job of standing up for minorities. Others have spoken more broadly about the need to reduce income inequality, but at the same time have continued to scorn anti-poverty programs such as food stamps and Medicaid.

"They're not reaching out. They're not showing they want to do something for the everyday American," said Eugene Phillips, 68, a meat cutter at the discount grocery store Save-A-Lot in Columbia. "There's people out there who are making $13,000 or $14,000 a year – they're struggling, and they're on food stamps. Republicans don't want to give those people a break. They want to cut everything. They want to take money away from the weakest people."

Sean S, a 25-year-old truck driver, had a similar view of the Grand Old Party. Sitting at the food court inside Columbiana Center, a shopping mall about 10 minutes from where Clinton held her events on Wednesday, the father of two said it was too early for him to decide how he would vote next year.

Most Republicans believe, 'I make my money so I should keep my money'

Sean S, truck driver, 25

"I'm concerned about health care and trying to help the person that doesn't have the opportunity to help themselves. But I know that most Republicans believe, 'I make my money so I should keep my money,'" Sean said. "The Democrats, they do a better job being about helping people."

Jonita I, a sales associate at a clothing boutique back at the same mall, invoked recent riots in Baltimore over the police killing of Freddie Gray, an unarmed black man, and said the demonstrations had just as much to do with inner-city poverty.

"People are mad, especially minorities and people on welfare that may not have the opportunities that more wealthy individuals do," said Jonita, 24, who voted for Obama and is leaning toward supporting Clinton. "Republicans should put emphasis on their needs. ... The rich or even the middle class are not struggling the same way or wondering where their next meal is going to come from."

Such comments serve as a sobering reality for the Republican party's future, even two years after a scathing autopsy of the 2012 election commissioned by the Republican National Committee called for greater inclusion of minorities. Among the recommendations in the 97-page report were for Republicans to establish a presence in African-American communities, historically black colleges and universities, and at black organizations such as the NAACP.

"We are never going to win over voters who are not asked for their support. Too many African-American voters have gotten in the habit of supporting Democrats without hearing anyone in their community making a case to the contrary," the report said.

Despite gains in the 2014 midterm elections that helped Republicans regain control of Congress, roughly 90% of African Americans voted Democratic last November. And there is little evidence thus far that the population will be within the GOP's reach in 2016 – a handicap that could haunt the party even in their southern stronghold.

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In North Carolina, the left-leaning Center for American Progress projected that the black population will move from 22% to 22.7% of the vote. If racial and ethnic groups turn out at the same levels they did in 2012, the odds are once again stacked against Republicans.

There's a lot of racism that people don't believe is going on – it's been going on, but now you can see it

Anthony Jefferson, 29, electronics retailer

It will be at least a year before states like North Carolina come into play, as candidates invest both their time and resources on the early voting states that will decide the primaries. But prospective black voters in the Durham-Raleigh area – many of whom voted for Obama twice – are already warming up to the idea of supporting Clinton.

Anthony Jefferson, a 29-year-old from a neighboring suburb who works at an electronics kiosk in the same mall, said conversations with his peers have led him to believe that voters remain enthusiastic about Clinton's candidacy.

"I feel like people are probably going to be just as excited, because it's a big step for women," Jefferson said.

While he ranked the economy as a top priority, Jefferson added that it would be imperative for any major candidate to address issues such as criminal justice and police brutality.

"There's a lot of racism that people don't believe is going on – it's been going on, but now you can see it on social media," he said. "It's definitely a problem."

'Nothing that happened in '08 would keep me from supporting her now,' said a local city councilwoman.

Even though Clinton's reputation among black voters appears to be on solid ground, her campaign has already made a number of aggressive moves to lock in early support within the African-American community.

The campaign on Thursday tapped a former executive director to the influential Congressional Black Caucus to lead its African-American outreach. And just last month, Clinton focused the first major speech of her campaign, at Columbia University in New York, on criminal justice reform amid the riots in Baltimore.

The moment could have proved awkward for Clinton, given former president Bill Clinton's enactment of tough-on-crime policies that saw the black prison population grow by more than 50 percent on his watch. While she did not specifically mention her husband in the address, Clinton said it was time to end "the era of mass incarceration", drew a direct link between prison sentencing reform and reducing income inequality, called for body cameras for police, and pledged federal funds that would enable state and local law enforcement to adopt better practices.

She even alluded to the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager killed by a neighborhood watch volunteer whose acquittal the following year sparked nationwide protests.

"You don't have to look too far from this magnificent hall to find children still living in poverty or trapped in failing schools," Clinton said, before referencing the fateful night when Martin went out to buy candy and an iced tea. "Mothers and fathers who fear for their sons' safety when they go off to school – or just to go buy a pack of Skittles."

Clinton spokesman Tyrone Gayle said outreach to black voters will continue to be an integral part of her campaign.

"Hillary Clinton is committed to issues important to African-American voters and earning the support of the African-American community," Gayle told the Guardian. "That's why the first major speech of her campaign laid out a broader vision for criminal justice reform, why she's appointed African Americans to senior leadership positions in her campaign, and why she'll continue outlining proposals that strengthen their families and communities."

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Speaking behind a podium again on the trail in South Carolina, Clinton did not emphasize race – even though last month, another outcry surfaced when Walter Scott, an unarmed black man, was shot in the back and killed by a police officer less than two hours away in North Charleston.

Instead, her pitch was decidedly focused on economic issues such as equal pay, paid family leave and raising the minimum wage, although Clinton pointed out such matters disproportionately affected minority women. The speech was well-received by the majority African-American crowd.

Tameika Isaac Devine, a city councilwoman representing Columbia, said Wednesday's address resonated with people like herself who are faced with a large number of constituents living in poverty.

"There are a lot of people who just can't seem to make ends meet," said Devine, who supported Obama in 2008 but said there are "no hard feelings" for Clinton at this stage.

"Honestly to me, it was just politics. Nothing that happened in '08 would keep me from supporting her now," Devine said.

Even so, Clinton used her speech this week – ahead of a more openly public schedule beginning in June, with her husband in tow – to highlight the relationship she developed with Obama after their contentious primary eight years ago.

The Clintons had always shared a positive relationship with African Americans, to the extent that Bill Clinton was even referred to as "the first black president". But he came under fire while campaigning for his wife in 2008 for appearing dismissive of Obama's candidacy.

"Give me a break. This whole thing's the biggest fairy tale I've ever seen," Bill Clinton said at the time, angering leaders in the African American community even as he insisted the remark had only to do with Obama's stance on the Iraq war.

On Wednesday, Clinton raised the issue indirectly herself – with a laugh.

"Some of you may remember we had a pretty vigorous campaign in 2008," Clinton said, before recounting the story of how she initially declined Obama's offer to serve as his secretary of state.

"I say to my husband, 'Can you believe this? I mean, the president-elect has asked me to be secretary of state. I told him no twice, and he said he's not going to give up until I say yes'," Clinton said. "And Bill said, 'Well, as I remember, I asked you to marry me twice.'"

She brought the house down.

Don Fowler, former Democratic National Committee chairman who is close to the Clintons, said the crowd's response to the Obama anecdote was a clear indication that any battle scars of the past have since healed. He said Clinton's attentiveness toward African Americans during her South Carolina swing was nothing short of rational, since their votes are mostly up for grabs in the primary as opposed to the general election, when black voters will overwhelmingly swing for the Democratic nominee, who is overwhelmingly assumed to be Clinton – unless someone like Martin O'Malley, declaring his candidacy on Saturday, gets in the way.

"What she did was not, in my judgement, framed against some sort of wall of disapproval by African Americans," Fowler told the Guardian in a phone interview. "It just doesn't exist. She is very popular among African American people."

Phillips, the meat-cutter, agreed, pointing out that he, his wife, and "everyone they know" plans to vote for Clinton.

"A lot of people liked Hillary and Obama – it wasn't good that we had to choose between them," he said. "Most people went for Obama, but this time he's not running. Hillary is."

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HRC NATIONAL COVERAGE

Who are the 1 percent who've never heard of Hillary? // Politico // Ben Schreckinger - May 30, 2015

But for the first six weeks of Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, that data trove was unavailable and tied up with lawyers reviewing the options available to the campaign: they could trade an old list for the new list, or rent "a la carte" pieces of the list – like, for example, names of volunteers in Iowa they would need before a campaign stop there. Eventually, however, the campaign decided it was easier to have access to the entire list.

"I could offer about 4 million reasons why the Ready for Hillary list is an important resource," said Tracy Sefl, a Democratic strategist who served as a senior adviser to the independent super PAC before it shut down.

To understand why access to the list is so important, consider the recent experience of Lynette Hull, a 17-year-old high school student from Las Vegas who was one of the first interns to sign up with the campaign after Clinton announced she was running.

A national honors society student at Liberty High School, Hull was quickly put to work phone-banking — working through an old database of Clinton supporters to sign up new volunteers.

Can 2016 Republicans top Hillary on issue No. 1 — the economy? // NY Post // Editorial Board - May 29, 2015

Friday's rotten news guaranteed that the top issue of the 2016 race for the White House will be the economy. The question is whether the Republicans can come up with a prescription that beats Hillary Clinton's message of Obamanomics Lite.

We yield to no one in our contempt for President Obama's (mis)management of foreign policy, a litany of woes in which Clinton is fully complicit. But that's not going to be front-and-center in voters' minds.

Friday's numbers show that the US economy contracted in the year's first quarter. If the second quarter winds up a bit worse than early estimates put it, then the nation's officially back in recession.

Either way, America's still stuck in the "new normal" of an economy that's essentially treading water.

The rich are doing OK, thanks in good part to Federal Reserve policies that keep Wall Street humming, even as Main Street drags. But the non-rich know they're losing ground.

To be fair, the Fed's just trying to keep everything from falling apart. It doesn't have the tools to truly goose the economy. In the end, that's up to the collective will of millions of private-sector decision-makers.

And the private sector's just too nervous — about the direction of the world economy; about trends at home; about the likelihood that any big news out of Washington will be bad for business.

Hillary's basic argument: The economy did great when her husband was president — and never mind that she's already abandoned every position that made him a "New Democrat." Toss in few hundred million bucks' worth of negative ads, and it might be enough.

What Republicans need to demand of their candidates is a clear, credible explanation of why the nation's on the wrong track, and how to fix it.

That means talking about what Washington's done wrong — on taxes, regulation and just plain honest leadership. And what Washington's failed to do — from really fixing the banks to truly caring about the regular Americans out there striving every day.

"Hope and change" beat Hillary once. It's the way to beat her again.

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Hillary's Libya Emails // The Weekly Standard // Stephen F. Hayes - May 30, 2015

A little more than three hours after the State Department released 848 pages of Hillary Clinton's emails, the Daily Beast had seen enough to render its judgment: "Sorry GOP. There's No Smoking Gun In Hillary Clinton's Benghazi Emails." The subhead: "Conspiracy-minded conservatives, be warned: The trove of Clinton emails doesn't prove much about her culpability for the infamous 9/11 anniversary attacks."

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Of course, no one actually believed that this batch of emails would produce a smoking gun on Benghazi. Hillary Clinton has sought to avoid public scrutiny of her emails since before she was sworn in as secretary of state. When she did turn over some of her emails to the State Department, it was Clinton and her lawyers who decided which ones they would make available and which they would withhold. While it might be useful for Clinton defenders to pretend otherwise, there was no expectation that Clinton would voluntarily share incriminating emails, especially now, in the first weeks of her presidential campaign.

Yet for journalists interested in reporting on Clinton's emails rather than hastily exonerating their author, the hundreds of pages released last week included a number of disclosures, some of them inadvertent, that raise new questions about Hillary Clinton, the State Department, Libya, the Benghazi attacks, and presidential politics. The good news: Some journalists are looking for answers. And so are the investigators who work for the House Select Committee on Benghazi.

Sidney Blumenthal is at the heart of those new questions. A noted conspiracy monger and longtime Clinton confidant, Blumenthal provided Clinton a steady stream of outside intelligence on Libya while she was secretary of state. Some of his information was accurate and some of it was not, but Clinton thought enough of Blumenthal to circulate his reports to top State Department advisers, sometimes with notes ordering them to take some kind of action in response. Clinton downplayed the Blumenthal emails as "unsolicited" thoughts from an old friend. That doesn't quite capture the dynamic.

For Blumenthal, friendship with the Clintons came with considerable benefits. Blumenthal had been banned from State Department employment by the Obama administration, and it appears that if he couldn't collect a government check for advising the Clintons, he would collect one from the Clintons directly. Politico's Ken Vogel reports that Blumenthal was paid $10,000 a month as an employee of the Clinton Foundation from 2009 to 2013 and the same sum as a consultant after he left the payroll in 2013 through March 2015. According to the New York Times, Blumenthal had access to private intelligence on Libya because he was advising "business associates . . . as they sought to win contracts from the Libyan transitional government."

The deteriorating security situation in Libya generally, and Benghazi specifically, was a dominant theme in the emails. Clinton defenders have sought to insulate her from criticism of inadequate security before the attacks by suggesting that decisions about security for U.S. diplomatic personnel were made well below her level. There are many reasons to be skeptical of those claims. The emails make clear that Clinton was deeply involved in virtually every aspect of Libya policy; one internal State Department email lays out the many ways she drove administration decision-making on Libya. Was Clinton a deeply engaged, hands-on manager of every aspect of Libya policy other than security?

If Clinton wasn't involved in security decisions, the emails make clear that she should have been. Reports that Clinton received and circulated, from both official and unofficial channels, demonstrate the dire security challenges for Americans in Libya.

It's not just Blumenthal's emails that raise additional questions. An email sent at 9:17 a.m. on September 15, 2012—four days after the fatal attack in Benghazi—by an aide advises Clinton that Dan Pfeiffer, the director of communications at the White House, "has some sensitive items that he would like to personally show you when he arrives." Clinton slept in and missed the meeting and wrote back later in the morning to request that Pfeiffer return to brief her. It's possible that these "sensitive items" had nothing to do with Benghazi. But the request for a meeting came after a flurry of emails the previous evening between officials from the White House, the State Department, and various national security agencies. Those emails concerned edits to the administration's much-discussed Benghazi "talking points" and included strong objections from the State Department's "building leadership" to some of the language. White House officials emailed the group to assure everyone that the objections would be addressed the following morning at a meeting of the Deputies Committee.

An email sent to several top administration officials, including top Clinton aide Jake Sullivan, at 11:08 that same morning is introduced this way: "Per the discussion at Deputies, here are the revised TPs for HPSCI [talking points for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence]. Let me know what you think." The language in the revised talking points is redacted in its entirety.

Given what we know about the various iterations of the talking points, it's unlikely that these redactions conceal anything not already known. But as that

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Why did the State Department—or Clinton herself—want that sentence redacted? That's unclear. And there may well be an innocent explanation. But the note raises additional questions. Did the idea of supplying arms to the Libyan opposition through private security experts receive the consideration Clinton wanted? Did it happen? Was Blumenthal involved?

Beyond these questions, the Select Committee on Benghazi notes several "inexplicable gaps" in Clinton's email records "during key times of her involvement with Libyan policy." There are no emails between September 14 and October 21, 2011, five weeks surrounding Clinton's trip to Libya. (The committee notes that this was when a "now-famous picture of Clinton on her BlackBerry was taken.") There is another gap between October 21, 2011, and January 5, 2012, "when the State Department was extending the Benghazi mission for another year." And a third major gap occurs between April 27 and July 4, 2012, a period of "increased security" when the U.S. compound and the British ambassador were both attacked.

It's hardly necessary to be a conspiracy-minded conserv-ative to be skeptical of the claim that Clinton—who, by the State Department's own account, drove Libya policy—neither sent nor received any Libya-related emails during these long stretches of heavy Libya-related policy-making.

Perhaps the most important effect of these latest emails is the simplest one. They demolish the claim that we already know the answers to the important questions about the attacks and the administration's response.

There is much more to learn. The Obama administration only recently turned over related emails to the Accountability Review Board, the State Department's internal and highly politicized investigation of Benghazi. And the State Department started to provide the Select Committee on Benghazi with emails from Clinton's top advisers just last week.

This belated, halfhearted cooperation is hardly an indication that the Obama administration is prepared to assist the investigation going forward. The committee continues to press Clinton and the State Department to turn her email server over to a neutral third-party for a thorough examination. Lanny Davis, a most ardent Clinton defender, originally said she would have no problem providing it. But Clinton has since made clear she has no intention of doing so voluntarily.

That doesn't sit well with the Benghazi committee or House speaker John Boehner. And while sources in both offices caution that no final decisions have been made, every day that passes increases the likelihood that the House will subpoena the server.

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OTHER DEMOCRATS NATIONAL COVERAGE

Analysis: Martin O'Malley Is Hillary Clinton's Strongest Rival, But He's Still Behind Her // NBC News // PERRY BACON JR – May 31, 2015

Throughout last year, then-Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley was making appearances in Iowa and New Hampshire and giving speeches around the country to tout himself as a potential Democratic presidential candidate. At the same time, a group of liberal activists were organizing a campaign called "Ready for Warren," urging Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren to get into the presidential race.

These two developments were related. O'Malley, who was governor of Maryland from 2007 until earlier this year, has been trying to cast himself as the alternative to Hillary Clinton for Democrats who either are tired of the Clinton family or prefer a more liberal candidate. And Democratic activists have essentially ignored O'Malley raising his hand in favor of begging Warren to run, even as the senator keeps insisting she will not.

O'Malley is probably the strongest candidate in the Democratic field to take on Clinton. (Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and ex-Virginia Sen. Jim Webb are also seeking the nomination, and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee is expected to jump in the race as well.)

But O'Malley, like the other three men, is ill-positioned to defeat Clinton.

In 2007, she was the front-runner, but many key party activists and donors were not behind her. A huge bloc instead supported Barack Obama, another group was with ex-North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. And Clinton's vote to back the Iraq War loomed as a divide between herself and Democratic activists, particularly in Iowa.

There remains some tension between liberals and Clinton now. They are worried she is too centrist, unwilling to adopt views like calling for the break-up of large Wall Street banks, as Warren advocates.

O'Malley has sought to court the Warren crowd by adopting liberal policy views, like calling for debt-free college and tougher regulations on banks that were weakened during Bill Clinton's administration.

But it's not clear that Warren herself could defeat Clinton, and O'Malley's campaigning over the last year has not made him the champion of the left so far. Many prominent liberals have either endorsed Clinton, are still waiting for Warren to run or are backing Sanders.

And powerful figures in the party, even in O'Malley's home state of Maryland, have signaled they are not excited about his candidacy. U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland has endorsed Clinton, even though O'Malley's mother (also named Barbara) has worked in Mikulski's Senate office since 1987.

So Clinton is an overwhelming favorite to defeat O'Malley. But if one of her rivals is somehow able to win a few primaries and make Clinton work hard in the Democratic nomination process, it is likely to be O'Malley.

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Why? First, Chafee, Sanders and Webb lack the political skills of O'Malley. Chafee and Sanders both won statewide office in tiny states, with Chafee having the advantage of his father, Richard, being his predecessor in the U.S. Senate. Webb has only won one election — to the U.S. Senate in 2006.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley announces his intention to seek the Democratic presidential nomination in Baltimore on May 30. JIM BOURG / Reuters

O'Malley has managed to reach the top of politics in a large, complicated state where a Democrat has to navigate both a large black electorate and a bloc of white Democrats who occasionally vote Republican. He was elected twice to be mayor of Baltimore. O'Malley then won by comfortable margins in the 2006 and 2010 gubernatorial races. (Democratic candidates lost the governorship in the elections that preceded O'Malley (2002) and followed him (2014).

O'Malley was praised for reducing crime in Baltimore as mayor, but there is now much debate over his record there. Violent crime was dropping in nearly every city in America during O'Malley's tenure (2000-2006). And the death of Freddie Gray, the unarmed black man who died in the custody of the Baltimore police in April, brought to national attention both the pockets of deep poverty in the city and its police force's reputation for using excessive force.

As governor though, O'Malley has the kind of record of liberal accomplishments even Clinton would dream of. He signed a repeal of Maryland's death penalty, an increase in the state's minimum wage, a provision that essentially eliminated prison sentences for marijuana users and laws that allowed some undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses and in-state tuition at Maryland's public colleges. He was also a key driver in the state legalizing same-sex marriage and adopting some of the toughest gun control laws in the country.

O'Malley has also drawn some top political operatives to work on his campaign, most notably Bill Hyers, who managed Bill de Blasio's successful dark horse campaign to become mayor of New York City in 2013.

O'Malley, if he is able to position himself as the leading Clinton alternative, could truly challenge her in Iowa, which has a history of rejecting front-runners from both parties. He is likely to have a moment in the campaign where he is polling close to Clinton, at least in the early states, particularly if he performs well in the candidate debates.

That said, even if O'Malley were to defeat Clinton in Iowa, she would remain the favorite for the Democratic nomination. Both Bill and Hillary Clinton performed well in their presidential races in New Hampshire, which votes second. And polls suggest Clinton has huge edges among the black and Hispanic voters who will be a large part of the electorate in South Carolina and Nevada, respectively.

Former Md. Gov. O'Malley jumps into 2016 Democratic race // AP // Ken Thomas and Catherine Lucey - May 30, 2015

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) — Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley entered the Democratic presidential race on Saturday in a longshot challenge to Hillary Rodham Clinton for the 2016 nomination, casting himself as a new generation leader who would rebuild the economy and reform Wall Street.

"I'm running for you," he told a crowd of about 1,000 people in a populist message at Federal Hill Park in Baltimore, where he served as mayor before two terms as governor. O'Malley said was drawn into the campaign "to rebuild the truth of the American dream for all Americans."

Following his announcement, O'Malley promptly headed to Iowa, where he is seeking to become the primary alternative to Clinton in the leadoff caucus state. Before more than fifty people at a union hall in Davenport, he touted his executive experience and called for economic reforms, drawing enthusiastic applause.

"We are still in just as grave a danger of having Wall Street excesses wreck our economy again and there's not a need for it. When wealth concentrates as it has, it also concentrates and collects power and we have to retake control of our own government," said O'Malley, who has made frequent visits to Iowa in recent months.

O'Malley, who will appear in New Hampshire Sunday, remains largely unknown in a field dominated by Clinton. Already in the race is Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who could be O'Malley's main rival for the support of the Democratic left.

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An ally of former President Bill Clinton, O'Malley was the second governor to endorse Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2007. But he made clear that he thinks Democrats deserve a choice in the 2016 primary.

"The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth ... between two royal families," O'Malley said. "It is a sacred trust to be earned from the people of the United States, and exercised on behalf of the people of the United States."

He pointed to recent news reports that Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein would be "fine" with either Clinton or former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a leading Republican contender and the son and brother of presidents, in the White House.

It was a forceful message that O'Malley will focus on overhauling the financial system, a priority for liberals opposed to the bailouts of Wall Street banks.

"Tell me how it is, that not a single Wall Street CEO was convicted of a crime related to the 2008 economic meltdown? Not a single one," O'Malley said. "Tell me how it is, that you can get pulled over for a broken tail light, but if you wreck the nation's economy you are untouchable?"

Aides said O'Malley called Hillary Clinton on Friday to tell her he was running. By Saturday afternoon, Clinton had tweeted, "Welcome to the race, Gov. O'Malley. Looking forward to discussing strong families and communities."

The 52-year-old O'Malley has spoken often about the economic challenges facing the nation and said he would bring new leadership, progressive values and the ability to accomplish things.

"We are allowing our land of opportunity to be turned into a land of inequality," he told the crowd.

O'Malley has presented himself to voters as a next-generation figure in the party, pointing to his record as governor on issues such as gay marriage, immigration, economic issues and the death penalty.

His tenure was marked by financial challenges posed by the recession, but O'Malley pushed through an increase in the state's minimum wage while keeping record amounts of money flowing into the state's education system. He backed a bill to allow same-sex marriage, which lawmakers passed and voters approved in 2012. He oversaw a sweeping gun-control measure and a repeal of the death penalty.

He also raised taxes on multiple occasions — on higher earners, sales of goods, vehicle titles, gasoline, cigarettes, sewer services and more. Republican critics branded him as a tax-and-spend liberal and the GOP defeated O'Malley's hand-picked successor in 2014.

But his record on criminal justice has been scrutinized in recent weeks after riots in Baltimore broke out following the death of Freddie Gray, an African-American man who died in police custody following his arrest last month.

O'Malley was known for his tough-on-crime, "zero tolerance" policies that led to large numbers of arrests for minor offenses. Critics say it sowed distrust between police and the black community. Supporters note the overall decrease in violent crime during his tenure. O'Malley has defended his work to curb crime, saying he helped address rampant violence and drug abuse.

A few demonstrators gathered near the park to protest O'Malley's criminal justice policies as mayor, an office he held from 1999 until his election as governor in 2006. During O'Malley's speech, there was sporadic shouting from protesters, including one who blew a whistle.

O'Malley called the unrest "heartbreaking" but said "there is something to be learned from that night, and there is something to be offered to our country from those flames. For what took place here was not only about race, not only about policing in America. It's about everything it is supposed to mean to be an American."

Megan Kenny, 38, of Baltimore, who held a sign that said "stop killer cops" and yelled "black lives matter," said she thought O'Malley's decision to run was "a strange choice," especially because of the recent rioting. She attributed the unrest to his "ineffective zero-tolerance policy."

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O'Malley could soon be joined in the Democratic field by former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, who plans to make an announcement next week, and former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, who is exploring a potential campaign.

Sanders has raised more than $4 million since opening his campaign in late April and sought to build support among liberals in the party who are disillusioned with Clinton.

In a sign of his daunting task, Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski, his former boss and mentor, is supporting Clinton. She said in a statement that O'Malley "should follow his dreams. And while I've already announced my support for Hillary Clinton, I know that competition is good for democracy."

O'Malley announces presidential bid, visits Davenport // Quad City Times // Jeff Cook - May 30, 2015

Martin O'Malley, the former Maryland governor who got his first taste of the Iowa caucuses while working in Davenport for Gary Hart in the early 1980s, brought his own campaign for president here Saturday.

He pledged to fight income inequality, warned Wall Street could still wreck the economy and vowed to work the first-in-the nation caucus state aggressively.

O'Malley, 52, announced his candidacy Saturday morning in Baltimore, where he was the mayor from 1999 to 2007. And he made the first two stops of his campaign in Davenport and, later, Des Moines.

"Over the course of the last 30 years, we have seen in our great nation a growing gap of injustice," O'Malley said at the United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 431, union hall in Davenport.

He blamed "failed trickle down economic policies" for the concentration of wealth, and he warned there is a need for rebalancing, lest there be "pitchforks" brandished in urban and rural areas.

O'Malley argued for greater regulation of banks, against the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership trade deal and pushed for comprehensive immigration reform.

"We are still in just as grave a danger of having Wall Street excesses wreck our economy again," he said.

O'Malley enters the presidential race far down in the polls. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had the support of 60 percent of likely Iowa caucus-goers, according to a Quinnipiac University poll earlier this month.

O'Malley came in at 3 percent, behind Sen. Bernie Sanders and Vice President Joe Biden.

Still, the ex-governor didn't seem bothered by the gap.

"I believe, and I've seen this happen before, and you guys have, too, that the inevitable front runner's inevitable right up until he or she is no longer inevitable," he told reporters.

He said a challenger emerges by going "county to county, town square to town square," talking about ideas.

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“That’s what I intend to do, and I think the people of Iowa will respond,” he said.

Tom Engelmann, a longtime Democratic activist and treasurer of the county party, said he thinks that Clinton’s strength in the polls is deceiving and that times have changed for her.

In 2008, he said, “I wouldn’t have had a whole lot of problem with Hillary as president. But now I do.”

Engelmann said he’s considering O’Malley or Sanders and thinks both can still tap into a late-deciding electorate.

Ed Brown, a former Davenport alderman and Democratic activist, said he’s already on board with O’Malley.

“He’s a new face, and that’s what we need in the United States of America,” Brown said. "And I think he’s sincere."

O’Malley, who was Maryland’s governor for two terms, endorsed Clinton for president in 2007, and the two exchanged pleasantries via Twitter after his announcement Saturday.

But the former governor said that times have changed. He said the CEO of Goldman Sachs recently told employees he would be fine with Clinton or Jeb Bush as president. To that, O’Malley said, “the presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families.”

Much of O’Malley’s remarks had to do with what he called the inequities in American life.

“Tell me how it is, that you can get pulled over for a broken tail light, but if you wreck the nation’s economy, you are untouachable?” he asked in Baltimore.

He also told of steps he took there to diminish that, including pushing through an increase in the minimum wage and backing a proposal, eventually approved, to legalize same-sex marriage.

Republicans have criticized his economic policies in Maryland, including some tax increases. And the violence in Baltimore in the aftermath of the shooting of Freddie Gray has drawn attention to his “zero tolerance” policies.

Critics said that it led to mistrust between police and the black community in the city.

O’Malley has defended those policies. Asked in Davenport on Saturday if he had any regrets as mayor or governor, he said he wished the state had moved faster to implement having police wear body cameras.

O' Malley Makes Iowa First Stop in 2016 Kick Off // AP // May 30, 2015

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) -- Martin O'Malley promptly brought his Democratic presidential campaign to Iowa, offering himself to voters in the leadoff caucus state as a leader who will create jobs and opportunity. He announced his bid for the presidency earlier in the day in Baltimore.

O'Malley spoke to more than 50 people crowded into a union hall in Davenport Saturday afternoon. He touted his record as governor of Maryland and mayor of Baltimore, talking about raising the minimum wage and investing in education.

O'Malley has made several appearances in Iowa this year, has two paid staffers in the state and plans to add more. He made four trips last year and dispatched 14 staffers to work on state campaigns. He was scheduled to speak in Des Moines later in the day.

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O'Malley supporters hope Iowa can help him become the main alternative to front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton.

O'Malley's challenge to Clinton: Ideological or generational? Or both? // WaPo // Dan Balz - May 29, 2015

"I'm drawn to tough challenges," Martin O'Malley said, "and this one is certainly a tough challenge."

Unruffled in a crisp white shirt and necktie, O'Malley sat in a windowless conference room in his bustling campaign office on Friday afternoon. He was less than 24 hours away from formally launching his candidacy for president in 2016. If anything, he understated the obstacles on the road ahead.

O'Malley is running against the most formidable front-runner the Democrats have seen in many years. Hillary Rodham Clinton currently towers over the field of candidates for her party's nomination, able to amass resources, talent, political support, volunteers and attention (for good or ill) unmatched by any of her challengers.

O'Malley, among others, will test whether Democrats who say they want a competitive contest for the nomination really mean it. At Clinton's headquarters in Brooklyn, her senior advisers anticipate and are preparing for that possibility. But in the face of daunting odds, O'Malley must find the ground on which to fight.

Will he try to make the contest primarily an ideological battle, tapping progressive unrest with the state of the Democratic Party and possibly Clinton to frame a left vs. centrist contest? Will he, as his mentor Gary Hart did when the former senator from Colorado nearly upset Walter F. Mondale in the 1984 Democratic contest, seek to draw a sharp generational contrast, of future versus past, new ideas against a tired Democratic status quo? Or can he make it a combination of the two?

O'Malley said his travels around the country over the past 18 months have led him to conclude that there is "a tremendous hunger … for leaders who are willing to embrace new approaches, to break with the orthodoxy of some of the worn out thinking of our past."

But exactly what is that orthodoxy with which he seeks to break? How much is it the policies of the current Democratic administration, rather than just the Republican economic policies that he and all other Democrats attack? And how explicitly will he be able to show that Clinton embodies that orthodoxy and that he does not?

O'Malley announcement remarks as prepared for delivery // WaPo // Martin O'Malley - May 29, 2015

My fellow Americans.

I want to talk with you today about The American Dream we share…

its powerful history,

its current condition, and most importantly,

its urgent need for rebuilding.

Our nation was founded on two self-evident truths...

That All of us are created equal.

And that we are endowed by our Creator with the rights to Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With these words, the American dream began.

No fine print. No expiration date.

All of us are included.

Women and men.

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Black and white people.

Irish Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans. Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Americans.

Young and old. Rich and poor. Workers and Business owners. Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and straight Americans.

Every person is important, each of us is needed.

In our idea of country, there is no such thing as a spare American.

There is, however, a growing injustice in our country today.

It is the gap between the strong and just country our children need for us to be ... and the country we are in danger of becoming.

For today in America, 70 percent of us are earning the same or less than they were 12 years ago. This is the first time that has happened this side of World War II.

Today in America, family owned businesses and farms are struggling to compete with ever larger concentrations of corporate power,...

Fifty years ago, the nation's largest employer was GM. An average GM employee could pay for a year's tuition at a state university with two weeks' wages.

Today in America, with dreams of college, a decent paying job, and a secure retirement slipping beyond the reach of so very many,... the American Dream seems to be hanging by a thread.

And yet, for America there is always a yet.

The final thread that holds us just might be the strongest.

It is the thread of the generosity, the compassion, and the love of one another that brings us together as One American People.

For over 200 years we've been the architects of our own future. And now we must build anew today.

My father and mother, Tom and Barbara O'Malley, were born to the Great Depression and grew up as part of that great generation that won the Second World War. My dad flew 33 missions over Japan in a B-24 Liberator, and went on to college only because of the GI Bill.

My mom, herself, flew in the Civil Air Patrol at the age of seventeen.

They raised their children -- the six of us -- to a middle class future secured largely by the sacrifices and better choices of their generation.

But they would never accept the notion that somehow theirs was the "greatest generation." For they believed and they taught us that every generation of Americans has the ability -- and the sacred responsibility -- to become great.

And so we must. No matter how long the odds, no matter how large the challenge, and no matter how tough the fight.

This is the urgent work calling us forward today: to rebuild the truth of the American Dream for ALL Americans. And to begin right now!

Baltimore/Economy

Last month, television sets around the world were filled with the anger and the rage, and the flames of some of the humblest and hardest hit neighborhoods of Baltimore.

For all of us who have given so much of our energies to making our city a safer, fairer, more just and more prosperous place, it was a heartbreaking night in the life of our City.

But there is something to be learned from that night, and there is something to be offered to our country from those flames.

For what took place here was not only about race…not only about policing in America.

It's about everything it is supposed to mean to be an American.

The scourge of hopelessness that happened to ignite here that evening, transcends race or geography.

Witness the record numbers of young white kids killing themselves with heroin in suburbs and small towns across America.

The hard truth of our shared reality is this: Unemployment in many American cities and in many small towns across the United States is higher now than it was eight years ago.

Conditions of extreme and growing poverty, create conditions for extreme violence.

We have work to do…

Our economic and political system is upside down and backwards and it is time to turn it around.

What happened to our economy -- what happened to the American Dream -- did not happen by chance.

Nor was it merely the result of global forces somehow beyond our control.

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Powerful, wealthy special interests here at home have used our government to create -- in our own country -- an economy that is leaving a majority of our people behind.

An economy that has so concentrated wealth in the hands of the very few that it has taken opportunity from the homes of the many.

An economy where a majority of our people are unheard, unseen, un-needed, and left to conclude that their lives and labors are literally worth less today than they were yesterday,... And will be worth less still tomorrow...

We are allowing our land of opportunity to be turned into a land of inequality.

Main Street struggles, while Wall Street soars.

Tell me how it is, that not a single Wall Street CEO was convicted of a crime related to the 2008 economic meltdown. Not. A. Single. One.

Tell me how it is, that you can get pulled over for a broken tail light in our country, but if you wreck the nation's economy you are untouchable.

This is not how our economy is supposed to work!

This is not how our country is supposed to work!

This is not the American Dream!

And it does not have to be this way!

This generation still has time to become great.

We have saved the world before and we must save our country now – and we will do that by rebuilding the American Dream!

The Agenda

As I look out here this morning over the original "land of the free and the home of the brave," I see the faces of people who have done so much for so many in our City and our State.

Together, we made our City a safer, healthier and better place for kids.

Together, we made our city believe again. We invented a new and better way of governing called CitiStat, and we got things done.

Together, we made our State's public schools the best in the United States. We made college more affordable for more families.

We led our people forward through a devastating national recession. We took greater care to protect our land, our air, and the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

We passed Marriage Equality and we passed the DREAM Act.

Together, we raised the minimum wage and we sustained the highest median income in America. We achieved top rankings for innovation, entrepreneurship, and minority and women's business development.

Yes, understanding precedes action.

And it took new leadership. New perspectives. And new approaches.

But we believed in the dream,...together we took action to make it real,... and that is exactly what we must do as a nation today.

Our economy isn't money, our economy is people—all of our people.

We measure success by the growing prosperity and security of our people–all of our people.

A stronger middle class is not the consequence of economic growth -- a stronger middle class is the cause of economic growth.

Together, as one nation we must build an American economy that works again for all of us.

That means good jobs and wage policies that allow hardworking families to actually get ahead. That means a higher minimum wage, overtime pay for overtime work, and respect for the rights of all workers to organize and collectively bargain for better wages.

If we take these actions…the dream will live again.

Climate change is real. We must create an American jobs agenda to build a new renewable energy future.

We must launch a new agenda to rebuild America's cities as places of Justice and Opportunity for all.

And if we take these actions… the dream will live again.

For the sake of our country's security, and our country's well-being, and our country's economic growth, we must also bring 11 million of our neighbors out of the shadows by passing comprehensive immigration reform.

Because the enduring symbol of our nation is not the barbed wire fence,... it is the Statue of Liberty.

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We are a nation of immigrants. We are a compassionate and generous people. And if we act according to our principles--and the better angels of our nature—if we return to our true selves, the dream will live again.

Make no mistake about it -- our ability to lead the world and be safe in this world depends on the strength of the American Dream here at home. The challenges we face in the world today are different from the challenges we faced in the 1990s.

Together, we must construct a New National Security Strategy and build new alliances that are forward-seeing and forward-acting.

The center of this new strategy must be the reduction of threats. Fast-evolving threats -- from violent extremism, pandemic, cyber attacks, nuclear proliferation, nation-state failures, to the drought, famine, and floods of climate change.

Together, we must craft a New Foreign Policy of Engagement and Collaboration. We must join with like-minded people around the world -- especially with nations here in our own hemisphere -- for the cause we share of a rising global middle class.

We must put our national interest first, we must put America first.

But we cannot rebuild the American Dream here at home by catering to the voices of the privileged and the powerful.

Let's be honest. They were the ones who turned our economy upside-down in the first place. And they are the only ones who are benefiting from it.

We need to prosecute cheats, we need to reinstate Glass-Steagall, and if a bank is too big to fail without wrecking our nation's economy…then it needs to be broken up before it breaks us…again.

Goldman Sachs is one of the biggest repeat-offending investment banks in America. Recently, the CEO of Goldman Sachs let his employees know that he'd be just fine with either Bush or Clinton.

I bet he would...

Well, I've got news for the bullies of Wall Street --

The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families.

It is a sacred trust to be earned from the people of the United States, and exercised on behalf of the people of the United States.

The only way we are going to rebuild the American Dream is if we re-take control of our own American government!

Conclusion

The poet laureate of the American Dream, Bruce Springsteen, once asked:

Is a dream a lie, if it don't come true?…

Or is it something worse?

Whether the American dream becomes a lie, or becomes an ongoing truth that our children can enjoy, can build upon, can live, is really up to you and me.

It is up to all of us.

It's not about Wall Street, not about the big five banks, it's not even about big money trying to buy our elections.

It's about U.S.

It is about whether, together, We the People still have the will to become great Americans.

I believe we do.

My decision is made.

Now you will all have a vital choice to make next year, for the good of your families, and for the good of the country you love and carry in your hearts.

It is a choice that people will ask you about for years to come.

And so, when a child with a world of learning ahead asks who you voted for, I want you to be able to tell that child, "I voted for you."

When you see a dad sweating through another long shift in order to give his daughter a better future, I want you to be able to tell him, "I voted for you."

When you see a mom working long hours at two jobs for the dream of sending her son to college, I want you to be able to tell her, "I voted for you."

When you see a young father who hungers for a decent job to support his family, I want you to be able to tell him, "I voted for you."

The story of our country's best days is not found in a history book, because this generation of Americans is about to write it!

And that is why today, to you -- and to all who can hear my voice -- I declare that I am a candidate for President of the United States….and I'm running for YOU.

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May God Bless you and may God Bless the United States of America.

[Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley Announces 2016 White House Bid](#) // WSJ // Scott Calvert - May 30, 2015

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley launched an underdog presidential bid Saturday morning based on the proposition that his brand of liberal politics is what the Democratic Party and the country need now.

"The story of our country's best days is not found in a history book, because this generation of Americans is about to write it," he said before declaring his candidacy in front of several hundred people.

Mr. O'Malley made his announcement at a rally on Federal Hill, overlooking this city where he began his political career as a councilman and was twice elected mayor. Later Saturday, he is scheduled to fly to Iowa—his seventh trip to the early voting state since last June. He plans to attend events in New Hampshire on Sunday.

The 52-year-old Mr. O'Malley faces steep odds against the party's presumptive favorite, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, but says he isn't deterred by her aura of inevitability or his low standing in polls.

"The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth…between two royal families," he said in his speech Saturday, referring to Mrs. Clinton, wife of former President Bill Clinton, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a likely Republican presidential candidate whose father and brother were both presidents.

Mr. O'Malley has tried to position himself to Mrs. Clinton's left. He opposes a pending Pacific Rim trade deal and the Keystone XL pipeline and favors expanding Social Security benefits. Mrs. Clinton has either sidestepped these issues or remained silent.

"Powerful, wealthy special interests here at home have used our government to create, in our own country, an economy that is leaving a majority of our people behind," Mr. O'Malley said, flanked by his wife Katie and their four children, with dozens of supporters on stage behind him. "We are allowing our land of opportunity to become a land of inequality," he said.

Mr. O'Malley is the third candidate to officially declare a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, along with Mrs. Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.). Other possible Democratic contenders include former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

A tweet Saturday afternoon from Mrs. Clinton's Twitter account said, "Welcome to the race, Gov. O'Malley. Looking forward to discussing strong families and communities. -H."

Mr. O'Malley is barely registering in polls, averaging just 0.8% in the Real Clear Politics website's aggregation of voter surveys—dead last among seven Democrats.

But marketing agency owner Jonathan Oleisky, who joined hundreds of others for the announcement event on a sunny, muggy morning, said he thinks Mr. O'Malley has a shot at winning the Democratic nomination.

"Stranger things have happened in American politics," said Mr. Oleisky, 49 years old and from Owings Mills, Md. "Just look at Jimmy Carter. Who'd have thought we would elect a peanut farmer from Georgia?"

Mr. Oleisky said he backs Mr. O'Malley for his "progressive outlook" and record in office. "I think Hillary Clinton is incredibly accomplished, but we need new leadership in the country," he said.

Susan Rohrer, who is in her 60s and traveled to the event from the Washington suburbs, said she likes both Mr. O'Malley and Mrs. Clinton. "It's going to be hard" choosing between them, said Ms. Rohrer, an English teacher. She said she considers Mr. O'Malley "more progressive" and might support him for

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that reason. But her “dream” scenario is a Clinton-O’Malley ticket, she said.

Though Mr. O’Malley supported Mrs. Clinton when she ran for president in 2008, he said times have changed and that he represents a “new candidate with a clear voice.” He sometimes plays a borrowed guitar after speeches, a reminder of his days fronting a Celtic rock band called O’Malley’s March.

On the campaign trail, Mr. O’Malley has touted his record as governor in a bid to woo liberal voters. During an eight-year tenure that ended in January, he helped pass legislation to abolish the death penalty, tighten gun restrictions, raise the minimum wage and grant in-state college tuition to some immigrants in the country illegally.

Another part of Mr. O’Malley’s gubernatorial record—tax and fee increases that he said were necessary to maintain services during the recession—proved to be a liability for his preferred successor, Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, who lost the governor’s race last fall in a major upset to Republican Larry Hogan.

Since his days as mayor, Mr. O’Malley has emphasized the use of data to monitor and improve the delivery of government services, and he says he has more executive experience than Mrs. Clinton or Mr. Sanders.

But his management of state government suffered two major blemishes. In early 2013, federal investigators found that a violent gang held sway over the state-run jail in Baltimore. Later, Maryland’s rollout of its health-care exchange website under the Affordable Care Act was badly plagued by glitches.

Mr. O’Malley grew up in Montgomery County, Md., in a family steeped in Democratic politics. After law school, he married into a prominent Baltimore Democratic family. His wife, Katie, is a state judge. They have four children and live in Baltimore.

Mr. O’Malley has spent much of his adult life in politics. In his early 20s he volunteered for Colorado Sen. Gary Hart’s presidential campaign. In his late 20s he won a seat on Baltimore’s city council.

At age 36, he was elected mayor after campaigning on a “zero-tolerance” platform that held that cracking down on minor offenses can help prevent serious crime. The city’s violent crime rate fell sharply in his seven years as mayor. But critics said too many young African-Americans were arrested for low-level offenses, fueling anger toward police and making it harder for many to get jobs.

Ricky Johnson, a 61-year-old Baltimore resident who attended the announcement, said zero tolerance was a misguided strategy. “That was the only thing I had a gripe with him about,” Mr. Johnson said, praising his tenures as mayor and governor, along with his executive skills. “When he’s in charge, he’s in command,” Mr. Johnson said.

Last month, Mr. O’Malley cut short an overseas trip and returned to Baltimore after parts of the city erupted in riots following the funeral of 25-year-old Freddie Gray, who died of severe spinal injuries sustained in police custody. Mr. O’Malley endured some heckling when he visited the West Baltimore neighborhood where much of the looting and arson occurred.

Mr. O’Malley said he doesn’t think his policing policies planted the seeds for the recent unrest, noting that many of the protesters were just children when he was mayor. Instead, he pointed to societal inequality and a national economy that he says doesn’t work for poor inner-city Americans.

“When we create conditions and allow conditions of extreme poverty to continue and to expand and in a lot of places to worsen and deepen, then that can give rise to extreme violence,” he said in a recent interview. “That was the eruption you saw the other night.”

Several protesters walked through the crowd as Mr. O’Malley spoke. One woman chanted “Black lives matter” and held a sign saying, “Stop killer cops.” Others blew whistles.

Martin O’Malley Phoned Hillary Clinton Ahead of His Presidential Launch // TIME // Kathleen Lange - May 30, 2015

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The call was brief and cordial

Barely 24 hours before launching his campaign to challenge Hillary Clinton, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley phoned the Democratic presidential front-runner to personally inform her of his plans.

The call between the two Democratic rivals was brief and cordial, and came on the same day that O'Malley filed his candidacy papers with the Federal Election Commission, according to two sources familiar with the conversation.

O'Malley, the two-term governor of Maryland who left office in January, is launching his presidential campaign Saturday morning in Baltimore, the city where he spent seven years as mayor.

Clinton and O'Malley have a complicated relationship as fellow Democratic party notables. O'Malley was one of the first Democratic governors to endorse Clinton's candidacy for president in the 2008 election, and was a major fundraiser for the then-Senator. Last year, former president Bill Clinton strongly praised O'Malley's time as governor.

But as he has prepared to run for the White House, O'Malley has staked out a position to Hillary Clinton's left on an array of policies, including trade, Wall Street reform and immigration. While he has largely refrained from directly attacking her, he has made a point of emphasizing their disagreements at every juncture.

On the call, O'Malley told Clinton that he is running because he believes it's time for "new leadership" of the country. Not coincidentally, the phrase is the slogan for his nascent presidential campaign, visible on half a dozen campaign signs around the stage at his launch event on Baltimore's Federal Hill.

The 52-year-old plans to emphasize his youthfulness in comparison with Clinton, who is 67 and one of the oldest candidates to ever seek the presidency.

Friday's call is not the first time Clinton's campaign has communicated with O'Malley. Around St. Patrick's Day, Clinton's campaign chair John Podesta held a private meeting with O'Malley and told the former governor that they were going to take any possible campaign seriously.

A spokesman for the Clinton campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

O'Malley is a longshot candidate for the Democratic nomination, especially when compared to the Clinton juggernaut. Despite frequent trips to Iowa and New Hampshire with all the accompanying press coverage, O'Malley is polling at 1% among Democrats nationally compared with Hillary Clinton's 57%, according to a May 28 Quinnipiac survey.

O'Malley's long-shot bid gets complicated start // Politico // Ben Schreckinger - May 30, 2015

Martin O'Malley's presidential bid has always been a long-shot, but the odds looked even longer Saturday as he officially kicked off his campaign from Federal Hill Park.

The run-up to his launch here could hardly have been worse, complicated in recent weeks by unrest in the city where he served as mayor and the unexpected early momentum of another Hillary Clinton challenger: Bernie Sanders.

At one time, O'Malley figured to be Clinton's default rival for the Democratic nomination. He won two terms as governor of Maryland, winning by wide margins, and honed his national fundraising chops as chairman of the Democratic Governors Association. At 52, he was positioned to make the case that he represents a generational step forward. Yet it's Sanders — a disheveled, 73-year-old socialist — who so far has captured the imagination of progressives looking for a Clinton alternative.

O'Malley's camp maintains that the enthusiasm generated by the Vermont senator — who drew overflow crowds at campaign events in Iowa and New

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Hampshire this week after kicking off his campaign in front of 6,000 supporters in Burlington on Tuesday — is a sign that Democratic voters are hungry for excitement and augurs well for the former Maryland governor.

Martin O'Malley Delivers Powerful Campaign Kickoff Speech // Bloomberg // Mark Halperin - May 29, 2015

Style: Easy on the eyes and ears, optimistic, conversational, and focused. Powered throughout by compelling American dream/working class themes. Tableau of touching introducers and faces on the stage was carefully and well chosen.

Substance: Clarion calls for comprehensive immigration reform and new banking rules. Vague on foreign policy. But suggested additional national goals by talking about his Maryland record.

Best moment: Garnered event's biggest applause with a frontal shot at the royal Clintons and Bushes, a well-crafted and necessary riff to send the message (including and especially to the media) that he knows he has to topple giants to win.

Worst moment: Confusing “I voted for you” closing refrain.

Overall: Smartly written speech powerfully delivered by one of the best orators in American politics. Far from running from his Baltimore record, he embraced it, along with what he did as Maryland's governor. Contrasted himself with Hillary Clinton as more left, more populist, and more of a leader. Saturday morning might not be the best time to make an introduction to America, but O'Malley demonstrated why Bill Clinton tagged him long ago as one of the Democratic Party's biggest stars. If the nomination fight didn't have an overwhelming frontrunner, O'Malley's performance would have been a game changer; instead, it is ringing calling card.

Baltimore’s blight puts O’Malley on defensive in bid for presidency // WaPo // Robert McCartney - May 30, 2015

When Martin O’Malley announces his bid for the presidency Saturday in Baltimore, he is hoping that backdrop will strengthen his effort to become the leading candidate for progressives.

But the backdrop also could be his albatross.

In preparing to seek the Democratic nomination, he has cast himself as the only candidate with the vision, record and hands-on experience to attack urban problems such as poverty and crime.

But the stubborn urban decay that continues to afflict sizable swaths of Baltimore threatens O’Malley’s pitch. The city drew international attention in April when riots erupted in the same troubled neighborhoods where O’Malley had said conditions were “so much better.”

A challenge for O’Malley, analysts say, is that his numerous initiatives for the city — as mayor for seven years and governor for eight — have yielded mixed results.

Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is a possible Democratic contender for the White House in 2016. Here's his take on gay marriage, income inequality and more, in his own words. (Julie Percha/The Washington Post)

The gleaming offices, restaurants and new housing in the Inner Harbor area are a stark contrast to the boarded-up businesses and homes the world saw on television when Baltimore exploded. The sharp reduction in violent crime is offset by the tension with police that was exposed by last month’s looting.

Given his desire to run as an urban champion, it’s no wonder that O’Malley is quick to object when anyone criticizes Baltimore.

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At a public meeting in December, a month before his last day as Maryland's governor, O'Malley interrupted a fellow Democrat who faulted the city for the thousands of vacant, abandoned buildings that fill its poorest neighborhoods.

"You drive up the streets of Baltimore City, as I do often, and it is just indescribable what we, I guess collectively, have allowed that to become," Comptroller Peter Franchot said at a Board of Public Works session in Annapolis.

Before Franchot could continue, O'Malley jumped in: "And yet so much better than it was 15 years ago. … A lot of people gave their lives [at work] to make it better." He said Franchot was "30 years late" in sounding an alarm over urban blight.

The mixed results of O'Malley's tenure can be seen in the frustration he experienced in trying to reclaim the city's uninhabitable buildings. The city drew applause for acquiring thousands of lots in the hope of promoting their redevelopment.

But the number of vacant and abandoned residential properties increased by 2,570, to more than 15,700, between 2002, when O'Malley's program began, and 2007, the year he stepped down as mayor to become governor, according to statistics from the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance.

View Graphic

Baltimore's recovery slower than most cities

The alliance said the gain was partly attributable to the city's success in identifying vacant buildings that it hadn't known about before. But housing specialists said legal complexities and high costs also stymied efforts by O'Malley and his two successors to fix the problem.

On the plus side, O'Malley won national plaudits for innovative leadership as both mayor and governor, such as for his early adoption of data-driven management. He points to accomplishments such as slashing violent crime, reducing children's exposure to lead paint, increasing spending on drug treatment and drawing young people back to redeveloped neighborhoods downtown.

But the renaissance of prosperity in some Baltimore communities, principally around the harbor, has not spread to many of the city's poorer sections. The city's overall poverty and unemployment rates have remained high — not nearly as bad as in Detroit, but worse than in the District, Pittsburgh, Boston and New York.

A survey released this month by two Harvard economists found that among the nation's 100 largest cities and counties, Baltimore ranked at the bottom as the jurisdiction where children face the worst odds of escaping poverty.

"Any city has pockets of poverty; it's really a matter of the depth and scale," said Jennifer S. Vey, a fellow at the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program. "The lows are low in Baltimore. … You have deep distress in certain pockets."

O'Malley contends that Baltimore was making better progress than most comparable cities until the 2008 recession.

But his defense of his urban record also poses some political risks. He says the shortcomings arise not from his programs but from national economic policies that foster inequality and from a lack of support from the federal government.

"We haven't had an agenda for America's cities for at least two decades … probably since Jimmy Carter," O'Malley said on NBC's "Meet the Press" on May 3.

Taking a robust liberal position, O'Malley has urged increased spending on cities. He wants to raise the minimum wage, as Maryland did with his encouragement as governor.

"We need big investments in affordable housing," O'Malley said at a forum May 5 in Redlands, Calif. "We need investments in infrastructure, especially mass transit. We also need to target job training."

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That approach could help O'Malley in the Democratic primaries, where he has positioned himself to the left of front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton. O'Malley is competing with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a socialist, for support from liberal activists who see Clinton as too moderate.

But it would face a more skeptical audience in the general election.

"The problem is that it is politically unsalable," said Donald F. Norris, director of the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. "We are a nation of suburbs, and suburban residents and elected officials do not care a whit about declining central cities."

O'Malley hasn't said how much he thinks his proposed investments would cost or where he would find the money. Haley Morris, an O'Malley spokeswoman, said this week that such questions are premature because O'Malley won't unveil a comprehensive agenda for cities until several weeks from now.

Since the riots, O'Malley's record has drawn attention mainly for the aggressive police policies he implemented as mayor. They led to a substantial decline in homicides and other violent crime, but also resulted in a sharp increase in arrests for minor offenses, which alienated poor communities.

O'Malley's successor as mayor, Sheila Dixon (D), abandoned the "zero tolerance" arrests, and critics noted that homicides continued to decline. Still, O'Malley's defenders credit him with helping to start the trend, especially by shutting down many of the city's open-air drug markets

"On one hand, more people got arrest records; on the other hand, murders went down," said Robert C. Embry, president of the Abell Foundation, which works to reduce Baltimore poverty.

O'Malley also drew mixed reviews for his economic development strategy. As mayor, he directed money and government support toward middle-tier neighborhoods, which he thought offered the best chance of recovery, or toward ones that had access to job centers.

Many urban experts praised the approach as a smart use of scarce resources. But critics said it diverted aid from communities most in need of help.

O'Malley played a key role in pushing forward the redevelopment of a poor neighborhood near the Johns Hopkins medical complex in East Baltimore. He did so partly to keep Hopkins, the city's largest private employer, from taking its expansion plans outside the city. He also targeted that community because it had a relatively good chance to prosper, owing to its proximity to hospital jobs.

O'Malley also supported Healthy Neighborhoods, a community development effort sponsored by financial and philanthropic organizations that has been credited with helping to stabilize middle- and working-class neighborhoods that were at risk of declining.

"O'Malley recognized that improving neighborhoods is about finding their assets," said Mark Sissman, president of Healthy Neighborhoods Inc. "He and others at the same time said, 'Let's figure out what works and build from those strengths.' … Is there a college that's important? Is there good public transportation? Are there historic buildings?"

But that progress came with a cost, according to some community activists and business people in the city's poorest neighborhoods.

"O'Malley did well by the harbor, but my community didn't benefit," said Doni Glover, a community activist and journalist who lives in Sandtown-Winchester. "My understanding is that for poor, inner-city black neighborhoods in West Baltimore and East Baltimore, his method, his strategy, was just let them rot."

Sandtown-Winchester was the center of the April protests in Baltimore, which were triggered by the death of Sandtown resident Freddie Gray a week after he suffered a severe spinal injury in police custody.

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Perhaps the biggest problem for poor neighborhoods in Baltimore and comparable cities is the shortage of jobs for low-skill workers.

Here, O'Malley drew praise for good management of federal job programs and for protecting funding for public schools. But Baltimore schools remain the worst in the state, by most measures, and it's still a challenge for job-seekers without automobiles to get to jobs in upscale parts of the city or the suburbs.

"He did a good job of managing the agencies," said Peter Beilenson, chief executive of the Evergreen Health Cooperative, who served as O'Malley's city health commissioner. "I don't think a huge amount was done to make jobs accessible in the neighborhoods, which is truly essential if you're going to deal with the Sandtown-Winchesters of the world."

O'Malley strongly backed building the light-rail Red Line, which would improve transit for residents of poor neighborhoods in West Baltimore. But Gov. Larry Hogan (R), who succeeded O'Malley in Annapolis, is considering killing the Red Line on grounds that its price tag of at least $2.6 billion is too high.

In his Project 5000 effort to reduce urban blight as mayor, O'Malley sought for the city to take over 5,000 abandoned properties and prepare to donate or sell them so they could be redeveloped.

The city exceeded the target in gaining control of buildings but then had difficulties disposing of them.

Dixon proposed instead to create a quasi-governmental "land bank" to deal with the issue, but it never got off the ground. The current mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake (D), has embraced a third approach, called "Vacants to Value." It uses a broad array of methods, including increased demolition funding, infrastructure repairs and housing reinvestment.

None of the efforts have reduced the backlog. The reported total of vacant and abandoned residential properties has continued to creep up and was above 16,100 in 2013.

At the December hearing, Franchot said it was "utterly, totally unacceptable" for Baltimore to have "block after block after block" of homes shuttered with boards or cinder blocks.

O'Malley instead stressed the "great opportunities … to repopulate the City of Baltimore." He added: "It could happen even more quickly with some more capital dollars."

Martin O'Malley Announces Presidential Campaign, Pushing Image of Vitality // NYT // Maggie Haberman - May 30, 2015

In another campaign year, Martin O'Malley's résumé and good looks might be irresistible to Democratic primary voters. He is a former big-city mayor whose story of renewal in Baltimore seemed well tailored to an increasingly urban and minority party. He is a former two-term governor of Maryland — and the lead singer and guitarist in a rock 'n' roll band.

But Mr. O'Malley is running in an election cycle in which Democratic elected officials and donors have overwhelmingly focused attention onHillary Rodham Clinton. And he already faces competition from SenatorBernie Sanders of Vermont for the support of liberals who dislike Mrs. Clinton or merely want to see her pushed further to the left.

After a two-year exploratory phase, Mr. O'Malley, 52, on Saturday began to make a case for why Democrats should bet on him instead of on Mrs. Clinton or Mr. Sanders. His argument was both economic and, in a clear contrast with his significantly older Democratic rivals, generational.

"Today, the American dream seems for so many of us to be hanging by a thread," he said, announcing his candidacy before hundreds of supporters under a baking sun in Federal Hill Park in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, with the towers of the city's downtown behind him.

"This is not the American dream," he added, as his notes flapped in the breeze. "It does not have to be this way. This generation of Americans still has

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time to become great. We must save our country now. And we will do that by rebuilding the dream."

In a speech that gave short shrift to foreign policy, Mr. O'Malley worked hard to tap into resentments rooted in the 2008 financial collapse. "Tell me how it is that you can get pulled over for a broken taillight in our country," he said, "but if you wreck the nation's economy, you are untouchable."

His aides say Mr. O'Malley is a true progressive, one who became involved early on the issue of same-sex marriage, and a scrappy underdog who takes to tough political fights. He staked out early ground on an immigration overhaul in 2014, accusing the Obama administration of heartlessness in deporting children who had crossed the border from Mexico.

But Mr. O'Malley was also a staunch supporter of Mrs. Clinton in her 2008 presidential campaign — he called her ideas "new" then — and he rose to prominence as a tough-on-crime mayor in Baltimore, a city scarred by drugs and violence.

In two years of travels to Iowa and New Hampshire, he has frequently been reluctant to discuss Mrs. Clinton or to draw a pointed contrast with her, doing so only obliquely. He has faulted unnamed politicians for "triangulation," for example, a word associated with the Clintons' up-the-middle political calculations since the 1990s.

Who Is Running for President (and Who's Not)?

It is also unclear whether Mr. O'Malley can aggressively raise funds without a devoted base of support, which Mr. Sanders can draw on, or a raft of major donors, which Mrs. Clinton enjoys.

In his remarks on Saturday, Mr. O'Malley seemed to have made peace with that, as he repeatedly portrayed the financial industry in a harsh light.

"Recently the C.E.O. of Goldman Sachs let his employees know that he'd be just fine with either Bush or Clinton," Mr. O'Malley said, referring to Jeb Bush, a likely Republican candidate, and Mrs. Clinton. "I bet he would!"

"Well, I've got news for the bullies of Wall Street," Mr. O'Malley added as the crowd cheered. "The presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth, by you, between two royal families. It is a sacred trust to be earned from the American people and exercised on behalf of the people of these United States."

The announcement did not go off without a hitch: Mr. O'Malley's sound system conked out in the middle of a video made for the occasion, just before he took the stage.

His admirers believe he fills a natural void in the Democratic primary.

"Here you've got a clear generational divide, and a lot of Americans think about that," said Gary Hart, a former Colorado senator and Democratic presidential candidate. "They are less inclined to divide themselves in the world between liberals and conservatives, and more between the past and the future."

It was Mr. Hart's come-from-behind candidacy in the 1984 Democratic primaries, which ultimately fell short, that helped inform Mr. O'Malley's thinking about his own race. He often peppers his remarks with variants of Mr. Hart's campaign mantra: "New ideas, new generation."

Mr. O'Malley, who grew up in the Washington suburbs, took time off from Catholic University to work on Mr. Hart's campaign that year. He later moved to Baltimore, married into a political family, became a city councilman and won the first of two terms as mayor in 1999 in a crowded field. He was credited with a crackdown on crime and on drugs.

He went on to win two terms as governor of Maryland. His star still rising, he was often described as a results-oriented policy expert, who signed into law bills allowing same-sex marriage and raising the minimum wage.

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But he also presided over a disastrous rollout of a health care exchange under the Affordable Care Act. And his legacy as mayor and then governor was called into question only last month when an unarmed black man, Freddie Gray, died of injuries sustained while he was in police custody here, sparking days of unrest.

Mr. O'Malley returned to the city to walk its streets even as critics of his tough-minded approach to policing — a few of whom protested his announcement — said his policies had created the climate for racial tensions that led to Mr. Gray's death.

Mr. O'Malley acknowledged Saturday that the episode was "heartbreaking," but said, "There is something to be offered to our country from those flames."

"The scourge of hopelessness that happened to ignite here that evening transcends race. It transcends geography," he said. He argued that poverty and drug addiction were killing young white people, not just blacks, in small towns and in cities, but that politicians had failed to respond.

"We have work to do," Mr. O'Malley said. "Our economic and political system is upside down and backwards, and it is time to turn it around."

Think big, make political revolution // Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier // James Lynch - May 30, 2015

Think big, Bernie Sanders told an overflow crowd that clapped, cheered and gave him standing ovations for his call for campaign finance reform, a single-payer Medicare-for-all health care system, free college tuition, universal preschool and paid paternity leave.

Please don't think small," said the Vermont senator who is seeking the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

"Think be big. Be involved. Let's make a political revolution," Sanders said Saturday morning at the Robert A. Lee Community Center in Iowa City. More than 300 people filled the room and more than 200 listened outside.

Mary Pat Cavanaugh of Iowa City was ready to enlist after listening to Sanders speak and answer questions for more than an hour.

"I'm signing up," she said, explaining "I can't live with the way the country is going anymore."

Her biggest issues – and one of Sanders' – is income inequality.

"It's the most immoral. It infuriates me that we let it happen," Cavanaugh said.

It can be undone, according to Sanders, an independent who self-identifies as a Democratic socialist. It must be undone if the nation is going to address a multitude of issues.

"It's our job to transfers that wealth back down to the middle class and working families," he said. "We have to deal with this issues of distribution of wealth, and when we begin to do that we will have the resources to deal with paternity leave, to deal with the mental health care needs of our kids, to make sure that every veteran who comes back from a war gets the health care he or she needs."

It won't happen when the top one-tenth of the 1 percent control almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent of Americans and is using its wealth to buy the political process in Washington and state capitols. So he called for a constitutional amendment to turn back the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United.

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Noting that he was speaking in a university community, Sanders called for free tuition at public colleges and universities.

One of great crises facing this country is the fact that we live in a very competitive global economy. If we are going to compete effectively … we need the best-educated workforce in the world.

Hundreds of thousands of young people can't afford to go to college and those who graduate often have tens of thousands of dollars of debt, Sanders said.

"What kind of stupidity is it?" he asked.

That touched Connor McPartland, a recent University of Iowa graduate from Missouri, who sported a "Bernie" sticker.

"I have lots of loans and his plan to let me refinance that hits close to home," he said.

Sanders, who called for an investment in infrastructure to create as many as 13 million good-paying jobs, will need to knit together the Cavanaughs and McPartlands along with those whose priorities include expanding Social Security benefits, raising the minimum wage and opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership and increased spending on the military.

"I can't do this alone," he said. "I can't win the election by myself. I can't governor by myself. The political revolution means that each and every person here and in America in his or her own way has got to take a stand.

"You are not wasting your time," he concluded. "What you're doing what is the most patriotic. You are standing up for America and standing up for democracy. That's what we've all got to do."

Bernie Sanders in Iowa City: Think big, make political // The Gazette // James Q. Lynch - May 30, 2015

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More stories from James Q. Lynch

Former Iowa GOP chair downplays concerns with straw poll

Five tied for national lead in GOP nomination race

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Lincoln Chafee to announce presidential run on June 3 // Politico // Ben Schreckinger and Jonathan Topaz - May 30, 2015

With no mega-donor waiting in the wings, the super PAC will also be banking on small contributions from younger donors. "When you spend your entire career fighting … for the most disadvantaged, it is unlikely that a candidate or a super PAC is going to have any cozy relationship with billionaires or Wall Street executives."

The event itself had the feel of a preppy 4th of July barbecue, with supporters in Ray-Bans waving American flags passed out by organizers – an appropriate prop for any political rally but especially so for O'Malley, who often cloaks himself in Baltimore's ties to the War of 1812 and the composition of the Star-Spangled Banner after the bombing of Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor. Indeed, he delivered his announcement directly beneath a massive American flag perched above the city's Inner Harbor.

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With sweat glistening on his brow, O'Malley pledged to "rebuild the American dream now in our time" and laid out a progressive agenda of restoring the middle class, creating a massive jobs program for renewable energy, and tightening financial industry regulation.

He drew his biggest applause for a triple shot at the biggest names in both parties and on Wall Street.

"Recently, the CEO of Goldman Sachs let his employees know that he'd be just fine with either Bush or Clinton. I bet he would," said O'Malley. "Well, I've got news for the bullies of Wall Street — the presidency is not a crown to be passed back and forth by you between two royal families."

O'Malley also directly addressed the unrest in Baltimore, saying it pointed to larger issues than policing and was the result of the systematic economic problems he intended to address as president.

In January, O'Malley left the governor's office on a down note. Despite unseating incumbent Republican Bob Ehrlich in 2006 and cruising to an easy reelection four years later in a rematch, his lieutenant governor and anointed successor Anthony Brown lost election to an unknown Republican, a stunning upset chalked up to a combination of inept campaigning and O'Malley fatigue after he introduced a series of tax hikes.

Whatever roadblocks O'Malley faces, his camp makes the case that Democratic voters will recognize him as a true progressive who is also electable as a nominee. As Clinton wages a stage-managed campaign and avoids contact with the press, O'Malley's camp is betting that his knack for hands-on retail politicking will give him an advantage in early states like Iowa and New Hampshire where voters have to come to expect exactly that. "The early-state process really suits the governor," said one O'Malley insider.

Any path to the nomination would likely have to run through Iowa, a state that historically has been less kind to the Clintons than New Hampshire. O'Malley invested heavily there in the last election cycle, sending 14 staffers from his O'Say Can You See PAC to aid Iowa Democrats in what turned out to be a disastrous midterm election for the state party. O'Malley attended more than 20 events in Iowa last year and has visited the state several times this year.

Following the announcement, O'Malley has events scheduled in Iowa on Saturday and in New Hampshire on Sunday.

Even Clinton's camp has conceded the nominating contest will become more heated than many people expect — and O'Malley has nowhere to go but up as the primary electorate tunes into the race and gets acquainted with a youthful-looking politician who fronts his own Irish rock band and used Snapchat to announce the location of his announcement.

"No matter what we think right now, there's going to be intense focus on this as we get close to the Iowa caucuses," said Bill Carrick, who managed Richard Gephardt's 1988 presidential campaign. "It almost inevitably is forced to become a competition."

Dem ocrats Seek a Richer Roster to Match G.O.P. // NYT // Eric Lichtblau and Nicholas Confessore - May 30, 2015

Over the last few months, Harold M. Ickes, a longtime ally ofHillary Rodham Clinton, has helped organize private meetings around the country with union leaders, Clinton backers and Democratic strategists. The pressing topic: Who will step up to be the Democrats' megadonors in the 2016 presidential race?

Republican contenders have already secured hundreds of millions of dollars in commitments from a stable of billionaires, including a Wall Street hedge fund executive, a Las Vegas casino magnate, a Florida auto dealer, a Wyoming investor and, of course, the Kansas-born billionaires David H. and Charles G. Koch. But none of the biggest Democratic donors from past elections — for example, the Chicago investor Fred Eychaner, the climate-change activist Tom Steyer and the entertainment mogul Jeffrey Katzenberg — have committed to supporting Mrs. Clinton on nearly the same scale.

"No one has stepped forward as the savior," said Matt Bennett, a longtime Democratic consultant in Washington.

The leading super PAC backing Mrs. Clinton, Priorities USA Action, has won commitments of only about $15 million so far, Democrats involved with the group's fund-raising said. And while the absence of a competitive race for the Democratic nomination gives Mrs. Clinton more time to catch up with

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Republican rivals, her allies are planning to push the party's wealthiest donors for more money than most of them have ever given.

Interactive Feature | What Hillary Clinton Would Need to Do to Win Mrs. Clinton can expect little if any opposition in the Democratic primaries. But she was similarly well positioned when she declared her candidacy in 2007.

In planning sessions and one-on-one meetings with donors, Mr. Ickes, who is a Priorities USA board member, and other Clinton supporters are discussing how to raise as much as $300 million for Democratic outside groups. That is almost twice as much as Democratic super PACs and other outside groups spent to help re-elect President Obama in 2012, when conservative super PACs far outspent liberal ones.

This ambitious goal will require the emergence of a new class of at least 20 Democratic donors who can give $5 million or even $10 million each. Mr. Ickes said recruiting them would not be easy.

"Our side isn't used to being asked for that kind of money," Mr. Ickes said. "If you asked them to put up $100 million for a hospital wing, they'd be the first in line."

The hurdles begin with the candidate. While Mrs. Clinton has committed to meeting personally with potential super PAC donors, people close to her say she has not yet grappled with the kind of big-donor courting that has framed the early months of the Republican race.

Interactive Feature | Who Is Running for President (and Who's Not)? At least a dozen Republicans and a handful of Democrats have expressed an interest in running for their party's 2016 presidential nomination.

She is also navigating the intricate rules on what a candidate may do to help super PACs, which, since the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision in 2010, can raise unlimited funds from individuals and corporations but may not "coordinate" with candidates. Fearful of violating the rules, Mrs. Clinton plans to limit her direct appeals to donors.

Those appeals also threaten to undercut her message on the corrupting influence of unchecked money in politics: She has called for repealing Citizens United and hassaid that changing the country's campaign finance system to "get unaccountable money out of it once and for all" would be among her top priorities as president.

Mrs. Clinton also faces a perception that neither she nor her husband, former President Bill Clinton, is exactly lacking cash. Together, they earned at least $30 million in the last 16 months. And Mr. Clinton's aggressive courting of donors, in the White House and now as head of the Clinton Foundation, has been an enduring source of controversy.

Inflated estimates of Mrs. Clinton's campaign budget — a figure of $2.5 billion was widely circulated — have also been a headache for her campaign and for Priorities USA. A more realistic fund-raising target for her campaign, they say, is around $1 billion.

One challenge for Mr. Ickes and other fund-raisers is convincing potential donors, large and small, of the importance of super PACs to Mrs. Clinton's chances. In part to convey that message, Priorities USA recently brought in Guy Cecil, a well-known Democratic operative with close ties to Mrs. Clinton's campaign, to lead the organization.

In an interview, Mr. Cecil acknowledged the need for a cultural shift among Democratic givers. "People are starting to understand that Priorities' work is critical and not just a luxury," he said. "If we are going to be successful in 2016, it will require more from everyone, at every level."

Mrs. Clinton will have little difficulty mustering a large network of so-called bundlers, the donors at the heart of a presidential campaign's fund-raising operation, who solicit contributions limited to a few thousand dollars from their friends and business associates. But the pool of Democratic super PAC donors is smaller and more specialized: The checks they write are far larger, and the money would go not to Mrs. Clinton's campaign but to outside groups like Priorities USA.

Some of those donors have poured substantial sums into Democratic super PACs in past election cycles: Mr. Steyer, a retired California hedge fund founder, invested $74 million in 2014 to pressure candidates to back policies to combat climate change, becoming the Democratic Party's leading donor. Mr. Eychaner, a press-shy Chicago media investor active in gay rights issues, gave at least $22 million to Democratic super PACs in 2012 and 2014.

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Other potential super PAC donors, like the Walmart heiress Alice Walton, the Los Angeles investor Ron Burkle and the media investor Haim Saban, are believed to be prospects this year because of their longstanding ties to the Clinton family. Another possibility, and one of the wealthiest, is former Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York, though most of the millions of dollars he has donated in recent years have gone to his own super PAC, which has backed Republicans as well as Democrats.

Other potential donors of $10 million or more, fearful of being targeted for attacks by Republicans, want to write the biggest checks only when their peers do, forcing Democratic fund-raisers to devise what are in effect donor buddy systems, matching up would-be givers who can synchronize their check-writing.

For those still nervous, Priorities USA is also considering resurrecting an affiliated nonprofit group that could accept secret donations. Such fund-raising has been roundly denounced by watchdog groups — and, recently, by Mrs. Clinton herself.

A bigger problem, Democratic fund-raisers and super PAC officials acknowledge, is that they are out of practice. The peak for donations to Democratic outside groups was 2004, when the hedge fund billionaire George Soros and the insurance executive Peter B. Lewis poured close to $40 million into groups opposing President George W. Bush. The groups collected almost $200 million, largely on the strength of liberal donors' dislike of Mr. Bush.

"There will definitely be some sticker shock," said Michael Vachon, a political adviser to Mr. Soros. "The money game has changed even since the last election."

"Ted Cruz's super PAC raised $30 million in a few weeks," Mr. Vachon added, "and he has no more chance of being president than I have."

He said Mr. Soros had not yet decided how much he would give during the 2016 cycle.

Mel Heifetz, a Philadelphia real estate investor who gave $1 million in 2012 to Priorities USA, plans to contribute roughly the same amount for this campaign. But he worries about how much his fellow donors will give. "Even the wealthy Democrats I know have limitations as to what they'll contribute," he said.

In each of the last two election cycles, 14 of the top 20 donors gave their money to conservative organizations and Republican campaigns, according to data from the Center for Responsive Politics. That does not include most donations to the conservative network overseen by the Kochs, composed largely of nonprofit groups that do not reveal their donors. The network is planning to raise $889 million for its political and philanthropic efforts through 2016.

Sheldon Adelson, the Las Vegas casino developer who spent $93 million in 2012 to support Republican candidates, is likely to invest a similar sum this time. Robert Mercer, a hedge fund executive, has helped bankroll super PACs supporting Mr. Cruz, a United States senator from Texas. Norman Braman, a billionaire Miami auto dealer, plans to spend $10 million or more to support the campaign of Senator Marco Rubio of Florida. And Foster Friess, a mutual-fund investor in Wyoming who spent more than $2 million in 2012 on Rick Santorum's bid for the White House, is supporting him again this time.

Democrats concede that they may simply be outgunned in the battle for wealthy donors.

"It's really David versus Goliath," said Chris Lehane, a Democratic strategist and adviser to Mr. Steyer. They hosted a fund-raiser for Mrs. Clinton at Mr. Steyer's San Francisco home this month, with donations capped at $2,700.

Mr. Steyer has not said how much he plans to spend in the 2016 elections, but Mr. Lehane said his contributions would be "a drop in the bucket compared to what the Koch brothers and Big Oil are spending to push their agenda."

GOP

Sen. Rand Paul: Tomorrow I Will Stop the Illegal NSA Spying // TIME // Sen. Rand Paul - May 30,

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"We have all the tools we need to preserve both security and liberty"

Sunday, I will continue my fight to end the illegal collection of American phone records. The Second Appeals court has ruled the NSA's bulk collection of phone records illegal. We should not be debating modifying an illegal program. We should simply end this illegal program.

I have fought for several years now to end the invasive and illegal spying of the NSA on ordinary Americans. I am ready to debate how we fight terrorism without giving up our liberty.

Let me be clear: I acknowledge the need for a robust intelligence agency and for a vigilant national security. I believe we must fight terrorism, and I believe we must stand strong against our enemies.

Yet the expiration of the NSA's sweeping, all-encompassing and ineffectual powers will not relinquish functions necessary for protecting national security but will instead do what we should have done all along—rely on the Constitution for these powers.

Of particular concern is allowing law enforcement to continue surveillance on suspected terrorists. This tool will still be available but through constitutionally sound warrants permitted by the Fourth Amendment. The only change is that the FBI must obtain a specific warrant for each device used by the suspect under surveillance through individualized warrants granted by the courts.

Bulk collection of phone records didn't find or stop the Tsarnaev brothers from the massacre in Boston. In fact, one might argue that all of the money spent on bulk collection takes money away from human analysts that might have noticed the older brother's trip to become radicalized in Chechnya. Just this week the FBI opined that they don't have enough resources to monitor jihadists suspects in the U.S.

I would take the billions spent on collecting records of suspicionless Americans and spend it instead on FBI agents to monitor suspects who have given probable cause that they are a danger to us. In the recent jihadist attack in Texas, one of the terrorists was well known to authorities. He had already been convicted of a terrorism charge. I would spend more money and more time developing probable cause warrants to delve deeply and effectively into individuals like this.

Individual warrants every day are used to arrest dangerous people. I see no reason we can't defend ourselves using the same Constitutional processes we've used for over two centuries.

Our country was founded on the principle of individual—not general—warrants.

After the current illegal powers end Sunday night the government could still get a warrant. It will just have to say on it Mr. John Smith, not Mr. Verizon.

One suspect, one warrant. Not hundreds of millions of records swept up in one illegal order.

I would argue this will make us more safe, not less. It has been said that finding a terrorist is like finding a needle in a haystack. Well, for years, your government's answer has been to make the haystack bigger by gobbling up every American's information.

That must end.

The Second Circuit recently ruled that Section 215 of the Patriot Act does not authorize bulk collection of phone records, and an alternative collection mechanism is unnecessary. In fact, the recent Department of Justice Inspector General report showed that the government is using broad terms in these letters to receive mass electronic transactional records.

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The Inspector General report also concluded Section 215 was not responsible for preventing any terrorist plots because agents queried "did not identify any major case developments that resulted from use of the records obtained in response to Section 215 orders."

Opponents of civil liberties cite the expiration of the "lone wolf" provision as dangerous, but this provision allowing law enforcement to track suspects who are unaffiliated with a formal terror network has never been used in a single investigation during the 14 years of the Patriot Act's existence. Again, even when this provision expires, law enforcement will still be able to track foreign individuals who are suspected of engaging in terrorism through courts empowered to grant warrants if there is probable cause or reasonable suspicion.

The vast expansion of the spy state and the corresponding erosion of our Constitutional rights has not made America safer. Even the most vocal defenders of the program have failed to identify a single thwarted plot as a result of the government's sweeping, undefined, and illegal war on civil liberties.

The Obama presidency will be recalled as the era when most Democrats, with the notable exception of the principled Senator Ron Wyden, abandoned civil liberties for the tyranny of power—a far cry from then-Senator Obama's stirring defense of liberty in 2007. "Our Constitution works," Obama said. "We will again set an example for the world that the law is not subject to the whims of stubborn rulers, and that justice is not arbitrary."

It was a danger that Democratic Senator Frank Church presciently foresaw, warning that a dictator through the N.S.A. "could enable it to impose total tyranny, and there would be no way to fight back."

Our government is not comprised of angels, and we must have rules in place that acknowledge that, and protect our rights while protecting our national security.

Now, it's time for Republicans to lead when it comes to protecting the liberty of all Americans from the whims of stubborn rulers.

This president could fix the problem by himself but he hasn't done so. I stand ready to help lead the way on this important matter. On Sunday I will stop the illegal NSA spying.

Sen. Rand Paul Vows to Prevent Senate From Extending Patriot Act // WSJ // Kristina Peterson and Carole E. Lee - May 30, 2015

WASHINGTON—Republican presidential candidate Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky vowed Saturday to prevent the Senate from extending the Patriot Act, all but ensuring that some U.S. government surveillance activities will lapse Sunday at midnight.

The Senate will meet for what's expected to be a tumultuous debate on the legislation at 4 p.m. Sunday, one minute after the White House will begin the process of shutting down the National Security Agency's bulk collection of phone records. The bulk-data collection program is just one of a host of surveillance programs set to expire at midnight, although administration officials said authorization would begin to lapse at 8 p.m. if Congress doesn't act.

Senate Republicans are split over whether to overhaul the NSA program. But Mr. Paul's resistance will trump any compromises in a chamber that can only move swiftly when all lawmakers consent. Even if senators were to strike a deal Sunday easing sticking points over the 2001 national security law known as the Patriot Act, Mr. Paul's objections would prevent the chamber from skipping time-consuming procedural steps ahead of the midnight deadline.

"Tomorrow, I will force the expiration of the NSA illegal spy program," Mr. Paul said in a statement Saturday. "I believe we must fight terrorism, and I believe we must stand strong against our enemies. But we do not need to give up who we are to defeat them. In fact, we must not."

The House has already passed a bipartisan bill, known as the U.S.A. Freedom Act, which would end the NSA's collection of bulk phone information, requiring the government instead to obtain court approval to request phone records from telephone companies on a case-by-case basis. The White House supports that measure, too. But in the Senate last week it fell three votes short of the 60 needed to clear a procedural hurdle on the bill.

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Although aides said support for the House measure is growing in the Senate, it could only pass before the midnight deadline if all 100 senators agreed to speed up debate on the measure. Mr. Paul made clear he wouldn't permit that. He is also expected to block any short-term extensions of the current law. Mr. Paul has made his opposition to the government surveillance laws a centerpiece of his presidential campaign, criticizing the program for more than 10 hours on the Senate floor earlier this month.

President Barack Obama warned Friday that any lapse in the surveillance programs puts the U.S. at risk of missing a terrorism threat and called on the Senate to act by Sunday's deadline.

"We've only got a few days," Mr. Obama said in the Oval Office after meeting with Attorney General Loretta Lynch. "I don't want us to be in a situation in which for a certain period of time those authorities go away, where suddenly we're dark, and heaven forbid we have a problem where we could have prevented a terrorist attack or apprehended someone who engaged in dangerous activity, but we didn't do so simply because of inaction in the Senate."

Mr. Paul's plans were set to thwart a strategy put in place by his fellow Kentucky GOP senator, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has used looming deadlines to try to force the chamber to move quickly. Mr. McConnell has challenged the House measure, saying its constraints could harm national security. But his efforts to convince lawmakers that a short-term extension of current law was the only way to prevent a lapse backfired, when Mr. Paul and some Democrats appeared ready to let the law expire.

"Senator Paul is only in a position to force the Patriot Act to expire because of Senator McConnell's reckless, irresponsible tactics and inability to communicate with his fellow Republicans," said Adam Jentleson, spokesman for Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D., Nev.)

The Senate may vote again Sunday on the House bill, which the White House and senior House Republicans have been urging them to pass to avoid any lapses in the law.

"Because opponents of reform have run out the clock and jammed the Senate, we are not left with much time," Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in remarks prepared for the Senate floor on Sunday. "If we pass the U.S.A. Freedom Act, the president can sign it tonight. And the intelligence community can move forward with the certainty it needs to protect the American people."

Among their biggest opponents has been Mr. McConnell, who has raised concerns that the House bill wouldn't require phone companies to retain the phone records information that could help authorities spot terrorist activity. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr (R., N.C.) also has suggested extending the House bill's six-month transition for telephone companies to take over the data collection to two years.

Even if the Senate were to strike a deal on those two issues, it isn't clear that the House would accept the changes to the bill it passed easily in a 338-88 vote. The House Judiciary Committee voted down an amendment from Rep. Steve King (R., Iowa) that would have added a data retention mandate.

"There's a real risk if they start to tamper with the U.S.A. Freedom Act that they produce something that may get through the Senate, but won't get through the House," said Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. For instance, lengthening the bill's transition period could cost it support in the House, he said. "That kind of delay I don't think people are going to support."

The Senate's actions may also be constrained again by 2016 presidential candidate Sen. Rand Paul (R., Ky.) Last week, objections primarily from Mr. Paul and some liberal Democrats, blocked the Senate from passing a short-term extension of the Patriot Act provisions that needed the support of all 100 senators to skip time-consuming procedural steps.

Mr. Paul has made his opposition to the government surveillance laws a centerpiece of his presidential campaign and is expected to block short-term extensions on Sunday.

"On Sunday, I'm going to fight to end the NSA's illegal spying program with everything I've got," Mr. Paul tweeted this week.

"If he wants to wreck this thing for whatever reasons, he potentially could," said Sen. Dan Coats (R., Ind.).

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Groups as disparate as the liberal American Civil Liberties Union and conservative Tea Party Patriots agree that the bulk-collection program should expire. The two groups said Friday the fact that they find common ground should lead Congress to take seriously arguments against the government's surveillance tactics.

Anthony Romero, executive director of the ACLU, and Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder and president of the Tea Party Patriots, hailed the robust public debate surrounding surveillance on a call with reporters. Mr. Romero urged the Senate not to short-circuit the conversation by approving the House measure.

Ms. Martin targeted phone records in particular, saying the Tea Party Patriots would be satisfied with the expiration of that provision alone or with its modification under the U.S.A. Freedom Act. However, the ACLU is seeking broader changes to the national security law passed in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"Neither the Tea Party or the ACLU has any issue with the need of the government to prosecute individuals who do harm to our nation," Mr. Romero said. "The question is how."

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Friday that the only way to avoid that is for Congress to reach an agreement on Sunday.

"There is no plan B," Mr. Earnest said. "There is no executive action that the president can take to give our law enforcement and national security professionals the tools they need, all of the tools that they need, including the tools that are included in the U.S.A. Freedom Act."

However, he said, "if faced with a scenario in which they have some of these tools taken out of their toolbox, they will try to use all of the tools that they currently have to do what's necessary to keep us safe."

Lawmakers said efforts to reauthorize the surveillance program—if it is allowed to lapse—would be complicated by a recent court challenge.

"It becomes more difficult to pass a bill later if the authorities are allowed to completely expire," Mr. Schiff said.

Walker maintains popularity with 7-point lead // Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacob - May 30, 2015

Scott Walker's popularity streak in Iowa is real: He's seven percentage points ahead of his nearest competition in the presidential horse race here, chased by a tight pack of four in a clear top tier: Ben Carson, Rand Paul, Jeb Bush and Mike Huckabee.

Marco Rubio lags in a single-digit scrum, but a deeper look into the numbers shows that if Walker is the hare in Iowa, Rubio may be the tortoise, potentially positioned to pull ahead if he campaigns hard, a new Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics Iowa Poll finds.

Walker, a Wisconsin governor known for imposing restrictions on labor unions, hasn't officially announced he's running for the White House in 2016, but he's the first choice for 17 percent of likely GOP caucusgoers in Iowa, making him the one to beat in an oversized field of 16 Republicans tested.

"He's fearless," said poll respondent Suzanne Sawyer, a 53-year-old Fort Dodge small-business owner who considers herself very conservative. "He will do what's right for the people that he was elected by. He has proven that in Wisconsin — he went to bat on collective bargaining to get things back in line financially. He's out to do what's best for the state, not what's best for him politically."

Two-thirds of likely Republican caucusgoers view Walker favorably, the highest in the poll, including nearly a third of respondents who view him very favorably.

Walker is now more solidly the front-runner than in a January Iowa Poll, when he had 15 percent and was a lone percentage point ahead of Rand Paul, a Kentucky U.S. senator who agitates against government snooping and warmongering. Paul remains in second place, tied at 10 percent with Ben Carson, a retired brain surgeon who leads with women who plan to attend the GOP caucuses.

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Paul bests the field in attracting moderate Republicans, independents who intend to attend the Republican caucuses (21 percent, all but double any other contender), and likely GOP caucusgoers who are under 45. Paul, who has said the GOP "can have people on both sides" of the same-sex marriage issue, has inherited many of the liberty movement conservatives who supported his father, then-Texas U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, in his Iowa caucus races in 2008 and 2012.

But Rand Paul has seen his favorability rating in the poll drop by 9 percentage points since January, more than for any other GOP contender.

"Paul is slightly worse off, which tells me that his efforts to woo his father's supporters have hurt him with typical GOP voters," said Katie Packer, a Washington, D.C.-based GOP strategist who worked for Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign.

She said of Ben Carson: "People should not underestimate him. He is not going to be the nominee, but he will have influence on who is. Someone will have to go after him soon."

Next in the horse race are Bush, a former governor of Florida, and Mike Huckabee, a former Arkansas governor and winner of the 2008 Iowa caucuses. They're tied with 9 percent, the new poll shows.

In the last four months, Bush and Carson have each gained 1 percentage point. Paul lost four points, and Huckabee lost one.

Data show Rubio has easier path than Bush

The numbers drop off after the top five contenders, leaving a lagging pack with eight months to go before Iowa fires the starting gun on presidential voting.

Tied in sixth place with 6 percent are Rubio, a Florida U.S. senator who has set foot in Iowa only twice this year, and former Pennsylvania U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, a religious conservative who won the 2012 caucuses.

Although Rubio doesn't show up in the upper tier, he tops the list of contenders whom likely caucusgoers say is their second choice. Beyond that, 49 percent say they're willing to consider him. Rubio, who would become the nation's first Latino president if he wins the White House, also ranks third highest in favorability — 60 percent view him positively, and just 17 percent unfavorably.

"It really does suggest he's poised to break," pollster J. Ann Selzer said.

The underlying numbers show Bush, a relative of two previous U.S. presidents, has a tougher path in Iowa than Rubio. Bush is viewed unfavorably by more likely caucusgoers (45 percent) than anyone else except for Donald Trump, a Manhattan businessman turned reality TV personality (63 percent) and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (58 percent), who is known for his occasionally bellicose East Coast behavior.

And asked if they could ever support Bush for president, a third said no, never.

"I was looking real hard at Jeb Bush," said poll respondent Judy Heath, a 63-year-old hair stylist and artist from Bettendorf, "and then he opened his mouth and started talking. Time magazine had a great article on him and I thought, 'Maybe,' but then, 'No, no, no, not this again.' "

But Bush, who has logged just two Iowa visits this year and has yet to formally launch his presidential campaign, is considered the first or second choice for president by 16 percent of likely GOP caucusgoers, which ranks him in fourth place in the combined tally. By that measure, Walker stays firmly in first, (27 percent), Rubio is next (18 percent) and Huckabee is third (17 percent).

Bush ranks first with no demographic group, but he comes in second after Walker with GOP likely caucusgoers in four categories: those who are age 65

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and over, college graduates, Catholics and those who describe themselves as "conservative," as opposed to "very conservative."

"Jeb Bush and (campaign-manager-to-be) David Kochel should be pleased," said Iowa politics expert Kedron Bardwell, a professor at Simpson College.

Nine contenders come in at 5 percent or less

Five percent of likely caucusgoers say Texas U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz is their current first choice for president. That ranks him in eighth place in the overall horse race. Cruz, the first in the field to announce his candidacy, casts himself as a religious conservative and uncompromising fighter for the Constitution.

"I'm surprised that Cruz has not capitalized more on his announcement," Packer said. "I'm beginning to think that opinions are pretty solid and aren't likely to shift — either you like him or you don't."

Christie and Trump are tied for ninth place. In 11th place is former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, with 3 percent, followed by former tech company CEO Carly Fiorina and Ohio Gov. John Kasich with 2 percent.

Rounding out the bottom are South Carolina U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who are tied for 14th place with 1 percent each, while former New York Gov. George Pataki is at less than 1 percent.

The Iowa Poll of 402 likely Republican caucusgoers was conducted May 25-29 by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

— Register staff writer Jason Noble contributed to this report.

Few qualms about senators

Although it was a running GOP theme in the 2008 election that Barack Obama shouldn't be elected president because he was a first-term U.S. senator with no executive experience, the same resume isn't a problem for Republicans in the 2016 race.

There are three first-term senators (Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Marco Rubio of Florida) in the GOP nomination race. More than 70 percent of Iowa's likely GOP caucusgoers say it makes no difference in their support of any of them, the new Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics Iowa Poll shows.

Fiorina gains in favorability // Des Moines Register // Jennifer Jacobs - May 30, 2015

Even though Carly Fiorina is doing very poorly in the presidential horse race, esteem for the former tech company CEO has surged among GOP likely caucusgoers in the last four months.

Just 15 percent viewed her favorably in the last Des Moines Register/Bloomberg Politics Iowa Poll, in January. That has jumped to 41 percent in the May 25-29 poll.

None of the other 15 contenders tested saw their favorability rating climb as much since January. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and retired doctor Ben Carson saw the next biggest increases, up 6 points each.

Another finding: Pieces of Fiorina's resume that her rivals use to criticize her don't matter much to Republican caucusgoers. Most say it's not important that she was fired by Hewlett-Packard (70 percent), that she has never held elected office (59 percent), or that she laid off 30,000 employees as CEO (52 percent).

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Seventy-one percent say it's not important that she's the only woman in the GOP field. But 72 percent say it's important that she has aggressively taken on Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton.

"It's interesting that Carly is getting a lot of credit for aggressively going after Hillary, but not much credit for being a woman," said GOP consultant Katie Packer. "This tells me that the other candidates need to not be afraid and tentative about going after Hillary. They can't be a woman, but they can take on Hillary."

Christie to pull New Jersey from Common Core // The Hill // Jonathan Easley - May 30, 2015

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie announced Thursday he will pull his state out of Common Core, a move that could bolster his standing with grassroots Republican primary voters opposed to the education standards.

In an afternoon speech at Burlington County College in New Jersey, Christie said the program, which was implemented under his predecessor, former New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.), has “brought only confusion and frustration.”

“It’s now been five years since Common Core was adopted and the truth is that it’s simply not working,” he said, according to remarks provided by his office. “It has brought only confusion and frustration to our parents and has brought distance between our teachers and the communities where they work. Instead of solving problems in our classrooms, it is creating new ones. And when we aren’t getting the job done for our children, we need to do something different.”

Christie’s decision will be viewed in light of his political ambitions. He’s considering running for president but trails badly in the polls as he seeks to recover from the scandal surrounding lane closures on the George Washington Bridge.

Common Core has become toxic on the right, with virtually every Republican presidential candidate except for Jeb Bush vowing to kill the standards if elected president.

Christie set up a panel last year to investigate the program’s implementation. In recent months, he’s become increasingly vocal about his misgivings, saying he had “real concerns” about “how it’s being rolled out” during a November appearance on a New Jersey radio show.

On Thursday he argued that federal meddling has spoiled the education standards, which have become a symbol of government overreach among many on the right.

“I have heard far too many people – teachers and parents from across the state – that the Common Core standards were not developed by New Jersey educators and parents,” he said. “As a result, the buy in from both communities has not been what we need for maximum achievements.

“I agree. It is time to have standards that are even higher and come directly from our communities,” Christie said. “And, in my view, this new era can be even greater by adopting new standards right here in New Jersey – not 200 miles away on the banks of the Potomac River.”

Christie said he will task David Hespe, the commissioner of New Jersey’s Department of Education, with assembling a panel of teachers, educators and parents to develop new standards.

Many believe Bush's past embrace of the standards could doom his candidacy. He did not implement them as governor, but embraced them since leaving office through his education foundation.

Bush has fought back by seeking to highlight Florida's education turnaround under his watch. Bush has argued that he supports high standards in general, whether those come through Common Core or not, and that he opposes the federal overreach that many argue have corrupted Common Core.

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DOMESTIC

Joe Biden's son, Beau, dies of brain cancer // Reuters // May 30, 2015

Beau Biden, son of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, has died after battling brain cancer, the vice president said on Saturday.

"The entire Biden family is saddened beyond words. We know that Beau's spirit will live on in all of us, especially through his brave wife, Hallie, and two remarkable children, Natalie and Hunter," said a statement released by the White House.

Biden was 46 and a former Delaware attorney general. He had been hospitalized this month for treatment at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center outside Washington.

After eight years as attorney general, Beau Biden joined the investor law firm Grant & Eisenhofer in 2015.

He served a yearlong tour in Iraq as a captain in the Delaware Army National Guard and underwent surgery at a cancer center in Texas last year. He suffered a mild stroke in 2010.

President Barack Obama paid warm tribute to Beau Biden, saying he took after his father.

"He studied the law, like his dad, even choosing the same law school. He chased a life of public service, like his dad, serving in Iraq and as Delaware's Attorney General," Obama said in a statement.

"Like his dad, Beau was a good, big-hearted, devoutly Catholic and deeply faithful man, who made a difference in the lives of all he touched, and he lives on in their hearts."

The vice president has faced family tragedy before. Shortly after winning election to the U.S. Senate in 1972, his wife Neilia and three children were in a car crash. Neilia and their daughter were killed, while their two sons, Beau and Hunter, were injured.

Joe Biden has been Obama's vice president since the president first took office in January 2009. He has a deep knowledge of Washington politics after decades in the U.S. Senate, and a folksy, avuncular style that contrasts with Obama's more aloof manner.

Patriot Act Deadline Forces Rare Sunday Senate Session // RCP // James Arkin - May 30, 2015

The Senate will gavel in a rare weekend session Sunday afternoon, just hours ahead of the midnight expiration of controversial Patriot Act provisions, but the path to a solution remains very much unclear.

At issue is Section 215 of the 2001 Patriot Act, which is used as legal justification for the National Security Agency's bulk telephone data collection, the program revealed two years ago by leaker Edward Snowden. For the most part, lawmakers currently fall into three camps: those who would like to see the law reauthorized and the program continue unchanged; those who support a reform measure that would end the bulk data collection; and those who would prefer to see the entire Patriot Act expire.

The Sunday session is a direct result of the Senate's failure to find a solution during a Friday night session last week that carried into the early hours of Saturday, with lawmakers equally eager to solve the problem and make it home for the Memorial Day recess. Two attempts to clear the 60-vote threshold failed: one involved reform legislation that passed overwhelmingly in the House, and the other was to extend the program for two months, thus allowing time for the debate to continue.

After those two votes failed, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell tried to extend the program for one week, then four days, then two days and finally a single day, but opponents objected each time, after which McConnell announced the session this Sunday.

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“One more opportunity to act responsibly to not allow this program to expire,” McConnell said. “This is a high-threat period and we know what’s going on overseas, we know what’s been tried here at home. My colleagues, do we really want this law to expire? We’ve got a week to discuss it; we’ll have one day to do it. So we better be ready next Sunday afternoon to prevent the country from being endangered by the total expiration of the program.”

It remains unclear, however, what direction the session will take. McConnell entered motions to recommit for both the House-passed USA Freedom Act and the short-term, two-month extension, which means he can bring both of those up for a vote again. He has not indicated, however, whether either will get another vote Sunday.

Proponents of the USA Freedom Act – which passed the House before recess by a 338-88 margin – argue that it is the only way forward, particularly just hours before the deadline. The House isn’t scheduled to return until Monday afternoon, after the program expires, thus making any short-term fix extremely unlikely. Though the Senate failed to move the House bill by a 57-42 margin last week, there is some confidence that three or more votes could be picked up with the deadline imminent.

Utah Republican Sen. Mike Lee, one of the co-sponsors and most vocal supporters of the USA Freedom Act, said he thinks there is a “good chance” it would pass if brought back up for a vote Sunday. Lee said he’s been “working the phones aggressively” during the recess with colleagues who are on the fence.

“There were several people who voted against it Friday night who I know felt that they’d rather have something pass rather than nothing,” he told RealClearPolitics in an interview. “I really think they would have voted for it and I’m even more confident that we’ll have several who voted against it who would vote for it now.”

Part of the problem for McConnell, who preferred a clean reauthorization of the Patriot Act provisions without any changes, as well as supporters of the USA Freedom Act, is Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a 2016 presidential candidate and extremely vocal critic of the NSA’s domestic surveillance practices. Paul staged a filibuster last week, delaying consideration of the Patriot Act provisions, and later blocked multiple attempts by McConnell to renew the program for even as little as one day. He does not support the House bill and voted against it last Friday.

Paul has been forcefully fundraising off his recent Senate action, sending out a slew of emails to supporters during the recess talking about his stance against the NSA and asking for donations. In a lengthy email Friday morning, the libertarian-leaning senator said his 10-½ hour filibuster “has thrown Washington, D.C. into turmoil.”

“When the Senate comes back into session on May 31st, there will be just eight hours for spy state apologists to reach a deal to keep these programs going,” Paul wrote in the email. “Eight hours! I'm determined to do whatever I can to stop them – regardless of the ugly smears I face by both the press and surveillance state backers.”

A super PAC supporting Paul also released a Wrestlemania-style video Friday in anticipation of the special session. It featured Paul’s face Photoshopped onto a buff wrestler’s body and alluded to a showdown between him and President Obama – with the Kentucky senator labeled “The Rand Man” and an announcer calling him a “defender of freedom.” The ad highlighted how important the NSA fight is for Paul’s White House aspirations.

McConnell, who supports his fellow home state senator’s presidential run, has said that he and Paul simply have a difference of opinion on the issue, and that it’s not personal, according to the Associated Press. The majority leader also said that the wide margin of support in the House for the USA Freedom Act “makes it pretty challenging to extend the law as it is."

Lee said the choice is simply to pass the House-passed bill or let the surveillance authorities expire, and that he believes there is no alternative path forward because of the serious time constraints.

The pressure on McConnell to halt his opposition to the House bill has come from all sides. Obama supports the House measure and the White House has increasingly called this week for the Senate to pass it. Democrats have also applied pressure after nearly unanimously supporting the legislation last week – with independent Sen. Angus King, who caucuses with the Democrats, the only one voting against cloture. Democratic leadership – Minority Leader Harry Reid and Sens. Dick Durbin, Chuck Schumer and Patty Murray – released a joint statement Thursday pushing McConnell to pass the House bill.

“It's been five days since we adjourned while punting this issue until the 11th hour,” the senators said. “In that time, we have not moved any closer towards a solution but we have moved closer to the expiration of these authorities that you insist must not occur. It is time to abandon your opposition to the USA Freedom Act, and pass this bill.”

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Lee said he could have potentially supported a short-term extension last week with the goal being to debate amendments to the USA Freedom Act on the Senate floor, but the window for that option has passed.

"I've been telling my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, if you want the provisions at issue to expire Sunday night, do nothing," Lee said. "If you want them not to expire, I think we've got exactly one option to do that, which is passing exactly what the House passed by an overwhelming margin."

Sunday sessions in the Senate are extremely rare, with the last one coming Dec. 15, 2013 and lasting just 20 minutes, with no votes. The last time the Senate voted on a Sunday was during the fiscal cliff showdown in late December 2012. There have been only eight Sunday sessions for the Senate during Obama's presidency.

Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert accused of hiding sex abuse of former student // Richard A. Serrano and Katherine Skiba - LAT // May 30, 2015

Dennis Hastert stumbled into political power amid a Republican sex scandal in 1998 that unexpectedly elevated the husky Illinoisan to a position just two heartbeats away from the presidency.

He became the longest-serving Republican House speaker in U.S. history, but remained so proud of his days as a small-town high school teacher and wrestling coach that he relished the Capitol Hill nickname "Coach."

But this week those once-idolized small-town roots caught up with the 73-year-old Hastert, who in recent years has worked behind the scenes as a Washington power broker.

On Friday, federal law enforcement officials said Hastert had paid $1.7 million over the last four years to conceal sexual abuse against a former male student he knew during his days as a teacher in Yorkville, Ill., where Hastert worked until 1981.

A top federal law enforcement official, who would not be identified speaking about the ongoing federal case, said investigators also spoke with a second man who raised similar allegations that corroborated what the former student said. The second person was not being paid by Hastert, the official said.

The disclosures followed Thursday's federal indictment against Hastert on charges of lying to the FBI about the reasons for large cash withdrawals he is accused of making to buy the man's silence.

"It goes back a long way, back to then," a second official said. "It has nothing to do with public corruption or a corruption scandal. Or to his time in office."

Hastert allegedly began by withdrawing $50,000 at a time, but when the

activity was questioned by banking officials, he reduced the withdrawals to under $10,000, the indictment said.

That caught the attention of financial regulators, who suspected Hastert was trying to evade federal reporting requirements.

Concerned that Hastert might be the victim of criminal extortion arising from his government work or involved in some illegal activity, FBI agents asked the former speaker about the withdrawals. Hastert told the agents that he distrusted banks and still had the cash in his possession, according to the indictment.

Former colleagues expressed surprise at the charges. "Anyone who knows Denny is shocked and confused by the recent news," Sen. Mark Steven Kirk (R-Ill.) said Friday. "The former speaker should be afforded, like any other American, his day in court to address these very serious accusations."

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It was another sex scandal that led to Hastert's improbable rise to become House speaker.

He was plucked from a junior GOP leadership position in December 1998 after Republicans ousted former Speaker Newt Gingrich following a poor midterm election showing and then Gingrich's presumed successor, Rep. Bob Livingston of Louisiana, admitted to an extramarital affair and turned down the post.

In chaos and division, the party turned to a pragmatic, no-drama Midwesterner who was believed to have nothing to hide: J. Dennis Hastert.

Dubbed the “Accidental Speaker,” he dealt with the passage of President George W. Bush's tax cuts and the expansion of Medicare to include prescription drugs. In the aftermath of Sept. 11, he oversaw efforts to get money to New York and negotiate the Patriot Act.

Hastert left Congress in 2007, after Democrats had assumed the majority in the 2006 midterm election. Six months later, Dickstein Shapiro announced he was joining its team as a senior advisor, though he had to wait to become a lobbyist because of a federally mandated cooling-off period.

On Thursday, there were signs that Hastert's world had been turned upside down.

A spokesman for the CME Group confirmed that Hastert had resigned from the board of directors of the Chicago-based futures market operator.

Hastert also resigned his position as co-leader of Dickstein Shapiro's Public Policy and Political Law practice, a spokesman for the firm confirmed late Thursday.

Illinois legislators put on hold a proposal to spend $500,000 to put a statue in the state Capitol honoring Hastert. He had declined the offer about a month ago, a spokesman for state House Speaker Michael Madigan said.

On Friday, Hastert resigned from the board of the J. Dennis Hastert Center for Economics, Government and Public Policy at his alma mater, Wheaton College, a small, evangelical Christian college in the Chicago suburbs.

“The college respects Mr. Hastert's distinguished public service record and the due process being afforded him pursuant to the charges that have been filed against him,” Wheaton officials said in a statement announcing his resignation.

Thursday's indictment described misconduct against a person identified only as “Individual A,” noting that Hastert had known the person “most of Individual A's life.”

When asked about the nature of the alleged misconduct, the second official said, “It was sex.”

Hastert has not responded to requests for comment. A representative of the lobbying and law firm where he had worked, Dickstein Shapiro, declined to comment.

The indictment alleged Hastert had agreed to pay a total of $3.5 million to “compensate for and conceal his prior misconduct.”

He made several cash payments beginning in 2010, after being contacted by the individual, the indictment said.

U.S. judge grills lawyer defending Obama's healthcare law changes // Reuters // Lindsay

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Dunsmuir - May 28, 2015

A U.S. judge on Thursday blasted the Obama administration's motion to dismiss a lawsuit brought by Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives over the implementation of the Democratic president's signature healthcare law.

Republicans in the House filed a lawsuit in November, saying administration officials unlawfully bypassed Congress.

At issue are executive changes authorizing Treasury payments to healthcare insurers without the funding being agreed by Congress and delaying implementation of the law's employer mandate, which required employers with more than 50 employees to provide healthcare coverage.

U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer, appointed by Obama's predecessor, Republican George W. Bush, repeatedly interrupted U.S. Justice Department lawyer Joel McElvain during the hearing in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Justice Department lawyers argue that the House lacks standing to sue, citing a section of U.S. law that means the House would have to prove it has been directly harmed.

"So it is your position that if the House of Representatives affirmatively voted not to fund something ... then that vote can be ignored by the administration, because after all, no one can sue them?" she asked.

McElvain argued that the merits of the case were not being discussed at the hearing, and that any perceived injury was "abstract."

"I'm not asking you to give me your brief. I want you to explain ... why it's not an insult to the Constitution?" Collyer said.

McElvain argued that the House could pass new legislation if it disagreed with the administration's changes, which he said were legal under "pre-existing permanent appropriation."

At another point, Collyer admonished McElvain: "You can't just shake your head and not deal with the question."

The lawsuit is one of a flurry filed against the Obama administration in the past few months challenging executive actions on healthcare and immigration as Republicans seek to amp up pressure on the president.

Jonathan Turley, a lawyer for the House Republicans, said the lawsuit should go forward to show the power of the purse "should not be decorative."

The judge, while appearing sympathetic to the Republicans' decision to bring the lawsuit, said she had not yet decided on the standing issue before her.

The case is United States House of Representatives v. Burwell et al, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, No 14-1967

U.S. Economy Contracted 0.7% in First Quarter // NYT // Nelson D. Schwartz - May 29, 2015

The United States economy got off to an even weaker start this year than first thought, the government reported Friday, as economic activity contracted because of a more dismal trade performance and continued caution by businesses and consumers alike.

The 0.7 percent annual rate of decline in economic output in the first quarter of 2015 was a reversal of the initial 0.2 percent advance for the period reported last month by the Commerce Department.

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Although statistical quirks and one-time factors like wintry weather in some parts of the country played a role, as did a work slowdown at West Coast ports, the lackluster report for January, February and March underscores the American economy's continuing inability to generate much momentum.

APRIL 29, 2015

It was unusually cold and snowy in late January and February in the Northeast. A scene from a grocery store parking lot in Cranberry, Pa., on Jan. 26.Economic Trends: How to Make Sense of Weak Economic Growth in 2015APRIL 29, 2015

On the site of a new building in Philadelphia last month. Construction typically slows in winter, one of the seasonal differences that economists are supposed to take into account.

Statistical Puzzle: Dueling Views on the First-Quarter SlumpMAY 19, 2015

The pullback was the third time that economic activity had posted a quarterly contraction since the current recovery began in mid-2009, with declines in output in the first quarters of 2011 and 2014. Even acknowledging flaws in the way the government takes account of expected seasonal variations, that on-again, off-again pattern helps explain why annual growth rates in recent years have been well below the pace of gains recorded in the 1990s and mid-2000s.

Much of the revision reported Friday was spurred by new data showing that exports fell more than first thought and imports rose higher. Economists at Goldman Sachs noted that the change in the trade balance shaved 1.9 percentage points off overall growth last quarter, the largest quarterly drag from net exports in three decades.

Volatile even in the best of times, the trade balance is especially hard to gauge in the wake of a labor dispute and slowdown at West Coast ports. Although the balance was negative in the first quarter, some experts like Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics say a return to normal trade patterns could propel a healthy rebound in the second quarter.

But he cautioned that the data remained in flux and warned that even his own estimate could end up being wide of the mark.

"Anybody estimating gross domestic product for the second quarter is kidding themselves, because the trade data is so unpredictable at the moment, and we have no hard numbers yet," Mr. Shepherdson said. "I'm guessing there will be a reversal in trade flows, and we'll see 3 percent growth in the second quarter. But it could be anywhere between 1 percent and 5 percent."

Exports had been a particularly bright spot for the American economy in the first years of the recovery, as world trade rebounded from the plunge that followed the financial crisis in late 2008 and early 2009. Those gains have moderated more recently, and are likely to remain under pressure as the stronger dollar makes American goods more expensive for overseas buyers.

Most experts had expected the data released on Friday to show a contraction in the first quarter, and virtually no mainstream economists are predicting that the economy is about to fall into a recession. Still, the weak start for the year is a crucial reason that the Federal Reserve has pulled back from any plans to raise short-term interest rates in June, with officials now suggesting that the first rate increase from near zero is not likely to come until September or even later this year.

Although Wall Street and the Fed are already looking ahead to the June 5 report on employment gains in May and other more recent data, the rearview mirror take on economic activity discouraged buying on the stock market. At the end of trading on Friday, the Dow Jones industrial average, the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index and the Nasdaq were all off 0.6 percent. Bond yields also crept lower.

After the economy grew at an annual rate of nearly 5 percent in the spring and summer of 2014, some experts concluded that the economy had found its footing and predicted that a healthier, sustained growth rate of near 3 percent was finally at hand.

The new data for the first quarter of 2015, and signs of only a tepid rebound in the current quarter, are forcing some economists to rethink earlier assumptions.

"This isn't the off-to-the-races kind of expansion we envisioned six months ago," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West in San Francisco. "More and more folks are coming around to the view that the long-term growth rate of the American economy is 2 percent, at best. We can't

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sustain 3 or 4 percent growth for very long, so it's two steps forward, one step back."

Although cloudy, the economic outlook is not particularly dark.

Unemployment has been falling steadily, and experts think it could fall to about 5 percent by the end of the year, from 5.4 percent now. The jobless rate stood at 8 percent a little over two years ago.

The real estate market has also been robust as of late, with a measure of pending home sales last month hitting a nine-year high, according to data released Thursday by the National Association of Realtors. New-home sales and construction were also strong in April.

Indeed, an upward revision in residential construction last quarter offset some of the weakness elsewhere.

Despite the windfall provided by lower gasoline prices, consumer spending, which accounts for roughly two-thirds of economic activity, was only modest. Personal consumption rose by 1.8 percent last quarter, down from 4.4 percent in late 2014.

Experts say some of the weakness in the first quarter of the year reflects how the numbers are analyzed by government statisticians to account for seasonal variations, like the retail slowdown that follows the holiday shopping season or business activity that is lowered as temperatures plunge.

That process, known as seasonal adjustment, may indeed have exaggerated the underlying weakness last quarter, according to an analysis by private economists at firms like Barclays and Macroeconomic Advisers, as well as at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

Whatever role that seasonal adjustments did play, however, Mr. Anderson cautioned against dismissing the first-quarter weakness as entirely a statistical quirk.

"Some economists have been trying to explain away the negative numbers," he said. "I don't think it's so easily dismissed. We will get a modest bounce back this quarter."

In particular, he said, the dollar's surge against foreign currencies like the euro is hurting manufacturers and other exporters, a trend that is likely to continue even with the resolution of the West Coast port slowdown.

Although Mr. Anderson expects the annual rate of growth to rebound to above 2 percent this quarter and to about 3 percent in the second half of 2015, that still leaves his estimate at 2.2 percent for the annual growth rate for the year. Last year, the economy grew at an annual rate of 2.4 percent.

"There's some truth to the statistical issues and the one-time factors, but we are still left with a real deceleration," Mr. Anderson said. "Two percent is probably where the economy will gravitate longer term."

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Says China has Artillery on Artificial Islands // AP // Lolita Baldor - May 29, 2015

SINGAPORE -- Two large artillery vehicles were detected on one of the artificial islands that China is creating in the South China Sea, U.S. officials said Friday, underscoring ongoing concerns that Beijing may try to use the land reclamation projects for military purposes.

The discovery was made at least several weeks ago by the United States, but it's not clear if the weapons are still there or if they have been moved or hidden out of sight, officials said.

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The revelation comes as Defense Secretary Ash Carter begins an 11-day trip, including several stops in the Asia Pacific. He is slated to speak Saturday at an international security summit here, and is expected to reassert America's views that China and other nations must stop all land reclamation projects in the region.

Pentagon spokesman Brent Colburn said the U.S. was aware of the artillery , but he declined to provide other details, saying it is an intelligence matter. Defense officials described the weapons as self-propelled artillery vehicles, and said they posed no threat to the U.S. or American territories. The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The sighting was first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

U.S. officials, however, have been watching the rapidly expanding land reclamation by China, which, according to estimates, totals more than 2,000 acres in the South China Sea.

The U.S. has been flying surveillance aircraft in the region, prompting China to file a formal protest after a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon recently flew over one of the sites.

Carter on Wednesday made it clear that the U.S. will "fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows." But so far he has said little about what the U.S. is willing to do to get China to stop the island construction.

U.S. and other regional officials have expressed concerns about the island building, including worries that it may be a prelude to navigation restrictions or the enforcement of a possible air defense identification zone over the South China Sea. China declared such a zone over disputed Japanese-held islands in the East China Sea in 2013.

Asked about the latest imagery suggesting China had put weapons on one of the land reclamation islands, China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said she is "not aware of the situation you mention, but China has clearly reiterated its position several times on the islands in the South China Sea."

She also pushed back against Carter's criticism, saying that the U.S. should be "rational and calm and stop making any provocative remarks, because such remarks not only do not help ease the controversies in the South China Sea, but they also will aggravate the regional peace and stability."

Carter has been vocal about U.S. opposition to the China construction and on Friday afternoon flew over the crowded Straits of Malacca and Singapore, in part to emphasize the need for continued freedom of navigation in the region.

On board two V-22 Ospreys, Carter and his staff and several members of the media flew over the narrow shipping lanes, which were packed with massive container ships and other vessels.

The busy waterway is "a very striking example of the link between security and prosperity and the importance of having security and stability in the Pacific," said Kelly Magsamen, the Pentagon's principle deputy assistant secretary for Asia Pacific matters.

Colburn, the Pentagon spokesman, added that China's actions in the South China Sea are examples of the types of things that could extend into otherAsia Pacific areas and "could upset the order that has led to the prosperity that the entire region benefits from today."

The Malacca Strait is 550 miles long, but just 1.7 miles wide at its narrowest point. About a third of global shipping moves through the strait -- or about 50,000 ships a year. Any accidental or deliberate blockage of the strait would force ships to switch to longer and more expensive routes.

Chinese Security Laws Elevate the Party and Stifle Dissent. Mao Would Approve **// NYT //**
Edward Wong - May 30, 2015

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BEIJING — China's new national security law, released in draft form this month, has little to say about such traditional security matters as military power, counterespionage or defending the nation's borders.

Instead, to the surprise and alarm of many people here, it reads more like a Communist Party ideology paper and a call to arms aimed at defending the party's grip on power. The law, together with two other recently published draft laws, constitutes the most expansive articulation yet of President Xi Jinping's vision of national security, and the widest interpretation of threats to the Communist Party and the state since the Mao era.

Analysts say the laws are aimed at giving the security forces and courts greater leeway in muzzling Chinese civil society and corralling the influence of Western institutions and ideas, which Mr. Xi views as a threat.

Deploying the kind of retro-nationalist language that has become standard fare under Mr. Xi, the national security law says security must be maintained in all aspects of society, from culture to education to technology, "to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

"This draft focuses on politics, ideology and culture," said Zhang Xuezhong, a civil rights lawyer and former law professor at East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai.

The two other draft laws — also related to what might be described as ideological security — are a so-called counterterrorism law and one aimed at controlling the activities of foreign nongovernmental organizations and their Chinese partners.

More than at any other time since the Communists seized power in 1949, some scholars say, the law is being used in the service of ideology and maintaining party survival.

The draft laws, Mr. Zhang said, "really look like an expression of the conservative political thinking of some party leaders, and the legislative organs are merely trying to realize their thoughts."

Perhaps the most interesting question is why Mr. Xi thinks he needs such laws. Existing laws already enshrine Communist Party power and criminalize any act deemed to encourage "subversion of state power."

But the new laws provide a firmer legal framework for controlling civil society and Western organizations, scholars say.

The most ambitious of the three, the national security law, solidifies Mr. Xi's authority over national security by placing a central organ — likely to be the National Security Commission that Mr. Xi founded — in charge of all security matters. An April 23 article in People's Daily, the official party newspaper, said the new draft of the security law reflected "General Secretary Xi Jinping's spirit."

Another reason Mr. Xi wants these laws is more abstract, scholars say. Party ideology no longer plays a central role in the lives of ordinary Chinese the way it did in the Mao era, so the party needs to promote and institutionalize the ideology by whatever means it can, including by writing it into law. That is especially true under Mr. Xi, who since the day he took office in 2012 has promoted old-school party ideology in a way not seen since the aftermath of the June 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protests around Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

"The ideology is far thinner and holds the attention of the populace far less powerfully than before," said Stanley B. Lubman, a scholar of Chinese law at the University of California, Berkeley. "As a result, the Chinese Communist Party needs more institutional support than before, and may need even more. This helps to explain the attention that law has recently been receiving since Xi came to power."

The national security law explicitly mentions the need to teach China's 1.3 billion people about the security and ideological needs of the state and the party. One clause commands institutions to "strengthen guidance on news, propaganda and public opinion about national security."

"National security education will be included in the national education system and the public-servant training system to strengthen awareness among the entire populace," the law says. "April 15 of each year will be set aside as national security education day."

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Legal analysts say the law is expected to be passed no later than March, when the National People's Congress is to meet in Beijing. It could be passed sooner by the legislature's standing committee, which also has the power to approve laws.

"I think the frame of the national security law fits the current needs of the nation, since national security as a concept has expanded to more areas," said Tong Zhiwei, a professor at the East China University of Political Science and Law. "But I don't agree with some of the wordings in the draft — for example the phrases 'ideological security' and 'cultural security.' "

Ideology and culture are not threats to national security, Mr. Tong added.

Mr. Zhang, the lawyer, said the law was "destined to be abused." With its sanction, he said, "law enforcement officials who want to suppress freedom of speech or set limits on importing foreign publications will be more confident in doing so."

The two other draft laws have even more concrete provisions for controlling civil society and Western institutions; both could be passed as early as this summer. The foreign NGO law proposes that such organizations be registered and regulated by the Public Security Ministry, a step that William Nee, a China researcher with Amnesty International, equates to treating them "as potential criminals."

The law would apply to all nonprofit groups, including schools and artistic organizations. Even those groups with no China operations but who want to hold an event here would have to register with the police.

Before registering, foreign NGOs would have to find an official sponsor. To get official backing and to win the approval of the security ministry, the NGOs would have to drop or severely curtail activities that officials might consider politically suspect, like those aimed at helping China build an independent judicial system, for example.

In addition, funding given by foreign NGOs to "more outspoken" Chinese NGOs would "rapidly dry up," leading to the shutdown of many of those groups, wrote Maya Wang, a researcher with Human Rights Watch. Ms. Wang said the law would affect her group's activities.

Continue reading the main story

The separate draft counterterrorism law calls for, among other things, foreign technology and financial companies to hand over encryption keys to Chinese agencies and install security back doors in technology. President Obama and other American officials are pressing Chinese leaders to drop those requirements.

During his tenure, Mr. Xi has repeatedly cited Han Feizi, a Legalist philosopher from the Warring States period more than 23 centuries ago. The Legalists said autocratic rule should be codified in law rather than having law limit that rule.

A party conference in October laid the foundation for the party's use of the law to justify and reinforce its rule. The conference called for policies promoting "the Socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics." Legal scholars say the party is appropriating the term "rule of law" for propaganda purposes with no intention of allowing the law to circumscribe the party's authority.

Jerome A. Cohen, a law professor at New York University, said Mr. Xi's "rule of law seems also a vehicle for strengthening the control of central authority over the unruly lower levels of government and all the distorting influences that impact local court decision-making."

On a broader level, he said, "Xi has intensified the uses of legislation and judicial practice as instruments of party ideology and policy in order to impose a more repressive regime than China has witnessed since the June 4 era."

Islamic State claims militants carried out twin blasts at Baghdad hotels // WaPo // Mustafa Salim and Loveday Morris - May 30, 2015

Islamic State militants asserted responsibility Friday for coordinated attacks on two of the Iraqi capital's most upscale hotels. The bombings claimed at least 15 lives as lavish weekend wedding parties were in full swing.

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Two cars rigged with explosives blew up within minutes late Thursday night. At least 15 people were killed and 42 wounded, said a security official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give out information.

The bombings are likely to shake a revival of Baghdad's nightlife, which followed Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's lifting of a decade-old midnight curfew in February.

A statement from the Islamic State posted on the Internet claimed that it carried out the attack, which would be one of the group's most high-profile in the capital since the militants took control of much of the country's north last summer.

The statement said an Iraqi operative for the Islamic State parked one car at Baghdad's Cristal Grand Ishtar hotel, then drove another to the $250-a-night Babylon Hotel and blew himself up there.

The Islamic State's frequent suicide bombings normally target Shiite neighborhoods in the city, striking restaurants and busy shopping streets.

Iraqi security officials have linked an increasing pace of bombings in Baghdad to rising pressure on Islamic State militants on the battlefield. Iraq's government security forces and Shiite militias launched an offensive this week to retake the western city of Ramadi from the group.

The first explosion hit the Babylon Hotel in the Jadriya neighborhood, where a bulldozer was scooping up rubble Friday below gaping windows and in front of the destroyed lobby. The hotel, a prominent feature of Baghdad's skyline, faces the U.S. Embassy and Baghdad's fortified Green Zone across the Tigris River.

Security camera footage of the attack broadcast on Sumaria television shows what the report claimed was the vehicle carrying the explosives entering the hotel through its security gate — where it is waved on without being checked. Another camera shows the car accelerating toward the hotel lobby.

Furqan Ali, 28, who works in a nearby restaurant, described scenes of chaos as the explosion blew out the restaurant's windows and workers fled the area of the hotel. Security guards on the gate normally use sniffer dogs, he said, speculating that the bomber had inside help to get through the gate's normally stringent checks.

The Babylon, run by Warwick International Hotels, had reopened this year after a major refurbishment — including a new swimming pool and spa. It was frequented by foreign businessmen.

The second blast hit near the Cristal Grand Ishtar, formerly the Sheraton. After the blast, black smoke could be seen snaking into the night sky amid the rattle of gunfire and the wailing of ambulance sirens.

The hotel's manager, Faez al-Sufer, said that the driver had sneaked the vehicle in with a wedding convoy while multiple celebrations crammed the hotel's function rooms on the first night of the weekend.

"On Thursday, there's a lot of pressure because of visitors to the nightclub and wedding parties," he said. "The checking and security procedures were thorough."

The car with the explosives was left in the hotel's parking lot, he said, and parts of its engine were later found on the hotel's sixth floor. At least 30 cars were destroyed, he said. The twisted, blackened hulks littered the parking lot Friday.

Ninety rooms were damaged, the manager said, putting the total cost at about $4 million.

But he said the hotel would still open its doors to wedding parties Friday night. "We will keep challenging the terrorists," he said.

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Sufer said that no one had died in the attack but that at least 10 security guards were injured.

A third bomb was found and defused in the Babylon's parking lot, said Saad Maan, a spokesman for Iraq's Interior Ministry.

"They are choosing famous hotels in Baghdad to get attention," Maan said. "This is part of their strategy."

Sunni extremists have a history of attacking the Iraqi capital's most prominent hotels.

In 2010, the Babylon and the Sheraton were hit in a coordinated bombing attack. The Hamra Hotel, often frequented by journalists, was also targeted and never reopened. At least 36 people were killed in those attacks.

OPINIONS/EDITORIALS/BLOGS

Why Baltimore Blew Up // Rolling Stone // Matt Taibbi - May 26, 2015

When Baltimore exploded in protests a few weeks ago following the unexplained paddy-wagon death of a young African-American man named Freddie Gray, America responded the way it usually does in a race crisis: It changed the subject.

Instead of using the incident to talk about a campaign of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of illegal searches and arrests across decades of discriminatory policing policies, the debate revolved around whether or not the teenagers who set fire to two West Baltimore CVS stores after Gray's death were "thugs," or merely wrongheaded criminals.

From Eric Garner to Michael Brown to Akai Gurley to Tamir Rice to Walter Scott and now Freddie Gray, there have now been so many police killings of African-American men and boys in the past calendar year or so that it's been easy for both the media and the political mainstream to sell us on the idea that the killings are the whole story.

Fix that little in-custody death problem, we're told, perhaps with the aid of "better training" or body cameras (which Baltimore has already promised to install by the end of the year), and we can comfortably go back to ignoring poverty, race, abuse, all that depressing inner-city stuff. But body cameras won't fix it. You can't put body cameras on a system.

As a visit to post-uprising Baltimore confirms, high-profile police murders are only part of the problem. An equally large issue is the obscene quantity of smaller daily outrages and abuses that regularly go unpunished by a complex network of local criminal-justice bureaucracies, many of which are designed to cover up bad police work and keep all our worst behaviors hidden, even from ourselves.

Go to any predominantly minority neighborhood in any major American city and you'll hear the same stories: decades of being sworn at, thrown against walls, kicked, searched without cause, stripped naked on busy city streets, threatened with visits from child protective services, chased by dogs, and arrested and jailed not merely on false pretenses, but for reasons that often don't even rise to the level of being stupid.

"I can guarantee if you look up here and look down there, it might be five people who ain't been fucked over by the police," says Baltimore resident Shaun Young, waving a hand at a crowd of maybe a hundred people gathered at Penn and North, site of the protests. "It's small shit — they get taken advantage of."

A. Dwight Pettit, a legendary African-American civil rights lawyer in Baltimore, says he and others in the city's legal community stopped pursuing what he calls "simple civil rights violations" years ago: the verbal-abuse cases, the humiliating cavity searches conducted in public, the non-lethal beatings. "We

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were dumping them on each other," he says. "But we had to stop. There were just too many."

Most Americans have never experienced this kind of policing. They haven't had to stare down the barrel of a service revolver drawn for no reason at a routine stop. They haven't had their wife and kids put on an ice-cold sidewalk curb while cops ran their license plate. They haven't ever been told to get the fuck back in their car right now, been accused of having too prominent a "bulge," had their dog shot and their kids handcuffed near its body during a wrong-door raid, watched their seven-year-old dragged to jail for sitting on a dirt bike, or dealt with any of a thousand other positively crazy things nonwhite America has come to expect from an interaction with law enforcement. "It's everywhere," says Christen Brown, who as a 24-year-old city parks employee was allegedly roughed up and arrested just for filming police in a parking lot. "You can be somewhere minding your business and they will find their best way to fuck with you, point blank. It's blatant disrespect."

This system, now standard in almost all of urban America, is Mayberry on one side and trending Moscow or 1980s South Africa on the other. Why? Because America loves to lie to itself about race. It's able to do so for many reasons, including the little-discussed fact that most white people have literally no social interactions with black people, so they don't hear about this every day.

Police brutality is tough to talk about because white and black America see the issue so differently, with white Americans still overwhelmingly supportive and trustful of law enforcement. But the current controversy is as much about how modern law-enforcement practices have ruined the job of policing as it is about racism. There are plenty of good cops out there, but the way policing works in cities like Baltimore, the bad ones can thrive. And disasters aren't just more likely, they're inevitable.

Baltimore is like a lot of American cities. It has a small, spiffy-looking downtown with a couple of nice ballparks and some Zagat-listed restaurants for the tourists to visit. But outside those few blocks, much of it is a dead zone. Whole sections of town are packed with crumbling, trash-infested row houses, and this pothole-strewn mess is where people are somehow expected to live. The drug trade has historically dominated Baltimore's ghettos. But the city is so screwed these days, jokes one African-American resident, that "even the drug game is dead."

It's against the backdrop of abandoned cityscapes like this that the current policing controversy rages. The king of modern enforcement strategies, Broken Windows, isn't designed to promote economic growth in these neighborhoods. It's designed to prevent the "bad" neighborhoods from spilling into the "good" ones.

Broken Windows policing, which gained renown in the Nineties thanks to politicians like former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, is the mutant offspring of our already infamous race history, a set of high-tech tricks to disguise old-school discriminatory policing as cheery-sounding, yuppie-approved, Malcolm Gladwell-endorsed pop sociology. The ideas grew out of a theory advanced in 1982 by a pair of academics, James Q. Wilson of Harvard and George Kelling of Rutgers. "If a window in a building is broken and is left unrepaired, all the rest of the windows will soon be broken," the pair wrote in The Atlantic, arguing in "Broken Windows" that disorder and crime were "inextricably linked" and that fixing the former would impact the latter.

The practical application of these ideas was simple. In the interest of public order, cops would stop people in troubled neighborhoods for any infraction, no matter how minor — a broken taillight, a hopped turnstile, an open beer — in hopes of deterring more-serious crimes.

Broken Windows was introduced in New York in 1990, when a Bostonian named Bill Bratton was named the city's Transit Police chief. At the time, New York was plagued by street crime, with a murder rate north of 2,000 killings a year. Any idea that seemed like it had half a chance of working seemed like a good idea.

After Giuliani made Bratton his police commissioner in 1994, the two men took the Broken Windows approach to the next level. New terms entered the lexicon — "zero tolerance," "stop-and-frisk," "community policing" (an Orwellian euphemism every bit as preposterous as the Clear Skies and Healthy Forests initiatives dreamed up by the Bush administration). These new, more interventionist strategies relied on endless streams of adversarial interactions between police and the subject population, stopping and sometimes searching people by the thousands.

Soon, the crime rate began to decline sharply, and the media rushed to laud Giuliani and Bratton for slaying the criminal dragon. Time put Bratton on its cover, dressed in a trench coat and standing at night on a New York street conspicuously empty of anything but a squad car. The headline: "Finally, We're Winning the War Against Crime." Of course, there would later be a tremendous controversy over whether these new policing strategies had anything to do with the drop in New York's crime rate. Other cities that didn't use these programs saw similar declines, in a phenomenon that criminologists are still at a loss to explain.

Bratton instituted a statistics-based system called CompStat, which required precinct captains to give regular reports to their superiors about numbers of arrests, stops and searches. As retired police Capt. Ernie Naspretto explained in a piece for the Daily News years later, it wasn't enough to merely say you were out there on the street, executing mass numbers of field interrogations. "If it ain't on paper, it ain't," he wrote. "Stop-and-frisk became a means for us to show we were still fighting crime."

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For the officer on the ground, stop-and-frisk meant a commitment to a new, highly interventionist kind of policing, and one that was inherently discriminatory. Sgt. Anthony Miranda is a retired New York police officer and president of the National Latino Officers Association. He's a tall, powerfully built man who has the air of someone whose sheer size makes telling the blunt truth easier. He recalls a story from the early Eighties about how New York developed its two-faced zero-tolerance enforcement policy, one that would be imitated all over the country.

He walked a beat in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn. During the High Holidays, he explains, many residents in the area refrained from using electricity or doing certain tasks, and police traditionally helped. But he was with a group of younger cops who didn't want to just stand around. "So we used to go out there, and if you were parked illegally, bang, you summonsed them," Miranda says. "We were doing what cops were used to doing — giving activity," he adds, referring to tickets and arrests.

After doing that a few times, all of the young cops got called in. "They lined everybody up on the street, had commanding officers come down, and they said, 'You're not out here to give summonses. You're not out here to make arrests. You're out here for armed presence.'"

Miranda remembered that story later on when Broken Windows started under Giuliani. Like a lot of police officers, Miranda liked the idea at first. Broken Windows, he says, seemed like a good tool to bring a crisis situation under control. But after a while, the emergency abated, crime went down, and what he was left staring at as a police officer was a discrepancy. In affluent neighborhoods, that is, generally, white neighborhoods, police tended to show up only when they had no choice. "Domestic violence, a guy firing a weapon, a car accident," he says. "Cases where, if a cop ends up responding, he has to take some action." But, Miranda says, you weren't supposed to go looking for reasons to arrest people in those neighborhoods.

But in poorer neighborhoods, cops weren't waiting for people to call 911 — they were, in police parlance, "self-initiating" the action. "If it's Bed-Stuy or some poor neighborhood in the middle of a ghetto," he says, "it could be a Catholic church and they'll find the priest and bang the shit out of him with summonses."

The sociological idea behind Broken Windows was pitched as something much more benign, of course. It was supposed to be the government version of tough love. And it was an easy sell politically, particularly to white and upper-class New York. From the point of view of the uptown crowd, it was a cheaper solution to urban decay than creating jobs. It also had the advantage of blaming the subject population for the rot and destruction of crime.

The legal precedent for these policies dates back to a 1968 Supreme Court case called Terry v. Ohio, in which the high court ruled that police may approach, search and demand to see the identification of any person the officer has an "articulable" suspicion has committed, or is about to commit, a crime. Although the court ruled that this "suspicion" needed to be more than a mere policeman's hunch and must be based on "articulable facts," the reality is that a) Sherlock Holmes, Thurgood Marshall and Miss Cleo put together couldn't tell you what qualifies as the "articulable" suspicion of a beat cop, and b) this decades-old precedent case essentially transferred the power of the state into the minds of street-level patrol officers.

Giuliani and Bratton, and later Bratton's successor, Howard Safir, made themselves famous crime fighters by vastly increasing the scope and number of such "Terry stops." Sweep up everyone, see what shakes out.

Community policing sounds harmless, like they were just sending patrolmen out to chat with old ladies on stoops about which neighborhood trees were most dangerous for cats. But in practice, it meant sending cops by the thousands into tough neighborhoods to, as Miranda says, "bang the shit" out of locals. Police braced people on sidewalks and in alleyways, asked for IDs, executed pat-downs, turned pockets inside out and emptied pad after pad of summonses.

A City University of New York professor eloquently described the mission creep of Broken Windows last year. "If the problem is a broken window, they should fix the window," professor Steve Zeidman told Reuters. "But somehow we don't fix the window, we just arrest people who start hanging out by the broken window."

At the policy's height, in 2011, New York cops were stopping more than 680,000 people a year (around 89 percent of whom were nonwhite, in a city whose population is more than half white) and issuing upward of half a million summonses a year. Though a landmark 2013 ruling by federal judge Shira Scheindlin would ostensibly outlaw the stop-and-frisk policies, many other cities — among them Philadelphia, Seattle, New Orleans and Boston — would create their own aggressive policing policies. "What New York developed," says Miranda, "was the blueprint other states followed." Smaller towns also adopted it, some with especial verve. A Miami exurb called Miami Gardens executed more than 99,000 stops in a five-year period, and reportedly stopped the same black man 258 times — including dozens of inexplicable arrests for trespassing at the convenience store where he worked.

Bratton moved to Los Angeles in 2002 and promptly launched a similar program there. By 2008, L.A. was making more than 870,000 stops a year, a

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rate significantly higher than was ever seen in New York. Chicago, too, was recently found to still be stopping people at a rate four times higher than New York at its peak.

Then, of course, there is Baltimore. When onetime Mayor Martin O'Malley launched his own zero-tolerance campaign in the early 2000s, he did so under circumstances similar to those faced by Giuliani and Bratton in New York in the early Nineties. Baltimore was, in O'Malley's words, the "most violent, addicted and abandoned city in America," held back by an exploding crime problem.

Though academics were already claiming that stop-and-frisk tactics didn't work, those critiques didn't yet enjoy the consensus they do now. In fact, stop-and-frisk wasn't just still hot at the time, it was intellectual chic. In 2000, America's leading fast-food philosopher, Malcolm Gladwell, helped launch his career on the back of a half-baked analysis of Broken Windows in a book called The Tipping Point.

So when O'Malley started his version of Broken Windows, he had a mandate, and it's not surprising that Baltimore's program was wildly aggressive. At its peak, in 2005, an incredible 108,000 of the city's 600,000 residents were arrested. Later on, critics like The Wire creator David Simon, would describe O'Malley's police department as obsessed by statistics, determined to produce crime-reduction rates that were "unsustainable without manipulation." The emphasis on stats, Simon said, "destroyed police work," forcing cops into the roles not of investigators and protectors, but of strong-armers bent on producing numbers above all else. Zero tolerance also forced cops to behave in ways that were virtually guaranteed to piss people off on a mass scale.

The policy was ostensibly dialed back in court thanks to a joint NAACP and ACLU lawsuit filed in 2006. But Baltimore remains a place where police stop pedestrians, ask them for ID and sometimes take them for rides if they give the wrong answers. "First thing they say is, 'Gimme your ID,'" says Malik Ansar, 44, who's standing on the corner of Penn and North in the days after Freddie Gray's death. "They look and say, 'Oh, you live in ZIP code 21227. What you doing way over here?'"

Ansar points at a run-down town house behind him. "You can tell him you were born in this house right here. They don't care. They say, 'You live here now?' And you say, 'No, man, I moved outta here 17 years ago.' And they say, 'What the fuck you doing here now?'"

The way residents like Ansar describe it, if you're not at the address listed on a photo ID, you go into the paddy wagon. But if you run, it's worse. "Then, it's an ass-whipping," says a nearby bystander. "Believe me, Freddie [Gray] knew he was gonna get an ass-whipping if he got caught. . . . Everybody knows that. It may not be a real bad one, but you gonna get one."

So most people go along, which at minimum is a huge waste of time. Ansar's friend, who goes by the name of Big T, says if you get picked up at lunchtime, you're lucky if you make it to central booking by five. You spend the whole freaking day in that hot, cramped van.

And once you get to booking? "You're spending the night," says Big T. "It's just them saying, 'We're gonna get you.'"

Many of these "cases" of loitering, or disorderly conduct, or whatever, never amount to anything, and if they do, get dropped as soon as anyone with half a brain and a law degree sees the charging papers. But the endless regimen of street interrogations and "long rides" serves its own moronic purpose, being a clumsy, bluntly illegal method of intimidating residents and searching whole neighborhoods without probable cause.

"They hoping that a warrant pop," says Ansar of the trips to central booking. "And then they hoping that your ass don't be coming around here no more. Because the police be trying to build a reputation."

People are focused on how violative these policies are to the population, but the flip side is that this high-volume, low-yield approach to enforcement is a terrible policy for good cops, too. "Right now, it's like they're saying, 'We have a robbery problem, and we fixed it,'" says Miranda. "Actually, no, you didn't fix it, you just arrested everybody. It's lazy policing."

As fig leaves go, articulable suspicion is a particularly skimpy one, as multiple studies of these tactics have shown. In Newark, for instance, a Department of Justice investigation found that more than 60 percent of police stops failed to articulate reasonable suspicion. An ACLU study of Chicago's stop-and-frisk program found officers routinely cited bogus reasons like a prior arrest or an observable "bulge" as their articulable suspicion.

You can do the math yourself. If cities like Chicago and Los Angeles and New York were, or are, routinely stopping and questioning more than half a million people a year, and if as many as half of those stops lack real cause, then at minimum we're talking millions of potentially illegal incidents.

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Decades into this campaign of organized harassment, the worst thing that happened to the cops who stopped thousands upon thousands of people with no good reason was that they started to become the subject of academic studies. In 2013, New York University examined the data relating to CompStat and the Broken Windows arrests and concluded that they had little to no impact on the crime rate.

Despite such conclusions and lawsuit rulings that declared these programs discriminatory, nobody was ever punished. Giuliani didn't show up in Bed-Stuy with a fruit basket. Malcolm Gladwell didn't have to give back his Tipping Point royalties. And nobody had to apologize.

Lack of consequence rarely goes unnoticed in big bureaucracies. So it's hardly surprising that police started crossing a new line: inventing reasons not just for stops and searches but for arrests.

Twenty-year-old Jaleel Fields lives in an East New York project not far from the one where Akai Gurley — if you're keeping score, he was the young black man killed after Michael Brown and before Walter Scott — was shot in a stairwell by a rookie officer last fall. Fields' case is typical in most ways, which is why you didn't hear about it.

A thin young man with a quick sense of humor, Fields was heading to the grocery store in February 2013 and made the mistake of getting into an elevator with two police officers. A civil complaint he later filed describes how the problem started when he laughed as the police argued with another young man in the elevator.

Police claimed that Fields blocked the elevator door, then made things worse after he left the elevator by elbowing a police officer, hiding his hands and struggling. Fields' story is different. "He just came, pushed me straight back to the corner," he says. "He's like, 'Oh, you think you could bump a cop and get away with it?' I looked at him like, 'What? I ain't touch no cop. I ain't touch no cop. What are you talking about?' "

Fields got charged for resisting arrest, attempted assault in the third degree, disorderly conduct, and harassment in the second degree. He had to spend a day in jail. No one outside his family and friends would ever know a thing about this case, except for the atypical part of the narrative, which was that the action in the elevator was captured on video. (The NYPD says it can't comment on a sealed case.) The video clearly shows that Jaleel Fields not only didn't block the elevator door, he expressly stepped aside to let people on and off and stood in a corner for most of the ride. Fields' real crime seems to have been laughing near a couple of cops.

f you live in the other America where this stuff doesn't go on, and you didn't know the context of these "self-initiated contacts," you might look at Jaleel Fields, and his arrest for resisting, and think he was a criminal. You might especially think that if you didn't see the video. "Most people think that there's a high burden for getting arrested, because maybe for them, there is," says Martha Grieco, Fields' attorney. "But they don't pick up kids in these neighborhoods because they do anything. They pick them up as a form of social control. . . . We want your fingerprints in the system. We want your iris scans in the system. We want to know your tattoos."

You can walk into any public defender's office in the country and find stacks of arrest reports in which police say they saw something that common sense tells you almost certainly couldn't be. There is even a name for it: "test-a-lying." One lawyer tells a story of police smelling weed in a closed Ziploc bag from some 150 feet away. Another is representing the estate of a man, ultimately shot by police, who authorities said marched into a state police barracks reeking of marijuana ("Because everybody smokes a huge joint before they go to the police station," the attorney says, noting that no marijuana was found in the victim's system at autopsy). A third has a handful of clients who all apparently made furtive motions in the direction of an officer's gun. "It must be epidemic in New York, these furtive movements for police guns," he says.

Against the Fieldses of the world, the lies of police officers generally work as intended: as effective pretexts to get people searched or fingerprinted and create real criminal records. But the lies almost never cut the other way. In city after city, the laws are set up to make police misconduct of any kind, from a lie in an arrest report all the way up to outright brutality, disappear down a variety of bureaucratic rabbit holes.

Say you live in a large American city — Baltimore, for example. Police stop and search you, something goes wrong and you end up getting your ass kicked. You don't die, and more to the point, nobody films you not dying, which means CNN doesn't show up the next day.

You're hauled off to jail. Sometime between a few hours and a few days later, you learn the charges against you. It's usually a hell of a list, which is part of the game. On what Ansar describes as "that motherfucking paper they slide under the door," you might find yourself charged with resisting arrest, assault against a police officer, criminal possession of marijuana, criminal possession of a weapon, reckless endangerment and whatever else the on-scene officers can think of.

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The case is weak, however, so a few days or weeks later a prosecutor tells you charges will be dropped. In being processed, you sign a paper. It reads:

I, (name), hereby release and forever discharge (complainant) and (law enforcement agency), all its officers, agents and employees, and any and all other persons from any and all claims which I may have for wrongful conduct by reason of my arrest, detention, or confinement on or about (date).

This General Waiver and Release is conditioned upon the expungement of the record of my arrest. . . .

You sign, and your "criminal record" disappears, which is great for you. But so does the incident, which is expunged from the public record. And, except in very rare cases, the same police go right back out on the street. The only results of the entire episode are things that can hurt you: Your prints might now be in the system, you might attract future attention by the same police, and your employer might be upset by the whole situation.

This expungement trick is the way it works in Baltimore. To make the charges go away, victims often end up overtly forfeiting a right to sue (by signing a paper to that effect) or effectively doing so by pleading guilty to lesser offenses (undercutting, say, any federal civil rights case they might later want to bring).

If a Baltimore case is bad enough to warrant a financial settlement, the gory details usually end up disappeared behind a nondisclosure agreement. A. Dwight Pettit and Baltimore trial lawyer Larry Greenberg can't tell me about most of their worst cases, because they're sealed. In other words, if the victim takes the city's money after a beating or a false arrest, then the city typically gets to dispose of the incident without apologizing or even publicly acknowledging it.

It's the street-level equivalent of the "neither admit nor deny" settlements that Wall Street offenders made infamous after 2008. A bad thing happens, but somehow nobody is guilty of anything — money just changes hands.

But here's the next catch: It's not much money. There's a liability cap in place in the state of Maryland, limiting victims to $200,000 per person, $500,000 per incident (though there are plans to roughly double those amounts). Other states, like Pennsylvania, Illinois and Colorado, have similar caps.

On the streets of Baltimore last week, African-American residents were furiously repeating the statistic about the city paying out more than $6 million in abuse settlements since 2011. But that number is actually quite small. In New York, which does not have a cap, abuse victims have received more than $420 million since 2009.

But even getting to a settlement is contingent upon the victim acting quickly. In the city of Baltimore, a victim has to file notice of a suit within six months. There are plans to expand that limit to a year, but it's still a tight window. If you don't hire a lawyer right away, you're probably not going to make the deadline.

The game is set up so the only real end for the victim of police abuse to pursue is a check from the government. This brings us to the most shocking and probably most under-reported aspect of the police-abuse story: In most cities it's close to impossible to get a police officer removed for lies, abuse or other forms of misconduct.

A grotesque example is Chicago, where statistics about police abuse leaked out via a civil lawsuit called Bond v. Utreras. In that case, it was revealed that in a two-year period between 2002 and 2004, Chicago police received 10,149 complaints of misconduct, which resulted in only 19 total acts of meaningful discipline (defined as a suspension of seven days or more).

A similar statistical pattern emerged in New York, where after last year's Eric Garner case, the NYPD's Inspector General's office and its Civilian Complaint Review Board both conducted evaluations of chokehold incidents. The upshot of the reports is that between 2009 and the first half of 2014, New Yorkers complained of 1,048 incidents involving chokeholds, which had been banned by the NYPD for more than a decade. Of those complaints, the CCRB "substantiated" only 10. And none of those offending officers saw significant repercussions.

The reason for this is that unless a police officer is criminally indicted after an abuse case, which very rarely happens, the discipline procedure at big-city police departments is generally handled in-house. In New York, a civilian complaint usually has to be substantiated by a review panel, which will either suggest punishment itself or refer the case to a pseudo-court at the police department. There, judges — who are employed by the department — may recommend discipline. But many of these recommendations can be overturned by the police commissioner.

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What this means for the people on the streets of urban neighborhoods is simple: For all the hundreds of millions of dollars paid out by cities to abuse victims, very little is actually done to discipline rogue police officers. Cops caught lying in court by judges are not fired. They're back in court giving evidence the next day. "The downside [to lying] for the police is just that the evidence gets tossed," says Pettit, who notes that the problem is especially pronounced in civil courts. "There's no personal accountability. There's no reason not to lie again."

This problem — of police almost never facing consequences — was the obvious subtext of the Baltimore revolts. It's the reason the one thing that calmed the city down was the curiously rapid decision by the new state's attorney, Marilyn Mosby, to file sweeping charges, including manslaughter and murder, against the six police, three white and three black, involved with Gray's arrest.

Pettit notes that Mosby's decision was a rarity in that three of the officers were also charged with false imprisonment. She essentially described the entire arrest as improper and illegal, even going so far as to assert publicly that the pocket knife Gray was carrying was legal. The legal fight to come will therefore put the entire rationale behind Broken Windows on trial, in the sense that prosecutors will argue — if the case actually makes it to court — that the six officers never should have been doing what police have been asked to do in mass numbers every day for 15 years now.

f an individual police officer does have a record of abuse or lies or some other misconduct, most cities make it nearly impossible for anyone on the wrong side of the blue wall to find it.

Every regional police force is governed by its own legal procedure, but New York and California offer excellent examples of the uphill climb toward transparency. In both of those states, a defense lawyer staring at what looks like a bogus police statement has to file a motion to the court asking for disclosure of a police officer's personnel file. In New York, it's called a Gissendanner motion; in California, a Pitchess motion. But to win these motions, you essentially need to have that information already. It's yet another Catch-22. "In 99 percent of these cases, I get nothing," says Nikhil Ramnaney, a Los Angeles defense attorney, stressing that he can't speak for others' experiences.

"Police are always complaining about the 'Don't snitch!' campaigns," says a Baltimore resident named Kato Simeto, an aspiring clothes designer and inventor. "But you almost never see police informing on each other. They're more into 'Don't snitch' than people on the street."

Of course, where bureaucracy fails to cover things up, simple racism often steps in. Just ask Makia Smith, a 33-year-old accountant who grew up not far from where the Baltimore protests broke out. "I was on my way back from Wendy's," she says, recounting an incident in East Baltimore from March 2012. "My two-year-old daughter was in the back, in a car seat."

Caught in traffic, Smith noticed a commotion, with a gang of police officers surrounding a young suspect. As she later alleged in a civil complaint, the boy was on the ground and one of the cops seemed to be getting dangerously aggressive. Concerned, Smith opened the door of her car and held up her phone as though filming the scene. "I was hoping that if they saw me," she says, "then maybe they would stop doing what they were doing."

Instead, she alleges, the following took place: An officer, later identified as Nathan Church, rushed at her, screaming, she says, "You want to film something, bitch? Film this!" Frightened, Smith tried to get back in her car. Church took her phone, smashed it on the ground and kicked it down the street. Then he dragged her out by her hair, at which point she momentarily blacked out. Eventually, she claims, police threw her on the hood of her Saturn, where she snapped awake and saw her two-year-old wailing in the back seat. She began to panic: If she got arrested, who would take care of the baby?

According to Smith's complaint, police told her, in about the least reassuring manner possible, that child protective services was coming to take her daughter. It's an example of how completely black America distrusts the police and the government that Smith chose to allow a little girl standing on the side of the road, a stranger, to take her baby for her, rather than give the child to CPS. As she was dragged off to that seemingly omnipresent paddy wagon, Smith called out her mother's cellphone number, so that the little girl could get in touch with the baby's grandmother.

Smith ended up in jail overnight and didn't reunite with her daughter until 24 hours later. Playing the usual game of police-abuse chicken, authorities hit her with a list of charges, ranging from assault in the second degree against a police officer ("They say I took on four healthy male officers," she says), to resisting, to a host of traffic offenses.

Smith, an educated young woman, did everything right after the incident, hiring a lawyer and successfully navigating the traps and land mines designed to make cases like hers go away. She never signed away her right to sue, never allowed the case to be expunged, never took a pennies-on-the-dollar deal that would have let the police off the hook.

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And what happened? The police denied her allegations, claiming the arrest was legitimate, and she watched her case implode in what's supposed to be the corruption-proof stage of the process, a trial by a jury of her "peers."

"The cops' defense team struck every black witness," she says, and her case was heard by an all-white jury, which ultimately found the police innocent of misconduct.

Broken Windows has left a major footprint on modern American society, primarily on the 65 million or so people who have criminal records in this country. That's a population roughly the size of France.

You can easily find the collateral damage from this vast illegal war on crime just by walking into certain neighborhoods and asking. From bad arrests to beatings to broken bones, there are enough horror stories to fill a thousand Ken Burns documentaries. But good luck finding any of that misconduct and abuse on an official record. What you mostly find when you search are a lot of convictions and a whole lot of statistical noise. The dirt, as it often is in this country, is mostly hidden away.

The real problem with Broken Windows is that it brings the same attitude to neighborhoods that corrections officers bring to prisons. "You have guys locked up for serious crimes, you're supposed to be controlling them," says Anthony Miranda. "But in neighborhoods, you're not supposed to be controlling people. You're supposed to be working with them. You're supposed to be serving them. And that attitude is what's missing."

As a former minority officer, Miranda says he and others like him are especially motivated to find solutions: "We're on both sides. We're in the force, but we also live in these neighborhoods. So we need to find an answer."

But the numbers game has rotted the police system to the point where it can't see the forest for the trees. "They don't see it," says Miranda. "They're too ignorant, and it's a shame."

It's Not Closing Time on American Exceptionalism // RCP // Jay Timmons - May 30, 2015

Today, manufacturing in the United States is experiencing a renaissance. It remains an economic powerhouse, propelling prosperity and the American dream forward.

Manufacturing contributes more than $2 trillion to the economy annually -- or 12 percent of the Gross Domestic Product -- and every manufacturing dollar adds $1.37 to our economy.

Last year, U.S.-manufactured exports reached an all-time high. Exports now support more than 6 million manufacturing jobs across the country, and family-owned manufacturers account for more than 96 percent of all U.S. exporters.

The good news is manufacturers in the United States make goods the rest of the world wants. But with export growth slowing, sustaining our momentum hinges upon expanding and strengthening our ability to compete in the global marketplace.

That’s why the Export-Import Bank is so important.

The purpose of the bank is to provide loans, loan guarantees and insurance, which are not provided by commercial banks, to thousands of small and medium-sized companies that need this kind of targeted support the most. Without the bank, many aspiring manufacturers in the United States would find themselves excluded from a global economy where the odds are increasingly stacked against them.

The level of support our international competitors receive dwarfs what the Export-Import Bank gives U.S. manufacturers. Consider these facts: our global competitors use more than 60 other export credit agencies. China alone provides at least five times more support for its exporters than what U.S. exporters get from the bank.

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Meanwhile, the Export-Import Bank directly impacts just 2 percent of U. S. imports – and still yields big dividends.

In just the past five years, the bank has supported 1.2 million jobs. And, all the while, the bank has paid for itself by charging fees and interest.

The bank is a targeted tool -- a last resort to help businesses find a foothold in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Unfortunately, the crucial role played by the Export-Import Bank is not as well understood or appreciated, as it should be. As a result, the future of the important jobs-creating tool is now a hostage to Washington beltway politics.

Legislation to reauthorize the bank is stalled in Congress. The short-term extension under which the bank has been operating expires June 20.

As Congress debates, manufacturers are suffering.

They plan months if not years ahead when it comes to bringing a new product to market. They cannot commit to new product development if they have no assurance the bank will still be here. And new business, critical to American jobs, won't materialize.

The question facing us is elementary.

Do we want U.S. manufacturers to win overseas, or do we want our foreign competitors and their workers to swoop in and seize these opportunities?

Failing to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank is tantamount to unilateral economic disarmament.

All manufacturers and all businesses must step up and educate our leaders in Washington, who have an opportunity to lead us in the direction of more jobs, more opportunity, more prosperity, and greater hope for all Americans. They must not allow us to cede our mantle of economic leadership to our competitors abroad.

Our manufacturing achievements today are dwarfed by tomorrow's untapped possibilities. To achieve those possibilities, we need better access to the 95 percent of the world's population and the more than 70 percent of the world's purchasing power beyond our borders.

The Export-Import Bank can help us secure that great vision.

The bank is a small entity meeting its mission efficiently and effectively. Only a long-term reauthorization will give manufacturers the boost they need. The time for kicking the can down the road through patchwork solutions is over.

Our leaders have a choice to make: Is the time of American exceptionalism over, or do our nation's best days still ahead of us?

It is past time to do the right thing.

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <info@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	1/28/2016 11:30:04 AM
Subject:	News from Hudson: Putin's Russia, Rep. McCaul on Homeland Security, Iraq-Iran Connections, Bolstering the U.S. Navy, and more

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From:	"Kristina Schake" <kristinakschake@gmail.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Robert Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> "Cheryl Mills" <cheryl.mills@gmail.com> "Jake Sullivan" <jake.sullivan@gmail.com> "Jen Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Joel Benenson" <jbenenson@bsgco.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "John Anzalone" <john@alqpolling.com> "Nick Merrill" <nmerrill.hrco@gmail.com>
Date:	3/11/2015 5:26:37 AM
Subject:	Proactive Plan--Next Steps

I know we have a meeting tomorrow to talk about our proactive press strategy for the next month, but we want to move quickly on some tactics over the next 24 hours to get on offense and take the reins. The Iran statement yesterday was very successful, so we want to keep running with that. We would like to take advantage of Jindal's call on all candidates, on both sides, to sign the Cotton letter. Our proposal is to have her respond in a tweet saying the letter is reckless and no one considering running for president should sign this. We would do this early this afternoon to get in tonight's news.

To discuss on today's 5 pm media call, a second step recommendation is a letter from her to Gowdy asking that he immediately release the 300 emails and that she will testify at any time.

Time Magazine story on Jindal:

A pair of Republican governors eyeing the White House are supporting a controversial letter sent by Republican Senators to the Iranian government warning against an emerging nuclear deal.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal led the effort Tuesday, calling on all Republican presidential candidates to support the letter, organized by Sen. Tom Cotton, which has drawn the ire of the Obama administration.

Signed by 47 GOP Senators, including presidential contenders Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, Ted Cruz, and Rand Paul, the Monday letter warned the Iranian government that the next president would not be bound by the agreement. He was followed shortly after by former Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

“Every single person thinking about running for President, on both sides, should sign on to this letter to make clear to Iran that they are negotiating with a lame duck President,” Jindal said in a statement released by his political group America Next. “Make no mistake – any Iran deal that President Obama makes is not binding on a future president.”

The White House condemned the letter, with Vice President Joe Biden penning a harsh statement Monday evening, calling it an unprecedented encroachment on the president’s ability to conduct foreign policy. “This letter sends a highly misleading signal to friend and foe alike that that our Commander-in-Chief

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cannot deliver on America's commitments—a message that is as false as it is dangerous," he said.

Later Tuesday, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said in a statement that any deal with Iran should be subject to congressional review, echoing the letter's argument that the next president would "not be bound" by any agreement struck by President Obama. He did not directly address the letter, however.

Likewise, Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said in a statement to TIME that he understood the senators' decision, but didn't explicitly say if he supported it.

"The Senators are reacting to reports of a bad deal that will likely enable Iran to become a nuclear state over time," he said in a statement. "They would not have been put in this position had the Administration consulted regularly with them rather than ignoring their input."

A spokesperson for Chris Christie did not immediately comment on whether their likely-candidates would sign on.

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From: "The Washington Post" <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 11/24/2015 1:07:43 AM
Subject: The Daily 202: Obama takes a post-Paris beating in the polls

View The Daily 202 on the Web

PowerPost

The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

Share on Twitter Share on Facebook

Obama takes a post-Paris beating in the polls



President Obama pauses as he addresses the nation on the night of the Paris attacks. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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BY JAMES HOHMANN

THE BIG IDEA:

— President Obama has fallen back into negative territory since the Paris attacks.

A slight majority approved of the job he was doing in our poll last month, but a new Washington Post/ABC News poll out this morning shows that his approval has slipped to 46 percent, with 50 percent disapproving.

The fall has been driven almost entirely by concerns about terrorism and refugees.

On how he's handled the Islamic State, 57 percent of Americans disapprove, with 46 percent of the electorate strongly disapproving.

The intensity of anti-Obama sentiment has also flared up. Forty percent "strongly disapprove" of the president, the highest mark since right after the midterm elections last year.

Approval of Obama's handling of the terrorism threat also fell to a new low of 40 percent in our survey, down seven points from January, per Post pollster Scott Clement . The share who "strongly disapprove" of Obama's work on terrorism jumped from 31 percent to 43 percent. The previous record was 35 percent.

— So far, Obama's losses have not hampered Hillary Clinton. His former Secretary of State still led all GOP challengers on the issue of terrorism in our survey. But his weakness explains why she's worked to take a harder line and increasingly distance herself on the question of dealing with ISIS over the past two weeks.

— Obama is meeting with French President Francois Hollande at the White House today. Their joint press conference is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Hollande met with British Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday and goes later this week to see the leaders of Germany, Italy and Russia. Above all, a senior administration official tells Karen DeYoung that Obama hopes to discuss how to "take advantage of what is clearly a new sense of momentum and urgency coming on the heels" of a series of recent militant attacks, not only in Paris, but in "Mali, Beirut, Ankara and elsewhere," including last month's bombing of a Russian commercial airliner. "We are hoping that more countries that have been

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in the game in Iraq are going to get deeper in the game in Syria," said the official.



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, left, and France's President Francois Hollande at the Elysee Palace in Paris yesterday. (AP Photo/Michel Euler)

Welcome to The Daily 202, PowerPost 's morning newsletter. Sign up to receive the newsletter.

With contributions from Michael Smith .

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:

— The State Department warned American citizens to exercise caution while traveling because of the threat of terrorism from ISIS, al-Qaeda and Boko Haram. The advisory extends until Feb. 24. One specific: Be careful when using transportation networks. (Martin Weil)

— Turkey said it shot down a Russian fighter jet after the plane violated Turkish airspace and didn't move after several warnings. Russia denies its aircraft crossed the Syrian border into Turkey.

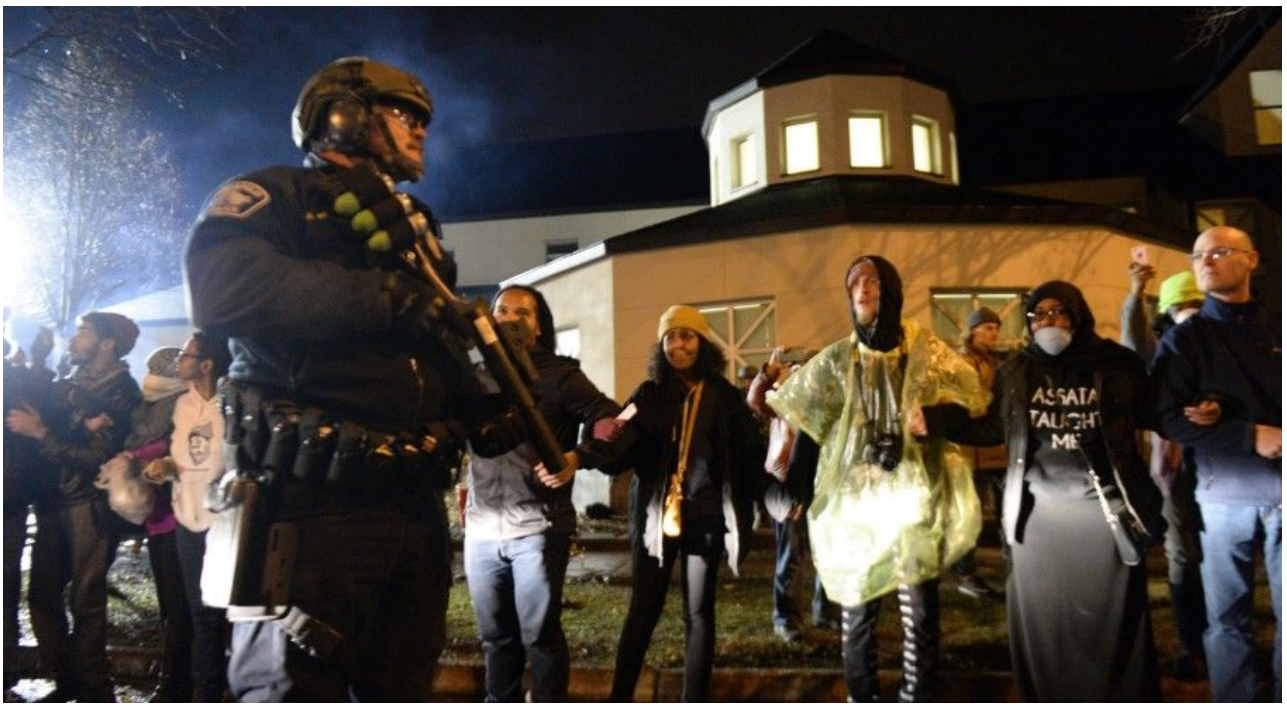
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Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Tehran (AFP/ Getty Images)

— Visiting Tehran, Vladimir Putin announced Russia will resume exporting nuclear technology to the Iranian regime. “Russia has also contracted to supply Iran with S-300 surface-to-air missile systems,” Andrew Roth reports from Moscow. “In a sign of the growing security partnership between the two countries, Iran has allowed Russian missiles and strategic bombers in the past month to fly through its airspace en route to Syria.” In his first visit to Iran since 2007, Putin met for more than 90 minutes with the country’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In the meeting, Khamenei alleged a Western conspiracy that he says is dangerous to both Iran and Russia. “The Americans have a long-term plot and are trying to dominate Syria and then the whole region,” the ayatollah reportedly said.

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A Minneapolis police officer maintains a barricade outside the Minneapolis Police Department's Fourth Precinct last week. (John Autey/Pioneer Press via AP)

— White supremacists allegedly shot Black Lives Matter protesters in Minnesota. Five activists were shot near a police station in Minneapolis, the Star Tribune reports. The victims sustained non-life-threatening injuries. No arrests have yet been made, but police said they are searching for three white males.



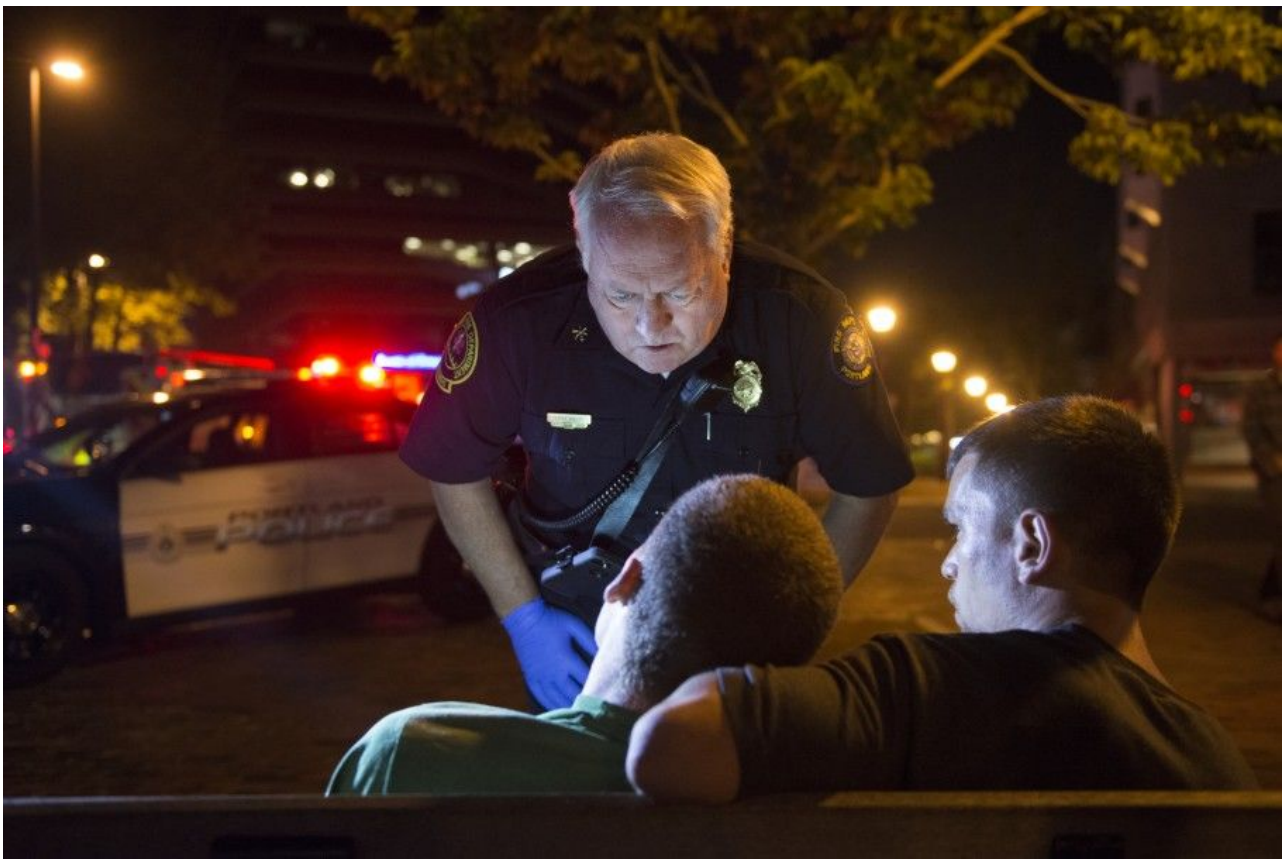
Donald Trump speaks to a crowd of 14,000 during a rally at the Greater Columbus Convention Center last night. (Ty Wright/Getty Images)

— Trump says he doesn't care if waterboarding doesn't work. "Would I approve

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waterboarding? You bet your ass I would — in a heartbeat," Trump said to loud cheers during a rally in Columbus, Ohio. "And I would approve more than that. Don't kid yourself, folks. It works, okay? … Only a stupid person would say it doesn't work. … And you know what? If it doesn't work, they deserve it anyway, for what they're doing." He also reiterated his discredited and outrageous claim that he watched "fairly large numbers" of Muslims in New Jersey celebrating the 9/11 attacks, per Jenna Johnson . The Donald, meanwhile, told NBC that he has "the world's greatest memory."

Ben Carson, meanwhile, walked back a claim that he saw footage showing thousands of Muslims in New Jersey celebrating the collapse of the Twin Towers following 9/11, releasing a statement hours after his initial remarks to clarify what his campaign called a mistaken reference. (Jose A. DelReal)



Portland, Maine, Deputy Fire Chief Terry Walsh responds to a possible heroin overdose by an 18-year-old male this summer. (Linda Davidson / The Washington Post)

— More data backs up what we're hearing from voters on the campaign trail. We are in the throes of a very real, very scary epidemic. Four in 10 Americans know someone who has been addicted to prescription painkillers, including 25 percent who say it was a close friend or family member and 2 percent who acknowledge their own addiction, according to a big Kaiser Family Foundation survey being released today. Lenny Bernstein got an early look :

- 16 percent say they know someone who has died from an overdose of prescription

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painkillers, including 9 percent who say that person was a family member or close friend.

- 56 percent of the public say they have some personal connection to the issue.
- Prescription painkiller abuse is most common among whites (63 percent) and the affluent (63 percent among people with incomes of $90,000 or more).



Chris Harper of the Patriots is tackled after catching a pass during the fourth quarter in Foxboro. (Maddie Meyer/Getty Images)

— The Patriots are 10-0 after beating the Buffalo Bills 20-13 on Monday Night Football. "But that came only after they lost two more pass-catchers, wide receivers Danny Amendola and Aaron Dobson, to injuries," notes Mark Maske .

A SCARY MOMENT:

- Four policemen were killed and 12 were injured after a car bomb exploded outside an Egyptian hotel where election officials were staying. (Reuters)
- Belgian police charged another suspect in connection with the Paris terror attacks, but the main suspect, Salah Abdeslam, is still on the loose and the city is still under lockdown. (Loveday Morris and Missy Ryan)
- A street cleaner in a suburb outside Paris found an explosive vest similar to those used in the attacks near the place where a suspect's mobile phone had been found, which raised the specter that he aborted his mission or fled in fear.

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- A Palestinian motorist rammed his vehicle into a group of Israeli soldiers at a West Bank checkpoint overnight, wounding three, just as Secretary of State John Kerry landed in Tel Aviv for his first visit in more than a year. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu outlined plans yesterday for tough new security measures against Palestinians in the West Bank after two more of his citizens were killed in stabbing attacks in less than 24 hours. (Ruth Eglash in Jerusalem)
- Two Chinese men were indicted in Thailand for the August bombing that killed 20 people and injured more than 100 others in Bangkok. (AP)

GET SMART FAST:

1. The ACLU sued Indiana Gov. Mike Pence for barring Syrian refugees, arguing that it violates the Constitution and the Civil Rights Act, while Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan doubled down on his decision to not allow Syrian refugees into his state, despite John Kerry sending a letter of reassurance about the vetting process. (Josh Hicks)
2. Canada's new prime minister, Justin Trudeau, will announce his plan today to accept 25,000 Syrian refugees. Aides say all 10 provincial premiers are on board. (AP)
3. Macedonia began turning away migrants who can't prove they are leaving the war-torn countries of Syria, Afghanistan or Iraq. Other European countries are speeding up the deportation of thousands of Pakistani migrants to free up space for those with more urgent asylum requests. (Oscar Lopez and Tim Craig)
4. The Seventh Circuit struck down a Wisconsin law that requires abortion providers to get admitting privileges at nearby hospitals as unconstitutional, siding with Planned Parenthood. (AP)
5. The Second Circuit ruled that the Justice Department doesn't have to make public documents related to the targeted killings of al-Qaeda members. (New York Times)
6. The Texas student whose homemade clock was mistaken by school administrators as a bomb, Ahmed Mohamed, filed a $15 million lawsuit alleging that he was interrogated by seven police officers and pressured to confess. (Jessica Contrera)
7. Hawaii's Supreme Court blocked the construction of one of the world's biggest telescopes on a volcano because natives say it would damage sacred lands. (Reuters)
8. The University of Ottawa cancelled a yoga class after a student group complained that the exercise method was stolen from a culture that "experienced oppression, cultural genocide and diasporas due to colonialism and western supremacy." (Justin Wm. Moyer)

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9. The academic journal Science is rebuking claims by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas) that its study outlining the dangers of global warming was rushed, with the publication insisting that its paper published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was subjected to a longer-than-normal review process. (Lisa Rein)
10. NASA is not ready to handle the dangers of deep space as it moves ahead with plans to send the first human mission to Mars by the 2030s, the agency's Inspector General concludes in a 48-page audit. (Jerry Markon)
11. Phobos, one of the two small moons orbiting Mars, is spiraling closer and closer to the Red Planet on its way toward an inevitable collision with its host. Cal Berkeley astronomers published a study suggesting that pieces of Phobos will get a second life as a ring around Mars at some point in the next 40 million years. (Los Angeles Times)



This is in the Acidalia Planitia region of Mars, as seen from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. In the novel and movie "The Martian," it is the landing site for the Ares 3 mission. (NASA/JPL-Caltech/Univ. of Arizona/Handout via Reuters)

POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.) said that his own wife gave him an "F" for his questioning of Hillary Clinton during the Benghazi committee hearing and his son gave him a "C." (BuzzFeed)
2. Marco Rubio is going on TV in the early states with a 60-second biographical spot featuring his father. It takes a clip from his stump speech about his dad working late nights as a bartender so that he could realize the American Dream. (NBC)
3. In response to complaints about Donald Trump's gig hosting "Saturday Night Live,"

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NBC will grant equal air time to John Kasich, Mike Huckabee, Jim Gilmore and Lindsey Graham in its commercials and promotions over Thanksgiving weekend. (New York Times)

4. Trump and Clinton both came out strongly against the Pfizer-Allergan merger, with Clinton focusing on the tax inversion loophole the pharmaceutical giants are exploiting, while Trump argued (less plausibly) that it will lead to job losses for Americans. (More on the outcry .)
5. Carson called Terry Schiavo's brother but declined to apologize or meet with him. The neurosurgeon raised ire from social conservatives after he said that the political effort to save Schiavo's life was "much ado about nothing." (Daily Caller)
6. A former investigator for the Benghazi Committee sued panel chairman Trey Gowdy for wrongful termination and defamation, alleging that the South Carolina congressman fired him because he took leave for military duty and did not focus his investigation on Hillary Clinton. Gowdy strongly denies the accusations. (Elise Viebeck)
7. Rep. Mike Bishop (R-Mich.) endorsed Jeb Bush. (The Hill)
8. Chris Christie ordered his state's flags to fly at half-staff to honor a New Jersey native killed in the Mali hotel attack. (Asbury Park Press)
9. Sanders ate dinner with Killer Mike in Atlanta as part of his African-American outreach effort . The rapper posted this picture on Twitter :

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WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:

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Louise Sunshine, a powerful real estate developer who worked for Donald Trump for 15 years starting in the 70's and rose to Senior Vice President in Trump Enterprises, in her spacious Miami Beach penthouse. (Angel Valentin For The Washington Post)

— "Donald Trump, a champion of women? His female employees think so ," by Frances Stead Sellers: Louise Sunshine, a 15-year employee of The Donald's real estate business, recounts how Trump kept a "fat picture" of her in a drawer, pulling it out when she did something he didn't like ("totally false and totally ridiculous," Trump said). But Sunshine, who became executive vice president of the Trump Organization, doesn't begrudge her former boss, calling him a "valued mentor." Thus this paradox: Despite the businessman's sometimes misogynistic barbs on the campaign trail, "…many women who have worked closely with Trump say he was a corporate executive ahead of his time in providing career advancement for women. While some say he could be boorish, his companies nurtured and promoted women in an otherwise male-dominated industry. Several women said they appreciated how Trump granted them entry to a new playing field."

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Mizanur Rahman, an alleged ISIS recruiter, is awaiting trial in the UK, where he was born and raised. (Shannon Jensen/For The Washington Post)

— The latest in our series on "Confronting the Caliphate" –> "Police call him an ISIS recruiter. He says he's just an outspoken preacher," by Kevin Sullivan: "Mizanur Rahman sat in a coffee shop in Palmers Green, wearing a court-mandated electronic ankle bracelet beneath his long, black Muslim robe. British authorities consider him an Islamic State recruiter, so they closely monitor his movements and have taken his passport. He is banned from meeting with more than two people at a time and must spend his nights under curfew at his home in north London. Most difficult for Rahman, he is not allowed to touch any Internet-connected device. … Police believe the 32-year-old is a key figure in the world of preachers, teachers and true believers whose sophisticated online propaganda is critical to the Islamic State's allure. They says his thousands of tweets and Facebook posts, and fiery lectures on YouTube, are intended to inspire vulnerable young people — from London to Chicago to New Delhi — to join a militant group that beheads, crucifies, burns and drowns its enemies in the name of God."

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Auburn spent $13.9 million on a new scoreboard for its stadium. Head coach Gus Malzahan is seen at a game last month. (Photo by Andy Lyons/Getty Images)

— "Playing in the red, " by Will Hobson and Steven Rich: "Big-time college sports departments are making more money than ever before, thanks to skyrocketing television contracts, endorsement and licensing deals, and big-spending donors. But many departments also are losing more money than ever, as athletic directors choose to outspend rising income to compete in an arms race that is costing many of the nation's largest publicly funded universities and students millions of dollars. … To examine why, The Post reviewed thousands of pages of financial records from 48 public universities in the five wealthiest collegiate conferences." Two remarkable stats:

- From 2004 to 2014, the combined income of the 48 departments nearly doubled, from $2.67 billion to $4.49 billion. The median department saw earnings jump from $52.9 million to $93.1 million.
- While some athletic programs have eliminated or reduced mandatory student fees earmarked for sports, other programs are charging more than ever. Students paid $114 million in required athletics fees in 2014, up from $95 million in 2004."

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Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen testifies before the House Finance Committee earlier this month. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

— "Ralph Nader told Fed Chair Janet Yellen to sit down with her economist husband. Now she's responded," by Ylan Q. Mui: "Nader issued an open letter to Yellen last month arguing that low interest rates were unjustly hurting savers. … Nader's letter was even more controversial for the personal sideswipe he took at Yellen, the first woman to lead the central bank in its 100-year history:

> Chairwoman Yellen, I think you should sit down with your Nobel Prize winning husband, economist George Akerlof, who is known to be consumer-sensitive. Together, figure out what to do for tens of millions of Americans who, with more interest income, could stimulate the economy by spending toward the necessities of life.

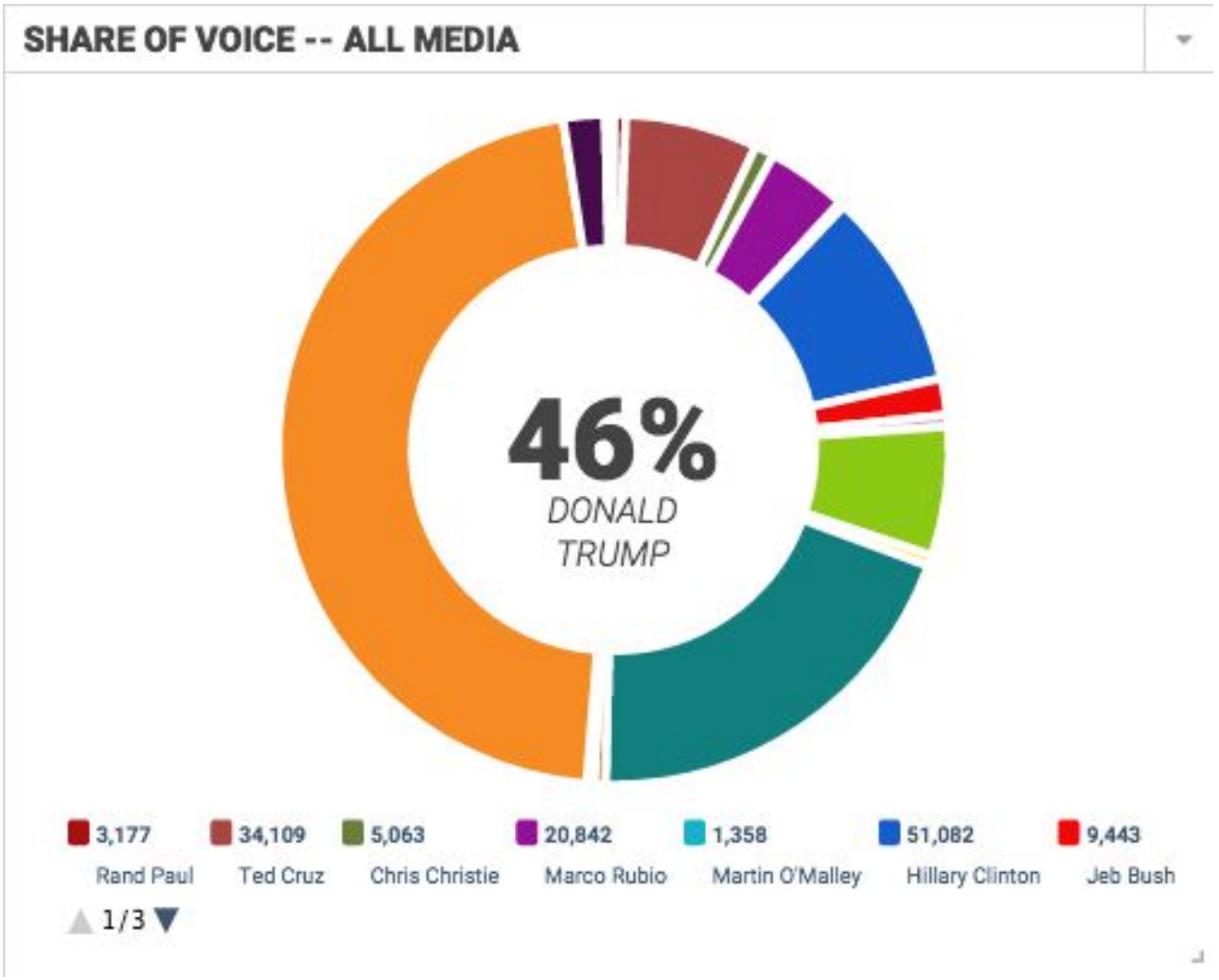
On Monday, Yellen did something unusual. She responded in a missive of her own. 'Thank you for your recent letter,' it began. But the tone quickly shifts: 'It may help to review a few basic facts.' … Yellen makes no mention of Nader's comment about her husband. But the letter is signed by just one person: Janet Yellen."

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

— ZIGNAL VISUAL: Trump extends his dominance across social media. In what is typically a slow week for news because of the Thanksgiving holiday, Donald Trump has

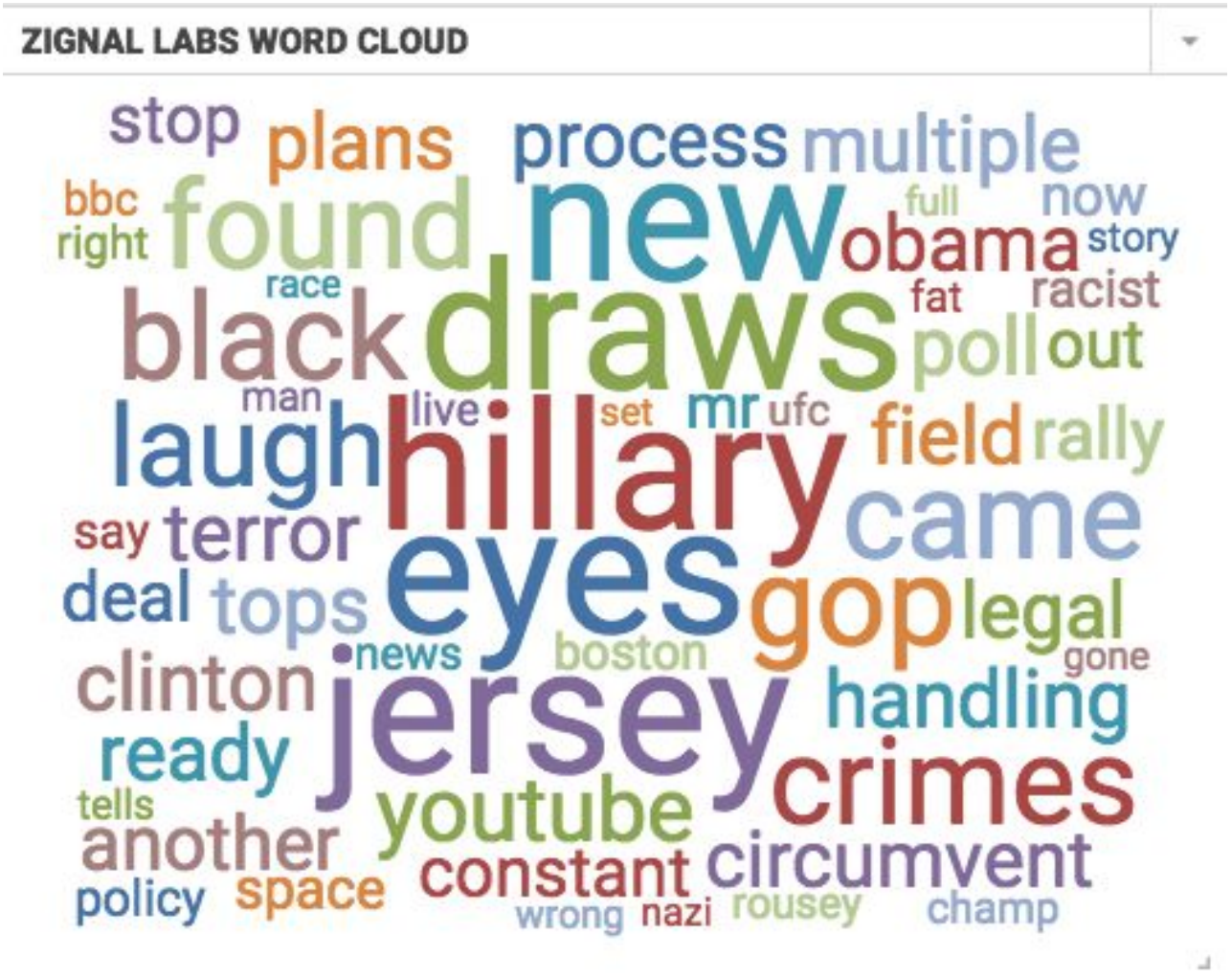
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sucked up all of the media oxygen by questioning the patriotism of New Jersey Muslims. On Monday, 46 percent of all mentions related to 2016 were about Trump:



Here's Trump's word cloud for yesterday:

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–Pictures of the day:

The RNC unveiled its logo for next summer’s convention:

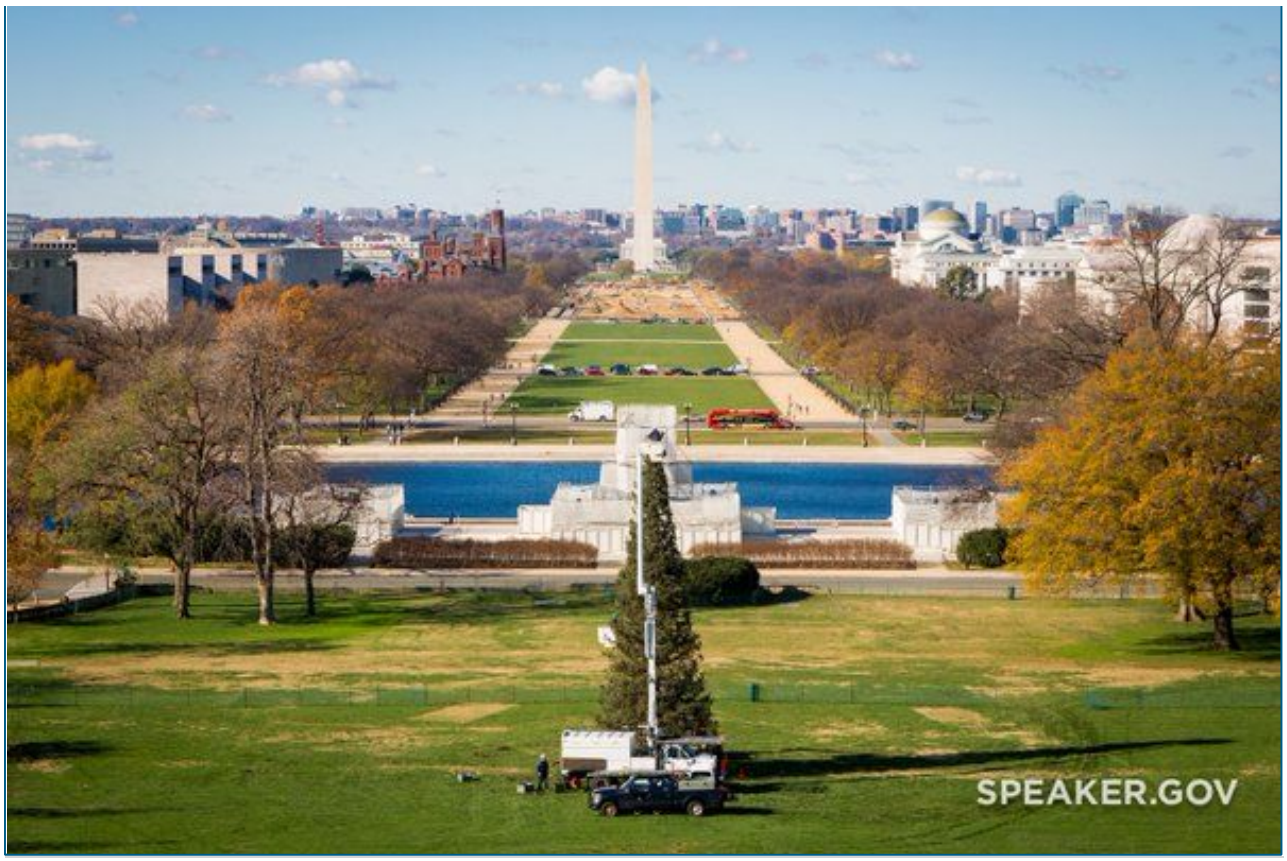
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(Cleveland.com)

Speaker Paul Ryan posted a photo of this year's Capitol Christmas Tree from his balcony:

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(@SpeakerRyan)

Bernie Sanders met with Rev. Bernice King at the King Center in Atlanta:



(@BernieSanders)

Iowa farmer Mike Pattavina plowed a quarter-acre “Bernie” sign in his soybean field:

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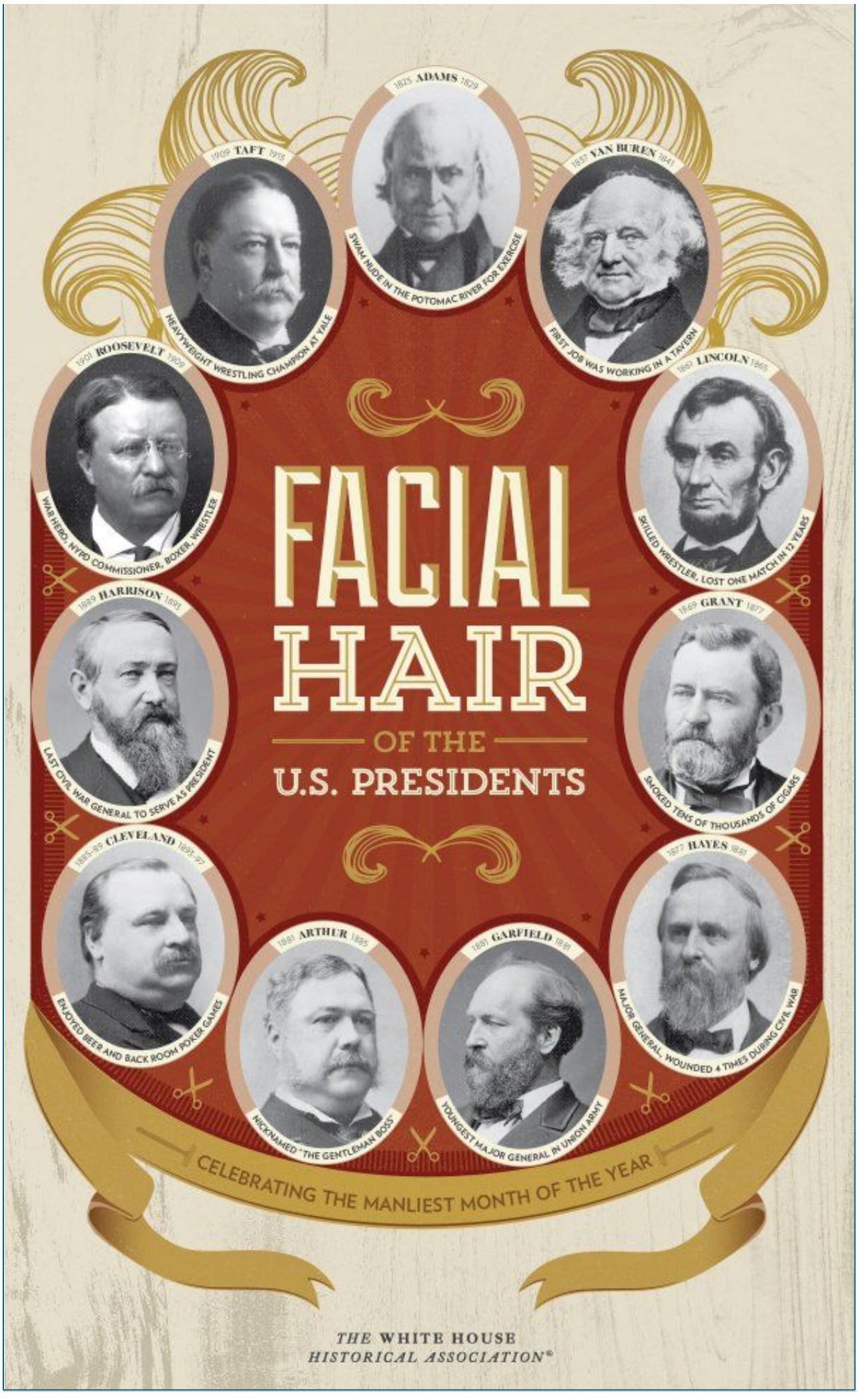
Ben Carson greeted big crowds in Nevada:



(realbencarson)

Check out the presidents who lived #NoShaveNovember all the time:

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(@WhiteHouseHstry)

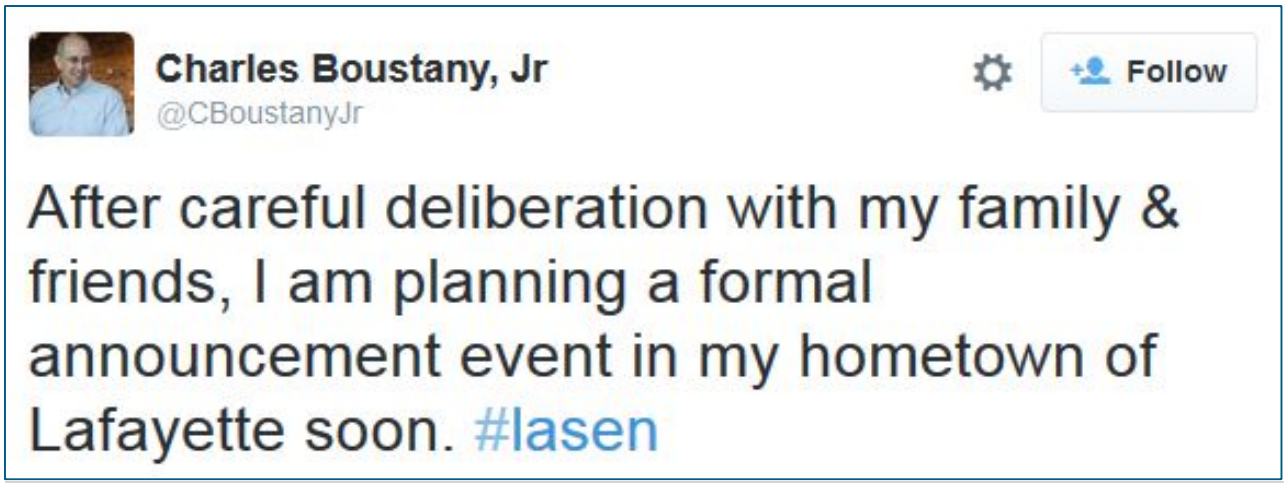
–Tweets of the day:

Donald Trump argued this passage from the Washington Post proves he was right about people cheering the 9/11 attacks in New Jersey:



(@realDonaldTrump)

Rep. Charles Boustany (R-La.) announced he'll run for David Vitter's seat:



(@CBoustanyJr)

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) invoked Thanksgiving to argue for admitting refugees from Syria:

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(@SenatorDurbin)

Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) rang the holiday bell for the Salvation Army:

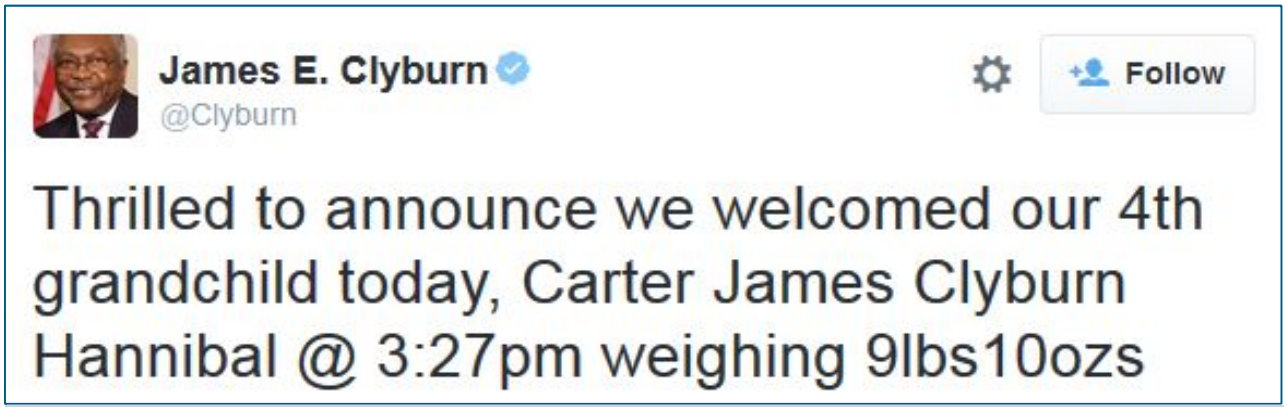


(@RepMarkMeadows)

Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.) announced the birth of his newest grandchild, Carter James

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Clyburn Hannibal:



(@Clyburn)

–Instagrams of the day:

Marco Rubio braved the snow in Iowa to meet voters:

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(marcorubiofla)

Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) chatted with Santa at an event to pack boxes to feed the hungry:

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(senatorcarper)

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) celebrated his 65th birthday on Monday:

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(chuckschumer)

GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

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Mauricio Macri celebrates his victory on Sunday night next to his wife, Juliana Awada, and his daughter, Antonia, in Buenos Aires. (EPA/Silvina Frydlewsky)

A NEW PAGE FOR LATIN AMERICA?: Soccer fans are cheering the election of Mauricio Macri, a former president of the popular club Bocca Juniors. The son of a rich businessman, Macri — the former mayor of Buenos Aires — represents a sharp break with Latin America's populist leaders as a center-right politician who is expected to usher in better relations with the U.S. Macri's win "ends 12 years of 'Kirchnerismo,' a populist brand of leftist politics embodied by President Cristina Kirchner and her late husband, Néstor. Together, the pair nationalized industries, stripped the central bank of independence, and ramped up spending and subsidies. Those policies lifted incomes temporarily but hurt investment and stoked inflation." Macri, a Freddy Mercury fan and Ayn Rand devotee, is already taking a harder line on Venezuela, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has begun organizing its first visit to Argentina in a decade. Read post-election profiles in the Wall Street Journal , the New York Times and The Post .

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Marco Rubio, in Miami in February, teaches political science at Florida International University. (Charles Ommanney for the Washington Post)

— Tampa Bay Times, "Marco Rubio drew strong student reviews, but skimped on job requirements as FIU professor," by Adam C. Smith: "Even after he became a U.S. senator and started traveling the country as a national GOP star and prospective presidential candidate, Rubio continued teaching Mondays and Fridays at FIU until April, earning $23,448 last year in addition to his $174,000 salary as a U.S. senator. …Students and teaching colleagues raved about Rubio's work in the classroom and the excitement of having a prominent Florida politician, and later a sitting U.S. senator and prospective presidential candidate, teaching them. Yet, despite consistently strong student evaluations for Rubio, records obtained by the Times indicate he was expected to do considerably more work than he actually performed. 'The requirements of this position include, but are not limited to the following: prepare and present lectures, develop reading lists, assign and grade homework, prepare, give and grade tests, meet with students, and provide grades to students in accordance with the academic standards of Florida International University,' stated letters signed by Rubio and his supervisors in 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015. But Rubio never developed reading lists or graded papers or tests, according his colleagues."

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Chris Christie in Stratham, N.H., on Saturday. (Erik Hawkins/Portsmouth Herald via AP)

— New York Times, "After Paris, voters give Chris Christie a second look, " by Michael Barbaro: "It is too early to tell how the Paris attacks will ultimately reshape the topsy-turvy Republican presidential race. But this much is clear: It has brought sudden intensity, attention and focus to the once-moribund candidacy of Christie. Across New Hampshire, voters are reassessing the man they had all but written off six months ago and whose political standing is still precarious. But for the first time, a solid majority of Republican voters in the state have a favorable view of the governor, according to two polls, a remarkable turnaround from the depths of his unpopularity. And many of those giving Christie a second look are bluntly pointing to the same reason for the change of heart: terrorism. In the days after gunmen rampaged across the French capital, Mark Burns, a 61-year-old businessman from Manchester, surveyed the Republican field for a candidate whose forcefulness matched this scary moment. To his surprise, it was Christie. 'We are going to war,' said Burns, who called Christie man enough to lead the battle. 'He's the only one.'"

— Politico, "Republicans seek to strangle Paris climate pact ," by Darren Goode and Andrew Restuccia: "Call it the climate cliff. On Dec. 11, Obama administration diplomats will be in Paris working to clinch a global climate deal that will hinge on whether they can back up a pledge to provide billions of dollars to help poor countries

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deal with climate change. That same day, Republicans back in Washington will be trying to hold that money hostage with a government shutdown hanging in the balance. … Congress must pass a new spending bill by Dec. 11, when a stopgap measure expires. The simultaneous deadlines on each side of the Atlantic Ocean give Republicans a tool to derail a legacy-defining pact for the president and score a rare victory on climate policy. They also significantly raise the stakes in this year's game of shutdown chicken."

HOT ON THE LEFT

Climate change worsens terrorism. From the Huffington Post: "Environmental leaders argue that attendees of Paris climate talks have a chance to kill two birds with one stone: mitigate global warming and terrorism. A paper published in March … concluded that global warming contributed to Syria's conflict by exacerbating the country's drought, which began in 2006. The lack of rainfall worsened the country's already unstable water and agricultural resources, forcing 1.5 million rural inhabitants to move closer to urban centers."

HOT ON THE RIGHT

Electric cars' dirty secret: All the coal needed to run them. From The Post's Michael Birnbaum in Rotterdam: "Thanks to generous tax incentives, the share of electric vehicles has grown faster in the Netherlands than in nearly any other country in the world. But behind the green growth is a filthy secret: In a nation famous for its windmills, electricity is coming from a far dirtier source. Three new coal-fired power plants, including two here on the Rotterdam harbor, are supplying much of the power to fuel the Netherlands' electric-car boom. As the world tries to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and combat climate change, policymakers have pinned hopes on electric cars, whose range and convenience are quickly improving. Alongside the boom has come a surging demand for power to charge the vehicles, which can consume as much electricity in a single charge as the average

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refrigerator does in a month and a half."

DAYBOOK:

— What's happening today on the campaign trail: Hillary Clinton attends events in Boulder and Denver, Colo. In S.C., Donald Trump holds an evening rally in Myrtle Beach and Jeb Bush stops in Greenville, Spartanburg and Rock Hill. Chris Christie speaks at the Council on Foreign Relations in D.C. Marco Rubio stops in Cedar Rapids, Grinnell and Des Moines, Iowa, and Lindsey Graham is in Manchester, N.H. Rand Paul speaks in Hazard, Ky.

— On the Hill: The Senate and House are in recess.

— At the White House: President Obama holds a bilateral meeting and a joint press conference with French President Francois Hollande. Later, Obama awards the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Juliet Eilperin explains how the selection process works here .

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Donald Trump is paying attention to me for reasons that are completely beyond me," Karl Rove told USA Today . "He's got a limited amount of time that even he can fill. Why does he waste his early-morning hours tweeting out that I'm a total loser and a moron? It's also funny because in person he's entirely different. A week ago Monday, I was at Fox. He's there advertising his book. He comes in and he's his jovial self and we shake hands. … He starts gesticulating toward me. 'I want this guy' — pointing to me — 'in my corner. I want him on my side.' I said, 'No, you don't. You call me a loser and say we spent $480 million and didn't win a single election. Who do you think you're kidding? No, you don't.' And we laughed and had a cordial conversation and wished each other well and off we went."

NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— "Mostly sunny skies, but still a chilled morning as temperatures lift from the 20s and low 30s to the 40s in the morning and then near 50 by mid-afternoon," the Capital Weather Gang forecasts . "Light breezes from the west at 5 to 10 mph won't

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offer as much wind chill as yesterday, so the air will have a little less of a bite to it."

— The Post created a getaway guide for folks trying to escape the D.C. area for Thanksgiving. The worst time to get on the road? Tuesday from 5 to 6 p.m. See maps and other pointers here .



Goalie Braden Holtby #70 of the Capitals makes a save on Eric Gryba of the Oilers during the third period at the Verizon Center last night. (Patrick Smith/Getty Images)

— The Capitals shut out the Edmonton Oilers 1-0 for their third win in four games. (Isabelle Khurshudyan)

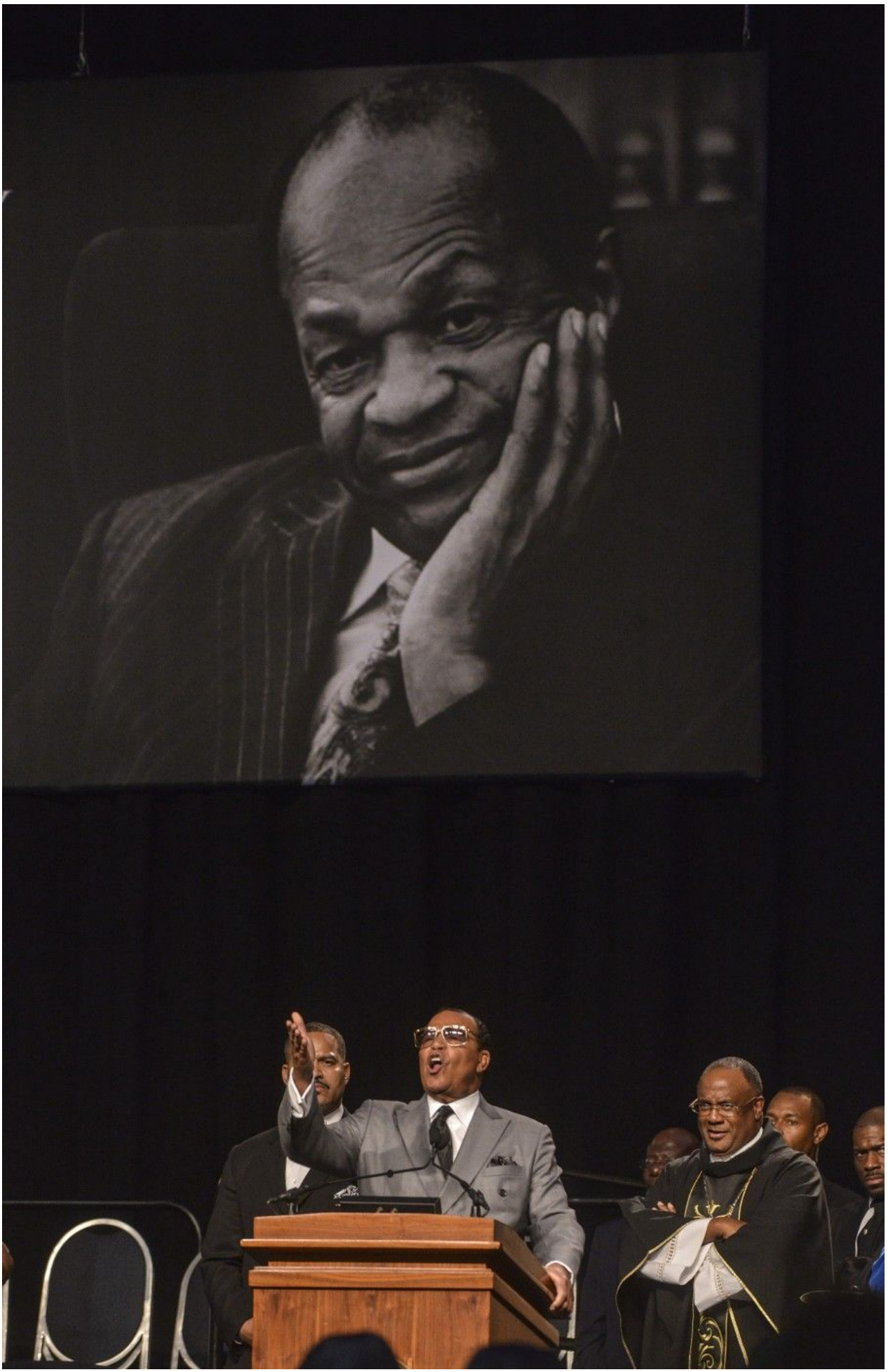
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Matt Damon as Jason Bourne in 2007's "Bourne Ultimatum." (AP Photo/Universal Pictures, Jasin Boland, file)

— The next installment of the Bourne franchise is filming in the District from Dec. 2 through Dec. 5 and then on Dec. 7. That means you have five days to spot Matt Damon as Jason Bourne. (Helena Andrews-Dyer)

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Louis Farrakhan speaks at a funeral service for Marion Barry last December. (Bill O'Leary/ The Washington Post)

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— On the anniversary of his death, a commission recommended four ways that the D.C. government could honor former Mayor Marion S. Barry Jr.: renaming Good Hope Road SE; commissioning a bust or statue in front of city hall; renaming Frank W. Ballou Senior High School; and naming the student center at the University of the District of Columbia.



D.C. Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier (Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

— D.C.'s police chief says sometimes rushing the gunman might be the best option in active shooter situations. Cathy L. Lanier says it might save lives not to wait for cops to arrive. She cited the Navy Yard shootings in 2013. "Your options are run, hide or fight," Lanier said. "I always say if you can get out, getting out's your first option, your best option. If you're in a position to try and take the gunman down, to take the gunman out, it's the best option for saving lives before police can get there." (Peter Hermann)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

— Trump attacked Clinton on Instagram with a video interspersing clips of the Democratic frontrunner laughing with images of the Benghazi attack. "Don't let the joke be on us" is the tagline. The pro-John Kasich super PAC released a minute-long web video with clips of Trump's biggest gaffes this year. (Elise Viebeck)

— Seth Meyers mocked Trump, Sanders and Christie in his "jokes of the week" segment:

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(Late Night with Seth Meyers)"

— Chris Soules, a former contestant on ABC's "The Bachelor," recorded a TV ad promoting ethanol that will run in Iowa this week:

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(Growth Energy)

— SNL showed famous actors failing their “Star Wars” audition tests. Watch the four-minute skit here .

— To end on a lighter note: U2 will make up its postponed Paris concerts next month. “So much that was taken from Paris on the tragic night of November 13th is irreplaceable,” U2’s Bono said in a statement. “For one night, the killers took lives, took music, took peace of mind – but they couldn’t steal the spirit of that city.”

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The Washington Post

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From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	"Jennifer Palmieri" <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com>
Date:	3/21/2015 1:34:37 PM
Subject:	Re: SCHWEIZER / Clinton Cash

Feels like what Brock is good at.

JP
--Sent from my iPad--
john.podesta@gmail.com
For scheduling: eryn.sepp@gmail.com

> On Mar 21, 2015, at 6:43 PM, Jennifer Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> That would be big - we are having a hard time finding it.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Mar 21, 2015, at 6:36 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> wrote:
>>
>> May have a line on it
>>
>>> On 3/21/15, 3:01 PM, "Robby Mook" <robbymook2015@gmail.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> Adding Kristina who is poking around as well
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>>> On Mar 21, 2015, at 5:54 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
>>>> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Definitely would be good to get a copyŠ
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> <Clinton Cash - Annoucement Release.doc>
>>

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 1/22/2015 1:48:14 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday January 22, 2015 Morning Roundup



Correct The Record Thursday January 22, 2015 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

CNN: “Clinton emerges from hiatus with updated vision for future”

“Hillary Clinton emerged from a month-long speaking tour hiatus on Wednesday with a host of new potential stump speech lines that could soon become the cornerstone of her all-but-certain presidential run.”

New York Times: First Draft: “Hillary Clinton Gives Her Own ‘State of the Union’”

“In her first speech of the year, at a luncheon hosted by a bank in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Mrs. Clinton took the opportunity to opine on several topics that could play a part in a 2016 presidential campaign.”

MSNBC: “Hillary Clinton backs Obama on foreign and domestic fronts”

“In her first public appearance in more than a month, Hillary Clinton strongly backed President Obama on both domestic and foreign policy, while saying western democracies like the U.S. and Canada are in an epic ‘contest’ with Islamic extremists and authoritarians.”

Associated Press: “Hillary Clinton declines to take position on Keystone”

“Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday declined again to take a position on the Keystone XL pipeline, telling an audience in Canada that she would not express her views because of an ongoing review by the State Department.”

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

CBC News: “Hillary Clinton speaks in Saskatoon”

“Clinton focused most of her formal address on the topic of Islamic extremism -- and how the U.S. and Canada should respond.”

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: “Hillary: Obama proposals 'an important start' on income inequality”

“Hillary Clinton backed President Obama's broad approach on a range of economic issues while leaving room for some disagreement during an appearance in Canada on Wednesday.”

Articles:

CNN: “Clinton emerges from hiatus with updated vision for future”

By Dan Merica

January 21, 2015

Winnipeg, Manitoba (CNN)Hillary Clinton emerged from a month-long speaking tour hiatus on Wednesday with a host of new potential stump speech lines that could soon become the cornerstone of her all-but-certain presidential run.

The former secretary of state and prohibitive favorite for Democrats' 2016 presidential nomination laid out a vision for the future during the prepared portion of her remarks in Winnipeg, Manitoba, highlighting the need to combat radicalism, increase stagnating wages and reform the United States' immigration system.

"For our democracies to meet the tests ahead, all of our people, not just those of us here, but all of our people, have to believe they too have a stake in our prosperity and our future, no matter where they are from, what they look like, who they worship or who they love," Clinton said.

Wednesday's speech in Winnipeg was Clinton's first headline appearance since Dec. 15. The dearth in events is noticeable considering Clinton's prevalence last year.

But the former secretary of state has been busy, according to a Democratic source who told CNN Clinton has been meeting with advisers for the last month at her Chappaqua, New York, home for strategy sessions about launching a 2016 presidential run.

The new lines focused heavily on empowering middle-class Americans and used Clinton's time as secretary of state to convey an understanding of the issue.

"We have to show the world that free people and free markets, human rights and human dignity, respect for our fellow men and women, is our core

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strength," Clinton said when speaking of the Paris terrorist attacks earlier this year. "We can't give in to division or distraction."

People, no matter what society they are in all want mostly the same thing, Clinton said.

"Overwhelmingly they say, 'I want a good job. I want my children to get an education. I want my family to be safe and feel that they have a good future.' That is not so different than from what we want in the United States and Canada," she said.

Referring to the recent Paris terrorist attacks that gripped France and its allies, Clinton said the incidents "were stark reminders of the threats we face together," and "sharpened the true contours" of the fight against radicalism.

"Islam itself is not the adversary and the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and tolerant people," Clinton said, before endorsing more controls on how extremists use the Internet to recruit.

Clinton also offered fresh comments on immigration, another hot-button issue.

"Canada and the United States, unlike most places in the world, are nations built by immigrants and energized by our diversity," Clinton said. "It hasn't always been smooth or easy, but at our best, we kept expanding our idea of family and community ... to keep making more room at the table."

In the past, Clinton has backed the Obama administration's plan to issue an executive action to overhaul the nation's immigration system, but not addressed the issue as core to continuing growth.

Though she has at times distanced herself from Obama -- her former boss and rival -- on a number of issues, in Canada, Clinton embraced many of the President's efforts.

"I think the President has been very successful," Clinton said, reflecting on Obama's sixth State of the Union address on Tuesday. "I think the President did a really good job in laying out some broad areas."

In unveiling these new lines, Clinton also hugged closely to the vision for the future that Obama laid out on Tuesday night.

Clinton said, Obama "offered a vision for helping the middle class in the United States reclaim its seat at the table. And the proposals he offered are an important start for a critical debate."

"I think we are certainly coming out of the worst of our problems," Clinton said reflecting on the Obama years. "I don't think the President gets the credit he and his team deserve for the way they navigated through the difficult area."

The former New York senator also dissuaded Democrats in the Senate from pushing new unilateral sanctions on Iran while negotiations with the country were still ongoing.

"I take the position that I think the President articulated last night," Clinton said, arguing that the sanctions would threaten the negotiations and be a "very serious, strategic error."

Once again, Clinton declined to offer an opinion about the building of the Keystone XL pipeline, a controversial proposal currently under review by the State Department and the subject of a power struggle between the Obama administration and the Republican-led Congress.

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Before the event, some of the 2,000 people who paid $300 a ticket to attend Clinton's speech chatted about the former first lady's likely presidential run and the fact she was getting paid for Wednesday's appearance. Some even asked, "Do you think Clinton will declare her candidacy today?"

They were left disappointed, though. Clinton was not asked about her 2016 plans during a moderated discussion with CIBC CEO Victor Dodig and made no mention of them in her prepared remarks.

Clinton now heads to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for a similar event on Wednesday night.

New York Times: First Draft: “Hillary Clinton Gives Her Own ‘State of the Union’”

By Amy Chozick

January 21, 2015, 6:21 p.m. EST

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday denounced the recent attacks by Muslim extremists in Paris, weighed in on the proposals President Obama outlined in his State of the Union address and talked about how the United States could alleviate income inequality. She even impersonated President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia.

In her first speech of the year, at a luncheon hosted by a bank in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Mrs. Clinton took the opportunity to opine on several topics that could play a part in a 2016 presidential campaign.

But Mrs. Clinton is not a candidate yet, and therefore managed to remain mum on the one topic many in the audience had hoped to hear her talk about.

“You won’t get me to talk about Keystone, because I have steadily made clear I’m not going to express an opinion,” Mrs. Clinton said when asked about the contentious pipeline that would carry crude oil from Canada to refineries in the United States..

Mrs. Clinton did talk extensively about fighting Muslim extremism after 17 people were killed in terror attacks in Paris this month.

“The slaughter of satire writers and Jews and police officers sharpened the true contours of this struggle,” Mrs. Clinton said. “There is a distorted and dangerous strain of extremism within the Muslim world that continues to spread.”

She talked about growing income inequity in the United States and endorsed Mr. Obama’s proposal to make community college free. But Mrs. Clinton added that State of the Union addresses were about laying out an agenda and not necessarily enacting legislation. “I think there was plenty for people to work with in the president’s speech last night,” she said.

When asked how would she handle a Republican-led Congress if she were president, Mrs. Clinton responded that, as a “hypothetical,” she believed lawmaking was a “business transaction” and that “the art of compromise in our politics” was lacking.

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At one point, Mrs. Clinton was asked what she would do “if she decided” to be president. She said that there was a process and then imitated Mr. Putin anointing himself president. “Excellent, excellent idea,” Mrs. Clinton said, feigning a Russian accent.

MSNBC: “Hillary Clinton backs Obama on foreign and domestic fronts”

By Alex Seitz-Wald

January 21, 2015, 5:09 p.m. EST

In her first public appearance in more than a month, Hillary Clinton strongly backed President Obama on both domestic and foreign policy, while saying western democracies like the U.S. and Canada are in an epic “contest” with Islamic extremists and authoritarians.

Clinton spoke to more than 2,000 in Winnipeg, Canada, at a lecture series sponsored by a Canadian bank. She was not asked whether she plans to run for president in 2016, and dodged questions on the Keystone XL pipeline, a thorn in the side of U.S.-Canada relations.

“You won’t get me to talk about Keystone because I have steadily made clear that I will not express an opinion,” she said while being questioned by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce CEO Victor Dodig during the Q&A portion of her appearance. The former secretary of state has said she will not weigh in on the controversial pipeline until the Obama administration’s review of the project is complete.

But the likely presidential candidate had plenty of other things to say on a range of other topics.

Iran: Clinton gave a full-throated endorsement of President Obama’s approach to Iran and its nuclear program, rebuffing Republicans and Democrats in Congress who are trying to impose new sanctions on the country. She said the new sanctions, pushed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers friendly to Israel, could lead to “a very serious strategic error.”

They would give Russia and China “an excuse” to drop out of multilateral negotiations or push for a weaker deal with Iran, she said. “Why do we want to be the catalyst for the collapse of negotiations?”

“I feel very strongly about this,” she continued. “If we get to the point where [the Iranians] cheat … all bets are off. But right now, the status quo that we’re in is, in my view, in our interests, so I don’t want to do anything that disrupts that status quo.”

The sanctions are going to be major flashpoint for Obama with his own party this year, so the backing of the party’s likely future leader could be a major asset. “This should help stiffen the backbone of Democrats who were already reluctant to support new sanctions. Hopefully, unified Democratic opposition to sanctions will convince its sponsors to stop their dangerous push,” said Stephen Miles, the advocacy director of a group of 40 anti-war groups called the Win Without War Coalition.

Paris attacks: In her first public remarks on the matter, Clinton said recent terror attacks in Paris and elsewhere have “sharpened the true contours of this struggle” between Western democracy and Islamic extremists. “Islam itself is not the enemy,” she said, but rather a “vicious few” who promote an “ideology of hate.”

“Like previous ideological struggles, this is a generational challenge and it must be waged on many fronts,” she said, calling for an attack on extremist propaganda.

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Clinton drew a wide rhetorical circle around democratic countries and presented them as at war with terrorists and dictators alike. “Extremism, authoritarianism, Putinism – none of them can compete with democracy at our best,” she said.

Inequality: Clinton connected the fight against extremism abroad to the fight for justice at home. “Standing up for our own values in our communities is just as crucial as promoting them abroad,” she said. That includes “demagogues who pray on fears of immigrants” as well inequalities in the economy.

She continued her stepped-up embrace of economic populism, promoted perhaps most vocally in Democratic politics by Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Citing a recent Oxfam report that warned the top 1% will control half of the world’s wealth by 2016, Clinton said that kind of inequality is a threat to “the core” of Democracy and must be dealt with to expand the “circle of opportunity” to everyone. “Here in Canada, for example, you’ve shown that the economic inequality that we see in the United States and in many countries is not inevitable,” Clinton said. “You’ve invested in your middle class and it’s made a real difference.”

State of the Union: Clinton called President Obama’s State of the Union address “an important start for a critical debate” on expanding economic opportunity, and praised his economic record. “The president has been very successful,” she said. “I think the president doesn’t get the credit he and his team deserves for the way they navigated” the recession.”

She did add, however, “I would have differences, everyone would have differences, about what else could be done” in the early days of the administration.

Ukraine: One place where Clinton was willing to distance herself from the White House, if slightly, was in calling for great aid, both in training and equipment, to Ukrainian forces fighting Russian-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country.

Compromise over ideology: Clinton praised transactional leadership and called for a return to dealmaking. “That’s what we need to get back to doing, the art of compromise in our politics, rather than people staking out ideological positions,” she said.

And no Clinton appearance would be complete without some praise for her new granddaughter, Charlotte. Clinton said the four-month-old does not yet have a nickname for her the former secretary of state a likely presidential candidate, suggesting the name is a point of contention in the family. “The negotiations are harder than my secretary of state job,” she joked. Clinton said she’ she’ll let the baby choose a name – but “exercise a veto” if need be.

Associated Press: “Hillary Clinton declines to take position on Keystone”

By Ken Thomas

January 21, 2015, 11:18 p.m. EST

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday declined again to take a position on the Keystone XL pipeline, telling an audience in Canada that she would not express her views because of an ongoing review by the State Department.

"We have differences and you won't get me to talk about Keystone because I have steadily made clear that I'm not going to express an opinion," said Clinton, a potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidate. "It is in our process and that's where it belongs."

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Clinton was asked about U.S.-Canadian relations during a wide-ranging question-and-answer session in Winnipeg as Congress considers approving construction of the contentious, Canada-backed project. Making her first public remarks in a month, Clinton also touched upon the deadly terrorist attacks in Paris, President Barack Obama's State of the Union address and the debate in Congress over Iran.

Her views on Keystone have been closely watched in Canada. She has said it would be inappropriate for her to comment on whether the pipeline project should move ahead, given her past role as Obama's top diplomat and the State Department's ongoing assessment.

Obama has vowed to veto the congressional legislation as long as the State Department is still conducting a formal review of the project.

The TransCanada Corp. pipeline would carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Alberta and the U.S. Bakken oil field across six U.S. states to refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast.

The House authorized construction of the pipeline last week, and the Senate is now considering the legislation. Republican and Democratic supporters hope to win final approval on the measure and send it to the White House by the end of the week.

Republicans, the Canadian government and business and labor groups have pressured the Obama administration to approve the pipeline, arguing it would create jobs and move North America toward energy independence. Environmentalists want Obama to reject the pipeline, contending it would contribute to global warming and make the U.S. more vulnerable to oil spills.

For a possible Democratic presidential candidate, the politics of Keystone are tricky. Environmentalists and labor unions have been among the party's core supporters for years, and picking sides could alienate either group. One of the leading opponents is billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer, who has poured millions of dollars into a super PAC that has promoted environmental causes.

Republican National Committee spokeswoman Kirsten Kukowski criticized Clinton's Keystone stance, saying if she "can't take a position on building a pipeline Americans overwhelmingly support, how can voters expect her to make the hard choices that come with being commander-in-chief and leader of the free world?"

Appearing onstage before nearly 2,000 people at an event sponsored by CIBC, a Canadian bank, Clinton commented on several American and international developments, including:

— Paris: Clinton said the recent terror attack in Paris showed that Western democracies are "in a contest of ideas" against extremism within the Muslim world. She said the "slaughter of satire writers and Jews and police officers sharpened the true contours of this struggle."

— Obama: Clinton said Obama's proposals in Tuesday's annual address to Congress could offer a good starting point for negotiations with majority Republicans and said the U.S. needs to do more for families struggling with "sagging wages and sinking hopes." Obama and his team have not received the "credit they deserve" for their stewardship of the economy since the recession, she said.

— Iran: The former New York senator said she opposed efforts in the Senate to ramp up sanctions on Iran if a deal preventing the country from developing nuclear weapons is not reached by early July. Clinton said new sanctions could give Iran and others an excuse not to continue with the negotiations. Obama has said he will veto any Iran sanctions bill that reaches his desk.

Clinton spoke later in the day at a similar event in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where she called climate change an urgent challenge. "We're now at the point where global action is an absolute necessity," she said.

Clinton has largely stayed out of public view since mid-December. Her two paid speeches came as she is beginning to assemble the makings of a

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presidential campaign, though she has yet to announce her intentions. Clinton is working with close advisers and several former Obama campaign aides to prepare for the 2016 race and is expected to make a final decision in the spring.

CBC News: "Hillary Clinton speaks in Saskatoon"

[No Writer Mentioned]

January 21, 2015, 5:30 a.m. CST

The woman who may yet become the first female president of the United States spoke in Saskatoon Wednesday night at TCU Place.

The former U.S. secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton did not quite pack the house. But close to 2,000 people streamed in to hear the woman who is widely expected to make a second bid for the U.S. presidency. They paid in the range of $84 to $315 for the privilege.

Clinton focused most of her formal address on the topic of Islamic extremism -- and how the U.S. and Canada should respond. Coincidentally, it was the same evening that the Amadiyya Muslim Students' Association was holding a video presentation and discussion at the University of Saskatchewan, on Islamist de-radicalization.

Clinton spoke about the values of "tolerance and openness that define our democracies".

"Make no mistake," Clinton told her audience, "those were the values under assault in Paris. The slaughter of cartoonists and satirists, along with Jews and police officers truly sent a signal about what we are contesting."

She called it a "contest of ideas and values", adding that "Islam itself is not the adversary".

"But we can't close our eyes to the fact that there is a distorted and dangerous strain of extremism within the Muslim world that continues to spread," Clinton continued, calling it "a generational challenge" that must be "waged on multiple fronts simultaneously". Those include the effort to stop the spread of ISIS and other violent extremist groups in the Middle East. She also said there's a need to empower moderates and marginalize extremists in the wider Muslim world, as well as target extremist propaganda and recruitment.

"And we still have to do a much better job of contesting on-line space including websites, and chat rooms, where extremists inspire and recruit followers," Clinton said.

Having spoken in Winnipeg earlier in the day, Clinton described her visit to the newly opened Canadian Museum for Human Rights, where she found "so much information presented dramatically and poignantly about what it means to be deprived of your human rights".

Clinton also linked the struggle against extremism with "sharing prosperity more broadly and fairly".

During a question-and-answer session that followed, Clinton advanced the idea of a "North American energy system".

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"When I was in Winnipeg I talked about how there's a deal between Manitoba's hydroelectricity and some companies, utilities across the border that deal with clean energy, solar, wind and how we need to be looking for ways to connect ourselves up, to thicken the co-operation on energy among us," Clinton said.

However, there were two questions she would not touch -- her views on the Keystone XL oil pipeline, and whether she will indeed enter the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

The Hill blog: Ballot Box: "Hillary: Obama proposals 'an important start' on income inequality"

By Peter Sullivan

January 21, 2015, 3:41 p.m. EST

Hillary Clinton backed President Obama's broad approach on a range of economic issues while leaving room for some disagreement during an appearance in Canada on Wednesday.

She called Obama's State of the Union proposals, focused on boosting the middle class, "an important start for a critical debate."

As she heads towards a presidential run, Obama's bold economic messaging could shape the debate as she campaigns in 2016. Clinton did not take a position or bring up the specifics of Obama's proposal to raise taxes on the wealthy to pay for measures aimed at the middle class.

Clinton did focus on income inequality, an area of division that has led some liberals to urge Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to run.

She cited an Oxfam report that the world's 80 richest people have the same wealth as the bottom 3.5 billion people, raising the question of "How can we share prosperity more broadly and fairly?"

"Here in Canada, for example, you've shown that the economic inequality that we see in the United States and in many countries is not inevitable," she said.

"You've invested in your middle class and it's made a real difference," she added.

Clinton credited the Obama administration's handling of the 2008 financial crisis for the economic uptick, but left room to have handled some things differently.

"I think the president doesn't get the credit he and his team deserve for the way they navigated through this area," she said. "I would have had differences everybody would have had differences about what else could be done."

Her appearance came at an event in Winnipeg in the "Global Perspectives" series, sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

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On foreign policy, she mostly backed the president but called for more action to support Ukraine against Russia.

She said the Ukranian army has "proven that they are worthy of some greater support than we have up to date provided."

She has backed Obama's continued negotiations with Iran in the past, and continued that support. She disagreed with calls in Congress, including among some Democrats, for more sanctions.

"I take the position I think the president articulated last night," she said on Iran.

New sanctions would give China and Russia an excuse to drop out, she said.

"Why do we want to be the catalyst for the collapse of negotiations?" she said.

On one area, she had no comment, keeping with her past decision not to discuss the Keystone pipeline, citing her involvement in the approval process as secretary of State.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

· March 4 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton to fundraise for the Clinton Foundation (WSJ)

· March 19 – Atlantic City, NJ: Sec. Clinton keynotes American Camp Association conference (PR Newswire)

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From: "Melanie Hart" <mhart@americanprogress.org>
To: John.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 6/22/2015 1:36:44 PM
Subject: Question for Premier Li Keqiang -- Refined Version

Hello John,

Below is the refined question you just conveyed via phone:

*****
As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. Increasing sustainable financing and decreasing unsustainable financing will be essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals. That will require applying high environmental and social standards to our investments going forward. China will host the G20 next year in the midst of a growing international dialogue on sustainable investment standards. What is China's strategy for leveraging the G20, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the South-South Cooperation Fund, the Silk Road Fund, and other bilateral and multilateral forums to help establish common global standards for sustainable financing?

*****

Will hold on sending until I receive either a green light or additional edits.

Background notes of potential interest:

Last Friday Zhang Gaoli attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia and delivered remarks re China's plans for the 2016 G20. His speech was very general but did contain some positive indicators: he said G20 nations should develop new driving forces for sustainable growth of the global economy. He also focused on China's Silk Road initiative, which he welcomed other countries to join. That suggests they are at least thinking about linking these other programs in with G20.

Terminology re China hosting G20: Turkey currently enjoys talking about the fact that they hold the "G20 presidency" but thus far Chinese state press is using the term "chair" instead of presidency.

The 2015 G20 summit will be November 14-15 in Turkey. Then Turkey hands the baton to China. The 2016 summit will be in Hangzhou, China (likely next fall, exact date TBD).

Thanks,
Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
Director for China Policy
Center for American Progress
Direct Line: (202) 741-6359
Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Molly Elgin-Cossart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com'; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Re: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

Makes sense to combine - and perhaps leading with G20 will draw out some responses about that, too.

1. I wonder whether it's useful to nail down any specifics on high quality, e.g. investing in sustainable technologies and services, in ways that comply with high social and governance standards - the downside is the risk of getting too focused on a back and forth on governance, though could be interesting to specify each component to see if he responds to each.
2. In the SDG financing world, China's official position is that ODA is still the main vehicle, so may be useful to say something to the effect of "increasing sustainable development financing, including harnessing a broader range of sources towards sustainable development is essential ". (REF recent official Chinese gov position paper on post-2015 which states: "Development financing should be enhanced with North-South cooperation serving as the main channel." This statement is a pure political play, since domestic resources are the main vehicle of SD financing and drove China's own rise, not to mention ODA is not terribly sustainable, but this line plays well with developing countries.) This may be adding too much into a single question, but thought it worthwhile to flag.

Cheers,

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Molly

From: Melanie Hart
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Eryn Sepp (EG); Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com'; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: RE: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang

John and team,

Pete combined the G20 questions into one shorter one and added a separate one on finance. Here's some updated suggested text from Pete:

(1) As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. How will China use its G20 presidency next year to drive further progress on these two issues?

(2) Relatedly, increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

I think Pete's finance language is excellent. My one concern is that if we send 2 questions, they might pick what is easiest to respond to rather than what we would find most interesting. One option would be to combine further, perhaps as follows:

As you know, 2015 presents an historic opportunity for the international community to reach ambitious new agreements on the intertwined global challenges of climate change and sustainable development. It is in this environment that China is taking on the G20 presidency, and many observers around the world will be watching next year to see how China leverages the G20 to drive further progress on these two issues. Observers will also be monitoring whether and to what degree China leverages the AIIB to achieve these important goals. Increasing sustainable financing -- and decreasing unsustainable financing -- is essential if we are to achieve our global development and climate change goals, and that will require applying high standards to our investments going forward. What can China do - bilaterally or through the G20, the AIIB, and other multilateral institutions --to help engrain these high standards?

Additional thoughts/reactions from the team?

Melanie

Melanie M. Hart, Ph.D.
Director for China Policy
Center for American Progress
Direct Line: (202) 741-6359
Cell: (202) 294-6118

From: Eryn Sepp [mailto:esepp@equitablegrowth.org]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 12:55 PM
To: Melanie Hart; Erin M. Auel; Molly Elgin-Cossart; Peter Ogden; John Norris
Cc: 'John.podesta@gmail.com'; 'Eryn Sepp'
Subject: Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang
Importance: High

Hi Everyone—

John wants to respond on here to you all. He thinks we need to combine the two questions into one, and put a high standards sustainable finance question in.

Melanie, do we know who else is getting to ask questions?

John, the plain text is below:

To: John Podesta
From: Melanie Hart, Erin Auel, Molly Elgin-Cossart, Pete Ogden, John Norris

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Re: **Quick Response Needed – Your Question for Premier Li Keqiang**
Date: June 19, 2015

You are attending the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) think tank summit in Beijing June 26-27. There will be a side meeting with Li Keqiang. Around 40 guest scholars and officials will attend. **You are one of the high-level conference speakers invited to attend the Li Keqiang meeting. You have also been invited to ask Premier Li a question.** In that meeting only four people will ask questions (yourself included). CCIEE tells us the questions must be submitted in advance, no later than Monday evening (June 22) U.S. time. We should treat this as a hard deadline.

We suggest posing the following question:

Next year China will host the G20. Many nations around the world will be watching to see how China handles its G20 presidency and what that tells us about how China's rise will impact multilateral institutions. What does the Chinese government currently consider to be its top priorities for China's 2016 G20 presidency? As you know, 2015 is a very big year for sustainable development and climate change. We hope to see big progress this year on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Paris. Is the Chinese leadership thinking about how China can use its G20 presidency to unify and strengthen G20 support for implementing multilateral agendas on sustainable development and climate change?

Please share your thoughts asap (and no later than Monday evening) so that we can pass your preferred question on to Premier Li's team.

Additional meeting details below.

I. Meeting Format

Li will lead the meeting and do most of the talking. He has selected four people, including you, to ask questions. There is no pre-set theme for the meeting, but we have been told you are welcome to ask questions on topics including sustainable development, think tank cooperation, and economic issues.

II. Potential Participants

The meeting hosts have invited about 40 guest scholars and officials to attend the meeting. That group includes:

BAN Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (video speech)
Romano PRODI, President of the Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation, Professor at China Europe International Business School, Former Prime Minister of Italy
Danilo TURK, Professor of International Law, Former President of Slovenia
Kevin RUDD, President of the Asia Society Policy Institute, Former Prime Minister of Australia
Sir Don MCKINNON, Chairman of New Zealand China Council, Former Commonwealth Secretary General, Former Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand
Grzegorz W. KOLODKO, Founder and Director of Transformation, Integration and Globalization Economic Research, Former Deputy Premier of Poland
Thomas SARGENT, 2011 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor of Economics at New York University
WU Hongbo, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations
William BURNS, President of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Nubuo TANAKA, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Former Executive Director of International Energy Agency

III. Biography of Li Keqiang

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Li Keqiang (Ke-chung) is the second-highest ranking official in the CCP. He is currently a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, premier of the State Council and secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. From 2008-2013, he was vice premier of the State Council and deputy secretary of its Leading Party Members' Group. In this role, he oversaw a portfolio of issues including economic development, price controls, finance, climate change, and macroeconomic management. During that time, he also directed the Three Gorges Project Construction Committee and of South-to-North Water Diversion Construction Project Committee. In 2013, he became Premier of the State Council. He has focused on economic development and meeting China's growth targets. He has also led efforts to set targets for reducing energy intensity, cap coal use, and boost renewable capacity. At a meeting of the National Leading Group on Climate Change on June 12, 2015, he backed China's commitments through the UNFCCC, stating "China stands ready to work with all other parties to ensure a comprehensive, balanced and strong agreement at the upcoming Paris Conference."

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From: Nancybk@aol.com
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
andrew_imparato@help.senate.gov
Date: 8/28/2013 12:44:00 PM
Subject: Fwd: LA Times Op-Ed – Give Careivers a Break; It Would Be Nice If It Was One

---

From: Nancybk@aol.com
To: Sue.Horton@latimes.com
Sent: 8/28/2013 1:49:11 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: LA Times Op-Ed – Give Careivers a Break; It Would Be Nice If It Was One

Dear Editor;

In your editorial, "Give Caregivers a Break" you fail to understand that it isn't a break at all. It has been admitted by those who proposed the changes to Companionship Exemption, that it will not result in government funded home care workers being paid overtime. What will result is that caregivers will have their hours capped. The amount of hours anyone is allowed to work will be decreased from about 280 a month to 160, because the National Association of Medicaid Directors all say that their budgets are too strapped to pay overtime, and this is true.

What this change will do, rather than giving "caregivers a break," is devastate the homes of family caregivers who rely on that family income to be able to stay home with their disabled family member. What the unfunded change in the companionship exemption will do is separate people with disabilities from the live-in caregivers they've had for decades. Their loyal workers will see their take-home pay cut. They will have to pay for apartments, gas to new jobs to supplement lost income (if they can find them), and in some cases, pay for childcare, because they never had to leave the home to go to work before the change.

In my own case, it creates an earthquake in the house of cards I live in, as newspapers and legislatures and unions pontificate and mess with the program that is already so difficult to survive on if you have no family member to care for you. The augmentations to the program that people with disabilities ask for -- the people who really live with this program, are things like someone paying $57 for criminal background checks so that our impoverished workers don't have to pay this up front, when they may not get paid for a month or two or longer because the system is so clogged up trying to deal with all the other "good ideas," to prevent fraud that isn't there.

We asked for things like our incoming caregivers getting paid for training which they don't. We asked for emergency backup services so our attendants don't have to work when they're sick and we don't have sit up in our wheelchairs all night if someone doesn't show up to put us to bed. We need these backup services so our caregivers can get paid vacations, so they don't have to work for years at a time without them. No one listens to us, people with disabilities and our workers who ask for these things year after year.

It is well-meaning, ill-informed people like those on your editorial board, and legislators, and unions so out of touch with or maybe simply don't care about the real problems of their own rank-and-file providers, that they could decimate their living situations and income this way – – and by the way, double and possibly triple their coffers by collecting two and three dues out of the house where they once collected only one. Parties that understand little about what it takes to live on this program have their superficial little theoretical ideas, that are not thought through far enough as to how they will really play out in the lives of real people. It is these well-meaning, unknowing, powerful players who push through one onerous change after another, puffing a little harder each time to blow my house down.

The editorial board also fails to understand the Russian Roulette pistol aimed at the heads of the Seniors, People with Disabilities and our Home Care Workers who depend on it, every year when budgets are cut. Although overtime pay would be great for IHSS providers, in publicly funded Medicaid programs, states that are cutting IHSS (In Home Supportive Services) are not likely to provide overtime pay and will instead most likely cut hours worked above 160 hours a month for any one provider.

I know of a proud union member, a mother over 60, who has multiple disabilities of her own and takes care of her adult son with athetoid cerebral palsy who will see her household income of about $2520 a month in California drop to $1431, as her hours are cut from 280 hours a month to 160 hours. She doesn't have the stamina to supplement her income with more jobs and she has trouble finding other caregivers because her son cannot be understood very well by others. The union has taken over $40 a month from her for check each month to lobby for what will cut her income by a pretty big fraction. **70% of the caregivers in California are family members whose households stay intact with IHSS. A cut in hours can threaten their ability to stay in their homes**. Seniors and People with Disabilities with Live in Caregivers will be uprooted as well. Jerry Brown just got done settling a lawsuit trying to cut the IHSS program in California by 20% and settled for cutting it by8 percent. Do you really think he's going to take time and a half for over 50,000 providers? His representative on an Olmsted conference said they wouldn't.

When I was in the Young Socialist Alliance in college, before I had my accident, I believed in theories in a vacuum. Then I became disabled and saw how these things work out on a real-life level. In California, we have the most highly advanced In-Home Supportive Services program, and the reason it was so good is that the disabled person received money to find somebody and all of that money went directly to the caregiver. The attendant got all the bang for the buck. And while ADAPT American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today was fighting to get In Home Care, this wonderful program to all the states, they came up with things like "Money Follows the Person" and "Community First Choice Option" where that money continued to go to the disabled person to pay directly to their caregiver with no middleman.

But suddenly all kinds of profiteering is going on as big bad corporations and yes even sometimes big bad unions behaviors are immerging as monied interests smell a beautiful dollar to be made in the graying of the baby boomers. On a good day the union is our greatest blessing on a bad day they are our greatest curse. The only way to come up with a reasonable solution that takes everyone's welfare into account is to sit down and work it out. I think what's been most frightening to me in all of this is the ease with which able-bodied regard People with Disabilities

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as invisible. The SEIU would not even sit down at the table with People with Disabilities to work out a compromise until the rules were already written. Would this happen to a person of color? Are we the last population to be seen as a fraction of a person -- or a person who is really there at all?

People have been making industries of people with disabilities for decades, in the nursing home industry, the charity industry, and now the medical industrial complex and by the unions too on a bad day. People from ADAPT clawed our ways out of nursing homes that were profiteering off of us and now we have to fight against the nursing agency industry, managed care corporations, and even at times a union that is so out of touch with its rank and file providers needs that it would create three crappy jobs from one not so good one in order to collect two or three union dues on a one house.

It is the people disabilities and rank-and-file providers, who are in a symbiotic relationship, huddled together to keep industries and unions from objectifying us and moving us around like "furniture" in their business plans. The LA times editorial board members can choose to be naïve and come up with lovely little fairy lands in your own minds, but make no mistake, your naïveté will be paid for by the rank-and-file workers whose pay will be cut badly and people with disabilities who will go back to nursing homes.

The ADAPT-NCIL compromise would simply eliminate the exemption for third party employers, treating Medicaid consumers in consumer directed programs (including public authorities, fiscal intermediaries and agencies with choice) the same as private employers so they can still use the existing exemption. According to the DOL analysis, this change - alone - would eliminate the companionship exemption for 70% of home care workers. It covers all of the "bad players" and concerns raised in the DOL analysis that exist in traditional home care while minimizing the negative impact on people with disabilities and preventing the unexpected consequences such changes would have on real live people in Medicaid funded programs.

Where were our points of view in this discussions? Why include us? It's only our bodies, our civil rights, our freedom from live lives akin to political prisoners in iinstitutions! If anyone had any respect for people with disabilities we would have included us in the discussion.

Nancy Becker Kennedy

Appointed Member Since Its Inception
Los Angeles County Public Authority Board PASC
that oversees the In Home Care of over
200,000 Seniors and People with Disabilities

Join the IHSS Consumers Union on Facebook at

http://www.facebook.com/groups/IHSS.ConsumersUnion/

"**Nothing About Us Without Us!**" (**Latin: "Nihil de nobis, sine nobis**") is a slogan used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members the group(s) affected by that policy. This involves national, ethnic, disability based or other groups that are often thought to be marginalized from political, social, and economic opportunities.

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From:	VoteVets <info@votevets.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/27/2015 9:56:52 AM
Subject:	Send a message to Senator Mark Kirk

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

John -

Suffering in the polls, Senator Mark Kirk will say ANYTHING to bolster his re-election chances - even if that means marching the United States closer to another war, this time with Iran.

Over 15,000 veterans, military family members, and VoteVets supporters have called on Senator Kirk to apologize for comparing our negotiators to Nazi appeasers - add your name to theirs:

Tell Mark Kirk to put his country ahead of his campaign and apologize for comparing State Department diplomats to Nazi appeasers.



The State Department, nuclear scientists, and some of our strongest allies around the world support the deal with Iran, and the Senate should ratify the accord.

We're going to keep working to make sure that the voices of veterans are elevated in this debate.

Thanks for joining us.

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The Team at VoteVets

Contribute

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This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

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From: "Jonathan Garthwaite" <THeditor@TownHallmail.com>
To: Friend <JohnPodesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/9/2016 7:51:01 AM
Subject: Is Cruz Our Last Hope To Beat Trump?

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Ron Paul urges Americans to buy Silver to prepare for the economic collapse in 2016...
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Must Reads

The Reckoning: A Cruz Coalescence Conundrum

Guy Benson



As we stated this morning, it is now obvious that Ted Cruz

RNC Sues for Hillary's State Dept Records

Cortney O'Brien



The government failed to answer the Republican National Committee's request for Hillary Clinton's State Department records last October and December, so they are sending Washington a friendly reminder. **[Keep Reading]**

Surreal: Hillary Doubles Down on 'No Classified Material' Lie

Guy Benson

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has emerged as the only conservative alternative to Donald Trump, having defeated the controversial billionaire in Iowa, Texas, Oklahoma, Alaska, Kansas, Maine, and Idaho.
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Christine Rousselle



Aloha: Trump Wins Hawaii, Claiming Third Tuesday Victory
Guy Benson



Decision Desk Issues Mea Culpa After Premature Call of Michigan Race
Christine Rousselle



Great: A Dozen More Released Gitmo Detainees Have Gone 'Back to Battle'
Cortney O'Brien



Carly Fiorina Endorses Ted Cruz
Christine Rousselle



Obama To Skip Nancy Reagan's Funeral, Will Appear At SXSW Conference In Texas Instead
Matt Vespa



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AFP Boasts Of Record High Voter Engagement As They Prepare For War With Obama's Regulatory Agenda
Matt Vespa

AFP continues to lead the fight against an ever-encroaching Washington D.C.
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In a rare Fox News appearance Monday, Hillary Clinton was confronted by anchor Bret Baier with her March 2015 assertion that "there is no classified material" on her improper, unsecure, national security-compromising email server.
[Keep Reading]

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Ann Coulter



Hillary's Federal Education Jackboot Squad
Michelle Malkin



Libertarian Lite
John Stossel



The Seen and Unseen
Walter E. Williams



Diner Offers "Dictator Obama" Breakfast Special
Todd Starnes



ISIS and Christian Genocide
Brent Bozell



Conservative Purists Are Capitulating With Support of Trump
Jonah Goldberg



Texas Abortion Law Meets Bill Clinton's Standards
Star Parker



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Whoa: Israeli Stabbed by Palestinian Terrorist Pulls Knife Out of Neck And Kills Attacker With It

Leah Barkoukis

Israel has its own Chuck Norris and his name is Yonatan Azarihab.
[Keep Reading]



Awful: German Waterpark Forced To Segregate After Afghan Migrant Sexual Assaults

Matt Vespa

Last week, another event occurred at the hands of migrant Muslim men; they assaulted two teenage girls at a local waterpark.
[Keep Reading]



Terrific: Iran Might Walk Away From Obama's Historic Nuke Deal

Katie Pavlich

It hasn't even been a year since President Obama announced a historic agreement with Iran last July, but according to the Free Beacon's Adam Kredo, Iran is threatening to walk away from the deal.
[Keep Reading]



Loretta Lynch to White House: Take Me Off The SCOTUS List

Matt Vespa

If the interview with Fox News' Bret Baier after Super Tuesday wasn't a good enough hint, then Attorney General Loretta Lynch made it official last night: she doesn't want to be on the Supreme Court.
[Keep Reading]



State Department Gives Cover to Palestinians After Terrorist Murders American in Israel

Katie Pavlich

American Taylor Allen Force was murdered in Israel yesterday after being attacked by a terrorist, but based on a statement released by the State Department, you would never know the person who carried out the attack was a Palestinian.
[Keep Reading]

Bearing Arms

Oregon State Police Justified in Shooting Oregon Bundy Protestor | Bob Owens

BREAKING: Synched LaVoy Finicum Shooting Video | Bob Owens

Study: Indiana Epicenter For Black Homicides, Gun Control Advocates Blame Lax Gun Laws | Matt Vespa

ICYMI: South Carolina House Votes To Nullify Federal Gun Regulations | Matt Vespa

Title IX Makes the Case for Campus Carry | Jenn Jacques

Political News

Sanders points to new momentum after Michigan victory | AP News

Denial of in-state tuition for certain immigrants challenged | AP News

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 9/6/2014 9:41:33 AM
Subject: Israel's Video Justifying Destruction of a Gaza Hospital Was From 2009

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Israel's Video Justifying Destruction of a Gaza Hospital Was From 2009

Gareth Porter, Truthout: A Truthout investigation reveals that a video prepared by the Israeli military to justify the destruction of Gaza's Al-Wafa Hospital used audio and video clips from two other incidents to suggest that Palestinian fighters had been firing from the hospital.

Read the Article

NATO Should Be Retired, Not Repurposed!

Joseph Gerson, Truthout: In this speech delivered at the NATO Counter Summit in Wales on August 31, peace activist Joseph Gerson decries NATO's role in the Ukraine conflict, warns of the nuclear dangers first strike threats pose and offers hope for nuclear disarmament.

Read the Speech

Emmett Till, Michael Brown and the Ongoing Struggle for Racial Justice

Peter Dreier, Truthout: Will the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown play a similar catalytic role that Emmett Till's murder, and the acquittal of his killers, did back then? Will it spark the necessary action for racial justice in the United States which has never been effected?

Read the Article

Better Off Dead: Black Women Speak to the United Nations CERD Committee

Farah Tanis and Aishah Shahidah Simmons, The Feminist Wire: A historic delegation of black women from the United States went to face the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to speak of the atrocities and havoc wrought by racism on lives of women across sexualities and gender identities in this country.

Read the Article

Postcards From the County

Hugh Christopher Brown, Truthout: The number of people in prison who have experienced violence

BuzzFlash

The BuzzFlash commentary for Truthout will return soon.

BP, Found Grossly Negligent, May Face $18 Billion in Gulf Spill Fines

Read the Article at the Los Angeles Times

Approximately a Third of Americans Have Been the Victim of Sexual Violence

Read the Article at the Smithsonian

More SF Landlords Evicting Tenants Without Any Evidence, According to New Housing Report

Read the Article at CBS Local

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and loss is humbling, as a jail house music program director learns. But their voices sound quite different from those calling for vengeance on the outside.

Read the Article

Six Ways to Bring More Empathy to the Internet

Liz Pleasant, YES! Magazine: Psychologists, user experience designers and writers were asked what web users could to do to promote more empathic interaction in online places. Here's what they said.

Read the Article

Marta Harnecker: New Paths Require a New Culture on the Left

Marta Harnecker, Translated by Federico Fuentes, International Journal of Socialist Renewal: Venezuela's Hugo Chavez was convinced that socialism could not be decreed from above, that it had to be built with the people. He also understood that participation is what allows people to develop themselves as human beings.

Read the Speech

Dealer Joins Dots Between Climate and Aboriginal Art

Mat Ward, Green Left Weekly: Australian Aboriginal art could be viewed as a particular culture's prescient response to the most pressing threat to humankind. An art dealer asks if humankind and Aboriginal art could help save each other.

Read the Article

Willie Nelson and Neil Young Come to the Aid of Bold Nebraska

Dave Saldana, PRWatch: Country music legend Willie Nelson and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Neil Young will be performing next month in Neligh, Nebraska, to raise money for Bold Nebraska, the Indigenous Environmental Network and the Cowboy & Indian Alliance, groups continuing to fight against Keystone XL and the threat it poses to their land and water.

Read the Article

Golden Weapons of Destruction Take Aim at El Salvador

John Cavanagh and Robin Broad, OtherWords: Why do companies have the right to sue countries over environmental protection measures? The government of El Salvador is fighting a foreign mining company to protect its main water source. The outcome will be precedent-setting.

Read the Article

Obama to Delay Executive Action on Immigration Until After Election

Read the Article at The Washington Post

Feds Planning Massive Family Detention Center in South Texas

Read the Article at the Texas Observer

Republicans Make Big Advances Thanks to Citizens United

Read the Article at The Institute for Southern Studies

Get on the Bus: Inside the Black Life Matters "Freedom Ride" to Ferguson

Read the Article at Colorlines

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From: "Karl Frisch, Media Matters" <kfrisch@mediamatters.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/14/2008 5:01:39 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Resources for the anti-Obama books by Corsi & Freddoso...

As most of you probably know, Media Matters obtained the two new anti-Obama books (Corsi and Freddoso) before their publication and for the past two weeks we have been pushing out research on their factual problems as well as details about the authors and publishers. I thought I'd pass along the research we've put out thus far in an effort to arm folks with the facts so Corsi, Freddoso, their publishers and the media outlets that put them on air without challenging their work can be called out and held accountable.

Also, if you didn't catch it last night, Larry King Live brought on Media Matters Senior Fellow Paul Waldman to debate Corsi on the problems with his new book. The video, which can be viewed here (the link also has code for embedding):

http://mediamatters.org/embed/larryking-20080813-corsi

Karl Frisch
202-772-8156

*** INDEX ***

1. Research on Jerome Corsi
2. Research on Corsi's “The Obama Nation”
3. Research on Freddoso's “The Case Against Barack Obama”

****
1) RESEARCH ON CORSI (from Media Matters, 2004)
****

MMFA investigates: Who is Jerome Corsi, co-author of Swift Boat Vets attack book? (08/06/2004)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200408060010

While much has been written about the identity and history of John E. O'Neill -- one of the authors of the forthcoming Regnery book Unfit for Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry (whose links in the GOP go back to his days as "protégé of Nixon-era dirty trickster Charles Colson") -- little has been said about his co-author, Jerome R. Corsi, PhD.

* Corsi on Islam: "a worthless, dangerous Satanic religion"
* Corsi on Catholicism: "Boy buggering in both Islam and Catholicism is okay with the Pope as long as it isn't reported by the liberal press"
* Corsi on Muslims: "RAGHEADS are Boy-Bumpers as clearly as they are Women-Haters -- it all goes together"
* Corsi on "John F*ing Commie Kerry": "After he married TerRAHsa, didn't John Kerry begin practicing Judiasm? He also has paternal grandparents that were Jewish. What religion is John Kerry?"
* Corsi on Senator "FAT HOG" Clinton: "Anybody ask why HELLary couldn't keep BJ Bill satisfied? Not lesbo or anything, is she?"

****
2) RESEARCH ON CORSI'S “The Obama Nation”
****

Unfit for Publication: Corsi's The Obama Nation filled with falsehoods (08/04/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808040005

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Summary: In its preface, Jerome Corsi compares his new book, The Obama Nation, to his 2004 book Unfit for Command. The comparison seems apt: Just as Unfit for Command contains false attacks on Sen. John Kerry's military service, a Media Matters review finds that The Obama Nation similarly contains numerous falsehoods about Sen. Barack Obama.

*****

Corsi reportedly scheduled to appear on "pro-White" radio show (08/14/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808140003

Summary: Despite stating that he had apologized for what was described as a "series of bigoted and hateful posts," Jerome Corsi, author of The Obama Nation, is scheduled to appear with host James Edwards on the August 17 edition of The Political Cesspool Radio Show, which, according to its "Statement of Principles," "represent[s] a philosophy that is pro-White." In a blog post, Edwards has stated that "[i]nterracial sex is white genocide."

*****

On Hannity & Colmes, Corsi still compounding book falsehoods with further falsehoods (08/13/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808130007

Summary: On Hannity & Colmes, Jerome Corsi claimed that the "whole point" of his book The Obama Nation is that the assertion by Sen. Barack Obama that he stopped using illegal drugs when he went to college is "not reliable." But Corsi does not make that point in his book; rather, Corsi falsely asserted that Obama "has yet to answer questions" about his drug use. Sean Hannity asked Corsi, "[D]o we know if he ever sold drugs[?]" -- though Hannity has previously asserted that such a question was a manifestation of "politics of personal destruction."

*****

During interview with Corsi, CNN Headline News' Glenn Beck on Obama: "[T]his guy really is a Marxist" (08/06/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808060009

Summary: On his CNN Headline News program, Glenn Beck said of Sen. Barack Obama, "The thing that I do find about Barack Obama is that -- and I think America is starting to catch on to this -- this guy really is a Marxist. He believes in the redistribution of wealth." Beck has previously said of Barack and Michelle Obama, "[T]here's a socialist agenda there for America."

*****

Confronted by MSNBC’s Brewer over falsehood, Corsi responds with two more (08/06/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808060006

Summary: After being confronted by MSNBC's Contessa Brewer on his book's false claim that Sen. Barack Obama did not dedicate his own book to his mother and grandparents, Jerome Corsi responded with two more falsehoods.

*****

On Fox & Friends, Corsi contradicted his own book with another false claim (08/05/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808050010

Summary: In The Obama Nation, Jerome Corsi writes that Sen. Barack Obama "has yet to answer" the question of whether "he stopped using marijuana and cocaine completely in college." But on Fox & Friends, Jerome Corsi contradicted that assertion, stating that Obama "fully admitted his drug use, both marijuana and cocaine. He says it continued through college." In fact, both of Corsi's allegations are false; Obama wrote in his memoir that

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he "stopped getting high" shortly after moving to New York City to attend Columbia University as an undergraduate.

*****

Citing Media Matters report on Obama Nation falsehoods, MSNBC's Brewer asked Corsi: "[W]hy should we give you the credibility?" (08/05/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808050004

Summary: While interviewing Jerome Corsi, author of the recently released book The Obama Nation: Leftist Politics and the Cult of Personality, MSNBC's Contessa Brewer cited a Media Matters report detailing what she said were "some eight, nine, 10 pages of factual errors" in the book, and asked Corsi: "[I]f they are finding one, then why do you get credibility for the book?"

*****

On three Hannity programs, Corsi offered another falsehood: Obama supports abortion "[a]fter a child's born" (08/02/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808020004

Summary: Jerome Corsi, author of the book, The Obama Nation, falsely claimed on Hannity's America that Sen. Barack Obama said, "Even if a child was born ... the woman still had the right to kill the child in an abortion." Corsi similarly falsely asserted on Hannity & Colmes that "[a]fter a child's born, Obama ... in the [Illinois] state Senate, wanted the child killed if the mother desired an abortion," and on Sean Hannity's radio program, said that "Obama's on record as let's kill the baby if that's what the mother wants." In fact, Obama has never supported giving people the right to kill their children.

*****

Publisher's promotional materials for Corsi's Obama Nation echo falsehood and baseless charge in book (08/02/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808020003

Summary: Simon & Schuster's promotional materials for Jerome Corsi's book, The Obama Nation, echo Corsi's false claims and baseless charges about Sen. Barack Obama's Global Poverty Act and his views on nuclear weapons.

*****

On Hannity & Colmes, another Corsi falsehood about Obama (08/01/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808010003

Summary: On Hannity & Colmes, author Jerome Corsi claimed that in his upcoming book, The Obama Nation, "I do a great deal of analysis of [Sen. Barack Obama's] autobiography." Corsi then asserted, "Obama first presents his father as a great hero, and the truth was, his father was a polygamist and a alcoholic." However, contrary to Corsi's suggestion that Obama did not address these issues in his memoir Dreams From My Father, he discusses his father's alcoholism and polygamy in multiple passages in the book.

*****

First reported allegation in Corsi's Obama attack book is false (07/31/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200807310003

Summary: A WorldNetDaily.com article about author Jerome Corsi's forthcoming book, The Obama Nation, asserts that the book "points out" that "Barack Obama admitted using drugs in his autobiography but never revealed if or when he stopped." In fact, Obama wrote in his autobiography, Dreams from My Father, that he "stopped getting high" shortly after moving to New York City to attend Columbia University.

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*****

In covering forthcoming anti-Obama books, will media repeat Swift Boat coverage mistakes? (07/30/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200807300005

Summary: Two books attacking Sen. Barack Obama are scheduled to be released in early August: The Obama Nation, by Jerome Corsi -- co-author of Unfit for Command, which contains false and baseless attacks on Sen. John Kerry's military service -- and The Case Against Barack Obama, by David Freddoso. Regnery, publisher of The Case Against Barack Obama, touts the book as having the same "goal" as Unfit for Command, which Regnery also published. The overt connections between the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth's scurrilous campaign against Kerry and the two forthcoming books raise the question for the media: Will they have absorbed the lessons of their highly flawed Swift Boat coverage and give more immediate and more thorough scrutiny to these forthcoming books?

****
3) RESEARCH ON FREDDOSO'S “The Case Against Barack Obama”
****

Misinformation in Freddoso's anti-Obama book comes early (08/01/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808010005

Summary: The introduction and first few pages of David Freddoso's forthcoming book, The Case Against Barack Obama, are marked by false and misleading assertions about Obama, accompanied by dubious citations.

*****

Citations in Freddoso's anti-Obama book rife with misinformation (08/05/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808050011

Summary: The first few pages of David Freddoso's book, The Case Against Barack Obama, are marked by false and misleading assertions about Sen. Barack Obama, accompanied by dubious citations. A Media Matters review of the endnotes reveals that the rest of the book is little different from these first few pages, as throughout the book, Freddoso misrepresents or distorts his sources and even makes assertions that are actually refuted by sources he cites.

*****

Weekly Standard's Hayes notes "significant problems" with Corsi book, but promotes problematic Freddoso book (08/14/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808140006

Summary: On CNN, The Weekly Standard's Stephen Hayes said that Jerome Corsi's falsehood-laden book The Obama Nation "certainly sounds like it has some significant problems with it." Later, speaking about National Review writer David Freddoso, author of The Case Against Barack Obama, Hayes said, "[H]e's a serious reporter, and he's ... gone back, he's looked at Obama's votes in the Illinois state Senate." But Media Matters has documented numerous examples of misinformation in Freddoso's book, as well as in Corsi's.

*****

Fox News' Colmes pressed Freddoso over voting "technicality" claim (08/05/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808050007

Summary: On Hannity & Colmes, Alan Colmes questioned David Freddoso's assertion in his new book that Sen. Barack Obama "thr[e]w all of his opponents off the ballot on a technicality, so that those voters have no choice but to elect him. This is precisely how he first won his state Senate seat in 1996." But Colmes pointed out that

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the "technicality" that Freddoso described included allegedly forged petitions and signatures reportedly from people who did not live within the district that the Senate seat represented.

*****

Ignoring key facts, MSNBC's Witt agreed with Freddoso that Obama's opponents in 1996 race were disqualified on a "technicality" (08/06/08)
http://mediamatters.org/items/200808060012

Summary: During an interview with David Freddoso, MSNBC's Alex Witt baselessly adopted a word Freddoso used to describe how Sen. Barack Obama challenged his opponents' qualifications for appearing on the ballot of the 1996 Illinois state Senate Democratic primary for the 13th district, saying that Obama's opponents were disqualified on a "technicality." In fact, one of Obama's opponents in that 1996 race reportedly admitted that he "now suspects" some of the signatures his campaign collected were forged, while another reportedly had some of her signatures disqualified because they were from voters who lived outside the 13th district -- facts Witt did not raise during the interview.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

To post to this group, send to bigcampaign@googlegroups.com

To unsubscribe, send email to bigcampaign-unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From:	"Eryn Sepp" <esepp@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com> "Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	4/30/2015 10:59:41 AM
Subject:	Michael Werz: German Public TV re: Russia / Uranium Deal

Hi John and Jen--

Michael Werz was approached about doing German Public TV next Tuesday re: Russia and the Uranium deal. They would have asked for you John, but you're not going to be in DC for quite some time during their filming schedule.

He's asking what we can give him in the way of surrogate TPs on CF as well as on the deal, if the campaign comes up, and he imagines it will.

He knows about the piece from the Daily Caller on Podesta Group, so is also asking if we want him to take any particular angle on that as well.

If we can share anything to help him, I wanted to make sure I had 1) the most updated version and 2) approval to do so.

(Also, I imagine he's going on the show in his CAP capacity. Do we need to be careful about that? He reached out via personal channels to keep things separate.)

Thank you,
Eryn

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From:	ricesusane@aol.com
To:	dmcdonough@barackobama.com mlippert@barackobama.com djsberg@gmail.com tblinken@barackobama.com john.podesta@gmail.com john.podesta@ptt.gov
Date:	11/7/2008 8:17:07 AM
Subject:	Proposed Briefings to be Requested

Below is the list of briefings Jim and I propose we request of the IC and others for senior transition national security staff over the coming weeks.

A subset of these TBD could subsequently be requested for POTUS-E and VPOTUS-E. We leave it to others to decide if it is desirable and appropriate for POTUS-E to request any or all of these in his meeting with Bush on Monday).

We welcome your thoughts.

IC

Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
China
MEPP and region
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime
North Korea
Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity and CI
IRDPA briefs

NSC

Policy briefings on:

Iraq
Iran
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Russia
China
MEPP and region
North Korea
Al Qaeda and global CT threat
Global WMD Threat (bio, chem and nuclear)
Cybersecurity
Mexico
Counter-narcotics and Crime
Syria

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Lebanon
Egypt
Saudi Arabia
Darfur
Zimbabwe
DRC
Weak States strategy

OMB

Budget briefing

DOD

Ongoing Operations
Iraq
Afghanistan
Pakistan
Nuclear safety and security
Readiness

Homeland Security

Infrastructure security
Border security
Disease/pandemic preparedness
First respone/disaster preparedness
Crisis Response plans/processes and continuity in government

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From: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
To: "Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 1/23/2016 11:29:02 AM
Subject: Breaking: DMR Endorses Hillary Clinton in Democratic Presidential Primary

Friends - We wanted to share with you the following endorsement of Hillary Clinton's candidacy by the Des Moines Register that posted earlier this evening. Thanks!

DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

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Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.



Buy Photo

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, president and publisher

Amalie Nash, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement

Lynn Hicks, opinion editor

Clark Kauffman, editorial writer

Andie Dominick, editorial writer

Brian Smith, engagement editor

Sent from my iPhone

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "HRCRapid" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to hrcrapid+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com .
To post to this group, send email to hrcrapid@googlegroups.com .
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/d/optout .

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From: "Tony Podesta" <podesta@podesta.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 5/4/2015 8:52:46 AM
Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Missi Tessier <tessier@PodestaGroup.onmicrosoft.com >
Date: May 4, 2015 at 5:51:12 PM GMT+2
To: Tony Podesta <podesta@podesta.com >, David Marin <DMarin@podestagroup.com >
Cc: Stephen Rademaker <srademaker@PodestaGroup.onmicrosoft.com >
Subject: RE: Podesta in the News Today

Yes you are correct. David and Steve may want to give additional justification, but all of us agree that it is not in anyone's interest to engage with or respond to purposefully inaccurate right wing bloggers as it will only result in additional rounds of stories that will do nothing to correct the record. Our internal digital analysis has shown that this story line has flatlined over the last several days and we do not believe that inducing another spike in the online discussion will be beneficial.

From: Tony Podesta
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 10:43 AM
To: Missi Tessier; David Marin
Cc: Stephen Rademaker
Subject: Fwd: Podesta in the News Today

Weren't the Russians already owners when we started
This implies we worked on cifius
Don't think we should let anything pass
Views

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gregory McGowan <gmcgowan@podestagroup.com >
Date: May 4, 2015 at 4:26:00 PM GMT+2
To: Everyone <PA-Everyone@podesta.com >
Subject: Podesta in the News Today

PODESTA IN THE NEWS: 05.04.2015

Note: numerous blogs are continuing to repost last week's DeSmog Blog article as well as the following Breitbart piece that was published over the weekend.

Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One
By: Ben Shapiro, Breitbart

Breitbart

May 1, 2015

Clinton Guru Podesta' Brother Lobbied for Scandal-Ridden Uranium One

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By: Ben Shapiro

If you love the team that put together the Clinton Foundation and all of its various corrupt dealings with foreign nations, you'll love the Hillary Clinton 2016 campaign. It now turns out that John Podesta, chair of Hillary's presidential campaign – and the same man who called the allegations of Peter Schweizer's Clinton Cash "conspiracy theories" – has a brother who runs a company, The **Podesta Group**, that lobbied the State Department on behalf of Uranium One while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State and beyond.

Uranium One is, of course, the uranium firm that sent a "flow of cash" to the Clinton Foundation as the Russian government gained increasing ownership of the company; the State Department had to sign off on the Russians' encroachment into the American uranium market. The Clinton Foundation did disclose its relationship with Uranium One in Hillary's State Department disclosures. According to the Daily Caller, Uranium One "paid the **Podesta Group** $40,000 to lobby the State Department, the Senate, the National Park Service and the National Security Council for 'international mining projects,' according to a July 20, 2012 filing."

Hillary's relationship with John Podesta goes back to the first Clinton administration. During Bill Clinton's second term, Podesta acted as chief of staff. After leaving, he created the Center for American Progress, a Clinton-backed leftist think tank designed to forward the political goals of the Clintons. As the Christian Science Monitor reported when Podesta joined Hillary Clinton's campaign back in January:

Podesta is the guy people call on when the going gets tough: He served as Bill Clinton's chief of staff from 1998 to 2001, helping control a series of crises including Clinton's impeachment trial. The Obama administration brought him on to help the President steer a path through Congressional impasses and to avert embarrassments like the Affordable Care Act's botched rollout.

Podesta's relationship with the Clintons didn't waver during Hillary's time in the White House; his own ties with the Obama administration grew stronger when he became a senior advisor to the Obama administration in late 2013, before resigning this year to join Hillary's campaign.

Podesta isn't the only member of the Clinton team embroiled in Clinton Foundation corruption. Hillary's new top fundraiser is Dennis Cheng, the former chief development officer for the Clinton Foundation, which means he did all the fundraising for that organization. Cheng has not been asked any questions thus far about his relationship with the Clinton Foundation or the new Clinton 2016 campaign.

Just as President Obama magically transformed his campaign organization, Obama for America, into a political action group, Organizing for Action, to lobby for his preferred governmental policies, Hillary Clinton has transformed the Clinton Foundation and its constellation of allies into her 2016 campaign.

GREGORY MCGOWAN ASSOCIATE
O 202.448.5204 / C / W www.podestagroup.com
1001 G Street NW, Suite 1000 West, Washington, DC 20001

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From: "Stephen Hadley" <stephenjhadley@mac.com>
To: "Ambassador Ronald Neumann" <rneumann@academyofdiplomacy.org>
Date: 1/16/2014 6:51:27 AM
Subject: Fwd: [friends-of-afghanistan-network] Hadley oped

Ron --

Nice to hear from you. And thanks for the kind remarks. Hope the White House is listening!

Stephen J. Hadley
(202) 220-5061

Begin forwarded message:

> From: Catherine Eng <eng@ricehadleygates.com >
> Date: January 16, 2014 at 10:31:26 AM EST
> To: Stephen Hadley <stephenjhadley@mac.com >
> Subject: Fwd: FW: [friends-of-afghanistan-network] Hadley oped
>
> Catherine Eng | Chief of Staff to Stephen J. Hadley | RiceHadleyGates LLC
> E-mail: eng@ricehadleygates.com
> Tel.: 202-220-5061
> Web: http://www.ricehadleygates.com
>
> This message contains information that may be confidential and/or privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not read, copy, distribute, or use this information. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately and then delete this message.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> From: Bursch, Hanne <hbursch@usip.org >
> Date: Thu, Jan 16, 2014 at 9:32 AM
> Subject: FW: [friends-of-afghanistan-network] Hadley oped
> To: "Catherine Eng (eng@ricehadleygates.com)" <eng@ricehadleygates.com >
>
> **From:** Ronald Neumann [mailto:rneumann@academyofdiplomacy.org]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 8:57 PM
> **To:** Hadley, Stephen
> **Subject:** Fwd: [friends-of-afghanistan-network] Hadley oped
>
> Steve,
>
> I just wanted to congratulate you on a superb editorial; clearly stated and right on every point. Our pressure is only convincing Karzai that he is correct that it is we who want bases for purposes besides Afghan policy. He is wrong but our pressure only reinforces his view and is thus counter productive. And as you say, we don't need to close on the agreement now. It would be a considerable convenience but it is not essential. Stating what we are prepared to do would be at least equally stabilizing.

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Best wishes,

Ron

Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann (ret.)

President

American Academy of Diplomacy

1200 18th St. NW Suite 902

Washington DC 20036

Tel: 202-331-3722

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---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: rachel reid <rachel.c.reid@gmail.com >
Date: Wed, Jan 15, 2014 at 8:13 PM
Subject: [friends-of-afghanistan-network] Hadley oped
To: friends-of-Afghanistan-network@googlegroups.com

FEATURE STORY

In Afghanistan, an alternate approach to a security pact

The Washington Post
By Stephen J. Hadley
January 15, 2014

U.S. officials are struggling again with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. After painful and prolonged negotiations, they concluded a draft bilateral security agreement last year that lays the foundation for leaving U.S military forces in Afghanistan after 2014. It is expected to involve 8,000 to 10,000 U.S. troops with counterterrorism, training and other responsibilities in support of Afghan forces.

Most U.S. experts on Afghanistan believe that such a residual force is critical if Afghan forces are to continue to professionalize. Only with such help will they have a reasonable chance of containing the Taliban and giving Afghan authorities the space to negotiate a political settlement that includes the Taliban. Some NATO forces would remain, but only if U.S. troops stay.

Most experts believe that without residual forces, the billions of dollars in financial support promised for Afghan security forces and for Afghanistan's economic development will not materialize. Few believe that any Afghan government would survive long without this assistance. So the stakes are high — for Afghanistan and for preserving the investment of lives and treasure that the United States and its coalition allies have made over the past 12 years.

Initially Karzai said he would sign the agreement after a loya jirga, a traditional congregation of Afghan leaders, approved the pact. The loya jirga approved the deal in November, but Karzai demanded further concessions: an end to counterterrorism raids into Afghan homes at night, active U.S. support for the peace process with the Taliban and non-interference in the April presidential election that will determine Karzai's successor. Lately, he has threatened to leave the matter to his successor.

U.S. officials have responded by pressuring Karzai directly and indirectly. They have set a succession of deadlines and said the agreement must be signed in "weeks, not months." So far, nothing has worked. U.S. officials need an alternative approach.

One option would be for President Obama to make a public statement praising Afghanistan's progress in assuming responsibility for its security; improving the education, health and well-being of its citizens; and preparing for the April election. To support that progress, Obama would say, he has directed U.S. forces to curtail all but essential night raids. He is committed to facilitating the peace process, he would note, and pledges full support for an election free from all outside influences.

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These statements would not represent a major U.S. policy change, but together they would offer Karzai a face-saver if he wishes to sign the security agreement.

Next, Obama could announce the number of troops that he is prepared to leave in Afghanistan post-2014 and direct the Pentagon to develop plans on that basis. He would call on our NATO allies to announce similar force commitments.

This step would go a long way toward reassuring Afghan presidential candidates, and the Afghan people, of the United States' post-2014 presence. The lack of such reassurance has become a source of serious instability, threatening the election and the morale of Afghan security forces. For similar reasons, Obama should resist any pressure to set a date for the termination of the post-2014 U.S. deployment.

Third, Obama could state that while he is willing to sign the bilateral security agreement with Karzai, he also is willing to sign it with the next Afghan president. U.S. officials should stop pressuring Karzai — or anyone else — for a signature before the April election. Such pressure only strengthens Karzai's hand, encourages further delay and makes the United States look desperate.

Obama should make clear that his commitment of troops is dependent on the bilateral security agreement being signed. But a signing by a new Afghan president would give more than enough time to complete the necessary U.S. military planning before year's end. Indeed, experts say that even without the deal, U.S. forces could remain in Afghanistan after 2014 under the existing status-of-forces agreement, though our allies would have to negotiate new agreements for their forces with the new Afghan government.

Washington Post-ABC News polling last month suggested that more than 60 percent of Americans believe the Afghan war was not worth fighting. But the same poll also found that 55 percent support leaving some U.S. forces for training and "anti-insurgency" operations. And lawmakers' public statements suggest that a post-2014 deployment would have bipartisan support in Congress.

Obama should avoid any suggestion that he might embrace a "zero option" and leave no U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014. Almost every Afghan expert believes that would destabilize Afghanistan, threaten the outcome of the election and risk the collapse of Afghan security forces. This would profoundly affect U.S. security interests. Afghanistan again would become a haven for terrorists — who, history shows, would attack U.S. interests and territory. Afghanistan would contribute to destabilizing a nuclear-armed Pakistan. And the Afghan people would forfeit the progress they have made, with our help, in building a more tolerant, inclusive, secure and prosperous society.

Afghanistan's presidential election is less than three months away. U.S. policy must not be based on frustration with Karzai's mercurial behavior but on ensuring the election of a legitimate successor to Karzai with whom the United States can sign a security agreement that is overwhelmingly in the interests of both countries.

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Friends of Afghanistan Network" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to friends-of-afghanistan-network+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To post to this group, send email to friends-of-afghanistan-network@googlegroups.com .

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From:	"Georgetown Law Media Relations" <GeorgetownLawMediaRelations@law.georgetown.edu>
To:	"Media Relations" <MediaRelations@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	2/2/2015 11:53:34 AM
Subject:	G'town Law: The Moynihan Report: 50 Years Later 2/5

Georgetown Law hosts the *Georgetown Journal of Law & Modern Critical Perspectives* symposium: The Moynihan Report: 50 Years Later on Thursday, February 5, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the 12th floor of the Gewirz Student Center, located on the Georgetown Law campus at 120 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

In 1965, the Department of Labor released a report titled, *The Negro Family: The Case for National Action,* authored by Assistant Secretary of Labor Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who later became a senator from New York. The report argued that the decline of nuclear families in the black community would lead to high levels of poverty and that combating poverty required strengthening families, especially black men.

Fifty years after the release of the controversial report, the *Georgetown Journal of Law & Modern Critical Race Perspectives* symposium will evaluate, through the lens of modern critical race theorists, if the same themes still plague the black community, enabling poverty to thrive, and if so, why. Panelists will discuss the shifting notion of "family" throughout the years, the education system, employment, and violence between minorities and law enforcement. This symposium will bring together leading scholars and practitioners that can help break down these overarching topics that are often discussed in relation to the black community.

Media interested in attending should email mediarelations@law.georgetown.edu.

More information is available here:

http://www.law.georgetown.edu/news/press-releases/the-moynihan-report-50-years-later.cfm

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From: "Ryan Anderson" <ryaneanderson@gmail.com>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/16/2009 5:31:00 AM
Subject: [big campaign] Tom Andrews: Congress Should Vote No On War Funding Bill

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-andrews/congress-should-vote-no-o_b_216240.html

Congress Should Vote No On War Funding Bill

Tom Andrews
former Member of Congress, Maine
June 16, 2009

Today, the House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on yet another supplemental funding bill , this time providing nearly $80 billion to continue waging the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (the total bill is now at $106 billion). And, just like they have done repeatedly in years past, progressive Members of Congress should vote against this funding and end our nation's descent into a disastrous quagmire in Afghanistan.

As I've noted before , the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan unites our opponents within the country and region and makes cooperation by key regional players like Iran, Russia and China far less likely with the prospect of tens of thousands of US troops on their border. As for those with the most at stake - Afghan people - over 80% oppose an escalation of American troops in their country.

This is why 51 Members of Congress voted against the supplemental war funding when it first appeared before the House in May. They recognized that ending the war in Afghanistan is an essential part of improving our national security and stabilizing central Asia, and acted out of that conviction.

This past week, a number of progressive bloggers have been hard at work to encourage those same Members of Congress to again vote no when that funding reappears this afternoon. And, according to the citizen whip count kept by Jane Hamshire at FireDogLake, they're very close to keeping the 39 no votes needed to defeat that funding. After years of working and voting to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, these Congressional progressives have a chance to do just that. The many reasons to end these wars have not changed, and so, too, neither should their vote to oppose the supplemental funding.

Members of Congress will soon have another opportunity to build pressure against the military escalation in Afghanistan by supporting a bill by Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) that demands that the administration establish what the president has publicly stated is needed in Afghanistan - a military exit strategy. McGovern plans to introduce his bill as a floor amendment to the House Armed Services Committee's Defense Authorization bill when it hits the floor next week.

But, first thing first - today Members of the House should be voting no on the supplemental.

The Win Without War coalition planned to announce a coordinated day of action today in support of Rep. McGovern's bill. With the last minute scheduling of today's vote on the Supplemental, however, that work is being delayed to avoid creating any confusion on Capitol Hill. I hope my former colleagues will join the growing

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list of co-sponsors of Rep. McGovern's bill. Today, however, their focus should be on opposing the supplemental funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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From: "Heather Samuelson" <hsamuelson@cdmillsGroup.com>
To: "Phil Barnett" <pbarnett@sb-atalaya.com>
Date: 10/18/2015 9:12:15 AM
Subject: Re: Friends & Allies TP's

Thanks Phil. Seven (based on list below) is what we put in her hearing book (along with summaries of those reports), and believe consistent with what campaign has said in past. I'm good with additional language on email too..

From: Phil Barnett
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2015 11:18 PM
To: Heather Samuelson
Cc: Brian Fallon , Cheryl Mills , Milia Fisher , Jake Sullivan , John Podesta , Dan Schwerin , Adrienne Elrod , Mandy Grunwald , Philippe Reines , Sara Latham , David Kendall , Katherine Turner , Jennifer Palmieri , Huma Abedin, Phil Schiliro , Matt Siegler , Varun Anand , sbay@hillaryclinton.com , Corey Ciorciari

On Heather's point about getting a consistent number for the prior congressional investigations, here's the list we have in the fact sheet comparing the Benghazi investigations to prior investigations into terrorist attacks:

• In December 2012, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs released a report on the Benghazi attack.
• In April 2013, the Chairmen of the House Armed Services, House Foreign Affairs, House Judiciary, House Oversight and Gover nment Reform, and House Intelligence Committees released a report on the Benghazi attack.
• In September 2013, the majority and minority staffs of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee released se parate reports on the Benghazi attack.
• In January 2014, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence issued a report on the Benghazi attack.
• In February 2014, the House Armed Services Committee issued a majority staff report on the Benghazi attack.
• In February 2014, the House Foreign Affairs Committee issued a report on the Benghazi attack.
• In November 2014, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence issued a report on the Benghazi attack.

This makes seven prior congressional investigations if you count (as we did) the report by the five Republican chairmen.

If we want to use seven as the number instead of six (which is the number in the talking points), it might make sense to rephrase the talking point so it is referring to prior congressional investigations, not prior committee investigations, since the five Republican chairmen are not technically a "committee."

One other point is that there is very little in the talking points about the emails. That may make sense, but if you want talking points for allies to use, here would be two possible ones to add:

* While Republicans criticize Secretary Clinton's email practices, Secretary Clinton has called for all of her emails to be released publicly. No prior cabinet secretary has ever taken this step. There are now thousands of her emails available to the public, more any other cabinet secretary in history. There are thousands of her emails available on the State Department's website; there are zero emails from any of her predecessors.

* Republicans and the press naturally focus on a small subset of her emails. But if you look at all of them, you will see a much different picture. You will see a Secretary working hard -- and long hours -- to reach a nuclear arms agreement with Russia, build an international coalition against Iran, advance women's rights, and aid countries in need.

Phil

On Sat, Oct 17, 2015 at 4:40 PM, Heather Samuelson <hsamuelson@cdmillsgroup.com > wrote:

> My edits and questions attached.
>
> **From:** Brian Fallon
> **Sent:** Saturday, October 17, 2015 1:49 PM
> **To:** Cheryl Mills
> **Cc:** Milia Fisher , Jake Sullivan , John Podesta , Dan Schwerin , Adrienne Elrod , Mandy Grunwald , Philippe Reines, Sara Latham , Heather Samuelson , David Kendall , Katherine Turner , Jennifer Palmieri , Huma Abedin, Phil Schiliro , Phil Barnett , Matt Siegler , Varun Anand , sbay@hillaryclinton.com , Corey Ciorciari

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Attached is an updated version of Friends and Allies TPs document to reflect the settled-upon goals/themes for the hearing. Please send along any edits/comments. We want to provide this to folks in time for the Sunday shows tomorrow.

On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 4:19 PM, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com > wrote:

> Dear Team
>
> In advance of tomorrow's call, please find a summary that seeks to capture our discussion.
>
> Welcome comments and redline edits.
>
> best.
>
> cdm
>
> On Fri, Oct 16, 2015 at 2:01 PM, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
>> Hi all-
>>
>> As discussed on today's call, we'll reconvene this hearing prep group on Saturday morning, 8:30-9:30 am. Calendar invite to follow.
>>
>> Dial in: 1 (718) 839-6957 // NO PIN
>>
>> Best,
>> Milia
>>
>> --
>> Milia Fisher
>> Special Assistant to the Chair
>> Hillary for America
>> mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
>> c: 858.395.1741

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	12/6/2014 7:11:51 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Saturday December 6, 2014 Roundup



Correct The Record Saturday December 6, 2014 Roundup:

Headlines:

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: "Fox Tries To Shoot Down Latest Benghazi Report To Justify Select Committee Hearing"

"Fox News originally ignored a House GOP report debunking many of its Benghazi myths but is now attacking the report's credibility to promote the need for more Benghazi Select Committee hearings."

Politico: "Hillary Clinton sticks with President Obama on Israel"

[Subtitle:] "In appearance with a pro-Israel donor, she defends the White House on Iran talks."

Wall Street Journal: "Iran Talks Likely to Figure in Any Hillary Clinton 2016 Bid"

"Interviewed at the event by a political supporter, Haim Saban, Mrs. Clinton said the U.S. mustn't be overly willing to reach a deal with Iran. 'I remain strongly of the view that no deal is better than a bad deal,' she said. Still, she said the negotiations are an important step."

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier: "Harkin: Clinton shouldn't take Iowa for granted"

"The Iowa Democrat, who believes it's a 50-50 proposition whether the former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state seeks the nomination, said that if Clinton runs she won't have the field to herself."

Washington Post blog: PostPartisan: Ed Rogers: "The Insiders: Who is Hillary kidding?"

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"Is Clinton really trying to seem reluctant, to position herself as the candidate who doesn't really want to run but will sacrifice herself for the good of our country? Please."

CNN opinion: Gloria Berger: "Hillary and Jeb: How the deciders decide"

"Lost amidst the predictable clutter of the 'will-he-or won't-she' questions about whether Jeb Bush or Hillary Clinton will actually run for the presidency is an unexpected development: a hint of authenticity."

U.S. News & World Report blog: The Run 2016: "Warren Liberals Eye Webb to Pressure Hillary"

"The Progressive Change Campaign Committee has deployed one of its top organizers to the early primary state of New Hampshire to ask elected officials and political leaders there to pressure all candidates to take stands on Warren's agenda – one that includes expanding Social Security benefits, reforming the way Wall Street banks operate and making college more affordable."

New York Times: "Hillary Clinton's History as First Lady: Powerful, but Not Always Deft"

"These were formative years for Mrs. Clinton, a time of daring and hubris, a time when she evolved from that headstrong young lawyer so impressed with the man she would marry into a political figure in her own right."

Yahoo: "Is it already too late for a Democrat to derail Hillary Clinton in 2016?"

"The bottom line is that Obama didn't 'come out of nowhere' in 2008 — but in 2016, Webb, Sanders and O'Malley would have to. So far, only Warren is on the map."

Articles:

FROM MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA: Media Matters for America: "Fox Tries To Shoot Down Latest Benghazi Report To Justify Select Committee Hearing"

By Ellie Sandmeyer

December 5, 2014, 4:59 p.m. EST

Fox News originally ignored a House GOPreport debunking many of its Benghazi myths but is now attacking the report's credibility to promote the need for more Benghazi Select Committee hearings.

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In November, the House Intelligence Committee, chaired by Republicans, released the results of a lengthy investigation that "debunk[ed] a series of persistent allegations" perpetuated by conservative media outlets about the events and culpability surrounding the 2012 attacks on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya. The report reaffirmed the findings of several previous investigations and once again determined that "there was no intelligence failure, no delay in sending a CIA rescue team, no missed opportunity for a military rescue, and no evidence the CIA was covertly shipping arms from Libya to Syria."

Fox News remained mostly silent in the wake of the report's publication, giving the report only cursory coverage while flagship news program Fox News Sunday ignored it entirely. The network's lack of coverage earned condemnation from CNN media critic Brian Stelter and even Fox's own media analyst, Howard Kurtz. The absence of coverage stood in stark contrast toFox's exhaustive focus on the formation of a select committee to investigate Benghazi in June, when the network devoted at least 225 segments to the select committee over a mere two-week span.

With another Benghazi Select Committee hearing scheduled for December 10, Fox has changed its approach from silence to overt attempts to undermine the GOP report's credibility.

Bret Baier, host of Fox's Special Report, claimed on December 3 that "many" believe the House Intelligence Committee's Benghazi report "went soft on the Obama administration and was filled inaccuracies" and emphasized the further investigation by the Benghazi Select Committee. To bolster this allegation, investigative reporter Catherine Herridge noted the "eyewitness accounts" of Kris Paronto and John Tiegen, who, according to Herridge, "say there was an intelligence failure. They were directly warned in late August a strike was likely, yet no Defense Department assets were available on the September 11th anniversary."

Special Report's December 3 panel went to further lengths to undermine the Intelligence Committee report as Baier, Fox News contributor Charles Krauthammer, The Weekly Standard's Steve Hayes, and The Hill's A. B. Stoddard suggested that the investigation was insufficient.

But Fox's latest attempts at subverting the committee report amount to nothing more than highlighting a smattering of Republican lawmakers who claim to remember events occurring differently than they were laid out in the final report. In a December 5 article for FoxNews.com, Herridge reported that newly declassified testimony contained the statements of members of Congress recalling that former CIA director David Petraeus connected the Benghazi attack to the protests against an anti-Muslim YouTube video in an off-the-record coffee meeting two days after the attack:

“If the lawmakers' recollection is accurate, that means Petraeus' brief on Sept. 14, 2012, was instead in line with the White House, and then-Secretary Hillary Clinton's State Department. It was a State Department press release at 10:07 p.m. ET, before the attack was even over, that first made the link to the obscure anti-Islam video. The newly declassified testimony says $70,000 was spent on advertising in Pakistan, denouncing the anti-Muslim film.

“During this testimony, GOP Rep. Jeff Miller questioned Petraeus' original testimony, stating the former CIA director ‘even went so far as to say that it had been put into Arabic language and then was put on this TV station, this cleric's TV station. I mean, [Petraeus] drove that in pretty hard when he was in here. ‘

“Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., added ‘it was said in here a little bit earlier that the CIA never said Benghazi was part of a Cairo protest and of the video. And we were given just the opposite message by the Director of the CIA on the [September] 14th [2012.]’

“Rogers noted there was no transcript for the brief, only staff notes, but after the Petraeus incident in September 2012, the practice was changed to always run a transcript on the briefings. The Sept. 14, 2012, brief was a coffee meeting with members.”

USA Today reported that the Fox-promoted Select Committee may cost $1.5 million this year, despite numerous other independent investigations finding no wrongdoing with relation to the events in Benghazi.

Politico: “Hillary Clinton sticks with President Obama on Israel”

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By Katie Glueck

December 5, 2014, 10:13 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] In appearance with a pro-Israel donor, she defends the White House on Iran talks.

Hillary Clinton had several opportunities to distance herself from the Obama administration during an appearance Friday before a heavily pro-Israel crowd, but she didn't take them.

Instead, she defended President Barack Obama's dealings with the Jewish state at a time of tense U.S.-Israel relations, insisting the White House is committed to Israel's security and supporting America's nuclear talks with Iran.

The former secretary of state and likely 2016 Democratic presidential contender was speaking at the Saban Forum, an event hosted by the Brookings Institution and named for billionaire and Democratic mega-donor Haim Saban. She offered her most extensive Israel-related comments since criticizing the president's foreign policy in a summer interview with The Atlantic that caused a political maelstrom.

Ahead of her remarks, some attendees chattered over cocktails about their disagreements with the White House, especially on its decision to pursue the negotiations with Tehran. But, during a half-hour conversation onstage with Saban, Clinton signaled little daylight with the administration.

"If you look at the close cooperation, and what this administration and the Congress over the last six years has done with respect to Israel's security, it's quite extraordinary," she said, pointing to funding for military equipment and strategic consultations. "Nobody can argue with the commitment of this administration to Israel's security, and that has to continue, it has to deepen regardless of the political back-and-forth."

Clinton has yet to say if whether she will launch a second campaign for president — an announcement is expected early next year — but Republicans already have been scrutinizing her tenure at Foggy Bottom during Obama's first term. Many in the GOP accuse Obama of being insufficiently supportive of Israel, and some have tried to link Clinton to Obama's foreign policy missteps.

In the interview with The Atlantic, published in August, Clinton questioned the White House's self-described foreign policy doctrine of "Don't do stupid sh—," as well as its approach to the bloodshed in Syria, among other criticisms. Her remarks prompted blowback from people close to the administration. Some were unhappy with the timing of her comments, which came as the president faced a slew of international crises. Clinton eventually called the president to patch things over.

Had she decided Friday to issue more criticisms, she could have risked another flurry of anger, especially amid the White House's efforts to keep the talks with Iran on track. World powers, including the United States, have extended the negotiations with the Islamic Republic until the summer.

Israel views a nuclear weapon-armed Iran as an existential threat, and it doesn't believe Iran's assurances that its nuclear program is peaceful.

As secretary of state, Clinton was deeply involved in laying the groundwork for the negotiations (she credited sanctions as helping bring the Iranians to the table). On Friday, she sought to reassure the crowd that "no deal is better than a bad deal," and that "all options" must remain "on the table" in preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

But, in at times hawkish language, she defended the path the White House has taken with Tehran so far, even as she also painted Iran as a deeply destabilizing force in the Middle East. She also indicated support for the extension of talks, saying it's "very important" to "try to see if we can reach an agreement in line with our requirements."

"My bottom line is a deal that verifiably closes all of Iran's pathways to nuclear weapons," she said. "The key there is 'verifiably' and 'all.'"

Clinton was also asked about Benjamin Netanyahu, the conservative prime minister of Israel, with whom Obama has a particularly fraught relationship. In The Atlantic, Clinton offered sympathetic words for Netanyahu, but on Friday, she avoided that, instead downplaying Israel's disagreements with the administration.

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"At times there are going to be differences," she said. "And I don't think it's personal. I think it is a different perspective about, sometimes what we think is best for our friends may not be what our friends think is best for them. When we say that, I don't believe that's disrespectful or rupturing the relationship. I think that's an honest relationship. That's the kind of friend I want. I want people to say that to me, I want to be able to say that back. I think that's a broader, more accurate way to look at the relationship right now."

She also reiterated her support for a two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, noting that goal was pursued when her husband, Bill Clinton, was president, as well as in the Bush and Obama administrations.

The absence of negotiations "leaves a vacuum that gets filled by…bad actors, threats…[that are] not good for Israel and not good for the Palestinians," she said. "So I think the efforts undertaken in the last several years, when I was secretary [and under] Secretary [John] Kerry are very much in the interests of Israel and in the interests of the Palestinians."

Asked about her biggest regrets while at the State Department, Clinton named several, including the administration's decision not to do more to boost the pro-democracy protests in Iran in 2009, something she discussed in her recent memoir, "Hard Choices."

The event drew lawmakers and former lawmakers, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), whose district includes the Clintons' Chappaqua home; Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), former Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) and former Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.), along with former Israeli Amb. Michael Oren, among others.

Clinton lingered after the event, hugging Lowey, greeting old colleagues from the State Department, taking pictures with Oren and huddling with Graham.

Wall Street Journal: "Iran Talks Likely to Figure in Any Hillary Clinton 2016 Bid"

By Jay Solomon and Peter Nicholas

December 5, 2014, 7:39 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] Former Diplomat Remains Tied to Administration Efforts to Seal Nuclear Deal; GOP Says Tehran Uses the Talks as Cover

WASHINGTON— Hillary Clinton has distanced herself from the Obama administration's increasingly unpopular handling of international issues, including Syria and Russia.

The former secretary of state is much more closely tied to current U.S. diplomatic efforts toward Iran aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear program. Mrs. Clinton has taken credit for initiating secret talks with Iran in 2012 that formed the foundation for negotiations that were recently extended another seven months. In addition, one of her closest foreign-policy advisers at the State Department, Jake Sullivan, remains one of the Obama administration's top negotiators with the Iranian diplomats.

Republicans are already citing Iran as a likely top foreign-policy issue in the 2016 campaign, when Mrs. Clinton is expected to be the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. They say the White House is allowing Tehran to use the talks as a cover to weaken Western sanctions and to advance its nuclear program. The White House has said its diplomacy, and an interim agreement reached last year, have capped key parts of Iran's nuclear program and rolled it back in some areas.

In a July CNN interview, Mrs. Clinton pushed for a U.S. negotiating line that would allow Iran to maintain little to no ability to produce nuclear fuel in the near term. But U.S. diplomats have already conceded in talks that Tehran would maintain thousands of centrifuges used to enrich uranium as part of any final deal.

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She spoke about the Iran nuclear talks at an event Friday night hosted by the Brookings Institution think tank, saying she supported the extension of nuclear negotiations with Iran. But she displayed distance from the White House's policies on Iran. She said she wished the Obama administration "had spoken out more" to support a pro-democracy movement that broke out in Iran in 2009. "You never know...what you may say that gives heart to people."

Interviewed at the event by a political supporter, Haim Saban, Mrs. Clinton said the U.S. mustn't be overly willing to reach a deal with Iran. "I remain strongly of the view that no deal is better than a bad deal," she said.

Still, she said the negotiations are an important step. "I think it is a very important effort to continue to pursue, and to try to see if we can reach an agreement that is in line with our requirements."

Despite her apparent differences with the negotiators, Republicans say she is locked into the Obama administration's policy because of her role in shaping it. Rep. Steve Chabot (R., Ohio), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said she was the "chief architect" of the Obama foreign policy for four years and will have to answer for any failings when it comes to Iran. "For the most part, the current secretary of state has carried on the policies that she started," he said. "There hasn't been a tremendous difference between the two relative to Iran."

Mrs. Clinton, through her office, declined to comment for this article.

During her 2008 presidential bid, Mrs. Clinton occasionally roiled the Democratic contest with hawkish statements about Iran, at one point slamming then-Sen. Barack Obama's call for direct talks as "naive."

On joining Mr. Obama's administration, she expressed greater skepticism than did Mr. Obama toward engaging Iran. Weeks after moving to the State Department, she told the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates she was "doubtful" Tehran would respond to U.S. offers to hold talks over its nuclear program, according to senior U.S. officials, a comment seen as a slap at the White House.

Still, Mrs. Clinton moved aggressively to implement Mr. Obama's strategy, offering the prospect of talks while boosting economic pressure on Tehran.

Her supporters and some foreign-policy experts say she will be able to argue that her efforts to impose sanctions were the primary reason Tehran agreed to hold direct, high-level talks.

"She was one of the foremost Iran skeptics, and by taking a tough line…she also teed up the kind of leverage that might lead to an agreement, should there be one," said the author David Rothkopf, who recently published a book on the Obama administration's foreign policy.

At the same time, Mrs. Clinton was intimately involved in establishing the diplomatic channel that laid the groundwork for today's nuclear negotiations, said current and former U.S. officials.

In the summer of 2012, Mrs. Clinton secretly dispatched Mr. Sullivan, then her deputy chief of staff, to the Omani capital, Muscat, to meet senior Iranian diplomats. Not even Mr. Sullivan's colleagues were told of his mission.

"For the delicate first meeting with the Iranians, Jake was not the most experienced diplomat at the State Department I could have chosen, but he was discreet and had my absolute confidence," Mrs. Clinton wrote in her new book, "Hard Choices." "His presence would send a powerful message that I was personally invested in this process."

Mr. Sullivan went on to become one of the Obama administration's top nuclear negotiators with Iran, remaining in that role after Mrs. Clinton left the State Department in early 2013.

The 38-year-old is widely expected to be in line for a senior position in a Clinton administration. Mr. Sullivan's departure this summer as a foreign-policy aide to Vice President Joe Biden was seen as a prelude to his transition into advising the former first lady's presidential bid.

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"Unlike others in the Obama administration who will be long gone in 2017, he will own this deal if Hillary Clinton becomes president," said Mark Dubowitz of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington think tank that has criticized the U.S. negotiating strategy with Iran. "The pressure on him to do a good deal is enormous."

Mr. Sullivan is currently teaching at Yale University but has continued on as part of the U.S. negotiating team with Iran. In meetings with Republican skeptics of the Iran talks, he has mirrored Mrs. Clinton's more hawkish line, according to participants in some of the meetings.

People close to Mrs. Clinton say she will likely approach Iran from two perspectives during a campaign. If there is a deal, she can point to her role and that of Mr. Sullivan in establishing the diplomatic channel to Tehran. If it fails, she will argue she was always skeptical about the chances of success.

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier: "Harkin: Clinton shouldn't take Iowa for granted"

By James Lynch

December 6, 2014

JOHNSTON | Whether she asks for it or not, Sen. Tom Harkin has some advice for Hillary Clinton if she decides to run for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016.

First off, Clinton, who finished third in Iowa's first-in-the-nation precinct caucuses in 2008, has to understand that she is going to have to work for Iowans' support.

"She needs to understand that she can't take it for granted," Harkin said Friday during taping of Iowa Public Television's Iowa Press, which airs tonight at 7:30.

The Iowa Democrat, who believes it's a 50-50 proposition whether the former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state seeks the nomination, said that if Clinton runs she won't have the field to herself.

Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb is forming an exploratory committee and Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders will be back in Iowa later this month giving him four visit – the same as outgoing Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who spoke at the Iowa Hall of Fame Dinner honoring Harkin, who is retiring after 40 years in Congress.

Harkin didn't endorse Clinton, who he hosted at his annual steak fry in September, or any of the others, but spoke highly of O'Malley.

"I like him a lot. I admire him greatly," Harkin said.

If she runs, Harkin said, Clinton should take her campaign to small-town Iowa rather than concentrate on larger media markets.

"Don't just go to Des Moines or Waterloo or Cedar Rapids or Dubuque," he said. "Go to the rural areas. Start out in smaller communities in Iowa. Let them know you care about rural America and small towns and communities.

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"You can get the cities later on, but plant your flag in rural Iowa," he said.

Harkin also said he will remain active in the Iowa Democratic Party, but not in a leadership role.

"I am a Democrat and I love my party and I want my party to be good and I want them to have good policies and good candidates," he said. "But I don't intend to be any kind of godfather or something like that. I just want to be supportive and helping in whatever way I can."

He was reluctant to arm-chair quarterback the unsuccessful Senate campaign by Bruce Braley.

"He's been a great congressman, he has contributed a lot and I thought he ran a good campaign," Harkin said.

The Braley campaign made a couple of mistakes – "We all know about that," he said, and Republican state Sen. Joni Ernst ran a "great campaign." In the end, however, but the four-term 1st District representative was the victim of a wave election.

"I've seen waves," Harkin said. "I came in on a wave in 1974, the Watergate wave. And so I've seen these waves move back and forth. And this was just one of those years."

Asked whether Braley should run again, Harkin said that will be a personal decision for the Waterloo attorney to make.

"I think he is a good public servant. He was a very, very good congressman. He worked very hard," Harkin said. "If he wants to run again, I would think there would be a lot of support for him."

Iowa Press can be seen at 7:30 p.m. tonight and noon Sunday on IPTV, at 8:30 a.m. Saturday on IPTV World and is available beginning tonight at www.IPTV.org.

Washington Post blog: PostPartisan: Ed Rogers: "The Insiders: Who is Hillary kidding?"

By Ed Rogers

December 5, 2014, 6:33 p.m. EST

Choosing to run for president means understanding everything the job entails – both the good and the bad – and deciding you are up for the adventure. By some accounts, Hillary Clinton is "genuinely undecided" about whether to run, but while we wait for her formal decision, she seems to be posing a little too hard. At the Massachusetts Conference for Women in Boston yesterday, she repeatedly emphasized how "unforgiving" and "hard" being president was, saying in part, "Here's what I worry about. The stress on anybody in a leadership position, multiplied many times over to be president. The incoming never ends."

I'm a little skeptical. Is Clinton really trying to seem reluctant, to position herself as the candidate who doesn't really want to run but will sacrifice herself for the good of our country? Please. That is rich, especially considering the source. It's not quite as tone-deaf as saying she and Bill were "dead broke," but her act certainly strains credibility in suggesting she is wary of the burdens of the presidency.

I do think there are some leaders who have been in close proximity to the presidency who don't crave the White House the way others do. Hillary Clinton could be in that category (as could Jeb Bush), but nothing about her actions to date suggest anything other than that she is already running.

Nobody craves power and the presidency like the Clintons. Why pretend otherwise? It's not bad to be ambitious and want to be president. Many have been angling for the job for years. Few who have ever been elected president have wanted to leave the office. Stop the woe-is-me anguish and don't give us the phony martyr routine. Anyone who runs for president must avoid talking down to voters and acting like they are reluctantly willing to take on the "toughest job."

To be fair, this is not unique to Secretary Clinton. We will hear more false modesty from preening wannabes. I hope the handlers and 2016 candidates will have the discipline to spare us the theatrics. If the office really is just too much to bear, then save us the drama and do something else.

CNN opinion: Gloria Berger: "Hillary and Jeb: How the deciders decide"

By Gloria Borger

December 5, 2014, 3:45 p.m. EST

Lost amidst the predictable clutter of the "will-he-or won't-she" questions about whether Jeb Bush or Hillary Clinton will actually run for the presidency is an unexpected development: a hint of authenticity.

Turns out that political purgatory—even if temporary—can actually spark a genuine conversation with the public about what it takes to be president, and what goes into deciding whether you want to run.

Here's Hillary on herself: "The job is unforgiving in many ways, so I think you need people around you who will kid you, make fun of you. ... You can lose touch with what's real, what's authentic."

Here's Jeb on his decision: "Can I do it where the sacrifice to my family is tolerable?...It's a pretty ugly business right now. There's a level under which I would never subjugate my family because that's my organizing principle. That's my life."

So while Chris Christie won't answer questions about immigration and Ted Cruz is threatening to block presidential nominations and Rand Paul is blaming the tragic Eric Garner death on cigarette taxes, there's another more personal and revealing conversation going on about the presidency and how to get there, and we ought to pay some attention.

Not just because it's coming from Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton, although that is a part of it. After all, Hillary's outside support network is up and running, even if she isn't officially yet. And while Jeb has no campaign infrastructure or organization, his closest advisers are having enough meetings with enough operatives to send enough signals that it's a very live, real, even likely, possibility. Though Jeb's advisers tell me he hasn't made a decision, the process over the last six months sure looks like it leads to a presidential campaign.

So all the cheerleaders need is the final hand signal.

Which brings us back to the Jeb and Hillary conversations. They're thinking out loud, in a way, which hardly ever happens in politics anymore because it usually gets you into trouble. (See: Joe Biden.)

But they're both doing it because their decisions about running for the presidency come from places of deep family experience. Hillary lived in the White House. Jeb visited his brother and his father there. They get it -- at all levels. They understand the power and nature of the job. They also understand the "what-it-takes" component to run for it.

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And, in a way, they've both got similar problems: They're each practiced politicians, but they're not the best transactional pols in their families. They each have problems with their party's activist base. And they both can seem like old news. It's that dynasty thing.

But wait. Maybe all that stuff actually prepares a candidate for the campaign, and maybe even for the job itself. Clinton's ruminations about decision-making, for instance, are refreshing.

"Technology connects you around the world instantaneously, so you're constantly being asked for opinions, to make decisions that maybe you need some time to think about," she told a Boston audience on Thursday.

"Maybe you need some time to sleep on it. Maybe you need to bring in some people to talk about it. But the pace of demands is so intense that you feel like you've got to respond." It's the stress, she said. "Here's what I worry about. The stress on anybody in a leadership position, multiplied many times over to be president. The incoming never ends."

It's a much more honest assessment than talking about the tug of being a grandmother.

As for Jeb Bush, in addition to the personal issues, he's given a big hint he gets that he's not aligned with the base of his party in some states—and that's fine. In a recent appearance before a Wall Street Journal CEO conference, he said the GOPnominee needs to be willing to "lose the primary to win the general (election) without violating your principles."

Could he possibly be talking about Mitt Romney circa 2012? Or his own problems with the party base on immigration and school reform? My guess: Both.

I'm also guessing this: What we are hearing from both of these politicians are part of the larger conversation they're having with themselves. As in: Do I need this? Can I do this? Is it worth it to me—and important enough to the country—for me to spend two years on this?

These are not wannabes. They've been there, in the heat, in one way or another. So while the subordinates plan, organize and recruit, the actual deciders continue to decide.

It's getting down to the wire, and they know it. You can hear it. And it may be the most genuine stuff we hear for the next two years.

U.S. News & World Report blog: The Run 2016: "Warren Liberals Eye Webb to Pressure Hillary"

By David Catanese

December 5, 2014, 3:37 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] "There's a movement in New Hampshire to pump the breaks on a Clinton coronation."

Even if Elizabeth Warren isn't running for president, her liberal allies are determined to place the Massachusetts senator's vision at the fulcrum of the Democratic Party's 2016 primary debate.

The Progressive Change Campaign Committee has deployed one of its top organizers to the early primary state of New Hampshire to ask elected officials and political leaders there to pressure all candidates to take stands on Warren's agenda – one that includes expanding Social Security

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benefits, reforming the way Wall Street banks operate and making college more affordable.

“We’re trying to assess who is in and who is out in our strategy to exert pressure to get all Democratic candidates for president to embrace Elizabeth Warren-style ideas," says Adam Green, the committee's co-founder. Green would not comment on the success so far of the project, which the group began this week.

The goal of the campaign is to slow the coalescing of support around Hillary Clinton, who is an overwhelming front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination. But the movement might only have impact if there's another candidate willing to stake out positions to Clinton's left.

The only major candidate formally exploring the race with a committee to date is former Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., who has been reluctant to draw any contrasts with Clinton.

Liberals are taking a wait-and-see approach to Webb, who is difficult to pin down ideologically.

"It seems like he may have a populist bent, but he's been out of the Senate for a while," Green says.

But Green posits that Webb could quickly make a mark on the race if he were forced to be pinned down on Warren's pet issues.

“If Jim Webb went to New Hampshire and local allies asked him if he supports breaking up the big banks and he says, 'Yes,' people will want to know if Hillary agrees, even people predisposed to supporting Hillary. That’s part of the process," he says.

Webb has made one visit to the Granite State since 2013, and it's unclear if he's heading back anytime soon.

The chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party, Ray Buckley, tells U.S. News he hasn't spoken to Webb or anyone connected to him since 2007.

New York Times: “Hillary Clinton’s History as First Lady: Powerful, but Not Always Deft”

By Peter Baker and Amy Chozick

December 5, 2014

WASHINGTON — As a young lawyer for the Watergate committee in the 1970s, Hillary Rodham caught a ride home one night with her boss, Bernard Nussbaum. Sitting in the car before going inside, she told him she wanted to introduce him to her boyfriend. “Bernie,” she said, “he’s going to be president of the United States.”

Mr. Nussbaum, stressed by the pressure of that tumultuous period, blew up at her audacious naïveté. “Hillary, that’s the most idiotic” thing, he screamed. She screamed back. “You don’t know a goddamn thing you’re talking about!” she said, and then called him a curse word. “God, she started bawling me out,” he recalled. “She walks out and slammed the door on me, and she storms into the building.”

It turned out she was right and he was wrong. Ms. Rodham, who later married that ambitious boyfriend, Bill Clinton, believed even then that life would take her to the White House and now may seek to return not as a spouse and partner, but on her own terms.

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In recent months, as Mrs. Clinton has prepared for a likely 2016 presidential campaign, she has often framed those White House years as a period when, like many working mothers, she juggled the demands of raising a young daughter and having a career. She talks about championing women's rights globally, supporting her husband during years of robust economic growth, and finding inspiration in Eleanor Roosevelt to stay resolute in the midst of personal attacks.

What Mrs. Clinton leaves out about her time as first lady is her messy, sometimes explosive and often politically clumsy dealings with congressional Republicans and White House aides. Now, the release of roughly 6,000 pages of extraordinarily candid interviews with more than 60 veterans of the Clinton administration paints a more nuanced portrait of a first lady who was at once formidable and not always politically deft.

Her triumphs and setbacks are laid bare in the oral histories of Mr. Clinton's presidency, released last month by the Miller Center at the University of Virginia. The center has conducted oral histories of every presidency going back to Jimmy Carter's, interviewing key players and then sealing them for years to come. But more than any other, this set of interviews bears on the future as much as the past.

These were formative years for Mrs. Clinton, a time of daring and hubris, a time when she evolved from that headstrong young lawyer so impressed with the man she would marry into a political figure in her own right. She emerged from battles over health care and Whitewater a more seasoned yet profoundly scarred and cautious politician with a better grasp of how Washington works, but far more wary of ambitious projects that may be unpopular.

Now carefully controlled at 67, then she was fiery and unpredictable, lobbing sarcastic jabs in private meetings and congressional hearings. Now criticized as a centrist and challenged from the left, Mrs. Clinton then was considered the liberal whispering in her husband's ear to resist the North American Free Trade Agreement and a welfare overhaul.

"She's much more politically astute now than she was in early 1993," said Alan Blinder, who was a White House economist. "I think she learned. She's really smart. She learns, and she knows she made mistakes."

An Independent Force

No president ever had a partner quite like Hillary Rodham Clinton. She attended campaign strategy meetings in Little Rock, Ark., and later became the first (and so far only) first lady with an office in the West Wing. She would bring his meandering meetings to a close. She plotted out his defense against scandal.

"The thing he lacks is discipline, both in his personal life and his intellectual or decision-making life, unless he's rescued by somebody," observed Alice M. Rivlin, who served as White House budget director. "I think for a good part of his career, he was probably rescued by Hillary by her being a more decisive, more disciplined kind of person who kept things moving."

She was an independent force within the White House, single-handedly pushing health care onto the agenda and intimidating into silence those who thought she might be mishandling it. She was prone to bouts of anger and nursed deep resentment toward Washington. She endured a terribly complicated relationship with her philandering husband. And yet she was the one who often channeled his energies, steered him toward success and saved him from himself.

"She may have been critical from time to time with temper tantrums and things like that," said Mr. Nussbaum, who went on to become Mr. Clinton's first White House counsel. "But she was very strong, and he needed her desperately. He would not have been president, I don't think, without her."

Mrs. Clinton created her own team in the White House that came to be called Hillaryland, and "they were a little island unto themselves," as Betty Currie, the president's secretary, put it. She inspired more loyalty from them than the president did from his own team, said Roger Altman, who was deputy treasury secretary, probably because she was not as purely political. "She wears her heart on her sleeve much more than he does," he said.

But the Clintons were fiercely protective of each other, acting at times as if it were just them against the world. "I remember one time in one of these meetings where she was blowing up about his staff and how we were all incompetent and he was having to be the mechanic and drive the car and do everything — that we weren't capable of anything, why did he have to do it all himself," said Joan N. Baggett, an assistant for political affairs.

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Mr. Clinton had a similar temper when it came to the arrows hurled at her, and aides learned early on never to question her judgment in front of him. “He really reacts violently when people criticize Hillary,” said Mickey Kantor, the 1992 campaign chairman and later commerce secretary. “I mean he really gets angry — you can just see it. He literally gets red in the face.”

He depended on her more than any other figure in his world. It blinded him to trouble, some advisers concluded, most notably about her ill-fated drive to remake the health care system.

But he rarely overruled her, at least not in ways that staff members could detect. “I can’t think of any issue of any importance at all where they were in disagreement and she didn’t win out,” recalled Abner Mikva, who served as White House counsel.

Finding a Balance

Despite her boast to Mr. Nussbaum, Mrs. Clinton was unsentimental in her calculations about whether her husband was ready to run for president. As governor of Arkansas, Mr. Clinton evaluated a candidacy in 1988, when he would turn 42, and thought it might be in his interest even if he lost. Mrs. Clinton disagreed. “You run to win or you don’t at all,” Mr. Kantor remembered her saying a couple of years later.

Her assessment was that 1988 was not his year. “I think she felt he wasn’t ready,” said Frank Greer, a media strategist.

There may have been other reasons, too. Mr. Clinton complained to his friend Peter Edelman that Senator Al Gore of Tennessee, who was mounting his own campaign for the Democratic nomination in 1988, was “spreading rumors that he was having extramarital affairs.”

Others had also heard reports. After meeting Mr. Clinton, Ms. Rivlin gushed about him to their mutual friend, Donna Shalala. Ms. Shalala agreed that Mr. Clinton was “terrific,” but added that “he’s never going to be president of the United States.” Ms. Rivlin asked why not. “He’s got a woman problem,” Ms. Rivlin remembered her answering.

By 1992, Mrs. Clinton was convinced that he was ready, and she confronted the “woman problem” directly in strategy sessions. “We had one meeting that was solely on this subject at which Hillary was present,” said Stanley B. Greenberg, their pollster. “It was an uncomfortable meeting, I can assure you, raising the issue,” he added. “I remember Hillary saying that, ‘Obviously, if I could say no to this question, we would say no, and therefore there is an issue.’ She spoke about this as much as he did.”

But if Mr. Clinton’s dalliances were a challenge, some of his aides worried that so was his wife. Some questioned whether he would look emasculated to have such a strong spouse. “They pigeonholed her,” said Susan Thomases, a close friend of Mrs. Clinton’s who worked on the campaign. “She was so strong a personality that there were people who felt that when they were together her strong personality made him seem weaker.”

Mrs. Clinton struggled with that, trying to find a balance. But she was integral to nearly every decision — from her husband’s ideological positioning down to his campaign song. “Every time we suggest something, Hillary vetoes it, and we just can’t get a song,” Mr. Clinton’s longtime consigliere, Bruce R. Lindsey, complained at one point, according to Al From, founder of the centrist Democratic Leadership Council. Finally, Mr. From suggested Fleetwood Mac’s “Don’t Stop,” and that passed muster.

More important, Mr. From pushed for Mr. Clinton to run to the middle, and ultimately she signed off on that too. She approached Mr. From at a party. “I thought about it and you’re right, and we’re going to be a different kind of Democrat by the convention,” he remembered her saying.

Once in the White House, Mrs. Clinton was a different kind of first lady. Put in charge of revamping health care, she recruited a bright and supremely confident adviser in Ira C. Magaziner and assembled a bold if elaborate plan.

She impressed Capitol Hill. “Hillary never turns her head when she’s talking to someone,” noticed former Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming, then the No. 2 Republican. “She is absolutely riveted. She doesn’t look around, like, ‘Oh, hi there, Tilly. How are you?’ or divert her attention from the person she’s talking to. That’s a gift.”

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Charles Robb, then a Democratic senator from Virginia, was among those who underestimated her. “I have to confess that I didn’t see the special qualities that she had,” he remembered. But “when she came over to give her first brief to a number of senators on health care, it was a tour de force. And I thought to myself, ‘How did you get so attracted to this Bill Clinton guy that you missed Hillary Rodham Clinton?’ ”

But the health care effort and its expansion of government involvement in the private sector proved politically toxic and generated deep internal division within the White House. Mr. Magaziner was seen as dismissive and few were willing to confront the president’s wife. “There were a lot of people who were intimidated,” said Leon E. Panetta, the chief of staff.

Ms. Shalala, who had been named secretary of health and human services, was one of the few who tried. “I told Hillary that this thing is just headed for disaster, and she told me I was just jealous that I wasn’t in charge and that was why I was complaining,” Mr. Edelman, who served as Ms. Shalala’s assistant secretary, remembered Ms. Shalala telling him.

Some of the White House economists were dubious and privately called Mrs. Clinton’s health care team “the Bolsheviks.” In return, according to Ms. Rivlin, the economists were “sometimes treated like the enemy.” Their suggested changes were ignored. “We could have beaten Ira alone,” said Mr. Blinder. “But we couldn’t beat Hillary.”

Indeed, the conflict left the president in a bind. “You can’t fire your wife,” Mr. Kantor observed.

In the end, the Clintons were stunned by the collapse of the effort in Congress, a defeat that helped lead to the Republican takeover in 1994. “They may be an irresistible force,” said William A. Galston, a domestic policy adviser, “but they met an immovable object.”

Shifting Gears

After the health care debacle, Mrs. Clinton “retreated for a while and licked her wounds,” as Mr. Galston put it. She was seen in the West Wing less and less, while traveling abroad more and more.

She asserted her influence in less visible ways. She persuaded her husband to make Madeleine Albright the first woman to serve as secretary of state. She put the brutal treatment of women by the Taliban in Afghanistan on the administration’s agenda.

She overcame State Department resistance to make a trip to Beijing, where she forcefully argued that women’s rights were human rights. She exulted so much afterward that she telephoned Samuel Berger, the deputy national security adviser, catching him at a Baltimore Orioles game, to thank him for making the trip possible.

But scandal was stalking the Clinton White House. She had resisted releasing files on the couple’s investment in a failed Arkansas land deal known as Whitewater and berated aides who pressed her to do so. “She just let everybody have it,” Mr. Panetta recalled. But she and her husband acceded to aides who, over Mr. Nussbaum’s objections, pushed to allow the appointment of an independent counsel.

It was a decision she would regret. “When is it going to end, Bernie?” Mr. Nussbaum remembered her asking years later.

That was before the independent counsel, Kenneth W. Starr, began investigating whether Mr. Clinton lied under oath about an affair with a former intern named Monica Lewinsky. Mr. Clinton denied the affair for months, and Mrs. Clinton publicly said she believed him. But not all of their confidants were so sure.

Ms. Shalala recalled a meeting with Mrs. Clinton with friends from California buzzing around. “Hillary said, ‘Thanks for supporting the president,’ ” Ms. Shalala said. “I don’t know whether she knew or not, but that was the moment in which I thought, there’s something here.”

Ms. Shalala was personally offended. “It was that it was an intern,” she said. “I just couldn’t tolerate that.” After Mr. Clinton later admitted that he had not told the truth, Ms. Shalala chastised him during a private cabinet meeting, a scolding that later made the newspapers. “No one at the White House seemed mad at me,” she said. “Hillary certainly wasn’t.”

Ms. Thomases said Mrs. Clinton was furious with her husband but never contemplated a split. “She would have hit him with a frying pan if one had been handed to her, but I don’t think she ever in her mind imagined leaving him or divorcing him,” she said.

Instead, Mrs. Clinton went up to Capitol Hill to rally Democrats against impeachment. “She was absolutely great,” recalled Lawrence Stein, the White House lobbyist. “They loved her. She called it a coup.”

Without her public support, Democrats might have abandoned the president, leading to pressure to resign or even a conviction in the Senate. Once again, Mrs. Clinton had rescued him.

And the Starr crisis transformed Mrs. Clinton’s public standing. With her poll numbers now sky high, she set her eyes on a Senate seat from New York, an idea that seemed so improbable that the White House press secretary, Joe Lockhart, denied it publicly until one day she sidled up to him, noted that he was from New York and started grilling him about voting patterns.

For both Clintons, the Senate race in 2000 became a way to purge the toxins of the scandal. Mr. Gore, now the vice president, wanted nothing to do with Mr. Clinton as he mounted his own White House bid. So the departing president focused his energy on his wife’s campaign.

“Given the fact that the vice president wasn’t interested in his political counsel, if he had not had Hillary running, it could have been a very difficult time for him,” Mr. Lockhart said.

And it began a new Clinton political career that, a decade and a half later, now seems aimed once again at the White House. Imagine what Mr. Nussbaum would have thought of that in the 1970s.

Yahoo: “Is it already too late for a Democrat to derail Hillary Clinton in 2016?”

By Andrew Romano

December 5, 2014

In an interview this week with New York magazine, comedian Chris Rock was asked to predict which Republican candidate would face off against Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential contest. He immediately rejected the premise of the question — i.e., that Clinton is a shoo-in for the Democratic nomination.

“It’s still not a done deal with Hillary,” Rock said. “Remember, she was ahead last time. She had all the black people. And she lost to somebody she really shouldn’t have lost to.”

Interviewer Frank Rich agreed. “Obama came out of nowhere, basically,” he said. “Who in the Democratic Party could go after Hillary, though?”

“There was no Barack Obama until Barack Obama either,” Rock replied.

Versions of this argument — Don’t worry, liberals: Hillary looked like a sure thing last time, too … until a better candidate saved the day — have been gaining traction recently.

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There's only one problem: History doesn't support Rock's thesis.

At this point in the 2008 cycle (the first week of December 2006) Barack Obama was already Barack Obama. His official announcement may have been two months off, but even then, he had a ton of money. He had a ton of media attention. He was hinting — heavily — that he was going to run. And the polling plainly showed that he was competitive.

Exactly eight years later, Obama's would-be successors — the three candidates who have openly expressed interest in challenging Clinton for the Democratic nomination in 2016 — are so far behind Obama's December 2006 benchmarks on each of these metrics that it would take a miracle for any of them to catch up.

In fact, the only person who comes close to measuring up to Obama circa 2006 has repeatedly said that she will not run: Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Of course, even if Clinton were to capture the Democratic nomination in 2016, the general election would be anything but a coronation. The potential Republican field is full of fresh faces (Marco Rubio, Chris Christie) and seasoned pros (Jeb Bush, Mike Huckabee), and the eventual nominee is likely to emerge battle-tested and ready to give Clinton a run for her money.

Still, a close reading of the record suggests that if Warren doesn't get into the race, Clinton is not likely to face an Obama-caliber primary challenge. Let's rewind to December 2006 and take a look at where things stood for Obama back then versus where things stand right now:

Money: In December 2006, Democrats were just coming off a stunning midterm victory — the party won control of both houses of Congress for the first time since 1994 — and observers were praising Obama as the cycle's star surrogate. "Senator Barack Obama of Illinois has become the prize catch of the midterm campaign," wrote Anne Kornblut of The New York Times. "More sought after than virtually every other Democrat, Mr. Obama was fully booked, long ago, on a schedule to take him across a large swath of the country to help his party try to win control of Congress."

Obama's finances bore this out. Even though he wasn't running for office himself — he had just become a U.S. senator two years earlier — Obama managed to raise a staggering $4.39 million through his leadership PAC, Hope Fund, over the course of the cycle, plus another $1.02 million through his candidate committee, according to the Federal Election Commission. And he didn't just speak on behalf of his fellow Democrats; he shelled out a grand total of $770,968 to help them get elected. None of Obama's potential 2008 rivals — Clinton, John Edwards, Joe Biden, Chris Dodd — handed out nearly as much cash that year.

So how do today's would-be Obamas compare? It's not even close. Since the beginning of 2013, Bernie Sanders has raised $1.4 million and funneled $136,000 to other candidates. Martin O'Malley has raked in slightly less ($1.2 million) and spent a bit more ($296,497). And Jim Webb has barely registered at all, collecting a paltry $38,121 and donating exactly $0 to his fellow Democrats. In 2006, Obama spent the entire pre-presidential midterm cycle collecting chits and flexing his fundraising muscle. Sanders, Webb and O'Malley haveMedia: On Oct. 17, 2006, Obama published "The Audacity of Hope," a book that detailed his policy positions on a host of issues (education, health care, the war in Iraq) and served as a "thesis submission" for the U.S. presidency, as former presidential candidate Gary Hart put it at the time. By Nov. 9, The New York Times was declaring it a "surprise" hit. "The Audacity of Hope" seemed "primed for best-selling status," wrote Julie Bosman. "But its rapid rise to the No. 1 spot on the New York Times nonfiction list next Sunday, placing the author, the freshman Democratic senator from Illinois, ahead of heavyweight authors like John Grisham, Bill O'Reilly and even Bob Woodward, is something of a publishing stunner."

Bosman shouldn't have been surprised. By late 2006, Obama — who'd skyrocketed to national stardom more than two years earlier with his keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention — had already appeared on dozens of major magazine covers. One of them was the cover of Newsweek's big year-end "Who's Next" issue in 2004 — an accomplishment that he would repeat two years later when he showed up alongside Hillary Clinton on the December 2006 edition of "Who's Next," making him the franchise's first (and only) two-time cover boy. Obama's first book, "Dreams from My Father," had also been a best-seller. During the first seven days of December 2006, the Illinois senator's name was mentioned in more than 650 U.S. new stories, according to a search of the Nexis archives. And when Obama traveled to New Hampshire for the first time on Dec. 10, 150 journalists followed him there.

"Has he cast some kind of magic spell over the normally hard-bitten, cynical, run-over-your-grandmother-for-a-story press corps?" wrote Howard Kurtz in a column headlined "The Media's New Rock Star." "Or are they just engaged in the audacity of hope that they might get to cover a young and exciting African-American candidate with a shot at winning?"

Neither Sanders, Webb nor O'Malley has inspired — or fueled — this sort of media frenzy. Sanders' last proper book was published in 2011; it currently ranks 141,416th on Amazon.com. Webb's ranks 34,153rd. O'Malley has yet to publish a book. None of them was mentioned in more than 80 U.S. news stories over the last seven days. And there's little chance that any of them will attract 150 reporters next time they visit New Hampshire. not kept pace.

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Polling: This one is fairly straightforward. According to Real Clear Politics, five major outlets released Democratic presidential primary polls during the first two weeks of December 2006. They showed Clinton leading Obama by an average of 20 percentage points; Obama's support averaged 15.8 percentage points; Clinton's averaged 35.8.

This December is different. Right now, Sanders is averaging 3.5 percent in the 2016 polls. Webb is averaging 1.4 percent. O'Malley is averaging 1.2 percent. And Clinton is averaging 62.7 percent.

In December 2006, Barack Obama was already the second-most-popular politician in the country. He had already gained a significant amount of support among Democrats. And even though Clinton was way ahead, she wasn't even close to getting 50 percent of the primary vote.

Today, almost two-thirds of Democrats support Clinton. Statistically speaking, she's nearly twice as strong as she was eight years ago. Meanwhile, the three politicians who are explicitly considering challenging her — Sanders, Webb and O'Malley — are nowhere near where Obama was in the polls at this point in the 2008 cycle.

Which isn't to say that, should they choose to compete in 2016, Sanders, Webb and O'Malley would be poor candidates. Anything can happen in politics; perhaps one of them will run to Clinton's left and energize liberals who crave a less "inevitable" nominee.

The point is simply that by December 2006, Obama was already much, much closer to becoming that candidate than any of this year's openly interested alternatives.

Which brings us back to a candidate who isn't openly interested yet: Elizabeth Warren.

Sure, by December 2006, the real Obama was already out in the bullpen, warming up for all to see. In September, he flew to Iowa for Tom Harkin's famous steak fry. In October, he appeared on "Meet the Press" and told Tim Russert that "it is true that I have thought about [running for president] over the last several months." And by mid-December, Obama insiders were telling Newsweek that their man was "about 80 percent likely" to run.

Warren, on the other hand, has insisted that she isn't running. But what if she were to change her mind?

Many liberals are urging Warren to step up because they believe her brand of economic populism could bedevil Clinton much in the way that Obama's anti-Iraq-War message bedeviled Clinton in 2008. And on paper, at least, they're right: She's the only Democrat who even remotely resembles Obama (circa December 2006) in terms of fundraising skill, media appeal and polling prowess. Warren's latest book, published earlier this year, was a New York Times best-seller. She was the Democratic Party's most in-demand surrogate of 2014. She raised $4.59 million this cycle and disbursed nearly $600,000 to other Democrats. And she's polling as high as 17 percent in recent surveys.

The bottom line is that Obama didn't "come out of nowhere" in 2008 — but in 2016, Webb, Sanders and O'Malley would have to. So far, only Warren is on the map.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· December 8 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton attends a wildlife conservation event co-hosted by The Royal Foundation and the Clinton Foundation (The Hill)

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· December 16 – New York, NY: Sec. Clinton honored by Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (Politico)

· January 21 – Saskatchewan, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce's "Global Perspectives" series (MarketWired)

· January 21 – Winnipeg, Canada: Sec. Clinton keynotes the Global Perspectives series (Winnipeg Free Press)

· February 24 – Santa Clara, CA: Sec. Clinton to Keynote Address at Inaugural Watermark Conference for Women (PR Newswire)

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jroberts@progressivemediausa.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/23/2008 4:18:38 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 06/23/08

Main Topics: Charlie Black controversy, offshore drilling, McCain's fundraising, Iran, Barr-mentum

Summary of Shift: In McCain news Charlie Black's tasteless comments received an exceptional amount of coverage, leading both *Countdown* and *Race for the White House* and a few roundtables/panels. In the limelight equally, pundits and strategists also raised the question of whether McCain's monetary incentive for a zero-emission car is a gimmick. Other McCain news included the recent *Newsweek* poll that puts Obama at a 15-point advantage above his rival.
Rising gas prices, in and outside the context of the race took center stage tonight. Obama's shift on public financing remained a hot topic. George Carlin's death was covered seriously, with most notable memorial coverage on MSNBC's *Countdown*.

Highlights
1) Charlie Black's remarks from *Fortune* magazine
   a. CBS: Couric reports that McCain's campaign was shocked by Black's comments
   b. NBC: Brian William re-caps the controversy
   c. CNN: Bash links Black's remarks to Bush's style of campaigning in '04
   d. CNN: Bash links Black's remarks to McCain's reaction to Bhutto assassination
   e. CNN: Lou Dobbs finds Black's remarks somewhat incoherent
2) CNN & FNC: At press availability McCain elaborates on offshore drilling and fundraising
3) MSNBC: Fiorina says she cannot prove a negative when it comes to Iran
4) MSNBC: Bob Barr could potentially be a spoiler for McCain
5) MSNBC: mid-day reports from David Shuster summarize Black's remarks on a second terrorist attack on the US and his following apology [no clip]
6) MSNBC: *Hardball*'s big number re-caps Bush's failed efforts to install a US-friendly television station in the Middle East. $500 million to a station that bashed the US and Israel while promoting pro-Iranian policies [no clip]
7) MSNBC: Keith Olbermann pokes fun at McCain for his prize offering on the zero emission car and skewers him for his connections to Gramm [no clip]
8) MSNBC: Mark Green calls the McCain campaign 'the zig-zag express' [no clip]
9) CBS WUSA: Program asks viewers to write in their opinions on whether they believe McCain's battery incentive will speed up the invention process [no clip]

Clips
Highlight #1
Katie Couric Re-Caps the Latest Black Scandal on CBS Nightly News (CBS 06/23/08 6:43pm)
KATIE COURIC: [McCain's] campaign was shocked by a comment from a top advisor. [...] Senator McCain's political advisor, Charlie Black told *Fortune* magazine that, if there is another terror attack, 'Certainly it would be a big advantage to him,' meaning McCain.

JOHN MCCAIN: If he said that, I do not know the context. I strenuously disagree.

COURIC: In a statement Black said, 'I deeply regret the comments. They were inappropriate.' Barack Obama's campaign called Black's comments, 'A complete disgrace and is exactly the type of politics that needs to change.'

Brian Williams Summarizes the Latest Black Scandal (NBC 06/23/08
BRIAN WILLIAMS: [...] John McCain's chief strategist, GOP veteran, Charlie Black apologized tonight for telling a reporter that another terrorist attack in the US would help McCain's prospects in the election. Charlie Black also told Fortune magazine that Benazir Bhutto's assassination was unfortunate but it helped McCain in the New Hampshire primary because, according to Black, McCain's reaction showed he was ready to be commander in chief.

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Charlie Black said tonight that he regretted making the comments and they were inappropriate.

Black's Comments Fit Perfectly in the Politics of Fear (CNN 06/23/08 08:03pm)
WOLF BLITZER: The politics of terrorism. […] The Chief strategist Charlie Black is quoted […] as saying a new terrorists attack on America would benefit McCain's campaign. […] "Certainly it would be a big advantage to him." […]

DANA BASH: The McCain campaign really struggled to get a correction, really an apology out from Charlie Black. […] It was immediately clear to the McCain campaign that they had absolutely no choice but to clean up Charlie Black's comments. Because they understand full well that this plays into the kind of thing that democrats have really hit the Bush Administration, specifically Bush campaigns, for doing over the last election cycle in 04', which is playing to the politics of fear. [...]

JOHN MCCAIN: I cannot imagine why he would say it. It's not true. It's ah. I've worked tirelessly since 9/11 to prevent another attack on the United States of America. My record is very clear. If he said that, and I do not know the context, I strenuously disagree.

[…]

WOLF: How damaging is this?

CANDY CROWLEY: Well it plays into Democrats perfectly. […]

[…]

WOLF: He may have a point there, Charlie Black. […] When registered voters were asked who would do a better job on terrorism, Obama got 33% McCain got 52%. […]

JOE KLEIN: [...] This is part of a long-term Republican pattern. It goes back to Karl Rove saying that the war in Iraq would work to Bush's advantage. I mean it's a really heinous thing to say. [...]

McCain's Comments after Bhutto's Assassination Legitimize Charlie Black's Statement (CNN 06/23/08 06:03pm)
WOLF BLITZER: John McCain's chief strategist now says it was "inappropriate for him to talk about the political advantages of terror". Charlie Black was quoted in "Fortune" magazine, as saying a new attack on US soil would be a "big advantage for McCain". Black was also quoted as saying that McCain's knowledge and ability to talk about the assassination of the former Pakistani Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, showed that he's ready to be commander and chief. And therefore helped his campaign at a crucial time. […]

DANA BASH: This is obviously is not what the McCain campaign expected their message to be today. And it was not very long before they put out a statement about Charlie Black. […] What the campaign says is that Charlie deeply regrets his comments. They were inappropriate and he recognizes that the candidate we work for has devoted his entire adult life to putting his country and placing its security before every other consideration. Black is apparently saying that he doesn't remember actually making those specific statements. But he's also not denying it. The point that the campaign says he was trying to make is that he believes that anytime the political discussion is about terrorism or national security it's a big advantage for John McCain. That's something that Charlie Black has said to me many times as have others of the McCain team.

BLITZER: McCain himself was asked about it at a press conference and he wasted no time at all repudiating these kind of statements.

BASH: He did. He definitely repudiated the kinds of comments. Specifically where they most stung is Charlie Black talking about what a potential future terrorist attack could benefit McCain. […] I was with John McCain that day that Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in Iowa. He was very, very strong in coming off, right off the bat in that town hall, saying that he has credentials in that area, that he knew Benazir Bhutto, He'd been to Pakistan, [...]

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JOHN MCCAIN: I'm the one with the experience the knowledge and the judgment, so perhaps it may serve to enhance those credentials.

BASH: So McCain at that time the day Benazir Bhutto was assassinated basically conceding that his credentials, he hoped, would at that time, he was running in a pretty open field in the republican primary, help him. And what Black is saying in this comment is that in the end it did. Obviously what has hurt him or what Democrats are already pouncing on is the suggestion that a future terrorist attack would help the McCain campaign. The Obama campaign is already calling that a disgrace.

Lou Dobbs and Panel: Would a Terrorist Attack Really Benefit McCain? (CNN 06/23/08 8:03pm)
LOU DOBBS: Are you at all offended that not too much note has been taken today of the fact that a "Fortune" magazine reporter asked Charlie Black the question: what would happen if there was another terrorist attack? It's not like Charlie Black came with this out of whole cloth and created this sentence.

ERROL LOUIS: [...] I think the problem is that in some ways it's not just offensive its also somewhat incoherent.

DOBBS: The question or the answer?

LOUIS: the answer. The McCain campaign it sounds like they are trying to have it both ways. If the surge is somewhat successful, the president's policy to which McCain is joined at the hip. He'll say this is evidence that my wisdom and experience are proven right. On the other hand his advisor is saying well you know what if there's an attack and it looks like security is going down the tubes that will help you too. It doesn't make a lot of sense. [...]

DIANA WEST: [...] The fact is that any reminder of the fact that we are in a war on global jihad benefits the candidate that believes we are in a war time situation. Senator Obama has made it very clear that he believes terrorism is simply a matter of cops and robbers. So I think what we are looking at is the divide between the so called September 10th mindset of Senator Obama and the September 11th mindset of John McCain.

LOUIS: After hundreds of billions of dollars spent isn't it safe to say that we are not supposed to be having attacks on American soil. So in the horrible event that that did happen does not speak well of the approach that's been tried for 8 years.

WEST: The war continues. We have not won this war. [...] I don't know if Senator McCain fully understands it, but he does grasps that we are in and need to be in offensive mode.

DOBBS: Are you supporting McCain or are you opposed to him? You're talking about what he grasps and what he doesn't. You make him sound like he has a tenuous hold.

WEST: I feel like most people do. [...]

HANK SHEINKOPF: [...] Charlie Black made a big boo boo. [...] All it did is open up John McCain to more commercials of by the way 100 years in Iraq John McCain and how silly you look today. Not good for America and not good for our fighting men and women.

DOBBS: [...] The hundred years thing, you want to put that in context. [...]

SHEINKOPF: [...]He said if required we will have akin to what we have in Korea and other places, combat troops on the ground. [...]

[Clip of McCain's response to Black's comment]

DOBBS: What in the world is he trying to say. I don't even know what he's trying to distance himself from.

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SHEINKOPF: These are all losing arguments. Particularly younger people are going to say I would never give you my vote, why? Because I can't understand what your saying. […]

Highlight #2
McCain's Media Avail: Should Florida and California Drill Offshore (CNN 06/23/08 02:48pm)
QUESTIONER: […] Do you think that Californians and Floridians should want to drill off their shores?

MCCAIN: Well according to a poll just in the last couple days, the citizens of Florida by a significant majority said that they, if it was obviously environmentally safe and sound, that they would support it. So I don't know about California, I have not seen any polling data. […] Do I think they should approve it? Sure I'd love for them to. But I leave that decision up to them. Obviously I want the moratorium lifted because I'd like to explore every possible way to bridge us through this time when we are still going to be dependant on foreign oil.

McCain Hits Obama on Rejecting Public Financing and Joint Town Halls at Press Conference (FNC 6/23/08 2:44pm)
JOHN MCCAIN: [...] And finally, I'd just like to say again, my deep disappointment concerning Senator Obama's again, absolutely reversing his commitment, not to me, as he said when he said that if I accepted public financing for campaigns that he would do the same, time after time after time, committed publicly that he would sit down and discuss it with me before he made a decision, which he didn't do, and obviously he has gone back on his word. The President has to keep his word when it's popular and when it's not popular. And he's done so on this issue of public financing of the general election. The first time since the post-Watergate reforms, a major presidential candidate will not accept public financing. I'm not concerned about him out-raising me as far as money is concerned.

I've never been in a hotly contested race that I wasn't out-raised. I wouldn't be here, as the candidate and the nominee of my party, the presumed nominee of my party, if it had been all about raising money because I was clearly out-raised and outspent. But what bothers me is how the American people, one has trust and confidence in the commitments we make to them, if we continue to reverse our word as he has with Town Hall meetings and most importantly and as importantly the issue of public financing. So I'm ready again, the American people will make the appropriate judgment but I don't think it does anything to help what our first priority should be is to restore trust and confidence in those of us in elected office when we go back on our word.

Highlight #3
Nancy Pfotenhauer Complains That She Cannot Prove the Success of US Status Quo Iran Policy (MSNBC 06/23/08
DAVID SHUSTER: Regarding the proposal today, $300 million should be given to an inventor for a battery for a hybrid vehicle. [...] Some democrats are saying that this is a campaign gimmick.

NANCY PFOTENHAUER: [...] John McCain has been a leader in his area and [...] with Joe Lieberman introduced a global climate change bill a couple of years ago that senator Obama praised in, I think it was June 22nd or July 22nd of 2005. [McCain's] been a leader on these things. He's got a plan in the short and the long term and it does include spurring innovations; not through industrial policy but by identifying an objective and then unleashing innovation to try to meet that objective.

Obama's answer is no to everything. No to drilling. No to nuclear power, which is zero emission. No even to a gas tax, that would give, at least, a modest amount of relief to the lowest-income folks in this country who feel the rising gas prices the most.

SHUSTER: […] explain what has been accomplished with the policy of not talking with Iran. Has any progress been made? Because a lot of people would suggest Iran simply just continues up their nuclear centrifuges and we're still not talking to them.

PFOTENHAUER: Well it's tough, David because you're expected to prove a negative. What we do know is that what Senator Obama is advocating is not just at odds with U.S. policy; he has undercut all of our European allies and he's gone against, at least, three U.N. Security Council resolutions. Some people say four and those resolutions were passed for a reason.

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I think it was Mitt Romney, who said why would you give a propaganda bonanza to this tyrant and dictator that he would have at home, which would strengthen his political hand at home. The answer is to go after sanctions and to go after them hard. Do things like freeze their national bank accounts. Go after their money! That's what's gonna affect these guys.

SHUSTER: Right, but nothing has affected them yet.

PFOTENHAUER: Well it's been a real challenge and it is a challenge when you're dealing with someone who is as radical and as bent on destruction as Ahmadinejad is and his backers. I mean, here you've got a man who, as you know David has said The Holocaust never happened, called Israel a 'stinking corpse' and still continues to say his goal is the destruction of Israel.

I still don't believe and I think you've got republicans and democrats and nonpartisan foreign policy experts who say that Barack Obama's position frankly revealed either ignorance or naivety or arrogance and it was a mistake that he has tried to backfill and back-peddle away from ever since he's made it. All of a sudden, instead of preconditions he was talking about 'preparations.'

A couple of folks said it was plain embarrassing. Of course there are preparations. You know, you prepare for this interview. Of course you prepare for a meeting. It was embarrassing that a presidential candidate would say that.

Highlight #4
Bob Barr Discusses His Candidacy and Whether He'll Quit If He Ends Up Being a Spoiler for McCain (MSNBC 06/23/08 4:00pm)
DAVID SCHUSTER: Explain what a libertarian is for voters and explain how your views are different from Senator McCain.

BOB BARR: A libertarian is a person who believes the size, the scope, the power and the cost of the federal government ought to be minimized and the power of the individual, that is individual freedom, needs to be maximized. So that is at the core of everything the Libertarian Party and I stand for [...] Neither Senator Obama nor Senator McCain bears any real resemblance to that philosophy. Both of them believe in very large, powerful, big, expensive government. Senator McCain may be slightly less than Senator Obama but on virtually every policy we differ based on the size of the federal government.

SCHUSTER: Mr. Barr, I know that you're a pragmatic enough to realize that our country, for better or for worse, is still locked into a two party system. Given that, are you ok with the role of spoiler?

BARR: I don't intend to be a spoiler. We intend to make this a very competitive three-way race. We've hired as our campaign manager the gentleman that ran Ross Perot's campaigns. Ross Perot was not a spoiler. He was a very serious candidate. He gained 20% of the vote back in 1992. We intend to do very well in this race, in a three-way competitive race. We could win, we know that's a long shot but this is a very positive race [...] We are on track right now to be on the ballot in 49 states [...] The only state that continues to be a problem is Oklahoma.

SCHUSTER: Mr. Barr, I know that you don't envision this scenario but let's suppose, two weeks before the November election the polling has you at say 5% or less. At that point, so that you don't hurt John McCain, presumably conservatives would, who don't support you might go for John McCain, would you then throw your support behind Senator McCain, if you were that far back?

BARR: First of all, that's an unlikely scenario. We intend to be doing much better than that and it is my intention to stay in this race to provide the American people who believe that both parties have given them far too much government and far too little individual liberty to make sure that both of the major parties adhere at least somewhat to our agenda so that we influence the debate.

--
Jacob Roberts
Media Analyst

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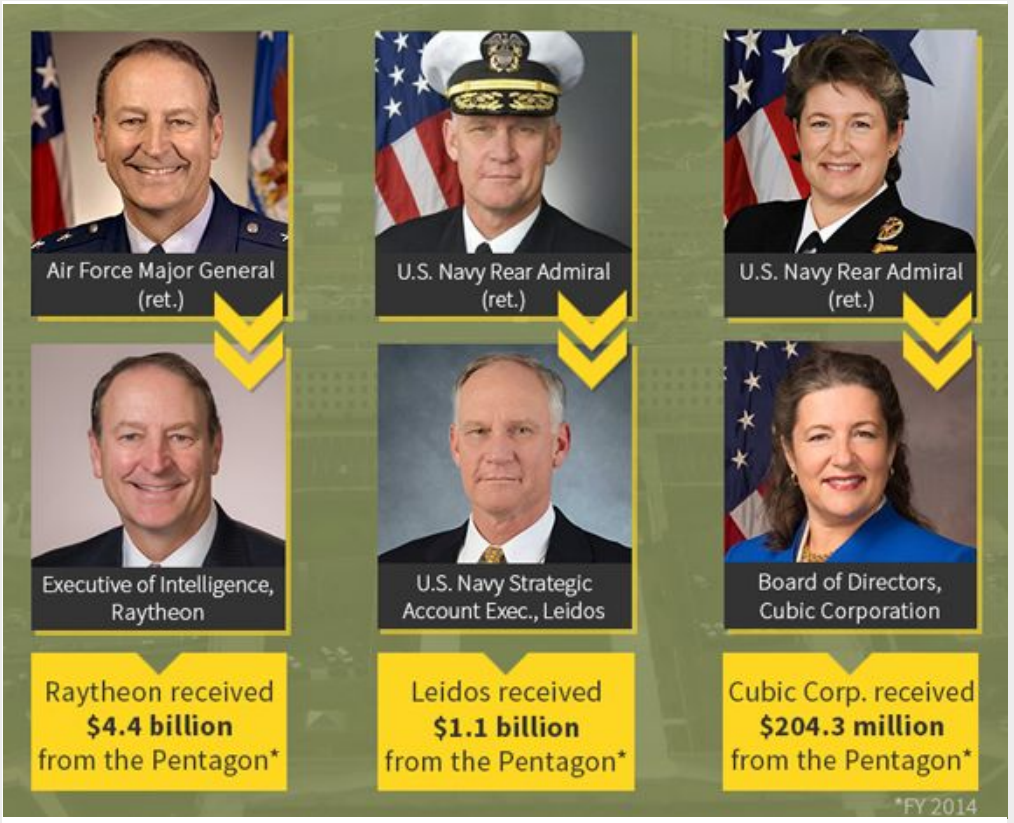
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From:	"Leslie Garvey, Project On Government Oversight" <leslie@pogo.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <podesta@law.georgetown.edu>
Date:	7/25/2015 1:30:14 AM
Subject:	Weekly Reader: From Battlefield to Boardroom

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PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT



From Battlefield to Boardroom: Facilitating the DoD Revolving Door

The Project On Government Oversight has learned of a new avenue the private sector is using to facilitate the revolving door between the Department of Defense (DoD) and defense contractors.

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Department of Justice's Decision Undercuts, Weakens Federal Watchdogs

IGs cannot be effective watchdogs on behalf of Congress and the American public if they have to negotiate with agency leaders for access to records on a case-by-case basis.

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Watching the Watchdogs: GAO Finds Problems with Commerce IG

A recent GAO report highlights deficiencies of the Commerce Department's Office of Inspector General under the former IG.

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DoD Reply to 2010 FOIA: Go to the Army

After five years, POGO finally receives a FOIA response from the Department of Defense...sort of.

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Dodd-Frank Turns Five; Too Soon to Celebrate?

The annual behemoth defense spending bill has become the method of choice for a lot of elected officials to shuttle unpopular legislation through Congress in near secrecy.

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We're Not Impressed with DoD Inspector General's Lackluster Investigation of Navy Officials

Unfortunately we're not surprised to find that the Department of Defense Inspector General did not hold senior Pentagon officials accountable.

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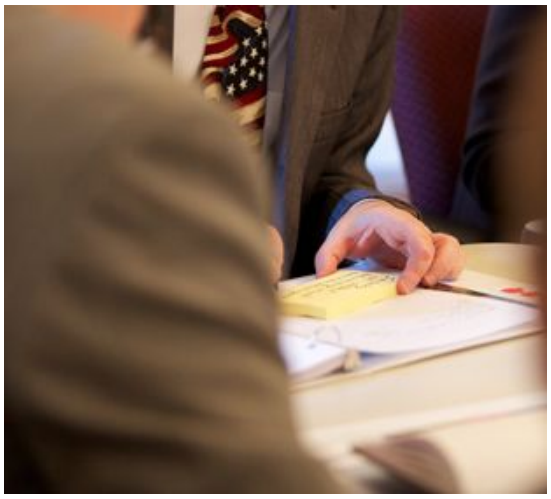


Report Sheds More Light on Misconduct by Nuclear Contractor

Nuclear contractor Sandia Corporation illegally used federal funds for lobbying, but will still likely be able to rebid for the billion dollar contract.

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FOIA: Release to One, Wait, Release to All

The Project On Government Oversight celebrates the Freedom of Information Act pilot program, "Release to One, Release to All," which will share requested information to the public—not only the requester.

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From the World of POGO

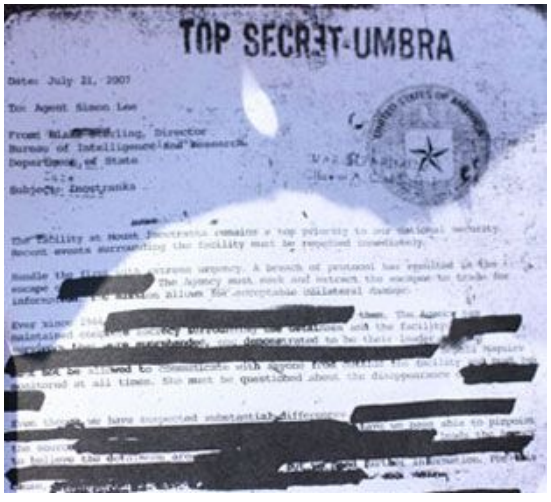


Public Listening Session on Federal Coal

Wednesday, July 29 | 1:00-4:00pm ET

Currently, outdated rules allow coal companies mining on public lands to pay less in royalty payments than other industries, cheating American taxpayers out of millions of dollars. Join POGO in attending this session and voicing your concerns.

More details



Open Gov National Action Plan Public Meeting

Thursday, July 30 | 2:00-4:00pm ET

This event will bring together civil society experts and U.S. Government colleagues who lead open government efforts across the Executive Branch to discuss this important work, providing individual attendees with an opportunity to share ideas and information.

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From: "Sara Du Bois" <sdubois@progressivemediausa.org>
To: "Sara Du Bois" <SDuBois@progressivemediausa.org>
Date: 5/27/2008 1:12:20 AM
Subject: [big campaign] '08 Daily News Clips - 5/27

08 Election Daily News Clips
May 27th, 2008

Candidate Tracking:

***All times in Eastern Standard Time

11am McCain: Foreign Policy Speech in Denver, CO
- Tracking scheduled for this event
1:30pm McCain: Finance Reception in Denver, CO

6pm McCain/BUSH: Finance Reception in Phoenix, AZ

News Clips:

MCCAIN NEWS

Memorial Day Draws Two Messages on Iraq (NYT 5/27/08)
By JEFF ZELENY and MICHAEL FALCONE
Senator John McCain stood before hundreds of flag-waving veterans and their families on Monday and vowed not to waver in his support of the Iraq war. "Even," he said, "if I must stand athwart popular opinion."
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/27/us/politics/27campaign.html?ref=politics
See also: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/26/AR2008052601696.html
Link to transcript of McCain's speech: http://thepage.time.com/mccains-memorial-day-address/

Business to McCain camp: What role? (Politico 5/27/08)
By: Jeanne Cummings
What part, if any, are members of the business community to play in the Republican's campaign?
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0508/10635.html

On global warming, it's McCain v. GOP (Politico 5/27/08)
By: Martin Kady II
GOP must choose to embrace McCain's ideas or stick with Bush's hands-off approach.
http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0508/10637.html

McCain says Obama has long wanted to "surrender" in Iraq (Politico blog 5/26/08)
By Jonathan Martin
McCain used his Memorial Day speech today in New Mexico to pay tribute to the nation's fallen and defend his stance on the GI Bill, never mentioning Obama's name But then, in an interview with AP, he ratcheted up the rhetoric and assailed his rival for not having been to Iraq for two years.
http://www.politico.com/blogs/jonathanmartin/0508/
McCain_says_Obama_has_long_wanted_to_surrender_in_Iraq.html
Link to AP interview: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080526/ap_on_el_pr/
mccain;_ylt=AkPz1sciPI08OJ_WWJdyKLWyFz4D

McCain "sick at heart" over mistakes in Iraq war (Reuters 5/26/08)
By Tim Gaynor
Republican presidential candidate John McCain sought on Monday to distance himself from President George W. Bush's handling of the Iraq war, telling veterans on Memorial Day he was "sick at heart" at mistakes made in the conflict now in its sixth year.
http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed7/idUSN2633108820080526

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McCain defends opposition to GI Bill (CNN 5/26/08)
* Sen. John McCain says general must have time to bring stability to Iraq
* McCain says GI Bill sponsored by Democrats would hurt military
* McCain, Sen. Barack Obama sparring over expanded veterans' education benefits
* President Bush will attend a fundraiser for McCain in Arizona
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/05/26/mccain/

McCain Breaks with Bush Over North Korea (Washington Post blog 5/26/08)
By Glenn Kessler
Sen. John McCain broke today with President Bush's new policy on North Korea, co-authoring an opinion article with Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) in which he called for a return to Bush's original demand of a complete, verifiable, irreversible disarmament of North Korea's nuclear programs.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/05/26/mccain_breaks_with_bush_over_n.html

McCain balances Latino voters, GOP base (Dallas Morning News 5/27/08)
By WAYNE SLATER
With Barack Obama his likely opponent in the fall, John McCain sees an opportunity to make inroads among Hispanic voters by touting himself as a different kind of Republican.
http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/politics/topstories/stories/052708dnpolmccain.3c10fe6.html

John McCain 2008 Launches New Web Ad: "Memorial Day" (McCain press release 5/26/08)
ARLINGTON, VA -- U.S. Senator John McCain's presidential campaign today released a new web ad honoring the service and sacrifice of Hispanics in our Armed Forces on Memorial Day.
(Web-1:00)
http://www.johnmccain.com/informing/news/PressReleases/6d9d37e4-ece7-4352-bc9a-f5bc3ce316d7.htm
Link to video of ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8k3Or06g9YA
Link to video of ad (with Spanish subtitles): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8k3Or06g9YA

Harkin Attacks McCain for Having Served In the Military Too Much (ABC blog 5/26/08)
By Jake Tapper
In the Des Moines Register, Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said that the worldview of Navy veteran Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who is the son and grandson of Admirals, has been shaped too much by the military.
http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalpunch/2008/05/harkin-attacks.html

President Bush in town to raise money for Sen. McCain (Arizona Republic 5/27/08)
Sen. John McCain will bring his presidential campaign to town today, accompanied by the man he hopes to succeed.
http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/27/20080527mccain0527.html

McCain to Make a Rare Appearance With Bush (WSJ 5/26/08)
By Laura Meckler
President Bush and John McCain will appear together at a fund-raiser in Phoenix Tuesday, the first time in nearly three months that the Republican presidential candidate will be seen beside the man he hopes to succeed.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121185084455621623.html?mod=rss_whats_news_us&apl=y&r=633085

Citing desire for closed press, McCain cancels low-selling fundraising event (ThinkProgress 5/26/08)
The McCain campaign has scaled back two fundraisers this week involving President Bush, claiming a policy of "closed press" for fundraising events... Press concerns may have nothing to do with it. On Friday, the Phoenix Business Journal reported that the "event was not selling enough tickets to fill the Convention Center space, and that there were concerns about more anti-war protesters showing up outside the venue than attending the fundraiser inside."
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/05/26/citing-desire-for-closed-press-mccain-cancels-low-selling-fundraisng-event/

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Cindy McCain: Like Hubby, Not So Charitable (Harper's 5/26/08)
By Ken Silverstein
Senator John McCain's charitable works don't appear to be terribly impressive. As I reported here a few months back, he has essentially been the sole contributor to the John and Cindy McCain Family foundation, which between 2001 and 2006 made contributions of roughly $1.6 million, of which more than $500,000 went to his kids' private schools. So McCain apparently received major tax deductions for supporting elite schools attended by his children.
http://harpers.org/archive/2008/05/hbc-90003001

Sistani vs McCain (Atlantic online 5/26/08)
By Andrew Sullivan
The entire premise of John McCain's view of Iraq policy going forward is that the US will be able to position permanent military bases in the heart of the Middle East, on the model of Japan and South Korea. The trouble is: Iraq is part of the holiest territory in Islam and a pact with infidel occupiers simply isn't going to wash
http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2008/05/sistani-vs-mcca.html

McCain's Mouth-Watering Weekend (Washington Post 5/27/08)
By Amy Argetsinger and Roxanne Roberts; C03
If Americans voted for president based on barbecuing skills, John McCain would win in a landslide. The Arizona senator spent Memorial Day weekend doing what he loves best: presiding over the grill at his Sedona ranch. "He barbecued ribs all night," Sen. Lindsey Graham told CBS's Bob Schieffer. Graham was among the 20 or so guests (Mitt Romney, Joe Lieberman, Sam Brownback, Charlie Crist, Bobby Jindal) invited for the "purely social" get-together.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/26/AR2008052602508.html

It depends what your definition of "his" is (Daily Kos 5/26/08)
...now that McCain is rejecting Mr. Parsley for his hateful rhetoric, how does the McCain campaign explain those earlier, glowing words? Easy. According to a McCain spokesman, McCain said that Parsley was: "...a spiritual guide, not his spiritual guide."
http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2008/5/26/12222/8235

In McCain Campaign, a Lobbying Labyrinth (NYT 5/25/08)
By BARRY MEIER
Rick Davis, the manager of Senator John McCain's presidential campaign, is a typical Washington insider in many ways, having long worked as both a lobbyist and a political operative along the intersection of politics, policy and money.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/25/us/politics/25davis.html?hp
See LA Times "Would-be reformers McCain and Obama challenged by lobbyist culture": http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-lobbyists26-2008may26,0,489947.story

Worries in G.O.P. About McCain Camp Disarray (NYT 5/25/08)
By ADAM NAGOURNEY
Senator John McCain's presidential campaign is in a troubled stretch, hindered by resignations of staff members, a lagging effort to build a national campaign organization and questions over whether he has taken full advantage of Democratic turmoil to present a case for his candidacy, Republicans say.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/25/us/politics/25mccain.html

McCain contributions are rolling in (LA Times 5/25/08)
By Dan Morain
The presumed GOP presidential nominee has been attending a string of high-dollar fundraisers.
http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-na-mccainmoney25-2008may25,0,4461228.story

The Freedom Nonagenda (NYT 5/25/08)
By JAMES TRAUB
...We don't hear much about the propagation of democracy these days, largely because President Bush's own democratic crusade has sown so much chaos, and so little liberty, abroad, and above all in the target region of the Middle East. Both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton shy away from Bush's clarion calls. But not McCain. In

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the 2000 Republican primaries, it was he, and not Bush, who was the candidate of the so-called national greatness conservatives and argued for an assertive, interventionist policy. Now McCain sounds the same resonant tones that come so naturally to Bush.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/25/magazine/25wwln-lede-t.html

McCain's Albatross: His Age and Party Ties to Bush (WSJ blog 5/25/08)
By Peter A. Brown
The key to John McCain's ability to overcome the strongest anti-Republican tide since Watergate will be proving to voters that he is neither too old nor too close to President Bush, and can still change the way things are done in Washington.
http://blogs.wsj.com/politicalperceptions/2008/05/25/mccains-albatross-his-age-and-party-ties-to-bush/

Obama, McCain have "righteous" problems (Reuters 5/25/08)
By Ed Stoddard
Republican presidential candidate John McCain has a "Religious Right" problem. His likely Democratic rival, Barack Obama, has a Rev. Wright problem.
http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed7/idUSN2035177620080525

Virginia Is Up For Grabs In Fall (Washington Post 5/25/08)
By Tim Craig; C01
Aides to Obama, McCain Say State Will Be Competitive
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/24/AR2008052401659.html

McCain's Medical Records Indicate He Is Cancer-Free, Generally Healthy (Washington Post 5/24/08)
By Michael D. Shear and David Brown; A03
As he sought the presidency twice over the last decade, Sen. John McCain has been the object of unusually aggressive medical care by a large team of doctors, who on Friday released thousands of pages of records that document he has been cancer-free for almost eight years.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/23/AR2008052300565.html

McCain adviser apologizes for saying that it's sometimes 'accurate' to describe a woman as a 'bitch' (ThinkProgress 5/24/08)
During CNN's primary coverage on May 20, CNN senior analyst Jeff Toobin criticized a New York Times column that published a joke about Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) being a "white bitch." But CNN contributor Alex Castellanos, who is also an adviser to Sen. John McCain's (R-AZ) campaign, disagreed, saying that a woman sometimes deserves to be called a "bitch." Yesterday on the Situation Room, Castellanos finally apologized for his remarks:
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/05/24/mccain-adviser-apologizes-for-saying-that-its-sometimes-accurate-to-describe-a-woman-as-a-bitch/

McCain's Fantasy War on Earmarks (Washington Post "FactChecker" blog 5/23/08)
...McCain's talk about eliminating $100 billion a year in earmarks is largely fantasy. His advisers are now promoting a more realistic plan of eliminating $100 billion in overall spending. But it is difficult to take even that promise very seriously given the fact that the senator refuses to identify exactly which projects he will be cut. To use a phrase coined by George H.W. Bush, this is "voodoo economics," based more on wishful thinking than on hard data or carefully considered policy proposals.
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/fact-checker/2008/05/mccains_fantasy_war_on_earmark.html

McCain Camp Reassures Right Wing: Comprehensive Immigration Reform Comment Was 'Poorly Worded' (ThinkProgress 5/23/08)
Yesterday, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) spoke to a "friendly audience" of business leaders about immigration policy, a topic he has been quiet on ever since the right wing erupted in rage over his support for the Senate's immigration reform bill. After the business leaders complained about the difficulty in obtaining temporary visas for certain immigrants, McCain said reform needs to be a "top agenda item":
http://thinkprogress.org/2008/05/23/mccain-comprehensive-immigration/

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Cindy McCain reports $6 million in 2006 income (AP 5/23/08)
DNC: "laughable" for McCain's camp to "say they are being transparent"
Sen. McCain's wife, Cindy, releases 2006 taxes after saying she would never
Shows she earned $6 million in 2006, paid $1.7 million in taxes
She has received an extension on her 2007 tax returns
http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/05/23/cindy.mccain.taxes.ap/index.html

The Note: In Sickness and in Health (ABC 5/23/08)
By RICK KLEIN with JOHN SANTUCCI
As McCain Divorces Pastors, Baggage is Unloaded in Roughest Week He's Had for a While
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/TheNote/story?id=3105288&page=1

OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Worldviews in Need of Merger (Washington Post 5/27/08)
By Richard Cohen; A13
Chris Matthews, in a look of revelation not seen since the late DeMille did biblical epics, said the other day that he is beginning to think a Barack Obama-Hillary Clinton ticket makes sense. Maybe so. But I have an even better ticket in mind: Obama-McCain. That way we might get a sensible foreign policy.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/26/AR2008052601739.html

The Frenzy for Campaign Money (NYT 5/27/08)
...Painful contradictions abound. Senator John McCain, who made a career of attacking big-money abuses in politics, has had to send five top campaign aides packing after their lucrative professions as special-interest lobbyists, capital insiders and money bundlers became too embarrassing to ignore. He is keeping on his main strategist, Charles Black, who says he has retired from his lucrative profession as an über-lobbyist for a string of dictators and other unsavory foreign leaders.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/27/opinion/27tue1.html?ref=opinion

The Belligerent vs. the Naif? (Washington Post 5/26/08)
By Fred Hiatt; A17
The differences between McCain and Obama may be more about instinct than policy.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/25/AR2008052502277.html

McCain drops Hagee (LA Times 5/24/08)
Presidential aspirants are learning the hard way that given some pastors' friendships, they don't need enemies.
http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-ed-mccain24-2008may24,0,186248.story

BUSH NEWS

Bush Straddles His Hard Line in Engaging Sudan (Washington Post 5/27/08)
By Michael Abramowitz; A01
Sometime in the next few weeks, a special envoy of President Bush plans to meet with Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, whose government sheltered Osama bin Laden and pursued a scorched-earth policy in southern Sudan that resulted in more than 2 million deaths.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/26/AR2008052601965.html

Bush Pays Tribute to Troops on Memorial Day (AP 5/26/08)
By DEB RIECHMANN
At Arlington, President Bush salutes America's fighting men and women on Memorial Day
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=4931808

Mr. Bush and the G.I. Bill (NY Times 5/26/08)
Lavish with other people's sacrifices and reckless in pouring the national treasure into Iraq, President Bush is cheap when it comes to helping people at home.
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/26/opinion/26mon1.html?ref=opinion
Link to WH response: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/05/white_house_statement_on_the_n.html

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OTHER TOP NEWS

Hezbollah Leader Plays Down Group's Political Aims in Lebanon (NYT 5/27/08)

By ROBERT F. WORTH

Hezbollah's leader sought to reassure the Lebanese about the Shiite militant group's intentions in a speech on Monday, saying that its newly expanded political clout will not translate into greater control over the state, and that its top priority remains the fight against Israel.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/27/world/middleeast/27lebanon.html?ref=world

Iran holds back nuclear details, IAEA says (CNN 5/26/08)

* International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors say they can't get clear info from Iran
* The agency has not detected "the actual use of nuclear material" by Iran
* Iran maintains its nuclear ambitions are peaceful

http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/meast/05/26/iran.nuclear/index.html

Castro criticizes Obama plan to keep US embargo (AP 5/26/08)

By WILL WEISSERT

Former President Fidel Castro says Sen. Barack Obama's plan to maintain Washington's trade embargo against Cuba will cause hunger and suffering on the island.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iEEhT8qNey90fDM8U6FgH5B0WjrgD90TESL80

Obama Says Clinton's RFK Comment Was Merely 'Careless' (Washington Post blog 5/25/08)

By Alec MacGillis

San Juan, P.R. -- Barack Obama spoke publicly today for the first time about Hillary Clinton's invocation of Robert F. Kennedy's assassination, telling a Puerto Rico radio station that he took Clinton's word that she meant no harm.

http://blog.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/05/24/obama_says_clintons_rfk_commen.html

POLLS

Daily Presidential Tracking Poll (Rasmussen 5/26/08)

The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Monday shows that John McCain and Barack Obama are tied again at 45%. Over the past seven days, the two candidates have been tied or just a single percentage point apart three times. On the other four days, McCain has had an advantage of two points or more

http://rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_presidential_election/daily_presidential_tracking_poll`

Gallup Daily: Clinton Maintains Lead Over McCain (Gallup 5/25/08)

Obama has 5-point lead over Clinton among Democrats... Gallup Poll Daily tracking from May 20-24 finds Hillary Clinton maintaining a significant 49% to 44% lead over John McCain when registered voters are asked about their preferences for the fall general election, while McCain has a slight 47% to 45% advantage over Barack Obama.

http://www.gallup.com/poll/107488/Gallup-Daily-Clinton-Maintains-Lead-Over-McCain.aspx?version=print

Polls: Obama'd beat McCain in Pa., but not Ohio, Florida (McClatchy 5/23/08)

By Steven Thomma

New polls out Thursday show that Hillary Clinton fares better than Barack Obama against John McCain in three key battleground states. The reason: Obama suffers from a defection of Clinton supporters and white working class voters in a fall matchup.

http://www.mcclatchydc.com/254/story/38252.html

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From: "Burns Strider \(CTRFF\)" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <ctrfriendsfamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 8/15/2014 1:53:08 AM
Subject: Fwd: Correct The Record Friday August 15, 2014 Morning Roundup

Correct The Record Friday August 15, 2014 Morning Roundup:

Headlines:

Washington Post blog: The Fix: "Even with Hillary Clinton in the race, 2016 is basically a toss-up"

"Clinton supporters acknowledge the ground has shifted in recent months. '...as Hillary becomes more involved with domestic issues, as the media begins framing her in terms of a 2016 presidential election and as the Republican attack machine looks for anything and everything to throw at her, it is no surprise that her numbers are coming back to earth,' said Adrienne Elrod, a spokeswoman for the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record."

New York Times: "If Not Hugging It Out, at Least Cutting a Rug"

"This person briefly spotted Mrs. Clinton on the dance floor, but said that Mr. Obama and Mr. Clinton mostly dominated as a 'mosh pit' formed around them."

Washington Post: "The Clintons break bread and build ties with Julian Castro, stoking talk of a 2016 ticket"

"Former president Bill Clinton invited Julian Castro, a former San Antonio mayor and incoming Obama Cabinet secretary, to the Clintons' home in Washington last week for a private dinner that friends described as a chance for Democratic leaders from different generations to become better acquainted."

Huffington Post blog: Amb. Marc Ginsberg: "'Don't Do Stupid Stuff' Doesn't Cut It"

"Say what you will about Mrs. Clinton's spot-on criticism of President Obama's faltering foreign policy -- it reflects widespread bipartisan disapproval that under Obama the ship of state is listing badly in international waters."

Politico Magazine: "Can Hillary Fix Obama's Mess?"

"Uncertain and adrift, Democrats once again need a Willard Hotel moment. They need to find the party's misplaced moral compass and rededicate themselves to defending freedom against its new enemies. And if Hillary Clinton should become their standard-bearer, we should applaud her for raising the right questions—not decry her supposed disloyalty."

Washington Post opinion: Charles Krauthammer: "On Obama's foreign policy, Clinton got it

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right”

“Leave it to Barack Obama’s own former secretary of state to acknowledge the fatal flaw of his foreign policy: a total absence of strategic thinking.”

MSNBC: “Obama: ‘No excuse’ for police violence”

“Clinton, for her part, has also not spoken out on the issue, though as a private citizen, she is not expected to address everything in the news. A spokesperson for Clinton did not respond to a request for comment on the situation in Ferguson.”

Washington Post blog: She The People: “Twitter starting to wonder why Hillary Clinton has not addressed events in Ferguson, Mo.”

“Clinton’s silence has not gone unnoticed on Twitter: [TWO TWEETS]”

Washington Free Beacon: “On Iraq, CAP Chooses Hillary Over Obama”

“Neera Tanden, President of the Center for American Progress, revealed in an interview that the Center supports Hillary Clinton’s views on the handling of Iraq over President Obama’s.”

Weekly Standard blog: The Blog: “Hillary Clinton's Authenticity Problem”

“If it finds a candidate who combines authenticity with a real commitment to reform, the GOP can put up a robust fight to the Clinton Machine.”

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: “Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon stumbled in Ferguson. He’s trying to regain his footing.”

“As a Democrat who can connect with conservatives, Nixon would make an intriguing vice presidential candidate. If Hillary Rodham Clinton decides not to run for president, his name would have been expected to suddenly pop up on many presidential short lists.”

Articles:

Washington Post blog: The Fix: “Even with Hillary Clinton in the race, 2016 is basically a toss-up”

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By Aaron Blake

August 14, 2014, 1:19 p.m. EDT

It's no big surprise that Hillary Clinton has come back down to earth polling-wise in the last few months. Her stumbles aside, it was basically bound to happen eventually -- for a whole host of reasons.

A new poll from McClatchy and Marist College documents that decline pretty well. In hypothetical matchups with potential 2016 Republican candidates, Clinton has seen her lead decline from 20-plus points in February to the mid-single digits today. She leads Chris Christie by six points after leading him by 21 points six months ago. She leads Jeb Bush 48-41 after leading him by 20 in February. She leads Rand Paul 48-42 after leading him by the same margin early this year.

Here's how that looks:

[GRAPHS]

Clinton supporters acknowledge the ground has shifted in recent months.

"...as Hillary becomes more involved with domestic issues, as the media begins framing her in terms of a 2016 presidential election and as the Republican attack machine looks for anything and everything to throw at her, it is no surprise that her numbers are coming back to earth," said Adrienne Elrod, a spokeswoman for the pro-Clinton group Correct the Record.

Elrod also pointed out that Clinton is still leads all comers. And that's true. It's also true, though, that these polls pretty much show the 2016 presidential race is a toss-up.

Clinton's continued lead, at this point, is pretty clearly a function of her superior name ID. While Clinton wins the votes of 97 percent of "strong Democrats" in all three matchups, Christie and Paul take only 91 percent of "strong Republicans." While Clinton takes 79 percent of "soft Democrats," Paul only takes 65 percent of "soft Republicans." That's largely because these Republicans aren't as well-known to their base.

In all three matchups, Clinton continues to take at least 20 percent of so-called "soft Republicans." That's to her credit, and good on her if she can somehow keep it up. We would wager, though, that as those "soft Republicans" actually get to know Republicans and the GOP's campaign against Clinton begins in earnest, there's no way Clinton will continue to pick off one in five of even the most casual GOP voters. It's just not possible in today's polarized political environment.

As for pure independents-- those who don't really lean toward either party -- they continue to favor Clinton in two of the three matchups. But in all three matchups, around one-third of these voters are undecided. These are the voters that will decide the 2016 election, and there are a lot of them up for grabs. We doubt many of them know much about Rand Paul, Jeb Bush and Chris Christie, even as all of them know who Clinton is.

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At this point in the game, Clinton is so well-known that she's effectively the incumbent, trying to ward off her lesser-known challengers. And, as with an incumbent, to the extent that she's below 50 percent in the polls, it's hard to call her a favorite.

New York Times: “If Not Hugging It Out, at Least Cutting a Rug”

By Amy Chozick

August 14, 2014

[Subtitle:] Hillary Clinton and Obama Attend Party Days After She Criticized Him

The White House on Thursday declined to say whether President Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton actually hugged at a party the night before on Martha’s Vineyard.

But they did dance.

Bill Clinton kicked things off when he stepped onto an empty dance floor to “I’ll Take You There.” Michelle Obama joined Mr. Clinton, followed by Mr. Obama, who shot a thumbs-up to the band, a local group called the Sultans. Mr. and Mrs. Obama later shared a slow dance to “At Last.”

The party, to celebrate the 70th birthday of Ann Jordan, the wife of Vernon E. Jordan Jr., a longtime Washington lobbyist and friend to the Clintons and the Obamas, drew even more interest than the usual social gathering with a guest list that includes current and former presidents and first ladies.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Clinton, a potential presidential candidate in 2016, called Mr. Obama to assure him that critical remarks she had made about his foreign policy in an interview with The Atlantic were not intended “to attack him, his policies or his leadership.”

In a statement, Mrs. Clinton’s spokesman said she looked forward to “hugging it out” with Mr. Obama at the party for Mrs. Jordan, which was held in a tent set up on the grounds of the Farm Neck Golf Club.

“It was huge smiles and total abandon on the dance floor,” said one person who attended the party. “You’d never know there was any discord.”

This person briefly spotted Mrs. Clinton on the dance floor, but said that Mr. Obama and Mr. Clinton mostly

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dominated as a “mosh pit” formed around them.

As the evening went on, and “Blurred Lines” came to a close, the former and current presidents, who famously clashed during the contentious 2008 Democratic primary, danced to Marvin Gaye’s “Got to Give It Up.”

Washington Post: “The Clintons break bread and build ties with Julian Castro, stoking talk of a 2016 ticket”

By Ed O’Keefe and Philip Rucker

August 14, 2014, 3:23 p.m. EDT

As she expands her political network in advance of an expected presidential run, Hillary Rodham Clinton and her husband have been cultivating an important ally who some believe could become her vice presidential running mate.

Former president Bill Clinton invited Julian Castro, a former San Antonio mayor and incoming Obama Cabinet secretary, to the Clintons’ home in Washington last week for a private dinner that friends described as a chance for Democratic leaders from different generations to become better acquainted.

Castro, 39, who is scheduled to be sworn in Monday as secretary of housing and urban development, traveled to New York in July to join Hillary Clinton, as well as Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, at a children’s song and dance performance for the Bronx Children’s Museum’s youth arts program.

And in March, Hillary Clinton sat next to Henry Cisneros, who served in her husband’s Cabinet, at a private luncheon in New Mexico, where Cisneros said they discussed Castro and his political future.

“It’s a natural friendship waiting to bloom,” said Cisneros, also a former San Antonio mayor and a longtime family friend and political mentor of Castro and his identical twin brother, Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Tex.).

Said another person familiar with the discussions, who spoke on the condition of anonymity so as not to alienate either camp, “The Clintons are keeping the Castros very close to them.”

The behind-the-scenes maneuvering illustrates how the Clintons are trying to acclimate themselves into a Democratic Party that has evolved and nurtured new stars in the years since they ceded the stage to Barack Obama in 2008.

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For the Clintons, there are clear advantages to building an alliance with Castro. A young and dynamic figure who broke onto the national scene with his keynote address at the 2012 Democratic National Convention, Castro is arguably the only Hispanic Democrat with a broad following. Although his background as a Mexican American could have broad appeal to Hispanic voters, Castro does not speak fluent Spanish.

Assuming Clinton runs for president, keeping Castro and his brother on her side is key because any sign of wavering in their support of her candidacy during the Democratic primaries could complicate her attempts to court the increasingly influential Hispanic electorate.

Should Clinton win the Democratic nomination, Castro could find himself on Clinton's vice presidential short list. Clinton may face pressure to select a Hispanic running mate, especially considering that the Republican Party could field two Latino presidential candidates, Sens. Marco Rubio (Fla.) and Ted Cruz (Tex.). Other Latino Republicans, including New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez and Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, have been mentioned as potential vice presidential candidates.

"If Hillary Clinton is the nominee, there will be many considerations, but certainly one of them will be the next generation and another one will be the significance of the Latino community," Cisneros said. "Clearly, if you were putting together a list of five people in the country who could potentially be a contributing running mate, you would have to put Julian Castro on that list."

There are benefits for Castro, too, in establishing closer ties to the Clintons. During his third term as mayor, he resigned to join President Obama's Cabinet, a move that close associates said could demonstrate national political experience he would need to be seriously considered for vice president. Even if Clinton bypassed him as a running mate, Castro could land a different high-profile post in her administration should she win or could run for statewide office in Texas with support from the Clinton network.

Castro met Bill Clinton at the family's home on Whitehaven Street NW, just around the corner from the Naval Observatory, the vice president's official residence, for dinner on Aug. 5, when Clinton was in town for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. They were joined by Sandy Berger, a national security adviser in the Clinton administration, and other Clinton associates, said Democrats familiar with the dinner.

Although politics is always in the atmosphere at a dinner for politicians, aides to Clinton and Castro insisted that their discussion centered around joint initiatives between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Clinton Climate Initiative, one of several philanthropic programs affiliated with the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

"Secretary Castro and former president Clinton had a discussion about ways the agency can expand on the partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative to make public housing more energy-efficient," HUD spokeswoman Betsaida Alcantara said.

A Clinton aide, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, made a similar statement and then got to the point: "They didn't talk about 2016."

Berger did not respond to a request for comment.

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A Clinton-Castro pairing has long been the subject of speculation in political circles. When asked in May about the prospect of running on a ticket with Castro or Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Clinton told ABC's Robin Roberts, "They're both extraordinary leaders and great political advocates for a lot of what needs to be done in our country, and I admire both of them greatly."

The Clinton-Castro relationship dates at least to 2012, when the former president and the Castro brothers appeared together at a political fundraiser in Los Angeles, shortly after Julian Castro's DNC keynote speech. In his remarks at the event, Clinton suggested that Julian would one day be president and that the Castro brothers were building a legacy of public service similar to that of the Kennedys, according to a close associate of both camps who was in attendance.

Since then, the Clintons and Castros have found occasional opportunities to develop a relationship. In February, when Bill Clinton visited San Antonio for a speech to the World Affairs Council, he went to lunch at Mi Tierra, an iconic Tex-Mex restaurant in the city, with Julian Castro, who at the time was still the mayor, as well as Cisneros and San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich.

The Castro brothers were born in 1974. That was the year a 28-year-old Bill Clinton, fresh out of law school, ran his first campaign, for Congress from Arkansas, as a sort of boy wonder. Twenty years later, Julian Castro was an intern in the Clinton White House, working in the Office of Cabinet Affairs, and he has said he had his picture taken with the president.

"It may well be there's a special affinity there for these early overachievers," said Paul Begala, a longtime Clinton adviser. "President Clinton's got an eye for talent."

Bill Clinton also has a deep affection for Texas and many political friends there after he and Hillary crisscrossed the state in 1972 working for George McGovern's presidential campaign.

In the decades since, Begala said, Clinton has gone to San Antonio whenever he has had a reason. The former president had a taste for mango ice cream from the Menger Hotel, a legendary property near the Alamo where Teddy Roosevelt recruited the Rough Riders.

"Somebody should tell Julian to ship a little mango ice cream up to him," Begala said. Acknowledging the former president's strict diet of late, Begala added, "I don't know if it's vegan."

Huffington Post blog: Amb. Marc Ginsberg: "'Don't Do Stupid Stuff' Doesn't Cut It"

By Amb. Marc Ginsberg

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August 14, 2014, 5:46 p.m. EDT

It's nice to hear President Obama and Mrs. Clinton had a "huggable" moment on Martha's Vineyard last night. But making up is hard to do when the truth hurts.

Say what you will about Mrs. Clinton's spot-on criticism of President Obama's faltering foreign policy -- it reflects widespread bipartisan disapproval that under Obama the ship of state is listing badly in international waters.

When a whopping 66 percent (an aggregate of three national polls) of the American people do not approve of a president's foreign policy, something is awfully wrong with 1) the policy; 2) the selling of the policy; 3) the staffers formulating the policy. Betting on the remaining 34 percent who approve -- the isolationist fringes of both parties -- represents a dangerous sliver on which to bank a national security legacy.

Yet it seems the White House caters to that fringe element of the electorate, his staff asserting the rest of the world just doesn't appreciate or understand Obama's stewardship. But that's not a foreign policy drowning in misunderstanding -- that's a foreign policy just drowning. "Not doing stupid stuff" is shoddy Noble Peace Prize material -- and the public senses it.

Obama and his national security team forget (or more likely don't seem to care) that unless they urgently correct course they will bequeath the ballast of a tarnished national security legacy that will haunt the Democratic Party for years to come. Recall it took over a decade for the Democratic Party to cure itself of Jimmy Carter's foreign policy hangover when Bill Clinton established such an acclaimed and respected foreign policy that it earned him such high marks at home and abroad and is one of the thousand reasons he is so admired.

True, the world is full of horrific images and heartbreaking stories -- from Ukraine, Gaza, West Africa, and Mt. Sinjar. Watching international news is painful. And as Obama correctly points out, the U.S. cannot fix every dire mess. No nation can do it alone. But forging "coalitions of the willing" is not this White House's default position before a crisis may require boots on the ground (as long it is foreign boots, of course). Moreover, Republicans have not cut Obama a break -- the more Obama opposes "boots on the ground" the more "boots on the ground" they demand.

But Obama is selling the public short -- even if they scorn more foreign military adventures, they do expect a president to lead with conviction and resolve, and not be seen like he is always late for the train. Americans know sometimes boots have to be on the ground to fulfill limited missions and protect the homeland. There were boots on the ground last night on Mt. Sinjar rescuing terrified Yazidi refugees. There are over 900 boots on the ground in Iraq, and counting. Americans see ISIS as a growing threat to allies in the Middle East and to the homeland. It is attacking Lebanon and now Jordan. They know that genocide is occurring everywhere ISIS plunders -- on Mt. Sinjar and off of it and they expect the U.S. to lead by forging a coalition to stop ISIS in its tracks. ISIS has been on the march for months. You would think that had the terrible images coming from Mt. Sinjar not been seen in Washington the ISIS genocide against thousands of Shiites and Christians would have been inconvenient truths for this White House to cover its eyes to BECAUSE IT COULD MEAN BOOTS ON THE GROUND.

Obama and his fatigued staff blame the pile on their critics -- not themselves. But critics are not responsible

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for the color blind red lines, the blurred pivots, the belated rescue missions, or the stupid eavesdropping and spying on allies. And when it suits him, Obama just gives a back of the hand when challenged on major policy decisions that come back to bite him.

On Saturday, August 9, President Obama told Tom Friedman that it is a "fantasy" to believe that arming secular Syrians early on would have made a difference. That is a perfect example of Obama revising history to silence his critics without any facts to substantiate that claim of"fantasy" when he reversed himself a year later. He rejected the case presented to him by Mrs. Clinton and SecDef Gates when it could have mattered, and when he finally decided to provided lethal aid to the "better" rebels, it was too late. Whose "fantasy" is it?

What was really a fantasy was Obama's Syrian red line. As much as his staff would like to sweep it under the rug his failed Syria policy created the greatest single national security credibility crisis in his entire presidency -- the so-called Red Line Assad crossed without much of a consequence. Assad was still able to blow his people up to smithereens with barrel bombs. The experts whose advise to cure the Syrian cold before it became the flu were sidelined and then quit, like former U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford, who is scathing in his criticism of this White House's political agenda at the expense of national security.

Events have consistently vindicated Mrs. Clinton time and again as the Syrian crisis unfolded. She was steadfast in her determination to come to the humanitarian rescue of millions of Syrian refugees when Obama considered it a slippery slope to "boots on the ground."

Had the U.S. acted more quickly, tens of thousands of Syrians could have been saved from the conflict. The White House dragged its feet for months before agreeing to dispatch a USAID survey team to assess the humanitarian crisis -- "gotta keep those boots from getting on the ground!"

I know from Turkish diplomats the following nugget. In March, 2013, Turkey's foreign minister Ahmet Davotuglu flew into Washington to urgently meet with then SecState Clinton to coordinate a plan to create humanitarian corridor "no fly zones" over Syria and to lay the groundwork to provide non-lethal intel support to the moderate Free Syrian Army forces. Mrs. Clinton's team had labored for months to align Washington and Ankara in order to ensure that when she arrived in Istanbul for a Friends of Syria meeting, the U.S. would unveil an effective," no boots on the ground" plan.

Just before wheels up from Andrews. The White House pulled the plug on Mrs. Clinton; who arrived in Istanbul scrambling to undo the damage the national security staff had just inflicted on its bilateral credibility with Turkey and with other Middle East nations attending the conference. All they were trying to do was attempting to forge a reasonable, moderate coalition against the Assad regime and to try to come to the aid of millions of destitute, homeless and starving Syrian refugees.

It mattered not to Obama's White House staff that it had just sucker-punched itself in the eye (again). Anything that smacked of "engagement" in Syria violated the "no boots on the ground" political dictate.

You would think Obama would want to correct his course. But the status quo is his want. It's the critics after all who are at fault.

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Still, for the sake of his presidency, how about bringing onto his White House staff seasoned national security experts who know how to forge coalitions, are good special emissaries, who have credibility and trust with regional leaders, who can formulate strategy instead of reacting tactically to events.

The American people would be shocked if they knew that there is no one senior on the national security staff who has long-term, hands-on Middle East experience advising this president given the enormous national security challenges we face in the Middle East.

That is the difference between Mrs. Clinton and President Obama. She was not threatened by seasoned, respected world class diplomats like Richard Holbrooke or George Mitchell. She welcomed top talent and the constructive insights and advice from her top foreign service officers. She brought in experts and forged allies in Congress and with other cabinet officers.

That is not the case with this White House. In the tight circle around this president there is no room for anyone who may challenge the political pecking order inside the NSC.

The American people deserve a foreign policy they can be proud of. Democrats deserve a foreign policy they can run on. That means "Doing the Best Stuff" instead of "Don't Do Stupid Stuff."

Politico Magazine: “Can Hillary Fix Obama’s Mess?”

By Will Marshall

August 14, 2014

On Barack Obama’s watch, Democrats have defined their international outlook largely in reactive and negative terms. The president has focused on fixing his predecessor’s mistakes, leaving unclear what positive role he envisions for America in the 21st century. “Don’t Do Stupid Stuff” may be sound advice for college-bound kids, but it’s not a foreign policy doctrine.

Where George W. Bush reached too quickly for the blunt instrument of military force, Obama stresses its limited utility for solving complex political problems. Bush’s “Freedom Agenda” had a utopian and triumphalist ring; Obama eschews moralizing and puts human rights and democracy on the diplomatic backburner. Bush’s unilateralism strained ties with key U.S. allies, Obama is only too happy to lead from behind and shift responsibility for solving global problems to multilateral coalitions.

And, given the economic mess he inherited, and the need to repair the domestic foundations of U.S. strength, it’s understandable that Obama has sought to limit America’s exposure to foreign conflicts.

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Six years into his tenure, however, the world doesn't seem to be cooperating with Obama's policy of risk-averse retrenchment. Russia has reverted to its bad old ways, resurrecting a Soviet-style police state and menacing its neighbors. Europe's inability to respond effectively has forced Obama to put America back in the business of checking Moscow's aggression. Washington also is getting sucked back into Iraq, dashing the president's hopes of extricating the United States from a Middle East convulsed by jihadist and sectarian violence.

The president's desire to pull back from foreign conflicts may mirror the public's mood, but polls suggest it hasn't inspired much confidence in his ability to counter emerging threats. "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," Hillary Clinton said in her Atlantic interview—much to the consternation of White House Munchkins who flamed her anonymously in the New York Times, and Obama consigliere David Axelrod, who fired back a snarky tweet.

But Democrats would be wiser to accept Clinton's implicit challenge to talk more about the positive uses of American power. Much of the world now believes that a declining America is abandoning its leadership role. Is that what Democrats believe? For six decades, Democratic leaders have acted upon the premise that a freer world is a safer and more prosperous world. Is this core tenet of post-war internationalism still operative?

It's hard for Democrats to answer these questions when their leader oscillates awkwardly between a pinched "realism" concerned mainly with avoiding mistakes, and his party's more expansive legacy of liberal internationalism. As one former U.S. official recently told the New Yorker, "I think Obama is basically a realist – but he feels bad about it."

Nowhere is Obama's ambivalence more evident than in Syria, where the president decided to stand aloof from a popular uprising even after insisting that President Bashar al-Assad must go. His reluctance to intervene was undeniably popular and won warm praise from a motley collection of anti-interventionists that includes libertarians, conservative realists and the anti-war left.

But progressive dissenters, including then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, challenged it on strategic grounds. The Syrian debacle shows that nonintervention entails risks and costs too. These include some 170,000 dead, millions of refugees flooding neighboring states and spreading sectarian violence across the region. Worst of all, Syria has become a magnet for foreign jihadis seeking to fill what Clinton aptly called the "vacuum" created by the West's failure to arm and support moderate opponents of the Assad dictatorship. Forged in the Syrian crucible was the Islamic State, which now controls territory larger than New England and is menacing Kurdistan and the rest of Iraq.

This sinister turn of events upends a key Obama assumption about the terrorist threat. He has often criticized Bush's talk of a "war on terror" as overly broad, arguing plausibly that it fed the extremist narrative that America is at war with Islam. But in fixating on al Qaeda, Obama seems to have erred in the opposite direction. The rise of the Islamic State—so savage that even al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahari has disowned it—makes it clear that the recurrent danger we face arises not from this terrorist group or that, but the Islamist ideology that motivates all of them.

Yet America, Clinton noted, lacks an "overarching strategy" for containing and ultimately defeating the jihadist contagion that has spread to Yemen, Somalia, North and sub-Saharan Africa, Pakistan, the Caucuses, parts of China and the Philippines. Obama has been so eager to declare an end to America's overseas wars that he has not prepared Americans for a long twilight struggle against Islamist extremism

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across shifting global fronts. This campaign may not require putting U.S. boots on the ground—the straw man Obama routinely torches in answer to his critics. But it will very likely require the use of force, probably by drones, special forces and the covert services.

Fortunately, Americans need not wage this campaign alone. Washington should be organizing a coalition of powers likewise concerned about jihadist terrorism, powers—including Europe, Russia, China, India, Turkey and Egypt—to concert action on intelligence and surveillance of extremist groups, monitor “hot spots” for jihadist recruiting and disrupt terrorist financing networks.

The United States also needs a more sophisticated information campaign, in collaboration with moderate Muslim allies, to counter the extremist narrative and delegitimate Islamist ideology. The Cold War offers useful precedents for this kind of “hearts and mind” operation.

Like communism and fascism, radical Islam is a totalitarian creed. It is fundamentally hostile to liberal concepts of individualism, liberty of conscience, pluralism and tolerance. The civilized world can’t coexist with a retrograde doctrine that sanctions barbaric violence against nonbelievers, that kills and abducts girls for going to school, that suppresses women’s sexuality and rights, and that prescribes death for adultery and homosexuality.

Why aren’t U.S. liberals leading the charge against this deeply illiberal ideology? The fear of being called anti-Muslim is one answer. Another is the anti-war’s left reflexive aversion to the use of the force and mistrust of American motives. Some “peace” groups, for example, have lambasted Obama for ordering air strikes against the Islamic State, even to protect thousands of Yazidis and Christians threatened with mass slaughter. Echoing a canard from the Iraq war debate, some critics say it’s all about oil—in this case protecting U.S. oil interests in friendly Kurdistan.

More creditable is sheer public weariness with shouldering the Atlas-like burdens of world leadership, especially after a prolonged period of anemic growth and stalled economic mobility at home.

Still, Democrats ought to push back against the current mood for disengagement, not pander to it. They should reclaim their party’s tradition of tough liberalism and reaffirm America’s will to stand up to tyranny and oppression. Much of that tradition shines through in Hillary Clinton’s comments.

Not surprisingly, Karl Rove mocked Clinton’s words as an attempt to “position herself as sort of the Goldilocks of foreign policy.” But there is much wisdom in her search for a via media between the bluster and overreaching of Rove’s former boss and Obama’s realist overcorrection.

There’s an historical precedent for this kind of synthesis. In January 1947, a group of prominent Democrats—including such liberal icons as Reinhold Niebuhr, Arthur Schlesinger Jr. Eleanor Roosevelt and Walter Reuther—gathered at Washington’s Willard Hotel. They were motivated by twin concerns: that conservatives would use a new “Red Scare” to clamp down on civil liberties, and that too many progressives were drifting into Henry Wallace’s fellow traveling camp. They urged liberals to lead the fight against Soviet totalitarianism and support “democratic and freedom-loving peoples the world over.” Calling themselves Americans for Democratic Action, they give birth to liberal anti-communism.

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Defense of freedom, Schlesinger wrote in The Vital Center, should be the “fighting faith” of American liberalism. The fight for liberal values abroad, he argued, was indivisible from the struggle for social progress at home.

That link and that faith seem to be attenuated, if not lost, today—buried in the sands of Iraq and the wreckage of the 2008 financial crisis. It’s no longer clear how or even if Democrats related their foreign policy goals to what they want to accomplish domestically.

Uncertain and adrift, Democrats once again need a Willard Hotel moment. They need to find the party’s misplaced moral compass and rededicate themselves to defending freedom against its new enemies. And if Hillary Clinton should become their standard-bearer, we should applaud her for raising the right questions—not decry her supposed disloyalty.

Once, Democratic presidents like Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton took a more expansive view of America’s role as leading the world toward greater openness, liberty and democracy. They were tough-minded liberals who understood that U.S. diplomacy works best when backed by military strength and the credible threat of force. At the same time, they saw the nation’s liberal ideals as a potent source of moral authority, helping to legitimate U.S. global leadership at home and internationally. It’s time to bring that spirit back.

Wall Street Journal column: Peggy Noonan: “The 2016 Battle Heats Up Already”

By Peggy Noonan

August 14, 2014, 7:23 p.m. EDT

I think things just got sparky, a term I once heard a military figure use to denote a battle that has both commenced and turned hot.

In her interview in The Atlantic, with Jeffrey Goldberg, Hillary Clinton sounded as burly and hawkish on foreign policy as John McCain. That's not a surprise to longtime Hillary observers, though that she chose to declare it so uncompromisingly at so early a point in the 2016 presidential cycle, is. Mrs. Clinton came into politics from the McGovern wing of her party, but that was long ago. She has been more publicly hawkish since she ran for the U.S. Senate in New York in 2000 and 9/11 happened a year later. She famously voted for the Iraq war, which opened up running room for a young man named Barack Obama.

Everyone knew that Mrs. Clinton would have to detach herself politically from Mr. Obama, an increasingly unpopular president. But she was his secretary of state for four years, so the distancing would have to be done with some deftness and delicacy, and deeper into the election cycle, not now. Instead, it was done with blunt force. In the interview Mrs. Clinton went square at the president's foreign-policy vision, or lack of it. "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff,' is not an organizing principle." This is both true and well stated, but it is remarkable to hear it from, again, a person who until February 2013

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was his secretary of state, presumably an intimate and part of the creation of his foreign policy.

Just as remarkable, by throwing down this gauntlet Mrs. Clinton starts an argument within her party that might have been inevitable but certainly could have been delayed and, with pleas for unity, softened. By starting the argument now she gives time, space and reason for a progressive Democratic opponent to arise.

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The 2016 Democratic presidential cycle has begun with this interview and has begun early.

The tone and content of Mrs. Clinton's remarks seem to assume a Democratic Party base that is or will prove to be in broad agreement with her hawkishness.

But is that the feeling of a major portion of the Democratic Party base right now?

You can see the progressive pushback in David Axelrod's remarks when he took to Twitter to remind Mrs. Clinton that stupid stuff "means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision." The Obama White House is reportedly angered by Mrs. Clinton's remarks. Left-wing websites have taken issue with her.

Mrs. Clinton was always going to have a challenger or challengers for the party's nomination, and in fact needed one: She needs someone to beat for the nomination, she can't just glide to it. At the same time it was in her interest to own a lot of political ground and give no big stark issue to the left. But she's given them one now, and she is probably going to get a bigger challenge than she thinks.

Who might it be? Democrats are suddenly full of names—that itself is significant, they weren't a few weeks ago—but the first person who always comes to mind could cause Mrs. Clinton a lot of trouble.

In a smart piece in The Washington Monthly, writer David Paul Kuhn takes a look at Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and reminds the political class not to write her off and not to assume that her stated position up to now—that she does not intend to run for president—will hold.

Mr. Kuhn notes that Ms. Warren has a powerful appeal among the party's activist left. Her rhetoric is pure firebrand: "The game is rigged . . . and the rich and powerful have lobbyists and lawyers and plenty of friends in Congress." She draws big, enthusiastic crowds. Mr. Kuhn quotes Democratic campaign veteran Joe Trippi, who suggests things may be more dynamic than they look: "The progressive wing is looking for a candidate." With Hillary, as they say, Democrats are falling in line but not in love.

Yes, Mrs. Clinton is the favorite; yes, she has the money, the clout, the stature, fame and relationships. But she's no populist, and populism is rising. Hillary is close to Wall Street; they're her friends, her donors, they hire her for big ticket appearances. Ms. Warren has no use for Wall Street; they're the ones who crashed

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the economy and got away with it. Mr. Kuhn notes that Ms. Warren's signature line—the game is rigged—is no longer radical; it is the view of 6 in 10 Americans in some polls that our economic system unfairly favors the wealthy.

Ms. Warren would also take Hillary's most powerful argument—that it's time for a woman president and she is an accomplished woman—off the table.

I'd add two points.

One is that Ms. Warren has the hard-to-quantify power of the person who means it. She's a real leftist, she didn't get it from a poll. Second, though Ms. Warren and Hillary are almost the same age (65 and 66, respectively) they represent two wholly different political experiences. They are of different Democratic generations.

Hillary is a post-Reagan liberal. Her generation of liberalism was defined by a reckoning with and accommodation to popular modern conservatism.

Ms. Warren is a post-crash progressive. She came to politics during and after the financial crisis of 2008, and her political message was shaped by it. To some in the base Ms. Warren may seem fresher, more pertinent.

As for her repeated statements that she does not plan to run for the presidency in 2016, Mr. Kuhn notes that Barack Obama said things like that in the years before 2008. Then he ran.

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On the Republican side, of course, no one's certain who's running; some of those who think they might won't, some who think they won't might. But, as a smart party veteran said the other day, the primaries could in time turn into Rand Paul Versus the Guy Who Isn't Rand Paul, the guy who stands for a greater perceived moderation.

But what if the nominee were Rand Paul? And he went up against Mrs. Clinton? The Kentucky senator would, presumably, be to her left on foreign policy. That would be historic enough. But what would the GOP's establishmentarians, its money men and opinion shapers, do if the 2016 election came down to Mr. Paul versus a more moderate-seeming Hillary? They just might choose Mrs. Clinton. Bolt the party, or sit this one out.

We could see a rising populist candidate pretty much split the Democratic Party this year, and a rising libertarian one pretty much split the Republicans.

Yes, we are getting ahead of ourselves. No, this is not where you'd put your money, in part because it's too dramatic, and when you expect history to get dramatic it often doesn't, just as when you don't it sometimes does.

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But only months ago people were thinking 2016 might be ho-hum, a Bush versus a Clinton, with mournful commentary about the decadence of America's acceptance of political dynasties. Maybe it will be sparkier than that. And maybe the sparkiness began this week, with that interview in The Atlantic.

Washington Post opinion: Charles Krauthammer: "On Obama's foreign policy, Clinton got it right"

By Charles Krauthammer

August 14, 2014, 9:07 p.m. EDT

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle."

— Hillary Clinton, The Atlantic, Aug. 10

Leave it to Barack Obama's own former secretary of state to acknowledge the fatal flaw of his foreign policy: a total absence of strategic thinking.

Yes, of course everything Hillary Clinton says is positioning. The last time she sought the nomination (2008), as she admitted before Defense Secretary Bob Gates, she opposed the Iraq surge for political reasons because she was facing antiwar Sen. Barack Obama in Iowa. Now, as she prepares for her next run (2016), she's positioning herself to the right because, with no prospect of being denied the Democratic nomination, she has the luxury of running toward the center two years before Election Day.

All true, but sincere or not — with the Clintons how can you ever tell? — it doesn't matter. She's right.

Mind you, Obama does deploy grand words proclaiming grand ideas: the "new beginning" with Islam declared in Cairo, the reset with Russia announced in Geneva, global nuclear disarmament proclaimed in Prague (and playacted in a Washington summit). But, untethered from reality, they all disappeared without a trace.

When carrying out policies in the real world, however, it's nothing but tactics and reactive improvisation. The only consistency is the president's inability (unwillingness?) to see the big picture. Consider:

1. Russia

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Vladimir Putin has 45,000 troops on the Ukraine border. A convoy of 262 unwanted, unrequested, uninspected Russian trucks allegedly with humanitarian aid is headed to Ukraine to relieve the pro-Russian separatists now reduced to the encircled cities of Donetsk and Luhansk. Ukraine threatens to stop it.

Obama's concern? He blithely tells the New York Times that Putin "could invade" Ukraine at any time. And if he does, says Obama, "trying to find our way back to a cooperative functioning relationship with Russia during the remainder of my term will be much more difficult."

Is this what Obama worries about? A Russian invasion would be a singular violation of the post-Cold War order, a humiliating demonstration of American helplessness and a shock to the Baltic republics, Poland and other vulnerable U.S. allies. And Obama is concerned about his post-invasion relations with Putin?

2. Syria

To this day, Obama seems not to understand the damage he did to American credibility everywhere by slinking away from his own self-proclaimed red line on Syrian use of chemical weapons.

He seems equally unaware of the message sent by his refusal to arm the secular opposition (over the objections of Secretary of State Clinton, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and CIA Director David Petraeus) when it was still doable. He ridicules the idea as "fantasy" because we'd be arming amateurs up against a well-armed government "backed by Russia, backed by Iran [and] a battle-hardened Hezbollah."

He thus admits that Russian and other outside support was crucial to tilting the outcome of this civil war to Bashar al-Assad. Yet he dismisses countervailing U.S. support as useless. He thus tells the world of his disdain for the traditional U.S. role of protecting friends by deterring and counterbalancing adversarial outside powers.

3. Gaza

Every moderate U.S. ally in the Middle East welcomed the original (week 1) Egyptian cease-fire offer. They were stunned when the Obama's secretary of state then met with Qatar and Turkey — Hamas' lawyers — promoting its demands. Did Obama not understand he was stymieing a tacit and remarkable pan-Arab-Israeli alliance to bring down Hamas (a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood) — itself an important U.S. strategic objective?

The definitive evidence of Obama's lack of vision is his own current policy reversals — a clear admission of failure. He backed the next Egyptian cease-fire. He's finally arming the Syrian rebels. And he's returning American military power to Iraq. (On Russia, however, he appears unmovably unmoved.)

Tragically, his proposed $500 million package for secular Syrian rebels is too late. Assad has Aleppo, their last major redoubt, nearly surrounded. If and when it falls, the revolution may be over.

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The result? The worst possible outcome: A land divided between the Islamic State (IS) and Assad, now wholly owned by Iran and Russia.

Iraq is also very little, very late. Why did Obama wait seven months after the IS takeover of Fallujah and nine weeks after the capture of Mosul before beginning supplying the Kurds with desperately needed weapons?

And why just small arms supplied supposedly clandestinely through the CIA? The Kurds are totally outgunned. Their bullets are bouncing off the captured armored Humvees the IS has deployed against them. The Pentagon should be conducting a massive airlift to provide the pesh merga with armored vehicles, anti-tank missiles and other heavier weaponry.

And why the pinprick airstrikes? The IS-Kurdish front is 600 miles long, more than the distance between Boston and Washington. The Pentagon admits that the current tactics — hitting an artillery piece here, a truck there — will not affect the momentum of the IS or the course of the war.

But then again, altering the course of a war would be a strategic objective. That seems not to be in Obama's portfolio.

MSNBC: "Obama: 'No excuse' for police violence"

By Alex Seitz-Wald

August 14, 2014, 2:09 p.m. EDT

President Obama on Thursday came out strongly against the spiraling unrest and heavy-handed police tactic in Ferguson, Missouri, where tear gas and smoke grenades were thrown as peaceful protesters rallied over the killing of unarmed teen Michael Brown.

The president took a break from his vacation on Martha's Vineyard to vow that justice will be served in last weekend's police shooting and also said it was against American values to arrest reporters.

While he said there is no excuse for violence against police officers, he also said there is "no excuse for police to use force against a peaceful protest." He added: "Here in the United States of the American, police should not be arresting or bullying journalists." Two reporters were briefly detained Wednesday night.

Obama said he understands why Americans are "deeply disturbed" by images of clashes between militarized police and protesters, and that he's directed the Department of Justice to not only investigate

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the killing of Michael Brown, but also to consult with local authorities on less provocative ways to maintain public safety.

“Now is the time for healing. Now is the time for peace and calm on the streets of Ferguson. Now is the time for an open and transparent process to see that justice is done,” Obama concluded.

But the president did not heed calls from members of his own party to make a radical change. Congressman John Lewis – a recognized leader of the Civil Rights Movement – spoke out Thursday saying Obama should use the authority of his office to declare martial law to “federalize the Missouri national guard to protect people as they protest.”

The White House is fending off charges that it was too slow to respond to the rapidly deteriorating situation in Missouri. It did not look good Wednesday night as Obama partied at a golf resort on tony Martha’s Vineyard while the heartland burned. The juxtaposition of tear gas canisters and riot gear on one hand, with Obama’s surf and turf menu and boasts of all-night dancing on the other came in for quick condemnation on social media.

Late Wednesday night, a White House spokesperson tweeted about Obama seeing Hillary Clinton at the party, after some tensions between the two. It was something which seemed so important only a few hours earlier, but suddenly looked hopelessly frivolous – “spoiler alert: a good time was had by all,” the spokesperson said – as violent clashes continued.

Just hours earlier, at a press briefing Wednesday afternoon, White House spokesperson Eric Schultz got 14 questions about Clinton and Obama’s upcoming meeting, including several about journalists’ access to the party. He got just one on the situation in Ferguson.

Other political leaders were apparently caught off guard as well.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, who has been criticized for what some feel is a lackluster response, promised residents Thursday morning that they would soon see “a much better and much different tone” from police. The St. Louis County police force has been relieved of duty, and Nixon said details about a new order would be announced at a press conference this afternoon.

“I’m sorry I was late – I do have a good excuse,” Nixon told attendees at a local church. “I was on the phone with the President of the United States.”

In his remarks, Obama called Nixon “a good man and a fine governor,” and suggested he was counting on the executive to take charge of the situation. “I expressed my concern over the violent turn that events have taken on the ground,” Obama said.

At the meeting with residents in the church in Ferguson, the moderator told Nixon, “You are the governor of the ‘Show Me State,’ and we have decided that we’re going to test this tonight.”

The state’s Democratic Senator, Claire McCaskill, also met with constituents in Ferguson on Thursday and said she has spoken with Department of Justice officials about an investigation. McCaskill, herself a former prosecutor, said in a statement that “we need to de-militarize this situation – this kind of response the

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police has become the problem instead of the solution."

Clinton, for her part, has also not spoken out on the issue, though as a private citizen, she is not expected to address everything in the news. A spokesperson for Clinton did not respond to a request for comment on the situation in Ferguson.

Washington Post blog: She The People: "Twitter starting to wonder why Hillary Clinton has not addressed events in Ferguson, Mo."

By Vanessa Williams and Bethonie Butler

August 14, 2014, 3:53 p.m. EDT

Hillary Clinton has had much to say of late about foreign policy, drawing a great deal of coverage for an interview in which she pointed out her differences with President Obama on how he has handled crises around the world.

Analysts suggest that she is signaling to a general election electorate where she disagrees with the currently unpopular Obama on issues important to them, should she decide to run for president in 2016.

Closer to home, however, Clinton has yet to say anything about the events in Ferguson, Mo., which has exploded into protests – both peaceful and violent – since the weekend shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old African American.

But Elizabeth Warren, the woman being pushed by progressives as an alternative to Clinton, has:

[TWEET]

And on the GOP side, Rand Paul, often touted as a potential Republican candidate in 2016, wrote an op-ed published Thursday by Time magazine in which he forcefully questions the police response to mostly black protesters in Ferguson. The forceful essay in Time weighed in with this lengthy response to what can be rightfully called a domestic crisis, touching on longstanding, simmering issues of race and the use of deadly force by police.

Clinton's silence has not gone unnoticed on Twitter:

[TWO TWEETS]

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She The People sought comment from Clinton on the events in Ferguson, but has not received a reply. We will update this post when we do.

Washington Free Beacon: "On Iraq, CAP Chooses Hillary Over Obama"

By Washington Free Beacon Staff

August 14, 2014, 6:22 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] 'The American public has become so isolationist that in the long term it may create more chaos'

Neera Tanden, President of the Center for American Progress, revealed in an interview that the Center supports Hillary Clinton's views on the handling of Iraq over President Obama's.

Tanden appeared on RealClearPolitics' Carl Cannon's show, "Changing Lanes," during which she made the admission.

"…It seems to me an independent voter could say… 'Invading Iraq was a mistake, but leaving Iraq was a mistake.' They could say both things," Cannon told Tanden.

She threw her support behind Clinton's views about going forward, replying "My view of it is: we cannot stay in Iraq forever…But that doesn't mean you shouldn't have taken another course in Syria, or you shouldn't be supporting Jordan, or you shouldn't be taking steps now to support the Yazidis who are clinging to life on the mountaintops because of the kind of genocidal efforts of ISIL."

Tanden expressed her concern over the negative views of the Iraq war. "I worry that that has so colored our view that we want to retreat…I think the American public has become so isolationist that in the long-term it may create more chaos in the world, not less," she said.

It should be noted, The Center for American Progress' founder, John Podesta, is now President Obama's Chief of Staff.

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Weekly Standard blog: The Blog: “Hillary Clinton's Authenticity Problem”

By Jay Cost

August 15, 2014, 12:00 a.m. EDT

A friend of mine and I were discussing Hillary Clinton’s putative presidential candidacy over email, and he flagged for me a YouTube video of a debate from the fall of 2007. In it, Tim Russert queried her thusly:

“Senator Clinton, Governor of New York Eliot Spitzer has proposed giving driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants. You told the Nashua, N.H., editorial board it makes a lot of sense. Why does it make a lot of sense to give an illegal immigrant a driver’s license?”

To which Clinton responded:

“Well, what Governor Spitzer is trying to do is fill the vacuum left by the failure of this administration to bring about comprehensive immigration reform.

“We know in New York we have several million at any one time who are in New York illegally. They are undocumented workers. They are driving on our roads. The possibility of them having an accident that harms themselves or others is just a matter of the odds. It’s probability. So what Governor Spitzer is trying to do is to fill the vacuum.

“I believe we need to get back to comprehensive immigration reform because no state, no matter how well intentioned, can fill this gap. There needs to be federal action on immigration reform. ...”

Okay, fair enough. The basic gist seems to be: I support driver’s licenses for illegal immigrants with reluctance. It is a public safety issue and, absent federal action, governors have a responsibility to do something about it.

This prompted Chris Dodd, the “Friend of Angelo,” to go on the attack. Dodd argued that driver’s licenses are a privilege, not a right, and they should not be given to anybody here illegally.

Again, fair enough. That seems like a clear contrast for primary voters. If you care about this issue and want illegal immigrants to have licenses, Clinton is your candidate. If not, consider Dodd.

But then Clinton just had to interject:

“I just want to add, I did not say that it should be done, but I certainly recognize why Governor Spitzer is trying to do it.”

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Wait...what? I thought she was in favor of it. Now, she isn't. But then Dodd pushed back:

"(A) driver's license goes too far, in my view."

And then Clinton again defends Spitzer's move:

"Well, you may say that, but what is the identification if somebody runs into you today who is an undocumented worker…"

After a bit more back-and-forth, Russert interjects with this pointed question:

"Senator Clinton, I just want to make sure what I heard. Do you, the New York Senator Hillary Clinton, support the New York governor's plan to give illegal immigrants a driver's license? You told the Nashua, N.H., paper it made a lot of sense."

To which the senator from New York...objected in principle to the question:

"You know, Tim, this is where everybody plays gotcha."

Then she once again tried to split the difference:

"It makes a lot of sense. What is the governor supposed to do? He is dealing with a serious problem. We have failed, and George Bush has failed.

"Do I think this is the best thing for any governor to do? No. But do I understand the sense of real desperation, trying to get a handle on this? Remember, in New York we want to know who's in New York. We want people to come out of the shadows. He's making an honest effort to do it. We should have passed immigration reform."

This episode generated some bad press for Clinton back in 2007, and I bring it up now because it is essentially the same as her positioning this week on Obama's foreign policy. She gives a hard-hitting interview to the Atlantic that seems to put some distance between the president and herself, then calls him to assure him there is no such distance. She wants it both ways.

I am also reminded of her interview with NPR's Terry Gross over gay marriage. In it, she admits to having evolved as public opinion did, but that she did not do so for political purposes. And she cannot help but complain about the "gotcha" nature of the question (seeing as how NPR hosts are always so tough on Democratic presidential candidates).

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I am also reminded of her ever-shifting explanation of her vote to authorize war in Iraq. Unlike her 2008 competitor John Edwards, she refused to repudiate that vote, instead arguing implausibly that it was a vote to facilitate diplomacy, even though she voted against an amendment to the resolution that would have required more diplomacy.

Wanting to be all things to all people does not make Hillary Clinton a bad person. It makes her a politician. Her husband, famously, has this quality. As Daniel Halper reports in Clinton, Inc., Clinton's obsessive desire to be adored by all prompted him to make amends with even his most intense enemies, like the late Richard Mellon Scaife.

Hillary Clinton's problem is political, not ethical. Unlike her husband, she seems to have a real problem taking both sides of an issue with any sort of eloquence. Her answers are clunky, stilted, and obviously calculated. And after she is called out on said calculation, she is prone to complain about how unfair the question is.

Of course, Mitt Romney had this problem as well, although he was less likely to snap at the questioner. So also did John Kerry, whose line "I actually did vote for the $87 billion, before I voted against it," remains a classic in political doublespeak.

For all intents and purposes, Hillary Clinton is running for president right this very minute. Her book is part of the campaign. So were her interviews with NPR and the Atlantic. Assuming she wins the nomination of her party, she will be campaigning for the next 26-and-a-half months. How will this quality of hers wear? Probably not very well. Voters do not like this kind of doublespeak, or—perhaps better put—they prefer the politician do it with a bit of style and grace. If Bill Clinton, for instance, explained why he flip-flopped on middle class tax cuts between the 1992 campaign and his 1993 budget, his audience might conclude that the only principled move on Clinton's part was to repudiate his prior position. While Bill Clinton comes off much better than he substantially is, Hillary Clinton somehow manages to come across substantially worse. After all, which Democratic pol did not follow the trade winds on gay marriage—and yet Hillary Clinton is the one who looks like a hack for her calculation.

This gives conservatives an opportunity. In this week's edition of the magazine, I argued that the GOP must embrace wholeheartedly the banner of reform to oppose Clinton. Here, I'd add another quality for Republican candidates: earnestness.

I'm reminded of an explanation from a congressmen to political scientist Richard Fenno about how the former can win over constituents who disagree with him:

"It's a weird thing how you get a district to the point where you can vote the way you want to without getting scalped for doing it. I guess you do it in two ways. You come back here a lot and let people see you, so they get a feel for you. And, secondly, I go out of my way to disagree with people or specific issues. That way, they know you aren't trying to snow them. And when you vote against their views, they'll say, 'Well, he's got his reasons.' They'll trust you. I think that's it. If they trust you, you can vote the way you want, and it won't hurt."

Fenno's study of House members in their home districts was completed in the late 1970s, long before public opinion polling, focus grouping, etc., had penetrated so deeply into the fabric of American politics.

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Virtually no pollster or strategist would agree with this today. Instead, they'd encourage a candidate to demure, to obfuscate, to do what Hillary Clinton does (only better).

Still, the appeal of this congressman's strategy should be obvious. Voters are primed to expect politicians to try to be all things to all people, so a pol who goes against that grain comes across like a real person. He actually is who he appears to be. "Well, he's got his reasons."

Hillary Clinton will not be that candidate in 2016. In all likelihood, she will come across as more calculating than the average politician, even though in reality they all tend to be about the same. That's the opening for the Republican party: Nominate somebody authentic, somebody who is prepared to defy his handlers on important issues, to lay out plainly the areas where there might be disagreements with voters and to give people the impression that what you see is what you get.

If it finds a candidate who combines authenticity with a real commitment to reform, the GOP can put up a robust fight to the Clinton Machine.

Washington Post blog: Post Politics: "Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon stumbled in Ferguson. He's trying to regain his footing."

By Sean Sullivan

August 15, 2014, 6:00 a.m. EDT

A week ago, Jay Nixon was a Democratic governor with a promising political future. Today, he's a guy with a rocky recent past.

The second-term governor of Missouri has been thrust into the harshest brand of national spotlight, thanks to the recent turmoil in his home state -- and widespread grousing that he's done little to resolve the standoff between police and protesters in Ferguson.

How Nixon handles the next few days could determine whether his prospects of being a vice presidential contender -- or even a presidential hopeful -- will recover, or evaporate.

Nixon spent Thursday in Ferguson. But, say political observers, that's not nearly enough.

"Do more than just visit," encouraged Michael Steele, a former lieutenant governor of Maryland and ex-chairman of the Republican National Committee. "You cannot just go there and take a walkabout amid the destruction and the tension and then go back to the state capital and say, 'Well, I've done that.'"

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Nixon appeared to share that assessment, laying out a range of new moves Thursday. He announced in the afternoon that he had directed the state highway patrol to take over security efforts in Ferguson, substituting for the embattled police force there. He vowed all would see a “different tone” from law enforcement, which has clashed with protesters since Sunday.

But in the eyes of many, it was too late.

Nixon didn’t intend to come to Ferguson until late Wednesday evening. He’d been scheduled to appear at the state fair until he scrapped those plans at the last minute as criticism mounted and the skirmishes intensified. Confrontations between police and protesters have been ramping up since Sunday, leading many to question why the governor hadn't stepped in more firmly, and far sooner.

Here’s a sampling of the heavy backlash Nixon faced on Twitter Wednesday:

[TWEETS]

"Someone must step forward and take responsibility — both for the law enforcement effort that’s currently underway and then for the investigation that must follow," the St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial board wrote on Tuesday. "It will have to be Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, a man whose every instinct is to dodge bad news whenever possible. Sorry, governor. But you asked for the job."

Nixon won re-election by 12 percentage points in 2012, an impressive feat in a conservative state. He's not a polarizing figure. And he got high marks for his response to the tornado that devastated Joplin in 2011.

That resume has made him a not-to-be-ignored political figure ahead of the 2016 presidential election. He signaled his desire to become a bigger player in national politics in an interview with The Washington Post last year. And he's talked about the importance of having the heartland's voice heard in Washington.

As a Democrat who can connect with conservatives, Nixon would make an intriguing vice presidential candidate. If Hillary Rodham Clinton decides not to run for president, his name would have been expected to suddenly pop up on many presidential short lists.

But backlash over events in Ferguson threatens to undercut all that. These are the sorts of situations people tend to remember.

Nixon is trying to combat the perception that he was slow to address a critical situation. The governor said Thursday he felt it was important for local agencies to solve the problems in Ferguson as much as possible. When he saw that wasn't working, he said, he stepped in.

"I just felt at this particular point, the attitudes weren't improving," he explained.

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Nixon discussed the situation in Ferguson with civic and faith leaders in St. Louis County on Tuesday, his team notes. On Monday, he asked the Department of Justice to probe Brown's death.

But the images Wednesday broadcast widely on cable news and social media -- of a city in turmoil, of police using tear gas, of journalists being arrested -- were overwhelming to many. And Nixon's absence from Ferguson made those images even harder for people to accept.

So now he's there, hoping to ease the tensions. It may be the right move. The question is whether he made it in time.

Calendar:

Sec. Clinton's upcoming appearances as reported online. Not an official schedule.

· August 16 – East Hampton, New York: Sec. Clinton signs books at Bookhampton East Hampton (HillaryClintonMemoir.com)

· August 28 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes Nexenta's OpenSDx Summit (BusinessWire)

· September 4 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton speaks at the National Clean Energy Summit (Solar Novis Today)

· October 2 – Miami Beach, FL: Sec. Clinton keynotes the CREW Network Convention & Marketplace (CREW Network)

· October 13 – Las Vegas, NV: Sec. Clinton keynotes the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner (UNLV)

· ~ October 13-16 – San Francisco, CA: Sec. Clinton keynotes salesforce.com Dreamforce conference (salesforce.com)

· December 4 – Boston, MA: Sec. Clinton speaks at the Massachusetts Conference for Women (MCFW)

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From:	"Claudia Konyen" <Claudia.Konyen@gaisberg.eu>
To:	Undisclosedrecipients:
Date:	11/5/2014 3:47:42 AM
Subject:	Webinar: CESEE core resilient to EU stagnation and the Ukraine crisis: New forecast I Nov. 13, 2014

On behalf of the initiative 21st Austria we are pleased to invite you to a free webinar.
For further information please find the invitation below.
We are looking forward to having you join us.

Kind regards,
Claudia Konyen

21st Austria

Claudia Konyen
Lugeck 4 (Entrance Bäckerstraße 1)
A-1010 Vienna
T +43 (0)1 522 78 04-47, M 0664 88 44 64 26
mail to: claudia.konyen@gaisberg.eu

21st Austria wiiw

21st Austria The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

CESEE core resilient to EU stagnation and the Ukraine crisis: New forecast for Central, East and Southeastern European counties
Join us for a webinar on Nov 13, 2014 at 4:00 PM CET.
Register now!
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4039117899571785729

The outlook for GDP growth in the CESEE region is fairly diversified. wiiw researchers expect a gradual acceleration of GDP growth for most EU New Member States (NMS) in the short and medium term. In the Western Balkans growth prospects will only improve over the period 2015-2016. Growth performance in Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine will worsen in the current year compared to 2013; the medium-term outlook in Russia and Ukraine is fairly uncertain with considerable downward risks.

The following issues will be addressed at the webinar:
• Which countries of the CESEE region have managed to reach their pre-crisis level of economic performance?
• What is the role of transfers from the EU budget in the NMS countries' economic growth?
• Is there a danger of 'creditless recovery' in the CESEE region?
• How have the drivers of GDP growth changed?

21st Austria together with the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW) will be hosting the Webinar: CESEE core resilient to EU stagnation and the Ukraine crisis – the new forecast for Central, East and Southeastern European Countries. In this Webinar, Sándor Richter, Senior Economist of WIIW, will answer the above questions and explore the current challenges as well as growth opportunities in 21 CESEE countries.

Sándor Richter is Senior Economist at wiiw, working on regional integration of CEEC countries as well as EU integration. He is also country expert for Hungary.
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
View System Requirements

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From:	"Eryn Sepp" <esepp@equitablegrowth.org>
To:	John.podesta@gmail.com
Date:	3/4/2015 12:09:55 PM
Subject:	FW: Pakistan-Afghanistan Update: Indian Foreign Secretary Concludes Visit; SIGAR Releases ANSF Attrition Figures

Hi John—going through your old AmProg, as I do every couple of days, to make sure no one is writing anything urgent or timely to it.

Colin Cookman's updates have been going here for a long time now. Would you like me to update it to your gmail address, if you still want to get these?

Thanks,
Eryn

From: Colin Cookman [mailto:ccookman=gmail.com@mail18.wdc01.mcdlv.net] **On Behalf Of** Colin Cookman
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 7:23 AM
To: John Podesta
Subject: Pakistan-Afghanistan Update: Indian Foreign Secretary Concludes Visit; SIGAR Releases ANSF Attrition Figures

Topline

- *India's foreign secretary met with Prime Minister Sharif on Tuesday; no joint communiqué has been issued from his visit, which Indian officials portrayed as part of broader outreach to SAARC countries, although Pakistan's foreign ministry said that "all issues of concern" were discussed. New figures on Afghan National Security Forces personnel released by SIGAR and the Department of Defense on Tuesday indicated that the number of ANA soldiers had fallen roughly 15,000 between the falls of 2013 and 2014. The main suspect in the Karachi Baldia factory fire has "mysteriously disappeared", according to Rangers officials who met on Tuesday; investigators and victims' families are also reportedly facing threats from unspecified sources. The Afghan attorney general's office announced Tuesday that it had arrested the former deputy head of the Afghan Central Bank in connection to a verdict in the Kabul Bank case last year, although he is reported to have turned himself in in December. The Supreme Court has pressed the Election Commission of Pakistan to issue a local elections schedule today; ECP officials say that the vote in Khyber Paktunkhwa will take place June 8. Pres. Ghani has ordered a review of all Afghan military logistics contracts, Reuters reports, ahead of his visit to the U.S. later this month.*

Pakistan — Security

- **Banned Organizations:** Speaking at a press roundtable on Tuesday, Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S., Jalil Abbas Jilani, said that a formal announcement of a ban on the Haqqani network was "the kind of issues that are in the works". Separately on Wednesday, Punjab police officials told a senate committee that they had sealed a seminary in the Rajhan tehsil of Rajanpur district that was linked with Islamabad's Lal Masjid and with the spread of hate material.

Pakistan — Politics and Diplomacy

- **Indian Foreign Secretary Visit:** Visiting Indian foreign secretary S. Jaishankar met with Prime Minister Sharif on Tuesday, discussing regional and bilateral relations; in a statement, Sharif said that India and Pakistan "must think together, act together and move forward with the spirit of bringing the two nations closer to each other." Indian diplomatic sources described the visit as part of a regional tour of SAARC countries and not a resumption of bilateral composite dialogue talks, although some Pakistani analysts interpreted it as having been undertaken at the insistence of the United States following Pres. Obama's visit to India last month. No joint communiqué was issued following Jaishankar's meetings with his Pakistani counterpart Aizaz Chaudhry, although Chaudhry said that "all issues of concern" were discussed, including alleged Indian support for separatist groups in FATA and Balochistan. Lawyers for accused Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Zakiur Rehman Lakvhi told the Express Tribune that Jaishankar's visit was intended to "put further pressure on Pakistan"; responded to earlier questions about whether Lakhvi's case was discussed Chaudhry suggested that "there wasn't enough time to go into detail on every issue." [Pakistani Foreign Ministry Statement] [Indian Foreign Ministry Statement] [ET] [Dawn]

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- **Senate Elections:** The Lahore High Court gave the federal government until March 17 to respond to a petition seeking a constitutional amendment to hold senate elections under open ballot; the Senate vote is scheduled for March 5. Meanwhile, former Pres. Zardari met with party members in the Punjab assembly on Tuesday to discuss strategy for the upcoming election; the party hopes to win support for its sole candidate from Punjab from disaffected PML-N assembly members, in part through the help of former Punjab governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar, who joined the PTI after quitting the PML-N last month. In Khyber Paktunkhwa, the Awami Jamhoor Ittehad Pakistan party has yet to merge with the PTI ahead of the election, despite the party's grant of a senate candidacy ticket to Liaqat Khan Taraki, the father of the party's leader. [ET] [ET] [Dawn]
- **Baldia Fire Investigation:** A meeting of senior officials of the paramilitary Sindh Rangers in Karachi on Tuesday "expressed concern over attempts by some elements to interfere in the Baldia Town factory fire case investigation", Dawn reports. Rizwan Quraishi, an MQM activist who linked the fire to extortion attempts and who has been disowned by the party, is now reported to have disappeared as a second investigation commission has begun a review the causes of the fire; the investigating officers and family members of the victims have reportedly been subjected to threats.
- **Local Elections:** Election Commission officials told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that they would announce a schedule for local elections by April 6 and that polls will be held June 8 in Khyber Paktunkhwa, January 10, 2016 in Punjab, and February 22, 2016, in Sindh — the court ordered the formal announcement to be made by 8:00 PM today. The attorney general sought to deflect a contempt of court petition against the federal government for failing to hold the elections in military cantonment areas, where it has direct responsibility, by laying blame on the senate for not taking up the issue. [Dawn]
- **Election Complaints:** The Supreme Court issued its detailed verdict from December of its judgment clearing Prime Minister Sharif from PTI challenges seeking his disqualification on the grounds that he had lied before parliament and thus violated Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution, which requires candidates be "righteous, sagacious, and ameen", a qualification the court noted was vague and ill-defined. Separately, the election tribunal hearing complaints into the NA-122 Lahore constituency accepted a PTI petition seeking thumbprint verification on all ballot counterfoils.
- **Regulator Service:** The government is reportedly considering the creation of a new civil service branch for the main government regulatory bodies — including the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, Pakistan Telecommunications Authority, and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority. Current appointments to these bodies are made by independent panels; Dawn suggests the measure is under consideration part due to clashes between the government and the nominally independent regulators.

Pakistan — Economics and Development

- **Vaccination Efforts:** Two health officials have been suspended in connection to reports yesterday that $3.7 million worth of child vaccines had degraded under improper storage conditions, the national manager of the Expanded Program on Immunization told the AFP on Tuesday. Separately, Gates Foundation chairman Bill Gates spoke by phone with PTI leader Imran Khan on Tuesday, welcoming the efforts of Khyber Paktunkhwa's ongoing 'Sehat Ka Ittehad' anti-polio vaccination campaign. [ET]

Pakistan — Remainders

- Sharif Departs for Saudi Arabia [Dawn] [ET]
- MQM Lawyer, Former PPP Union Councilor Killed in Karachi Shootings [ET] [ET]
- TTP Commander Detained in Hangu [Dawn]
- Death Row Sentence Halted After Family Pardon [ET]
- Opposition Senators Continue Protest Over Economic Corridor Route [Dawn]
- Prime Minister Reviews Nuclear Power Projects [Dawn]
- Senate Committee Approves Amendments to Securities and Exchange Commission Powers [ET]
- Senate Committee Proposes Bar on Dual National Civil Servants [ET]
- Senate Seeks Detail on Perks for Retired Chief Justices [ET] [Dawn]
- **Commentary: Pakistan's Terrorism Accusations Against India: Bizarre But Calculated** – "Pakistan's leaders, whether civilian or military, have a history of leveling accusations on India's alleged involvement in everything from sectarian violence

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in Pakistan to terrorism perpetrated via proxies from Afghanistan." [Rohan Joshi, The Diplomat]

Afghanistan — Security

- **ANSF Attrition:** Figures released by the Special Inspector for Afghan Reconstruction on Tuesday — following their declassification after top U.S. commander Gen. John Campbell reversed a previous classification order in January — indicated that the number of Afghan National Army soldiers had declined from roughly 184,000 to roughly 169,000 between the falls of 2013 and 2014. SIGAR questioned figures offered for Afghan police, suggesting that the actual number might be roughly 151,000 instead of roughly 156,000 as reported. [SIGAR Report (pdf)]
- **Zabul Operations:** The provincial police chief of Zabul province, Ghulam Sakhi Rogh Lewanai, told RFE/RL on Wednesday that at least 32 militants had been killed in operations in the Khak-e-Afghan district that began the day prior; he said that all were associated with Daesh, or the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Local accounts of the identity of gunmen responsible for the kidnapping of 30 Hazara men from the district last week have conflicted over their affiliations; an anonymous caller to RFE/RL reporters claimed affiliation with Daesh but said that only seven fighters had been killed.

Afghanistan — Politics and Diplomacy

- **Kabul Bank Arrests:** On Tuesday, the Afghan attorney general's office announced that it had imprisoned Mohibullah Safi, the former deputy head of the Afghan Central Bank, in connection to the 2010 Kabul Bank crisis. Safi received a one-year sentence in connection to the case last fall, but fled the country. Although not announced at the time, he is reported to have turned himself in back in December, and anonymous sources in the attorney general's office say that $52 million in assets had been seized from him; a spokesman for the attorney general's office was unable to confirm the latter figure.
- **Taliban Talks:** TOLO news notes remarks by Pakistani Ulema Council chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Ashrafi, who expressed support for a resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan through peace talks.

Afghanistan — Economics and Development

- **Military Contract Review:** Following the suspension of an Afghan National Army fuel supply contract earlier this year, Pres. Ghani has reportedly ordered a review of all military logistics contracts , Reuters reports. An economist leading the review, Hamidullah Farooqi, says that "we expect to have the first stage done in the next week or two", coinciding with Ghani's visit to the United States later this month.
- **TAPI Pipeline:** The Express Tribune reports that a Pakistani cabinet committee on energy meeting on February 12 raised concerns over the "complex structure" of the TAPI gas pipeline project, and the pricing of gas, at $6.9 per million British thermal units, or $1 cheaper than LNG import agreements. A meeting of TAPI members in February in Islamabad failed to reach an agreement on a consortium leader for the financing and construction of the pipeline, which Turkmenistan reportedly aims to do by October.

Afghanistan — Remainders

- **Report: 'Today We Shall All Die'** – "The impunity enjoyed by powerful figures raises serious concerns about Afghan government and international efforts to arm, train, vet, and hold accountable Afghan National Police units, National Directorate of Security officials, and Afghan Local Police forces." [Human Rights Watch]
- **Commentary: A Step Forward for Afghan Women?** – "For months, Mahbouba Seraj traveled across Afghanistan to drum up support for an ambitious new policy framework to ensure women's equal rights and participation in governmental decision-making, protection from violence, and human development." [Elizabeth Weingarten and Leilal Hilal, Foreign Policy]

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From:	"Eizenstat, Stuart" <seizenstat@cov.com>
To:	Jake.Sullivan@gmail.com
Date:	6/22/2015 8:07:37 AM
Subject:	Re: Iran Nuclear Deal

Jake,
You are right. We should be more generic, like giving all our allies in the region all the means they need to defend themselves against any Iranian provocation, threat or attack.

If you want to talk now about BDS I am up. You could call at either 202-549-4454 or 202-549-5776.
Thanks and best wishes,

Stu

----- Original Message -----
From: Jake Sullivan [mailto:jake.sullivan@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 02:05 PM
To: Eizenstat, Stuart
Cc: John.Podesta@gmail.com <John.Podesta@gmail.com>; huma@hrcoffice.com <huma@hrcoffice.com>; tom.nides@morganstanley.com <tom.nides@morganstanley.com>
Subject: Re: Iran Nuclear Deal

Stu - I would characterize the terms of the deal a bit differently from how you have, but my bottom line is the same as yours. My only question about your six points at the bottom is whether we should go there on bunker busters.

> On Jun 22, 2015, at 2:23 AM, Eizenstat, Stuart <seizenstat@cov.com> wrote:
>
> Dear Jake,
>
> I have sent several detailed notes on the Iran nuclear deal, and will avoid repetition. But with the June 30 deadline fast approaching (although it may be extended), and with Hillary certain to be pressed on whether she supports the deal and will urge Congress not to disapprove it, I wanted to share a few thoughts.
>
> 1. This could well be a voting issue for many moderates in the Jewish community. The mainstream organized leadership will almost certainly oppose the deal, along with Israel and all the Republican candidates, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, and perhaps Egypt.
>
> 2. While we cannot be sure until there is a final agreement, it appears that many of the open issues since the preliminary accord, may be resolved in Iran's favor:
>
> (1) Enriched uranium will stay in Iran for dilution, rather than be sent to Russia or France for reprocessing.
>
> (2) Sanctions will not be phased-out commensurate with compliance, as the US Fact Sheet indicated after the last "agreement", but may come off more quickly. This will transfer billions to Iran and enhance its funding for terrorism and its efforts to gain hegemony in the region.
>
> (3) It is not clear what Iran will be required to do on PMD, if anything. This was required of Iraq by the UNSC in September 2002. Iran should be held to the same standard. They have yet to answer 11 of the 12 IAEA questions, yet UN sanctions will be lifted.
>
> (4) Russia, China and Iran itself may be able to block "snapback" sanctions if there is a violation of the agreement. US companies will be disadvantaged compared to European companies, since many US non-nuclear sanctions will remain, while all EU sanctions are nuclear-related.

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>
> (5) Military sites (Parchin) are likely to be off the table for inspections.
>
> (6) Iran will likely be able to do research on advanced centrifuges, which enrich more uranium more rapidly than the current generation. This would markedly reduce the breakout time in the last years of the accord. Presidenr Obama has conceded this point (e.g. David Sanger article in NYT, April 8, 2015)
>
> (7) Iran will have an industrial size nuclear program, and will be left as a "nuclear capable state".
>
> (8) Iran will be able to keep 1000 centrifuges at Fordo.
>
> (9) Nothing in the agreement will limit its support for terrorism.
>
> 3. That said, there are likely to be positive aspects to the agreement.
>
> (1) The Arak plutonium plant will be effectively dismantled.
>
> (2) There will be more intrusive IAEA inspections, since Iran will sign the Additional Protocol of thr NPT.
>
> (3) The number of centrifuges will be cut by 2/3.
>
> (4) Iran will be a year away from breakout. It would still need to develop a nuclear weapon that can fit on a missile.
>
> (5) Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium from 10 tons to 700 pounds.
>
> (6) Ten years is a long time and Iran's conduct may moderate.
>
> 4, Hillary cannot oppose the agreement given her position as the President's Secretary of State and should urge its approval by Congress under Corker-Cardin. But she can and should point out concerns with it (as she did, unfortunately from my perspective, on TPP/TPA). More broadly, she should appear more muscular I her approach than the President's. The statement I suggested a few months ago still would be appropriate. But she should also say the following:
>
> (1) As President, she would never consider Iran a strategic partner in the region. Quite the contrary, she would do all she can to oppose Iranian misconduct.
>
> (2) Our allies in the region must know that we will stand behind them and supply them with the means to defend themselves and avoid the region tilting to Iran, including bunker-busting bombs Bush and Obama refused to provide to Israel.. Defense treaties should be considered so any attack by Iran would be considered an attack against the US.
>
> (3) Bibi should be invited for early talks on how the partnership with Israel can be strengthened to combat Iran and Israel's other avowed enemies.
>
> (4) A common agenda should be forged with Israel and our Arab allies.
>
> (5) If the US itself believes Iran has cheated, as President, she would reimpose US sanctions, even if Russia-China-Iran say there was no violation. She would work to get the EU to also reimpose their sanctions.
>
> (6) It is just as unacceptable for Iran to develop a nuclear weapon after the expiration of the agreement, as it is during the agreement, given the nature of the regime. Therefore, while she would not be president, all means should be used to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Stu Eizenstat

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From: "Ilan Goldenberg" <igoldenberg@nsnetwork.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 8/5/2008 3:20:15 AM
Subject: [big campaign] A New Direction for Iran Policy

NSN Daily Update: A New Direction for Iran Policy
8/5/08

As part of its negotiating pattern of vague non-responses, it appears that Iran will not agree to temporarily freeze its uranium enrichment program in a response today to an offer by the United States and its allies. This failure again shows the need for the United States to develop a comprehensive security strategy for dealing with Iran that includes tough and direct diplomacy between the two countries. But instead, John McCain wants to continue the bellicose rhetoric and war threats of the Bush administration, while pursuing the same policy that has already proved to be a failure.

Iran will give a formal response today to an incentives package in exchange for a freeze in nuclear activity. However, according to U.S. and European officials, there is little expectation of a positive reply. The chief Iranian negotiator will provide a written explanation of Iran's position on the two-week-old offer to freeze further economic sanctions and begin substantive talks. According to Reuters, the Iranian media has reported that Iran's letter was handed over early Tuesday, although an official representing the six powers said no written response had yet been received. Reuters further reports that an Iranian official has said: "The letter handed over is not an answer to the offered package ... The letter does not mention the freeze-for-freeze issue." The U.N. Security Council has passed three resolutions sanctioning Iran for refusing to suspend its uranium enrichment program since March 2006. Thus far, Iran has refused to comply. Discussions on further sanctions are set to begin unless the Iranian reply is positive and unambiguous [Washington Post, 9/5/08 ; Reuters, 9/5/08]

After years of bellicose rhetoric and no coherent diplomatic strategy, the Bush administration's belated efforts are too little too late. The U.S. must develop a coherent and comprehensive security strategy to deal with Iran that includes direct engagement and addresses key issues including: Iran's uranium enrichment program, the situation in Iraq, and Iran's support for Hezbollah and Hamas. For the past eight years we have pursued an incoherent approach that fails to focus clearly on American interests and does not effectively use all of the tools of power available to us. We need a wholesale reevaluation of our policy, with a clear prioritization of the most important issues, and a plan for what the U.S. could hope to achieve by talking directly with Iran, both in the short and long-term. This strategy must take into account what we can hope to achieve through economic threats and incentives and what role military pressure may play. It must also include collaboration with our European allies, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States to achieve our interests. Finally, we must combine engagement with containment and deterrence as we did when we had a comprehensive strategy towards the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

John McCain would pursue the same failed strategies of George Bush that empowered Iran instead of stopping its uranium enrichment program. John McCain supports not talking to Iran and instead continuing the same strategies that have not worked for the last eight years. He has supported George Bush's assessment of characterizing direct talks with Iran as appeasement. These policies have resulted in Iran moving further along on its uranium enrichment program and could eventually lead the U.S. to face a terrible choice of either a nuclear Iran or war. [John McCain, 6/2/08]

Quick Hits

1250 Marines were ordered to extend their tour in Afghanistan by one month, completing a mission of 'top priority.' Impromptu troop extensions have become indicative of the Department of Defense's misallocation of resources in the war.

A Pakistani scientist educated in elite US universities was detained in Afghanistan after assaulting two soldiers and F.B.I. officers. Aafia Siddiqui , a neuroscientist, allegedly has ties to top al Qaeda operatives held in Guantanamo.

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The panel of jurors began its second day of deliberations in the case of Salim Hamdan at Guantanamo Bay. A verdict by the 6-person panel is expected soon.

A senior Sunni tribal leader allied with the US was ambushed and killed by gunmen in southern Baghdad. Al Qaeda in Iraq has been targeting Sunni tribal leaders since the start of the "Awakening."

President Bush today kicked off his tour of Asia, which will culminate in the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics, in South Korea.

An earthquake of the magnitude 6.0 hit the Chinese province of Sichuan just hours after the Olympic torch made its final stop in the capital of the region.

--~--~---------~--~----~------------~-------~--~----~
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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

This is a list of individuals. It is not affiliated with any group or organization.
-~----------~----~----~----~------~----~------~--~---

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From: "t r u t h o u t" <messenger@truthout.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 12/1/2014 9:28:05 AM
Subject: Dahr Jamail | Are Humans Going Extinct?

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Dahr Jamail | Are Humans Going Extinct?

Dahr Jamail, Truthout: Some scientists, Guy McPherson included, fear that climate disruption is so serious, with so many self-reinforcing feedback loops already in play, that humans are in the process of causing our own extinction.

Read the Interview

Lawsuit Challenges Radioactive Fracking Waste Facilities in Ohio

Mike Ludwig, Truthout: Environmentalists say state regulators allow fracking waste facilities to operate with little regulatory oversight. Ohio, they say, has become fracking's "dumping ground," as the industry crosses state lines to take advantage of lax regulations.

Read the Article

US Support for Mexico's Drug War Goes Beyond Guns and Money

Mike LaSusa and Angelika Albaladejo, Truthout: While the United States goes well beyond simply providing diplomatic, financial and technical support for Mexico's fight against organized crime and puts its own personnel on the front lines, corruption and violence characterize both US and Mexican security forces.

Read the Article

The GOP Is Coming for Obamacare by Any Means Necessary

Robin Marty, Care2: The GOP is coming for Obamacare, just as everyone expected. But they aren't waiting until their new compatriots are sworn into office. Now that the midterms are settled and no one is in danger of losing a seat, House Republicans are filing a lawsuit against Obamacare.

Read the Article

Dean Baker | The Paid Vacation Route to Full Employment

Dean Baker, Truthout: If we can't take steps to increase the demand for labor, we can go the other

BuzzFlash

First Nations Win Skirmish Against Tar Sands Pipeline in British Columbia

Mark Karlin, BuzzFlash at Truthout: It is a testament to the commitment, defiance and integrity of the indigenous peoples of Canada and the United States that they are contesting the toxic tainting of their ancestral homelands.

Read the BuzzFlash Commentary

Christian Right's Rage Problem: How White Fundamentalists Are Roiling America

Read the Article at Salon

Momentous Pressure on World Leaders as Climate Talks

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way and try to reduce the supply. Specifically, we can try to increase the number of people employed by reducing the average number of hours worked.

Read the Article

Who Will Police the Police?

The Daily Take Team, The Thom Hartmann Program: As the nation continues to react to the events in Ferguson, Missouri, many people are asking themselves, "Where do we go from here?" It's time to bring community policing back to the United States, and add an impartial system for accountability when a cop goes rogue.

Read the Article

Victory for Climate Justice Activists

Matt Smith and Margaret Flowers, Popular Resistance: In a successful court appearance recently, government prosecutors were unable to proceed with charges against six activists involved in a weeklong blockade in early November of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Read the Article

Why Is the IAEA Getting Iran Wrong?

Yousaf Butt, National Interest: With the deadline for a nuclear deal with Iran looming, US and EU officials met their senior Iranian counterparts in Oman earlier this week to try to hammer out a compromise. The deal may still fall through, in part because of mismanagement at the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Read the Article

Obama's Immigration Plan May Give Economy a Little Boost

Sherrie Kossoudji, The Conversation: Besides improving the immigrants' well-being, what is the economic effect of the president's immigration plan? One direct impact is a likely boost in pay of undocumented residents who qualify when wages rise because workers have access to promotions they may otherwise not have received.

Read the Article

Amy Goodman | Novelist Isabel Allende on Her Literary Career and Memories of Chile During the CIA-Backed Coup

Amy Goodman, Democracy Now!: Isabel Allende is one of Latin America's and the United States' greatest novelists. Just this week she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She speaks about her literary career and her memories of Chile before and during a US-backed coup.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

On the News With Thom Hartmann: The Wealth Gap in the US Is Putting People Out of Work, and More

In today's On the News segment: The wealth gap in our country isn't just increasing inequality, it's also putting people out of work; Seattle's socialist city council member wants homeless people to have access to the internet; Walmart is asking employees to donate food to coworkers who can't survive on poverty wages; and more.

Watch the Video and Read the Transcript

Begin in Lima
Read the Article at EcoWatch

The Science of Why Cops Shoot Young Black Men
Read the Article at Mother Jones

This Is Black Friday in Bangladesh
Read the Article at The Nation

St. Louis Rams Players Enter Field With "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" Pose to Honor Michael Brown
Read the Article at Deadspin

If Mubarak Is Innocent, Who Ordered the Killing of 900 Protestors During the Egyptian Revolution?
Read the Article at Global Voices

Cyber Ring Stole Secrets for Gaming US Stock Market
Read the Article at Reuters

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Handing More Control to Patients Could Just Be Cost-Cutting in Disguise

Lisa Kidd and Andy Cassidy, The Conversation: Where British health care is concerned, there clearly have to be changes in service delivery. That patients are living longer and with increasingly complex conditions demonstrates the abilities of our health service, but it also places an ever-increasing burden on it. As such, economic restrictions are often essential.

Read the Article

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From:	"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Jim Margolis" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com> "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> "David Dixon" <david@dixondavismedia.com> "Rich Davis" <rich@dixondavismedia.com> "John Rimel" <John.Rimel@gmmb.com> "Jim Andrews" <jandrews@jacompany.com>
Date:	1/23/2016 11:14:25 AM
Subject:	Fwd: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

This is great, half of it reads like one of our ads.
Jim and I just discussed and we should deff cut a script from this.
Dixon Davis, are you guys available to take first crack?
My only question - whether we lean into "the presidency is not an entry level position" - and push off from it, or just let that part go.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: January 23, 2016 at 6:00:48 PM EST
To: Clips <clips@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: BREAKING: DMR: Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

DMR : Endorsement: Hillary Clinton has needed knowledge, experience

If there's one thing Democrats and Republicans agree on this year, it's the fact that the next president will face enormous challenges.

Domestically, this president must work with Congress in confronting the issues of immigration, health care, increased threats to national security, the disappearing middle class, the growing deficit, Social Security solvency, gun control, renewable energy, sentencing reform and more.

On the world stage, this president will have to work with foreign leaders in dealing with ISIS and other terrorists, climate change, the containment of nuclear threats posed in North Korea and Iran, the Russian incursions in Ukraine and foreign trade.

The presidency is not an entry-level position. Whoever is sworn into office next January must demonstrate not only a deep understanding of the issues facing America, but also possess the diplomatic skills that enable presidents to forge alliances to get things done.

By that measure, Democrats have one outstanding candidate deserving of their support: Hillary Clinton. No other candidate can match the depth or breadth of her knowledge and experience.

As first lady, she worked tirelessly on health care reform and, with bipartisan support, created the Children's Health Insurance Program that provides coverage for 8 million children.

As a senator, she reached across party lines and joined forces with conservatives, including Sen. Lindsey Graham and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, to fight for job creation and universal health care.

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ENDORSEMENT: Marco Rubio can chart new direction for GOP

NASH: Register faced tough decision in endorsements

RELATED:A history of Register caucus endorsements

As secretary of state, she helped secure international sanctions against Iran and redefined her job by expanding America's diplomatic agenda to include poverty, women's rights, the environment and other issues.

She is not a perfect candidate, as evidenced the way she has handled the furor over her private email server. In our endorsement of her 2008 campaign for president, we wrote that "when she makes a mistake, she should just say so." That appears to be a lesson she has yet to fully embrace.

Her changing stance on gay marriage, immigration and other issues has invited accusations that she is guided less by personal conviction than by political calculations. She refutes that, and argues persuasively that a willingness to change one's thinking on specific issues, while remaining true to what she calls "the same values and principles," is a virtue, one lacking in most politicians.

Over the course of two meetings, Clinton spent more than three hours with the editorial board, answering questions in a direct and forthright manner. She exhibited an impressive command of the issues, though we'd have liked to hear more from her on the debt and the future of Social Security. She was somewhat prickly and defensive when discussing her emails, but overall she was gracious, engaging and personable.

Her chief opponent for the nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, has proven to be an honorable and formidable campaigner, and it's very likely that without him in the race, candidates in both parties wouldn't be discussing America's growing inequality in wealth and income.

Sanders has tapped into the public's anger and frustration with Washington, without demonizing government and resorting to the cheap demagoguery favored by Donald Trump and others. He has shown himself to be a man of courage and principle who has the ability to rally others to his cause.

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Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meets with the Des Moines Register editorial board Monday Jan 11, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Rodney White/The Register

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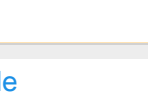
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Next Slide

But Sanders admits that virtually all of his plans for reform have no chance of being approved by a Congress that bears any resemblance to the current crop of federal lawmakers. This is why, he says, voters can't simply elect him president, but must instead spark a "political revolution."

Easier said than done. Congress has the largest Republican majority since the 71st Congress of 1929-31.

A successful Sanders presidency would hinge on his ability to remake Washington in his own image. It's almost inconceivable that such a transformation could take place, even with Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress.

As for Martin O'Malley, the data-driven, wonkish former Maryland governor who has gained little traction in the campaign so far, he seems better suited to a Cabinet-level job in a Clinton White House.

In the final analysis, Iowa Democrats will have to choose between the lofty idealism of Bernie Sanders and the down-to-earth pragmatism of Hillary Clinton. For some, this will be a choice of whether to vote with their hearts or their heads.

Clinton has demonstrated that she is a thoughtful, hardworking public servant who has earned the respect of leaders at home and abroad. She stands ready to take on the most demanding job in the world.

This endorsement is the opinion of The Des Moines Register's editorial board:

David Chivers, *president and publisher*

Amalie Nash*, executive editor and vice president for news and engagement*

Lynn Hicks, *opinion editor*

Clark Kauffman, *editorial writer*

Andie Dominick, *editorial writer*

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Brian Smith, *engagement editor*

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From:	"Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com>
To:	jbenenson@bsgco.com john.podesta@gmail.com dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com
Date:	10/24/2015 7:21:31 AM
Subject:	comments on latest JJ draft
Attachments:	2015-10-24 JJ - 1MGpm.docx

I'm not crazy about this new draft. I like the addition of the accomplishments at the end (proof that she gets things done) but:

-I don't think WJC's opening about Wing Ding, debate etc works. It feels very much about process -- the opposite of what he and HRC said about making this about people.

-I think structurally, it felt stronger to go to the GOP attack first -- those who want to rip away our progress -- before what we want to do.

-- I think it's fine to add some of the policy to the fights section -- I though HRC and WJC were right that that section need to be clearer about what HRC is trying to do, not just who she is fighting for, but now I'm worried we may not get the applause we want.

-- Most of all, I'm concerned that it is not clear what our argument is. Not clear what we are saying and what our sound bite will be. I thought we wanted to say:

1. We won't let GOP rip away our progress
2. We are fighting to make a difference in people's lives (not just complain but do something, not just shout, but deliver)

I am worried that in the absence of a clear soundbite and driving point -- our soundbite will be about the hearings or Biden -- and I don't think thats really what we want.

Ive tracked some specific comments on the draft.

thanks

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>
To: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>; Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com>; ha16 <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>; mfisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>; sbay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com>; kofferdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com>; mmarshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 1:59 pm
Subject: RE: Call with HRC

I am not a fan of this either – was just offering a way to do it.

I actually think the less we're looking back and the quicker get focused on what's a head the stronger the whole speech will be.

From: John Podesta [mailto:john.podesta@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 1:58 PM
To: Dan Schwerin
Cc: Jim Margolis; Joel Benenson; Robby Mook; Jennifer Palmieri; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com ; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I defer if others think this buys us good will with Sanders people, but email jokes in Iowa usually end up badly and don't we want to move on?

On Saturday, October 24, 2015, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
I think Podesta has some concerns about referencing emails, even like this

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 12:17 PM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:
That works too Joel.

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I think her using it shows strength
Not worried about credit for Bernie

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:59 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com > wrote:

It's a joke that would work and room would love it. However one caveat:

I think it gives Bernie the credit for putting the email crap behind us instead of her --- she crushed the debate and she crushed at the committee.. And while crowd may love it question for comms team is whether reporters would take it as proof that Bernie "saved" her campaign from the email tempest.

Maybe I'm being too literal here but that was my thought process.

If others think I'm overthinking this, we can use it.

Line could be ---- I don't if you all saw it but the hearing went on for 11 hours. Eleven hours. I was kind of expecting around hour # 8 Bernie Sanders would burst in and shout --- "enough about your damn emails Hillary!!"

From: Margolis, Jim [mailto:Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Robby Mook
Cc: Jennifer Palmieri; Joel Benenson; Matt Paul; Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

You all think wjc's joke is too much about her kinda wishing after hour 8 that Bernie would come through the door with his damn email line ..,?
I think it's funny and confident and the room would love it.

Jim Margolis
Sent from my iPhone.
Please excuse typos.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:45 AM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Is there some Apprentice joke to make? I never saw the show. I'm also the worst person to generate jokes....

On Oct 24, 2015, at 10:41 AM, Margolis, Jim <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com > wrote:

All that said… we really could use a little humor in here…
Thinking.

From: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >
Date: Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 11:40 AM
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >
Cc: Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com >, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com >, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com >, "dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com " <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com >, "sbay@hillaryclinton.com " <sbay@hillaryclinton.com >, "kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com " <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com >, Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

I was kidding!

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Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:38 AM, Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com> wrote:

Not ninnies.

We own the high ground right now. We should stay there.

From: Jennifer Palmieri [mailto:jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:38 AM
To: Matt Paul
Cc: Jake Sullivan; John Podesta; Mandy Grunwald; Bonnie Rubin; Robby Mook; dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com ; Joel Benenson; ha16@hillaryclinton.com ; Jim Margolis; mfisher@hillaryclinton.com ; sbay@hillaryclinton.com ; kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com; mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnies.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:37 AM, Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

Agree-tempting. but she shouldn't go there tonight

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 10:33 AM, Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:
I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee - and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now.

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:30 AM, Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com> wrote:

That's because you love your own joke.

But I think it is okay.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 24, 2015, at 11:04 AM, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com> wrote:

I don't think so.
On Oct 24, 2015 10:54 AM, "Mandy Grunwald" <gruncom@aol.com> wrote:
LOVE the Trey Gowdy line.

Just wonder if that undercuts our statesmanship point too much.

Mandy Grunwald
Grunwald Communications
202 973-9400

-----Original Message-----
From: John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
Cc: Jim Margolis <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>; Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com>; Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com>; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>; Sawsan Bay <sbay@hillaryclinton.com>; Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>; Bonnie Rubin <brubin@hillaryclinton.com>; Marlon Marshall <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>; Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com>; Milia Fisher <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>; Matt Paul <mpaul@hillaryclinton.com>; Kate Offerdahl <kofferdahl@hillaryclinton.com>; Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com>
Sent: Sat, Oct 24, 2015 10:49 am
Subject: Re: Call with HRC

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I couldn't talk on the call, but I agree with Joel, let's not go back to emails.
Re Jen's point on this being a partisan crowd salesmanship not partisanship is a hard shot at the Republicans, so I think it's fine.
On freshening things up, what about: I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head
On Oct 24, 2015 9:38 AM, "Dan Schwerin" <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here's Obama in 2007:

Barack Obama, 2007

Thank you so much. To the great Governor of Iowa and Lieutenant. Governor of Iowa. To my dear friend Tom Harkin for the outstanding work that he does. To the congressional delegation of Iowa that is doing outstanding work and to Nancy Pelosi , Madam Speaker, thank you all for the wonderful welcome and the wonderful hospitality.

[Responding to audience] I love you back.

A little less than one year from today, you will go into the voting booth and you will select the President of the United States of America. Now, here's the good news -- the name George W. Bush will not be on the ballot. The name of my cousin Dick Cheney will not be on the ballot. We've been trying to hide that for a long time. Everybody has a black sheep in the family. The era of Scooter Libby justice, and Brownie incompetence, and Karl Rove politics will finally be over.

But the question you're going to have to ask yourself when you caucus in January and you vote in November is, "What's next for America?" We are in a defining moment in our history. Our nation is at war. The planet is in peril. The dream that so many generations fought for feels as if it's slowly slipping away. We are working harder for less. We've never paid more for health care or for college. It's harder to save and it's harder to retire. And most of all we've lost faith that our leaders can or will do anything about it.

We were promised compassionate conservatism and all we got was Katrina and wiretaps. We were promised a uniter, and we got a President who could not even lead the half of the country that voted for him. We were promised a more ethical and more efficient government, and instead we have a town called Washington that is more corrupt and more wasteful than it was before. And the only mission that was ever accomplished is to use fear and falsehood to take this country to a war that should have never been authorized and should have never been waged.

It is because of these failures that America is listening, intently, to what we say here today -- not just Democrats, but Republicans and Independents who've lost trust in their government, but want to believe again.

And it is because of these failures that we not only have a moment of great challenge, but also a moment of great opportunity. We have a chance to bring the country together in a new majority -- to finally tackle problems that George Bush made far worse, but that had festered long before George Bush ever took office -- problems that we've talked about year after year after year after year.

And that is why the same old Washington textbook campaigns just won't do in this election. That's why not answering questions, because we are afraid our answers won't be popular just won't do. That's why telling the American people what we think they want to hear instead of telling the American people what they need to hear just won't do. Triangulating and poll-driven positions because we're worried about what Mitt or Rudy might say about us just won't do. If we are really serious about wining this election Democrats, we can't live in fear of losing it.
This party -- the party of Jefferson and Jackson; of Roosevelt and Kennedy -- has always made the biggest difference in the lives of the American people when we led, not by polls, but by principle; not by calculation, but by conviction; when we summoned the entire nation to a common purpose -- a higher purpose. And I run for the Presidency of the United States of America because that's the party America needs us to be right now.

A party that offers not just a difference in policies, but a difference in leadership.

A party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. A party that doesn't just offer change as a slogan, but real, meaningful change -- change that America can believe in. That's why I'm in this race. That's why I am running for the Presidency of the United States of America -- to offer change that we can believe in.

I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists -- and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not get a job in my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am President. I'm in this race to take those tax breaks away from companies that are moving jobs overseas and put them in the pockets of hard working Americans who deserve it. And I won't raise the minimum wage every ten years -- I will raise it to keep pace so that workers don't' fall behind.

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That is why I am in it. To protect the American worker. To fight for the American worker.
I'm in this race because I want to stop talking about the outrage of 47 million Americans without health care and start actually doing something about it. I expanded health care in Illinois by bringing Democrats and Republicans together. By taking on the insurance industry. And that is how I will make certain that every single American in this country has health care they can count on and I won't do it twenty years from now, I won't do it ten years from now, I will do it by the end of my first term as President of the United States of America.

I run for president to make sure that every American child has the best education that we have to offer -- from the day they are born to the day they graduate from college. And I won't just talk about how great teachers are -- as President I will reward them for their greatness -- by raising salaries and giving them more support. That's why I'm in this race.

I am running for President because I am sick and tired of democrats thinking that the only way to look tough on national security is by talking, and acting, and voting like George Bush Republicans.

When I am this party's nominee, my opponent will not be able to say that I voted for the war in Iraq; or that I gave George Bush the benefit of the doubt on Iran; or that I supported Bush-Cheney policies of not talking to leaders that we don't like. And he will not be able to say that I wavered on something as fundamental as whether or not it is ok for America to torture -- because it is never ok. That's why I am in it.

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. We will have our troops home in sixteen months. I will close Guantanamo. I will restore habeas corpus. I will finish the fight against Al Qaeda. And I will lead the world to combat the common threats of the 21st century -- nuclear weapons and terrorism; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. And I will send once more a message to those yearning faces beyond our shores that says, "You matter to us. Your future is our future. And our moment is now."

America, our moment is now.

Our moment is now.

I don't want to spend the next year or the next four years re-fighting the same fights that we had in the 1990s.

I don't want to pit Red America against Blue America, I want to be the President of the United States of America.

And if those Republicans come at me with the same fear-mongering and swift-boating that they usually do, then I will take them head on. Because I believe the American people are tired of fear and tired of distractions and tired of diversions. We can make this election not about fear, but about the future. And that won't just be a Democratic victory; that will be an American victory.

And that is a victory America needs right now.

I am not in this race to fulfill some long-held ambitions or because I believe it's somehow owed to me. I never expected to be here, I always knew this journey was improbable. I've never been on a journey that wasn't.

I am running in this race because of what Dr. King called "the fierce urgency of now." Because I believe that there's such a thing as being too late. And that hour is almost upon us.

I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that millions of Americans still lack health care because we couldn't take on the insurance industry.

I don't want to see that the oceans have risen a few more inches. The planet has reached a point of no return because we couldn't find a way to stop buying oil from dictators.

I don't want to see more American lives put at risk because no one had the judgment or the courage to stand up against a misguided war before we sent our troops into fight.

I don't want to see homeless veterans on the streets. I don't want to send another generation of American children to failing schools. I don't want that future for my daughters. I don't want that future for your sons. I do not want that future for America.

I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade.

Because I will never forget that the only reason that I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world.

That's why I'm running, Iowa -- to give our children and grandchildren the same chances somebody gave me.

That's why I'm running, Democrats -- to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for

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opportunity, who still thirst for equality.

That's why I'm asking you to stand with me, that's why I'm asking you to caucus for me, that's why I am asking you to stop settling for what the cynics say we have to accept. In this election -- in this moment -- let us reach for what we know is possible. A nation healed. A world repaired. An America that believes again. Thank you very much everybody.

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:24 AM, Dan Schwerin <dschwerin@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
Here is latest draft

On Sat, Oct 24, 2015 at 9:01 AM, Huma Abedin <ha16@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
She just called about the JJ speech. Isn't entirely convinced it is the right speech to deliver. I suggest we get on phone with her to discuss. Our only window is 930 for 30 minutes. Hope that works.

This email is intended only for the named addressee. It may contain information that is confidential/private, legally privileged, or copyright-protected, and you should handle it accordingly. If you are not the intended recipient, you do not have legal rights to retain, copy, or distribute this email or its contents, and should promptly delete the email and all electronic copies in your system; do not retain copies in any media. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender promptly. Thank you.

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From:	"Tom Matzzie" <tom@zzranch.com>
To:	"Tom Matzzie" <tom@zzranch.com>
Date:	8/19/2008 9:40:47 AM
Subject:	Freedom's Watch enters Senate races--BIG TIME

The lack of a well-funded strategy to deal with the Right-Wing's campaign on oil and energy continues to extract a toll. Now Freedom's Watch enters into Senate races--BIG TIME. Their offensive can still be turned into a liability.

See below. Click the link for the ad.

-Tom

See the ad: http://www.politico.com/blogs/scorecard/0808/Freedoms_Watch_ad_blitz_in_Colorado.html

August 19, 2008
Categories: Colorado

Freedom's Watch ad blitz in Colorado

The conservative group Freedom's Watch is spending a substantial amount of money in the Colorado Senate race to air television ads attacking Democratic congressman Mark Udall for his record on energy.

This is the first time that Freedom's Watch has bought advertising time in a Senate race. The expensive ad buy, airing throughout the state on broadcast and cable television, suggests the group will be well-financed to play a key role in other competitive House and Senate races.

The ad focuses on Udall's absence for a critical Congressional vote that sent Congress into recess without passing any energy legislation. The resolution passed by one vote.

"Instead of supporting oil exploration, nuclear energy, new refineries or anything that might reduce gas prices, Udall skipped work," a narrator in the ad says. "Went to a fundraiser, and sent Congress on vacation by one vote."

Based on the first wave of advertising, it's clear that energy is going to be the dominant theme of this Senate race. The Freedom's Watch ad will be airing as the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee is hitting Schaffer over his ties to major oil companies.

And the League of Conservation Voters, a strong supporter of Udall's, has already been up with ads blasting Schaffer for his support of the oil industry.

Udall, one of Congress' leading environmentalists, has drawn fire from Republicans for reversing his position on offshore oil drilling after long being opposed to such measures. Last week, he came out in favor of bipartisan legislation allowing for offshore drilling as part of a bipartisan, comprehensive energy plan.

By Josh Kraushaar 01:53 PM

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From:	"Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To:	CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date:	10/24/2014 6:53:12 AM
Subject:	Correct The Record Friday October 24, 2014 Afternoon Roundup



Correct The Record Friday October 24, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Gates: @HillaryClinton "made a singular contribution to strengthening this country's relationships with allies." content.time.com/time/specials/… [10/24/14, 12:36 p.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton has "dedicated her life to empowering women around the world through politics and philanthropy." http://time.com/70904/hillary-clinton-2014-time-100/ … [10/24/14, 11:56 a.m. EDT]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: Malala: "A world with more women leaders will be a better world, and Hillary Clinton is helping make that possible." via @TIME [10/24/14, 11:49 a.m. EDT]

Headlines:

Texas Tribune: UT/TT Poll: Cruz, Perry Lead GOP Presidential Pack

"Democrats, on the other hand, have a straight-up front-runner in Hillary Clinton, who has the support of 60 percent of likely Democratic voters in Texas, according to the poll. She's followed by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, at 13 percent, and Vice President Joe Biden, at 10 percent."

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

CBS News: Rand Paul calls for restraint in U.S. military engagement

“[Rand Paul] called Libya an example of ‘the wrong way to do things,’ criticizing President Obama and Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for engaging in war without "[anticipating] the consequences.’”

CNN: Rand Paul plants feet between both sides of foreign policy debate

"'For months, Rand Paul has been twisting in the wind, trying to explain his foreign policy vision,' [Michael Czin, press secretary for the Democratic National Committee] said. 'The fact is, a speech defending the indefensible won't make Paul's worldview any more palatable to the American people.'"

The Courier-Journal: Rand Paul: In foreign policy "America cannot disengage"

A potential 2016 Republican presidential candidate, Paul has sought to offer more detailed thoughts on his world view, clearly a deliberate effort to counter his image in some circles as merely an isolationist in different clothing.

Vox: Rand Paul just gave one of the most important foreign policy speeches in decades

“Sen. Rand Paul just gave one of the most important speeches on foreign policy since George W. Bush declared war on Iraq. But instead of declaring war on another country, Paul declared war on his own party. Or, at least, its entire approach to foreign policy.”

The Atlantic: Rand Paul Sketches an Alternative to Hawks Like Bush and Clinton

“On the off-chance that Paul and Hillary Clinton face one another in a presidential election, Thursday's speech offers a portent of Paul attack-ads to come.”

Associated Press, via Wall Street Journal: Poll Shows Martha Coakley Slipping as Hillary Clinton Visits

Hillary Clinton is campaigning with Martha Coakley in Boston, amid a new poll showing the Democratic gubernatorial candidate trailing in the race.

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New York Times: Toxic Partisanship? Bill Clinton Says He Had It Worse Than Obama

“Whatever Mr. Clinton’s motivations, his comments, which he has repeated regularly when the topic comes up, do not permit Mr. Obama to excuse his legislative setbacks by simply citing hyper-partisanship. As one former White House aide to Mr. Clinton put it: ‘They impeached our guy.’”

Articles:

Texas Tribune: UT/TT Poll: Cruz, Perry Lead GOP Presidential Pack

By Ross Ramsey

October 24, 2014

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz remains the top presidential choice of Texas Republican voters, but Gov. Rick Perry is starting to close the gap between the two, according to the latest University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll.

It might not seem that way at first glance. While 27 percent of likely Republican voters say Cruz would be their choice in a hypothetical primary for the 2016 presidential nomination, only 14 percent choose Perry. Author and former surgeon Ben Carson is looming in the governor’s rearview mirror, with 10 percent, followed by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, each at 7 percent.

But in the June UT/TT Poll, Perry was running fourth, with 7 percent, while Cruz was way out in front with 33 percent of the respondents at his side. A year ago, Cruz had a 3-to-1 lead over the governor.

“Rick Perry’s political instincts about how to respond to law and order at the border are still pretty good,” said Jim Henson, co-director of the poll and director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin. “Everyone else is milling around in the middle of the pack.”

Other Republicans included in the survey — U.S. Sens. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Marco Rubio of Florida, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum and Ohio Gov. John Kasich — each come in with 4 percent or less. Eleven percent of the likely Republican voters say they haven’t thought enough about the race to have a favorite.

Texas voters have favorable impressions of the two Republicans currently at the top of the GOP pileup, with 44 percent saying they have a very or somewhat favorable opinion of Cruz and 45 percent saying the same about Perry. More than a third of the voters — 36 percent — have an unfavorable opinion of Cruz; 40 percent have an unfavorable impression of Perry.

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“This race on the Republican side shows that there is no heir to the throne,” said Daron Shaw, co-director of the poll and a professor of government at UT-Austin. He said the GOP tends to nominate candidates for president who finished in second place four years prior. “There’s no runner-up looking for the title this time.”

Shaw said the numbers are still volatile and the changes in the standings are relatively small. But he added that Perry’s profile is rising some. “You guys in the media love second acts, and Perry is a great second act,” he said.

Democrats, on the other hand, have a straight-up front-runner in Hillary Clinton, who has the support of 60 percent of likely Democratic voters in Texas, according to the poll. She’s followed by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, at 13 percent, and Vice President Joe Biden, at 10 percent.

Other potential Democratic candidates — New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, former U.S. Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia and Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley — each get support from 2 percent or less of voters, and 13 percent of the Democratic likely voters said they have no favorite.

“The not-Hillary vote is sort of befuddled right now,” Shaw said.

According to the poll, Perry gets better job reviews than either the president or Congress, with 46 percent of Texas voters saying they approve of his performance and 38 percent saying they don’t. Among those who feel strongly about it, 22 percent approve and 27 percent disapprove of the governor’s work in office.

President Obama gets good reviews from 36 percent of Texans and bad reviews from 57 percent. And most of the voters who disapprove — 48 percent — say they strongly disapprove. Only 14 percent strongly approve of his performance.

Texas voters have hard views of Congress, with 14 percent saying they approve of its job performance and 71 percent saying they disapprove. Among those who feel strongly, 2 percent approve and 41 percent disapprove.

“The president remains deeply unpopular, and I think we’re seeing that expressed in races from governor to dog-catcher,” Henson said. “Anyone wondering why the president has been turning up in so many ads on TV can find their answer right here.”

The University of Texas/Texas Tribune internet survey of 1,200 registered voters was conducted from Oct. 10 to Oct. 19 and has an overall margin of error of +/- 2.83 percentage points. Among 866 likely voters in the head-to-head general election races, the margin of error is +/- 3.33 percent. Among 560 likely Republican primary voters, the margin of error is +/- 4.14 percent, and among 429 likely Democratic primary voters, the margin of error is +/- 4.73 percent. Numbers in the charts might not add up to 100 percent because of rounding.

CBS News: Rand Paul calls for restraint in U.S. military engagement

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

By Hannah Fraser-Chanpong

October 24, 2014 1:41 a.m. EDT

NEW YORK -- Echoing previous warnings against intervention abroad, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is urging the United States to be cautious about using military force and pressed instead for diplomatic settlements.

"Americans want strength and leadership, but it doesn't mean that we see war as the only solution," Paul said Thursday during a dinner hosted by the Center for the National Interest in New York City.

The comments are widely considered to be the potential 2016 Republican presidential candidate's first comprehensive outline of his foreign policy views.

"Yes, we need a hammer ready, but not every civil war is a nail," Paul said. "There is a time to eliminate our enemies but there is also a time to cultivate allies."

Paul described the use of force as "an indispensible part of defending our country" but insisted it should be a last resort and only initiated through Congress.

He called Libya an example of "the wrong way to do things," criticizing President Obama and Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for engaging in war without "[anticipating] the consequences."

"Today, Libya is a jihadist wonderland, a sanctuary and a safe haven for terror groups across North Africa," Paul said.

On the U.S. strategy to combat ISIS, Paul voiced his support for airstrikes against the terrorist group but rejected supplying Syrian rebel groups with weapons, which he says wind up in enemy hands.

"The ultimate sad irony is that we're forced to fight against the very weapons we send the Syrian rebels," he said. "ISIS is stronger because of our weapons."

Paul also used his speech to push back against critics within his own party who have called his views "isolationist."

"The war on terror is not over, and America cannot disengage from the world," Paul said.

He called his approach to foreign policy "common sense conservative realism," and a "return to traditional Republican values."

Paul is considering a bid for the presidency, but recent reports, including one Thursday based on an interview aboard his flight to New York for the event, say he will not make a decision until next spring.

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CNN: Rand Paul plants feet between both sides of foreign policy debate

By Ashley Killough

October 24, 2014

(CNN) -- For the first time since facing an onslaught of criticism this year over his foreign policy views, Sen. Rand Paul spelled out his national security principles Thursday in a comprehensive speech.

The Kentucky Republican, who's aggressively laying groundwork for a potential presidential campaign, sought to paint himself as a champion of "conservative realism," a doctrine that skates between the hawkish and dovish ends of the foreign policy spectrum.

"Yes, we need a hammer ready, but not every civil war is a nail," he said in New York at the Center for the National Interest, a think-tank founded by former President Richard Nixon.

"We need a foreign policy that recognized our limits, preserves our might and a common sense conservative realism of strength and action," he added.

Paul attempted to address critics that characterize his views as isolationist and was aiming to approach his speech Thursday from the perspective of a major, would-be U.S. leader, rather than a lawmaker, a spokesman told CNN before the speech.

He sketched out how and when he would advocate for the use of force, saying he would only do so if he felt the United States or its interests were threatened. He said he supported the response to al Qaeda after 9/11, for example, but disagrees with the continued U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

"It's hard to understand our current objective. Stalemate and perpetual policing seems to be our mission now in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria," he said. " A precondition for the use of force must be a clear end and a goal."

He went on to underscore his widely known position that a president should seek authorization from Congress before taking military action. Paul recycled his own criticism that President Barack Obama, "urged on by (former Secretary of State) Hillary Clinton," took action in Libya without approval, yet now the country is a "sanctuary for terror groups across North Africa."

"America shouldn't fight wars where the best outcome is stalemate."

"America shouldn't fight wars where the best outcome is stalemate. America shouldn't fight wars when there is no plan for victory. America shouldn't fight wars that aren't authorized by the American people," he said.

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"America should and will fight wars when the consequences -- intended and unintended -- are worth the sacrifice," he continued. "The war on terror is not over, and America cannot disengage from the world."

He also talked at length about maintaining diplomatic relationships abroad and expressed support for using sanctions to underwrite diplomacy against countries such as Russia and Iran. And he reiterated a stance he has consistently taken: that the country's debt is one of its biggest national security threats.

His speech comes as he attempts to further distance himself from the more libertarian views trumpeted by his father, three-time presidential candidate and former congressman Ron Paul. With an eye on the presidency, Rand Paul has sought to broaden his appeal to establishment Republicans and even Democrats.

The attention has attracted close scrutiny of his views and past statements on foreign policy, as Paul has been known to frequently break with his own party and lean toward staying out of foreign entanglements. (Last month he slammed hawkish lawmakers for being "barnacled enablers" that have "never met a war they didn't like.")

He was widely panned this year when he evolved in his opinion about the crisis in Ukraine, as well as the threat of ISIS in the Middle East, as both situations continued to worsen.

On ISIS, for example, he penned an opinion piece earlier this summer openly questioning the value of launching airstrikes against militants in Iraq.

But not long after the beheading of American James Foley, Paul became supportive of a U.S.-led air campaign against the terrorist organization -- a change that critics made sure to highlight as a massive flip-flop but what Paul reluctantly admitted as a change in views based on the situation at hand, the "realist" side of his worldview.

Thursday night, he stressed his support for airstrikes as a way to "rebalance" the region but reiterated his opposition to another key part of Obama's strategy: arming Syrian rebels to fight ISIS militants.

He expressed doubt that ISIS will be dismantled in the future, saying in the end it will be up to the countries in the region to take care of the situation.

Michael Czin, press secretary for the Democratic National Committee, argued that Paul won't be able to overcome confusion about Paul's foreign policy with just one speech.

"For months, Rand Paul has been twisting in the wind, trying to explain his foreign policy vision," he said. "The fact is, a speech defending the indefensible won't make Paul's worldview any more palatable to the American people."

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By James R. Carroll

October 24, 2014 12:46 p.m. EDT

WASHINGTON - In what was billed as a major foreign policy speech, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul Thursday told a New York foreign policy think tank that "America cannot disengage from the world," but its actions should recognize limits and be governed by "conservative realism."

A potential 2016 Republican presidential candidate, Paul has sought to offer more detailed thoughts on his world view, clearly a deliberate effort to counter his image in some circles as merely an isolationist in different clothing.

Paul addressed the Center for the National Interest Thursday evening, offering a perspective on international affairs that ranged widely and drew from multiple sources, including historian Francis Fukuyama, President Ronald Reagan, foreign policy theorist-historian George F. Kennan, young Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai and others.

We are going to reprint the text of the speech here, but first wanted to note that the Democratic National Committee already has dismissed his remarks as another example of the senator's political and philosophical inconsistency.

The DNC said that the Kentuckian previously had characterized himself as a "constitutional conservative," "libertarian conservative," "originalist," "realist," "libertarian-ish," "moderate on the foreign-policy spectrum" and "non-interventionist."

"For months, Rand Paul has been twisting in the wind, trying to explain his foreign policy vision," DNC Press Secretary Michael Czin said in a statement. "The fact is, a speech defending the indefensible won't make Paul's worldview any more palatable to the American people."

"Paul's been clear about his goal: he wants to see America retreat from our responsibilities around the world," Czin said. "That includes support for a fringe proposal to end our membership in the United Nations, ending all aid to our allies like Israel and slashing programs that help developing nations combat major public health crises."

But anti-tax crusader Grover Norquist was reported on Twitter as saying after Paul's remarks, "I think I just heard Ronald Reagan speaking."

That prompted Bill Kristol, editor of the conservative Weekly Standard, to tweet: "No, that was George McGovern." That's a reference to the late senator from South Dakota (and decorated World War II bomber pilot) who was the 1972 Democratic Party presidential nominee who campaigned against the Vietnam War.

So you can see Paul did not settle the debate over the brand of his foreign policy, even among conservatives.

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Vox: Rand Paul just gave one of the most important foreign policy speeches in decades

By Zack Beauchamp

October 24, 2014 11:10 a.m. EDT

Sen. Rand Paul just gave one of the most important speeches on foreign policy since George W. Bush declared war on Iraq. But instead of declaring war on another country, Paul declared war on his own party. Or, at least, its entire approach to foreign policy.

In his address last night at the Center for the National Interest — a think tank founded by Richard Nixon — Paul gave, for the first time, a comprehensive picture of how he thinks about foreign policy. His moderate non-interventionism is a far cry from his father's absolutist desire for America to exit the world stage. But Paul's stance is light years away from the hyper-hawk neoconservatism that's dominated Republican foreign policy thinking for decades.

Paul is signaling that, when he runs for president in 2016, he isn't going to move toward the Republican foreign policy consensus; he's going to run at it, with a battering ram. If he wins, he could remake the Republican Party as we know it. But if he loses, this speech may well be the reason.

Paul tacks to Obama's right — but not the way you think

In the speech, Paul outlined four basic principles for conducting foreign policy.

First, "war is necessary when America is attacked or threatened, when vital American interests are attacked and threatened, and when we have exhausted all other measures short of war." But not otherwise.

Second, "Congress, the people's representative, must authorize the decision to intervene." No more war without express authorization.

Third, "peace and security require a commitment to diplomacy and leadership." That means expanding trade ties and diplomatic links around the world.

Fourth, "we are only as strong as our economy." For Paul, the national debt and slow growth are national security crises.

In the abstract, this doesn't tell you a whole lot about what Paul believes. But when he gives specific examples of where he agrees and disagrees with Obama's policy, the core idea becomes clearer: Paul wants to scale down American commitments to foreign wars.

Paul endorses the original decision to invade Afghanistan, but criticizes Obama's decision to escalate it. He savaged the Libya intervention, calling Libya today "a jihadist wonderland." He supports bombing ISIS, but

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blasted Obama's decision to arm the Syrian rebels: "the weapons are either indiscriminately given to 'less than moderate rebels' or simply taken from moderates by ISIS."

But Paul also, much more quietly, agrees with major parts of the Obama agenda. In a move that's bound to infuriate Republican hardliners, he's calling for negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program. He tacitly endorsed Obama's sanction-and-negotiate approach to the Ukraine crisis. And he called for a peaceful, cooperative relationship with China.

In Paul's ideal world, America only very rarely engages in war. Most of its relations with foreign powers are conducted via diplomacy and trade with other states. This is hardly a detailed theory of how to conduct American foreign policy, but it is absolutely a conservative vision for ramping down America's role in the world.

The Obama-bashing reveals Paul's real target: the GOP

Paul's agenda has a lot more in common with Barack Obama's view of the world than it does with, say, John McCain's. But his speech very cleverly played up the criticisms of Obama, and minimized the points of agreement. That's because the basic goal of the speech was to teach conservatives that they can oppose foreign wars and Democrats at the same time.

The real target of Paul's speech were the neoconservatives: the wing of the GOP that believes that American foreign policy should be about the aggressive use of American force and influence, be it against terrorist groups or Russia. Paul's unsubtle argument is that this view, dominant in the GOP, is a departure from what a conservative foreign policy ought to be.

His tactic for selling this argument is innovative. He's reframed arguments with neoconservatives as arguments with Obama, banking on the idea that he can get everyday Republicans to abandon hawkishness altogether if they see Obama as a hawk. "After the tragedies of Iraq and Libya, Americans are right to expect more from their country when we go to war," Paul said, clearly linking his critique of Obama to an attack on the Bush legacy.

Until this speech, Paul's 2016 foreign policy positions hadn't been clear. Now it is. Rand "clearly wants a more restrained US foreign policy," says Dan McCarthy, the editor of The American Conservative magazine. According to McCarthy, who's talked about these issues with Paul's staff, Paul has been engaged in a "trial and error" experiment. The idea is to figure out how to make a less aggressive foreign policy politically viable in the Republican Party.

After this speech, the testing phase appears to be over. According to his advisors, this speech represents the final, overarching framework for Paul's worldview. Rand has developed a strategy for wrenching conservatives away from the Bush legacy, and it's now a question of implementing it.

The stakes in the Paul-GOP fight are tectonic

Paul is setting the terms of the 2016 election. So far, every plausible Republican nominee who's spoken about foreign policy has taken a more hawkish tack. Paul has picked a fight on foreign policy, and now he's going to get one.

The Republican primary, then, will be at least partly a referendum on the future of Republican foreign policy. If Paul wins the primary — let alone the presidency — then the GOP and its elected officials will have to line up

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behind him. That will mean defending his foreign policy against Democrats, who will likely blast Paul from an interventionist point of view.

"Paul's been clear about his goal," DNC Press Secretary Michael Czin told reporters before the speech. "He wants to see America retreat from our responsibilities around the world." A Paul primary win would force Republicans around the country to line up behind Paul's non-interventionism against these attacks. It might also lead the Democratic Party to become more hawkish as it unites against Paul's philosophies — and that's particularly true if Hillary Clinton, who is already on the more hawkish side of the Democratic spectrum, is the nominee.

"Rand is the first guy," McCarthy says, "to have a chance to come in and do something different than what our foreign policy has been doing in 70 or more years." He's not wrong.

The Atlantic: Rand Paul Sketches an Alternative to Hawks Like Bush and Clinton

By Conor Friedersdorf

October 23, 2014 8:00 p.m. EDT

[Subtitle:] In a speech touting "conservative realism," the Kentucky Republican probed the failures of post-9/11 foreign policy, including too much war.

"Americans yearn for leadership and for strength," Senator Rand Paul planned to declare in a foreign policy speech Thursday evening, "but they don't yearn for war."

His remarks (quoted as prepared for delivery at New York City gathering of the Center for the National Interest), were seemingly pitched to Republican voters: the Kentucky Republican dubbed his approach "conservative realism," criticized President Obama and Hillary Clinton, and invoked Presidents Reagan and Eisenhower. But the substance of his speech seems likely to appeal to anyone who believes that U.S. foreign policy has gone astray since 9/11, due largely to imprudent interventions urged by George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Hillary Clinton. Big parts of his message should appeal to constituencies as diverse as Code Pink and my Orange County-conservative grandparents. "After the tragedies of Iraq and Libya, Americans are right to expect more from their country when we go to war," Paul stated. "America shouldn't fight wars where the best outcome is stalemate. America shouldn't fight wars when there is no plan for victory."

He condemned wars waged without the consent of Congress or the people. adding: "Until we develop the ability to distinguish, as George Kennan put it, between vital interests and more peripheral interests, we will continue to drift from crisis to crisis." But he also took care to preempt the charge that he's an "isolationist."

In passages that may alienate some of his father's supporters, Paul expressed his support for the invasion of Afghanistan (if not the decade-plus occupation that followed), declared that "the war on terror is not over, and America cannot disengage from the world," and reiterated his support for airstrikes to weaken ISIS. He opposes funneling arms to rebels in Syria, arguing that they often end up in enemy hands. But even his support for airstrikes is arguably at odds with the principles he laid out elsewhere. "Although I support the call for defeating

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and destroying ISIS," the speech said, "I doubt that a decisive victory is possible in the short term, even with the participation of the Kurds, the Iraqi government, and other moderate Arab states." What happened to, "America shouldn't fight wars where the best outcome is stalemate. America shouldn't fight wars when there is no plan for victory"?

The uncharitable interpretation of this tension is that, slowly but surely, Paul is going the way of Obama and succumbing to Beltway interventionism, whether as a response to D.C. culture or a gambit to win a GOP primary. The more charitable interpretation: He isn't ideologically committed to either interventionism or noninterventionism, but is simply less hawkish than Bush, Obama, or Clinton.

Either way, his rhetoric laid out an approach to foreign policy that is less bad than anything on offer from any other plausible party leader in Washington, D.C. It retains some of the idealism that candidate Barack Obama won with in 2012. "To contain and ultimately defeat radical Islam," Paul argued, "America must have confidence in our constitutional republic, our leadership, and our values."

In another passage, Paul tried to make a point sensitive and complicated enough that few American politicians even attempt it: that Americans should be wary of a foreign policy that produces blowback; that it cannot always be avoided; that anger at actions like needlessly killing innocents in drone strikes creates anti-American terrorists; and that there are other, more complicated causes of terrorism too:

We must understand that a hatred of our values exists, and acknowledge that interventions in foreign countries may well exacerbate this hatred," he says, "but that ultimately, we must be willing and able to defend our country and our interests. As Reagan said: “When action is required to preserve our national security, we will act.” Will they hate us less if we are less present? Perhaps …. but hatred for those outside the circle of "accepted" Islam, be it the Shia or Sunni or other religions, such as Christianity, exists above and beyond our history of intervention overseas.

The world does not have an Islam problem.

The world has a dignity problem, with millions of men and women across the Middle East being treated as chattel by their own governments. Many of these same governments have been chronic recipients of our aid. When the anger boils over as it did in Cairo, the anger is directed not only against Mubarak but also against the United States because of our support for Mubarak.

Some anger is blowback, but some anger originates in an aberrant and intolerant distortion of religion that wages war against all infidels. We can’t be sentimental about neutralizing that threat, but we also can’t be blind to the fact that drone strikes that inadvertently kill civilians may create more jihadists than we eliminate.

On the off-chance that Paul and Hillary Clinton face one another in a presidential election, Thursday's speech offers a portent of Paul attack-ads to come:

The war in Libya was not in our national interest. It had no clear goal and it led to less stability. Today, Libya is a jihadist wonderland, a sanctuary and safe haven for terror groups across North Africa. Our Ambassador was assassinated and our Embassy forced to flee over land to Tunisia. Jihadists today swim in our Embassy swimming pool. The Obama administration, urged on by Hillary Clinton, wanted to go to war but didn't anticipate the consequences of war.

Libya is now more chaotic and America is less safe.

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If Democrats were earnest in their critiques of George W. Bush's foreign policy, they ought to prefer Paul's vision on foreign policy to Hillary Clinton's platform and record. If Republicans were earnest in their embrace of a humble foreign policy in 2000, they ought to prefer Paul's positions to what's on offer from his GOP rivals.

But the partisan mind has led many Republicans to retroactively embrace Bush's radical foreign policy and many Democrats to forgive Iraq War support and embrace Obama's drone strikes and wars of choice. Paul is questioning the hawkish, post-9/11 consensus that exists in both parties, but not as radically as Code Pink or supporters of his father would hope. Are moderates open to the change he is urging? If so, he will be a contender in 2016, if only by virtue of offering a position that appeals to many in America but is embraced by few in Washington.

Associated Press, via Wall Street Journal: Poll Shows Martha Coakley Slipping as Hillary Clinton Visits

Hillary Clinton is campaigning with Martha Coakley in Boston, amid a new poll showing the Democratic gubernatorial candidate trailing in the race.

The former secretary of state, senator, first lady and likely 2016 presidential candidate will join Ms. Coakley on Friday at the Park Plaza hotel. Mrs. Clinton’s visit comes after her husband, former President Bill Clinton, campaigned for Ms. Coakley in Worcester last week.

Mrs. Clinton then heads to Providence, Rhode Island, to campaign for Democratic gubernatorial candidate and state treasurer Gina Raimondo.

Ms. Coakley, the state’s attorney general, is looking to regain momentum in her race with Republican candidate Charlie Baker that has drawn national attention — and star power.

First Lady Michelle Obama also campaigned for Ms. Coakley in Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood earlier this month, and Vice President Joe Biden will headline a fundraiser on Oct. 29.

Mr. Baker, a former CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, meanwhile, has had former Massachusetts governor and presidential candidate Mitt Romney and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, head of the Republican Governors Association and a possible 2016 presidential candidate, stump for him this year.

Recent polls suggest Mr. Baker’s campaign has gained momentum as the Nov. 4 election approaches.

A poll released by the Boston Globe on Thursday showed Mr. Baker with the support of 45% of those polled compared to 36% for Ms. Coakley, a 9 percentage point advantage in a survey that carried a margin of error of 4 percentage points. The live telephone survey of 500 likely Massachusetts voters was conducted between Oct. 19 and Oct. 22, according to the Globe.

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Ms. Coakley's campaign released a statement calling the Globe poll an "outlier" and said other public surveys, as well as the campaign's own internal polling suggested, suggested a much closer race.

Democrats are looking to gain ground in state houses across the country this year. The party currently holds 21 governor's offices to Republicans' 29. There are 36 gubernatorial elections this November.

Ms. Coakley also is looking to erase the memory of her surprise 2010 defeat to then-state Sen. Scott Brown in the special election to succeed the late U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy in Congress.

Three independent candidates are also on the Massachusetts ballot.

New York Times: Toxic Partisanship? Bill Clinton Says He Had It Worse Than Obama

By Amy Chozick

October 24, 2014

President Obama heads into midterm elections in which he may face crushing losses. He has been spurned by his own party, whose candidates do not even want to be seen with him. The president's supporters say the toxic atmosphere in Washington has made it impossible for Mr. Obama to succeed.

But there is a counter view being offered by a former Democratic president that as far as personal attacks go, he, Bill Clinton, had it worse. "Nobody's accused him of murder yet, as far as I know. I mean, it was pretty rough back then," Mr. Clinton said last month in an interview aired by PBS, when asked about the partisan climate facing Mr. Obama.

Whatever Mr. Clinton's motivations, his comments, which he has repeated regularly when the topic comes up, do not permit Mr. Obama to excuse his legislative setbacks by simply citing hyper-partisanship. As one former White House aide to Mr. Clinton put it: "They impeached our guy."

The tumult of the Clinton years — including conspiracy theories about the death of Vincent W. Foster Jr., a deputy White House counsel and friend of the Clintons' from Arkansas who committed suicide in 1993, the investigation into Whitewater, the Monica Lewinsky scandal and impeachment — has come back as Hillary Rodham Clinton inches toward a run for president in 2016.

When asked last month what the single biggest misconception about his presidency was, Mr. Clinton told Charlie Rose on PBS, "I think that most people underappreciate the level of extreme partisanship that took hold in '94."

Twenty years later, Mr. Clinton has devoted much of his energy to campaigning for Democrats who do not want to be associated with Mr. Obama. He spent the weekend in Arkansas campaigning for Senator Mark Pryor, the incumbent Democrat who is locked in a tight race against Representative Tom Cotton, a Republican.

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“Everyone looks at Clinton in this hazy glow of, ‘He’s so wonderful,’ ” said Steve Elmendorf, a Democratic strategist. “But when he was president, boy, were there a lot of people who went after him in a very personal, some would say dirty, way.”

Even Mr. Clinton’s old rival, Newt Gingrich, a former Republican speaker of the House, said people had a gauzy view of the Clinton years. “Everyone is doing the, ‘Gee, Newt and Bill got things done, why can’t Obama get anything done?’ routine,” Mr. Gingrich said. “Maybe it’s driving Bill nuts.”

The underlying implication is that Mr. Obama does not have it so rough. Republicans who voted to impeach Mr. Clinton criticize the current president for being less able or willing than his Democratic predecessor to woo congressional Republicans.

Trent Lott, the Mississippi Republican who served as Senate majority leader from 1996 to 2001, said Mr. Clinton was “affable” and “approachable,” even toward his political opponents.

“You could talk to him,” Mr. Lott said. “He was also willing to make a deal for the good of the country.” In contrast, he argued, Mr. Obama “has just walked away” — so if Mr. Clinton even tried to give the current president a pass, it “just won’t sell.”

Congressional Republicans, of course, have also refused to reach across the aisle and work with Mr. Obama the way they did in Mr. Lott’s era. The current Congress is on track to become one of the least legislatively productive in recent history. That is partly because Mr. Obama faces a far more polarized electorate than Mr. Clinton did.

Over the past 20 years, the number of Americans who hold extreme conservative or liberal views has doubled from 10 percent in 1994 to 21 percent in 2014, according to the Pew Research Center. And the middle ground has shrunk, with 39 percent of Americans taking a roughly equal number of liberal and conservative positions, compared with 49 percent in 1994.

Mr. Clinton often talks about this polarization and says that while the partisan gridlock is worse today, and the American electorate is less willing to hear arguments they disagree with, the attacks he faced were more personal than those Mr. Obama has experienced.

In a 2012 interview with The New York Times, Mr. Clinton mentioned the “murder” conspiracy theory in the 1990s, and said of Mr. Obama’s tenure: “Nobody has tried to bankrupt him with bogus investigations, so it’s not quite as bad. But the political impasse has gone on longer.”

“I will certainly not contradict the president I worked for when he argues that it was even more personal then,” said William A. Galston, a former policy adviser to Mr. Clinton. “But the polarization of our official political institutions and our political parties has become even more acute than in the Clinton days,” he added.

That argument absolves Mr. Clinton of his own part in the scandals of the 1990s, several historians said. “They’re different situations because there were criminal allegations” against Mr. Clinton, said Ken Gormley, the author of “The Death of American Virtue: Clinton vs. Starr,” about the investigation led by Kenneth W. Starr.

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“President Obama has attracted a lot of attacks when it’s hard to point to something exactly he has done that warranted them,” Mr. Gormley added.

Some of the venom directed at Mr. Obama has a racial component that Mr. Clinton, a relatable white Southerner, never had to deal with, said Douglas G. Brinkley, a presidential historian and professor at Rice University. “The Clintons created huge problems of their own making,” Mr. Brinkley added, while “Obama’s problem is that he bullheadedly pushed Obamacare, and he happens to be African-American.”

“You can’t get more personal than questioning a person’s veracity for where he was born,” said Mr. Galston, the former Clinton aide, referring to the “birther” conspiracy theories about Mr. Obama’s birth certificate.

Mr. Clinton’s reminders about how bitter things were in Washington when he was in the White House might not be the best message as Mrs. Clinton eyes an attempt at getting back there, as president herself this time.

Senator Rand Paul, a potential 2016 Republican presidential candidate, has already seized on the Lewinsky scandal as a way to remind voters that the Clinton years were not just “peace and prosperity,” as Mrs. Clinton often characterized her husband’s presidency during her 2008 presidential campaign.

Mr. Clinton is not the only president who weathered harsh attacks. Harry Reid, the Senator majority leader, called former President George W. Bush a “liar” and a “loser,” and protesters depicted him as Hitler.

“Every president probably thinks he had it worse than all his predecessors,” said Kenneth L. Khachigian, a Republican strategist who served as a speechwriter for Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon. “But,” he added, “those of us in the Nixon years would have gladly traded places with Bill Clinton’s White House.”

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From: "S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace" <info@centerpeace.org>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/3/2015 8:20:43 AM
Subject: News Update - November 3



S. DANIEL ABRAHAM
CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and the Middle East News Update

Tuesday, November 3

Click here for a printer-friendly version.

Headlines:

- **70 Year-Old Man Stabbed in Netanya; 3 People Hurt in Rishon Letzion**
- **Beilin Predicts Bibi Will Unilaterally Withdraw from Much of West Bank**
- **Police Commander: More Difficult to Protect Terrorists from Mob**
- **IDF Shut Down Palestinian Radio Station It Says Incites Violence**
- **Former IDF Chief Gantz: We Will Always Live with Our Sword**
- **Herzog to UK Envoy: Labeling Settlement Products 'Rewards Terror'**
- **Israel Hints at Air Force Cooperation with Jordan, Egypt**
- **Lower Threshold for Terrorism Incitement Passes Knesset**

Commentary:

- **Forward: "Israel's Top Generals Split with Bibi on Roots of Terror Wave"**
  - By J.J. Goldberg, Editor-at-Large, Forward
- **Al-Monitor: "How Will Jewish-Palestinian Relations Be Restored?"**
  - By Shlomi Eldar, Israel Pulse Columnist, Al-Monitor

Ha'aretz

70 Year-Old Man Stabbed in Netanya; 3 Hurt in Rishon Letzion

Four people were wounded in two stabbing attacks in central Israel yesterday. A 70 year-old man was seriously wounded in a stabbing attack in the coastal city of Netanya, while a 31 year-old man and 80 year-old woman were critically injured earlier in the day in an attack in Rishon Letzion. A man in his twenties was slightly injured in the earlier attack. The assailants in both attacks were apprehended by police. A 22 year-old Palestinian man was shot by police on the scene in Netanya yesterday evening. The assailant, from the Tul Karm area, was in Israel illegally.
See also, "Two Elderly Israelis Stabbed in Latest Palestinian Attacks" (CBS News)

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Times of Israel

Beilin Predicts Bibi Will Withdraw from Much of West Bank

Former minister and veteran peace activist Yossi Beilin on Monday called for the creation of an Israeli-Palestinian confederation as a long-term strategic goal for the solution of the conflict. Such a solution will have to be preceded by an interim agreement that would create a Palestinian state in provisional borders, he said. However, he said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, anxious to avoid a bi-national state but unwilling to meet Palestinian demands, would wind up unilaterally withdrawing from much of the West Bank to ensure a Jewish majority in Israel.

Ma'ariv

Police Commander: More Difficult to Protect Terrorists from Mob

Commander of the Central District Police Cmdr. Motti Cohen spoke to Army Radio in the wake of the two attempts to attack terrorists, saying: it is getting more difficult to protect the terrorist from the mob than to protect the mob from the terrorist. Cohen: "In this case, several dozen people tried to take the law into their own hands and to attack the terrorist. The police coped with this, and removed the citizens. In this case, the activity [to extricate the attacker] was no less difficult, maybe even more complicated, than ending the incident."

See also, "As Terror Continues, More Angry Bystanders Attack Terrorists" (Arutz Sheva)

Huffington Post

IDF Shut Down Palestinian Radio Station It Says Incites Violence

The Israeli military raided a Palestinian radio station in the West Bank on Tuesday and confiscated equipment it said was being used to broadcast calls to attack Israelis. The military said it shut down the Al Hurria radio station in Hebron overnight and accused it of inciting violence in the volatile West Bank city. The station's director, Ayman Qawasmeh, said Israel troops raided the station after 2 a.m. destroyed equipment and confiscated transmitters. "This is a clear violent aggression on the Palestinian media," he said. "We didn't incite, we just reported the Israeli daily crimes against our people in Hebron. They want to silence our voice."

See also, "Citing Incitement, IDF Shuts Down Fatah-Affiliated Radio Station in Hebron" (Jerusalem Post)

Jerusalem Post

Former IDF Chief Gantz: We Will Always Live with Our Sword

The security uncertainty that hovers over Israel will continue, and security challenges will not vanish overnight, but Israel is strong, and should strive to achieve diplomatic progress with the Palestinians, former IDF chief of staff Lt.-Gen. Benny Gantz said on Monday. Speaking at a security conference organized by the Institute for National Security Studies at the Sapir Academic College in Sderot, Gantz said, "Will we forever live by our sword? We definitely will live with our sword. I don't think our children or grandchildren won't be soldiers. We must make efforts to try and not live only by our sword, but we will always be with a sword."

See also, "A Year After Gaza War, Israel's Military Experts Wonder: Was It Worth It?" (Times of Israel)

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Times of Israel

Herzog to Envoy: Labeling Settlement Products Rewards Terror

Opposition leader Isaac Herzog tells British Ambassador to Israel David Quarrey that a European Union plan to mark products made in factories over the Green Line is "a prize for terror." The EU will soon decide exactly how to label the products, after the European Parliament passed a resolution last month to approve the measure. Herzog says he "strongly opposes this harmful and unnecessary measure," saying that "this is a measure that serves only one purpose – continuing the hate and regional conflict. Marking these products is an act of violence by extremists who want to further inflame the situation and the EU is falling into their trap."

See also, "EU to Publish Guidelines for Labeling Goods Produced in West Bank Settlements" (i24 News)

Ynet News

Israel Hints at Air Force Cooperation with Jordan, Egypt

Israeli fighter pilots recently trained with Arab counterparts in the United States, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said on Tuesday, referring to a joint exercise that a US official described as involving Jordanian planes. The remarks by Ya'alon followed Israel's disclosure that its air force helped locate a Russian passenger plane that crashed in the Egyptian Sinai—both rare departures from a policy of keeping Israeli-Arab military cooperation under wraps. Bruised by an Iranian nuclear deal that it had lobbied against, and hoping to skirt deadlocked Palestinian peace talks through wider regional engagement, Israel has been hinting it enjoys burgeoning secret ties with some Arab powers.

Jerusalem Post

Lower Threshold for Terrorism Incitement Passes Knesset

Legislation creating a separate, easier-to-prosecute crime of incitement to terror, as opposed to general incitement to violence, passed a first reading in the Knesset overnight Monday. The penal code currently establishes that incitement to violence or terrorism, which carries a five year prison sentence, is when someone publicizes a call to an act of violence or terrorism, or praises, sympathizes with or encourages such acts, and the statements have a real chance of causing someone to behave violently or commit an act of terrorism. The new bill creates a separate crime of incitement to terrorism, which would not require the prosecution to prove the probability of the statements causing someone to commit an act of terrorism.

See also, "Knesset Approves Minimum Jail Time for Rock Throwing" (Times of Israel)

Forward – November 3, 2015

Israel's Top Generals Split with Bibi on Roots of Terror Wave

By J.J. Goldberg

Benjamin Netanyahu probably thinks he got the last laugh after the international uproar he touched off with his "Hitler didn't want to exterminate the Jews" speech on October 20. But he just might have opened up a whole new can of worms.

The Israeli prime minister was bombarded with criticism by everyone from Knesset opposition leader Isaac Herzog to German Chancellor Angela Merkel over his claim that the extermination idea was first proposed to Hitler by the

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Palestinian leader Haj Amin al-Husseini, the grand mufti of Jerusalem. The critics all said it was a historical untruth, a distortion of the Holocaust and a diminishment of the evil of Nazism. Merkel went as far as to rebuke Netanyahu and insist that Germans, not someone else, bore responsibility for the Holocaust.

Netanyahu, it turned out, was quick to concede the main point. He never meant to suggest that Hitler wasn't responsible for the Holocaust, he said the next day . A week later he conceded further that the genocide idea hadn't come from the mufti. He said he merely wanted to point out that Husseini, a founding father of Palestinian nationalism, was an enthusiastic accomplice of Hitler's and that genocidal, Nazi-style anti-Semitism was the primary motivating force in his opposition to Zionism. And that today's Palestinian leadership continues to revere Husseini and his legacy.

And with that, the subject was more or less closed. Critics around the world, it seems, were satisfied that Netanyahu understood the magnitude of Hitler's crime. All he was really trying to say was that Palestinian nationalism traces its roots to genocidal anti-Semitism. And to world opinion such an imputation apparently isn't a problem. So Netanyahu came out a winner from the seeming embarrassment. He discredited the current Palestinian leadership under Mahmoud Abbas as being politically descended from those who admired genocide. A good day's work.

Coincidentally or not, however, voices have been raised in a most unlikely corner to insist that Palestinian hostility to Israel — including Palestinian terrorist violence — is at least partly a response to Israeli actions and policies, and not simply a deep-seated hatred of Jews. That corner is the Israel Defense Forces.

In the days after Netanyahu's speech, two active-duty IDF generals who are among the army's top experts on Palestinian affairs spoke out publicly to state that Palestinian violence is driven to a considerable degree by anger at Israeli actions. One of the two went a step further, warning that only a serious Israeli diplomatic re-engagement with the Palestinians will help to quell such violence over the long term.

This might seem like more of the same-old, same-old that we've been hearing for several years now: questioning of Netanyahu's policies by senior figures in the Israeli defense establishment. But it's not. This is something new.

Up to now, almost all public pushback from the security community has come from retired ex-service chiefs who are now private citizens and free to speak their minds. Their unanimity may well tell us something important about Israeli defense doctrine, as I've argued before. And indeed, many of them remain in close touch and intimately involved as reservists in current military and intelligence activity.

But there's a difference when active-duty generals speak out. IDF generals — unlike, say, Israeli cabinet ministers — are not free to spout off publicly with opinions that contradict their immediate bosses. When they do speak out, therefore, their views can be assumed to reflect those of the IDF command. Accordingly, for a high-ranking, active-duty general to voice a view that's at odds with strongly held views of the prime minister is nothing less than shocking, because it's the voice of the IDF. And that's what has started happening now.

The first general to speak out was Major General Nitzan Alon, currently chief of the General Staff Operations Directorate. He moved up last May after nearly a decade as commander of Israel's military presence in the West Bank — first as commander of the Judea-Samaria Division, then as chief of Central Command. Alon testified on October 22 in a trial involving two settlers accused of incitement for publishing the Kahanist-leaning Jewish Voice website.

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"Some of the motivation of the Palestinians to carry out terror attacks is due to the violence of right-wing elements in the West Bank," Alon told the court, according to Ha'aretz and numerous other news sources.

"In my understanding there are many reasons for Palestinian violence, some of them related to the murderous behavior of the terrorists, some related to religious and nationalistic motives, and a certain part, not the main part, that is related to revenge activity due to the activity of Israelis against Palestinians," Alon was quoted as saying.

He also said that "a significant part of Israeli violence against Palestinians stems from Palestinian violence against Israelis. Some of the incidents are revenge for terror or violence." In other words, we are witnessing what's known in the West — much to the displeasure of the Israeli and pro-Israel right — as a cycle of violence.

The second general to cause waves was Brigadier General Guy Goldstein, deputy chief of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories. That's the IDF unit in charge of maintaining relations between the military, as legal sovereign in the territories (under Israeli law, the territories aren't annexed to Israel but rather are held by the army), and Palestinian civil authorities.

Speaking October 28 at an academic conference in Netanya on rehabilitation of Gaza, Goldstein said that the wave of Palestinian terrorist violence plaguing Israel would not disappear — though it might rise and fall in intensity — "unless there is some significant change, partly if not mostly on the diplomatic front."

"What Israel is facing is not a wave of escalation," Goldstein was quoted as saying. "but a confrontation that is expected to continue if not intensify and bring changes in the Palestinian arena. Even if there's a certain calming in terrorism and disturbances, without a diplomatic process all the conditions for a continuation of the confrontation will remain and are expected to erupt again. The central challenge: the ability of the Palestinian Authority to control the confrontation. Over time the risk grows that it will lose control and stability will be undermined."

Of the two generals' comments, Goldstein's caused the greater public uproar. As deputy chief of the Coordinator's office, he can only say what his bosses say — his immediate superior, chief coordinator Major General Yoav "Paulie" Mordechai, and above him the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Gadi Eizenkot.

What Goldstein did was to give the public a rare peek at what the military and intelligence chiefs are telling the prime minister and the cabinet in closed sessions. Now we know exactly what the Netanyahu government is hearing from the people whom it pays to read and understand the events on the ground. Hearing — yet ignoring.

Rephrased in plain English (the comments above are my translation from Goldstein's Hebrew), Goldstein is saying that force alone, the government's current response to the unrest, will not bring calm. And by implication, that there are diplomatic options — viable options from the standpoint of Israeli security as the army reads it — that the government is choosing not to pursue.

But while Goldstein's comments are more sweeping, Nitzan Alon's may be more telling, if only because they signal the return one of the IDF's fastest rising stars to the public eye for a moment. During his long tenure as the IDF's chief face to the West Bank, he was enormously unpopular among the settlers. He was considered a leftist, hostile to the settlers, overly sympathetic to Palestinian rights. They grumbled, correctly, that his wife, Mor Nitzan, was active in the left-wing women's peace group Machsom Watch. Settler activists occasionally held

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protest demonstrations outside his home.

When he was promoted from commander of the Judea-Samaria Division to chief of Central Command in December 2011 by then-chief of staff Benny Gantz, it evoked howls of protest. Commentators on the Israeli right viewed it, again correctly, as something of a declaration of independence, if not downright defiance, by Gantz, who had become chief of staff the previous February.

Gantz had been a compromise appointee, chosen after the army's recommendation for chief of staff, Gadi Eizenkot, was vetoed by Netanyahu and then-defense minister Ehud Barak, and their own favorite was then disqualified over a minor real estate scandal. In appointing Alon, Gantz was laying down an early marker that he was part of the IDF consensus.

Last February Eizenkot, now 55, became chief of staff. In May he appointed Alon, 50, to be chief of operations, one of the top positions at General Staff headquarters. Alon is one of several young up-and-comers being groomed for the top spot in the next round or two. The other top name being talked about is Aviv Kochavi, 51, currently chief of Northern Command and previously chief of military intelligence — and chief of operations before that. What they all share is a reading of Israel's security situation that's at odds with the Likud consensus.

That reading starts with the knowledge, which they experience daily and share with the government, that cooperation between the IDF and the Palestinian security services under Mahmoud Abbas's command continues unabated. And that Abbas is doing his best to calm the current unrest. They know from their daily contact with their Palestinian counterparts that the steady diet of insults hurled at Abbas by Israel's political leaders — from accusations of incitement to implications of Nazism — weakens him and makes their job harder.

They know that the Palestinian security services, from the leadership on down, cooperate with Israeli security in the hope and expectation that it will lead to Palestinian independence. And that removal of that hope — as Netanyahu seemed to do when he told a Knesset committee on October 26 that Israel needs to maintain full control of the territory "for the foreseeable future" — will lead to a breakdown of cooperation and threaten Israeli security.

Nobody but the most paranoid conspiracy theorists thinks the Israeli military would ever consider disobeying the orders of Israel's democratically elected civilian government. But neither are its leaders planning to ignore the realities on the ground and pretend black is white and up is down in order to feed someone else's fantasies. And as things on the ground get more and more out of hand, they're less and less inclined to keep the facts secret.

Jonathan Jeremy "J.J." Goldberg is editor-at-large of the Forward, where he served as editor in chief for seven years (2000-2007).

Al-Monitor – November 2, 2015

How Will Jewish-Palestinian Relations Be Restored?

By Shlomi Eldar

The line was crossed during Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014 and resulted in the recent wave of terror attacks. The public discourse surrounding Israeli Arabs has become violent, racist and dangerous.

The rift was created despite the low degree of involvement of Palestinian

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Israelis in the recent wave of terror. Out of the 75 terror attacks perpetrated during the month of October, only two assailants were Palestinian Israelis: Alaa Raed Ahmad Ziwad, who carried out a stabbing and vehicular attack Oct. 11 in Gan Shmuel, and Mohannad Khalil Salam al-Okbi, from the Bedouin community near Hura, who on Oct. 18 carried out an attack in Beersheba. Asra Zidan Abed, from Nazareth, to whom an Oct. 9 attack in Afula was initially attributed, suffers, it seems, from a mental disorder . An investigation revealed that she was waving a knife at security forces because she wanted to commit suicide.

In light of the dozens of terror attacks in recent weeks, the Jewish public suspects, and rightly so, that everyone is a potential threat and might pull out a knife or some other sharp implement to carry out a bloody attack. "Anyone with Arab or Middle Eastern facial features is being very careful," a floor manager at a Jaffa restaurant that only employs Arabs told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity. He pointed to a young man walking down the street wearing a T-shirt that read, "I'm an Iraqi Jew. Don't shoot me."

"That's not funny," he explained. "Jews from North African or Middle Eastern origins with those facial features put on shirts saying they are Jews so that nobody will mistake them for Arabs. There are shirts like this for Moroccan, Tunisian and Yemeni [Jews]. Look what's become of us."

Whether the T-shirt makers were trying to be funny or simply taking advantage of the escalation in the security situation to make a fast buck, these shirts would not have become such a hit if so many Israelis were not rightly concerned about being caught in the middle of a terror incident or being injured in a case of mistaken identity , which has happened on more than one occasion.

Sweepingly calling into question the loyalty of Arab Israelis is the result of ongoing, unbridled incitement by Israeli politicians. Beginning with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's warning on election day, March 17, that "Arabs are voting in droves ," it moved on from there to right-wing Knesset members, chief among them former Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman, who called Arab Israelis a "fifth column ," accusing them of trying to destroy the state of Israel. Not helping matters were Arab Knesset members from the Joint List, mainly from the Balad Party, who engender a hostile climate between the two communities.

When right-wing ministers and Knesset members lump together the involvement of the northern chapter of the Islamic Movement in Israel over the Temple Mount and the direct involvement of Arab Israelis in terror attacks, it means that the steps to allay concerns, mend fences and advocate reconciliation will not come from politicians.

A decline in the number of attacks has been noted in recent days, but even when things quiet down completely, it will take a long time to undo the devastating damage to the charged relations between Jews and Arabs. The only way to rebuild relations, if that is even possible, is by taking conciliatory steps.

On Nov. 1, I grabbed a taxi in Tel Aviv. The driver, boasting that since the start of the stabbing attacks, he had not taken on any Arab passengers, told me, "All Arabs are collaborators. They can't be trusted. They should leave, go away from here."

He went on, "I'm not a racist, really I'm not. Many years ago my dad had Arab workers from Gaza who used to live with us. But today that's it. It's over. No Arab will get into my cab, not one. And I'm not the only one who thinks that way. Almost every cabbie I talk to says the same thing. We have an agreement between us that we don't pull over for an Arab, regardless of whether he is a pharmacist, a doctor

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or a university professor. An Arab is always an Arab."

The cab pulled up in front of a restaurant at the Tel Aviv port. Realizing that one of the waiters there was an Arab Israeli, the driver quickly covered his face. "Look he's coming over here," he said. "I used to be a regular here, but now they won't see a penny out of me." Tapping lightly on the window, the waiter said with a broad smile, "Hey Mordoch, where have you been? Come in bro, grab a bite." Rudely rejecting the offer, the driver replied, "I have no time for you [all]." The smile instantly disappeared from the waiter's face. It seems he understood what was going on. All the other restaurants in the area looked packed, except for this one, which mainly employs Arabs.

At a nearby cafe, I was approached by a waiter who recognized me as a journalist. Speaking quietly, he said, "I'm from Tira [an Israeli Arab town]." Requesting anonymity, he said that his Jewish boss supports him, but because of the current situation, he had had to change his name from the Arabic Yunis to the Israeli-Jewish-sounding Yoni. Yunis remarked, "Sometimes the waiters and the cooks call out, 'Yoni', 'Yoni,' but I don't reply. I still haven't gotten used to the fact that that's my new name." In response to being asked if his employer had urged him to change his name, Yunis smiled, but didn't say a word.

In another jam-packed restaurant, I saw a young couple. The woman, clearly pregnant, was wearing a burqa. Her husband was sitting by her side. Seated in the middle of the restaurant, they were surrounded by Jewish patrons. "You can print our names," the husband told me. "I'm Nahed, and this is my wife, Nissrin. We're from Jaffa, and we're not scared. This is our country as much as it is yours. You and we have to get used to it ." Nissrin added that in the future, she would teach the daughter she is carrying to live in peace with everyone — Jews, Muslims, Christians.

There are some long-time Israeli businesspeople who especially at this time continue to insist on hiring Arabs and even increasing their numbers in their companies. One of them, the owner of a large supermarket chain who requested anonymity, explained to Al-Monitor, "I hire Jews and Arabs together, regardless of color, religion or sex. I do it all the time. Only this way, together, will they get to know each other and realize that generalizations are a terrible thing."

That's what it's really all about. There is no silver bullet. We need to get to know each other, but mainly, as the businessman observed, "not to be afraid at all," a reference to Rabbi Breslov's saying that the main thing in life is not to be afraid.

Shlomi Eldar is a columnist for Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse. For the past two decades, he has covered the Palestinian Authority and especially the Gaza Strip for Israel's Channels 1 and 10, reporting on the emergence of Hamas. In 2007, he was awarded the Sokolov Prize, Israel's most important media award, for this work.

S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace
633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20004
www.centerpeace.org

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From:	"Mike Vlacich" <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com>
To:	"Demastrie, Jesse" <Jesse.Demastrie@gmmb.com>
Date:	8/6/2015 12:45:03 AM
Subject:	Re: AFP-IK; Unintimidated PAC (Walker PAC); J Street (pro-Iran nuclear deal) placing this week

FIRST IN SCORE — AFP targets Hassan with $1.2 million ad buy:Americans for Prosperity is targeting New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan with a $1.2 million television buy criticizing her handling of the state budget. The ad asks viewers to call Hassan and tell her New Hampshire needs tax cuts, not increased government spending. Hassan is in the middle of an ongoing battle with GOP legislators over the state budget after she vetoed the legislature-passed budget in the spring. The decision has also delayed her decision on a Senate run, even as outside conservative groups have spent more than $1 million attacking her on TV, digital and radio ads. The ad will run starting Monday, for four weeks, until the end of the month.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:38 PM, Demastrie, Jesse <Jesse.Demastrie@gmmb.com > wrote:

> They have not been up against other candidates yet.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:33 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
>
> > Have they been up at all against other potential senate candidates?
> >
> > On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:28 PM, Mike Vlacich <mvlacich@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> >
> > > I have checked in with Hassan to see what they know.
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:26 PM, Robby Mook <re47@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:
> > >
> > > > AFP is only NH and not IA?
> > > >
> > > > On Aug 5, 2015, at 6:09 PM, Demastrie, Jesse <Jesse.Demastrie@gmmb.com > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > > No update on American for Prosperity-IK yet. Stations have not been told what "IK" means nor have spots been received yet. Spending looks to be very large over 3 weeks 8/10-8/30. WMUR alone took $800k, with total for state over $1.1 million over the 3 weeks.
> > > > >
> > > > > Unintimidated PAC (Walker PAC) has placed in Iowa to run 9/8-9/21 – a :60 – and 10/6-2/1 (30s).
> > > > >
> > > > > **J Street (pro Iran nuclear deal) – new spending**
> > > > > **8/5 – 8/10**
> > > > > **Total $432K**

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8/6
Total $4K
Washington, DC, ~5 GRPs, $4K – cable only

8/5 – 8/10
Total $428K – broadcast and cable
Portland, OR, ~165 GRPs, $32K
Philadelphia, ~190 GRPs, $83K
Detroit, ~540 GRPs, $138K
Baltimore, ~510 GRPs, $90K
Denver, ~250 GRPs, $85K

Ad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDZClQADEsA

From: Demastrie, Jesse
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2015 3:41 PM
To: Andrew Bleeker; Brian Fallon; Christina Reynolds; David Binder; Demastrie, Jesse; Elan Kriegel; Huma Abedin; Jason Rosenbaum; Jen Palmieri; Jesse Ferguson (HRC); Jester, Daniel; Joel Benenson; John Anzalone; John Podesta; Kaye, Anson; Kristina Schake; Lenar, AJ; Mandy Grunwald; Margolis, Jim; Marlon Marshall (HRC); Matt Dover; Matt Paul; Michael Halle; Michael Vlacich; Nick Merrill; Oren Shur (HRC); Oxhorn, Liz; Pinelo, Greg; Rimel, John; Robby Mook (HRC); Teddy Goff; Tony Carrk
Subject: Americans for Prosperity-IK; Hispanic Democrats for Trump

Americans for Prosperity-IK is starting to place for 8/10-8/30 in New Hampshire (Boston, Manchester, Portland, and Burlington). We don't yet know what "IK" stands for or what the spot is but will let you know if/when we hear.

Hispanic Democrats for Trump
8/6
Total $1,340 – cable only

Ad: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmiwXBeO8U4
Spot applauds Trump for being such so offensive that he ends up helping Democrats.

Denver, ~10 GRPs, $1K

Jesse Demastrie Vice President, Associate Media Director
202.338.8700 | office
202.813.4983 | direct

+**gmmb** cause the effect

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From: "Ron Klain" <ron.klain@revolution.com>
To: "Tony Carrk" <tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jennifer Palmieri" <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com>
"Kristina Schake" <kschake@hillaryclinton.com>
"Christina Reynolds" <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com>
"Brian Fallon" <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com>
"Jake Sullivan" <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com>
"Karen Dunn" <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com>
"Robby Mook" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
"Oren Shur" <oshur@hillaryclinton.com>
"Zachary Petkanas" <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com>
"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
"Sara?? Latham" <slatham@hillaryclinton.com>
"Josh Schwerin" <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com>
"Amanda Renteria" <arenteria@hillaryclinton.com>
"Adrienne Elrod" <aelrod@hillaryclinton.com>
"Marlon Marshall" <mmarshall@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 10/30/2015 12:02:13 PM
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW - Sanders Tar Sands

So is the hit here that, while he did sign a letter demanding an environmental review, he didn't do enough else to fight it? That seems like a weak hit

From: Tony Carrk [mailto:tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:29 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri; Kristina Schake; Christina Reynolds; Brian Fallon; Jake Sullivan; Ron Klain; Karen Dunn; Robby Mook; Oren Shur; Zachary Petkanas; John Podesta; Sara Latham; Josh Schwerin; Amanda Renteria; Adrienne Elrod; Marlon Marshall
Cc: Tyson Brody; Emily Aden; Samantha McClain; Sara Solow; Kristina Costa
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW - Sanders Tar Sands

Adding Adrienne and some from political in case we decide this is worth reaching out to Shaheen.

From: Tony Carrk [mailto:tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 6:46 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; 'Ron Klain' <ron.klain@revolution.com >; 'Karen Dunn' <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com >; 'Robby Mook' <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; Zachary Petkanas <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >; 'John Podesta' <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >; Josh Schwerin <jschwerin@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Tyson Brody <tbrody@hillaryclinton.com >; Emily Aden <eaden@hillaryclinton.com >; Samantha McClain <smcclain@hillaryclinton.com >; Sara Solow <ssolow@hillaryclinton.com >; Kristina Costa <kcosta@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: FOR REVIEW - Sanders Tar Sands

Friends,

h/t to Tyson – here is more information on the tar sands hit I mentioned in my email yesterday. It is not as cut and dried since Sanders did sign a letter looking into this, but he is not outspoken on this issue at all despite Vermont environmentalists asking him to be. This may be something we want to talk to Jeanne Shaheen about since she has been more outspoken and more recently. Below is the summary and attached is the doc.

Bernie Sanders has long bragged that he opposed the Keystone Pipeline for years, calling it an "easy" decision to make. But he has been conspicuously more restrained when it comes to a pipeline between Quebec and Maine, crossing Vermont and New Hampshire.

In 2008, the oil company Enbridge filed plans to reverse the flow of the Portland to Montreal pipeline, so it could carry oil from Canada to Maine for export. This pipeline is connected to a much longer pipeline in Western Canada, the source of much tar sand oil.

In 2013, Enbridge renewed plans to reverse the flow of just the Canadian pipeline, in order to bring heavy crude from Alberta to Quebec refineries. American environmentalists became concerned this was the first step of a plan to eventually reverse the Portland to Montreal pipeline to bring tar sand oil across the border for export from Maine. 18 members of Congress, including Sanders, signed a letter to Secretary of State Kerry calling for a presidential permit and an environmental review before that could occur.

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However, Sanders has not spoken about the pipeline since then. In 2014, the Canadian government gave initial approval to reverse an Enbridge pipeline to bring tar sands oil from Alberta to Quebec. The Maine and New Hampshire Congressional delegations wrote to Secretary Kerry again in concern. But even though Vermont environmental groups called out Sanders and members of their delegations by name, it does not appear they issued a statement or criticized the Canadian decision.

In October 2015, the Canadian government gave final approval to the plan to reverse the pipeline, with no outcry from Sanders. Although Enbridge claims it has no plan to transport heavy crude across the border, his restraint on this issue compared to Keystone is notable considering the Enbridge plan could affect his home state of Vermont.

From: Tony Carrk [mailto:tcarrk@hillaryclinton.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 7:59 PM
To: Jennifer Palmieri <jpalmieri@hillaryclinton.com >; Kristina Schake <kschake@hillaryclinton.com >; Christina Reynolds <creynolds@hillaryclinton.com >; Brian Fallon <bfallon@hillaryclinton.com >; Jake Sullivan <jsullivan@hillaryclinton.com >; 'Ron Klain' <ron.klain@revolution.com >; 'Karen Dunn' <karen.l.dunn@gmail.com >; 'Robby Mook' <re47@hillaryclinton.com >; Oren Shur <oshur@hillaryclinton.com >; 'Zachary Petkanas' <zpetkanas@hillaryclinton.com >; 'John Podesta' <john.podesta@gmail.com >; Sara Latham <slatham@hillaryclinton.com >
Cc: Tyson Brody <tbrody@hillaryclinton.com >; Emily Aden <eaden@hillaryclinton.com >; Samantha McClain <smcclain@hillaryclinton.com >; Sara Solow <ssolow@hillaryclinton.com >; Kristina Costa <kcosta@hillaryclinton.com >
Subject: PLS REVIEW: Sanders Hits

Hi everyone,

I wanted to us all on a single thread since this document could serve multiple purposes. Attached are some hits that could either be written or deployed during the next debate on Sanders. Note: these do not include the college and $20 trillion cost of his plans since Policy is working on them. Below is a quick summary of the hits that are in the document. It might be having a call soon to discuss if people think it's worth it.

Per HRC's request, we are doing a deeper dive on Sanders's agriculture record to see if there is anything that could be problematic to Iowa.

(As always, huge credit to the team for their help building these out.)

> Also: Tyson has been working on building out Sanders's muted response to possible tar sand oil traveling through a pipeline that goes through Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He found one letter he signed calling for an environmental study, something Shaheen did as well. So, while he could point to that, his outrage over potential tar sands in this pipeline is nowhere near his opposition to the Keystone Pipeline. We can send around more details once it's done, but wanted to put that on the radar.

SUMMARY

Labor/Pay to Play/Sugar - Sanders, often thought of as a champion of labor unions, accepted support from a company while it was involved in a bitter labor dispute—locking out union employees for nearly 22 months. In July 2012, he accepted $10,000 in contributions from American Crystal Sugar, while the workers had been locked out for nearly a year due to failed labor negotiations. The workers' union widely opposed the company's contract proposal because it could have doubled their out-of-pocket health care costs. At the same time American Crystal Sugar was proposing to cut back on workers' health benefits, it spent more than $2 million in lobbying money and campaign contributions to politicians like Sanders in order to preserve its favorable sugar commodity program. Sanders voted to protect the sugar program.

Crime Bill –Bernie Sanders's Presidential Campaign claimed it was researching statements made by Hillary Clinton in support of the 1994 crime bill in order to attack her in the Democratic Primary. But Sanders voted in support of the bill in 1994, and repeatedly spoke in support of it. Then Rep. Sanders criticized opposition to the bill and hoped President Clinton would be able to pass it. Furthermore, in his 2006 campaign for Senate, Sanders' campaign strongly highlighted Sanders support for the 1994 crime bill. His campaign boasted of the billions Sanders had provided to law enforcement since being elected, and used his support of the 1994 crime bill to prove Sanders was "tough on crime."

Guns - Sen. Sanders's progressive bona fides are called into question with his record on reducing gun violence. When he successfully ran for the House in 1990, he got the tacit endorsement of the NRA after pledging not to support the Brady Bill, which included waiting periods to receive weapons. Once in the House, he kept his word, voting against the legislation five times. Although he voted against the bill, he voted for an amendment that created the so-called "Charleston loophole," which allows people to purchase a weapon after three days even if their background check is incomplete. Later, Sanders, despite wanting to hold essentially every corporation accountable for something (such as fast food companies accountable for obesity), voted to protect gun manufacturers from legal liability. He also voted to strip millions from gun research, something the NRA has wanted

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to prevent officials from learning about gun violence. (NOTE: This doesn't include the guns from Vermont to New York)

LGBT (Marriage & Civil Unions) - Sen. Sanders is attacking Secretary Clinton, claiming she has been inconsistent and late to supporting marriage equality. But Sanders is rewriting history on his own record. In 2000, Sanders was reluctant to take a clear stand on civil unions and marriage equality, and did not speak out forcefully on the issue. Sanders called for an end to the divisiveness of the opposition, saying there were "a dozen other issues out there that are as important or more important as that issue." While other Vermont politicians were moving forward the cause, Sanders remained relatively quiet. Moreover, his oft-touted opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act omits Sanders's reasoning: he thought DOMA injected the federal government into a states issue.

Repealing Obamacare & Replacing it with State-Run Single Payer - Sen. Sanders has long advocated for a single payer, Medicare-for-all health plan that is administered by the states. His plan would repeal the Affordable Care Act, as well as Medicare, TRICARE, Medicaid, and SCHIP. His proposal would cost roughly $15 trillion. Vermont tried to implement a single payer plan but scrapped it because it would cost too much.

Wall Street (Commodities Futures Modernization Act) - Sen. Sanders repeatedly touts his opposition to the repeal of Glass-Steagall. What he fails to mention is that he voted for the legislation that included the Commodities Futures Modernization Act, signed into law by President Clinton. The Act exempted regulation of credit default swaps and derivatives. Sanders himself blamed the CFMA for Lehman's bankruptcy. Sanders's spokesperson said he voted for the bill because it was part of a larger bill that would have shut down the government had it not passed.

Ethanol - Sanders has voted to end ethanol subsidies. He hedged his answer on the Renewable Fuel Standard including ethanol earlier in 2015, but has subsequently come out in support.

Export-Import Bank - Sanders is a long critic of the Export-Import bank, calling it corporate welfare. However, roughly 3,000 small businesses rely on loans from the bank.

Nuclear Energy - Sanders voted for a waste removal compact that moved radioactive waste from Maine and Vermont to a dump site near a tiny community in Sierra Blanca, Texas. Sanders said the compact was "good environmental policy" and said he was "in strong support of the bill." Critics of the deal said that the site was not only environmentally unsound, but also near a small community that was low income and largely Hispanic. The compact was opposed by LULAC and the NAACP, and a local opponent to the deal called it "environmental racism."

NOTE: President Clinton signed the bill in 1997.

Immigration - Sanders's record on immigration is mixed. While he voted for the 2013 comprehensive bill, he opposed the McCain-Kennedy comprehensive bill. Sanders's objection was over guest worker program which he said drove down wages for American workers. As recent as this summer, Sanders used similar language about low-skill (and even high-skill) immigrants drive down wages for American citizens. Immigration advocates criticized him for those comments.

Sanders Not Straight on His Tax Plan - Sen. Sanders has not told the American people how much he is going to raise taxes and who is going to pay for them. When confronted on details of his tax plan, he simply says "it's coming." When he is asked what the highest rate would be, he demurs.

Sanders Not Straight on His Spending - Sen. Sanders has not told the American people how much his plans will cost and how he will pay for them. When asked for specifics, he demurs. When other estimates show trillions in new spending, he simply rejects them without offering his own estimate.

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From:	"Hudson Institute" <info@hudson.org>
To:	podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date:	7/22/2015 10:30:05 AM
Subject:	News from Hudson: Sen. McCain on Foreign Policy, Iran Nuclear Deal, Cyberwarfare, Japan, and more

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From:	"Cassandra Butts" <cbutts.obama08@gmail.com>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	9/24/2008 3:27:52 AM
Subject:	Energy and EPA names

John, to follow are some of the names that have come us as we have consulted on top candidates for Energy and EPA. We'd appreciate your thoughts and additions. Needless to say, your name has come up repeatedly in our consultations. Best, Cassandra

Energy

-Frampton, George
-Gee, Robert W.: From 1997 to 2000 he served as Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs and as Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy; oversaw the operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and the national research program to develop and demonstrate advanced clean coal, natural gas, and petroleum technologies.
-Jackson, Shirley Ann: Former chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; current president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
-Holstein, Elgie
-Immelt, Jeff
-Pershing, Jonathan
-Schwarzenegger, Arnold
-Schweitzer, Brian

EPA

-Bloomberg, Michael
-Gregoire, Christine
-Grumet, Jason
-Hayes, David
-Learner, Howard: executive director of the Environmental Law and Policy Center, a Chicago-based environmental legal advocacy group that has been a key player in setting up the region's cap-and-trade program for global warming.
-Sebelius, Kathleen
-Stern, Todd

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From: "Sarah Stephens" <sarah@democracyinamericas.org>
To: john.podesta@gmail.com
Date: 12/11/2015 10:29:04 AM
Subject: Hey, D-17. I've Got Mail!

Having trouble viewing this message? Click Here



December 12, 2015

Dear Friends:

Fifty-two years ago, as our country recovered from its near death experience in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the U.S. government cut off direct mail service to the island. Although letters could still pass from Miami to Havana, so long as they flowed through third countries, the ban on direct postal service was just a small part of the hefty regime of sanctions that became only more harsh and severe over time.

Next week in Washington - and we imagine other places as well - there will be a nice party to celebrate the diplomatic breakthrough we call D-17, and the year in which the governments of Cuba and the United States acted like adults and talked to each other respectfully.

Yes, this was long overdue and yes, civil behavior was about the least that a citizen of either country could have asked of his government. But, when you think about what came before December 17, 2014, and what happened after, this year stands out like a Chanukah candle, a shining beacon of light.

For five decades, everything about our policy toward Cuba was about getting the Castro family to cry uncle. We tried to kill them and, when that failed, we sought to incite an insurrection among Cubans who we tried to make hungry and more desperate hurting them with our sanctions.

We didn't just cut off their mail. We cut off direct phone service. We divided Cuban families by imposing stringent travel sanctions; just a decade ago, bereaved families couldn't even make the trip to say goodbye to a lost loved one.

No petty slights were held back. We denied visas to Ibrahim Ferrer of the Buena Vista Social Club, guitarist Manuel Galvan and other musicians to keep them from coming to our country to pick up their Grammy Awards, calling them "detrimental to the interests of the United States."

We heaped disdain on the Cuban doctors who the Castros offered us to treat the ill and injured after Hurricane Katrina. Such disdain, our old policy never considered the notion that Cubans might want to be left alone to write a new future for themselves.

We did all of this and more, year after year, and the system we wanted to replace so badly never budged.

Now, we have a new policy. It isn't perfect. It's pentimento - most of the new paint boldly covers over what we used to do though, from time to time, we can still see trace evidence of the old policy (#Radio/TVMartí , #CMPP, etc.). This new policy is a lot better than what it was, and certainly doesn't come with the sense of shame we feel about a political discourse that even considers putting the religious backgrounds on the visa

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papers of desperate migrants.

This policy is about opening real communication - not just direct mail service, but also direct calls, cellphone roaming in Cuba, more trade and travel and more access to the Internet for Cubans because our agreement with President Castro included support for Wi-Fi hotspots.

It's also about open embassies, and real diplomacy. This week, U.S. and Cuban negotiators started addressing the billions of outstanding compensation claims for expropriated property and damage from the embargo.

One expert told the Washington Post , "it was a positive sign that the sides were even talking about the issue. It's the first time the two countries are going back to look at this history and try to sort out a system for fixing it.' 'You don't have this conversation if you haven't built some mutual trust and respect,' he said."

We're told there are more agreements on the way on bigger ticket items, like the restoration of normal airline service between our countries, and more talks to take place on law enforcement, fugitives from justice in both countries, and human rights.

It's also about sticking to our beliefs. To their credit, our diplomats never let their knees buckle when pro-sanctions hardliners in Miami manufactured the lie that Cuban troops were driving Russian tanks in Syria, and they certainly haven't called to close the border despite the upsurge in Cuban migration through Central America. To its credit, our State Department stood up straight on International Human Rights Day to highlight our disagreements with Cuba on free expression and to criticize the arrests of Cubans who sought to express themselves on that day.

Can anyone think of an alternative? Not even the geniuses at the Washington Post , who stubbornly insist that President Obama is being played by Raúl Castro, have offered one suggestion that could have brought us this far. All of this can be taken away, of course, by next year's election. That's a risk that should focus both governments on obtaining more results. There's a lot more work, hard work, left to do.

It's a stretch to think the U.S. and Cuba will emerge from this normalization process as allies. We were adversaries and now, after a year of living under a policy of engagement, the U.S. and Cuba have built enough respect and trust to become governments the other can work with. What a great change and sign of hope for the future.

The last year has been better, magically better than the previous, and quite painful, 55. That alone is something worth celebrating. So, on Thursday night, raise a glass, have a mojito, hug a friend.

Oh, and when that letter from Havana gets delivered, don't forget to thank December 17.

This week in Cuba news...

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U.S- Cuba
- Bi-Lateral Talks:U.S. and Cuba Hold Talks on Settling Claims For Seized Assets and Embargo Damages
- Moody's shifts outlook on Cuba from stable to positive
- Up at Bat: MLB Heads to Cuba for good will tour
- Breaking news: U.S. to begin direct mail service with Cuba

In Cuba
- Cuba is near closing a deal with the Paris Group that would restructure $16 billion in debt.
- Cuba hands over first U.S. fugitive since U.S. and Cuba reestablished diplomatic relations

Cuba Foreign Relations
- Update on Cuban Migrant Crisis, President of Costa Rica to visit Cuba

Recommended Viewing:
- ¡OUT! Las Transformistas of Havana , Eric Politzer
- Hemingway's Life in Cuba Profiled in Biopic- Debuts at Havana Film Festival , Cuba Journal.

Recommended Reading:
- Reconciling U.S. Property Claims in Cuba: Transforming Trauma into Opportunity , Latin America Initiative at Brooking, Richard Feinberg
- Uncovering a Long-Lost Aston Martin While Riding Around Cuba in Castro's Limos, Road & Track, Jonathan Ward
- Why Cuba is ripe for investment , CNN Money, Ramphis Castro

U.S-Cuba:

Bi-Lateral Talks: U.S. and Cuba Hold Talks on Settling Claims For Seized Assets and Embargo Damages

On Tuesday, U.S. and Cuban negotiators met in Havana to discuss, as Reuters reported, "the claims of Americans whose property was nationalized after the 1959 revolution and Cuban counterclaims for damages caused by the U.S. trade embargo."

After a day of negotiations, the Miami Herald noted, the talks concluded with an agreement to talk again next year. The Herald quotes a State Department official who said the meeting produced, "A very respectful and professional exchange," and a communique from Cuba's Foreign Ministry which said the discussions took place in "A respectful and professional climate."

After Cuba's revolution in 1959, the Cuban government nationalized properties belonging both to Cubans and foreign investors, including those from the United States. Under U.S. law, 5,913 individual claims have been certified accounting for losses with an assessed value of $1.9 billion when they were seized, but are now worth roughly $8 billion, according to the Washington Post . Ongoing claims negotiations are likely to include legal judgements against Cuba in U.S. courts, including the 1996 Brothers to the Rescue incident, and unspecified direct claims by the U.S. government against Cuba's government, according to the Miami Herald.

Cuba asserts that it is owed roughly $122 billion in damages for the economic embargo and an additional $181 billion in compensation for the Bay of Pigs and other attacks on Cuba launched by or with the support of U.S. administrations and Cuban exiles.

Mauricio J. Tamargo, the former chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission at the Justice Department calls these negotiations "an enormously big deal" highlighting the fact that, "The Cubans have up till now never recognized these claims as legitimate or something they are even prepared to discuss. It has never happened in 56 years since the revolution began and they started confiscating American property."

Among the claimants from the U.S., the Cuban Electric Company, whose current shares belong to Office Depot, has the largest claim. The 50 largest American claimants account for three quarters of total claims, with the majority of large claims coming from

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corporations not individuals. For a list of the top twenty U.S. claims, please click here .

Although a payment plan will have to be part of a final agreement, Cuba's ability to pay, according to one expert, should not be an obstacle. In a report published by the Brookings Institution , Professor Richard Feinberg offers a formula nested in a grander diplomatic bargain. This would allow Cuba to spread payments over ten years, with Cuba able to offer U.S companies investment vouchers or tax incentives, and the U.S. allowing Cuba to join the World Bank and other financial institutions.

Under the Helms-Burton law, resolving this complicated issue is a precondition for normalizing relations. As Peter Kornbluh and William LeoGrande write in "Back Channel to Cuba: The hidden History of Negotiations between Washington and Havana," their history of U.S.-Cuba diplomacy, since the property nationalizations after the revolution caused the U.S. to impose the embargo, the compensation issue must be solved before it is lifted. In addition, just as avoiding default on a nation's sovereign debt can protect its ongoing financial stability, the protection of property rights in Cuba would be affirmed by settling the claims, and contribute to Cuba's ability to address its economic problems going forward by attracting new foreign investment and the like.

Individual claims are only being negotiated for individuals who were U.S. citizens at the time their property was confiscated. Relatedly, the family of the deceased mobster, Meyer Lansky, whose hotel casino, The Havana Riviera, was seized by the Cuban government, wants the hotel back or cash compensation for the loss. However, since the claim has not been certified by The U.S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Lansky's heirs may have missed the boat.

Cuba hands over first U.S. fugitive since U.S. and Cuba reestablished diplomatic relations

Cuba returned a fugitive wanted by the United States this week, AFP reports . Cuban authorities detained Shawn Wegmann, who was wanted on firearms charges in the U.S., on Oct. 31 after he took off a GPS ankle monitor and fled to Cuba by a stolen boat, according to The Miami Herald . The Cuban authorities notified the U.S. Marshals Service in early November and a team of federal marshals flew to Havana to pick him up on Tuesday.

"Weggman is the first fugitive who has been returned to the United States by the Cuban government after fleeing to Cuba since diplomatic relations began," said U.S. Marshal Amos Rojas Jr.

Back in November, U.S. and Cuban diplomats held a law enforcement dialogue, where they reportedly discussed counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, transnational crime, cyber-crime, secure travel and trade, and fugitives. As we reported , both parties agreed to continue technical discussions in 2016. The U.S. seeks the extradition of around 70 fugitives, including Assata Shakur and William Morales. Cuba's government also seeks the return of several figures accused of engaging in acts of terrorism against Cubans.

Up at Bat: MLB Heads to Cuba for good will tour

Major League Baseball and its players union are set for a good-will tour to Cuba next week, reports the New York Times . The league is set to host children clinics and a charity event led by top MLB officials and players including Joe Torre, the former manager of the New York Yankees and the chief baseball officer of the MLB, LA Dodger's ace Clayton Kershaw, Miguel Cabrera of the Detroit Tigers, Nelson Cruz of the Seattle Mariners, and Jon Jay, centerfielder for the San Diego Padres.

The trip carries a particular significance for the three Cuban players who will also participate on the trip; White Sox star Jose Abreu, veteran shortstop Alexei Ramirez, and Brayan Pena of the St. Louis Cardinals All three players left the island in order to play in the major leagues here in the U.S.

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Normally, the government of Cuba prohibits defectors from reentering the island. For the trip, the Cuban players have received assurances from the government of Cuba that they will be able to enter and exit the island safely as well as have the opportunity to visit family.

The trip is the latest step by the MLB to improve its relationship with Cuba. Baseball's top lawyer, Dan Halem met with Antonio Castro, senior Cuban baseball official and the son of Fidel Castro, last October in order to discuss strengthening the league's relationship with the island.

Foremost, the league has expressed interest in creating a system in which the Cuban players can legally and safely be scouted by MLB teams and enter the league. Moving forward, there have been talks of spring training games in Havana and even a Cuban minor league team.

Breaking news: U.S. to begin direct mail service with Cuba

It was announced today that U.S. and Cuban officials have reached a deal to resume direct mail services for the first time since 1966.

A pilot program is set to be launched as technical and operational specifics continue to be discussed. A start date has not been announced for the permanent reestablishment of direct mail services.
The announcement comes just days before the anniversary of the Obama Administration's normalization began.

In Cuba

Moody's shifts outlook on Cuba from "stable" to positive

On Thursday, Moody's Investors Service affirmed Cuba's Caa2 foreign currency issuer rating while improving its outlook on Cuba's economy from stable to positive. Moody's is a leading provider of credit ratings, research, and risk analysis.

As the Financial Times rported, Cuba has been attracting greater interest among international investors in the year since the U.S. and Cuba had the breakthrough in diplomatic relations. Moody's credits the rapprochement with improvements in Cuba's economic outlook - increases in tourism, for example.

Moody's also observed that, despite the decline in oil prices, Cuba is surviving reductions in financial flows from its relationship with Venezuela. The agency said a pick-up in economic activity on the island, aided by measures Cuba has taken to diversify its portfolio of economic relationships, has offset the drag on growth created by Venezuela's problems.

Cuba is near closing a deal with the Paris Group that would restructure $16 billion in debt.

Cuba is likely to strike a debt forgiveness deal with the Paris Group this week, reports Reuters. Parties are expected to meet in Paris later this week to finalize a multilateral deal.

The Paris Club is an informal organization of creditor nations that includes "Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States."

According to a diplomate from a major creditor nation, "Cuba has agreed to pay the principal of around $5 billion owed since its 1986 default in exchange for forgiving $11 billion in service charges, interest and penalties... Negotiations are now more about how much time they need to pay it and how much of the money will be reinvested in Cuba."

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Since Raúl Castro became president in 2008, he has made the country's finances a top priority resulting in a trade and current account surplus that has been sustained since 2011. Now, as normalization with the United States continues, creditors are increasingly flexible with Cuba.

One European diplomat was quoted in Reuters saying, "Our companies want this out of the way so they can obtain financing for investments... They want to get here before the Americans lift the embargo."

Cuba's foreign debt is estimated at debt $26 billion. The country is not part of the World Bank or another international lending organization which makes its foreign investment and financing difficult. The deal with the Paris Group could help to improve the situation, as Richard Feinberg of the Brookings Institute notes,

A comprehensive deal would go a long way toward normalizing Cuba's international financial relations and gaining access to official trade credits... However, a deal with the Paris Club will not get Cuba a good international credit rating. That can only come from more robust export earnings and a healthier sustainable balance of payments.

Cuba Foreign Relations

Update on Cuban Migrant Crisis, President of Costa Rica to visit Cuba

Immigration from Cuba to the United States has sky rocketed over since the announcement to normalize relations last year. The Washington Post reports the number "rising to 43,159 from 24,278 the previous year."

The influx is different from past immigration, not just in size but also in the methods used. The vast majority are coming through land, using Central American nations and U.S. ports of entry along the Mexican border.

The surge in migration is reportedly being driven, in part, by fears among Cubans that preferential treatment that Cuban migrants receive under current U.S. policy could be taken away.

As Cubans try to take advantage of existing laws, a migrant crisis has developed in the Central American nations being used for passage. According to the Washington Post, "As many as 4,000 U.S.-bound Cubans have become stranded in Costa Rica since last month, when Nicaragua stopped letting them pass through."

Ecuador has also taken measures to enforce its borders and slow the stream of Cuban immigrants attempting to pass through. For the first time since 2008, the country reinstated strict visa requirements sparking protests in Havana.

The past Wednesday, the President of Costa Rica issued a statement regarding the migrant crisis. He called on citizens and immigrants alike to be patient and to work with the government peacefully. He also called on the governments of Panama and other nations to also ease this process. The President of Costa Rica is scheduled to make a trip to Cuba next week to further bilateral talks on this issue.

Recommended Viewing:

¡OUT! Las Transformistas of Havana , Eric Politzer
This week, CDA was fortunate to receive a copy of Eric Politzer's beautiful new photography book.,¡OUT!. Inside its bright pink cover, ¡OUT! features beautiful, captivating, photos of performers in Havana's gay cabarets. The book celebrates the "individual, creativity, [and] sense of confidence" possessed by the individuals highlighted.

Hemingway's Life in Cuba Profiled in Biopic- Debuts at Havana Film Festival , Cuba Journal.
The film "Papa" is set to premiere this week at Cuba's 37th International Festival of New

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Latin Cinema. The film tells the story of journalist Ed Meyers who travels to Cuba to meet his idol, Ernest Hemingway. Their story unfolds amidst the backdrop of the Cuban Revolution.

Recommended Reading:

Reconciling U.S. Property Claims in Cuba: Transforming Trauma into Opportunity , Latin America Initiative at Brooking, Richard Feinberg
In depth article detailing how property claims between the U.S. and Cuba will be addressed. Richard Feinberg provides a detailed account the history behind these property disputes and cites past examples in order to represent what the final outcome could be.

Uncovering a Long-Lost Aston Martin While Riding Around Cuba in Castro's Limos , Road & Track, Jonathan Ward
Avid collector and restorer of vintage vehicles, Jonathan Ward, describes his summer exploring Cuba's car culture.

Why Cuba is ripe for investment , CNN Money, Ramphis Castro
Kauffman Fellow and technology startup founder, Ramphis Castro, describes the potential in Cuba as a huge opportunity for venture capitalists after attending Cuba's first-ever Startup Weekend. "Early-stage venture capitalists want to see two things: the pool of talent and the need for a given solution. Cuba has both in spades," Ramphis describes.

Until next time,

The Cuba Central Team

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From: "Margolis, Jim" <Jim.Margolis@gmmb.com>
To: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date: 3/10/2015 8:01:27 AM
Subject: FW: Iran

From: Kristina Schake <kristinakschake@gmail.com >
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 9:39 AM
To: Joel Benenson <jbenenson@bsgco.com >, GMMB GMMB <jim.margolis@gmmb.com >, Mandy Grunwald <gruncom@aol.com >, Jen Palmieri <jennifer.m.palmieri@gmail.com >, Josh Schwerin <joshschwerin@gmail.com >, Cheryl Mills <cheryl.mills@gmail.com >, Robert Mook <robbymook2015@gmail.com >, John Podesta <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Subject: Iran

Language from Jake:

Let me say a word on Iran. As Secretary of State, I worked with Congress on a bipartisan basis to construct the most effective sanctions regime in history. Those sanctions, along with patient and determined diplomacy, brought Iran to the negotiating table. Now the President and his team are in the midst of intense negotiations. Their goal is a diplomatic solution that would close off all of Iran's pathways to a nuclear bomb and give us unprecedented access and insight into Iran's nuclear program. Reasonable people can disagree about what exactly it will take to accomplish this objective, and we all must judge any final agreement on its merits. But right now, there is an urgent need to restore a bipartisan commitment to the patriotic idea that politics stops at the water's edge. The recent letter from Republican senators was out of step with the best traditions of American leadership. One has to ask: what was the purpose of this letter? There appear to be two logical answers -- either these Senators were trying to be helpful to the Iranians, or hurtful to the commander-in-chief in the midst of high-stakes international diplomacy. Either answer does discredit to the letter's signatories. We can all agree that a diplomatic solution that prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon is the right objective. Let's give the president the space and support he needs to achieve it. Let's choose statesmanship over politics.

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From: "Berning, Nick" <NBerning@foe.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 6/9/2008 5:15:39 AM
Subject: [big campaign] McCain contradicts own position on nuclear power

http://action.foe.org/t/4027/pressRelease.jsp?press_release_KEY=380

For Immediate Release:
June 9, 2008

For more information contact:
Nick Berning, 202-222-0748

McCain Contradicts Own Position on Nuclear Power

Says he opposes energy subsidies—but then supports massive handouts for nuclear power

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Friends of the Earth Action President Brent Blackwelder criticized Sen. John McCain today for once again contradicting his own position on taxpayer giveaways to the nuclear power industry.

McCain has repeatedly supported billions of dollars of handouts for the nuclear power industry, most recently by advocating the addition of massive nuclear giveaways to the Lieberman-Warner global warming bill.

But today's *Wall Street Journal* reports that at a conference in Washington State last month, McCain said he opposes government support for clean energy. McCain reportedly said, "I'm a little wary -- I have to give you straight talk -- about government subsidies. … When government jumps in and distorts the market, then there's unintended consequences as well as intended."

Friends of the Earth Action President Brent Blackwelder responded by calling McCain's comments hypocritical.

"Instead of giving us straight talk, John McCain is talking out of both sides of his mouth," Blackwelder said. "He claims to be worried about 'distorting' the market, but there *is no market* at all for new nuclear power in this country without massive government subsidies. McCain's explanation for rejecting clean energy such as wind and solar doesn't wash. It's hypocrisy, plain and simple."

"Voters need to understand there's a world of difference between Barack Obama and John McCain on clean energy," Blackwelder said. "Barack Obama will hasten the transition to clean energy. John McCain won't."

###

Friends of the Earth Action (www.foeaction.org) provides extra muscle to our sister organization, Friends of the Earth, in legislative battles affecting our environment. FoE Action and our affiliated PAC also serve as Friends of the Earth's political arm, making thoughtful political endorsements, providing direct support to candidates, and placing environmentalists in the field on critical campaigns. Friends of the Earth Action's mission is to promote a clean, healthy and just world and to ensure that we have lawmakers who will work to protect the environment.

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E-mail ryan@campaigntodefendamerica.org with questions or concerns

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From: "Jacob Roberts" <jacob@progressiveaccountability.org>
To: bigcampaign@googlegroups.com
Date: 7/3/2008 3:00:28 PM
Subject: [big campaign] Media Monitoring Report - Evening 07/03/08

Main Topics: Campaign shakeup, free trade, flip-flops

Summary of Shift: New evacuation orders in California, including in Big Sur. Oil refinery fire east of Los Angeles. Obama made a speech on Iraq in which he avowed that McCain would have to explain his plans to continue the operation in Iraq. Colombia hostage story continues. A singer's substitution of 'black anthem' for national anthem infuriates the likes of Tom Tancredo. The US's destabilizing position in Afghanistan received a sizable chunk of media coverage. More passport file snooping reports surface, this time involving celebrities. Huge job losses provoked many reports on how to save oneself economically from nationwide financial hardships. Perino announces that Bush will attend the opening ceremonies of the Chinese Olympics. Judge orders that YouTube must hand over viewing history to Viacom. CNN airs report that unqualified diplomats line top ambassadorial positions in the US and the recent salmonella outbreak could have originated in Mexico.

Highlights
1) NBC: McCain defends his trip to foreign soil and answers to campaign shakeup
2) CNN: Dana Bash looks closely at the McCain campaign shakeup [this clip and variations of it ran several times tonight]
3) MSNBC: GOP analyst criticizes McCain's strong pro-free trade stance
4) FNC: McCain flip-flops on whether to talk politics on foreign soil [this story ran several times on FNC tonight]
5) CNN: Poll finds that voters don't mind a little flip-flopping from their candidate [this poll was a recurrent subject tonight]
6) CNN: Correspondent claims Uribe did McCain 'a big favor' by briefing McCain on hostage situation before his arrival during panel discussion on whether McCain's arrival in Colombia around the same time the hostage release happened was coincidental. Panel concludes: yes. [no clip]
7) CNN: European Union negotiators offer Iran a break from sanctions if Iran takes a break from parts of its nuclear activity. The offer comes amidst the hope that the world can avoid an Israeli strike on Iran. Iran met the offer with favorable words and vows to consider it. [no clip]
8) CNN: Feature on McCain's and Obama's flip-flops with the conclusion that 'flip-flopping' is a relatively insignificant issue [no clip]
9) CNN: Paul Begala declares, 'McCain's foreign policy expertise could easily become an economic liability' [no clip]
10) FNC: Ann Coulter says that McCain does more good for his campaign out of the country than in it; announces that she has bought 'getdrunkandvoteformccain.com .' [no clip]

Clips
Highlight #1
McCain Defends Trip to Colombia, Campaign Staff Shake-Up
LESTER HOLT: Meanwhile John McCain responded to [Obama's statements on Iraq] while on his way back to Phoenix . . .

KELLY O'DONNELL: . . . I've been in touch with senior advisers to John McCain and their response is stinging. They allege that Obama has reversed the central promise of his candidacy . . . and in an odd choice of words, they are actually congratulating Barack Obama for moving towards what they say is John McCain's position . . . today in Mexico City, John and Cindy McCain received a blessing at the country's most holy site for Roman Catholics . . . during his two day swing, McCain managed to meet with the presidents of Colombia and Mexico, campaign events even some Republicans found puzzling . . .

JOHN MCCAIN: It's also appropriate for me to keep up to speed on the issues and challenges we face in our hemisphere . . .

O'DONNELL: His campaign operation is trying to get up to speed. McCain ordered a shift in duties

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back at headquarters that could quiet grumblings about a lack of message and strategic errors. [to McCain] Do you believe you were headed toward defeat?

MCCAIN: The changes are big. The changes are a better division of some of the responsibilities as our campaign has grown.

Highlight #2
Dana Bash Analyzes McCain's Campaign Changes and the Source of the Troubles that Spurred It (CNN 07/03/08 4:19pm)
[Opens with summary]
DANA BASH: When there's a high-profile shakeup like they announced yesterday, expectations really skyrocket that there's gonna be a turnaround fast, especially in this case where concern was really high among republicans about the state of the McCain campaign, but I talked to several republican allies of McCain today who told me they worry a source of the problem is actually the candidate himself who likes to do things his way.

Okay so there's a new guy at the helm of the McCain operation. What's going to change? First, McCain aides promise a makeover; not his outfits—his events.

MCCAIN: This is indeed a change election.

BASH: Chastened by the optics of McCain's now infamous green screen speech last month, former television producer and Bush veteran, Greg Jenkins is on-board for a visual revamp. For example, when McCain kicks off a jobs tour next week and talks economics in battlegrounds like Ohio, we're told he'll appear with families. Sounds like campaign 101, but, until now, there was a lot of McCain and a teleprompter.

CNN is also told there will now be what a senior aide calls better 'synchronicity' between the message McCain is delivering and where he delivers it. That, after blowback for going to Houston, oil country to say this:

MCCAIN: I'm a believer in the technologies that one day will free us from oil entirely.

BASH: Some changes are up and running. Straight Talk airways took flight this week. Inside, a TV friendly cabin for the candidate who revels in reporter freewheeling. McCain used to appear airborne in unflattering light that made supporters cringe.

Still several associates tell CNN they worry McCain's straight talk sessions, which he won't give up, knock him off-message. Like the time he stepped on a major speech by telling reporters about his running mate list.

[…]

SARA TAYLOR: One of his strengths is that, you know, people view him as a true true independent. That has impacts in a campaign. It's a challenge many candidates face. They'd like to run their own campaign.

BASH: Now another change that you won't really see, but is absolutely essential to any campaign is in the McCain political operation. Part of what republicans in and out of the McCain world tell us that they were concerned about is that the campaign wasn't really organized to keep track of the ground operations in battleground states […] and that is something, as you know, that is really critical because it is data that is crucial to measuring progress […]. Something I'm told, by a senior adviser, that they're gonna change.

Highlight #3
Republican Strategist Tony Blankley: "It's Going to Sound Like McBush to Some Extent" (MSNBC 07/03/08 6:17)
JOE SCARBOROUGH: Tony, as a former Republican strategist, what in world do you say to John McCain when the news keeps getting worse on the economy, you've had a president in the White House for just about seven years who's gotten everything that he's wanted, you have Republicans running congress for most of the part and a Republican recession is staring America in the face, how does McCain get around that?

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TONY BLANKLEY: Well to start out with, he shouldn't be campaigning in Colombia and Mexico, he should be campaigning in Akron, Ohio . . . he's got to at least fake empathy. He's not a guy who shows empathy real well, I think Obama will win that . . . on the other hand I don't think Obama's policies are going to stand up to reason. Now reason may not win the day. I concede that McCain has a problem since both he and Bush are generally in favor of free market principles and lower taxes . . . it's going to sound like M-M-McBush to some extent . . .

Highlight #4
In Opposition to Earlier Statements, McCain Does *Talk Politics on Foreign Soil* (FNC 07/03/08 7:38pm)
TRACE GALLAGHER: John McCain sitting down with Fox News south of the border, he's talking trade an immigration and calling on Mexico to do its part to keep illegal immigrants out of the US. Listen.

JOHN MCCAIN: We obviously expect them to do more. And that is something I think, I think that this president is truly dedicated to addressing some of these issues. Maybe not always in agreement but I think he's committed to it.

GALLAGHER: McCain met with Mexico's president today and got in a little sight seeing as well . . .

CARL CAMERON: . . . well John McCain did have a meeting with Mexico's president . . . he also toured the Basilica de Guadelupe, South America's most famous religious site . . .and he had a surprise guest there – Jeb Bush . . . who just happened to be in Mexico decided to join him for that tour and although it may kick off some vice presidential speculation, Jeb Bush has long said that he does not want to return to public life. Sen. McCain just yesterday said he didn't want to talk about politics or criticize Barack Obama on foreign soil but when we sat down with him today, he gave one of his toughest attacks on Obama's credibility yet. . .

[. . .]

CAMERON: Do you trust him?

MCCAIN: Uhh, I think, uh, I don't trust him on campaign financing . . .

Highlight #5
Voters Agree: John McCain Changed Platform for Political Reasons (CNN 07/03/08 7:06pm)
LISA SYLVESTER: Now a majority of voters believe Senators McCain and Obama have changed their political positions to win votes; quite a contrast to the image the candidates are trying to present. McCain calls himself 'a straight-talker' and Obama says he's all about changing current policies. […]

BILL SCHNEIDER: Welcome to the flip-flop primary. John McCain accuses Barack Obama of flip-flopping on campaign finance and gun rights and town halls. Obama accuses McCain of flip-flopping on immigration and offshore oil drilling and taxes. Have voters noticed?

Yes. 61% believe that McCain has changed his positions for political reasons, but nearly as many believe Obama has done the same thing. A pair of flip-floppers! Shock? Horror? Maybe not.

In 2004 when George W. Bush called John Kerry 'a flip-flopper,' the charge stuck. […] Now voters may welcome some flexibility in their leaders. They seem to want a leader who can bring the country together.

Senator McCain:

JOHN MCCAIN: And I will, as I often have in the past, work with anyone of either party to get things done for our country.

[…]

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SCHNEIDER: Do voters believe either candidate can end the partisan gridlock in Washington? No. By more than two to one, voters do not believe McCain can end the partisan gridlock, despite his reputation as a maverick.

[…] Cynicism or bitter experience? After all, both Bill Clinton and George W. Bush started out promising to be uniters not dividers and look where we are.

--
Jacob Roberts
PAO
208.420.3470 (c)
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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "big campaign" group.

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From: "Burns Strider" <burns.strider@americanbridge.org>
To: CTRFriendsFamily <CTRFriendsFamily@americanbridge.org>
Date: 12/4/2014 8:34:27 AM
Subject: Correct The Record Thursday December 4, 2014 Afternoon Roundup

Correct The Record Thursday December 4, 2014 Afternoon Roundup:

Tweets:

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton 's approach to 2016 is "thoughtful, critical & with the best interest of our country in her heart." http://www.rollcall.com/news/attacking_hillarys_strengths_lame_duck_gop_oughta_take_a_holiday_break-238400-1.html … [12/4/14, 12:32 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton worked to increase the minimum wage #HRC365 http://correctrecord.org/memo-lame-duck-period-brings-lame-attacks/ … [12/3/14, 6:07 p.m. EST]

Correct The Record @CorrectRecord: .@HillaryClinton pushed agencies "to think differently about the role of women in conflicts and peacemaking" http://correctrecord.org/hillary-clinton-keeping-the-peace/ … [12/3/14, 5:46 p.m. EST]

Headlines:

Boston Globe: "Hillary Clinton to speak at Boston conference"

"Thursday's conference is being held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston. It is sold out and more than 10,000 people are registered to attend, according to the confab's website."

Time: "Hillary Clinton Backers Release Country Music Video"

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"A new, three-and-a-half minute country music video featuring cute cowboys in tight shirts, dusty tractors and Ken Burns-style shots of a young Hillary Clinton cooing over baby Chelsea was released on YouTube this morning."

National Journal: "The Annotated Lyrics of That Incredible Hillary 2016 Song"

"A super PAC supporting Hillary Clinton, called Stand With Hillary, has created a song that is sure to surpass Taylor Swift on the Billboard Top 100."

Washington Examiner column: Michael Barone: "Clinton's stock declining in futures market"

"Voters expect presidential candidates to look to the future. Hillary Clinton has wide leads in polls for the Democratic nomination. But her record is a bad fit for the Democratic primary electorate in which the energy currently comes from the left."

Real Clear Politics: "Jeb Bush Putting Out Feelers in New Hampshire"

"Two top New Hampshire Republican strategists have been contacted this week by a Jeb Bush confidant to discuss their interest in leading the former Florida governor's prospective presidential campaign there, RealClearPolitics has learned from GOP sources in the Granite State."

Yahoo: "Obama's attorney general pick wants to throw the book at convicted Hillary Clinton bundler"

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Articles:

Boston Globe: "Hillary Clinton to speak at Boston conference"

By Joshua Miller

December 4, 2014

Hillary Rodham Clinton is scheduled to give a keynote address at a Boston conference Thursday afternoon.

The might-be 2016 White House hopeful is set to speak at the Massachusetts Conference for Women, an annual one-day confab with workshops, seminars and speeches on "the issues that matter most to women."

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Clinton, a former secretary of state, US senator and first lady, has said she will probably decide on a second White House bid after 2015 begins.

If she jumps in, Clinton will begin her campaign as the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination for president. She lost her 2008 primary run to Barack Obama, who later picked her as his first secretary of state.

Although the 2016 election is just under two years away, positioning for the race is already heating up.

Thursday's conference is being held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston. It is sold out and more than 10,000 people are registered to attend, according to the confab's website.

Clinton's remarks are set to be livestreamed online beginning at 2 p.m.

The media affairs director for the conference did not respond to emailed questions about whether and how much Clinton is being paid for her appearance.

The Boston Globe is among the media sponsors of the conference.

Time: "Hillary Clinton Backers Release Country Music Video"

By Haley Sweetland Edwards

December 4, 2014, 12:20 p.m. EST

[Subtitle:] "She's a mother, a daughter, and through it all she's a loving wife."

A new, three-and-a-half minute country music video featuring cute cowboys in tight shirts, dusty tractors and Ken Burns-style shots of a young Hillary Clinton cooing over baby Chelsea was released on YouTube this morning.

While the video received mixed reviews at TIMEs D.C. office — a random sample of reactions included phrases like "croon-tastic," "cute!" "cute?" and "oh, dear" — its mere existence underscores the reality that Hillary Clinton's as-yet-unannounced campaign is going to happen whether or not she gets out in front of it.

The group behind the new country video is called Stand With Hillary, or SWH. It was formed in Southern California this fall by Miguel Orozco, Daniel Chavez and his daughter, Christina Chavez, "to create positive, social media stories" designed to "reach out to working class and Latino voters."

Here are some of the lyrics the video features to do just that: "Thinking about one great lady, like the women in my life. She's a mother, a daughter, and through it all she's a loving wife. Oh, there's something about her, this great lady, caring, hard-working, once a First Lady, she fights for country and the family and now it's time for us to stand up with Hillary."

Orozco and the Chavezes self-funded this video and the website, but in the future will be looking for small donations from supporters, Chavez told TIME this morning.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Chavez, who worked as a deputy director in the Department of Labor under Bill Clinton, said part of the motivation for starting SWH came from his wife and daughter, who were “deeply inspired by the Clinton family.” In the '90s, a young Christina Chavez, who is now 32, had the opportunity to meet young Chelsea and Socks, the Clintons’ famous cat, during “take your daughter to work day,” Chavez explained. “She’s had a lifelong love of the Clintons ever since.”

National Journal: “The Annotated Lyrics of That Incredible Hillary 2016 Song”

By Emma Roller

December 4, 2014

[Subtitle:] Super-PAC ad or Ford truck commercial? You decide.

A super PAC supporting Hillary Clinton, called Stand With Hillary, has created a song that is sure to surpass Taylor Swift on the Billboard Top 100.

Just watch:

[VIDEO]

The song, which went online in November, was written by Miguel Orozco, a media producer who was also behind this much catchier Reggaeton tune about Barack Obama in 2008. (The chorus of that one: "¿Cómo se dice? ¿Cómo se llama? Obama, Obama!")

We at National Journal take such super-PAC media campaigns very seriously. And thus, we decided to provide you, dear reader, with a fully annotated version of the "Stand With Hillary" lyrics.

VERSE 1:

Lookin' back in time, learnin' hindsight's always right

We came together in a way [also sounds like he's saying "in no way"]

A defining moment we all can celebrate [with hamburgers and French fries!]

And now it's 2016 [not really, no] and this time I'm a thinkin'

Guys put your boots on, and let's smash this ceiling! [smashes what appears to be a car window with '2016' spray painted on it]

CHORUS:

I've been thinkin' about one great lady like the women in my life ["Women" ≠ "one great lady"]

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

She's a mother, a daughter, and through it all, she's a lovin' wife [Are these really the first credentials you want to cite for supporting someone running for president?]

Oh, there is something about her, this great lady, caring, hard-working, once a First Lady [expertly rhymes "lady" with "lady"]

She fights for country and my family, now it's time for us to stand up

BOOM BOOM CLAP

BOOM BOOM CLAP [very "We Will Rock You"!]

With Hillary

Hillary!

Stand up

With Hillary

VERSE 2:

Don't matter if you're livin' across this great land in a red or blue state

'Cuz our American Dream is at stake

And there's some Hard Choices that need to be made [Your royalty check from Simon & Schuster is in the mail.]

We're needing a leader who is tough and ready [Unnecessary use of the present continuous tense]

Who's got vision

For me it's Hillary

And that's my final decision!

CHORUS:

I've been thinkin' about one great lady like the women in my life

She's a mother, a daughter, and through it all, she's a lovin' wife

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Oh, there is something about her, this great lady, caring, hard-working, once a First Lady

She fights for country and my family

Now it's time for us to stand up

BOOM BOOM CLAP

BOOM BOOM CLAP

With Hillary

Hillary!

Stand up, America

With Hillary.

Surely, "Stand With Hillary" will go down in the pantheon of such amateur campaign songs as "Cocoa Tea's Barack Obama Reggae Song," "Ron Paul Revolution" and "Hillary 4U&Me". GRAMMY Awards voting members, call your office!

Washington Examiner column: Michael Barone: "Clinton's stock declining in futures market"

By Michael Barone

December 4, 2014, 5:00 a.m. EST

Is the market in Hillary Clinton futures collapsing? Quite possibly so.

A year ago Clinton seemed likely to become the next president. Presumably she and her husband had not yet started to call themselves, Bush style, 42 and 45. But she had an overwhelming lead in the polls for the Democratic nomination and was getting 50 percent or more in most polls against possible Republican candidates in general election pairings.

Ratings of Clinton's performance as secretary of state were positive. She seemed poised to hold and add onto Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 majorities.

Things look different now. Obama now gets negative marks on foreign policy, and some of the luster is off Clinton's record as well. With the Islamic State ravaging much of Iraq and Syria, the decision to withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq looks dubious. With Vladimir Putin's Russia rampaging through much of Ukraine, Clinton's reset button looks ludicrous.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Most Americans may have been content with a foreign policy of “leading from behind.” But as the world spins out of control, they don’t like the results.

And over the course of 2014 Clinton’s favorability ratings have declined. Her memoir of her Cabinet service had a curiously defensive title — Hard Choices — and her book tour was something like the opposite of a ringing success. Sales were slim and readership probably even slimmer. The prospect of a Clinton presidency may thrill a few aging feminists, but few others seem to find her very interesting.

There’s plenty of bad news for Clinton in last month’s Quinnipiac poll, the first national survey conducted since the November election. Clinton runs 1 point behind Mitt Romney, 1 point ahead of Chris Christie, 4 points ahead of Paul Ryan and 5 points ahead of Jeb Bush, Rand Paul and Mike Huckabee. None of this can be blamed on low off-year turnout; the poll is of registered voters.

All these Republicans except Romney are significantly less well known than Clinton. When asked whether their feelings are favorable or unfavorable, only 5 percent of poll respondents have no opinion on Clinton and 14 percent on Romney; the numbers for the other Republicans run between 29 and 39 percent. So she’s running even with the best-known candidate while the others all have room to grow.

Even more significant are Clinton’s percentages against these candidates: 44, 45, 46, 46, 46 and 46. In seriously contested 2014 Senate races, Democratic incumbents tended to run about even with their poll numbers, while their Republican challengers ran well ahead of theirs. If you apply the same rule to Clinton’s Quinnipiac numbers, she ends up with about the same percentage as John McCain in 2008 or Democratic House candidates in 2010 and 2014.

Now, things may be different by 2016. Obama’s job approval could rise, and Democrats generally could regain the advantage over Republicans they enjoyed a year ago. Increased economic growth could strengthen the incumbent party — although, as RealClearPolitics.com analyst Sean Trende points out, even significantly greater growth would not point to a Democratic victory under most political scientists’ election prediction formulas.

But it’s hard to avoid the conclusion of FiveThirtyEight.com analyst Harry Enten. Clinton, he wrote last Monday, “no longer looks like such a juggernaut. Not only are her numbers dropping, but she is running on par with a Democratic brand in its weakest shape in a decade.”

That’s not what optimistic Democrats were expecting earlier this year. They thought nostalgia for Bill Clinton’s presidency would enable Hillary Clinton to run ahead of party lines. Voters not eager for a third Obama term might welcome a third Clinton term.

But those are appeals that look to the past. Voters expect presidential candidates to look to the future. Hillary Clinton has wide leads in polls for the Democratic nomination. But her record is a bad fit for the Democratic primary electorate in which the energy currently comes from the left. Lurching to the left and then tacking toward the center doesn’t project a clear vision of the future.

In 1991, candidate Bill Clinton gave three policy speeches to overflow crowds at Georgetown University’s Gaston Hall. When Hillary Clinton spoke there last week, the balcony was almost empty and there were empty seats in the lower level, too.

Clinton futures were on the rise 23 years ago. They seem to be in decline 23 years later.

Real Clear Politics: “Jeb Bush Putting Out Feelers in New Hampshire”

By Scott Conroy

December 4, 2014

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

Two top New Hampshire Republican strategists have been contacted this week by a Jeb Bush confidant to discuss their interest in leading the former Florida governor's prospective presidential campaign there, RealClearPolitics has learned from GOP sources in the Granite State.

The new outreach from Bush's camp was directed at a pair of experienced and well-respected New Hampshire GOP operatives, each of whom has previously helmed presidential campaigns in the state.

Both were given the proverbial instruction to "keep your powder dry," suggesting that Bush is leaning toward entering the race early next year.

"I think the decision's been made, personally," said one of the strategists who was contacted by Bush's camp and who spoke to RCP under the condition of anonymity.

Neither of the operatives has been contacted by Bush himself, but they were asked if they'd be interested in speaking with the would-be candidate.

The calls represent the typical form of indirect outreach that likely candidates extend to prospective top staffers before finalizing their decisions to make a White House run.

"I've definitely perceived an uptick in the perception of him doing this," one of the consultants said of the conversation this week with the Bush confidant.

On Monday, the former two-term governor made headlines when he said that the next Republican presidential nominee should be willing to "lose the primary to win the general."

The comment was widely taken to mean that Bush would not back away from his staunch advocacy of comprehensive immigration reform and the Common Core educational standards -- two positions at odds with a majority of the Republican base -- in order to secure the GOP nomination.

If Bush does enter the race, New Hampshire -- with its wide swatch of moderate Republicans and independents who vote in the presidential primary -- figures to be the early voting state most critical to his chances.

This new outreach to top strategists there signals that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie -- for whom New Hampshire will be an equally important piece on his electoral chess board -- may not be able to wait much longer before soliciting top Granite State talent for his own expected campaign.

Both New Hampshire operatives expressed interest in speaking with Bush.

"Of the Bushes, he's the guy I like the best," said one of the strategists. "If I were betting money on it, I'd bet he'd be the nominee because you'll have eight to 10 conservatives beating each other up, and someone will take the middle, and it'll be either him or Christie."

Yahoo: "Obama's attorney general pick wants to throw the book at convicted Hillary Clinton bundler"

By Michael Isikoff

December 3, 2014

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

[Subtitle:] As she faces confirmation battle, U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch's hard line could help with Republicans

The U.S. attorney nominated by President Barack Obama to be his next attorney general is asking a federal judge to impose a stiff prison term of up to four and a half years on a former Hillary Clinton fundraiser convicted of making more than $180,000 in illegal campaign contributions.

The request by Loretta Lynch, the U.S. attorney in Brooklyn, to reject leniency for wealthy hotelier Sant Singh Chatwal and have him sent to federal prison is the latest example of the tough stance Justice Department prosecutors are taking with those convicted of making so-called conduit contributions — campaign cash that is falsely reported as being made in the name of others.

But the court filing by Lynch's office this week also comes at a time when she is facing a potentially tough grilling from Republican lawmakers on her nomination to succeed Attorney General Eric Holder. "It won't hurt for Loretta Lynch to be sending a major Democratic fundraiser to prison right before her confirmation hearing for attorney general," said Brett Kappel, a Washington campaign-finance lawyer who closely tracks federal election law enforcement.

Chatwal, 70, is an immigrant from India who is chairman of the $1.5 billion Hampshire Hotels & Resorts empire, which owns luxury hotels around the world. He has long been close to both Bill and Hillary Clinton; he raised more than $100,000 for Hillary Clinton's 2008 campaign and, according to his lawyer's own filings in his case, was a founder of the Clinton Global Initiative, a charitable arm of the former first couple's foundation. He once accompanied Bill Clinton on a trip to India.

In April, Chatwal pleaded guilty to violating federal election law by illegally raising funds for Hillary Clinton and two other federal candidates through the use of straw donors. He also pleaded guilty to witness tampering after he was caught on tape coaching one of those donors, who turned out to be a government informant, to lie to investigators.

Chatwal's case has gotten some attention because of his blunt words — caught on tape by the wired informant — about the role of big money in politics, and why fundraisers such as himself give so much cash in the first place. "Without [money] nobody will ever talk to you," Chatwal told the informant, according to court filings. "That's the only way to buy them, get into the system."

In a recent court filing, Chatwal's lawyer, Jonathan Sack, said his client "comes before this court humbled — filled with remorse and shame for what he has done." But Sack asked that the court show leniency for Chatwal and not send him to prison, citing a long history of humanitarian causes, including his work with Bill Clinton and relief efforts in India.

But Lynch's prosecutors took a hard line, saying he should receive an enhanced prison sentence of between 46 and 57 months because of his efforts to obstruct justice. "The evidence in this case reveals a man who believes that either the rules do not apply to him or that they can be subverted in pursuit of his own ends," Lynch wrote in a court filing cosigned by Jack Smith, chief of the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section.

There is no evidence in the case that Hillary Clinton or any of her campaign team were aware of Chatwal's illegal contributions. But he is the latest in a series of fundraisers from her 2008 campaign — seven all told — who have been prosecuted for illegal campaign contributions, a record that has been attributed by campaign finance experts to the then senator's heavy reliance on wealthy "bundlers" to raise cash for her run against Barack Obama.

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To:	jpodesta@who.eop.gov
Date:	8/14/2014 2:01:40 AM
Subject:	Fwd: Memorandum on Nuclear Power outlook
Attachments:	JMD-RKL Nuclear Memo (rev)[1].pdf

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: "John M Deutch" <jmd@mit.edu >
Date: Aug 13, 2014 7:16 PM
Subject: Memorandum on Nuclear Power outlook
To: "John Podesta" <John_D_Podesta@who.eop.gov >, "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com >
Cc:

John,

I attach a four page memo that my colleague and friend Richard Lester have prepared about the outlook for nuclear power in the U.S.

I did this because of your telling me that you were concerned about this question and would welcome some outside view.

We shall be interested in your reaction. And if you request it, we will prepare a more complete paper.

Still at the cape. We expect 19 guests in the next 21 days. Mostly Phil and Marne collecting nice people. Nevertheless Pat and I may go to a motel.

I am set up to meet with Caroline Atkinson who, by all accounts, is quite excellent.

John

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Haim Saban" <kussa@saban.com>
To:	john.podesta@gmail.com "Huma Abedin" <huma@hrcoffice.com> "Robby \(HRC\) Mook \(re47@hillaryclinton.com\)" <re47@hillaryclinton.com>
Date:	2/29/2016 1:18:35 PM
Subject:	Florida Florida Florida

I know you know,,,,,but still wanted to share.

"Rubio strikes Trump on Israel, seeking crucial Florida win" by Michael Wilner: "While the state's Jewish voters number up to 500,000– for perspective, Barack Obama won the state in 2012 by just 74,000 votes– roughly two thirds of that electorate reliably votes Democratic.. Nevertheless, Rubio's aggressive stance on Israel is defining his foreign policy early on in his candidacy… A Quinnipiac poll from August showed that 61 percent of Floridians oppose the nuclear deal reached with Iran last summer– a position reflected by Rubio." **[JPost]**

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
To: "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com>
Date: 5/1/2015 4:11:36 AM
Subject: Re: TWEETS 5/1

Ok

On May 1, 2015 7:25 AM, "Milia Fisher" <mfisher@hillaryclinton.com > wrote:

Note: my new goal is to send a second round of Tweets in the PM to respond to campaign developments throughout the day.

TWEETS 5/1

New study: ice-loss in Antarctica increased 6 bil tons/year each year from 2003 to 2014. Cap melting faster than ever. tp://bit.ly/1JegM3y (140)

If you can't keep track of Schweizer's fabrications, distortions in "Clinton Cash" @MediaMatters can help: http://bit.ly/1GCbj3A (137)

RETWEETS 5/1

Suggestion from KLC:



--
Milia Fisher
Special Assistant to the Chair
Hillary for America
mfisher@hillaryclinton.com
o: 646.854.1198 c: 858.395.1741

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From:	"Major General \(Ret.\) Paul Eaton, VoteVets.org" <info@votevets.org>
To:	"John Podesta" <john.podesta@gmail.com>
Date:	8/6/2015 9:21:42 AM
Subject:	Two choices: Diplomacy or War

VoteVets.org
Country. Service. Action.

"And if the rhetoric in these ads, and the accompanying commentary, sounds familiar, it should -- for many of the same people who argued for the war in Iraq are now making the case against the Iran nuclear deal." - President Obama, August 5, 2015

John -

Yesterday afternoon, the President laid out the case for why Congress should approve the deal negotiated between the United States, our partners in the P5+1, and Iran.

The choice is clear: Congress must approve the deal.

Not only is a deal the best way to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, but if the agreement falls apart, Iran will get everything they want: sanctions will begin to unravel, America will lose some of its standing in the world, and Iran's path to the bomb will only accelerate. In short, it's almost everything the hardliners in Iran are hoping for.

As Congress heads home for recess before the September vote, they need to hear from veterans, military family members and VoteVets supporters on this issue.

Tell your representative and senators that you expect them to vote to APPROVE the deal negotiated with Iran that will prevent them from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

There are ultimately two choices here: diplomacy or war.

For some neoconservatives, they are happy to cast their lot with more war. For them, force is the only tool in America's foreign policy arsenal. But we'll be there to counter their worldview every step of the way in this debate.

We have a very unique voice in the conversation.

Make yours heard.

Major General (Ret.) Paul Eaton
VoteVets

Contribute

PAID FOR BY VOTEVETS ACTION FUND

This email was sent to john.podesta@gmail.com. If that is not your preferred email address, click here . Click here if you'd like to unsubscribe. We try to send only the most important information and opportunities to participate via email. To sustain VoteVets with a contribution click here .

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

From: "Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs" <info@belfercenter.hks.harvard.edu>
To: podesta@law.georgetown.edu
Date: 11/18/2015 9:53:13 AM
Subject: Reflecting on Paris Attacks

This message contains graphics. If you do not see the graphics, click here to view .

HARVARD Kennedy School
BELFER CENTER for Science and International Affairs

Reflecting on Paris Attacks

In the wake of Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris, what's the best way to confront ISIS? Can Europe rise to the challenge? What does it mean for U.S. policy toward Syrian refugees? What should Washington do — and not do — now?

Belfer Center experts are weighing in on these and related questions. For insightful analysis from a diverse range of viewpoints, we offer a selection of our recent op-eds, interviews, and original commentary.



Nov. 14, 2015 – A memorial for the victims killed in Friday's Paris attacks in front of the French Embassy in Berlin. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

Selected Statements

"Air strikes, without some ground forces, will compound the problem, as ISIS learns that the West is unwilling to defend its liberties, no matter how heinous the provocation. Immediate efforts must focus on ISIS, but Assad has murdered 250,000 people and Iran has not abandoned its nuclear ambitions. They remain the primary threats."
—Charles Freilich, Senior Fellow, Belfer Center

"After the Paris attacks, President Obama must demonstrate that his strategy for defeating Daesh without committing U.S. ground troops can succeed. The immediate test is a planned attack by Kurdish and Syrian Arab forces, backed by U.S. and allied air power, on Raqqa, capital of the Islamic State Caliphate. If the attack succeeds, it will validate the Administration's strategy, but if it fails, calls for a new approach requiring U.S. ground forces will become more intense."
—Gary Samore, Executive Director for Research, Belfer Center

"Europe must not fall into ISIS's trap. ISIS wants to stop Syrians from fleeing its realm. It wants to stoke anti-Muslim backlash to provoke more European Muslims to radicalize. The Paris attacker's Syrian refugee passport may be real or fake. Regardless, failing to handle the matter with caution is perilous for both refugees and European security."
—Jill Goldenziel, Research Fellow, Belfer Center

This version of Total Mail Converter is not registered.

"Let us be clear about what is happening. Like the Roman Empire in the early fifth century, Europe has allowed its defenses to crumble. As its wealth has grown, so its military prowess has shrunk, along with its self-belief. It has grown decadent in its shopping malls and sports stadiums. At the same time, it has opened its gates to outsiders who have coveted its wealth without renouncing their ancestral faith."
—Niall Ferguson, Board of Directors, Belfer Center

"ISIS hopes to ignite a vast religious war, to vindicate its narrative of Western hostility and win it more support. Sending U.S. forces back into the Middle East maelstrom would give ISIS exactly what it wants. Military force alone cannot solve this problem, and could easily make it worse."
—Stephen Walt, Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Affairs, Belfer Center

Commentary & Analysis

- Ayaan Hirsi Ali: "Europe's Terrorist War at Home"
- Farah Pandith: "Countering Extremism After the Paris Attacks"
- Juliette Kayyem: "Lesson One: Terror Is Not About Lone Wolves"
- Kelly Greenhill: "Europe Must Deal With the Breeding of Terrorism Within Its Borders"
- Michael Morell: "ISIS Will Strike America"
- Niall Ferguson: "Paris and the Fall of Rome"
- Nicholas Burns: "The Attacks In Paris and Options To Combat Terrorism"
- Stephen Walt: "Don't Give ISIS What It Wants"

More Insights

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